

PSO Newsletter



The Newsletter of the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology

May 2000

Volume 11, Number 2

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK...

See you at the society's annual meeting at Waynesburg May 19-20-21. It's our 11th annual meeting and it should be great one. Get your registration form in now.

**** "A word about conservation" It seems like every town and politician has a "vision" these days - visions of how to make things better for the townspeople and constituents, respectively. But what these "visions" usually amount to are such shallow initiatives as planting a few zinnias and maybe some trees along the "gateway" to town. And don't forget the magic potion slogans like "Growing Smarter." Throw in a "welcome-to-so-and-so" sign or two and the aura of greatness seems to grow exponentially. It's the kind of stuff that public relations pros push at photo op time. And it's the kind of stuff that politicians like to throw pork at - oops money. Little is actually accomplished, of course, but flacks and spin masters chew this stuff up like a Hereford chewing its cud.

What we really need, though, in order to turn things around - both for wildlife and our cities - is a program that goes beyond mere paperwork and photo ops at the latest ground-breaking ceremony to the practical, implementation stage. The most visionary conservation program out there today is The Wildlands Project. The Wildlands Project (TWP for short) is about "reconnecting" the remaining wildlands across North America. It's about "re-wilding" the land - to the benefit of both humans and our brethren in the community of wildness. Launched by Dave Foreman and such conservation biologists as Michael Soule and Reed Noss and carried on today by such eminent people as John Terborgh, TWP is the kind of vision that conservationists need today, and ought to support now. Sure it has sort of a pie-in-the-sky look, but what's wrong with dreaming big; with dreaming big things for conservation. TWP is also about making our cities more livable. It's about learning to live modestly and in concert once again with moose, ravens, vesper sparrows, hummingbirds, hummingbird moths, aphrodite fritillaries, bronze copper butterflies, rocks, snow, ice, wind and the stars over our heads. The Wildlands Project is an organization seeking to guide the implementation of a North

American wilderness recovery strategy. Through advocacy, education, scientific research, and cooperation with regional groups, The Wildlands Project, is drafting a blueprint for an interconnected, continental-scale system of protected wildlands linked by habitat corridors. To date much of this North American conservation strategy is being developed by regional organizations with the assistance from The Wildlands Project. Within the Rocky Mountains, work is under way in southern Arizona and New Mexico, northern Sonora, much of Colorado, Montana and throughout the Canadian Rockies to the Yukon. There are also regional groups to our north and to our south. Now a TWP campaign has been launched in Pennsylvania. A statewide meeting is planned for Dec. 2 at State College. Look for more details later. In the meantime you can help by becoming a TWP supporter in Pennsylvania. Write to The Wildlands Project at 1955 W. Grant Rd., Suite 148A, Tucson, Ariz. 85745. And while you're at it, start a subscription to "Wild Earth" magazine, the premier conservation journal on this continent. Come home to the wild.

— Alan Gregory, President

CONSERVATION CORNER

PSO members - are you in favor of allowing all-terrain vehicles to run around every state forest road and state park road while you are trying to bird? If not, then now is the time to write your state officials and let them know how you feel.

Last year, Rep. Hanna from Lock Haven, prepared legislation to open all unpaved roads in state forests and state parks to all-terrain vehicles (ATVs). At the hearing that Rep. Hanna held in Centre County, supporters of the proposal spoke first and it was clear that the ATV industry as well as ATV owners had orchestrated their testimony. It was also apparent that Rep. Hanna and the three other legislators were listening to the promoters of ATVs at the expense of those who do not favor such a proposal. Late in the afternoon, a few of us had the

opportunity to speak in opposition but, by then, most of the legislators had left.

Arguments for allowing ATVs in state forests and parks included a so-called economic benefit for rural PA because of all the ATV riders traveling around the state to ride their ATVs on state property. Also included was the economic benefit to a select few businesses. Another argument was that people had purchased ATVs and didn't have very many places to ride.

