

PSO Newsletter



The Newsletter of the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology

February 2000

Volume 11, Number 1

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK...

The coldest week of winter wasn't enough to keep our Shetland Sheepdog, Kestrel, inside Jan. 22. So I took her out for the afternoon constitutional. This day, just as we've done on many days since fall, we walked down through the town park. Getting Kestrel across Main Street a quarter-mile from our house was again a chore - she's never happy about having to wait for traffic to pass.

Once across, we were back on the snow. About 3 inches fell on the Nescopeck Creek Valley of Luzerne County last week, and a bit more was due in later this weekend. Kestrel loves the snow; she leaps and runs whenever there's a chance and likes to plunge through the drifts.

The town park, like many such places across our state, consists of about 95% lawn, with only a few scattered trees, mostly exotics, to break up the monotony of Kentucky bluegrass and dandelion. A small creek, however, runs down through the middle of the park, effectively splitting this little piece of public land into two parcels.

Downslope at the far end of the park, the little creek plunges over a sunken concrete wall and enters the Little Nescopeck Creek. Shelf ice lined both sides of the tributary on this day. The stream flowed underneath, however, and every few feet water seemed to pulse through gaps in the shelf ice, much like water rising and falling in a drinking straw.

Birds are few in this place that's been reshaped to fit the needs of humans hungry for a tennis match or a pickup game of basketball on the asphalt court that sits next to a well-kept but little-used handball court.

Even here, though, with time and a little luck there are birds to be seen and enjoyed - even at the height of winter. A flock of four bluebirds visited the park a few weeks ago, perching on the chain link fence that is supposed to keep baseballs from the Little League field from finding their way into the creek. These birds were feeding on insects, worms, it looked to me, which had been lured to the surface by the rains of late December.

The Little Nescopeck Creek is not bird-friendly. This tributary of Nescopeck Creek, which supports river otters in its headwaters region, has been dead from acid mine drainage since the early years of the 20th century. Some 50,000 gallons of AMD enters the Little Nescopeck each minute of every hour of every day. The AMD is funneled through the Earth by a network of tunnels that drains more than 30 square miles of old anthracite mines in the Hazleton area.

Down here, though, at the edge of the lawn and the broken bank of this dead stream, there were birds. Off to the left, in a tangle of winterberry, multiflora rose and a viburnum of unknown species, Dark-eyed Juncos and a few White-throated Sparrows popped up to investigate my spishes. Across the Little Nescopeck, a mixed flock of Black-capped Chickadees, two Downy Woodpeckers, a Tufted Titmouse and at least two White-breasted Nuthatches was working through the shagbark hickories, hemlocks and oaks that grow on this flood plain.

It's not much of a forest now - just a tiny, linear woodlot of what must have been a fine forest some 250 years ago. Many, many generations of chickadees have come and gone. Are the chickadees I see in the fading light descendants of chickadees that foraged here two centuries back?

Here, and at thousands of like places in our valley alone, there are still birds to be found, counted and enjoyed. Kestrel and I are standing just a few hundred yards inside the circle of the two-year-old Nescopeck Mountain Christmas Bird Count. Despite all the changes that humans have brought to the land here, native wildlife persists.

The challenge, unknown to Kestrel but in my thoughts throughout the course of each waking day - is to keep this landscape together, and even, if possible, to stitch the broken pieces back together, to make a whole again out of the shattered pieces.

Now it is darkening and only the chip note of a Northern Cardinal carries forth from the woods ahead of me. We turn around and head home.

The land preservation movement in this county is gaining steam this winter. If you don't have such a campaign under way in the place you call home, get one started. Call a meeting of like-minded people. Talk it over. Find a way to jumpstart the campaign.

Speak out for the land. Speak out for the birds of Pennsylvania. Speak out for the wildlife we share this place with.

