



Upland Informer

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Editor- Nancy Baker

Check us out online at www.bartramianaudubonsociety.org
www.facebook.com/Bartramian



Upcoming BAS Programs NEW START TIME

Our programs are held the second Monday of the month at 6:00 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.

September 14, 2026-Monday-6:00 p.m.-Evening Bird Walk

Join us for a low impact bird walk at Jennings. We will look and listen for fall migrants and many of our year-round residents. We have binoculars for your use if you do not have any. Come enjoy being out of doors while the days are still long.

October 12, 2026-Monday-6:00 p.m.-Chimney Swifts

Brian Shema Operations Director for Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania has been working in Chimney Swift research for nearly two decades. He is responsible for the largest Chimney Swift conservation program in the country. Discover why Chimney Swifts are in decline and what is being done to increase the population. Come learn about these wonderful little flyers and what is being done to save them.

November 9, 2026-Monday-6:00 p.m.- Hawkwatching: Ocean in the Sky

Dr. Brian M. Wargo will showcase the esoteric and often unknown activity of Hawkwatching using pictures and stories, which he has documented in his book, *Bird!: An Exploration of Hawkwatching*. Wargo is currently the Chair of the Board of the Hawk Migration Association (HMA). Previously, he served as the chair for the Education and Conservation committee as well as the Data committee for HMA (formerly HMANA). For about a decade, he was the Eastern Flyway Editor for Hawk Migration Studies. Wargo is also the Saturday counter at the Allegheny Front Hawk Watch, which is managed by the Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society for which Wargo serves as the President. He created the Junior Hawkwatcher Program which is aimed at getting young people interested in hawkwatching. This program has been adopted by HMA and is being implemented nationally.

December 14, 2026-Monday-6:00p.m.-Annual Holiday Potluck

Enjoy good food and good company at our annual holiday potluck; bring a dish to share and your holiday spirit. Our teacher and student scholarship winners will tell us about their experiences at the Hog Island Audubon Camp in Maine



Upcoming Activities

2026 Christmas Bird Counts

The Butler count is the first Saturday of the count so this year it will be Saturday, December 19th. Contact Brandi Miller-Parish via phone or email. 724-787-9438 or branmiller@pa.gov.

The Pleasantville count is Sunday, January 3, 2027. Contact Russ States, 814-758-3935 or pelagics202@gmail.com.



Education

Scholarships for Hog Island Audubon Camp, Maine

Bartramian Audubon offers scholarships for two different programs at the Hog Island Audubon Camp in 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. Students 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. See their website <https://www.audubon.org/hog-island/camps> for more information. The dates for 2027 camps will not be released until October.

Audubon Adventures

Audubon Adventures is an environmental education curriculum created by the National Audubon Society for grades 3 - 5. Audubon Adventures is going digital this year. There will no longer be more print materials but teachers and students will be able to access any module on the website www.audubonadventures.org. The Audubon Adventures website includes interactive games, puzzles, quizzes and topic-related resources for both teachers and students.



Activities in Review

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

Our annual membership meeting was held in conjunction with awards night. The proposed slate of officers was announced. Mike Conlon moved that it be approved, and Bob Walczak seconded. All approved. The new slate of officers: President: Kathie Goodblood, Vice-president: Dave Neely, Treasurer: Russ States, Secretary: Nancy Baker. The following awards were then presented.

THE HELEN R. FERGUSON SCHOLARSHIP IN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AT WESTMINSTER COLLEGE



Kerri Duerr and Jordan Deems

Rising senior Jordan Deems, of Volant, PA, is an outstanding Environmental Studies major with an Entrepreneurship minor. Her love for the outdoors and passion for sustainability and community engagement have made an impact on the Westminster environmental program. Jordan is a leader in the Westminster Bee Company and in outreach initiatives with local schools. This summer, she will continue her environmental leadership as an intern at Moraine State Park. Her dedication, enthusiasm, and commitment to environmental stewardship make her exceptionally deserving of this recognition.

