

The

PSO Pileated



December 2016

The Newsletter of the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology

Volume 27, Number 4

From the President's Desk....

'Tis the season for hawkwatching and Christmas Bird Counts.

It's that time of year again. The fall hawkwatch sites have been busy places with dedicated volunteers carefully counting migrating raptors. There are 14 hawkwatches scattered across the state in varied habitats such as the Erie lakeshore, the wooded areas in proximity to the Delaware Bay at Bucktoe Creek Preserve, and the numerous locations in the mountains. Despite the differences in habitat and topography, all are important highways for migrating raptors. We've had PSO field trips to all the sites across the state, a goal Chad Kauffman accomplished for us. I've visited seven sites over the years, and even when the birds are few, the mountaintop watches have the added attraction of beautiful views of the surrounding fall landscape. This is a side benefit to birding these locations. I saw my life Golden Eagle and Northern Goshawk at Waggoner's Gap many years ago, and it took less than an hour to accomplish that! As always, the results of the fall hawkwatch counts are published in *Pennsylvania Birds*.

The Christmas Bird Count is another annual tradition that holds memories for birders. This marks the 117th year of the CBC. A few new counts have been added in recent years, and there are currently 77 count circles in Pennsylvania to choose from! I have covered Schenley

Park in Pittsburgh for many years, and I sometimes think about the special things I've seen. Although common elsewhere, American Tree Sparrows are uncommon in the park, so the few times I've seen them are special. Other fond memories include flocks of Cedar Waxwings feeding on ornamental crab apples, a Red-shouldered Hawk that



Cedar Waxwings feeding on crabapples is one of Mike's fondest CBC memories.

Photo by Mike Fialkovich

was present for a few years, a Great Horned Owl that the crows helped me find, and large flocks of American Robins in fresh plumage, looking quite dapper. I've covered the park in frigid temperatures, driving snow, fog, ice, rain, and beautiful sunshine. Think about your CBC memories; I'm sure we all have special moments we look back on. I always watch for the reports of Yellow-headed Blackbirds in Lancaster County following the counts and wonder how they slip through this side of the state undetected.

Our annual listing of the CBCs are in this issue, starting on page 15, for your reference. Good luck with your counts.

This is also time for many of us to review various lists and birding activities from the past year. Your fondest memories may include anything from a great trip to enjoying something in your own backyard. Please share them with us by submitting an article for publication.

Have an enjoyable and safe holiday season.

Mike Fialkovich, PSO President
Allegheny County

2017 Birding Trips, Excursions, Surveys, and More

More trips may be added later or at the last minute. We continue to work with local groups and clubs to bird with them in their favorite spots by joining their existing field trips or creating new ones. Please contact any PSO board member for more information. Details will follow in the March newsletter and on line.

January 14 - February 12 – Winter Raptor Surveys. Contact Greg Grove (gwg2@psu.edu) for more information.

February 17-20 – Great Backyard Bird Count. Our state has been actively participating in this count. It's a good time to encourage others to start birding and using eBird.

March 4-5 – Cambridge, Maryland, and Eastern Shore Birding. We'll return to some of the amazing places that we enjoyed last year where we saw thousands of waterfowl, Brown-headed Nuthatch, and many other species. See teaser on page 15, a report of last year's trip.

March 11 – Our annual waterfowl and gull trip to Middle Creek and Susquehanna River spots. The weather will determine our exact route, but we usually see many of our target birds.

May 5-6 – Shaver's Creek Birding Cup. This annual fundraiser for Shaver's Creek Environmental Center is an attempt to find as many species as possible in a 24-hour period. There are various categories. See their website (www.shaverscreek.org) for more information.

May 13 – PA Migration Count (PAMC). The second Saturday in May is a great time to get out to count birds.

May 19-21 – Presque Isle, Pymatuning, and the north-western PA grasslands. Presque Isle is one of the best places in PA to find warblers and other migrants.

Pymatuning always yields a few surprises. Grassland target birds include Upland Sandpiper, Henslow's Sparrow, and Clay-colored Sparrow.

June 2-4 – Bucktoe Shorebird and Kite Watch. This will be our second visit to bird with Larry Lewis. Possibilities include shorebirds, kites, and Blue Grosbeak. This is one of the most relaxing counts you can join. We will include some bonus birding in the mornings before the watch.

June 16 – 19 – Breeding Bird Blitz. This will be the third year of this organized count, with the goal of getting reports of breeding birds entered on eBird. You could possibly even win one of the prizes. Do the Blitz!

September 15-17 – PSO Annual Meeting in Carlisle, Cumberland County. There will be a great variety of field trips, including several that will cover the ridges along the Michaux and Tuscarora State Forests, hotspots for fall warbler migration. You will also have the opportunity to visit Waggoner's Gap Hawkwatch, one of the best places in PA for fall raptor migration at the height of the Broad-winged Hawk season.

October 14-15 – The Big Sit, sponsored by *Bird Watcher's Digest*. You may join or create your own circle and count what you see in a 24-hour time frame.

November 4-5 – Allegheny Front Hawkwatch. This is usually the peak for migrating Golden Eagles.

Certificates of Appreciation Awarded

PSO issues certificates of appreciation to individuals and organizations who have allowed access to their properties to view rare birds. The total number issued is now 129. The full list can be found on the PSO's website. Since February, the following Certificates of Appreciation have been awarded to:

Dickcissel, Gordon Hall, Cumberland County
Anna's Hummingbird, Greg Smith, York County
Black-chinned Hummingbird, The Brown Family, Lycoming County
Tropical Kingbird, Bob Schutsky, Fulton County

If you'd like to nominate someone for a certificate, please contact Sandy Lockerman at sandylockerman@yahoo.com.

PSO Quiz

(Answers on page 20)

How well do you know your Pennsylvania birds?

1. Which two western swallow species have visited Pennsylvania as notable rarities?
2. What was the key identification feature separating Pennsylvania's first White-faced Ibis from the more expected Glossy Ibis?
3. During remarkable winter invasions in 1981 and 1982, which large northern finch species occurred in flocks of as many of 300 in Carbon County?
4. Without a careful look, what warbler species do some birders mistake for an Orange-crowned Warbler?
5. An eminent ornithologist admitted that he failed to notice the difference between two species in western Pennsylvania. Which ornithologist and which species?

Welcome, New Members!

The following members have joined PSO since June 2016:

Valerie Barnes, Fayetteville, PA

Manuel Barrera, Montoursville, PA

Alan Buriak, Gibsonia, PA

Stephen Cottrell, Landenberg, PA

Lara Goodman, Emmaus, PA

Evan Houston, Danville, PA

Patricia Johansen, Downingtown, PA

Karlee Kocon, Freeport, PA

Charles Wheeler III, Lilly, PA

Kendall Zook, Conneautville, PA



“A Traveller’s Guide to Feathers”

Glen Chilton, a professor of biology at James Cook University, writes a weekly column concerning recent advances in the field of bird biology under the title “A Traveller's Guide to Feathers”; these can be found on his website: www.glenchilton.com. Each piece describes the highlights of a recently-published paper from a scholarly journal. Glen's writings are meant for bird enthusiasts who are curious about the latest advances in the field. The studies are global in scope and consider birds of all types.

