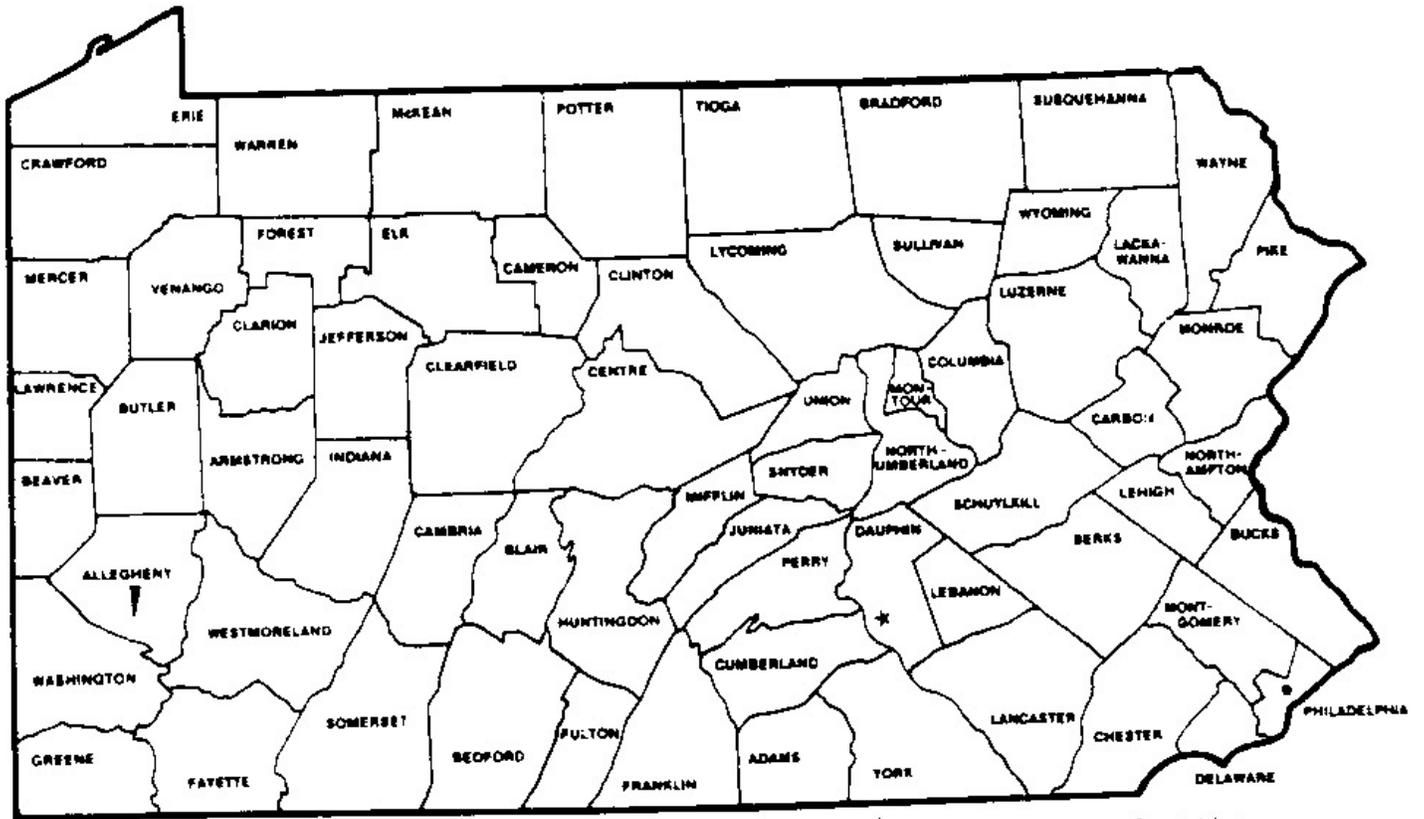


PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS



Volume 1, No. 3

Jul - Sep 1987



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PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 3, JUL - SEP 1987

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Cover: Sabine's Gull, by Franklin C. Haas

from the Editors....

As promised, we continue to improve the quality of *PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS*. This issue was produced using a laser printer. We sincerely thank Paul Guris and Enertech, Inc. and Karen Atwood for their help and cooperation in making this issue very readable. Also we would like to thank all our new subscribers and those of you who have renewed your subscription for the confidence in the publication.

We are almost to the break-even point for the number of subscribers necessary to cover postage and printing costs.

The Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas Project is over for 1987. Next year will be the final complete year of atlas fieldwork. We all need to continue our efforts in making this successful. It is not too early to start planning your strategy for 1988. Work on owls and some species of hawks should begin in March and April. Other species such as woodcock should be seen/heard in April as well. Some early breeders should probably be staked out as early as late April/early May; this includes several of the woodpeckers, both nuthatches and woodcock. Also, in winter one should check the bare branches for oriole nests in the event they were missed in a particular block.

We would also like to bring to your attention another recent publication that concerns itself exclusively with Pennsylvania. It is entitled PENNSYLVANIA BIRDLISTS and is in its second year of printing. Terry Schiefer, although living presently in Mississippi, started what is, in essence, a compilation of lists kept by Pennsylvania birders. There are Pennsylvania Lifelists, County Lifelists, PA Annual Lists by Year, County Annual Lists, and by next year who knows what other lists will be included. Terry welcomes all who are interested in seeing their birding lists in print to submit their information to him for inclusion. There is a very modest charge for the publication, approximately \$2.00, and it makes for fun reading. If you are interested, please write to him. He loves PA so much he is still using 107 Newkirk Avenue, Reading, PA 19607, as his mailing address.

Several of you have expressed an interest in getting information about rarer species found in the State disseminated around quickly, in case many people want to see the bird. There are hot lines in Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and Wilkes-Barre, but sometimes the updating of the taped information can be a bit delayed. There may be a way to set up an interior hot line for those birders who are interested in travelling to see an unusual species. We would appreciate hearing from you as to the feasibility of such an endeavor.

We need more articles for PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS as well. Please consider writing something about a favorite birding location, an unusual birding experience, or a personality profile about a local birder. Pennsylvania's varied habitat and size should provide a wealth of material just itching to be published. We are inveterate Pennsylvania birders and, as such, would love to have a source of birding locations to visit as we travel around the state. Please share your favored locations with all of our readers.

We also welcome your input as to what other types of information should be included in PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS. This issue marks the first book review. We plan on having more. If you would like to review a book or suggest a book for reviewing, also please advise.

Barbara and Franklin Haas, Co-editors

A Sabine's Gull in Schuylkill County

by Kerry A. Grim

The date was September 17, 1987, and the location Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, North Lookout. Mid-September has historically been the peak period for migrating Broad-winged Hawks. However, today's weather did not cooperate. It was cloudy, calm, with low visibility. A light afternoon shower chased all but ten of us from the lookout.

At 1:30 EST I announced, "Gull coming in." Dan Niven, from Rochester, NY, announced "Sabine's Gull." He had seen one previously at Niagara Falls, NY. We had an excellent look at it, as it was slightly below eye level and 220-250 feet from us on the north side of the lookout. Although skies were cloudy, there was sunlight on the gull. It had white triangular wing patches, an all white tail, and gray covering its back, with black triangular wing tips. The tail was forked. There was a hint of gray on the back of the head.

In checking the field guides, I found the identification of Sabine's Gull to be unmistakable and that it was an adult bird.

A review of the literature has determined this to be the third Pennsylvania record. The first was of a moribund individual found at Gull Point, Presque Isle State Park, Erie, on 15 October 1979. This specimen is in the collection of Edinboro University of Pennsylvania. The second record was an immature bird found by Stan Stahl on the Susquehanna River at Sunbury on 19 September 1981; this individual was seen until 22 September and photographed by many observers. Next issue will have a report of yet another sighting for Pennsylvania (Editors).

Birding in Wayne County

by Voni and Joe Strasser

What makes a good birding and nesting area? It's a known fact that variety in habitat, water, and some protection from exposure are major factors in the establishment of an area rich in avian life. It's also known that specific species of birds prefer and/or require specific types of housing arrangements.

This last fact, the preference for housing, seems to us to be the major determinant of the richness of an area's avian population. Perhaps it could be said, then, that habitat types and protection from exposure determine the housing arrangements possible in a given area, predetermining the variety of bird species which will choose to reside there. Available vegetation, to some extent, does define the structural possibilities.

Our 100 acres seem to be meeting these avian requirements. We have had over 80 species nest here at one time or another. Over 160 species have been seen during the last 25 years at our little "hideaway."

We had not really been interested in birds until we sighted several pair of beautiful Bluebirds flying around our yard back in the 60's. My husband made about 15 pine bluebird boxes and they moved right in and have enjoyed the housing project ever since. We now have a bird box trail of more than 80 boxes providing nest sites for House Wrens, Tree Swallows, Black-capped Chickadees, Tufted Titmice, Great Crested Flycatchers, Screech-Owls, Kestrels, woodpeckers, Wood Ducks, Purple Martins, and of course, Bluebirds. About 10 to 12 pair of bluebirds and 22 pair of Tree Swallows annually inhabit our valley housing project.

We have 2 pair of Canada Geese which breed each year. One pair establishes itself at each end of our 18-acre lake, and each usually raises a brood of four young.

Some unusual species that have been sighted on the property over the years are: Hooded Merganser, Black Tern, Osprey (regular), "Lawrence's" Warbler, Mourning Warbler, Philadelphia Vireo, Canada Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Alder Flycatcher, Hoary Redpoll and Snow Bunting.

The following have nested regularly on the property: Black Duck, Cooper's and Sharp-shinned Hawks, N. Saw-whet Owl, Spotted Sandpiper, Wild Turkey, American Woodcock, Pileated Woodpecker, Willow Flycatcher, Hermit and Wood Thrushes, Solitary and Yellow-throated Vireos, Yellow-rumped and Cerulean Warblers, Northern and Louisiana Waterthrushes, Bobolinks, and White-throated Sparrows.

Why the success rate? We think it has to do with an eastern exposure bordered by a hill which blunts the northern winds coming from the valley, plus the good habitat present. Our stream and lake, fields, marsh, open and deep woods, pine plantations, orchards, gardens, large open lawn, fence rows and brushy areas, all with little human disturbance, make the bird watching at "our place" really just great.

You are welcome to visit. We travel quite extensively, so please call first (717-226-3219).

**THE TAYLOR MEMORIAL ARBORETUM
(Delaware County)**

by
Stevens Heckscher, Naturalist, Natural Lands Trust, Inc.

Located in Wallingford, squeezed between the Ridley Creek and Chester City Park, Delaware County, the Taylor Memorial Arboretum is a green area whose ornamental plantings of trees and shrubs make it particularly attractive to migrating birds. The arboretum was founded at the end of World War II as provided by the will of the late Joshua Taylor. The Natural Lands Trust, a private, Philadelphia-based, non-profit conservation organization active in conservation of open space, was recently asked by the trustees of the Arboretum to assume the responsibility for its management.

Under this new arrangement, the grounds and headquarters building of the Arboretum are being renewed and the area is becoming increasingly attractive to both wildlife and human visitors. The Natural Lands Trust is developing an ecological educational program for the Arboretum, with plans for involvement with local school districts and other educational institutions, lectures, exhibits, television appearances, and other features relating to the subject of conservation.

The aims are to increase the awareness of people living in the area on the subject of the crisis in the environment, the disappearance of wildlife and natural habitat, and what is being done and can be done to reverse the deterioration of the environment.

As Naturalist for the Natural Lands Trust, I began in the spring of the present year, 1987, to keep records of the birds occurring on the grounds. It appears that the Arboretum is particularly attractive to warblers and other migrant songbirds. On one rather good day, within a quarter-hour period, I saw at least two Bay-breasted Warblers, numbers of other warblers and small songbirds including a Gray-cheeked Thrush, and heard an Olive-sided Flycatcher singing.

The Great Horned Owl is a permanent resident and may nest. Gray Catbirds and N. Cardinals nest in the shrubbery; N. Orioles are heard singing in the vicinity through the spring, and Carolina Wrens are abundant nesters near the building and in the woods (one attempted to nest in the Arboretum's mailbox).

When the pond was being drained for repairs this summer, a family of Green-backed Herons moved in to feed on the exposed mud area. In a past year, a Blue Grosbeak was seen near the parking lot during spring migration.

Chester City Park, contiguous to the Arboretum on two sides, contains some fine mature woodlands with tall oaks and tulip poplar trees which are quite attractive to migrants. A few unusual wildflowers can be found there as well. I am eagerly looking forward to my first fall migration as I bird the area in and around the Arboretum.

Under the skilled management of the staff of the Natural Lands Trust, the Arboretum grows more beautiful each week. Additions of unusual species are being made to the already exceptional rhododendron and azalea collection. There are many flowering ornamental shrubs and trees and there are several rare ornamental trees on the grounds. Plans are being formulated for new collections. Among ideas being considered are plantings of heath shrubs (i.e., rhododendrons and their relatives) and viburnums and other shrubs, flowers and trees native to the Mid-Atlantic area, which should be especially attractive to local birds.

The Arboretum has a resident superintendent. The headquarters building is still undergoing refurbishment to provide additional space for offices, exhibits and educational programs. We hope that these alterations will be completed by mid-winter, 1987-88. Meanwhile the public may visit the grounds during daylight hours every day of the week. Birders and others interested in nature are particularly welcome.

The Taylor Memorial Arboretum is located in Wallingford, very near the city of Chester, where Harvey Road ends at Chestnut Parkway. Across the Parkway from the end of Harvey Road is Ridley Drive, and the entrance to the Arboretum is the first driveway on the left off Ridley Drive.

BOOK REVIEW: Birds of Erie County, Pennsylvania, Including Presque Isle. By Jean Stull, James A. Stull, and Gerald M. McWilliams. 173 pp. 2 maps. Illustrations by Jean Stull. Allegheny Press. \$8.00. Available from: Jean Stull, 661 Benson Rd., Waterford, PA 16441 for \$10.00 which includes PA State Tax and P/H.

Anticipation. The reader of *The Birds of Erie County* comes away from the book with feelings of heightened anticipation and a sense of familiarity, as though a trip had just been taken there, and another were pending. Presque Isle, Siegel Marsh and Union City Dam are highlighted hotspots, with extensive details provided as to the best places for viewing which species at what time of year, conditions to expect, and where to set up a spotting scope for optimal use.

The authors detailed descriptions of habitat and their specific locations across the county provide that sense of familiarity for novice and expert birder alike. The expert thus immediately knows where to anticipate finding the species sought; the novice learns to differentiate habitats, and comes to appreciate the significance of each, for species observed there.

Two maps are included in the book, separable from the text for ease of use. These locate all areas described and indicate points of access. Seasonal, climatological data are provided so that the visitor can quite adequately gauge potential weather conditions and come prepared.

The thorough, season-by-season description of yearly bird activity, neatly summarized in a one page, Year's Calendar, is another source of that feeling of familiarity. This provides a concise overview, lending a warm intimacy and continuity to an understanding of the cyclical nature of bird life in general, as well as educating the reader on the particulars of birding in Erie County.

A checklist of the birds of Erie County is also provided; each species is presented in the text by family, in accordance with the American Ornithologists' Union. Relative frequency and abundance, and month's of occurrence are provided for each species in quickly perusable format, with concise but adequate additional notes of interest.

Of special pleasure to the birder-conservationist is the inclusion of notation as to the 1985 status of all species listed as being of special concern in Pennsylvania. Mrs. Stull's black and white illustrations of the birds, each drawn with a sliver of typical habitat for the species, permeate the book further rounding out the enjoyment and education found in these well-organized indispensable pages.

Karen Atwood

Summary of the Season - July through September, 1987

This quarter covers the latter half of the breeding season and the beginning of the Fall migration. Special thanks to atlasers who provided data gathered during the breeding season. More people than ever went out into many nooks and crannies throughout the Commonwealth.

The rarest bird this quarter was, of course, the **Sabine's Gull**. It was the third state record. Other good finds were the first record in Lebanon Co. of a **White Ibis**, while yet another was found in York Co.; a record count of **Baird's Sandpipers** for Montgomery Co.; an **Eared Grebe**, **Marbled Godwit**, and **Red-necked Phalarope** in Erie Co.; a **Western Kingbird** in Luzerne Co.; first record of **Yellow-throated Warbler** in Forest Co.; a **Buff-breasted Sandpiper**, **Hudsonian Godwit**, and **Red-necked Phalarope** in Lancaster Co.; a **Yellow-headed Blackbird** in Centre Co. (this is the one bird that continues to elude us despite numerous chases) and two unusual rail sightings. A **Yellow Rail** was found in Allegheny Co. (it was rescued from a cat, and released a short time later in Raccoon Creek State Park). A possible **Black Rail** was reported in Somerset Co. No matter what your particular interest, then, there is exciting reading to be had while perusing the individual county reports.

Most compilers reported a hot, humid July and August with rain finally coming, sometimes too much, in September. At least the September rains finally had many of us seeing waves of warblers again. The Higbees in Indiana Co. stated "...the warbler migration was the best of the past six years." All expected 35 warbler species, including **Connecticut** and **Orange-crowned**, were seen somewhere in the state. Most compilers reported good numbers of warblers. The Allegheny and Erie Co. reports, however, reveal that not all observers were so fortunate. Be sure to read Wilhelm's (Butler Co.) bit of folklore which uses dense foggy September days for predicting the number of snowstorms for the winter!

Black Vultures continue to expand northward. Observers in Bedford and Huntingdon Cos. suspect nesting; Berks Co. had its second nesting record. Hummingbirds seemed to linger a bit later this year, with reports from several counties noted as late as September 25th. Once again, a **Swainson's Hawk** floated by Hawk Mt. Sanctuary.

The in-depth attention given to the **Sanderling** in Indiana Co. was an example to all of us of the approach we need to take with regard to shorebirds. Breeding plumaged Sanderlings have that rufous coloring which we are conditioned to associate with rare Eurasian vagrants. We should remember to give careful consideration to any flock which appears to be homogenous. Shorebirds, being long-distance migrants, can show up anywhere. Atlantic Coast birders have turned up such interesting finds as **Rufous-necked Stint**, **Little Stint**, and **Spotted Redshank** in the past few years. Although there are records for **Ruff** and **Curlew Sandpiper** in Pennsylvania, no really unusual *Calidris* has been confirmed.

Observations for **Black Terns** seem to be decreasing, so it was heartening to believe that they may have nested in Erie Co. The late date sighting of one in Centre Co. on September 23 was a good record. Sedge Wren reports were restricted to Crawford and Washington Cos.

Thrush reports continue to be poor. **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** were only reported as night migrants in Luzerne Co. The only upbeat report on thrushes was from Powdermill Nature Reserve, where they banded 210 Swainson's. This was three times the number banded in 1986. Grassland sparrows are holding their own or increasing in numbers where habitat permits. It is encouraging to hear of so many records for reclaimed strip mine areas. A few early **Evening Grosbeaks** were seen in Dauphin Co. by the quarter's end.

Once again, no **Loggerhead Shrike** was reported.

Abbreviations Frequently Used in County Reports

ad.:adult, Am.:American, BBS:Breeding Bird Survey, c.:central, c:Celsius, CBC:Christmas Bird Count, Cr.:Creek, Co.:county, Cos.:counties, et al.:and others, e.:eastern, Eur.:European,Eurasian, F:Fahrenheit, fide:reported by, Ft.:Fort, Jct.:Junction, juv.:juvenile, L.:Lake, max.:maximum, min.:minimum, m.ob.:many observers, Mt.:Mountain, Mts.:Mountains, NF:National Forest, NWR:National Wildlife Refuge, PBBAP:PA Breeding Bird Atlas Project, PGC:PA Game Commission, Res.:Reservoir, R.:River, S.F.:State Forest, SGL:State Game Lands, S.P.: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.e.s.w.:direction of location, >:more than, <:fewer than, +/-:approximately, or estimated number, *: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.

