



THE DRUMMER

www.senecarocksaudubon.org



May, 2007

Volume 23, No. 7



Savannah Sparrow by Steven D'Amato

**Next Meeting – May 14,
Room 150, Becker Hall**

Social – 6:30 p.m. Program begins at 7:00 p.m.

Conference “Warm-up”

Given by Ron Montgomery & Gary Edwards

This presentation is intended as a warm-up for our June 1 Conference, *Bird Conservation on Non-native Grasslands*. We will review the conference program, define SGL 330, and discuss the North American population status of some of the grassland birds found on the various reclaimed surface mines of Clarion County. If we have time, we will discuss some of the issues involved in managing for grassland birds. SRAS members Ron Montgomery and Gary Edwards will present this program.

See pages 4 & 5 of *The Drummer* for the Conference Agenda and Registration Form

Oil Creek State Park Warbler Walk

by Jim Wilson

Saturday, May 5, 2007 at 8:30 A.M.
Leader: Gary Edwards

We meet inside Oil Creek State 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 32 miles, or 50 minutes from the Court House in Clarion. We meet in the Blood Farm day use area parking lot on the right, less than a mile into the Park.

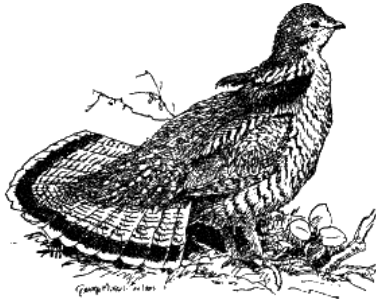


*Black-throated Blue Warbler,
by Daniel S. Kilby*

Restrooms are available in the day use area and at the park office, approximately three miles away. Food is available in Oil City and the nearby Cranberry Mall.

You won't want to miss this outing - last year we tallied 69 species, including 18 warblers!

Our next outing will be to Piney Tract on Saturday, May 26.



The Drumming Log

by President Deb Freed

I want to end my contributions to the chapter president's perch with an invitation to all of you to attend the June 1 Seminar, *Bird Conservation on Non-native Grasslands*. This seminar will be a landmark event following hundreds of hours spent on meetings, surveys, observations, and correspondence by Seneca Rocks members over the years in their on-going efforts at Mt. Zion/Piney Tract Important Bird Area (now a part of State Gameland 330).

As time goes on, others will be stewards for the hunting and related land management on the gameland. It will be our charge to monitor the grassland birds and advocate for their habitat. The more that Seneca Rocks members and birding enthusiasts get involved, the better the outcome for preserving the IBA. This seminar will add to our knowledge about non-native grasslands and will link us to a network of people with the resources and expertise to help us.

Our May program developed by Ron Montgomery and Gary Edwards will set the stage for our understanding of the significance of the birds and habitat at the Piney Tract. The seminar will help us to plan for the future.

This drumming log perch will be waiting for the next chapter president. I have

enjoyed doing this work for the organization and thank you for your support. 🐾🐾



The Birdathon

--Janice Horn

The Birdathon, on the calendar for May 5 to 13, is our largest source of funding and supports our programs and educational activities, as well as membership events.

The chapter needs your participation 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.

Members seeking pledges are Paulette Colantonio, Peter Dalby, Deb Freed, Walter Fye, Flo & Jim McGuire, Ron Montgomery, Ruth & Carl Schurr, Gil Twiest, and Fran & Jack Williams. Please give one of them a call and say you'll support their efforts. Believe me, they will appreciate it.

If you plan to participate and haven't received materials let me know. Also, if you have any questions please contact me. This project provides funds for so much that we do.



Conneaut Marsh Outing 4/1/2007

The following species were observed on the Conneaut Marsh outing: Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Gadwall, American Wigeon, American Black Duck, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Hooded Merganser, Common Merganser, Common Loon, Horned Grebe, Great Blue Heron, Turkey Vulture, Bald Eagle (13), Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, American Kestrel, American Coot, Killdeer, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Wilson's Snipe, Bonaparte's Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Blue Jay, American Crow, Tree Swallow, Tufted Titmouse, Golden-crowned Kinglet, American Robin, European Starling, Song Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Rusty Blackbird, Common Grackle, House Sparrow. (Total = 50)

Participants were: Jim Wilson, Ron and Judy Montgomery, Paulette Colantonio, Gil and Linda Twiest, Ann Hunt, Pat Conway, Kate McConnell (Pat's sister), and Carole Willenpart.

Did you know?
Any blackbird with a dark eye, sipping on a Bud Light, would be a Brewer's Blackbird.