In late May, your PSO will convene in Waynesburg, Greene County, for its 11th annual meeting. The agenda will include field trips, a wealth of expert speakers, and plenty of time to renew friendships. The speakers will include radio personality and naturalist Scott Shalaway. I had the pleasure to be a guest on Scott's show not too many weeks ago. I'm indebted to Scott for giving me the opportunity to talk about the PSO in particular and the great activity we call birding in general.

In the mail this week came two copies of the outstanding new book on the birds of our state written by Dan Brauning and Jerry McWilliams. One of my two copies went right away to The Nature Conservancy's Pocono office - a gift for their growing library of naturalist's tools. I'm giving another copy to the local public library.

Please consider giving a copy to your town's library as well. You can purchase the book at a substantial discount from any of several Internet-based booksellers. Buy two copies - one for your own library and the other to share with your community.

Congratulations again (and again) to Dan and Jerry for their outstanding work!

See you this spring in Greene County. Look for more details of our annual meeting in this newsletter.

For the wild,

- Alan Gregory, President

Starting your new Millennium Century Decade year list (anyway)

Maybe you are like me, uncertain how to categorize this year. Just the thought is remarkable-it is actually the year 2000. But is this the start of a new millennium, the century, or even the decade? All are not agreed. Most news reports of the New Year celebrations made references to 'starting the new millennium' while conceding that technically speaking the new millennium won't start until January 1, 2001 (there never was a year "0"). Why do you suppose the "Space Odyssey" was 2001, not 2000? Anyway, if we are dating things from the

birth of Christ most scholars agree that we are four years late already!

Do we agree that new millennium won't start for another year? I started a new notebook for my bird records, boldly labeling "2000" across the top. It doesn't feel like the 20th Century any longer, and it certainly isn't the 1900s. We are privileged to live during the change of not just a Century, but a millennium. But who decides when I start my 21st Century List? PORC? The PSO Board? Me? HELP!!!

Seriously, the way we keep our lists is of great personal interest. My bird lists help me mark time, remember places visited long ago, and recall people with whom I've shared bird observations. I'd like to begin a 21st Century state bird list, to give me a new incentive to see again the birds of this diverse state, slow the loss of my birding skills, or just to get outside! While in reality January 1 2000 was just another day, the changing of the calendar provides a new inspiration to document what we know, that future generations may better understand the ebbs and flows in the diversity of life.

So make your 2000 list, and we'll eventually sort out what Century it belongs.

- Dan Brauning

THE RAVEN REPORTER



Tales of Discovery
from the Special Areas Project

Homage to Aldo: SAP Volunteers Honor A Remarkable Man's Ideas

"There are some who can live without wild things, and some who cannot. These essays are the delights and dilemmas of one who cannot. Like winds and sunsets, wild things were taken for granted until progress began to do away with them."

From the Foreword to *A Sand County Almanac*.

1999 marked the 50th anniversary of the publication of *A Sand County Almanac* by Aldo Leopold, one of the century's most important conservation books by one of its most innovative thinkers. Leopold's graceful and thoughtful writings have

inspired hundreds of people towards the ideas of wildlife conservation and a land ethic.

One of Leopold's core ideas was that wilderness was a field laboratory waiting for us to explore and document. By studying wild and natural areas, Leopold asserted that we can better understand the land's potential for supporting healthy ecosystems and their wildlife populations. The information gathered in our wildest and most natural areas serves as a baseline by which to measure areas resisting or recovering from human-derived changes.

How can we know the capacities of our land to support healthy bird populations? What are the real possibilities? Fortunately we have some examples that provide us inspiration and instruction. For the best ideas of what constitutes high quality bird habitat, we have our natural areas as well as some game lands and forest lands for examples. The state's DCNR Natural Areas give us a glimpse of how our least spoiled natural communities function. SAP volunteers who have inventoried the state's natural areas have found rich and diverse breeding bird communities. Detweiler's Run, Alan Seeger, Bear Meadows, and Quebec Run are among the natural areas that provide a benchmark by which to measure other locations. Although not pristine, some of the larger wetlands are also monitored by SAP volunteers. These include the large western Pennsylvania wetlands found in Game Lands 95 and 284. They include a wide diversity of birdlife, including some of the rarest nesting species in the state. The data gathered from the Piney Tract show what grassland birds will occupy a large-scale prairie-like property. This remarkable place supports the largest populations of Upland Sandpipers, Northern Harriers, Short-eared Owls, and Henslow's Sparrows, not to mention the newly established Clay-colored Sparrows.

