

PSO PILEATED



December 2004

The Newsletter of the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology

Volume 15, Number 4

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK....

The officers and directors of PSO met recently in Boalsburg to plan for the annual spring meeting which will be held May 20-22, 2005, in Clarion where our hosts, the Seneca Rocks Audubon Society, have a great line-up of field trips planned. The only problem will be choosing from the various wonderful locations. Most of the speakers have also been selected. See Flo McGuire's article on page 2 for the preliminary details. Further information and the registration form will be included in our next newsletter.

The presentation of the Earl Poole Award is one of the highlights of our meetings. This award is given annually to someone who has made a substantial contribution to ornithology and birding in Pennsylvania. Past winners have come from both the "amateur" and "professional" ranks. Last year's recipient was Dan Brauning. The award is presented prior to the Saturday evening banquet program. In the past, the award recipient has not been notified in advance of the meeting.

Board member Nick Bolgiano suggested significant changes in the Poole selection and presentation process at our recent Boalsburg meeting. His suggestions were approved by the board. The new policy includes three significant changes from past procedures. First, the recipient will be notified well before the date of the meeting to allow him or her to bring family members to share his/her moment in the spotlight during the Saturday evening ceremonies. Expenses for the Poole recipient and immediate family will be covered by PSO.



The arrival of Am. Tree Sparrows signals that winter isn't too far behind!

Photo by Lee Carnahan

The second change will be in the manner of selection. We have formed a standing committee to gather a list of candidates from which one individual will be selected by the committee and presented to the PSO board at the annual spring board meeting which is usually held in March. Thus the entire board will have the opportunity to discuss and approve the candidate nominated by the Poole committee. This committee will be chaired each year by the current PSO vice-president and will include several past Poole winners and/or past PSO presidents.

A final change to the selection process is that all PSO members will be invited to submit nominations to the committee by communicating with the committee chairperson. Rudy Keller, our current VP, will chair the committee for the selection of the 2005 Poole recipient. If you wish to nominate someone, please contact Rudy at rkeller@temple.edu. The guidelines for considering the recipients are simple and general – that the

individual has made a significant contribution to ornithology and birding in Pennsylvania. In most cases the recipient's contributions will have included a variety of services or accomplishments over many years.

Please take the time to read through this newsletter as a great deal of information has been packed into these pages. The articles within are written by people who are doing this not for pay but for the love of birds and because of their dedication to Pennsylvania birds and birding.

In closing, I wish you a happy holiday season and the best of luck on your Christmas Bird Counts where I hope you each find lots of "everyday" birds and of course a good rarity to add spice to the day afield!

– Greg Grove, President

2005 PSO Annual Meeting Plans Underway

by Flo McGuire

Seneca Rocks Audubon Society of Clarion, PA, is looking forward to hosting the next PSO Annual Meeting. This weekend meeting will be held May 20-22, 2005, at the Clarion Holiday Inn, just off exit 62 of I-80.

The meeting will begin on Friday evening with registration and a social gathering. This will be your opportunity to sign up for Saturday and Sunday morning field trips, which will depart early each morning from the Holiday Inn.

We are anxious to share some of our favorite birding spots by offering the following outings:

The Allegheny National Forest includes 513,000 acres of northern hardwood on the Allegheny High Plateau. We will choose an easy walk along a forest road where we may find Northern Goshawk; Acadian and Least Flycatchers; Brown Creeper; Winter Wren; Veery; Swainson's, Hermit and Wood Thrushes; and a variety of warblers including Canada, Blackburnian, Magnolia, and Black-throated Blue.

Buttermilk Hill Nature Sanctuary (BHNS) is a 460-acre, predominantly wooded, nature sanctuary owned by PSO member Jerry Stanley and his wife, Kathie Goodblood, who have offered to host this field trip. At least 20 species of warblers have presumably nested at BHNS, and there are usually 5 to 10 singing Cerulean Warblers on territory. Other possibilities are: Yellow-throated Warbler, Yellow-throated Vireo, Louisiana Waterthrush, both cuckoos, Alder and Great Crested Flycatcher, and 9 species of diurnal raptors and owls. Later migrants such as Mourning and Blackpoll Warblers, Swainson's Thrush, and Olive-sided Flycatcher are not unusual.

Buzzard Swamp is a mixture of mature evergreens, open areas, hedgerows, and ponds with a possibility of mudflats. Birds seen here in May have included Glossy Ibis, Osprey, Northern Harrier, Semipalmated Plover, Solitary Sandpiper, Ruddy Turnstone, Black Tern, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Swainson's Thrush, and many warblers, including Magnolia, Nashville, and Northern Parula.

Clear Creek State Forest would be a good drive-and-park outing for those who would like to visit deep woods with minimal walking. A scouting trip in May 2004 found 11 warbler species, including Magnolia, Blackburnian, Black-throated Blue, Black-and-white, Hooded, and Orange-crowned, many thrushes and vireos, a cuckoo, and Yellow-

bellied Sapsucker. Gray-cheeked Thrushes have also been seen here on migration.

