



# THE DRUMMER

[www.senecarocksaudubon.org](http://www.senecarocksaudubon.org)



October, 2008

Volume 25, No. 2

**Next Meeting – October 13**  
**Room 150, Becker Hall**  
**Social – 6:30 p.m. Program – 7:00 p.m.**

## **Silent Auction to benefit SRAS** **DONATE ITEMS AND BUY ITEMS**

~ Deb Freed



### **Gil Twiest presents:** **Birding in the Southwest**

**O**ur very own Gil Twiest will share photos and stories of his 2002 trip through southwestern US and into southern California. It's sure to be informative and fun as Gil always adds personal sidelights and travel tidbits to his narrative featuring his masterful photography.

Join us for this special all SRAS night with program and auction items from members. Bring a friend!

*Seneca Rocks Annual Bird Seed Sale -  
see page 7 for order form*

**A**t the October program a number of new and gently used items will be available to purchase with proceeds to benefit SRAS. This will supplement the Birdathon fundraiser that was traditionally our best source of income. In recent years, however, both the number of members who participate and the donations have greatly diminished.

The items will be generally useful to birders and other folks who enjoy our natural world. Some items already donated are:

Field Guides: Mushrooms, Birds, Butterflies

Assorted Books: Nature Company Guide on Birding, Raptor Almanac/Weidensaul

Artwork: Wall hanging featuring backyard birds

Nest boxes & Feeders: Bluebird boxes and oriole feeders

Clothing: LL Bean large khaki vest with lots of pockets

If you have an item to donate, bring it and have a minimum bid ready to begin the bidding. Bidding sheets will be available for items.

In addition, two Fuertes canvas posters circa 1898 and 1900 will also be displayed. The proceeds will be passed along to the family where these posters were rescued from the trash.

Some information on the posters follows:  
Three **Audubon Society Bird Identification Posters** created by Louis Agassiz Fuertes for the Massachusetts Audubon Society are on long-term display in the Adelson Library, Cornell University.

- Audubon Chart no. 1, published in 1898 by the Massachusetts Audubon Society details Chimney Swift to Chipping Sparrow.
- Audubon Chart no. 2, published in 1900 by the Massachusetts Audubon Society details Red-headed Woodpecker to Vesper Sparrow.
- Audubon Chart no. 3, published in 1912 by the Milton Bradley Company of Springfield Massachusetts was printed in Massachusetts by Louis Agassiz Fuertes for the Massachusetts Audubon Society. It details Northern Shrike to Red-breasted Nuthatch.

Bring your items to donate and don't forget your checkbooks or cash!

At our meeting, we will also be taking orders for a variety of Audubon calendars showcasing stunning nature photography. These will be distributed at our December meeting.



The *Drummer* is the monthly 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 8 times per year – September through December, and February through May.

The *Drummer* is available on our website in color in Adobe pdf and may be read or downloaded from the site – [www.senecarocksaudubon.org](http://www.senecarocksaudubon.org).

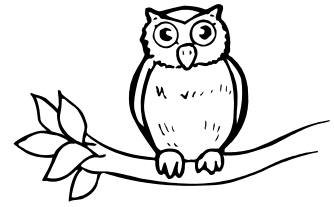
Members are encouraged to contribute announcements, articles, photos, etc. to Editor Flo McGuire, 609 Ponderosa Lane, Tionesta, PA 16353 (814 755-3672) or email at [fmcguire1@verizon.net](mailto:fmcguire1@verizon.net).

## PROGRAMS AT COOK FOREST STATE PARK

~Dale Luthringer

Saturday, 10/18 at  
8:00am –

**'Woodsy Owl  
Workday'** Have you  
been looking for a  
way to get involved



with Cook Forest 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. Work projects may include invasive species removal, trail maintenance, litter pickup, painting, wood stacking, etc. Free camping Friday and/or Saturday nights will be available for volunteers, with prior notice received before Friday, October 3, 2008. If you are planning to join us for the day, please contact the Park Office (814)744-8407 at least two weeks in advance so that we can have a volunteer project lined up for you. Lunch will be provided. (5.5 hrs)



Thursday, 10/23 at 10:00am –

**'Canoeing the National Wild & Scenic Clarion River: Troutman Run-Gravel Lick'** Cook Forest State Park will be conducting a 6-mile guided interpretive canoeing program along the National Wild & Scenic Clarion River. We will present basic canoe safety and handling as well as wildlife on the Clarion River.

*Cook Forest area business owners...* We can't begin to out-give your generous support over the years, but we really do appreciate all the help you've given us behind the scenes. Don't miss this opportunity for us to give back to you after a busy summer season. Participants must register at the Park Office at (814)744-8407. Sorry, we only have 8 canoes. Space is limited, so please register early.

