

THE

PSO PILEATED



December 2008

The Newsletter of the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology

Volume 19, Number 4

From the President's Desk....

I'm writing this message on a dreary mid-November day, and looking out the office window, I'm a bit taken aback at the speed with which the landscape went from colorful and beautiful to brown and unattractive. Did I not notice it happening or did it happen overnight? The long cold winter, which I admit to disliking, is settling in, but I know that I'd be bored to tears living in a place where the seasons never changed. By the end of January, though, I long for the sight and smell of flowers and foliage.

We birders, though, seem to take the winter doldrums better than others because there's always something to do or look forward to. My husband David jokingly tells our nonbirding friends that birders never have an off season and he's right.

The Christmas Bird Counts, the oldest, best organized, and most well known of the data collection efforts, are right around the corner. But they don't stand alone. Some bird clubs do mid-winter count days, the *eBird* computer site accepts data on a daily basis, and former president Greg Grove conducts a statewide PA Winter Raptor Survey that's producing great results. And if none of that suits your fancy, you can always do your own personal Big Day and submit the data as far up as the national American Birding Association.

Birding goes hand in hand with Mother Nature. She never takes a day off and, more importantly, neither does she discriminate as to who discovers or reveals her secrets. Anyone, regardless of origin, profession, age, or sex, can be a birder. At our recent fall Board of Directors' meeting at Duffy's in Boalsburg I thought about this as I looked at the people around the table. Birding has no resume

requirements except a thirst for knowledge, the need to do something, and great curiosity. Some would say that people become birders to change the world and make it a better place, but I personally think that if and when that happens it only does so with birding maturity.

A myriad of topics was discussed at the meeting, one of which will remain at the forefront of controversial conservation topics for the foreseeable future. Energy generation from an ever-increasing number of wind farms has many conservationists drawing a line in the sand. There are viable opinions, both pro and con, on both sides of this issue. Although November signals the beginning of "the ugly season," it is also a month when many vagrant species show up in the state. Ash-throated Flycatchers, Western Kingbirds, and Rufous Hummingbirds come to mind, all species I never thought I'd see in this state when I first picked up binoculars.

So many Rufous Hummingbirds have now been documented in the state that we no longer have to submit the records to the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee (PORC).

It may be November, but my thoughts now frequently turn to the 2009 annual meeting that will be held in Bucks County in the southeastern part of the state May 15-17. Details will follow in the next newsletter, but be sure to put the dates on your calendar now because this will be another good one!

Arlene Koch, President
Easton, PA
Northampton County



Geoff Malosh photographed this Rufous Hummingbird in Crafton, Allegheny Co., on November 15.

The Raven Reporter



Tales of Discovery about Pennsylvania Birds

Each year, Pennsylvania participates in a nationwide winter survey of eagles. The 2009 Midwinter Bald Eagle Survey will be held from Wednesday, 31 December 2008, to Wednesday, 14 January 2009, with target dates of 9 and 10 January.

The 2008 winter eagle survey was quite successful thanks to an outstanding team of eagle-watchers and the cooperation of the Army Corps of Engineers which covered several impoundments. Special thanks go to Chotty Sprenkle who heads up the Lower Susquehanna Eagle Team. They even have team hats! And, also to PGC's own Jerry Bish who leads the PGC team in the Crawford County surveys. Kudos also go to the Eagle Institute that helps out in the Upper Delaware River region where so many eagles spend the winter.

The 2008 winter eagle survey yielded recorded 183 eagles, including 101 adults and 83 immature or of unknown age. More than 114 hours of field survey effort were contributed to the survey. New surveys were started along the Juniata River (Perry County), because of the growing eagle population there, an extension of the Chesapeake Bay/Lower Susquehanna River population. And, we added Curwensville Lake to the list. These large reservoirs seem to be increasing in their relative importance to the winter eagle population, perhaps because of the stability of their water conditions.

The winter eagle survey is more than a seasonal tally of eagles in our state. It gives us an early start on finding new or alternate eagle nests because pairs often are building new nests or repairing old ones at that time. With the increased eagle population, there is an increased chance that some eagles are forming roosts. We would like to identify these roosts so we can better protect them.

Despite increased interest in Golden Eagles, none were reported in the 2008 survey. Perhaps we can do better in the future, identifying wintering areas of Golden Eagles in the state.

Failed attempts to recruit cooperators in some southeastern counties resulted in fewer survey hours and fewer eagles counted in that region. This affected the total results, but the total count of eagles was still greater than the previous year's effort. We also could increase our coverage of non-agency property in the northwest and southwestern counties.

Although there is good coverage of the state, we could use some help in the following areas for the 2009 survey:

- Roderick Reserve, SGL 314
- Presque Isle State Park/Presque Isle Bay
- Lake Erie Shore points including Elk Creek access and Erie Bluffs State Park
- Tamarack Lake
- Cheat River Lake
- Youghiogheny River Lake
- West Branch Susquehanna upstream of Lewisburg (not including Curwensville Lake)
- Long Arm and Shepperd Myers Reservoirs
- Lake Marburg
- Lake Williams/Lake Redmond
- Schuylkill River
- Brandywine Creek
- Lower Delaware River – Philadelphia
- Lower Delaware River, Bucks County, and Van Skiver Lake area

Please let me know if you would like to help out. This project is a great way to get out in the winter and to involve new birders in a bird project. Eagles are fairly easy to identify.

Mark Your Calendars for the Rusty Blackbird Winter Blitz

The Rusty Blackbird has been steeply declining with estimates of an 85-99% population drop over the past 40 years. The cause for this alarming decline is not known, and the increasingly sparse and patchy winter distribution of the Rusty Blackbird is making it more difficult to learn more about distribution, abundance, and ecology as a basis for conservation efforts. Collaborating with Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology's and National Audubon Society's *e-Bird* project, the PA Game Commission and the Rusty Blackbird Technical Working Group (RBTWG) needs your help to find local, but predictable, wintering concentrations of Rusty Blackbirds by participating in the Rusty Blackbird Hot Spot Blitz.

The Rusty Blackbird Hot Spot Blitz will occur, **February 7-15, 2009**, throughout the Rusty Blackbird winter range in more than 20 midwestern and southeastern states. Pennsylvania is at the northern edge of the Rusty

Blackbird's wintering range, so our data will give an interesting perspective to this project.

Participants are asked to visit locations where they have previously sighted or would expect to encounter Rusty Blackbirds and submit their observations via *e-Bird*. There are no data sheets or daily time restrictions. You can go wherever you like, whenever you like, and as often as you like anytime between the dates of **February 7-15, 2009**. We are simply seeking observations on the number of birds present at each location visited, along with very basic habitat information. If you are unfamiliar with areas which may support Rusty Blackbirds in your region, contact the Blitz coordinator for ideas (that's Doug Gross in Pennsylvania). You might want to follow through with the Christmas Count discoveries found earlier in the winter. Rusty Blackbirds are found in a few Pennsylvania CBC circles each year. Also, there are a variety of wetlands, especially in northwestern Pennsylvania, where Rusties are known to visit, often in sheltered parts of the wetland. Rusty Blackbirds often forage for acorns and wild berries in wetlands. They also flick through the muddy edges of shorelines with their long bills, tossing leaves and other bits of vegetation as they go. They will often roost in trees near or perhaps within a few miles of the wetlands where they forage. Rusties also keep moving around in winter and may be found in a "completely different place" in mid- or late winter than in early winter when we do our Christmas Counts. So, it is good to look in a variety of places including those you do not normally haunt. Who knows what you might find?

Of course, it almost goes without saying that Christmas Bird Count data concerning Rusty Blackbirds would be very welcome. The males even sing in winter, so they are a very intriguing icterid!

Pennsylvania efforts on behalf of Rusty Blackbirds have an extra bonus. One of our really outstanding young field ornithologists, Andrew McGann, is researching wintering Rusty Blackbirds as his Master's Degree project at the



The 2008 winter eagle survey yielded recorded 183 eagles, including 101 adults and 83 immature or of unknown age.
Photo by Roger Higbee



The Rusty Blackbird is a high priority species in the national Partners in Flight land bird conservation plan and a Watch List species.

Photo by Steve Gosser

<http://nationalzoo.si.edu/ConservationAndScience/MigratoryBirds/Research/RustyBlackbird/>

Information and instructions will also be available on Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology's *eBird* site: <http://ebird.org> and the Pennsylvania portal for *eBird* will also have more information about the Blitz as we get closer to the event. It is found at: www.ebird.org/content/pa

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College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia. Please look for his posts on the Pennsylvania Birds list serve concerning Rusty Blackbirds and his research. I look forward to them.

As a result of these efforts, the RBTWG is hoping to create maps of wintering Rusty Blackbird "hot spots" that will help direct research, monitoring, and conservation attention.

If you don't use *eBird* regularly, please consider entering all your observations of Rusty Blackbirds (even outside the Blitz period). Your observations will be used by researchers currently studying their steep long-term population decline.

The Pennsylvania Game Commission encourages participation in this event. The Rusty Blackbird is a high priority species in the national Partners in Flight land bird conservation plan and a Watch List species. Please feel free to contact Doug Gross at the addresses listed below if you are interested in participating. If you do not have access to the internet, we would be glad to receive your reports in another manner.

Additional instructions and information on identification, habitat preferences, etc., will soon be posted on the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center's Rusty Blackbird website:

Name That Tree

by Arlene Koch

In early October I was sitting in my living room waking up with a morning cup of coffee when I saw a flock of birds drop into the trees along the road out front. The trees in this small stand average only about 20 feet tall and include a few ash trees, several sassafras trees, a silver maple, a hackberry, and one or two small red oaks. The leaves were still present on all of them so the birds temporarily disappeared, but I suspected they were Cedar Waxwings that put down to feed on the sweet hackberries. My binoculars confirmed my suspicions and, in addition to the waxwings, with them were some robins, Purple and House Finches, and a Northern Mockingbird.

