

PSO

Newsletter



The Newsletter of the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology

July 2001

Volume 12, Number 2

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK....

The 12th Annual Meeting Successes and Milestones, and Some Extra Thank-you Notes

The PSO held a very successful meeting at State College. I would like to publicly thank the local hosts, the State College Bird Club, and the PSO Board for making this meeting a seamless success. Not only did the local committee lead several excellent field trips, but they also gave most of the afternoon programs and arranged for most of the vendors. All were outstanding.

This brings me to the milestones. It was our first meeting for birding vendors. The sellers of art, books, and optics were a big hit with the attendees. PSO members especially enjoyed trying out the latest "uberglasses" and comparing different models. Birders left the conference with artwork tucked under their arms, too. It was also the first time we had bird book authors signing their works. Both Scott Weidensaul and Charles Fergus met people, sold their great books, and signed them for their many fans. These two native Pennsylvanians are really making a name for themselves in natural history publishing. We are proud to call them our own.

There were about 90 birders officially registered for the meeting, but unofficially there were more than 100 people who participated in the weekend activities if we include local birders who attended field trips without registering. So, we had more than 100 people at our meeting for the first time. Attendance is more amazing when considering that it comprises almost one quarter of our total membership. Such a high participation level is a great sign that our society is vigorous and growing.

The PA Ornithological Records Committee made presentations as a committee for the first time, too. Paul Hess, PORC Chairman, gave an informal summary of PORC's role in PA ornithology. Paul has attended PSO,

participates quite freely in the PA Birds internet forum, and has written articles for *PA Birds* and our newsletter. Matt Sharp followed with a lengthy presentation of the pitfalls of bird identification that PORC and PSO birders wrestle with to add species to the official state list.

Scott's "Mountains of the Heart" talk was the perfect way to cap off our gathering. The room was a bit tight for our group, but that's the way it often is for family gatherings. His talk followed a series of great presentations that were particularly appropriate for our location. I will never look at white splash marks on stream stones in quite the same way thanks to Tim O'Connell and Bob Mulvihill.

The meeting gave Steve Hoffman, the Pennsylvania Audubon Director of Bird Conservation, an opportunity to promote the Important Bird Areas program to the PSO members. As a result, many PSO birders have gleefully participated in IBA birding weekend forays in the wilds of northcentral PA.

For me, one of the special highlights was the honor of presenting the prestigious Earl Poole Award to Barb and Frank Haas for their outstanding contributions to Pennsylvania ornithology. Even though they are no longer fully responsible for publishing *PA Birds*, we hope they will continue to find other roles to play in the state's birding circles. Thanks to Frank and Barb for all that they have done, well beyond publishing our fine bird journal, a great contribution in itself.

This was in many ways our most successful meeting. We achieved milestones, yet I found that the little moments in the field were perhaps the most satisfying. Watching one member showing another her first Canada Warbler or kneeling down in the trail with a new friend to identify a white violet are the kinds of instances that make our meetings extra special.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank somebody who always seems to do all the right things behind

the scenes to make things go well. Shonah Hunter of Lock Haven University has coordinated the registration and local arrangements for most of our annual meetings. When things go right and nobody notices, it is probably because Shonah took care of it. I notice, and I'm grateful for her many contributions. Thanks, Shonah!

Another overlooked outstanding member of our organization has been our immediate past president, Alan Gregory. He has done much to foster good will and a conservation ethic into our organization. One of his outstanding contributions has been the PSO pamphlets we use to attract new members. Some new meeting attendees joined us because they picked up our brochures which Alan wrote and designed. It is just one of the countless things he has done to further PA bird study and conservation. Thanks, Alan!

What next? In 2002, we head east again to the Poconos near the Delaware River. It just isn't a place to add a strange woodpecker to your state list. The Poconos are "one of the last great places" to go birding. I can't wait to go!

– Douglas A. Gross
PSO President

The Conservation Corner

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

PSO members, at last there is some good news for wildlife. Last year, Pennsylvania received approval from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to participate in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). This program will allow landowners to enroll highly-erodible farmland and stream buffers in a program that provides wildlife habitat and pays the landowner for doing it. The program is administered through the PA Game Commission with the idea of improving wildlife habitat including grassland species and species found in riparian areas. To be eligible, the land must have a cropping history or be marginal pasture. The land must be planted with conservation cover such as warm-season grasses, legumes, or trees and a conservation plan prepared.

Twenty southcentral and southeastern counties are targeted for the program and since June 2000, over 1600 landowners have offered nearly 50,000 acres for wildlife habitat. The goal of the program is to have 100,000 acres enrolled in the program in the 20 county area with the land in

wildlife cover for 10 to 15 years minimum. Further, participating landowners, in cooperation with a Commission biologist, are to prepare a conservation plan for wildlife. Of the nearly 50,000 acres offered to enroll, conservation plans have been prepared for over 19,000 acres with plans for the rest being worked on as staff and resources permit.

The plans include riparian buffers, warm season grasses, and related wildlife habitat. Part of this program includes bird monitoring along 89 routes in 20 different counties. Surveys will be conducted between May 1 and June 30 each year over the next 10 years so that trends in bird abundance on agricultural lands can be tracked. In addition, the School of Forest Resources (Wildlife section) at Penn State University will study the use of fields by pheasants and other grassland birds for the next four years. A small mammal study is also being planned.

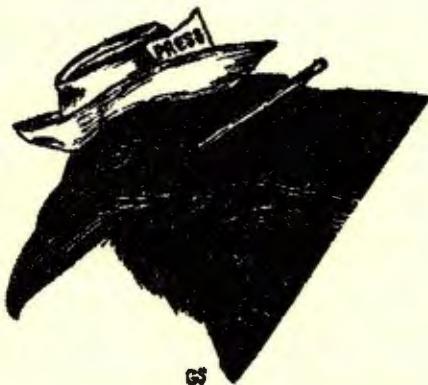
The program is strictly voluntary but to date, there has been a lot of interest in the program and wildlife will certainly benefit. Landowners interested in participating may contact one of the following biologists.

County	Biologist	Phone
Bedford, Fulton, and Somerset	Brian Wolff	814-445-6876
Northumberland and Union	Colleen DeLong	570-286-7114
Adams and York	Dean Shank	717-334-2317
Cumberland and Franklin	Sharon Scarborough	717-249-3924
Dauphin, Lebanon and Perry	Roger Coup	717-921-2380
Columbia and Montour	Scott Singer	570-784-1062
Berks and Schuylkill	Kevin Wenner	570-622-1312
Juniata and Snyder	Chad Spencer	570-837-0007
Chester and Lancaster	Josh Homyack	717-396-9423

– Mark Henry
PSO 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 PSO's "birds on public lands" database. SAP now has 4,974 trips from 114 locations in the database. There are more than 1,100,000 individual birds logged into the database. We are also making progress converting our database files into a format more easily used for checklists. Indiana County's Yellow Creek State Park is our first trial with this project. SAP data are being used in a variety of places for education, inventory, and research.

The Lower Trail: Riparian Birding Hotspot

At our recent annual meeting, Dave Kyler and other local birders led a field trip to one of Pennsylvania's hidden birding hotspots, the Lower Trail. In this case, "Lower" refers to a person and not a position, so it rhymes with "bower" not "mower." This is one of the rails-to-trails projects that are springing up across the state.

The trail follows the Frankstown Branch of the Juniata River near Water Street. Its relatively flat terrain makes access easy for all birders. A few benches along the way give walkers a break from warbler neck and flycatcher chasing.

PSO visitors were treated to an excellent field trip filled with numerous singing territorial birds. For a ridgerunner like me, it was a real treat to hear so many Yellow-throated Warblers on territory. Riparian birds including Acadian Flycatcher, Louisiana Waterthrush (watch out for those white splashes), Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, Warbling Vireos, and American Redstarts are quite common. Dave's SAP data reveal that this is a good migrant trap as well as a great place for breeding songbirds.

We are glad to report that the Lower Trail is a new

SAP. Dave Kyler, who like the author is a bit grayer than when an Atlas coordinator, has kindly sent in data collected in past years. Thanks, Dave! His data indicate that this is an excellent birding place. You just have to watch where you park (don't park on private land along the trail) to enjoy birding here. From what our leaders indicated, the really productive part of the trail was west of the Water Street market away from the highway noise.

Nick Bolgiano is continuing Dave's data collection by collecting more SAP inventory data, especially during the summer breeding season. The data collected by Dave and Nick are demonstrating the importance of this location for riparian forest species. Riparian forests are poorly represented by the state's land holdings, so bird data for this location has been eagerly received.

Lower Trail is one of the real hotspots for Cerulean Warbler, one of our state's highest ranked Watch List species. According to Nick's data, the Lower Trail may have the highest Cerulean concentration in the state with at least 40 pairs located so far (and this is preliminary data). As the data come in, we will share more information about the Lower Trail. Thanks to Dave and Nick.

Little Juniata Natural Area: Any Takers?

The Lower Trail is certainly one of the most interesting birding spots in the southcentral part of the state. When I look at the map, I see it gerrymander down the Frankstown Branch and connect Rothrock State Forest with Canoe Creek Valley.

Yet, when I look at the map I can't help but wonder what is tucked away in the Little Juniata Natural Area just to the north. It has been designated as a DCNR Natural Area. It is not as easy to get to as the Lower Trail, but it may be even more interesting. The Natural Area designation suggests that it contains more mature and untouched forest than the Lower Trail. What kind of birds are there? I think we should find out. Even a handful of summer field trips would give us a lot of critical information about a little corner of Pennsylvania rarely visited by birders. Is anyone game? Let me know if you would like to adopt this site as a SAP.

Rothrock State Forest Threatened by Road Development

Birders who attended the PSO meeting learned from our friends in State College that the Rothrock State Forest may be threatened by possible road development. As implausible as it may seem, Penn DOT is considering changing the current path of Route 322 between Potter's Mills and State College to a route veering between Laurel Run Reservoir and Penn Roosevelt State Park, possibly near

Detweiler Run and Bear Meadows, and along the present Bear Meadows Road through Galbreath Gap to join the Mt. Nittany Expressway near Boalsburg. Another possible route would start near the current roadway near Potter's Mills, loop south adjacent to Colyer Lake, follow Treaster Kettle Road to Bear Meadows Road near Bear Meadows and to Galbreath Gap.

As Nick Bolgiano and Greg Grove have noted, both of these routes would desecrate areas that are priceless in wildlife and recreational value. Our wonderful experiences at the State College meeting in Rothrock State Forest left me (and many of you) with a deep sense of appreciation for the value of this large forest block in the center of the state.

These are the same folks who brought you the Route I-99 over Bald Eagle Mountain. People who live near this route or have concerns about it should be very vocal and well-organized. The opposition which cares little for scenic and wildlife values will be powerful and influential.

Local birders have done a great deal by compiling bird data for several locations in these proposed road areas. SAP has a great deal of bird data for Bear Meadows, Greenwood Furnace State Park, Detweiler's Run Natural Area, Big Flat Laurel Natural Area, Thickhead Wild Area, and Penn Roosevelt State Park. With this data, we are better armed to do battle.

Nick Bolgiano has asked that bird club members compile data on birds observed at Colyer Lake, including those seen during migration. Data are important to decision making and demonstrate a strong local interest in the area as a recreational resource.

Thanks to Nick and Greg for leading the way with their binoculars and notebooks.

Calling for Northern Bobwhites

As has been discussed in this column previously, the Northern Bobwhite is a Candidate - At Risk species in Pennsylvania that is in dire need of attention. It is probably endangered as a breeding species in the Commonwealth. The Game Commission is starting to focus more on this species. The bobwhite poses a particularly stiff challenge because of the severe destruction and fragmentation of its breeding range and because its gene pool has been so compromised by the continued introduction of out-of-state birds. We need to learn more to launch a full-blown bobwhite recovery program.

One of the very first steps in the recovery of this species is a better inventory of our present bobwhite populations. Please send me any observations of breeding

bobwhites, especially if there are broods seen in its historical range of southeastern and central Pennsylvania. I will forward any pertinent information to PGC biologists who are paying particular attention to our native quail.

I encourage you to adopt any public lands with breeding bobwhites as a Special Areas Project so basic inventory data can be collected on such rare locations.

ATVs: The Scourge of Wildlife in Pennsylvania

Readers of conservation bulletins and the various on-line newsletters know of the recent House bill for stricter controls of ATVs in the state.

Whether this bill passes or not, it is illegal to run ATVs on state game lands except under special permit for the handicapped. So, if you see ATVs or signs of ATVs on game lands, you are witnessing an illegal activity. I hardly need to mention why ATVs are illegal, because we all know how their tires cause erosion, destroy vernal ponds, interrupt bird breeding and feeding activities, and generally wreak havoc with valuable wildlife habitat. They are widely recognized as having a detrimental effect on the state's fish and wildlife habitats.

If you hate ATVs, you have many friends. The enforcers of the Game and Wildlife Code on Game Lands have a difficult time controlling ATVs because of the numerous trails and means to enter the large land holdings. They can use and appreciate your help. If you observe ATV activity or evidence of it on game lands, please call the local regional Game Commission office and report it. Details about trail or road names, access points, and the timing of activities can be important to any investigation. The Wildlife Conservation Officers in my own region have conducted successful sting operations to apprehend ATV users. Some of my tips have helped them locate ATV activity (particularly irksome because they were in wetlands and an Important Bird Area) and make arrests. Habitat destruction by these machines has abated since then. Vigilance is critical, so it is important to keep an eye on problem areas. The WCOs appreciate any help they can get. Don't be shy about making friends with them.

Bald Eagles: Nests Going Unnoticed?

The Bald Eagle is undergoing a miraculous recovery in our state. There are more than 50 nesting pairs of our national symbol in the Commonwealth. They seem to be popping up all over the place. As big and majestic as this bird is, the nests can sometimes be well hidden and overlooked. Bald Eagles often choose locations with little human activity during their breeding season. So, you may

have an eagle nest near you and not even know it.

The new sites are often along rivers on private lands. Some are amazingly close to municipalities but go unnoticed by most. A few are on islands or in large trees along the riverbank or hillsides overlooking the water. Such nests might be disturbed out of ignorance and innocence.

It is easier to protect Bald Eagle nests if the locations are identified. If you hear reports of Bald Eagle adults along rivers or at lakes in late spring and summer, please follow through by visiting the site and checking out the report. I've had my own share of "wild eagle chases" when big eagles turned out to be Red-tailed Hawks or something even less likely, but some reports have proven to be quite fruitful.

Of course, it is much easier to recognize an eagle nest before leaf-out. So, maybe we should all be taking more

canoe trips in late March and April with waterproof binoculars in hand. But, we can also contribute to the safety of the eagle nests by finding them and reporting them to somebody who might be able to provide some protection to the site.

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 Lab.
804 Salem Boulevard
Berwick, PA 18603
office phone: 570-542-2191
e-mail: dougross@sunlink.net

Pennsylvania Breeding Birds of Special Concern

Extinct

Passenger Pigeon

Extirpated

Greater Prairie Chicken
Piping Plover
Olive-sided Flycatcher
Bewick's Wren
Bachman's Sparrow

Endangered

American Bittern
Least Bittern
Great Egret
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron
Bald Eagle
Peregrine Falcon

Endangered (cont.)

King Rail
Common Tern
Black Tern
Short-eared Owl
Loggerhead Shrike

Threatened

Osprey
Upland Sandpiper
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher
Sedge Wren
Dickcissel

Candidate - At Risk

Black-crowned Night-Heron
Northern Harrier
Northern Bobwhite
Barn Owl

Candidate - Rare

Pied-billed Grebe
Green-winged Teal
Northern Goshawk
American Coot
Common Snipe
Marsh Wren
Swainson's Thrush
Prothonotary Warbler
Summer Tanager

Candidate - Undetermined

Long-eared Owl
N.Saw-whet
Owl
Red Crossbill



PSO Annual Meeting

May 18, 2001

President Doug Gross called the meeting to order at 8:16 p.m. with 91 of our 353 members present. Alan Gregory made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes from last year's meeting; this was seconded by Rudy Keller and passed. The treasurer, Gene Zielinski, reported a May 14 balance of \$19,453.29 including income from both *PA Birds* and dues. These will be two separate accounts in the future.

Doug Gross introduced the current members of the board and explained that the terms for Dan Brauning and Margaret Higbee had expired. He further explained that as returning newsletter editor, Margaret would remain on the board. He then called for nominations from the floor to fill two vacant positions. Greg Grove and Carmen Santasania were nominated. After Alan Gregory moved to close the nominations and Chris Turn seconded the motion, Greg and Carmen were elected. Frank Haas moved then Alan Gregory seconded that the board and officers be approved by acclamation. The motion passed.

Doug thanked Greg Grove and Shonah Hunter for organizing the meeting.

Frank Haas explained the transfer of *Pennsylvania Birds* from the Haases to PSO with Katrina Knight as chief editor. He further explained the task each new staff person performs to keep the magazine's publication running smoothly and on schedule.

Doug Gross updated us on the Special Area Projects. There are now 4,875 field trips from 112 locations in the data base. He has shared these data with several agencies and is now working with state parks to prepare checklists. More than 90 trail routes have been run this year.

Doug mentioned that the website for PSO is in progress and that the scholarship fund will be explained in a future newsletter. Doug welcomed the vendors.

Treasurer Gene Zielinski informed the membership that the paperwork for our non-profit status will be submitted before the end of May 2001.

Field trip leaders took several minutes describing the scheduled outings. Katrina Knight made a motion to adjourn at 8:54; this was seconded by Frank Haas.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger V. Higbee, Secretary

Notes from PORC

(Editor's note: This article begins a regular feature of the Newsletter in which the state records committee will report on its policies, procedures, and progress.)

Members of the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee often hear the following three questions:

1. "Who are you people?"
2. "What business do you have telling me whether I'm right or wrong?"
3. "Why didn't you approve my _____
(fill in a bird species of your choice)?"

Who are we? We are a panel of volunteers, seven voting members and a non-voting secretary, who spend many hours circulating and evaluating a hundred or more reports each year in the form of photographs, videotapes, audiotapes, and/or written descriptions. What we are assigned to do is provide a credible record of birds that have occurred in the state, which is acceptable for future scientific research. In decades to come, researchers may recognize very few observers' names. They will know only what is in the files and whether the committee considered a record to be valid at the time it was submitted.

Who aren't we? We are not trying to manage birders' personal lists, state lists, or county lists. We don't presume to judge birders' ability. Our purpose is not to tell observers that their identifications are correct or wrong. We can evaluate only the quality of the evidence that we receive. A birder might truly have seen a species reported, knew the bird was identified correctly, but failed to tell the committee how it differed from a very similar species or neglected to include an essential diagnostic field mark. Committee members often have a hunch that an identification was correct even though the description does not support it beyond a reasonable doubt. We may be as disappointed as the observer that a report could not meet the standards for the official state record.

In the pre-PORC era countless reports of rare birds were listed in local, regional, even national journals merely on the faith of a compiler who may have received few details or none at all. Perhaps sometimes a record was accepted only because the species was considered easy to identify. One example I know is a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in Butler County in 1983. No complete first-hand details were ever published, yet the report traveled all the way up to *American Birds*, (the respected magazine now named *North American Birds*), where it was stated as an undoubted fact: "A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was in Butler, Pa., May 13." When editing

reports for the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania at that time I considered the bird "well described," but now as the Butler County compiler for *Pennsylvania Birds* I wish a records committee had existed then. In that case, full details might have been submitted, formally evaluated and published, and I'd have an idea whether this rare visitor really deserves a place on the county list. For all I know two decades later, it was some common bird flying with strips of nest material stringing out behind.

Where do we come from? The answer begins with the Pennsylvania Biological Survey, a nonprofit organization designed to "increase the knowledge of and foster the perpetuation of the natural biological diversity of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania." It consists of scientists, representatives of state and federal agencies, major natural history museums and scientific institutions, and interested individuals. The Survey appoints subcommittees for various classes of flora and fauna, and the panel for birds is the Ornithological Technical Committee (headed by Doug Gross). In turn, the OTC established the PORC in 1988 as a subgroup of its own.