What the proponents of this proposal neglected to mention were the negative impacts of ATVs. Aside from the loud noise and the irresponsible behavior of a significant number of ATV riders, there will be soil erosion, sedimentation of streams, air pollution from the engines, increased litter, trampled vegetation, disturbance of and in some cases, harassment of wildlife and potential conflicts between ATV riders and everyone else.

Further, regarding the economic benefits, how many people who use the state land now will stay away from these areas because of the ATVs? I suspect that some areas could end up losing tourist dollars instead of gaining them. As for not having a place to ride, people who purchase ATVs knew this when they purchased the vehicles. Just because you spend several thousand dollars on anything, doesn't give you the right to abuse public lands. And as a side note, ATV owners like to claim that they have "cleaned up their act" and behave responsibly. While that may be true to a limited degree, many of us continue to experience irresponsible behavior by ATV riders.

Who is going to police these ATV riders? Currently, there are not enough state employees to patrol existing state lands. Is the state going to hire several dozen more employees to patrol state lands? If so, how much is this going to cost? In all probability, more than any economic benefit realized.

Since that hearing, the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) has started exploring the feasibility of expanding trails for ATVs. Currently, there are approximately 184 miles of ATV trails on state land. In a telephone conversation with Secretary Oliver, he told me that DCNR is examining the proposal and that they are considering several options. One is to purchase old strip mines and create ATV trails there. DCNR is also preparing a 15 year Resource Management Plan for state forests that will include ATV use.

It is obvious that a few politicians and the industry are pressuring DCNR to "provide" for ATVs. The fact that the number of ATV owners has greatly increased along with the sizeable amount of money from the \$20 registration fee, has resulted in a "cry" for relief from ATV owners. This has apparently convinced DCNR that they must provide for this special interest group by adding ATV trails on state lands. And whether or not the ATVs will be confined to "old strip mines"

remains to be seen - there are already rumors that ATV trails will be provided for on other state lands.

Pennsylvania has a history of politicians and special interest groups interfering with good land management practices and this situation is no different. I feel certain that Rep. Hanna and friends will try to open as much state land as they can to ATVs. It is up to us to let our governmental officials know how we feel. In my experience, ATVs and the resource have not "mixed" well in most instances and as stewards of the resource, it must come first. We have a responsibility to protect the resource for all citizens, now and for those in the future.

If you value your state forest and state park lands for birding and other non-destructive activities, please write Governor Ridge, Secretary Oliver and your state representative and tell them you oppose opening up state lands to ATVs. Our letters today can make a difference in the future toward maintaining the integrity of our state forests and state parks.

Addresses

The Honorable Tom Ridge, Governor
Main Capitol Building, Room 225
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Secretary John Oliver
PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
7th floor, Rachel Carson State Office Building
P.O. Box 8767
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8767

– Mark Henry, Conservation Chairperson

THE RAVEN REPORTER



Tales of Discovery from the Special Areas Project

SAP Milestones: Over 1 Million Birds and Counting

The PSO Special Areas Project has reached 1 million birds recorded in its database. We now have over 4,200 field trips representing 105 locations. There are several new SAPs, some of which are listed below. A few of these were started in 1998, but were not submitted until 1999. We have also received data or anecdotal information on locations that we have not entered

into the database yet. The list of locations keeps growing! Thanks to everyone for continuing to contribute bird data to the society's database.

<u>New Special Areas</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Coordinator</u>
Blacklick Valley Natural Area	Indiana	Margaret Higbee
Buttermilk Falls County Park	Indiana	Margaret Higbee
Connemaugh Dam/Tunnelview Park	Indiana	Margaret Higbee
French Creek State Park	Berks	Larry Lloyd
Game Lands 151	Lawrence/ Mercer	Barb & George Dean
Game Lands 189	Beaver	Bill Hintze
Greenwood Furnace State Park	Huntingdon	Greg Grove
Hemlock Lake County Park	Indiana	Margaret Higbee
McConnell's Mill State Park	Lawrence	Barb Dean
Penn Roosevelt State Park	Centre	Greg Grove
Thickhead Wild Area	Huntingdon	Greg Grove
Whipple Dam State Park	Huntingdon	Greg Grove
and renewed efforts at: Gifford Pinchot State Park	York	Grace Randolph / Ed Bernot

Birding Software Reports for SAP

Some of the bird data you are entering into your personal birding database can also be sent in to SAP.

