Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology Newsletter Vol. 4, No. 2

July, 1993

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK....

Wow! What a great PSO meeting we had at Millersville University. The University provided excellent meals and our rooms were adequate. Field trips provided life and state birds for many members. The afternoon sessions were well attended and very informative. Our first banquet speaker, Chandler Robbins, provided background information on the neotropical bird conservation situation and updated us on current research efforts. We were fortunate to have such an outstanding expert address our organization. We are considering holding the 1994 meeting in either western or northeastern Pennsylvania. Special thanks to Bob Schutsky and Ed Pederson of the Lancaster County Bird Club and to Frank and Barb Haas for their efforts to make the field trips successful, to Shonah Hunter for handling the registration, and to all the speakers for making the meeting extremely interesting.

I am pleased to announce that Frank Haas has agreed to serve as vice president this year. Due to other commitments, Doug Gross was unable to serve as president this year. This left me with another year as president. I am willing to serve for another year, but I feel strongly that we should have a regular turnover of officers in PSO. However, in order to develop new candidates for office, we must seek additional volunteers for our projects. If PSO is to be a continuing voice in PA ornithology, we must have broad based membership participation. A survey form is included in this newsletter. Please return your comments to me.

Our membership is growing! Now is the time for the organization to become more involved with issues. The Piney Tract issue is our first attempt to have an impact. The management plan for Presque Isle State Park was a lost opportunity. In order to be timely on an issue, we must be informed by someone close to the situation--probably a regular member, not an officer. Please inform me if you see a need for our input on an issue in our area.

Enjoy the summer season!

--Bob Martin, President

PSO BUSINESS MEETING

PSO held its 1993 business meeting on the evening of Friday, May 21. Bob Martin welcomed the 40 attendees, then turned the meeting over to Shonah Hunter who explained the accommodations and field trips for the meeting. Gene Zielinksi reported a balance of approximately $4200 in the treasury.

Bob Martin returned to the podium to address one of the most important topics of the meeting: the selection and election of officers for the coming year. After some discussion, the following slate of officers was elected: Bob Martin, President; Frank Haas, Vice President; Gene Zielinski, Treasurer; and Roy Ickes, Secretary. Bob also noted that two positions are open on the Board of Directors and asked for suggestions from the membership.

Doug Gross talked briefly about the Special Areas Project, and Dan

Brauning told us a little about the sales of the *PA Breeding Bird Atlas*. Frank and Barb Haas discussed the future of *PA Birds*. Although some positions have been filled, they are still looking for some volunteers to help edit the journal.

Bob Martin asked the membership to start thinking about the 1994 general membership meeting and requested suggestions for the location of this next meeting. Before the meeting's conclusion, those attending had the opportunity to ask board members questions about PSO.

1993 ANNUAL MEETING MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY

Seventy-five participants including nine new members attended the fourth annual PSO meeting, May 21-23 at Millersville University near Lancaster. The Friday evening wine and cheese social provided an opportunity to meet old and new friends and to obtain signatures of regional coordinators in our Atlases. A brief business meeting and election of officers was held also on Friday night.

Early Saturday morning we climbed into vans for the field trips. The trips to southern Lancaster County led by Bob Schutsky and Ed Pederson, Lancaster County Bird Club, and Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area led by Barb and Frank Haas were very successful. All species expected to be found were seen including a very cooperative Kentucky Warbler at Lock #10. See the list of species seen elsewhere in this newsletter.

The afternoon sessions were extremely informative and well attended. Margaret Brittingham began the sessions with an overview of *Partners in Flight*. Dan Brauning expanded on her talk and explained the Pennsylvania Working Group. Next on the agenda was Fran Williams who talked a little about Audubon's companion program, *Birds in Balance*. Laurie Goodrich told us about her research involving Ovenbirds and forest fragmentation. After Doug Gross's update on the SAP, Paul Schwalbe had us flapping our wings and singing our favorite bird songs. He then proceeded to discuss warbler voice identification. Thanks to all our speakers for these excellent presentations.

The food service staff of Millersville University served an outstanding meal for our first PSO banquet. President Bob Martin thanked three members for their special assistance throughout the past two years: Shonah Hunter for annual meeting registration, Doug Gross for the SAP, and Margaret Higbee for editing the newsletter. Dan Brauning then introduced our speaker, Chandler S. Robbins of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Chandler presented a slide program illustrating problems associated with the decline of neotropical migrants. He included as an example the loss of habitat near his home. He highlighted past, present, and planned research on both the winter and breeding ranges of these birds and discussed land use impact on the birds in South and Central America.

Annual meetings improve every year! Don't miss next year's meeting!

PINEY TRACT ISSUE

PSO has joined an effort by the Clarion County Federation of Sportsmen, Seneca Rocks Audubon Society, and several other groups to have the Pennsylvania Game Commission acquire a 2300-acre tract south of Exit 7, I-80, in Clarion County from C & K Coal Company. PSO members Fran and Jack Williams have been involved with this effort and informed PSO President Bob Martin at the 1993 annual meeting that PSO could help.

Why is PSO concerned with the acquisition of State Game Lands? Because the Piney Tract is valued both for hunting and for birdwatching. Although a large percentage of the tract is grassland habitat, fingers of aspen and evergreen cover protrude into the grassland providing excellent habitat for both game and non-game species. The greatest value for the tract is its record for observations of species of special concern.

1. The Piney Tract was the location for the first known recent nesting of Dickcissel since 1887!
2. During the Atlas Project, it was one of two atlas blocks in which nesting Short-eared Owls were found. Further, during the 1987-88 Christmas Bird Count, the Piney Tract held the national record for the most (19) Short-eared Owls tallied.
3. The Northern Harrier is declining in the Northeast and considered endangered in some states. It nests on the Piney Tract.
4. The long term U.S. trend (1966-87) for grassland breeding birds is down but for a few regional exceptions. In Pennsylvania, 12 other species may be sharing the pheasant's fate. The Piney Tract, according to Walter Fye, is inhabited by high densities of Savannah, Grasshopper, and Henslow's Sparrows. These three species are all experiencing long-term declines. For example, Breeding Bird Survey data indicates the Grasshopper Sparrow has declined an average 3.2% per year since 1965. During that time, the pheasant declined by only 0.6% per year.
5. The Piney Tract serves as valuable refugium for grassland breeders. Unlike agricultural lands where "attractive haylands" encourage birds to nest where they are foredoomed to waste a reproductive year, the Piney Tract, if managed properly, could well serve as a population source for rare grassland nesters.

In early July, a field trip will be conducted to review possible solutions for an acid water discharge on the property, which has limited interest by the PA Game Commission on this acquisition. PSO will continue to keep abreast of developments on this situation and continue to express our interest. You may be able to help in the future if we actively assist with an informational effort.

Do you have any local issue where PSO can assist? Contact Bob Martin if you think PSO can help your effort!

GULL POINT NATURAL AREA

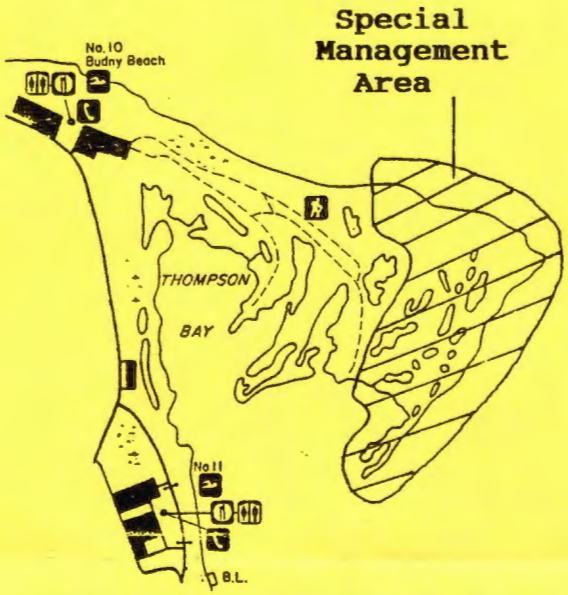
The most dynamic area on Presque Isle, Gull Point, has an extremely fragile ecology. Gull Point is part of an ever changing geological land form unique in Pennsylvania. Its value as a natural area cannot be overstated. Plant succession in a compressed setting for which Presque Isle is famous, is most visible on Gull Point, an area of approximately 319 acres.

This unique land form, with its varying topography and natural succession of aquatic areas, provides a wide variety of habitats. Approximately 75 percent of Presque Isle's plant species of special concern in Pennsylvania occur here. Rare fish species and freshwater mussel species are found just offshore. Gull Point's value for nesting and migrating shore and wading birds from April through November is known throughout the eastern United States.

A Special Management Area has been designated on the eastern tip of Gull Point, which is the most critical habitat for nesting and migrating shorebirds. This area encompasses approximately 67 acres. The western boundary follows the line of mature cottonwood trees from the lake to Thompson Bay where the interior trail ends. The northern, eastern, and southern boundaries are 100 feet offshore (See map.) This Special

Management Area is closed to all public use from April 1 through November 30. This includes all land and water access, including hiking and beaching of boats. Boats are permitted to moor beyond 100 feet from the shoreline.

GULL POINT NATURAL AREA



Due to the environmental sensitivity of all of Gull Point, please participate in only those activities which are natural area dependent. Free running of pets, swimming, open fires, kite flying, and boating on interior ponds are prohibited.

Thank you for your cooperation in protecting one of the most unique land forms in Pennsylvania. Please help others to understand the importance of Gull Point by sharing this information with them.

SPECIAL MANAGEMENT RESTRICTIONS GO INTO EFFECT APRIL 1, 1994.

PROJECT TANAGER
CORNELL LABORATORY OF ORNITHOLOGY

Ornithologists are alarmed about the status of many North American bird populations. Of particular concern is a group known as "forest interior specialists." This group includes dozens of familiar songbirds such as warblers, vireos, thrushes, and tanagers, which require large tracts of land--perhaps 1,000 hectares or more--for successful breeding.

Why the alarm? Because numerous bird surveys conducted by universities, conservation groups, and government agencies suggest that populations of forest interior birds, as well as many other migratory birds, are declining.

Evidence for population declines comes primarily from the Breeding Bird Survey (BBS), a volunteer bird-counting effort conducted each June by about 2,500 birders in the U.S. and Canada. In eastern North America, where the most information is available, the BBS suggests that populations of 75 percent of neotropical migratory birds declined between 1978 and 1987. Many of these are forest interior specialists, and for some species, declines have been precipitous. Both the Wood Thrush and the Rose-breasted Grosbeak, for example, decreased 4 percent per year. In the West, numbers of Rufous Hummingbirds and Wilson's Warblers have also decreased.

Several factors could be responsible for the declines, including loss of habitat on tropical wintering grounds or along migratory corridors, particularly coastlines. But considering that many of the declining species are forest interior specialists, attention has also become focused on a growing problem on the North American breeding grounds: forest fragmentation. This is the process by which large, continuous forests are divided into smaller blocks, by roads, logging practices, urbanization, or other human development.

Ornithologists suspect that fragmentation of forests harms woodland birds by increasing their susceptibility to predation and nest

parasitism. Predators such as raccoons, skunks, crows, and jays, as well as parasitic cowbirds, are usually found in disturbed, open habitats. If a forest is dissected by roads or power-line cuts, predators and cowbirds can penetrate the woodland with ease.

During the past 15 years, the importance of large tracts of continuous forest for maintaining forest interior specialists has been demonstrated in the eastern U.S. The work of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist Chandler S. Robbins in particular has documented the habitat area requirements of forest birds breeding in the Middle Atlantic States. In a paper published in 1989, Robbins and his colleagues, Deanna K. Dawson and Barbara A. Dowell, concluded that an observer had the best chance of finding most forest-nesting neotropical migrants in very large forests, those of several hundred hectares or more (Robbins, C.S., D.K. Dawson, and B.A. Dowell, 1989. Habitat area requirements of breeding forest birds of the Middle Atlantic States. *Wildlife Monographs* 103:-34.) One hectare is approximately 2.5 acres.

Nevertheless, the ecological value of continuous forest is not completely proven. One reason is that few studies of the area required by forest birds have been conducted outside the East. In addition, some ornithologists remain unconvinced that forest fragmentation is a problem for woodland birds anywhere. The reason for declining species, they believe, is simply natural changes in vegetation or food supply. Research is therefore needed to confirm the importance of continuous forests in the eastern U.S. and to determine if large forests are equally important elsewhere in the country.

That is why Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology has started Project Tanager. With funding from the National Science Foundation and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the primary goal is to involve large numbers of birders in a study that will determine the size of forest required for successful breeding by each of the four species of North American tanagers--the Scarlet Tanager in the Northeast, the Summer Tanager in the South, the Western Tanager in the West, and the Hepatic Tanager in the Southwest. We also want to define the habitat requirements of tanagers. And, we hope that birders and land managers will use our study design and census points to identify other species that might require large areas of continuous forest for survival or reproduction.

For this National Science Experiment, we have selected the following hypothesis: All four species of North American tanagers will be more likely to occur and to breed successfully in larger tracts of forest than in smaller ones.

Why study tanagers? First, all four species are neotropical migrants that could be sensitive to forest fragmentation. Robbins' data suggest that both the Scarlet and the Summer Tanagers are most ikely to be encountered in forests of 3,000 hectares or larger. Second, most areas within the 48 contiguous states are inside the breeding range of at least one of these four species. Finally, for a study involving large numbers of participants, tanagers are a good subject because they are relatively conspicuous and fairly easy to identify both by sight and sound.

What's involved? As a Project Tanager participant, you will select census points in forests of different sizes, then visit each point twice during the breeding season to search for tanagers and to look for evidence of successful nesting.

If you have a limited amount of time, you can conduct a partial experiment by visiting at least five census points in small and/or medium forests and at least five points in a large or continuous forest. You should be able to accomplish this in

just a few days. If you have more time or more observers, you can conduct a complete experiment of 24 or more points: a minimum of six in each of four forest sizes--small, medium, large, and continuous.

After your census points are selected, you will visit each one twice, with about one month between visits. On the first visit you will look and listen for tanagers until you see or hear one or until 14 minutes have elapsed. On the second visit, you'll follow any tanagers you find to look for evidence of breeding.

Each round of 24 or more "point counts" could take three or four days. Therefore, if you're working alone, your total involvement during one breeding season for a complete experiment would be from six to eight full days.

Once you collect your data, you will record them on data forms and send them to Cornell. Lab biologists will then analyze your results, report the findings to you and other participants, and distribute the results to cooperating organizations and the media. We will also publish the results of the project in scientific journals. Finally, we'll provide suggestions for studies that you can carry out, analyze, and publish on your own if you would like.

Here are some suggestions for making Project Tanager as simple as possible.

First, we encourage bird clubs and Audubon chapters to tackle Project Tanager in teams, multiplying brain power and shortening the time commitment. Four teams, for example, should be able to cover 24 points in one day. So if Project Tanager sounds like fun, why not suggest it to the conservation or field trip chairperson of your local birding group? Also, Lab of Ornithology researchers are working with land managers, such as biologists with the U.S. Forest Service and various state agencies, to identify study sites around the country. In many areas we should be able to link participants with biologists who can identify appropriate census points, so that birder involvement will be simply observing and counting birds. Therefore, before starting, you should contact:

Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology
159 Sapsucker Woods Road
Ithaca, NY 14850

or call Pixie Senesac (607) 254-2416
or Jim Lowe (607) 254-2413

Whatever the results of Project Tanager may be--whether our hypothesis is confirmed or rejected--the information we collect will certainly help land managers throughout the country to develop plans that address the habitat needs of migratory songbirds.

FOUR-CITY PEREGRINE FALCON REINTRODUCTION PROJECT LAUNCHED

A Peregrine Falcon reintroduction project involving wildlife agencies and organizations in Pennsylvania and New Jersey is one step closer to releasing 10 young falcons in four cities.

Over the past two weeks, falcons were placed in enclosures called "hack boxes" atop buildings in Harrisburg, Trenton, Reading, and Williamsport. The birds are from eggs primarily taken from three bridges spanning rivers in Philadelphia. The birds were incubated, hatched, and reared by licensed raptor propagators Alan and Connie Pollard of Dillsburg.

The effort to return falcons to these cities is being spearheaded by the PA Game Commission and NJ Department of Environmental Protection and Energy's Division of Fish, Game, and Wildlife. Assisting in the "Penn-Jersey Peregrine Falcon Recovery Project" are PA's Wild Resource Conservation Fund and New Jersey's Friends of Endangered and Nongame

Wildlife.

Funding for the Harrisburg, Reading, and Trenton projects is being provided by a $50,000 grant from the William Penn Foundation. The Williamsport project is being financed by local banks, organizations, and individuals.

"The project is an attempt to reestablish a self-sustaining nesting population of falcons at historic nesting locations in both states," PGC biologist Dan Brauning said. "The project will also serve as a vehicle to provide information about endangered species issues and wildlife conservation.

On June 7, two birds were placed in a hack box atop the Commonwealth Bank in downtown Williamsport. Three days later, three falcons were put into a hack box on the Fulton Bank Building near the Capitol complex in Harrisburg. On June 15, three birds were placed in a box on the Roebling Building in downtown Trenton. One day later, two birds were placed into an enclosure on the roof of the Berks County Services Center in Reading.

"In five to ten days, depending on the age and sex of the birds when we put them in the boxes, they'll be freed from the hack boxes and allowed to roam the roof," Brauning said. "Shortly thereafter, they'll fledge."

The egg-lifting procedure used by New Jersey and PA biologists on Philadelphia's Girard Point, Walt Whitman, and PA Turnpike bridges is intended to improve the falcons' reproductive success and, ultimately, expand and enlarge the state's falcon population.

Biologists are hoping the falcons that laid the eggs taken for this reintroduction project will "double-clutch," or lay a second set of eggs. Even if they don't, though, falcons win in the long run.

"We have better hatching success than the birds could possibly pull off," Brauning noted. "The Pollards hatched every fertile egg we provided. On bridges, about 50 percent of the eggs in a nest typically hatch."

Peregrine nesting has been documented in only the Philadelphia area and in downtown Pittsburgh over the past ten years. Falcons nesting in the state do not appear to be attracted to the 36 historic eyries or nesting sites that have been identified by ornithologists. In addition to the birds nesting on Philadelphia's bridges, falcons nested on Pittsburgh's Gulf Tower for the third year in a row and hatched two young. Another pair in downtown Philadelphia appears to have nested in the Meridian Tower.

"There's a strong indication the birds are nesting in the Meridian Tower; they've been carrying food into the building," Brauning said.

In 1992, the PGC hacked three falcons--one male, two females--on Harrisburg's Fulton Bank. One of the females sustained an injury. The other two fledged and left late last summer. These birds were from eggs taken by biologists from the Girard Point Bridge.

The two falcons did not return to the Fulton Bank this spring. "But there have been peregrine sightings in the Harrisburg area over the winter and into spring," Brauning said.

Television monitors, hooked up to video cameras stationed in the boxes and later outside of them, are set up in each of the four buildings where the falcons are being hacked to provide the public a way to view activities on the roof.

"The cameras will provide people a unique opportunity to watch the unfolding drama on the roof," PGC Executive Director Peter S. Duncan said. "It's a fantastic way to introduce people to Peregrine Falcons and show them the steps being taken by wildlife managers to help this endangered species."

Brauning believes the peregrines will give city residents a first-hand look at one of nature's finest

hunters. "People will get a chance to see the life-death struggle of nature in an environment where it is seldom seen," Brauning explained. "The events that will be played out over their heads will undoubtedly enhance their understanding of natural processes."

Peregrine Falcons, the world's fastest flying bird, disappeared in states east of the Mississippi River by the early 1960's, due to the harmful effects of pesticides such as DDT. It became a federally endangered species in 1969 and has remained one ever since. From 1976 to 1978, there were three unsuccessful attempts to reintroduce falcons along the Susquehanna River. Great Horned Owls maimed or killed the birds being hacked.

Pennsylvania's first successful peregrine reintroduction occurred in 1981 when four birds were hacked from a ledge of the Philadelphia National Bank. The second and only other successful hacking occurred at Harrisburg's Fulton Bank in 1992.

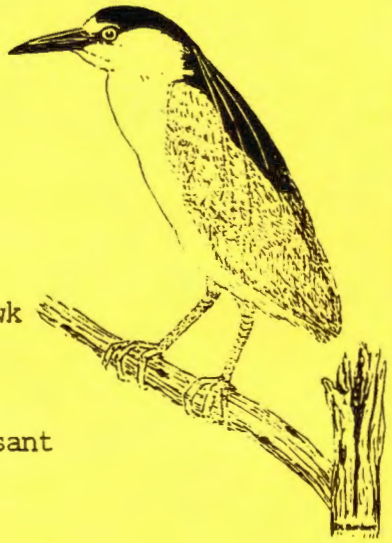
INFORMATION SOUGHT ON NESTING GOSHAWKS

Timothy Kimmel, a doctoral candidate at Penn State, is requesting information concerning the location of any known Northern Goshawk nests in the state. Goshawks are extremely sensitive to human disturbance and need protection during the breeding season to ensure reproductive success. If you know of any Goshawk nest sites, please contact Tim Kimmel

205 Forest Resources Lab
Penn State University
University Park, PA 16802

Bird List--PSO Meeting, May 21-23

Common Loon
Double-crested Cormorant
Great Blue Heron
Great Egret
Green-backed Heron
Black-crowned Night-Heron
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron
Tundra Swan
Canada Goose
Wood Duck
Mallard
N. Shoveler
Ring-necked Duck
Black Vulture
Turkey Vulture
Osprey
Bald Eagle
Sharp-shinned Hawk
Cooper's Hawk
Red-tailed Hawk
American Kestrel
Ring-necked Pheasant
N. Bobwhite



Semipalmated Plover
Killdeer
Greater Yellowlegs
Lesser Yellowlegs
Solitary Sandpiper
Spotted Sandpiper
Ruddy Turnstone
Semipalmated Sandpiper
Least Sandpiper
Pectoral Sandpiper
Common Snipe
Ring-billed Gull
Rock Dove
Mourning Dove
Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Chimney Swift
Ruby-throated Hummingbird
Belted Kingfisher
Red-headed Woodpecker
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Downy Woodpecker
Hairy Woodpecker
Northern Flicker
E. Wood-Pewee
Acadian Flycatcher

Willow Flycatcher
E. Phoebe
Great Crested Flycatcher
E. Kingbird
Horned Lark
Purple Martin
Tree Swallow
N. Rough-winged Swallow
Bank Swallow
Cliff Swallow
Barn Swallow
Blue Jay
Am. Crow
Fish Crow
Carolina Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
White-breasted Nuthatch
Carolina Wren
House Wren
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
E. Bluebird
Veery
Wood Thrush
Am. Robin
Gray Catbird
N. Mockingbird
Brown Thrasher
Cedar Waxwing
European Starling
White-eyed Vireo
Yellow-throated Vireo
Warbling Vireo
Red-eyed Vireo
Blue-winged Warbler
Tennessee Warbler
N. Parula
Yellow Warbler

Magnolia Warbler
Black-throated Green Warbler
Yellow-throated Warbler
Prairie Warbler
Bay-breasted Warbler
Blackpoll Warbler
Cerulean Warbler
Black-and-white Warbler
Am. Redstart
Ovenbird
La. Waterthrush
Kentucky Warbler
Common Yellowthroat
Hooded Warbler
Yellow-breasted Chat
Scarlet Tanager
N. Cardinal
Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Blue Grosbeak
Indigo Bunting
Rufous-sided Towhee
Chipping Sparrow
Field Sparrow
Savannah Sparrow
Grasshopper Sparrow
Song Sparrow
Swamp Sparrow
Bobolink
Red-winged Blackbird
E. Meadowlark
Common Grackle
Brown-headed Cowbird
Orchard Oriole
N. Oriole
House Finch
Am. Goldfinch
House Sparrow

The Raven Reporter

<u>A Tip of the Field Cap to Our Coordinators</u>

I would like to publicly thank all the local coordinators of the Special Areas Projects. They have done a wonderful job. The Special Areas Project has been successful

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because of the dedication and enthusiasm of the local coordinators. They rally the troops, run the field trips, gather the notes, and organize the data. This project would not be possible without them. Here are just a few names to associate with the SAP reports I have received recently.

Wes Egli	Susquehanna S.P.
Tony Fernandes	Evansburg S.P.
Alan Gregory	Nescopeck S.P.
Doug Gross	World's End S.P.
	Wyoming S.F.
Greg Grove	Alan Seeger Natural Area

Greg Grove	Detweiler's Run Natural Area
Margaret & Roger Higbee	Yellow Creek S.P.
Karen Hiller	Briar Creek Lake
Don & Robyn Henise (through Jane Earle)	Hemlocks Natural Area Huntsdale Fish Hatchery S.G.L. 169
Bill King	Canoe Creek S.P.
Stan Kotala	Fort Roberdeau S.P.
Karen Lippy	Codorus S.P.
Bernie Morris	Hickory Run S.P.
Grace Randolph	Pinchot S.P. Swatara S.P.
Brenda Root	Pine Creek Gorge
Joan & Harold Silagy	Blue Marsh Lake S.G.L. 80
Gloria Lamer & Georgette Syster	Prince Gallitzin S.P.

and Jane Earle who was the coordinator of SAPs now coordinated by Grace Randolph and the Henises.

Plus several other birders have joined the ranks of SAP coordinators. I will mention them in future Raven Reporters. Thanks to all SAP participants, coordinators, and field workers, alike!

Please mail seasonal reports to Doug Gross, R.R. 1, Box 147, Orangeville, PA 17859.

It's Breeding Confirmation Time

All of us Atlas volunteers know that July is a great time to confirm breeding birds. Young fledges often noisily beg for food, making themselves obvious to both their parents and nosy birders. It is relatively easy to find adult birds carrying food to the young, either in the nest or "just out of the nest." Many species will nest twice, so they start singing in earnest again after a late June or early July lull. I have already found many families of birds, even those fairly late-nesting neotropical migrants.

Many Atlas volunteers have mentioned that finding young fledges was one of the most rewarding and interesting aspects of the Atlas Project. Those young fledges have a charm of their own. It can be all the more fun to associate these young birds with our favorite birding spots.

One sharp-minded PSO member, Dorothy Bordner, pointed out that the SAP gives us a great opportunity to document what species are parasitized by Brown-headed Cowbirds. This is the best time of year to confirm cowbird parasitism since the young cowbird fledges are fairly conspicuous (fat and noisy!). So, it's easy to document what poor birds got stuck raising them. Please note this information in the special notes section of the Seasonal Report, or add a page of notes as you find convenient. We can gladly share this information with any ornithological researchers who would like additional documentation of cowbird parasitism.

Reporting Our Records to *Pennsylvania Birds*

My greatest frustration as a *PA Birds* County Compiler has been the lack of written reports from the county's birdwatchers. It is much easier to write up a seasonal report with data in hand. How can we help? Submit SAP data to your *PA Birds* County Compiler in a timely fashion. The SAP Daily Report Form and Seasonal Report Forms are very handy for organizing the data into chronological order. High numbers and unusual sightings are easy to pick out when the summaries are kept up to date. The Daily Report Forms are also very handy for organizing notes which can be submitted to your *PA Birds* County Compiler. Believe me, these forms are much better than late-night phone calls and scribbled notes on scraps of envelopes or other pieces of paper.

(continued on page 12)

PENNSYLVANIA SOCIETY FOR ORNITHOLOGY

SUGGESTION AND PARTICIPATION QUESTIONNAIRE

Yes, I would like to participate in PSO activities. I have checked the activities below which I would like to assist.

ACTIVITY	LEAD ACTIVITY	WORK ON ACTIVITY
FIELD TRIPS	_____	_____
PUBLICITY	_____	_____
ANNUAL MEETING	_____	_____
MEMBERSHIP	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

HAVE YOU ATTENDED AN ANNUAL MEETING? YES ___ NO ___ IF YOU HAVE ATTENDED, HOW COULD WE IMPROVE THE MEETINGS?

_____

IF NOT, WHAT CAN WE DO TO INTEREST YOU IN THE MEETING?

_____

DO YOU WANT PSO TO SPONSOR FIELD TRIPS, LECTURES, ETC.? IF SO PLEASE STATE YOUR INTEREST.

_____

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: _____

_____

_____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

_____

PHONE: HOME _____ OFFICE _____

RETURN TO: BOB MARTIN, 125 ELMWOOD CT., EMPORIUM, PA 15834

Our SAP data are extremely valuable and useful. Other birders can enjoy our sightings if we submit our bird sightings to *PA Birds*. We are extremely fortunate to have this terrific publication. Let's keep it full of good information by submitting our hard-earned data.

SAP coordinators are also very welcomed to submit their SAP area to *PA Birds* as a Site Guide. Alan Gregory and Greg Grove both did this for a recent issue. After a couple of years of data gathering, SAP coordinators could even write up an annotated checklist for publication. Of course, *PA Birds* is always looking for good Rare Bird Reports. Please take the time to write up your notes and send them in. Everyone loves to learn the details of great bird finds. Make your SAP area famous among state birders.

--Doug Gross

Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology
c/o Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association
R.R. 2, Box 191
Kempton, PA 19529