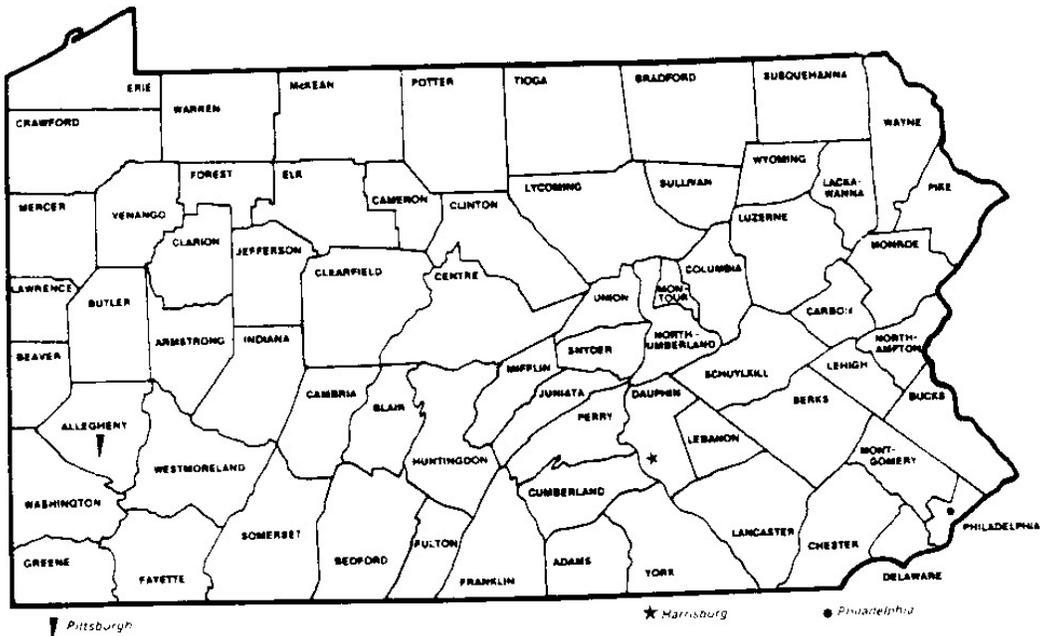


PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS



Volume 2, No.2

Apr-Jun 1988



PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 2, APR - JUN 1988

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from the Editors...

As we go to press with the sixth issue of PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS, it is satisfying to receive all the letters of appreciation regarding the improvement in the journal. We continue to learn more about the capabilities of our hardware and software and quickly try to implement our learning for your enjoyment.

We consider ourselves very lucky to have Jim Lockyer continue to volunteer to do our covers. This issue another professional, Mike McNelly, has also contributed several drawings and we thank him for his excellent work. Their talents make the magazine much more attractive. Karen Hoffman Atwood continues to volunteer her editing skills on articles and Sandy Sherman has taken countless number of telephone calls to answer questions of grammar, etc. And Chris Dooley has donated reams of paper for our laser printer. We cannot thank you enough.

Several of you have requested that we eliminate the initials after every sighting, unless there is something unusual about it. Each who wrote indicated that he/she felt that just listing of observers at the end of the county report was more than adequate. Several mentioned that quite a few reports are already written in that style and they feel they are easier to read. We concur, but also do not want to alienate anyone. Perhaps a good compromise would be for the compiler to include same if they wish and we could edit when entering into the computer. What are your feelings? Please drop us a line at your early convenience.

Please note the change of using *italics* for county names. This is consistent throughout the journal and should make for ease of reading as well.

Additionally, since the journal is growing in size, to save space we are keeping track of all early/late dates on a separate data base by county. Several compilers send us a separate list of same in addition to their report for just that purpose. After some years of compilation, this will provide significant data for each county.

As Edgar Spalding wrote, "Arrival dates from various locations allow the reconstruction of a species' northward migration, and observers should note them whenever possible." Ergo, the county compiler can send all first dates to the editors of PENNSYLVANIA

BIRDS for the inclusion in the master data base, but not all records are necessarily reported in each county report.

Organization of the Records Committee is continuing. We will continue to keep you posted as information is available.

The next issue will have a lot more data regarding the final Atlas year. Mike Slater wrote, "This was the last breeding season for the Breeding Bird Atlas Project. The volunteer workers gave many hours and days and provided us with a better understanding of our local breeding birds. When the Atlas is available to us it will reveal many surprises to us as birders, as well as confirming some of our fears about the loss of natural habitats of Pennsylvania. This massive effort will pay out dividends for many years as a baseline from which we can measure future changes in breeding bird ranges. Thanks to all the people who have helped so far and all those who still have work to do in the compilation and publication area. I know we all look forward to the publication so many of you have made possible."

Can you imagine reading in your Atlas newsletter that the best time to find Sedge Wren is in August and, on your first day, at your first stop, you find a pair!!! Next issue will have the details of this *Cumberland* find. There also will be an article on the Dickcissel explosion; they also turned up in record numbers in Maryland. A lot of marvelous breeding information is still to be written for 1988.

Costs for PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS are deferred only by subscribers, not the government, so although deficit spending is an anathema to us, it is a reality. At this point we are requesting that each of you get just ONE other person to subscribe. That would go a long way towards getting the journal to a break-even basis. Or, now that the holiday season is approaching, how about considering a gift subscription to PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS. It is a gift to be enjoyed the year-round. Already one club, the Bartramian Audubon Society, gave as its top three birdathon prizes subscriptions to the journal. What better way to recognize the individual efforts all of you have contributed than by seeing your name in print. Do you have more ideas? Please let us know.

Recognize that the information contained is unique. Where else can you find out where certain species of birds are found regularly? Where else can you get a listing of birders in almost any county in the state to help you find a particular species you may want to see? Where else can you find specific site guides for other parts of the state?

And speaking of same. How about writing an article on your favorite birding location. You must know someone who has contributed to your birding experiences. A personality profile would be a dandy way to express your appreciation and let others know as well. Was there a birding experience that is memorable to you and worthy of publication. This is the perfect forum for such information. Always remember, this is your magazine and without your contributions we are all a bit impoverished.

And remember, get just ONE friend to subscribe. A subscription blank is enclosed for your convenience.

Barb & Frank Haas
Co-editors

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

ATLASING

To the Editors:

On behalf of the Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas Project I want to thank you for the frequent and enthusiastic references to the Atlas in your magazine. Skip Conant's article, "The Joys of Atlasing," in the last issue does indeed capture many of the high points of atlasing. Skip is only one of many of your readers who have made the atlas possible. They all deserve many thanks.

Thanks also to Paul Schwalbe for his kind words regarding the Atlas' Regional Coordinator meetings. The Atlas has been a success because the state's birders have rallied together and cooperated in marvelous ways. A state-wide organization will be a wonderful by-product of the cooperation expressed in the Atlas and fostered by PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS.

Atlasing has become a "household" word in this journal because so many of you have traveled the miles, filled out the forms, and covered block after block to complete this landmark effort. The published Atlas will be a monument to your hard labors. Thank you all.

Daniel Brauning
Philadelphia, PA

MORE PRAISE

To the Editors:

Perhaps you remember me as your Allegheny County compiler for a grand total of just two issues. I certainly have not forgotten you, as your kind note about me in Vol. 1, No. 2 indicated.

I surely do miss the long, but loving, labors as a contributor to the vital work you two have initiated -- and now built on so handsomely in the constantly improving PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS. Even from here at a distance in Niagara Falls, it is a gratifying pleasure to receive and a satisfying education to read each issue.

I'm overjoyed to hear that you and the magazine appear to be catalysts for

a badly needed state records committee. How Pennsylvania went so long without one is explainable only by the fact that no one was able to devote the energy and determination toward organizing one.

Your efforts, of course, coincide nicely with the Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas Project -- another undertaking that interested me so much. I've just read the new Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State and can only say that I hope and trust the folks in PA will rise to New York's exceedingly high standard. I'm sure they will!

Meanwhile, keep building! I do hope the inevitable financial and time hurdles you must face will ease. You have established PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS to a point where some Foundation aid, not to mention statewide Audubon chapter support, ought to be appropriate.

Paul Hess
Niagara Falls, NY

ON HAROLD MORRIN

To the Editors:

Volume 2, Number 1, was my introduction to PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS and I was pleasantly surprised to find the Personality Profile of Harold Morrin. Reading this, I learned that Harold started birding just over the "ridge" from my home town, where as a youth, I was learning the birds around Mifflinburg. Then my only birding associates were fellow members of the Bucknell Ornithological Club, and my travels rarely went beyond the borders of Union County.

I am now a bird artist and among my projects is illustrating birds of Peru for Ted Parker's developing book. Field work for this project requires repeated visits to the various life-zones and numerous habitats in Peru. It was on my first visit to the Amazonian rainforest in the summer of 1982 that I met Harold, who was on tour with Ted Parker at Explorer's Inn on the Rio Tambopata.

Harold was struggling as I was, just to see the hundreds of species of birds Ted so masterfully identified and conscientiously tried to point out to us.

Any birder visiting the tropical rainforest for the first time finds the experience at once frustrating and enthralling, where birds move through the forest in mixed flocks of many species including tanagers, flycatchers, foliage-gleaners, antbirds, honey-creepers, woodcreepers and of many other groups, and where birds can rarely be seen to satisfaction and never like field guide illustrations (there is as yet no field guide to the birds of Peru). One learns to settle for fleeting glimpses of birds' undersides in the upper canopy, of birds half immersed in bromeliads, of birds darting from one cluster of leaves only to be obscured by others, of unfamiliar shapes in the understory and cryptic forms in dim light on the forest floor.

We were sharing a place noted for having more species of birds than probably any other place on earth, and I will never forget the utter bewilderment expressed by those of us there for the first time. Harold's quiet patience impressed me during those challenging weeks and I think he would agree that clearly, that was the most difficult birding any of us neophytes in the neotropics could have experienced.

Larry McQueen
Eugene, Oregon

SUGGESTION

To the Editors:

... Andy and I enjoy reading the journal. You are doing an excellent job.

I have just one suggestion. When several counties are covered by the same compiler, each should be the subject of a separate report. Lumped reports are inconvenient, and do not permit full appreciation of the sightings and observers in a particular county.

This summer I am again covering several blocks in Carbon Co. for the

PBBA. It's reassuring to find that there are still some warblers around.

Walter Thurber
Media, PA

(Please note changes in this issue. Eds.)

TWO BIRD STORIES

To the Editors:

I thought you would perhaps be interested in letting your subscribers know of two bird stories that have been etched in my memory. One is a bittersweet memory and the other is a mystery.

These go way, way back to 1927. As a very young boy, Dad had said, "We're going on a fishing trip. 1927 was a great year to be a young lad. Lindberg would fly the Atlantic and I would build my first crystal radio set out of a Mother's Oats carton, some wire, a pair of earphones, and a cat's whisker. And I'll tell you, when that voice in those earphones said, "This is station KDKA in Pittsburgh," well, there was nothing to match it.

But about the fishing trip. Everything was loaded into the old Model T, including those World War I army cots that slept like rocks, our fishing poles, myself, Dad, my brother, and two young friends, and we were off. We went from Media (*Delaware*) to up above Honey Brook (*Chester*). Today I could never find the place. We stayed in a cabin up there that Dad had somehow acquired and one of the things we noticed over the door was a stuffed bird. This bird was probably about 16" high (I guess Franklin would call it a heron), a nondescript brown color, and therein lies the mystery of this tale...more later.

As for the bittersweet, this story has oftentimes come to mind as I prepared in later years for a difficult scene on stage or before the cameras. I would sit quietly at my dressing table and bring the scene back to mind.

One afternoon we were sitting around the cabin there and there was a movement outside the window. Dad said, "That's a hummingbird." And for some reason he picked up a slingshot that one

of us boys had and he laughed and he said, "I couldn't get anywhere near that." Well, he pulled that old red rubber inner tube band with a piece of shoe tongue and a pebble in it and let it go. And, hard to believe, that little thing fell to the ground.

He dropped the slingshot and rushed outside saying, "Oh, no," and lifted it up. The little wings were still fluttering and then they stopped and it lay still in his hand. He brought it in and quietly set it on the table and I watched him, being nothing but a kid who didn't know much about such things. Then he slowly folded his arms, lowered his head on them and his shoulders started to shake. And as I watched, his hand crept out and his gnarled finger gently touched that little lifeless thing on the table and he lifted his head. I could see tears running down his cheeks. And he quietly kept saying over and over, "Please, God, please. I didn't mean it. I didn't mean it."

Well, you know that meant a great deal to me, because as a little kid I did not know that grown-up people cried. He picked it up and went slowly outside, found a cool spot on the bank, and scooped out a hole in the earth. He chose some big leaves and laid them down and lined the hole and placed that little body in there, added more leaves over it, then patted the earth gently back in place, came back to the cabin, got his fishing pole, and, without saying a word, walked out to the stream.

But after our dinner he didn't say a lot either. That night he put the kerosene lamp out and we got into our cots and the cabin was still, except for those noises that anybody who has ever spent the night out in the country will always remember. I looked over towards the door and above the door there was a soft, greenish white fluorescence. It was about the size of the bottom of a dog food can, maybe 2-1/2" in diameter, not exactly round, but almost. I whispered, "Dad." He said, "What?" "Dad, look over the door." And he looked and said, "Oh, yeah." I questioned, "What is it?" Then the other boys said, "What is it?" And he said, "Well, I'll tell you." That bird up there is a 'Shite pote' and they feed at night in shallow water on the edge of streams and small ponds. And that little glow you see attracts marine life so that they can feed."

That's the story as he told it to me 60 years ago. I haven't told it to too many people and those I have told it to

sort of laughed and said somebody smeared something on the bird. But did they or didn't they.

Are there any of you out there who ever heard this story? And if there are, could you help me solve that mystery. I would appreciate it. Won't you please send your answers in to PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS. Thank an awful lot.

John N. Wood
Media, PA

(According to Choate, Dictionary of American Bird Names, 1973, he gives the following for Shite Pote. "An attempt to render more delicate by a change in spelling a name for the bird derived from its habit of ejecting effluent when making a startled departure. In America applied indiscriminately to the Black-crowned Night-Heron, the Green Heron(sic) and the Bittern." eds.)



KITES! KITES! KITES!

The Perils of Birding Alone

by Raymond R. Hendrick

The morning of 23 April 1988, at approximately 11:15 a.m., found me on the Lumberville Bridge (Bucks) looking north at the Delaware River. The sky was mostly overcast with not much "good light." My observations at that time were 50% watching Cliff Swallows nest building on the bridge on which I was standing. The other 50% was spent watching shad fishermen trying their luck on the river.

I was getting ready to leave when I noticed a raptor coming from the Pennsylvania side of the river, flying below the horizon into the middle of the river, heading toward the New Jersey shoreline. With the absence of good light and the distance the bird was from me, I had not much more than a silhouette to look at. The first bird that jumped from my lips was "Marsh Hawk". (Sorry "N. Harrier.") It flew in a slow, deliberate flight straight ahead. If I had left the bridge at that moment I would not now be writing this report, but since I did not see any color or white rump, I followed the bird with my binoculars, waiting for it to turn to confirm my original call.

Then the fun began. This bird, almost in the middle of the river, proceeded to twist and turn and roll like a WWII fighter plane. It made several sharp left turns, then turned, climbing above the horizon and making sharp right turns, almost like the antics of the swallows that were in the air at the same time.

I said, out loud, "This is no Marsh Hawk" (sorry, I did it again). I stayed glued on the bird, but it started due north, straight up the middle of the river going away from me. There was no white rump on this bird - all the other species flashed through my mind. One

by one I ruled them out. Then I remembered a day on the Santee River in South Carolina, when I watched half a dozen Mississippi Kites performing this way. But no, my brain said, not a Mississippi Kite on 23 April in Central Bucks County. The bird moved further and further away until I lost in the gray mist of the river.

I wished I had a "birding companion" for at least that 10-15 minute time frame, to confirm my observation. But generally speaking, I enjoy birding alone. The ride from the bridge to my next stop was total frustration, only to learn several days later that a Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) was positively identified below Easton, only a few miles from where I had last seen my bird.



What IS that bird?

by Arlene Koch

It was the morning of 23 April 1988. The Lehigh Valley Audubon Society had taken its first ever hawk-watching trip to Morgan's Hill, a site south of Easton which has been manned for the past 6 years primarily by Dave De Reamus. It's an easy spot to get to once you find your way through the I-78 construction to the dead end road. Once you park your car along the dirt road, all you have to do is walk up a rather steep hill overgrown with 4 or 5 years' worth of agricultural neglect.

While you are picking your way

through the briars and weeds you are usually accompanied by Mr. Brose's three dogs - two shepherds and a Labrador - who walk in front, behind, alongside, and on top of you, all the while carrying sticks in their mouths and sometimes smelling of skunk. Assuming that you make it to the top, you pick a spot among the violets and weeds, set up your lawn chair (which of course everyone remembers to bring), and settle in.

The view is great in all directions and the approaching birds can be seen from far off. The only drawback to this place is that you are sitting right out in the open in the middle of what used to be a corn field and there is no protection whatsoever. And I guess I should mention that you may spend the greater part of the day trying to get the dogs' heads out of your lap if the chair you brought isn't high enough to discourage this.

Well, anyway, there we were, 15 or so of us. It was exceptionally cold for 23 April - around 50° - and the southeast winds had increased to around 15 mph. There were some birds moving through the cloudy sky, but not many. Occasionally, when the sun would pop through, a flurry of broadwings would lift off from the trees or appear over the horizon, but by around 10 o'clock the morning began to drag.

Most of the people there were not seasoned hawk watchers, used to putting up with the alienation that day-long hawk vigils can sometimes bring. Bernie Morris, Fritz Brock, Dave, and I were used to it, but most of the others were not. By this time, most were standing up or walking around, trying to keep warm. A few had already left when a bird was sighted about 200 yards in front of the lookout. There were two or three other birds around at the same time, but this one was *definitely* different. Anyone who has spent any amount of time on a hawk lookout could tell right away that there

was something about this bird which had all of us puzzled; instead of anyone calling out what it was, the four of us just became silent.

After what seemed like a long time, but was in actuality only about a minute, we all began to talk at the same time. "I've got what seems to be a large accipiter, I think," I said. "I'm on a harrier, I think," Bernie said. "I think I've got a goshawk," Dave said. "That doesn't fly like any gos I've ever seen," Fritz said. We were in trouble. We were supposed to be the experts and we had all called the bird something different. Silence reigned once again.

The bird had rusty wing linings resembling an adult Red-shouldered Hawk and what appeared to be a plain, unstreaked breast. The tail was long and narrow (harrier- or accipiter-like) and showed no conspicuous markings, appearing mostly dark. The flight was very buoyant and swallow-like, at times reminding us of a nighthawk. At first it flew toward the lookout, but then reversed its direction and headed away from us. A straight-on view showed a "flat wings" profile with no dihedral. However, when it was flapping the wing tips appeared almost to touch above and below the body, sort of like a man doing jumping jacks. The most unusual behavioral characteristic was the repeated stalling in mid-air, followed by a quick drop down out of the stall, then up again, apparently done to catch or follow insects in the air. Periodically it would circle around with some Broad-winged Hawks and, from all appearances, was about the same size.

Five minutes had now passed and we were still watching this bird. It finally disappeared over the far horizon. Just as it was making its descent for the last time, Bernie finally said what all of us were thinking. We were watching a Mississippi Kite! No other species was remotely possible under the circumstances.

This was the bird that Dave had been waiting for years to see on this lookout. We had often talked about it on those occasions when I was able to join him up there. All his long, lonely hours of checking out each and every speck

bird that appeared in the distance had finally paid off. The ironic thing was that it had happened when three other qualified hawk watchers were there to verify his observation.

Excitement took over. "I can't wait to get back and call Frank and Barbara Haas," Bernie said. Fritz was beaming from ear to ear, but his wife Ann didn't seem nearly as excited as she stood there shivering. Dave was nothing less than ecstatic. I was just relieved that I hadn't seen this bird while alone. I'm still trying to substantiate last summer's Lincoln's Sparrow.

Needless to say we could talk about nothing else for quite a while. But, eventually, we returned to normal and discovered that in all our excitement we had missed the exodus from the mountain. We had all been so unsure of the bird's identity for so long that we had not been able to identify it for most of the others who had been here, but had left during the vigil. They had all been so uncomfortable that the significance of this bird probably would have passed them by anyhow. This was one of those birds that had to be earned!

Shortly thereafter, the rain began to fall. It didn't matter. There were only four of us left as the cold wind had now turned wet. Some hardy broadies were still flying but we almost didn't notice. Everything now seemed anticlimactic. We had finally seen our kite.



MISSISSIPPI KITE ERIE COUNTY by Jerry McWilliams

On 15 May 1988 at 11:30 a.m., while watching Sam Stull and Bill Bush build Black Tern nesting platforms on the south side of Niagara Pond on Presque Isle State Park, I noticed Sam reach for his binoculars and look in a northwesterly direction. Accompanying me were Ed Kwater and my wife, Linda, who by now also had the bird in view.

It approached us in a glide, followed by occasional shallow wingbeats. The raptor held its wings in a horizontal position or slightly below the horizontal, resembling a long-winged falcon. When the bird was within 100 yards of us, it turned and flew directly over the pond, giving us excellent opportunities to observe it, though only briefly.

The most outstanding characteristic of this bird, separating it from other raptors, was the long gull-like wings bent at the wrist and narrow at the base with tapering pointed tips. The tail looked all black except at close range, when three distinct but narrow white bands could be clearly seen. The widest portion of black appeared to be at the end of the tail. The lighting made color difficult to detect, but the underside of the flight feathers was unmarked, with some barring seen on the coverts. The underside of the body was heavily streaked.

After the bird passed us, it circled over the pond with the tail partially fanned and made rapid descending and ascending maneuvers to catch insects. Its flight was always buoyant and it only flapped its wings occasionally. In less than ten minutes after the bird was spotted, it circled high and beyond our visibility.

The winds at the time of the sighting were approximately 10 mph from the south. The sky was partially blanketed with altocumulus clouds with intermittent sun and the temperature was about 75°F.

BIG DAYS

12:15 PM, "IT MUST BE A CATTLE EGRET!"

By Jim Lockyer

Forty-five minutes behind schedule, speeding towards the Susquehanna River with the temperature and humidity rising, trying to dry out from the previous two-hour rainy weather, we spot Cattle Egrets and, never slowing down, the birds are assigned number 113. I am just barely over halfway through my first "BIG DAY".

Being a diurnal beast by nature, dawn and dusk are the switches for my biological clock. The thought of staying reasonably alert for a period of 24 uninterrupted hours frightens me. So it was with great apprehension and anticipation that I arrived at Ridley Creek State Park one night to join three outstanding Birders for their annual "BIG DAY" assault on Pennsylvania. Having been forewarned, I brought copious amounts of food and beverage to supply me for the duration of the campaign. Fortunately I also brought a variety of clothing despite the weather prediction of; partly cloudy, lows in the 50's, highs in the upper 70's. It was only later that I became aware of the true translation of the aforementioned forecast - fog, cold damp morning, thunderstorms, steady rain, changing to hot and humid conditions. After making acquaintances and exchanging pleasantries, I loaded my belongings into the neatly organized storage area of our assault vehicle. The "BIG DAY" leader then informed me of the rules of our mission (there were only two); "Rule 1: I'm the Boss!, Rule 2: Obey the Boss!".

12:01 AM, a strange sounding Ovenbird becomes our first bird. Perhaps his improvisational song was a harbinger of things to come. We added a Screech-Owl, then the command, "O.K., Let's go!" and we headed for the

Philadelphia Airport in search of rails and owls. We were rewarded with a Virginia Rail and watched the beautiful flight of a Barn Owl. We then made a beeline for the Hawk Mountain area. The adrenalin flowing, there was little time for sleep, the trip passed quickly as we discussed birding and the day ahead. Arriving at our next destination we called in a Barred Owl, then went higher on the mountain to call in a Great Horned Owl. After unsuccessfully trying to convince our leader that the Spring Peepers were a flock of Saw-whet Owls, we headed for the area chosen for the "morning chorus" and our leader declared it was time for some rest.

Robins, Blue Jays, and Wood Thrushes heralded the "morning chorus", a total of four minutes had passed since the leader had declared rest time, the big "DAY" had begun. The tempo picked up and birds were being identified at an astounding rate, then confirmed by the rest of the team, and the list grew rapidly. Then a glitch, one member of the team heard a Ruffed Grouse drumming, the other members listened intently and they too confirmed the sound. "I can't hear it", I said. The other team members described the sound I was supposed to be hearing and patiently waited while I listened. Trying to hear a distant drumming Ruffed Grouse through the screaming of a Catbird, Robin, Cardinal, Thrushes and other winged creatures during the crescendo of a "morning chorus" was quite difficult for a Birder not properly schooled for this Evelyn Wood Birding event. Fortunately, I finally heard the damn thing after, what seemed to me, an extraordinarily long time. The leader checked his clipboard and watch, then declared we were running two minutes late, "O.K., Let's go!", he said, and we were immediately on our way to the next target area.

As the sun rose, it dawned on me

that I was involved in a high-intensity, sophisticated, well-planned and organized attempt to be in the same place at the same time that the target bird is scheduled to be there, unbeknownst to the bird that he is supposed to be there or that he is aware of our schedule. And, if all this falls into place with total cooperation from the birds, weather, traffic, and team members, the "BIG DAY" will be a total success, maybe even a record.

I did better on the warblers, as there were many and they sang often. There were even some actual visual sightings, but I also found that in sighting one of these tiny jewels, one tended to spend too much time enjoying its beauty and antics, and today, time was not to enjoy, it was our enemy. "O.K., Let's go!", and we were off again. Our next target area was some distance away so it was the perfect time to renourish my hungry body.

My chosen menu, I thought, was quite varied and sufficient to spread over a day-long adventure. It was one that had successfully served me in the past. That was my mistake. This was not an ordinary day-long adventure, this was a TWO day-long adventure. My usually reliable combination of: Granola bars, apples, fig newtons, carrot and celery sticks, raisin biscuits, cheese, apple juice and water failed over the long run. Early going was fine, but with time the tastes blended into one very familiar raisin/cheese/card-board flavor. I tried altering the intake sequence (apple before raisin biscuit, before carrot and celery sticks, before fig newtons, before cheese and then every possible combination in between), but that didn't work. Fortunately the veteran team members had planned better menus (obviously from years of experience) and graciously they offered this withering neophyte; brownies and chocolate-covered raisins. Energy food, that's it, that's what I forgot, ENERGY

FOOD! Next time I'll package my raisins the same as theirs.

Our next objective was to find a possible nesting Red-shouldered Hawk. I found that I was still not fully conditioned or trained for the event in which I was participating. When one of our team members shouted, "DUCK!", I did, only to find out that he was referring to an airborne waterfowl. But alas, it was still early and there was still much more time for conditioning.

Droplets on the windshield signaled the onset of the unpredicted rain. Approaching Struble Lake, a clap of thunder was heard and we joked about the fishermen in metal boats and their relative conductivity. More thunder, the boats came in shore, we scanned the lake, a Bonaparte's Gull was tallied. Then our leader said, "Let's check the cove", more thunder. At least he assumed his leadership role by carrying the scope with metal tripod to the cove, a group of Least Sandpiper's and more thunder were recorded. Returning to the vehicle we continued to our next area. Still raining, I chose not to use the bothersome rain gear and stood in the pouring rain to confirm a Bank Swallow sighting. Wet and discouraged by the continuous rain we pressed on to our next objective, then the rain fortunately began to subside. The Yellow-crowned Night-Heron nest delivered as predicted, and I was able to sneak an extra look at the adult herons changing guard when our leader turned away to command, "O.K., Let's go!"

Along the Susquehanna River and the Muddy Run area we were able to maintain our momentum by consistently picking up new birds on a regular basis. Our leader then announced the Good News/Bad News. The good news was that we were right on schedule for number of birds, the bad news was we were using up birds scheduled for later on the trip, and we were now an hour and forty-five minutes behind schedule. We pressed on.

With a considerable ride before our next objective and my feet soaking wet, I thought it would be an ideal time to change my socks. I had strategically placed my dry gear in an easily acces-

sible area of the well organized storage section of our assault vehicle. Fourteen hours into the "BIG DAY" there was no such thing as a well organized section, the socks were nowhere to be found. I decided that I could probably survive another ten hours with wet feet and consumed some more raisin/cheese/cardboard.

Our next target bird was the elusive Carolina Chickadee which had avoided us all day long, and it was now nearly 4:00 PM. Ridley Creek State Park served up both the Carolina Chickadee and another opportunity to relieve fluid build up in the team members. These opportunities had been scarce during the day and carefully timed and regulated by our leader. We were particularly vulnerable at this point since we were back in familiar and comfortable territory and it would have been easy to let our guard down, but that all too familiar, "O.K., Let's go!" rang out and we were off again.

Arriving at the base of the Commodore Berry Bridge in the city of Chester we jumped out of our vehicle with scopes and binoculars in hand, oblivious to our immediate surroundings, in search of a Peregrine Falcon. Our leader spotted the beautiful specimen preening its breast feathers high on one of the bridge's supports. The other team members scanned the river for more birds while I made note of our immediate environs. At 5:30 in the afternoon the parking lot fauna were in various states of stupor from consumption of a variety of substances, and most were oblivious to our existence. The few curious souls intrigued by our presence just scratched their heads and mumbled to each other. Besides the Peregrine Falcon, we also tallied a Great Black-backed Gull and a Double-crested Cormorant at this location. On our way to our next objective our leader suggested that this might be a nice place to pick up a Nighthawk later if we needed it. Eighteen hours into "BIG DAY" the team members exercised their democratic prerogative for the first time and overruled our leader suggesting that there were far better places to locate a Nighthawk if need be.

Towards the Airport and Tinicum area we picked up a few shorebirds at an unlikely construction site. Arriving at our next target area we couldn't gain access to our objectives, the gates had been locked for the day, it appeared our enemy time was gaining the upper hand. We headed for Tinicum as dusk approached. A pair of Blue-winged Teal flew by but that was it, the tides were right so we headed for the mudflats. Nothing, we were too late, time had won out. Our count stood at 146, five short of the veteran teams personal record and fifteen short of the new state record.

With five hours still to go, the leader and veterans huddled to explore their remaining options, it was then decided that it would be difficult to beat their personal best and since this was a trial year for a new route, it was decided that 146 was a very respectable number. As if the weight of the world had been lifted from us all, the conversation became relaxed, strategies were discussed, lost time areas analyzed, changes in the route to improve overall performance for next year were considered. As these analytical discussions continued, I, perhaps from the day's conditioning, kept a watch for more birds. The circuitous route back to our starting spot brought us back by Crum Creek Reservoir. There high in a dead snag I spotted a large bird, "Great Blue Heron", I yelled, the vehicle stopped abruptly, team members jumped out to confirm my sighting. Number 147 had just been tallied and the veteran team members again got serious. "Let's see, a Whip-poor-will at Nottingham, possible Nighthawk at Vets Stadium....." No matter how it was figured the numbers just weren't there so we headed back to our staging area for a well deserved rest.

9:00 PM, my family was happy but surprised to see me home early. They had been concerned about my physical well being and surely believed that I had just endured some sort of torturous ritual for which I would regret the rest of my life. When I announced that I had enjoyed the event and camaraderie, they shook their heads, gave a deep sigh, shrugged their shoulders and walked

away. Already I am practicing speed identification techniques, listening to tapes, and most of all, auditioning potential items for my next "BIG DAY" menu. Logging in 1 lifer, 8 state, and 37 year birds is more than enough incentive to look forward to my next "BIG DAY".

Jim is a free-lance artist, who has drawn four covers for the journal so far. His list of artistic credits is impressive and we, as you, would be the poorer without his contributions.

