



## From the President's Desk....

### Moments of Joy

It was warm and rainy, so we thought we would pass on starting the first count of the 2010-11 Cornell FeederWatch season, expecting that colder weather would yield a better count. But peeking out our picture window, my eye caught some movement on a tree trunk. Yikes, a Brown Creeper – not always a regular for us! Out I ran with the camera (like I need another hobby)! OK, so now we're counting. "Hey, Janet, what did we have earlier in the day?"

For FeederWatch we generally count on the weekends, catching the regulars during morning coffee; then we run errands and do our daily chores. No big deal. Although we may miss the occasional accipiter attack, generally we'll pick up everything that is likely to show up with our sporadic scanning of the feeders. "Hurry!" Janet screamed, and I came running up from the basement. "It's a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker!" she squealed with delight. Out I ran with the camera (maybe I'll remember to check the setting – I'm not too good at this new hobby). Later, the most stunning male Hairy Woodpecker I have ever seen showed up at the feeder. This guy was more elegant in attire than Cary Grant.



"Yikes, a Brown Creeper!"

Photo by Tom Kuehl



The most stunning Hairy Woodpecker I have ever seen showed up at the feeder.

Photo by Tom Kuehl

This birding hobby, passion, or life-style can be a chore with all the time and money invested in equipment and travel, keeping records, filling feeders, writing the message from the president article – just kidding. But it certainly brings those moments of joy. And pain, "They had 11 Goldies at the Front," Janet pouted as she walked up from the basement office computer. Ouch, but you can't be there every day unless, of course, you are Dave Grove.

Janet added a flock of Wild Turkeys on the second day of the count. Why do we never get accustomed to how big they are? And we laughed together as the Carolina Wrens boisterously announced their evening arrival, preparing for the daily ritual of stuffing themselves into the wicker basket on the side porch. And I'll laugh again when they rattle off their morning trill as I head out the door to work.

I could go on and on with these moments of joy. When was your last one? Isn't it great that we see birds everywhere and every day? And even a fresh look at the common birds can delight. Two weeks later... "Hey, Janet, come quickly! The creeper's here and the Pine Siskins have returned." Keep'm coming!

– Tom Kuehl, President  
Export, PA  
Westmoreland County  
[tjkuehl@comcast.net](mailto:tjkuehl@comcast.net)

# The Raven Reporter



## Tales of Discovery about Pennsylvania Birds

### Opportunities to Make Winter Bird Contributions

Our state participates in both national and international bird surveys. The scope of these surveys is vast, sometimes continent-wide, but all bird surveys are basically local in nature. Unless somebody local takes an active interest, the birds are not watched, and the connection to the environment is lost. All of the following surveys are organized on a state or local basis but have far-reaching consequences. The birds you count in one place are found somewhere else later. Here is a quick summary.

#### Mid-winter Bald Eagle Survey

Our annual winter eagle survey will be conducted from Wednesday, 29 December 2010, to Wednesday, 12 January 2011, with target dates of 7-8 January 2011. Volunteers and cooperators are asked to claim a section of a large stream or lake and count all eagles they encounter within that time period. In recent years, we have benefited from volunteers conducting surveys in new places and providing a better statewide survey.

The winter survey also provides us an excuse to look for Golden Eagles in the same areas. The PA birding community has a growing appreciation for the state's role with this species which migrates through and winters in the Keystone state.

The early January days also are a good time to find new nests and check on our long-established nesting pairs. We now have more than 195 nesting pairs in the state. More pairs are staking their claims by building big stick nests along rivers or reservoirs. Winter is a good time to see eagles either in spectacular courtship flights or carrying sticks to their "new digs." Yes, we have an outdoor version of "Virgin Home Owners" reality television program happening across the Commonwealth each year. You just have to be out there to see it!

Please let me know if you are interested in participating in either the mid-winter eagle survey or if you find a new Bald Eagle nest. My contact information is below.

### Bald Eagle Roosts

Our eagles often gather at night in roosts. These roosts convey many advantages to the eagles including some protection at night near a good feeding area. Most of our eagle roosts are very close to the water and known feeding areas. Some are not near the water and hidden away in woodlots or wetlands.

We have a lot of information about our eagle nests in the state. It is a continuous challenge to update our nest inventory, but many people are dedicated to helping out this cause.

Eagle roosts? Not so much information! We would like to know a lot more about them. If you know of regular eagle roost sites, please provide me with some information about them so we can study their occurrence and offer protection to those that need it.

### Rusty Blackbird Blitz – 3rd Time's the Charm!

One of the real mystery birds and conservation challenges of the last decades has been the Rusty Blackbird. Sure, lots of birders can claim to have it on their life lists, but who can claim to understand its tumultuous decline over the last several years? Some experts estimate that this species has declined 85-99% over the past 40 years. We really do not know the cause for this alarming drop. Many conservationists believe that winter habitat loss and degradation are likely candidates. The health and size of the boreal forest where they nest is another suspect. Unlike our other "black" birds, they are songbirds of wetlands, not agricultural fields. This species which regularly forages in shallow water also is particularly vulnerable to water level changes due to climate change. Rusty Blackbirds are getting scarce and patchy in their winter distribution, making it difficult to focus the research and management we need to save the species.

