



THE DRUMMER



www.senecarocksaudubon.org

November, 2007

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Next Meeting – November 12
Room 150, Becker Hall
Social – 6:30 p.m. Program – 7:00 p.m.

Global Warming Presented by Sharon Pillar

Sharon Pillar is western PA's Global Warming Outreach Coordinator for PennFuture, a statewide non-profit environmental public interest organization.



Through the Cool Pennsylvania campaign, she works with citizens, organizations and businesses, educating and mobilizing people to support initiatives to stop global warming in Pennsylvania.

Pillar recently received her master's degree in earth literacy from St. Mary-of-the-Woods College, with a focus on regional equity and sustainable communities. The degree stresses an interdisciplinary approach to environmentalism, realizing that human culture (politics, religion, justice, etc.) plays an integral role in the health of our natural world.

Join us in welcoming Sharon Pillar to Seneca Rocks for this interesting program. ☺☺

Presque Isle State Park Fall Migrant Field Trip

Jim Wilson, Field Trip Chair

Sunday, November 18, 2007 at 9:00 A.M.

We meet inside Presque Isle Park in Erie. It is approximately 100 miles from Clarion by way of Meadville. From Clarion, take Rt. 322 West to Interstate 79 at Meadville. At the end of I-79 in Erie, take Rt. 20 West (26th St.) to Rt. 832 North, which becomes Peninsula Drive. There is a McDonalds on the right after you cross Rt. 5. Our meeting place (Vista One Parking Lot) is a large parking lot on the right about a mile after you see the Presque Isle State Park sign. It is the first obvious place to scope Presque Isle Bay.

Fall migration at Presque Isle is best in November/December. It is usually windy on Presque Isle, and the weather can change quickly. Dress for early fall weather.

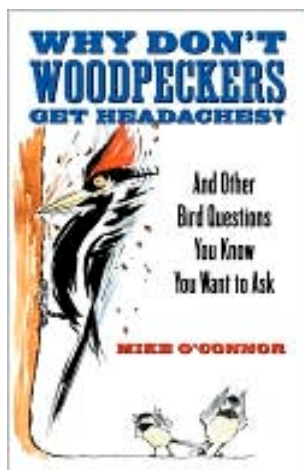
Restaurants – There are a number of restaurants along Peninsula Drive and East on both Rt. 5 and 20. Also, at Mill Creek Mall and the interchange with I-90 and Peach Street, you will find a wide range of restaurants.

Restrooms – Most restrooms in the park will probably be closed. The park office, the Stull

Interpretive Center and the boat launch restrooms should be open. If not, there is McDonald's on the way in.

Note that this outing will be held on a Sunday because of hunting season. Since there is no hunting on Sunday, the Park should be relatively quiet. We are fortunate to live so close to Presque Isle with its variety of habitats. This promises to be a great field trip.

Book Review



Why Don't Woodpeckers Get Headaches? And other bird questions you know you want to ask by Mike O'Connor is a paperback collection of responses from Mike's column, "Ask the Bird Folks", that appears in *The Cape Codder*. His

replies to questions are filled with excellent bird knowledge and humor for an enjoyable read.

Most people operate under the assumption that there's no such thing as a stupid question. Well, Mike thinks otherwise. His responses frequently begin by embarrassing the questioner, but his good-natured teasing transforms to useful information as he gets around to answering those "stupid" questions. You'll find references to politics, current events, pop culture, etc. as Mike unleashes his knowledge and humor. One wonders why people even write to him as he subjects everyone to the same ridicule. It's all in good fun. Even your marginal birding friends will enjoy this one.

~ Deb Freed

Patches and Logos

A & M Thread Designs in Knox has our logo digitized to embroider on any article of clothing or cloth bag. A single article would cost about \$8.50 to embroider. Multiple articles would reduce the cost. A & M also has shirts that can be ordered. The embroidery on clothing ordered from A & M is only about \$2.00 above the cost of the article.

A & M Thread Designs, 500 Main St., Knox 16232
Located through Blausen's Showroom.
814-797-2026 email: am@ccybernet.com

Patches will be available at the November program for \$5. New hats will also be available for \$10. We don't want to keep an inventory. As we sell out of one item we can choose another item for our logo. Would there be any interest in a cloth bag or binocular harness? We'll discuss this at the November meeting.

~ Deb Freed

2007 Chestnut Harvest

Ruth and her late husband Karl found two healthy American Chestnut Trees a few years ago. Ruth is continuing to work with The American Chestnut Foundation to harvest nuts for its work in breeding a blight-resistant American Chestnut Tree.

On the first of October Scott Sjolander, the arborist for the PA Extension Service, came down again and climbed to the top of the tree, threw down many lovely burrs and the rest of us dodged falling burrs and picked up a good number. I sent in 400 nuts, a record amount. Sadly, the tree is sick, showing several dead limbs this year. We were aided by Barb Songer, Ed Fegert, Dave Lazor, and Greg Henline. The nuts will be used for the breeding program, as resistant trees to back-cross with other generations in their program.

~ Ruth Schurr



Allegheny Front Hawkwatch Report

The annual outing to the Allegheny Front Hawkwatch was an exciting one, although only 2 Seneca Rocks members joined leader Jerry Stanley there.

When we arrived in the late morning of October 11, it was not raining, but the skies over the ridge were gray, and the wind was coming from the west. The veteran hawkwatchers hope for easterly winds at the Allegheny Front, which will tend to funnel the birds toward the birders and concentrate them near the ridge as we look out over the valley. Today, most of the raptors were gliding over the trees to the west, sometimes very low and visible for only a short time. Official totals for the day were 1 Northern Harrier, 11 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 4 Red-tailed Hawks, and 2 Unidentified Raptors. We were happy to add Common Raven to our list, and Black Vulture, which we don't get to see in Northern PA. We were also rewarded by the sight of a rainbow in the valley. Shortly after lunch, Jerry suggested we take a ride to Shawnee State Park in search of more species. This proved to be a great idea when he spied a Merlin perched in a dead tree on our way there. We also saw an immature Red-headed Woodpecker at this spot. The highlights at Shawnee included an Osprey, 6 Great Blue Herons, 2 Purple Finches, a Greater Yellowlegs, 2 Double-crested Cormorants, 12 Wild Turkey, 3 Yellow-rumped Warblers, and several Eastern Bluebirds.

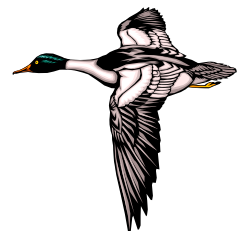
The good thing about spending 2 days at the hawkwatch is that the weather usually changes.

On Friday, October 12, the sky was blue, and although the winds were still from the west and some of us hadn't brought enough clothing, (how cold could it be when it was 90 on Wednesday?) the raptors put on quite a show. We had Merlins, Turkey Vultures, Sharpies, Cooper's, Harriers, Osprey, Red-shouldered and Red-tailed hawks and Kestrel. Most of them were flying near the tree line to the west, so we watchers stood with our backs to the valley and often called out "Bird!" and "Gone!" in almost the same breath (particularly for the Merlins!). There was one Red-shouldered Hawk which seemed to linger, and gave us a great view as it circled over our heads. There were 3 flocks of Cormorants migrating in "V's", and several large flocks of migrating Blue Jays. We also saw Mallards, Black Ducks, a Common Loon and Ruffed Grouse. Passerines included Red-breasted Nuthatch, more Purple Finches, Pine Siskins, and Yellow-rumped Warblers.

The Allegheny Front Hawkwatch is maintained by members of the Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society, whose members volunteer as official counters and ensure that "The Front" is manned every day for 3 months in the fall and 2 months in the spring. With over 4000 visitors per year, the site is known as one of the most accessible hawkwatches, since it is a level and grassy area, while some of them are steep and rocky. We are lucky to live so close to this ancestral highway.

Many thanks to Jerry for his patience and for sharing his expertise by leading this outing each fall.

~ Flo & Jim McGuire



The **2008 PSO meeting** will be co-hosted by the Three Rivers Birding Club and the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania in the Pittsburgh area. It will be held Friday, May 16, through Sunday, May 18, at the Four Points by Sheraton Pittsburgh North. Many fine outings and speakers will be featured. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend.

For more information about our chapter and current updates, please check our website at www.senecarocksaudubon.org



Looking Ahead

December 10 - Members' Night

Field Trips & Events

Presque Isle Ducks -

November 18

Christmas Bird Count -

December 15

Hosting Upcoming Meetings:

November - Cal & Jane Miller

December - Hendrika Bohlen & Mary Emerick

February - Joan Magistrella and Carol Riffer

SRAS Board Members

President --

Vice-president, Programs - Pete Dalby 782-3227

Treasurer, Birdseed, Birdathon - Janice Horn 226-7367

Website, Drummer Editor - Flo McGuire 755-3672

Field Trips, Events - Jim Wilson 676-5455

Secretary, Membership - Deb Freed 226-4719

Community Programs - Ron Montgomery 764-6088

Education - Paulette Colantonio 797-2031

History - Pat Conway 849-6315

Mill Creek Coalition -

Beaver Creek - Walter Fye 797-1019



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