



THE DRUMMER



www.senecarocksaudubon.org

November/December 2016

Volume 33, No.2



Forest Health

Dave Cole

November 9 Program

Local Forester Dave Cole, who has presented other interesting programs for us, will give this program. His slide show will focus on various aspects of Forest Health and help enable us to know the answers to the following questions.

What does it mean to say that a woodlot is "healthy" or "not healthy"? How can we determine this? What factors do we consider, observe, or measure? Which are within our ability to influence, and which are beyond our control? What are the roles of "stress" and "balance" in affecting the health of our forests?

What is our biggest and most difficult challenge at this time?

Dave is a Forester with the DCNR Bureau of Forestry. In his first life, he worked in the Produce Department of a grocery store for 23

years, and was the Produce Manager for 19 of those years. Needing a change, he went to school for Forestry, and has now been with the Bureau for nearly 10 years. In his role as a Service Forester he is in the "People Business", and loves working with private landowners. He is a landowner himself, so he understands many of the challenges that landowners face. His goal is to try to educate and motivate landowners to move from asking "what can the land do for me?" (exploitation), to instead asking "what can I do for the land?" (stewardship).

Members' Night & CBC Planning

December 14 Program

This is always a fun program. Feel free to bring photos — they could be backyard birds, or snaps from a recent adventure — birds, wildlife, scenery... Bring anything you would like to share.

We will also be reviewing our areas for the Christmas Bird Count, which will be held on Sunday, December 18 this year. This will be the 30th year for our chapter to participate in the Christmas Bird Count.

*Our meetings are held at the
Clarion Free Library, lower level.
Come early to socialize -
programs begin at 6:30 pm.*

We welcome both field birders, who go out into the field and count birds, and feeder watchers, who live in the circle and count the birds at their feeders. You don't need to count all day, just keep track of your time.

Gary Edwards is in charge of the field birders and Deb Freed coordinates the feeder watchers. To ascertain whether you live in the count circle, to be a feeder watcher, see the map here -<http://www.senecarocksaudubon.org/Resources/CBC%20map.pdf> or go to our website - www.senecarocksaudubon.org, scroll to "Go Birding", "Bird Counts", click on "Christmas Bird Count", then "Map of Clarion Count Circle".

Join us on December 14 to share, to enjoy what others bring to show, and also for this pep-rally for our 30th CBC, which will be only 4 days away!

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Workshop Slated in Warren

Allegheny National Forest officials and The Nature Conservancy are collaborating to hold a free hemlock woolly adelgid workshop to train volunteers on how to identify and report hemlock woolly adelgid infestations.

The session will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Nov. 1 at the Allegheny National Forest Supervisor's Office at 4 Farm Colony Drive in Warren.

Forest officials said the topics slated to be discussed will include hemlock value and threat by Dale Luthringer from the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Cook Forest State Park; hemlock woolly adelgid biology and identification by Tim Tomon the DCNR Bureau of Forestry; and High Allegheny hemlock conservation strategy and volunteer survey protocol by Sarah Johnson of The Nature Conservancy and Andrea Hille of the Forest Service.

The hemlock woolly adelgid is a tiny nonnative (introduced to the United States from Asia) invasive insect that is attacking and killing hemlock trees across Pennsylvania and many eastern states.

"The hemlock is an important part of the forest ecosystem because it provides thermal cover for wildlife, habitat for a number of insects, birds, and mammals, shade along streams and springs, and contributes nutrients to aquatic systems," said Forest Silviculturist Andrea Hille. "It is also valued for its year-round green foliage and aesthetic values, and is the Pennsylvania state tree."

The High Allegheny Hemlock Partnership was initiated in 2013 and established to take a collaborative and proactive approach to maintain forests across the Allegheny National Forest region in a healthy state for current and future generations. Members include The Nature Conservancy, Allegheny National Forest, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, New York Department of Environmental Conservation, U.S. Forest Service Northern Research Station, U.S. Forest Service State and Private Forestry, universities, conservation organizations, and several large industrial forest landowners.

For more information or to register for the event, contact Sarah Johnson at The Nature Conservancy at sejohnson@tnc.org or Andrea Hille at the Allegheny National Forest at ahille@fs.fed.us.

The *Drummer* is the newsletter of Seneca Rocks Audubon Society (SRAS), PO Box 148, Clarion, PA 16214. SRAS is a chapter of the National Audubon Society. The *Drummer* is published 4 times per year— September, November, February, and April.

The *Drummer* is available on our website in Adobe pdf and may be read or downloaded from the site – www.senecarocksaudubon.org.