The Records Committee's purposes go beyond evaluating evidence for rare and unusual birds. Its bylaws mandate the committee to maintain the official list of bird species that have occurred in the state; to maintain permanently the original records along with the committee's votes and comments for use in ornithological research; to publish information on all records receiving a decision; to provide a means by which sight records can gain acceptance as credible scientific data, and to establish standards in the methods of collecting and submitting good-quality field data.

The OTC elects PORC members to three-year terms. In the 12 years since PORC first met in April 1989, 20 different people have served on the committee, all of them dedicated and long-experienced birders both amateur and professional. PORC's current members are the following.

George Armistead, Philadelphia, is on the Ornithology Department staff at the Academy of Natural Sciences while working toward an M.A. in environmental studies at the University of Pennsylvania. He has had articles and photographs published in *Birding*, *North American Birds*, and other ornithological journals, including the first North American photographic record of Swinhoe's Storm-Petrel. George is also a member of the Virginia Avian Records Committee.

Doug Couchman, Venango County, has banded in every U.S. state, every Canadian province, and 19 other countries, and has field experience with all but four species on the Pennsylvania list. Doug's educational background is in

mathematics, economics, and law, and when not birding, he directs duplicate bridge tournaments.

Paul Hess, Allegheny County, edited bird records from 19 western Pennsylvania counties for the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania from 1975 to 1987, wrote the monthly bird report in the Society's *Bulletin*, and was the magazine's editor for eight years. He was on the editorial staff and wrote the introduction to the Society's 1996 book *Where to Find Birds in Western Pennsylvania*. A birder since age 7 when growing up in Los Angeles, he is a retired newspaper editor.

Nick Pulcinella, (non-voting Secretary), Delaware County, received the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club's Julian K. Potter Award and Witmer Stone Award for excellence in field ornithology and research and is the author of *Birds of Delaware County Pennsylvania* published in 1998. Nick has been a member of PORC since 1994 and chaired the committee until 1998. He has held a master bird-banding permit since 1975. In non-birding life he is a Registered Nurse with experience in trauma, crisis intervention, home care, and flight nursing.

Bill Reid, Luzerne County, a birder in Pennsylvania since 1950, has been the *Pennsylvania Birds* compiler for Wyoming and Bradford counties, and formerly Luzerne and Susquehanna counties. For the Breeding Bird Atlas he completed more than 75 blocks, served on the Advisory and Verification Committee, and wrote 10 species accounts. Bill has compiled the Southeastern Bradford County CBC for 51 years, participated in more than 100 CBCs, and conducted more than 100 breeding bird surveys. He received the PSO's annual Earl Poole Award last year for his contribution to ornithology in the state.

Paul Rodewald, formerly of Centre County, will soon receive a doctorate from Penn State University, where his work focused on the ecology of songbirds during migratory periods in Pennsylvania. He has accepted a teaching and research position at Ohio State University to begin in the fall. Paul has worked in field ornithology projects in New Jersey, New York, Minnesota, Puerto Rico, Texas, California, Alaska, Montana, Arkansas, Pennsylvania, Venezuela, Belize, Ecuador, and two years in Cameroon, and has authored 13 scientific papers on avian ecology.

Matt Sharp, Philadelphia, is the Collection Manager of VIREO, the immense library of bird photographs at the Academy of Natural Sciences. It is fair to suggest that he may have looked at more photographs of birds than anyone else alive except the VIREO director. Matt recently was appointed to be Photo Editor for *North American Birds*. Among his field projects, he designed and carried out a

songbird monitoring program for Acadia National Park on Mount Desert Island, Maine.

Jerry Stanley, Venango County, has banded extensively in the U.S., Costa Rica (3 times), Ecuador (4 times), Venezuela (twice), Guyana, Trinidad, Belize, Guatemala, Thailand, Malaysia, and Borneo. He lives on a 417-acre tract along French Creek, which he and wife Kathie Goodblood manage as a nature sanctuary. In non-birding life, Jerry is a diagnostic radiologist.

The committee urges observers to submit documentation for species on the state review list, which is published in *Pennsylvania Birds*. Send photographs, tapes, and written descriptions to Nick Pulcinella, Secretary, 210 Welcome Ave., Norwood, PA 19074.

— Paul Hess, PORC Chairperson

PSO Scholarship Fund

With the society's incorporation now complete, the board of directors of your society decided recently to initiate a new account for the sole purpose of accumulating money for the awarding of a scholarship each year to a deserving graduate student.

Along with incorporation and our non-profit status (now pending before the IRS), contributions to this new scholarship fund will, of course, be deductible on your federal income tax return.

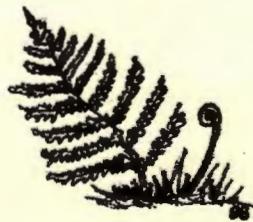
We have not yet picked a formal name for this new scholarship fund but plan to do so soon. In the meantime, please consider making a small contribution now to the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology's scholarship fund. Please indicate on your check that your contribution is for the scholarship fund. Along with the decision to set up this fund, the board also voted to allocate several hundred dollars to it from our regular treasury account.

Our new scholarship fund will not only help a deserving student, but will also lend additional prestige to the society while helping us grow.

Please send your contributions now to:

Eugene Zielinski
PSO Treasurer
1322 Old 220 Road
Bellefonte, PA 16823

Questions about the scholarship fund can be directed to Alan Gregory at meg5@psu.edu.



PSO Supports Northern Goshawk Research

The PSO Board voted to donate \$500 to research being conducted on Northern Goshawks in Pennsylvania. The Northern Goshawk is one of Pennsylvania's most enigmatic breeding species. It is classified by the PA Biological Survey (OTC) as Candidate - Rare because of its rare breeding status and vulnerability to disturbance. It is treated as a sensitive species by Allegheny National Forest where goshawk nests are avoided in timbering activities.

The goshawk study is being conducted by David Brinker of the Maryland DNR in Maryland, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania. Our contribution supports the acquisition of satellite time for tracking fledgling and adult goshawks with telemetry. The telemetry equipment is being supplied by CCRT (the company that developed satellite-transmitter technology and have been doing all the cool peregrine stuff in Greenland and South Padre). These are cutting edge solar-powered satellite transmitters.

The telemetry will allow researchers to study the size of goshawk home ranges, natal area fidelity, dispersal behavior, migration, and other aspects of their behavior and ecology. Except for aspects of nesting habitat and migration, the goshawk is poorly studied in Pennsylvania. It is an important species for conservation because it occupies a high level in the food chain and seems sensitive to forest fragmentation and disturbance. Answering questions about the goshawk's breeding biology has practical value for the development of better management practices and conservation of goshawks and their habitat.

We are grateful for the support of PSO members and associated bird groups in this project. Thanks to Scott Weidensaul for leading this funding effort.

Haases Receive Poole Award

At the annual PSO meeting on May 19, President Doug Gross announced that Frank and Barb Haas were the recipients of this year's Earl Poole Award. Because of the Haases' considerable contribution to the Atlas and to Pennsylvania ornithology since that project, they were presented with a beautifully framed original pen and ink drawing for the *Atlas of Breeding Birds of Pennsylvania*. This original drawing by Julie Zickefoose depicts a Black-and-white Warbler feeding its fledgling.

Congratulations, Frank and Barb!!!

PA Birds List Serve

If you want to know what birds are being seen and what's happening in the ornithological world here in the state, information is available on the PA Birds list serve. It's easy to join, and it's free. To join, send an e-mail message, (leaving the subject line blank as it is ignored and without the quotes) "Subscribe PABIRDS Yourfirstname Yourlastname" (fill in your real first and last names) to listserv@list.audubon.org. Within minutes, you will receive a message in return to which you must reply. You will then be subscribed and receive messages as they are posted." Questions on joining can be directed to the listowner, Carmen T. Santasania at ctsantasania@cs.com.

PSO Bird Quiz

How well do you know our Pennsylvania birds?

1. Name an uncommon breeder but often very abundant migrant whose eye color changes from yellow to red as it ages from immature to adult.
2. Which U.S. state appears most often among the common names of North American bird species? Which of those species are on the Pennsylvania list?
3. The best known brood parasite in Pennsylvania is of course the Brown-headed Cowbird. Name another species (not a duck, other water bird, or cuckoo) that sometimes lays eggs in a neighbor's nest.
4. What bird reported in Pennsylvania in 1999 (and currently in review by the records committee) breeds only on the Falkland Islands, Gough Island, and Tristan da Cunha in the far-southern Atlantic Ocean?
5. What species that has presumably nested in Pennsylvania is famous for breeding in any month of the year, triggered by an abundant food crop?

(answers on page 11)

PSO Annual Meeting Revisited

The following 89 persons registered for the recent PSO meeting at State College May 18-20.

Beam, Jon	Fialkovich, Michael	Heath, Molly	Keller, Rudy	Ross, Bob
Bickel, Gloria	Fox, Jodi	Henry, Mark	Kiernan, Nancy-Ellen	Sabold, Pat
Bickel, Matt	Fox, Pete	Henry, Ruth	Knight, Katrina	Santasania, Carmen
Bishop, Joe	Fuller, Alice	Hess, Deborah	Kuehl, Janet	Seipler, Mary Jane
Blatchley, Carolyn	Fuller, Roana	Hess, Leonard	Kuehl, Tom	Sharp, Matt
Bolgiano, Nick	Gentry, Sarah	Hess, Linda	Kyler, David	Syster, Georgette
Brackbill, Jennifer	Gerlach, Trudy	Hess, Paul	Kyler, Trudy	Turn, Chris
Brauning, Dan	Goodrich, Laurie	Higbee, Margaret	Labar, Sherri	Vangrin, Carole
Bryant, Don	Gregory, Alan	Higbee, Roger	Lamer, Gloria	Vangrin, Joseph
Buckwalter, Margaret	Gregory, Monica	Hoffman, Deuane	Laubscher, Wayne	Wagner, Linda
Carey, Michael	Grim, Debra	Hoffman, Steve	Lewis, Thomas	Walsh, Mary
Cook, Bob	Gross, Doug	Howard, Jerry	McConaughy, Mark	Walsh, Philip
Cook, Ruth	Grove, Deb	Howard, Marjorie	McGuire, Florence	Waltz, Larry
Curtin, James	Grove, Greg	Hoyer, Charlie	McGuire, James	White, Pam
Davis, Cindy	Haas, Barb	Hunter, Shonah	Miller, Cathy	Weidensaul, Scott
Dennis, Nancy	Haas, Frank	Jacobs, Dorothy	Myers, Sue	Widman, Charles
Dunson, Margaret	Harnishfeger, Adam	Johner, Patricia	O'Connell, Tim	Zielinski, Gene
Farber, Dave	Harvey, Anna	Johnson, Barbara	Rodewald, Amanda	

