

# Seneca Rocks Drummer



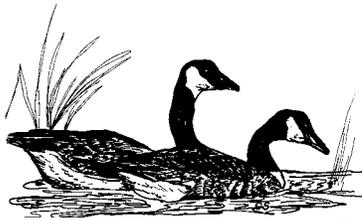
May, 2006  
A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

Newsletter of the Seneca Rocks Audubon Society

Volume 22, No. 9

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

**Next Meeting – May 8**  
**Room 249, Peirce Science Center**  
**Social - 7:00 p.m. Program begins at 7:30 p.m.**



Art by Georgette Syster

## Membership Meeting

**O**ur May meeting will be a membership meeting, dealing with Blockbusting, Birdathon, Policy Issues, Logo, Brainstorming, and an Auction. Ron will explain the Blockbusting plans in Regions 44 and 45, and is looking forward to member input. Some of the Birdathoners' letters from 2005 will be displayed, and you will have the opportunity to make a Birdathon pledge to the chapter. A silent auction will be held to benefit the Birdathon. We will also have a Policy discussion so that we can rank the conservation issues and report back to PA Audubon.

We plan to discuss the Logo and brainstorm on how to organize next year. We may need to find a new place to meet next year, and hopefully our members have some ideas. We may supplement with a cool video or ... one of Ron's power points!!!! ☘



## Field Trips

by Ron Montgomery

**F**ollowing are the dates for our upcoming field trips and activities:

Fri 5/5	Oil Creek State Park
May 6 – 14	Birdathon
Tues 6/6	Blockbusting – Reg. 44 (President area)
Tues 6/13	Blockbusting – Reg. 45 (Sigel area)
Mon 6/19	Blockbusting Reg. 45
Tues 6/27	Blockbusting Reg. 44

More blockbusting dates in July are tentative.

**Oil Creek State Park Warbler Walk** - Meet Gary Edwards on May 5 at 8:30 am at the Blood Farm day use area of the park. For detailed directions, please see the April *Drummer*.

### Blockbusting

As I mentioned in our April Newsletter (page 6), we are planning to use the Seneca Rocks

Field Trip program to do Atlas work this summer. We will focus on Regions 44 and 45 (roughly Clarion and Jefferson Counties) and be directed by Carole Willenpart and Pat Conway, the Regional Coordinators.

Pat and Carole are busy planning what days this summer they will be available to guide the effort. Since they are both gainfully employed and otherwise have a life beyond the Atlas project, this is a significant effort! Beyond that, they must review which blocks need work, consider when and where to meet, and decide how to attack each block.

We hope to use a significant portion of our May meeting to describe this program and get your input. Bring your calendar to mark down dates. We will also use email and our web site to communicate during the summer.

Time and place for the first 2 outings have been set. The initial outing will be in Carole's block 44A26, near President. We plan to meet at 8:00 on Tuesday, June 6, at Sara Jane's Deli on Rt. 208 in Fryburg. From Clarion, take Rt. 322 west to Shippenville. Turn right on Rt. 208 north and proceed about 8 miles to Fryburg. Turn right at the intersection (stay on 208), and Sara Jane's will be on your left after about 200 feet.

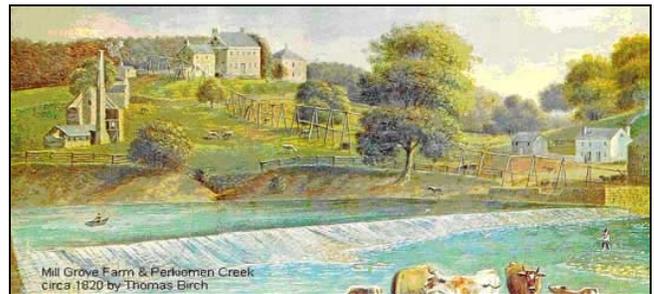
The first outing in Pat's region will be block 45B56, near Sigel, on Tuesday, June 13. Directions: From Brookville take Rt. 36 North 8 miles to Sigel. Turn Left at the light at Truman's Store. Go two miles on Fisher Road (don't turn onto 949) to the intersection of Sharp Road and Catholic Church Road. On your right is Stone School (Red & White Schoolhouse). Meet there at 8:00 a.m. Bring a sack lunch if you want. There are facilities both in and out.

We hope to do a weekly outing during June and July. The next planned outings will be Monday June 19 (Pat), and Tuesday June 27 (Carole). We are a little more sketchy for July but a possibility is Saturday July 8 (Carole), Monday July 10 (Pat), Saturday July 15 (Carole), Tuesday July 18 (Pat), Saturday July 22 (Carole) and Tuesday July 25 (Pat).

Outings will end around noon. Special emphasis will be put on the Block 6's.

Of course you can go out anytime and still be a part of this program. If you would like to spend a morning birding, we invite you to simply build a different list for each block you visit and send the list, along with the block number and date to the Regional Coordinator. We'd also love to have someone do some night birding on their own in the various blocks.

We do not expect anyone to do all of these outings, but we hope everyone does at least one. To paraphrase the old adage, "many binoculars make light work!" 



Mill Grove Farm & Penikese Creek  
circa 1820 by Thomas Birch  
The weekend concluded with a tour of Mill Grove,  
John James Audubon's first home in America

## Crow's Nest

by President Deb Freed

*Reporting back from the Pennsylvania Audubon Assembly -*

The Valley Forge Audubon chapter welcomed the representatives from across the commonwealth to a day and a half event filled with field trips, networking, informative presentations, brainstorming, and socializing.

Many of the chapter ideas for events, fund raising, programming, field trips, etc. will be used at the annual SRAS planning meeting in July. Lycoming Valley Audubon gave each chapter a signed print suitable for framing of Mark Anderson's Peregrine Falcon titled "Return To Penn's Woods". What good timing that the print is available following our March program on the Peregrine Recovery by Dan Brauning. (See our May Auction).

As mentioned at the April program and membership meeting, Audubon PA will be drafting conservation policies in a few targeted areas. Representatives at the Assembly listed topics for consideration by the chapters. You will find them in the following article, organized by primary ecosystems affected. Audubon Pa is asking each chapter to review and rank the issues in order of importance to birds, wildlife and habitat. Tabulated results will help to guide our statewide policy work. Please send your comments and topics of most importance to Deb at [dfreed208@adelphia.net](mailto:dfreed208@adelphia.net). We will also collect member comments at the May program and membership meeting. 

## Ranking Conservation Issues

### Forest Ecosystems

- Overabundant White-tailed deer
  - hunting regulations
  - conservation funding diversification
  - broader wildlife representation within

### Game Commission

- Wind power development
- Private lands development, urban/suburban sprawl
- Climate change
- Acid rain
- Bird/nest predators associated with humans: cats, raccoons, opossums, etc.
- Landscape and ridgetop protection
- Mining practices - here and elsewhere in Appalachians

### Aquatic Ecosystems

- Riparian buffers
- Fertilizers and pesticides
- Road-building, associated with development
- Abandoned mine drainage
- Clean Water Act enforcement and interpretation
- Wetlands filling, floodplain development
- River and stream manipulation (e.g. dams, levees, channelization)

### Agricultural Lands

- Effectiveness of CREP practices
- Grassland management
- Factory farming, CAFOs
- Farmland preservation funding

### Across systems

- Invasive plants, animals, and pests
- Avian flu
- Ethanol production - switchgrass and corn monocultures
- Crow poisoning practices
- Lack of multi-municipal comprehensive land use planning
- Eminent domain
- Transportation/highways

### Other National and State Conservation Policy Issues

- Weakening of Endangered Species Act
- Funding for bird conservation work
- Education curriculum; Chapter 29
- Need for inter-agency cooperation
- Property taxes driving land use decisions
- Energy policy
- Funds for land preservation

## May Silent Auction

Bring some dollars or your checkbook to buy tickets for the items on display, including the signed and numbered print "Return to Penn's Woods". A variety of small items will be available. Tickets will be purchased, \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Deposit your tickets for the item(s) you want and wait to see if your ticket is drawn. The more you buy, the better your chances and the more Seneca Rocks will earn.

