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# PSO Pileated



December 2011

The Newsletter of the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology

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## From the President's Desk....

It's Saturday, November 12, and I am sitting alone in the warm sun at the Allegheny Front Hawk Watch. There's been an unusually long stretch of warm days and many with the favorable east winds that can result in wondrous flights of Golden Eagles at this time of year. The hawk watch site is at an elevation of 2850 feet and sits precisely on the Allegheny Front, the fault line that separates the Allegheny Plateau to the west and the Appalachian Mountains to the east. It also serves as the eastern continental divide that separates the southern flow to the Mississippi River – Gulf of Mexico drainage and the eastern flow to the Atlantic Ocean via the Chesapeake Bay. The latest string of east winds has just come to an end, and a passing front, which sprinkled snowflakes on the abrupt escarpment at the hawk watch, has brought the raptor migration to a trickle the last few days. The day's warmth is a result of southwest winds – a relief from what otherwise would be bone chilling conditions but the pits for hawk watching. It could be a lonely day for this counter.

The Allegheny Front Hawk Watch rarely matches numbers with Hawk Mountain and Waggoner's Gap on the far eastern edge of the Appalachian Mountains along the Kittatinny Ridge; but the season-total Golden Eagle counts and single-day Golden Eagle counts do compete. (A side note – despite what had been the subject of a recent movie release, there is absolutely no competition among birders and certainly not among the Pennsylvania hawk watches!)

November 1 of this year produced a new record of 61 Golden Eagles for the Allegheny Front and created a bit of heartache for those of us who missed it. (Another side

note – those who missed it are all very happy for the more fortunate site counters and observers who were there and greatly appreciate that they are so willing to share the experience and details of that day again and again...when we are having a slower day at the watch – HA!)

Back to my lonely day... It's 11:15 a.m. and despite the dim prospects, I am constantly scanning the horizon for raptors but starting to come to grips with the possibility of recording a goose egg for the day. But suddenly the tranquility of the day is broken as I spot a Red-tailed Hawk. It rises up in a thermal, peering down as it searches for prey and drifts out of sight without passing my invisible line to count it as a migrant.



A Golden Eagle cruises past the Allegheny Front Hawk Watch.

Photo by Tom Kuehl

My thoughts drift to the pending development that threatens the ridge to the north of the watch site. Gamesa of Spain has proposed a 30-turbine wind farm on a site owned by Berwind Natural Resources. Local residents have formed a number of grass roots organizations and have joined forces with the local water authority, Trout Unlimited, and many others to take up the fight against the proposed development. PSO members Laura and Mike Jackson and Tom and Sally Dick (Tom is PSO's 2006 Conservation Award winner) are leaders in the opposition to the wind farm. Laura Jackson is president of SOAR (Save Our Allegheny Ridges) and the Dicks bring the involvement of the Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society to the effort. Wind farms already dot the Allegheny Front in Pennsylvania, Maryland, and West Virginia where wind developers have been able to move faster than local opposition groups. The fight has been waging since 2007. The site's status as an Audubon IBA (Important Bird Area) and legislation such as the Endangered Species Act, the Migratory Bird Treaty, and the Bald and Golden Eagle Act provide protection; however, without local

(continued on page 10)

# A Lot of Hummingbirds

by Arlene Koch

It was almost the end of November when I wrote this article, and it was abnormally warm for this time of the year. But in spite of temperatures above 60 degrees, the landscape looked just like you'd expect it to look after Thanksgiving. Almost all of the trees here where I live, halfway up the state two miles west of the Delaware River, were bare, except of course for the beeches and evergreens. Even the invasive Bradford pears and Norway maples had dropped all their leaves. Fields that were gloriously yellow with goldenrods and monarch butterflies in early October are now all brown, but I admit liking them that way because they're full of seeds.

Late November is a time when chickadees constantly visit my sunflower feeders and sparrows scratch and eat the white millet that I spread around the ground at spots I can see from the house. There are already so many juncos and sparrows eating the millet that if I looked at every one, I'd never get anything done. I admit, though, that my binoculars are never far from my hands.

At this time of the year most birders are thinking about upcoming Christmas Bird Counts or the possibility that there may be a Rough-legged Hawk, Northern Goshawk, or Gyrfalcon in the last push of raptors at one of the state's many hawk watch sites. But, while I'm thinking about those things too, my mind lately has been on all the vagrant western hummingbirds discovered in the state this year. In my home county of Northampton a total of five have been found, and I know of two others in nearby Bucks and Lehigh Counties. Statewide there have been so



This bird had been banded 10 months earlier as a hatch year male Rufous by Nancy Newfield in Louisiana.

Photo by Dustin Welch

many sightings that I can only guess that more than 15 have been tallied to date, something none of us longtime birders ever thought possible not too long ago.

So far all of the birds banded were definitely Rufous Hummingbirds (*Selasphorus rufus*) and probably all the others were also Rufous. But as the last few years have shown, an Allen's, an Anna's, or who knows what else isn't out of the

realm of possibility. The most interesting Rufous so far has been the adult male found at the feeder outside the headquarters building of Jacobsburg State Park in Northampton County. What made this bird so special was that it was wearing jewelry on its left leg. In other words, it had already been banded by someone somewhere.

When Scott heard the words "already banded," he dropped everything and drove east to try to catch it, which he did in a very short period of time. He immediately knew the band wasn't one of his, and it turned out that this bird had been banded 10 months earlier as a hatch year male Rufous by Nancy Newfield in Louisiana.