Last year, birders throughout the country scoured the countryside for wintering Rusty Blackbirds to help us understand their distribution and find important local concentrations (hotspots). We learned a lot; please check the Rusty Blackbird pages at the National Zoo website: [http://nationalzoo.si.edu/scbi/migratorybirds/research/rusty\\_blackbird/blitz\\_results.cfm](http://nationalzoo.si.edu/scbi/migratorybirds/research/rusty_blackbird/blitz_results.cfm).

The Rusty Blackbird team wants to blitz for several years to both locate more hotspots and determine how stable the already discovered hot spots are from year to year. Already, the information gained is being used to implement research and conservation efforts!

With your help the "Rusty Blackbird Third Time's the Charm Blitz" will be bigger and better than Blitz One and

Two. The RUBL blitz will be staged **January 29 - February 13, 2011**. It is easier to find Rusties than as males will even sing. During a single 17-day period, volunteers will search for Rusty Blackbirds (particularly flocks or concentrations) in any potentially suitable locations or habitats.

Last year, we did not have much luck finding Rusties in Pennsylvania. However, we had particularly severe winter weather in the Philadelphia area with several inches of snow on the ground when there usually is none. Rusties are not found much in the snow. Perhaps we will have better weather this year. We are simply looking for the number of birds present at each location, along with very basic habitat information.

The Blitz is loosely organized through a steering committee and state team leaders. I serve as the PA state

leader with leadership also coming from Audubon staff and chapters. Try finding Rusties in a wetland or along a stream or lakeside near you. All you have to do is submit your observations (or lack thereof) via e-Bird. We will do the rest! (Failure to find Rusty Blackbirds is important information as well).

Please submit your eagle observations and comments to:

Douglas A. Gross  
Wildlife Biologist, Endangered Bird Specialist  
PA Game Commission  
PA eBird and PSO Special Areas Project  
106 Winters Road, Orangeville, PA 17859  
Phone: 570-458-4109 (or 570-458-4564)  
E-mail: [dogross@state.pa.us](mailto:dogross@state.pa.us) or [dagross144@verizon.net](mailto:dagross144@verizon.net)

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## Second Allen's Hummingbird Banded in PA

With the banding of Pennsylvania's first confirmed Allen's Hummingbird (*Selasphorus sasin*) by Scott Weidensaul in December of 2009, the certainty of a winter hummingbird always being a Rufous was definitely gone. A *Selasphorus* hummingbird seen during the winter months could be either a Rufous or an Allen's.



This Allen's Hummingbird was only the second ever banded in PA and Sandy Lockerman's first winter hummingbird.

Photo by Scott Weidensaul

With my hummingbird banding permit recently approved, I had my traps, my bands, and tools ready for any winter hummingbird visiting the central part of the state. So as the winter approached, I began to study the slight differences in the two species just in case my first hummingbird wasn't a Rufous.

My first attempt came in mid-October. A hummingbird was visiting a Jonestown birder's feeders where he had a wonderful patch of sage (see Rudy

Keller's native plants for hummingbirds article in Vol. 20, No. 1 of *The PSO Pileated*). But the hummingbird was a no-show when we set up our traps to catch it.

It didn't take long though for another sighting. On October 31, a *Selasphorus* was being observed in Lititz at the Landis Homes Retirement Community. It was only 6 miles from where the 2009 Allen's

had been banded. It was coming to a resident's feeder who had (guess what?) sage planted in her tiny garden. This time, Scott barely had the trap set before the bird appeared and was immediately caught. It turned out to be Pennsylvania's second Allen's Hummingbird, a hatch year male, and it became my first winter hummingbird to band. What a way to start!

– Sandy Lockerman

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## Annual Meeting

Plans are underway for our 2011 meeting at the Quality Inn in Bedford, May 20-22. Our host groups include Allegheny Plateau Audubon and the Bedford Nature Club. This promises to be an excellent meeting with productive field trips, interesting speakers, vendors, and a lot of fun. Don't miss it!

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## Vendors Welcome!

Our annual meeting will be held next year at Bedford May 20-22, 2011. Space is available for vendors with bird related items for sale. If you are interested, please contact John Fedak at [jlfedak@atlanticbb.net](mailto:jlfedak@atlanticbb.net).

## Time for Award Nominations

Do you know a person or organization whose contributions to the Pennsylvania birding community are worthy of recognition? If so, now is the time to put pen to paper (or fingers to the keyboard) and submit a nomination to the PSO Awards Committee. The committee is now taking nominations for the Earl L. Poole Award and the Conservation Award. The awards will be presented at the 2011 annual meeting in Bedford. Award winners will be notified well in advance of the annual meeting so that they may have an opportunity to plan to attend and arrange for family and friends to share in the thrill of being recognized by the Pennsylvania birding community. So while nominations may be submitted at any time, the sooner the better to assure your nomination is given consideration.

