

PSO

Newsletter

The Newsletter of the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology



March 2001

Volume 12, Number 1

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK . . .

A Mountain Celebration in the Heart of the Appalachians

On the weekend of May 19, the birders of Pennsylvania will gather at State College. Ostensibly, this is our club's official annual meeting. It will really be a celebration of our mountain heritage. A gathering of mountain birder hicks, as it were.

Pennsylvania is at the heart of the Appalachians. State College is at the very center of the state. So, it is very appropriate that we meet at State College and celebrate our mountain heritage. Our state is vital to the future of many eastern forest birds. We are home to an estimated 17% of the world's breeding Scarlet Tanagers, about 10% of the Worm-eating Warblers, 9% of the Golden-winged Warblers and Wood Thrushes, and 7% of the Louisiana Waterthrushes (probably an underestimate). With its hundreds of square miles of mountain forests, Pennsylvania is a "keystone state" for bird conservation. At this meeting we will learn how and why.

One of the hallmarks of any PSO meeting is exciting field trips. Both Saturday and Sunday mornings have a slate of field trip choices. We will visit several great locations around Happy Valley. Names like Black Moshannon, Bear Meadows, the Barrens, and Alan Seeger are storied in the state's natural history. All are very special places. All of these are designated as Pennsylvania Important Bird Areas. Local birders will share their personal knowledge about these places by leading field trips there. In mid-May, the woods should be alive with song as birds are setting up territories. Some passage migrants will be still moving through to add to our lists. The local trip leaders know these places intimately. They have visited them many times and walking many miles, counting birds and determining the status of each species through SAP methodology. In addition, BBS routes and BBS plots have been conducted in the barrens and Rothrock State Forest. So, we have the best people to show us around. One trip will offer a road trip around to local birding hotspots for those that are less inclined to walk. This lends some variety to our bird trip approach. Let's get into the woods and find some birds! Maybe, we'll get a glimpse of a Nittany lion.

Our slate of presentations on Saturday afternoon is outstanding and resoundingly appropriate. Greg Grove and Nick Bolgiano will share what they have learned about the Natural Areas around State College through SAP and other inventory methods. Some of the preliminary visuals that Nick shared with me are very exciting and filled with

wonderful details. They will demonstrate a level of intimacy with places that can only be achieved through personal experience. Tim O'Connell has been studying Louisiana Waterthrushes as part of an important state-wide project. The quality of watersheds and forests are integral to waterthrushes. This species is one of the best environmental indicators in our state and Tim will show us what he has found around State College. Amanda Rodewald, formerly of State College, will shed light on the influence of landscape and local habitat on ovenbird pairing success. You might remember that Amanda's husband, Paul, gave a presentation to us about Pennsylvania stopover migrants a couple years ago. We are glad to keep the Rodewalds involved with our birding family. Finally, we will wrap up the afternoon session with a bird identification workshop led by members of the PA Ornithological Records Committee (PORC). This is the first time that PORC will lead a birding workshop at our meeting (although Frank Haas, a former PORC member, has given splendid talks on his own). With the use of great visual materials, we will learn how to avoid some problematic plumage pitfalls. It will be an occasion for interaction with the people that maintain the official state bird list and a learning experience for all.

The banquet speaker, Scott Weidensaul, will cap the meeting with a slide show on "Mountains of the Heart". We all know that Scott is a marvelous author and story teller. Scott is not a writer who depends on reference books and vicarious experiences. Each of his books and subsequent public presentations represent his own personal odysseys. He's one of us. He gets his face wet and his boots dirty finding the good stories. We are glad to have him tell the tale of Appalachian mountain chain and its natural history.

Speaking of stories and mountains, the State College Bird Club has its own storied history with several publications to its name and its members. Merrill Wood taught ornithology at Penn State for decades and was famous for his detailed bird record and bird banding records. His book, *Birds of Pennsylvania*, was a standard slim reference long before the current standard by McWilliams and Brauning was written. If we are nice, maybe the local birders will tell us some Merrill Wood stories. Is the legend true that Merrill used to walk to Bear Meadows from his home in northern State College on birding trips?

We invite you to join our celebration of the mountains with a heart. It will generate our own stories.

-- Douglas A. Gross, PSO President

CONSERVATION CORNER

Once again, I feel that it is important to ask PSO members to contact their respective members of Congress and urge them to support the new Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA). The old CARA passed the House of Representatives by a wide margin but the Senate failed to take action political maneuvering prevented the bill from coming up for a vote even though a majority of Senators indicated support for it.

So, once again, CARA (H.R. 701) has been introduced into Congress and there continues to be bipartisan support. It is also important to note that President Bush, while a candidate, indicated his support for CARA.

There are a few changes but the important point is that wildlife and conservation will greatly benefit for many years if this bill is passed. The following information regarding the bill is from the American Birding Association. The bill as introduced in the 107th Congress contains the following:

Title I creates a revenue sharing and coastal conservation fund for coastal states and eligible local governments to mitigate the various impacts of drilling activities and provides funds for the conservation of our coastal ecosystems. Amount - \$1 billion.

Title II provides for a stable and annual funding source for the Land and Water Conservation Fund at its authorized level. Amount - \$900 million.

Title III provides money for the development of renewable resources for wildlife conservation and education. Amount - \$350 million.

Title IV provides matching grants to local governments to rehabilitate recreation areas and facilities and provides for the development of improved recreation programs and sites. Amount - \$125 million.

