



THE DRUMMER



www.senecarocksaudubon.org

February/March 2015

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Blue-footed, Red-billed, and Magnificent: a Galapagos Adventure

Jeffrey Hall

February 11 Program

Known also as the “Enchanted Islands” at the time of Darwin’s visit in 1835, the Galapagos Islands are still a place of enchantment for the naturalist today. The volcanic archipelago on the equator was settled by a few species of plants and animals. Over the millennia, these took advantage of the many available ecological niches to evolve into the Galapagos inhabitants that can be seen going about their lives, unafraid of humans, each adapted to its unique setting. This presentation will highlight many Galapagos denizens, from blue-footed boobies and

Darwin’s finches to Sally Lightfoot crabs and marine iguanas.

Jeffrey Hall is an active member of Seneca Rocks Audubon Society and serves as co-coordinator for the SRAS Facebook page. He has given over 100 programs for birding, nature, and photography groups. A retired biology instructor, he lives in Franklin.



Waterfowl Identification

Gary Edwards & Ron Montgomery

March 11 Program

Timed to enhance our Conneaut Marsh field trip, the March meeting will feature that dynamic duo...or at least the duo, Ron and Gary, who will do their best to refresh your waterfowl identification skills. Focusing primarily on ducks, they’ll show how to distinguish approximately nine dabblers, nine divers, and three

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

sea ducks. They will cover the ducks, geese, swans, grebes, and loons we are most likely to see and describe plumage variations that are based upon sexual dimorphism and the timing of their molt to breeding plumage. As an extra added attraction the population status of the different species will be discussed. Join us for an interesting and informative evening, provided the duo gets all their ducks in a row (so to speak).

Cook Forest State Park

~ Dale Luthringer

Advanced Tree Measuring Workshop and American Forests National Cadre Apprentice Training

April 16-17, 2015

Cook Forest State Park, in conjunction with the Native Tree Society (NTS), American Forests (AF) and Laser Technology, Inc. (LTI), will host a two-day Advanced Tree Measuring Workshop to the public and forest resource professionals focusing on learning the latest and most accurate methods of measuring big, tall, and noteworthy trees of Cook Forest and the Eastern United States.

April 16th will be a general workshop for those wanting to learn how to measure trees using advanced equipment and methods. The workshop will include a morning lecture and afternoon exercises in the field. Members from the Native Tree Society and American Forests will be available to conduct the lecture and field events.

April 17th will be for people who wish to continue and become American Forests National Cadre members. The National Cadre consists of people who have advanced tree-measuring skills. The Coordinator of the American Forests Big Tree Program calls on members to certify nominations to the National Register of Champion Trees, train new Cadre members, settle disputes over competing

candidates, develop new measuring methods, and test new equipment.

New Cadre members will begin as apprentices. Most will progress to be fully competent in all aspects of tree measuring. The April 17th program is designed to train apprentices and will be conducted by current National Cadre members.

LOCATION: Cook Forest State Park, Log Cabin Inn Environmental Learning Classroom

REGISTRATION: *Cost is free, but registration required. 30 participant limit. To register, please contact Dale Luthringer at (814)744-8475 or e-mail dluthringe@pa.gov.

ACCREDITATION: *Society of American Forests* and *International Society of Arboriculture* credits available.

Conneaut Marsh Outing Saturday, March 28

~ Jim Wilson

We begin this outing at the spillway bridge at Custards, off Route 285. 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 about a half mile to the bridge. The drive from Clarion area is as long as to Meadville.

I will be there at 8:00 a.m. We will move from there about 9:30 A.M.

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.



Sabine's Gull by Gary Edwards

The Name Game

~ Gary Edwards

On September 5, 2014, an adult Sabine's Gull was located at the Pymatuning Lake Spillway. This small, black-headed, forked-tailed gull nests along the western coast of Alaska, across the Canadian Arctic, and east to Baffin Island, but winters in the tropics and sub-tropics. Since first recorded in Pennsylvania in 1979, there have been about 20 documented sightings. All sightings have been in the fall and most have been immature birds. The Spillway bird stayed around and put on quite a show for three days, then headed for parts unknown.