From penguins on Bouvet Island to snake-eagles in Israel, “A Traveller's Guide to Feathers” provides all of the content with none of the jargon.

Glen Chilton, Ph.D.
Centre for Tropical Biodiversity and Climate Change
College of Marine and Environmental Science
James Cook University
Townsville, QLD, 4811, Australia

www.glenchilton.com



Christmas Bird Counts Are a Lot of Fun

The Christmas Bird Count season is rapidly approaching. The list of all counts held in Pennsylvania starts on page 15. If you haven't participated in one before, you're missing a lot of fun. Check out the list for a count near you. Most compilers are happy to have new participants.

Hawk Mountain Field Trip Revisited

by Chad Kauffman

Rotating where we lead field trips for the first weekend of November, Kempton was our destination this year, as we tried to hit the peak of the Golden Eagle migration.

This year I brought my son Noah along, after having gotten him an approved day to miss school, and we were off Friday morning. We had considered first shopping at Cabela's and hitting the visitors' center at Hawk Mountain, but when I saw the wind prediction, we decided to get up to the North Lookout as soon as possible.

We got to the hawkwatch by 10:30, and there was a nice crowd. It was good to see the smiling face of Laurie Goodrich on duty. We weren't there very long before we saw our first Golden Eagle of the weekend. Red-tails are by far the most numerous raptor at this time of the year, and before too long I called out another Red-tail that came in from the west, versus the expected northern direction, but I was soon corrected that it was indeed another highly desired fall migration raptor: the Northern Goshawk. Once I looked for the ID points, I saw the reasons for its being the largest accipiter. Goshawks don't always stand out for me, but when people point out what to look for, I can see the identifying marks.

The somewhat cloudy skies eventually cleared up, and it was hard finding birds in the blue as the afternoon went on. We ended up with 217 birds on Friday. On our way down the "long" way we found a Winter Wren, which is always a treat to see and hear.

On Saturday I met some attendees at the parking lot and visitors' center at 8 a.m. and walked again to the North Overlook. It was already busy, and the day was amazing



Laurie Goodrich photographed part of the crowd at Hawk Mountain.



Michael David photographed this Golden Eagle at Hawk Mountain.

with so many visitors coming and going. I asked about the number of people and was told that more than 2,500 were visiting that day. There weren't any clouds, but the winds were predicted for the right directions. We started off the day with an early Golden Eagle that seemed to lift off the knuckle mountain, which is the far center ridge that has five bumps that look like your fist and knuckles. That Golden lazily rose and then headed out almost directly south, which meant that it wasn't counted, but we enjoyed seeing it. Clouds didn't start appearing until the afternoon, so staring at big blue skies caused eyestrain and made birds difficult to see. The day ended with 121 birds.

Good winds were predicted for Sunday, and there were clouds, so we were excited to get out there early and find the soft rocks again. Most of my crew just missed the only Peregrine Falcon of the weekend by a few seconds, but seeing a couple of

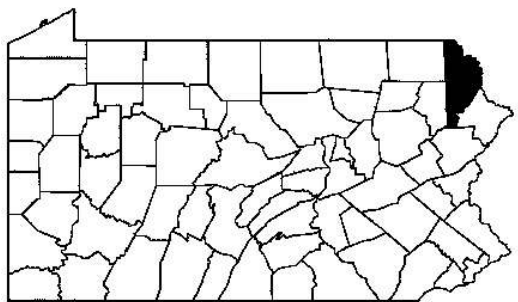
Northern Goshawks certainly made up for it, in my opinion. I even called out the first one that came through for us. Noah and I decided to leave early but still got to see several Golden Eagles and a Merlin. This was by far the best day for counting, as they ended up with 379 for the day.

I must admit I had some sore parts climbing the trail three days in a row; good hiking boots are a must for this hawkwatch. Noah was such a trooper—he even carried his own backpack most of the way—but on the really steep parts, I did carry it for him. We were thankful to have good cushions, as well, for the long days there. I did buy Noah a stuffed Bald Eagle that makes its call when you squeeze it, so that he can do a presentation at school, which he has to do as a result of playing hooky and joining his birding dad on a fun weekend of hawkin'.



BIRDING PA – WAYNE COUNTY

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



As the old saying goes, “The third time’s the charm.” Well, in this case, it was my third attempt to

get to Wayne County, the most northeastern county in PA, to take a look around. On October 31, I met PSO member Chris Fischer off of I-84 in very southern Pike County. It was supposed to be Wayne County, but what was really scary that Halloween day was my inability to follow his directions, and I got off at the wrong exit 20 minutes or so from where he was waiting for me. (Whoops!) Chris, who is a past president of and currently the Chair of the Conservation Committee of NORTHEAST PENNSYLVANIA AUDUBON (NEPA), came to fetch me and we were on our way.

The first place we headed to was LAKE WALLENPAUPACK. The Wayne - Pike county line runs through the middle of the lake. One of the challenges of birding the lake is that there are very few public places to pull off around it. Two good places include the public boat ramp and the LACAWAC SANCTUARY (LS). The most notable feature of LS is Lake Lacawac, a 52-acre glacial lake preserved in almost pristine condition and totally free from development or encroachment. The lake was declared a National Natural Landmark by the U.S. Department of the Interior in 1966. LS features a natural boreal bog, the Wallenpaupack Ledges Natural Area, Partner Ridge, a native plants garden, demonstration forest deer enclosure plots, and six public hiking trails that total about eight miles. At the heart of the sanctuary is the National Historic Registered “Adirondack Great Camp” complex, constructed in 1903 as a summer residence and hunting lodge.

Among the species we saw in and around the lake was one unexpected **Great Egret**. The last day of October is pretty late for this bird to appear in Wayne as the other late dates found on eBird are mid-September. We also managed to find 2 **Black Vultures** which, according to Chris, can be difficult in central to northern Wayne. These two were county year birds for him. We then headed over to FINN SWAMP where we found a nice selection of waterfowl that included **Canada Geese, Wood Duck, American Black Duck, Mallard, Ring-necked Duck, and Hooded Merganser**.

We continued to the DELAWARE WATER GAP where Chris said anything could show up at any time. Unfortunately, this was a time when not much was showing up; so we then traveled to LAKE ADAMS, where we added **Pied-billed Grebe** and **Bald Eagle** to our day’s list, and to LAKE ARIEL, where we added **Ruddy Duck**. Then we paid a visit to the PRINCE-SIMPSON WETLANDS, one of the two conservation areas that NEPA operates. The other is the BROWN BEAVER MEADOW, located in the northern part of the county.

Our last birding stop for the day was the VARDEN CONSERVATION AREA. Varden is a 444-acre tract that offers a variety of short hiking trails through farm fields, forests, and wetlands. This was a really nice place that I wish we had gotten to with a little more daylight; however, we were there long enough to add **Winter Wren, Fox Sparrow, and Swamp Sparrow** to our list.

