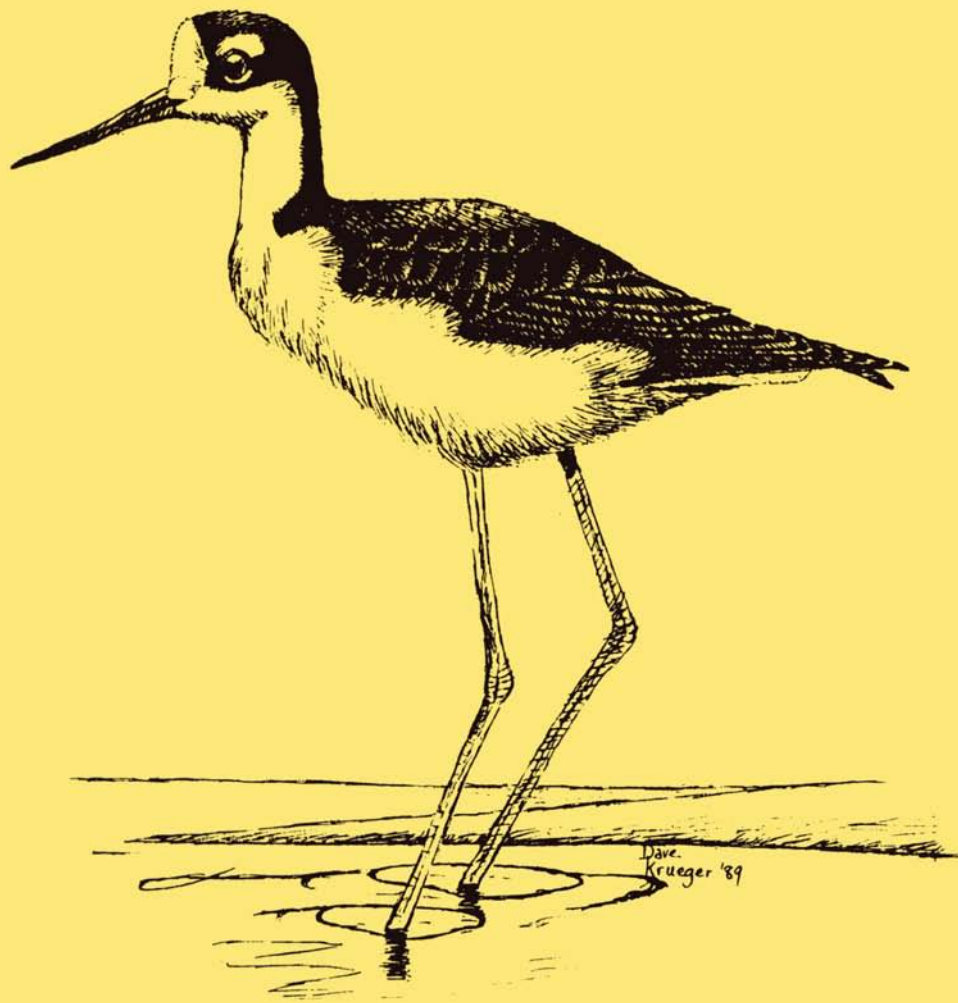


# PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS

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VOLUME 3, No.2

Apr-Jun 1989

# PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS



VOLUME 3, NUMBER 2, APR - JUN 1989

Franklin C. Haas & Barbara M. Haas  
Co-editors

## Contents

45	Editorial	
46	Letters	
47	Wing-tagged Trumpeter Swans	Ed Kwater
49	Big Day 1989, A New Pennsylvania Record	Steve Santner
51	End of a Free Lunch	Marcia Bonta
	<i>Brush Mountain Notebook</i>	
51	Black-and-White Warbler Nest	Russ States
52	The Six-thirty Bird	Arlene Koch
52	Two Mile Run Lake ( <i>Site Guide, Venango County</i> )	Russ States
53	Short-eared Owls ( <i>Mercer County</i> )	Barbara Dean
53	A Wood Duck Tale	Marty McKay
54	104 Upland Sandpipers ( <i>Mercer County</i> )	Barbara Dean
55	Gerald M. McWilliams ( <i>Personality profile</i> )	Ed Kwater
56	Rare Bird Reports	
	<i>Arctic Terns</i>	Rick Wiltraut
	<i>Common Black-headed Gull</i>	Jerry McWilliams
	<i>American Avocet</i>	Jerry McWilliams
	<i>Harlequin Duck</i>	Jerry McWilliams
57	Next State Bird?	Barbara Haas
58	Summary of the Season	
59	County Reports - April through June 1989	

## ILLUSTRATIONS:

COVER: Black-necked Stilt by *Dave Krueger*  
(See Page 46)

## from the Editors...

WE HAVE MOVED! But rest assured that **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS** will not be changing, only our address. See the inside back cover and elsewhere for our new address and phone number.

We now live in northeastern Lancaster County, just a few miles west of Morgantown. That puts us 45 minutes closer to Presque Isle and other western points in the state! We have started a new yard list and look forward to exploring new areas (although we are already familiar with many nearby hotspots).

This was our first move in fifteen years and it was very disruptive to our schedule, especially for the magazine. We hope that in our rush we haven't made *too* many errors, and we hope to be back to normal by the time the next issue is published. If anyone could have advised us of an easy way to organize and move an estimated **22,000** pounds of accumulated "stuff," we wish we would have contacted you before now!

Someone once said, "Records are made to be broken." And that is the case this year. A new Pennsylvania Big Day record was set by Tom Amico, Dan Heathcote, Steve Santner, Bob Schutsky, and Eric Witmer. Steve's article states that 175 or 180 may be possible. We have been doing Big Days for 16 years now, and in that time the total number of species that we have seen adds up to 210, yet the only "rare" bird seen on all of those days was a Least Tern! Although our individual best day was 151, it does show what might be possible given the right set of circumstances; lingering waterfowl, early arrival of breeders, a good migration day for passerines and some exposed mudflats for shorebirds. Big Days are taxing enough without having to determine the parentage of a hybrid species...as this team had to do.

Planning a Big Day is one of those birding activities that really tests your knowledge of your local area. Do you know where you could go to guarantee someone a Hairy Woodpecker? a Black-and-white Warbler? a White-breasted Nuthatch? Sounds easy, but try it next Spring. Make up a list of fifty breeding birds in your area, write down where you would expect to find them, then go out one

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all of them at the **predicted locations**. Include a night bird or two.

After you've completed your run, increase your breeder list **threefold**, add in several other areas to look for migrants, confine your time frame to 24 hours (one calendar day) and, presto, you have a Big Day. Next to Breeding Bird Atlas work, it's one of the best ways to learn the breeding birds in your area. And it's fun, too!

Ed Kwater leads off this issue with an account of the **Trumpeter Swans** reported last quarter. Although these birds were seen in several counties, who knows how many others may have wintered or passed through the state? The sightings reported on were from a group of birds released just across Lake Erie, but reintroduction programs have been underway for several years. In fact, a Trumpeter spent the winter near Baltimore several years ago. It's probable that he passed through Pennsylvania to get there! Too many of us scan too quickly through flocks of "common" birds. Identifications tips are included in the article.

Marcia Bonta enlightens us in this issue on a family of Brown Thrashers in her yard. If you enjoy reading her columns, **try her book**. (See details after her article.)

If you plan to visit Venango County or live nearby, be sure to read the article on Two-Mile Run by Russ States. We would like and need to receive more site-guides. One of the joys of birding is sharing information. Let others know where to bird in your area.

There are more rare bird reports: Arctic Tern, American Avocet, Harlequin Duck and Common Black-headed Gull. These are all excellent descriptions. The best **written** documentation that you can provide of a sighting is notes (or sketches, if possible) taken at the scene or when you get home, but preferably **before** you look at a field guide. We are all too easily influenced by what we see in the book and this can alter our memory significantly.

Marty McKay provides us with some observations of Wood Duck

nestlings, and Barbara Dean tells us about efforts to find Short-eared Owls and about an amazing number of Upland Sandpipers!

The speculation game on the next state bird drew minimal response, but the responses were interesting nonetheless. This is an on-going project and we still welcome your response for future compilation. The P.O.R.C. is working on the Official State List. The next meeting is later this month. There is a monumental amount of work to be done, but an interim list will be published as soon as possible. Stay tuned for developments.

If you read the many rare bird reports regularly, you are familiar with Jerry McWilliams, the compiler for Erie County. Ed Kwater gives us a more intimate view of one of the top birders in the state.

Last, but surely not least, Arlene Koch entertains us again, this time with her Yellow-headed Blackbird. A standard lament of most birdfeeder owners is, "How come it's always someone else's feeder that gets the rare birds?" Well, Arlene won't be able to say that anymore!

And we still need ARTICLES. This is your journal and you are an integral part of its success. In closing, please spread the word of the existence of **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS**. We still need more subscribers. ☺

**Barb and Frank Haas**  
Co-editors

## LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

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rs:

Dear Editors:

Perhaps you can use this (next paragraph) to get folks wondering...an interesting thought! I received it from Dick Byers of Murraysville, PA.

"I'd be interested in knowing if reports of nesting mergansers up there [northern PA] are increasing. I wonder if they, like the loons, are nesting further south because of fish depletion due to acid rain in their prime breeding range."

*Joe Grom  
Allison Park, PA*

Dear Editors:

I did a double take when I first glanced at the cover of my Jan-Mar 1989 **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS**. I knew it looked familiar. It turns out it is almost identical to the photograph on the front cover of June's **Birder's World**. Is this just a coincidence? I think you'll see what I mean.

*Jeff Herbst  
town*

P.S. I really do enjoy **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS**! Keep up the great work.

*Pure coincidence. Georgette Syster sent us three drawings last year. So far we have used two of them for covers (Great Horned Owl and the above-mentioned E. Meadowlark). Would that we had the circulation and advertising of that publication! Will this be the turning point for us? We are proud of our covers and look forward to receiving more original art in order to provide exposure for the many talented bird artists of Pennsylvania.*

A small correction to the Mulvihill & Leberman article on the Clapper Rail on p. 14 of Vol. 3, no.1 of **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS**. The rail was described as an "adult male," but it was clearly a young bird, molting out of the juvenal plumage — for example, it had not yet attained all of the typical barred flank feathers of the adult.

**PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS** keeps getting better and better. The P.O.R.C. will help immeasurably in keeping standards high.

*Kenneth C. Parkes  
The Carnegie Museum  
Pittsburgh, PA*

Dear Editors:

Thanks for sending me the tern pictures. Assessing photos is always a chore I enjoy.

I agree that they are Arctic Terns. The steep foreheads and rounded crowns in combination with the short bills and short legs provide the diagnostic shape. In addition several plumage features are confirmatory: the gray underparts as dark as the mantle and coming right up to the white line under the cap; the lack of a dark break in the folded primaries at about P<sup>^</sup>; and the broad white tertial crescents. I have the impression in most of the photos that the bill on at least one bird has a dark tip, but I realize this may be an artifact of vibration. In any case a dark tip would be possible, though unlikely so late in the season, and it would not outweigh the distinctive proportions of the bill. Congratulations to the discoverer and the photographer!

*Claudia Wilds  
Washington, DC*

## About the Cover Artist:

### Dave Krueger

Although he has resided in Pennsylvania since 1967, Dave was born in Green Bay, Wisconsin. He's been drawing and painting since as far back as he can remember, but he has only been actively birding since 1978. He earned a Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Conservation from the California University of Pennsylvania. Now married with a son and two daughters, he lives in Chalkhill, Fayette County.

Dave has been spending much of this Summer tracking the Swainson's Warbler at Fallingwater (Bear Run Nature Reserve). He is working on an article on Swainson's Warblers that will appear in our next issue. Dave belongs to the Brooks Bird Club as well as the ASWP. He leads field trips for the latter.

We look forward to more of his artwork, as well as his article.☺



## OUR NEW ADDRESS

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# Occurrence of Wing-tagged Trumpeter Swan (*Olor buccinator*) in Pennsylvania and New York

by Ed Kwater

The winter of 1988-89 was unusual at Presque Isle State Park (*Erie County, PA*) in that a large flock of Tundra Swan (*Olor columbianus*) spent at least three and a half months there. The occurrence of large flocks of this species at Presque Isle is mainly confined to migration periods in November and March (Stull, Stull & McWilliams, 1985). However, 250 birds arrived in early December 1988 and quickly built up to over 500 by the 16th. Thereafter they declined to 243 by 2 January 1989 and then to approximately 100 by 20 February. The last Tundra Swans of the season were seen at Presque Isle at the end of March.

On the evening of Saturday, 4 March, I received a telephone call from Joyce Hoffman informing me that a wing-tagged swan on Presque Isle was a Trumpeter Swan (*Olor buccinator*) and not a Tundra Swan as had originally been thought. Being rather puzzled by this I investigated further, and an intriguing story began to emerge. Earlier that day, Joe Grom

told Joyce that he had just received a letter from Ted Grisez in Warren County. Ted had written to Joe to report the occurrence of 3 wing-tagged Trumpeter Swans on the Allegheny River at Starbrick, just west of Warren. These birds had also been present since December and had originally been identified as Tundra Swans. However, Ted's contact told him that the Starbrick birds carried yellow wing tags on both wings with the numbers 80, 82, and 83. Ted immediately became suspicious as he had heard that two wing-tagged Trumpeters (86 and 87) had been found on 22 December 1988 by Joe Gula, Jr. in Dunkirk Harbor, New York State. They stayed until 26 December, and then appeared at Duncannon, PA. On further investigation Ted identified the Starbrick birds as Trumpeters on 15 February and then informed Joe Grom. The Presque Isle bird's wing-tag number was 81 and Joyce assumed, quite rightly as it turned out, that this was also a Trumpeter.

The rather disturbing thing about

this occurrence was that the Presque Isle bird had been seen by numerous observers, who had all misidentified it as a Tundra Swan. This illustrates the pitfall associated with quickly scanning over a flock of birds and assuming that they are all of one species just because that species is the expected one in that locality at that time of year.

On 5 March I visited Presque Isle in an attempt to obtain a full written description, drawings, and photographs of the bird. Despite torrential rain and early morning fog the weather had cleared sufficiently by 10 a.m. for me to locate the Tundra Swan flock which by then stood at exactly 100 birds. Initially the bird was spotted flying towards me to join the Tundra Swans in an area of open water on Presque Isle Bay. In flight the wing tags were clearly visible although the bird did not appear to be appreciably larger than an average Tundra Swan. It alighted at a range of approximately 35 yards and began to feed. During the next two hours I took



Trumpeter Swan, Presque Isle SP, 3/89, Dave Darney.



Tundra Swan, Presque Isle SP, 1/89, Ed Kwater.



Figure 1. Trumpeter Swan *Olor buccinator*. Note the long bill, straight culmen, pink line at edge of the upper mandible and the smoothly curved shape of the bill base.



Figure 2. Tundra Swan *Olor columbianus*. Note the shorter bill, concave culmen, a varying amount of yellow in front of the eye and the vertical bill base.

the following comparative description and made the accompanying sketches (Figures 1 and 2):

On the water the bird appeared to be only 5-10% larger than a Tundra Swan in all dimensions. The Trumpeter's neck was only slightly longer, but it was noticeably thicker along its whole length. The tarsal length also appeared slightly greater, but this difference was only apparent when the two species were standing together on the ice. The Trumpeter's body was also bulkier, but the difference was small enough to have been overlooked at a greater range, particularly if the bird had been asleep on the ice. There was also a Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*) in the flock (an adult in basic plumage) and this was noticeably larger and bulkier than the Trumpeter Swan.

The most obvious differences between the Trumpeter and the associated Tundra Swans were in the size and shape of the bill. It was at least 20% longer than in the Tundra and totally lacked any yellow markings at the base (although some Tundras also show an all-black bill). The culmen was also remarkably straight, lacking the concavity of the Tundras. The effect of this bill shape was to create a very smooth outline from the bill tip to the forehead, unlike the more uneven line on a Tundra Swan. There was a deep pink line along the side of the bill, most pronounced at the base. This appeared to be the cutting edge of the upper mandible. Although some of the Tundra Swans also showed this line it was more pronounced on the Trumpeter. At the base of the bill a very smooth curve ran backwards from the lower mandible up to and including the eye, then forwards to the base of the upper mandible. This gave the impression that the eye was almost part of the bill. In the Tundra Swan the eye appears slightly offset from the bill base and therefore more obvious. The line of the bill base is more vertical than in the Trumpeter (Figures 1 and 2).

As the Trumpeter was an adult, its plumage was all white with the exception of slight rusty staining on the forehead, which many swans develop from feeding in iron-rich water (Madge & Burn, 1988). The call was very distinctive, a deep "hoo...hoo..." unlike the much higher pitched bugling of the Tundra Swan. The Trumpeter did not associate very closely with the rest of the flock, preferring to feed slightly apart from them.

The bird was also observed and photographed on 5 March by Sam Stull and Dave Darney and was subsequently seen by several other observers.

The Trumpeter Swan records for Pennsylvania and New York in 1988-1989 are summarized in Table 1.

80	Starbrick, PA	Dec '88	03/12/89
81	Presque Isle, PA	12/16/89	???
82	Starbrick, PA	Dec '88	03/12/89
83	Starbrick, PA	Dec '88	03/12/89
86	Dunkirk, NY	12/20/88	12/26/88
86	Duncannon, PA	02/18/89	02/18/89
86	Galeton, PA	04/06/89	04/06/89
87	Dunkirk, NY	12/20/88	02/18/89
87	Duncannon, PA	02/18/89	02/18/89
87	Galeton, PA	04/06/89	04/06/89

**Table 1.** Trumpeter Swans in Pennsylvania and New York during Winter 1988-1989.

Upon further investigation, an intriguing background to these records emerged. I spoke to Ted Grisez of Warren, PA, Joe Gula, Jr., of Dunkirk, NY, and Bob Sundell of Jamestown, NY, concerning the sightings. I then contacted the Canadian Wildlife Service in Ottawa, Ontario, who informed me that the birds had been released at Long Point, Ontario, by Harry Lumsden as part of a Trumpeter Swan restoration program initiated in 1982 (Lumsden, 1986; 1987; 1988. Unpublished reports). In January 1988 Lumsden received six wild-caught Trumpeters from Comox, Vancouver Island. He wing-tagged these with numbers 80 through 85. He also had two captive-bred cygnets from a pair of pinioned Trumpeters which were wing-tagged with numbers 86 and 87. All eight birds were released at Long Point in Spring 1988. The birds molted and were full-winged by August, although number 84 died from lead poisoning in July. The Trumpeters remained through the fall until Lake Erie began to freeze up and then moved to Big Creek in Port Rowan Bay, finally dispersing in early December (Lumsden, pers. comm.). These observations correspond well with the birds' arrival dates in Pennsylvania and New York.

It will be interesting to follow the future movements of the birds to determine whether they return to Ontario to breed or subsequently winter in Pennsylvania or New York. As only number 81 wintered with Tundra Swans it will be interesting to observe whether it will also migrate with Tundras in the future. Observers are urged to report any sightings of wing-tagged swans to the Canadian Wildlife Service in Ottawa.

Prior to settlement by man, the Trumpeter Swan was abundant and widespread in North America. The early settlers killed large numbers for food and for their feathers which were exported for use in the millinery trade (Banks, 1960). The Trumpeter used to breed throughout Arctic Canada and Alaska, east to the Great Lakes, and south to Washington, Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, North Dakota, Nebraska, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Wisconsin, and Indiana (Banks, 1960). Currently the species has a total population of approximately 6,000 birds; 4,500 of which breed in Alaska and are migratory. The rest occur in scattered relic populations which are largely

resident in the Great Basin region (Madge & Burn, 1988). Of four former wintering populations, one inhabited the eastern seaboard from Delaware to South Carolina and another was located in the Ohio and Mississippi valleys. Trumpeters were still recorded wintering in these areas in the latter half of the Nineteenth Century (Banks, 1960).

The easternmost known breeding site of this species was at Saginaw Bay in Michigan (Bellrose, 1976). Its former status in Pennsylvania is uncertain, and open to speculation. Lumsden inferred that swans recorded as breeding in the Hudson Bay lowlands in the mid-Eighteenth Century were in fact Trumpeters, due to the forested muskeg habitat in that area, Tundra Swans preferring more open breeding habitat (Lumsden, 1984). In view of this, and the close proximity of a former known wintering site on the eastern seaboard, it is possible that Trumpeters did occur in Pennsylvania as rare passage migrants or vagrants.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I am indebted to the following people who provided information for this article: Danny Bystrak, Joe Carrero, Ted Grisez, Joe Grom, Joe Gula, Jr., Joyce Hoffman, Harry Lumsden, Jerry McWilliams and Bob Sundell. I would also like to thank the staff of the Section of Birds, Carnegie Museum of Natural History for allowing access to their library, Dave Darney for providing photographs and a special thanks to Liz Kwator for assistance in the preparation of this article.

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Tag#	Locality	From	To
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# Big Day 1989

## A New Pennsylvania Record

by Steve Santner

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At 11:15 p.m. on Thursday, 11 May, a suspiciously large number of cars began assembling in the K-Mart parking lot just north of Lancaster. No, it was not a gathering of bargain hunters, just a team of birders, getting set for an assault on the state "Big Day" record of 161 species set in 1987 by the team of John and Becky Peplinski and Terry Schiefer. By 11:30 Tom Amico, Dan Heathcote, Bob Schutsky, Eric Witmer and myself had transferred scopes, enough food for a small army and other gear into a rental van. At midnight the team was waiting at a Yellow-crowned Night-Heron nest in Millersville. One second later on 12 May, the bird sitting on the nest was counted and the participants piled into the van and took off for Brickyard Swamp. Our 1989 Big Day had begun.

Big Days require a great deal of scouting and planning. All five members participated in locating as many breeding species as possible. The entire day had been scheduled ahead of time. We knew what birds we *should* be seeing at each stop and the fastest route to reach the stops. We hoped for good numbers of migrants. During the previous seven years, the route had been refined to the point where we thought we had a good chance at topping the record. If only the migrants would cooperate...

We spent the wee hours of the morning looking and listening for night birds: Virginia Rail, Sora, King Rail, Barn Owl, and Marsh Wren were found. The King Rail was heard by only two team members over the road noise at Alcoa Marsh in Lancaster, while the Barn Owl was seen by flashlight by all near Rheems.

Dawn found us waiting near Carsonville, in northern Dauphin County, having missed some species already. American Woodcock was the most aggravating, as we did not expect to be in woodcock habitat that evening. We waited at a pine plantation where Golden-crowned Kinglet had been found the previous summer. The kinglet was heard, several in fact, as well as White-

throated Sparrow and some common species. From here we took mountain roads down to Dehart Dam finding a few migrant warblers and noticed that a number of the normally occurring breeding birds had not yet arrived. Nevertheless, the migrants, even though few, were a welcome change from past years in which almost no migrants had moved through on the days we had picked for the Big Day. This day, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Chestnut-sided and Blackburnian warblers were seen.

On reaching Dehart Dam we had 52 species. We were greeted by a singing Purple Finch and a female Wilson's Warbler. After a few minutes, one of our target birds, the Least Flycatcher, called. The reservoir itself produced Green-backed Heron and Common Loon and another target species, the Cliff Swallow. A calling Pileated Woodpecker was number 71 as we left at 7:20. From the reservoir we worked our way east through Clark's Valley towards Tower City, missing a few target species but seeing others such as Brown Creeper and Red-breasted Nuthatch. Additionally, a few surprises such as Common Nighthawk and Ruby-crowned Kinglet showed up. Still, on leaving Clark's Valley at 8:55 we seemed to be slipping a little behind schedule in locating species; we had 84, but migrants were in short supply and many breeding species were late this year. We only hoped that they could be picked up further south.

Leaving the mountains at 9 a.m. we travelled down Rt. 443 to Memorial Lake, picking up more breeding birds and even a migrant or two. Canada Warbler, Bank Swallow and a luck Great Egret at the lake were the highlights. At 10 o'clock we had tallied 98 species. From here we visited a number of farm ponds in northern Lebanon County. These were expected to yield the bulk of our shorebirds for the day since high water from recent rains was expected to cover the flats at Washington Boro. We saw only four species (both yellowlegs, Solitary and

Least sandpipers) and although we did have 107 species at 11:15 when we reached Middle Creek, the overall mood was hardly upbeat.

Our first stop at Middle Creek produced Green-winged Teal and Northern Pintail followed quickly by Red-shouldered Hawk (on the nest), Northern Shoveler, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Pied-billed Grebe, Mute Swan, Ring-necked Duck, American Black Duck, Double-crested Cormorant, Ruddy Duck, Bufflehead, White-crowned Sparrow, Willow Flycatcher, Swamp Sparrow, Great Blue Heron, Savannah Sparrow, Tundra Swan and Dunlin! What a haul! The waterfowl numbers were phenomenal, both swan unprecedented, the White-crowned and Savannah sparrows were good and the Willow Flycatcher appears to have been the first to return to Pennsylvania in 1989.

At one point, while looking through some waterfowl, a Gadwall was called. "No, that's a wigtail," came the reply. A wigtail?? Sure enough, the bird was obviously a hybrid between a Northern Pintail (gray body, brown and white neck and longish tail) and American Wigeon (light crown and the black rear end characteristic of that species and Gadwall). This should have given us an extra one-half species, as we never did find a pure American Wigeon that day! Reluctantly, we decided this bird would count for nothing and moved on. On leaving Middle Creek at 12:55 we added Black Vulture, number 128, and suddenly we realized we were going to have a good day after all. It now seemed reasonable to hope for 150 species and, with a good migrant wave somewhere, it just might be possible to reach the record! After picking up a few stakeouts (Horned Lark, Vesper Sparrow, and Red-headed Woodpecker) we made the long and unproductive trip across Lancaster County to the Susquehanna River at Washington Boro.

Nearing the river, a small flock of Cattle Egrets (a mere remnant of their former numbers) and a lone



Snowy Egret sitting in a tree were found. At the river, a boat was waiting for us and we went out to the flats which were, as expected, under water. Nevertheless, the expected Black-crowned Night-Heron and gulls were found. Also found was a singing Prothonotary Warbler, both Common and Forster's terns, and Osprey. We were all getting our "second wind" and in good spirits as we headed south towards Muddy Run.

At about this point, we did the first reconciliation of our lists. Actually, it is quite difficult to accurately keep track of species seen on a Big Day. The large number of species seen, the need to keep track of lists for five people and the need to keep a chronological list (for future planning purposes) plus the lack of sleep all combine to lead to errors. We split this chore between two participants, one of whom keeps the chronological list and the other keeps track of the individual lists on a checklist. We reconciled and actually matched "!!" But it turned out later that our total (about 133 at this point) was wrong. We were now counting all possible breeders and concluded that we needed to get every one as well as a few more migrants to actually break the record.

By the time we reached Muddy Run, we had picked up a few needed breeders and "apparently" had 145 species. The Muddy Run area yielded breeders such as Blue Grosbeak, Orchard Oriole, Yellow-billed Cuckoo and Northern Bobwhite and the annual "rarity," Common Merganser. By 6 p.m. we had 152 species and it was becoming clear that if we were to break the record we would have to pick up many of the breeding birds we had missed that morning up north plus a migrant or two. We crossed the bridge to the Lock 12 area of York County and found Cerulean Warbler and Warbling Vireo for 153 and 154. Then on to Camp Jubilee near the Maryland border where Acadian Flycatcher and Eastern Wood-Pewee were found. Then at about 7:40 p.m., a break. One final migrant, a Tennessee Warbler, was found in a tall sycamore. Two of us saw it well enough to be sure of the identification. In the failing light, the other three were unable to see the bird well enough to count it, but it had made the list, which now

stood at 157.

After some further unproductive searches we took stock. There were only five species left which could be reasonably expected, as it was now almost dark...Wild Turkey, Whip-poor-will, E. Screech-Owl, Barred Owl and American Woodcock. If we could find them all quickly we might try to make a run for Tinicum refuge in Philadelphia for Least Bittern and Common Moorhen. Darkness came but the turkey could not be found. None of us really wanted to just tie the record, and this was the time which in previous years we usually decided to pack it in and wait for next year.

Fortunately someone noted that if we quit now, we would miss a Screech-Owl two years in a row! Over 150 species in one day and **no** Screech-Owl! We decided to continue and began taping for Whip-poor-will and Screech-Owl. Normally, the Whip-poor-will calls spontaneously and is easy to hear, but it had been cold and wet recently and was again cold on this evening. Nevertheless, after some coaxing, it responded, as did the Screech-Owl (finally!). We had missed Barred Owl at Camp Jubilee but there were others at Octoraro Lake. We could then go to Middle Creek where we should be able to find American Woodcock and, if we were very lucky, a bittern or something else...

We called up the Barred Owl easily enough and started on the one-hour drive to Middle Creek. It was now 10:05.

On the way north we decided to make a final check of the list totals. Santner's chronological list total stood at 160 but, not being in checklist order, would be difficult to check. And, since he was sound asleep and lying on his list, it would be impossible! The checklist was counted up (in slow motion due to the near total exhaustion of all team members) and to the dismay of all (except the sleeping Santner, of course) the total was 158. Then the list was checked, bird by bird. After Common Merganser and three others which had been seen, but not recorded, were restored to the list, the total was now 162! The record had been broken! Santner awoke (was awakened?) and was told of the new developments. We would have liked to have drunk a champagne toast at this moment, but it would certainly have sent us all into

unconsciousness. Besides, we still had more work to do.

At 11:20 we found our final bird, American Woodcock, and reached 163 species.

Overall, we had driven 376 miles, walked another two or so, and travelled about three by boat. We had covered parts of five counties. Of the 163 species, 156 were seen by all. Only one real rarity, the King Rail, was found but the large number of lingering waterfowl, combined with a route that yielded nearly all potential breeding species of southern Pennsylvania and a few migrants combined to produce a new state record. It is expected that a good migrant day combined with a good route and some luck should produce a total of 175, or maybe even 180, species. Towards that end, we are already trying to add a few more breeding species to our total and maybe, finally, we will pick a day which will coincide with a significant migration. Wait 'til next year.☺



# "End of a Free Lunch"

*Brush Mountain Notebook*  
by Marcia Bonta

After a hiatus of nine years, Brown Thrashers returned and stayed to nest in our yard. A male arrived early in April and, reclusive at first, he skulked about in the grape tangle or beneath the overhanging forsythia bushes. Then, in late April, he began singing his loud, assertive, and repetitive songs, presenting us with several days of non-stop imitations from the backyard black walnut tree.

According to ornithologists, if all our songbirds were entered into a singing competition, the brown thrasher would win for variety because of his extraordinary ability to improvise new songs. It takes, one researcher claims, thousands of different songs to impress a female brown thrasher. For his faithful renditions of other birds' songs, I called him the "mockler of the mountain" in lieu of true mockingbirds since they never nest here. Instead of a large, gray, noisy, all-night singer we had the sleek, cinnamon-brown, long-tailed, all-day singer.

Once the female arrived, though, and decided to build a nest, no more was heard from the male. Furtively they built their nest, she laid her three to four eggs, and they took turns incubating them for 14 days. After the eggs hatched they shared in the work of feeding their nestlings such delicacies as insects, larvae, spiders and worms. One industrious researcher in Iowa reported that a family observed had consumed 247 grasshoppers, 425 Mayflies, 237 moths and 103 cutworms in 12 days. Here on our mountain we watched them eat gypsy moth caterpillars and worms. Twice they obtained the latter by following after us as we dug up the garden soil.

Although I caught glimpses of the parents feeding and flying, we did not have the intimate contact with their youngsters that we had had with our last Brown Thrasher family nine years ago. They had been unusually gregarious and once the nestlings had fledged they had grown bolder and bolder. I often watched them greeting each other in soft voices above the grape tangle or under the lilac bushes. At least, that's what I thought they were doing. But a closer look changed my mind. In reality, the fledglings were begging food from the male, while the female was occupied in incubating the second set of eggs.

The fledglings were almost as big as their father, but instead of having a cinnamon-brown coat, they were a duller brown with a slight grayish tinge. The brown spots on their white breasts were

their eyes were distinctly gray rather than the bright reddish-brown of mature thrashers. I was easily able to make the eye distinction because they were all attracted to the back porch steps where our youngest son Mark had been cracking the previous fall's black walnut crop with a sledge hammer.

One afternoon, as I stood at the kitchen screen door, the male thrasher landed heavily on the steps, ready to treat himself to black walnut chips. He had a little competition from the resident chipmunk but both quickly settled down to relative harmony. Just as the bird was taking his first peck, two fledglings landed beside him, calling piteously and gaping open their beaks. Instinctively reacting, like Pavlov's dog, to the proper stimulus, he began feeding them and he never got even a taste for himself.

But the following day the scenario changed. Once again he sparred with the chipmunk. Then he began eating peacefully. As before, the two begging fledglings appeared. Only this time he literally turned his back on them and continued eating while they followed him so closely that they trod on his tail. They cried but did not gape open their beaks. He ignored them even when one rushed at him head-on, reminding me of a child stamping its feet in frustration. They did not receive a morsel of food for their trouble. Finally, first the male and then the fledglings flew off and I never saw them again. As abruptly as that the dependent became independent. For them the free lunch had ended.☺

*Mrs. Bonta won the Best Book Award 1987-1988 for a member from the Pennsylvania Outdoor Writers Association for **Outbound Journeys** in May. Her book is available from the Pennsylvania State University Press, University Park 16802, cloth \$22.50, paper 12.75, plus \$2.00 S&H. Autographed copies are available from the author at the same price addressed to Box 68, Tyrone, PA 16686. It can also be purchased at local bookstores.*

## Black-and-white Warbler Nest

*Venango County*  
by Russ States

On 17 May I was in Oil Creek State Park looking for warblers, when I noticed a Black-and-white Warbler stripping bark off of a vine. It then flew to the ground behind the tree. Rather than disturb it while it was nest

building, I noted the location and came back several days later (21 May) to look for the nest.

I found it on a steep hillside behind a tree about six inches in diameter on the ground beneath an exposed root and covered with dead leaves. The nest was made of bark and grasses. On 25 May I returned to find four eggs in the nest. The next time I was able to visit it was 29 May and there were six eggs. I could not return until 7 June, at which time I found five eggs and one chick.

A combination of car trouble and rain (and rain and rain) kept me away until 17 June, when the sky looked clear and I could take a chance bicycling to the nest spot. So I hurried out to the nest site and discovered that it was empty. Was there enough time between the 7th and the 17th for the young birds to fledge? The nest didn't look at all disturbed, but I could not find any Black-and-white Warblers in the vicinity.☺

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## The Six-Thirty Bird

by Arlene Koch

I couldn't believe my eyes! It was Thursday night, 20 April, at 6:45 p.m. I had just gotten home from one of those days when you begin, as usual, at 6 a.m., get to work at 7:30, go all day, leave work at 4, go straight to a baseball game, and wonder, as you finally return home and retrieve your mail from the box, whether it's all worth it. I was too tired to eat so I wandered around the yard a little bit, adjusting the rocks around the bird pool, before going inside where I stood at the sliding glass door and stared aimlessly out at the very place where I had just been. Only now there was something to stare at. There, on the top of an ash snag which we planted so that I could hang my feeders around the pool, was perched a black bird with yellow down the front of its chest. Naw, I told myself. It couldn't be. That bird looked like a yellow-headed blackbird.

"David," I screamed to my husband. "Come here, quick!" He, of course, being used to my bird screams, didn't get too excited and sauntered out of the living room. "Hurry up," I yelled. "Jimmy, you come too," I said to my youngest son, who was even more oblivious to my excitement than my husband. He has never forgiven me for taking his twelfth birthday party up to a hawk lookout. But even they had to admit that this was definitely a different bird than the ones who usually hang around our yard.

"What do you think it is?" David asked. Still not believing what I was seeing I breathlessly sputtered, "It's a Yellow-headed Blackbird." "Is that unusual?" he asked, not waiting for an answer. I already had the telephone in my hands.

I called Dave DeReamus, even though I knew he would probably be sleeping. I didn't care. I remember him groggily saying: "You have a what?.... where?" I knew this bird was worth waking someone up for. Easton, PA does not get Yellow-headed Blackbirds! The last recorded one in Northampton County was in 1974. I knew Dave would be down the next morning.

I got up the next day still excited from the previous night's event but never expecting to see that bird again. I figured it was just a stopover at the feeders that I was lucky enough to see. But I was wrong. At almost exactly 6:30 a.m. I looked out with still foggy eyes and there it was, brilliant as a first-year male yellow-head could be, sitting atop the highbush cranberry right behind the feeders. It then flew into my open feeder and had breakfast with a bunch of cowbirds. When it was done eating it flew into the top of one of the apple trees and stayed there for a half hour or so. What a sight it was, when a male goldfinch and male bluebird joined him in the same tree!

I hastily scribbled a note as I left for

work and hung it on the snag for Dave so that he would know the bird had been there that morning. When he got there about 15 minutes later Mr. Yellowhead was still there. Dave confirmed my sighting and the fact that it was indeed a first-year male and not a female, which lacks the white on the wings, among other things. He even watched it fly into a large maple tree behind the barn, where it seemed to make itself at home. He did not, however, ever see my note.