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. There may be some overlap, so don't let that interfere with your nominating an individual or organization deserving of recognition. See the PSO list of past winners below:

### Winners of the Earl Poole Award

2010 Jerry McWilliams  
2009 Nick Pulcinella  
2008 Jack Holcomb  
2007 Doug Gross  
2006 Margaret Higbee  
2005 Margaret Buckwalter  
2004 Dan Brauning  
2003 Paul Hess  
2002 Phillips B. Street  
2001 Franklin & Barbara Haas  
2000 William Reid  
1999 Edward Fingerhood  
1998 Ralph Bell  
1997 Paul Schwalbe  
1996 Robert Leberman  
1995 Jean Stull Cunningham

A short letter or email is all it takes to submit a nomination. Nominations should be submitted to the committee chairperson, John Fedak, 26 Race Street, Bradford, PA 16701 ([jlfedak@atlanticbb.net](mailto:jlfedak@atlanticbb.net)).

## Ornithological Literature Notes

Two scientific poster presentations at the American Ornithologists' Union annual meeting in Philadelphia in 2009 coincidentally have turned out to be of special interest to PSO members in 2010.

**Chickadee irruption** — Pennsylvania birders are witnessing a major influx of Black-capped Chickadees from the north this fall. During a previous irruption into southeastern Pennsylvania, Amanda Nicodemus and Robert L. Curry at Villanova University studied interactions among visiting chickadees and locally resident Black-capped X Carolina Chickadee hybrids. Using color-banded individuals and observations at feeding stations, they found that irruptive birds arrived in late fall and did not leave until early spring. Most of the visitors remained in small local areas throughout the winter.

The population of irruptive visitors included juveniles and adults of both sexes. Irruption birds associated and interacted with local hybrid chickadees at low rates, while mainly staying with other visitors. Nicodemus and Curry said their findings suggest that Black-capped Chickadees establish local residency during the irruption but have little impact on local flock structure and dominance relationships of hybrid residents.

**Invasive plants** — PSO's annual meeting was held during the peak of spring migration at Presque Isle this year. A poster presentation dealt with potential effects of invasive plants on stopover habitat quality for migrating songbirds there. The researchers were Sarah Sargent, Pennsylvania Audubon's IBA coordinator in the western region, and bird banders Desiree Narango and Anne Balogh.

They noted that stopover habitat is essential to migrating songbirds, and it is particularly important in areas where bottlenecks or barriers occur, such as coastal shorelines and peninsulas. Yet these areas often are severely impacted by human influences, including the presence of invasive plant species. Large quantities of invasive plants may indicate poor habitat quality at critical stopover sites, providing insufficient foraging opportunities for migrants.

During the fall migration of 2008 and the spring migration of 2009, migrants were banded at three Presque Isle sites that had different levels of invasive plant species. Sargent, Narango, and Balogh described their plan to assess migrants' condition at these sites in an effort to evaluate the quality of habitat. The project is ongoing, and the authors' goal is to make future habitat management recommendations based on their findings.

– Paul Hess  
[phess@salsgiver.com](mailto:phess@salsgiver.com)

# 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](mailto: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, 2011. 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)

# Things I Didn't Know

by Arlene Koch

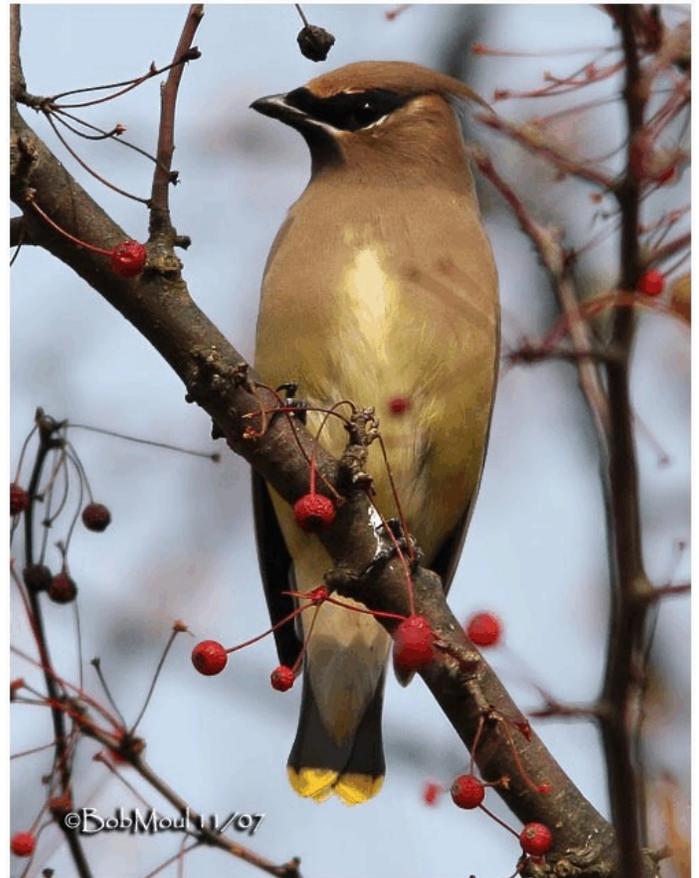
This past summer I was asked if I wanted to co-author a book on backyard bird feeding, and my first thought was that the world doesn't need another book on this topic. But when I looked at the "bottom line," the remuneration amount, I changed my mind really fast.

