

Seneca Rocks Drummer



August, 2005
A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

Newsletter of the Seneca Rocks Audubon Society

Volume 22, No. 1

www.senecarocksaudubon.org



Walter Fye and Margaret Buckwalter
(Photo by Ted Buckwalter)

Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology Meeting

The 2005 Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology (PSO) meeting was hosted by Seneca Rocks Audubon and held in Clarion on May 20-22. It was an unforgettable weekend, as Margaret Buckwalter was presented with the Earl L. Poole Award for her contributions to Ornithology in Pennsylvania, and our chapter received the first PSO Conservation Award for work involving Mt. Zion. This award was accepted by Walter Fye.

Margaret Buckwalter received a standing ovation when presented with the Earl L. Poole Award. In her acceptance speech she told of how she used
(continued on p. 2)

Annual Bring-A-Friend Picnic August 16 at The Mehrten



Our picnic returns this year to The Mehrten near Beaver Creek. Starting at 4:30 p.m. we will be setting up and enjoying the surroundings with short hikes. Dinner will be at 6:00 p.m. There is no water for drinking or washing at this site, so bring whatever water you will need. *Please bring a covered dish or dessert to share. Table service and cold drinks will be provided.*

Following the meal we will talk about plans for the coming year. Birding takes place from start to finish. Perhaps we'll even call in some owls while sitting around the campfire.

(Please see p. 10 for directions to The Mehrten)

Editor's Note – This is a “Special Summer” issue of the *Drummer*, mainly to report on the PSO meeting held here in May, and to announce our August picnic. Thanks to PSO member Mark McConaughy for allowing the use of his article (beginning on page 4) and photos. There will also be an August Field Trip! Be sure to see the Field Trip article on page 3.

Reed's Pocket Field Guides as a beginning birder, and it was an exciting day when Roger Tory Peterson's *A Field Guide to the Birds* was published in 1934! She told some funny stories of her birding adventures, and how she shares her love of birds with friends from toddlers to nonagenarians. Her neighbor's grandson thought the word for "feather" was "Buckwalter", because Mrs. Buckwalter was always giving him feathers. We are all very proud of Margaret, who we consider to be the "Conscience of Seneca Rocks".

For the Conservation Award, SRAS Vice President Gary Edwards introduced Walter Fye, who "has spent more time at Piney Tract than all the rest of us put together". Walter accepted the \$100 Conservation Award from PSO on behalf of Seneca Rocks. Walter told of his discovery of the grassland sparrows in the Mt. Zion area in the 1970's, even before the first Breeding Bird Atlas. It is through the efforts of Seneca Rocks Audubon and many other local organizations, such as the Alliance for Wetlands and Wildlife, the Knox Nature Club, the Sportsmen's Federation of Clarion County, Trout Unlimited, and the League of Women Voters that the land was purchased by the PA Game Commission with the stipulation that its habitat be maintained to support the grassland birds.

Crow's Nest

by President Deb Freed

The officers and committee leaders met in July to plan the coming year. We'll continue our planning at the picnic by talking about what interests our members. Of course, we'll also be looking for help along the way.

It was pointed out during our meeting that Seneca Rocks had quite an extraordinary year highlighted at the May PSO meeting. Thank you all for contributions toward the achievements that were recognized as well as the steady on-going conservation efforts that are known only to those involved.

I look forward to another great year with SRAS. See you at the Mehrten!



Has this ever happened to you?

*President Deb Freed is introducing a new column of **Birding Stories** (Bird Tails?). Your contributions are invited. We'd like to have a new author each month.*

My routine for walking the dog includes strapping on my binoculars. The harness keeps the binoculars close to my chest at elbow height, ready for a quick lift to my eyes. On the way out of the garage, I customarily fill a pitcher with black oiled sunflower seeds to refresh the feeder that I pass on my way to the woods and field.

