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PSO PILEATED



March 2005

The Newsletter of the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology

Volume 16, Number 1

From the President's Desk....

Those of you on the PABIRDS e-mail list will recall the furor in January over a proposal to poison thousands (or more) of American Crows in Manheim Township, Lancaster County. The plan involved the avicide ("bird poison") DRC-1339, which was stated to be fairly specific to crows, an assertion that appears to be not true. The township manager who developed the plan claimed to have exhausted non-lethal means of disrupting and dispersing the offending crow roost. The "nuisance" justifications included claims of property damage, attacks on people, and fears of the spread of West Nile Virus – along with the usual claims (no doubt somewhat true) that the birds were befouling the environment.

When news of this plan reached the public, the negative reaction from environmentalists and birders was loud and led to a phone campaign directed at the Manheim Township manager. The plan was shelved because a representative of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture determined that DRC-1339 was not yet approved for use in the state. Whether it was the outcry of opposition or simple bureaucracy that stopped the plan I cannot say. Perhaps it was some of both. In any case, I thank those PSO members who took the time to oppose this plan.

When, as is likely, a similar plan is again proposed, I urge PSO members to take a stand – make phone calls, write letters, and send e-mails. Get the attention of officials charged with dealing with these issues. Non-lethal means of dispersal of nuisance birds must be tried and shown ineffective before we should consider spreading poisons into the environment, and even then circumstances should be extraordinary to justify such an action.

What else can birders do when such a situation arises? A short, calmly-expressed letter to the editor of the local newsletter might educate at least some persons and help them see the folly of releasing poisons into the environment and of the needlessness to massacre thousands of *native* birds. These are not Norway rats.

I will agree, as some have pointed out, that we cannot be so absolutely rigid as to say the use of poison is *never* justified. There are circumstances in which it could be a last-resort option, for example in response to a clear-cut and proven threat to human health and when it can be ascertained by people with appropriate expertise that there is no alternative.

DRC-1339 and other avicides have been or are likely to be approved for use in Pennsylvania and thus looms the possibility of future lethal proposals when crows gather in Lancaster or elsewhere next winter. As I write this, indications are that the Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture is in favor of the course of action proposed in Lancaster, or of at least having that option legally available.

I doubt we can always count on Harrisburg officials or on township managers to routinely do the right thing in such matters. When they do not, birders must be prepared to speak in defense of birds. That means we must be willing to do more than simply watch, admire, count, and list birds. We must sometimes dirty our hands with political activism. We who appreciate them most must defend birds and explain avian nature to a reasonably intelligent but badly uninformed or misinformed society. Birders must serve as a conscience to those who must make decisions, such as that faced by the Manheim Township manager, under public pressure and scrutiny.

I urge PSO members to contact Agriculture Secretary Dennis Wolfe *now* to express your concern over the use of poisons to deal with native bird populations. You can write to him at:

Secretary Dennis Wolfe
PA Department of Agriculture
2301 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg, PA. 17110

You may register your opinion to the Governor by e-mail at:

<http://sites.state.pa.us/PA.EXEC/Governor/govmail.html>

On a different note, the Seneca Rocks Audubon Society will host the 2005 PSO membership meeting in Clarion May 20-22. Given Clarion's distance from the large population centers of the state, some birders may have only a vague idea of where Clarion is and what it offers to birders. But, of course, many of you do know of certain key locations near Clarion. Cook Forest State Park is famous for its old growth and known to many for the crossbill invasion a few years ago. The Piney Tract, a reclaimed strip mine, is now renowned grassland habitat hosting Henslow's Sparrows and Short-eared Owls. The future of this grassland now appears secure, having been purchased by the Pennsylvania Game Commission and designated as Game Lands 330.

Cook Forest and the Piney Tract will be two of several field trip locations that are described on the next two pages of this newsletter. If there is sufficient interest, we hope to expand the field trip schedule with one or more trips Friday afternoon.

Check pages 4-5 in this newsletter for the list of speakers. As I write this, we are scheduled to hear about research on Allegheny Plateau birds, Saw-whet Owls, boreal birds, and spruce budworm outbreaks, and an update on the Breeding Bird Atlas. I hope you can find time, in what I know is a busy month for birders, to join us in Clarion.

- Greg Grove
gwg2@psu.edu



Margaret Buckwalter Wins Earl L. Poole Award

Each year, the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology gives its Earl L. Poole Award to an individual, amateur or professional, who has made a significant contribution to PA ornithology. The 2005 winner is Margaret Buckwalter of Clarion County, an active member of Seneca Rocks Audubon Society.

Margaret has served as Clarion County compiler for *Pennsylvania Birds* since the journal's inception. She was co-coordinator for Clarion County during the first breeding bird atlas and is contributing to the second atlas effort. She has contributed numerous bird records from Cook Forest to PSO's Special Areas Project. She worked to have the Piney Tract grasslands declared a Global Important Bird Area, and along with other local birders, worked in favor of its purchase as a state game land by the PA Game Commission. She will be presented with the award at PSO's annual meeting in Clarion in May.

Congratulations, Margaret!

PSO Establishes Conservation Award

Seeing the need to recognize and reward projects or efforts that significantly contribute to bird conservation in PA, PSO established a Conservation Award at its meeting of the board of directors on February 25. A cash award may be given at the discretion of the board of directors to a person, persons, or group whose work has resulted in the conservation of bird populations, whether through habitat protection or creation, or by other means. Qualifications have been left open-ended to allow consideration of a wide range of efforts. This award may or may not be given annually.

Any person or group in PA may nominate a project. The Vice-President of PSO will chair a permanent awards committee that will receive and consider nominations for both the Earl L. Poole Award, given for individual effort, and the Conservation Award, with the full board of directors having the right to approve the winners. To nominate a project or for more information, contact the current PSO Vice-President, Rudy Keller, 71 Lutz Rd., Boyertown, PA 19512 (rkeller@temple.edu).

PSO Annual Meeting at Clarion, PA

by Flo McGuire

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

The meeting begins 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 at 6:30 each morning from the Holiday Inn.

Field Trips

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

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 include Yellow-throated Warbler, Yellow-throated Vireo, Louisiana Waterthrush, both cuckoos, Alder and Great-crested Flycatchers, 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.