### Program at Cook Forest State Park

*Saturday, April 29, from 11:00am-12:30pm -*

*'Trail Maintenance: Back to the Basics'*

by Dale Luthringer

Calling all Adopt-A-Trail volunteers and others interested in learning about basic trail maintenance. Cook Forest State Park will be conducting a basic trail maintenance program to help educate the public and better maintain our trail system. We will be concentrating our efforts on the Seneca Trail. Please meet at the Park Office on River Road, adjacent to the RT36 Bridge and the Clarion River. Bring gloves, sturdy work boots, and water. Light refreshments and basic trail working tools will be provided. Please register by phone at (814)744-8475 or e-mail [dluthringe@state.pa.us](mailto:dluthringe@state.pa.us).



*Photo courtesy of Geoff Malosh*

## **Presque Isle Field Trip, 4/1/06**

by Ron Montgomery

The horrible weather that we encountered last year at Presque Isle may have been in everyone's mind this year, as we had only five in attendance and some told me before hand that the forecast gave them second thoughts. Last year fourteen people braved what was certainly a serious snow storm if not a downright blizzard.

This year the forecast called for wind with temperatures near freezing, and the possibility of rain or snow. As it turned out, the temperature was in the forties and there was enough wind for hang gliding, but there was no precipitation and we had a good day of birding.

The most exciting find was Little Gull, a European species that has recently and rarely been found nesting around the upper Great Lakes. We had excellent looks of at least three birds and Gary got some nice pictures. What a great find!

Humans in attendance were: Mike Leahy our intrepid leader, Gary Edwards, Pat Conway, Ann Hunt and Ron Montgomery.

The 67 avian discoveries were: Canada Goose, Mute Swan, Wood Duck, Gadwall, American Wigeon, American Black Duck, Mallard, Northern Shoveler, Canvasback, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Greater Scaup, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Hooded Merganser, Common Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, Ruddy Duck, Wild Turkey, Pied-

billed Grebe, Horned Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Turkey Vulture, Bald Eagle, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, American Coot, Killdeer, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, American Woodcock, Little Gull, Bonaparte's Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Belted Kingfisher, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Eastern Phoebe, Blue Jay, American Crow, Tree Swallow.



*Photo by Flo McGuire*

## **Conneaut Marsh Field Trip, 4/8/06**

by Ron Montgomery

Although it was cool and windy for our Conneaut Marsh Trip, the sky cleared as the day progressed and late afternoon brought a cloudless sky. As usual, we met at Custards but, not as usual, Mike could not be with us because of his trip to Florida. As a result Gary and I got lost a couple of times but, with everyone's coaching we found all of the regular stops.

This is a great outing for waterfowl and we had many opportunities to study most of the usual suspects; 63 species in all. Thanks to this annual field trip and the Presque Isle outing, and some very patient teachers, even I am beginning to recognize our migrating ducks. Of course I still only get the Greater and Lesser Scaup right 50% of the time, but still ....

Perhaps the most remarkable thing about this outing is how many Bald Eagles we saw and the

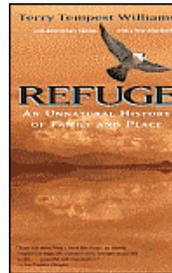
proportion that were immature. While I lost track of the actual number, and some may have been repeat sightings, I would guess that Bald Eagle was our most common raptor by a fair margin.

We got to Conneaut a little early so pushed on to Linesville for lunch. After lunch we explored the Fish Research area, the Museum area and then the Spillway. These were a little slow, except for the ever-present eagles, so some of us explored the area south of Route 285. The dirt road (Wilson Road) south of the Miller Farm parking lot was quite productive, as was the railroad right-of-way north of Hartstown.

Those in attendance were: Pat Conway, Ann Hunt, Joan & Karl Rowe, Flo & Jim McGuire, Janice Horn, Gil Twiest, Fran & Jack Williams, Gary Edwards and Ron Montgomery.

Species seen: Canada Goose, Tundra Swan, Wood Duck, Gadwall, American Wigeon, American Black Duck, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Hooded Merganser, Ruddy Duck, Wild Turkey, Common Loon, Pied-billed Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Turkey Vulture, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, American Kestrel, American Coot, Killdeer, Greater Yellowlegs, Bonaparte's Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Belted Kingfisher, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Eastern Phoebe, Blue Jay, American Crow, Tree Swallow, Tree Swallow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, Carolina Wren, Carolina Wren, Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, European Starling, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Chipping Sparrow, Song Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Northern Cardinal, Red-winged Blackbird, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Rusty Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, House Finch, House Sparrow.

## Refuge A Book Review



Historically, the land determines the character of the people. If you grow up in the hills of western Pennsylvania, you feel the power of place in the hills, and trees, and clear, rocky streams. Life on the short grass prairies of Oklahoma gives one an intimate relationship with the west wind. Those who grow up in the mountains of Colorado, ask where the mountains are when they first see the Allegheny Mountains. They are familiar with granite, and snow-covered peaks, and alpine meadows, where spring, summer, and fall wildflowers bloom simultaneously. For the Mormons of Utah, they understand the power of place to be in The Great Basin, in which lies The Great Salt Lake. For Terry Tempest Williams, the power of place is Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge, America's first waterfowl sanctuary, on the edge of The Great Salt Lake. This is where one goes to achieve solitude. This becomes the source of refuge.

The book, *Refuge, An Unnatural History of Family and Place*, Vintage Books, New York, New York, 2001, ISBN 0-679-74024-4, is, simultaneously, about the power of place and the history of family, which are interwoven. As Terry Tempest Williams says, "The birds and I share a natural history. It is a matter of rootedness, of living inside a place for so long that the mind and imagination fuse."

If there is only one book that you read this year, this book will supply the rootedness you might be seeking: the refuge that will provide meaning to your life and increase your affinity for birds. As Terry's grandmother told her at a very young age, "...ibises are the companions of gods. Ibis escorts Toth, the Egyptian god of wisdom and magic, who is the guardian of the Moon Gates in heaven. And there are two colors of ibis – one black and one white. The dark bird is believed to be associated with death, the white bird a celebration of birth."

Each chapter is about specific birds and the changing lake level of The Great Salt Lake. Each chapter is also about the impending death of family members from cancer, which are a reflection of “the flash of light in the night in the desert.” There is a recognition that “an individual doesn’t get cancer, a family does,” and how that family deals with death determines how each person defines their own refuge. Terry Tempest Williams concludes, “My refuge exists in my capacity to love.” You are left to delimit your own refuge.

-The Old Curmudgeon

## Birdathon!

by Janice Horn



Artwork by Stan Kotala

Seneca Rocks' biggest fundraiser, the Birdathon!, is rapidly approaching and we have several birders who will be out counting species during the second week of May. All of them are seeking sponsors to put them in the running for top fundraiser. Margaret Buckwalter, who will not be birding for this event, has offered to sponsor the highest fundraiser by adding 1/2 again as much as he or she has raised. Help them put FUN in fundraising by sponsoring any one of the following:

Carole Willenpart -- [rwillenpart@csonline.net](mailto:rwillenpart@csonline.net)  
159 Moggey Rd., Sligo, PA 16255 Ph: 745-3818

Gil Twiest -- [gtwiest@csonline.net](mailto:gtwiest@csonline.net)  
2493 Brook Rd., Clarion, PA 16214 Ph: 764-5353

Flo McGuire -- [fmcguire1@verizon.net](mailto:fmcguire1@verizon.net)  
HC 1 Box 6A, Tionesta, PA 16353 Ph: 755-3672

Ron Montgomery -- [ronnjudy@penn.com](mailto:ronnjudy@penn.com)  
3200 Fisher Rd., Strattanville, PA 16258  
Ph: 764-6088

Jack & Fran Williams -- [jwilliams@clarion.edu](mailto:jwilliams@clarion.edu)  
OR [bezuska@usachoice.net](mailto:bezuska@usachoice.net)  
1365 Spring Rd., Summerville, PA 15864  
Ph: 764-3368

Peter Dalby  
221 Ponds View Ln., Marble, PA 16334  
Ph: 782-3227

Paulette Colantonio  
170 Fernwood Dr., Cranberry, PA 16319  
Ph: 797-2031

Contact one of the birders and offer your support. You may sponsor them with a flat amount or a per species amount, it's up to you; but whatever you offer I assure you they will be delighted.