Members are encouraged to contribute announcements, articles, photos, etc., to Editor Flo McGuire, 609 Ponderosa Lane, Tionesta, PA 16353 (814 755-3672) or email at fmcguire1@verizon.net.

Bird Program - Woodpeckers

Foxburg Library

Wednesday, Nov. 2, 7:00 p.m.



We have amazingly attractive woodpeckers in our area, but they can be difficult to appreciate at a distance in spring and summer. That all changes during winter when woodpeckers are regular visitors to backyard bird feeders — and snow is just a flip of the calendar page away. Ron Montgomery and Gary Edwards from the Seneca Rocks Audubon Society will present a program on the half-dozen common woodpeckers of our area. You will learn to identify them, distinguish the male from the female, and even recognize their calls. Please join us at the Foxburg Library to enjoy an evening with our woodpeckers - from the tiny Downy to the humongous Pileated. No fee or registration required for this program.

Any questions? Please contact:
Foxburg Free Library
31 Main Street Foxburg, PA 16036 724-659-3431
foxburgfreelibrary@gmail.com

The Name Game

-Gary Edwards

Getting back to the origin of bird names, let's see what witch's brew we can conjure up this Halloween season.



Pied-billed Grebe - The origin of "grebe" is unknown; pied means "having two or more colors in blotches." So there we have it, a blotchy-billed something or another.

Ancient Murrelet - Ancient refers to the white plumes on the sides and back of its head that someone thought made it resemble the white hair of old age. Natives of Commander Island in the Bering Sea call it "Old Man." That's the easy part, although I can personally vouch that most old men have a lot more white hair than the bird. Murrelet means "little murre." Since a Murre is about 17 inches and the Murrelet is about 10 inches, they got that part right. Now things get a little complicated. Murre is probably Celtic for guillemot or auk – that doesn't tell us much. Guillemot from the French nickname for William, while auk is from the Old Norse "alka" meaning razorbill. So now we have it, Ancient Murrelet is really Old man William with a sharp nose.

Pomarine Jaeger - Jaeger is German for hunter and jaegers feed by harassing smaller

Visit us on Facebook!

<https://www.facebook.com/SenecaRocksAudubon>

birds like terns and gulls until they eventually drop their prey which the jaeger then catches before it hits the water. They also are nest robbers, feeding on eggs and young. Pomarine is derived from the Greek word for “lid nose” and refers to the pale, saddle-like covering at the base of the bill.

Parasitic Jaeger - This could be the name for all jaegers, as they all are parasites, living by stealing food from other birds. But it would be confusing having multiple species with the same name, so this one will have to do.

Herring Gull - Gull is of Celtic origin and means “yellow bird,” referring to the bright yellow color of the chicks. Herring, of course is a fish, sometimes preceded by “kippered” or “red.” Well, the plausible insinuation that the Herring Gull was named such because it feeds on live herring is, in fact, a red herring. If anything, would be more descriptively correct to name the bird Kippered Herring Gull as it feeds on dead fish, including perhaps an occasional herring. But Garbage Dump Gull or Fishing Boat Gull would also work.

Caspian Tern - The world’s largest tern. Named “Caspian” by German naturalist Peter Pallas who first collected a specimen near the Caspian Sea in 1770. Tern is of Norse origin but I can’t find anything else. Terns, especially Common Terns, are sometimes referred to as “sea swallows.” The species name for Common Tern is “*hirundo*”, Latin for swallow. That last little tidbit was just because one good tern deserves another.

I think I’ve overstayed my welcome so that’ll have to do for now.



Common Nighthawk photo by Meg Kolodick. Meg and her husband Nick are regulars at the Nighthawk Watch.

Common Nighthawk Report

~Gary Edwards

The 2016 Nighthawk Migration Watch at the Oil City Marina was conducted August 13 thru September 15. The final count was 306, up from 186 last year. It was a record year for observers with 20 participants, including three from our Beginning Birding classes. In addition to nighthawks, 36 species were observed, including a Merlin on three consecutive nights.



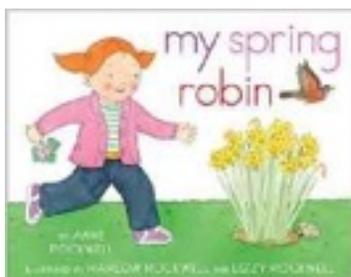
This Great-Horned Owl signed print has been donated to our Chapter by Nola Lyons of Erie, formerly of Tionesta, PA. It is a 1969 Richard Sloan Lithograph, beautifully framed with rustic wood. It measures 29” x 35” including the frame. We will be selling raffle tickets at our meetings for the print.

Books for Local School Libraries

~Paulette Colantonio

The Seneca Rocks Audubon Society and Clarion County Garden Club have purchased books for 15 elementary schools and public libraries in the area. Four titles are fiction selections. They are *My Spring Robin* by Anne F. Rockwell, *Skylar* by Mary Cuffe-Perez, *Good Night Owl* by Greg Pizzoli and *Over in the Wetlands: A Hurricane-in-the Bayou* by Caroline Starr Rose. The six nonfiction purchases are *Have You Seen the Nesting Bird* by Rita Gray, *Raindrops Roll* by April Pulley Sayre, *The Real Poop on Pigeons* by Kevin McClosky, *A Nest is Noisy* by Dianna Hutts Aston, *Feathered Dinosaurs* by Brenda Z. Guiberson, and *Everything You Need to Know about Birds* by Dorling Kindersley Publishing.

To begin with, *My Spring Robin* is an updated edition of the 1987 book by Anne Rockwell. A young child is waiting for the arrival of the robin that sang for her last year. Her father tells her it will return in Spring. So as March unfolds, she witnesses the appearance of crocus, forsythia, magnolias, fiddlehead ferns, and other harbingers of spring. She searches everywhere until she finally hears, "Cheer-up! Cheerilee!" This book is a wonderful introduction to spring plants and robin singing for ages 4 through 7. Emergent readers will enjoy the repeated text and the pencil and watercolor illustrations which support the text.



Using vivid imagery and scientific information, Mary Cuffe-Perez weaves a tale about the fall migration of sedentary pond geese in *Skylar*, the second fiction title. When a

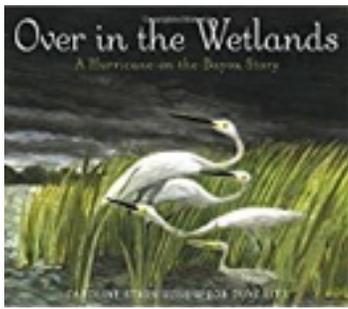


one-eyed great blue heron stops, seeking the location of Lost Pond for the "Before the Migration Convention," Skylar, the self-appointed leader of the squabbling backyard geese, agrees to show him the way to the pond in the Adirondacks in upstate New York. Thus

begins the great adventure of five geese, filled with excitement, introspection, and as they soon learn, great danger. The 138 pages of text are punctuated with black-and-white pencil drawings which enhance the storyline. This offering employs complex sentences and challenging vocabulary, making it a solid selection for strong readers, grades 3 – 5. The themes about fear and death could be explored with slightly older children, too. *Skylar* also is an outstanding choice for a read aloud for younger students in a science setting.

Third, a turquoise owl wrapped in a pastel pink robe is the main character in Greg Pizzoli's night time tale, *Good Night Owl*. Children will identify with Owl's bedtime concern. "Owl was settling into bed when he heard a noise. It was such a tiny sound, no louder than a whisper; a funny noise he hadn't heard before." Owl's frustration grows as he seeks the sound and demolished the whole house in the process! Readers will enjoy the hilarious nocturnal romp while locating the whereabouts of the sound, a tiny gray mouse, in each pastel and neutral toned illustration. This book is a great read aloud for children preschool to Grade 2. The large font and simple vocabulary also make it a good choice for independent early readers.





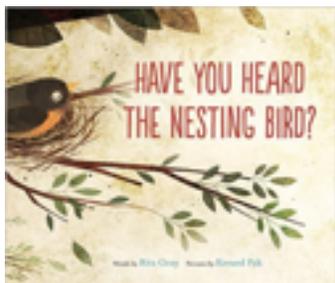
In the last fictional title, the approach, arrival, and the departure of a hurricane in a Louisiana bayou is the storyline of *Over in the Wetland: A Hurricane-in-the-Bayou* by Caroline

Starr Rose. Rose’s plot reveals a dramatic look how creatures protect themselves during a storm in a healthy coastal environment. Loosely using the children’s song, “Over in the Meadow,” the author relates how the dragonflies, crabs, alligators, turtles, fish, bear, and various birds endure the weather event. Dunlavey’s watercolor, ink, pencil, and collage artwork enhance the storyline, as the animals wait for the hurricane’s abatement. The end of the book captures the calm in the marsh with the silver moon in the sky over a blue, black, and simply dazzling habitat.

“Over in the wetlands
in the dead of night,
Dragonfly flits through the starry light.
The swampland stretches all around,
jumbled,
peaceful
steady,
sound.”