That made this bird very special for me because Nancy's a friend who had called me a few days before all this happened. But I didn't write this article because of my relationship with Nancy. I wrote it because I don't think the general birding public appreciates banders as much as they should. These people band on their own time and money, and I don't think they get the recognition they deserve because their data teaches us all.

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## PSO Annual Meeting

Plans are well underway for the 2012 annual PSO meeting which will be held in the Lock Haven area Friday, May 18, through Sunday, May 20. If you've never attended one of our meetings, you're missing a lot of good birding, fun, and education. These weekends are an excellent way to meet other birders and make new friends. Mark your calendars now.

# Ornithological Literature Notes

Just about every Pennsylvania birder knows and laments that our state's boreal conifer forests are mere remnants of their extent a century ago. We know, too, that losses of these forests have meant losses of habitat for many of our state's birds.

Douglas A. Gross, Endangered and Nongame Bird Section Supervisor for the Pennsylvania Game Commission, discusses the past, present, and potential future of the forests and their birds in a recently published paper given at a U.S. Forest Service conference on ecology and management of high-elevation forests in the central and southern Appalachians.

Doug catalogs many reasons why our boreal forests have declined so severely. The causes include logging, excavation for peat, creation of reservoirs, disruption of wetlands, acid rain, pests such as the hemlock woolly adelgid, diseases, and fragmentation due to road construction, wind-energy projects, and other types of development.

He lists 38 species associated with Pennsylvania's boreal forest habitats, and he deals most extensively with four species that are "of particularly high concern for their conservation interest or their value as indicator species of this threatened ecosystem." These are the Olive-sided Flycatcher (which has long been extirpated as a breeder here), the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, the Blackpoll Warbler, and the Northern Saw-whet Owl.

His analysis covers the history, present status, and habitat requirements of those, as well as four additional birds of the boreal forest community: Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Swainson's Thrush, Canada Warbler, and Red Crossbill.

Doug, recognized nationally as an authority on the ecology and behavior of the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, says that one of the most interesting aspects of our boreal bird populations is this species' persistence at locations despite its rarity. He sees this as indicating that the habitat quality is fairly good and that the birds are reproducing.

Further, he comments, "Some of these boreal forest species are undergoing long-term rebounds that look like



The Northern Saw-whet Owl, a species associated with Pennsylvania's boreal forests, is of particularly high concern.

Photo by Sandra & Frank Horvath



The Olive-sided Flycatcher, long extirpated as a breeder in PA, is another indicator species of the boreal forest ecosystem.

Photo by Margaret Higbee

increases when viewed short-term (and even 40 years is relatively short-term considering forest recovery). They can continue this rebound with good stewardship."

For many species, Doug notes that the challenges of monitoring their populations are difficult for numerous reasons. For example, some locations are remote and hard to access, some species are difficult to detect, and some birds may not occupy the same locations every year.

"One of the biggest challenges," he says, "is the perception that spruce doesn't belong in Pennsylvania. It does. And Pennsylvania is a stronghold in the Appalachians for some of these species which also live in other conifer forest types."

Doug recommends various methods for better assessment of population status, an essential step toward knowing where to focus conservation efforts. Government agencies have a critical role in forest restoration because most sites with significant boreal conifer forest are owned by public agencies, especially the Pennsylvania Game Commission, the U.S. Forest Service, and the state Bureau of Forestry.

His suggestions include several silvicultural practices by these agencies that could help to restore conifers more quickly. One method for improving the amount and quality of spruce in mixed forests would be to thin the deciduous tree component at locations where regeneration of spruce seedlings and saplings is already beginning naturally.

Doug's paper, 17 other papers, and 40 abstracts pertaining to Appalachian forests are available online at <http://nrs.fs.fed.us/pubs/36047>. The entire 242-page conference proceedings are 12 MB in size, but each paper can be downloaded individually.

– Paul Hess  
phess@salsgiver.com

# The Raven Reporter



Tales of  
Discovery about  
Pennsylvania  
Birds

## The Flute Lands in Pennsylvania

Making a tangible connection between the summer home of our breeding birds and their winter destinations is an extremely rare event. We were fortunate this year to make a very exciting connection between our state and a destination very far away. Not only is this noteworthy as a rare occurrence but it's also notable because of its value giving our monitoring and conservation vision perspective. The story has a sad note, but the overall lesson is one of hope.

On Valentine's Day 2011, Liliana Duriaux-Chavarria caught and banded a Wood Thrush in one of her mist nets set up in the Café study area of El Jaguar Reserva (Jaguar Reserve) in the mountains of Nicaragua near the coffee country town of Jinotega. This songbird was one of many encountered as part of the MoSi research station set up to capture songbirds that nest in United States and Canada. This banding and research station has been supported by interested American bird conservationists, especially the North Carolina Audubon Society. As part of detailed studies of the migratory patterns of Wood Thrushes, two colored plastic bands, one purple and one yellow, were fitted on its legs in addition to the silver USFWS band. Each USFWS band has a unique number that identifies the bird. So, if you submit a recovered band to the banding lab website, this begins the process of linking the banding location to your bird. Several Wood Thrushes have been banded at this site as well as Golden-winged Warblers and other songbirds that migrate to the United States and Canada.

