

PSO Newsletter



September 2003

The Newsletter of the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology

Volume 14, Number 3

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK....

Making a Gentle Noise

Quiet is what I like. When it's quiet, you can actually hear things – the rustle of leaves as a short-tailed shrew scratches in the duff, the chuckle of a thrush, the pip note of a tree frog, the low rumble and bubbling of a hidden brook, or the footsteps of a woodcock walking away in the bloodroot. In winter, there is nothing like the swish of pine boughs in the breeze as you glide along on skis looking for winter finches. Quiet is essential for these experiences.

Birders remain quiet for long periods as part of their life strategy, their attitude, their very basic way of life. Birding often is an escape from the hubbub and clamor of our busy urbanized life. We seek quiet and preserve it.

Yet, we cannot stay quiet all the time – especially when there are threats to bird habitat and to the enjoyment we have pursuing our pleasures outdoors. And, birders should not stay quiet when there are opportunities to make a difference by speaking out. There are plenty of opportunities right now for that. Fortunately, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has given us a few chances to share our experiences and our perspectives on land management issues. The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources has been especially welcoming. Between the Bureau of Forestry and the Bureau of State Parks, there are many public meetings and other forums for sharing your opinions. These are big opportunities. Do not waste them.

There certainly are noises out there that are shattering the quiet. Lots of other people are making a lot of noise in the woods and at meetings. From my perspective along the trail, it seems as if Penn's Woods are being taken over by loud machines. Almost every trail in my local state park is open to snowmobiles – which are certainly not equal partners with

country skiers, snowshoers, hikers, and birders. Plainly speaking, they ruin it for us.

I go birding in winter on skis and snowshoes. Many of my sojourns have been interrupted by the roar of machines. The paths become glazed with ice as the sun melts the old snowmobile tracks – no longer good for skis or shoes. With the growth of the ATV and snowmobile crowd and their vociferous promotion, the DCNR and Game Commission are faced with a pretty rowdy group. There is a lot of money involved with selling those noisy machines. It is a self-perpetuating justification for more space devoted to motorized outdoor recreation. If you spend money, you get your way.

With all the noise they make, ATVs and snowmobiles certainly disturb wildlife. The knobby tires of ATVs dig up soil and cause erosion in our clear brooks. In turn, this damages habitat for fish, birds, and everything else downstream. They don't do the environment any favors.

The lobbies for motorized outdoor fun are loud and clear. You need to speak up, too. Birders and wildlife watchers are recreationists. We spend money. We help local economies. We do it gently, without affecting the enjoyment of others outdoors.

The DCNR is giving us the opportunity to comment on their new State Park management plans. From what I have seen, these plans are very deficient in wildlife or bird management and recreation. Although the plans include a section on state Species of Special Concern (including Endangered and Threatened), there is little mention of protection for these species and their habitats. Some of our state parks are large enough to host many breeding species and to have critical migrant stopover habitat. Birders know this and flock to parks regularly. Several state parks are designated as Important Bird Areas for our state. The management of these parks should reflect a concern for

protecting wildlife habitat and the recreational potential that this habitat provides all Pennsylvanians.

We can certainly say the same about our state forests, but these management plans are much more likely to encompass concerns about wildlife habitat than those written for state parks. In my experiences, many state park employees are very aware of the recreational potential of good birding habitat. We wish this were reflected in the policy and management goals of the state park system. Birders should count, too. We must speak up individually as well as through our organizations.

When we are deep in the woods or standing at the edge of the marsh, we remain quiet. Birders cannot afford to remain quiet when it comes to the management of the state's lands.

It is time to make some gentle noise. Think big. Be bold.

– Douglas A. Gross, President

IBA Program Update for Pennsylvania

by Steve Hoffman and Rob Blye

In Pennsylvania we now have 81 IBAs encompassing more than 2.6 million acres of land (9.3% of PA's land area). Two new sites were identified by the OTC at its fall 2003 meeting: IBA # 80 – Buffalo Creek Watershed in Washington County and #81 – Greater Tussey Mountain.

The additions of Rob Blye as a second permanent staff position in February 2002 and Kim Van Fleet as a seasonal Volunteer Coordinator in 2002 and 2003 have made a tremendous difference in our progress this past year. A strategic plan was drafted late last year to guide the IBA program for the next three to five years.

The primary focus this year has been GIS mapping and detailed boundary delineation, drafting Phase I conservation plans, and encouraging local organizations (including Audubon chapters) to support the IBA program through the Stewardship Adoption initiative. GIS maps of all IBAs in PA are complete and will be made available to the public through the Audubon website shortly and as printed maps now.

(continued on page 8)

Farewell to Tim O'Connell

Many PSO members have been fortunate to become acquainted with Tim O'Connell since he arrived at Penn State University as a graduate research assistant nine years ago. At Penn State he earned a doctorate in ecology, led several important ecological studies sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, was a Research Associate in Penn State's Cooperative Wetlands Center, and led many activities for birders.

In August Tim opened a new chapter in his career. He is now an Assistant Professor in the Department of Zoology at Oklahoma State University. His position on the faculty is that of "landscape ecologist," and he is most interested in studying Louisiana Waterthrushes in the naturally fragmented riparian woodlands of central Oklahoma, close to the western edge of the species' breeding range. He brought that interest from Pennsylvania, where since 1998 he was co-principal investigator and project manager of an EPA-sponsored effort to develop an ecological indicator of forested headwater streams based on Louisiana Waterthrush biology and ecology.

Tim plans to develop models of ecological health using data on songbird communities in Oklahoma. "This is what really occupied my nine years in Pennsylvania, and it will be interesting to take the concept to this landscape which is almost the 'negative' of Pennsylvania. By that I mean basically 75% grassland and 25% forest as opposed to PA's 75% forest and 25% grassland," he said. Such research has long been Tim's major interest. The topic of his dissertation at Penn State was "Bird communities in the Mid-Atlantic Highlands; relationships to landscapes and implications for conservation." Two of his EPA-sponsored projects were to develop a bird-based indicator of ecological integrity for the Mid-Atlantic Piedmont and Coastal Plain and to explore the use of Breeding Bird Survey data for large-scale assessments of ecological integrity.

The tremendous variety of his ornithological activities in Pennsylvania included membership on the Ornithological Technical Committee of the Pennsylvania Biological Survey, participation in the Pennsylvania Partners in Flight bird conservation effort, and presidency of the State College Bird Club. Most recently he has managed the "design team" for the upcoming breeding bird atlas, and at the PSO annual meeting last May, he described methods of data collection and analysis to be used for the atlas. Tim's influence on Pennsylvania ornithology will be important for many years to come, and we wish him the best of success in Oklahoma.

– Paul Hess

The Raven Reporter



Tales of Discovery from the Special Areas Project

SAP volunteers have contributed nearly 6,500 field trips for 129 locations in the state. We invite you to send in your data soon so it can be included in the 2003 totals before our birding community gets "waist deep" in the new Breeding Bird Atlas.

Birding 101: Take a Beginner with You

From its inception, the Special Areas Project has been a great excuse to take somebody along on your birding trips. With the Atlas coming, this is a particularly good way to polish identification skills and basic field techniques. Many of the state's top birders started as greenhorns on the first Atlas or another project. We won't name names. But, we all have to start somewhere and why not with us?

What are some things you can do?

- Assign field note-taking to the new guy. Taking good notes is one of the most neglected aspects of field birding.
- Get into the habit of counting birds, not just identifying species.
- Teach habitat preferences for each species.
- Watch bird behavior so the beginner can get experience with territorial behaviors and those typical of breeding pairs.
- Do something special like owling.
- Go someplace different to experience a different habitat, vegetation, or elevation.
- Reinforce good birding ethics while doing the field work.
- Work on identification by vocalization.
- Correct those misidentifications privately and diplomatically in the field rather than at a meeting or on-line later.
- Do some challenging bird identification work like fall warblers, young sparrows, or migrant shorebirds.
- Compare feeding techniques or postures of

otherwise similar species.

- Remember, repetition is the essence of education. Not only that, the more often you identify something, the more likely you will remember it.
- Use familiar birds from which to make ready comparisons with rarer species.
- Consider everything, even chip notes, as part of the whole bird.
- Invite the new birder to a PSO meeting where there are more birders to meet and greet, both afield and inside.

I hope that PSO does more at its meetings and in its projects to include and encourage beginners to join our ranks and improve their skills and knowledge. Make them feel welcome.

The PA Natural Heritage Program (including PNDI)

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has a responsibility to preserve and protect its natural heritage for future generations. No one state agency or entity has complete responsibility for this great obligation. Each of us must be a part of any natural heritage program. The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) takes the lead in protecting the state's biodiversity. Yet, the Pennsylvania Game Commission and the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission must play essential roles because of their stewardship of birds and mammals (PGC) and fish, reptiles, amphibians, and aquatic insects (PFBC). The PA Natural Heritage Program (PNHP) is a partnership between DCNR, the Pennsylvania Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, and the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy. The science offices of TNC and WPC are led by two of the finest naturalists in the state, Tony Davis and Charles Bier. We are fortunate to have their staffs working for us. (Incidentally, Tony is under the impression that his PA Science Office should be known as PSO. So, we are sibling organizations of sorts.)

PNHP conducts inventories and collects data on the state's biological heritage (its biodiversity). The huge amount of information gathered by field biologists is input and stored in a large, integrated database comprising map, manual, and computer files. Herbarium and animal specimens are the basis for a substantial proportion of the field records. After all, most of our species are either plants or insects. This information is continually reviewed, refined, and updated to include new information about the organisms, the places, and the environmental factors. This large data management system holds the PA Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) by which rare species and habitats are afforded some protections by law and by management. There is emphasis

PSO Newsletter

This newsletter is published four times a year by the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology.

PSO Officers and Directors

Doug Gross – President dougross@sunlink.net

Greg Grove – Vice President gw2@psu.edu

Roger Higbee – Secretary rvhigbee@twd.net

Eugene Zielinski – Treasurer eez55@earthlink.net

Nick Pulcinella – PSO Editor nickpul@bellatlantic.net

Margaret Higbee – Newsletter Editor bcoriola@twd.net

Rob Blye – rblye@audubon.org

Nick Bolgiano – Nbolgiano@minitab.com

Deuane Hoffman – corvuxcorax@comcast.net

Shonah Hunter – shunter@lhup.edu

Mark McConaughy – TimeTraveler@email.msn.com

Flo McGuire – m McGuire@usachoice.net

Carmen Santasania – csantasania@cs.com

Linda Wagner – lwagner342@aol.com

on the rarer species that are characteristic of Pennsylvania's natural ecosystems. These are called "Species of Special Concern" and include Endangered and Threatened species as well as those that are Candidates to that list. The PNDI also tracks some species that are felt to be sensitive to human disturbance (Great Blue Heron colonies).

How are all that data collected? Much of the field work is conducted under the auspices of County Natural Area Inventories (NAI). Before going afield, maps and aerial photos are checked so the biologists make the most of their limited time in the field. The field offices of each conservancy take on the state, county by county, and find the most important natural areas which support biological diversity. Old records are field checked in a process known as "ground truthing." TNC takes the eastern counties and, naturally, WPC takes the western. Some volunteers and contractors help out in each county inventory. Locally, I have seen how much volunteer naturalists could help the effort. The Luzerne County NAI was very successful in part because of the contributions of Rick Koval and Alan Gregory. In some cases, local teachers and college professors have lent their experience and knowledge to the inventories.

