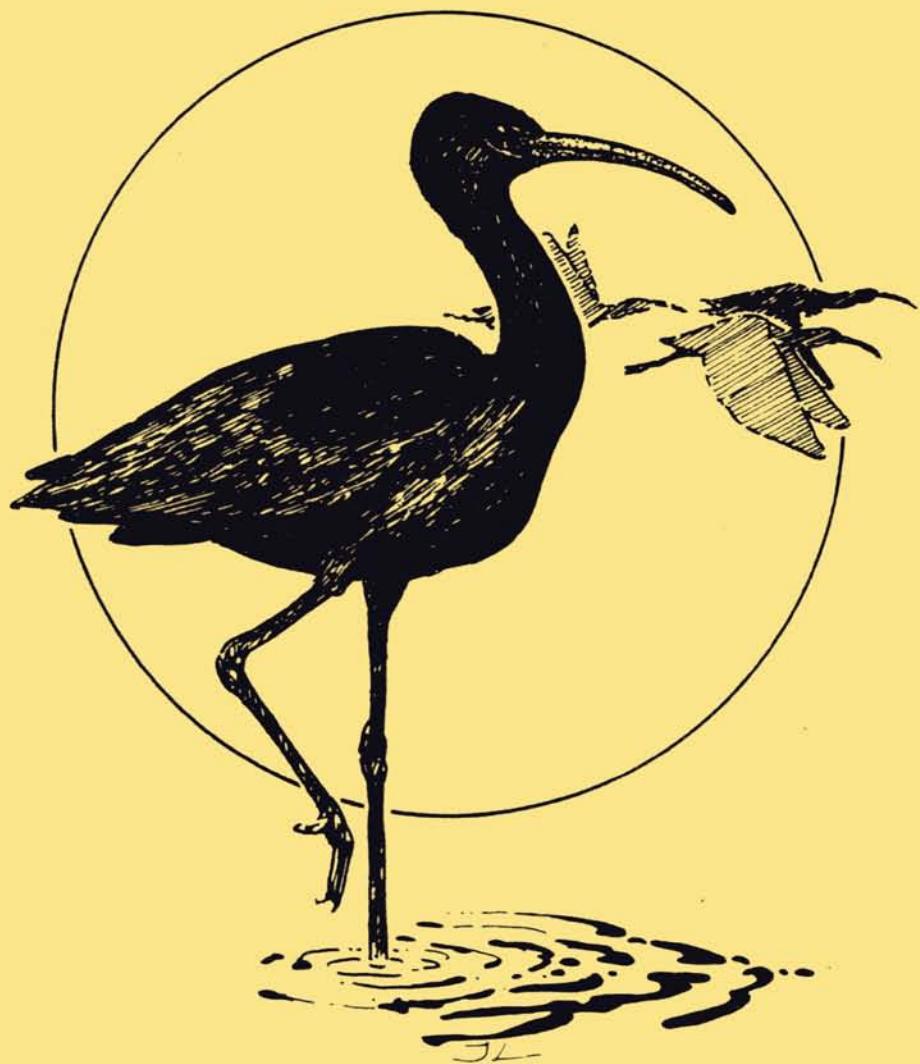
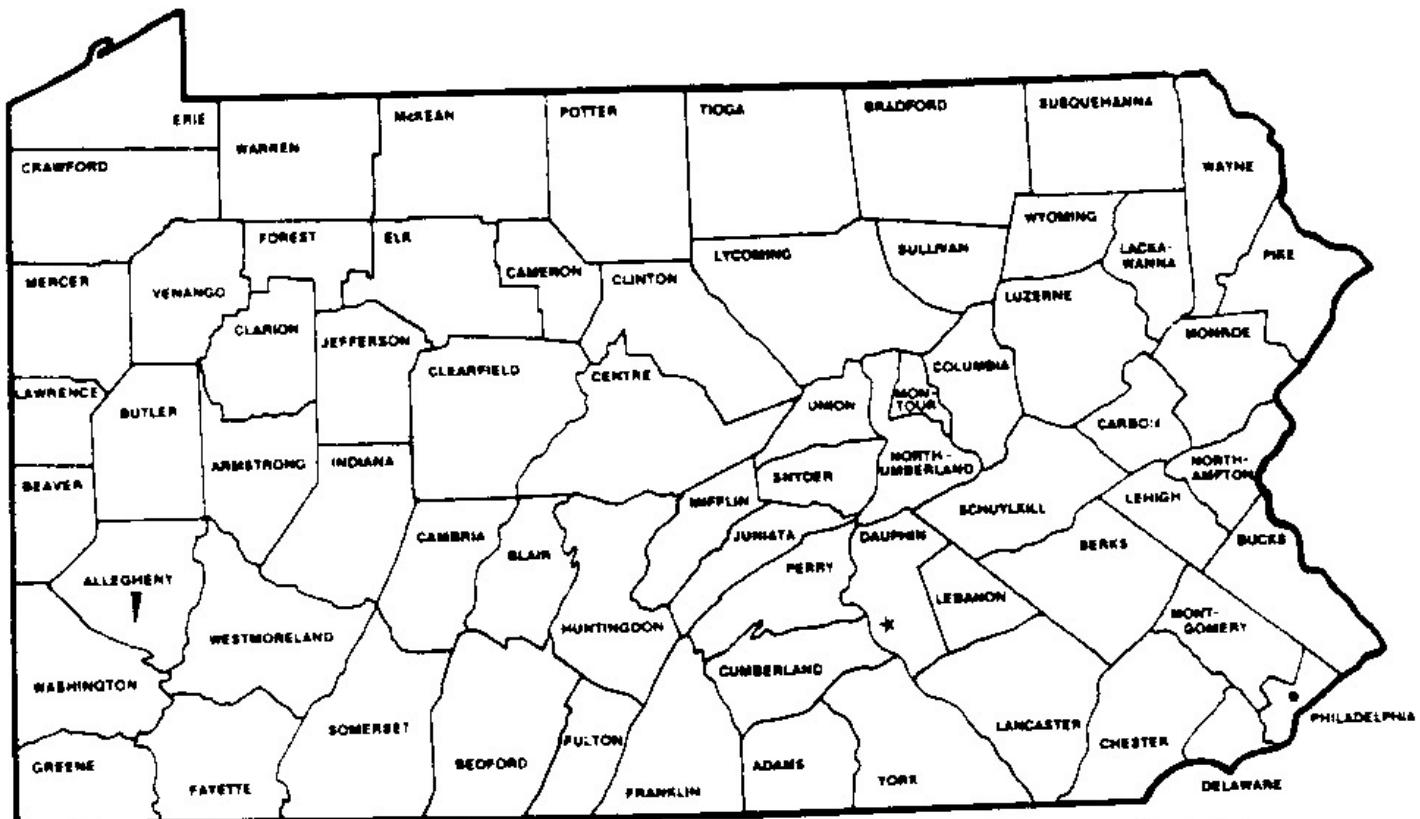


PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS



Volume 1, Number 2

APR - JUN 1987



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Table of Contents

Editorial.....	29
Swainson's Warbler - Allegheny County (Darney).	30
Pomarine Jaeger - Cambria County (Georg & Mulvihill).	30
Here's the B's (Koch).....	34
New Pa. Big Day Record (Peplinski).....	35
Applied Ecology (Wilhelm).	37
Summary of the Season.	38
County Reports.	40

Cover: Glossy Ibis, by Jim Lockyer.

First we want to thank each and every one of you who sent data to your county compiler and extra thanks to each compiler for getting the information to us. Each compiler has worked hard to get the county information organized and edited. Special thanks to Sandra Sherman and Karen Atwood for their assistance to numerous details. The artwork by Jim Lockyer is terrific and we look forward to receiving more from him and others of you who are similarly blessed with talent. Small sketches could be incorporated into the text to break up the typed material.

Several people wrote or called us after receipt of the first issue; comments were quite favorable, with the one complaint of the print. We realized it was a problem, and have taken some steps which should make this issue more enjoyable aesthetically. Someday we hope to be able to have it typeset. But as stated in the last issue, the style and size of this publication still depends on the number of subscribers. The most important thing is to publish the magazine. With more subscribers, we are confident that **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS** will improve in appearance.

There has been some question about the quarterly format and we have discussed the situation with several compilers. Realistically, January to March is more representative of the winter season in Pennsylvania than December to February, and some books/journals only accept a winter record as one in which the bird was seen in January or February. April to June covers the spring migration for almost every species. The only real problem comes with the breeding season. Most species are breeding in May and June, and atlases get many of their "confirmations" in July. But in Pennsylvania the breeding season is essentially over by mid-July. Some compilers have complained that they had not yet received reports from their atlases to include in their reports. However, most atlas data are not turned in to compilers until September anyway, and we are looking to the future, *i.e.*, post-atlas. Except for the beginning of July, we look at the third and fourth quarters as dividing the fall migration into early and late, with the third quarter indicative of the early migrants, *i.e.*, shorebirds and warblers, and the last quarter covering the late migrants and the settling in of winter visitors. We realize that there will be those who disagree, but we feel our rationale is valid and will win acceptance among readers and contributors alike.

Use of counties as the basis for reports has also generated comments. Some individuals want regional coverage only. But therein lies a problem. Regionalism would create the same problems that **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS** is trying to correct: Loss of data within regions, mixed habitats or geophysical areas, and loss of local flavor. So, for now, counties will prevail. Also, except for a few counties that have published books there is little on-going work at the county level. We would like to see more of these efforts. Does your county have an official list?

We have talked with most compilers about the need to reduce some of the reports by eliminating first sightings of breeding species and expected migrants, except perhaps some exceptionally early/late dates. This information would best be published as a periodic report every few years giving average and extreme arrival/departure dates for each area of the state. The information being submitted will be logged into a database for future use and reference. Rest assured, all original data are being held, considered important, and will be published later.

These are just some of the issues that are being addressed in trying to get this publication into the best, most representative format for Pennsylvania. We remain open to constructive criticism and welcome your input. Remember it is also your magazine and that reported sightings will be cited in other journals as historical fact. We are pleased with the input for this issue and look forward to receiving more bird-finding location articles, book reviews, and other articles of general interest to the birders of Pennsylvania.

Barb & Frank Haas, 769 E. Forge Rd., Media, PA 19063-4332 (215-565-6319)

Swainson's Warbler - Allegheny County

I identified a Swainson's Warbler in South Park, 6 miles south of Pittsburgh, on 21 May at 9:30 a.m. After making several telephone calls, I returned with Eric Hall at 1:30 p.m. to view the warbler. The bird was still there at 6:30 p.m. when Joyce Hoffman and Rose Hohmann accompanied me.

On the 22nd, Jim and Bonnie Baird arrived shortly after dawn and observed the bird, which was also seen at 7:30 a.m. by Eric and Nathan Hall, Lester Olson, and Keith Rosemore. It was last seen at 3:00 p.m. that same day, although I spent much of the next morning looking for it.

The area was a wooded hillside with a thick growth of arrowwood; no streams or pond in the area. In the morning I found it singing on bare branches 15-20 ft. above ground; by around 10 a.m. it was singing low in the bushes and on the ground. Photographs were taken and sent to the editors of *PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS*. (*Unfortunately, although identifiable, there was insufficient contrast in the photographs to be reprinted with any clarity in this magazine. Eds.*)

Dave Darney, 537 Engstler Street, Pittsburgh 15210

The First Pomarine Jaeger Record for Cambria County

by Kevin Georg and Bob Mulvihill

On 25 June 1987, while doing field work for the Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas Project, Georg visited Hinkston Run Dam in southwest Cambria County. Scanning the lake, he spotted a large, dark, gull-like bird resting in the water at a distance of about 500 feet. Through binoculars he saw that the bird had a brownish back, a barred chest and a dark cap on its head, and so immediately recognized it as a jaeger. Coincidentally, he had been on a pelagic trip off the coast of New Jersey just two weeks before and had seen a number of Pomarine Jaegers. Satisfied that the bird was a jaeger, but uncertain of which species, Georg began to leave to get a camera or to find someone to corroborate his sighting.

Before he could do this, the jaeger took flight, but this allowed Georg to make the following observations: The bird showed bright, well-defined white "wing flashes" and flew slowly and deliberately, with deep wingbeats. While subsequent observations by Georg, Mulvihill, Larry Barth and others showed that the bird, in fact, displayed a number of adult plumage characteristics that facilitated its specific identification, during the initial sighting some of these features were not readily apparent. Georg nonetheless correctly identified what he took to be an immature jaeger as a Pomarine, based on its size (about that of a Ring-billed Gull), flight style and the extent of the white at the base of the undersides of its primary flight feathers.

The jaeger circled up until it was out of sight. That evening Georg called Mulvihill and detailed his sighting over the phone. Two days later, Georg revisited Hinkston Run Dam and was surprised to find the jaeger still there. This time he was able to get a couple of local birders, Dr. Tom Dick and Bruce Courter, to confirm his sighting. Courter took a number of photographs, but neither he nor Dick was confident of the bird's identity as a Pomarine. The bird did not fly during this observation.

On Sunday, 28 June 1987, Mulvihill made arrangements with Georg to view the jaeger, along with artist/wood-carver Larry Barth. Barth, coincidentally, was working on a commission to carve a life-size sculpture of two Parasitic Jaegers and an Arctic Tern and was particularly anxious to see the Hinkston Run bird, despite the fact that he had a trip planned to Alaska for the very next week for the sole

purpose of seeing and sketching live jaegers! Mulvihill and Barth met Georg and went with him to the lake at about 3:30 p.m.

When we arrived at the lake we could not find the jaeger. There was considerable human activity at the lake's edge and traffic on the lakeside road. Georg had observed the bird earlier in the day and insisted that the bird was completely tolerant of this activity. He felt sure it would show up. He was right! We had waited no more than ten minutes when he called out "Jaeger!" He had spotted the bird flying very high over the lake. The jaeger circled slowly down to the lake, allowing for excellent observation by all of us. We could see the long, downwardly crooked wings typical of jaegers, and the narrow, white underwing patches. Also visible, although unseen by Georg during the first sighting, were the bird's slightly projecting, blunt central rectrices, completely whitish, unbarred belly and dark, unbarred underwing coverts.

The bird settled briefly on the water, then flew low over the lake for a few hundred yards before coming to rest on the water again. We moved to within 300 feet of the bird and viewed it through 20-45X spotting scopes and 8-10X binoculars in good light for nearly an hour. During this time Barth made the sketches which have been reproduced for this article.

In a short time we were able to establish with certainty that the jaeger was not an immature, but rather a near-adult; it had a complete dark cap, yellowish cheeks and hind neck, an unbarred dorsum and only a trace of subadult feathering above and below its tail and possibly on its chest (see drawings). We also became certain of our identification of the bird as a light-phase Pomarine Jaeger. We had numerous reference books and a series of six Parasitic Jaeger study skins (on loan to Barth from the Section of Birds of the Carnegie Museum of Natural History) to guide us in our determination. The following observations were key to our identification:

- 1) FIELD MARKS - Broad and blunt, slightly projecting central rectrices (thought by Georg and Mulvihill to project about one and a half inches on the closed tail); well-defined dark cap, extending below the lower mandible into the malar area (this extent is apparently never attained in the Parasitic Jaeger); bright and well-defined white "wing flash" or underwing patches; prominent chest band.
- 2) FLIGHT - Best observed at the first sighting by Georg (during the second sighting the bird did not fly; during the third sighting the bird mostly glided). Slow, deliberate wing flaps.
- 3) SIZE - Although no size reference was available for direct comparison, the bird appeared to be as large as a Ring-billed Gull; certainly neither as large as a Herring Gull, nor as small as a Bonaparte's Gull. This information was the least critical to our identification.

The above-detailed record constitutes the first record of the species for Cambria County and only the second record in western Pennsylvania away from Presque Isle. A Pomarine Jaeger was seen at Colyer Lake, east of State College, Centre County, from 13-27 July 1969 (Wood. 1983. Birds of Pennsylvania). Like this earlier record, the Pomarine Jaeger at Hinkston Run Dam lingered and was seen by many observers. It was last seen on 3 July 1987.

Footnote by Dr. Kenneth C. Parkes, Senior Curator of Birds, Carnegie Museum of Natural History:

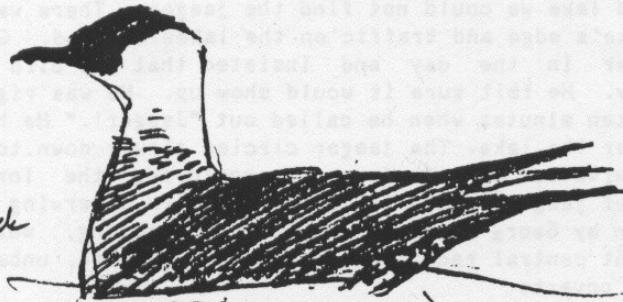
The description of this jaeger by Georg and Mulvihill and the drawings by Barth are matched almost exactly by a subadult female Pomarine Jaeger specimen (no. 110205) in the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, collected by George Miksch Sutton on Southampton Island, Hudson Bay, 22 June 1930. The museum specimen differs only in that the cream-colored area of the throat and cheeks does not extend all the way around the nape, which is a mixture of the dusky color of the back and the cream of the cheeks. No Parasitic Jaeger in the collection resembles this specimen or the Barth sketches, and I am confident that the Hinkston Run Dam bird was correctly identified.

heavy lined

dark extends well into face and into malar area

dark hood and mantle meet white (cream) of throat
and cheeks very abruptly - no shading

heavy
barring across
rest high up neck

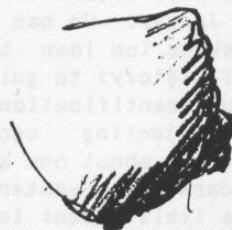


tail about even
with primaries

high head high tail

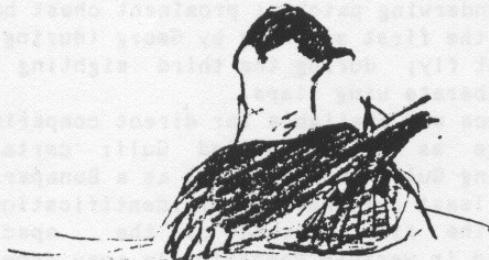
white showing (barring) under tail

Solid dark mantle no light feather edges



short blunt central tail feathers

uppertail coverts
barred



heavily barred along flanks
clean white down the middle
of belly evident when bird preens

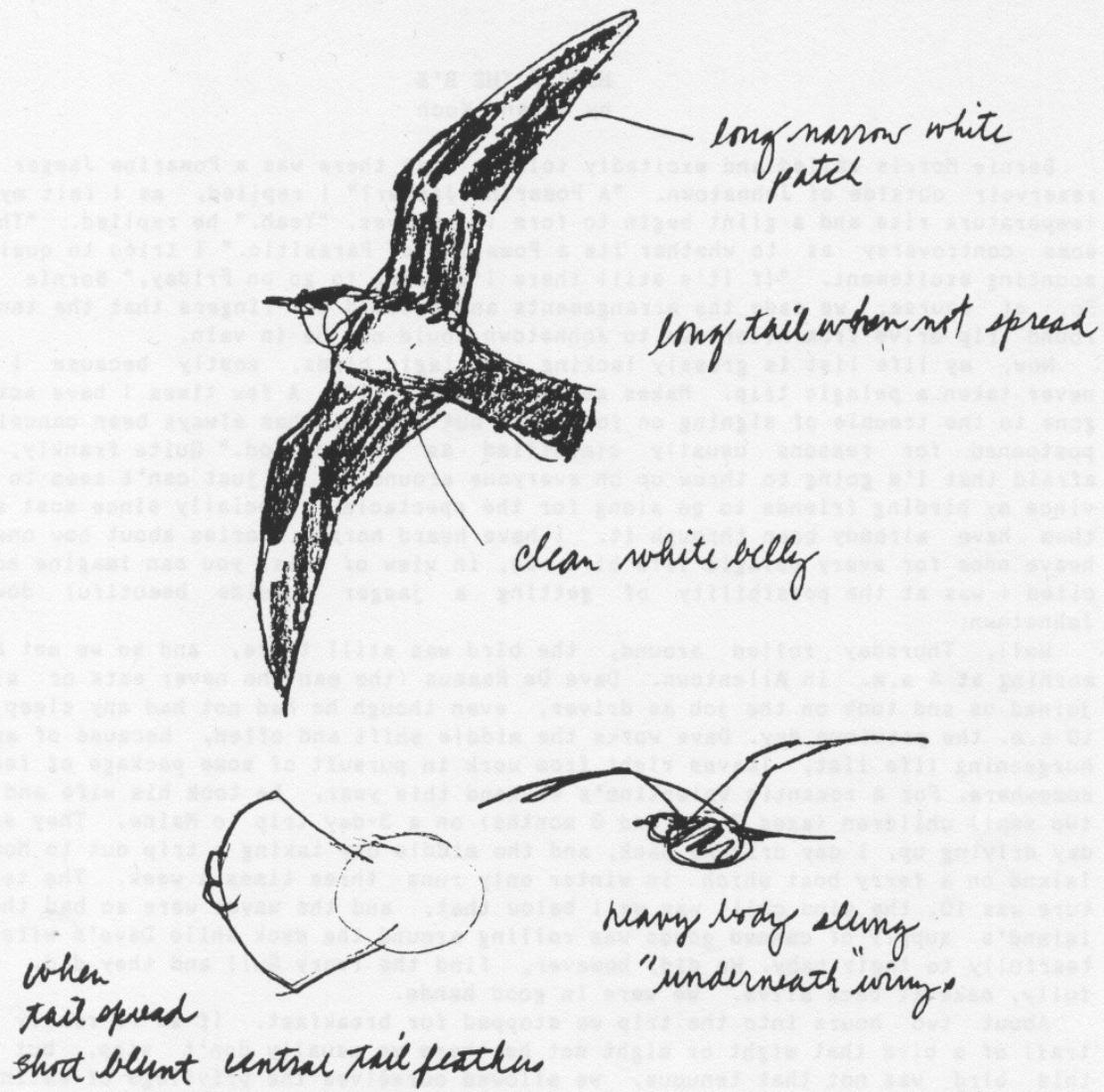


gentle arc to set gliding wings

HINKSTON PUN DAM
Johnstown PA

June 28th 1987

/Aren/Berry



Pomarine Jaeger
near adult

Hinkston Dam - Johnstown PA
June 28th 1987

Ivan Bransford

HERE'S THE B'S

by Arlene Koch

Bernie Morris called and excitedly told me that there was a Pomarine Jaeger on a reservoir outside of Johnstown. "A Pomarine Jaeger?" I replied, as I felt my body temperature rise and a glint begin to form in my eyes. "Yeah," he replied. "There's some controversy as to whether its a Pomarine or Parasitic." I tried to quell the mounting excitement. "If it's still there I'm going to go on Friday," Bernie said. So, of course, we made the arrangements and crossed our fingers that the ten-hour round trip drive from Allentown to Johnstown would not be in vain.

Now, my life list is grossly lacking in pelagic birds, mostly because I have never taken a pelagic trip. Makes sense, doesn't it? A few times I have actually gone to the trouble of signing on for one, but the trip has always been canceled or postponed for reasons usually classified as "Acts of God." Quite frankly, I'm, afraid that I'm going to throw up on everyone around me. I just can't seem to convince my birding friends to go along for the spectacle, especially since most all of them have already been through it. I have heard horror stories about how one must heave once for every pelagic life bird. So, in view of this, you can imagine how excited I was at the possibility of getting a jaeger outside beautiful downtown Johnstown.

Well, Thursday rolled around, the bird was still there, and so we met Friday morning at 4 a.m. in Allentown. Dave De Reamus (the man who never eats or sleeps) joined us and took on the job as driver, even though he had not had any sleep since 10 a.m. the previous day. Dave works the middle shift and often, because of an ever burgeoning life list, leaves right from work in pursuit of some package of feathers somewhere. For a romantic Valentine's weekend this year, he took his wife and their two small children (ages 2-1/2 and 6 months) on a 3-day trip to Maine. They spent 1 day driving up, 1 day driving back, and the middle day taking a trip out to Monhegan Island on a ferry boat which in winter only runs three times a week. The temperature was 10, the wind chill was well below that, and the waves were so bad that the island's supply of canned goods was rolling around the deck while Dave's wife clung tearfully to their baby. He did, however, find the Ivory Gull and they did, thankfully, make it back alive. We were in good hands.

About two hours into the trip we stopped for breakfast. If we're really on the trail of a bird that might or might not be there we usually don't stop, but since this bird was not that tenuous, we allowed ourselves the privilege of eating. We stopped at one of those truck stops which has about 300 tractor trailers parked outside of it and believed the reputation that if truckers eat there the food must be good or cheap or plentiful or something.

I headed for the rest rooms immediately while Dave and Bernie went on into the dining area. (I am firmly convinced that during birding trips men's kidneys dysfunction.) When I came out, I could see by the looks on their faces that something was up. They were both trying to quell a grin as Dave handed me the menu. I opened it up and scanned through, somehow missing the breakfast portion. I looked quizzically at them and Dave pointed to a small piece of paper attached to the back. It had three selections on it - A, B, and C. I couldn't believe it; a thousand truck stops in the world and we stopped at one that only had three breakfast selections. Bernie quickly pointed out that although the menu selection was small, we could pick up some trip birds by checking out the backs of the sugar packets. I was doing just that when the waitress appeared.

There is no nice way to describe this woman except to say that she was LARGE, quite unattractive, had Cleopatra-like eyeliner marks at the ends of her eyes, a pink bow in her hair, and spoke like a hoarse frog. She put the sugar packets back in their proper order in the bowl while my hand was still in there too. She was not a woman to be messed with. After she took our orders and walked away (an A and two B's) we all looked at each other and burst out laughing, albeit quietly. She was liable to come back at any time.

When she did return with the orders, she handed Dave his A. She looked at me and Bernie and said, in that voice I will never forget, "Here's the B's." We attempted to eat then, turning our heads and laughing while trying not to offend anyone, least of all the waitress. We have a penchant for picking eating places that are a little on the far side. This place conjured up memories of a place called "Pat's Steaks" just outside of Stone Harbor, NJ, but that's another story.

About three hours later we arrived at Hinkston Run Reservoir just above Johnstown. We pulled up, got quickly out with our scopes and binoculars, and moved to a spot where we could scan the water. There was ONE bird on the whole reservoir and it was the jaeger, sitting peacefully at the far end. It would drift lazily backwards until it got reasonably close to the far shore and then it would fly back out toward the center again. We were ecstatic! It had taken us all of 2 minutes to find the bird. It was a lifer for me and a state bird for both Bernie and Dave. We got back into the car and drove to the other side, where we could get a much better look at the bird. It was really weird seeing a jaeger floating on an almost still body of water in the center of Pennsylvania. Through the scope every detail of the bird was visible, right down to the color hues on the bill. It was great! It was a Pomarine!

We stayed a few hours, watching the bird and passing conversation with two other birders who showed up. At one point an irate fisherman came along. Seems that we were standing in HIS spot on the shore. Never mind that a hundred yards up there were many more vacant spots; he wanted this spot! He was very nice to our faces, mind you, but as he was driving up, unbeknownst to him, I watched as he shook his fist at Dave and Bernie and muttered to himself all the way down the road until he stopped his car and got out. As we tactfully tried to explain to him the significance of the jaeger out there, he told us about some "Canada ducks" that were around there last year. "They was interestin'," he said, as he straightened the litter around HIS spot. Eventually he drove on, shaking his head all the way.

When the rush from finding the bird began to stabilize, we found ourselves coming back to reality. Thoughts of making the 5-hour trip back began to gnaw at us, and we reluctantly left the jaeger behind. As we were driving through Johnstown we decided to stop for a quick lunch and immediately thoughts of our breakfast rushed back. Dave got a mischievous look on his face, lowered his voice, and said as we picked up the menus, "Here's the B's." Needless to say, we broke up.

We have a fish pond over by the barn. Ever since that trip, every time I hear a bullfrog croak, I wonder if it's wearing a pink bow.

1987 Pennsylvania Big Day... A New State Record by Becky Peplinski

May 16, 1987, 12:01 a.m. Terry Schiefer and my husband, John, and I stand at the edge of Fairbrook Marsh. A front moving through earlier in the day had left clear skies in its wake, and we hoped that the birds would cooperate as well as the weather. Within two minutes we've checked off our first two birds - Virginia Rail, then Sora - and by 12:05 we're back in the car and the race is on.

Our planning for the big day began more than a year earlier. During one of our lunch time brainstorming sessions not long after the 1986 World Series of Birding in New Jersey, the three of us started tossing around ideas for a big day route in Pennsylvania. One idea led to another, and before long, armed with rolls of topos and coded checklists, we were scouring Centre, Lancaster, and Philadelphia Counties. Although Terry moved to Mississippi in August, we kept in touch, and this May he returned to fine-tune the afternoon and evening sections of our route.

With scouting and planning complete, it was up to the weather and the birds. Our night birding see-sawed between unexpected misses and expected finds. A Pied-billed Grebe that had been found on every scouting trip called just once - enough for only

John to hear it - and instead of both cuckoos, our nighttime pass through the Barrens turned up only Yellow-billed. A Barred Owl was an early surprise, calling for us in a new location, but our resident Screech Owl, probably silent because of the bright moonlight, had to be coaxed into answering. Even more stubborn was the Great Horned Owl, which managed to elude us in its expected locations.

Matters began to improve, though, as we headed toward higher elevations and Black Moshannon State Park. After spotlighting sleeping Purple Martins in a backyard birdhouse (and making a fast get-away!), we headed for our Henslow's Sparrow field, where a singing Grasshopper Sparrow greeted us. An Ovenbird then treated us to its "night" song, and soon after - to our great relief - a Great Horned Owl hooted in the distance. Our real goal for this stop, however, was the Henslow's. Several checks of the field in the previous week had failed to turn up the sparrow, and we afraid that they still had not returned. But just as we were about to give up, Terry and I picked up a single *tsliick*, and a few moments later it called again (for John). It was the first Henslow's in the county this year - perhaps it arrived back while we stood there! Within ten minutes we were in the coniferous woods of Black Moshannon State Park, and John called in one of the best birds of the day - a Northern Saw-whet Owl that answered softly in the 4:00 a.m. stillness.

Both bird activity and the temperature reached their low points in the early morning hours. By 4:30, the three of us were frozen, despite hats, gloves, hot coffee, and layers of mismatched clothing salvaged from dark corners of our car. When the dawn chorus of Veeries, Hermit Thrushes, and Yellow-rumped Warblers finally broke the silence, both birds and birders were ready to get on with the day.

For the most part, Centre County lived up to our expectations, netting northern specialties such as Common Raven, Solitary Vireo, and Nashville Warbler. Alder Flycatcher just didn't make it back to Centre County by the 16th (it showed up three days later), and Purple Finch and Winter Wren, both county nesters, failed to show at their designated spots. A super find more than offset our disappointment in missing these species, however. The pumping of an American Bittern, coming from the marshy area behind the Black Moshannon airport, left us speechless.

It wasn't easy to leave the bittern, but warblers were beckoning. We had hoped to pick up most warbler species in Centre County, and here our scouting really paid off. Although we located small numbers of migrating Tennessee, Blackpoll, and Bay-breasted Warblers, a majority of species, including Chestnut-sided, Black-throated Blue, Cerulean, Black-and-white Warblers, American Redstart, Kentucky, and Hooded Warblers and Chat, were on breeding grounds. A final stop in Centre County yielded Pine Warbler, as well as Red-breasted Nuthatch - but only after a long wait while a group of noisy hikers moved past. As we left Centre County our list stood at 107.

Muddy Run in Lancaster County proved to be another productive spot on the route. A beautiful Bald Eagle soaring over the dam at Muddy Run surprised us almost as much as the bittern, and from a lookout across the river we saw an Osprey fly in to perch near its nest. A key species for the stop here was Blue Grosbeak - but they were extremely quiet in the mid-afternoon heat, and only as we were about to leave the park did we manage to uncover one.

From Lancaster County we headed east to Philadelphia and the Delaware River to spend the remainder of the day. Our first swing by the Delaware River was a big disappointment. Besides being stopped by the police, who thought our scopes resembled rifles (??), neither Laughing Gull nor a staked-out Ruddy Duck could be found. A bit later, though, our loop around Tinicum provided some of our most exciting birding. Each new species - Bank Swallow, Lesser Yellowlegs, Greater Yellowlegs, a flying Least Bittern, Willow Flycatcher - brought us one step closer to the record. We neared the end of the loop minus a Brown Thrasher and our total at 156 species; then, as if in reward for our hike around the impoundment, a thrasher began singing. We headed back to the river with high hopes, sore feet, and a definite need to see a Laughing Gull (*sans* police).

7:35 p.m. Tired, disheveled, and exceedingly anxious, the three of us clamber about the rocky edge of the Delaware River, trying to set up scopes without falling

into the water. After a few not-so-patient minutes, out across the water flies #158 - a tern, which we can't identify to species. Seconds later, a Great Black-backed Gull flies directly in front of us; and in another instant John spots our Ruddy Duck. A beautiful male Ruddy, which we had overlooked in our excitement, is swimming only 20 feet away. Then not one, but two Laughing Gulls appear, topping a flurry of activity and capping our list at 161.

The previous Pennsylvania Big Day record of 157 species was set on May 12, 1979, by D. Snyder, D. Steadman, J. Stull, and S. Stull. The team of G. Wilhelm, Jr., D. Hoskins, and M. Starker tied this record on May 7, 1983. Of the 161 species we recorded this year, John listed all 161, Terry listed 159, and I recorded 157. Despite excellent weather, both warbler and shorebird migrations were light, and the three of us agree that a fallout of either could push these totals even higher...and our sights are set on 170!

"Applied Ecology" by Gene Wilhelm, Jr.

This is a true story about a beautiful bird and caring people; about applied ecology or conservation in our own back yard.

Best known and most widespread of all North American herons, the Great Blue Heron is often called "blue crane" by western Pennsylvanians. Standing motionless along a stream or lake shore, this large wader is often the only living creature seen in the broad expanse of water and forest. It stands 4 feet tall, is 52 inches long, and has a dark blue-gray body with a light head. Even in flight it is easily identified by its large size, broad 7-foot wingspread, head folded back on its shoulders, dusky wings beating slowly and majestically, and long legs trailing behind.

A Great Blue Heron fishes by day or night, preferring dawn and dusk hours. It usually stands quietly in shallow water waiting for its prey to come within striking distance of its sharp, pointed bill. Although fish constitute most of its diet, it will also eat crayfish, frogs, toads, lizards, snakes, grasshoppers, dragonflies, and many aquatic insects that prey on young fishes.

The Great Blue Heron is called a barometer of our lakes, rivers, and streams. It is susceptible to chemical pollutants and, thus, will usually only feed in relatively clean water. However, they are easily disturbed by their primary enemy, humans. The main threat to the species today is loss of habitat brought about by the expansion of our cities and suburbs and by timber cutting. It is listed as a vulnerable species in Pennsylvania, meaning that it could become threatened or even endangered because of habitat loss, declining numbers, destructive human actions, or a combination of these factors.

Great Blue Herons are colonial tree nesters which, unfortunately, makes their heronries subject to disturbance and destruction. Such seemed the case of Pennsylvania's largest Great Blue Heron colony near Reynolds. In March 1986 it contained 153 nests in 60 trees. Logging rights were sold to a firm in Spartansburg, PA, and logging began in earnest early last spring. However, the logging was stopped by the Pennsylvania Game Commission and the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service since the birds and their nesting sites were protected during the breeding season. Nevertheless, once nesting ceased in late summer, the law no longer applied and the firm was free to cut the trees used by the herons.

Edward Brucker, a guardian of the Great Blue Heron for many years, took immediate action in contacting local and regional newspapers, sportsmen's organizations, Audubon chapters, and interested citizens. The herony and its breeding grounds had to be preserved.

Delicate behind-the-scene negotiations commenced at once. Chief actors were Mr. Jack Schaaf, representative of the Mercer County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Mr. Thomas Hodge, President of the Greenville Reynolds Development Corporation, and

Ed Brucker. The Bartramian Audubon Society, with headquarters in Slippery Rock, leant its moral support from the beginning and was involved in strategy meetings in the spring of 1986. In fact, the Chapter was prepared to publicize the heron problem to the fullest, including getting its Audubon Adventures classes - all 23 of them - to write letters. But all parties involved in the delicate negotiations wanted to try quiet diplomacy first before having to resort to such public outcries.

The combination of quiet diplomacy and mass-media coverage by 12 newspapers in three counties worked and in record time. Earlier this spring, approximately one year after negotiations began, this breeding ground of the Great Blue Heron at Reynolds was saved from all future human disturbances.

Two important developments have occurred already in connection with the heronry. First, during the summer of 1986 the Brucker Great Blue Heron Sanctuary was incorporated as a non-profit organization. Future plans include attempting to acquire more land, the building of an observation platform, and the preparation of educational materials. Second, the Brucker Great Blue Heron Sanctuary was given the status of propagation area by the Pennsylvania Game Commission. This important event occurred after the recent mass-media publicity. The action constitutes important first for the Pennsylvania Game Commission, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and a volunteer organization such as the Brucker Great Blue Heron Sanctuary, Inc.

On May 11, 1987 the Bartramian Audubon Society presented the first Business Citation Award in Conservation for 1986-1987 to the Greenville Reynolds Development Corporation, Mr. Thomas Hodge, President, accepting; the first Organization Citation Award in Conservation for 1986-1987 to the Mercer County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Mr. Jack Schaaf, County Delegate, accepting; award; and the first Individual Citation Award in Conservation for 1986-1987 to Mr. Edward F. Brucker of Misery, Ohio, the instigator of the entire project.

On the behalf of the Great Blue Heron and the citizens of Western Pennsylvania, thank you, gentlemen, for a conservation job well done.

Reprinted in part from the Editorial Page of the Butler Eagle, Saturday, May 16, 1987.

Summary of the Season - 1 April to 30 June 1987

This quarter 254 species were reported. For the second year in a row, a Swainson's Warbler was found in w. Pennsylvania. Last year one was banded in May at Presque Isle S.P. and this year one was found singing in Pittsburgh's South Park on 21-22 May. But rarities were not over for the season. What may turn out to be the bird-of-the-year, a Pomarine Jaeger, was seen from 24 June through 3 July on Hinkston Run Reservoir in Cambria County.

Northumberland Co. had its first record of a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, when one was seen 14 May. This is either one peripatetic flycatcher that is enjoying roaming the state or there were a lot of vagrants of that species in recent months. One was near Bake Oven Knob, Lehigh Co., August, 1986, another in Lebanon Co. in January 1987, followed quickly by another sighting of one in Dauphin Co. later that month.

Another unusual sighting was of a female Black-headed Grosbeak in Delaware County on 10 May. Unfortunately, for other birders, it was only seen that day. Although the Western Meadowlark apparently did not return to Butler County this year, one was found in Centre County. from 5-14 May. Rounding out the list of the more unusual finds was a Sandhill Crane 6 April in Warren County.

Although loons are traditionally known for lingering into June, review of county reports for Double-crested Cormorants lends credence to the thinking that this species may one day breed in the state. Consider the fact that there are reports of no less than 30 individuals reported along the Susquehanna River from York County north to Dauphin County, with dates through the end of the quarter. This can corre-

late well with the return of Ospreys as a breeding species because of the ban of DDT. Will next year be when they are confirmed breeding in Pennsylvania?

Grebels were in poor numbers everywhere, and Wilhelm's suggestion of their being placed on the state's blue list is probably valid. Probably the most encouraging reports came in for long-legged waders. Supplementing the article on Great Blue Herons are interesting reports from Cumberland, Berks and Erie Counties. Bittern reports were good only from Centre County.

Waterfowl reports were perhaps skewed by weather conditions, but in general should be considered lackluster. Only White-winged and Surf Scoters were reported. Two confirmed nestings of Green-winged Teal were exciting; they were in Erie and Sullivan Counties, and again may be attributed to healthier water.

The good news in 1986 that Ospreys returned as a nesting species for the first time in 50 years is almost overshadowed by the poor news of the other nesting raptors. Hawks were generally down, many observers commenting on the lack of all species, especially the kestrel. Buteos have received mixed reviews and, as habitat is reduced, they will require monitoring. As a matter of policy, we will not identify nesting locations for accipiters or falcons; there are little data to delete, unfortunately.

Apparently we will have to wait another quarter to get much in the way of shorebird sightings. Except for some Ruddy Turnstones in unusual locations, shorebirds must have passed us by, along with the thrushes and warblers.

Cuckoos were alarmingly absent with few exceptions...Elk, McKean, Dauphin, and Westmoreland Counties. Woodpeckers could best be summarized with Red-headed Woodpeckers down, Red-bellied Woodpeckers up! Pileated Woodpeckers are apparently more adaptable than their larger cousin, the Ivory-billed, with most counties reporting them.

AGAIN NO LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE REPORTED.

Gray-cheeked Thrushes were practically non-existent. We trust that all who have found Purple Martin colonies have reported them to the Purple Martin Colony Registry, P.O. Box 178, Edinboro, PA 16412.

Vireo numbers seemed average. However, with no real waves or fallouts of warblers it was more difficult to assess that situation; breeders apparently returned on time and in appropriate numbers. Grassland sparrows are in good numbers in appropriate habitat and utilizing reclaimed strip mines across the state. Henslow's Sparrow reports were especially encouraging.

This issue is jam-packed with lots of valuable and interesting information that warrants your attention...and we couldn't even include all the material submitted!

Abbreviations Frequently Used in County Reports

ad.:adult, **Am.:**American, **BBS:**Breeding Bird Survey, **c.:**central, **C:**Celsius, **CBC:**Christmas Bird Count, **Cr.:**creek, *et al.:*and others, **e.:**eastern, **Eur.:**European,Eurasian, **F:**Fahrenheit, **♀:**female, *fide:*reported by, **Ft.:**Fort, **imm.:**immature, **indiv.:**individual(s), **I.:**Island, **Is.:**Islands, **Jct.:**Junction, **juv.:**juvenile, **L.:**Lake, **♂:**male, **max.:**maximum, **min.:**minimum, **m.ob.:**many observers, **Mt.:**Mountain, **Mts.:**Mountains, **NF.:**National Forest, **NWR:**National Wildlife Refuge, **PBBAP:**Breeding Bird Atlas Project, **PGC:** PA Game Commission, **Res.:**Reservoir, **R.:**River, **SF:**State Forest, **SGL:**State Game Lands, **SP:**State Park, **sp.:**species, **spp.:**species plural, **ssp.:**subspecies, **Twp.:**Township, **w.:**western, **WMA:**Wildlife Management Area, **v.o.:**various observers, **N,S,E,W.:**direction of motion, **n.,s.,e.,w.:**direction of location, **>:**more than, **<:**fewer than, **±:**approximately, or estimated number, **♀:**imm. or female, ***:**specimen, **ph.:**photographed, **ft.:**feet, **mi.:**miles, **m.:**meters, **km.:**kilometers, date with a + (e.g., May 4+):recorded beyond that date. Compilers may also abbreviate often-cited locations or organizations.

Adams County (01)

An **Upland Sandpiper** was discovered 5/28 on Rt. 234, 1.8 mi n. of East Berlin by Dick Humbert. He found 3 ad. on a later visit (*fide* Al Spiese).

Allegheny County (02)

Locations: Chatham College (CC), Greater Pittsburgh Airport (GPA), North Park (NoP), Pittsburgh (PGH), South Park (SoP), West Deer (WD).

GOOD SPECIES. Starring this season was the county's first-ever **Swainson's Warbler**, a singing ♂ at SoP 5/21-22. Fast "hotline" work by discoverer Darney enabled JBB, ENH, JH, RH, LO & KR to observe it closely and leisurely over nearly two full days, confirming the 4th w. PA record (ph.).

Meanwhile, s.w. PA's first **Harlequin Duck** continued on the Ohio R. at PGH, though a duck-feeding resident's word that it has been present for two years may cloud its status.

Species worthy of special mention include **Barred Owl** at CC (VD) and WD (TNM); **Sora** at WD 5/5 (PB); **Semipalmated Sandpiper** at NoP 5/12 (TF), the season's only s.w. PA report; **Olive-sided Flycatcher** at Frick Park 5/19 (MV) and NoP 5/21 (JH); 3 **Alder Flycatcher** at Boyce Park 5/21 (MV, CR); 5 northerly N. **Mockingbird** near GPA (MV) and 2 continuing at the Carnegie Museum parking lot in Oakland (VD); "**Brewster's**" **Warbler** at Fox Chapel (FR, JC *et al.*) and SoP (WH); northerly **Yellow-throated Warbler** at Sewickley (JH) and Indiana Twp (TNM); **Worm-eating Warbler** at Sewickley and Indiana Twp (JH); 3 N. **Waterthrush** at Schenley Park 5/4 (VD); **Lincoln's Sparrow** at CC 5/4-5 (VD) and Frick Park 5/10 (TF), and **Orchard Oriole** near GPA (MV) and Elizabeth (MEW).

TIMING: In spite of the unusually mild late-April weather, only a few notably early dates were recorded. First **Broad-winged Hawk** 4/12 at WD (TNM) was slightly early. Most remarkable were 2 **Common Nighthawk** seen well by an experienced observer at Monongahela 4/14-21 (WH), nearly a month early; another at PGH 5/2 (VD, JL) was a week early. Two **Chimney Swift** at NoP 4/15 (JH *et al.*) also were a week early. Slightly early were a **Black-throated Green Warbler** at Fox Chapel 4/17 (PB) and a **Lincoln's Sparrow** at PGH 4/26 (VD).

Otherwise the general pattern was rather late; a number of species nearly always listed before the end of April did not appear until early May. For example, no **Great Crested Flycatcher** or N. **Oriole** was listed in April and only single **Wood Thrush**, **Gray Catbird** and **Scarlet Tanager** were reported by April's end. Further, although the warbler arrival began in good time for most species, with the first major influx 4/22-23, the 19 species listed before May were fewer than usual. **Ken-**

tucky, **Hooded** and **Yellow-breasted Chat** were most prominently missing from the late-April list.

With more usual timing, this county had a number of this season's first-dates reported for all s.w. PA, including **Spotted Sandpiper** 4/14 at NoP (PH); **Black-billed Cuckoo** 5/10 at Monroeville (SC); **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** 5/8 at SoP (WH); **Whip-poor-will** 5/3 at Banksville (CT); **Least Flycatcher** 4/28 at Edgeworth (JH); **Purple Martin** 4/15 at Fawn (PH); **Bank and Cliff** swallows 4/23 at NoP (JH *et al.*); **Philadelphia Vireo** 5/5 at Homewood (MV, EK).

GOOD NUMBERS: Deserving comment are **Red-tailed Hawk** (pairs everywhere); **Carolina Wren** (best presence in a decade, with the onset of the nesting season showing numbers approaching those of the pre-crash era 77/78); **Solitary Vireo** an exceptionally good flight in the second half of April; **Yellow-rumped Warbler** (the only warbler species showing an obviously good migration in the field); **White-crowned Sparrow** (fine movement 5/2-10, including top count of 20 at Homewood Cemetery (MV *et al.*)); **Purple Finch** (better-than-usual flight in April); **Pine Siskin** (good late-April/early-May migration after a rather poor winter), and **Evening Grosbeak** (good movement 4/20-30, straggling into early May, after a winter of virtual absence).

POOR NUMBERS: A pair of **Red-shouldered Hawks** at Natrona Hts. (PH) and a bird at Bruceton (MM) were the only reports. **E. Screech-Owl** was in very short supply, and **N. Flicker** were well below traditional levels. *Empidonax* flycatchers showed a notably poor migration from the field viewpoint.

Finally, and most significantly, come the *Catharus* thrushes. The **Hermit** passage was average, but **Veery**, **Gray-cheeked** and **Swainson's** again showed a worryingly scant presence. Swainson's was most conspicuously scarce; in fact, except for a single nice movement of 9-12 at Homewood Cemetery 5/18 (MV), they were almost absent.

We regret that Paul Hess will no longer be the compiler; he has promised to not forget us, even though now living and working in Niagara, NY. Joe Grom, known to all of you, has accepted the position of compiler, so please send your data to him.

OBSERVERS: James & Bonnie Baird, Paul Brown, Seija Cohen, Jan Cordell, Dave Darney, Vickie Dziadosz, Ted Floyd, **Joe Grom, North Park, Pittsburgh 15091 (412-935-3563)**, Eric & Nathan Hall, Walter Hammond, Paul Hess, William Higbee, Joyce Hoffmann, Rose Hohmann, Ed Kwater, Carroll Labarthe, Jay Loughlin, Tom & Nellie McGary, Matt Mezinze, Lester Olson, Fred Rimmel, Curtis Robbins, Keith Rosemore, Chuck Tague, Jim Valimont, Mark VanderVen, Mike & Evaleen Watko.

Armstrong County (03)

Locations: Cowansville (CVL), Keystone Res. (KR), Kittanning (KTG).

Waterfowl reports are sparse. Although 3 fairly large bodies of water exist, KR, Crooked Cr. L., and Mahoning Cr. Res., few observers bird them with any regularity. All of our observers are currently participating in the PABBAP and are spending their time in "less interesting" areas.

A pair of **Pied-billed Grebe** was at the beaver ponds near CVL 5/12 to 6/12 (DG,NK,CD). Few **Green-backed Heron** were reported besides 4 near CVL (DG). On 5/17, near dusk, 43 **Wood Duck** flew over the beaver ponds (MH,RH,NK,NoK,DG,JG). A single **Blue-winged Teal** was observed at KR 4/23 (AH,MH). Last **Am. Wigeon** was listed 4/2 at CVL (DG).

An **Osprey** was seen near KTG 4/21 (NK). A **N. Harrier** was reported near CVL 5/12, the lone report (CD,MH,NK). **Sharp-shinned Hawk** went unreported. **Cooper's**, on the other hand, seem to be in good numbers (m.ob.), including a family group of 2 ad. and 2 young (*location deleted. Eds.*) (NK). **Red-shouldered Hawk** again nested near KTG (NK). Many observers felt that **Am. Kestrel** were in extremely low numbers; several commented none observed since early spring; however, 3 were counted on the KTG BBS Route 6/27 (MH,RH). Three reports of **Wild Turkey** were received from Beyer, KR (AH,MH), and near McGregor (RH,MH). **Spotted Sandpiper** was found near Bogsville 5/8 (NK). **Am. Woodcock** were performing their mating ritual well into late May.

Black-billed Cuckoo were found at KR 5/28 (AH,MH) and near Dayton on a BBS Route 6/27 (RH,MH). A single **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was reported at CVL 6/12 (DG). **Great Horned Owl** was the only owl species listed (FE,GW). A **Chuck-will's-widow** was heard 5/6 (LA). The only **Red-headed Woodpecker** reported was seen near KTG 5/7 (NK). **Red-bellied Woodpecker** seem to be fairly common in this area. **Hairy Woodpecker** and **N. Flicker** were confirmed nesting w. of Timblin 6/1 (AH,MH). A pair of **Pileated Woodpecker** was present near KR throughout the period (MH,AH).

A pair of **Horned Lark** was observed on a model airplane field near KTG 5/12 (CD,MH,NK). Eight **Purple Martin** were observed 5/28 perched on a martin house near Elderton, where they nested successfully last year (AH,MH).

Carolina Wren seem to be recovering, with most reports coming from the KTG area. Many **E. Bluebird** were reported. **Veery** seems to be increasing in pockets, as they have been reported in several new locations (CD). The lone **Hermit Thrush** report, a migrant, was 4/21 near Whitesburg (MH,NK,NoK). Only 67 **Am. Robin** were counted on the KTG Route, the lowest of four routes run by the same observers (MH,RH). **Gray Catbird** were not reported until 5/5 (NK).

Only 3 **White-eyed Vireo** were reported. In contrast 59 **Red-eyed Vireo** were counted on the KTG Route (MH,RH). Other vireo reports were average in date and numbers.

Numerous **Blue-winged Warbler** reports were received,

but **Golden-winged Warbler** were observed only near Fosters Mills, near CVL 5/29, and near Adrian 6/16 (CD,NK). Migrant warblers did not appear in our area in any large waves. Small flocks of 1-5 birds were the norm. **N. Parula** was listed only at Fosters Mills 5/29 (CD,NK). **Chestnut-sided Warbler** are being reported breeding in greater numbers from various parts of the county, but this may be due to more observers in the field working on the PBBAP. A **Louisiana Waterthrush** 4/23 near Atwood was late. **Yellow-breasted Chat** seem to be in very low numbers; 2 on the KTG Route and only 1 on the Shelocta Route (MRH).

Indigo Bunting returned on 4/18, very early (fide HC). Grassland sparrows - **Vesper, Savannah, Grasshopper**, and **Henslow's** - were well reported from all parts of the county. The lone **Fox Sparrow** report was of 1 bird visiting a feeder near KTG 4/1-5 (CD). **Swamp Sparrow** were listed only from the beaver ponds near CVL (DG,NK, CD). A **White-crowned Sparrow** was at Shay 5/1 (FN). **Bobolink** reports were widespread. **Purple Finch** were confirmed nesting on the KTG Route (MH,RH). Last **Pine Siskin** was 4/2 at KTG (GSS).

OBSERVERS: Leif Anderson, Helen Crawford, Caroline Davies, Florence Emmonds, Denise Garrott, John Garrott, Anne Hedgpeth, **Margaret and Roger Higbee, RD #2, Box 166, Indiana 15701 (412-354-3493)**, Nancy Karp, Norman Karp (NoK), Frances Norris, Grace Sprout (GSS), Gloria Winger, John Winger.

Bedford County (05)

Location: Shawnee SP (SSP).

Bedford is the site of a relatively new raptor counting station. The location is Tussey Mt. at Everett. This year, for the first time, Spring sampling counts were conducted in April with the following results:

Date	BW	RT	RS	SS	CH	AK	OS	GE
4/18	69	17	4	28	6	1	3	1
4/22	398	12	2	14	6	0	17	0
4/27	84	6	2	2	2	1	19	0

Tussey Mt., now in its 4th year for Fall migration counts, has shown the importance of the ridge migration systems in w. PA, but Spring counts may be even more impressive. One must keep in mind that this is one of the most western hawk counting stations in the state (KG,TD).

There were 2 separate reports of **Black Tern** fishing small farm ponds 5/9-10. Although this tern can be common in Spring at SSP, these are the first local reports on farm impoundments. A survey of SSP 5/11 turned up the following noteworthy species: 1 albino **Common Loon**, 3 **Red-throated Loon**, 1 **Ruddy Duck**, 8 **Lesser Yellowlegs**, 30 **Spotted Sandpiper**, 1 **Short-billed Dowitcher**, 1 **Ruddy Turnstone** (TD,CV,MJ, LJ). The turnstone *may* be a county record.

Other birds of interest were 6 **Forster's Tern**, 1 **Green-backed Heron**, and 1 **Am. Bittern**. **Golden-winged**

Warbler continue to be abundant in the shrubby fields surrounding the lake. A **Red-headed Woodpecker** colony near the lake consists of 5 breeding pairs; on 5/26 another colony with 3 pairs was found approx. 6 mi away. Numerous reports were received of **Osprey** fishing small farm ponds and trout streams no wider than 3 ft (TF).

Atlas information received from Ruth Sager includes the following briefs: A banner year for **E. Bluebird** in Bedford; **Great Crested Flycatcher** were found commonly associated with the 17-year cicada; **Am. Kestrel** numbers were down; **Cliff Swallow** were found co-habiting with **Barn Swallow** in barns (this was also true for *Cambria* and *Somerset*); it was a good year for **Prairie Warbler** and **Louisiana Waterthrush**; and, finally, in s. *Bedford*, **Whip-poor-will** and **N. Bobwhite** numbers were good.

OBSERVERS: Tom Dick, 1003 Eisenhower Blvd., Johnstown 15904 (814-266-6412), Kevin Georg, Laura Jackson, Michael Jackson, Ruth Sagar, Charles Voytko.

Berks County (06)

Locations: Blue Marsh Lake Recreation Area (BMRA), Daniel Boone Homestead (DBH), Gov. Mifflin Middle School (GMMSch), Hawk Mt. Sanctuary (HMS), Hopewell Village (HV), L. Ontelaunee (LO), Reading Rehabilitation Center (RRC).

There was no rarity this quarter and the migration held no surprises, but several people felt that the numbers of warblers were low. Much of the information in this report is due to the efforts of PBBAP workers, so special thanks to them and to all who sent reports.

LOONS TO HAWKS. Single **Common Loon** were seen at BMRA 4/3 (BP) and LO 4/10 (MSp), while a flock of 8 flew over the RRC 5/25 (MW). A **Double-crested Cormorant** was seen at LO 4/17-24 (MSp). Two **Great Blue Heron** were at a pond near Oley 5/28, with a single bird there 6/14 (RK). A **Great Egret** was seen near Mt. Aetna 6/17 & 6/30 (SS). **Black-crowned Night-Heron** returned to West Lawn and near Oley in early April, with at least 11 nests at West Lawn reported in June. **Wood Duck** were breeding at Gring's Mill Park (WM,MG) and also in Albany Twp 6/17 (MSp). A small flock of **Green-winged Teal** were seen early Apr. at Peter's Cr. (MSp) and BMRA (BP). Latest date for **Am. Black Duck** was 4/19 at LO (MSp).

