

# PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS

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VOLUME 3, No.3

Jul-Sep 1989



# PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS

VOLUME 3, NUMBER 3, JUL - SEP 1989

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

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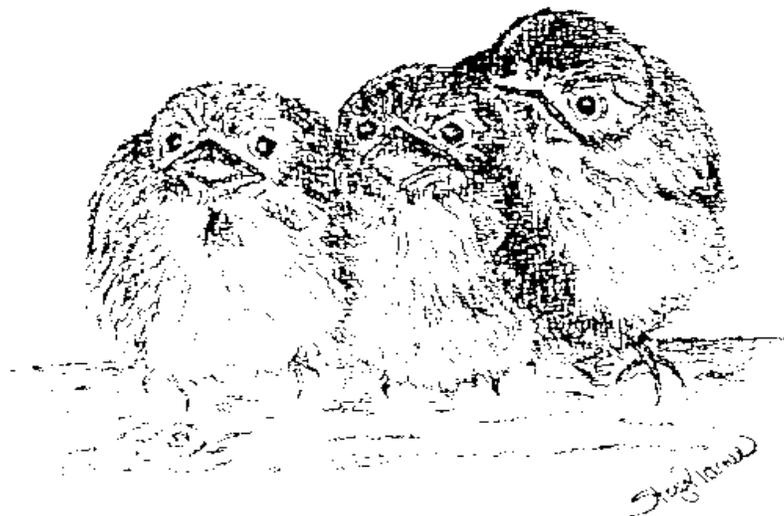
We mentioned in our Summary of the Season last issue that "**Bad weather can bring good birds**". Well, this quarter was a prime example of that adage. Hurricane Hugo caused much human suffering and it was well covered by the news media. However, the story that was not covered to any extent was its effect on wildlife. In South Carolina, 95% of the Red-cockaded Woodpecker nesting trees in one part of the Francis Marion National Forest were destroyed. There were many reports of dead boobies and pelicans washing up on shore. The number of seabirds killed by such a storm can only be speculated upon. See the Summary of the Season for more details on the hurricane's effect on Pennsylvania.

In the next issue we will have articles on the five Black-capped Petrels that were found in the Commonwealth. Some vital information had not yet been received prior to going to press with this issue.

As also reported in our last issue, several Swainson's Warblers were seen in western Pennsylvania this year. Dave Kreuger, who spent many, many hours at Bear Run Nature Reserve this Summer studying this species, gives us a review of the species status (or potential status?) in Pennsylvania. Want something to do next Summer, now that the atlas is over? Why not go looking for Swainson's Warblers in the hinterlands of Fayette County?

Paul Hess, who chronicled the ups and downs of the Carolina Wren in a previous issue, takes an interesting look at American Tree Sparrows in our state in Part One of a two part series. We have certainly noticed the decline of this species on Christmas Counts and at our feeders. Have you? Paul gives us much food for thought.

Marcia Bonta delights us with another "Brush Mountain Notebook". There are a number of rare bird reports and an interesting note from Joe Grom.



The list of birds printed in Volume 3 Number 1 for which the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee was seeking verification has shrunk a little bit, but we still are looking for photographs, recordings or specimens of most of the birds on that list. If you have any of the above, or if you know someone who does, **PLEASE** submit them.

The P.O.R.C. is working diligently on getting an Official State List ready for print.

**THE CROSSBILLS ARE COMING!**

**THE CROSSBILLS ARE COMING!**

Reports from up north indicate that this may be a banner year for White-winged Crossbills and other Winter finches. New England is reporting the largest influx ever! After last year's lack of **any** Winter finches, this should be more than just a pleasant turn-around. There are reports from many areas in Pennsylvania already. Keep your eyes open!

On a more personal note, many of you have been asking about our move. Our new address is our new home and therefore, PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS' new home. Frank now works in Harrisburg as the Systems Coordinator (Computer Guru) for the Bureau of State Parks. Barb still works as an audiologist at Elwyn Institute, but has recently established her own hearing aid dispensing office. If you have a hearing loss and have trouble hearing certain birdcalls, maybe Barb can help you. ☺

**Barb and Frank Haas  
Co-editors**

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# Swainson's Warbler (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*) in Western Pennsylvania -- rare vagrant or breeding species?

by David Krueger

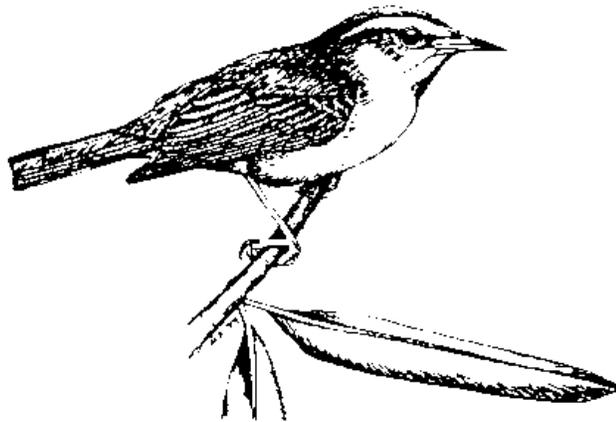
On 2 June 1989, a Swainson's Warbler was identified at Bear Run Nature Reserve in Fayette County. This sighting constitutes the second confirmed summer record for this species in western Pennsylvania (PA). There have been a number of accepted sightings in western PA, most of which are undoubtedly vagrants. These two summer records, however, might indicate the yet unconfirmed presence of other summering (or breeding) Swainson's Warbler in PA. The habitat required by this species includes mountain slopes or ravines which have a mixed deciduous forest containing Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) and a Rhododendron (*Rhododendron maximum*) understory. Several locations, especially in the vicinity of Ohiopyle State Park, closely match the necessary requirements. Since most of these areas are remote, and the bird's song closely resembles those of two more common warbler species, the confirmation of this bird as a breeding species in Pennsylvania will prove to be a considerable challenge.