Leader – Jerry Stanley, long-time birder, member of Bartramian Audubon, PSO, and PORC. **Travel time** – 1 hour.

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Buzzard Swamp is a mixture of mature evergreens, open areas, hedgerows, and ponds, with a possibility of mud-flats. Birds seen here in May include 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. Restroom at parking lot.

Leader – Deuane Hoffman, birder and PSO member from central PA who will share one of his favorite vacation spots. **Distance** – about 31 miles

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Clear Creek State Forest (CCSF) is an out-of-the-way 10,000-acre, mostly upland forest in northern Jefferson County on the southern edge of the Allegheny High Plateau. Largely unnoticed IBA #20 is contained within CCSF. We will explore it by driving between several short walks. We are just beginning to develop bird lists for this area and you can help!

May warblers should include Magnolia, Blackburnian, Black-throated Blue, Black-and-white, Chestnut-sided, Cerulean (We hope!), and Hooded Warblers as well as Ovenbird and Am. Redstart. Woodpeckers are common, including Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers. The most common thrushes are Hermit and Veery; Gray-checked Thrushes have been seen on migration. Restrooms at parking lot.

Leader – Ron Montgomery, SRAS board member and outings director. **Distance** – about 25 miles

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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 third tallest tree in the eastern United States. We plan to start at the Log Cabin Inn Environmental Learning Center, lead a walk through the Forest Cathedral with emphasis on birds and big trees, then to travel to the Fire Tower/Seneca Point parking lot for a historical tour with an emphasis on birds. Possibilities include Red-shouldered Hawk, Northern Goshawk, Acadian Flycatcher, Winter Wren, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Hermit Thrush and Nashville, Northern Parula, Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, and Hooded Warblers. Restrooms at both parking lots.

Leader – Dale Luthringer, who has served as Environmental Education Specialist at Cook Forest State Park for the past 8 years. He facilitates interpretive programs and teacher workshops to more than 15,000 participants per year. **Distance** – about 15 miles.



Afternoon Sessions

On Saturday afternoon there will be several short programs.

Monitoring Pennsylvanian Biodiversity: Reasons, Results, and Rewards of the 2nd PBBA by Robert S. Mulvihill.

As Project Coordinator of the 2nd Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas, Bob Mulvihill will present results of the 2004 atlas effort and explain future goals of the project for the coming four years. Bob's program includes many fine photographs and interesting anecdotes. He is always glad to answer questions related to the Atlas.

Bob Mulvihill is Field Ornithology Projects Coordinator at Powdermill Avian Research Center, the 2,200-acre field research station of Carnegie Museum of Natural History in the Laurel Highlands of southwestern Pennsylvania. He began his career as a volunteer for the renowned Powdermill bird banding program in the fall of 1978, while he was a student at the University of Pittsburgh, and was hired as the program's second bander in 1983. Bob received his B.S. in Education, and secondary level teaching certification in Biology, from Pitt in 1980. He received an M.S. degree in Biology from Indiana University of Pennsylvania in 1993. He has done extensive studies of the Louisiana Waterthrush as a bioindicator of stream water quality. In Costa Rica in 1999, he discovered and published information about the very first nest ever described for the Green-crowned Brilliant, a small hummingbird species. Bob has authored dozens of scientific articles on topics ranging from wing shape to molt patterns, body mass dynamics, breeding biology, and migration timing in leading ornithological journals such as *Wilson Bulletin*, *Auk*, *Ornis Scandinavica*, *Ornitologia Neotropical*, *Condor*, and *Journal of Field Ornithology*.

Research on the Allegheny Plateau by Scott H. Stoleson

Scott will present preliminary results from two research studies on the effects of timber management on forest interior songbirds.

Scott H. Stoleson is a Research Wildlife Biologist with the Forest Service's Northeastern Research Station in Irvine, PA. He received a B.A. in Biological Science from Dartmouth College, and a Ph.D. in Wildlife Ecology from Yale University, for which he studied parrot conservation and management in Venezuela. He held a post-doctoral position with the Rocky Mountain Research Station in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where he studied endangered birds of riparian woodlands. Prior to moving to Pennsyl-

Mt. Zion, (Piney Tract) an IBA, is a reclaimed strip mine, known for 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. Part of Piney Tract has recently been purchased by the Pennsylvania Game Commission and will be their newest Game Lands. No restroom facilities and few big trees.

Due to popular demand, this field trip will also be offered on Friday afternoon. Please indicate on your reservation form if you will join us. We will meet at the Clarion Holiday Inn parking lot at 1:00 p.m. for the Friday trip.

Leader – Mike Leahy, long-time birder and outings leader for SRAS. **Travel time** – about 25 minutes

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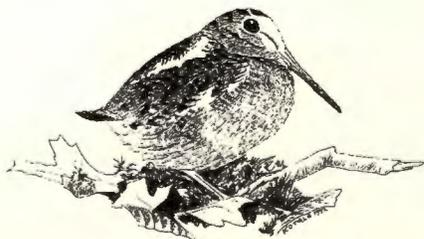
Oil Creek State Park, in "The Valley That Changed the World" (where Edwin Drake first pumped oil in 1859), is another beautiful spot for warblers in May. Seneca Rocks has an annual "Warbler Walk" there, usually in late April, and we've never been disappointed. Possibilities include Osprey, Northern Harrier,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

Leader – Gary Edwards, long-time birder, SRAS member and past president. **Distance** – about 39 miles.

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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; Hermit, Swainson's, and Wood Thrushes. Warblers may include Canada, Blackburnian, Magnolia, and Black-throated Blue. No restroom facilities but lots of big trees.

Leaders – Flo and Jim McGuire, long-time birders and SRAS and PSO members, who discovered some neat spots in the ANF while atlasing last year. **Distance** – about 26 miles.



vania in 2002, he studied avian conservation and ecology in the western U.S., Central and South America, and led natural history tours to the Caribbean and Latin America. His current research focuses on evaluating the impacts of forest management practices on the distribution, abundance, and demography of vertebrate populations, especially species of special concern such as the Cerulean Warbler.