Black Vulture, breeding at HV, were also reported from Lenhartsville, Hamburg (KG) and Lobachsville (RK) in June. **Osprey** first noted at BMRA 4/5 (BP) were seen through 5/16 in several locations (RK,KF). Two **Bald Eagle** passed HMS 4/19 (LG,JB). Two **N. Harrier** were at BMRA 4/3 (BP). Only report of **Cooper's Hawk** was 1 at Bethel 6/17 (SS). **Broad-winged Hawk** were first seen in Pike Twp 4/17 (RK) with a high of 26 at HMS 4/25 (LG,JB). Only **Am. Kestrel** report received was of 1 seen along Vinemont Rd. 4/2 (WM).

GROUSE TROUGH WOODPECKERS. A **Ruffed Grouse** was at Pine Swamp 5/16 (BLM,SSm) and a female with 5+ young in

SGL 52 6/21 (MS). Several **Wild Turkey** were seen on Mt. Penn 5/24 and 6/14 (MSp). A **N. Bobwhite** noted at GMMSch 4/14-15 (AW) and 1 found dead on Museum Rd., Shillington 4/14 (MS). A **Solitary Sandpiper** was at Peter's Cr. 5/12 (MW). Reports of **Spotted Sandpiper** were 2 at Hay Cr. 5/1 (HL) and 2 near Oley 6/14 & 6/21 (RK). An **Upland Sandpiper** was present near Eckville 5/24 until 6/13 (KG); 1 **Least Sandpiper** was seen near Oley 5/28 (RK); 15 **Common Snipe** were seen at Pleasantville 4/5 (RK) and 1 was seen at GMMSch 4/9 (AW). A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was at Peter's Cr. 5/24 (MW). 3 **Long-eared Owl** were at BMRA 4/3 (BP). 1 **Short-eared Owl** flew by HMS 4/11 (*fide* LG).

One **Common Nighthawk** observed in Kutztown 5/17 (BLM). One **Whip-poor-will** was present near BMRA 5/2 (EB) and Hay Cr. 5/10-17 (MSp); 3 were at SGL 110 6/14 (KG). **Red-headed Woodpecker** reports were of 4 near Pleasantville 4/11 and 1 there 6/21 (RK) plus 2 near Bethel 6/17 (SS). A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was at Hay Cr. 4/18 (HL).

FLYCATCHERS TO VIREOS. One **Olive-sided Flycatcher** near Eckville 6/18 (KG,DG). A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** observed at Stony Run 5/24 (GY). An early **Great Crested Flycatcher** at Kutztown 4/19 (CRE). Other flycatcher dates were within the expected time frame and location. Single **Purple Martin** at Hamburg 4/10 (KG) and at BMRA 5/2 (HL). **N. Rough-winged Swallow** were not seen before 5/1 (HL,WPM,VE). **Bank Swallow** were present at LO 5/3 (MSp). The large colony of **Cliff Swallow** at LO was active 5/2+; others observed at HV (MSp) and n. of Frystown 6/1 (SS).

Two **Fish Crow** were in Pike Twp 4/18 & 5/9 (RK). A **Common Raven** noted at SGL 110 4/26 (KG). Single **Red-breasted Nuthatch** seen at the Reading Museum 5/5 (MS) and Pike Twp 5/10 (HL). At least 3 **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** passed through Pike Twp 4/9 (RK). Pairs of **E. Bluebird** were noted throughout the county; 10 nests at the DBH produced 37 fledglings by end-June, fewer than previous years (TK). Spotted-breasted thrush reports did not include any sighting of **Gray-cheeked** and only 1 **Swainson's** (Pike Twp) 5/16 (RK). **Veery**, **Hermit** and **Wood Thrush** reports were average (v.o.). **Gray Catbird** returned as usual with the first 5/3 in Robeson (HL) and Pike Twps (RK). **Brown Thrasher** were on time, but not many reports (BP,MW). Vireo sightings were as expected, but no **Warbling Vireo** reported.

WARBLERS TO FINCHES. Warbler reports were many, but no one experienced a fallout or wave during the period. Possibly the best number for any species was of 10 **Blackpoll Warbler** at LO 5/24 (MW). All breeders returned on time, in expected locations, and typical numbers.

A **Blue Grosbeak** was seen at Umbrella Hill near Kutztown 5/10 (CRE). Grassland sparrows seemed in good numbers in the Bethel area with 5 **Vesper**, 3 **Savannah**, and 5 **Grasshopper** sparrows tallied 6/1 (SS). A singing Vesper Sparrow was also near Albany 6/17 (MSp), while other Savannahs were noted at Shoemakersville 5/31 (MSp) and 1 at Lyons 6/27 (MW). A **Fox Sparrow** was seen at Hay Cr. 4/18 (HL). A **Lincoln's**

Sparrow was seen at SGL 110 5/16 (KG). Last **White-throated Sparrow** were 6 at the Reading Museum 5/5 (MS). Single **Dark-eyed Junco** noted as late as 5/2 near BMRA 5/2 (EB). **Bobolink** were first noted 5/17 at LO (MSp) with nesting probable at Shoemakersville, Albany and at the DBH in June. **E. Meadowlark** were fairly common in the n. portion of the county, but uncommon in the s. portion through the period (MSp). **Orchard Oriole** were found in HV (MSp), Mt. Aetna (SS), Lenhartsville (KG), Shoemakersville, Pine Cr. and LO (MSp). **Purple Finch** last noted 5/17 (RK,MS,MSp). **Pine Siskin** remained at feeders throughout April, with 50+ at HMS 4/4 (DW); the last sighting was 1 at the Reading Museum 5/5 (MS). **Evening Grosbeak** late date was 6/6 at HMS (MW).

OBSERVERS: Ed Barrell, Jim Brett, Catherine R. Elwell, Victor Emanuel, the Karasin Family, Laurie Goodrich, Kerry Grim, Dorothy Grim, Mark Grounard, Rudy Keller, Terry Knorr, Harold Lebo, Bernie L. Morris, William & Pam Munroe, Barry Pounder, Steve Santner, Cyrell Smith, Steve Smith (SSm), Matt Spence (MSp), **Mike Slater, RD #4, Box 4106, Mohnton 19540**, Anita Wagner, Matt Wlasniewski, Gordon Yoder.

Blair County (07)

Location: Canoe Creek SP (CCSP).

The two unusual reports for the quarter were a **Chukar** near Arch Spring in Sinking Valley 5/12 (ML) and an imm. **Summer Tanager** acquiring adult plumage near Tyrone 5/10 (SB).

The county's April waterfowl flight reflected reports received from the surrounding counties during the same time period. Large numbers of **Common Loon**, **Ruddy Duck**, **Lesser Scaup**, **Horned Grebe** and **Red-breasted Merganser** were at CCSP from 4/1-10. A single **Red-throated Loon** was also observed at the lake 4/5-10. **Wood Duck** were seen in good numbers along the nearby Frankstown branch of the Juniata R. (ML).

Raptor reports this quarter were limited to 3 **Red-tailed Hawk** defending territory near CCSP in mid-April, 1 **Cooper's Hawk** near Bellwood 4/28, and a single **Osprey** over CCSP lake 4/8. The most commonly asked question this Spring has been, "Where are all of our hawks?" Reports from several reliable sources all point to lower than normal numbers of hawk sightings.

Owls were noted in many reporting areas, with **Great Horned** most numerous. Several **Common Barn-Owl** were in the Martinsburg area exploring old, abandoned silos. **Barred Owl** were reported on Loop Mt., n. of Martinsburg 5/25. PBBAP reports revealed an active **Bank Swallow** colony in a mining refuse pile near Williamsburg. An active **Belted Kingfisher** burrow was found at the same location.

The Allegheny Front, which borders the entire w. portion of **Blair**, provided the most warbler "action" reported. The 2000 ft. plateau, near Blue Knob ski area, provided the only report of

Bobolink; an upland field was filled with 30 Bobolinks, both ♂ and ♀, as well as **Grasshopper** and **Savannah** sparrows, all on 6/28.

All above data are by the editor, except where noted.

OBSERVERS: Steve Bonta, **David Kyler, RD #4, Box 159-A, Huntingdon 16652 (814- 643-6030)**, Melvin Lane.

Bradford County (08)

Locations: Harvey's Lake (HL), Laceyville (LCV).

This report also includes sightings from **Luzerne**, **Susquehanna** and **Wyoming**. The spring migration in the 4-county area was not spectacular, with few heavy flights being reported. Shorebirds were particularly scarce and, aside from early April at HL, there were no unusual ducks or other water birds. All observations by compiler unless otherwise indicated.

Common Merganser were found in all four counties through the breeding season. **Virginia Rail** were noted in **Brad.**, **Sus.** and **Wyo.** in breeding season (FBH,WR). **Black-billed Cuckoo** were reported for all counties far more often than **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**, a reverse of the normal pattern. **Alder Flycatcher** are also being reported in numerous locations in all four counties (MB,FBH,TG,WR). **Purple Martin** were present this year at most traditional breeding sites. Breeding **Yellow-rumped Warbler** were again reported in all four counties, with 7 in Le Raysville 6 block (**Bradford**) 6/13. No report of **Henslow's Sparrow** was received, despite repeated visits to favorite sites where they bred in 1986. Throughout the area, **Common Redpoll** were present well into March, and **Evening Grosbeak** and **Pine Siskin** were present throughout into mid-May.

Bradford: 1 N. **Bobwhite** 4/29 near Silvara; 1 N. **Saw-whet Owl** 4/19 Spring Hill; 1 **Common Raven** 5/23 n. of LCV; 11 Water Pipit 4/27 n. of LCV; a singing male "**Lawrence's Warbler**" in territorial behavior (including song response to a nearby **Blue-winged**) 5/23 n. of LCV; 1 **Mourning Warbler** w. of LCV; 1 **Golden-crowned Kinglet** 6/15, Wyalusing; 1 **Orchard Oriole** 5/24 Silvara.

Luzerne: 1 **Red-throated Loon** and 35 **Common Loon** 4/4 H.L.; 3 **Horned Grebe** 4/3 H.L.; 1 **Am. Bittern** twice in early May, Lee's Swamp (WE); **Black-crowned Night-Heron** herony at Pittston not occupied this year; 7 **Oldsquaw** and 3 **Red-breasted Merganser** 4/3 HL; 7 **White-winged Scoter** 4/4 HL; ad. **Bald Eagle** at Wilkes-Barre 5/7 (JH); 15 **Bonaparte's Gull** 4/10-13 H.L. (m.ob.). 1 **Olive-sided Flycatcher** late June, s. **Luzerne** (MB); 1 **Red-breasted Nuthatch** 6/27 near Berwick; 1 **Golden-crowned Kinglet** through May & June at Dallas (EJ); 1 **Gray-cheeked Thrush** 5/16 Wilkes-Barre (KM); 1 **Philadelphia Vireo** 5/9 Wilkes-Barre (KM,JH); **Solitary Vireo**, nest with young of early date of 5/16 Bear Cr. (MS); 1 **Cerulean Warbler** early June near Bear Cr. (MS); **Orchard Oriole** nesting at Edwardsville (KM); **Pine Siskin** nesting at Mountaintop (JJ).

Wyoming: ad and subad. **Bald Eagle** summering along

SR between Mehoopany and LCV (DB *et al.*); **Red-shouldered Hawk**, with young Mehoopany 6/24; 1 **Common Moorhen** 6/14 Tunkhannock (RD); 2 **Barred Owl** 4/21 Tunkhannock; 1 **Whip-poor-will** 5/15 Mehoopany, only report; 1 **Olive-sided Flycatcher** 6/17 Mehoopany; 1 pair **Common Raven** through-out the quarter Mehoopany; 1 **Golden-crowned Kinglet** 6/3 Lemon; 1 **White-eyed Vireo** 5/8 Mehoopany; 1 **Kentucky Warbler** 5/25 Evans Falls.

OBSERVERS: Derry Bird, Mark Blauer, Robert Daniels, William Evans, Trudy Gerlach, Frank & Barb Haas, Jim Hoyer, John Jakoby, Edwin Johnson, Kevin McGuire, **William Reid, 73 W. Ross St., Wilkes-Barre 18702 (717-836-2525)**, Mark Stair.

Bucks County (09)

Location: Peace Valley Park (PVP).

LOONS TO RAILS. Loons were scarce in May in PVP, but 2 were quite late the last week of June (FM). A late **Pied-billed Grebe** noted at L. Warren 5/9 (SF). Two **Great Blue Heron** at PVP all quarter. An **Am. Bittern** was near Revere 5/5-9 (SF).

An interesting scenario has presented itself at Nockamixon SP. A clipped **Mute Swan** has been resident for a few years. The past few years a ♂ has made overtures to breeding, but not until this year were viable young produced. Now the question. What is the breeding bird status? Wild? Only the young are wild, providing they survive and produce young? Half-wild? (Eds.)

Diving ducks were unusually scarce this quarter, and for the year not one **Blue-winged Teal** or **Bufflehead** was reported (FM). A **Lesser Scaup** was at Nockamixon SP 5/9 (SF).

Numbers of **Black Vulture** continue to increase along the Delaware R. from Upper Black Eddy to Yardley, 9 birds in one thermal 4/18 (BM). Confirmed nesting of **Cooper's Hawk** for first county record in 20 years (RH). A group of 3 **Red-shouldered Hawk** observed regularly near Revere were felt to be a family group (SF); others seen in Quakertown Swamp area. **Osprey** count at PVP was 90, which is average. **Wild Turkey** have been reported from Bowman's Hill to n. Bucks. **Ring-necked Pheasant** population remains low. A total of 12 **Virginia Rail** was heard at Quakertown Swamp 5/3, but no **Sora** reported (GAF).

CUCKOOS TO WOODPECKERS. One **Black-billed Cuckoo** was found near Revere (SF) and another near Pennsbury Manor in late June (BM). A N. **Saw-whet Owl** fledged 4 young in a bird house near Revere (SF). **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** and **Hairy Woodpecker** reports were few. In contrast, reports of **Pileated Woodpecker** seem to indicate this species may be increasing locally.

SWALLOWS TO BLUEBIRDS. Three years ago **Cliff Swallow** began nesting on the dam of L. Galena in PVP; the 25 nests in 1987 are up from 15 nests in 1986 (FM). They were also seen regularly on at least 5 bridges spanning the Delaware R. from Uhlerstown to Washington Crossing.

This is the first year that no **Purple Martin** was seen at PVP. **Fish Crow** were at PVP in early April, but did not nest as in previous years. Reports of new nesting pairs of **E. Bluebird** were received from all parts of the county; 63 active nests are established on trails near Revere (SF).

WARBLERS TO SPARROWS. There was no large wave of warblers. A **Prothonotary Warbler** was found near Revere 5/18 (SF) and 1 that stayed three days at PVP 4/25-27 was the first record in 10 years. **Yellow-throated Warbler** were found where they nested last year at Kintersville (SF); another pair was found at a new location in Lower Bucks (CD,BM).

Late **Rusty Blackbird** were near Revere 4/10 (SF). A **Grasshopper Sparrow** was seen regularly singing at PVP from end-May to late-June, but did not appear to have a mate (FM). But a large number of nesting pairs were discovered in an abandoned industrial park near Fairless Hills Steel Plant (BM,GD).

OBSERVERS: Gerard Dewaghe, Chris Dooley, Steve Farbotnik, George A. Francois, Ray Hendrick, **Bruce McNaught, RD #1, Box 263, New Hope 18938 (215-297-5880)**, Fred Mears.

Butler County (10)

Locations: Fish Hatchery (FH), Grove City (GC), Jennings Nature Reserve (JNR), L. Arthur (LA), L. Wilhelm (LW), Moraine SP (MSP), Slippery Rock (SR), Slippery Rock Univ. (SRU).

This report also includes sightings from Lawrence and Mercer. Sightings are by the compiler unless otherwise noted.

April was a typical transition month weatherwise with temperatures in SR representative of the tri-county area, ranging from 21°F on 4/1 to 83°F on 4/21. Winter storms dumped 5-8" of snow on 4/1 and another 5-6" on 4/3-4. Steady rains on 4/23-24 resulted in 4-1/2" of rain in less than 18 hours. Otherwise April was average in total amount of precipitation, although violent thunderstorms 5/29-30 throughout the tri-county area scared many local inhabitants. It was exactly one year to the date that a dozen tornadoes devastated several communities.

The quarter was uneventful as far as rarities. The April snowstorms affected early nesting species, especially the **Mourning Dove**, **Bluebird**, **Robin**, **Grackle** and **House Finch**. The off and on cold v. warm spells in April discouraged migrants from being on time and forced several groups, such as ducks, shorebirds, gulls, terns, and thrushes to fly over the area. Generally, transients were late, whereas permanent residents and summer breeders started nesting early. Comments on population trends are inserted below for certain families and species.

LOONS TO CORMORANTS. Again, as in 1986, there was no Spring report of **Red-throated Loon**. Overall,

Common Loon appeared in average to slightly higher numbers and on time. Late date reported was 5/17 (RC *et al.*), although in some years loons remain until mid-June. **Pied-billed Grebe** continues to decline both as a transient and breeder as shown by just 2 records: 3 at LA in early April (CL) and 1 at Snowmobile Rd. Pond in *Mercer* 5/16 (SM,LW). The species should be placed on the blue list for our area. **Horned Grebe** were in average numbers and on time. **Double-crested Cormorant** continues to increase each year and this quarter was no exception; 1 at Glades 4/15 (JH), 3 at LA 4/29 (MG) and still there 5/2 (SM,LW), and 1 at Shenango Marina 6/17 (SM,LW) was later than usual.

HERONS TO DUCKS. There was no report of **Am.** or **Least Bittern.** Both should be placed on the blue list for the tri-county area. On the other hand, the **Great Blue Heron** is doing well with numerous reports of single to trio birds reported from many localities. Most encouraging was the establishment of the Brucker Great Blue Heron Sanctuary near Reynolds, *Mercer*, as a state propagation area. (See *Wilhelm's article. Eds.*) Only 1 **Great Egret** reported, at a farm pond n. of SR 5/10 (LW). **Green-backed Heron** were decidedly late and scarce; 1 at the FH 6/17 and 2 at No. 2 Mine Pond 6/27 (SM,LW). They did not return to SRU campus to breed this year, the first time since 1972. There was no report of **Black-crowned Night-Heron.**

Overall, both diving and puddle ducks were far fewer in numbers, although most of the transient species probably flew over the area, due to early spring thaw. Especially alarming was the steep decline of **Wood Duck** and **Mallard** by comparison to 1986. The best Wood Duck count was 18 at Celery Swamp 6/23 (SM,LW). **Blue-winged Teal** fared better with successful broods at Sagualla's and at Celery Swamp (SM,LW).

VULTURES TO COOT. **Turkey Vulture** returned to the LA district on time (4/1) and in appreciable numbers (9-12 indiv.). There were 10 reports of **Osprey** in April/May at various locations, although none remained, as in previous years, beyond 5/25. The possibility exists for attracting breeding Osprey to local propagation areas.

A N. **Harrier** on its nest 4/26 is an excellent record (CL *et al.*). **Sharp-shinned Hawk** were observed more commonly, even into late June, attesting to the possibility of widespread nesting, but there were few sightings of **Cooper's Hawk**. A N. **Goshawk** was seen near Butler 4/7 (ML). Both the **Red-shouldered** and **Broad-winged** hawks were scarce with only 2 reports for the Shenango Valley (MM) and JNR in April/May (GW). The **Red-tailed Hawk** seems to be continuing its population expansion into diversified habitats to the detriment of aforementioned buteos. The **Am. Kestrel** should be monitored carefully since the species was scarce by comparison to 1986. The usual nesting pair adjoining the SRU campus failed to reproduce young this year, the first time since 1972.

Ring-necked Pheasant, Ruffed Grouse, Wild Turkey and

N. **Bobwhite** were reported sparingly, e.g., 2 grouse on Crill Rd. 6/2 (SM) and no pheasants for the SRU campus. No report of **King Rail** in SGL 151 for the second consecutive year. Undoubtedly a large strip mine adjoining the breeding site is responsible for the decline in all rail species. **Common Moorhen** seems to be replacing **Am. Coot** as a breeder in the area's remaining marshes and swamps. There were few reports of coots; the high count of 53 during migration at LA in early April (CL) is far below average. The Am. coot may be another candidate for the blue list.

SHOREBIRDS TO TERNS. Plovers, except for the **Killdeer**, were rare. Only 1 **Semipalmated Plover** was seen at LA 5/1. Only other migrants noted were **Greater** and **Lesser Yellowlegs** and **Solitary Sandpiper**. The **Spotted Sandpiper** is doing well, thanks in large measure to the many man-made lakes and ponds established by previous strip mining activities. The **Upland Sandpiper**, a restricted species in our area, did not breed for the second consecutive year on the SRU campus. The campus constituted the only known breeding site in *Butler*, at least since the early 1930's. The species is well established, however, in the Amish country in and around New Wilmington, *Lawrence*; they returned 4/28-29 (GW). **Common Snipe** and **Am. Woodcock** reports were below average.

Up to 175 **Bonaparte's Gull** were observed at LA 4/1-15 (MG,GW). There was no report of **Herring** or **Great Black-backed** gulls, nor a report of any tern species, which is quite unusual.

DOVES TO WOODPECKERS. Following a poor migration, neither cuckoo species has been reported nesting, which is alarming. Both species need close monitoring and may be prime candidates for the Blue List. **E. Screech-Owl** was reported breeding in several localities in s. *Butler* and *Lawrence*, but is still scarce n. of Butler City. **Great Horned Owl** are common and still expanding into diversified habitats. The **Barred Owl**, always a restricted species, is holding its own along Slippery Rock and Wolf Cr., MSP, McConnell's and Goddard SP, and a few other areas. Not one report received of **Long-eared, Short-eared**, or **N. Saw-whet** owls.

First date for the **Common Nighthawk** was 4/3 at New Castle, unusually early (LW). **Whip-poor-will** still nest near MSP, first heard 4/21. **Chimney Swift** continue to increase in population, with numerous reports of nesting in household chimneys. As artificial feeders increase in popularity, so do the numbers of **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**. A field survey of a part of SR in June revealed 49 birds (19 ♂, 30 ♀) in just four atlas blocks. **Belted Kingfisher** started their nesting season earlier than usual in April.

The **Red-headed Woodpecker** continues its decline, mostly due to the destruction of suitable breeding habitat; 3 pairs returned in early April to property adjoining SRU campus where a few years ago there were 9 pairs. Other remaining breeding sites are the FH,

Sagualla's, and GC. This species should be on the blue list. **Red-bellied Woodpecker**, by contrast, seems to be replacing the Red-headed in many localities; it continues to expand its breeding range ever northward. Only one report of a single **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** in SR 4/19. Surprisingly, the **Pileated Woodpecker** seems to be holding its own with 15 reports on single birds visiting suet feeders and yards in various locations (GW *et al.*).

FLYCATCHERS TO STARLING. There was no report of **Olive-sided**, **Yellow-bellied** or **Acadian** flycatchers. **Alder**, **Willow**, and **Least** flycatchers were all average in arrival and numbers. **Great Crested Flycatcher** numbers are down this year v. 1986 (GW). **Horned Lark** were breeding 4/1 on SRU campus, in Harrisville, and GC; several imm. observed with adults in reclaimed strip mine areas in *Mercer* (SM,LW).

Purple Martin arrived late (5/1) at their normal nesting sites and in far fewer numbers. **Tree**, **N. Rough-winged**, and **Barn** swallows migrated by the thousands over water locations 4/25-5/5 (MG,SM,LW,GW). **Bank** and **Cliff** swallows were scarce and late, 5/5, in arriving at their colonies in Lawrence and Mercer Cos. A **Bank Swallow** colony at Big Bend increased from 96 to 112 nests over last year, but 3 nesting colonies of **Cliff Swallow** failed to return in *Mercer* as of 5/31 (SM,LW).

Migrating **Red-breasted Nuthatch** numbers were down, but a strong movement of **Brown Creeper** noted in *Butler* and *Mercer* 4/15-5/1. The **Carolina Wren** continues to rebound in s. *Butler*, but remains scarce in *Mercer* and *Lawrence*. An exceptionally early **House Wren** was recorded 3/15 at GC (LW). There was no report of **Winter**, **Sedge**, or **Marsh** wrens. **Golden-crowned Kinglet** rushed through the area 4/1-7, but many **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** lingered for days, 4/7-23. **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** 4/28 were slightly late.

E. **Bluebird** pairs were nesting on 4/1, although snowstorms forced them to renest after 4/24. It is encouraging to note that they are now breeding in every Twp in the tri-county area, thanks in large measure to the erection of scores of nesting boxes over the past 5 years (MM). Reports of *Catharus* thrushes were nonexistent. It was the consensus among field observers that the thrush family over flew our area this Spring. The **Am. Robin**, after early breeding setbacks, rebounded well. A lone **Gray Catbird** arrived early in S.R. 4/28, in fact, ahead of the **Brown Thrasher** 5/1. There was no report of **Loggerhead Shrike**.

VIREOS TO WARBLERS. Generally, vireo migrants were late and lower in numbers with the exception of **Warbling** and **Red-eyed**. Particularly scarce were **White-eyed** and **Solitary**. A single **Solitary Vireo** was recorded in SR 4/14. No report of **Philadelphia Vireo** received. Warbler waves were few and generally far apart with fewer species and indiv. in each wave as compared to 1986. Good waves noted in S.R. 5/9-10 and 5/14-15. **Blue-winged**, **Tennessee**, **Orange-crowned**, **Golden-winged**, **N. Parula**, **Prairie**, **Cerulean** and **Prothonotary** warblers were

well below average numbers. **Blackpoll** arrived early (5/5) and lingered later in SR (5/21). A **Worm-eating Warbler** was observed in the Shenango Valley 5/15 (MM) and **Palm Warbler** were exceptionally common there in early to mid-April. **Kentucky**, **Common Yellowthroat**, **Hooded** and **Canada** warblers were above average in numbers. However, there was a sharp decline in reports of **Yellow-breasted Chat** and no report of **Yellow-throated**, **Pine**, **Wilson's** or **Northern Waterthrush**.

TANAGERS TO SPARROWS. **Indigo Bunting** 5/10 were late. **Chipping** and **Field** sparrows appeared in SR 4/1, then disappeared until after the snowstorms. **Vesper**, **Savannah** and **Swamp** sparrows were observed in their usual breeding sites after 4/23, which is late, but **Grasshopper** and **Henslow's** sparrows arrived on schedule, 5/5. There was no report of **Fox** or **Lincoln's Sparrow**, although 2 Fox sparrows were belatedly reported in Shenango Valley 3/31 (MM). There were a few reports of **White-crowned Sparrow** between 4/25-5/10 and **White-throated Sparrow** migrated early, with few remaining for the 5/16 Birdathon. **Dark-eyed Junco** waited until after the snowstorms before migrating en masse.

BLACKBIRDS TO FINCHES: **Bobolink** arrived on time and in above average numbers. **E. Meadowlark**, on the other hand, were late (4/15) and fewer in number (GW). A pair of **Orchard Oriole** nested in SR. However, **Purple Finch** were scarce transients and late in arriving (5/1) at breeding sites. **House Finch** did not have a successful April breeding season due to the snow-storms, but quickly recovered. **Common Redpoll**, remnants from early spring, continued to linger in the area until 5/22 when the last indiv. was reported near the Old Stone House (SB). **Pine Siskin** and **Evening Grosbeak** last dates were 5/16 and 5/10 respectively. However, there were truly no great flocks of these finches as in 1986 and previous years. **House Sparrow** continue to do well in rural areas, especially on dairy farms, where there is less competition with the House Finch. In communities like SR, the House Finch is equally common.

OBSERVERS: Sharon Balint, Ruth Crawford, Marguerite Geibel, Joyce Hoffman, Carroll Labarthe, Mary Llewellyn, Shirley McCarl, Marty McKay, Loraine Weiland, and Gene Wilhelm, RD #3, Box 8, Slippery Rock 16057 (412-794-2434).

Cambria County (11)

Location: North Fork Dam (NFD).

First a story that needs to be told. Kevin Georg, a zealous birder, found himself in a maelstrom of controversy. It all started May 2 when he reported a **Bohemian Waxwing** and **Black-shouldered Kite** on the same day. Despite incredible written detail on the kite, including excellent descriptions of flight characteristics, it was down to the old axiom: no picture, no bird. Now Kevin isn't to be taken lightly; he is an excellent birder and extremely likely to find the unusual, so when

on June 24 he called to report a **Pomarine Jaeger** on a local reservoir (Hinkston Run) his reputation was, well to be kind, bent.