The Swainson's Warbler is a plain, dull-colored bird, well-adapted to blending into its environment. The upperparts, including the wings and tail, are olive or gray-brown; the underparts, which are plain and unmarked, are an off- to yellowish- white. The crown is a rusty brown; there is a pale, but noticeable buffy superciliary line. An obvious feature is its long tapered bill, which comes to a sharp point (Meanley 1971). The Appalachian race, *L. s. alta*, is said to be whiter below than the Coastal plain race (*L. s. swainsonii*).

This warbler was first described in 1834 by John J. Audubon, who named it for his friend, William Swainson, an English ornithologist. Its nest and eggs were first reported in 1885 by Arthur T. Wayne. It was believed to be a bird of the Southern Coastal Plains until the 1920s and 1930s. In 1924, the first Appalachian specimen was collected in northern West Virginia, near Cooper's Rock State Forest (Brooks 1934; Hall 1983; Meanley 1971). The first nests in

the Appalachians were discovered in southwestern Virginia in 1932 (Murray 1939), confirming the existence of a separate breeding Appalachian population.

This year's bird was first heard and seen by Eric and Nathan Hall, both of whom had previous experience with the species in western PA (see Table 1). They observed it in rhododendron thickets to the west of PA Route 381, not far from the Fallingwater entrance. That day, or later that weekend, Dave Darney and the Halls also heard it east of Rt. 381,



along Arbutus Trail, near its juncture with Ridge Trail. On 4 June, the bird was seen again by Ed Kwater.

The following week, their sighting was mentioned on the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania's telephone hotline. After listening to that tape on 9 June, I decided to try to find the bird early the following morning. Although I had never seen the species before, I had searched for it many times at both Bear Run and nearby Ohiopyle State Park. I arrived at Bear Run around 7 a.m., so I would have plenty of time to locate the bird. Since the hotline had given no other details, I decided to first try walking along Rt. 381 near the stream in hopes of hearing it from the roadside. As I approached the stream, I heard the song of a warbler which immediately struck me as being different; I stopped short to listen

again. It was loud and ringing, vaguely resembling the Hooded Warbler (*Wilsonia citrina*) or Louisiana Waterthrush (*Seiurus motacilla*). After hearing it two or three more times at close range, I was sure it was neither of those common species. I was certain it was a singing Swainson's Warbler!

Hearing it proved to be relatively easy, the hard part was actually seeing it. For nearly two hours I followed its song, trying to glimpse it. At first the bird seemed constantly on the move. It sang in one patch of rhododendron for several minutes; as I approached more

closely (sometimes within a few feet) it would suddenly fall silent, then relocate in some distant clump. On several occasions I knew it to be only a few feet in front of me yet, due to the density of the leaves, I saw only a vague shadow of movement. Finally, after numerous "blind" encounters, I spotted it sitting in full view on the dead branches of a rhododendron. After studying it carefully for several minutes as it sang, I returned home. When I notified Robert C. Leberman and Robert S. Mulvihill of Powdermill Nature Reserve (Regional Coordinators for Region 34 of the PA Breeding Bird Atlas), they encouraged me to study the bird in more detail, with the objective of determining the breeding

status of this bird. The following is an account of the species' habitat, habits, and distribution based on a review of the literature and personal observations.

## Habitat

Swainson's Warbler occurs in two distinct, yet similar habitats. The Coastal plain population prefers wooded canebrake swamps, while the Appalachian race tends to use the hemlock-rhododendron association. Both provide the basic habitat requirements described by Meanley (1971): rich, damp woods with deep shade, some dry ground, and moderately dense undergrowth. Generally, the Appalachian race is found at elevations of 2000-3000 feet, in an association of hemlock,

rhododendron, mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*), and American holly (*Ilex opaca*). It prefers moist, wooded slopes of ravines and drainage systems. In these areas, where the deciduous forest often contains more hemlock, and where rhododendron becomes the major understory species, the warbler can most often be found.

That part of Bear Run where this bird was found includes a rich bottomland forest, which has a good understory of rhododendron. There is an upslope on both sides of the stream, which tends to be more gradual on the north side, and steeper on the south side. There is a large outcrop set back from the stream on both sides. These outcrops are relatively flat on top and covered with rhododendron. Of the two outcrops, the northern one has more laurel and has small groves of hemlock scattered on it. The forest in this area is dominated by White Oak (*Quercus alba*), Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*), and Yellow Poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*). Other trees and shrubs include Black Tupelo (*Nyssa sylvatica*), American Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), Cucumber-tree (*Magnolia acuminata*), Witch-Hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*), and Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus florida*). There is also greenbriar (*Similax rotundifolia*), and wild grape (*Vitis sp.*). The more conspicuous birds heard include Hooded Warbler, Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*), Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*), Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*), Tufted Titmouse (*Parus bicolor*), N. Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*), White-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis*), Louisiana Waterthrush, and Rufous-sided Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*).

The largest concentrations of rhododendron are found along the stream and its tributaries, and surrounding the outcrops. The area size and number of rhododendron patches progressively diminish as one travels upslope from the stream. Although the hemlock is not dominant in the area, it occurs more frequently around the northern outcrop where this bird was often found. This area does seem to fit the habitat descriptions of Hall, Meanley and others. Considering the requirements, the Bear Run area appears to be suitable for nesting by this species.

