

The

PSO Pileated



The Biweekly Newsletter for the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology

Thursday, March 5th, 2026

Spring is almost here, and we can hear it in the trees, feel it in the weather, and see it with the sun... and unfortunately, also, the rain. Stay dry while you're out on your birding adventures!

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 Liz Brensinger.

March Webinar

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

March 12, 2026
7 PM with Carl Martin

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



Huntingdon County Spotlight NEXT WEEKEND!

On March 13th, join us as we lead a 4-day concentrated effort to bird Huntingdon County! This is a center of the state county that we are planning on hitting during the early spring migration season in the hopes to get some waterfowl as well. We have bird outings lined up for several days. Huntingdon currently sits 20th all-time for species out of 67 and 18th all-time for total checklists. Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania, covers a total area of approximately 889 square miles. Of this total area, about 875 square miles is land, while around 15 square miles (roughly 1.6%) consists of water.

[Click here for more information](#)



This Week's Avian Action Alerts



1. PROTECT THE COASTAL PLAIN OF THE ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

The Arctic faces unprecedented threats from aggressive oil and gas drilling proposals that endanger fragile ecosystems, indigenous communities, and the many millions of shorebirds that nest there. Among them are Black-bellied Plover, American Golden-Plover, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Dunlin, Long-billed Dowitcher, Red-necked Phalarope, and Red Phalarope. Please tell the administration that the Arctic should be protected – not drilled for oil and gas. This is the same request as in the last newsletter so if you didn't act then, please act now!

[TAKE ACTION](#)

2. CONGRESS RECENTLY PASSED LEGISLATION TO HELP BIRDS

Please send a thank you to your members of Congress for safeguarding birds, people, and the places they depend on. The new legislation protects core bird science programs, including the Bird Banding Lab and the Breeding Bird Survey. Our phone calls and emails did make a difference!

[TAKE ACTION](#)

3. THE FIGHT TO SAVE CLIMATE AND HEALTH PROTECTIONS

The endangerment finding has served as the foundation for the federal government to protect our public health and air from carbon pollution for the past 16 years. Earlier this month, Trump announced that the Environmental Protection Agency had finalized its repeal of the rule. TELL CONGRESS: Make the EPA do its job to protect our environment!

[TAKE ACTION](#)

4. SPRING MIGRATION WILL SOON BE IN FULL FLIGHT

Have you treated your windows, so birds won't fly into them? Window collisions are one of the leading direct human causes of bird mortality. A 2014 by the USFWS and the Smithsonian Institution estimated that between 365 million to one billion birds are killed each year by building collisions in the U.S. YOU can reduce bird mortality at your house following some simple steps.

[LEARN MORE AND TAKE ACTION](#)

Call for Applications- Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology Student Research Grant

Deadline: March 10

Awardees will be notified by March 31

The Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology (PSO) is sponsoring up to two \$500 student research grants in support of research on Pennsylvania's avifauna. We invite anyone to pass this news along to any students involved in research, as well as any professors who could share this announcement with their students.

If selected, the student will travel to the PSO Annual Meeting to give a talk (~30 minutes) about their work, AND/OR the student will submit an article to the Pennsylvania Birds journal, not more than two years after the award of the grant, describing their study and findings to the PSO membership. The recipient will also be awarded a one-year membership in the PSO.

Eligibility:

The award is designed to provide support to either graduate or undergraduate students in pursuit of a bachelor's degree, master's degree, or doctorate. The research should be conducted in support of a thesis or dissertation and eventually published. The student's academic institution does not need to be in Pennsylvania. The field work does not need to occur in the Commonwealth, however, there is a preference for projects with a Pennsylvania field work component.

Criteria:

Proposals will be judged for their scientific merit and the likelihood that the work will make a meaningful contribution to our understanding of Pennsylvania avifauna. Submissions must include the name of the student's academic institution, the corresponding department at the institution, the degree the student is pursuing, and the name of their academic or research advisor.

Research Proposal Document:

The body of the proposal should be a condensed version of the student's thesis/dissertation proposal, not to exceed 5 pages in length (not including any figures or tables). Please note whether Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee approval has been or will be obtained.

Each proposal should include a section on how the results of the proposed study will be helpful to future scientific understanding, conservation efforts, and/or land management implications.

Signed Letter indicating Student's Advisor's Approval:

In addition to the proposal document, each submission should include a brief, signed letter from the student's academic advisor verifying that the applicant is a student in good standing, and that they are receiving the advisor's support for the proposed project.

Submissions will be evaluated by a PSO committee. Submissions must be sent as pdf email attachments by March 10. Please send submissions or questions to Deb Grove at dsg4@psu.edu.

Scholarship Nominations Due March 15th



Photo by Doug Baird

Youth Scholarships are available to attend the 2026 PSO Festival in Blair County, June 19-21, 2026.

The scholarships cover transportation, lodging, and meals for a child and parent/guardian. Please note that a parent/guardian or an adult designated by the youth's parent guardian must attend the festival with the scholarship recipient. To nominate someone for a youth scholarship, [please visit this link](#) to fill out the brief application form.

Deadline for nominations is March 15, 2026.

[Email any questions to Joe Gyekis.](#)

Festival Sponsorship Opportunity Reminder

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.

2026 County Spotlights



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.

Organization Information

To email a PSO officer or Board Member, click on the name below.

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[Kaitlyn Stouch](#) (Centre)

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Mailing Address

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[View more info on our organization members here](#)



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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