But the story does not end here. The bird was not only there, but it lingered until July 3 and was seen and photographed by many. Any jaeger, not in fully adult plumage, can be difficult to identify, especially when there are no other birds present with which to compare size, etc. And this bird had what seemed to be barely noticeable terminal paddle-shaped tail feathers. However, within several days, Mulvihill *et al.* confirmed it as a Pomarine. This, undoubtedly, will be the bird of the year in Pennsylvania and certainly **Cambria**. (*See article for more details. -Eds.*)

The reports of **Bedford** and **Cambria** will continue to deal mostly with species of special interest and trends until reporting is more consistent and organized. Most of the information is presented chronologically for the purpose of simplicity. A **Least Bittern** was reported 4/20 in a small marsh on SGL 26 (RW). **Fifteen Pine Grosbeak** were reported 4/24 at a local feeder and stayed several days (MW). April 26 marked the first noticeable return of **Black-throated Green Warbler**, **Solitary Vireo**, and **Brown Creeper**.

PBBAP data for June suggest that **Kentucky Warbler** are more common than previously thought on the moist forested hillsides of the county. The NFD and Beaverdale Dam area have increased **Kentucky Warbler** breeding activity. **N. Parula** is increasing as a breeder bird; 3 pairs were located 6/24 within a few hundred yards along NFD (TD). The **Magnolia Warbler** appears to be the most common breeding warbler along the hemlock-lined lakes and streams in the county. Two pairs of **Red-breasted Nuthatche**, again in NFD area, were seen 6/27 (TD). **Bobolink** are increasing slightly as new habitat in the form of replanted strip mines becomes available. They are breeding for the first time in many years in the borough of Richland, again a reclaimed strip mine.

OBSERVERS: **Tom Dick, 1003 Eisenhower Boulevard, Johnstown 15904 (814-266-6412)**, Richard Weaver, Mike Wolfe.

Carbon County (13)

Location: *Beltzville SP (BSP)*.

Two **Horned Grebe** were at BSP 4/7 (RW). A **Double-crested Cormorant** was there 5/19 (RW). A **Snowy Egret** at BSP 5/2 was the 1st record for that location (RW,GY, ph.). A **Mute Swan** there 4/4-7 was also a 1st (RW,GY).

Seventeen **Oldsquaw** 4/7 was the highest count ever for BSP. Four **White-winged Scoter** were at BSP 4/6 and 1 there 4/13 (RW). Four **Red-breasted Merganser** at BSP 4/7 (RW). A **Ruddy Duck** 4/4 was only the 3rd record for BSP.

Red-tailed Hawk remain common and **Broad-winged Hawk** are considered probable breeders. However, only three locations for **Am. Kestrel** were found in the w. portion

of the county (JG).

A **Lesser Yellowlegs** was at BSP the last week of May. And 1 **Short-billed Dowitcher** 5/19 was the 1st BSP record (RW). A record 300 **Bonaparte's Gull** at BSP 4/13 and a **Forster's Tern** was present 6/4 (RW). A N. **Saw-whet Owl** was heard at Hickory Run SP 6/30 (BS,RW).

Red-bellied Woodpecker were found at two locations around Beltzville 6/2, the 1st records ever for that location. An **Alder Flycatcher** was seen in late June near Blakeslee (SB). There were 43 young **Tree Swallow** banded from 9 boxes at BSP (BS,RW). A **Brown Creeper** 6/11 and a **Golden-crowned Kinglet** in late June were found near Blakeslee.

A **Solitary Vireo** was observed feeding a fledgling near Little Gap 6/18, possibly the southernmost breeding record of the species in s.e. PA (RW). At least 5 singing male **Magnolia Warbler** were in the spruce plantations at Wild Creek 5/26 (RW). A **Warbling Vireo** in song 5/27-6/2 was BSP's first (BS, RW). Despite about 8 hours of deliberate searching in likely areas near Hudsonale and Beaver Meadows, no **Worm-eating Warbler** was found (JG). Two singing **Yellow-breasted Chat** were present at BSP in June (BS,RW).

A **Grasshopper Sparrow**, several **White-throated Sparrow**, and a territorial **Dark-eyed Junco** were found near Blakeslee in June (BLM). A pair of **Orchard Oriole** was found in BSP in May (RW).

OBSERVERS: Steve Boyce, **James Gibson, RD #1, Box 115, Sugarloaf 18249**, Bernie L. Morris, Brad Silfies, Rick Wiltraut, Gordon Yoder.

Centre County (14)

Locations: *Bald Eagle SP (BESP), Black Moshannon SP (BMSP)*.

The only report of **Red-throated Loon** was 1 at Colyer L. 4/5 (HH). A very late **Common Loon** was there 6/4-11 (MW, EZ) for only the 6th county June record. Four **Red-necked Grebe** were at BESP 4/4 and 2 were seen 4/5 (HH). The single **Double-crested Cormorant** at BESP 4/5 provided the early county date (JP, BP, CH, MC); other cormorant sightings at BESP included 4 on 4/23 (MW) and 8 on 5/19 (TS *et al.*).

It was a good spring for **Am. Bittern**, with single birds reported from Bear Meadows 4/26 (HH, CS), near Fillmore 5/9 (JR, EB, BK, JB), BMSP from 5/16-25 (JP, BP), and at a Port Matilda marsh 5/23 (DBr). Waterfowl migration was unexciting; the only unusual species was **White-winged Scoter**, with 2 at BESP 4/4 (HH), 1 on 4/5, and 2 on 4/18 (JP, BP).

Significant was the sighting of a **Black Vulture** near Linden Hall 4/30 (JL). This species breeds in *Huntingdon*, but has been reported more frequently in recent times in *Centre*. A **Bald Eagle** (4+ yr.) was at BESP 4/23 (MW), with another at BMSP 5/23 (JP), and a third reported from Skytop 6/5 (GD). The first **Broad-winged Hawk** soared above BESP 4/18 (m.ob.). The best falcon was

a **Merlin** 4/3, n. of Bellefonte along Rt. 64 (ML,PL).

Virginia Rail arrived at Fairbrook Marsh 4/21 and apparently nested again this year, with ♂♂ and ♀♀ heard calling in mid-May (JP). Other Virginia Rails were reported from Toftrees Pond during migration, and 1 at BMSP from 5/3 through at least the end of May, indicates probable breeding there. Several **Sora** were at Fairbrook Marsh 4/19 through the end of the quarter, and 1 was heard calling at Bear Meadows 4/19 (JP). Unfortunately, no **Black Rail** was located in the county this year. Two **Common Moorhen** were at Toftrees in mid-May (HH,CS).

It was a very poor spring for migrating shorebirds. Only a few reports at scattered locations were received of **Greater** and **Lesser Yellowlegs**, **Solitary**, **Semipalmated**, **Least**, and **Pectoral** sandpipers, and **Dunlin**. All of these species occurred within normal migration dates in low numbers. All expected tern species were seen this quarter, with 2 **Caspian Tern** at BESP 4/18 (MW, DBo), single **Common Tern** at Colyer L. 4/13 (MW) and BESP 5/3 (DBo), 1 **Forster's Tern** 5/3 BESP (DBo), and 1 **Black Tern** at Toftrees Pond 5/21 (HH,CS).

A N. **Saw-whet Owl** was at BMSP 5/16 (JP,BP,TS). The peak of the **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** migration occurred 4/11, especially along the Allegheny Front. **Alder Flycatcher** arrived 5/19. **Least Flycatcher** seemed to be more common this year. Early-arriving **Tree Swallow** suffered some mortality, presumably because cold weather created low insect populations during the first week in April; Hazlett found dead swallows in bluebird nest boxes at BESP. A small **Bank Swallow** colony was found near Coleville 6/8 (CS,DBe) for the first known county nesting since 1975, when they nested near Pleasant Gap.

Common Raven were nesting 3/8 at BMSP, with the young fledging about 5/7 (JP,BP); another nest found along Bald Eagle ridge 4/23 (KS). Both nests were located in pine trees, one about 60 ft. high and the other 30 ft. high.

Winter Wren were found in at least 4 separate breeding locations; 3 were singing at Smay's Run in BMSP 5/3 (JP). Although in *Centre*, the typical nesting habitat is in ravines with hemlock-shaded streams and rocky slopes, the habitat in BMSP is open, boggy area of hemlock and deciduous trees.

There was no report of **Gray-cheeked Thrush** and only 3 **Swainson's Thrush** reported during mid-May. **Veery**, **Hermit Thrush**, and **Wood Thrush** were present in good numbers on their usual breeding grounds.

The first real wave of migrating warblers occurred 5/3. All of the area's breeding warblers appeared to be present in normal numbers. A notable possible addition to the 25 species of regularly nesting warblers in this area was the **Prothonotary Warbler** found 6/9 near Wolf Rocks (HH,DBe). **Blue-winged Warbler** are apparently rare nesters in the county, and the one along Reese Hollow 5/31 was the only record for the breeding season (HH,CS). There has been no evidence of a decline in the

numbers of **Golden-winged Warbler**; they are still common nesters in the Barrens. A male "**Lawrence's Warbler**" was on territory in the Scotia Barrens from 5/13 to at least 5/31 (JP). A "**Brewster's Warbler**" was found in this same area in 1986, but oddly no **Blue-wing** has been found in this area for several years. For the second consecutive year no **Yellow-throated Warbler** was found during the breeding season.

It was a very strange spring for boreal warblers, probably due to weather patterns that did not produce any fallouts. These warblers were present in our area for very short periods. The approximate order of decreasing abundance with dates of peak periods: **Tennessee** (5/10-17), **Cape May**, **Blackpoll** (5/15-23), **Bay-breasted** (5/15-16). **Blackpoll** and **Bay-Breasted** warblers were present in lower numbers than usual. Other migrants of note were the 5 **Palm Warbler** seen at BMSP 5/2 (JP,BP) and the lone **Wilson's Warbler** reported from Toftrees 5/9 (LR).

Vesper, **Savannah**, and **Grasshopper** sparrows were fairly common nesters. **Henslow's Sparrow** arrived on territory 5/16 (TS,BP,JP) and only a few were present in 2 fields along the s. slope of the Allegheny Front.

The county bird of the quarter was the **Western Meadowlark** found early in the morning of 5/5 by Edgar Spalding, who discovered it singing loudly in a walnut tree outside of his house in Houserville. Before many area birders could converge on the area to observe it, an E. **Meadowlark** chased it off and it was not seen again that day. Another birder living about a mile away and who was not aware of the presence of a W. Meadowlark in the area found it the next day near his house. On 5/7, a third birder found it on a farm that was about a quarter mile from the original location, and it remained there until 5/14, being seen by all interested local birders. This is only the second area record, the first being April 1956.

After the major winter invasion of **Common Redpoll**, most had left by mid-March, but 1 was at a feeder near Fairbrook until 4/8 (JP). **Pine Siskin** remained until the end of May, when the few remaining flocks disappeared. Two females with brood patches were banded in State College, 1 on 4/4 and another 5/5 (DBo). Small, scattered flocks of **Evening Grosbeak** were still present the first week of May, with the last one reported 5/16 near BMSP (TS,JP,BP).

OBSERVERS: Dave Bell, Dorothy Bordner, Judy Boswell, Dan Brauning, Ed Budd, Morton Claster, Gary Davenport, Cecil Hazlett, Harry Henderson, Betty Kirchner, James Lindzey, Mary and Philip Lovett, Becky and John Peplinski, 4 Beaver Branch Rd., Box 364, Pennsylvania Furnace 16865 (814-238-6541), Larry Ragan, Jane Richey, Terence Schiefer, Conrad Schmidt, Edgar Spalding, Karl Striedieck, Merrill Wood, Eugene Zielinski.

Chester County (15)

The new compiler for *Chester* is Jerry Pasquarella, 2209 Cranberry Lane, Coatesville, PA 19320, (215-486-6440). Please send him any sightings.

Clearfield County (17)

The only reports received for *Clearfield* came from the few *Centre* birders who were involved in PBBAP and BBS efforts in *Clearfield*. There were no unusual reports, although a respectable number of species was recorded. A few species deserve some special comment.

An ad. **Broad-winged Hawk** in worn plumage looked very much like a resident at the roadside near Piper 6/12 (DB,AF,RF,CS,ES). Groups of **Horned Lark**, adults and recently fledged young, were present in reclaimed strip mines near Frenchville 6/12 (CS,ES). Of greater interest was the **Fish Crow** seen w. of Wallacetton 6/28 (JP). 1987 is the first year this species has been recorded in *Clearfield* during the breeding "safe dates" (*fide* JP). A **Warbling Vireo**, the least common breeding vireo in this area, was seen near Clearfield Cr. w. of Dimeling 6/24 (BP,JP). A **Blue-winged Warbler**, relatively uncommon in this area, was seen singing near Piper 6/12 (DB,AF,RF). **Purple Finch** were well reported, suggesting the possibility of breeding. Several indiv. were observed on different dates in June (BP,JP,CS,ES).

OBSERVERS: Dorothy Bordner, Alice Fuller, Roana Fuller, Becky Peplinski, John Peplinski, Conrad Schmidt, **Edgar Spalding, 115 Old Houserville Rd., State College 16801 (814-238-7973).**

Clinton County (18)

We had a rather poor spring migration for waterfowl and shorebirds as well as for warblers. Although all expected species of waterfowl were seen, there were no big flights on the river. At Lock Haven there were 16 **Ruddy Duck** 4/28 (PS); this species is not recorded in the county every year. The 10 species of shorebirds we found are the ones we are most likely to get in this area, most of which were at rain ponds in fields. They were **Semipalmated Plover**, **Killdeer**, **Greater** and **Lesser Yellowlegs**; **Solitary**, **Spotted**, **Least** and **Pectoral** sandpipers, **Common Snipe** and **Am. Woodcock**.

PBBAP work has shown that **Barred Owl** are more numerous than we thought. **Acadian Flycatcher** are also more numerous than realized. An **Alder Flycatcher** was seen near Renovo (BFH).

In this area the **N. Rough-winged Swallow** has adapted to nesting in the rain-drainage holes that open over the water on the sidewalls of concrete bridges. What happens in a heavy rain storm we do not know, but they come back year after year to nest in this manner. For several years now in a local quarry, we have had a large colony

of **Bank Swallow** nesting in a huge mound of the finest dust-like rock particles, a product of the crushing of the limestone. They seem to have been very successful.

Winter Wren were found in the n. part of the county (B&FH) and in the s. part (GPS). Some other atlasing finds were: **Golden-crowned Kinglet** on territory (GPS), **White-eyed Vireo** 6/23 (BFH), several N. **Parula**, a hard bird to find in the past (GPS); 1 **Cerulean**, 1 **Kentucky** (CH), several **Mourning** and **Hooded** warblers (GPS).

OBSERVERS: Barbara & Frank Haas, Cecil Hazlett, Glenna & Paul Schwalbe, 546 Wilson St., Jersey Shore 17740 (717-398-4514).

Columbia County (19)

Locations: Beach Haven (BH), Briar Creek L. (BCL), Dutch Mt. (DM), N. Branch Susquehanna R., (NBSR), North Mt. (NM), Riverlands Park (RP), Susquehanna Steam Electric Station (SSES), Wyoming SF (WSF).

This report also covers *Sullivan*. Sightings are by the compiler unless otherwise indicated.

LOONS TO WATERFOWL. One **Common Loon** at L. Jean 4/28 (HM,DM). **Pied-billed Grebe** was a common migrant; no **Horned Grebe**. An **Am. Bittern** was seen in a driveway in BH 4/29 (CR). A **Least Bittern** flew over RP 4/30. **Great Blue Heron** were common, but no colony other than at Celestial L. reported (AK). **Green-backed Heron** were commonly found, even at high elevations (SC), but no night-herons. **Canada Goose** population continued to increase along the NBSR, at farm ponds, and even wooded ponds in high elevations (SC,DG,CM). **Mallard** was by far the most common nesting duck and **Wood Duck**, benefiting from nest boxes placed by the PGC and waterfowlers, were common in many locations. **Am. Black Duck** nested at BCL and along the NBSR. At least one pair of **Green-winged Teal** nested at a PGC waterfowl propagation pond near Ricketts (SC,DG,AK). **Common Merganser** nested along Fishing Cr. near Orangeville (DHe) and probably along Loyatsock Cr. near Forksville. Suspiciously late **Hooded Merganser** were at the Ricketts ponds with as many as 10 on a pond in June (SC). Historically, they nested along Loyatsock Cr.

VULTURES TO TURKEYS. **Turkey Vulture** were widespread and common, but the Shickshinny roost was smaller. **Osprey** were common migrants and seen into late May. Two **Bald Eagle** were over SSES 5/4 (RW). N. **Harrier** apparently nested near Hobbie (AP) and perhaps near Laporte (DG) and Overton (JG). **Sharp-shinned** and **Cooper's** hawks were reported by many observers, but N. **Goshawk** not observed where they were found previously (SC, DG). **Broad-winged** and **Red-tailed** hawks common. **Red-shouldered Hawk** were found from NM n. throughout *Sullivan* and w. *Wyoming* (SC,DG,CL). **Am. Kestrel** seemed common, but some observers think they have declined in recent years. **Ring-necked Pheasant** seemed more common than the last 3 years, but much less common than 10-20 years ago. **Ruffed Grouse** seem to be in the

downswing of their cycle, but **Wild Turkey** on the upswing. **N. Bobwhite** reported near Forks (SK), Wapwallopen (DG), and Hobbie (AP), but stocking is suspected.

RAILS TO WOODPECKERS. **Virginia Rail** and **Sora** were reported less this year, probably due to less marsh work than less rails. One cattail marsh near Lightstreet that hosted Virginias last year was destroyed (DH). A **Common Moorhen** at RP 4/24 was not relocated. Migrant Am. **Coot** seen only at BCL. **Killdeer** were common breeders, even at the Bloomsburg Fairgrounds (DH). **Spotted Sandpiper** were along most large streams. A **Greater Yellowlegs** was at a new location, Rickett's ponds, 5/17 (SC,DG). At least 2 **Ring-billed Gull** stayed near BH through June. No terns reported. Neither cuckoo was common in May or June. No **Common Barn-Owl** reported, but probably present. A N. **Saw-whet Owl** returned to Mainville, calling at the base of Catawissa Mt.(JF). **Barred Owl** were heard on DM, at Ricketts ponds (SC), near Nordmont (DG), and on Catawissa Mt. (JF). **Great Horned** and **E. Screech-Owl** were commonly reported, the latter even from high elevations. **Common Nighthawk** remains a town bird. The **Whip-poor-will's** drastically fallen population concerns even those only casually associated with the outdoors. More **Whip-poor-will** were found this year including Unityville (SL), D.M. (SC), and Rohrsburg (DG). **Chimney Swift** were in most villages and towns. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** were found by many atlases in wetlands and along roadsides. A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was spotted in Frosty Valley near Buckhorn (RW), but otherwise went unreported. **Red-bellied** remain uncommon, but a new nesting population was found near Mountain Grove. **Hairy** and **Pileated** woodpeckers were found in most extensive stands of large trees, with **Downy** common in all woods. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** were common in *Sullivan* as far south as Elk Grove, where 6 birds were seen in courtship on one tree; they can sometimes be the most common woodpecker in moist mixed upland forests especially near Shunk, Ellenton, WSF (DG), Dushore, and Lopez (SC).

FLYCATCHERS TO CROWS. Searches for **Yellow-bellied** and **Olive-sided** flycatchers yielded none, but more thorough searches are planned for next year. **Acadian Flycatcher** are common in mixed forests along swift streams, even in higher elevations with **Winter Wren**. **Willow Flycatcher** were found commonly in lowlands, especially near Bloomsburg, Wapwallopen, Benton, and Millville, but a few were also found in n.w. *Sullivan* (v.o.). In contrast, **Alder** were commonly found in highland wetlands especially in e. *Sullivan* and w. Wyoming Cos. (SC). **Least Flycatcher** was the most frequently observed *Empidonax* (SC,DG). **E. Kingbird**, **E. Phoebe**, **E. Wood-Pewee**, and **Great Crested Flycatcher** all in their usual abundance. A **E. Phoebe** nest was found at an abandoned coal mine entrance on DM (SC,DG,JG). **Tree** and **Barn** swallows were both common and widespread. A new **Bank Swallow** colony was found along Rt. 11 near Espy (RW). **Rough-wing** nested in small colonies along the

NBSR and at a surprisingly high location near World's End SP (SC,DG). **Cliff Swallow** were scattered across *Sullivan* and were in large colonies along the NBSR, Mocanaqua, and the UGI plant near West Nanticoke (DG). **Purple Martin** colonies were fine in Berwick, but on the decline in Nescopeck. **Horned Lark** were nesting near Forks (SK). **Blue Jay** and **Am. Crow** still common. **Fish Crow** were common along the NBSR and as far as five miles away from the river. **Common Raven** abandoned a nest on Council Cup bluff in early April for unknown reasons. Several pairs were found in *Sullivan* (DG,SC) and confirmed near Hills Grove and Nordmont, the latter by hearing fledges excitedly calling at the approach of a thunderstorm (DG).

CHICKADEES TO WAXWINGS. **Tufted Titmouse** pairs were found at high elevations on Cahill Mt. near Dushore (JGr) and on D.M. near Lopez (SC,DG, JG). **White-breasted Nuthatch** were at all elevations, but **Red-breasted** were breeding only in higher elevation conifers; they seem to have abandoned the lower elevations occupied two years ago in *Columbia*. **Carolina Wren** are still on the rebound and found as far north as Hills Grove. **Winter Wren** were at several locations in *Sullivan* and confirmed nesting at 1050 ft. near Divide within earshot of a **Carolina** and **House Wren**. No **Marsh** or **Sedge Wren** reported. Pairs of **Golden-crowned Kinglet** were found scattered throughout *Sullivan* in conifer groves (SC,DG). **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** were common in lower elevations, but only scattered at forest edges above 1000 ft. **E. Bluebird** are undergoing a population explosion in R.P. and fairly common in agricultural parts of the region, in spite of intense **Tree Swallow** competition. **Hermit Thrush** were found throughout the highlands and below 1000 ft near Wapwallopen and Rohrsburg. **Wood Thrush** were found in all forests and even in Bloomsburg, Eagles Mere, and Laporte. **Veery** were more common in *Sullivan* than *Columbia*. The singing **Swainson's Thrush** found between Ricketts and Mt. Spring L. 5/18 apparently didn't stay (SC), but another was found about a mi away near L. Leigh 6/28 (JG). Only one of the three territorial Swainson's located in 1986 in WSF near Eagles Mere was found this June. All were at 1900+ ft. A **N. Mockingbird** found near Dushore was at fairly high elevation (SC). **Gray Catbird** were common and widespread. **Brown Thrasher** may have increased near Wapwallopen and Hobbie. **Cedar Waxwing** pairs were found in nearly every block. No shrikes.

VIREOS AND WARBLERS. **White-eyed Vireo** continued to prosper near Wapwallopen (DG) and are extending their range north, this time to the Estella area (JGr). **Yellow-throated** and **Warbling Vireo** were common along the NBSR, especially at RP and Bloomsburg Town Park. **Solitary Vireo** were common in highlands, but also nested near Grassmere Park, Shickshinny, and Wapwallopen below 1000 ft. **Red-eyed Vireo** common. **Worm-eating Warbler** were elusive, with small populations found near BH and Wapwallopen. **Blue-winged**, **Golden-winged**, and

"**Brewster's**" warblers were mutually territorial in an abandoned field near Wapwallopen. **Nashville Warbler** were common on DM (SC) and locally near Eagles Mere. **N. Parula** were uncommon and scattered in woodlands near water; this is one of the rarest breeding warblers in the region. Atlasers found **Yellow Warbler** common throughout. **Magnolia** were found regularly in hemlock groves in the mountains and as low as 900 ft. near Grassmere Park. **Black-throated Blue Warbler** were found in many more locations this year. **Myrtle** were wide-spread and fairly common in high elevation mixed forests of *Sullivan* and w. *Wyoming* (DG,JGr,SC). They were also found for the first time defending territory in *Columbia*; both birds below 1000 ft near Grassmere Park. This species is a more common breeder than formerly realized and perhaps expanding. Some atlasers were surprised to find the **Black-throated Green Warbler** to be so common, even in some lower-elevation forests. No **Cerulean** was found. **Blackburnian** were reported from several locations in *Sullivan*, including Eagles Mere borough (SC,DG). **Chestnut-sided Warbler** were sometimes abundant in clear-cuts and roadside brush in *Sullivan* and common in transmission right-of-ways near SSES. **Pine Warbler** nested near SSES on an oak-pine hillside. **Prairie Warbler** were common in Christmas tree plantations and some large overgrown fields (DG,RS). **Northern Waterthrush** continue to be sparse, even with new breeding locations found at the Ricketts ponds (SC,DG), Shanerburg Bog in WSF (DG), and near St. John's (KH). On the other hand, **Louisiana Waterthrush** were easily found along many steams throughout both Cos., well into the mountains above 1500 ft. **Kentucky Warbler** did not reappear at former invasion sites near Wapwallopen and Berwick. Two pairs of **Mourning Warbler** were territorial near Muncy Valley in a roadside right-of-way covered with purple-flowering raspberry. **Hooded Warbler** were discovered for the first time on DM (SC) and found in several other locations in heath undergrowth. Several **Canada Warbler** were on NM and scattered in high-country clearcuts and beech brush. **Common Yellowthroat** were widespread, but **Yellow-breasted Chat** rare, only reported from Wapwallopen and BH.

TANAGERS TO FINCHES. **Scarlet Tanager** and **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** proved to be two of the most common forest species. **N. Cardinal** were widespread in *Columbia* and as high as 2000 ft in *Sullivan*, but only near houses (SN,DG). **Indigo Bunting** were in every atlas block. **Rufous-sided Towhee** were widespread, but surprisingly uncommon in some lowland blocks. **Savannah Sparrow** were often found with **Bobolink** in large fields near Rohrsburg, Shunk (DG), and Lopez (SC). **Grasshopper** and **Vesper** sparrows were found to be even more widespread than formerly believed; both were not only in n. *Columbia* where they have been reported for many years on BBS routes (RS,AS), but also in s. *Columbia* near Elysburg (DG,RW) and in the Lopez-Dushore area of *Sullivan*. Grasshoppers were found not

only in hayfields, but also in young Christmas tree farms where colonies of over 30 territorial males could be found within a 50-acre area. Vespers were territorial as early as 4/18, chiefly occupying the edges of cornfields and hedgerows in weedy fields. A singing **Henslow's Sparrow** was reported near Estella, *Sullivan*. **Fox Sparrow** were difficult to find in migration, although 1 overwintered near Hobbie (AP). **Song, Chipping, and Field** sparrows were the most common and widespread sparrows, even in the highlands. **Lincoln's Sparrow** were rarely seen outside RP. **White-throated Sparrow** were found breeding in many highland forests, especially in e. and c. *Sullivan* (SC,DG). **White-crowned Sparrow** lingered into mid-May near Millville (FB). **Dark-eyed Junco** were considered common nesters in highland forests and below 1000 ft in hemlock groves near Millville and slag heaps near Mountain Grove. **Bobolink** were on territory 4/26 near Nordmont (HM,DM) and nested in hayfields in *Sullivan* and higher elevations of *Columbia* and lower *Luzerne*. **E. Meadowlark** and **Red-winged Blackbird** were common open-country birds, even at high elevations. **Common Grackle** nested particularly early this year and were even found in high elevations, wherever there was cleared land. **Brown-headed Cowbird** were found only too commonly, even in fairly contiguous upland forests. **Orchard Oriole** nested only at BCL and SR. **N. Oriole** widespread, even in the high country of *Sullivan*. **Purple Finch** were uncommon and scattered in upland hardwood forests, common only on D.M. (SC). **House Finch** were nesting even in *Sullivan* villages like Hillsgrove and Shunk. Overwintering **Common Redpoll** and **Pine Siskin** stayed until early May in several locations, but no siskin nesting attempts were reported as in 1982. **Am. Goldfinch** were territorial and began nesting earlier than in any previous year, probably due to the early floral phenology.

OBSERVERS: Flossie Binder, Connie Bogart, Skip Conant, Nancy Dennis, John Friedman, John Ginaven, Judith Gratz, **Doug Gross, Susquehanna SES Biol. Lab., RD #1, U.S. Rt. 11, Berwick 18603 (717-542-2191)**, Doyle Harris, Dot Henderson, Karen Hiller, Allen Kiester, Scott Killiam, Caroline Lewis, Sheila Lunger, Chris McCabe, Diana & Hugh McFadden, Autumn Pfeiffer, Carl Roszkowski, Robert Sagar, Allen Schweinsberg, Richard "Dick" Wood.

Cumberland County (21)

Locations: *Huntsdale Fish Hatchery (HFH), Pine Grove Furnace SP (PGFSP), Susquehanna R. (SR), W. Fairview Boat Launch (WFBL)*.

While most people would agree that once again this was definitely not a good year for warblers, what about water birds? The river provided the good records for the quarter. Records by compiler unless otherwise noted.

Common Loon made a great showing along the river and numbers seemed to be up. First sighting was of 25 on

4/17 at WFBL and they remained through 5/25 (RK,DH,JW). Apparently the river is a major route for northbound loons. Also 2 **Red-throated Loon** were at WFBL 5/10 (DH,JW); 1 on 5/17 (DH). **Horned Grebe**, scarce in March & Apr., were only 1-2 on 5/8-9 (RK,DH,JW) and 2 on 5/15. **Pied-billed Grebe** were very scarce, with only 1 at WFBL 5/2. **Double-crested Cormorant** seem to be more numerous this year, with as many as 17 at WFBL 5/2-21 (RK,DH,JW).

As a whole, herons seem to be doing well nesting on the large islands. **Great Blue Heron**, **Green-backed Heron** and **Great Egret** are all fairly common, but the best story is of the night-herons. The first **Black-crowned** arrived late-March, with **Yellow-crowned** soon after. There were numerous sightings in April and May; then Hoffman did a 3-week survey 1/2 mi n. of the I-81 bridge the following evenings:

Date	GBH	G-bH	GE	BCNH	YCNH
6/11	5	2	11	17	5
6/18	7	3	15	22	6
6/25	2	2	21	18	9

Two **Tundra Swan** sightings were unexpected: 3 on 5/9 (RK,DH,JW) and 1 with **Canada Geese** 6/18 (DH,JW). Waterfowl were essentially gone by end-March, with a few May exceptions. An **Oldsquaw** 5/9; 8 **Bufflehead** 5/9 (RK,DH,JW) and 4 5/17. Two **Common** and 6 **Red-breasted** mergansers were present until 5/11 & 5/9 respectively.

Broad-winged Hawk seemed late; first 4/30 at Big Flat Tower, South Mt. **Osprey** were noted 4/20-28 in various locations. **Ruffed Grouse** were active and obvious during late-April/early-May on South Mt. Two, possibly 3, **Virginia Rail** at HFH 4/20.

Bonaparte's Gull were observed 4/22 to 5/21 with a high of 17 on 4/25 (RK,DH,JW). Single **Common Tern** were seen 4/25, 5/9 & 5/21. **Caspian Tern** were 1 on 5/5 and 2 on 5/21 (v.o.).

A **Barred Owl** was heard at PGFSP 4/20 (DH,SS,JW). **Whip-poor-will** seemed early, with 7 seen 4/28 at SGL 230, while **Common Nighthawk** seemed late, with first at WFBL 5/13.

Red-headed Woodpecker were found nesting while atlasing near Plainfield 5/31. Flycatchers were on schedule with the best sighting an **Olive-sided** 5/10 at PGFSP. Swallows were in good numbers 4/15-5/15 with highs as follows: **Tree** 300+, **N. Rough-winged** 21, **Bank** 38, **Cliff** 10, **Barn** 175, & **Purple Martin** 50.

The whole migration this year was considered mediocre. Spotted-breasted thrushes were only in average numbers, except **Gray-cheeked** which went unreported. Expected vireos and warblers, although well represented, were in low numbers. There were 28 species of warblers seen, with 20 species presumed breeding. **N. Oriole** numbers seem up, as do those of **Grasshopper Sparrow**.

OBSERVERS: Deuane Hoffman, 3406 Montour St., Harrisburg 17111 (717-564-7475), Dennis Hoffman, Ramsay Koury, Scott Sillett, Jeanne Wadner.

Dauphin County (22)

Locations: Harrisburg (HBG), Stony Cr. Valley (SCV), Susquehanna R. (SR), Wildwood Lake Nature Center (WLNC).

In general the Spring migration was disappointing. Most of the expected species were found, but in small numbers at scattered locations. No waves reported, most likely attributable to a lack of cold fronts moving through the area. Add to that a warm, moist April which caused early emergence of foliage and made viewing difficult. All sightings that are not attributable to an individual were made by the compiler.

LOONS TO TERNS. **Red-throated Loon**, with max. of 7, were seen almost daily 5/1-12 along a 3-mi stretch of the river at HBG. **Common Loon** were first sighted in the same area 4/18 and peaked at 23 on 5/3. A pair of **Pied-billed Grebe** was first sighted at WLNC 4/6, with indiv. and pairs being sighted there and on S.R. as late as 5/21 (DH,JC). On 4/7, less than 100' apart, were a **Horned Grebe** in basic plumage and a pair of **Red-necked Grebe**, one in almost complete breeding plumage, on the HBG side of the SR, but within a mi of where one was reported in *Cumberland* in the first issue of **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS**. A **Double-crested Cormorant** was first seen 4/15 at HBG; and 8 ad. & 5 imm. 5/4 at Clark's Ferry (SD). In the past few years there have been a small number of imm. birds summering on the SR, but this year there have been at least 2 adults with the immatures right through the end of the reporting period.

The only **Am. Bittern** sighting was 5/6 at WLNC. A **Great Egret** was reported along the SR at Clark's Ferry 4/18 (SD) and by the end of April they could be seen, along with a good number of **Black-crowned Night-Heron**, flying to and from the rookery on an island near HBG. On 6/6 **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was confirmed nesting (10 nests) on another island at HBG (EC). There were no large rafts of waterfowl reported, but in early April six species put in their first appearance of the year. On 4/5 **Blue-winged Teal** 4 were found at HBG and 4/8 they peaked at ±50 at WLNC (well below the norm of 200+). A pair of **N. Shoveler** present 4/10 and 9 **Am. Wigeon** (peak 36 on 4/12), and 12 **Canvasback** 4/3. In the same area, a male **Oldsquaw** in breeding plumage was present 4/9-14. A ♂ **Surf Scoter** was unusual at Tobias L. 5/4 (SD). Only 1 ♂ and 2 ♀ **Red-breasted Merganser** were observed at HBG 4/9; this is low in comparison to the 25-50 seen the previous 3 years.

Up to 6 **Osprey**, first appearing 4/11, were seen fishing at WLNC and HBG until mid-May. There were also sightings of Osprey and an ad. **Bald Eagle** near Dauphin throughout June (EC). One has to wonder if the eagle is one of the birds which was hacked a few years ago on Haldeman I. A **Cooper's Hawk** seen 5/9 was unusual in that it was standing on an exposed rock a few feet off shore in the SR and spent the better part of a minute looking down into the water before taking flight.

A **Sora** was at WLNC 4/22 and 1 there responded to a tape 6/16. Three **Common Moorhen** were at WLNC 5/4, while the number of **Am. Coot** peaked at 51 (high) 4/26. Shorebirds, with one exception, were few and none was unexpected. The exception was **Common Snipe**, where, on 4/4 in a brushy field near WLNC, 43 were seen in flight at one time with an unknown number still on the ground; an unusual sighting of this species was 1 on Stoney Mt. 4/13 (SD). Single **Am. Woodcock** were reported at SCV 4/15 (BH,SD) and WLNC 6/20 (EC). Loose flocks of up to 50 **Bonaparte's Gull** migrated up the river throughout April and a few were still being seen in the latter half of May. Three **Caspian Tern** and 4 **Common Tern** were at Haldeman I. 4/15-18. Two Caspian Terns were also noted 4/23 near HBG.

CUCKOOSTO CORVIDS. Pockets of gypsy moths meant pockets of both species of cuckoos during June, particularly n. of Blue Mt., where the **Yellow-billed** outnumbered the **Black-billed** about 3 or 4 to 1. A **Common Barn-Owl** was seen 4/14 in the Lykens area and a **Great Horned Owl** nest with 2 young was located 4/15 (SD). Two **Barred Owl** were in a traditional haunt 4/25 in Clark's Valley (SD). On 6/13 along a 2-mi stretch on Broad Mt., 13 **Whip-poor-will** were seen plus 9 were heard.

Only two reports of **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**; 3 in HBG 4/12 (DH) and a nesting pair in June near Carsonville (SD). Flycatchers just seem to appear on their breeding grounds without migrating. Numbers seemed average or above. **Purple Martin** (at least 6) have been observed since 5/10 hawking insects over WLNC and a colony is suspected nearby. A **Common Raven** was found 5/4 near Lykens sharing a deer carcass with a Turkey Vulture (SD).

OLD WORLD WARBLERS TO WARBLERS. An impressive 125 **Golden-crowned Kinglet** were reported in a small woodlot in HBG 4/11 (DH). The only *Catharus* thrush reported was **Veery**. Reports of vireos, with the exception of **Red-eyed**, were few.

Prairie Warbler were not located at three of their normal breeding locations and only 2 were reported elsewhere. Only in SCV 5/2-9 were **Cerulean** and **Worm-eating** warblers found (DH). **Northern Waterthrush** moved through WLNC 5/2 when 50+ were seen or heard. PBBAP work revealed **Hooded Warbler** to be in good numbers (CJ). A **Wilson's Warbler** 5/9 at WLNC was the only report.

TANAGERS TO FINCHES. An early **Scarlet Tanager** was seen 4/20 in SCV (BH). **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** migrated 5/3-11 with one group of 23 ♂ and 17 ♀ seen 5/9 at WLNC. An early **Chipping Sparrow** was at a feeder 4/2 in Halifax area (SD). The only **Swamp** and **White-crowned** (2) sparrows observed were at WLNC 5/2. A singing ♂ **Bobolink** at SCV 5/4-7 was the only report.

OBSERVERS: Ed Chubb, **Joe Church, 129 Lucknow Rd., Harrisburg 17110, (717-236-1868)**, Scott Dills, Dick Goldberg, Deuane Hoffman, Barb Huffman, Cliff Jones, Catherine Wertz, George Wertz.

Delaware County (23)

Locations: Crum Creek Res. (CCR), Ridley Creek SP (RCSP), Tinicum Nat'l Environmental Center (TNEC), Tyler Arboretum (TA).

The first half of the spring season was mild and relatively dry, however, June had showers almost daily.

LOONS TO HAWKS. **Common Loon** arriving at Darby Cr. in Essington 4/12 (AG) were the start of a good migration of this species, with them flying over TA as late as 5/20; flocks of up to 30 birds were seen frequently and at various locations. Also on Darby Cr. 4/12 was 1 **Glossy Ibis** flying toward the TNEC impoundment (AG); this was the only report of this species this season and it seems to be rarer each year.

The pair of **Black Vulture** seen in courtship flight over RCSP in March fledged 2 young, the 1st county nesting record (F&BH). No report of nesting **Broad-winged Hawk** was received for Delco even though they nested in neighboring Chester. Apparently they are not finding adequate habitat due to extensive development. In the few remaining large field areas, the **Am. Kestrel** is holding on to nesting sites with the help of nest boxes; 2 pair were seen around the Delco prison area, but nesting was not confirmed (AG).

BOBWHITE TO FLYCATCHERS. A **N. Bobwhite** was heard calling 5/9 at RCSP (SC,AG,JL,TR). This species has been extremely hard to find in the county for several years. **Virginia Rail** returned to the CCR again this year making it the only known county location. Shorebirds passed us by this year. During the early part of May a **Black-billed Cuckoo** was heard singing at TA (JL) plus 1 in Swarthmore (HM). A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was seen and heard 5/9 at RCSP (AG,JL). An **E. Screech-Owl** raised 4 young in a nest box in a Boothwyn backyard (JG).

A **Common Nighthawk** was seen 6/5 flying over Media. This is supposed to be a "safe" date for the PBBAP, however, no evidence of nesting was found (WT). There was a pair of **Belted Kingfisher** at CCR all quarter. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** stayed in the area until early May (SC). A pair of **Pileated Woodpecker** inspected a hole in Wallingford 4/4 (J&MP) and another pair were noted excavating a cavity 5/9 at TA, but subsequent visits found no nesting at either site (AG,JL). The sightings of Pileated in the area seem to be increasing as yet a third pair was seen in Rose Tree Park in May (WT,DL). **Olive-sided Flycatcher**, 1 at TA 5/10 (AG,DM,MR), and 1 at the Taylor Arboretum 5/11 (SH), are always a treat to see and hear.

SWALLOWS TO WARBLERS. **Purple Martin** were a bit early this year when 1 was seen at the Aston Twp colony 4/9 (BH); this site had only 18 nests this year compared to 23 in 1986 (JG). Some good news comes from the colony at Glen Mills School which is exploding in numbers. In 1985 there was only 1 pair which produced 4 young; in 1986 9 pairs fledged 41 young. And this year 70-90 indiv. had constructed 45 nests. Results of the nesting

season for the current year are not yet available, but it looks very promising. The newly established colony (1985) in RCSP had only 3 imm. return this year; most of the 1986 young were killed by raccoons; problem resolved (FH).

A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was found 5/9 at TA (AG); 1 other at the Taylor Arboretum in Wallingford 5/11 (SH). **Yellow-throated** and **Warbling** vireos were in usual numbers in RCSP. No report of **Golden-winged Warbler** was received this year which is unusual; 1-2 are usually seen each spring migration. **Yellow Warbler** are having no problem in holding their high numbers. Although no actual numbers are available from year to year, the general feeling was that **Bay-breasted Warbler** were in higher numbers than in the past (AG, SH). A **Mourning Warbler** was present at TA 6/10 (JG). **Hooded Warbler** at TA have increased from 3 nesting pairs in 1986 to at least 4 pairs this season. A **Canada Warbler** still migrating 6/10 at TA, was a bit late (JG).

GROSBEAKS TO FINCHES. A male **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** at RCSP 6/28 makes one wonder about the possibility of it nesting; no female was found nor any subsequent sightings of the male (AG). The highlight of the season had to be 5/10 when a female **Black-headed Grosbeak** was found along the Delaware R. behind the airport in Tinicum Twp during the spring round-up (JM).

The constant cutting of the fields around the Delco prison is the probable reason why no **Grasshopper Sparrow** were found there this year. In 1986 at least 3 pairs were the county's last stronghold for the species. Three **White-throated Sparrow** were found in RCSP 6/16, a very late date (WT). An **E. Meadowlark** was on territory 5/20 at the Delco prison grounds and still there 6/21 (AG). This species is locally a very rare breeder and has been steadily declining the last 10 years. Another Meadowlark was seen at Linvilla Orchards 4/11, but not later (AG). For the past several years **Orchard Oriole** seemed to be on the increase with many new locations found. **Pine Siskin** were still in the Media area 5/7 (JL).

OBSERVERS: Skip Conant, John Ginaven, Al Guarente, 421 Old Middletown Rd., Media 19063 (215-566-8266), Frank & Barbara Haas, Stevens Heckscher, Don Lane, Jim Lockyer, Doris McGovern, Helen McWilliams, John Miller, Jean & Marybelle Piatt, Nick Pulcinella, Tom Reeves, Mark Robbins, Walter Thurber.

Elk County (24)

Location: Allegheny National Forest (ANF), Kinzua Res. (KR).

This report contains information from *McKean* as well. Sightings were by compiler unless otherwise noted.

Common Loon were still being seen on KR through mid-June. These appear to be single birds late in migration, since no evidence of breeding has been found. A **Pied-billed Grebe** was on a small farm pond along a BBS

route in Eldred in late June. **Double-crested Cormorant**, first seen 5/9 at KR (GO), could still be located at Buzzard Swamp, near Marienville, until mid-June. A **Least Bittern** at Scadin 6/2 was in an interesting location, as it was sitting on a guard rail; no swamps or water within 1/2 mi (JM).

Turkey Vulture returned in normal numbers and were found nesting in rock overhangs. **Bald Eagle** are being found regularly on K.R. and East Branch Res. It is possible that they are nesting somewhere around Kinzua, but confirmation is still pending. The Forest Service did an aerial survey of some prime area in early May, but no nest was found. Where have all the hawks gone? We have been noticing a drastic decline in all species, especially **Red-tailed Hawk**. Usually at least one species of hawk can be found in every block, but so far this year 1 hawk per 7 blocks is doing well.

Six evenings of owl calling in April revealed many **Barred Owl** and a few **Great Horned Owl**, no others. Both cuckoo species returned in excellent numbers. We experienced an invasion of them shortly after the gypsy moth entered the area in large numbers four years ago. This continues.

First **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** at Lewis Run 5/4 (BM). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** were in ANF throughout April. A few **Carolina Wren** have been found. **E. Bluebird** were at Kane 4/4 with 3 at Sugar Run 4/15. First **Swainson's Thrush** was at Lewis Run 5/14 and later was seen singing on territory there. **Hermit Thrush** first at ANF 4/15 ANF. The one report of **N. Mockingbird** near Ridgway was the same location as past years.

First **Solitary Vireo** was 4/23 at Meade Run, ANF. A **Yellow-throated Vireo** was located near Betula in mid-June (LO). Most of the breeding warbler species returned in good numbers, including **Mourning** and **Canada**. A "Brewster's" **Warbler** was located on a BBS Route in mid-June near Port Allegheny (LO). Two warblers that seem to be down in numbers are **Magnolia** and **Black-throated Blue**. Young **Cerulean Warbler** were located in Derrick City 6/27 (MM). **Louisiana Waterthrush** found 5/4 in ANF.

The limited area of strip mines in **Elk** continues to host **Vesper** and **Grasshopper** sparrows. A **Fox Sparrow** was seen 4/3 ANF. A **Dark-eyed "Oregon" Junco** seen 4/3 ANF. **N. Oriole** first noted 5/5 ANF. On 4/23 1 **Pine Siskin** was seen carrying dog hair. At least two separate populations of siskins were seen through the end of June (LO, MM); young were observed 5/23 and last seen 6/22 (MM). **Evening Grosbeak** were seen through mid-June at three separate locations.

OBSERVERS: Leif Anderson, Box 88, Star Route 1, U.S. Forest Service, Bradford 16701 (814-362-4613), Bill Martin, James McClosky, Madeline Miles, Gary Ohara, Linda Ordiway.

Erie County (25)

Location: Presque Isle SP (PISP).

Birders waited in anticipation for the wave of passerines that never materialized. Although most of the species usually recorded were seen, numbers were, by far, lower than in past years. Species like **Black-and-white Warbler**, **Magnolia Warbler**, **Common Yellowthroat**, **American Redstart** and **Indigo Bunting**, which are usually common to abundant everywhere, were much less common and local. In addition to low numbers, a few species arrived late including the following: **E. Kingbird**, **Great Crested Flycatcher**, **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**, **Black- and-white Warbler**, **Black-throated Green Warbler**, and **Common Yellowthroat**. On the other hand species usually considered late migrants passed rather early and quickly with very few migrants remaining the last week of May. These included **Tennessee**, **Bay-breasted**, **Blackpoll**, **Wilson's**, and **Canada** warblers.

All sightings are from PISP unless otherwise indicated. Records of special interest are as follows: **Horned Grebe** peaked at 400 birds 4/9 (JM). **Double-crested Cormorant** were regularly seen from 4/11 to end of May (m.ob.). There were several sightings of **Am. Bittern**, probably of the same individuals, from 4/12 to 5/15 (RS,EK) with as many as 3 on 4/23 (JM). Single **Least Bittern** were found from 5/1+ (EK,JM). **Snowy Egret** 1 on 4/11 (EH); **Little Blue Heron** 2 ad. 4/23 (JM,LS) and 1 ad. 5/2 (JM); **Tricolored Heron** 1 5/20,24 (DF,CD, et al.). Small numbers of **Black-crowned Night-Heron** were noted from 4/16 to mid-May with up to 20 on 4/23 (JM). **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** 3 on 4/23 (JM,LS).

A **Tundra Swan** lingered at Wheelertown Swamp until at least 5/11 (JM). On 6/12 a **Green-winged Teal** was discovered at Titus Bog sitting on a nest containing several eggs. This may be the first confirmed nesting of this species in the county (SS). A ♂ **Ring-necked Duck** 6/6 was suspiciously late; latest date prior to this sighting was 5/12/78 (JM). An **Oldsquaw** remained until 5/17 (JBB). **Red-breasted Merganser** peaked at 6000-7000 individuals the first week of April. **White-winged Scoter** 1 or 2 4/2-15 L. LeBoeuf (JM) and 1 4/26 at PISP (SS).

Bald Eagle 2 ad. 6/11 Siegel Marsh (SS). **N. Goshawk** 1 in mid-April w. of Erie (TK). There were at least 9 different **Merlin** that migrated over PISP from 4/11 to 5/25 (DF,JM,EK). **Peregrine Falcon** 1 5/9 (EH) and 5/10 (JM).

This is the first May in several years that **Whimbrel** has not been recorded. **Red Knot** 1 5/26 (DF). **White-rumped Sandpiper** 1 5/11 (JM). The **Laughing Gull** made its regular brief appearance with an imm. bird 5/16 (JBB) and an ad. 5/27 (DS) and 5/31 (JM). **Franklin's Gull** 1 imm. 5/23 (JM,EK,LS) and an imm. **Thayer's Gull** 4/4 (JM,LS). A nearly all-white gull with patches of brown feathers and a wide brown tail band was found 5/9 (JBB) and 5/10 (JM); it was believed to be a partial albino

Herring Gull, **Caspian Tern** were numerous this spring; 20-30 birds were seen regularly from April to mid-May with as many as 50-60 birds present in late April (m.ob.). **Common Tern** were scarce again this spring with few sightings. **Forster's Tern** were seen 4/12 to 5/20 (JM,DF) with numbers peaking to 20 on 5/10 (JM); the only inland record was 3 on L. LeBoeuf 4/28 (JM).

A **Black Tern** was at PISP 5/9 (EH). Even more noteworthy was a pair sighted 5/15 (DS) and discovered again on 5/17 defending territory in one of the inland marshes (FBH). They were found again defending territory in a different marsh 5/24-25 and 6/6, in this same marsh, a nest was located containing 2 eggs for the first confirmed nesting of this species in Erie since 1958 (JM).

Long-eared Owl 1 4/26 in east Erie (MN). Single **Short-eared owl** were observed 4/9-23 (JM,SS) with ±5 present 4/16 (GV).

Olive-sided Flycatcher 1 5/22 (EK). **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** 2 5/25 (JM). **Purple Martin** were scarce again this spring, with very few migrants noted. Many martin houses throughout the county which used to contain nesting pairs are now vacant.

A chickadee with a light brown cap, a dark brown throat, and buffy primaries and tail visited a feeder near Union City 4/1-3 (DP). It was determined that the chickadee was a partial albino **Black-capped**. Probably the same bird appeared at a feeder a few days later about 4 mi from this site. At least 3 **Carolina Wren** were seen from 4/10 to early May (DS,LS). Spotted-breasted thrushes were very scarce again this spring - especially the **Swainson's Thrush**. There was no **Gray-cheeked Thrush** reported.

A **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** 6/6 was about 3 weeks late (JM). Single **N. Mockingbird** were reported from at least 4 locations along L. Erie. The only **White-eyed Vireo** were 1 on 5/9 (MV) and 2 banded in early May (RL). **Orange-crowned Warbler** 1 banded 5/9 (JGS,JLS). A **Prairie Warbler** was banded 5/3 (JGS,JLS). **Pine Warbler** 1 4/19 (m.ob.), 2 4/26 and 1 5/3 (JM). At least 3 pairs of **Prothonotary Warbler** returned to their usual nesting area on the peninsula (m.ob.). A **Kentucky Warbler** was banded 5/10 (RL).

A ♂ **Brewer's Blackbird** appeared at a feeder in e. Erie 4/2 (CK). An imm. ♂ **Orchard Oriole**, very rare at PISP, was observed 5/25 (JM,LS).

The following is a list of birds banded by the Stulls at PISP:

Date	#Birds	#Species	#Net Hr.
May 2	46	15	41
May 9	86	28	96
May 10	117	30	96
May 16	53	18	91
May 17	97	25	108

OBSERVERS: Jim & Bonnie Baird, Claire Davidson, Dave Flynn, Frank & Barb Haas, Eric Hall, Tim Kimmel, Chuck Krantz, Ed Kwatek, Ron Leberman, Jerry McWilliams, 3142 W. 12th St., Erie 16505 (814-833-3169),

Mildred Nodes, Dora Porter, Don Snyder, Russ States, Linda Steadman, Jean L. Stull, James G. Stull, Sam Stull, Mark VanderVen, Genny Volgstadt.

Greene County (30)

There was plenty of rain during the period but no really bad storms. June was warm, with the temperature hitting 90°F or above a couple of days near the middle of the month. There seemed to be a very good population of local birds.

Two **Common Loon** on a small stream that flows into the Monongahela R. 5/23 were unusual (BW). **Wood Duck** were successful breeders; 2 ad. females with 12 young seen near Carmichaels 6/2.

A **Red-headed Woodpecker** on Bell's farm 5/7 stayed for about 3 days calling for a mate. This was a common species here around 1940.

At least 15 pairs of **Purple Martin** nested at the farm; the best since Hurricane Agnes decimated them in June 1972. Overall numbers are still down as there are not over 10 active colonies in the county (there were probably 100+ active colonies prior to 1972).

Swallow arrival dates were: **Tree** 4/8, **N. Rough-winged** 4/13, and **Barn** 2 on 4/19 (about 2 weeks late).

We have not had a **Golden-winged Warbler** on our local BBS Route since 1980 and this year recorded two. Also 47 Yellow Warbler on the Route was the best count in 22 years. A count of 24 Yellow-breasted Chat was the best in 14 years. First **Yellow-throated Warbler** were 4/19; this is now a rather common breeder along streams where sycamore trees are found.

Several **Summer Tanager** were seen and heard in the county, including one at the farm on 6/30. (This is the most reliable county for finding this species. - Eds.) One **Vesper Sparrow** was banded in the yard 4/22; once common here, this species is now rare. Last banding record for **Dark-eyed Junco** was 4/30. **Red-winged Blackbird** are not as common locally as in earlier years - probably due to fewer active farms. Only 67 were recorded on BBS Route compared to a peak count of 204 in 1971.

The last 2 **Evening Grosbeak** of the season were noted flying over on the evening of 5/4. All spring migrants of this species always fly northeastward through this area (this also applies to spring migrating Blue Jays).

OBSERVERS: **Ralph Bell, R.D. #1, Box 229, Clarksville 15322 (412-883-4505)**, Bill Wilson.

Huntingdon County (31)

Locations: *L. Raystown (LR), Stone Valley Rec. Area (SVRA)*.

The second quarter of the year provided *Huntingdon* with the welcome sounds of migration as waterfowl passed through in April and songbirds in May. June brought the beginnings of the nesting season as terri-

tories were established and pair bonding began. The following report will be in chronological order, as opposed to the AOU checklist, and all sightings were made by the compiler unless otherwise noted.

Two unusual species were seen: 2 ♂ **Blue Grosbeak** on a ridge near Water Street 5/10 (DK) and a ♀ **Dickcissel** 5/20 near Alexandria (ML).

April proved to be very good for waterfowl. A rainy, low pressure system centered over the state for the first 10 days kept many species "down" on local lakes and rivers. **Pied-billed Grebe**, **Great Egret** and numerous **Wood Duck** were present at LR's Brumbaugh Access 4/3. That same day 14 **Common Loon**, 2 **Red-throated Loon**, and 14 **Lesser Scaup** were found at SVRA.

An **Am. Bittern** was reported 4/4 in a marsh near Petersburg (ML) and **Bonaparte's Gull** were at Entriiken LR and SVRA. **Osprey**, **Horned Grebe**, **Ruddy Duck** and **Am. Coot** were found 4/5 on L.R.

Louisiana Waterthrush were heard calling 4/13, while a good swallow flight was passing through Huntingdon borough. An insect hatch over the Juniata R. 4/13 fed the first arriving **Barn**, **N. Rough-winged** swallows and **Purple Martin**.

Caspian Tern were found interspersed with **Bonaparte's** and **Ring-billed** gulls at the Aitch Access L.R.

The warbler flight began in earnest 4/23 with **Yellow** and **Yellow-rumped Warbler** and **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** near Huntingdon. **Spotted Sandpiper** 2 and **Pectoral Sandpiper** 9 were found resting in farm wetlands near Alexandria 4/24 (ML). The "warbler dam" broke 5/2 at Water Street Ridge, when the expected migrants passed through. At lower elevations that morning were **Solitary Sandpiper**, **Vesper Sparrow** and **Bobolink** 30 near Alexandria.

Orchard Oriole, **E. Kingbird** and **Marsh Wren** were found at L.R. Aitch Access 5/7. **Kentucky Warbler** were calling from deep glens along Tussey Mt. by 5/9. Sunday, 5/10, our Big Day, tallied 87 species, including first sightings of **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**, **E. Wood-Pewee**, **Blue-winged Warbler**, **Least Flycatcher** and **Common Nighthawk**.