### Singing behavior

The song of the Swainson's Warbler, which is given only by the male, is loud and ringing with a certain musical quality (Meanley 1971). Some authors mention a ventriloquial quality which might have more to do with head movements while the male sings than

anything else. The basic advertising song consists of 3 or 4 separate high whistled notes followed by a 4 or 5 note phrase which is faster and slurred. Meanley says that songs of individuals vary noticeably and can be easily separated. To my ears, this individual sounded like "seee, seee, WHIP poor WILL," with an emphasis on the third and last syllables. Another interpretation might be "teeu, teeu, teeu, TIP-ee-you" (Mulvihill, *pers. comm.*). On many occasions I heard what Meanley calls an incomplete song, which lacks the ending syllable. The call, given by both sexes, is a loud "chip." Meanley likens it to the introductory and concluding "chip" of the White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus*). I heard this call uttered repeatedly as a scold or alarm note. Both sexes are also said to give a soft "zeep" call, similar to other warblers in migration (Meanley 1971).

The behavior of a singing male Swainson's Warbler is unlike that of most parulines; most species are much more active in comparison. It remains stationary, either on a limb or on the ground while singing. It characteristically throws its head skyward, while keeping its basic resting posture (Meanley 1971; Terres 1980). The songs are sung one after the other for several minutes at a time (Meanley refers to these as "courses"). There is usually a pause between courses which varies in length from just seconds to several minutes. The rate of singing varies from 8 or 9 songs per minute in the early morning to 5 or 6 per minute later in the morning. I noted that it sang most vigorously prior to 7 a.m. and rapidly dropped off after that. By 10 or 11 a.m. it usually sang only sporadically. As Meanley also noted, I often observed it perform an "about face" on the same perch and continue singing, facing the opposite direction. The most vigorous singing of a paired male is supposed to occur just after arrival in the Spring, drop off during courtship and mating, then pick up after nest-building and egg-laying. From May to June singing is most intense. By mid-July it begins to wane and becomes more sporadic after about mid-August. This particular bird seemed less predictable around mid-July and, by early August, only sang two or three times in a one-hour period. I last heard it sing on 6 August. After this time I believe it may have remained until its molt was completed. Most migrants have departed by 12 September (Hall 1983).

Meanley states that while foraging on the ground it occasionally stops to sing. I glimpsed it on the ground once, immediately after having heard it sing. Most of my observations

were of it singing from small deciduous trees, especially Black Tupelo. It seldom sat more than 30 feet above ground, usually 15 to 20 feet up. It has been seen as much as 50 feet up, though this is less common (R. C. Leberman, *pers. comm.*; Meanley 1971). Usually it perches near the middle of a bare limb in the lower half of the tree. Frequently I heard it singing from the middle of rhododendrons. I also found it singing in Hemlock, Red Maple, American Beech, and Witch-Hazel. Generally I heard it much more than I saw it, although as I became more familiar with its perching habits it became easier to locate. Often its perch was in a deciduous trees growing among rhododendrons. The result was it sounded like it was singing in the rhododendron, when actually perched 10 to 15 feet above. This was very misleading at first. I originally believed it sang only from the rhododendron!

The bird sang from both sides of the stream. My impression was that it spent more (60%) of its singing time on the north side of the stream, especially near an outcrop. The most reliable location for hearing it was along an old service road near the hemlock groves. It seemed to favor the Black Tupelo and rhododendrons which grew on the southeast slope of that outcrop.

### Breeding behavior

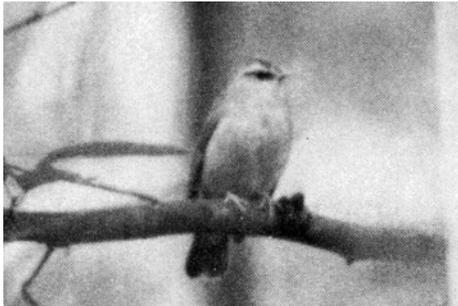
Studies by Meanley indicate that the territories vary in size from 0.3 to 4.8 acres. Territory size and shape seem to depend on quality and extent of habitat, topography, and phase of the breeding cycle. The male establishes a territory shortly after arrival in spring. In West Virginia most arrive by the third week in April (Hall 1983). Prior to nesting the pair uses a smaller portion of their territory. After the eggs hatch and as the young require more food, the parents utilize more of the territory. This bird ranged over a 3 to 4 acre area.

The nest, which is built entirely by the female, is larger and bulkier than those of most warblers (Meanley 1971). It is usually placed in a branch fork, or among upright stems of shrubs, or vines. It is often built near or just within the edge of the territory. The male gives the nest a wide buffer zone while singing. The loosely constructed nest, which can be built 2 to 10 feet above ground, is made of dead leaves and moss and is lined with grasses, rootlets, and hair. The three to five eggs are white and unmarked (Harrison 1975; Meanley 1971). Meanley found nests within 30 feet of

a road or path on several occasions.

### Breeding range

The species' breeding range includes all of the southern states from northcentral Oklahoma and southern Missouri east to southern Illinois, Indiana and Ohio; to westcentral West Virginia, southern and western Virginia to southern Delaware; south to east Texas and along the Gulf to northern Florida (A.O.U. 1983). The closest known breeding populations are found along the northern edge of this range at Pocomoke Swamp in Maryland, and near Lookout Mountain and Charleston, West Virginia. Pocomoke Swamp, which is approximately 130 miles from the PA border has the nearest breeding population, while Mount Lookout in Nicholas County, WV, is approximately 160 miles (Hall 1983; Meanley 1971). Hall (1983) mentions the possibility of an unconfirmed population at Cooper's Rock State Forest, which is only a few miles from the PA border. Although there are only proven nesting areas in Nicholas and Kanawha counties, there are summer records for Upshur, Braxton, and Webster in southern West Virginia. The nearest of which is about 90 to 100 miles south of PA.



Swainson's Warbler, Bear Run Nature Reserve, 8 July 1989. Photo by Dave Kreuger.

Although the known breeding distribution of Swainson's Warbler is essentially southern, and does not include PA, there have been a number of sightings in the western part of the state over the last 14 years. Table 1 lists these observations beginning with the first published report in May 1975 at Bear Run Nature Reserve. Interestingly, this individual was observed for several weeks, less than 0.3 miles north of the area where this year's bird was seen (R. Leberman, *pers. comm.*). It can be seen that the majority of the spring records fall between 15 and 22 May. The July 1977 listing at Ohiopyle State Park is one of the more reliable descriptions from that area. Several other, but unconfirmed, reports have come from the same area. Most of the sightings listed could have been birds heading

for West Virginia which overshot their normal summer locales and were thus found in western PA. If there is a summer population, perhaps it is due to some vagrants which overshot and found suitable habitat in Pennsylvania, thus "colonizing" a new area.

### Comments

After the suggestion by Leberman and Mulvihill to study this bird was taken, I made numerous visits to Bear Run. I searched the area as thoroughly as I could to locate a possible mate and its nest. I was unsuccessful at both. Although the male exhibited territoriality, I do not believe it had a mate.

One of the original reports indicated the possibility of two singing birds, but I believe there was only one bird in this location. After several visits I could hear only one bird. Darney and the Halls thought they heard two birds, the second on the east side of Rt. 381, and the other on the west. When they heard the one on the east side sing they hurried back to 381 to listen for the other. From the roadside they heard only the one on the east (D. Darney, *pers. comm.*). There were times when I heard the bird singing to the east side as well, but this was infrequent. There were times when it was singing and moving around quite a bit. At such times it would sing in one place, move to a more distant spot and sing again. Sometimes this gave me the temporary idea that there were two, but I eventually concluded that it was only the same quick-moving individual.

Swainson's Warbler is an interesting and challenging bird to observe. Although relatively "tame and unsuspecting," it is nonetheless difficult to find due to its neutral colors, quick actions, and the general nature of its habitat (Meanley 1971). On several occasions, I approached to within 10 or 15 feet from the tree where it was singing. Often between songs it sat quietly preening or scratching its head. This behavior in particular seemed especially unlike a warbler.

While most of the sightings of this bird in western PA are undoubtedly vagrants, the possibility of a small summering (or breeding) population here should not be immediately dismissed. After studying several 7.5 minute quadrangle maps of the area, Leberman and Mulvihill have found several locations which should provide sufficient habitat for the species. Many areas within Ohiopyle State Park look promising. Cucumber and Meadow Runs have some extensive areas of rhododendron and hemlock. Forbes

State Forest also has several areas, such as the Quebec Run area (E. Hall, *pers. comm.*). Even places along the Youghiogheny River near Ohiopyle have appropriate habitat.

There are several factors which tend to hinder the discovery of this species in western PA. One is the relative similarity of the song of this species and those of the Hooded Warbler and Louisiana Waterthrush. Another is the paucity of experienced birders visiting likely breeding areas in the breeding season. A third factor is that some of the potential areas are remote and less accessible. Some areas, such as Quebec Run, have to be hiked into. All of these factors make discovery of this species in Pennsylvania a difficult challenge. Does Swainson's Warbler breed in Pennsylvania? Although two separate summers are not proof, I believe it to be a definite possibility. Only time and enough birders will tell. Wait until next year!☺

The author would appreciate receiving any other records of sightings of this year's bird past the 6 August date. Also of interest would be any other behavioral observations about this bird. Please send any correspondence to me c/o Powdermill Nature Reserve, Star Route South, Rector, PA 15677.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I thank the following individuals for their assistance. Eric and Nathan Hall, Ed Kwater, and Dave Darney were the first observers and I appreciate all their comments. I also want to thank Robert C. Leberman and Robert S. Mulvihill of Powdermill Nature Reserve for their encouragement, suggestions and comments. They reviewed the original draft and provided invaluable assistance. Thanks to them and to Larry Barth for their help on the accompanying artwork. Frank and Barb Haas also deserve thanks for their help and encouragement, as well as a tape recording of the individual singing. To my wife, Carma, thanks for your helpful suggestions and typing skills, as well as patience and encouragement.

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Table 1. Listing of Swainson's Warbler Sightings in western Pennsylvania.

	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>First observed by</u>	<u>Comments</u>
1.	17 May 1975 to early June	Bear Run Nat. Res. (Fayette County)	P. Weigman, <i>et al.</i>	remained several weeks
2.	18 May 1977	near Waynesburg (Greene County)	W. Bartolo K. Reeves	seen or heard independently by both
3.	14 July 1977	Ohiopyle State Park	J. Orndorff (accepted (Fayette County))	seen at close range by Leberman, 1988)
4.	21 May 1985	Powdermill Nat. Res. (Westmoreland County)	R. C. Leberman R. S. Mulvihill	banded
5.	16 May 1986	Presque Isle State Park (Erie County)	R. F. Leberman M. N. Leberman	banded
6.	21-22 May 1987	South Park (Allegheny County)	D. Darney E. and N. Hall J. and B. Baird	seen by several observers
7.	9 May 1989 (banded) rehandled 13, 16, 17 and 19 May 1989	Powdermill Nature Reserve (Westmoreland County)	R. C. Leberman R. S. Mulvihill G. A. Hall, <i>et al.</i>	banded; sang daily 9-19 May
8.	19 May 1989	Yellow Creek State Park (Indiana County)	E. and N. Hall	seen or heard
9.	2 June to 6 August 89 (recorded and photographed)	Bear Run Nature Reserve (Fayette County)	E. and N. Hall D. Darney E. Kwater	remained two months; seen by many other observers

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Note: Numerous unconfirmed sightings mainly from Fayette County, particularly in or near Ohiopyle State Park with few or no details.

# American Tree Sparrows (*Spizella arborea*) in Pennsylvania (Part 1)

## Speculations on a 15-year decline, 1973–1987

by Paul Hess

To Thoreau, it was a "tinkle of icicles." Frank M. Chapman called it a "chorus of merry, tinkling notes, like sparkling frost crystals turned to music." T. Gilbert Pearson heard "a subdued melody that spoke of contentment and happiness."

Those rhapsodies refer to one of a winter morning's most welcome delights, the soft twitters of American Tree Sparrows feeding in a weedy field.

In Pennsylvania, the pleasure is less frequent than it once was. These visitors from the far north have decreased conspicuously for about 15 years, though the decline may have begun much earlier. Todd (1940) spoke of "loose, straggling flocks, which sometimes number scores or even hundreds." Most Pennsylvanians have not seen hundreds in a long time.

The downtrend has drawn wide comment. Powdermill Nature Reserve's major banding station in Westmoreland County recorded a "considerable decline" from 1959-71 to 1972-81 (Leberman and Wood 1983). Scarcity in the southwestern counties has been noted regularly (Hess 1974-1987). In southeastern Pennsylvania the sparrows "are becoming less common every winter" (Haas and Haas 1987).

The species "continues its decline throughout the state. Perhaps the reason will be found" (Haas and Haas 1988). In the entire *American Birds* Appalachian Region, the decrease has brought remarks like "definitely scarce ... almost completely absent ... missing at most places ... extremely uncommon ... almost nonexistent" (Hall 1971-1989).

Christmas Bird counts document the downtrend well. Tree sparrows per party-hour decreased 44%, comparing 1973-77 and 1983-87 averages on the 37 Pennsylvania CBCs with complete 15-year data. That difference was statistically significant ( $P=.01$ ), as was the 15-year trend ( $r=-0.68$ ,  $P<.025$ ). Split by region, the decrease in averages varied considerably: 59% in the southeast, 42% in the central mountains and northeast, and 34% in the west.

Yearly levels showed large fluctuations (Table 1), and the birds' status differed greatly on individual

CBCs (Table 2). But the overall trend is clear (Fig. 1).

### What has happened?

Pinning down these population dynamics is a complex task. Able and Able (1988) listed two alternatives: "either a widespread trend in the population of the species, or a regional response to some factor that resulted in dispersal to other areas." Two others must be added: a real population loss, but regionally restricted rather than widespread; or a false impression resulting from inconsistent observations.

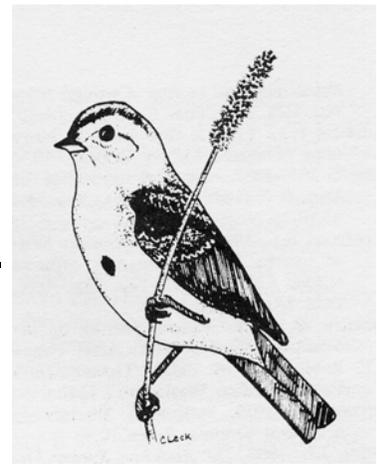
A total species decline is unlikely, based on a 1973-87 sample of 35 midwestern CBCs where the sparrows' winter abundance is greatest (Baumgartner 1968, Root 1988). In Michigan, Wisconsin, Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, Missouri and Oklahoma, a slight downtrend appeared but nowhere was the decrease remotely significant. In fact Emporia, Kansas, set the all-time North American CBC record of 12,092 as recently as 1983. Midwestern populations seem stable, so any decline must be less than continentally widespread.

In the east, however, an interesting phenomenon emerged from 15-year CBC samples in Ontario, New York, Pennsylvania, and southward. Numbers were nearly constant in Ontario, but the farther south the greater the decline. Trend analysis and comparison of 1973-77 and 1983-87 averages show the pattern's significance (Table 3).

A similar difference marked CBCs in northern New England (Quebec, Maine, and northern Vermont and New Hampshire) and southern New England (Connecticut and Massachusetts). The decline was insignificant in the north and much greater in the south.

Those findings may indicate the second alternative, a regional dispersal northward — not necessarily a range extension but a preference for northern portions of the usual winter range. Nikula (1989) speculated that some boreal species might be making a northward shift, moving less far south

in winter. A problem is that tree



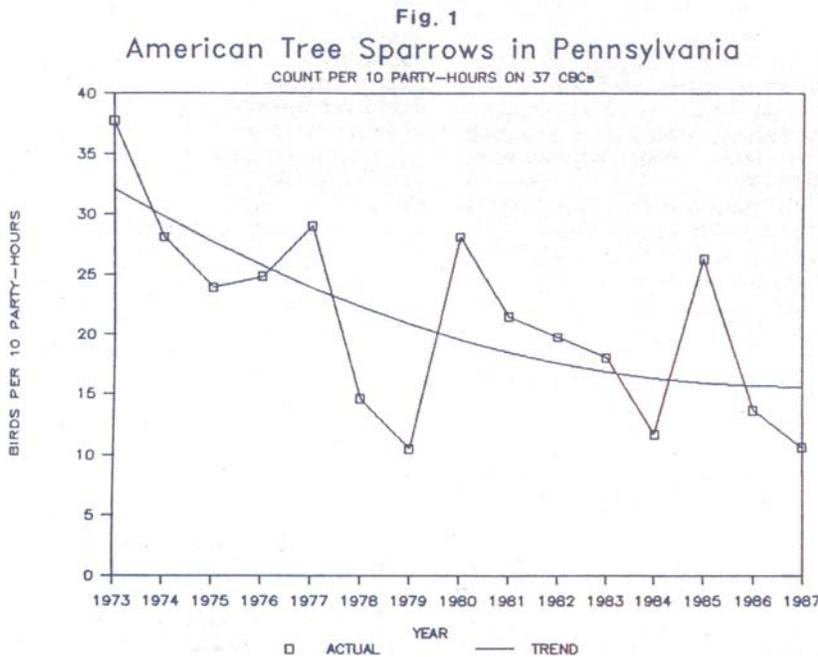
sparrow numbers did not rise in the north; counts remained stable at best. If fewer sparrows wintered southward, levels should have risen in the north — otherwise the overall population had a net decrease.

So the third possibility arises, a real population loss limited to southeastern portions of the winter range. Now the problem is to conceive the cause of such a geographically restricted long-term loss in this abundant species.

The fourth alternative remains, a false impression of decline due to inconsistent observer contact with the birds. Kaufman (1989) stressed that *birders'* as well as birds' distribution must be considered in any analysis because some areas may be under-reported. Michel Gosselin (*pers. comm.*) points out that most CBCs are centered in growing urban areas, thus may not necessarily represent a bird's total continental trend (except perhaps for city-oriented species).

The southern decline appeared in general field work and banding as much as it did in CBCs, but Gosselin's and Kaufman's point can solve the net-decrease problem. Our sparrows could be shifting their preferred wintering ground northward into vast areas of Canada with no CBCs or observers to record an increase. Root (1988) had trouble analyzing many northern distributions because of wide gaps between CBCs there. An increase in the north could be balancing out the southerly declines unnoticed.

None of the alternatives is wholly satisfactory, but regional redistribution combined with incomplete observation seems more plausible than any real decline in the species. Gosselin (*pers. comm.*) is also reluctant to regard tree sparrows as a decreasing species unless the figures are really unquestionable — which they are not.



**Possible causes...**

f exactly what happened is uncertain, then discussing reasons why is almost hopelessly speculative. James (1989) expressed the challenge: "...once regional variation or annual trends have been identified, the task of identifying a cause, or a combination of causes, can be very difficult."

At the outset, no major decline in nesting success or productivity is evident anywhere in the breeding range (Gosselin, *pers. comm.*).

Whether tree sparrows are truly decreasing or merely redistributing, the cause or motivation must fit two observed circumstances. It must affect birds wintering in the east but not the midwest, and it must act more strongly on birds wintering relatively southward.

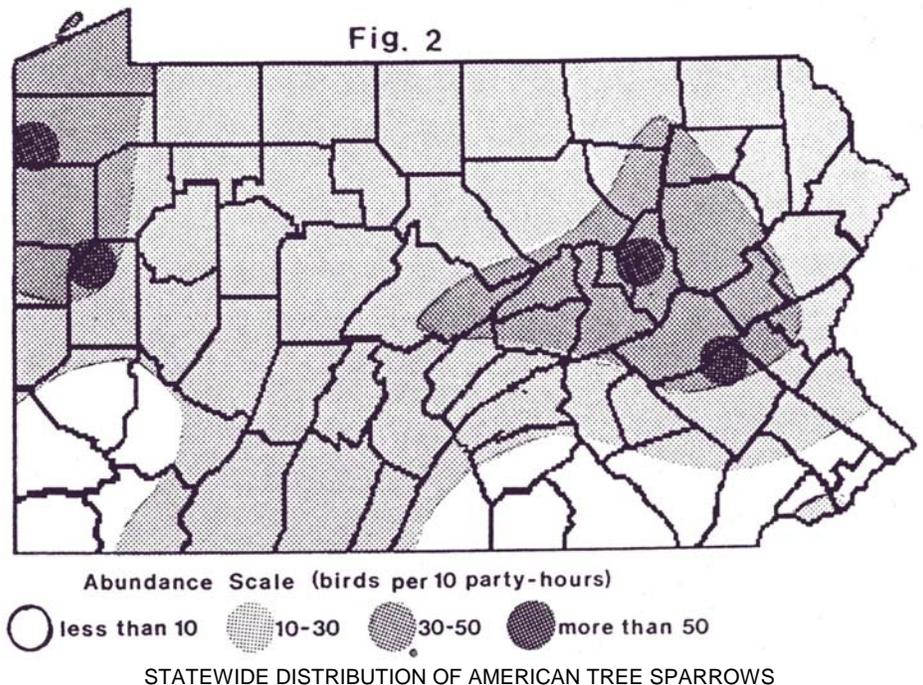
The House Finch explosion, which correlates fairly well with the sparrow decline, would fit both circumstances: first, the finch tide began rising in the east and has not yet inundated the midwest; second, the rise has been greater in the mid-Atlantic region and southern New England than toward the north. Watching House Finches overwhelm tree sparrows and other birds at their feeders, Haas and Haas (*pers. comm.*) wonder if the sparrows' decrease is a coincidence or involves winter feeding competition.

It's a good question. House Finch

hordes may indeed displace tree sparrows from feeders, and feeder counts sometimes contribute a notable share of CBC tree sparrows. But this is disputably the decline's major cause for several reasons: (1) Tree Sparrows started sliding at least five years before the finches became an intimidating presence in the late 1970s. (2) On some CBCs, no great tree sparrow downtrend followed the finch proliferation. (3) The decrease also occurred in the sparrows' traditional field habitats, where the finches are not a factor. (4) During their overall decline, tree sparrows have spurted to rather good numbers in some winters while the finches were just as plentiful.

A more likely cause is loss of winter habitat, suggested for the Appalachian region by Hall (1980) and the Pittsburgh CBC zone by Byers (1988). One factor behind that loss is urbanization, which could explain great tree sparrow decreases in Pittsburgh and Pennsylvania's southeast corner. Another factor is farm decline creating succession from favored fields to unsuitable habitats, which could account for fewer sparrows in some rural localities.

But habitat loss is questionably the main culprit for two reasons: (1) Extensive urbanization occurred in the



Adapted from a method described by Bystrak (1971), the map depicts recent abundance patterns by using 15-year medians for the 37 CBCs with consecutive data from 1973 to 1987. The four CBCs of greatest abundance are Linesville and Butler County in the west and Bloomsburg and Hamburg in the east. The southwest and southeast regions of least abundance share a characteristic that generally accompanies lower tree sparrow numbers: relatively little snow cover. Conversely, the northwest area of high numbers usually has relatively deep snow cover. No reason is obvious for greater abundance within the triangle-shaped east-central region. Perhaps a reader has a clue.

northern CBC areas I sampled, yet no significant sparrow decline appeared there. Nor was land development generally greater in southerly CBC circles where the sparrow decline was worse. (2) Succession from suitable to useless tree sparrow habitat is very slow, spanning decades (Odum 1959) In fact, succession from intensely cultivated lands should actually improve the habitat during most of the process. Yet the birds have declined overall about as much in rural areas as in urban areas.

If northward dispersal is occurring, the influence must be powerful because tree sparrows are known for winter site fidelity (Berger 1961, Leberman 1976, Hall 1983). In 1959-81 Powdermill banded more returns than any species except Black-capped Chickadee (Leberman and Wood 1983). What influence could be strong enough?

A prime possibility is climate change, often the key factor in population dynamics. Gradual warming in eastern North America has caused a northward shift in many species. Wintering tree sparrows could be participants in that effect. As Part 2 will show, they are very hardy in low-temperature tolerance and their numbers are typically higher with snow cover. The latter fact could either indicate a preference for snow or mean simply that they are less scattered and easier to count.

Those factors are bases for a northward shift or at least an apparent southerly decline. Of course the north always has been colder and the south less snowy, so one question is why either effect would occur only recently. Perhaps the warming trend finally rose enough to cause a major behavioral response.

R. S. Mulvihill (pers. comm.) offers good reasons why the shift would be beneficial. Tree sparrows may find it advantageous to winter as close to

their breeding grounds as possible, from two standpoints: early territory occupancy (best choice of territories and mates) and early onset of nesting (particularly important to birds nesting in the brief north-latitude summers). A third value is shorter migration distance, minimizing the weather hazards these late-fall and early-spring travelers face.

"If this is true, then there might be natural selection for tree sparrows to go no farther south than is necessary to find winter conditions that are suitable to their survival," Mulvihill said. Natural selection would take

represent females especially wintering farther north? The answer may never be known, because even banders cannot determine the sex of most tree sparrows outside the breeding season (Mulvihill, pers. comm.).

In any case, climate change and minimal travel are more persuasive than dubiously greater southern habitat loss. Mulvihill's suggestion might also explain why the east but not the midwest has seen a southerly decline. Many southeastern winterers could be farther from their breeding grounds, occupying an effectively marginal corner of the range. Such peripheral "species borders" fluctuate continually (Mayr 1970), which points to yet another scenario. We may be amid a slow contraction of the southeastern range, which will expand again someday and bring our sparrows back.

To evaluate the many possibilities, a study should span more time, develop data from large areas not now censused, and cover both the eastern race (*Spizella arborea arborea*) and western race (*S. a. ochracea*). Then these intriguing population dynamics could be addressed more adequately. ☉

TABLE 1.  
AMERICAN TREE SPARROWS ON 37 PENNSYLVANIA CBCs  
(birds per 10 party-hours)

Year	State	West	Central/NE	Southeast
1973	37.7	33.3	56.9	30.6
1974	28.1	20.9	33.6	28.7
1975	23.9	25.6	44.1	13.6
1976	24.8	23.9	43.6	16.1
1977	29.0	27.1	46.2	21.1
1978	14.6	15.8	25.7	8.1
1979	10.5	11.4	14.8	7.6
1980	28.1	53.3	29.4	17.7
1981	21.5	22.5	37.4	12.1
1982	19.8	15.1	35.4	12.4
1983	18.1	27.3	26.9	9.3
1984	11.7	15.0	17.9	6.4
1985	26.3	29.8	47.9	9.9
1986	13.7	9.5	18.8	12.0
1987	10.6	.3	18.2	10.6

Only CBCs with 15 consecutive years of data are included:

WEST: Bushy Run State Park, Butler County, Clarksville, Erie, Linesville, Pittsburgh, Pleasantville, Raccoon Creek State Park, Warren.

CENTRAL & NORTHEAST: Bloomsburg, Chambersburg, Culp, Dallas Area, Hamburg, Lewisburg, Lock Haven/Jersey Shore, Mansfield, New Bloomfield, Scranton, Southeastern Bradford County, State College, Williamsport.

SOUTHEAST: Bethlehem-Easton, Central Bucks County, Elverson, Glenolden, Harrisburg, Lancaster, Lehigh Valley (Allentown), Lititz, Lower Bucks County, Pennypack Valley, Reading, Upper Bucks County, West Chester, Wyncote, York.

much longer than the recent decline's mere 15 generations, but a simple behavioral adaptation induced by climate change would not.