Here at SAP Central, we are reviewing bird survey data collected by PSO volunteers during the last 14 years. I am going over the thousands of data entries, searching for rare breeding bird records that are not already in the PNDI. This will take time. Our database does not include all the information that PNDI really needs for a good record of a Species of Special Concern (SSC). In order to help the PNHP, I am providing some locations of breeding birds on the SSC list. Many of these are already in the PNDI database, but a surprising number are not.

Even older records may be helpful because they indicate the potential for a specific location to support a rare species. Some of PA's rarest species are at the edge of their range and do not occur each year even where sufficient habitat is available. Intermittent field checking is necessary to monitor rare species.

If these conservation organizations contact you for information about the SSC observations for PNDI, please cooperate as best as you can. The information will be respected and considered confidential. With help of the PNDI database and cooperating agencies, our rarest breeding birds and their habitats can better be protected.

For more information about these programs and their active partners, please check out the website of DCNR Bureau of Forestry. The PA Biological Survey also plays a part in this process by advising the agencies concerning which species should be listed as SSC in the state.

For more information about the PSO Special Areas Project, please contact Douglas A. Gross, Ecology III, Inc., 804 Salem Boulevard, Berwick, PA 18603 (570-542-2191). dougross@sunlink.net

PSO Bird Quiz

How well do you know your Pennsylvania birds?

1. One of North America's two cavity-nesting warbler species is a rare breeder in our state. Which species? For a bonus, what is the other cavity-nester?
2. What species did ornithologist George Miksch Sutton say was protected by law partly "because of its fame in literary circles"?
3. What casual vagrant to Pennsylvania from the West is among very few birds able to eat Monarchs despite toxic chemicals in the butterflies from their larval diet of milkweeds?
4. What declining breeder in the shorebird family characteristically stands at attention atop a roadside fence post or telephone pole?
5. The scientific name of which species officially changed from *atricapillus* to *atricapilla* and back to *atricapillus* – all within the three-year period from 2000 to 2003?

(Answers on page 8)

The Conservation Corner

Two items, which I thought might be of interest to PSO members, have come to my attention recently. The first item is an interview with Bill Moyers discussing national issues and the second is the state forest management plan.

Bill Moyers, as many of you know, is an award winning journalist with more than 20 years' experience. He has been an analyst and commentator on CBS and NBC news, was publisher of the New York daily *Newsday* and currently is the host and producer of the Friday night PBS series "NOW with Bill Moyers."

Grist Magazine interviewed Mr. Moyers, and his insight and understanding of the environmental issues facing this country are worth reading. For example, regarding global warming, Mr. Moyers stated, "The facts on the ground. I'm a journalist, reporting the evidence, not an environmentalist pressing an agenda. The Earth is sending us a message and you don't have to be an environmentalist to read it. The Arctic ice is melting. The Arctic winds are balmy. The Arctic Ocean is rising. Scientists say that in the year 2002 – the second hottest on record – they saw the Arctic ice coverage shrink more than at any time since they started measuring it. Every credible scientific study in the world says human activity is creating global warming. In the face of this evidence, the government in Washington has declared war on nature. They have placed religious and political dogma over the facts."

Mr. Moyers goes on to state that the current administration is much more sophisticated in their attacks on the environment than the Regan Administration. In commenting on current public-relations strategies, Mr. Moyers stated, "They (Bush Administration) learned a big lesson from the Watt era. Not to inflame the situation. Use stealth. If you corrupt the language and talk a good line even as you are doing the very opposite, you won't awaken the public. Gale Norton will be purring like a kitten when she's cutting down the last redwood in the forest with a buzz saw."

Mr. Moyers continues to say that eventually, the public will recognize the damage, but that it could very well be too late – for example, global warming. We should be taking steps now to significantly reduce greenhouse gases, but the current Administration is "dragging their feet" – in fact, they refuse to even consider the international agreement to reduce greenhouse gases. For PSO members interested in reading the entire interview, it can be found at:

<http://www.gristmagazine.com/maindish/griscom082603.asp?source=daily>.

A statewide issue is the current review and revision of the state forest management plan. Since much of Pennsylvania is forested and many of our breeding birds are forest interior species, PSO members might be interested in the Bureau of Forestry's management plan.

Briefly, the plan states that the forests will be managed ecologically and will include biodiversity conservation, bioreserves, natural areas, wild areas, and old-growth strategy. Under the Ecological Considerations component, the plan proposes to add four new wild areas totaling 18,500 acres and states that there will be no timber harvesting in wild areas except under special circumstances. Further, the Bureau has proposed significantly expanding old-growth areas on state forest lands.

The plan includes many other components and of particular interest is the section on Fauna Resources. The fauna resources component recognizes the value of animals and biological diversity. More specifically, fauna will be managed using a habitat-based approach; critical habitat will be delineated, and species of special concern will be protected.

Other components include Flora Resources, Recreation, and Water Resources. Of interest to many PSO members would be the Flora Resources. This component includes a commitment to favor native plant communities, a commitment to conserve species of special concern, and the identification and control of invasive species.

Certain parts of the plan could be strengthened/improved such as the expansion of old-growth areas, but overall, I think PSO members will be pleased with the commitment of the Bureau of Forestry to implement a plan that is based on ecosystem management and that will preserve critical habitat, promote biodiversity, and protect species of special concern. The Bureau has come a long way from the old days of only being concerned with timber harvesting and are now recognizing the many values and functions of our state forests. As this plan moves forward, hopefully, the commitment to biodiversity, fauna resources, and flora resources will be further expanded and implemented. For members interested in reading the plan, it can be found at the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' website. That site is <http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/index.htm>.

-- Mark Henry
Conservation Chairperson

Ornithological Literature Notes

(Note: This is the seventh in a periodic series highlighting recent publications of interest to Pennsylvania ornithologists and birders.)

Steve Hoffman, Director of Bird Conservation for Audubon-Pennsylvania, started hawk-watching in 1969 at Hawk Mountain while attending Albright College in Reading. Nearly 35 years later, his list of important publications on the biology and conservation of raptors continues to grow. Among his most recent research articles is a major report published in August this year: "Population trends of migratory raptors in western North America, 1977-2001," Stephen W. Hoffman and Jeff P. Smith (*Condor* 105:397-419). The authors analyzed long-term data provided by hundreds of volunteer observers during various periods from 1977 to 2001 at six ridgetop sites along the Intermountain and Rocky Mountain Flyways in Arizona, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, and Utah.

Hoffman and Price analyzed annual passage rates for 15 raptor and vulture species. Their findings suggest that until the late 1990s populations of Turkey Vultures, Ospreys, Broad-winged Hawks, Red-tailed Hawks, Merlins, and Peregrine Falcons were increasing in much of the Intermountain-Rocky Mountain region. Swainson's Hawks appeared to have a regional population surge in the early to mid-1990s. On the other hand, the authors said that their migration data and other sources indicate a need for concern about the status of Golden Eagles and Ferruginous Hawks in the western U.S. and a need to learn more about the regional status and trends of Northern Goshawks and American Kestrels.

Apart from long-term trends, Hoffman and Price found a pattern of distinct downturns in many of the species' numbers beginning in 1998, corresponding to the onset of a severe drought that has affected much of the interior West. Banding and telemetry data from other sources suggest that the drought has increased raptor hunger levels and mortality in the region, the authors said. But they noted that declines in numbers at the survey's particular count locations could also reflect altered routes adopted by the migrants to avoid drought-stricken areas. In any case, Hoffman and Price said that efforts such as theirs to conduct, compile, and



analyze migration counts are useful to identify regional population changes in migratory diurnal raptors.

The migration counts were coordinated by Hawk Watch International, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the study of raptors, which Hoffman founded in 1987. He was its Executive Director for 10 years and its Science Director for three years.

The breeding biology and ecology of the Hooded Warbler have been studied intensively in a series of major research projects stretching back for more than a decade at the Hemlock Hill Research Area in Crawford County (see the *PSO Newsletter* Vol. 11, No. 1, February 2000). Nearly all of the research has been conducted in collaboration with Bridget J. M. Stutchbury, associate professor of biology at York University in Ontario. Joan S. Howlett, a biological consultant and independent research ornithologist who lives in Edinboro, Pennsylvania, has worked closely on many of the projects.

Their latest paper, published in April of this year, is "Determinants of between-season site, territory, and mate fidelity in Hooded Warblers" (*Auk* 120:457-465). The purpose of the study was to determine whether a previous year's experiences would influence the warblers' selection of a general breeding area, a particular territory, and a mate when they returned north from their wintering grounds. Among their many findings was evidence that males had greater fidelity to a territory than females. Of males that returned the following year, 58% returned to approximately the same territory, but only 29% of females did. The authors commented that if a male's previous territory contained quality nesting resources, perhaps it is more advantageous to reclaim a familiar territory than to search for and defend a new one.

Another notable finding was that only 34% of the warblers returning from the previous year had former mates that also returned – but 43% of those former pairs mated together again. So if we know of a Hooded Warbler territory that has been occupied in consecutive years, there is a good chance that the previous year's male is the same occupant. Further, there is at least some chance that both members of the pair are the same individuals as during the previous year, who have returned after wintering thousands of miles to the south in Central America.

-- Paul Hess

Coming Events

Saturday, October 4 – 7:00 a.m. Meet at old turnpike entrance, Morgantown, for a trip to Bombay Hook NWR near Dover, DE. Coordinator: Peter Saenger (610-682-2401). Baird Ornithological Club.

Tuesday, October 7 – 7:30 p.m. Blue Spruce County Park Lodge off Route 110 near Ernest, PA. Mike Fialkovich will present *Birds! Birds! Birds!* which is a collection of his favorite bird slides. For information: Carol Guba (724-465-4429). Todd Bird Club.

Friday, October 10 – 7:30 at the Reading Public Museum. Members' Night. Bring refreshments to share. (Drinks provided.) Baird Ornithological Club.

Saturday, October 11 – 8:00 a.m. Meet at Dallas United Methodist Church for a Fall Ramble at Houck Sanctuary at 9:00 am. Enjoy the beautiful fall foliage, experience migrating raptors and waterfowl and discover fall wildflowers. Bring water, snacks, binoculars, if available, and wear comfortable walking shoes. Contact: Sam Merrill (570-696-3753). Greater Wyoming Valley Audubon Society.

Saturday, October 11 – 8:30 a.m. Meet at No. 2 Mine Road at the Pennsy parking lot for a fall walk at Pennsy Swamp, Lawrence and Mercer Counties. Leader: Linda Wagner (724-657-0867). Bartramian Audubon Society.

Monday, October 13 – 7:30 p.m. Preston Environmental Center, Camp Bucoco, on Route 8 near Slippery Rock. Gil Twiest will present "Birdwatching in New Zealand." Contact: Kathie Goodblood (814-432-4496). Bartramian Audubon Society.

Sunday, October 26 – 8:00 a.m. Birding in the Kirby Park Natural Area. Meet in Nesbitt Park, which is located on the upstream side of the Market Street Bridge on the Kingston side of the river. You can also park in the lot of the former Kings Department Store and Reilly's Classic Car Museum near the intersection of Market Street and Dawes Avenue, Kingston. For further information, contact Bob Wasilewski, (570-542-5948). Greater Wyoming Valley Audubon Society.

Saturday, November 1 – 8:00 a.m. Meet at the office at Yellow Creek State Park. Leaders: Roger and Margaret Higbee (724-354-3493). 3 Rivers Birding Club and Todd Bird Club.

Sunday, November 2 – 8:30 a.m. Meet at Jenners Crossroads Burger King on Route 30 to visit Quemahoning Reservoir and Somerset Lake. Leader: Dick Byers (724-593-3543). Westmoreland Bird and Nature Club.

Tuesday, November 4 – 7:30 p.m. Blue Spruce County Park Lodge off Route 110 near Ernest, PA. Bob Mulvihill will present *The Next Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas Project – We're Looking for a Second Brood of Volunteers*. Contact: Carol Guba (724-465-4429). Todd Bird Club.

Friday, November 14 – 7:30 p.m. at the Reading Public Museum Bill Evans will present "Flight Calls of Birds." Starting as an amateur, Bill Evans learned to identify migrating birds by their nocturnal flight calls. With Michael O'Brien, he developed a CD-ROM that enables birders to identify 211 land bird species. by their flight calls. Baird Ornithological Club

Saturday, November 15 – 8:00 a.m. Meet at Dallas United Methodist Church for a local waterfowl outing that requires little walking. Bring water, snacks, etc. Contact: Sandy Goodwin (570-639-5785). Greater Wyoming Valley Audubon Society.

Thursday, November 20 – 8:00 a.m. Meet at the South Shore Day Use Area at Moraine State Park. Leaders: Fred and Carol McCullough (412-921-6873). 3 Rivers Birding Club.

PSO T-Shirts for Sale

At our annual meeting we started selling PSO T-shirts. These Fruit of the Loom T-shirts are 50 percent cotton and 50 percent polyester; the color is natural. On the front is the circular PSO emblem. The state with the Pileated Woodpecker flying across it adorns the back below the print "Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology." The pileated's red crest adds a bit of color to the shirt. All sizes (small, medium, large, X-large, and 2X) are now available. Please contact Linda Wagner (724-657-0867 or lwagner342@aol.com) if you are interested in ordering one of these shirts. Cost is \$19.50 including shipping.

IBA Program Update *(continued from page 2)*

Funding for the IBA program has become increasingly important, and considerable effort is being spent applying for additional grants to insure fiscal stability. Currently the entire IBA program is grant funded, with three state agency sources and one private foundation providing almost all the support.

Volunteer training and bird monitoring have also been emphasized, with eight one-day workshops held during the past two years (training 382 individuals). Twelve hundred permanent points, which are being monitored every year by volunteers, have been established along hiking trails within 25 forest-dominated IBAs. Cornell's eBird is being

used for data entry and compilation, with many volunteers entering the data they collect. Any PSO member with IBA point count data that has not been entered into eBird is encouraged to contact Rob Blye or Steve Hoffinan to have Audubon enter the data or to get directions to enter the data.

Plans for the next two years are to: 1) continue to recruit local organizations (especially land trusts or conservancies) to "adopt" IBAs; 2) develop closer working relations with, and offer training workshops for, organizations that have "adopted" IBAs; 3) conduct a GIS-based "gap analysis" to identify additional potential IBAs; 4) initiate an IBA-focused forest health campaign; and 5) expand our funding base to hire Regional IBA Coordinators.

Answers to Bird Quiz *(page 4)*

1. Prothonotary Warbler. The bonus is Lucy's Warbler in the Southwest.
2. Common Raven. The quotation is from Sutton's *An Introduction to the Birds of Pennsylvania* (1928).
3. Black-headed Grosbeak.
4. Upland Sandpiper.
5. Black-capped Chickadee. The American Ornithologists' Union changed the long-standing Latin masculine *atricapillus* to the feminine *atricapilla* in 2000, then back to *atricapillus* in July 2003. (Why? It was all an effort to get the adjective correctly into grammatical gender agreement with the species' genus name, *Poecile*.)

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Creekside, PA 15732
PERMIT NO. 2

Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology
c/o R. V. Higbee
3119 Creekside Road
Indiana, PA 15701-7934