

The

PSO Pileated



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From the President's Desk...

It struck me last weekend while wrapping up our first-ever birding festival, that the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology (PSO) is a rich collection of many things related to birds. So, I pose the question: What is the PSO?

I'll start with the name! It says a lot. We're based in Pennsylvania and, of course, we are a non-profit organization, a Society of members. So far, that's pretty clear.

And, we are "for ornithology."

That's going to take some dissecting! The Oxford English dictionary summarizes "ornithology" from Greek and Latin roots as "the scientific study of birds." But I'm inclined to embrace a broader description from Wikipedia (if you're willing to accept it) which says it is "a branch of zoology that concerns the methodological study and consequent knowledge of birds with all that relates to them." The rest of this article will articulate what we do to live up to that ambitious description. And we do a lot.

More precisely, you, as members, do a lot. So consider with me, as I work my way through our committees and the projects they support, to describe the scope and the depth to which we are for birds, and all that relates to them. Most of the details are provided on our website (pabirds.org), which states that we are "a group of birders from across the Commonwealth devoted to birding and wild bird conservation." Those details fall into three



Field trips like this one, led by Nick Bolgiano along the Lower Trail at our May festival, offer an opportunity to expand our bird knowledge.

broad objectives that appear as major tabs on our website: Education, Projects (research), and Conservation.

Much of what PSO does is to promote an understanding of birds, Education. Our flagship publication, *Pennsylvania Birds*, is a substantial and handsome quarterly journal that digests bird observations and provides insightful articles on a broad range of topics. A whole editorial could be dedicated to the journal, but you can open up a copy or go to pabirds.org (Publications) to

see it for yourself. More than that, you can search for what has been published in past issues using a variety of indexes provided under the Pennsylvania Birds link. The companion to our journal is this newsletter, *The Pileated*, packed with news and birding information. Both publications are available in paper and on-line. Our on-line presence is extensive, with a fact-filled website summarizing state and county bird lists, providing birding site guides (including hawk-watching sites), and other bird information under the "Birding" tab. Our Facebook page, with about six times more followers than we have paying members, updates current events! We have a substantial audience. In the past few years, we've sponsored webinars on current topics of interest.

Our annual flagship event, of course, is our Festival and Annual Meeting, which we just completed and is described in more detail on pages 3 and 4 in this

newsletter. The birding trips, speakers, and various social gatherings provided a rich opportunity to expand our bird knowledge on so many levels. Of course, this annual event is more than educational as it promotes the enjoyment of birds. The PSO also provides student scholarships to attend the Festival (three sharp students were sponsored this year) and has, in the past, sponsored youth to attend summer birding camps. So, we regularly provide individualized educational opportunities for up-and-coming birding enthusiasts.

Organized field trips are an important means of enjoying and learning about local birds. A relatively new PSO initiative, County Spotlights, exemplifies this. By simply encouraging birders to visit an under-birded county on a designated weekend with several informal gatherings, we expand our collective and personal knowledge of the birds of Pennsylvania and provide fun-filled events. The spring Greene County Spotlight was a great success. That's real PSO! Working together with rural bird clubs/Audubon chapters to promote their field trips provides a "win" for all.

Our name suggests studies, and PSO has a solid history of supporting and even developing bird projects. Part of the reason that we are "for ornithology" is our origin. Our PSO Facebook "About" page says "The PSO was created to maintain the connections the birders of Pennsylvania had formed during the 1st Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas." We were forged into existence as the result of birders working together on the first statewide atlas project in the 1980s. Bird atlases are the largest community bird study! With the third PA Atlas launching in 2024, a new opportunity is unfolding to grow the organization in support of bird knowledge and conservation. Atlas-style birding pushes our observation skills to include bird behavior in a way almost no other project does. That makes us better birders. In addition, it has a defined goal, and the results provide huge benefits. And by the way, atlasing is fun! I'm obviously a fan!

With "ornithology" deeply rooted in our history, we've initiated other surveys and projects over the years. *Pennsylvania Birds* editors Greg and Deb Grove launched the Winter Raptor Survey in 2001 and have annually promoted this project since. It collects standardized information on raptor populations that otherwise could be

overlooked. Check out past reports under the "Projects" tab on our website. PSO is also a strong promoter of the nationally significant Christmas Bird Counts in Pennsylvania and has encouraged other projects in the past. In a real sense, every bird checklist shared contributes to our collective knowledge since that data is then available for conservation prioritization and action. So, we promote eBird as well, for science and conservation.

PSO is strongly committed to conservation. We have an active Conservation Committee, which organizes habitat restoration activities linked to annual festival locations and raises funds for quality conservation efforts. PSO is not an advocacy organization, but we join with those to speak in support of birds and their conservation, primarily to state issues. Our initiatives generally meet multiples of the three purposes. The Breeding Birds for Conservation survey (B4C) encourages county-based birding during the summer months and is a fund-raiser that contributed over \$25,000 to conservation projects in the previous two years! So, we place it in the "Conservation" committee and under that website tab. In addition, we annually select exemplary conservation organizations to recognize and support through our Conservation Awards, announced each year at our banquet.

A substantial sub-committee, the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee, awkwardly called "PORC," serves under the PSO Board. There's no public graft here; this group undertakes the review of unusual bird observations. While not always appreciated, this is an essential function that sustains the credibility of the record of the birds of the state. Our treasurer maintains the bank account and with others manages sales of t-shirts and other items to keep the organization going.

More than once during the weekend Festival, I called PSO "the state bird club"! I hope you will embrace that definition of the PSO. So, we're "for ornithology," for bird conservation, and for the enjoyment and appreciation of birds. I think we gain the greatest enjoyment of birds when we're growing in understanding and contributing to the conservation of birds and their habitats. Thank you for your support.

Dan Brauning, President
Lycoming County

*Plans are underway for the next County Spotlight to be held in Union County.
Check our website for more current information.*

Highlights of the 1st Annual PSO Birding Festival and Annual Meeting

By Carolyn Hendricks

The 1st annual PSO Birding Festival and Annual Meeting was held on May 19 to May 21, 2023, at the Ramada Inn Hotel and Conference Center at State College, PA, with 151 registrants and 5 on-line participants.

The festival started off on Friday, May 19, 2023, with a two-hour conservation activity at Shaver's Creek Environmental Center with their program director, instructor, and naturalist and PSO board member Doug Wentzel shepherding PSO member volunteers through both invasive plant control and planting native species at the Center.

The 2023 Annual Business Meeting was held on Friday evening. PSO President Dan Brauning called the meeting to order, introduced the current board members, and acknowledged the four directors who have completed their board service: Roger Higbee, Deb Grove, Linda Wagner, and David Yeany. Dan Brauning acknowledged the outgoing *Pennsylvania Birds* Journal Editor-in-Chief Greg Grove and introduced the new editor Mark Bonta. PSO board member Tony DeSantis then announced the three winners of the 2023 Youth Scholarship Awards: Ethan Kang, Ezra White, and Tori Sindlinger. PSO board member Deb Grove then congratulated the three recipients of the 2023 PSO Student Research Grant Awards: Owen Moyer, Joseph M. Elias, and Sara Isgate. PSO board member Carolyn Hendricks then presented the slate of nominees for election to the board: Chelsea Beck, Jeff Kenney, Mary Alice Koenke, Nathan Weyandt, Karter Witmer, and Valerie Dunn and the slate of nominees for officers of the board: Dan Brauning as President, Brian Byrnes as Vice President, Valerie Dunn as Secretary, and Franklin Haas as Treasurer. Both slates



Laura Jackson and Carolyn Hendricks pause work during the conservation project at Shaver's Creek to pose with everyone's nemesis – garlic mustard!

Photo by Brian Byrnes



Mercy Melo was the first of three afternoon speakers.

Photo by Mark McConaughy

of nominees were unanimously approved by the PSO members present at the meeting. After the Treasurer's Report by Brian Byrnes and review and approval of both our 2022 annual meeting minutes and the minutes of this meeting by Roger Higbee, the meeting was adjourned.

On both Saturday and Sunday mornings, festival participants took part in a wide variety of birding field trips in the region including the Alan Seeger Natural Area, the Arboretum at Penn State, Bald Eagle Valley Wetlands, Bald Eagle State Park, Black Moshannon State Park, Canoe Creek State Park, Detweiler Run Natural Area in Rothrock State Forest, the Lower Trail (in both Huntingdon and Blair Counties), Plummer's Hollow Nature Reserve, State Game Lands 112 and Old Crow Wetlands, Scotia Barrens, and Shaver's Creek Environmental Center.

For the first time, PSO held two photography sessions at both Bald Eagle and Canoe Creek State Parks for festival attendees, as well as a session about Drawing Birds at Shaver's Creek. Two nocturnal field trips were also held on Friday and Saturday evenings.

After lunch-on-your-own, the festival resumed at the conference center with four engaging and informative talks by our invited speakers. Mercy Melo, a Doctoral candidate at University of Massachusetts at Amherst, working in collaboration with Hawk Mountain, presented a talk entitled "The Continental Decline of American Kestrels: An Investigation of Possible Drivers and Future Management Strategies." Her talk was followed by Dr. Lauri Green, Associate Professor of Biology at

Bloomsburg University who presented a talk entitled “The Thermoregulatory Effects of Tree Swallow Nests and Nest Boxes: Implications for Reproductive Success and Climate Change.” Each of these talks are now available on YouTube (<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLTUU67nYAj8YaGtlQdtvIOUgKGqrVUxPI>).

After a short break, Scott Parkhill, Forest Program Manager at Audubon Mid-Atlantic, presented a talk entitled “Mature Forest Management: Wood Thrush Habitat and Opportunities for Carbon Forestry.” His talk was followed by Dr. Andy Wilson, Associate Professor of Environmental Studies at Gettysburg College, who presented a talk entitled “Looking Forward to a Third Pennsylvania Bird Atlas.”

While the 2023 Festival Banquet meal was served, board member Julia Plummer reviewed the eBird checklists that were generated during the first round of field trips. A total of 136 species were reported. The complete eBird checklist has now been uploaded.

PSO Vice President Brian Byrnes then honored Dr. Andy Wilson as the recipient of PSO’s 2023 Poole Award. The Earl Poole award is presented annually to a person or persons who have made significant contributions to Pennsylvania’s ornithology. This may be in the form of research, volunteer efforts, publications, field work, or any other pursuit that has increased the knowledge and understanding of birdlife in Pennsylvania. The Poole Award was followed by PSO’s 2023 Conservation Awards which are presented periodically to an individual or organization that has had a positive impact on bird conservation in Pennsylvania. Recipients were the Central Pennsylvania Conservancy and Clearwater Conservancy. Deb Nardone, Executive Director and Suzy Yetter, ecologist, accepted the award on behalf of the Clearwater



VP Brian Byrnes presents PSO’s Earl Poole Award to Dr. Andy Wilson after Saturday’s banquet.

Photo by Mark McConaughy

Conservancy. Andrew Beale, Executive Director, accepted the award on behalf of the Central Pennsylvania Conservancy. Special Service Awards were also presented to both Deb and Greg Grove and to Roger and Marg Higbee for their longtime dedication and numerous contributions to PSO.

President Dan Brauning then introduced our keynote speaker George Armistead, the founder and leader of Hillstar Nature Tours, an author of two books on birding, and co-host of the podcast “Lifelist: A Birding Podcast.” He gave an entertaining and enlightening talk entitled “pOrnithology: The Birds & the Birds and the Bees” about some fascinating aspects of mating behavior in birds, along with some terrific photographs and anecdotes from his North American and international travels.

The Festival formally ended late Sunday afternoon after a special activity on American Kestrel banding, featuring a lead participant in the American Kestrel Nest Box Program.

Photos of many of the activities are now available on the PSO Facebook page ([Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology \(PSO\) | Facebook](#)).

The 1st annual PSO Birding Festival and Annual Meeting provided a terrific opportunity for PSO members and guests to gather at State College to bird together (including photography, drawing, and American Kestrel banding), participate in a conservation project, honor individuals who have contributed to the board, the journal, and to conservation in the state, to listen to talented speakers on topics of significant interest, and to celebrate birding. We are already planning for our 2nd Festival to be held in May 2023 in or near Washington County. We hope you will join us!

Farewell and Hello!

We bid farewell to outgoing board members: Deb Grove, Greg Grove, Roger Higbee, Linda Wagner, and David Yeany, thanking them sincerely for their years of dedicated service to PSO.

And we welcome our six new board members: Chelsea Beck, Val Dunn, Jeff Kenney, Mary Alice Koneke, Nathan Weyandt, and Karter Witmer.

PSO Birding Festival Trip Report

By Ethan Kang

The Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology invited me to attend their birding festival through their youth scholarship program on May 19-21, 2023. Thanks to Vice President Brian Byrnes for nominating me and to Tony DeSantis, the Education Committee coordinator. I had a fantastic experience, meeting innumerable wise birders, and establishing connections I otherwise could not imagine. Many birds, some unfamiliar and others with which I'm acquainted, also appeared on my trip list.

Prior to the initiation of my adventure, I sat in bed thinking about the wonders this trip might bring. I attended the first period of my Friday class, almost jumping out of my seat, if I didn't have to wait for a three-hour car ride which was probably longer because of an unnegotiated stop to search for Kentucky Warbler. Fortunately, I contained myself enough to run out of the school building and hop into the car; then my family and I were on our way.

From Delaware County in the far southeastern part of the state, we drove through eight counties to our destination in Centre County: Chester, Lancaster, York, Cumberland, Dauphin, Perry, Juniata, and Mifflin, consecutively. Chester and Lancaster had vast swaths of serene farmland with many traditional farm birds (although few Cattle Egrets) residing in them. Common Grackles, European Starlings, Mourning Doves—even a Bobolink stood on a powerline! It's quite interesting to observe a completely different lifestyle less than an hour from my residence. York, Cumberland, Dauphin, and a bit of Perry Counties—at least the highways border the Susquehanna River. We stopped in York County to search for Kentucky Warbler but needed help locating the entrance to the hotspot. Nevertheless, I acquired a few York County birds on our ride along River Drive. While we drove through Dauphin County, I remarked "Is that the Statue of Liberty?!?" somewhat ironically. Several seconds later I thought I saw ibises fly over, so I knew I must have been dreaming. Yet, the Miniature Statue of Liberty does actually exist as I soon learned through a quick Google search. Although I couldn't verify the presence of the ibises, this statue pleased me enough!

Finally, we reached the mountainous Juniata and Mifflin counties, with acres upon acres of serene farmland. Numerous Red-tailed Hawks dotted virtually every powerline, and warblers sang every time I sneaked open the window.

We eventually made it to the Penn State campus where we had a blast walking around, enjoying the lovely campus. Of course, we had to make a stop to enjoy the massive serving of ice cream at the college's creamery. We then took a walk around their massive arboretum.

The Penn State Bird and Pollinator Garden hosted a variety of fairly tame birds. Although not a particularly inspiring variety, goldfinches added a dash of color to the cowbird-plagued community while adorable robin fledglings added to the vivid story of life. We then took a brief walk through the grasslands, where several swallows made their appearance. The end of the grasslands marked the beginning of the hiking trail through the woods. Unfortunately, we did not have time to travel through it, but I heard the familiar forest birds from the entrance (e.g. Eastern Wood-Pewee, Wood Thrush, Red-eyed Vireo).

We then finally began our "official" adventure with the PSO by checking into the Ramada. When we pulled into the lot, we observed several individuals coming out of their cars with camouflage outfits, binoculars, and the most dedicated, with scopes—birders, my people!

We quickly checked in, found our room, took a quick nap, then went down to meet our hosts. When I found the desk, many friendly faces greeted me, including Tony DeSantis whom I finally got to meet in person, showing their welcome. Even more honored, I graciously shook their hands and talked about birds with them. I learned a whole lot from these wise, accomplished, and seasoned birders in only my first few minutes.

Most importantly, PSO provided me with a couple of books from the keynote speaker—George Armistead—books that I might have bought anyway, terrific presents for a curious birder like me. *Field Guide to the Birds of Pennsylvania* and *Better Birding* have been incredibly informative and helpful thus far.

I spent a few minutes perusing the various stands set up at the entrance to the festival, each one with its own bird-themed story and purpose. I ended up registering for the Bluebird Society, purchasing a delightful new PSO T-shirt just in time, before they ran out (because I know they quickly did!), taking a brochure for the shade-grown coffee organization, and investing in a meticulously crafted Cerulean Warbler ornament.

Soon, the business meeting commenced, and I eagerly sat down near another scholarship recipient whom I had never met before. PSO spoke about their business and announced a few congratulations to honorary members and, of course, the young birder scholarship recipients! They proudly read off a little bit about all three of our accomplishments as we stood up (Thank you, PSO!).

That evening, although I had not originally signed up on time, the field trip leaders graciously accommodated me on my first field trip of the festival. Fortunately, another scholarship recipient's parents drove us to the location. Magical Eastern Whip-poor-wills rang through the Pennsylvania forest, and woodcocks displayed near the fields. The field trip leader, Julia Plummer, expertly guided us through the location, informing us about nocturnal bird habits.

Early the next morning, I met up with PSO's president, Dan Brauning, who could drive us to his field trip at Shaver's Creek. I finally met Keynote speaker George Armistead and his wife, as well as a few others on our walk. Dan Brauning skillfully guided us through the eventful location and George even spotted our group a rare flyover – a Merlin!

When we arrived back at the Ramada, the presenters soon began their lectures. I attended their informative talks and learned a lot about interesting topics like Wood Thrush habitat, Tree Swallow nesting behavior, and the PA bird censuses. We took several breaks in between to socialize with other birders and fill ourselves with refreshments: an awesome opportunity to converse with people who share this passion and can teach me so much more!

Soon, the banquet began, and I had another fantastic opportunity to speak to the most experienced birders when they assigned my seat next to some of the presenters, the PSO vice president Brian Byrnes, and the youth scholarship coordinator Tony DeSantis! I learned a bunch from them and others during the dinner. Finally, the keynote speaker George Armistead presented an amusing topic for the crowd to share a laugh. It certainly informed most of the audience and sent them home thinking. Afterwards, I obtained George's autograph on my two new books and said goodbye to some of the friends I made along the way.

The final morning, we left extra early for one last field trip at the Lower Trail. Most notably, I found my long-awaited nemesis lifer Cerulean Warbler (two of which I spotted myself!). Others admirably got eyes on a Worm-eating Warbler, and we learned a bit of history from our leader Nick Bolgiano.

Eventually, I had to return home. In the car, I thought about the wonderful experiences I had, the new friends I had made along the way, and the awesome new birds I saw with the help of many supportive birders. And then I took a nap.

References:

- 2016. George L. Armistead. American Birding Association Field Guide to the Birds of Pennsylvania, with photographer Brian L. Small. Scott and Nix Inc. January 2016.
- 2015. George L. Armistead and Brian L. Sullivan. Better Birding: Tips, Tools, and Concepts for the Field. Princeton University Press. December 2015

PSO Quiz

How well do you know your Pennsylvania bird names?

1. In his classic *Ornithological Biography* Audubon described the Yellow-Poll Warbler this way in Pennsylvania: "...they may be found in every orchard and garden, and even in the streets, among the foliage of our trees." What do we call it now?
2. B. H. Warren named this raptor the "Blue Hawk" in his 1890 *Birds of Pennsylvania*. What do we call it?
3. In his 1928 *An Introduction to the Birds of Pennsylvania* George Miksch Sutton named a bird the

Bartramian Sandpiper. Which species? (For a bonus, for whom was it named?)

4. In his 1964 *Pennsylvania Birds: an Annotated List* Earl L. Poole included a bird named the Calandra Lark. What was it?

5. Our state's species list includes the Red-necked Phalarope. What was it formerly named?

(Answers on page 16.)

Student Research Grants Awarded:

PSO has been awarding Student Research Grants of \$500 every year since 2019 with the exception of 2020, and nine have been awarded since then. “The award is designed to provide support to either graduate or undergraduate students in pursuit of a bachelor’s degree, master’s degree, or doctorate. The research should be conducted in support of a thesis or dissertation and eventually published. The student’s academic institution does not need to be in Pennsylvania. The field work does not need to occur in the Commonwealth; however,

proposals will be judged for their scientific merit and the likelihood that the work will make a meaningful contribution to our understanding of Pennsylvania avifauna.” Upon receiving the award, the student is requested to give a talk about his or her work or the student will submit an article to the *Pennsylvania Birds* journal. Or they may do both!

This year’s awardees are Joseph Elias, Owen Myer, and Sara Isgate.

- ✿ Joseph is a Masters candidate of Dr. Clay Corbin of Bloomsburg University. His topic is “Microplastic Exposure in Terrestrial Habitats and Its Impact on Avian Communities.” Joseph has been examining whether microplastics are prevalent in landbirds and in particular at a long-time study site at the University. His methods will examine the gastrointestinal contents using deceased birds as well as collecting fecal samples of birds that are found in the area. The objective will be to determine the extent of microplastics in landbirds.
- ✿ Owen Myer is a masters candidate of Dr. Lauri Green of Bloomsburg University. His topic is “Monitoring the Role of Temperature on the Availability of Prey for Tree Swallows (*Tachycineta bicolor*) with Implications for Climate Change.” The objective of his study is to explore that as the climate begins to warm, if a phenological mismatch will begin to grow between Tree Swallows and their insect prey. Insects and particularly Dipterans will shift to emerging earlier in the season as the climate warms. Tree Swallows may not be able to adjust their migration patterns to this shift.
- ✿ Sara Isgate is a masters candidate in Dr. Jason Keagy’s lab at Penn State. Her topic is “Exploring effects of noise pollution on operant learning performance and reproductive success in wild bird populations.” With the current fracking industry as well as other human disturbances in the environment, there is a question of how much disturbances impact bird species. In general, studies show that it is negative. Her study will examine the effect of noise on Eastern Bluebirds and Tree Swallows by testing their cognitive processes and learning abilities after exposure to a disturbance. The results will indicate whether reproduction and nestling feeding are affected by extraneous environmental disturbances and whether birds are capable of adjusting to these.

Welcome to the PSO Board, Mary Alice!

Mary Alice Koeneke graduated with a Masters Degree in biology (Fordham University, NYC) with a focus in environmental science. She was employed for 36 years as a biologist for an environmental engineering and consulting firm. Her positions included a long stint in field fisheries in freshwater and marine ecosystems in support of regulatory monitoring. She also worked as a field surveyor in terrestrial habitats, including surveys for endangered species and birds. She wrote environmental impact assessments /statements for federal projects.

She began birding in 1987 in upstate NY



where she first became involved in the local Onondaga Audubon Society chapter then the New York State Federation of Bird Clubs (NYSFBC), which is now the New York State Ornithological Association. For NYSOA, she also held director and president positions. For all three organizations, she participated in conservation committees. She has participated in BBS routes in three states since the 1990s as well as the Second Breeding Bird Atlas in New York.

Mary Alice retired in 2013 and relocated to Butler, PA, from the DC Beltway area in 2014 with Glenn Koppel.

Columbia County Birding Spotlight – March 17-20, 2023

By Chad Kauffman

It was time to head toward the eastern part of the state for our March birding spotlight, so I reached out to several birders about certain counties. Andy Keister suggested we do Columbia County since it has potential for waterfowl in mid-March, and after some research, he even predicted that we could get 80-85 species during that time period. It certainly qualified as a county on eBird with low numbers of both species and checklists. So, it was time to give it some love.

We were able to line up three days' worth of birding walks which are always helpful for these spotlights. We started on the 17th with Karol Pasquinelli leading a trip around Briar Creek Lake. Light rain was predicted on that Friday morning, so we prepared and hoped for waterfowl and whatever else we could find. Noah and I got there a bit early, and Karol and a few others were already on the west side. I recognized Mark Nale and Darla getting into their rain gear. The lake was loaded with Canada Geese and other waterfowl. Skeins of geese kept passing overhead all morning; we conservatively estimated over 5K. Bryce from Northumberland, Jessie from Snyder, and Lisa from Potter joined us as well. More than a dozen birders made the lap around half of the lake getting some first-of-the-year birds for us as well as for the county. We enjoyed getting the first Eastern Phoebe, Tree Swallow, and Eastern Meadowlark which also perched in a tree by our cars. Another great highlight was having a "gray ghost," a male Northern Harrier, fly right over us on the walk.

We continued up the road just a bit to see the local vulture roost and added both species. The Black Vulture was surely the harder one to get that weekend. After some field birding and a wonderful lunch at Berwick Brewing, we continued to Columbia Park. A crazy pishing recording perked up a Ruby-crowned Kinglet, our first American Goldfinch, and a few other nice birds. Andy finally finished work and was able to join us in the afternoon. After exploring more fields, we drove to the top of the mountain on a fruitless Sandhill Crane search where we found more waterfowl and our first Common Goldeneye for the weekend, along with more Ring-necked Ducks which were in good numbers over much of the county. Coming back down the mountain, we did more field searching and lucked out seeing and hearing Horned Larks.

We finished our day at Lake Glory Campground where we saw nice waterfowl coming in for the evening. This

was one of the many hotspots we created during this spotlight. Late that night Joe Gyekis and his son Henry arrived at our AirBnB in Orangeville, so we hoped for an early start the next morning before the field trips. Joe was able to get out and about, hearing American Woodcock and Wild Turkey. We were working our way to Bloomsburg to meet Andy Keister and the gang for our 8:00 a.m. walk along a few river spots. Elsewhere in the county Julia Plummer was doing her solo birding to record audio and found the first Fox Sparrow as well for the weekend. She was able to record 14 different species on audio, always a great addition to our spotlights. She does better when she does "hermit birding" to lessen the noise and chatter interference.

On our walk with 14 people along the river spots, we saw a single vocal Merlin, another Eastern Phoebe, and by the sports parks, we saw at least 2 Merlins in their nesting area. We were hoping to get the falcon sweep by visiting the Bloomsburg Airport, but this visit didn't pan out. Peregrines seem to like to winter roost in this area, but they nest elsewhere in the county. Our next stop was Paper Mill Road and Lake. We can now warn you to not park at the top of the hill after the town's finest badge came to check us out. But the walk down that road as we looked through the fence and trees gave us an amazing waterfowl selection. We listed ten duck species plus Pied-billed Grebe and American Coot. Other highlights were Redhead, Lesser Scaup, Common Goldeneye, and Ruddy Duck. We then did some spot checking for various species and scored with two Purple Finches at local birder John Slotterback's home. He had them a week or so before, and we lucked out on that day – the only spot for them the whole weekend. We decided to hit Lake Glory Campground again and found some really nice additions, including Winter Wren, Rusty Blackbird, and Swamp Sparrow. As we decided to call it a day, we finished at Harris Wetlands where Andy found us four Wilson Snipe, several nice flocks of Rusty Blackbirds, and more waterfowl.

Back at our rental Joe went back out with Michael David to look for more American Woodcocks and actually got to see some and get pics. A Sharp-shinned Hawk almost hit them as it was zooming by within four feet.

Sunday morning arrived quickly as we had to pack up and run over to SGL 226 to meet Andy for another bird walk. When we got there, John let us know that after 7 p.m. the night before, he did see a perched Peregrine Falcon near

the airport, giving the spotlight a falcon sweep. The temps Sunday morning were the lowest all weekend, so we had to bundle up for our walks. We got our first-of-the-trip Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Red-breasted Nuthatch, and American Tree Sparrow for our group of more than a dozen. As we went farther north, we were lucky to both see and hear a Fox Sparrow of our own. Most of us called it a day after this.

Monday morning, I had to get back to work and posted some of the updates and photos on the last day of the challenge, but Moses Martin who lives near SGL 226 responded to my email to the listserv and let us know that he was hearing Eastern Screech-Owl every morning, and I was allowed to share it on eBird for him. On the last night

Andy also went out and added a Great Horned Owl, another new species.

So, we entered 96 eBird checklists for 86 species, with 28 of them with pictures and 14 with audio. We added 14 year birds to the county and several new hotspot requests. It was another great excuse to see several old friends, meet some new ones, explore new places, promote an under-birded county, and enjoy Mother Nature once again. The biggest non-birding adventure many of us enjoyed was seeing a river otter playing both in the water and on the bank.

Thanks again, Andy and Karol, for leading and joining us. Thanks, too, to all of the local birders and those who had traveled to join us.

Greene County Birding Spotlight: April 28 – May 1

By Chad Kauffman

The next chapter of PSO's county spotlight took us to the far reaches of southwestern PA into Greene County. Yes, there is a Greene County way down on the left side of the map. If you haven't explored that area, you should. This county certainly qualifies as one that has the fewest eBird checklists and species. I personally needed to get down to that corner of the state to add more birds to my lists as well.

We first reached out to Margie Howard who is a long-time friend and former PSO board member and one of the main members of the Ralph Bell Bird Club. She was happy to have us visit her area and help to lead us around as well as to get other local birders to join us. As we watched the calendar days drift by, the weather forecast kept changing from horrible to bad to nothing to bad, so we needed to roll the dice with Mother Nature's offerings.

Friday was a travel day for many who planned to participate. Noah & I left our home in central Pennsylvania early on Friday morning. The weather wasn't very nice as we traveled west, but until we crossed into Greene County, it stayed fairly dry. We started making checklists as soon as we crossed the county line. After meeting Margie at noon, we birded several notable spots and back roads and were able to find 64 species between us and the other birders who were out and about. Michael David and his friend Molly arrived later in the day and made a few stops on their own before joining us at our AirBnB in Waynesburg. Deb Grove and Ro Fuller arrived on their own and added to Friday's totals. Friday's notables were

a pair of Bald Eagles perched near a nest, Blue-winged Warbler, White-eyed Vireo, Common Merganser with a fleet of young, and Yellow-throated Warbler. Deuane Hoffman & Carolyn Blatchley who stayed in a cabin at Ryerson State Park added a Barred Owl that they heard.

After arriving at our rental late, Joe Gyekis woke up really early to get out and about for some birding before our crew headed for the first field trip. He was able to really score with some nocturnal birding at SGL 223. Highlights for his predawn and early morning birding included White-crowned Sparrow, an early cuckoo gurgling in the sky, plenty of American Woodcocks still peenting away, and Yellow-breasted Chat singing on a hilltop clearing.

Our first official field trip of the spotlight started at the Ralph Bell farm, now run and owned by Ralph's son Dave and grandson Dave. Seventeen birders participated during the day with a really nice walk down the hill from the farm along the stream to the iron bridge. A total of 69 species were found just on that walk in over three hours. Our highlights included flyover Wilson's Snipe and Common Loon, a Cliff Swallow down by the stream, and Cerulean and Yellow-throated Warblers in the bottomland forest. The bird club hosted a free lunch for all attendees, and it was nice to sit down and relax after the walk and enjoy the farm's atmosphere. The Bells were so welcoming and pleasant. They really enjoyed hosting us, and we all enjoyed being there. This is the property where Ralph K. Bell lived his entire 99 years. His grandson lives in the house where Ralph was born.

Doing her solo birding again, Julia Plummer was out and about recording audio of birds. This works best if she is alone and doesn't have as much noise coming from other people. She was able to share recordings of species to add to our spotlight tally. She really enjoyed Rice's Landing Saturday morning, and her memorable moments included recording White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, and Yellow-throated Warbler. She was able to see and record a Northern Parula and really enjoyed hearing a Barred Owl from across the Greene River.

On the group's way to our second birding spot, we found a nice pond on Goslin Road and a really close Savannah Sparrow as well as shorebirds on the pond. Greater Yellowlegs and Solitary Sandpiper were nice additions to our tally, and we got great scope views of each as well. After getting to Rice's Landing, we walked on the paved surface and enjoyed getting the weekend's first Eastern Kingbird. We were able to tally 40 species on that walk. Our last organized trip for the day was to the Trigger farm. Rebecca was thrilled to have so many birders come to explore her farm and trails with her. She gave us several choices of paths, and we decided to take the one where owls had previously been seen. After several failed attempts, the owls chose to not show any love as we tried our mouth calls. We were very tickled to see the Red-breasted Nuthatch on the walk as well as White-eyed Vireo and Blue-winged, Yellow-rumped, and Yellow-throated warblers, plus a humming bee hive in a natural tree cavity. We had killer looks at a Hooded Warbler that was missing a few feathers on his face. After the walk, Rebecca shared some of her famous mulled cider with a few of us while we pondered the view from the porch and relaxed from the long day of walks. We were able to tally 33 species on that last walk.

After a nice dinner in downtown Waynesburg, some of the birders who still had some energy returned to Margie's house and were rewarded with a view of two Eastern Screech-Owls poking their heads from a tree cavity across the stream. Owl calls the night before failed to produce but Saturday night brought "owl luck." Deuane got up early on Sunday morning to bird on his own at Ryerson Station State Park where he was rewarded with both Great Horned and Eastern Screech-Owl. Across the street from our rental, Ritchie Park had good looks and recorded the calls of Orchard Oriole as we were packing up the last morning and checking out.

Our first field trip for Sunday was at Enlow Fork and SGL 302, coinciding with the annual Enlow Fork Wildflower & Bird Walk sponsored by Wheeling Creek Watershed Conservancy. Attilia Shumaker and Colleen Nelson plan

this walk every year and sell hot dogs, snacks, and drinks to pay for the port-a-john. The bird walk was led by Ralph K. Bell Bird Club members Kathy Kern and Margie Howard while members of the Western PA Conservancy led the wildflower walk. Enlow Fork is a pristine area known for Blue-eyed Marys and Virginia Bluebells and is a good place to find Cerulean Warblers as you walk along the old road. Sunday produced the most rain this weekend, so we walked down to the iron bridge again which crossed the county line into Washington. Wonderful wildflowers were there for us to enjoy and photograph. On the way in, we were able to hear Scarlet Tanager. After leaving, we went on a wild goose chase – actually it was a Red-headed Woodpecker chase! Someone at Enlow showed Joe Gyekis a picture of one, so we decided to chase it as it was only a few miles away. We didn't find it, but we enjoyed exploring more of the area. This is where Joe peeled off, and I followed Michael to Ryerson, where we hooked up with Mark Nale and Darla. We spotted more shorebirds and added Lesser Yellowlegs and Sharp-shinned Hawk. After this stop, Noah and I started heading home. On Joe's route home, he was able to add Black Vulture, a rare sighting in that part of the state, and Prairie Warbler. Michael and Molly kept going as well and were able to add Blue-winged Teal, Least Sandpiper, and Bobolink.

On Monday, the last day, Margie was left behind as the sole eBirder in Greene County. She manned her property and hummingbird feeders and finally was able in the afternoon to add Ruby-throated Hummingbird to our list. So, we ended with 113 species on 104 checklists with photos of 18 birds and 34 with audio. We added 21 species to the county for the year. Many of the birders who came were glad to get some species in a county we have never birded much before. Deb Grove and I were very pleased to get our lifetime Greene County lists up over 100 as well as to add some to Washington which was a zero county before. Some of us enjoyed dinner at Brady's Roadhouse as well as Don Patrons. I wish I would have visited the coffee shop in town, but there was only so much time. We did have to be mindful of the backroads and the big trucks as we traveled. Some of us also hoped for the historical sightings of Summer Tanager and Swainson's Warbler, but we'll just have to try a few more times for that kind of luck. Here is the link to our trip report we did with everyone who eBirded and shared their checklists with PSO Birding Data, giving us our final tally. <https://ebird.org/pa/tripreport/116219>

We want to thank Margie again for her leadership, all of her birding friends in the Ralph K. Bell Bird Club, and the locals. Also, thanks to the hardened traveling birders who

seem to enjoy this birding spotlight and spend their time and money to get here and explore with us. We currently

don't have the next county spotlight plan finalized yet, but some are in the works.

Pennsylvania Ornithological Research

We should take note of how pioneering research in Pennsylvania has contributed to worldwide understanding of how avian body sizes are correlated with climate warming.

An essential example began with unmatched long-term data from the Powdermill Nature Reserve banding station in Westmoreland County. In 2010 Josh Van Buskirk, Robert S. Mulvihill, and Robert C. Leberman published a paper in the scientific journal *Oikos* (vol.119, pp.1047-1055) titled “Declining Body Sizes in North American Birds Associated with Climate Change.”

Consider their extraordinary database over a 25-year period:

19,097 individuals of 61 species caught in summer,
42,439 individuals of 26 species, caught in winter,
132,962 individuals of 83 species in spring,
and
291,705 individuals of 75 species caught in autumn.

Statisticians rejoice at such numbers.

The resulting analyses uncovered a link in many species between warming climate and reduced body mass and wing length, which the authors interpreted as an effect of natural selection: “This study, together with many previous studies offer compelling evidence that climate change has already produced observable shifts in

morphology, behavior, and phenology of a great many species.”

(Members of the American Birding Association can read my extensive report of the paper in the September 2010 issue of *Birding* magazine.)

Indicating the importance of Powdermill research, two recent scientific papers have cited the *Oikos* paper:

– “Abiotic Conditions Shape Spatial and Temporal Morphological Variation in North American Birds” in October 2022 (*Nature Ecology & Evolution*). These authors suggest that birds’ morphological changes unfortunately may not be keeping up with the pace of climate change.

– “Six Decades of North American Bird Banding Records Reveal Plasticity in Migration Phenology” in January 2023 (*Journal of Animal Ecology*). These authors “showcase the potential of North American bird banding data [in] understanding phenological trends across a wide diversity of avian species.”

Pennsylvania continues its long-recognized prominence in ornithological studies.

Paul Hess
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Welcome, New Board Members!

We extend a warm PSO welcome to our six new board members: Chelsea Beck, Val Dunn, Jeff Kenney, Mary Alice Koenke, Nathan Weyandt, and Karter Witmer. Two – Mary Alice Koenke (See page 7) and Jeff Kenney (See pages 13, 15) – are highlighted in this issue of “The Pileated.” A brief bio and photo for each of our other four new directors will be included in the October newsletter.

A Note from Parents of Student Scholarship Recipient, Ezra White

“Thank you so much—Ezra had a truly amazing, meaningful experience at PSO, and we are all very grateful for the kindness, support, and generosity that everyone offered these young birders. We look forward to future birding adventures with PSO, and in the meantime, we wish you a happy birding summer.”

The Raven Reporter

Tales of Discovery about Pennsylvania Birds Why Atlas?



With the Third Pennsylvania Bird Atlas on the horizon, starting in 2024, many birders are asking the question: Why atlas? At the 2023 PSO Festival at State College, Andy Wilson gave an excellent presentation about plans for the Third Atlas. We certainly are looking forward to it. The Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in Pennsylvania covered the years 2004 - 2009, following the First PBBA that was conducted in 1984 -1989. Since then, many birders have embraced eBird which covers the state well, but unevenly, so why do we need to do an Atlas given the popularity of eBird? Andy Wilson offered excellent reasons for committing our time and energy to a third Atlas. I will review some of these and a few more, some of which I have offered previously.

First of all, Atlases offer a different kind of birding than other types of projects. They are challenging and lots of fun. Since each contributor can collect field data in a block through the breeding season, many opportunities to discover new birds and new places exist. Many birders discover the joy of owling and searching for nightjars while Atlas block-busting. By plotting your approach to a block by using a map, you may discover locations not previously experienced and think about bird habitat in ways you may not have done before. I generally do Atlas field work alone, but it can be done in small groups or as a club activity. Bring along beginners to show them how much fun it is.

Atlases provide a yardstick on bird population trends and species ranges (which indicate trends) that exceeds and supplements other bird surveys such as the USGS Breeding Bird Survey. The BBS has known coverage gaps including larger scale forests, grasslands, and wetlands. This is particularly true of the following groups: night and crepuscular birds, wetland species, deep forest and area-sensitive species, raptors, early-season breeders, species with patchy distributions, and species at edges of their ranges. Getting off-road is a great way to add species to an Atlas block.

One of the most compelling aspects of an Atlas project is its thorough geographical coverage. In both Atlas

projects, I have found myself traveling unknown roads, walking trails I had not heard about, and bush-whacking and wading into areas where no one had explored with a pair of binoculars ever before. Birders mostly collect eBird data at places already known. Atlases demand and inspire us to cover the entire state, including places that birders rarely go. Several of our state's rural counties are not well-covered by eBird and have large holes in coverage. Larger forests and wetlands are seldom visited often in the breeding season because birders focus more on the migration seasons of spring and fall when edges often make the best birding. Many of our species with conservation challenges live in these large blocks and over half of the state's endangered birds are wetland species. If a wetland is in your Atlas block, you will surely visit there and you might find something new.

Volunteer birders are motivated to find these birds, and their contributions provide tangible benefits to state and federal wildlife programs. For example, an Atlas informs the PA Game Commission about changes and threats to its Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) and offers information about which species should be given priority for management and conservation (new to or removed from the SGCN list). An Atlas can provide measures of successes – and there have been a few – and new challenges. The First Atlas informed the state concerning which bird species were appropriate for the Endangered, Threatened, and Species of Special Concern Lists. After the results of the Second PBBA, Long-eared Owl and Northern Harrier were given Threatened and Endangered status because so few were found. A bit later, Northern Goshawk was added after a more in-depth study by the Ornithological Technical Committee confirmed our suspicion that it had also declined to the point at which it deserved listing. What species will be next?

On the other hand, the birding public certainly learned that recovery efforts for Bald Eagle, Osprey, and Peregrine Falcon had some success since the first Atlas. The Second Atlas also demonstrated other range changes, including the retraction of Golden-winged Warbler and eastward expansion of Cerulean Warbler. Other species such as Golden-crowned Kinglet and Merlin have expanded southward against the trend of the retraction of northern species while others like Blue Grosbeak are sneaking northward.

Many changes in bird populations and ranges occur so slowly that people do not notice the changes. A big-scale effort like a published Atlas provides benchmarks and documentation of those changes. We are forced to notice these changes in a more quantitative, unbiased way. Of

course, there is a great deal of concern about changes to bird distributions caused by global climate change. This is a huge factor that may be particularly strong for species of northern distribution, wetland and lacustrine species, and aerial insectivores. Many other threats to bird populations should be measured. These include bird diseases such as West Nile Virus, residential development, changes in agricultural practices, timbering, deer browsing, cat predation, forest fragmentation, and losses of wintering ground habitat. For example, extensive forest management on game lands and DCNR forest lands probably has led to range changes in species including Prairie Warbler, Field Sparrow, and Chestnut-sided Warbler which readily adapt to new cuttings.

I also believe that there have been behavioral changes in some bird species. Some species seem to be more tolerant of human-occupied areas or perhaps there is less persecution or indirect human taking of these birds. From historical literature, it seems that Bald Eagle, Pileated Woodpecker, Blue Jay, and perhaps Common Raven were less likely to be around humans than now. Perhaps other species have made some adjustments and are doing better in settled areas. Also greening of urban areas may have allowed range changes.

There was an added value of a data set of geo-referenced points for many high priority species, allowing for more protections for locations hosting a cluster of species that need more protection. These points also target areas for management, acquisition, or cooperative protection with private landowners and organizations as well as on government properties. With the planned point-count program, more detailed population data will be available for making these evaluations.

In turn, Atlas data also uncovers biological hot-spot clusters. I mean locations with a high concentration of higher conservation priority species. In our state, these have been wetlands (emergent and forested), scrub barrens, reclaimed strip mines, boreal & conifer forests,

mature riparian forest strips, and others. The Nature Conservancy and other conservation planning organizations do this well. This is not just a species prioritization but a habitat or ecosystem value. It can keep changing as the vegetative community matures and changes. Some management may improve sites over time (selective timbering, wetland water level management, etc), but many of the locations are fairly "mature" and unmanaged sites ("beneficial neglect" often works). Learning these sites can greatly inform land management and planning.

There is an intrinsic value of volunteers connecting with birds and the places, habitats, and ecosystems that are important to birds. An unrealized potential for Atlases is that it has engaged the public in such a way that many citizens have had first-hand experience attempting to find conservation-priority birds. Many have explored areas that they had not previously experienced. This is true for each cycle of repeatable projects like Atlases, but particularly this time when we have a new group of recruitments who discovered birding during the Covid-19 period and through various media. Now a larger population of people know personally that "things have changed," and there is potential for doing better. Some may even experience that state programs have had some success (managing for Cerulean Warblers or protecting wetlands, perhaps). The experience of doing Atlas surveys really engages the public and raises awareness and appreciation for the challenges of bird management and conservation. The Atlas now has energized a segment of society toward conservation goals because of their experiences. The monitoring informs management and recruits new supporters.

What does an Atlas do? It inspires us to make new discoveries. Let's get going!

Good birding!

Doug Gross, Dagross144@verizon.net

Welcome Aboard, Jeff!

A lifelong Pennsylvania resident, Jeff Kenney was introduced to birds by his dad at a very young age. While he didn't always appreciate being awakened before sunrise to go "in pursuit" of Pileated Woodpeckers and Barred Owls, those early mornings instilled a passion for birds and the outdoors that continues to this day.

When our worlds shrank due to the pandemic, Jeff became keenly aware of the many natural wonders

Pennsylvania has to offer. While achieving his personal goal of a 2021 eBird checklist in each of the 67 counties, he traversed the state multiple times. His ideal weekend is hitting the road for an under-birded county with his girlfriend Angela and exploring a State Game Lands that hasn't gotten a check-list in four months. This is often followed up by telling anyone back home who will listen how excellent the birding is no matter where in the state you land. ***(continued on page 15)***

Conservation Chat Room

Old Crow Wetlands – Full of Birds and Hope!



Local birders and conservation-minded folks near Huntingdon, Pa., have been rallying to save Old Crow Wetland from pollution, since a seven-acre Rutter's Truckstop might be built directly adjacent to the wetland. Old Crow Wetland is an approximately 10-acre mitigated wetland

constructed by PennDOT in 1997. Mitigated means the wetland was created to compensate for other wetland losses when PennDOT completed road or other projects across the state.

While some mitigated wetlands are ecological failures, that's not the case with Old Crow. Easy access and an observation deck overlooking the wetland draw many birders to this rich ecological site, and many eBird checklists show that it hosts a wide diversity of birds. Although no threatened or endangered birds have been documented to nest there, many T&E bird species use Old Crow as an important migratory stopover site, both spring and fall. Located just west of Huntingdon, adjacent to Rt. 22, Old Crow Wetland is an eBird Hotspot and deserves community protection.

According to Thomas Yocum, an engineer who works for PennDOT, Old Crow Wetland is counted as one of the most (if not the most) successful PennDOT wetland mitigation sites in the state. He explained, at one time, more bird species were counted at Old Crow than anywhere else in the state. Planted native species are doing well and have established evenly, invasive plant species are being actively managed, the public is enticed by the observation deck, and multiple groups and agencies still utilize it.

Unfortunately, Rutter's has applied for an Individual NPDES permit (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) from the PADEP (Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection). If the PADEP approves the application, Rutter's will discharge point source runoff into Old Crow Wetland. Yes, there will be subsurface filters, but groundwater flow could render them ineffective. In addition to runoff pollution from Rutter's (oil, gasoline), there will also be light pollution, noise

pollution, and increased litter issues from having a truck stop adjacent and upslope from Old Crow. These last concerns are not addressed by the NPDES permit application but would negatively impact the wetland and its creatures.

After many letters to local and state officials, and public outreach by members of the Coalition to Save Old Crow, the PADEP held a public hearing on Rutter's application in May 2023, so comments could be heard. As the conservation chair for PSO and Juniata Valley Audubon Society, I participated in the hearing – adding my concerns about pollution, loss of water quality, and potential habitat degradation to the other 30+ comments.

As of mid-June, we are waiting for the PADEP's decision, but an environmental law attorney is on board to help us if the PADEP approves the application since the permit can be appealed to the Environmental Hearing Board.

Regardless of the permitting decision, I was filled with hope when Juniata College students also participated in the PADEP Hearing. How wonderful that college students care enough to get involved in conservation issues that impact wetlands and birds! I talked to Juniata College student Isaiah Colon after the hearing, and he shared a copy of a project that he and Xavier Scharff completed, which formed the basis of their comments at the DEP hearing. Another Juniata College student team had been monitoring water quality and also presented their findings at the hearing.

Isaiah and Xavier's report is too extensive to include in this article, but I hope you will find an excerpt from their report to be of interest and that it might inspire birders of all ages to take action when a wildlife habitat is threatened with degradation or destruction.

HISTORICAL AND PRESENT ASSESSMENT OF AVIFAUNA OF OLD CROW WETLAND 4/27/2023 Excerpt from Discussion, pages 20, 21:

"We considered our evaluation of the Old Crow Pennsylvania threatened and endangered species sightings to be staggering (See Fig. 16). Every species currently listed as threatened and endangered in Pennsylvania has been seen at Old Crow at least once, with multiples of the species having been seen multiple times throughout the wetlands' history. These species

occupy a variety of niches and are present at varying times of the year. Some of these species, like the great egret and the yellow-bellied flycatcher, are passing migrants in Pennsylvania, while others, like the blackpoll warbler and the American bittern, are a part of the breeding bird population of Pennsylvania in the

summer. The bald eagle and the Northern harrier are examples of threatened or endangered year-round visitors to the wetland. Regardless of each of these species' niche breadth, it is worth noting that they have all relied on Old Crow at some point during the wetland's history, and based on the increase in their sightings that we have observed (See Fig. 16), will likely continue to do so.

Fig. 16:

Species	Most recent spotting	Total sightings	# of sightings in 1997-1999	# of sightings in 2000-2010	# of sightings in 2011-2019	# of sightings in 2020-2023
AMBI	4/22/2023	105	0	5	64	36
BAEA	4/20/2023	90	0	0	45	45
BCNH	4/18/2020	37	1	1	33	2
BLPW	5/18/2020	10	0	0	9	1
DICK	12/9/2022	1	0	0	0	1
GREG	4/18/2023	130	0	10	83	37
LEBI	4/27/2020	34	0	0	31	4
NOHA	4/1/2023	30	0	1	12	17
OSPR	4/20/2023	34	0	0	18	16
SEOW	3/3/2021	8	0	0	0	8
YBFL	8/15/2016	4	0	0	4	0
YCNH	6/3/2006	1	0	1	0	0
		484				

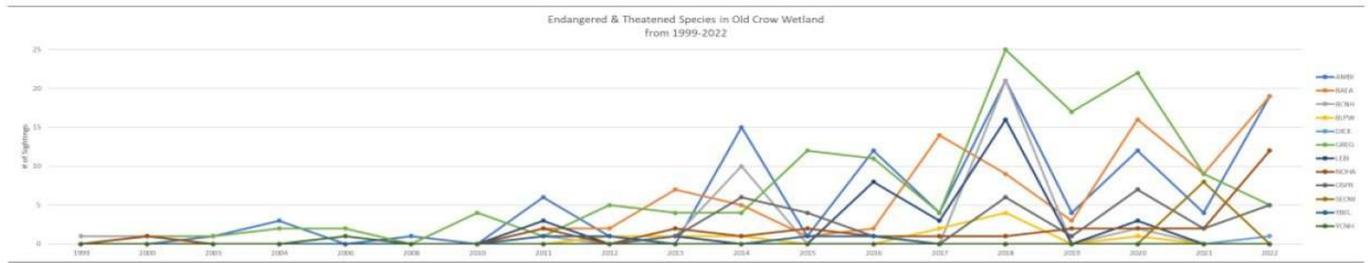


Figure 16. The most recent observations of each PA endangered/threatened species as of the completion of our study and the total number of sightings of each PA endangered/threatened species across Old Crow's history.

Welcome Aboard, Jeff! (continued from page 13)

Jeff currently resides in Phoenixville (Chester County) with his two dogs Vita and Grits. He is a founding board member of In Color Birding Club, which strives to provide a safe and inclusive environment for BIPOC birders and allies in the Philadelphia area and beyond through outreach, education, and bird outings. He is also a Force of Nature volunteer and bird surveyor for Natural Lands, which owns and manages 44 preserves in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Loyola University, Maryland (2002).



Answers to PSO Quiz

(page 6)

1. Yellow Warbler (“in the streets”?) Things have certainly changed since then.
2. Northern Goshawk
3. Upland Plover, named for world-renowned naturalist William Bartram, born in Philadelphia.
4. An Old World species collected in Glenolden in 1928, which Poole said “may have been a ‘stowaway’ on a trans-Atlantic vessel.”
5. Northern Phalarope



Mark McConaughy photographed this Golden-winged Warbler at Scotia Barrens during the PSO birding festival.

PSO Newsletter

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