The 1970s Spruce Budworm Infestation and Birds by Nick Bolgiano

Have you ever watched the show "History Detectives," where historians try to find answers about people's past? Nick, the bird data detective, tried to answer the question: "What effect did the large spruce budworm infestation in the 1970s and 1980s have upon birds?" The signal of the infestation appears to recur in Breeding Bird Survey data, Christmas Bird Count data, and Sharp-shinned Hawk migration counts.

Nick will display charts that he has prepared from Breeding Bird Survey data, showing abundance and distribution changes over the years for about 15 different species.

Long-time PSO member Nick Bolgiano is a statistician at the software company Minitab. He reports that bird data analysis is his second job.

Golden-winged Warbler Success Rates by Jake Kubel.

Jake Kubel, a Penn State graduate student, examined nest success in Golden-winged Warblers at Scotia Barrens near State College. The number of nests found makes this one of the largest nest success studies for this species. Jake examined nest success differences in a power-line right-of-way vs. clear-cuts, in aspen vs. oak, and in year 1 vs. year 2 of his study. He will illustrate the breeding habitat requirements of Golden-winged Warblers; this information will be useful for atlasers who want to find this species in their Breeding Bird Atlas Project blocks.

A PORC Report will be presented by Nick Pulcinella of the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee. Nick is also the editor of *Pennsylvania Birds*, our quarterly journal.

Saturday's Banquet

The banquet and presentation of the Earl Poole Award will be held on Saturday evening.

PSO member Doug Gross will be our keynote speaker. His topic is ***Northern Saw-whet Owl Research***. Doug is a PGC Wildlife Biologist - Endangered Species Specialist.

He needs no introduction to most PSO members, having served as president of the organization. Most of us recall his program at the Mansfield meeting, on the crossbill invasion – "they came, they saw, they conifered." This year we look forward to the results of his N. Saw-whet Owl research and entertaining photos of cute little owls.



N. Saw-whet Owl in Lawrence County
Photo by John Lapin

Doug Gross has been a field ornithologist and ecologist all of his adult life. He was educated at Penn State, Bloomsburg State College, and the wilds of Pennsylvania. He lives in rural Columbia County with Cindy Hose, his wife of 25 years. As an environmental biologist for 24 years, he conducted hundreds of bird surveys and several projects for Ecology III, an environmental consulting firm, in northeastern PA. He also served as a Regional Coordinator for the first Breeding Bird Atlas and wrote several species accounts for that book. Since the Atlas, he has served on the Ornithological Technical Committee of the PA Biological Survey, an advisory group to the PA Game Commission. He served as chairperson of that committee for 12 years. The OTC oversees the state's Species of Special Concern list, including the Endangered and Threatened species list. This work also allowed him to be involved with the PA Important Bird Area selection and many other initiatives. He also is involved with basic bird inventory, having conducted more than 90 BBS routes and more than 50 Breeding Bird Censuses. Doug was a founding board member and twice president of the PSO, coordinating the Special Areas Project. The Yellow-bellied Flycatcher has been a subject of his attention, including the *Birds of North America* account of this species. He also coordinated Pennsylvania's first state-wide night bird inventory, the Northern Saw-whet Owl Breeding Survey known affectionately as "Project Toot Route." Since May 2004, he has been a wildlife biologist with the PA Game Commission in the position of Endangered Bird Specialist. In this role, he coordinates and works with several projects for inventorying and monitoring the state's Endangered, Threatened, and other birds of conservation concern.

Vendors

Once again this year, several vendors will be present at the Holiday Inn during the meeting. They include:

* Aden Troyer, optics

- * Frank Haas, Birdscreens
- * Gil Twiest, SRAS member and award-winning photographer
- * Carol McDonald, local nature artist
- * Paluh's Whitetail Ridge Gallery and Framing from Tionesta, PA
- * John Karian, local nature photographer. Some of his framed prints are decorating the new UPMC Northwest Hospital in Venango County.
- * Jerry Lucot, harnesses for cameras/binoculars

Other Meeting Information

SRAS will be selling raffle tickets for a beautiful print that was given to us by PA Audubon on our 20th anniversary last year.

PSO will again be holding a silent auction, which has been a popular activity at several of our previous meetings. If you have any bird-related items that you would like to donate to this fund-raiser, please notify Shonah Hunter. The donor may specify an asking price for each item. See article in the next column.

PSO T-shirts and patches will also be for sale. The T-shirts will be available in light blue this year. We also still have a few beige and light green shirts in stock.

There are several other motels at Exit 62 of I-80 if you choose not to stay at the Holiday Inn. Contact information is found above in the adjacent column. Several campgrounds in the Cook Forest area have also been listed.

For early breakfasters, Eat'N Park, Perkins, and McDonald's are located at Exit 62 and will be open. In addition to these restaurants, there are several other possibilities for lunch near the interchange, plus numerous restaurants and pizza places in Clarion, about 1.5 miles away.

The Annual Meeting is always a wonderful opportunity to meet other birders from around 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!

Lodging

- ☎ Clarion Holiday Inn 814-226-8850 or 800-596-1313; cost is \$84 if you specify PSO when you make reservation; you must reserve before April 19, 2005.
- ☎ Comfort Inn Clarion 814-226-5230
- ☎ Quality Inn & Suites 814-226-8682
- ☎ Super 8 814-226-4550

Cooksburg Campgrounds

Black Bear Cabins	1-877-833-2663
Cook Forest State Park	814-744-8407
Cook Forest Top Hill Cabins	1-800-531-1545

Silent Auction Planned

Two years ago when the annual meeting was held in Indiana, PSO held a spontaneous silent auction because a beautiful Wild Turkey print had been donated. Several other items were donated and PSO raised \$223.

This year, we would like to try this again. If you have any "birdy" items that you no longer want but think someone else would enjoy, please consider donating it/them to our auction. Please e-mail me describing the item and an estimated value. Also indicate if there is a minimum bid for the item you are donating. You should then bring your item to the annual meeting at Clarion (or send it with someone who will be attending if you can not). I am looking forward to having a variety of items to fuel the bidding frenzy for the benefit of PSO.

Shonah Hunter shunter@lhup.edu; (570) 893-2062.