Bird communities give us indications of the health of the land they live on. Some birds serve as useful indicators of ecosystem health --- of how things are working in our special areas. When we find those indicators we verify that the place we are visiting is healthy. One example is the Louisiana Waterthrush. Where streams are healthy, there are many Louisiana Waterthrushes nesting along their length. These wood-warblers are indicators of high quality streams and healthy watersheds. They forage under the forest canopy for stream invertebrates that, in turn, depend on good water quality. At least 28 Special Areas have recorded Louisiana Waterthrush as a breeding species. Scattered across the state, these areas include islands of good bird habitat in a sea of suburbia like Marsh Creek and Evansburg State Parks and some of the wildest areas of the state. Several natural areas support breeding Louisiana Waterthrush populations. Quality watersheds inventoried by SAP volunteers range from Quebec Run and Ohioyle in the southwest to Ricketts Glen and Wyoming State Forest in the north. Along streams where shrubs and saplings grow, Canada and Black-throated Blue warblers preside. This condition only exists where deer

populations and acid rain have not eliminated understory vegetation and replaced it with a sea of ferns.

Pennsylvania's large forests are important for the continued viability of forest birds. Places like Hickory Run State Park support large populations of Wood Thrush and Ovenbird. It is not enough for forests to be large and unfragmented. It is also important that they grow on fertile soils, rich in organic materials. Our state's mountainside forests support the largest Scarlet Tanager nesting population in the world. Not only do these forests support songbirds, some are big enough and wild enough to support Northern Goshawks, Barred Owls, and Wild Turkeys. Will Pennsylvania's forests continue to support productive populations of birds? Or will fragmentation, deer over-browsing, water and air pollution degrade the forests to the point where even our common bird species are not reproducing well enough to replace themselves? Population sink forests, where species are not successful enough to replace themselves, have been documented by researchers in the mid-west and near metropolitan areas of the eastern seaboard. Many woods in the state's southern tier counties are approaching the desperate conditions found in the mid-west where agriculture and development have made forests into small islands of habitat. Although it is easy to dismiss our wooded parks and forests, they are perhaps our state's greatest contribution to the world's bird populations. By monitoring bird populations, we keep a keen eye on the land where the birds live.

Healthy forests have well developed canopies that support insect-gleaning songbirds. Where do we find some of the high canopy species like Cerulean Warbler? Several SAPs have reported Ceruleans, especially in western riparian forests. Not only have Ceruleans been reported from well known places like Raccoon Creek State Park, but also at less well known places like Game Lands 296 along Jacobs Creek and Game Lands 55 on Jonestown Mountain. In general, quality riparian forests are poorly represented in the state's land holdings. Tall sycamores and silver maples provide homes to Yellow-throated Vireos, Warbling Vireos, and Northern Parulas in the few public lands with healthy and extensive riparian forests.

The state's wild parklands are often considered in only recreational terms. Even conservationists promote the important economic value of wild areas as sources of ecotourism dollars in rural communities. Yet they have even greater value as nurseries for wildlife, as protectors of watersheds and plantations for forests. When they are threatened, wildlife observers, in the form of Audubon societies or bird conservationists, come to the aid of wetlands threatened by bungling or ill-chosen plans by state agencies. Not only do we come running with our passion for and commitment to important components of our state's ecosystems, but we hold data in our hands to back our claims that the various components of wilderness are vital to birds and other wildlife. We have been there and we have seen and heard it ourselves.

