

The

PSO Pileated



The Biweekly Newsletter for the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology

Thursday, January 8th, 2026

Happy New Year! We hope you all had a wonderful holiday season and Christmas Bird Count.

If you have photos to share or any questions or comments about the newsletter, email me at: kaitlynstouch@gmail.com.

Happy birding!

-Kaitlyn Stouch

The PSO Pileated Editor

This edition's banner photo is courtesy of Brian Quindlen.

PSO January Webinar



Birds and People: Pigment Parallels and Perpendiculars

7 PM January 22nd, 2026 via Zoom

Hosted by: Nina Jablonski and Bryce Robinson.

Register here:

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

To view a full list of all our upcoming Webinars, visit [our events page on our website](#).

Festival Sponsorship Opportunity

The 2026 PSO Birding Festival will take place June 19-21, 2026 at the Blair County Conventions Center. This year marks the 35th PSO Festival and its first visit to Blair County, an area rich in summer birding opportunities and ornithological history. The event will feature field trips led by local experts, speakers, and vendors with everything a birder needs: optics, books, art, and more.

Sponsorship opportunities are available as detailed [on our website](#). Sponsorships may be paid through the PSO website at <https://pabirds.org/festival-sponsors/>. Or send a check to PSO, 2469 Hammertown Rd, Narvon, PA 17555-9730

Sponsorship payments must be received by March 31, 2026 to ensure inclusion on Festival materials.

For more details about sponsorship levels and more, [click here](#) or contact PSO President Brian Byrnes at brianjbyrnes79@gmail.com.

Avian Action Alerts



1. CONTACT THE PGC IF YOU FIND A SICK OR DEAD WILD BIRD

Over 900 Snow Geese have died from the highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in the vicinity of a Northampton County quarry in recent weeks. Also called avian flu, HPAI mainly affects waterfowl, but Travis Lau, a Game Commission spokesman, said that raptors and vultures were also impacted last year.

Anyone encountering sick or dead wild birds anywhere in Pennsylvania can report them to the Game Commission by calling 1-833-PGC-WILD (1-833-742-9453). Any sick or dead domestic birds should be reported to Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture at 717-772-2852. More details are available [here](#).

2. WORLD MIGRATORY BIRD DAY 2026 EDUCATOR TRAINING WEBINAR

Join Environment for the Americas for a free webinar series starting on Thursday, Jan. 22, from 2 – 3 pm ET. The first topic is all about the 2026 World Migratory Bird Day. Learn planning tips, marketing strategies, and how to register your event.

[REGISTER](#)

3. SAVE IRREPLACEABLE BIRD SCIENCE PROGRAMS

The Bird Banding Lab and Breeding Bird Survey are two essential science programs run by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) that help us understand birds. Urge Congress to keep these programs fully funded and invest in the science that protects birds and people.

[TAKE ACTION](#)

4. BIRD HABITAT RECOGNITION PROGRAM

Help birds. Inspire neighbors. Get recognized. The Pennsylvania Audubon Council, partnering with Audubon chapters and Bird Town PA, invites you to join the Bird-Friendly Habitat Program designed to engage, educate, and empower people to help birds in yards, balconies, and community green spaces. The program includes a beautiful sign (\$30) and an opportunity to connect with Audubon chapters and Bird Towns in Pennsylvania. The online application is easy, but the rewards are many.

2026 PSO Breeding Bird Blitz for Conservation: Applications Now Open for Conservation Partners



Osprey Butler Co Moraine by Jeanette Green

The Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology (PSO) is excited to announce that applications are now open for organizations interested in becoming 2026 Conservation Partners through this year's Breeding Bird Blitz for Conservation. We are thrilled to continue this annual tradition of raising funds for bird conservation and are eager to collaborate with nonprofit organizations dedicated to conserving Pennsylvania's Bird Species of Greatest Conservation Need.

Since 2021, the PSO Breeding Bird Blitz, together with our conservation partners, has raised \$92,318 to help fund 15 conservation initiatives across the Commonwealth. In 2025 alone, we awarded a total of \$25,000 to our three Conservation Partners. For 2026, we will consider applications for projects requesting up to \$10,000 in funding. We are excited to offer this much support to impactful, on-the-ground conservation projects for Pennsylvania's birds through the Breeding Bird Blitz.

To learn more about the Breeding Bird Blitz for Conservation, visit our website at <https://www.breedingbirdblitz.org>. If your organization is interested in applying to become a Conservation Partner, please complete the application available at <https://www.breedingbirdblitz.org/b4c-application>.

Even if you personally do not plan to apply, you may know an organization that would be a perfect fit. We encourage you to share this opportunity with local bird clubs, conservation groups, and nonprofit partners in your local community. Your help ensures this funding reaches projects that will make a real difference for bird species in need.

And don't forget—team registration for the Breeding Bird Blitz opens in April! In addition to our Conservation Partners, we rely on volunteer teams to participate, raise funds, and enjoy a great week of birding. If you are not a part of a project to apply to be a partner, you can always support bird conservation by forming a team! More information about the Blitz and the team competitions can be found on our website.

-Karter Witmer

Ornithology Camp for Teens

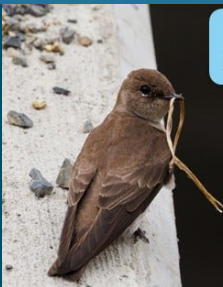
The third annual Ornithology Camp at Saint Vincent College will be held June 14-17, 2026. The camp is restricted to students aged 13-18. The camp features four days of hands-on activities that teach students how ornithological research is conducted. They will participate in bird banding, nest monitoring, surveying, radio-tracking, and song identification. There are classroom lessons on nesting behavior, migration, raptor identification, and bird anatomy. The camp director is Dr. Jim Kellam, Professor of Biological Sciences and published expert on woodpeckers, Tree Swallows, and Tufted Titmice. Enrollment is capped at 12 students to ensure close learning experiences. Tuition is \$200, which helps cover the cost of lodging in single-occupancy air-conditioned rooms, food, and supplies. We are thankful that the remaining camp costs are underwritten by a private donor. Financial aid is available for those with need. More information is available at www.svcornithology.wordpress.com, or email james.kellam@stvincent.edu. This is one of only a few ornithology camps in the country that is designed for a teenaged audience. We want these young people to develop a deep love of birds, which will provide them with social, physical, and mental health benefits throughout their lives.

-Dr. Jim Kellam



Bald Eagle in Mercer County by Jeanette Green.

2026 County Spotlights-Save the Date

 Huntingdon County Birding Spotlight  March 13-16, 2026 	 Fayette County Birding Spotlight  April 24-27, 2026 	 Potter County Birding Spotlight  October 16-19, 2026 
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Our County Spotlights are PSO-organized weekend field trips to lesser-birded counties in Pennsylvania. Be sure to save the dates for our 2026 County Spotlights! Graphics by Tony Desantis.



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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