For the next six days the bird would show up at the feeders around 6:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. It was Jimmy who began to call him the "Six-Thirty Bird." I put out the word to as many people as I could and found myself hosting strangers every morning around 6:00 a.m. and every night at the same time. It was maddening, tiring, and at times frustrating but I really didn't mind. I had chased so many birds myself that now I felt good finally being able to repay some of it. Everyone who showed up at the right time got to see the bird; those who didn't listen went away disappointed. It was rewarding to see the look on someone's face when he (she) finally sees a bird they have been looking for for six years.

Wednesday night, 26 April, was the last I saw Mr. Yellowhead. The weather had been unseasonably cold all the time he had been here but that night you could feel it warming up. Thursday morning dawned clear and much, much warmer. The male redwings seemed to have moved into the fields in force overnight, too, and that may or may not have had something to do with my bird moving on.

In retrospect I must say that the week Mr. Yellowhead visited my feeders was more than rewarding. When the phone stopped ringing about a week after he had been gone I welcomed the change but missed all the activity. I don't think our cat Smokey will ever be the same, however. He seemed to stay hiding the whole time the blackbird was here.

Now almost six weeks since he left, I still look out at the feeders and expect to see him. I constantly referred to him as "my bird." Strange how we always want to possess something that will afford us those 15 minutes of fame that Andy Warhol once said everyone, in his lifetime, would have. That yellow-headed blackbird was no more mine than is the wind.☉

## Two Mile Run Lake

Venango County  
by Russ States

Two Mile Run Lake is one of only two fair-sized bodies of water in Venango County (excepting the Allegheny River, the other is Kahle Lake). It is one of my favorite Spring/Fall county spots for water birds, partly because it's only about ten minutes from where I live, and partly because over the years some good birds have shown up. For example, last February there was an adult Bald Eagle sitting on the ice, and this spring 200+ Tundra Swans were there. Sometimes the birding is great and sometimes (like most of last fall), seeing the three or four domestic white ducks that hang around is a good day.

On 18 April I had an errand near Two Mile Run Lake and thought about stopping there. But it was already late morning and trout season had started on the 15th. Since the lake is stocked I knew there would be wall-to-wall people and probably all those people would have scared everything away. But, it was a nice day and I had not been there for about ten days, so I thought I had better stop. It was only a few extra miles and would take only about ten minutes.

Well, I pulled up to the lake and saw a raft of ducks. I thought, well, it's not a total loss. I looked them over and saw 17 Bufflehead, 20 Lesser Scaup. Across the lake were 5 Canada Geese and a Common Loon was swimming a little further out. Then, looking at the raft more closely, I spotted 5 Oldsquaw and a large dark duck, which turned out to be a White-winged Scoter. On the shore nearest to me were standing 5 Bonaparte's Gulls and a Lesser Yellowlegs. I then drove to the other end of the lake and found 5 Horned and 1 Pied-billed Grebes, 2 Ring-billed Gulls, and 2 Blue-winged Teal. I saw two terns sitting on stumps in the lake. They soon took flight and were both identified as Forster's Terns.

Not bad, considering I wasn't even going to stop. To top it off, on my way out of the park, I saw a Pileated Woodpecker, the year's first Solitary Vireo, and heard a pair of Red-shouldered Hawks calling.

The next day I drove out to the lake again and was only able to find a couple of Canada Geese, half a dozen Bufflehead, a few Horned and Pied-billed Grebes, and a new addition, a Green-winged Teal. Some days it's good birding, some days it's not.☉

## Short-eared Owls

*Mercer County*  
by **Barbara Dean**

The following is a recap of several trips between 22 March and 19 April to an area where Short-eared Owls were found. To my knowledge there are no recent records for this species in *Mercer* county. At dusk on 22 March, Shirley McCarl found two Short-eared Owls at a strip mine area. A Northern Harrier was harassing one of the owls. This is a great area for Henslow's Sparrow and other grassland species of birds and Shirley often takes birders into this area. It is grassy and on the north side of Limber Rd. there are scattered clusters of young pine trees.

On 2 April, Dorothy and Bob Walczak, George and Barb Dean found one owl perched 20 feet from the car. We noted five other owls flying at dusk. The next morning Bob, Shirley and I were there at 8:45 a.m. In 50°F and light rain we walked into the area, open strip mines, grassy field, a small cluster of 6-7 foot pines and woods behind the field. We found a total of nine owls and 16 fresh pellets under one tree. Pellets were everywhere. Several photographs were taken. We got out of the car and spent the next 20 minutes standing in the rain, in the dark, enjoying the show. None of us is wrapped too tight. We all have our "papers." It's official. We are nuts and therefore not responsible for the crazy things we do.

It is still raining on 3 April, but we agree nine Short-eared Owls are here. Eight owls were observed between 11:00-11:35 on 5 April (still raining off and on). I'm using Kodachrome 200 film and hand-holding a 400mm lens, which is nuts because my readings are at 1/60. I heard no owl sounds, but did hear a strange sort of squeal. We met at the center of the field and Shirley was babbling unintelligibly... something about one of the owls almost landing on her head causing her to squeal at the exact moment she pressed the shutter and she has no idea what she took a picture of. Shirley fits right in—she lost one of her oars a long time ago. She picked up a couple of soggy pellets which she intended to give to Slippery Rock University (if she didn't sit on them).

Fourteen Bartramian Audubon Society members saw nine owls in late afternoon on 8 April. Four days later George and I found four owls flying in front of us and two more feeding in the open field. One harrier was present. A Short-eared Owl began harassing the harrier by chasing it and pumping it repeatedly until after four minutes or so the harrier left the area around the young pine trees. The harrier flew a long distance away to hunt in open fields. We observed no evidence of nesting or courtship during this vigil from 7:30-8:10

p.m.

On 19 April, Shirley, George and I could not find any owls until about 8:05 p.m., when three, possibly four, were seen hunting. They had shifted their location and may stay to breed, although we have as yet to see any courtship behavior such as wing clapping, etc. We are hopeful. They were up at any time of day or night, but most active an hour or so before nightfall. The owls were not seen again. Perhaps next year. Photographs enclosed.

But - on 3 and 4 May - in that same Limber Road area, we did find Upland Sandpipers.☺

*Barb Dean*

*Several photographs and a map giving the exact locations were sent to us. But in the interest of protecting the potential breeding area of this threatened species in Pennsylvania, we are not printing same. Eds.*

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## A Wood Duck Tale

*Mercer County*  
by **Marty McKay**

I was looking in the right place at the right time—so often the "name of the game" for a birder. I saw the ducklings leave the Wood Duck box. Have you ever been so lucky?

They were due to hatch and leave sometime in the last week in May—that much I had figured out from watching the behavior of mama and from studying the literature. There I was in the house vacuuming, and by chance facing the open windows with a good view of the box, 75 feet away on the edge of a wood-bordered pond.

It was 10:08 a.m. and my eye caught the image of the mama's head and neck hanging out the entrance hole. I instantly knew the great event was going to take place, and fast. No time to call anyone to come over to share this coming spectacle. Just time enough to grab the binoculars, which are always within reach, especially in April and May.

Mama left the box, landed in the water ten feet from it, faced the box, and then I heard her special "kuk" call. Then out they plopped, all ten of them, one right after the other at a rapid pace, no hesitation here. The dear little balls of fluff swam right to her and formed a tight little group. (How great if human youngsters would obey a parent so unquestioningly!) The whole thing took two minutes.

The ducklings seemed to enjoy themselves on the pond all day, staying very close to mama. Freedom after about a month. But mama was obviously nervous, and by 4:00 p.m. the family

disappeared. She probably moved them down the waterways to the big reservoir a mile away.

There is a big P.S. to this tale. Much to my amazement, the next morning I noticed that one duckling had been left behind—or had he just hatched a day after his siblings? "Joe" was peeping like mad. He sounded like a Chipping Sparrow, only softer. After an hour of listening to Joe's constant calling, I decided to go down to the pond to have a closer look. I'll play Konrad Lorenz, I thought, and see if I can get Joe to bond with me (like the behaviorist did with his Greylag Geese). I gave a quack or two from my all-fours position, and sure enough, Joe began to approach me. At this critical time, my spouse yelled from the house to grab him, that we'd raise him in the bathtub! As I turned to register my disgust with that idea, I forgot—and stood up. And Joe, of course, swam away to the far side of the pond. Experiment over.

In mid-afternoon a pair of Mallards settled down on the pond. Joe immediately joined them. The threesome disappeared an hour later. End of tale.

I would like to think that Joe did bond with the Mallards, certainly a better choice of foster parents, and that somehow he made it to adulthood. And I very secretly hope he'll fly over the pond someday and tip his wing to me.☺

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# 104 Upland Sandpipers in Mercer County

by Barb Dean

It was 25 April 1989 and my husband, George, and I were specifically hoping to find Upland Sandpipers breeding in Mercer County. We had just crossed into Wilmington Twp. about one-quarter mile north of the Lawrence County line when we found one adult Upland Sandpiper in a clover field at 6:30 p.m. The landscape, wide open Amish farm land of hayfields, clover, wheat, corn, etc. seems perfect for the Upland Sandpiper up to Route 80.

This bird was 50 yards away at most. I got out of the car and took one picture. We didn't see any more birds. This field is directly across the road from Shetler's Harness and Farm Supply.

We watched the bird walk in a northerly direction for about 50 feet. At 6:45 p.m. we decided to keep going north on the Old Mercer Road. We turned left onto the White Chapel Road and stopped at the bend on this dirt road because we saw two adult Uplands out in the field. The field was partly plowed, partly grassy. The two birds were in the grassy area about 40 or 50 feet apart. I took two pictures of the closest bird which was about 40 yards from us. I left the camera in the car and we scanned the field with binoculars. We found a third sandpiper in the grasses. They were feeding, but I was intent on trying to find a fourth bird. I was kidding George and asked him to imitate their whistle call which he did and was laughing and trying to find a fourth Upland by scanning.

I heard George yell, "Barb, look over there!" I looked (NO NEED FOR BINOCULARS) over my right shoulder (east) and about 50 Uplands were perhaps 20 feet high and about 40 feet away. They were coming down very fast and moving behind us (south). All I can remember is that their dangling legs looked very yellow and their necks didn't look long (pulled in). Their color was warm beige almost rosy beige (not white under), wings were long, dark and pointed and I recognized the stiff, bowed wing flight. I'm sure the low light situation distorted their color. I've seen this beige color many times before in a low light situation. I'm sure the flock was in view for only 4 to 5 seconds *maximum* and the only other thing I remember is the dark beady eye. I clearly recall hearing only a very loud, very harsh chuckle call, which only came from one bird or two at most. I was surprised because I thought they used the whistle call during migration. I turned and watched them. I remember a bony head and beak, sort of horizontal and straight out. They came to within 30 feet of us and I had to turn completely around facing south. I watched them kind of swirl around and all the birds

lifted their wings up (as they do when they are about to land on a fence post).

The birds were very low, perhaps only a few feet from the ground. I'm guessing the flock was 50 or 60 yards out from me when their wings seemed to stop moving. At that moment, I recall very bright white triangular shapes with a short dark edge to the tips of primaries and a darkish line, which began where the wing joined the body, and running part of the way up through the center of the wing. All the birds held their wings up high at the same moment. There was nothing but chartreuse wheat field between the birds and me. These birds' wings looked like a bunch of "white sails" on a "sea of green". The wheat field was approximately .8 inches high and on a slight upgrade away from us. Just as I realized that the rim of the field was going to prevent me from seeing these birds actually land, George hollered, "Barb, look out there!"

I turned to the north again and saw two more flocks of Uplands. One very large flock was about 50 or 60 birds and the other about 25 to 30 birds. These birds were way out and closing in on each other as they moved in a northerly direction in two clumps. When I looked through my binoculars the birds were simply darkish grey shapes. The pointed wings reached well below the bodies of the birds. At that same moment it "hit" me that this was an awful lot of Uplands and I ran a few steps to the car and took one picture as fast as I could. But that is not all.

A third flock came flying in to join the other two flocks. As the three flocks joined up they began to "string out" in a

very long irregular line flying north and just slightly west. A conservative estimate was of at least 100 birds. The one picture

re I took had very little contrast, but you can see the shapes. George and I wondered if the flock that appeared to land behind us earlier had really come down. Did that flock actually make a huge sweep in a westerly then northerly direction to join the other two flocks?

We drove farther down White Chapel Road, but unfortunately saw nothing. George and I spent about an hour scanning the roads in this area without success. We have been back at least a dozen times. The area is so vast with no road access in many areas. It is perfect for the Upland Sandpiper.

This was quite an experience for both of us...maybe once in a lifetime, especially for an Eastern birder.☺



Upland Sandpiper, Mercer County, 6/89, Photo by Barbara Dean.

**Profile:**  
**Gerald M. McWilliams**  
by **Ed Kwater**

I first met Jerry McWilliams at his beloved Presque Isle State Park on 8 March 1987. I was immediately struck by the warmth of his personality and his infectious enthusiasm for birds and birding. Since then we have been close friends and have birded together frequently, mainly at Presque Isle, but also on several out-of-state trips.

Jerry has a state-wide reputation for being not only the most competent birder in Erie County, but also the most untiring in his pursuit of birds. He takes every opportunity to bird the Park, irrespective of weather conditions, and through his efforts has contributed enormously to our knowledge of the distribution and abundance of birds in Erie County. Always friendly and approachable, he is eager to show visiting birders around the Park and to offer advice on where and when to see a particular species.

Jerry was born in 1953 in Union City about 25 miles south of Erie. His parents acknowledge that he became interested in natural history as soon as he was able to walk. Insects, in particular butterflies, were his first passion. At an early age he began to collect Lepidoptera and has soon collected most of the species recorded in Erie County. Jerry has made several contributions related to his interest in butterflies, notably the compilation of the "Checklist of the Butterflies of Erie County, PA," published in 1982 and revised in 1988. He has also contributed to a number of other publications including "Species of Special Concern in Pennsylvania," and was cited in "Butterflies East of the Great Plains."

Jerry remembers going out hunting with his father at the age of nine and it was during these trips that his interest in waterfowl developed. In his mid-teens he took up taxidermy and his interest in birds deepened. He practiced taxidermy as a part-time business venture for twenty years, the last eight of these as a licensed professional taxidermist. During this period he prepared many skins for Edinboro University and restored a large collection of natural mounts of birds, mammals and reptiles which were on permanent loan to the University from Erie Historical Museum. While living in Union City in 1972 he joined the Pennsylvania Fish Commission as a laborer. He later advanced to a Fish Culturist II, which remains his occupation to the present day.

Despite his keen interest in local bird life, Jerry was not aware of Presque Isle as a hotspot until 1977 when he met Sam Stull on a trip to the Park. At first his visits to Presque Isle were irregular, but since 1980 he has birded there on at least a weekly basis. During migration periods he is often to be found at Gull Point. He estimates that he regularly spends between fifteen and forty hours in

the field per week. Since 1985 he has lived in Erie, only one and a half miles from the Park entrance. Waterfowl, shorebirds, and gulls are Jerry's main areas of interest and at Presque Isle he has been fortunate enough to observe a number of species found nowhere else in Pennsylvania. His field expertise and sharp ears are well respected by those who have birded with him.

Since he first discovered Presque Isle, he has personally found at least thirty species of state rarities there. These have included the following: three Eared Grebes, several King Eider, Sandhill Crane, Am. Avocet, both Marbled and Hudsonian Godwits, Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers, numerous Little Gulls, several Franklin's and Lesser Black-backed Gulls, at least thirteen Thayer's Gulls, Black-legged Kittiwake, Sabine's Gull, Arctic and Least Terns, Chuck-will's-widow, Clay-colored Sparrow, Yellow-headed and Brewer's Blackbirds.

Also within Erie County, he found a Swainson's Hawk during a spring hawk watch in 1984 and a White Ibis in Lancaster County in 1982. However, his rarest and most memorable find was the Surf-bird located by him and Sam Stull at Presque Isle in 1979. This remains the only state record for this species and it was the first individual ever recorded in eastern North America outside Florida.

In 1981, Jerry was appointed sub-regional editor for American Birds (Appalachian Region) covering Erie and northern Crawford Counties, an activity in which he remains heavily engaged. He has also been Erie County's regional editor for **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS** since its inception in 1987.

A personal milestone was reached in 1985 with the publication of the "Birds of Erie County, Pennsylvania, including Presque Isle State Park." The project was initiated by Jean Stull and co-authored by Jerry and Sam Stull. The book details the occurrence of all bird species in the county, using a series of bar graphs which Jerry himself has maintained in recent years. I would strongly recommend the book to anyone birding in Erie County and especially at Presque Isle. The bar graphs were further used by Jerry in the compilation of the "Checklist of Birds Recorded in Erie County," in 1982 and the revised version in 1987. Jerry is also the Bird Records Chairman for the Presque Isle Audubon Society, and sub-regional coordinator for the Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas Project in Erie and northern Crawford Counties (1985-1988).

Jerry has also birded in nearly every county in Pennsylvania. His state list is 310 species, 299 of which have been seen in Erie County. He makes annual trips to Niagara Falls in November to observe the large concentrations of gulls which gather along the Niagara River. For the last two years I have accompanied him and his wife, Linda, also an active birder, on these trips. Jerry and I have also birded on Amherst Island, Ontario. Trips further

afield have included Southeast Arizona, California, Florida, Texas, the New England states, Nova Scotia, and Europe. He and Linda are currently planning a mid-summer trip to Colorado.

Jerry McWilliams has firmly established himself as the leading birder in Erie County. It is always a pleasure to go birding with him and I thoroughly recommend that any birder visiting Presque Isle State Park makes his acquaintance.☺

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# Arctic Terns in Carbon County

by Rick Wiltraut

During the spring of 1989, I made a special effort to visit Beltzville Lake in *Carbon County* on days when it had rained during the night, hoping to find some unusual birds. Bad weather on 2 May, 6 May, and 10 May yielded a **Red-throated Loon**, 5 **White-winged Scoter**, 2 **Surf Scoter** (on Wild Creek Reservoir), **Caspian, Common**, and **Black terns**, 12 **Forster's Terns** (one flock on the beach), and a first county record **Laughing Gull**.

Weather conditions on the morning of 16 May looked promising. It had rained overnight and it was still raining hard about 9 a.m., with winds out of the east at about 7 mph. I arrived hoping to see something good, but I wasn't prepared for the two terns I spotted flying about over the lake near the dam. I was stationed at my usual spot in the cubicle of the first aid station by the beach.

As the terns made passes back and forth, I noticed that the underwings had a very thin dark trailing edge to the outer primaries, very sharp and definite in appearance. It was then I remembered a photograph that Alan Brady took of a "portlandica" **Arctic Tern** 40 miles east of Barnegat Light, NJ, on 25 May 1985 (*American Birds* 39:278) which clearly shows this field mark. I also recalled some photographs by Will Russell that appeared in a bird quiz article in an issue of *Birding* (VII:234-37), again showing this mark.

I thought to myself, "Could they be?" I had never seen an Arctic Tern before and I didn't want to jump the gun. I wanted to view them on land so I could check for other field marks, but the terns wouldn't land. The birds seemed quite at home flying back and forth over the lake even though it was raining hard at times (other terns I've seen at Beltzville during the rain are usually resting on the beach or buoys). Another mark that caught my eye as the birds were flying was that the primaries appeared very light from below, even translucent at times. This contrasted sharply with a dark gray inner wing. The plate of the Arctic Tern in flight (underview) on page 97 of Peterson's revised *Field Guide to The Birds* best illustrates what I saw.

The terns finally settled on the beach, and when viewed through binoculars, I was immediately struck by the very dark gray underparts of both birds, with a thin white line separating the underparts from their solid black caps. Both birds appeared short-legged, and one had tail streamers that projected beyond its folded wingtips, giving it an overall slim appearance. When viewed through my scope, this bird exhibited red legs and an all red bill. At this point, I wasn't quite believing my eyes.

The other bird had a dark bill with a dark reddish base and a tail which

seemed to extend to the wingtips, but not beyond. It also had blackish-red legs. I presumed that this bird was a sub-adult or a winter adult which had not yet acquired its full breeding plumage. The head shape of both birds appeared rounded, but I wasn't sure about the bill length, since no other terns were present for comparison.

Unfortunately, I have a bad habit of not carrying field guides with me, and I could have kicked myself today. Fortunately, something made me throw my camera into the car before leaving my apartment, even though I knew I was out of film. I made a quick run to Lehighton for some Ektachrome, and about a half hour later I was back on the beach to find both birds still there. I stalked the birds as close as I could, my shutter clicking along the way. After about 20 shots, the birds took off and so did I...for a telephone.

At the Wild Creek Inn, I rewarded myself with a beer, then made a long distance call to my mother, Dorothy, who expertly handled a quick hotline to birders in the area. I returned to the beach area, but I couldn't locate the terns. I went over to the Pine Run boat launch area to see if the birds were there. As I scanned the lake, I was surprised to see an adult **Laughing Gull** go cruising by, the second here in two weeks! Both times the gulls occurred during easterly storms, made one or two passes over the lake, then disappeared. Did these gulls make their way here via the Delaware River, or were they blown off course as they ventured inland across New Jersey feeding on earthworms in the freshly plowed fields?

I eventually spotted the terns again, and they seemed to be heading back to the beach. When I got back to the beach, the terns were resting at the water's edge, and I stood guard until verifiers arrived. By now I was soaking wet, but I didn't seem to notice. About an hour later, Frank and Barb Haas arrived, soon followed by Dave DeReamus and family. After viewing the terns through their scopes, they all agreed that the birds fit the descriptions of Arctic Terns. My sanity was restored.

Dave had his National Geographic Guide and Barb made my day when she produced the excellent *Seabirds* guide by Peter Harrison (about a month later I was deeply moved when I received a copy of this guide in the mail from all of the birders who managed to see the terns that day). Frank was able to obtain several photographs through their Questar and Dave, who couldn't help noticing that I looked like someone who slipped overboard on a pelagic trip, graciously offered me his warm jacket. It felt wonderful. Several other birders managed to see the terns, including Bill Stocku,

who had seen Arctic Terns before in Alaska and on pelagic trips. He said he recognized them immediately. I returned the following morning, but the skies had cleared considerably and the terns were gone. I wished them luck.

Arctic Terns are highly pelagic, and most records from our area are birds seen on pelagic trips off the New Jersey coast and Long Island during the latter half of May. The two birds at Beltzville Lake were probably just blown off course due to bad weather. Easterly winds predominated along the Jersey shore during the time the terns occurred at Beltzville. The Arctic Tern is also a rare visitant on the Great Lakes in late May and early June. These birds that show up on the Great Lakes are more than likely blown in off the ocean too, winding up in the next ocean-like area. The only other record for Pennsylvania since 1890 was a bird carefully studied at Presque Isle State Park, Lake Erie, on 17-18 May 1983 by Jerry McWilliams and Don Snyder. B. H. Warren in his *Birds of Pennsylvania* (1890) gives this account of the Arctic Tern:

"The Arctic Tern is a very rare straggler in eastern Pennsylvania. About four years ago I was shown two of these birds by Mr. C. C. Wood, of Philadelphia, which he said had been shot in September on the Delaware river below Philadelphia. Dr. John W. Detwiller, of Bethlehem, has in his collection a specimen of this Tern, captured by himself on the Lehigh river in the fall. In Berks county, according to Mr. D. Frank Keller, the Arctic Tern is an accidental visitor. I have never seen the Arctic Tern in Pennsylvania, nor am I aware that any of that species, other than those mentioned above, have been taken in the state."

Poole (*Pennsylvania Birds* 1964) lists the Arctic Tern as hypothetical, mentioning that the specimens in Warren's account had disappeared.☉

**Common Black-headed Gull**  
*Erie County*  
by **Jerry McWilliams**

While observing a flock of Bonaparte's Gull (*Larus philadelphia*) on 1 April 1989 off Beach 11 on Presque Isle SP, I caught a glimpse of a dark underwing of a gull as it made a brief flight from one end of the flock to the other. After watching the flock of gulls for approximately half an hour, the bird flew again for a longer period, allowing me sufficient time to identify the bird, using 10 X 40 Zeiss Dyalyt binoculars, as an adult **Common Black-headed Gull** (*Larus ridibundus*).

The underside of the leading primaries were very dark contrasting sharply with the grayish underwing coverts and white underside. This characteristic marking was unlike the pale primaries of Bonaparte's Gulls, which were flying directly next to the Black-headed Gull. The wings were noticeably broader than the Bonaparte's wings and the overall size of the bird was noticeably larger as well. The rosy pink underside of the Black-headed was easily detected in flight, pinker than any Bonaparte's Gull present. When the bird landed on the water it was very difficult to locate, partially due to the distance (several hundred yards away).

The next day, after making several phone calls, many other birders were present and the bird was found again in the same area. The bird was studied on the water with several types of scopes, including an 8" Celestron with a 45 or 50X eyepiece and a Questar. With such magnification and light gathering capabilities the bird could be easily studied.

The bird was in fresh alternate plumage. The head was very dark brown, looking black at a distance. The hood did not extend as far down the nape as a Bonaparte's. The bill was noticeably heavier and longer than the latter, with bill pigment very dark red most evident in the center of the mandibles. In direct comparison to the Bonaparte's, the mantle and upperwing coverts were slightly paler and the larger size of the Black-headed was apparent.

Viewing was good under variably cloudy skies (altocumulus and stratus). Observers present on 2 April were Ed Kwater, Frank and Barb Haas, Steve Santner, Bill Stocku, Dave Darney, Jean, Jim, and Sam Stull, and Joyce Hoffman, all of whom saw the bird.☺

**American Avocet**  
*Erie County*  
by **Jerry McWilliams**

At approximately 7:30 a.m. on 7 May 1989 while standing at the south end of Gull Point on Presque Isle SP during a snow storm, I saw a large shorebird suddenly appear out of the storm. I alerted Ed Kwater, who was standing several feet from me, to the approaching bird, and we both readily identified it as an **American Avocet** (*Recurvirostra americana*) by the time it landed along the edge of the water within 50 feet of us.

The bird was large - larger than the Willets we had seen in this same area the day before. The bill was long and upturned and quite thin. The entire head and long neck were orange-brown with a distinctive white eyering and white around the base of the bill. The bold black and white pattern on the folded wings was diagnostic, contrasting sharply with the neck. The underside was white. The legs were long (as long as the neck) and were blue-gray. When the bird flew the pattern of the black scapulars on a white back and the black primaries with black greater coverts separating the white lesser coverts from secondaries were clearly visible. The bird called once as it flew away into the snow storm - a very loud and clear "wheet" or "whit." The avocet was present for less than five minutes. Visibility was good at less than 75 feet and poor to zero at more than 200 feet. 10 x 40 Zeiss Dyalyt binoculars were used for observing the bird.☺

**Harlequin Duck**  
*Erie County*  
by **Jerry McWilliams**

On 2 April 1989 at Beach 11 on Presque Isle SP while searching for the Common Black-headed Gull that I had discovered the previous day, I saw an all-dark duck which I identified as a female **Harlequin Duck** (*Histrionicus histrionicus*). It was flying about 8 to 10 feet above the water in a southerly direction towards the north pier. I alerted the group of birders who were present, and Ed Kwater and Joyce Hoffman spotted the bird immediately. The light was good, with altocumulus clouds blocking out direct light from the sun.

The bird was entirely dark on the upperside with only the lower breast and belly showing pale feathers. The shape and flight of the bird readily identified it as a diving duck. Surf Scoter (*Melanitta perspicillata*) and Black Scoter (*Melanitta nigra*) were eliminated as possibilities because this bird was smaller, and it did not have the typical sloping head profile of scoters. The neck was short and not thick like a scoter's,

and the head appeared to peak near the front of the crown with a steep forehead angling abruptly at the small short bill forming a rough right angle. The white markings on the face could be seen but I could not determine their exact shape or position with certainty looking through my spotting scope.

The bird was viewed for less than a minute using a Bushnell Spacemaster 25X spotting scope at a distance of possibly 200 to 300 yards. The bird could not be relocated after searching in the area where it was thought to have gone.☺

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**Predictions for the Next State Bird**  
**Barb Haas**

In addition to my list printed last issue, the following were submitted:

- Al Guarente  
Wilson's Storm-Petrel  
Brown Pelican  
Long-billed Curlew  
Little Stint  
Rufous-necked Stint  
Groove-billed Ani  
Black-chinned Hummingbird  
Lewis' Woodpecker  
Fork-tailed Flycatcher

- Jerry McWilliams  
California Gull  
Pacific Loon  
Mew Gull  
One of the Eurasian Stints  
Brown Pelican  
Smith's Longspur  
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper  
Long-tailed Jaeger  
Ash-throated Flycatcher  
Rock Wren

We invite others to play the game by submitting your guesses. The point is to alert others and yourself to the possibilities that may be just around the corner.☺



## SUMMARY OF THE SEASON

In April a drought-emergency warning was issued in Southeastern Pennsylvania. Little did anyone know what May and June would bring. It can be summed up in one word — RAIN. Virtually every compiler mentioned record or near-record rainfall. Measurable snow fell in the Northwest on 7-8 May. Many compilers wondered just what effect this total turnaround from last years' drought would have on breeding birds in general and even a few specific species. For example, Bill Reid worked 11 Atlas blocks extensively in the Northeast and was unable to locate a single **Louisiana Waterthrush**, suspecting swollen creeks played havoc with this species. Dave Wolfe, *Elk*, expressed concern about breeding waterfowl since many beaver ponds had overflowed. Tom Dick, *Bedford*, made special mention as to the lack of large flying moths over prolonged periods of wet and the effect on **Whip-poor-will**. April Walters, *Forest*, noted **House Sparrows** taking over **E. Bluebird** nest boxes after the bluebirds abandoned them during the rainy period. Others also commented on the poor success of bluebirds, especially the early broods. Consider that Al Guarente, *Delaware*, noted a 75% loss of young due to the rains reducing insect populations at just one county location! Dave Kyler, **Huntingdon and Blair**, was more general, but no less accurate, saying the rains "almost certainly had a negative effect on nesting success." Barb Dean, *Lawrence*, observed that insects were few and so were orioles, tanagers, and grosbeaks, which she found feeding together on the ground in plowed fields, and birders were not suffering "warbler neck." Some warblers were even observed eating suet at feeders! Warbler reviews were mixed, some saying it was better than recent years, others commenting that although the species number was good, numbers of individuals were down. Some compilers remarked that although all the normal breeders finally arrived, some were as much as two to three weeks late! The rain even drove Marty McKay, *Mercer*, to poetry! Adversely affected was the **Purple Martin** (a species somewhat more easily monitored), as noted by Ralph Bell, *Greene*, among others. Flycatchers seemed to be equally hard hit. Ted Grisez, *Warren*, was appropriately concerned about watching warblers feed on or near the ground after the early May snow storm. The Powdermill Nature Reserve staff, *Westmoreland*, poignantly described the fate of many **Scarlet Tanager**, "...so weak that they could not get out of the way of passing cars; no doubt many others simply starved." Although *Erie* continued to have its share of the unusual, Jerry McWilliams began by saying, "It is difficult not to write pessimistically about this season's summary when less than 30% of the reporting period was warmed by southerly winds."

But where there is water, even too much, the storms that cause the overflowing of streams, lakes, rivers, and reservoirs also bring good sightings. Before getting to the exceptional rarities, we bring your attention to a adage that certainly holds true in Pennsylvania: **Bad weather can bring good birds**. Many species of birds, especially ocean or shore loving birds, spend most of their passage through Pennsylvania in the air, never stopping. However, when bad weather hits, it's "any port in a storm", and we are treated to some rare finds. But it is important to be at a location during the bad weather, as the birds are often on their way as soon it clears or just after. We recall an experience many years ago when Allen Schweinsberg called us to say that he had just seen more than a hundred loons at Montour Preserve! This was during a rain storm in April, and when we arrived, the loons were still there. There were at least **25 Red-throated** and the rest were **Common**. As we stood there watching, the rain stopped, the sun peeked out from behind the clouds, and almost as one, the Red-throateds lifted up and flew away. Some of the Commons did likewise, but it is interesting to note that the rarer (and ocean loving) of the two species stayed the shortest period of time. This is not to say that going out in bad weather guarantees good birds, but it sure doesn't hurt.

**Red-throated Loon** and **Red-necked Grebe**, both good for PA, paled in the light of this quarter's other finds. Did the increased rain make for better habitat for **Am. Bittern** to pause or nest? Reports were quite good this quarter. Even **Least Bittern** were seen in areas not usually reporting them. The number of **scoter** sightings this quarter was almost amazing. No less than 12 counties had records of **White-winged Scoter** and three tallied **Surf Scoter**; the highest count of White-winged was 20 in *Erie*. Several of these reports provided new late dates as well as new county records. A **King Rail** was found in *Lancaster* in mid-May. It seemed to us that **Bonaparte's Gull** was more widely reported than in the past. Outside of the rare gull and tern reports to follow, there were excellent finds, especially **Black Tern**, across the Commonwealth.

Most, but not all, of the rarities were birds associated with

water. A **White Pelican** was photographed in *Armstrong* and there is almost convincing evidence of other singles in *Lancaster* and perhaps the Philadelphia area. Ron Leberman, *Crawford*, spent 15 minutes looking at a female **Barrow's Goldeneye**. McWilliams had a momentous April Fool's Day when he located a **Common Black-headed Gull** (his second) at Presque Isle. This breeding-plumage bird cooperated for birders from across the state to see it the following day. He, and others, also watched a **Harlequin Duck** fly by that same day. And imagine Rick Wiltraut's ecstasy when he found and identified (for a lifer) a pair of **Arctic Tern** in *Carbon*, which were seen and photographed for the first state documented record.

Only Ruth Sager, *Somerset*, stated it was the best shorebird migration in many years, but added that "many were seen on cold, rainy or snowy days in...May when weather held (them) down." *Erie*, as usual had the most unusual shorebird species statewide, including **Piping Plover** and **Am. Avocet**. It was fitting that other counties were thrilled with **Ruddy Turnstone** (*Centre*) or **Wilson's Phalarope** (*Clarion*). Most birders had difficulty finding a mudflat! Imagine finding 10 **Spotted Sandpiper** feeding with robins on a soggy lawn in *Berks*. Several compilers noted instances of **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** coming to feeders during the rains, and some were in the company of **Indigo Buntings**! Also, orioles were seen fighting with hummingbirds over feeders. We direct your attention to the box in the *Huntingdon* report for a rather unusual example of nest assistance.

We're not quite through with water-related birds. **Bald Eagle** successfully nested (1 eaglet) in *Lancaster* for the first time since 1948! And the *York* pair fledged two young (found in July, actually). **Peregrine Falcon** are producing young, but their success rate is very poor. The *Delaware* and *Philadelphia* accounts by Guarente and Ed Fingerhood give more details. Last year PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS (Vol. 2:113) reported the possibility of breeding of **Black-necked Stilt** in *Philadelphia*. This year John Miller, birder *par excellence*, kept track of two pairs in the Philadelphia Sewage Ponds for the first confirmed nesting record in the Commonwealth. Perhaps the drought of last year forced them to look for "greener pastures." Some of us do not always look upon sewage ponds as greener — apparently stilts do.

Not everything, good or bad, was water related. Starting on a downbeat, the **Short-eared Owls** in *Clarion* did not nest again this year according to Margaret Buckwalter. We can only ask, "Why?" Everything seemed the same. Are we once again reduced to only the one pair at the Philadelphia Airport? Have they found another location at another strip mine? What a bummer!

On an upbeat. **Swainson's Warbler** were found in three counties! Earliest was at Powdermill Nature Reserve, *Westmoreland*, 9 May with recaptures as late as 16 May. Eric and Nathan Hall reported one in *Indiana* 19 May. But then, one was found in *Fayette* by Dave Kreuger on 10 June that remained throughout the quarter (and then some). The *Fayette* bird was also tape-recorded.

Other reports received that were difficult to put into the "water-related" category were a **Mississippi Kite** in *York*, a **Bewick's Wren** in *Fulton*, and a **Western Tanager** in *Indiana*. Barb Dean sent a detailed report with photographs delineating the find by her and husband George of at least 104 **Upland Sandpiper** in *Mercer* on 25 April. The contrast in the photograph was not adequate for reproduction, but that day will certainly live for a long time in their memory banks.

Remember all those **Dickcissel** sightings last year? This year they were once again scarce in Pennsylvania. *Lehigh* birders found one female on 27 May for their first non-winter record. And in *York* one was found on 17 April, which could be an early local date. Single birds were found in two locations in *Franklin* in June. But that was IT. Bob Mulvihill, *Westmoreland*, still requests any information about this species for long-term research.

A **Summer Tanager** in *Cambria* was highly unexpected by Tim Fox. A first-spring male **Blue Grosbeak** was well-described to the *Montour* compiler. The **Clay-colored Sparrow** in *Erie* was the 10th county record, while another was seen and recorded by Stan Stahl in *Lycoming*. **Bobolink** reports were equally frustrating — read *Bucks* then *Berks*. Arlene Koch had her Six-Thirty **Yellow-headed Blackbird** for a week in *Northampton*. See her separate article for details. Reid studied a bird that appeared to be at least partially a **Bullock's Oriole**.

And much, much more in the following pages!☺

# COUNTY REPORTS - April through June 1989

**Abbreviations Frequently Used:** ad.:adult, Am.:American, BBS: Breeding Bird Survey, c.:central, 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, 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, ♂:male, ♀:female, φ: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.

## ADAMS COUNTY

### Art and Eleanor Kennell

*Abbreviations: Cunningham Rd. (CR), Long Pine Dam (LPD), Michaux SF (MSF), Pumping Station Rd. (PSR).*

The following birds were found at LPD: 2 **Common Loon** 4/19 (CG,AK,EK), 19 **Tundra Swan** 4/7 (CG,AK,EK), and 2 **Oldsquaw** 4/7 (CG). Two **Upland Sandpiper** were found on CR 4/17 (CG), 17 were found on PSR 4/14 (AK,EK), and 5 on Possum Hollow Rd. n. of E. Berlin, Rt. 234. Fourteen **Bonaparte's Gull** were on LPD 4/19 (CG).

A **Purple Martin** colony was found near E. Berlin (Abbotstown 3 block); this block had had no previous coverage (AK,EK). A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was seen in MSF (CG). Three **Prairie Warbler** were seen 5/31 and 6/3 (CG,JF,LF,AK,EK).

OBSERVERS: Carl Garner, Jean & Lew Frank, Eleanor & Art Kennell, 799 Baltimore St., Gettysburg 17325.

## ALLEGHENY COUNTY

### Joe Grom

*Abbreviations: Deer Lakes Park (DLP), SGL #203, No. Park (NoP), Pittsburgh (PGH), Round Hill Park (RHP), Shaler Twp., So. Park (SoP).*

Although April was relatively dry, migration, especially of water birds and raptors, was well under way. Twelve **Double-crested Cormorant** were counted at W. Elizabeth 4/7 (GK). A **Great Egret** at Hardies L. (Gibsonia) 5/17 (HRL) was one of a *surprising* 14+ reported throughout w. PA. The first **Green-backed Heron** apparently showed up at NoP 4/19 (EK). PB lists 6 **Lesser Scaup** at NoP 4/9.

Meg Scanlon, naturalist/rehabilitator, at NoP observed an **Osprey** there 4/15.

On 5/10 Meg Scanlon released back into the wild a slightly injured **Merlin**, which her skill had brought around. Interestingly, later in July a Merlin allowed an approach to 8' by an observer in Cook Forest SP some 90 mi n.e. of the point of release!

EK had 12 **Killdeer** at NoP 4/26, where he also lists 3-7 **Solitary Sandpiper** 4/26-30. Both cuckoo began showing up ±5/20, just in time for the Gypsy Moth feasting. County entomologist, Paul Brown, in June, reports "plenty of Yellow-billed and Black-billed Cuckoo in areas with large gypsy moth populations."

Two interesting owls were listed: A **Barred Owl** at DLP (T&NM) 5/29 and a **Long-eared Owl** mobbed by crows and jays (and VDz) in a Shadyside stand of conifers 4/11. JH reports a **Common Nighthawk** in Shaler Twp 5/24. Several pairs of **Whip-poor-will** entertained m.ob. at SGL #203 in Marshall Twp.

GK lists as "late" 4 **Chimney Swift** at E. McKeesport. M&EW

had their first **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** in Eliz. Twp 4/30—about average. Nine **Red-bellied**, 7 **N. Flicker**, 7 **Pileated** woodpecker made the list.

Since flycatchers as a group are regularly late, their migration was about normal. M&EW report 12 nesting **Purple Martin** at Butler's Golf Course in Eliz. Twp 4/17. No **Bank Swallow** was listed. By mid-April **Carolina Wren** were nest building in Allison Park (R&JG). With an average "arrival" of 4/3-9, 24 **Golden-crowned Kinglet** were tabulated by T&NM at DLP. Again there was a poor report of thrushes, although the **Veery** improved later.

To paraphrase EK's extensive comments, concurred in by various contributors, the bad (wet) weather during the first three weeks in May slowed or brought to a standstill that part of spring migration. **Solitary Vireo** made a strong showing 4/27 (DLP) to 4/30 (NoP). A **Philadelphia Vireo** in DLP was detected by T&NM 4/29. There was a very large flight, notably **Blackburnian** and **Ovenbird**, 5/16-18 spilling over onto downtown and northside (PGH) shopping area. A flight of **Blackpoll Warbler** lasted 5/22-29, especially in Allison Park (JG *et al.*). A ♀ **Yellow-rumped Warbler** showed up at the Grom feeder in Allison Park 4/2, liked what she sampled (RG's special recipe: suet/corn meal cake), and stayed for several daily visits throughout April. There were 29 species of warbler (plus both hybrids) of 260+ indiv. among 106 reports.

In some areas **Scarlet Tanager** was poorly reported, while in others reports were good to excellent. Early sparrows were just about on time, but their movement tended to be prolonged well into May. No **Henslow's** listed. Brown watched a single **Purple Finch** feeding on elm samaras in Kilbuck Twp 4/3.

OBSERVERS: Esther Allen, Peg Bracken (PBr), Paul Brown, Jim Clark, Vickie Dziadosz, Al Grom, **Joe Grom**, 9360 **Babcock Blvd., Allison Park 15101 (412-366-9495)**, Walter Hammond, Joyce Hoffmann, Glenn Koppel, Ed Kwater, H.R. Leapman, Tom & Nellie McGary, Joe Panza, Mike and Evaleen Watko.

## ARMSTRONG COUNTY

### Margaret and Roger Higbee

*Abbreviations: Allegheny R. (AR), Buffalo Cr. Valley (BCV), Crooked Cr. Park (CC), Elders Ridge (ER), Elderton (ELD), Ford City (FC), Keystone Res. (KR), Kittanning (KTN), Mahoning L. (ML), Manorville (MNV), Pine Furnace (PF), South Bend (SB), Sunnyside (SS), Tarrtown (TT), West Lebanon (WL).*

The period was one with above average rainfall. The real highlight of the season was a **White Pelican** photographed at Crooked Creek L. The warbler migration consisted of small flocks with a nice variety, but no large numbers of individuals.

Up to 4 **Common Loon** were tallied at KR after 5/5 (MH *et al.*), but 2 lingered until the end of the quarter (MH,MC). Best **Horned Grebe** counts were 8 at KR 4/4 (MH,RH) and an equal number at KTN on the AR 4/18 (ES). Three **Double-crested Cormorant** were a nice find at Rosston 4/14 (ES); a singleton was found in the company of the **White Pelican** mentioned above at CC 5/11 (BW). The pelican was present again 5/12, when it was photographed by BW (BW,JD). The following day it was found on the AR n. of KTN (JG). Unfortunately, the birding community did not learn of this bird's presence until several weeks after its disappearance.

**Great Blue Heron** were reported from KR 5/5 (MH,NK) but 7 were noted high overhead heading N at FC 5/14 (ES). Top **Wood Duck** tally was 7 at Rosston 4/14 (ES). Eight **Green-winged Teal** on the AR at KTN were a nice find (ES). A **Ring-necked Duck** on the AR 4/13 was the lone report (ES). **Greater Scaup** were found in larger than normal numbers on the AR, with counts of 10 at KTN and 5 at MNV 4/13 (ES); 17 was the tally at MNV 4/18 (DL). Top **Bufflehead** count was 33 at Rosston 4/14 (ES), but 4 were still present at KR 5/11 (MH,GL,GS). Two **Red-breasted Merganser** visited the BCV 4/2 (DE); 11 were at Rosston 4/14 (ES); a singleton was a nice addition to a Big Day list at KR 5/11, where a lone **Ruddy Duck** was also a welcome species (MH,GL,GS).

A **N. Harrier** observed at ER 4/17 was the lone report. First **Broad-winged Hawk** was seen at FC 4/23 (ES). **Wild Turkey** were

found near KTN 4/4 (PF,MH) and near SB 6/21 (MH,TJ). The origin of a road-killed **N. Bobwhite** 5/2 (JV) was undetermined. A **Virginia Rail** called from a marsh near ER 5/27 (MH,RH). Two **Spotted Sandpiper** were listed at KR 5/5 (MH,NK) while 1 was noted near SS 5/8 (ES). A **Ruddy Turnstone** at CC 5/13 was a nice find (MF). **Am. Woodcock** nesting near PF performed a broken-wing distraction display 5/10 (ES); 2 ♂ were still courting near ER 5/27 (MH,RH).



*White Pelican, Crooked Creek Park, 5/12/89, Photo by Bill Wilson*

Gull reports were limited to 2 **Bonaparte's** and 4 **Ring-billed** at KR 5/5 (MH,NK). Two **Common Tern** were at KR 5/11 (MH,GL,GS), where 2 **Forster's** had been well observed 5/5 (MH,NK). An **E. Screech-Owl** was seen peering from a nest hole near ER 5/11 (MH,GL,GS). First **Chimney Swift** was listed at KTN 4/26 (GW). **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** continued to visit a feeder sporadically near KTN during April (CD).

Up to 8 **Purple Martin** were observed perched on a nest box near ELD 5/6 (MH,RH). Two **Cliff Swallow** were seen at KR 5/17 (MH,MC). A **Common Raven** flying over the WL strips was croaking as it was being dive-bombed by a crow 5/11 (MH,GL,GS). A **Veery** visited a backyard near KTN 5/5 (GSS). Only 2 **Swainson's Thrush** were reported — 1 near SS 5/8 (ES) and 1 near KTN 5/24 (CD). A **Hermit Thrush** near KTN 4/30 (ES) was the lone report. First **Brown Thrasher** was listed near Rosston 4/14 (ES). Few **Cedar Waxwing** were mentioned, with top count a mere 14 at FC 5/2 (ES).

First vireo arrivals, all singletons, included **Solitary** at Adrian 4/21 (CD,MH,NK), **White-eyed** at KR 5/5 (MH,NK), **Yellow-throated** at ML 5/6 (MH,RH), and **Warbling** at FC 5/18 (ES). Up to 3 **Golden-winged Warbler** were counted at KR 5/11 (MH,GL,GS). Two **N. Parula** at TT 5/4 (ES) and 1 at ML 5/6 (MH,RH) were the only reports. A small flock of warblers moved through FC 5/17 when species listed included 2 **Nashville**, 1 **Chestnut-sided**, 5 **Magnolia**, 3 **Yellow-rumped**, 5 **Black-throated Green**, 3 **Am. Redstart**, and 2 **Canada** (ES). A **Black-throated Blue** was found at FC 5/18 (ES) and 1 **Blackburnian** at TT 5/7 (ES). **Yellow-throated Warbler** returned to the country club parking lot at KTN and was singing continually 4/21 (MH,NK). A **Pine Warbler** was found near KTN 4/21 (MH,NK). Three **Blackpoll** at FC 5/21 was the lone report (ES). One **Wilson's Warbler** was observed near FC 5/21,22 (ES).

Feeder watchers reported **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** more commonly this spring than usual (v.o.). A wet area near Adrian yielded 5 **Fox Sparrow** 4/21 (CD,MH,NK). A single **Lincoln's Sparrow** near FC 5/21 was relocated the next day in the same area (ES).

OBSERVERS: Marcy Cunkelman, Caroline Davies, John Derby, Donna Egbert, Paula Fleming, Mike Fowles, Jim Greenbaum, Margaret and Roger Higbee, RD #2, Box 166, Indiana 15701 (412-354-3493), Timmi Jones, Nancy Karp, Gloria Lamer, Debbie Livengood, Ed Slovensky, Grace S. Sprout (GSS), Georgette Syster, Joe Valasek, Bill Wilson, Gloria Winger.

## BEAVER COUNTY

Ed Kwater

From the sightings received, spring migration was obviously very late due, undoubtedly, to the pattern of cold weather and northerly winds which dominated the first half of May. Many first dates for

spring migrants were at least a week later than usual. All reports are from Raccoon Creek S.P.

A ♂ **Ruffed Grouse** was heard drumming in the Wildflower Reserve 5/21 (GM). A **Solitary Sandpiper** was seen 4/30 (CT). Interesting flycatcher sightings included 2 **Olive-sided** 5/17 (CT) and a **Yellow-bellied** 5/25 (CT). Of 21 species of parulids sighted during late April and May, the noteworthy were a **N. Parula** 5/21 (GM), 2 **Yellow-throated Warbler** (including a singing ♂) 5/22 (CT), and up to 4 singing ♂ **Cerulean Warbler** from 4/30+ (GM,CT). GM commented on the relative scarcity of **Scarlet Tanager** this year. A late **White-crowned Sparrow** was present 5/21.

OBSERVERS: Ed Kwater, 2396 Highland Ave., Allison Park, 15101 (412)487-6288, George Malosh, Chuck Tague.

## BEDFORD COUNTY

Tom Dick

Abbreviations: Allegheny Front near Helixville (AF), Bedford (BED), Bedford Valley (BV), Shawnee SP (SSP), Tussey Mt. (TM), Yount (YO).

April was relatively dry until the 30th when rain started and continued unabated for two weeks. May was to finish with the dubious record of 18 rain days of 6.5" (3" above average); this was followed by an equally wet June with 10.29" (7" above average). Anticipation of the warbler flight was outdone by disappointment when warblers passed by relatively unnoticed. Due to heavy rain, mist and fog, canopy feeders such as **Cerulean** and **Blackburnian** warblers, when found, were frequently seen feeding on the ground. It was not a quarter for the unusual, however 170 species were reported making it well observed. Unless otherwise note, all observations by the compiler.

Unless indicated otherwise the water bird counts are at SSP. **Common Loon**, seen all quarter, had a high of 8 on 5/7. **Horned Grebe** peaked the first half of Apr. with 16 on 4/5 and 19 on 4/15 at Towns Cr. (TF). **Pied-billed Grebe** high count was 23 on 4/9 (MH). A single **Double-crested Cormorant** was first reported 4/5, then the count climbed to 75 on 5/7, down to 30 on 5/9; a few lingered through June. A **Great Egret** was first observed 5/7.

The only **Gadwall** report was 15 on 5/11. **Am. Wigeon** high was 20 on 4/5. **Blue-winged Teal** first arrived 4/5, with a high of 8 on 4/24. A group of 10 **Wood Duck** was observed 5/7. **Ring-necked Duck** last report was 30 on 4/5, while on the same date a group of 80 **Lesser Scaup** was observed. The scaup sp. count increased to 250 by 4/9 (MH). **Bufflehead** high was 25 on 4/9 (MH). An **Oldsquaw** single was reported 4/5 (CV), 10 by 4/9 (MH) with last report 4/15 (JB). **Red-breasted Merganser** high was 80 4/15 (CV). **Ruddy Duck** high was 50+ on 4/9 (MH).

**Black Vulture** sightings were: a kettle near Rt. 220 (JS) and 1 near Hyndman 5/17 (RS). The TM spring hawk watch data covering 99.6 hours, mostly April, with 4.5 hours in May, are as follows: 44 **Osprey**; 8 **N. Harrier**; 65 **Sharp-shinned**; 5 **Cooper's**; 4 **Red-shouldered**; 360 **Broad-winged**; 27 **Red-tailed**; 4 **Golden Eagle**; 5 **Am. Kestrel**; 2 **Merlin**; 1 **Peregrine Falcon**. Two **N. Goshawk** were circling the AF 4/3 and 1 imm. **Bald Eagle** was at YO 6/30 (GH). **Osprey** were reported widely and the earliest Broodie was 4/4 at TM.

A flock of 30 **Wild Turkey** was reported from YO (GH). Although this is the only written report, it's evident the turkey population is thriving. A **Sora** was swimming at a SSP marsh 5/17 (CV). The **Am. Coot** migration peaked at 10-15 at SSP from 4/5-9 (MH). **Greater Yellowlegs**, never more than 2, were reported at various times from SSP, the latest date 5/11. A **Spotted Sandpiper** was first reported 5/4 with the number increasing to 80 at SSP 5/7. The only **dowitcher** report was of 1 **Short-billed** at SSP 5/17 (RS). A single **Dunlin** was at SSP 5/10 (CV).

A flock of 50 **Ring-billed Gull** was seen 5/11 and increased to 200 at SSP 5/14. Other reports, all from SSP, include 1 **Bonaparte's Gull** in breeding plumage 4/5 with last report of 6 on 5/11. Tern reports included 10 **Common** 5/11 (gone the next day); 5 **Forster's** 5/7; 1 **Caspian** 5/5 (CV); and 2 **Black** 5/7.

**Mourning Dove**, ever on increase, had laid eggs by 4/11 at YO (GH). First arrival of cuckoos, both at YO, were a **Yellow-billed** 5/13 and a **Black-billed** 5/28 (GH).

First reports of **Chimney Swift**, 4/29, and **Common Nighthawk**, 5/22 (late?) come from YO (GH). **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** could be seen as early as 4/29 doing their roller coaster nuptial flight at AF. **Belted Kingfisher** seem to be flourishing from mild winters and are increasingly reported from farm ponds. **Pileated Woodpecker** were reported from five locations

(SSP,YO,BED, Ryot, Alum Bank). The only **Red-bellied Woodpecker** report was at YO 4/7 (GH), while **Red-headed Woodpecker** reports came from YO 5/7-13 (GH) and from Belden 5/18 to 6/6 (JTC).

The enigma of the **Whip-poor-will**: Are these birds holding their own, decreasing, or possibly on the increase in some areas? They were classified as "Status Undetermined" by Special Publication No. 11 of the Carnegie Museum of Natural History. Although I received 3 Whip reports (DH,JS) I have noticed many historic haunts being vacated; of course, succession, development, or pasturing may have steered them elsewhere. But recently the threat of prolonged heavy rain was brought to my attention by Janet Shaffer who found a starving Whip, after two weeks of rain, on 5/14. She wonders, as I do, whether a lack of flying moths over prolonged periods of wet weather can really plummet populations. Janet and I would appreciate other compilers to make special attempts to encourage reporting of this species. This seems reasonable since **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS** is the forum for clearing up these obscurities.

**Barn Swallow** returned about 4/20, however, after two weeks of rain in May many left barnyards for open water, where they could be seen hawking mayflies. On 5/7, an estimated 10,000 swallows, all 5 species, were seen cruising over the water at SSP. By the end of May the weather had broken and most Barn Swallow had returned to farms. The only report of **Purple Martin** comes from Cessna, where 8 were counted 6/19 (JTC).

**Carolina Wren** was reported from BED 5/2 (JS). The Audubon Century Count produced a **Marsh Wren** at SSP 5/17 (RS,RM). **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** were in YO 4/26 (GH) and BV 5/1 (JS). **Golden-crowned Kinglet** high was 12 at Saylor Bog 4/10. One **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was at YO 4/1 (GH). The earliest returns for spot-breasted thrushes (all at AF) were: **Wood** 4/24, **Hermit** 5/4, **Swainson's** 5/16, and **Veery** 5/11. **E. Bluebird** was well reported, especially as migrants mixed with many over-wintering flocks.

Earliest return for **Gray Catbird** 4/25 and for **Brown Thrasher** 4/18, both at YO (GH). **Cedar Waxwing** were widely reported with a high of 30 at YO 5/25 (GH). Earliest **Solitary Vireo** was 5/4 at AF, while by 5/17 they were on nest at SSP (RS). **Yellow-throated Vireo** were in YO 5/6 and **Warbling Vireo** were found in YO and SSP.

The warbler flight started in earnest 5/4, with good movement of **Black-and-white**, **Chestnut-sided**, **Black-throated Blue**, **Hooded**, and **Black-throated Green**. The flight peaked between 5/4-17. Although 33 species were reported, the best find was an **Orange-crowned** at AF 5/4, with the second best a **Mourning** banded by JS 5/29. Largest number of a single species was 20 singing ♂ **Yellow** at SSP. **Golden-winged** continue to be much more common than **Blue-winged** in *Bedford*. **Pine** were found singing on territory at Chaneyville 5/17 (RS). The **Yellow-throated Warbler** still eludes *Bedford* birders, despite the large number of meandering sycamore lined streams. On 5/11, after 11 days of rain, I found a small swamp near SSP where 4 **Wilson's**, 3 **Yellow-rumped**, and 3 **Louisiana Waterthrush** were carefully plucking insects from aquatic plants.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak** early date was 4/30 at AF. Earliest **Indigo Bunting** was 4/30 at Belden (JTC). **Grasshopper Sparrow** arrived on AF 4/22, with **Henslow's** following 4/28. Earliest **Vesper** were 4/3 at AF, with a high of 8 in BV (DH). Earliest **Savannah** was found at YO 4/13 (GH) and nesting 5/10 at AF. **Dark-eyed Junco** were singing on territory at AF 5/10. **White-crowned** moved through between 4/5 and 5/11. Other sparrow dates from YO (GH) were: **Fox** 4/14; **Lincoln's** 4/20; and **Swamp** 4/15.

Icterids of interest included **Orchard Oriole** at Belden 5/9 (TC) followed by a report from YO 5/19 (GH), and **N. Oriole** at SSP 5/9. Earliest **Scarlet Tanager** was 5/3 at Pennsylvania Hollow (JS). Of three feeder reports, each reported from 3-9 pairs of **Purple Finch** when they had few during the winter.

OBSERVERS: Jeff Belford, Jack & Terry Carnila, Sally & Thomas Dick, 1003 Eisenhower Blvd., Johnstown 15904 (814-266-7912), Tim Fox, Margaret Haines, Gordon Hassel, Donna Housel, Jeff Payne, Ruth Sager, Janet Shaffer, Charles Voytko.

**CORRIGENDUM:** In the Jan-Mar '89 report the **Tree Swallow** reported 1/5 was an **Am. Tree Sparrow** (JS).

## BERKS COUNTY

Rudy Keller

*Abbreviations: Big Spring Farm, Robesonia (BSF); Blue Marsh L. (BML); Hawk Mt. Sanctuary (HMS); Kaercher Creek Park, Hamburg (KCP); L. Ontelaunee (LO); Kittatinny Ridge above Shartlesville (SGL 110).*

A dry April was followed by a wet May and June, with spells of rainy weather at peak migration times. In spite of that, most passerines arrived or passed through at expected times and in normal numbers. Weather patterns produced some waves, or at least swells, of birds. A warm front 4/30 brought with it about 10 warbler  *spp.* and other songbirds, and clearing weather 5/17, after a week of rain, resulted in good warbler counts for the next four days. More evidence that birds move in spite of bad weather comes from Kerry Grim, whose best warbler day at SGL 110 was 5/14, a rainy, foggy day at the end of a rainy week. He counted 18  *spp.*, saying that many birds passed unidentified in the rain.

There were seven reports of **Double-crested Cormorant**, with 35 at KCP by far the largest group (KDG). An **Am. Bittern** was seen below HMS 5/13 (FBH  *et al.*). The first **Great Egret** was at LO 4/23 (MS); another at KCP 5/11 (KG). Also at KCP that day was a **Tricolored Heron**, a rare find in Berks (KG). A **Cattle Egret**, unusual, was at BSF 5/9 (IW).

Fifteen **Tundra Swan** were at LO and 1 near Oley 4/2 (RK,MS). A "blue" **Snow Goose** was also near Oley 4/2 (RK). Out of a flock of 11 "white" Swans near Oley 4/22, 2 imm. birds lingered till 5/29, changing to ad. plumage (RK). Five **Wood Duck** broods totaling 29 ducklings were reported from May to July at BML and the Manatawny Cr. (RK,MS). A ♂ **Ring-necked Duck**, said to have been present for "weeks," was seen at a pond near the Berks Ag Center 6/30 (HJS). A ♀ **Greater Scaup** remained at a pond near Huff's Church 4/2-5/13 (RK). Six **Oldsquaw** and 13 **White-winged Scoter** were at LO 4/9 (RK,MS). A ♂ **Bufflehead** was still at BSF 6/21 (MS), probably the same bird that wintered there. A ♀ **Hooded Merganser** was at BSF 6/18 (MS). High count of **Ruddy Duck** was 19 at LO 4/16 (MS).

A **Black Vulture** nest was found at French Creek SP 6/1 near the site where a pair nested last year (RB). Eight **Osprey** sightings were received, the latest of a bird that stayed in Marion Twp the whole first week of June ( *fide* LG). An imm. **Bald Eagle** was at LO 4/23, 30 (MS). There were some unusual late May and June reports of **N. Harrier**; single ♀♀ were seen near BML 5/21 and 6/11, and 2 ♀ were in that area 5/28 (MS). A ♂ was seen in Tilden Twp 6/17 (KG). A thermaling **Cooper's Hawk** was being mobbed by **Purple Martin** in Hamburg 6/18 (KG), and a pair nested at another location ( *fide* RK). No spring hawk count at HMS.

A **Common Moorhen** was at Grings Mill Park 6/11 (BM), and an **Am. Coot** was at Peters Cr. 6/18, 20 (MS). Ten **Spotted Sandpiper** were feeding with robins on a soggy lawn in Hamburg 5/11 (KG). An **Upland Sandpiper** was seen in a field along the road to HMS near Albany 6/9 (LG). This species has been found in that area during the nesting season in previous years. An **Am. Woodcock** was flushed from a nest with eggs at LO 4/30 (RB). **Bonaparte's Gull** peaked at 7 at LO 4/22 (RK,MS). Terns at LO were 2 **Caspian** 4/22 (RK), 1 **Forster's** 5/6 (FBH), and 8 **Black** 5/6 (FBH) and 5 on 5/7 (MS).

This year's Gypsy Moth build-up greatly increased the number of **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**, and there were five reports of **Black-billed Cuckoo**, two during the nesting season (RK,HJS). A nestbox placed in an abandoned silo containing owl pellets this spring was quickly occupied by a **Barn Owl** pair and contained five eggs 5/31 (RB). The young were later banded. A ♀ **E. Screech-Owl** and 5 nestlings discovered in a Wood Duck box at Daniel Boone Homestead were banded 5/24 (RB). In Pike Twp on the evening of 4/4, just as an **Am. Woodcock** had finished beeping and taken off on a courtship flight, a **Whip-poor-will** let loose a series of calls from a nearby bush, startling the woodcock into changing its flight path (RK). The Whip-poor-will was at least *two weeks* earlier than normal; 2 others were calling at SGL #110 on 6/26 (KG). **Red-headed Woodpecker** was discovered at yet another probable nesting location, this time near Lyons (RK). An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was spotted at HMS 5/15 (LG). In Hamburg, the arrival date for **Purple Martin** was 4/17 and for **Bank Swallow** 4/11 (KG). A probable and a confirmed nesting for **Fish Crow** were recorded, both far from major streams and lakes. The confirmed nesting was in an area where these crows had not nested before (RK). Is this species increasing?

**Winter Wren** was seen at SGL 110 on 5/21 by KG. He has found this species in summer farther e. along the Kittatinny Ridge near Port Clinton than in previous years. A **Hermit Thrush** was singing at SGL #110 on 5/13, 21, and 2 were heard 6/26. This is another northern species that has been found along the Kittatinny Ridge in recent summers. Nesting has been confirmed at HMS (*vide* KG).

Birders reported 5 vireo and 32 warbler *spp.* this spring. Early and late birds, breeding reports and unusual records follow. A **White-eyed Vireo** at SGL 110 on 4/30 was a bit early (KG). Three pairs of **Warbling Vireo** were found along the Maiden Cr. and Stony Run near Kempton in June (RK). **Golden-winged Warbler**, infrequently reported, were at HMS 5/1 (LG) and Pine Swamp Rd. below HMS 5/13 (FBH *et al.*). Three **N. Parula** were singing near Eckville, Kempton, and Oley in late June and July (RK, MS). Atasing has shown this species to be more common than expected. Three **Chestnut-sided** were singing in a deer browse cut at SGL 110 on 6/26 (KG). A ♂ **Black-throated Green** in Pike Twp 6/10 was really trailing the pack. On a ridge above the Schuylkill R. near Reading 4/13, RB watched a **Palm Warbler** wave of more than 50 birds. They congregated there to feed on a large number of newly emerged flies before taking off across the river. An *18-spp.* warbler wavelet that passed through Pike Twp 5/18 contained 3 **Cerulean** (RK). A **N. Waterthrush** was at SGL 110 on 5/14, and a **Mourning** was there 5/20 (KG). On a 5.8-mi. walk at SGL 110 on 5/21, KG tallied 13 warbler *spp.*, including 14 **Black-and-white**, 123 **Ovenbird**, 44 **Common Yellowthroat** and 12 **Canada**. He thinks the Ovenbird numbers were low because the wind reduced singing.

All three grassland sparrows were reported on territory at several sites. **Savannah Sparrow**, the least common, was heard in June and July at five places near Fleetwood, where Dr. Earl L. Poole observed them in the early fifties. It was encouraging to get four reports of **Bobolink** in the nesting season, but poignant and frustrating to watch a colony of six ♂ singing in a hayfield pocked with perk tests for yet another 20-home development. This colony was discovered in 1988 and will probably be lost in 1990 (RK). At least 26 **E. Meadowlark** were on territory in May at four scattered sites (KG, RK). Atasing has revealed that **Orchard Oriole** is quite common in n. *Berks* farmland. There were reports of at least 9 territorial males at three locations, at one of which the birds were more numerous than **N. Oriole** (KG, RK). Spring migration didn't put **Purple Finch** on many lists, as only 2 were reported 4/22, 26 (KG, RK).

OBSERVERS: Ed Barrell, Rich Bonnett, Laurie Goodrich, Kenneth & Dorothy Grim, Kerry Grim, Frank & Barb Haas, **Rudy Keller, RD 4, Box 235, Boyertown 19512 (215-367-9376)**, Joanne Kintner, Bill Munroe, Jean Patton, Harold & Joan Silagy, Matt Spence, Ira Weigley, Matt Wlasniewski.

## BLAIR COUNTY

Dave Kyler

*Abbreviations: Altoona Sportsman's Club (ASC), Brush Mt. (BM), Canoe Cr. SP (CCSP), L. Altoona (LA), Mill Run Res. (MRR), Sinking Valley (SV).*

In this era of weather extremes, the hot and dry Spring of '88 giving way to the cool and wet Spring of '89 should have come as no surprise. The prolonged and frequent periods of rain almost certainly had a negative effect on nesting success. Uncommon species found included: **White-winged Scoter**, **Black Tern**, **Least Bittern**, and "**Brewster's**" **Warbler**.

Four **Common Loon** were found at CCSP 4/4 (TW, RW) and 1 ad. was observed at LA from 5/3 to 6/3 (BK). Grebe were represented by **Pied-billed** at CCSP 4/19 and **Horned** 4/16. A **Least Bittern** made its appearance for the inaugural Juniata Valley Audubon "birdathon" held 5/13. It remained lakeside at CCSP for close-up photographs through 5/14 (BK). Two **White-winged Scoter** were found at MRR 4/3 (BK). Other noteworthy waterfowl include 15 **Oldsquaw** and 6 **Ruddy Duck** at CCSP 4/11 (TW, RW).

Raptors were limited to a ♀ **N. Harrier** found in SV 6/4 (DK) and a family of 7 nesting **Barn Owl** also in SV 4/25 (ML). **Bonaparte's Gull** made use of CCSP 4/8, 11, 23 with the following numbers seen: 20 (TW), 57 (RW), and 185 (DK). All of the above dates were rain days. Four **Dunlin**, 5 **Caspian Tern**, and 11 **Black Tern** were all present at CCSP 4/11 as well.

A long-winged **Whip-poor-will** (52 calls) and a **Red-headed Woodpecker** (*1st sighting in 17 years*) found their way to BM 4/29

and 5/15 respectively (MB). **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** were found drumming at ASC 4/8 (BK). Traditional **Bank Swallow** colonies, usually found near Tyrone and Williamsburg, were abandoned this year. A **Winter Wren**, found 4/15, was still singing 6/10 and may have nested on BM, which was also home to a **Hermit Thrush** 4/8 (MB).

An early ♂ **Am. Redstart** was seen adjacent to the CCSP headquarters building 4/15 (TW) and a "**Brewster's**" **Warbler** was located at ASC 5/28 (BK). Finally, Bonta reported that all 5 **Louisiana Waterthrush** found stream-side 5/14 successfully fledged 5/29.

OBSERVERS: Marcia Bonta, Bill King, **David Kyler, RD 4, Box 159A, Huntingdon 16652 (814-643-6030)**, Melvin Lane, Russ Wade, Terry Wentz.

## BRADFORD COUNTY

Bill Reid

April continued the long series of dry months in this region, but with the coming of May there were also heavy periods of rain. The 8.08" recorded at Avoca broke the old record of 7.62" set in 1946, and was more than *twice the normal* for the month. June, while not breaking any records, was still well above normal in precipitation.

With the heavy rains in May, river levels were high, and migrating shorebirds were very scarce, most species went unrecorded. Breeding warblers came in normal numbers, but non-breeding species (**Cape May**, **Tennessee**, **Bay-breasted**, **Blackpoll**, etc.) were scarce. Probably related to the very high water levels of mountain creeks in May was the almost total absence of **Louisiana Waterthrush** through the breeding season. Normal numbers were present in late April, but following the heavy rains, they were almost totally missing. The writer worked extensively in 11 Atlas blocks; though he looked in numerous areas where Louisiana Waterthrush would be expected, not a *single* bird was recorded in any of these blocks. It is suspected that the swollen streams played havoc with the species.

A highlight of the season was the great comeback of **Winter Wren**. They were found in all four counties through the summer, many of them showing up in areas where they have not been found during the heavy atasing of recent years. Both **cuckoos** have come back from low numbers of a few years ago. **Brown Creeper** were above-average in numbers. A number of observers noted large numbers of **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**, with many of them coming to feeding stations. All reports from compiler unless otherwise noted.

*Abbreviations: Spring Hill (SH), Standing Stone (SS).*

Unusual were 2 **Double-crested Cormorant** at SS 5/13 (DG, TG, EW) and another at SH 5/31 (EB, WR). A pair of **Common Merganser** was seen at Mercur 5/31. An ad. **Cooper's Hawk** was seen catching a young Red-winged Blackbird near E. Smithfield 7/17. On 6/25, 8 **Virginia Rail**, 1 **Sora**, and 1 **Common Moorhen** were recorded at a swamp at SS. A **Barred Owl** was heard at SH 5/31.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** were noted at two stops on the Wyalusing BBS and may reflect an increase in the species. Two **Winter Wren** at Camptown and another near Wyalusing 6/1 were apparently on territory. Forty **Water Pipit** near Rome 5/5 were late. A **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was found near W. Burlington 7/17; and a **Yellow-breasted Chat** was at Lime Hill 6/1.

Unusual were 5 **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** and a **Scarlet Tanager** at a feeder at SH at the same time (EB). **Vesper Sparrow** were found at Rome, Mercur, and E. Smithfield. **Grasshopper Sparrow** were present at Mercur, E. Troy, and W. Burlington. The only **Henslow's Sparrow** report was of 1 at Mercur 5/30. A **Purple Finch** was seen at Rome 6/25.

OBSERVERS: Elizabeth Beebe, Doreen & Trudy Gerlach, **William Reid, 73 W. Ross St., Wilkes-Barre 18702 (717-836-2525)**, Erika Wilson.

## BUCKS COUNTY

Bruce McNaught

*Abbreviations: Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve (BHWP), Delaware R. (DR), Peace Valley Park (PVP), Tinicum Twp (TT).*

Some of the best birding this spring was during our Audubon birdathon held 5/13. This year 10 teams numbering 29 bodies ventured into the field before dawn, restricted to the county borders. Volunteers topped off the long day of birding with a picnic to tell "war stories" and celebrate the record 151 total species for the day. The winning team,



under Hart Rufe's leadership, saw 111 species. Highlights are included in the report below.

There were many reports of **Common Loon** with the last reported sighting a pair on high flood water of the DR 5/19 (BAM). Fifteen **Horned Grebe** were at L. Galena at PVP 4/15 (KR). **Black-crowned Night-Heron** are becoming a common sight at PVP, with the first noted 4/20 (KK). **Double-crested Cormorant** were well represented, being seen regularly all period along the river, and in large reservoirs such as L. Galena. An **Am. Bittern**, rare, was seen regularly around the Chapman bridge at PVP 4/13 to 5/6 (DA).

A pair of **Mute Swan** appeared at PVP 6/18-30 (AM) and seem to be setting up residence. An **Oldsquaw** was seen at PVP 4/18 and another several days later at L. Luxemburg 4/21 (DA). Two **Red-breasted Merganser** and 1 **Ruddy Duck** at PVP 6/10 were record late dates for that location (KK).

**Bald Eagle** were seen in a number of areas: PVP 4/8, 4/21, 4/25, and 5/6 (A&JM), 2 along Nockamixon Cliffs on the DR 5/13 (HR), and 2 flying N in TT 6/21 (SF). A confirmed nesting of **Cooper's Hawk** with 3 fledged young (*location deleted*) was a county site record for the BBAP (SF). A sighting of a **N. Goshawk** at BHWP by one of the birdathon teams 5/13 was a new species for that event (BAM). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was seen in TT 5/13 and a 2nd year bird (*location deleted*) 6/29 (RF). These two areas are where the species has been confirmed for the BBAP. A new nesting site for **Broad-winged Hawk** was found on the birdathon (TS). A **Peregrine Falcon** was seen sitting high on the walls of a quarry in TT 6/22 (JE). We checked back at this quarry several times, but never saw the bird. One **Am. Coot** was seen at PVP 5/16 (CJ). A **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was once again found mixed in with hundreds of other gulls at Grows Landfill in Lower Bucks 5/13 (RF). They have been seen here on various counts for the last several years.

Both **Black-billed** and **Yellow-billed** cuckoos have been found in good numbers starting in early May. Four Yellow-billed were seen in one location near the Neshaminy Cr. at PVP 5/13 (BAM). A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was seen by a birding group at the top of BHWP 5/13 (GE *et al.*). **Purple Martin** were seen in several locations along the DR and migrating up river 5/13-15 (BAM). A new active colony was discovered on a farm near Pipersville 6/24 (RF). A late **Winter Wren** was reported at PVP 5/18 (DA). **E. Bluebird** had a difficult time this spring because of heavy rains. There were reports of abandoned nests and dead young in flooded boxes. They seemed to have fared a bit better later in the season (RH).

A **Philadelphia Vireo** was at PVP 4/29 and a **Golden-winged Warbler** 6/3 (BAM), both rare birds for that park. The top of BHWP in Washington Crossing SP proved to be one of the hottest warblering areas, attracting birders from near and far. Nesting **Worm-eating**, **Chestnut-sided**, **Cerulean**, and **Hooded** warblers were reported, also several locations for **Yellow-throated Vireo** nests. On 5/16, one small warbler flurry produced many species, including nearly a dozen **Blackburnian** (BAM). A **Prothonotary Warbler** was seen on territory for five days, 5/28 to 6/1, at a small wooded marsh in TT. The bird repeatedly explored an artificial nesting box put up over the water and sang to attract a mate, to no avail. This is the most northern attempted nesting in *Bucks* of which we are aware. A **Mourning Warbler** seen at PVP 5/27 was the only report.

A ♂ **Blue Grosbeak** was singing from a hedgerow in New Britain Twp 6/25. This species has been reported more commonly over the last several years; however, this was the only report in 1989. A late **Dark-eyed Junco** was reported at a feeding station in TT 5/26 (SF).

Farmers were not able to get into hay fields for cutting this spring because of wet ground, so **E. Meadowlark** and **Bobolink** fared much better than normal. Several new nesting locations for Bobolink were reported in Tinicum and Solebury Twps and singing meadowlarks were seen near many uncut fields in June in every part of the county.

OBSERVERS: Don Aiman, Jane Earle, Greg Edinger, Steve Farbotnik, Ron French, Ray Hendrick, Corey Jarin, Ken Kitson, Bruce A. McNaught, RD 1, Box 263A, New Hope 18938 (215-297-5880), Augie & Judy Mirabella, Ken Reiker, Hart Rufe, Terry Shaffer.

## CAMBRIA COUNTY

Tim Fox

*Abbreviations: Duman's Dam (DD), Prince Gallitzin SP (PGSP), Richland Twp (RT), Summerhill Twp (ST), Upper Yoder Twp (UYT), Wilmore Dam (WD), University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown (UPJ).*

Observations are by compiler unless otherwise noted.

Waterfowl migrants lingered until mid-April. Ten **Common Loon** and 100 **Pied-billed Grebe** were at PGSP 4/1. **Double-crested Cormorant** were at PGSP and WD 4/15 and 5/15 respectively (JS). **Wood Duck** were noted at PGSP and Ebensburg Res. 4/1 and **Am. Wigeon** at PGSP 4/15 (JS). Four **Redhead** were at PGSP 4/1 and 30 **Lesser Scaup** noted there 4/1, 15 (JS). **Blue-winged Teal** were found at DD (GS,DS) and PGSP (JS), plus 4 **Bufflehead** at PGSP, all 4/1. Eight **Common Merganser** were at PGSP 4/1 (JS).

A **Common Moorhen** was at PGSP 4/15 (JS). **Osprey** were noted at WD 4/6 and at DD 4/16 (GL,CL). A **Broad-winged Hawk** was seen in Ebensburg 4/28. **N. Bobwhite** were in UYT 5/15 (MT). A **Bona-partie's Gull** was seen 4/1, while 23 were noted 4/23 (JS).

**Hermit Thrush** were seen in RT 4/17-19 (TD). A **Gray-checked Thrush** was at WD 4/6. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** went through PGSP 4/23 (JS), while a **Brown Thrasher** was first seen in UPJ 4/22.

The best warbler had to be the **Prothonotary** at WD 5/17. The others were on time and expected. A **Summer Tanager** was unexpected at WD 5/14.

OBSERVERS: Sally & Tom Dick, Tim Fox, P.O. Box 352, Summerhill 15958, Clay & Gloria Lamer, John Salvetti, Lynn Sanderson, Daniel & Georgette Syster, Mary Torledsky.

*The following report was sent, but never received, for the last quarter and so is included at this time. Jan. to Mar. 1989*

This quarter, as expected, was extremely light. Many of the sightings came the last three weeks. The observers below are to be thanked for their enthusiastic contributions, without which our area would be completely misrepresented. Sightings are by compiler unless otherwise noted.

*Abbreviations: Cambria County Park (CCP - Duman Dam/Belsano Area), Ebensburg Area (EA), Prince Gallitzin SP (PGSP), Richland Twp (RT), Summerhill Twp (ST).*

Nineteen **Am. Robin** were in ST 2/21. A trip to CCP 3/16 yielded **Lesser Scaup**, **Ring-necked Duck**, **N. Harrier**, 2 pair **Am. Kestrel**, 4 **E. Bluebird**, **Am. Crow**, 7 **Song Sparrow**, **Common Grackle**, and **Red-winged Blackbird** (GS, GL). Three **Ring-necked Pheasant** and 1 **Killdeer** were in EA 3/21.

Five **Wood Duck** were seen 3/25. An **E. Phoebe** was at WD 3/27. At PGSP 3/18 were: 2 **Pied-billed Grebe**, 1 **Great Blue Heron**, 4 **Wood Duck**, 30 **Mallard**, 80 **Ring-necked Duck**, 1 **N. Harrier**, 20 **Tree Swallow**, **E. Bluebird**, and 6 **Tree Sparrow**.

Three **Wild Turkey**, an **E. Phoebe**, and 20 **Cedar Waxwing** were in RT 3/26 (TD).

OBSERVERS: Alice Beatty, Thomas Dick, Tim Fox, P.O. Box 352, Summerhill 15958 (814-495-9011), Clay & Gloria Lamer, John Salvetti, Daniel & Georgette Syster.

## CARBON COUNTY

Bernie Morris

*Abbreviations: Beltzville SP (BSP), Wild Creek Res. (WCR).* All records by Rick Wiltraut at these locations unless otherwise noted.

The rains of early spring made land birding difficult, but they did bring down some excellent water birds. A very late **Red-throated Loon** was seen 5/6, 9 **Horned Grebe** 4/6, and another as late as 5/2. **Double-crested Cormorant** were found at WCR 5/13 (FB,AK,SS,JZ), and in Penn Forest 5/10. **Oldsquaw** were seen from 4/6 until the record late date 4/29. Two **Surf Scoter** and 7 **White-winged Scoter** were seen 5/10, record late dates for both species. A **Red-breasted Merganser** was found 4/6. A **Dunlin** was seen eating earthworms in the parking lot at BSP 5/24.

On 4/27, 12 **Bonaparte's Gull** were seen. An ad. **Laughing Gull**, 1st Carbon record, was seen 5/2. Other birds that day were 5 **Bonaparte's Gull**, a **Black Tern**, and 2 **Common Tern**. Both terns were record early dates. A **Forster's Tern** was seen at BSP 4/22 (RZ), and 12 others 5/10. Two other **Common Tern** were seen 6/7, and a **Caspian Tern** was seen 5/6.

On 6/14, 5 species of swallows, but no **Purple Martin**, were seen all together along a bridge near the Mahoning Valley Tpk exit, unusual in the breeding season; and 75-80 **Cliff Swallow** nests were seen at the Francis Walter Dam 6/30 (RW). A singing **Worm-eating Warbler** was seen at WCR 6/1 (BS,RW). Other breeding warblers found were **Blackburnian** (RW), **Pine** and **Am. Redstart** (ER), **Hooded** (RZ), and **Black-throated Blue**, **Nashville**, and **Chestnut-sided** (BLM). A singing **Orchard Oriole** was at BSP 6/1 (RW).

On 5/16, in a driving rain storm, Rick Wiltraut was birding at BSP. He found 2 **Bonaparte's Gulls** (good), a **Laughing Gull** (better, only the 2nd county record), and a pair of **Arctic Tern** (best). This is the 1st documented record for the state this century. According to Warren (cited in Poole 1964) there were 3 specimens taken in the state prior to 1890, but the specimens have disappeared and the only recent records have been sight records in Erie in 1983. Many other lucky birders saw these birds later that same day, but they were gone the next morning. Please see the article on this sighting elsewhere in this issue.



Arctic Terns, Beltzville S.P., 5/16/89. Photo by Rick Wiltraut.

OBSERVERS: Fritz Brock, Arlene Koch, **Bernard L. Morris**, 825 N. Muhlenberg St., Allentown 18104 (215-435-9134), Ed Reiman, Brad Silfies, Steve Smith, Rick Wiltraut, Richard ZainEldeen, Joe Zajacek.

## CENTRE COUNTY

John and Becky Peplinski

Abbreviations: Bald Eagle S.P. (BESP), Black Moshannon SP (BMSP), Colyer L. (CL).

April was the third driest on record in State College with only 0.70" of rainfall (-2.7). May began a cool, wet period with 6.15" (+2.2), and this trend continued through June with 8.6" (+4.7). Temperatures were below normal all three months: April 44.7° (-4.3), May 55.9° (-3.6), and June 67.2° (-0.8).

Single **Red-throated Loon** were at BESP 4/26 (ES), 4/29 (HH), and 5/31, a late date (MW). The only **Red-necked Grebe** was the 1 at BESP 4/9 (JP, BP m.ob.). **Double-crested Cormorant** reports included 3 at BESP 4/29 (HH), 1 at BMSP 5/2 (JP, BP), and 1 at BESP 6/15 (MW). It was a good spring for **Am. Bittern** sightings, as reports included singles at BESP 4/9 (MW), CL 4/21 (KJ, JJ), and Fairbrook 4/30 (JP, BP). One **Great Egret** was at Linden Hall Pond 4/16 (KJ, JJ) and another at Centre Furnace Pond 5/14 (DB). The ad. **Black-crowned Night-Heron** at the Centre Furnace Pond 5/14 was an excellent sighting (DB). Waterfowl reports included 6 **Blue-winged Teal** at CL 4/23 (KJ, JJ); 4 **N. Shoveler** at CL 4/10 (MW); 2 **Am. Wigeon** at CL 4/1 (KJ, JJ). Nine **White-winged Scoter** were at BESP 4/29 (HH), 5 there 4/30 (JP, BP), and 7 at CL 5/18 (MW).

**Turkey Vulture** are not unusual in Centre, but the 81 seen leaving a roost 4/10 was a large concentration for the State College area (JP). A late **Osprey** was at CL 6/4 (KJ, JJ). **Bald Eagle** sightings came from BMSP, with single imm. 5/25 (PL, DL) and 6/11 (JJ, GY), and an ad. 5/27 (GG, DG). Two **Virginia Rail** were at Toftrees Pond 4/22 (JP, BP) and 1 at BESP 4/26 (ES). Single **Sora** were there 4/22, 29 (JP, BP).

Shorebird sightings included 2 **Black-bellied Plover** and 1 **Semipalmated Plover** at BESP 5/11 (MW); **Greater Yellowlegs** - 1 at Stone Valley 4/25 (MW), 2 at BMSP 4/26 (MW), 1 at Fairbrook 4/30 (HH), and 1 at BESP 5/11 (MW); **Lesser Yellowlegs** - 1 at Fairbrook 4/30 (HH); 1 **Solitary Sandpiper** at Toftrees 4/29 and 1 at BESP 4/30 (JP, BP). The best shorebird of the season was **Ruddy Turnstone**, with singles at BESP 5/11 and 5/28 (MW). Two **Pectoral**

**Sandpiper** and 5 **Dunlin** were at BESP 5/11 (MW). The only **Caspian Tern** seen was 1 at BESP 6/13 (MW). One **Common Tern** was at BMSP 4/26 (MW) and 1 at BESP 6/13 (MW). A **Forster's Tern** was at BESP 4/29 (HH).

The **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** at CL (MW) 5/2 set a State College early record date by one day. A single **Long-eared Owl** near the Scotia Pond (DB) 5/14 provided the only record of this species during the past year. The only **Short-eared Owl** that was seen was the 1 at BESP 4/9 (EZ). One **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at Bear Meadows 5/20 (RH, m.ob.). A **Marsh Wren** was at the Toftrees Pond 4/22 (JP, BP). The **N. Shrike** that wintered at BESP was last observed 4/9 (MW), an area late date for this species by almost 3 weeks!

Warbler migration was rated as a good one by many observers. At least 8 species had arrived by the end of April. **Henslow's Sparrow** were reported from at least two of the usual locations in fields along the Allegheny Front, with the first seen 5/13 (GB, EZ). Two "**Oregon**" **Junco** were at a feeder in State College from 4/9-22 (KJ, JJ).

OBSERVERS: Dave & Gail Butler, Greg & Deborah Grove, Randy Harrison, Harry Henderson, Katherine & Jennings Jones, Pearl & Donald Laird, **John & Becky Peplinski**, 4 Beaver Branch Rd., Box 364, Pennsylvania Furnace 16865 (814-238-6541), Edgar Spalding, Merrill Wood, George Young, Eugene Zielinski.

## CHESTER COUNTY

Jerry Pasquarella

Abbreviations: Hibernia Park (HP), Kurtz's Fish Farm (KFF), Marsh Creek SP (MCSP), Nottingham Park (NP), Octoraro L. (OL), Struble Bike Trail (SBT), Struble L. (SL), West Chester Bird Club (WCBC).

The season was unusually wet, with well-above average precipitation; temperatures were average. There were no strong fronts to produce any noticeable migration waves, yet sightings were about average with some species not seen very regularly. The WCBC annually counts all species observed in the county from mid-April until mid-May plus a Big Day round-up which was held 5/13. Total species was down to 197 this year from last year's highest ever count of 206.

**Common Loon** were seen in good numbers, particularly at MCSP, with latest sighting 5/13. Also well reported was **Horned Grebe**, the last 4/22. Many observers reported seeing many **Double-crested Cormorant**, with flocks numbering as many as 20 indiv., especially in the areas of MCSP & SL. **Black-crowned Night-Heron** were at their usual roosts at OR and near Honeybrook 4/17 to 6/4. A **Snowy Egret** at OR 6/4 was a rather unusual find. **Great Blue Heron** were best represented in the s. portion, with 30 indiv. counted only on the Chester side of the OR.

A max. of 5 **Tundra Swan** were at SL 4/7-8. A **Snow Goose** (blue morph) was on a pond near KFF 6/21-22. A pair of **N. Shoveler** were at the Honeybrook Sewage Plant 5/7-11. Also there rather late were 2 **Gadwall** 4/16. A **Canvasback** was at KFF 4/2. One **Greater Scaup** was at the sewage plant 4/18. **Lesser Scaup** remained until 5/14. A **White-winged Scoter** was at MCSP 4/3-7. **Oldsquaw** sightings were exceptional: Indiv. were present until 4/20, with 2 at MCSP 4/19. A ♀ **Common Goldeneye** was a nice find at MCSP 4/4. **Bufflehead** were last seen 5/13. **Red-breasted Merganser** were in good numbers and some stayed rather late, such as 2 ♀ at KFF 5/12 and another ♀ at MCSP 5/11. Three **Hooded Merganser** were at KFF 4/26.

**Bald Eagle** reports were: an imm. at KFF (this bird knew where to hunt); 2 imm. at OR 4/16 and a 2nd-year bird there 6/4. At HP 4/30, 1 **N. Goshawk** was a nice find. **Merlin** reports were of single birds at SL 4/17 and a fly-over near Coatesville 5/2. A **Ruffed Grouse** was drumming 4/27 at Welkinweir Estate near Prizer. A total of 7 **Virginia Rail** and 4 **Sora** was tallied in two locations 5/13 (WCBC); One site was Moore's Marsh near Elverson and the other the new county park near Embreeville. While the majority of **Am. Coot** had departed by late April, 1 stayed at SL as late as 6/14.

Probably due to excessive water levels, shorebirds were a rare treat this spring. The following were seen in late April: **Greater** and **Lesser yellowlegs**, **Solitary** and **Spotted sandpipers**.

For the first time in 10 years the WCBC recorded **Laughing Gull** for Spring; 2 were at SL 5/2. The 1 at KFF 5/13 marked the first time in 26 years that a Laughing Gull was seen on the WCBC round-up. **Bonaparte's Gull** were in very good numbers compared to years past, with as many as 30 at MCSP 4/23. Five **Common Tern** were at SL 5/8-11 and 2 at KFF 5/13. Four **Forster's Tern** were at MCSP 5/2 and 1 was late at SL 6/14. A **Caspian Tern** was at OR 4/21. Two



**Black Tern** were at SL and the sewage plant 5/2-8.

Both species of cuckoo were reported, but in much fewer numbers than last year, particularly along the E. branch of Brandywine Cr. near MCSP. Six **Common Nighthawk** flew over NP 5/19. **Whip-poor-will** continue at NP and I was delighted to hear 1 in my yard at dusk 4/30. **Red-headed Woodpecker** were seen in three different locations, including the Pleasant View Rd. area near Honeybrook. These are very good local sightings. Two **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**, a species not easy to find for the WCBC spring count, were a nice find near Doe Run 4/25. The only **Pileated Woodpecker** report was of the usual pair along the SBT.

A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was seen at MCSP 5/13. E. **Kingbird** was rather early at SL 4/24. Both **Bank** and **Cliff** swallows were near Honeybrook 4/25. Last date for **Brown Creeper** was 4/15. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** were "everywhere" in April.

The last **Hermit Thrush** was 4/26. An albino ♀ **Am. Robin** successfully raised a brood of 5 young (all with normal pigmentation) near Kimberton. **Cedar Waxwing** were "nonexistent" until mid-May. A **Solitary Vireo** near KFF 5/13 was rather late.

The **Blue-winged Warbler** which sang the Golden-winged song last year was back at the same spot near MCSP. A **Golden-winged Warbler** was seen near Elverson 5/14. I noted **Blackburnian** nearly every day from 5/7-21 in various locations. A **Cerulean** nested near Charlestown again this year. The only **Yellow-throated** was at Pickering Res. 6/3-4. The most reliable spot for **Worm-eating Warbler** continues to be along the s. portion of the SBT and near the covered bridge in Valley Forge National Historic Park.

While **Blue Grosbeak** reports were from the usual places in the s. part, it was a delight to hear a pair in Schuylkill Twp 6/3. **Vesper Sparrow** was rather hard to locate this spring, but 1 was at HP until at least 6/16. Last **White-throated Sparrow** was 5/24. At least 6 **Bobolink** were in fields near Phoenixville 4/15+. Some observers reported that **E. Meadowlark** seems to be doing better lately. **Purple Finch** was finally reported at feeders in various locales from mid-April until the first week of May.

OBSERVERS: Barry Blust, Tom Brown, Phyllis Hurlock, Jerry Pasquarella, 2209 Cranberry Lane, Coatesville 19320 (215-486-6440), Grier Saunders, Neal Thorpe, West Chester Bird Club, Ellie Wolf.

## CLARION COUNTY

Margaret Buckwalter

*Abbreviations: Clarion Area (CA) Cook Forest SP (CFSP), Curllsville (CV), Kahle L. (KL), Shippenville Area (SVA), Mt. Zion (MZ).*

Birding events centered around final PBBAP efforts and Seneca Rocks Audubon Society's birdathon on a cold, soggy 13 May. The April dry spell was over in May, with much rain and quite cold weather followed by a fairly wet June. Unless otherwise noted assume the observer is the compiler in SVA.

Six **Common Loon**, 5 in full breeding plumage, were found on KL 5/13 (F&JW). An **Am. Bittern** was apparently foraging for food in plain sight on a farm lawn in SVA 4/28. A **Greater Scaup** was present at KL 5/13. **Common Merganser** were present on the Clarion R. all quarter, seen in pairs until 5/25, with only females noted after that date.

An **Osprey** was at the Beaver Cr. ponds (J&FW) and also at KL 5/13. One **N. Harrier** was present at CV 5/13. The pair of **Red-shouldered Hawk** that nested (*location deleted*) last year has been seen and heard, 4/16+, but the nest has not been located. A light-phase **Rough-legged Hawk** was near Leeper 4/1 (LC). An **Am. Coot** was observed on KL 5/13.

The **Upland Sandpiper** were seen again this year at MZ (WF). A **Wilson's Phalarope** on a pond near Leeper was unusual 4/15 (LC). Several **Ring-billed Gull** and 3 **Black Tern** were at KL 5/12-13.

The **Short-eared Owls** that nested successfully last year were seen at CV 5/13 (MB,F&JW) and 5/14 (WF), but not after that. Their unaccountable disappearance seems all the more strange considering that on the above dates we witnessed clapping flight and soft hooting, both of which are evidence of courtship and breeding. Subsequent searching has failed to turn up the owls at either MZ or CV, or any place else in the county.

An obliging **N. Saw-whet Owl** called repeatedly practically in my front yard in SVA from 4/17 to 6/6 (full moon 4/21) whereupon it ceased calling. We searched, but could not find a nest. **Common Nighthawk** appeared 5/12 (late?). The first **Whip-poor-will** was heard at CFSP 5/26 (late?) and the first **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** not until 5/12 in SVA.

**Acadian Flycatcher** are more common than we had hitherto known, once we discovered their favorite habitat—steep hemlock ravines going down to the major rivers; they were first heard 5/26 in the valley of Hemlock Cr. First **Great Crested Flycatcher** was 5/17. **Cliff Swallow** again nested under the bridge at Cooksburg CFSP, but the colony seemed smaller this year with the first bird appearing 5/25.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch** were heard and seen 4/29 and 5/9 in CFSP and 1 turned up at a feeder in SVA 5/7. First **Wood Thrush** was 4/30. A **N. Mockingbird** was a good find at Leeper 5/30 (LC), but it did not stay around. First **Yellow-throated Vireo** was in SVA 6/8. First **Red-eyed Vireo** was 4/30; 1 indiv. was awkwardly chasing insects on the lawn 5/13. A vireo on the ground??

**Blue-winged Warbler** were present in the valley of Hemlock Cr. in the n. part of the county 6/18. A **Nashville Warbler** was counted on the birdathon in Clarion Borough 5/13. A **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was present at Leeper all quarter (LC). An oddity on the birdathon was two instances of a flock of **Yellow-rumped Warbler** hawking insects on the ground near small streams, at Leeper and KL. Another example of the scarcity of insects this spring! A **Palm Warbler** was found 5/13. **Mourning Warbler** were in the Hemlock Cr. valley 6/17+.

The first **Scarlet Tanager** was noted 5/13, but they seemed unusually abundant this year. **Fox Sparrow** remained at Leeper 4/3 (LC). The most interesting sparrow find was a **Lincoln's Sparrow** that boldly appeared on our woodpile and in our yard for two days during the cold weather 5/13-14. The first **N. Oriole** appeared 5/10, but later arrivals fought over the hummingbird feeders in the cold weather. An early **House Finch** fledgling was present 6/16.

OBSERVERS: Margaret Buckwalter, RD 2, Box 26, Shippenville 16254, Lois Callahan, Peter Dalby, Walter Fye, Fran & Jack Williams.

## CRAWFORD COUNTY

Ronald F. Leberman

*Abbreviations: Conneaut Marsh (CM), Erie NWR (ENWR), Hartstown Marsh (HM), Meadville (MDV), Pymatuning SP (including the Causeway, Fish Hatchery, Goose Management Area GMA), Spillway, Tamarack L. (TL), Woodcock L. (WL).* All records by Ron and/or Mary Leberman unless otherwise indicated.

The highlight for the quarter was a ♀ **Barrow's Goldeneye** found at PSP. More details below.

Eight **Common Loon** were in the MDV area 4/1. Grebe reports were: 6 **Pied-billed** at CM 4/16, 7 **Horned** at TL 4/1, and 1 **Red-necked** in winter plumage at Conneaut L. 4/2. High count for **Double-crested Cormorant** was 5 at PSP 5/14.

A **Least Bittern** was at HM 4/21. Single **Great Egret** were at PSP and CM 4/12 and at CM 5/14. One **Tundra Swan** remained at WL until at least 4/3 (RFL) and 3 **Mute Swan** were at HM 4/13 (MLB, MP). The 10 **Green-winged Teal** at PSP 4/21 was the best number in some time, while the best count for **Blue-winged Teal** at PSP was only 8 on 4/9 which was low. Twelve **N. Shoveler** were at HM 4/17 (RCL). The usual numbers of **Gadwall** were noted all quarter, with a high of 24 on 4/17 at PSP (RCL). A dozen **Greater Scaup** were on WL and 2 **Oldsquaw** seen at TL, both 4/1. The **Barrow's Goldeneye** was seen at close range near Ford I. at PSP 3/11 within 100' of shore with a 30x scope and 7 x 35 binoculars. It was watched for about 15 minutes in with other ♀ **Common Goldeneyes** for good comparison; it had a totally orange-orange bill (almost atomic orange) (RFL). **Bufflehead**, in small numbers, were noted regularly through 5/8. Some 350 **Red-breasted Merganser** were at WL 4/1. One to 20 **Ruddy Duck** were seen regularly at PSP, TL, and WL, with the 175 (actual count) at PSP Spillway 4/21 the best number in some time.

A **N. Harrier** was near TL 4/1. The 1 **Common Moorhen** at CM Duck Farm 4/17 seemed early (RCL,RFL,MNL). A **Black-bellied Plover** was found at HM 4/17 (RCL). Five **Lesser Golden-Plover** were at Miller Pond 4/30 (WF,CR). **Greater Yellowlegs** were noted from 4/2-5/14, with 25 at GMA 5/8; best count for **Lesser Yellowlegs** was 35 at that location 5/8. Miller Pond sightings also included 2 **Pectoral Sandpiper** 4/9, 1 **Dunlin** 4/21, and 3 **Common Snipe** 4/17,30.

**Barred Owl** continue at Saeger Hill (RFL), while 1 was along the Harmonsburg Rd. w. of MDV 5/13 (J&MR). The first **Common**

**Nighthawk** was not noted in MDV until 5/21 (late), but **Chimney Swift** were on time 4/25. **Red-bellied Woodpecker** were observed 4/30+. Flycatchers and swallows returned in average numbers and at usual times. Two **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** were at CM's Towpath Rd. 4/30. At least 4 **Wood Thrush** were at Saeger Hill 4/30. Three **Water Pipit** were at WL 4/1.

A nest in a silo near Cambridge Springs contained 5 young **Barn Owls**. The nest was destroyed so the farmer could use the silo. The farmer contacted the local Game Protector, Mike Ondik, who then brought the very young owls to our local rehabilitator, Mrs. Harriet Wilson. At last report, 3 of the young survived and will be returned to the wild. I was notified of all this the first week in July. Although I did not see the birds personally, I am sure Mrs. Wilson knows her birds as she has raised Screech, Barred, and Great Horned owls to be released over the last several years. This would be the 1st actual nest in *Crawford* in several years of which I am aware.

An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was found in n.w. *Crawford* 5/3 (SH). **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was at CM 5/14-17. A **Blackburnian Warbler** was at Saeger Hill 5/22 and 3 **Bay-breasted Warbler** were on Towpath Rd 5/19. A **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** visited our feeders 4/30. The first returning **Bobolink** were near Brown Hill 5/4.

OBSERVERS: Mary Lou Bradford, Walter Fye, Shayne Hoachlander, Mary N. Leberman, Robert C. Leberman, **Ronald F. Leberman, RD #1, Saeger Hill, Meadville 16335 (814-724-5071)**, Martha Patton, Thelma Patton, John & Marlyn Robb, Carl Roe.

## CUMBERLAND COUNTY

Deuane Hoffman

Abbreviations: *Big Springs (BGS)*, *Boiling Springs L. (BSL)*, *Conodegunit Cr. (CONO)*, *Huntsdale Fish Hatchery (HFH)*, *Kings Gap SP (KG)*, *Kuhn L. (KL)*, *Mud Level Rd. (MLR)*, *Newville SGL (NSGL)*, *Pine Grove Furnace SP (PGF)*, *Ralston Purina Pond (RPP)*, *West Fairview Boat Launch (WFBL)*.

As I am sure everyone has mentioned, it was a very rainy May and June.

Both loons were found, the more uncommon **Red-throated** was seen at Laurel L. PGF 4/3 (CLG) and 2 at WFBL 5/25 (RK). Grebe numbers continue low with a max. of 2 **Pied-billed** at various locations and a max. of 1 **Horned**. The latter species was only seen in April (v.o.). **Double-crested Cormorant** are now routinely seen with the best number 9 at KL 5/7 (DRH). An **Am. Bittern** was at KL 5/10 (DRH). Best **Great Egret** count was 3 at WFBL 4/10 (RK). **Black-crowned Night-Heron** were seen all quarter, with high of 39 on 5/21 (DRH). An imm. **Tundra Swan** was observed at KL through Apr. and May and was seen 6/5, 21. An imm. was also seen 6/30 at NSGL, probably the same bird (DRH). Two **N. Shoveler** were at RPP and KL 4/2-16 (DRH). Two **Am. Wigeon** were reported at KL 4/3 and RPP 4/22 (DRH) and 3-4 at WFBL 4/26-30 (RK). A pair of **Canvasback** at KL 4/19 was the only report (DRH). A **Ring-necked Duck** at KL 6/5 was late (DRH). A single **Lesser Scaup**, which appeared to be a first-year ♂, was still at KL 6/5 (DRH), only to be outdone by 1 at HFH 6/17 (JE). One **Oldsquaw** was at KL 4/5-6 (DRH). Best **Bufflehead** tally was 20 at WFBL 4/10 (RK). A ♀ **Hooded Merganser** with 4 young was seen at WFBL 5/26 (RK).

A **Black Vulture** was at SGL 230 on 4/30 and an imm. **Bald Eagle** was at HFH 6/14-24 (LJ, DRH). An apparently reliable spot for **Ring-necked Pheasant** is MLR, where at least 1 family was seen 6/26-28 (DRH). Both **Wild Turkey** and **N. Bobwhite** were in the Shippensville area 5/17-18 and the latter species was in the Green Spring area 6/21, 30 (DRH). **Virginia Rail** were noted at KL and HFH from 5/13+ and **Sora** were at those locations (5/28, 6/3-29) plus NSGL 5/14 (DRH). A **Common Moorhen** was at NSGL 5/14 (DRH). Best count of **Am. Coot** was only 3 at WFBL 4/26 (RK).

The best shorebird sighting was of 1 **Ruddy Turnstone** at WFBL 5/31 (RK). Other than **Killdeer**, plovers were limited to 1 **Semipalmated** at KL 5/13 (DRH). **Greater Yellowlegs** peaked at 9 on 4/28 and **Lesser Yellowlegs** peaked at 4 on 4/19, both at BGS (DRH). The high count for **Solitary Sandpiper** was 5 on 4/30 and best for **Spotted** was 8 at KL 5/13 (DRH). **Upland Sandpiper** were seen in the MLR area in June, a historical nesting location (*fide* DB), increasing from 2 on 6/23 to 11 on 6/30 (DRH). One to 2 **Least**

**Sandpiper** were at BGS 5/6-7 and 9 **Short-billed Dowitcher** were at KL 5/5 (DRH). **Common Snipe** peaked at 7 at Green Spring 5/3 (DRH). An **Am. Woodcock** was at NSGL 5/13 (DRH).

**Bonaparte's Gull** were well-reported from 4/4 to 5/25 with a max. of 29 at Opossum L. 4/23 (DRH, RK). Tern reports include a **Forster's** at WFBL 5/10, 1 **Common** there 5/27, and 1-3 **Black** at WFBL 5/25-27 (RK), 2 at Newville 5/10, and 5 at KL 5/11 (DRH). Although **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** were in Tuscarora SF 5/27 and Shippensville 5/30, not one **Black-billed** was seen or heard (DRH). A pair of **Barred Owl** successfully fledged 1 of 2 owlets from a nest in a maple tree in the backyard of a home within the borough of Newville (DRH). Two **Barred Owl** were at PGF 5/1 (CLG). **Red-headed Woodpecker** were noted at Shippensville, including the Univ., 4/28 to 6/6 (DRH).

Flycatchers, in general, were very late in returning with **E. Wood-Pewee**, **Acadian**, and **Willow** not being seen until 5/27-28 (DRH). **Horned Lark** were also found in historical nesting areas from 4/1 to 6/24 (DRH). **Water Pipit** peaked at ±300 at MLR 4/24 (DRH).

A "**Brewster's**" **Warbler** was seen and heard singing a Blue-winged song at NSGL 5/25 (DRH). A **Kentucky Warbler** was found in the foothills of South Mt. in the Big Pond area (*no date*) (JE). Other expected migrants and breeding warblers were found, but no particular waves noted (v.o.).

A **Blue Grosbeak** was at NSGL 5/7 (DRH). Only the note of 4 **Fox Sparrow** at PGF was remarkable (CLG).

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## DAUPHIN COUNTY

Steve Santner

Abbreviations: *Dehart Res. (DR)*, *Stony Creek Valley (SCV)*, *Three Mile I. (TMI)*, *W. Fairview (WF)*, *Wildwood L. (WL)*.

The period started out very dry; an 18-month drought had reduced DR by 50-75%, with water levels over 10' below normal. Rains during May and June dumped over 16", filling the reservoir and then some. The Susquehanna R., although never out of its banks, ran high throughout the final two months of the quarter. This caused the water bird migration on the river to diminish even more rapidly than usual after the first of May. Warbler migration was good this spring, while many breeding landbirds were late, especially n. of Blue Mt. The bird of the season was the wandering **White Pelican** which flew over the same suburban house on two days over one month apart!

**Common Loon** was last reported 4/12, when 2 were at DR (big day). The **White Pelican** was seen about 4/16 and again 5/19 flying S toward the river in the evening (*fide* JC). It was seen by a nonbirder, but the details supplied strongly suggest this species. This may have been the same bird reported in *Lancaster* in mid-April and may even be the same bird reported near Philadelphia later in the spring. **Double-crested Cormorant** was reported on the river at WF (SS) 4/1+. Numbers reached 30+ near TMI 4/30 (EC), 60+ near Cove Mt. 5/15 (SO), and 20-30 on Haldeman I. 6/13 (CAD, PL). This is a species that is *very likely to nest* on the river islands in the near future. Numbers have been increasing each year.

A number of herons and egrets were seen nesting at Haldeman I. Artificial nest sites have been erected here by the city of Harrisburg. Successful use of these sites would be used to justify a proposed dam which would displace a large percentage of the state's nesting **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** population. *However, only real trees were used by the birds (EC)*. **Tundra Swan** was last reported 4/23 on the river near TMI (EC). Numerous **Wood Duck** with young were found n. of here (EC) and they appear to have had a good breeding season. A **Blue-winged Teal** with downy young was seen 5/9, 16 on the river near Cove Mt. (SO). A **N. Shoveler** was at WL 4/2 (DH, RH). An **Oldsquaw** was at WF 4/1, while 2 were here 4/9 (SS). **Common Merganser** was seen late near Cove Mt. 5/9 (SO), but even more interesting was a ♀ seen at WL 6/24 (EC). There is potential nesting habitat nearby, but no young was observed.

The **Bald Eagle** hacking program has been successful locally. This year a pair nested on Haldeman I., very near to the hacking tower. The adults were often seen in the area (m.ob.). **Bonaparte's Gull** numbers peaked 4/9, when 25+ were seen at WF (SS); 1 seen here 5/25 was very late. A **Black Tern** was also here 5/25, while 2 very late **Caspian Tern** were on the river near Middletown 6/15 (EC).

**Common Raven** was along the river at the Dauphin Narrows

4/25 (EC). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was found in Clark's Valley 5/12 (bigday) at a location in which a pair summered last year and is presumably nesting. Two **Barn Swallow** were seen at WF on the somewhat early date 4/1 (SS), while a **N. Rough-winged Swallow** at WL 4/2 was similarly early (DH,RH). A **Winter Wren** was found singing and possibly breeding along upper Rattling Run in SCV in mid-June (EC). Several **Golden-crowned Kinglet** were heard singing 5/12 in a large pine plantation near Carsonville at a site in which they summered last year. Another was found the same day in Clark's Valley in unsuitable breeding habitat (bigday). This was by far the latest migrant Golden-crowned of the spring. Several **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** were also found in this area 5/12 (bigday).

Warbler migration this year was better than normal, although there were few unusual species. **Prairie Warbler** was early 4/16 (EC) in SCV, while the first **Louisiana Waterthrush** was late, also arriving 4/16 (EC). **Wilson's Warbler** was reported 5/12 (bigday) at DD. **Rusty Blackbird** was reported once; 2 at Sand Beach 4/17 (WE). **Purple Finch**, after being nearly absent during the winter, did move through, starting in early April in SCV (BH). One was singing at DD 5/12 (bigday), but could not be relocated later (SS).

OBSERVERS: (Bigday = Amico, Heathcote, Santner, Schutsky, and Witmer), Cindy Adams-Dunn, Tom Amico, Ed Chubb, Joe Church, Wade Edris, Dan Heathcote, Don & Robin Henise, Barb Huffman, Pete Lusardi, Steve Oliphant, Steve Santner, 3 Overbrook Village Green Apt., Elizabethtown 17022 (717-367-5857), Bob Schutsky, Eric Witmer.