An integral part of *A Sand County Almanac* is the series of personal observations made by Leopold near his family's cabin in the sand hills of Wisconsin. He knew oaks and owls personally and wrote about them with great familiarity and affection. It is much easier to protect the natural world if we have a better understanding of what it is and how it works. This understanding comes from observation. As we, the state's birders and naturalists, walk the trails along creeks and ridges and tiptoe around the edges of cattail marshes and sphagnum bogs, we are making observations in our own favorite wild and natural places. We learn as we go. We record what we find and we find what Pennsylvania has to offer. Our club's Special Areas Project gives us a framework and repository for our observations on the health and prosperity of the state's lands --- and the fact that we care about them enough to visit, record, and protect them. We celebrate not only the anniversary of *A Sand County Almanac*, but we are writing our own legacy as observers and recordists of the natural world in our green country of ridges, runs, rimrock, and trees ---- as well as the birds that live there.

Douglas A. Gross
PSO Special Areas Project
R. R. 1, Box 147, Orangeville, PA 17859
office phone: 570-542-2191
e-mail: douggross@sunlink.net

CONSERVATION CORNER

There is some good news for conservation and birders in Pennsylvania. In December, 1999, Gov. Ridge signed House Bill 868 that will provide \$645.9 million over five years to fund a host of environmental programs. Although conservationists were disappointed that certain proposed amendments were not included, such as a proposal to include the Game Commission and the Fish and Boat Commission, there is still much to be pleased about. For example, there is money to cut into the backlog of farmland preservation, money to protect open space, money to clean up abandoned mines and money for trails and local parks. All of which can clean up and/or protect habitat for wildlife.

The money will be spent over a five year period; \$109.9 million the first year and \$135 million a year for the next four. After that, who knows - maybe we can convince the legislature to pass a permanent source of funding so that conservation in Pennsylvania will continue to receive the money it needs and deserves.

However, that is not all. There is potentially good news at the federal level as well. Presently, in the U.S. House of Representatives, there is a bill that would establish a long-term source of funds for conservation and would provide millions of

dollars every year for conservation programs and projects. The bill is The Conservation and Reinvestment Act of 1999 (H.R. 701) or CARA for short. If passed, the bill would provide approximately \$2.4 billion annually and automatically, until 2015 for state Land and Water Conservation Funds, state wildlife agencies, urban parks, federal and tribal land restoration, conservation easements, endangered species and the North American Wetlands Conservation Act. Further, it authorizes Congress to allocate up to \$450 million annually for federal land acquisitions under the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Pennsylvania alone would receive more than \$13 million per year for fish and wildlife conservation and wildlife-based education.

The bill passed the House Resources Committee in November, 1999 and has bipartisan support. Although there are still some concerns about the bill, such as coastal communities using the money for potentially environmentally destructive projects or the potential for encouraging coastal communities to support more coastal oil and gas drilling, the positives of the bill outweigh the negatives. Environmental organizations such as the National Wildlife Federation are supporting the bill but are continuing to work to improve it. PSO members are encouraged to write their Congressman and urge him to support this bill. More detailed information on the bill is available at the NWF web site at www.nwf.org. Please, check out the web site and write your Congressman. Right now we have the chance to obtain needed funds for conservation for us and for future generations of birders. Thank you.

— Mark Henry, Conservation Chairperson

ORNITHOLOGICAL LITERATURE NOTES

(Editor's note: This is the second in a periodic series highlighting recent publications of interest to Pennsylvania ornithologists and birders.)

The Hemlock Hill Research Area, a privately owned 150-hectare forest surrounded by farmland in Rockdale Township, Crawford County, is an important center of research in northwestern Pennsylvania which is better recognized nationally than within the state itself. This tract, in which hemlock is the dominant tree on about 50 hectares, has been designated as a Pennsylvania Important Bird Area.

For nearly a decade, studies at Hemlock Hill, primarily of the Hooded Warbler, have produced a large body of literature covering many aspects of this species' breeding biology and ecology. Much of the work has been led or done by Eugene S. Morton, a senior research ornithologist at the Smithsonian's National Zoological Park and adjunct professor at the University of Maryland; Bridget J. M. Stutchbury, an associate

professor of biology at York University in Ontario; and their graduate students. Joan S. Howlett, a biological consultant and independent research ornithologist who lives in Edinboro, has worked closely with them.