Title V provides funding for programs for the Historic Preservation Act and for maritime heritage. Amount - \$160 million.

Title VI provides funding for a coordinated program on Federal and Indian lands to restore degraded lands, protect resources and protect health and safety. Amount - \$200 million

Title VII provides annual and dedicated funding for landowner incentives to assist with the recovery of endangered and threatened species on private lands. Amount - \$50 million.

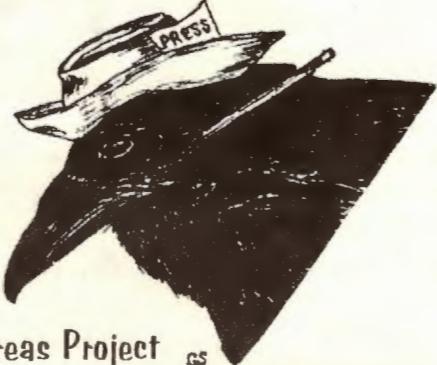
Title VIII provides money for In-Lieu Taxes and Refuge Revenue Sharing. Amount - \$350 million.

More detailed information can be found at the following web pages <http://resourcescommittee.house.gov/cara/> OR <http://thomas.loc.gov/> and type H.R. 701 into the appropriate space.

Although this bill only guarantees funding through 2015, the money for conservation is critical and all PSO members are urged to support it. Please write a letter or call your Representative and Senators and urge them to support CARA, H.R. 701. All wildlife including birds will greatly benefit if this bill is passed.

- Mark Henry, Conservation Chairperson

THE RAVEN REPORTER



Tales of Discovery from the Special Areas Project

The Special Areas Project continues to expand with the enthusiastic support of many bird clubs and Audubon chapters and their many members. SAP has added more data to its "birds on public lands" database. SAP now has 4,706 trips from 112 locations in the database. This represents at least 13,517 "party hours" by participants. If we assume that each party hour represents two birders and that the "party hours" are probably only half of the time spent on SAP trips (including transportation and data management), birders have contributed at least 54,000 personnel hours to this database. From what I have heard, they have a lot of fun doing this. There are more than 1,100,000 individual birds logged into the database. Several new locations have been submitted to SAP, some of which have not yet been added. We are also making progress converting our database files into a format more easily used for checklists. SAP data are being used in a variety of places for education, inventory, and research.

Rothrock's Outstanding Natural Areas

The upcoming PSO meeting at State College is giving us an opportunity to experience the outstanding natural areas of Rothrock State Forest. Rothrock is a big forest that has been the study site for many of the forest ecology studies based at Penn State. It comprises about 79,468 acres. Here we find a set of ridges and valleys at the heart of the Appalachian chain that combine elements of north and south. The folded ridges and cool, forested lowlands of Rothrock protect some northern elements of flora and fauna. For stretches of their length, Rothrock's cold running brooks are bordered by walls of impenetrable rhododendron thickets. These are home to hundreds of pairs of nesting warblers and other forest birds.

There is a cluster of DCNR Bureau of Forestry Natural Areas near the Centre / Huntington county line. They are also situated around the Thickhead Wild Area. The more than 5,000 acres of high quality bird habitat in and around Thickhead Wild Area have been designated an Important Bird Area for Pennsylvania because of outstanding breeding bird habitat. It includes Bear Meadows, Alan Seeger, Big Flat Laurel, and Detweiler Run Natural Areas.

Bear Meadows is famous for its unique combination of boreal and wetland vegetation more typical of the wilds of Canada than Pennsylvania. There are pitcher plants, sundew, and huckleberries galore. Not only that, there are lots of birds. The dense thickets of blueberry host many Canada Warblers and Common Yellowthroats, two of the most abundant breeding birds of Bear Meadows. Veery is probably the most common spotted thrush in the natural area, but American Robin (a forest bird in some places) is also common. Here, we can find three breeding Empidonax flycatchers: Acadian, Alder, and Least. This will seem a low elevation for many to find

is situated up on the Allegheny plateau. An extensive bog/lake is a major feature of the park - with an extensive trail system.

Another Saturday trip, closer to State College, will be to the "Barrens" - a mosaic of forest in various successional stages and the site of a Game Commission project on Ruffed Grouse habitat. These gamelands west of town, a favorite location for birders during migration, feature healthy populations of Golden-winged Warblers and Whip-poor-wills as well as Woodcock, Wood Thrush, Chestnut-sided, and other warblers.

For those who may not care to do much walking, a mostly auto-based trip on Saturday will be to Bald Eagle State Park. Quite different from the forest trips described above, the park features a large lake, open spaces, and brushy fields that contain early successional species possibly including Yellow-breasted Chat, Golden-winged, Blue-winged, and Prairie Warblers, and Willow Flycatchers.

A Sunday morning trip will be to the Lower Trail near Alexandria, southwest of State College. This Rails-to-Trails project follows the Juniata River through a gap in Tussey Mt. This provides easy walking through a deep valley that holds a healthy population of Cerulean Warblers as well as an isolated pocket of Yellow-throated Warblers. Also breeding there are Warbling and Yellow-throated Vireos, Acadian Flycatchers, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, American Redstarts, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, and Baltimore Orioles.

The Saturday afternoon talks will include Breeding Bird of Central Pennsylvania Natural Areas - Nick Bolgiano and Greg Grove, Breeding Biology of the Louisiana Waterthrush in Pennsylvania - Tim O'Connell, Birds in Forested Regions: Landscape Effects on Community Structure - Amanda Rodewald, Bird Identification / PORC - Matt Sharp and Paul Hess.