Allegheny County (02)

Please note that Joe Grom's address was incorrectly listed last issue. It should have been 575 Brown Road, Wexford, PA 15090 (412-935-3563).

Locations: Beechwood Farms, Bruceton, Elizabeth Twp., Hartwood Acres Estate, North Park, Pittsburgh (PGH), Shaler Twp., South Park, Whitehall.

Possibly due to confusion over reporting procedures and deadlines with the departure of Paul Hess (former compiler par excellence), not all of the regular reporters for this column checked in. Those who did submitted mostly meager information. Hammond and Mezinze reported the bulk of the data for this short summary.

HERONS THROUGH DUCKS. Numerous imm. **Great Blue Herons** were seen not only in this county, but throughout W. PA. At least in North Park, **Green-backed Herons** were less visible than usual.

Besides the ubiquitous tame **Mallards** and **Canada Geese** found in favored spots in PGH's rivers and the lakes and ponds of park lands, there was nothing noteworthy for waterbirds in general. Waterfowl apparently have not as yet "come down" in this current mild weather. **Wood Ducks** seem to have had a good year with as many as 15-20 being seen together in secluded backwaters in North Park.

The only exciting item to report was the story in the news about a hit-and-run speedboater running amuck through a flock of "ducks" (killing a couple) on the Ohio R. near the area where the questionable female **Harlequin Duck** had been seen by m.ob. (Vol. 1, Nos. 1 & 2). He was tracked down by a persistent SPCA lady and was required, as part of his court penalty, to join in the feeding of those tame **Mallards** for a court-directed number of weekends. That'll l'arn 'im!

RAPTORS THROUGH SWIFTS. The only raptor of real note was an **Osprey** 9/3 (JH). A few **Sharp-shinned, Red-shouldered, Broad-winged** and **Red-tailed Hawks** were reported; the dates suggest post-nesting birds.

The PGC will be delighted to know that a number of old-style **Ring-necked Pheasant** were observed in various parts of the county, being duly recorded. These are not to be confused with the new cross (Sichuan x Ring-necked) recently released by the Game Commission in parts of w. Mercer Co.; these hybrids are perhaps more adaptable to PA's heavy brushland and varied predators.

Although the **Common Nighthawk** flight did not seem as heavy generally as in many years, both Leapman and Panza observed good flights of 50-200 birds within PGH as well as out in the n. suburbs in late August through early September. **Chimney Swifts** were flying in fair numbers even as September waned.

HUMMINGBIRDS THROUGH SWALLOWS. More people are fascinated by hummingbirds these days judging by the apparent increased use of feeders and the increased number of phone calls here at the Latodami Nature Center relating to these tiny creatures. Many callers/reporters to this compiler make claims of feeding 20-30, especially after mid-August to about mid-September. A late migrant was still in Shaler Twp. 9/25 (JH).

It has been noted in previous reports that the **N. Flicker** is down in numbers. Sadly the same situation still prevails. This scarcity is more than made up by the many **Downy Woodpecker** reports and

complaints, I hasten to add, by folk with cedar siding. I don't need to dwell too much on the continued amazing increase in **Red-bellied Woodpecker** numbers; they are seen and/or heard almost everywhere.

Among the flycatcher tribe some species are up, others down. It also depends on who is reporting from what area. While some have written that the **E. Phoebe** seems scarce, in n. Allegheny Co. they are commonly observed (JG), while the **Great Crested Flycatcher** is on the wane. Both **Acadian** and **Willow Flycatchers** are regularly observed, indicating good breeding populations throughout the county.

Barn Swallows seemed slightly below numbers of last year. The other swallows were also poorly recorded. Here in North Park it seemed a poor reproductive year.

WRENS THROUGH SPARROWS. **Carolina Wrens** are doing well. The only reports for **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** were 7/10 and 7/20 in South Park (WH).

As of this writing it is a pleasure to report an outstanding southerly movement of both kinglets and **Brown Creepers** which began near the end of this period.

Several reporters again made note of the poor flights of thrushes. In North Park, however, **Veeries** were in usual numbers and singing well into July (JP,JG). The great **Am. Robin** numbers are not yet in evidence this fall.

Another bright spot in the early migration was the good to excellent general reports on the warbler movement. After almost resigning ourselves to poor warbler flights, it has been very satisfying to see some good numbers.

Revel in 30 **Cape May Warblers** at Elizabeth Twp. 9/8 (M&EW). Hoffmann commented favorably in an oral report on the good flight she had seen. Mentioned by her and others were **Tennessee, Chestnut-sided, Black-throated Blue, Yellow-rumped (outstanding), Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Blackpoll** and **Common Yellowthroat**. Hammond, however, while finding six species in South Park early enough almost certainly to mean breeding birds, in a telephone conversation was reluctant to paint the migration in such glowing terms.

As one final positive item: Hoffman with her wandering tribe of birders listed 20+ **White-throated Sparrows** at Beechwood Farms on the very last day to be included in this report. Others have noted good flights of not only **White-throated** but also **White-crowned Sparrows**.

OBSERVERS: Joe Grom, 575 Brown Rd., Wexford 15090 (412-935-3563), Walter Hammond, Joyce Hoffman, Herschel Leapman, Matt Mezinze, Joe Panza, Mike and Evaleen Watko.

Armstrong County (03)

Location: Keystone Res. (K.R.)

Participants in the PBBAP were out in full force this summer, but by August few birders were still in the field. Very few reports were received. Water levels at K.R. were extremely high, providing no habitat for shorebirds. Few observers reported on the warbler migration.

Pied-billed Grebes, probable nesters near Cowansville, were spotted periodically during July and August (CD,DG,NK). Four migrant **Pied-billed Grebes** were present at K.R., where 1 **Great Blue Heron** was also spotted, all on 9/23 (MH,GL,GS). Top count of **Green-**

backed Herons was 6, also at K.R., 7/26 (MH,RH); a singleton was observed there 9/23 (MH,GL,GS).

Seven **Canada Geese** 9/23 (MH,GL,GS), 3 **Wood Ducks** 7/26 and top **Mallard** count of 8 on 7/26 (MH,RH) were all at K.R..

Two **Cooper's Hawks** were recorded, 1 near Apollo 9/20 (MH,RH), the other at K.R. 9/23 (MH,GL,GS). A single **Red-shouldered Hawk** was spotted at Widnoon 7/15 (CD,NK,DG,GW).

Thirteen **Wild Turkeys** at Gastown 9/24 were a nice find (RH). The only shorebird reported was a **Solitary Sandpiper** on a pond near Kittanning 9/17 (NK).

Few cuckoos were reported. Two **Great Horned Owls** were calling near Kittanning 9/21 (NK,NoK). A flock of 40+ **Chimney Swifts** was tallied at K.R. 9/23 (MH,GL,GS). Last date for **E. Wood-Pewee** and **Acadian Flycatcher** was 9/23, when 4 of the former and 2 of the latter were found at K.R. (MH,GL,GS).

Two **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were sighted with a flock of migrant warblers 9/23 at K.R. The warblers included 4 **Tennessee**, 1 **Nashville**, 1 **Chestnut-sided**, 6 **Magnolia**, 4 **Black-throated Green**, 1 **Bay-breasted**, 1 **Am. Redstart**, and 2 **Hooded Warblers** (MH,GL,GS). **Black-throated Green Warblers** were still present at the end of Sept. near Kittanning (NK). On 9/20 a **Yellow-throated Warbler** was observed (NK). The first **White-throated Sparrow** was 9/23 at K.R. (MH,GL,GS).

OBSERVERS: Caroline Davis, Denise Garrott, *Margaret and Roger Higbee, RD #2, Box 166, Indiana 15701 (412-354-3493)*, Nancy Karp, Norman Karp (NoK), Gloria Lamer, Georgette Syster, Gloria Winger.

Bedford County (05)

Bird observations in Bedford Co., with some exceptions, revolve around the Tussey Mt. Hawk Watch. Since the Hawk Watch begins September 1, this summary is only for this one month and consideration is given only to unusual sightings, numbers, or events. Most of the passerine observations were gleaned either from passing flocks or early morning/late afternoon gatherings.

RAPTORS AND GALLINACEOUS BIRDS. The first **Black Vultures** were spotted 9/1; flocks of up to 5 have been sighted with regularity throughout the month suggesting nesting along the ridge. This is an increasingly familiar trend for this southern species since the inception of the Watch in 1984.

There was coverage for 24 days. The following were counted:

Osprey (improving annually)	46
Bald Eagle	3
N. Harrier	17
Sharp-shinned Hawk	296
Cooper's Hawk	30
Red-shouldered Hawk	3
Broad-winged Hawk	1654
Red-tailed Hawk	45
Rough-legged Hawk (very early)	1
Am. Kestrel	41
Merlin	1
Peregrine Falcon	1
Unidentified	33

In general, for the first half of the month the winds were out of the southeast and in the second half the winds were mostly out of the west. Of the total 2171 raptors, over 1442 birds passed the summit between 9/21-25. Winds at this time were out of the west with cloudy, overcast and even rainy days. We found most **Broad-winged Hawks** to the e. of Tussey would hitchhike thermals until they reached Tussey where they would pick up the west wind producing ridge updrafts.

Flocks of **Wild Turkey** seemed exceptionally common this year all along the Tussey and Evetts ridge system, with over 7 different flocks counted between 9/1-31, varying in number from 12 to 38 birds. These flocks were geographically separate from each other.

PASSERINES. Again, these observations are from the summit. A particularly common flycatcher of interest was the **Olive-sided Flycatcher**, which was first seen migrating 9/5 and last seen 9/27. A high of 5 was seen 9/21 (TD).

Thrushes such as **E. Bluebird** and **Am. Robin** were in good numbers with a high of 75 **Bluebirds** 9/21 that settled on the summit at one time (TD).

The warbler migration was unremarkable with the exception of an unusual number of **Cape May Warblers** (30) on the summit 9/21 (TD). The most unusual bird was a female **Blue Grosbeak** seen 9/16 in a feeder field fence row just below the summit (TD,SD). Whether this bird was a migrant or had nested there has yet to be determined.

OBSERVERS: Tom Dick, 1003 *Eisenhower Blvd., Johnstown 15904 (814-266-7912)*, Sally Dick, Dave Escherich, Tim Fox, Kevin Georg, Dave Kyler, Dave Mikesic, Ruth and Glenn Sager, Lynn Sanderson.

Berks County (06)

Locations: Hawk Mt. Sanctuary (HMS), L. Ontelaunee (L.O.)

The number of reports was down this quarter, so it is difficult to state if some species were scarce or merely unreported. Some breeding season records from along the Blue Mt. and Reading Hills indicate a significant amount of semi-northern habitat in the county. (See the warblers reported below.) As for southern birds, 2 downy **Black Vulture** chicks were found in District Twp. near Landis Store 7/5 (RK). The landowner stated that the birds had nested there previously. This is the 2nd known nesting record for the county.

A marked imm. **Bald Eagle** spent 9/2-3 at Joanna (RRC). The tag was a yellow triangle with a red dot marked #8. The eagle had been released the second week of August at Albany, NY. A white **Red-tailed Hawk** was seen 7/31 near Lenhartsville (KAG,KDG). The bird is brilliant white (except for some brown on the head) and, by its size, is a female. It has been a year-round resident in the area since December 1982.

Two **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** 7/23 at Blue Marsh was the only report this period (BP). Cuckoos have been scarce for the last 3-4 years since the hairy caterpillar populations crashed. A **Barred Owl** 7/28-29 at the Hamburg Res. was unusual on the s. side of Blue Mt. (KAG,SN). A **"Brewster's" Warbler** was reported near L.O. 9/13 (MS).

The end of the breeding season gave us several tantalizing hints of unusual breeding activity, as well as more expected records. At least 2

Black-crowned Night-Herons were present in the Oley Valley throughout July (RK), 1 was at Peter's Cr. 7/13 (MW), 2 were also there 9/13 (MS) and 1 ad., 3 juv. were at the rookery site in West Lawn 8/7 (MSI). Three+ **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were present along (location deleted - Eds.) 8/8, at least 2 of them recently fledged and giving food begging calls (KAG).

One **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was seen 7/18 at Hamburg (KDG). Three **Acadian Flycatchers** were found 7/5 and 7/16 in District Twp. along Pine Cr. (RK). Two pairs of **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** were found 7/18 and 7/20 in Pike and District Twps. (RK). Four singing **White-eyed Vireos** were heard 7/5-16 in e. Berks Co. (RK). Two male **Yellow-throated Vireos** were along Pine Cr. in District Twp. 7/5-16 (RK) and 1 at HMS 8/30 (MS).

A singing male **N. Parula** was along Pine Cr. 7/11 (RK). One **Canada Warbler** was seen 7/11 at SGL 110 (KAG). A **Black-throated Green Warbler** 7/8 was an unusual sighting at the Hamburg Res. (KAG). Two ad and 1 imm. **Yellow-breasted Chat** were found 7/5 in Pike Twp. (RK). Four ad. **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were seen 7/11-16 in the e. portion of the county (RK).

The August and September migration provided some interest, but no great surprises.

Three **Pied-billed Grebes** were seen 8/23 at L.O. (MW). Single **Double-crested Cormorants** were reported 8/18-20 at Kaercher Cr. Park, Hamburg (KG), and 8/23 & 9/27 at L.O. (MS,MW).

Single **Great Egret** sightings were 8/2 at Poplar Neck along the Schuylkill R. (MS) and not far away at Flying Hills 9/9 (EB). At least 2 **Snowy Egrets** were seen near L.O. 8/30 & 9/6 (MS). An imm. **Little Blue Heron** was in the same area on both days (MS).

A female **Redhead** 9/13 on L.O. was very early (MS). An **Osprey** was seen 8/26 at Blue Marsh (BP) and 200-250 **Broad-winged Hawks** were near there 9/17 (MR) with 30-35 over Flying Hills the same day (EB).

Four **Wild Turkey** were spotted 7/25 at SGL 110 (KAG). A **N. Bobwhite** also at the same SGL 7/4 was in an unusual location, at the top of the mt. (1500 ft.) in an area of browse cutting for deer (KAG).

One Semipalmated Plover 8/30, plus Semipalmated, Least, and Pectoral Sandpipers 8/30 & 9/6 were all near L.O. (MS). Three Common Terns 9/13 and 1 on 9/20 were at L.O. (MS).

A Common Nighthawk 8/13 at Windsor Castle was the earliest noted migrant (KAG), 12 were seen 8/25 in Reading (MW) and 75+ were in Brecknock Twp. 9/11 (MSI,JSI). The latest Ruby-throated Hummingbird flew by HMS 9/23 (LG).

A Brown Thrasher was in Brecknock Twp. 9/6 (MSI). Solitary Vireos were sighted 9/20 at Blue Marsh (EB) and 9/27 at L.O. (MS). 20+ Magnolia Warblers were at L.O. 9/13 (MS). Three Cape May Warblers were in Brecknock Twp (MSI,JSI). A Connecticut Warbler was seen at Peter's Cr. 9/13 (MS).

OBSERVERS: Ed Barrell, Robert & Ruth Cook, Laurie Goodrich, Kenneth & Dorothy Grim, Kerry A. Grim, Rudy Keller, Sue Nothstein, Mary Roth, Jan Slater, *Mike Slater, RD 4, Box 4106, Mohnton 19540*, Matthew Spence, Matthew Wlasniewski.

Blair County (07)

The third quarter of the year was exceptionally warm and dry. Most local breeding species seemed to be unaffected by this weather pattern and reproduction rates seemed to be average. Only raptors, notably *buteos* and *accipiters*, were reported in lower than usual numbers.

Waterfowl reports were restricted to **Canada Geese** which were logged in at Canoe Cr. S.P. 9/20 and gone by 9/25 (TW).

Cooper's Hawks were found (location deleted - Eds.) 7/15 and seen defending territory 7/26 (TM). A good flight of migrating **Broad-winged Hawks** (200+) and **Ospreys** (8) was observed over Tussey Mt. 9/23 (DK). Early **Red-tailed Hawks** and **N. Harriers** were seen migrating over Brush Mt. 8/29 (MB).

Ruffed Grouse and **Wild Turkey** continue to be reported in large numbers. A mild winter, good food supply, and low hunting pressure have resulted in record numbers of these species. Young grouse were reported on Brush Mt. 7/16 and young turkey were seen there 8/25 (MB).

A large "push" of fall warblers was reported 8/31 on Brush Mt. with the following species identified: **Yellow-rumped, Yellow,** and **Black-throated Green**. On 9/15 **Solitary Vireos** and **Black-throated Blue Warblers** were in good numbers (MB).

Overwintering species, **White-throated Sparrow** and **Winter Wren**, arrived on Brush Mt. 9/25 and 9/27 respectively (MB).

OBSERVERS: Marcia Bonta, *David Kyler, RD #4, Box 159-A, Huntingdon 16652 (814-643-6030)*, Tom McMann, Terry Went.

Bradford County (08)

This report covers Bradford (BR), Luzerne (LZ), Susquehanna (SU), and Wyoming (WY) Counties. Records are by the compiler unless otherwise noted.

The period was warmer than normal with little rain until the last week of August. September was the wettest on record, with over twice the normal rainfall.

Most of the records for the first half were found as a result of the PBBAP. River levels were low throughout most of August and some shorebirds were reported, including 10 species in Wyoming Valley 8/27, until the heavy rains raised river levels. The rainy days diminished both bird and birder activity and few good waves were reported. One report from Meshoppen 9/7 (WY) indicated the "woods full of warblers" (RD).

The Atlas has shown that several species are far more wide-spread in all 4 counties than some had thought and they should no longer be considered uncommon: **Common Merganser** (most common in WY), and **Alder Flycatcher** and **Yellow-rumped Warbler** (mainly BR, SU, WY). Reid had 8 cuckoo records this period: 1 **Black-billed** in BR and 4 in WY, and 2 **Yellow-billed** in BR and 1 in WY.

There were a few September records of **Swainson's Thrush** in LZ and WY Cos., but the only records of **Gray-cheeked Thrush** were migrants heard at night. Increased numbers of **Solitary Vireo** in SU, BR, and WY are in part due to Atlas work, but may reflect actual increases since some of the new records are on established BBS routes.

Henslow's Sparrows were found in 11 blocks in n. and w. BR [Bentley Cr., Gillett (BW), and Little Meadows (KM,RM) quads], but went unrecorded in the other 3 counties, even in places where there were colonies in 1986. Vesper Sparrows were also common in BR [Bentley Cr., Gillett (BW), Towanda, Ulster (BH, FH), Little Meadows (RM, MP, GW) quads], but were scarce in the other counties. Grasshopper Sparrows were widely reported in all 4 counties.

Bradford: An Osprey was seen 7/4 in the n.e. portion of the county (EMF). At Herickville 7/10 there were 3 Virginia Rails, 4 Soras, and a Common Moorhen. There were 2 Red-breasted Nuthatch reports: ad. with young at nest in mid-May at 1500 ft. in Little Meadows 6 (EMF), and 2 birds at 2300 ft. on Armenia Mt. in Troy 5, 6/6 and 6/13 (RY). A Winter Wren was singing near Herrickville 7/8. A Golden-crowned Kinglet was seen on Armenia Mt. 6/6-13 (RY). Yellow-breasted Chats were found in the Rome and LeRaysville quads on 7/8-9.

Luzerne: Locations: Forty Fort (F.F.), Frances Slocum S.P. (FSSP). A Common Loon was at Ricketts Glen S.P. in mid-July (WE). An early Pied-billed Grebe was at Wyoming 8/22 (JS). The only southern herons were 2 Snowy Egrets at Harding in early September (JS) and an imm. Little Blue Heron at F.F. 8/18. Three Black-crowned Night-Herons summered at Wyoming (JS), but the Pittston colony was unoccupied this year.