## DELAWARE COUNTY

### Al Guarente

Abbreviations: Crum Creek Res. (CCR), Delaware R. (DR), Ridley Creek SP (RCSP), Tyler Arboretum (TA), Tinicum I. (TI).

RAIN! RAIN! RAIN! That's what the weather reports for this quarter kept repeating. On 12 July we had over 5" of rain in less than 12 hrs. Last quarter everyone was talking about a possible drought this summer, now the reservoirs are overflowing.

We started the season with 1 **Red-throated Loon** on the DR 4/9 (AG,JL). At TA, the day before, the first **Common Loon** was seen flying over (AG,LM). A **Pied-billed Grebe**, scarce in this area, was at CCR 4/16 (E&GK). This year was good for **Double-crested Cormorant** (JCM) as they were seen constantly in good numbers on the DR all three months. However, 3 cormorants over RCSP were a little unusual 6/3 (AG). On 5/13, 1 **Cattle Egret** was seen in Concordville as part of our big day (AG,JL,F&BH). At Delaware County Comm. Coll. 2 **Snow Geese** were present (MMc), while at TA a flock of 100+ were flying over (RMc). Four **Common Merganser** were on the DR 4/1 (BS) and a pair was still there 4/9. Two **Red-breasted Merganser** were a good find there that same day (BS). Two **Ruddy Duck** lingered, with 1 at Springton Res. 6/3 (AG) and 1 in June on the DR (JCM).

One **Merlin** was reported from TI 4/29 (BS). The **Peregrine Falcon** along the river bridges seem to be having problems raising their young. One young was found dead on the PA side of the river. The young birds seem to be picking up diseases from the pigeons they're feeding upon. On 4/15 a **Virginia Rail** was found at CCR and a week later 3 were found in the same spot. This was encouraging since the Blue Rt construction is ongoing all around the area; 1 **Virginia Rail** was still there 5/16 (E&GK). A **Sora** was also found at CCR 4/27 (JL).

The first 2 **Laughing Gull** arrived at TI 4/8 (BS). On 4/1 at TI 1 **Bonaparte's Gull** (BS) with as many as 6 there 4/9. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** were in the area, in good numbers, fairly early. They were reported from Thornbury and TA (JG), from Taylor Arboretum (SH), and from the Swarthmore area (HMc). **Black-billed Cuckoo** were reported from Media 5/14 (E&GK), and RCSP (F&BH) and Swarthmore area (HMc) all period. The **Barn Owl** are again nesting under I-95 (JCM,TR). They were present all season, with 3 being seen in June.

Still hard to find in this area, a **Pileated Woodpecker** was seen in Swarthmore 6/11-13 (HMc) and another was seen 4/14 at Smedley Park (AG) amidst all the Blue Route construction. The only **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, which wintered in the area, was present through 4/20 in Swarthmore (HMc). Two **Winter Wren** (SC,RMc), 1 at RCSP and the other at TA, were seen 4/2. The first brood of E. Bluebird in April at TA lost about 75% of their young due to the rains reducing insect populations. However, other bluebird trails seemed not to be affected as badly. Not many **Cedar Waxwing** (HMc) were present all

winter, but a flock of 80+ were in Swarthmore 5/22-26 and many smaller flocks appeared throughout the area as the season progressed.

The warbler migration this year seemed to have a large number of birds, but not all species were represented. Two **Pine Warbler** were in Swarthmore (HMc), an area where they are not usually present. The first **Palm Warbler** was at RCSP 4/2 (SC,RMc) and a rather late one was found at TA 5/6 (HMc). **Blackburnian** were in very good numbers this year, as were nesting **Hooded** and **Kentucky** warblers. **Yellow-breasted Chat** seem to be losing their habitat as they are becoming harder to find each year. A ♂ **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was at RCSP 6/10 (AG,JL) in the same area as last year. In neither year was a female grosbeak found or any evidence of nesting.

At the Phila. Airport, an **Am. Tree Sparrow** was still present 4/2 (AG). The following week, 4/9, a mixed flock of sparrows was found there, including **Savannah**, **Chipping**, and 1 **Vesper** (BS). A **White-crowned Sparrow** was in Sharon Hill 5/18. A **Dark-eyed Junco** was still present in Swarthmore 5/3 (HMc).

OBSERVERS: Skip Conant, John Ginaven, Al Guarente, 421 Old Middletown Rd., Media 19063 (215-566-8266), Frank & Barb Haas, Stevens Heckscher, Evelyn & George Kopf, Jim Lockyer, Rob McGraw, Mike McNelly, Helen McWilliams, Lon Meyers, John C. Miller, Tom Reeves, Bill Stocku.

## ELK COUNTY

### Linda G. Christenson

*We welcome Linda Christenson as the new compiler for Elk County. She writes that there are only about 40,000 in the entire county and in time she hopes to find other birders. We are sure she would welcome your sightings.*

Abbreviations: Allegheny NF, Ridgway District (ANF), Benzinger Twp (BT), East Branch L. (EBL), Rathbun (RB), St. Marys Airport (SMA), St. Marys Res. (SMR).

Spring didn't seem to come this year. A late snowfall on 7 May made for beautiful scenery, but cancelled the planned bird walk. It rained day after day in May and into June with lowlands flooding 20 June. DW comments, "it will be interesting to see how this affected the area's nesting waterfowl, especially with the high water washing out quite a few beaver ponds normally used by **Am. Black Duck** and **Woodies**." Observations are by compiler unless noted otherwise.

April and May brought much activity to a feeder in BT including such totals as 11 ♂ **Indigo Bunting**; 1 **Am. Tree Sparrow**; at least 20 **Chipping Sparrow**, including 1 with a solid white head; 1-2 **Fox Sparrow**, 1-2 **White-crowned Sparrow**, up to 65 **Dark-eyed Junco**, up to 20 **Purple Finch**, only 1 **Pine Siskin**, and 100+ **Am. Goldfinch**.

One to 2 **Common Loon** were at EBL and SMR during April after the ice-out. At SMR 4/13 were: 6 **Horned Grebe**, 2 **N. Pintail**, 18 **Lesser Scaup**, 2 **Bufflehead**, 4 **Red-breasted Merganser**, and 1 **Ruddy Duck**. The following were reported by DW in the ANF: 3 **Pied-billed Grebe** were in the Owl's Nest area 4/22, with 2 **Spotted** and 1 **Solitary** sandpipers seen in the same place 5/5. **Great Blue Heron** have been observed feeding in many areas and in May Forest Service personnel were able to find two small rookeries, with young birds in one of them. A rarity at Crow Run Marsh, a **Great Egret**, was seen 5/21. Another rarity was an **Am. Bittern** at Owl's Nest 4/22. **Common Merganser** were found all quarter, with a large brood of 16 young being attended by 2 ad. ♀ near Belltown 5/27. They were the only broods found of the normally nesting ducks.

A **Canada Goose** seen 4/22 and wearing a gray-colored neck collar was subsequently found to have been banded in *Indiana*. This bird was still in residence in the Owl's Nest area at the end of June.

The **Osprey** seen flying N over BT 5/8 could have been the same one seen at EBL 5/9, which is directly N of that location (LC); 1 **Osprey** was at the Cole Run Duck pond 4/23 and 5/14 (DW). A ♀ **N. Harrier** surprised me when I was sitting quietly on a stump in a clearcut area of SGL 25 on 6/11. This is the same area where a **N. Goshawk** was seen flying 4/28. Service personnel have found both **N. Goshawk** and **Red-shouldered Hawk** nests with young during May (DW). A ♂ **Merlin** in a BT yard at 7:15 a.m. on 4/20 caught and carried off a **Song Sparrow**; it returned again 4/27 and 5/1 at about the same time,

but was unsuccessful in its quest for food. The 125 **Ring-billed Gull** sitting in the rain-drenched parking lot of the Catholic High School 5/1 looked as if they were waiting for school to start!

Both **cuckoo** species were at Crow Run ANF 6/3, as well as a **Red-headed Woodpecker** noted there (DW). **Horned Lark** were breeding at the SMA area. Especially interesting was seeing an ad. and an imm. taking dust baths in the road. Several pair of **Purple Martin** were reported nesting in BT 6/1, but returned later to the area than in previous years (AH).

A **Brown Creeper** family of 5, huddled on a tree, was an exciting find 6/19. **E. Bluebird** were seen in suitable habitat in various parts of the county, including a new nest box site in BT that had the property owners delighted as they had never seen a bluebird before! (AH). The rain made warbler watching a bit harder this year, but when the sun came out so did the birds. Commonly seen warblers and ones which breed here are: **Yellow, Chestnut-sided, Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Black-and-white, Am. Redstart, Ovenbird, Common Yellowthroat, and Canada**. Less commonly seen were **Nashville, Cape May, 1 Yellow-throated, and a Wilson's** at EBL 5/17. A **Prairie** was heard singing 5/25 at RB and a **Mourning** seen singing 6/1, also at RB.

More songbird trends noted by DW: **Cedar Waxwing** seemed to be late this year as the first ones were not seen until 5/29. **E. Bluebird** are expanding their breeding range throughout much of w. Elk. Other that seem to be more prevalent this year (or maybe I'm just paying more attention) are **Indigo Bunting, Scarlet Tanager, Rufous-sided Towhee, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and Chestnut-sided Warbler**.

One other disturbing trend of note: Eur. Starling are expanding their range into the more outlying areas of our District by using Wood Duck boxes for nesting, particularly around the PGS duck ponds in the Owl's Nest area.

OBSERVERS: **Linda Christenson, 602 Sunset Rd., St. Marys 15857 (814-781-3156), Ann Hackett, David Wolfe.**

## ERIE COUNTY

Jerry McWilliams

*Abbreviations: Presque Isle SP (PI), Siegel Marsh (SM).*

It is difficult not to write pessimistically about this season's summary when less than 30% of the reporting period was warmed by southerly winds. Cold temperatures and excessive rainfall persisted throughout the period. Early May was unusually cold and wet with a snow storm 5/7. Though rain continued nearly every day through the month of May, temperatures finally rose from the 50's to the comfortable 70's by mid-month.

By late March many of the waterfowl had moved north and were immediately replaced by an estimated 100,000 gulls, 10,000 of which were **Bonaparte's**, with the bulk of the 80,000 being adult **Ring-billed**. By 4/5, the gull population dwindled to about 40,000 birds and by 4/12 to no more than 2,000 birds. A few "winter" gulls were caught in a reverse migration brought on by a northerly blast of cold air the first two weeks of May.

Passerine migration was light until the morning of 5/14, when a shift to S winds the day before and then from the SW that evening opened the migration corridor spilling thousands of birds onto PI. By 1:00 p.m., several hundred warblers, 150 **Lincoln's Sparrow**, 1200 **White-crowned Sparrow**, and 500 **Bobolink** had been estimated. The second major movement was 5/18, but as expected, it consisted of fewer birds. Spot-breasted thrushes were observed in fair numbers, probably because of the back-up effect caused by the poor migration conditions of early May. By the last week of May, there was a steady flow of migrants. There were still a few lingering early May migrants present to late May and into early June. Notes of special interest follow. Unless otherwise stated, all reports from PI.

A **Common Loon** was seen 6/8 (JM). A **Red-necked Grebe** was at SM 4/1 (JHS,JGS). **Double-crested Cormorant** were seen frequently in singles and small flocks, mostly at PI, but also at many inland lakes (m.ob.). **Am. Bittern** were absent this spring, with only one report of possibly 2 birds 5/4 (RSw). **Least Bittern** best number was 6 on 5/25 (DS). S. Stull found a nest with young in June. The **Great Egret** seen in March was joined by 5 or 6 others in April and May (m.ob.) and 1-2 present 6/3 (JM). A **Snowy Egret** was seen 5/14 and 5/27 (EK,JM). **Black-crowned Night-Heron** were seen 4/23 to late May (m.ob.).

One of the **Mute Swan** from the winter season remained until 5/18 (JM). A "white" **Snow Goose** was seen 5/14 (EK). A ♀ **Harlequin**

**Duck** was seen 4/2 (JM *et al.*) for the 1st spring record. (See details.) A **Surf Scoter** was seen 5/1 (JM). The 20 **White-winged Scoter** on L. Pleasant 4/18 were an unusual concentration for an inland lake (JHS).

Lingering **Osprey** were 1 at Lake City 6/10 (JB) and 1 at PI 6/12 (DP). In recent years **Bald Eagle** have been seen more frequently, and in every month of the year. This spring no fewer than 7 indiv. of all ages were seen, with most sightings along L. Erie. A **N. Goshawk** was seen 4/23 in Millcreek Twp (LM). **Rough-legged Hawk** were observed in April along L. Erie (JM) and s.e. **Erie** (JHS). **Merlin** numbers increased from 1 on 4/3 (JM), to 2 from 4/27-30 (JM), to 3-4 from 5/6-18 (DS,JM). **Peregrine Falcon** sightings were 1 each 4/19 (JBB) and 5/22 (RK).

The **Piping Plover** seen 5/4 (JGS) was the 1st spring record since 1981. An **Am. Avocet** appeared out of snow storm 5/7. It landed, rested briefly, and then flew away (JM,EK). (See details.) Three **Willet** were seen 5/6 (JM,EK) and 1 on 5/10 (SS,RS). The 4 **Whimbrel** 5/21 marked the beginning of a large passage 5/27, when 110 birds were tallied, and 100 birds were observed in a single flock passing by Gull Point 5/28 (EK,JM). A **Western Sandpiper**, rare in spring, was carefully described 5/26 (JF). More coverage in May at Gull Point produced a large number of **White-rumped Sandpiper** totalling 18 indiv. (SS,EK,JM). This species was also seen in June, with 1 on 6/1 (JHS) and 4 on 6/8 (JM). One **Wilson's Phalarope** was found 5/14 (JM,EK).

A second-summer **Franklin's Gull** was seen 6/3 (JM,RS). **Little Gull** reports were: 1 ad. 4/1 (JM), 4 ad. 4/2 (m.ob.), 1 first-summer 4/22 (EK), and 2 ad. 5/3 (JM) with 1 remaining 5/4 (JGS). A **Common Black-headed Gull** was discovered 4/1 (JM) for the 3rd PA record. It was found again 4/2 (JM,EK *et al.*) (See details elsewhere.) **Iceland Gull** sightings were 1 each on 4/1-2 (JM,SS), 4/14 and 4/23, and 5/12 (JM). The third-winter **Lesser Black-backed Gull** seen 5/11-12 was extremely late (JM,EK). Prior to this date it had not been recorded past mid-March. About 6 **Glaucous Gull** remained through 5/10 (JM). **Caspian Tern** numbers continue to increase in **Erie**, with a max. of 130 resting on Gull Point 4/9 (JM). The 9 birds at SM 4/18 was an unusual number for an inland area (JGS,JHS). **Forster's Tern** were recorded in April and May in lower than usual numbers, while **Common Tern** were again more numerous than in most recent years. Up to 6 **Black Tern** were seen periodically on PI in May, but none stayed to nest (JM). Seven were counted at SM 5/29 (JGS,JHS). The **Black Tern** at PI 6/1 was probably a late migrant rather than a nesting bird (JHS).

The **Long-eared Owl** seen in March remained to at least 4/29 (JH *et al.*). A **Short-eared Owl** was seen 4/12 and 1-2 were found 4/16,27 (CT). Up to 5 **N. Saw-whet Owl** from the winter season remained until 4/15 (m.ob.). Three or 4 **Whip-poor-will** were found the first half of May (JGS,JHS). An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was seen 5/29 (JM). **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** were found in good numbers in late May (m.ob.). **Carolina Wren** were more numerous this spring than in many years, with at least 2 pairs and 1 nest discovered and 2-3 other sites where territorial birds were heard singing.

A **White-eyed Vireo** was seen 5/18 (JM). A **Golden-winged Warbler** was found 5/14 (EK) and 5/17-18 (JM). Single **Orange-crowned Warbler** were at PI and Corry 4/30, and at PI 5/7 (JHo) and 5/26 (JF). **Pine Warbler** were found 4/29 to 5/14 (EK,JM) and up to 5 were at Union City from 4/28 to 5/3 (JM). A **Connecticut Warbler** was seen 5/20 (RS), 5/21 (EK) and 5/25 (JF).

A **Clay-colored Sparrow** was seen and heard singing 5/18 for the 10th county record (JM). (See details.) A **Grasshopper Sparrow** was found 5/5 (JHS,JGS). This species does not appear to be annual in **Erie** in recent years. Two **Dark-eyed "Oregon" Junco** were in **Erie**, with 1 present at a feeder in early April (SS) and 1 on PI 4/17 (JM). The **Evening Grosbeak** visiting a feeder w. of **Erie** 5/4 was the only report this season (BG).

Banding totals by JHS and JGS in May were:

5/6	60 birds	13 species	64 net hours.
5/13	30 birds	14 species	72 net hours.
5/14	351 birds	32 species	76 net hours.
5/20	248 birds	37 species	84 net hours.
5/21	55 birds	18 species	90 net hours.
5/27	34 birds	15 species	85 net hours.
5/28	2 birds	2 species	20 net hours.

OBSERVERS: Jim & Bonnie Baird, Jim Baxter, Bill Fenton, Jim Flynn, Bonnie Ginader, Jamie Hill, Joyce Hoffman (JHo), Ramsay Koury, Ed Kwater, **Jerry McWilliams, 3142 W. 12th St., Erie 16505 (814-833-3169)**, Linda McWilliams, Dave Parker, Bob Scribner, Don Snyder, Russ States, Jean Stull (JHS), Jim Stull (JGS), Sam Stull, Ruth Swaney, Chuck Tague.

**FAYETTE COUNTY**

**Cindy Cook**

*Abbreviations: Bear Run Nature Preserve (BR), Ft. Necessity (FN), Mill Run Res. (MRR).*

Without a doubt, the most exciting bird found was a **Swainson's Warbler**. It was found near Bear Run Nature Preserve 6/10 (DK) and was seen and heard well into July. A more complete report will be forthcoming for the next issue.

Most reports came in from the various bodies of water in *Fayette* and therefore listed in that manner. Otherwise all sightings are from the Normalville area and by the compiler.

Deer L.: All reports from DK. A **Little Blue Heron** was seen 4/27, but when he returned to photograph it later it was gone. Best waterfowl day was 4/18 when DK found: 9 **Blue-winged Teal**, 8 **Gadwall**, 20 **Bufflehead**, and 50 **Ruddy Duck**. An **Osprey** was present 4/16-27. Three **Semipalmated Plover** were seen 5/15; sandpiper reports were 9 **Solitary** 5/13, 23 **Semipalmated** 5/15, 7 **Least** 5/15; 1 **White-rumped** 5/20-21, and 1 **Dunlin** 5/15. Gull reports were limited to 34 **Bonaparte's** 4/19, 10 **Ring-billed** 4/3, and 3 **Herring** 4/19. Five **Forster's Tern** were also there 4/19. A pair of **Pileated Woodpecker** were found 4/1. **Great Crested Flycatcher** returned 4/28.

Greenlick Dam: 2 **Common Loon** seen 5/11; 1 **Pied-billed** and 3 **Horned grebe** were found 4/1. Four **Oldsquaw** and 12 **Bufflehead** were there 4/3 (MEW). Five **White-winged Scoter** were seen 5/11 and 10 **Ruddy Duck** were found 4/29 (MEW). Two **Osprey** were noted 5/2 (CC). Five **Black Tern** were counted 5/11 (MEW).

MRR: 10 **Bonaparte's** and 5 **Ring-billed** gulls noted 4/13.

We had a **Green-backed Heron** at our pond for two weeks. Away from the water we noted a **Sharp-shinned Hawk** in pursuit of a House Finch 6/10; the finch escaped. A **Cooper's Hawk** was seen 6/20. The first **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was seen 5/1, while the last **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was noted 4/21. A **Carolina Chickadee** used one of our gourd birdhouses for its nest. A **Hermit Thrush** was noted 5/6. On 5/7 we had several hours of *heavy snow* and 1 **Veery**.

Five ♂ and 2 ♀ **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** visited our feeder 5/16 and on 5/21 we had 5 ♂ **Indigo Bunting** at the feeders. Three **Bobolink** were found 5/21.

OBSERVERS: Wes & Cindy Cook, RD 1, Box 259A, Normalville 15469 (412-455-7356), Dave Kreuger, Mike & Evaleen Watko.

**FOREST COUNTY**

**April D. Walters**

*Abbreviations: Allegheny R. n. of Tionesta (ARNT), Buzzard Swamp at Marienville (BSM), Tionesta L. (TL), West Hickory Bridge (WHB).*

A **Common Loon** was at WHB 5/11 (RC). From 5/12-24, **Double-crested Cormorant** were seen at ARNT. They numbered from 2-10 on various days. Cormorants were also at BSM during the month of June. No known nesting activity occurred (PNN).

The first two weeks of May brought temperatures lower than usual and lots of rain and some snow. Many **Purple Martin** died during this period. One of the largest colonies observed for the Wild Resource Conservation Fund went from 23 pair to 7 pair (RW). **E. Bluebird** also disappeared during these two weeks, making it possible for House Sparrows, etc. to take over houses on the Bluebird Trail and resulting in poor nesting (RW,AW).

An elementary student birdathon held 5/13 netted a **Prairie Warbler** (NF).

OBSERVERS: Norma Foreman, Robert Clever, Penny Nelson Newman, April Walters, Box 127, Endeavor 16322 (814-463-9306), Richard Walters.

**FRANKLIN COUNTY**

**Carl L. Garner**

*Abbreviations: Ft. McCord (FM), Lower Horse Valley (LHV), Mt. Parnell Fish Hatchery (MPFH).* All observations by compiler unless otherwise noted.

Six **Great Blue Heron** were at MPFH 4/2 and 5 **Green-backed Heron** were noted there 5/13. One **Cattle Egret** was in Mercersburg 5/14 (JW). A **Wood Duck** was seen with 5 young at MPFH 5/20. Four **Oldsquaw** were in Upper Strasburg 4/3 (JY).

A **Bald Eagle** was seen in LHV 5/18. The MPFH had a good variety of shorebirds and other related water birds this quarter including: 2 **Semipalmated Plover** 5/11 (CB), 3 **Greater Yellowlegs** 4/2, 5 **Lesser Yellowlegs** 5/13, 9 **Solitary** and 14 **Spotted** sandpipers 5/13, 1 **Western** 5/20, 22 **Least** 5/11 (with a high 47 on 5/13), 1 **White-rumped** 5/27, and 1 **Dunlin** 5/13. A **Forster's Tern** was seen 5/20 and 1 **Common Tern** 5/11 (CLG,CB). **Black Tern** reports were of as many as 12 on 5/11 (CLG,CB) and 9 on 5/13.

C. Brightbill agrees that there seems to be an abundance of **E. Kingbird** this year everywhere. We never recall seeing these numbers in past years. **Tree Swallow** (50) had arrived at MPFH 4/2 and all species except **Purple Martin** were there 5/11. **Water Pipit** numbers ranged from 12-56 between 4/8-11 in various areas (CLG,JY). Single **White-eyed** and **Yellow-throated** vireos were found in LHV 5/18. Most interesting was finding 10-20 **Cerulean Warbler** in LHV 5/14; they seemed to be everywhere (CB). A **Bobolink** arrived at FM 4/30 and 3 were there 6/10. Single **Dickcissel** were seen at FM 6/10 (CB) and 6/16 (CLG).

OBSERVERS: Charles Brightbill, Carl L. Garner, P.O. Box 110, Fayetteville 17222-0110 (717-352-8151), Jeff Walck, Jane Yerkes.

**FULTON COUNTY**

**Carl Garner**

*Abbreviations: Cowan's Gap SP (CGSP), Tuscarora Summit (TS), Wells Tannery (WT).* Observations by compiler unless otherwise noted.

Five **Horned Grebe** were at CGSP 4/3 (JY) and 1 at WT 4/9 (DP). A **N. Shoveler** appeared at a farm pond in WT 4/6 (DP).

An ad. **N. Goshawk** was seen carrying a young rabbit into the woods (*location deleted*) 6/26 (DP). A separate Spring Hawk Watch report follows below. Single **Greater** and **Lesser Yellowlegs** and **Dunlin** were at WT 5/10 (DP). Two **Black Tern** were at Waterfall 5/10 (DP).

Two **Willow Flycatcher** were at Knobsville 6/19 (CB) and 6/25 (CG) and 3 **Alder Flycatcher** were at Amaranth 6/19 (CB) and 6/25 (CG). A **Bewick's Wren** was at Amaranth 6/19 (CB). One **Swainson's Thrush** went through WT 4/23 (DP). A **Worm-eating Warbler** arrived at TM 4/30. While 1 **Blue-winged Warbler** was at WT 5/26, 4 **Golden-winged Warbler** were there 6/3 (DP). Four **Bay-breasted Warbler** were at WT 5/19 (DP). A **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was seen on TS 4/30 (CG) and 2 **Blue Grosbeak** were at Amaranth 6/19 (CB). Two **Henslow's Sparrow** were found on Pumping Station Rd. 6/17.

Tuscarora Summit (Fulton County)  
Carl Garner, Compiler

	March	April	May	Total
Osprey	0	164	28	192
Bald Eagle	2	1	1	4
N. Harrier	9	16	0	25
Sharp-shinned	40	70	4	114
Cooper's	7	6	3	16
N. Goshawk	3	1	0	4
Red-shouldered	10	0	0	10
Broad-winged	0	479	15	494
Red-tailed	326	70	4	400
Golden Eagle	1	5	1	7
Am. Kestrel	17	7	0	24
Unidentified	5	12	4	21
<b>Totals</b>	420	831	60	1311

Coverage: 44 days, 203 hours

The Osprey and Red-tail counts were the highest in the 13 years of observation. The total was the second best in the past 5 years. Ten observers contributed to the season's tally.

OBSERVERS: Charles Brightbill, Carl L. Garner, P.O. Box 110, Fayetteville 17222-0110 (717-352-8151), Delores Purnell, Jane Yerkes.

## GREENE COUNTY

Ralph K. Bell

May was noted for its wet weather. There was at least some rain every day for the first 16 days. It had a disastrous effect on at least two species and this will be commented on later.

A **Great Blue Heron** rookery, known and kept quiet by several fishermen and the farm owner for security reasons, was visited on 5/21. A total of 21 nests was observed (17 of them in one large sycamore tree). Young were observed in many nests.

Two **Osprey** were noted along 10-mile Creek near Jefferson 4/30 and 2 **Broad-winged Hawk** were circling over our farm (near Jefferson) 4/20. Three **Upland Sandpiper** were seen near Dry Tavern 4/27 (JW). This species could be found on several farms during the 1960 and 1970 period, but is now considered rare.

All people with active **Purple Martin** colonies reported *extreme* losses during the 5/1-16 rainy period. We found a total of 27 dead. Most were found dead on the ground in our yard, but a few died in their nesting box. I believe that all the Purple Martins that died had arrived before the rains started. Most of last year's young arrived after the rains had stopped, so we ended up with about 10 pairs at our box. There is no doubt that the **Scarlet Tanagers** were also hurt by the prolonged rainy period in May. Many were noted trying to find something to eat on the ground and some were killed by cars along the highways.

OBSERVERS: **Ralph Bell, RD 1, Box 229, Clarksville 15322 (412-883-4505)**, Jim Willis.

## HUNTINGDON COUNTY

Dave Kyler

*Abbreviations: Aitch Access (AA), Brumbaugh Access (BA), Entriken Overlook (EO), James Cr. Access (JCA), Juniata R. (JR), L. Raystown (LR), Stone Valley L. (SVL).*

Uncommon species found this quarter include: **White-winged Scoter**, **Common Moorhen**, **Least Bittern**, **Am. Bittern**, **Virginia Rail**, **Sora**, and **N. Goshawk**.

**Common Loon** were present at SVL 4/1, with 12 found in various stages of feeding and resting (GG). Three **Double-crested Cormorant** were observed flying over the JR 5/13 which allowed them to be counted on Juniata Valley Audubon's inaugural birdathon. An **Am. Bittern** was found at the JCA 5/1 and 1 **Least Bittern** was located at AA 6/9 (RC). Two **Great Egret**, once again, used the AA as a migration stop, this year arriving 5/4 (RC). Two **Am. Wigeon** and 5 **Blue-winged Teal** were found in AA back-waters 4/10 (DK). Three **White-winged Scoter** were found at EO 5/10 in the company of several merganser *spp.*

Raptor reports include an **Osprey** and 1 ad **Bald Eagle** at LR 5/13 (EB), 1 ad. **N. Goshawk** in migration 4/14 over Piney Ridge (DK), and 2 **Broad-winged Hawk**, also at Piney Ridge 4/18 (DK). **Black Vulture** continue to be seen in the Huntingdon area, with 2 seen 6/28 (DK). The final raptor entry logs in 2 **Barred Owl** heard calling in the Donation area 4/22 (RC).

A **Virginia Rail** was at JCA 6/8 (RC) and a **Sora** was present at AA 4/19 (DK). Four **Solitary Sandpiper** and 1 **Least Sandpiper** were found in a Petersburg marsh 5/13 (DK). A **Common Moorhen** was found at SVL 6/2 (GG). Three **Common Tern** were present at LR 5/13 (DK). **Common Nighthawk** were observed in courtship display over Huntingdon 5/8 (DK) and first reported **N. Rough-winged Swallow** were exploring nesting sites along the JR 4/26 (DK). **Winter Wren** were reported along the JR at Water Street 5/13,31 (ML).

**N. Waterthrush** were nesting at AA 6/7, with ad. doing distraction displays (RC). A **Wilson's Warbler** was found at the crest of Warrior's Ridge 5/22 (DK), while a **Mourning Warbler** was observed at Trough Cr. SP 5/14 (GG).

More uncommon sparrow species were limited to **White-crowned** in Huntingdon 4/27 and 4 **Swamp** at BA 4/24 (DK). **Bobolink** visited the Alexandria area 5/10, with 2 indiv. seen, while further up Shaver's Cr. Valley at SVA, 5 **Purple Finch** were found (DK).

A nesting **Golden-winged Warbler** at AA was observed being helped by a pair of **Field Sparrow**! It seems a nearby nest of the Field Sparrow failed so the adult sparrows were responding to the warbler nestlings' cry for food. All four adults were busy feeding the warblers' young on 6/23.

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

## INDIANA COUNTY

Margaret and Roger Higbee

*Abbreviations: Alverda (ALV), Blairsville (BLV), Clarksburg (CKG), Elders Ridge (ER), Indiana (IND), Jacksonsville (JKV), Margus L. (ML), Robinson (RBS), Shelocta (SHL), Strangford (SGF), Timber L. (TL), West Lebanon (WL), Yellow Cr. SP (YC).*

Highlights of the quarter included **Merlin**, **Black Tern**, and **Swainson's Warbler**, all at YC and a **Western Tanager** near Brush Valley. A poorly planned and rainy Big Day 5/11 (MH,GL,GS) in Indiana and adjacent **Armstrong** yielded an unbelievable 121 species. April had below-average rainfall; May and June were well above average. During *all* of 1988 we received a total of 30.09" of precipitation, but by June's end this year the precipitation for 1989 was already 30.16 inches. The first half was rather cool; the second half was nearer normal interspersed with a few cool periods. Insect eaters were hard pressed to find food; even warblers were reported at suet feeders.

All waterfowl and shorebird sightings are from YC unless otherwise noted. Two **Common Loon** were calling 5/21, and 1 lingered until 6/7 (GL). Top **Pied-billed Grebe** count was 10 on 4/17 (MH,GL). **Horned Grebe** numbers peaked at 22 on 4/3 (MH,GL). **Double-crested Cormorant** were much more commonly found than in years past with tallies of 9 on 4/4 and 12 on 5/3; a singleton lingered until 6/15 (GL). **Great Blue Heron** reports were widespread. **Great Egret** reports included 1 at TL 4/1 (AB,DB); 1-2 at YC 4/12-24 (v.o.); and 3 at IND 4/24-25 (MH,GL). Few observers reported **Green-backed Heron**. Last **Tundra Swan** listed were 13 on 4/3 (MH,GL). Best **Canada Goose** count was 38 on 6/7 (GL) before the bulk of the geese were herded up and shipped to Alabama. By 6/7 fledgling **Wood Duck** were swimming at YC (GL). Best **Green-winged Teal** tally was 7 on 4/29 (GL,GS). Top **Blue-winged Teal** count was 42 on 4/10 (GL). **N. Shoveler** were found more frequently than usual with 1-4 indiv. at TL, ML, and YC between 4/3-17 (MH,BM,GL). High **Am. Wigeon** count was 28 at TL 4/12 (GL). **Ring-necked Duck** peaked at 150 on 4/3 (MH,GL). Two to 4 **Greater Scaup** were found between 4/7 and 5/2 (EH,MH,GL). Best **Lesser Scaup** tally was 65 on 4/17 (MH,GL). A raft of 67 **Oldsquaw** 4/3 was a nice find (MH,GL); 4 still lingered 4/9 (GL). Six **White-winged Scoter** were unexpected on a Big Day attempt 5/11 (MH,GL,GS). Two **Common Goldeneye** were still present 5/13 (JT,JRT). Small rafts of **Bufflehead** were observed until 5/24 (MH), but top was 55 on 5/2 (EH,MH). Last **Hooded Merganser** was found 5/3 (GL). **Red-breasted Merganser** were found in numbers of 16 on 4/3 (MH,GL) and 10 on 5/3 (GL), with 1 still present 5/25 (MH,GL,GS). Top **Ruddy Duck** count was 14 on 4/13,20 (GL).

One to 2 **Osprey** were listed at YC from 4/2 (AB,DB) to 5/24 (MH); 2 were found near SHL 4/23 (RH,RGH,JH). **N. Harrier** was found near Nolo 4/6 (CL) and 5/21 (GL), at ER 5/11 (MH,GL,GS), and a pair flying together at Gipsy 6/4 (MH,RH). Ten **Sharp-shinned Hawk** were listed including 1 ad. on a nest 5/25 (MH,GL,GS). Only 3 **Cooper's Hawk** were reported (AB,MH,GL). A kettie of 4 **Broad-winged Hawk** was observed near CKG 4/28 (MC). A **Merlin** at YC 5/13 was unusual (JT,JRT).

First fledgling **Ruffed Grouse** were at Nolo 6/13 (AB). Seven **Wild Turkey** near JKV 4/17 (RH) were a nice find. The origin of a **N. Bobwhite** calling in a backyard near SHL 6/16 (MH) could not be determined. Best **Am. Coot** tally was 32 on 4/7 at YC (MH,BM). Eight **Greater Yellowlegs** were counted 4/24 (GL); 5 **Lesser** were seen 5/2 (EH,MH). A single **Solitary Sandpiper** was seen 5/2 (EH,MH) and 5/10 (GL). Top **Spotted Sandpiper** count was 6 on 4/29 (GL,GS), but 4 were found near BLV 5/19 (MC,MH). A flock of **Semipalmated Sandpiper** numbered 26 on 5/31 (GL). A **Least Sandpiper** was found 5/11 (MH,GL,GS), the lone report. A **Dunlin** appeared 5/13 (JT,JRT). Last **Common Snipe** was found 5/11 (MH,GL,GS).

**Bonaparte's Gull**, which peaked at 232 on 4/23 (CL,GL), was



last found at YC 6/14 (GL). Top **Ring-billed Gull** tally was 300+ at ML 5/17 (GL); up to 35 lingered at YC's beach 6/21 (AB,GL). Single **Herring Gull** were found at YC 4/3 (GL) and 5/11 (MH,GL,GS). Terns were well reported at YC, with **Common** first appearing 5/13 (JT,JRT); 2 were found 5/17 (GL); but, by 6/29, 3 were located (GL) and lingered until quarter's end. One to 2 **Forster's** were present intermittently between 4/17 (MH,GL) and 6/14 (GL). Best find of all were 2 **Black Tern** on the 5/11 Big Day (MH,GL,GS); at least 1 indiv. lingered until June's end (GL).

Two **Barred Owl** were found near Nolo 4/13 (AB,DB); 1 was listed near ALV 6/2 (GL). **Common Nighthawk** arrived at IND 5/8 (MH). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** near WL 5/3 (MH) was the lone report. **Water Pipit**, seen during the last quarter, continued at YC through 4/4 (AB,DB). Remarkable was the total absence of **Gray-cheeked** and **Swainson's Thrush** reports.

The warbler migration was uneventful with small numbers, but wide variety, dribbling through our county. Nice flights occurred 5/11 at YC (MH,GL,GS) and on 5/14 near SGF (JT,JRT). **Yellow-throated Warbler** continues to expand its range; unusual was the report of 1 out of habitat eating suet near IND from 5/5-25 (BM). Two were again observed near SGF 5/14 (JT,JRT), where they had been confirmed breeding last year. On 6/8 a ♂ was spotted singing in a yard near SHL (MH,RH); an hour later and a mile away another (?) indiv. was heard (PF,MH). Three **Worm-eating Warbler** on territory near IND were a nice find 5/26 (MH,TJ). The warbler highlight was a **Swainson's Warbler** seen and heard at YC 5/19 (E&NH).

**The Western Tanager** was an ad. ♂ found 5/13 (PA). Excellent details were submitted to the compilers. The bird was searched for later, but could not be relocated.

Unusual were the large number of **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** reported at feeders during May (v.o.). Three **Fox Sparrow** were reported—2 at YC 4/7 (MH) and 1 near RBS 4/20-21 (MM). A **Lincoln's Sparrow** was found at YC 5/11 (MH,GL,GS). Unusual was the June presence of a **White-throated Sparrow** singing near IND on Reservoir Hill (PJ); the bird's song was recorded by the observer. **White-crowned Sparrow**, which does not usually maintain a winter presence in our area, moved through in small flocks between 5/2-9 (v.o.). **Rusty Blackbird** remained at YC until 4/20 (MH,GL). Best concentration of **Bobolink** was 8 near Gipsy 6/4 (MH,RH). Top **Purple Finch** count was 16 at a Nolo feeder 4/3 (GL). A single **Pine Siskin**, the only report since last June, arrived at a feeder near SHL 4/5 (MH) and fed for only 10 minutes.

OBSERVERS: Pat Andrascik, Alice & Dave Beatty, Marcy Cunkleman, Paula Fleming, Eric & Nathan Hall, Etta Heinlen, Jonathan Higbee, Rob Higbee (RGH), **Margaret and Roger Higbee, RD #2, Box 166, Indiana 15701 (412-354-3493)**, Pat Johnner, Timmi Jones, Clayton Lamer, Gloria Lamer, Beth Marshall, Mary McClure, Georgette Syster, Joe Taylor (JRT), John Taylor.

## JEFFERSON COUNTY

Diane Greeley

Atlasing and BBS Routes have taken many hours this year! The most significant things noted this quarter were the abundance of rain and the noticeable decline in this county of flycatchers and raptors. During the long periods of rain, the **Short-eared Owl** seen last quarter disappeared. I understand this happened in other areas as well (see *Clarion*). As an example of the rain, the period from 5/1 to 6/17 had rain constantly, except for 7½ days of sun. Warbler waves were not as numerous as in other years. Some species did come, but were very late in arriving, possibly due to the weather.

**Canada Geese, N. Harrier, and Ring-necked Pheasant** were seen several times between 4/14-22. A **Broad-winged Hawk** was seen 4/22. One **Spotted Sandpiper** was noted 5/7.

**Tree Swallow** finally arrived 4/14. A **N. Rough-winged Swallow** was found 5/7. **House Wren** appeared 4/27. On 5/7, **Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and Black-throated Green Warbler** were seen. **The Indigo Bunting** finally arrived 5/20, three weeks late for this area.

OBSERVER: Diane L. Greeley, RD 1, Box 55, Corsica 15829, (814-856-2000).

## JUNIATA COUNTY

Linda Whitesel

A cool, wet spring brought above average amounts of rainfall by mid-May. Air conditioners are getting a rest this year.

One **Cattle Egret** was reported near the Lost Creek Golf Course during the week of 4/25 (DW). **Green-backed Heron** have been sighted consistently along several streams where they have been absent these last several years.

From about 6/5 to 7/10 an ad. **Common Loon** in breeding plumage was in residence on a pond on Black Dog Valley Rd. Two days before 6/5 there had been 2 adult Common Loon fishing a nearby creek and had spent a few days there. Unfortunately the loon died. There was no physical evidence of the cause of death.

**Am. Coot** were reported on the Tuscarora Cr. in Groninger Valley 6/29. **Whip-poor-will** were reported in greater numbers this year in the e. part of Juniata (DW,RW); meanwhile, in the c. part the numbers are down.

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird** sightings are down by one-quarter to one-half when compared to last year's numbers. **Willow Flycatcher** and **Savannah Sparrow** were found in sparse numbers e. of the Juniata R. (LW,RW).

Other interesting sightings from our PBBAP mop-up include **Hooded Warbler** in Slim Valley and **Brown Creeper, Solitary Vireo, Black-throated Green Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Am. Redstart, Worm-eating Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, and Am. Woodcock** doing a broken-wing display on Shade mt. (RW)!

Not reported this spring was **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**.

OBSERVERS: Dusty Weidner, Linda Whitesel, RD 3, Box 820, Mifflintown 17059-9770 (717-436-8048), Richard Williams, Grover and Nancy Wolfgang.

## LACKAWANNA COUNTY

Gerald Klebauskas

Abbreviations: *Clark's Summit (CLS), Covey's Swamp (CS), Dalton (DA), East Benton (EB), Factoryville (FA), Gravel Pond (GP), Lackawanna SP (LSP), L. Scranton (LS), Maple L. (ML)*.

It was a very wet May and June. Indeed, some farmers were planting corn on 4 July! Most observers reported that they saw the variety of migrants, but the numbers were down. On the contrary, **Yellow-rumped Warbler** were reported as quite numerous as some observers spotted large waves of them. Also, **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** were very common, some at feeding stations. The Lackawanna Audubon Society's Big Day was run 5/13 with 145 species reported. Best birds were a **Least Bittern** and a "**Brewster's**" **Warbler**, but both in neighboring counties!

A **Common Loon** and 1 **Horned Grebe** were at LS 4/2 (high of the latter species was 16 at LS 4/6) and 1 **Pied-billed Grebe** at LS 4/6. Earliest **Green-backed Heron** was at FA 4/29. **Black-crowned Night-Heron**, as well as **Great Blue Heron**, are getting to be quite common in the area with a small colony of Black-crowned at S. Scranton and many juv. birds reported at CS.

About 25 **Wood Duck** were at EB 5/13. **Green-winged and Blue-winged teal** and a small flock of **Am. Wigeon** were at FA 4/22. A **Surf Scoter** was at GP 5/12. A **Common Merganser** was at LS 4/2.

**Turkey Vulture** were back by 4/2. An ad. **Bald Eagle** flew over LS 4/6. A small mixed kettle of **Broad-winged and Red-shouldered hawks** was seen over DA 4/30 and included some Turkey Vultures. **Am. Kestrel** were noted in FA 4/22 and their numbers seem to be improving in the outskirts of Scranton. **Ring-necked Pheasant** were seen in early April at DA and often thereafter (apparently surviving the mild winters - many do not survive the typical winters here). **Solitary and Spotted sandpipers** were at CS 5/13. **Am. Woodcock** were at DA 4/3 and a **Common Snipe** was at FA and CS 4/29.

Fourteen **Bonaparte's Gull** were at ML 4/18. A **Common Tern** was at LSP 5/12 and 1 **Black Tern** at LS 5/3. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** were noted at Dunmore 5/13. A **Common Nighthawk** was at



Scranton 5/12,15. The **Chimney Swift** at Scranton 4/13 was very early and a **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** at CS 4/28 was early. Earliest **E. Phoebe** was 4/6 at LSP. About 75 **Tree Swallow** were at LS 4/6. Both **Cliff Swallow** and **Purple Martin** went unreported.

No **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was reported. **Carolina Wren** were seen intermittently in DA all quarter. A **Swainson's Thrush** was at DA 4/20 and a **Hermit Thrush** there 5/4. Some 15 **Golden-crowned kinglet** were at LS 4/6 and **Ruby-crowned** followed at CS 4/12.

An **Am. Tree Sparrow** lingered until 4/1 at DA, where a **Fox Sparrow** was noted that day. **White-crowned Sparrow** were found at DA 5/16. **White-throated Sparrow**, which were quite uncommon the last quarter, were seen as late as 5/9 at DA. Both orioles were found at LSP 5/13. **Purple Finch** were seen at LS 4/19, at FA 4/22, and off and on at feeders in the DA. **House Sparrow** numbers appear to be down in Scranton.

OBSERVERS: Derry & Nancy Bird, Rosann Bongey, Mike Freidlin, Arlene Jarocha, **Gerald Klebauskas, RD 2, Box 2321, Factoryville 18419 (717-344-4690)**, George Mozurkewich, Jane Shulenberger, Sue & Tinka Zenke.

## LANCASTER COUNTY

Eric Witmer

*Abbreviations: Middle Creek WMA (MC), Muddy Run (MR), Speedwell Forge L. (SFL), Susquehanna R. including the Conejohela Flats (SRCF), Southern Lancaster County Summer Bird Count (SBC).*

The highlight of the quarter was the successful fledging of a **Bald Eagle** at Hennery I. on the Susquehanna R. The shorebird migration was slow, the passerines average.

Single **Common Loon** were at Columbia 6/15 (JB) and at a pond near E. Petersburg 6/23 (TM,SS). **Pied-billed Grebe** lingered at MC through mid-May (EW) and at MR 5/17 (RMS). A possible **White Pelican** was observed on a mudflat at SRCF 4/27 by two non-birders who were familiar with swans and egrets. They described a pelican, but did not see the bird fly. "Non-breeding" **Double-crested Cormorant** continued at MC all period and 20+ in the SRCF area 5/12 (RMS *et al.*). **Am. Bittern** were reported at SFL 4/11 (JB), MC 4/19 (RMS), SRCF 4/23 (JB,TG,EW), and again at MC 4/27 (EW). **Cattle Egret** did not return to Rookery I. to nest this year and no more than 25 birds could be found in the Washington Boro area all quarter. About 100-200 **Black-crowned Night-Heron** moved from Rookery I. and nested on another island 250 yards to the s.e. (JB,EW,TG). **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** returned to the Conestoga R. and Little Conestoga, with three nests reported. A single bird was at MC 5/1-15 (m.ob.) Single **Glossy Ibis** were reported from MR 5/5 (PH) and SRCF 5/7 (JB,TG).

Several **Tundra Swan** remained at MC through mid-May. A "near adult" **Mute Swan** appeared at MC 5/10-20 (m.ob.). See the *Lebanon* report of an obvious ♂ **Am. Wigeon/N. Pintail** hybrid at MC 5/12. The following species lingered at MC until at least mid-May: **Green-winged Teal, N. Pintail, Blue-winged Teal, N. Shoveler, Gadwall, Ring-necked Duck** (m.ob.). Two **Ruddy Duck** were at MC 5/13 (FBH *et al.*). **Oldsquaw** were reported from SRCF 4/2 (JB), 4/30 (EW,TG) and, amazingly, at SFL 5/30 (FH). Single **White-winged Scoter** were at SRCF 4/30 and along the Susquehanna below **Marietta 5/13** (BE,JG,RM). A ♀ **Common Merganser** was observed with 1 young on the Susquehanna on the SBC 6/3. Eight **Red-breasted Merganser** were at SRCF 4/9 (EW,TG). **Osprey** nested below Holtwood Dam again (RMS).

The previously reported **Bald Eagle** nest at Hennery I. fledged 1 eaglet by the end of June. This is the first successful nesting in Lancaster since 1948!

A **King Rail** was heard at Alcoa Marsh 5/10-12 (TA,RMS,EW). Also at Alcoa in mid-May were at least 6 **Virginia Rail** and 2 **Sora** (m.ob.). Shorebirding was uneventful during the period. About 75 **Bonaparte's Gull** were at MRFP 4/20 and encouraging were 11+ **Black Tern** along the Susquehanna at Columbia 5/27 (DD,JG).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at Conestoga 5/18 (KL). **Cliff Swallow** colonies include two in the Muddy Run area and one at Safe Harbor Dam (RMS). A **Brown Creeper** was found in suitable habitat on the SBC 6/3 at Haines Station Rd.

Thrush migration seemed nonexistent this season with few **Swainson's** and no **Gray-cheeked** reported (RMS *et al.*). A late **Solitary Vireo** was at Tucquan Glen 5/12 (RMS *et al.*). A **Philadelphia Vireo** was on the Conewago Trail 5/2 (HM). A **Golden-winged Warbler** was at MC 5/9 (FH). **Yellow-throated Warbler** were found again between Rock Hill and Safe Harbor along the Conestoga R. (TK,NC *et al.*). **Prothonotary Warbler** were found in the SRCF area with 1 pair visiting a nest site in late May (TG,EW). A **Lincoln's Sparrow** was at MC 5/13 (JW *et al.*). Some 100 **Rusty Blackbird** were along the Conestoga R. near Lancaster (LS). **Purple Finch** appeared at some feeders in mid-April where they were not present this winter.

The SBC was held 6/3. High numbers of the following were reported: **Great Blue Heron, Wood Duck, Spotted Sandpiper, both cuckoos, Red-headed, Red-bellied and Hairy woodpeckers, N. Rough-winged Swallow, Carolina Wren, E. Bluebird, White-eyed Vireo, and Rufous-sided Towhee**. Low numbers of the following were reported: **Ring-necked Pheasant, Chimney Swift, N. Parula, Cerulean Warbler** (missed), **Black-and-white Warbler** (missed), **Louisiana Waterthrush, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Chipping Sparrow** (RMS *et al.*).

OBSERVERS: Tom Amico, Jerry Book, Nancy Clupper, Dave DeReamus, Bill Earhart, Tom Garner, Jay George, Frank & Barb Haas, Fred Habegger, Paul Heisey, Tom Kurtz, Keath Leidich, Tom McKinne, Randy Miller, Harold Morrin, Steve Santner, Leon Schreffler, Robert M. Schutsky, **Eric Witmer, 805 Pointview Ave., Ephrata 17522 (717-733-1138)**, Jan Witmer.

## LAWRENCE COUNTY

Barbara Dean

*Abbreviations: Bessemer (BE), Ellwood City (EC), Harlansburg (HB), New Castle Area (NCA), Plain Grove (PG), Vosler L. (VL).* Sightings by compiler unless otherwise noted.

April was very mild with highs of 40-70° and precipitation was just slightly below normal. A few **Killdeer** began to nest in Volant 4/4. A few species such as **Upland Sandpiper, 4/23, and Bank Swallow, 4/20, arrived early and nest boxes of Tree Swallow** were full.

It rained for 24 of the 31 days of May and we had >6" of rain, double our normal share. Rain drove insects to ground level and the first week of May, orioles, tanagers, and grosbeaks were found feeding together on the ground in plowed fields. Warbler watching was excellent. Many species were found at Rock Point 5/5,10,13. Not one birder suffered from "warbler neck." All one had to do was look down, where even **Cerulean Warbler** was found feeding under Bloodroot. **Swifts and swallows** were found flying just a few inches above the creeks, etc.

By mid-JUNE we had received 8" of rain and the end of the month some areas had recorded 12", which is triple our normal level. By mid-month creeks and rivers were running at high levels and there was some minor flooding. In downtown New Castle there are drain pipes left behind from the bygone days of the "Old Mill." This is where a small group of **N. Rough-winged Swallow** always nest. This year the flood waters of the Neshannock Cr. rose above those drain pipes and by 6/25 all the young were lost.

A **Common Loon** was found on VL 5/13 and 1 **Horned Grebe** was there 4/5 (MD,BD). We have not been able to list **Double-crested Cormorant** in six years of birding, but 1 was recorded on the Beaver R. at Rock Point 5/10 (MG,GD). A **Great Egret** was a good find at Mt. Jackson and BW found 1 in EC 5/31, which was joined by a second non-breeder through 6/14. They were found in a wetland created by a beaver dam.

One pair of **Am. Black Duck** remained at VL 4/1-5. Although the waterfowl migration peaked in March, we found 100+ **Ring-necked Duck** at VL and 50+ at the Rt. 956 pond 4/6. By 4/23 only a few individuals were there. Max. **Lesser Scaup** count was 15 at VL 4/23. An **Oldsquaw** was at Elders pond NCA 4/5-7. Two pair of **Bufflehead** were at the Rt. 956 pond 4/23. Only 1 **Red-breasted Merganser** was found, a ♀ at VL 5/13.

Top count of **Turkey Vulture** was 11 near Camp Elliot 4/16. Unusual was no sightings of **N. Harrier, Red-shouldered, or Sharp-shinned hawk**. The 1 **Cooper's Hawk** report came from EC 4/14 (BW). We had more sightings of **Broad-winged Hawk** than in the past 5 years. One pair returned to nest for the 4th straight year. One observer reported seeing a **Red-tailed Hawk** in Volant carrying a portion of food from the breast of a Ring-necked Pheasant road kill. **Am. Kestrel** are holding their own. Reports of **Ring-necked Pheasant** continue to increase. Many were seen in April and May,

especially in the NCA, PGA, and Volant areas.

Husband George and I made a concerted effort to find out how **Virginia** and **Sora** rails were doing. Both were found in Puslaski cattail marsh, where 3+ **Virginia** and at least 1 **Sora** called until mid-June. Other locations for both species included Mt. Jackson, off Rt. 551 in Bessemer, the Rt. 18 marsh, and a wet meadow in NCA. **Virginia Rail** was confirmed breeding in the Bessemer location. We never saw or heard a **Sora** after mid-June, but **Virginias** remained vocal all quarter.

Single **Greater Yellowlegs** were in PG and BE 4/23 and in Amish area 5/12. Only 1 **Lesser Yellowlegs** was reported, in BE 4/23. **Lawrence** has only two known areas where **Upland Sandpiper** breed. Two pair arrived very early, 4/23, in PG and successful breeding took place and 5-7 birds were regularly seen in June (BD,GD,MG,BS). Uplands also returned to Amish areas to breed. A total of 5 **Solitary Sandpiper** were recorded in Amish areas 5/8-21. **Spotted Sandpiper** were in various locations.

We only had a few **Ring-billed Gull** sightings in BE 4/23, but ±400 **Bonaparte's Gull** appeared in PG lakes and plowed fields 4/23-24. M. Geibel gave us our first **Black Tern** report in 5 years of 6 flying over the Beaver R., EC, 5/10.

The only **Black-billed Cuckoo** report of 5/29 was way below last year's good numbers. **E. Screech-Owl** reports were way down; this species was *exceptionally* silent. **Common Nighthawk** numbers were extremely low in NCA and not even reported till 5/13 and **Chimney Swift** were not found in the high numbers we enjoyed last spring.

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird** males arrived 4/30, the earliest date in 7 years, but females were not seen till 5/9. Even allowing for nesting and natural food supplies, our feeders are going down very slowly. Next quarter will give a more accurate picture. Colonies of **Red-headed Woodpecker** are not seen here. However, 10+ scattered pairs were checked and several new areas have been located. These birds arrived 4/23, somewhat early (NR,BD). The only report of **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was at a NCA feeder the first week of April (LH).

**Acadian** and **Willow** flycatchers arrived in good numbers, but no report of **Least**, **Olive-sided**, **Alder** or **Yellow-bellied**. Our woodlands did *not* ring with the plaintive whistle of the **E. Wood-Pewee**. I am guessing their numbers are down perhaps 70% by the lack of sound! Why? Only a few reports of **Great Crested Flycatcher** were received. **E. Kingbird** arrived in very good numbers in BE and Amish areas 5/2; I watched 10 feeding *on worms* in the rain in a plowed field 5/8. The first **Purple Martin** arrived in Amish areas 4/25 and the colonies still looked surprisingly healthy on 5/28 given the rain and low insect population! There was no report of **Cliff Swallow**, but the other species nested successfully, although **Barn** numbers seemed lower. Well over 100 **Water Pipit** were counted in Volant and BA 4/16-23.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet** went through in numbers 4/8 and **Golden-crowned Kinglet** were found 4/8 to 5/8. High numbers of **Brown Thrasher** were seen carrying food for young from 6/18-30 all over the county. Walczak reported **E. Bluebird** abandoned nests in early May, possibly due to lack of food. By the third week of May they were incubating eggs and these birds fledged and were nesting for the third time in mid-June. All spot-breasted thrushes were observed (v.o.).

The one report of **Cedar Waxwing** was of 40+ in NCA 5/27. Seven individual **White-eyed Vireo** were noted at 5 areas from 5/8 to 6/18. Single **Yellow-throated Vireo** were in NCA 5/21 and BA 5/31. A **Solitary Vireo** was in HA 6/17.

A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was found at Rock Point and viewed by members of the Bartramian Audubon Society 4/30 (BW). This is only the 4th record and it was seen again 5/13 (BD,DW). We had an excellent variety of warblers at EC and PG from 5/6-13 (MG,HF,MJ,NR *et al.*). Waves of **Yellow-rumped** and **Palm** warblers moved through from 4/30 to 5/8.

On 5/18, the Rodgers' feeders hosted 10 ♂ **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** and they were seen eating flowering crabapple petals 6/25. The last report of **Am. Tree Sparrow** was at NCA 4/30 (MD). We had 1 pair **Purple Finch** at our NCA feeder 4/4 and 4 pair at the Rodgers' feeder 5/10. Last **White-throated Sparrow** was in NCA 4/30 and singing in PG 5/12. **White-crowned Sparrow** moved through 5/1-12. Latest report of **Dark-eyed Junco** was at PGA 5/8.

**Bobolink** had a spectacular year. They were found in good sized flocks, 40-50, in many new locations. (*Perhaps the rain delayed harvesting of grasses in the western as well as the eastern portions of the state.* -Eds.) Adult **Common Grackle** were killing newly fledged

House Sparrows in May. We have witnessed this behavior for 3 years. Two **Common Redpoll** moved through EC 4/22 (BW) (*no details.* Eds.).

OBSERVERS: George, Mary, & Barbara Dean, 321 E. Meyer Ave., New Castle 16105 (412-658-3393), Helen Ferguson, Marguerite Geibel, Sam Haycock, Leslie Hubenthal, Marilyn Johnston, Bill & Nancy Rodgers, Priscilla Stoughton, Bob & Dorothy Walczak.

## LEBANON COUNTY

Steve Santner

*Abbreviations: Memorial Lake (ML), Stony Creek Valley (SCV).*

The weather this quarter featured a complete reversal of the drought of the previous two years. April continued dry, but in May and June a total of 16" of rain fell. The temporary farm ponds all became lakes, while a few new ponds formed. Despite all of this water (or perhaps because of it) shorebirds were either scarce or spread so widely that they could not be found. This was the best spring for warbler migration in many years. Relatively few big waves came through because of the uniform weather, but good numbers of birds could be found on almost any day in May. The rarity of the season was the **Am. Wigeon/N. Pintail** hybrid seen by the "bigday" group at Middle Creek WMA 5/12.

**Common Loon** was reported at Stoever's Dam Park 6/11 (FH), while the largest number of **Horned Grebe** was 4 at ML 4/9 (SS). In most recent years, **Cattle Egret** would not be considered unusual, but with the loss of the big **Lancaster** rookery, the 2 seen 5/7 near Lawn were noteworthy (JB,MC,SS,SW). **Great Egret** were seen twice; 2 on a farm pond n. of Annville 5/7 (JB,MC,SS,SW) and 1 at ML 5/12 (bigday). Both swans were found during the period at MCWMA; **Mute Swan** 5/7-13 and **Tundra Swan** into early May (m.ob.). **N. Shoveler** was somewhat late 5/13 at MCWMA (F&BH *et al.*), but the highlight was the **Am. Wigeon/N. Pintail** hybrid. The head was completely that of the wigeon. It also had the black rear of that bird. The tail was about the length of female pintail's. The rest of the body was mostly pintail, gray (paler than Gadwall) with a white throat. The speculum was not seen. A little late was the **Ruddy Duck** at ML 5/6 (m.ob.).

**Red-shouldered Hawk** is common in SCV. This year 1 was reported a bit s.e. on 4/20 n. of Lickdale (P&VM) and another in April and June just s. of the valley near Green Point (SS). As mentioned above, there were few shorebirds. The only species found were **Killdeer**, both **yellowlegs**, **Solitary**, **Spotted** and **Least** sandpipers, **Am. Woodcock**, and **Common Snipe**. The only concentration was 15 **Lesser Yellowlegs** in a flooded field near Lawn 5/6 (SS).

Landbird migration was mostly on schedule s. of Blue Mt., but was about 1 week behind in the mountains. **Bank Swallow** are often seen in migration at ML and MCWMA, but are unusual elsewhere, making the 1 seen n. of Lickdale 4/23 noteworthy (P&VM). The only **Winter Wren** reported was 4/1 in SGL 145 near Mt. Gretna (SS).

Warblers were in good numbers. The only major wave day, however, was 5/6 when 17 species were seen in 3 hours in SGL 145 (SS). During the remainder of the period it was always possible to see several migrants each day and the birds were not concentrated at "hotspots" as is typical. **Golden-winged** was reported twice; 1 on 5/7 at Mt. Gretna (JB,MC,SS,SW) and 1 at Levitz Park 5/15 (FH,PM). **Tennessee** was reported over a longer period than usual; the first found 5/7 near Annville (JB,MC,SS,SW), the last 2 seen 5/20 at SGL 145 (SS). **Nashville**, normally a rare spring migrant, was widely reported. The first was found 5/6 at SGL 145 (SS) and the last at Levitz Park 5/14 (J&KL). **N. Parula** was seen through May at SGL 145 (SS) and at Levitz Park 5/14 (J&KL). **Cape May** is normally seen singly in spring; 3 together near Lawn 5/7 were unusual (JB,MC,SS,SW). **Bay-breasted** was reported only once, 5/14, at Levitz Park (J&KL). **Blackpoll** was somewhat late, but in good numbers, with 5-10 being found 5/20 along the county's southern edge (SS). A somewhat late **Palm** was seen 5/7 n. of Lickdale (P&VM). A **Magnolia** was found possibly nesting in SCV 6/11 (FH,P&VM). Four **Worm-eating** were in SGL 145 5/14 (RM). **N. Waterthrush** was located at two sites in the n. end of the county, both 5/7 (m.ob.). Another pair of **Hooded** was located in the s. part of the county this year near Campbelltown (WE). The PBBAP will show this species as equally widespread in the southern as in the northern end of the county, but it is much less common there. **Canada** was again common (m.ob.). This species appears to be even more variable in numbers during migration than most warblers. **Wilson's** was reported twice, both time in SGL 145, on 5/6 (SS) and 2 on 5/18 (RM).

Migrant sparrows remained late and were more common than usual. **White-throated Sparrow** was seen until mid-May (m.ob.). The last **White-crowned Sparrow** was seen 5/19 at SGL 145 (RM). Five **Fox Sparrow** seen 4/11 in SGL 145 were about the average migration peak, but 1 seen at Levitz Park 5/7 (JB,MC,SS,SW) was very late. A rare spring record of **Lincoln's Sparrow** was 1 in SGL 145 5/20 (RM).

OBSERVERS: (Bigday = Amico, Heathcote, Santner, Schutsky and Witmer), Tom Amico, Jan Buckingham, Morris Cox, Frank & Barb Haas, Fred Habegger, Dan Heathcote, Jane & Ken Light, Pat & Val McElhenny, Randy Miller, **Steve Santner**, 3 **Overbrook Village Green Apt., Elizabethtown 17022 (717-367-5857)**, Scott Welsh, Eric Witmer.

## LEHIGH COUNTY

Bernie Morris

Abbreviations: *Leaser Lake (LL)*.

Aside from the rain that wiped out about half of the May migration, this season was not too bad. Not too good either, although the presence of a few outstanding birds helped to perk up the spirits of those who got to see them. A Big Day Team (BDT) consisting of Fritz Brock, Arlene Koch, Steve Smith, and Joe Zajacek tied last year's record of 126 species on 5/13.

A **Double-crested Cormorant** was perched on a rock in the Fogelsville Quarry 4/15 (RW). A **Glossy Ibis** was seen at Spring Cr. 5/6 (JGo). A **Snow Goose** was at LL 4/14 (PZ). Most waterfowl, especially the mergansers, were well represented. The **3 Surf Scoter** at LL in the rain 4/29, and seen only that day (JH), were a very unusual sighting for our area. All three species of merganser were at LL 3/14 (SR). A **Red-breasted Merganser** was seen on the late date 5/7 in a small stream at the Pool Sanctuary in Emmaus (FBa). The only reports of **Ruddy Duck** were 2 at LL 4/20 (DD), 4 on 5/13 (F&BH).

An **Osprey** was seen flying over Blue Mt. above LL on 5/13 (F&BH *et al.*). A **Cooper's Hawk** was found nesting in a small woodlot near Allentown in mid-May (AJ,FB). This is the first such record in 10+ years for this bird so close to town. Both birds wore the brown imm. plumage, which may explain why they chose such a poor nest site. A **Sora** was seen in cattails near Wanamakers 5/8 (CRE). A late **Common Snipe** was seen by BDT at Spring Cr. 5/13, and 15 **Least Sandpiper** were there 5/9 (RW). A **Bonaparte's Gull** was on a small pond in Germansville 5/2 (RW).

Both **cuckoos** were widely reported. Two young **Great Horned Owl** were seen calling for food from a nest near the Little Lehigh in Allentown (CRE). A **Long-eared Owl** was seen near Green Lane 4/2, the 1st record for this area (GLF). A very early **Whip-poor-will** was heard near Center Valley 4/17 (CW *vide* TM), and an early **Chimney Swift** was seen 4/30 (CRE). A singing **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was in Macungie 5/25 (RW), and a very early **E. Wood-Pewee** was heard at LL 4/30 (BLM,BCM). **Horned Lark** were seen near LL 5/27, probably nesting in the area (SS). A singing **Winter Wren** was at the Walter Tract through mid-May (FB). An extremely early (or wintering) **House Wren** seen near Neffs 3/13 (DS) was a late report. Both species of **kinglets** and **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** were seen in good numbers starting 4/20 (v.o.). An early **Veery** was found 4/30 (DG,JE). A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was seen in Emmaus 5/12 (JH). Three very late **Water Pipit** were seen near LL 4/30 (BLM,BCM). A **Yellow-throated Vireo** was in the Lehigh Parkway 5/18 (BLM). An early **Warbling Vireo** was found along the Jordan 4/30 (DG,JE).

The warbler migration was said by many to have good numbers of species, but low numbers of individual birds. Some record early dates were set for the area: **Magnolia** 4/28 and **Am. Redstart** 4/21 in the Lehigh Pkwy (CRE). Other early warblers included **Yellow** 4/18 (CRE), **Black-throated Green** 4/26 (DG,JE), and **Bay-breasted** 4/29 (JH). A singing **Mourning Warbler** was seen at Applewood 5/27-28 (PE), and another 1 in Macungie 5/25 (RW). Four singing **Cerulean Warbler** were on the road up to Bake Oven Knob in June (RW). **Yellow-breasted Chat** were reported from Alburtis in late May (DSt).

A ♀ **Dickcissel** was seen in a downpour at LL on the late date 5/27 (SS,AK). This is the 1st *non-winter* record for the area. An early **Grasshopper Sparrow** was near LL 4/30 (BLM,BCM). A record late **Fox Sparrow** was seen in Emmaus 5/13 (JH). Another record late bird was an ad. **White-crowned Sparrow** seen near Pleasant Corners 6/2, more than two weeks past the previous late date (BLM). Finally, a good number of **Orchard Oriole** were found in many spots.

OBSERVERS: Frank Bader (FBa), Fritz Brock, Dave DeReamus, Catherine Elwell, Pauline England, Gary Fried, John

Galm, Dick Gemmel, John Good (JGo), Frank & Barb Haas, Jason Horn, Allen Jennings, Arlene Koch, Barbara C. Malt, Terry Master, **Bernard L. Morris**, 825 N. Muhlenberg St., Allentown 18104 (215-435-9134), Sally Roth, Dick Saul, Steve Smith, David Stauffer (DSt), Craig Williamson, Rick Wiltraut, Judy Wink, Joe Zajacek, Peter Zakrewski.

## LUZERNE COUNTY

Bill Reid

Please see the introductory remarks for *Bradford*.  
Abbreviations: *Kirby Park (KP)*, *Lee's Swamp (LS)*, *Harveys L. (HL)*.

Three **Common Loon** were at Sylvan L. 4/2 (WE), and others reported at HL through April (m.ob.). "Large numbers" of **Horned Grebe** were at HL and Sylvan L. 4/2 (WE); 19 were at HL 4/7 (WR); and 1 was still present at HL 5/20. **Double-crested Cormorant** were at HL (MB) and Wyoming (BY) 5/20. An **Am. Bittern** was at LS 4/30 (RB) and was still present 5/15 (m.ob.). A **Least Bittern** was discovered at LS 5/13 (GK) and was seen by m.ob. It was still present 5/27 (JH). Both bitterns were also recorded at the Susquehanna Riverlands in mid-May (DG). **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was seen at KP 4/6 (FP); but the colony at Pittston was not occupied this year (WR). An **Oldsquaw** was noted at Sylvan L. 4/2 (WE). **Hooded Merganser** was found nesting in a Wood Duck box at the Riverlands in mid-May (DG). An early **Virginia Rail** was at LS 4/8 (GWWAS); and a **Sora** there 5/13 (GK *et al.*). A **Common Snipe** was at KP 4/6 (FP). **Bonaparte's Gull** were at KP 4/6 (FP); and 28 at HL 4/21 (WR).

**Whip-poor-will** were present in June at Nanticoke and Bunker Hill (MB,WR). A **Winter Wren** was present in June near HL (JH). Among warblers reported were: **Pine**, Dallas 4/10 (EJ); **Palm**, Riverlands 4/23 (JJ); **Ovenbird**, Huntsville 4/9 (EJ); **Mourning**, KP 5/20 (MB); and **Yellow-breasted Chat**, Pittston 5/2 (WR).

**Lincoln's Sparrow** was seen at KP 5/12-13 (MB,WR). A ♀ **oriole** was seen at close range for 15 minutes at KP 5/12. It had a yellowish throat, whitish underparts, and a dark gray back, and appeared to be at least partially a **Bullock's Oriole** (WR).

OBSERVERS: Mark Blauer, Rosann Bongey, William Evans, Gr. Wyoming Valley Aud. Soc., Doug Gross, Jim Hoyson, John Jakoby, Edwin Johnson, Gerry Klebauskas, Frank Pacolitch, **William Reid**, 73 W. Ross St., Wilkes-Barre 18702 (717-836-2525), Bonnie Yascavage.

## LYCOMING COUNTY

Wes Egli

Abbreviations: *Antes Fort (AF)*, *Huntersville (HNT)*, *Jersey Shore (JS)*, *Loyalsock Cr. (LC)*, *Montoursville (MTV)*, *Rose Valley L. (RVL)*, *Susquehanna R. (SR)*, *Upper Fairfield Twp (UFT)*.

One **Red-throated Loon** was seen at RVL 5/11, 16 (SS). A **Red-necked Grebe** was also at RVL 4/8 (WE,P&GS). A flock of 43 **Double-crested Cormorant** was counted on RVL and another flock of 26 at JS (P&GS), both 5/8. Three **Great Egret** and 2 **Snowy Egret** were at JS 5/21 (P&GS), while an imm. **Cattle Egret** was noted at AF 5/12 (P&GS). **Snow Geese** (white morph) numbered ±150 at MTV 5/9 (SS). A **Blue-winged Teal** was at Williamsport 4/23 (P&GS). Two **White-winged** (5/5,8) and 1 **Surf scoter** (5/10) were at RVL (SS).

An imm. **Golden Eagle** was seen at SGL 252 5/6 (WE,P&GS). On 4/23, **Osprey** were at LC and SGL 252 (WE). Shorebirds at AF 5/7 included 7 **Lesser Yellowlegs**, 4 **Solitary**, 3 **Least**, and 2 **Pectoral**. A **Semipalmated Sandpiper** 5/18 and 1 **Pectoral** 4/23 were also found there as well as a **Common Snipe** 4/23 (P&GS).

A **Common Tern** was at RVL 5/10-11 (SS). A solitary **Forster's Tern** was seen at a SGL 252 pond 5/6 (WE,P&GS). A single **Black Tern** was on the SR at MTV 5/10 1 at RVL 5/11 (SS). Two **Caspian Tern** were there 5/1,6 (SS). A **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was first seen 5/4 (late) in UFT (E&TR). One **Red-headed Woodpecker** was seen at MTV near the airport 5/4 (ML,LS). The only sighting of **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was in HNT 4/22 (CB,WE). There was one report of **Pileated Woodpecker** at SGL 252 5/6 (WE,P&GS).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at MTV 5/18. An **Alder Flycatcher** was seen from 5/28 to early June with a **Willow Flycatcher** at MTV (SS). **Purple Martin** were nesting in the Hughesville area (WE). **Solitary** and **Warbling vireos** were seen in May (WE,P&GS).

Numbers of **Bay-breasted** and **Tennessee** warblers were down from recent years (v.o.), while **Yellow-rumped** were quite numerous (WE,SS). A **Blue-winged** was heard at SGL 252 5/6 (WE,P&GS) and a **Golden-winged** both seen and heard there 5/13 (WE). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was heard singing at Best Beach Campground 5/24 to 6/24 (SS). A **Prairie** was in song at HNT 5/23 (CB,WE). Two **Cerulean** were at LC 5/25 (SS). A **Kentucky** (5/15) and 1 **Mourning** (5/22) were near MTV (SS). **Hooded** were observed in HNT 5/28 (WE).

One **Clay-colored Sparrow** was spotted 5/2 by Stan Stahl at RVL with **Chipping** and **Field** sparrows. Song and call were very buzzy in quality. Recordings were made. It fed on the ground, closely associating with Chipping Sparrows. It was more sandy colored than Chipping with gray nape and sides of neck. The brown ear patch was bordered with black lines. A broken crown patch had fine lines interrupted by a light median area.

Two **Lincoln's Sparrow** were seen near MTV 5/15 (SS). A single ♂ **Orchard Oriole** was seen in the Muncy area 5/6 (WE).

OBSERVERS: Chris Barlow, **Wesley Egli, 123 N. Main, PO Box 381, Picture Rocks 17762 (717-584-2222)**, Melvin Lane, Ed & Tink Reish, Leanne Sanders, Paul & Glenna Schwalbe, Stanley Stahl.

## MC KEAN COUNTY

Linda Ordiway

We welcome Linda Ordiway as the new compiler for McKean County. She, in turn, will welcome your reports.

Abbreviations: *Brown Town Swamp (BTS), Derrick City (DC), Gilbert Lane Res. (GLR), Glendorn Estate (GE), Toad Hollow (TH).*

The weather was very damp and cool. The Bradford area was severely hit with flood waters in the last week of June. It rained at least once a day for 28 straight days. We had 2" of snow on 7 May and the average temperature was only in the high-50's to mid-60's.

Two **Horned Grebe** were on GLR 4/23. **Great Blue Heron** numbers were up in the month of April, even in downtown Bradford. **Green-backed Heron** fledged at least 3 young in BTS within a very industrial area. **Wood Duck**, using both boxes and snags, nested in BTS and GE; eggs were found in a box in GE 6/2. A raft of 18 **Bufflehead** was present at GLR 4/23-29, along with 3 **Common** and 6 **Red-breasted mergansers**.

An **Osprey** was at GE 6/15. An ad. **Bald Eagle** was seen in the evening of 4/23 flying low up the Little Gilvert valley at GLR. A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was showing territorial behavior at GLR 4/25. On 4/23 my father and I observed a large kettle of about 45 hawks which flew over in a funnel-like formation. The date would make my guess **Broad-winged Hawk**. They were flying in a SW direction over the GLR. We are starting to see more **Am. Kestrel** in area, including 1 at Degolia 6/17. There is a lot of **Ruffed Grouse** and **Wild Turkey** activity in the n.w. portion of *McKean*, but not many gray-phase grouse noted.

Three **Spotted Sandpiper** were on GLR 5/19. **Am. Woodcock** continued their dance through 4/4. Only 2 **Black-billed Cuckoo** were found in Roulette 6/17 on a BBS route. **Great Horned Owl** were nesting 4/30 at DC, not more than 75' from a driveway next to a busy commercially travelled road. The young were seen periodically after this discovery date.

On 5/17 a **Least Flycatcher** was giving a gurgled, junco-quality trill along with his "che-bek." **E. Kingbird** are noted becoming more abundant these past years. A **Carolina Wren** was nesting in DC 4/17, where they have nested in hanging baskets before. A **Winter Wren** was noted going in and out of a stump at GE 6/3. Five **Golden-crowned Kinglet** were found feeding in white pines at GLR 4/23. **Swainson's Thrush** were found singing in the higher elevations of GLR and GE 6/10. **Hermit** and **Wood thrush** and **Veery** numbers were as usual, with more nests found this year.

A **Blue-winged Warbler** was found 4/30 at Kinzua Bridge. Only two separate sightings of **N. Parula**: 1 at TH 6/11 and 1 at DC 5/22. A **Cape May** was at DC 5/4. First sighting for **Black-throated Green** was 4/23 and for **Blackburnian** at DC 4/26. A **Palm** was observed picking at pacasandra in DC 5/2. **Cerulean**, a flock 5/20, and **Yellow-breasted Chat** were only seen at TH.

**Savannah Sparrow** were more abundant on the 6/17 Betula

BBS route, with 5 counted. **Swamp** and **White-throated** sparrows were less numerous. A **White-crowned** was found at Willow Bay 5/19. **N. Oriole** numbers were low around the county.

OBSERVERS: Madeline Miles, Linda Ordiway, 72 Gilbert Lane, Bradford 16701.

## MERCER COUNTY

Marty McKay

Abbreviations: *Celery Swamp (CS), Forest Lane in Sharpsville (FL), Hermitage (HA), Limber Rd. (LR), Pensy Swamp (PS), Saguanas Ponds (SP), Shenango R. Res. (SRR).* Observations by compiler unless otherwise noted.

*Rainfall in April was perfectly norm.*

*In May seven inches were dumped by the storm(s).*

*But June - the MONSOON = Ten! It was murder.*

*Nasty for nestlings and bad for the birder.*

A **Common Loon** was at SRR 4/7. A **Least Bittern** was at PS 6/1 (BGD). A **Great Egret** was at SP 5/13 (GD). The following waterfowl were all at SRR: 8 **Blue-winged Teal** 4/7, 2-3 **N. Shoveler** 4/7-21, 2 **Am. Wigeon** 4/7, 12 **Bufflehead** 4/13, 3 **Common Merganser** 4/18 and 1 **Ruddy Duck** 4/7. An **Oldsquaw** was present at SP 4/3 (BD,SM,BW). A **Virginia Rail** with 1 chick was at PS 6/1 and a **Sora** was observed feeding 3 there 5/27 (BGD,DBW). Top count of **Am. Coot** was 15 on 4/7, with 1 noted at CS 5/2 (BGD). **Common Moorhen** and coot with young were found at PS 6/1 (NR).

Three **Hooded Merganser** landed on a small woods-bordered pond at HA 3/3. Their numbers gradually increased, and by 4/10 nine were present, all ♀. They left the pond at dusk each day, returning the following mornings. The flock gradually decreased, and by 4/19 all had gone.

A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was incubating (*location deleted.* - *Eds.*) 5/3 (BS). Since **Ring-necked Pheasant** is so scarce in Mercer, it is noteworthy that 1 ♂ was seen 5/31 off Old Mercer Rd. (BD). Four **Greater Yellowlegs** were near CS 5/2 (BGD). The 104 **Upland Sandpiper** seen 4/25 are chronicled elsewhere in this issue. Two **Common Snipe** were near Flat Rd. 5/1 (BGD,BW). An **Am. Woodcock** was performing nuptial flight in the rain at LR 4/2 (BD,BW).

Please read the report printed elsewhere of the **Short-eared Owls** in the LR area. **Great Horned Owl** used an old crow's nest in a small, dense stand of spruce trees and fledged 2 young by 4/13. A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was spotted in Wilmington Twp 4/23 and 2 pairs were in the Amish area 5/16 (BGD). **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** moved through HA 4/3. **Purple Martin** arrived at SRR 4/25, but there was no sign of any 6/3. The failed nesting was surely the result of the unusually heavy rains.

A **Winter Wren** was seen 4/7-10 at HA. **Marsh Wren** were present at 3 different areas at PS 6/1 (NR). **Golden-crowned Kinglet** were common in early Apr. at HA, and **Ruby-crowned** moved 4/16-30. **Hermit Thrush** seemed in good numbers at HA in Apr., the first noted 4/8. A **N. Mockingbird** was in Wilmington Twp 4/23 (BGD).

No **Red-eyed Vireo** was noted until 5/19, about 10 days late. The report on warblers at HA was mixed. The first flight of **Yellow-rumped** was 4/15. The best "warbler" day was 4/30, when **Yellow**, **Hooded**, **Ovenbird**, **Redstart**, **Blue-winged**, **Yellowthroat**, and **Yellow-rumped** were all observed after a fog lifted at 10 a.m. A **Blue-winged** was heard singing the song of a **Golden-winged** 5/20, and a **Kentucky** was found 5/16. Numbers of **Black-and-White**, **Redstart**, and **Palm** were good, while numbers of **Bay-breasted**, **Canada**, **Cerulean**, and **Nashville** were way low. Were the low numbers due to the impossible observation conditions of rain and fog, or to the destruction of the wintering grounds?

After being totally absent all winter, **White-throated Sparrow** finally began appearing at HA 4/26.

OBSERVERS: Harriett Bauer, Barb & George Dean, Shirley McCarl, Marty McKay, 2320 Valley View Road, Sharpsville 16150 (412-962-7476), Nancy Rodgers, Bill Sarver, Loraine Weiland, Dorothy & Bob Walczak.

## MIFFLIN COUNTY

Margaret Kenepf

All sightings by compiler unless otherwise noted.

We settled into April with migrating birds, rain and spring flowers. Early nesters were **N. Cardinal**, **doves**, **House Sparrow**, **E. Bluebird**, **Killdeer**, **Eur. Starling**, **Tufted Titmouse**, and **Downy Woodpecker**.

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird** arrived 5/4, however heavy rains seemed to interfere with bird reproduction. Our hummingbird count appeared to be down and they were not seen in display until mid-June, a month later than usual here. During one rain downpour we found 6 **Am. Robin**, 2 **N. Cardinal**, and 1 **House Finch** nests washed out of the trees near the house.

After we returned from a 26-day vacation and birding trip to the West Coast, we found 3 juv. **House Finch** nesting in a flowerpot on the porch, and another nest with 4 eggs, a **Carolina Wren** nest between two flower pots, which she later abandoned to settle in a bluebird box which had been left on the patio.

During June a **Green-backed Heron** was seen at the stream. **Red-bellied Woodpecker** young were very vocal. Cardinals, **Red-eyed Vireo**, **Tufted Titmouse**, **E. Wood-Pewee**, and **Great Crested Flycatcher** nested in normal numbers.

**Common Raven** were again observed flying from Blue Mt. to the fields near the river. Our **E. Screech-Owl** fly into the Linden tree at our back door each evening and seem to want us to admire the 4 juv. as they sit on separate branches and watch us. They turn and bob their heads to follow our movements. They visit from 8:30-9:00 regularly and practice their vocal renditions.

The Ryde BBS route had nothing rare this year. It was a normal count despite fog, drizzle and being overcast. **Purple Martin** returned to the area and the count seemed normal at the Belleville houses.

Dunmire reported an ad. **Bald Eagle** flying up from the Juniata R. near McVeytown 6/16. It circled for height and soared off in a W direction along the river.

An interesting note for this time of year: My neighbor, Grace Miller, gathers egg shells for her sister, Ida Freed, who places them in her garden near McClure, where **Barn Swallow** come by the dozens for the treats (they love them).

OBSERVERS: Dan Dunmire, Ida Freed, **Margaret Kenepf**, Box 343, RD 2, McVeytown 17051 (717-899-6252), Grace Miller.

## MONROE COUNTY

Rick Wiltraut

*Abbreviations: Delaware Water Gap (DWG), Long Pond (LP).*

Five **Great Blue Heron**, 11 **Wood Duck**, and an ad. **Bald Eagle** were seen on a canoe trip through LP 6/17 (SB,RW). There was a heavy gypsy moth outbreak and cuckoos were common. Three **Yellow-billed** were found near Chicola L. and both **Black-billed** and **Yellow-billed** were present at Big Pocono SP (SB,RW). A **Red-bellied Woodpecker** was at Hialeah Picnic Area DWG 6/29 (RW).

Efforts are underway in *Monroe* to locate additional species for the PBBAP. Walter Thurber, of Media, PA, reports that he completed two blocks, one in the Blakeslee area (#4) and one near Tobyhanna (#5).

At Blakeslee on 6/18, he encountered traffic jams for the entire morning as a record crowd of 100,000 persons converged on the Pocono Internation Raceway for the Miller High Life 500. He did come away with 10 new species, including **Least Flycatcher**, **N. Rough-winged Swallow**, and **Yellow-throated Vireo**.

By contrast, there is virtually no development or highway access in the Tobyhanna block. SGL 127 encompasses most of the area. The highlights were **Barred Owl**, **Alder Flycatcher**, and **Yellow-throated Vireo** 6/17 and **Red-shouldered Hawk** and **N. Rough-winged Swallow** 6/24. **Rock Dove**, **Eur. Starling**, and **House Sparrow** were absent. **Chestnut-sided Warbler** is the "junk" bird there.

Some 20-25 **Alder Flycatcher** were found at LP 6/17 (SB,RW). An **E. Bluebird** was observed feeding a young cowbird near Effor during June (SB). A **Yellow-throated Vireo** was at Cherry Valley 6/12 (RW) and a **Solitary** was heard at LP 6/17 (SB,RW).

The highlight of the season was the sighting of 23 species of warblers during June. **Worm-eating** were found in the DWG on the Blue Mt. and at Hialeah (RW). **Blue-winged** were observed feeding fledglings at Hialeah and near Chicola L. and **Golden-winged** were found at Big Pocono SP (SB,RW). A singing ♂ **Nashville** was observed carrying food on the Blue Mt. DWG about 1 mi n. of the *Northampton* line 6/12 (RW). **N. Parula** were found during June at Hialeah (RW) and Marshall's Cr. (SB). Both **Magnolia** and **Yellow-rumped** were found at LP 6/17 (SB,RW) and **Black-throated Green** were at LP and DWG (RW). A **Cerulean** was heard at Hialeah 6/29 (RW) and Boyce located a **Blackburnian** nest near Bartonsville. An **Ovenbird** was observed feigning injury in front of black rat snake on at DWG 6/12 (RW). A **Kentucky** with 2 fledglings was found at Hialeah 6/29 (RW). This may be the *first* definite nesting record for the Poconos.

**Orchard Oriole** were at Hialeah and near the DWG park office 6/29 (RW) and **Purple Finch** were at LP 6/17 (SB,RW). **Fifty Swamp Sparrow** and 8 singing **White-throated Sparrow** were found on the canoe trip through LP 6/17 (SB,RW).

OBSERVERS: Steve Boyce, Walter Thurber, **Rick Wiltraut**, 54 Pershing Blvd, Whitehall 18052 (215-435-8632).

## MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Neal Thorpe

*Abbreviations: Barnes Arboretum (BA), Green Lane Res. (GLR), Ft. Washington SP (FWSP), Pennypack Elem. School (PES), Unami Cr. Valley (UCV), Upper Perkiomen Valley Park (UPVP), Valley Forge National Historic Park (VFNP).*

The phenomenal rains of May and June chiefly impacted the county's shorebird records, as the edges of banks and islands and all floodplains of both GLR and the Schuylkill R. were under water. Nevertheless an **Am. Bittern** made its 1st recorded appearance at VFNP 4/14; another was seen in Perkiomenville 5/19 (RG) and yet another on the small, but extraordinary, PES grounds along the Pennypack Cr. in Hatboro 4/24. On the same day PES also had a flyover **Osprey** and hosted a **Green-backed Heron**; a **Black-crowned Night Heron** lingered there 4/17-19 (JH).

The following were all reported from GLR: 1-2 **Horned Grebe** 4/3-9; a **Great Egret** 5/21; 28 **Green-winged Teal** 4/9; 2-3 **N. Shoveler** 4/3-9; 23 **Am. Wigeon** 4/9; 4 **Oldsquaw** 4/3; 18 **Common Merganser** 4/3; and 1 **Am. Coot** 5/6 (RK).

The **Wild Turkey** population at GLR has climbed to at least 10 (1 ♂, 9 ♀) seen 4/1 (GLF), while in the UCV 4/8 a ♂ was seen gobbling under a tree in which a ♀ was sitting. The pair was seen again 4/16 (W&NM). PES was visited again by a **Merlin** 4/22,25; both times the bird(s) perched on same dead limb and left after seconds (JH). A single **Bonaparte's Gull** in winter plumage was at GLR 4/25 (KC) and a **Long-eared Owl** there 4/2 (GLF).

I watched an **Am. Crow** flycatching the large, slower insects in mid-air one day. Jeff Herbst

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at Perkiomenville 5/19 (RG) and a **Least Flycatcher** came through BA 5/22 (RK). A small flock of about 6 **Purple Martin** were at GLR among abundant other swallows; they were first noticed 4/23 and were still there 5/17 (m.ob). Sixty **Bank Swallow** were counted there 5/11 (KC), and on 4/29 at least 2 **Bank** and 1 **Cliff Swallow** were among thousands of swallows over the Schuylkill R. off the Rt. 29 bridge—a regular April spectacle.

The only **Gray-cheeked Thrush** reported was in the UCV 5/18 (BS), but there were several scattered reports of **Swainson's** and **Hermit thrush**, including 1 of each at PES. A "**Brewster's**" **Warbler** was seen in the same UCV territory as last year (m.ob.), and W&NM report that it is paired with a ♀ **Blue-winged Warbler**. A **Prothonotary Warbler** was also briefly in the UCV 5/21 and 2 **Wilson's Warbler** were there 5/13 (GLF). Another **Wilson's** was at — where else?— PES 5/15 (JH). A **Blue Grosbeak** pair was at VFNP 6/10 (RG), a **White-crowned Sparrow** joined birds feeding on sunflower seeds and cracked corn in a Wynnewood yard 5/13 (Wmcl)

and 24 singing **Purple Finch** were in the UCV 4/16 (W&NM).

In what one birder called "a so-so quarter" the **Green-backed Heron** was among those noted as surprisingly scarce at GLR, on the Schuylkill and at UPVP. On the other hand, **Wood Duck** were successfully raising young in all three places, and April was not a bad season for ducks. Outstanding were **Oldsquaw** at GLR, with 4 counted 4/3 and by 4/9 30+ counted, the males displaying vigorously (m.ob). The **N. Harrier** is still in residence at GLR and it was good to have a **Red-shouldered Hawk** reported hanging around Perkiomenville near the UPVP area for several weeks early in the quarter (RG), although no breeding has been confirmed for several years. **Broad-wing** reports were plentiful, including 100 seen flying over PES 5/25 (JH).

Shorebirds were really wiped out. One **Greater** and 1 **Lesser** yellowlegs and a few **Solitary** and **Spotted** sandpipers were along the river between VFNP and Phoenixville (RG,NT), but brimming GLR could attract only one **Spotty** (KC).

Both cuckoos were found in gratifying numbers for the second year in a row. As KC pointed out, "Plenty of gypsy moths to keep them busy." Even the **Black-billed** was reported from the river to UCV. From 1-2 **Pileated Woodpecker** were reported both in VFNP and the UCV—and (of course!)—1 at PES 4/22 (JH). On 4/19 W&NM found six species of woodpecker, all but the Red-headed, in the UCV. They felt **E. Wood Pewee** numbers were down there; on the other hand a high of 7 **Acadian Flycatcher** was there 5/29 (GLF), and elsewhere **Willow Flycatcher** seemed more prevalent than in the past. A pair were in the VFNP 5/30 (NT) and 3 were singing at GLR 6/15 (KC). **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** seemed extra-abundant this year in the UCV, as did **Wood Thrush** everywhere, and reports of nesting **E. Bluebird** covered the county. **Yellow-throated Vireo** were in the UCV from 4/13 to 5/29.

KC thought "warblers were incredibly scarce!" but a peak day, 5/7, in FWSP was described thus by Bill Murphy: "*This day rivals any bird movement that I have seen at Cape May. I stood in one spot for several hours and just watched migration stream by. I would estimate close to 1000 birds. Twenty species of warbler. Very good numbers of Worm-Eating Warbler. There were Kentucky and Cape May warblers, Gray-cheeked Thrush and Orchard Oriole. It was a fantastic spectacle—the only one like it this year.*" On 5/12 at FWSP they counted 16 species of warbler, again numbers of Worm-eating, adding, "This is a warbler we rarely see in such numbers in the area." GLF counted a total of 30 warbler species in the UCV in April-May, adding "but not many birds!" and that the **Cerulean Warbler** was very scarce this year. BA counted 20 species of warbler in the same period (RK) and PES 18 (JH). Other in scarce numbers were **Black-throated Green**, **Black-and-white** and **Pine** warblers. Better news were the counts of **Yellow-Throated** and **Hooded** warblers. The Yellow-throated were at VFNP 5/28 (NT), in the UCV 5/29 (GLF) and at BA, where 1 lingered from 5/9-11 and another came through 5/24 (RK). Four Hooded were singing on and around Mt. Joy at VFNP 5/19 (NT) and one pair nested (RG); numbers were also singing in the UCV as early as 5/7 (KC) and still being heard 6/10, with a max. of 4 on 5/29 (GLF). A ♂ **Wilson's Warbler** was seen 5/15 (JH).

OBSERVERS: Kevin Crilley, Gary L. Freed, Ron Grubb, Jeff Herbst, Rudy Keller, William McLean, William & Naomi Murphy, Brian Sweisford, Neal Thorpe, Box Q, Mont Clare 19453 (215-933-2127).

## MONTOUR COUNTY

Allen Schweinsberg

A **Double-crested Cormorant** and a late **Common Goldeneye** were noted at the PP&L ash basin 5/13 (AS).

Both **Virginia Rail** and **Sora** called from the Tobias Marsh 5/25 (AS). Two **Caspian Tern** were at the PP&L ash basin 5/7, while the equally uncommon **Common Tern** was nearby at Montour Preserve (AS). Four days later 2 **Black Tern** were at the Preserve (AS).

On 6/25 a first spring ♂ **Blue Grosbeak** was well described by AS as it worked on heads of wheat just n. of Beaver Run Church.

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

## NORTHAMPTON COUNTY

Rick Wiltraut

Abbreviations: E. Bangor Dam (EBD), Little Gap Bird Observatory (LG), Morgan's Hill (MH), Minsi L. (ML), Monocacy Nature Center (MNC).

The quarter was notable for the amount of rain, which produced some good water birds. Dave DeReamus reported a rather slow hawk flight at Morgan's Hill and it was uneventful at Little Gap, where a hawk watch was conducted for a few days in April and May. It was an excellent year for blueberries and Mountain Laurel on Blue Mt., but the trees were heavily defoliated by gypsy moths, especially in the area around Smith Gap. Cuckoos were common the second year in a row. Mammal highlights included the sighting of a porcupine and a family of four otters in the n.e. part of the county. Uninitialed sightings by the compiler.

Twenty-six **Common Loon** were noted near Copella 4/10 (DD) and a small flight of 41 were counted in 30 minutes at LG 4/27. A **Red-throated Loon**, in company of Commons, was observed after a storm at ML 5/2, the 2nd county record (SB,BS). One of the several highlights was a breeding-plumaged **Red-necked Grebe** swimming among lily pads at EBD on the late date 5/12 (SB). Six **Horned** were at ML 4/6 and 4 **Pied-billed** at EBD that same day. Single **Horned** were at ML and EBD 4/23 (BLM). An unsuccessful search for breeding **Pied-billed** was made at EBD during June, where birds were found in courtship in 1978. In July 1982, Silfies found an ad. with young at ML, but this area has become overcrowded with fishermen. The 25 **Double-crested Cormorant** at MH 4/20 was a good count (DD) and a flock of 8 passed LG the next day. A lone bird was seen flying high over Frost Hollow 6/5 (BS,RW). Two **Glossy Ibis** were seen near Copella 4/11 (DD) and an **Am. Bittern** was seen at EBD 5/2 (SB). A **Common Goldeneye** was at ML 4/20 (KS).

Boyce saw a **Turkey Vulture** feeding on a dead black rat snake near Mt. Bethel 5/28, and on 5/19 he saw 7 **Black Vulture** over EBD, an excellent count. Two **Black Vulture** were noted near Copella 4/26 (DD) and 2 were sharing a carcass with **Turkey Vulture** along the Delaware R. at Ground Hog Lock 5/31. Koch still reports a pair near her home in Williams Twp (next quarter I'll be reporting on her sighting of an imm., the first evidence of nesting in the county). **Osprey** returned to the nesting site at Portland by 4/7 (SB) and at least 1 fledgling was noted in the nest in June. Six **Osprey** were still migrating past LG 5/15. Single **Merlin** were noted at MH 4/22,29 (DD) and a **Peregrine Falcon** was seen at LG 4/29 (RW). Three **Barred Owl** were heard calling along Natl. Park Rd. 6/6 (SB, RW). Two **Common Snipe** and 2 **Greater Yellowlegs** were seen at EBD 5/2 and a **Greater** and a **Lesser yellowlegs** and 3 **Solitary Sandpiper** were at Green Pond 5/14. Three **Least** and 6 **Spotted** sandpipers were at Nazareth Sewage Ponds 5/22. Unfortunately, these ponds are being destroyed to make way for a new facility. A flock of ±250 **Ring-billed Gull** was seen near Tatamy 4/14 and 1 **Bonaparte's Gull** at ML 5/2. Two **Common Tern** were at ML after a 5/12 storm.

Cuckoos were common, apparently due to the Gypsy Moth outbreak. **Common Nighthawk** were present throughout June in Northampton, one of the few areas that has flat roofs for nesting. As usual, there were few reports of **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**. A ♀ was seen gathering nest material at Frost Hollow Overlook 6/5. **Pileated Woodpecker** were found at Katellen (SB,RW) and a **Red-headed Woodpecker** was seen near Bath 5/7 (SB). **E. Kingbird** were observed building a nest atop a telephone pole near Jacktown Rd 6/3 and **E. Phoebe** were found at natural cave sites at Jacobsberg and Todt's Gap (SB,RW). A singing **Alder Flycatcher** was seen near Portland 6/26 (SB). A singing **Horned Lark** was at Graver's Hill during June, the only report of this very local nester. The **Bank Swallow** colony near Portland increased from 100 burrows last year to >200 this year (SB,RW) and **N. Rough-winged Swallow** were found at many locations along the Delaware. Active **Purple Martin** colonies were found near Easton and E. Bangor.

A pair of **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was observed carrying food to a spruce bough in a Norway spruce plantation near Nazareth 6/10, perhaps the first nesting for the county (RW). **White-eyed Vireo** were "heard" during June at several locations.

A **Prothonotary Warbler** was seen at MNC 4/28 and 5/2 (DG, JG). A **Worm-eating** was seen feeding a young cowbird at Easton (RW). Three singing **Blue-winged** at Jacobsberg all sang a variation that bore no resemblance at all to the typical song (RW). Three singing



**Cerulean** were present during June at Smith Gap, another species which seems to form small colonies in suitable locales (SB, RW). A search of sycamore groves along the Delaware R. 5/31 yielded 4 **Yellow-throated Warbler**; 2 singing ♂ were found at Ground Hog Lock and a pair at Frost Hollow, about 1 mi n. of Easton. On 6/5, 16, the ♀ was observed collecting down from sycamore balls, and on 6/25 a nest was found high in a sycamore, the 1st county nesting (RW). A pair was later found at Ground Hog Lock. An early **Louisiana Waterthrush** was at Copella 4/4 (DD). **Kentucky** were found at Katellen (SB, RW) and a singing ♂ **Mourning** at MNC 5/23 (JZ).

Both **Bobolink** and **E. Meadowlark** were at Graver's Hill during June. The best bird of the season was a *first-year* ♂ **Yellow-headed Blackbird** that appeared at Arlene Koch's feeder 4/20-26 (m.ob., ph.), a 2nd county record. The bird was usually accompanied by cowbirds between 6-7 a.m. and 6-7 p.m. (See the separate article in this issue.)

**Orchard Oriole** were found in at least 8 locations during June, including a singing *1st-year* ♂ at ML (SB, BS, RW). Silfies found a nest in a white pine, an unusual location. Four singing **Swamp Sparrow** were present at EBD during June, the only known breeding location.

OBSERVERS: Steve Boyce, Dave DeReamus, John Galm, Dick Gemmel, Arlene Koch, Bernie Morris, Kathy Sieminski, Brad Silfies, Rick Wiltraut, 54 Pershing Blvd, Whitehall 18052 (215-435-8632), Joe Zajeck.

## NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY

Dave Unger

Abbreviations: *E. Cameron Twp (ECT), Montandon Marsh (MM), Mount Carmel Twp (MCT), Riverside (RS), Rush Twp (RT)*.

This report is broken into two distinct sections. The first deals with spring migration and the second with PBBAP reports from June. All observations by the compiler and his wife unless otherwise noted.

**MIGRATION. Ring-necked Duck** were present on several farm ponds in RT 4/7-28. Also, **Blue-winged Teal**, **Mallard**, and **N. Shoveler** were present on the ponds from 4/15-28. A **Sora** was heard 5/13 at MM (AS). A late **Lesser Yellowlegs** was seen 5/25 s. of Turbotville along with approx. 400 **Ring-billed Gull** (AS). A late **Bonaparte's Gull** was seen on the Susquehanna R. below the Danville bridge 5/13 (CS). According to the PGC, **Osprey** sightings near farm ponds were common this spring due to the high water level in rivers and lakes. A **Merlin** was present near Cotner's Ponds in RT 4/19-20.

**Chimney Swift** were first seen in RS 5/7 and the first **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** were in RT 5/14. **Tree Swallow** were back in RS 4/1, followed by **Barn Swallow** 4/7, when approx. 1000 were seen near MM (AS), and the first **Purple Martin** was recorded in RS 4/21. **E. Wood Pewee** and **Great Crested Flycatcher** were first seen in RT 5/6 and 5/1 respectively. Both **Alder** and **Willow** flycatchers were singing at MM 4/25 (AS). A **Common Raven** was observed being chased by crows 4/12 in RT. **Wood Thrush** were first seen 5/1 and **Swainson's Thrush** 5/10 in RT.

The vireo and warbler migration was very sporadic due to the rainy weather. **Pine** were present in RT from 3/31 till 4/17. The first **Yellow-rumped** was seen in RT 4/21 along with **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**, and the first **Yellow Warbler** was in RS 4/29. The first good warbler dates in RT were 5/6-7 when **Cape May**, **Chestnut-sided**, **Am. Redstart**, **Black-throated Blue**, **Yellow-rumped**, **Black-and-white**, **Common Yellowthroat**, **Blackburnian**, **Black-throated Green**, and **Prairie** were present with **Chestnut-sided** and **Yellow-rumped** being very abundant. Another good fallout occurred 5/15-18 in RT when all the above species were seen along with **Canada**, **Tennessee**, **Blackpoll** and **Connecticut Warbler**, with Tennessee Warbler being very abundant. Both **Vesper** and **Grasshopper** sparrows were first seen in RT 4/10 and **Purple Finch** were present in RT till 4/3.

**NESTING SEASON.** This was the mop up year for the PBBAP since several blocks had no coverage at all. This was the first time that the lower s.e. end of *Northumberland*, including all the strip mined regions, was covered. My wife and I had never birded strip mines before and we were pleasantly surprised with some of our findings.

**Green-backed Heron** was a confirmed breeding near RS 6/29. This season, for some reason, was not a good one for locating hawks. Sightings were few other than **Red-tail**, but **Broad-winged Hawk** was confirmed in MCT. Also, an imm. **Bald Eagle** was seen 6/25 near Trevorton over Little Mt. (D&HM). **Ring-necked Pheasant** appear to be holding their own in small local populations in farming areas throughout the county (m.ob.). **Wild Turkey** is definitely increasing, with confirmed nesting in many areas. This had to be one of the most

successful nesting seasons for **Mourning Dove** in recent years, by late June it was not uncommon to see 100+ on the 6 mi. drive from our home to RS. For the past several years both **Black-billed** and **Yellow-billed** cuckoo were fairly common. This year was different with Yellow-billed being common in ECT, MCT, RS, and RT and only one report of a Black-billed in RT.

A **Whip-poor-will** with 2 young was found 6/25 in MCT, it performed the "broken wing" act to lure us away from the nest. *Strip mined areas might be a suitable habitat that has been overlooked in this county.* **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** were common in RT with at least 3 different ♀ and 1 ♂ present at our feeders through the end of the quarter.

**Red-bellied** and **Pileated** woodpeckers were found in both ECT and MCT. Other than **Great Crested**, **E. Wood Pewee**, and **E. Phoebe**, the s.e. section of *Northumberland* yielded no other flycatchers. The **Bank Swallow** returned to the nesting colony in RS. A **Purple Martin** colony was found at Snyder's Greenhouse near Leck Hill (CS).

**Fish Crow** again tried to nest in RT, but were unsuccessful. **Carolina Wren** numbers still have not recovered, with only a few reports from lowland areas. **E. Bluebird** had a very unsuccessful early breeding season due to the rain. A **Swainson's Thrush** was heard singing 6/16 at >1600 ft elevation on Mahanoy Mt. in MCT n. of Helfenstein. A search at a later date failed to find it again. **Solitary Vireo** were probable nesters in both ECT and MCT. Warblers seen during the breeding season in ECT and MCT were **Am. Redstart**, **Black-and-white**, **Common Yellowthroat**, **Black-throated Green**, **Chestnut-sided**, **Prairie**, **Worm-eating**, and **Yellow. Worm-eating Warbler** continue to surprise me with how common they are in suitable habitat throughout the county. **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** were probable nesters in ECT and MCT, 1 was still singing in RT 6/8, but was not seen after that date. **Dark-eyed Junco** were confirmed both on Mahanoy Mt. in ECT and SGL 84 on Line Mt. **E. Meadowlark** were seen with young in RT 6/27.

OBSERVERS: Diana & Hugh McFadden, Allen Schweinsberg, Christine Smull, Linda & Dave Unger, RD 6, Box 246, Danville 17821 (717-672-3254).

## PERRY COUNTY

Deuane Hoffman

**Double-crested Cormorant** continue to be seen all warm months along the Susquehanna R. Many have been noted n. of the I-81 bridge and near the heronry islands. A flock of ±45 were at Duncannon 5/7 and included adults mixed in with first-year birds (GR).

A **Black Vulture** was seen over Berry Mt. 4/2 (GR).

**Pine Warbler** were on territory by 4/23 s. of Dellville and near Amity Hall 5/13 (GR). Three singing ♂ N. **Parula** were along Bailey Run e. of Newport (JE). A **Kentucky Warbler** was found w. of Liverpool 6/3 (GR). The usual grassland species **Horned Lark**, **Vesper**, **Savannah**, and **Grasshopper** sparrows, were found while atlasing the Reward quad (GR).

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

## PHILADELPHIA COUNTY

Edward Fingerhood

Abbreviations: *Andorra Nature Center (ANC), Bartram's Gardens (BG), Carpenter's Woods (CW), Ft. Mifflin (FM), Morris Arboretum (MA), Pennypack Park (PP), Tinicum Nat. Environ. Center (TNEC), Wissahickon Cr. (WC)*.

April was mostly drier and cooler than normal, but a sudden warming at the end of the month promised a mild spring. Disappointingly, in early May the spring rains began. They continued ceaselessly throughout the month and persisted into June, resulting in the wettest May and June in many years. Water levels in all streams, lakes and reservoirs were high.

**Common Loon**, winging northward, were observed over CW 5/5,9 (MD). The earliest reported **Double-crested Cormorant** were 3 at BG 4/8 (EF), but by 5/9 JCM reported "lots" on the Delaware R. An **Am. Bittern** was found at FM 4/2 (AG). Four nests of **Least Bittern** were found at TNEC, with 9 banded (JCM). Fifteen pair of **Great Egret** nested in the FM-TNEC area (JCM). A similar number of **Green-backed Heron** nested in TNEC itself while ±50 **Black-crowned Night-Heron** pairs were in the refuge and another 15 pairs



at FM (JCM).

"Many" **Wood Duck** nested at TNEC and a "few young" were seen (JCM). Twenty **Lesser Scaup** were on the Schuylkill R. at BG 4/8 in company with 30 **Ruddy Duck** (EF). A **Common Merganser** overflew CW 5/5 (MD).

Another historical **Black Vulture** county record, the 2nd, has come forth. Harry Franzen observed 1 bird over CW 4/26/1987. **Osprey** were seen over CW, TNEC, and W. Mt. Airy from 4/9-21 (MD), but the most interesting report was a bird over the ANC 6/10 (MD). **Sharpies** were found at CW from 4/7-27, but the highlight accipiter was a **Cooper's Hawk** at MA 4/4 (MD). The best flight of **Broad-winged Hawk** was a kettle of 17 on 4/21 over W. Mt. Airy (MD). The Broad-wing migration stretched on at least until 5/5 over CW (MD, EB). **Red-tailed Hawk**, which might nest in Fairmount Park, were seen over W. Mt. Airy 4/4, 21 (MD). Two pair of **Am. Kestrel** nested in the Phila. airport-TNEC area (JCM).

It is now confirmed that at least 3 pair of **Peregrine Falcon** reside on the PA side of two of the Delaware R. bridges and the Girard Pt. Bridge (GPB). JCM, as early as 5/9, reported a pair "nesting" in the TNEC area. This pair, presumably the GPB pair, was observed in various courtship activities from 5/19 to 6/5 (EF). On 6/8 the nest site was inspected and 4 young, of which only 1 was alive, were found. Two weeks later, on 6/22, this young bird was plucked from the Schuylkill R. by a fisherman. The bird was taken to a NJ rehabilitation center, but the accumulated stress and disease that affected the other chicks, apparently was too much for the juvenile and it died 7/7.

The pair of Peregrine Falcon on the Walt Whitman Bridge fledged at least one young. This juvenile was found at the base of the bridge 6/14, taken to the Univ. of PA Vet. School for observation, pronounced healthy and released a few days later.

The ad. pair at the GPB adopted the young transplant and it fledged successfully in that area. A pair has also been observed on the Ben Franklin Bridge, but the results of their nesting are unknown.

All Peregrine sightings should be meticulously noted and reported. My thanks to Dan Brauning of the Academy of Nat. Sciences and Richard Shire, Wildlife Conservation Officer of the PGC, for much of this information.

At least 2 **Ring-necked Pheasant** were calling at BG 4/8 and 5/18 (EF). **Virginia Rail** and **Sora** nested near the Phila. airport (JCM). Two **Common Moorhen**, first reported 4/2 in the same area (AG), built to 10+ nesting pairs (JCM). **Am. Coot**, also nesting, were reported from TNEC, 15 on 4/25 and 2 on 5/2 (AG).

The CW **E. Screech-Owl** was seen regularly 4/1-26 (EB). A juv. **Great Horned Owl** was found at TNEC 4/28 (MD). A **Common Nighthawk** was over W. Phila. 5/24 (EB), perhaps a breeder. **Chimney Swift** arrived no later than 4/25 (MD) and were nesting by 5/2 when they were observed at BG (EF). A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was also found there 4/8 (EF). The peak flight of **N. Flicker** may have occurred 4/18 when "many" were found at CW (MD). A month later, MD found 1 **Pileated Woodpecker** in CW, 5/25.

**Black-necked Stilt**, extremely rare in PA, were confirmed breeding, the state's 1st record, on 6/12 when John C. Miller found a nesting pair at the Phila. Sewage Ponds. Two weeks later, on 6/24, he found two pair, 4 ad. birds and 1 juv. off the nest, in the same area. On 6/25, Bill Stocku, independently found two stilts in the same area, 1 sitting on a nest. The second nest was located on 6/29 about 500 yards from the first nest (JCM). The last observation this quarter was of 3 adults 6/30 (FW). Photographic documentation is pending (Frank Haas). Further reports of the outcome of this nesting will follow in the next season's report.

Three **E. Phoebe** were migrating through BG 4/8 (EF). None stayed to nest. A **Great Crested Flycatcher** at MA 4/30 was our only report. **E. Kingbird** arrived at TNEC 4/27 (AG) and 2 pair nested at BG, seen 5/18 to 6/10 (EF). About 300 young **Tree Swallow** were banded in June by JCM. **Bank Swallow** arrived 4/25, with 4 at TNEC (AG) and by 5/4, 12 pair were nesting (JCM).

One **Brown Creeper** at CW (MD) and 2 at BG (EF) were our only early April reports. In PP, FW found 1 bird of this species feeding

another 5/18. Was this courtship feeding? feeding young? Brown Creeper nesting in the Phila. region is extremely rare, if at all. These birds were not found subsequently. A **Winter Wren** was in CW 4/23 (MD). **Golden-crowned Kinglet** were seen as late as 4/21 in CW (EB), and "many" **Ruby-crowned** passed through TNEC 4/20 (AG) and 4/23-27 in CW (MD). **Veery** appeared 5/1 in CW and were still singing 5/25 (MD). **Swainson's Thrush** was seen 5/18-19 in BG (EF) but seem to have peaked 5/25 in CW when MD found 10! **Hermit Thrush** continued at least until 4/20 at TNEC (AG) and 4/28 at CW when MD also found 10 of this species. **Wood Thrush** came into the park the next day (MD). Two **Brown Thrasher** were found at TNEC 4/20 (AG).

**White-eyed Vireo** arrived at TNEC by 4/27 (AG) and on the WC 4/30 (MD). Miller reports 2 pair of White-eyed nested at the refuge. **Solitary Vireo** were at TNEC, CW and WC from 4/23-30 (MD, AG).

Most observers, while not enthusiastic, were not disappointed with the migration, despite the cool and rainy weather. Late April and late May waves, with smaller numbers in between, were reported. **Blue-winged** arrived at CW 4/27, but a month was to pass before the first **Tennessee** was reported there, 5/25 (MD). **Nashville** came by 5/2 in CW, preceded by **N. Parula** 4/30. A probable nesting Parula at MA was found 6/18 (MD). The only **Cape May** report was a singleton in CW 5/4 (MD). The earliest reported **Black-throated Blue** was at TNEC 4/25 (AG). That same day, **Prairie** were at TNEC (AG) but didn't arrive at CW until 5/2 (MD). **Palm**, as usual, were early, arriving at FM 4/20 and seen in CW 4/25 (MD). Only 1 **Bay-breasted** and 1 **Blackpoll** were reported at CW, on 5/22 and 5/7 respectively (an early Blackpoll date) (MD). **Worm-eating**, not known to nest in CW, made a pass through 5/3,5 (MD). Late singing **Ovenbird** there 6/1,9 suggested nesting (EB, MD) but were not confirmed; 1 also sang at BG 5/19 (EF). A tarrying **N. Waterthrush** at CW was noted 4/25 to 5/24, but moved on (MD) and a late **Kentucky 6/2** was intriguing (EB). A **Hooded** was on the WC 5/9 and **Canada**, seen from 5/9-26 peaked with an "excellent" flight of 10 on 5/20 in CW and on the WC (MD).

**Scarlet Tanager** were found on the WC 4/30 (MD) and at BG 5/18 (EF). **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** stopped momentarily at ANC 5/5 (MD) and a ♀ at BG 5/19. Two **Blue Grosbeak** were reported nesting from the FM-TNEC area as early as 5/9 (JCM). **White-throated Sparrow** lingered in CW at least until 4/29, while **Dark-eyed Junco** were found there until 4/27 (EB). A **Rusty Blackbird** lingered until 4/24 at TNEC (AG). Both orioles were found in CW 5/5-7 and a **N. Oriole** pair nested at BG (EF).

OBSERVERS: Erica Brendel, Michael Drake, Edward Fingerhood, 541 W. Sedgwick St., Philadelphia 19119 (215-843-5818), Al Guarente, John C. Miller, Frank Windfelder.

## POTTER COUNTY

### Martha Copp

Four **Horned Grebe**, 2 in breeding plumage, were at Center-town L., Galeton, 4/19 (HR).

A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was found w. of Galeton 4/7 (HR). There seem to be very few of these hawks in either *Tioga* or *Potter*.

OBSERVERS: Martha Copp, R.D. 3, Box 197, Wellsboro, 16901 (717-724-7751), Howard Rushmore.

## SCHUYLKILL COUNTY

### Dan Knarr

Abbreviations: Landingville Dam (LVD), Tumbling Run Dam (TRD).

One **Common Loon** was at TRD 4/5 (TC). Four **Blue-winged Teal** at LVD 4/24 (TC). One **Greater** and 2 **Lesser Yellowlegs** and a **Solitary Sandpiper** were at LDV 4/24 (TC).

**Purple Martin** arrived in the Lewistown Valley 4/13 and **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** were numerous in W. Pottsville 4/18 (TC). Six **Hermit Thrush** were at TRD 4/24 (TC). No **Golden-winged Warblers** at their usual locations near New Ringgold this year (DK). One **Palm Warbler** was at Sch. Haven 4/24 (TC). An adult **Dark-eyed Junco** with one juv. was seen near Shenandoah 6/25 (DK).

OBSERVERS: Tom Clauser, Daniel Knarr, RD 1, Box 23D, New Ringgold, 17960 (717-386-4780).

## SNYDER COUNTY

### Allen Schweinsberg

An **Am. Bittern** was at Walker L. 5/13 (AS,JS,MB), and on the same day another was at Middlecreek L. (R&GL). Two **Great Egret**, 1 on the Susquehanna and another on Middlecreek L., were found by R&GL 5/13. A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** in first spring plumage was found by AS 5/18 at the upper end of the PP&L lake in Monroe Twp. A 1st county record of **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was obtained by R&GL near Kantz at Middlecreek L. 5/7.

**Tundra Swan** were recorded at Faylor L. 4/26 (R&PW). A dozen **Oldsquaw** and a **Red-breasted Merganser** were noted at Faylor L. a week later, 4/16 (R&PW). The 1st county record of **Black Vulture** was noted 5/31, when 3 were sighted near Troxelville (R&PW). Two were seen there 6/5. An imm. **Bald Eagle** was seen at Faylor L. 5/13 (AS,MB,JS), and an **Osprey** was there 6/26 (R&PW). A **Broad-winged Hawk** nest was located near Middleburg 5/2 (R&PW).

Verbatim from the back of an Atlas Field Card (Richard & Patricia Williams)

"Our crazy woodpecker tree!"

On 5/3 we found a very agitated hairy. He was trying to make a hole but a red-bellied was bothering him. 5/29: back at the woodpecker tree we found the red-bellied bringing food for young. It had a hole on the back side and we had not noticed before. Along came the hairy to beat on the red-bellied. But neither hairy ever went into the hole that it had been building on 5/3. Soon a pair of downys came along to join the scuffle. The downy drummed on the tree above the red-belly's nest.

6/3: Downy still harasses red-belly and goes into the hole the hairy made.

6/23: Hairy has young in the hole. Everyone else is gone."

A **Winter Wren** sang 6/2 from steep slopes on the s. side of Penns Cr., a new summer location for this species (ASA). Nearby, both **Yellow-throated** and **Warbling** vireos were singing. A **Golden-winged Warbler** was found in W. Beaver Twp 5/30 (R&PW), and on 6/5 the song of a Golden-winged Warbler was heard not far away in Spring Twp (AS,FP). Several **Chestnut-sided Warbler** were found on Swift Run Rd. 6/26 (LW). Then on 6/27 she found **Yellow-rumped Warbler** at two sites along Shade Mt. Rd. That same day a **Nashville Warbler** was on the East Boyer Trail.

OBSERVERS: Mark Berryman, Robert & Gladys Luckenbaugh, Florence Pyle, Allen Schweinsberg, 1200 Zeigler Rd., Lewisburg 17837 (717-524-0432), Joe Southerton, Linda Whitesel, Richard & Pat Williams.

## SOMERSET COUNTY

### Ruth and Glenn Sager

Abbreviations: *Cranberry Glade L. (CGL)*, *Hooversville (HVL)*, *L. Somerset (LS)*, *Laurel Hill SP (LHSP)*, *New Centerville (NC)*, *Quemahoning Dam (QD)*, *Shanksville (SV)*, *Summit Mills (SM)*.

The spring quarter had wetter and colder weather than normal that brought many surprises in birding. Waterfowl counts were excellent, continuing from the end of the previous quarter until mid-May. Most expected migrants were in higher numbers than normal, and there was a continual influx of changing, mixed flocks almost daily on all large bodies of water. The best records included a **Red-necked Grebe** at QD 4/2 (MH), highest 3-year count of **Double-crested Cormorant** at QD and LS, single **Great Egret** 5/17 at Berlin (JMH) and 4/1-14 at LS (MEW,AM,SJ), single **Am. Bittern** 4/5 at NC and 4/30 at CGL (AM), and 1 **White-winged Scoter** 5/5 at LS (AM).

The hawk migration, in contrast, was hardly noticeable. An imm. **Bald Eagle** was at SM 6/20 (JMH). Two **Common Moorhen** stayed at LS 5/11-23 (AM,JRP,MEW). **Am. Coot** continued incredibly low counts of 1-7 at QD and LS.

The best spring shorebird migration in many years included many birds observed on cold, rainy or snowy days in early May, as well as later May reports when rainy weather held down many birds. A **Ruddy Turnstone** was observed at LS 5/10 (RSM) and 5/11 (MEW).

Three **Upland Sandpiper** were at Roxbury 5/15 (RSM,RCL) and 1 on 5/21 (JRP); a pair with young was seen 6/8 near Rockwood (RSM,RCL); and several in May near Boswell. The highest shorebird counts were: 37 **Greater Yellowlegs** at SV 5/19 (JRP) and 45 **Lesser Yellowlegs** 5/15 at RB (RSM,RCL); and 40 **Spotted Sandpiper** at LS 5/10 (RSM). Lower numbers of **Semipalmated Plover**, **Solitary**, **Least**, and **Pectoral** sandpipers, **Dunlin**, **Short-billed** and **Long-billed** dowitchers, and **Common Snipe** at various locations. AM noted the effect of a draw-down at LS from 3/21+, exposing large mudflats and extensive use by shorebirds and gulls. However, other locations also had above-average records for these species, indicating that weather also contributed to the high counts. Many large flocks of several hundred **Ring-billed Gull**, some reported as "too numerous to count," and more than usual numbers of **Herring** and **Bonaparte's** were noted. Tern reports continued at LS and area from 4/29 to 5/31, with 2-7 **Caspian** (RSM, KG,AM,JMH,MEW), 2-6 **Common** (RSM,RCL,AM), and 17 **Forster's** (RSM). From 1-31 **Black Tern** were at LS (RSM,KG,RCL,AM) and 1 at Roxbury (RSM,KG).

Two **Short-eared Owl** lingered until 4/13 at Windber and 1 was seen 4/10-12 at Central City (TSD). Large numbers of **Tree**, **Bank**, **Cliff** and **Barn** swallows congregated at LS in early May (AM,RSM,RCL) and 60 **Barn Swallow** were there 5/8 (RCL).

Trees were very late leafing out in May because of the cold. Mountain birders complained that the migration period had gone by with few migrants; however, some observers at lower altitudes boasted of hitting some waves by being out at the right time when birds were downed because of rain. The continuation of very rainy weather in June apparently had less effect on breeding birds and most of these records were in the normal range. In spite of heavy Gypsy Moth infestations in parts of the county, there was a general decline in cuckoo sightings, especially **Yellow-billed**. Fewer **Carolina Wren** were also seen. A singing **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was observed at LHSP 6/4 (CT) and **Alder** 6/5 at RB and late in June near SV (JRP).

Although numbers of warblers per species were generally low, the numbers of species seen was above average. There were more **Palm**, **Blackpoll**, and **Yellow-rumped** than usual. Single sightings were reported of **Yellow-throated** at LHSP 5/22, **Connecticut** at SM 5/21, and **Mourning** at LHSP 5/22 (JMH). A **Summer Tanager** was at SM 5/21 (JMH).

In the period from 5/1-16, when there was precipitation in the form of snow or rain each day, the following flocks were seen: 28 **E. Kingbird** in a field perched on bare ground and corn stubble 5/11 at Rockwood (AM), 10 **N. Oriole** in one flock 5/14 at Markleton (AM) and 12 **Bobolink** singing in one tree at HVL during very heavy rain (RS). Misery in company?

OBSERVERS: Doris Brown, Tom & Sally Dick, Wanetta Escherich, Kevin Georg, Margaret Haines, Joel & Monta Hulsing, Shirley Jensen, Robert C. Leberman, Alberta Long, Anthony J. Marich, Jr., Richard Mock, Robert S. Mulvihill, Jeff & Retta Payne, Glenn and Ruth Sager, RD 1, Box 176-B, Hooversville 15936 (814-798-3242), Chuck Tague, Michael & Evaleen Watko.

## SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY

### Bill Reid

Please see the introductory comments in the *Bradford* report.

A **Virginia Rail** was heard in Middletown Twp 5/31; and a **Sora** was heard near W. Nicholson 6/9. A pair of **Red-shouldered Hawk** and a **Wild Turkey** were observed in Apolachan Twp 6/10. **Alder Flycatcher** was calling in Middletown Twp 6/10. A pair of **Winter Wren**, 1 of which was carrying food, was seen at Salt Springs SP 6/30. Two **Canada Warbler** were seen near Birchardville 6/10. **Grasshopper Sparrow** were heard in Middletown Twp and at Rushville in June.

OBSERVER: William Reid, 73 W. Ross St., Wilkes-Barre 18702 (717-836-2525).

## TIOGA COUNTY

### Martha Copp

Abbreviations: *Beechwood L. (BL)*, *Sabinsville (SV)*.

A **Common Loon** was at BL 4/23-30 (HR). A pair of **Hooded Merganser** were seen at the Fish Lab at Asaph 4/6 (BR). **Osprey** were noted at BL (HR), Hamilton L. (MC), and Little Marsh (HR) between 4/17-26. A **Sora** was found in a marsh 3 mi. n. of Tioga 6/12

(CCW,DW, MC,RS). A **Semipalmated Plover** was found n.e. of SV 6/21 (HR). Good details submitted. One **Spotted Sandpiper** was feeding along Cowanesque R. at Westfield 4/27 (HR). An **Am. Woodcock** was found feeding at a pond 4 mi s. of Wellsboro (4/26). The 46 **Bonaparte's Gull** at BL 4/20 was a good count and 2 **Ring-billed Gull** had been there 4/17 (HR).

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird** were not reported at SV until 5/18 (HR). One **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was at SV 4/19 (HR). A pair of **Pileated Woodpecker** were in Tioga 4/10 (CCW). The only flycatchers reported were returning **E. Phoebe** in Tioga 4/1 (CCW) and **E. Kingbird** in Brownlee 5/10 (MC). **Tree Swallow** returned to Nessmuk L. 4/8, while **Barn Swallow** returned 4/24 (MC). A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** visited a feeder 1 mi e. of Wellsboro 4/20-23 (BRR). **House Wren** returned to Brownlee 5/4 (MC). **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** went through the Brownlee area 4/22 (MC).

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak** returned 4/29 (HR,MC) and **Indigo Bunting** 5/5 (MC). **Chipping Sparrow** returned to Brownlee 4/13 (MC). **White-crowned Sparrow** were at a Wellsboro feeder 4/24 (MC). **Bobolink** were noted at Shumway Hill 5/9 (MC). **N. Oriole** were seen at Maple Hill 5/7 (MC).

OBSERVERS: **Martha Copp, R.D. 3, Box 197, Wellsboro, 16901 (717-724-7751)**, Bob Ross, Howard Rushmore, Richard Sargent, Cindy Copp-Wilcox, Denis Wilcox.

## UNION COUNTY

Allen Schweinsberg

A week of considerable rain in early May was accompanied by a steady buildup of warblers that several observers commented on. By Friday, 5/12, the Bucknell campus was full of warblers. The weather cleared that night just in time to rescue the "big day" scheduled for Saturday. Alas, the warblers vanished with the rain during the first starlit night in many days. The big day produced almost no warblers in locations where earlier there had been hundreds.

A **Virginia Rail** spent the day trying to hide in a depression in a dirt pile in farmland outside of Lewisburg 4/18 (AS,JS).

A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** lingered in AS's backyard in Kelly Twp 5/21. **E. Kingbird** were building a nest on the early date 5/6 along Buffalo Cr. (AS). CJ found **N. Parula** and **Cerulean** among commoner warblers along the Susquehanna R. 5/3. About 15 ♂ **Bobolink** were seen in Kelly Twp 5/3 (MB).

Near Allenwood, **Am. Crows** were seen attacking and killing young rabbits as they were flushed during the mowing of a fallow field during 6/30 to 7/3. Also seen in the vicinity were kestrels, a **Sharp-shinned Hawk**, and a red fox., all of which could be taking advantage of the mowing. The fox killed at least one rabbit. **Tree** and **Barn** swallows zoomed about the tractor (MB).

OBSERVERS: Mark Berryman, Charles Jones, **Allen Schweinsberg, 1200 Zeigler Rd., Lewisburg 17837 (717-524-0432)**, Joe Southerton.

## VENANGO COUNTY

Russ States and Gary Edwards

*Abbreviations: Allegheny R. (AR), Clintonville Area (CA), Hovis Pond (HP), Kahle L. (KL), Oil Creek SP (OCSP), Two-Mile Run L. (TMRL).* The word for the quarter is, I guess, rain. While this may not have stopped the birds from migrating, it sure took the fun out of looking. The quarter was very mixed. While we had some good birds, e.g., **White-winged Scoter** on three separate occasions, others were hard to find, especially shorebirds. And we only counted 26 species (plus one hybrid) of warbler compared to 29 last year.

**Common Loon** were found at TMRL, KL, OCSP until 5/15. **Great Egret** were seen three times, on the AR 4/1 (VH), at HP 4/22 and at CA 5/11-13, bringing the total sightings this year to four. Two **Mute Swan** were at KL 4/1. A **Green-winged Teal** was at TMRL 4/19. One **Am. Wigeon** was present at KL 4/8. The last **Bufflehead** were 5/13. Two **Oldsquaw** were discovered on a tiny pond near Cranberry 4/1 and 1 remained until 4/3; 5 more were found at TMRL 4/18. The three sightings of **White-winged Scoter** were 1 at TMRL 4/18 and 5/13, and 4 at KL 5/12. We finally got a **Ruddy Duck** for the

year on HP 4/29. A ♀ **Common Merganser** was spotted flying into a hole in a tree 4/30 (GE) and again 5/12 (near Sandy Cr.) and at least 4 young were seen near there 5/26.

**Broad-winged Hawk** appeared 4/23, with 5 indiv. being seen around the county. Two different **N. Harrier** were found 5/13 in s. *Venango*. **Osprey** were seen four times: 4/1, 8 and 5/12 at KL, and 5/22 at OCSP. **Wild Turkey** were found in OCSP 4/1 (NK) and 5/13 (GE,KE). An **Am. Coot** was at KL 5/13.

Shorebirds were very hard to find. While we never have lots, the numbers are usually not this discouraging. All were at HP unless otherwise noted. **Greater Yellowlegs** 4/22, 29; **Lesser Yellowlegs** at TMRL 4/18 and at HP 4/22, 29. The **Solitary Sandpiper** lived up to its name, with only 1 found, 4/29. **Spotted Sandpiper** 5/12-13. Several **Common Snipe** 4/22. One **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was seen 5/13 and 1 **Least Sandpiper** 4/29. The gulls and terns, however, were good for our county. **Ring-billed Gull** were common through the end of May, with 25+ at TMRL 5/14 and 100+ at KL 5/26. One was also at KL 6/10, one of few June records. **Bonaparte's Gull** were seen through 5/13 at various locations with 6 being the high count at TMRL 4/10. Two **Forster's Tern** were at TMRL 4/18, and 1 at KL 5/12 and TMRL 5/13. And for the first time in many years up to 3 **Black Tern** were present at KL 5/12-13.

At least 5 **Short-eared Owl** were seen on the reclaimed strip mine in s. *Venango* and 1 was there 4/23, but none could be located after that. This is the third year that no **Red-headed Woodpecker** has been reported, whereas the **Red-bellied Woodpecker** is being found in more locations. A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was at OCSP 4/23.

The first **E. Kingbird** was seen 5/12, the first **Great Crested Flycatcher** 5/13 (numbers were much better than last year) and the first **Least Flycatcher** 5/26. No other *Empidonax* was reported. All swallows and **Purple Martin** had returned by 4/30.

One of the highlights was a **Common Raven** near Walnut Bend 4/30 (GE,RS). A **Hermit Thrush** was sighted in n. *Venango* 4/9. Two **Philadelphia Vireo** were in OCSP 5/22 (RS).

The warblers were not numerous, but many were early or somewhat early. Fourteen species were found in April. A "**Brewster's**" **Warbler** was near Hunter Station 4/30. The **Palm Warbler** 5/13 was somewhat late and **Wilson's Warbler** 5/21 and 5/29 at OCSP were good.

The sparrows were fairly average. The last **Am. Tree Sparrow** were seen 4/1-2 at TMRL. No **White-crowned** reported. The grassland sparrows could all be found on the reclaimed strip mines in the s. portion again this year. The blackbirds and finches were in normal numbers and arrived on average dates. Three **Rusty Blackbird** were in CA 4/1. **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** seemed to be especially numerous this year.

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

## WARREN COUNTY

Ted Grisez

*Abbreviations: Allegheny Res. (AR), Kinzua Dam (KD).*

A **Common Loon** was at W. Hickory about 5/10 (JH). Four **Double-crested Cormorant** were at Starbrick 5/18 (RC). Three **Wood Duck** broods were found w. of Wrightsville 6/11 (TG). Three **Red-breasted Merganser** were on the Tionesta R. at Saybrook 4/13 (CN).

Trumpeter Swan Update

Harry Lumsden of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources wrote me that, as of 4/30, only #83 of the swans that spent the winter on the Allegheny River near Warren, had returned to Long Point.

The 2 swans at Dunkirk, NY, last December were on the Susquehanna River 6 mi n. of Marysville 2/18. They moved to near Galeton 4/6 and were back in Ontario near Dundas 4/18.

**Osprey** were seen at Warren 5/8 and on the AR 5/13 (KC). Adult, sub-adult, and imm. **Bald Eagle** were seen all quarter; sightings were of imm. in April (BH,JS), a sub-adult at Tidioute 5/15 (DAD), and 2 ad. at Sugar Bay on the AR 6/9 (SL). A **Cooper's Hawk** was at Tiona 5/12 (DW). Single **Red-shouldered Hawk** was seen at Miles Run and near Pittsfield 6/11 (BH,DW). A **Rough-legged Hawk**

was near Youngsville 4/19 (DW).

There was 1-6" of snow the mornings of 5/7-8, depending on elevation. The temperature did not exceed 43° both days and three nights. The next five days saw 3.82" of cold drizzle (including melted snow). Warblers fed on and near the ground, and we worried about their survival. At Warren, Grisez caught **Yellow, Magnolia, and Yellow-rumped** warblers on 5/13, after the cold period, that had been banded 5/3 and 5/5.

A **Spotted Sandpiper** came to Neel's pond at Saybrook 4/30. An **Upland Sandpiper** was on Pine Ridge Rd. near Lander 6/15 (DW, BH). This is two mi w. of the area where they had been seen for several years until about 1985. Both species of **cuckoo** seem very scarce this summer. An early **Red-headed Woodpecker** was found near Irvine 4/1 (JS) and another was seen near Lander in June (DW). **Red-bellied Woodpecker** nested at Dunn's Eddy near Irvine. An unusually early hatching-year **Am. Robin** was caught and banded 5/6 (TG); it was well able to fly.

Three **Rusty Blackbird** were at Akeley Swamp 4/20 and 1 at Irvine 5/2 (TG).

OBSERVERS: Keith Confer, Dan & Autumn Doherty, **Ted Grisez, 8 Belmont Dr., Warren 16365 (814-723-9464)**, Jim Hall, Bill Highhouse, Salvadore Lucci, Chuck Neel, John Schultz, Don Watts.

## WASHINGTON COUNTY

Roy Ickes

A grassland breeding bird survey was conducted in association with Pennsylvania Volunteers for Wildlife. The 30-stop route was run on 6/8 and 8 of the 13 subject species were recorded (VL,RI). The **Field Sparrow** and **E. Meadowlark** were the most widely distributed species, being found at 12 stops. The total of 19 **Grasshopper Sparrow** at six stops was slightly unexpected and the 5 **Bobolink** were nice.

OBSERVERS: Sayre Greenfield, **Roy Ickes, Dept. of Biology, Washington & Jefferson College, Washington 15301 (412-223-6118)**.

## WESTMORELAND COUNTY

Robert C. Leberman & Robert S. Mulvihill

Abbreviations: *Bushy Run Park (BRP), Donegal Lake (DL), Latrobe Reservoir (LR), Mammoth Park (MP), Powdermill Nature Reserve (PNR)*

The spring period, particularly May, was unseasonably cool and much wetter than usual. The appearance of a better than average spring flight of songbirds may have been caused by migrants being both "grounded" by bad weather and forced to forage nearer to the ground than usual for insects. Also, they were easier to see as they moved through unseasonably bare trees and shrubs. The following species were banded at PNR in significantly greater numbers than the average of the previous ten spring seasons: **E. Wood-Pewee, "Traill's" Flycatcher, Blue Jay, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Gray Catbird, Blue-winged Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Lincoln's Sparrow, N. Oriole and House Finch.**

The **Red-eyed Vireo** was similarly affected, and we got reports of two **Purple Martin** colonies that had been decimated by the end of May (this after some local colonies had finally grown to pre-hurricane Agnes levels). By the end of a more or less typical June it was clear that the drought of a year ago would not be repeated; likewise last June's **Dickcissel** invasion.

The highlight of the quarter was the capture and banding of a ♂ **Swainson's Warbler** at PNR 5/9 (with recaptures of the same bird 5/13 and 5/16); it was heard singing daily after 5/12 and remained at PNR, as if on territory, through 5/19. This bird represents PNR's 2nd encounter with the species



*Swainson's and Worm-eating Warblers, Powdermill Nature Reserve, 5/9/89. Photo by R. C. Leberman*

(another was banded here in late May 1985) and only the 5th confirmed record of the species in w. PA (but see reports in this issue for *Indiana* and *Fayette*).

The following observations are by both compilers unless otherwise indicated.

**Common Loon** max. was 15 at LR 4/1, with 10 there 5/16, and 1 on 6/14 (MEW); another straggler was at DL 6/22 (RCL). A late **Pied-billed Grebe** was at DL 5/25 (RCL). A **Great Egret** at PNR 4/19 was just the 2nd occurrence there (RSM). The only noteworthy duck report was 2 **Oldsquaw** at LR 4/3 (MEW). **Osprey** had a very good flight; the species was last seen at PNR on the late date of 5/23. First **Broad-winged Hawk** was seen on the slightly early date of 4/9 at BRP (VC). A **Lesser Yellowleg** 4/6 at DL was also somewhat early (VC). Three **Semipalmated Sandpiper** were late at DL 5/29 (RCL). A **Caspian Tern** at DL 5/15 (RCL,DS) constitutes one of just a handful of records of the species in this county. Five **Forster's Tern** were seen at DL 4/19, with 1 there 5/11 (RCL). *This species was unrecorded in this region until about 10 years ago; now it generally outnumbered the Common Tern as a spring migrant.*

One or 2 **N. Saw-whet Owl** continued to call near Linn Run SP into the middle of June (CN,RES). At the same site 2 **Whip-poor-will** were heard on the night of 4/24 (CN); this species is still unaccountably rare in the mountains of this county where it was common 25 years ago. A very good spring flight of **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** began after a first arrival near Ligonier 4/24 (*vide* RES). **Olive-sided Flycatcher** were banded at PNR 5/23-24. The **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** migration through PNR lasted from 5/17-5/28. An unusual concentration of 10 **E. Kingbird** just w. of PNR 5/11 was probably due to bad weather.

A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** at Jeanette 5/13 was late, particularly away from the mountains (VC). **Golden-crowned Kinglet** were confirmed nesting at PNR (elevation just 1350 ft) for the first time ever on 6/24; this species should be looked for wherever mature spruce plantings occur in a woodland setting. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** staged a very good flight at PNR; 177 were banded between 4/5 and 5/18 (2nd best spring total in almost 30 years), with a max. of 44 on 4/21. A **"Brewster's" Warbler** was banded at PNR 5/5, and **"Lawrence's" Warbler** were caught there 5/14 and 5/17. A total of 3 **Orange-crowned Warbler** (a rare spring migrant at PNR) was also caught on the latter two dates. A total of 4 **Worm-eating Warbler** between 5/9-16 was the highest ever at PNR in the spring.

Banding totals notwithstanding, the spring migration clearly was not "good" for individuals of several species. We both observed and received many reports of birds suffering from the persistent inclement conditions. **Scarlet Tanagers**, in particular, were very hard hit. They were seen feeding on lawns and along road edges throughout our region. Some were so weak that they could not get out of the way of passing cars; no doubt many others simply starved.



Another consequence of the cool, wet weather in May was the presence of **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** at bird feeders throughout the region; as many as 10 visited one feeder at PNR for several days. A late **Fox Sparrow** was banded at PNR 4/28; a **White-throated Sparrow** 5/23 was also somewhat late. Twenty-one **Lincoln's Sparrow** were banded between 4/30 and 5/20; this represents a very good spring flight at PNR. Hundreds of **Rusty Blackbird** were reported from MP 4/6 (VC); 3 very late birds were seen at PNR on 5/17.

OBSERVERS: Virginia Cronenberger, **Robert C. Leberman** and **Robert S. Mulvihill**, Powdermill Nature Reserve, Star Route South, Rector 15677 (412-593-7521), Chuck Norton, Robert E. Shaw, Dennis Smeltzer, Mike and Evaleen Watko.

## WYOMING COUNTY

### Bill Reid

Please see the introductory comments in the *Bradford* report.

All reports by compiler unless otherwise noted. Birds present at Phelps Swamp, near W. Nicholson, in June included: **Least Bittern**, **Virginia Rail** (with young), **Common Moorhen**, and **Marsh Wren**. A **Barn Owl** was present in a barn near Tunkhannock for several days in April (AC). **Winter Wren** were found at Mehoopany Mt., Stevens L., Camp Lackawanna, and at least 4 locations in North Eaton. A **White-eyed Vireo** was recorded near L. Carey 6/7. A "**Brewster's**" **Warbler**, singing "bee-bzzz-bzzz" was seen near Factoryville 6/5. A **Mourning Warbler** was seen at North Eaton 5/20. A **Grasshopper Sparrow** was singing near Lemon 6/9.

OBSERVERS: Alan Chaffee, **William Reid**, 73 W. Ross St., Wilkes-Barre 18702 (717-836-2525).

## YORK COUNTY

### Al Spiese

Abbreviations: *Brunners I.* (BI), *Codorus Furnace* (CF), *Codorus SP* (CSP), *L. Redman* (LR), *L. Williams* (LW), *Lauxmont Farms* (LF), *Long Arm Dam* (LAD), *Norman Wood Bridge* (NWB), *Reservoir Hill* (RH), *Rocky Ridge CP* (RRCP), *Saginaw* (SA), *Susquehanna R.* (SR), *Thomasville Quarry* (TQ), *Wrightsville* (WR). Our Century Run (CR) was held 5/13.

There are only a few words needed to describe the weather. Most of the streams, lakes, and river were nearly bank full from the many different rain storms. The **Mississippi Kite** flying N near the river was a 1st county record. A **Swainson's Hawk** at Rocky Ridge was also a 1st record.

The 10 **Double-crested Cormorant** at WR 6/11 (JD, BDG) was

a good summer count. The 7 **Snowy Egret** at LAD 4/27 (CG) was only the 2nd spring sighting. A non-breeding adult **Little Blue Heron** was at LR 6/5-11 (AS, J&JP); adults are rare in our area anytime. Some 10-12 **Cattle Egret** were on a farm near WR 5/21 (JD) and are nearly absent from our area this year. A **Glossy Ibis** was seen s. of Airville 5/9 (BS, DaH). Waterfowl reports included 22 **Oldsquaw** at CSP 4/3 (CG, RR), 1 **Bufflehead** at LW 6/9 (JD, LD), 1 first-spring ♂ **Hooded Merganser** at BI 6/19 (AS), and 30 **Red-breasted Merganser** at CSP 4/22 (RR).

A **Bald Eagle** nest with 2 fledged young was found in July near Safe Harbor Dam. Combined with the nest in *Lancaster*, the lower Susquehanna R. area produced 3 Bald Eagles this year.

**Osprey** were seen at various locations every month of this quarter. The **Mississippi Kite** was seen s. of SA 5/29 (BDG, LD, JD, AS). One ad. **N. Goshawk** was seen at LF. Two ad. and 3 fledged young **Red-shouldered Hawk** were found in June (RR, KL *et al.*). A first-year **Swainson's Hawk** was observed at close range at RRCP 5/3 (RG, DD). **N. Bobwhite** were heard or seen at 7 sites in s.e. York 6/21, plus 1 at LF 6/28 (AS).

**Common Moorhen** was not seen in location they inhabited since 1986. One **Semipalmated Plover** was at LAD 5/13 (CR). Most of the small shorebirds missed stopping here this spring due to the high waters and lack of mud flats. The Stewartstown Res. had a good swampy area and 50+ **Common Snipe** were noted 4/18 (AS).

A total of 313 **Bonaparte's Gull** were counted 4/9 to 5/13. One **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was at CSP 5/5 (DH, EW) for our 1st record away from the SR. Two **Forster's Tern** at CSP 4/19 (CG) and 1 at CSP 5/7 (RR) were unusual spring sightings for this area. A total of 5 **Black Tern** were at LAD and CSP 5/14-17 (RR).

A pair of **Barn Owl** with 3 young were found in an abandoned silo on Gitts Run Rd. 5/13+ (CR). **Whip-poor-will** were calling near E. Prospect in late Apr. A **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was seen in the Indian Steps area 4/28 (DD, RG). A pair of **Hairy Woodpecker** were feeding young at RH 5/3; we have few reports of this species nesting.

The **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was reported only 5/13 at CR, while 15 **Acadian Flycatcher** were found in the s.e. corner of York near the Maryland line 5/19 (RS *et al.*). An **E. Kingbird** was at CSP 4/25 (RR). Three locations for **Horned Lark** were found after the normal migration time: 1 near Collinsville (AS, MS) 5/13, 4-5 on Bull Rd. n. of Canal Rd. 5/13 (DD, RG), and 1 s. of Hanover 5/15 (RR).

Some 300 **Bank Swallow** were at BI 5/13 (CR, AS, MS) and many nest holes found. Four nests of **Cliff Swallow** were found at LAD 5/19 (RR). No **Black-capped Chickadee** singing this spring confirms a no-show winter of 88-89. The 1 **Red-breasted Nuthatch** at a Weigelstown feeder 4/2 (MS) and 1 at RH 5/13 on the CR (DD, RG) were the only sightings since 11/17/88. A **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was seen at CSP 5/13 (RR). There was no sighting of **Gray-cheeked Thrush**, but 5 **Hermit Thrush** were at RH 4/23 (J&JP). Two **Water Pipit** were e. of Airville 5/9 (BS, DaH). **Cedar Waxwing** were found in 11 locations in May, some with numbers of up to 100 birds.

Several **Yellow-throated Vireo** were reported along Muddy Cr. near Bridgeton in June (SH). A **Nashville Warbler** was found s. of SA 5/20 (JD). A total of 7 **N. Parula** were noted at Otter Cr. (DH, BDG) and NWB (J&JP). A **Mourning Warbler** was at CF 5/15 (DD, RG). An early **Scarlet Tanager** was at BI 4/23 (J&JP). There were four locations for **Blue Grosbeak**, including a new area at TQ and a return to Spring Grove where they were found 1984-85. A **Dickcissel** at TQ 4/17 could be an early date (AS).

OBSERVERS: Bill Del Grande, Jack & Lil Downs, Dorothy Dressler, Carl Garner, Rita Gross, Dan Heathcote (DaH), Scott Hess, Dick Humbert, Karen Lippy, John & Jean Prescott, Russell Ryan, Mike Sankovich, Bob Schutsky, **Al Spiese**, 4086 Old Orchard Rd., York 17402 (717-755-8309), Eric Witmer. ●



Common Barn Owls, York County, June 89. Photo by Russell Ryan. Leberman