
CONSERVATION COMMENTS

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2024

WYOMING COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

6052 SR 6, Tunkhannock, PA 18657

570-836-2589/info@wccdpa.org

MEETINGS, THE SECOND MONDAY OF EACH MONTH, 9:30AM, DISTRICT OFFICE.



DISTRICT STAFF:

Doug Deutch - District Manager Ext. 404

Katie McClain - Admin. Assistant Ext. 406

Bernie Scalzo - Watershed Specialist Ext. 403

Dave Taylor - Resource Cons. Specialist Ext. 405

Chris Faux - Ag. Conservation Prog. Coord. Ext. 407

Laura Anderson - Enviro. Ed. Coord. Ext. 402

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Dorne White - Chairman

Neil Tague - Vice Chairman

Butch Sands - Secretary/Treasurer

Commissioner Tom Henry

Walt Dana

Ken Harvey

Jill Tague

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR:

Dave McCoy

EVENTS:

30th Contractor's &
Engineers Workshop

Wed. 3/12/25

@ Keystone College

LOCAL RESOURCES:

Bureau of Forestry: 570-945-7133

DEP: 570-826-2511

Game Commission: 570-675-1143

NRCS: 570-836-2490 Ext. 108

PA Fish & Boat Commission: 570-477-5717

2024 BANQUET

The District held their 75th Annual Banquet on 11/7/24. The event took place at the Player's Pub. We started the evening with the welcoming comments, a remembrance for our late board member Bob Robinson, followed by the invocation given by Chairman, Dorne White.

The people in attendance were able to enjoy a delicious buffet style dinner followed by a plethora of sweet treats. During the dinner, the district had put together a "75th Anniversary" slide show for everyone to enjoy.

We were delighted to have Rick Koval, WNEP TV Personality on "Pennsylvania Outdoor Life" speak at our event for the third year. Rick went on to present "How to Find Owls for Those Who Give a Hoot". The program was amazing & very informative.

The staff also presented a "What We've Been Up To" segment to highlight what new things the District had been working on over the past year. The evening wrapped up after this.

Special thanks to the District staff for all the help they provide to make this event happen.



STYLES OF HOUSES

C Y P F R E G K P G W F N A Y D M T V S I G G F
N Q A R O D U T L E K U X C R P I I I D V T D D
S T M A A S D O U G Q E N J A C O T T A G E S O
C A D H A H E N E O S F I E R K D S K P O H K K
P W O L A G N U B T Q B O M O N T E R E Y H W N
J L C P H T V T K H Y Z G B P C K X M H A N U M
S T E M U A V U I I N P P C M E L H H A J G K P
U I P N U E I Y X C B V P L E P P A Z O T W B J
F P A E O O B X B H A E Y B T S R V S O D U L U
E D C R W M G L L V C O L O N I A L H S D M H L
U Q B I W G G A O L V H C E O R N S K Y I D Z Z
B O A P S L B N V K E Q T M C T C F B Z P C M D
R V O M I X K T O J X A A V Y J H D X V M G A G
C E B E I X G E M S N G B V Y N Y V Q M E I G L
Z S E D U W D B E A I P E R A U Q S R U O F E G
C U W N N Y W E I R P R J D K Z K Y A U O B O L
R B L O T M C L E P G U R V I C T O R I A N R F
C B I C S B A L K Q G K T A Z J K T S Z G E G U
F C H E Y T N U F K V U V R G D O G T R O T I D
A T Y S I H J M D D W K N U S E F Q M S N D A A
C C R A F T S M A N H G Q U E E N A N N E B N I
K L F M Y Y M W K A G K F D H X N Z P W V Z P C
T O P X A K Z K Y B Z F X G B F E D E R A L P S
Q D X L N F Y X X I X O B T L A S P R A I R I E

ANTEBELLUM
BUNGALOW
CAPE COD
COLONIAL
CONTEMPORARY
COTTAGE
CRAFTSMAN
DOGTROT
FEDERAL
FOURSQUARE
GARRISON
GEORGIAN
GOTHIC (REVIVAL)
GREEK (REVIVAL)
ITALIANATE
MONTEREY
NEOCLASSICAL
PRAIRIE
PUEBLO
QUEEN ANNE
RANCH
SALTBOX
SECOND EMPIRE
SHOT GUN
TUDOR
VICTORIAN

NEW NPDES PERMITS GO INTO EFFECT

By: Dave Taylor

This past December saw a change over from the existing General Permit that Pennsylvania writes all its NPDES permit from. One General permit is issued through the EPA that is delegated to the DEP and they have delegated the Conservation Districts to review and approve plans for any new construction or disturbance of ground over one acre in size. All permits from the old General Permit held an expiration date of 12/07/24. All open or existing permits needed to terminate or renew this existing permit to continue to work under this NPDES permit.

Our office held 16 open permits that were in a various stages from completed projects to under construction and even a couple that will be built in the coming year. We received 6 Notice of Terminations (NOTs), from those that were completed and did not need to keep the permit open. We processed 8 renewals with those permittees that chose to either keep an open permit for any activities still to come. We still have 2 holdouts that have not submitted anything to the District at this time. We have sent notices to them that they do need to file something and that their permits have expired, and they are not allowed to continue any work at these sites. Luckily both holdouts seem to be completed, and NOTs would be appropriate.

Any new permit and all the renewed permits now will all hold an expiration date of 12/07/29. These general permits are all issued under a 5 year term with a reevaluation at the end of each of these periods. Usually they terms that the permits are issued have been getting more and more stringent over time. I have seen this from the very first permits that I have issued in 2006 versus the ones that we will be issuing here under the latest version.

The new permits have reduced limits on some of the releases that are allowed through the system to eliminate any pollution and also there will be more monitoring and reporting that will be required from the applicants. The new reporting system will go into much more detail than the past reports and photographs during the construction process will now be required. All of this will need to be checked by the District when we go out to conduct our routine inspections on those sites.

Hopefully things will go smoothly but we will have to wait and see during the next 5 years.

MASTER WATERSHED STEWARD PROGRAM ACCEPTING APPLICATION FOR SPRING 2025 TRAINING

We seek individuals who enjoy learning, have the desire and time to volunteer, and value working with others. No previous experience is needed - our program empowers you to make a difference in your community and beyond!

The Master Watershed Steward Program provides training, resources, and ongoing support to volunteers looking to engage in environmental restoration projects and educational programs. Next spring, the program is offering training classes across 38 counties.

The program provides broad water science and natural resources coursework with ongoing volunteer and educational opportunities that equip participants with the tools to make a difference in their communities. We seek individuals who enjoy learning, have the desire and time to volunteer, and value working with others. No previous experience is needed - our program empowers you to make a difference in your community and beyond!

This spring's training will be held virtually via Zoom on Thursday evenings starting February 20th, 2025, and will run through May 29th. Some county programs may begin on February 13th, offering an initial in-person meeting. In-person, outdoor field experiences will also be scheduled locally, and online "enrichment" sessions on various niche topics will also be offered.

In exchange for 40 hours of instruction, candidates agree to contribute 20 hours of volunteer service in their first year, followed by 20 hours of volunteer efforts and 10 hours of continuing education per year after that. Volunteer activities available to Master Watershed Stewards include organizing educational events, designing demonstration rain gardens, organizing stream cleanups, planting riparian forest buffers, working with municipal officials to plant native meadows, monitoring streams for bacteria, and more.

To learn more about the Master Watershed Steward program, you can attend one of our county information sessions. Contact Coordinator Jeremy Leaidicker at jxl6817@psu.edu for details.

Environmental Education

By Laura Anderson

Environmental Education: TASD 9th Grade



Community Outreach: Bat Program



Environmental Education: TASD 5th Grade Bat Program



WINTER BIRDS OF PENNSYLVANIA

By Jesse F. with Bird Feeder Hub

PENNSYLVANIA WINTERS AND BIRD ADAPTATIONS

Pennsylvania experiences cold and snowy winters due to its location in the northeastern United States. During winter, temperatures can drop below freezing, sometimes reaching well below zero degrees Fahrenheit. Snowfall is common, covering the landscape in a blanket of white. Pennsylvania winters can be harsh, with icy roads and chilly winds.

Birds in Pennsylvania have adapted to the diverse environments found throughout the state. They have developed various strategies to survive and thrive in different habitats, from forests to urban areas. One common adaptation is migration, where birds travel to warmer regions during the winter months to find food and avoid harsh weather conditions. Additionally, many birds have evolved specialized beaks and feet to help them find and consume different types of food, such as seeds, insects, and small mammals. Some birds also change their plumage to blend in with their surroundings, providing camouflage from predators.

HOW WINTER BIRDS SURVIVE IN PENNSYLVANIA

Winter poses challenges for birds in Pennsylvania, but they've evolved several survival tactics.

FINDING SHELTER

In Pennsylvania's winter, birds seek shelter to shield themselves from harsh weather conditions. They utilize various natural and human-made structures such as dense foliage, tree hollows, shrubs, and even buildings. These shelters provide insulation against cold winds and help maintain their body temperature.

FINDING FOOD

Winter birds adapt their feeding habits to ensure they have enough energy to endure the cold. They forage for available food sources such as seeds, berries, fruits, and insects. Some birds, like chickadees and nuthatches, cache food during the warmer months and retrieve it during winter. Others, such as birds of prey, hunt small mammals and other birds to sustain themselves through the season.

LOCATING UNFROZEN WATER SOURCES

Water is essential for birds to stay hydrated, even in freezing temperatures. They actively search for unfrozen water sources such as rivers, streams, and heated bird baths. Some birds even melt snow with their body heat to access water.

CONSERVING ENERGY

Winter birds conserve energy through various means. They reduce unnecessary movements and activity to preserve vital energy reserves. Many species roost together in groups to share body heat, minimizing heat loss during cold nights. Additionally, some birds lower their metabolic rate during periods of rest to conserve energy while remaining vigilant for potential threats.

WHY DO SOME BIRDS IN PENNSYLVANIA NOT MIGRATE?

Some birds in Pennsylvania choose not to migrate for several reasons. Firstly, they may have adapted to the local environment and found reliable sources of food and shelter year-round. These birds have evolved to withstand the colder temperatures and find sufficient resources during the winter months.

Additionally, competition for resources in their breeding territories may be lower during the winter, motivating them to stay rather than migrate. Some species also establish strong social bonds within their resident populations, which could influence their decision to remain in Pennsylvania.

Furthermore, migration can be energetically costly and risky, with long journeys and potential hazards such as predators, adverse weather conditions, and unfamiliar territories. Birds that have successfully found suitable habitats in Pennsylvania may see little reason to undertake such risky journeys. Ultimately, the decision to migrate or not depends on a combination of factors including genetics, environmental conditions, and individual behavior.

Sources:

birdfeederhub.com/winter-birds-in-pennsylvania/

"Field guide to Common Winter Birds of Pennsylvania",
Pennsylvania Game Commission, pgc.pa.gov

SOME WINTER BIRDS:

Bald Eagle
Snowy Owl
Red-Tailed Hawk
Eastern Screech Owl
Common Redpoll
White-Breasted Nuthatch
Great Horned Owl
Black-Capped Chickadee
Northern Flicker
Sharp Shinned Hawk
Northern Cardinal
Dark-Eyed Junco
American Goldfinch
Tufted Titmouse
Pileated Woodpecker
Blue Jay
American Tree Sparrow
Red-Bellied Woodpecker
Downy Woodpecker
White-Throated Sparrow
American Robin
Pine Siskin
Gray Catbird
American Crow
Mourning Dove
Carolina Wren
House Finch
Cedar Waxwing

Size: 12 - 14cm
Weight: 11 - 20 grams
Wingspan: 19 - 22cm

Common Redpoll

Common redpolls can be found all across Pennsylvania throughout their non-breeding winter months.

These common redpolls are recognized by their red, white and brown plumage with their forehead and breast mixed with red and white, with the wings a combination of a brown and white color. Females also have a little spot on their forehead but, the remainder of their body is a brown and white color.

You'll find a common redpoll located around boreal forests of pines, spruces and larches.

As for what these birds eat, it includes seeds from birch, alder and spruce along with a bunch of small insects like caterpillars, beetles, flies etc.

The longest lifespan that was recorded for a redpoll happened to be around 7 years and 10 months but, the majority of redpolls will live a good bit shorter, between the 4 - 5 year range.

Source: BirdsOfTheWild.com

