

The

# PSO Pileated



October 2018

*The Newsletter of the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology*

Volume 29, Number 3

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

### A change of plans . . .

In the last newsletter I wrote what I thought was my final President's Message. Since that time some unexpected things took place resulting in a vacant PSO president's position. Vern Gauthier was scheduled to move from vice president to president; however, unexpected sudden commitments regarding his "day job" led to his decision to reluctantly decline becoming president. While the board was disappointed because of Vern's drive and contributions to the organization, we understood and accepted his decision. He felt that he would not be able to devote the time necessary to be an effective president which is something to be appreciated and respected. The good news is Vern was more than willing to continue to serve as a board member.

The next vice president coming on board, Evan Mann, was willing to step up to the president's position, but I felt it was unfair to him to bypass the vice presidency and become the president so soon after joining the board last year. While he was willing and certainly capable of doing that, I decided with the PSO Board's approval to stay on as president for another year. The schedule was for me to remain on the board for another year as past president, so



Field Trip participants on the Miller Ponds, Fish Hatchery, Spillway and Wildlife Museum field trip during the PSO Meeting were greeted by this beautiful sunrise at the Miller Ponds on September 15.

Photo by Mike Fialkovich

since I was committed to remain on the board for another year, I thought I can serve as president and work with Evan as vice president during that time to ensure he transitions into his new roles comfortably. A final vote regarding these changes was made by the members present at the annual meeting in Meadville in September. As always the Board of Directors appreciates the membership's support and acceptance of these changes by affirmative votes at the annual meeting. This change of procedure does not violate our bylaws.

Speaking of the annual meeting, it went very well and I was excited that so many of you attended. We had approximately 109 attendees which was a great turnout. I hope you enjoyed the Italian Club as our meeting facility. They were very easy to work with, accommodating our needs and requests and reasonably priced. I am aware members prefer that our meetings are held in a hotel for the convenience; however, none of the hotels in the area had facilities to accommodate a meeting of our size.

We received positive feedback regarding the meeting, the field trips, and the field trip leaders. We also received

suggestions on how to improve the meeting which were helpful and constructive. We will use those suggestions to make improvements for next year. Thanks to everyone for the feedback.

Thank you to the field trip leaders and all who assisted in organizing the field trips. We could never be successful without the vital assistance of locals who know the area well. There were several locations that I have never visited despite my regular trips to that area. I know the local birders were excited to host the meeting in their home county. Crawford County compiler Rob Hodgson served as our local liaison, and Field Trip Committee Chair Chad Kauffman provided invaluable assistance with setting up field trip locations and recruiting leaders as well as with the registration process. I'm sure our eBird contributions for Crawford County were significant for the weekend. I also hope attendees learned about birding sites in Crawford County and will visit them in the future. The Sandhill Cranes were a big hit with many.

Thank you to our speakers who took time from their schedules to prepare and present interesting and informative topics for our Friday evening and Saturday afternoon and evening banquet sessions.

Speaking of next year, I neglected to announce the location of next year's meeting. It will be in the Williamsport area, Lycoming County, in autumn as we are continuing our fall schedule of meetings. The location will give us access to shorebird habitat, a hawkwatch, and much more. Plans are already underway in preparation for the meeting.

At the time of this writing, the state's first Rock Wren was added to many birders' lists and a LeConte's Sparrow and a Black-throated Gray Warbler have appeared. What will be next?

Mike Fialkovich  
PSO President  
Allegheny County

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## Attendees at Our Annual PSO Meeting

September 14-16, 2018

Tina Alianiello  
Chelsea Beck  
Mary Birdsong  
Barry Blust  
Susan Braun  
David Brooke  
Lois Bryman  
Issac Byler  
Louise Byler  
Brian Byrnes  
Lisa Chapman  
Sheree Daugherty  
Michael David  
Dwayne DelGrande  
Ethan Dennis  
Eli DePaulis  
Jarrod Derr  
Linda DiLeo  
Mike Fialkovich  
Patience Fisher  
Diane Franco  
Barbara Griffith  
Debra Grim  
Deb Grove  
Greg Grove  
Carol Guba  
Joe Gyekis  
Jeffery Hall

Cecelia Hard  
Denise Hardtmann  
Steve Harned  
Jennifer Harned  
Deborah Hart  
Rebecca Hart  
Bill Hendricks  
Marg Higbee  
Roger Higbee  
James Hill  
Rob Hodgson  
Roy Ickes  
Adrienne Izaguirre  
Frank Izaguirre  
Laura Jackson  
Mike Jackson  
Chad Kauffman  
Scott Kinzey  
Sherry Kinzey  
Mary Alice Koeneke  
Glenn Koppel  
Kathy Kuchwara  
Tom Kuehl  
Janet Kuehl  
Michael Lapp  
Aaron Lapp  
Wayne Laubscher

Michael Leahy  
Ronald Leberman  
Jennifer Lohsandt  
Peter Lusardi  
Pat Lynch  
Sherron Lynch  
Julia Mann  
Evan Mann  
Eric Marchbein  
Mark McConaughy  
Oscar Miller  
Craig Miller  
Jean Miller  
Frank Moone  
Robert Mulvihill  
Ron Mumme  
Tomas Nonnenmacher  
Richard Nugent  
Karol Pasquinelli  
Aidan Place  
Julia Plummer  
Mike Plyler  
Lane Potts  
Peggy Price  
Rick Price  
Eric Reitz  
Darby Richard

Robert Ross  
Ramona Sahni  
Sarah Sargent  
Rebecca Serey  
Joe Siegrist  
Sam Sinderson  
Loanne Snavely  
Susie Solomon  
Jack Solomon  
Kate St. John  
Suzanne Thomas  
Stephen Thomas  
Emily Thomas  
Adam Troyer  
Andrew Troyer  
Lena Mae Troyer  
Anna Lisa Troyer  
Bob Van Newkirk  
Nick Voris  
Linda Wagner  
Richard Walker  
Ted Weller  
Nathan Weyandt  
Ryan Whitham  
Tiffany Willow  
Carole Winslow  
David Yeany



# Greg Grove Receives Earl Poole Award

Long-time Pennsylvania birder Greg Grove is the recipient of the 2018 Earl Poole Award. The award was presented by President Mike Fialkovich at the PSO banquet during the annual meeting on September 15. The Earl Poole award is presented annually to a person or persons who have made significant contributions to Pennsylvania's ornithology. This may be in the form of research, volunteer efforts, publications, field work, or any other pursuit that has increased the knowledge and understanding of the birdlife in Pennsylvania.



President Mike Fialkovich presents the Earl Poole Award to Greg Grove, now editor of *PA Birds*.

Photo by Chad Kauffman

Greg has been an avid birder since grad school at Ohio State in the 70s when he and Deb shared an old battered pair of binoculars and visited sites around Columbus, Ohio. It turned into a shared lifelong passion, and over the years they were joined by children Laurie and Lewis and then son-in-law Dennis. This passion led to Greg's developing new projects and participating in many Citizen Science Projects.

In 2001 he started the Winter Raptor Survey in which more than 100 Pennsylvania birders participate. The survey has over 200 survey routes, and every county in Pennsylvania has at least one. Participants drive 30- to 80-mile routes in January and February, counting all hawks and other raptors that they see. The survey is very popular with waiting lists for participation. That data collected over the last 18 years provide valuable insight into these important species.

Greg also established the Stone Mountain Hawkwatch on Allensville Road in 1991. In 1995, Dave Kyler of Huntingdon and Greg built the hawkwatch platform. The placement on the razor-edge ridge provides a view of hawk migration on both sides of the ridge for both Huntingdon and Mifflin counties. It is also one of the best views in Pennsylvania, overlooking Stone and Kishacoquillas (Big) Valleys. The Hawkwatch is especially known for the number of Golden Eagles that migrate south in the late fall.

Another achievement is the book *Birds of Central Pennsylvania*, co-written with Nick Bolgiano. The book provides information about birds found in Huntingdon, Blair, Centre, Clinton, Mifflin, and Juniata counties. The accounts of bird records, the natural history, and maps of

these areas make the book an invaluable resource.

Greg participated as a Regional Coordinator in the second Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas (2004-2008). He shared with Nick Bolgiano a region that was comprised mostly of Sproul State Forest in Clinton and the southern edge of Potter counties.

He has run Breeding Bird Surveys for the USGS, including the Williamsburg route through Blair County which he's run for 28 years.

For 15 years, he also ran the Pine Grove Mills route that traverses Stone Valley into the town of Huntingdon. In 2017 he handed it over to a younger birder. He also designed three in the northern part of Huntingdon County in Rothrock State Forest that have been conducted since 1993, two by the Groves and the third by Nick Bolgiano.

And, of course, he participates in Audubon Christmas Bird Counts. He has been involved in more than 80 – the main ones include the Lake Raystown count which he designed, the Huntingdon CBC, and the Lewistown count. He has also run Northern Saw-whet Owl surveys – “Toot Routes” – and designed 3 Nightjar (Eastern Whip-poor-will) surveys for the Center for Conservation Biology. The nightjar routes traverse the Rothrock SF area of Huntingdon, Centre, and Mifflin counties and are run by the Groves and Diane Bierley.

Grove was president of State College Bird Club for four years and president of PSO for two years. He is also a member of PSO's Board of Directors. He accepted the position of Editor-in-chief of *Pennsylvania Birds* in June 2016 upon retirement from Penn State. He is assisted with this duty by his wife Deb who does the layout. He was presented the Juniata Valley Audubon Society Conservation Award in 2017 by President Laura Jackson.

Greg retired from Penn State in June 2016 after 31 years, first employed as an instructor in the Biochemistry and Molecular Biology department and then in 2008 as a Research Associate in the Genomics Core Facility. His family, including son Lewis, daughter Laurie, son-in-law Dennis, and now grandchildren Amelia and Vincent, have all participated as the “Huntingdon Hawkeyes” in the Shavers Creek Birding Cup that is held the first weekend of May.

# The Purple Martin Conservation Association Receives PSO's Conservation Award

Founded in 1987, the Purple Martin Conservation Foundation has been a leader in research, education, and conservation of Purple Martins.

Research projects include a Scout Arrival study that generates data on returning birds, providing information on the best time to open houses, reducing the take-over by European Starlings and House Sparrows. Banding and more recently geolocator research shed light on migration patterns and both wintering and stopover sites.

Education projects include mentoring new landlords and providing reference materials to teachers, students, scout



President Mike Fialkovich presents the Conservation Award to Joe Siegrist, the organization's president.

Photo by Margaret Higbee

groups, environmental educators, and others to promote interest in this species. A list of nationwide Purple Martin events is provided with encouragement to attend for all who are interested.

The information provided to educate as many people as possible, running research projects, and encouraging those interested to attend martin events all contribute to conservation of Purple Martins in Pennsylvania and beyond.

President Joe Siegrist accepted the award for the Purple Martin Conservation Association.

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## Youth Scholarship Recipients Attend Meeting

The PSO Education Committee along with the State College Bird Club presented the following young men who were selected as recipients of youth scholarships to attend the Annual Meeting: Isaac Byler, age 16, from Huntingdon County and Michael Lapp, 17, from Rebersburg, Centre County.

This youth scholarship allows a young person, along with a parent or guardian, to attend the entire weekend with all expenses paid. The hope is that this opportunity provides a young birder the experience of learning the avifauna of a new area of Pennsylvania, gaining knowledge through the presentations, and connecting with other members of the PSO community.

Isaac Byler was nominated by Dr. Nancy Ellen Kiernan, who recognized his keen interest in birds and is helping to



Isaac Byler is presented the Youth Scholarship Award by Evan Mann, PSO Education Committee Representative

Photo by Margaret Higbee.

foster his quest to learn by experiencing a variety of ways to census and study birds. Isaac was invited to participate in a Huntingdon County Winter Raptor Survey, igniting his interest in birds of prey after which he began more seriously monitoring and reporting the birds he observed on his family farm and beyond. More recently, Isaac traveled to Ecuador on a mission trip where he was able to study and learn the birds in that region of the globe. He was particularly enthralled with the wide variety of species but was especially entranced by the Sparkling

Violetear.

In addition, Isaac has been invested in conservation projects, including building and monitoring Eastern Bluebird nest boxes. In the future, Isaac hopes to study agricultural technology at PSU or Penn Tech to pursue a

degree that enables him to learn to integrate farming practices with avian life-cycles and habitats. As we know, this connection of farming practices and land management is integral to the survival of many severely declining grassland species in eastern North America. The PSO Education Committee is proud to introduce Isaac and wishes to congratulate him on his accomplishments thus far and hopes for his continued success in his future avian endeavors.

Michael Lapp was nominated by Joe Gyekis. His scholarship was provided by the **State College Bird Club** through the PSO Education Committee. Michael has been birding at a breakneck speed. In the nine years that he has been enjoying the hobby, his life list stands at 311 species. He was able to work on that list during a weeklong visit to Florida and during several visits to New Jersey, both wonderful places to see amazing birds and hone

one's birding skills. But most of his birding experience has been in and around central Pennsylvania. He is now independently covering an assigned section for the Penns Valley CBC, and last year he was the only birder to locate a Red-headed Woodpecker on the count. He has been a contributor to the PA Migration Count each spring for several years. His fellow birders and friends in the State

College Bird Club all have confidence in and speak highly of his birding skills.

Both of these young men were remarkable candidates, both dedicated to birds, birding, and conservation through citizen science.

Congratulations, Isaac and Michael! And, thank you for attending the Annual Meeting weekend with us! We hope to see you at our future annual meetings!

Holly Merker and Evan Mann  
PSO Education Committee



Evan Mann and Joe Gyekis pose with Michael Lapp after Michael receives his Youth Scholarship Award plaque.

Photo by Margaret Higbee

## Welcome, New Board Member!



At our September meeting in Meadville, Laura Jackson, a retired science teacher from Everett, Bedford County, was elected to the Board of Directors. Laura has been contributing to our group by writing the Conservation Corner for "The PSO Pileated" since June 2014.

Laura taught environmental science and advanced place-

ment biology at Bedford High School in Bedford and served as an adjunct professor at Allegheny Community College, Everett campus. She earned many awards during

her teaching career, including the National Science Foundation Award for Science Teaching. She continues to teach and inspire audiences through her presentations on a variety of nature topics. She loves exploring the outdoors, traveling, nature photography, and working on conservation restoration projects. She owes her lifelong passion for birds to her parents who introduced her to the wonders of nature when she was very young.

Laura is active in many conservation groups. She currently serves as vice-president of Juniata Valley Audubon Society, as well as president of Save Our Allegheny Ridges (a group dedicated to protecting forested ridges from industrial wind development), and she serves as treasurer for her local woodland owners group. She serves on the steering committee for the Pennsylvania Forest Stewards and as a council member for the Center for Private Forests at Penn State.

Laura and her husband, Mike, both Pennsylvania Forest Stewards, have donated a conservation easement to the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy to protect the wildlife and forest on their 113-acre property on the lower slopes of Tussey Mountain in Bedford County.

# Birds Listed by 2018 PSO Meeting Attendees

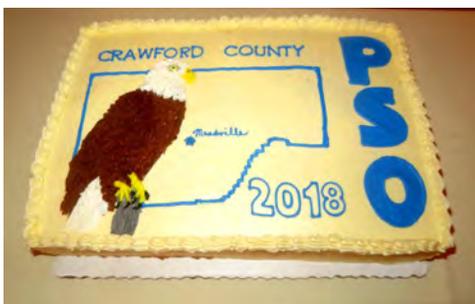
Friday, September 14, through Sunday, September 16

These birds were observed in Crawford County during the PSO weekend.

|                           |                           |                         |                              |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| Canada Goose              | Caspian Tern              | White-eyed Vireo        | Savannah Sparrow             |
| Wood Duck                 | Double-crested Cormorant  | Yellow-throated Vireo   | Song Sparrow                 |
| Blue-winged Teal          | Great Blue Heron          | Blue-headed Vireo       | Swamp Sparrow                |
| Northern Shoveler         | Great Egret               | Philadelphia Vireo      | Dark-eyed Junco              |
| Gadwall                   | Green Heron               | Warbling Vireo          | Bobolink                     |
| American Wigeon           | Glossy Ibis               | Red-eyed Vireo          | Baltimore Oriole             |
| Mallard                   | Turkey Vulture            | Blue Jay                | Eastern Meadowlark           |
| American Black Duck       | Osprey                    | American Crow           | Red-winged Blackbird         |
| Green-winged Teal         | Bald Eagle                | Common Raven            | Brown-headed Cowbird         |
| Redhead                   | Northern Harrier          | Tree Swallow            | Common Grackle               |
| Hooded Merganser          | Sharp-shinned Hawk        | Barn Swallow            | Ovenbird                     |
| Wild Turkey               | Cooper's Hawk             | Black-capped Chickadee  | Blue-winged Warbler          |
| Pied-billed Grebe         | Red-shouldered Hawk       | Tufted Titmouse         | Black-and-white Warbler      |
| Rock Pigeon               | Broad-winged Hawk         | Red-breasted Nuthatch   | Tennessee Warbler            |
| Mourning Dove             | Red-tailed Hawk           | White-breasted Nuthatch | Nashville Warbler            |
| Yellow-billed Cuckoo      | Eastern Screech-Owl       | Brown Creeper           | Common Yellowthroat          |
| Common Nighthawk          | Great Horned Owl          | House Wren              | Hooded Warbler               |
| Chimney Swift             | Barred Owl                | Marsh Wren              | American Redstart            |
| Ruby-throated Hummingbird | Belted Kingfisher         | Carolina Wren           | Cape May Warbler             |
| Killdeer                  | Red-headed Woodpecker     | Eastern Bluebird        | Northern Parula              |
| Virginia Rail             | Red-bellied Woodpecker    | Veery                   | Magnolia Warbler             |
| Sora                      | Yellow-bellied Sapsucker  | Swainson's Thrush       | Bay-breasted Warbler         |
| Common Gallinule          | Downy Woodpecker          | Wood Thrush             | Blackburnian Warbler         |
| American Coot             | Hairy Woodpecker          | American Robin          | Yellow Warbler               |
| Sandhill Crane            | Northern Flicker          | Gray Catbird            | Chestnut-sided Warbler       |
| Killdeer                  | Pileated Woodpecker       | Brown Thrasher          | Blackpoll Warbler            |
| Least Sandpiper           | American Kestrel          | Northern Mockingbird    | Black-throated Blue Warbler  |
| Pectoral Sandpiper        | Merlin                    | European Starling       | Palm Warbler                 |
| Wilson's Snipe            | Olive-sided Flycatcher    | Cedar Waxwing           | Pine Warbler                 |
| Spotted Sandpiper         | Eastern Wood-Pewee        | House Sparrow           | Yellow-rumped Warbler        |
| Solitary Sandpiper        | Yellow-bellied Flycatcher | House Finch             | Black-throated Green Warbler |
| Lesser Yellowlegs         | Acadian Flycatcher        | Purple Finch            | Wilson's Warbler             |
| Greater Yellowlegs        | Willow Flycatcher         | Pine Siskin             | Scarlet Tanager              |
| Bonaparte's Gull          | Least Flycatcher          | American Goldfinch      | Northern Cardinal            |
| Ring-billed Gull          | Eastern Phoebe            | Eastern Towhee          | Rose-breasted Grosbeak       |
| Herring Gull              | Great Crested Flycatcher  | Chipping Sparrow        | Indigo Bunting               |

Total = 144 species seen in Crawford Co.

## Special Thanks to Baker Extraordinaire Sherron Lynch!



Once again this year, member Sherron Lynch provided the cake for the banquet dessert. And once again this year, the cake was extraordinary. Sherron's cakes not only are artistically beautiful, but they are delicious as well. Diners had the choice of chocolate or white, and these were not just plain cakes – the chocolate mousse and raspberry fillings were fantastic!

Thank you, Sherron, for sharing your talents with PSO!

# PSO Annual Meeting Revisited — Fun in Crawford County

By Mike Fialkovich

The PSO Annual Meeting was held September 14-16, 2018, in Meadville, Crawford County, in the Pymatuning Lake region of the glaciated northwestern part of the state. The area features the 17,088-acre lake itself which is surrounded by forests, swamps, and most notably a vast array of emergent wetlands, particularly the extensive Conneaut (Geneva) Marsh. Approximately 13 miles long, it provides habitat for a variety of species and is designated State Game Lands 213. Although this was a fall meeting, the weather was much like summer with sunny skies and very warm temperatures.

## Friday, September 14

Participants gathered at the Italian Civic Club in Meadville on Friday evening for a social and refreshments. Here everyone picked up their name tags, meeting pins, and t-shirts and enjoyed the gathering. The social is a great opportunity to meet birders from across the state, reconnect with old friends, unwind after traveling, and visit vendors.

The business meeting began at 7:00 with President Mike Fialkovich covering the meeting schedule, board membership, field trip overview, and other details. Chad Kauffman introduced field trip leaders and added details regarding field trips.

The Friday evening program was something we've never done before. PSO Board member Emily Thomas conducted a bird trivia game which was an interesting test of our knowledge of birds covering identification by appearance, song, behavior, and more.

## Saturday, September 15

Field trips to local birding hotspots Saturday morning yielded a wide variety of species. I was a bit concerned about road conditions at some of the sites due to recent rains. A lot of these roads are unpaved state game lands roads. Fortunately, and to my relief, the roads were in good condition. I led a tour of the Miller Ponds (which is part of the Game Commission Waterfowl Management Area), the former Wildlife Museum on Ford Island (which provided some warblers and flycatchers), and the Linesville Fish Hatchery where a number of Great Egrets and an early Northern Shoveler were present. It's a good fall for Red-breasted Nuthatches, and several were found on various trips. Sandhill Cranes were numerous at the Miller Ponds much to the enjoyment of many.

After the field trips there was plenty of time for everyone to grab lunch and return to the Italian Civic Club for the afternoon sessions that began at 2:00 p.m. We altered the schedule in recent years, moving the afternoon sessions back a bit to give attendees more time for lunch and an opportunity to return to their hotel rooms if necessary.

Our first speaker was Brenda Peebles, who was employed by the Pennsylvania Game Commission for 25 years, initially as a Biologist Aid and then as the Bald Eagle Coordinator for the state. Brenda talked about the Bald Eagles in the area as well as the reintroduction programs that have been in progress for many years statewide. In addition to photographs, her program featured a video documentary about Bald Eagles in the state covering reintroduction programs as well as the treatments of injured birds. The Pymatuning region was the epicenter for Bald Eagles prior to their successful spread across the state, and a healthy population still exists here today.

The next speaker was Joe Siegrist, President and CEO of the Purple Martin Conservation Association, based in Erie. Joe provided an overview of the organization's research activities and discoveries about Purple Martins. This program also featured a mixture of media including animated graphics of the movements of martins as well as a segment regarding their work from the movie *The Messenger*. The results of the organization's tracking of the martins was particularly enlightening as it shed insight to the migration routes of this species.

During a break we enjoyed snacking on the refreshments, visiting the vendors, and socializing. As usual we had a variety of vendors attending including Juniata Audubon Society featuring bird friendly coffee for sale and brewed on site for test tasting. The Three Rivers Birding Club, Birds by Botzan, Purple Martin Conservation Association, Troyer's Bird Paradise, Sheree Daugherty's wildlife art, and of course PSO Sales all had displays.

Upon completion of the programs, attendees had some time off to prepare for the banquet. Following the evening social, the awards presentations were next on the schedule. See the separate article in this newsletter for details regarding the winners.

The weekend bird checklist was tallied by Chad Kauffman and David Yeany II with the help of the attendees. Even though waterfowl variety was low and weather was mild, we managed to tally a great list of species. While a tally is

fun, it's not about the numbers but the experiences. The full list is also in this newsletter.

Following the buffet dinner, we enjoyed our traditional dessert, the PSO cake made by Sherron Lynch of Pittsburgh. Amazingly decorated with a Bald Eagle, of course, in the outline of Crawford County, it was absolutely delicious. It's always a popular part of the meeting.

Our final speaker of the day, Dr. Ronald Mumme from Allegheny College, provided an informative program regarding the abandonment of nestlings by Hooded Warblers during molt. We learned that the birds may abandon their nests when molting their tail feathers. This was a surprising discovery. Because Hooded Warblers flush insects by flashing the white spots in their tails with repeated tail flicks during foraging excursions, without that tool the birds are less efficient at securing enough food for themselves and their young. In addition, the lack of a tail renders the birds less maneuverable and thus more vulnerable to predation; so during tail molt they attempt to conceal themselves as much as possible. Dr. Mumme also discovered that while both sexes have abandoned nests, males were overwhelmingly more likely to do so.

## Sunday, September 16

Our final activities were the morning field trips on Sunday. All field trips were run both days and included various access points to Conneaut (Geneva Marsh), Hartstown Marsh, Woodcock Lake, Erie National Wildlife Refuge, Helen B. Katz Natural Area, Tuttle Point, and the Pymatuning Causeway, Miller Ponds, Linesville Fish Hatchery, Spillway and Ford Island. I was unaware of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy property, Helen B. Katz Natural Area. Participants on that field trip enjoyed visiting this little known location. Woodcock Lake was planned as a shorebird destination, but with the recent rains the habitat was not suitable; however, a number of migrant warblers and vireos were fine substitutes. One good thing about attending field trips, even during down times for birds, is that visitors learn about an area so they may visit again in the future armed with knowledge and experience.

Thanks to everyone who attended the meeting! See you next year in Lycoming County!



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## Kayaking with Camera and Cormorants

By Dawn Ekdahl

I often go out for full or near full moon kayaking and always have my camera with me. Two evenings before the August full moon, August 24, 2018, the moon rise wasn't particularly spectacular because of low clouds, but I noticed a group of cormorants that had settled on the lake for the evening. As I paddled over to them, I realized that perhaps if I waited long enough, I could highlight the cormorants when the moon was higher in the sky. I settled in to wait and was not disappointed.



As I waited in the dark, a few night-herons moved through, a Great Horned Owl flew over, and I could hear Eastern Screech-Owls calling to each other in the distance. I even spotted a few falling stars. What I had not anticipated though was how difficult it would be to hold the

kayak steady in the dark while trying to frame the cormorant with the moon. There were many failed attempts (camera up, camera down, paddle, paddle, paddle); and during my first few tries, the cormorant had his head tucked down. Just when I was about to run out of time and space to shoot, I finally got the shots that I was hoping for. I felt like I had threaded a needle in the dark. As typical with wildlife photography, there was a little planning, a little luck, and a

whole lot of patience.

I did my doctoral work in Primate Ecology in Kenya through Rutgers University, and it was while out in the bush studying troops of primates that I developed my fascination and passion for birds.

# Ornithological Literature Notes

If you haven't checked the Pennsylvania Game Commission website lately, you may have missed two notable ornithological reports – one for Piping Plovers, the other for Lesser Black-backed Gulls.

Presque Isle's Piping Plover story is more exciting year by year, and it is a significant chapter in North American ornithology and conservation. Pennsylvania birders are fortunate to have this saga unfolding here.

The news in 2107 was that two Piping Plover pairs nested at the Gull Point natural area – the first nestings documented since the mid-1950s. One nest successfully fledged young. The other nest and eggs were saved in a dramatic rescue on the beach from storm waters by conservation personnel. The eggs were incubated artificially, raised at a rehabilitation facility in Michigan, and released into the wild.

The 2018 news is that a successful nest produced four fledglings, and one of these young birds was discovered in Florida in September and identified by its leg bands. It was either on a rest stop to feed for energy during south-bound migration or perhaps to remain there for the winter. In any case, it was a needle-in-a-haystack discovery.

These Presque Isle successes are especially important because the Great Lakes population is classified as federally Endangered. Search "Piping Plover" at the Pennsylvania Game Commission website [pgc.pa.gov](http://pgc.pa.gov) for the fascinating story.

Lesser Black-backed Gulls have an interesting history in Pennsylvania. This widely distributed Old World species was uncommon to rare in North America until recent decades. Now it is regularly common during much of the year in the state's southeastern corner, and small numbers are found annually elsewhere in the state.

The state's first record was in Bucks County in February

1960, according to *The Birds of Pennsylvania* by Jerry McWilliams and Dan Brauning. Substantial increases began in the 1990s, and the total on Pennsylvania's 2017-2018 Christmas Bird Count was 461.

Where do they go when they leave for the summer? Game Commission biologists decided to find out, and last winter they attached tiny satellite transmitters to nine gulls to determine where they went.

The gulls traveled in diverse directions to breeding-season areas as far north as Greenland and Baffin Island in Canada's Nunavut territory. Search "Lesser Black-backed Telemetry" at [pgc.pa.gov](http://pgc.pa.gov) for a colorful map of their journeys. Be prepared for surprises, such as one gull's long-distance flights over the ocean.

By early October, seven of the gulls with still-functioning transmitters came back, mostly to eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey, and one on Virginia's portion of the Delmarva Peninsula.

Game Commission Biologist Patricia Barber reported the returning gulls on the Pabirds listserv, and noted that other Lesser Black-backs in eastern Pennsylvania received U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service bands.

Patti requested birders: "Please keep an eye out for them and let me know if you see any. If possible, record where and when you see the bird, if it looks like it has a transmitter (seeing an antenna is the most likely clue), and if it's with other gulls, which species and how many, and what it's doing." Send your report to her at [patbarber@pa.gov](mailto:patbarber@pa.gov).

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## PSO Bird Quiz

***How well do you know your Pennsylvania water birds? Answers are on page 12.***

1. We typically see a species of the genus *Cygnus* and a species of the genus *Phalacrocorax* migrating over us in large V-formations. Which are they?
2. Which merganser often nests in boxes normally built for Wood Ducks?
3. Two gull and one tern species were confirmed nesting at only single sites during our Second Breeding Bird

Atlas period. Which were they?

4. Charles S. Westcott wrote in an 1884 issue of *Forest and Stream* hanging up. A pair purchased were very cheap and were excellent eating."
5. The remains of a gull found in Westmoreland County in 1996 represented the first bird banded in Sweden ever recovered in the U.S. Name the species.

# The Raven Reporter

## Tales of Discovery about Pennsylvania Birds

### Ricketts Glen State Park Project



As part of my long-term studies of birds in northern Pennsylvania, I've started another project to which I invite others to participate. Ricketts Glen State Park is one of the largest in the Pennsylvania state park system, 13,050 acres in size. Together with State Game Lands 13, 57, and 66, this forest includes 114,978 acres, the largest forest block in eastern Pennsylvania. The park comprises the northwestern corner of Luzerne County and also includes parts of eastern Sullivan County and extreme northern Columbia

County. It is perched at the edge of the Allegheny Plateau with a high elevation of 2361 feet. It was selected as an Important Bird Area for the state as was the adjacent SGL 57 back in 1998. The IBA nomination was based on the park's populations of forest birds, especially those with northern affinities, and the presence of some endangered and threatened species as well as Species of Special Concern. Most of the forest is northern hardwoods with conifers such as eastern hemlock and eastern white pine. Oak forest is also present, especially along the Old Bulldozer Road, Ganoga View Trail, and Grand View Trail. Major features include the old growth forest in The Glens Natural Area, the 22 named waterfalls, the 245-acre Lake Jean, some blueberry meadows and boreal swamps in the upper reaches of trout streams, and 26 miles of marked hiking trails. The northern part of the park includes some red spruce. The giant hemlocks are being attacked by the hemlock woolly adelgid, so there is significant die-off of these big trees in the natural area.

Several PSO meetings have included bird walks at Ricketts Glen State Park and the adjacent game lands. I've led a few of these over the years. Although this park is easily accessible from Route 118 and 487, few birders

visit the park and register their field trips in eBird. While birding there this summer, I visited the park at least 25 times but only saw three people wearing binoculars when I was not leading a bird walk. Ricketts Glen is one of the most "under-birded" spots in the state considering its rich bird community and scenic beauty. Most visitors walk the famous Falls Trail to enjoy the 22 waterfalls that can be seen along the two branches of Kitchen Creek. Although a sharp-eared birder might spot a few Winter Wrens, Acadian Flycatchers, Louisiana Waterthrushes, warblers, and vireos, this is a tough place to find birds due to the water noise and steady foot traffic of hikers. More profitable birding can be found elsewhere.



This little waterfall in the Falls Natural Area at end of the Highlands Trail, Ricketts Glen State Park, is unnamed but was formerly in a Swainson's Thrush territory.

Photo by Doug Gross

Some of the birding highlights of the park are the high populations of "big forest birds." Black-throated Green Warblers and Blackburnian Warblers are quite common as are Blue-headed Vireos, Winter Wrens, Brown Creepers, Hermit Thrushes, Louisiana Waterthrushes, Magnolia Warblers, Yellow-rumped Warblers, and Black-throated Blue Warblers.

If you know where to look, there also are populations of Nashville Warblers, Northern Waterthrushes, Canada Warblers, and Purple Finches. For as long as I can remember, the park has been "raven country" in all seasons. In some years, you can find breeding Red-breasted Nuthatches, Golden-crowned Kinglets, and Pine Siskins. It is one of the few places where all possible thrush species can be found nesting: American Robin, Wood Thrush, Hermit Thrush, Veery, Swainson's Thrush, and Eastern Bluebird with Swainson's Thrush as the real treat. For flycatchers, there are some interesting contrasts between Acadian Flycatchers in the Glen, Least Flycatchers in the maple-beech forest, and Alder Flycatchers in the blueberry patches on top of the plateau. Patches of wetlands support Swamp Sparrows, but the most common "sparrow" there is the Dark-eyed Junco. As is easily imagined, woodpeckers are well-represented here with Yellow-bellied Sapsucker the most common breeding species and Hairy Woodpecker as likely seen on a field trip as the smaller Downy. Both Broad-winged and Red-shouldered Hawks are scattered throughout the park. Northern Goshawks have nested here but seem in drastic decline with few recent sightings despite the abundance of habitat. Night birds are not well known here, but we do know that Barred Owls are fairly common and Northern Saw-whet Owls, Great Horned Owls, American Woodcock, and Eastern Whip-poor-wills all breed in the park and adjacent game lands. Waterfowl are decidedly sparse, perhaps a

consequence of the atmospheric acidification of the lake. You can spot Bald Eagles here regularly, but there is no record of nesting.

I am just forming my plans for the final product, but I envision a digital booklet with seasonal phenograms, location descriptions, and brief species accounts describing habitat, status, and best spots for finding the regularly found bird species. As such, it will be a dynamic document that I will revise as we learn more about the birds there. Birders will invariably visit the adjacent game lands including the Ricketts village found at the intersection of Route 487 and Mountain Spring Road in SGL 13, the Creveling Ponds, Splashdam Pond, and the Meadows/Bowman's Marsh where PSO found American Bitterns a few years ago on a meeting field trip in SGL 57. Visits to these areas are welcome with "hot-spots" designated in eBird to separate the different management areas. By completing a good educational document for Ricketts Glen, I hope to open up the gates to the "big woods" of North Mountain for more birding and conservation.

I have intensified my own field coverage of the park and invite others to visit throughout the year and register their observations in eBird. From the two Atlas projects and some rare bird surveys, I have explored many corners of the park during the nesting season, but this is a big place that I feel that I am just getting to know. I have not, for example, visited it much during spring or fall migration seasons and not often in the winter months. The coverage lacks nocturnal and crepuscular birds as well as many passage migrants. It deserves visiting by others throughout the year. If anyone has records to share, including rare species or observations that you prefer to keep confidential, please contact me. Even older field trips are welcome and helpful.

### **Swainson's Thrush Decline**

One of the most beautiful and iconic sounds of the north woods is the ethereal, upward spiraling song of the Swainson's Thrush. These elusive and mysterious forest birds nearly reach the southern edge of their breeding range in Pennsylvania. The biggest Swainson's Thrush population in the state is in Allegheny National Forest and adjacent woodlands, but they also are found across the northern part of the state especially on North Mountain. It has been slowly reclaiming its former breeding range in the northcentral and northeastern counties with clusters of territories here and there in high elevation conifers, usually hemlocks. I apologize for being a bit redundant about this column since I have written about this species before, but this time I am registering an alarm on its behalf from my own field experiences.

In my studies of rare northern forest birds, I have found and tracked clusters of Swainson's Thrushes in north-eastern Pennsylvania. In our state, they typically are found near headwater streams and seepage areas in extensive mixed forests with hemlocks and often beech brush, but apparently with a wider range of forest types in the Allegheny National Forest. Swainson's Thrushes not only feed on the ground like our other "spotted thrushes" (i.e. Hermit, Veery, Wood Thrush), but also will engage in some flycatching and sally-gleaning for small flying insects. I've watched them hawk for insects at close distance, often from a branch above a mossy patch or seep area with a lot of mosquitoes, black flies, and crane flies. With the gradual maturing of our forests, I've anticipated a gradual spread of Swainson's Thrush. I've found some nests and young to give the impression that birds were not just singing but pairing up, building nests, and producing young. My hopes have been compromised recently with the apparent local extirpations of most clusters I know about in the eastern part of the state. Last year, I failed to find a singing Swainson's Thrush during intense breeding bird surveys in the Glass Creek Woods of SGL 13, Sullivan County, where I have found them since 1983. My 2017 surveys included places where I had previously found nests or adults feeding young. In my explorations I also found a cluster of Swainson's Thrushes along Shanerburg Road in Loyalsock State Forest, Sullivan County, sometimes finding nests or dependent young among the hemlocks. I failed to find any territorial birds there in the last two years. A third cluster that Skip Conant and I found at the northern edge of Ricketts Glen State Park (RGSP) along Mountain Springs Lake Road and the "Hidden Hemlocks Trail" also seems to have disappeared. The same is true of a cluster of Swainson's Thrushes that Eric Zawatski and I have found along the Mountain Springs Trail in RGSP. I am not sure why any of these clusters has "winked out" since the habitat looks similar to how it appeared in past years, albeit more mature and with fewer blueberry shrubs in the case of Glass Creek. There may be forces at play on the wintering grounds in South America, in the migration route, or something not appreciated on the breeding ground. A very wet summer may be a factor. I suspect that the story is a bit more complicated than "decline in breeding habitat quality" since many populations are declining across the continent (check the USGS BBS route data). But, summer weather patterns have changed, and there may be consequences for those changes.

I have always been "concerned" about the boreal forest's Swainson's Thrush in Pennsylvania, but now I am "alarmed" about its apparent decline as a breeding species. The Birds of North America account mentioned declines in 2000, but we did not have evidence that Pennsylvania was part of that decline. Now, I wonder if we are losing

another rare breeding bird species and one that may be more sensitive than most to climate changes. I continue to monitor a small population that I have found in Ricketts Glen and will check on other clusters that I found in the past. David Yeany of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy and I also have been monitoring populations through the Peatland project. Your own observations and assistance are welcome.

### **Another Big Blue Jay and Red-breasted Nuthatch Migration?**

No one needed to send me a copy of the Winter Finch Forecast for me to know that there is a flight of Blue Jays and Red-breasted Nuthatches this fall. I had already seen flocks of jays flying over North Mountain in early September with more movement than usual in August. And, Red-breasted Nuthatches were showing up in mixed woods and wood edges in August, not just the conifer groves where I usually find them. The Blue Jay flight has been reportedly stimulated by poor mast crops in southern Canada. I suspect that the same may be true of northern hardwood forests of Pennsylvania, New York, and New England. What I find true about Blue Jays is that you do not need to go to a ridgetop to see their flocks. I've seen many while sitting on my own front porch or from an opening in the forest canopy. They seem to file one-by-one over open spaces just to be careful about predators. Jays not only feed on sunflowers and other typical feeder

food but are attracted to larger mast and berries. My best bait has always been whole peanuts which are similar in size, and perhaps an improvement in taste, on one of their favorite natural foods – acorns. Migrating jays will cache hard mast in a variety of places and retrieve the hoards later. It is fun to watch them hide their caches in your yard and trick their competitors on the hiding places. Red-breasted Nuthatches were on the move early, and I believe that we will see a widespread flight of these little fellows. My own little colony of Red-breasteds produced young right behind our house in a conifer grove, so I have to keep them out of the equation in this discussion. They will nest in isolated conifer groves, even at lower elevation if there is sufficient conifer seed available. I suspect that we will see many great photos of Red-breasted Nuthatches this winter on personal media pages. Maybe some will be on the cones of our native conifers.

One of my own favorites, a Red Crossbill, flew over my head last June in a conifer swamp. Unfortunately, I never heard or saw the species again during many visits to conifer groves last summer. One of these days we will find a breeding population of this conifer specialist, and I want to be there to see them.

Good birding!

– Doug Gross  
[Dagross144@verizon.net](mailto:Dagross144@verizon.net)

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## **Annual Meeting Minutes**

Mike Fialkovich called the September 14, 2018, meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. After welcoming everyone to the meeting, he announced that Jarord Derr, Annette Mathes, and Flo McGuire were leaving the board. Up for reelection were Wayne Laubscher, Holly Merker, Emily Thomas, and Linda Wagner. The board would also like to add our Conservation Chairperson, Laura Jackson, to the board. Mike called for a motion to elect this slate of directors. The motion was made, seconded, and passed.

Mike explained the situation with his remaining as president and Evan Mann stepping up as vice president. Vern Gauthier will stay on the Board. A motion to elect all of the officers was made, seconded, and passed.

Evan Mann then introduced our vendors: Three Rivers Birding Club, Juniata Audubon, Troyer's Bird Paradise, Sheree Daugherty, and the Purple Martin Conservation Association.

After Chad discussed the various field trips, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger V. Higbee, Secretary

### **Answers to PSO Quiz**

(page 9)

1. Tundra Swan and Double-crested Cormorant
2. Hooded Merganser
3. Ring-billed Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Black Tern
4. Snow Goose
5. Little Gull

## 2018 Meeting Memories – Photos by Wayne Laubscher



A cooperative Yellow-billed Cuckoo was a nice find at Erie NWR.



The Ford Island field trip yielded this Palm Warbler.



Wayne photographed these Sandhill Cranes on the Millers Pond outing.



Birders seldom tire of watching Sandhill Cranes.

## Maybe You Were There



# 2019 Field Trips and Birding Events

Special thanks to Chad Kauffman for organizing our 2019 field trips and events. If you have any questions, please contact Chad at [chadkauffman@earthlink.net](mailto:chadkauffman@earthlink.net).

**Jan 14 - Feb 8 – Winter Raptor Survey** – These annual counts monitor mid-winter raptor populations. Observers drive established routes in every county of the state. For more information, see <https://pabirds.org/index.php/projects/winter-raptor-survey-wrs>.

**Feb 15-18 – Great Backyard Bird Count** – See how many species you can get in your yard, your favorite patch, etc. For more information, check <http://gbbc.birdcount.org/>.

**March 2 – Snyder County Waterfowl Tour** – This field trip is weather dependent; contact Chad Kauffman to ascertain whether it will be held. We will hit Faylor and Walker Lakes looking for waterfowl as well as exploring various other areas for winter birding.

**March 9 – Snyder County Waterfowl Tour** – We'll do a rerun of the previous week, or this will serve as a backup date.

**May 3-4 – Shavers Creek Birding Cup** - Shaver's Creek's annual fundraising tournament is a contest among teams of birders to identify the most bird species in a 24-hour period in the central Pennsylvania region. For more information, see <https://www.shaverscreek.org/public-programs-and-events/birding-cup/>.

**May 11 – PA Migration Count** – Since 1992, our state has been counting birds statewide for this migration count. For more information, go to <https://pabirds.org/index.php/projects/pa-annual-migration-count>

**June 14-17 – Breeding Bird Blitz** – This is another opportunity to add some great PA Breeding Bird data to eBird. For more information, see <https://pabirds.org/index.php/projects/breeding-bird-blitz>.

**PSO Annual Meeting in Lycoming County** – Plans are already underway for this great meeting.

**Oct 12-13 – The Big Sit** – Bird Watcher's Digest gives us another reason to bird and count. For more information, check <https://www.birdwatchersdigest.com/bwdsite/connect/bigsit.php>

**Nov 2-3 – Hawk Mountain Hawkwatch for Golden Eagles** – On a three-year rotation, we return to Hawk Mt. where it all started with the hope of finding the peak of the Golden Eagle migration and possibly Northern Goshawks. Check the PSO website as well as our birding Facebook groups for updates and additions. If you have ideas or wish to lead trips, let us know. Field trips may be partial day trips or even a multiple-day trip anywhere you want to go!

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## Butler County Field Note

By Gene Wilhelm

Daylight hours continue to decline in October as the sun appears to move farther south. This decrease in sunlight is the trigger mechanism that sets so many other things on earth in motion.

Birds have been moving southward since late summer, but with the coming of October, avian migration reaches a frenzy. Waves of land birds, especially late vireos, warblers, blackbirds, and finches, spurt across county skies in front of the consistently cool, dry, northwestern air masses that gradually dominate the weather patterns. Hard frost is inevitable this month, but the question is when? Large flocks of late Chimney Swifts twist and turn in the air during daylight catching the last aerial insects of

the season, retreat into large smoke stacks and chimneys for a rest, then before dawn take flight again. By mid-month they will have reached their overwintering grounds in Brazil.

Suddenly, in early October, flocks of American Robins, Cedar Waxwings, and Blue Jays overwhelm our yards, gardens, and forests. They are gleaning the edible fruits that are conspicuous now: the red drupes of the flowering dogwood, orange bittersweet, dark purple wild grapes, and miniature red apples of the hawthorn trees. Most of these birds will move south once the supply of wild fruits is

*(continued on page 16)*

# Conservation Chat Room

## A Warm Welcome to Three Fall Friends: Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, Golden-crowned Kinglets, and Brown Creepers



The mornings are no longer full of bird song as the days get shorter and colder. Gone are the many warblers, vireos, and thrushes that started my day with uplifting melodies and promises of entertainment as I went about my summer chores. Just last July, I enjoyed more than 20 species of birds singing during the mid-

morning while I picked blueberries in my backyard. Now, that orchestra is gone but has been replaced by more subtle feathered musicians.

### Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

The first to arrive in my backyard was the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. I heard it calling from its favorite tree – an ancient apple tree that was no doubt planted by one of my ancestors many, many years ago. National Audubon says this woodpecker is quiet during the winter, but I hear them calling all winter around my house. Their call is a single catlike note that sounds sad and plaintive to my ears. No doubt they are noisier during the breeding season, but they leave southern Pennsylvania to breed in forests across the northern tier in our state and points north into Canada, so I never hear or see their rowdy behavior around my house.

Scott Stoleson writes, in the **2012 Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in Pennsylvania\***, that the northern breeding populations are “common, widespread, and increasing.” He points out that there is an isolated population in the Southern Appalachian Mountains that is declining and considered a federal species of concern. Overall, though, the data show that Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers are thriving in Pennsylvania.



Some Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers breed as far south as Costa Rica; but we also enjoy seeing them during the winter in Bedford County.

Photo by Laura Jackson

I was surprised to hear and then watch a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker on September 17, 2018 – quite a bit earlier than other years. In addition to sipping sap, they also eat the Miracle Mix peanut butter treat (recipe at end of article) and suet that my husband provides. We’ll enjoy these striking birds all fall and winter, but they’ll leave by early April.

### Golden-crowned Kinglet

Our smallest songbird, the Golden-crowned Kinglet, is also a good news bird – at least in Pennsylvania. The Atlas data showed that Golden-crowned Kinglets are widespread and expanding their range, although they may certainly be impacted by the loss of hemlock trees killed by the hemlock woolly adelgid. This little bundle of hyperactivity is considered a “conifer forest obligate in Pennsylvania,” but they breed in natural and manmade conifer plantations. We planted a small grove of conifers and have scattered single evergreens, so we hope they use those trees, but we see kinglets throughout our forest every fall and winter. If you participated in the statewide effort to “Walk in Penn’s Woods” on October 7 this year, you might have seen or heard some Golden-crowned Kinglets. There were two sightings on our walk. Then on October 9, a busy kinglet was exploring our winterberry holly bush just outside our kitchen window. A more typical habitat for them, though, is a single white spruce near our house, where five were feeding on October 31, 2014.

### Brown Creeper

The Brown Creeper is another bird that nests in the northern part of Pennsylvania, so we don’t see any during the breeding season. Our latest spring sightings are mid-April. Our earliest fall sighting was last year, on December 2, 2017 – until this year when my husband saw two on October 13. There seems to be a trend of early arrivals this year. Does this mean an early winter?

Brown Creepers, as well as Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, like suet and the peanut butter mix. I'm sure we overlook them quite often since they are tiny and have such wonderful camouflage, but one time we were lucky enough to watch a pair building a nest behind a loose flap of bark on a dead red pine. We were hiking on a trail in Elk County and watched a Brown Creeper fly right in front of us to a dead pine quite close to the trail. We could see stems extending beyond the bark but not the nest itself, which is described as a "hammock."

The naturalist W.M. Tyler, writing in 1948, captured this species' energy and fragility in a memorable description: "The Brown Creeper, as he hitches along the bole of a tree, looks like a fragment of detached bark that is defying the law of gravitation by moving upward over the trunk, and as he flies off to another tree he resembles a little dry leaf blown about by the wind."

Indeed, the Brown Creeper is fragile and its future uncertain. In Pennsylvania and in other states, according to the Atlas, the Brown Creeper's range is contracting northward. Forest fragmentation caused by energy development and impacts of climate change on our forests could negatively impact the Brown Creeper.

To those of you who live in Pennsylvania's Northern Tier, thank you for sharing these birds with us "southerners," at least part of the year!

\*The **Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in Pennsylvania** would make a wonderful Christmas present for any birder. It locates and profiles each of the 203 birds known to nest in Pennsylvania. It is available from Penn State University Press: [www.psupress.org/books/titles/978-0-271-05630-2.html](http://www.psupress.org/books/titles/978-0-271-05630-2.html)

– Laura Jackson, Conservation Chair  
Butler County

## No Melt Miracle Mix

### Ingredients: (This makes a double batch)

- 2 cups crunchy or creamy peanut butter
- 2 cups lard (no substitutes)
- 4 cups oatmeal
- 4 cups cornmeal
- 2 cups **unmedicated** Chick Starter Mash  
(available at a feed store)
- 1 cup white flour
- 2/3 cup sugar

**Note: the chick starter adds fat, minerals, & protein which helps prevent some eye diseases.**

### Directions:

1. Put the peanut butter & lard into a large glass bowl and microwave for 3 minutes. Stir.
2. Add remaining ingredients & mix thoroughly with a wooden spoon.
3. Pour into a plastic container or shallow pan and allow to cool.
4. Store in the refrigerator, freezer, or a cool place.
5. Can be cut into squares to fit into suet cages.

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## Butler County Field Note *(continued from page 14)*

exhausted. But at least some of the Blue Jays remain in our neighborhoods for the winter and now are caching acorns and hickory nuts in tree holes, wood piles, and beneath rocks. Be alert, too, for the extraordinary warblers, like the Orange-crowned and Pine Warblers, feeding in your yards and gardens for insects and worms on the ground. European Starling flocks act like swallows in early October, snatching gliding spiders and flying ants in mid-air on balmy October afternoons.

Raptors, waterfowl, and shorebirds are on the move above our homes, too, both by day and night in October. Geese and ducks may linger on Lake Arthur and state game

wetlands until hard freeze-up. Then it will be time for the hardy Tundra Swans to rush for the Chesapeake Bay area for winter.

By the way, *PSO Pileated* readers will want *The Warbler Guide App* with the title *North American Warblers with 3D Models and Songs* by Tom Stephenson and Scott Whittle, authors of the beautiful book *The Warbler Guide*. This fine color fourteen-page foldout compares all North American warblers from any angle with 3-D models, intuitive visual and audio filters, songs, and sonograms. Songs are provided by Cornell University. Details: Contact [alyssa\\_sanford@press.princeton](mailto:alyssa_sanford@press.princeton).

# Current PSO Membership List

**Only those members who have chosen to have their names listed are included below.**

Alexander, Connie, Shinglehouse, Potter, PA  
Alexander Md, Charles E., Oxford, Lancaster, PA  
Alianiello, Tina, Cresson, Cambria, PA  
Allison, Diane C., Pipersville, Bucks, PA  
Anderson, Gavin, Waynesboro, Franklin, PA  
Anderson, Matthew, Downingtown, Chester, PA  
Andrews, Katie, Leesport, Berks, PA  
Auld, Josh, Kennett Square, Chester, PA  
Ausubel, Seth, Washington Crossing, Bucks, PA  
Baker, Nancy, Franklin, Venango, PA  
Barcaskey, James, Moon Twp, Allegheny, PA  
Barnes, Valerie, Fayetteville, Franklin, PA  
Barrera, Manuel, Montoursville, Lycoming, PA  
Becker, Tim, Grantville, Dauphin, PA  
Beitzel, Dale, Fleetwood, Berks, PA  
Bell, Richard C., Furlong, Bucks, PA  
Bierly, Diane K, State College, Centre, PA  
Bildstein, Keith L., Orwigsburg, Schuylkill, PA  
Bills, Scott & Stephanie, Halifax, Dauphin, PA  
Birdsong, Mary, Erie, Erie, PA  
Blust, Barry E., Glenmoore, Chester, PA  
Blye, Robert W., Lewes, Chester, DE  
Boas, Mark, Pottstown, Chester, PA  
Bolgiano, Nick, State College, Centre, PA  
Boltz, Gerry & Jeanne, Lebanon, Lebanon, PA  
Boltz, Jeff, Glen Rock, York, PA  
Bonta, Marcia, Tyrone, Blair, PA  
Bostich, Doug, Bentleyville, Washington, PA  
Braun, Susan, State College, Centre, PA  
Brauning, Daniel, Montoursville, Lycoming, PA  
Brenner, Mary, Harrisburg, Dauphin, PA  
Brittingham Brant, Margaret C., Port Matilda, Centre, PA  
Brock, Frederic H., Allentown, Lehigh, PA  
Brooke, David, Natrona Heights, Allegheny, PA  
Brookens, Doris, Boiling Springs, Cumberland, PA  
Brookens, Scott, Enola, Cumberland, PA  
Brown, Bobby, Montoursville, Lycoming, PA  
Brown, David, Montoursville, Lycoming, PA  
Brown, Deb, Montoursville, Lycoming, PA  
Brown, Paul, Pittsburgh, Allegheny, PA  
Bruno, Anthony, Shelocta, Indiana, PA  
Buckwalter, Ted, Moon Twp, Allegheny, PA  
Buriak, Alan, Gibsonia, Allegheny, PA  
Byerly, Ken, Delmont, Westmoreland, PA  
Byers, C. Richard, Stahlstown, Westmoreland, PA  
Byrnes, Brian, Glen Mills, Delaware, PA  
Carl, Bruce A., Akron, Lancaster, PA  
Carnahan, Lee, Homer City, Indiana, PA  
Carter, John, Port Matilda, Centre, PA  
Chalfant, Chuck, Gap, Lancaster, PA  
Chambers, William, Bellefonte, Centre, PA  
Chapman, Lisa, Smethport, McKean, PA  
Check, Rachel, Pittsburgh, Allegheny, PA  
Chubb, Ed, Harrisburg, Dauphin, PA  
Cleary, Richard L., Dallastown, York, PA  
Clickner, John, Huntingdon, Huntingdon, PA  
Cline, Sandy & Bill, Somerset, Somerset, PA  
Cohen, Michelle, Harrisburg, Dauphin, PA  
Cook, Ruth, Elverson, Chester, PA  
Cooper, Paul, Upper Black Eddy, Bucks, PA  
Corbin, Clay, Bloomsburg, Columbia, PA  
Cramer, Kay, Liverpool, Snyder, PA  
Crilley, Kevin F., Sumneytown, Montgomery, PA  
Dale, Jon, Dillsburg, York, PA  
Daugherty, Sheree, Pittsburgh, Allegheny, PA  
David, Michael, Oakmont, Allegheny, PA  
Deantoniis, Vincent W., Feasterville, Bucks, PA  
Debalko, John, McAdoo, Schuylkill, PA  
Delaney, Karyn, Baden, Beaver, PA  
Delgrande, William, Titusville, Venango, PA  
Demarco Jr, Joseph, Tunkhannock, Wyoming, PA  
Dereamus, David C., Easton, Northampton, PA  
Dewaghe, Gerard, Cape May, Bucks, NJ  
Dick, Tom, Cairnbrook, Bedford, PA  
Dileo, Dallas, Pittsburgh, Allegheny, PA  
Doolan, Lynne, Grove City, Mercer, PA  
Dunn, Cindy, Camp Hill, Cumberland, PA  
Dziuban, Lisa, Doylestown, Bucks, PA  
Eakin, Richard R., Guys Mills, Crawford, PA  
Earle, Jane, Mechanicsburg, Cumberland, PA  
Easter, Carol, Kintnersville, Bucks, PA  
Ebeling, David & Kathy, Shinglehouse, Potter, PA  
Eberly, David, Swarthmore, Delaware, PA  
Edwards, Gary E., Seneca, Venango, PA  
Egli, Wesley, Picture Rocks, Lycoming, PA  
Ek Dahl, Dawn, East Earl, Lancaster, PA  
Epler, Mike, Middletown, Dauphin, PA  
Etter, William, Northampton, Northampton, PA  
Family, Gerben & Kaspar, Venetia, Washington, PA  
Farbotnik, Devich, Quakertown, Bucks, PA  
Fayer, Andrew, Fort Washington, Montgomery, PA  
Feldstein, Steven B., State College, Centre, PA  
Ferree, Leslie, South Park, Allegheny, PA  
Ferrick, Jennifer, Erie, Erie, PA  
Ferry, Ron, Ephrata, Lancaster, PA  
Fialkovich, Michael P., Pittsburgh, Allegheny, PA  
Fischer, Chris & Ronnie, Honesdale, Wayne, PA  
Flannigan, John, South Park, Allegheny, PA  
Fordyce, Steve, Mertztown, Berks, PA  
Foster, Doris, Meadville, Crawford, PA  
Foulke, Judith, Warminster, Bucks, PA  
Fowkes, Douglas, Pittsburgh, Allegheny, PA  
Fowles, Robert, Pine Grove Mills, Centre, PA  
Franklin, Martha, Kingsley, Susquehanna, PA  
Frantz, Mack, Morgantown, Washington, WV  
Franz, Bill, Newville, Cumberland, PA  
Freed, Ronald R., Carlisle, York, PA  
Freedman, Linda, Bethlehem, Northampton, PA  
Freiberg, John F, Audubon, Montgomery, PA  
Frock Jr., Roy F., Chalfont, Bucks, PA  
Gallagher, Mark, Yardley, Bucks, PA  
Garner, Carl L., Zullinger, Franklin, PA  
Garner, Tom, Lancaster, Lancaster, PA  
Gauthier, Vernon, Newville, Cumberland, PA

Gearhart, Dale L., Shady Grove, Franklin, PA  
 Gensemer, Louise, Pottstown, Chester, PA  
 Gerlach, Trudy, Wyalusing, Bradford, PA  
 Gerrish, Sarah H., Pittsburgh, Allegheny, PA  
 Glover, Thomas, Punxsutawney, Jefferson, PA  
 Gobert, David A., Patton, Cambria, PA  
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