



## From the President's Desk.... Time to Think 2<sup>nd</sup> PA Breeding Bird Atlas

The milk crate that holds all my Breeding Bird Atlas files is covered with junk in my office closet, neglected and forgotten in the three years since Janet and I completed some sixth-year mop-up effort in several blocks around Johnstown. I'm just starting this article, and my first flashback is a spritely female Mourning Warbler from that mop-up effort. She was feeding in a small grove of spruces as we meandered up a dirt road just north of Johnstown that would wind its way to the top of Laurel Ridge. I painfully confirmed my hunch. It was June 14, and the safe date for Mourning Warbler is June 15. Once again, Janet and I were cursing the safe date. And so much for the accolades and glory for recording the only Mourning Warbler record south of Interstate 80. Because we were dutiful Region 73 coordinators, we returned several times, but we had no luck relocating Mourning Warbler after the safe date. Finding Kentucky and Worm-eating Warblers in the same block were our consolation prizes; in addition, an Am. Kestrel on the power line in an otherwise completely forested ridgetop was a nice find.

The neglected crate is filled with leftover brochures and holds the big three-ring binder that I used to organize and manage my Regional Coordinator responsibilities – contact information for block owners, block maps, field and summary effort cards. But the atlas work of 2004-2009 has been largely forgotten. The crumpled “Official Survey Vehicle” sign in the map holder in our Expedition provides one of the scattered reminders, as did a return to a long forgotten Region 73 Atlas block as we just recently carved a new Winter Raptor Survey route along the back



This year's meeting pin depicts the American Kestrel.

Photo by Wayne Laubscher

roads of Somerset County.

Good memories also come to mind – trying to make some progress in early spring, I had the brilliant idea to spend a day concentrating on finding Louisiana Waterthrush. Mapping possible locations along streams descending from Chestnut and Laurel Ridges, I was one of the great atlasers of our time when we found maybe a half dozen Louisiana Waterthrushes in one day. I was a bum again two months later as we toured slow moving creeks and rivers lined with sycamores and came up with a goose egg on finding Yellow-throated Warblers.

Well, the purpose here is not to tell all my Atlas tales, but rather to jog your memories and to spread the word that we will provide a bit of buildup for the release of the Second Pennsylvania

Breeding Bird Atlas book at the Lock Haven meeting when Atlas Director Dan Brauning will review the project and preview the book as our banquet speaker. This will be a time for celebration and reflection for all of us who participated in this monumental, ground-breaking effort. I anxiously await Dan's presentation and the printed book.

What are the significant findings? How much change has occurred since the first Atlas? Just how common are our common birds? Which are the most abundant birds in the state? Many other questions will be answered that night. Oh, and who will be the one to ask, “When do we start the Third Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas?”

– Tom Kuehl, President  
Westmoreland County  
tjkuehl@comcast.net

# 2012 PSO Annual Meeting – Lock Haven – Clinton County

The 2012 PSO meeting will be held at Lock Haven University's Sieg Conference Center May 18-20. This is a return visit from the first annual PSO meeting held in October of 1990. All meetings, presentations, and the Saturday night banquet will be held at Sieg Center. Also, if you are anxious to attend but on a tight budget – read on! There are a limited number of **FREE** bunk house style accommodations available – one male and one female room; see the enclosed registration form for more details and information about other accommodations.

Many thanks to Wayne Laubscher who has organized the meeting's field trips. The wide variety of species expected and habitats available to bird are detailed in the article found on page 5. Bring your waders! As usual, there are too many choices of great places to bird, so consider slipping into the area on Friday to visit one or more of these prime birding locations.

Wayne will try to pull off some "falconmania." The meeting's pin will depict the American Kestrel, a species that nests at Wayne's family farm, and we're hoping for a repeat nesting of Merlins in Williamsport. This outing will include a stop to see the Peregrine Falcons on nest at McElhatten in Clinton County.

Afternoon presentations will include Doug Gross, PA Game Commission Wildlife Biologist, discussing boreal forest birds, Margaret Brittingham, Professor of Wildlife Resources and Extension Wildlife Specialist at Penn State University, on the impact of Marcellus shale drilling on bird populations, and Charlie Schwarz, representing the Northcentral PA Conservancy, the recipient of our 2012 Conservation Award. Dan Brauning, 2<sup>nd</sup> Breeding Bird Atlas Project Director, will be our Saturday evening banquet speaker, updating us on the state of the Atlas. Don't miss this exciting meeting!

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## Laurie Goodrich Named Poole Award Recipient

The Earl 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 research, volunteer efforts, publications, field work, or any other pursuit that has increased our knowledge and understanding of the birdlife in Pennsylvania.

Nominees are submitted to PSO's vice president who chairs the awards committee. Committee members then deliberate and vote on the nominees. The winner will receive a plaque to commemorate the award. From a slate of highly qualified nominees, the committee voted to present the 2012 award to Laurie Goodrich.

Dr. Laurie Goodrich is the Senior Monitoring Biologist at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association in Kempton, Pennsylvania, where she supervises Hawk Mountain's raptor migration counts and is responsible for their database management. Her research has included raptor migration behavior and ecology as well as the effects of forest fragmentation on breeding birds. She recently also served as the Interim Director of Education for Hawk Mountain.

She received her M.S. in Ecology from Rutgers University on Least Terns and a Ph.D. in Ecology from the Pennsylvania State University on the stopover behavior and ecology of autumn-migrating raptors.

Dr. Goodrich serves on the board of the Hawk Migration Association of North America, the Board of Directors of the Raptor Research Foundation, the Berks Conservancy natural resource committee, and on the Pennsylvania Ornithological Technical Committee as well. She is an Elective Member of the American Ornithological Union.

In addition, she holds membership in several national and regional societies. Goodrich coordinates the migration monitoring program at Hawk Mountain, conducts research on raptor migration ecology, and acts as an advisor to the Veracruz River of Raptors project in Mexico and as Hawk Mountain's liaison to North American hawk watch sites.

Her numerous publications include papers on the forest songbirds, raptor migration, raptor monitoring, and population trends.

Laurie Goodrich has been involved in PSO since its inception. She presented a memorable talk about her forest fragmentation research at our fourth annual meeting on May 22, 1993. She was a valuable member of our Board of Directors from 1994 through 1997.

It is with great pleasure that we announce Laurie Goodrich as our 2012 Earl Poole recipient.

# Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy to Receive Conservation Award

The Conservation Award is presented periodically to an individual or organization that has had a positive impact on bird conservation in Pennsylvania. Nominees are submitted to PSO's vice president who chairs the awards committee. Committee members then deliberate and vote on the nominees. The winner will receive a \$100 contribution and a certificate to commemorate the award. Although there were many deserving nominees in 2012, only one award will be given.

The 2012 Conservation Award goes to the Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy (NPC). NPC is a non-profit, land conservation organization that works to conserve farms and forests by partnering with private landowners. These partnerships result in conservation easements and land acquisitions.

The mission statement of NPC is "to conserve the working lands and identifying waters of northcentral Pennsylvania for the enjoyment and well-being of present and future generations."

