

The

PSO Pileated



December 2012

The Newsletter of the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology

Volume 23, Number 4

From the President's Desk....

As I sit here writing this article, I think back to all the important items that I want to convey...so here it goes. I think mainly of one. **YOUTH.** Where are all the young birders? It is true that you can find some if you look specifically for them, but consider how many you notice while you are out birding. Is birding a sport/hobby only reserved for the "more mature" crowd? I think not.

At the Allegheny Highlands Northern Saw-whet Owl Banding Site this fall, we had more than 65 visitors with at least 10 of them under the age of 12. Of the rest 35 or more were under the age of 25. So, when you add the numbers, more than half of the visitors were youth. And believe me, there is nothing like a saw-whet owl to instill a spark in a young mind for birding. I also believe that the timing played an important part in youth participation. Owl banding is at night and occurs mostly after all other youthful events have concluded. It occurs at a good, manageable time for youth.

We all know that time is precious, and we all know that time needs to be managed. Take a moment to think of everything that is going on in a young person's life. Youth today are more involved, more than ever, in many (yes, MANY) different types of activities. Using my own son and daughter – ages 10 and 12 at the moment – as examples, I am overwhelmed as they have Allegheny Highlands Bird Club, Chess Club, Dance Class – Ballet, Dance Class – Jazz, Piano Lessons (for both), Vocal Instruction, Football, Cheerleading, Basketball, 4-H Club, Sunday School, Middle School Chorus and Jazz Band, Science Fairs, and all the games, recitals, and practices that go with these activities. Yet, by the standard of some

of our youth, they have a fairly easy schedule that will get much more packed as they get older. Is it any wonder that it's almost as difficult to spot young people at birding events as it is to see a Yellow Rail?

Our youth have very little – if any – free time. So what can we do to attract young birders? To be totally honest, I cannot answer that question. I have some ideas of what can be done, but by no means consider these ideas solutions. We need to constantly encourage youth participation – even knowing that participation will be elusive or even non-existent. The more young people who are exposed to birding, the better the chance that it will become a part of their lives – maybe not immediately, but at some point in the future. Encourage, but don't force.



Bailey Fedak is excited to release the saw-whet.

In my own family, I always invite my children on birding trips, chases, or even to go banding. But I never make them accompany me. If I forced them, they might react to it as a punishment. By inviting, you would be surprised how many times that they take me up on it. So –

Rule #1 – Keep inviting youth but don't get discouraged if they don't come along at the time. Just keep being encouraging and keep extending the invitations.

Rule #2 – Make it fun. You may have to get rid of your notion of fun and accept theirs. Even if you know that getting up at 4:30 a.m. is the best way to see the most bird life or that rare bird, don't. Take a young person birding on his or her time. Remember, everything is new. Relive your enthusiasm for your first Brown Creeper through the excitement of their seeing their first one. Let them enjoy finding birds that you have taken for granted. Another Blue Jay to you is still a beautiful blue bird to them!

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Rule #3 – Teach them. Ask them to describe what they observed after they are done looking. What shape bill was it? What color was its back? Did it have wingbars? Was it bigger than a robin? Encourage them to vocalize what they see. Have them keep a list or journal, not for the importance of listing numbers (although that may be important to them later), but in order to have an idea of how much they have done and how much they have learned. Encourage them to go to bird club meetings and on field trips, when possible, to identify new birds and meet new people. Encourage them to take a class, do a science project, or work on a birding merit badge. I teach birding to 5th through 12th grade students, and we keep a journal. The students seem to thrive on it.

Rule #4 – Let the seed grow. Give them time to decide that it is for them. They may do this before college, or they may wait until they have children. Either way, you will have planted a seed that with encouragement may grow in time.

On to the other issues are also important....As you know PSO has instituted a few changes with encouraging results. New members who have been active in birding are now active in PSO. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome them and to thank them for joining! I would also like to thank all of our other members for doing what they do and for also being members.

PSO Field trips seem to be a great hit! These trips are open to both members and non-members I hope that the excitement of the field trip will yield new members and that the new members will become active in the organization. These trips are successful because of the efforts of our new field trip chair and some very dedicated members who are helping to organize the trips. Thank you very much!

PSO has also been trying to reach out to birders on FaceBook and the PaBirds listserv. Think of the number of birders who use those two sites and how many are young and consider how many of those participants are not PSO members. Please encourage membership in this organization – your organization. You now can join PSO or renew your membership online on our website.

PSO members have been actively planning next year's annual meeting which will take place the weekend of May 31, June 1 - 2 in Wilkes-Barre, PA. Make plans to attend. Make plans to bring a friend! Make plans to bring a young birder, or a young person who might be interested in birding. Please check out the youth scholarship application on page 15 of this newsletter and consider nominating a deserving young birder. Also, if you have any suggestions concerning presentation topics in which you are interested, let me know. We are planning a great meeting that is both very enjoyable and also educational!

Finally, I would like to remind all of you and all of your friends and family to have a very happy, very safe, and very healthy holiday season and New Year! May 2013 bring great things to you and yours and to PSO and our members!

I would also like to remind everyone that with Christmas and the holiday season approaching, a membership in PSO makes a great stocking stuffer! You can also purchase PSO shirts, hats, and other items on line at www.pabirds.org. (Think Christmas presents!)

Happy Holidays from me to you!

John Fedak, President
Bradford, PA
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Great Backyard Bird Count

The Great Backyard Bird Count is scheduled for Friday, February 15, through Monday, February 18. This four-day event is jointly sponsored by Cornell, Audubon, and Bird Studies Canada. You may participate on just one of the days or all four. For more information, go to <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/>. Everything you need is on the website.

Birds have wings; they're free; they can fly where they want when they want. They have the kind of mobility many people envy.

– Roger Tory Peterson

Welcome, New Board Members!

At our business meeting on May 18, we elected six new board members including Mike Lanzone from Somerset, who is serving as VP and Wayne Laubscher from Lock Haven who headed up the field trips for the 2012 meeting. Both of these new board members were featured in our July *Pileated*. Brief biographies for Marjorie Howard from Waynesburg and Flo McGuire from Tionesta were included in our October issue. This newsletter features our two remaining new board members, Cory DeStein from West Mifflin and Emily Thomas from Brockway.

We appreciate their willingness to bring their individual talents to PSO. Welcome aboard!!!

Cory DeStein



Cory DeStein from West Mifflin, Allegheny County, joined the PSO Board of Directors at our 2012 meeting in Lock Haven. Cory, a pediatric behavioral health nurse by profession, is an avid birder who enjoys traveling and birding other parts of the country. He has visited

Yosemite, Glacier, the Badlands, Grand Tetons, Arches, Yellowstone, and Grand Canyon National Parks. His most recent trip was to Texas. His hobbies also include photography, hiking, and herps. Cory has been an active participant on the pabirds listserv. Last year he began compiling bird sightings in Lawrence County for our *PA Birds* magazine. In addition, he is a co-county reviewer for Cambria County on eBird.