The banquet will be a buffet-style dinner featuring prime rib, stuffed chicken and glazed ham. A vegetarian meal will be available for those who prefer one. Please be sure to indicate this preference by checking the appropriate box on the registration form. After dinner, Scott Weidensaul will speak about "Mountains of the Heart". The 2,000 mile-long Appalachian Mountain system is one of the oldest and most remarkable ranges in the world. Stretching from the hills of central Alabama to the ice-choked edge of Newfoundland, they harbor fertile hardwood forests alive with wildflowers, weird bogs and Arctic tundra where caribou and even polar bears roam. Join him in an exploration of these ancient hills, based on his book *Mountains of the Heart: A Natural History of the Appalachians*, which syndicated nature columnist Scott Shalaway called "a fascinating blend of geology, geography, biology and ecology by a gifted naturalist and writer." Scott is the author of more than two dozen books on natural history, including *Mountains of the Heart: A Natural History of the Appalachians*, *Raptors: The Birds of Prey*, the first two volumes of the acclaimed "Seasonal Guide to the Natural Year" series (which he created) and his newest book *Living on the Wind*, about migratory birds, which was a Pulitzer Prize nominee. Weidensaul writes regularly for *Smithsonian* magazine, and his work has appeared in such publications as *The New York Times*, *Natural History*, *International Wildlife*, *Orion* and *Audubon*. His photography and artwork have been published widely in books and periodicals, and he has guided natural history tours in the United States and abroad. He is a founding board member of the Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art in Dauphin County, and serves on the board of the Pennsylvania Audubon Society. He lives in Schuylkill County, along the Kittatinny Ridge, where he bands hawks and owls each autumn.

The deadline for registration is April 30 and the deadline to reserve a discounted room at the Ramada Inn is April 18, so make your plans now.

Ornithological Literature Notes

[Editor's note: This is the fourth in a periodic series highlighting recent publications of interest to Pennsylvania ornithologists and birders.]

Pennsylvania is well represented among the editors and authors of species accounts in the monumental *Birds of North America* (BNA) series.

The BNA provides detailed scientific accounts of more than 700 species nesting in the United States and Canada. It is the first ornithological publication for this continent comparable to Arthur Cleveland Bent's *Life Histories of North American Birds*, the last volume of which was published more than 40 years ago.

Pennsylvania connections begin with one of the three supporting sponsors of the BNA: the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia. The others are the American Ornithologists' Union and the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology.

Frank B. Gill, Co-editor of the entire BNA series, is former Chairman of the Department of Ornithology at the Academy of Natural Sciences and Adjunct Professor of Biology at the University of Pennsylvania. He is now Senior Vice President for Science of the National Audubon Society.

Keith A. Russell, an Assistant Editor, has worked for BNA since 1992. From 1982-1992 he was the Collection Manager (curator) in the exhibits department at the Academy of Natural Sciences. Among many ornithological interests, he coordinates the Philadelphia Mid-Winter Bird Census created in 1987.

BNA species accounts published or in preparation include the following authors with links to Pennsylvania:

David J. Agro, Black Tern (1995) with E. H. Dunn. He is a former ornithology collection manager at the Academy of Natural Sciences and is currently an architect in Toronto.

G. Thomas Bancroft, Boat-tailed Grackle (1996) with W. Post and J.P. Poston. He is also collaborating on the Great Egret and White-crowned Pigeon accounts (in preparation). A Pittsburgh area native, Bancroft spent 23 years in Florida first in graduate studies then research for the National Audubon Society and at the Archbold Biological Station. He is now Vice President of the Ecology and Economics Research Department for The Wilderness Society.

David R. Barber, Painted Redstart (2000) with Patricia M. Barber and P. G. Jablonski. He is a naturalist at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary. He and his wife and co-author have conducted research in Arizona, his focusing on the Cordilleran Flycatcher. Their familiarity with birds of the southwest led to their interest in writing the redstart account.

Patricia M. Barber, Red-faced Warbler (1995) with T. E. Martin. She is currently a freelance researcher, and her studies in Arizona focused on this warbler.

James C. Bednarz, Harris's Hawk (1995). He was Director of Research at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary from 1987 to 1990 and is now at the University of Arkansas. His species accounts in the Pennsylvania breeding bird atlas included Northern Goshawk, Red-shouldered, and Red-tailed Hawks.

Keith L. Bildstein, White Ibis (1992) with J. A. Kushlan, Northern Harrier (1996) with R. B. MacWhirter, and Sharp-shinned Hawk (2000) with K. Meyer. He is Director of Research and Education at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary. Besides his extensive research on the Northern Harrier and other raptors, his book *White Ibis: Wetland Wanderer* was published by the Smithsonian Institution Press in 1993.

Daniel W. Brauning, Chestnut-sided Warbler (1995) with M. Richardson. An ornithologist with the Pennsylvania Game Commission, he edited the *Atlas of Breeding Birds in Pennsylvania* and co-authored *The Birds of Pennsylvania* published last year. He has been a leader in ornithological research throughout the state, including direction of the Partners in Flight program.

Michael Carey, Field Sparrow (1994) with D. E. Burhans and D. A. Nelson. He is Professor of Biology at the University of Scranton and Co-director of the university's Environmental Science Program, an interdisciplinary degree program administered jointly by the Departments of Biology and Chemistry.