The conservancy upholds four main values – Open Space, Balance, Cooperation, and Communication. NPC supports the conservation of working farms and forests, as well as land conserved as natural areas that support wildlife, including avian species. They attempt to achieve conservation in balance with community and regional needs. NPC seeks to find an equilibrium with growth and development and the conservation of natural resources. In order to accomplish this, the cooperation and support of local communities and conservation groups are needed. NPC works in conjunction with these other interests and strives to avoid competition with them. NPC recognizes the need to communicate with landowners, members, partners, and residents in order to achieve goals with less misunderstanding and confusion.

For more information on the Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy, go to their web site at:  
<http://www.npcweb.org/index.html>

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## Dan Brauning to Speak at PSO Banquet

Project Coordinator for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas Project, Dan Brauning, is scheduled to be the banquet speaker at our May meeting. Dan will explain many of the differences in the distribution of populations from the first to the second Atlas and provide us with information and tantalize us as we wait for the publication of the new Atlas.

Dan writes:

"The Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in Pennsylvania not only updated our knowledge of birds since the first Atlas, it also forged new ground in our understanding on several levels. Like the first Atlas, thousands of dedicated volunteers collaborated in documenting the state's nesting birds so that state-wide distributions are redefined. Nesting evidence was collected at the traditional atlas block-level grid, replicating the first Atlas. This also created a record of how that distribution has changed in the 20-year period. In keeping with the 21<sup>st</sup> century technologies and strategies, data were obtained at both a finer-scale, and also from the standpoint of a third dimension: density. At least 240,000 site-specific data were gathered by volunteers for targeted species, and another roughly 600,000 by point-counters for

common birds. The collection of this geo-referenced data (rather than at a 10 square mile block scale) provides the opportunity to understand much more about habitats and species' interactions for these important birds. The group of trained point-counters carried out a rigorous bird count protocol at more than 34,000 locations statewide. These point counts tabulated not just species, but individual birds, in a manner that enables estimates of the actual statewide populations for more than half of the 190 breeding species detected during the atlas. Thanks to this monumental effort, we now know that the five most abundant species in the state (Song Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Red-eyed Vireo, American Robin, and Gray Catbird) have populations ranging from 2.3 million to just under 3 million pairs. In all, more than 1.5 million sightings were documented during the second Atlas, providing an unprecedented snapshot of the bird life of Pennsylvania—perhaps even of any comparably sized region in the world."

Dan's presentation will bring highlights from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Atlas distribution, change maps from first to second, and density maps, as well as new analysis of important geographic analyses of the results. Don't miss it!!!

# PSO's Annual Meeting Agenda

Lock Haven University Sieg Conference Center, Lamar, PA  
Route 64 S of I-80 Interchange 3.4 miles.  
Turn left onto Washington Avenue (which becomes Narrows Road).  
Go approximately 3.4 miles.  
Sign for LHU Sieg Center on right.

PIN – American Kestrel

## Friday, May 18, 2012

6:00 p.m.	Registration – Vendors (Sieg Conference Center)
7:00 p.m.	Social - Vendors
7:30 p.m.	Annual Members' Business Meeting
7:45 p.m.	Outings' Review*
8:15 p.m.	Doug Gross – PGC Wildlife Diversity activities and projects

## Saturday, May 19, 2012

5:30 a.m.	Breakfast on your own
6:30 a.m.	Outings
Noon – 1:15 p.m.	Lunch on your own
1:15 – 2:00 p.m.	Margaret Brittingham – bird populations and Marcellus Shale
2:00 – 2:45 p.m.	Doug Gross – Boreal Forest Birds
2:45 – 3:15 p.m.	Break
3:15 – 4:00 p.m.	Charlie Schwarz - Northcentral PA Conservancy Presentation
6:00 – 7:00 p.m.	Social
7:00 –	Banquet **

Presentation of Poole Award  
Presentation of Conservation Award  
Compilation of Bird List  
Sunday Outings' Review\*  
Silent Auction Winners

Speaker – Dan Brauning on the upcoming release of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Breeding Bird Atlas Book

## Sunday, May 20, 2012

5:30 a.m.	Breakfast on your own
6:30 a.m.	Outings

\* Outings' departure locations to be announced at the meeting

\*\* BYOB

# 2012 PSO Annual Meeting Field Trips

## Cherry Run at SGL 285

This field trip near Sieg Conference Center will target birds found in hemlock, white pine, and rhododendron habitat. Expected birds include: Blue-headed Vireo, Veery, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Canada Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, and Dark-eyed Junco. Although this is easy walking, waterproof footwear is recommended.

## Hyner-Glen Union (Sunday only)

This field trip will target interior neotropical forest birds. Highlights will include Louisiana Waterthrush and Cerulean, Black-throated Blue, Worm-eating, Canada, and Magnolia warblers. This route will take us on steep sided mountains that will allow excellent treetop viewing, so that participants will be able to get excellent looks without having to look up very much. In addition to the many species of warblers, we should find Hermit Thrush, Blue-headed Vireo, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and hopefully see and hear Winter Wren. Our route will begin on the Carrier Road north of Lock Haven and take us into deep woods. Forest habitats will be varied on our journey down into the Susquehanna River valley. The primary habitat is hardwood with some bigger stands of hemlock, white pine, and spruce. We will wind our way along forestry roads into the Susquehanna River valley where we will find prime Cerulean Warbler habitat. We will end at the spectacular Hyner View. This field trip will be relatively easy on your feet. We will do some walking along forestry roads, and spend some time along Rattlesnake Run. Waterproof footwear is recommended.

## Salona Area and the Mill Hall Wetlands

This outing will begin in the Salona/Rote area and end at the Mill Hall mitigation wetlands. Habitat includes scrub, old fields, mixed hardwood and conifer forest, and wetland. Expected species at the Salona site include a variety of passerines such as Magnolia Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Blue-headed Vireo, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Scarlet Tanager, Baltimore Oriole, Field Sparrow, Eastern Meadowlark, and Bobolink. In previous years, Cape May Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Orchard Oriole have been found here. The mitigation wetlands at Mill Hall have often produced American Bittern, Virginia Rail, Sora, Pied-billed Grebe, Wood Duck, American Kestrel, and Swamp Sparrow. This will be easy to moderate walking, but waterproof boots are recommended.

## Local Nesting Falcons

This trip will focus on the local nesting falcon species. One stop will be to see nesting American Kestrels. A second stop will be at the local nesting site of Peregrine Falcons where it may be possible to see the actual nest. The third stop will be to look for Merlins which, in 2011, were discovered nesting in Williamsport. With luck, it is hoped that the Merlin pair will again nest in that area. If time permits, the Bald Eagles nesting at Little Pine State Park will be targeted or, if possible, we may check on area Barn Owls. This will be easy walking, but knee-high waterproof boots will be needed.