Cory has a special affinity for the northern finches, especially crossbills and Evening Grosbeaks. He enjoys travel to the boreal areas of the north to search for them. This year he doesn't have to go far!

Project FeederWatch

It's not too late to sign up for Cornell's Project Feeder Watch which runs through April 5.

Go to <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/pfw/> for more information.

Emily Thomas



Emily Thomas holds Associate's, Bachelor's, and Master's degrees from Penn State in Wildlife Science. She has been employed seasonally as wildlife technician and wildlife biologist with the USDA Forest Service's Northern Research Station in Irvine, PA, since 2005. Her Master's research looked at the effects of shallow oil and gas development on songbird abundance in the Allegheny National Forest. She is currently following up that research with a more in depth look at the effects on songbird demographics.

Emily is currently an Instructor in Wildlife Technology at Penn State DuBois where she teaches Wetlands and Fisheries Management, Animal Identification, and Geographic Information Systems (GIS). She is adviser to the ECO Club and will begin research with undergraduate students in January 2013.

Emily is also involved in many volunteer activities. She holds a Master banding permit and runs a Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) banding station at Jamestown Audubon Sanctuary in New York. She also monitors the Warren County American Kestrel nest box trail and often gives bird banding demonstrations to the public. She is also involved with the Roger Tory Peterson annual birding festival, the annual Eagle Watch at the Kinzua Dam, Northern Goshawk banding, Northern Saw-whet Owl banding, and the Golden Eagle camera trapping project in the Appalachians.

The Eye of the Storm

by Ramsay Koury

Hurricane Sandy's recent visit to Pennsylvania did not bring, fortunately, the destruction that occurred farther east on the coast. However, one thing that the storm brought to our area were many unusual birds. Many times in a storm such as Sandy, birds can be trapped in the center of the storm and are displaced far away from their normal habitat.

This very event happened at the end of October. The eye of Hurricane Sandy passed just to our south overnight and began breaking up at dawn. This offered a rare opportunity to look for "storm birds" right here on the Susquehanna River. Shortly after daybreak I arrived at the West Fairview Boat Launch. This is my favorite local birding spot and I was very interested to see what might have been blown in by the storm. Three other birders were already there: Jason Horn, Andy Markel and Ed Chubb. I was particularly happy to see Jason, as he is one of the ultimate chasers of storm birds in Pennsylvania and has an uncanny ability to find rare birds, especially after storms. I knew I was in just the right spot. The next ten hours offered some of the most exciting and fascinating birding of my life!

The number and variety of birds was impressive from the very beginning. Many flocks of a variety of waterfowl were moving downriver.

HUNDREDS of Brant, a coastal goose we rarely see were flying by.

Hundreds of Pintail and Scaup and smaller numbers of other ducks filled the sky. Several dozen scoters of all three species, Black, Surf, and White-winged were on the water or in flocks overhead. Shorebirds were also flying downriver. Hundreds of Dunlin and 200 Red Knots were in groups moving south. Red Knots are rarely found inland, so having several flocks was very unexpected. The surface of the river was literally covered with Tree Swallows! We estimated at least 4000, but this was certainly a very low estimate. They were fighting to stay aloft and find food in the gusty, cool wind and intermittent showers we were experiencing. Among them we were able to pick out at least three CAVE SWALLOWS. This rare swallow is occasionally found in PA, but is found more often on the coast. We soon began seeing POMARINE JAEGERs. This seabird looks much like a gull, but is a predatory bird that often chases gulls to steal their food. We saw a single, then a pair, then two different groups of four. One of the many highlights of the day was seeing a group of FORTY-SEVEN of these birds briefly resting on the river! We all watched in awe as they circled up and headed east towards the coast! Soon after we saw the first of several LEACH'S STORM-PETRELS. This small

seabird (about the size of a Bluebird) is mostly dark, white a white rump patch. They were feeding with the swallows and could easily disappear into the swarm of birds.

Interestingly, this particular species was last found at this very spot in August of 1933 after a Hurricane! Eight individuals were found after that storm. Our next great find was two PARASITIC JAEGERs. They are very similar to the Pomarines, but with a slightly smaller build and different tail pattern, but an equally rare bird in PA.

In between the rare birds, we enjoyed looking at many Common and Forster's Terns, Bonaparte's and Laughing Gulls and a nice variety of waterfowl. Three AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHERS flew UPstream over our heads! They were certainly going the wrong direction! I remarked that I was surprised that we hadn't yet seen any Black Skimmers as they are often displaced by storms.



Alex Lamoreaux photographed this beautiful Northern Gannet.

Within five minutes Andy called out that he had an immature BLACK SKIMMER flying UPriver also! The power of suggestion! As word of this incredible birding even got out, other birders began to arrive. By mid-afternoon more than 35 birders lined the riverbank watching the spectacle.

Melissa Roach looked upriver and very calmly said, "Here is a NORTHERN GANNET"! This beautiful, large white seabird simply floated downstream for the next 10 minutes with all of us staring at it in disbelief. It floated out of sight

behind some islands, but soon was spotted flying upriver. It's striking black and white wing pattern in flight is very distinctive. Alex Lamoreaux's picture of this bird attached to this article is priceless! The gannet flew upriver out of sight. Ed Chubb called me from Fort Hunter to say the bird had passed him and had continued upriver out of his sight as well! Hopefully this bird made it back to the ocean!

We found a couple more interesting birds after that, most notably 2 Hudsonian Godwits flying downriver and a Cattle Egret flying close by us. As dusk approached most of the birders left and I finally left after 6 PM, well after sunset. It was difficult to see this day end. Even though the weather was fairly raw, cool and rainy, I was never cold. The excitement and anticipation was more than enough to keep me warm! To put this into some perspective: I have spent a great deal of time birding this spot, having first birded here when I was a kid 40 years ago. On this spectacular day I saw TEN species of birds here that I had never seen at West Fairview previously! This was a day never to be repeated, but always to be remembered.

The Raven Reporter

Tales of Discovery about Pennsylvania Birds



Post-Nesting Season Lesson: Please Use Those eBird Breeding Codes

It may not be the time of year when we are thinking about breeding behavior (except for Great Horned Owls), but it is time to assess the year's field season activities. eBird has been a tremendously successful "citizen science" program but is constantly evolving and improving. As part of a significant upgrade in eBird features, there now are breeding codes available for observers to use. The new data entry system that was implemented in June 2011 contained many new options including this powerful tool. Since many PSO members were very involved with the recent 2nd Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas (PBBA), you are acquainted with these codes as they are very much the same as those used in the Atlas. When biologists look at the abundant eBird data collected this last spring and summer, we are grateful for an abundance of bird records contributed, but we do not see this important and valuable feature used as often as it could be.

A goal of the eBird team and the sponsoring state organizations is to collect information about the timing and locations of bird nesting. This will be the first continuous, year-round, worldwide, breeding bird atlas effort. Basic information about breeding phenology and regional changes in behavior is very useful. This information is helpful for a variety of species but especially for those species that we consider "Species of Special Concern" including our state's Endangered and Threatened species (see the PGC website for a list of those species). The recent 2nd PBBA has taught us a lot about the breeding behavior of our regularly nesting birds, but we always can learn more especially about the rarest and more irregularly nesting species.

Unlike the PBBA, eBird does not use "safe dates." Rather it relies on the good observations of the birder who records the behavior of the birds. It is important to record these behaviors as they are seen. We encourage eBird participants to look for these behaviors in the breeding season and record these, especially for the rare species. If you are unsure of breeding status or what you have observed, do not record a code but put notes in your species comments. We always welcome those extra notes

about interesting observations. The now-published 2nd PBBA book should inspire all of us to seek more information on our breeding avifauna. Future users of the data can analyze these breeding data in conjunction with the accumulated knowledge of the local status of the species. Anyone who has purchased the new Atlas may check pages 527-529 for the "safe dates" and use them as guidelines for entering the lower confidence Possible and Probable codes for eBird data entry.

An example of the missed opportunities to use these codes was the Dickcissel invasion of 2012. Pennsylvania birders certainly responded to this opportunity to see Dickcissels in several counties with over 160 records of the species in the state. However, despite the many records, there were only breeding confirmations made at three locations in Clarion, Lancaster, and Montgomery counties. Was this lack of breeding confirmation due to a lack of Dickcissel nesting activity or a lack of looking for and recording breeding behaviors? From good notes made with some records, we learned more about the numbers of Dickcissels at some locations and about the habitat that they used. Thanks for that! We also learned that several of these locations were mowed or otherwise disturbed during the nesting season, preventing nesting activities and successful broods. But, we wonder about the other sites that were not well documented or if Dickcissels did nest at more locations than those reported. eBird is a powerful tool for "citizen science" that we intend to improve. Thanks for helping us do that in this and the coming years.

Threatened and Endangered List Changes in Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania just added two more species to its threatened list and changed another from threatened to endangered. In September, the Pennsylvania Board of Game Commissioners approved the addition of Northern Harrier and Long-eared Owl to the threatened list and change of Upland Sandpiper from threatened to endangered. These changes reflect the current status of their breeding populations in the state. The recent 2nd Breeding Bird Atlas revealed that these species have declined to the point where they deserve these designations. In the case of the harrier and Upland Sandpiper, this change is part of a downward slide in grassland habitats and the birds that depend on them. Essentially all breeding grassland bird species have declined in recent decades.

The Long-eared Owl is an enigmatic species that prefers a mosaic of conifer cover for nesting and open areas for hunting prey. It was considered "Status Undetermined" for a few decades, but after the intense survey effort of the 2nd Breeding Bird Atlas, it was determined that this species is rare enough to be considered threatened (perhaps even endangered). The volunteers who participated in the Atlas Project and other bird surveys

have contributed significantly to a better understanding of their status and the elevated concern for them. We thank those of you who have made contributions to what we know about these species.

Interested birders should check out the new web pages on the Pennsylvania Game Commission website about the newly listed species. Please visit the website (www.pgc.state.pa.us), go to “Wildlife” and then to “Endangered” in the drop-down box.

Northern Harrier is a regular and fairly common migrant for a raptor but an increasingly rare breeder. Harriers are birds of both grasslands and open wetlands or areas where these two habitats coexist. But both these habitats have declined in size, quality, and quantity, so the species that depend on them have also declined. Changes in agricultural practices have decreased the acreage of good harrier nesting habitat; however, the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Plan has countered this trend in a few areas. Unfortunately, CREP has not helped enough to keep this raptor from declining.

In the nesting season, the following places have supported Northern Harriers in multiple years: Presque Isle State Park, Erie County; Pymatuning Swamp and Lake, Crawford County; Conneaut/Geneva Marsh, State Game Lands 213, Crawford County; Erie National Wildlife Refuge, Crawford and Mercer counties; Mount Zion/Piney Tract/Mount Airy tracts, including State Game Lands 330, Clarion County; Pennsy, Black and Celery Swamps, State Game Lands 284, Lawrence County; Long Pond Preserve, Monroe County. There seem to be harrier hot-spots in some of the farmlands of the northern tier. These open grassy areas, often hayfields, are subject to mowing or to energy development that would interrupt nesting activities. In migration, harriers can be seen in a wide variety of open settings, primarily in agricultural areas and along ridges and summits, particularly near popular hawk watch sites. In winter, harriers occur widely in open country, notably in southern Adams County grasslands; Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area, Lancaster County; John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge, Delaware and Philadelphia counties; and many open agricultural areas scattered across the state. Your records for these and other locations are valuable.

The Long-eared Owl is one of the rarest and most enigmatic species in the state. Not only is it rare, but also difficult to detect where it does occur. It is an extremely rare breeder in Pennsylvania, and difficult to survey. This is probably the most nocturnal of our owls and less often detected by sound than other more familiar species. They also begin nesting fairly early, sometimes courting by mid-February and nesting by April, sight unseen. Nesting locations have been confirmed in only seven locations in recent years, despite a concerted survey effort over much of the last decade with the Atlas. Most nests are located in

the Ridge and Valley and Appalachian Plateau regions. In the state’s recent Breeding Bird Atlases, the Long-eared Owl was one of the least-frequently reported nesting birds. Volunteers found evidence of breeding in only 18 blocks in the first Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas (PBBA) in the 1980s, and 14 blocks in the second PBBA (2004 – 2009); that’s much less than one percent of the total number of blocks and in no blocks shared between the two Atlas projects. Christmas bird count data also suggest declines in wintering populations. The rarity and scattering of nest records within this Commonwealth have prompted the PGC to list the Long-eared Owl as Threatened after the recommendation of the Ornithological Technical Committee.

