



# Upland Informer

Volume 44 Issue 2 Official Newsletter of the Bartramian Audubon Society Spring 2026

Editor- Nancy Baker

Check us out online at [www.bartramianaudubonsociety.org](http://www.bartramianaudubonsociety.org)  
[www.facebook.com/Bartramian](https://www.facebook.com/Bartramian)



## Upcoming BAS Programs

*Our programs are held the second Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Jennings Environmental Education Center, 2961 Prospect Road, Slippery Rock, PA. The Education Center is located on Rt. 528 just west of its junction with Rt. 8- about five miles south of Slippery Rock. The programs are free and open to the public.*

### **March 9, 2026-Monday-Fireflies**

Jeffrey Calta is a self-described “firefly enthusiast” who lives in Northeastern Butler County, PA just north of Pittsburgh, PA. Jeffrey is a retired chemist who has had a lifetime interest in the natural world and discovered the magic of fireflies when he purchased his home and property many years ago. Little did he know that he would be in the middle of an area replete with over 15 different species of fireflies. He has studied, cataloged and observed fireflies throughout Pennsylvania and has given numerous talk/walks to the general public about these marvelous insects. Jeffrey is currently the President of the Pennsylvania Firefly Festival (PAFF). PAFF is a not-for-profit organization who conducts firefly ecotours and educates the public about the magic of fireflies as well as the growing threats to their existence.

### **April 13, 2026-Monday-Alaska Birding**

Tom Kuehl will present a photographic tour of the flora and fauna of the rugged coastline, expansive tundra habitat and wildlife of Nome and the surrounding area. This is a great program for anyone considering a trip to Alaska or a trip down memory lane for those who have visited before.

### **May 11, 2026-Monday-Annual Awards Night and Membership Meeting**

Join us as we present this year’s awards. We will also hold our annual meeting and elect officers for the upcoming term. You don’t need to be a member to attend; all are welcome!



## Upcoming Activities

### **Wings Over Wilhelm- – Saturday, April 11, 2026 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM – Marina Pavilion**

Calling all birders! Come out to the third annual bird festival at Maurice K. Goddard State Park. This family-friendly event will showcase local bird-loving organizations that can help your birding with tools and resources for both beginner and advanced birders. Learn how you can support birds in north-west PA and in your own backyard. There will be activities, giveaways, informational tables, bird walk, and three 45-minute breakout sessions. To end the event, Tamarack Wildlife Center will be bringing their ambassadors birds for an educational program. To help support the wonderful efforts of Tamarack donations of bleach, paper towels, and Dawn dish soap will be accepted.



## Scholarships

### **Scholarships Available for Hog Island Audubon Camp**

Bartramian Audubon Society offers scholarships for two different programs at the Hog Island Audubon Camp in Bremen, Maine. **The Coastal Birding for Teens** is for students who have an interest in birding and want to further develop skills, travel to birding hot spots in coastal Maine, learn about coastal ecology and conservation, while making new friends who share a passion for birding. Teens must be between the ages of 14-17 at the time of the camp. **Sharing Nature: An Educator’s Week** is for traditional classroom teachers and non-traditional educators. During this action-packed week educators learn approaches, methods, and activities for engaging both children and adults with nature. If you would like to apply for one of these scholarships, please contact our education coordinator, Nancy Bires, [Nancy.bires1106@gmail.com](mailto:Nancy.bires1106@gmail.com) to get an application. Note: Do not apply on the Hog Island Website. Email the completed scholarship application to Nancy Bires. We have reserved one spot for each program for our scholarship winners through the Hog Island Camp. **The Sharing Nature: An Educator’s Workshop is August 9-14, 2026.** The cost of tuition, room and board,

\$1525, is paid by Bartramian Audubon Society. The scholarship winner is responsible for transportation costs. Check out the following website for more details about the og Island Audubon Camp <https://hogisland.audubon.org/> For specific information about the workshop for educators, check the following website

<https://hogisland.audubon.org/programs/sharing-nature-educator%E2%80%99s-week>

### **Coastal Maine Bird Studies for Teens, Session One, June 14-19**

The cost of tuition, room and board, \$1725, is paid by Bartramian Audubon Society. Students are responsible for transportation costs. Students must be between the ages of 14-17 at the time of the camp.

<https://hogisland.audubon.org/programs/bird-studies-teens> **The deadline for scholarship applications is March 1.**



### **Audubon Adventures**

**Audubon Adventures** is an environmental education curriculum created by the National Audubon Society. The Bartramian Audubon Society purchases classroom kits for students in fourth grade at no cost to the school. Audubon Adventures classroom learning kits include 32 printed student magazines and access for teachers to online instructional guides, assessments, interactive games, puzzles, other teaching modules and resources. The standards-based content and materials can be integrated across multiple subject areas.