This particular day was a quiet birding day. I was fifteen minutes into my walk before I ever lifted my binoculars. Then the dog looked up and alerted me to large bird overhead. I lifted my binoculars, keeping my eyes open and fixed on the silhouette. Before

SRAS Board Members

Deb Freed, President, Membership 226-4719

Gary Edwards, Vice-president, programs . . . 676-3011

Janice Horn, Treasurer, Birdseed, Birdathon 226-7367

Flo McGuire, Web-site, Drummer Editor . . . 755-3672

Ron Montgomery,

Field Trips, Community Programs 764-6088

Jim Wilson, Events 676-5455

Paulette Colantonio, Education 797-2031

Pat Conway, History 849-6315

Margaret Buckwalter, Mill Creek Coalition . 782-3925

Walter Fye, Beaver Creek 797-1019

Regional Coordinators for the PBBA:

Gary Edwards, Region 43 676-3011

Mike Leahy, Region 44 797-2287

Pat Conway, Region 45 849-6315

Flo McGuire, Region 30 755-3672

I ever focused the binoculars my eyes filled with sunflower seeds! The eyepiece cups of my binoculars were filled with seeds that had spilled over while filling my feeder. I never noticed the black seeds in my black eyepiece cups. What a shock, then what a laugh I had.

What ridiculous things have happened to you in your pursuit of birds? I'm sure there are some really funny stories out there. I think this could be a fun column with your contributions!



Vendors at the PSO meeting included:

- ◆ Marcia Bonta, well-known PA naturalist and author
- ◆ Karena Gregg, a young artist from Beaver, PA, who had some great raptor drawings
- ◆ John Karian, local nature photographer
- ◆ Jerry Lucot from Brookville with his patented harnesses for binoculars or camera
- ◆ Aden Troyer of Quiet Creek Optics
- ◆ Gil Tweist, SRAS member and award-winning photographer

PSO, PA Audubon, and Seneca Rocks also had tables. There was a silent auction of bird-related items, sales of PSO T-shirts and other items.

John Tautin of Conneautville, PA was the winner of the Snowy Egret print raffled off by Seneca Rocks Audubon. A total of 126 tickets were sold.

Many thanks to Seneca Rocks volunteers who helped at the tables for SRAS and PSO: Margaret Buckwalter, Janice Horn, Judy Montgomery, Fran Williams, and Jim Wilson.



Did you notice the new Ruffed Grouse illustration on the first page of the *Drummer*? It was created by artist George Miksch Sutton for the Missouri

Bird Atlas, found on the Missouri Department of Conservation website, and used with permission.

Field Trips

by Ron Montgomery

Monday, August 29; Conneaut OH. Having an August Newsletter allows me to schedule this outing earlier than we did last year – and still tell you about it. Jerry Stanley has again agreed to lead the trip. I have scheduled it for a week day because there is a lot of disturbance at the shore on weekends before Labor Day.

We will meet at the McDonalds Restaurant in Conneaut OH, and depart McDonalds as a group at 8:30 AM. You may get there by taking Route 6 west from Meadville into Ohio and turning right on Route 7, which leads to Conneaut and the McDonalds Restaurant at 312 State Street/Route 7. The trip from Clarion takes 2.25 hours.

We suggest that you bring lunch, refreshments, lawn chair, sun block and a sweater. While the sun can be intense on the beach, wind and few clouds can make it surprisingly chilly. Also consider bringing some waterproof shoes as we may walk in swampy and wet areas. We will finish during the afternoon, but you are free to leave when you wish. I suggest you check with me just before the trip to be sure we are going as planned; I would also like to be able to tell Jerry how many to expect.

General Information

Because of the Atlas Project and several other Chapter activities, I am currently planning a little less activity for this year. The *tentative* plan is as follows:

Mon 8/29	Conneaut OH
Thur/Fri 10/28&29	Allegheny Front Hawkwatch
Sat 4/1	Presque Isle
Sat 4/8	Conneaut Marsh & Pymatuning
Mon 5/5	Oil Creek State Park
Mon 6/19	Block Busting p. 45

At a future meeting I may discuss with you other things that we could do either this year or in the future.