Pennsylvania All-Bird Conservation Workshop

The Pennsylvania All-Bird Conservation workshop was a watershed event for the state. It was held on November 17-18, 2004 at Milesburg, PA. This marks the first attempt at an integrated approach to bird conservation in Pennsylvania that involved all bird species. It was sponsored by the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) and the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

The broad and enthusiastic participation by many organizations and individuals was breathtaking at this very ambitious workshop. The All-Bird Conservation workshop started the process of constructing a comprehensive bird conservation plan for the state. It pulls together big conservation programs Partners In Flight (PIF, for landbirds), North American Waterfowl Management Plan, North American Waterbird Conservation Plan, and the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture Partnership. All of this comes under the “mind-boggling” giant umbrella called the North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI).

Participation: More than 130 persons attended the workshop. Several hundred people were invited by a mass mailing and list servers on the internet. This outreach resulted in a large and diverse participation. Not only were government agencies and organizations involved, but also many state and local grassroots bird and land conservation organizations. From the state, PGC had the largest contingent but there were representatives from the DCNR Bureaus of State Parks and State Forests, and the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. Five federal agencies also were involved, including the National Resource Conservation Service, the Army Corps of Engineers, the Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U. S. Geological Survey. There also were teachers and students from six Pennsylvania colleges as well as six private companies. There was broad representation by non-governmental conservation organizations, 25 NGOs in all. These included well-known game bird habitat organizations like Ducks Unlimited, the Ruffed Grouse Society, and National Wild Turkey Federation. As can be expected, many Audubon Society and PSO members participated. In addition to the Nature Conservancy and Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, three local land trust organizations also participated.

Support for the Workshop: PGC Wildlife Management staff was integral to the success of the workshop. Dan Brauning arranged for and coordinated the event. Doug Gross coordinated invitations and registration, invited speakers, and coordinated the workshop packet. John Dunn arranged participation by game bird NGOs and organized the waterfowl and waterbird information. Wildlife Diversity biologists Lisa Williams, Patti Barber, Jamie Zambo, Tim Hoppe, Jim Mummert, Justin Vreeland, and Jeanine Tardiff also played key roles.

Each participant was provided with a registration packet with a great deal of information to enhance each person’s participation and continued involvement with Pennsylvania bird conservation. PIF materials and shorebird plans also were provided.

Displays were exhibited by the National Wild Turkey Federation, the Ruffed Grouse Society, Pennsylvania Audubon (including the Important Bird Areas project), and Ducks Unlimited.

Programs and Speakers: Scott Klinger (PGC Land Management Supervisor) opened the workshop by welcoming participants and making introductory remarks about habitat as a uniting factor among the diverse bird conservationists. This seemed to be a uniting theme of the workshop. Dan Brauning invited the broad participation to the workshop and challenged the audience to make this a productive meeting. He indicated how Pennsylvania is a Keystone state for eastern North American forest birds.

Andrew Millikin represented the NABCI as well as the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, the N. A. Waterbird Conservation Plan, the U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan, and the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture Partnership. He had the unenviable task of explaining the purposes and relationships of and between these various initiatives.

John Dunn provided the priorities for waterfowl in Pennsylvania including the breeding, passage migrant, and winter populations.

Ken Rosenberg scaled down the perspective to the state level, explaining PIF approach to “keeping common birds common” and helping species at risk through good planning and cooperation. Ken explained which and why species are given conservation priority in the state including some species that are relatively common in the state for which Pennsylvania has high responsibility (a high percentage of its breeding population).

Lisa Williams provided us with the PA Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy that includes many species from various taxa that are either on the state Species of Special Concern lists (including Endangered and Threatened species), high priority PIF species, or are indicators of native ecosystems or habitats of the state. One of the most important bird conservation initiatives in the state is the National Audubon Society’s Important Bird Areas project. Pennsylvania was the pioneer state for the IBA program. John Cecil presented the IBA program and explained how Audubon is enlisting volunteers to monitor species at each of the nearly 80 IBAs. Laurie Goodrich of Hawk Mountain gave an overview of the status of our state’s wildlife habitats and the threats that challenge the future of bird conservation here in PA. Her talk was an ideal way to set the stage for later discussions on habitat.

Workshop participants were treated to a presentation about the 2nd Breeding Bird Atlas by Bob Mulvihill in the evening hours of the first day.

Planning was the focus of the second day of the workshop. Nels Johnson presented the Nature Conservancy's "Conservation by Design" environmental planning approach. Conservation by Design prioritizes conservation targets, develops strategies, takes action and measures success in a continual feedback loop. Bird conservation could be modeled after this approach. Andrew Millikin echoed Johnson's message about the need for an adaptive management approach to bird conservation and presented the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture. Ken Rosenberg "stepped down" the PIF plan to Pennsylvania and explained the origin of the state's bird population estimates and goals.

Break-out Sessions: After each day's presentation, all participants engaged in lively break-out sessions. The first day's sessions were based on habitat groups: wetlands, grassland and agriculture, and forests (including early successional habitats). On the second day, the break-out sessions were divided geographically with groups concentrating on the Appalachian Mountains (central), the Ohio Hills region (Southwest), the Northwest wetlands, the Piedmont (Southeast), and the Pocono bioregion. Highlights of each session were presented to the entire group at the workshop's end.

In each habitat session, participants listed the potential threats and their solutions. Each group prioritized the threats by vote.

The forest habitat listed five main obstacles to bird conservation: 1. habitat loss through development, 2. change in forest composition (due to deer over-browsing, invasive species, lack of fire, acid deposition, and other factors), 3. lack of early successional habitat, 4. poor forestry practices on private lands, and 5. lack of coordination across agencies.

The grassland/agricultural habitat group addressed major issues in the following areas: 1. agriculture, 2. reclaimed strip mines, and 3. other habitats including airports, landfills, and military parks. In agriculture, the main problems are: dealing with farming practices; prioritizing efforts on landscape level; CREP value for grassland birds. For Reclaimed Strip Mines, the main obstacles appear to be reclamation revegetation structure (grasslands vs reforestation, species composition) and that land managers need prescriptions/tools for management. And with military bases, landfills, airports, national parks (Gettysburg), the main obstacle is the need to identify, map, prioritize, and do bird surveys. The proposed solution is a cooperative agreement to manage for grassland birds.

For wetlands, it was determined that the following were the biggest obstacles to wetland bird conservation: habitat loss, lack of information, and funding (lack of financial incentives).

