

PSO Pileated



October 2015

The Newsletter of the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology
www.pabirds.org

Volume 26, Number 3

From the President's Desk...

It's hard to believe we are already halfway through another fall! Before we know it Golden Eagles will be streaming through Pennsylvania on their way south to their wintering grounds. Fall is a great time to get out and bird, and Chad Kauffman has once again lined up an excellent field trip schedule. Already we've had several great trips, which are good ways to meet and bird with other birders from across the state. Next up is the Stone Mountain Hawkwatch, October 17-18, the best time for great buteo flights.

After that, the next field trip is at Waggoners Gap during the prime Golden Eagle passage, November 7-8. Chad has also scheduled an out-of-state trip to the Avalon Seawatch in coastal New Jersey on November 14. This watch counts some of the highest numbers of seabirds in the world with totals of roughly one million a season! The watch is near the north end of the town of Avalon, NJ. Lastly, don't forget the upcoming Big Sit on October 10-11, which has been expanded to Saturday or Sunday. For more information on all these great trips, go to the PSO's website or email Chad directly at chadkauffman@earthlink.net. Thanks once again, Chad, for all your hard work running these trips!

Next year's annual meeting is fast approaching, and it's one you will not want to miss. Mark your calendars and plan to come to the next annual meeting, May 20-22 at the Quality Inn and Conference Center in Somerset, PA. Somerset is a hotspot for bird diversity in the state. Located on the Allegheny Plateau, Somerset County



Mike Lanzone photographed this White-rumped Sandpiper at Somerset Lake, one of the field trip destinations for our 2016 Annual PSO Meeting! They migrate through in the last part of May through early June, and Somerset Lake is a frequent stopover area.

boasts the highest elevation in the state. Between that and its being a southern county, it has a long list of both northern and southern species, with one of the top breeding warbler lists in the country! Somerset Lake is known statewide as a rarity magnet and will be visited often during the PSO weekend. We have excellent field trips already planned, and the habitats we'll cover range from grassland to wooded areas to mudflats. Target species include Golden-winged Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler,

Blackburnian Warbler, Canada Warbler, Henslow's Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Ruffed Grouse, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Purple Finch, and up to 15 species of shorebirds, including Upland Sandpiper and White-rumped Sandpiper!

If you would like to be involved in the next annual meeting or know someone who would, please let me know. We have room currently for presenters and vendors, and any input would be appreciated. We are also accepting donations for the silent auction that is conducted during the annual meeting. Please let us know if you have bird oriented items you would like to donate. These may be either used or new items.

A few other things of interest...over the next six months you may start to see some changes on our new website. We have formed a website committee and will begin a

(continued on page 3, bottom)

Second Annual Birding Blitz a Success

The second annual PA Breeding Bird Blitz (PAB3) was held June 19 through the 22nd. This year the Blitz was moved a week earlier to the third weekend of June which will be its permanent home.

Due to the change that eBird is going through in the way summary data is provided, I was not able to access the county and statewide stats for the PAB3 for a final tally of checklists. I do remember checking with eBird towards the end of the final day of the Blitz and found that the number of lists had already exceeded the approximately 1,200 lists submitted in the first year of the count. I can also tell you that I received 164 valid checklists for our PAB3 contest which was almost double of what I received in 2014.

There were 80 entries in the “Basic” category which required checklists to be complete counts (“Yes” to reporting all birds identified) and either traveling or stationary counts (no incidental counts). The winner of this category was Peter Burns of Erdenheim (Montgomery County). His prize was a one-year gift membership to the American Birding Association (ABA) and an ABA hat.

There were 62 entries in the “Breeding Codes” category which required contestants to indicate the highest breeding code for each species on their checklists in addition to the requirements of the basic category. The winner in this category was Bobby Brown of Montoursville (Lycoming County). In what can only be considered his “lucky day,” Bobby was also the winner from among the 22 entries of the “Almost Forgotten 14” category which required checklists be from one of the 14 least birded counties in PA (according to the number of eBird checklists submitted for June of 2014). Bobby’s haul of prizes included a one-



Steve Gosser photographed this fledgling Red-eyed Vireo beside the nest during this year’s Birding Blitz in Armstrong Co.

year gift PSO Membership and 2nd PBBA book, along with a \$25 gift certificate to the Lost Creek Shoe Shop for the Breeding Codes category, and a Phone Skope set-up with a \$30 Gift Certificate and hat from Bird Watchers General Store.

Recipient of the “Door Prize,” which was drawn from all 164 entries, was Zach Moyer of Souderton (Montgomery County). He won a copy of the book, “Birds of Central Pennsylvania” by Grove and Bolgiano, copies of which can be ordered from Greg Grove at gwg2@psu.edu.

I’d like to thank all who took part in the PAB3 and entered a lot of great data into eBird on PA breeding birds. I also would like to thank our partners in the PA Game Commission. Finally, I would like to thank our sponsors who really stepped up with some great prizes! They were:

- The American Birding Association - www.aba.org
- Bird Watchers General Store - www.birdwatchersgeneralstore.com
- Nemesis Bird - www.nemesisbird.com
- Phone Skope - www.phoneskope.com
- The Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology - www.pabirds.org
- The Lost Creek Shoe Shop – Mifflintown (known for a great selection of birding optics)

The PAB3 will be held June 17 through 20 in 2016. Do the Blitz!

– Vern Gauthier - pabirder@gmail.com

Winter Finch Forecast

Every year the Ontario Field Ornithologists analyze the availability of food (spruce cone crops, balsam fir cone crops, mountain ash berries, birch seeds, etc.) in northern Canada and predict which species might be moving into Ontario for the winter. Ron Pittaway’s long-awaited Winter Finch Forecast is now available at

<http://jeaniron.ca/2015/forecast15.htm>. It doesn’t look like it’s going to be a very good year for Pine Siskins and White-winged Crossbills in PA. If we’re lucky, we may see Common Redpolls or Red Crossbills. See the entire report for details.

Field Trip and Event Roster

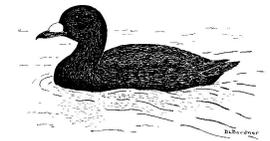
Saturday & Sunday, October 10-11 – *Birdwatcher's Digest's* Big Sit. Create your own 17-foot-diameter circle then count all the birds you see, or find a pre-existing circle to join. Our state has led the whole world with the most circles.

Let's keep those existing circles going and possibly create more. Every hawkwatch should be doing a big sit; they are already sitting there, so just count all of the species. You don't have to go the whole day or be at the circle the entire time. People can come and go as they wish. For more information, check out the Big Sit on the *Birdwatcher's Digest* website. Links are provided on our PSO site as well as our Facebook pages.

Saturday & Sunday, October 17-18 – Stone Mountain Hawkwatch. Join us as we sit at the platform for the 20th year. This watch splits the county lines of Mifflin & Huntingdon. This is the time of the year when we can see the most species diversity. For more information, check out the PSO website or our Facebook pages.

Saturday & Sunday, November 7-8 – Waggoner's Gap Hawkwatch. This year we will visit this popular hawkwatch looking for the larger raptors, Golden Eagles and Northern Goshawks. This watch splits the Perry & Cumberland county lines. Good parking lot and portajohn facilities. For more information, check out the PSO website or our Facebook pages.

Saturday, November 14 - Avalon Seawatch. Come, join us for a wonderful day of counting seabirds on the ocean in NJ. You will notice that the viewing platform area has been moved a bit if you've been there before, but it is easy to find. There is hardly any traffic and it's just a wonderful day of counting thousands of birds heading south. It is possible we might break up the day for some nearby birding, but we plan to meet at the area at 8 a.m. The count actually starts at dawn. Our group will be there until mid to late afternoon. For more information, check out the PSO website or our Facebook pages.



Certificates of Appreciation Awarded

PSO issues certificates of appreciation to individuals and organizations who have allowed access to their properties to view vagrants. The total number issued is now 108. The full list can be found on the PSO's website. Since

January, a Certificate of Appreciation has been awarded to John and Holly Dzemyan, McKean County, for Evening Grosbeak.

From the President's Desk (continued from page 1)

complete redesign. We would love input on things you would like to see. Please email me with ideas, suggestions, etc. If you would like to serve on this committee, we can always use your help! Lastly, we are looking for people with editorial skills. We are adding to our editorial board for the journal and would like others who are willing and able to help. We need a mix of volunteer editors who can edit text, are good with Excel, and/or can edit photos. Please let me know if you would like to help out!

I hope all of you are having a great fall and that you can get out to bird. Hopefully we will see you on one of our field trips!

Good birding!

Mike Lanzone, President PSO
mlanzone@gmail.com

Insurance Is for the Birds...Birders

By Chad Kauffman

Some of my friends recently had their vehicle broken into while birding in southern Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. They were away from their vehicle for only 30 minutes, and when they returned, they noticed their license plate had been stolen, a locked door had been pried open, and the car had been ransacked. Some valuables were taken, along with credit cards that filled the thief's gas tank. However, the thief was stopped from making other large purchases within hours of the theft because of the quick cancellation of the cards.

There seems to be a growing trend of theft of parked cars in secluded areas. Thieves seem to know that hikers, birders, and nature people tend to walk away for a certain amount of time. We are creatures of habit at certain trails and locations. After speaking with my friend about insurance details and answering other questions on social media, I started thinking that I haven't seen any insurance guidance out there for birders, and having 23 years of insurance experience under my belt, I could probably share some insight and advice concerning how to handle your insurance needs.

Your auto insurance will cover only the vehicle itself and factory-installed items. You can schedule (list and separately pay coverage on) some items like stereos, accessories, etc., but they aren't automatically covered. If someone breaks into your vehicle, you have to have comprehensive coverage for any damage done to your vehicle to be covered (minus any deductible). You also have to file a police report immediately or as quickly as you can with reason for any delay.

Belongings on your person or in your vehicle are covered by your homeowner's insurance or renter's insurance. You then have your standard deductible applied if the loss was a covered peril, fire and theft being two of the most common occurrences. Again, you have to file a police report immediately.

With the cost of homeowner's insurance rising significantly in past years, many people have elected to go with higher deductibles to obtain savings, but when you have a small loss or a loss of something as dear as your birding gear, you might wish you didn't have a big deductible. Scheduling certain valuable items has two benefits: you end up with a lower or no deductible, and you can make sure you get replacement cost or a stated value on those items.

If you use your camera for business or commercial purposes, your homeowner's might not cover it much, if at all, as homeowner's is for personal items. For business or commercial purposes, you will need to get a business rider to schedule, or an inland marine policy, to insure your equipment is covered. I personally think if you turn in a large claim for a camera and accessories, that with today's social media and photo sites, it wouldn't be hard for an insurance company to do some research to find out if you are working as a photographer and/or selling pictures. It would be at the insurance company's discretion to decide how much, if any, of your camera use is commercial.

So what can you do to prepare yourself before a loss? Do you own your home? Do you rent or have a condo? Either way, you need to find out what options your homeowner's or renter's insurance has for personal property. Does it make sense to schedule certain items for x amount of dollars? What deductible options do you have, and what is the cost? If you have an agent, he or she should be able to help you, and if they don't have time or know the answers, they can do some research and get back to you. If you have a direct company without an agent, call in and try to speak to someone who can help you with your needs. If that person seems unwilling or unable to help, you can ask for someone else or just call back and hope you get someone else.

Don't ever assume your agent or company knows what you do, how much something is worth, or how much coverage you want. Some customers want to spend the minimum on insurance and will deal with whatever consequences they need to at the point of loss. Other customers really get a shock to find out that nothing, or not as much as they had hoped, is covered.

Not all companies are alike. You have to learn what your company will do when you have a loss. Some questions to ask: Will you be covered at all? If so, how much? Does your policy pay actual cash value? Or will it let you replace with like or new?

This material has been prepared for informational purposes only and is not intended to provide legal advice. Consult with your insurance agent for the most accurate information regarding your policy.

Ornithological Literature Notes

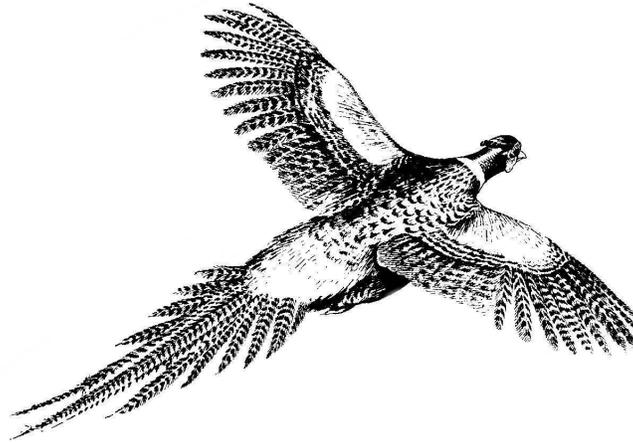
If you were attentive to nature in Pennsylvania during the early 1970s, you'll likely remember how common Ring-necked Pheasants were in most parts of the state. That's no longer the case, of course, as their once-familiar double squawks have dwindled as a hallmark of spring mornings in open country.

Both the Audubon Christmas Bird Count and the North American Breeding Bird Survey show declines of more than 90% in pheasant populations between 1970 and 2013. The population's major crash came during the 1970s and early 1980s, and numbers have continued at very low levels since then, despite large-scale annual releases of propagated birds by the Game Commission (approximately 200,000 birds this year).

What caused the crash, and why is the species unable to recover? Hunters take many pheasants, of course, which is why the birds are stocked in the first place—but the state's hunters took hundreds of thousands annually for many years, and the re-stocked populations remained high long before the sudden collapse in the 1970s. Winter mortality has always been a factor in pheasants' life histories, and two consecutive exceptionally harsh winters in the late 1970s were devastating—but there has been no recovery in the milder winters since then. Nest predation has always been a factor—but there seems to be no evidence of increased predation rates in recent decades. Something else must be involved, and new research has attributed decades of persistently low pheasant numbers to loss and degradation of the species' preferred grassland and farmland habitats.

Such losses affect many open-country species, and a combined state and federally funded program provides incentives for farm owners to restore and preserve these habitats. It is called CREP—the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program. Pennsylvania's CREP began in 2000, designed to encourage farmers to protect highly erodible cropland and marginal pastureland.

Yet the state's pheasant population continues to decline, and the authors of a 2015 paper in *The Journal of Wildlife*



Management (tinyurl.com/PA-CREP) believe the new set-aside lands may not compensate for overall losses in the quality and quantity of grassland and farmland habitat. Sarah Pabian, Andrew Wilson, and Margaret Brittingham of the Penn State Department of Ecosystem Science and Management and Scott Klinger of the Pennsylvania Game Commission came to that conclusion after comparing pheasant abundance and trends in 20 south-central Pennsyl-

vania counties.

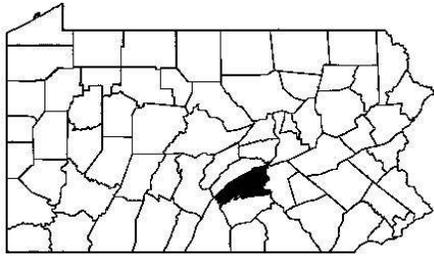
The authors analyzed pheasant counts from comparable roadside surveys taken in 2001–2002 and 2009–2010. Between the two periods, approximately 100,000 acres of CREP lands were established in the study region. Pheasant abundance increased in response to the amount of CREP habitat, but the increase has not been sufficient to forestall an overall population decrease of 52% between the same periods.

Pabian and her colleagues recommend continuing the CREP program to manage pheasant habitat, but they suggest that it is unrealistic to expect an increase in reserve acreage sufficient to reverse the population decline. For that reason, they recommend research on relationships between vegetation characteristics and habitat quality for most effective use of land. In addition, they suggest that grouping individual CREP lands into larger adjacent tracts should be considered.

Pabian, Wilson, and Brittingham had similar recommendations in a 2013 paper in *The Journal of Wildlife Management* (tinyurl.com/previous-study). Their surveys indicated that CREP habitat preservation had positive effects on populations of five out of ten grassland species, most notably the Eastern Meadowlark. They suggested that the greatest benefit would come from targeting new CREP grasslands to locations with more CREP habitat already in the surrounding area.

Paul Hess
Natrona Heights, PA
[phess@salsgiver.com](mailto:p Hess@salsgiver.com)

BIRDING PA – PERRY COUNTY



(Each edition of *Birding PA* highlights birding from one of our 67 counties.)

“The County Between Us,” sounds more like the title of a movie, doesn’t it, than a write up about birding one of our PA counties. Yet “The

County Between Us” explains in many ways birding in Perry County.

Perry County is located between the well birded counties of Cumberland to its south, Juniata to its north, Dauphin to its east, and Franklin to its west. Yet this county in between is often overlooked by birders. At the start of 2015 Chad Kauffman of Juniata County and I, who live in Cumberland County, proposed between us to rack up 200 species on eBird for the year in Perry. For many counties this might seem like an easily attainable goal, but for Perry, the most species reported on eBird for a year was 186 in 2013. Add to this, the biggest year in PSO records is 202 species by Richard Colyer in 1997. At the point that I am writing this article Perry County has 187 eBird species reported for 2015.

I met up with some birders from nearby counties (Ramsay Koury – Cumberland, Deuane Hoffman and Annette Mathes – Dauphin, and Ted Nichols – Lebanon) on what promised to be a hot day for September 7. We met at MILLER’S GAP in southeastern Perry County on the Cumberland County line. From there we planned to bird Idler Road on the way to LAMB’S GAP and STATE GAME LAND 170 (SGL 170). This route can be excellent for migrants, both spring and fall. In the spring I had seen a **Mourning Warbler** and **Olive-sided Flycatcher** at Miller’s Gap, and Ramsay Koury mentioned that SGL 170 can be a good place to get **Connecticut Warbler**.

The day began slowly as an hour at Lamb’s Gap turned up only one of each of the following: **Common Yellow-throat**, **American Redstart**, **Bay-breasted Warbler**, and **Blackburnian Warbler**, along with two **Chestnut-sided** and two **Blackpoll Warblers**. We chalked it up to starting so early (6:30 a.m.) and thought as the sun came out the

birds would pick up. This didn’t happen as migrants remained in short supply. Still we were able to add one each of the following: **Ovenbird**, **Black-and-white Warbler**, **Tennessee Warbler**, **Hooded Warbler**, **Magnolia Warbler** plus two **Black-throated Green Warblers**. And even though the section of SGL 170 we walked was, as Deuane said, “D-E-D, dead,” we did manage to see a few migrants, including our only **Northern Waterthrush** for the day.



Figure 1 **Black-headed Gull** is a spring time regular at the boat launch at HERITAGE PARK in Marysville.

Photo by Dave Kerr

At this point Deuane and Ramsay left, and Ted, Annette, and I headed off a little farther west to LAUREL RUN ROAD which is located in the TUSCARORA STATE FOREST (TSF). Laurel Run is a place I bird fairly regularly as it is on the Perry/Cumberland border not too far from COLONEL DENNING STATE PARK in Cumberland. It usually has some pretty decent migrants in spring and fall and is a place where **Kentucky Warbler** and **Cerulean Warbler** breed in small numbers and where **Hooded Warblers** are abundant. It is also a very reliable spot for **Eastern Whip-poor-wills**.

We birded the first five miles of Laurel Run from its intersection with Route 233 to the power line cut that is about a mile beyond the intersection with Elk Hill Road. Even though the morning was getting late and the temperature rising, it was fairly birdy there. We did have a dozen species of warblers, adding **Worm-eating Warbler**, **Blue-winged Warbler**, and **Black-throated Blue Warbler** for the day, along with a **Philadelphia Vireo**, which was also the first reported in Perry County for the year. First spotted by Annette, it was No. 187, a new eBird high for the county.

The morning was now spent and it was hot! With the birds shutting down, we decided to stop in the Laurel Run Lodge a.k.a “Chick’s,” a little hole in the wall at the intersection of Route 233 and Laurel Run Road. I hear from locals that it serves a good breakfast, but on our menu for the day was an ice cold beer and a break in the air conditioning before heading to western Perry County.

On our way west we passed CISNA RUN, home to Perry County’s only known breeding colony of **Purple**

Martins. We arrived at BRYNER ROAD, located west of NEW GERMANTOWN in TSF. Both **Blue-winged Warbler** and **Golden-winged Warbler** breed there, with up to 5 singing Golden-winged males reported one day this past spring. However, the winged warblers were long gone, and there were few migrants, but we did add two **Pine Warblers**, another species that breeds there. (For more on Bryner Road and birding western Perry County, see the Birder's Guide to Western Perry County on page 8).

It was now getting well into the afternoon as we headed east to LITTLE BUFFALO STATE PARK (LBSP), which produces a good variety of birds over the course of a year. Late fall and early spring can be good times to find migrating waterfowl there. The species reported at LBSP this year included **Long-tailed Duck** and **Red-throated Loon**. Chad Kauffman, who camped there this year, writes, "This past Memorial Day weekend, we decided to take our new camper out to Little Buffalo State Park over the holiday weekend. We had a great time and I got to do some birding. I have seen and heard winged warblers before along the road that runs parallel with the lake.... I wouldn't say the habitat is ideal for these birds, but there might be some areas nearby that do hold them; we just didn't get to explore the surrounding areas as much. The one evening there was going to be a star gazing exhibit held by the DCNR guys, and I thought I would take my family out to it and also bring my scope along. While waiting there at dusk for the stars and planets to show up, I was able to see a **Common Nighthawk**. This was soon followed by another, then up to four. They danced around the sky, and I pointed them out to the other people around me. The guy from DCNR seemed the most interested and even went back to his vehicle to get his bins. A bit later, another four nighthawks flew by again, so it was a great evening."

Back to the day at hand; we ran into a nice little flock of migrants and were able to add **Nashville Warbler** and **Canada Warbler** to the day's list. We also had one of the post-breeding dispersed **Great Egrets** which can be found around the area this time of year. We ended our birding day there. All had a good time and would recommend Perry County birding to any and everyone.

The "County Between Us" is also a county where "A River Runs Through It," namely, the JUNIATA RIVER in the northeastern part of the county. During this current year the species of waterfowl reported on the Juniata included **Canvasback**, **Redhead**, **White-winged Scoter**, **Long-tailed Duck**, **Common Goldeneye**, and **Red-breasted Merganser**. The river can be accessed at a community park in MILLERSTOWN, in NEWPORT, the AMITY ROAD EXIT of ROUTE 322, and other various places along the JUNIATA PARKWAY.

On the far eastern edge of the county lies the SUSQUEHANNA RIVER. While the birds seen on the river are technically in DAUPHIN COUNTY and should be reported as such, the fact remains that many species of waterfowl and gulls may be seen from along the Perry County banks of the Susquehanna from MARYSVILLE to DUNCANNON to LIVERPOOL.

Black-headed Gull is a spring time regular at the boat launch at HERITAGE PARK in Marysville, and a **Willet** was reported this year on the Perry County shoreline just south of there.

One last mention I should make is the WAGGONER'S GAP HAWK WATCH (WGHW), located on the Perry/Cumberland line. WGHW is one of the top fall hawk watches in all of PA, often recording more individual raptors than any other site. From the thousands of **Broad-winged** and **Sharp-shinned Hawks** that go through in September, to the **Golden Eagles** and **Northern**

Goshawks that traverse the ridge from mid-October through mid-December, along with all the other species of raptors that come through, WGHW has something for everyone.

So no matter if you live in a county nearby or if you live afar and your travels bring you to south-central PA, consider a stop in Perry County for some good birding.

Good Birding PA!

Vern Gauthier
pabirder@gmail.com

(Please contact me at pabirder@gmail.com if you would like your home county featured in a future edition of Birding PA.)



Ted Nichols II digiscoped this Willet on Perry County soil along the Susquehanna.

Links and e-mail for more on Perry County Birding

PSO Site Guide – www.pabirds.org/SiteGuide/PACountyPage.php?CountyID=50

PSO County Compiler / Vern Gauthier – pabirder@gmail.com

Waggoner's Gap Hawk Watch - www.waggap.com

Harrisburg CBC Compiler – Deuane Hoffman - corvuscorax@comcast.net (Small section Perry)

Lewiston CBC Compiler / Chad Kauffman - chadkauffman@earthlink.net (Section in Perry)

New Bloomfield CBC Compiler / Annette Mathes - amathes19@verizon.net (All Sections in Perry)

Little Buffalo State Park – www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/findapark/littlebuffalo/

Tuscarora State Forest - www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/stateforests/tuscarora/index.htm

Perry County eBird - <http://ebird.org/ebird/pa/subnational2/US-PA-099?yr=cur&changeDate=Set>

Birding PA Culinary Tip – *Mastracchio's Restaurant and Lounge, 344 Juniata Parkway East, Newport (Italian, Steak, Seafood, Micro and Imported Beers)* <http://mastracchiosrestaurantandlounge.com/>

A BIRDER'S GUIDE TO WESTERN PERRY COUNTY

Bryner Road Offers Diversity of Birds

By Ted Nichols II

Bryner Road, west of New Germantown in Perry County, is an isolated area filled with a variety of birds and worth a stop if you find yourself in western Perry County. Due to the fact that it doesn't really go anywhere, it's entirely possible that you may bird the entire road without a car passing you. Occasionally someone with a permit for wood gathering or just someone else out for a ride may go by on this quiet loop that is just under three miles.

While exploring the road, it becomes clear this "road to nowhere" was created some time ago to support timber harvesting in the area and has been modified in recent years to support recreational access.

The location hit the radar of local birders in April of this year, thanks to a new hotspot created on eBird. As of this printing, 75 species were logged there via 18 checklists since the hotspot was created.

The area offers a great range of habitat. Warblers seen on the loop reliably through the breeding season this year included Ovenbird, Worm-eating Warbler, Hooded Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Blue-winged Warbler, Prairie Warbler, and Yellow-breasted Chat. Occasional in reports through mid-June were Northern Parula, Louisiana Waterthrush, Cerulean Warbler, and Black-and-white Warbler. The road was also reliable through the entire breeding season for both White-eyed and Yellow-throated Vireo. A variety of woodpeckers highlighted the road, and Pileated Woodpeckers were common. Wild Turkey and Ruffed Grouse have

occasionally been reported from the site. Spring and fall present a great diversity of migrants as well.

Two campsites (#58 and #59) are located off the road and require a camping permit issued from the Tuscarora State Forest District Office, conveniently adjacent to Bryner Road on Big Spring Road. Camping permits are free. Site 58 is offset from the road and affords some privacy and is adjacent to another former clear-cut area. Blue-winged and Prairie Warblers were regularly heard uphill from the campsite, and the campsite itself is a reliable location for Eastern Whip-poor-wills and Eastern Screech-Owls in season as evidenced during my recent camping trip over Labor Day. The road offers convenient hiking access to the Iron Horse Trail.

What does the future hold for the Bryner Road area? Possibly more Golden-winged Warblers! In their 2015 Management Activities, Tuscarora State Forest officials note a proposal for future timber harvesting. The report states a proposal for harvesting "Just off Rt. 274 west of Bryner Road. This area has a lot of ash mortality and harvesting would benefit early successional species such as golden-winged warbler and woodcock."

The area is a convenient gateway to other great areas for birding in the area including Fowlers Hollow State Park, Big Springs State Picnic Area, the Hemlocks Natural Area, Germantown Road, and the Kansas Valley, to name a few.

Not in Kansas Anymore? Think Again!

By Deuane Hoffman

The Kansas Valley is located in northwestern Perry County. The heart of the valley is located approximately five miles northwest of Blain, Perry County, and three miles south of East Waterford, Juniata County. Most of the land in the valley is part of the 96,000+ acre Tuscarora State Forest. The valley is unpopulated, save for the presence of hunting camps and vacation cottages.

The low point elevation on the valley floor is rather high, for south-central PA, at 850 feet. Bounded on three sides by high ridges, the valley has a narrow bowl shape with its opening facing southwest. Tuscarora Mountain, on the north, tops out at 1900'; Big Knob, to the east, offering a panoramic view via a gated forest road, reaches 2170'; and Conococheague Mountain, forming the southern border, has an elevation of 1979'.

Kansas Valley can be reached from the north at East Waterford via Narrows Road (SR 3029), from the east via Little Valley Road at its intersection with PA 850 near Honey Grove, from the south via Germantown Road at the hamlet of New Germantown on PA 274, and from the west via Horse Valley Road from PA 75 near Concord.

Approximately 70 species breed or have been known to breed in the valley, including 16 species of wood

warblers. With its elevation profile, some species with more northerly affinities make their summer homes in the Kansas Valley. Species such as Brown Creeper, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Golden-crowned Kinglet, and Dark-eyed Junco are among the valley breeders. Attesting to the area's remoteness, Northern Goshawk was recorded as a possible breeder in the recent past. In addition to the common breeding forest warblers of Pennsylvania, a few of the more interesting breeding warblers include Blackburnian (in conifer stands), Black-throated Blue (in Mountain Laurel thickets), Canada (also in Laurel but usually found near the ridge tops), Cerulean (especially common on the south-facing slope of Conococheague Mt.) and Worm-eating (on the steep hillsides).

The area is accessed by a network of state forest roads, gated roads, and hiking trails. Kansas Valley is unique in the area with little human disturbance, a remote feel, and scenic splendor. While Kansas Valley is little known to many birders, it's a place certainly worthy of exploration.

A public use map for the Tuscarora State Forest, including the Kansas Valley, can be found at the following link. http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/cs/groups/public/documents/document/dcnr_20027228.pdf

*Nearby food options in western Perry County are available in Blain with the **Blain Hotel** offering breakfast, lunch, and dinner and **Roberto's Pizza** offering take-out lunch and dinner options. **King's Bakery**, run by an Amish family, is open mostly during afternoons and located at 2800 Big Spring Road, Blain. The bakery offers amazing baked goods and occasional chicken barbecues. An Amish Market, called **The Pantry**, located off Big Spring Road at 230 Clarks Run Road, Blain, offers subs, grocery items, produce, and hand-dipped ice cream. (Ted Nichols II)*

Bake Oven Knob Hawkwatch Field Trip Revisited

By Chad Kauffman

I was eagerly looking forward to this trip as it represented the last main hawkwatch in PA that I hadn't had the opportunity to visit yet. I picked a weekend that was in the peak season for Broad-winged Hawks and was hoping to finally hit a four-digit day, which I haven't yet done at a hawkwatch.

Beforehand, I obtained information about the hawkwatch from my friends Arlene Koch and Frank Dickman. I decided to head there early on Saturday morning and arrived at the parking lot around 9 a.m. That gave me plenty of time to get organized and to wait to see if anyone would show up to walk in with me at 10. I knew it was a

15-minute walk, and counters would be on the south lookout because of the winds. I met some hikers who were doing the Appalachian Trail and made small talk with them. When I finally made it out there, the lookout was fogged in for a bit. In the meantime I, as well as others, heard the chips of a small warbler flock. We were able to pick out three species: Black-and-white, Chestnut-sided, and Black-throated Green Warblers.

Finally the fog burned off, and we got our first raptor at 11:10 a.m., and we were off. The Broad-wings certainly

(continued on page 11)



Conservation Chat Room

Add Your Voice to an International Outcry: Take Action to Protect Amherst Island

Our visit to Amherst Island in Lake Ontario was one of the birding highlights of the PSO trip to Ontario last February.

Government of Ontario
Whitney Block
99 Wellesley Street West
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1
Fax: 416-325-3745

Amherst Island is world-famous for Owl Woods, which we did not get to visit due to the deep snow, but we saw 10 different Snowy Owls in just a few hours on the island, as well as Rough-legged Hawks, a Northern Harrier, and a juvenile Bald Eagle. The stark, snowy landscape was dotted with quaint houses, farms, and old stone walls. We also saw something that was very disturbing: signs protesting the industrial wind turbines proposed for the island. I had a chance to talk very briefly with an island resident as we were waiting to board the ferry to return to the mainland. She and many other island residents were against the project, and she encouraged me to learn more about potential impacts to bats, birds, turtles, and insects.

Just recently, Ontario's Ministry of Environment and Climate Change approved the Amherst Island Wind Project, much to the dismay of major conservation groups in Ontario and in the U.S.

I'm asking all of you to take action to stop this ill-conceived wind project slated for one of the most important bird areas in North America. Amherst Island is a Global and Continentally Significant Important Bird Area.

What can you do?

1. Email Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne at premier@ontario.ca and ask that she direct the IESO to cancel the FIT contract with Windlectric, Inc., in the same manner that the IESO cancelled the FIT contract for the Horizon Wind Project. Copy Bruce Campbell, CEO IESO bruce.campbell@ieso.ca Please record your email, document any response, and advise protectai@kos.net You may also wish to write directly to the Premier:

Premier Kathleen Wynne

The IESO is Ontario's "Independent Electricity System Operator" and the FIT contract refers to the Fee-in Tariff Program that IESO offers to wind companies.



This Snowy Owl is one of ten observed on Amherst Island during the PSO visit last February.

2. Email the Honourable Bill Mauro, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry at minister.mnr@ontario.ca. Ask that he revoke the Overall Benefit Permit for the destruction of grassland bird habitat on Amherst Island and listen to the concerns of Nature Canada, Ontario Nature, Kingston Field Naturalists, and the American Bird Conservancy.

3. Visit the Association to Protect Amherst Island website at www.protectamherstisland.ca for up-to-date information and donate funds for the legal battle.

4. Email me (mljackson2@embarqmail.com) to learn more about the importance of Amherst Island - in addition to wintering birds, it is home to many special bat, reptile, and insect species. I'll send you more information.

Get away from winter - take part in a Birding for Conservation Trip to Honduras!!

February 17 - 28, 2016

Cost: \$1,500 + airfare

Are you a birder eager to explore Latin America's hottest emerging destinations, but also interested in helping ensure that the birds and habitats you visit will be around for the future? Do you also want to learn about other aspects of Honduran nature and experience Honduran culture? And, would you like to travel comfortably, yet save big over other birding tours? The Honduran Conservation Coalition offers you an ethical and affordable trip.