Buzzard Swamp – photo by Mark McConaughy

PSO 2005 Meeting

by Mark A. McConaughy

The 2005 PSO meeting was held from May 20 to 22 in Clarion, Pennsylvania.

Friday Field Trip

It started off with a Friday afternoon outing to Mt. Zion (Piney Tract) and Mt. Airy for early conference arrivals. I was not on that field trip, but heard about it Friday evening. The attendees were very impressed by the grassland bird species found at Piney Tract. However, they were all talking about seeing at least four Upland Sandpipers, a bird of special concern in Pennsylvania, calling and displaying at several different locations during the trip. It sounded like a wonderful way to start the meetings.

Friday Social

The Friday evening social at the Holiday Inn was well attended. There were nearly 100 people registered for the meeting and most made it to Clarion by Friday evening. The social is a great place to talk to meet and talk to birders from across the state. A PSO business meeting followed, and people signed up for the field trips to be run on Saturday and Sunday mornings.

Saturday Field Trips

The field trips were scheduled to start at 6:30 AM on Saturday morning. One of the attractions of a PSO meeting is getting to bird in areas that you may not have previously visited and seeing birds

you may not see elsewhere. You bird these places with leaders who know the local species and their likely locations in the trip area. Conference attendees could choose to go on outings to Allegheny National Forest, Cook Forest State Park, Buttermilk Hill Nature Sanctuary, Buzzard Swamp, Clear Creek State Forest, Oil Creek State Park and Mt. Zion (Piney Tract/Mt. Airy). I chose to go to Buzzard Swamp on a trip led by Deuane Hoffman. I had never been to this location and it was well worth the visit. Buzzard Swamp is part of a managed state game lands with ponds, grasslands and forested sections. We saw or heard calling 80 species of birds during the hike around Buzzard Swamp. Some of the better birds that were seen included Bald Eagle, Alder Flycatcher, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler and Bobolinks.

Saturday Afternoon Presentations

Presentations about various aspects of avian life were made on Saturday afternoon. Bob Mulvihill's paper was titled, *Monitoring Pennsylvania Biodiversity: Reasons, Results, and Rewards of the 2nd PBBA*. Bob talked about preliminary results of the first year atlas for the Second Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas. Bob encouraged PSO members to participate in the atlas project.

The second paper was by Scott H. Stoleson on *Research on the Allegheny Plateau*. Scott talked about studies being conducted on how various forest management practices (e.g., clear cut versus a forest managed so that there is an open canopy – shelterwood) in the Allegheny National Forest affect avian populations. Clear cutting in the National Forest can only be done on plots up to 40 acres in size. This produced some good edge habitat that was used by various warbler species. However, Brown-headed Cowbird parasitism was not a problem, apparently because the surrounding area was so forested that cowbirds were not attracted to the region.

Nick Bolgiano followed with a paper about the *1970s Spruce Budworm Infestation*. Nick presented data showing that the Spruce Budworm was bad for trees, but it was great for boreal

birds. Populations of Magnolia Warblers, Purple Finches, Evening Grosbeaks and others rose during the infestation and crashed afterward. The decline in Spruce Budworm infestations may account for the decreasing sightings and numbers of these species.

The last formal afternoon paper was by Jake Kubel and was on *Golden-winged Warbler Nesting Success*. Jake showed how an area managed by the Pennsylvania Game Commission for Ruffed Grouse propagation also had provided a great habitat for breeding Golden-winged Warblers.



Walter Fye accepting the PSO Conservation Award for SRAS
(photo by Mark McConaughy)

This was followed by a Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee (PORC) report by Nick Pulcinella. It was an interesting presentation even without the photographs that Nick had hoped to show. However, computer problems did not permit him to show the pictures. Nick explained how several difficult reports were resolved by consulting specialists on those species. A report of a possible White-tailed Eagle was based on a silhouette photograph of an eagle flying over Hawk Mountain. William Clark and some other hawk specialists provided photographs that showed some immature Bald Eagles can have that same silhouette. A possible Bicknell's Thrush was also reported. A recording of its call was made into a sonogram at Cornell and was determined to be from a Bicknell's Thrush. Another interesting report was of a large, swallow-tailed swift that was observed in Pennsylvania. Unfortunately, it was not identified to species. The PORC committee has a

difficult job, and we should all be grateful for their hard work.