Many birders now keep their personal birding records organized in a commercial birding database on their home PC. Several products are out on the market with their own format for logging bird sightings, locations, and lists. Some software packages allow entry of numbers and notes, making them more flexible for birders who want to keep more detailed records. Keeping records with these databases is very easy and handy for personal records, but their limitation is that they can become isolated in your own computer unless the data are also reported in more public forums. Just like a personal notebook or file, the personal database can become an end unto itself.

Some of the data birders record in these personal databases could be sent to SAP so they can become incorporated into the society's database of birds on public lands. In this way, they are more accessible to the wide variety of people and groups that request the data. Searches can be made for certain species on a state-wide basis with this database. SAP has provided bird data to DCNR, the Game Commission, Pennsylvania Audubon, and Nature Conservancy.

Recently, Suzanne Butcher sent in several database reports for Game Lands 95 (the Glades). She logged the SAP data into her Thayer's Birder's Diary for that location. It included numbers of birds observed and breeding observations. Since the database also records times, sky conditions, wind, and allows notes (in this case, breeding behavior notes), this duplicates the high quality of bird note taking that has ear-marked SAP. Suzanne entered the field trip conditions in the style of the SAP

format. With some extra notes on breeding behavior, easily accomplished using the SAP-adopted Atlas codes, your personal notes on each species can become SAP notes, too. Suzanne simply printed out daily reports and sent them into SAP Central as a SAP report. So, we are winners all the way around. Personal bird notes become part of the birding community's database on birds living on public lands.

Additional information about the amount of time spent in each habitat type can be added as a note or in an accompanying letter. Many birding databases allow a great deal of customization for data entry and report writing.

Of course, PSO does not endorse any particular birding software program. There are several good ones advertised in birding magazines. However, it does make sense for birders to use products that allow the flexibility for data input. This flexibility allows you to take detailed, customized notes for yourself and the PSO Special Areas Project.

Pennsylvania's Species of Special Concern

The rarest of the Commonwealth's breeding birds are listed as "Species of Special Concern" (SSC). This list includes the state's Endangered / Threatened bird list as well as Candidates to that list. The Candidate list is broken down into At Risk, Rare, and Undetermined. The Candidates do not have legal status in Pennsylvania like the Endangered or Threatened species, but serve as an "early warning system" for species that are declining or vulnerable to human disturbances. Over 70% of the SSC birds regularly use wetlands while others are confined to deep forests or large grasslands.

One of the goals of the Special Areas Project has been to contribute observations on breeding populations of birds on the SSC list. After all, birds that are Species of Special Concern often represent rare and endangered habitats that support a great diversity of birdlife. In a recent report made to the PA Game Commission on the SSC list, I had to report that there is no regular year-to-year monitoring of over 80% of the species on the state's SSC list. SAP is one of the only and easiest ways to contribute data on the continued existence and productivity of our state's rarest and most vulnerable species. Several SAP locations include nesting areas of our rarest species listed on SSC. For instance, several Bald Eagle nests have been tallied on SAP field trips. SAP trips have revealed American Bitterns and Northern Harriers at new locations on Game Lands 13. Trips to the Piney Tract have documented Short-eared Owls, Upland Sandpipers, and Northern Harriers. Northern Saw-whet Owls have been found at several SAPs. Of course, we are reluctant to share all of the locations because of the vulnerability of some species to disturbance, even by well-meaning birders, so much of the data will be treated with appropriate confidentiality. Sometimes, the location of a nest or breeding pair by birders has helped draw attention to the need to protect certain parts of a management area or the discovery

prompts quick action to protect the birds from human interference or habitat destruction.