Participants should see over 300 species of birds, a variety of habitats from coast to mid-altitude rain forests, and will visit some outstanding efforts by Hondurans to protect the environment and educate their citizens on birds and conservation.

Trip leaders are Dr. Mark Bonta, Penn State Altoona geography professor and recognized authority on Honduran culture and nature, with 25 years' experience in Honduras; and Gilberto Flores-Walter, bilingual Honduran birder and coffee farmer, as well as vice-president of the Honduran Ornithological Association. Dr. Bonta is also author of *Seven Names for the Bellbird: Conservation Geography in Honduras*, a compelling account of how birds and people enrich each other's lives in Honduras.

The tour is limited to 10 paying participants, so contact Mark right away if you are interested. There were six spots left as of September 20.

Email Dr. Bonta for a trip information packet and registration form: markabonta@yahoo.com

Laura Jackson
mljackson2@embarqmail.com
Bedford Co.

Bird Quiz

How well do you know your Pennsylvania birds?

1. In his 2015 Winter Raptor Survey report in *Pennsylvania Birds*, Greg Grove listed all-time high counts of four species. Which were they?
2. A sparrow with a brightly colored face formerly nested in Pennsylvania, but no breeding has been confirmed since 1931. Name the species.
3. The male of a familiar breeding bird feeds a fish to its prospective mate during courtship. Which species?
4. A state-endangered bird nested at Presque Isle State Park again this year, but all the nests failed because of predation or high water. Which species?
5. Three of Pennsylvania's regularly occurring birds have Latin scientific names exactly the same for their genus and species – for example, *Cardinalis cardinalis*. Can you name the other two? For a bonus, which two "accidentals" in our state have the same distinction?

(Answers on page 12)

Bake Oven Knob Hawkwatch Field Trip Revisited

(continued from page 9)

put on the show for us and when the day was over, we had tallied almost 400. We also got good looks at the other expected raptors during the day. One highlight was having a Sharp-shinned Hawk making several swipes at an Osprey.

From that side of the mountain, all of the birds were counted in Lehigh. At a distance we could see some other counties, but I am not sure if I could have counted them for those counties. When 4:00 p.m. came, I headed back down the trail and checked into my hotel in Foglesville. After a nice dinner with Frank and his boys, I turned in early for some predawn birding.

At 6:20 a.m. I was at Leasers Lake to do some early birding with Frank and two of his friends. Jeff Hopkins was also at the hawkwatch both Saturday and Sunday. I heard a Great Horned Owl hoot several times, and I also called in an Eastern Screech-Owl. The winds were fairly high at times, so the birds stayed tight and the sounds weren't helping much. As the sun finally came up, we

saw some raptors flying overhead, observed some waterfowl activity, and enjoyed seeing two Pied-billed Grebes fishing and hunting in the low water.

The wind forecast called for north winds, so that meant I was able to experience both lookouts at Bake Oven Knob on this field trip. It was a bit of a chore to get to the second lookout, and I could understand why some don't make that attempt. Here the counties were split between Carbon and Lehigh. We had some nice kettles, but for the most part the winds didn't cooperate. I called it quits at 3:00 and made my way down the trail and headed home.

I was pleased with the trip and could put some more names to faces. I felt that the main counters were friendly and accommodating to a newbie. It is always nice when you feel welcomed and comfortable at a site like a hawkwatch. A simple smile, a nod, or saying hello can do wonders for someone hiking past or just wanting to see what this birding and hawkwatching is about.

The Raven Reporter

Tales of
Discovery about
Pennsylvania
Birds



Loggerhead Shrike Search

Kathy Korber has been heading up our low-key Loggerhead Shrike search. Any credible reports of Loggerhead Shrikes, especially in the breeding season, are readily accepted. We did hear of some birds reported as Loggerhead Shrikes in Washington County, but the reports lacked the kind of detail that rise to the level of credibility that we require. We will follow up with more searches and inquiries. Also, there are some fairly recent reports (but not in 2015) from the Gettysburg Battlefield that merit follow-up.

I have been talking to Rich Bailey of West Virginia about the Loggerhead Shrikes that he has been finding and studying. Rich reports that the new locations are mostly off-road and easily missed by anyone and that many of these are in pasture lands. Pennsylvania birders may be missing a few Loggerhead Shrikes that are a bit off the beaten track.

Again, we ask birders who encounter Loggerhead Shrikes nesting or being seen regularly anywhere in Pennsylvania, to contact the Wildlife Diversity section's Kathy Korber at kkorber@embarqmail.com.

eBird Data Assists Golden-winged Warbler Management

The Golden-winged Warbler is one the most threatened song birds of North America. The Pennsylvania Game Commission has been working with many partners to monitor, manage, and conserve this migratory songbird that lives in young forest and early successional habitats. Fortunately, there have been many eager partners found along the way. Many of the threats to Golden-winged Warblers also are shared with other species of conservation concern and with popular game species. Among the

partners in Golden-winged Warbler conservation are the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology; the Indiana University of Pennsylvania; the Department of Conservation of Natural Resources, Bureau of Forestry; the American Bird Conservancy; the Appalachian Mountain Joint Venture; and the National Resources Conservation Services. Indeed, this suite of partners has made Pennsylvania a leader in GWWA conservation in the Appalachian Mountain region. By collecting data on GWWA occupancy, birders assist our joint efforts by allowing us to see where there are active populations. Monitoring informs management by showing where any management would be more effective at attracting Golden-winged Warblers. Birders are urged to enter their Golden-winged Warbler observations into eBird as well as the closely related Blue-winged Warbler and other young forest species such as Willow Flycatcher, Brown Thrasher, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Eastern Towhee, and Field Sparrow. Breeding Bird Atlas, Cornell Laboratory, and PGC data already are working on behalf of this species.

One of the great attributes of the Golden-winged Warbler partnership is that it bridges the divide between game and non-game species management. Golden-wings are found in that mosaic of habitat that is notoriously good for Ruffed Grouse, American Woodcock, cottontail rabbits, snowshoe hares, white-tailed deer, black bears, and other popularly hunted species. As a result, it is an "easy sell" among groups that normally are not as interested in songbirds. So, the Golden-winged Warbler management projects have attracted the cooperation of the Ruffed Grouse Society, Woodcock Limited, and even Pheasants Forever, which is assisting with habitat management on private lands.

There is a set of best management practices in place for use in Pennsylvania on either public or private lands. This includes the Golden-winged Warbler Best Management Practices for Forestlands in Pennsylvania and Maryland and more targeted documents. These guidelines can be found on-line at the Appalachian Mountain Joint Venture website (<http://amjv.org/index.php/library>). In addition, the Golden-winged Warbler Working Group has released habitat supplements for deciduous forests, mine lands, abandoned farmlands, grazed forest land, utility rights-of-way, and forest and shrub wetlands that can be found in the Library of the AMJV website. This work addresses several Pennsylvania Wildlife Action Plan (WAP) priorities in Sections 12 & 13 – Forest Habitats, and Section 21-Thicket/Shrubland Habitat of the PA-WAP and certainly will address various parts of the draft revised PA-WAP since the new plan will continue to reflect the interest and concern for young forest and early successional habitats and their wildlife.

Golden-winged Warblers react to disturbance in the forest whether “natural” or caused by people. Some of our Golden-winged Warbler populations are located where there have been fires, floods, or storm blow-downs. Timbering projects, especially those that allow some residual canopy in islands of trees, are very effective at attracting Golden-winged Warblers. This works best within a mile or so of where there already are some Golden-wings. The structure of some wetlands and scrub barrens have attracted Golden-wings, so these “hidden habitats” have acted as refugia for this species with little or no help from humans. But we can take advantage of these populations by doing appropriate management nearby. Limited success has been achieved by doing treatments in woods adjacent to occupied wetlands with the Golden-wings reacting very well to the opportunity.

The range of the Golden-winged Warbler continues to contract in Pennsylvania, even more than it had during the recent Second Breeding Bird Atlas Project. There now are essentially no GWWA populations in the southeastern or northwestern parts of the state. Very few have been found in the northern tier counties outside of the Sprout State Forest and the Poconos. Small populations in these high elevation forests are possibly being overlooked. Many of our current populations are mostly found off-road, requiring a walk into a cutting, a wetland, or a scrub barren to find the birds. For instance, there are very few reports from Lycoming, Sullivan, northern Luzerne, Wyoming, and Bradford counties where there seems to be plenty of habitat. There are several game lands in upland areas with potential for GWWA but without recent records. For instance, the SGL 252, called “The Ordinance,” formerly had a GWWA population. Bald Eagle State Forest, Michaux State Forest, and Tiadaghton State Forest look like large forest blocks with potential to hide some Golden-winged Warblers in newly timbered areas and remote wooded wetlands. Despite several records in Delaware State Forest and game lands of northern Pike County, there are few records around Promised Land State Park and nearby areas. The southwestern and south central counties have potential for more searches in the forested mountains. Are there a lack of Golden-wings or a lack of birders looking for them in these more remote woods and scrub areas?

We ask that birders be thoughtful and use good birding etiquette when doing Golden-winged Warbler searches, especially in areas with known research projects (Delaware State Forest, Bald Eagle State Park, Sprout State Forest). Do not interfere with various research activities such as mist-netting, nest-searching and nest-watching, and fledgling tracking. Repeated use of audio-lures distract the birds from their normal activities of defending territory and nests, provisioning young, and

seeking food. It also interrupts the researchers from conducting their projects. Banded birds are research birds, so please minimize distracting these birds from their normal behavior as the researchers are tracking to better understand how warblers, including fledged young, use habitat. For instance, Pennsylvania researchers are finding that young warblers are wandering into local woods after fledging which suggests that a forested landscape is an essential part of Golden-winged Warbler conservation.

I will explain more about these initiatives, including those on private lands, in the next Raven Reporter. We have a tentative list of game lands and state forest lands with recent Golden-winged records that we will share with you for further searches.

Birders Can Help the Threatened Red Knot and Other Shorebirds

The Red Knot has been designated as “shorebird of the year” and was one of the species being counted and celebrated as birders and conservationists marked World Shorebirds Day on September 6, a celebration of these extreme migrants. Although this day is now past, it does alert us to the universal conservation issues of these birds and the places that they visit. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has listed the *rufa* subspecies of the Red Knot as Threatened, giving it protection under the Endangered Species Act. This designation means that the population is at risk of becoming endangered throughout all or part of its range. For more about this Federal listing and what it means for Red Knot, please see the U.S. Fish and Wildlife website: <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/redknot/>. For more about World Shorebirds Day and its monitoring programs please see <https://worldshorebirdsday.wordpress.com>.

Pennsylvania is one of the states that knots visit in passage during their vast migration. Birders can really assist the fate of the Red Knot by making observations of knots found and entering their observations into eBird where any wildlife management agency, conservation organization, or researcher can see those records. We will be able to protect and manage stopover sites by learning more about the timing and use of these sites. And, we can better understand how Red Knots migrate, even as individuals, with data contributed to monitoring and banding projects.

Red Knots are observed in very few locations in the state, primarily Presque Isle and Conojehola Flats, with some flyovers reported at other spots. But that does not stop the state’s birders from enjoying them where they are found in the state and at the shore in other states. Another way to

assist is to participate in the innovative banded birds project (<http://bandedbirds.org/>). The Red Knot is one of several shorebirds that have declined or are imperiled due to their vulnerability to the loss of coastal habitat all along their long migratory routes and issues on their fragile breeding grounds.

The Atlantic Flyway is a key route for many of the world's shorebirds. Our own state is not as important as others along the coast, but a few sites provide key stopover habitat for some species. And, birders enjoy finding shorebirds in neighboring states, where they can enjoy them and serve as volunteer data collectors. Many beaches in New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia are relatively short drives from Pennsylvania and are populated by our state's birders. You can learn about the Atlantic Flyway shorebird business plan at the USFWS site and elsewhere, including the Atlantic Flyway Joint Venture and Manomet sites: <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/migratorybirds/shorebirdconservation.html>

In the last three decades, the Red Knot's population has declined by approximately 75 percent in key areas along its migration route due to declines in a primary food source, horseshoe crab eggs in the Delaware Bay which is a critical migration stopover area. Although this threat is being addressed by state and federal actions, there are other threats to the Red Knot including rising sea levels and coastal development, squeezing out the limited coastal shoreline habitat on both its migration route and its wintering grounds in South America. "The red knot is a remarkable and resilient bird known to migrate thousands of miles a year from the Canadian Arctic to the southern tip of South America," said U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Dan Ashe. "Unfortunately, this hearty shorebird is no match for the widespread effects of emerging challenges like climate change and coastal development, coupled with the historic impacts of horseshoe crab overharvesting, which have sharply reduced its population in recent decades."

Like many other shorebirds, the Red Knot faces many seemingly insurmountable obstacles. The ever-changing climate conditions are causing an increased asynchrony between peak food availability and migration timing for both the stopover locations and the Arctic breeding grounds. The bird must arrive at Delaware Bay at exactly the time when horseshoe crabs are laying their eggs. The mismatch between arrival of knots and the availability of rich and abundant food may be a critical limiting factor for the knot's continued existence. "Although historic threats in the Delaware Bay area have been ameliorated thanks to the actions of federal and state partners, our changing climate is posing new and complex challenges to the red knot's habitat and food supply," Ashe said. "It has never been more critical that we take positive action to save this

bird."

Red Knots make their migration feeding stops along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts, but they also will stop over at inland sites. Pennsylvania birders have recorded some of these stopovers over the years, but the records have declined during the last few decades. The migration of our shorebirds has been described as "extreme" and defies human imagination. The migration of the *rufa* Red Knot is among longest in the animal kingdom. Some *Rufa* Red Knots fly more than 18,000 miles in their annual route between Canadian Arctic breeding grounds and wintering grounds along the Gulf Coast, southeastern United States, and South America. A single Red Knot earned the nickname of "Moonbird" because he flew the equivalent of the distance to the moon in 21 years of migration between Argentina and Canada. Several other shorebirds that pass through the state and the Atlantic Flyway also have amazingly long migrations that span the hemisphere. Even little "peeps," such as the Semipalmated Sandpiper that is approximately the size of a sparrow, migrate to South America, often with long flights from one continent to another. These long flights are very taxing on such small birds that must build up a "full tank" of energy in the form of fat to make such rigorous flights.

Perhaps because Pennsylvania birders live in an inland state, they have a special regard for shorebirds as visitors to our state. Shorebirds just have pizzazz and certain romance associated with their lifestyle as the "wind birds" of the world. Our state has precious few shorebird hotspots, and they are visited fairly regularly by birders. We encourage participation the worldwide monitoring of shorebirds, either formally through the International Shorebird Survey (ISS) and the new initiative called the Program for Regional and International Shorebird Monitoring (PRISM) that coordinates and expands previous shorebird survey efforts, including the ISS, the Western Shorebird Survey, and the Canadian Maritimes Shorebird Survey. Actually, there is an ISS data eBird portal that can be accessed here: <http://ebird.org/content/iss/>

More information about PRISM can be found on the Manomet website: <https://www.manomet.org/issprism-protocols-forms-and-data-submission>.

Of course, more informally obtained shorebird observations taken in shallow waters, muddy fields, or shorelines can be entered as part of regular eBird records. We welcome broad participation by the birding community and request that photographs and other documentation be submitted for interesting or unusual records. The Pennsylvania eBird portal allows posting of photographs that can be viewed by the birding community. That is a great way to show the results of your shore birding field trip.

After many years of monitoring shorebirds, it has become clear that certain stopover locations are critical to the life history of these long-distance migrants. With limited human and financial resources, wildlife agencies and conservation organizations simply do not have the staffing to spread along the long migration routes of these birds. Volunteers are essential to the monitoring effort.

Bandedbird.org Project and Website

An international team of scientists has banded tens of thousands of shorebirds since the mid 1990s. The vast majority of these birds are Red Knots, Semipalmated Sandpipers, Ruddy Turnstones, and Sanderlings. Color-marking these birds has resulted in a growing database of sightings along the Atlantic Flyway describing their migration routes, nesting, and wintering areas. These observations allow tracking of individual birds from one important stopover to the next one, linking each step along the migration route. Your observations will contribute information greatly to this important project.

The bandedbird project includes data from South American sightings, thus providing the only database for marked birds that spans both continents of the Western Hemisphere. And, the web application provides a full re-sighting history for each bird, so you can follow it all on-line. This project is funded by several sources including charitable foundations and the wildlife resource agencies in the migration routes of the targeted species in the Atlantic flyway. Pennsylvania Game Commission is one of the agencies that contributes to the project as our small

part to play in shorebird monitoring and conservation in the Atlantic Flyway.

The key goals of bandedbird project in surveying shorebirds are to identify and record banded birds within each flock and count the total number of birds of each species that are present. This is important to determine the ratio of banded to unbanded birds, which can help determine overall population size and health. Once you have entered all of your data, you can simply click on Public Search, choose the correct species and flag color, then enter the marker code to see where your bird was banded and where else it has been resighted. More details about the methods for logging data can be found on the bandedbird.org website. Since many Pennsylvania birders visit the Delaware Bay and other locations where these shorebirds stop, they can contribute to the project even when on a pleasure birding trip out of the state.

Much of the information about knots, shorebirds, and banding projects was taken from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the general eBird website, Manomet Observatory, the Atlantic Flyway Council, the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture, World Shorebirds Day, and bandedbird.org.

Good Birding!

– Doug

Doug Gross, Endangered and Non-game Bird Section Supervisor, 106 Winters Road, Orangeville, PA 17859
dogross@pa.gov

Young Birders' Club Is Being Organized

Hawk Mountain Sanctuary is starting a young birders' club. The plan is to have a birding related activity every month – Big Sit, visit a bird banding station, get the inside scoop on how to use eBird, etc.

The goals of the club are to:

- * Connect with other like-minded young people from around the area
- * Provide young birders with adult mentors willing to share their time and knowledge
- * Increase awareness and appreciation of the natural world
- * Build important life-skills such as peer mentoring, leadership, communication, community involvement, and more.

* Introduce young people to career opportunities in the wildlife and conservation fields

* HAVE FUN!

If you know any youngsters between the ages of 8 and 18, please let them know about this opportunity.

If you need more information, you may contact Hawk Mountain by phone at (610) 756-6961 or email MT Grob at grob@hawkmountain.org.

Barb Ritzheimer
Pine Grove
Schuylkill County

PSO Newsletter

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

Membership Categories:

PSO	Individual	\$ 30.00
2469 Hammertown Road	Family	\$ 35.00
Narvon, PA 17555-9730	Sustaining	\$ 45.00
	Student	\$ 25.00
	Electronic Student	\$ 10.00

PSO Officers and Directors

Mike Lanzone – President mlanzone@gmail.com
Mike Fialkovich – Vice President mpfial@verizon.net
Roger Higbee – Secretary rvhigbee@windstream.net
Frank Haas – Treasurer fchaas@pabirds.org
Geoff Malosh – PSO Editor pomarine@earthlink.net
Margaret Higbee – Newsletter Editor bcoriole@windstream.net
John Fedak – Past President jlfedak@atlanticbb.net

Chuck Berthoud – cnberthoud@gmail.com
Jarrod Derr – jmderr17@gmail.com
Vernon Gauthier – pabirder@gmail.com
Doug Gross - dogross@pa.gov
Shonah Hunter – shunter@lhup.edu
Chad Kauffman – chadkauffman@earthlink.net
Wayne Laubscher – wnlaubscher@comcast.net
Sandra Lockerman – sandylockerman@yahoo.com
Annette Mathes – amathes19@verizon.net
Mark McConaughy – TimeTraveler50@comcast.net
Andrew McGann – andrew.mcgann@gmail.com
Flo McGuire – fmcguire1@verizon.net
Holly Merker – hcybelle@gmail.com
Brian Quindlen – Brian.Quindlen@gmail.com
Scott Stoleson – sstoleson@fs.fed.us
Emily Thomas – eht5002@hotmail.com
Linda Wagner – lwagner342@msn.com

Answers to Bird Quiz

(page 7)

1. Bald Eagle, Cooper's Hawk, Golden Eagle, and Merlin
2. Lark Sparrow
3. Belted Kingfisher
4. Common Tern
5. Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*) and Bank Swallow (*Riparia riparia*); bonus, Dovekie (*Alle alle*) and Northern Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*).



The fall warbler migration has been good at various areas across the state this year. Tony Bruno photographed this Northern Parula at Blue Spruce Co. Park in Indiana on 9/14/2015.

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

Non-profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Creekside, PA 15732
PERMIT NO. 2

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED