



Pennsylvania All-Bird Conservation Workshop

November 17-18, 2004

**Milesburg Holiday Inn
Milesburg (Exit 168 of I-80), PA**



You are cordially invited to participate in a workshop focusing on the ecology and conservation of bird populations in Pennsylvania. We anticipate the participation of over 100 conservation professionals, land managers, scientists, and other conservation partners to review current information and contribute to the future direction of bird conservation. Pre-registration is required.

**Sponsored by the Pennsylvania Game Commission in the cooperation
with the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies**

What is this? “All-Bird” refers to all four bird elements of the North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI): Partners in Flight (land birds), Waterfowl, Waterbirds, and Shorebirds. “Workshop” indicates that this will be designed as an informative gather of conservation partners with specific outcomes in mind – a hands-on meeting.

Schedule: The workshop will begin at 10:00 AM on Wednesday, November 17th, 2004 and end at 3:00 pm on Thursday, November 18th 2004. A complimentary lunch buffet will be provided on November 17 and 18.

Workshop Goal: The primary goal of the workshop is to enhance collaboration among groups interested in bird conservation in Pennsylvania.

Objectives for the meeting include to:

- Inform conservation partners about national and regional bird conservation initiatives, for better coordination and support of identified priorities;
- Provide input into PA Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy
- Develop new partnerships that will identify and prioritize management opportunities for birds and their habitats
- Develop competitive grant applications, including to NAWCA and SWG programs
- Other outcomes to be identified

Lodging: A block of rooms has been reserved at the Milesburg Holiday Inn. Call **814-355-7521** to book a room. Mention the All-bird Conservation Workshop for a discount rate of \$50.00 per room (plus tax). Participants are responsible for their own hotel room charges.

.....
WORKSHOP PRE-REGISTRATION BY NOVEMBER 11:

Send name, agency or affiliation, and E-mail address for each participation to:

- Doug Gross dogross@state.pa.us Include “All-bird workshop” in the email subject;
- or mail a note to: PA Game Commission, 144 Winters Rd, Orangeville, PA 17859
- or call: 570-458-4109.

Registration will be restricted to the first 150 attendants
.....

Pennsylvania All-Bird Conservation Workshop

November 17 - 18

Milesburg Holiday Inn
Milesburg (Exit 168 of I-80), PA



General List of Topics (Draft Agenda)

Formal agenda to be determined at a later date

November 17 (Tentative Schedule)

10:00 AM Welcome and Introductory Remarks
Objectives of the All-Bird Workshop

The Big Picture – National and Continental Planning Efforts

North American Bird Conservation Initiative, Partners In Flight Continental and Regional Plans, US Shorebird Conservation Plan, North American Waterbird Conservation Plan, North American Waterfowl Management Plan, Atlantic Coast Joint Venture Partnership, Important Bird Areas Program

Scaling Down: Integrating National Level to State Level Objectives

Pennsylvania Bird Population Goals and Habitat Objectives
Pennsylvania Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy
TNC Ecoregional Planning
Biodiversity Plan

12:00 Lunch

1:00 Regional and State Objectives: Pennsylvania Bird Status

Bird Conservation Region Priorities: Appalachian (BCR 28), Lower Great Lakes (BCR 13), and Northern Piedmont (BCR 29)

Species Monitoring and Status Reports

Presentations to include but not limited to a discussion on research, monitoring, and management needs, conservation opportunities

FOCUS ON PA -- Prioritization of needs – Facilitated discussion

Review of Day's Activity

5:00 Conclusion of First Day of Workshop

November 18

8:00 Compilation of Results of Previous Day's Prioritization
Establishing Conservation Goals
Integration of Bird Population Objectives into Land Conservation Activities

9:00 Break-out Groups – To be determined, probably based on geography

12:00 Lunch

1:30 Wrap-up – Consensus-building, Looking Ahead

3:00 Conclusion of Workshop



Pennsylvania All-Bird Conservation Workshop

November 17 - 18

Program Agenda



November 17

9:00- AM Registration

10:00 AM Welcome and Introductory Remarks - Scott Klinger

Objectives of the All-Bird Workshop - Dan Brauning

National and Continental Planning Efforts - Andrew Milliken

North American Bird Conservation Initiative: Partners In Flight, North American Waterfowl Management Plan, N.A. Waterbird Conservation Plan, US Shorebird Conservation Plan, Atlantic Coast Joint Venture Partnership

Scaling Down: Integrating National Level to State Level Objectives

Pennsylvania Bird Population & Habitat Goals - Ken Rosenberg
PA Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy - Lisa Williams

12:00 LUNCH (provided on-site)

1:00 Integrating National Level to State Level Objectives (continued)

IBAs – Program goals and PA status - John Cecil, National Audubon
TNC - Presentation on Ecoregional planning and prioritization process
- Stephanie Orndorff and Nels Johnson

Bird Conservation Region Priorities: Appalachian (BCR 28), Lower Great
Lakes (BCR 13), and Northern Piedmont (BCR 29)
Andrew Milliken

PA Bird Population Status and Priorities Conservation challenges and opportunities

Status of PA Habitats - Laurie Goodrich
Waterfowl & Waterbird Priorities - John Dunn
Landbirds/Shorebird - Dan Brauning

Description of Break-outs – and room assignments

3:00 BREAK

3:30 Facilitated discussions – Issues and opportunities identified

Habitats break-outs
Wetlands
Forests & early succession
Grassland

5:00 Conclusion of First Day of Workshop

Dinner on your own

8:00 pm **EVENING PRESENTATION:** 2nd PA Breeding Bird Atlas: For Monitoring
Pennsylvanian Biodiversity!--and Conserving It! -- by Bob Mulvihill

November 18 – Day 2

- 8:30 am Compilation of Results of Previous Day's Prioritization
Review of Habitat issues and opportunities
- 9:00 3 Break-out Groups based on geography (BCRs)
 Piedmont (SE PA)
 Great Lakes region (Glaciated NW PA)
 Appalachian Mountains (Central mountain areas)
- Goals:
1. Identify actions to advance bird conservation
 2. Identify locations
 3. Identify conservation strategies and methods of integrating
bird population objectives into land conservation activities
- 12:00 LUNCH (provided on-site)
- 1:00 Wrap-up – Discuss where to go from here?
 Follow-through process and objectives
- 2:00 Conclusion of Workshop

Resources for All Birds Conservation in Pennsylvania

There are many fine government agencies, organizations, and other sources of information about the birds, habitats, bird conservation, and good management practices. The list of sources is almost limitless, fortunately, so any attempt to assemble them would surely be incomplete. However, it may be helpful to many attendees to have some of these sources at their disposal for reference. Here are a few for your use.

Academy of Natural Sciences (in Philadelphia) – The Academy has long served as a center for basic biological research. It has a history in ornithology, including hosting the first PA Breeding Bird Atlas. Here is Project VIREO, the most comprehensive collection of bird photographs and a huge collection of bird specimens. <http://www.acnatsci.org/>

American Birding Association (ABA) – Primarily a bird recreation organization, the ABA has conservation and education programs. <http://www.americanbirding.org/>

American Birds Conservancy (ABC) – This is a key organization dedicated to conserving wild birds and their habitats throughout the Americas. The website includes a resource directory, a boreal songbird network, the ABC Green List for North America, and information concerning wind energy issues. <http://www.abcbirds.org/>

American Ornithological Union (AOU) – The AOU is the primary professional ornithological society in the nation. It has a conservation committee that has published important documents. The AOU publishes the Official Check-list of North American Birds, the Birds of North America (the standard work on birds on our continent), and the Flock (list of ornithological professionals). <http://www.aou.org/>

Bird Studies Canada – That big country to our north has a lot of birds, many of which travel through our state. Bird Studies Canada is a leading and respected not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing the understanding, appreciation and conservation of wild birds and their habitats in Canada and elsewhere. Banding, citizen science, and boreal bird data. <http://www.bsc-eoc.org/bscmain.html/>

Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology – America's bird university coordinates many citizen science projects, including e-Bird, Project Feederwatch, thrush management, Scarlet Tanager management, and the Golden-winged Warbler and Cerulean Warbler Atlas projects. CLO has been an important contributor to PIF planning across the continent. <http://birds.cornell.edu/>

Ducks Unlimited (DU) – A leader in waterfowl and wetland conservation and management. Remember: birds are a lot like ducks! Find out more about migration flyways, duck stamps, and wetland protection action. <http://www.ducks.org/>

Hawk Mountain Sanctuary – A world leader in raptor monitoring, research, and education right in our own state. HMS also is a leader in the study of the effects of forest fragmentation on songbirds. <http://www.hawkmountain.org/>

Important Bird Area Program (IBA) – PA was the pioneer state in the Union for this land-based conservation initiative. PA Audubon is the organizing force behind the state's initiatives. It also sponsors birding workshops. <http://www.audubon.org/bird/iba/pa.html>

International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA) - The Association has been a key organization in promoting sound resource management and strengthening federal, state, and private cooperation in protecting and managing fish and wildlife and their habitats in the public interest. <http://www.iafwa.org/>

National Audubon Society (NAS) – Audubon magazine, the Watch List, *Important Bird Areas*, and all kinds of bird education and conservation materials. John James Audubon shot several of his specimens for the *Birds of America* in Pennsylvania. <http://www.audubon.org/>

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) – The mission of the Nature Conservancy is to preserve the plants, animals, and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive. One of the founders, Richard Pough, was a birder, field guide author, and champion bird conservationist of his day. Conservation initiatives include the Last Great Places (Poconos) and Wings of the Americas project. TNC is a leader in ecoregional planning. Its PA Science Office is part of the PNHP team. <http://nature.org/>

North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI) - The integrated approach to bird conservation on our continent for all birds, all regions, and all habitats. <http://www.nabci-us.org/>

North American Waterbird Conservation Plan – What are waterbirds? They include the gulls, terns, herons, egrets, marsh birds (rails, coots, moorhens), grebes, shorebirds, and waterfowl. <http://www.nacwcp.org/waterbirds/>

North American Waterfowl Conservation Plan (NAWCP) – This plan employs a landscape and biologically based approach to waterfowl conservation with strong emphasis on partnerships and habitat conservation. <http://www.nawmp.ca/>

The Atlantic Coast Joint Venture (ACJV) is a joint venture (JV) formed under the NAWCP for the U.S. Atlantic Coast region. The ACJV mission has evolved from a waterfowl focus to include the conservation of habitats for all birds. <http://acjv.org/>

Ornithological Societies of North America (OSNA) – OSNA includes several bird science organizations such as AOU, Association of Field Ornithologists, Waterbird Society, Wilson Ornithological Society, and Raptor Research.Foundation. It provides the OSNA Newsletter and BIRDNET. <http://www.nmnh.si.edu/BIRDNET/OSNA/>

Partners In Flight (PIF) – Landbird conservation networking across the continent. PIF has published plans for conserving birds across North American and more regionally in physiographic areas. Its website is an important source of information. You can access data on the species assessments and International Migratory Bird Day as well as its newsletters and information about regional working groups. <http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/pif/>

Pennsylvania Biodiversity Partnership (BPB) – BPB is a partnership of many organizations dedicated to increasing awareness of the importance of biodiversity statewide by promoting

communication and cooperation among a broad spectrum of stakeholders. It has published a state biodiversity conservation plan and holds annual meetings that increase networking.

<http://www.pabiodiversity.org/>

Pennsylvania Biological Survey (PABS) – A nonprofit organization consisting of professional and amateur biological experts whose purpose is *"to increase the knowledge of and foster the perpetuation of the natural biological diversity of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania."* The Ornithological Technical Committee is that part of PABS which advises the PGC concerning the state bird species of species concern (SSC) and PA Audubon on IBA program.

http://www.dickinson.edu/prorg/pabs/pabs_main.htm

Pennsylvania 2nd Breeding Bird Atlas – Monitoring Pennsylvanian Biodiversity! The new Atlas is collecting data on the breeding distribution and populations of the state's breeding birds in new and exciting ways. Hundreds of volunteers are collecting data and entering their findings into the PBBA website. We are rewriting the maps of PA breeding bird distribution. Do a block or 2! <http://www.carnegiemn.org/atlas/home.htm>

Pennsylvania Department of Conservation of Resources - The agency is charged with maintaining and preserving the 116 state parks; managing the 2.1 million acres of state forest land; providing information on the state's ecological and geologic resources; and establishing community conservation partnerships with grants and technical assistance to benefit rivers, trails, greenways, local parks and recreation, regional heritage parks, open space and natural areas.

<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/>

Pennsylvania Game Commission – The Commonwealth's wildlife agency. It provides law enforcement, research, and education about PA wildlife. It's website is very informative, including the PA Endangered and Threatened birds and the State Wildlife Grant priority species list. Game land maps and hunting season information are also provided here.

<http://www.pgc.state.pa.us/>

Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program (PNHP) – A partnership between DCNR, TNC, and WPC that conducts inventories and collects data regarding the Commonwealth's biological diversity. Information is stored in an integrated data management system. The goal is to build, maintain, and provide accurate and accessible ecological information needed for conservation, development planning, and natural resource management.

<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/pndi/index.aspx>

Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology – The organization that fosters the study and appreciation of the birds of Pennsylvania and to promote the conservation of birds and their habitat. It publishes the journal *Pennsylvania Birds* and sponsors the PA Special Areas Project.

<http://www.pabirds.org/>

Ruffed Grouse Society - The Ruffed Grouse Society's role in conservation of wildlife habitat is to enhance the environment for the Ruffed Grouse (our state bird), American Woodcock (Watch List), and other forest wildlife that require or utilize thick, young forests.

<http://www.ruffedgrousesociety.org/>

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) – The USDA is the home of the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), a proactive program that enhances wildlife on private lands. <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/dafp/cepd/crep.htm>

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – The EPA protects the quality of our air, water, and soil, therefore impacting the health of bird populations. <http://www.epa.gov/owow/birds/>

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) – The USFWS performs many functions in wildlife management and protection in U.S, including the Endangered Species Program, the Wildlife Refuge System, the Duck Stamp, permits and hunting seasons, and the Migratory Bird Act. <http://www.fws.gov/>

U.S. Geological Survey Biological Survey – Many wildlife surveys come under the jurisdiction of this agency, including the Breeding Bird Survey. <http://www.mbr-pwrc.usgs.gov/> This website has many other resources including bird identification and natural history information. The Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center has a particularly useful website with practical documents such as “Effects of Management on Grassland Birds” and “Effects of Management on Wetland Birds.” It is found at <http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov/>

U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan – A partnership effort of state and federal agencies, non-governmental conservation organizations, academic institutions, and individuals from across the country committed to restoring and maintaining stable and self-sustaining populations. <http://www.manomet.org/USSCP/files.htm>

Western Pennsylvania Conservancy (WPC) – One of the pioneer land conservation organizations in the Nation. WPC’s mission is to save the places we care about by connecting people to the natural world. WPC is part of the PNHP team and conducts Natural Area Inventories in western counties. <http://www.paconserve.org/>

Wild Turkey Federation (WTF) – A very active organization in PA that promotes the bird that Ben Franklin thought should be our national symbol. The National WTF is a national, not-for-profit, educational, conservation organization comprised of state and local affiliates working for the restoration and wise management of the American wild turkey. National: <http://www.nwtf.org/> PA: <http://www.panwtf.com/>

Wildlife Management Institute (WMI) – WMI is a private non-profit scientific and educational organization. It is committed to the conservation, enhancement and professional management of North America's wildlife and other natural resources. WMI produces many important wildlife publications. <http://www.wildlifemanagementinstitute.org/>

The Wildlife Society (TWS) – TWS is an international non-profit scientific and educational association dedicated to excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education. It serves as the chief professional organization for our wildlife resource professionals. The PA state chapter is a key organization to that end. <http://www.wildlife.org/>

Pennsylvania All-Bird Conservation Workshop November 17-18, 2004 at Milesburg, Pennsylvania

Sponsored by the Pennsylvania Game Commission and the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

The Pennsylvania All-Bird Conservation workshop was a watershed event for the state. The broad and enthusiastic participation by many organizations and individuals was breathtaking at this very ambitious workshop. The All-Bird Conservation workshop started the process of constructing a comprehensive bird conservation plan for the state.

Participation: Over 130 people attended the workshop. Over 500 people were invited in a mass mailing and several hundred others were contacted through the internet. This resulted in a large and diverse participation. Not only were government agencies and organizations involved, but this workshop appealed to many local, grassroots bird and land conservation organizations. Of those that attended the meeting, 47 were Game Commission employees. The Bureau of State Parks, the Bureau of State Forests, and the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs also were represented. There were five federal agencies involved with the meeting, including the National Resource Conservation Service, the Army Corps of Engineers, the Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U. S. Geological Survey. The Pennsylvania Academic community also was represented with faculty members and students from six Pennsylvania colleges or universities in attendance. In the private sector, five companies (consultants or software manufacturers) were represented. There was broad representation by non-governmental conservation organizations, 25 in all. These included well-known game bird habitat organizations such as Ducks Unlimited, the Ruffed Grouse Society, and the National Wild Turkey Federation. Many participants were members of the National Audubon Society or state-wide bird organizations, PA Audubon and the PA Society for Ornithology. Local bird organizations were very well represented by seven Audubon chapters and six local bird clubs. In addition to the Nature Conservancy and Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, three local land trust organizations also participated in the workshop.

Support for the Workshop: PGC Wildlife Management staff was integral to the success of the workshop. Dan Brauning led the group including inviting the main speakers, coordinating hotel arrangements and finances with IAFWA, worked with Regional Office participation, planning the overall workshop agenda, and much of the on-the-ground workshop program presentation coordination. Doug Gross coordinated invitations to participants and the registration database, invited speakers, and coordinated the workshop packet for registrants. John Dunn coordinated participation with three partnering organizations (Ducks Unlimited, the Ruffed Grouse Society, and the Wild Turkey Federation) and organized the waterfowl and waterbird information. Lisa Williams helped plan the workshop agenda and work with our wildlife partners. Patti Barber assisted in many ways including coordinating the packet material printing and the name badges. LIP/SWG-funded Wildlife Diversity biologists Jamie Zambo, Tim Hoppe, Jim

Mummert, Justin Vreeland, and Jeanine Tardiff assisted with presentations and breakout discussions.

Each participant was provided with a registration packet with a great deal of information to enhance each person's participation and continued involvement with Pennsylvania bird conservation. Each packet included the following:

1. maps of the Bird Conservation Areas, PIF Physiographic Areas, and the ACJV Waterfowl Focus Areas;
2. Executive Summaries of the PIF plans for all PIF areas in Pennsylvania, including priority bird populations and habitats;
3. American Bird Conservancy's *Bird Conservation* latest edition, August 2004, outlining the PIF Continental Plan and ABS's Green List;
4. A pamphlet on the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture;
5. A list of Resources for All Birds Conservation in Pennsylvania;
6. Lists of PA bird species of Conservation Concern, listed by habitat and indicating PIF Tiers and Scores;
7. A list of Pennsylvania's Species of Special Concern; and
8. *The State of the Forest: A Snapshot of Pennsylvania's Updated Forest Inventory 2004*, a recent publication by the USDA Forest Service.

The workshop was enhanced by displays brought by partnering organizations. The following organizations engaged participants with their displays: the National Wild Turkey Federation, the Ruffed Grouse Society, Pennsylvania Audubon (including the Important Bird Areas project), and Ducks Unlimited. Many copies of the PIF North American Landbird Conservation Plan and the North American Shorebird Management Plan were taken by participants.

Programs and Speakers: On Wednesday morning, November 17, the PA Game Commission was represented by Scott Klinger who welcomed participants and made introductory remarks about habitat as a uniting factor among the diverse bird conservationists. Dan Brauning invited the broad participation to the workshop and challenged the audience to make this a productive meeting. He indicated how Pennsylvania is a Keystone state for eastern North American forest birds. Andrew Millikin represented the North American Bird Conservation Initiative as well as the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, the N. A. Waterbird Conservation Plan, the U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan, and the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture Partnership. He had the unenviable task of explaining the purposes and relationships of and between these various bird conservation initiatives. Scaling our perspective down to the state level, Ken Rosenberg spoke of Pennsylvania's Bird Population and Habitat goals, giving the background for the Partners In Flight (PIF) approach to "keeping common birds common" through good planning and cooperation. Ken explained which and why species are given conservation priority in the state. Lisa Williams provided us with the PA Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy that includes many species from various taxa that are either on the state Species of Special Concern lists (including Endangered and Threatened species), high priority PIF species, or are indicators of native ecosystems or habitats of the state. One of the most important bird conservation initiatives in the state is the National Audubon Society's Important Bird Areas project. Pennsylvania was the pioneer state for IBA program. John Cecil presented the IBA program and explained how Audubon is enlisting volunteers to monitor species at each of the nearly 80 IBAs. John Dunn provided the priorities for waterfowl in Pennsylvania including both the breeding, passage migrant, and winter populations. On the second day

of the session, Nels Johnson presented the Nature Conservancy's "Conservation by Design" environmental planning approach. Conservation by Design prioritizes conservation targets, develops strategies, takes action and measures success in a continual loop. Bird conservation could be modeled after this approach. Andrew Millikin echoed Johnson's message about the need for an adaptive management approach to bird conservation and presented the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture. Ken Rosenberg "stepped down" the PIF plan to Pennsylvania and explained the origin of the state's bird population estimates and goals.

After each day's presentation, all participants engaged in lively break-out sessions. The first day's break-outs were based on habitat groups: wetlands, grassland and agriculture, and forests (including early successional habitats). On the second day, the break-out sessions were divided geographically with groups concentrating on the Appalachian Mountains (central), the Ohio Hills region (Southwest), the Northwest wetlands, the Piedmont (Southeast), and the Poconos bioregion. Highlights of each session were presented to the entire group at the workshop's end.

Break-out Sessions: On Wednesday, all participants got involved in discussions about based on habitat. The groups were divided into forest (including early successional), grassland and agriculture, and wetland habitats. In each habitat session, participants listed the potential threats and their solutions. Each group prioritized the threats by vote. The forest habitat listed five main obstacles to bird conservation: 1. habitat loss through development, 2. change in forest composition (due to deer over-browsing, invasive species, lack of fire, acid deposition, and other factors), 3. lack of early successional habitat, 4. poor forestry practices on private lands, and 5. lack of coordination across agencies. The grassland / agricultural habitat group addressed major issues in the following areas: 1. agriculture, 2. reclaimed strip mines, and 3. other habitats including airports, landfills, and military parks. Problems and solutions were addressed for each of these habitat categories. It was determined that the following were the biggest obstacles to wetland bird conservation: 1. habitat loss, 2. lack of information, and 3. funding (lack of financial incentives). Projects were proposed for each of the geographical regional groups. Cal DuBrock, Rob Criswell, Darryl Speicher, and Matt Marshall were among the break-out session leaders.

The All-Birds Conservation Workshop is only the beginning of a comprehensive approach to bird conservation in Pennsylvania. The organizers of the meeting came away with several messages from participants. Their overall message was: "Great workshop. Don't stop here. Keep on going!" This is only the first step in a long journey.

Compiled by Doug Gross, Endangered Bird Biologist, Pennsylvania Game Commission