John P. Carroll, Gray Partridge (1993). He is a former assistant professor of biology at California University of Pennsylvania and currently is an Assistant Professor at the Warnell School of Forest Resources, University of Georgia. He has done extensive research in the conservation and biology of small Galliformes and has been chairman of the Partridge, Quail and Francolin Specialist Group of Birdlife International.

Jameson F. Chace, Greater Pewee (1999) with R. C. Tweit, and Black-whiskered Vireo (in preparation) with A. Cruz and B. Woodworth. He is on a two-year Environmental Science Post-doctoral Fellowship at Villanova University. His master's thesis focused on the Plumbeous Vireo and his doctoral work involved Plumbeous, Warbling, Hutton's and Bell's Vireos.

Robert L. Curry, Black-capped Chickadee (in preparation) with Alison Mostrom and Bernard Lohr. At Villanova University his research involves the ecology and behavior of Carolina and Black-capped Chickadees, as well as Carolina x Black-capped hybridization.

Jeannette V. Dumas, Roseate Spoonbill (2000). Presently holding a visiting faculty position in the Biology Department at LaSalle University, she received a doctorate in marine ecology from Drexel University in Philadelphia. Her studies of coastal birds and their ecology led to her interest in the spoonbill.

Laurie J. Goodrich, Broad-Winged Hawk (1996) with S. C. Crocoll and Stanley E. Senner. She is Senior Naturalist at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, and her extensive raptor research has been published widely. Her species accounts in the state breeding bird atlas included Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned, Cooper's, and Broad-winged Hawk.

Douglas A. Gross, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (in preparation) with P. Lowther of the Field Museum in Chicago. He is Chair of the Ornithological Technical Committee of the Pennsylvania Biological Survey, President of the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology, and

directs the PSO Special Areas Project. He conducted an extensive study of the distribution, ecology, behavior and conservation problems of the flycatcher in the state.

George A. Hall, Magnolia Warbler (1994) and Yellow-throated Warbler (1996). He is retired from the University of West Virginia, Morgantown. For half a century until 1998 he was the Appalachian Region Editor for the journal successively known as *Audubon Field Notes*, *American Birds*, *National Audubon Society Field Notes*, and now *North American Birds*. The region includes western and central Pennsylvania.

Terry L. Master, Snowy Egret (2000) with K. C. Parsons. He is Professor of Biology at East Stroudsburg University, where he teaches behavioral ecology, ornithology, and animal behavior. An original interest in Snowy Egret foraging behavior led to his doctoral thesis, and since then he has had many graduate students continuing research on various aspects of the species' foraging behavior.

Alison M. Mostrom, Carolina Chickadee (in preparation) with R. L. Curry and B. Lohr. While teaching in the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia, she is studying "individual signatures" in the songs of neotropical migrants that breed locally in Pennsylvania. Her previous research focused on social organization of the Carolina Chickadee and phylogenetic relationships of Parids.

D. James Mountjoy, Cedar Waxwing (1997) with M. C. Witmer and L. Elliot. He is Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Biology at Franklin & Marshall College. His former waxwing research was carried out in southeastern Ontario, and his current focus is primarily on bird song repertoires. After research on Red-eyed Vireos in Nebraska, he is now studying Yellow-throated Vireos mostly along the Susquehanna River in Lancaster and York counties.

Alan F. Poole, Osprey (in preparation). Now Co-editor of the BNA at the Academy of Natural Sciences, he spent 10 years in Osprey research based at the Boston University Marine Program in Woods Hole, Mass. His book *Ospreys: a Natural and Unnatural History* was published by Cambridge University Press in 1989. He has a small cabin at Westport, Mass., where about 100 pairs of Ospreys are the largest, densest colony in the eastern U.S.

Scott K. Robinson, Philadelphia Vireo (1996) with W. Moskoff. A Pittsburgh area native, he is Associate Professor in the Department of Vertebrate Biology at the University of Illinois, Champaign, and a wildlife ecologist with the Illinois Natural History Survey.

Paul G. Rodewald, Yellow-throated Vireo (1996) with R. D. James; Pine Warbler (1999) with J. H. Withgott and K. G. Smith; and Red-headed Woodpecker (2000) also with Withgott and Smith. Formerly a State College resident, he now lives in Ohio and is completing work toward a doctorate from Pennsylvania State University. His research examines habitat use and ecology of Neotropical songbirds during their spring and fall migratory periods.

Stanley E. Senner, Broad-winged Hawk (1996) with S. C. Crocoll and Laurie G. Goodrich; and Surfbird (1997). He was Director of Hawk Mountain Sanctuary for many years, and co-authored the Broad-winged Hawk account in the Pennsylvania breeding bird atlas.

Bridget J. Stutchbury, Hooded Warbler (1994) with L. J. Evans Ogden. While an Associate Professor of Biology at York University in Ontario, she conducted extensive research on Hooded Warbler breeding biology and nest predation during the 1990s at the Hemlock

PENNSYLVANIA SOCIETY FOR ORNITHOLOGY

12th Annual Meeting

18-20 May, 2001

Ramada Inn

State College, Pennsylvania

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: April 30, 2000

Name(s)(include each person registering):

Mailing Address:

REGISTRATION FEE	No. of Persons	Cost each	Total \$
PSO Member		\$25.00	
Member's spouse/guest		\$20.00	
Non-Member*		\$35.00	
Non-Member's spouse/guest		\$20.00	
Children under 12		\$12.00	
After Deadline, April 30, 2001		add \$5.00	
Sub-Total			

* Includes 1-year PSO membership

Lodging (Make your own reservations) Ramada Inn has a block of rooms reserved for PSO at \$61.00 per night. Please state you are attending PSO when you make your reservations. Rooms will be released after April 18th, 2001, after which conference rates cannot be guaranteed.

For other lodging options checkout the Centre County Visitors Bureau at: 1-800-358-5466 OR www.visitpennstate.org OR www.statecollege.com

PLEASE DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE

Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology, Annual Meeting, 18-20 May, 2001,
St. College, PA

Name _____ No. of Persons _____
Amount received _____ Balance _____

Thank you. We look forward to seeing you. Shonah A. Hunter (570) 893-2062
shunter@lhp.edu

Event	No. of Persons	Cost Each	Total \$
Friday Social (indicate if attending)		no charge	XXXXX
Saturday			
Breakfast Buffet (Full breakfast)		7.95	
Lunch ON YOUR OWN	XXXXX	XXXXX	XXXXX
Banquet Buffet (Prime Rib, Stuffed chicken & glazed ham)			
Check here for Vegetarian <input type="checkbox"/>		\$20.95	
Banquet only (no registration fee)			
Check here for Vegetarian <input type="checkbox"/>		\$21.95	
Sunday			
Breakfast Buffet (Full breakfast)		7.95	
Sub Total			
Sub Total from Other Side			
Grand Total			

Please make checks or money orders payable to PSO and mail to:

Shonah A. Hunter,
Dept. of Biological Sciences,
Lock Haven University,
Lock Haven, PA 17745

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS: APRIL 30, 2001

PENNSYLVANIA SOCIETY FOR ORNITHOLOGY
12th Anniversary Meeting
May 18-20, 2001
Ramada Inn
State College, PA

FRIDAY, May 18, 2001

5:00 p.m.	--	9:00 p.m.	Registration
7:00 p.m.	--	8:00 p.m.	Social
8:00 p.m.	--	8:45 p.m.	PSO Business Meeting
8:45 p.m.	--	9:30 p.m.	Field Trip Overview

SATURDAY, May 19, 2001

6:00 a.m.	--	6:30 a.m.	Breakfast
6:45 a.m.	--	12:00	Field Trips
12:00	--	1:00 p.m.	Lunch
			Afternoon Programs
1:00 p.m.	--	2:00 p.m.	Nick Bolgiano & Greg Grove - Breeding Bird of Central Pennsylvania Natural Areas
2:00 p.m.	--	2:45 p.m.	Tim O'Connell - Breeding Biology of the Louisiana Waterthrush in Pennsylvania
2:45 p.m.	--	3:15 p.m.	Break
3:15 p.m.	--	4:00 p.m.	Amanda Rodewald - Birds in Forested Regions: Landscape Effects on Community Structure
4:00 p.m.	--	5:00 p.m.	Matt Sharp & Paul Hess - Bird Identification - PORC
6:00 p.m.	--	6:30 p.m.	Social
6:30 p.m.	--	9:30 p.m.	Banquet- Our banquet speaker will be Scott Weidensaul

SUNDAY, May 20, 2001

6:00 a.m.	-	6:30 a.m.	Breakfast
6:45 a.m.	--	11:30 a.m.	Field Trips

Hill Research area in Crawford County. She also co-authored the Tree Swallow account (1992) with R. J. Robertson and R. R. Cohen.

Janet McL. Williams, Nashville Warbler (1996) and Bay-breasted Warbler (1996). She is a Senior Research Associate at Swarthmore College, has taught field ornithology there since 1992, and is well known as a field trip leader and lecturer throughout southeastern Pennsylvania. Since 1964 she and husband Timothy have been a research team, and from 1968 they have studied bird migration, particularly by landbirds over oceans and mountains. These two warbler species are among the Neotropical migrants of interest to her during a migration study the husband-wife team began in 1992 in the White Mountains of New Hampshire.

Mark C. Witmer, Cedar Waxwing (1997) with D. J. Mountjoy and L. Elliot. He is a Research Associate in the Biology Department at Bryn Mawr College, specializing in nutritional ecology. His doctoral research at Cornell University involved the nutritional ecology of waxwings and thrushes, and his studies included demonstrating the link between variant orange tail bands in waxwings to a diet of honeysuckle berries. That coincidentally gave him an indirect connection with Pennsylvania, because one of the earliest reports of the phenomenon came from Powdermill Nature Reserve in Westmoreland County.

-- Paul Hess

North American Migration Count May 12, 2001

Songs of "teacher teacher teacher" and "trees trees murmuring trees" are just around the corner with the return of Ovenbirds, Black-throated Green Warblers, and the rest of our migrants. On 12 May 2001, the 10th annual NAMC gives us all a chance to enjoy the return of Neotropical migrants as part of a national campaign to track population trends and occurrences of species migrating through Pennsylvania. Last year's count was an enormous success, with 233 species tallied in our state, including 34 species of warblers, by 862 observers in 47 counties.

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. If you are a county compiler (see below), you will receive an information packet within the next few weeks. Contact me at gsk105@psu.edu or 978-834-7842 if you would like to serve as a county compiler and your county is not listed.

Adams: Peter Robinson, 717/632-8462, peterrobins@hotmail.com
Allegheny: Paul Hess, 724/226-2323, phess@salsgiver.com
Armstrong: Shirley Claypool
Beaver: Bill Hintze, 412/683-2669, Hintze_Bill@hotmail.com
Bedford: Ron Kidd, 814/623-6980, pegkid@nb.net
Berks: Matt Wlasnewski, 610/562-7550, matski@enter.net
Blair: Charlie Hoyer, 814/684-7376, charma@nb.net
Bucks: Ken Kitson, 610/847-2968, kkitkraft@aol.com
Butler: Suzanne Butcher, 330/759-1945, sarbie@msn.com
Cambria: Dave Gobert, 814/674-8359

Carbon County: Dave Hawk, 610/377-2407, finch@prolog.net
Centre: Eugene Zielinski, 814/353-8212, eez55@juno.com
Chester: Martin Page, 610/359-9887, Martin_Page@msn.com
Clarion: Margaret Buckwalter, 814/782-3925,
mbuckwalter@usachoice.net
Clearfield: Steve Belin, 814/378-5848, belin@clearnet.net
Crawford: Mavin J. Byler, 6498 Pine Rd., Hartstown, PA 16131
Cumberland: Ramsay Koury, Jr, 717/761-1871, rkoury123@aol.com
Dauphin: Grace Randolph, 717/652-8129, grandol@msn.com
Elk: Frank Hughes, 814/776-1403, birder@ncentral.com
Forest: Florence McGuire, 814/755-3672, mcguires@penn.com
Franklin: J. Kenneth Gabler, 717-263-3164
Greene: Kathy Kern, 724/627-5376, n3xsj@alltel.net
Huntingdon: Nick Bolgiano, 814/234-2746, Nbolgiano@minitab.com
Indiana: Margaret Higbee, 724/354-3493, bcoriole@twd.net
Juniata: Linda Whitesel, 717/436-8048, lkwhitesel@acsworld.net
Lackawanna: Rosann Bongey, 570/698-8266
Lancaster: Bruce A. Carl, 717/859-4189, carls@desupernet.net
Lawrence County: Linda Wagner, LWagner342@aol.com
Lebanon: Randy C. Miller, 717/664-3778
Luzerne: James T. Shoemaker, 570/693-5662, wyoshoe@aol.com
Lycoming: Wesley Egli, 570/546-3957
Mercer: Neil Troyer, 876 Williamson Rd., Mercer, PA 16137
Mifflin: Margaret Keneppe, mkeneppe@lcworkshop.com
Monroe County: Chris Turn, 570/588-6850, birder@ptd.net
Montgomery County: Michael Wilson, 215/722-0631,
Birdman572@aol.com
Montour: Jon D. Beam, 570/437-3131, jdbeam@papl.com
Northampton: Michael Schall, 610/435-2781, mdtschall@yahoo.com
Perry: Elaine Howe, 717/567-2216, Dhelin@igateway.com
Philadelphia: Doris McGovern, 610/565-8484,
mcgovern2@masca.museum.upenn.edu
Pike: Jim Lockyer, 610/565-2873, jim@jlstudio.com
Potter: Gary Witmer, 814/274-7655, witmers@penn.com
Schuylkill: Dave Kruel, 570/622-1184, accip@pottsville.infi.net
Sullivan: Nick Kerlin, 570/924-3542, bluebird@epix.net
Susquehanna: Jerry Skinner, 570/278-3384, jskinner@epix.net
Tioga: Robert M. Ross, 570/724-3322x239, rossr@epix.net
Venango: Russ States, 814/676-6320, russs@csonline.net
Wayne: Voni Strasser, 570/226-9856, sawwhet@ptd.net
Westmoreland: Dick Byers, 724/593-3543, otusasio@tcsinternet.net
Wyoming: William Reid, 570/836-2734
York: Bruce Fortman, 717/235-5982, Fortas46@aol.com

-- Greg Keller

PSO Board of Directors' Meeting March 3, 2001 (summary)

The meeting of the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology board of directors was brought to order at 1:03 p.m. by president Doug Gross. Persons present were directors Doug Gross, Shonah Hunter, Linda Wagner, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Frank Haas, Alan Gregory, Katrina Knight, Mary Jane Seipler, and Deuane Hoffman. Also present were Greg Grove and Nick Bolgiano from the State College Bird Club and Carolyn Blatchley.

Gene Zelenski was not present but sent the treasurer's report with Greg. As of February 1, 2001, the society had \$9,962.37 in its treasury.

Frank told us that from this point forward all monies coming in for the magazine *PA Birds* will be deposited in the society's account. He will then e-mail Margaret and Katrina with new members' names. On April 1, 2001, all monies in the *PA Birds* account will

be transferred to the PSO treasury. Frank will still maintain the membership database.

The details of the annual meeting were then discussed. Shonah reported that she has signed the contract with the Ramada Inn to provide us with a meeting place and breakfast on Saturday and Sunday and the banquet. The recipient of the Earl Poole award has been chosen and will be attending the meeting. Vendors will be invited to come to the meeting. Deuane will be in charge of coordinating which vendors will be invited. Anyone with an idea of whom to invite should let him know. Doug thanked the State College Bird Club and Shonah for their help in organizing the meeting

There are two directors whose terms expire this year. They are Margaret Higbee and Dan Brauning. Frank will also be leaving the board because *PA Birds* will be published by the PSO. Margaret will remain on the board because she will become newsletter editor again after the annual meeting, and Frank would like to stay on the board by filling Dan Brauning's seat. Dan did not want to remain on the board because of his heavy work load with the Game Commission.

The *PA Birds* transition team will meet with Frank next week. Katrina would like to have a job description so that she knows where her authority ends with regard to such things as policy, editorial content, and various decisions regarding the *PA Birds* magazine. It was decided that the magazine needs an editorial review board.

The PSO web site was discussed. Katrina said that she has contacted Bob Brown, who is an experienced web site designer and willing to design and host PSO's web site. The possibility of obtaining the domain names psos.org and pabirds.org were discussed. Deuane said that he has investigated the two and found

that psos.org is already registered to someone else but they are not using it and they may give it up to us if we contact them. The pabirds.org name is available. The cost of registering a domain name is \$70 for two years. Katrina recommended registering both names if they are available to us. Frank made a motion that both psos.org and pabirds.org domain names be registered to PSO as soon as possible if they are available. Deuane seconded the motion which passed. Anyone interested in serving on the website committee should contact one of the board members.

Alan made a motion that PSO establish a separate account for donations to offer a scholarship to a college senior or graduate student interested in ornithology with the dollar amount to be determined at a later date as funds become available. He further recommended that PSO seed the account by placing \$500 in it and award the first scholarship in 2002. Frank seconded the motion. The motion passed. Shonah and Alan will be on the committee to review the applicants and award the scholarship.

Frank made a motion that the PSO sponsor a student 18 years old or younger to attend the annual meeting. The person should be nominated by a member with the knowledge that the member will be responsible for providing transportation for the person to the meeting if he or she is selected. The board will review the applicants and decide who will be sponsored with the possibility of more than one person being sponsored. The motion was seconded by Alan and passed.

The location of the 2002 annual meeting was then discussed. The meeting should be held in the east according to past practice. The Poconos and Susquehanna County were suggested as possibilities. Shonah volunteered to check on the possibility of meeting at East Stroudsburg University or possibly at a hotel.

Calendar of Events

Saturdays 2-3PM - "Birds and Nature" radio show with naturalist Scott Shalaway - WPTT 1360 AM (Pittsburgh) or www.1360wptt.com.

4/7/01 & 4/21/01 - Delaware Water Gap field trips - Pocono Audubon - meet at Bushkill Visitors' Center at 7 AM, 4/8/01 - Lake Minsi field trip - meet at Smithfield Beach at 7 AM - Contact Chris Turn, 570/588-6850 or birder@ptd.net for info on these and other trips.

4/14/01 - Conemaugh River Trail (Saltsburg) field trip, 6/2/01 - Virginia Farms trip (Lewisville area) - Todd Bird Club - Contact: Len Hess 724/639-3236

4/20/01 - Annual Banquet - North Branch Bird Club (Columbia/Montour counties) - Bloomsburg. 4/28/01 - Nescopeck State Park field trip - Meet at the intersection of Route 309 and Honey Hole Road in Butler Township, Luzerne County, at 8:30 AM - Contact: Alan Gregory 570/788-1425 or meg5@psu.edu.

5/5/01 - Hay Creek field trip (Berks Co.) - Baird Ornithological Club - meet at 7 AM at the Geigertown Post Office on Rte 82 - Contact: Ken Lebo, 610/856-1413 or klebo@ptd.net

5/12/01 - "Two Pennsylvania Environmentalists Rachel Carson and Gifford Pinchot" by Dr. John Mizzone - PA Audubon Society - 7 PM at the Olewine Nature Center at Wildwood Lake Sanctuary, Harrisburg - For more information: 717-213-6880.

5/15/01 - "Birds and Highways in Pennsylvania" program by Carmen Santasan focusing on the effects of highway placement on biodiversity in PA - Juniata Valley Audubon Society - 7 PM at the Canoe Creek State Park Visitors' Center.

7/14/01 - Seven Tubs Nature Area field trip (Wilkes Barre) - Greater Wyoming Valley Audubon - meet at 8 AM at the Tubs parking area - Contact: Bob Wasilewski 570/829-6230 or bobolink@epix.net.

7/28/01 - 8th Annual Ned Smith Wildlife Festival - Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art, Millersburg - For more info: 717/692-3699, or www.nedsmithcenter.org.

Note: This calendar is meant to be a sampling of birding-related activities in Pennsylvania. To have events included submit the information to the editor. Other events will be included at the whim of the editor as space allows.

Alder Flycatchers, but the habitat is there. There are indeed wetlands here with the requisite Swamp Sparrows and Red-winged Blackbirds residing in great density. Nick Bolgiano has collected valuable bird data here that he will share with those that attend the PSO meeting.

Alan Seeger and Detweiler Run Natural Areas contain remnant old growth forests. Alan Seeger is a 390-acre tract along Standing Stone Creek with virgin eastern hemlock, eastern white pine, and yellow birch with a rhododendron understory. Northern birds like Golden-crowned Kinglet are local breeders. Three spotted thrushes breed here: Hermit, Wood, and Veery. The streamside provides good habitat for Louisiana Waterthrush and Hooded Warbler. Blackburnian Warbler, Blue-headed Vireo, and other conifer birds are easily heard. Old growth birds like Brown Creeper are more common here than in other Pennsylvania woods.

Detweiler Run is a 463-acre natural area part of Detweiler Hollow. It takes a hike to get there, so we have always been very appreciative of Greg Grove's dedicated bird inventories. It contains old growth hemlock and white pine trees with a virtual wall of rhododendron. Canada Warblers are abundant in this leafy wall of green. Greg can show us where the Winter Wrens will pop up on the trail and the best spots to find Acadian Flycatchers. At night, Barred Owls reign over the wooded landscape.

The Big Flat Laurel Natural Area of Huntington and Centre Counties is a different habitat. It could be characterized as an oak - heath forest as it has large acreage of mountain laurel (our state flower). This is a very different landscape than the wooded hollows and the birds respond. If anyone thinks that Eastern Towhees are becoming rare, please drop in on Big Flat Laurel. They are here in great abundance. Chestnut-sided Warblers and Black-and-white Warblers add to the diversity.

Throughout the Thickhead Wild Area, Common Ravens fly overhead and a variety of raptors can be found. Big woods-birds like Hairy Woodpecker are more common here than the younger and smaller woods of the region. Birds associated with northern habitats like Black-throated Green and Yellow-rumped Warblers have made major incursions in this section of Rothrock. The area has a wild quality about it. Conifer species like Pine Warbler can be found in virtually all of the natural areas.

I have only briefly touched on the bird life of these fascinating places in the heart of the Rothrock State Forest. I'll let the real experts on these places, Greg Grove and Nick Bolgiano, explain them to you in much greater detail at the PSO meeting.

The Scotia Barrens: A Burning Question

As I have mentioned before, "barrens are not barren of birds." This is especially true of the Scotia Barrens. The scrub barrens of Centre County is the best documented barrens bird community in the state. Rich Yahner and his students have conducted many studies here, including Breeding Bird Censuses published in American Birds. Some of the barrens are managed for Ruffed Grouse. The area is infamous as a favorite field trip stop for wildlife students to experience their first flight of the American Woodcock.

The barrens are also easily accessible by car or bike. I used to ride my 10-speed there as a PSU student to birdwatch along the road and conduct studies of Brown Creepers in the forest. State College Bird Club members have stomped the barrens for decades with many great finds over the years.

Nick Bolgiano has recently adopted the Barrens (Game Lands 176) as a Special Areas Project. He has confirmed that the Barrens are great for birding. Early successional forest birds that are declining elsewhere are abundant breeders in the Scotia Barrens. For instance, Golden-winged Warbler is fairly common in these barrens. Elsewhere, this species has declined drastically in its range. In fact, the Golden-winged Warbler is a high priority Watch List species for bird conservation. By studying the habitat of these barrens, perhaps we can better understand how and why early successional forest birds succeed so well here. The burning regime may be part of the story.

For more information about the Special Areas Project:

Douglas A. Gross

PSO Special Areas Project Coordinator

144 Winters Road, Orangeville, PA 17859

or, Susquehanna SES Environmental Laboratory,

804 Salem Boulevard, Berwick, PA 18603.

office phone: 570-542-2191

e-mail: dougross@sunlink.net

12th Annual PSO Meeting May 18-20

The PSO's annual meeting for 2001 will take place at the Ramada Inn in State College May 18-20, 2001. Events will include registration, a Social and the business meeting on Friday evening, field trips Saturday and Sunday mornings, and a talk session on Saturday afternoon followed by a buffet-style banquet with Scott Weidensaul as the featured speaker Saturday evening. We are also working on having a vendor's area for birding-related vendors to show off their wares, so bring your wallet along.

This meeting will provide birders an opportunity to sample the habitats in central Pennsylvania. Central Appalachian songbirds will be the dominant theme with State College being more-or-less surrounded by Rothrock, Moshannon, and Bald Eagle State Forests as well as the State Game Lands known locally as the "Barrens".

Passerine migration will be at or just past peak depending on the spring weather. While far-northern breeders will still be moving through, a wide variety of warblers, vireos, flycatchers etc. will be getting serious about breeding. Several field trips are planned for either Saturday or Sunday morning.

One trip will be a combination of Natural Areas in Rothrock S.F. south of State College (Detweiler Run, Bear Meadows, and Alan Seeger). These areas feature the usual Red-eyed Vireos and Ovenbirds - but will also provide a nice mixture of northern and southern species: Canada, Hooded, Blackburnian, Black-throated Blue, and Black-and White Warblers, Louisiana Waterthrush, Winter Wren, Veery, Hermit and Wood Thrush, Blue-headed Vireo, Acadian Flycatcher, Brown Creeper, Pileated Woodpecker, Broad-winged Hawk, and Common Raven. These destinations feature modest patches of old-growth trees in Detweiler Run and Alan Seeger, and bog habitat at Bear Meadows found more commonly farther North. This trip will involve a 1.5 mile walk on a hiking trail and old road in Detweiler Run.

A trip to Black Moshannon State Park, north of State College, will include many of the same species as the Detweiler trip - but the emphasis will be even more on the northern species because the park

PSO Officers & Directors

Doug Gross — President — dougross@sunlink.com
Katrina Knight — Vice-president - kknight@epix.net
Roger Higbee — Secretary — bcoriole@twd.net
Eugene Zielinski — Treasurer — eez55@juno.com

Dan Brauning — brauning@csrlink.net
Alan Gregory — (past president) meg5@psu.edu
Frank Haas — pabirds@redrose.net
Margaret Higbee — bcoriole@twd.net
Steve Hoffman — shoffman@audubon.org
Deaune Hoffman — raven@paonline.com
Shonah Hunter — shunter@lhup.edu
Mary Jane Seipler — Grosbeaker@aol.com
Dennis Smeltzer — (no email address)
Linda Wagner — LWagner342@aol.com

Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED