

The

PSO Pileated



The Biweekly Newsletter for the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology

Thursday, November 20th, 2025

Welcome to the very first email edition of our newsletter, the PSO Pileated. Instead of bringing you updated PSO news quarterly, we will now be compiling all important info biweekly, bringing news to our members faster than ever before.

If you have any questions or comments about our new newsletter format, feel free to email me, the PSO Pileated Editor, at: kaitlynstouch@gmail.com. Happy birding!

-Kaitlyn Stouch

P.S: We want pileated woodpecker photos for our above banner! I will be featuring a different photo every email, so feel free to submit them to my email address at anytime. Thank you to all who have submitted already!

Banner photo courtesy of Todd A. Watkins.

Upcoming Webinars

We have organized a variety of webinars between now and April. Make sure you mark your calendars and sign up. More information on each Webinar will be released as the dates approach.

Erie Bird Observatory: keeping tabs on birds in northwestern Pennsylvania

Date/Time: Thurs Dec 11, 7 pm zoom

Speaker: Sarah Sargent

https://psu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_F0rm-SggRL6kQvVcziyhiQ

Birds and People: Pigment Parallels and Perpendiculars

Date/Time: Thurs Jan 22, 7 pm zoom

Speakers: Nina Jablonski and Bryce Robinson

https://psu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_kOY34cHSR0-X4nYPCZZjtw

Problem-solving in a Changing World: How do Eastern Bluebirds respond to Noise Disturbance?

Date/Time: Thurs Feb 12, 7 pm zoom

Speaker: Sara Isgate

https://psu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_mNMiUCgYSaSlmApdTwK6w

Why habitat/land cover diversity is critical for birds... how Wildlands Conservancy builds avian habitat into the Stewardship of its Preserves.

Date/Time: Thurs Mar 12, 7 pm zoom

Speakers: Carl Martin

https://psu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_46hCTLajSw-ufa0FhaIY5A

Effect of temperature extremes on blood glucose levels in Eastern Bluebirds

Date/Time: Mon April 6, 7 pm zoom

Speaker: Sunny Stout

https://psu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_YP2BDntZT7y9YvuPC_oXag

2025 PSO Festival & Photo Highlights

We held our annual meeting and birding festival September 26th-28th at the Delta Marriot in Allentown, Pennsylvania. Many PSO members attended and enjoyed the many birding field trips hosted by other members. In addition, we announced some of our award recipients.

Awards



Wildlands Conservancy 2025 Conservation Award Presentation. Photo by Wildlands Conservancy.



Brian Byrnes, PSO president (left) with Lisa Kiziuk, 2025 Poole Award winner (right). Photo by Barry Blust



Daniel Brauning (left) Jim Dunn and Brian Auman (right), 2025 Conservation Award winners. Photo by Barry Blust



Chad Kauffman recipient of the PSO 2025 Service award (left) with board member Jeff Kenney (right). Photo by Barry Blust



Lisa Kiziuk- 2025 Poole Award Winner. Photo by Barry Blust

Field Trips



Cherry Valley Field trip. Photo by Jeff Kenney



Jacobsburg Field Trip with Terry Master. Photo by Charlie White



Field trip to Trexler Nature Preserve- Covered Bridge Trail. Photo by Dan Mendenhall



Field trip. Photo by Chad Kauffman

Presentations & Other Misc



Ornithotherapy: The Power of Birdwatching presentation by Holly Merker. Photo by Barry Blust



Bird-Window Collisions: An Updated Review by Daniel Klem Jr. Photo by Barry Blust



2025 Banquet Photo by Barry Blust



Susquehanna County Birding Spotlight 2025

For our third and final County Spotlight in 2025, we made our first trip to northeast PA and visited the county whose name honors the mighty Susquehanna River.

-Chad Kauffman

Graphic by Jeff Kenney

[Read more](#)

Summary of PSO Board of Directors Meeting in August

The PSO Board of Directors met via Zoom on August 7, 2025, with President Brian Byrnes calling the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. A quorum was present, and the June 3, 2025 meeting minutes were approved unanimously. Director nominations were confirmed, with David Barber, Carolyn Hendricks, and Doug Wentzel renewing their terms and Brian Shema joining as a new nominee. These appointments will be finalized at the upcoming Annual Members' Meeting. The Board approved transitioning the Pileated newsletter to a digital format using Mail Poet, which will enable biweekly updates to members. This change is expected to be more cost-effective (\$240/year vs. \$1,000/year) and timely. An ad hoc committee has discussed the transition, and volunteers will be recruited to support the effort. Festival updates included a call for volunteers to assist with registration and sales.

Members are encouraged to promote the event. Locations for the 2026 festival are being explored. Committee reports were submitted in advance and required no action. Highlights include scheduled webinars for the Education Committee, ongoing record reviews by PORC, conservation updates including a September project at Black River Preserve, and upcoming events in Susquehanna County and Hawk Mountain. Award recipients will be announced at the festival, and final festival logistics are being completed. The next board meeting is scheduled for late October. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

-Sheree Daugherty

Summary of PSO Board of Directors Meeting in October

The PSO Board met via Zoom, led by President Brian Byrnes, and approved the August 2025 minutes. The 2026 PSO Festival will be held June 19–21 at the Blair County Convention Center, with planning already underway. New Director Brian Shema (Allegheny County) was welcomed to the board. The Pileated newsletter will transition to a digital format, published biweekly, with a call for an assistant editor. Following a review of the 2025 Festival, the board discussed improving communication for outings, promoting carpooling, and expanding activities such as slow birding, photography, and sketching. The board approved annual \$100 donations to both the American Bird Conservancy Alliance and the Endangered Species Coalition. Frank Haas will edit a proposed 3rd edition of the Annotated List Booklet pending member interest. Committee reports noted the 2025 Blitz met its \$25,000 goal, 2026 applications are in progress, and a Hawk Mountain outing is planned for November. The next meeting is scheduled for December 8, 2025, at 7:00 PM.

-Sheree Daugherty



Did you Know...

We are on social media! We have a Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and even a Discord server for our members and friends. Make sure you join us on whatever your preferred platform is to get daily updates and chat with other birders around the state.





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