Meet at the Park Office where we will transport you to the starting point. Transportation will be provided back to the Park Office. Remember to pack a lunch, water, and wear proper river footwear. Don't forget your fishing poles! (6 hrs)

Saturday, 10/25 at 11:30am –

**'Fall Foliage Fire Tower/Seneca Point Historical Tour'** Please bring your binoculars and meet at the Fire Tower Parking Lot for a 45 minute historical interpretive tour of the Fire Tower and Seneca Point. Learn about local logging history, observe Indian sign, and enjoy a spectacular view of the Fall foliage from the box at the very top of the Fire Tower which will be open until 2:30pm. (3 hrs)

Saturday, 10/30 at 7:00pm

**'Spotting Pennsylvania's Elusive White-tail Deer'**

Please bring your spotlights and meet at the Log Cabin Inn Environmental Learning Classroom for an evening driving tour as we car-pool to Cook Forest's white-tail hotspots. Come learn about the natural history of our Commonwealth's state mammal, as we cruise the park searching for this elusive animal. (2 hrs)



Friday, 10/31 at 7:00pm

**'Cathedral by Candlelight'**

Walk back in time into the depths of the Forest Cathedral with an historical character from the past. Come view the ancient forest by candlelight as we walk underneath the giants. Either a French marine from the 1750's who saw these massive trees 250 years ago, or a lumberman from the 1800's will be there to guide us. Candy and hot chocolate will be served at the Log Cabin Inn. Bring your flashlights! (2 hrs)



Climb the mountains and get their good tidings.  
Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows  
into trees.

The winds will blow their own freshness into you...  
while cares will drop off like autumn leaves.

~John Muir

## Ask Congress to help our treasured songbirds

From Audubon Action

More than half of the bird species that breed in North America and winter in Latin America have declining populations. If we hope to continue sharing our North American communities with Wood Thrushes, Bobolinks, and other treasured neotropical migratory birds, we must ensure that the birds find food, safety, and shelter in all of the countries where they make stops along their migration. In 2002, Congress passed the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act to help protect these habitats, but now the bill must be re-authorized--and time is running out on the 110th Congress!

\*\*\*TAKE ACTION\*\*\* E-mail your members of Congress and urge them to cosponsor the reauthorization of the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (HR 5756/S 3490) to help save our songbirds:

[http://audubonaction.org/campaign/nmbca\\_sep08/83een774f33i773](http://audubonaction.org/campaign/nmbca_sep08/83een774f33i773)

The Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (HR 5756) supports conservation programs protecting migratory birds through habitat preservation, education, and research programs. The program is a cooperative, international conservation effort in Canada, the United States, and Latin America. Each year, the number of applicants far exceed the available funds. Congress needs to renew and expand this vital and cost-effective conservation program.

We need to act now to save our declining songbirds. The longer we delay, the more irreplaceable habitat will be lost.

Mark your calendar -  
This Year's  
Christmas Bird Count  
Will be January 3, 2009





*Black-throated blue warbler*

## Bird Banding Adventure

Kurt Register and some of his Wildlife Management and Ecology students from CUP visited Scott Stoleson's banding station north of Marienville, near Mayburg, on September 26. About half of the class had come at an earlier date – 8 were in attendance today. Scott introduced his crew – master bander Don Watts and Linda Ordiway, who has recently completed her Ph.D., and volunteers Jim and Flo McGuire.

One of the first birds to be banded was an adult male black-throated blue warbler. Folks then gathered draw-string cloth bags and ventured out in small groups to check all 9 nets, but came back empty-handed. During the lull Scott explained his study of bird habitat use after the breeding season – he is comparing the species netted in the forest interior to those in regenerative areas. There are 4 nets in each habitat at each of his 3 study sites. (The 9<sup>th</sup> net was not part of the study, just added to increase our chances to see birds today). His study has found that many species previously thought to use only forest habitat are actually more common in regenerative areas during the post-breeding period. Scott's presentation of his study results was well-received at the American Ornithologists' Union annual meeting in Portland, Oregon in August. He showed the group bar graphs of results for certain species, including the black-throated blue warbler, one of the forest interior species which has often been found in the regenerative areas.

Weather seemed to be a factor in the lack of birds – it was overcast but windy, and birds are not usually active on windy days. The next trip to the nets, however, found 7 birds in 1 net, plus several others. Five black-capped chickadees were joined by a black-throated green warbler and a Nashville warbler.



*Linda Ordiway processes a bird as some students look on*

The lull was over. Scott and Linda were busy processing the birds as Kurt and the students looked on and took some photos. The species, of course, must be determined first, so that the proper band size can be selected. After attaching a band, each bird's wing chord and tail were measured, fat measurement and body, wing and tail molt were noted. A record is kept of the net in which the bird was found. Peter Pyle's *Identification Guide to North American Birds* is the bible for the determination of age and gender. Age is not as specific as you might think; categories are: juvenile, hatch year, second year, after hatch year, and after second year. Most species' plumage does not change much from the "after hatch year" plumage. For black-throated blue warblers, the wing patch is also measured, likewise the crown patch on Nashville warblers. Then the bird might pose for some photos. Finally, it is weighed, then released.