If you want to participate as a birder and want sponsors contact me, Janice Horn at 226-7367 or [jhhorn35@yahoo.com](mailto:jhhorn35@yahoo.com). I'll find another way to urge people to help you.

Also, if you would like to be a general sponsor you may do that by sending a donation to SRAS, %Janice Horn, 32 Barber St., Clarion, PA 16214 or signing up for that at our next meeting.

The money raised is used for our various programs, including Audubon Adventures when teachers in the area schools request the material. It helps with the cost of the Drummer, the Christmas Bird Count, and other activities. We also support Audubon Pennsylvania with funds from this activity.

Audubon Pennsylvania has initiated a competition this year for the chapters that identify the most species and raise the most money. We have done well in the past, almost \$4,500 in our best year and \$2,783.50 last year. Join the birders in this effort and encourage them during their day in the fields, woods, and marshes. Then enjoy the report that they write.

Reports from last year can be found on the website. Get a taste of lengths that they go to while searching for species.

I will be participating again, but without Margaret, my long-time partner. I haven't included myself in the above list because I have a well-established list of sponsors who, I'm hoping, will be supporting me again this year.





*Artwork by Georgette Syster*

## **Falco Peregrinus**

by Karl Schurr

Our recent program, “Following the Wandering Falcon: Peregrine Falcon Recovery Research” prompted some research into the origin of the bird’s name. The species name is Falco Peregrinus and is included in Systema Naturae authored by C. Linnaeus. This is the start of Binomial Nomenclature (two name naming system) with the 1758 edition. Linnaeus died in 1778. This sets the time span for the name of peregrine falcons. A check of my dictionary listed several related terms for peregrine: “pilgrim, foreign sojourner, traveler over a wide distance, traveler from country to country”, etc. One of the first written uses of “peregrine” is from Shakespeare in Love’s Labour’s Lost V 1:15 which would indicate that it was in general use in England during Shakespeare’s lifetime. My dictionary names the bird, “pilgrim falcon”.

Nobles and wealthy classes used falcons to catch small game and for recreation. The name of the bird certainly recognizes that it was known to fly over very large geographic areas. This may have been because the nobles printed their names on the jess (short leather strap) attached to leg of their falcons. If a falcon refused to return to its master, it may have been caught some great distance away and returned to the owner. Thus we may have a better idea of how the general population at that time knew the enormous distance the falcons would fly in a short time.

Our speaker using radio telemetry was able to prove scientifically the information on flight distance that was recognized for the bird in the time of Shakespeare.



## **Deer Management**

by Dennis Beaver

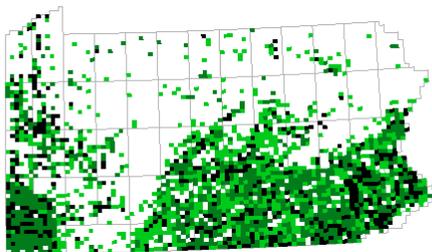
Timothy D. Schaeffer, Ph.D., Executive Director, Audubon Pennsylvania, testified before the Pennsylvania House of Representatives Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee on April 4, 2006. Dr. Schaeffer focused on the impacts of overabundant deer on the forested habitats on which wildlife rely and called for a transparent, science-based approach to deer management. He explained that Audubon Pennsylvania strongly support hunting as a means to manage deer density, and that Audubon members are 53% more likely than the general public to be hunters.

Timothy Schaeffer drew from a report entitled “Managing White-tailed Deer in Forest Habitat From an Ecosystem Perspective,” published in 2005. The premise of the report is “that restoration and maintenance of fully functional forest ecosystems, containing a full component of native biological diversity at all levels, best serve the long-term interests of the people and wildlife of Pennsylvania.” When trees die or are harvested, regeneration is adversely impacted by the overabundance of deer. He goes on to say, “the woods still look green, but they are much altered,” and that the focus needs to be on the whole ecosystem rather than a single species.

“Deer management should focus on managing the ecosystems of which deer are a part. Deer densities in Pennsylvania’s major forested areas should be brought down to levels that will allow the restoration of full forest structure, diversity, and ecological processes and functions. Such an approach requires a long-term commitment by the Pennsylvania Game Commission to use science and the indicators of forest health to make its decisions rather than responding to anecdotal evidence from the field and the cries of hunters who want to see more deer than the woods can sustain.” Dr. Schaeffer goes on to state, “Even when we see signs of forest recovery, we need to take a long-term approach and not allow deer to overbrowse and eliminate any progress we have made.”

Tim goes on to suggest that a funding base needs to be identified that is more stable and equitable than funding derived almost exclusively from license dollars and timber sales on game lands, to facilitate a shift from single-species management to ecosystem management. He also suggests that government ask Game Commissioner candidates who come before them to commit to using transparent science to make their decisions.

In his conclusion to the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee, Tim Schaeffer states, “As you know, if farmers operate in the red for too long, they will go out of business. Our forests have been operating in the red for decades and will never be able to get back in business until we find a way to make natural resource management decisions that are truly in the best interest of the resources themselves.”



Map from 1<sup>st</sup> PA BBA, showing distribution of Red-bellied Woodpecker in blocks in PA – lightest shade is **Possible**, medium is **Probable**, Dark is **Confirmed**.

## BBA Breeding Codes

**Observed** - Use ONLY during the safe dates.

O Individual of a species simply observed (seen or heard) within safe dates but not in suitable habitat.

**Possible** – Use ONLY during the safe dates.

X Individual of a species seen or heard in suitable nesting habitat within safe dates.

**Probable** – Use outside the safe dates with care.

T Territorial behavior including counter-singing, drumming in woodpeckers, aggressive interaction between same sex individuals, or singing male in same location on visits 5 days or more apart.

P Pair seen in close proximity to and/or interacting non-aggressively with one another;

in sexually monomorphic species, like Song Sparrow, two birds seen feeding or perched close together without displaying aggression.

C Ritualized courtship behavior (e.g., aerial displays, courtship feeding) or copulation between two birds observed.

U Used nests of species found.

A Agitated behavior or anxiety calls given by adults due to observer or predator presence (does not include agitated reaction to "pishing")

**Confirmed** – You may use these codes any time; safe dates may be disregarded.

CN Adult bird seen carrying nesting material.

PE Physiological evidence (for bird banders)

NB Nest building observed at nest site.

DD Distraction display (especially injury feigning), or apparent direct defense of unobserved nest/young.

FL Recently fledged or downy young.

CF Adult seen carrying either food or fecal sac.

FY Adult seen feeding fledged young.

NE Nest with eggs (a nest containing cowbird's eggs confirms both the host and the cowbird).

ON Occupied nest (used for high nests/cavity nests).

NY Nest with young. (cowbird nestlings count as "NY" both for host species and cowbird).

### Why Breeding Codes?

On the map at left, because different shades are used for the different breeding codes, you can see the Red-bellied Woodpecker distribution found in 1984-1989 in PA at a glance. On the BBA website, you may view a similar map for each species, and also a similar map from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Atlas. Go to <http://bird.atlasing.org/PA/>, click on "View Results" ,then select a species from the drop-down list. You can toggle between "Current Atlas Data" and "Previous Atlas Data".

The **Observed** code is for species which are not believed to breed in the block – an example would be the juvenile Double-crested Cormorant found last June at Oil Creek State Park.

**Observed** codes will be dropped from the Atlas, so there are effectively 3 main Codes – **Possible**, **Probable**, and **Confirmed**, with a list of behavior codes equating to each.

Migrants are a threat to accuracy. The "Safe Dates" indicate those dates when migrants of the species are gone and remaining birds may

breed. The table is not precise, because for many species, the nesting season overlaps the migration period. The "Safe Dates" are meant as a guide only, and should be disregarded when **Confirmed** behavior is observed. A nest with eggs at any time is **Confirmed**.

The **Possible** code, "X", is for a species simply seen or heard, with no significant behavior observed. Examples – hearing a Barred Owl calling in the woods; seeing a Ruby-throated Hummingbird at a feeder. These are coded with "X" and the date on your field card, in the **Possible** column.

We should attempt to upgrade **Possible** codes to **Probable**. If you hear the Barred Owl in the same woods 5 or more days later, you may code it as "T", with the date, in the **Probable** column.