There were several solutions suggested for the obstacles listed in each habitat group. In the sessions conducted on the second day, projects were proposed for each of the geographical regional groups.

Notes from these sessions will be disseminated at a later time. (Please note that websites for the organizations mentioned were already listed in the last PSO Newsletter.)

The All-Birds Conservation Workshop was only the beginning of a comprehensive approach to bird conservation in Pennsylvania. The organizers of the meeting came away with several messages from participants. Their overall message was: "Great workshop. Don't stop here. Keep on going!" This is only the first step in a long journey. More will come.

– Douglas Gross, All Bird Conservation Program

Bird Quiz

How well do you know your Pennsylvania birds?

1. Which common migrant and wintering gull might you expect to see high in a conifer on its breeding grounds?
2. Roger Tory Peterson quoted the following description of a fall warbler in an old edition of his Eastern field guide: "a museum tray of [this species] looks like a catch-all for the museum's ratty, discarded warbler skins." Which species?
3. Extraordinary raptors reported in Allegheny and Centre counties in the 1950s "doubtless referred to birds that had escaped from the Pittsburgh Zoo," according to Earl Poole in *Birds of Pennsylvania: An Annotated List*. What were they?
4. If you see a swallow with prominent cinnamon wing bars, which species is it?
5. What super-rarity on the Pennsylvania provisional list (a sight-record only) was accepted by the records committee for its genus but not as a particular species?

Answers on page 11

Conservation Corner

PSO members, now is the time to take action for birds. Wildlife Services of the USDA is proposing to poison thousands of crows with an avicide that will not only kill crows but other species of birds as well. For details, please read Greg Grove's column in this newsletter.

On a national level, in the October 2004 issue of *Audubon*, Audubon's science team prepared a nationwide "State of the Birds," and the news is discouraging. For example, 27 species of grassland birds were analyzed and the populations of 23 species were found to be decreasing, 164 species of woodland birds were analyzed and the populations of 76 species were found to be decreasing and 106 species of water birds were analyzed with 39 species decreasing. Not good news but not unexpected.

However, the "State" lists 10 things that birders can do to help reverse these trends. For those PSO members who haven't seen this list, the 10 ways are abbreviated below.

1. Make your yard "bird friendly" by planting native plants, providing houses, keeping cats indoors, providing water/food, and by not using pesticides.
2. When you go birding, take someone with you and share your enthusiasm.
3. Purchase "bird friendly" products whenever you can, and remind businesses you patronize that being "bird friendly" is good business.
4. Participate in citizen-science projects such as Christmas Bird Counts and the 2nd PA Breeding Bird Atlas.
5. Adopt an Important Bird Area and help with restoration/maintenance projects.
6. Support local habitat protection efforts through land trusts, local zoning and contacting local elected officials. Also support funding for state and federal programs such as the Land and Water Conservation Act.
7. Support state conservation/wildlife agencies by endorsing funding proposals and working with land managers to address the needs of "at-risk" species in their management plans/practices.
8. Let your legislators know that the Neotropical

Migratory Bird Conservation Act is critical to the protection of migratory birds and this legislation must be fully funded.

9. Support the control of invasive species.
10. Write your federal legislators and tell them that the Endangered Species Act is critical and must not be weakened. And tell them that you do not support drilling for oil in the Arctic Refuge.

Of course there are many other ways to help protect birds and promote their conservation. But what is critical is that all of us take a proactive approach to conservation especially with the current federal administration and Congress. I encourage all PSO members to continue to contact their legislators regarding conservation issues; continue to write letters to newspapers, volunteer for local conservation projects/nature centers, etc. It is only through our diligence, persistence, and hard work that it will be possible to conserve and preserve birds and other wildlife.

And speaking of other wildlife, PSO members may be interested in a 2004 news release from The Center for North American Herpetology. Their news release stated that amphibians are in dramatic decline with nearly one-third of the species threatened with extinction. During the past three years, scientists, as best as they could, have analyzed the conservation and distribution status of all known amphibian species. Their findings are startling – 32 percent of known amphibians are now considered threatened with extinction.

Russell A. Mittermeier, President of Conservation International, said "Amphibians are one of nature's best indicators of overall environmental health. Their catastrophic decline serves as a warning that we are in a period of significant environmental degradation."

This, along with the decline in a number of bird species, is clearly a "wake-up" call for all of us to become proactive in conservation. For us to fail will mean the extinction of many species of wildlife.

– Mark Henry
Conservation Chairperson



Who Was Earl L. Poole?

by Rudy Keller

Earl Lincoln Poole, in whose honor PSO has named its award for individual contributions to ornithology in PA, was born in 1891, the son of musical parents. His mother was an operatic soprano; his father, a flutist with the Philadelphia Orchestra. All his life, Poole loved opera and classical music, especially that of Mozart. His dual interests in art and natural history developed in childhood. He studied at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts and was a Jessup Scholar at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia. He joined the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club in 1910 at age 19 and remained active in the club and academy most of his life.

Poole's artistic talents were recognized early in his career. In 1913 at age 22, 14 of his color plates illustrated *Birds of Virginia*, of which Massachusetts ornithologist William Brewster commented, "the illustrations are of unusual merit."

Poole's career as an educator bloomed in 1915, when he took the position of art instructor at Boy's High School in Reading, Berks County, at the invitation of lepidopterist and naturalist Levi Mengel, founder and first director of the Reading Public Museum. The museum, run by the Reading school district, was developed by Mengel and Poole as an educational resource designed to show school children and citizens the things they might otherwise only read about in books. Both men were strong believers in visual education in natural history and the arts.

In 1918, as part of a grammar school reader he was preparing to teach children about birds, Poole wrote about his own early interest. However stilted his 19th century prose may sound to our ears, any 21st century birder will recognize the spark that ignited Poole's lifelong passion.

...How well I remember as a boy the mixed sense of delight and longing caused by the great variety of what were to me unnamed birds which seem to swarm in the woods during late April and May.

How their numbers and variety bewilder and fill one with a desire to know their names and habitats; until one by one those mysteries are cleared up, and new ones are met and take their places, leading one to an endless interest in these most fascinating neighbors of the meadows and woodlands.