Other birds banded while the students were at the site included 3 more black-throated blues, a field sparrow, 5 dark-eyed juncos, 2 Cape May warblers, a chipping sparrow, a common yellowthroat, and a magnolia warbler. One of the students surprised everyone by correctly identifying a Cape May warbler in fall plumage. Another common yellow-



throat female recapture (previously banded) had been banded there at Mayburg on September 30, 2004, as an “after hatch year”, making her at least 5 years old. Site fidelity and this ability to recapture a bird allows researchers to get a more specific determination of age. Another recapture was a molting indigo bunting male, which had also been banded there on July 30, 2004.

Cape May warblers breed in Canada and the northeast edge of the United States, migrating through Pennsylvania. Scott explained that their population depends on the abundance of spruce bud-worms. In a good year, they may have up to 9 birds in a clutch (which must be a lot of work for a bird that only weight 11 grams itself). This seems to be a good year for spruce bud-worms, as they have banded about 15 Cape Mays this year, compared to a typical two or three.

Scott is a Research Wildlife Biologist for the USDA Forest Service, Northern Research Station in Irvine, PA. His habitat study includes 3 sites – Mayburg, Sheffield and Marshburg, and the crew typically bands at each site for a week before moving to the next. They are always happy to have visitors. Two years ago at Seneca Rocks, Scott presented a mushroom identification program and field trip, which were both very popular. We look forward to a program he will present here in November, “Venezuelan Adventure”. One of Scott’s favorite quotes is from Albert Einstein: “If we knew what we were doing, it wouldn’t be called research, would it?”

## **LOTS OF WAYS YOU CAN HELP OUR CHAPTER**

~Deb Freed

There are many ways that members could help throughout the program year:

- Signing up for refreshments
- Folding/labeling/mailling the Drummer
- Seeking out a good program
- Placing announcements in newspapers
- Writing or contributing an article to the newsletter
- Getting calendar sales ready
- Collating birdseed sale orders
- Reporting the Christmas Bird Count

- Putting up a monthly bulletin board display at Clarion University
- Setting-up our SRAS panel display at a variety of events like National Wildlife Week at the mall or the Oil Region Birding Festival
- Monitoring issues and announcements to add to our newsletter
- Setting up the room for the meeting
- Leading your favorite field trip
- Suggesting and organizing a field trip
- Developing fundraising ideas
- Leading Birdathon activities

If any of these items look like something you could do, please contact Deb Freed at 226-4719. It’s good to spread out the many jobs that go into keeping SRAS an active chapter.

If you think you’d like to learn about membership from Deb or the treasurer’s job from Janice or even be a newsletter/webmaster “intern” with Flo, or find out about field trip planning from Jim, or scheduling speakers from Pete, contact them. We can’t do this forever! You’d be surprised how this all flows together with a great team and how enjoyable it can be. Join us now for a smooth transition in the future!

### **More Chapter News ...**

#### **Membership Report**

The result of the postcards mailed in August increased the number of e-Drummer recipients by 20 and reduced the paper mailed copy by 30. The chapter memberships have increased to 26. By choosing e-Drummer, the \$10 chapter membership fee can go toward programming while helping the environment too!

#### **Cookie Exchange**

For the December meeting we are planning a cookie exchange. If each member brings 4 plates of ½ dozen cookies each, we can offer some to students, (maybe eat some?) and each take home some different varieties.

#### **Free Parking for Meetings**

Parking in the lot across from Becker Hall is sometimes a problem. We inquired at the Public Safety Building and found out that the “permit only” parking signs do not apply to parking after 4 pm. So, any of these areas can be used when you come to a Seneca Rocks meeting.

## RTPI Centennial Events

The Roger Tory Peterson Institute, just across the New York border in Jamestown, is celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Dr. Peterson. He was born in Jamestown, NY on August 28, 1908. To commemorate and celebrate the 100th anniversary of his birth, the Institute will host and sponsor special events during 2008 and through August, 2009, both in Jamestown and around the country.

**Fifty pieces of seldom seen original artwork by Roger Tory Peterson** will be exhibited until October 15, 2008. These seldom seen pieces adorn the walls of private residences, are in institutional archives or are otherwise “out of circulation.” The staff of RTPI has tracked these rare pieces of art through old records, word of mouth and through classic detective work. Typically, these owners are more than happy to discover they have something so rare and are for the most part very happy to loan them to RTPI for the show.