THE MICHAEL ALAN STARKER SCHOLARSHIP IN ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES AT SLIPPERY ROCK UNIVERSITY



Mary Houk

Mary Houk, the recipient of the Mike Alan Starker Scholarship was unable to attend the Awards ceremony. Dr. Heike Hartmann from Slippery Rock University accepted the award on her behalf and read a letter that Mary had written to us.

“Dear members of the Bartramian Audubon Society, Thank you so much for this incredible honor. I am deeply grateful for your generosity, and I am truly sorry that I couldn’t be there with you all tonight to express my thanks in person. My name is Mary Houk and I am an incoming Senior at SRU studying Environmental Science with a concentration in Environmental Policy and minors in Political Science and Biology. At the moment I am studying abroad in Ireland, which is an experience I have been looking forward to all year! Receiving this award means so much to me, especially as I head into a summer interning at WildBird Recovery in Valencia, PA. where I will be rehabilitating orphaned and injured birds. It feels like a very full-circle moment to be recognized by a society so dedicated to birds and wildlife while I prepare to care for them. Thank you again for your support and for investing in students who share your love for the natural world. I hope to make you all proud! With sincere gratitude,
Mary Houk

TEACHER’S SCHOLARSHIP TO ATTEND HOG ISLAND AUDUBON CAMP



Candi Young

Candi Young, who is our Educator's Scholarship winner, was unable to attend the awards ceremony. She is a fourth grade science and social studies teacher at Mohawk Elementary. She e-mailed “Hi! I am just finishing a week on Hog Island, and there are no words!! This was the most inspirational educator week I have ever attended. I have so many ideas and activities to implement and can’t wait to start planning and networking!!

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP TO ATTEND HOG ISLAND
AUDUBON CAMP



Jan, Jenae, and Jason Perine

Jenae is a student at Knoch High School in Butler, Pa. She has participated for three consecutive years in the Audubon Society of Western PA's Bird Camp program. She wants to pursue a career in environmental science. She illustrates birds and their habitats. Here is what she writes about her experience at the Coastal Birding for Teens Camp program.

I have learned so much from my time at Hog Island. Through the entirety of the trip, I felt like I kept learning more information that I'd never known before. Not only did I get to see interesting new birds like the Atlantic Puffins and a lot of other shorebirds, but I was educated about the local ecosystems, sea creatures, and the animals that reside around the area. On one of the days I was there, we went tidepooling near the edge of the water and found shrimp, crabs, and even a starfish! I never knew that there was such a diversity of living organisms in the waters of Maine. There were experiences that I will never forget. Seeing an Atlantic Puffin flying across the water for the first time was unbelievable. I remember standing there on the boat with everyone else, completely in awe as the Puffin just flew right past us with its brightly colored beak and gorgeous plumage. It almost felt like I was in a wildlife documentary. Eastern Egg Island was swarming with all different types of birds, from Black Guillemots to Common Eiders. We also had a cool encounter with a Parasitic Jaeger, who was chasing down a Common Tern. It was incredible. I felt like I came back from another world when I stepped back on the mainland. I have made new connections with people who are interested in the same things I am, and we still keep in contact with each other to this day. It was interesting to hear different birding stories from teens from all across the country, and sharing experiences together on Hog Island was something really special.



December 2025-June 2026 Donors

Bartramian Audubon Society deeply appreciates the contributions made in response to our year-end letter of appeal. We would like to recognize the people whose generous gifts have helped us help the environment of our area and help people of all ages understand and appreciate nature. *THANK YOU!*

*Always Summer Herbs
Mike and Nancy Baker
Joel H. Beeghly*

*Jan Berg
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Dr. Betty Jo White*

*In Memory of Jay Hewitt by Renee Hewitt
In Memory of Anna Marie Aiken by Keith E. Aiken and
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In Memory of Helen Ferguson by Friends*

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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. Membership forms are available on our website.

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.)