Morton's research in many regions of the world has made significant contributions to the knowledge of vocal communication of birds, life histories of tropical birds, evolution and conservation of Neotropical migratory birds, and the evolution of avian mating systems. At Hemlock Hill he recently compared the mating systems of Blue-headed and Red-eyed Vireos and is currently investigating vocal communication in the Blue-headed Vireo.

Stutchbury began long-term study of Hooded Warblers at Hemlock Hill in 1991. Via DNA fingerprinting and radio tracking, she discovered that extra-pair matings are a common behavior in the species and that both males and females actively seek extra-pair mating partners.

Howlett's special interests are breeding bird ecology and predation, and she experimentally showed by removing nest cover that nest concealment is not related to nest predation in Hooded Warblers. She has studied the breeding behavior of the Acadian Flycatcher and is presently examining factors affecting between-season dispersal in Hooded Warblers.

Some studies in the bibliography below had especially fascinating results because they were contrary to reasonable expectations or long-held assumptions. For example:

* It has been commonly assumed that in open-nesting birds concealed nests are less likely to be depredated than conspicuous nests. However, successful Hooded Warbler nests at Hemlock Hill were found not to differ significantly from depredated nests in visibility, density of surrounding vegetation, and other features of the nest and its microhabitat. Nor did nests experimentally made conspicuous by removal of vegetation suffer higher predation rates than less visible control nests. The authors suggested that these results would be expected if nest predation is the result of nonspecialist predators basing their search on a location's general food availability, not specifically on the location and conspicuousness of nests (Howlett and Stutchbury 1996).

* It is well known that removals of Brown-headed Cowbirds have dramatically increased reproductive success in some declining bird species. Yet experimental removal of the female cowbirds at Hemlock Hill, though reducing parasitism on Hooded Warbler nests, did not significantly increase the warblers' overall reproductive success. The reason was that losses from predation of entire clutches and broods swamped the much smaller gains achieved by cowbird control. The author noted that cowbird removals are more likely to benefit host species where parasitism outweighs predation as a leading cause of nest mortality (Stutchbury 1997).

* It has long been assumed that predation of first nests has an influence on how far birds disperse from the original site to attempt a second nesting. But opposite to that expectation, female Hooded Warblers from successful first nests at Hemlock Hill dispersed farther for reneating than did unsuccessful females. As a possible explanation, the authors suggested that greater dispersal by successful females may result from avoidance of fledglings that still need care and remain near the nest with the male. The study did fulfill one prediction by the authors, based on their previous finding that nest concealment and predation rates had no significant relationship: Consistent with that result, females suffering predation of their first nest did not conceal their second nest better than females whose first nests were successful (Howlett and Stutchbury 1997).

The authors often took a carefully conservative approach in interpreting some results, emphasizing that their findings involved a single species at a single site and recommending further studies on other species and in other habitats.

Recent publications from ornithological research conducted at Hemlock Hill Research Area, Crawford County, PA:

Evans Ogden, L. J., and B. J. M. Stutchbury. 1996. Constraints on double brooding in a Neotropical migrant, the Hooded Warbler. *The Condor* 98:736-744

Evans Ogden, L. J., and B. J. M. Stutchbury. 1997. Fledgling care and male parental effort in the Hooded Warbler (*Wilsonia citrina*). *Canadian Journal of Zoology* 75:576-581.

Howlett, J. S. and B. J. Stutchbury. 1996. Nest concealment and predation in Hooded Warblers: experimental removal of nest cover. *The Auk* 113:1-9.

Howlett, J. S. and B. J. Stutchbury. 1997. Within-season dispersal, nest-site modification, and predation in reneating Hooded Warblers. *Wilson Bulletin* 109:643-649.

Mark, D. and B. J. Stutchbury. 1994. Response of a forest-interior songbird to the threat of cowbird parasitism. *Animal Behaviour* 47:275-280.