BUCKS COUNTY

The highlight of the spring season was the 2nd Annual Bucks County Birdathon, held 14 May. This traditionally was our spring round-up, but was changed to make it more challenging and to help raise funds for Bucks County Audubon Society. Twenty-four participants working in ten teams saw a total of 144 species within the 24-hour period. The top team saw 118, with several other teams seeing just over 100 species.

A team working solely in Tyler State Park recorded 84 species, including sighting of a Blue Grosbeak and a "Brewster's" Warbler. Thirty warbler species were seen, with major waves occurring in Peace Valley Park, Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve, and Tyler State Park. Overall we seem to

have hit migration at its peak, we had gorgeous weather and, with a large number of sponsors, it was a great success.

Bruce Mcnaught

CENTRE COUNTY

The Centre County Big Day record for June was broken on 4 June, when John and Becky Peplinski recorded 124 species (old record 119 on 8 June 1985). All except Ring-billed Gull represented breeding species. Highlights were Yellow-throated Vireo, N. Goshawk, Cooper's Hawk, 23 warbler species, Purple Finch, Pine Siskin, and Henslow's Sparrow. The team covered 230 miles in the county from midnight to 9:45 pm.

John & Becky Peplinski

YORK COUNTY

For more than 40 years, except for a few years during World War II, the York County Bird Club, now a member of the National Audubon Society, has been conducting on a Saturday before 15 May, what we call our Century Run. The three goals are: 1) To record any rare species sighted, 2) To see if any group can find 100 species for the day, and 3) for each group to cover the county going wherever it desires to serve the purposes and objectives of 1 and 2. On this day,

numbers of any given species are of little importance except in isolated instances. More than one group may cover the same area, especially those areas most productive to enhance their total.

At 7 p.m. we meet for a social time at Rocky Ridge Park to tabulate results. This year's Run was held 7 May, which some considered a little early and the result of 124 species seemed to confirm this thought. Last year's result was 137 species with two groups getting into the 90's, but no one reaching the ultimate. This year 100 was established, two persons identifying each bird is a minimum requirement, by Dick Humbert, Bill Del Grande, and Scott Hess. Their last bird was a White-breasted Nuthatch in the parking lot about 6:45.

Along with the CBC, this is one of our activities that has survived the years and seems to be growing in enthusiasm, especially in recent years. We have a very close-knit group of about 15 knowledgeable birders who will go most anywhere, anytime for the cause of verifying records or seeking out new discoveries. It also makes sure that the records I keep for the county and those I submit to PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS are as accurate as possible. Your magazine has increased the birders' participation and enthusiasm here in York County. Thank you Frank and Barb.

Al Speise



THE LONG-EARED MINI
by Barbara Haas

I attended the Wilson Ornithological Society meeting in Rosemont (Montgomery) in June hoping to encourage subscribers to **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS**.

LEASER LAKE

Leaser Lake is in the western tip of Lehigh County. Directions: Turn north off Rt. 143 just before the village of Jacksonville at a small, and easy to miss, sign.

The lake is good for loons, grebes, waterfowl, and swallows in the proper seasons. Get there before it becomes crowded with fishermen.

Acadian Flycatcher breed in the hemlocks near the lake (A). Continue past the lake, going up the mountain on a dirt road. From the intersection of the three roads (B) to the top of the mountain, there are breeding Black-and-white, Worm-eating, Cerulean, Hooded, and Kentucky warblers.

That wasn't particularly productive, but I did learn about the Long-eared Mini. It is a small-throated paraboloid sound collector. The co-designers are Dr. Joseph Panza, an Optometrist, and William J. Campbell, an Audiologist.

Frank and I had toyed with the idea of getting a microphone for recording

At the top there is a series of open fields to the left (C). This is a regular spot for breeding Golden-winged Warbler and Indigo Bunting. "Brewster's" Warbler is occasionally seen here. Along the Appalachian Trail there are breeding Chestnut-sided Warbler. The area west of the lake is grassland, which have nesting Bobolink, E. Meadowlark, Vesper, Savannah, and Grasshopper sparrows.

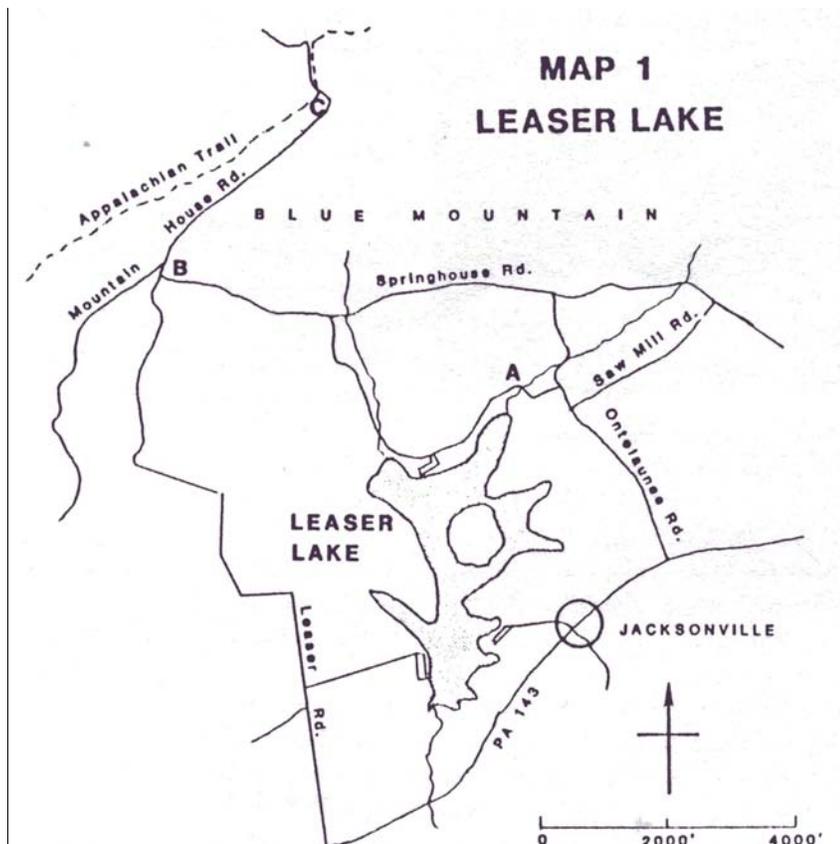
Reprinted with permission from Birds of the Lehigh Valley Area, by Morris, Wiltraut, and Brock (1984).

this looked like a convenient setup, so I ordered one. It arrived too late for our first atlasing trip to Susquehanna, Wyoming, and Bradford Counties, but we took it on a later trip up there. Did it work? You bet! Great results. Frank heard a Marsh Wren calling from a swamp while I was checking the fields for grassland sparrows. I turned around, put the microphone on, and sure enough there was the wren singing away and while recording the wren, a Sora sounded off! Two new birds for our block in just a few minutes. And corroborated on tape.

The previous trip I had heard and seen Henslow's Sparrows, plus a call that was reminiscent, but not quite right for Clay-colored Sparrow. But we did not have the new apparatus. Drat. We checked out the bird and found it was a Chipping Sparrow doing "bzzz-bzzz-bzzz-bzzz-bzzz," a consistent 5-note call, but in tracking down, just a Chipping Sparrow all the same. We thought we would tape it on the next trip and present it as a quiz at the next Delaware Valley Ornithological Club meeting. Would you believe it? The only Chipping Sparrow in the county that was not calling! But now we are prepared. You can be as well.

The apparatus can be purchased from Applied Nature Systems, P.O. Box 958, Gibsonia, PA 15044 for a modest \$59.95 plus \$5.00 S&H (PA residents add \$3.60 tax). Would that we had had it for the last five years of atlasing. I feel that it has already paid for itself in what it helped to confirm for our atlas efforts.

We urge everyone NOT to use it to disturb the birds in any way. It should only be used as a tool for your learning.



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APRIL. Some waterfowl and raptors may be leaving for their breeding grounds, but many other families are arriving from points south. Something always seems to be blown off track and comes East instead of staying West. This year it was a Western Meadowlark. Actually it had returned to the same area, Evans City (*Butler*), as in 1985! Paul Hess called us and we immediately planned a trip to Presque Isle with a stop off in Evans City. This was a new State bird for us and one we could not go for the previous year. So we left on the 11th, picked up Deuane in Harrisburg, and headed west. The next morning the meadowlark was sitting on a hay bale, singing away. The Butlers, who had found the bird in 1985, said it was only about a quarter-mile from the previous year's site.

We headed up to Presque Isle via Moraine S.P. and Pymatuning S.P., adding a few new species for the year. A surprisingly cooperative Am. Bittern was near the road on Presque Isle and Deuane was ecstatic about this life bird. The next morning we joined Jerry McWilliams and Sam Stull at Gull Point. We all enjoyed him discussing the fine points of separating female scoters. His taxidermy experience has afforded him the opportunity to observe first-hand the subtleties that definitely assist in the field. These skills were put to the test on what turned out to be a female Surf Scoter in the bay.

We saw Caspian Terns and heard a Sora while on the Point. Jerry commented that they get most of their Soras calling during the day. About the only shorebirds moving were Dunlin and Pectoral Sandpiper. A Brown Thrasher was singing and all the swallows except Barn were seen, including Purple Martin. For some species the date seemed a bit early and the local birders were going to check the records. For those of you who do not have *Birds of Erie County Including Presque Isle*, by

Stull, Stull, and McWilliams we highly recommend same. Please refer to PB 1:3 for a review.

I also keep bird lists for over 30 counties (Steve Santner is one of the few birders we know who keeps a list for *all* 67). Sometimes I may be seen jumping out of the car to record a new county bird. Such was the case when Jerry spotted some Double-crested Cormorants flying over. I mentioned needing Black-crowned Night-Heron for *Erie* and he led us into an area where we saw several. This was a good year for adding county birds.

We added a new personal birding experience the following day. Sam and his mother, Jean, took us to an area in the County to see and hear Common Snipe winnowing. Our southeastern birds are migrants and therefore silent. It was the highlight of the trip. We added Vesper and Savannah sparrows as well for my county list.



Summer Tanager, Greene County, 19 May 1986. Photo by F. Haas.

Later, back at Presque Isle, we met up with Jim Flynn. We had not seen him for several years. It is always a shock to realize how quickly time passes. He was now in college! He had seen some American Avocets in April and this sighting got him back into birding after a few years' hiatus. The avocets would have been a state bird for us. Also there had been a Franklin's Gull sighting

(another potential State bird and lifer for me). Neither stayed around for us to see.

One interesting note about Presque Isle. In much of the state, Red-breasted Mergansers are not common. At Presque Isle they can have flocks of 30,000+. We saw more that weekend than we had seen collectively in all our years of birding.

We had to get home and back to work, but did stop at Bald Eagle S.P. (*Centre*) and found a Red-throated Loon. At Montour Preserve (*Montour*) we found a male Surf Scoter, a male Oldsquaw, and a Snowy Egret with the usual mix of expected species for mid-April. Our last stop was Lake Ontelaunee (*Berks*) where we had a pair of Black Scoter. This trip was 1145 miles. We were tired, but our total was now 149, just about halfway there.

We still had the rest of the month for migrants and the return of our early breeders. We searched several likely areas of Chester and Lancaster Counties for Upland Sandpiper, but no luck. A Wild Turkey on Lee's Bridge (*Chester*) seemed reluctant to move until we decided it would be nice to get a photograph.

Broad-winged Hawks and Osprey were back, so the only raptors we needed were those most likely found in the Fall, *i.e.*, N. Goshawk, Merlin, and, if exceptionally lucky, a Swainson's Hawk or a Gyrfalcon.

April is tantalizing with the warblers. Most of the Ridley Creek S.P. breeders have returned by the end of the month, which makes one forget that the more northerly breeders (except Palm) are still wending their way up from Central and South America. Wishing them here does not change their biological clock.

We were pleased with our efforts for this month; we had added a new state bird and we were at 178 species for the year. At this point we decided to

upgrade Loggerhead Shrike to Code 4, in hopes that someone would call us with a sighting. But as we learned, upgrading does not insure seeing a species.

MAY. Any Pennsylvania birder will tell you that May is the month to find the most species. It seems a pity to have to get some sleep when there are so many birds everywhere. It is also the time for Big Days. A Big Day is determined by the clock, midnight to midnight. It can be any day of the year, but generally in Pennsylvania it is conducted in May, although September can be equally good with ideal conditions. Frank's favorite birding activity is a Big Day. It takes a lot of planning (see the Peplinski article in PB 1:2) and stamina (see the Lockyer article elsewhere in this issue). We did ours for 1986 on 12 May with John Ginaven and Al Guarente. Our total was 149 species, well shy of the record 161.

Allen Schweinsberg called to say the Jackdaws (*Union*) were attempting to nest again. May is probably the best time of the year to try and find them, as they are flying in and out of the Lewisburg Penitentiary frequently. On 17 May, we were walking out to the area where one overlooks the Penitentiary when a small crow-like bird flew into a tree just ahead of us. The scope was immediately put on the bird. It was the Jackdaw! Later we found out that the nesting had once again failed and this may not bode well for the future of this one known pair in the Commonwealth. Allen took us to an Alder Flycatcher and then we went to State Game Lands 252 to look for a Golden-winged Warbler. The first *bee-bzz-bzz-bzz* we heard turned out to be a "Brewster's." But patience paid off and we added Golden-winged to the list. It was a good start for our week's "vacation." We headed to Indiana County.

Arrangements had been made to meet the Higbees the night of the 18th to go for the Chuck-will's-widow that they had discovered in 1985 (*Armstrong*). Moments after the initial amenities, they asked if we had heard about the Snowy Plover, Brewer's Blackbird, and

Swainson's Warbler at Presque Isle! We had heard that a Swainson's Warbler had been banded there the weekend before, but the others were news to us. A quick call home disclosed that many friends had called and left messages. A Snowy Plover in Pennsylvania!

But first things first. Shortly after dark we were rewarded with a Chuck calling; then two more. Another State bird! Within 20 minutes of hearing the birds, the heavens opened up. Driving conditions were so bad we had to stop short of our intended destination. We decided it would be more prudent to drive to Clarksville (*Greene*) with some daylight for our rendezvous with Ralph Bell. Here we were, putting miles between ourselves and the plover. But we had committed ourselves to meeting Ralph the following morning to search for Summer Tanagers. Greene County is the only regular breeding area in Pennsylvania for this species and Ralph knows where each pair is defending territory. We had not seen Ralph since our 1977 Big Year, but have kept in touch. It was great to be birding with him again. We saw the tanager and did some general birding in the area.

Although thoughts of the plover kept nagging at us, we also realized that such rarities historically do not hang around at Presque Isle, so we were resigned to missing the bird.

Therefore, we did not race to Presque Isle, but stopped at Moraine S.P. in the wild hopes of finding a Sedge Wren. No luck, as usual. It continued to pour rain for the entire drive north and was still pouring as we slogged our way out to Gull Point about 2 p.m. We had plastic bags over the Celestron and camera, just in case something worthwhile was spotted.

Something worthwhile! Much to our surprise and delight we found the Snowy Plover. The only other State record for Snowy Plover was 29 June 1886 (*Berks*). This was truly a Century bird. We risked both camera and scope to document it. It was still teeming. Little did we know then what this same storm had produced earlier in the day. We now, *finally*, have it ingrained in our

minds that when it is raining, be out on Gull Point. It was under similar conditions that Sam Stull and Jerry McWilliams had observed the only record of a Surfbird in Pennsylvania (1979). We had mistakenly stopped at Moraine instead of deadheading for the Point.



Snowy Plover, Presque Isle S.P., 19 May 1986. Photo by F. Haas.

When we arrived at the Stulls that Monday evening (19 May) we were ecstatic about the Snowy Plover. We also related that we had counted about 30 Red Knots; they indicated that this was quite a high number for one sighting and were usually only seen as singles or small groups. Well, we later found out that Don Snyder, earlier that same day had seen 485 Red Knots, plus 381 Whimbrels! It paled our 30 birds. But more importantly, we had missed Whimbrel. Why couldn't just one linger for a few hours, we thought. To reiterate, be out on Gull Point when it is raining. Anything can show up.

Well, actually, one should be **everywhere** on Presque Isle when the weather is bad. We saw more breeding plumage Bay-breasted Warblers that day than can be imagined. There were passerines all over the place. The next day, the weather was a bit improved and although the plover was still there, the numbers of other birds had decreased. Each day the weather was better and the birds less numerous. On Thursday we found a Sandhill Crane and later in the day went down to Geneva Marsh (*Crawford*) to look for Black Terns; we saw three. Friday morning we joined Jean and Sam Stull back on the Point to look for the crane before reluctantly having to head back home. We had added several year birds, including

Prothonotary Warblers at their nest site and many migrants. We had a trip total of 181 species, drove 1558 miles, and added two State birds (missed two others), so it was a productive trip.

Later in the month we hiked through stinging nettle to finally see a Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (*Lancaster*) for the year. We also learned that while we were out west, Jim Carroll at Tinicum (Delaware) had seen a Ruff. Oh! to be in two places at once.

JUNE. The next bird deserves historical perspective. In 1985, a Black Rail had been seen and heard in Lancaster County. It had been found in a wet meadow with a cattail marsh and cows. Despite many trips at various times of night, we never even heard it. This year there was yet another occurrence in precisely the same habitat. Very little is known about Black Rail in freshwater marshes. Does it happen with more regularity than is suspected at this time? Atlasers have been made aware about checking all such habitat that exists in their areas in the hopes that more information will be gained about this species' preferences. Perhaps one race may have an affinity for freshwater marshes.

We heard about a Black Rail in Centre County and went up and heard it the night before participating in the Southern Lancaster County Summer Bird Count. This is basically a Christmas Bird Count run in June. It is a terrific way to monitor long range trends of breeding birds.

We only added one new species for the year in June, but the Black Rail was also a state bird for us. Most of our free time in June was spent atlasing in Clinton and Pike Counties. Atlasing is definitely fun. Do it. We saw excellent numbers of Wild Turkey, Ruffed Grouse, Pileated Woodpecker, Least Flycatcher, and some summering Bald Eagles.

By the end of June we had seen 258 species. It was a personal best for each of us. But it also put into perspective just what Sam had accomplished. Although we still had six months to go, many of the "easy" birds were already ticked off.

We knew shorebirds would be returning soon and we kept speculating on what other new birds might be found. Sam's list still seemed insurmountable, but we would not be giving up just yet.

ATLASING ALONG ROARING RUN, LYCOMING COUNTY

by Stanley C. Stahl

Roaring Run flows into Wallis Run, a tributary of the Loyalsock Creek that empties into the West Branch of the Susquehanna River at Montoursville. I birded the slopes along this run while doing Atlas work on the Bodines Quadrangle, Block 6.

I knew that this was going to be a promising spot when I stopped my car and heard a Gray Catbird making calls that sounded like a Chuck-will's-widow, and another bird calling that reminded me of that made by Yellow-bellied Flycatcher from my Peterson tape and record. The calls were coming from E. Wood-Pewees, but it took a long time for me to dispel my doubts; my doubts lingered when I caught a glimpse of an *Empidonax* flycatcher, but didn't see its undersides. But I did hear a Least Flycatcher give its "chebec" song a few times.

Other "northern Pennsylvania" specialities were here in good numbers. When I drove up Wilson Hill Rd. (the owner's name is spelled Willson), an unimproved dirt trail in my "unimproved" Oldsmobile, two Winter Wrens sang in the rather dark and gloomy ravine. Then the forest lightened into an area where many of the deciduous trees had been removed, leaving a few mixed species of deciduous trees, many scattered hemlocks, and a brushy undergrowth of raspberries, striped maples, ferns, and other shrubs and herbs. It was quite open. The dead trees attracted numerous nesting Yellow-bellied Sap suckers, Downy and

Hairy Woodpeckers, and N. Flicker.

Common Yellowthroats were common nesting birds and one Mourning Warbler sang among them. I wondered what encounters this bird had with so many yellowthroats. Red-eyed Vireos nested here, and I heard a Solitary Vireo and a Yellow-throated Vireo, which I did not expect. I saw Hermit Thrush young being fed and a Veery sang nearby. A pair of Canada Warbler were there and a Black-throated Green Warbler was feeding a young Brown-headed Cowbird. Chestnut-sided and Black-and-white warblers were also found.

A Brown Creeper sang. Dark-eyed Junco fledglings were being fed. Common Ravens croaked in the distance and Turkey Vulture suspiciously came down to a spot in the woods and left about ten minutes later. Tufted Titmice sang, young White-breasted Nuthatch honked incessantly, and another incessant singer was the Indigo Bunting that "irritated" my ear while I was trying to listen for other bird songs.

A pair of Rufous-sided Towhee mated, then bathed in a roadside trickle that was much used by the local birds. I suspect it has dried up during these drought conditions. While I listened for bird calls and songs, I could hear the faint chitterings of the Ruby-throated Hummingbird much of the time.

Twice I saw a Ruffed Grouse and her young scurrying for cover. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and Scarlet Tanagers were active there, too. A Yellow-billed Cuckoo searched for hairy caterpillars.

In the dark ravine lower down Wilson Hill Road, Blue Jays crowded around and yelled at a Broad-winged Hawk at close range.

The area is private property, but I could observe easily from the road. This is a place I will likely visit again.

SHORT-EARED OWLS IN CLARION COUNTY

by Margaret Buckwalter

The banding of three fledgling Short-eared Owls by Walter Fye on 31 May 1988 in Clarion County climaxed an eighteen-month period of observations by Fye and other members of the Seneca Rocks Audubon Society as well as local residents.

In the fall hunting seasons of 1984 and '85, Rick Summerville and Lanny Fields, two school teachers who regularly used a road that crossed one of C & K's reclaimed coal strip-mines near Curllsville, noticed some large "peculiar" birds. In March of 1986 they mentioned the birds to Walter Fye, licensed bird-bander, when he came to their school in connection with a Conservation District presentation. Fye was very skeptical about the numbers of birds the men said they had found--10 or more. But the truth was more unbelievable. The first time the Fyes went to the site with fellow birders Carl and Ruth Rowe late in October, 1986, Fye was ecstatic. "Fifty or a hundred--well, seventy-five, anyway," he said later. The owls were all over the place at sundown or just a little before, sitting along the road, or hunting over the fields. That first evening twenty-nine were counted in the air at once and lots more were on the ground. If they had some difficulty counting them, they had no difficulty identifying them as Short-eared Owls: floppy flight, black wing patch from below, tawny patches on the wings from above, round facial disks.

The habitat of the Curllsville site is entirely man-made. About 10 years ago C & K Coal Company strip-mined the land and in May of 1983 revegetated it with a mixture of grasses (Kentucky 31 Tall Fescue, Red top, alsike clover, and oats for cover) and bird's-foot trefoil, plus a few locust tree plantations on the hill tops. Over 800 acres of grassland at a maximum elevation of 1560' have re-created a prairie habitat that stretches to the horizon in almost all directions. The vast open fields have attracted grassland birds such as Henslow's, vesper, grasshopper and Savannah sparrows, harriers, and kestrels, and rough-legged hawk in

winter. Meadow voles are abundant, which undoubtedly accounts for the owls. An owl pellet study done by the author showed that, in the winter of 1986/87, 95% of the prey was meadow voles (*Microtus pennsylvanicus*), the other 5% being shrews and an occasional bird.

Soon after this discovery, another site that also had Short-eared Owls was found by Fye near Mt. Zion Church. This, too, is an extensive, grassy, reclaimed strip-mine seeded in 1979. A large plantation of red pines about four to six feet tall at this site offers perches and concealment not available at the first site. During the fall and winter the population dwindled at both sites, but a few pairs remained at each place.

We watched for signs of breeding in the spring of 1987, but the birds seemed to have gone for not any were seen between April and the following fall. On 25 October 1987 the owls were back and we began to watch them again. Throughout the winter one could almost always count on finding a few owls at either site. Never again did we see the concentration that marked our first recognition of their presence.

On 9 April 1988 the author observed characteristic "clapping flight" at the Curllsville site -- the first breeding signal we had recognized. Then at both sites males were seen clapping their wings together underneath their bodies as they flew. In addition, high, down-spiraling flights were seen by Fye and others at Mt. Zion. Walter's notes: "One owl would sit on top of a small red pine and the male would climb very high and would dive down a few feet and then go back up. At times he would 'tumble' and dive much in the same fashion as a woodcock." The owls were also chasing harriers right out of the territory. Early in May the courtship flights ceased and a trip to either site would disclose only one owl perched in a bush and doing nothing much at all.

The final discovery at Mt. Zion in Walter's words: "On 17 May...when Annabelle and I were going by, an owl

came up out of the grass carrying a mouse or vole. As we watched, she went to the hillside and we saw her land. It appeared she was feeding but even with a spotting scope it was impossible to see for sure. I parked and walked up to the area where she had been. All the while she was circling overhead and barking. When I reached the spot she began to dive at me but never too close, and then she put on a broken-wing act on the ground. The act was just like a killdeer dragging a wing, flopping on the ground and barking. I knew she had little ones nearby. I started back to the car and there was the nest: just a matted-down place in the grass, very messy with one cracked egg, a partly eaten scarlet tanager and a vole in it. There were no young anywhere but several pellets lay near the nest. By this time I felt I better leave and not disturb her anymore. The male did not come to help, he just sat on his tree on top of the hill."

On 19 May Annabelle and Walter Fye and Ruth and Carl Rowe went to the site again. "When we arrived she barked at us but did not dive and just flew around. We walked to the nest site as I wanted to take pictures of the nest and the one egg that did not hatch. I took the pictures and as we looked around Carl said, 'Here's a chick.' More pictures and more looking around but nothing. I felt by this time we should leave. As we started, Annabelle called, 'Here is a baby and it's dead. Someone stepped on it. There's blood on the ground.' When I looked closer I said, 'It's not dead. Mom has just been feeding it.' I picked it up and it would not move but it was breathing fine and under it was a piece of uneaten meat."

On 30 May the little owls were standing up and begging for food when the female flew over. This action proved there were four young owls, all different sizes, but even the little one was able to stand. On 31 May the Fyes, accompanied by the Rows and the author, returned to the site with banding equipment. We could find only three to band but a fourth showed up after we went back to

the cars.

At the Curllsville site meanwhile the author had not been able to find any evidence to prove that the owls were nesting. However, on 1 June, Carl and Walter found a nest containing one chick and one unhatched egg. The next day a second chick was found about four feet from the nest. (Knowing my consuming interest in the Curllsville site, Walter called me up afterward and announced, "You're a grandmother!") On 4 June the nest was empty but, interestingly, Walter almost stepped on a mallard's nest only about 50 feet away from the owl's nest -- 2000 feet from the nearby pond.

As of this writing there are 6 fledgling owls at the Mt. Zion site, where two more turned up on 19 June, and 1 (possibly 2?) at the Curllsville site. Two adult pairs have been verified at each site (but only one pair breeding??).

Three other strip-mine sites might possibly have more Short-eared Owls. The harrier pair had five young at last count. They probably nested in the area also.

According to Dan Brauning, Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas Project Coordinator, Clarion County is only one of two known breeding sites for Short-eared Owl in the state. The other is at the Philadelphia Int'l Airport. Their future here is problematic. Short-eared Owl are known to be opportunistic breeders. A change in the environment, such as natural succession causing the voles to decline, would affect them. Short-eared Owls are slow fliers, quite tame, and they hunt in the daytime. A curious juvenile buzzed our car five times one evening before the adults appeared and lured it away. One plus for the owls is that Rick Summerville, who lives next to the Curllsville site, is very vigilant in keeping track of visitors and investigating gunfire.

Overzealous birders could also pose a problem if they don't stay on the road during the nesting season. Fortunately the best views of the owls can be had by quietly sitting in the car, using it for a blind. We hope birders will be satisfied with seeing the owls from their vehicles or, at most, setting up spotting scopes on the road. It's open country--there's good viewing WITHOUT disturbing the birds.

(Dan Brauning (*pers. comm.*) notes that, "With the airport site under intense development pressure, these strip-mines may be the only location for Short-eared Owls in Pennsylvania in coming years." Eds.)

Walter L. Fye is owner of Central Machine and Tool, a licensed bird bander, and Regional Coordinator for Clarion County, PBBAP.

Margaret Buckwalter is a retired librarian, atlasser for PBBAP, and treasurer of Seneca Rocks Audubon Society.



Short-eared Owl fledgling at Mt. Zion, 5/31/88. Photo by Margaret Buckwalter.

Summary of the Season

The weather for most of the state in this quarter was cool and dry in April, wet in May, and hot and dry in June. The quarter began with sightings of **Mississippi Kites** and ended with an invasion of **Dickcissels**.

Two of last quarter's rarities, the **Varied Thrush** and the **Green-tailed Towhee**, were still being seen in April.

Many areas reported a lackluster waterfowl migration, but several reported a better than average warbler migration.

The five sightings of **Mississippi Kite** were nothing short of amazing ...and there may have been more. This species is now breeding as close as Virginia and there has been a major population expansion in the Mid-West. The bird does not mind humans and has even been found nesting in back yards and golf courses. There was a very interesting article in the Smithsonian magazine, July 1988. Will they be nesting in Pennsylvania soon?

Other extralimital sightings, although not all supported with adequate details, were received. The Records Committee will be sorting through the information and decisions will be made about the **Wilson's Plover** (*Mercer*) and **Bachman's Sparrow** (*Allegheny*). Other good finds were an **Eared Grebe** (*Lycoming*); that notorious wanderer to strange habitats, a **Purple Gallinule** (*Indiana*); a **Chuck-will's-widow** (*Erie*) that responded to voice imitation and a return of that species to their previous location in *Armstrong*; a **Bewick's Wren** (*Cumberland*); a **Seaside Sparrow** (*Lancaster*); and yet another **Yellow-headed Blackbird** (*Erie*).

There were numerous first county records, too many to list in this summary, but fascinating. Many counties have the good fortune to have years of data accumulated to which compilers can refer. The importance of collecting data and maintaining them in some organized manner cannot be stressed enough. If your county does not have such information, it is not too late to start compiling sightings for same.

Pat terns emerge and can be scrutinized at any time for research purposes.

The first confirmed breeding of **Bald Eagle** in eastern Pennsylvania (*Tioga*) combined with the first confirmed breeding **Short-eared Owl** (*Clarion*), outside of Philadelphia, were indeed highlights of the early part of the nesting season. There is the possibility that **Common Loon** bred (*McKean*) and, if confirmed, would be the first record since 1955. In contrast, the **Jackdaws** nesting attempt was a repeat of last year's failure (*Union*).

We thought that perhaps it was just locally that **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** sightings were down, but Sagar (*Somerset*) also reported reduced numbers. Then we read in the most recent North American Rare Bird Alert newsletter that all hummingbird numbers in Arizona, that hotspot for hummers, were also below normal. Is there something going on?

The number of sightings of **Am. Bittern** were encouraging and they were confirmed breeding in *Philadelphia* for the first time in many years. **Brown Thrasher** reports were also encouraging. It is interesting to note that wherever there are Amish farms, there seem to be **Purple Martin** colonies, as the Amish apparently appreciate this beneficial bird and provide housing.

Pine Siskin remained late everywhere and were confirmed breeding in several counties, although not all were successful in raising their own kind (*Berks*).

The influx of **Dickcissel**, which were found in eleven counties by the end of June was nothing short of amazing. We have discussed this outbreak with birders in and out of the state and the general concensus was that it was drought related. The drought started earlier in the Mid-west and the stress that ensued must have forced many of this nomadic species to look for greener pastures, literally. More data are being received about successful nesting in July and this will be reported on in the next issue. Also, Bob Mulvihill will have an

article on their occurrence in western Pennsylvania. Who knows how many more counties will be involved by then.

The greatest threat to grassland species continues to be early and frequent mowing. Several compilers reported attempted nestings which were aborted by the above practice. It is ironic that the same industry (agriculture) that created the habitat that resulted in the expansion and increase of grassland species in Pennsylvania is now contributing to their reduction.

And finally, **Starlings** continue to live up to their scientific name, *Sturnus vulgaris*, by usurping nesting cavities of other species (*Bedford, Berks, Chester*).



COUNTY REPORTS - April through June 1988

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, imm.:immature, indiv.:individual(s), I.:Island, Is.:Islands, 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, PABBAP: 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.,s.,e.,w.:direction of location, >:more than, <:fewer than, ±:approximately, or estimated number, ♂:imm. or female, *:specimen, ph.:photographed, ft:feet, mi:miles, m:meters, km:kilometers, date with a + (e.g., May 4+):recorded beyond that date. Compilers may also abbreviate often-cited locations or organizations.

ALLEGHENY COUNTY

Locations: Beechwood Farms (BF), Bell Acres (BA), Frick Park (FP), North Park (NoP), Pittsburgh (PGH), South Park (SoP).

CORMORANTS THROUGH PIPITS. An uncommon **Double-crested Cormorant** was located at Verona on the Allegheny R. 5/1 (CL). The ubiquitous **Canada Goose** was reported during every month, while the equally plentiful **Mallard** was seen in rafts of "up to 50" at Monroeville (GK). Two pair of **Blue-winged Teal** and 2 female **Red-breasted Merganser** were on NoP's Marshall L. 5/1 (JC).

A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** broke its neck against a window in BA 4/23 (CMc). Down in Snowden, MM added **Cooper's Hawk** and a **Red-shouldered Hawk** 5/23. Numerous **Red-tailed Hawk** were reported, even nesting on the steep hill overlooking Ft. Pittsburgh Tunnels according to Bob Larimer who has watched them for years.

A **Killdeer** 4/5 in Monroeville (GK) was edged out by a mere three days at Bethel Park (WH). A **Solitary Sandpiper** was spotted 5/5 at BA (CMc). Thirty-five **Ring-billed Gull** were on the river at Clairton 4/26 (GK); 1 still loitered as late as 6/6 near there at W. Elizabeth. The earliest cuckoos were both found by Hoffman: **Black-billed** in Walker Park near Sewickley 5/1 and **Yellow-billed** in Shaler Twp. 5/8. A **Whip-poor-will** was heard at BA 5/8 (CMc). Dziadosz saw the first **Chimney Swift** flying over Three Rivers Stadium 4/11, both taking in the Pirate's home opener, no doubt! On 6/15 and 6/28 a **Red-headed Woodpecker** spent time at JC's feeder in Allison Park.

M&EW found 10 **Purple Martin** at a golf course in Eliz. Twp. Three **Cliff Swallow** among the many **Barn Swallow** at NoP 4/26 (JH, JC). Flycatchers, well reported, were generally on time. At Chatham College 4/10 and again 4/23, VDz listed different **Winter Wren**. Sharp-eyed Joe Panza tallied 14 **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** on NoP's N. Ridge 4/25.

Among the *Catharus* thrushes, the **Veery** was observed, or at least reported, about a week or so late 5/12 at SoP, where **Swainson's Thrush**, too, showed up (WH). The main movement of **Hermit Thrush** seems to have been 4/25-27. The **Wood Thrush** migration was more protracted. Individual reports of arrivals ran from 4/26 at NoP (JG) to 5/7 at BA, where 2 were found (CMc). A late **Water Pipit** was found at NoP 5/31 (CMc).

VIREO THROUGH GROSBEEKS. All expected species of vireo arrived on time in expected locations (v.o.). There were 112 reports of 32 species of warblers (plus one hybrid) for the county. The **Blue-winged** was listed on 9 reports. A close second, found on 8 lists, was the **Yellow**. The **Common Yellowthroat** was reported by 7 observers, while the **Black-throated Green** made it onto 6 lists.

Five contributors listed **Chestnut-sided**, **Black-and-white**, and **Ovenbird**. Six species were on 4 lists each and 8 species appeared on 3 reports. Missing from even one reporter's list were the usually seen **Pine**, **N. Parula**, and **Mourning** warblers.

Dave Freeland, a former Am. Birds compiler in on a quickie business trip, found enough time on 5/9 to list **Summer Tanager** near the PGH Int'l Airport. A rare orange variant **Scarlet Tanager** was at Frick Park 5/7 (JH *et al.*). Ruth Grom had several male and female **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** visiting her NoP home. To add color, 2 male and 1 female **N. Oriole** idled in the feeder also. All this in late April and most of May.

The bird of the year - of many a year, really - was a possible Bachman's Sparrow found near the Airport 5/9 (DF). (*Unfortunately, no details? -Eds.*) That same day and in the same locale he listed **Grasshopper Sparrow**. Three **Lincoln's Sparrow** were located: the earliest 4/14 in NoP (JP), another in Shaler Twp. 5/1 (JH), and a third at Chatham College (VDz). NoP produced a **Swamp Sparrow** 4/26 (JH,JC). A singing, presumably male, **Rusty Blackbird** was at Frick Park 5/4 (JH *et al.*). Just n. of NoP 5/17, 5 **Bobolink** were observed (JG,JP). Worth mentioning is the sub-adult male **Orchard Oriole** 4/27 in Eliz. Twp (M&EW).

Purple Finch, at times overlooked in the swarms of **House Finch** nowadays, was mentioned in at least three reports, with an arrival date of 4/6 given for SoP by WH. Ten **Pine Siskin** were tallied at BA 4/14 (CMc). The Watkos in their Eliz. Twp. backyard were visited by 4 female and 2 male **Evening Grosbeak**, while Grom looked into the n.e. sky just in time to see 5 vanishing over the NoP hills.

OBSERVERS: Jim Clark, Vickie Dziadosz, Dave Freeland, Joe Grom, 9360 Babcock Blvd., Allison Park 15101 (412-366-9495), Ruth Grom, Walter Hammond, Joyce Hoffmann, Glenn Koppel, Carol Labarthe, Cindy McClain, Matt Mezinze, Joe Panza, Mike & Evaleen Watko.

ARMSTRONG COUNTY

Locations: Allegheny R., Keystone Res. (KR), Kittanning (KTN).

Many atlasers were out in the field, especially during the latter part of the period, but most of them were too busy with the BBAP to submit all their sightings. Highlights of the the quarter include a summering **Common Loon**, a very late **Winter Wren**, and two **Yellow-throated Warbler**. The early part of the period was, for the most part, unseasonably cool while the latter part was extremely dry. Warblers staged only one good flight, 5/14, when TBC members found a new birding hotspot - Nancy Karp's deck - from which 17 species of warblers were observed, excluding the Yellow-throated Warbler less than 1/8 mile away.

Observations are by one or both compilers unless otherwise indicated. Three BBS Routes were run: Kittanning (KBBS), Margaret (MBBS), and Shelocta (SBBS) 6/4.

First **Common Loon** was observed 4/19 at KR (MH), where 1 was still present 5/4 (SC,MH). Another, apparently summering on a "lagoon" near Tarrtown, was first located 6/19 (VL). **Pied-billed Grebe** was listed 4/29 at KR, where on the same day, 6 **Double-crested Cormorant** were counted. A singleton was present 5/4 (SC,MH). **Great Blue Heron** were reported from Spring Church 4/8 (MH,GW), but top count was 3 at KR 5/4 (LU). A **Great Egret** was a nice find at KR 5/4 (SC,MH). **Green-backed Heron** were reported from four locations after 4/29 (v.o.). Best **Mallard** tally was a mere 3 at KR 4/29. Top **Blue-winged Teal** count was 7 at KR 4/29, but 2 had been present 4/19; 3 **Red-breasted Merganser** were at KR 4/29.

A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** near Rural Valley 5/4 was the lone report (SC,MH). **Cooper's Hawk** were found at 3 locations (CD,NK,MH). First **Broad-winged Hawk** appeared near Queenstown 5/1 (FE). Four **Wild Turkey** were near Bryan 4/19. **Ring-necked Pheasant** proved difficult for atlasers to find in many parts of *Armstrong*. A lone **Am. Coot** was seen 4/29 at KR.

Bonaparte's Gull numbered 3 at KR 5/4 (SC,MH). Top count of **Ring-billed Gull** was 35 near KR 4/29. A **Common Tern** flying over the river at KTN 5/14 was a nice find (AH,MH).

Black-billed Cuckoo was not reported until 5/21 near Queenstown (FE). First **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** appeared 5/15 at Ford City (FE). The latter species appeared to be found in larger numbers this year, with a total of 9 being found on 3 BBS Routes. **E. Screech-Owl** were found at five locations; **Great Horned Owl**, at two. **Barred Owl** was heard only at KTN 6/12 (CD). After last year's failed attempts to locate **Chuck-will's-widow** in the Pyrra area, 4 singing indiv. were tallied 5/22. Two of these birds were in an adjacent valley from the original sighting. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** visited a feeder near KTN until 4/1 (CD). Three **Purple Martin** near McVillie Airport 5/24 (CD,MH,NK) could not be relocated later in the month. Martins in an active colony near Elderton were the only others reported. Two **Bank Swallow** were seen near McVillie Airport 5/24; a singleton was observed near Yatesboro 6/3. Highlight of the SBBS 6/4 was a trilling **Winter Wren**; attempts to find the wren later that day and on two later dates were unsuccessful. A **Swainson's Thrush** near KTN 5/14 was the lone reported sighting (TBC). A **N. Mockingbird** near Maysville 4/8 (MH,GW) was the lone report. First **Brown Thrasher** was recorded at KTN 4/26 (NK). No thrasher was counted on the MBBS and only 1 on the SBBS, down from last year's high of 7. **Cedar Waxwing** were half the previous 4-year average on the SBBS.

Solitary Vireo began singing on territory 4/8 near Spring Church (MH,GW). **Yellow-throated Vireo** was found near Maysville 5/6 (MH,NK). A **Warbling Vireo** near Rural Valley 6/3 was the lone report. A **Philadelphia Vireo** appeared at Ford City 5/15 (FE). **Blue-winged Warbler** returned to KTN 5/3 (NoK). Only 5 **Golden-winged Warbler** reported (v.o.). A "**Brewster's**" was spotted near Avonmore 6/15. A **N. Parula** was found along Crooked Cr. on the SBBS; another was singing near Avonmore 6/15, but could not be found a week later. A **Cape May Warbler** was observed near Bryan 4/29, but was otherwise unreported. A **Yellow-throated Warbler** singing in KTN 5/14 (TBC) was well observed during the remainder of the period (NK). Another **Yellow-throated Warbler** was seen along Cherry Run on the MBBS 6/15 (MH,RH), but only heard 6/22 (FE,MH,GW). **Am. Redstart** numbers were twice their previous 4-year average on the SBBS. Two **Worm-eating Warbler** were reported: 1 s. of Slate Lick 5/24 (CD,MH,NK); another near Leechburg 6/22 (FE,MH,GW). A **Canada Warbler**, the lone report, was found at KTN 5/14 (TBC). **Yellow-breasted Chat**, totally missing on this year's SBBS, were reported from 8 areas (FE,MH,RH).

A flock of 6+ **Vesper Sparrow** was tallied near Echo 4/29. Two new locations for **Henslow's Sparrow** were found near Bryan 6/3 and near Echo 6/14. **Swamp Sparrow** was listed only near Elders Ridge. First **Bobolink** was found near Rural Valley 5/4 (SC,MH). **Rusty Blackbird** were not numerous, with two reports of 2 birds each 4/8 near Spring Church (MH,GW) and 5/4 at KR (SC,MH). **E. Meadowlark** were down in numbers on both the SBBS and KBBS. Top **Purple Finch** tally was 15 at KTN 4/22 (CD). **Pine Siskin**, which had put in a strong winter and early spring appearance, departed most feeders by mid-May.

OBSERVERS: Suzanne Conner, Caroline Davies, Flo Emmonds, Denise Garrott, Anne Hedgpeth, Margaret and Roger Higbee, RD #2, Box 166, Indiana 15701 (412-354-3493), Nancy Karp, Norman Karp (NoK), Vicki Lunde, Lorraine Uplinger, Gloria Winger, Todd Bird Club.

BEDFORD COUNTY

Locations: Dunnings Creek, Juniata R., Raystown Dam, Shawnee S.P. (SSP), Tussey Mt. (TM).

Sixteen **Common Loon**, in one raft, were counted at SSP 4/18. Again at SSP, 2 **Common Loon** were counted as late as 6/4. Ten **Pied-billed Grebe** were at SSP 4/2, with the number increasing to 25 on 4/18. No report of **Horned Grebe** was received. A **Double-crested Cormorant** was seen 4/18 at SSP.

Great Blue Heron were conspicuous by their absence in many sections of *Bedford*, even missing from the small streams around the fish hatchery in Reynoldsdale. A **Snowy Egret**, unusual for the

county, was reported 4/30 from Yount (GH). A high count of 8 **Green-backed Heron** was reported 5/4 in a typha marsh at the headwaters of SSP.

On 4/2, a waterfowl count at SSP produced the following: 1 **Tundra Swan**, 40 **Canada Geese**, 4 **Wood Duck**, 8 **Blue-winged Teal**, 4 **Ruddy Duck**, 8 **Bufflehead**, 8 **Red-breasted Merganser** (high was 50 on 4/18), 60 **Mallard**, 1 **Common Goldeneye**, and 1 **Oldsquaw**.

Osprey were already in the county by 4/1, with sightings from many localities. A twelve-day Spring Hawk Count at TM produced 549 raptors, with the two best count days being 4/4 (107) and 4/14 (264). The raptor count was: 29 **Osprey**, 4 **Golden Eagle** (a golden heading S was not counted), 8 **N. Harrier**, 86 **Sharp-shinned Hawk**, 8 **Cooper's Hawk**, 102 **Red-tailed Hawk**, 282 **Broad-winged Hawk**, 1 **Peregrine Falcon**, 8 **Am. Kestrel**, 20 unidentified, and 1 probable **Mississippi Kite** seen by Kevin Georg of Pomarine Jaeger fame. The bird was eye-level and well described.

N. Bobwhite, always scarce, were seen along farm hedgerows near Rainsburg. **Ruffed Grouse**, **Wild Turkey**, and **Ring-necked Pheasant** appeared to have managed the winter well and could be found throughout in suitable habitat. The only report of **Am. Coot** was of 20 at SSP 4/18. **Common Snipe**, in small numbers (2-4), were observed feeding in wet cornfields near Alum Bank 4/8. On the same date, **Am. Woodcock** were present in above average numbers along Dunning's Dr. Over 30 **Killdeer** were seen at SSP 4/2.

Bedford, with its oak and hickory ridges, attract massive gypsy moth invasions; along with the moths were increases in both **Black-billed** and **Yellow-billed** cuckoos. **N. Saw-whet Owl**, probably a breeding pair, were observed for several weeks in early April at Dutch Corner (EM,CM). On 5/8, I was disappointed to find the SSP **Red-headed Woodpecker** colony displaced by **European Starling**. **Red-headed Woodpecker** colonies located near to barns and outbuildings seem more vulnerable to starling competition. **N. Flicker** and **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** arrived in earnest 4/2, when they appeared in many locations throughout the county.

Four **Winter Wren** were counted along with 3 **Brown Creeper**, 12 **Golden-crowned Kinglet**, and 2 **Brown Thrasher** at TM 4/2. In general, according to BBS work, **Veery** and **Wood Thrush** may be in greater numbers this year. **E. Bluebird** and **Am. Robin** continue to head the list of the most abundant thrushes.

Good numbers of **Pine**, **Prairie**, **Golden-winged**, **Common Yellowthroat**, and **Nashville** warblers were observed 5/8 at SSP. BBS data indicate the **Cerulean Warbler** is doing very well throughout the county (RS). **Field Sparrow** are having a good year, while **Grasshopper Sparrow** continue to expand their range. Over a dozen **Fox Sparrow**, and at least as many **White-throated Sparrow**, were counted at TM 4/2. Lastly, a sad note, on three occasions, mowing operations disrupted the nesting of **Bobolink**. I wonder how often this happens, especially with their preference for good quality hay fields.

OBSERVERS: Bruce Courter, Thomas Dick, 1003 Eisenhower Blvd., Johnstown 15904 (814-266-7912), Sally Dick, Kevin Georg, Gordon Hassel, Edith & Clyde McGinnett, Ruth Sagar, Charles Voytko.

BERKS COUNTY

Locations: Earle L. Poole Nature Preserve (PNP), Blue Marsh L. (BML), L. Ontelaunee (LO), Peter's Cr. (PCr).

LOONS THROUGH HAWKS. There were two reports of **Common Loon**, 1 on BML 4/26 (BP), and 2 flying over Pike Twp. 5/10 (RK). A **Double-crested Cormorant** was on LO 5/15 (MSP). An **Am. Bittern** was at a pond near Kempton 4/24 (MSP). The **Black-crowned Night-Heron** Rookery in West Lawn had at least 10 nests. A severe thunderstorm at the end of May killed 16 young which were found dead on the ground the next day (*vide* MSI). There were also a few reports of single birds at BML and LO.

A **Snow "white phase" Goose** was on LO 4/10-13 (MW) and a similar bird (the same?) was nearby at PCr 5/10 (MSP). **Wood Duck** were reported from the Cacooosing Cr., 2 on 4/8 (EB); PCr., 1 on 4/10; and near Birdsboro, 1 on 4/28 (CS). Pairs of **Blue-winged Teal** were seen on BML 4/20 (BP) and on Daniel Boone L. 5/8 (RK). Six **Am**

Wigeon were on LO 4/3 (MSP). **Ring-necked Duck** lingered at the quarry near Oley, where 18 were present 4/10, 15 on 4/17, and 7 on 4/24 (RK). The 7 **Hooded Merganser** at LO 4/10 were the only mergansers reported this quarter. KG commented that he saw no **Common Merganser** this spring, while they were a common migrant in past years. A few **Ruddy Duck** were seen on LO, with a high of 9 there 4/10 (MSP).

Ten or more **Black Vulture** were at their usual roost at Hopewell Village NHS 5/15 (BOC bird walk). There were a few scattered reports, of single birds, from the n. and e. parts of the county. A single **Osprey** was along the Schuylkill R. 4/12 and another at Angelica L. 4/14 (EB). Two were at BML 4/20 (BP). An ad. **Bald Eagle** circled low over Hamburg 6/11, then flew towards the NE (KG). A female **N. Harrier** was seen near Lenhartsville 6/24; this is the 5th summer one has been here (KG). **Sharp-shinned Hawk** were seen 4/11 in Bern Twp. (EB), and 4/20-22 near Vinemont (BM). One of the latter hawks was on the road tearing apart a live pigeon! An ad. **Cooper's Hawk** was present in an old white pine plantation for at least a week at the end of April, behaving suspiciously, as though it had a nest in the area (SS,MSI). One was near Pleasantville 4/24 (RK) and an ad. flew over (*location deleted. -Eds.*) 6/6 carrying a bird in it's talons (KG).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH THRUSHES. Shorebird sightings included: 1 **Greater Yellowlegs** near Oley 5/1 (RK); up to 11 **Lesser Yellowlegs** during the first two weeks of May on the Oley Valley (RK); 3 **Solitary Sandpiper** at Manatawny Cr. 5/1 (RK) and another the same day at Tulpehocken Cr. (EB); up to 5 **Spotted Sandpiper** were seen each day on various ponds in the Oley Valley during the first two weeks of May (RK); 24 **Least Sandpiper** were at three locations in the Oley Valley 5/8 (RK) and 12 were still there 5/14 (RK); and 24 **Short-billed Dowitcher** were at Kaercher Cr. Park at Hamburg 5/19 (K&DG).

Four **Bonaparte's Gull** were at LO 4/3 (MSP). Three **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** were heard 6/8 in Pike Twp. and 3 on 6/19 in District. Twp. (RK). A single **Black-billed Cuckoo** was heard in Brecknock Twp. the last week of June (MSI). Fourteen **Common Nighthawk** were seen in Reading 5/24 (MW). Two **Whip-poor-will** were calling at one time at SGL #110 6/21 (KG). 100+ **Chimney Swift** were flying over downtown Reading 4/19 (BM). A pair of **Red-headed Woodpecker** were excavating a nest hole 5/1 near Spangsville Covered Bridge; this hole was taken over by Starlings. The pair was working on a second hole 5/14. (RK). Another Red-head was seen on 5/30 in Jefferson Twp. (KG). A **Pileated Woodpecker** was reported in the area of Vinemont Rd., Spring Twp., during late April (BM); 1 was seen off and on in Pike Twp. from the end of April through the beginning of June (RK).

Flycatcher and swallow reports were typical in time and location. A flock of 9 **Fish Crow** was sighted in District Twp. 5/3 (RK). **E. Bluebird** were on eggs 4/13 (EB). A **Hermit Thrush** was at SGL #110 6/21 (KG). A **Veery** was at Sheerlund Forest 5/21 and 3 **Swainson's Thrush** were at SGL #110 on 5/21. A flock of 66 **Water Pipit** were near Oley 4/3 (RK).

VIREOS THROUGH GROSBEEKS. Our five expected vireos returned or passed through right on time. Warbler highlights: 8 **Tennessee** 5/15, "one of the more common species this year" (KG); 20 **Yellow-rumped** 4/10 at PCr, "very poor numbers of this usually common species" (MW). A high count of 20 **Am. Redstart** was made at SGL #110 on 5/21 (KG). An exceptional count of 75+ singing male **Ovenbird** were heard along a 2.5 mi stretch of mountain top in SGL #110 during May (KG); a singing ad. male **Mourning** was at SGL #110 on 5/21 (KG); **Hooded** were at two locations 5/8 (KG,RK), 1 of which was holding territory defended last year, and 3 different males were present on Mt. Penn and Deer Path Hill in the first part of June (MSP); a **Wilson's** was seen 5/21-22 (KG).

A singing male **Blue Grosbeak** was near Strausstown 6/18 (KG) and 2 female or imm. males were in a field near Topton 6/26 (RK). When will we find a nest of these northward moving birds? Three singing **Vesper Sparrow** were near Topton 6/19 (RK); a **Savannah Sparrow** 6/18 in Albany Twp. and 1 near Topton 6/19 (RK); **Grasshopper Sparrow** 5/15 and 1 6/18 (MSP); 2 **Fox Sparrow** lingered until 4/9 (RK); 2 **Lincoln's Sparrow** 5/21,22 at SGL #110 (KG). Two Bobolinks were the first migrants 5/8, with a high of 14 on 5/14 and 4 singing males 6/4 near Boyertown (RK). Three singing male **E. Meadowlark** were near Oley 5/1 and at least 5 pairs were found near Boyertown 5/30, including 1 feeding young (RK). An **Orchard Oriole** was found 5/1 (EB), 2 on 5/19, and 3 on 5/28 (KG). One **Purple Finch** was seen 4/7 (MW), 15 on 4/17

(RK), and 1 on 5/29 at PNP (RK), while KG reported that none was seen this May, when they were previously common during warbler migration.

The big finch news is the lingering **Pine Siskin** into June, with a record of the *1st nesting in Berks*. The birds were seen in flocks of up to 30 birds through the first half of May (m.ob.) with 2 nesting in a white pine plantation in District Twp. and present until 6/8 (RK). Unfortunately, all they raised was a **Brown-headed Cowbird**! A few **Evening Grosbeak** were seen as late as 5/3, also in District Twp. (RK).

Please note the change in compiler. Rudy Keller will now assume the duties Mike Slater did so well. We would like to thank Mike for the outstanding job he performed while compiler. Mike's other commitments prevent him from continuing in this capacity.

OBSERVERS: Ed Barrell, Baird Ornithological Club, Kenneth & Dorothy Grim, Kerry Grim, Rudy Keller, R.D. 4, Box 235, Boyertown 19512 (215-367-9376), Bill Munroe, Barry Pounder, Phyllis Reynolds, Mike Slater (MSI), Scott Schreiber, Cyrell Smith, Matthew Spence (MSP), Matthew Wlasniewski.

BLAIR COUNTY

Locations: Brush Mt. (BM), Canoe Cr. S.P. (CCSP).

"April Showers," while expected, bypassed most of *Blair* this year. May was extremely wet and the month of June was the hottest and driest in recent memory. Heavy rains in the final week of May accounted for most of the quarter's rainfall.

No rare or unusual reports found their way to this compiler's desk and all non-credited reports are my own.

Six flights of **Common Loon** were observed flying over Martinsburg 4/9. The number of birds per flight averaged 7 and all were aloft in high winds. The only **Canada Goose** reported was an over-summering bird found at Spruce Cr. 6/15 in the company of many **Mallard**. Eighteen **Horned Grebe** were observed at CCSP 4/3. **Wood Duck** were found while atasing 6/15 e. of Geeseytown on an abandoned slough of the Pennsylvania Canal; 2 females had 12 young in tow. A pair of **Gadwall** were at CCSP 4/3 in the company of 27 **Ring-necked Duck**, 15 **Ruddy Duck**, and 2 **Blue-winged Teal**. The Ring-necked and Ruddy ducks were still present 4/10 (TW,RW,RB).

Raptor sightings were limited to a one day "spring" hawk watch on Tussey Mt. near Williamsburg 4/9, when the following were observed: 1 **Broad-winged Hawk**, 1 **Golden Eagle**, 2 **N. Harrier**, and 2 **Osprey**. It was a warm day with good thermals.

Incredible numbers of **Ruffed Grouse** and **Wild Turkey** families were reported from BM all quarter (MB). **Common Tern** were seen at CCSP 4/15 and remained for a few days (TW,RW,RB). Returning **Common Nighthawk** were heard in the Altoona skies 5/13 and remained all quarter. Colonial **Red-headed Woodpecker** were found in Sinking Valley while atasing 5/28. **Least Flycatcher** have been found in good numbers, at higher elevation, along the Allegheny Front in w. *Blair*. The **Willow Flycatcher**, that was heard calling from a telephone wire, represented the 156th species recorded on BM in the past 17 years (MB).

Summer records for **Horned Lark** came in from Sinking Valley 6/2 and Martinsburg 5/20. Both **Bank Swallow** colonies, at Williamsburg and Tyrone, have shown signs of being disturbed by fill excavation. Fledged **Bank Swallow** were seen returning to their burrows 6/25 near Tyrone. **Hermit Thrush** were heard singing near Bellwood (high elevation) 5/30. Brush Mt. recorded its first **Solitary Vireo** nesting 6/6 (MB).

Warbler records were unremarkable. Finch reports are limited to nesting **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** in Spruce Cr. 6/17, and **Blue Grosbeak** that stopped by at an Altoona feeding station, where they remained from 5/5-10 (JO). Sparrows reported were 2 **Fox** at BM 4/9 and **Swamp** at CCSP 4/3.

OBSERVERS: Marcia Bonta, Roy Boyle, David Kyler, RD #4, Box 159-A, Huntingdon 16652 (814-643-6030), John Orr, Russ Wade, Terry Wentz.

BRADFORD COUNTY

This introduction includes information from *Luzerne*, *Susquehanna*, and *Wyoming*. See individual county reports for details.

Below-normal amounts of rain were recorded throughout the period. The only heavy amounts at the Weather Bureau at Avoca were 1.05" on 4/27 and 2.56" 5/18-20. The latter rain raised the river levels sufficiently to cover the usual spots for shorebird feeding. Heavy frost with temperatures in the low 30's were recorded 6/10 in many sections.

A total of 145 species was recorded by the Greater Wyoming Valley Audubon Society on its 5/14 Birdathon. Included were 29 species of warblers. Nesting **Canada Geese** are expanding rapidly through the region (RP,DS, *et al.*). Both **cuckoos** have been widely reported. There were at least 10 **Winter Wren** reports in April/May, which is well above past years; and they were observed in several blocks in the BBAP. **Alder Flycatcher** continue to be recorded through all four counties (MB,BH,FH,JH, *et al.*).

Three **Virginia Rail** and 2 **Marsh Wren** were observed at a marsh on Stevensville Mt. Rd. 6/29, and 15 **Water Pipit** were seen at Rummerfield 5/7 (WR). **Henslow's Sparrow** were reported in Wilmot Twp. and Terry Twp. (BH,FH,WR). **Pine Siskin** were widespread throughout the region in April/May; they were present into mid-June at Spring Hill and Sugar Run (EB,JM). **Evening Grosbeak**, largely absent in the winter, invaded many areas in April and early May; 1 was present at Sugar Run until 5/31 (JM).

OBSERVERS: Elizabeth Beebe, Mark Blauer, Barb & Frank Haas, Jim Hoyson, Mrs. J. McGee, Roxana Pote, William Reid, 73 W. Ross St., Wilkes-Barre 18702 (717-836-2525), Doris Sebring.

BUCKS COUNTY

Locations: Delaware R., Nockamixon S.P. (NSP), Peace Valley Park (PVP), Tyler S.P. (TSP).

Rarities this spring again included the **Green-tailed Towhee**, which was last seen at the feeding station at Honey Hollow E.E. Center 5/2 and a probable 1st county record for a **Mississippi Kite** 4/23 along the Delaware R. (See article by Ray Hendrick).

LOONS THROUGH DUCKS. **Common Loon** numbers were low, with 7 the best count at PVP 5/19 (FM). **Double-crested Cormorant** were seen in good numbers, with 5 reported 4/20 at PVP, 29 at NSP in 3 flocks 4/26 (FM), and 12 flying in a "V" up river 4/5 (SF). An **Am. Bittern** 5/3, a **Snowy Egret** 4/23, and a **Little Blue Heron** 4/7 were reported at PVP (FM). During BBAP work on 6/20, 16 **Common Merganser** were seen hanging around Marshall and Treasure Is. in the river, and another was exhibiting agitated behavior 6/27 (KK). This is the southernmost record to date on the Delaware R. for this species during atlasing.

RAPTORS. The Spring flight was generally good, with several uncommon species seen. Fifteen **Turkey Vulture** and 3 **Black Vulture** were at NSP 4/26. **Black Vulture** are again common up and down the river, with regular sightings more common inland. **Osprey** numbers were up during the period, with a total of 132 seen at PVP over a one-month period, making it the best year in the last nine. Best dates and counts were 4/16 (25), 4/20 (12), 4/22 (11), and 5/7 (15) (FM). Ten were sighted at NSP 4/26 (FM) and 1 in Revere 5/27 (SF). **Bald Eagle** were seen on three occasions. An imm. bird was sighted 5/24 at PVP (FM); an ad. flying over Rt. 413 in Doylestown 6/10 (VK); and another ad. being chased by a **Red-tailed Hawk** in Ottsville 6/26 (KK). Good **Broad-winged Hawk** flights were noted, with 172 reported at NSP 4/26 and 108 over PVP 4/23-24 (FM). A **Rough-legged "dark-phase" Hawk** was seen at PVP 4/20 (FM) and a **N. Harrier** in Tinicum Twp. 5/31 (DA).

PHEASANT THROUGH CUCKOOS. **Ring-necked Pheasant**

numbers remain low throughout *Bucks*, with several broods reported only in June. A very poor shorebird flight occurred despite the presence of mudflats at some of the large reservoirs. A few **Solitary**, **Spotted**, **Least**, and **Pectoral** sandpipers was about it for both PVP and Pine Run Res. (BM). A **Bonaparte's Gull** was seen 4/4 and 5 on 4/24 at PVP, and 3 **Forster's Tern** were there 5/21 (FM). Both **Black-billed** and **Yellow-billed** cuckoos were seen in good numbers during migration and **Black-billed** were recorded in a number of new areas for the BBAP (BAM).

THRUSHES THROUGH FINCHES. Except for the wave of warblers reported 5/14, passerine numbers for spring migration seemed down. A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was seen at PVP 5/16 (FM). **Prothonotary Warbler** were recorded in a number of places: Revere, PVP, TSP, but none stayed beyond the safe dates. Several pairs of **Yellow-throated Warbler** have been seen building nests along the river, 1 near Kintnersville 5/16 (SF) and another near Lumberville 5/21 (BAM). One **Mourning Warbler** was at Chalfont 5/28 (RF). A late **Blackpoll** was heard singing at PVP 6/9 (FM). **Pine Siskin** stayed late this year, wherever thistle feeders were well stocked. Most left by late-May, early-June. Only 1 **Evening Grosbeak** was seen, 4/26, at PVP, which is unusual considering the large number that migrated south last Fall.

OBSERVERS: Diane Allison, Steve Farbotnik, Ron French, Ray Hendrick, Ken Kitson, Fred Mears, Viding Karlberg, Bruce A. McNaught, RD 1, Box 263A, New Hope 18938 (215-297-5880), Bob Mitchell.

BUTLER COUNTY

Locations: L. Arthur (L.A.), Moraine S.P. (MSP), Slippery Rock Area (SRA), Slippery Rock Univ. (SRU).

This summary also includes *Lawrence* and *Mercer* Counties. Please refer to the individual county for specific records. Sightings are by Barb and George Dean unless otherwise noted.

New Castle, representative of the tri-counties, enjoyed a mild April with highs of 70 on the 5th and 23rd and a low of 24 on the 18th. Violent thunderstorms shook the tri-counties 5/15 and *Mercer* experienced 55 mph winds. June was the driest on record. Average rainfall in *Lawrence* is 4.19 in; we received 0.68 in. and rated it a moderate drought. The 7 record highs and 3 record lows averaged out to normal temperatures, but at times June still felt like August.

The mild April favored the birds. BBAP workers were getting very early confirmations for the early nesters. First sightings of many summer breeders and transients were on time, but in general the bulk of these birds were a week late, due to a warm April turning cold the last week. Best dates were 1, 8, and 16 May. To sum things up, we could say that the sun shone on the tri-counties in more ways than one.

LOONS THROUGH DUCKS. A **Common Loon** in winter plumage and 1 in breeding plumage were at L.A. 4/19 (LW). The **Pied-billed Grebe** continues its decline, with only 7 indiv. reported from four locations, 4/3-23. **American** and **Least Bittern** are scarce in our region, so 1 ad. **Am. Bittern** standing in the open at a farm pond in Butler 5/8 was surprising. **Green-backed Heron** returned 5/8 and sightings increased dramatically in the region (LW,NR,BD,GD). **Horned Grebe**, 4 **Bufflehead**, 4 **Ruddy Duck**, 2 **Lesser Scaup**, 46 **Red-breasted Merganser**, and 2 **Am. Black Duck** were at L.A. 4/23. Two **Blue-winged Teal** were seen on Swamp Rd. 4/9, and also at Saguallas 5/1-18 (LW). **Wood Duck** were reported breeding from 8 sites and 26 were at Swamp Rd. 6/1 (NR,BD,GD).

VULTURES THROUGH CRANES. Though **Turkey Vulture** had returned by end of March, they were not widespread until 4/15. There was no report of **Osprey**. An ad. **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was observed 6/30 being chased by **Red-winged Blackbirds** (*location deleted. -Eds.*). This is a "safe" date and it was carrying food, but it performed the classic "eat the evidence" routine. A **Cooper's Hawk** was seen 4/23 at MSP. A **Broad-winged Hawk** was on nest 4/26, with 1 young in the nest seen 6/19. Though **Am. Kestrel** numbers seem down in *Butler*, there was confirmed breeding 6/14.

Ring-necked Pheasant were reported from 4 locations with breeding confirmed 4/30 to 6/14. **Ruffed Grouse** were seen near Brown Rd. **Virginia Rail** and **Sora** were found in *Pennsy Swamp* (BD,GD,NR).

Common Moorhen and **Am. Coot** were confirmed breeding 6/10 at Penny Swamp (NR). One **Sandhill Crane** flying N over SRA 4/5 was a 3rd or 4th local record (GW).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS. A late report was received of 2 **Wilson's Plover** at Shenango Res. (*Unfortunately there were no details. -Eds.*) (BW,BS,RS). Two **Spotted Sandpiper** were at MSP 4/23. On 6/19, six **Upland Sandpiper** were found e. of SRU, apparently two families (GW). These were first found two years ago after an absence of some 50 years! An alert birder also found Upland Sandpiper on Book Rd.; this is the 4th regional record (JW). On 6/15 breeding was confirmed at this latter location when ad. and young were observed (JW,EW,SM,JM). Three calling males were defending territories (WHERE) 6/16 (GW). Six **Ring-billed Gull** were observed in a SRU field (GW) and 11 reported at L.A. 4/23. One ad. **Common Tern** was seen flying over a SRA pond 4/7 (GW) and 3 were at L.A. 4/23.

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS. One **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was singing in SRA 6/15-18; no report of **Black-billed** (GW). Reports of **E. Screech-Owl** are on the rise in S *Butler*, with some breeding confirmations. Other than **Great Horned Owl**, no other owl reports received. Young **Downy** and **Hairy** woodpeckers were coming to suet by 6/2. The **Pileated Woodpecker** continues to do well and **Red-bellied Woodpecker** fed young by 6/7. The only report of **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** came from SRA, where 1 ad. stayed 4/7-10 (GW).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH STARLINGS. The **Willow Flycatcher** seemed in average numbers, and the **Acadian Flycatcher** in above average numbers compared to 1987 and on time. **Great Crested Flycatcher** and **E. Kingbird** numbers were dramatically up from 1987. Swallows were on time and in good numbers, with the exception that no **Cliff Swallow** was reported. **Red-breasted Nuthatch** and **Brown Creeper** were virtually non-existent. The **Carolina Wren** numbers are improving in S *Butler*. **Winter Wren** were reported in the Coopers L. area (JW) and a **Marsh Wren** was territorial in June at Penny Swamp (NR). There was no noticeable movement of **Golden-crowned Kinglet**, but 3 **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** were at MSP 4/23. The **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** arrived late and in extremely low numbers compared to 1987.

E. Bluebird nested before 4/9 and is commonly enjoyed in the area. *Catharus* thrushes were not reported, with the exception of the **Veery**, which returned 5/7. They are still low in numbers; however 1 was heard singing in SRA (GW).

VIREOS THROUGH WARBLERS. **Red-eyed Vireo** re-turned in abundance 5/7, but no **Philadelphia** or **Solitary vireo** reported. Best warbler dates were 5/14-15 and many were down the morning after the storm 5/16. Large numbers of **Magnolia** and a few **N. Parula**, **Chestnut-sided**, **Cape May**, **Blackburnian**, **Bay-breasted**, **Blackpoll**, **Black-and-white**, **Am. Redstarts**, and **Hooded** were seen 5/16. The first ad. male **Yellow Warbler** was seen 4/3 in SRA (GW). The standard dozen **Prairie Warbler** bred at MSP as usual. **Blue-winged Warbler** and **Yellow-breasted Chat** were abundant. Numbers of **Yellow-breasted Chat** increased this year. A transient male **Cape May Warbler** taught a pair of **House Finch** how to feed from our hummingbird feeder (hourly) from 5/13-22 (*Oh, joy. -Eds.*). **Black-throated Blue Warbler** sang near Portersville 6/15. Waves of **Yellow-rumped Warbler** were commonly seen 4/30 to 5/17.

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES. The first **Indigo Bunting** arrived 5/10 and **Scarlet Tanager** 5/8 (both late). **Savannah Sparrow** arrived in good numbers in April, but by 5/14 there were only a few. The last **Dark-eyed Junco** left 4/12, which is very early compared to most years. Some **N. Oriole** nests were completed the first week of May and the only report of **Orchard Oriole** comes from SRA, with 1 male singing 6/14 (GW). **Purple Finch** were found in MSP in low numbers. **Pine Siskin** showed strong movement 5/1-5. In SRA, Wilhelm recorded numbers building 4/5 to 100+ by 4/25. One pair was seen *building a nest* at SRU 5/5, *feeding young* 5/20, and the last 2 seen 6/12; this is perhaps a 1st nesting record for our region. **Evening Grosbeak** were definitely somewhere else, with one exception: 5 at SRA feeder 4/5 (GW).

Barbara Dean will be doing the report for the next quarter as well, so please send your sightings to her.

OBSERVERS: Barbara Dean, 321 E. Meyer Ave., New Castle, 16105 (412-658-3393), George Dean, Jim & Shirley McCarl, Nancy Rodgers, Bill Sarver, Bob Walczak, Loraine Weiland, Gene Wilhelm, JoAnn & Ed Wilver.

CAMBRIA COUNTY

A singing **Swainson's Thrush** was found in Prince Galitzin S.P. 6/15 (DB).

OBSERVER: Dan Brauning.

CARBON COUNTY

Locations: Beltzville S.P. (BSP), Mauch Chunk L. (MCL), Francis Walter Dam (FWD).

This report will be broken into two distinct sections. The first deals with the April/May migration, and the second with atlas reports from late-May and June.

MIGRATION. Twenty-two **Common Loon** were at Penn Forest 4/2 (BLM). Two **Double-crested Cormorant** were seen 5/14 at Wild Cr. (AK,KS). A record late **Ring-necked Duck** was at Wild Cr. 5/24 (TM,BLM,DB). About 20 **Oldsquaw** were seen 4/2 at Penn Forest and MCL (BLM). A flock of 16 **Red-breasted Merganser** was at Penn Forest 4/2 (BLM), and 2 others were at BSP 4/19 (RW).

A late **Osprey** was seen at Wild Cr. as well as a late imm. **Bald Eagle** 5/24 (DB,TM,BLM). Two **Common Snipe** were seen and heard near Penn Forest 5/15 (AK,KS). This is either a record late date for migrants or, as appears more likely, the 1st area record of possible breeding. Three **Ring-billed Gull** at Penn Forest 5/24 were unusual at that locale (DB,TM,BLM). A **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was seen 5/14 near Wild Cr. (AK,KS). This is probably a nesting bird, as they were found in that area several years ago in the summer. A **Prothonotary Warbler** was seen 5/14 near Wild Cr., a 1st county record (AK,KS).

NESTING SEASON. The *Carbon* contribution to the PBBAP got off to a late start, but has more than made up for it in the past two years. By the end of this season we should have 100% block coverage, and an average species count/block of over 70.

Judy Wink has contributed greatly to this effort. Her banding work this year has added the following confirmations: **E. Screech-Owl** in 12 blocks, **Common Barn-Owl** in 6, **Great Horned Owl** in 40, **Red-tailed Hawk** in 5, **Broad-winged** and **Sharp-shinned hawk** in 4 blocks each, **Tree Swallow** in ALL 44 blocks, **E. Phoebe** in 15, and **E. Bluebird** in 30 blocks.

Two **Common Loon** have been seen regularly at BSP through June (JW). The lake is heavily used for recreational purposes, including high-speed power boats, the kind with about a thousand horsepower engines. Not the place you would expect to find summering loons, but they have stayed near the dam breast, where speed boats are prohibited. A pair of **Pied-billed Grebe** has been seen all June at MCL, but no definite breeding behavior was observed (JW). This is the 1st summer record for this species.

A pair of **Am. Bittern** has been regularly seen near the MCL Envir. Ctr, as was a single **Black-crowned Night-Heron** (JW). A pair of **Red-shouldered Hawk** was found (*location deleted. -Eds.*) in June (WT). Young **Common Barn-Owl** were banded in five separate nests in s. *Carbon* (JW). A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was seen near Meckesville 6/25 (BLM). Good numbers of **Brown Creeper** were found. **Golden-crowned Kinglet** were found near the FWD during atlas work (WT). **Yellow-throated** and **Solitary vireos** were found, and a small colony of **Worm-eating Warbler** was discovered near the Lehighton Res. 6/30 (BLM). At least one pair of the latter species was confirmed breeding there, a 1st for the county. Two different colonies of **Nashville Warbler** were found in June, one near Camp Mosey Wood and the other near Meckesville (BLM), and a pair of **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was seen at the former location 6/7 (BLM). Several **Magnolia**, **Black-throated Green**, **Black-throated Blue**, and **Blackburnian** warblers were found in the proper habitats (BLM,WT).

White-throated Sparrow and **Dark-eyed Junco** were some of the more unusual birds found near the FWD during June atlas work (WT).

One of the things that I enjoy about atlas work is observing bird behavior. One day a male Black-and-white Warbler performed a very agitated distraction display for me. It was just like the Killdeer "broken wing" act. He really wanted me to follow him away from where I was standing, probably too near his nest for comfort.

OBSERVERS: Arlene Koch, Terry Master, Bernard L. Morris, 825 N. Muhlenburg St., Allentown 18104 (215-435-9134), Kathy Sieminski, Rick Wiltraut, Judy Wink.

CENTRE COUNTY

Locations: Bald Eagle S.P. (BESP), Colyer L. (CL).

As far as spring migrations go, this reporting period provided little in the way of exciting species, although a couple of rarer species were observed. Weather probably can be blamed for some of the "unspectacular" birding, with a lack of major frontal systems during the peak migration times apparently preventing the occurrence of fallouts or waves of passerines.

April was a very cool and dry month with the average temperature of 46.5 (2.5 below normal) and only 1.5" of precipitation (1.9" below normal). The latter half of April was 10 degrees below normal and this cool weather continued into the first part of May. A warming trend brought more normal temps by the end of the month. Average May temp was 58.4 (1.1 below normal) and the precipitation was slightly above normal at 4.2". The 0.92" of precipitation recorded in June was 3" below normal and was the second driest June on record. The June average temp of 66.3 was 1.7 degrees below normal.

Two **Red-throated Loon** were at CL 4/2-4 (GB,KJ,JJ,CY). Some of the **Common Loon** sightings this period included 2 at BESP 4/5 (PS), 6 there 4/18 (KJ,JJ), 1 at CL 5/19 (DB), and the fairly late 3 at BESP 5/20 (DB,BB). Lone **Double-crested Cormorant** were reported from CL 4/6 (CY), and from BESP 4/16 (GS,PS), and 4/17 (HH,EZ), while a group of 17 was at BESP 5/20 (DB,BB). Of the 78 species recorded on the BESP Big Day 4/17, an **Am. Bittern** (EZ,DB) provided an unusual sighting as it stood underneath a white pine tree away from the water. The best birds of the report period were the **Little Blue Heron**, a second-year bird, at BESP 5/20 (DB,BB), and one **Glossy Ibis** at Pleasant Gap 4/22 (SB), both very rare migrants in the county.

Four **Canvasback**, large numbers of **Greater Scaup** with a few **Lesser Scaup**, 65 **Bufflehead**, and many **Red-breasted Merganser** were at BESP 4/7 (PS). Eighteen **Canvasback** were at CL 4/7 (KJ,JJ). Thirty-five **Oldsquaw** were at BESP 4/2 (ES) and also at CL 4/7 (MW). Four **White-winged Scoter** made an appearance at CL 4/8 (GB,KJ,JJ), with 1 remaining until 4/9.

Reports of **Bald Eagle** included 1 ad. and 1 imm. at BESP 4/9 (DP), and 1 ad. (EZ) and 1 imm. (JP,BP) at BESP 4/17. This report period also provided a rare spring sighting of **Golden Eagle** at CL 4/5 (GB).

The single **Greater Yellowlegs** at CL 4/29 and reports of 7 **Lesser Yellowlegs** 4/24 and 2 on 4/29 at CL (KJ,JJ) were the only shorebirds, other than the usual **Solitary** and **Spotted** sandpipers. **Bonaparte's Gull** sightings included several at BESP 4/5 (PS), 2 at CL 4/19 (KJ,JJ), and 1 at the BESP beach in late May (DB,BB). A very early **Common Tern** was at BESP 4/3 (MH). Three **Common Tern** and 1 **Forster's Tern** were at BESP 5/10 (DB,BB). The only **Black Tern** report was 1 at Toftrees Pond 5/15 (MH).

Both **cuckoo** species were in very good numbers throughout much of the county, being especially easy to hear at night (JP). The **Whip-poor-will** calling in The Barrens 4/11 provided the earliest spring date by a week (JP).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was seen at CL 5/19 (DB,BB), and 1 at Rocksprings 5/21 (JP,BP). Four **Swainson's Thrush** were singing at dusk near the Scotia range 5/15 (JP,BP). The **Brown Thrasher** at Toftrees 4/2 tied the early spring date (JP,BP). The only **Water Pipit** reported were 20 near CL 4/16 (KJ,JJ).

A **Yellow-throated Vireo** was near Hannah 6/2-4 (JP,BP). Warbler migration seemed to be later than normal, with the rainy period from 5/16-21 providing the only warbler fallout. During the 48-hour period, 5/20-22, a total of 30 warbler species was found near State College (JP), including **Mourning** 5/22, **Kentucky** 5/21, and **Wilson's** 5/20, **Cape May**, **Blackpoll**, and **Bay-breasted** warblers 5/22. Another early date was established when a **Louisiana Waterthrush** was seen 4/3 along Big Fishing Cr. (MH).

At least 3 **Henslow's Sparrow** were in a field along the Allegheny Front from 5/21 to the first week in July when the field was mowed (JP). Sightings of **Red Crossbill** that began in March continued into this period with ten at the Penn State deer pens 5/15 (EZ,RH), 1 in State College 5/23 (JP), and 1 at Black Moshannon S.P. 5/28 (JP,BP). **Pine Siskin** were abundant until the end of April, when numbers drastically declined. A migrating flock of 250 **Evening Grosbeak** was seen near Fairbrook 4/24 (JP), while the ten near CL 4/29 (KJ,JJ) were the last reported.

OBSERVERS: Steven Bason, Dorothy & Blanche Bordner, Gail Butler, Randy Harrison, Harry Henderson, Mark Henry, Katherine & Jennings Jones, David Pearson, John and Becky Peplinski, 4 Beaver Branch Rd., Box 364, Pennsylvania Furnace 16865 (814-238-6541), Paul & Glenna Schwalbe, Edgar Spalding, Merrill Wood, Chuck Yohn, Eugene Zielinski.

CHESTER COUNTY

Locations: Hibernia Park (HP), Honey Brook Sewage Ponds (HBSP), Marsh Cr. S.P. (MCSP), Nottingham Park (NP), Octoraro L. (OL), Struble Bike Trail (SBT), Struble L. (SL), West Chester Res. (WCR).

The spring season began very wet and ended very hot and dry. Migrants were somewhat later than usual, but in much better numbers than more recent years. The annual Spring Count of the WCBC broke all records for number of species, with a total of 206. The Club's Breeding Bird Count held in early June also had a good count of 88 species.

LOONS THROUGH DUCKS. Two **Red-throated Loon** were at OL 4/23 (LL). **Common Loon** were found during April at SL and MCSP. Only 4 **Horned Grebe** were seen all quarter (low). **Double-crested Cormorant** sightings were of 5 at HP 4/16 (LL) and 2 at SL 4/18 (JG). An **Am. Bittern** was at MCSP 4/29 (LL,GS). **Great Egret** were at SL 4/24 and at OL 5/21. **Cattle Egret** were at SL 4/21 and 5/9 (LL). **Black-crowned Night-Heron** were seen sporadically during April, with 3 observed on the road to HBSP 4/24 (LL). No flocks of **Snow Geese** were reported and only 4 single birds were seen mixed in with flocks of **Canada Geese**. One individual was at SL 4/29.

Ducks were seen early in the period and only for a brief time. On 4/4 the following were at HBSP: 40 **Wood Duck**, 30 **Ring-necked Duck**, 10 **Lesser Scaup**, and 6 **Bufflehead** (JG). On the same day at MCSP were a **Red-breasted Merganser** and 6 **Lesser Scaup**. Seven pair of **Bufflehead** were near Birchrunville 5/2 (EW). Only 1 **Gadwall** was reported, that being at SL 5/23 (LL). A pair of **Ring-necked Duck** was at HBSP until 5/25 and 1 male was still there throughout June; last year a single male remained at SL all summer (LL). Two **Greater Scaup** were at SL 4/1, 7 at MCSP 4/15, and 2 at HBSP 4/21 (JG,LL). Two **Oldsquaw** were at SL 4/24. All three scoter species were seen during April. **White-winged Scoter** were at MCSP, with a high of 7 on 4/21. In with that small group was a lone **Black Scoter**. **Three Surf Scoter** were at SL 4/24 (PH,LL). Two **Red-breasted Merganser** were at SL 4/7 (LL). Very low numbers of **Ruddy Duck** were seen, with the highest count 3 at both SL 4/7 (LL) and at HBSP 6/22 (JG).

RAPTORS. **Black Vulture** can now be seen practically anywhere in the county. High counts were of 15 at SL 5/22 and 30 at OL 4/21. These are two of the better areas for finding this species. Reports of **Osprey** were scattered throughout April and early May, with a late 1 on 6/3 at OL (LL). **Bald Eagle** sightings included: an imm. over Parkesburg 4/2 (LL), a 3rd-year bird at MCSP 4/18 (m.ob.), 2 ad. at OL 4/23, as well as 1 imm. there 5/21-22 (LL). **N. Harrier** were seen in fair numbers this spring, with the latest indiv. at Doe Run 5/4 (LL). A few migrating **Cooper's Hawk** were seen, the last at OL 5/23. Single **N. Goshawk** were seen flying over Honey

Brook 4/4 and MCSP 4/29 (LL), as well as 1 over Mortonville 4/7 (JP). **Red-shouldered Hawk** were found in pairs (*locations deleted. -Eds.*) (LL), as well as the nest of **Broad-winged Hawk** (BB). Single **Merlin** were at MCSP 4/22 and at OL 4/23. An ad. **Peregrine Falcon** was also over MCSP 4/23 (LL).

PHEASANT THROUGH LARKS. Birders in the county continue to mention the very low numbers of **Ring-necked Pheasant**. This is supported by this year's WCBBC count of only 12, while the five-year average is 35 (EW). A single **Ruffed Grouse** was found near Elverson 5/22. The **Wild Turkey** reported last quarter continues near the domestic turkey farm near SL, although it is not a sure bet every visit (m.ob.). A **Sora** was at Moore's Marsh near Elverson as were 6 **Virginia Rail** 4/22. Two **Virginia Rail** were still there 5/15 (LL). **Am. Coot** remained in the area until 5/11.

One **Black-bellied Plover** was at SL 5/14 (LL). **Semipalmated Plover** were at SL during the week 5/9-14, with a high of 9 on 5/11 (LL). **Greater Yellowlegs** first returned to SL 4/5, with a high count of 12 there 4/23. **Lesser Yellowlegs** were there 4/21, with a high of 13 birds 4/28 (LL). A semi-late **Solitary Sandpiper** was at Doe Run 5/16. During the first week of June, **Spotted Sandpiper** were found at OL, WCR, and SL, always in pairs. Two **Semipalmated Sandpiper** were at SL 5/4, plus 2 **Western Sandpiper** 5/11-12 (LL). Good numbers of **Least Sandpiper** were seen in the area until 5/16, with a high of 25 at SL 5/9. One or two **Pectoral Sandpiper** were at SL daily from 4/16 to 5/11; three **Pectoral** were also seen at the Reeceville Flood Control Dam 5/5 (LL).

Bonaparte's Gull were seen somewhat regularly from the beginning of the quarter until 5/16, with the high 4 at SL 4/26 (m.ob.). Three **Caspian Tern** were at MCSP 4/20 and 2 were at OL 4/24. Single **Forster's Tern** were at SL 4/21 and 4/24. One **Common Tern** was at SL 5/25. Only 1 **Black Tern** was at SL 5/10 (LL). This species is usually found at this time in small groups.

A **Common Barn-Owl** was seen at HP 4/16 (LL). A pair of **Barred Owl** was found regularly at OL. Five **Common Nighthawk** were seen hawking insects over the water at dawn 5/14 at SL and at least 3 were over the city of Coatesville that same date (LL,JP). At least 6 **Whip-poor-will** were at their usual haunts at NP. Reports of **Red-headed Woodpecker** were very encouraging, with the most reliable spot being Pleasant View Rd. near Honey Brook, where at least 2 birds have been reported consistently. **Pileated Woodpecker** were also in decent numbers and a reliable location has been the n. end of the SBT.

I have been trying to confirm **Pileated Woodpecker** as breeders for the Atlas project at this location for the last few years. They had successfully bred there the year before the project began. I finally found them in a nest site, and about two weeks later I received a disheartening report from JG of their being ousted by **Starlings**, of all things. This is the first that he or I had heard of **Starlings** evicting a bird as big as this. Of course, now they are yet to be confirmed and, once again, *Sturnus vulgaris* proves it was aptly named.

Willow Flycatcher were in good numbers, with a high of 10 at OL 5/22. Three separate reports of **Least Flycatcher** were received (v.o.). Single **Cliff Swallow** were reported at HBSP 5/1 (BB) and Goshenview Farm, W. Chester 6/17 (JG). **Purple Martin** are doing extremely well in the Amish farmland w. of Honey Brook. It seems that every farm has erected a martin house. Numerous **Horned Lark** were reported throughout the quarter in the field w. of Honey Brook.

A few **Black-capped Chickadee** were seen in the extreme n. part of *Chester*, particularly French Cr. S.P. **Hermit Thrush** came through in very good numbers, with a noteworthy sighting of 7 in one small tree at MCSP. A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was seen at NP 4/21 (LL). **Water Pipit** seemed to be in fewer numbers and departed earlier, the last was at SL 4/24 (LL).

The first **Solitary Vireo** was 1 in my yard 4/17. Warbler migration was later this year, but the numbers were improved over more recent years, especially **Blackburnian** and **Bay-breasted** warblers. A **Cerulean Warbler** was at White Clay Cr. 5/14 (PH). A total of 32 warbler species was tallied for the WCBBC Spring Count held 4/15 to 5/15. The SBT continues to be a reliable spot for **Worm-eating Warbler**, with

no fewer than 3 singing birds there 6/10 (JP). At least two reports of **Golden-winged Warbler** were received. On 5/9 a **Blue-winged Warbler** was singing only the song of a Golden-winged (BB). It remained in the area and was never once heard to sing the standard *bee-bzzz*. A "**Lawrence's Warbler**" was observed near Elverson 5/1 (PH).

Blue Grosbeak were on territory s. of NP 5/11 (LL). **Vesper Sparrow** were also on territory near SL 4/1 and together with **Savannah Sparrow** at Doe Run 4/5. The only report of **Fox Sparrow** was in Parkesburg 4/16 (LL). The last **White-crowned Sparrow** report was of 2 at MCSP 5/3 (LL). **Bobolink** were on territory at Doe Run 5/4 and near Charlestown 5/10 (LL,JP). **Rusty Blackbird** stayed around SL until 4/29. Four **Red Crossbill** were at the n. end of SBT 4/24 (LL). **Pine Siskin** were seen in very good numbers, with most birds gone by mid-May; however, an indiv. kept coming to my thistle feeder until 6/21. **Evening Grosbeak** reports were very rare and when seen only 1-2 birds. The last date was 5/15.

OBSERVERS: Barry Blust, John Ginaven, Phyllis Hurlock, Larry Lewis, Jerry Pasquarella, 2209 Cranberry Lane, Coatesville 19320 (215-486-6440), Grier Saunders, Eleanor Wolf, West Chester Bird Club.

CLARION COUNTY

Please refer to the article on **Short-eared Owl** elsewhere in this issue.

CLEARFIELD COUNTY

Location: Parker Dam S.P. (PDSP).

Spring migration is the focus of this report. All records come from the DuBois area unless otherwise noted, thanks to the efforts of Marianne Atkinson and Jocelynn Smrekar.

Pied-billed Grebe was observed in two places on four occasions, beginning 4/18. The one seen 6/17 was apparently not breeding. A **Horned Grebe** was seen 4/18 and 4/25. The first **Double-crested Cormorant** of the quarter was seen 4/5. **Green-backed Heron** appeared 4/25. **Canada Goose** was observed on several occasions from 4/10-24. **Blue-winged Teal** appeared 4/18 and 4/28. A **N. Shoveler** was seen on 4/18. **Greater Scaup** were seen 4/25 and 4/28. The **Bufflehead** seen 4/18 was noteworthy, as were the **Red-breasted Merganser** in two locations 4/20-4/25. **Ruddy Duck** 4/24-25 rounds out this list of less-often reported waterfowl.

Osprey was seen 4/24-25. The only report of **N. Harrier**, which winters in this area, was 4/6. A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was observed 6/18 (*location deleted. -Eds.*) (GB). The only report of **Red-shouldered Hawk** was a second-hand account of one seen battling with a **Red-tailed Hawk** 5/14.

Ring-necked Pheasant seem to be doing well in this area. **Ruffed Grouse** were also reported all quarter. A **N. Bobwhite** was seen 4/23. The **Semipalmated Plover** 4/18 was an uncommon migrant. **Greater Yellowlegs** appeared first 4/19 and 3 were present 4/22. **Solitary Sandpiper** was seen 4/13-15, and again a month later. The only peep was a **Least Sandpiper** seen 5/21-23, when it should have been much farther north. Nine **Common Snipe** were seen 4/20. A **Bonaparte's Gull** 4/25 and a **Ring-billed Gull** 4/15 were the only gulls reported.

Although **Black-billed Cuckoo** arrived first (5/10) by two days, many more **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** were seen. **Common Nighthawk** are apparently nesting at the DuBois Mall (GB). The **Red-bellied Woodpecker** reported 5/13 was very unusual for this county. In addition to the numerous sightings of **Hairy**, **Downy** and **N. Flicker**, a **Pileated Woodpecker** was seen 5/11. The *Empidonax* flycatchers arrived about mid-May, with the exception of an early **Least** 5/5. **Horned Lark** is a resident breeding species in the fields of the s.e. part of the county, but appears less common in the DuBois area. The only report was 4/2. All swallows arrived on time, but the only report of **Purple Martin** was 6/18 at the DuBois Mall (GB). A pair of **Red-breasted Nuthatch** were found at PDSP 6/19 (GB). **Brown Creeper** never goes undetected for a whole quarter.

There were sightings 4/4 and 5/17. **Veery** was the latest of the thrushes, first seen 5/19. **Hermit Thrush**, usually the first to return, was seen 4/24 (MA,JS) and possibly nesting at PDSP (GB).

Spring for some birders does not begin until the vireos and warblers arrive. The **Red-eyed Vireo** 4/21 preceded the first **Solitary** by three days. **White-eyed** (5/13), **Warbling** (5/16) and **Philadelphia** (5/11) vireos arrived at about the same time. The absence of **Blue-winged** and **Golden-winged** warblers was regrettably noted by JS and MA. Most of the other regular warblers were observed. There were no surprises, and were first observed during the first two weeks of May.

On 6/18 (1) and 6/19 (4 singing males) **Dickcissel** were found in Luthersburg (GB). They could not be subsequently located by JS. **Vesper Sparrow** was not observed until 5/17. **Grasshopper Sparrow** was seen 5/14 followed by the first **Henslow's Sparrow** 5/20. **Swamp Sparrow** was seen first 4/12. **White-throated Sparrow** arrived 5/3 and **White-crowned Sparrow** 5/5. The arrival of **Bobolink** was noted 5/2. The pair of **Orchard Oriole** 5/14 were very unusual for *Clearfield*. The more common **N. Oriole** was first seen 5/7. **Purple Finch** appears to be resident here. Several reports of this species were received.

OBSERVERS: Marianne Atkinson, Gordon Berkey, Jocelynn Smrekar, Edgar Spalding, 115 Old Houserville Rd., State College 16801 (814-238-7973).

CLINTON COUNTY

Locations: Kettle Creek S.P. (KCSP), Lock Haven (LH).

During this quarter the weather was as follows, with the mean low, mean high, and total precipitation respectively. April: 39, 61, 1.4". May 49, 74, 5.05". June 53, 78, 0.9". As is evident by the ensuing drought, the precipitation for this period was exceptionally low.

Waterfowl reports include: 2 **Common Loon** and a **Ring-necked Duck** at KCSP 4/3 (DL). **Oldsquaw** were at LH 4/7 & 4/21 (PS). The only scoters were 10 **White-winged Scoter** at LH 4/7, with **Bufflehead** there 4/21 (PS). Four **Hooded Merganser** were at KCSP 4/3 (DL) and a dozen or so **Ruddy Duck** 4/7 at LH.

An ad. **Bald Eagle** was seen at KCSP 4/3 (DL). While atlasing, the compilers had 2 recently fledged **Red-shouldered Hawk** being tended to by both parents 5/7 (*location deleted*. -Eds.). A pair of **Virginia Rail** responded to a tape near LH 4/28, and **Bonaparte's Gull** were observed near LH 4/21 (PS). Our only **Olive-sided Flycatcher** report was 1 near Rosecrans 6/8, just a few days before its "safe" date (P&GS). **Acadian Flycatcher** were discovered in 11 different blocks (SS,P&GS).

All six swallows had arrived by 4/28, and the **Bank Swallow** colony at Salona had 53 active nests (P&GS). **Fish Crow** continues to be fairly regular in spring and early summer. **Red-breasted Nuthatch** were seen in 3 blocks (ER,SS), **Winter Wren** in 8 blocks (SS,P&GS), and **Golden-crowned Kinglet** were confirmed in 3 of the 8 blocks in which they were observed (ER,SS,P&GS).

Is the **Wood Thrush** in trouble in Pennsylvania? The compilers recorded 60 **Hermit Thrush** and only 24 **Wood Thrush**. In the recent past the impression was that there were more **Wood** than **Hermit** thrushes in this area, but this year they were only 40% as great in numbers!

Is there a breeding warbler capital for Pennsylvania? Is *Clinton County* this "Breeding Warbler Capital?" With the **Chat** being present in other years, 25 species of warblers have been recorded within safe dates for the PBBAP. We would suspect that other counties could boast 25 breeding warbler species as well. Is there a county that has 26 or 27 species? For instance, the **Yellow-throated Warbler** was confirmed in *Lycoming* this year; is this a new species for that county? Perhaps this "Breeding Warbler Capital" will be a cluster of counties. Until proven otherwise, we in *Clinton County* claim the title, "**BREEDING WARBLER CAPITAL OF PENNSYLVANIA.**"

We would like to know what happened to the **Yellow-breasted Chat** this year. During atlasing, 24 species of warblers were recorded this year, including such goodies as (at least for *Clinton* they are goodies) **Nashville, Prairie, Cerulean, Kentucky, Mourning, and Hooded**, but not one **Chat**!

An **Orchard Oriole** was observed at Rosecrans 6/7 (P&GS). The last of the **Pine Siskin**, 18, left over from the large winter flocks, were at Loganton 5/8 (ER,P&GS) and the last **Evening Grosbeak** were 5/3 (PS).

OBSERVERS: David Long, Edward Reimann, Steve Santner, Paul and Glenna Schwalbe, 546 Wilson St., Jersey Shore 17740 (717-398-4514).

CRAWFORD COUNTY

Locations: Conneaut Marsh (CM) includes Towpath Rd., Custards area, and Geneva area; Erie NWR (ENWR), Linesville Fish Hatchery (LFH), Meadville (MDV), Pymatuning S.P. (PSP) (including the Causeway, Goose Mgmt. Area, and Spillway).

All sightings by the Lebermans unless otherwise indicated.

WATER BIRDS. Two **Common Loon** were first seen at CM 4/16. The high count of **Pied-billed Grebe** was 6 on Tamarack L. 4/23. A record high 17 **Double-crested Cormorant** were at PSP 4/22. Two **Am. Bittern** were at CM 4/14 (RC) and 1 there 5/2 (RFL). A **Green-backed Heron** was at ENWR 4/27 (BC). A **Tundra Swan** with a broken wing remained at PSP all period. The large wintering population of **Canada Goose** dwindled to the 1000 nesting birds by 4/9, a number that is perhaps a little less than in the last few seasons.

The 7 **Blue-winged Teal** seen at Woodcock L. 4/2 were a good number. Two **N. Shoveler** were found at Hartstown Marsh 4/9. The 40 **Gadwall** at PSP 4/9 had increased to 75 by 4/22. The high of 10 **Am. Wigeon** at PSP 4/9 was lower than last year. No **Canvasback** or **Redhead** was seen here this spring. Were we just not there at the right time or did they head directly for L. Erie without stopping? Good numbers of **Ring-necked Duck** were seen between 3/12 and 4/22. Ten **Bufflehead** were at PSP 4/9. The 20 **Hooded Merganser** at PSP 4/22 was the high, a rather poor showing. Only 1 **Ruddy Duck** was found at PSP 4/9.

HAWKS THROUGH OWLS. The PGC reported that 7 young **Bald Eagle** were produced in three of the five nests. The nest near the PSP Museum had 3 young, including 1 introduced bird. One **N. Harrier** was at CM 4/18. A **Cooper's Hawk** was n. of MDV 4/2.

Three **Ring-necked Pheasant** were near Hartstown Marsh 5/5 (BB). Best count for **Common Moorhen** was 3 at CM 5/13 and also at that location 4/8 were 12 **Am. Coot**. Two **Greater Yellowlegs** were found at PSP 4/9, with a high of 4 there 4/22. An unusually good total of 32 **Lesser Yellowlegs** was carefully counted at PSP 4/19. The lone **Solitary Sandpiper** at ENWR 5/6 was the only report. Adults and at least 2 fledgling **Upland Sandpiper** were on Beaver Center Rd. w. of Conneautville 6/22 (TCN). Two **Pectoral Sandpiper** were seen at PSP 4/19. Best count for **Common Snipe** was 7 at CM 4/18 (RFL,MNL,RCL).

Gull numbers seemed to be down this spring, with no apparent reason detected. A **Common Tern** was at Woodcock L. 6/27 (RCL). Two **Black Tern** were seen at the CM 5/5 (BB). Heartening were these reports of this species: at least 4 at Smiths Marsh, w. of Conneaut L. 6/21 (BB,DM) and a nest with 3 eggs found at Hartstown Marsh 6/5 (BB,WB). A nest of **Barred Owl** with 1 young was found in an old chestnut tree on Saeger Hill (RFL) and another located at Neson's Hill, MDV, 5/9 (RV).

GOATSUCKER THROUGH GROSBEAKS. A **Common Nighthawk** was in downtown Meadville 5/16. One **Red-bellied Woodpecker** was at Alden St. and the Meadville City line 6/27 (RFL). An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was found at Hartstown Marsh 5/8 (m.ob.). Swallow dates and numbers provided no surprises. At least 6 **Swainson's Thrush** were along Towpath Rd. 5/13. Warbler highlight was a pair of **Pine Warbler**, including a singing male, found at the e. end of PSP dam 6/25 (RCL,RFL). **Mourning Warbler** continues to be abundant in the c. and e. areas of *Crawford*.

A minimum of 12 **Scarlet Tanager** were at Towpath Rd. 5/13. A **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was at Saegertown 5/4 (TP) and 4 were on our Saeger Hill feeder 5/5 (RFL,MNL).

Chipping, Vesper, and **Savannah** sparrows returned on time in April, but **Henslow's** was not found until 5/6 at ENWR. One **Fox Sparrow** was at a feeder in Meadville 4/10 (SEF). A **Bobolink** was singing at the top of a large maple tree at Geneva 5/6. **Pine Siskin** remained at our feeders all period. **Am. Goldfinch** numbers were better at the feeders this spring and, lastly, 1-6 **Evening Grosbeak** were observed daily until 5/6.

OBSERVERS: Bill Bush, Bob Coon, Robert Criswell, Sara E. Flaugh, Robert C. Leberman, Ronald F. Leberman, RD #1, Saeger Hill, Meadville 16335 (814-724-5071), Mary N. Leberman, Thomas & Clare Nicols, Thelma Patton, Stella Rieners, Dr. & Mrs. John Robb, Ralph Vaugn, Willaim Bush, Sr.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY

Locations: Creek Road Pond (CRP), Huntsdale Fish Hatchery (HFH), Mount Holly Springs (MHS), New Cumberland (NC), Opossum L. (OL), Susquehanna R., West Fairview Boat Launch (WFBL).

It was yet another uneventful migration. The quarter was not a total loss, however, as some good birds were seen.

Common Loon were seen at OL, with a high of 7 on 5/6 (JS), and a late, breeding plumaged bird on the river at NC 6/13 (RK). A pair of **Pied-billed Grebe** seen at OL until 5/5 could suggest a nesting attempt (DH). **Horned Grebe** did well, with a high of 11 at WFBL 4/2 (RK). Could **Double-crested Cormorant** nest in PA? I think so. Koury had 1 on 6/13 on the river at NC, while DHe had a peak of 5 on CRP 5/20. A spectacular 33 **Black-crowned Night-Heron** were at HFH 4/29.

Notable waterfowl sightings include: 11 **Oldsquaw** at WFBL 4/2 (RK), 2 **White-winged Scoter** at OL 4/7 (DHe,JS), 1 **Redhead** at OL 5/14 (JS), a solo **Ruddy Duck** at CRP 5/12-24 (DHe), and a male **Hooded Merganser** at L. Warren 6/6 (JE).

Osprey put on an incredible show at HFH, with no fewer than 10 being able to be seen almost daily through 4/30; the high was 25 on 4/24 (DHe). A pair of **N. Bobwhite** were n. of Newville 5/29 (DHe). This is now a very uncommon bird for *Cumberland*. **Am. Woodcock** seem to be doing well. A **Laughing Gull** was seen at OL 4/8 (DHe) for what could be a 1st county record. A new county high of 6 **Bonaparte's Gull** was seen at OLD 4/7 (DHe). A **Caspian Tern** was at OL (DHe,JS), and 2 **Common Tern** were at WFBL 4/24 (DH). One **Black Tern** was found at CRP 5/20. A **N. Saw-whet Owl** was at a MHS yard until 5/30 (JE). The word on **Red-headed Woodpecker** is positive for *Cumberland*, as several reports have been received from various locations.

A **Bewick's Wren** was well-studied 5/6-8 at MHS (MH). As for vireos and warblers, everything was ho-hum. The usual vireos and a count of 31 species of warblers was turned in by observers; of these 31, at least 21 species were expected to stay and attempt nesting. A male, singing **Dickcissel** was n. of Newburg 5/31, but the farmer cut the field prior to the next visit (KA). The only unusual sparrow sighting was a **White-crowned Sparrow** at SGL #169 on 5/12 (DHe).

OBSERVERS: Karen Atwood, Jane Earle, Don Henise, Mitch Hillman, Deuane Hoffman, 3406 Montour St., Harrisburg 17111 (717-564-7475), Ramsay Koury, Judy Stine.

DAUPHIN COUNTY

Locations: Hershey Medical Center (HMC), Stony Cr. Valley (SCV), Susquehanna R., Wildwood Lake Nature Center (WLNC).

The weather conditions were near normal, except for June, which was hotter and drier than normal. The only good weather pattern for birds in migration came at the end of April and first few days of May.

Rarities. The only rare bird was a "**Brewster's Warbler**" at HMC

5/4-5. The following six species have been reported as *possibly* nesting in *Dauphin* this year. A pair of **N. Goshawk** at a probable location, and a single Gos in another area, were found by Santner. Throughout June he also had a colony of 8-10 pairs of **Blackburnian Warbler** and a pair of **Red-breasted Nuthatch**. On 6/23, he found a singing male **Golden-crowned Kinglet**. Chubb reported two males and a female **Prothonotary Warbler** on Haldeman Is. 6/1 and a singing male **Blackpoll Warbler** in a pine planting near Elizabethville 6/12.

Trends. As mentioned above, the best weather pattern came at the very end of April and with it came a sampling of the later warblers. By 3 May, 23 species had been reported. Later in May warblers and many other "later" species were harder to find, but this should probably be attributed to the weather rather than some general decline.

LOONS THROUGH GULLS. There were small groups of up to 12 **Common Loon** seen on the river throughout April and into early May. A single **Pied-billed Grebe** at WLNC in mid-April was the only report. The river had its normal small groups of **Double-crested Cormorant** in April and May, with 1 imm. seen regularly in June. The **Green-backed Heron** and both species of **night-herons** arrived at their normal haunts, but all three were about two weeks late. Both teal were in normal numbers in April, with the **Blue-winged** still in good numbers the latter half of May. Two males and a female **N. Shoveler** were at WLNC through much of April, along with 12 **Am. Wigeon** and 5 **Gadwall**.

Osprey, which normally arrive in mid-April, were not reported until 5/6 (G&CW), and only a few other sightings reported later that month. Three of those sightings were of birds flying the ridges rather than the river. **Bald Eagle** (at least 3) continue to be seen along the river near Dauphin and an ad. was reported at Dehart Dam (SS). **Broad-wing Hawk** were not reported in migration, but at least 6 were found in late June in the n. portions of the county.

Huff reported a probable **N. Bobwhite** from her farm in SCV. The last known report was of a covey of 12 on Blue Mt. in June 1986. Shorebirds were not well represented. The weather conditions either had the water too high or too low. WLNC did have a few of each species of **yellowlegs** and a fair number of **Solitary Sandpiper**; 8-10 **Common Snipe** were there through late April. Twelve **Bonaparte's Gull** were reported 4/14 (G&CW), but there was no major migration at the end of March and April as there has been for the prior four years. The only reported sighting of **Caspian Tern** was on the river 4/17 (G&CW).

CUCKOOS THROUGH FINCHES. For the landbirds, unless otherwise noted, the information is from the "HMC Birders" (S&SR,WE,RG). They reported both species of **cuckoos** to be in about equal numbers after 5/5; this also held true for the mountains in June (JC). **Whip-poor-will** were in good numbers in more mountainous areas. **Hairy Woodpecker** nesting in the mountains of the county is nothing new, but a nesting pair at HMC is. There was also one excavating a cavity at WLNC, but it was not used. HMC also had a pair of **Pileated Woodpecker**. The only report of an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was 5/17 at HMC. All six swallows were reported in the county, with the **Purple Martin** colony near WLNC active again this year.

For the **Red-breasted Nuthatch** and **Golden-crowned Kinglet**, refer to the rarities section. Two **Veery** were observed teasing a stray house cat at WLNC 5/7 (JC). A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** at HMC 5/20-21 was the only report. **Hermit Thrush** were at WLNC until 5/1, which is late. The only **White-eyed Vireo** reported was at WLNC 4/30 (JC), while the only **Yellow-throated Vireo** report was of several at HMC 4/28.

As mentioned under Trends, many warblers were in early. By 5/3, the following had been seen: **Blue-winged, Golden-winged, Yellow, Chestnut-sided, Yellow-rumped, Pine, Palm, Black-and-White, Worm-eating, Northern** and **Louisiana Waterthrush**, and **Common Yellowthroat** at WLNC (JC); **Black-throated Blue, Cerulean, Am. Redstart, Ovenbird, Hooded and Canada** in SCV (BH); **Magnolia, Black-throated Green** and **Prairie** along Greenland Rd. (SD) and a **Nashville** at HMC. From HMC the following warbler trends: **Tennessee** were lower than normal; **Cerulean, Bay-breasted, Yellow-rumped, Kentucky** and **Nashville** were higher and the **Canada** were high. HMC had its first reported **Hooded**, as well as the "**Brewster's**" mentioned in the rarities.

Finches and blackbirds were in their usual numbers. Those of note:

Grasshopper Sparrow were more numerous at HMC; a **Lincoln's Sparrow** was at WLCN 4/30 (JC); and an **Orchard Oriole** on Haldeman Is. seen 6/1 (EC).

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

DELAWARE COUNTY

Locations: Crum Creek Res. (CCR), Ridley Creek S.P. (RCSP), Tyler Arboretum (TA).

April and the majority of May seemed to have rain every time a bird walk was scheduled. June, however, was very dry with unseasonably high temperatures.

Common Loon were fairly well represented this season throughout the area; the last date was 5/7, when 6 were seen flying up the Delaware R. (AG). An **Am. Bittern** was at Tinicum NEC 5/14 (SC). This bird is becoming increasingly rare in the Delco region and now with the Philadelphia Airport marsh area being bulldozed it will probably become ever more difficult to find this splendid bird.

Over 1500 **Snow Geese** were observed winging their way N over Aston 4/15 (NP). There were 11 **Wood Duck** on the Chester Cr. in Aston 4/28 (NP); a pair with 9-11 ducklings tagging along were at CCR (JL).

The first **Osprey** of the season was found 4/10 (CS). A **Cooper's Hawk** was seen 5/29 "chowing down" on a Starling in the observer's backyard (JL). Wish we could keep this bird around all year! A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was seen in the Wawa area 5/12 (WC). The ad. **Peregrine Falcon** was again seen on the Commodore Barry Bridge in Chester 5/16 (FH, JG, BH, JL). A **Ring-necked Pheasant** was found at a backyard in Upper Providence, quite far from any known suitable habitat 6/24 (WT).

"Old reliable" has returned again this year; the **Virginia Rail** was found at CCR 5/7 (SC). This bird has been a Big Day regular for many years now. A **Sora** was on Darby Cr. near Tinicum 4/30 (SC, TR). This was not a year to find shorebirds, but a few common ones did appear. A **Solitary Sandpiper** was at RCSP and 1 at CCR 5/4 (SC, G&EK). A **Spotted Sandpiper** was found on Crum Cr. in Swarthmore 5/22 (HMc). Four pair **Am. Woodcock**, were present from 4/16-29 at Indian Orchards until domestic geese persuaded them to leave (NBB). A **Laughing Gull** was downed by fog in Aston 4/23 (NP) and 2 others were seen flying over RCSP heading for Springton Res. 5/7 (AG). The last three years cuckoos have been very scarce. A **Black-billed Cuckoo** returned to Swarthmore at the end of April and is spending the season there (HMc). Another was reported in Media 5/14 (G&EK). The only **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** reports came from Wawa 6/23 (WC) and RCSP; at the latter location they were quite vocal when temperatures were not setting records (BH, FH).

The N. **Saw-whet Owl** that was found at TA the end of March lingered until 4/9 (m.ob.). A **Common Nighthawk** seen 6/11 (HMc) was a little late, but the only report; maybe because of the constant rain during the migration period. A **Whip-poor-will** was found on Idlewild Lane in Media 5/6 (HMc) and was singing for about a week, then left for parts unknown. At TA the last **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was 5/7 (JG). One **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was found at TA 5/12 (JG). **Acadian Flycatcher** returned to TA 5/7, but as of 6/30 have not been a confirmed nester (JG). Two **Least Flycatcher** were at Tinicum (SC), with singles in RCSP 5/8 (BH), Tinicum 5/11 (AG), and Swarthmore College 5/15 (HMc).

Purple Martin are having a good year so far. The Aston site had 23 active nests, 24 young, and 57 eggs as of 6/29. The Glen Mills site, the fastest growing Delco colony, reported 68 active nests, 143 young, and 138 eggs (JG, JCM). A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was still present in Media 5/7 (AG). **Wood Thrush** were back at TA a little early, when 1 appeared 4/25 (AG). A **Brown Thrasher** was found in RCSP 4/10. There seems to be an increase in the total number of thrashers this year when compared to the past two years.

Cedar Waxwing were in low numbers throughout the period. On the contrary, a large number of **Solitary Vireo** passed through

TA and elsewhere in the region (AG). The warbler migration in general was rather slow. **Blue-winged Warbler** were in their usual large numbers, but **Golden-winged Warbler** could not be found. **Tennessee** and **Nashville** warblers were hard to find. The rains in May seemed to put a damper on the birds' passage. The number of **Blackburnian Warbler** were constant throughout the period, never in large numbers, but a relatively steady passage occurred for some 10 days. An **Ovenbird** was observed at TA actually constructing its nest, a sight not often seen (AG, JG). After many return visits, the bird was seen sitting on the nest and could be approached to within 3 ft before walking off the nest to expose 6 eggs; all the eggs hatched, but we do not know how many young survived. A **Mourning Warbler** was along the bridge trail at RCSP 5/9 (SC). The TA is the prime spot in the county to find **Hooded Warbler**, with at least 7-9 pairs breeding; 1 Hooded Warbler was also found at Tinicum 4/30 (TR).

In Bethel Twp., 17 **Bobolink** were found 5/15 (NP). The only **E. Meadowlark** reports were of 1 at TA 4/2 (AG), which was in good habitat, but unfortunately did not stay, and a pair which bred in RCSP (FH). One observer noted that the **Orchard Oriole** seemed more numerous this year and all the birds seemed to be first year males. The **Pine Siskin** invasion of this past winter left many lingerers; late dates were 4/24 in Media (WT), 5/8 in Springfield (BC), 5/14 in Aston (NP), 5/23 in Swarthmore (HMc), and the latest date 5/28 again in Media (JL). An **Evening Grosbeak** in May is always a treat, so a female 5/1-3 at a Media feeder was good (G&EK).

OBSERVERS: Nancy & Bob Bernhardt, Bill Church, Skip Conant, Walt Cressler, John Ginaven, Al Guarente, 421 Old Middletown Rd., Media 19063 (215-566-8266), Barb & Frank Haas, George & Evelyn Kopf, Jim Lockyer, Helen McWilliams, John C. Miller, Nick Pulcinella, Tom Reeves, Charles Smith, Walt Thurber.

ELK COUNTY

Locations: Allegheny N.F. (ANF)

All sightings were in the ANF, by compiler, unless otherwise noted. A few regionally rare species were present. These included a **N. Mockingbird** at St. Marys (DS) and **Worm-eating, Prothonotary, and Nashville** warblers exhibiting breeding behavior in the ANF.

Notable trends included an increase in the number of **Wild Turkey** flocks present in April, and many "northern" species, such as **Evening Grosbeak** (v.o.), **Pine Siskin**, and **Yellow-rumped Warbler** staying in the area through late June. The latter two species appear to be breeding in increased numbers this season.

The peak of warbler migration was 5/10 with virtually all expected species present. First noted dates, or large numbers, include: **Killdeer** with eggs 4/10, **Tree Swallow** 4/4, **Wood Thrush** 4/15, 100+ **Am. Robin** at Benetzette 4/3 (DL), **Chestnut-sided Warbler** 4/1, **Rufous-sided Towhee** 4/5, and **Chipping Sparrow** 4/14.

OBSERVERS: Leif Anderson, Box 88, Star Route 1, U.S. Forest Service, Bradford 16701 (814-362-4613), David Long, Gary Ohara, David Sorg, Amy & Bill Swab.

ERIE COUNTY

The habitat preferred by water birds requiring extensive open sand flats for feeding and resting has been much reduced by the effects of succession and changing water levels on Presque Isle S.P. (PI). The lack of shorebirds at Gull Point may be evidence of the impact from this change.

Looking at a brighter side, some species of passerines appeared in greater numbers compared to the last two years. Comments about frequency and abundance of Wilson's Warbler were particularly favorable. It was interesting to note that for the first half of May, passerines could only be found in substantial numbers in coniferous trees, where an apparent surplus of food could be found.

Very few were found elsewhere.

The news, however, continues to be bleak for the spot-breasted thrushes, particularly the **Swainson's Thrush**. A few more Swainson's Thrush were observed this spring than for the past two, but numbers were still far lower than 10 years ago.

Many birds were discovered outside their normal breeding range in June, giving the atlasers something to talk about, *i.e.*, the pair of **Dickcissel** discovered in late June and what about the 2 Sandhill Crane displaying in a corn field in mid-June? (see details). As usual, many extralimital migrants appeared on PI to spice up the spring report, including a new western Pennsylvania record! All sightings from PI unless otherwise noted.

WATER BIRDS THROUGH DIURNAL RAPTORS. The **Red-throated Loon** discovered 6/17 on L. Erie, viewed from a bluff w. of Erie, was quite unusual. This was the 1st summer record for the county (JB). A **Red-necked Grebe** was found 4/30 (JGS,JHS) and equally exciting was the **Eared Grebe** that was observed from 4/3-24 (BL,JM). **Double-crested Cormorant** sightings were far too numerous to list individuals (m.ob.).

Am. Bittern was scarce again, with the only report being of 1 heard 4/30 (JGS). The lack of **Least Bittern** was a surprise this spring after the last several years of increasing numbers. One on 5/11 (JM) and 1 on 5/26 (JHS) were the only birds seen. The discovery of a nest with 4 young in June, however, may be the 1st documented county breeding record, at least in recent time (SS). One or two **Great Egret** were seen from 4/4-24 and from 5/15-28 (LM,JM,SS). A **Cattle Egret** was in Waterford 5/10 (JM). **Black-crowned Night-Heron** were below average in numbers, with sightings from 4/23 to 5/10 (EK,JM).

An ad. **Mute Swan**, of unknown origin, visited a large pond in Fairview for one day, 5/29 (JM,LM). The **Snow "blue phase" Goose** discovered 3/24 was last seen 4/1 at Siegel Marsh (LM). The origin of the 3 male **Green-winged Teal** in complete basic plumage 6/28 was debatable (JM). One female **Common Goldeneye** was observed from 6/8-26 (JM,SS). Scoter reports include: 1 **Black** 5/20 (DD), single **Surf** 4/10-13 and 5/1 (JM), and 1 **White-winged** 4/16 (JM) and 5/1 (JBB). A **Red-breasted Merganser** was seen to mid-June (SS). One **Ruddy Duck** was at Siegel Marsh 6/7 (JM).

At least 2 imm. **Bald Eagle** were present from 4/20-24 (JM,LM,JHS) and 1 imm. was seen in mid-June n. of Edinboro (SH). A **Mississippi Kite** appeared 5/15 and was observed at less than 100 yd for a 1st western PA record (SS,JM,EK,BB). See Kite section. Very likely a different bird was seen 5/23 (FBH). One **Merlin** was seen 4/20 and 2 on 4/23 (JM). A **Peregrine Falcon** was seen 4/14 in w. Erie (JGS); another found at P.I. 5/21 was the latest ever recorded in spring (FH).

CRANES THROUGH OWLS. A **Sandhill Crane** was observed circling and calling continuously over the interior of P.I. 5/1 (JM). Even more unusual was the 2 birds displaying in a corn field 6/26 s. of Waterford; they were observed for 1 1/2 hr before they departed (RB). Transient **Spotted Sandpiper** are not often reported, so the 38 on 5/17, with 18 in one flock, was a good number (DS). One **White-rumped Sandpiper** was seen 5/14 (EK) and 1 **Stilt Sandpiper** was seen 5/13 (JM). **Baird's Sandpiper** is extremely rare in spring and have only been reported in May, so a molting bird studied 4/23-24 was a real surprise (EK,JM,LM).

Because of plumage similarities, an **Iceland Gull** studied 4/6 may have been the same bird seen 3/13 (JM). A sub-ad. **Glaucous Gull** on the late date 5/3 was probably a result of strong cold n.e. winds the two days preceding the sighting (JM). **Caspian Tern** appeared in remarkably high numbers, peaking at a local record 92 individuals 4/20 resting on Gull Point (JM). The juv. **Caspian Tern** trying to take food from an ad. 6/28 was not unusual. Newly fledged **Caspian Tern** have been seen in the past and are believed to have been born nearby, but not in Erie. **Common Tern** were seen regularly from mid-April to late-May, but only in single digit numbers. Smaller than usual numbers of **Forster's Tern** were found from 4/16 to 5/13; two were at Siegel Marsh 5/20 (JM). It is unfortunate that the **Black Tern** did not return to nest this season. Only transient birds reported were 1 on 5/7 at Siegel Marsh (RS), 2 on PI 5/8, 2 on 5/7 at Edinboro (JH). The 2 **Black Tern** flushed in early June from the same area on PI where they nested last year were not territorial and were not seen again (SS).

One **Long-eared Owl** was seen 4/2-17 (JM,JHS,LM). Single **Short-eared Owl** were seen 4/3 and 5/21 (JM). There was evidence of **N. Saw-whet Owl** mortality, with a dead one found 4/1 near Erie

(*vide* JHS) and the remains of 1 at PI 5/22 (JM). A healthy, live bird was discovered 4/10 (JM,LM).

Over 100 **Common Nighthawk** were seen flying over the entrance of PI on the evening of 5/23 (LM). Large concentrations are rarely reported in Spring. A male **Chuck-will's-widow** was seen and heard and its call was recorded on cassette 5/10. When the call was imitated by voice it emerged from cover and flew over the observer calling and fanning its tail, showing the white inner webs of the retrices against the predawn sky (JM). The bird was heard again that evening (SS,JHS,JGS,BM). This is a 3rd county record. One or two **Whip-poor-will** were heard from 5/1-13 (JM).

FLICKER THROUGH CROSSBILL. A **Yellow-shafted X Red-shafted Flicker** was banded by JHS and JGS 5/8. While waiting to be banded, the bird deposited an egg in the apron! The egg was fertile and was transported to the Pittsburgh Aviary by a person from the aviary who happened to be at the banding station! Two or three **Olive-sided Flycatcher** were seen 5/29 (JM). A **N. Mockingbird** was seen e. of Waterford (*vide* JHS). Three **White-eyed Vireo** were banded by RFL on PI; 1 was seen near Edinboro (JH) and 1 at Union City (JM). A **"Brewster's" Warbler** was banded 5/9 (RFL). **Pine Warbler** were found regularly and in better numbers than usual from 4/2 to 5/22 (m.ob.). Two **Prairie Warbler** were seen 5/8 (JBB) and 1 5/10 (JHS). **Prothonotary Warbler** appear to be making a good recovery on PI, with at least 9 different males located and at least 2 nests found (m.ob.). Three **Worm-eating Warbler** were seen 5/8 (EK,SS), with 1 banded (JHS,JGS).

A **Summer Tanager** was the highlight of the birds banded by JHS and JGS 5/22. This is the 9th county record. An exiting find was a pair of **Dickcissel**. On 6/28, s.w. of Erie, Ginader discovered a singing male and 6/29 she discovered a female nearby. Unfortunately a farmer had started to cut the grass, so by 6/30 neither could be found. A story which is all too familiar. The **Rufous-sided "western" Towhee** from the winter season was last seen 4/1 (EK). **Vesper Sparrow** were nearly unreported this season! Many of the fields where they have been annual for years were void of any birds. The 24 **Fox Sparrow** 4/1 was an exceptionally high total (EK). A **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was seen on West Lake Rd. 4/27 (FB). The 14 **Red Crossbill** found 3/9 at Edinboro may have been the same flock seen 5/13 near the same area (JH).

Other species uncommon but regular annually were **Rough-legged Hawk**, **Yellow-billed** and **Black-billed** cuckoo, **Red-bellied Woodpecker**, **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**, **Alder Flycatcher**, **Carolina Wren**, **Gray-cheeked Thrush** (<5), **Yellow-throated Vireo**, **Philadelphia Vireo**, **N. Parula**, **Yellow-breasted Chat**, and **Henslow's Sparrow**.

OBSERVERS: Jim Baxter, Jim & Bonnie Baird, Ralph Burbridge, Bill Bush, Fred Buss, Dave DeReamus, Bonnie Ginader, Frank & Barb Haas, Jamis Hill, Shayne Hoachlander, Joan Howlett, Ed Kwater, Bob Leberman, Ron F. Leberman, Jerry McWilliams, 3142 W. 12th St., Erie 16505 (814-833-3169), Linda McWilliams, Barb Mitchell, Don Snyder, Russ States, Jean Stull (JHS), Jim Stull, Sam Stull.

FAYETTE COUNTY

Please note there is a new compiler for *Fayette* listed below. She would appreciate receiving your sightings in the county. The information is split into a quarterly report and a special section on some atlas work in the county.

Locations: Normalville (NVL).

A female **Wood Duck** visited a pond in NVL 4/15-18, but once again no luck in either nesting box. Three **Hooded Merganser** were there 4/15. A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was seen 6/12 & 6/28. **Broad-winged Hawk** were seen on various dates from 5/19 to 6/29. Both cuckoos were observed in May, including a pair of **Yellow-billed**.

A pair of **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** were carrying nesting material and observed for some weeks, although the nest has not been located. Several **Pine Siskin** and up to 25 **Evening Grosbeak** lingered in NVL through the end of April.

The following records for this county are for June only, when the BBAP compilers were engaged in field work.

An **Alder Flycatcher** was heard singing from suitable nesting

habitat 6/3 n. of Glade Farm, WV, just over the Pennsylvania line; but this individual may well have been a migrant. A female **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was observed on the same date for more than five minutes as she gathered food for young in a hemlock grove near the small town of Gibbon Glade, along Little Sandy Cr. near the WV border. She flew with a beak full of insects into a mature spruce tree planted near a summer cabin.

A **Mourning Warbler**, singing as if on territory, near Flat Rock 6/7 may nonetheless have been a late migrant. Best records of all for the county were of **Dickcissel** located in two reclaimed strip mines s.e. of Normalville (RSM) and at two agricultural sites n.e. of Carmichaels (RB). These records involve at least 10 individuals, mostly males. An article is being prepared for the next issue.

OBSERVERS: Ralph Bell, Cindy Cook, R.D. #1, Box 259A, Normalville, 15469 (412-455-7356), Robert C. Leberman & Robert S. Mulvihill (atlas compilers).

FOREST COUNTY

A **N. Goshawk** was observed and photographed catching a **N. Flicker** 4/25 (location deleted.-Eds.) and it was seen again 5/7 (ARW). Both **Black-billed Cuckoo** and **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** are more abundant this year. Grisez added each species in 10 to 12 atlas blocks that had been covered previously (includes some in Warren Co.).

The **Common Raven** nest site was occupied and had 3 large young 4/26 (TG). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was confirmed nesting at Beaver Meadows Rec. Area near Marienville 6/15 (TG). Two **Yellow-rumped Warbler** were seen at Kellettsville in late June (ARW). **Louisiana Waterthrush** seem more abundant this year, since Grisez added them to 6 blocks previously covered (some in Warren Co.). A **Dickcissel** was found near Tionesta, and was present at least one week in June (ARW).

OBSERVERS: Ted Grisez, April and Richard Walters.

FRANKLIN COUNTY

Two **Double-crested Cormorant** were seen on a farm pond in Upper Strasburg 5/7.

OBSERVER: Carl L. Garner

GREENE COUNTY

Unless otherwise noted, all observations were on or near the Bell farm near Jefferson.

We had plenty of rain during April and May, but the period seemed to be one of temperature extremes. The thermometer reached 81 on 6 April and then dropped to 24 on the morning of 11 April. It was 80 on 23 April and back down to 27 on the morning of 1 May. On 15 May the temperatures reached 87 and on the morning of 26 May we had a heavy frost (but we do live in a frost pocket and on still mornings we are often 10 degrees colder than Pittsburgh).

An **Osprey** was heard and then seen along Ten-mile Cr. 4/30. This is the 1st record for our farm. The first **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was seen near Carmichaels 4/27 (MK). Two nests were found here on the farm; 1 on 5/22 during the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania (ASWP) outing led by Weber. A **N. Rough-winged Swallow** was noted 4/11, but the first **Barn Swallow** was not seen until 4/12, which seemed a bit late. The first **Brown Thrasher** was seen 4/4 and 22+ **Cedar Waxwing** were eating holly berries in the yard two days later. This increased to 46 on 4/28 and then numbers decreased rapidly.

A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was heard singing 4/10. This once rare species is now often heard singing along sycamore-lined streams. Three singing **Worm-eating Warbler** were found in extreme w. *Greene* (near Crows Mills) 6/21 while atlasing. This species is either rare in this county or has been overlooked.

At least 40 **Bobolink** arrived 5/3 and the first **Orchard Oriole** was noted singing 4/30. The latter is now a common species in the county and easily found in almost all blocks.

Summer Tanager can still be found in *Greene*, and when the ASWP outing was held here 5/22, a female was found building a nest in an oak in the Loves Hill area. At the same outing, Weber spotted a second-year male **Blue Grosbeak**, a 1st county record. We had 25 **Pine Siskin** in our yard 5/3 and the last 1 noted was 5/25.

OBSERVERS: Ralph Bell, RD 1, Box 229, Clarksville 15322 (412-883-4505), Mike Kuran, Rose Weber.

HUNTINGDON COUNTY

Locations: L. Raystown Aitch Access (LRAA), L. Raystown Entriken Overlook (LREO), Stone Valley L. (SVL).

The second quarter proved to be one of weather extremes in *Huntingdon*. An average and uneventful April was followed by an unusually wet May and an exceptionally dry and hot June. I would imagine that these long periods of stagnant heat would place enormous stress on our breeding birds. The only unusual species for this area was **Yellow-throated Warbler**, which remained into the breeding season in not one but two separate locations. More later.

Pied-billed Grebe made their appearance at SVL 4/4 and at LRAA 4/10. **Tundra Swan** also visited LRAA, but earlier, 4/2. Ten male **Wood Duck** were seen in the secluded backwaters of LRAA 4/10. **Lesser Scaup** were reported at SVL 4/1. During an overcast, dismal, rainy day, 4/7, at LRAA the following species were seen: 2 **Red-breasted Merganser**, 5 **Wood Duck**, 2 **Ruddy Duck**, and a total of 41 **Oldsquaw** in two isolated flotilla.

Black Vulture continue to be seen in the Mapleton area, with the following sightings: 4/26 (2), 5/31 (1), and 6/16 (2). **Red-shouldered Hawk** continue to be seen and heard across the n. tier of the county. Two sightings of **Bald Eagle** were reported, both imm., at different locations, SVL 4/8, and at Shirleysburg 5/19.

Common Snipe were flushed from a wet meadow near Alexandria 4/1 and **Am. Woodcock** were present, in habitat, throughout the quarter. A single **Greater Yellowlegs** was present at SVL 4/8, while 2 **Spotted Sandpiper** and 3 **Solitary Sandpiper** were found in farm manure pits near LRAA 4/28 and 5/5.

The "big" **Bonaparte's Gull** day was 4/7, with the following records: 9 at LREO, 10 at LRAA, 51 at Brumbaugh Access, and 10 at the State Correction fields at Huntingdon. **Common Barn-Owl** continue to respond to using man-made nesting boxes. One pair raised 5 young in an Alexandria silo, while a second site near Mt. Union produced a nest with six eggs. Unfortunately, this nest was abandoned. **Brown Creeper** were found with young in Trough Cr. S.P. 6/30, migrating **Marsh Wren** were at LRAA 4/25, and **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** seen 4/22 in Huntingdon.

Warbler species were well-represented, with the most unusual find being the **Yellow-throated**. A singing male was present at Greenwood Furnace S.P. from 6/1-14 residing at the top of a territorial spruce. The second sighting was 5/12 at Water Street. On 5/22 a female was observed gleaning **spider webbing** from a dead snag and flying up into sycamore trees. No evidence of nest or young has yet been found (ML).

Pine Siskin were last seen at SVL 4/17 and small flocks of **Red Crossbill** were observed at SVL 4/1 (HH,GZ). Sparrow species of interest are **White-throated** at SVL 4/1 and returning **Henslow's** to upper Trough Cr. Valley 5/10.

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

INDIANA COUNTY

Locations: Indiana (IND), Shelocta (SHL), Yellow Cr. S.P. (YCSP), Elders Ridge Strips, West Lebanon (WLB), Parkwood BBS (PBBS).

The last year of the BBAP brought many birders into the field. Highlights of the season include **N. Goshawk**, an unconfirmed

report of **Purple Gallinule** in Indiana, and 3 **Dickcissel** near Gipsy. Observations are by one or both compilers, unless otherwise indicated.

All waterfowl reports are from YCSP unless otherwise specified. Five **Common Loon** were listed 4/2 (LH) and again 4/30 (GS). Few **Pied-billed Grebe** were reported with top count a mere 3 on 4/16 (TBC). Two **Horned Grebe** lingered until 4/30 (GS). Four **Green-winged Teal** 4/2 (ASWP,TBC) were the only ones listed. Top **Blue-winged Teal** count was 14 on 4/16 (TBC), but 6 were still present 4/30 (PA). Other reports on 4/16 include 3 **Ring-necked Duck**, 4 **Lesser Scaup**, 5 **Common Goldeneye**, and 3 **Bufflehead**. Two Bufflehead were spotted on a farm pond near Marchand 4/25 (MH,TJ). Two **Red-breasted Merganser** 4/2 were a nice find (ASWP,TBC).

More **Osprey** sightings were reported this spring. First 1 was listed 4/2 at YCSP (ASWP,TBC), where 3 were observed 4/16 (TBC). One was observed fishing along Little Mahoning Cr. 4/25 (MH,TJ) and 2 were found at Brush Valley 5/8 (GD). A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** at YCSP 4/2 (ASWP,TBC) was the lone report; however, **Cooper's Hawk** was listed at 12 locations during the period (v.o.). A well-described **N. Goshawk** dashed one atlasers' hope of a confirmed **Ruffed Grouse** by snatching the grouse under observation (KB). Three **Red-shouldered Hawk** were spotted near Arcadia 4/25 (GS).

A single **Wild Turkey** was spotted near Creekside 6/4 (MH,RH); a hen and 21 young were tallied along Mudlick Cr. 6/27 (MH,MM).

Interesting was the unconfirmed report of a **Purple Gallinule**, observed over a three-week period and independently identified by three non-birder neighbors in IND; the bird supposedly lived under a stand of blue spruce and came out periodically and walked around on their adjacent lawns. The closest water is almost 1/2 mi from this location. Unfortunately, birders did not learn of its presence until the evening of 6/1, the date of the last sighting, when Phil Sommers, one of the three neighbors contacted members of the TBC.

Few shorebirds were observed at YCSP this spring. Reports include, all singletons, **Semipalmated Plover** 4/30 (GS), **Greater Yellowlegs** 4/26 (GS), **Spotted Sandpiper** 4/2 (ASWP,TBC), **Pectoral Sandpiper** 4/30 (GS), **Common Snipe** 4/2 (ASWP,TBC) and 4/17 (JS).

Gull maxima at YCSP include 6 **Bonaparte's** and 22 **Ring-billed** gulls 4/30 (GS). First **Black-billed Cuckoo** was found near Marion Center 5/16 (MH,TJ), but first **Yellow-billed** appeared in Blairsville 5/7 (AJ). **Barred Owl** was listed only near SHL after 4/1. **Whip-poor-will** returned to Brush Valley 4/30 (*vide* PA). Five **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** were reported between 4/2-22.

Breeding flycatchers were on time in expected locations. **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was listed only near SHL (MH,TJ). **Carolina Wren** appears to be making a comeback, with reports from all parts of the county (v.o.). **Hermit Thrush**, believed to be breeding, were found only near Gipsy. **N. Mockingbird** was found near WLB 5/17 (MC) and in IND throughout early June (EH). On the PBBS, an all-time high of 6 **White-eyed Vireo** was recorded.

The warbler migration produced no large fallouts; most reports were of single birds. **N. Parula** was reported only from an area s. of Clarksburg 6/1 (MH,NK,BM) and again 6/20 (BM). A **Worm-eating Warbler** was heard singing in suitable habitat near Marchand 6/2 (MH,TJ), but all attempts to see the bird failed. The bird was neither heard nor seen on four later visits to the site. A **Wilson's** was observed near Dayton 5/10. **Yellow-breasted Chat** were less than half the previous 5-year average on the Parkwood BBS Route.

Three **Dickcissel** near Gipsy 6/29 were found on a reclaimed strip mine. **Am. Tree Sparrow** lingered near SHL until 4/2. Four **Henslow's Sparrow** were located near SGL #174 on 6/6 (MH,TJ), and 30 was considered a very conservative estimate on the strips near Gipsy 6/29. An albino **Song Sparrow** appeared in Center Twp. 4/29 (BM). **White-crowned Sparrow** was listed only near Dayton 5/10 (MH,GWS); feeder-watchers commented on their absence. **Rusty Blackbird** was found only s. of Valier 4/6, when 5 were tallied. **Pine Siskin**, which had

made a strong spring appearance, were last seen near SHL 5/19, until 6/22 when 1 ad. reappeared at the almost-empty feeder for almost 10 minutes. Best siskin tally was 53 on 4/1. Top **Evening Grosbeak** count was 24 near WLB 4/19 (MC), but grosbeaks were also found at YCSP and near SHL until 5/4 (MH).

OBSERVERS: Pat Andrascik, Kathy Bennett, Marcy Cunkleman, Gloria Dick, Susan Goldstein, Etta Heinlen, Margaret and Roger Higbee, RD #2, Box 166, Indiana 15701 (412-354-3493), Leon Hue, Pat Johner, Aino Johnston, Timmi Jones, Nancy Karp, Beth Marshall, Marilyn Moore, Dorothy Pleass, Susan Purviance, John Salvetti, Gail W. Smith, Georgette Syster, Audubon Society of W. Pa., Todd Bird Club.

JUNIATA COUNTY

Locations: Clearview Res. (CVR), Hammer Hollow (HH), Juniata R., Karl B. Gus Picnic Area (KGPA), Mifflintown Access (MA), Muskrat Springs Access (MSA).

After a somewhat average April, May brought enough rain to fill streams and the river by mid-month. June then brought dry weather and high temperatures by month's end. Except for the wind, June was a great month for birding. Unless otherwise noted, observations were by the compiler.

One imm. **Common Loon** made its home at CVR this summer. First sighted 4/18, it was still there 7/17. Two **Pied-billed Grebe** also maintained residence at CVR from 4/4-18. Only 3 **Great Blue Heron** reports came in, all at CVR, 4/3, 4/18, & 6/12. April was a good month for waterfowl at CVR: 3 **Gadwall** 4/5, 9 **Lesser Scaup** 4/7, 1 **Oldsquaw** 4/5 (and 2 at MA 4/30), and 2 **White-winged Scoter** 4/5-6 (LW,MK).

A first on the BBS Rt. 72 was 2 **Black Vulture** near the village of Seven Stars 6/10 (CG). **Turkey Vulture** numbers seemed high, consistently seen while we atlased, they often numbered as high as 4 or 5. Only 1 **Osprey** was reported, at CVR 4/11. Two **N. Harrier** were sighted in June; a female near Richfield 6/1 (DW) and a male sighted twice near Academia 6/7. The male was searched for for the next two weeks, but not seen. No **Bald Eagle** was reported this quarter. **Ruffed Grouse** and **Wild Turkey** were present in usual numbers.

Black-billed and **Yellow-billed** cuckoos were much more consistently found while atlasing this year than the last few years. A nest of **Great Horned Owl** with 2 young was monitored near Evansdale from 4/10 until the young prematurely disappeared from the nest the first week of May (DW). On new BBS Rt. 68, 7 **Pileated Woodpecker** were reported 6/12 from the *Juniata* portion of the route.

One **Common Raven**, new for the county's BBAP, was reported at Spectacle Gap 6/6. Newly confirmed for BBAP were **Brown Creeper** at HH 5/15 and near KGPA 6/6. **White-eyed Vireo** were sighted in only two locations, near Seven Stars and Cocolamus, in swampy brush; **Solitary Vireo** was absent, and **Warbling Vireo** were common along the river. **Blue-winged Warbler** also were reported from only two locations, while **Golden-winged Warbler** seemed abundant, as this is their preferred habitat. **Pine Warbler** was confirmed nesting 6/7 in Groninger Valley near Port Royal. **Black-throated Green Warbler** seem much scarcer compared to last year.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak, reported only once for BBAP last year, were reported three times this year and confirmed breeding. Two **Vesper Sparrow** were sighted along the river near Locust Run 6/22 (MK,LW) and 1 near Seven Stars 6/24. **Purple Finch**, absent last year for the BBAP, were reported twice this year; a pair at MSA 6/1 and a family near Maze 6/28 (MK,LW).

OBSERVERS: Chris Gisewhite, Margaret Kenep, Dusty Weidner, Linda Whitesel, RD 3, Box 820, Mifflintown 17059-9770 (717-436-8048).

LACKAWANNA
COUNTY

Locations: *Covey's Swamp (CS), Dalton (DA), Eagle L. (EL), Elmhurst (ELM), Lackawanna S.P. (LSP), Lenoxville (LNX), Thornhurst (TH).*

Wood Duck were found nesting at CS and also nested at ELM. About 50 pair of **Black-crowned Night-Heron** were reported nesting along the Lackawanna R. in S. Scranton. A **Common Moorhen** was found 5/8 at CS.

One **Osprey** was seen 4/16. A **Cooper's Hawk** nest was found within 100 yd. of a **Broad-winged Hawk** nest on 6/28 (*location deleted. -Eds.*). **Red-shouldered Hawk** were observed throughout June in another area. **Ring-necked Pheasant** were found at LSP 5/2. **Lesser Yellowlegs, Spotted Sandpiper, and Solitary Sandpiper** were found 5/13-14 at CS. One **Greater Yellowlegs** was found by some "block busters" in the LNX area 6/28. It was healthy bird and what it was doing there at that time is anybody's guess.

Pairs of **E. Screech-Owl** and **Barred Owl** were found 5/13 at CS and DA respectively. Earliest date for **Common Nighthawk** was 5/12 (late). There was no report of **Hairy Woodpecker** after many sightings in the winter. The highlight of the woodpecker sightings was a pair of **Red-headed Woodpecker** found 6/28 flitting from tree to ground in a partially dried swamp at LNX; they were presumed nesting.

Swallow sightings were unremarkable with the exception that no report of **Purple Martin** was received. A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was seen 5/21 at TH and a **Brown Creeper** was seen at LSP 5/21. Vireo reports were unremarkable. The best warbler sightings were a "**Brewster's**" at Dalton 6/15, possible nesting **Magnolia** at TH 5/28, and **Worm-eating** near the Susquehanna R. 5/14. **N. Cardinal** sightings were not considered as numerous as in recent years.

Sparrow finds in the LNX area in June included **Savannah, Grasshopper, and Henslow's. Dark-eyed Junco** with young were found in early June near L. Scranton. **Bobolink** were found at Montdale. **Pine Siskin** remained until 5/28 at Maple L.

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

LANCASTER
COUNTY

Locations: *Middle Creek WMA (MCWMA), Muddy Run (MR), Susquehanna R. including the Conejohela Flats (SRCF).*

Highlights of the period included many more sightings of **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron**, the county's first **Seaside Sparrow**, and **Red Crossbills**. The SoLanCo Summer Bird Count (SBC) was held 6/4.

After five days of rain, 33 **Common Loon** were at Muddy Run 5/20 (RMS). **Double-crested Cormorant** at MCWMA have become a regular non-breeding visitor from April to October, but 17 on 5/13 was a probable all-time high (TG). An **Am. Bittern** was at Alcoa Marsh 4/25 (JB). One ad. and 1 imm. **Least Bittern** were at MCWMA 5/7, with the imm. remaining for the next 10 days (SS,TG,EW, *et al.*), while another was on the SRCF 5/28 (TG,EW). At least 4 active **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** nests were found, with several more ad. noted in other possible nesting areas. The Conestoga Cr. is prime habitat. However, other sightings came from other sycamore-lined creeks and the river.

A single **Snow "blue phase" Goose** was at MR 5/19 (RMS). A pair of **Bufflehead** lingered at MCWMA until mid-May (m.ob.). A female **Hooded Merganser** was at Speedwell Forge L. 6/7 (FH,EW), but could not be relocated. A pair of **Common Merganser** summered at MR for the 8th consecutive year (RMS).

Osprey arrived at Peach Bottom 4/1 and nested successfully for the 3rd year in a row (RMS). Two ad. **Bald Eagle** spent most of the season at MR Fisherman's Park area (since February), but no evidence of nesting was observed (RMS). Single **N. Harrier** were in Elizabeth Twp., including a male 5/29-31 and a female 6/6, but could not be relocated (FH); another female was seen near Akron

5/16 (FBH,JG,JL).

Two **Sora** were at MCWMA 4/23 (EW,TG) and single **Common Moorhen** were sighted at MCWMA 4/23-24 and 5/3 (m.ob.). Two or 3 **Upland Sandpiper** were found near Cambridge 5/11 (RMS,KL) and 2 again 5/25 (EW). May and June sightings of the past two years are encouraging that this bird could nest in the county again. The only reported **Ruddy Turnstone** was at SRCF 5/14 (JB,TG), while **70 Least Sandpiper** were also there 5/8 (EW,TG), along with a **White-rumped Sandpiper** 5/15 (EW,JPW). "Late" shorebirds included a **Semipalmated Plover** and a **Lesser Yellowlegs** on the SBC. Single breeding plumaged **Laughing Gull** were at MR 5/10 (RMS) and at SRCF 5/15 (EW,JPW). Good numbers of **Bonaparte's Gull** included 28 at MR 4/22 (RMS) and 40 on the river near Bainbridge 4/25 (JB); 1 was at SRCF 5/30 (JB). **Caspian Tern** records were 11 at MR 4/22 and 1 at MCWMA 4/22 (JB).

For only the 2nd time in 12 years, a **Common Barn-Owl** was found on the SBC at New Providence. **Barred Owl** nested successfully along the Conestoga Cr. near Lancaster in a traditional area (DA). An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at Camp Jubilee 5/20 (TG). Single calling **Least Flycatcher** included 1 at MCWMA 5/8 (TG,EW *et al.*) and 1 on 5/30 at Rookery Is. (JB,TG). A **Cliff Swallow** was observed gathering mud near Blainesport (EW). *One-third the average number of Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was found on the SBC. Cedar Waxwing, which were virtually absent since Fall, were widespread throughout the county by early May.*

A **Philadelphia Vireo** was at MCWMA 5/8 (EW,JPW). Single **Golden-winged Warbler** were at MCWMA 5/12 (TG) and at Lancaster 5/16 (BT). **Pine Warbler** were found at the Holtwood Pinnacle 4/24 (TG), with a nest found several days later (RMS). Some 7-8 **Palm Warbler** were at MCWMA 4/16 (TG). Up to 4 singing **Prothonotary Warbler** were found on SRCF on 3 different islands 5/30 (EW). A "cooperative" **Mourning Warbler** was at MCWMA 5/8 (HM,TF).

The most unusual bird of the season was a well-described **Seaside Sparrow** (A.m. maritimus) found on the SRCF 5/14 (JB,TG). The bird was seen well for an hour, but was secretive for much of the time. **Lincoln's Sparrow** reports included 2 at the Lebanon Pumping Station 5/11 (LC) and 1 at MCWMA 5/15 (TG). Somewhat unexpected were the 19 **Red Crossbill** at Octoraro L. 4/17 (RMS *et al.*); about 20 more were in Manheim Twp. the entire month of May, with 2 females 6/2 (RB *et al.*). The latter birds were using a heavily conifered residential area and a large bird bath! **Orchard Oriole** were found on the SBC in double their 10-yr average of the count. **Pine Siskin** remained until about 5/20 (EW).

OBSERVERS: Dale Aulthouse, Jerry Book, Ray Bubb, Larry Coble, Todd Fellenbaum, Tom Garner, John Ginaven, Frank & Barb Haas, Fred Habegger, Keith Leidich, Jim Lockyer, Harold Morrin, Steve Santner, Robert M. Schutsky, Bill Tawzer, **Eric Witmer, 805 Pointview Ave., Ephrata 17522 (717-733-1138)**, Jan & Pat Witmer.

LAWRENCE
COUNTY

Locations: New Castle Area (NCA).

See the *Butler County* introduction for a summary of the weather and other general comments. Sightings are by Barb and George Dean unless otherwise noted.

Six or more Great Blue Heron nests were found in Plain Grove (NR). A pair of **Red-shouldered Hawk** were observed copulating in good habitat 4/26 (*location deleted. -Eds.*) Good numbers of **Am. Kestrel** were reported. A male **N. Harrier** was seen 5/2 on Vosler Rd. An ad. **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was in Amish areas 4/27.

Ruffed Grouse were seen at the Boy Scout Camp NCA. **N. Bobwhite** was heard calling from Amish areas (NR). **Virginia Rail** and **Sora** were found in cattail marshes near Pulaski, NCA. **Upland Sandpiper** returned to breed at the Vosler and Amish areas, but could not be located till 5/23.

Killdeer were in good numbers, but sightings of migrating yellowlegs were few, with 2 **Lesser** 4/17 at an Amish farm pond and 8 **Greater** on Vosler Rd. 4/1. The **Spotted Sandpiper** returned to the Bessemer strip mines 4/23.

Numbers of **Black-billed Cuckoos** are definitely up with 11 seen or heard, but no sightings of Yellow-billed. Reports of **E. Screech-Owl** are on the rise, with some breeding confirmations. **Common Nighthawk** in lesser numbers and **Chimney Swift** in greater numbers than last year returned to NCA in mid-April.

An on-going effort to monitor the status of **Red-headed Woodpecker** continues in this county. They showed strong presence 5/6. When 23 locations out of 30 were checked 6/12 and 6/26, none was found at 3 sites. Of the 20 areas left, 36 birds were found, but there were no more than 4 birds in any one area (BD,GD).

Few **Least Flycatcher** could be found in the NCA. Ad. and imm. **Horned Lark** were seen 5/2 in Amish areas. The 1st **Purple Martin** returned 4/17 to many Amish nest sites. The Amish are great providers of nest boxes for these voracious insectivores. A colony of **Bank Swallow** did not return to Bessemer to breed. **Carolina Wren** numbers are improving. **Catharus** thrushes were not reported, with the exception of the **Veery**, which returned 5/7 and remain in low numbers; however they were on territory in Harlensburg and NCA.

Warbling Vireo were scarce, but the **White-eyed Vireo** was commonplace and the only report of **Yellow-throated Vireo** was 7/2 at Harlensburg. **Henslow's Sparrow** were noted at the Bessemer strip mines. **White-crowned Sparrow** showed a strong early presence in NCA, which peaked 4/16. A few **Bobolink** arrived 5/2 and remained in extremely low numbers all period. **Purple Finch** were found in MSP and NCA in low numbers. **Am. Goldfinch** were in lower than usual numbers. **Pine Siskin** showed strong movement 5/1-5 and the last left NCA 6/10, with no proof of nesting.

OBSERVERS: Barbara Dean, 321 E. Meyer Ave., New Castle, 16105 (412-658-3393), George Dean, Nancy Rodgers.

LEBANON COUNTY

Locations: Memorial L. (ML), Middle Creek WMA (MCWMA).

The second quarter of 1988 started well, with somewhat wet weather and a good variety of waterfowl in April, although the number of individuals was not high. May was cold with few good fronts to concentrate the migrants. This was the third poor year for warblers, although this year seemed a little better than the last two. June was pleasant for atlasing, but was one of the driest on record, the consequences of which for local birdlife are not yet known. The bird of the season was the **Am. Bittern**, seen at both MCWMA and Mt. Gretna. This species is clearly in trouble in the state and very few have been seen locally in recent years.

Three **Black-crowned Night-Heron** were seen at ML 4/30 (SS). This species has been found in 5 of the 39 BBAP blocks. Although seen throughout the summer here, their nesting areas, if any, remain unknown. The **Am. Bittern** was seen at MCWMA 5/15 and for a few days thereafter (HM et al.). By 5/21 it had disappeared from there but this bird, or a second individual, was found for a single day near Mt. Gretna (SW). A **Tundra Swan** was seen throughout the period at MCWMA (m.ob.). This bird, which has a crippled left wing, has survived for over a year despite being completely unable to fly. Migrant waterfowl of interest (all at ML) included **Redhead** 4/2 (JB,MC,SS), **Canvasback** 4/7 (MC), 14 **Oldsquaw** 4/7 (MC) and 13 **Ruddy Duck** 4/7 (MC). Another record of note, only recently learned, was of 9 **Surf Scoter** (2 males) seen at ML 4/17/87 (WE).

N. Goshawk was reported (location deleted. -Eds.) 5/2 and 6/11 (PM), while **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was reported at the other end of the county during June (WE). Both of these species are probably commoner than generally believed. **Red-shouldered Hawk** has now been found in nearly all the blocks in the n. end of the county. The **N. Harrier** has now been located in 3 blocks; this year being reported e. of Palmyra 6/26 (LE,SE). **Am. Woodcock** were found this year in nearly all blocks from ML north (SS). Migrant shorebirds went unreported. Most shorebird habitat here consists of temporary farm ponds, which apparently did not attract much this Spring.

Red-headed Woodpecker was reported 5/8 near MCWMA (DA,BS). **Horned Lark** were finally confirmed breeding; fledglings were

located in two blocks s. of Palmyra (WE,SR). Partial albinism is not uncommon, particularly in **Am. Robin**, but the full albino seen in Lebanon (DD,JJ) is much more unusual.

On 5/8, the Quittapahilla Audubon Society held its annual birdathon. Included in the 127 species recorded were 21 species of warblers, somewhat below expectations. **Golden-winged Warbler** was found at Green Point 5/8 (JB,MC,SS,SW). A "**Brewster's**" **Warbler** was seen 6/12 near Lickdale (PM). Although **Hooded Warbler** is common in the hills in the n. part of Lebanon, it is scarce in the Furnace Hills in the s. end. Thus, the male found singing near Mt. Gretna 6/18 was unusual. **Pine Siskin** were reported until mid-May, with a flock of 10 seen at a feeder near ML 5/8 (JB,MC,SS,SW). Two **White-crowned Sparrow** were found at ML 5/9 (MC). **Swamp Sparrow** was confirmed as a breeder this year with a nest with eggs found 5/22 near Lickdale (PM).

OBSERVERS: David Attig, Jan Buckingham, Morris Cox, Dallas Dowhower, Wade Edris, Lucile & Sterling Englehart, John Johnson, Pat McElhenny, Harold Morrin, Steve Rannels, Steve Santner, 3 Overbrook Village Green Apt., Elizabethtown 17022 (717-367-5857), Bill Seifert, Scott Welsh.

LEHIGH COUNTY

Locations: Baer Rocks (BR), Fogelsville Quarry (FQ), Leaser L. (LL), Lehigh R., Walter Tract (WT).

Finally, a decent migration! It was about time. The cold and wet weather in early May seems to have held up the birds, especially warblers, so that really spectacular numbers were found 12-15 May and again 20-22 May. Not only was there a good/great migration, but it even happened on the weekends. On 5/20, Jason Horn found over 1000 (est.) warblers of 15 species in 1-1/2 hr on South Mt. in Emmaus. A Lehigh Valley Audubon Society (LVA) field trip to Leaser L. the next day found 20 species of warblers in damp, drizzly weather.

Aside from the warblers, which almost everyone reporting agrees were the best in years, most other groups were about average, or even slightly below. Specific birds that were seen in better than average numbers: both cuckoos, **E. Bluebird**, **Orchard Oriole**, most flycatchers, **Oldsquaw**, **Bonaparte's Gull**, and **Red Crossbill**. Species mentioned as doing poorly: **N. Pintail**, **Hooded Merganser**, **Brown Thrasher**, some thrushes, and **Yellow-breasted Chat**.

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL. A late **Pied-billed Grebe** was at Jordan Springs 5/12 (BLM). **Double-crested Cormorant** flew by 5/8 near Macungie (DS). A record late **Little Blue Heron**, changing from white to blue plumage was at LL 5/21 (BLM,SS,FB). Five **Ring-necked Duck** at the lake 5/15 were quite late (LG). On 4/2 a flock of 10 male **Oldsquaw** was flying around and calling at LL, and 3 others were at the FQ (BLM). A group of 20 **Common Merganser** and 15 **Hooded Merganser** were at LL as late as 5/15 (LG).

RAPTORS THROUGH GULLS. In the rain on 4/23, a flight of 126 **Osprey** was noted at BR (KK). Two **Bald Eagle** were seen in May within the Allentown city limits; an imm. near the river at Hamilton St. 5/7 (PSt, fide LG), and an ad. flying high over the Little Lehigh Pkwy 5/23 (BLM). The best flight day for **Broad-winged Hawk** was 4/23, when about 150 were counted at BR (KK) and 7 **Merlin** tallied 4/26 (KK).

A N. Bobwhite was seen and heard in Fullerton in late April (RW, m.ob.). It was rather tame, and probably released or escaped. A **White-rumped Sandpiper** was found at Spring Cr. 5/24 (RW). This is the 3rd county record, and the first in over 30 years. Two **Short-billed Dowitcher** were at the same spot 5/23 (RW). A nest of **Am. Woodcock** was found near Macungie (DS). Relatively large numbers of **Bonaparte's Gull** were seen this spring. The last to appear were 7 birds at LL on the record late date 5/21 (FB,JZ,m.ob.).

CUCKOOS THROUGH VIREOS. **Black-billed Cuckoo** were seen 5/14 and 5/20 (JH,FB). **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** were very widely reported. A pair was seen in the act of making more cuckoos in Emmaus 5/22 (JH). A **Common Barn-Owl** was noted near Macungie 4/18 (RW). A **Great Horned Owl** which nested at Bogert's Bridge in Allentown was easily seen by multitudes of birders and non-birders alike until late April.

A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was seen at the WT 5/22 (BLM), and another was netted and banded at Jordan Cr. Park 6/4 (MAT,JH). An **Acadian Flycatcher** was at the WT 5/20 (FB), and a calling **Alder Flycatcher** was found 5/21 near LL in the same spot that it was seen last spring (SS,m.ob.). A record early **Least Flycatcher** was seen in Allentown 4/28 (BLM). Many **Tree Swallow** were found nesting in bluebird boxes. A very tired-looking **N. Rough-winged Swallow** was noted at Dorney Pond on the early date 4/2 (CM). A pair of **Red-breasted Nuthatch** were seen excavating a nest hole in Allentown 4/23 (RW,m.ob.). This is the 1st nesting record for *Lehigh*. Unfortunately the pair were driven out of the hole by a **Downy Woodpecker** in mid-May.

Winter Wren were heard in Emmaus through mid-May (JH). Late **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** were seen 5/14 (SS,FB,JZ), and an extremely late **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was seen in Emmaus 6/2 (JH). The only **Gray-cheeked Thrush** reported was 1 seen in Emmaus 5/20 (JH). Three **Yellow-throated Vireo** were seen from 5/14-20 at the WT (FB)), and at Lehigh Canal Park in Allentown 5/29 (PZ); 1 was seen feeding young at the nest near the river 6/16 (PZ). A record late **Philadelphia Vireo** was seen at the WT 5/21 (FB).

WARBLERS. A **Golden-winged Warbler** was above LL 5/14 (AK,KS). A record late **Orange-crowned Warbler** was seen in Emmaus 5/17 (JH). A very late migrant **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was seen in Allentown 5/26 (BLM). **Pine Warbler**, not often found in migration, were seen 4/17 at the WT (FB), 4/23 at Cedar Crest Coll. (RW), and 4/29 in Emmaus (JH). **Cerulean Warbler**, hardly ever seen in migration, were found for the first time ever in Wiltraut's yard in Fullerton 5/12; 3 separate birds were at the WT from 5/12-20 (FB). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was seen singing on the campus of Cedar Crest Coll. 4/23 (RW), and 2 were on the hillside above LL 5/23 (CRE). A record early **Mourning Warbler** was seen 5/10 in a small tree in the middle of downtown Allentown (CRE)! And a singing Mourning Warbler was found near the bend of the river in Allentown 6/2 (PZ). **Yellow-breasted Chat** were found 5/21 near Macungie (DS).

FINCHES. An extremely late **Am. Tree Sparrow** was found 4/22 (PZ). **Lincoln's Sparrow** were seen at the WT 5/22 (FB,BLM), and 1 was netted and banded at the Jordon Pkwy 5/28 (MAT,JH). A record late **Dark-eyed Junco**, fully two weeks later than previous records, was seen in SGL #205 near Schnecksville 5/29 (BLM). The bird was not seen again, and the area is completely lacking in the conifers that this species prefers as breeding habitat. A pair of **Snow Bunting** were at the FQ on the late date 4/2 (SS).

Two male **Blue Grosbeak** were seen near Huff's Church on the record early date 5/9 (CRE). Several different sightings of **Orchard Oriole** were noted, a bird at LL 5/21 (m.ob.), and 2 different individuals 5/28-29 near Slatington (BLM). Six different groups of **Red Crossbill** were seen this spring, about five more than we have ever had before in a single season! The latest was a record late date 5/16 in Allentown (RW). Others were a group of 12-13 at Cedar Crest College 4/23-24 (RW,FB,m.ob.), 2 at Lehigh Co. Community Coll. 5/5 (RW). All of these flocks except one were only seen once. Considering that there was no sighting anywhere in our area this winter, this influx is simply amazing.

OBSERVERS: Fritz Brock, Catherine R. Elwell, Jason Horn, Arlene Koch, Ken Krannick, Terry Master, Clint Miller, Bernard L. Morris, 825 N. Muhlenburg St., Allentown 18104 (215-435-9134), Peter Saenger, Brad Silfies, Kathy Sieminski, Steve Smith, David Stauffer, Peter Stetcl (PSt), Mary Ann Tretter, Rick Wiltraut, Joe Zajacek, Peter Zakrewski.

LUZERNE COUNTY

Please see the introduction in the Bradford report for more general information about the four-county area.

Locations: Harveys L. (HL), Kirby Park (KP).

A **Red-throated Loon** was seen at Huntsville 4/24 (JH,KM,JS) and 41 **Common Loon** were counted at HL 4/9 (JH, et al.). Two **Red-necked Grebe** were at HL 4/9-10 (JH,EJ, et al.). A **Double-crested Cormorant** was seen at Wyoming 5/14 (JS). An **Am. Bittern** was at HL 5/3 (WR). The **Black-crowned Night-Heron** colony in Exeter was not occupied for the second consecutive year, and the bird

was very scarce in the whole valley area (WR,JS).

An imm. **Bald Eagle** was seen feeding on carrion on a road near HL 4/29 (WR). Unusual hawk reports include 2 **N. Harrier** at Trucksville 6/7 (MS), and a **Merlin** at Lee's Swamp 5/7 (JH). On 5/14, a **Common Moorhen** and a **Semipalmated Plover** were at Forty Fort (RB,WR); and **Least** and **Semipalmated** sandpipers were at Exeter (WR). Very unusual was a **Common Tern** at a lake w. of Lackawanna SP 5/22 (MB).

Barred Owl were recorded twice in the Loyalville area (MB,JS). A **Whip-poor-will**, resident at Nanticoke, is the only report for the four-county area (MB, et al.). Two unusual woodpeckers seen at KP were a **Pileated** in mid-April (JH) and nesting **Red-bellied**. A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was noted at KP 5/21 (JH). A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was also at KP 5/14 (KM,JH,JS, et al.); and a **Mourning Warbler** was reported there 5/27 (WR). **Orchard Oriole** was again found nesting at KP (KM, et al.).

OBSERVERS: Mark Blauer, Jim Hoyson, Edwin Johnson, Kevin McGuire, William Reid, 73 W. Ross St., Wilkes-Barre 18702 (717-836-2525), Jim Shoemaker, Mark Stair.

LYCOMING COUNTY

Locations: Loyalsock Cr. (LC), Montoursville (MTV), Rose Valley L. (RVL), Susquehanna R.

An **Eared Grebe** was seen on RVL 4/29 (ph.). A **Red-necked Grebe** was seen 5/1-2 on RVL. One **Horned Grebe** lingered at the mouth of the LC until at least 6/9 and a **Pied-billed Grebe** was there on the same date. A **Double-crested Cormorant** was observed on the lake on various dates in May.

A **Great Egret** flew over the MTV airport 5/21. Two **Blue-winged Teal** were at Antes Fort 4/2 and 1 **Lesser Scaup** was at RVL 5/12 (P&GS). A **Common Goldeneye** was seen as late as 5/30 on the lower LC. Five **Surf Scoter** stopped on RVL 5/2. Two female **Red-breasted Merganser**, believed to be one-year old, lingered there until at least 6/7. An **Osprey** was bothered by an **E. Kingbird** over the lower LC on the late date 5/27. One **Am. Coot** remained at RVL until at least 6/7.

A **Solitary Sandpiper** 4/13, two **Pectoral Sandpiper** 4/2, and 2 **Common Snipe** 4/13 were all found at Antes Fort (P&GS). **Ring-billed Gull** have been seen into July in the area. Six **Black Tern** were flying over RVL 5/2, and 1 in basic plumage, probably a one-year old bird, was there 6/3 (SS), with 1 there 5/12 (P&GS). Both cuckoo species were numerous in May and June in the area. A **Common Barn-Owl** was in Jersey Shore 4/15 (P&GS). **Whip-poor-will** have been found about 1-2 mi. s. of RVL, a previously known location (ER). I often wonder if they are adversely affected by the practice of "oiling" dirt roads. **Common Nighthawk** seem to be less common in MTV and Williamsport, but a few can still be seen during the evening hours, with up to 6 seen flying in MTV.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird seem to be nesting in several spots in the county. Numerous **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**, including young, were found s.e. of Bodines near Roaring Run in late June. **Willow Flycatcher** are found commonly in shrubby areas in the Muncy and MTV areas. **Cliff Swallow** were seen copulating in June at RVL. **Winter Wren** were found in June and early July along Wallis Run and Roaring Run.

The **Varied Thrush** s. of Duboistown was seen at the feeder as late as 4/17 (MA). **Hermit Thrush** young were being fed near Roaring Run in late June. One **Philadelphia Vireo** was in full song at RVL 5/12 (P&GS). A **Worm-eating Warbler** was found at the base of Bald Eagle ridge near Muncy 6/2. **Cerulean Warbler** were heard near the river at MTV 5/25-27 and at the base of Bald Eagle ridge 5/13. Egli heard a **Prothonotary Warbler** 5/18 and a **Yellow-throated Warbler** 5/17, both at his home in Picture Rocks. The latter species was found singing at Little Pine Cr. S.P. and a fledgling was found in June (DB). **Bay-breasted Warbler** was the most common warbler near MTV during May. One **Mourning Warbler** was heard singing in June and early July near Roaring Run. A **Canada Warbler** pair was seen in the same area. A **Brown-headed Cowbird** fledgling was being fed by a female **Black-throated Green Warbler** near Roaring Run 6/25. **Pine Siskin** lingered into early June in MTV, but breeding was not proven. A **Dickcissel** sang on a wire near the village of White Pine in June (DB).

One **Lincoln's Sparrow** was found near MTV 5/11.

OBSERVERS: Marge Aten, Dan Brauning, Wes Egli, Ed and Tink Reish, Stanley C. Stahl, 610 Chestnut St., Montoursville 17754 (717-368-1194).

MCKEAN COUNTY

A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** nest was observed in Kane (GO). The nest was in a maple tree next to some pines; the birds were covering the outside of the nest hole with pitch.

The most exciting bird of the quarter was a **fledgling Common Loon** on Kinzua Res. over the Memorial Day weekend (ABS). The bird was observed in Sugar Bay with two adults. It was apparently smaller, had a brown-white coloration, and downy feathers still present on the back. No further information was received. For several years loons have been present on Kinzua, at least to late July, but I have never checked for nests, assuming (bad thing) them to be wandering, non-breeding birds. If the data stand, this would be a PBBAP first!

A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was found in Whitethroat Swamp, Ormsby 6/23 (TG).

OBSERVERS: Leif Anderson, Box 88, Star Route 1, U.S. Forest Service, Bradford 16701 (814-362-4613), Ted Grisez, Gary Ohara.

MERCER COUNTY

Locations: Greenville (GR), Shenango (SHN).

See the *Butler County* report for a summary of the quarter.

The Brucker **Great Blue Heron** Sanctuary reports hatching began 4/15 with 16% more nests so far this year (BR).

The **Great Blue Heron** rookeries had some successes and failures this year. The Brucker Heronry (see article **PB 1:2**) off Rt. 18 in Reynolds had a record year, with nearly 200 nests producing over 400 fledglings (many perished due to falls, starvation, etc.). The Barrows Heronry near the villages of Salem, Osgood, and Kennard, was almost as productive, with 184 successful nests. The third and only other significant heronry, the Deniker Heronry, near SGL 130, started off with 45 active nests in late April, but a return in late May showed it had been abandoned. The nature of the disturbance is being investigated. The same fate was suffered by a newly discovered heronry near Utica, Venango County, where 12 active nests were abandoned. These events illustrate the vulnerability of the species and the need for greater protection for these large "barometers of the environment."

On 4/1, 3 **Common Goldeneye**, 27 **Greater Scaup**, and 110+ **Red-breasted Merganser** were at SHN. Four **Blue-winged Teal** were seen at SHN 4/1. A pair of **Broad-winged Hawk** were building a nest 5/7, with the young still in the nest 7/12 (BR). Good numbers of **Am. Kestrel** were reported. At least 2 **Common Snipe** were reported before the safe date (NR).

A territorial **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was found 6/25 and a **Black-billed** confirmed breeding in Mercer 6/4 (NR). *One atlas block* in Mercer reports 5+ pair of **Red-headed Woodpecker** (NR). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was at GR 4/1 (BR). The **Carolina Wren** was scarce this quarter. A **Prairie Warbler** was near Clarks Mills 6/12 (RFL). A flock of 36 **Rusty Blackbird** were in GR 4/7 in the morning, with more noted in the evening (BR).

OBSERVERS: Barbara Dean, 321 E. Meyer Ave., New Castle, 16105 (412-658-3393), Ronald F. Leberman, Nancy Rodgers, Bob Ross.

MIFFLIN COUNTY

Locations: Blue Mt. (BM), Juniata R., Lucking Cr. Valley (LCV).

Finally some milder weather prevailed. The most unusual sighting was on 4/25 when **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** were drinking from their feeders, while **White-throated Sparrow**, **Dark-eyed Junco**, **Purple Finch**, **House Finch**, and **Pine Siskin** were still coming into the yard to their respective feeding stations. A new BBS route was run 6/15 between Ryde and Barrville; highlights were **Least Flycatcher** and **Horned Lark** (MK,LW).

Great Blue Heron continue to be seen almost daily either in small streams or along the river. A **Wood Duck** was seen near a nest box 4/26. An imm. **Bald Eagle**, probably a second-year bird, was seen 6/15 at 6:15 a.m. by Merrill Latherow, a taxidermist and sawmill operator, who related the bird was sitting in the middle of the road being bombarded by blackbirds. It was at a stop on our BBS route we had been by earlier, but we missed it. Several days later at 8:10 p.m., 2 **Bald Eagle** flew over his home in Ryde.

Wild Turkey young were seen and 1 gobbler was observed chasing grasshoppers in a field. There was at least 1 **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** in the area and although vocal, very difficult to find in the greenery. The **E. Screech-Owl** that nested in our yard again brought their 2 young into the walnut tree and serenaded us with quite a repertoire of various screeches. **Red-headed Woodpecker** did not use their old cavity and, in general, seem quite scarce this year. **Red-bellied Woodpecker**, however, returned to their same nest they have used the past two years.

Although the Lewistown **Bank Swallow** colony did not return for the second year, a new active colony was found up river in a sand bank area. This may not prove out so well as the land has been sold. **Black-capped Chickadee** remains scarce at our feeders, only two pairs, but seem to be in good numbers in BM and LCV areas. **E. Bluebird** were on eggs by 4/22. The drought conditions brought **Bluebirds** (and deer) to the birdbaths (SS). The most interesting vireo/warbler sighting was of a **Red-eyed Vireo** and a **Cape May Warbler** which spent several days near the kitchen window gleaning insects from the linden trees. Seldom do they venture so close to the house. Otherwise the migration seemed on time and expected species were found. **Pine Siskin** were numerous into April. Three **Evening Grosbeak** 4/7 were the first of the year.

Wildlife rehabilitators, Charles and Chris Gisewhite, report a busy quarter with lots of injured songbirds and three species of owls, **Screech-**, **Great Horned**, and **Barred**, and a **Red-shouldered Hawk** and **Am. Kestrel**.

OBSERVERS: Margaret Kenep, Box 343, RD 2, McVeytown 17051 (717-899-6252), S. Snook, Linda Whitesel.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Locations: Green Lane Res. (GLR), Fort Washington S.P. (FWSP), Mont Clare (MC), Pennypack Watershed Nature Area (PWNA), Unami Creek Valley (UCV), Upper Perkiomen Valley Park (UPVP), Valley Forge National Historic Park) (VFNP).

The cold, rainy April delayed the movements of many migrants, from **Wood Ducks** that didn't show up until late April to **White-throated Sparrows** that stayed at feeders until May. Warblers were clearly slow in arriving. Even **Yellow-rumped** didn't come through in big waves until 4/30, and the first mixed-flock big waves were 5/12-5/14, nearly a week after the wind finally switched south 5/7.

Nevertheless, the quarter had its good birds. Grebe reports remain depressingly low. A max. of 3 **Pied-billed Grebe** were at GLR 4/24-26 (GAF) and 1 **Horned Grebe** there 4/2 (GLF). The presence of a **Cattle Egret** in a plowed field on the n. side of VFNP sometime in May was confirmed by a photograph shown to RG. It was a first record for the park. Twenty **Green-winged Teal** were at GLR 4/9, with 1 5/21 (GAF). Four **Lesser Scaup**, uncommon, were at GLR 4/2 (GLF). A pair of **Cooper's Hawk** were in the UCV

4/17 (GLF), and the **N. Goshawk** seen twice at VFNP in March was seen there again 5/12, belting across a mile of open park fields (NT). A **Red-shouldered Hawk**, whose former good numbers in the upper Perkiomen watershed have declined alarmingly in recent years, was in the UCV 6/5 (GLF).

Four **N. Bobwhite** were still at Pennsburg and 4-5 noted at GLR 5/11 (GAF). A pair of **Virginia Rail** were first seen at GLR 5/29 (GAF) and lingered for two weeks (GLF). Two **Am. Coot** were at GLR 4/30 (GLF). Shorebird reports included: 6 **Semi-palmated Plover** at GLR 5/15 (GAF); 5 **Greater Yellowlegs** at GLR 4/23 (GLF); 2 **Lesser Yellowlegs** at VFNP 5/12 (RG); 2 **Spotted Sandpiper** at GLR 4/30 (GAF); 2 **Least Sandpiper** at GLR 6/29, very early for returning fall migrants (GAF); 4 **Pectoral Sandpiper** somewhat early at GLR 4/2 (GLF). The **Upland Sandpiper** that have nested for years at the Chukar Valley Golf Course (now renamed Hickory Valley G.C.) in Gilbertsville returned again and were territorial in May (GAF, GLF). A **Semi-palmated Sandpiper** at VFNP 5/19 was a 1st record for the park. Eleven **Bonaparte's Gull** were at GLR 4/23-4/26 (GAF, GLF).

Black-billed Cuckoo "weren't hard to find" at VFNP (RG). The **Barred Owl** reported at GLR in the 1st quarter was still on territory in May (GLF). There were three reports of **Pileated Woodpecker**: 1 at GLR 5/11 (GAF), 1 throughout the quarter at PWNA (DT), and "several" throughout the quarter in the UCV (W&NM). A **Least Flycatcher** was in the UCV 5/13 (W&NM), another at GLR 5/11 (GAF), and either the same one or a second at GLR "singing like crazy" 5/30 (GLF). A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** spent 5/31 and 6/1 in a MC yard (NT); the **Swainson's Thrush** at GLR 4/30 seemed early (GLF).

A **Yellow-throated Vireo** was at UPVP 5/1 (GAF, GLF) and 2 were singing in the upper UCV 6/5 (GAF). The UCV was also the hotspot for warblers. Among those sighted there were a **Brewster's**, seen 6/11 "hanging around" a **Blue-winged** (W&NM), a **Nashville** seen 5/22 (GLF), early **Black-throated Blue** 4/26 (NT) and **Black-throated Green** 4/30 (GLF), a **Yellow-throated** regularly seen from 5/30 through June (W&NM, GAF, GLF), a singing **Mourning** 5/21 (GLF), **Hooded** in two locations from late May through June (W&NM, GLF) and a male **Wilson's** 5/14 (GLF). At VFNP a pair of **Hooded** and 3-4 **Yellow-breasted Chat** were present throughout the quarter; the **Hooded** were on the same territory behind the observation tower where they nested last year (RG). Although no **N. Waterthrush** was reported, **Louisiana Waterthrush** was suspected as a possible breeder in VFNP for the first time in ten years (RG). A **Vesper Sparrow** turned up at GLR 4/9 (GAF), and 4 **Red Crossbills** were seen at Erdenheim, Springfield Twp., 5/21 (DT).

Some high and low counts were 23 **Double-crested Cormorant** flying over GLR 5/21 (GAF), "good numbers" of **Bufflehead** through April in the Schuylkill R. at VFNP (RG), 12 **Broad-winged Hawk** over PWNA 4/25 (DT), a maximum of 40 **Common Snipe** at GLR in April (GAF, GLF), and 20 **Purple Martin** in the UCV 4/23 (GLF). An unusual count of 6 **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** lingered in a MC yard from 4/7-27, and a **Swainson's Thrush** wave of 25+ came through GLR 5/15 (GAF, GLF). At VFNP **Hermit Thrush** were "easy to find" in April and **Wood Thrush** numbers normal, but May counts of the other thrushes there were "terrible" (RG).

High warbler counts included 30 **Tennessee** in the UCV 5/14, 98+ **Yellow-rumped** along a 1-mile stretch of path in Betzwood area of VFNP 5/1 (NT) and 10 **Blackpoll** in UCV 5/15. Some Big Day counts were 13 warbler species seen at FWSP 5/12 and 14 sp. in the UCV 5/13 (W&NM). A total of 25 species was counted by all observers in the UCV in May alone (plus an April Pine).

Eight **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** were in UCV 5/7 (GLF). Singing male **Blue Grosbeak** were reported in three locations as they passed through (no reports in June of breeding): 1 at VFNP 5/20 (RG), 1 in the UCV 6/5 (GLF) and 3-4 together in Lower Providence Twp. 5/26 (NT). **Bobolink** seemed to be doing well; 12+ in their usual spot across from the chapel in VFNP, up from last year. VFNP's **Orchard Oriole** population is also thriving: 8 on territory, with 1 confirmed nest (RG).

The bad news: April rains meant very poor shorebird showings at both GLR and VFNP impoundment-basin mudflats. The good news: almost all observers commented on the conspicuous increase in **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** this year. It was hard to be in the field and not hear one. They were noted in all locations, from VFNP

through mid-county Lower Providence and Whitpain Twps to GLR and the UCV in the north. The news of **E. Meadowlark**, on the other hand, was stark: no reports at all from the grassy meadows of any of the above locations.

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

MONTOUR COUNTY

While **Purple Martin** appear to be increasingly scarce in the Central Susquehanna Valley, at least 6 colonies survive in the Danville area (CS), and at least 1 other exists near Washingtonville (AS).

OBSERVERS: Allen Schweinsberg, 1200 Zeigler Rd., Lewisburg 17837 (717-524-0432), Christine Smull.

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY

Location: Roaring Creek Watershed (RCW).

Two **Peregrine Falcon** were observed for a considerable period of time 5/27 (location deleted. -Eds.). This species nested here more than 40 years ago (AS). They were not seen again.

Sora and **Virginia Rail** continue to summer at Montandon Marsh, where they were heard 6/10 (AS).

Approximately one dozen **Whip-poor-will** were heard in RCW this spring in addition to **E. Screech-Owl** and **Barred Owl** (DU). Two ad. **N. Saw-whet Owl** fed gypsy moth caterpillars to 2 fledged young in an oak tree in Rush Twp. This occurred each night from 6/19-22 along the driveway of the Unger home (DU)!

A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was seen 6/28 near the old Milton State Police barracks, an area where this species has been hanging on for a number of years (AS). In RCW, **Acadian Flycatcher** nested, **Veery** and **Hermit Thrush** were present and **Golden-crowned Kinglet** were confirmed nesting at two locations 6/14 and 6/21 (DU).

A **White-eyed Vireo**, very scarce in the county, was found at the Chillisquaque boat ramp near Montandon 6/1, and a **Yellow-throated Vireo** sang near Northumberland on the same day (AS). In RCW in June, **N. Parula** were common, and **Pine Warbler**, **Blackburnian Warbler**, and **Louisiana Waterthrush** were confirmed nesters. Also present were **Hooded Warbler** and **Am. Redstart** (DU).

OBSERVERS: Allen Schweinsberg, 1200 Zeigler Rd., Lewisburg 17837 (717-524-0432), David Unger.

PERRY COUNTY

Location: Tuscarora Forest (TF).

The BBAP helped provide all the sightings for the county this quarter.

An imm. **Double-crested Cormorant** was seen near Liverpool 6/13 (DH, RK). Also on 6/13 near Liverpool, 1 **Black Vulture** was seen flying north! An imm. **N. Goshawk** was found feeding on a rabbit in mid-June (location deleted. -Eds.) (GR). An ad. **N. Harrier** was seen 2 mi from the Mechanicsburg Exit on I-81.

Interesting landbird sightings included **Black-throated Blue Warbler** on Laurel Run Rd., TF, 6/11 (RK, JE) and a family of **Blackburnian Warbler** at the same location 6/15 (RK). **Pine Siskin** were reported from Board Run Rd. until 5/7. And 2 male and 1 female **Evening Grosbeak** were near Newport 4/23 (DD).

OBSERVERS: Dallas Dowhower, Jane Earle, Deuane Hoffman, 3406 Montour St., Harrisburg 17111 (717-564-7475), Ramsay Koury, Grace Randolph.

**PHILADELPHIA
COUNTY**

Locations: Carpenter's Woods (CW), Ft. Mifflin (FM), Schuylkill Center for Envir. Educ. (SCEE), Tinicum National Envir. Center (TNEC).

April and the first three weeks May were uncommonly cool, with frequent winds from the north. The rainy, cool weather gave way in the last week of May to dry and warm weather as the drought of 1988 settled into the area. No rain fell in June and temperatures in the high 80's and 90's were common.

BITTERNS THROUGH IBIS. An **Am. Bittern** was seen at TNEC 4/2-3 (BS,SC), and a pair discovered nesting there 6/14 (JCM). **Least Bittern** were calling at TNEC 5/21 (MD), and confirmed breeding 6/13 (JCM). Ft. Mifflin housed 15 pair of **Great Egret** 5/28, while the same number of pairs of **Green-backed Heron** nested at nearby TNEC (JCM). One **Cattle Egret** was at TNEC 5/2 (JCM). **Black-crowned Night-Heron** had good numbers nesting in the city, with 10 pair at FM 5/28 and 75+ pair at TNEC 4/27 (JCM). It would be noteworthy to discover whether the subadult **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** at TNEC 4/2 (BS) matured to breed there this season. A **Glossy Ibis** was seen there 4/9 (BS) and 2 on 5/8 (JCM).

DUCKS THROUGH RAPTORS. Breeding **Wood Duck** numbers were down at TNEC; only 10+ on 6/14 (JCM). A late **Lesser Scaup**, and the more common **Ruddy Duck** were on the Delaware R. off FM 5/8 (JCM). "**Osprey** follow the shad up the Delaware R." (CD); 1 was observed at the Int'l Airport 4/3 (FBH), and 1 was over center city 4/6 (RR), certainly a sight to startle even the most jaded birder. A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** visited CW 4/17 (SL), while **Broad-winged Hawk** moved overhead 4/16 at CW and at Harper's Meadows on the Wissahickon Cr. 4/22 (MD). Three **Am. Kestrel** fledged at SCEE (CW).

A pair of **Peregrine Falcon** were seen under a bridge 5/23 by Dan Brauning and Sid Lipschutz. The pair were confirmed breeding 6/5, when two nearly fledged young were observed on a platform above the river on the bridge understructure by Lipschutz and Ed Fingerhood. Both adults were nearby, but did not enter the nest site. A follow-up visit 6/11 failed to produce the young birds. Subsequent visits throughout June to the nesting and adjacent areas were unsuccessful in locating the juvenile falcons. The adults were easily found.

Three theories have been suggested to explain the juveniles' disappearance: falconers, death by drowning, or Great Horned Owl predation. That recently fledged young leave their natal area is uncharacteristic of this species. Thus, it appears that the first confirmed breeding of Peregrines in Philadelphia in some 25 years failed, for whatever cause, to fledge young (EF).

SORA THROUGH WOODPECKERS. One **Sora** was found at TNEC 4/2 (BS) and another 4/30 (SC), but not thereafter. A **Black-billed** 5/9 and a **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** 5/26 were found in CW during migration (MD). Wonderly notes an increase of the latter species this season. Two **E. Screech-Owl** fledged at SCEE (CW), while the resident Screech-Owl in CW was seen 4/2 and 4/25 (SL). A sighting of the extremely rare, for Phila., **Red-headed Woodpecker**, was reported near CW 6/10 (fide SL) and 3 were at Chestnut Hill 5/16 (RF). **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** were in the region 5/4; 2 in CW, 1 at TNEC 5/21 (MD). Lawrence, who has birded CW since 1959, found his first **Pileated Woodpecker** there 4/10. It was his 162nd species for the Woods. Another pair was along the Wissahickon Cr. during the quarter (CW).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH VIREOS. **E. Wood-Pewee** were calling from CW 5/17, but not present after migration (SL). **Great Crested Flycatcher** were noted twice in May and once in June in CW, and flycatchers in general considered down this year (SL). **N. Rough-winged Swallow** were found 4/22 (MD) at Harper's Meadows. They nested along the Schuylkill R. above Shawmont (CW).

Sixteen pair of **Bank Swallow** nested at TNEC (JCM). **Brown Creeper** was scarce in CW, seen but once 4/9.

It's likely that Phila.'s only nesting **E. Bluebird** successfully fledged 4 young in the first and 3 young in the second nesting at SCEE. These are the first there in at least 10 years (CW). Other thrushes made a good showing at CW. First noted 5/5 (SL), at least 6 **Veery** were seen 5/11 (EF). That same day 1 **Gray-cheeked Thrush** passed through. **Swainson's Thrush** apparently peaked 5/12, when 7 were counted (SL); 3 were seen the previous day (EF), and the latest report was 5/21 (SL). Three **Hermit Thrush** were found 4/25 in CW (SL).

Solitary Vireo, first noted 4/26 in CW, was still present 5/11 and a **Yellow-throated Vireo** was singing there 5/7 (MD). **Warbling Vireo** nested at Shawmont (CW). An exceptional find was 1 **Philadelphia Vireo**, rare in spring, at TNEC 5/21 (SS,MD).

WARBLERS. All warbler records are from CW (MD,SL) unless otherwise noted. Both observers reported the first good "wave" 5/10, when **Cape May** appeared. The next day an excellent wave of 18 species was found. **Black-throated Blue** made a strong showing 5/12, but both observers agreed there were fewer of this species seen when compared to last year. **Black-throated Green** were at the Andora Natural Area 5/2 and CW, with 6 on 5/12 and last noted 5/21, the same date for the last **Blackburnian**. A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was on the Wissahickon Cr. 6/12 (breeding?). A good flight of **Bay-breasted** were noted 5/10-15. **Blackpoll**, which first appeared 5/10, were last seen 6/3. An early arrival was **Am. Redstart**, 4/26, with **Worm-eating** recorded 5/6. Neither observer found either waterthrush this year. A **Mourning** was found 5/21 at TNEC (MD). An early **Hooded** was also at TNEC 4/30 (SC). It is interesting to note how much earlier certain warbler species reach TNEC before CW, which is a mere 12 mi away. More vigorous study of this phenomenon is warranted.

FINCHES. Two **Blue Grosbeak** were found behind the Int'l Airport 5/8 (JCM). **Grasshopper Sparrow**, occasional in the Roxborough section, were reported gone entirely, and **Field Sparrow** were down (CW). An unusual **Orchard Oriole** was at CW 5/11 (SL). Only 1 **Purple Finch**, a lingerer, was reported from CW 4/26 (SL). This was our only record for the quarter.

OBSERVERS: Erica Brendel, Skip Conant, Chris Dooley, Michael Drake, Edward Fingerhood, 541 W. Sedgwick St., Philadelphia 19119 (215-843-5818), Ron French, Frank & Barb Haas, Steve Lawrence, John C. Miller, Robert Ridgely, Sandra Sherman, Bill Stocku, Charlie Wonderly.

**POTTER
COUNTY**

Fledged young **Sharp-shinned Hawk** were seen the end of June (LM). A singing **Swainson's Thrush** was found in Ayres Hill (SD). In May a pair of **Red Crossbill** were found twice. All reports forwarded by Dan Brauning.

OBSERVERS: Sam Drogue, Larry Mehal.

**SCHUYLKILL
COUNTY**

Locations: Deer Lake (DL), Orwigsburg (OR), Pottsville (PTV), Schuylkill Haven (SH), Tumbling Run Dam (TRD).

Spring populations of **Wild Turkey** seemed excellent, perhaps the best ever. They were found in all suitable habitat, and a lot of marginal habitat as well, e.g., field woodlots (SW,JW,TC).

A pair of **Osprey** were seen at TRD 4/15 (TC). A pair of **Red-shouldered Hawk** nested (location deleted. -Eds.) (SW,JW).

A **Common Moorhen** was on a pond along Rt. 125 just s. of Hegins through the Memorial Day weekend. It walked with a limp and there was no sign of a mate (SW,JW). A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was at PTV 5/22 (TC). **Black-billed Cuckoo** were at SGL #286 5/12, and at PTV 5/22 (TC). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was at SH 4/5 (CC). One **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was at TRD 4/16 and **Brown Creeper** were numerous in the PTV area 4/5 (TC). A **Carolina Wren** pair returned to its usual nesting site in PTV 4/12 (TC). **Veery** were common 6/24 along

Mahanoy Cr. near Lavelle (AS).

One **Warbling Vireo** was at PTV 5/6 (TC). **Black-throated Green Warbler** returned to their nesting sites at TRD as early as 4/15 and **Blackburnian Warbler** were on nest at TRD 5/7 (TC). A **Pine Warbler** was heard singing at DL 4/2 and **Blackpoll Warbler** were at PTV 5/13 (TC). **Am. Redstart** were common 6/24 along Mahanoy Cr. near Lavelle (AS).

For the second year in a row, a first-year male **Orchard Oriole** was holding territory at Schwartz Valley Rd., although there was no sign of a mate (SW, JW). **Grasshopper Sparrow** were heard singing at PTV 5/6, SGL #286 on 5/12, and OR 5/31 (TC).

Scott and Jeanne Weidensaul reported the following incident: In mid-May, a **N. Flicker** excavated a nest hole beside their home on Schwartz Valley Rd., but were evicted by **European Starlings**. Jeanne then discovered one of the starlings holding the female flicker on the ground, mercilessly hammering her head - blood and feathers everywhere - before being chased away. The flicker could not fly at first, but eventually flew off unsteadily. The flickers disappeared, and the starlings fledged a brood.

OBSERVERS: Clara Clauser, Tom Clauser, 213 Deerfield Dr., Pottsville 17901 (717-622-1363), Allen Schweinsberg, Jeanne & Scott Weidensaul.

SNYDER COUNTY

An **Am. Bittern**, now very uncommon even in migration, was spotted n. of Selinsgrove 4/27 (JC). An unusual June **Snowy Egret** appeared at Faylor L. 6/4 (R&PW).

Horned Lark were heard 5/31 about 1 mi s.w. of Selinsgrove (AS). This species appears to nest throughout the region in low density. A **Swainson's Thrush** sang near Beavertown 5/28 (AS).

A **Solitary Vireo** was nest-building 5/31 two mi s.e. of Freeburg, and a **Yellow-throated Vireo** and **Warbling Vireo** were heard also that day. Also in the Freeburg area 5/31 were a **Pine Warbler** and **Orchard Oriole** (AS).

OBSERVERS: John Clark, Allen Schweinsberg, 1200 Zeigler Rd., Lewisburg 17837 (717-524-0432), Richard & Patricia Williams.

SOMERSET COUNTY

Locations: Cranberry Glade L. (CGL), Hooversville (HVL), High Point L. (HPL), Jennerstown (JTN), Laurel Hill S.P. (LHSP), L. Somerset (LS), Quemahoning Dam (QD).

April was a dry month. Some good hot days in early April gave way to unseasonably cold weather with some light snows by the end of the month. After some rain in early May, the stage was set for the heat and drought of late June. The quiet after last year's cicada outbreak made it easier this year to hear the songs of woodland breeding birds, probably affecting the count of warblers, in particular. The last great push toward completion of BBAP also had its effect.

The surprising discovery of **Dickcissel** 6/22 in the Markleton and Winder quads resulted in a search of reclaimed strip mines and nearby areas. Thirteen reports listed 1-6 **Dickcissel** in those plus the following quads: Berlin, Boswell, Hooversville, Meyersdale, Murdock, Rockwood, Stoystown. Four were confirmed nesting.

WATERFOWL. An unspectacular waterfowl flight continued to 5/3, when Marich reported the last migrants at LS. Ten **Common Loon** 4/30 at HPL was the high count; latest date seen was 5/6. **Pied-billed Grebe** remained on LS to 5/3, with max. of 9 on 4/30. Two **Horned Grebe** on QD 4/1-9 and 1-3 at LS 4/6-30 were the only reports. A **Double-crested Cormorant** was seen at Rockwell L. 4/10. Two **Great Egret**, 1 in full breeding plumage, were reported near JTN for several days beginning 5/1 and another there 5/9; and a **Snowy Egret** was there 4/21.

Canada Goose had nested successfully by 5/21. The most **Wood Duck** were at LS, with 12 on 5/3, and first 2 ducklings 5/21. Only 1 **Green-winged Teal** at LS 4/16, and 2 at HPL 4/24 were reported. **Mallard** counts of 1-7 were low at QD, CGL, HPL, and the max. was a brood of 8 and 2 pair at LS 6/4. Except for 2 **Blue-winged Teal** at QD 4/21, LS was the place to see this species in numbers from 4/6 to 5/3. Two **Gadwall** were at LHSP 4/6 and 1 drake at LS 6/9. Only **Ring-necked Duck** were 48 at QD 4/1 and 6 on 4/7. Low numbers of **Lesser Scaup** included 13 at QD 4/1-7 and 2-9 at LS 4/1 to 5/3. Both LS and QD had 13 **Oldsquaw** 4/1. Three **Common Goldeneye** were at QD 4/7; and **Bufflehead** only at LS in numbers of 3-10 from 4/1-6. Five **Hooded Merganser** were at CGL 4/17 and 22 on 4/24, and 15 on 4/30 at HPL. High count of **Red-breasted Merganser** was 10 at LS 4/29. **Ruddy Duck** were only at LS, with a high of 34 on 4/18.

RAPTORS THROUGH LARKS. Two **Black Vulture** at HVL 4/24 may indicate expansion of range, since a sighting also took place there last April. Single **Osprey** were seen at CGL and LS 4/17-29. Migrating **N. Harrier** were seen in early April in scattered locations, but only a few were reported by atlasers. **Sharp-shinned** and **Cooper's** hawks were in good numbers all quarter. **Broad-winged Hawk** were in good numbers as breeding birds. **Red-shouldered Hawk** reports were few. Twelve pair of **Am. Kestrel** observed in JTN-Boswell area 4/21 and good BBAP reports are an encouraging indication for this species.

Breeding **Ring-necked Pheasant** and **N. Bobwhite** were spotty in n. *Somerset*, but quite common in the south, whereas **Ruffed Grouse** and **Wild Turkey** were plentiful everywhere. The only rail report was of a road-killed juv. **Virginia Rail** at LS 6/18. The **Am. Coot** migration continued until 5/3, with numbers of 1-20 at QD, LS, and HPL. Except for **Killdeer**, the few shorebird reports were: 2 **Greater Yellowlegs** at LS 5/3, a colony of **Upland Sandpiper** in n. *Somerset* doing very well with 3-4 known nests, a **Least Sandpiper** 5/19 in Milford Twp., a **Common Snipe** 4/9 at Shanksville, and few **Am. Woodcock** reports.

Ring-billed Gull were at LS irregularly from mid-April to mid-June, with a high 40 on 4/18. A **Caspian Tern** was at Stoughton L. 4/21. Tent caterpillar and gypsy moth infestations contributed to a very good counts of **Black-billed** and **Yellow-billed** cuckoos. Few **E. Screech-** and **Barred** owls reported. **Common Nighthawk** were reported only in the Windber area in June. **Whip-poor-will** were spotty in the n., but seem OK in the south.

At least a dozen puzzling inquiries came to me concerning the disappearance of **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** after usual arrival dates in early May, with reappearance in early June in *Somerset, Cambria, Bedford, and Blair*. Few **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** were seen in migration. **Red-headed Woodpecker** were few in migration and on BBAP reports, but the other woodpeckers were in good numbers.

It was an excellent year for the flycatchers. All expected species were found in suitable habitat. Concentrated searches for **Horned Lark** in reclaimed strip mines paid off with the best BBAP reports to date, and sparse grasslands and plowed fields also contributed a few. **Tree Swallow** seemed to be down on their luck for nesting success, but were in good numbers in the n. and in fair numbers in the s. portion. The BBAP produced **N. Rough-winged** and **Cliffswallows** in more locations and greater numbers per colony than previous years. The last flock of 40 **Blue Jay** 5/4 at HVL gave way to surprisingly few sightings during the BBAP. **Common Raven** were reported in average numbers. **Red-breasted Nuthatch** were few and the last seen at HVL 5/8; few **Winter Wren** were seen early and only 1 in June at Stoystown. Only **Golden-crowned Kinglet** reports were 4/3 at Davidsville and 2 heard counter singing 6/10 at LHSP; and few **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**, the last 4/27 at HVL.

Hermit Thrush were very hard to find. After the mild winter, **N. Mockingbird** were settled down to a good nesting season by early May, and **Gray Catbird** and **Brown Thrasher** were good on BBAP reports.

Except for above-average **Yellow-throated** sightings, the vireos were in average numbers. It was another poor warbler migration. The best daily count was of 13 **Louisiana Waterthrush** 5/3 at N. Baltimore. Breeding records produced the following picture: few **Blue-winged, Prairie, Worm-eating, and Yellow-breasted Chat**; normal numbers of **Golden-winged, Black-throated Green, Am. Redstart, Ovenbird, Kentucky, Common Yellowthroat, Hooded, and Canada**; and above-average **N. Parula, Yellow, Chestnut-sided, Black-throated**

Blue, Cerulean, Black-and-white, and Louisiana Waterthrush. Single **Yellow-throated Warbler** were near N. Baltimore 6/3 and at LHSP 6/10. **N. Waterthrush** were seen near Windber and in SGL #50 in late June.

Scarlet Tanager, N. Cardinal, Indigo Bunting, and Rufous-sided Towhee were in normal numbers, but **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** seemed below average both as migrants and breeders. A **White-crowned Sparrow** lingered to 5/13 at Markleton and 2 **Dark-eyed Junco** to 5/2 at HVL. Few breeding **Swamp Sparrow** were found, but all other sparrows seemed to thrive as breeding birds in June. Revegetated strip mines were especially good for **Vesper, Savannah, Grasshopper, and Henslow's**. Vespers were apparently the first species to become established on one newly-planted strip mine near Ogletown; and Henslow's were found in more locations, and colonies seemed to have expanded in places where studied last year.

Bobolink and E. Meadowlark were also above average and often found on strip mines. Only a few **Orchard Oriole** were reported. Small flocks of 10-20 **Purple Finch** in April dwindled to a few sightings in June, but **House Finch** were abundant everywhere. **Pine Siskin**, in flocks of 30+ continued until early May, the last report was of a pair that lingered into the first week of June at JTN. **Am. Goldfinch** numbers were down throughout the quarter. Small flocks of **Evening Grosbeak** were reported, with up to 10 until 5/3 at HVL and the last 3 seen there 5/6.

OBSERVERS: Paul Labovitz, Robert Leberman, Anthony J. Marich, Jr., Gregory Mock, Mary Mock, Richard Mock, Lewis Moldovan, Robert Mulvihill, Glenn and Ruth Sagar, RD 1, Box 176-B, Hooversville 15936 (814-798-3242), Michael & Evaleen Watko, Neil Woffinden, Marion Yoder.

CORRIGENDUM: In the Jan-Mar '88 report, **E. Phoebe** should have read 3/25 instead of 2/25, making this somewhat late for this location.

SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY

Please see the introduction in *Bradford* report for more general information about the four-county area.

An imm. **Bald Eagle** was seen at close range feeding on dead fish on a pond shore in Forest L. Twp. 6/8 (CB). Forty **Water Pipit** were seen near Springville 5/5 (WR). Two "**Brewster's**" **Warbler** were on territory e. of Springville, 5/13-28 (WR); 1 was singing the Blue-wing song and had a yellow blotch on its breast; the other was singing the Golden-wing song and had a clear white underneath. Blue-wings are fairly common in that area; Golden-wings were not recorded at all.

At stop #28 of my BBS route, two **Pine Siskin** were observed at about 30 ft in which I presume was courtship behavior. The birds were both in a dead elm (I think) tree, fairly close to each other. One of the birds pulled off a small piece of dead growth under the bark (cambium layer?) and then moved right next to the other bird. After a few seconds, it dropped the fragment, moved away from the other bird, got another fragment of the dead layer, and moved back to the other bird. This happened three times, and then the birds flew off together. Neither made any sound during the time of observation (about 2 minutes). Siskins have been very common this past winter and spring, and a few have remained into June in several nearby localities.

OBSERVERS: M/M Cortland Birchard, William Reid, 73 W. Ross St., Wilkes-Barre 18702 (717-836-2525).

TIOGA COUNTY

Locations: Wellsboro and Roundtop Area (WRA).

Observations were by the compiler unless otherwise indicated.

There were two exceptional finds in the county this quarter. **Bald Eagle** were confirmed nesting in the Pine Cr. area. This is the only known site in e. Pennsylvania where they have been confirmed in at least 30 years. Equally exciting was the find of recently fledged **Long-eared Owl** in a pine plantation (EE).

Horned Grebe were at Nessmuh L. 4/21. Three **Double-crested Cormorant**, including 1 imm. were at Cowanesque L. 4/12 (MC,JS). The usual mixture of ducks, **Wood Duck, Mallard**, scaup sp., **Common Merganser** and **Ruddy Duck** were seen at various lakes in April. Two **Osprey** were seen at Cowanesque L. 4/12. A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was observed pestering a **Great Horned Owl** in Ansonia 4/14.

Ruffed Grouse and **Wild Turkey** are plentiful this year. Two **Common Moorhen** were found at Marsh Cr., 5 mi w. of Wellsboro (MB). A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was found in the Canyon area, 10 mi from Wellsboro 6/3 (HB). **Chimney Swift** returned 4/11. A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was found 5 mi s. of Wellsboro 5/12-14. **Horned Lark**, as well as **E. Meadowlark**, can be found at higher-elevation hay fields by mid-April. Swallows were back on time. **E. Bluebird** are making a comeback. **Hermit Thrush** were found in the Tioga 3 block, and Rattler Mt.

Pine Siskin and **Evening Grosbeak** remained at feeders into mid-April.

OBSERVERS: Mary Burnier, Helga Bush, Martha Copp, R.D. 3, Box 197, Wellsboro, 16901 (717-724-7751), Carol Cupper, Dan Brauning, Ethel Erickson, Joanna Stickler.

UNION COUNTY

Two **Double-crested Cormorant** flew by Blue Hill at Shikellamy S.P. 5/31 (AS). A **Cooper's Hawk** called persistently (location deleted. -Eds.) 7/9 (AS). **Red-shouldered Hawk** were present at three locations in early July in the forests of the w. portion of the county (AS,JS). A **Merlin** flew over the fields near Lewisburg's Weis Market 4/25 (AS). A **Virginia Rail** sat incongruously in a backyard spruce tree 5/7 following a night of heavy rain (AS).

A **Common Barn-Owl** family included 5 fledged young in early June at the intersection of Furnace Rd. and Dreisbach Church Rd. (JS). Three juv. **E. Screech-Owl** were detected 6/5 in woods along Buffalo Cr. s. of Mazeppa (AS).

Three **Pileated Woodpecker** were sighted near Weikert 6/17 (AS,JS). A rarely seen migrant, the **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**, called and sang on the late date 6/6 (AS). For the second consecutive year, Lewisburg's **Eurasian Jackdaw** fledged 1 young (6/10) which quickly perished (6/13) (JP).

A **Winter Wren** sang along Coral Run near Weikert and a **Red-breasted Nuthatch** called 6/17. Red-breasted Nuthatch and **Golden-crowned Kinglet** were found along Halfway Run 7/2 (AS,JS). A **Veery** carried food for young 7/6 in the forest west of "the Hook." **Hermit Thrush** were common 7/2 at Halfway Run. A **Swainson's Thrush** was heard 5/29 (AS).

A **Blue-winged Warbler** was found near Hartleton 5/28. Several **N. Parula** sang near Penns Cr. at Weikert 6/17. A **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was seen on Sharpback Mt. 7/6. A migrant **Magnolia Warbler** was seen in a residential area on the late date 5/30, but the 1 singing in the forest along Rt. 192 on 7/6 was well within the nesting season. **Black-throated Blue Warbler** were fairly common in the "the Hook" 7/6. A **Blackburnian Warbler** was found at Wesley Forest Camp 6/17, as was a **Pine Warbler**. Another **Pine Warbler** sang at Shikellamy S.P. Blue Hill 5/27. Both **N. Waterthrush** and **Hooded Warbler** were near Halfway Run 7/2 (all AS or AS,JS).

Grasshopper Sparrow were common near Weikert 6/17. Fledged **Dark-eyed Junco** were being fed as early as 5/27 on Blue Hill (AS).

OBSERVERS: John Petery, Allen Schweinsberg, 1200 Zeigler Rd., Lewisburg 17837 (717-524-0432), Joe Southerton.

WARREN COUNTY

Locations: Allegheny R., Allegheny Res., Warren

Two observers found a **Common Loon** in different areas of the reservoir 5/22 (KC,JS) and 1 was seen again 5/29 (KC). A **Pied-billed Grebe** was at Spring Cr. 6/16 (TG). Nine **Double-crested Cormorant** were on the river below Irvine 4/23 (JK) and again 5/7 (JS); a single bird was located in mid-May.

A **Turkey Vulture** egg shell was found among rocks above Fool's Cr., indicating a nest nearby (TG,NG). **Osprey** were noted all quarter, with the earliest reported from the reservoir 4/15 and the latest at Starbrick 6/6 (JS). **Bald Eagle** reports include an imm. at Cornplanter Run 5/13 (JS,BH) and 2 ad. at Sugar Bay 5/19 (SL). In June an ad. was seen at Youngsville 6/5 (DD) and an imm. at Cornplanter Run 6/7 (BH,JS).

A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was seen near Youngsville 5/7 (BH,DD). A **Cooper's Hawk** was seen on Four-Mile Run near Sheffield 4/26 (DW) and there were three reports of them in and near Warren in May. The pair of **Am. Kestrel** is again apparently nesting in a downtown Warren building (BHi). At least 110 **Am. Kestrel** were fledged from the 29 occupied boxes of 37 erected (DW,BH,JS).

Both **Black-billed** and **Yellow-billed** cuckoos are more abundant this year. Grisez added each species in 10-12 atlas blocks that had been covered previously (includes some in Forest Co.). The **Red-bellied Woodpecker** visiting the feeder in Warren since last November was there through April (BHi).

A **Common Raven** was at Saybrook 4/16 (CN). Grisez checked the raven nest sites in late April. Neither of the two was occupied. This is the poorest record since the sites were discovered. A **White-breasted Nuthatch** nest was found in a bluebird box near Saybrook; it had 7 eggs and produced 6 young (CN). A **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was seen in large open-grown Norway spruces on Rt. 337 s. of Warren 6/14 (TG).

A **Swainson's Thrush** was singing near Scandia 6/5 and 6/28 (TG). Grisez had a good look at a "**Brewster's**" **Warbler** at the Newbold Estate, Irvine, 5/10. The male **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was singing at Hearts Content Rec. Ctr., where nesting was confirmed in May (TG). **Louisiana Waterthrush** seem more abundant this year, since Grisez added them to 6 blocks previously covered (some in Forest Co.). In little more than 2 h. during the evening of 5/13 and morning of 5/14, Grisez recorded 13 species of warblers in one sugar maple tree in his yard in Warren.

A **Dickcissel** was singing on Plank Rd. n.e. of Tidioute 6/14 (TG). An ad. male **House Finch** banded 5/2/86 (TG) was found dead at Hillsboro, Ohio, 1/23/88, 300 mi s.w. of Warren. The Neels had about 50 **Pine Siskin** at their feeder in Saybrook through April. These same feeders hosted **Evening Grosbeak** until mid-May, with a max. of 12 earlier in the month. But the late date was 6/4 when Doherty had 1 male.

OBSERVERS: Keith Confer, Dan Doherty, Ted Grisez, 8 Belmont Dr., Warren 16365 (814-723-9464), Nancy Grisez, Bill Highhouse, Bill Hill (BHi), Jim King, Rev. Salvatore Lucci, Rick Lyle, Chuck Neel, Doug Palmer, John Shultz, Don Watts.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY

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

SPRING MIGRATION, LOONS THROUGH TERNS. A **Common Loon** was last seen on DL 5/6 (MEW). An **Am. Bittern** was seen on the early date 4/3 at PNR (MGN,JN) and the species was observed on the somewhat late date 5/6, also at PNR. A **Tundra Swan** lingered to 5/27 at DL (RCL). **Red-breasted Merganser** were seen as late as 5/9 at DL (MEW). First **Osprey** was seen 4/6 along the Loyalhanna Cr. near Ligonier (RSM) and was last noted 5/6 at Cedar Cr. Park (MEW). The only notable shorebird record was of 18 **Lesser Yellowlegs** at DL 4/21

(RCL). Four **Forster's Tern** were seen at DL 4/21 (RCL).

HUMMINGBIRD THROUGH MIMIC THRUSHES. The 46 **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** banded at PNR in May represented an apparently very good spring flight. There were more than the usual number of field sightings of **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** at PNR during April and early May. Based on PNR banding totals, all local *Empidonax* species were present in below average numbers during migration. A late migrant **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was banded 6/12. A wintering **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was seen at a PNR feeder as late as 4/30. A **Marsh Wren** banded 5/8 was an unusual spring record. Based on banding totals, **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** and all *Catharus* thrushes were present in below average numbers during migration. Although **Gray Catbird** were caught in average numbers at PNR, four times as many **Brown Thrasher** were banded compared to average.

VIREOS THROUGH FINCHES. Banding at PNR indicated an average spring flight of **Red-eyed Vireo**, but a very good flight of **White-eyed** and **Philadelphia vireos**. Among the warblers, **Tennessee, Yellow,** and **Magnolia** all had excellent flights based on banding totals. A late migrant **Mourning Warbler** was banded 6/11.

Chipping Sparrow were unusually common during the period at PNR; our total of 140 banded during April and May exceeds our annual banding total for the species for the past 20 years. Our banding total of 27 **Fox Sparrow** suggests a very good spring flight for that species as well. **White-throated Sparrow**, on the other hand, were in below average numbers during the migration, following a below average winter presence and previous fall flight.

Orchard Oriole were more common than we have ever recorded them in May. We banded an unprecedented 6 birds (compared to only 3 **N. Oriole**) and had several additional sight records. The species has become increasingly common and widespread in the county over the past 20 years. Following a record winter presence at PNR, **Pine Siskin** continued very common through April into early May. We banded 224 during that time; a few of these individuals were found to be in breeding condition before the end of April. **Evening Grosbeak**, comparatively uncommon during the period, were last seen 5/8.

NESTING BIRDS. Both **cuckoo** species were encountered more frequently than usual during our field work for the BBAP, probably the result of the first substantial presence of gypsy moths in this region to date. We found **Cliff Swallow** in a couple of new locations during June; this species continues to increase in number and range within this and adjacent counties, where it became unaccountably scarce during the early to mid-1970's.

Yellow-throated Warbler must now be considered a fairly common bird in this county, wherever suitable stream or riverside habitat exists; it has been located in 10 BBAP blocks in the eastern half of the county alone, and it is even more frequent in *Fayette* to the south. We found **Yellow-breasted Chat** in encouragingly good numbers, local populations apparently recovered from low levels early in this decade.

The highlight of the quarter, not only for this county, but for many other w. Pennsylvania counties as well, was the unprecedented invasion of **Dickcissel** after 6/22. **Dickcissel** were first discovered in *Westmoreland* by Mark Bowers 6/26 near Smithton (s.w. corner). Observers at this site believed there to be as many as a dozen birds, mostly males; breeding had not been confirmed by the end of the quarter. The species was apparently more widespread, though at no one site more numerous, in *Fayette* and *Somerset*. An article is being prepared for the next issue.

OBSERVERS: Robert C. Leberman and Robert S. Mulvihill, Powdermill Nature Reserve, Star Route South, Rector 15677 (412-593-7521), Jane & M. Graham Netting, Mary Jane Shaw, Tim Vechter, Mike & Evaleen Watko, Peggy Wisner.

WYOMING COUNTY

Please see the introduction in *Bradford* report for more general information about the four-county area.

Two female **Hooded Merganser** at S. Eaton 5/14 (WR) and 2 at Meshoppen 5/31 (RD) were very late. Numbers of breeding **Common Merganser** continue to increase (RD,RP,WR). A **N. Goshawk** was seen at Tunkhannock 4/2 (WR).

The 1st county record of **Yellow-throated Warbler** was seen for 20 minutes n. of Tunkhannock 5/11 (WR), but could not be located again. Two **Louisiana Waterthrush** at Bowmans Cr. 4/2 were extremely early. There were 2 **Kentucky Warbler** records, N. Eaton 5/14, and n. of Lemon 6/20 (WR).

Henslow's Sparrow were found in N. Branch Twp. 6/20 (BH, FH) and feeding young 6/26 (SC, JG) and at Factoryville (RP). Three male **Orchard Oriole** were at Meshoppen 6/7 (RD). **Pine Siskin** were found into mid-June at Factoryville (WR).

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YORK COUNTY

Locations: Brunners I. (BI), Codorus Furnace (CF), Codorus S.P. (CSP), Collinsville (CNV), Gifford Pinchot S.P. (GPSP), Marietta Watershed, Reservoir Hill (RH), Spring Grove (SGV), Susquehanna R., York Haven (YH).

WEATHER. Some people said we did not have a Spring. Cold and wet seemed to prevail. The day of our Century Run, 7 May, was beautiful and then all of a sudden, Summer was here. But with the hot, dry weather came the **Dickcissel** near Collinsville.

Thirty-four **Common Loon** were at CSP 4/8 and 17 on 4/27 (RR, LR); 6 imm. were seen 6/16 (RR). Forty **Horned Grebe** at CSP 3/26 (LR, RR). About 35 **Double-crested Cormorant** were seen 5/2, and on 5/10 there were 17 flying N from Wrightsville (AS), plus several seen at CSP until mid-June (DS).

Seven **Great Blue Heron** were at BI 5/10 (J&JP, AS). One of these birds had a pure white head and head plumes, with all other parts of the body normal. One **Great Egret** was early at BI 3/25 (AS), and 5 were flying N from Turkey Hill over the river 6/17. The only **Snowy Egret** reported was 1 at CSP 4/10 (RR, LR). A **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was at YH 4/9, with 2 ad. and 1 imm. there 6/2 (JD); this is the earliest report of an imm. bird.

There were 20 fledged **Wood Duck** counted at SGV 5/23 (PH). The Glatfelter Paper Co. put out 9 new boxes this year. Other reports throughout *York* are better than any recent year. At CSP 5/1 were 1 **Green-winged Teal** (RR) and 3 **Bufflehead** (RR, KL). A female **Hooded Merganser** was observed in an inlet area of GPSP 6/2. On 5/10 a **Ruddy Duck** was at CSP (KL).

On 5/16, Ryan found a **Black Vulture** nest in a second-floor cubicle of a barn near CSP. There was a dark-colored chick and an unhatched egg. On 5/20, the egg was still there, the chick was dead, but no ad. was seen either time. Pictures were taken. In June, Del Grande found a nest with 2 young in SGL #83. He reports that they frequent this s.e. *York* area each year.

A female **N. Harrier** was at CSP 5/18 (RR). This is three days into the "safe" dates. Several **Wild Turkey** were seen near CSP in April and May (RR). **N. Bobwhite** numbers have been increasing, especially in the s. part of the county (v.o.). The **Virginia Rail** at BI 4/9 was very early (J&JP). Single **Common Moorhen** were at two different locations at SGV 4/13 & 4/23 (AS). Reports to the end of June confirm below normal numbers were sighted (BW).

Shorebird reports included: Two **Solitary Sandpiper** at SGV 5/23; 3 **White-rumped Sandpiper** at SGV 5/23; 1 **Dunlin** at BI 4/14 (AS) and 2 at CSP 4/24 (KL, RR). A count of 154 **Bonaparte's Gull** was made on the river from BI to CF 4/22; some were imm., but all northward bound. Seven **Caspian Tern** were at CSP 6/10 (KL).

One ad. and 3 young **Common Barn-Owl** were in a nest in a barn near Lewisberry 6/6 (DH). A male **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** at YH 5/10 (AS) was a few days later than normal. **Downy Woodpecker** were feeding young at a nest hole in CF 5/28 (AS), and 1 of the young left the nest 5/29 (JD, BDG). A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was at SGL #242 on 6/11 (J&JP).

A **Bank Swallow** colony, with an estimated 500 holes (normally 2/3 are occupied), was active at BI. They usually depart to surrounding areas by mid-July (DH). A small colony of **Cliff Swallow** was found near

Black Rock Bridge (RR). **Black-capped Chickadee** were identified by call 4/10 to 6/4 at ten different locations.

One **Sedge Wren** was seen and heard at Davidsburg 6/2 (AS). This bird was observed for about an hour, returning to the same dead tree to sing. Habitat was favorable to nesting, but it was not seen on subsequent visits. A **Veery** was found at two locations, M.W. and SGL #83 (JD, AS). A flock of ± 25 **Water Pipit** was moving quickly through a plowed field in Admire 4/13 (AS).

A **Golden-winged Warbler** was at RH 5/1 (BDG) and a **Nashville Warbler** was there 5/7 (BDG, DH, SH). A max. of 3 **Palm Warbler** were seen at 8 different locations 4/9 to 5/4. One dead **Mourning Warbler** was brought to Canadochly School in May. A female **Hooded Warbler** was at RH 6/27 (AS). There were very few **Yellow-breasted Chat** reports through the end of the quarter. A male **Summer Tanager** was found at MW 5/28 (AS) and seen and heard on later dates (m.ob.). A female was seen and a male heard 5/29 (J&JP). **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** were observed at three locations 6/10-20 (v.o.). Two male and 1 female **Blue Grosbeak** were in their normal nesting area 5/21 (AS).

Five or six pairs of **Dickcissel** were found in the CNV area 6/26-27. The location, about 1 1/2 mi w. of CNV, has now been visited by numerous observers and the birds were singing until at least 7/25. Also in the area: 4-6 **Savannah Sparrow**, and at least 25 **Grasshopper Sparrow** in two adjoining fields 6/26-27 (BDG). They seemed to be everywhere. Three **Bobolink** on the same date, same area, rounded out what was seen in this partially cut weedy field, with an adjacent fence row. Many observations of **N. Oriole** nests were reported for May and June. An estimated 20 **Red Crossbill** were at RH 5/16 (R&RG, AS) and last seen 5/20 (RR). **Pine Siskin** were last seen at feeders 5/13-14 (MS, JD).

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