Feeding birds in my backyard is something I've been doing since we built our home in an abandoned, treeless, tundra-like pasture on my husband's family's farm in 1978, across from the farmhouse where he grew up. And one of the first things I did when I could beg, borrow, or dig out saplings was to plant trees along the driveway and put out a few bird feeders.

My hope was that the saplings would eventually give us, or rather me, some privacy from my in-laws and that the feeders would give me something to look at. And both things worked eventually, albeit it took a lot longer than I expected. Then I began learning things about feeding birds that you don't read in glossy advertisements for birdseed or bird feeders. Getting backyard birds to come into your feeders isn't just a case of "if you build it they will come." It's the backyard that makes the biggest difference, not the feeders.

But I had learned early on from more experienced birders that it was very important to know what birds to expect and what species you shouldn't expect to see in the type of habitat you have during each season of the year. And in addition to knowing what the different species looked like, you also needed to learn about migration times, flyways, irruptive species, molt times, and too many other things to list.

However, in spite of all the years I've spent creating a backyard and property habitat that's produced, to my astonishment I should say, more than 230 species, I found that when I sat down to write about bird feeding, I felt like I sometimes feel when I have to submit a rare bird report to PORC. Sometimes you just know what a bird is even if you don't see all of its identifying characteristics, but that's not what a rare birds committee needs for verification. Although I knew how to feed birds and when to do what, I found that putting it into words wasn't easy. So I wrote, researched, and talked to a lot of other birders along the way and I found myself learning a lot of things I never expected when I took the assignment, some of which I probably should have already known.



Cedar Waxwings, like this individual photographed by Bob Moul, are capable of eating, digesting, and defecating berries in less than one hour.

For instance, I didn't realize, at least not consciously, that not all birds have crops. A lot of the common passerines don't need them. I learned that some species that eat a lot of berries process them incredibly fast. Cedar Waxwings can eat, digest, and then defecate berries in less than an hour. And although I had both seen and heard about "drunken" birds, it was enlightening to read about the different kinds of fermented berries or fruits the can get birds intoxicated.

I also learned that adult birds feed nestlings, on the average, 4-12 times an hour, more often in the morning than in the afternoon, and in no particular pecking order, and also that all nestlings are fed protein and insects regardless of what they'll eat as adults. But the most important thing I took from writing about bird feeding was what all the best birders I know long ago realized, and that is that birding is nothing if not the constant pursuit of knowledge.

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## Christmas Bird Counts Held in Pennsylvania