Cook Forest State Park is a National Natural Landmark, famous for its stands of old-growth forest, and the home of 12 record trees, including the 3rd tallest tree in the eastern United States. Possibilities include Red-shouldered Hawk, Northern Goshawk, Acadian Flycatcher, Winter Wren, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Hermit Thrush, Northern Parula, and Nashville, Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, and Hooded Warblers.

Mt. Zion, an IBA, is a reclaimed strip mine, known for its nesting Grasshopper, Henslow's and Savannah Sparrows. Upland Sandpipers, Clay-colored Sparrow, Northern Harrier, Short-eared Owl, Alder Flycatcher, Horned Lark, and Prairie Warbler are possible.

Oil Creek State Park in "The Valley that Changed the World" (where Edwin Drake first pumped oil in 1859) is another beautiful spot for warblers in May. Seneca Rocks has an annual "Warbler Walk" here, usually in late April, and we've never been disappointed. Possibilities include Osprey, Northern Harrier, American Woodcock, Yellow-throated and Warbling Vireo, Northern Parula, Blackburnian Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, and Yellow-throated Warbler.

On Saturday afternoon there will be four 45-minute programs. Two of the speakers have already been scheduled: Scott Stoleson, Forest Service Research Wildlife Biologist, on "Research on the Allegheny Plateau," and Robert Mulvihill, Project Coordinator of the 2nd Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas, who will update us on the Atlas Project.

The banquet will be held on Saturday evening, featuring a keynote speaker. In addition, the Earl Poole award will be presented.

There will be several vendors at the Holiday Inn during the weekend, including regulars Aden Troyer with optics and Frank Haas with Birdscreens. Local vendors will include Gil Twiest, award-winning photographer; Carol McDonald with artwork in many different media; Paluh's Whitetail Ridge Gallery with a selection of paintings; and others. PSO T-shirts and patches will also be for sale. The T-shirts will be available in a new color this year.

The PSO Annual Meeting always provides a wonderful opportunity to meet other birders from other parts of the state, to put faces to names you may have seen in the *PA Birds* journal or on the listserve, to rejoin old friends, and to bird in new areas. We hope you will join us!

Let's Try It Again!

A few years ago at our annual PSO meeting in Indiana, PA, a spontaneous silent auction arose when one person submitted a painting. The auction was well-received by the membership, so we thought we would try again. If you would like to donate an item (birdy or otherwise) that you think someone else might appreciate, please let me know (via email at shunter@lhup.edu if possible). Plan to bring the item to Clarion next May.

I will take care of the paper work for the auction and will remind you to bring your item. Look around and find those things that you really can't use and submit them to raise money to support our PSO Youth Scholarship.

– Shonah Hunter

PSO Bird Quiz

How well do you know our Pennsylvania birds?

1. What were the five most common warbler species tallied in the history of Christmas Bird Counts in Pennsylvania? (Bonus if you can name them in order.)
2. Which familiar breeder on our reclaimed strip mines could you also find nesting on barren gravel in the high Arctic?
3. If you see a “brown-capped chickadee” in Pennsylvania, which species might it be?
4. Which species, sighted once in our state, has been recorded closer to the North Pole than any other of the world's birds?
5. In Eurasia, it is called Tengmalm's Owl. What do we call this super-rare visitor to Pennsylvania?

(answers on page 12)

Calling All Volunteers! PSO Needs a Few Good Board Members

If you are interested in birds and birding, are a member of the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology, and would like to become more active in the organization, consider becoming a PSO board member. We would like to expand the size of our board, and we are looking to you for help.

The qualifications are that you have an interest in Pennsylvania birds and birding and that you are able to attend one or two board meetings per year. (Our board meetings are held in the central part of the state, usually at Boalsburg.) An active e-mail address would be very helpful but not absolutely necessary. As a board member, you could be involved in helping to prepare for the PSO annual spring meeting, serve on a committee (for example, the Poole Award Nominating Committee), or help increase PSO membership by distributing PSO membership brochures at your local bird club, Audubon chapter meeting, or local birding field trip. We all have talents to share. Please consider joining the PSO board and share your talents. Help others to enjoy birds and birding!

If you are interested in becoming a board member, have additional questions, or need more information, please contact Carmen T. Santasania at ctsantasania@cs.com or call 814-234-5047. We look forward to your involvement!



Website Volunteer Needed

The PSO is looking for a volunteer to manage its website, pabirds.org. Frank Haas is getting too busy with other responsibilities to keep the website up to date. The work involves keeping the information on the website current, including county compiler information, officers and directors, “hot birds,” *Pennsylvania Birds*’ status, annual meeting information, membership and ordering forms, etc. If you have website experience and would like to volunteer for this task, please contact Frank Haas via e-mail at fchaas@pabirds.org to discuss it.