The birders had a great day, with 13 Bald Eagles, and reportedly a raven was seen morphing into a red-tailed hawk...

--Species and details provided by Pat Conway and Ron Montgomery.



*Common Loon by Kirsten Munson –
Common Loons were seen on both of these spring outings*

Presque Isle Outing

by Flo & Jim McGuire

Perhaps the best day of the week was Saturday, April 14, the day of the SRAS outing to Presque Isle. There was no snow, no rain, temps were in the 40's, and the sun was shining! Presque Isle State Park was as busy as we have ever seen it, with hikers, bikers, skaters, and fishermen.

Species seen included: Canada Goose (10), American Wigeon, Mallard, Redhead (2), Lesser Scaup (200), Bufflehead (34), Common Goldeneye (6), Common Merganser (5), Red-breasted Merganser (330), Ruddy Duck (20), Common Loon (5), Pied-billed Grebe (2), Horned Grebe (114), American Coot (22), Killdeer, Bonaparte's Gull (50), Ring-billed Gull (5), Belted Kingfisher, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker (5), Northern Flicker, Eastern Phoebe (3), American Crow, American Robin (4), European Starling, Eastern Towhee (2), Song Sparrow (4), Northern Cardinal, Red-winged Blackbird (20), Common Grackle (2), Brown-headed Cowbird (5), House Finch, House Sparrow. Birders from SRAS (2).



You are invited to...

Bird Conservation on Non-native Grasslands The Challenges of a Changing Landscape

A One-Day Seminar Sponsored by Seneca Rocks Audubon Society



And here are five reasons you should be there on June 1st...

- To discover what nearby grasslands mean to **the local economy**.
- To find out about the **history and goals of the local grassland tracts**.
- To hear about **management techniques** employed on other reserves that may help efforts here.
- To explore the current trends and prospects for **scientific research** on non-native grasslands.
- To learn about the birds who call **the Piney Tract** home.

Register Now

Whether you are a community leader, an avid birder, a Game Commission professional, member of a conservation group, an educator, student, or researcher, the attached agenda proves there's plenty in this day for you. But enrollment is limited. So go to www.senecarocksaudubon.org and click on **Seminar** to register, or return the enclosed form with your check (\$15.00 for SRAS Members; \$25.00 for non-members) made payable to SRAS.



P.O. Box 148 ■ Clarion, PA 16214

Bird Conservation on Non-native Grasslands

WHEN June 1, 2007 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

WHERE Clarion University Health Science Education Center, 330 Main Street, Clarion, PA 16214

THE DAY'S EVENTS

Time	Activity/Presenters	Topics
8:30 – 9:15	Registration	Wake-Me-Up Snacks & Beverages
9:15 – 10:00	Dan Brauning, Supervisor of the Wildlife Diversity Section—PA Game Commission	Our local grasslands asset. The history and future of the Piney Tract within SGL 330.
10:15 – 12:00	Dr. Danny Ingold, Chair of Biology Department at Muskingum College & Dr. Duane Diefenbach, Assistant Unit Leader of the PA Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit	All about birds on reclaimed surface mines—including four years of sparrow research at The Wilds, studies on non-native grasslands in Pennsylvania, and the report from SGL 330.
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch	Boxed lunches for that field trip feeling.
1:00 – 2:45	Guy Denny, Executive Director—Ohio Biological Survey & Dr. Nicole Cavender—Director of Restoration Ecology at The Wilds in Ohio	Grassland management techniques and their application: Lessons learned on 10,000 acres of reclaimed land.
3:00 – 4:30	Panel of Experts + SRAS leadership	Q-A to clarify details, explore related topics, discuss the role of citizen scientists, and more.

Registration Form -- Bird Conservation on Non-native Grasslands The Challenges of a Changing Landscape



June 1, 2007, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Clarion University's Health Science Education Center

Cost: \$25.00
\$15.00 for Seneca Rocks Audubon members

Name _____

Address _____

Agency or Organization _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Lunch preferences: Vegetarian _____ Special dietary needs _____

Number attending _____ SRAS member _____ Amount enclosed _____



Mail this form and your check made payable to Seneca Rocks Audubon Society to: **Seneca Rocks Audubon Society**
Attn: Janice Horn, Treasurer
P.O. Box 148
Clarion, PA 16214

Cook Forest & Clear Creek State Parks Event List

COOK FOREST

What: Cook Forest Scavenger Hunt

Contact: www.cookforest.org

Time: 9:00am

When: May 12, 2007

Contact Cook Forest Vacation Bureau for more info and up to date times at www.cookforest.org

What: Children`s Fishing Derby

Contact: Cook Forest State Park (814)744-8407

Time: 1:00pm-3:00pm

When: June 3, 2007

Children 12 years and under are permitted to fish at the Children`s Fishing Pond for various fishing related prizes. This event is sponsored by the Marienville Rod & Gun Club; PA Fish & Boat Commission; Cook Forest Vacation Bureau, and Cook Forest State Park. All prizes are donated by area merchants.

