

Seneca Rocks Drummer

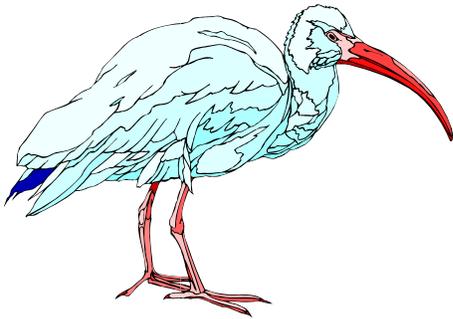


November, 2004
A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

Newsletter of the Seneca Rocks Audubon Society

Volume 21, No. 3

www.senecarocksaudubon.org



Next Meeting – November 8
Room 249, Peirce Science Center
Refreshments & conversation at 7:00 p.m.
Program begins at 7:30 p.m.

WADING BIRDS OF FLORIDA

by Gary Edwards

Jerry Lucot, frequent visitor to our meetings, will present a multi-media slide program featuring Wading Birds of Florida. Jerry is a long-time birder and has spent many hours with his camera stalking birds all over the U.S. He'll use two projectors to entertain us with his up-close and personal slides of egrets, herons, and a variety of other Florida waders. Please join us for a fun evening.

Field Trips

by Ron Montgomery

The last scheduled field trip for 2004 was to the Allegheny Front Hawk Watch on Monday and Tuesday, October 25th and 26th. We will have an article on that outing in the next Newsletter.

Our field trip program will spring to life in a big way next March. The schedule is:

Sat 3/26	Conneaut Marsh, PA
Sat 4/2	Presque Isle
Mon 4/25	Oil Creek State Park
Sat 5/14	Mt. Zion & Mt. Airy
Mon 6/20	Atlas Block Busting

Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology Annual Meeting

May 20-22, 2005
Clarion Holiday Inn

Hosted by SRAS
Field Trips, Speakers & More!



Crow's Nest

by President Deb Freed

Lesson from the Geese

As the geese head south, we notice they fly in a V formation. As each bird flaps its wings, it reduces wind resistance and cuts an easier path for the bird immediately following; allowing the flock to cover a greater distance than if each bird flew on its own.

We've just begun our 21st year and SRAS needs some help. Just accomplishing the standard meetings, field trips, events, fundraising, conservation and education goals is a lot. Added to that there are some large projects and events like the Piney Tract IBA, the annual PSO meeting in May, the Breeding Bird Atlas and keeping up with the changes in Audubon's redefined partnership initiative. There are two positions that would help the current board in doing all that we've planned for the year. First, we want a Secretary to help record our board decisions plus help with publicity by sending out announcements to the media. Someone who could meet with the board

and has on-line computer capabilities could easily serve in this position. Secondly, we've grouped some events together for an Events Chairman to organize the Christmas Bird Count, National Wildlife Week, our May dinner and the summer picnic. If one of these sounds interesting to you, please talk with Deb Freed or Gary Edwards.

When a lead goose gets tired, it drops back in formation, and another goose flies point. It's time for some to drop back in formation. We're looking for someone to fly with us.



Freeware for Mac OS X - "Wings"

This is a free database for Mac OS X users, to keep track of bird sightings and create reports. Go to www.versiontracker.com, search for "Wings"

SRAS Officers

President	Deb Freed	226-4719
Vice-President	Gary Edwards	676-3011
Secretary	OPEN	
Treasurer	Janice Horn	226-7367

Committee Chairs

Armchair Activist	OPEN	275-2058
Beaver Ck Maint.	Walter Fye	797-1019
Conservation	OPEN	
Education	Paulette Colantonio	797-2031
Field Trips	Ron Montgomery	764-6088
Hospitality	Janice Horn	226-7367
Membership	Sherry Vowinckel	782-3294
Mill Ck/Piney Tract ..	Pete Dalby	782-3227
Newsletter	Flo McGuire	755-3672
Programs	Gary Edwards	676-3011



GRASSLAND MANAGEMENT ARTICLE IN BWD

by Margaret Buckwalter

"I do not recommend burning." "Birds do not use grassland for their beauty but for their cover and food. Light grazing, brush cutting and mowing always leave some cover behind." Also, "Goats especially, or even cattle, may browse and rebrowse the tender new shoots until the woody plants expire." These are a few of the recommendations summarized in the September/October '04 issue of *Bird Watcher's Digest* by Ann Swengel, who has done extensive research on managing grasslands in the Middle West.

The title of the article was: *Fields for Birds; Managing Habitat to Help Grassland Birds*, a topic of great interest to SRAS members because Mt. Zion, an Important Bird Area (IBA) in Clarion County and Pennsylvania, is an IBA just because it has grasslands. Its resemblance to a real prairie is the result of seeding large parts of this reclaimed strip mine with grass instead of trees.