The current list of Pennsylvania's SSC is provided at the end of this column. Please review it and read more about each species in the Atlas of Breeding Birds of Pennsylvania and the Birds of Pennsylvania. An overview of the state's biological diversity and its bird populations is offered at the Pennsylvania Biological Survey's web site that is hosted by the PA DCNR. The address for this site is:
www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/pabs/PABS.htm.

Make special efforts to find and document breeding activity of SSC birds. If the species is sensitive to human interference, be careful that your activities do not disturb the nesting. An extra map showing the nesting area is a helpful addition to the Seasonal Summary Report. If you have questions about the SSC bird and how to document it, please send an e-mail or phone Doug Gross. It might be good to inform the staff, especially the manager or naturalist, about the Species of Special Concern.

For more information:

Douglas A. Gross
PSO Special Areas Project Coordinator
R. R. 1, Box 147, Orangeville, PA 17859
or, Susquehanna SES Environmental Laboratory,
R.R. 1, Box 1795, Berwick, PA 18603.
office phone: 570-542-2191
e-mail: dougross@sunlink.net

PSO ANNUAL MEETING - WAYNESBURG, PA MAY 19-20-21, 2000

The PSO's 11th annual meeting will be taking place soon, May 19-21 in Waynesburg, Greene County.

Hiding quietly, an hour south of bustling Pittsburgh, Greene County tucks itself into the southwestern corner of Pennsylvania. Bounded on the west and south by West Virginia, north by Washington County and east by the Monongehela River, Greene is unknown to most people, including birders. Greene County offers wonderful birding for the semi-adventurous, wanderlust-stricken birder. The county is a myriad of hollows, steep crisscrossing ridges, pastureland and tumbling streams. The county is deep within the Carolinian Zone, the dominant vegetation being oak and hickories with sycamores lining the many waterways. Good birding areas in the county include State Game Lands 179 in the southwest, SGL 223 in the southeast and Ryerson Station State Park in the west-central. Don't let this small list of "good" places fool you though, reality is that almost the whole county is a good birding

area. With village names like Sycamore, Ruff Creek, Pine Bank and Oak Forest one can't help but envision bucolic scenes and lovely vistas! The best way to bird Greene County is to grab a good map and start driving, or better yet tuck the map away and explore. Birdlife in the county is strongly "southern". Common nesting species include Red-bellied Woodpecker, Acadian Flycatcher, Carolina Chickadee, Carolina Wren, Brown Thrasher and a bevy of warblers: Northern Parula, Yellow-throated, Cerulean, Louisiana Waterthrush, Kentucky and Yellow-breasted Chat. The most unique feature concerning Greene County's birdlife is the presence of Summer Tanager. Greene is the only county in Pennsylvania where this species regularly nests. While the tanager is by no means common it is present in numbers that allow it to be located without too much difficulty. Although Greene County is not a "birders paradise" - it contains no large lakes, teeming wetlands or enticing migrant traps, Greene's rural character, vast acreage of forest and rolling farmland offers the exploring birder a wonderful area to get lost in.

Registration will start Friday evening along with a social get-together and refreshments. Saturday will feature field trips in the morning, talks by several interesting speakers in the afternoon and a banquet featuring wildlife-biologist and syndicated columnist Scott Shalaway speaking on the natural history of cavity-nesting birds in the evening. Sunday morning we will again have field trips.

Saturday Afternoon Talks:

Katie Weakland - Effects of Different Timber Harvesting Techniques on Songbird Populations

Chris Showland - consequences of the "No Spray" Management Option on Cavity Nesting Bird Abundance in a Gypsy Moth Impacted Forest

Ralph Bell - Brown-headed Cowbird removal and nesting success along a BBS route

Dan Brauning - Distribution and abundance of Henslow's Sparrow and other grassland birds on reclaimed other grassland birds on reclaimed minelands of western Pennsylvania.