By the end of the month all of the leaves on these trees were gone and so were all the hackberries. But then a heavy set of the winged seeds of the silver maple became visible. And then the waxwings and other species began feasting on these maple seeds. There are other hackberry and maple trees on the property, so during this time if I wanted to see waxwings or Purple Finches I looked for these trees and usually found them.

So what's so unusual about this, you ask? Well, nothing really, but the point of this article is to urge birders to get to know trees. Had I not known a hackberry from a sassafras, I may not have seen as many Cedar Waxwings and Purple Finches as I did. And I owe whatever knowledge I have of different kinds of tree to a visit many years ago from a now deceased biology professor named Betsy Burkhart.

Betsy was a "birdwatcher" for 60 years. By the time she came here, she no longer walked well, so I drove her around the fields and then we sat on the deck talking and watching the feeders. Something she said to me that day made a great difference in how I approached birding and still comes to mind every time I point out a bird in a tree to other birders or visitors. "My dear," she said, "you're never going to be an accomplished birdwatcher if you don't learn your trees."

I remember being taken aback by this statement because at the time I thought I already was a pretty good "bird-watcher." I owned as many bird guides as I could afford and had even sprung for some bird tapes. But shortly after her visit I realized how right she was. It was spring migration and I went looking for warblers at a time when I wasn't all that proficient at finding some of the more unusual ones. In a nearby park I ran into another birder and together we began checking a stand of evergreens. Suddenly he called out that there was a Bay-breasted

Warbler at 9 o'clock in the spruce tree, but I never found the bird. The reason I never found the bird was that I was looking into a fir tree, not the spruce with the bird in it.

Accomplished birders don't get to be that way on their knowledge of birds alone. Those that stand above the crowd are the ones who learn as much as they can about everything in their environment. And while that may sound like a daunting task, it doesn't have to be. Start with your own back yard, learn the trees there, and then move on to bigger areas.

You will probably never get to where you can identify every tree at every season of the year. When stripped of their leaves deciduous trees can be extremely difficult to identify. But Dr. Burkhart told me to learn trees by picking the aspect of a tree that I'm the most comfortable with, be that the bark, leaves, flowers, fruit, height, color, or shape. Everyone, she said, learns trees from a different angle. And she was again, of course, correct. I don't know if I ever thanked her properly, but I hope I did. So before you add another bird guide to you library, consider adding a tree guide instead. And then, after you learn your trees, try your hand at shrubs.

PSO Quiz

How well do you know your Pennsylvania birds?

1. Six species that were confirmed as breeders in our first breeding bird atlas will have different English names in our second atlas. Which species?
2. Which bird on the Pennsylvania list breeds nearest to the South Pole?
3. In *A Field Guide to Warblers of North America*, Jon Dunn and Kimball Garrett describe one species this way: "After the Palm Warbler and the waterthrushes, the ___ is more of a tail bobber than any other warbler." Which warbler is this?
4. An Old World lark was collected at Glenolden in 1928, but is not included on the state list despite the specimen record. Which species, and why did Earl Poole consign it to the supplementary list in his book *Pennsylvania Birds*?
5. Which of our owls is more likely than others to be found in wet forests?

(See Answers on page 12.)

Top National Ornithological Groups Meet in Pittsburgh in '09

The 2009 joint scientific meeting of The Wilson Ornithological Society and the Association of Field Ornithologists, will be held 09-12 April 2009 in Pittsburgh, hosted by the National Aviary and Powdermill Nature Reserve and many Pennsylvania organizational partners. Todd Katzner, Ph.D., the aviary's Director of Conservation and Field Research, chairs the Local Organizing Committee. Todd spoke to PSO members at our last annual meeting.

Todd said to be sure "to let PSO folks know that people who volunteer to work the meeting get free admission to the conference. We can't provide free banquet food, but admission to other events (with snacks, etc.) will be available. This will be a collection of some of the world's leading ornithologists."

"These meetings are also really good because they draw in lots of students," Todd continued. "I personally find that a really positive thing – larger meetings sometimes block out students and this one will be attractive to them. There will be a student presentation award, given to the best student presenter."

The Association of Field Ornithologists (AFO) is one of the world's major societies of professional and amateur ornithologists dedicated to the scientific study and dissemination of information about birds in their natural habitats. Founded in 1922, AFO emphasizes bird banding, field techniques, and conservation biology and publishes the *Journal of Field Ornithology*.

The Wilson Ornithological Society (WOS) founded in 1888 and named in honor of Alexander Wilson, is a worldwide organization of nearly 2500. It is one of the leading scholarly organizations of professional ornithologists, publishes the prestigious *Wilson Journal of Ornithology*, and holds annual meetings.