## Farrandsville and Lick Run Natural Area

The highlight of this trip will be Graham Road in Farrandsville, a mixed hardwood and conifer site with exceptionally high plant diversity. This area is one of the few remaining examples of an old remnant northern Pennsylvania mixed forest ecosystem. Botany enthusiasts will enjoy this area. Bird highlights include Northern Parula; Cerulean, Canada, and Worm-eating warblers; Yellow-throated Vireo; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher; and Acadian Flycatcher. The Lick Run Natural Area is primarily mixed conifer and rhododendron. Birds found here include Blackburnian, Pine, Canada, and Black-throated Blue warblers; Northern and Louisiana Waterthrushes; Hermit Thrush; Veery; and Golden-crowned Kinglet. Walking will be primarily easy with some moderate. Waterproof footwear is recommended.

## Bald Eagle State Park and Nearby Areas

This outing will focus on Bald Eagle State Park in Centre Co. and areas nearby. The habitats are mostly scrub, open areas, and lakeside with some hardwood and conifer stands, as well as some wetland. Bird highlights include Yellow-rumped, Magnolia, Prairie, Pine, and Black-and-white Warblers; Northern Parula; Ovenbird; Yellow-breasted Chat; Scarlet Tanager; Orchard Oriole; Willow Flycatcher; Eastern Kingbird; Fish Crow; and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. The Upper Green's Run section of the park has an area that is maintained for Golden-winged Warblers. Blue-winged Warblers can also be found here. A pair of Bald Eagles is again nesting at the park. This will be easy to moderate walking. Waterproof footwear is recommended.

**Note:** It is strongly recommended that all field trip participants wear long pants on all the trips due to the widespread presence of deer ticks. Long-sleeved shirts are also a good idea.

# The Raven Reporter

## Tales of Discovery about Pennsylvania Birds



### 2012 Bald Eagle Nesting Survey

Eagle nesting season is well underway. Most pairs are already incubating. In the 2011 nesting season, we monitored 217 active nesting pairs in 50 counties that produced at least 209 fledglings. As early as November, we were finding new nests, often with the help of the interested public. It is a growing challenge to monitor each Bald Eagle nest. We often know about an active nest but don't hear whether it produced young or failed. We also need good estimates of how many young are produced at each nest. Fledglings can be confirmed by seeing individuals moving outside the nest, even in the nest tree. If a nest fails, we would really like to learn why. In most cases, bad weather is to blame, but human



The Bald Eagle nesting season is already well underway.  
Photo by Steve Gosser

activities can also be a factor. If human activities are a factor in a nest's failure, we need to know so we can address this problem and prevent it in the future.

If you have news of a Bald Eagle nest, please contact our Endangered Bird Biologist, Patti Barber, at [patbarber@pa.gov](mailto:patbarber@pa.gov).

### Bald Eagle Watching Opportunities

The PGC has several Bald Eagle Watching pages on its website, [www.pgc.state.pa.us](http://www.pgc.state.pa.us). We share well-known spots on public lands – providing locations to look for eagles, some of which are a string of view points in a watershed or wetland complex. In particular, we included several locations along the Lower Susquehanna, the Pine Creek valley, and the Upper Delaware. Not all the good spots were included; there are several more out there for you to discover.

If you have a good candidate for an eagle viewing location, accessible to the public and preferably on public land, let us know. It does not have to be a view of a nest; locations can be good for viewing foraging or roosting eagles. We also are looking for opportunities to educate the general public about eagles and partners to promote new view sites perhaps by constructing view platforms, paths from parking lots, and view guides. If you have any ideas for eagle watch sites, please contact Patti Barber at [patbarber@pa.gov](mailto:patbarber@pa.gov).

### Heron Colony Survey

The PGC coordinates colonial waterbird surveys throughout the state each year. Every five years or so, we do a complete survey of the heron colonies including all Great Blue Herons. A comprehensive survey will take place again this year.

In addition to Great Blue Herons, our nesting herons include three state-endangered species: Great Egret, Black-crowned Night-Heron, and Yellow-crowned Night-Heron. We are glad to hear of any new colonies of these species, most of which are in the urbanized southeastern counties. Heron nests can be difficult to count after leaf-out, so an early count is most useful. Complete details will be posted on the PGC website in the near future. We need help counting every colonial nesting water bird in Pennsylvania this spring.

[Thanks to Patti Barber for help with the previous three stories.]

## New PA eBird Features

Thanks to a team effort, the Pennsylvania eBird portal has two exciting new features. The PA eBird page now lists the counties with the most eBird trip reports for the year. This feature lists the counties in order. There you can see that Lancaster, Philadelphia, and some of the other heavily birded areas with high birder populations do get the most attention by eBirders.

The other new eBird feature is the PA eBird Rarity Photo Pool. It is a Flickr site where bird photographers can post their rare bird photos for review by others including the eBird data review team. Some of the top PA birders have already used this site to post photos of rarities and exciting finds. It has great potential as a means to show off good birds and good bird photos. And, we always can use assistance with verifying rare bird reports. This site puts it all out in the open. Please use this site carefully to show birds that can be viewed by others.

At this point, I would also like to thank all of you who have contributed to the eBird project. The PGC Wildlife Diversity group has partnered with PSO and Audubon PA to host the PA portal to eBird. We will continue to make eBird better and more useful for all of the members.

## eBird: The Under-reported County Challenge

With the eBird phenomenon growing, the eBird data entries very much reflect the tendencies for birders to go birding and to report birds near where they live or where bird reports guide them to hot spots. In the winter, this tendency is especially biased toward the southeastern counties and other places where there are lots of birders. However, as migration speeds up and breeding season begins, the distribution of birds changes, too. Any county can have a birding hotspot, and many of the rural, unpopulated counties (as far as humans go) are among the most well-populated, hence most important, for birds. Most of our Important Bird Areas are in rural counties because that is where a lot of the bird habitat is located, especially the larger blocks.

We invite PA birders to visit “the undiscovered counties” of Pennsylvania. If you review the eBird website, you can find maps of eBird trips by county. Several PA counties are very well-covered (thanks!), but others such as Clearfield, Elk, Jefferson, Forest, Sullivan, Wyoming, and

Potter are rarely visited or reported on by eBirders. Even in other counties, birding is often concentrated in very few areas that many birders visit. There is almost a herd mentality to migration season birding when many follow a rare bird sighting and add to the original report.

Consider adopting an out-of-the-way place for birding and as an eBird hotspot – choose a state game land, state forest, or state park that you *don't* see featured on the PA Birds list serve or eBird. You could find a new birding hotspot and make an important contribution by reporting birds from those locations. More reports in these rural, under-counted counties would strengthen eBird's range maps and better reflect the true distribution of birds in the state, not just the distribution of birders. Sometimes the rarest birds are found where others don't go.

## Golden-winged Warbler Surveys and Opportunities



The Golden-winged Warbler has experienced a catastrophic decline in recent decades.

Photo by Robert Greene

The Golden-winged Warbler (GWWA) has experienced a catastrophic decline in recent decades. It seems to be disappearing before our eyes. However, Golden-wings also have the ability to colonize disturbed forests fairly quickly. A wind storm, a clearcut, an insect outbreak, a beaver dam, a fire, ice-storm damage, or any of many disturbances can create that magical mosaic of scrub and forest that Golden-wings like. Almost all of our present GWWA populations are found above 1,000 feet in

elevation and where there is at least 70% forest in the local land cover. Since the last PA Breeding Bird Atlas (PBBA), people and nature have created more edge habitat that Golden-wings could inhabit. Yes, they may have abandoned a site that you knew, but they may have discovered a new spot down the road. It is important to keep looking.

The Cornell Lab's Atlas and the PBBA also revealed that some GWWA live in forested wetlands. They will nest in red maple swamps, beaver meadows, and boreal bogs that have the same kind of vegetative structure that this young forest species finds elsewhere. So, many sites may have been overlooked because birders have had a search image for GWWA that did not include wetlands. We need to look there, too.

The PGC proposes a Golden-winged Warbler weekend on Memorial Day weekend, May 25 – 27. This is right in the

middle of the GWWA nesting season and allows us to follow up on any new discoveries. Birders are invited to check out any previously known GWWA locations, perhaps from the most recent Atlas, and also to check out any potential new locations. It is good to remember that the big Sproul State Forest GWWA population that has been studied by Indiana University of Pennsylvania's research team led by Jeff Larkin was originally discovered by Audubon IBA surveys. Other new populations may be overlooked but could be discovered by curious and adventurous birders.

A Best Management Practices for GWWA habitat in forest lands has been published for use by agencies, cooperators, and private landowners. The BMP is designed for the forests of Pennsylvania and Maryland. Pennsylvania is a critical state for the future of GWWA in the Central and Northern Appalachians as well as the rest of Northeastern USA. For GWWA to recover in adjacent states of New Jersey and New York, it would help to build a larger GWWA nesting population in Pennsylvania which could serve as a source or seed for those recoveries. This BMP booklet can be found at the Appalachian Mountain Joint Venture website's library: <http://www.amjv.org/library/index.htm>

The Golden-winged Warbler Working Group website has many educational materials ready for distribution. I invite you to visit this site and download materials to share with others: <http://www.gwwa.org/index.html>

## **Nicaragua Report from Reserva El Jaguar**

In November, my wife and I visited Reserva El Jaguar in Jinotega province of northern Nicaragua. It was quite an adventure, our first trip to Nicaragua despite our trips to other parts of Central America and Mexico. My wife Cindy and I have traveled in the Neotropics many times, and this is just the sort of place we really enjoy. It fulfilled all of our expectations and more.

El Jaguar is a rustic coffee plantation hidden in the back roads of the Isabelia Mountain Range near the village of San Raphael del Norte. This is a couple hours north of the capital, Managua, where everyone flies in. It also is north of the coffee capital of Nicaragua, Matagalpa, the local large town of Jinotega, and a popular recreational reservoir called Lago de Apanas – a good place for waterfowl. These are volcanic mountains with rugged scenery and a tragic history during the Nicaraguan revolution and Contreras wars. Yet, today everyone seems bent upon improving the Nicaraguan condition. It is a relatively poor country, even for Central America, but that also offers opportunities for economical birding and conservation initiatives. We found the whole country beautiful, peaceful, and friendly. And, Reserva El Jaguar was particularly friendly to eco-tourists like us. Not only

do they grown sustainable coffee, but they also work with the community to promote environmentally friendly agriculture, ecotourism, and bird conservation.

The reserve is 4500 feet above sea level in tropical cloud forest where it seems like spring all year. It is only 250 acres or so in size but large enough to support healthy bird populations and offer a few days of discovery along its trails and in nearby good birding spots. The coffee fields are gaps in the cloud forest, helping to explain the high bird diversity found there. These are shaded coffee plantings with native trees and banana plants providing shade and food. While we were there, the Montezuma Oropendulas and Keel-billed Toucans flew into the coffee fields regularly to forage on the banana flowers. From our porch, I watched a family of Bush-crested Jays every morning. The bananas and flowers of the headquarters hosted spectacularly colored tanagers every day.

Golden-winged Warblers? They are practically common at El Jaguar. It helps to play a GWWA song, but they were easy to find in the woods, the coffee fields, and the edges with tall trees. This part of the Nicaraguan mountains may have the highest densities of wintering GWWA known anywhere.

Wood Thrushes? They also were quite common. I heard them deep in the cloud forest and also in the coffee "fields" which had a lot of trees that the thrushes enjoy. We also heard and saw a few Louisiana Waterthrushes along the little streams of the reserve. I watched one forage just a few feet away from a Gray-breasted Wood-Rail near the camp kitchen.

The cabins are comfortable and allow easy birding first thing in the morning and last thing at night. We listened to Mottled and Black-and-white Owls at night. Pauraques sat on the pathway to our cabin in the moonlight. Along the trails I found a few Yellow-bellied Flycatchers just a few feet from where a pair of rare Highland Guans flushed off the trail. Some typical cloud forest birds like Emerald Toucanet and Yellowish Flycatcher also can be found in the woods near the cabins. The song of the Slaty-colored Solitaire reminded us a bit of Hermit Thrush in the misty cloud forest. Blue-crowned Motmots can be found along the access road. So, it is indeed a magical place. The very rare Emerald-chinned Hummingbird could easily be seen at a flowering bush right along one of the farm roads.

Our hosts, Georges and Liliana Duriaux-Chavarria, are not only delightful hosts but also in the forefront of bird study and conservation in Nicaragua. Not only do they produce tasty coffee at their farm, but they are growing ornithology in this developing country. We had the pleasure of birding along Lake Nicaragua, the high pine forests, some wetlands, and Lago de Apanas. Great birding! For more

information about El Jaguar, please check out its website at <http://www.jaguarreserve.org/>

Nicaraguan birders, with their international friends including American birders and Audubon members, are building birding and ornithology. Other Central American countries like Belize, Costa Rica, and Panama also have launched ecotourism and bird monitoring, but Nicaragua is coming along, too. All of these are impor-

tant to growth of American ornithology and bird conservation. You might want to check out their blog site called Nicabirds to learn more: <http://www.nicabirds.com/>.

Good birding!

– Doug

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## Death in the Water

by Arlene Koch

Here in the eastern end of the state where I live it's been an incredibly mild winter. Everyone thought it was going to be cold and snowy because of a freak Halloween snowstorm, but things went the other way. It's now the first week of March but it's felt like March for the last two months.

Only once since Christmas have I turned off the recirculating pump in the pond due to ice buildup. That pump pushes water through a hose to a rock waterfall where it drops down into an artificial creek bed and back into the pond. If I were asked what the best bird-attracting thing in my backyard habitat is, the pond and waterfall would be my answer. It's the focal point around which I've planted bird friendly shrubs and placed a lot of my feeders.

But while this water feature has provided me with some of the best bird observations I've had here at home, it's also given me two that will bother me forever. I know, to use a trite phrase, that nature works in mysterious ways that we humans neither like nor understand but try to explain anyway. Sometimes, though, we can't nor should we try.