Long-eared Owls are usually associated with a curious blend of habitats. Paradoxically, they nest in wooded areas but forage over open grassy areas. Consequently, they are usually found where there is a mix of woodland, fields, and wetlands. Long-eared Owls generally nest in dense evergreen conifers. They forage in fields, meadows, open woods, wetlands, and edges nearby. This also is true in winter when they roost in dense conifer tree groves, often communally. Winter roosts can support up to 50 owls, but usually many fewer. There is a pattern of a few Long-eared Owls nesting at the site of a winter roost, so finding and protecting those roosts may also benefit nesting owls. I also have observed them in towns where there are large conifers near a large field. Please report nests and regularly used roosts to Doug Gross (contact information below). Wayne Laubscher is assisting with this study.

The Upland Sandpiper has been listed as state threatened for many years, but the number of nesting locations has been declining over the last few decades. There were only two confirmed breeding blocks in the 2nd Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas (2004-2008), in Butler and Lawrence Counties, compared to 21 confirmed breeding blocks in the 1st PBBA (1983-1989). This grassland bird is virtually extirpated from the northeastern and southeastern counties where it was found formerly. Upland Sandpipers are birds of open country, characteristic species of short-grass prairie. They may be found in large fallow fields, pastures, and grassy areas over 250 acres. Upland Sandpipers need a mosaic of grasses in a large area, using the shorter grass areas for foraging and courtship and the taller grasses for nesting and brood cover. Males can sometimes be conspicuous while perched on fence posts or poles. The regularly occupied areas now are on reclaimed surface mines. Increasingly, this species can be found nesting at airports across its range. They also have nested in blueberry farms and barrens as well as peat bogs in the northeastern part of its range. Rarely are more than one or two pairs found in a field until migration when family groups gather in flocks or are joined by migrants. Sightings of Upland Sandpipers during the breeding season or migration are valuable additions to the eBird database and greatly appreciated.

Birders who observe any of these species should be careful not to disturb nesting pairs; disturbance can be counter-productive to their continued occupancy in Pennsylvania. Please provide details in notes contributed to the eBird record including breeding bird codes and notes about the habitat. If in doubt, contact PGC Wildlife Diversity section biologists.

Big Winter Finch Year Is On!

As predicted by Ron Pittaway's Winter Finch Forecast, we really are witnessing a significant "winter finch" invasion in Pennsylvania this year. There have been "clouds" of Pine Siskins spotted over sunflower fields, flocks of Evening Grosbeaks, and many sightings of finches at backyard bird feeders. If you have never seen an Evening Grosbeak before, this might be your best bet yet to see this spectacular yellow songbird which has interested many a backyard birdwatcher to get more involved with birds. I know that my own interest in birds was piqued by seeing flocks of Evening Grosbeaks at our backyard feeder in the 1960s when they were much more common in the East. Evening Grosbeaks, like some other boreal songbirds, have declined since that time because of the lack of spruce budworm in the eastern Canadian forests that provided a lot of forage for these songbirds. Each one of these "winter finches" have a different lifestyle and food habits, but they all can react to food shortages in the northern forests by flying south into the United States in large numbers. Not only can they be spotted at artificial feeding stations, but they also respond to natural food sources. Although they respond readily to backyard food bonanzas, they can be found in a variety of habitats foraging on various items. Redpolls and siskins can congregate on birch catkins, sometimes deep in the woods or in isolated trees. Evening Grosbeaks will feast on dried grapes, Virginia creeper fruits, hackberries, and sumac berries with great relish. Do not limit your "finch-watching" to the backyard feeders.

Not only do we receive the "winter finches" but other northern songbirds like Red-breasted Nuthatch also appear. Although Red-breasted Nuthatches often visit seed trays and suet cakes, they also forage on many conifer seeds. I've seen them forage on Scots and Virginia pine seeds, sometimes in isolated woodlots and in old fields with scattered pines.

The great news is that this invasion already is very widespread and has quickly included many southern counties. Dry conditions in some of the northern forests also have caused shortages of mountain ash berries and other wild fruits, bringing Bohemian Waxwings and Pine Grosbeaks farther south than usual. Even Northern Saw-whet Owls are engaging in a big southward migration that may be caused by food shortages of a different kind. For more details about the invasion, check out eBird including the PA eBird site. PSO members are encouraged to enter

their "winter finch" observations into eBird. Pictures of these birds also are welcome on the PA eBird site. It also is a great year to look for these species especially rigorously in the upcoming Christmas Bird Counts. Beginners might really be excited to see these birds, so adding a new birder to your CBC party might really pay off this year!

New PGC Birding and Bird Conservation Website Pages

It has not been officially announced, but the Wildlife Diversity section has added several new pages to the PA Game Commission website about birds. The Wildlife Diversity section has been working with the Bureau of Information and Education to increase the information offered on the website about the state's birds, birding locations, bird projects, and bird conservation. Several new pages really fill in the blanks, especially for beginning birdwatchers just getting to know the birding hobby and the state's bird resources. Beginners and educators are our main targets for these new pages. Thanks to Joe Kosack for being our valuable partner in this endeavor.

One of the new features is a seasonal round-up of the state's 100 best birding hotspots and watching birds through the seasons offered by Dan Brauning. Other new sections highlight hawk watching sites and backyard bird feeding. The hawk watch site pages only serve as an introduction and are a follow-up of our several pages about eagle-watching. I am particularly proud that we added a section on the dangers of glass to birds in the bird conservation section. Thanks to Kathy Korber for assembling this valuable information.

We also offer pages on bird survey projects that we recommend. There is always a need for more participants in the Pennsylvania Annual Migration Count, Christmas Bird Count, Great Backyard Bird Count, and even the Mid-Winter Bald Eagle Survey. Of course, many PSO members are involved with these surveys as well as the hawk watch sites. There now are explanations for these projects on the website that we hope will bring more people to volunteer for these worthy projects and perhaps join organizations like PSO and Audubon in monitoring and protecting birds. To access the new Birding and Bird Conservation Section of the agency website – www.pgc.state.pa.us – place your cursor over "Wildlife" in the top navigation, and select "Birding/Bird Conservation" in the dropdown menu. The new section can be accessed from the Wildlife Page.

Good Birding!

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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 submit a nomination to the PSO Awards Committee. The committee is now taking nominations for both the Earl L. Poole Award and the Conservation Award. The awards will be presented at the 2013 annual meeting in Wilkes-Barre. Award winners will be notified well in advance of the annual meeting so that they may have the 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.

A short letter or email is all it takes to submit a nomination. Nominations should be sent to the committee chairperson, Mike Lanzone (mlanzone@gmail.com), 161 Johnson Road, Somerset, PA 15501.

PSO Bird Quiz

How well do you know your Pennsylvania birds?

(This time, it's seabirds brought to you by Superstorm Sandy.)

1. Our storm birds included the biggest Atlantic shearwater. Which species?
2. Which seabird's Atlantic population nests only on two tiny islands 750 miles east of Brazil? For a bonus, what is this population's name?
3. Sandy's waifs included four of the world's most abundant seabirds. Which species?
4. What do the British call the Red Phalarope?
5. Which seabird was discovered in 1818 by explorers searching for a "Northwest Passage" across the Arctic?

(Answers on page 12.)



Answers to October Puzzle

1. Dendroica
2. Nashville
3. Twitchers
4. James Bond
5. MacGillivray's
6. Alula
7. Philadelphia Vireo
8. Blackburnian
9. Lobate
10. Pyrrhuloxia

Nice Cavity!

Ornithological Literature Notes

Exactly 100 years ago, what bird reports did Pennsylvania's amateur and professional ornithologists consider worthy of publishing?

The following examples appeared in *The Auk*, journal of the American Ornithologists' Union, in 1912. Some are quite mundane from our present-day viewpoint, but others would still attract attention in *Pennsylvania Birds*.

“Franklin's Gull (*Larus franklini*) at Philadelphia”—Esteemed ornithologist Witmer Stone at the Academy of Natural Sciences identified a gull shot on October 22, 1911, by comparing it to specimens in the Academy's collection and in the collection of gull guru Jonathan Dwight. Stone reported it as the first record of the species for Pennsylvania and the second for the Atlantic coast.

“Crossbills (*Loxia curvirostra minor*) in Chester County, Pa., in Summer”—Charles J. Pennock of Kennett Square found a group of four Red Crossbills in June 1911 in and near pine barrens on a serpentine ridge bordering Maryland. They appeared to be two adults and two young in juvenal plumage. “We readily approached within 30 feet of them,” Pennock said.

“Lawrence's Warbler (*Vermivora lawrencei*) in Chester County, Pa.”—Pennock had another notable sighting in those barrens on June 17, 1911. We now know it as a hybrid, of course, and not a distinctly named species. Pennock described the markings of the head as identical to those of an adult male Golden-winged Warbler and the markings of the body and wings as like those of a Blue-winged Warbler.

“Additional Records of the Evening Grosbeak in Pennsylvania”—Richard C. Harlow of State College reported buying two Evening Grosbeak specimens collected in La Anna, Pike County, during the winter of 1889-90. Harlow said he bought them because he “recognized the rarity of the birds” and that they would be “desirable additions to the meagre list of captures recorded from this state.”

“Hooded Warbler (*Wilsonia citrina*) at the Delaware Water Gap, Pa., in July”—Edward J. F. Marx of Easton said of a sighting we wouldn't consider worth publishing in *The Auk* today: “In the rather dense woodland on the northern slope of Mt. Minsi, I saw a beautiful male Hooded Warbler on July 5, 1901... When I passed, the bird flew into the lower branches of a tree and called anxiously as though his nest was near.”

“The Semipalmated Sandpiper in Philadelphia County, Pa.”—Richard F. Miller of Harrowgate obtained three Semipalmateds shot on the Delaware River meadows at Bridesburg. To his knowledge, this was the county's only authentic record of the species. He considered numerous

previous sight records to be “unreliable” because in his opinion the Semipalmated “so closely resembles the Least Sandpiper... that it is practically impossible to distinguish between the two species in the field.”

“Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) in Chester Co., Pa.”—Thomas H. Jackson of West Chester commented that very few starlings had been reported previously in the county. His first observation came on November 30, 1911, when he noticed two on the ground in a field. Then, on December 3, he saw 30 or 40 starlings associated with a group of grackles roosting for the night in a clump of evergreens in the town—“enough to start a good-sized colony next spring if they remain.”

“Hermit Thrush Wintering at Easton, Pa.”—Edward Marx (the Hooded Warbler observer) was surprised to see this thrush in a woodland on the outskirts of Easton on January 1, 1908. “Realizing that this was an unseasonable date for this species, I took great care in establishing its identity,” he said. Marx saw it seven more times in January and February and on January 1, 1912, he saw another one near where he had found the first one.

“Occurrence of the Yellow-headed Blackbird on the Delaware River near Philadelphia, Pa.”—Richard F. Miller knew of only one previous record along the river, a bird shot “on the marshes below Philadelphia” in 1851. He later learned that a taxidermist had mounted two specimens shot across the river in Burlington County, New Jersey, for private collections. Miller trusted the taxidermist's identification as a man “who knows what he is talking about” but hoped to authenticate the occurrence with further research.

All of those were just short notes, but a full-scale article, “The breeding birds of southern Center [*sic*] County, Pennsylvania” by Richard C. Harlow appeared in *The Auk* in 1912 (vol. 29, pp. 465-478). His observations from 1908 to 1912 included records in northern Huntingdon County.

It is interesting to compare Harlow's population assessments with those of Nick Bolgiano and Greg Grove in their 2010 book *Birds of Central Pennsylvania*. For example, the Red-headed Woodpecker's status in Harlow's era was “an abundant summer resident throughout the open valleys, nesting in practically every woodlot and orchard about State College and the adjoining towns.” Contrast that, sadly, with today's status as assessed by Bolgiano and Grove in the same area: “uncommon local breeder and migrant.”

Paul Hess – p Hess@salsgiver.com
Natrona Heights, PA

PSO Field Trips Revisited

by Chad Kauffman

PSO held hawk-watching field trips this fall to Waggoner's Gap, Hawk Mountain, and the Allegheny Front. We tried to pick the prime time in September, the 19th, to visit Waggoner's Gap with the hope of seeing good numbers of Broad-winged Hawks. It seems, like many things this year, that we were about a week early. Several dozen people participated in the field trip, and many of the regulars were also at the watch. Seven hundred ten raptors of 10 species were counted that day. We tallied 501 Broad-winged Hawks, 131 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 29 Bald Eagle, 11 Osprey, 15 American Kestrels, 9 Red-tailed Hawks, 7 Cooper's Hawks, one Merlin, one Northern Harrier, one Red-shouldered Hawk and 4 unidentified raptors. It was a beautiful day for us, with some of the group getting together before the trip to bird fields in Cumberland County west of Newville for lingering shorebirds that were still present.

The season's second field trip on October 24 took us to Hawk Mountain, where we hoped for a new wave of raptors. Some members of the group had never been to a hawkwatch, some had never been to Hawk Mountain, and some were experienced birders and hawkwatchers. We listed 35 species from the parking lot, walking to and from the platform, and on the platform. We tried to keep separate tallies for both Schuylkill and Berks counties. We then entered our data into eBird for those who wanted the info. The weather did not cooperate, but we still had a great time. The birds apparently didn't get the memo that we were there on our field trip; they could have come much lower for our viewing pleasure. Highlights for us were several Black Vultures that landed near where we sat on the rocks giving us great looks of them perched. At this time of the year and that location, they were not as plentiful as the Turkey Vultures. A single Osprey flew over offering nice, but distant, views to all. Both male and female Northern Harriers appeared a few times, and we watched them circle. Sharp-shinned and Red-tailed Hawks performed well for us as they were the most plentiful. We enjoyed watching a single adult Bald Eagle that flew from left to right then hovered circling over the pinnacle for a long time. Someone who was not in our group was in awe as it was the first wild Bald Eagle he had ever seen. It is always nice to hear that as I think that sometimes we birders get too "ho-hum" with these majestic creatures, and it is a bit disheartening to hear some of the things that birders sometimes say. We all know that eagles are one of the first things non-birders ask us about when we are birding. That is their "connect bird" so they can start asking questions, and most have their own eagle stories they like to share. We should all take the opportunity to listen to their eagle stories, and maybe we can light the fire for a future birder or at least encourage a person who appreciates our feathered friends.

Let them see an eagle in your scope, hand them your bins, or point out the eagle. I don't think I ever saw so many Red-shouldered Hawks in one day, and we got to see both young and adults. A single Merlin – the only falcon our group saw here – made a beeline along the southern valley and was a treat for those who were lucky enough to spot it through binoculars. Both kinglets were in good numbers with many approaching very closely to our group. It was nice to see and hear so many of them all day. Other treats for us were two fly-by Rusty Blackbirds, a Hermit Thrush on the trail walking in, flyover Pine Siskins, American Pipits, Purple Finch, Dark-eyed Juncos, and a single Yellow-rumped Warbler.

On November 11 the PSO held its third field trip of the fall, and this time we visited the Allegheny Front near the Bedford-Somerset county lines. More than 75 people showed up that day with most saying they were there for the field trip. We started off the day with some of us meeting at the parking lot near Subway where Routes 30 and 160 intersect. While talking there, Mike Lanzone heard Red Crossbills flying overhead. Fortunately they landed in an evergreen tree, and we counted 18 with males, females, and first winter males in the flock. All of us had good looks with our bins, and we got brief looks at them in scopes before they flitted away. Jean and Craig Miller took pictures of them as well. Several members of the group got them as lifers. Crossbills aren't usually common birds in PA, but this winter both crossbill species are being seen and heard across the state. This sighting was my first for the state of PA, so it was already a great day in my mind. We made our trek to the hawkwatch from the west side, and some of the others in our group were already there. Alex Lamoreaux and Anna Fasoli had stayed overnight after doing some Northern Saw-whet Owl banding, in which they had three owls in the mist nets. While the winds were out of the preferred direction, the flight never materialized to what we hoped it would be. We did observe seven Golden Eagles, some of which gave great looks to most of the participants. We also watched a beautiful male Northern Harrier flap its way past us, Red-tailed Hawks, a late Merlin, Sharp-shinned Hawks, and a single Red-shouldered Hawk. Other birds of note included a lone Ring-billed Gull that a few of us tried to make into an exotic remnant of Hurricane Sandy; two separate Rock Pigeons with one sporting bands, confirmed by Alex's camera; and several flyby Common Ravens which excited some of us. One Eastern Bluebird made a pass at the fake owl, landed on it, then tried to land on the weather pole. We also saw flyover American Pipits, Purple Finch, White-winged Crossbills, and Red Crossbills.

See photos on page 13.

Christmas Bird Counts Held in Pennsylvania

	Name of Count	County	Compiler	Phone Number	E-mail Address	Date
1	Audubon	Montgomery Delaware Chester	Vincent Smith	610-983-8539 484-410-1157	Nyctea34@aol.com	12/22/12
2	Bald Eagle	Centre	Bob Snyder	814-863-6168	rhs2@psu.edu	1/1/13
3	Beaver	Beaver	Rick Mason	724-847-0909	richarddmason@gmail.com	12/15/12
4	Bedford	Bedford	Laura & Mike Jackson	814-652-9268	mljackson2@embarqmail.com	12/15/12
5	Benezette	Clearfield, Elk	Mark Johnson	814-546-2886	kathyandmarkj@yahoo.com	12/30/12
6	Bernville	Berks	Ed Barrell	610-926-2962	ebarrell@epix.net	12/29/12
7	Bethlehem-Easton	Northampton	Elaine & Donald Mease	610-346-7754	measede@enter.net	12/29/12
8	Bloomsburg	Columbia	Cathy Haffner	570-275-3934	cdhaffner@yahoo.com	12/23/12
9	Buffalo Creek	Washington	Larry Helgerman	412-508-0321	bobolink1@earthlink.net	12/16/12
10	Buffalo Creek Valley	Butler Armstrong	George Reese	724-353-9649	g.reese@gaiconsultants.com	12/15/12
11	Bushy Run S.P.	Westmoreland	Dick Byers	724-593-3543	otusasio@lhtot.com	1/05/13
12	Butler	Butler Lawrence Mercer	Suzanne Butcher	330-759-1945 724-794-3534	sarbird@hotmail.com	12/15/12
13	Central Bucks	Bucks	Diane Allison	610-847-2085	dalliso@mail.ptd.net	12/30/12
14	Chambersburg	Franklin	Valerie Barnes	717-352-4397	vbarhen@pa.net	12/15/12
15	Clarion	Clarion	Gary Edwards Michael Leahy	814-671-1273 814-229-1648	gedwards@csonline.net leahym@windstream.net	12/29/12
16	Clarksville	Greene	Terry Dayton	724-627-9665	tdayton@windstream.net	12/29/12
17	Culp	Blair	Heidi Mullendore?	814-695-6807		12/15/12
18	Curtin	Dauphin	Scott Bills	717-896-8859	sbills@state.pa.us	12/27/12
19	Dallas Area	Luzerne	Jim Hoyson	570-696-4925 570-371-6581 (w)	birdder@aol.com	12/15/12
20	Dingman's Ferry	Pike	Chris Turn (PEEC)	570-588-6850	birder3@verizon.net	
21	DuBois	Clearfield	Marianne Atkinson Jocelyn Smrekar		marianne5@windstream.net	12/15/12
22	Elverson	Chester	Robert Cook	610-286-9919	dunlin@dejazzd.com	12/23/12
23	Emporium	Cameron	Bob Martin	814-486-1990	bmartin@zitomedia.net	12/23/12
24	Erie	Erie	Shawn Collins	412-721-2526	pabirder1974@gmail.com	12/15/12
25	Gettysburg	Adams	Mike O'Brien	717-642-6676	maddogobrien@gmail.com	12/15/12
26	Glenolden	Delaware	David Eberly	610-543-3499	david.eberly@gmail.com	12/15/12
27	Hamburg	Berks Schuylkill	Laurie Goodrich	610-756-6961 570-943-3411 x106	goodrich@hawkmtn.org	12/30/12
28	Harrisburg	Dauphin	Deuane Hoffman	717-564-7475	corvuscorax@comcast.net	12/15/12
29	Huntingdon	Huntingdon	Deb Grove		dsg4@psu.edu	12/16/12

30	Indiana	Indiana	Roger & Margaret Higbee	724-354-3493	bcoriole@windstream.net	12/26/12
31	Johnstown	Cambria	Jeff Payne	814-279-8142	paynemt@gmail.com	12/16/12
32	Lake Raystown	Huntingdon Blair	Greg Grove	814-667-2305	gw2@psu.edu	12/27/12
33	Lancaster	Lancaster	Barbara Hunsberger Roger Stoner	717-393-4091	phunsberger@comcast.net	1/05/13
34	Lebanon	Lebanon, Dauphin	Fritz Heilman	717-273-0487	volks5@verizon.net	12/15/12
35	Lehigh Valley	Lehigh/Berks	Mark Boyd	610-657-9401	mrboyd58@gmail.com	12/15/12
36	Lewisburg	Union, Snyder, Northumberland	Allen Schweinsberg	570-524-0432	aschwein@bucknell.edu	12/15/12
37	Lewistown	Juniata	Elmer Petersheim Chad Kauffman	717-535-5926 717-994-6715	chadkauffman@earthlink.net	12/15/12
38	Linesville	Crawford	Clare Nicolls	814-587-6395	tcnicolls@windstream.net	12/16/12
39	Lititz	Lancaster, Lebanon	Bruce Carl	717-368-4824	carls94@ptd.net	12/30/12
40	Lock Haven-Jersey Shore	Clinton Lycoming	Wayne Laubscher	570-748-7511	wlaubsch@kcnet.org	12/29/12
41	Mansfield-Wellsboro	Tioga	Gary Tyson	570-724-5789	gnats3@ptd.net	12/15/12
42	New Bloomfield	Perry	Ramsay Koury	717-761-1871	rkoury123@aol.com	12/22/12
43	Newville	Cumberland	Bill and Linda Franz	717-776-4463	wlf Franz1@yahoo.com	12/29/12
44	Northern Lycoming	Lycoming	Nate Fronk	570-916-1406	mnr5017@psu.edu	12/31/12
45	Pennypack Valley	Philadelphia	Peter Kurtz	215-342-3638 215-685-0470	peter.kurtz@phila.gov	12/15/12
46	Philipsburg	Centre Clearfield	Greg Kojadinovich	814-237-5964		
47	Pittsburgh	Allegheny	Brian Shema	412-963-6100	bshema@aswp.org	12/29/12
48	Pittsburgh South Hills	Allegheny Washington	Nancy Page	412-221-4795		12/15/12
49	Pleasantville	Venango	Russ States	814-676-6320	pabirder@verizon.net	12/30/12
50	Pocono Mt.	Monroe	Brian Hardiman		bhmccd@ptd.net	12/16/12
51	Potter County	Potter	Dave Hauber	814-274-8946	haubers3@penn.com	12/16/12
52	Reading	Berks	Ken Lebo	610-856-1413	klebo@dejazzd.com	12/16/12
53	Rector	Westmoreland	Mike Lanzone Amy Tegeler	724-771-5133 724-593-5521	mLanzone@gmail.com Amy.Tegeler@gmail.com	12/15/12
54	Ryerson	Greene	Marjorie Howard	724-852-3155	birdwatcher108@comcast.net	12/15/12
55	Scranton	Lackawanna	Paul Mundy		Pmraptors@aol.com	
56	Southeastern Bradford	Bradford	Trudy Gerlach	570-746-9270	tgswoods@epix.net	12/29/12
57	Southern Bucks	Bucks	Robert Mercer	215-785-1177		12/16/12

58	Southern Lancaster County	Lancaster	Bob Schutsky	717-548-3303 (10 a.m. to 9 p.m.)	info@birdtreks.com	12/16/12
59	State College	Centre	Jim Dunn Bob Fowles	814-863-8625 814-238-1990	jwd6@psu.edu rbf@psu.edu	12/16/12
60	Tamaqua	Schuylkill Carbon	Jonathan DeBalko		jonathan.debalko@wilkes.edu	12/27/12
59	Thompson	Susquehanna	Stuart Slocum			
61	Tunkhannock	Wyoming	Rick Koval	570-829-4381 570-696-1691 (w)	pocononaturalist@yahoo.com	12/16/12
62	Upper Bucks	Bucks Montgomery Lehigh	Bill Etter	215-964-3613	billetter01@gmail.com	12/16/12
63	Warren	Warren	Michael Toole	814-723-4714	m t toole@verizon.net	12/15/12
64	Washington	Washington	Tom Contreras	724-223-6118	tcontreras@washjeff.edu	12/15/12
65	West Chester	Chester	Barry Blust	610-458-5616	BarryBlust@comcast.net	12/15/12
66	Western Chester	Chester	Larry Lewis	484-340-7672	earlybirdtours@comcast.net	12/29/12
67	Western Schuylkill	Schuylkill	Dave Krueel	570-622-3704	dkrueel300@comcast.net	12/15/12
68	White Mills	Wayne	Barb Leo	570-253-2364	barbaraaleo@earthlink.net	12/15/12
69	Wild Creek– Little Gap	Carbon Monroe	Joshua Nemeth Dustin Welch	610-573-8577	allroy1313@rcn.com	12/23/12
70	Williamsport	Lycoming	Nate Fronk	570-916-1406	nrf5017@psu.edu	12/15/12
71	Wyncote	Montgomery	Andy Fayer		AndyFayer@aol.com	12/15/12
72	York	York	Bernie Frick	717-843-6675	bernard.frick@verizon.net	12/15/12
73	York Springs	Adams, Cumberland, York	Vern Gauthier	717-385-9526	pabirder@gmail.com	12/27/12



This is one of the seven Golden Eagles spotted on PSO's Allegheny Front field trip.

Photo by Alex Lamoreaux



This is one of the Turkey Vultures spotted at the Allegheny Front Hawk Watch.

Photo by Roger Higbee

PSO T-Shirts Now Available

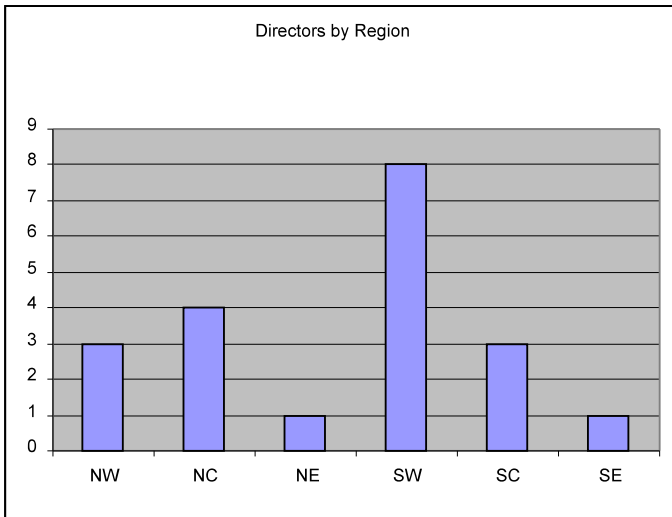
Are you looking for a Christmas present for a birder? Check out our website (www.pabirds.org). T-shirts are available in all colors including the new long-sleeved sapphire and short-sleeved olive brown. The older colors – light blue, light olive, kelly green – have all been restocked.

Nominating Committee Report

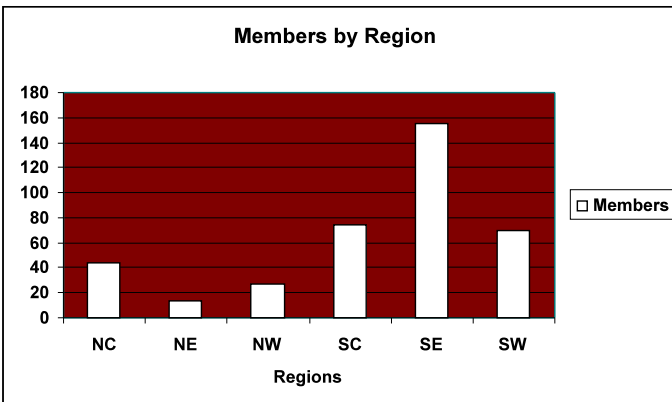
by Tom Kuehl

Taking on my new duties as the chairperson of the Nominating Committee I decided to start the position with a bit of number crunching on both the Board and membership. In my full presentation to the Board, the data was well-received, so I thought I would share some of it with the membership.

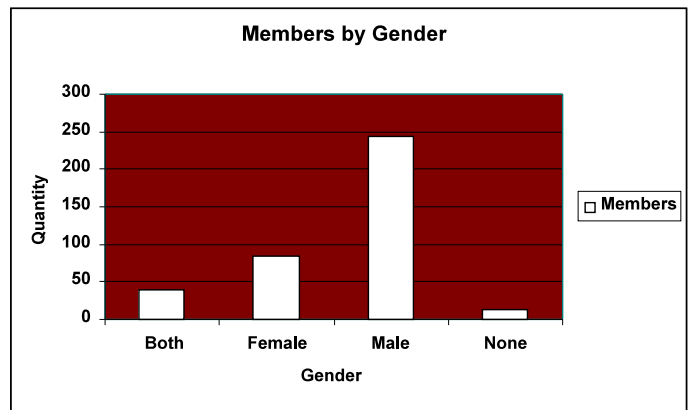
The PSO Board currently has 21 directors. While we think that is a very adequate number to cover our needs for officers and committee chairs, we are always interested in nominations and volunteers who would like to contribute. With geographic diversity in mind, note in the graph that both the Northeast and Southeast regions are under-represented.



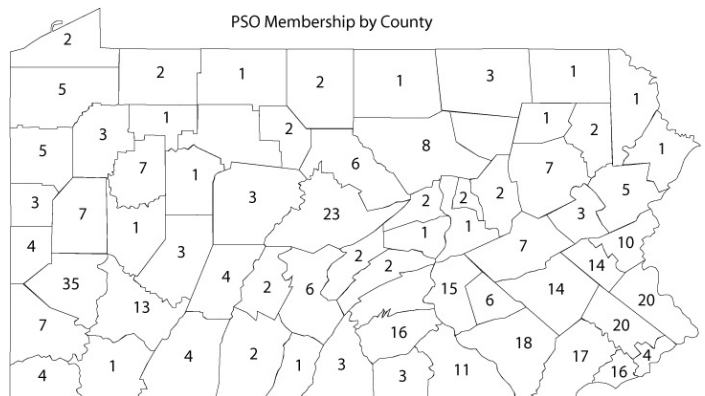
With regards to membership the Director shortage in the Northeast has a carryover effect, with just 10 of our 384 members from the Northeast. However, the Southeast is our stronghold for membership; with 150 members or 40% of membership, roughly twice the runner-up South Central region.



For curiosity I also decided to do a gender analysis of the membership. If you were thinking PSO membership would be male-dominated, you would be right with almost 64%. Female-only is 22% of membership, and being part of a birding couple myself surprising to me that we makeup only 10% of membership. And if you were wondering, the category “none” includes organizational/PA Birds subscription memberships, primarily college and university libraries, but also proud to see my home town library of the Municipality of Murrysville on the list. (I can’t take credit for that!)



The “PSO Membership by County Map” below was provided by Frank Haas.



Invite your birder friends to join today!

Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology Annual Meeting Scholarship Program

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

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

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

Name of nominating PSO Member: _____ Phone No. _____

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

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

(Signature) (Date)

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

(Signature of Parent/Guardian)

(Date)

Pennsylvania Bird Lists Report Form for 2012

Report Totals as of 31 December 2012

Name (Please print)

Send by 20 January 2013 to:

Address

Peter Robinson pabirder@hotmail.com

City

State

ZIP

P. O. Box 482

Hanover, PA 17331

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

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

PA 2012 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, either renew on line at www.pabirds.org or send your check made payable to "PSO" to:

Membership Categories:

PSO	Individual	\$ 30
2469 Hammertown Road	Family	\$ 35
Narvon, PA 17555-9730	Sustaining	\$ 45
	Student	\$ 25

PSO Officers and Directors

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Mike Lanzone – Vice President mlanzone@gmail.com
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Carmen Santasania – csantasania@comcast.net
Scott Stoleson – sstoleson@fs.fed.us
Emily Thomas – eht5002@hotmail.com
Linda Wagner – lwagner342@msn.com

Answers to Bird Quiz

(page 6)

1. Cory's Shearwater
2. Herald Petrel. The Atlantic population, which some authorities classify as a separate species, is named the Trindade Petrel for one of its breeding islands.
3. Wilson's Storm-Petrel, with a population estimate of 30 million; Sooty Tern, 22 million; Leach's Storm-Petrel, 20 million; Black-legged Kittwake, 18 million. (The Dovekie dwarfs them all, with estimates as high as 100 million.)
4. Grey Phalarope
5. Sabine's Gull



Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology

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