

The

PSO Pileated



June 2019

The Newsletter of the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology

Volume 30, Number 2

From the President's Desk....

Final Message #2

This is my last message as President of PSO. You read that last year at this time, but this time it really is. My term will be coming to an end at the conclusion of the annual meeting in September. Due to unforeseen circumstances last year, I decided to extend my two-year position as president, so my term will end this September following the annual meeting, but I will remain on the board for another two years as Past President.



President Mike Fialkovich takes in the view at Wolf Rocks Overlook, Westmoreland Co.
Photo by Ramona Sahni

My thoughts are identical to last year's, but I don't want to merely cut and paste them from last year's message. I thank past and present board members with whom I served for their work and dedication to the PSO. Everyone involved provided great ideas, suggestions, skills, and more regarding the organization and its activities. Last year I wrote about the organization's various changes in terms of its activities and outreach to members. We have continued working in that capacity with additional offers to young birders and students and by supporting various environmental issues that affect birds. The Board of Directors is dedicated and hard working. I'm always thankful and relieved when someone offers a suggestion or a solution to a "problem" we are discussing. We all have various backgrounds, knowledge bases, and experiences, and that diversity allows us to function as a great team. At the annual meeting in September the membership will vote on proposed candidates for the board. These prospective board members are well known to Pennsylvania's birding community, and I am certain that PSO will benefit greatly by their addition to the board. I thank them for their consideration to join us.

I learned a great deal during my three years as president, two as vice president, and three as a board member. Learning how an organization functions and the various responsibilities associated with each position have been eye opening in every way. Serving on the board was a good experience for me personally. I don't consider myself much of a leader and sometimes lack confidence in what I do, so this appointment provided me with beneficial personal growth.

I will also continue as a Seasonal Editor and county compiler for *Pennsylvania Birds*, and in January 2019, I began my third term serving on the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee (PORC); so I will still be working within the organization for the foreseeable future.

Once again, I thank you, the members of PSO, for your continued support of the organization. It was great seeing many of you at our last annual meeting in Meadville; I was pleased with the attendance. I hope you enjoyed it. I admit that I was a bit nervous that it would all work out after months of preparation and dealing with the many details that go along with planning a meeting. I would also like to thank those who offered constructive feedback regarding the meeting. I took those suggestions seriously and am working to incorporate them into this upcoming annual meeting.

News regarding our next annual meeting which will be held in Williamsport, Lycoming County, follows in this newsletter and on the PSO Website. Check the website as

additional details may be announced on the Annual Meeting page. I've only been in Williamsport once, so I'm looking forward to going there again to experience what the area has to offer. The meeting will feature a full lineup of field trips, speakers, and much more as always. I hope to see many of you there!

Thank you as always for your continued support. Good birding!

Mike Fialkovich
PSO President, Allegheny County

New Board Nominees – Annual Meeting 2019

We are pleased to announce three excellent candidates for the PSO Board. Below are brief notes regarding their experience so you will be informed when they are officially announced and voted on at the Annual Meeting in September.

Eli DePaulis

Eli DePaulis has been a member of the Appalachian Audubon Society in the Harrisburg area since 2014. He served as the Youth Committee Chairman, connecting young birders to the organization. He has branched out to present to various groups of all ages on behalf of the society. He also is on the management team for Trout Run Nature Preserve and has been involved with various research, monitoring, and habitat restoration projects. Eli will bring a younger member's perspective to the organization, providing a much needed connection to younger members' interests.

Carole Winslow

Carole Winslow, who resides in Clarion County and is a member of Seneca Rocks Audubon, has been a PSO

member since 2005. Carole is the Clarion County compiler for *Pennsylvania Birds* and was very active in the Second Breeding Bird Atlas as a Regional Coordinator and block owner. Carole works diligently on various citizen science projects and is an active eBird contributor. She is dedicated to birding with a purpose, providing much needed data for research.

David Yeany II

David Yeany II grew up in Forest County just outside Allegheny National Forest. He attended college in eastern Pennsylvania and worked in the Important Bird Areas program for Audubon MD-DC in Baltimore. David has led two PSO field trips to that area in recent years. Currently he is a Conservation Planning Specialist/Ornithologist for the Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program at the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy in Pittsburgh. David has participated in a large number of research and volunteer programs and has conducted recent surveys of forest interior birds. He will be an important asset to PSO's conservation initiatives.

Please read his article on pages 14-16 of this newsletter.

Welcome New Members

We extend a warm welcome to the following members who have joined PSO since February 28, 2019:

Margot Calles, Upper Black Eddy, PA
John Corcoran, Wellsboro, PA
Tony DeSantis, Altoona, PA
Andrew Hurst, Millerstown, PA
Larry Leiter, Liverpool, PA
Carol Light, Mount Gretna, PA
Eleanor Martin, Shippensburg, PA

Jessica Paoletti, New Castle, DE
Nicholas Pcsolar, Zelienople, PA
Bob Reiter, Seven Valleys, PA
Ron & Karen Wagner, Boyertown, PA
Alvin Wenger, Port Trevorton, PA
Rebecca Wilson, Lansdale, PA

PSO Annual Meeting Schedule

September 13 – 15, 2019

Holiday Inn Express, Williamsport, PA

Friday, September 13, 2019

5:00 – 7:00 p.m.	Registration
6:00 - 7:00 p.m.	Social with Cash Bar (Vendors)
7:00 p.m.	Business Meeting
7:30 p.m.	Bird Trivia

Saturday, September 14

7:00 a.m. Departure for Field Trips

Lunch on your own following the field trips

2:00 – 2:45 p.m.	“The State of Boreal Birds in Pennsylvania,” presented by Doug Gross, retired from the Pennsylvania Game Commission
2:45 – 3:15 p.m.	Break (Opportunity to visit vendors)
3: 15 – 4:00 p.m.	“Local and Long Distance Movements of Lesser Black-backed Gulls Wintering in Bucks County,” presented by Dan Brauning, Pennsylvania Game Commission
6:00 – 7:00 p.m.	Social with Cash Bar, Vendors
7:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Dinner
8:00 p.m.	Awards Presentation Compilation of Bird List Banquet Speaker: Dr. David Toews, Penn State University: The discovery of Burket’s Warbler in Blair County

Sunday, September 15

7:00 a.m. Departure for Field Trips

No late annual meeting registrations will be accepted.

No walk-in registrations will be permitted.

On-line registration opens June 8. If you plan to attend the fall PSO meeting, you must register on line before noon on August 25. If you are registering via the US Postal Service, your registration must be postmarked by August 20.

2019 Annual Meeting Field Trips

1. You must be a paid registrant or a PSO guest to sign up for a field trip.
2. Ten field trips will be held on Saturday and 9 on Sunday. The Beginner Birding Walk, Bird Banding, and World's End State Park are **Saturday Only** trips while the Ricketts Glen and Williamsport Water Authority trips are **Sunday Only**.
3. Field Trips are limited to 12 participants on Saturday and 13 participants on Sunday. If you see a trip you like, register early before it fills up!
4. Please do not sign up for the same trip Saturday and Sunday unless you are leading the trip both days.
5. More specific directions for each trip may be given via e-mail closer to the time of the meeting.

BEGINNER BIRDING WALK CANFIELD ISLAND

This outing is for birders of any experience level who would like to have a slower paced walk. Take a leisurely stroll around Canfield Island to appreciate the fall migration, landscape, and the Susquehanna River. Not only are the birds a highlight, but also some local history will be included.

Directions: Travel east on I-180/US Rt. 220 taking exit #23 ("Warrensville"), turning right at traffic light, taking road behind Motel 8 to the Riverfront Park pavilion on the left. The trip leader for this **Saturday Only** trip will be Deb Grove.

Difficulty: Easy

BIRD BANDING WILLIAMSPORT WATER AUTHORITY

Join bird bander Nick Kerlin in the morning as he traps and bands a variety of passerine species moving through the forest and brush at this prime local birding site. For those who have never experienced bird banding (and even those who have), this is not to be missed!

Directions: Take Valley St. south from Duboistown for a half mile then turn left onto Mosquito Valley Road, taking it to the end at the Water Authority's visitor parking lot. The leader for this **Saturday only** trip will be Nick Kerlin.

Difficulty: Easy

GLACIAL POOLS PRESERVE

Meet at the Preserve which is located near Picture Rocks. Enjoy the many resident and fall migrant species that take advantage of these woodlands and fields. The trip leader will be Evan Mann.

Difficulty: Moderate

MILL STREET MONTOURSVILLE

Meet at the Mill Street yellow gate RR crossing, Montoursville. With plenty of small patches of a variety of habitats, there is the possibility of finding just about any late summer and fall migrants. Wading birds and shorebirds are likely, depending upon the water levels.

Directions: Mill Street is immediately on the right after an east crossing of the green bridge going into Montoursville. The leader will be Bobby Brown.

Difficulty: Easy to Moderate

MONTOUR PRESERVE

Meet at the Environmental Education Center parking lot. This spectacular piece of land, currently managed by the Montour Area Recreation Commission, is home to, as well as a stopover for, birds in the woods, on the water, and in the fields.

Directions: Note that the bridge is out on Preserve Road. Thus we'll want to take Rt. 54 east through Turbotville, then turn left on Rt. 44. Go about two miles to the town of Exchange and turn right on PP&L Farm Road. Continue 1.3 miles and turn left onto Preserve Road. Go a half mile, turn left, then right into the parking lot. The leader on Saturday will be Evan Houston and on Sunday, Michael David.

Difficulty: Moderate

RICKETTS GLEN STATE PARK AND VICINITY

Luzerne, Sullivan, Columbia, and Wyoming Counties. This park is designated as a state Important Bird Area because of its extensive forest and area-sensitive forest birds. This is one of the largest state parks and is adjacent to the large State Game Lands #13 and #57 on North Mountain. Most of the park and SGLs are forested with some old growth in the Glens Natural Area. Lake Jean, Splashdam Pond, the Meadows, and other swamps bring more diversity to the mix. Many trails make birding deep

in the woods easily accessible. You can get remote fast. The park is especially famous for its Falls Trail and numerous waterfalls, but it also includes some boreal forest, blueberry meadows, and sphagnum bogs. In fall, some of the best birding is around the ghost village of Ricketts in SGL 13, the Hayfields (a blueberry meadow), and wet thickets. Old railroad grades and building foundations bring some human history to any visit. Host and trip leader Doug Gross is conducting a survey of the park area with the intent of producing an annotated checklist and viewer guide. Birders are invited to visit and make contributions. This is a **Sunday only trip** designed for those leaving the meeting for home. Carpool from the Holiday Inn.

Difficulty: Moderate

RIDER PARK

This high elevation forested area attracts migrant warblers and other passerines. A more open area invites the possibility of field birds and sparrows.

Directions: Take Pleasant Valley Rd. north, one mile out of Warrensville, to Calebs Run Rd., and then drive all the way to top of the mountain to the parking lot. The trip leaders are Joe Yoder & Meredith Lombard on Saturday and Annette Mathis on Sunday.

Difficulty: Easy to Moderate

ROSE VALLEY LAKE

Meet at the south launch of Rose Valley Lake for sighting a wide variety of waterfowl. If you have a spotting scope, bring it. We will also take time to ID land birds along the road. Birders will slowly make their way counter clockwise around the lake, finishing at the north boat launch. This is an easy walk-and-ride event. Vern Gauthier will be our leader.

Difficulty: Easy

STATE GAME LAND 252

This prime birding spot produces a nice variety of migrants.

Directions: Travel south on Rt. 15 out of South Williamsport over the mountain to first traffic light (Elmsport Rd., Rt. 54). Turn right (west) across county for approximately 5 miles, turning left (south) on Rt. 2004 (Alvira Rd.). Drive about a mile to the third parking lot on the left in the SGL. Consider tick protection and have water resistant footwear. The leaders will be Dan Brauning on Saturday and Andy Keister on Sunday.

Difficulty: Moderate

SUSQUEHANNA RIVER WALK, NORTH AND SOUTH SIDES

This is an easy walking event.

Directions: Meet on the River Walk on the Williamsport side using the river edge parking lot at the foot of Hepburn St. You will look for waterfowl and enjoy species of raptors including possible Bald Eagles, Peregrine Falcons, and Red-tailed Hawks. Birds frequent the brush and trees along the walking path. The leader will be Maddie Dunlap.

Difficulty: Easy

WILLIAMSPORT WATER AUTHORITY, MOSQUITO VALLEY

We'll explore forested trails with plenty of brushy habitat as passerine migration starts to ramp up.

Directions: Take Valley St. south from Duboistown for a half mile then turn left onto Mosquito Valley Road, taking it all the way to the end meeting birders at the Water Authority's visitor parking lot. Joe Gyekis will lead this **Sunday only trip**.

Difficulty: Easy to Moderate

WORLD'S END STATE PARK/LOYALSOCK STATE FOREST, SULLIVAN COUNTY

This state park is nested within Loyalsock State Forest (115,000 acres of forest) and positioned astride the scenic Loyalsock Creek, one of the most beautiful wild streams of the state. Many trails and forest roads make remote woods and swamps easily accessible. This includes the 59-mile Loyalsock Trail. Highlights of the area are views from scenic overlooks, particularly High Knob (1800 ft) and World's End, and waterfalls on several streams. It also includes 3 Wild Areas and 2 Natural Areas as well as old CC Camps. The area is well-known for its many forest interior birds and has potential for raptor migration in the fall. Doug Gross will lead this **Saturday only trip**. Carpool from the Holiday Inn.

Difficulty: Moderate



PSO Annual Meeting Presentations

Bird Trivia – Emily Thomas

For the second year in a row we will be featuring a Bird Trivia Night on Friday evening following the business meeting. Gather your teammates or go alone and challenge yourself to answer the range of trivia questions about birds. The winning team or individual will receive a complimentary one year membership to PSO.

Local and Long-Distance Movements of Lesser Black-backed Gulls Wintering in Bucks County – Dan Brauning

Lesser Black-backed Gulls have gathered in Bucks County for years during the winter in concentrations found nowhere else in the U.S. A few years ago a study was initiated to track the movements of this European arrival to our shores. We will learn where they occur, when they leave the county during the breeding season, and their other movements during the course of the year.

The State of Boreal Birds in Pennsylvania – Doug Gross

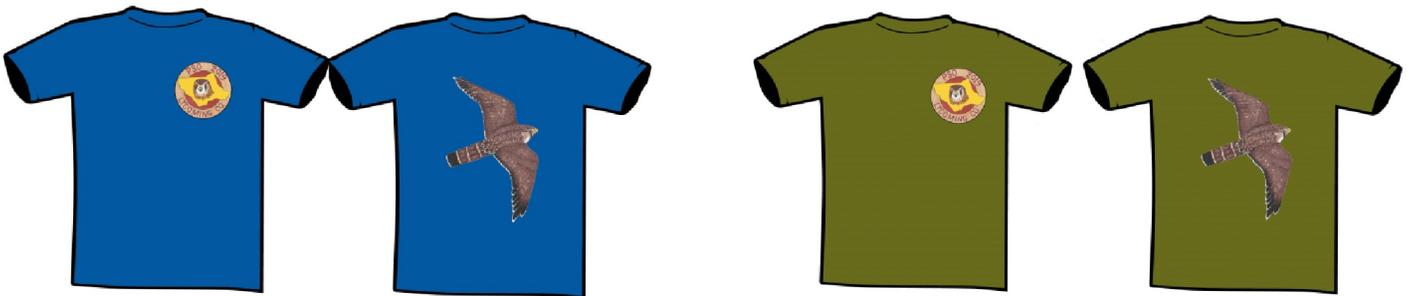
Doug Gross spent a large part of his career studying the distribution of various species with core ranges north of Pennsylvania. These southern outliers found that the northern forests in our state provided the conditions similar to those in Canada and New England. Although recently retired, Doug continues to study and monitor these fluctuating species and will discuss their current status in the state.

The Discovery of Burket's Warbler in Blair County – Dr. David Toews

Learn about the amazing discovery of this first-of-a-kind three species warbler hybrid discovered by chance right here in Pennsylvania. Find out what three species are involved and the story behind the discovery.

Official T-Shirt of the 2019 PSO Meeting

Get your Merlin on when you want to bird with attitude! Artwork created by Williamsport area Wildlife Artist, Ron Beach. Proceeds benefit the Youth Scholarship Fund. This year's colors are blue and olive green. Like last year, they come in both men's and women's cuts. Cost is \$17.50 each for sizes small through 3X; youth or student price is \$13.13 for the same sizes which are all adult sizes.



2020 PSO's Annual Meeting

The location of our September 2020 annual meeting has not yet been decided. We are looking for groups – bird clubs, Audubon groups, members, etc. – for suggestions and help hosting the meeting. If you would like to offer your help or ideas, please contact President Mike Fialkovich (mpfial@verizon.net) or Vice President Evan Mann (7evanmann@gmail.com) ASAP.

Recap of PSO Board of Directors' March Meeting

The PSO Board of Directors met with 12 members present via teleconference on March 26, 2019.

On February 19, 2019, Laura Jackson had sent an email to the board to ask permission to sign PSO onto a letter encouraging the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee to significantly increase the funding for endangered species conservation and recovery starting in FY 2020. A majority of the Board voted by email in favor of this request.

Holly Merker requested funds for room rental and other expenses for PORC. Frank Haas made a motion, seconded by Laura Jackson, to budget \$100 annually for room rental and other expenses. The motion passed. Holly also requested a stipend for the PORC secretary. Vern Gauthier made a motion which Laura seconded to table the request for a stipend for the PORC secretary. The motion passed with no dissenting votes. The reason the request was tabled was that no supporting information was included with the request.

Laura said that the Conservation Committee would come up with a proposal to combine a bird-a-thon and a breeding bird blitz to raise money for conservation and increase breeding bird data simultaneously.

At their last meeting, the Conservation Committee voted to ask the Board to donate \$500 to the Delaware Ornithological Society for the acquisition of land in Delaware to protect the area used by Red Knots to feed during migration. The proposal was discussed after which a vote was taken. The motion passed.

Laura asked the Board if they would consider supporting a bird-a-thon team for the Red Knot land acquisition. The Board thought this was a good idea, and Frank said that he can put a link on the website for donations to the team.

Wayne Laubscher said that the annual meeting will be held September 13, 14, and 15 at the Holiday Inn in Williamsport. The field trips and speakers are set. The board decided to have a trivia quiz again on Friday night at the meeting.

Potential new board members and their qualifications were discussed. Vern made a motion which Margaret Higbee seconded to recommend to the annual membership meeting this fall that David Yeane II, Carol Winslow, and Eli DePaulis be recommended for membership to the Board. The motion passed.

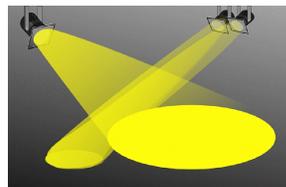
Roger Higbee, Secretary
Indiana, PA

PSO Bird Quiz

How well do you know your Pennsylvania birds?

1. Which two woodpecker species reported in Pennsylvania have not been accepted for the official state list?
2. You are watching a Blue-winged Warbler from below. What color are its undertail coverts?
3. Which uncommon species in our state has been called the "Prairie Whistler"?
4. Loss of emergent wetland is emphasized in the McWilliams and Brauning *Birds of Pennsylvania* as "the single most critical threat" to which state-endangered species?
5. Which bird is described in our state's second Breeding Bird Atlas as "Pennsylvania's newest colonial waterbird nester"?

See Answers on page 16.



Young Birders' Spotlight

"Frontiers in Ornithology: A Symposium for Youth," a new, unprecedented symposium will

be held on Saturday, September 28, 2019, in Hockessin, Delaware, at the Ashland Nature Center, located just a few miles from the Pennsylvania state line. On Sunday, the 29th, field trips will be offered in the region for those interested.

This one-day symposium will bring the opportunity to hear from more than a dozen presenters with the goal of providing the opportunities for young people to hear from experts in cutting-edge avian technology, science, and academia while providing connections and answering questions of how to take a passion for birds to the next level in their future.

Questions? Contact Holly Merker, HCybelle@gmail.com or this website: <https://www.frontiers-in-ornithology.org/>

Register now! Space is limited!

PSO Takes on the Delaware Bird-A-Thon

By Brian Byrnes

PSO supported a team in the annual Delaware Bird-A-Thon for the first time this spring. With the motivation of supporting the purchase of an important property for Red Knots along the Delaware Bay, the team took on the challenge of finding as many species as possible in 24 hours in Kent County.

Living just a few miles from the Delaware border in Glen Mills, Delaware County, I was drafted to put together a team to represent PSO. I was thrilled to have fellow south-eastern Pennsylvania birders Barry Blust and Mike McGraw join me on this adventure and support this important fundraising effort. With the team members set, our team, PSO's Knot Messing Around, set about planning its Big Day.

While the birding was great fun, the team at every turn stressed that this was a fundraising effort and encouraged other birders and friends to support the effort. Red Knot is listed as a Species of Greatest Conservation Need in Pennsylvania, and protecting stopover habitat to our south is one of the best ways for Pennsylvania birders to help this species. PSO donated \$500 towards the project and other supporters have added more than \$800 to this total as of this writing. I know what you are thinking now – you are disappointed that you missed the opportunity to support this wonderful project. Have no fear as there is still time to support this effort! Visit <https://pabirds.org/birdathon.html> to make your contribution today.

The Delaware Bird-A-Thon ran from May 4 to May 12 and teams may select any 24-hour window to complete their Big Day. With heavy rains over the first weekend, we settled on a strategy of starting on the following Friday evening and finishing on Saturday evening.



At the Raymond Pool observation tower we quickly found the Ruff among some yellowlegs.

Photo by Barry Blust



Black-necked Stilts were a nice addition to the list.

Photo by Barry Blust



Port Mahon yielded a nice variety of shorebirds including these Ruddy Turnstones and Short-billed Dowitchers.

Photo by Barry Blust

Our Kent County foray began in the early evening of Friday, May 10, where we planned to visit Bombay Hook NWR to track down a Ruff that had been discovered the previous day, and to see everything we could until dark. On the way into the refuge, we found Horned Larks and Semipalmated Plovers foraging in corn fields. At the Raymond Pool observation tower we quickly found the Ruff among some yellowlegs, along with Snowy and Great Egrets. Off to a great start! We continued to add to our list as darkness approached. We listened unsuccessfully for owls, but we got a great bonus when we caught a glimpse of an American Woodcock along the road just past dark.

The team headed south with rails on its mind. The previous weeks had some wonderful reports of rails – including Yellow and Black – at Pickering Beach and Big Stone Beach. We spent time at both spots with little luck. We heard Eastern Whip-poor-wills at both locations but came up empty on rails and owls. We retreated to grab a few hours of sleep at a hotel and to be back to Big Stone Beach by first light for another crack at night birds.

After what could generously be called a long nap, we were along the marshes of Big Stone Beach by 5 a.m., where we quickly heard Virginia Rail, American Bittern, and Great Horned Owl. A dawn visit to the coast generated some interesting birds, including a pair of fly-by Red-breasted Mergansers and a Bonaparte's Gull amongst hundreds of Laughing Gulls. We started working our way back inland along Big Stone Beach Road, stopping intermittently to walk stretches to search for landbirds. We found a well-scouted Brown-headed Nuthatch exiting its nest hole, and noted a few migrant warblers, including Chestnut-sided, Blackpoll, and Northern Waterthrush.

We headed inland with our count for the day over 100, and would pick up Summer Tanager, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, and Wild Turkey at Norman G. Wilder Wildlife Area, and Prothonotary Warbler and Louisiana Waterthrush just a stone's throw from the Maryland border. A stop on the side of the highway yielded expected Bank Swallows and a surprise Common Loon. Back along the coast at Ted Harvey WMA, we found a Boat-tailed Grackle and flocks of shorebirds to scan. The Dover Air Force Base quickly yielded Eastern Meadowlarks and a fly-by flock of Glossy Ibis.



Bombay is usually good for Seaside Sparrow.

Photo by Barry Blust

Port Mahon was active in the early afternoon. The marshes hosted Common Gallinule, Clapper Rail, Pied-billed Grebe, Blue-winged Teal, American Black Duck, and Ruddy Duck, all new additions to our list. Shorebirds and gulls were the other highlights at Port Mahon. Sanderling, White-rumped Sandpiper, Ruddy Turnstone, Herring Gull, and Great Black-backed Gull were all new for the day. Red Knot was our other target for Port Mahon, but we just couldn't pin one down. A week later we probably would have had no trouble finding this species at a few locations, but May 11 is still on the early side for knots in Kent County. So with a few hours to go in our count and our list at 136 species, we headed back to Bombay Hook to try for a few other targets and

perhaps wishing for some Hook magic. We succeeded in finding a Solitary Sandpiper, which had eluded us the rest of the day, and an adult Yellow-crowned Night-Heron tucked in the trees of Bear Swamp. We struck out on Northern Bobwhite, which would not answer my whistles. Following a theme of the day, migrant warblers were also hard to find at Bombay Hook, and we would finish the day with a rather pedestrian 16 warbler species.

We departed the Hook with enough time to work in two last stops. A stop at Taylor's Gut/Woodland Beach was pleasant, but it still left our list at 138 species. We had one more trick up our sleeve as we headed north towards the county boundary. Cliff

Swallows nest on a bridge that straddles the county line, and our last stop in Kent County was along Route 9, where we picked out a few Cliff Swallows flying over the Smyrna River. So we finished our count at 139 species – not bad for some out-of-towners!

Overall PSO's Knot Messing Around was a great success. We raised significant funds for Red Knot conservation, had a great time, and saw some wonderful birds along the way. Thank you to the PSO Board and all of the donors who supported our team.

The Raven Reporter

Tales of Discovery about Pennsylvania Birds



Why Not a State Songbird?

The recent selection of a state amphibian has brought the idea of state symbols to our attention. The recent addition of the Eastern Hellbender as the state amphibian is not only a good choice for a symbol of a creature dependent on clean streams. It reinforces the choice for state fish, the Brook Trout, which is associated with clean, cold, running water.

Pennsylvania has a long list of state symbols. They reflect not only an element of the state's natural or cultural history but important constituents of the Commonwealth. The state drink? Milk, just right for the state's big dairy farm industry. The state animal? Well, of course, it is the White-tailed Deer, an extremely popular game animal and generator of great economic activity. Other state symbols are the Mountain Laurel as state flower, the Eastern Hemlock as state tree, and the Firefly as state insect. Even the dead are represented; a trilobite, *Phacops rana*, is the state fossil.

Sure, Pennsylvania already has a state bird: the Ruffed Grouse. It is a fine choice given that it is a native upland game bird that resides in the state's forests and is very popular with hunters. It is our little bantam hen of "Penn's Woods." I do not have any dispute that grouse is a pretty good choice. At least they did not choose the exotic game bird, Ring-necked Pheasant! But, it does not represent all Pennsylvanians. Fewer than 10% of the state's residents are hunters and many fewer hunt grouse. Hunters and anglers are well represented with choices

such as Ruffed Grouse, White-tailed Deer, and Brook Trout. But, what about the burgeoning population of birders and wildlife watchers in the state? Who is thinking about them? The wildlife watching public is a very neglected segment of the state's wildlife agency and the legislature. What animals represent the interests and values of wildlife watchers?

It may appear to be an exercise in bloated bureaucracy, but adding a state non-game bird would balance out the list of consumptive state symbols to better balance the interests of all of the state's citizens and highlight the interests and concerns of a rising constituency – the state's bird watchers. I propose that although there are a lot of other great birds out there, we really need a state songbird. A singing bird really captures the interests and emotions of people who love nature in a non-consumptive way. They simply represent the beauty of nature. We just enjoy seeing and hearing the little birds of yard and garden, of forest and field. With wildlife watching now even greater an occupation than hunting and fishing, it is about time that the interests of these people (that's us) are reflected in state symbols.

There are potentially many choices for state songbird. Lots of popular backyard birds like American Robin and Northern Cardinal would certainly vie for the title. And who doesn't like Eastern Towhees, Scarlet Tanagers, and Gray Catbirds? My own suggestion for state songbird is the Wood Thrush. Not only is it a very widespread species that is represented in every county, but it truly is a denizen of "Penn's Woods." Its flute-like song is beloved by many who live near the woods and the state's healthy forests – even by those who love the woods and the wilds but would not call themselves birders. They are found in woodlots of suburbs and in the big woods, too. The Wood Thrush has declined greatly over the last few decades but is still a common bird in the state's forests, even in the suburb counties around Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. It does, therefore, have great appeal across the state among many constituents. Its song is beloved by many as a symbol of wildness and nature. As open land shrinks with the expansion of suburbia, the Wood Thrush's habitat is being gobbled up by hundreds of acres every week. It is, therefore, a potential talisman for land conservation in the state.

The Wood Thrush also acts as a very good surrogate for a long list of birds associated with the Pennsylvania forests. The healthy forests where it is found also host Cerulean Warblers, Louisiana Waterthrushes, Scarlet Tanagers, Black-throated Green Warblers, Ovenbirds, Black-throated Blue Warblers, and many other birds of conservation concern. So, when we talk about Wood Thrush as Pennsylvania's state songbird, we can educate

the public about and advocate for a whole suite of cool birds and their homes.

The Wood Thrush actually reinforces some conservation messages symbolized by the Ruffed Grouse, our state game bird. Both species represent the state's wooded habitat, and both have declined. They are both worth our efforts to inform the public about these declines and to fight for their continued existence.

I hereby recommend that we adopt the Wood Thrush as the state songbird and begin the process. Any partners out there?

Chimney Swift: Old Growth Bird?

For a few years, I have noticed small swarms of Chimney Swifts flitting over the old trees of Ricketts Glen State Park's Glens Natural Area along Kitchen Creek. Before Europeans arrived in America and erected buildings with chimneys, apparently Chimney Swifts nested mostly in old hollow trees. Of course, back in those days there were many more old forests with abundant hollow trees and snags. I find that swifts are easier to detect in the early morning or evening, twittering above. Swifts are odd birds out in a list of traditional old growth-associated birds that includes mostly wood warblers, thrushes, and vireos. I especially associate the beautiful and colorful Black-burnian and Black-throated Green Warblers with old growth here. You can add the twittering of dark swifts to the list of sounds associated with old growth forest in our state. My own experiences are in groves of big trees in big mountain forest, but I can imagine that Chimney Swifts also are found in big riparian forest trees and snags. The breeding populations of swifts are apparently bolstered by helpers at nests, birds that assist the nesting pair with raising the young on a limited insectivorous diet. Although Chimney Swifts are very recognizable and popular birds, there is much that is unknown about their life since they spend so much time aloft or hidden in their nesting area.

I wonder if other factors are at play with the distribution of Chimney Swifts away from towns. Where I find summering Chimney Swifts there are fast, clean streams that host plenty of flying insects. Gnats, stoneflies, mosquitoes, and who knows what else is flying in the woods and above the canopy. Swifts reportedly consume 5,000 to 6,000 insects per day. Where pesticides are routinely used, these flying insect populations are probably diminished, and so are the "flying cigars" that nest in hollow trees there. What do you find? Have you found Chimney Swifts in these more remote old forests? As I entered my Chimney Swift data into eBird for a

forested park, I wondered how many others have enjoyed watching swifts flying over old growth forests and documented their observations.

Even if there are no threats on the breeding ground, Chimney Swifts face many challenges on their wintering ground and in migration. It is one of many migrating aerial insectivores that are in decline. Among others in decline are Purple Martin and Common Nighthawk, all limited by flying insect numbers found all along their long migratory routes and on their breeding grounds. They have been selected as Species of Greatest Conservation Need for good reasons. In the case of Chimney Swifts, the winter destination is the upper Amazon basin including Ecuador, Peru, Brazil, and Chile. Their life in South America is largely unknown. In their long flight to and from South America, they may gather in large flocks that forage high in the air for flying insects. All along that route, there is widespread use of pesticides targeting the very insects that swifts consume. With all of these issues, it is no wonder that the population of this aerial insectivore is reported to have declined 51% over the last 40 years. For those who are fascinated with Chimney Swifts, opportunities to assist do exist. National Audubon Society with its many chapters is featuring this species in its conservation education. The Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania and the Lehigh Valley Chapter have done a lot to educate the public about Chimney Swifts and have built chimney towers for their use. These are worthy projects to support and duplicate. Part of the solution may be to conserve our old forests and reduce the amount of pesticides used.

Birding Volunteers for State Parks

I have been very encouraged to see the PSO getting more involved with recruiting and educating new birders, especially the young among us. These kinds of activities are always needed, and a variety of approaches are more likely to garner success. I also have been gradually transitioning into “retirement mode” and finding good projects and partners. As some of you already know from personal experience, there are great opportunities to educate the public about birds by being a state park volunteer with the simple act of leading a bird walk or giving a presentation at a workshop or a birding festival. Not only could birders assist the state parks in their mission, but by volunteering also recruit new folks to the birding community. Some people just need a little mentoring and encouragement, especially young people who may not know birders in their family or school. I have found my experiences at state parks very rewarding whether or not the crowd was big. Those who attend are interested and often are looking for some instruction and

encouragement that they are not getting otherwise. Some of you are already volunteering in some way, but more of us could participate. This includes local bird clubs and Audubon chapters working in partnership with the park and working together on events. Find common ground and work toward success. The infrastructure of the park could really assist a small bird club with limited resources to achieve its goals. The activities could spill over on game lands and other properties once they are initiated in state parks.

Please consider going to a local state park, get to know the staff, and volunteer your time as a birding volunteer. The “interpreter” naturalist often has to cover a wide variety of subjects in his or her set of programs from local history to entomology. You can contribute valuable expertise and meet some of your own objectives while doing so. Check out the DCNR volunteer website:

<https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/GetInvolved/Pages/default.aspx>

Does eBird Data Really Help Conservation?

It is a common mantra that eBird data assists bird conservation. Actually, it really does! I would like to remind Pennsylvania birders of some specific examples. Cerulean Warblers and Golden-winged Warblers benefit from direct management practices both on public and on private lands. These management activities are much more successful if the local populations of these species are known. Despite their declines, both species are quite capable of founding new populations by moving into good habitat. The Cerulean Warbler has been expanding its range in Pennsylvania’s eastern and northern counties so there are conservation opportunities.

Planners and managers can target areas for management better if they know where there are small populations of these species. So, birders really can help by finding pockets of these warblers and recording these observations in eBird with details about the precise locations. The secretive wetland birds, all of which are in decline in the state, also need help. Some bitterns and rails are finding new places to nest. Birders are quite capable of finding these populations and recording them in eBird. Adopting some wetlands as eBird hotspots is one way to make your observations more relevant to conservation. That really does help! Thanks for all you do with your basic birding activities. A little more really does make your efforts more effective for conservation.

Good birding!

Doug Gross, Birding Volunteer
Dagross144@verizon.net

Ornithological Literature Notes

We've learned a lot about bird migration since Homer explained to us in the *Iliad* that cranes "flee the winter and the terrible rains and fly off to the world's end."

We've marveled at the energy and power that enable a Bar-tailed Godwit to fly 7,200 miles nonstop from Alaska to New Zealand, at how a Blackpoll Warbler can travel nonstop 2,000 miles across the Atlantic Ocean from New England to northeastern South America, and at how a Ruby-throated Hummingbird can buzz nonstop more than 600 miles across the Gulf of Mexico to Central America.

Yet much has remained to learn about complex physiological mechanisms that make such avian odysseys possible. Six Pennsylvania State University researchers fill a fascinating gap in knowledge.

William J. Horton, Matthew Jensen, Aswathy Sebastian, Craig A. Praul, Istvan Albert, and Paul A. Bartell describe such findings in a 2019 paper in *Scientific Reports*. For those of us who are not experts in genetics and avian physiology, it is excruciatingly titled "Transcriptome Analyses of Heart and Liver Reveal Novel Pathways for Regulating Songbird Migration" (www.nature.com/articles/s41598-019-41252-8). Yet the overall results can be described in general.

The researchers focused on a familiar bird, the White-throated Sparrow. They analyzed cardiovascular and liver function data for sparrows that were captured in mist nets in Centre County in the fall of 2014 and transported to a

flight cage in the Penn State animal facility. The goal was to demonstrate how the birds cope with the consequences of sleep loss while simultaneously maintaining the astonishingly extended physical performance required for migration. Using complex genetic and physiological analyses, the researchers discovered molecular pathways of gene expression that regulate metabolism, immune function, wound repair, and protection of multiple organ systems that are fundamental to making migration sustainable.

Horton and his colleagues conclude that their findings "will lead to a more complete understanding of the unique ability of birds to dynamically reduce sleep requirements while completing ultra-endurance events without concomitant negative consequences."

Paul Bartell, associate professor of avian biology at Penn State and the study's lead researcher, suggests a possibility that the results may not be limited to birds. In an interview with *Penn State News* (<https://news.psu.edu/story/571103/2019/04/24/research/songbird-body-changes-allow-migration-may-have-human-health>), he says the findings may also be useful for research into human physiology. If so, knowledge of these avian processes might point toward ways to help us function at a higher level when we are both physically active and sleep-deprived. Wouldn't that be a blessing!

Paul Hess
Natrona Heights, PA
phess@salsgiver.com

Nominations for the Earl Poole and Conservation Awards

Your PSO Awards Committee is seeking nominations for the Conservation Award and the Earl Poole Award which will be given at the PSO Annual Meeting in September in Williamsport. The Conservation Award is presented to an individual or organization that has had a positive impact on bird conservation in Pennsylvania. The award is most often given to an organization or individual from the area where the Annual Meeting is being held; this year the meeting is in Lycoming County. A list of previous winners can be found on the PSO website.

The Earl Poole Award is presented annually to a person or persons who have made significant contributions to Pennsylvania's ornithology. This may be in the form of research, volunteer efforts, publications, field work, or any

other pursuit that has increased our knowledge and understanding of the birdlife in Pennsylvania. A list of previous winners can also be found on the PSO website

Nominations for the Conservation Award should include the name of the organization or individual along with a description of the contribution that the organization or individual has made. Nominations for the Earl Poole Award should include the name of the person and a description of his or her contribution to Pennsylvania ornithology.

Please give some thought to who should be recognized with either of these two awards and send your nominations to 7evanmann@gmail.com by July 31.



Conservation Chat Room

On April 12, 2019, I had the opportunity to visit the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy's Pittsburgh office to hear David Yeany II present three exciting bird conservation projects that he is spearheading in our state.

Even though David's photos aren't included in the article, I know you will find the projects to be interesting and important for bird conservation. Many thanks to David for writing the summaries of his projects for this column so we can learn more about bird conservation projects in Pennsylvania.

Laura Jackson, Bedford County
jacksonlaura73@gmail.com

Taking Flight: Bird Conservation in Pennsylvania at the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy

By David Yeany II, Ornithologist/Conservation Planning Specialist
Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy

Established in 1932, the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy (WPC) is one of the most prominent land trusts in the state, protecting more than a quarter million acres of land. Many of these acres have been transferred to state ownership and may be familiar birding hotspots, like Moraine State Park, Ohiopyle State Park, or Roderick Wildlife Reserve/SGL 314. Much of the science behind these conservation decisions is produced by the Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program (PNHP) staff at WPC. WPC is the non-profit partner along with state agencies – Pennsylvania Game Commission, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – with the mission of collecting, maintaining, and providing ecological information for our state's rare, threatened, and endangered species across all taxa groups for use in environmental decision-making. See more at: <http://www.naturalheritage.state.pa.us/>.

Natural Heritage Program bird conservation projects at WPC aim to support the Game Commission, as they hold legal jurisdiction over birds in Pennsylvania. Many of these projects are investigative or characteristic of applied ecology studies with a focus on conservation management implications. Such is the case with WPC's continued emphasis on forest interior bird species at-risk:

<https://waterlandlife.org/wildlife-pnhp/species-at-risk-in-pennsylvania/forest-interior-birds/>. But over the last three years, bird conservation is really taking flight at WPC with three exciting projects that I will highlight here.

High Elevation Peatland Bird Monitoring

Did you know that Pennsylvania has “boreal” wetlands? Many of these can be classified as peatlands due to their accumulation of peat – slowly decomposing organic matter (mostly plants) and their tendency to be dominated by *Sphagnum* moss groundcover. PNHP describes nearly 30 official natural community types that can be peatlands, including bogs, fens, shrub swamps and various forested wetlands. These wetlands are found in cooler climates, at higher elevations or higher latitudes (boreal) or glaciated regions, and support numerous plants and animals with more northern distributions.

Over the last three years, PNHP mapped over 1,800 potential peatlands across Pennsylvania using GIS and assessed with High Confidence that more than 1,500 were likely peatlands. This is significant because these wetlands have high ecological value supporting many rare or threatened species, serve as headwaters to many forested streams, and are extremely sensitive to disturbance and changing climatic conditions. Field assessments of bird communities were completed at 51 sites using avian point counts and rapid vegetation assessments at 391 point locations in these difficult-to-access habitats.

Early results indicate these wetlands support a very high diversity of Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) with 40% of all bird SGCN documented during the breeding season in Pennsylvania peatlands. We also documented breeding occurrences for several

Pennsylvania Threatened (PT) and Endangered (PE) species including: American Bittern, Northern Harrier, Blackpoll Warbler, and Yellow-bellied Flycatcher. We also had one observation in a Pitch Pine Leatherleaf Palustrine Woodland of the Pennsylvania Extirpated (PX) Olive-sided Flycatcher, last confirmed nesting in the state during 1930s.

We also looked at the importance of peatland community types to focal bird species with boreal affinities or conservation concern. We demonstrated that three peatland types, Acidic Peatland, Hemlock Palustrine Forest, and Red Spruce Palustrine Forest, were especially important to birds. Species like Alder Flycatcher and Swamp Sparrow preferred Acidic Peatland, a group of dense shrub wetlands. Blue-headed Vireos and Black-throated Green Warblers had their highest densities in Hemlock Palustrine Forest, which also supported three SGCN. But Red Spruce Palustrine Forest showed the highest value, supporting the highest densities of the most focal bird species (14) and the most SGCN at nine species. Among the birds preferring red spruce peatlands were Canada Warbler, White-throated Sparrow, Northern Waterthrush, and Nashville Warbler.

The take-home message from this study is that we have a high number of under-surveyed and difficult to access boreal wetlands across Pennsylvania. These potential peatlands hold a very high value for bird Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) and support robust populations of boreal bird species. Conifer wetlands in particular seem to hold the highest value for these birds as well. We still have much more to learn about Pennsylvania peatlands, but we have already demonstrated there is high value in continuing to conserve and protect these ecosystems and their bird communities.

Surveying Pennsylvania's High Priority Sites for Grassland Birds

One third of North American grassland birds are at risk and declining from habitat loss, changing agricultural practices, and insecticide use. Pennsylvania has 14 grassland breeding bird Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN), including six state Threatened or Endangered species. Working with our PNHP partner, the Pennsylvania Game Commission, in 2018 we began a project to prioritize sites statewide for grassland bird conservation, rank and inventory the best sites for grassland birds, and collect information to bolster grassland habitat management across the landscape. Using GIS, we evaluated more than 5,000 sites where grassland bird SGCN were documented and prioritized these sites into three conservation tiers. The highest priority sites,

Tier 1 and Tier 2, included just 55 sites statewide. We conducted bird surveys and habitat assessments at 517 point locations across 38 of those sites, documenting populations for 11 grassland bird SGCN.

In our preliminary results, we found that some grassland birds are faring better than others, but most are rapidly declining based on surveys of all recent historic sites occupied over the past 15 years:

- Short-eared Owl (Endangered) – 9% of all historic sites
- Upland Sandpiper (Endangered) – 25% of all historic sites
- Northern Harrier (Threatened) – 38% of historic sites *surveyed*, plus one new site
- Dickcissel (Endangered) – 13% of survey sites
- Henslow's Sparrow – 82% of historic sites surveyed, plus 4 new sites

This project will provide guidance to land managers and help identify potential targets statewide to help conserve grassland birds.

Tracking Bird Movements with Motus: Evening Grosbeak & Swainson's Thrush

The Natural Heritage Program at the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy teamed up with seven regional conservation organizations in 2015 to form a new coalition fostering collaboration in bird conservation throughout western Pennsylvania – the Allegheny Bird Conservation Alliance (ABCA). Members include the Allegheny Land Trust, American Bird Conservancy, Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania, Carnegie Museum of Natural History (CMNH), Humane Animal Rescue and Wildlife Center, National Aviary, Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, and Western Pennsylvania Conservancy.

CMNH and its Powdermill Avian Research Center have been leading forces in the implementation of the Motus Wildlife Tracking System in the eastern U.S. Motus exists as a network of receiver stations across the landscape which can passively detect animals – birds, bats, or even large insects – outfitted with nanotags, tiny radio transmitters. Beginning in 2017, PNHP has collaborated with CMNH with the goal of using nanotags and the Motus network system to study winter and migration movements of irruptive Evening Grosbeaks in the Allegheny National Forest (ANF) region. The focus on this species in the ANF stems from a regularly occurring winter population near Marienville, with flocks of various sizes observed during 8 of the last 12 years, and the fact

that Evening Grosbeak populations have declined by 92% since 1970 (Partners in Flight). Where do these birds come from? What routes do they use for irruptive and migratory movements? And do any individuals linger to breed in the expansive ANF?

During February 2017, we conducted a pilot project – color-banding 6 female Evening Grosbeaks in Marienville. Evening Grosbeaks did not irrupt south during winter 2017-18, but they returned to the ANF late October 2018 and remain present as of early May 2019. Over this past winter we increased our efforts as we captured and color-banded 35 new Evening Grosbeaks and deployed nanotag transmitters on 18 birds. CMNH and other partners of the Northeast Motus Collaboration established five Motus receiver stations in the ANF for tracking birds' movements. We also encouraged the Pennsylvania birding community to actively search for color-banded Evening Grosbeaks among flocks seen this winter.

As of mid-April, we have had project grosbeaks reported from 5 new locations, including two females returning

from the 2017 season. Early checks of Motus telemetry data in early January showed that 6 Evening Grosbeaks had been detected. The nanotags worn by these birds have enough battery power to last a year or more, and we look forward to learning more as the birds travel back north to boreal forests and (hopefully) pass by other Motus stations.

This particular project will expand during the summer 2019, as PNHP and CMNH will begin looking at the hemlock forest use and migratory movements of Pennsylvania breeding Swainson's Thrush in the ANF using nanotags and Motus. Swainson's Thrush is one of Pennsylvania's rarest forest breeding songbirds and a Species of Concern as well as a Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN). This project will be one of eight studies as part of a large Competitive State Wildlife Grant using the Motus Wildlife Tracking System to identify landscape scale habitat use by multiple SGCN in the Mid-Atlantic region.

PSO Conservation Committee Update

PSO Conservation Committee members are passionate about birds – not only watching them but also protecting them and their habitats. One of our first projects turned out to be very successful. Last April, the PSO Board approved our twofold request for PSO to be a sponsor in the 2019 Delaware Bird-A-Thon by donating \$500 to the Delaware Ornithological Society and to support a team in the Bird-A-Thon. PSO Conservation Committee member Brian Byrnes quickly put together a team who not only had a wonderful birding experience, but also raised over \$800, in addition to the \$500 donated by PSO. Way to go, Brian!

The Delaware Bird-A-Thon was especially exciting this year, as the funds raised would be used to purchase the last remaining tract of private property adjacent to the Mispillion Harbor – the final piece of the puzzle to ensure habitat protection of the Red Knot during its stopover each spring. The challenge was to raise \$100,000 to match an anonymous donation of \$100,000. This match would mean that PSO's team – and all the other teams – would

be doubling their donations. Not only would Red Knots benefit, but up to a million other Arctic nesting shorebirds would find a safe habitat equipped with the food they need – horseshoe crab eggs.

This project was also significant because PSO recognizes that bird conservation should not follow political boundaries. A good example is the Red Knot, a federally threatened species, which definitely benefits more from habitat conservation in Delaware than in Pennsylvania since it is a rare migrant in our state.

While we don't know if PSO will take the same active role in the Delaware Bird-A-Thon in 2020, we encourage you to consider participating. We'd also like to invite you to join the PSO Conservation Committee, which is comprised of Laura Jackson, Brian Byrnes, Annette Mathes, Holly Merker, and David Yeany II. Email Laura at jacksonlaura73@gmail.com, if you are interested.

– Laura Jackson, Chair

Did You Know?

On Global Big Day, May 4, 2019, two-thirds of the world's birds were seen on a single day in 171 countries by 32, 500 observers!

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:

PSO
2469 Hammertown Road
Narvon, PA 17555-9730

Membership Categories

Individual	\$ 30	Student	\$ 25
Family	\$ 35	Electronic Student	\$ 10
Sustaining	\$ 45		

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Answers to Bird Quiz

page 7

1. Red-cockaded and American Three-toed Woodpeckers
2. white
3. Upland Sandpiper
4. King Rail
5. Double-crested Cormorant



Northern Harrier is just one of the rapidly declining grassland species mentioned in David Yeany's article on page 14.

Photo by Roger Higbee

Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology Annual Meeting September 13 – 15, 2019

Holiday Inn Express, 90 Pine St., Williamsport, PA 17701

Lodging: To get special rate, mention PSO for the nights of September 13 and 14, 2019

Holiday Inn Express, 90 Pine St. Williamsport, PA 17701(877-410-6667). Ask specifically for the PSO \$99 rate which includes full breakfast.

Hampton Inn Downtown Williamsport (next door to Holiday Inn Express), 140 Via Bella Street, Williamsport, PA, 17701, (855-680-3239). Ask specifically for the PSO \$99 rate which includes full breakfast.

Other Hotels (No Special PSO Rate)

Best Western Williamsport Inn, 1840 E 3rd St., Williamsport, PA 17701 (570-326-1981)

Econo Lodge Williamsport, 2019 E. Third St., Williamsport, PA, 17701 (855-680-3239)

Genetti Hotel, 200 W 4th St., Williamsport, PA 17701, (844-218-0638)

Youth/Student 25% Discount: There is a 25% discount on Registration, Banquet Fees, and T-shirts for persons 18 years of age or younger and for college students of any age who are enrolled full time in an accredited college or university. Proof of age or college enrollment may be required at check in.

Unless other arrangements are made, all persons under 18 years of age who are registered for the annual meeting must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian who is also registered and who must accompany the youth to all field trips and activities.

Only one person may be registered per form.

Please submit the form once for each person you register.

Register online at <https://psoticketspice.com/2019-pennsylvania-society-for-ornithology-annual-meeting>
by 12:00 p.m. on August 25

or

Mail completed forms to Vern Gauthier, 111 W. Big Spring Ave., Newville, PA 17241

If you are registering via the US Postal Service, your registration must be postmarked by August 20.

Additional forms can be printed from the PSO website <https://pabirds.org/index.php/annual-meeting>
or by notifying Margaret Higbee (724-354-3493) if you need forms mailed to you.

Refunds will be processed as follows:

If you miss the meeting, then your Registration Fee will be refunded upon request.

If you attend any part of the meeting, then no Registration Fee refund will be given.

The Banquet fee will be refunded if you notify wnlaubscher@comcast.net by 9/6/2018.

T-shirt orders will be refunded if you notify wnlaubscher@comcast.net by 8/18/2018.



2019 PSO Annual Meeting Mail In Registration Form

Only one person may be registered per form.

Registration Fee (The Registration Fee enables you to take part in the Field Trips, Seminars, and other activities *except* the Saturday night Banquet.)

_____ \$32 Regular
_____ \$24 Youth or Student

Banquet Ticket – One per person, enables you to attend the Saturday Night Banquet. The Banquet Meal this year is a buffet. It includes a Bistro Antipasto Platter (Genoa salami, imported provolone, green and black olives, marinated mushrooms, marinated artichoke hearts, roasted red peppers), Caesar Salad, Chicken Peperonata (Tomato, sautéed peppers and onions, roasted garlic dipped in egg batter, lightly sautéed in a lemon, white wine, butter sauce), Eggplant Parmigiana, Oven Roasted Beef, Classic Penne, Grilled Seasonal Vegetables, Dessert, along with coffee, tea, decaffeinated coffee, iced tea.

_____ \$34 Regular
_____ \$25.50 Youth or Student

Total Registration + Banquet \$ _____

T-Shirts may be ordered only by those registering for the annual meeting and must be ordered by August 18. They will be available for pick-up when you check in at the meeting. All sizes are adult sizes. Please indicate men's or women's cut. You may order up to 3 T-shirts per mailed in form.

Regular Price

Small through 3XL \$17.50 each

Youth or Student Price

Small through 3XL \$13.13 each

T-Shirt #1

_____ Men's or Women's _____
_____ Blue or Olive Green _____
Size _____

T-Shirt #2

_____ Men's or Women's _____
_____ Blue or Olive Green _____
Size _____

T-Shirt #3

_____ Men's or Women's _____
_____ Blue or Olive Green _____
Size _____

Total T-Shirts \$ _____

Grand Total \$ _____

(Please make checks payable to PSO)

Please mail check with this form to:

Vern Gauthier, 111 W. Big Spring Ave., Newville, PA
17241

Questions? vern_gauthier14@gmail.com

Field Trips (The field trip descriptions are on pages 4-5 of this PSO Pileated.) Indicate your top 3 choices for each day with #1 being your top choice and #3 being your lowest. You will be matched with field trips depending on their availability. If all 3 requested trips are filled, then you will be matched with the most similar of trips still open.)

Saturday Field Trips

- _____ Beginner Bird Walk – Canfield Island
- _____ Bird Banding – Williamsport Water Authority
- _____ Glacial Pools Preserve
- _____ Mill Street - Montoursville
- _____ Montour Preserve
- _____ Rider Park
- _____ Rose Valley Lake
- _____ State Game Land 252
- _____ Susquehanna River Walk
- _____ World's End St. Park/Loyalsock St. Forest

Sunday Field Trips

- _____ Glacial Pools Preserve
- _____ Mill Street - Montoursville
- _____ Montour Preserve
- _____ Ricketts Glen State Park and Vicinity
- _____ Rider Park
- _____ Rose Valley Lake
- _____ State Game Land 252
- _____ Susquehanna River Walk
- _____ Williamsport Water Authority - Mosquito Valley

Person Attending _____

Address _____

County _____

*Email _____

Phone _____

*An email address is necessary for you to receive confirmation of your registration.

Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology Annual Meeting Scholarship Program

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

The person must be nominated by a current PSO member. If the nominee is younger than 18, a parent, legal guardian, or a person designated by the parent or legal guardian, must accompany the young birder scholarship recipient to the Annual PSO Meeting.

PSO will pay the recipient's and accompanying adult's meeting registration, food (banquet, Saturday lunch, Saturday and Sunday breakfasts), lodging (up to 2 nights), and transportations costs to and from the meeting, and field trips.

In order to complete your nominations, please send this form to Holly Merker (HCybelle@gmail.com), or by land mail to: Holly Merker, 520 Baintree Run, Downingtown, Pennsylvania 19335, by August 1, 2019. Selection will be conducted by a committee.

Name of Nominee: _____

Address: _____

Age _____ Birth Date _____

Nominee's Phone No. _____

Email address (print clearly): _____

If a college Undergraduate student, College Attending: _____

On a separate page, please describe the Nominee's Involvement with birding, providing as many details as possible.

Name of nominating PSO Member: _____

Phone No. _____

Email address: _____

Relationship (if any) to Nominee

I understand that by nominating this youth for the PSO Annual Meeting Scholarship I agree to host them for the weekend. Or, if I am unable to attend, I agree to find a substitute host who will be attending. If the nominee is younger than 18, the parent, legal guardian, or a person designated by the parent or legal guardian, must accompany the young birder scholarship recipient to the Annual PSO Meeting. I understand that PSO is providing the scholarship for

_____ to attend the annual meeting. Youth's name (print) I _____ will be accompanying him/her. Parent/Legal Guardian name (print) OR I _____ cannot attend, but _____, my Parent/Legal Guardian name (print) Designee's name (print) designee will accompany him/her.

(Signature of Parent/Guardian) (Date)