

Compiler News

Three new compilers join the line-up beginning with this issue. **John Carter** takes over in *Blair* for Mark Bonta, whose academic socio-ornithological researches in Australia do not mesh well with writing county reports on the opposite side of the planet. **Bill Oyler** takes over in *Franklin* for long-time reporter Dale Gearhart. And in *Montour*, long without a compiler, **Evan Houston**, transplanted from Washington state, is the new reporter. We welcome John, Bill, and Evan – and thank them for their willingness to donate time to our state journal.

This issue marks the last *Bradford* report from **Trudy Gerlach**, who has been doing reports since 2002. She will be missed but has certainly earned a break. For now, *Bradford* has no compiler – contact me if interested.

In the next issue, a couple of additional compilers will debut, covering *Columbia*, *Northumberland*, and *Union* – all counties that have been lacking coverage for years. The following counties have no compiler: *Carbon*, *Lackawanna*, *Potter*, and *Tioga*. Please contact the editor if interested.

The 2017 annual PSO meeting will be in Cumberland County, September 15-17.

For a change of pace, this year's PSO meeting will be in the fall season, in *Cumberland*. By the time you read this, the online registration deadline of August 25 will be rapidly approaching. Registrations by mail must be postmarked August 20. For details on field trips and speakers, please see the most recent issue of *The PSO Pileated* or go to the PSO website www.pabirds.org.

County compilers: **Phil Keener** (Adams, York), **Mike Fialkovich** (Allegheny, Fayette), **Marjorie Van Tassel** (Armstrong), **Geoff Malosh** (Beaver, Lawrence, Washington), **Tom Dick** (Bedford), **Rudy Keller** and **Matt Wlasniewski** (Berks), **John Carter** (Blair), **August Mirabella** (Bucks), **Oscar Miller** (Butler), **Dave Gobert** (Cambria), **Brendyn Baptiste** (Cameron, Elk), **Nan Butkovich** (Centre), **Holly Merker** (Chester), **Carole**

Winslow (Clarion), **Diane Bierly** (Clearfield), **Wayne Laubscher** (Clinton), **Rob Hodgson** (Crawford), **Vern Gauthier** (Cumberland, Perry), **Annette Mathes** (Dauphin), **Sheryl Johnson** (Delaware), **Jerry McWilliams** (Erie), **Flo McGuire** (Forest), **Bill Oyler** (Franklin), **Amy Evans** (Fulton), **Marjorie Howard** (Greene), **Greg Grove** (Huntingdon), **Margaret Higbee** (Indiana), **Thomas Glover** (Jefferson), **Chad Kauffman**, **Aden Troyer** (Juniata), **Tim Becker** (Lebanon), **Bill Etter** (Lehigh), **Jonathan DeBalko** (Luzerne), **Bobby Brown** (Lycoming), **Gigi Gerben** (McKean), **Neil Troyer** (Mercer), **Jon Kauffman** (Mifflin), **Brian Hardiman** (Monroe), **Brian Henderson** (Montgomery), **Evan Houston** (Montour), **Michael Schall** (Northampton, Pike), **Doris McGovern** (Philadelphia), **Dave Rieger** (Schuylkill), **Jason Weller** (Snyder), **Jeff Payne** (Somerset), **Rob Megrav** (Sullivan), **Evan Mann** (Susquehanna), **Gary Edwards** and **Russ Stutes** (Venango), **Scott Stoleson** (Warren), **Josh Jones** (Wayne), **Tom Kuehl** (Westmoreland), **Joe DeMarco** (Wyoming).



Black-backed Oriole (*Icterus abeillei*) The most celebrated bird of the season and possibly most viewed bird ever in Pennsylvania was the sensational Black-backed Oriole first noticed in their back yard by Sue and Dick Hybki of Sinking Spring, *Berks* 26 January. By the time the oriole was last seen in early April (here 3 February), over 1600 visitors had signed the log kept by Tom and Linda Binder, who live across the street from the Hybkis and whose driveway offered the most reliable view of the oriole at the Hybki's feeding station. Black-backed Orioles are endemic to the high plateau of central Mexico and are not known for straying outside their native range. How this bird came to be in Pennsylvania in the winter of 2016-17 is a mystery unlikely to be solved. That uncertainty leads to perhaps the second most asked question (if not the first) – "Is this bird countable"? For more details, see the article by Tom Binder in *The PSO Pileated*, Volume 28, Number 1, which can found on the PSO website.(Frank Haas)

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