

The

PSO Pileated



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The Newsletter of the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology
pabirds.org

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From the President's Desk

The Christmas season is loaded with meaning. Sure, it falls during the shortest days of the year and the descent into winter! But many associate this season with family gatherings; businesses count on a surge of revenue that may balance the books; for two millennia, Christians remember the birth of Christ; and of course, birders think of a Christmas Bird Count. There's a lot going on.

The Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is a popular tradition among birders. Pennsylvania's counts are listed here on pages 8-11 to encourage your contribution to this fun, seasonal effort. The longstanding CBC is an outstanding example of community science projects supported by the birding community. Birders' contributions to the CBC, and projects like it, have dramatically expanded what we know about birds. Atlases, Winter Raptor Surveys, County Spotlights, and Big Days each contribute pieces of the complex puzzle that are needed to support bird conservation.

The focal point of bird information is now Cornell's eBird web platform. You probably tally your CBC birds on eBird checklists. The mission of eBird is to power new data-driven approaches to science, conservation, and education. With year-round observations from more than 47,000 Pennsylvania birders, it is certainly the most robust source of bird data. You might not be submitting your bird observations to eBird, but chances are you've looked at the results. While we might be concerned about



Whole life-cycle conservation is important for migratory species like this Wood Thrush that spends its winters in Mexico and Central America.

the way eBird pushes competitive aspects of birding, it is an incredible resource for documenting and displaying bird information. There should be no surprise that the third Breeding Bird Atlas will be built on the eBird platform as it launches in 2024.

Bird conservation is complex; a diversity of bird projects is needed to answer the many questions raised. With hundreds of species filling every habitat, many of which move between continents, and a

range of potential threats at each stage in their annual cycle, preserving this vast diversity is a daunting task. A strategic approach has been devised, called full life-cycle for sustaining bird populations by identifying the threats during each critical life stage for each species. Any combination of nesting success, migratory stopover habitat, or winter habitat needs could be critically important. That results in thousands of potential points of analysis to support the diversity of birds we enjoy.

Full life-cycle conservation of migratory birds requires actions that provide habitat and reduce mortality throughout the year and across the globe, wherever the birds might go. Based on year-round data sources, the most threatened species are identified during their breeding and non-breeding seasons to focus conservation actions where it matters. Striking new results illustrate that a species' winter range may be a better predictor of population declines than where it breeds. For example, Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, and the Caribbean lowlands of

Mexico are most important in winter for Wood Thrush. Cowbird parasitism was impacting Kirtland's Warbler nests until reducing that threat brought about tremendous population growth, to the point that the species was removed from the federal Endangered Species Act.

This strategic approach recognizes that limited conservation resources are employed when directed to the weakest link in a species' population cycle. Addressing the critical issues has always been the goal. Birders' contributions can't address every question, so focused research projects are often needed. But broad-based community efforts like Christmas Bird Counts and Breeding Bird Atlases, plus submissions of eBird checklists, generate the massive data

sets that provide information concerning bird distribution, phenology (timing), and populations leading to these strategic conservation approaches. Your recreational birding makes a difference. It's a win-win. A summary of this approach can be found here:

<https://partnersinflight.org/intl/conservation-planning/>

So enjoy the season, for all of the reasons, including the 120+ year-old Christmas Bird Count.

Happy holidays to all!

Dan Brauning, President
Lycoming County

Nominations Now Open

We are excited to open the nomination period for PSO's 2024 awards and youth scholarships. A nomination from a PSO member is required for an award or scholarship, so I hope you will take a moment to read the descriptions below and consider if you know deserving individuals or organizations. All nominations are due by December 15, 2023. Thank you for your continued support of PSO.

– Brian Byrnes, on behalf of the Awards and Nominations Committee

The **Conservation Award** is presented periodically to an individual or organization that has had a positive impact on bird conservation in Pennsylvania. To make a nomination for this award, please send an email to Brian Byrnes at brianbyrnes79@gmail.com with a brief explanation of the person's or organization's accomplishments. Past winners of the award can be found at <https://pabirds.org/conservation-award-2/>.

The **Earl Poole Award** is presented annually to a person or persons who have made significant contributions to Pennsylvania's ornithology. This may be in the form of research, volunteer efforts, publications, field work, or any other pursuit that has increased our knowledge and understanding of the birdlife in Pennsylvania. To nominate someone for this award, please send an email to Brian Byrnes at brianbyrnes79@gmail.com with a brief explanation of the person's accomplishments. Past winners of the award can be found at <https://pabirds.org/earl-poole-award/>.

Youth Scholarships are available for attendance at the 2024 PSO festival in Washington County, May 31-June 2. The scholarships cover transportation, lodging, and meals for a child and parent/guardian. Please note that a parent/guardian or an adult designated by the youth's parent or guardian must attend the festival with the scholarship recipient. To nominate someone for a youth scholarship, please visit https://pabirds.org/BirdingFestival/BF_YSF.php, download and fill out the brief application form, and email to Tony DeSantis (tgdesantis@yahoo.com).

Conservation Chat Room

Confessions of a Bird Lover – How to Not Kill What You Love

Seven years ago, we found a dead bird on our kitchen door stoop. We were shocked! First of all, it was very distressing to know we were responsible for killing a bird since it must have flown into the glass on the bottom of our storm door, secondly, we were really surprised a warbler was still in Pennsylvania in mid-November, and thirdly



This Blackpoll Warbler was killed due to our negligence.

it was astounding to discover it was a Blackpoll Warbler, an endangered breeding bird in Pennsylvania. We didn't know if this Blackpoll was nesting in our state, but that didn't really matter to us.

We decided to cover the glass on the door with CollidEscape to prevent another tragedy. CollidEscape is like contact

paper, but with rows of tiny holes. First, we measured the glass dimensions, then ordered enough to cover the glass from CollidEscape.org.

We are happy to say we have not found another dead bird below the door since we covered the glass with CollidEscape.

Blackpoll Warblers molt in the fall and look like a totally different bird from their breeding plumage. The only color they retain is in their yellow feet. In the fall, the bright yellow feet are field marks that help us identify blackpolls since they look so different from their breeding plumage.

While most Blackpoll Warblers breed in the boreal forests, there are records of a few Blackpoll Warblers nesting in spruce and hemlock forests in the northern part of Pennsylvania. Since it is so rare in Pennsylvania, it is listed as endangered – although there is no conservation plan to increase its numbers in the state.

Blackpoll Warblers migrate through our southern Bedford County property twice a year. We see them feeding on insects when the wild black cherry trees bloom in the spring and we watch for them bathing on our bubbling boulder during fall migration. (See photo, page 12.)

Their fall journey is truly remarkable!! They have one of the longest migration routes of any songbird. They must double their body weight (from around 12 grams to 24) in order to survive the flight over the ocean, which can take as long as three days. The Blackpoll Warblers that breed in Denali National Park in Alaska fly nearly 1,800 miles to their wintering grounds in South America. That's an impressive feat for a tiny bird that weighs only the equivalent of 24 average-sized paper clips during migration!



DeLuca *et al* deployed tiny geolocation devices with a 12-month battery life on male Blackpoll Warblers at four locations: Churchill, Manitoba; Whitehorse, Yukon Territory; Denali National Park and Nome, both in Alaska.

UMass Amherst / University of Guelph, published in *Science News* on March 19, 2019.

<https://www.sci.news/biology/blackpoll-warbler-migration-07008.html>

Scientists at National Audubon¹, American Bird Conservancy², and many universities have found that homes and other buildings one to three stories tall accounted for a huge percentage of bird deaths from window collisions. Of course, the taller the building and the more glass, the more likely birds will be killed.



Unprotected glass and lit windows at night most likely kill billions of birds each year.

There are some fairly easy fixes for homeowners who want to make their windows bird-friendly. You can start with just a few of the trouble spots: windows adjacent to bird feeders, those that reflect trees and shrubbery, or windows that spill light into the night (lower your shades or close your drapes at night).

American Bird Conservancy states that external insect screens installed on the outside of a window are very effective and fairly easy to do. If screens don't appeal to you, try the zen curtains (Acopian bird savers)³ or Feather-Friendly dots.⁴ We installed the Acopian bird savers on the window that overlooks our bird feeding area, and that was very effective in reducing bird strikes. Our project was a DIY and very inexpensive. Other products we want to try are the Feather-Friendly window markers. Check out their website for DIY instructions.

The Christmas season shopping frenzy is almost upon us. Consider buying some window collision deterrents for your backyard birds. You might just save the life of a Blackpoll Warbler.

1. National Audubon: <https://www.audubon.org/news/reducing-collisions-glass>
2. American Bird Conservancy: <https://abcbirds.org/solutions/prevent-home-collisions/>
3. Zen curtains or Acopian Bird Savers: <https://www.birdsavers.com>
4. Feather-Friendly Markers <https://www.featherfriendly.com/residential>

Laura Jackson, PSO Conservation Chair
Bedford County, Jacksonlaura73@gmail.com

Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology Seeking Conservation Partners for Fourth Annual Breeding Bird Blitz for Conservation

The Fourth Annual Breeding Bird Blitz for Conservation, hosted by the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology (PSO), is seeking nonprofit organizations that support the conservation of Bird Species of Greatest Conservation Need in Pennsylvania.

Selected organizations will be identified as partners with Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology in the 2024 event and receive an equal share of the funds raised. It is anticipated that the event will raise close to \$20,000, resulting in contributions of more than \$6,000 to three organizations. Conservation project leaders are invited to visit <https://www.breedingbirdblitz.org/b4c-application> and apply to become a Blitz partner by filling out an application. *Applications are due by March 1, 2024.*

History of the PSO Breeding Bird Blitz for Conservation

The Breeding Bird Blitz for Conservation is a ten-day event each June. PSO invites birders to join the Blitz by forming a team, raising funds, and participating in one or more “big days” to document birds during the nesting season. The team then completes eBird checklists with the data they’ve collected. Teams enlist their friends to support their efforts with donations; all donations are evenly split among the three conservation projects.

In its first three years, the Breeding Blitz for Conservation has raised over \$45,000 and has supported nine different conservation projects. We are anticipating and working toward increasing the number of teams and funds raised each year. The first Blitz in 2021 raised \$10,645; the second in 2022 raised \$15,071; and the third raised \$19,310. We hope to continue this upward trend as we move forward with the Blitz and continue to raise money supporting our conservation partners. Past partners have included Hawk Mountain Association, Manada Conservancy, Western PA Conservancy, Erie Bird Observatory, the Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art, Willistown

Conservation Trust, The Foundation for Sustainable Forests, and South Middleton Township. PSO looks forward to adding to this list by supporting bird species of greatest conservation need in Pennsylvania with this year’s Blitz.

How to Contact Us

Interested project managers are encouraged to visit <https://www.breedingbirdblitz.org/b4c-application> to apply to become a 2024 Breeding Bird Blitz for Conservation Partner. PSO will fund projects focusing on bird safe habitats, conservation education, conservation monitoring and science, and threat mitigation. More information of projects’ availability for funding through PSO can be found via the application at the above link. Questions about becoming a partner may be directed to blitz4conservation@gmail.com where a member of the PSO Conservation Committee will be excited to answer.

Conservation Committee members are Laura Jackson, chair; Brian Byrnes; Vern Gauthier; Carolyn Hendricks; and Karter Witmer.

Media inquiries about the Breeding Bird Blitz for Conservation should be directed to Karter Witmer, kgw5107@psu.edu, 570-439-4787.

*The Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology (PSO) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization founded in 1990 to foster the study and appreciation of the wild birds of Pennsylvania and to promote the conservation of birds and their habitats. PSO organizes and supports several bird monitoring projects, hosts field trips and an annual meeting, and publishes the quarterly journal *Pennsylvania Birds*. More information about PSO can be found at www.pabirds.org.

– Karter Witmer
Conservation Committee Member

Pennsylvania Ornithological Research Column and Bird Quiz

It is with great sadness to announce that because of suddenly serious health issues in Paul Hess’s family, Paul will no longer be able to write his Pennsylvania Ornithological Research article and Bird Quiz for “The Pileated.”

He has been submitting both regularly since 2000. These interesting articles were informative and will be greatly missed. We wish him and his family the best in this difficult time.

Union County Spotlight Revisited

By Chad Kauffman

The Union County Birding Spotlight was our latest adventure in this series of visiting underbirded counties that are in need of some attention and birding love. On eBird, Union ranked 53rd in bird species reported and 56th in total checklists out of 67 counties. The spotlight ran from October 13-16, 2023, following our usual Friday to Monday pattern. Joe Gyekis grew up in this county and led the charge exploring locales for visiting birders to check out.

On Friday, Brent Bacon led 19 birders from his home and on Spruce Run Road, hitting various spots where we could pull over and also see flocks of birds. I dragged Aden Troyer along from my county to visit these new spots. I was pleased to see my friends Warren and Nina Wolf join us as they were making their way across the state to chase other birds. We drove up Nittany Mt. Road, but then after seeing a report of good birds at RB Winter State Park, we took off for that locale as Julia Plummer had found Pine Siskins and Red Crossbills that morning. Marg & Roger Higbee came all the way from Indiana County to join for a bit before the lure of chasing the Northumberland County Swainson's Hawk nearby was too much. I couldn't blame them, I went within an hour of its first being announced a few weeks ago. We ended up with 68 species counted on the first day.

Saturday's forecast didn't look good, but 11 of us braved meeting Joe Gyekis and Kay Cramer at RB Winter State Park to see what we could find in the rain. I was excited to hit the area again in another attempt to get the siskins and crossbills, but it wasn't meant to be. Bill Tyler who helped organize the Union County side of things joined us, along with Tom Shrevinskie and Elizabeth Zbenger from Clinton County. After only getting eight species in a very wet 90 minutes, we all decided it was time to visit some water and mud spots. The Allenwood side of SGL 252 was our destination, and we birded our way there to check things out. A very promising dry/muddy pond bed produced Killdeer and a Green-winged Teal and just smelled like a place where a very interesting shorebird species should showup; this is a place that would produce a bunch of rare county birds if it were checked more often. A walk in the shrubby/goldenrod areas produced a large flock of sparrows and got us even more soaked. Angela Romanczuk and Jeff Kenney, connoisseurs of the state's great gameland areas, gave a high rating to the habitat quality at this site. After a quick lunch, we hit several fields on our way back to RB Winter to drop off some carpoolers. We ended up bringing the spotlight total

to 75 species after the second day, a pretty good start for the spotlight.

Sunday's weather couldn't have been better for us, after what we endured on Saturday. Some of us showed up at 8 a.m. and just birded the parking lot and area at Dale's Ridge Trail. It was actually a great spot to just stand and walk around a bit by the bridge over Buffalo Creek until the rest of the group arrived for the 9 a.m. starting time for the trip led by Joe Gyekis. Allen Schweinsberg gave some opening remarks about how the Dale, Engle, and Walker families cooperated with the Linn Conservancy to put a conservation easement and a public trail on this spot, which includes large sycamore trees and fields at the beginning and a forested hillside farther in. The group of 19 birders walked the trail back along the creek, stopping several times to pick through mixed flocks that gave us nice looks at fall migrants, with good splashes of variety. When we got to the end, some decided to not climb the ridge and walked back, but those who did enjoyed a bit of hawk-watching on the power line cut. Birds were moving around in the skies all morning, not only hawks and eagles, but there was also a nice squall of rain that seemed to be heading our way across the valley, prompting us to start heading down. We came out on the back end of the farm, happily seeing the rain missing us to the west. There we got into another flock of species we picked through, including a Nashville Warbler and Rusty Blackbird that Michael McGuire photographed. He got us picking through the little birds on the edge of the corn field. After traveling to Mifflinburg, some of us continued to SGL 317 at the Shoop Tract, exploring the tall grass meadows and new wetland complexes there.

That evening I got a call from Andrew Hurst reporting that his friend found a shorebird and had sent him some pics. After sharing with me and having several friends review them, we confirmed it was a White-rumped Sandpiper, which ended up being a new county record for Union. Andrew tried for it that evening, but it wasn't refound again. We ended up with 90 species after the third day.

There was no official walk or trip on Monday, but Karol P. and Jessie Sauder did get together to explore SGL 193. They were able to add two more species to let us finish with 92 after the fourth and last day. Not bad for a county without much in the way of lakes in a mid October birding challenge.

Many of the attendees were talking about how many (or how few) birds they had previously had in Union County and how many they were able to add to their lists. This is probably one of the selfish reasons I really enjoy these spotlights. It was great as always to see old friends again, hang out, meet new ones, match faces to names, and just enjoy Mother Nature for a few hours or days. With the White-rumped Sandpiper as a new county bird, Union jumped up into a tie for 52nd of out 67 counties all-time for bird species reported to eBird. To see our checklists, bird totals, pictures, and audio, please check out our trip report: <https://ebird.org/tripreport/151387>.

Looking Ahead - County Spotlights

Our 2024 schedule includes three spotlights again. On March 15-18 we will visit Forest County. The last weekend of April 26-29 will take us to Fulton County to enjoy the southern tier counties again for those early migrants. October 11-14 we will head to Warren County. So keep an eye out for more info on those trips, and if you live in those areas, please reach out to possibly help lead or give us ideas on organized trips if possible or just plan to do some birding on your own to help the cause.

2023 Allegheny Front Field Trip

by Chad Kauffman

PSO's 2023 Golden Eagle Hawkwatch field trip took us to the Allegheny Front Hawkwatch again. We weren't able to enjoy the views back in 2020 during Covid, so we haven't been to the Front since 2017; this year we got to enjoy visiting with the locals and to see the spreading vista before us. A chance of rain on Thursday and Friday was in the forecast, but not much developed from that. Friday afternoon Noah and I arrived at Shawnee Lake where we explored, so we didn't make it up to the watch. Our friend Michael Leahy was up at noon and was able to enjoy a scattering of raptors that came through. Tom Kuehl was able to join me at the lake for some great waterfowl and a few shorebirds which were nice for mid-November. We had a wonderful "prehawkin' meal" at Jean Bonnet Tavern to build up our energy. That evening Joe and Henry Gyekis joined us at the AirBnB near Schellsburg. Some nocturnal birding in the valley kicked up a distant Eastern Screech-Owl and a Tundra Swan calling as it crossed the starlit sky.

Saturday, Day 1, was forecast to have blue skies and gentle winds out of the west, not ideal for keeping hawks riding along the Front. We made a quick predawn lap around Shawnee Lake and heard waterfowl and both Greater Yellowlegs and Dunlin – a nice start to the day, along with a bright adult Red-headed Woodpecker sitting on the right side of a tree in a woodlot in the valley below the watch. Team Gyekis and Kauffman decided to be adventurous and drive up the terrible Lambert Mountain



A beautiful immature Golden Eagle flew by late in the afternoon.

Photo by Roger Higbee

Road. I was thankful for higher lift on the Blazer and 4x4. We took our time, still spun a bit on leaves, but made it. I wasn't planning to do that again, and I wouldn't suggest ever going down it in its current condition. It was a bit brisk in the morning with some frost on the windshield, but you just have to prepare for that in November out in the open. When the sun was out, it was nice; when it disappeared behind the clouds, it seemed like the winds were stronger and colder. We enjoyed the birdseed broadcast by Rosemary McGlynn in spots for the smaller birds or "raptor food" as I have heard some hawkwatch sites call them. We were pleased to see new and old friends join us: Tom & Janet Kuehl, Evan & Julia Mann, Mike Fialkovich, Mike Leahy, Mike & Laura Jackson, Mark McConaughy, Brian Miller & Olive, and Robert & Sally Gordon. Quite a few other birders, too, were there whom I didn't get to meet.

A trickle of raptors came through including Red-tails, Red-shoulders, Bald Eagle, Cooper's Hawk, and finally in midafternoon, we had a really high, distant raptor we were able to ID as a Golden Eagle that was being escorted and pushed up by a croaking Common Raven. As we were all straining our necks to scope it or get it in the bins, we saw another even higher Red-tailed Hawk we might have missed had this adventure not unfolded. This became a theme with the Common Ravens both days and happens at hawkwatches. The local ravens and sometimes crows will help escort the bigger birds along and out of the way. Sometimes you see one or the other taking a swipe at the

birds, but it usually doesn't amount to anything except visual threats. We didn't go late in the afternoon, but two more adult Golden Eagles came through after we left. It was my first-time meeting the counter for the day, Brian Wargo, whom I knew by name and had really enjoyed his book, called *Bird! An Explanation of Hawkwatching*. I wish I would have remembered to bring it along to have him sign it. This book was given to me by another friend who passed it to me a few years back. We enjoyed birding with Brian, who was quick to get on the birds that people were calling out to everyone. We ended up with 30 species on our eBird checklist. Other highlights were Pine Siskin, Cedar Waxwing, a flock of 26 Tundra Swans, Purple Finch, and Common Grackle. Thirty-four raptors were counted that day.

After another lap of Shawnee Lake, another meal at Jean Bonnet for seven of us, we turned in early for the second day. Day 2 called for north, then easterly winds, the correct wind direction at this location. I went up early solo while Joe got the boys up and around. I was glad I left when I did as I saw a Ruffed Grouse on Fleagle Road that hopped up on the stone wall. Thinking I would slow down, stop to get a pic, I only saw the famous grouse tail fly through the brush out of my life. I am always thrilled to see or hear a grouse, no longer a common bird in much of the state now. We met Erika Bowman, the counter for the day, at the gate and followed her in. Joining us, Evan & Julia Mann were "bright-eyed and bushy-tailed," but they had to leave early – 15 minutes before the first Golden Eagle provided point blank looks. We were excited to see the sky gates finally open, but another thrill was knowing that it was a lifer for Brian Miller and his daughter Olive who survived both days. Since they both got it as a lifer, they told us it was a super lifer which is really cool. Another side note is that Saturday night, the Millers went for the Northern Saw-whet Owl banding that Dave Darney was doing both nights, and they got to see and hold up to three that

evening. I am sure that was a thrill for both of them. Many of our friends returned for the second day, but we also visited with Court Harding, Roger & Marg Higbee, Bill & Sandy Cline, Chris & Jeff Payne, and Bob Mulvihill. Again, many long-time regulars visited throughout the day.

There were some slow times, but birds seemed to pass in bunches as the day moved on. They ended up getting 18 Golden Eagles, bringing the season's total to 87 raptors all together. The weekend didn't produce any American Goshawks for which we were hoping. This species' name was just changed from the prior one of Northern Goshawk. Other bird highlights included Pine Siskin and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker which we added to the 30 species we had on our eBird checklist.

So, it was another great weekend to get out birding, enjoy hawkwatching, seeing old friends and matching names and faces from various social media outlets or friends in common. Henry and I both scored new long sleeve t-shirts from the Allegheny Front gang. I saw Brian and Olive get some new headgear for their winter stash, and I can say there were some nice snacks and lunches on the mountain-side. I can vouch that the birders who ventured into the open field enjoyed the views and camaraderie as always. I have always enjoyed visiting Bedford County and have created quite the eBird list; with the addition of the Blue-winged Teal on Friday, I was able to increase my list to 190 in that county. We will return to this site in November 2026. Waggoners Gap will be our destination in 2024, and Hawk Mt will be our site in 2025. We usually do this field trip during the peak window for Golden Eagles, so look for future notices. The great thing about visiting a hawk-watch anytime is that it is free; there is usually a counter who appreciates more eyes and ears to help them get on birds, and usually they are all helpful in getting people on the birds and explaining what it is and why if they have time. You can come and go anytime.



Original artwork by Lancaster artist Seth McComsey.

New PSO T-Shirts Available

Just in time for Christmas!

We now have three new (short-sleeved) t-shirt designs available at the online PSO Sales store. They are a passerine medley, Green Heron, and Peregrine Falcon.

Available in sizes Small to XX Large.

Only \$25 each (price includes shipping)

You can order online at pabirds.org or send a check to PSO, 2469 Hammertown Rd, Narvon, PA 17555, specifying which style(s) and size(s). Order yours today!

Christmas Bird Counts Held in Pennsylvania*

	Name of Count	County	Compiler	Phone Number	E-mail Address	Date
1	Audubon	Montgomery Delaware Chester	Vincent Smith	484-410-1157	Nyctea34@aol.com	12/23/23
2	Bald Eagle	Centre	Bob Snyder	814-753-2629	rhs2@psu.edu	12/30/23
3	Beaver	Beaver	Rick Mason	724-847-0909	richarddmason@gmail.com	12/12/23
4	Bedford	Bedford	Laura & Mike Jackson	814-652-9268	jacksonlaura73@gmail.com	12/30/23
5	Belleville	Mifflin	Rob Dickerson		radickerson@gmail.com	12/30/23
6	Belsano	Indiana Cambria	Robert Gordon	814-418-8412	rhgiii@robertgordoniiiviolinmaker.com	12/17/23
7	Benezette	Clearfield, Elk	Mark Johnson	814-546-2886	luckybirder@gmail.com	12/31/23
8	Bernville	Berks	Mike Slater		mslater@voicenet.com	
9	Bethlehem-Easton	Northampton	Elaine & Donald Mease	610-346-7754	measede@enter.net	12/30/23
10	Bloomsburg	Columbia	Karol Pasquinelli	570-351-5120	karol2@ptd.net northbranchbirders@gmail.com	12/17/23
11	Buchanan Trail	Franklin Fulton	Vern Gauthier	717-385-9526	verngauthier14@gmail.com	12/14/23
12	Buffalo Creek	Washington	Larry Helgerman	412-508-0321	bobolink1989@gmail.com	12/17/23
13	Buffalo Creek Valley	Butler Armstrong	George Reese	724-353-9649	g.reese@gaiconsultants.com	12/16/23
14	Bushy Run	Westmoreland	Steve Manns		psuloon@yahoo.com	12/30/23
15	Butler	Butler Lawrence Mercer	Martin Carlin	724-355-7492	carlin.martin@ymail.com	12/17/23
16	Central Bucks	Bucks	Diane Allison	267-733-3868	dalliso@mail.ptd.net	12/31/23
17	Chambersburg	Franklin	Valerie Barnes	717-352-4397	barnesva4@comcast.net	12/16/23
18	Clarion	Clarion	Jim McGuire	814-755-3672	jrmcguire@verizon.net	12/23/23
19	Clarksville	Greene	Terry Dayton	724-627-9665	tdayton@windstream.net	12/23/23
20	Cowanesque Lake	Tioga	Gary Tyson		gnats3@ptd.net	12/16/23
21	Culp	Blair	Laura Jackson John Carter	814-652-9268	mljackson2@embarqmail.com carter0206@aol.com	12/23/23
22	Curtin	Dauphin	Scott Bills	717-896-8859	srb24@comcast.net	12/27/23
23	Dallas Area	Luzerne	Rick Koval	570-991-0580	pocononaturalist@yahoo.com	12/16/23

24	Dingman's Ferry	Pike	Derek Scott	570-828-2310 x234	dscott@peec.org	1/1/23
25	DuBois	Clearfield	Marianne Atkinson, Joc Smrekar		marianne5@windstream.net	12/16/23
26	Elverson	Chester	Jim Cook	610-587-7545	escjim@windstream.net	12/22/23
27	Emporium	Cameron	Andy Sidelinger		andysidelinger63@gmail.com	12/17/23
28	Erie	Erie	Michele Franz		isomorphun@roadrunner.com	12/16/23
29	Gettysburg	Adams	Evan Vaeth		nexevan@gmail.com	12/16/23
30	Glenolden	Delaware	Rich Horwitz			12/16/23
31	Grove City	Butler Mercer Lawrence Venango	Martin Carlin Brendyn Baptiste	724-355-7492	carlin.martin@ymail.com	12/23/23
32	Hamburg	Berks Schuylkill	Laurie Goodrich	610-756-6961 570-943-3411 x106	goodrich@hawkmtn.org	12/30/23
33	Harrisburg	Dauphin	Annette Mathes	717-514-4512	amathes19@verizon.net	12/16/23
34	Huntingdon	Huntingdon	Deb Grove	814-643-3295	dsg4@psu.edu	12/17/23
36	Imperial	Allegheny Washington	Bob Mulvihill	412-522-5729	robert.mulvihill@aviary.org	
36	Indiana	Indiana	Roger & Marg Higbee	724-354-3493 412-309-3538	bcoriole@windstream.net rvhigbee@windstream.net	12/26/23
37	Johnstown	Cambria	Jeff Payne	814-279-8142	paynemt@gmail.com	12/17/23
38	Juniata - Lewistown	Juniata	Abram Troyer Chad Kauffman	717-994-6715	chadkauffman@earthlink.net	12/16/23
39	Lake Raystown	Huntingdon Blair	Jon Kauffman	717-413-5522	jvk5019@psu.edu	12/28/23
40	Lancaster	Lancaster	Barbara Hunsberger	717-575-3712	phunsberger@comcast.net	12/23/23
41	Lebanon	Lebanon Dauphin	Fritz Heilman	717-273-0487	volks5@verizon.net	12/16/23
42	Lehigh Valley	Lehigh,/Berks	Brandon Swayser	610-965-4397 X 136	brandon.swayser@davincisciencecenter.org	12/16/23
43	Lewisburg	Union, Snyder, Northumberland	Judy Peeler	570-524-0432	judypeeler6@ptd.net	12/16/23
44	Linesville	Crawford	Clare Nicolls	814-587-6395	tcnicolls@windstream.net	12/17/23
45	Lititz	Lancaster Lebanon	Ted Nichols	717-856-3851	tanicholsii@gmail.com	12/31/23
46	Lock Haven- Jersey Shore	Clinton Lycoming	Wayne Laubscher	570-748-7511	wnlaubscher@comcast.net	12/16/23
47	Mansfield- Wellsboro	Tioga	Gary Tyson	570-724-5789	gnats3@ptd.net	1/1/24

48	Montrose	Susquehanna	Barb Stone		barbstn@yahoo.com	12/15/23
49	New Bloomfield	Perry	Betsy Riter		rriter@pa.net	12/23/23
50	Newville	Cumberland	Vern Gauthier	717-385-9526	verngauthier14@gmail.com	12/30/23
51	Northeast Butler	Butler	Martin Carlin	724-355-7492	carlin.martin@ymail.com	12/24/23
52	Northern Lycoming	Lycoming	David Brown	570-772-9262	davidebrownpa@gmail.com	12/30/23
53	Ohiopyle	Fayette Somerset	Matt Juskowich	412-831-0898	jusko88@yahoo.com	12/30/23
54	Penns Creek	Centre	Cathy Pierce		winghaven.nursery@gmail.com	
55	Pennypack Valley	Philadelphia	Peter Kurtz	215-342-3638 215-685-0470	peter.kurtz@phila.gov	
56	Philipsburg	Centre Clearfield	Greg Kojadinovich	814-237-5964	gsak40@gmail.com	12/30/23
57	Pittsburgh	Allegheny	Brian Shema	412-963-6100	bshema@aswp.org	12/30/23
58	Pittsburgh South Hills	Allegheny Washington	Gigi Gerben		birdersx5@gmail.com	12/16/23
59	Pleasantville	Venango	Russ States	814-676-6320	pelagics202@gmail.com	12/31/23
60	Pocono Mt.	Monroe	Darryl Speicher		poconoavian@hotmail.com	12/17/23
61	Potter County	Potter	Dave Hauber	814-274-8946	haubers3@penn.com	
62	Reading	Berks	Lucy Cairns	610-223-4501	ljanetcairns@gmail.com	12/17/23
63	Rector	Westmoreland	Annie Lindsay	724-593-7521	LindsayA@carnegiemn.org	12/16/23
64	Ryerson	Greene	Marjorie Howard	724-852-3155	birdwatcher108@comcast.net	12/30/23
65	Scranton	Lackawanna	Mark Catalano	570-760-6556	mwc.2473@gmail.com	12/16/23
66	South Butler	Butler	Chris Kubiak	412-963-6100	ckubiak@aswp.org	12/31/23
67	Southeastern Bradford	Bradford	Rebecca Lesko	570-592-2629	EMNCinfo@yahoo.com	
68	Southeastern York	York	Chuck Berthoud		chuckbmib@gmail.com	12/27/23
69	Southern Bucks	Bucks	Mark Gallagher	215-378-8162	mgallagher@princetonhydro.com	12/16/23
70	Southern Lancaster	Lancaster	Derek Stoner		derek.lueck.stoner@gmail.com	12/17/23
71	State College	Centre	Susan Braun		braun3112@gmail.com	12/17/23
72	Tamaqua	Schuykill Carbon	Jonathan DeBalko		jonathan.debalko@wilkes.edu	12/28/23
73	Tunkhannock	Wyoming	Rick Koval	570-991-0580	pocononaturalist@yahoo.com	12/17/23
74	Upper Bucks	Bucks, Lehigh Montgomery	Bill Etter	215-964-3613	billetter01@gmail.com	12/17/23
75	Warren	Warren	Michael Toole	814-723-4714	m_t_toole@verizon.net	12/16/23

76	Washington	Washington	Tom Contreras	724-223-6118	tcontreras@washjeff.edu	12/16/23
77	West Chester	Chester	Merle Tanis Dorothy Bedford		merlet146@gmail.com db@bt9.org	12/16/23
78	Western Chester	Chester	Larry Lewis	484-340-7672	earlybirdtours@comcast.net	12/31/23
79	Western Schuylkill	Schuylkill	Dave Kruel	570-622-3704	dkruel300@comcast.net	12/17/23
80	White Mills	Wayne	Barb Leo	570-253-2364	barbaraaleo@earthlink.net	
81	Wild Creek– Little Gap	Carbon Monroe	Corey Husic	570-269-7509	coreyhusic@gmail.com	12/24/23
82	Williamsport	Lycoming	David Brown	570-772-9262	davidebrownpa@gmail.com	12/16/23
83	Wyncote	Montgomery	Kristy Morley	215-646-8866	kristy@wissahickonrails.org	12/16/23
84	York	York	Bernie Frick	717-843-6675	bernardfrick@alum.lehigh.edu	12/16/23
85	York Springs	Adams, York, Cumberland	Tim Johnson	717-409-4805	tj359@sbcglobal.net	12/27/23

Because We Care: PSO Is Involved in Bird Conservation Issues

By Laura Jackson

If you know of a conservation issue that deserves PSO's attention, please contact Laura Jackson, PSO Conservation Chair at jacksonlaura73@gmail.com. Since 2019, PSO has been involved in a number of conservation issues, taking diverse actions such as letter writing, emails and phone calls to legislators, and speaking at public hearings. PSO is also a member of the Endangered Species Coalition and the American Bird Conservancy. Future articles will keep you updated on PSO's efforts to protect birds and their habitats. As you most likely know,



PSO donated funds from the 2022 Breeding Bird Blitz to help Erie Bird Observatory, which monitors and helps to protect the federally-endangered Piping Plovers in Pennsylvania.

Photo courtesy of Grigory Heaton/iNaturalist CC BY-NC, toned

since 1970 we have lost nearly three billion birds in North America.

Just recently, the PSO Board agreed to join almost 300 other organizations to sign on as a signatory to a letter sent to President Biden regarding the biodiversity crisis. The letter was entitled, "Meeting the Challenges of the Biodiversity and Extinction Crisis Over the Next 50 Years" and spearheaded by the Center for Biological Diversity. In the letter, we celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the Endangered Species Act, "one of the most successful conservation laws ever enacted by any nation." Although the Act has prevented the extinction of most of the species under its protection, the natural world is now facing an existential crisis of species extinction across the globe. The signers of the letter asked President Biden to:

1. Implement a national biodiversity strategy.
2. Increase funding and engage a broad spectrum of government agencies to boost recovery of endangered species.
3. Develop an Ecosystem-based Framework to rebuild America's wildlife populations.

Contact Laura (jacksonlaura73@gmail.com) if you'd like a copy of the letter sent to President Biden.



Blackpoll Warblers are occasionally attracted to Mike and Laura Jackson's bubbling boulder during fall migration in Bedford County. See pages 2-3 for Laura's Conservation Chat Room.

Are You Moving?

Don't miss the next issue of "The PSO Pileated" or *Pennsylvania Birds*. Log into your account in pabirds.org and update your address there, or email it to us at psu@pabirds.org, or use the USPS and send a letter to:

PSO, 2469 Hammertown Road, Narvon, PA 17555-9730.

Thanks to Roger Higbee for providing the Wood Thrush photo on page 1 of this newsletter!

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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Valerie Dunn – Secretary lesplus@yahoo.com
Frank Haas – Treasurer fchaas@PABirds.org
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Margaret Higbee – Newsletter Editor bcorirole@windstream.net
David Barber – Barber@HawkMountain.org
Chelsea Beck – chelsea.beck96@gmail.com
Tony DeSantis – tgdesantis@yahoo.com
Carolyn Hendricks – carolyn.hendricks53@verizon.net
Laura Jackson – jacksonlaura73@gmail.com
Jeff Kenney – jeffrey.m.kenney@gmail.com
Mary Alice Koeneke – koenekema@gmail.com
Wayne Laubscher – wmlaubscher@comcast.net
Sean Murphy – semurphy@pa.gov
Julia Plummer – julia@juliaplummer.com
Emily Thomas – eht5002@hotmail.com
Doug Wentzel – djw105@psu.edu
Nathan Weyandt – ndw5072@psu.edu
Karter Witmer – kgw5107@psu.edu

Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology

c/o R. V. Higbee
3119 Creekside Road
Indiana, PA 15701-7934

**Non-profit Organization
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