Today's question is: "Who was Sabine?" I didn't know either, so after a little research, the following should serve to enlighten both of us.

Actually, two Sabines were involved. Edward Sabine (generally pronounced to rhyme with cabin), was an excellent naturalist but his passions were terrestrial magnetism and astronomy. In 1818, he was a member of Capt. John Ross's expedition to find a Northwest Passage by travelling west from Greenland, through the Canadian Arctic, to the Pacific Ocean. During the voyage, he became friends with Capt. Ross's nephew, James Clark Ross, for whom the Arctic-dwelling Ross's Gull was named. Sabine, Ross, and other shipmates were exploring one of the islands north of the Arctic Circle when

they encountered several nesting unknown tern-like gulls among the more plentiful Arctic Terns. They collected specimens that later were transferred to a southbound vessel and delivered to Edward's brother, Joseph, in England. Joseph, in turn, displayed the birds to the Linnean Society and named the new species, *Larus sabini*, in honor of his brother, Edward.

Following another Arctic voyage in 1819-1820, Edward spent much of his life studying the earth's magnetism. Astonishingly, he also was in the Royal Artillery for over 70, yes 70, years. During that time he served in Gibraltar, Great Britain, Canada, and Ireland. While in Canada, he took part in a failed attack on Fort Erie. On several occasions he was given a leave of absence to pursue scientific studies. In 1865 he was promoted to Lieutenant-General and later, was knighted. He died in 1883, at the age of 95.

Source: *Audubon to Xanthus* by Barbara and Richard Mearns

**The 2015 Woodland Owner's Conference:
February 21st, 2015, 8:00 to 3:45 St Michael's Hall, Fryburg**

"Creating Healthy Wildlife Habitat"

Presentation Topics:

Propagating Your Own Trees: Seed to Seedling

Tina Alban, Penn Nursery, DCNR

Problems and Opportunities in Reforesting Strip Mines

Gary Gilmore, DCNR-Bureau of Forestry

Reforestation of Active & Legacy Mine Sites Using the Forestry Reclamation Approach (FRA)

Scott Eggerud, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation And Enforcement
Rebecca Dyer, Green Forests Work

Creating or Enhancing Habitat on Strip Mines

George Miller, Land Management Group Supervisor, Pennsylvania Game Commission

Healthy Habitat, Healthy Deer

Tim Smail, Quality Deer Management Assoc.

Mark Your Calendar!

To register call: Forest County Extension @ 814-755-3544

Cost: \$20.00 Before February 5, 2015

\$25.00 After February 5, 2015

Donuts, Coffee, and Lunch Provided

Don't Miss It!!! Please Tell Family, Friends, and Neighbors!!

For More Information, Call Dave Cole, Clarion County Service Forester, 814-226-1901
Please See The Woodland Owners Of Clarion-Allegheny Valley (WOCAV) At www.thewocav.org
Sponsored by: Clarion County Forest Stewardship Committee, WOCAV,
Bureau of Forestry, PSU Extension

Private Forest Landowner Conference

The Center for Private Forests at Penn State and our partners are excited to share in the second Pennsylvania Private Forest Landowner Conference. Our goal is to provide private woodland owners with resources that will help them care for their lands. These private forests provide diverse benefits and values to their owners and to society. To insure the sustainability of these resources, it is essential to consider society's increasing demands for forest products and the preservation of forest health and diversity. This balance is critical for sustaining ecological, social and economic values. We want to bring together Pennsylvania's private woodland owners to help foster a commitment to forest sustainability.

What is included in Private Forest Landowner Conference Registration?