Morton, E. S., B. J. M. Stutchbury, J. S. Howlett, and W. H. Piper. 1998. Genetic monogamy in Blue-headed Vireos and a comparison with a sympatric vireo with extra-pair paternity. *Behavioral Ecology* 9:515-524.

Neudorf, D. L., B. J. M. Stutchbury, and W. H. Piper. 1997. Covert extra-territorial behaviour of female Hooded Warblers. *Behavioral Ecology* 8:595-600.

Neudorf, D. L. and T. E. Pitcher. 1997. Radio transmitters do not affect nestling feeding rates by female Hooded Warblers. *Journal of Field Ornithology* 68:64-68.

Stutchbury, B. J. M. 1997. The effects of adult cowbird removal on the nesting success of Hooded Warblers. *Wilson Bulletin* 109:74-81.

Stutchbury, B. J. M. 1998. Extra-pair mating effort of male Hooded Warblers, *Wilsonia citrina*. *Animal Behaviour* 55:553-561.

Stutchbury, B. J., J. M. Rhymer and E. S. Morton. 1994. Extra-pair paternity in hooded warblers. *Behavioral Ecology* 5:384-392.

Stutchbury, B. J. and J. S. Howlett. 1995. Does male-like coloration in female Hooded Warblers increase nest predation? *The Condor* 97:559-564.

*Stutchbury, B. J. and L. J. Evans Ogden. 1996. Fledgling adoption in Hooded Warblers (*Wilsonia citrina*): does extra-pair paternity play a role? *The Auk* 113:218-220.

Stutchbury, B. J. M., W. H. Piper, D. L. Neudorf, S. A. Tarof, J. M. Rhymer, G. Fuller, and R. C. Fleischer. 1997. Correlates of extra-pair fertilization success in hooded warblers. *Behavioral Ecology and Sociobiology* 40:119-126.

*Tarof, S.A. and B.J. Stutchbury. 1996. A case of cooperative breeding in the hooded warbler. *Wilson Bulletin*. 108:382-384.

Tarof, S. A., B. J. M. Stutchbury, and G. F. Bennett. 1997. Low infection prevalence of blood parasites in Hooded Warblers. *Journal of Field Ornithology* 68:75-78.

Tarof, S. A., B. J. M. Stutchbury and W. H. Piper. 1998. Does high breeding density increase the frequency of extra-pair fertilizations in Hooded Warblers? *Journal of Avian Biology* 29:145-154.

*Short communications

– Paul Hess

11th ANNUAL PSO MEETING 5/19 - 5/21/2000

The 11th annual PSO meeting will take place May 19-21, 2000 in Waynesburg, Greene County. As usual the meeting will include a social, our annual business meeting, field trips and talks and a banquet Saturday night with Scott Shalaway as the featured speaker.

Field trip locations will include Ralph Bell's farm, Ryerson Station State Park, the Enlow Fork Game Lands and possibly Ohiopyle on Sunday. The Bell's farm trip includes a driving and walking tour of the area surrounding Ralph Bell's farm. Ralph has been birding the area for over 50 years and is very familiar with his area. Expected species include Purple Martins, Yellow-throated, Cerulean and Kentucky Warblers and hopefully Summer Tanager. Ryerson Station is the easiest trip featuring simple walking and driving. The park has a small lake and woodland paths. There is a Great Blue Heron colony. Migrant warblers and other woodland passerines are expected. Local breeding birds of interest include Yellow-throated, Cerulean and Kentucky Warblers, Orchard Orioles and once again, possibly Summer Tanagers. Enlow Fork is a slightly more difficult walk. This area is a wonderful steep-sided stream valley with lovely scenery and good birding. Typical species include Parula, Yellow-throated, Cerulean and Kentucky Warblers along with other migrants. This area's claim to fame is a beautiful wildflower, the Blue-eyed Mary which should be in bloom when we are there.