Blue-winged Teal were present in Pittston and F.F. 8/18. An Osprey was present through the summer in the s. portion of the county (MB). An unusually large kettle of 60 Broad-winged Hawks was at Wilkes-Barre 9/20 (JS), while 436 went over Council Cup 9/21 (DG).

A Lesser Golden-Plover in full spring plumage at F.F. 8/27 was unusual. An early Western Sandpiper was found at Pittston 8/22. Pectoral, Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers were also seen in Wyoming Valley 8/18-27.

The most unusual record of the quarter was a Western Kingbird at Wilkes-Barre 9/19. A Marsh Wren was at FSSP 9/19. Golden-crowned Kinglets were in Dallas through the summer (EJ). One Philadelphia Vireo was at FSSP 9/19. A Cerulean Warbler was seen in breeding season near Bear Cr. (MS). A Mourning Warbler was banded at Wapwallopen 8/20 (DG). The only Lincoln's Sparrow report was at Wilkes-Barre 9/25.

Susquehanna: no special reports.

Wyoming: Location: Tunkhannock (TNK). An amazing total of 50 Great Blue Herons was seen along the Susquehanna R. between TNK and Falls 8/25 (JS). An ad. Snow Goose (white form), fully capable of flight, summered with Canada Geese at L. Louise and was still present at quarter's end (WR, m.ob.). A Green-winged Teal and an imm. Bald Eagle were on the same lake 9/19. Three Virginia Rails were heard at TNK 7/1. Two Acadian Flycatchers were at Evans Falls 7/3. There were at least four active Purple

Martin colonies near TNK. A Marsh Wren was at TNK 7/1. Two (or 3) Philadelphia Vireos were observed at S. Eaton 9/7; and Magnolia and Hooded Warblers and Yellow-breasted Chat were found summering (probably nesting) near TNK.

OBSERVERS: Mark Blauer, Robert Daniels, William Evans, Ellie Mae Falter, Doug Gross, Barb Haas, Frank Haas, Jim Hoyson, Edwin Johnson, Katharina Milliken, Ron Rilliken, Marie Petuh, *William Reid, 73 W. Ross St., Wilkes-Barre 18702 (717-836-2525)*, Jim Shoemaker, Mark Stair, George Wade, Berna Weissman, Ron Young.

Bucks County (09)

Locations: Bowman's Hill, Churchville Res., Peace Valley Park (PVP), Rushland Area, Tyler S.P. (TSP).

This was a relatively slow quarter with no surprises. However, several observers felt that we had a strong migration of late summer/early fall migrants. Good numbers of warblers were reported at PVP, TSP, and Bowman's Hill.

HERONS THROUGH HAWKS. A Black-crowned Night-Heron was seen throughout the summer at Churchville Res. (BM) and several at the Van Sciver L. area in lower Bucks. Post-breeding dispersal of herons through the area was lower than usual. Five Great Blue Herons, 6 Great Egrets, and 1 Little Blue Heron were around L. Galena in PVP in August (FM). A Little Blue Heron was on the Delaware R. 8/9 near Lumberville (BM). Two Glossy Ibis visited L. Galena 8/1.

Also at L. Galena in August a pair of Wood Ducks was seen with 2 fledged young from an original brood of 8. This was the first breeding there in 10 years (FM).

Migration of Osprey along the Delaware R. was unusually low compared with past years. Most seemed to have passed over the larger reservoirs and lakes away from the river (BM). Both a Red-shouldered Hawk and a pair of Broad-winged Hawks with fledged young were recorded as part of PBBAP work near Warminster, a densely populated part of the county (BM). Am. Kestrels successfully fledged young out of a large broken light fixture in a parking lot in the middle of Levittown (GC).

TURKEY THROUGH GULLS. Reports were received throughout the summer of sightings of Wild Turkey in unusual places and in areas never previously seen; 1 hen was seen near "downtown" Rushland 7/5 (SC). One White-rumped Sandpiper was at L. Galena 9/4. Poor numbers of shorebirds there in general was probably due to high water (FM).

Large numbers of gulls continued to be attracted to the Grows Landfill. There were hundreds of Ringed-billed Gulls, Herring Gulls, several dozen Laughing Gulls including immatures, and an occasional Great Black-backed Gull noted.

SWALLOWS THROUGH GROSBEAKS. A new Bank Swallow colony was discovered in July in the Van Sciver L. area in a sand and gravel quarry. They also re-established themselves in a former nesting area that had not been occupied in 5 years (ES). This new site and several established last summer seem to indicate an increase in the population of a species that appeared to be on the decline several years ago.

The best warbler found in August was a "Brewster's" Warbler seen 8/3 near Rushland (SC).

A Blue Grosbeak was reported in Fallsington 7/21 (ES) and a pair was seen regularly in Wrightstown Twp. during the latter part of July, but nesting was not confirmed.

OBSERVERS: Sally Conyne, George Carmichael, Bob Maly, Fred Mears, *Bruce McNaught, RD 1, Box 263A, New Hope 18938 (215-297-5880)*, Ed Stanton.

Butler County (10)

Locations: Greenville (GRV), Jennings Nature Reserve (JNR), Glades Wildlife Area (GWA), L. Arthur (L.A.), L. Wilhelm (L.W.), McConnell's Mill S.P., Moraine S.P. (MSP), Goddard S.P., Sagualla's (SAG), Slippery Rock (S.R.), Slippery Rock Univ. (SRU), Shenango Area Res.

This report also includes sightings from Lawrence (37) and Mercer (43) Counties. Sightings are by the compiler unless otherwise noted.

July was hot, humid, and exceptionally dry across the tri-county area with a record-breaking high temperature of 94°F on the 23rd at Slippery Rock. Rainfall for the month was far below average.

August, on the other hand, began with widespread severe thunderstorms causing local flooding. The month was below average in max. and min. temperatures resulting in a cool, wet month. A total of 9" of rain was recorded at S.R. This cool, wet weather pattern continued unabated into early- and mid-September.

The first week of September, in fact, had unusually cool mornings (40°F range) and afternoons (60°F range). Precipitation was exceptionally heavy, as rain on 10 days generated 11-1/2" at S.R.

Finally, an unusual weather phenomenon was the dense fog experienced on the mornings of August 27-30 and 11 days in September. Local folklore states that the number of dense foggy days in September will indicate the number of severe snowstorms the area will experience the following winter.

This fluctuating weather regime undoubtedly had tremendous effect upon bird migration this quarter. Although July was uneventful as far as rarities, the hot, humid, dry conditions apparently encouraged certain species to organize in their traditional staging areas earlier than usual. Over 125 Killdeer were recorded at SRU 7/20, two to three weeks earlier than last year.

In summary, most migrants were exceptionally early and in greater numbers this year, especially as reflected by the unusual wave occurrences in Butler Co.

LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS. No Common Loon was reported and Pied-billed Grebes were scarce until 9/20 when 2 at SAG (JM,SM,LW) and 11 on L.A. 9/25 were found (MW,GW). There was no sighting of Horned Grebe. Three Double-crested Cormorants, however, were observed often on L.A. during the quarter.

HERONS THROUGH DUCKS. The Brucker Great Blue Heron Sanctuary near Greenville had a total of 201 nests with 150 active nests producing an estimated 310 fledglings (EB,RR,JS). Great Blue Herons continue to hold their own in the tri-county area.

There was no report of Great or Snowy Egret, which is unusual, and Green-backed Herons were much later in breeding this year. 1 ad. and 2 imm. Black-crowned Night-Herons were at SAG 9/19-20 (JM,SM,LW); 1 imm. was still there 9/30.

Canada Geese started flocking in late July. Wood Ducks continued to be scarce this quarter with only 2 ad. observed each time at Celery Swamp 7/29 & 8/8 and #2 Mine Pond 8/6 (JM,SM,LW). No report was received for Green-winged Teal, Am. Black Duck, N. Pintail, Gadwall or Am. Wigeon. Mallards, however, started flocking in Aug. and built up appreciable numbers by Sept. as witnessed by the 125 at L.A. 9/25 (MW,GW) and 300+ at SAG from 9/20-30 (JM,SM,LW).

Blue-winged Teal numbers were below average, with the only double digit sighting being 11 at SAG 9/30 (JM,SM,LW). A single Lesser Scaup at L.A. 9/25 represented the diving ducks for the quarter.

VULTURES THROUGH COOTS. A Turkey Vulture roost with at least 38 indiv. was discovered e. of Butler City on U.S. 422 9/20. Sightings of 2-8 indiv. were seen in many parts of the tri-county area throughout the quarter.

1 ad. Osprey at L.A. 9/25 (MW,GW) and an imm. Bald Eagle flying over SRU 8/28 (KW,GW) were the only large raptor reports. N. Harriers continued to be reported from several locales, but there was no confirmation of breeding as in the last quarter.

Sharp-shinned Hawks were especially prevalent in the s. part of Butler and Lawrence Cos., leading this compiler to suspect active breeding. Cooper's Hawks were in average numbers, but Red-shouldered and Broad-winged Hawks were scarce to absent. Both of these species should be monitored carefully since their breeding populations have declined sharply within the past five years. Red-tailed Hawks held their own or increased slightly from last year, while the Am. Kestrel was reported sparingly in the s. part of this area, although above average for Mercer Co.

Ring-necked Pheasant, Ruffed Grouse, Wild Turkey and N. Bobwhite again were reported sparingly. The best location for pheasant and Bobwhite seems to be the Amish lands near New Wilmington, Lawrence Co. A Common Moorhen was heard at Celery Swamp 7/29 JM,SM,LW, the only report. Am. Coots started flocking in late Sept., with 6 observed at SAG 9/30 (JM,SM,LW).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS. The lack of normal draw-downs of major large reservoirs prevented shorebirds from congregating. One exception was a small mixed flock of 1 Semipalmated Plover, 1 Greater Yellowlegs, 2 Spotted Sandpipers, and 12 Dunlin at Celery Swamp 7/29 (JM,SM,LW). Upland Sandpipers migrated through Butler Co. early- to mid-Sept.

The usual 12-20 Ringed-billed Gulls continued to patrol L.A., but were absent elsewhere. No tern species was reported.

DOVES THROUGH FLYCATCHERS. Mourning Doves had a belated, but successful breeding season with reports of young in nests in Sept. Although scarce to rare breeders this quarter, Black-billed and Yellow-billed Cuckoos flooded this area from 7/25 to 9/5. It was not uncommon to hear and see as many as 12-15 birds in a mixed flock in the deciduous woodlands (BS,MG,GW). Another encouraging breeding note is that the E. Screech-Owl did well in various parts of Butler and Lawrence Cos. They were heard and seen in and near S.R. for the first time in many years and it is hoped that the species will continue to recover from the devastating winters in the 1970's.

Common Nighthawks failed to migrate over S.R. and vicinity as is customary, but apparently shifted the flight pattern to the west. Along the PA/OH border thousands were reported on several consecutive evenings from 8/28 to 9/5 (v.o.).

Chimney Swift numbers were huge and earlier than normal as attested by 1500 feeding over L.A. 8/30 to 9/5. A second wave occurred again over L.A. 9/20-25 with an estimated 750-1000 birds. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were actually numerous this quarter and had a most successful breeding season. Some observers reported as many as

10-12 at feeders at a time. Most males left by 8/30, but several females lingered in the area until 9/15.

Belted Kingfishers held their own. Although the Red-headed Woodpecker continues to decline in breeding numbers, this year's PBBAP had field observers pinpoint as many as 20 breeding sites in Lawrence and Mercer Cos. (BD,GD,JM,SM,LW). Unfortunately, most of these sites consist of only 1-2 pairs. They were moving through Butler Co. in early- to mid-Aug. On the other hand, the Red-bellied Woodpecker continues to fill the ecological niche vacated by the Red-headed. The species is becoming more common in both rural and urban areas. Downy, Hairy, and N. Flickers were average to slightly above average in breeding numbers this year.

On the other hand, all flycatchers were less common breeders this year as compared to 1986. There was an influx of migrating Empidonax at the end of Aug., but with few exceptions, most indiv. were silent. No report of Olive-sided or Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was received, again highly unusual. There was a steep decline in breeding Great Crested Flycatcher and E. Kingbird reports and both species deserve careful monitoring next year.

LARKS THROUGH THRASHERS. Horned Larks bred successfully on SRU campus in July, extremely late for the species. Weather conditions undoubtedly affected the breeding success of the Purple Martin and other swallows, as young of the year were scarce. They had completely vacated their breeding sites by 8/21 and N. Rough-winged, Bank, Cliff, and Barn Swallows left theirs by 8/31 which was unusually early.

Blue Jays started moving S in large flocks of 100-250 in early Sept. and several such flocks were observed crossing U.S. 422 9/20. Am. Crows flocked earlier than usual, 91 being counted at S.R. 9/29.

A Red-breasted Nuthatch was seen at S.R. 9/21, the sole report this quarter. Brown Creepers, however, migrated earlier and in greater numbers this year; 2-3 indiv. were seen at various locations from 9/15-30 (MW,GW). Both species of kinglets and the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher were early in arriving in the area, with up to 6 indiv. sighted from 9/10-20.

The E. Bluebird had a late breeding season with young still in nest boxes 9/10. These late clutches were averaging 4-5 young, which is excellent. Am. Robins, too, were most successful in breeding. This was in contrast to the Veery and Wood Thrush, with both species down in breeding success. Gray-cheeked and Swainson's Thrushes were common migrants late in Sept., but there was no report of the Hermit Thrush. Gray Catbirds were numerous during migration in Sept., but Brown Thrashers had vacated their breeding sites by the end of July.

WAXWINGS THROUGH WOOD WARBLERS. Cedar Waxwings had an average breeding season, but large flocks invaded the tri-county area in late Aug.

The almost daily waves in Sept. in S.R. produced as many as 12-15 Solitary, Yellow-throated and Warbling Vireos at a time. Unusual was the fact that many of these birds were singing males. Red-eyed Vireos were average in migrant numbers, but the White-eyed Vireo was rare. Normally our area has several Philadelphia Vireo sightings in Fall, but there was not one single report.

The area had some of the best warbler watching in many years. It was not uncommon to have 12-15 species in one woodlot. Particularly

numerous between 9/1-19 were Nashville, Chestnut-sided, Magnolia, Cape May, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Bay-breasted, and Black-and-white Warblers. Orange-crowned Warblers were at S.R. 8/30-31 & 9/1-3.

Singing male Hooded Warblers were especially late, having been heard and seen 9/25 & 9/30 at S.R. and GWA (MW,GW). Scarce in the warbler waves were Kentucky, Wilson's, and Canada Warblers. There were appreciable numbers of Ovenbirds, N. Waterthrushes, and Louisiana Waterthrushes at S.R., SAG, GWA, JNR, and MSP between 8/28-9/10. There was no report of Connecticut Warbler and only two reports at S.R. 8/28-30 for the Yellow-breasted Chat.

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES. Scarlet Tanagers, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Indigo Buntings, and N. Orioles flocked in late Aug. and were joined by northern migrants in great numbers in early- to mid-Sept. These flocks were noted by many when birding in their favorite locations.

Rufous-sided Towhees vacated their breeding sites by 8/31 and Chipping Sparrows were flocking by 9/15. About 50 Chippies remained at S.R. to 9/30. There was no report of Fox, Lincoln's, or White-crowned Sparrows, or even a report of the Dark-eyed Junco, which is highly unusual. A few White-throated Sparrows had moved into the area by 9/25.

Bobolinks had a good breeding season and were flocking by 8/15. The E. Meadowlark had a rougher time breeding in the area, as attested to by the few imm. seen in Aug. Common Grackles started their annual trek into the local corn fields before 8/25 and 5000 indiv. were counted at S.R. 8/28.

Orchard and N. Orioles were above average in breeding success and a few new sites were found for the former species in Lawrence Co. (BD,GD et al.). There were far fewer Purple Finches breeding this year, whereas the House Finch continued to expand its breeding area. Am. Goldfinches held their own, but no report of Pine Siskin or Evening Grosbeak was received for the quarter.

OBSERVERS: Ed Brucker, Barbara Dean, George Dean, Marguerite Geibel, Jim McCarl, Shirley McCarl, Robert Ross, Jack Schaaf, Betty Starr, Madge Weber, *Gene Wilhelm, R.D. 3, Box 8, Slippery Rock 16057 (412-794-2434)*, Kevin Wilhelm.

Cambria County (11)

Kevin Georg, of Pomarine Jaeger fame, will assume the duties of compiler for this county. He can be contacted at the following address: 219 Columbia, Johnstown 15905 (814-288-1763).

Carbon County (13)

Locations: Albrightsville, Beltzville S.P., Big Boulder L., Hickory Run S.P. (HRSP), Mauch Chunk L., Mosey Wood Pond, L. Towamensing, Penn Forest, Francis Walter Dam, Wild Creek Res.

Sightings are by the compiler unless otherwise noted.

This time period covers the latter half of the breeding season as well as the beginning of the Fall migration. I will try to separate the two.

Unfortunately it rained almost every weekend in September, so coverage was not very extensive.

The breeding season was a fairly good one for the PBBAP. Two of the county blocks have 100+ species and 9 new species were added to the county list. The first was a Swainson's Thrush at Wild Cr. Res. (BR). The others, which were all found near Mauch Chunk L. by J. Wink, are: Least Bittern, Am. Bittern, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Black Vulture, Long-eared and N. Saw-whet Owls, and Yellow-breasted Chat. Another Saw-whet Owl was heard at HRSP.

Specific sightings from PBBAP work follow. A brood of fledged Common Mergansers was seen along the Lehigh R. s. of Palmerton (SR). Adults have been seen here regularly in summer, but this the first proof of breeding.

An Osprey was seen carrying a fish near Big Boulder L. 7/5. Another was seen near the Francis Walter Dam (WT). A pair of Red-shouldered Hawks was found (location deleted. Eds.) 7/5.

Many sightings of territorial Hermit Thrush, Brown Creeper, Golden-crowned Kinglet, White-throated Sparrow, and Dark-eyed Junco were noted.

Cliff, N. Rough-winged, and Tree Swallows were found in good numbers. Both Black-throated Green and Black-throated Blue Warblers were found in significant numbers in the n. portion of the county. Other confirmed nestings in the n. portion were Blackburian and Prairie Warblers, Ovenbird, and Louisiana Waterthrush.

A male Yellow-rumped Warbler was seen feeding a fledged youngster near Mosey Wood Pond 7/4. A group of 5-6 singing male Nashville Warblers was found in a swampy area near L. Towamensing in early July. At least two of the birds were seen as well as heard. Both Louisiana and N. Waterthrush were found within a few feet of each other along Drake's Run near the Lehigh R.

OBSERVERS: Steve Boyce, Ray Barnes, Fritz Brock, Arlene Koch, Fred Mears, *Bernie L. Morris, 825 N. Muhlenburg St., Allentown 18104 (215-435-9134)*, Barry Reed, Sally Roth, Peter Saenger, Brad Silfies, Steve Smith, Walter Thurber, Rick Wiltraut, and Judy Wink.

Centre County (14)

Locations: Bald Eagle S.P. (BESP), Black Moshannon S.P. (BMSP), Walnut Spring Park (WSP).

Centre County weather for July was hot, averaging 74.1°F (2.3 above normal). There were 7 consecutive days, the 20th - 26th, with temperatures 90°F or higher. No rain fell during the hottest period, except for the thunderstorm that ended the heat wave. Dewpoints were also very high; they ranged from the mid-60s to the low-70s. The total rainfall for July was sparse with only 2.55" (1.21" below normal) from 4 thunderstorms.

August was wetter and cooler than usual, with total precipitation of 4.49" (1" above normal) and an average temperature of 68.8°F (1.1 below normal). The rainfall was almost all in the form of thunderstorms or showers with the bulk coming on just 4 days.

The basic pattern of August continued into September with temperatures averaging 61.2°F (1.6 below normal) and rainfall evenly distributed throughout most of the month, totalling 3.79" (0.79" above

normal). Good hawk migration weather set in around the 22nd, with drier conditions and brisk westerly winds lasting a full week.

Pied-billed Grebe sightings included 2 at Colyer L. 9/20 (DB), 1 at BESP 9/21 (MW), and 12 at Colyer L. 9/26 (EZ). A single Double-crested Cormorant was reported from BESP from 9/3-21 (MW).

The only report of Am. Bittern was the 1 flying low over the Scotia Barrens just before sunset 9/13 (JP). 1 Great Egret was reported, at BESP 8/19 (MW). A flock of about 50 Canada Geese was present at BESP from 8/26-9/18 (MW).

A kettle of 52 Turkey Vultures leaving a roost near Tadpole Rd. 8/16 was an unusually high concentration for this area (JP). An imm. Bald Eagle was at BESP 7/10 (MW), 2 juv. were seen there 8/26 (MW), and an imm. was seen at the Bald Eagle fire tower 9/25 (GY). N. Goshawks, 1 ad. and 2 fledged young, were seen (location deleted. Eds.) 7/5 (JP,BP).

The first significant movement of raptors along Bald Eagle ridge occurred 9/23 and included 536 Broad-winged Hawks and 9 Osprey during a 3-hour period (JP). Although a fairly common species in the area, the 10 Ring-necked Pheasants scattering from a single roost tree at BESP 9/7 was an interesting sight (JP,BP). A few reports of N. Bobwhite were received. One was calling near Stormstown 7/7 (KM) and 9/8 (GM), and 2 were seen near Houserville 7/20 (ES), but all are suspected releases or escapes.

After last Fall's outstanding shorebird migration, this year's was a disappointment with few species being reported. This is probably due to a combination of few fallout-creating weather patterns, a lack of observers in the field, and few areas of suitable shorebird habitat. The shorebird sightings include a Black-bellied Plover 9/1-8 at BESP (MW), single Solitary Sandpipers along Spring Cr. 7/23 and 8/17 (ES), 1 Ruddy Turnstone at BESP 9/1 (MC), 1 Sanderling at Colyer L. 9/20 (DB), 1 juv. Baird's Sandpiper at BESP 8/31-9/1 (PS,GS,MC), and 1 Pectoral Sandpiper 9/1 (MW).

The only gull species reported during the period besides the usual summering Ringed-billed Gulls was the single Herring Gull at BESP 9/21 (MW). Two Caspian Terns were on the beach at BESP 8/5, and the 1 Black Tern there 9/23 provided a late date (MW).

Three to four hundred migrating Common Nighthawks were seen in late August over State College. Sept. 21 was the last day that Whip-poor-wills (2) were heard calling in the Barrens (JP). About 100 Swainson's Thrushes were heard during a 1-1/2 hour period before sunrise as they migrated overhead 9/10. Swainson's were also seen and heard in the Barrens between 9/5-19 and at WSP from 9/13-23 (JP,BP).

An imm. White-eyed Vireo was late at WSP 9/23 (JP). A Yellow-throated Vireo was reported at Port Matilda marsh 7/3 (DB,CS). 2 Philadelphia Vireos were seen 9/12 in the same tree near Gatesburg and Tadpole Rds. (JP,BP).

Blue-winged Warblers are not often observed during Fall migration in our area, but there were at least 5 sightings during the period: 8/21 at Colyer L. (MW), Aug. 29 & 31, Sept. 4 & 12 in the Barrens (JP,BP). A male "Brewster's" Warbler found at Stormstown Park 7/12 was apparently mated with a female Golden-winged Warbler (JP,BP).

Arrival dates for some of the northern-nesting warblers included: Tennessee 8/31 (ties local Fall arrival date), Palm 9/14 at BESP (MW),

Bay-breasted 9/4, Blackpoll 9/16, Wilson's 8/31, and Cape May last week in Aug. (DB). The Cerulean Warbler at Houserville on 8/17 (ES) was a late date and the Worm-eating 8/29 was fairly late (JP). For the second consecutive year no Yellow-throated Warbler was found during the breeding season. A new breeding location for Kentucky Warbler was found along the Allegheny Front n.w. of Port Matilda on 7/3 (DB,CS). Reports of Mourning Warbler include 3 on 9/20, 2 on 9/23, and 1 on 9/26 at WSP (JP,BP).

Single Lincoln's Sparrows were sighted at WSP 9/20 (JP,BP), at BESP 9/21 (MW) and at WSP 9/27 (JP). The best bird of the period was the ad. male Yellow-headed Blackbird near the headquarters at BESP 9/27, for only the 2nd county record (fide PS).

Difficult to find after 9/1, the N. Oriole at BESP 9/21 provided a late Fall record (MW). It is not known if the several Pine Siskins found at BMSP 9/6 were early migrants or local breeders (GB,DBu).

OBSERVERS: Dorothy Bordner, Gail and Dave Butler, Morton Claster, Kay Moore, Gary Moorman, *Becky and John Peplinski, 4 Beaver Branch Rd., Box 364, Pennsylvania Furnace 16865 (814-238-6541)*, Conrad Schmidt, Paul and Glenna Schwalbe, Edgar Spalding, Merrill Wood, George Young, Eugene Zielinski.

Chester County (15)

Locations: Marsh Creek S.P. (MCSP), Octoraro Res. (O.R.), Struble L. (S.L.).

Only a few reports were received for the quarter. As the new compiler for this county, I promise to get sightings reported and welcome hearing from you.

An ad. Black-crowned Night-Heron was observed fishing in the Octoraro Cr. near Steelville 7/3 (PH,BH). An ad. male Ring-necked Duck was seen at S.L. daily from 7/7-20 (GS).

Migrating Broad-winged Hawks were reported in good numbers from mid- to late-Sept. with an exceptional count, estimated conservatively at 4500+, observed near Mortonville on the morning of 9/23 during a two-hour span (JP). Good counts of Osprey were also noted. A Peregrine Falcon was observed migrating over West Chester 9/4 (EV).

Good flights of Common Nighthawks were seen, with late indiv. being observed on 9/27 and 10/1 (JP,RS).

Both species of cuckoo were either not reported or reported in such few numbers that the confirmation of a breeding Black-billed Cuckoo at MCSP was noteworthy (BB).

The E. Bluebird trail at MCSP operated by Karl DelPorte had a successful year. A total of 60 indiv. were fledged from 20 nests out of the 49 boxes in operation. This is exactly double the number of fledglings from the previous year. A great deal of this success is being attributed to the addition of predator guards on the boxes. An Am. Kestrel box was also erected this year and successfully produced a brood at MCSP (KD).

A rather difficult to confirm breeding species in the county, Savannah Sparrow, was observed nesting near S.L. 7/5 (PH,BH).

A noteworthy story that bears mentioning began in mid-April when two birders (LL,GS) observed a pair of adult Bald Eagles performing courtship displays from mid-April through May at O.R.

When the birders returned to the area 8/30, a bird (probably female) was observed perched on a particular tree and later flew into the same woods where the pair had been observed in the Spring. The next day an immature was seen perched in the same tree and flew with this female into the same woods. These eagles may have been enticed to stay due to fact the reservoir was drained and many carp lay flapping in the exposed mud pools. If anyone else observed these eagles in this area, please let me know.

OBSERVERS: Barry Blust, Karl DelPorte, Beryl Hurlock, Phyllis Hurlock, Larry Lewis, *Jerry Pasquarella, 2209 Cranberry Lane, Coatesville 19320 (215-486-6440)*, Robert Schutsky, Grier Saunders, Era VanDenburg.

Clearfield County (17)

Nearly all of the reports for this quarter come from atlasing efforts. Therefore little can be said yet about Fall migration in this county. Nonetheless, some interesting breeding season observations were made.

The only heron reported was a Great Blue Heron seen near Curwensville 10/3 (DD). Wood Ducks were reported as breeding in Elliott Park (DS).

Encouraging were the widespread reports of Wild Turkey from s. Westover 7/12 (MA), c. Curwensville (MA,JS), and the n. locations of Karthaus 8/14 (EZ) and Elliott Park (DS). A N. Bobwhite was reported from Dubois 7/16 (MA).

An imm. Sora was well seen and described near Dubois 10/5 after repeated glimpses beginning 9/29 (MA).

A Yellow-billed Cuckoo seen 7/12 was the only cuckoo reported (JH). A Pileated Woodpecker was seen near Curwensville 7/12 (MH). Alder Flycatcher is perhaps the least common Empidonax in this area, but 1 was seen in a new location near Kylertown 8/4 (EZ). Only 1 Brown Creeper, a fairly widespread breeding bird in this county, was reported from Huntly 7/12 (CS).

The most interesting of the warblers reported were Pine Warblers breeding in Elliott Park (DS), a Cerulean Warbler 7/12 at Irvona (JS), and a Kentucky Warbler at Ramey 7/10 (CS).

Vesper Sparrow was reported from the grassy strip mine area near Frenchville 7/1 and 7/20 (DB,AF,EZ). The widespread reports of Henslow's Sparrow were very interesting. While elusive, it appears to be a fairly common breeding bird in the grasslands created by strip mining. Reports were received from Pottersdale, Coalport, and Dubois (DB,AF,JH).

OBSERVERS: Marianne Atkinson, Dorothy Bordner, Daniel Durachko, Alice Fuller, Mark Henry, Joseph Hummer, Conrad Schmidt, Denny Shaffner, Jocelyn Smrekar, *Edgar Spalding, 115 Old Houserville Rd., State College 16801 (814-238-7973)*, Eugene Zielinski

Clinton County (18)

In an isolated marshy spot near Avis a wonderful experience is to be had. This marsh is a Fall roosting area for Wood Ducks. They arrive

just at dusk, land on the water, and in the gathering darkness disappear into the surrounding cattails. If one sits on the bank overlooking the marsh with one's back to the west, in 5's, 10's, and 20's the Woodies zoom in low overhead, almost knocking one's hat off. It is truly quite an experience. By the end of this September their numbers were up to approximately 125. Last year they reached about 150. They leave for feeding areas just after dawn.

There was no evidence of any shorebird or waterfowl migration through the county this quarter. Whether this was a result of a lack of such migrants or the lack of the necessary weather systems to ground them is not known.

During August and early September numbers of post-breeding Am. Redstarts and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were quite apparent in residential areas, seemingly drifting about prior to migrating.

July atlasing records of interest included a White-eyed Vireo 7/3 and a Kentucky Warbler 7/6.

OBSERVERS: *Glenna and Paul Schwalbe, 546 Wilson St., Jersey Shore 17740 (717-398-4514).*

Columbia County (19)

Locations: Beach Haven (B.H.), Susquehanna Riverlands (S.R.).

Observations by compiler if not credited.

BREEDING BIRDS. Many species were still nesting in July and some in August. Several broods of Wild Turkey were reported by local birdwatchers and sportsmen, even making the local press. A pair of Red-shouldered Hawks were again found near Shickshinny. A road-killed Long-eared Owl was found in Berwick 8/5.

Yellow-billed Cuckoos moved into two Breeding Bird Census (BBC) forest plots (near B.H. and Wapwallopen) in early July, singing and defending territory. Three pairs of Black-billed Cuckoos moved into an abandoned field BBC plot near Wapwallopen and set up territories in late July. A nest was found for each pair and 2 ad. were caught and banded. Neither species of cuckoo was observed on these frequently visited plots prior to July.

Red-breasted Nuthatches were reported from Mainville (JF). A singing Pine Warbler was at Catawissa in early July (DG,DM,HM). Two pairs of territorial Yellow-rumped Warblers were in hemlocks near a beaver dam (about 1000 ft.) between Jonestown and Shickshinny 7/ 13; one of the pairs was again found 7/20. N. Waterthrushes were also found there in early July.

Dark-eyed Juncos were confirmed below 1000 ft. in hemlock groves in the Elk Grove area of n. Columbia Co. and in a slag heap near Mountain Grove, both habitats where juncos prosper. A singing Henslow's Sparrow was in a weedy hayfield near Divide (n. of Benton) 7/27 (DG). It sang mid-morning, but not at night. A group of at least 6 Henslow's were seen nearby in the previous breeding season (RW). Vesper and Grasshopper Sparrows continued to be found in many agricultural areas of Columbia Co. Both Am. Goldfinches and Cedar Waxwings completed nesting in August, about ten days ahead of schedule.

MIGRATION. A wet and overcast September seemed to delay or interfere with what most of us consider normal migration, especially of

raptors. The sole Great Egret was near Mifflinville 8/2 (ND). Waterfowl migration was hardly noticeable; few skeins of Canada Geese were seen. Fairly early Green-winged and Blue-winged Teals were in the S.R. Wetlands 8/5 (JF).

Raptor migration was a bit strange with few cold fronts granting us the flights at Council Cup (Wapwallopen). However, many more Broad-winged Hawks were seen than in most years with a relatively big flight at Council Cup 9/14 when 189 passed by, 143 were observed between 2 and 3 p.m. (ND). Probably the biggest local Broad-winged flight ever seen was 9/21, when 436 flew past Wapwallopen in 30 minutes. Even sightings of 21 Broad-wings 9/21 and 38 on 9/22 were fairly high for the Berwick area, which does not get many kettles (ND).

A Common Moorhen stayed in a S.R. swampy area 9/23-29 (JF,DG). Many observers commented on the high numbers of migrant Chimney Swifts, E. Phoebes, and Purple Martins in Sept. Common Nighthawks made a big flight near Berwick 9/1 (ND,KH,SH).

An ad. male Mourning Warbler was netted and banded 8/20 near Wapwallopen. Both Louisiana and N. Waterthrushes were in S.R. 8/5 (JF).

An early migrating young White-throated Sparrow was captured near Wapwallopen 7/29. Did it hatch from a nearby bog?

OBSERVERS: Nancy Dennis, John Fridman, *Douglas Gross, Susquehanna Biological Laboratory, RD 1, Berwick 18603 (717-542-2191)*, Karen & Steve Hiller, Diana and Hugh McFadden, Richard Wood.

Crawford County (20)

Locations: Miller Pond Pymatuning Goose Management Area (PGMA), Pymatuning S.P. (PSP),

All sightings by Ronald F. Leberman and/or Mary N. Leberman unless otherwise noted.

GREBES THROUGH DUCKS: Two Pied-billed Grebes were at Woodcock L. causeway 9/12. A Great Egret was along the Pymatuning L. causeway 9/27. The population of Canada Geese was about average with an estimated 4500 counted 9/27. A Gadwall was at PGMA 7/8 and 3 were found 8/11. Six Blue-winged Teal were at PGMA 8/11. An ad. Am. Wigeon at the Pymatuning Spillway 7/8 seemed early; perhaps it bred there? (RFL,RCL,MNL) and 4 were at PGMA 8/19. Six N. Shoveler were noted at PGMA 9/27. A female Hooded Merganser was found at PGMA 9/13.

RAILS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS: A Virginia Rail was at Hartstown Marsh 9/20 (WB) and 12 Common Moorhens were there 9/10 (TP). A Common Snipe was at PGMA 8/11, with a very good total of 14 there 9/9. Four Upland Sandpiper were seen and heard calling 7/7 near Beaver Center in NW Crawford County (RFL,TCN). The last date for Spotted Sandpiper was 7/25 at PGMA. Two Greater Yellowlegs were at PGMA 7/8 (RFL,RCL) and 2-5 Lesser Yellowlegs were there 7/8 to 9/9. Also at PGMA were 1 Pectoral Sandpiper 7/25-9/13, 1 Least Sandpiper, 2 dowitchers sp. 7/25 and 1 on 8/19, and 2 Semipalmated Sandpipers.

OWLS THROUGH WRENS: A Barred Owl was heard at Saeger Hill, Meadville 8/19. A singing Willow Flycatcher (think Spring!) and an

Olive-sided Flycatcher were at Hartstown Marsh 9/20 (M&WB). Sedge Wrens were confirmed breeding in Erie NWR (RC).

THRASHERS THROUGH SPARROWS: One Brown Thrasher and 1 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher were near Meadville 9/13. A Yellow-throated Vireo was near Conneaut Marsh 7/13 (RCL). A Mourning Warbler was at Hartstown Marsh 9/20 (M&WB). One Hooded Warbler was banded at Saeger Hill 9/13. A singing Henslow's Sparrow was found near Conneaut Marsh 7/13 (RCL).

OBSERVERS: Margaret and William Baker, Rob Criswell, Mary N. Leberman, Robert C. Leberman, *Ronald F. Leberman, RD #1, Saeger Hill, Meadville 16335 (814-724-5071)*, T.C. Nicols, Thelma Patton.

Cumberland County (21)

Locations: King's Gap S.P. (KGSP), West Fairview Boat Launch (WFBL).

Observations by compiler unless otherwise indicated.

Hérons remained in good numbers along the Susquehanna R. throughout the summer. The rookeries appeared to do well. A Little Blue Heron was seen at WFBL 8/19.

The Canada Geese at WFBL raised more than average broods this year, with a total of about 200 birds counted in September. Also, Wood Duck numbers at WFBL were up this year. Fall waterfowl migration on the river was slow and nothing unusual or spectacular was found.

Shorebird migration was below average. In fact, a total of only 7 species was observed throughout the quarter.

The only sighting of Bonaparte's Gull was of 5 indiv. at WFBL 9/28. This appeared to be a banner year for terns with sightings of Common and Forster's Terns reported at various times during late August and September (DH,RK).

A Common Barn-Owl seen 7/22 near Neville gives hope that it was a breeding bird. The Red-headed Woodpeckers near Plainfield did stay to nest.

Two Olive-sided Flycatchers were seen at KGSP 8/29 (SS, m.ob.).

Swallow migration was good with all species observed during the first half of September at WFBL. An impressive 500+ Tree Swallows were seen 9/14.

Fall warbler numbers and numbers of species were very low. Only 13 species were reported throughout the county in late August and September. PBBAP observers, however, did discover that at least 20 species nest in the county.

No unusual passerines were reported. It was a rather dull quarter for the county.

OBSERVERS: *Deuane Hoffman, 3406 Montour St., Harrisburg 17111 (717-564-7475)*, Ramsay Koury, Steve Santner.

Dauphin County (22)

Locations: Stony Creek Valley (SCV), Susquehanna R. (S.R.), Wildwood L. Nature Center (WLNC).

During the first half of the period the weather in general was hot, humid and very dry, but from the latter part of August through

September it was cooler than normal with a record amount of rain. The weather was in a cycle where it would rain for a few days, clear for a day or two and then the rains would begin again. With the movement of a series of fronts it was thought that Fall migration might come in the form of waves; this did occur, but not until the latter half of Sept.

No rarity was reported for the county during the period, but one highlight was an ad. Bald Eagle sighted throughout the quarter along the river in the vicinity of Dauphin (EC).

In recent years there have been very few summer reports of Purple Martins in the county, but a colony which had been suspected in early summer was confirmed in July to have at least 34 indiv. (EC,JC). Carolina Wrens had a successful breeding season, at least in the WLNC area, as did most of the resident birds, particularly the Tufted Titmouse. Although none of the expected migratory breeders were missing, they did not seem to fare as well as the residents, with some, such as the Common Yellowthroat and the Rufous-sided Towhee, being noticeably lower. An ad. Double-crested Cormorant and 2 imm. continued to be seen along the Susquehanna R. into Sept.

One sad note is the loss to the bulldozer of a large field where Common Snipe as well as other shorebirds are found each Spring.