The earliest piece found goes back to 1925 when Dr. Peterson was an art school student, and the latest is from 1996, the year he passed away. This is the first time that these pieces of art have ever been exhibited together.

RTPI is offering the public guided exhibit tours at 11 AM and 2 PM each Tuesday and Thursday. For more information about this exhibit, please contact Jane Johnson at (716) 665-2473 ext. 232, or [janejohnson@rtpi.org](mailto:janejohnson@rtpi.org).

### October 17, 2008 – Bruce Hiscock

Bruce Hiscock, of Porters Corners, NY, is the author of *Ookpik: The Travels of a Snowy Owl*. His program, “Arctic Travels,” will recount his trips to Alaska and Canada to research his books, *The Big Caribou Herd*, and *Ookpik: The Travels of a Snowy Owl*. Bruce will read passages from his books, sketch, show his journals, and explain the process of creating books about nature. [www.brucehiscock.com](http://www.brucehiscock.com)

RTPI is excited to welcome the beautiful artwork of Julie Zickefoose to its walls beginning October 25,

2008. This unique exhibit, based on her book entitled *Letters From Eden*, will give visitors a look into this exceptional compilation of essays and original artwork that document Julie’s experiences with nature, based on her daily walks and observations. This exhibit will bring visitors into the beautiful, complex, and ever-changing natural world as seen through Julie’s eyes. The paintings featured in her book consist of scenes from Southern Ohio, where Julie resides with her family.

*Letters From Eden* will be featured at the Institute through January 2009. Julie’s book is available in the RTPI Nature Store. More information about Julie can be found at [www.juliezickefoose.com](http://www.juliezickefoose.com).

Check out Julie’s blog at [www.juliezickefoose.com/blog/index.php](http://www.juliezickefoose.com/blog/index.php).

**Join us for an artist’s reception and program with Julie on Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup>.** The reception begins at 5 P.M.; the program begins at 7 P.M. For more information about this or other exhibits at RTPI call (716) 665-2473 ext. 232, visit [www.rtpi.org](http://www.rtpi.org), or email [janejohnson@rtpi.org](mailto:janejohnson@rtpi.org).

**Birding Festival** -- The Roger Tory Peterson Institute in Jamestown, NY will honor Dr. Peterson’s legacy by a 2009 inauguration of an annual birding festival on June 4, 5, 6 & 7, 2009.

This festival will provide an entertaining and educational experience through activities including the showing of re-mastered Peterson films, keynote speaker Pete Dunne, workshops, and field trips to area birding hotspots led by knowledgeable local birders.

Mark your calendars and plan on participating in this exciting festival celebrating Roger Tory Peterson and his many contributions to birding, and the appreciation of natural history. More information will be coming soon.

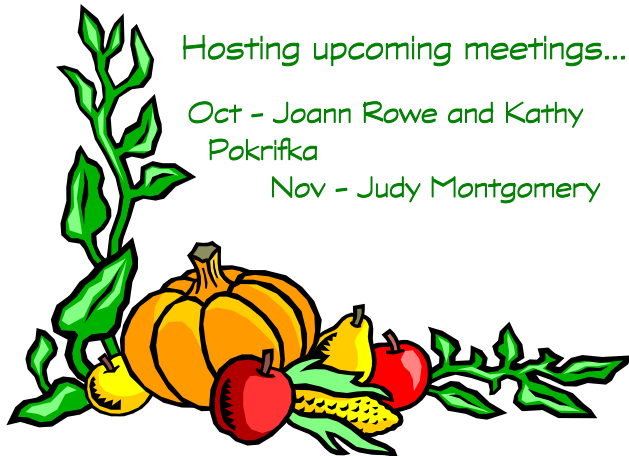
Check the RTPI website [www.rtpi.org](http://www.rtpi.org) for details on these and more upcoming events.





For more information about our chapter and current updates, please check our website at [www.senecarocksaudubon.org](http://www.senecarocksaudubon.org).

Don't forget to order a beautiful Audubon calendar (or 2) at our next meeting. They will be available in December and make great gifts. These are offered at \$10 each, which includes a small donation to the chapter.



Hosting upcoming meetings...

Oct - Joann Rowe and Kathy Pokrifka

Nov - Judy Montgomery

## SRAS Board Members

President --	None	
Vice-president, Programs -	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
Secretary, Membership -	Deb Freed	226-4719
Community Programs -	Ron Montgomery	764-6088
Education -	Paulette Colantonio	797-2031
History -	Pat Conway	849-6315
Mill Creek Coalition -		
Beaver Creek -	Walter Fye	797-1019

## Future Programs...

November -

Venezuelan Adventure by Scott Stoleson

December -

Members' Night and Cookie Exchange

Clarion, PA 16214

P.O. Box 148

Seneca Rocks Audubon Society