The meeting's Call for Papers invites members of the societies and guests to contribute by presenting an oral paper or poster on any aspect of avian biology. Of interest to us in Pennsylvania (and as mentioned in the last *PSO Pileated*) Kenneth C. Parkes, former curator of the Section of Birds at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, will receive a posthumous William and Nancy Klamm Service Award at the meeting.

Information about the joint conference is being posted, as it becomes available, at <http://www.wosafo2009.org/jointConf.php> and details about AFO and WOS are on their web sites <http://www.wilsonsociety.org/>

and <http://www.afonet.org/meetings/index.html> .

Anyone willing to help with local arrangements for the meeting should contact PSO board member Jack Solomon snaggle719@yahoo.com.

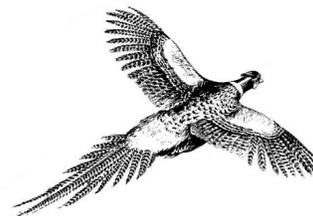
Time for Award Nominations

As we think ahead to the 2009 Annual Meeting it is once again time to consider nominees for PSO's Earl L. Poole Award and the Conservation Award. The deadline for nominations is February 1, 2009. Nominations may be submitted at any time. The awards committee is chaired by the PSO vice-president. The committee will submit their recommendations for award winners to the board at their February 2009 meeting. Award winners will be notified well in advance of the annual meeting so that they have an opportunity to plan to attend. This also enables them to arrange for family and friends to share in the thrill of being recognized by the Pennsylvania birding community.

The Earl L. Poole award is presented annually to a person or persons who have made significant contributions to Pennsylvania's ornithology. This may be in the form of volunteer efforts, publications, field work, or any other pursuit that has furthered the knowledge, documentation, sharing, and or interest in birdlife in Pennsylvania. The professional as well as the amateur is equally deserving of consideration. The Conservation Award is presented to an individual or organization that has had a positive impact on bird conservation in Pennsylvania. And yes, there may be some overlap, so don't let that get in the way of nominating an individual or organization deserving of recognition. See the PSO website for a list of past winners.

With so many contributing to birding in Pennsylvania, give the committee a tough job this year. A short letter or email is all it takes to submit a nomination. Nominations should be submitted to me either by email or by regular mail.

– Tom Kuehl, Vice President



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Export PA 15632.
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Ornithological Literature Notes

If you see a Canada Goose wearing a yellow collar and/or a yellow leg ring in Pennsylvania, Tony Fox in Denmark would like to know. It would be one of 123 geese color-ringed on the tundra of west Greenland in July 2008 as part of a long-term research project coordinated from Denmark's National Environmental Research Institute.

Adults have large coded neck collars and, usually, similarly coded leg rings. Young of the year have only leg rings. The codes consist of capital letters or a combination of letters and numbers, all starting with "G." Fox requests that observers provide as much information as possible, including:

- * Whether the goose was observed alive or recovered after being shot.
- * Date and location where found (a particular farm or wetland, the nearest town, the county, and the state, with latitude and longitude if known).
- * Whether it was associating with other marked or unmarked geese, and an estimate of the flock size.
- * Observer's name and e-mail or postal address.
- * Any other details such as the habitat or food being used by the geese.

"We would be especially grateful for any resightings of these birds, or reports of shot birds. All such reports are highly valued and all will be fully acknowledged," Fox says. Send them to him at tfo@dmu.dk.

Canada Geese marked in Greenland in the mid-1990s have been found migrating through Labrador and New Brunswick and overwintering in Connecticut, New York, and Pennsylvania. Of the birds marked in 2008, Fox reports that as of November 1, five were sighted in northern Maine and four were shot in New Brunswick, all during October.

The project is designed to study interactions between Canada and Greater White-fronted Geese. In west Greenland, Canada Geese (*interior* subspecies) have been increasing and Greater White-fronted Geese (*flavirostris* subspecies) have been declining significantly in recent years. "The population decline occurred at the same time that Canada Geese were increasing in numbers, and it has been suggested that competition between the two geese may be limiting the potential of Greenland Whitefronts to breed," according to Fox.

A website for the project includes details about past sightings of marked Canadas and links to interesting research publications about the decline of Greater Whitefronts: <http://greenland08.wikispaces.com/Request+for+resightings+of+Canada+Geese>

– Paul Hess

2009 Winter Raptor Survey

by Greg Grove

The ninth annual Pennsylvania Winter Raptor Survey (WRS) will be conducted from January 17 through February 8, 2009.

The 2008 WRS results were published in *Pennsylvania Birds* (Volume 22, No.1). Last winter, volunteers recorded more than 3300 raptors and over 2000 vultures during 505 hours of survey time. Red-tailed Hawks and American Kestrels were found in good numbers last winter, the second highest WRS counts ever for both species. The Northern Harrier count was the best ever, maybe a result of the CREP program. Rough-legged Hawk numbers were similar to the previous year, a bit below average, possibly a reflection of the mild conditions during the first half of last winter.



Red-tailed Hawks were found in good numbers last year with the second highest WRC count ever.

Photo by Roger Higbee

Interested birders are invited to participate in 2009. In December I will contact past participants by e-mail. If you have a new e-mail address since last winter, please contact me. If you wish to participate for the first time or just get more information, contact me via e-mail (gwg2@psu.edu).

Winter Raptor Surveys are done from a vehicle along a route designed by the participants. In counties with previously established routes, I ask that new participants either join an established route or coordinate with established counters *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 and should be designed with safety as the top priority. While difficult to avoid completely, surveying on busy roads should be minimized. More than just counting raptors, participants are asked also to record whenever possible age/sex/color-morph data as appropriate for raptor species (see forthcoming guidelines for details).

I close by expressing my appreciation to past participants and hope that you can all get out there again this winter.

Christmas Bird Counts Held in Pennsylvania

	Name of Count	County	Compiler	Phone Number	E-mail Address	Date
1	Audubon	Montgomery Delaware Chester	Edie Parnum	610-964-8331	eparnum@comcast.net	12/27/08
2	Bald Eagle	Centre	Bob Snyder	814-863-6168	rhs2@psu.edu	1/01/09
3	Beaver	Beaver	Rick Mason	724-847-0909	rdmason@ccia.com	12/20/08
4	Bedford	Bedford	Janet Shaffer Mike Jackson	814-356-3553	jgshaffer@yellowbananas.com mljackson@hughes.net	12/20/08
5	Bernville	Berks	Ed Barrell	610-926-2962	hawkman501@yahoo.com	1/03/09
6	Bethlehem-Easton	Northampton	Elaine & Donald Mease	610-346-7754	measede@enter.net	12/27/08
7	Bloomsburg	Columbia	Cathy Haffner	570-271-1244	cdhaffner@yahoo.com	12/14/08
8	Buffalo Creek	Washington	Larry Helgerman		bobolink1@earthlink.net	12/14/08
9	Buffalo Creek Valley	Butler Armstrong	George Reese	724-353-9649	g.reese@gaiconsultants.com	12/20/08
10	Bushy Run S.P.	Westmoreland	Dick Byers	724-593-3543	otusasio@lhtot.com	12/27/08
11	Butler	Butler Lawrence Mercer	Suzanne Butcher	330-759-1945 724-794-3534	sarbird@hotmail.com	12/20/08
12	Central Bucks	Bucks	Diane Allison	610-847-2085	dalliso@mail.ptd.net	12/28/08
13	Chambersburg	Franklin	Joan Bowen	717-264-9493	pjschaff@innernet.net	12/20/08
14	Clarion	Clarion	Ruth Schurr		karu@penn.com	1/03/09
15	Clarksville	Greene	Terry Dayton	724-627-9665	tdayton@alltel.net	12/28/08
16	Culp	Blair	Heidi Mullendore	814-695-6807	hmullendore@state.pa.us	12/20/08
17	Curtin	Dauphin	Scott Bills	717-896-8859	sbills@state.pa.us	12/29/08
18	Dallas Area	Luzerne	Jim Hoyson	570-696-4925 570-371-6581 (w)	birdder@aol.com	12/14/08
19	Dingman's Ferry	Pike	Chris Turn	570-588-6850	birder3@verizon.net	12/28/08
20	DuBois	Clearfield	Jocelyn Smrekar		smrekar@pennswoods.net	1/03/09
21	Elverson	Chester	Robert Cook	610-286-9919	dunlin@dejazzd.com	12/21/08
22	Emporium	Cameron	Bob Martin	814-486-1990	bmartin@adelphia.net	
23	Erie	Erie	Chuck Gehringer	814-490-4748	chuckg58@hotmail.com	12/20/08
24	Gettysburg	Adams	Art Kennell Russell Ryan	717 642-6995 717-334-5171		12/20/08
25	Glenolden	Delaware	Nick Pulcinella	610-716-0321	nickpulcinella@verizon.net	12/20/08
26	Hamburg	Berks Schuylkill	Laurie Goodrich	610-756-6961 570-943-3411 x106	goodrich@hawkmtn.org	12/28/08
27	Harrisburg	Dauphin	Deuane Hoffman	717-564-7475	corvuscorax@comcast.net	12/20/08
28	Huntingdon	Huntingdon	Dave Kyler	814-643-6030	davidkyler@verizon.net	12/21/08
29	Indiana	Indiana	Roger & Margaret Higbee	724-354-3493	bcoriole@alltel.net	12/26/08