- Kick off General Session with Keynote Speaker - Dr. Jim Finley, Joseph E. Ibberson Chair in Forest Resources Management and Director of The Center for Private Forests at Penn State
- Nine sessions featuring eleven educational seminars during each session
- Reception Friday afternoon
- Lunch on Saturday
- Opportunity to network with service providers and resources for your forest in the exhibit hall
- Closing General Session with Keynote Speaker - Chuck Fergus, author and photographer

Regular Registration (Friday and Saturday) - \$100
Friday, March 20th Only Registration - \$50
Saturday, March 21st Only Registration - \$75

In addition, you may also participate in the following for additional fees:

- Friday Morning Field Tours (includes a box lunch in the exhibit hall) - \$35
- Friday Evening Banquet with Keynote Speaker Richard Alley, Evan Pugh Professor of Geosciences and Associate of the Earth and Environmental Systems Institute at The Pennsylvania State University - \$30

Online Registration Closes March 9, 2015 (Phone or Walk-in only available after this date. After March 9, please register by calling 877-778-2937. An additional \$25 processing fee will be added to registration costs.)

<http://www.cvent.com/events/2015-private-forest-landowners-conference/event-summary-2e2dde3bec364098b93cbc99c333467c.aspx>



Like us on Facebook!



The Woodland Owners
Of Clarion-Allegheny Valley Present:

Pennsylvania Predators: Owls

Speaker: Stacy Wolbert, PGC Biologist

When: Thursday, March 19th, 2015, 7:00 P.M.

Where: Rimersburg Rod & Gun Club
442 Rod & Gun Club Road, Rimersburg, PA 16248

Cost: Free, Open to the public

Come hear about some our major nocturnal predators from an expert on the subject. Learn how the predators affect other wildlife.

For more information contact the Clarion County Service Forester Dave Cole at 814-226-1901 or email davcole@pa.gov



Owl photo credits: Adult and juvenile--John Kees Claws--Curtis Bouvier Eyes--Dolovis

The Great Backyard Bird Count

Launched in 1998 by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, the Great Backyard Bird Count was the first online citizen-science project to collect data on wild birds and to display results in near real-time.

Since then, more than 100,000 people of all ages and walks of life have joined the four-day count each February to create an annual snapshot of the distribution and abundance of birds.

We invite you to participate! Simply tally the numbers and kinds of birds you see for at least 15 minutes on one or more days of the count, **February 13-16, 2015**. It is free and the data is automatically entered into eBird.

If you're new to the count, first [register online](#) then enter your checklist. If you have already participated in another Cornell Lab citizen-science project, you can use your existing login. [Click here for more info on how to get started.](#)

In 2013, Great Backyard Bird Count participants in 111 countries counted 33,464,616 birds on 137,998 checklists, documenting 4,258 species—more than one-third of the world's bird species!



Wilson's Snipe were not seen on our CBC, but this excellent photo was captured by Pat Conway as she and Deb Freed ran their Winter Raptor Survey on January 10.

28th CBC

~ Gary Edwards

Who woulda thunk, two consecutive years with beautiful days for the CBC. Once again our vehicle force consisted of 26 adventurous souls who, assisted by 13 feeder watchers, tallied 51 species, just one short of average. Good job, guys and gals, your efforts are well appreciated.

The total number of birds counted was 5,143 – an increase of 456, or just about 10% over last year. That number is still the 4th lowest total overall and 2,400 birds lower than our average of 7,574.

Last year, low numbers of nine common species accounted for most of the discrepancy between the average count and the count for the year: Starling, Junco, Canada Goose, Chickadee, Blue Jay, Tree Sparrow, House Finch, Goldfinch, and Mourning Dove. Once again nine common species lead the list. Starling, Junco, Chickadee, Tree Sparrow, House Finch, Goldfinch, and Mourning Dove are repeat offenders and are joined by Crow, Cedar Waxwing, and House Sparrow. All nine species were between 100 and 600 birds short of average.

Whew, we almost didn't get a Short-eared Owl as the five late afternoon owling teams all were blanked. Fortunately, Mike Weible was hunting in Piney Tract that day and reported he flushed one-- so our consecutive streak extends to 28 years. Thanks, Mike. The owling team of Mike Leahy, Paulette Colantonio, Eva Palmer and new member Sue Courson recorded seven Screech Owls and one Great Horned; Gary Edwards and Jim Wilson had two Screech Owls during their early morning owling, while Ron Montgomery and newby Mal Hays reported two more that were active during daylight. Pete Dalby had a 2nd Great Horned.