Banquet and Awards

The annual PSO banquet was held on Saturday evening and we were treated to fine food, PSO awards and an evening owl talk. The Seneca Rocks Audubon chapter was presented with the first PSO Conservation Award for their work preserving Mt. Zion (Piney Tract). Walter Fye accepted the award for Seneca Rocks Audubon.



Margaret Buckwalter with Earl Poole Award
(Photo by Patty Laswick)

The Earl L. Poole Award was given to Margaret Buckwalter for her contributions to Pennsylvania Ornithology.

Ross Galardy was given the youth scholarship award to attend the PSO meeting. Ross' team placed first in the youth division and third overall at the 2005 New Jersey Audubon Birdathon. His team even beat out the adult team from Cornell! Doug Gross was the dinner speaker and presented a summary of Northern Saw-whet Owl research based on the "toot routes" run around the state. Basically, Northern Saw-whet Owls are more common than what was previously known and believed. They are fairly common owls in the Poconos, north central Pennsylvania and the highlands of southwestern Pennsylvania.

Sunday Field Trips

Another fine morning on Sunday found field trips leaving for Allegheny National Forest, Cook Forest State Park, Buttermilk Hill Nature

Sanctuary, Clear Creek State Forest, and Mt. Zion (Piney Tract/Mt. Airy). I went on the Mt. Zion trip that was led by Mike Leahy.



*Mike Leahy's field trip to Mt. Zion and Mt. Airy.
(photo by Mark McConaughy)*

This was largely a grasslands tour with a few patches of woodlands along the way. Mt. Zion is a reclaimed strip mine area that has been preserved largely because of work by members of Seneca Rocks Audubon. The outing found all of the targeted grassland species. There were many calling Henslow's Sparrows and some provided good views by perching on grass stems for the trip participants. A few Grasshopper Sparrows and some Bobolinks were also seen. However, the big attraction at Piney Tract is Clay-colored Sparrows. The first Pennsylvania breeding pair of Clay-colored Sparrows was found at Piney Tract in 1999. A pair of Clay-colored Sparrows was observed building a nest in a pine during the three field trips to Piney Tract during the 2005 PSO meeting.



Clay-colored Sparrow by M. McConaughy

There also were other Clay-colored Sparrows present, and some of these probably were or will be nesting in the area. The tour continued down to the Mr. Airy area where at least two Upland Sandpipers (and up to four on other trips) were

calling and put on a wonderful flight displays. Savannah Sparrows and many Bobolinks were also found at Mt. Airy. Mike's field trip topped off a great PSO weekend!

Seneca Rocks Audubon can be proud of their work putting together the 2005 PSO meeting. The field trips were great and the papers were very informative. I encourage people to come to next year's meeting at Powdermill Nature Preserve/Ligonier. Come and meet old friends, make some new ones and have fun birding. See you there!



Winter Wren photo by Flo McGuire

PSO Field Trips

by Flo McGuire

A total of 133 species were seen on the PSO field trips.

Mike Leahy led the 3 outings to Mt. Zion, where 84 species were sighted. Some of the species seen only at Mt. Zion were Osprey, Northern Harrier, Upland Sandpiper, Willow Flycatcher, Northern Mockingbird, Blue-winged and Prairie Warblers, American Tree, Clay-colored, Vesper, Savannah, Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows, and Orchard Orioles.

Dale Luthringer, Seneca Rocks member and Environmental Education Specialist, led the outing to Cook Forest State Park. This trip combined Big Trees, an Historical Fire Tower tour, and, of course, birds. Dale reports that the most impressive find was 3 immature Bald Eagles sighted from the box at the top of the Fire Tower.