Poole became assistant director of the museum in 1925 and was director from 1939-1957. During these years, Poole illustrated, painted and wrote on various natural history subjects, but birds remained his driving interest. His art was shown in prestigious exhibitions, and many of his drawings and paintings hang in private and public collections. Books illustrated by Poole include *Birds of the West Indies* by James Bond, *Bird Studies at Old Cape May* by Witmer Stone, *The Mammals of the Eastern United States* by William Hamilton, *Audubon Bird Guide - Water Birds* by Richard Pough, *Birds of the Philippines* by Jean Delacour and Ernst Mayr, and *Birds of Colombia* by R. Meyer De Schauensee.

Outside of his illustrations and paintings, most of Poole's contributions to ornithology focused on Pennsylvania. He helped found the Baird Ornithological Club in 1921, served as its president for many years, and continued to share his knowledge on field trips and at meetings well into the 1960s. He worked to develop a notable collection of bird skins and eggs that is still housed at the Reading Public Museum. He painted covers for 25 issues of *Pennsylvania Game News*. In 1930, he wrote *The Bird Life of Berks County, Pennsylvania*, followed in 1947 by *A Half Century of Bird Life in Berks County, Pennsylvania*. Much of the text, the line drawings, and several of Poole's paintings were reproduced in the updated version, *A Century of Bird Life in Berks County, Pennsylvania* by William D. Uhrich, Ed., published by the Reading Public Museum in 1997. It is the source of most of the biographical information used in this article. When he retired from the museum in 1957, Poole was probably the leading authority on bird distribution in PA. He began the work of compiling and editing his own amassed bird records and those of others across the state for his ornithological magnum opus, *The Birds of Pennsylvania*, completed as a 2500- page manuscript in 1964. To Poole's disappointment, it was never published because of its length. The DVOC helped publish a condensation entitled, *Pennsylvania Birds, An Annotated List*, in 1964. However, the original manuscript, archived and accessible at the Academy of Natural Sciences and elsewhere, remains an important source of information on 20th century bird distribution in the state, and continues to be consulted and cited by researchers and authors on PA ornithology. Earl Poole died at age 80 in 1972.

In the way he used his artistic talents to express his passion for birds and used both his art and his observational skills

to increase knowledge and appreciation of them, Earl L. Poole exemplifies a long tradition of people trained in other fields making significant contributions to ornithology. Recognizing such contributions in his name may be especially fitting at a time when ornithology is increasingly becoming a laboratory science.

Answers to Bird Quiz

on page 8

1. Bonaparte's Gull
2. Pine Warbler
3. Crested Caracaras
4. juvenile Northern Rough-winged Swallow
5. *Apus*, one of the fork-tailed swifts (May 10, 1996 in Montgomery County)

Young Birder Scholarship Offered

In order to foster a young person's interest in birding, PSO is again offering the Annual Meeting Youth Birder Scholarship. This scholarship enables a young person to attend the annual meeting at Clarion free of charge. If you know of a birder 18 years of age or younger who would like to attend the annual meeting, please consider nominating that person.

The nomination form includes a statement of responsibility for the youth for the weekend and a parental permission form. Please contact me for the appropriate nomination form.

- Shonah Hunter shunter@lhup.edu or
(570) 893-2062



The Raven Reporter



Tales of Discovery about Pennsylvania's Birds

After many years of reporting on the Special Areas Project, this column is expanding its approach. In my new position as Wildlife Biologist in the PA Game Commission's Wildlife Diversity Section, I see many opportunities to involve the state's birding community in inventorying and monitoring our state's bird populations. The PSO is a key partner in the network of "citizen scientists" who keep a finger on the pulse of our wildlife. In fact, the PSO originated from a group of Atlas Coordinators who wanted to keep together a network of project-oriented birders. In the course of these events, we have had a lot of fun, too.

The Wild Resource Conservation Fund is supporting SAP in an effort to produce bird checklists at state parks and DCNR natural areas. We expect to have drafts of eight checklists done by the end of the year. As those involved with the Yellow Creek State Park learned, it takes a lot of work to convert many years of field data into a good checklist. Collecting all the data was the fun part. Now we are converting that data into tangible results - simple, but informative checklists that show the status of each species through the year. Little checklists are a small, but powerful tool to educate and involve the public with birds. We are targeting locations for which we have more than 50 field trips, but are open to requests for checklists at other locations.

Birders are invited to send their Special Areas Project data. We are especially interested in receiving data for natural areas, wild areas, state parks, and game lands that do not have checklists or receive little attention from birders. With the 2nd Breeding Bird Atlas, many of you have a good excuse to visit some remote places where we have little bird data. You can easily collect Atlas data and SAP data from the same locale since much of the data are the same. Send inquiries to Doug Gross at the location mentioned below.

Bald Eagle Nest Monitoring

Pennsylvania's Bald Eagle conservation efforts have been a resounding success! The PA Game Commission has been

at the forefront of this effort for many years. In the middle of the 20th Century, the only Bald Eagle nests were in Crawford County. For many years, the national symbol was barely hanging on in the Keystone State. Human intervention including outright depredation, environmental toxins, poor water quality, and declining habitat all took their toll on eagle populations. In 1983, the PGC initiated a special release program (hacking) to restore eagles to many parts of the state where they formerly nested. Neighboring states also pursued their own programs, adding to the overall population in the region. Eagles beget eagles. So, within a couple decades the nesting population grew from a handful of eyries to about 80 nesting pairs in the state.

Yet, there is still legitimate concern about Bald Eagles. They are “bio-accumulators” of toxins because they are among the top dogs in the food chain. Bald Eagles are big birds that need big spaces to reproduce successfully. So, human encroachment on wetland and riparian zones can really affect them. Thanks to public education and greater awareness, fewer eagles are shot, but we still lose eagles through depredation. Although they are much more tolerant of human activities than the eagles of the past, Bald Eagles are sensitive to certain human activities that disturb nesting eagles and cause nest failure. At this point, Bald Eagles are still protected by the Endangered Species Act and other legislation. The public support for protection of Bald Eagles, especially in this patriotic period, is very strong. So, we have an obligation to continue monitoring eagle nests and providing them with protection.