It just happens that Ann is a friend of mine. Our friendship began at a BWD Birding Festival in eastern Ohio several years ago where she was giving a lively presentation on the similarities of butterfly watching to bird watching. Here was this expert on butterflies exuberantly flapping

her arms to demonstrate different speeds and styles of flight of various species. Her enthusiasm was so contagious that she soon had a lively discussion going with the audience. When she mentioned the research she and her husband were doing on grasslands, I knew I had to meet her. Afterwards she graciously made an appointment for meeting me at lunch.

I soon found out that Scott Swengel, her husband, is an expert on grassland birds in the Middle West. Ann and Scott together have made a good team investigating both butterfly and grassland bird conservation strategies in Wisconsin, Iowa and Missouri. When I told her about our hopes for Mt. Zion's IBA and our efforts to obtain the land, she was most encouraging. That started a long correspondence that continues today. They were very willing to share copies of their grassland research which have direct relevance to "our" IBA, as well as informal opinions and discussion.

The BWD article is just the latest one that Ann Swengel has written as a frequent contributor. She usually writes on butterflies, but not always. Whatever the subject, she's very informative and shows the same enthusiasm as the first time I met her. On her advice, when I picked a new pair of binoculars, I made sure they had a short focus, and next I bought a butterfly guide. (Hint to birders: butterflies are most active when birding activity is slowing down, in late mornings and early afternoons.) The web site www.naba.org is very useful for butterfly identification, too. One of these days I might even join the North American Butterfly Association!

Please request a copy of the article complete with bibliography from me at 814-782-3925 or buckwalter01@alltel.net if you are not a subscriber to *Bird Watcher's Digest*.

Change Is In the Wind...

A report on Audubon partnerships

by Deb Freed

The National Audubon Society Ad Hoc Chapter Committee has issued a report with recommendations to improve the relationships between chapters and the state and national Audubon organization.

During the discussion period from now until December 1, 2004, the committee will collect feedback from local chapters before issuing the final report to be submitted for approval at the January 2005 NAS Board meeting.

The full draft report and recommendations are available on-line at www.audubon.org/local/cso/adhoccom/, or a printed copy can be obtained from Deb Freed.

The report details ways to strengthen communication between our state and local chapters and build real partnerships through shared projects and action. There is a recommendation to resurrect a statewide assembly, too. There will also be evaluation of local and state volunteer efforts on national initiatives as well as national volunteer participation in state and local projects. The committee recommends that financial support to the chapters should be tied to chapter conservation and programmatic goals and accomplishments. The financial support

from national will go through the state organization, keying on birds/habitat saved, people engaged, and membership. All in all, support and attention is shifting to what is being done with less recognition based upon paid memberships. In fact, membership will most likely be changed, too. National will discontinue the use of a "free chapter membership". The

committee has described a variety of membership options in three general categories: Automatic Joint Memberships, Optional Shared Memberships, and Separate Memberships.

There has been much dissatisfaction with the national organization among chapters in recent years.

National Audubon recognizes the value of strengthening these partnerships for success in reaching our shared goals. National Audubon believes a strong community-based presence is the foundation for statewide protection of birds and wildlife. If the organization and membership structure are topics that interest you, please take the time to read the full report. Your SRAS board welcomes your comments and will prepare a summary response to the national ad hoc committee. Let us know what you think about the proposed changes in chapter support and membership.

Comments can be sent to ltenefoss@audubon.org or Lynn Tenefoss, National Audubon Society, 711 University Avenue, Sacramento CA 95825



Proposed Options for Chapter Memberships

Automatic Joint Membership

- Both NAS and Chapters recruit National members; there are no Chapter members.
- Both NAS and Chapters provide benefits and services to members recruited by the other.
- NAS and Chapters each retain membership revenue raised.
- Both NAS and Chapters have regular access to the other's membership names.

Optional Shared Membership

- NAS recruits National members and Chapters recruit Chapter members.
- Both NAS and Chapters can choose whether or not to provide membership, benefits and services to members recruited by the other.
- Both NAS and Chapters make each other's membership lists liberally available to the other for conservation programs and activities.
- Both NAS and Chapters make each other's membership lists available to the other at least once annually to solicit donations for their programs. Each may withhold certain names from exchange if they are being cultivated for special purposes.

Separate Membership

- Both NAS and Chapters recruit members.
- Members recruited by NAS are not members of local Chapters.
- Members recruited by Chapters are not members of NAS.
- Neither NAS nor Chapters share membership revenue with each other.
- No obligation for either NAS or Chapter to make each other's lists available to the other; lists may be traded with mutual consent.