That evening Chris shared with me how NEPA was taking part in the effort to make people aware of the benefits of the use of SHADE-GROWN COFFEE. He joined a group of PA Birders who traveled to Honduras in February. During that trip they visited a farm that raised shade-grown coffee. Now he and the rest of the NEPA conservation committee are involved in having the coffee sold in Honesdale, Wayne County. The October 2016 *PSO Pileated* mentions this about the project:

“The last part of our trip included a visit to the Garcia family’s high altitude coffee farms in the Marcala Region of Honduras, where we toured shade-grown, organic coffee plantings that help to sustain many species of Neotropical migrants. We were thrilled to see a variety of warblers, including Golden-winged Warblers. Emilio Garcia lives near York, Pennsylvania, and imports the coffee directly through Sustainable Harvest. You can help support our birds if you order delicious Lenca Coffee from the Ragged Edge Roasting Company: www.raggededgerc.com. Be sure to click on Honduran Coffee.”

The next day, NEPA member John Harvey met us at Chris’s home. There was frost on the pumpkin to be sure. We took the opportunity to bird the 27 acres of wet fields, woods, and two ponds that belong to Chris and his wife Ronnie. Currently Chris is working on making it more bird friendly as he has taken out many invasive plant

species and is replacing them with native plants that will act as good food sources for birds. In the hour birding there we listed 23 species, including **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, **Golden-crowned Kinglet**, **Yellow-rumped Warbler**, and **American Tree Sparrow**. I have no doubt after listening to the plans Chris has for the property that it will be one of the best places to bird in all of Wayne County!

We paid a visit to the Tanner Falls section of STATE GAME LANDS 159 (SGL 159). Chris mentioned that the woods on the way to the falls were good for warblers and flycatchers. Looking at a checklist he compiled this past May, you can see he was not exaggerating. His list included 2 **Alder Flycatchers**, 1 **Least Flycatcher**, 32 **Ovenbirds**, 9 **Blue-winged Warblers**, 6 **Black-and-white Warblers**, 1 **Nashville Warbler**, 16 **Common Yellowthroats**, 1 **Hooded Warbler**, 5 **American Redstarts**, 4 **Magnolia Warblers**, 1 **Blackburnian Warbler**, 9 **Yellow Warblers**, 11 **Chestnut-sided Warblers**, 2 **Black-throated Blue Warblers**, 9 **Black-throated Green Warblers**, and 1 **Canada Warbler**. He said in all, at least 20 species of warblers breed in Wayne County, including **Mourning Warbler**. He continued to say that Canada Warblers are increasing as breeders. This cold November morn, however, there were no warblers to be found – just an assortment of winter birds such as **Brown Creepers**, **Golden-crowned Kinglets**, and **Dark-eyed Juncos**.

On the walk, however, John Harvey mentioned a book he had read, *What the Robin Knows: How Birds Reveal the Secrets of the Natural World* by Jon Young. John described it as a book about personal transformation and development as one pays attention to and develops a deep connection with nature by listening attentively to bird song, calls, and actions. John has actually put into practice the idea of a “*sitting spot*,” a place to repeatedly



Vern Gauthier photographed his two hosts, Chris Fischer and John Harvey along the trail to Tanner Falls.



Chris Fischer photographed this Brant that Vern found at White Oak Pond.



Snow Buntings are frequent visitors to Wayne County.

Photo by Chris Fischer

return to and tune into the birds and nature. He recommends the book. Based on that recommendation, I picked up a copy and can say it has some interesting insights.

Well, after hitting a couple of other areas of SGL 159, we returned to Chris’s place where I parted ways with them. It was almost noon, and Chris told me of a couple of places I could try on my way out of town. The first was PROMPTON STATE PARK which boasts the top two eBird Hotspots in the county. I walked the north trailhead where, I found the trip’s only **Hermit Thrush**. I then went to WHITE OAK POND (WOP), a 223-acre lake when it’s not drained. Currently it is drained due to needed repairs to the dam, but there was still some water although now it was more of a swampy area than a lake.

When I arrived at WOP, I noted 200 + **Canada Geese** and other assorted waterfowl, including 2 **Wood Ducks**, 1 **Blue-winged Teal**, 2 **Northern Pintails**, and 30 **Green-winged Teal**. Looking through the geese, I noticed one that was smaller and darker. I could not believe my eyes at first as it turned out to be a **Brant!** I called Chris who lives only five minutes away, and he came to look and take some documentation photos of what was the first county record that he knew of. What a way to end the day and the trip to Wayne County!

Good Birding PA!

Vern Gauthier



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

LINKS AND E-MAIL FOR MORE ON WAYNE COUNTY BIRDING

Northeast Audubon Society - www.nepaaudubon.org

PSO Site Guide – www.pabirds.org/SiteGuide/PACountyPage.php?CountyID=64

PSO County Compiler / Josh Jones – unclechu76@gmail.com

White Mills CBC Compiler / Barb Leo - barbaraaleo@earthlink.net

Himalayan Institute - www.himalayaninstitute.org

Lacawac Sanctuary - www.lacawac.org

Varden Conservation Area - www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/findapark/varden/index.htm or
www.vardenconservationarea.com/index.html

Birding PA Culinary Tip / Ravyn & Robyn - www.ravynandrobynfoodandwine.com (I did not eat there but plan to next time. Chris Fischer said it was a good place and for the name alone a birder might be tempted to try it. The self-described “fine dining” experience specializes in Italian fare and is located in Hawley just north of Lake Wallenpaupack).

Butler County Field Note

by Gene Wilhelm

Late September and early October 2016 were unusual for the many stink bugs (*Nezara sp.*) that concentrated around our Slippery Rock condo screened-in porch. After a few hospitable balmy days, I decided to write outside and immediately heard a pair of Red-breasted Nuthatches (*Sitta canadensis*) talking to each other. Suddenly, the male bird landed two feet from my mobile TV tray, snatched a stink bug from our porch screen door, carried it in his bill to a limb of a red maple less than ten feet above my head, ate the bug whole, then repeated the antic 10 times in the next 10 minutes. At that point, the female nuthatch dropped to the ground next to the screen door, and helped herself to the easy meal, too. Male and female made 21 round trips in the next half-hour, and in that time they devoured 42 juicy stink bugs. The pair, apparently with full bellies, then retreated into the two-acre black spruce forest behind our condo where the species had nested for three consecutive years.

But the birds weren't finished with such an easy food source, returning the next six consecutive afternoons when the stink bugs were most active. Meal trips became fewer each day as did the time spent eating the bugs. In one week, however, a pair of Red-breasted Nuthatches made at



Red-breasted Nuthatches are being reported across the state this season.

Photo by Roger Higbee

least 89 round trips, ate at least 111 stink bugs, in three hours of hunting. Of course, my wife and I were happy to see that our only stink bug problem ever was solved naturally by the nuthatches. A pair of Red-breasted Nuthatches nested in our black spruce woodlot for three consecutive years (2011-2013) then disappeared 2014-2015. It's grand having our avian neighbors return.

Although resident in most of its breeding range, the Red-breasted Nuthatch usually withdraws from the northernmost areas in winter, exhibiting synchronized irruptive movements every two to three years that coincide with a poor crop of conifer seeds on their breeding grounds. Thus far, this fall indicates that the coming winter could be such an irruptive season, and this food note may add a bit of species feeding behavior knowledge as requested by Doug Gross in *The PSO*

Pileated, Volume 27, Number 3 (October 2016), p. 14. Time will tell.

Gene Wilhelm, “Red-breasted Nuthatch,” *Second Atlas of Breeding Birds of Pennsylvania*, Pennsylvania State University Press, University Park, Pennsylvania, p. 300, 2012.

Ornithological Literature Notes

Are birds adapting, or are they failing to adapt, their breeding cycles to climate warming trends? Previous studies across three decades around the world have focused on a small number of species, over relatively short time spans, and have focused primarily on the negative impacts caused by warming. In addition, these studies have not distinguished among species' various migration strategies and diets. Most importantly, they have not sufficiently analyzed the most crucial long-term effect of climate change on a large scale: breeding productivity.



Indigo Bunting was one of the species that profited from warmer springs with increased productivity of young.

Photo by Tony Bruno

Researchers at Powdermill Nature Reserve in Westmoreland County have examined all of those factors in the most extensive study of climate warming ever undertaken for a diverse suite of breeding birds. Molly E. McDermott and Lucas W. DeGroot have published their findings in a 2016 paper in the journal *Global Change Biology* (tinyurl.com/climate-impacts).

The most important feature of the study is its basis in a vast, consistently recorded array of data across an exceptionally long time span: 53 years of continuous banding operations dealing with 21 species that breed in the local vicinity. The information includes timing of adults banded in breeding condition (judged by brood patch), time of juveniles' first appearance (indicating the timing of nesting), and ratio of juveniles to adults banded (an index of nesting productivity). The species are further analyzed among life-history categories such as nesting habitat, diet, and whether they are residents, short-distance migrants, or long-distance migrants.

Finally, the authors relate all of those factors to spring and summer temperature and precipitation. Notably, the half-century time span is sufficient to transcend irregular annual variations and produce a statistically acceptable level of confidence for judging long-term trends.

Species analyzed were Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Eastern Phoebe, Red-eyed Vireo, Black-capped Chickadee, House Wren, Wood Thrush, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Cedar Waxwing, Ovenbird, Common Yellowthroat, Hooded Warbler, American Redstart, Yellow Warbler, Field Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Scarlet Tanager, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, and American Goldfinch.

Most species displayed sensitivity to changes in temperature and precipitation. The findings are far too many to list here, but the following are three examples. Some might be expected, and some may be surprising:

*Pooling all species across the entire period, the average date of birds' breeding condition advanced 31 days earlier. Juvenile capture date advanced over time for 13 of the 21 species, and the advances averaged more than three days per decade for eight of those species.

*Increased productivity of young occurred in warmer springs for Eastern Phoebe, Black-capped Chickadee, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Gray Catbird, Indigo Bunting, Red-eyed Vireo, and Northern

Cardinal. In contrast, decreased productivity occurred in warmer springs for Cedar Waxwing, Hooded Warbler, American Redstart, Ovenbird, and American Goldfinch.

*Springs with increased precipitation were associated with higher productivity for six species, lower productivity for five species, and no effect on 10 species. Summers with increased precipitation were associated with higher productivity for eight species, lower productivity for four species, and had no effect on nine species. Some species (e.g. Hooded Warbler) that benefited from increased precipitation in spring were hampered by increased precipitation in summer, and vice versa.

Overall, the results indicate that most species are responding to climate change by breeding earlier, with some benefiting from warmer and wetter breeding seasons. Not all have failed to adapt to a potential "mismatch" between nesting time and maximum food availability for young – a hazard often suggested in various studies. Perhaps warmer, wetter seasons across the entire breeding period are more important for food availability than availability at the start of the season.

McDermott and DeGroot summarize their findings this way: "Despite substantial yearly variation, the continuity and consistency of this large data set show strong adaptive responses to climate. Specifically, our findings demonstrate that many bird species have phenological flexibility, advancing breeding as a response to increasing spring temperatures by at least 15 days over five decades."

The study also indicates, of course, that some species may not be adapting well, and the authors emphasize a need for further long-term monitoring to assess which species are helped and which are harmed by current trends of climate change.

Paul Hess
Natrona Heights, PA
phess@salsgiver.com

Call for Applications

Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology Student Research Grant

Deadline: Friday, 24 March 2016

Decision: Awardees will be notified by 22 April 2016 (Earth Day)

This is the first year that the PSO is sponsoring one or two \$500 student research grants, in support of research on Pennsylvania's avifauna. We hope to make this an annual PSO activity. We invite anyone to pass this news along to students involved in research, as well as to any professors who could share this announcement with their students.

If selected, the student must travel to the PSO Annual Meeting to give a talk (~30 minutes) about his/her work, AND/OR the student must submit an article to the *Pennsylvania Birds* journal, not more than two years after the granting of the award of the grant, describing the study and findings for the PSO membership. The recipient will also be awarded a one-year membership in the PSO.

Eligibility

The award is designed to provide support to either graduate or undergraduate students in pursuit of a bachelor's degree, master's degree, or doctorate. The research should be conducted in support of a thesis or dissertation and should eventually be published. The student's academic institution does not need to be located in Pennsylvania. The field work does not need to occur in the Commonwealth; however, there is a preference for projects with a Pennsylvania field work component.

Criteria

Proposals will be judged for their scientific merit and the likelihood that the work will make a meaningful contribution to our understanding of Pennsylvania avifauna.

Submissions must include the name of the student's academic institution, the degree the student is pursuing, the corresponding department at the institution, and the name of the academic or research advisor. If the student has a thesis or dissertation committee, each committee member should be listed with corresponding title and institution.

Research Proposal Document

The body of the proposal should be a condensed version of the student's thesis/dissertation proposal, not to exceed 5 pages in length (not including any figures or tables). Please note whether "Institutional Animal Care & Use Committee" approval has been or will be obtained.

Each proposal should include a section on how the results of the proposed study could be helpful to future scientific understanding, conservation efforts, and/or land management implications.

Signed Letter Indicating Student's Advisor's Approval

In addition to the proposal document, each submission should include a brief, signed letter from the student's academic advisor verifying that the applicant is a student in good standing, and that he/she is receiving the advisor's support for the proposed project.

Submission Guidelines

Submissions will be evaluated by a committee of PSO trustees. Submissions must be sent as PDF email attachments by Friday, 24 March 2016. Please send submissions or questions to Andy McGann, at andrew.mcgann@gmail.com.

Conservation Chat Room

Pennsylvania's Conservation Community Needs You



Before you cast your vote in the recent presidential election, did you consider what the outcome would mean for birds? Did we elect a president who will understand that birds are a barometer for human well-being, that what we do to help

the birds will also help us? It is too soon to answer that question, but many in the conservation community are fearful of the future. So, let's celebrate what we have done to help birds, and let's continue to work together to create more bird habitat, protect forests from development, and educate everyone about the importance of birds in our daily lives.

If you aren't part of a conservation community, now is the time to get involved! Two important land conservation organizations in Pennsylvania are The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and Western Pennsylvania Conservancy (WPC). Both groups focus on land protection, which helps our birds.

In 2012, **The Nature Conservancy** completed a study of all the forests on the East Coast. Their research showed that the Central Appalachian region is not only one of the world's "most biologically rich regions," but it is also the most likely to be "resilient to the long-term effects of climate change and other stresses." One of TNC's conservation priorities is the Kittatinny Ridge, which includes Hawk Mountain Sanctuary – world famous for its migrating raptors. Just search "The Nature Conservancy in PA" for more online information.

The **Western Pennsylvania Conservancy** (WPC) is also hard at work protecting land and its wildlife. Almost 230,000 acres in Pennsylvania have been protected in conservation and stewardship programs. WPC has helped to establish 10 state parks and often buys land that they donate for game lands and state forests. If you

are a forest landowner living in the central or western part of the state, you might want to consider donating a conservation easement to WPC if your land has conservation value. See more at <http://waterlandlife.org>.

Are you a member of an **Audubon** chapter? Audubon chapters are scattered across Pennsylvania, forming a network of advocacy and education that focuses on bird conservation. Check out the map and a list of chapters in Pennsylvania at www.audubon.org/audubon-near-you?state=PA

Those of us who are forest landowners have a special responsibility to help birds. Forget the outcome of the election for a minute, and ask yourself, "Am I doing all I can to help birds?"

Forests are the dominant land cover in Pennsylvania and most of that forest land is privately owned: 11.5 million acres are not public forest lands. That means 69% of our forests in Pennsylvania are controlled by us, the people, and there are 740,000 of us. Caring for a forest and its wildlife is both wonderful and worrisome. Because our forests are under siege by invasive species, diseases, insect pests, and development pressures, landowners need to be proactive to keep the forest and its inhabitants healthy.

If you want to know more about Pennsylvania's forests, birds, and other wildlife, I urge you to attend the **2017 Forest Landowner's Conference** on March 24-25, 2017, at the Blair County Convention Center in Altoona, Pennsylvania.

Hosted by the **Center for Private Forests at Penn State**, the conference is the region's foremost gathering of woodland owners, forest practitioners, and others interested in woodlands and the wildlife that use them, especially game and non-game birds. The goal of the conference is to provide educational and networking opportunities to ensure that our forests and birds are cared for using the best management tools available.

You can register by phone Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. through March 20, 2017, by calling 1-877-778-2937, or you can register online at www.ecosystems.psu.edu/forest-conference.

I've described just a few groups that work hard to protect habitats and birds in Pennsylvania; there are many more. State agencies like the Pennsylvania Game Commission are responsible for the spectacular return of the Bald Eagle, and they are working hard to help many other bird species. Federal agencies, like the Natural Resources Conservation Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife

Service, also provide funding for bird habitats and conserving land in Pennsylvania.

Are you part of the conservation community to protect Penn's Woods and its birds? If not, I encourage you to get involved.



Learn more about bird conservation efforts at the 2017 Forest Landowner's Conference. Dr. Jeff Larkin, one of the keynote speakers at the conference, is the science advisor for the Working Lands for Wildlife Golden-winged Warbler program.



Golden-winged Warblers are forest birds that benefit from healthy forests with diverse age structure. This photo was taken by D. J. McNeil, one of Dr. Larkin's former students, who is continuing his Golden-winged Warbler studies in Cornell's Ph.D. program.

Laura Jackson
Bedford County
mljackson2@embarqmail.com

PSO Sales

Do you need a gift for a birder? PSO has a variety of items for sale including:



- Annotated List of the Birds of Pennsylvania*, 2nd Edition
- Field Checklist
- Binder for Checklists
- Tee Shirts (both short- and long-sleeved)
- PSO Patch
- PSO Decals
- PSO Hat
- PSO Annual Meeting Pins
- Back Issues of *Pennsylvania Birds*
- PSO Logo Zippo Lighter

Go to www.pabirds.org



The Raven Reporter

Tales of
Discovery about
Pennsylvania
Birds



Long-eared Owl Roosts and Future Nesting

The Long-eared Owl is regarded as a Pennsylvania – Threatened species based on its rarity as a breeding bird. It is a bit more common as a migrant and winter visitor, but it is still pretty uncommon. They also are very sensitive to disturbance, so care must be taken to avoid flushing birds unnecessarily.

Long-eareds may be predatory owls, but they are subject to predation perhaps more than most owls. They may seem large because of their stretched out posturing, long ear tufts, and large wings – so useful for gliding quietly over fields. But, they are smaller than a crow, only 9 or 10 ounces, and only about a fifth the size of a Great Horned Owl. They can be predated by Great Horned Owls, Red-tailed Hawks, Northern Goshawks, Cooper’s Hawks, Barred Owls, and others. I have watched them being mobbed by crows a few times, and it is not a very fair fight with each crow outweighing it and a family tribe greatly overpowering one. So, there are many reasons for a Long-eared Owl to blend into the woods to hide quietly all day before its nocturnal hunts.

The Game Commission has posted a page on its website about Long-eared Owl because it is a state-Threatened species that is poorly known in the commonwealth. Look under the “Wildlife” tab and then “Endangered and Threatened Species.” We would like to learn more about nests as well as roosts in the state. Sometimes the Long-eared Owls that roost in a conifer grove will persist there and nest either at the roost or nearby. Nesting may depend upon prey populations and the degree of disturbance there. So, if a winter roost is found, there is also the possibility that a pair may nest.

Please send any report of Long-eared Owl roosts or nests to me at the address below. Location information will be kept confidential.

Evening Grosbeaks This Winter?

Few birds mean winter more than the Evening Grosbeak. Colorful and noisy, almost like parrots, they may be the ultimate feeder bird.

Although most birders associate Evening Grosbeaks with backyard feeders, they regularly feed on a wide variety of seeds and wild fruits. One of my favorite Christmas Bird Count memories was hearing crunching high up in a riparian forest in Montoursville, Lycoming County. I could see the seed husks falling on the snow, but I had to work to see what was crunching the fruits of the corky-barked hackberry tree above me. There were several Evening Grosbeaks chomping loudly on hackberries. No one else in the count circle found grosbeaks that year. Perhaps they needed to look in the woods rather than at feeders to find grosbeaks. They also forage on the leftover seeds of ashes and maples, especially the persistent seeds of boxelders (also known as ash-leaved maple). I’ve also watched them feed on staghorn sumac berries, dogwoods, viburnums, and dried up grapes in arboreal grape arbors. In summer, Evening Grosbeaks also feast on wild cherries, so they probably devour dried cherries where they can find them. Some feel that the expansion of Evening Grosbeaks is related in part to expansion of boxelders in the Plains in addition to the various caterpillar outbreaks.

As a youngster, I enjoyed watching Evening Grosbeaks at our backyard feeders in Columbia County. They enlivened many yards and made backyard winter bird feeding even more popular. Sometimes they can completely cover a feeder in their eagerness to gorge on free sunflower seeds. I wonder how many people are now enthusiastic birders because of their enjoyment of visiting Evening Grosbeaks in their youth. The grosbeaks’ robust conical bills make short work of both large seeds and the fingers of bird-banders. During my banding projects, including studies of Blue Jays, Evening Grosbeaks were the toughest birds to handle. They pinch the skin vigorously and twist their head to bring pain and sometimes blood from the careless handler. Bites of the loose skin between the fingers were particularly painful. I swear that they also recognize wounds and aim for the weak spots. We all paid the price for enjoying grosbeaks in either the pinch on our pocketbooks with the price of sunflower seed or on our hands. But, it’s hard not to like the little yellow monsters.

Evening Grosbeaks have a loud chip note that sounds a bit like a House Sparrow on steroids. I feel that the call is distinct and recognizable. Even though I have not heard an Evening Grosbeak in flight for a few years, I would recognize one at once if I heard it. Recent research has revealed different call types of this species, a pattern that is reminiscent of the Red Crossbill with its several call types. Kendra Sewall, Rodd Keisey and Tom Hawn published a paper in *The Condor* that described the known flight call types of Evening Grosbeaks. Type 1 calls are given by grosbeaks in the

Northern Rockies and the Cascades. Type 2 calls are given by birds in the Sierra Nevada and other places in the Northwest. Type 3 calls are given by grosbeaks of eastern Canada and northeastern United States. There also are Type 4 and Type 5 calls that are associated with birds from the southern Rockies and the Sierra Madres and sky islands of Arizona, respectively. To assist with this research the eBird team advises taking an audio recording of Evening Grosbeak calls and uploading the digital media file along with the field trip report. My own memories of the loud call notes of Evening Grosbeaks matches the recordings of “Type 3” birds of the northeast. But, you never know. A flock of grosbeaks from another region might show up in Pennsylvania some day. There is much to learn about any of the irruptive species including Red Crossbill, another nomadic finch that might drop in on Pennsylvania.

Evening Grosbeaks seem to have gone through a round of increase and expansion in the northeastern boreal forests in the twentieth century, followed by a decline in the last few decades. Many of the older birders grew up in a period when winter visits from this boreal finch were fairly regular and sometimes spectacular. When some Evening Grosbeaks showed up on Dutch Mountain in 1994, they were responding to a huge outbreak of elm spanworm, a caterpillar that devoured the leaves of trees by the thousands of acres across the northern tier (Conant 1994). Roger “Skip” Conant and his birding friends, including me, saw them forage on moths and caterpillars as well as sunflower seed at his feeder near Schmitthener’s Lake, Forkston Township, Wyoming County, close to the Sullivan County border. I also saw grosbeak pairs and families along Windy Valley Road and in flight over Coalbed Swamp indicating nesting at other locations on Dutch Mountain that same summer. The nesting birds were in a forested landscape, but some pairs nested in yards and along roads and even in apple trees. The observation of nesting grosbeaks in Pennsylvania was part of an eastern expansion of this species (Brauning 1994). Evening Grosbeaks regularly nest in the Adirondack Mountains and also other parts of New York with less regularity. In Canada and New York, their nesting grounds include all kinds of forests as well as parks, yards, and small villages in forested settings. The expansion of Evening Grosbeak in the northeast may be related to increase in the spruce budworm outbreaks that supplied abundant food for nesting birds, but also the natural and artificial foods for irruptive birds (Bolgiano 2002).

The 2016 Partners in Flight management plan features the Evening Grosbeak on its cover. This is appropriate for so many reasons. Not only is it a very attractive representative of the boreal forest, but it’s also a cool bird providing an easy connection with the wilds even in

our own backyards. Look for some near you and enter your reports into eBird, Christmas Bird Counts, and the Great Backyard Bird Count.

Images and recordings can be added to the Cornell Macaulay Library. For more information about uploading digital media to eBird reports see the help page at <http://help.ebird.org/customer/en/portal/articles/973966>.

And a help page specifically about audio file uploading is here: http://help.ebird.org/customer/portal/articles/2159648-best-practices-for-audio-upload-to-ebird?b_id=1928.

References:

- Bolgiano, N. C. 2004. Cause and effect: changes in boreal bird irruptions in eastern America relative to the 1970’s spruce budworm infestation. *American Birds* 58: 27 – 33.
- Brauning, D. W. 1994. Comments on the breeding Evening Grosbeaks in Pennsylvania. *Pennsylvania Birds* 8: 135.
- Conant, R. 1994. First confirmed Evening Grosbeak Nest in Pennsylvania. *Pennsylvania Birds* 8: 133 – 135.
- Gilliam, S. W. and B. Byers. 2001. Evening Grosbeak (*Coccothraustes vespertinus*). *The Birds of North America*. (P. G. Rodewald, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from the Birds of North America: <https://birdsna.org/bnaproxy.birds.cornell.edu/Species-Account/bna/species/evegro> DOI: [10.2173/bna.599](https://doi.org/10.2173/bna.599)
- Sewell, K., R. Kelsey and T. P. Hahn. 2004. Discrete Variants of Evening Grosbeak Flight Calls. *The Condor* Vol. 106: 161-165.
- Young, M. A. 2008. Evening Grosbeak (*Coccothraustes vespertinus*). Pages 620 – 621 in *The Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State* (K. J. McGowan and K. Corwin, eds.). Cornell University Press, Ithaca and New York.
- Good Pennsylvania and World Birding!
- Doug Gross, Endangered and Non-game Bird
Section Supervisor
106 Winters Road
Orangeville, PA 17859
- PA Game Commission, dogross@pa.gov

PSO Field Trip – Maryland’s Eastern Shore

by David Yeany II

Many people know what a valuable resource the Chesapeake Bay is and that its tidal creeks and estuaries support diverse, endemic, and abundant bird life. In winter and during migration Maryland’s Eastern Shore, the Delmarva Peninsula, supports huge populations of waterfowl – found throughout the marshes, bays and waterways. On March 5, twenty-two Pennsylvania birders got a taste of just how spectacular birding can be on the Eastern Shore – especially when waterfowl are on the move!

We began the day along the mighty Choptank River at Cambridge. The Cambridge Waterfront included the famous Cambridge Yacht Club, which several years ago held a Eurasian Wigeon, Tufted Duck and Barrow’s Goldeneye – all at the same time! Unfortunately, none of these rarities were found on the day of the trip, but we did find a nice diversity of waterfowl. Among these was a large raft of 1,000 Canvasbacks, 100+ Tundra Swans, a few American Wigeons, and several Long-tailed Ducks. We scanned the river, working our way from the Yacht Club to Great Marsh Park, and ending the Cambridge swing along Riverside Drive to the west. We added 50 Common Goldeneyes, 10 Surf Scoters, about 150 Snow Geese, several Common Loons, and a few Great Black-backed Gulls.

From Cambridge we went south to Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge. On the drive into the refuge, the Bald Eagle show began in earnest as we would see nearly 40 birds that day, no doubt an underestimate. Other raptor highlights included an American Kestrel and a Red-shouldered Hawk carrying a large prey item, perhaps a squirrel or rabbit – quite impressive. Due to construction on the Wildlife Drive, we began our tour at the refuge office and quickly went to the Woods Trail to search for Brown-headed Nuthatch – a would-be lifer for a number of birders on the trip. Walking through the loblolly pine forest, we couldn’t draw out any nuthatches, but we did get a calling Great Horned Owl and a Brown Creeper. Not giving up, we walked down the closed portion of Wildlife Drive, now open only to foot traffic, and with some pishing and screech-owl calls those squeaky nuthatches showed up – about 8 in total. We also found 2 Hermit Thrushes along the road, a number of Golden-crowned Kinglets, and a calling Eastern Screech-Owl.

Continuing along the Drive, we found Gadwall, Northern Pintail, Northern Shovelers, and Red-breasted Mergansers. Through some heat distortion we located a mixed flock of perhaps 40 Dunlin and a few Greater/Lesser Yellowlegs on a mudflat. Then we spotted 8 Forster’s

Terns, a very good find for March, loafing and foraging near another distant mudflat. Another major highlight was the continuing flock of American White Pelicans, of which we counted 25 through great distortion at several kilometers across Raymond Pond on the Little Blackwater River. Finishing the loop, we tallied about 25 Tree Swallows and found 2 Northern Harriers and a lone Yellow-rumped Warbler.

After a stop for lunch at the Cambridge Wawa, we traveled north and west to Claiborne Landing, which gives a good view of Eastern Bay on the east side of the Chesapeake. Along the way, some of the birding caravan were fortunate enough to spot a Peregrine Falcon on the Route 50 bridge over the Choptank River, a large flock of 30+ Wild Turkeys, and an immature Golden Eagle near Trappe, Maryland. At Claiborne we were thankful for calm winds and good viewing conditions as we scanned two giant rafts of Surf Scoters, totaling nearly 1,000 birds. Among these we picked out at least 10 Black Scoters. Near the landing were 5 Bonaparte’s Gulls and 37 Horned Grebes. Another great highlight of the trip were 2 adult Northern Gannets spotted coursing over Eastern Bay – a good find away from the Atlantic Ocean side of the peninsula.

Next we traveled to Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center in Grasonville, just south of the Kent Narrows. With just an hour left before the gates closed at 5 p.m., we hustled toward the canoe launch platform and viewed the interior pond and Marshy Creek. The pond held 45 Ring-necked Ducks, 35 Northern Pintails, and 6 Hooded Mergansers. However, Marshy Creek harbored the most impressive waterfowl concentration of the day. We estimated about 7,800 Greater and Lesser Scaup, 500 Ruddy Ducks, 300 Canvasbacks, 150 Redheads, and smaller numbers of Gadwalls, American Wigeons, and Mallards. Just before leaving the parking area, a Cooper’s Hawk swept in chasing a few Mourning Doves.

Our final stop of the day was at Terrapin Nature Park, just before crossing the Chesapeake Bay Bridge. An interior pond hosted 31 Green-winged Teal, 2 American Black Ducks, and a single Wilson’s Snipe – all new species for the trip. Continuing out the trail to the Chesapeake Bay shore, we were treated to a beautiful sunset and several large mixed rafts of Buffleheads, Canvasbacks, Redheads, Common Goldeneyes, and scaup.

All together we tallied 90 bird species during the day, including 21 species of ducks, and over 17,000 estimated individuals.

Christmas Bird Counts Held in Pennsylvania

	Name of Count	County	Compiler	Phone Number	E-mail Address	Date
1	Audubon	Montgomery Delaware Chester	Vincent Smith	484-410-1157	Nyctea34@aol.com	12/24/16
2	Bald Eagle	Centre	Bob Snyder	814-863-6168	rhs2@psu.edu	1/1/17
3	Beaver	Beaver	Rick Mason	724-847-0909	richarddmason@gmail.com	12/17/16
4	Bedford	Bedford	Laura & Mike Jackson	814-652-9268	mljackson2@embarqmail.com	12/31/16
5	Benezette	Clearfield, Elk	Mark Johnson	814-546-2886	luckybirder@gmail.com	1/1/17
6	Bernville	Berks	Ed Barrell	610-926-2962	ebarrell@comcast.net	1/1/17
7	Bethlehem- Easton	Northampton	Elaine & Donald Mease	610-346-7754	measede@enter.net	12/31/16
8	Bloomsburg	Columbia	Cathy Haffner Linda Unger	570-275-3934	northbranchbirdclub@gmail.com	12/18/16
9	Buffalo Creek	Washington	Larry Helgerman	412-508-0321	bobolink1989@gmail.com	12/18/16
10	Buffalo Creek Valley	Butler Armstrong	George Reese	724-353-9649	g.reese@gaiconsultants.com	12/17/16
11	Bushy Run	Westmoreland	Dick Byers	724-593-3543	otusasio@lhtot.com	12/28/16
12	Butler	Butler Lawrence Mercer	Glenn Koppel Mary A Koeneke	703-203-3362 703-203-6337	kestrel22@hotmail.com macatilly@icloud.com	12/17/16
13	Central Bucks	Bucks	Diane Allison	610-847-2085	dalliso@mail.ptd.net	1/1/17
14	Chambersburg	Franklin	Valerie Barnes	717-352-4397	vbarhen@comcast.net	12/17/16
15	Clarion	Clarion	Gary Edwards	814-671-1273	gedwards@csonline.net	12/18/16
16	Clarksville	Greene	Terry Dayton	724-627-9665	tdayton@windstream.net	12/26/16
17	Culp	Blair	Laura Jackson	814-652-9268	mljackson2@embarqmail.com	12/17/16
18	Curtin	Dauphin	Scott Bills	717-896-8859		
19	Dallas Area	Luzerne	Jim Hoyson	570-696-4925 (or text only to 570-466- 7856)	birdder@aol.com	12/17/16
20	Dingman's Ferry	Pike		570-828-2310 x 234		
21	DuBois	Clearfield	Marianne Atkin- son, Joc Smrekar		marianne5@windstream.net	12/17/16

22	Elverson	Chester	Jim Cook	610-286-9919	escjim@windstream.net	12/26/16
23	Emporium	Cameron	Bob Martin	814-486-1990	bmartin@zitomedia.net	12/18/16
24	Erie	Erie	Michele Franz		isomorphun@roadrunner.com	12/17/16
25	Gettysburg	Adams	Mike O'Brien	717-642-6676	maddogobrien@gmail.com	12/17/16
26	Glenolden	Delaware	David Eberly	610-543-3499	david.eberly@gmail.com	12/17/16
27	Grove City	Butler Mercer Lawrence Venango	Brendyn Baptiste	724-496-4856	brendynbaptiste@yahoo.com	12/31/16
28	Hamburg	Berks Schuylkill	Laurie Goodrich	610-756-6961 570-943-3411 x106	goodrich@hawkmtn.org	12/30/16
29	Harrisburg	Dauphin	Deuane Hoffman	717-564-7475	corvuscorax@comcast.net	12/17/16
30	Huntingdon	Huntingdon	Deb Grove	814-643-3295	dsg4@psu.edu	12/18/16
31	Imperial	Allegheny Washington	Bob Mulvihill		robert.mulvihill@gmail.com	12/18/16
32	Indiana	Indiana	Roger & Margaret Higbee	724-354-3493	bcorirole@windstream.net	12/26/16
33	Johnstown	Cambria	Jeff Payne	814-279-8142	paynemt@gmail.com	12/18/16
34	Lake Raystown	Huntingdon Blair	Greg Grove	814-643-3295	gwg2@psu.edu	12/28/16
35	Lancaster	Lancaster	Barbara Hunsberger Roger Stoner	717-393-4091	phunsberger@comcast.net	12/31/16
36	Lebanon	Lebanon, Dauphin	Fritz Heilman	717-273-0487	volks5@verizon.net	12/17/16
37	Lehigh Valley	Lehigh/Berks	Rett Oren		rettoeren@gmail.com	12/17/16
38	Lewisburg	Union, Snyder, Northumber- land	Allen Schweinsberg	570-524-0432	aschwein@bucknell.edu	12/17/16
39	Lewistown	Juniata	Elmer Petersheim Chad Kauffman	717-535-5926 717-994-6715	chadkauffman@earthlink.net	12/17/16
40	Linesville	Crawford	Clare Nicolls	814-587-6395	tcnicolls@windstream.net	12/18/16
41	Lititz	Lancaster, Lebanon	Bruce Carl	717-368-4824	carls94@ptd.net	1/1/17
42	Lock Haven- Jersey Shore	Clinton Lycoming	Wayne Laubscher	570-748-7511	wnlaubscher@comcast.net	12/17/16
43	Mansfield- Wellsboro	Tioga	Gary Tyson	570-724-5789	gnats3@ptd.net	1/1/17

44	New Bloomfield	Perry	Annette Mathes	717-514-4512	amathes19@verizon.net	12/27/16
45	Newville	Cumberland	Vern Gauthier	717-385-9526	pabirder@gmail.com	12/31/16
46	Northern Lycoming	Lycoming	David Brown	570-772-9262	davidebrownpa@gmail.com	12/31/16
47	Penns Creek	Centre	Cathy Pierce		winghaven.nursery@gmail.com	12/17/16
48	Pennypack Valley	Philadelphia	Peter Kurtz	215-342-3638 215-685-0470	peter.kurtz@phila.gov	12/17/16
49	Philipsburg	Centre Clearfield	Greg Kojadinovich	814-237-5964		
50	Pittsburgh	Allegheny	Brian Shema	412-963-6100	bshema@aswp.org	12/31/16
51	Pittsburgh South Hills	Allegheny Washington	Nancy Page	412-221-4795		12/17/16
52	Pleasantville	Venango	Russ States	814-676-6320	pabirder@verizon.net	1/1/17
53	Pocono Mt.	Monroe	Brian Hardiman	570-629-3061	bhmccd@ptd.net	12/18/16
54	Potter County	Potter	Dave Hauber	814-274-8946	haubers3@penn.com	12/18/16
55	Reading	Berks	Ken Lebo	610-856-1413	klebo@dejazzd.com	12/18/16
56	Rector	Westmoreland	Matt Webb	412-622-5591	webbm@carnegiennh.org	1/2/17
57	Ryerson	Greene	Marjorie Howard	724-852-3155	birdwatcher108@comcast.net	12/17/16
58	Scranton	Lackawanna	Paul or Lisa Mundy	570-941-9851	Pmraptors@aol.com	12/17/16
59	South Butler	Butler	Chris Kubiak	412-963-6100	ckubiak@aswp.org	1/7/2017
60	Southeastern Bradford	Bradford	Trudy Gerlach	570-746-1572 570-746-9270	tgswoods@epix.net	12/31/16
61	Southern Bucks	Bucks	Mark Gallagher	215-378-8162	mgallagher@princetonhydro.com	12/17/16
62	Southern Lancaster County	Lancaster	Bob Schutsky	717-548-3303 (10 a.m. to 9 p.m.)	info@birdtreks.com	12/18/16
63	State College	Centre	Jim Dunn Bob Fowles	814-863-8625 814-238-1990	jwd6@psu.edu rpf@psu.edu	12/18/16
64	Tamaqua	Schuykill Carbon	Jonathan DeBalko		jonathan.debalko@wilkes.edu	12/28/16
65	Thompson	Susquehanna	Stuart Slocum		slocumsw95@yahoo.com	
66	Tunkhannock	Wyoming	Rick Koval	570-991-0580	pocononaturalist@yahoo.com	12/18/16
67	Upper Bucks	Bucks Montgomery Lehigh	Bill Etter	215-964-3613	billetter01@gmail.com	12/18/16
68	Warren	Warren	Michael Toole	814-723-4714	m_t_toole@verizon.net	12/17/16
69	Washington	Washington	Tom Contreras	724-223-6118	tcontreras@washjeff.edu	12/17/16

70	West Chester	Chester	Barry Blust AnthonyFernandes	610-458-5616	BarryBlust@comcast.net jets741@verizon.net	12/17/16
71	Western Chester	Chester	Larry Lewis	484-340-7672	earlybirdtours@comcast.net	1/1/17
72	Western Schuylkill	Schuylkill	Dave Krueel	570-622-3704	dkrueel300@comcast.net	12/18/16
73	White Mills	Wayne	Barb Leo	570-253-2364	barbaraaleo@earthlink.net	12/17/16
74	Wild Creek– Little Gap	Carbon Monroe	Corey Husic	570-269-7509	coreyhusic@gmail.com	12/18/16
75	Williamsport	Lycoming	David Brown	570-772-9262	davidebrownpa@gmail.com	12/17/16
76	Wyncote	Montgomery	Andy Fayer		AndyFayer@aol.com	12/17/16
77	York	York	Bernie Frick	717-843-6675	bernardfrick2@verizon.net	
78	York Springs	Adams Cumberland York	Vern Gauthier	717-385-9526	pabirder@gmail.com	12/29/16

Waggoner’s Gap Hawkwatch Needs Paid Counter

The counters at the Waggoner’s Gap Hawkwatch are aging, so they are looking for a means to continue the great work they have started at what has been one of the top fall hawkwatch sites in the state. The counters have put forth an effort which has been endorsed by PA Audubon to raise funds to hire a paid counter as early as the fall of 2017. If you would like to support this worthy cause, donations may be sent to the address listed below.

Please note on the check or on the envelope that the donation is specifically for the Waggoner’s Gap paid counter. Mail to:

Amy Weidensaul
 Director of Community Conservation
 Audubon Pennsylvania
 100 Wildwood Way
 Harrisburg, PA 17110

Tell Another Birder about PSO

You may be surprised to learn how many PA Birders do not know much about PSO. Why some have never even heard of us! I know that’s pretty unbelievable, but true! That is why it never hurts to take the opportunity to share with others what you appreciate about being a PSO

member. Maybe it's the journal or the newsletter, the field trips, special projects, or the connection with birders from other parts of the state; whatever it is, don't be shy. Give a good word about PSO and an invitation to join to other birders you know.

Electronic or Printed Newsletter?

If you are now receiving a printed copy of “The PSO Pileated” and would prefer to receive it on line, please notify Frank Haas at fchaas@pabirds.org.



Answers to Bird Quiz

(page 3)

1. Violet-green Swallow and Cave Swallow
2. Its distinctive red eye
3. Pine Grosbeak
4. Tennessee Warbler
5. W. E. Clyde Todd; Carolina Chickadee and Black-capped Chickadee



Chris Fischer photographed this displaying American Woodcock on his Wayne Co. property this past spring.

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 Fialkovich – President mpfial@verizon.net
Vernon Gauthier – Vice President pabirder@gmail.com
Roger Higbee – Secretary rvhigbee@windstream.net
Frank Haas – Treasurer fchaas@pabirds.org
Greg Grove – *PA Birds* Editor gwg2@psu.edu
Margaret Higbee – Newsletter Editor bcorirole@windstream.net
Mike Lanzzone – Past President mlanzzone@gmail.com

Chuck Berthoud – cnberthoud@gmail.com
Jarrod Derr – jmderr17@gmail.com
Doug Gross – dogross@pa.gov
Deb Grove – dsg4@psu.edu
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
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

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