The banquet and other activities will take place at Rohanna's restaurant which is about five minutes away from the local hotels. Hotel choices include:

Super 8 (724) 627-8880
Comfort Inn (724) 627-3700
Econo Lodge (724) 627-5544

Further details and a registration form will be sent out in a later mailing. In the meantime, Deuane Hoffman will attempt to answer any questions sent to raven@paonline.com.

OTHER PSO NOTES

The new PSO membership brochures are done. Members are encouraged to distribute these at appropriate locations in their areas. Anyone wanting brochures for distribution should contact Alan Gregory at 570/788-1425 (evenings), 570/455-3636(days) or meg5@psu.edu.

The Newsletter Editor appreciates any comments on the contents of this newsletter, suggestions for improvement or information for future newsletters. Calendar information will be printed as space allows. Contact me, Katrina Knight, at PO Box 6802, Wyomissing, PA 19610 or kknight@epix.net or 610/372-3671.

The Pennsylvania Audubon Society wishes to announce that it has a new home at Wildwood Lake in Harrisburg and that Steve Hoffman has been hired as Director of Bird Conservation.

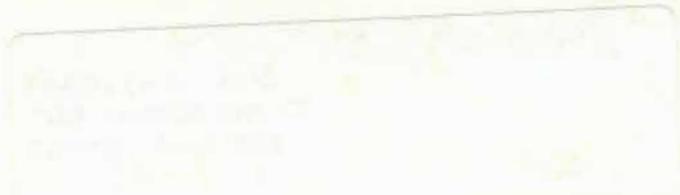
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 4th Sunday, every month** - Birding at Kirby Park Natural Area, Wilkes Barre - Greater Wyoming Valley Audubon Society. Meet at 8 AM at Kirby Park parking lot beneath Market Street. Contact Alan Gregory 570/788-1425 (evenings) or 570/455-3636(days).
- 2/27/2000** - Pennypack Environmental Center, Philadelphia, Ralph Mancke will speak about working with the Philippine Eagle Foundation, 2 PM. Contact the PEC at 215/685-0470.
- 3/4/2000** - Yellow Creek State Park field trip - Todd Bird Club, contact Margaret & Roger Higbee 724/354-3493. Meet at the park office at 8 AM. Trips will also be held on **3/11** (contact Georgette Syster 724/349-6293), **3/18** (contact Marcy and Dan Cunkelman 724/726-5181), **3/25** (contact Dory Jacobs 724/349-2876) and **4/1** (contact the Higbees).
- 3/4/2000** - Middle Creek WMA field trip - Appalachian Audubon Society, contact Pete Lusardi 717/243-6419.
- 3/7/2000** - Todd Bird Club, Indiana PA - Mark McConaughy will speak about the Brady's Bend Hawk Watch. Contact either Carol Guba 724/465-4429 or Margaret Higbee 724/354-3493. Other meeting dates include **4/4** and **5/2**.
- 3/11/2000** - Middle Creek WMA field trip - West Chester Bird Club, meet at 7:30 AM at the Best Western on Rte 100 south of Rte 113. Contact Barry Blust at 610/458-5616.
- 3/18/2000** - Harrisburg Capital Greenbelt Walk - Appalachian Audubon Society, contact Norman LaCasse 717/783-0385.
- 3/18/2000** - Blue Marsh Lake field trip, Berks County - Baird Ornithological Club. Meet at the visitor's center at 8 AM. Contact: Joan Silagy 610/926-3823.
- 3/19/2000** - Waterfowl survey, Ned Smith Center, Millersburg, PA 8:30 AM-1 PM followed by hot luncheon and program on cavity-nesting birds by Scott Shalaway. For info on either event: 717/692-3699 or nedsmith@epix.net.
- 3/19/2000** - Birdhouse Workshop, Pennypack Environmental Center, Philadelphia 1 PM - Includes building a birdhouse and instructions on where to put it. Contact the PEC at 215/685-0470. Registration required.
- 4/2/2000** - Lake Ontelaunee field trip, Berks County - Baird Ornithological Club. Meet at 8 AM at the dam breast. Contact: Bill Uhrich 610/373-8109.
- 4/3/2000** - West Chester Bird Club, - Todd Bauman will speak about Northern Saw-whet Owl Banding. Other meeting dates include **2/21**, **3/6**, **3/20**, **4/17**, **5/1** and **5/15**. For more info, contact Martin Page at 610/359-9887 or see http://pages.prodigy.net/martin_page/wcbc/wbcchome.htm for info on meetings and other field trips.