The banded Wood Thrush was found dead at a house in Tinicum Township in Bucks County late last May. Eventually a local birder, Diane Allison, obtained the bird and secured it for scientific use. She found that the bird is part of an international research and conservation project organized by National Audubon on behalf of this Watch List species. The International Wood Thrush Conservation Alliance staged an international workshop near Veracruz, Mexico, in February 2010. North American ornithologists and researchers trained a "cadre" of ornithologists from many countries along the migration

passage and the winter grounds so they can better study the biology of the Wood Thrush on the wintering grounds and contribute to an international study of its migration. Lili was one of these trainees, and she surely put her skills to work at El Jaguar. For more information about this workshop see <http://birds.audubon.org/wood-thrush-wintering-grounds>.

El Jaguar Reserva is a well-established coffee finca (farm) that also protects cloud forest, a good habitat for both resident and migrant birds. At El Jaguar you can find lots of migrant warblers and thrushes as well as many of the exotic and colorful birds of the Central American cloud forest including Emerald Toucanets, Violet Sabrewings, and Turquoise-browed Motmots. Liliana and her husband Georges manage this coffee farm as a shade-grown system that provides better habitat for forest birds because it retains a tree canopy where the birds can forage. Lili and her husband Georges also grow native trees for other coffee farms to plant. In addition, they train fellow coffee growers on sustainable farming methods that protect the health of the coffee farm and the streams downhill. Birds benefit from these practices. For more information about El Jaguar, check out their extensive website at [www.jaguarreserve.org](http://www.jaguarreserve.org).

Wood Thrushes nest in the forests of eastern North America and spend the winter in Mexico and Central America. They occur as far north as the Veracruz area so well-known to those who follow the River of Raptors. Anyone familiar with the history of that area knows that the forests of Veracruz have severely declined from their former prevalence, affecting many species of birds that migrate through and to this region. Wood Thrushes are locally common in some of the woods of southeastern Mexico where I have heard and seen many in the Lacandon rainforest, around Mayan archeological sites like Tikal and Palenque, along the streams in Belize, and in the forests of Costa Rica. The Mexican and Costa Rican forests have been radically reduced in size in the last few decades.

The Wood Thrush has become a symbol of the eastern deciduous forest and for the declining Neotropical migrant birds. Pennsylvania supports a significant portion of the nesting population of Wood Thrushes which have declined at least 25% since the first Atlas and even more since the BBS route program was started in 1966. This species is slowly and steadily sliding into troubled territory. The connection between Pennsylvania and Central America is not a complete surprise. Using geolocators, Stutchbury and colleagues found that a population of Wood Thrushes in northwestern Pennsylvania migrate to southern Honduras and Nicaragua. The health of the forests both here in Pennsylvania and down there in Central America will be a major limiting factor for the future of Wood Thrushes.

The time is now for protecting this “common bird” that we want to keep common.

This marvelous discovery brings focus to the woods of the southeastern counties. Although the Wood Thrush has the reputation as a bird of the mountain forests, it actually can be quite common in lowlands and foothills of the Piedmont and near the Kittatinny Ridge. There are three Important Bird Areas within 25 miles of the spot where this thrush was found. The latest Breeding Bird Atlas has provided occurrence and density maps that show that there are some remarkable concentration areas just at the edge of the suburbs. I have found that Wood Thrushes are very densely packed in some lowland forests of Northampton County where small streams, forest pools, and a dense understory provide nearly ideal Wood Thrush nesting habitat. Most thrushes nest within ten feet of the ground and do most of their foraging in the lower canopy and near the forest floor. So, they are vulnerable to forest fragmentation, simplification of vegetation structure from deer over-browsing, and the many effects of the expanding suburbs.

Cooperation is a hallmark of modern bird conservation efforts. The International Wood Thrush Conservation Alliance brings together several organizations and countries where Wood Thrushes live during some part of their life cycles. Indeed, this organization, like so many in the Partners in Flight galaxy of bird conservation, is about “full life cycle stewardship.” The workshop was led by three primary trainers: David King of the U.S. Forest Service’s Northern Research Station, Peter Marra of the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center, and James Saracco of The Institute for Bird Populations. Matt Jeffery, Audubon Senior Program Manager, International Alliances Program, has played an important role in organizing the Wood Thrush group and bringing together people from many countries. Greg Butcher, Director of Bird Conservation for Audubon, has been organizing efforts to support Wood Thrush as a high priority bird species in the Atlantic Flyway. Curtis Smalling of North Carolina Audubon has provided leadership in that organization’s support of El Jaguar and its monitoring of Golden-winged Warblers and Wood Thrushes. Peter Marra who has worked a lot on American Redstarts has been preaching the “full life cycle” message for many years, and a growing legion of cooperators are joining the chorus. We are glad to join this Alliance.

The sad note is that this discovery was made because the bird collided with a window. Glass is a profoundly important mortality factor for birds here in Pennsylvania where so many field and forest birds live near human habitations. All of us contribute to this risk to birds, and all of us can be part of the solution. However, the main story of this bird is one of hope because it brought many people and places together that absolutely must work in concert to provide a future for the Wood Thrush. That we

made these connections is the bigger story than the single mortality that closed the loop.

By the time you read this, I will have visited El Jaguar Reserve in Nicaragua and walked through the coffee grove where this bird was first captured. It will be a fine experience to make the full circle and help prevent more loss of Wood Thrush habitat and unnecessary mortality of the feathered flute.

[See El Jaguar photos on page 6.]

## Winter Eagle Count 2012

To beat those post-Christmas Count blahs, there is nothing quite like going to the edge of a frozen river and looking for eagles! The 2012 Midwinter Bald Eagle Survey will be held from Wednesday, 4 January 2012, to Wednesday, 18 January 2012, with target dates of 13 and 14 January.

Volunteers and cooperators are asked to survey a section of a large stream or lake where they count all eagles they encounter within that time period. We have added a few more routes in the last few years thanks to eagle watchers. This has helped us better understand winter distribution of eagles.

The winter eagle survey emphasizes Bald Eagles, but we also welcome Golden Eagle sightings along these routes. Pennsylvania birders have helped us better understand how important our state is for Golden Eagles which are found in more places than we ever thought.

Since Bald Eagles are courting and building nests in January, this also is a good time to find new eagle nests and to check established nests. With more than 200 nesting pairs in the state, we are constantly being challenged to monitor as many of these nests as possible. If you have not watched the spectacular courtship flight of Bald Eagles or have had the thrill of finding a new nest, please do yourself a favor and go eagle-watching in January.

Many eagles also form night roosts in large trees near large bodies of water. We would like to learn more about the patterns of usage of these roosts. If you learn of any winter roosts, please let us know about them. If you are interested in helping with the winter eagle survey, please contact our Endangered bird biologist, Patti Barber at [patbarber@pa.gov](mailto:patbarber@pa.gov). Good Birding!

– Doug

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## Photos from El Jaguar



Georges Duriaux holds a banded Wood Thrush at El Jaguar.  
Photo by Curtis Smalling



Liliana Chavarria bands a Wood Thrush at El Jaguar.  
Photo by Curtis Smalling



## PSO Bird Quiz

### How well do you know your Pennsylvania birds?

1. In *Birds of the Lehigh Valley and Vicinity*, Peter Saenger, Barbara Malt, and Kevin Krilley say, "Extreme caution should be used when trying to separate this species from other buteos." Which species is it?
2. Three birds in the family Caprimulgidae are on Pennsylvania's list: Common Nighthawk, Chuck-will's-widow, and Eastern Whip-poor-will. A fourth is documented in New Jersey and West Virginia, so we should watch carefully for it. What is the species?
3. At least three 19th-century authors reported the Red-cockaded Woodpecker as "rare or very rare" in Pennsylvania. In which two counties?

4. Did you read the latest *Pennsylvania Birds* issue closely? If so, you should know that Mike Fialkovich described large numbers of a species in northwestern Pennsylvania as "a scene here like one more expected along the shores of Lake Ontario in Canada!" What species?
5. A fairly large songbird lives year-round less than 50 miles east of Pennsylvania but has never been confirmed in our state. Name the species.

(Answers on page 12.)



## Great Backyard Bird Count

The Great Backyard Bird Count is scheduled for Friday, February 17, through Monday, February 20. This four-day event is jointly sponsored by Cornell, Audubon, and Bird Studies Canada. You may participate on just one of the days or all four. For more information, go to <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/>. Everything you need is on the website.

# 'Twas the Week Before Christmas

by John Fedak

'Twas the week before Christmas and outside my house,  
No feather was flying, not even a grouse.  
The seed was placed in my feeders with care,  
In hopes that some birds soon would be there.  
The flocks were all nestled all snug in the brush,  
But not one was stirring, not even a thrush.  
And me with my scope and binoculars in hand,  
Had just started out for the cold winter's land.  
When on the next hill there arose such a flight,  
I set up my scope using all of my might.  
What I saw through the eyepiece, caused me to stir.  
It wasn't feathers I saw, I was sure it was fur!  
So I sat in the snow and started rubbing my eyes,  
I've been birding too long to have such a surprise.  
When over the hill what I thought soon came true,  
There were eight little reindeer and a sleigh too!  
With a plump old driver, all dressed in red;  
I saw the binoculars hung from his head!  
"Now Santa," I said, "Can it really be?"  
"You'd better believe it", he shouted to me.  
He glided that sleigh until right by my side,  
"Come aboard now," he said, "Let's go for a ride!"  
Convinced I was dreaming, I climbed into the seat;  
As the sleigh started moving, my heart skipped a beat.  
Santa called to the reindeer, whose names we all know;  
And flew through the sky as it started to snow.  
The sleigh wasn't empty as I turned 'round to look.  
It had a bag full of seeds and one well-used book.  
And then in a twinkling, the ride came to an end.

Santa smiled as he said, "Let's start birding, my friend!"  
"I bird to relax and relax I do wish"  
Then Santa puckered his whiskers and started to pish.  
From the woods that were silent a few moments before,  
A sound started to grow, first quiet, then a roar.  
The bag full of seeds, he soon pulled from the seat,  
"For the birds that show up, I'll give them a treat."  
The sky soon filled up with birds everywhere,  
We brought our bins up and laughed without care!  
Chickadees soon flew in and took seed from his hand,  
When they all started singing, it sounded quite grand!  
Woodpeckers, nuthatches, turkeys and sparrows,  
Juncos, finches, pheasants, titmice and crows.  
All came past the sleigh and onto branches did fly;  
They fed and flew off to the darkening sky,  
While the birds came and fed, not a word was spoken;  
But laughter and pishing caused the quiet to be broken.  
By the end of the day, we amassed quite a list—  
the numbers and species had my head in a mist.  
He laughed as he whistled the reindeer to go,  
And the moon cast a glow on the still falling snow.  
When back at my homestead, he slowed his sleigh to a stop,  
I shook his gloved hand and jumped out with a hop.  
He gave me the book as he started his ride—  
He'd placed in my hands his well-worn field guide.  
As he flew to the sky he yelled out with this wording:

"Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good birding!"