2005 Winter Raptor Survey

by Greg Grove

The 2005 Pennsylvania Winter Raptor Survey (WRS) will be conducted from January 15 through February 6. This will be the fifth year for this survey. During the winter of 2004, volunteers surveyed routes in 62 counties covering more than 8200 miles and accumulated 513 hours of observer effort. Nearly 3000 raptors were tallied.

All interested birders are invited to participate in 2005. In December I will contact past participants by e-mail. If you have a new e-mail address since last winter, please contact me (gwg2@psu.edu).

If you wish to participate for the first time, contact me via e-mail at the address above. *New participants please read carefully:* The surveys are done from a vehicle along a route designed by the participants in their own county (or potentially elsewhere). In counties with previously established routes, I ask that new participants either join an established route or coordinate to ensure that new routes do not overlap established routes. I encourage development of new but non-overlapping routes. For new folks I will provide e-mail addresses of previous participants in your county so that all parties can coordinate.

Routes should be in open country as much as possible (not easy in north-central Pennsylvania!) and should be designed with safety as the top priority. In other words, routes should not follow busy roads, or minimally so.

Detailed but rather simple guidelines for the WRS will be provided well before January 15. Briefly, we are particularly interested in the four "open-country" raptors (Northern Harrier, Red-tailed Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, and American Kestrel) as well as the two vulture species. Other raptors, owls, and shrikes are the only other birds to be recorded so that attention can be focused on spotting raptors.

Beyond counting raptors, participants are asked also to record whenever possible age/sex/color-morph data as appropriate for harriers, red-tails, rough-legs, and kestrels (see forthcoming guidelines for details). In 2004 such detailed data were collected for over 80% of recorded birds of these four species.

The 2004 WRS results were published in *Pennsylvania Birds* (Volume 18, No.1). A record high was set for rough-legs while a record low number of kestrels were counted. There is concern about what is going on with our familiar, colorful little falcon. What will this winter bring?

I close with a message to those persons who have contributed surveys from counties in the colder and more heavily forested regions of the state where there are not many wintering raptors. Your data are every bit as valuable as those from counties where raptors are counted by the dozens. Surveys from all over the state are needed to create the complete picture of wintering raptors in Pennsylvania and to provide a baseline against which we can compare future trends. I especially thank all of those "Big Woods" birders for their enthusiastic interest in the WRS. And, of course, thanks to all who have contributed their time to this effort throughout the state.

Last year, we had no data from five counties: Clearfield, Forest, Lackawanna, Sullivan, and Wyoming. Any takers this year for those counties?

PSO Pileated Apparel, the Perfect Pick for Presents!



Back of Shirt

PSO Pileated T-shirts are available for the perfect holiday gift to that Pennsylvania birder on your list! They are currently available in your choice of pale green or off-white (beige). Sizes available range from small to XXL. The fabric is a blend of 50% cotton, 50% polyester.

The T-shirts feature the PSO Pileated logo in a three-inch-diameter circle on the left front of the shirt. On the back is a large outline of Pennsylvania with the counties outlined as well. The flying Pileated Woodpecker is superimposed on PA's outline. Above Pennsylvania and the flying pileated, large block letters declare "Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology." The price including shipping is \$19.50.

As you are writing your holiday list, may we also suggest a PSO logo patch which features the flying pileated superimposed on the state outline. With its blue background this will look great stitched to a ball cap, a jacket, or other birding gear (think canvas bag, denim shirt, or a plain T-shirt). A very reasonable \$3 including shipping is all that is needed for this great gift idea!

Send your orders with a check for the appropriate amount made out to Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology to: PSO, 2469 Hammertown Road, Narvon, PA 17555-9730; 717-445-8283 or contact Frank Haas at fbhaas@pabirds.org.

Ornithological Literature Notes

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

This year brought three major publications from Pennsylvania ornithologists, two of them by veteran raptor expert Donald S. Heintzelman of Lehigh County. The third is a monograph by the staff of the Carnegie Museum's Powdermill Nature Reserve in Westmoreland County.

Don Heintzelman has been a prolific writer of books and hundreds of scientific publications, as well as an editor, nature photographer, educator, and raptor conservationist for 50 years. He is a cofounder and former president of the Wildlife Information Center in Lehigh County, where he organized the still-active annual Bake Oven Knob Hawk Count in 1961, initiated the Kittatinny Raptor Corridor Project, wrote an extensive educational handbook for that project, and edited the Center's publications *Wildlife Activist* and *American Hawkwatcher*. Since retiring from the Center, he has published a new journal, *International Hawkwatcher*.

His two new books are:

Guide to Hawk Watching in North America. Second Edition. Globe Pequot Press, Guilford, CT. Softcover, 425 pages. \$16.95.

Heintzelman's first edition, published in 1979 by Pennsylvania State University Press, was a pioneering guide at the continental level based in part on his two previous books about eastern hawk watching. This new edition significantly expands the scope, including descriptions and directions to 460 spring and fall hawk watching sites, all rated in a unique system as poor, fair, good, or excellent for viewing. An added feature is a listing of hotspots for seeing Bald Eagles. Species accounts for every North American diurnal raptor include field recognition, size, flight style, voice, nest and eggs, longevity, diet, habitat, and range. Other sections include tips on identification, the mechanics of hawk flight, and recommended field equipment. Bar graphs for each species cover the spring and fall migration periods in the East and the fall period in the West.

Dan R. Kunkle, executive director of the Wildlife Information Center, praised the book in *Wildlife Activist*: "For the novice hawk watcher, here is all you need to get started or improve your skill. For the veteran, the guide is a good

refresher on hawk migration and identification, and gives you an endless supply of sites to visit in North America."

Hawks and Owls of Eastern North America. Rutgers University Press, New Brunswick, NJ. Hardcover, 203 pages. \$29.95.

Heintzelman originally conceived this as a second edition of its predecessor volume published in 1979; but in searching the more recent ornithological literature, he found so much new information that he felt an entirely new treatment was needed. The new book includes information about raptor ecology, hawk and owl migrations and invasions, raptor conservation, recreational raptor watching, research opportunities for "citizen scientists," and extensive species accounts for eastern North America's 22 regularly breeding diurnal raptors, five species from the West that appear as accidental visitors, and 12 owl species. Jean Iron, former president of the Ontario Field Ornithologists, praised it highly in the organization's newsletter, *OFO News*: "This is an excellent source book for basic and accurate information on the hawks and owls in Eastern North America, including eastern Canada. I recommend this book to teachers, nature schools, and people interested in hawks and owls. Birders will find it a fine supplement to their field guides."

Relationships Among Body Mass, Fat, Wing Length, Age, and Sex for 170 Species of Birds Banded at Powdermill Nature Reserve, by Robert S. Mulvihill, Robert C. Leberman, and Adrienne J. Leppold. Spiralbound, 184 pages. Eastern Bird Banding Association Monograph No. 1. \$15.00. Order from Elaine Mease, 2366 Springtown Hill Road, Hellertown, PA 18055, adding \$2.50 for postage (and 6% sales tax for Pennsylvania residents).

Information from Powdermill's vast four-decade database is compiled and analyzed in a compendium described by the EBBA as designed to foster use by other researchers. Funding for the publication was provided by the association and the Carnegie Museum of Natural History.

Reviewing the publication in *The Wilson Bulletin*, Erica H. Dunn of the Canadian Wildlife Service commented, "Considering the vast quantity of measurement data collected from birds during banding operations, it is quite surprising that so few summaries have been published. This monograph helps fill the gap, with analysis of 276,570 banding records for birds captured at Powdermill..." Dunn called it "a fine source of basic data that are very difficult to find elsewhere, and which have a wide variety of applications in ecological studies."

— Paul D. Hess

Audubon Pennsylvania Launches Susquehanna River Birding and Wildlife Trail Website



The recently released 85-page Susquehanna River Birding and Wildlife Trail guide now has a companion website – <http://www.pabirdingtrails.org>.

The purpose of the website is to provide the public with another way to easily access information on where to view wildlife

in their unique habitats in more than 200 locations in the Susquehanna River watershed.

A unique feature of the website is the interactive trail guide which provides a searchable database for all 218 locations in all 39 counties featured in the guide. The website also includes birding and wildlife watching resources and tips, PA tourism information, site descriptions, amenities, directions, and contact information.

The Birding and Wildlife Trail creates a basin-wide network of locations where wildlife and birdwatching can be developed, promoted and marketed, enhancing Pennsylvania's nature tourism industry. Bird and wildlife watchers spend about \$40 billion each year on trips, hotels, equipment and other items, and the majority travel to take part in those activities. According to the 2001 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife Associated Recreation, \$962 million was spent on wildlife watching in our state alone.

Pennsylvania is the keystone state for birdwatching during seasonal bird migration. With more than 400 species of birds documented in the state, including 186 breeding species, a visitor to Pennsylvania will find year-round opportunities to engage in birding. By highlighting sites, trails, and scenic drives, the Susquehanna River Birding and Wildlife Trail guide and website introduce the many natural wonders found in Pennsylvania — from old-growth forests to lush wetlands to vast grasslands.

The Susquehanna River Birding and Wildlife Trail guide was developed by Audubon Pennsylvania in partnership with a diverse committee representing regional and state-wide communities. The guide and companion website represent the final phase of the project which took three years to complete.

The Susquehanna River Birding and Wildlife Trail guide makes a great gift at any time of the year. To order a copy to accompany you during your travels, send a \$9.00 check,

payable to "Audubon Pennsylvania-Bird Trail" and mail to: Audubon Pennsylvania, 100 Wildwood Way, Harrisburg, PA 17110. Bulk orders (10 guides or more) are \$5 each. For birders on your gift list, a \$13 gift packet is available which includes a copy of the Birding Trail guide, an Audubon static sticker, a logo magnet and pencil, and gift card.

Funding for this website was provided by a grant from the Growing Greener Fund, under the administration of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, and by a grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Community and Economic Development.

Nominate a Youth to Attend PSO Meeting

PSO is interested in fostering young birders in Pennsylvania. If you know a young person under 18 years of age who is a budding birder (a fledgling, as Mark McConaughy says!), please consider nominating him/her for the Youth Scholarship to attend 2005 PSO Annual Meeting in Clarion. I have nomination forms and parental permission forms that will need to be submitted. The deadline will be announced early next year.

Think about those young people you know who would benefit from the PSO meeting activities and consider nominating them.

– Shonah Hunter shunter@lhup.edu

PABIRDS Listserv Problems

If you recently noticed that you stopped receiving PABIRDS, the electronic e-mail listserv, about PA birds and birdlife, there have been some problems, and you need to re-subscribe. To join or rejoin the list, send this command message:

SUBSCRIBE PABIRDS YOURFIRSTNAME
YOURLASTNAME

to: LISTSERV@LIST.AUDUBON.ORG After typing the above, hit the enter key *twice* to ascertain that your email software sees your subscribe command. A confirmation will be sent to you; just follow the instructions.

Resources for All Birds Conservation in Pennsylvania

by Doug Gross

There are many fine government agencies, organizations, and other sources of information about the birds, habitats, bird conservation, and good management practices. The list of sources is almost limitless, fortunately, so any attempt to assemble them would surely be incomplete. However, it may be helpful to many PSO members to have some of these sources at their disposal for reference. Here are a few for your use.

Academy of Natural Sciences (in Philadelphia) – The Academy has long served as a center for basic biological research. It has a history in ornithology, including hosting the first PA Breeding Bird Atlas. Here is Project VIREO, the most comprehensive collection of bird photographs and a huge collection of bird specimens.

<http://www.acnatsci.org/>

American Birding Association (ABA) – Primarily a bird recreation organization, the ABA has conservation and education programs. <http://www.americanbirding.org/>

American Birds Conservancy (ABC) – This is a key organization dedicated to conserving wild birds and their habitats throughout the Americas. The website includes a resource directory, a boreal songbird network, the ABC Green List for North America, and information concerning wind energy issues. <http://www.abcbirds.org/>

American Ornithological Union (AOU) – The AOU is the primary professional ornithological society in the nation. It has a conservation committee that has published important documents. The AOU publishes the *Official Check-list of North American Birds*, the *Birds of North America* (the standard work on birds on our continent), and *The Flock* (list of ornithological professionals).

<http://www.aou.org/>

Bird Studies Canada – That big country to our north has a lot of birds, many of which travel through our state. Bird Studies Canada is a leading and respected not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing the understanding, appreciation, and conservation of wild birds and their habitats in Canada and elsewhere. Banding, citizen science, and boreal bird data. <http://www.bsc-eoc.org/bscmain.html/>

Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology – America's bird university coordinates many citizen science projects, including e-Bird, Project Feederwatch, thrush management, Scarlet Tanager management, and the Golden-winged Warbler and Cerulean Warbler Atlas projects. CLO has been an important contributor to PIF planning across the continent. <http://birds.cornell.edu/>

Ducks Unlimited (DU) – A leader in waterfowl and wetland conservation and management. Remember, birds are a lot like ducks! Find out more about migration flyways, duck stamps, and wetland protection action.

<http://www.ducks.org/>

Hawk Mountain Sanctuary – A world leader in raptor monitoring, research, and education right in our own state. HMS also is a leader in the study of the effects of forest fragmentation on songbirds.

<http://www.hawkmountain.org/>

Important Bird Area Program (IBA) – PA was the pioneer state in the Union for this land-based conservation initiative. PA Audubon is the organizing force behind the state's initiatives. It also sponsors birding workshops.

<http://www.audubon.org/bird/iba/pa.html>

International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA) - The Association has been a key organization in promoting sound resource management and strengthening federal, state, and private cooperation in protecting and managing fish and wildlife and their habitats in the public interest. <http://www.iafwa.org/>

National Audubon Society (NAS) – Audubon magazine, the Watch List, *Important Bird Areas*, and all kinds of bird education and conservation materials. John James Audubon shot several of his specimens for the *Birds of America* in Pennsylvania. <http://www.audubon.org/>

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) – The mission of The Nature Conservancy is to preserve the plants, animals, and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive. One of the founders, Richard Pough, was a birder, field guide author, and champion bird conservationist of his day. Conservation initiatives include the Last Great Places (Poconos) and Wings of the Americas project. TNC is a leader in eco regional planning. Its PA Science Office is part of the PNHP team. <http://nature.org/>

North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI)

- The integrated approach to bird conservation on our continent for all birds, all regions, and all habitats.

<http://www.nabci-us.org/>

North American Waterbird Conservation Plan – What are waterbirds? They include the gulls, terns, herons, egrets, marsh birds (rails, coots, moorhens), grebes, shorebirds, and waterfowl.

<http://www.nacwcp.org/waterbirds/>

North American Waterfowl Conservation Plan (NAWCP) – This plan employs a landscape and biologically based approach to waterfowl conservation with strong emphasis on partnerships and habitat conservation.

<http://www.nawmp.ca/>

The Atlantic Coast Joint Venture (ACJV) is a joint venture (JV) formed under the NAWCP for the U.S. Atlantic Coast region. The ACJV mission has evolved from a waterfowl focus to include the conservation of habitats for all birds. <http://acjv.org/>

Ornithological Societies of North America (OSNA) – OSNA includes several bird science organizations such as AOU, Association of Field Ornithologists, Waterbird Society, Wilson Ornithological Society, and Raptor Research Foundation. It provides the OSNA Newsletter and BIRDNET.

<http://www.nmnh.si.edu/BIRDNET/OSNA/>

Partners In Flight (PIF) – Landbird conservation network across the continent. PIF has published plans for conserving birds across North America and more regionally in physiographic areas. Its website is an important source of information. You can access data on the species assessments and International Migratory Bird Day as well as its newsletters and information about regional working groups. <http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/pif/>

Pennsylvania Biodiversity Partnership (BPB) – BPB is a partnership of many organizations dedicated to increasing awareness of the importance of biodiversity statewide by promoting communication and cooperation among a broad spectrum of stakeholders. It has published a state biodiversity conservation plan and holds annual meetings that increase networking.

<http://www.pabiodiversity.org/>

Pennsylvania Biological Survey (PABS) – A nonprofit organization consisting of professional and amateur biological experts whose purpose is *"to increase the knowledge of and foster the perpetuation of the natural biological diversity of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania."* The Ornithological Technical Committee is that part of PABS which advises the PGC concerning the state bird species of special concern (SSC) and PA Audubon on IBA programs.

http://www.dickinson.edu/prorg/pabs/pabs_main.htm

Pennsylvania 2nd Breeding Bird Atlas – Monitoring Pennsylvanian Biodiversity! The new Atlas is collecting data on the breeding distribution and populations of the state's breeding birds in new and exciting ways. Hundreds of volunteers are collecting data and entering their findings into the PBBA website. We are rewriting the maps of PA breeding bird distribution. Do a block or two!

<http://www.carnegiemnh.org/atlas/home.htm>

Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources – The agency is charged with maintaining and preserving the 116 state parks; managing the 2.1 million acres of state forest land; providing information on the state's ecological and geologic resources; and establishing community conservation partnerships with grants and technical assistance to benefit rivers, trails, greenways, local parks and recreation, regional heritage parks, open space, and natural areas. <http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/>

Pennsylvania Game Commission – The Commonwealth's wildlife agency. It provides law enforcement, research, and education about PA wildlife. Its website is very informative, including the PA Endangered and Threatened birds and the State Wildlife Grant priority species list. Game land maps and hunting season information are also provided here.

<http://www.pgc.state.pa.us/>

Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program (PNHP) – A partnership between DCNR, TNC, and WPC that conducts inventories and collects data regarding the Commonwealth's biological diversity. Information is stored in an integrated data management system. The goal is to build, maintain, and provide accurate and accessible ecological information needed for conservation, development planning, and natural resource management.

<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/pndi/index.aspx>

Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology – Our own organization that fosters the study and appreciation of the birds of Pennsylvania and promotes the conservation of birds and their habitats. We publish the journal *Pennsylvania Birds* and sponsor the PA Special Areas Project.

<http://www.pabirds.org/>

Ruffed Grouse Society – The Ruffed Grouse Society's role in conservation of wildlife habitat is to enhance the environment for the Ruffed Grouse (our state bird), American Woodcock (Watch List), and other forest wildlife that require or utilize thick, young forests.

<http://www.ruffedgrousesociety.org/>

(continued on page 11)

Christmas Bird Counts Held in Pennsylvania

Map Key	Name of Count	County	Compiler	Phone Number	E-mail Address	Date
1	Audubon	Montgomery Delaware Chester	Edie Parnum	610-964-8331		12/26/04
2	Bald Eagle	Centre	Bob Snyder	814-863-6168	rhs2@psu.edu	1/02/05
3	Beaver	Beaver	Rick Mason	724-847-0909	rdmason@ccia.com	12/18/04
4	Bedford	Bedford	Janet Shaffer	814-356-3553	jgshaffer@yellowbananas.com	12/18/04
5	Bernville	Berks	Ed Barrell	610-926-2962		1/02/05
6	Bethlehem-Easton	Northampton	Elaine and Donald Mease	610-346-7754	measede@enter.net	1/02/05
7	Bloomsburg	Columbia	Dave Unger	570-672-3254	unger@evenlink.com	12/19/04
8	Buffalo Creek Valley	Butler Armstrong	George Reese	724-353-9649		12/18/04
9	Bushy Run S.P.	Westmoreland	Dick Byers	724-593-3543	otusasio@lhrc.net	12/26/04
10	Butler	Butler Lawrence Mercer	Suzanne Butcher	330-759-1945 724-794-3534	sarbird@hotmail.com	12/18/04
11	Central Bucks	Bucks	Diane Allison	610-847-2085	dalliso@mail.ptd.net	12/26/04
12	Chambersburg	Franklin	Joan Bowen	717-264-9493	pjschaff@innernet.net	12/18/04
13	Clarion	Clarion	Margaret Buckwalter	814-782-3925	buckwalter01@alltel.net	12/27/04
14	Clarksville	Greene	Ralph Bell	724-883-4505		1/01/05
15	Culp	Blair	Heidi Boyle	814-949-9302	hboyle@state.pa.us	12/18/04
16	Curtin	Dauphin	Scott Bills	717-896-8859	sbills@pa.state.us	12/29/04
17	Dallas Area	Luzerne	Jim Hoysor	570-696-4925	birdder@aol.com	12/26/04
18	Dingman's Ferry	Pike	Mike Brubaker Patrick Scheuer	570-828-2319	mikebru@ptd.net	12/18/04
19	DuBois	Clearfield	Harold Webster	814-375-0709	webs@adelphia.net	
20	Elverson	Chester	Robert Cook	610-286-9919	dunlin50@aol.com	12/26/04
21	Emporium	Cameron	Bob Martin	814-486-1990	bmartin@adelphia.net	12/19/04
22	Erie	Erie	Chuck Gehringer	814-746-6299	chuckg58@hotmail.com	12/18/04
23	Gettysburg	Adams	Russell Ryan	717-334-5171	rryan@acc.pa.net	12/18/04
24	Glenolden	Delaware	Nick Pulcinella	610-583-3201	nickpulcinella@comcast.net	12/18/04
25	Hamburg	Berks Schuylkill	Laurie Goodrich	610-756-6961 570-943-3411 x106	goodrich@hawkmtn.org	12/26/04
26	Harrisburg	Dauphin	Deuane Hoffman	717-564-7475	corvuscorax@comcast.net	12/18/04
27	Huntingdon	Huntingdon	Dave Kyler	814-643-6030	davidkyler@pennswoods.net	12/19/04
28	Indiana	Indiana	Roger & Margaret Higbee	724-354-3493	bcoriole@alltel.net	12/27/04
29	Johnstown	Cambria	Tom Dick	814-266-7912	thomasd@aol.com	12/19/04

30	Lake Raystown	Huntingdon Blair	Greg Grove Dave Kyler	814-667-2305 814-643-6030	gwg2@psu.edu avidkyler@pennswoods.net	12/26/04
31	Lancaster	Lancaster	Chris Pederson	717-295-2607	pederson@epix.net	
32	Lebanon	Lebanon	Fritz Heilman	717-273-0487	fh1vw@aol.com	1/02/05
33	Lehigh Valley	Lehigh/Berks	Mark Boyd	610-432-0170	mrboyd@rcn.com	12/18/04
34	Lewisburg	Union Northumber- land	Richard Nickelsen	570-524-9833	nickelsn@bucknell.edu	12/18/04
35	Lewistown	Juniata	Linda Whitesel	717-436-8048	lkwhitesel@acsworld.com	12/18/04
36	Linesville	Crawford	Ronald Harrell	814-337-5445	rharrell@allegheny.edu	12/19/04
37	Lititz	Lancaster	Bruce Carl	717-859-4179	carls@dejazzd.com	12/26/04
38	Lock Haven-Jersey Shore	Clinton Lycoming	Wayne Laubscher	570-748-7511	wlausch@cub.kcnet.org	12/18/04
39	Mansfield	Tioga	Robert Ross	570-376-5394 570-724-3322 x239	rossr@usgs.gov	12/18/04
40	New Bloomfield	Perry	Ramsay Koury	717-761-1871	rkoury123@aol.com	12/26/04
41	Newville	Cumberland	Bill and Linda Franz	717-776-4463	wlfrazt@earthlink.net	1/02/05
42	Pennypack Valley	Philadelphia	Peter Kurtz	215-342-3638 215-685-0470		
43	Pittsburgh	Allegheny	Jim Valimont	412-828-5338	valimont@verizon.net	1/01/05
44	Pittsburgh South Hills	Allegheny Washington	Bill Judd	412-571-2057	wmrjudd@earthlink.net	12/18/04
45	Pleasantville	Venango	Russ States	814-676-6320	russs@conline.net	1/02/05
46	Pocono Mt.	Monroe	Chris Turn		birder@ptd.net	1/02/05
47	Potter County	Potter	Dave Hauber	814-274-8946	haubers3@penn.com	1/02/05
48	Raccoon Creek	Beaver	William B. Smith Chuck Tague	724-375-9613 412-488-8760	bersmith@tristate.pgh.net bluejay@city-net.com	12/28/04
49	Reading	Berks	Bill Uhrich	610-371-5090		12/19/04
50	Rector	Westmoreland	Robert Mulvihill	724-593-6022	mulvihill@pabirdatlas.org	12/18/04
51	Ryerson	Greene	Marjorie Howard	724-852-3155	birdwatcher@alltel.net	12/18/04
52	Scranton	Lackawanna	William Speare			
53	Southeastern Bradford	Bradford	Bill Reid	570-836-2734 570-822-8433		12/27/04
54	Southern Bucks	Bucks	Robert Mercer	215-785-1177	ramercer@co.bucks.pa.us	12/18/04
55	Southern Lancaster County	Lancaster	Bob Schutsky	717-548-3303 (10 a.m. to 9 p.m.)	info@birdtreks.com	12/19/04
56	State College	Centre	James Dunn Bob Fowles	814-238-2122 814-238-1990	jwd6@psu.edu rbf@psu.edu	12/19/04
57	Thompson	Susquehanna				
58	Tunkhannock	Wyoming	Rick Koval	570-829-4381 570-696-1691 (w)	koval@nblt.org	12/18/04

59	Upper Bucks	Bucks Montgomery	Hart Rufe	215-257-8677	wrufe@starband.net	12/19/04
60	Warren	Warren	Michael Toole	814-723-4714	toole@kinzua.net	12/18/04
61	Washington	Washington	Roy Ickes	724-228-3532	rickes@washjeff.edu	12/18/04
62	West Chester	Chester	Barry Blust	610-458-5616	BarryBlust@comcast.net	12/18/04
63	Western Chester	Chester	Larry Lewis	610-518-7242	Earlybirdtours@aol.com	12/19/04
64	White Mills	Wayne	Voni Strasser	570-226-1460	sawwhet@ptd.net	
65	Wild Creek- Little Gap	Carbon Monroe	Joshua Nemeth		allroy1313@rcn.com	12/19/04
66	Williamsport	Lycoming	Dave Ferry	570-323-1590	dferry@wasd.org	12/19/04
67	Wyncote	Montgomery	Martin Selzer	215-233-9090	mseizer@janus.jnj.com	
68	York	York	Bill Del Grande	717-854-6728	yorkies17403@yahoo.com	12/18/04

Resources for All Birds Conservation in Pennsylvania

(continued from page 8)

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) – The USDA is the home of the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), a proactive program that enhances wildlife on private lands.

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/dafp/cepd/crep.htm>

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – The EPA protects the quality of our air, water, and soil, therefore impacting the health of bird populations.

<http://www.epa.gov/owow/birds/>

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) – The USFWS performs many functions in wildlife management and protection in the U.S, including the Endangered Species Program, the Wildlife Refuge System, the Duck Stamp, permits and hunting seasons, and the Migratory Bird Act.

<http://www.fws.gov/>

U.S. Geological Survey/Biological Survey – Many wildlife surveys come under the jurisdiction of this agency, including the Breeding Bird Survey. <http://www.mbr-pwrc.usgs.gov/> This website has many other resources including bird identification and natural history information. The Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center has a particularly useful website with practical documents such as “Effects of Management on Grassland Birds” and “Effects of Management on Wetland Birds.” It is found at <http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov/>

U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan – A partnership effort of state and federal agencies, non-governmental conservation organizations, academic institutions, and individuals from across the country committed to restoring

and maintaining stable and self-sustaining populations.

<http://www.manomet.org/USSCP/files.htm>

Western Pennsylvania Conservancy (WPC) – One of the pioneer land conservation organizations in the nation.

WPC’s mission is to save the places we care about by connecting people to the natural world. WPC is part of the PNHP team and conducts Natural Area Inventories in western counties. <http://www.paconserve.org/>

Wild Turkey Federation (WTF) – A very active organization in PA that promotes the bird that Ben Franklin thought should be our national symbol. The WTF is a national, not-for-profit, educational, conservation organization comprised of state and local affiliates working for the restoration and wise management of the American wild turkey. National: <http://www.nwtf.org/>

PA: <http://www.panwtf.com/>

Wildlife Management Institute (WMI) – WMI is a private, non-profit, scientific and educational organization. It is committed to the conservation, enhancement, and professional management of North America's wildlife and other natural resources. WMI produces many important publications. <http://www.wildlifemanagementinstitute.org/>

The Wildlife Society (TWS) – TWS is an international non-profit, scientific and educational association dedicated to excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education. It serves as the chief professional organization for our wildlife resource professionals. The PA state chapter is a key organization to that end.

<http://www.wildlife.org/>

PSO Newsletter

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Answers to Bird Quiz on page 3:

1. In order, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Palm Warbler, Pine Warbler, and Yellow-breasted Chat.
2. Horned Lark.
3. Boreal Chickadee or Black-capped Chickadee. Rare aberrant Black-caps have a brown crown.
4. Northern Fulmar, which has been recorded within several miles of the North Pole, even farther north than the Ivory Gull.
5. Boreal Owl.



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