The primary misses for the day were Belted Kingfisher, Northern Shrike, and Cedar Waxwing.

Other highlights include:

- Two Snow Geese among the 400+ geese at Wentlings Corners spotted by Carl and Joan Rowe;
- A nice male Redhead spotted in a pond by Jim Wilson and Gary Edwards. It's a new bird for the count, bringing our total to 97.
- New highs for Mallard (140), Ring-necked Pheasant (18), Common Raven (6), and Horned Lark (100);

Feeder watchers once again came to the rescue by reporting the only song sparrow of the day.

As usual, the day was capped off with dinner at the Cozumel.

Field birders were: Paulette Colantonio, Sue Courson, Pete Dalby, Gary Edwards, Deb Freed, Jeff Hall, Mal Hays, Janice Horn, Ann Hunt, Mike Leahy, Flo McGuire, Jim McGuire, Ron Montgomery, Eva Palmer, Kurt Register, Carl Rowe, Joan Rowe, Ruth Schurr, Theo Schurr, Gil Twiest, Fran Williams, Jack Williams, Jim Wilson, Mike Weible, Donna Woodman, and Dana Wormer.

This is your opportunity to purchase quality birdseed from our local **Blue Seal** dealer and support the conservation, education and environmental activities of the Seneca Rocks Audubon Society. Blue Seal will offer a 15% discount on bird feeders, suet cages and nyjer sacks when you pick up your order. There are two store locations: J&J Feeds on route 66 midway between Marianne Corners & I-80 and J&J Feeds Brookville on Allegheny Blvd across from the old Agway Store

ORDER BY FRI, Jan. 30, 2015	PICK-UP from SAT, Feb. 14 to SAT, Feb. 21
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Mail this order form with check (payable to SRAS) to: Seneca Rocks Audubon Society
 c/o Janice Horn
 32 Barber St.
 Clarion, PA 16214

 Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ E-mail _____

City _____ State PA _____ Zip _____

Please indicate your pick-up location: Brookville ____ or Shipperville ____

Quantity	Seed Type	Lbs	Unit Price	Total
	Nature's Choice - premium mix with corn	40 lb.	\$ 25.00	
	Concerto - no corn premium mix	40 lb.	\$ 29.00	
	Songmaker - economy mix	40 lb.	\$ 22.00	
	J & J Blend - most popular	50 lb.	\$ 25.00	
	Black Oil Sunflower	50 lb.	\$ 23.00	
	Black Oil Sunflower	25 lb.	\$ 14.00	
	Cracked Corn - triple cleaned	50 lb.	\$ 15.00	
	Cracked Corn - triple cleaned	25 lb.	\$ 8.00	
	Cracked Corn - once cleaned	50 lb.	\$ 13.00	
	Cracked Corn - once cleaned	25 lb.	\$ 8.00	
	Nyjer Seed	50 lb.	\$ 44.00	
	Nyjer Seed	25 lb.	\$ 24.00	
	Suet Cakes		\$ 1.25	

Make checks payable to:
 Seneca Rocks Audubon Society
 Note NO TAX

Subtotal _____

Donation to Seneca Rocks Audubon _____

Total _____

Upcoming Dates & Events

January 30 - Last day to order Bird Seed

February 11 Program - Jeffrey Hall,
Galapagos

February 14 thru February 21 - Pick Up
Birdseed at J & J Feeds

March 11 Program - Gary Edwards & Ron
Montgomery, Waterfowl Identification

March 28 - Outing to Conneaut Marsh



*This Brown Thrasher lingered at McGuire's yard
in Tionesta until November 29.*

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

Sunshine is delicious, rain is refreshing, wind
braces us up, snow is exhilarating; there really is
no such thing as bad weather, only different
kinds of good weather.

~ John Ruskin