30	Johnstown	Cambria	Sally and Tom Dick	814-266-7912	thomasd102@aol.com	
31	Lake Raystown	Huntingdon Blair	Greg Grove	814-667-2305	gwg2@psu.edu	1/04/08
32	Lancaster	Lancaster	Chris Pederson	717-295-2607	pederson@epix.net	
33	Lebanon	Lebanon	Fritz Heilman	717-273-0487	volks5@verizon.net	12/20/08
34	Lehigh Valley	Lehigh/Berks	Mark Boyd	610-432-0170	mrboyd@rcn.com	12/20/08
35	Lewisburg	Union, Snyder, Northumberland	Allen Schweinsberg	570-524-0432	aschwein@bucknell.edu	12/14/08
36	Lewistown	Juniata	Elmer Petersheim Chad Kauffman	717-463-3625 717-994-6715	chadkauffman@earthlink.net	12/20/08
37	Linesville	Crawford	Clare Nicolls	814-587-6395	tcnicolls@alltel.net	12/14/08
38	Lititz	Lancaster	Bruce Carl	717-859-4179	carls@dejazzd.com	12/28/08
39	Lock Haven-Jersey Shore	Clinton Lycoming	Wayne Laubscher	570-748-7511	wlaubsch@kcnet.org	12/21/08
40	Mansfield	Tioga	Gary Tyson	570-724-5789	gnats3@ptd.net	12/20/08
41	New Bloomfield	Perry	Ramsay Koury	717-761-1871	rkoury123@aol.com	12/27/08
42	Newville	Cumberland	Bill and Linda Franz	717-776-4463	wlf Franz1@yahoo.com	1/03/09
43	Northern Lycoming	Lycoming	Dave Ferry	570-323-1590	dferry@wasd.org	12/14/08
44	Pennypack Valley	Philadelphia	Peter Kurtz	215-342-3638 215-685-0470	peter.kurtz@phila.gov	12/20/08
45	Philipsburg	Centre Clearfield	Greg Kojadinovich	814-237-5964	ninthstreet1@yahoo.com	
46	Pittsburgh	Allegheny	Jim Valimont	412-828-5338	valimont49@comcast.net	12/27/08
47	Pittsburgh South Hills	Allegheny Washington	Nancy Page	412-221-4795		12/20/08
48	Pleasantville	Venango	Russ States	814-676-6320	pabirder@verizon.net	1/04/09
49	Pocono Mt.	Monroe	Brian Hardiman		bhmccd@ptd.net	12/14/08
50	Potter County	Potter	Dave Hauber	814-274-8946	haubers3@penn.com	12/28/08
51	Reading	Berks	Ken Lebo	610-856-1413	klebo@dejazzd.com	12/14/08
52	Rector	Westmoreland	Len and Linda Hess	724-771-5133	lnlhess@lhtot.com	1/03/09
53	Ryerson	Greene	Marjorie Howard	724-852-3155	birdwatcher@alltel.net	12/20/08
54	Scranton	Lackawanna	Paul Mundy		Pmraptors@aol.com	12/20/08
55	Southeastern Bradford	Bradford	Trudy Gerlach	570-746-9270	tgswoods@epix.net	12/27/08
56	Southern Bucks	Bucks	Robert Mercer	215-785-1177	ramercer@co.bucks.pa.us	12/20/08
57	Southern Lancaster County	Lancaster	Bob Schutsky	717-548-3303 (10 a.m. to 9 p.m.)	info@birdtreks.com	12/14/08
58	State College	Centre	Jim Dunn Bob Fowles	814-863-8625 814-238-1990	jwd6@psu.edu rbbf@psu.edu	12/14/08
59	Thompson	Susquehanna	Stuart Slocum			
60	Tunkhannock	Wyoming	Rick Koval	570-829-4381 570-696-1691 (w)	koval@nblt.org	12/20/08

61	Upper Bucks	Bucks Montgomery Lehigh	Bill Etter	215-964-3613	esbittern@verizon.net	12/14/08
62	Warren	Warren	Michael Toole	814-723-4714		
63	Washington	Washington	Tom Contreras		tcontreras@washjeff.edu	12/20/08
64	West Chester	Chester	Barry Blust	610-458-5616	BarryBlust@comcast.net	12/20/08
65	Western Chester	Chester	Larry Lewis	484-340-7672	earlybirdtours@comcast.net	1/03/09
66	Western Schuylkill	Schuylkill	Dave Kruel	570-622-3704	accip@infionline.net	12/20/08
67	White Mills	Wayne	Voni Strasser	570-226-1460		
68	Wild Creek- Little Gap	Carbon Monroe	Joshua Nemeth Dustin Welch	610-753-8577	allroy1313@rcn.com	12/14/08
69	Williamsport	Lycoming	Dave Ferry	570-323-1590	dferry@wasd.org	12/28/08
70	Wyncote	Montgomery	Andy Fayer		AndyFayer@aol.com	12/20/08
71	York	York	Bruce Fortman	717-235-5982	fortas46@aol.com	

Conservation Corner

For this edition of Conservation Corner I decided to “cheat a little” and publish John Flicker’s statement following the election of President-elect Obama. His statement regarding the need for conservation, renewable energy, and dealing with climate change is more critical than ever. Hopefully the new Congress and the President-elect will do what is necessary to address these issues and stop the “foot-dragging,” irresponsible behavior of the past eight years.

– Mark Henry

Election Results Bring Conservation Opportunity and Need for Action

Statement of Audubon President and CEO John Flicker following the election of President-elect Obama and the new Congress

"Voters in this historic election cast their ballots not only for change, but for a new era of hope for our environment, and the people, birds, and other wildlife that depend on it. Washington has been ignoring critical environmental issues far too long. President-elect Barack Obama and a more environmentally aware Congress offer the promise of leadership and fundamental change that could usher in new protections for America's great natural heritage and a new lease on life for species in decline.

"Despite real reason for optimism, we cannot take conservation gains for granted. Audubon is committed to helping the new Administration and Congress to live up to their great promise; and to make conservation, clean

energy and green jobs part of America's path to a brighter tomorrow.

"Through our local Chapters, state offices and national grass roots efforts, Audubon will join with others in the environmental community to ensure that our newly elected leaders lead the way on issues vital to our environment, our economy, and diversity of life on Earth."

Issues demanding prompt attention include:

Presidential Appointments:

- President-elect Obama should start by appointing to key environmental positions within his Administration qualified leaders who will defend our clean air and water, protect habitat and endangered species, aggressively address global warming, and steward our great natural heritage for future generations.

Scientific Integrity:

- The Department of the Interior should systematically review and reverse decisions made by the past Administration under the Endangered Species Act that were influenced by political considerations and not based on sound science.
- President-elect Obama should send a clear signal to everyone in his administration to restore and

respect scientific integrity in all environmental decisions.

disappearing from parks, farms, and backyards across the country.

Global Warming and Renewable Energy:

President-elect Obama has said that: "We cannot afford more of the same timid politics when the future of our planet is at stake." He's right. We welcome the opportunity to help him deliver his promised \$150 billion plan for clean energy technologies that would protect our environment and stimulate the economy, creating up to 5 million new green jobs.

The Congress should pass legislation providing significant incentives for development of renewable energy such as a strong Renewables Portfolio Standard and a long-term extension of the Production Tax Credit, and pass significant legislation to address global warming with a comprehensive cap-and-trade program.

The new Administration and Congress must lead a transformation in American energy production and use through investments in energy efficiency and clean energy technologies. This can minimize the fluctuation of gas prices while protecting our beaches, coastal ecosystems, and the Alaskan landscape from the threats of oil and gas drilling.

Endangered Species Conservation:

We'll work with the Administration to secure reversal of the Bush administration's weakening of the Endangered Species Act, such as the controversial decision to allow agencies to self-consult regarding the impacts of federally-approved projects on endangered species.

Congress should pass new tax incentives to encourage private landowners to work toward recovery of endangered species.

Bird and Habitat Conservation:

The Administration and the Congress should reinvest in the National Wildlife Refuge System and address the unacceptable \$3.5 billion maintenance backlog crippling this critical tool for conservation.

The Congress should pass legislation to conserve neotropical migratory birds and address the steep declines in America's common birds that are

Ecosystem Restoration:

The Administration and the Congress should fund significant new restoration projects to improve the status of America's great natural ecosystems: The Mississippi River, the Everglades, Long Island Sound, and the Great Lakes.

Though economic times are hard, there's no time like the present to shape the future of our world for birds, other wildlife, and for people too.

AOU Plans Meeting in Philly

The 127th stated meeting of the American Ornithologist's Union will take place 12-15 August 2009 at the University of Pennsylvania.

The first full day of the conference, Thursday, August 13, will feature an initial session that may be of wide interest. After kicking things off with welcoming statements from various dignitaries, Scott Weidensaul will present a lecture focusing on the central role of Philadelphia in the history of American ornithology. That lecture will be followed by a plenary presentation from Bob Ricklefs, one of the major figures in modern ornithology. His presentation will focus on island birds, including the important contributions of James Bond and other ornithologists affiliated with the Academy of Natural Sciences. The current plan is to make it possible for persons to register for that session separately from the conference as a whole in case some would like to be involved in an exciting but limited way.

– Robert L. Curry, Ph.D.

PSO Annual Meeting

May 15-17, 2009

Quakertown Holiday Inn

Bucks County

Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology Annual Meeting Scholarship Program

In order to foster an interest in, and appreciation for birding and ornithology in Pennsylvania, each year the PSO will provide a scholarship for a person 18 years of age or younger OR an undergraduate college student who wishes to attend the PSO annual meeting. (You may not nominate someone without his/her knowledge or permission)

- ✦ The person must be nominated by a current PSO member.
- ✦ If the nominee is younger than 18, the nominating PSO member must be attending the meeting and must be responsible for transportation to/from the meeting and must be responsible for the youth during the meeting (see below) if a parent/guardian is not accompanying the youth.
- ✦ The youth's parent/guardian must sign below giving the youth permission to attend the PSO meeting with the sponsor.
- ✦ PSO will pay the recipient's meeting registration, food (banquet, lunch, 2 breakfasts), and lodging (up to 2 nights), and transportation costs incurred by the recipient.