What: Cook Forest French & Indian War Encampment

Contact: Cook Forest State Park (814)744-8407

Time: 9am-10pm

When: June 9-10, 2007

Cook Forest State Park and the Cook Forest Vacation Bureau will host a series of living history events depicting life during the French & Indian War. Highlights of this two-day encampment include children`s programs, woodland natives, cannon and musket firing demonstrations, sutler camp, council and trading events, live tactical engagements, nationally renowned living historians, and French & Indian War era painters. Take a walk back in time along the Black Bear Trail during open camp hours to view over 200 British, Colonial, French, and American Indian re-enactors as they portray lifestyles of the 18th century.

CLEAR CREEK

What: Fishing Derby

Contact: Clear Creek State Park (814)752-2368

Time: 1:00pm

When: May 5, 2007

Children 12 years and under are permitted to fish. Registration and prize give-away. All prizes are donated by area merchants. Updated event times to be announced.

What: Woodsy Owl Workday

Contact: Clear Creek State Park (814)752-2368

Time: 8:00am-1:30pm

When: May 12, 2007

Have you been looking for a way to get involved with Clear Creek State Park? Please consider joining us for the day to help maintain the park through various work projects. Woodsy Owl and Smokey Bear will be here to help also. Lunch will be provided. Free camping Friday and/or Saturday nights may be available. Please contact us two weeks in advance if you are planning to join us for the day so that we can have a work project lined up for you.

What: Clear Creek Lumber Heritage Day

Contact: Clear Creek State Park (814)752-2368

Time: 11:00am

When: June 2, 2007

Step back in time as you help build a log raft, watch oxen pull logs, sew stitches in a quilt, do 1878 school lessons, play games from the past, taste johnnycakes and see the tools that spurred the economy in the area. This day highlights the history of the people who lived in the valley during the 1870s.

What: Clarion River Sojourn

Contact: Sarah Zeglin (724)459-0953 ext 110

Time: 8:00am

When: June 9-10, 2007

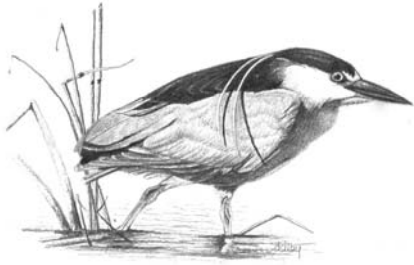
Celebrate Pennsylvania`s beautiful waterways by joining the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy on the Clarion River Sojourn.

Clarion County Recycling Day May 5, 2007

Clarion County Park

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

call 226-4000, x 2800 for more information



Black-crowned Night-heron by Daniel S. Kilby
You might see one of these on May 12!

PA Migration Count (PAMC)

By Bill Etter

The 16th annual PA Migration Count (PAMC) will take place on SATURDAY, 12 MAY, 2007.

First, the 2007 PAMC form is available for download here:

http://pa.audubon.org/PAMC_Form2007.xls

Participation lagged a little last year, though 900+ observers isn't bad. I'd love to break 1000 again, as we did a few years ago. If you've never participated, please consider it! A little more info, for those that might be new to this:

The PA Migration Count is a state-wide, 24-hour bird counting effort that has taken place since 1992. It's kind of like a huge Christmas Bird Count, but without the gloves and parkas (usually...). Results are tabulated by county; some counties have 50+ participants, others have none at all. Larger counties have county coordinators. Birders are free to wander an area, count every bird they see/hear, and send in the results. It's fun (unless you hate birds or fresh air or whatever...). Some people stick to their yard, some visit a favorite birding location. Others go nuts with a full day effort and huge species lists. Whatever your preferred style, the data we collect is always interesting.

New participants are needed! Combine your PAMC birding with the PA Breeding Bird Atlas – <http://www.carnegiennh.org/atlas/index.htm> !!! Multi-tasking at its best!

The final spreadsheet for last year's count can be downloaded from here:

http://pa.audubon.org/2006_PAMC_Spreadsheet_Final.xls

The summary article from the 2006 count is available for download here:

http://pa.audubon.org/PAMC2006_Summary.doc

Also...if interested, a spreadsheet of all NAMC/PAMC annual species totals and stats, spanning all counts from 1992-2006 is available upon request (in the form of an emailed Excel doc). All available data have been maintained since year one (except for 1999, which seems to be lost forever...)

