

Compiler news

Two new compilers join the line-up beginning with this issue. McKean County has not had a compiler in recent years, but does now in the person of Gigi Gerben. In Lycoming, Dan Brauning, compiler since 2012, has turned the reins over to Bobby Brown. Dan continues in his role of summer season editor, which he has been doing since Volume 15, 2001. We thank Bobby and Gigi for their willingness to contribute to the production of our state journal.

In the next issue, several more new compilers will debut – for *Blair*, *Columbia*, *Montour*, *Northumberland*, and *Union*. The following counties have no compiler: *Carbon*, *Lackawanna*, *Potter*, and *Tioga*. Please contact the editor if interested.

The Return of Pennsylvania Birdlists, plus commentary on how lists are kept

As mentioned in the last issue, the recent survey of PSO membership affirmed (again) the popularity of lists and perhaps some gentle, friendly competition. There are some who disapprove of listing for various reasons, usually either philosophic or related to environmental issues (needless use of gasoline). The latter view has some merit in my humble opinion, but there are positives to listing as well; however, it is not my intention to delve into that whole topic in this space at this time. The lists are there for your enjoyment or amusement or even scorn, or you may skip those pages entirely.

I will remind readers that an important reason we are bringing the lists back into print after putting only on-line last year is that there are people who do not use computers much or at all. Perhaps the day will come when *Pennsylvania Birds* is exclusively on-line, but that day is not in the near future.

Beyond the lists themselves, we have the always interesting comments by members on their choices for the best birds of the year.

Just a bit more about listing, specifically the rules of listing. In recent years, a complication has arisen involving the still expanding popularity of eBird, which many birders use as their

primary listing tool. For birders who are concerned with the integrity and accuracy of their various county (or state or township etc.) lists, there is an important difference between how eBird assigns location of a bird from an entered checklist - relative to political (and therefore birding) boundaries - compared to the traditional rules spelled out by the American Birding Association, used by most “serious” listers. This dilemma is explained and discussed, with possible remedies, in two essays by Vern Gauthier and Holly Merker in this issue.

The 2017 annual PSO meeting will be held in September

That’s right – for only the second time ever, we will meet during the fall season instead of spring. The meeting will be in Carlisle, with field trips, speakers, and the Saturday evening banquet. The speaker for the banquet will be Pennsylvania native and editor of *Birding*, Ted Floyd, who always has something interesting to say and ways of looking at birds and birding and birders that are “outside the box”. Carlisle, of course, is near the famed Waggoner’s Gap hawk watch – and the meeting will coincide with the peak of the Broad-winged Hawk migration. For details, see the next issue of our newsletter, *The PSO Pileated*.

County compilers as of December 2016:

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), **Trudy Gerlach** (Bradford), **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), **Pamela Fisher** (Lancaster), **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), **Michael Schall** (Northampton, Pike), **Dooris McGovern** (Philadelphia), **Dave Rieger** (Schuylkill), **Jason Weller** (Snyder), **Jeff Payne** (Somerset), **Rob Megraw** (Sullivan), **Evan Mann** (Susquehanna), **Gary Edwards** and **Russ States** (Venango), **Scott Stoleson** (Warren), **Josh Jones** (Wayne), **Tom Kuehl** (Westmoreland), **Joe DeMarco** (Wyoming).

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