Field Trip locations:

Enlow Fork Gamelands

Ryerson Station State Park

Ralph Bell's farm

SPRING BIRD COUNT

What could be better than a Christmas Bird Count (CBC), with freezing temperatures, a modest list of resident and short-distance migrant species, and a full day outside to count them? How about the North American Migration Count (NAMC), a day with seasonable 70° temperatures (not guaranteed), a

possible state list of 250 species including Cape May, Connecticut, and Tennessee Warblers, and a full day outside to count them? On 13 May 2000, the 9th annual NAMC gives us all a chance to enjoy the return of the Neotropical migrants as part of a national campaign to track population trends and occurrences of species migrating through Pennsylvania.

Results for the NAMC are compiled on a county-wide basis and are reported separately for regular birdwatching, stationary (hawkwatching) counts, feeder surveys, and nocturnal surveys. If you are interested in participating in the upcoming NAMC, contact your county compiler prior to the count for checklists and instructions and after the count with results of your day of birdwatching. For more information about the count, visit Pennsylvania's new NAMC web page at <http://www.birdingman.com/NAMC>.

NAMC County Compilers (partial list)

Allegheny: Paul Hess (phess@salsgiver.com)
Berks: Matt Wlasniewski (matski@enter.net)
Blair: Charlie Hoyer (charma@nb.net)
Bucks: Ken Kitson (kkitkraft@aol.com)
Butler: Gene Wilhelm
Centre: Gene Zielinski (eez55@juno.com)
Clarion: Margaret Buckwalter (mbuckwalter@usachoice.net)
Clearfield: Steve Belin
Dauphin: Grace Randolph (grandol@msn.com)
Elk: Frank Hughes (birder@ncentral.com)
Huntingdon: Nick Bolgiano (NBolgiano@minitab.com)
Indiana: Margaret Higbee (bcoriole@twd.net)
Juniata: Linda Whitesel (lkwhitesel@jcnet.com)
Lawrence: Barb Dean (barbcd@excite.com)
Lehigh: Peter Saenger (crex@early.com)
Mercer: The Troyer Family
Mifflin: Margaret Kenepf (mkenepf@lcworkshop.com)
Perry: Elaine Howe (DHelin@igateway.com)
Sullivan: Nick Kerlin (bluebird@epix.net)
Tioga: Bob Ross (rossr@epix.net)
Venango: Russ States (russ@csnline.net)
York: Al Spiess

If your county is not listed or if you are a county compiler and have not received an information packet, please contact Greg Keller at gsk105@psu.edu or 814-466-7182.

Greg Keller
Pennsylvania NAMC coordinator

Saw-whet Owl Pennsylvania Breeding Survey: A New Opportunity for Birders or How to Help "Project Toot Route"

One of our most charming and most enigmatic birds is the Northern Saw-whet Owl. Cute hardly begins to describe its appeal. It was no mistake that this owl was chosen to represent the Wild Resource Conservation Fund. The saw-whet plates have funded many worthy science and

conservation projects for everything from stoneflies and salamanders to otters and wood thrushes.

The Northern Saw-whet Owl has been designated as a Candidate - Undetermined for several years. This means that we do not know if it deserves to be Endangered or Threatened in the state. The Atlas account revealed that this little forest owl is found in a greater variety of locations than had previously been documented. Yet, we still do not have a good idea of its relative abundance across the entire state. The rich data provided for songbirds by the many Breeding Bird Survey routes run every year do not exist for the saw-whet or any other night bird. Are they common, rare, or in-between? Where are they most and least common? Do they depend on a certain elevation or habitat type? Are they found in the Appalachian Mountains as well as the plateaus? How far south and west does the range extend? Are they more likely to respond in a certain phase of the moon? There are many unanswered questions.

We are pretty sure that saw-whets nest almost exclusively in forests, generally with a healthy understory. They tend to be more common in higher elevations than lower. They seem more likely in the north than the south. But, we have not really defined the limits of its range in the state. The occasional incidental report of night "tooting" and little owlets found in unforeseen places suggest that this species is more widely distributed than any current map indicates. It may nest in more counties than the Atlas indicates.

The state-wide saw-whet banding project has taken dramatic strides by studying migrating saw-whets. Banders have netted hundreds of little owls and marked them for future capture. The number and location of migrating saw-whets has been nothing short of astonishing. The incredible success of this project demonstrates not only that saw-whets migrate in good numbers, but that dedicated volunteer bird enthusiasts can dramatically advance our collective knowledge about saw-whets.