As mentioned above, the passerine migration came in movements between weather fronts in the latter part of Sept. It was also noticeable from the reports received that the movements closely followed the ridges (G&CW, SR,WE,BH). Those of us who were unfortunate enough to be birding the flatter areas did not notice, or at least report, the movements.

LOONSTHROUGH TERNs. Hérons were present in usual numbers: 8 Great Blue Heron 8/11, 41 Great Egret 8/13, 33 Black-crowned Night-Heron and 4 Yellow-crowned Night-Heron 8/11, but with the river high at the end of Aug. the numbers quickly dropped off. The first and only migratory waterfowl reported were Blue-winged Teal on a small pond in SCV 9/7 (BH).

Hawk migration was reported as being very good (G&CW,BH) with all 3 accipiters reported, including a N. Goshawk which spent the afternoon of 9/19 in SCV (BH). Red-shouldered and Red-tailed, along with large numbers of Broad-winged Hawks, were reported from 9/15-26 (G&CW) with 50 and 112 being seen in SCV 9/17-18 during limited observation time (BH). Am. Kestrels were in good numbers, but was the only falcon seen.

Shorebirds went unreported, but this probably was due to all bodies of water being very high. A black-backed gull, which may have been a Lesser Black-backed Gull, was seen in early Aug. on the S.R. It was standing near a Herring Gull and was roughly the same size. The mantle was a very dark gray rather than black, but due to its position the leg color could not be seen. During later attempts to confirm the bird, it could not be relocated.

OWLS THROUGH FINCHES. In early July a Common Barn-Owl was found roosting in Hershey (S&SR,DS). The Great Horned Owls which nest at WLNC deserted the area in late Spring, but 1 was heard calling near there in late Aug. A single Red-headed Woodpecker was in SCV 9/17 (BH) and Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were migrating 9/26 (G&CW).

Sept. 26th seemed to be the day for flycatchers as well. E. Wood-Pewees and Least, Acadian and Great Crested Flycatchers, plus a large number of E. Kingbirds were all observed that day.

A good find was a Gray-cheeked Thrush near Hershey 9/22-23 (SR,WE). Solitary, in excellent numbers, and White-eyed Vireos were moving 9/26-27 (G&CW,JC).

Warblers were also moving in good numbers along the ridges 9/22-26. (All but 2 reports were from Hershey by SR and WE.) They include Tennessee, Nashville, Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, and Black-and-white in good numbers. Fewer numbers of N.

Parula, Chestnut-sided, Cape May (at WLNC), Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Bay-breasted (at the base of Blue Mt.), Blackpoll, Am. Redstart, Common Yellowthroat, and Wilson's Warblers were noted.

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks also moved through during this period (G&CW) and the first Dark-eyed Juncos and White-throated Sparrows appeared at that time (SR,WE,JC).

The blackbird roost in Susquehanna Twp. began building in early July and by the end of this quarter contained about 200,000 birds, primarily Common Grackles, Eur. Starlings and Brown-headed Cowbirds. A few early Evening Grosbeaks were seen along the ridges toward the end of the quarter (G&CW,JC).

OBSERVERS: Ed Chubb, Joe Church, 129 Lucknow Rd., Harrisburg 17110 (717-236-1868), Wade Edris, Barb Huffman, Steve & Sharon Rannels, Dave Schwenk, George & Catherine Wertz.

Delaware County (23)

Location: Ridley Creek S.P. (RCSP), Tyler Arboretum (T.A.)

Average temperatures persisted throughout the quarter. The rainfall was slightly below normal in July and August but increased in September to normal for that month.

LOONS THROUGH TERNS. On 9/5 a Common Loon was seen flying over Media (AG). It is hard to determine if this were a migrant or a bird which had been summering in the area and had not been reported. In all likelihood it was the first migrating loon of the season.

While sitting on my deck in Media 9/2, 5 Black-bellied Plovers flew over (AG). A fly over Willet was also seen in Media 9/2 (JL). A detailed description of the bird was given to the compiler making this one of very few Willet sightings in Delco.

A Tricolored Heron was seen flying over Media 8/7 (WS); only a few of this species are reported in Delco during any year and all seem to be in fall migration. Two Common Terns were present on Tinicum I. 8/29 (WS).

HAWKS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS. The hawk flight in September was about average. It was unusual that no one reported a hawk flight of over 1000 Broad-winged Hawks this year, but 857 Broad-wings were reported over RCSP along with 7 Ospreys and 1 Merlin 9/24 (BH). Earlier reports of Merlin were 1 in Swarthmore 9/16 (HMc) and 1 on Tinicum I. 9/12 (WS). A Peregrine Falcon was seen at RCSP 9/25 the day after the Haas' big flight day (BH). A general feeling was expressed that migrating Ospreys were up in numbers throughout the region, perhaps due to successful reintroduction programs to the north.

Sharp-shinned Hawks were numerous with many reports of 50 per day (v.o.).

A Black-billed Cuckoo was in Swarthmore from 8/17 to the end of the period (HMc). Yellow-billed Cuckoos were scarce this year, but two separate birds were seen 9/26, 1 at T.A. (SC) and the other at RCSP (F&BH).

Two Great Horned Owls were found in Smedley Park, where little birding had been done previously (AG). Also at RCSP 2 Common Nighthawks were late stragglers 9/26 and a Ruby-throated Hummingbird was seen 9/25 (F&BH). Pileated Woodpeckers continue to be seen at Rose Tree Park, 1, (AT) and Wallingford, a pair, (J&MP). Two Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were found at T.A. 9/26 (SC).

Belted Kingfishers were reported nesting along Darby Cr. (TR). There were 3 Olive-sided Flycatcher reports; 1 at RCSP 9/24 (F&BH) and 2 at T.A. 8/29 flying around a dead tree (HMc). An E. Wood-Pewee was at RCSP 9/26 and a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was spotted there 9/25 (F&BH). Two late N. Rough-winged Swallows were reported at RCSP 9/24 (F&BH). A Great Crested Flycatcher at RCSP 9/9 was fairly late (J&MP).

NUTHATCHES THROUGH SPARROWS. A Red-breasted Nuthatch was in Media 8/31, which is around the usual first Fall date (AG). They were also at T.A. 9/1-2. As usually happens, none is seen for three to four weeks. Where do they go? By the end of Sept. they can be found in numerous places.

Brown Creepers returned to T.A. 9/26 (SC). Small flocks of both Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets were reported moving through the area by mid-Sept. (m.ob.).

A Philadelphia Vireo at RCSP 9/25 was the only one reported (F&BH). A good find was a female Golden-winged Warbler at T.A. 8/24 after a major cold front moved through the area (JG). The Golden-winged was in a mixed flock containing 14 species, including a male Wilson's Warbler.

The next wave of warblers at T.A. occurred 9/9 with 9 species in a mixed flock, including a Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Cape May, Chestnut-sided, and Canada Warblers. An exciting find was a late Cerulean Warbler 9/4 at RCSP (J&MP). This represents only the 4th or 5th sighting of this species in SE PA in September. A Mourning Warbler was found at RCSP (*F&BH).

Two Lincoln's Sparrows were found at T.A. 9/23 (JG, m.ob.). First White-throated Sparrows returned to T.A. 9/19 (AG).

EXOTIC. A Green Parakeet was in the Media area from August through September (AG,JG).

OBSERVERS: Skip Conant, John Ginaven, Al Guarente, 421 Old Middletown Rd., Media 19063 (215-566-8266), Barb & Frank Haas, Jim Lockyer, Helen McWilliams, Jean & Marybelle Piatt, Tom Reeves, William Stocku, Andy Thurber, Walt Thurber.

Elk County (24)

This report includes sightings from McKean County (42)

Weather conditions across the region were slightly warmer than usual in July and wetter than normal in August and September. Unusual species seen during the quarter were a male Bay-breasted

Warbler 7/8 near Mt. Jewett and a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher near Ridgway in early July.

Numbers of hawks continued to be very low throughout the quarter, although a slight increase in numbers was noted in late August as juveniles came on the scene. Only date of note was 9/28 at the Kinzua Res. when 13 Turkey Vultures were "kettling". N. Bobwhite, Ring-necked Pheasant, and Carolina Wren, all "warm weather birds", seem to be increasing on the southern fringe of the region.

A fair flight of sandpipers was noted at the Bradford Sewage Treatment Plant ponds starting 7/13 through 8/20, when the ponds were drained. High counts were 93 Killdeer, 13 Solitary Sandpiper, 9 Spotted Sandpiper, 5 Pectoral Sandpiper, 3 Least Sandpiper, 1 Western Sandpiper, 1 Greater Yellowlegs, 1 Lesser Yellowlegs, 4 Dunlin, 1 Willet, 2 Sanderling, 1 Short-billed Dowitcher, 1 Black-bellied Plover, 2 Semipalmated Plover and an unconfirmed, unphotographed, seen by one person, possible Ruff. (Next time I'll have a camera attached to the scope!).

Hooded, Mourning, and Canada Warblers have been noted in larger than normal numbers this year.

Very little information is available for departure dates since I too departed...to the fires in California! (Although I did see 41 species, 7 of which were new (for me); they somehow managed to materialize through the smoke.)

OBSERVER: *Leif Anderson, Box 88, Star Route 1, U.S. Forest Service, Bradford 16701 (814-362-4613).*

Erie County

Gull Point at Presque Isle is noted for its shifting sands. Usually a sand spit that is washed into L. Erie from one side of the point is immediately replaced by another on the opposite side. This continual moving and replacing of sand has in the past kept Gull Pt. virtually vegetation-free, with the exception of the rapidly growing grasses. However, with rising lake levels and rapid succession, the sand is now either under water or covered with Cottonwood saplings. This combination of events has drastically reduced shorebird habitat and may account for the low density of shorebirds during peak migration periods.

Reports from birders in Pittsburgh and State College lead us to suspect that passerines may have bypassed Erie Co. We experienced a very poor fallout of birds with one minor invasion in late August and one September 24-25. Between these two flight periods there were days when it was difficult to locate a single warbler.

All records are from Presque Isle S.P. (PISP) unless noted otherwise.

LOONS THROUGH RAPTORS. Erie County's 9th record of Eared Grebe was established on 9/12, when 1 bird was discovered off Gull Pt. (RS, JM). Up to 15 Double-crested Cormorants were seen from 8/28 to the end of the period (EK, LM). Quite unusual was an Am. Bittern flying over Gull Pt. 7/27 (JM).

Up to 5 Great Egrets were at Siegel Marsh 8/3 with 1 remaining until 9/14. Singles were at PISP 8/9 and 8/16 and 1 at the Union City

Dam 8/25 (JM). An imm. Black-crowned Night-Heron was seen 8/16 (JM).

A partially oiled male Oldsquaw was seen off Beach 11 on 8/12 (JM, LM). This is only the 3rd summer record for this species.

Two scoters sp. were seen a few mi. offshore w. of Erie in mid-August (JB). None of the 3 species of scoters has ever been recorded between June and August. The flock of 10 Common Mergansers 8/28-29 was believed to be a family group that may have nested in the area (EK).

Summer sightings of Osprey are rare, so a bird seen in late July near Waterford was noteworthy (RG). Bald Eagle sightings include 1 imm. 7/29 (DF), 1 imm. 8/15 (DF, BS), and 1 imm. 9/6 (EK) and again 9/7 flying w. of Erie (TK). Single imm. N. Goshawks were noted 8/30 s. of Erie (KF) and 9/26 at PISP (JM). A Merlin was seen 9/6 (JM). An imm. Peregrine Falcon with a red band on its right leg was observed at Gull Pt. 9/26 (JM).

SHOREBIRDS. Small numbers of Lesser Golden-Plover were reported from 9/13 to the end of the quarter. A Willet was seen from 8/16-23 (JM, LM, RS). Upland Sandpipers are very rarely reported during Fall migration, so a single bird in late-July and early-August at PISP (DF) and 2 on 8/25 near Waterford (JM) were noteworthy.

Single Whimbrels were seen 7/15 (DF), 8/9 (JM), 8/10 (DF), 8/15 (BS), and 9/8 (LO). A Marbled Godwit at Gull Pt. 7/3 represents about the 14th county record (JM, LM). A Ruddy Turnstone 7/3 was probably summering along L. Erie (DF). Red Knots were seen at Gull Pt. from 8/9 to 9/12 (JM) and Baird's Sandpipers were observed from 8/24-9/20 (FBH, JM). Two W. Sandpipers were seen 8/17 (JM, LM) and 1 8/24 (FBH).

The flock of 30 Stilt Sandpipers at Gull Pt. 8/9 was the second highest county record. A Buff-breasted Sandpiper was seen 8/24-28 (FBH, EK). A Red-necked Phalarope was found 8/15 (BS).

GULLS THROUGH SPARROWS. A Little Gull in fresh juvenile plumage observed 8/23 makes one curious about its origin (EK et al.). Forster's Terns were observed from 7/27 to the end of the period (m. ob.) with up to 30 on 8/24 (FBH). In the past few years Forster's Terns have outnumbered Common Terns during migration at PISP. Single imm. Black Terns were seen at Siegel Marsh 7/22 (JM), and at PISP 8/9 & 8/23 (JM). An ad. was observed at PISP 9/8 (LO).

Several hundred Common Nighthawks were observed migrating along the Erie Bay front 8/30 (JM, LM). An albino N. Flicker was discovered near Beach 10 on 7/1 (JHS). Purple Martins staged in large flocks in early Sept. with an accurate count of 1000 birds resting on a utility wire 9/4 (LM).

Numerous reports of Carolina Wrens were received this summer. They were heard at several locations along L. Erie and in a few areas s. of the lake. Up to 4 Golden-crowned Kinglets were found in a small patch of spruce trees on 7/2 at Union City and remained through the period. At least 1 pair was present, but no evidence of breeding could be found; this was the first county summer record.

A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, rarely reported in Fall, was found 9/6 (JM). A Yellow-rumped Warbler 8/20 (LM) and 1 8/23 (JHS) were at least 2 weeks earlier than usual.

An albino Red-winged Blackbird was at Corry 8/7 (JM). An early Lapland Longspur was flushed from Gull Pt. 9/26 (JM).

Please refer to the Book Review of The Birds of Erie County elsewhere in the magazine.

OBSERVERS: Jim Baxter, Dave Flynn, Rod Gehrlein, Frank & Barb Haas, Tim Kimmel, Ed Kwater, *Jerry McWilliams, 3142 W. 12th St., Erie 16505 (814-833-3169)*, Linda McWilliams, Lester Olson, Russ States, Jean Stull.

Forest County (27)

The following reports were submitted by Ted Grisez, compiler for Warren Co.

A Double-crested Cormorant "hung around well into the summer" at Buzzard Swamp near Marienville (LA).

A Common Raven was seen feeding on a road-kill n. of Marienville 9/27 (BH).

A Yellow-throated Warbler was found at East Hickory 6/21 for the first PABBA record (RCL).

OBSERVERS: Leif Anderson, Bill Highhouse, Robert C. Leberman.

Greene County (30)

The last young Purple Martin left our box on 7/25 (but many return to roost before migrating). Probably about 20 pairs raised broods this summer, almost twice as many pairs as nested last summer, so we hope this species is on the way back from the 1972 Hurricane Agnes disaster.

A rarely recorded Pine Warbler was captured and banded here in our yard 8/24. Since it was in a heavy molt it was probably a local bird and a careful check will be made next summer among the many evergreens here.

The first hint of migration was when a Louisiana Waterthrush was noted in our Christmas tree field 7/17, about 1/2 mi. from the nearest stream. Many birds seem to take pre-migratory orientation flights, so the bird may or may not have been a true migrant. At least it was getting ready to go. It is not unusual to see this waterthrush "bobbing" on our house roof during the latter part of July.

Four Bobolinks were noted on the farm 9/26. This species is seldom seen here so late in the Fall.

OBSERVER: *Ralph K. Bell, RD 1, Box 229, Clarksville 15322 (412-883-4505)*.

Huntingdon County (31)

The county felt the influence of a hot and dry air mass throughout the quarter, which proved uncomfortable to bird and birder alike. Atlasing records provide the data base for July and August, while early raptor migration reports comprise most of the September entries. Reports are by the compiler unless otherwise indicated.

No rarities appeared in the quarter, although a pair of exotics did. The last week of August provided much excitement in the village of

Alexandria, when a pair of Blue-crowned Parakeets arrived. Feeding on ripe sunflower heads, the pair remained until 9/8 when they were captured in mist nets. Both had been banded on the right leg with silver quarantine bands. They appeared to be pair-banded.

Atlasing produced no major discrepancies over previous years with the possible exception of an increase of nesting E. Kingbirds. Most nesting sites were found to be in close proximity to power sub-stations or transformers.

Both Green-backed and Great Blue Herons were found in good numbers in proper habitat. A lone Great Egret was found 9/13 in Neff's Mills stalking frogs on a local farm pond.

Following nesting dispersal, Wood Ducks were found on the Juniata R., e. of Huntingdon, with 11 observed 7/17 and an additional 4 on 8/18.

Black Vultures were again found throughout the county during the quarter, indicating a continuing northward movement in range expansion. Reports of nesting raptors continue to decline. Red-shouldered Hawks again were reported nesting (location deleted- Eds.) with 5 indiv. found (EB). Broad-winged Hawks were reported over Alexandria 9/28 with good numbers (125-150) in several kettles (ML). Osprey were observed feeding during migration along the entire Juniata R. system, with most seen the week of 21 September. Several Am. Kestrel nesting families were found in the s. portion of the county 7/4 and 8/1 and a lone Merlin migrated over Piney Ridge 9/4, heading SW on steady wingbeats.

Common Barn-Owl continue to nest in man-made silo platforms. Two ad. and 5 young were found 7/20 near the town of Cottage and were present throughout the quarter (ML).

8 Common Nighthawks were observed migrating s. of Huntingdon 8/22.

Ruby-throated Hummingbirds left the local feeders 9/1, with a lone female observed feeding on maple tree sap 9/16.

Common Ravens were again found to be a common nesting species at higher elevations in this ridge and valley system. Family groups of 5 near Water Street and 4 near Williamsburg were found 7/25.

Nesting warbler species were increased by 2 for the county, when the Black-throated Blue Warbler was found in Licking Cr. Valley 7/2 and the Blackburnian Warbler was found in Trough Cr. Valley 7/4.

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

Indiana County (32)

Locations: Shelocta (SHL), Yellow Cr. S.P. (YCSP)

The adjective best describing the period is "ordinary." The only unexpected species reported was a Common Raven observed flying and calling over Jacksonville 9/2 (RH,TS). Most lakes and reservoirs remained high despite the small amount of rainfall, so the shorebird migration was practically nonexistent. On the other hand, the warbler migration was the best of the past six years.

All sightings by the Higbees unless otherwise noted.

GREBES THROUGH RAPTORS. Migrant Pied-billed Grebes began appearing at YCSP and at Nolo 8/24 (GS). None were spotted

during the breeding season by atlasers. Two Great Blue Herons were found at YCSP after 8/23 (GS) and 2 summered near Brush Valley (GD). Only 3 Green-backed Herons were reported (GS) and several observers commented on their absence (AH,MH). Max. Canada Goose count was 70 at Margus L. 9/23 (GS). A Wood Duck at YCSP 9/3 (GS) was the lone report, as was a single Am. Black Duck 8/23 and 9/3 (GS). The top Mallard count was 40 at YCSP 8/23 (GS). A Blue-winged Teal was listed there 9/3 (GS).

Turkey Vultures were found at YCSP, Nolo (GS), and near SHL throughout the period. An Osprey was spotted at YCSP 9/3 and 9/18 (GS). Sharp-shinned Hawks were seen at Nolo periodically from 7/17 until 9/21 (GS). Two others were reported, 1 near Alverda 9/19 (GS) and 1 near SHL 9/21. Single Cooper's Hawks were found near Commodore 8/10 (GS) and in SGL 174 8/15. Two were observed dive-bombing a Red-tailed Hawk along with 3 Am. Crows near SHL 9/17. A pair of Red-shouldered Hawk (location deleted- Eds.) 7/14 (GS) was the lone report for this species(GS).

TURKEY THROUGH FLYCATCHERS. Single Wild Turkey were found near Commodore 8/10 (GS) and near Rossiter 8/15, but a flock of 6 near Brush Valley 9/3 (GS) was a nice find.

Few shorebirds were reported. All reports were from YCSP. A Black-bellied Plover was observed 9/21 (GL,GS). Top Killdeer count was 35 on 9/3 (GL,GS). One Greater Yellowlegs was present 9/16-17 (GL,GS). A

Sanderling was well studied and photographed 9/21 (GL,GS).

Only 4 Black-billed and 2 Yellow-billed Cuckoos were reported during the period. E. Screech-Owl was listed only at SHL after mid-August (MH,RH) and from Nolo 9/28 (GS).

Olive-sided Flycatchers staged a flight through our area in early August, as evidenced by sightings of single birds near Rochester Mills 8/1 (KB), near Brush Valley 8/2 (GD), near Clymer 8/3 (MD) and at YCSP 9/3 (GL,GS). An E. Wood-Pewee found n. of Trade City was still feeding young 8/21 (MH,TJ). Seven E. Phoebes were at Nolo 9/21 (GS).

SWALLOWS THROUGH THRUSHES. Three Cliff Swallows near Rossiter 8/15 was the lone report. The last Barn Swallow was listed 9/17 at YCSP (GS). A Common Raven over Jacksonville 9/2 was unusual (RH,YS). Red-breasted Nuthatches nested once again in the Red Pine plantations near SHL. A family of 5 was observed in late July.

Carolina Wrens once again seem to be expanding their range with reports from Indiana (AH), n. of Trade City and SHL (MH,TJ). Golden-crowned Kinglets, which had been found in SGL 174 in early June, were still present 8/15 (MH,RH). The first report of migrants was 9/17 (early) at Margus L. (GS).

E. Bluebirds staged a superb comeback in the area. One route including 36 boxes in the Cherry Tree and Kintersburg area fledged 176 young successfully (TB). Another route, comprised of 52 nest boxes, fledged 97 (PA). On the other hand, a route at YCSP with 264 boxes fledged only 23 (fide MH). Hermit Thrush was reported from three new e. Indiana Co. locations during July (PR,GS). The last Wood Thrush reported was 9/16 at YCSP (GS). A Gray Catbird holding an eggshell in its bill while sitting on a road sign during a downpour 8/5 was interesting. N. Mockingbirds were seen feeding young in Indiana 7/16 (AH). Most flocks of Cedar Waxwings reported contained 10-20 indiv. (m.ob.), but the 250 at YCSP 9/19 was an exception (AJ,CJ).

VIREOS THROUGH FINCHES. The last White-eyed Vireo report was 9/17 at Nolo (GS). Up to 3 Solitary Vireos were still found near SHL at September's end. A Yellow-throated Vireo was found n. of Trade City 8/21 (MH,TJ).

The warbler migration near SHL was excellent. The peak date was 9/15 when 13 species were seen from our front porch. The following are from SHL area unless otherwise indicated. Last date for Blue-winged was 9/15. Top count of 7 Tennessee was 9/15. A single Nashville 9/15 was the lone report. Chestnut-sided appeared as migrants 9/4, but an ad. was still feeding young in SGL 174 8/15. Magnolias were seen near Trade City 8/21 (MH,TJ), where they had not been found earlier. One or 2 indiv. were seen almost daily near SHL between 8/24-9/22. Top Cape May tally was 10 in Creekside 9/15. Only 1 Black-throated Blue was reported, an ad. male near Brush Valley 8/12 (GD). First Yellow-rumped appeared 9/16, but the late report of a June sighting near Heshbon (JS) was indicative of the first possible breeding record for the county.

Small flocks of Black-throated Green were still present at the period's end (MH,GS). Single Blackburnians were found near Rossiter 8/15, near SHL between 9/4-15 (MH,RH), and near Nolo 9/17 (GS). Two Pine were listed from 9/8 to the period's end. Top tally of Prairie was 5 on 9/15. The lone Palm report was of 1 seen 9/24. Bay-breasted were seen almost daily throughout Sept. A flock of 4 Black-and-white was spotted at YCSP 9/16 (GS). Flocks of Am. Redstarts were reported from 6 locations (m.ob.). One Mourning was found 9/11. Two Wilson's were observed 9/11. One Canada, not found as a breeder in the county, was seen in a mixed flock near Rossiter 8/15.

Indigo Buntings were feeding young n. of Trade City 8/21 (MH,TJ). Savannah Sparrows were found at new locations for the PBBAP. A flock of 150 Rusty Blackbirds landed in a stand of Red Pine near SHL during a rain on 9/17. An Am. Goldfinch was still feeding young 9/14 near SHL.

OBSERVERS: Pat Andrascik, Kathy Bennett, Tom Betts, Gloria Dick, Marian Dixon, Anne Hedgpeth, *Margaret and Roger Higbee, RD #2, Box 166, Indiana 15701 (412-354-3493)*, Aino Hohnston, Conrad Johnston, Timmi Jones, Gloria Lamer, Penny Russell, John Salvetti, Tom Stormer, Georgette Syster.

Juniata County (34)

Location: Hammer Hollow (H.H.)

Unless stated otherwise, all observations are by the compiler.

The warm and humid months of July and August were followed by a mild September with no really hot, humid spells. Dry weather also abated in September.

No unusual sightings were reported for this quarter, however some birds of interest include 1 Brown Creeper 7/19 on Shade Mt., 1 Yellow-throated Vireo 7/5 in H.H., 2 Worm-eating Warblers 7/13 and 7/20 in H.H., 3 migrant Bay-breasted Warblers 9/25 in H.H., and 2 Black-throated Blue Warblers 9/19 on Blue Mt.

A low for the breeding season was that only 1 Rose-breasted Grosbeak was reported from Shade Mt. in July (DW).

The number of resident Canada Geese seem to be on the increase with a flock of 100+ seen at the Juniata R. Muskrat Springs Access Area 8/23 (EB). Wild Turkey and Ruffed Grouse continue to be present in good numbers. Large flocks of Common Grackles were more apparent this year.

OBSERVERS: Esther Bratton, Dusty Weidner, Linda Whitesel, RD #1, Box 356A, Mifflintown, PA 17059 (717-436-8048).

Lackawanna County (35)

Locations: Maple L., L. Scranton (L.S.).

Great Blue Heron were reported from Maple L. and Elmhurst and Thornhurst areas, although no rookery was found. Six Black-crowned Night-Herons and 1 Green-backed Heron were observed all summer along the Lackawanna R. within the Scranton city limits.

Canada Geese, Wood Ducks, Am. Black Ducks, and Mallards were the only waterfowl reported.

Migrant raptors seemed in typical numbers. Two families of Common Moorhen were seen 8/15 in the Dalton area.

Migrant cuckoo reports were encouraging with 4-5 Black-billed 9/22 and 5 Yellow-billed 9/26 in the Chinchilla area. Woodpecker and flycatcher sightings were average. All species of swallows were seen, with the noticeable absence of Purple Martin.

A small flock of Fish Crows is resident at L.S. E. Bluebirds seem to be making a comeback in the county. Thrush numbers were average. Mimic thrush numbers were good, except for Brown Thrasher. Only 1 pair was seen and that was 7/11 in the Thornhurst area.

A Yellow-throated Vireo was seen 7/9 near Thornhurst and another in Clark's Summit the same day. One Philadelphia Vireo was seen near Dalton 9/13. Expected warblers were found breeding in expected numbers in appropriate habitat throughout the county. Migrant warblers include a Tennessee 9/9 near Dalton and 1 Cape May and 1 Hooded Warbler 9/26 near Chinchilla.

With the exception of the Thornhurst area, Purple Finch are apparently uncommon elsewhere in the county. Other finch and blackbird reports were within normal range.

OBSERVERS: Rosann Bonge, Mike Friedlin, Gerald Klebauskas, 1301 Blair Ave., Scranton 18504 (717-344-4690), Jane Shulenberg, Sue Zenke, Tinka Zenke.

Lancaster County (36)

Locations: Middle Cr. WMA (MCWMA), Muddy Run (M.R.), Susquehanna R. at Conejohela Flats (SRCF), Susquehanna R. at Fishing Cr. (SRFC).

July was hotter than normal and late-August/early-September was very wet.

Highlights for the period included a White Ibis and a Red-necked Phalarope at MCWMA. Increased boat coverage of SRCF produced several sightings of Buff-breasted Sandpiper and a Hudsonian Godwit. Several birds thought to be increasing in the county include Wood Duck, E. Bluebird, and Orchard Orioles. The passerine migration was considered average.

CORMORANTS THROUGH RAPTORS. Three Double-crested Cormorants were at SRFC 8/16 (JB) and 75 Great Egrets were at SRCF 7/18 (RMS). Cattle Egret numbers in Washington Boro area were down and had virtually left by early Sept. (RMS,EW). Up to 10 Black-crowned Night-Herons were e. of Elizabethtown throughout the period (SS). An imm. White Ibis was at MCWMA (Lancaster and Lebanon Co. portions) from about 8/15 to 9/5 (m.ob.). An injured Tundra Swan was seen at MCWMA from mid-Aug. to at least 9/5 (SS et al.).

Wood Ducks had a successful nesting season throughout the county; a high of 200+ were at SRCF 7/18 (RMS). Gadwall were seen displaying 9/26 at MCWMA (SS et al.). A female Common Merganser summered again at Muddy Run, but there was no evidence of nesting (RMS).

Up to 4 Bald Eagles were at MCWMA during the period with all 4 seen 8/16 (BC et al.). Single Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks were in the Safe Harbor area 7/4 (JB). Members of the Lancaster Co. Bird Club counted a total of 7826 hawks at the

Cornwall Fire Tower from 9/5-30: 97 Osprey, 1 Bald Eagle, 42 N. Harrier, 748 Sharp-shinned, 25 Cooper's, 3 Red-shouldered, 6777 Broad-winged, 26 Red-tailed, 71 Am. Kestrels, and 2 Merlin.

RAILS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS. Three Sora were at SRCF 9/26 (TG,EW). The only Am. Coot report was of 1 at MCWMA 9/26 (SS et al.).

Single Semipalmated and Least Sandpipers and 2 Short-billed Dowitchers at MCWMA 7/25 (DM,VM) were the start of the shorebird migration. 18 Lesser Golden-Plover were at Muddy Run 9/25 (RMS). 113 Killdeer were counted at SRCF 8/19 (RMS,DH) and again 9/10 (RMS,SS). The 16 Upland Sandpipers found 7/1 in Leacock Twp. (KL) raised hopes of nesting, but with a safe date of 6/20 and no evidence of nesting found, they were considered migrants. Others were found in traditional Amish country in late-July and August (m.ob.).

A Hudsonian Godwit was at SRCF 9/5 (TG,EW). Sanderlings were occasionally at SRCF from 7/17-9/10 with a high of 6 on 9/3 (RMS et al.). SRCF hosted 2 Western Sandpipers 9/5, 1-2 White-rumped Sandpipers 9/5-20, plus a flock of 20 Stilt Sandpipers 9/5 (TG,EW).

A Buff-breasted Sandpiper was found 9/3 at SRCF for the 6th county record and another (?) was seen there 9/12 and 9/25 (TG,EW). An imm. Red-necked Phalarope was found at MCWMA 9/4 (JB).

GULLS THROUGH WARBLERS. 26 (2 ad.) Laughing Gulls at SRCF 8/30 (JB) was an excellent count. Two early imm. Great Black-backed Gulls were at SRCF 7/24 (RMS). Caspian Terns were regular along the Susquehanna R. in small numbers from 7/18 to the end of the quarter (RMS et al.). The only Common Tern reported was at SRCF 8/22 (JB). Forster's Terns were very common along the river from late-August through the end of the period (m.ob.). The only Black Tern reported was 1 at SRCF 8/19 (RMS,DS,DH).

Small numbers of Red-headed Woodpeckers were migrating in SoLanco 9/20-30 (RMS). 1000+ Bank Swallows were near Octoraro L. 7/23 (SB,RMS) and 6000+ were n. of Bainbridge 8/13 (LC). A Marsh Wren was at SRCF 9/26 (EW,JW). Several Golden-crowned and many Ruby-crowned Kinglets were along Hammer Cr. 9/27 (SS). E. Bluebirds enjoyed a great nesting season in SoLanco (RMS) and did well in many other areas of the county (m.ob.).

Single Golden-winged Warblers were at Providence Twp. 8/20 (EP,JP) and Lancaster Co. Central Park 8/24 (JB). An Orange-crowned Warbler was also at Providence Twp. 9/25 (JP).

GROSBEAKS THROUGH ORIOLES. An ad. female Rose-breasted Grosbeak with a juv. was at Ephrata 7/12 (EW). Several Blue Grosbeaks were discovered while atlasing 7/17 e. of Ephrata in the vicinity of an abandoned sandmire with apple orchards adjacent. The birds remained until at least 8/1. A pair was seen carrying food to a specific area but no young/nest could be found. This is a significant range extension in the county (EW,TG et al.).

100-150 Bobolinks were at SRCF 9/5 and 9/20, with a few lingering through the end of the period (TG,EW). Orchard Orioles were found while atlasing in the Elizabethtown area and are thought to be increasing throughout portions of the county other than in Solanco, where they have been much more common (SS et al.)

OBSERVERS: Jerry Book, Sandy Bronteman, Larry Coble, Bob Cook, Tom Garner, Dan Heathcote, Keith Leidich, Pat McElhaney, Van McElhaney, Ed Pederson, Jo Pederson, Steve Santner, David Schutsky, Robert M. Schutsky, *Eric Witmer, 805 Pointview Ave., Ephrata 17522 (717-733-1138)*, Jan Witmer.

Lebanon County (38)

Location: Middle Cr. WMA (MCWMA)

July and August were generally dry, followed by very wet conditions in September. This moved shorebirds from drying ponds to temporary rain pools, but otherwise seemed to have little impact on what was an average season for wetland species and a very good early Fall migration for landbirds. Landbird migration began slightly late, with the first migrant not found until August 8, but beginning the weekend of August 15-16 it was almost spectacular through the end of the period.

Hawks were also very conspicuous; the watch at Second Mt. is moving towards a record year for numbers of total birds and for several individual species.

The rarity of the period was an imm. White Ibis, which stayed for a few days at a drying pond in the Lebanon Co. section of MCWMA, and is probably a 1st county record. It first appeared 8/30 (EW) and was seen by many until about 9/6 when heavy rains filled the pond in which it had been feeding.

Waders were less common than usual during the period. An imm. Little Blue Heron was found at Memorial L. 9/12, where there are few if any local records (PM,VM).

Waterfowl were little noted, although the first group of possibly migrating Canada Geese was seen extremely early on 8/16 flying over Second Mt. (MC), and the first Green-winged Teal were seen 8/1 at MCWMA (SS).

The largest concentration of Black Vultures ever seen in the county occurred 9/27 in a field s.w. of Schaefferstown where 45 were feeding on farm refuse. The count for migrant raptors at Second Mt. for Aug. and Sept. was:

Hours	Aug.	Sept.
	62	174
Sharp-shinned Hawk	9	1334
Cooper's Hawk	5	65
Red-tailed Hawk	31	144
Red-shouldered Hawk	1	4
Broad-winged Hawk	106	4777
Golden Eagle	0	2
Bald Eagle	1	3
N. Harrier	7	52
Osprey	16	154
Peregrine Falcon	2	0
Merlin	0	1
Am. Kestrel	5	63
Unidentified	3	31
Total	186	6630

Any Golden Eagle seen in Sept. is unusual, but the adult seen 9/1 was extraordinarily early (MC). Both Peregrine Falcons were seen 8/30 (MC).

In addition to the 7 shorebird species seen locally every year in late summer were the following: dowitcher sp. 8/1 at MCWMA (SS et al.), 2 Stilt Sandpiper 8/15 at MCWMA, White-rumped Sandpiper at MCWMA 8/15 and a very high number of 20 n. of Reistville 9/27 (SS), and Wilson's Phalarope near Iona 8/1 (SS) and at MCWMA 8/30 (EW). The Pectoral Sandpiper is one of the 7 expected species, but was seen very early this year on 8/1 at MCWMA (SS). The only tern report was of a Forster's Tern at Memorial L. 9/12 (PM,VM).

Common Barn-Owl has now been reported from 7 of the 39 PBBAP blocks in the region. Although both cuckoos were reported locally, their populations are at a low point now. Nevertheless, alarm over their numbers may be unwarranted since the populations of these species are highly cyclic, lagging behind the population cycle of the Gypsy Moth by a year or two.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird was widely reported this year. Good numbers were seen passing the hawk watch on Second Mt. in Aug/Sept (MC et al.) and 10-12 could be seen daily in a 5-mi. stretch of road along Hammer Cr. in Aug. (JL,KL,SS). Red-headed Woodpecker has now been reported from 17 blocks.

Olive-sided Flycatcher was reported once this year, during the week of 9/15 at Second Mt. (MC). Willow Flycatcher has been reported from 24 blocks. Horned Lark has still been reported from only a single block despite large areas of apparently suitable habitat.

Blue Jays were abundant this year as a late Summer wanderer/early Fall migrant (m.ob.). Two Common Ravens passed the hawk watch 8/16 (MC). A local bluebird trail was begun about 20 years ago in the Indiantown Gap/Memorial L. area and has been steadily enlarged over the years. This trail now includes most parts of the n. half of the county. This year approximately 1000 boxes produced 3000+ fledglings (DZ)!

The extremely good songbird migration this year produced widespread reports of high numbers of vireos and warblers. Some

examples: 10-12 Solitary Vireos along Hammer Cr. 9/27 (SS), "many" Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, and Magnolia Warblers 9/20-21 at Second Mt. (MC) and 20+ each of Black-throated Green and Magnolia Warblers several Sept. days along Hammer Cr. (JL,KL,SS). Unusual species or dates included Philadelphia Vireo 9/5 and 9/27, both along Hammer Cr. (SS), Golden-winged Warbler on the very late date 9/27 at Hammer Cr. (SS), and a very late and out of place Yellow Warbler 9/20 on Second Mt. (MC). Among a large number of Black-throated Blue Warblers seen 9/14 at Mt. Gretna eating berries (!) was a Connecticut Warbler (PM,VM). Although migration was generally excellent, it began somewhat late. On 8/8 the only songbird migrant which could be found at Hammer Cr. was a Hooded Warbler (SS).

The first Dark-eyed Juncos of the season were 3 seen 9/27 at Hammer Cr. (SS). The grassland/cropland sparrows continue to do well in this region. Vesper Sparrow has been reported from 17 blocks, Grasshopper Sparrow from 23, and Savannah Sparrow from 11 of the 39 blocks in the county. Both Bobolink and Orchard Oriole are more widespread than originally thought in the region, each having been reported from 8 blocks.

OBSERVERS: Morris Cox, Jane Light, Ken Light, Pat McElhaney, Val McElhaney, *Steve Santner, 3 Overbrook Village Green Apt., Elizabethtown 17022 717-836-2525*), Eric Witmer, Del Zimmerman.

Lehigh County (39)

Locations: Lehigh Co.: Allentown, Breiningsville, Bake Oven Knob (BOK), Baer Rocks, Leaser L., Spring Cr., Walter Tract.

This quarter covers the latter half of the breeding season as well as the beginning of the Fall migration. I will try to separate the two. Unfortunately it rained almost every weekend in September, so coverage was not very extensive. Sightings are by the compiler unless otherwise noted.

Both Great Horned Owl and E. Screech-Owls were found in good numbers. Vesper and Grasshopper Sparrows were also reported in good numbers from the n. portion of the county. It cannot be determined if this is due to an actual population increase or if it merely reflects the number of hours spent in previously unbirded areas.

A small colony of Red-headed Woodpeckers, including a pair at a nest hole, was found near Breiningsville (PS).

Single Great and Snowy Egrets were found at Spring Cr. 7/23 and 8/15 respectively (SS). A pair of Double-crested Cormorants was seen on Leaser L. 9/9 (JL) and another pair on 9/19 after a severe storm (SS). A flock of about 50 cormorants flew over Bake Oven Knob (BOK) 9/14; one of them was noticeably larger than the others and may have been a Great Cormorant, but there is no way to be sure (FM,RB).

The hawk migration was one of the best in recent years. A hawk watch at BOK, organized by Steve Smith and the Lehigh Valley Audubon Society, is providing almost daily coverage this Fall. During August and September a total of 10,463 raptors was counted. This includes 2733 Sharp-shinned Hawk, 123 Cooper's Hawk, 167 Red-tailed Hawk, 6600 Broad-winged Hawk (two days had single day counts of 1000+), 64 N. Harrier, 474 Osprey, 34 Bald Eagle (5 on 8/23),

9 Peregrine Falcon, 16 Merlin, and 178 Am. Kestrel. The fickleness of the Broad-wing flight was once again shown when on 9/22 951 were seen at BOK while 2200+ were counted at Baer Rocks, which is only about 2 mi further west (KK). Well over half of the Bald Eagles seen so far were immatures or sub-adults, indicating a healthy breeding population. Off the ridges, a N. Goshawk was seen in North Whitehall Twp. in early August (FB) and an ad. Bald Eagle was at the Walter Tract 9/25 (SS).

The first migrant shorebirds, Solitary and Least Sandpipers, showed up at Spring Cr. 7/23 (SS). A Black-bellied Plover was there 9/11 and Semipalmated Sandpipers were noted 8/16 and 8/29. Ten Bank Swallows were counted on 8/29.

A good non-raptor migration also occurred at BOK. Two Pectoral Sandpipers were seen 9/26 (SS). Four Olive-sided Flycatchers were seen 8/29 (RW), another 8/30 (GLF), followed by 2 more 8/24 (FM). A total of 16 Common Ravens was seen from 8/23 through 9/17, with a high day count of 6 on 9/27. An early Red-breasted Nuthatch was found 8/31 (FM). Philadelphia Vireos were found 9/23 and 9/26 (RB,SS). On 8/30 a Pine Warbler, rare in migration, and 2 Wilson's Warblers were seen (BLM). Nashville Warblers were observed 8/15 to 9/16 (BLM,FM). On 9/15 over 60 warblers flew by within half an hour. Most of those which could be identified were Black-throated Green Warblers. Over 4000 Common Grackles were counted 9/26 (SS).

The only other Fall migrants of interest were a late Common Nighthawk near Allentown 9/25 (SS) and Connecticut Warblers 9/5 in Allentown and 9/28 at the Walter Tract (BLM,FB).

OBSERVERS: Steve Boyce, Ray Barnes, Fritz Brock, Arlene Koch, John LeVin, Fred Mears, *Bernie L. Marris, 825 N. Muhlenburg St., Allentown 18104 (215-435-9134)*, Bary Reed, Sally Roth, Peter Saenger, Brad Silfies, Steve Smith, Walter Thurber, Rick Wiltraut, Judy Wink.

Luzerne County (40)

Please refer to the Bradford County (08) report.

Lycoming County (41)

July and August were very hot. September was cool and wet. Unusual sightings for the quarter included a Black-billed Cuckoo 8/10 in Picture Rocks area and 1 ad. Bald Eagle over lower Loyalsock Cr. 9/1.

Pied-billed Grebe was the only grebe reported. Two flocks of Double-crested Cormorant were observed. Waterfowl reports were sparse as well as the numbers of birds seen. Perhaps the mild weather had something to do with it.

Raptor reports were only of expected species in expected numbers.

With the exception that Carolina Wrens were found in better numbers, all other sightings were of the local breeding species.

OBSERVERS: Wes Egli, *Ed and Tink Reish, RD 4, Box 277, Montoursville 17754 (717-435-5906)*, Stanley C. Stahl.

McKean County (42)

Please refer to the Elk County (24) County report.

Mifflin County (44)

Locations: Bear Gap S.P., Bratton Twp., McVeytown, Reeds Gap S.P.

July was still ringing with cicada noises and the old-fashioned "hot days of summer" were evident. Birds and birders were aware of the intense heat at times; either in deep woods or on mountain tops was the place to be.

PBBAP reports comprise the bulk of all sightings this quarter. Confirmation of many species of vireos and warblers was made during several hundred hours of atlasing. Although no rarity was found, the efforts were rewarding for all participants.

The habitat in this county is varied, ranging from river valleys to mountains of over 1700 ft. elevation. Local residents, especially farmers, have supplied atlas workers with a wealth of information about breeding birds in the area. This resource should be tapped in every region as the PBBAP winds down next year. These people are aware of owls, hummingbirds, and other species that are not always easily found in every block. Children can be very observant; with their sharp eyes they can often lead you to a nest they have located while "playing."

An Osprey was observed flying over the Juniata R. between McVeytown and Newton Hamilton all summer and another (or the same one) was seen in Sept. over First Mt. near Mattawana on Licking Cr. Rd.

Wildlife rehabilitators Charles and Chris Gisewhite report a quiet summer; only one hawk remains to have a wing repaired.

Amanda Kauffman observed a Ruby-throated Hummingbird gathering nest-building materials and then found their nests. She later observed another bird and found a second nest only 30 ft. away from the first. Each nest was quite low, only 10-15 ft off the ground. Each nest successfully fledged 2 young, the first two were 7/11 and the second two a few days later. They were last seen 9/20.

The Kaufmann's reported that although Purple Martins had nested successfully on their property for 40 years, this was the 3rd consecutive year they failed to return. However the colonies in Belleville and Lewistown are stable.

The 1986 E. Bluebird trail of 55 boxes increased to 112 boxes this year. 175 bluebirds, 54 House Wrens, 26 Tree Swallows, and 4 Tufted Titmice were fledged. The boxes are constructed by Richard Harpster and Richard Taylor; they are monitored by David Treaster, Ralph (Ed) Corbin and Art Pursel.

Cardinals were still feeding young on 9/20. Grasshopper Sparrow numbers were up this year.

OBSERVERS: Amanda Kaufmann, *Margaret Kenep, Box 343, RD 2, McVeytown 17051 (717-899-6252)*, Towpath Naturalist Society, Linda Whitesel.

Montgomery County (46)

Locations: E. Branch Perkiomen (EBP), Green Lane Res. (GLR), Unami Cr. Valley (UCV), Valley Forge National Historic Park (VFNHP).

After our wet Spring, a hot July and August dropped water levels at GLR sufficiently to accommodate small numbers of returning shorebirds. But then the few exposed mudflats were wiped out by a 5" deluge on Sept. 8th. More weekend rains followed.

An imm. Double-crested Cormorant was perched on a cable tower above the Schuylkill R. upstream from Mont Clare 8/6, a 1st record for the Montco stretch of the river (RE,NT). Double-crested Cormorants are annual visitants at GLR, but this year 1 was present all season and had not yet left by quarter's end. Three were there 8/23 (GAF).

A congregation of Black-crowned Night-Herons at the lower (Betwood) area of the river from late July through Sept. was unusual. The max. was 8, mostly immatures. They were joined for a while in early Aug. by an imm. Little Blue Heron and on 8/6 by an imm. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (RG).

Two N. Shoveler were very early at GLR 7/29 (GLF).

A single Osprey was seen irregularly over GLR throughout the period (GAF) and 1 was seen over VFNHP 9/25 (RG). The most unusual hawk sighting was that of an estimated 3000+ Broad-winged Hawks moving fast ahead of a cumulonimbus storm front in Hatfield, an area not distinguished as a hawk watch. The entire passage went over between 2:05 and 2:15 p.m. The observer, Ron Grubb, just happened to have gone outside to look for birds during a coffee break and had invited some of his co-workers along. He writes, "They were quite impressed, believe me."

Among the total of 15 species of shorebirds reported by various observers at GLR were 2 Sanderling 9/6 (N&WM), a max. of 3 Western Sandpiper 9/5 (GLF), and a record count of Baird's Sandpiper. One Baird's was first noted 8/24 and 8 were present on 8/31-9/1 (GLF,GAF). Two Caspian Terns, regular but uncommon visitors at GLR, also turned up 8/18 (GLF).

The only reported Black-billed Cuckoo of the year was at VFNHP along Valley Cr. 9/24 (RG). A Winter Wren was seen at Ft. Washington S.P. 9/7 (N&WM).

VFNHP was also the area for rare flycatchers. An Olive-sided Flycatcher was seen on Mt. Misery 8/25. A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was seen on two occasions, providing the 1st record for this species in the park. One was seen near the impoundment basin on the n. side 8/29 and the other along Valley Cr. 8/31 (RG).

An estimated 1000+ Bank Swallows moved over GLR 8/23 (GAF).

Warbler reports were fair to good, with up to 14 species being seen in one day. The upper UCV, especially the Camp Hart area, seemed to be the most productive flyway and included reports of a Golden-winged Warbler and a Philadelphia Vireo, both 9/18 (N&WM). Reports from VFNHP noted the scarcity of Blackburian Warblers and the total absence of Bay-breasted Warblers.

A field of 8-10 Blue Grosbeaks, including immatures, was found on a 7/12 PBBAP block-busting expedition in the Linfield area. Another

pair with fledgling was in a woodlot along the EBP 7/1 (NT). The two pairs of Bobolinks in VFNHP, across from the chapel, stayed from late May until mid-July. They were aggressively territorial and almost certainly bred (RG). 1000+ Rusty Blackbirds were at GLR 8/7 (GLF).

Species seen in notably low numbers, in addition to both cuckoos, were Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Veery, and vireos. One atlaser working in Upper and Lower Salford Twps. for three months could not raise a single White-eyed Vireo even in the likeliest habitats. To another observer even the Red-eyed Vireo numbers seemed a little low. Louisiana Waterthrushes were absent from several of their usual haunts. E. Meadowlarks remained few and far between.

Among the more hopeful signs, the incidence of inland-wandering Double-crested Cormorants seems to be increasing yearly. The common flycatchers (including Willow Flycatcher), Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, and Scarlet Tanagers seemed to be doing very well. One observer noted a particular abundance of Chimney Swifts and Blue Jays. "Bluejays were everywhere!" he wrote. Bobolinks, too, seem to be more widespread than they were a few years ago.

OBSERVERS: Robert Elmer, George A. Franchois, Gary L. Freed, Ron Grubb, Naomi & William Murphy, *Neal Thorpe, Box Q, Mont Clare 19453 (215-933-2127).*

Montour County (47)

Two ad. and at least one juv. Common Barn-Owl were still present at a Limestone Twp. residence 8/24 (DN).

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

Northampton County (48)

Location: Little Gap Bird Observatory (LGBO).

A total of 198 hawks was banded at LGBO during September including 153 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 13 Cooper's Hawks, 24 Red-tailed Hawks, and 6 Am. Kestrels (LGBO staff). A Broad-winged Hawk was banded there 9/4 (GL) and an early Merlin was banded 9/5 (SB,GY). Other Merlins were observed 9/22, 9/26, and 9/27 (LGBO staff). An ad. Peregrine Falcon visited the banding station 9/29 (SB).

A Lesser Golden-Plover was observed flying over plowed fields near Bath 9/19 (RW).

A Red-headed Woodpecker was at LGBO 9/15 and a Connecticut Warbler was observed there 9/10 (BS).

OBSERVERS: Steve Boyce, Gerald Lahr, Brad Silfies, *Rick Wiltraut, 54 Pershing Blvd., Whitehall 18052 (215-435-8632), Gordon Yoder.*

Northumberland County (49)

An ad. Bald Eagle, which had been present since at least February, was still being seen in July at the w. end of Little Mt. and s. along the Susquehanna R. to Dalmatia (KB). Tantalizing reports of excellent habitat come from the Roaring Cr. watershed and Brush Valley, water

company lands which are off limits to the public. Red-shouldered Hawks were found regularly there this summer (WM) and rather tame fledgling Red-breasted Nuthatches were seen 7/17 (BP).

OBSERVERS: Keith Bingamin, Barb & Frank Haas, Wayne McDiffett, Barb Petorak, *Allen Schweinsberg, RD 3, Box 203, Lewisburg 17837 (717-524-0432).*

Perry County (50)

Location: Waggoner's Gap Hawk Watch WGHW)

Unfortunately the hawk counter from WGHW did not send the August and September report, but some known highlights are noted here. The full report should be included in the next issue.

3 Peregrine Falcons were observed 9/19 or 9/20. This is an excellent one day total. Broad-winged Hawks were in good numbers and exact numbers will be forthcoming. At least 30 Bald Eagles were counted. The count at the end of September was approximately 15,000 total hawks.

Other migrants observed at the WGHW included Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Olive-sided Flycatcher 9/26 (WH, m.ob.), thousands of Blue Jays, 3 species of vireos, and 12 species of warblers. Common Ravens were seen often, but whether these are migrants or residents has not yet been determined.

OBSERVERS: *Deuane Hoffman, 3406 Montour St., Harrisburg 17111 (717-564-7475), Warren Hoffman, Greg Smith (hawk counter).*

Schuylkill County (54)

Locations: Hawk Mt. Sanctuary (HMS), Pine Grove Watershed (PGW), Pottsville (PTV), Sweet Arrow L. (SAL), Tumbling Run Dam (TRD), Tuscarora S.P. (TSP)..

Significant rainfall the latter part of August and much of September made field work more difficult, but the rain also produced the 1st first county record of a Sabine's Gull (see article).

All reports by compiler unless otherwise indicated.

GREBES THROUGH RAPTORS. A juv. Pied-billed Grebe was seen at PGW 7/5 (SW). A Little Blue Heron was in the Summer Hill area 9/19 (SW).

Two Black Vultures were seen in PTV 7/16 and 4 at Port Clinton 9/5 (WAT). On 8/23 2 ad. and 2 imm. Bald Eagles were seen over Rt. 183 on the Schuylkill/Berks Co. Line Hawk Watch (SBHW) established by the MacClay's 7 years ago. HMS noted that Bald Eagle sightings are continuing to increase. A female N. Harrier was observed at TSP 7/30 (MY et al.). An imm. N. Goshawk flew past SBHW 8/24. On 9/16 SBHW had 2260 Broad-winged Hawks. HMS reported them low again, with the big counts apparently s. and e. of HMS ridges. A Swainson's Hawk passed HMS 9/23 (JG,LG,JO). One or more of this species has been reported each of the past several years.

GALLINIFORMES THROUGH OWLS. Two N. Bobwhite were found in the Summer Hill area (SW). Lesser Yellowlegs returned 7/22 to TRD. Spotted Sandpipers were seen at SAL and TRD 7/25 and 8/26.

An ad. Sabine's Gull flew by HMS 9/17 (KG, DN). On 9/25 a Common Tern was seen for only the 3rd HMS record.

A Yellow-billed Cuckoo was seen at PGW 7/5 (SW). An ad. Common Barn-Owl with 3 young was found in the Wayne Twp. area (SW). E. Screech-Owls and Barred Owls were also reported. The latest Ruby-throated Hummingbird went by HMS 9/23 (LG).

A juv. Olive-sided Flycatcher was at TRD 8/26. A pair of Bank Swallows was noted at PGW 7/5 (SW).

CORVIDS THROUGH FINCHES. A Common Raven was heard at PGW 7/5 (SW). A Marsh Wren was seen at HMS headquarters for the Sanctuary's 1st record (BW) and another was at SAL 7/25 (TC). Golden-crowned Kinglets were found at TRD 7/17 and 9/2.

Breeding warblers include Magnolia in New Ringgold 7/15, Blackburnian at TRD 7/22 and Canada at PGW 7/5. An early Blackpoll Warbler was observed at Deer Lake 8/30. A Worm-eating Warbler was found in SGL 106 7/26. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were confirmed breeding at PGW 7/5 (SW).

Grasshopper Sparrows were found in New Ringgold 7/15 (DK) and Swamp Sparrows at PGW 7/5 (SW). Dark-eyed Juncos were located at PGW 7/5 (SW). A flock of Bobolinks were seen in New Ringgold 7/15 (DK).

Tom Clauser reports that he will be doing considerable travelling soon and therefore requests that all Schuylkill Co. birders please submit records to him in order that the county report remain solid.

OBSERVERS: Tom Clauser, 213 Deerfield Dr., Pottsville 17901 (717-622-1363), Jay George, Laurie Goodrich, Kerry Grim, Dan Knarr, Bob MacClay, Dave Niven, Jim Olmes, Walter and Andrew, Thurber, Babe Webster, Scott Weidensaul, Mike Yanni.

Snyder County (55)

A Sharp-shinned Hawk was seen near "Tall Timbers" 7/18. Common Moorhens nested at Walker L., where fledged young were seen 7/17 (R&PW).

July reports of Acadian Flycatchers came from 3 separate locations. A pair of Horned Larks was seen near Richfield 7/5. On 7/18 at "Tall Timbers" a Common Raven was heard, 10 singing Winter Wrens were counted, as were many Hermit Thrushes (AS).

N. Parula, Worm-eating Warbler, and Louisiana Waterthrush were found near Richfield 7/5. Vesper Sparrows and Grasshopper Sparrows were common there as well (AS,RY). Young Dark-eyed Juncos were being fed in "Tall Timbers" 7/18.

OBSERVERS: Allen Schweinsberg, RD 3, Box 203, Lewisburg 17837 (717-524-0432), Richard & Patricia Williams, Ruth Young.

Somerset County (56)

Locations: Hooversville (HVL), L. Somerset (L.S.), Quemahoning Dam (Q.D.)

All sightings by compilers unless otherwise noted.

Somerset County's hot, dry weather in July and August and failure of seed, fruit, and berry crops combined to make an uneventful early

Fall migration. Noticeably absent were the flocks of birds that normally linger to feed on food such as wild cherries.

Rain and overcast skies predominated during the choice days of September hawk-watching. The productive NE winds necessary for a good flight from this lookout just never materialized. West winds on 9/24 accounted for the month's highest total, but N and NW winds on several days from 9/21 to 9/26 were usually too strong for good Broad-winged Hawk flights. Migration of songbirds was similarly affected.

A Great Egret at Q.D. from 9/6-19 was a good record of an uncommon species for this area. Two collared Canada Geese were recorded, a white-collared F351 from 8/12 to the end of Sept. at Q.D. and a red-collared K075 on 9/9 in Summit Twp. (TM).

A Black Rail was reported 9/25 in Somerset Twp. The following information was submitted: "I was birding in Somerset Twp. on 9/25. I saw a black bird, the size of a cowbird, which splashed as it ran through/overtop the water - from one cattail clump into the larger cattail thicket. It was smaller than a Sora. No white wing patches were observed. I was about 10 feet from it." (TM).

Three Ring-billed Gulls were noted at L.S. from 7/16 to 9/3 (TM).

Pied-billed Grebes in small numbers were well-distributed. Great Blue Herons were in very good numbers around large dams and small farm ponds. Most waterfowl numbers were low or normal. Up to 10 Blue-winged Teal were reported at L.S. (TM). Mallards and Wood Ducks at both L.S. and W.D. were in normal numbers.

Hawk watch records for HVL produced a total of only 131 for Sept., the 4th consecutive year of low numbers. The 8 Osprey tied the second-place record for the 18-year-old watch. The 16 Am. Kestrels was the best count in 4 years, and 12 Sharp-shinned Hawks in Sept. was good. Only 87 Broad-winged Hawks accounted for the low total. Indications that this was a good year for Osprey were supported by scattered reports of them around dams and rivers in Aug. and Sept.

Shorebird records were surprisingly low at Q.D. considering the exposed mudflats. The migration of Common Nighthawks was almost non-existent, a high of only 7 on 9/6 at Q.D. After disappointing PBBAP reports, Ruby-throated Hummingbirds showed up at feeders and gardens in very good numbers in Aug., perhaps dependent on feeders and cultivated flowers after wildflowers dried up because of the drought.

Low migration numbers were evident for woodpeckers. The Blue Jay migration high of 47 on 9/25 was in contrast to normal counts in the hundreds and even thousands on peak days in past years. Thrushes made an early departure in post-breeding dispersal and few were recorded thereafter.

Very late in Sept. there were high counts of Tufted Titmice, Gray Catbirds, N. Cardinals and Rufous-sided Towhees. There was, however, a noticeable absence of Cedar Waxwings, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, N. Orioles and Am. Robins, which normally feed heavily on wild cherries. Miscellaneous songbirds, vireos, warblers, Indigo Buntings and Am. Goldfinch moved through without fanfare and in very low numbers after what seemed to be a good breeding season. There was no report of Purple Finch. A flock of 50 Horned Larks was seen in Milford Twp. 9/1 (TM). High counts of imm. Field, Grasshopper, Savannah and Song Sparrows were noted in mixed flocks.

Good nesting records and flocks of Mourning Doves, such as 200-250 on 7/19, indicate the continuing trend of increasing numbers noted throughout the past winter and spring. Good breeding records are an indication of the effect of the past two mild winters on Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Carolina Wrens and E. Bluebirds. Many reports were received for third nestings of bluebirds.

BBAP records have indicated an increasing population of the following species in a large percentage of reclaimed strip mine areas: N. Harrier, Sharp-shinned, Cooper's and Red-tailed Hawks, Am. Kestrels, Common Ravens, and grassland species (Horned Larks, Bobolinks, and Savannah, Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows).

OBSERVERS: Tony Marich, Glenn and Ruth Sagar, RD 1, Box 176-B, Hooversville 15936 (814-798-3242)

Sullivan County (57)

BREEDING BIRDS. Wild Turkey poults were seen near Colley and many other locations across the county (SC, m.ob.).

At least 10 Green-winged Teal ducklings were found at a waterfowl propagation pond near the old lumber town of Ricketts (SK,DG). This is the 1st known nesting of this species in the region and may represent two pairs. Wood Ducks, Mallards, and Am. Black Ducks also nested there.

Fledged Barred Owls were in a glen near L. Ganoga. E. Screech-Owls were heard at fairly high elevations near Eagles Mere (DG), Muncy Valley (RW), and Nordmont. Ruffed Grouse broods were found across the county. Several Yellow-bellied Sapsucker nests were found in gamelands near Nordmont.

Alder Flycatchers were found in a number of locations in e. Sullivan Co. including Bear Swamp near L. Ganoga (RM,DG) and the Dushore-Lopez area (SC). At one location an Alder was singing across the road from a Willow Flycatcher (SC). This has been observed at other locations in NE PA where the two species overlap in range (DG,WR).

A Swainson's Thrush was still singing vigorously 7/26 near Eagles Mere, but nesting could not be confirmed (DG). Golden-crowned Kinglets nested in hemlocks near Glass Cr. Pond e. of Nordmont (DG). A singing Warbling Vireo was found near Nordmont (LH).

Mourning Warblers were confirmed nesting near Muncy Valley by observing a fledge being fed by an adult. It is the 1st known confirmation of this species nesting in Sullivan Co. Two pairs apparently nested in a roadcut covered by purple-flowering raspberry. The males chose conspicuous perches from which to sing, often a telephone wire or top of a hemlock tree, and frequently sang mid-day.

White-throated Sparrow fledges were found near Colley (actually in June) (SC). This species is especially troublesome to atlas confidently, because many are migrating while others are nesting. Most territorial White-throats were found in boggy areas or moist woods with dense blueberry (or other heath) undergrowth above 1800 ft. Savannah Sparrows and Bobolinks were both confirmed near Colley while Grasshopper Sparrows were also found near Dushore (SC).

MIGRATION. An ad. Bald Eagle was seen at Shuman's Lake (Shady Nook) near Lopez 9/5 (SC). Other oversummering Bald Eagles

have been seen in this area in past years. Many warblers were observed in the area during the Labor Day weekend (SC), but it is difficult to tell the migrants from the numerous summer residents of Dutch Mt.

OBSERVERS: Skip Conant, Douglas Gross (*Susquehanna Biological Laboratory, RD 1, Berwick 18603 (717-542-2191)*), Larry Hare, Rick Mellon, William Reid, Richard Wood.

Susquehanna County ((58)

Please refer to the Bradford County (08) report.

Union County (60)

Two ad. and 3 imm. Great Blue Herons were present at the Holman Sanctuary 7/5 and an imm. Black-crowned Night-Heron appeared there 8/27 (RH). About 100-200 Common Nighthawks were seen over Lewisburg 8/30 (MM).

Several White-eyed Vireos, generally quite uncommon in the region, were singing in SGL 193 on 7/3 (AS). A Yellow-throated Vireo was seen 7/3. Blue-winged Warbler, N. Parula, and Black-throated Blue Warbler were all found in July w. of Allenwood (RF). Two new locations for Pine Warbler were obtained in early July. Fledged Worm-eating Warblers were found in White Deer Twp. 7/29. Yellow-breasted Chats were common in SGL 193 on 7/3.

Somewhat late is a bizarre report of a pair of N. Cardinals that assisted in the raising of Am. Robins last spring in Lewisburg (LY). The female sat side-by-side with a robin on the nest and both cardinals fed the young robins.

Grasshopper Sparrows were very common near Dry Valley 7/4 (AS).

OBSERVERS: Roy Fontaine, Robert Holman, Mike Molesevich, Allen Schweinsberg, RD 3, Box 203, Lewisburg 17837 717-524-0432), Larry Younkin.

Venango County (61)

Location: Oil Creek State Park (OCSP)

It was a relatively uneventful summer as far as unusual species were concerned. Highlights included several Carolina Wrens in early July, a new colony of Cliff Swallows located near Utica (RS), a Double-crested Cormorant n. of Barkeyville 7/5, and 30 Common Merganser at OCSP 8/25 (NK).

A covey of N. Bobwhite was reported on two occasions in late July (KE). More than 100 Common Nighthawks and 300-400 Chimney Swifts were seen over Oil City 9/15 (RS).

In general, Willow Flycatcher, Cerulean Warbler, and Magnolia Warbler numbers were up, while Black-throated Green Warbler and Solitary Vireo sightings were down.

Several Philadelphia Vireos were seen at OCSP 9/13 (NK) and a late Yellow Warbler was observed at Kahle L. 9/13.

OBSERVERS: Gary Edwards, 450 Stevens Dr., Apt. 304, Pittsburgh 15237 (412-931-4379), Kevin Edwards, Nick Kerlin, Russ States, 24 E. 5th St., Oil City 16301 (814-676-6320).

Warren County (62)

Locations: Allegheny Res. (A.R.), Kinzua Dam (K.D.).

Two Common Loons were found on the A.R. 7/26 and 1 was there 8/12 (KC). At least 3 Great Blue Heron rookeries were occupied this year, including a newly discovered one. One was abandoned since last year, a possible new one reported, and two others were not checked.

A Turkey Vulture nest with 2 young was discovered near Sheffield in July (ER). Osprey reports include 1 at A.R. 8/1 (KC), 2 there 8/29 (JS), and 1 at Warren 8/29 (BHi). Singles were also seen on the A.R. 9/4-5 and 9/26 (KC,BW). Sightings of Bald Eagles include an ad. over the Allegheny R. in Warren 7/4 (RL) and on the same day an imm. was seen at the Seneca Pumped Storage Res. above Kinzua Dam (BDW). On 7/17 an imm. was on the A.R. (KC). Reports continued in August with an imm. over Warren 8/23 (BH) and an ad. at A.R. 8/29 (JS). Finally, an imm. was seen e. of Warren 9/6 (RL). One N. Harrier was seen on Jackson Run Rd., North Warren 8/5 (MB).

A Common Raven was reported 7/5 over North Warren, well away from their usual habitat (CP). Another was reported n.w. of Tidioute 9/27, which may be the most western record in northern PA (DO).

At least 3 Wilson's Warblers were at Grisez's home in Warren in mid-September.

Two Field Sparrow nests were found within 100 ft. of each other n. of Tidioute 7/15. Both had adults on the nests and newly hatched young (TG).

OBSERVERS: Mike Bleeche, Keith Confer, Ted Grisez, 8 Belmont Dr., Warren 16365 (814-723-9464), Bill Highhouse, Bill Hill (BHi), Rick Lyle, Dave Ostrander, Chase Putnam, Ed Rudolph, John Schultz, Brenda & Don Watts, Bob Winter.

Washington County (63)

There are now data for all 97 of the county's PBBAP blocks and I would like to see how many of the 10 "not so obvious" breeding birds from my last report still warrant inclusion on such a list. Recall, these are those species that I think are probably breeding in every block, but are somewhat more difficult to locate and observe.

Birds are listed taxonomically, with the percent of blocks in which the species was found indicated for each: Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 66, Red-bellied Woodpecker, 80, Acadian Flycatcher, 85, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 74, White-eyed Vireo, 64, Blue-winged Warbler, 64, Cerulean Warbler, 63, Kentucky Warbler, 65, Scarlet Tanager, 90, and Orchard Oriole, 58. These results tend to confirm my earlier speculations, although I might like to replace the Orchard Oriole with either the Willow Flycatcher and/or the E. Kingbird, both recorded in 72% of the blocks.

For this issue of PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS I thought it would also be interesting to see which species have been observed during the breeding season in 30-40% of the blocks. This will provide some

indication of the more uncommon birds that that can still be fairly regularly located: Great Blue Heron, Cooper's Hawk, Black-billed Cuckoo, Great Horned Owl, Tree Swallow, Black-capped Chickadee, Warbling Vireo, Am. Redstart, Louisiana Waterthrush, and Savannah Sparrow.

Finally, a list of those species that were seen in 1 to 4 blocks only and are in the probable or confirmed breeding categories: Pied-billed Grebe, Hooded Merganser, Virginia Rail, Common Barn-Owl, Bank Swallow, Golden-winged Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Summer Tanager, and Purple Finch. Sedge Wrens were observed in 2 different blocks the last day of the safe period, 9/20, and could only be categorized as possible; however the observers, VL and DR, feel that the reclaimed strip mine habitat seemed very good and next Spring these areas will be investigated thoroughly.

OBSERVERS: Roy Ickes, Dept. of Biology, Washington & Jefferson College, Washington 15301 (412-223-6118), Vin Lawrence, Dave Roell.

Wayne County (64)

Please refer to the article on birding in Wayne County. The Strassers were traveling for much of the quarter throughout the Western states, visiting/birding in such areas as Zion National Park.

Westmoreland County (65)

Locations: Donegal Lake (D.L.), Laurel Summit Glade (LSG), Powdermill Nature Reserve (PNR).

All observations by compilers unless otherwise noted.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS. An early migrant Pied-billed Grebe was seen at D.L. 9/1 (RSM,CWY). A maximum of 16 was recorded there 9/23 (MEW). An exceptionally early Am. Bittern, seen on a small pond at PNR from 8/14-18, qualified for inclusion on the PBBA (as an "O" record) with just one day to spare!

DUCKS THROUGH SANDPIPERS. Waterfowl seen during the period included only Blue-winged Teal and Wood Ducks, recorded throughout the period after 8/21 and 8/25 respectively. An adult N. Goshawk was seen at PNR 9/25. The first sign of a Broad-winged Hawk migration was a "kettle" of 6 birds over PNR 8/20. A somewhat early Solitary Sandpiper was seen at PNR 7/17. One Upland Sandpiper, a species that is noteworthy anytime and anywhere in this region, was observed 2 mi s.e. of Stahlstown 8/13 (JW). Encouraging numbers of this species have been recorded in our area and adjacent areas this year.

CUCKOOS THROUGH WOODPECKERS. Both species of cuckoos were seen, heard and banded in above average numbers at PNR during the period, notwithstanding the fact that neither Fall Webworms nor Gypsy Moths were at pest levels. First migrant Common Nighthawks were seen at LSG 8/18. The Ruby-throated Hummingbird migration was very heavy throughout the period. We banded 176 at PNR, our third highest Fall total in 26 years. We observed the first Red-headed Woodpecker at PNR in several years on 9/9. Numbers of this species in the general region have apparently declined greatly in the past ten years or so.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH THRUSHES: A rare but regular migrant through the region, the Olive-sided Flycatcher was seen at PNR 9/2 and 9/5. Based on banding totals, other flycatcher species (e.g., E. Wood-Pewee, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Acadian Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, and E. Phoebe) were present at PNR in average numbers during the period. After a very poor presence last Fall and this Spring, Swainson's Thrushes apparently recovered somewhat during the breeding season; our total of 210 banded is almost three times as many as for the same period last year.

VIREOS THROUGH WARBLERS: White-eyed, Solitary and Yellow-throated Vireos were caught in about average numbers at PNR. Philadelphia Vireos, with just 23 banded, were down somewhat, but Red-eyed Vireos staged one of their best flights ever (244 banded). Blue-winged Warblers were caught in record numbers, but Golden-winged Warblers were likewise caught in very high numbers. "Brewster's" Warblers were banded on 7/11 and 8/16. The following warblers also staged good to very good flights through the period: Tennessee (237 banded); Nashville (61), Chestnut-sided (86, a record high), Magnolia (258), Black-throated Blue (25), Black-throated Green (89), Blackburnian (22), Bay-breasted (66), Black-and-white (25), Am. Redstart (206), Hooded (141, a record high), Wilson's (45), and Yellow-breasted Chat (9). Warbler species with poor flights based on PNR banding totals included: Cape May (47 banded, compared to 365 last fall), Blackpoll (24), Ovenbird (56), N. Waterthrush (35), Connecticut (15), Mourning (10), Canada (36). Additional warbler records of interest include an Orange-crowned Warbler at PNR 9/27, an imm. Yellow-rumped Warbler (still largely in juvenal plumage) at LSG 8/19 (although breeding of this species has not been recorded in our region, habitat at LSG is appropriate, and the date of this sighting is about a month earlier than the usual first sightings of migrants of this species). Five Pine Warblers (2 ad. and 3 imm.) also at LSG 8/19 (this species has been found breeding at this locality only in the past five years or so). Three Worm-eating Warblers were banded at PNR between 8/23 and 9/20 (it is unusual to record even one of this species in our region).

TANAGERS THROUGH BLACKBIRDS. Unusually high numbers of Scarlet Tanagers migrated through PNR during the period. Our banding total of 118 is a new record, and twice the number caught during most Fall migrations. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were also caught in very high numbers (116 banded), as were Indigo Buntings (91 banded). A Rusty Blackbird was noted at PNR on the early date 9/25.

OBSERVERS: *Robert C. Leberman and Robert S. Mulvihill, Powdermill Nature Reserve, Star Route South, Rector 15677 (412-593-7521), Mike and Evaleen Watko, John Whiting, Chung-wei Yen.*

Wyoming County (66)

Please refer to the Bradford County (08) report.

York County (67)

Locations: Brunners Is. (B.I.), Coderus Furnace (C.F.), Coderus S.P. (CSP), Rocky Ridge Park (RRP), Susquehanna R. (S.R.)

From July up to the Labor Day weekend the weather was hot and dry. The holiday had plenty of rain with small stream flooding. The rest of the month was generally normal with partly cloudy skies and winds from the north or west. Observations are by the compiler unless otherwise noted.

The most uncommon bird was an imm. White Ibis. It was first seen by Karen Lippy in close association with an imm. Little Blue Heron while she was cleaning Bluebird boxes at CSP 8/4. By 8/6 the herons had shifted location about 5 mi SW to Sheppard Myers Dam. They were seen by a large number of people until 8/10; they even roosted together (DD, RG, JoP, JeP).

Other unusual sightings were 1 Pied-billed Grebe 7/2 at CSP, 2 ad. Double-crested Cormorant 8/2 off lower B.I. (AS), and 8 Cattle Egret 9/20 at B.I., about 10 mi n. of normal range (MS).

An imm. N. Goshawk 9/22 at RRP is the only Sept. county record. Six Wild Turkey were observed by a local farmer in the Pigeon Hills area in Sept. An imm. Virginia Rail was seen feeding 7/4 at B.I. and a Sora was heard calling 7/7 about 1 mi S of the usual breeding area (AS et al.). One migrating Upland Sandpiper was found 9/30 at B.I. A Sanderling was seen 9/18-19 at B.I. (m.ob.)

A max. of 7 Forster's Terns were observed at York Haven on four well-spaced dates from 8/19-9/30; there are no other recent reports of this species (AS, DH et al.).

An E. Wood-Pewee was monitored from nest building, 6/1, through fledging, 7/18, at C.F. Atlasers also monitored nest activity of Willow Flycatchers and E. Kingbirds. Cliff Swallows have been nesting at Holtwood Dam for the past several years (LCBC).

A Solitary Vireo, an uncommon fall migrant, was a few days early 9/22 at RRP. A female Golden-winged Warbler, a rare migrant, was seen 9/12 at York Haven. Cape May Warblers were found along the S.R. from 9/14 through the end of the period. Four sightings of a Connecticut Warbler were made 9/12, 9/16, 9/26 and 10/9, all near the S.R.; this is a rare find Spring or Fall (JeP, JoP, AS). A Wilson's Warbler 9/22 was at RRP. Sightings of this warbler seem to be declining. A Lincoln's Sparrow 9/24 at RRP was an early record.

HIGHS AND LOWS. A max. of 5 Little Blue Herons were on the S.R. 7/1-9/9 (m.ob.). A max. of 9 Yellow-crowned Night-Herons at B.I. were first observed 7/3 (DH) and 4 ad. and 5 imm. were seen from 8/14-19. They departed early when high water on Labor Day weekend flooded their feeding area.

Jerry Dyer is coordinator for our hawk watch at RRP. Counts were normal except for 16 N. Harrier passing by 9/18 within a 20-min. period. 685 Broad-winged Hawks 9/22 was a new high and on two other days the count exceeded 100 (JD, MS, DH, JB, AS).

A max. of 7 Common Moorhen were seen from 7/6 to 9/26 at Spring Grove. On 8/31 1 ad. was seen with 4 imm. and 2 significantly smaller immatures. The Sept. Blue Jay migration was above normal. The CSP E. Bluebird trail set a new high with 150 young fledged (Rohrbaugh).

The Fall warbler migration was better than Spring with numerous small waves reported. A family of 6 Blue Grosbeaks was seen 8/8 at B.I.

TRENDS. Fewer reports of Red-headed Woodpeckers were received this year compared to recent years.

EARLY/LATE. 6 Herring Gulls 8/18 on S.R. and a Great Black-backed Gull there 8/24 seemed early. A Brown Thrasher 9/29 at Pleasureville (CS) seemed late. 2 Louisiana Waterthrush were noted at Gut Rd. 8/8. A pair of Am. Goldfinch with 3 recently fledged young were found 9/21 at East York (JD).

EXOTIC. A Spotted Munia (Ricebird) spent the summer at a Red Lion feeder and was verified by photos (PT,JS).

OBSERVERS: James Beath, Dorothy Dressler, Jerry Dyer, Rita Gross, Dick Humbert, Lancaster Co. Bird Club (LCBC), Jean and John Prescott, Mike Sankovitch, Jean Schwarter, Cas Shue, *Al Spiese, 4086 Old Orchard Rd., York 17402 (717-755-8309)*, Pat Taylor.