The soaring success of the Bald Eagle program has created a real challenge. It is tough to keep up with all of the known approximately 80 nesting pairs, much less search and monitor new nests in new places. Although there are many very accessible and visible eagle nests, there are just as many that are extremely difficult to observe. Fortunately, we get a lot of cooperation from PGC Conservation Officers, DCNR staff, the Army Corps of Engineers, the PA Fish and Boat Commission, and public utilities. And, of course, we always enjoy the support of the state’s birding community. We ask once again for your help.

If you learn of a new Bald Eagle nest, please contact me or one of our biological aides who monitor eagle nests. In the eastern and central counties, we rely on Peter Robinson. In the western counties, we rely on Brenda Peebles. Their contact information is provided below. Already, we have learned of four new nests in 2005. Others are suspected. Some new nests are in suburban areas where eagles are finding quiet areas around bodies of high quality water within sight of cities and busy highways. Other new nests are tucked away in very remote areas. We suspect that we

are missing a few more of these nests. There are some gaps in the known list of Bald Eagle nests, notably in the upper Susquehanna River drainages (both North and West branches) as well as wilder sites of the Southwest and Pocono regions – especially on private lands. With an increasing number of birders exploring the nooks and crannies of the state, we anticipate that you can assist this program to protect eagle nest sites. Eagles have been gathering sticks to build or repair nests for several weeks, so it is time to look around!

Please contact either Peter or Brenda if you learn of a new Bald Eagle nest, noting the geographical areas each of them cover.

Eagle monitoring coordinators:

Western PA (McKean, Cameron, Clearfield, Cambria, and Somerset WEST):

Brenda Peebles
8324 Johnson Rd.
Meadville, PA 17331
814-333-1653
bpeebles7@hotmail.com

Eastern PA (Potter, Clinton, Centre, Blair, and Bedford EAST):

Peter Robinson
PO Box 482
Hanover, PA 17331.
717-632-8462
pabirder@hotmail.com

Species of Special Concern Documentation

The Second Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas has gotten off to a terrific start. The state’s birders have jumped on the Atlas bandwagon, adopting blocks and entering data into the Atlas website. In my Regional Coordinator meeting, most RCs felt that less than half of the 2004 data had been submitted. I urge all of you to submit your 2004 Atlas data before the 2005 breeding season. It is critical that we are able to assess the bird distribution data for patterns in species distribution and volunteer participation. I have a lot of data to input myself, so I understand that this is a challenge for busy birders. But, we need to get the data in before we lose our notes or the impetus to carry through after the field season.

One the most critical aspects of the Breeding Bird Atlas is the documentation of the Species of Special Concern. The

documentation form for the 2nd PBBA is designed to capture important information about the observation, the location of the rare species, the habitat and behavior of the Species of Special Concern, and conservation threats to the location. Much of this form is dedicated to verification of the sighting that is critical to the credibility of the entire project.

I urge all of you to use this form when documenting Species of Special Concern for the Breeding Bird Atlas. This information is extremely important to the PA Game Commission's mission to protect the nesting sites of the Commonwealth's most vulnerable nesting birds. The information provided in each Special Species Report is very valuable to this end. Besides verification and conservation purposes, there also is a research aspect of this kind of documentation. Many of the state's Species of Special Concern are poorly studied anywhere, much less in our state where they are rare. So, the information concerning habitat and location may have great value in improving our understanding of these aspects of each species. The minimum habitat size, proximity to other populations, and habitat characteristics are critical pieces of information lacking for many species.

The data collected from Special Species Reports will be incorporated in the Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program (PNHP) formerly known as the PA Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI). As such, the locations will be given more protection by the agencies charged with that responsibility. As part of that process, sites with greater potential to have breeding populations are given higher priority for inclusion in the PNHP database. There is a high standard for veracity and for confidence that the observation really does represent a breeding population. Only reports that are either Probable or Confirmed breeding will be accepted into the PHNP database. Therefore, it is important to reach that level in the report of Special Species. Please make the extra effort to upgrade your breeding code to the level of "Pair" or higher. This will probably require some extra time, probably repeated visits. It can be tricky to find a nest of a rare bird without disturbing them too much, but it can be fairly easy to confirm nesting by observing recently fledged young (FL), adults carrying food to young (CF), or finding an adult feeding fledged young (FY). Confirmation of nesting can occur later in the breeding season after things quiet down a little (but, that said, many of our Species of Special Concern nest fairly early).

I also urge birders to make a complete census of the Species of Special Concern. That is, try to get a good idea of how many pairs are occupying the site and the boundaries of the area occupied. Sometimes, these rare birds have clusters of small populations rather than just one pair.

Getting another observer involved with the field work might be a good strategy, too. Sometimes it takes teamwork to confirm nesting and assess a population. I also advise informing the Regional Coordinator as soon as you discover a new breeding site of a Species of Special Concern. It is easier to follow through on a rare bird report during the field season than later.

For more information about these aspects of the 2nd Breeding Bird Atlas, please look at the website for the Atlas, <http://www.pabirdatlas.org> and especially the Handbook for Participants.

Douglas A. Gross
Wildlife Biologist, Endangered Bird Specialist
Pennsylvania Game Commission
And Coordinator of the PSO Special Areas Project
144 Winters Road, Orangeville, PA 17859
Phone: 570-458-4109 (or 458-4564)
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dougross@sunlink.net

Ornithological Literature Notes

The hemlock woolly adelgid, an East Asian insect invader, threatens us not only with the loss of our prized state tree but also with a significant decline in birds that depend greatly on eastern hemlock forests for prime habitat. The potential severity of the loss in Pennsylvania and elsewhere in the Northeast was detailed in a recent study conducted in the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area along the Delaware River in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. The report, "Mesohabitat use of threatened hemlock forests by breeding birds of the Delaware River Basin in Northeastern United States" by Robert M. Ross, Lori A. Redell, Randy M. Bennett, and John A. Young, was published in 2004 in the *Natural Areas Journal* (24:307-315). Ross, a former PSO president, is an ecologist, and Redell and Bennett are biologists, at the Northern Appalachian Research Laboratory of the U.S. Geological Survey in Wellsboro, PA. Young is a landscape ecologist at the Geological Survey's Aquatic Ecology Laboratory in Kearneysville, WV.