Here's where "Project Toot Route" comes in. A set of over 100 night bird routes is being prepared for birding volunteers to run. They resemble short, night-time versions of BBS routes. The twist is that the volunteer will play a tape of saw-whet owl "toot" vocalizations with breaks for listening for a response at each of the 8 stops. At each stop, the volunteer records all night birds heard (or, if you're lucky, seen). This feature of the survey will stimulate more observations of all owls and nightjars in the state. Each stop will require a full 15 minutes of listening and tape-playing. This period has been selected because saw-whets sometimes take a fair amount of time to respond, sometimes traveling across their territory before calling back. This protocol was developed and tested successfully in Maryland. A regular small cassette player normally used by birders can be used for the saw-whet project.

The "toot routes" will be run from mid-April through mid-June. Each route only needs to be run once. The saw-whet project will supply instructions (which have to be followed strictly), a tape, and a map of the route. The routes are being randomly selected to eliminate bias in sampling and give results that will help evaluate the state's population.

The goal of the project is to learn more about the state's saw-whet owl breeding population and determine if it should be on the Species of Special Concern list. The side benefits of the project are many. We will all learn a lot more about the adorable little saw-whet and the other birds of the night. And, it will be a fun challenge for birders to discover more about the night birds in the Pennsylvania forests.

If you are interested in participating in the Pennsylvania Saw-whet Owl Breeding Survey, more commonly known as "Project Toot Route," please contact Douglas Gross, R.R. 1, Box 1795, Berwick, PA 17859, 570/542-2191. e-mail: dougross@sunlink.net. Please include an address and indicate what counties that you would be willing to conduct routes.

OTHER PSO NEWS

Three members of the PSO's Board of Directors will be finishing their terms this year. Thanks go to Rudy Keller, Arlene Koch and Bob Ross for their years of service. In addition to new directors, we also need a new Vice President. Qualifications for these positions include enthusiasm and willingness and ability to attend two board meetings a year. Anyone interested in making a nomination or in volunteering themselves should contact Dan Brauning at 61 Windy Lane, Montgomery, PA 17752 or brauning@csrlink.net by May 17th.

The PSO is also looking for volunteers to help set up and maintain a PSO web site. Ideas for site contents and location are welcome as well. Anyone who thinks they may have something to contribute to this effort should contact Katrina Knight at kknight@epix.net.

The new PSO membership brochures are available now. Any members who would like to have some to distribute personally or to drop off at local parks, nature centers and other bird-related locations can contact Alan Gregory at meg5@psu.edu or 570/788-1425 (evenings) or 570/455-3636 (days).

We're going to try something new and accept short birding-related classified ads starting with the next newsletter. Members may submit non-business ads of up to 50 words for publication. The purpose of these ads is to allow members to make contact with each other. Examples of acceptable ads include buying or selling optical equipment or books and

looking for traveling companions for field trips. There will be no charge to members for ads that fit these guidelines. Non-members or anyone interested in a business-related ad should contact the editor. We reserve the right to limit the number and size of ads published and to decide upon acceptable subject matter. Ads should be submitted to the editor.

Newsletter submission deadlines for the rest of the year are July 15 and October 15.

PA Audubon needs volunteer birders!

Pennsylvania Audubon Society's new Director of Bird Conservation, Steve Hoffman, is currently recruiting part-time (weekends are perfect!) volunteers for field work this summer (mid-May through July). Steve needs expert birders for a number of different projects, including: 1) inventories & monitoring of nesting bird populations on each of the 73 Important Bird Areas in the state; 2) Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology's Golden-winged Warbler Region-wide Atlas Project; and 3) Follow-up studies in western PA to assess the impact of various forestry practices on breeding birds. Some habitat data collection will be required for some of these projects. Training will be available for all serious applicants. Please respond ASAP to:

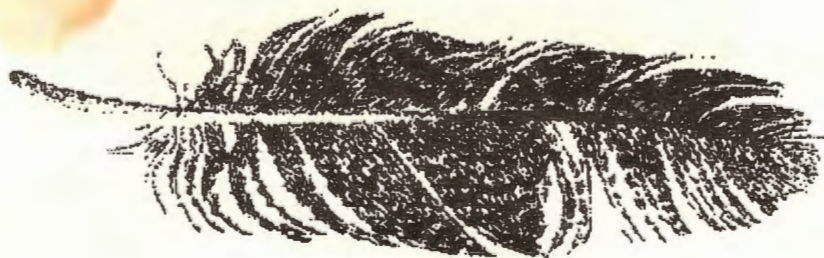
Steve Hoffman, Pennsylvania Audubon Society,
100 Wildwood Way,
Harrisburg, PA 17110,
shoffman@audubon.org, 717/213-6880

Important Bird Areas guidebook available

After a long and involved nomination and selection process which began in 1996, Pennsylvania Audubon has published a 219-page guidebook (compiled by Gary Crossley) describing all 73 Important Bird Areas (IBAs) in the state. These IBAs encompass over one million acres of public and private lands in 60 counties. The book provides a one-page summary of each site, including easy-to-follow directions on how to find each site. Also included are descriptions of Pennsylvania's ecosystems, discussions of habitat conservation strategies, and a summary of PA's unique Kittatinny migration corridor. Several appendices provide a quick reference for the IBA sites. This book will serve as a useful manual for bird habitat conservation in Pennsylvania for years to come. To order your copy please send a \$23.00 check or money order to Pennsylvania Audubon Society, 100 Wildwood Way, Harrisburg, PA 17110, or call Kelly Meinhart or Sharon Sherick at the Audubon office (717-213-6880).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 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: 570/437-3131 or preserve@papl.com
- 5/6/2000** - Hay Creek field trip - Baird Ornithological Club - meet at Geigertown post office (southern Berks Co.) at 7 AM. Contact: Ken Lebo 610/856-1413
- 5/7/2000** - Walnut Springs field trip - State College Bird Club - meet at Walnut Spring park at 7:30 - Contact: Eugene Zielinski 814/353-8212
- 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** - Beginning birders Presque Isle field trip, Presque Isle Audubon Society, Contact Toby & Jean Cunningham at 814/796-2070
- 5/14/2000** - Shartlesville Game Lands field trip - Baird Ornithological Club - meet at parking lot 1 in SGL #110 7AM - Contact: Kerry Grim 610/562-4177
- 5/18/2000 & 6/13/2000** - Canoe trip to Wade Island Rookery and the Sheets Island Archipelago - PA Audubon Society, Canoe Club of Greater Harrisburg & the Appalachian Audubon Society - Contact: Marci Mowery 717/213-6880
- 5/27-29/2000** - Mt. Davis Bioblitz - Contact Dale Jeffrey at 814 662-4291 or yughwtch@wpia.net for more information
- 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
- 6/18/2000** - Hawk Run field trip (for sparrows) - State College Bird Club - meet at se corner of K-Mart parking lot at 7:30AM - Contact: Eugene Zielinski 814/353-8212



PSO Officers & Directors

Alan Gregory — President — meg5@psu.edu
Doug Gross — Vice-president — dougross@sunlink.com
Roger Higbee — Secretary — bcoriole@twd.net
Eugene Zielinski — Treasurer — eez55@juno.com

Dan Brauning — brauning@csrlink.net
Frank Haas (Pennsylvania Birds) — pabirds@redrose.net
Margaret Higbee — bcoriole@twd.net
Deaune Hoffman — raven@paonline.com
Shonah Hunter — shunter@eagle.lhup.edu
Rudy Keller — rkeller@astro.ocis.temple.edu
Katrina Knight (Newsletter Editor) — kknight@epix.net, 610/372-3671
Arlene Koch — Davilene@aol.com
Bob Ross — rossr@epix.net
John Salvetti — jsalvetti70@hotmail.com
Mary Jane Seipler — Grosbeaker@aol.com

Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology

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