	<b>Name of Count</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Compiler</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>	<b>E-mail Address</b>	<b>Date</b>
1	Audubon	Montgomery Delaware Chester	Vincent Smith	610-983-8539 484-410-1157	<a href="mailto:Nyctea34@aol.com">Nyctea34@aol.com</a>	12/26/10
2	Bald Eagle	Centre	Bob Snyder	814-863-6168	<a href="mailto:rhs2@psu.edu">rhs2@psu.edu</a>	1/02/11
3	Beaver	Beaver	Rick Mason	724-847-0909	<a href="mailto:richarddmason@gmail.com">richarddmason@gmail.com</a>	12/18/10
4	Bedford	Bedford	Laura & Mike Jackson		<a href="mailto:mljackson@hughes.net">mljackson@hughes.net</a>	12/18/10
5	Bernville	Berks	Ed Barrell	610-926-2962	<a href="mailto:hawkman501@yahoo.com">hawkman501@yahoo.com</a>	01/02/11
6	Bethlehem-Easton	Northampton	Elaine & Donald Mease	610-346-7754	<a href="mailto:measede@enter.net">measede@enter.net</a>	1/02/11
7	Bloomsburg	Columbia	Cathy Haffner	570-271-1244	<a href="mailto:cdhaffner@yahoo.com">cdhaffner@yahoo.com</a>	12/19/10
8	Buffalo Creek	Washington	Larry Helgerman	412-508-0321	<a href="mailto:bobolink1@earthlink.net">bobolink1@earthlink.net</a>	12/19/10
9	Buffalo Creek Valley	Butler Armstrong	George Reese	724-353-9649	<a href="mailto:g.reese@gaiconsultants.com">g.reese@gaiconsultants.com</a>	12/18/10
10	Bushy Run S.P.	Westmoreland	Dick Byers	724-593-3543	<a href="mailto:otusasio@lhtot.com">otusasio@lhtot.com</a>	12/19/10
11	Butler	Butler Lawrence Mercer	Suzanne Butcher	330-759-1945 724-794-3534	<a href="mailto:sarbird@hotmail.com">sarbird@hotmail.com</a>	12/18/10
12	Central Bucks	Bucks	Diane Allison	610-847-2085	<a href="mailto:dalliso@mail.ptd.net">dalliso@mail.ptd.net</a>	1/02/11
13	Chambersburg	Franklin	Joan Bowen	717-264-9493	<a href="mailto:pjschaff@innernet.net">pjschaff@innernet.net</a>	12/18/10
14	Clarion	Clarion	Ray McGunigle	814-227-2423	<a href="mailto:mcgunigle@atlanticbb.net">mcgunigle@atlanticbb.net</a>	12/18/10
15	Clarksville	Greene	Terry Dayton	724-627-9665	<a href="mailto:tdayton@windstream.net">tdayton@windstream.net</a>	12/26/10
16	Culp	Blair	Heidi Mullendore	814-695-6807	<a href="mailto:hmullendore@state.pa.us">hmullendore@state.pa.us</a>	
17	Curtin	Dauphin	Scott Bills	717-896-8859	<a href="mailto:sbills@state.pa.us">sbills@state.pa.us</a>	12/29/10
18	Dallas Area	Luzerne	Jim Hoyson	570-696-4925 570-371-6581 (w)	<a href="mailto:birdder@aol.com">birdder@aol.com</a>	12/18/10
19	Dingman's Ferry	Pike	Chris Turn (PEEC)	570-588-6850	<a href="mailto:birder3@verizon.net">birder3@verizon.net</a>	12/26/10
20	DuBois	Clearfield	Marianne Atkinson		<a href="mailto:marianne5@windstream.net">marianne5@windstream.net</a>	12/31/10
21	Elverson	Chester	Robert Cook	610-286-9919	<a href="mailto:dunlin@dejazzd.com">dunlin@dejazzd.com</a>	12/26/10
22	Emporium	Cameron	Bob Martin	814-486-1990	<a href="mailto:bmartin@zitomedia.net">bmartin@zitomedia.net</a>	12/19/10
23	Erie	Erie	Chuck Gehringer	814-490-4748	<a href="mailto:chuckg58@hotmail.com">chuckg58@hotmail.com</a>	12/18/10
24	Gettysburg	Adams	Mike O'Brien	717-642-6676	<a href="mailto:maddogobrien@gmail.com">maddogobrien@gmail.com</a>	12/18/10
25	Glenolden	Delaware	David Eberly		<a href="mailto:david.eberly@gmail.com">david.eberly@gmail.com</a>	12/18/10
26	Hamburg	Berks Schuylkill	Laurie Goodrich	610-756-6961 570-943-3411 x106	<a href="mailto:goodrich@hawkmtn.org">goodrich@hawkmtn.org</a>	12/26/10
27	Harrisburg	Dauphin	Deuane Hoffman	717-564-7475	<a href="mailto:corvuscorax@comcast.net">corvuscorax@comcast.net</a>	12/18/10
28	Huntingdon	Huntingdon	Dave Kyler	814-643-6030814- 599-4172 (cell)	<a href="mailto:davidkyler@verizon.net">davidkyler@verizon.net</a>	12/19/10
29	Indiana	Indiana	Roger & Margaret Higbee	724-354-3493	<a href="mailto:bcorirole@windstream.net">bcorirole@windstream.net</a>	12/27/10
30	Johnstown	Cambria	Sally and Tom Dick	814-266-7912	<a href="mailto:thomasd102@aol.com">thomasd102@aol.com</a>	

31	Lake Raystown	Huntingdon Blair	Greg Grove	814-667-2305	<a href="mailto:gwg2@psu.edu">gwg2@psu.edu</a>	12/27/10
32	Lancaster	Lancaster	Barbara Hunsberger	717-393-4091	<a href="mailto:phunsberger@comcast.net">phunsberger@comcast.net</a>	01/03/10
33	Lebanon	Lebanon	Fritz Heilman	717-273-0487	<a href="mailto:volks5@verizon.net">volks5@verizon.net</a>	12/18/10
34	Lehigh Valley	Lehigh/Berks	Mark Boyd	610-432-0170	<a href="mailto:mrboyd@rcn.com">mrboyd@rcn.com</a>	12/18/10
35	Lewisburg	Union, Snyder, Northumber- land	Allen Schweinsberg	570-524-0432	<a href="mailto:aschwein@bucknell.edu">aschwein@bucknell.edu</a>	12/18/10
36	Lewistown	Juniata	Elmer Petersheim Chad Kauffman	717-535-5926 717-994-6715	<a href="mailto:chadkauffman@earthlink.net">chadkauffman@earthlink.net</a>	12/18/10
37	Linesville	Crawford	Clare Nicolls	814-587-6395	<a href="mailto:tcnicolls@windstream.net">tcnicolls@windstream.net</a>	12/19/10
38	Lititz	Lancaster	Bruce Carl	717-368-4824	<a href="mailto:carls94@ptd.net">carls94@ptd.net</a>	12/26/10
39	Lock Haven-Jersey Shore	Clinton Lycoming	Wayne Laubscher	570-748-7511	<a href="mailto:wlaubsch@kcnet.org">wlaubsch@kcnet.org</a>	12/19/10
40	Mansfield- Wellsboro	Tioga	Gary Tyson	570-724-5789	<a href="mailto:gnats3@ptd.net">gnats3@ptd.net</a>	12/18/10
41	New Bloomfield	Perry	Ramsay Koury	717-761-1871	<a href="mailto:rkoury123@aol.com">rkoury123@aol.com</a>	12/27/10
42	Newville	Cumberland	Bill and Linda Franz	717-776-4463	<a href="mailto:wlf Franz1@yahoo.com">wlf Franz1@yahoo.com</a>	01/02/11
43	Northern Lycoming	Lycoming	Dave Ferry	570-323-1590	<a href="mailto:lycohawk@aol.com">lycohawk@aol.com</a>	01/02/11
44	Pennypack Valley	Philadelphia	Peter Kurtz	215-342-3638 215-685-0470	<a href="mailto:peter.kurtz@phila.gov">peter.kurtz@phila.gov</a>	12/18/10
45	Philipsburg	Centre Clearfield	Greg Kojadinovich	814-237-5964	<a href="mailto:ninthstreet1@yahoo.com">ninthstreet1@yahoo.com</a>	
46	Pittsburgh	Allegheny	Jim Valimont	412-828-5338	<a href="mailto:valimont49@comcast.net">valimont49@comcast.net</a>	1/01/11
47	Pittsburgh South Hills	Allegheny Washington	Nancy Page	412-221-4795		12/18/10
48	Pleasantville	Venango	Russ States	814-676-6320	<a href="mailto:pabirder@verizon.net">pabirder@verizon.net</a>	1/02/11
49	Pocono Mt.	Monroe	Brian Hardiman		<a href="mailto:bhmccd@ptd.net">bhmccd@ptd.net</a>	12/19/10
50	Potter County	Potter	Dave Hauber	814-274-8946	<a href="mailto:haubers3@penn.com">haubers3@penn.com</a>	
51	Reading	Berks	Ken Lebo	610-856-1413	<a href="mailto:klebo@dejazzd.com">klebo@dejazzd.com</a>	12/19/10
52	Rector	Westmoreland	Mike Lanzone	724-771-5133		12/14/10
53	Ryerson	Greene	Marjorie Howard	724-852-3155	<a href="mailto:birdwatcher@windstream.net">birdwatcher@windstream.net</a>	12/18/10
54	Scranton	Lackawanna	Paul Mundy		<a href="mailto:Pmraptors@aol.com">Pmraptors@aol.com</a>	
55	Southeastern Bradford	Bradford	Trudy Gerlach	570-746-9270	<a href="mailto:tgswoods@epix.net">tgswoods@epix.net</a>	1/02/11
56	Southern Bucks	Bucks	Robert Mercer	215-785-1177	<a href="mailto:ramercer@co.bucks.pa.us">ramercer@co.bucks.pa.us</a>	12/18/10
57	Southern Lancaster County	Lancaster	Bob Schutsky	717-548-3303(10 a.m. to 9 p.m.)	<a href="mailto:info@birdtreks.com">info@birdtreks.com</a>	12/19/10
58	State College	Centre	Jim Dunn Bob Fowles	814-863-8625 814-238-1990	<a href="mailto:jwd6@psu.edu">jwd6@psu.edu</a> <a href="mailto:rbf@psu.edu">rbf@psu.edu</a>	12/19/10
59	Thompson	Susquehanna	Stuart Slocum			
60	Tunkhannock	Wyoming	Rick Koval	570-829-4381 570-696-1691 (w)	<a href="mailto:koval@nblt.org">koval@nblt.org</a>	12/22/10

61	Upper Bucks	Bucks Montgomery Lehigh	Bill Etter	215-964-3613	<a href="mailto:billetter01@gmail.com">billetter01@gmail.com</a>	12/19/10
62	Warren	Warren	Michael Toole	814-723-4714	<a href="mailto:m_t_toole@verizon.net">m t toole@verizon.net</a>	12/18/10
63	Washington	Washington	Tom Contreras		<a href="mailto:tcontreras@washjeff.edu">tcontreras@washjeff.edu</a>	12/19/10
64	West Chester	Chester	Barry Blust	610-458-5616	<a href="mailto:BarryBlust@comcast.net">BarryBlust@comcast.net</a>	12/18/10
65	Western Chester	Chester	Larry Lewis	484-340-7672	<a href="mailto:earlybirdtours@comcast.net">earlybirdtours@comcast.net</a>	1/02/11
66	Western Schuylkill	Schuylkill	Dave Kruel	570-622-3704	<a href="mailto:dkrue1300@comcast.net">dkrue1300@comcast.net</a>	12/18/10
67	White Mills	Wayne	Barb Leo	570-253-2364	<a href="mailto:barbaraaleo@earthlink.net">barbaraaleo@earthlink.net</a>	12/18/10
68	Wild Creek– Little Gap	Carbon Monroe	Joshua Nemeth Dustin Welch	610-573-8577	<a href="mailto:allroy1313@rcn.com">allroy1313@rcn.com</a>	12/19/10
69	Williamsport	Lycoming	Dave Ferry	570-323-1590	<a href="mailto:lycohawk@aol.com">lycohawk@aol.com</a>	12/18/10
70	Wyncote	Montgomery	Andy Fayer		<a href="mailto:AndyFayer@aol.com">AndyFayer@aol.com</a>	12/18/10
71	York	York	Bernie Frick	717-843-6675	<a href="mailto:bernard.frick@verizon.net">bernard.frick@verizon.net</a>	12/18/10
72	Wyncote	Montgomery	Andy Fayer		<a href="mailto:AndyFayer@aol.com">AndyFayer@aol.com</a>	12/18/10
73	York	York	Bernie Frick	717-843-6675	<a href="mailto:bernard.frick@verizon.net">bernard.frick@verizon.net</a>	12/18/10