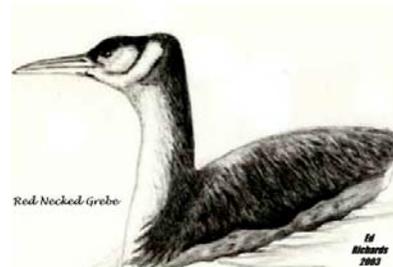
LOGO CONTEST

The logo contest is being extended to allow designers to create a logo in whatever shape supports the design. The board may choose one design for a patch and another for the *Drummer* masthead.



Put on your creative caps and break out the crayons and pens. We'd like to have a patch and masthead by December.

This contest is not limited to our members. Do you know a talented student, family member or friend? Give them a call and let's see what ideas can be put on paper. Send any logo/masthead designs to Deb Freed, 208 Briar Hill Drive, Clarion, PA 16214.



Artwork by Ed Richards

Answer to October's Birding Puzzle:

1. Grebe of old – HOLBOELLS
2. HORSE tails used to be a favorite nesting material of Chipping Sparrows.
3. Native NA species of perching duck – WOODDUCK
4. Home décor, to a Great-crested – SNAKESKIN
5. A warbler is named for this state – LOUISIANA (Waterthrush)
6. Part of warbler's Latin name, means "very small" – (Wilsonia) PUSILLA (Wilson's Warbler)

First Rule of Birding – LOOK UP

Slide Show Programs at Cook Forest State Park

by Dale Luthringer

Wednesday, November 3 at 7:00 pm –
***'Tall & Majestic Trees of Cook Forest and
Northwestern Pennsylvania'*** –

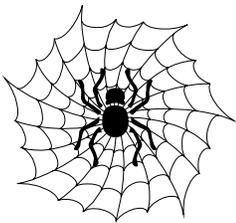


Cook Forest State Park is home to the finest stand of ancient Eastern White Pine in the entire Northeastern United States. Within its boundaries resides the greatest concentration of white pines taller than 160 ft. north of the Great

Smoky Mountains. It also boasts 11 record trees, including 7 that are Northeastern U.S. height champs and 17 old growth tree species. Cook Forest is also home to 450-year-old Eastern Hemlocks, 350-year-old Eastern White Pines, 300-year-old White Oaks, and 250-year-old Black Cherries. Although Cook Forest is THE place to come to view the greatest variety of tall and majestic trees in the entire Northeastern U.S., other areas of Northwestern Pennsylvania also hold many large and tall tree treasures. Please bring your popcorn bowls and meet at the Log Cabin Inn Environmental Learning Center to take part in this slide show walk through some of Pennsylvania's most pristine areas. (1 hr)

Tuesday, November 9 at 7:00 pm –

'Webs of Intrigue'



Enter the hidden world of spiders and discover their secrets. Learn about their amazing skills as they use their silk as a trapeze, a lasso, and a telegraph. Please bring

your popcorn bowls and meet at the Log Cabin Inn Environmental Learning Center to learn about these amazingly talented architects. (1 hr)

PSO Annual Meeting



Our chapter is proud to be the host of the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology annual meeting on May 20-22, 2005 at the Clarion Holiday Inn. Registration and a Social will be held on Friday

evening, where there will be an opportunity to sign up for the various field trips. SRAS is planning six or seven outings to local birding areas for Saturday and Sunday mornings. Saturday afternoon, there will be four forty-five minute programs. These are typically given by Pennsylvanians who are working on avian research projects. A banquet will be held on Saturday evening, with the presentation of the Earl Poole award, and a keynote speaker. Vendors will be set up in the hotel lobby with items of interest to birders, such as nature art, photography, and optics.

To attend the meeting, you must be a member of PSO. Individual membership is \$28.50, and family membership is \$32.50 per year, including 4 issues of *Pennsylvania Birds* and 4 newsletters, the *PSO Pileated*. Memberships and subscriptions run from May 1 to April of the following year. Persons who subscribe to *Pennsylvania Birds* in the middle of the publishing year are sent the back issues for that year with their first scheduled issue of the magazine.

To join, send a check made out to PSO to PSO, 2469 Hammertown Rd, Narvon, PA 17555-9730 and indicate the year and membership class, or use the form on the next page.

PSO is a non-profit organization and membership fees are qualified for tax deduction. For more information, please visit the PSO website at www.pabirds.org.

Did you know?

The male Australian White Pelican has the longest bill. Its bill may reach 19 inches.

PENNSYLVANIA SOCIETY FOR ORNITHOLOGY

Membership Form

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ COUNTY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

NEW MEMBERSHIP for (circle one year) 2004 2005 (*See below)

RENEWAL CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please check **ONE** of the following:

Individual membership in **PA SOCIETY FOR ORNITHOLOGY** (PSO) \$28.50

Family Membership in **PSO** \$32.50

Sustaining Membership in **PSO** \$42.50

Library and Institutional Rates

(These rates are for *Pennsylvania Birds* only—do not include newsletter)

Library/Institution (United States) \$30.00

Library/Institution (Canada) \$40.00

Library/Institution (Other Foreign Country) \$45.00

Additional contribution to **PA SOCIETY FOR ORNITHOLOGY** _____

Please mark the appropriate box below:

- Publish my name and address in the PSO membership list
- Publish my name, but no address in the PSO membership list
- DO NOT** publish my name or address in the PSO membership list
- DO NOT** distribute my name to other bird-oriented organizations

PLEASE NOTE!