- 4/8/2000** - Basics of Bird ID class, Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association, Ambler, PA. Additional classes will be held on **4/15**, **4/29** and **5/7**. Classes can be taken separately. For details 215/646-8866 or <http://www.wvwa.org>
- 4/8/2000** - Presque Isle State Park field trip - Todd Bird Club, contact the Higbees at 724/354-3493.
- 4/8/2000** - Land of Lakes Gamelands field trip, Cambridge Springs, PA - Presque Isle Audubon Society. Contact Joan Howlett at 814/734-1765 or dhowlett@edinboro.edu.
- 4/9/2000** - Kids Fest, Lehigh University, Allentown, PA. This is an event with various activities for kids and families. Lehigh Valley Audubon Society will be providing some of the activities. Contact LVAS at 610/814-0701.
- 4/14/2000** - Baird Ornithological Club program - Dr Barton Smith will give a talk "Charles Darwin: Beetles, Birds, Beagle and Bishops" - Reading Public Museum, Reading, PA 7:30 PM. Other programs on **3/10** and **4/28**. Contact Bill Uhrich 610/373-8109 or Katrina Knight 610/372-3671 or kknight@epix.net for info on programs or additional field trips throughout the spring.
- 4/14-15/2000** - Birds Over the Valley - Two day beginning and intermediate birding courses by the Lehigh Valley Audubon Society. For more info, contact the LVAS at 610/814-0701.
- 4/18/2000** - Gwynedd Wildlife Preserve bird walk, 7:30 PM - Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association. Contact: 215/646-8866 or <http://www.wvwa.org>. Additional walks on **4/25** (Armentrout Preserve) and **5/2** (Ft Washington State Park).
- 5/6/2000** - Second Annual Bluebird Conference - Mechanicsburg, PA, Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania. Features a variety of talks and discussions relating to bluebirds. Register by 4/23. For info call Diane Barbin at 717/651-0580 or Kathy Clark at 717/938-4089, or send email to bsporg@aol.com.
- 5/6/2000** - "From Woods to Water: A Festival of Birds, PPL Montour Nature Preserve, Danville, PA. Offers a variety of opportunities for observing and learning about birds including a special program just for kids. Contact:
- 5/12/2000** - Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association Birdathon, Ambler, PA area. For info: 215/646-8866 or <http://www.wvwa.org>.
- 5/12-13/2000** - 2nd Spring Bird Festival of Western Pennsylvania: "Forests, Grasslands and their Birdlife", Sandy Lake, PA - Sponsored by the McKeever Environmental Learning Center & Bartramian Audubon Society, McKeever Environmental Learning Center & Bartramian Audubon Society. Talks and field trips. To receive registration information, contact the McKeever Center: 724/376-1000, www.mckeever.org, or info@mckeever.org
- 5/13/2000** - North American Migration Count - nationwide, contact your local birding organization for info on your county's count.
- 5/13/2000** - Beginning birders Presque Isle field trip, Presque Isle Audubon Society, Contact Toby & Jean Cunningham at 814/796-2070.
- 6/2-4/2000** - Allegany Nature Pilgrimage, Allegany State Park, Salamanca, New York - sponsored by Presque Isle Audubon Society, family-oriented event with a variety of field trips, bird-banding and evening programs. Contact Lisa Danko at 814/824- 2373 or sdanko9484@aol.com for more info.
- 6/3/2000** - Valley Forge Audubon Society Spring Bird Count. To participate, contact Edie Parnum at 610/964-8331 or eparnum@aol.com.



Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology

c/o Katrina Knight
PO Box 6802
Wyomissing, PA 19610



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED