

The

PSO Pileated



December 2019

The Newsletter of the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology

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www.pabirds.org

From the President's Desk....

The cover of a recent issue of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's periodical, "Living Bird," is draped in black with the words "3 Billion Birds Lost" and a lone plumaceous feather sitting in the bottom corner. Our news feeds are replete with article after article about the assault on nature as demands for natural resources grow. It is easy to feel helpless in the face of such huge issues when we care so much about birds and recognize their dependence upon the earth's natural systems. With the scale of the problems, what is a birder to do? Persevere, stay informed, speak out, vote, and give voice to our feathered friends.



Let's share our hobby with non-birders whenever an opportunity presents itself.

Pennsylvania's many regional bird clubs face the particulars of residential and commercial development, and they react in creative and impacting ways. At our recent annual meeting in Williamsport, we learned of such efforts by several north central bird clubs. The PSO applauds and supports these endeavors around the state. Get involved locally. Regional bird clubs: tell us how we can help and keep us informed so we can share your successes with the larger community of Pennsylvania birders.

That brings me to one of the many reasons why I am a committed member of the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology. Working together, we can effectively make a difference in the context of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Support as many of the national, continental, and hemispheric bird organizations that you can afford and get involved locally. But also recognize the PSO's unique role as a statewide organization. We offer you a

chance to make a difference in the 46,000 square miles of "Penn's Woods" and share your conservation ethic with Pennsylvania's 12.8 million citizens.

Yes, those are big numbers, especially when we compare them to our modest membership. That is why one of my goals for the next two years is to increase our numbers. Conservation and confrontation are not synonyms. In fact, one of the best things we can do for Pennsylvania's avian

population is to turn more members of its human population onto the joys of birding. Seeing, hearing, enjoying, and understanding the fascinating lives of our avian neighbors naturally lead to a desire to preserve and protect. Let's share our hobby with non-birders whenever an opportunity presents itself.

Once that flame has been kindled, new birders quickly become students of birds. Knowledge of these creatures is a bottomless well where birders never stop learning and growing in their understanding. That is precisely where the PSO meets their needs. We can provide them with a non-threatening environment within which to share their enthusiasm with like-minded friends, to hone their birding skills, and to increase their knowledge. Recall the PSO's Mission Statement? "To foster the study and appreciation of the wild birds of Pennsylvania and to promote the conservation of birds and their habitats." To foster is to promote the growth or development of, to encourage, to nurture. Fostering is what we are all about!

So how do we grow our membership? In my professional career, I spent countless hours serving on marketing committees focused on developing brand awareness, designing seasonal ad campaigns, and capturing the essence of a product in an image or a description. One of the truisms then still applies today: a highly effective way to “spread the word” is by the personal recommendation of one friend to another. That is why I would like to challenge each of you to join a “direct ad campaign.” Tell a birding friend who is not a PSO member about the value you receive by being a member and encourage them to join. Our organization’s name can intimidate young birders so be sure to tell them that the opposite is true! We are the perfect place for them to cultivate their love of Pennsylvania’s birds. The result of a larger membership will be that the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology

speaks with a stronger voice and is better able to encourage good stewardship practices from birders and non-birders alike. An annual membership is less than many of us spend on a single restaurant fare for two. We are in the midst of the holiday season. Don’t forget that gift memberships are available.

What better way to encourage a young birding friend than with a PSO membership. Will you reach out and talk to someone about joining the PSO?

Thank you in advance for doing so.

Evan Mann, President
Susquehanna County

2019-20 Birding Trips, Excursions, Surveys, and More

Special thanks to Chad Kauffman for organizing our trips and events. If you have any questions, please contact Chad at chadkauffman@earthlink.net. More trips may be added later or at the last minute. We continue to work with local groups and clubs to bird with them in their favorite spots by joining their existing field trips or creating new ones. Please contact any PSO board member for information. Details will follow in the March newsletter and on line.

December 14 - January 5 – Christmas Bird Counts.

January 12 - February 8 – Winter Raptor Surveys. Contact Greg Grove (gwg2@psu.edu) for more information.

February 14-17 – Great Backyard Bird Count. Our state’s birders have been actively participating in this count. It’s a good time to encourage others to start birding and using eBird.

Mid-March – Possible waterfowl/gull trip along the Susquehanna or at Middle Creek. Watch for details.

May 1-2 – Shaver’s Creek Birding Cup. This annual fundraiser for Shaver’s Creek Environmental Center is an attempt to find as many species as possible in a 24-hour period. There are various categories. See their website (www.shaverscreek.org) for more information.

May 9 – PA Migration Count (PAMC). The second Saturday in May is a great time to get out to count birds. For more information, go to <https://pabirds.org/index.php/projects/pa-annual-migration-count>.

June 12 - 15 – Breeding Bird Blitz. This will be the seventh year of this organized count, with the goal of getting reports of breeding birds entered on eBird. Do the Blitz! For more information, see <https://pabirds.org/index.php/projects/breeding-bird-blitz>.

September 18-20 – PSO Annual Meeting in Lancaster County. A great variety of field trips are in the planning stages and details will be included in the March issue of *The PSO Pileated*.

October 10-11 – The Big Sit, sponsored by *Bird Watcher’s Digest*. You may join or create your own circle and count what you see in a 24-hour time frame. For more information, check <https://www.birdwatchersdigest.com/bwdsite/connect/bigsit.php>.

November 6-8 – The Allegheny Front Hawkwatch, led by Chad Kauffman. This is the prime time to see Golden Eagles and other large raptors.

The Raven Reporter

Tales of Discovery about Pennsylvania Birds

Winter Bird Species of Greatest Conservation Need



Pennsylvania has an excellent, forward-thinking State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP). The 2015 PA SWAP is a “non-regulatory, proactive conservation blueprint” to prevent Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) from requiring federal protection under the Endangered Species Act. It prioritizes species and actions taken on their behalf. One of the main reasons this plan receives widespread support is that its approach helps reduce the costs of fish and wildlife management by decreasing expensive recoveries of species in need of critical care. SWAP provides the framework to secure these valuable natural resources for future generations. Birders play a big part in the monitoring of these species and a vital role in their future.

A U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-approved SWAP maintains Pennsylvania's eligibility for federal State and Tribal Wildlife Grants funding, the nation's core program to prevent wildlife from becoming endangered. These funds help implement conservation actions recommended in the plan. The PA Game Commission (PGC) oversees the parts of the plan pertaining to birds and mammals while the PA Fish and Boat Commission oversees the parts pertaining to fish, reptiles, amphibians, and aquatic invertebrates. The SWAP lists 90 bird species as SGCN. Winter is a challenging season for birds and for birding. It helps birders to focus on key conservation challenges, or our efforts will be diluted and lost. For those reasons and more, a limited number of priorities in the PA SWAP for winter bird populations exist. Among the SGCN requiring research in winter are American Black Duck, Long-tailed Duck, Ruffed Grouse (a permanent resident), Horned Grebe, Red-necked Grebe, Northern Goshawk, Golden Eagle, Long-eared Owl, Short-eared Owl, American Kestrel, Rusty Blackbird, and Red Crossbill.

One of the best ways for birders to help is by finding these species in the winter, especially in places not normally visited by birders. Trips to reclaimed strip mines, winter wheat fields, sleepy streamside woods, backwater stretches of streams, back road game lands and forest

lands could provide profitable birding. Entering bird data into eBird or other on-line nature databases is helpful to document these sightings.

American Black Ducks were once much more common than they are now in Pennsylvania, both as breeders and wintering birds. Since much of the northern tier and highlands is frozen, most wintering Black Ducks can be found at the lower elevations, in southern counties, and in riparian areas. I have found some hiding in abandoned, tree-lined canal corridors, sometimes on private property out of sight. If you have seen five or ten ducks at any one time, a population of 50 or more may rotate through that particular open water site from other unknown and unseen locations. Areas where Black Ducks winter have been targeted by PGC biologists for banding projects to learn more about their habits and numbers. Monitoring the Long-tailed Duck and the two grebe species seems to be a matter of watching populations on open water on Lake Erie, on reservoirs, and on our larger rivers.

Ruffed Grouse have undergone a major decline in recent years. This is a complicated story and not all of it is understood. The grouse's vulnerability to West Nile Virus is certainly a big factor in its recent decline. However, grouse have not done as badly and thrive where more young forest habitat or mature forest with a healthy understory exists. It should be easier to find them in the winter than in the leafy spring and summer. Ruffed Grouse will practically bury themselves in the snow, so it sometimes requires walking to flush them out of hiding. I have found that cross-country skiing and snow-shoeing are good ways to find grouse in winter. Christmas Bird Counts are great occasions to start looking for Ruffed Grouse hotspots this winter. It has been challenging for me to add this species to the CBC where I formerly found it regularly. Birders might do well to visit some game lands and state forests and walk or ski on trails to uncover grouse and other winter birds away from roads. In the early morning hours, grouse will leave the safety of the ground to forage high in trees and shrubs on berries and fruit including staghorn sumac, pokeberries, and winterberries.

Both the Northern Goshawk and the Golden Eagle are ghost-like, big forest birds in winter. Most Golden Eagles spend the winter south of our state, but some do lurk in larger blocks of forest carefully avoiding people. I wonder what they prey on in the big woods of Pennsylvania? An animal the size of a marmot, the woodchuck, is perfect size for the Golden Eagle menu; but these animals are hibernating out of sight in winter. I suspect Wild Turkeys, squirrels, and deer carcasses are their main winter fare, but there is probably more to their diet. Maybe cross-country skis or snowshoes are proper footwear for finding these

raptors. The Northern Goshawk has declined steeply in recent years. Several potential reasons for this decline include its vulnerability to West Nile Virus, forest fragmentation, and disturbance. Goshawks might be easier to find in winter than summer, so walks in the deep woods may be helpful to find this elusive forest raptor.

The big farmland and grassland raptors are always fun for birders in winter and are great photographic subjects. Short-eared Owls often take the “second shift” in big, open spaces where Northern Harriers rule the daytime. Although they are often considered forest birds, Long-eared Owls will also patrol open areas where they roost nearby in conifer stands. During the day near big open fields, I have flushed Short-eared Owls roosting in dense goldenrod and bramble thickets or under evergreen conifer saplings. Long-eared Owls often roost in conifers. Documenting wintering American Kestrels and Barn Owls (if you can find them) is also helpful to the cause. Hawk Mountain Sanctuary has been monitoring farmland raptors and cooperating with PGC biologists in monitoring these species. The Southeast Region of the PGC has been concentrating more efforts on kestrel management lately with Dan Mummert taking the lead in that project. See the HMS website for more information about its on-going farmland raptor project:
<https://www.hawkmountain.org/conservation-science/active-research/raptor-conservation-studies/farmland-raptors>

The Rusty Blackbird is that one North American songbird that has perhaps declined the most in the last 50 years or so. What is driving this decline? Probably the loss of wetland habitat but there may be other factors. A question that we ask is, “What role does PA play in the life cycle of this species, and how can the state maintain or increase its role in recovery?” So, it is helpful to find both where Rusties spend the winter in our state and the stopover locations during their northward migration in spring. Not only can Rusties reside in wetlands, but they also roost in trees along ponds and lakes and can visit muddy locations in agricultural settings. With Pennsylvania’s extensive riparian forest habitat and many rivers flowing from north to south, it would seem that these could act as migration corridors. Do Rusties really use our riverine habitats or do they go elsewhere? I wonder if they, like some waterfowl, sneakily visit canals with open water along the Susquehanna, the Delaware, and other streams.

The Red Crossbill remains one of the rarest and most enigmatic birds in the state. They are occasional visitors here, especially where there are fresh crops of conifer seeds. The types of crossbills that visit Pennsylvania have foraged on the seeds of eastern white pine, eastern hemlock, red spruce, white spruce, and Norway spruce.

The larger conifer forests get few visits by birders, especially in the colder months. This results in a hole in coverage of the state’s ecosystems and their inhabitants. Records have been sparse in recent winters, but crossbills are known to regularly nest in the spruce forests of New York state. That is not far away!

A lot of information is available about the plan and the SGCN at the following website which is not yet linked on the PSO website:
<https://www.pgc.pa.gov/Wildlife/WildlifeActionPlan/Pages/default.aspx>

Boreal Bird Updates

I have continued to study some of the rarest boreal birds that nest in the state. In my studies of Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, I have found several locations with nesting populations in some years. Most of these locations no longer have Yellow-bellied Flycatchers nesting there. In 2019, I checked several and found breeding birds only at Coalbed Swamp, SGL 57. I only encountered three different males singing on territory; two were engaged one morning in counter-singing. One of the males persisted on a territory until at least July 16. Another territory was occupied by a vocal male until June 27. None of the three territories included females. So, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher has a very fragile hold on a breeding status in the state. In past years, I also have had the situation where there were more males than females in breeding habitat with some territories occupied only by a singing male and then occupied by a pair the next year. The recent pattern, however, is a decline in locations and females visiting. In past years, females showed high fidelity to specific locations. The breeding habitat seems very good for the species, similar to that in past years when there were more birds; so I suspect that there are other forces at play in the decline of Pennsylvania’s Yellow-bellied Flycatcher breeding population, including wintering ground habitat issues. Deforestation in Central America may be having effects on this and other migratory species.

Blackpoll Warblers have been confirmed nesting in Pennsylvania since 1994 when a pair was found nesting in Coalbed Swamp. Since then, I have been studying this species on North Mountain, primarily in high elevation wetlands of SGL 57 in Wyoming and Luzerne counties. In 2019, I found territorial Blackpoll Warblers in only two swamps. A singing male was found in Coalbed Swamp, where later in July I found a dependent fledgling following a pair of Blackpolls. In a nearby swamp, I found two or three singing male Blackpoll Warblers in June. On July 15, I saw a male Blackpoll Warbler carrying food for young which confirmed nesting there. So, Blackpolls were confirmed nesting in two swamps, but their

populations seem greatly reduced from five to 20 years ago when I mapped more than 20 territories in those years when I studied them intensely. Since the habitat has not changed appreciably and we have found Blackpolls in some swamps not occupied in the last few years, I also suspect wintering grounds are limiting this migratory songbird.

Swainson's Thrush is one of the most common boreal forest birds near the southern edge of its breeding range in Pennsylvania. For the last few decades, this forest thrush seems to have been expanding its breeding range in the northeastern counties. We confirmed it at several locations on North Mountain during the 2nd PA Breeding Bird Atlas. I have been monitoring several clusters of Swainson's Thrushes on North Mountain for years, stretching back to the early 1980s. In the last five years, I have been checking on these clusters more intensely as time has permitted. The bad news is that almost all of the Swainson's Thrush breeding clusters of which I've been aware in northeastern PA have disappeared. These include the following locations: 1. Loyalsock State Forest – Shanerburg Road / Pole Bridge; 2. SGL 13 – Glass Creek Woods; 3. Ricketts Glen State Park – Mountain Springs Trail; 4. Ricketts Glen SP – Hidden Hemlocks area; 5. Ricketts Glen SP – Upper Glen Leigh. All of these locations are dominated by hemlocks mixed with mature hardwoods around small streams and seeps.

Perhaps these “wink outs” of local populations hint of troubles on the wintering grounds or elsewhere that are being manifested by small local declines. Fortunately there are Swainson's Thrush populations in northwestern PA counties, especially in the Allegheny National Forest. Often at the edges of the breeding grounds the effects of wintering and migration habitat losses play out. For that reason and others, I am pleased to see that David Yeany of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy and the Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program is working with Luke DeGroot of Powdermill Nature Reserve to study the Swainson's Thrushes of Allegheny National Forest using nanotag technology. We need to learn more about the habitat use, migratory patterns, and wintering ground destinations in South America of our state's Swainson's (Olive-backed) Thrushes. For more about this project, please see this newsletter on this link and support the project: <http://www.naturalheritage.state.pa.us/docs/2019%20Q2%20PNHP%20newsletter.pdf>

I would love to hear any reports of breeding populations of Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, Blackpoll Warblers, Swainson's Thrushes, or other boreal forest birds in Pennsylvania. Without doing off-road surveys, often deep in the woods and wetlands, we would know little about these boreal forest birds.

Doug Gross, Birding Volunteer
Dagross144@verizon.net

Thank You to PSO for Support and Numerous Contributions to the Frontiers in Ornithology: A Symposium for Youth!

PSO held the title of Collaborating Organization and Partner for the Frontiers in Ornithology Symposium held at Ashland Nature Center on September 28, 2019. The event was a one-day symposium that brought students together from across the country to learn from and engage with 17 presenters and keynotes known for their cutting-edge work in avian science and conservation. Registration for the event was sold out (125 registrants) and the symposium was enormously successful.

As PSO Education Committee Chair, I acted in the role of co-founder and planning team member, giving PSO a prominent position in the symposium. But efforts from other dedicated PSO volunteers were an integral part of the event's success, and to them we are grateful! The importance of our volunteers must be stressed. Our PSO President Evan Mann's transportation of student scholarship recipients to Delaware from both New York and Pennsylvania and his help as a volunteer were greatly

appreciated. Other volunteers from PSO who made an impact on the symposium were: Board Member Sandy Lockerman who helped significantly; Ted Nichols II who helped with AV/video-recording; Delaware County Compiler Sheryl Johnson; Barb Ritzheimer, a donor and volunteer; and Mary-Therese Grob, the symposium co-founder and current co-chair.

The 2020 Frontiers in Ornithology Symposium date has been announced for September 26 at Ashland Nature Center. Stay tuned for more information! See www.frontiers-in-ornithology.org.

– Holly Merker
Co-founder/ Co-chair
Frontiers in Ornithology Symposium
Planning Team
PSO Education Committee Chair
HCybelle@gmail.com

Reasons to Attend Our PSO Annual Meeting



What do we mean when we say that PSO 2020 is “All Things Birds”? Well, **field trips**, of course – field trips to a wide variety of birding

hotspots in the area, planned by the members of the Lancaster County Bird Club, the folks who know birding in Lancaster best. Field trips offer an opportunity to build county and state lists and maybe even get a lifer or two. Outings also provide opportunities to meet new folks from across the state who share our interest in birds and to learn informally from one another.

Speaking about learning, **Saturday afternoon seminars** are where you can get your “bird nerd” on and learn from experts about particular species of birds, where to find them, how their populations are doing, and what field work and research are telling us about them. You may even learn how you can participate in conservation efforts through Citizen Science opportunities.

Of course we also enjoy **social events**. These are opportunities to meet old friends and make new ones, too. Our Friday night social includes a birding trivia contest, adult beverages, and a chance to mingle. The Saturday

night banquet has good food, award presentations, and a banquet speaker who, we hope, will entertain and make learning fun. Informal opportunities, like Saturday’s lunch where birders flock to a local pub or restaurant for a pint and a laugh or two, add to the fun.

Did I mention **shopping**? Yes, we have exhibitors who range from birding related groups providing information to those selling optics or a variety of birding related artwork and the like. This is a great opportunity to buy some early Christmas gifts for birders on your list or just to treat yourself!

And before I forget, we are not just talking about all things birds but also **all types of birders**. Birders include beginners to experts, from feeder-watchers and those who bird their local patch to those who chase vagrants throughout the state, and those who enjoy the social aspect of birding, to those who are really just about the birds.

So make plans now **to join us in Lancaster**, one of the top birding destinations in the state, **September 18-20, 2020**, at the Double Tree Hotel. Look for more information in the months ahead. Registration will open in June of 2020.

If you have any questions, please contact me at vern_gauthier14@gmail.com.

Vern Gauthier
PSO 2020 Chairperson

Corrections from the October issue of “The PSO Pileated”:

Two photos were incorrectly labeled and have been corrected below. Apologies to Ty and Dominic.



Vern Gauthier presents Ty Sharrow with one of two Youth Scholarship Awards.



Vern Gauthier awards Dominic Mirarchi as one of two Youth Scholarship Award winners.

What You Can Do on the PSO Website

pabirds.org

Frank Haas - pso@pabirds.org


The PSO website offers a bunch of resources for birders in Pennsylvania. This is the third in a series of articles on the features of the website.

Today's topic is the Site Guide.

The Site Guide is a listing of birding locations in Pennsylvania with information about the species of birds that can be seen, directions, etc. Some sites are more thoroughly covered than others. We welcome input from users to update or add to the information provided.

The Site Guide is located under the Birding Tab on the menu.

There are two versions of the Site Guide.

One is a Google map of the state with pins for each of the locations. Each site is represented by a binocular icon . The icons are different colors. Purple represents the

hawkwatches. All of the other colors are random, except for multiple points of interest at one site. In that case they are of the same color. For instance, all of the points around Raystown Lake are red. See map below.

Clicking on one of these icons brings up the information on the left of the screen.

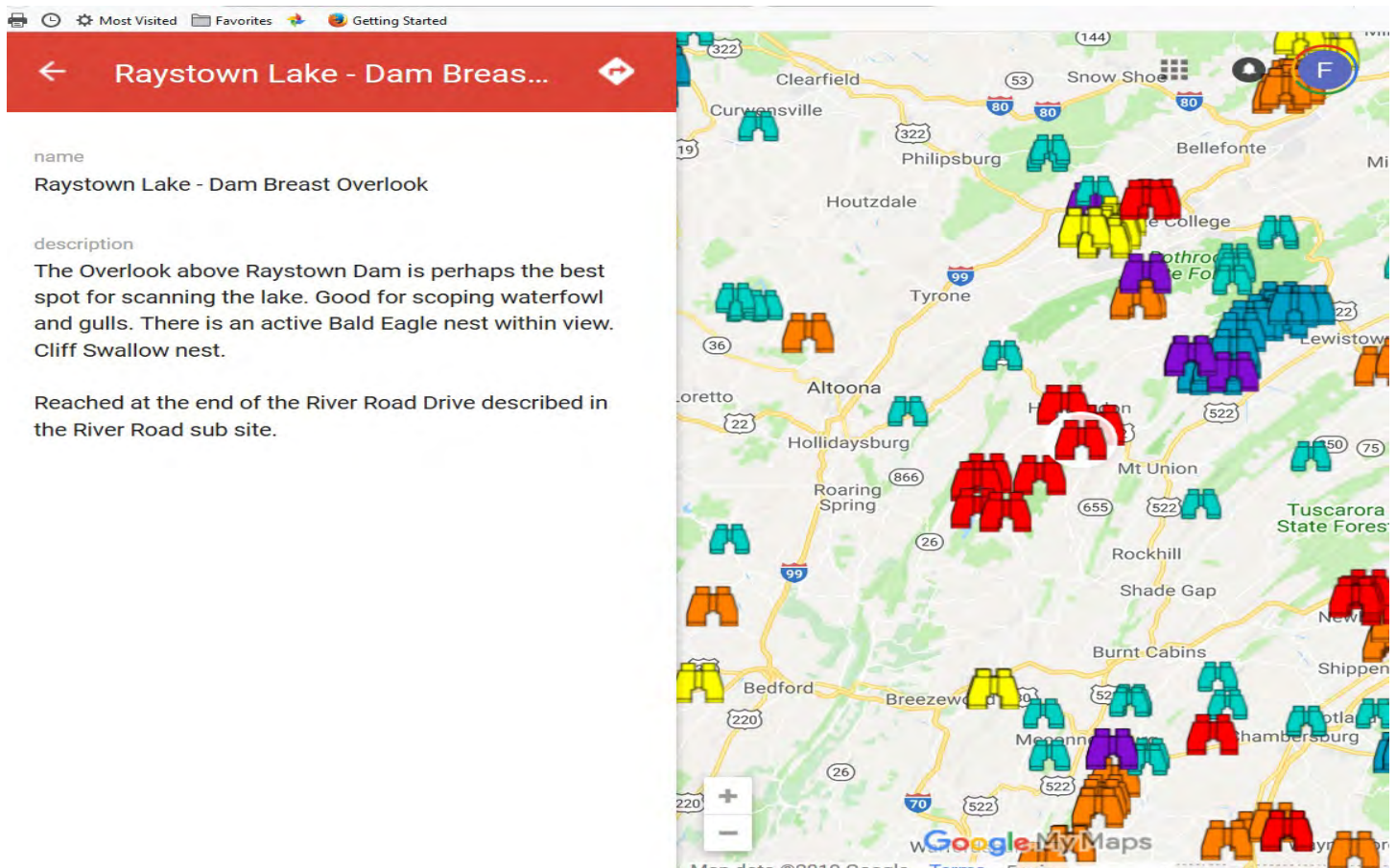
The other version of the Site Guide is organized by county.

When you click on this version, you get a state map with the counties outlined and a list of counties below the map. See the map on page 8.

The top menu includes the following:

PSO Home - Takes you to the PSO home page

Submit New Site: Instructions for submitting a new site to be added to the guide.



Update/Correct Site: Instructions for sending updated information, corrections, or general information for existing sites.

Contact: A link to contact the site administrator.

About This Site: A description of the Site Guide

Clicking on a county on the map or the county name below brings up a county map with each site numbered. See map on page 9.

In addition to the map and list of sites, it also provides some general information about the county.

Bird Clubs: If there is a local bird club, a link is provided.

References: If there are local "Birds of" type publications, they are listed here.

County Statistics: Square Miles, Population (last census), County Bird List Total, Number of Breeding Species, Top County Lists (construction in progress), and Compiler for *Pennsylvania Birds*.

Of course, the most important part is the list of sites.

Clicking on a site (the list below, not the map) brings up a site page.



[PSO Home](#) [Submit New Site](#) [Update/Correct Site](#) [Contact](#) [About This Site](#)

[Click on the map to select that county's site guide.](#)
(Or select from the [list of counties below.](#))

This site guide section will be updated regularly based on your input.
We encourage you to send us new sites, corrections to existing sites, and updated birdlist information.
If you would like to contribute information to this site guide, please use the links above.



[Adams](#)
[Allegheny](#)
[Armstrong](#)
[Beaver](#)
[Bedford](#)
[Berks](#)
[Blair](#)
[Bradford](#)
[Bucks](#)
[Butler](#)
[Cambria](#)
[Cameron](#)

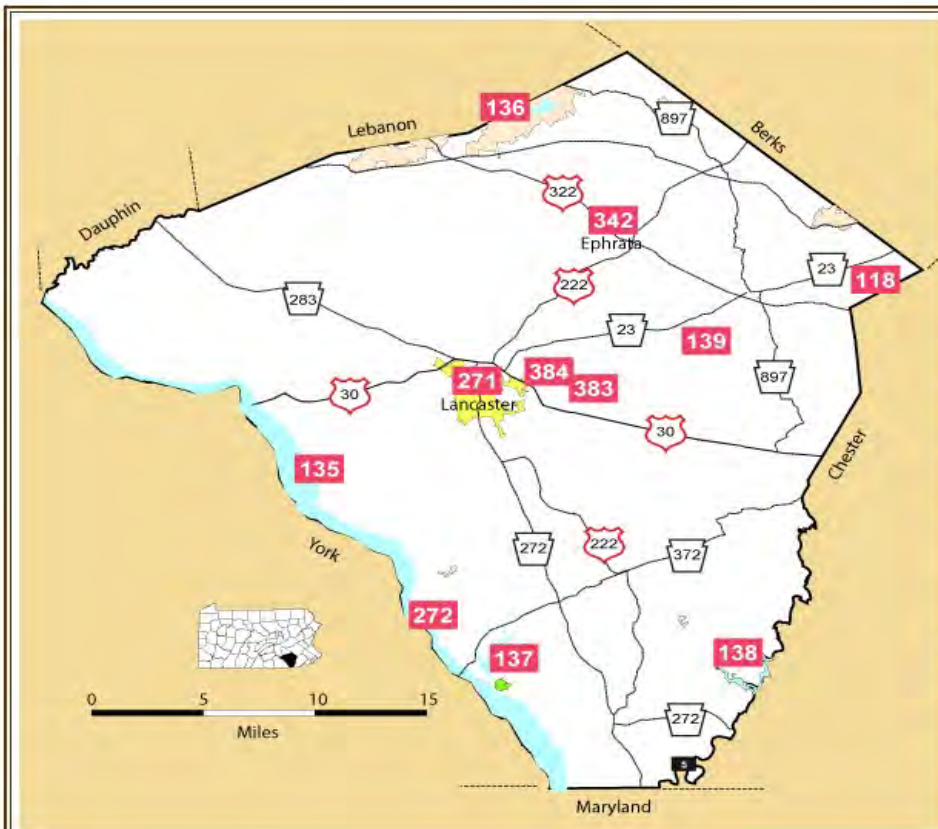
[Carbon](#)
[Centre](#)
[Chester](#)
[Clarion](#)
[Clearfield](#)
[Clinton](#)
[Columbia](#)
[Crawford](#)
[Cumberland](#)
[Dauphin](#)
[Delaware](#)
[Elk](#)

[Erie](#)
[Fayette](#)
[Forest](#)
[Franklin](#)
[Fulton](#)
[Greene](#)
[Huntingdon](#)
[Indiana](#)
[Jefferson](#)
[Juniata](#)
[Lackawanna](#)
[Lancaster](#)

[Lawrence](#)
[Lebanon](#)
[Lehigh](#)
[Luzerne](#)
[Lycoming](#)
[McKean](#)
[Mercer](#)
[Mifflin](#)
[Monroe](#)
[Montgomery](#)
[Montour](#)
[Northampton](#)

[Northumberland](#)
[Perry](#)
[Philadelphia](#)
[Pike](#)
[Potter](#)
[Schuylkill](#)
[Snyder](#)
[Somerset](#)
[Sullivan](#)
[Susquehanna](#)
[Tioga](#)
[Union](#)

[Venango](#)
[Warren](#)
[Washington](#)
[Wayne](#)
[Westmoreland](#)
[Wyoming](#)
[York](#)



Site List

- [271 - Alcoa Marsh](#)
- [272 - Safe Harbor](#)
- [118 - Winter Snipe Spot](#)
- [364 - State Game Lands 220](#)
- [135 - Conejohela Flats](#)
- [136 - Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area](#)
- [137 - Muddy Run, Susquehanna River](#)
- [138 - Octoraro Reservoir](#)
- [139 - Amish Areas of Lancaster County](#)
- [342 - Black-crowned Night-Heron Rookery](#)
- [383 - Beechdale Road Pond](#)
- [384 - Greenfield Ponds](#)

Bird Clubs

Lancaster County Bird Club
<http://www.lancasterbirdclub.org>

References

A Guide to the Birds of Lancaster County Pennsylvania
 Harold Morrin et al.

Lancaster County Bird Club
 1991

County Statistics

Square Miles: 984
 Population: 470658

County List: 366
 Breeding: 111

Top County Lifelist:
 Top County Big Year:
 Top County Big Day:

Compiler(s) for Pa Birds:

Zach Millen
zjmillen@gmail.com

That page includes the following:

Description: A short general overview of the site.

Directions: How to get there, where to go once you get there, and the birds you might encounter.

Maps: If there is a map other than a Google Map, it is displayed here and you can click on it for a larger view.

Sub-sites: If there are sites within this site, they are listed here.

Photos: Photos of the site showing typical habitat (not bird

photos, although there may be some birds in the photos)

The Menu at the top includes the following:

PSO Home: Takes you to the PSO home page

State: Takes you back to the Site Guide State Map (so you can select another county)

County: Takes you back to the current county map

Bird List: Takes you to the bird list for this site (a work in progress – most sites do not have this data. .. yet)

References: If there are references for this particular site, a list will be displayed.

Google Map: self-explanatory.

More Info: A link to non-birding information about this site (a park website, etc.)

For many sites, there is a treasure trove of information, for others, not so much...

Putting the Site Guide together relied on the input from birders all across the state. We still need your help. If you bird any of these sites, please look at the

information (or lack thereof!) and submit new information to us so we can upgrade this site.

You do not have to be a wordsmith -- we will edit your submission.

The important thing is to get the information to us.

As you can see, this is a rich resource for anyone interested in the birds of Pennsylvania.

Coming up next: Lists

PS: Don't just wait for the next article in this series, go to the website and explore!

The screenshot shows the PSO Site Guide website for Octoraro Reservoir in Lancaster, Chester. The page features a navigation bar with links to PSO Home, State, County, Bird List, References, Google Map, and More Info. The main content area is divided into sections: Description, Directions, Maps, Sub-sites, and Photos. The Description section provides detailed information about the reservoir, including its history and the types of birds that inhabit the area. The Directions section offers a step-by-step guide to the site. The Maps section includes a link to a map of the site. The Sub-sites section lists other nearby locations. The Photos section features a large photograph of the reservoir, showing the water and surrounding trees.

Certificates of Appreciation Awarded

Since 2007, PSO has issued certificates of appreciation to individuals and organizations who have graciously allowed access to their properties to view rare or unusual

birds. The total number issued is now 162. The full list can be found on the PSO's website. The following Certificates of Appreciation have been awarded to:

Anna's Hummingbird, Lois Bryman, Chester Co.

Rufous Hummingbird, Susan and Armit Harrison, Bucks Co.

Rufous Hummingbird, Wayne and Karen Lattuca, Bucks Co.

Hawk Mountain Golden Eagle Hawkwatch Trip 2019

by Chad Kauffman

Our annual PSO Golden Eagle field trip took us to Hawk Mountain this year with hopes for the bigger raptors sailing past us on the rocks. Rain and windstorms came through at the end of the week, so we hoped the weather would hold the birds back until we arrived on November 2. Some of us got there early on Friday, and we took advantage of the nice winds that day that offered to produce Golden Eagles and other raptors. Those early birders also got to enjoy a wonderful German/Austrian dinner at Stony Run Inn in Kempton, PA.

My son Noah and I started even earlier in the day, heading down to Bucks County to hook up with Ken Rieker to try to tick off my biggest nemesis bird at Pine Run; however, it was just too windy and the few sparrows we could ID were Song, Savannah, and Swamp. We couldn't positively ID anything orange for a Nelson's Sparrow, but we did enjoy a late Palm Warbler. After a quick lap for waterfowl and gulls at Peace Valley, which yielded a handful of Lesser Black-backed Gulls and a nice lunch, we headed up to visit the South Lookout where we had some late raptors including at least one Golden Eagle. Evan Mann and Mike Leahy were also there.

Saturday morning, our crew members, who had come from Clarion, Susquehanna, Juniata, Perry, and Centre counties, were hopeful. We were pleased to learn that the counters were Paul Heveran and Rudy Keller, whom we know both personally and as PSO county compilers for Bucks and Berks, respectively. Getting there early always helps us to get a prime seat at the watch. You can sit and enjoy the hawks anywhere, but if you want to hear the counters better as well as to be heard, it is helpful to sit close to them. They can also see the angle where you are looking with your bins if you are trying to get them on a bird, and you can look back to see where the birds that they are calling out are, as well. One of the nice things about a place like Hawk Mountain is that their many volunteers shout out information and explain the lay of the land, landmarks to look for, the history, and answers to any questions visitors may have.

The day started slowly, but we spotted some nice passerines right near the watch, including Fox Sparrow,



Noah Kauffman prepares to take flight at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary.

Brown Creeper, Yellow-rumped Warbler, American Pipit, Purple Finch, and Horned Larks.

It didn't take long for us to see our first Golden Eagle. We ended up listing two that we could count, 15 Accipiters, 55 Buteos, six countable eagles, and three Merlins. While the sun was out, the day felt very nice, but as soon as the shade swallowed parts of the watch, we could feel the chill come on. Once the day was over, I learned that they had finished with 126 raptors.

Another unexpected highlight was Paul and Rudy's find of an exciting skein of geese that Paul pointed out included a couple of Snow Geese in the mix. Rudy noticed that the group was weaving around in the sky much more than Canada Geese and suggested most were Brant. They were far away and hard to find in the sky, but aside from a few Canadas in the flock, most of the birds were small like the Snows, and we all agreed they were Brant.

At Hawk Mountain it's possible to ask some of the local helpers where to stay, where to eat, etc. Annie was brought over to me by another volunteer Dan Stoner, whom I had asked for meal choices. She named a few, so we stopped at The Brickhouse Grill in Orwigsburg. They said that they support and do things for Hawk Mountain, so that was enough for us to want to support them as well. I called the restaurant from the rocks and told them we were making a reservation from the North Lookout. That got a chuckle from the other end of the phone as well as from those sitting around me. We had a great time at this place as well.

Sunday's wind prediction looked much better than the day prior, so our hopes were lifted even more. When we heard our friend Holly Merker, who is also a PSO county compiler for Chester, was counting, we knew that would be a treat. Doug Wood, who I knew was a long-time counter, was another counter on Sunday. I don't think that I had met him previously. We again arrived early to pick out the softest rocks, and I saw Rudy Keller had returned on his off day to join, so that was a treat to converse more with him. The day again started out slowly, but a few birds did trickle our way. Joe Gyekis, PSO county compiler for Snyder and Union, had taken a picture of a small bird out in front of us where our sons

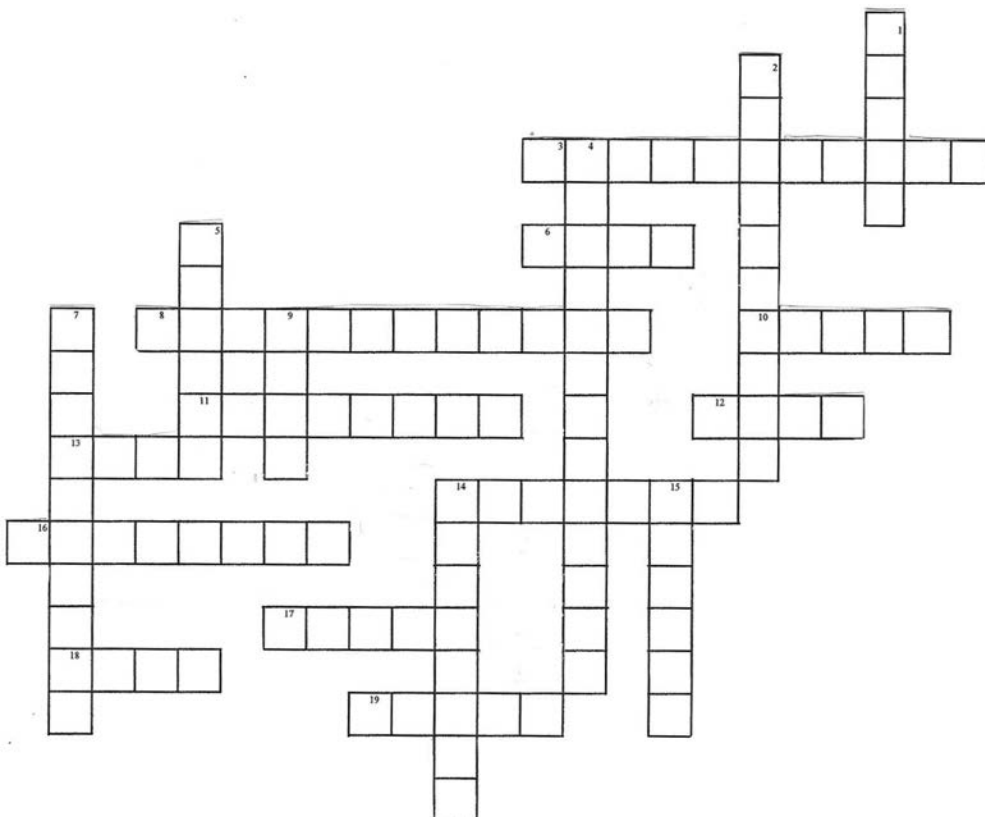
Noah and Henry had made a playhouse/fort the whole weekend while we were there. Joe brought his camera back to show us some pics of the bird so we could help ID it, but at that moment there were hawks moving through so we didn't get it sorted out. A while later, Scott Godshall and his wife, from Montgomery County, had the same bird pop up right beside them only a few feet away and called out "White-eyed Vireo!" Soon many of us had point-blank views of the immature with its nice gray eye as it skulked around in rhododendrons close to the group, occasionally reappearing throughout the morning. It was awesome to have such a great bird like that so late in the season, for a couple of hours unabashed by all of the human activity on the rocks.

It was another great hawkwatching weekend at one of the nation's premier sites with a top-of-the-line nature center

and education center. Noah scored a Barn Owl puzzle, and I had to get another hat after Noah took mine from the last trip there. The facilities seem to be getting better each time I visit or maybe I'm just noticing. Having a bathroom, a mile away from the parking lot at the North Lookout, is very nice, as well as another one not far from the South Lookout. Being able to have wheelchairs visit the South Lookout is great. Top-notch programs are going on during much of the year at Hawk Mountain. The visits can be free or require a minimal charge, but if you become a member, you can soon pay for your membership if you take advantage of what is offered.

According to eBird, we tallied 45 species both days at the lookouts and on the walks to and from the parking lot.

PSO Crossword



Across

3. Chad's target on his Nov. PSO field trips
6. The banding code of the species studied by Sandy Lockerman, Bob Mulvihill, Dave Darney, etc.
8. Bird with longer lower mandible
10. A seemingly "odd" prey item for Ruffed Grouse
11. *Seiurus aurocapilla*
12. Banding code for shorebird known as "little yelper"
13. Species credited with "maniacal laughter"
14. "Grandfather of American Ornithology"

16. *Setophaga* warbler that nests in tall sycamores along streams

Down

1. A rare, irregularly breeding PA wren
2. A burrow-nesting rattler
4. A shorebird surprise April 1993 at Beltzville S.P.
5. "The Father of American Ornithology"
7. PSO past president
9. Banding code for an African species that first appeared in PA at Tlincum May 13, 1956
14. *Sialia*
15. Hummingbird that recently visited Chester Co.

Across (cont.)

17. Its bones were used for divination
18. Mud hen
19. Shorebird with zigzag flight

Answers on page 19

Pennsylvania Ornithological Research

There's no end to surprises in biological research. Thank goodness, or boredom might rule. Two recent publications by Pennsylvania researchers offer fascinating examples.

One unusual case involves Eastern Bluebirds feeding Tree Swallows in a nest box. Tree Swallows often compete for nest boxes designed for bluebirds, but Danielle P. Williams, Margaret C. Brittingham, and Julian D. Avery at Penn State University describe an unexpected occurrence in a 2019 paper in *The Wilson Journal of Ornithology* (131:633-637).

During a study of effects on birds from noise pollution at Marcellus Shale gas production sites, researchers happened to notice a male Eastern Bluebird feeding 10-day-old Tree Swallow nestlings in a nest box. The bluebird had previously fed its own pair's nestlings in the same box where the swallows later nested.

Evidently, even though the new nest contained nestlings of a different species, the bluebird was behaviorally attached to the successful box. This attachment must have been so strong that the box itself was more important than the fact that these begging nestlings were not bluebirds.

This second case is also unexpected. It demonstrates parasitism on a Hooded Warbler nest not by a Brown-headed Cowbird, for which nest parasitism is well documented. In this instance, the invasive egg came from a parasitic cuckoo. Cuckoos have not been known to



This male Eastern Bluebird perches on a shrub near his nest box.
Photo by Roger Higbee



Tony Bruno photographed this striking male Hooded Warbler along the Redbank Trail in Clarion County on 5/13/2018.

parasitize a Hooded nest—so this discovery was interesting enough. But a mysterious new chapter followed.

It came during a study of Hooded Warbler habitat and nesting preferences in the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area in northeastern Pennsylvania by researchers from East Stroudsburg University and Delaware Valley University. Brandon Swayser, Gregory George, and Terry L. Master report the discovery in a 2019 paper in *The Wilson Journal of Ornithology* (131:647-650).

On June 2, 2017, a Hooded Warbler nest was found to contain two Hooded eggs and a cuckoo egg (most likely a Yellow-billed Cuckoo). This egg was conspicuously different—much larger than the warbler egg and plain bluish in contrast to the small, whitish, and brown-speckled Hooded eggs.

Researchers decided to monitor the nest. Then—lo and behold—when they checked it on June 8, the large bluish egg was gone and an apparently normal Hooded Warbler egg was in its place. What happened? Did the parent Hooded Warbler somehow manage to remove the big egg from the nest and then replace it by laying a new egg?

The final chapter is this: On June 10, the nest was found empty and toppled over with no signs of eggs, shells, or the female Hooded Warbler. Presumably, the nest and its contents ultimately fell victim to a predator. But we'll never know.

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Do you need a present for a birder?

Check the PSO website (pabirds.org). We sell T-shirts, both short- and long-sleeved; hats; checklists and binders for those checklists; *The*



Annotated List of the Birds of Pennsylvania; as well as patches, decals, and Zippo lighters.

Conservation Chat Room

We Can't Just Be Birders Anymore



I've always been uncomfortable with the word "birder." For most of us, it means watching birds, but the word also applies to people who hunt birds for market. "Birder" could also refer to a breeder of birds.

There are so many variations of birders that one term does not fit all.

Have you heard of "twitchers"? Twitchers are willing to go to great lengths to see any bird species they haven't previously recorded, even traveling extensive distances at great expense to see a new lifer. Even a common bird outside its range would be cause for a twitcher to travel hundreds of miles.

Fortunately, many twitchers are also "eBirders." If you watch birds and record the birds you see in eBird.org, then you are contributing important data for bird conservation.

Thank goodness so many of us contribute to bird conservation every time we eBird. Even sport birders are getting excited about eBirding. There are monthly challenges, competitions, even prizes.

I'd like to suggest another concept – people who eBird and also help birds by conserving habitat. There are contests for that, too. The Delaware Bird-A-Thon is a great example. Teams of birders compete to see which team can raise the most money for conservation while also striving to see as many birds as they can in a specific time period. Kudos to everyone who has participated in a bird-a-thon, helped with a Christmas Bird Count, or led a bird walk. I think of these birders as "eco-birders."

Counting birds is important. Did you read that nearly three billion birds in North America and Canada have disappeared since 1970? When we older birders celebrated the first Earth Day in 1970, we knew the earth was in trouble, but no one had a clue that 50 years later there would be three billion fewer birds.

Here's the one sentence summary of the Cornell report that announced this crisis: **"Cumulative loss of nearly three billion birds since 1970, across most North**

American biomes, signals a pervasive and ongoing avifaunal crisis."¹

This study, headed by Kenneth Rosenberg, and published in the journal *Science*, reports an astounding loss of birds. An international team of scientists from seven institutions analyzed population trends for 529 species of birds.

Scientists used data from the North American Breeding Bird Survey, 100 years of Christmas Bird Counts, and current data in eBird. Their data was supported by analysis of more than 140 NEXRAD weather radar stations across the U.S.



Estimated loss of Wilson's Warbler since 1948: 81,257,567 birds
Photo by Laura Jackson

What caused such a rapid decline of our birds? The reason is obvious: habitat loss is the driving factor, say the authors. The main culprits? Agricultural intensification and development.

It's relatively easy (but still a challenge) to pick one bird species like the majestic Bald Eagle or the Peregrine Falcon and bring it back from extinction. But how do we make a difference when our forests have lost one billion birds? How can we help grassland birds that have declined by 700 million?

It's not all bad news: waterfowl are up by 50%, raptors up by 200%, and Wild Turkeys show a 200% increase. These birds are all doing better because billions of dollars in habitat conservation have made a difference.

As dire as three billion birds lost may seem, we still have 70% left and scientists think we can bring birds back through conservation measures.

I'm really impressed with the work by The Nature Conservancy. TNC just announced that they have purchased 250,000 acres of central Appalachian forests.² I firmly believe that protecting habitat will be the key factor in fighting climate change and increasing biodiversity. TNC's plan is radical – their plan is to create conservation projects on these lands that have the potential to earn a profit. TNC will restore forests through sustainable forestry that will generate income. Other income will be generated by hunting and fishing leases, as well as outdoor recreation. Easements will be placed on the land before selling it to private and public owners.

On a smaller scale, here are seven actions you can take to help birds:³

1. Make windows safer – up to one billion birds die each year from hitting windows. Install screens or break up reflections. Start a “lights-out campaign” in your city.
2. Keep cats indoors. Cats are estimated to kill more than 2.6 billion birds each year. If you have a cat, train it on a leash or create an outdoor “catio.”
3. Reduce your lawn by planting natives. There are more than 40 million acres of lawn in the U.S., and much of that would support birds if the lawns were replaced with natives.
4. Avoid pesticides, especially neonicotinoids which are lethal to insects and birds.

5. Drink coffee that's good for the birds – most of the world's coffee is sun-grown coffee, which destroys bird habitat. Buy shade-grown coffee that is grown under native trees.

6. Protect our planet from plastic; use reusable shopping bags, and avoid single-use plastics like bags, bottles, wraps, styrofoam products, and straws.

7. Watch birds and share your passion. Participate in community bird walks and projects like eBird, Project FeederWatch, Christmas Bird Counts, Breeding Bird Surveys, etc. Continue supporting PSO and your local Audubon chapter.

Let's turn our birding passion into conservation and strive to be eco-birders!

1. www.birds.cornell.edu/home/bring-birds-back/

2. www.nature.org/en-us/magazine/magazine-articles/cumberland-forest-project/

3. www.birds.cornell.edu/home/seven-simple-actions-to-help-birds/

Laura Jackson
Bedford County
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Two Christmas Bird Counts Specifically for Kids to Be Held in Lancaster & York Counties

John Lahr (717-284-3497 or johnlahr324@gmail.com) is coordinator of this CBC on Saturday, December 28, 2019, designed to introduce young people to winter birding and nature at Lancaster County Central Park. Any adults without children are also encouraged to join the group to experience the beauty of the park in winter. Please contact John if you have any questions or want to join the group.

In York County a Christmas Bird Count for kids will be held December 26, 2019, at Nixon County Park. Kids must be 8 or older. To register, call York County Parks and Recreation at 717-428-1961.



Christmas Bird Counts Held in Pennsylvania

	Name of Count	County	Compiler	Phone Number	E-mail Address	Date
1	Allentown	Lehigh/Berks	Rett Oren		rettoen@gmail.com	12/14/19
2	Audubon	Montgomery Delaware Chester	Vincent Smith	484-410-1157	Nyctea34@aol.com	12/28/19
3	Bald Eagle	Centre	Bob Snyder	814-753-2629	rhs2@psu.edu	12/29/19
4	Beaver	Beaver	Rick Mason	724-847-0909	richarddmason@gmail.com	12/21/19
5	Bedford	Bedford	Laura & Mike Jackson	814-652-9268	jacksonlaura73@gmail.com	12/28/19
6	Belsano	Indiana Cambria	Robert Gordon	814-418-8412	rhgiii@robertgordoniiiiviolinmaker.com	
7	Benezette	Clearfield, Elk	Mark Johnson	814-546-2886	luckybirder@gmail.com	12/29/19
8	Bernville	Berks	Ed Barrell	610-926-2962	ed.barrell@comcast.net	12/28/19
9	Bethlehem-Easton	Northampton	Elaine & Donald Mease	610-346-7754	measede@enter.net	12/28/19
10	Bloomsburg	Columbia	Karol Pasquinelli	570-351-5120	karol2@ptd.net northbranchbirders@gmail.com	12/15/19
11	Buffalo Creek	Washington	Larry Helgerman	412-508-0321	bobolink1989@gmail.com	12/15/19
12	Buffalo Creek Valley	Butler Armstrong	George Reese	724-353-9649	g.reese@gaiconsultants.com	12/14/19
13	Bushy Run	Westmoreland	Dick Byers	724-593-3543	otusasio@lhtot.com	12/29/19
14	Butler	Butler Lawrence Mercer	Glenn Koppel Mary A Koeneke	703-203-3362 703-203-6337	macatilly@gmail.com macatilly@icloud.com	12/14/19
15	Central Bucks	Bucks	Diane Allison	267-733-3868	dalliso@mail.ptd.net	12/29/19
16	Chambersburg	Franklin	Valerie Barnes	717-352-4397	barnesva4@comcast.net	12/14/19
17	Clarion	Clarion	Debbie McCanna	724-526-5693	dmcc1018@windstream.net	1/4/20
18	Clarksville	Greene	Terry Dayton	724-627-9665	tdayton@windstream.net	12/28/19
19	Cowanesque Lake00	Tioga	Gary Tyson	570-724-5789	gnats3@ptd.net	12/21/19
20	Culp	Blair	Laura Jackson	814-652-9268	mljackson2@embarqmail.com	12/14/19
21	Curtin	Dauphin	Scott Bills	717-896-8859	srb24@comcast.net	12/27/19
22	Dallas Area	Luzerne	Rick Koval	570-991-0580	pocononaturalist@yahoo.com	12/14/19

23	Dingman's Ferry	Pike	Derek Scott	570-828-2310 x 234	dscott@peec.org	12/29/19
24	DuBois	Clearfield	Marianne Atkinson, Joc Smrekar		marianne5@windstream.net	12/14/19
25	Elverson	Chester	Jim Cook	610-587-7545	escjim@windstream.net	12/21/19
26	Emporium	Cameron	Bob Martin	814-486-1990	bmartin@zitomedia.net	12/22/19
27	Erie	Erie	Michele Franz		isomorphun@roadrunner.com	12/14/19
28	Gettysburg	Adams	Mike Bertram	717-352-7936	the2nomads@centurylink.net	12/14/19
29	Glenolden	Delaware	David Eberly	610-543-3499	david.eberly@gmail.com	12/14/19
30	Grove City	Butler Mercer Lawrence Venango	Brendyn Baptiste	724-496-4856	brendynbaptiste@yahoo.com	12/21/19
31	Hamburg	Berks Schuylkill	Laurie Goodrich	610-756-6961 570-943-3411 x106	goodrich@hawkmtn.org	12/29/19
32	Harrisburg	Dauphin	Deuane Hoffman	717-564-7475	corvuscorax@comcast.net	12/14/19
33	Huntingdon	Huntingdon	Deb Grove	814-643-3295	dsg4@psu.edu	12/15/19
34	Imperial	Allegheny Washington	Bob Mulvihill		robert.mulvihill@gmail.com	1/5/20
35	Indiana	Indiana	Roger & Marg Higbee	724-354-3493 412-309-3538	bcoriole@windstream.net rvhigbee@windstream.net	12/26/19
36	Johnstown	Cambria	Jeff Payne	814-279-8142	paynemt@gmail.com	12/15/19
37	Lake Raystown	Huntingdon Blair	Jon Kauffman	717-413-5522	jvk5019@psu.edu	12/28/19
38	Lancaster	Lancaster	Barbara Hunsberger Roger Stoner	717-393-4091	phunsberger@comcast.net	1/4/20
39	Lebanon	Lebanon Dauphin	Fritz Heilman	717-273-0487	volks5@verizon.net	12/21/19
40	Lewisburg	Union, Snyder, Northumberland	Allen Schweinsberg	570-524-0432	aschwein@bucknell.edu	12/15/19
41	Lewistown	Juniata	Abram Troyer Chad Kauffman	717-994-6715	chadkauffman@earthlink.net	12/21/19
42	Linesville	Crawford	Clare Nicolls	814-587-6395	tcnicolls@windstream.net	12/15/19
43	Lititz	Lancaster Lebanon	Ted Nichols	717-856-3851	tanicholsii@gmail.com	12/29/19

44	Lock Haven-Jersey Shore	Clinton Lycoming	Wayne Laubscher	570-748-7511	wnlaubscher@comcast.net	12/21/19
45	Mansfield-Wellsboro	Tioga	Gary Tyson	570-724-5789	gnats3@ptd.net	1/1/20
46	Montrose	Susquehanna	Evan Mann	570-663-2621	7evanmann@gmail.com	12/24/19
47	New Bloomfield	Perry	Annette Mathes	717-514-4512	amathes19@verizon.net	12/21/19
48	Newville	Cumberland	Vern Gauthier	717-385-9526	verngauthier14@gmail.com	1/4/20
49	Ohiopyle	Fayette Somerset	Matt Juskowich	412-831-0898	jusko88@yahoo.com	1/4/20
50	Northern Lycoming	Lycoming	David Brown	570-772-9262	davidebrownpa@gmail.com	1/4/20
51	Penns Creek	Centre	Cathy Pierce		winghaven.nursery@gmail.com	12/14/19
52	Pennypack Valley	Philadelphia	Peter Kurtz	215-342-3638 215-685-0470	peter.kurtz@phila.gov	12/14/19
53	Philipsburg	Centre Clearfield	Greg Kojadinovich	814-237-5964	gsak40@gmail.com	
54	Pittsburgh	Allegheny	Brian Shema	412-963-6100	bshema@aswp.org	12/28/19
55	Pittsburgh South Hills	Allegheny Washington	Nancy Page	412-221-4795		12/14/19
56	Pleasantville	Venango	Russ States	814-676-6320	pelagics202@gmail.com	12/29/19
57	Pocono Mt.	Monroe	Brian Hardiman	570-629-3061		
58	Potter County	Potter	Dave Hauber	814-274-8946	haubers3@penn.com	12/15/19
59	Reading	Berks	Lucy Cairns	610-223-4501		12/15/19
60	Rector	Westmoreland	Annie Lindsay	724-593-7521	LindsayA@carnegiemnh.org ,	12/15/19
61	Ryerson	Greene	Marjorie Howard	724-852-3155	birdwatcher108@comcast.net	12/20/19
62	Scranton	Lackawanna	Mark Catalano	570-760-6556	mwc.2473@gmail.com	12/14/19
63	South Butler	Butler	Chris Kubiak	412-963-6100	ckubiak@aswp.org	1/4/20
64	Southeastern Bradford	Bradford	Rebecca Lesko	570-592-2629	EMNCinfo@yahoo.com	
65	Southern Bucks	Bucks	Mark Gallagher	215-378-8162	mgallagher@princetonhydro.com	12/14/19
66	Southern Lancaster County	Lancaster	Bob Schutsky	717-548-3303 717-572-0771 (10 a.m. to 9 p.m.)	info@birdtreks.com	12/15/19
67	State College	Centre	Jim Dunn Bob Fowles	814-863-8625 814-238-1990	jwd6@psu.edu rbf@psu.edu	12/15/19

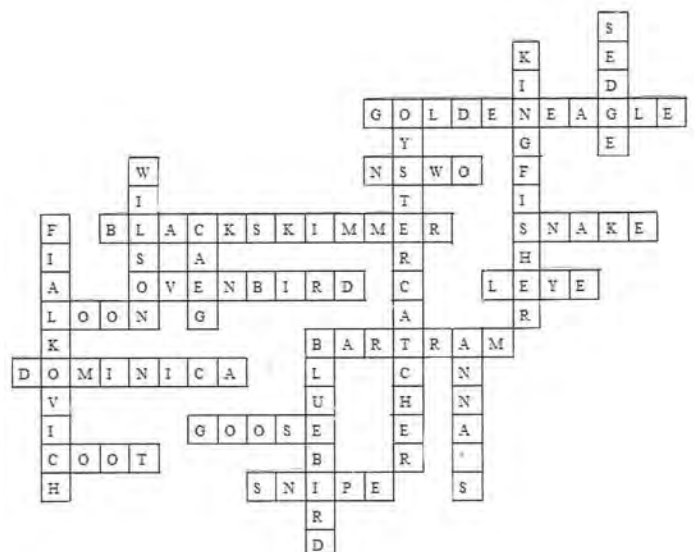
68	Tamaqua	Schuylkill Carbon	Jonathan DeBalko		jonathan.debalko@wilkes.edu	12/27/19
69	Tunkhannock	Wyoming	Rick Koval	570-991-0580	pocononaturalist@yahoo.com	12/15/19
70	Upper Bucks	Bucks Montgomery Lehigh	Bill Etter	215-964-3613	billetter01@gmail.com	12/15/19
71	Warren	Warren	Michael Toole	814-723-4714	m_t_toole@verizon.net	12/14/19
72	Washington	Washington	Tom Contreras	724-223-6118	tcontreras@washjeff.edu	12/15/19
73	West Chester	Chester	Barry Blust Anthony Fernandes	610-458-5616	BarryBlust@comcast.net jets741@verizon.net	12/14/19
74	Western Chester	Chester	Larry Lewis	484-340-7672	earlybirdtours@comcast.net	12/29/19
75	Western Schuylkill	Schuylkill	Dave Krue	570-622-3704	dkrue300@comcast.net	12/15/19
76	White Mills	Wayne	Barb Leo	570-253-2364	barbaraaleo@earthlink.net	12/14/19
77	Wild Creek– Little Gap	Carbon Monroe	Corey Husic	570-269-7509	coreyhusic@gmail.com	12/22/19
78	Williamsport	Lycoming	David Brown	570-772-9262	davidebrownpa@gmail.com	12/21/19
79	Wyncote	Montgomery	Kristy Morley	215-646-8866	kristy@wvwa.org	12/14/19
80	York	York	Bernie Frick	717-843-6675	bernardfrick@alum.lehigh.edu	12/14/19
81	York Springs	Adams Cumberland York	Vern Gauthier	717-385-9526	verngauthier14@gmail.com	12/30/19

How Well Do You Know Your Pennsylvania Birds?

1. What was once called the “Yellow-crowned Sparrow”?
2. What are “the great gypsies of our bird community”?
3. What is “one of our most persistent singers, its drowsy, warbling song drifting all hours of the day from the canopy and sometimes even from the nest.”
4. What is “a weak-winged bird and during migration often flies so low that it strikes itself against wires?”
5. What species “has no song, at least I never heard any from it excepting a delicate soft *whirr*”?

(Answers on page 20)

Answers to Crossword (page 12)



Answers to Bird Quiz

(page 19)

1. Grasshopper Sparrow (B. H. Warren, *Report on the Birds of Pennsylvania*, 1890)
2. Red Crossbills (Franklin Haas and Roger Burrows, *Birds of Pennsylvania*, 2005)
3. Warbling Vireo (Terry L. Master, *Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in Pennsylvania*, 2012)
4. Sora (George Miksch Sutton, *An Introduction to the Birds of Pennsylvania*, 1928)
5. Prairie Warbler (John James Audubon, *Ornithological Biography*, 1835)



Eastern Meadowlarks can sometimes be found on Pennsylvania Christmas Bird Counts.

Photo by Tony Bruno

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:

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