*One year's membership runs from May 1 to April 30 and includes 4 issues of *Pennsylvania Birds* covering bird sightings from December to November. The first issue (containing reports for Dec-Feb) is mailed in May and the last issue (containing reports from Aug-Nov) is mailed in Feb of the following year. New subscriptions received during the publishing year (late May through April) receive all back issues for that year plus any remaining issues for the current publishing year **unless another year is specified above.**

RENEWALS DUE NO LATER THAN MAY 15!

	Quantity	Price	AMOUNT
Tee Shirts and Pins			
PSO Tee Shirt - Small	_____ X	19.50 =	_____
PSO Tee Shirt - Medium	_____ X	19.50 =	_____
PSO Tee Shirt - Large	_____ X	19.50 =	_____
PSO Tee Shirt - X Large	_____ X	19.50 =	_____
PSO Tenth Anniversary Pin	_____ X	\$2.50 =	_____

Pennsylvania Birds Field Checklists:

	Packs	Price	AMOUNT
Pack of 10 Checklists	_____ X	\$3.00 =	_____
Pack of 50 Checklists	_____ X	\$12.00 =	_____
Pack of 100 Checklists	_____ X	\$18.00 =	_____
Binder	_____ X	\$7.00 =	_____
Binder/30 Checklist Combo	_____ X	\$11.50 =	_____

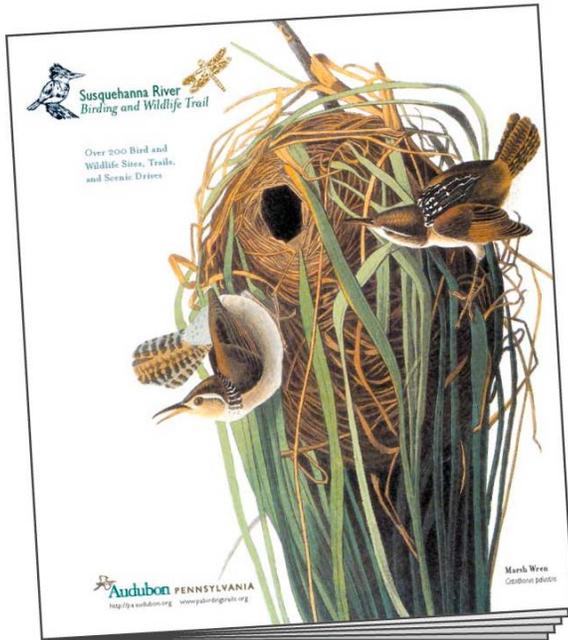
Back Issues of *PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS*:

ISSUE	QUANTITY/PRICE	AMOUNT
1988 Volume 2	(\$3.00 ea. inquire on availability)	_____
1989 Volume 3	All four issues \$16.00	_____
1990 Volume 4	All four issues \$16.00	_____
1991 Volume 5	All four issues \$16.00	_____
1992 Volume 6	All four issues \$18.00	_____
1993 Volume 7	All four issues \$18.00	_____
1994/97 Volumes 8-11	(\$4.50 ea. inquire on availability)	_____
1998/02 Volume 12-16	(\$5.50 ea. Inquire on availability)	_____
2003 Volume 17	(\$7.50 ea. Inquire on availability)	_____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____

Make check payable to PSO and send to:

PSO
2469 Hammertown Road
Narvon, PA 17555-9730



The *Susquehanna River Birding and Wildlife Trail Guide* will be available for purchase at a future SRAS meeting. The website and interactive trail guide is up and running at www.pabirdingtrails.org.

Upcoming Programs

December 13 - Members' Night

February - The American Chestnut Foundation

March - Dr. Scott Stoleson, "Birds of New Mexico"

Hosting our upcoming meetings:

November - Hendrika Bohlen

December - Ruth and Karl Schurr

February - Jim Wilson and Gary Edwards

March - Fran and Jack Williams

May - Kathy Pokrifka

Audubon Calendars for Sale

Beautiful Audubon 2005 Calendars of various styles are being sold at our meetings as fundraisers for only \$10.



Don't forget to pick up your bird seed at Agway, anytime during regular store hours from Monday, November 8 through Saturday, November 13.

SENECA ROCKS AUDUBON SOCIETY
C/O SHERRY YOWINCKEL, MEMBERSHIP CHAIR
59 MAPLE DRIVE
SHIPPENVILLE, PA 16254