Blackpoll Warbler remained on a Juniata R. island, near Alexandria, 5/13-20, as they have done in years past (ML). **Whip-poor-will** were calling 5/13 and both cuckoo species seen. The last of the **Pine Siskin** left our thistle feeder 5/28, with a season high count of 23 on 5/2.

June's species' accounts were mostly limited to data for the PABBAP. A wandering **Osprey** was observed 6/5 near Cassville. Recently fledged **Common Raven** were present on Williamsburg Mt. 6/10 and on that date **Nashville Warbler** were found at SVRA.

OBSERVERS: **David Kyler, RD #4, Box 159-A, Huntingdon 16652 (814-643-6030)**, Melvin Lane.

Indiana County (32)

Locations: Blue Spruce County Park (BSCP), Indiana (IND), Shelocta (SHL), Yellow Creek SP (YCSP).

The waterfowl flight through the county was uneventful, as was the warbler migration. For the most part, birds dribbled through; few large flocks were reported. The best find of the quarter was a **Yellow-throated Warbler** on a nest in a sycamore tree above the Conemaugh R. near Strangford 5/9 (JT,JRT), the first confirmed breeding record for the region. Observers are the compilers unless otherwise indicated.

All waterfowl reports from YCSP, unless otherwise noted. Top **Common Loon** count was 15 on 4/13; 6 stayed until 5/20 (GS). Single **Pied-billed Grebe** were reported 4/11 (TBC,WBC) and 4/25 (RW), the lone reports for the quarter. **Horned Grebe** top count was 14 on 4/9 (DS,GS). On 5/20, 8 **Double-crested Cormorant** were tallied, with 2 still present on Margus L. 5/28 (GS). **Great Blue Heron** reports were not as numerous as usual for Spring. Two **Great Egret** were spotted; 1 on 5/4-6 at YCSP (GS) and the other flying over Homer City 5/10 (GW,JW). A well described **Cattle Egret**, unusual in our area, spent 5/20-22 at a farm pond near IND (GM). After being unreported in April, **Green-backed Heron** finally appeared 5/6 (AH).

A lone **Tundra Swan** lingered until 4/25. The resident **Canada Geese** were first seen on nests 4/24 (RD); numbering up to 44, they created a sanitation problem at YCSP's beach (GS). Last **Green-winged Teal** were observed 4/11 (TBC,WBC). Top count 13 (low) of **Blue-winged Teal** was 4/25, with 2 remaining until 5/2. Up to 6 **N. Shoveler** were counted 4/13 (JS,GS). Other duck maxima: 7 **Am. Wigeon** (TBC,WBC); 4 **Canvasback** (DS,GS); 220 **Ring-necked Duck** (JS); 35 **Lesser Scaup** (TBC,WBC,AH, MH); 6 **Oldsquaw** (GS); 19 **Bufflehead** (AH,MH); 8 **Red-breasted Merganser** (MH,RH *et al.*); only 2 **Ruddy Duck** 4/8-13 (GS).

Osprey were at YCSP 4/9-5/20 (GS *et al.*); 3 on 4/25. **N. Goshawk** was not reported; the other two accipiters were seen infrequently. First **Broad-winged Hawk** was 4/18 near SHL. Several reporters commented about the absence and/or difficulty of finding **Am. Kestrel** this year (LH,GS,AH), but 3, an all-time high, were tallied on the Parkwood BBS Route.

Few **Ring-necked Pheasant** and **Wild Turkey** were reported. **Ruffed Grouse** fledglings were near Strongstown 6/17 (GS). A single **Common Moorhen** was seen 5/6-14 on a recently manicured pond on which it had summered last year (GS).

Shorebirds were practically non-existent this spring. Only **Greater Yellowlegs** and **Spotted Sandpiper** were reported. **Bonaparte's Gull** 6 arrived at YCSP 4/9 (DS,GS), where 1 was last seen 5/6 (GS). Small flocks of **Ring-billed Gull** lingered at YCSP with 32 a high 4/11 (TBC,WBC). Only **Herring Gull** report was of 6 on Margus L. 4/17 (GS).

First **Black-billed Cuckoo** was heard near SHL 5/13

(RA,BA,MH), and 9 others were reported. No **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was mentioned in spite of the many hours spent in the field by atlasers. Single **Barred Owl** were found near Nolo, Strongstown, and Hillsdale (GS). One observer felt **Common Nighthawk** were far below normal over the downtown IND area (LH). The only **Whip-poor-will** report was 1 near SHL, first heard 5/6.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird was late 5/7 (AH,MH), but confirmed nesting 5/27 (MH,TJ). A pair of **Belted Kingfisher** entering their nest hole near IND 4/27 was interesting (AH,MH). **Red-bellied Woodpecker**, sparse in our region, were observed near Brush Valley 5/2 (GD). **Pileated Woodpecker**, considered extremely common in e. portion (GS), were seen only occasionally elsewhere.

All expected flycatcher species were reported. **Horned Lark** were reported from 8 locations between 4/10 and 6/10 (v.o.). A migrant **Bank Swallow** was seen at YCSP 4/25 (MH,RH *et al.*), but 4 were considered territorial near Hillsdale 5/26 to 6/2 (GS). Two **Cliff Swallow** listed at YCSP 4/25 was the lone report (MH,RH *et al.*). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** probably bred again near SHL, as they were present all quarter. The only **Carolina Wren** report was 1 in Blacklick 4/14 (AH,MH). An early **House Wren** was observed 4/6 near Nolo (GS).

Golden-crowned Kinglet observed near Smicksburg 6/5 and near SHL 6/29 seem suspiciously like breeders. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** began moving 4/14 (EH), which was also the first date for **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** near SHL (MH). Thrush dates were within range; however, no **Gray-cheeked** was noted. The only breeding **Hermit Thrush** were n.e. of Glen Campbell (TJ *et al.*). A **N. Mockingbird** was found near Lochvale 5/6 (MH,TJ); a pair nested in IND (AH).

All vireos, except **Solitary**, seemed late returning. **Warbling Vireo**, rather uncommon in our area, was reported only from Smicksburg 6/5 and from the SHL BBS Route traditional stop. Only 2 **Golden-winged Warbler** reported: 1 5/14 near Marion Center (AH,MH) and 1 on the Parkwood BBS Route. **Yellow Warbler** were down in numbers on two BBS Routes; on the Parkwood Route 14 tallied, down from previous 4-year average of 23. Several observers commented on the scarcity of **Yellow-breasted Chat** (AH,GS); only 2, down from the 1984 high of 8, were counted on the Parkwood BBS Route.

Grassland sparrows again appear to be in good numbers this year. Ten new locales were found for **Vesper Sparrow** (m.ob.). **Grasshopper Sparrow** were listed at 7 new areas this year and **Henslow's Sparrow** were reported from 5 new locations. Only 2 **Fox Sparrow** were mentioned: 1 at Nolo 4/6 (GS) and another at YCSP 4/14 (AH,MH). **Swamp Sparrow** was confirmed breeding near Hillsdale 6/10 (GS). Last **White-throated Sparrow** was seen near Nolo 5/14 (GS). Top **White-crowned Sparrow** tally was 5 in IND 5/3 (AH). The latest date for **Dark-eyed Junco** was 4/30.

Bobolink had fledged young 6/23 near Strongstown (GS). One **Rusty Blackbird** observed at YCSP 4/11

(TBC,WBC). A pair of **Orchard Oriole** was near Marion Center 5/14 (AH,MH); a singleton near Blairsville 6/20; a first-year ♂, was near IND late-June (MH,PJ). Top **Purple Finch** feeder count was 18 near Nolo 4/23 (GS); by 5/14 they were nest-building near Heilwood (GS) and near SHL. **House Finch** are continuing to increase in numbers, as evidenced by BBS results. Last **Pine Siskin** were 2 near SHL 5/11. Top **Am. Goldfinch** count was 79 near SHL 4/2. Very few **Evening Grosbeak** were reported; best count was 35 near Nolo 4/23, which was also the latest date for the county (GS).

OBSERVERS: Betty Abbott, R. Carrell Abbott, Kathy Bennett, Gloria Dick, Ron Dixon, Eric Hall, Anne Hedgpeth, **Margaret and Roger Higbee, RD #2, Box 166, Indiana 15701 (412-354-3493)**, Leon Hue, Pat Johner, Timmi Jones, Mary McClure, Gib McLaughlin, John Salvetti, Vi Schneider, Dan Syster, Georgette Syster, John Taylor, Joseph R. Taylor (JRT), Gloria Winger, John Winger, Ray Winstead, Todd Bird Club, Westmoreland Bird Club.

Juniata County (34)

Location: Clearview Res. (CR).

Unless otherwise noted, observations were in Hammer Hollow by the compiler.

Latest dates for selected species: **White-throated Sparrow** 5/10; 4 **Dark-eyed Junco** 4/26; and **Pine Siskin** 4/5.

Migration observations: **Common Loon** was present throughout most of April on the Juniata R. and CR; 6 **Osprey** at CR 4/24; **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** 4/12 & 5/10; 1 **Swainson's Thrush** 5/17; **Fox Sparrow** 4/5; 1 **White-crowned Sparrow** at Trego's Swamp 4/12; 5 **Evening Grosbeak** at Mexico 4/4 and 4/26.

Summer residents: Generally the summer residents arrived on time, with fluctuations within two days to two weeks of past years' records. Species newly observed, but not necessarily new to the area, were **Black-throated Green Warbler** on Tuscarora and Shade Mts., and **Cerulean Warbler** on Blue Mt. (LW,DW). Expected species not reported this year were **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** and **Purple Finch**. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** seemed up to six weeks late (6/21) at some feeders (BM).

BBS Route 72 starts at Mifflintown and runs through the e. half of the county. This year's survey, run 6/14, had no **Black-billed Cuckoo**, but **Cliff Swallow** were observed for the first time (CG). Seven **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** were found on this Route.

An imm. **Common Loon** was sighted on the Juniata R. at Casner's Crossing 6/25. Two **Bald Eagle** were regularly sighted this spring and summer in the Thompsonstown area (DW).

Two nestings of **Common Barn-Owl**, 2 ad. and 5 young in one nest and 1 ad. at another nest at adjacent farms near Adam's Cemetery were reported (CG). On 4/7 one young **Great Horned Owl** was observed in nest; the owlet fledged 5/7. Two **Whip-poor-will** were heard singing in

the same area.

Two **Red-headed Woodpecker** nests were located; the nest in the Van Wert area had 2 ad. and at least 1 young 7/6 (MK,LW); the nest in the Tuscarora Mt. area had 2 ad. sighted 6/24 (MK,LW). Several **Purple Martin** colonies are well established in the e. half of the county. The number of bluebird boxes and hummingbird feeders continues to increase in this county.

OBSERVERS: Chris Gisewhite, Margaret Kenepp, Berniece Miller, Dusty Weidner, **Linda Whitesel, RD #1, Box 356A, Mifflintown 17059 (717-436-8048)**.

Lackawanna County (35)

Locations: Dalton area (DA), (Lackawanna SP (LSP), Lake Scranton (LS).

Lackawanna is part of the folded-mountain region of PA. Many of these mountains were strip mined for coal. Today these areas are covered with birches and aspens as succession proceeds. The Lackawanna R. which flows through Scranton is "coming back" from an extremely polluted condition 15 years ago to one in which the banks are tree-lined, fish are being caught, and birds are being seen. The Scranton area is quite "developed" and there are few birding "hot spots."

The spring migration was generally felt to be average to below average in numbers and in species. Perhaps the most unusual migrant was a **Connecticut Warbler** banded 6/23. One was seen 5/16/86 in neighboring **Wyoming**.

A pair of **Common Moorhen** was found nesting 5/16 and 8-9 young seen 7/25 in DA. **Ruffed Grouse** nested successfully. Only 1 report of **Osprey** 4/11 in DA. **Red-tailed** and **Broad-winged** hawks were widely reported with confirmed nesting of the latter species at L.S. A pair of **Am. Kestrel** fledged 2 young in the Nay Aug Park area of Scranton.

Both **Downy** and **Hairy** woodpeckers were bringing their young to a suet feeder in Dalton. No **Pileated Woodpecker** was reported although they are seen commonly in neighboring counties.

All expected flycatchers were found. Although **Bank Swallow** was not reported, **Tree** and **Cliff** swallows were found nesting 6/4 along the Lehigh R. **Purple Martin** was unreported. **Carolina Wren** were found in two sites in DA and on 6/27 a family of 8-10 was located. A **Winter Wren** seen at LSP, as were 6-8 **Fish Crow**.

No report of **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, **Brown Creeper**, or **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was received. E. **Bluebird** numbers are increasing due to nest box programs in Daleville, Moscow, and Clifton Beach areas. **Hermit Thrush**, **Wood Thrush**, and **Veery** are locally common. All reports indicate that **N. Mockingbird** are increasing in Scranton and suburban areas with **Brown Thrasher** noticeably decreasing. **Gray Catbirds** are also becoming more common. Is there a relation?

Starlings remain an ecological nuisance. Warblers definitely increasing in the area are: **Yellow, Common Yellowthroat, Am. Redstart**, and **Ovenbird**. Warblers not seen this spring: **Palm, Wilson's, Blackpoll or Bay-breasted. White-crowned Sparrow** was unreported, while **4 Lincoln's Sparrow** were banded in May. **Grasshopper Sparrow** were found in June at LSP.

E. Meadowlark was confirmed nesting. But **N. Oriole** numbers are down from previous years. **Purple Finch** outnumber **House Finch** only in Thornhurst area. **House Finch** are openly competing with **House Sparrow**, with the latter species declining.

OBSERVERS: Derry & Nancy Bird, Rosann Bongey, Michael Carey, Mike Friedlin, **Gerald Klebauskas, 1301 Blair Ave., Scranton 18504, (717-344-4690)**, Jane Schulenberger, Tinka Zenke, Sue Zenke.

Lancaster County (36)

Locations: Middle Creek WMA (MC), Susquehanna R. (SR).

A **Common Loon** was at Blue L. in early June (GK,EP,JP). Up to 6 **Horned Grebe** were at MC 4/3-14 (FH,JB et al.). **Double-crested Cormorant** were at MC from mid-April through the period (m.ob.) and 3 were on the SR 6/6 (RMS,DH). An **Am. Bittern** was at MC 5/2 (DHo,SR). And 2-3 pairs of **Great Egret** were observed nest building 5/11 on Rookery I. (RMS,DH) and at least 3 nests of **Snowy Egret** were found there 5/14 (RMS,DH,TA,SS,EW). **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** were reported from Lancaster Central Park 5/13 (JB), Falmouth Access Area 5/19 (HM et al.), and a nest 5/4 on the Conestoga R. at Pinetown (TA,RMS). The only reported **Glossy Ibis** sighting was 4/18 near Washington Boro (DZ). A **Lesser Scaup** was at Lancaster's Long's Park from mid-April through June and was thought to be unable to fly (RMS).

For the second year in a row a pair of **Osprey** nested at Peach Bottom along the SR. Evidence of incubation was noted 4/14 and on 7/1 three young were banded (RMS,LR et al.). A second nest was at the Holtwood Dam tailrace; a ♂ appeared to have a mate, but no eggs were in the nest (RMS).

Bald Eagle were occasionally seen late-April/May at MC (JB et al.); 2 ad. at MC were seen daily in June with an imm. and sub-ad. seen less frequently in June (CL et al.). And 1 imm. and 1 ad. were at Safe Harbor Dam 6/6 (JB). **Sharp-shinned Hawk** were at Blue L. 6/1 (JP,EP) and near Neffsville 6/14 (JB). A **Cooper's Hawk** was at Safe Harbor 6/15 & 6/21 (JB). An imm. N. Goshawk was at MC April/mid-May (CS,JW et al.). **Red-shouldered Hawk** are more numerous in the n. part of the county than in past years (EP,EW). A migrating **Merlin** was at Ephrata 5/5 (JW).

A ♀ **Ruffed Grouse** s.e. of Quarryville 6/25 was not near traditional areas (RMS). N. **Bobwhite** were abundant

in SoLanCo with very few in the c. *Lancaster* during the period (RMS). **Virginia Rail** and **Sora** were at Alcoa Marsh in May (RMS et al.). 29 **Semipalmented Sandpiper** were at the Holtwood fly ash ponds 6/6 (RMS,DH) and up to 3 **White-rumped Sandpiper** were at MC 5/14-19 (RMS,TG,HM et al.). A breeding plumaged **Reeve** was at MC 5/7 (JB,EW,TG) for the 3rd spring record. A **Red-necked Phalarope** was at MC 5/19 (HM,RSS et al.). Single **Black Tern** were at Conejohola Flats 5/11 (RMS,DH) and at MC 5/14 (RMS et al.).

Both cuckoo species were reported to be few and far between. A **Short-eared Owl** was at MC 4/13 (DHo) and at least 7 **Long-eared Owl** stayed at Muddy Run into mid-April (RMS). **Red-headed Woodpecker** were reported from many of the atlas blocks in SoLanCo and from the Ephrata/Clay Twp areas of MC (FH,EW). An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at MCWMA 5/16 and a **Least Flycatcher** was at Lee's Bridge 5/30 (AG,JL). A **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was at Safe Harbor Village 5/14 (DH,TA,SS,EW).

A **Philadelphia Vireo** was along the Hammer Cr., Elizabeth Twp, 5/16 (MS). A "late" **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was at Camp Jubilee 5/30 (AG,JL). **Yellow-throated Warbler** were nest building at Safe Harbor Park 5/6 (JB). Earliest date reported for **Palm Warbler** was 4/3 at MC (HM). Single **Prothonotary Warbler** were at Rock Hill 5/3 (DHo) and at Rookery I. 5/14 (RMS et al.). A **Mourning Warbler** was singing at MC 5/17 (TG).

PBBAP efforts revealed 15-20 ♂ **Blue Grosbeak** singing in the s. end of the county and at least that many in the Muddy Run area (RMS). **Vesper** and **Savannah** sparrows have been found more common, in proper habitat, than previously suspected throughout (RMS et al.). Good numbers of **Bobolink** were at MCWMA in May/June (m.ob.). **Pine Siskin** lingered into mid-May with high of 20 at Safe Harbor 5/3 (JB).

OBSERVERS: Tom Amico, Jerry Book, Tom Garner, Al Guarente, Fred Habegger, Dan Heathcote, Deuane Hoffman (DHo), Greg Keller, Charlie Lefever, Jim Lockyer, Harold Morrin, Ed & Jo Pederson, Steve & Sharon Rannels, Larry Rymon, Steve Santner, Robert M. Schutsky, MaryAnn Sherer, R. Stanley Smith, Charles Strouphar, **Eric Witmer, 805 Pointview Ave., Ephrata 17522 (717-733-1138)**, Jan Witmer, Dave Zegers.

Lawrence County (37)

See the Butler County report.

Lebanon County (38)

Location: Memorial L. (ML), Stony Creek Valley (SCV).

Common Loon was present in the region until at least 5/2 when a bird in summer plumage was at ML (m.ob.). **Horned Grebe** was seen until at least 4/18, also at ML (JL,KL,SS). Waders were more prominent than usual in the region this year. A **Great Egret** was present at a quarry near Annville 5/2 (JB,MC,SC,SS). Several **Black-crowned**

Night-Heron were found at various times throughout the period along the Swatara Cr. and its branches or at ML (m.ob.). Breeding is strongly suspected, although no confirmation has been obtained to date. A **Glossy Ibis** appeared at a farm pond near Iona 4/7 and 4/21 (BS).

Waterfowl continued to be found in smaller numbers than usual this year, as they had earlier in the spring. The only records of note were a **Tundra Swan** 5/2 (m.ob.) and 4 **N. Shoveler** (PM), 1 of which remained until at least 5/2 at M.L. (m.ob.). A pair of **Red-shouldered Hawk** nested in the *Lebanon* portion of Middle Creek WMA, as they have now for at least 4 consecutive years (m.ob.). An imm. **Golden Eagle** was seen near ML 5/2 (DH). An **Osprey** arrived at Stoever's Dam L. in the city of Lebanon 4/18 and stayed for at least two weeks (FH). **Am. Coot** continues its apparent decline in the region; this year only a single flock of about 30 birds was seen 4/2 at ML (KL).

It was a good season for shorebirds locally, as a wet early spring provided plenty of standing water in the seasonal ponds, some of which remained until the end of May. **Semipalmated Plover** was seen early at Mt. Gretna L. (drained every spring until Memorial Day) (BP) and somewhat late near Iona 5/30 (SS). The last **Common Snipe** of the season was seen 5/2 near Myerstown (JB,MC,SC,SS). **Short-billed Dowitcher** was seen 5/9 near Iona (SS). **Solitary Sandpiper** was first reported 4/18 at Mt. Gretna L. (JL,KL). A **Pectoral Sandpiper** was seen at a farm pond n. of Reistville 5/2 (JB,MC,SC,SS). This spring the usual number of **Greater Yellowlegs** was seen in the region (up to 10/day) while the number of **Lesser Yellowlegs** was up sharply, up to 75/day at several locations in the region (m.ob.). Very unusual, especially in spring, was the sighting of 5 **Caspian Tern** 4/18 at M.L. (SM,DZ).

Whip-poor-will were first noted 4/29 from SCV (m.ob.). **Common Barn-Owl** continue to be seen in a number of places in the county. Probably they are still fairly common here although it is difficult to determine absolute numbers or possible recent changes in numbers. PBBAP results show **Red-headed Woodpecker** in nearly all blocks with a significant amount of open habitat. However, the adult found 6/30 within the city limits of Lebanon seemed out of place (PM). **Willow Flycatcher** are more common here than was originally thought; they have been reported in 60% of the atlas blocks in the region to date. Additional results are expect to bring this total to 70-75% by the end of the Project.

Horned Lark was added to the PBBAP region list this year. However, despite the large amount of apparently suitable habitat in this region, they are proving to be scarce; none has yet been confirmed. The first confirmed nesting **Bank Swallow** occurred this year (GB,MC) although they had been listed as possible nesters in a previous year. **Purple Martin** are doing well due mainly to the Amish, who put out many nest boxes. This year at

least 175 pairs nested at more than 20 colonies (SS). One colony located near Fontana consisted of over 100 pairs (m.ob).

The last migrant **Hermit Thrush** was seen 5/2 at ML (JL,KL,SSR). Although their closest nesting area is only about two mi. away (by air) in SV, they are very uncommon s. of Blue Mt. after the end of April. The only **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was found 5/10 at Levitz Park (PM). **Water Pipit** were found in very large numbers throughout April in the farm area between Lebanon and Myerstown (SS). There were still "hundreds" present near Iona 5/2 (JL,KL,SSR), but only 2 could be located near Reistville 5/9 (SS).

Solitary Vireo nests regularly in the region in Stony Valley. However, the discovery of a singing male 10 mi s. of Blue Mt. on South Mt. near Kleinertsville 6/28 was unexpected. The Quittapahilla Audubon Society birdathon held 5/2 produced 4 species of vireo and 21 warblers, a reasonable showing for this early in the season. Included on this list was **Golden-winged Warbler** at Levitz Park (DW), an amazing 2 **Orange-crowned Warbler**, one at Levitz Park (JB,MC,SC,SS) and 1 at ML (JL,KL,SSR), and an equally amazing **Yellow-throated Warbler** at ML (JL,KL,SSR). Seen at Levitz Park 5/10 was a "Lawrence's" Warbler (PM) which unfortunately could not be relocated. Another northern species found out of range was the **Black-throated Green Warbler**. A female was found at an elevation of only 840 ft in an area of mainly deciduous woodland e. of Mt. Gretna 6/30. This bird, which was almost 20 mi s. of its known nesting area in Stony Valley could have been an extraordinarily late spring (or early fall) migrant but was more likely attempting to nest somewhere nearby.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak is an erratic nesting bird which has been scarce for the past 5 years or so. This year, however, 5-6 pairs were found in the Furnace Hills e. of Mt. Gretna and on South Mt. n. of Kleinertsville (SS). The honors for the bird of the season goes to the **Pine Grosbeak**. Although none was reported from the local area during the winter, a 5-minute study of a male was obtained 4/20 at ML (MC). Even more incredible, another close study was obtained of possibly the same bird at Levitz Park (about 2 mi away) on the amazing date of 5/3 (JB,MC,JL,KL)! Finally, although **Orchard Oriole** is not often reported in this region, it is proving to be more common than expected. Two confirmed breeding pairs were found n. of Palmyra 6/28 (m.ob.) They have now been reported in about 15% of the blocks.

OBSERVERS: Gerry Boltz, Jan Buckingham, Morris Cox, Sheila Cress, Fritz Heilman, Deuane Hoffman, Jane Light, Ken Light, Steve Mallanson, Pat McElhaney, Barry Pfeifer, Sharon and Steve Rannels (SSR), **Steve Santner, 3 Overbrook Village Green Apt., Elizabethtown 17022 (717-836-2525)**, Bill Seifert, Dennis Wingle, Del Zimmerman.

Lehigh County (39)

Locations: Leaser L. (LL), Walter Tract (WT).

This was one of the more unexciting Springs in recent years. Almost all of the landbirds seemed to be present in below average numbers, while the warblers were barely here at all! Many of them seem to have come through the first week of May in rainy weather. The Spring hawk migration along the Blue Mt. was poor (but Dave DeReamus had a great migration at Morgan's Hill near Easton in *Northampton*), and most other families were average.

Both cuckoos are still scarce, if not completely absent (I did not see or hear a single one!) Other birds considered scarce to very rare are: **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**, **Brown Thrasher**, **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**, and **Yellow-breasted Chat**. Birds seen in better than usual numbers include **Snow Goose**, **Great Blue Heron**, **Double-crested Cormorant**, **Black Vulture**, **Bluebird**, **Red-bellied Woodpecker**, **Cedar Waxwing**, and **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**.

LOONS TO RAPTORS. There were 15 **Common Loon** at LL 4/17 (SS). Others were widely reported mid-March to mid-April. A record late date for **Gadwall** was set 4/18 near LL (BLM). A **Redhead** was at LL 4/6 (CRE). **Ring-necked Duck** and both teal were seen at the usual places. Three **Black Vulture** were seen on Rt. 309 where it crosses Blue Mt. (RB), and other sightings occurred near Henningsville (PS). An ad. **Bald Eagle** was seen near LL 4/17-18 (SS, BLM). A flight of 15 **Osprey** was seen at the WT 4/19 (FB), 19 were at Lehigh Furnace the next day (CRE), and 2 were at LL on the very late date of 5/27 (LG). One of these birds was still there on 6/3! Merlin were seen along Rt. 22 near 15th St. in Allentown 4/13 (SS), and Salisbury Twp 4/19 (FB).

GROUSE TO VIREOS. The usual number of **Ruffed Grouse** were seen by many observers. Two **Solitary Sandpiper** were seen near Huff's Church 5/1 (M/MJW). (Most of our "local" shorebirding was at Green Lane in Montgomery Co.!) A flock of 140 **Bonaparte's Gull** was seen at LL just after a storm 4/13 (SS). Resident **Red-headed Woodpecker** were found near Stein's Corner (GY), and another was seen along the Little Lehigh Cr. near Rt. 100 (FB). These were found nesting 6/28, a 1st confirmed county record (PS). Unusually early dates for several species were: **Least Flycatcher** 5/3 (RB), **Barn Swallow** in Allentown 4/10 (BLM), **Purple Martin** 4/26 and **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** 4/20 near LL (CRE). **Acadian Flycatcher** were seen at the usual places from 5/10+. A singing **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was seen in Whitehall 5/24 (RW). A **Common Raven** was at Baer Rocks 4/11 (RB). **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, low this past winter, were seen in many spots in early May (TF,CRE); latest date was 5/10 at the WT (FB). A record late **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was at Trexlertown Pines 5/16, and a **Yellow-throated Vireo** was found near LL that same day (SS, BLM).

WARBLERS. A N. **Parula** seen 4/6 in Allentown set an early record for the area (CRE). A total of 12 sp. arrived at the WT 5/2, including **Tennessee**, **Nashville**, **Parula**, **Blackburnian**, **Worm-eating**, **Kentucky**, and Am.

Redstart (FB). Early **Bay-breasted** and **Blackpoll** were seen there 5/10 and 5/13 respectively (FB). An apparent **Blue-winged Warbler**, by plumage, was giving a perfect **Golden-winged Warbler** song at WT 5/10 (FB, BLM).

SPARROWS TO GROSBEAKS. Five **White-crowned Sparrow** were seen 5/5 in Salisbury Twp (FB), and an early **Chipping Sparrow** was in Allentown 4/6 (CRE). A pair of **Orchard Oriole** was near Lynnport 5/15 (SS). **Pine Siskin** were seen well into the Spring; 10 as late as 5/10 at the WT (FB, BLM). A slew of late **Evening Grosbeak** was reported in early May; latest were 4 at a feeder near Wescosville 5/6 (JAF).

OBSERVERS: Ray Barnes, Fritz Brock, Catherine R. Elwell, Janet A. Firley, Ted Fritzinger, Laurie Goodrich, **Bernie L. Morris**, 825 N. Muhlenburg St., Allentown 18104 (215-435-9134), Peter Saenger, Steve Smith, Rick Wiltraut, Mr. & Mrs. Jim White, and Gordon Yoder.

Luzerne County (40)

See the Bradford County report.

Lycoming County (41)

Location: Rose Valley L. (RVL)

Some late-March waterfowl were also seen this quarter. RVL was productive 4/5 when 5 **Common Loon**, 9 **Pied-billed Grebe**, 8 pair **Mallard**, 50 **Ring-necked Duck**, 6 **Oldsquaw**, 3 **Bufflehead**, 10 **Common Merganser**, 30 **Am. Coot**, 3 **N. Flicker**, and 1 pair **E. Phoebe** were found. Bufflehead peaked at 75 5/2 (ER, TR). Another Common Loon was there 6/29 (RB). A pair of N. **Shoveler** was at Antes Fort 4/9 (GPS). One ad. white phase **Snow Goose** was at Salladasburg 6/7 (GPS). A **Cattle Egret** in breeding plumage was at Wallis Run 5/27 (PB).

Stan Stahl had interesting observations from an area near the mouth of Loyalty Cr. A pair of late migrant Bufflehead was seen 5/14. On 6/17 and 6/27 he saw a ♂ **Red-breasted Merganser** and on 6/22, several hundred ft. upstream a ♀ was found, but he saw no evidence of nesting. However, 6/22-26 he found 2 **Common Merganser**, one with 19 young and one with 15 young.

Single **Osprey** were observed 4/12 at SGL 252 (ER), 4/26 Montoursville (SS), 4/27 Williamsport (RB), 5/2 RVL (ER, TR) and 5/9 Proctor (WB). On 4/26 1 **Green-backed Heron**, 1 **Red-shouldered Hawk**, 2 **Broad-winged Hawk**, and 1 **Spotted Sandpiper** were found (SS, ER, TR).

Ron Beach and his co-workers in the Game Commission affirm that the **Ruffed Grouse** and **Wild Turkey** populations are good this year, probably as a result of the mild winter. **Whip-poor-will** were heard 5/26 in Mosquito Valley (MK) and Big Bear Rd. (PB).

First **Barn Swallow** and **Red-bellied Woodpecker** sightings were 4/12 at SGL 252 (ER, TR). **Yellow Warbler** and **Brown-headed Cowbird** were confirmed for the PBBAP when the ♀ warbler was found feeding a cowbird 6/28 (ER). Good numbers of **Yellow-rumped Warbler** were found

in white pine woods during atlas work (DB).

George Douglas of Proctor has a hot spot for hummingbirds. He estimates 30-40 at his feeders. When asked how he counts them he replied, "You get up at 5:30 and start counting." An even better way to appreciate the numbers is his sugar consumption. During the 1986 season he used 95 lb. and by the end of this quarter he had already used 25 lb. First arrivals were 5/4.

A singing male **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was found 6/11 s.w. of Liberty (DB). **Acadian Flycatcher** have reached the uppermost headwaters of the creeks in the n. part of the county (DB).

Two singing **Swainson's Thrush** were in a mature mixed hemlock-hardwood area in the Black's Cr. area 6/10 (DB). A territorial **Yellow-throated Vireo** was at Salladasburg 6/7 (G&PS). **Bay-breasted** and **Tennessee** warblers were in good numbers; 10 Bay-breasted Warblers were in one tree 5/16 (SS).

Pine Siskin, **Evening Grosbeak**, and **Purple Finch** seemed to stay at feeders later this year compared to previous years (ER,TR). In fact, a pair of siskins were at the Bigger's feeder 6/16; this is a safe date for the Atlas and although a nest was searched for, none was found (WB,PB). Although most **Evening Grosbeak** left a Picture Rocks feeder 5/13, 1 ♀ remained until 5/25 (WE).

OBSERVERS: Ron Beach, Peggy Bigger, Walt Bigger, Dan Brauning, Wes Egli, Michael Kuriga, **Ed and Tink Reish, RD #4, Box 277, Montoursville 17754 (717-435-5906)**, Glenna & Paul Schwalbe, Stan Stahl.

McKean County (42)

See the Elk County report.

Mercer County (43)

See the Butler County report.

Mifflin County (44)

Beautiful sights and sounds of spring abound as we enter the second quarter of 1987. Flowers are springing forth in all of their loveliness. Spring is warbler migration time here on the mountain tops, valley and roadsides of *Mifflin*.

The lone **Yellow-rumped Warbler** at suet and feeders in Bratton Twp in February successfully braved several snow storms.

APRIL. Several local groups assembled nest boxes for **Wood Duck** and placed them along Juniata R. from Newton Hamilton to Lewistown; early reports look great as sightings are up. **Turkey Vulture** were observed in several kettles, and probably nest in the county. Spring rains washed out several **Killdeer** nests with eggs; fortunately, later nestings were successful. **Ring-billed Gull** followed farmers as they plowed their fields.

First **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** arrived 4/30. **Horned Lark** were seen in flocks of 20-30 indiv. in manured fields 4/1.

Carolina Wren were on eggs by 4/2. **House Wren** arrived 4/22 and won at least two battles with **E. Bluebird** for nest sites; however, the bluebirds were successful throughout the county, utilizing both boxes and natural cavities.

MAY. Migration is in full swing with local breeding birds on territory. Sadly, **Bank Swallow** failed to return to the river bank near Lewistown, ending a 23-year nesting history.

JUNE. This is prime time for PBBAP and BBS efforts. **Bald Eagle** were sighted in Ferguson Valley near Lewistown and in Bratton Twp along the Juniata R. The 17-year locust returned and made breeding bird work extremely difficult due to the noise level. **E. Phoebe**, **Gray Catbird**, **House Finch**, **Common Grackle**, and **House Sparrow** were seen catching the locusts in mid-air and eating all except the wings. The wings fell like petals in the early morning sunrise.

Numbers of **Great Blue** and **Green-backed** herons were up this year. **Osprey** were occasionally seen over the Juniata R., Bratton Twp (MK). Wildlife rehabilitators, Chris and Charles Gisewhite, Lewistown, report the usual injuries to wildlife. Hawks and owls need more repairs than songbirds. Presently they have 2 **Red-tailed Hawk**, 1 E. **Screech-Owl**, and 1 **Am. Kestrel**. Three young Screech-Owls came to the Kenepps' evergreen trees and caused problems with nesting **N. Cardinal** and **Am. Robin**. The owls were flocked repeatedly but stayed staunch on their perches. The robins gave warning calls throughout the night and the young were scattered in the trees. At dawn, the owls remained undaunted on their original perch.

Ring-necked Pheasant, **Ruffed Grouse**, **Wild Turkey** and **N. Bobwhite** sightings were below 1986 numbers. Five pairs of **Red-headed Woodpecker** were seen entering natural cavities n. of Belleville; two pair with young were known in Bratton Twp. A birch tree was uprooted during a wind storm and tossed several young **N. Flicker** from their nest; the young were later observed being fed by a blackbird (sp.? Eds.).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird had fledged young with them at feeders on 6/30. **Grasshopper Sparrow** were found in two new areas. OBSERVERS: Chris Gisewhite, E. Margaret Kenepp, Box 343, RD #2, McVeytown 17051 (717-899-6252), and Linda Whitesel.

Monroe County (45)

Two singing **Alder Flycatcher** in a swampy area near Chicola L. 6/9 were well s. of their normal breeding area and a singing **White-eyed Vireo** in the same area was well n. of its normal range (SB,RW).

OBSERVERS: Steve Boyce, Brad Silfies, and **Rick Wiltraut**, 54 Pershing Blvd., Whitehall 18014 (215-435-8632).

Montgomery County (46)

Locations: Chukkar Valley Golf Course (CVGC), E. Branch Perkiomen Cr. (EBP), Ft. Washington SP (FWSP), Green Lane Res. (GLR), Mont Clare (MC), Pennypack Watershed Nature Area (PWNA), Schuylkill R. (SR), Unami Cr. Valley (UCV), Upper Perkiomen Valley Park (UPVP), Valley Forge National Historic Park (VFNHP).

The bad news was that April and May were cold and rainy, GLR was full to the brim, with no mudflats whatsoever, so the shorebirds were disappointing, and persistent N winds in May made for a slow warbler migration. The good news was that GLR and UPVP were productive of waterfowl, as was the SR, especially the well-monitored stretch that runs through VFNHP; most observers reported few waves in May, but breeders seemed typical by June.

LOONS TO TERNS: **Common Loon** were regular in early May over SR, most "flying so low their neck bands could be seen" (RG); 1 GLR 4/18 (GLF). Also at GLR were 2 **Pied-billed Grebe** 4/18 (GAF,GLF), 6 **Double-crested Cormorant** 5/23 (GLF), 2 **Great Egret** 4/13 (BLM), 1 **Cattle Egret** 4/26 (GAF), and an imm. night-heron 6/7 (GLF). Four **Mute Swan** were unusual in GLR area 4/17-5/24 (GAF,GLF). **Wood Duck** and **Mallard** bred. Unusual at GLR were 35 **Oldsquaw** 4/6 (GAF), a late **Hooded Merganser** 5/9 (GLF), and 1 **Ruddy Duck** 5/15 (GAF). At VFNHP 5 **Greater Scaup** 4/3 were the only sighting of the species there (RG).

Black Vulture were seen at opposite ends of the county: twice at VFNHP 4/10 and 5/13 and a pair over upper UCV, no date (RG). A colony of °20 **Turkey Vulture** occupies a quarry on the EBP near Lederach, but no imm. seen (NT). Two **Osprey** were scouting the canal at MC 4/8, near the area where a pair and young have been seen for the past two years (RE); 1 at VFNHP 4/11 (RG). Otherwise, hawk reports were scarce: 1 **N. Harrier** VFNHP 4/22 (RG); 1 **Cooper's** UCV 5/2 (GLF); 2 **Red-shouldered** throughout the quarter at FWSP (DT); 1 **Merlin** at GLR 3/28 (GAF).

Ring-necked Pheasant are doing well in Lower Salford Twp, chicks observed 6/26 (NT). An amazing **N. Bobwhite** turned up in GLF's yard at GLR 6/25.

Shorebirds were low in numbers and only 11 species seen, all expected. Highlights were: return of **Upland Sandpiper** to breed, 1 with 3 chicks on 6/7, at CVGC (GLF,GAF), 1 **Western Sandpiper**, unusual in spring, GLR 5/16 (GAF,BLM,SS), and a record 53 **Short-billed Dowitcher** in mid-May (RW). GLR hosted 2 **Caspian Tern** 5/21 (RW) and 1 **Forster's Tern** 5/2 (GAF).

CUCKOOS TO FLYCATCHERS. Cuckoo news remains grim. No **Black-billed** reported; **Yellow-billed** described as "way down," and "still scarce;" only 1 sighting

reported, GLR 5/12 (GLF). Freed's luck with owls continued strong: 4 **Great Horned** in GLR area, the **Barred** remained until 4/30, the **Long-eared** until 4/3. Six **Common Nighthawk** over VFNHP 5/18 (RG) and first **Chimney Swift** over SR 4/23 (NT). Two observers considered hummingbirds "up."

A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was at FWSP 5/4 (DT). **Pileated Woodpecker** were in UCV 5/2 (GLF) and PWNA throughout quarter (DT). An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at PWNA 5/9. **Acadian** and **Willow** flycatchers were confirmed breeding (GAF,GLF,NT). At FWSP 5/4 an **E. Phoebe** was sitting on a nest with 4 eggs under a picnic pavilion, "unperturbed by the human activity" (DT).

SWALLOWS TO WARBLERS. Only **Cliff Swallow** went unreported. **Fish Crow** were heard regularly during May and early June along the SR, from MC to Betzwood (RG,NT).

Red-breasted Nuthatch were seen until 5/9 (RG,GAF). A **Winter Wren** was found in upper UCV 4/12 (GAF) and a **Marsh Wren** at GLR 5/16 (SS,BLM). **E. Bluebird** reports were not particularly encouraging: only 9 young in 46 boxes at PWNA, although some boxes were still active by quarter's end; no reports were received from GLR, Pennypacker Mills, and Schwenksville routes. Reports of **Veery** are similarly scarce: 1 heard near MC 5/21 was not heard again (NT). However, a **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was seen in FWSP 5/6 (WM), 4 **Hermit Thrush** in upper UCV 4/12 (GAF) and 1 at GLR 4/9-12 (GLF). **Brown Thrasher** were reported from several areas (v.o.). **Cedar Waxwing** flocks were at VFNHP and GLR feeding on cicadas. At GLR 300+ were present in late May, "really gorging" (GLF).

White-eyed Vireo were territorial in UCV (GAF) and VFNHP impoundment basin (NT), plus 1 in GLF's remarkable yard 6/21. Two pairs of **Yellow-throated Vireo** were found, 1 each in upper UCV (GAF,GLF) and UPVP (GLF). **Warbling Vireo** are doing well in several locations (v.o.).

Warbler reports were numerous and detailed; the following summaries are made for key locations:

FWSP: First good wave was 4/30, but on 5/3 ±500 warblers of 19 sp., including **Blackpoll**, were seen. On 5/6 some 300 warblers found, although "Red- eyed Vireo" were conspicuous by their absence;" 13 sp. were seen 5/14, including **Bay-breasted** and **Kentucky** (WM).

VFNHP: Migration was "slow except for one or two good days," but 31 species were tallied. Highlights were a **Louisiana Waterthrush** along Valley Creek 4/22, a singing ♂ **Prothonotary** closely observed in the marshy e. end of the impoundment basin 5/24, a ♀ **Mourning** along Valley Creek 5/30, and a pair and nest of **Hooded** at Mt. Joy observation tower 6/23. **Cerulean**, rare for the park, were probable breeders this year.

UCV (mostly Sunneytown Boy Scout Camp area): 19 species listed. Notable were: 1 **Wilson's** and 1 **Yellow-throated** 5/16 and 1 **Mourning** 5/23 (GAF,GLF).

Misc. note: The first wave of **Yellow-rumped Warbler** had unusually high numbers: °150 in FWSP 5/4 (DT) and

±50 in MC (NT).

TANAGERS TO ORIOLES. **Savannah Sparrow** were found breeding from the brushy borders of GLR to flood plain areas of the SR around MC (NT); one flew into a King of Prussia Acme Market window 4/30 and was rescued from behind piled-up bags of peat moss (RG). Only report of **Grasshopper Sparrow** was of 2 at CVGC 5/31-6/7 (GLF). Sparrow highlight was 1 **Lincoln's** near the VFNHP impoundment basin 5/24 (RG).

Bobolink were in surprisingly good numbers and locations; 2 on 5/30 near the chapel in VFNHP, as in 1986 (RG). A high of 6 were at CVGC (GLF); no fledglings confirmed, but breeding is always imperiled by the hay-cutting season in June. **E. Meadowlark** still seem to be down with no reports from GLR, where they were common 5 years ago. One pair first seen in field above EBP 5/22 was still on territory at end-June; a few others were heard in Lower Salford Twp fields in June (NT); also a pair near Frederick 6/13 (DT).

It was a good season for **Orchard Oriole**, with reports from VFNHP, Oreland, PWNA, UPVP, and around the canal lock house at MC (RG, DT, GLF, NT). **N. Oriole** were plentiful all along the SR (NT).

OBSERVERS: Robert Elmer, George A. Fransois, Gary L. Freed, Ron Grubb, Bernie L. Morris, William Murphy, Steve Smith, **Neal Thorpe, Box Q, Mont Clare 19453 (215-933-2127)**, Dale Twining, Rick Wiltraut.

Montour County (47)

A pair of **Common Barn-Owl** with three eggs was discovered in an attic near Limestoneville (DN). An active **Purple Martin** colony was noted e. of Washingtonville (AS, MB).

OBSERVERS: Mark Berryman, Diane Naihart, **Allen Schweinsberg, RD #3, Box 203, Lewisburg 17837 (717-524-0432)**.

Northampton County (48)

Locations: Minsi L. (ML), Morgan's Hill (MH).

A **Red-throated Loon** was seen with 21 **Common Loon** at ML 4/17 (KS). An **Am. Bittern** was seen near Pt. Phillips 5/7 (TM). Flying by MH this spring were 2 **Glossy Ibis** 4/29, 10 **Great Blue Heron** 4/11, and 7 **Double-crested Cormorant** 4/26 plus another 14 cormorants counted 4/29 (DD).

Dave DeReamus did another excellent job counting hawks at MH, with a total of 3106 hawks in 29 days of coverage between 3/9 and 5/6. This total included 2376 **Broad-winged**, 169 **Osprey**, 314 **Sharp-shinned**, 30 **Cooper's**, and 86 **Am. Kestrel**. His best day was 4/22 when he counted 944 hawks; included that day were 801 Broad-winged, 33 Osprey, 64 Sharpies, and a **Bald Eagle**. Five **Black Vulture** past this lookout 4/25 was an excellent count (DD) and 1 at ML 4/7 was the 1st record for

that location (SB). **Peregrine Falcon** were noted at MH 4/26 (DD) and at Lehigh Furnace 4/20 (CRE).

A **Short-eared Owl** was harassed by crows near Bath 4/4 and a **Barred Owl** was heard near West Bangor 4/20 (SB). A **Black-bellied Plover** was in Plainfield Twp 5/15 (KS). An early **White-eyed Vireo** was near Easton 4/21 (AK).

Two early **Bobolink** were at MH 4/26 (DD). A **White-throated Sparrow** in song 6/19 in Easton was nowhere near its normal breeding areas (DD).

Thanks to Bernie Morris for supplying much of this data.

OBSERVERS: Steve Boyce, Dave DeReamus, Arlene Koch, Terry Master and Kathy Sieminski, **Rick Wiltraut, 54 Pershing Blvd., Whitehall 18052 (215-435-8632)**.

Northumberland County (49)

The only migrant **Am. Bittern** noted was found near Milton (MB). **Green-backed Heron** were reported to be common in the n. portion of the county. One **Snow Goose** lingered with about 200 **Canada Geese** on a pond along County Line Rd. near Montour Co. (AS). **Red-bellied Woodpecker** are thriving n. of Milton (MB).

A **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** was seen twice near the Rishel covered bridge 5/14 (JP). It could not be relocated on subsequent days. An **Alder Flycatcher** and a **Willow Flycatcher** sang in close proximity along Fishery Rd. s. of Dalmatia 6/5. On 6/24 only the Alder could be located (AS).

Carolina Wren were very common in the s. portion. A **Golden-winged Warbler** was new to the n. part of the county in June (MB). **N. Parula** sang 5/29 and 6/5, one along the Mahantango Cr. and one along the Susquehanna R. near Dalmatia. **Grasshopper Sparrow** were very common in June in many locations.

OBSERVERS: Mark Berryman, Jamey Pusey, **Allen Schweinsberg, RD #3, Box 203, Lewisburg 17837 (717-524-0432)**.

Perry County (50)

As mentioned last issue, there are few birders in this county. I did not receive any reports from other birders, but do have an interesting location on which to report.

While doing work for the PBBAP in the w. portion of the county near Blain, a pocket of northern breeding birds was discovered. This included a small colony of **Blackburnian Warbler**, 6-9 pairs; possible breeding **Dark-eyed Junco**; and one sighting of a **N. Goshawk**. The probable reason for these more northerly birds this far south in the state is that the "valley" is about 850 ft. while the ridge extends to up over 2000 ft.

This area with its unusual species and high numbers per block (up to 89 species in one) makes this a real "find." Perhaps you can find places as productive as

this when you are atlasing, and if you do not atlas, why not?

OBSERVER: Deuane Hoffman, 3406 Montour St., Harrisburg 17111 (717-564-7475).

Philadelphia County (51)

Weather throughout the season in this region was seasonable, except for a wet, cold spell from May 18 to 27, and observers expected a normal or good migration. But the general consensus was that no striking wave occurred. Perhaps the generally good weather encouraged birds to fly over or pass on such a wide front that no significant "fallouts" could be detected.

A **Cooper's Hawk**, rarely seen within the city, was observed in Wissahickon Park 4/28 (EF).

On 6/7 Murphy found a remarkable 17 **Acadian Flycatcher** singing on the upper Wissahickon Cr., Bells Mills Rd. area, and noted it was "an unusually high density."

Good numbers of **Swainson's Thrush** were in Carpenter's Woods in early May and a reasonably late **Hermit Thrush** 5/4 highlighted the thrush migration.

The warbler migration was lackluster at the usual "hot-spots," but some birds of note were recorded. A "**Lawrence's Warbler**" was seen and heard among **Blue-winged Warbler** 5/3 in Carpenter's Woods (EB). The next day neither could be located, despite diligent searching by several individuals. However, on 5/7, surprisingly both "**Lawrence's**" and "**Brewster's**" **Warbler** were identified (MD, HF). The next day neither hybrid was located. It appears that two waves of **Blue-winged Warblers** with their hybrids passed through the Woods within five days, accounting for 2 "**Lawrence's**" and 1 "**Brewster's**".

Elsewhere on the Wissahickon, a **Prothonotary Warbler** was heard singing persistently on May 5, 13, 14 and 16 (FU); no evidence of breeding found. However, breeding within the Wissahickon Cr. area seems to flourish in certain areas. Along the Bells Mills stretch on the Upper Wissahickon, where Murphy found all the **Acadian Flycatchers** 6/7, he also found 5 **Blue-winged**, 2 **Cerulean**, 1 **Black-and-white Warbler**, 3 **Am. Redstart**, 6 **Ovenbird**, 1 **Louisiana Waterthrush**, 9 **Common Yellowthroat**, 1 **Hooded Warbler** and 2 **N. Oriole**.

Without a doubt, however, the best bird of the season was a **Clay-colored Sparrow** at Tinicum NEC 5/2 (BS). This species is rare for e. Pennsylvania and this record, as best can be determined, is only the 4th for Philadelphia and the 6th for e. Pennsylvania.

OBSERVERS: Erica Brendel, Michael Drake, **Edward Fingerhood, 541 W. Sedgwick St., Philadelphia 19119 (215-843-5818)**, Harry Franzen, Bill Murphy, Bill Stocku, Fred Ulmer.

Pike County (52)

A **Great Blue Heron** rookery was found 6/23 in Blooming Grove which had 5 nests with 10 young (ph. FBH). A pair

of **Common Meganser** found in Blooming Grove (FBH) and Ledgedak Rd. (RF).

E. Bluebird were successful on Ledgedak Rd. One **Brown Thrasher** found in Blooming Grove 6/8 (FBH).

Nashville Warbler found on territory in Bald Hill Swamp 6/30; **Blackburnian Warbler** in Blooming Grove; **Prairie Warbler** at Resica Falls Boy Scout Camp 6/9; 5- 6 singing **Cerulean Warbler** located in the Blooming Grove block and elsewhere seemed high when compared to last year's atlas work, when none was found. **Canada Warbler** numbers also seemed up this year (FBH). Three **White-throated Sparrow** were territorial in Blooming Grove 6/29 (FBH).

OBSERVERS: Robert Fry, **Jane Gilpin, RD, Greentown 18426, (717-676-3331)**, Frank & Barb Haas.

Potter County (53)

David Hauber, Jr., RD #2, Box 153, Coudersport 16915 (814-274-8946) was recruited late for the job of compiler. A brief telephone call revealed that there were several April sightings of **Osprey** and that **Mourning Warbler** are quite common in appropriate habitat. There is a small group of new birders that is becoming quite active in the county, so future reports will be more representative of this remote area.

Schuylkill County (54)

Locations: Deer L. (DL), Drehersville (DRV), Hawk Mt. Sanctuary (HMS), Indian Run Dam (IRD), Landingville Dam (LVD), New Ringgold (NRG), Pine Grove Watershed(PGW), Pottsville (PVL), Schuylkill Haven (SH), Tumbling Run Dam (TRD).

Migration progressed as expected until the 5/19. A fallout was observed in Pottsville 5/18, with 23 species of warblers and 3 species of vireos observed. Rain and cold weather made for no late wave. All sightings by compiler unless otherwise noted.

LOONS TO HAWKS. Am. Bittern 1 SGL 286 4/12; although not seen later, it was the 4th consecutive year for this location. Atypically, no **Cattle Egret** was reported. **Green-backed Heron** and **Wood Duck** numbers were encouraging. **Common Merganser** 6 LVD 4/14 (TC).

Black Vulture 3 HMS 4/11 (LG), 1 PGW 5/10 (SW). **Osprey** high count was 13 HMS 4/19 (LG). **Osprey**, which usually frequent the TRD area, were absent due to construction. **Bald Eagle** 2 ad. HMS 4/19 (LG), 1 IRD 4/19 (EB et al.). **N. Harrier** 1 HMS 3/29 (LG), 1 PTV 4/14 & 5/2. **Sharp-shinned Hawk** high 7 HMS 4/14 (LG). A **Cooper's Hawk** nest with 3 young found 6/26 (FR, fide LG). **N. Goshawk** 1 HMS 4/14 (LG), 1 Sharp Mt., PTV 5/4 (TC). **Red-shouldered Hawk** 1 HMS 4/25 (LG); a pair incubating at PGW 4/26 had abandoned the nest 5/10 due to dirt bike and ATV activity. **Broad-winged Hawk** migration high 26 HMS 4/25 (LG); several territorial pair noted. **Red-tailed Hawk** 13 HMS 4/19 (LG); local observers note a

possible decline in this species this year, coinciding with similar reports from Centre.

GROUSE TO WOODPECKERS. **Ruffed Grouse** 1 LVD area 4/14 and 1 Mar Lin area 6/26. **Wild Turkey** reports are encouraging, with high counts reported from many areas, probably due to the relatively mild winter (v.o.). **Spotted Sandpiper** confirmed breeding PGW 5/24 (SW). **Am. Woodcock** 2 territorial Calvary Cemetery area, PTV 3/23-4/15; a pair, which usually breeds at this location, abandoned the area due to dirt bikes; they were found breeding in SGL 286 and SH in May.

Both cuckoo species were again relatively hard to find, due to yet another low caterpillar year. **Black-billed Cuckoo** 8 paired on territory in abandoned orchard late-May through June; 1 two mi from above location 6/16 (SW); 1 PTV late June (EB); 1 HMS 5/23 (LG). Only **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** reports were 1 PTV 5/15 (TC) and 1 HMS 5/23 (LG).

Barred Owl 1 PGW 4/26, 5/10 (SW); 1 HMS (LG). **Common Barn-Owl** 1 Friedensburg area 4/19 (SW). **Common Nighthawk** 8 paired and breeding in PTV. **Whip-poor-will** seems to be making a slow, but steady comeback in many areas (v.o.). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was in Cressona 4/20 and a **Red-bellied Woodpecker** at DRV 4/14. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** were considered numerous in April. **Hairy Woodpecker** were found breeding IRD and **Pileated Woodpecker** are in good numbers in deep-wooded areas.

FLYCATCHERS TO VIREOS. Expected flycatchers were in typical numbers. **Least Flycatcher** 1 HMS 4/6 was very early (LG). **Purple Martin** returned to their favorite location, Heisler's Dairy Bar, Lewistown Valley 4/13.

Although 2 **Common Raven** were seen in Tremont area (SW) and PTV in early to late May, and may be the same pair, nesting has not been confirmed. The **Red-breasted Nuthatch** and **Golden-crowned Kinglet** found breeding the past two yr. in the TRD area were not relocated. **Brown Creeper** 2 at nest TRD 4/21 (ph. TC). A pair of **Carolina Wren** abandoned its nest with 2 eggs in clothespin bag 4/18. **Golden-crowned Kinglet** heard at PGW 4/26-5/10 could not be relocated (SW). Some observers, including HMS, feel that **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** are declining.

E. Bluebird continues to make a fantastic comeback due to the numbers of nest boxes. **Veery** was reported as abundant this year, even surpassing the **Wood Thrush** in some areas; many have even been heard singing from relatively small woodlots in farmland habitat, where they had not been found previously. **Hermit Thrush** is breeding once again on Owl's Head, HMS (LG); several pairs have also been reported from the s. end of the Friedensburg block (KG). Single **Swainson's Thrush** noted PTV 5/2 and Deer L. 5/14. Some observers sense the **Brown Thrasher** may be declining. This compiler has not noticed this, but it may be well to keep an extra eye and ear out for this species in the future. One ♂ **White-eyed Vireo** was holding territory Summer Hill late May (SW). **Solitary Vireo** breeding at TRD 6/28 (TC) and s.w.

of Auburn (KG). **Yellow-throated Vireo** probably breeding again in Peach Mt. area where a breeding pair was located in 1985. Only **Philadelphia Vireo** was 1 in PTV during 5/18 fallout.

WARBLERS. Although the fallout of 5/18 was exciting with 23 species seen, only the **Mourning Warbler** was exceptional. **Yellow-rumped Warbler** seemed in relatively low numbers during migration. Although **Black-throated Green Warbler** numbers were good in most areas, HMS observers felt there was an apparent decrease. **Prairie Warbler** are breeding in reclaimed strip mine areas, as elsewhere across the state. **Mourning Warbler**, 1 in PTV 5/18, a pair TRD 6/1 and 1 HMS 5/18 were good finds of this frequently elusive *Oporornis*. Breeding **Hooded Warbler** returned to w. Friedensburg area and HMS. **TANAGERS TO FINCHES.** **Scarlet Tanager** are common breeders. However, **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** breeding confirmations continue to be extremely difficult and puzzle observers. **Am. Tree Sparrow** 1 PTV 4/25. **Grasshopper Sparrow**, numerous breeding pairs, at usual site near Hidden Valley Golf Course (SW) with **Vesper** and **Savannah** sparrows also being seen and heard in the same area (SW, TC). **Fox Sparrow** 1 PTV 4/15 (TC) and 1 HMS 4/9 (LG). Lone **Swamp Sparrow** SGL 286 4/12 & PTV 4/23.

Unusually early hay mowing in May was devastating to grassland nesters with many farmers having started by May 15. A small colony of **Bobolink** were unsuccessful in nesting when mowing commenced 5/16-17; in fact, colonies were down from 3 in 1986 to 0 this year in this Friedensburg location (SW). **Rusty Blackbird** 2 PTV 5/7-14. **Orchard Oriole** 1 imm. singing from catalpa tree at SW's home 6/18. Last dates for **Pine Siskin** and **Evening Grosbeak** were 5/3 and 5/6 respectively, with over 30 grosbeaks at a S.H. feeder 5/1.

OBSERVERS: Ed Brahler, Tom Clauser, 213 Deerfield Dr., Pottsville 17901 (717-622-1363), Laurie Goodrich, Kerry Grim, Gene Leininger, Scott Weidensaul.

Snyder County (55)

A pair of **N. Bobwhite** was noted near Walker L. 5/16. **Carolina Wren** appear to be quite common in the s. portion of the county. **Grasshopper Sparrow** also are common throughout agricultural sections.

OBSERVER: Allen Schweinsberg, RD #3, Box 203, Lewisburg 17837 (717-524-0432).

Somerset County (56)

Locations: Hooversville (HVL), L. Somerset (LS), Quemahoning Dam (QD).

All records are by compilers unless stated otherwise. Unless otherwise noted, all PBBAP records are for E. **Somerset** during May and June.

LOONS TO DUCKS. **Common Loon** max. 9 on LS 4/5 (M&EW), with 1-4 regularly at QD until 6/7 (RG). Few **Pied-billed** and **Horned** grebes reports. **Least Bittern** 1

at LS 6/4 (TM). **Wood Duck** nested successfully (DS) as did **Mallard**. However, a Mallard X Wood Duck in a mixed flock on Youghiogheny R. near Confluence 6/24 appeared to have characteristics intermediate between these two species (RM,RL). Waterfowl numbers in the whole area were neither overwhelming nor impressive at any location.

HAWKS TO KINGFISHERS. A **Black Vulture** was at HVL 4/13. **Turkey Vulture** sightings were above average this quarter (v.o.). **Osprey** 1 5/26 and **N. Harrier** 1 6/24 at HVL. Two **Sharp-shinned Hawk** were regular in HVL to 5/11, in several quads during PBBAP and 2 w. **Somerset** blocks (RM,RL). **Cooper's Hawk** 2 at HVL irregularly until 6/24. Single **Red-shouldered Hawk** were at Lambertsville 5/1 and Windber 5/18. Pairs of **Broad-winged Hawk** were found in several locations and **Red-tailed Hawk** were reported in every quad for PBBAP. **Am. Kestrel**, on the other hand, were reported in few quads. PBBAP reports for **Ring-necked Pheasant** were few in n. portion, but families found in most s. blocks.

Sora 3-4 at LS 5/17 (DS). A **Common Moorhen** at LS mid-April through June (m.ob.). **Am. Coot** 9-15 on QD 4/11-25 and 1 at LS 6/6 (M&EW). **Spotted Sandpiper** 3 near Berlin 5/5. **Upland Sandpiper** were found near N. Centerville 6/1 and 1, possibly 2 pairs, near Boswell during period (RM,RL). At least 5 courting ♂ **Common Snipe** were at Jennerstown Marsh 4/11 (m.ob.) and direct courtship between two birds noted a few days later (MEW). **Mourning Dove** were in unusually high numbers this period.

Black-billed Cuckoo 3 on 5/15 at HVL, with singles heard regularly through quarter. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** 1 on 5/23 at HVL and 1-3 several times in early June. **E. Screech-Owl** and **Great Horned Owl** found in most quads. **Whippoor-will** found in four quads. **Chimney Swift** found in good numbers during PBBAP were contrasted by low numbers of **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**.

WOODPECKERS TO THRUSHES. A pair of **Red-bellied Woodpecker** at HVL was regular to 6/10. **Downy Woodpecker** were in good numbers, but only scattered reports for **Hairy Woodpecker**.

All expected flycatchers were seen in good numbers with the exception of **Willow** and **Least**; 2 **Alder** near Kingwood and 7 s.e. of Somerset were excellent numbers. **E. Kingbird** reports were scattered at best.

All **Horned Lark** sightings were in reclaimed strip mine areas (GRS,RM,RL). A few colonies of **Cliff Swallow** found in s.w. **Somerset** (RM,RL) and 6 other quads. There were several reports of **Common Raven** from Stoystown, Central City and N. Baltimore quads. **Brown Creeper** observed carrying food for young at bog near Rockwood (RL). **Carolina Wren** were not found to be as common as expected from mildness of the winter (RM,RL); R. Sager had good numbers in s.e. but few in n.e. portion of county. **Winter Wren** 1 singing in HVL quad (RM,RL). A **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was found in a bog near Rockwood

on PBBAP (RL). **E. Bluebird** had a banner year in e. portion, nesting in man-made and natural cavities. Other thrush sightings were unremarkable. **N. Mockingbird** were found in 3 quads. **Brown Thrasher** was somewhat hard to find, but present in most blocks.

Vireos were average. Very few warblers noted in migration period, but usual nesters seemed to be established in normal numbers during PBBAP.

N. Cardinal noted in particularly good numbers in the vicinity of Q.D. **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**, reported in flocks of up to 20 at feeders in first half of May, were also found in most blocks. **Field Sparrow** atlas numbers were rather low. **Vesper Sparrow** located only in Windber quad 6/27. **Savannah Sparrow** in small numbers in all quads; conversely **Grasshopper Sparrow** found in all quads and often in every block. **Henslow's Sparrow** was found in several locations, especially reclaimed strip mines (GS,RS,RM,RL). **Lincoln's Sparrow** 1 at HVL 5/20. **Swamp Sparrow** 2 in Berlin quad 5/4. **White-throated Sparrow** last seen 5/9 at HVL. **Bobolink** were found in Stoystown and N. Baltimore quads. **N. Oriole** atlas numbers were low. **Purple Finch** departed from HVL 5/26. **Pine Siskin** left HVL 5/8 and **Evening Grosbeak** left 5/11.

OBSERVERS: Doris Brown, Dwight Dick*, David & Wanetta Escherich*, Brian Freiwald*, Roger Gerney, Rosalind Gordon*, Shirley Jensen*, Robert Leberman, Tony Marich, Iris Marr, Robert Mulvihill, Glenn* & Ruth Sager*, RD #1, Box 176- B, Hooversville 15936 (814-798-3242), Dennis Smeltzer and Mike & Evaleen Watko. (* denotes PBBAP atlasers for E. **Somerset**).

Sullivan County (57)

See the Columbia County report.

Susquehanna County (58)

See the Bradford County report.

Tioga County (59)

During the week of 23 June, Dan Brauning, PBBAP Coordinator, joined with some Tioga County birders. In the wooded area of w. Tioga Co. were both **Virginia Rail** and **Sora**. At least 2 **Marsh Wren** were in a cattail/sedge marsh near Little Marsh. **Black-throated Blue**, **Yellow-rumped**, and **Canada** warblers were widespread. There was a report of a **Henslow's Sparrow** near Mansfield.

OBSERVERS: Dan Brauning, Carl and Rose Kimble.

Union County (60)

All three local records of **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** have been for Buffalo Cr., where 1 was seen 3/31 (JP). A **Bald Eagle** was reported 4/19 near Suplee Mill Rd. (JH). A **Red-shouldered Hawk**, a very local nester, was heard near the McCall Dam picnic area 5/16.

On 4/13 **Barred Owl** were detected at three locations along Spruce Run in Bald Eagle SF (AS,MB).

At 10:30 p.m. on 4/8, Shively drove (straddled) his pick-up truck over a strange looking object on a road just n. of Mifflinburg. He reversed over the object again, got out and picked it up in his hand. It was a **N. Saw-whet Owl** which then flew away. Two years ago one flew into a window nearby and was killed.

The first **Common Nighthawk** of the year returned to Lewisburg 5/12 (MM). **Horned Lark** nests are not often reported, but one with two young was found 4/10 (JS). Neither **Purple Martin** nor **Cliff Swallow** was reported.

A **Blue Jay** was observed building a nest on the early date of 4/18. After two years of nest failure, hopes were raised when a **Eurasian Jackdaw** was fledged 6/3. Unfortunately, it died two days later (JP).

A **Winter Wren** sang in Pot Pie Hollow along Cooper Mill Rd. 5/16 (AS). **Golden-crowned Kinglet** still inhabit the spruces at R.B. Winter SP, where they were seen 5/16. A **Golden-winged Warbler** was found in a new location - along a power line cut. A **Pine Warbler** was seen twice in May in Friendship Park, Kelly Twp. Only 1 **Kentucky Warbler** was seen - on 5/31. A **Dickcissel** sang persistently for 3 days in Kelly Twp, until on 6/3 its hay field was mowed and plowed (AS).

OBSERVERS: Mark Berryman, Jack Harclerode, Mike Molesevich, John Petery, **Allen Schweinsberg, RD #3, Box 203, Lewisburg 17837 (717-524-0432)**, Wayne Shively, Joe Southerton.

Venango County (61)

Locations: *Allegheny R. (AR), Barkeyville (BKV), Oil Creek SP (OCSP), Two-Mile Run L. (TMRL)*.

All sightings were made by Gary Edwards and/or Russ States unless otherwise noted. Highlights for the period were: a **Great Egret** at Shaffer's Pond near Seneca 5/10, **Ruddy Turnstone** and **Short-billed Dowitcher** at Hovis' Pond near Clintonville 5/9-10, a **Great Blue Heron** rookery with approximately 25 nests located 6/21, a **N. Mockingbird** near BKV 4/11, and a **Vesper Sparrow** nest with eggs 5/21 near BKV.

Latest **Common Loon** of the season was at TMRL 5/12. Canada Goose, Mallard, and **Wood Duck** nested successfully. **Common Merganser** continue to extend their nesting range down the AR; this year adults with young were observed well below Franklin. Addition-ally, 4 pair of adults were at OCSP during the last week of April (NK). Migrant waterfowl and late date sightings: **Greater Scaup** 4/19; **Red-breasted Merganser** 4/20; **Hooded Merganser** 4/11; Am. Coot 4/11; **Ring-necked Duck** 4/18; **Bufflehead** 4/18; **Horned Grebe** 4/14; **Oldsquaw** 4/14; **Blue-winged Teal** 4/11; **Tundra Swan** 4/21.

Fifty **Bonaparte's Gull** were at TMRL 4/11 and several **Ring-billed Gull** were seen along the AR 5/11. **Red-tailed** and **Broad-winged** hawks were present in typical numbers, but **Red-shouldered Hawk** were found in two additional

areas. The number of mated pairs of this species observed has increased in each of the last three years. One pair began nesting in the same nest for the third consecutive year, but abandoned the effort after a short time. **Am. Kestrel** did not appear to be as numerous as last year while **Cooper's** and **Sharp-shinned** hawks remain scarce.

As opposed to last year when **Great Horned** and **Barred** owls were relatively abundant, few have been reported this year. Conversely, sightings of **Black-billed** and **Yellow-billed** cuckoos, virtually unreported last year, were back to normal numbers. **Common Nighthawk** nested in Oil City and Franklin in typical numbers. A **Whip-poor-will** was on territory adjacent to OCSP (NK); another was heard 6/21 near BKV.

Pileated Woodpecker remain in good numbers throughout the county. No **Red-headed Woodpecker** was reported during the quarter. Two pair of **Great Crested Flycatcher** nested in OCSP with one pair utilizing a Wood Duck box (NK). **E. Wood-Pewee**, **E. Phoebe**, and **Least Flycatcher** were common in favorable habitat. At least 10 **Horned Lark** were observed on a reclaimed strip mine near BKV as late as 5/21.

Thirteen active **Purple Martin** colonies were reported. **Cliff Swallow** were present in large numbers under the Hunter Bridge on Rt. 62. **Bank Swallow** were found at a gravel pit near Sugarcreek Borough. One **Carolina Wren** was seen in OCSP 5/9. **Golden-crowned Kinglet** were in the vicinity until 4/18. **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** were common in oak-maple woodlots.

A single pair of **E. Bluebird** nested in OCSP for the first time in the four-year history of the nest box program; six young were banded (NK). **Wood Thrush** and **Veery** were common where habitat appropriate. **Hermit Thrush** was considered uncommon. Vireos were represented by the abundant **Red-eyed**; the **Solitary** which was confirmed nesting 6/28; singing ♂ **Yellow-throated** at several locations during June; a pair of **Warbling** seen 6/27; and a singing ♂ **White-eyed** also seen 6/27. No unusual warbler was noted. Expected species in expected numbers arrived on time.

Savannah, **Grasshopper**, and **Henslow's** sparrows were again common on reclaimed strip mines in the s. portion. A **Dark-eyed Junco** nest with young was found 5/24. **White-throated Sparrow** and **Evening Grosbeak** were last seen 4/18.

OBSERVERS: Gary Edwards, 450 Stevens Dr., Apt. 304, Pittsburgh 15237, Nick Kerlin, Russ States, 24 E. 5th St., Oil City 16301 (814-676-6320).

Warren County (62)

Locations: *Allegheny R. (AR)*.

Two **Common Loon** were found in the pumped storage reservoir above Kinzua Dam 4/18 (TNG) and 4 **Oldsquaw** were seen on the river in Warren 4/10 (LA). Waterfowl migration was very poor in the Warren-Akeley areas this spring.

A N. Harrier was seen near Lander 5/12 (BH). An Osprey was on the Allegheny Res. 6/5 (KC). On 4/14 a Sharp-shinned Hawk was seen in Warren (BH). A Cooper's Hawk caught a House Finch at Grisez's on the e. side of Warren 4/4 and another was seen at Sheffield 5/15 (BW). A N. Goshawk was observed 4/11 n. of Youngsville (BH,DW). Am. Kestrel are apparently nesting at the top of a building in downtown Warren (BHi). Of 30 kestrel nest boxes erected in the n. and w. part of the county, 20 were occupied and 77 birds were fledged (BH,JS,DW).

A Sandhill Crane was reported near Youngsville 4/6 (VL). On the river in Warren, 40 Bonaparte's Gull were seen 4/10 (LA). E. Screech-Owl were seen or heard near Warren and N. Warren 5/25 and 6/14 (CP,DW). On 4/30 and 5/1 Grisez saw about 10 Chimney Swift over the Third Ave. bridge in Warren; this date is unusually early.

On a visit to Cranberry Bog at Clarendon, Grisez heard and saw at least 2 singing Nashville Warbler, plus observed a N. Waterthrush and a Canada Warbler carrying food. Two Palm Warbler were at Akeley Swamp 5/1 (TG). Two Fox Sparrow were n. of Warren 4/1 (JP).

EXOTIC: An escaped Red-crested, or Brazilian Cardinal was seen by several observers in May.

OBSERVERS: Leif Anderson, Keith Confer, Nancy and Ted Grisez, 8 Belmont Dr., Warren 16365 (814-723-9464), Bill Highhouse, Bill Hill (BHi), Virginia Loizeaux, Jan Palmer, Chase Putnam, John Schultz, Don Watts.

Washington County (63)

There are no specific county reports for this quarter, however, atlasing is going quite well and I thought it would be interesting to suggest a list of the 10 most common "not so obvious" breeding birds for this area. This is an admittedly arbitrary list of those species that I think may be breeding in every PBBAP block, but are not in everyone's backyard, and therefore more difficult to locate and observe.

Birds are listed taxonomically: Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Acadian Flycatcher, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, White-eyed Vireo, Blue-winged Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, and Orchard Oriole. This may be confirmed, altered, or discarded when additional data or comments are received.

OBSERVER: Roy Ickes, Dept. of Biology, Washington and Jefferson College, Washington 15301 (412-223-6118).

Wayne County (64)

After almost two solid months of PBBAP efforts, the following is a summary of sightings. There has been a decrease in the amount of spraying for gypsy moths, which may account for more breeding species than the past few years.

Two large (40-50 nests) and several small Great Blue

Heron rookeries were active. A colony of Green-backed Heron (3 nests) in Hawley confirmed breeding. Although Wood Duck are doing well, Mallard and Am. Black Duck were more difficult to locate. Common Merganser are breeding regularly, but a good find was a Hooded Merganser with 3 ducklings on a beaver pond.

For the third straight year we have had 2 ad. Bald Eagle fishing the local lakes and rivers, but no nest has been located despite aerial searches. The same is true for the several Osprey in the area. The hawk population is good with Broad-winged, Red-tailed, Sharp-shinned, Cooper's, and Red-shouldered observed. Owls in decreasing order of frequency are Great Horned, E. Screech-, Barred and N. Saw-whet.

Virginia Rail was confirmed when a chick scampered across the road in front of our car. We found another in our back yard, although other "good looking" areas were unproductive. Chimney Swift were locally abundant. Kingfisher numbers were stable.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker are breeding in the area, as well as other expected species of woodpeckers, except Red-headed. Expected flycatchers were in good numbers in appropriate habitat, including 4 Alder Flycatcher. Several colonies of Purple Martin are in the county, but the numbers not as high as would be liked. All 5 species of swallows were found in reasonable numbers.

Brown Creeper are found in limited habitat. Carolina and Marsh wrens were located, the latter a good find. E. Bluebird are doing well in areas where houses have been placed, but also found in natural cavities. Breeding spotted-breasted thrushes are well represented.

Nesting White-eyed Vireo gave the county all five of the expected species. There were no surprises from the warbler family, but a Mourning Warbler on the Pocono Plateau was a good find.

White-throated Sparrow, which are very restricted in habitat requirements and teasing with their late arrival on breeding grounds, were located. Other sparrows were well-represented, including the elusive Grasshopper. E. Meadowlark are uncommon. Purple Finch were found breeding in planted spruce farms. House Finch, unfortunately, are rapidly expanding.

Wayne County is blessed with a great variety of habitat for its small size; with its rivers and elevation to 2000' it makes for interesting and rewarding birding at any time of the year. Just on our home base of 100 acres we have observed 160+ species with breeding evidence for 68 species; over 120 species have been sighted during "safe" dates.

OBSERVERS: Joe and Voni Strasser, RD#2, Box 37, Rocky Run Rd., Hawley 18428 (717-226-6118).

Westmoreland County (65)

Locations: Donegal L. (DL), Powdermill Nature Reserve (PNR).

APRIL. Following a miserable first week (wet snow, etc.),

April was unseasonably mild and dry. Still the migration of most birds was not unusually early for this area, in fact, for a number of species it was probably a few days later than average. The mild weather, though, may have been a factor in the below average waterfowl flight with most individuals and species passing through the month before, flying over us altogether, or stopping only briefly. Notable, however, were three records of **Oldsquaw** 4/5-9, with a max. of 15 indiv. at Latrobe Res. on the latter date.

Osprey were noted at many localities in the region after 4/13, in an apparently good flight. A **Forster's Tern** was recorded at DL 4/23. An unusually good total of 20 **Water Pipit** was recorded at DL 4/5 (MEW). Always a good find in the area, 2 **Pine Warbler** were seen 3 mi s. of Ligonier 4/8 (HMS). **Fox** and **White-throated** sparrows and **Purple Finch** all had much better than average presence in April based on banding totals at PNR. After mid-April there was a fairly heavy, but perhaps somewhat localized, influx of **Evening Grosbeak** and **Pine Siskin**; flocks of ± 100 of the former and ± 50 of the latter were recorded during the last half of the month.

MAY. With the exception of a frosty morning or two around mid-month, May like April, was unseasonably mild and dry. While the season seemed to be well ahead of schedule by most floral measures, it was actually normal or even a little late as far as the calendar of birds was concerned. When the migration did finally become heavy, around 5/20, it did not last long, and before we knew it, it was summer.

The following shorebirds were at D.L. 5/17: 7 **Semipalmated Plover**, 3 **Least Sandpiper**, and 2 **Dowitcher** sp. (JW, KG, KCP). Later sightings at that location were 4 **Least Sandpiper** 5/22 and 3 **Forster's Tern** 5/15 (GR).

Warbler waves were observed in the field 5/7, 5/11 and 5/20, and on the latter date there was an unusually heavy flight of *Empidonax* ("Traill's" complex) flycatchers, mostly **Alder**, at PNR. Also at PNR 5/20 were 3 **Olive-sided Flycatcher** and 2 "**Brewster's**" **Warbler**. Our banding total of 158 birds 5/20 was by far the best that we recorded this quarter. Of the 34 species represented by that total, 16 were warblers. Most numerous of these were **Canada** (30), **Magnolia** (28), **Mourning** (8), and **Wilson's** (6). We banded a **Prothonotary Warbler** 5/10, the 5th or 6th regional record, and a **Worm-eating Warbler** 5/3. We had scattered sightings of **Red-breasted Nuthatch** 5/5-12 and a very noticeable flight of **Blue Jay** 5/6. **Pine Siskin** and **Evening Grosbeak** lingered until mid-month.

Two very good records for the region during May were a **Least Bittern** on St. Vincent L. 5/10 (MEW) and a **Summer Tanager** at PNR 5/19 (CRC). The latter is the first record for the species in over 10 years in this region.

JUNE. Because we traveled widely on behalf of the PBBAP, many of our records are from outside this county. For the most part, we can only comment in a general way

about a few species.

The best record for June was a Least Bittern at Twin Lakes Park 6/24 (KC), although there is no evidence that the species is breeding at this locality. **Upland Sandpiper** were numerous in the Mammoth area, where up to 10 were seen 6/9, and 1 was recorded from the old Hannastown area n. of Greensburg (LC).

Both species of cuckoos were widely recorded in the region, but **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**, following a below average spring flight, seemed to be less frequent in general, and particularly at feeders during June. **Purple Martin** did not return to nest at Ligonier, despite extensive efforts on the parts of the Loyalhanna Watershed Association and the PGC (including two years of "hacking" and broadcast this year of martin vocalizations from the vicinity of the boxes in town). However, a fairly large colony near Kecksburg was apparently productive again this year. Although **Carolina Wren** nested successfully at PNR and scattered localities in our region, we did not find it to be as common as we expected given the mildness of the previous winter.

We recorded the best numbers of **Yellow-throated Warbler**, at least 4 singing ♂, at PNR in several years. **Kentucky Warbler** seemed to be particularly numerous throughout our region in June. We were encouraged by the best numbers of **Yellow-breasted Chat** at PNR in recent years and by apparently good numbers elsewhere in the region. **Henslow's Sparrow**, on the other hand, were not as numerous at PNR as they have been (we recorded only 2 or 3 pairs in fields where up to 10 pairs had been present). **Bobolink**, though, were widespread and numerous throughout our region. Lastly, a **Pine Siskin** caught at PNR 6/28 was somewhat of a surprise (although several pairs attempted to nest here in 1982), but this individual showed no physical evidence of breeding.

OBSERVERS: C. Ray Chandler, Keith Christenson, Linda Christenson, Kevin Georg, Jay Loughlin, **Robert S. Mulvihill** and **Robert C. Leberman**, Powdermill Nature Reserve, Star Route South, Rector 15677 (412-593-7521), George Roland, Kenneth C. Parkes, Helen M. Schmidt, Dennis Smeltzer, Mike and Evaleen Watko, John Whiting.

Wyoming County (66)

See the Bradford County report.

York County (67)

Locations: *Brunner's I. (BI)*, *Codorus S.P. (CSP)*, *Gifford Pinchot S.P. (GPSP)*, *Susquehanna R. (SR)*, *Wrightsville (WRV)*.

On May 9 we conducted our annual Century Run with about 20 people covering the county. A new high, 141 species, was recorded. Although warblers, in most instances, were few in numbers we tallied 23 species. Records from this day as well as the rest of the quarter

follow. Sightings are by compiler unless otherwise noted.

Common Loon 1 imm. at CSP 5/5 (AS); in recent years as many as 3, some ad., have been found each summer, however, no nesting evidence. WRV sightings of **Double-crested Cormorant** were 14 5/5, 24 5/9 (m.ob.), with 9 imm. remaining until 7/1. **Great Egret** max. 4 on B.I. 5/17-6/14. **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** 1 on Conewago Cr. near York Haven 5/21 through June (DH). **Common Goldeneye** 1 ♀ lingered at BI until 5/9 (JoP,JeP *et al.*)

Black Vulture max. 6 in Pigeon Hills area (TS,AS); there were also 6 reported from this area on 1986 CBC. This could be a possible inland roosting and/or nesting area. **Bald Eagle** 1 ad. at CSP as late as 5/4 (LR). **Virginia Rail** 5/9 & 1 ad. 5/20 at BI, where it has bred in a stagnant pond each year (DH,BDG,JS *et al.*). The more elusive **Sora** also reported at same location, same date, same group.

Semipalmated Plover 4-20 indiv. on 6 occasions 5/16-6/6 at BI with max. 6/6. **Solitary Sandpiper** 2 at BI settling basin 4/23 was an extremely early date, about 3 wk. early. **Ruddy Turnstone** 2 at BI 5/7-5/9; a rare migrant anytime. **Short-billed Dowitcher** 1 on SR near Codorus Furnace 5/9 (DH,BDG,JS *et al.*). **Am. Woodcock** 1 in a marsh at L. Redman 6/24.

Bonaparte's Gull 50+ on pond at BI 4/9 (AS) and ±100 at WRV 5/9 (DH,BDG,JS *et al.*). Min. 9 records of **Caspian Tern** at BI with max. of 10 on 2 separate days 4/11-6/29 (JoP,JeP,AS).

Black-billed Cuckoo 1 at Cann-Edion area 5/28 (AS). **Olive-sided Flycatcher** 1 singing at CSP 6/2 & 6/17 (AS); rare, but 3 sightings since 1985. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** 1 5/9. **Acadian** and **Willow** flycatchers seen at numerous locations, especially the s.e. corner from Peach Bottom n. to Indian Steps. An **Alder Flycatcher** was seen singing at Spring Grove 5/18 (AS).

Bank Swallow ±40 pair with about 60 holes at BI. An **E. Bluebird** nest was found with 5 eggs at CSP 4/6 (LR). **Solitary Vireo** 1 on 5/9, location unknown. **Blue-winged** and **Prairie** warblers reported numerous 5/9 (DD,RG). **Golden-winged Warbler** 1 in wooded area at Reservoir Hill 5/11 (JoP,JeP). **Yellow-rumped Warbler** 200+ in an area about 2 mi long at WRV 5/5. **Prothonotary Warbler** 1 spring and early summer at Shenk's Ferry cabin area (JS); 1 also at GPSP 5/9 (DD,RG).

Summer Tanager 1 singing in scrub growth at Codorus Furnace 5/27; 1 seen on 1985 Century Run in same general area (AS). **Savannah Sparrow** 2 ♂ singing from fence posts at Long Arm Dam 6/2; a pair with young at same spot in 1985. **Orchard Oriole**, heard then saw a 2nd-yr ♂ singing in sapling; located nest with ♀ in same tree 6/2; on 6/17 observed the ♀ occasionally flying from nest to the ♂ and back again.

OBSERVERS: Bill Del Grande, Dorothy Dressler, Rita Gross, Dick Humbert, John Prescott, Jean Prescott, Larry Rohrbaugh, John Shue, Tom Smith, **Al Spiese, 4086 Old Orchard Rd., York 17402 (717-755-8309)**.