The two things that happened in my yard water feature that are permanently ensconced in my brain both involved the death of a wild bird. One was an adult male Eastern Bluebird and the other was an adult Red-tailed Hawk.

One summer day I looked out at the waterfall and saw a bluebird taking a bath in it. And when I looked out five minutes later, it was still there, only now it wasn't splashing around but instead just standing under the cascading water. I thought that odd but figured it would eventually fly away. However, when I again looked out a few minutes after that, I watched the bluebird fall over and

die. I have no idea why this happened, but I think of it every time I now see a bluebird in or near the water.

The hawk incident, though, disturbs me to this day and is permanently rooted in my subconscious. Even my husband David, who seldom overreacts to anything, occasionally talks about it.

A badly injured Red-tailed Hawk was brought to me late one spring day by someone who didn't know what to do with it. When I opened the box it was in, I thought it was dead because its wing was broken, as was one of its legs, and it didn't appear to be breathing. So I took it down to the bottom of our field several hundred yards away and put it at the base of a pile of rocks, figuring the vultures would take care of it.

But to my complete and utter horror the next morning when I opened the curtains, it was perched on the edge of the pond. When I saw it, my mouth fell open and I almost couldn't breathe. I was, to say the least, freaked out and even David, who had also seen the bird, was at a loss for words. I regained my composure enough to snap a few photos before the bird died shortly thereafter but seldom look at them because I can't figure out how the hawk got back up to our yard or why it did. And to this day I seldom ever talk about the incident.

I've rescued or taken numerous injured birds to rehabbers. I have a husband and son who are avid deer hunters. On our farm we've raised pigs, dairy cows, and beef cattle, and we have more than our fair share of feral cats, groundhogs, skunks, rabbits, coyotes, and foxes. So I've dealt with animal deaths many times. But I'll never be able to explain what happened here.

## PAMC – Mark Your Calendars Now!!!

Great effort was exerted in 2011 to encourage birders in various counties to participate in the Pennsylvania Migration Count. Pat yourselves on the back – good job! The PAMC is still alive and worthwhile! In 2011, the number of participants increased by 255 observers so the birding time afield went up almost 700 hours. As a result, the total number of birds observed increased by more than 101,000 individuals and the number of species by 21! Birders in Pennsylvania responded to the call to take up binoculars and responded with vigor. You were all outstanding.

Now, about the 14 counties not represented. We can do better in 2012. We have done a great job and maybe it is unfair for me to ask more of the birding community in the state – but I am asking anyway! We improved the 2011

PAMC county count by 15 counties. Surely we can add those last 14 counties in 2012. My goal is to continue to add counties until we have 100 percent county participation. Come on Erie, Crawford, Elk, and the rest of the counties with no reports. Just one or two birders need to participate to represent the county.

It looks like 2012 will be a great year to continue what we restarted. Make no plans for PAMC weekend and circle May 12, 2012, on your calendars now! Start to round up birding crews. Let's start the third decade of PAMC right. Make it what it is, a celebration of migration. Let us have a stupendous celebration for PAMC!!!

– John Fedak, Vice President

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## PSO Bird Quiz

1. If you see a pale little plover with a dark ear patch, should you carefully document it for our state records committee?
2. Would a flicker with a black whisker mark, or one with a red whisker mark, be more interesting in Pennsylvania?
3. In a 2008 article in *Pennsylvania Birds*, Tom Johnson emphasized a “string of pearls” as a feature for identifying a super-rare species in our state. Which species?
4. The Pennsylvania list includes 13 species in the thrush family. Which one of them winters in Asia and Africa?
5. In his 1928 *Introduction to the Birds of Pennsylvania*, George Miksch Sutton listed these alternate names for species: Squirrel Hawk, White-bellied Swallow, Cherry Bird, Ground Robin, and Skunkbird. What do we now call them?

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## Certificates of Appreciation Awarded

PSO has issued certificates to individuals who have allowed access to their properties to view vagrants. The total number issued is now 77. See the March 2011 *Pileated* for the complete list. Since last March the following Certificates of Appreciation have been awarded:

Pheucticus species, Warren Area High School, Warren County

White Ibis, Highspire Boating Association and Mark Shartle

Eurasian Collared Dove, Light Touch Interior Landscaping

Say's Phoebe, Vicky Smith, Bucks

Ash-throated Flycatcher, Vern Gauthier

Snowy Owl, S and W Race Cars

Townsend's Warbler and Pine Warbler, Dr. Andrew Green, Cumberland Co.

Rufous Hummingbird, Scott and Linda Burnet

Rufous Hummingbird, Jacobsburg State Park

Rufous Hummingbird, David and Rhoda Wagner

Rufous Hummingbird, Sylvia and Tom Harrington

Rufous Hummingbird, Scott Kinzey, Allegheny Co.

Rufous Hummingbird, Tim and Kathy Becker

Bullock's Oriole, Jim and Lorraine Hamilton, Huntington Co.

Bullock's Oriole, Mary Ache, Montgomery Co.

Snowy Owl, Erin Lufsey, Armstrong Co.

Rufous Hummingbird, Peter Keyel, Allegheny

Bullock's Oriole, Ben Davies and family, Montgomery Co.

## Spotlight on Board Members



PSO Vice President John Fedak volunteers at a banding station. He is depicted here holding orioles.

John Fedak has been a teacher for the last 25 years, teaching Biology, Wildlife Ecology (Biology), Plants/Animals, Environmental Science, Ecology, Physical Science, Field Biology, and Ornithology at the Warren County School District and prior to that at the Redbank Valley School District. He obtained his master's degree from Clarion University in Science Education, his bachelor's degree in Biology from Lock Haven University, his bachelor's degree in Secondary Education from Lock Haven University, and an associate's degree in Wildlife Technology from the Pennsylvania State University.

During his career, he has been awarded the Conservation Educator of the Year Award in Clarion County twice; received the Environmental Educator of the Year Award in Warren County; the Conservation Educator of the Year Award in Warren County; the Nature Educator Award from the Roger Tory Peterson Institute; and the Lock Haven University Distinguished Alumni Educator of the Year Award 2011.

In April 2009 Kelly Donaldson, of PBS, interviewed some of his students and filmed a segment in his classroom about the Trout in the Classroom project in which his classes were involved! The segment aired on PBS in episode 4 of Greenlife Pennsylvania.

<http://greenlifepenn.org/?p=190>

At the present time, he is working at the Learning Enrichment Center, teaching science to students from Kindergarten to 12<sup>th</sup> grade. John states, "It is exciting, fulfilling, and always intriguing to see what students of all age groups are capable of doing."

Since 2006 John has been on PSO's Board of Directors, and he is currently vice president. While he lived in Clarion County, he was the newsletter editor, vice president, and president of the Seneca Rocks Audubon Society. He presently serves as the president of the newly formed Allegheny Highlands Bird Club in the northern tier of PA and southern tier of NY.