## Certificates of Appreciation

Including the list approved at the PSO board meeting on November 13, 2010, 47 Certificates of Appreciation have been awarded. Those recently mailed include:

**Dickcissel, John E. Zook**

**Purple Gallinule, Roy Compton; Tom and Maryanne Johnston**

**Allen's Hummingbird, Edith Bailey and Beth Rohrer (Landis Homes)**

**Dickcissel, and numerous other species, David and Arlene Koch**

***Selaphorus sp?* Ed Sinkler**

I would like to remind all county compilers and other interested parties that PSO is still awarding Certificates of Appreciation to persons who allow birdwatchers on their properties to view a reported and confirmed rare bird. Please email me the dates the bird was present (first day, last day), the full name of the host, and the host's snail mail address.

– John Fedak [[jlfedak@atlanticbb.net](mailto:jlfedak@atlanticbb.net)]

## PSO Quiz

How well do you know your Pennsylvania birds?

1. In documenting a super-rare visitor in Lancaster County during January-February 2000, observers emphasized that one of its wingbars had a “serrated” or “saw-tooth” appearance. What was the species?
2. Seven members of the Charadriidae family (plovers) are on the official Pennsylvania list. Can you name them?
3. The Long-eared Owl and the Short-eared Owl, as we all know, are very rare breeders in the state. For the second Breeding Bird Atlas, now in preparation, which was confirmed in more blocks?
4. Audubon based his painting of the “Autumnal Warbler” on a composition made in 1829 near old Mauch Chunk in Carbon County. What do we call this species?
5. Forty-one years after its first sight report on the Delaware River off Bucks County, which waterbird was finally confirmed photographically there in 1983?

(See Answers on page 12.)

## Conservation Corner

Recently, the World Wildlife Fund issued their Living Planet Report. As noted in their November/December 2010 issue of *Focus*, this Report provides important updates and confirms disturbing trends regarding biodiversity, ecosystems, and humanity's consumption of natural resources.

Regarding biodiversity, since 1970, the trend has been downward with a global decline of about 30 percent. Tropical biodiversity has been hardest hit with a decline of around 50 percent. The Report also looks at trends in biodiversity by country income as well as provision of freshwater and terrestrial carbon storage. The results of these analyses show an alarming rate of biodiversity loss in low-income countries where ecosystem services like fresh water and sanitation provide direct benefits to the most vulnerable people. This, of course, negatively impacts the birds and other wildlife that we, as visitors to these areas, want to see.

Further, humanity's ecological footprint, essentially how much of the Earth's resources we use, now exceeds the earth's ability to produce renewable resources. Humanity now uses the resources of 1.5 earths every year. And looking at the United Nations' projections for population growth, consumption, and related changes, by the late 2030s, humans will need the capacity of 2 earths.

But the Report also gives actions that will help alleviate the downward trends, actions such as implementing sustainable business practices in this country and worldwide. The Report further notes that there is an urgent need to translate the findings into substantive action. And we as citizens can do our part by practicing sound conservation habits at home and in our community and demanding that our legislators do likewise through enlightened legislation.

The World Wildlife Fund website, [www.worldwildlife.org](http://www.worldwildlife.org), has a great deal of information regarding their activities, their science research, government actions, threatened species, etc. For those PSO members not familiar with the World Wildlife Fund, you might want to take a look at this website.

– Mark Henry



## A Murder of Crows\*



A covey of quail scatters,  
A kettle of hawks soars,  
A gaggle of geese vectors, but  
A murder of crows  
starts slowly, singly,  
silently winging a solitary way  
across the darkening November day.  
A moment later  
more swiftly, more fly  
until hundreds stream by -  
an oil-black river  
of bone and feather,  
fingered and splayed  
and beating their way  
to the tree roost of Winter.  
A great city of flight  
where - rustling, cackling,  
fluttering, speckling -  
thousands of *Corvus* will spend the night.  
Forgotten now the breeding pair,  
Dismiss the life-long mate:  
the Crows of Winter congregate.  
Ah, the despair of the people nearby!  
The noise, the disease, the waste!  
And so the local council votes  
and all concerned agree to smote  
these birds well known to mourn their dead:  
state-sponsored,  
hate-mongered, the humans commission  
a wide-scale murder of crows.

- Patricia Thrushart

\*A group of crows is called a "murder."

# Things You Can Do on the PSO Website

by Frank Haas

The PSO website – [www.pabirds.org](http://www.pabirds.org) – provides a great resource for anyone interested in birding in Pennsylvania or doing research. By the way, the reason it is not “pso.org” is that “pso.org” was already taken by the Pacific Symphony Orchestra!

Our website is very easy to use – it has few menu choices on each page, clearly defined, and not cluttered with moving graphics or photos, which tend to distract users from the purpose of the site.

I will highlight three of the website’s features.

First, if you are looking for a place to go birding, the PA Site Guide will give you a lot of choices. This guide is still growing, and we welcome new submissions. Just click on “PA Site Guide,” and a map of the state is displayed. Click on the county in which you are interested, and a county map appears showing the birding locations. Each location has a link which gives you a general description, directions, a map (either hand-drawn or GoogleMap), and photos of the site. We hope to have accompanying bird lists as well, but that part is still under compilation. There are currently 366 sites listed, some with more information than others, but we need more. Instructions for submitting sites are at “Submit New Site” on the Main Site Guide page.

Second, if you are looking for an old article from *Pennsylvania Birds*, you can look it up online. Just click on “Publications,” then “Pennsylvania Birds,” then “Index,” and then select the category with which you wish to search. The categories are **General**: Articles about general birding, photo quiz, etc.; **Site**: Site Guides; **Personality**: Interviews or articles about noted birders in the state; **Annual Reports**: Regularly occurring reports such as Christmas Bird Counts, Migration Count, Hawk Watches, etc.; **Listing**: Articles about Big Days, Big Years, PA Birdlists, etc.; **Review**: Reviews of books or other birding related equipment; and **Species**: Articles about one or a few species (as opposed to general multiple family articles). The species are listed alphabetically using the most recent common name. Some old names are used when splits have occurred and the article does not distinguish (such as Traill's Flycatcher). This is only an index to articles about a specific (or a few) species, not the Local Notes, etc., which lists all seasonal sightings. So you cannot find all records for Prothonotary Warbler here. But, if you are looking for all articles about Black-capped Petrel, Cliff Swallow, or another species, this is the place.

Each index is sorted alphabetically, so just page down to the species or author in which you are interested and you will see the issue and page of that article. Click on the issue, and a PDF version of the issue will be displayed. Page to the article and you can read it or download it.



This excellent shot of an Anna's Hummingbird, a first state record photographed by Dustin Welch on November 28, 2010, is just one of photos found in the Gallery of Rare Bird Photos.

Third, if you are interested in rare bird reports and photos, there is full access to the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee’s (PORC) reports and archives of photos of rare birds. Just click on the “Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee” link and then “Gallery of Rare Bird Photos.” The species are in taxonomic order. Just page down to the species of interest and click on it, and all of the photos for that species are displayed along with date, photographer, location, and other information.

From the PORC main page, if you click on PORC Reports, a list of reports will be displayed along with the issue and page number. Just click on the issue and a PDF version of the issue will be displayed. Page to the article and you can read it or download it.

So, please use the website! It is constantly changing and being updated with more features added as time goes by.



# Pennsylvania Bird Lists Report Form for 2010

Report Totals as of 31 December 2010

Name (Please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Send by 20 January 2011 to:

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Peter Robinson [pabirder@hotmail.com](mailto:pabirder@hotmail.com)

P. O. Box 482

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Hanover, PA 17331

PLEASE include **only** those species included in the Official List of the Birds of PA (see [www.pabirds.org](http://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 2010 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:

### Membership Categories:

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

### PSO Officers and Directors

Tom Kuehl – President [tjkuehl@comcast.net](mailto:tjkuehl@comcast.net)  
John Fedak – Vice President [jlfedak@atlanticbb.net](mailto:jlfedak@atlanticbb.net)  
Roger Higbee – Secretary [rvhigbee@windstream.net](mailto:rvhigbee@windstream.net)  
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## Electronic Newsletter Available

If you prefer to receive the electronic version rather than the printed newsletter, please e-mail Frank Haas at [fchaas@pabirds.org](mailto:fchaas@pabirds.org).

## Silent Auction to Support Youth Scholarship Program

Each year we have a silent auction at our annual meeting to generate funds to support the Youth Scholarship Program. Hang on to those gently used books and items that might be better suited to someone else's home, and bring them to the annual meeting. They don't have to be only bird-related items.

### Answers to Bird Quiz

(page 9)

1. Bullock's Oriole
2. Black-bellied Plover, American Golden-Plover, Snowy Plover, Wilson's Plover, Semipalmated Plover, Piping Plover, and Killdeer
3. Long-eared Owl in four blocks (Short-eared Owl in only one)
4. Bay-breasted Warbler
5. Great Cormorant

**Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology**

c/o R. V. Higbee

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