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## Time for Award Nominations

Do you know a person or organization whose contributions to the Pennsylvania birding community are worthy of recognition? If so, now is the time to submit a nomination to the PSO Awards Committee. The committee is now taking nominations for both the Earl L. Poole Award and the Conservation Award. The awards will be presented at the 2012 annual meeting in Lock Haven. Award winners will be notified well in advance of the annual meeting so that they may have the opportunity to plan to attend and arrange for family and friends to share in the thrill of being recognized by the Pennsylvania birding community. So while nominations may be submitted at any time, the sooner the better to assure your nomination is given consideration.

The Earl L. Poole award is presented annually to a person or persons who have made significant contributions to Pennsylvania's ornithology. This may be in the form of

volunteer efforts, publications, field work, or any other pursuit that has furthered the knowledge, documentation, sharing, and/or interest in birdlife in Pennsylvania. The professional as well as the amateur is equally deserving of consideration.

The Conservation Award is presented to an individual or organization that has had a positive impact on bird conservation in Pennsylvania. There may be some overlap, so don't let that interfere with your nominating an individual or organization deserving of recognition.

A short letter or email is all it takes to submit a nomination. Nominations should be sent to the committee chairperson, John Fedak, 26 Race Street, Bradford, PA 16701 ([jlfedak@atlanticbb.net](mailto:jlfedak@atlanticbb.net)).

# Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology Annual Meeting Scholarship Program

In order to foster an interest in, and appreciation for birding and ornithology in Pennsylvania, each year the PSO will provide a scholarship for a person 18 years of age or younger OR an undergraduate college student who wishes to attend the PSO annual meeting. (You may not nominate someone without his/her knowledge or permission)

- ✦ The person must be nominated by a current PSO member.
- ✦ If the nominee is younger than 18, the nominating PSO member must be attending the meeting and must be responsible for transportation to/from the meeting and must be responsible for the youth during the meeting (see below) if a parent/guardian is not accompanying the youth.
- ✦ The youth's parent/guardian must sign below giving the youth permission to attend the PSO meeting with the sponsor.
- ✦ PSO will pay the recipient's meeting registration, food (banquet, lunch, 2 breakfasts), and lodging (up to 2 nights), and transportation costs incurred by the recipient.

In order to complete your nomination, please send this form to Shonah A. Hunter ([shunter@lhup.edu](mailto:shunter@lhup.edu)), or by land mail to: Dr. Shonah A. Hunter, Department of Biological Sciences, Lock Haven University, Lock Haven, PA 17745 by April 15, 2012. Selection will be conducted by a committee.

Name of Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_ Nominee's Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

If a college Undergraduate student, College Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee's Involvement with Birding (Please describe, providing as many details as possible. Attach a page, if necessary)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name of nominating PSO Member: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship (if any) to Nominee \_\_\_\_\_

If the nominee is younger than 18, the nominating PSO member must sign the following statement: In nominating this youth, I understand that I will be responsible for the youth at the annual meeting and for his/her transportation to and from the meeting.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature) (Date)

If the nominee is younger than 18, the parent/guardian must sign the following statement: In allowing my child to be nominated, I understand that PSO is providing the scholarship for my child to attend the annual meeting. The person nominating my child has my permission to transport him/her to and from the meeting and to be responsible for her/him during the annual meeting.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Parent/Guardian) (Date)