John has always loved nature, but his passion for birds began in the late 1980s when he joined Seneca Rocks Audubon Society and later PSO. John, a firm believer in Citizen Science, volunteers as a field trip leader and has conducted many Special Areas Projects. In addition, he has worked on bird checklists for various locations, including several Important Bird Areas. He has served as compiler and contributor for *Pennsylvania Birds* magazine in a few counties – currently McKean and was a Regional Compiler for Region 32 of the 2<sup>nd</sup> PA Breeding Bird Atlas. In his spare time, he volunteers at banding stations. The Golden Eagle Project also benefits from his spirit of volunteerism.

John resides in Bradford, deep in the northern forests of PA. He is married with two children, a son Danny who is 11 and a daughter Bailey, age 10.

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## Dues to Be Increased

For the first time since 1992 annual dues and *PA Birds* subscription rates are being increased. Single rates are being raised from \$28.50 to \$30, Family from \$32.50 to \$35, and Sustaining from \$ 42.50 to \$45.

PSO is financially stable. These increases are being implemented primarily to maintain that financial stability as we absorb printing and postage increases. Also, in an attempt to reach out to the many young birders in Pennsylvania, we are introducing a \$25 student rate.

We also expect to expand our mission beyond the current focus on the *PA Birds* magazine and the annual meeting. Accordingly, an additional donation line has been included on the membership form.

Dues are due in May. Please renew either with the enclosed form or online when that option becomes available; see article on page 14.



# Book Review

*Western Pennsylvania Birding Trail Guide* by the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania, 87 color photographs by Geoff Malosh, 21 county maps, a 12-page western Pennsylvania bird list, ring bound, 7 x 9 in., 114 pp., published by the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania, Pittsburgh, PA, 2011, paper, \$9.99.

The *Western Pennsylvania Birding Trail Guide* was published to help birders and nature lovers understand and appreciate the wide range of birding opportunities throughout western Pennsylvania. It also serves as a companion guide to *Susquehanna River Birding & Wildlife Trail Guide* and the *Eastern Pennsylvania Birding & Wildlife Guide* that cover the central and eastern regions of the Commonwealth respectively. The latter was reviewed earlier in *Pennsylvania Birds* (see Vol. 23, No. 3, p. 148).

Readers will appreciate the brief (one page each) Table of Contents, Acknowledgments, Introduction, How to Identify Birds, External Anatomy of a Bird, Making the Most of Your Birding, and Potential Hazards of Birding (pp. 1-12). Although the book is not meant to serve as an identifying field guide, perhaps in Size under How to Identify Birds (p. 2), a third measurement should be added: "Is it (bird) bigger or smaller than a House Finch?" since American Crow, American Robin, and House Finch are usually used for such comparative identification purposes. Under Shape add: "A stubby tail?" since the tail is an important identifying part of a bird's body. Finally, perhaps substitute the term Voice in place of Calls because all birds have different vocalizations divided into calls and songs.

However, these few suggestions do not diminish the goal of this work, finding birds in the western Pennsylvania region. An extensive bird list (pp. 102-113) covers 343 species recorded in the region to date. The list is not intended to be an exhaustive or historical record of avian occurrences. Each species has been assigned one of the following qualifiers: regular: a species that can be found in appropriate habitat in season throughout the region; casual: a species that can be found in appropriate habitat and in season infrequently throughout the region; and accidental: a species that has been recorded only a few times within the region; its appearance may have been due to a migration error or even strong weather patterns. The terms regular and casual are not quantified and it is unclear why #4 Brant, #114 Red Knot, and #320 Dickcissel have two qualifiers (Regular Casual).

Especially helpful are the three Make it a Day Birding Loops for southwestern, western, and northwestern

Pennsylvania (pp. 8-9) and the American Birding Association's Code of Birding Ethics (pp. 10-11) by which every birder and tour group should abide. The code is followed by Plan your Trip to four unique birding destinations in the region: the National Aviary in Pittsburgh, Presque Isle State Park in Erie, Powdermill Nature Reserve near Rector, PA, and Carnegie Museum of Natural History in Pittsburgh (pp. 12-15).

However, the bulk of the book is devoted to covering the 21 counties in the region alphabetically, each county having its own map illustrating physical features and specific birding sites. Each site, again presented alphabetically, uses a simple legend with five signatures: handicapped accessibility, hiking trails, biking trails, restrooms, and dogs allowed. Site details also include location, owner/manager, GPS coordinates, directions-access-parking, site description, site information, key birds and wildlife, other comments, and contact information. Birding sites are embellished with spectacular color photographs, mostly by Geoff Malosh, Editor-in-Chief of *Pennsylvania Birds*.

Perhaps a revised edition of this excellent book could include the north shore of Moraine State Park (Butler County) and add that the parking area for Wolf Creek Narrows (p. 43) is owned and managed by Slippery Rock University. It is a part of the lovely 42.11-acre bird rich Miller Woods Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary that is primarily used as an outdoor laboratory. However, the public is welcome to use its loop trail from dawn to dusk throughout the year. Finally, Pennsy and Black Swamps – SGL 284 – in Lawrence County and Celery Swamp – SGL 151 – in Mercer County have been designated as Important Bird Area #10. It would be helpful, too, in any revision for readers and/or hikers unfamiliar with the region to have a single color map illustrating all 21 counties covered by the book.

Nevertheless, thanks on behalf of all naturalists and birders near and far to the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania, the nine other organizations, and the 40 plus individuals who dedicated countless hours to this marvelous guide, the Environmental Stewardship Fund, under the administration of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and an anonymous donor for financing this worthwhile project. The book is, indeed, a steal at \$9.99.

Gene Wilhelm  
513 Kelly Blvd.  
Slippery Rock, PA 16057-1145  
[genewilhelm@aol.com](mailto:genewilhelm@aol.com)

# Ornithological Literature Notes

An interesting feature of the Acadian Flycatcher's nest is both conspicuous and mysterious to anyone who has seen it: The nest looks partly bedraggled, as if the bird has lazily neglected to put hanging strips of vegetation where they belong.

Here is how the late Hal Harrison, a wonderfully perceptive western Pennsylvania ornithologist, described the construction in his classic *Field Guide to Birds' Nests*: "Invariably long streamers of dried grass, grapevine, fibrous material hang below [the] nest giving it [a] misleading trashy appearance from below."

Harrison did not explain why he considered the trash misleading. Perhaps he hypothesized that the hanging material serves some adaptive purpose such as helping to camouflage the nest amid its background of vegetation.

Terry L. Master at East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania and Michael C. Allen of New Jersey Audubon wondered about a purpose, too. In a 2012 paper in *American Midland Naturalist* (167:136–149), they reported on their attempt to find an answer. Particularly intriguing, this is the only tyrannid in temperate North America whose nest includes these long, hanging "tails."

Acadian Flycatcher nests were observed, measured, and analyzed in 2006 and 2007 along five headwater streams on or adjacent to Powdermill Nature Reserve in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania. A number of variables were analyzed including the nest structure, the prominence of the tails, characteristics of the surrounding vegetation, and the nest survival rate in 148 nesting attempts.