You may note a bird as **Possible** before the safe dates, (although you cannot enter it into the system yet). For example, if you hear a Wood Thrush in your yard on May 25, make a note, even though it isn't safe until June 1. If you hear it again on June 1 or later, you may code it as "T". As the season progresses, any species that you code as "X" can be upgraded to a "T" if you see/hear it again in the same vicinity.

**Probable** codes can be used outside the safe dates with care. What if you see one Blue Jay feeding another in March? It would be "C" - courtship feeding, a **Probable** code, even though jays aren't "safe" until June 10. American Woodcock displays would also be coded "C", regardless of the date. If you're not sure how to code a behavior, ask your coordinator.

The **Confirmed** code means what it says – you are sure that the species is breeding in the block. For **Confirmed** behavior, disregard the safe dates. All of the 2-letter behavior codes equate to Confirmed.

Examples: A Killdeer doing a broken wing display would be "DD", **Confirmed**, regardless of the date. A Canada Goose sitting on eggs in April would be coded "NE", Nest with Eggs, even though the species is not "safe". Be sure to note the date on your field card.

Happy Atlassing!

## You might be an Atlasser if:

- You have the Chronological Safe Date list stuck on your fridge.
- The floor of your car is littered with granola-bar wrappers and empty water bottles.
- Your family wonders why they never see you in June or July.
- When you see a sign that says "Kossuth 3" you think of an atlas block, not miles to Kossuth.
- You have a laminated Safe Date list stuck in the map holder on your car door - and it's been there since 2004.
- You're absolutely thrilled to see a young cowbird being fed by a Magnolia Warbler.
- You're the only person in town who might see a Bald Eagle and say "Oh no! It's not safe!"
- People wonder about some of your conversations, when you're always "P-ing" things and "T-ing" things, and you hate to "just X" things.
- The words "It has a bug!" rank right up there with "Touchdown!".
- Your idea of amusement back on those long January nights was riding around listening for Great Horned Owls.
- Your new colognes for the summer are "Anti-itch" and "Ivy-dry".
- You drive around with the windows open and the air conditioner on.
- Your dog heads straight for the door when he sees you wearing your bins.
- You just close your eyes when you put the credit card in the gas pump.
- You try to get your dentist to schedule appointments on rainy days.
- The last week in July, you start singing "I've got a long way to go and a short time to get there".

- Flo McGuire

## August Picnic -

Our annual covered dish picnic will be held in August. Watch for a postcard announcing the exact time and place. Details will also be posted on our website.

## Advance Notice -

At our September meeting Scott Stoleson will present "Mushroom Madness"; he has also volunteered to lead a mushroom-oriented field trip on the following Saturday.



Thanks to Deb Freed & Janice Horn who will be hosting the May meeting.

JOIN THE GROWING E-DRUMMER SUBSCRIBERS AND GET YOUR DRUMMER ON-LINE, EARLIER THAN MAILED COPY AND IN COLOR. SEND YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS TO [dfreed208@adelphia.net](mailto:dfreed208@adelphia.net)



## SRAS Board Members

<u>Deb Freed</u> , President, Membership . . . . .	226-4719
<u>Gary Edwards</u> , Vice-president, programs . . .	676-3011
<u>Dennis Beaver</u> , Secretary/Publicity . . . . .	676-6564
<u>Janice Horn</u> , Treasurer, Birdseed, Birdathon	226-7367
<u>Flo McGuire</u> , Website, Drummer Editor . . .	755-3672
<u>Ron Montgomery</u> , Field Trips, Community Programs . . . . .	764-6088
<u>Jim Wilson</u> , Events . . . . .	676-5455
<u>Paulette Colantonio</u> , Education . . . . .	797-2031
<u>Pat Conway</u> , History . . . . .	849-6315
<u>Margaret Buckwalter</u> , Mill Creek Coalition .	782-3925
<u>Walter Fye</u> , Beaver Creek . . . . .	797-1019

## BBA Regional Coordinators

Gary Edwards, Region 43	676-3011
Carole Willenpart, Region 44	745-3818
Pat Conway, Region 45	849-6315
Flo McGuire, Region 30	755-3672

Ruffed Grouse artwork in masthead  
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