

Bucks County Birder Profile

JoAnn Raine

by: Connie Goldman



Connie Goldman

Born: I was born in Steubenville, Ohio.

Resides: I lived with my own family for 40 years in Willow Grove, PA until recently moving to Holland, PA with my husband Bob.

Life List: I have a North American list of 620; an additional number of birds seen outside the North American area gives me a world list of 685.

Property list: I do not tend to keep a "yard" list. My 'local records' have always been those done at Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust. Fifteen years of these records are now documented on e-Bird.

Favorite Field Guide: I'd have to say the Sibley guide gives the best field ID information. National Geographic is good also, especially in that it covers the entire USA both east and west.

Favorite book about birds: I have read so many over the years. One that I find very interesting is *Rare and Elusive Birds of North America* by William Burt. It contains photographs of birds the author considered difficult to capture on film. Along with his photographic representations, he gives an essay detailing the nature of the challenge of each bird species and what special efforts were used to see and then photograph the birds.

Favorite bird: When people ask me this I always want to say whichever species was "the prettiest bird I saw last week." But, I am always excited by the Winter Wren. To hear that song is one thing, but if you then



JoAnn Raine - Photo by Roy Frock

can get it to pop up, now that is always a good birding day.

Magazines I read regularly: I subscribe to *Birding*, and *Birder's World*. Occasionally, I still pick up and read some of the others.

Best birding location you have visited: Without a doubt, Texas. Texas never fails to hold interesting birding experiences. I think Texas gives a birder the most "bang for their buck." The Rio Grande Valley area is, of course, wonderful. But western Texas is also very interesting. Go to Texas at different times of the year for different species of interest. Many Texans actually like to go to west Texas in the winter, when raptors migrate into and through this area.

What has birding taught you: I have learned perseverance and patience. Also, if you do your homework, so to speak, if you do some research ahead of time, you'll be more likely to find "the bird." Other lessons would be to go birding with a calmed approach, use your skills, and go with "good" birders – that increases your own skill

Which historical figure would you like to have birded with: Well, Kenn Kaufmann is a contemporary figure, but he would be the "famous" birder I would choose. I have met him twice on guided trips and heard him speak at a Delaware Valley Orni-

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thological Club banquet. He has a great amount of knowledge and is a calm, unobtrusive field birder.

Person who most influenced your passion for birds: This was definitely Ron French. Ron is the person who introduced me to birding. He is very enthusiastic and is open to sharing birding knowledge and activities.

Where do you do most of your local birding? At Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust. I also bird at Tyler State Park and Bowman's Hill. I enjoy going on day trips to areas in the Delaware Valley with groups of friends, and with DVOC and Bucks County Birders.

Which birding locations do you want to see? I will be birding in Bulgaria next spring; that is a good place to see a wide variety of European species in migration. I will go to Texas again, and would like to see California again. I would like to, some day, get to Alaska.

JoAnn was one of the first "passionate" or "really into it," knowledgeable women birders I met a few years ago. She has birded widely in the US and is always able and willing to share information about birding places she has visited.

JoAnn knows her "local patch," Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust, like the back of her hand. She can show you the sure-fire sparrow spot, the likely habitat for thrushes, and the place where the Red-breasted Nuthatches are most likely to be seen. And she can probably give reliable arrival dates for the season for the various species that migrate into and through the park. JoAnn has supported the Pennypack Watershed for many years through her membership.

She has devoted countless hours to leading bird walks and familiarizing groups, like ones from DVOC and the BCB to the efforts in habitat enhancement there. Her 15 years of bird record-keeping for Pennypack are an invaluable contribution to the natural history of the area.

JoAnn has a long history of connecting with nature that precedes her birding, as she was a serious hiker and scuba diver in earlier years. This gives her a broader view of nature that only adds to her birding skill. She can converse about a myriad of nature-related topics and has good travel stories to tell. JoAnn is a member of DVOC, Pennsylvania Audubon, and the Heritage Conservancy, in addition to being an officer for Bucks County Birders.

JoAnn is a good traveling companion for longer overnight excursions, too. Having shared both lodging and some 3-days long trips in tightly packed (with other birders) vehicles with JoAnn, do not hesitate to go on a trip like this with her! She is a lady who maintains her cool, goes with the flow, and keeps interesting conversation flowing.

Most importantly for a fellow birder, JoAnn is a pleasure to go birding with. She is tuned in to habitat and season and knows what to look for in a particular place. When a bird is sighted, she invariably has an interesting comment to make about its plumage, call, or some other aspect. Her comments are calmly instructive in a way that makes all birders remember them and feel grateful to have a birding companion like her. The Bucks County Birders are fortunate to have a birder like JoAnn as an officer of the club.



*Little Blue Heron
Doylestown
9-11-05
Thomas Ford-
Hutchinson*