This year, Bartramian, purchased 70 Audubon Adventure Kits for twelve schools and a community public library. A new program was started called "Adopt-a-Classroom". Bartramian Audubon purchases a hopper feeder, bird seed, a common backyard bird poster and a shepherd's crook pole for a local school each year. The education chair gives a presentation to the students in the classroom about feeding birds, basic bird identification and bird sounds. Lakeview Middle School students participate in Feederwatch, a community science project, with Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Adopt-a-Classroom is now in its third year. The goal is to get young people interested in birding and feeding birds in their backyard.



### **Butler Christmas Bird Count Results**

The Butler County CBC took place on **Saturday, December 20, 2025.**

**Effort Data:** A total of 19 birders in the field logged 24.86 miles and 29 hours by foot, and 170.08 miles and 18.20 hours by car. A total of 14 birders watched feeders logging 30.75 hours.

**Weather Data:** The morning was partly cloudy turning cloudy in the afternoon. The temperatures ranged from 10° F to 40° F with winds from the South with speeds of 0 – 10 mph. Snow depth ranged between .5 – 2 inches with still water frozen and moving water partially frozen.

#### **Birds:**

Canada Goose 193, Mallard 15, Bufflehead 1, Common Merganser 1, Bald Eagle 1, Northern Harrier 3, Cooper's Hawk 4,

Red-shouldered Hawk 2, Red-tailed Hawk 5, Ring-billed Gull 2, Rock Pigeon 79, Mourning Dove 131, Barred Owl 1, Eastern Screech Owl 2, Short-eared Owl 2, Red-headed Woodpecker 9, Red-bellied Woodpecker 50, Downy Woodpecker 49, Hairy Woodpecker 21, Northern Flicker 3, Pileated Woodpecker 10, American Kestrel 1, Bluejay 192, American Crow 78, Common Raven 2, Black-capped Chickadee 100, Tufted Titmouse 62, White-breasted Nuthatch 56, Red-breasted Nuthatch 3, Brown Creeper 5, Carolina Wren 10, Winter Wren 2, Golden-crowned Kinglet 23, Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1, Eastern Bluebird 22, Hermit Thrush 5, American Robin 5, European Starling 124, Cedar Waxwing 3, American Tree Sparrow 64, Song Sparrow 39, Swamp Sparrow 3, White-crowned Sparrow 1, White-throated Sparrow 38, Dark-eyed Junco 221, Northern Cardinal 86, Red-winged Blackbird 3, Purple Finch 13, House Finch 48, American Goldfinch 51, and House Sparrow 72

Thank you to all who participated!

Brandi Miller-Parrish



### **Pleasantville Christmas Bird Count Results**

The Pleasantville Christmas Bird Count took place on **Sunday, December 28, 2025.**

**Birds:** Canada Goose 570, American Black Duck 29, Mallard 6, Hooded Merganser 3, Common Merganser 114, Ruffed Grouse 1, Wild Turkey 46, Bald Eagle 19, Red-tailed Hawk 6, Rock Pigeon 25, Mourning Dove 69, Belted Kingfisher 6, Red-bellied Woodpecker 31, Downy Woodpecker 25, Hairy Woodpecker 6, Pileated Woodpecker 8, Blue Jay 224, American Crow 95, Common Raven 6, Black-capped Chickadee 103, Tufted Titmouse 138, Red-breasted Nuthatch 6, White-breasted Nuthatch 38, Brown Creeper 3, Carolina Wren 23, Golden-crowned Kinglet 4, Eastern Bluebird 34, Hermit Thrush 6, European Starling 232, Cedar Waxwing 1, White-throated Sparrow 20, Dark-eyed Junco 154, Northern Cardinal 88, House Finch 3, Purple Finch 5, American Goldfinch 73, House Sparrow 42

This was the 60<sup>th</sup> year for the Pleasantville CBC.

Total 37 Species (lowest number since 1988, average for last 20 years is 50.25).

2221 Individuals (below the average for the last 20 years (3265))

Bold number indicates High count for that species.

Bold Species indicates new or unusual species for the count.

Notable species – Ruffed Grouse (now becoming very scarce), Cedar Waxwing

Highest number ever for: None

2<sup>nd</sup> highest numbers for: Carolina Wren (ties)

3<sup>rd</sup> highest numbers for: None

Statistics: 7 species have been seen all 60 years (we missed Am. Tree Sparrow this year for the 1<sup>st</sup> time), 8 species have been seen 59 of 60 years, 19 species have only been seen on one count.

Dec. 28, 2025: 7:15am to 3:30pm. Temp. 31-40F; Snow cover – 0 in., Still waters partly frozen, moving waters open; wind 0-5mph; Overcast with periods of rain (sometimes heavy) & fog a.m. & rain p.m.

Observers: 12 in field in 6 parties, plus 1 feeder watcher.