The authors looked for associations between the length and number of "tails" (the tails' prominence), the composition of vegetation used in the streamers, the nests'

height above ground, the timing of nests during the breeding season, and the ultimate nesting success in terms of fledged young.

Master and Allen found no such correlations conclusively. For example, tail prominence appeared to have no effect on nest survival. In fact, the authors suggested that the tails may actually have served as visual cues for nest predators rather than their originally presumed function as camouflage.

Overall, the study's results may point to a factor that many of us do not habitually consider. We are inclined to view every aspect of genetics, morphology, and behavior as an evolutionarily adaptive feature resulting directly from natural selection. As Master and Allen point out, this is not necessarily true.

They hypothesize that the nest tails might simply be a "relictual" feature that is no longer under intense selective pressure. The streamers may have camouflaged the nest and improved survival long ago when the species' began to evolve in the neotropics amid hanging epiphytes and vines. In the Acadian Flycatcher's present-day vegetational surroundings, the streamers may be neither adaptive nor maladaptive—just neutral.

The failure to demonstrate a benefit in this initial study made at a single location does not mean there is no benefit. Perhaps one remains to be discovered, and Master and Allen suggest further research in an effort to find it. Additional data from other regions and habitat types, as well as experimental methods of analysis, might well uncover an adaptive value after all.

– Paul Hess  
phess@salsgiver.com

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## Birding Festival Scheduled to Take Flight in Foxburg

**Foxburg, PA**—The Seneca Rocks Audubon Society, Allegheny RiverStone Center for the Arts, and The Foxburg Inn Hotel will host the "2012 Foxburg Birdfest" on Saturday, May 5, and Sunday, May 6, 2012.

Saturday's activities include an 8:00 a.m. birding tour, lunch at the historic RiverStone Estate (*handicapped accessible*), a 5:00 p.m. buffet dinner at the Allegheny Grille, followed by educational presentations and an 8:00 p.m. Owl Prowl at RiverStone.

Seneca Rocks Audubon Society member Michael R. Leahy will present grassland bird calls, and keynote speaker Jason Hill, BS, MS, PhD. candidate, will discuss his current research findings regarding population dynamics of grassland breeding sparrows and their relationship to grassland habitat created by reclaimed surface mines in PA.

(continued on page 14)

## Join/Renew/Shop Online!

In time for the annual membership renewal period, the PSO is initiating an online payment service (using PayPal) so that you can now join the PSO, renew your membership, and purchase PSO sales items online.

PayPal is the most widely used online credit card processing service and is extremely secure. None of your credit card information is entered on the PSO web site. When you click on Checkout, you will be directed to the PayPal site where you will enter your credit card details. Once approved, it redirects you back to the PSO site for confirmation and a receipt. Note: this will accept credit cards only, not debit cards.

Just go to [www.pabirds.org](http://www.pabirds.org) and click on Join/Renew PSO or PSO Sales. We will certainly try to have it working flawlessly once we establish the new pages and links, but please bear with us and report any bugs to Frank Haas at [fchaas@pabirds.org](mailto:fchaas@pabirds.org).

To renew your membership, you will enter your member number (see the mailing label on your newsletter) to bring up your current status (membership type and expiration date) and then click a button to renew for the next year. New members will have to enter their name, address, etc. when they join. PSO Sales will also require a name and address if you are not a member (or want the items shipped to a different address).

We hope to have it all up and running by the end of March (hopefully sooner).

You will still be able to use the traditional snail-mail method (fill out and print and mail the membership form), but the online method saves you 45¢!

– Frank Haas, Webmaster  
[fchaas@pso.org](mailto:fchaas@pso.org)

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## Hawks 2—Starlings 0

That might sound like a hockey score at this time of year, but it was the success record of a Cooper's Hawk and a Sharp-shinned Hawk each scoring a kill on the European Starling population at the backyard bird feeders.

It all started on the morning of February 25 when a Cooper's Hawk dispatched a European Starling only about eight feet from the kitchen window. This Cooper's Hawk is not shy. It often remains in a tree as people walk close by. It also hops near the kitchen area as it hunts through the flowerbed, and it sometimes stays below the window for several minutes with its kill. It might be part of the family that nested in the yard last summer.

About an hour later a beautiful female Sharp-shinned Hawk slowly de-feathered another starling under the feeders. The hawk allowed excellent looks at its straight tail edge and the consistent dark gray coloring on the crown, nape, and back. After plucking some of the feathers, the sharpy flew to a small pond not far from the feeders and sat in the shallow water with its prey beneath

it. When crows noisily flew within ten feet of the hawk, the sharpy mantled the starling by widely spreading its whole body – wings, head, and tail – flat on the surface of the water. Was it washing the starling or just cleverly hiding it under water? Hawks have bathed in the pond or birdbaths before, but this behavior was different.

Several birding friends were surprised to hear about this sharpy's activity. Scott Weidensaul said that he wasn't aware of any similar report and that he didn't find any discussion of this behavior in two key reference books. Scott suggested that perhaps "the hawk was just thirsty and didn't want to leave its prey unattended" as the reason that it went into the pond.

Nature is always fascinating!

– Pat and Sherron Lynch  
Wexford, PA  
[pmfohl@zbzoom.net](mailto:pmfohl@zbzoom.net)

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## Birding Festival Scheduled *(continued from page 13)*

On Sunday morning at 8:00 a birding tour will explore the Mount Zion/Piney Tract Important Bird Area near Sligo.

Birders staying at the Foxburg Inn Hotel will receive special lodging rates. Registration deadline is April 2,

2012. Call the **Foxburg Inn Hotel** at **724-659-3116** to make lodging reservations *and/or* order your tickets today. Feel free to e-mail Kirsten at [kwilliams@foxburginn.com](mailto:kwilliams@foxburginn.com) with any questions.

# 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, 2012. 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)

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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.

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(Signature of Parent/Guardian)

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(Date)

## PSO Newsletter

This newsletter is published four times a year by the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology. To renew your membership, pay online at [www.pabirds.org](http://www.pabirds.org) or 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)  
Frank Haas – Treasurer [fchaas@pabirds.org](mailto:fchaas@pabirds.org)  
Geoff Malosh – PSO Editor [pomarine@earthlink.net](mailto:pomarine@earthlink.net)  
Margaret Higbee – Newsletter Editor [bcoriola@windstream.net](mailto:bcoriola@windstream.net)  
Arlene Koch – Past President [davilene@verizon.net](mailto:davilene@verizon.net)  
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Carmen Santasania – [ctsantasania@comcast.net](mailto:ctsantasania@comcast.net)  
Scott Stoleson – [sstoleson@fs.fed.us](mailto:sstoleson@fs.fed.us)  
Linda Wagner – [lwagner342@msn.com](mailto:lwagner342@msn.com)

## Answers to Bird Quiz (page 10)

1. Definitely. It is very likely a Snowy Plover.
2. One with a red whisker mark. It would be a "Red-shafted" Flicker from the West, or possibly an intergrade of "Yellow-shafted" and "Red-shafted."
3. Slaty-backed Gull
4. Northern Wheatear
5. Northern Goshawk, Tree Swallow, Cedar Waxwing, Eastern Towhee, and Bobolink.