Also, the only Ruby-crowned Kinglet and Pine Warbler were reported here.

Ron Montgomery led the 2 field trips to Clear Creek State Forest, where the species total was 80. The only Sharp-shinned Hawk, Eastern Screech-Owl, Common Raven, and Northern Parula were found at Clear Creek. Another great find here was a Mourning Warbler.

Deuane Hoffman, a birder from central PA who enjoys birding at Buzzard Swamp, led this outing, where 86 species were reported. The only Northern Bobwhite, Barred Owl, Alder Flycatcher, Nashville and Yellow-rumped Warblers, Swamp and White-throated Sparrows were sighted at Buzzard Swamp.

Kathie Goodblood and Jerry Stanley, friends of Seneca Rocks, led the 2 field trips to their property, Buttermilk Hill Nature Sanctuary, where 77 species were seen. These outings found the only Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Common Nighthawk, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Yellow-throated and Warbling Vireos, Yellow-throated Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, and Kentucky Warbler of the weekend.

Jim and Flo McGuire led the outing to the Allegheny National Forest, where we walked along 2 Forest Roads in the Muzette area. The only Acadian Flycatcher and Winter Wren were found on this field trip.

Bald Eagles were also seen at Buzzard Swamp and Buttermilk Hills; Least Flycatcher, Brown Creeper and Golden-crowned Kinglet were reported at Buzzard Swamp and Clear Creek; Swainson's Thrush was reported at the Allegheny National Forest and Buttermilk Hills; Tennessee, Blackpoll, and Cerulean Warblers were found only at Clear Creek and Buttermilk Hills; Mourning Warbler only at the National Forest and Clear Creek.

Thanks to all field trip leaders – the outings were well-received and the PSO members seemed to enjoy our diversity of birds.



LUCKY ATLASSING

by Margaret Buckwalter



Sometimes it seems as though dumb luck is more important than any birding skill I might have while I'm working on the 2nd Breeding Bird Atlas. I was parked at the intersection of a couple of country roads the other day wondering which way to go. The habitat was mostly fields with some trees. All of a sudden, like a bolt out of the blue, a kestrel plummeted into the field on my left, not more than 25 feet away. In a couple of seconds he rose out of the grass with a black ball of feathers in his talons. With red-winged blackbirds screeching after him, it wasn't hard to guess whose nest he had raided. The kestrel paid no attention, though. He alighted on top of the nearest utility pole, adjusted his load and took off in the direction of his nest box not far away. The little drama was over in about ten seconds. I was lucky enough to get two breeding confirmations : NY - Nest with Young - for the blackbirds and CF - Carrying Food - for the kestrel.

Highland Oaks Assisting-Living Residence is my neighbor, and I frequently visit friends of mine there. A few days ago my friend, Jeannette Stalker, told me about a nest that one of the residents had been watching. When I showed interest she took me down a maze of corridors to Kissy Banner's room. It turned out that Kissy had been watching a pair of birds building their nest, incubating their eggs, and feeding a nestful of baby birds not more than six feet from her window. Now, however, they had fledged and the nest was empty. I suspected from the way the nest was hanging suspended from a small forked branch, that it was a vireo's nest. And I was too late! All was not lost though. When Kissy was shown the vireo spread of pictures from Peterson's guide, she unerringly picked out the red-eyed vireo as the bird she had been observing. "Long bill, long tail, eye-stripe (although not the red eye), and gray-green color. It matches." Wasn't I lucky she had all the details?





PROGRAMS AT COOK FOREST STATE PARK

by Dale Luthringer

Friday, August 5 at 9:00pm - 'PA's Forgotten Giants'

Did you know that Cook Forest is home to 13 record breaking Pennsylvania trees? Please bring your chairs and blankets to the Ridge Camp Park Amphitheater to learn about these forgotten and overlooked giants. Come take an up-close and personal view of video footage from the top of the Longfellow Pine, 3rd tallest tree in the entire Eastern U.S. (1 hr)

Saturday, August 6 at 3:00pm - 'A Walk Through the Forest Cathedral' - Please meet at the Log Cabin Inn Environmental Learning Center for an interpretive hike into the Forest Cathedral. Observe the 3rd tallest tree in the entire Eastern United States, learn how to identify old growth forest characteristics, and observe different types of environmental disturbance that are an integral part of old growth forest ecosystems. (2 hrs)

Saturday, August 6 at 9:00pm - 'Tall & Majestic Trees of 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 160ft north of the Great Smoky Mountains. It also boasts 16 record trees including 9 that are Northeastern U.S. height champs, 4 Pennsylvania girth champs, and 17 old growth tree species. Cook Forest is also home to 450 year old E. hemlocks, 350 year old E. white pines, 300 year old white oaks, and 250 year old black cherries. Although Cook Forest is THE place to come to view one of the finest stands of old growth forest in the entire Northeastern U.S; there are numerous Northwestern Pennsylvania sites that also hold many large & tall tree treasures such as the Lake Erie Escarpment, Walnut Creek, and Anders Run and

Heart's Content Natural Areas. Please bring your blankets and meet at the Ridge Camp Park Amphitheater to take part in this slide show walk through some of Pennsylvania's most pristine areas (1 hr).

Wednesday & Thursday, August 10-11 at 11:00am-7:00pm - 'Clarion River History Teacher Workshop' Cook Forest State Park will be conducting a 'Clarion River History Teacher Workshop' starting at the Log Cabin Inn Environmental Learning Classroom for ACT 48 hours. This workshop will emphasize history of the Clarion River through various 3rd person living history characterization portrayals during the mid 1700's French & Indian War and mid 1800's lumber boom era. Teachers will also investigate and document various lumber towns and raft fabrication sites along the Clarion River via canoe as well as gain valuable insight into how local history can be incorporated into the classroom.

Participants will receive a copy of 'True Tales of the Clarion River' and 'Dinkies, Dams, and Sawdust: Book No. 12 of the series Logging Railroad Era of Lumbering in Pennsylvania'. Bring bag lunch, appropriate river attire and proper footwear. Refreshments provided. Cost is \$150. To register, please call the Math/Science Collaborative at (814)393-1612.

Friday, August 12 at 9:00pm - Please bring your chairs and blankets and meet at the Ridge Camp Park Amphitheater for an evening of *animal antics*. Investigate animal behavior through story telling, games, and an intriguing Marty Stouffer video, "The First 10 Years". (1 hr)

Saturday, August 13 at 3:00pm - 'Seneca Point/Fire Tower 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 take a breathtaking view from the box at the very top of the Fire Tower which will be open until 5:00pm. (2 hrs)

Saturday, August 13 at 9:00pm - 'Give Animals Their Space!' Want to learn why wild animals bite? Bring your chairs and blankets to the Ridge Camp Park Amphitheater to enjoy the Crocodile Hunter's latest film, 'Steve's Most Dangerous Adventures'. (1 hr)





Birdathon 2005

by Janice Horn

This year there were 10 teams consisting of 1 to 5 people who spent up to 24 hours spotting birds. A total of 152 species were sighted which is 9 fewer than last year. Pledges and donations came in at \$2758, an amount far from our high of \$5220 in 2003. Margaret Buckwalter was the leader in the amount collected at \$860.20. What will we do next year? She says this year is her last Birdathon! The number of pledges and donations that the teams turned in ranged from 1 to 28.

Most teams spotted at least one species that the others did not. There were 32 of those (in AOU order):

Green heron (Montgomery et al)
 Mute swan (Colantonio)
 Lesser scaup (Willenpart)
 Common goldeneye (Willenpart)
 Osprey (Bohlen)
 Sharpshinned hawk (Rowe)
 Cooper's hawk (Montgomery ...)
 Common moorhen (Willenpart)
 Solitary sandpiper (Williams)
 Bonaparte's gull (Willenpart)
 Herring gull (Willenpart)
 Great black-backed gull (Willenpart)
 Common tern (Willenpart)
 Red-headed woodpecker (Willenpart)
 Olive-sided flycatcher (Colantonio)
 Alder flycatcher (McGuire)
 Warbling vireo (Willenpart)
 Marsh wren (Willenpart)
 Golden-crowned kinglet (Montgomery ...)
 Swainson's thrush (Willenpart)
 Cedar waxwing (Willenpart)
 Nashville warbler (Willenpart)
 Palm warbler (Willenpart)
 Bay-breasted warbler (Willenpart)
 Cerulean warbler (Willenpart)
 Worm-eating warbler (Bohlen)
 Northern waterthrush (Willenpart)
 Kentucky warbler (Willenpart)
 Wilson's warbler (Willenpart)

Canada warbler (McGuire)
 Yellow-breasted chat (Buckwalter et al.)
 Orchard oriole (Williams)

Congratulations to all of you who found these fleeting species; especially to Carole and Richard Willenpart who found so many!

Collectively we had 17 species new to the cumulative list from 2003 to 2005. Unfortunately there were 26 species from last year's list that did not get listed this year.

The Willenpart team identified the most species at 103 and close behind them were the McGuire team with 99 and the Montgomery team with 98. Good jobs!

As mentioned earlier Margaret brought in the most donations. I was second with \$766.30 and Ron Montgomery third with \$340.00.

Thank you to everyone who participated. 🐾🐾

Correction – The *May Drummer* stated that the trained team of atlasers would be searching for owls and rails. They are instead running point counts between 5:00 and 10:00 a.m. at pre-set points in specified blocks. Each block has a mini-route of 8 points, and each count lasts 6 minutes, 15 seconds. A counter is able to do 3 blocks a day. Sorry for the mis-information.



For all Atlasers - it may be August, but the following are among the birds are still "Safe", at least until the 15th –

Common Merganser, Red-shouldered Hawk, Rock Pigeon, Eastern Screech-Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Yellow-throated Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina, House & Winter Wren, Eastern Bluebird, Chipping, Clay-colored, Field, Vesper, Savannah, Grasshopper, Henslow's, Song, and Swamp Sparrows, Dark-eyed Junco, Northern Cardinal, American Goldfinch, and House Sparrow. --- looks like it's not too late to atlas, especially for sparrows!





Directions to The Mehrten Pavilion at Beaver Creek:

Take Rt. 322 west from Clarion to Shippenville. In Shippenville take Rt. 208 toward Knox for 3.3 miles to the traffic light in downtown Knox. Turn left on S. Main St. and go .4 miles to Mehrten Rd. Turn right on Mehrten Rd. and go 2 miles. Mehrten turns left at Attleburger Rd. and then right at the next junction. Follow Mehrten over one small rickety bridge. From the bridge go .1 mile and turn right where you see the open orange gate and proceed up the hill to the pavilion. (If you go across the second bridge you have gone too far.) The road is OK for cars. The parking lot is beyond the pavilion. There is a well constructed outhouse at the parking area, sometimes inhabited by critters.

Save a Tree!

If you have internet access and are still receiving your *Drummer* in the mail, please consider requesting the e-Drummer. You may email Deb Freed at dfreed208@adelphia.net to request it.



You will be notified by email when the *Drummer* is available for download on our website, about a week before you would receive it in the mail. You will save the club printing and postage costs by printing it yourself, and your *Drummer* will be in color!

Do you have a Birding Story to share?

We're looking forward to more birding stories, to continue the column initiated in this issue by Deb Freed. Also, articles, photographs and artwork are always welcome. Please send to Editor Flo McGuire at mcguires@csonline.net or HC 1 Box 6A, Tionesta, PA, 16353.

Seneca Rocks Audubon Society
c/o Deb Freed
208 Briar Hill Drive
Clarion, PA 16214