Bird Species Sighted at PSO Annual Meeting

May 18-20, 2001

Common Loon	Downy Woodpecker	Winter Wren	Mourning Warbler
Double-crested Cormorant	Hairy Woodpecker	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Common Yellowthroat
Great Blue Heron	Northern Flicker	Eastern Bluebird	Hooded Warbler
Turkey Vulture	Pileated Woodpecker	Veery	Canada Warbler
Canada Goose	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Hermit Thrush	Yellow-breasted Chat
Wood Duck	Acadian Flycatcher	Wood Thrush	Scarlet Tanager
Mallard	Alder Flycatcher	American Robin	Eastern Towhee
Red-breasted Merganser	Willow Flycatcher	Gray Catbird	Chipping Sparrow
Bald Eagle	Least Flycatcher	Northern Mockingbird	Field Sparrow
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Eastern Phoebe	Brown Thrasher	Vesper Sparrow
Cooper's Hawk	Great Crested Flycatcher	European Starling	Savannah Sparrow
Red-shouldered Hawk	Eastern Kingbird	Cedar Waxwing	Grasshopper Sparrow
Broad-winged Hawk	Yellow-throated Vireo	Blue-winged Warbler	Henslow's Sparrow
Red-tailed Hawk	Blue-headed Vireo	Golden-winged Warbler	Song Sparrow
American Kestrel	Warbling Vireo	Tennessee Warbler	Swamp Sparrow
Ring-necked Pheasant	Red-eyed Vireo	Nashville Warbler	White-throated Sparrow
Ruffed Grouse	Blue Jay	Northern Parula	Dark-eyed Junco
Wild Turkey	American Crow	Yellow Warbler	Northern Cardinal
Killdeer	Fish Crow	Chestnut-sided Warbler	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Spotted Sandpiper	Common Raven	Magnolia Warbler	Indigo Bunting
Ring-billed Gull	Purple Martin	Black-throated Blue Warbler	Bobolink
Rock Dove	Tree Swallow	Yellow-rumped Warbler	Red-winged Blackbird
Mourning Dove	N. Rough-winged Swallow	Black-throated Green Warbler	Eastern Meadowlark
Black-billed Cuckoo	Cliff Swallow	Pine Warbler	Common Grackle
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Barn Swallow	Prairie Warbler	Brown-headed Cowbird
Barred Owl	Black-capped Chickadee	Cerulean Warbler	Orchard Oriole
Chimney Swift	Tufted Titmouse	Black-and-white Warbler	Baltimore Oriole
Ruby-thrited Hummingbird	Red-breasted Nuthatch	American Redstart	Purple Finch
Belted Kingfisher	White-breasted Nuthatch	Worm-eating Warbler	House Finch
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Brown Creeper	Ovenbird	American Goldfinch
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Carolina Wren	Northern Waterthrush	House Sparrow
	House Wren	Louisiana Waterthrush	

PSO Officers and Directors

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Katrina Knight – Vice-President kknight@epix.net
Roger Higbee – Secretary bcoriole@twd.net
Eugene Zielinski – Treasurer eez55@juno.com

Alan Gregory – Past President meg5@psu.edu
Greg Grove – gwg2@psu.edu
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Steve Hoffman – shoffman@audubon.org
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Shonah Hunter – shunter@lhup.edu
Carmen Santasania – ctsantasania@cs.com
Mary Jane Seipler – grosbeaker@aol.com
Dennis Smeltzer (no e-mail)
Linda Wagner – lwagner342@aol.com

PSO Annual Meeting 2002

Mark your calendars now for the 2002 Annual PSO meeting which will be held in the Poconos near the Delaware River. The dates are May 17-19, 2002. Details will be forthcoming in future newsletters.

Coming Events

July 28 – Eighth Annual Ned Smith Wildlife Festival in Millersburg. For information, contact the Ned Smith Center at 717-692-3699 or check their website at www.nedsmithcenter.org.

July 29 – 7:00 p.m. Organizational meeting for the new proposed bird club in the Pittsburgh area at Frick Park's nature center. For more information, contact Jack Solomon at 412-521-3365 or at snaggle719@yahoo.com.

August 12 – 9:00 a.m. The Pymatuning Area for shorebirds, led by Mark McConaughy (724-733-5299). Meet at the I-79 rest area between Exits 34 and 35 for this Westmoreland Bird Club outing.

August 25 – 8:30 a.m. Bird walk at Ricketts Glen State Park in northern Luzerne County sponsored by the North Branch Bird Club. Meet in the parking lot behind the park office off Route 487.

September 4 – 7:30 p.m. Todd Bird Club, Indiana County, will hold their annual Members' Night at Blue Spruce County Park just off Route 110 near the town of Ernest. For further information, contact program chair Carol Guba at 724-465-4429 or e-mail her at cerulean@microserve.net.

September 10 – 7:30 p.m. Bartramian Audubon Society will hold their monthly meeting at the United Methodist Church in Slippery Rock. Dick Craig will present a program featuring the International Crane Center in Baraboo, Wisconsin.

September 15 – Broad-winged Hawk watch at Council Cup, Luzerne County, sponsored by the North Branch Bird Club. Contact Alan Gregory at meg5@psu.edu for information.

September 21-23 – Cost: \$250, includes five guided hawk watches, accommodations, and meals. Join Pennsylvania Audubon staff Steve Hoffman, Director of Bird Conservation, and Marci Mowery, Director of Education, as we travel along the Kittatinny Ridge in search of migrating Broad-winged Hawks and other hawks. Call 717-213-6880 or e-mail mmowery@audubon.org for a brochure.

September 22 – 8:30 a.m. Bird walk at Ricketts Glen State Park in northern Luzerne County, sponsored by the North Branch Bird Club. Meet in the parking lot behind the park office off Route 487.

September 29 – 8:00 a.m. Yellow Creek State for migrant passerines and early water birds, led by Steve Graff (724-463-9238) and sponsored by Todd Bird Club, Indiana County. Meet at the park office on Route 259 just off Route 422 east of Indiana. For information, contact Steve at pzlhsxa@grove.iup.edu.

October 2 – 7:30 p.m. Todd Bird Club meeting at Blue Spruce Lodge featuring Chuck Tague's *Hawks and Hawk Watchers: A Photo Essay of the Birds, Volunteers, and Visitors at the Allegheny Front Hawk Watch*.

October 7-13 – Hawk Watching Week in Pennsylvania, as proclaimed by Gov. Tom Ridge.

October 27 – 8:00 p.m. Halloween Owl program at the Wiconisco County Park in Millersburg.

Note: This calendar is intended as a sampling of birding related activities in Pennsylvania. To have events included, please submit the information to bcoriole@twd.net or mail to return address on this newsletter.

Answers to Bird Quiz on page 9:

1. Sharp-shinned Hawk. (Cooper's Hawk and Northern Goshawk share this color change, but neither would be considered a very abundant migrant.)
2. California (Condor, Quail, Gull, Gnatcatcher, Thrasher, Towhee). Not one of them is on the Pennsylvania list, but odds are good that the gull will be confirmed before long.
3. Cliff Swallow.
4. Greater Shearwater.
5. Red Crossbill.



Waggoner's Gap and Audubon

Very few wildlife experiences are more exciting than the sight of a Golden Eagle cruising south above Blue Mountain cloaked in late autumn browns, yellows, and reds. There's no better place in Pennsylvania to see this sight than at Waggoner's Gap - which is where Route 74 crosses the Blue Mountain (Kittatinny Ridge) just north of Carlisle. This past spring, Audubon Pennsylvania, the state office of National Audubon located at Wildwood Sanctuary, acquired the Waggoner's Gap hawk watch site. This 20-acre acquisition will assure that the customary hawk watching and counting activities can continue in perpetuity.

We were very pleased to be awarded \$20,000 from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) for the parking lot and the signs. The small parking lot will be constructed on the same side of the road as the hawk watch site, and will be on the Perry County side of the mountain. This will eliminate the need for the very dangerous road crossing hawk watchers now experience. Parking on the opposite side of the road has become more restricted and problematic too. A trail will be built to the rocks, and a portable toilet placed on the site for the hawk watch

season. Audubon will seek to match the funds received from DCNR with private money. Currently, several schools and organized groups use the site for environmental education. Audubon staff and Waggoner's Gap hawk counters will be working together this summer to create an education plan for the site.

Audubon has begun an endowment fund to assure the permanent protection and sound management of the site. An endowment fund will provide money from the interest each year to help with maintenance and site work. The first individual to contribute to the endowment fund was Dave Grove, who is the official hawk counter at the site!

For the year 2000, Dave Grove reported a total of 17,640 raptors. Some highlights were 221 Golden Eagles, 137 Bald Eagles, 6514 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 3870 Broad-winged Hawks, 3672 Red-tailed Hawks, 48 Peregrine Falcons, and 59 N. Goshawks. In 1999, Dave reported 23,696 total raptors, including 202 Golden Eagles and 218 goshawks. For more information about the annual count, contact Dave Grove at waggap@pa.net. For more information about Audubon's work at the site, contact Cindy Dunn at 717-213-6880 or email cdunn@audubon.org.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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