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PSO Pileated



December 2015

The Newsletter of the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology

Volume 26, Number 4

From the President's Desk....

It's hard to believe that the Christmas Bird Count (CBC) season is already almost upon us! As many of you know, between December 14 and January 5 of each year thousands of people participate in the longest running citizen science project in the United States. CBC participants count in a 15-mile-diameter circle all the birds they can tally in a 24-hour period. Some observers count the entire 24 hours; others, just part of a day. Either way it's a fun way to collect valuable data! Data collected from these counts have been and continue to be used to generate long-term population trend data on wintering birds in the United States. These data are being used to look at many things including climate change and species' declines, and they are also used in models predicting bird abundance and declines. Additionally, these data have been used to protect habitat and identify environmental issues and to develop management plans for more than 350 species of birds. If you have not participated in one before or have not currently signed up to participate, I encourage all of you to do so! This newsletter contains the list of PA counts, so you can contact the coordinator directly or sign up on Audubon's CBC website.

If you have been on one of PSO's field trips over the last few years, you know what a great time you have on them. This year was no exception. Chad Kauffman and the field trip committee have again outdone themselves putting together another great year of topnotch trips. Please send them a big thank you if you have not done so already! This year's fall trips ended with an out-of-state trip to the Avalon Sea Watch. This watch which is located near

Avalon, NJ, counts approximately a million seabirds each fall as they pass south. Even though it was windy, the participants got some great birds including King Eider, Franklin's Gulls, Cave Swallows, and of course thousands of scoters, gannets, and loons. In addition to getting to see great birds, participants on these trips get to meet other birders from all over the state. Please look at the schedule in this issue and try to attend one (or more!) of the trips!!!



Several Franklin's Gulls were one of the many highlights on PSO's field trip on November 14.

Photo by Mike Lanzone

I want to take a moment to let everyone know to keep your comments coming. We enjoy receiving your emails with great suggestions and comments! Also, a special thanks to those of you have also sent notes to volunteer in some capacity. Your valuable feedback is how we can gauge how we are doing as an organization, so please keep the comments and notes coming! Also remember, you can get involved on one of the Facebook lists for PA. It's a great way to keep up with

what is going on in PA and get connected with other birders.

Finally, keep your calendar open for our next Annual Meeting which will be held May 20-22, 2016, in Somerset, PA. Great birds, great company, and as always one meeting you won't want to miss! Target species this year include Golden-winged Warbler, Upland Sandpiper, Henslow's Sparrow, 18+ species of breeding warblers, and field trips to Somerset Lake, one of Pennsylvania's premiere rarity magnets! We hope to see you there or before that, on one of our upcoming field trips!

Good birding,

Mike Lanzone, PSO President

2016 Birding Trips, Excursions, Surveys, and More

More trips may be added later or at the last minute. We continue to work with local groups and clubs to bird with them in their favorite spots by joining their existing field trips or creating new ones. Please contact any PSO board member for more information.

January 14 - February 12 – Winter Raptor Surveys. Contact Greg Grove (gwg2@psu.edu) for more information.

February 20 – 21: The Jersey North Shore to Sandy Hook, Manasquan Inlet, Barnegat Light, led by Vern Gauthier. The focus of the trip will be waterfowl and gulls, along with any pelagic species that might be found along the way. Please contact Vern at pabirder@gmail.com if you plan to go or want more information. The number of folks on the trip will be limited. Some are staying at the Red Roof Inn at Tinton Falls, NJ, on the 19th and the 20th, as it is half an hour from our starting points. Keep in mind when you book your room that winter weather could possibly cancel the trip.

March 5: Waterfowl and gull birding in Cambridge, Maryland, with a probable extension to Blackwater NWR. Details will follow.

March 12: Waterfowl and gull trip to Middle Creek and Susquehanna River spots. This annual trip has proven to be very popular. Trip is subject to weather and ice conditions. More details to follow.

Mid March – Tussey Mountain Hawkwatch in Centre/Huntingdon counties. Target species is Golden Eagle.

March 18 – 20: Repeat of last year's trip to Erie and surrounding areas for waterfowl and gulls. Details will follow.

May 5 – 7: Shaver's Creek Birding Cup

May 14: PA Migration Count (PAMC)

May 20 – 22: PSO Annual Meeting in Somerset County. See March newsletter for details.

June 3 – 5: Bucktoe Shorebird and Kite Watch. We will hit various hotspots in the area like John Heinz NWR, Bucktoe Preserve, etc. Details will follow.

June 17 – 20: Breeding Bird Blitz. This will be the third year of this organized count, with the goal of getting out to report the breeding birds seen and heard. Details will follow.

A June trip to Swatara State Park, led by Dave McNaughton, is in the works. Details will follow.

Stone Mountain Hawkwatch Field Trip Revisited

by Chad Kauffman

On Saturday and Sunday, October 17 - 18, our PSO field trip visited the last on the list of the fall PA hawkwatches. I personally had gone to Stone Mountain several times in the last ten years, so I knew many of the regular counters and helpers. I always enjoy Stone Mountain, as it is one of the closest ones to me, and it is never a bad time to drive through Big Valley in Mifflin County, going through Amish farms and Belleville.

Leading to the wooden platform, the Standing Stone Trail is part of the Great Eastern Trail, which extends from Alabama to New York. The name of the trail comes from the word Juniata, which means People of the Standing Stone. Over the years, the mountain name went from Standing Stone Mountain to just Stone Mountain. The trail workers have really done a great job making this one of the easier trails to a hawkwatch. I also think this watch offers one of the best panoramic views, almost 360 degrees of birding, with the ridge splitting Huntingdon and Mifflin counties.

The wind forecast looked great all week, but there was the threat of rain and snow all weekend. Saturday started off as expected for this time of the year, single and double birds streaking through the skies, with Sharp-shinned Hawks being the most numerous. I knew my friend Nick Bolgiano was the counter that day, and he is always helpful. Bill Chambers and his wife were already on the platform that morning and had their big cameras ready. The cameras came in handy when a tagged Turkey Vulture came through, and they were able to get a reading on it. Nick is going to research to figure out the data on it and report it. Later in the morning, I was joined by hardy PSO member, Chuck Berthoud, and our friend Greg Burgdorf and his wife. They all commented on how nice the road was coming up the mountain and how the trail and platform were welcoming.

The decent birding in the morning was soon broken up with rain, sleet, hail, and snow, and it was the same pattern the next day. Flight times were restricted because

of the weather.

We did have some close flybys of Merlins as well as some Sharpies coming into the owl that is on a pole at the platform. Many hawkwatches have found out that if you have an owl decoy, some birds will come close to check it out or actually take a swipe at it, as hawks don't have much love for owls. Another highlight from Saturday was an immature Golden Eagle coming through to the north. I was able to see the tan and white band on the tail and was pleased to be able to find this and ID it myself. We also got to enjoy fall migration in the trees around us, with Hermit Thrush and several warbler species, including Tennessee, Magnolia, Blackpoll, and Yellow-rumped. Ruby-crowned Kinglets were quite busy on the mountain as well.

One story of note was a second-grader who came with his mother. They had just visited Shaver's Creek, where

they found out about Stone Mountain, so they came, hoping to see some nice birds. There wasn't much activity, but some birds did come through. The boy's highlight was being zoomed by a Merlin just above our heads. We saw it coming and were trying to get him on it. When he did see it, it zipped right past, and he was so excited in both his actions and his scream. I think that could easily be his spark bird.

On Sunday, I joined another good friend and PSO member, Greg Grove, who was the counter for the day. We were eventually joined again by Bill Chambers. The day started out with a few trickling birds, and storms came and went all day. We had some more zips of Merlins to enjoy, a kettle of three Bald Eagles, several flocks of Yellow-rumped Warblers, and a few Hermit Thrushes. On both days we found and identified migrating Common Loons.

PSO Hawkwatch Field Trip to Waggoner's Gap

by Chad Kauffman

The November 7-8 field trip to Waggoner's Gap was timed for the big birds coming through. All week we were watching the forecast and seeing great wind direction and speeds of 15 mph or more. It was predicted that we could possibly experience epic conditions, but as the week passed, the winds lowered and the cold front just didn't provide what we had all hoped it would.

I picked up my local birder-in-crime Aden Troyer, and we headed to the Gap. Along the local routes, we saw many Red-tailed Hawks, more than usual, so we got a bit excited considering what the day might offer. We arrived shortly after 8 a.m., finding that many locals, as well as field trip participants, had already arrived.

The day started off with an early Peregrine as well as some other hawks trickling by, but that is all the faucet was going to let us have through the day. There were just a few here and there, no big numbers. I think the best birds for me were Northern Harrier and Red-shouldered Hawk, which gave us great close views.

By lunchtime I kept getting an earworm named Vern tempting us to leave the mountain to chase a mega rarity for PA—a potential state-first Dusky Flycatcher, found at Gettysburg College. So a few of us made the zipline to the bird and found it within 15 minutes, while seeing some other birding friends and our own VP Mike Fialkovich from western PA. [Ed. Note: The bird was later identified as a Least Flycatcher.]

Another zipline back to the hawkwatch left us knowing we missed a few Golden Eagles but not too much else.

A group of us then enjoyed a wonderful dinner in Carlisle at Market Cross Pub, who welcomed us birders and gave us our own room. It was nice to warm up, enjoy the camaraderie, and plan for some of us to return to the hawkwatch in the morning.

Getting another early start on the mountain soon made us realize that the weather and conditions hadn't changed much; there just weren't that many birds in the pipeline, so the slow trickle was the norm again. We did have some good close looks at a few Golden Eagles, five for the day, as well as some close overhead looks at Bald Eagles and Red-tailed Hawks.

Some other bird highlights from the weekend were several fly-by Purple Finches, American Pipits, Double-crested Cormorants, Common Loon, Red-headed Woodpecker, and Pine Siskin as well as flocks of blackbirds.

This season we finished up visiting all of the regular hawkwatches in the state, and in the future we will plan field trips to them just periodically. At this time, I do think we will continue with the first weekend of November for one of the watches with the hope of Golden and Goshawks. Next year we will be at Hawk Mountain and surrounding areas.

PSO Field Trip to Avalon Sea Watch

by Chad Kauffman

Strong northwest winds were the theme for this field trip to the ocean for New Jersey's Avalon Sea Watch on November 14, 2015. We had been seeing some crazy rarities in the week before the trip, and the day before, it appeared that the specialty was going to be Franklin's Gull, as there had been dozens in New Jersey, Maryland, and Delaware.

Most of us arrived before 8 a.m. to find strong wind gusts as well as blowing sand coming at us from all directions; but the flights of various birds were enough to keep us there most of the morning. The sea watch used to be at the parking lot at the end of Seventh Street, but New Jersey Audubon built a hut past the jetty between Eighth and Ninth Streets to allow for better viewing at the beach.

We saw the first-of-the-season Canvasback passing the watch. Double-crested Cormorants came through in large groups along with various groups of scoters. You soon get humbled trying to count and then attempting to identify all the waterfowl and shorebirds scurrying around in front of you throughout the day.

We got excited when we began to see shorebirds flying and landing. Purple Sandpipers and Red Knots seemed to garner the most attention from our group. It didn't take long before we saw our first of several Franklin's Gulls flying by, and we noticed that they were bigger than the Bonaparte's Gulls but smaller than the Laughing Gulls

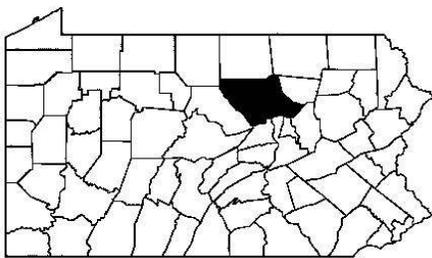
that were also coming through. A single Great Cormorant perched at the end of the jetty, giving us great looks and pictures. This adult was very black with a nice white throat. There wasn't any question on the identification of this bird. Later in the day, we saw it (or maybe a different one) flying around and feeding. Another highlight of the trip was seeing several dolphins playing and swimming nearby.

Before our lunch break, Vern Gauthier showed us a great shorebird spot at the end of 95th Street on the ocean side. We observed more than 500 Red Knots feeding along with Dunlin, Ruddy Turnstones, Black-bellied Plovers, Least Sandpipers, Sanderlings, and Purple Sandpipers. While scanning the area, several of us saw a single swallow fly by, and by process of elimination we decided it was a Cave Swallow; many had been seen in Cape May over the weekend.

KeeKeeKeer, the rare bird text alert for New Jersey, soon let us know that a female King Eider had returned near the sea watch, so after lunch we zipped back there to look around and eventually refound it near Third Avenue.

For those of you who haven't made this trek yet, this really is an awesome trip. Birds are constantly flying by. Just bring your lawn chair, scope, and bins. You won't be bored and can be rewarded with some good numbers of great species that you aren't used to seeing, or you may be surprised to see familiar birds in a different habitat.

BIRDING PA – LYCOMING COUNTY



(Each edition of Birding PA highlights birding from one of our 67 counties.)

“Lucky Lycoming” that’s the name of this issue. First, I like alliteration and second, the two birding Brown brothers of

Lycoming County, Bobby and David, have been pretty lucky of late. David was named September eBirder of the month and won some nice Zeiss bins in the process, while Bobby was the lucky winner of two of the categories of this year’s PA Breeding Bird Blitz and came away with some great prizes!

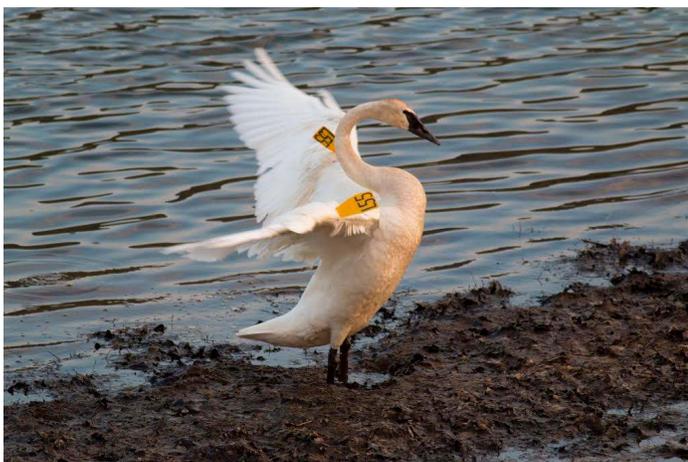
On my arrival I met up with David Brown, the VP of the LYCOMING AUDUBON SOCIETY (LAS), at the scenic

overlook on Route 15 just south of Williamsport. While it is not an official hawkwatch, David told me that they had been having some really good flights of raptors there. Soon after, LAS member Eric Heartshaw joined us for what turned out to be three hours of some great birding. With the wind from the north, many of the eagles came right at us, straight over the valley, and we were treated to some really good looks! We ended up with 17 **Bald Eagles**, 3 **Golden Eagles**, 35 **Red-tailed Hawks**, 10 **Sharp-shinned Hawks**, a disputable number of **Turkey Vultures**, somewhere between 8 and 20, depending on how you count them (just go ahead and pad the list Eric; it’s OK). Other species of raptors seen since the start of September at this scenic overlook include **Osprey**, **Northern Harrier**, **Cooper’s Hawk**, **Red-shouldered**



At the scenic overlook we were treated to views of three Golden Eagles.

Photo by David Brown



At Williamsport Dam there was a tagged Trumpeter Swan that has been present since early August.

Photo by David Brown

Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, American Kestrel, Merlin, and Peregrine Falcon.

Another great thing about this site is its easy accessibility. You just drive in and you're there with no trail to hike or rocks to climb. You could practically hawkwatch from your car. While there I was told how a man who was facing some physical challenges came up from Maryland and sat there in his wheelchair with great joy watching kettles of broad-wings passing by. Apparently in the past he had frequently gone to hawkwatches, but since he had incurred his physical limitations, he had been unable to go. Now at this scenic pull-off turned hawkwatch, he could live out his passion for raptors once again. How great is that?

While we were there, a few more members of LAS showed up, including David's brother Bobby and their mom and dad. Apparently they are quite the birding family. David and Bobby are one and two on the Top 100 eBirders for Lycoming County, with mom (Deb Brown) No. 3, dad (Bob Brown) No. 5 and even grandma (Bev Brown)

getting in on the act, though I guess she does not list her sightings on eBird. What is that old adage? "The family that birds together..."

After a quick lunch, David, Eric, and I made a stop which is designated as the eBird Hotspot WILLIAMSPORT DAM, encompassing the four-mile SUSQUEHANNA RIVER WALK. For the last few years, a pair of **Peregrine Falcons** have tried to nest on one of the bridges crossing the river, sometimes successfully, sometimes not. There were no Peregrines to be found this day, but there was a **Trumpeter Swan** (wing tag L55) that has been around since early August. The local birders call it "Lassie," due to a little creative license with the tag number (La55ie). I'm told this section of the river is also great for winter waterfowl, migrating warblers, and for finding some less common gulls including **Iceland Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Glaucous Gull, and Great Black-backed Gull** as they come in to roost for the evening. David says the challenge is to pick through the gulls before it gets dark.

The eBird hotspot designated WILLIAMSPORT WTA was our next destination. This huge area surrounds the Williamsport Water Treatment Plant and is filled with trails of various lengths through mostly wooded habitat. We opted to walk about a half mile of trail (instead of the 20-mile loop) that led to a field. At the field we spotted 7 **Fox Sparrows** at the woods' edge with a couple of them even singing! We also found a **Gray Catbird** (yes, it's getting to be that time of year when seeing a catbird is actually appreciated). While it was not particularly birdy there that day, David did tell me that it is a good spot to observe warblers during migration and that it is the most reliable place for **Black Vulture** in the county. I also noticed on eBird that he had reported an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** there in September.

Our final stop of the day was MILL STREET, a back road that winds by a creek, past the end of the Williamsport Airport to a little park near the river. Eric and David agreed that it was the single best year-round birding area in the Williamsport area. Here is just a sampling of the diverse group of birds that have been reported from Mill Street in 2015 so far: **Canvasback, White-winged Scoter, Long-tailed Duck, Common Goldeneye, American Bittern, Northern Goshawk, Willet, Red-necked Phalarope, Short-eared Owl, Common Nighthawk, Merlin, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, 25 species of warblers, Vesper Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, Bobolink, Rusty Blackbird, and Purple Finch.** Not too shabby of a list for one location!

The next morning I met up with 12 members of LAS for a field trip led by LAS member Dave Ferry to ROSE VALLEY LAKE, a 389-acre lake located about 15 miles

north of Williamsport. The lake is owned by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and managed by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission and is the eBird Hotspot with the greatest number of species reported in Lycoming County.

Dave and I were a few minutes behind the rest of the group as we had waited at the meeting point to see if anyone else was coming on the trip. On the way Dave had mentioned a number of things to me including the fact that the lake was a reliable place to find **Snow Bunting**. On cue, on our arrival, we were greeted by the news that there was a Snow Bunting in the grassy gravel right on the shore of the lake. After giving everyone good looks and good pictures, two other Snow Buntings flew by and were joined by our bird.



David Brown photographed this very cooperative Snow Bunting at Rose Valley Lake.

The lake yielded a **Common Loon**, 2 **Horned Grebes**, 3 **Pied-billed Grebes**, 23 **Ruddy Ducks** 5 **Bufflehead**, and an **American Coot**. Some of the better birds we identified on land were a **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, one **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**, 2 **Fox Sparrows**, and a flyover of 9 **Pine Siskins**. We also had a neat encounter with a pair of **Cooper's Hawks** that were calling and interacting with one another. Side by side you could really see how much larger the female was compared to the male. On the trip was LAS President Gary Metzger. I had the opportunity to hear about the great work that LAS has done since it was formed in 1968. Since its formation, LAS has participated in the preservation and enhancement of the natural environment in Lycoming and Clinton counties through many activities. The chapter draws from its 450 conservation-minded members to identify and research issues critical to its mission and voices an advocacy opinion on those issues when appropriate.

Examples include presenting testimony on behalf of the chapter at a Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) public hearing held in Williamsport on proposals to drill for natural gas in previously undermined areas of the Loyalsock State Forest, especially on the 27,000-acre parcel known as the Clarence Moore Tract. LAS testified to the extraordinary environmental value of this piece of relatively unbroken northern forest and its importance to birds, to the quality of the Commonwealth's water and air quality, and to multiple other public uses of the forest that could not be safeguarded in any on-site drilling scenario. Representatives of LAS urged DCNR to not allow surface disturbance of this forest land by current or future leaseholders.

LAS also recently offered testimony at a PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) hearing in Williamsport on draft changes to the regulation of unconventional oil drilling. And again, the chapter at a public meeting in Williamsport, sponsored by the PA DEP, provided testimony in support of the DEP's draft Clean Power Plan, which is designed to bring the Commonwealth into compliance with the US EPA's initiative to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Finally, LAS has supported and continues to support the lawsuit filed on behalf of citizens of the Commonwealth by the Pennsylvania Environmental Defense Foundation. This suit, which should be heard by the PA Supreme Court this coming spring, challenges the leasing of PA's state forests and parks for oil and gas extraction as contrary to Article I, Section 27, of the PA Constitution. If successful, the suit could protect vast sections of the state's public lands from further oil and gas development, and it could restore lease and royalty fees on public lands already developed to their legislatively mandated uses. DCNR is required to protect and restore our public forest and park lands.

In addition, LAS members are also active in a number of important monitoring programs, including two annual Christmas Bird Counts. Additionally, the chapter maintains three Bluebird House Trails, and in cooperation with the PA Game Commission (PGC), manages nesting structures in two Penn DOT-constructed and PGC-owned wetland areas. The areas are known as the Haleeka and Powys Wetlands, and they are located along Route 15 north of Williamsport. Although the structures are designed for nesting **Wood Ducks** and **Mallards**, **Eastern Screech-Owls**, **Hooded Mergansers**, **Common Mergansers**, and **Tree Swallows** also use them.

So, with such an active Audubon Chapter I have to conclude that it is not only the birders of Lycoming County but the birds themselves who are pretty lucky to have such a group looking out for their welfare in so many ways.

Good Birding PA!

Vern Gauthier

(Please contact me at pabirder@gmail.com if you would like your home county featured in a future edition of Birding PA.)

Links and E-mail for More on Lycoming County Birding

Lycoming Audubon Society - <http://lycomingaudubon.blogspot.com/>

PSO Site Guide – <http://www.pabirds.org/SiteGuide/PACountyPage.php?CountyID=41>

PSO County Compiler / Dan Brauning – dbrauning@pa.gov

eBird Lycoming County Page - <http://ebird.org/ebird/pa/subnational2/US-PA-081?yr=all>

Williamsport CBC Compiler / David Brown - davidebrownpa@gmail.com

Northern Lycoming CBC Compiler / David Brown - davidebrownpa@gmail.com

Susquehanna River Walk - <http://lumberheritage.org/TTbrochure.pdf>

WMWA Watershed Map- <http://www.wmwa-wsa.org/watershed-map/>

Tagging Trumpeter Swans - www.birdcanada.com/tagging-trumpeters/

Birding PA Culinary Tips / (Provided by Deuane Hoffman)

Bullfrog Brewery www.bullfrogbrewery.com / Open 7 days a week for lunch and dinner, plus early for a Sunday Jazz brunch.

Franco's Lounge www.francoslounge.com / For some seriously good Italian. Closed Sun. and Mon.

Fry Brothers Turkey Ranch www.frybrosturkeyranch.com / In the tundra of Cogan House Twp. at the top of the Allegheny Front on the plateau 27 PA 184, Trout Run, PA (but not in the town of Trout Run). Seriously good, down to earth, stick to your ribs, country home cooking!

Ornithological Literature Notes

Pioneering research in Pennsylvania has attracted worldwide attention to studies of Golden Eagle population trends, migratory pathways, and conservation threats. A new chapter comes in a 2015 paper by Andrew J. Dennhardt, Adam E. Duerr, David Brandes, and Todd E. Katzner.

The team used an advanced “mark-and-recapture” method made possible by data from dedicated hawkwatch counters at five sites along the Kittatinny Ridge: Little Gap, Bake Oven Knob, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, Second Mountain, and Waggoner’s Gap. The results are reported in *Biological Conservation* 184:68-78.

The authors explain that the mark-and-recapture data in this usage represents single Golden Eagles repeatedly observed as they travel along the ridge from count site to count site. A combination of statistical techniques and modeling methods provides estimates of the proportion of eagles not detected and the actual numbers observed by hawkwatchers.

The result is an estimate that approximately 5,100 Golden Eagles migrate annually through Pennsylvania. Additionally, 300-500 migrants are counted annually at Cape May Observatory in New Jersey, Detroit River Hawk-

watch in Michigan, and Hawk Ridge in Minnesota.

Continent-wide, the North American population of Golden Eagles is estimated at 50,000 to 80,000; thus, the eastern population represents only a small proportion of the total. Nevertheless, the new estimate of 5,100 suggests that the eastern population is larger than previously known.

Dennhardt and his colleagues note that various sources indicate an increase in eastern Golden Eagle numbers from 1970 to 2004, which could reflect increased observer effort and a variety of other factors. However, the authors note that the Raptor Population Index (rpi-project.org/ 2013) suggests that counts may no longer be increasing in eastern North America during the past 10 years.

The authors emphasize that monitoring Golden Eagle numbers is a conservation priority for assessing the population trend and addressing factors that may affect it. The database for this important research is a tribute to Pennsylvania’s diligent hawkwatchers.

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The Raven Reporter

Tales of
Discovery about
Pennsylvania
Birds



Osprey Management Plan Approved by PGC Board

Pennsylvania bird conservationists met another milestone in September with the approval of the Osprey Management Ten Year Plan (2015–2025). The draft plan had been presented to the Board and agency staff at the spring public meeting of the board, and comments and recommendations were made that altered the plan somewhat before acceptance. The management plan sets the goal of maintaining a stable or increasing Osprey breeding population with at least 10 nesting pairs in each of four watersheds and at least 50 total nesting pairs documented in two consecutive comprehensive surveys.

This charismatic species has increased and thrived as a result of good management and increased watershed quality across the state. Ospreys are one of the welcome features of our larger rivers and reservoirs with healthy fish populations. They can thrive only where there is good water and good fishing. The PGC will continue to promote the conservation of Osprey populations through technical guidance and public education. We also seek to provide more information about Osprey-watching opportunities for all state residents.

We anticipate doing a full Osprey nesting survey in the 2016 field season. We are pretty sure that the current nesting population exceeds 100 nesting pairs after finding about 115 nests in the last full survey conducted in 2010. Pairs are adopting new sites each year, expanding the population. Although PGC staff will be doing Osprey nest searches, we will greatly depend on the interested public in reporting Osprey nests, especially new ones. Please watch for more information on this survey which certainly will include a public website that has been used previously for Osprey surveys.

More About How eBird Data Assists Golden-winged Warbler Management

In the last installment of the Raven Reporter, I reviewed a lot of the background behind Golden-winged Warbler management in Pennsylvania. In short, the Golden-winged Warbler is a disturbance-dependent forest species

that also nests in wooded wetlands and scrub barrens with the same kind of vegetative structure often described as a mosaic of shrubs, trees, and herbal vegetation. It is hard to describe, but we think we know what it is when we see it along the road or in a forest clearing.

By managing for Golden-winged Warblers or other target species like American Woodcock or Ruffed Grouse, we can gain benefits for many other species that have declined due to a lack of a disturbance regime including fire. Several other bird species react well to these forest disturbances and use the same locations as active Golden-winged Warbler nesting populations. Willow Flycatchers have been cited as co-habitants of early successional forest, and Alder Flycatcher is often present at higher elevations and around shrubby wetlands. Other wood warblers often associated with new cuttings are Yellow, Chestnut-sided, Prairie, and Black-and-white Warblers. Canada Warbler and Hooded Warbler are also found at some sites with a dense shrub layer. Eastern Towhees are among the most commonly noted songbirds at Golden-winged sites. Common Yellowthroats and Indigo Buntings appear almost everywhere there are Golden-wings. Field and Song Sparrows often respond quickly to these disturbances, and White-throated Sparrows inhabit young northern-tier forests and scrubby wetlands, especially in the Poconos. In the evening, American Woodcocks and Eastern Whip-poor-wills can be heard, sometimes in good numbers, in recent cuttings. And our state bird, the Ruffed Grouse, also is found where there is good forest regeneration. Management on behalf of Golden-winged Warblers helps many species that otherwise are looking for homes.

There has been a lack of recent Golden-winged Warbler reports in a number of locations that on a map look promising for this species. These include several game lands and forest lands in counties with recent timber management but no reports of Golden-wings to accompany these newly created habitats. For example, close to my home there are large tracts of forest in southern Columbia County where Golden-winged Warblers have not been reported, including the rarely birded SGL 58 near Mainville and Catawissa. Golden-wings were once found on the nearby ridges of Schuylkill County which has more birding activity than Columbia County. The forest block that includes Nescopeck State Park, Luzerne County; Hickory Run State Park, Luzerne County; and nearby game lands have no recent records. On the other hand, I have found a few Golden-wings in the Penn Forest section of Weiser State Forest, Carbon County, not far from Hickory Run State Park. A bird researcher also has asked me about the forests and swamps around Blakeslee, Monroe County, where there are no recent reports but some good-looking habitat.

Despite several records in Delaware State Forest, and game lands of northern Pike County, there are few records

around Promised Land State Park and nearby areas. And, despite the presence of Golden-winged Warbler in various scrub barrens, there are no records from SGL 300 on Moosic Mountain, the Dick & Nancy Eales Preserve at Moosic Mountain, or other scrub barrens in the region. These absences are puzzling, but more searches may reveal populations where few birders regularly visit.

In the north-central counties, Bald Eagle State Forest, Rothrock State Forest, and Tiadaghton State Forest look like large forest blocks with potential to hide Golden-winged Warblers in newly timbered areas and remote wooded wetlands. Michaux State Forest lacks recent reports for Golden-winged Warblers, but perhaps there are a few hiding at the edge of their range. Essentially there are no recent records north of Williamsport along the northern tier. I have found a very few Golden-wings in Loyalsock State Forest, Sullivan County, but not in the last three years despite the several clearcuts and forest openings there.

The southwestern and south-central counties have potential for more searches in the forested mountains where we have a few warblers in the locations listed below. Clusters of Golden-winged Warblers have been found in Blacklog and Kansas valleys as well as the Reeds Gap of Perry County, mostly in and around Tuscarora State Forest and also including some private lands (as reported in the October issue of *The PSO Pileated* in the Perry County birding profile by Deuane Hoffman). This region has a lot of potential for proactive management because it has so much forest on public lands. We have few reports from around Forbes State Forest, especially near Jones Mills, and this region looks ripe for more Golden-wings hidden in recent cuts. Chestnut Ridge and Laurel Hill also look like good places to search for hidden populations with fairly extensive woodlands at higher elevations.

Is there a lack of Golden-wings or a lack of birders looking for and finding them in these more remote woods

and scrub areas? Finding new populations will take some adventuring into remote areas including off-road trails through cuttings and other disturbances. A few Golden-wings have been found in back-county scrub barrens and wooded wetlands off-road.

Not only is the PGC managing many of its game lands for Golden-winged Warblers and other young forest species, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' Bureau of Forestry also manages for regenerating forests that support this species and others of conservation concern. Also, the "good fight" has reached private lands with the USDA National Resource Conservation Service's implementing best management practices on private lands for Golden-winged Warblers. The Service's program, named "Working Lands for Wildlife," helps private landowners to "create and maintain the habitat necessary to sustain breeding populations of Golden-winged Warbler within and adjacent to their current range." This program "focuses on the creation, management and maintenance of early successional habitat in close association with forested landscapes, or adjacent to active agriculture or pastureland." This program really expands the ability of conservationists to create disturbances in the forested landscape of Pennsylvania and other states where Golden-winged Warblers were once more common. We cannot recover this species only on public lands and be successful.

As mentioned in the previous article, we and our young forest conservation partners ask that birders be thoughtful and use good birding etiquette when doing Golden-winged Warbler searches, especially in areas with known research projects. If your binoculars or camera lens find a banded bird, you are looking at a research subject. Please do not interfere with various research activities such as banding operations or when researchers are tracking marked juveniles in the post-nesting period.

There are Golden-winged Warbler breeding populations in the following state forests and state parks:

State Forest or Park	Region	County	Notes
Bald Eagle State Park	North Central	Centre	Managed area north of lake.
Delaware SF	Northeast	Pike	Cuttings, wetlands, scrub oak. Many locations!
Forbes SF	Southwest	Westmoreland	Near Jones Mills.
Lackawanna SF	Northeast	Luzerne	Arbutus Peak scrub barrens, Crystal Lake, Jimmy Kane Swamp
Loyalsock SF	Northeast	Sullivan	McCarty Road area, but now gone?
Sproul SF	North Central	Clinton	Old arson fire area.
Tuscarora SF	South Central	Juniata	Blacklog, Kansas valleys, Reeds Gap area
Weiser SF	Northeast	Carbon	Penn Forest section near Christmans, scrub barrens & wetland

Here is a partial list of game lands where the Game Commission Golden-winged Warbler team has located Golden-winged Warblers in the last six years:

Game Lands	Region	County	Notes
SGL 38	Northeast	Monroe	Scrub oak area along Hypsy Gap Rd., recent population. Active management.
SGL 48	South Central	Bedford	Near Martinsburg
SGL 55	Northeast	Columbia	Recent cutting and burning at ridgetop.
SGL 92	North Central	Centre	Managed area adjacent to Bald Eagle SP
SGL 100	North Central	Centre	NW of Snowshoe, lots of new cuttings.
SGL 107	South Central	Mifflin	Woodcock management area and cuts.
SGL 116	Northeast	Pike	Kuhn Road
SGL 119	Northeast	Luzerne	Wetlands, scrub barrens
SGL 121	South Central	Huntington	Wide ROW with scrub barrens
SGL 166	South Central	Blair	ROWS, scrub oak, new cuttings
SGL 176	North Central	Centre	Scotia barrens, large but shrinking population.
SGL 180	Northeast	Pike	Shohola Falls. Edge of food plots, wetlands.
SGL 183	Northeast	Pike	Wetlands, ROWs
SGL 215	South Central	Juniata	Willow Creek bottomland
SGL 229	South East	Schuylkill	None recently but former GWWA spot.
SGL 322	South Central	Huntingdon	Regenerating forest next to ROW.

Pennsylvania eBird has featured Golden-winged Warblers, young forest birds, and scrub oak habitat in some past stories. Here are links to a few news stories:

- <http://ebird.org/content/pa/news/spend-a-golden-winged-warbler-weekend-at-penn-state-altoona-campus/>
- <http://ebird.org/content/pa/news/golden-winged-warbler-swamp-and-barrens-bird/>
- <http://ebird.org/content/pa/news/scrub-barrens-are-great-for-birds/>
- <http://ebird.org/content/pa/news/focus-on-golden-winged-warblers/>

Good Pennsylvania birding!

Doug Gross, PGC Endangered and Nongame Bird Section Supervisor
dogross@pa.gov

PSO Pileated Quiz

How well do you know your Pennsylvania Birds?

1. Pennsylvania's first record of a Redwing amazed birders on February 5, 2005, in Bucks County. This super-rarity was not a blackbird, but what is its taxonomic family?
2. An exciting migrant through Pennsylvania has the Greek scientific name *chrysaetos*. Which species, and what does the word mean?
3. Two common shorebird migrants through Pennsylvania breed as far north as the Canadian arctic islands and spend the winter as far south as southern Argentina, an entire hemisphere of travel. Which two species?
4. Which wood-warbler "appears to prefer to nest in oaks if available," according the first Pennsylvania breeding atlas?
5. A small bird driven inland by a hurricane as far as Indiana County on September 19, 2003, was one of western Pennsylvania's most extraordinary seabird records. Which species? For a bonus, what rare gull was swimming near it at Yellow Creek Park that day?

Conservation Chat Room

Do It for the Birds!



The Republican Party emerged in 1854 to combat slavery in the United States. Many generations of my family have been Republicans, and I've always been proud that this party was

established to abolish slavery and that they continued after the Civil War to push for civil rights. The Civil Rights Act in 1964 was passed thanks to Republican support. Historically, Republicans have also supported businesses, banks, and the railroads; but Teddy Roosevelt added a new dimension, making conservation a top priority when he became the youngest U.S. President at the age of 42 in 1901. President Roosevelt established the United States Forest Service that governed 150 national forests. He also created 51 federal bird reserves (now called national wildlife refuges), 4 national game reserves, 5 national parks, and 18 national monuments. During his presidency, Theodore Roosevelt protected approximately 230 million acres of public land. Yes, Republicans did all this.

Now some Republicans want to take it from us, the public: the birders, campers, hikers, hunters, anglers, those who seek solitude and quiet in the wilderness, the artists, the philosophers – we all benefit from these public lands. Of course, the wildlife, the natural resources, including clean air and water, the open space, the forests all benefit when lands are public and managed properly.

A recent report from the Center for Biological Diversity (1) states that “Republican-led legislative attacks on the endangered species and the **Endangered Species Act** has increased by 600 percent.” It goes on to say that the five Congressmen who have been responsible for almost a quarter of the attacks have “received nearly \$8 million in campaign donations from agribusiness and oil and gas industries.” One of the birds that is under threat is the

Lesser Prairie Chicken, a western icon that has lost much of its habitat due to development.

Another legislative assault would degrade the **Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)** that has successfully supported public lands for about 50 years. This fund also pays for parks, playgrounds, trails, and other open space projects. Funding for this initiative is paid for by oil and gas royalties, but now those entities want to shift that payment. Utah Republican Rob Bishop has introduced legislation that would divert about 45% of these funds back to the oil and gas industry. Why? According to the *Salt Lake Tribune*, Bishop has received almost \$300,000 from this industry during his career. Another supporter of the bill, Rep. Don Young, R-Alaska, has received \$1.3 million from the oil and gas industry (2).

This assault on our wildlife and our public lands must be stopped. Please take a few moments to contact your federal representatives and ask them to stop this land grab and the assault on our birds and other wildlife. Call your legislator. Say you are against Bishop's bill, called the PARC Act (Protecting America's Recreation and Conservation). Explain that you support bills that would **not** gut the LWCF. **Urge your Senator to sign onto S.338 and S.890. Call your Congressman and ask him/her to sign onto H.R. 1814.**

Finally, go to the LWCF website and sign on to support it: www.lwcfcoalition.org/take-action

Do it for the birds!

Laura Jackson
mljackson2@embarqmail.com
Bedford Co.

(1) www.biologicaldiversity.org/news/press_releases/2015/endangered-species-act-07-28-2015.html

(2) www.sltrib.com/home/3196562-155/obama-administration-opposes-bishops-overhaul-to

Festival of the Birds at Presque Isle

Presque Isle Audubon and DCNR are sponsoring Festival of the Birds May 6-8, 2016, complete with field trips, workshops, pontoon rides, and hawkwatch. The keynote speaker, David Allen Sibley, author of *The Sibley Guide*, will discuss *The Psychology of Bird ID*.

All registrants will receive a copy of *The Sibley Guide to Birds*, second edition.

For more information or to register, go to www.presqueisleaudubon.org.

Christmas Bird Counts Held in Pennsylvania

	Name of Count	County	Compiler	Phone Number	E-mail Address	Date
1	Audubon	Montgomery Delaware Chester	Vincent Smith	610-983-8539 484-410-1157	Nyctea34@aol.com	12/26/15
2	Bald Eagle	Centre	Bob Snyder	814-863-6168	rhs2@psu.edu	1/03/16
3	Beaver	Beaver	Rick Mason	724-847-0909	richarddmason@gmail.com	12/19/15
4	Bedford	Bedford	Laura & Mike Jackson	814-652-9268	mljackson2@embarqmail.com	12/26/15
5	Benezette	Clearfield, Elk	Mark Johnson	814-546-2886	luckybirder@gmail.com	12/27/15
6	Bernville	Berks	Ed Barrell	610-926-2962	ebarrell@comcast.net	12/26/15
7	Bethlehem- Easton	Northampton	Elaine & Donald Mease	610-346-7754	measede@enter.net	1/2/16
8	Bloomsburg	Columbia	Cathy Haffner	570-275-3934	northbranchbirdclub@gmail.com	12/20/15
9	Buffalo Creek	Washington	Larry Helgerman	412-508-0321	bobolink1@earthlink.net	12/20/15
10	Buffalo Creek Valley	Butler Armstrong	George Reese	724-353-9649	g.reese@gaiconsultants.com	12/20/15
11	Bushy Run	Westmoreland	Dick Byers	724-593-3543	otusasio@lhtot.com	12/27/15
12	Butler	Butler Lawrence Mercer	Glenn Koppel Mary A Koeneke	703-203-3362 703-203-6337	kestrel22@hotmail.com makoeneke@icloud.com	12/19/15
13	Central Bucks	Bucks	Diane Allison	610-847-2085	dalliso@mail.ptd.net	12/27/15
14	Chambersburg	Franklin	Valerie Barnes	717-352-4397	vbarhen@comcast.net	12/19/15
15	Clarion	Clarion	Gary Edwards	814-671-1273	gedwards@csonline.net	12/19/15
16	Clarksville	Greene	Terry Dayton	724-627-9665	tdayton@windstream.net	12/19/15
17	Culp	Blair	Laura Jackson	814-652-9268	mljackson2@embarqmail.com	12/19/15
18	Curtin	Dauphin	Scott Bills	717-896-8859		12/29/15
19	Dallas Area	Luzerne	Jim Hoyson	570-696-4925 570-371-6581 (w)	birdder@aol.com	12/19/15
20	Dingman's Ferry	Pike	Derek Scott	570-828-2310 x 234	dscott@pecc.org	1/04/15
21	DuBois	Clearfield	Marianne Atkin- son, Joc Smrekar		marianne5@windstream.net	12/19/15
22	Elverson	Chester	Jim Cook	610-286-9919		12/27/15
23	Emporium	Cameron	Bob Martin	814-486-1990	bmartin@zitomedia.net	12/20/15
24	Erie	Erie	Michele Franz		isomorphun@roadrunner.com	12/19/15
25	Gettysburg	Adams	Mike O'Brien	717-642-6676	maddogobrien@gmail.com	12/19/15

26	Glenolden	Delaware	David Eberly	610-543-3499	david.eberly@gmail.com	12/19/15
27	Hamburg	Berks Schuylkill	Laurie Goodrich	610-756-6961 570-943-3411 x106	goodrich@hawkmtn.org	12/27/15
28	Harrisburg	Dauphin	Deuane Hoffman	717-564-7475	corvuscorax@comcast.net	12/19/15
29	Huntingdon	Huntingdon	Deb Grove	814-643-3295	dsg4@psu.edu	12/20/15
30	Indiana	Indiana	Roger & Margaret Higbee	724-354-3493	bcoriole@windstream.net	12/26/15
31	Johnstown	Cambria	Jeff Payne	814-279-8142	paynemt@gmail.com	12/20/15
32	Lake Raystown	Huntingdon Blair	Greg Grove	814-643-3295	gwg2@psu.edu	12/29/15
33	Lancaster	Lancaster	Barbara Hunsberger Roger Stoner	717-393-4091	phunsberger@comcast.net	1/03/16
34	Lebanon	Lebanon, Dauphin	Fritz Heilman	717-273-0487	volks5@verizon.net	12/19/15
35	Lehigh Valley	Lehigh/Berks	Rett Oren		rettoeren@gmail.com	12/19/15
36	Lewisburg	Union, Snyder, Northumber- land	Allen Schweinsberg	570-524-0432	aschwein@bucknell.edu	12/19/15
37	Lewistown	Juniata	Elmer Petersheim Chad Kauffman	717-535-5926 717-994-6715	chadkauffman@earthlink.net	12/19/15
38	Linesville	Crawford	Clare Nicolls	814-587-6395	tcnicolls@windstream.net	12/20/15
39	Lititz	Lancaster, Lebanon	Bruce Carl	717-368-4824	carls94@ptd.net	12/27/15
40	Lock Haven- Jersey Shore	Clinton Lycoming	Wayne Laubscher	570-748-7511	wnlaubscher@comcast.net	12/19/15
41	Mansfield- Wellsboro	Tioga	Gary Tyson	570-724-5789	gnats3@ptd.net	1/1/16
42	New Bloomfield	Perry	Ramsay Koury	717-761-1871	rkoury123@aol.com	12/27/15
43	Newville	Cumberland	Vern Gauthier	717-385-9526	pabirder@gmail.com	1/2/16
44	Northern Lycoming	Lycoming	David Brown	570-772-9262	davidebrownpa@gmail.com	1/2/16
45	Penns Creek	Centre	Joe Gyekis			
46	Pennypack Valley	Philadelphia	Peter Kurtz	215-342-3638 215-685-0470	peter.kurtz@phila.gov	12/19/15
47	Philipsburg	Centre Clearfield	Greg Kojadinovich	814-237-5964		
48	Pittsburgh	Allegheny	Brian Shema	412-963-6100	bshema@aswp.org	12/26/15
49	Pittsburgh South Hills	Allegheny Washington	Nancy Page	412-221-4795		12/19/15
50	Pleasantville	Venango	Russ States	814-676-6320	pabirder@verizon.net	1/3/16

51	Pocono Mt.	Monroe	Brian Hardiman	570-629-3061	bhmccd@ptd.net	12/20/15
52	Potter County	Potter	Dave Hauber	814-274-8946	haubers3@penn.com	12/13/15
53	Reading	Berks	Ken Lebo	610-856-1413	klebo@dejazzd.com	12/20/15
54	Rector	Westmoreland	Matt Webb	412-622-5591	webbm@carnegiemnh.org	1/3/16
55	Ryerson	Greene	Marjorie Howard	724-852-3155	birdwatcher108@comcast.net	1/2/16
56	Scranton	Lackawanna	Paul or Lisa Mundy	570-941-9851	Pmraptors@aol.com	12/19/15
57	South Butler	Butler	Chris Kubiak	412-963-6100	ckubiak@aswp.org	1/2/2016
58	Southeastern Bradford	Bradford	Trudy Gerlach Rebecca Lesko	570-746-1572	tgswoods@epix.net emncinfo@yahoo.com	12/26/15
59	Southern Bucks	Bucks	Robert Mercer	215-785-1177		12/19/15
60	Southern Lancaster County	Lancaster	Bob Schutsky	717-548-3303 (10 a.m. to 9 p.m.)	info@birdtreks.com	12/20/15
61	State College	Centre	Jim Dunn Bob Fowles	814-863-8625 814-238-1990	jwd6@psu.edu rbf@psu.edu	12/20/15
62	Tamaqua	Schuykill Carbon	Jonathan DeBalko		jonathan.debalko@wilkes.edu	12/30/15
63	Thompson	Susquehanna	Stuart Slocum		slocumsw95@yahoo.com	
64	Tunkhannock	Wyoming	Rick Koval	570-991-0580	pocononaturalist@yahoo.com	12/23/15
65	Upper Bucks	Bucks Montgomery Lehigh	Bill Etter	215-964-3613	billetter01@gmail.com	12/20/15
66	Warren	Warren	Michael Toole	814-723-4714	m_t_toole@verizon.net	12/19/15
67	Washington	Washington	Tom Contreras	724-223-6118	tcontreras@washjeff.edu	12/19/15
68	West Chester	Chester	Barry Blust	610-458-5616	BarryBlust@comcast.net	12/19/15
69	Western Chester	Chester	Larry Lewis	484-340-7672	earlybirdtours@comcast.net	1/02/16
70	Western Schuylkill	Schuylkill	Dave Krueel	570-622-3704	dkrueel300@comcast.net	12/20/15
71	White Mills	Wayne	Barb Leo	570-253-2364	barbaraaleo@earthlink.net	12/19/15
72	Wild Creek– Little Gap	Carbon Monroe	Joshua Nemeth Dustin Welch	610-573-8577	allroy1313@rcn.com	12/27/15
73	Williamsport	Lycoming	David Brown	570-772-9262	davidebrownpa@gmail.com	12/19/15
74	Wyncote	Montgomery	Andy Fayer		AndyFayer@aol.com	12/19/15
75	York	York	Bernie Frick	717-843-6675	bernardfrick2@verizon.net	12/19/15
76	York Springs	Adams Cumberland York	Vern Gauthier	717-385-9526	pabirder@gmail.com	12/29/15

Goofball, the Grouse

by Larry Slomski



I am a wildlife photographer and enjoy birding as well. On October 6, 2015, I was walking in my woods and noticed a Ruffed Grouse sitting in some red brush about 20 yards away. I slowly knelt down so that I wouldn't appear aggressive, and slowly and softly started talking to it. After about 20 minutes it hopped down and timidly walked towards me. To my surprise he came within a foot of me as I talked to him. I called him a goofball. I was shocked when he flew toward me and landed on my shoulder. I took a selfie with my cell phone, then started doing photo shoots every day.



I would call out, "Goofball, Goofball," and this wild grouse would come out of the brush right to me. I've taken thousands of pics. He has been around

now for over a month. I last visited him on November 10. After all, there is a limit to the number of grouse photos I can take before the novelty wears off.

I talked to PGC Biologist Lisa Williams who told me that there are two theories concerning "tame grouse":

Theory 1: Tame birds are a genetic throwback to a time when grouse were much less wary. Early settler accounts talk about grouse as "fool hens" and state that they were killed by knocking them out of trees with sticks. The modern grouse has been selected over 250 years to avoid humans by running quietly away or thundering away in a flush. But an occasional grouse turns up with the "historic" genetics that makes it seem much more docile.

Theory 2: Tame birds are actually hyper-aggressive. These birds come out of cover when a sound or sight triggers their territoriality. Sounds that most often trigger this behavior are those that sound a bit like a drumming male grouse: hammering, an axe splitting wood, and more recently – the putt putt putt of a 4-wheeler, truck, or tractor. Even clapping can bring these birds out into the open. What appears to be friendly behavior is actually the bird showing itself to you so you don't invade its territory – as it would another male grouse. This theory holds up to most tame grouse scenarios, and so it is my preferred explanation. You can test it by reaching for the grouse. Typically they will try quite hard to whip you by attacking your hand. But as long as you don't reach for it, it feels in control and will hang out "bossing you around" or even lounging in normal behavior. Even female grouse can display this behavior. The most frequent time for these stories is in spring, and again in fall when shortened day length tricks the bird's hormones into thinking it is spring.

Franklin's Gulls Highlight PSO Trip

Named after Sir John Franklin, an English explorer who was lost in the high Arctic in 1874, Franklin's Gulls were one of the highlights of the Avalon Sea Watch trip.

This November Franklin's Gulls have been showing up in the East in large numbers. Their normal migration route from their breeding grounds in central Canada and the Dakotas takes them just east of the Rockies to their

wintering grounds on the South American west coast. Cold, windy weather along with precipitation coming out of the Southwest drove them eastward to the Great Lakes. Strong winds brought about by a low pressure system drove the gulls from the Great Lakes to the East Coast where PSO members gladly observed several from the Avalon Sea Watch.

Answers to Bird Quiz

(page 10)

1. Turdidae, the thrushes
2. Golden Eagle; *chrysaetos* means golden
3. Semipalmated Sandpiper and Pectoral Sandpiper
4. Cerulean Warbler
5. Leach's Storm-Petrel; bonus, Sabine's Gull



Chuck Berthoud took this multi-species (Forster's Terns, Dunlin, Red Knot, Herring Gull) photo in NJ on the Avalon Sea Watch field trip.

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:

Membership Categories:

PSO	Individual	\$ 30.00
2469 Hammertown Road	Family	\$ 35.00
Narvon, PA 17555-9730	Sustaining	\$ 45.00
	Student	\$ 25.00
	Electronic Student	\$ 10.00

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