The researchers' goals were to assess avian biodiversity, habitat relations of various species, and risks of losing species because of declining hemlock forests. Their analysis was made at the mesohabitat level, an intermediate spatial and ecological scale, which in this case grouped habitat and terrain types into four classes: hemlock forest and hardwood forest in ravine and bench (flat-lying) topography. Four species in the 11,000-hectare area

showed strong preference for hemlock over hardwood habitat and for ravine to bench terrain. Every Blackburnian Warbler territory found in the survey was located in hemlock, as were 94 percent of Blue-headed Vireo and Black-throated Green Warbler territories, and 85 percent of Acadian Flycatcher territories. All four species also had significantly greater numbers of territories in hemlock sites than in hardwood sites.

Based on the known proportion of the National Recreation Area that met their definition of hemlock forest, the researchers estimated that between 600 and 1,300 pairs of each of those four species (a total of 3,600 plus-or-minus 500 pairs) could be at risk in the park from uncontrolled destruction of hemlocks by the woolly adelgid. "With continued decline of eastern hemlock, these specialized 'obligate' species are poised to suffer the greatest population losses in coming years," the authors said. Ross and his colleagues extrapolated from their 3,600-pair estimate in the park to nearly 8 million hectares of forest with significant hemlock stands in the northeastern United States (nearly half of which already harbors the woolly adelgid). Their extrapolation suggested that a total of several million pairs of the four hemlock-associated species could be adversely affected by unchecked spread of the adelgid and subsequent decline of hemlocks in the vast northeastern region. A result on that scale would be a substantial loss in avian biodiversity.

Felicity Newell of Pittsburgh has received a prestigious award from the Wilson Ornithological Society in 2004 to continue work she had started for a senior tutorial combining a double major in English and biology at Chatham College. She received the Hall/Mayfield Award at the Society's annual meeting for a proposal on her project titled "Nest Site Selection: A comparison of success and habitat for the Wood Thrush and American Robin in Southwestern Pennsylvania." The award provided a grant enabling her to conduct a second year of fieldwork designed to study why species such as the robin breed successfully in fragmented forests around human development, while others such as the thrush are unsuccessful.

Newell studied six fragmented sites at parks in northern Allegheny County and one large-forest site at Powdermill Nature Reserve in Westmoreland County. She found and monitored 197 nests during the two breeding seasons of her research, and she analyzed them in terms of nest success, distance from the forest edge, vegetational structure at the site, and particularly nest location within the vegetation. Robins were most abundant at fragmented sites, and their nest success was higher than that of the thrush along the

forest edge. However, Wood Thrush nest success was quite good even in fragmented woodlands around urban/suburban areas, and Newell said, "Allegheny County contains 36 percent forested land, which may be one reason." She found significant differences between the heights at which the two species built their nests. Wood Thrush nests averaged significantly lower at 4 meters (most often in spicebush) than the average of 5 meters for robins (most often in maple branches), as well as differences in nest success involving the type and density of the forest understory.

Her research design, the extensive scope of her data collection and analysis, the insight of her interpretations, and the clarity of her writing were well beyond the usual level of quality for an undergraduate project — assets the Wilson Society recognized in honoring her with the award. Bob Mulvihill, field ornithology projects coordinator at the Powdermill Avian Research Center, commented, "Having worked with upwards of 100 college-age interns and field assistants over the last 10 years, I can tell you that Felicity has an exceptional aptitude for working in the field of what might be called conservation ornithology."

All of this came long after the start of a career in professional ballet. She trained with the Pittsburgh Youth Ballet and Point Park Ballet from 1990 to 1999 and was an apprentice with the Colorado and Louisville Ballets in 1998-1999. Then she went back to college from 2000 to 2004 for a new career direction built on her English and biology studies. Newell has been a bird banding intern at Powdermill since the spring of 2004, and she hopes to move on to graduate studies in conservation biology or a related field and eventually to a career in avian research.



Annual Meeting Agenda Clarion Holiday Inn

Friday, May 20, 2005

- 6:00 p.m. Registration begins at Holiday Inn
- 7:00 p.m. Social at Holiday Inn
- 8:00 p.m. Business Meeting at Holiday Inn

Saturday, May 21, 2005

- 6:30 a.m. Outings depart from Holiday Inn in Clarion.
- 12:00-1:00 p.m. Lunch on your own.
- 1:00-1:45 p.m. **Monitoring Pennsylvanian Biodiversity: Reasons, Results, and Rewards of the 2nd PBBA** presented by Robert S. Mulvihill, Coordinator.
- 1:45-2:30 p.m. **Research on the Allegheny Plateau** presented by Scott H. Stoleson.
- 2:30-3:00 p.m. Break. Visit the vendors and organizations represented in the hallway.
- 3:00-3:45 p.m. **The 1970s Spruce Budworm Infestation and Birds** presented by Nick Bolgiano.
- 3:45-4:30 p.m. **Golden-winged Warbler Nesting Success** presented by Jake Kubel
- 4:30-5:00 p.m. **A PORC Update** presented by Nick Pulcinella.
- 6:00 p.m. Social at Holiday Inn
- 6:30 p.m. Banquet at Holiday Inn
- Presentation of Poole Award and Conservation Award
- Banquet Speaker: Douglas A. Gross **Northern Saw-whet Owl Research**

Sunday, May 22, 2005

- 6:30 a.m. Outings depart from Holiday Inn in Clarion.

PSO Newsletter

This newsletter is published four times a year by the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology. To renew your membership, send your check made payable to "PSO" to:

Membership Categories:	
PSO	Individual \$ 28.50
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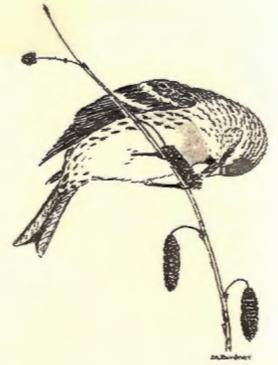
New Field Checklists!

PSO now has new checklists available.

They are in the new AOU order and include recent additions to the state list.

Use the enclosed Membership Renewal Form to order yours today!

NOTE: These lists are not "Official State Lists." They include a number of species for which there are a number of sight records, but which have not made it to Class I in the PORC hierarchy.



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