**2024 Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology (PSO) Breeding Bird Blitz for Conservation:**

**Funding Opportunity for Conservation Organizations**

**Dates: June 7 – June 17, 2024**

**Application Deadline: March 1, 2024**

Seeking: nonprofit conservation organizations that support the conservation of [Bird Species](https://www.pgc.pa.gov/Wildlife/WildlifeActionPlan/Documents/SWAP-CHAPTER-1-apx14a-birds.pdf) of Greatest Conservation Need in Pennsylvania. Selected organizations will be identified as partners with Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology in the 2024 event and receive an equal share of the funds raised. It is anticipated that the event will raise close to $20,000, resulting in contributions of more than $6,000 to three organizations.

**PSO will fund:**

* Bird-safe Habitats – Direct habitat conservation, habitat management or enhancement, land protection, invasive species removal, and native plant species plantings.
* Conservation Education – Adult or school age education programming related to bird conservation in Pennsylvania.
* Conservation Monitoring and Science – Monitoring or research on Pennsylvania bird populations or species with an applied conservation focus.
* Threat Mitigation – Efforts such as reducing bird building or window collisions, vehicle collisions, pesticide use, and impacts from outdoor cats.

**PSO will not fund:**

* Administrative costs.
* Habitat enhancements that are part of a required habitat offset (such as wetland banks) connected to new construction/development.

**History of PSO’s Breeding Bird Blitz for Conservation (Blitz)**

2021 was the first year for the Blitz sponsored by PSO. We partnered with Hawk Mountain Association, Manda Conservancy, and Western PA Conservancy. Partner members and birders across the state completed bird surveys, reporting their findings in eBird, over a 4-day period in June. We raised $10,645 that was evenly divided among the 3 partners to improve habitat for Wood Thrush.

PSO partnered with the Erie Bird Observatory, Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art, and Willistown Conservation Trust in 2022. More than 100 birders raised $15,071 that was evenly divided between our partners. Funds were used for habitat conservation and avian research.

In 2024, PSO partnered with Hawk Mountain, The Foundation for Sustainable Forests, and South Middleton Township. The Blitz raised just over $19,000 – almost double what was raised in the first Blitz. Twenty-one teams raised the funds and contributed 637 checklists to eBird. Partner members are not required to participate in the Blitz, but we ask that you help promote it to your members.

If you have any questions about the Blitz (which will be held June 7 – 17, 2024) or the application, please email the PSO Conservation Committee: blitz4conservation@gmail.com

PSO Conservation Committee members are Laura Jackson, chair; Brian Byrnes; Vern Gauthier; Carolyn Hendricks; and Karter Whitmer

Please submit this application by email to blitz4conservation@gmail.com by March 1, 2024.

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2024 Blitz Application:

Organization: Click or tap here to enter text.

Mission statement: Click or tap here to enter text.

Organization’s website: Click or tap here to enter text.

Contact person and position: Click or tap here to enter text.

Mailing address: Click or tap here to enter text.

Email address: Click or tap here to enter text.

Phone number: Click or tap here to enter text.

Project title: Click or tap here to enter text.

Project location (address or description, include county): Click or tap here to enter text.

Property owner (current and proposed, if applicable): Click or tap here to enter text.

Brief description of the project and its goals: Click or tap here to enter text.

[Species of Greatest Conservation Need](https://www.pgc.pa.gov/Wildlife/WildlifeActionPlan/Documents/SWAP-CHAPTER-1-apx14a-birds.pdf) that will benefit from the proposed project (please list all that apply: Click or tap here to enter text.

Timeline for project completion: Click or tap here to enter text.