## Christmas Bird Counts Held in Pennsylvania

	<b>Name of Count</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Compiler</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>	<b>E-mail Address</b>	<b>Date</b>
1	Audubon	Montgomery Delaware Chester	Vincent Smith	610-983-8539 484-410-1157	<a href="mailto:Nyctea34@aol.com">Nyctea34@aol.com</a>	12/24/11
2	Bald Eagle	Centre	Bob Snyder	814-863-6168	<a href="mailto:rhs2@psu.edu">rhs2@psu.edu</a>	1/1/12
3	Beaver	Beaver	Rick Mason	724-847-0909	<a href="mailto:richarddmason@gmail.com">richarddmason@gmail.com</a>	12/17/11
4	Bedford	Bedford	Laura & Mike Jackson	814-652-9268	<a href="mailto:mljackson2@embarqmail.com">mljackson2@embarqmail.com</a>	12/17/11
5	Benezette	Clearfield, Elk	Mark Johnson	814-546-2886	<a href="mailto:kathyandmarkj@yahoo.com">kathyandmarkj@yahoo.com</a>	1/1/2012
6	Bernville	Berks	Ed Barrell	610-926-2962	<a href="mailto:ebarrell@epix.net">ebarrell@epix.net</a>	12/31/11
7	Bethlehem-Easton	Northampton	Elaine & Donald Mease	610-346-7754	<a href="mailto:measede@enter.net">measede@enter.net</a>	12/31/11
8	Bloomsburg	Columbia	Cathy Haffner	570-271-1244	<a href="mailto:cdhaffner@yahoo.com">cdhaffner@yahoo.com</a>	12/18/11
9	Buffalo Creek	Washington	Larry Helgerman	412-508-0321	<a href="mailto:bobolink1@earthlink.net">bobolink1@earthlink.net</a>	12/18/11
10	Buffalo Creek Valley	Butler Armstrong	George Reese	724-353-9649	<a href="mailto:g_reese@gaiconsultants.com">g_reese@gaiconsultants.com</a>	12/17/11
11	Bushy Run S.P.	Westmoreland	Dick Byers	724-593-3543	<a href="mailto:otusasio@lhtot.com">otusasio@lhtot.com</a>	12/18/11
12	Butler	Butler Lawrence Mercer	Suzanne Butcher	330-759-1945 724-794-3534	<a href="mailto:sarbird@hotmail.com">sarbird@hotmail.com</a>	12/17/11
13	Central Bucks	Bucks	Diane Allison	610-847-2085	<a href="mailto:dalliso@mail.ptd.net">dalliso@mail.ptd.net</a>	1/1/12
14	Chambersburg	Franklin	Valerie Barnes	717-352-4397	<a href="mailto:vbarhen@pa.net">vbarhen@pa.net</a>	12/17/11
15	Clarion	Clarion	Gary Edwards Michael Leahy	814-671-1273 814-229-1648	<a href="mailto:gedwards@csonline.net">gedwards@csonline.net</a> <a href="mailto:leahym@windstream.net">leahym@windstream.net</a>	12/17/11
16	Clarksville	Greene	Terry Dayton	724-627-9665	<a href="mailto:tdayton@windstream.net">tdayton@windstream.net</a>	12/18/11
17	Culp	Blair	Heidi Mullendore	814-695-6807	<a href="mailto:hmullendore@pa.gov">hmullendore@pa.gov</a>	12/17/11
18	Curtin	Dauphin	Scott Bills	717-896-8859	<a href="mailto:sbills@state.pa.us">sbills@state.pa.us</a>	12/29/11
19	Dallas Area	Luzerne	Jim Hoyson	570-696-4925 570-371-6581 (w)	<a href="mailto:birdder@aol.com">birdder@aol.com</a>	12/17/11
20	Dingman's Ferry	Pike	Chris Turn (PEEC)	570-588-6850	<a href="mailto:birder3@verizon.net">birder3@verizon.net</a>	
21	DuBois	Clearfield	Marianne Atkinson Jocelyn Smrekar		<a href="mailto:marianne5@windstream.net">marianne5@windstream.net</a>	12/18/11
22	Elverson	Chester	Robert Cook	610-286-9919	<a href="mailto:dunlin@dejazzd.com">dunlin@dejazzd.com</a>	12/26/11
23	Emporium	Cameron	Bob Martin	814-486-1990	<a href="mailto:bmartin@zitomedia.net">bmartin@zitomedia.net</a>	12/18/11
24	Erie	Erie	Chuck Gehringer	814-490-4748	<a href="mailto:chuckg58@hotmail.com">chuckg58@hotmail.com</a>	12/17/11
25	Gettysburg	Adams	Mike O'Brien	717-642-6676	<a href="mailto:maddogobrien@gmail.com">maddogobrien@gmail.com</a>	12/17/11
26	Glenolden	Delaware	David Eberly	610-543-3499	<a href="mailto:david.eberly@gmail.com">david.eberly@gmail.com</a>	12/17/11
27	Hamburg	Berks Schuylkill	Laurie Goodrich	610-756-6961 570-943-3411 x106	<a href="mailto:goodrich@hawkmtn.org">goodrich@hawkmtn.org</a>	12/30/11
28	Harrisburg	Dauphin	Deuane Hoffman	717-564-7475	<a href="mailto:corvuscorax@comcast.net">corvuscorax@comcast.net</a>	12/17/11
29	Huntingdon	Huntingdon	Deb Grove		<a href="mailto:dsg4@psu.edu">dsg4@psu.edu</a>	12/18/11

30	Indiana	Indiana	Roger & Margaret Higbee	724-354-3493	<a href="mailto:bcoriol@windstream.net">bcoriol@windstream.net</a>	12/26/11
31	Johnstown	Cambria	Sally and Tom Dick	814-266-7912	<a href="mailto:thomasd102@aol.com">thomasd102@aol.com</a>	
32	Lake Raystown	Huntingdon Blair	Greg Grove	814-667-2305	<a href="mailto:gw2@psu.edu">gw2@psu.edu</a>	12/26/11
33	Lancaster	Lancaster	Barbara Hunsberger Roger Stoner	717-393-4091	<a href="mailto:phunsberger@comcast.net">phunsberger@comcast.net</a>	12/31/11
34	Lebanon	Lebanon, Dauphin	Fritz Heilman	717-273-0487	<a href="mailto:volks5@verizon.net">volks5@verizon.net</a>	12/17/11
35	Lehigh Valley	Lehigh/Berks	Mark Boyd	610-657-9401	<a href="mailto:mrboyd58@gmail.com">mrboyd58@gmail.com</a>	12/17/11
36	Lewisburg	Union, Snyder, Northumberland	Allen Schweinsberg	570-524-0432	<a href="mailto:aschwein@bucknell.edu">aschwein@bucknell.edu</a>	12/17/11
37	Lewistown	Juniata	Elmer Petersheim Chad Kauffman	717-535-5926 717-994-6715	<a href="mailto:chadkauffman@earthlink.net">chadkauffman@earthlink.net</a>	12/17/11
38	Linesville	Crawford	Clare Nicolls	814-587-6395	<a href="mailto:tccnicolls@windstream.net">tccnicolls@windstream.net</a>	12/18/11
39	Lititz	Lancaster, Lebanon	Bruce Carl	717-368-4824	<a href="mailto:carls94@ptd.net">carls94@ptd.net</a>	1/1/12
40	Lock Haven-Jersey Shore	Clinton Lycoming	Wayne Laubscher	570-748-7511	<a href="mailto:wlaubsch@kcnet.org">wlaubsch@kcnet.org</a>	12/18/11
41	Mansfield-Wellsboro	Tioga	Gary Tyson	570-724-5789	<a href="mailto:gnats3@ptd.net">gnats3@ptd.net</a>	12/17/11
42	New Bloomfield	Perry	Ramsay Koury	717-761-1871	<a href="mailto:rkoury123@aol.com">rkoury123@aol.com</a>	12/26/11
43	Newville	Cumberland	Bill and Linda Franz	717-776-4463	<a href="mailto:wlfrenz1@yahoo.com">wlfrenz1@yahoo.com</a>	01/02/12
44	Northern Lycoming	Lycoming	Dave Ferry	570-323-1590	<a href="mailto:lycohawk@aol.com">lycohawk@aol.com</a>	12/28/11
45	Pennypack Valley	Philadelphia	Peter Kurtz	215-342-3638 215-685-0470	<a href="mailto:peter.kurtz@phila.gov">peter.kurtz@phila.gov</a>	12/17/11
46	Philipsburg	Centre Clearfield	Greg Kojadinovich	814-237-5964		
47	Pittsburgh	Allegheny	Brian Shema	412-963-6100	<a href="mailto:bshema@aswp.org">bshema@aswp.org</a>	12/31/11
48	Pittsburgh South Hills	Allegheny Washington	Nancy Page	412-221-4795		12/17/11
49	Pleasantville	Venango	Russ States	814-676-6320	<a href="mailto:pabirder@verizon.net">pabirder@verizon.net</a>	1/1/12
50	Pocono Mt.	Monroe	Brian Hardiman		<a href="mailto:bhmccd@ptd.net">bhmccd@ptd.net</a>	12/18/11
51	Potter County	Potter	Dave Hauber	814-274-8946	<a href="mailto:haubers3@penn.com">haubers3@penn.com</a>	
52	Reading	Berks	Ken Lebo	610-856-1413	<a href="mailto:klebo@dejazzd.com">klebo@dejazzd.com</a>	12/18/11
53	Rector	Westmoreland	Mike Lanzone	724-771-5133	<a href="mailto:mlanzone@gmail.com">mlanzone@gmail.com</a>	12/17/11
54	Ryerson	Greene	Marjorie Howard	724-852-3155	<a href="mailto:birdwatcher108@comcast.net">birdwatcher108@comcast.net</a>	12/17/11
55	Scranton	Lackawanna	Paul Mundy		<a href="mailto:Pmraptors@aol.com">Pmraptors@aol.com</a>	
56	Southeastern Bradford	Bradford	Trudy Gerlach	570-746-9270	<a href="mailto:tgswoods@epix.net">tgswoods@epix.net</a>	1/02/12
57	Southern Bucks	Bucks	Robert Mercer	215-785-1177	<a href="mailto:ramercer@co.bucks.pa.us">ramercer@co.bucks.pa.us</a>	12/17/11
58	Southern Lancaster County	Lancaster	Bob Schutsky	717-548-3303 (10 a.m. to 9 p.m.)	<a href="mailto:info@birdtreks.com">info@birdtreks.com</a>	12/18/11

59	State College	Centre	Jim Dunn Bob Fowles	814-863-8625 814-238-1990	<a href="mailto:jwd6@psu.edu">jwd6@psu.edu</a> <a href="mailto:rbf@psu.edu">rbf@psu.edu</a>	12/18/11
60	Tamaqua	Schuylkill Carbon	Jonathan DeBalko		<a href="mailto:jonathan.debalko@wilkes.edu">jonathan.debalko@wilkes.edu</a>	12/27/11
59	Thompson	Susquehanna	Stuart Slocum			
61	Tunkhannock	Wyoming	Rick Koval	570-829-4381 570-696-1691 (w)	<a href="mailto:poconaturalist@yahoo.com">poconaturalist@yahoo.com</a>	12/18/11
62	Upper Bucks	Bucks Montgomery Lehigh	Bill Etter	215-964-3613	<a href="mailto:billetter01@gmail.com">billetter01@gmail.com</a>	12/18/11
63	Warren	Warren	Michael Toole	814-723-4714	<a href="mailto:m_t_toole@verizon.net">m_t_toole@verizon.net</a>	12/17/11
64	Washington	Washington	Tom Contreras		<a href="mailto:tcontreras@washjeff.edu">tcontreras@washjeff.edu</a>	12/17/11
65	West Chester	Chester	Barry Blust	610-458-5616	<a href="mailto:BarryBlust@comcast.net">BarryBlust@comcast.net</a>	12/17/11
66	Western Chester	Chester	Larry Lewis	484-340-7672	<a href="mailto:earlybirdtours@comcast.net">earlybirdtours@comcast.net</a>	1/01/12
67	Western Schuylkill	Schuylkill	Dave Kruel	570-622-3704	<a href="mailto:dkrue1300@comcast.net">dkrue1300@comcast.net</a>	12/17/11
68	White Mills	Wayne	Barb Leo	570-253-2364	<a href="mailto:barbaraaleo@earthlink.net">barbaraaleo@earthlink.net</a>	12/17/11
69	Wild Creek– Little Gap	Carbon Monroe	Joshua Nemeth Dustin Welch	610-573-8577	<a href="mailto:allroy1313@rcn.com">allroy1313@rcn.com</a>	12/18/11
70	Williamsport	Lycoming	Dave Ferry	570-323-1590	<a href="mailto:lycohawk@aol.com">lycohawk@aol.com</a>	12/17/11
71	Wyncote	Montgomery	Andy Fayer		<a href="mailto:AndyFayer@aol.com">AndyFayer@aol.com</a>	12/17/11
72	York	York	Bernie Frick	717-843-6675	<a href="mailto:bernard.frick@verizon.net">bernard.frick@verizon.net</a>	12/17/11

## From the President's Desk

(continued from page 1)

involvement and insistence of their relevance, this project could very well already be a huge swath of open forest on what is now largely undisturbed ridge habitat. For the fight, the Golden Eagle Project, the PSO 2011 Conservation Award winner, provides critical, hard scientific data on flight height and patterns which brings credence to the obvious to us hawk watchers – you get close looks at these magnificent migrating raptors from Canada. Kim Van Fleet had led a group of researchers to man other sites to substantiate the importance of a narrow corridor in Pennsylvania to the limited population of the Golden Eagles of eastern North America.

In western Pennsylvania we don't have to look far to see the past abuse of the environment by the coal industry as the scars of strip mining and acid mine drainage are a significant part of the landscape. As we witness the current frenzy of Marcellus gas development, while our economy could certainly benefit, it's difficult to have faith that our legislators and government officials will manage the process in a sound environmental manner and know that the cost of damage caused by developers will fall on those who did it.

The complexity of wind and resource development is overwhelming to me since it requires extensive knowledge in science, law, and politics to take an educated position on the issues. In its November - December 2011 issue, *Audubon Magazine* acknowledges the effort of local chapters, including those along the Allegheny Front, in regard to bringing sound environment processes to power development. I thank those who take up the effort to educate and make the effort to conserve. I may not match their effort and sacrifice, but I feel the responsibility to participate, and so I support and applaud their efforts and help and contribute in ways that I can. The ABA Code of Ethics asks us to “Promote the welfare of birds and their environment.” And it takes no more than your participation in a Christmas Bird Count, so I expect you are contributing as well. Where and when you can help, please do so.

By the way, I logged 11 birds in 8 hours.

– Tom Kuehl, President  
Export, PA  
Westmoreland County  
[tjkuehl@comcast.net](mailto:tjkuehl@comcast.net)

# Pennsylvania Bird Lists Report Form for 2011

Report Totals as of 31 December 2011

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (Please print)

**Send by 20 January 2012 to:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

Peter Robinson [pabirder@hotmail.com](mailto:pabirder@hotmail.com)

\_\_\_\_\_  
City                      State      ZIP

P. O. Box 482  
Hanover, PA 17331

PLEASE include **only** those species included in the Official List of the Birds of PA (see [www.pabirds.org](http://www.pabirds.org)) or *The Birds of Pennsylvania* (McWilliams & Brauning), unless you are **very** certain of the bird's ID, and **very** confident that the bird is a wild one, not an escapee. Do not include Black Swan, Mandarin Duck, European Goldfinch, etc. **If you can, please send only the numbers that are new or have changed from last year. There is no need to submit any numbers that are the same as last year.**

**PA Life List** \_\_\_\_\_ **PA Life List Unassisted** \_\_\_\_\_ (Species found on your own. Not "chased" birds.)

**PA 2011 Annual List** \_\_\_\_\_ **Highest PA Annual List** \_\_\_\_\_ **Year** \_\_\_\_\_

Total Ticks \_\_\_\_\_ (Total for all life lists for all counties. Blue Jay in all 67 counties = 67 ticks.)

**County Life Lists** (100 species or more)

Adams _____	Delaware _____	Monroe _____
Allegheny _____	Elk _____	Montgomery _____
Armstrong _____	Erie _____	Montour _____
Beaver _____	Fayette _____	Northampton _____
Bedford _____	Forest _____	Northumberland _____
Berks _____	Franklin _____	Perry _____
Blair _____	Fulton _____	Philadelphia _____
Bradford _____	Greene _____	Pike _____
Bucks _____	Huntingdon _____	Potter _____
Butler _____	Indiana _____	Schuylkill _____
Cambria _____	Jefferson _____	Snyder _____
Cameron _____	Juniata _____	Somerset _____
Carbon _____	Lackawanna _____	Sullivan _____
Centre _____	Lancaster _____	Susquehanna _____
Chester _____	Lawrence _____	Tioga _____
Clarion _____	Lebanon _____	Union _____
Clearfield _____	Lehigh _____	Venango _____
Clinton _____	Luzerne _____	Warren _____
Columbia _____	Lycoming _____	Washington _____
Crawford _____	McKean _____	Wayne _____
Cumberland _____	Mercer _____	Westmoreland _____
Dauphin _____	Mifflin _____	Wyoming _____
		York _____

**County Annual Lists** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

## Answers to Bird Quiz

(page 6)

1. Swainson's Hawk
2. Lesser Nighthawk
3. Chester and Delaware
4. Long-tailed Duck
5. Boat-tailed Grackle

## Electronic Newsletter Available

If you prefer to receive the electronic version rather than the printed newsletter, please e-mail Frank Haas at [fchaas@pabirds.org](mailto:fchaas@pabirds.org).

## PSO Newsletter

This newsletter is published four times a year by the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology. To renew your membership, send your check made payable to "PSO" to:

Membership Categories:

PSO	Individual	\$ 28.50
2469 Hammertown Road	Family	\$ 32.50
Narvon, PA 17555-9730	Sustaining	\$ 42.50

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