

# Bird Atlas Provides Wealth Of Information

**LOU ANN GOOD**  
Lancaster Farming Staff  
PITTSBURGH (Allegheny Co.) — Heavy snows brought hungry birds in search of food to many backyards this past week.

For those who sighted rare birds or even the familiar species, curiosity was often aroused. Where do these birds nest? What kind of bird is it? What are its characteristics?

A newly released book, Atlas of Breeding Birds in Pennsylvania, is the most comprehensive book detailing birds in the state.

According to the University of Pittsburgh Press, the book required more than 2,000 volunteers to trudge through wetlands, mountains, and farms in search of birds. The volunteers were trained to map the habitat of the birds and document the breeding of the birds. The 484-hardcover book highlights 188 species with drawings and a two-page spread of the historical and population trends of each. A map shows the locations in which each of the species was found between 1983 and 1989.

Every 10-square mile atlas block in the state was surveyed with a total of 4,928 survey areas. That required 100,000 hours or 48 person years in field surveys, which does not include travel time to and from blocks or administrative time compiling data and recruiting.

Daniel W. Brauning edited the book.

In addition to descriptive information on each bird, the book includes graphs and eight acetate overlays showing state's ecoregions, generalized elevations, mean summer temperatures, precipitation, forest types, land cover, and river systems.

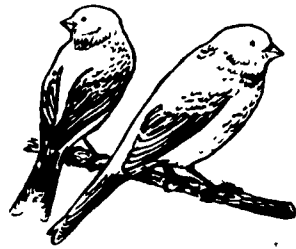


DANIEL W. BRAUNING, Editor

## ATLAS OF Breeding Birds in Pennsylvania

The book is appealing to novice bird watchers as well as wildlife and environmental specialists.

The book is available at all major bookstore chains or from Pittsburgh Press, 127 N. Bellefield Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15260, for \$34.95 plus \$3 for shipping. Or, call 1-800-666-2211.





### Ida's Notebook

**Ida Risser**

Things often do not turn out the way that you expect them to. The other week a snow storm was predicted and so our daughter told us she would not be home for dinner. As I had already stuffed a beef heart, I decided to invite someone

else. Our daughter-in-law informed me that their son was sick and they could not come. So, I invited a friend and her husband but was told that they do not eat "organ" meats.

But, I didn't give up as I had baked a cherry pie and a lemon meringue pie that morning and wanted to share them too. When I phoned my sister she told me they

could not come as she had just put a large turkey in the oven. That was a good reason not to eat at our home. Another sister has a job and was away at work on a Saturday.

So, Allen and I ate alone but no one can say that I didn't try to have guests.

Our daughter came later in the day and said she had been baking pies too for a church benefit. However, when she left the kitchen for a few minutes, their dog ate the apple pie left on the counter. What saved her was the pie stored in the oven for themselves, which now was taken to the church.

Talking about unexpected happenings, this past week a big wind storm blew down a 70-foot pine tree on our smokehouse on the farm. It not only broke in the whole roof but some of the bricks

must be replaced too. Just this past year a professional photographer was here to take pictures of the unique building and now it is a shambles.

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