--Bill Etter, PAMC Coordinator
esbittern@verizon.net

Our local county coordinators are: Clarion- Carole Willenpart, and Forest- Flo McGuire.

2007 PA Winter Raptor Survey

The 2007 Pa. Winter Raptor Survey is complete, the 7th year in which wintering raptors have been counted using road-based routes.

This year, observers logged 505 hours, the second highest thus far. After building up during the first three years, coverage the last four years has leveled off at about 500 hours. The number of routes run was over 150, with reports from 61 counties.

Totals in 2007: Bald Eagle – 58, Harrier -107 (record high), Sharp-shinned – 43, Cooper's – 81, Goshawk – 3, Red-shoulder – 24, Red-tailed - 2218 (second highest count), Rough-legged – 87, Golden eagle – 3, Kestrel – 511 (record high), Merlin – 4, Peregrine – 7, Black Vulture – 542 (record high), Turkey Vulture –1260 (second highest count).

A more extensive report including county totals and maps of state-wide distribution will be published in Pennsylvania Birds.

--From a PABirds listserve posting by WRS coordinator Greg Grove.

The Mysterious John James Audubon

An extraordinary exhibition of the work of John James Audubon is now open at the Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art in Millersburg, in Dauphin County north of Harrisburg. The show, called "The Mysterious John James Audubon", will run through September 29. Curator Scott Weidensaul calls it "probably the most remarkable collection of original Audubon paintings, objects and prints that's ever been seen in the region".

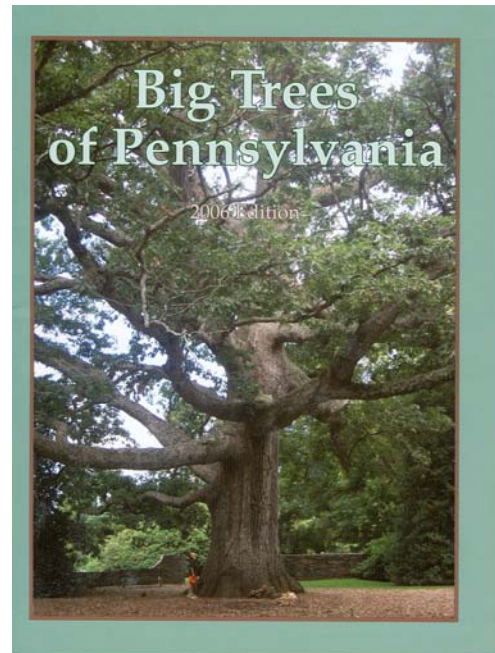
Among the works on display are Audubon's original 1828 oil painting, "The Eagle and the Lamb", which at nearly eight feet wide dominates one whole wall of the Olewine Gallery. Also on display are all four original Double Elephant folios of "The Birds of America" (all of which will be opened to new pages each week), as well as a number of other original drawings and paintings by Audubon and his sons John Woodhouse and Victor Audubon.

There are more than two dozen hand-colored prints from "Birds" and from "The Viviparous Quadrupeds of North America", along with letters, a rare manuscript, print proofs notated in Audubon's hand, and even a life mask of his face made in 1839.

This will be the first time a previously unknown Audubon original has ever been shown to the public -- an 1812 painting of an American tree sparrow that the artist did in Kentucky, and which has been in a private collection since it first surfaced in the 1920s. No one, not even Audubon scholars, have had a chance to see this lovely work before now.

Many of these works are on loan from the John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove. (While Audubon is at the Ned Smith Center, an exhibit of Ned Smith originals from the center's collection will hang at Mill Grove.) The gallery is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, visit the center's website, www.nedsmithcenter.org.

-- from a *PABirds* listserv posting by Scott Weidensaul



Big Trees of Pennsylvania 2006 Edition

The Pennsylvania Forestry Association's Big Tree Committee, after several years of work, and help from countless volunteers, has published a 2006 issue of *Big Trees of Pennsylvania*. You can find the information listed on their website at www.pabigtrees.com, but please support the program by purchasing a copy for yourself. Many of the trees have been revisited, and you will find many new trees that have been "found" recently.

The book contains the list of trees as of 2005 and color pictures of several trees, including the National champions. (*Editor's Note – The book includes a photo of Dale Luthringer with the Seneca Pine at Cook Forest*.) Also included are a few articles on the history of forestry in Pennsylvania. It is available for \$10, which includes regular postage. All profits benefit the Pennsylvania Forestry Association and help with the upkeep of their website.

To purchase your copy of the 2006 edition of *Big Trees of Pennsylvania* you can send a money order and your return address to Scott Wade, 5 Prince Eugene Lane, Media, PA 19063.

2007 BLOCK/HABITAT BUSTING SCHEDULE FOR REGION 45 JEFFERSON COUNTY

– PAT CONWAY

DAY	DATE	LEADER	ATLAS BLOCK	BLOCK NAME	MEETING TIME*	MEETING LOCATION	OTHER COMMENTS
Saturday	2-Jun	Pat C.	45D56	Summer-ville 6	7:30	Grandma's Kitchen R 36 South	Eat at Grandma's Kitchen
Tuesday	12-Jun	Pat C.	45A66	Marienville East 6	7:30	Belltown Fish Hatchery above Clear Creek	Sack Lunch
Saturday	23-Jun	Pat C.	45C56	Corsica 6	7:30	Coder Station (Coder)	Sack Lunch or Restaurant
Tuesday	26-Jun	Pat C.	45A76	Halton 6	7:30	Halton Hilton	Eat at the Halton Hilton or Bring Sack Lunch :)
Monday	2-Jul	Pat C.	45D46	New Beth-lehem 6	7:30	Meatmarket in May-port at Crossroads	Sack Lunch or Restaurant in Area
Saturday	14-Jul	Pat C.	45B76	Munderf 6	7:30	Dixon Corner Store	Sack Lunch or sandwich at Dixon Corner Store
Tuesday	17-Jul	Pat C.	45D66	Coolspring 6	7:30	To Be Announced	Sack Lunch
Tuesday	24-Jul	Pat C.	45D76	Reynolds-ville 6	7:30	To Be Announced	Sack Lunch or Restaurant
Saturday	28-Jul	Pat C.	45B66	Sigel 6	7:30	Stone School Camp Fisher Road	Sack Lunch, Facilities

NOTE:

- This is the time we will meet and go over the plan for the day.
- Everyone able to participate on any of these dates, please e-mail me your current e-mail address ASAP so that I can inform you of any changes or call and give me a phone number so that I can contact you.
- Please let me know at least two days prior to the date if you will be coming, so that I can prepare routes accordingly.
- This year we need to focus more on habitat. Spend a little extra time near wetlands, grasslands, streams, ponds, rivers, ravines, hemlock groves, etc.
- MY CONTACT INFO: Pat Conway – e-mail – bkeeper1@alltel.net , Phone: 814-849-6315 (Home); 814-849-5512 (Work – Wed, Thur, Fri)

Region 44 – Carole Willenpart

Carole is planning about 3 blockbusting outings this summer – probably 2 in June and one in July. She would like to do 44B26 (Kossuth 6), 44C16 (Emlenton 6), and 44C36 (Clarion 6). The dates will be posted on our website when available. You may let Carole know if you would like to join us on any of these outings – cwillenpart@libcom.com.

More information on the 2nd PA Breeding Bird Atlas project can be found at – <http://bird.atlasing.org/Atlas/PA/Main>.

You might be an atlasser if... Your favorite road is marked "No Winter Maintenance".

Some Upcoming Activities

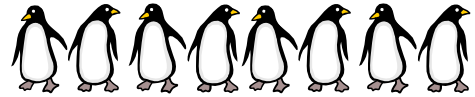
Oil Creek Warbler Walk - May 5
Birdathon - May 5 thru 13
Oil Region Birding Fest - May 10-12
PA Migration Count - May 12
PSO meeting-Harrisburg - May 18-20
Piney Tract Outing - May 26
Grassland Seminar - June 1
Oil Creek Outdoors - June 9
Atlas Blockbusting - dates in June and July
*This summer, watch for details
of our Annual Picnic*



Hosts for May 14 Meeting:

Carl & Joan Rowe

*Thanks to all who have provided snacks at our
meetings throughout the year!!*



SRAS Board Members

<u>Deb Freed</u> , President, Membership	226-4719
<u>Gary Edwards</u> , Vice-president, Programs	676-3011
<u>Dennis Beaver</u> , Secretary/Publicity	676-6564
<u>Janice Horn</u> , Treasurer, Birdseed, Birdathon	226-7367
<u>Flo McGuire</u> , Website, Drummer Editor	755-3672
<u>Jim Wilson</u> , Events, Field Trips	676-5455
<u>Ron Montgomery</u> , Community Programs	764-6088
<u>Paulette Colantonio</u> , Education	797-2031
<u>Pat Conway</u> , History	849-6315
OPEN - Mill Creek Coalition	
<u>Walter Fye</u> , Beaver Creek	797-1019

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