



The Biweekly Newsletter for the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology

Thursday, March 19th, 2026

The first day of spring is tomorrow! Many birds are arriving and filling our mornings with song. Lets see what these warmer months are bringing for us.

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 Dean Newhouse.

Coming Soon - Registration for the 2026 PSO Birding Festival!

Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology

2026 Birding Festival

(and Annual Meeting)



June 19 - 21, 2026

Blair County Convention Center
Altoona, Pennsylvania

We are thrilled to be heading to Altoona from June 19-21 for the [2026 PSO Birding Festival](#). It is going to be an incredible weekend of birding, learning, and connecting. Registration will open on Friday, April 3. Stay tuned to the Festival website and the next issue of the Pileated for more details. Also, there is still time to [SPONSOR THE FESTIVAL](#). Sponsorships are being accepted through March 31.

The Blitz Blurb

The 2026 PA Breeding Bird Blitz for Conservation (B4C) is a means by which PSO raises funds to partner with Conservation Organizations big and small which are actively working one or more of the core areas supported by B4C funding:

- Bird-Safe Habitats
- Conservation Education
- Conservation Monitoring & Science
- Threat Mitigation

Organizations receiving funding must agree that the grant will support conservation work directly and not be used for administrative costs or for required habitat offsets associated with development projects. So, do the Blitz June 5-15.

Go to www.breedingbirdblitz.org for more information.

Bird the Blitz. Raise the funds. Protect the birds of PA.



B4C

This Week's Avian Action Alerts



1. TELL CONGRESS TO PASS THE PUBLIC LANDS IN PUBLIC HANDS ACT TODAY!

America's 640 million acres of public lands are a world wonder. Across the country, awe-inspiring landscapes ensure clean air and water, provide habitat for unique wildlife and vegetation, and offer endless opportunities for adventure and discovery that undergird the \$1.2 trillion outdoor recreation

economy. Most importantly, they belong to all of us. Representatives Ryan Zinke (R-MT) and Gabe Vasquez (D-NM) have reintroduced the bipartisan Public Lands in Public Hands Act (H.R. 718), which would ban the sale or transfer of our public lands and waters without congressional approval, ensuring their protection and our access to enjoy them for generations to come.

[TAKE ACTION](#)

2. REPORT ANY SICK OR DEAD BIRDS TO THE PA GAME COMMISSION

Reports can be phoned in to 1-833-PGC-WILD (1-833-742-9453). Submitting reports allows the Game Commission the opportunity to step in with wildlife-management actions including dispatching sick wild birds, recovering and removing carcasses, pursuing diagnostic testing, and conducting stakeholder outreach. The agency continues to work with the Wildlife Futures Program, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and other partners when deploying these strategies.

[READ MORE HERE](#)

3. BUILD A BIRD HABITAT WEBINAR SERIES (AUDUBON MID-ATLANTIC)

Billions of North American birds rely on stopover habitat to complete their migratory journeys each spring and fall. Your home, patio, school, or community green space can provide the resources they need to survive, while also creating a beautiful space for people to enjoy. Join experts from Audubon Mid-Atlantic and Blue Water Baltimore for a free webinar series on transforming your outdoor space into a bird-friendly habitat, just in time for the spring planting season. You can register (required) for one webinar or attend all four. Click on the links for more details about each webinar.

[REGISTER HERE](#) March 24, 7:30 – 8:30 PM EDT

[REGISTER HERE](#) March 14, 7:30 – 8:30 PM EDT

[REGISTER HERE](#) April 21, 7:30 – 8:30 PM EDT

[REGISTER HERE](#) April 28, 7:30 – 8:30 PM EDT

4. SPEAK UP FOR THE LESSER PRAIRIE-CHICKEN

The Lesser Prairie-Chicken has lost about 90 percent of its historic population and its historic habitat as grasslands have been lost and fragmented. Today, only about 28,000 of these spectacular birds remain, and their future is uncertain. In spite of this, the Lesser Prairie-Chicken has lost its Endangered Species Act protections, putting the species' recovery at risk. Resources that support win-win partnerships with ranchers and farmers to enhance habitat will become scarcer. Voluntary conservation measures alone are not enough to reverse the prairie-chicken's decline.

Submitted by Laura Jackson, Conservation Chair

Call for Board Directors



Photo by Jeanette Green

At our annual business meeting in June, PSO's members will elect new Directors to the board. We are seeking enthusiastic members to help PSO continue and grow its work to improve birding and bird conservation across the state.

Directors serve a renewable three-year term, participate in six board meetings annually and assist in the activities of one or more committees. If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about serving on the board, please contact [Carolyn Hendricks](#), PSO Vice President.

Seeking Compilers for Pennsylvania Birds

PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS, the quarterly magazine publication of the PSO, is looking for compilers in seven counties to take on the task of highlighting notable birds that have been sighted in their counties. These sightings are listed in the "Local Notes" section of the magazine.

Compilers are needed for Armstrong, Indiana, Lancaster, Lehigh, Luzerne, Schuylkill and Wyoming Counties.

Compiler instructions and deadlines are available at <https://pabirds.org/pennsylvania-birds/> (scroll down); you can contact the chief editor directly at markabonta@yahoo.com if you are interested or have more questions. Brief county reports that summarize the most notable sightings of the season are sufficient (eBird is a prime resource for this), but more detailed summaries are also very welcome! To get an idea of different types of summaries that compilers write, please have a look at back issues of Pennsylvania Birds on the website.

In addition, compilers of the Winter season (December 1 through February 28) are putting together their county narratives and submitting by March 31. Questions and interest can be sent to editor

Mark Bonta.

Thanks everyone,
Rich



Photo by Jeanette Green

Remaining 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.

Officers

- President** – [Brian Byrnes](#) (Delaware)
Vice-President – [Carolyn Hendricks](#) (Bedford)
Secretary – [Sheree Daugherty](#) (Allegheny)
Treasurer – [Franklin Haas](#) (Lancaster)

Board Members

[David Barber](#) (Schuylkill) , [Chelsea Beck](#) (Elk), [Joseph Gyekis](#) (Centre), [Laura Jackson](#) (Bedford), [Jeff Kenney](#) (Chester) [Mary Alice Koeneke](#) (Butler), [Wayne Laubscher](#) (Clinton), [Richard Rieger](#) (Schuylkill), [Brian Shema](#) (Allegheny), [Doug Wentzel](#) (Huntingdon), [Karter Witmer](#) (Tioga)

Newsletter Editor

[Kaitlyn Stouch](#) (Centre)

Pennsylvania Birds Editor

[Mark Bonta](#) (Blair)

Mailing Address

PSO
 2469 Hammertown Rd
 Narvon PA 17555-9730

[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.



[Unsubscribe](#) | [Manage your subscription](#)