In order to complete your nomination, please send this form to Shonah A. Hunter (shunter@lhup.edu), or by land mail to: Dr. Shonah A. Hunter, Department of Biological Sciences, Lock Haven University, Lock Haven, PA 17745 by April 15, 2009. Selection will be conducted by a committee.

Name of Nominee: _____

Address: _____

Age _____ Birth Date _____ Nominee's Phone No. _____

Email address: _____

If a college Undergraduate student, College Attending: _____

Nominee's Involvement with Birding (Please describe, providing as many details as possible. Attach a page, if necessary)

Name of nominating PSO Member: _____ Phone No. _____

Email address: _____ Relationship (if any) to Nominee _____

If the nominee is younger than 18, the nominating PSO member must sign the following statement: In nominating this youth, I understand that I will be responsible for the youth at the annual meeting and for his/her transportation to and from the meeting.

(Signature)

(Date)

If the nominee is younger than 18, the parent/guardian must sign the following statement: In allowing my child to be nominated, I understand that PSO is providing the scholarship for my child to attend the annual meeting. The person nominating my child has my permission to transport him/her to and from the meeting and to be responsible for her/him during the annual meeting.

(Signature of Parent/Guardian)

(Date)

Pennsylvania Bird Lists Report Form for 2008

Report Totals as of 31 December 2008

Name (Please print)

Send by **20 January 2009** to:

Address

Peter Robinson pabirder@hotmail.com

City State ZIP

P. O. Box 482
Hanover, PA 17331

PLEASE include **only** those species included in the Official List of the Birds of PA (see www.pabirds.org) or *The Birds of Pennsylvania* (McWilliams & Brauning), unless you are **very** certain of the bird's ID, and **very** confident that the bird is a wild one, not an escapee. Do not include Black Swan, Mandarin Duck, European Goldfinch, etc. If you can, please send only the numbers that are new or have changed from last year. There is no need to submit any numbers that are the same as last year

PA Life List _____ **PA Life List Unassisted** _____ (Species found on your own. Not "chased" birds.)

PA 2008 Annual List _____ **Highest PA Annual List** _____ **Year** _____

Total Ticks _____ (Total for all life lists for all counties. Blue Jay in all 67 counties = 67 ticks.)

County Life Lists (100 species or more)

Adams _____	Delaware _____	Monroe _____
Allegheny _____	Elk _____	Montgomery _____
Armstrong _____	Erie _____	Montour _____
Beaver _____	Fayette _____	Northampton _____
Bedford _____	Forest _____	Northumberland _____
Berks _____	Franklin _____	Perry _____
Blair _____	Fulton _____	Philadelphia _____
Bradford _____	Greene _____	Pike _____
Bucks _____	Huntingdon _____	Potter _____
Butler _____	Indiana _____	Schuylkill _____
Cambria _____	Jefferson _____	Snyder _____
Cameron _____	Juniata _____	Somerset _____
Carbon _____	Lackawanna _____	Sullivan _____
Centre _____	Lancaster _____	Susquehanna _____
Chester _____	Lawrence _____	Tioga _____
Clarion _____	Lebanon _____	Union _____
Clearfield _____	Lehigh _____	Venango _____
Clinton _____	Luzerne _____	Warren _____
Columbia _____	Lycoming _____	Washington _____
Crawford _____	McKean _____	Wayne _____
Cumberland _____	Mercer _____	Westmoreland _____
Dauphin _____	Mifflin _____	Wyoming _____
		York _____

County Annual Lists

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:

PSO	Membership Categories:	
2469 Hammertown Road	Individual	\$ 28.50
Narvon, PA 17555-9730	Family	\$ 32.50
	Sustaining	\$ 42.50

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Jack Solomon – snaggle719@yahoo.com
Linda Wagner – lwagner342@msn.com



Answers to Bird Quiz

(page 4)

1. Green Heron, Wilson's Snipe, Rock Pigeon, Blue-headed Vireo, Eastern Towhee, and Baltimore Oriole (which were Green-backed Heron, Common Snipe, Rock Dove, Solitary Vireo, Rufous-sided Towhee, and Northern Oriole in the first atlas)
2. Wilson's Storm-Petrel, which breeds on the Antarctic continent
3. Prairie Warbler
4. Calandra Lark (*Melanocorypha calandra*), which Poole said "may have been a 'stowaway' on a trans-Atlantic vessel"
5. Barred Owl



Photo by Frank and Sandra Horvath

Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology

c/o R. V. Higbee

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