## Silent Auction Planned

Every year PSO holds a silent auction at our May meeting. We plan to continue with the auction again at our annual meeting in Lock Haven. 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 Lock Haven (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](mailto:shunter@lhup.edu); 570-893-2062

***Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology***

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

**Non-profit Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
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PERMIT NO. 2**

***ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED***

PENNSYLVANIA SOCIETY FOR ORNITHOLOGY  
 23rd Annual Meeting: 18 - 20 May 2012  
 Lock Haven University's Sieg Conference Center  
 Route 64 S of I-80 Interchange 3.4 miles.  
 Turn left onto Washington Avenue (which becomes Narrows Road.)  
 Go approximately 3.4 miles.  
 Sign for LHU Sieg Center on right.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: May 5, 2012  
 Name(s) for name tag (include all persons registering) \_\_\_\_\_

Your email for an electronic receipt (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

	No. of Persons	X	Cost	=	Total \$
Registration	_____		\$30.00		_____
Spouse or guest	_____		\$25.00		_____
Children under 18	_____		\$15.00		_____
After Deadline, May 5, 2012	_____	additional	\$ 5.00		_____
Subtotal (from this side)					_____

There are a limited number of separate men's and women's bunks available at Sieg Conference Center. You may reserve them on a first come, first served basis. There is no charge, but you will have to bring your own bed and bath linens.

Yes, I would like to reserve a bunk: Men \_\_\_\_\_ Women \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number

There is no "official" hotel for this meeting, but these are hotels at the Lamar I-80 Interstate Interchange

- |  |              |
|--|--------------|
| Comfort Inn<br>31 Hospitality Lane, Mill Hall, PA 17751                    | 570-726-4901 |
| Hampton Inn and Suites<br>24 Hospitality Lane, Mill Hall, PA 17751         | 570-726-3939 |
| Brown's Hill Tavern and Motel<br>717 Brown's Hill Rd., Mill Hall, PA 17751 | 570-726-3090 |

Friday Social (indicate if attending) \_\_\_\_\_ No Charge  
 No. persons  
 We need a fairly accurate count because of catering arrangements

No. persons    X    Cost    Total \$

MEALS  
 Breakfast ON YOUR OWN

Lunch ON YOUR OWN

Dinner Buffet \_\_\_\_\_ \$25.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Please Check this box if you wish a vegetarian entrée

Subtotal of meals \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Subtotal from registration (other column) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

GRAND TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please DO NOT renew your annual membership with this form.

Check out field trip descriptions in the newsletter and on the web site  
[www.pabirds.org](http://www.pabirds.org)

\*\*\*\*\*

Please make checks or money orders payable to PSO and mail to:  
 Shonah A. Hunter, Dept. of Biological Sciences, Lock Haven University,  
 Lock Haven, PA 17745

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS: May 5, 2012.  
 Cancellations by you must occur before May 13. After this date, registration fees may be refunded, but meal costs cannot be because of catering concerns.

# PENNSYLVANIA SOCIETY FOR ORNITHOLOGY

## Membership Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

RENEWAL  G for 2012 (May 1, 2012 to April 30, 2013)

NEW MEMBERSHIP  G for 2012 (May 1, 2012 to April 30, 2013)

NEW MEMBERSHIP  G for 2013 (May 1, 2013 to April 30, 2014)

(See [Please Note!](#) below)

CHANGE OF ADDRESS  G

Please check ONE of the following:

Individual Membership	\$30.00 G
Family Membership	\$35.00 G
Sustaining Membership	\$45.00 G
Student Membership	\$25.00 G

### Library and Institutional Rates

(These rates are for Pennsylvania Birds only—do not include newsletter)

Library/Institution (United States)	\$33.00 G
Library/Institution (Canada)	\$48.00 G
Library/Institution (Other Foreign Country)	\$62.00 G

Additional contribution to PA SOCIETY FOR ORNITHOLOGY \_\_\_\_\_

Additional contribution to PA RARE BIRD ALERT (PARBA) \_\_\_\_\_

Please mark the appropriate boxes below:

- G Publish my name and address in the PSO membership list
- G Publish my name, but no address in the PSO membership list
- G DO NOT publish my name or address in the PSO membership list
- G DO NOT distribute my name to other bird-oriented organizations
- G DO NOT send me a printed newsletter. I will read it online (be sure to include your email address above!)

**PLEASE NOTE!**

One year's membership runs from May 1 to April 30 and includes 4 issues of Pennsylvania Birds covering bird sightings from December to November. The first issue (containing reports for Dec-Feb) is mailed in May and the last issue (containing reports from Aug-Nov) is mailed in March of the following year. New subscriptions received during the publishing year (late May through April) receive all back issues for that year plus any remaining issues for the current publishing year unless the next year is specified above.

RENEWALS DUE NO LATER THAN MAY 31!

Subtotal from other side \_\_\_\_\_

Quantity                      Price                      AMOUNT

### Tee Shirts

#### Short-sleeve (circle color)

PSO Tee Shirt - Small	Blue	Tan	Green	Yellow	_____	X	\$19.50	=	_____
PSO Tee Shirt - Medium	Blue		Green	Yellow	_____	X	\$19.50	=	_____
PSO Tee Shirt - Large	Blue		Green	Yellow	_____	X	\$19.50	=	_____
PSO Tee Shirt - X Large	Blue		Green	Yellow	_____	X	\$19.50	=	_____
PSO Tee Shirt - XX Large	Blue	Tan	Green	Yellow	_____	X	\$19.50	=	_____

#### Long-sleeve (circle color)

PSO LS Tee Shirt - Small	Blue	Green	_____	X	\$23.00	=	_____
PSO LS Tee Shirt - Medium	Blue	Green	_____	X	\$23.00	=	_____
PSO LS Tee Shirt - Large	Blue	Green	_____	X	\$23.00	=	_____
PSO LS Tee Shirt - X Large	Blue	Green	_____	X	\$23.00	=	_____
PSO LS Tee Shirt - XX Large	Blue	Green	_____	X	\$23.00	=	_____

PSO Logo Patch \_\_\_\_\_ X \$3.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

PSO Hat \_\_\_\_\_ X \$23.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Annotated List of Birds of PA \_\_\_\_\_ X \$7.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

### Pennsylvania Birds Field Checklists:

	Packs			
Pack of 10 Checklists	_____	X	\$5.00	= _____
Pack of 50 Checklists	_____	X	\$16.00	= _____
Pack of 100 Checklists	_____	X	\$28.00	= _____
Checklist Binder	_____	X	\$7.00	= _____
Binder/30 Checklist Combo	_____	X	\$16.00	= _____

**TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED**                      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Back Issues of PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS more than two years old are available for the cost of postage. Copies of issues published within the past two years are \$8 each. Contact PSO at the address below (or fchaas@pabirds.org) to order.

Make check payable to PSO and send to:

PSO  
2469 Hammertown Road  
Narvon, PA 17555-9730