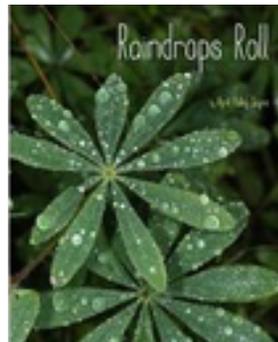
An Author’s Note includes information on wetlands and how human activity destroys them, threatening the diverse life that call the marshes home. The animals featured in the book are examined more closely in the back of the book, too.

Have You Heard the Nesting Bird? by Rita Gray is a delightful informational picture book for children ages four to seven. One day,



a boy and a girl take a walk through their neighborhood, viewing and hearing a myriad of

birds. Many birds are identified through the text, utilizing onomatopoeic bird calls and rhythmic rhyming. However, a silent still robin captures their attention. “It doesn’t sing, not even a bit. All it does is sit and sit.” Kenard Pak’s watercolor and digital earth-tone illustrations mirror the quiet mother robin and subdued children. The next morning, the young naturalists hear and see activity at the nest as three hatchlings emerge from blue eggs. Information about nesting birds and bird behavior is cleverly given in a question and answer session in the back of the book, with the mother robin answering the facilitator in first person!



Sayers has created a simplistic yet scientific poem capturing the essence of rain and raindrops in her seven-awards winning book, *Raindrops Roll*, the second nonfiction title. Short, often alliterative

words are accompanied by photographic images of commonplace objects, surprisingly transformed by the rain. The result is an informational book casting a spell on readers of all ages.

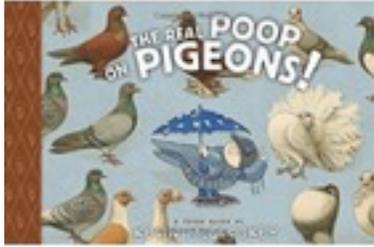
Raindrop spangles mark angles.

They cling to curves and cover cocoons.

Raindrops settle. They slip.

They dot. They drip.

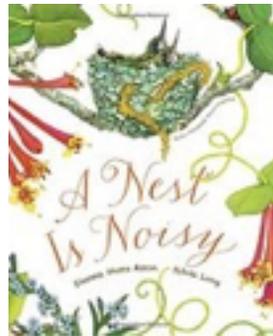
In the back of this selection, a double-spread page entitled, “A Splash of Science” gives intermediate grade children more information on various characteristics of rain and the water cycle. Additional books and websites are also supplied. You will want your own copy of this CBC/NSTA Outstanding Science Trade Book Award recipient.



The Real Poop on Pigeons is a Junior Library Guild Book Selection by illustrator/author Kevin McCloskey. Did you know pigeons mate for

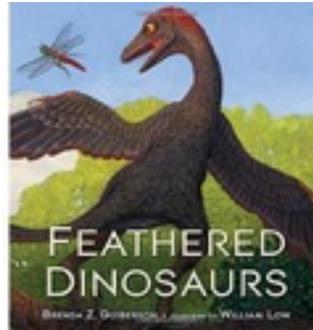
life? Did you know they carried the first airmail? Do you know what pigeons have in common with penguins and flamingoes? The author uses pigeon-costumed children to educate two people in the park about the much maligned “rat with wings” with humor and facts. The book is in the format of a Toon Book, that is, a comic book, for brand new readers. There are many details in the acrylic and gouache illustrations to aid with comprehension. There is a section in the back of the book entitled, “How to Read Comics with Kids.”

Dianna Hutts Aston and Sylvia Long, the award winning creators of *An Egg is Quiet* and *A Butterfly is Patient*, offer another scientific and gorgeous book entitled *A Nest is Noisy*, the fourth nonfiction book.



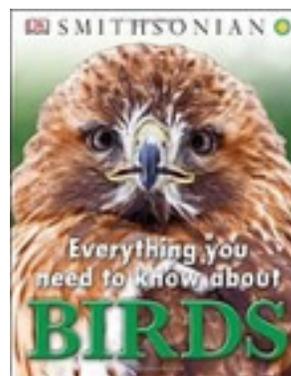
Although the magnificent cover invites you in with a detailed watercolor of two ruby-throated hummingbirds in a nest, the selection is not solely about birds. A smorgasbord of other nests and their inhabitants includes the braided nest of the orangutan high in the rainforest canopy, the paper-like nest of the bald-faced hornet, and many others. One poem using a cursive font and linking verbs with fresh adjective pairings unites the story from start to finish and stands alone. However, more detailed information on a higher reading level is also included beside each nest for readers who want to know more. The author and illustrator have employed their signature treatment of the end pages in the book. The front end pages are bedecked with 24 intricate nests with labels. The back end pages feature the animals that

build said nests. Young readers enjoy flipping back and forth, usually with a friend, to find the matches. The book is a wonderful read aloud for children K-5. It is written on a 4.0 reading level.