Time/distance: 35 total party hours; 287.8 total party miles; including .5 hours & .5 miles on foot and 34.5 hours & 287.3 miles by car. Plus 2 hours at feeders.  
The total number of species and the total number of birds was a bit on the low side.

Compiler: Russ States

111 East Fourth Street 814-758-3935  
Oil City, PA 16301 [pelagics202@gmail.com](mailto:pelagics202@gmail.com)

Count Circle includes area within 15 mile diameter circle, center 4 miles SSE of Pleasantville. Count area boundary includes Enterprise to the north, Tionesta to the East, Eagle Rock to the south, and Pa. Route 8 to the west.

\*\*\* Thanks to all who participated in the count this year.  
Hope to see you again next year\*\*\*

russ



## GENE WILHELM



*Gene receiving Great Egret Award, May 14, 2012*

We at the Bartramian Audubon Society are saddened by the loss of one of the founders and original members of our society, Dr. Gene Wilhelm.

This information is taken from the Fall 2012 Upland Informer describing Gene as he received the Great Egret Award at the May 14, 2012 Awards Night and is a wonderful description of Gene's time with Audubon.

The National Audubon Society and Bartramian Audubon Society surprised Dr. Gene Wilhelm by presenting him with the Great Egret Award. This award is given to individuals who have made significant long-term contributions to Audubon and conservation in pursuit of the Audubon mission. The award states: Rarely will you meet a person more dedicated to preserving life on this planet than Gene Wilhelm. He began his lifelong affiliation with Audubon as a boy, helping stuff envelopes for the St. Louis Audubon Society. Years later, he would be chosen as Vice President of Education at Audubon's national headquarters in New York City. Along the way, his career as an environmental educator took him to Pennsylvania, where he became a member and volunteer for the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania. While teaching at Slippery

Rock University, Gene was very active with Audubon, offering quality educational programs throughout the area. While with Audubon in New York City, he helped former students in Western Pennsylvania inaugurate the Bartramian Audubon Society chapter. He has served BAS in many capacities including President, newsletter editor, and Sanctuary Chair (overseeing two exemplary sanctuary programs that he created). In 2015 he and his wife Joanne established a scholarship for teens to attend the National Audubon Society's Hog Island, Maine Coastal Maine Avian Studies for Teens session. His accomplishments and contributions are immeasurable. He will be fondly remembered and sorely missed.



## HOW DO YOU GET YOUR NEWSLETTER?

If you would like to receive your Upland Informer by email instead of a paper copy, please e-mail our membership chair Mike Conlon at [mpconlon@zoominternet.net](mailto:mpconlon@zoominternet.net).



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you like and support the activities and scholarship work Bartramian Audubon does, then consider becoming a volunteer. We need people to chair committees and to serve on those committees.

If you have an interest and a little time contact Kathie at 814-428-9258 or [larkwren@hotmail.com](mailto:larkwren@hotmail.com).

**BARTRAMIAN AUDUBON SOCIETY**  
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**PRSRT. STD.**  
**US POSTAGE**

**PAID**

**OIL CITY, PA**  
**PERMIT # 145**

### **Membership Information**

Both members and non-members are welcome to participate in our meetings, programs, field trips, and other activities. We also appreciate all who support our organization as members and invite others to join us. **To receive a membership form** or for more information, ask at a program or send an e-mail to [bartramianaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:bartramianaudubon@gmail.com). Include "Attn: Membership" in the subject line.

There are two basic membership options.

- **Membership in National Audubon Society:** (includes a one-year subscription to *Audubon* magazine, printed quarterly) **National members automatically become members of a local chapter**, based on location or preference. **They DO NOT need to apply for or renew an additional local membership.** Beginning and renewal dates of national memberships are based on when payment is received by National Audubon. Renewal reminders are sent directly from the national organization, and renewal payments made to them. (An introductory [first year only] membership is available through the local chapter, as part of an incentive program.)
- **Membership in Bartramian Audubon Society, our local chapter:** (includes receiving our seasonal newsletter, *The Upland Informer*, either via postal mail or, to reduce paper and energy use and costs, via e-mail.) Chapter members may receive other benefits, such as participation in "members' events" and a discount on most purchases at The Birdwatchers Store in Slippery Rock. Individuals have the option of simply becoming chapter members to support their local group, without being national members. Our chapter membership year begins on January 1 and ends on December 31 of each year.

**(Note:** Our Bartramian Audubon chapter also offers a recognition program for landowners, which requires applying and being approved as either a Wildlife Sanctuary or a Bird and Butterfly Sanctuary. The sanctuary program has no relationship to National Audubon membership. However, sanctuary owners, who are asked to renew their status at the beginning of each year, are automatically considered chapter members. They receive the benefits of local membership. Questions about the sanctuary program should be directed to the chair of that program, Kathie Goodblood, at [larkwren@hotmail.com](mailto:larkwren@hotmail.com).)