Next, children of all ages are fascinated with dinosaurs. With *Feathered Dinosaurs*, Brenda Z. Guiberson gives budding paleontologists a specific group to explore. The author discusses 13 species of

dinosaurs, pointing out similarities in structure or behavior that are indicative of modern avian species. For instance, Anchiornis, meaning “almost bird,” could not fly, but had fused wrist bones. Archaeopteryx, “ancient wing,” sported flight feathers. Mei long, meaning “soundly sleeping dragon,” was discovered in a sleeping posture employed by birds today. Its head was tucked under its wing! Guiberson states “Modern birds, which are warm-blooded, snooze like this to keep warm.” She tells the reader that scientists are still gathering information on whether dinosaurs were warm-blooded. William Low’s oil and acrylic paintings capture the shape, beauty, and color of these dinosaurs. The author points out color can be discerned by examining the shape of pigment cells called melanosomes. Although written on a 5.5 reading level, this book would be a great read aloud for children K-5.



The last nonfiction title is *Everything You Need to Know about Birds* by the DK Publishing company. This book is written for older elementary children. It provides an overview of all things avian, including but not limited to evolution, biological development, and world-wide habitats.

Most of the information is presented on double-page spreads replete with vivid photography

and colorful charts. The selection is a ready reference guide with two tiers for quick reading or more in depth study of such topics as bird beaks and feet, when and what to feed wild birds, migratory routes, and record breaking aspects of specific birds. (I found the section on hunting with Golden eagles in Kazakhstan particularly fascinating). There is a glossary and index along with an extensive list of credits in the back of the book.



Stars Over Clarion

The Planetarium at CUP will host its regular Stars Over Clarion program at 7 and 8 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 3. Stars Over Clarion continues the first Thursday of each month when the university is in session. The show guides audiences through the month's night sky and highlights any important celestial events that are happening during that month. Star lore from other cultures around the world is also discussed.

There will be a celebration of the third year of Stars Over Clarion at the November 3 program. Returning for the celebration is Clarion alumnus Will Snyder.

For more information on any of the planetarium events, interested persons may call 814-393-2085 or visit the planetarium on Facebook at [facebook.com/ClarionUniversityPlanetarium](https://www.facebook.com/ClarionUniversityPlanetarium).



Red-breasted Nuthatch by Meg Kolodick. This fall we are seeing an irruption of these diminutive, charismatic birds. They often irrupt south when their conifer seed sources decline in northern spruces and firs. Watch for them and listen for their tiny tin horn sound wherever there are conifer trees, whether native or exotic.

Cook Forest State Park

~ Dale Luthringer

Monday, October 31 at 7:00pm - *'Cathedral by Candlelight'* Want to experience something different this year for Halloween instead of the standard "trick-or-treaters"? Come walk back in time with us into the depths of the Forest Cathedral with an historical character from the past. Come view the ancient forest as we walk beneath the giants by candlelight. Either a French Marine from the 1750s who saw these massive trees 250 years ago, or a lumberman from the 1800s will be there to guide us. Candy and hot chocolate will be served at the Log Cabin Inn Environmental Learning Classroom. Bring your flashlights! (2 hrs)

NOTE - No SRAS meetings in January or February this year. We have changed our schedule — our spring meetings will be held in March, April, May and June. The next Drummer will be published around the end of February announcing the upcoming meetings.

Upcoming Dates & Events

November 5 thru Nov. 12 – Pick up Bird Seed at your local J&J Feeds

*November 9 - 'Forest Health' - David Cole
We will also be taking orders for Audubon calendars.*

December 14 - Members' Night and CBC Planning

December 18, Sunday - Christmas Bird Count, meet at Cozumel's for tally at 5:30 p.m.

January - No Meeting

February - No Meeting

March 8 - Steve Ace, PGC, American Woodcock

May 10 - Dan Gomola, Wildlife Photography

SRAS Leadership Team

| | |
|---------------------|----------|
| Deb Freed | 226-4719 |
| Paulette Colantonio | 797-2031 |
| Pete Dalby | 782-3227 |
| Gary Edwards | 676-3011 |
| Janice Horn | 226-7367 |
| Mike Leahy | 229-1648 |
| Flo McGuire | 755-3672 |
| Ron Montgomery | 764-6088 |
| Jim Wilson | 676-5455 |



Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower.
~ Albert Camus

Seneca Rocks Audubon Society
P.O. Box 148
Clarion, PA 16214