Consistent with that idea is the comparative absence of a southerly decline in Dark-eyed Juncos, close winter companions of tree sparrows. More strictly ground-feeders, juncos may have a greater need for southern latitudes' less snow. They also nest much farther south as a whole, with little reason for more northern wintering grounds.

Relevant as well may be female tree sparrows' tendency to winter farther south than males (Berger 1961, Baumgartner 1968, Stuebe and Ketterson 1982). The reason is unclear. Stuebe and Ketterson found no difference in the sexes' ability to endure winter conditions. Nevertheless, could the decline

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My thanks to Robert S. Mulvihill at Carnegie Institute's Powdermill Nature Reserve and Michel Gosselin at Canada's National Museum of Natural

Sciences for their insightful responses to my queries.

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**TABLE 2.**  
**TREE SPARROW DATA FOR INDIVIDUAL PENNSYLVANIA CBCs**

**AVERAGE BIRDS/PARTY-HOUR: 1983-87 vs. 1973-77**

West		Lehigh Valley	
Bushy Run	-7%	Lehigh Valley	-50%
Butler County	-49%	Lititz	-54%
Clarksville	+127%	Lower Bucks	-52%
Erie	-31%	Pennypack Val.	-74%
Linesville	-5%	Reading	-79%
Pittsburgh	-80%	Upper Bucks	-46%
Pleasantville	+58%	West Chester	-85%
Raccoon Creek	-85%	Wyncote	-14%
		York	-51%
Central/NE		HIGHS AND LOWS:	
Bloomsburg	-37%	<b>1973-87</b>	
Chambersburg	-82%		
Culp	-68%	Highest 15-year medians	
Dallas	+177%	(birds/10 party-hours)	
Hamburg	-52%	Linesville:	87
Lewisburg	-60%	Bloomsburg:	71
Lock Haven	-48%	Hamburg:	56
Newfield	-80%	Butler Co.:	54
Man Bloomfield	-51%	SE Bradford:	48
Scranton	-35%	Lowest 15-year medians	
SE Bradford	+4%	(birds/10 party-hours)	
State College	-31%	Wyncote:	2
Williamsport	-33%	Lancaster:	2
Southeast		Pennypack Val.:	2
Beth-Easton	-38%	Pittsburgh:	4
Central Bucks	-75%	West Chester:	5
Lewisburg	-68%		
Glenolden	-78%		
Harrisburg	-34%		
Lancaster	-73%		

Highest yearly counts (birds/10 party-hours)	
Butler Co. 1980:	277
Linesville 1980:	226
Butler Co. 1985:	176
Butler Co. 1977:	163
Linesville 1983:	136
Highest counts of individuals	
Butler Co. 1980:	1,662
Hamburg 1985:	1,467
Hamburg 1977:	1,237
Hamburg 1976:	1,175
Hamburg 1986:	1,017

NOTE: CBCs include only those with 15 years of data.  
Statewide distribution is depicted in Fig. 2

**TABLE 3.**  
**GREATER SOUTHWARD DECLINE IN TREE SPARROWS**  
(birds per party-hour)

**AVERAGE, 1983-87 vs. 1973-77**

Region	% Decrease	Significance
Ontario	- 3%	P>.80
New York	-40%	P<.10
Pennsylvania	-44%	P=.01
S of Pennsylvania	-65%	P=.01

**TREND, 1973-87**

Region	Coefficient (®)	Significance
Ontario	-0.38	P>.70
New York	-0.50	P>.10
Pennsylvania	-0.68	P<.025
S of Pennsylvania	-0.79	P<.01

7 CBCs were sampled in Ontario, 6 in New York, 37 in Pennsylvania, and 14 south of Pennsylvania (in West Virginia, Maryland, Virginia, Kentucky, and southern Ohio).

# "October's Birds"

Brush Mountain Notebook  
by Marcia Bonta

At first I am struck by the silence and darkness of autumn mornings. No longer am I awakened by bird songs and bright sunshine. Only the cheerful caroling of a Carolina wren breaks the peace at first light.

Later, as the sun shines on the ridgetop, robins call, a song sparrow sings, and the single phoebe on the telephone wire ventures a couple crisp "fee-bees." Then a towhee, hidden in the grape tangle, chimes in with several "chewinks."

Once the sun strengthens, I am out looking for migrating warblers amid the flocks of black-capped chickadees and tufted titmice and usually I find several black-throated greens and magnolias. The yellow-rumped warblers, for the most part, keep their own company. Solitary vireos nearly always accompany the mixed flocks, but hermit thrushes also like the company of one or two of their own and skulk together in the underbrush.

American goldfinches clean up the last of the Canada thistle seeds and head for the black birch trees where they feed on the dangling seed spurs. Often they share the largess with large numbers of golden-crowned kinglets—tiny bits of life that twirl and spin before the tree branches like Tinkerbelle in Peter Pan and always respond with alacrity to my "pishing."

As my walk progresses, gangs of blue jays stream over the ridge, screaming at my silent progress along our moss-covered trails. They are sentries for other enemies as well, calling a warning that a Cooper's hawk from the hollow has just swooped in or that the immature red-tailed hawk is perched on the giant oak tree at the edge of the woods.

Woodpeckers are suddenly reappearing. The woods are filled with downy and hairy woodpeckers and the pileateds are trumpeting again. But the noisiest of the tribe are the red-bellied woodpeckers which believe in vocalizing whenever they probe the tree trunks for food.

Then there is the almost continuous parade of hawks and turkey vultures that drift silently along Sapsucker and Laurel ridges or circle above First Field. On one bright, breezy day in early October my son Steve spotted a golden eagle high up among the clouds, and on another

such day late in the afternoon, we both watched two ospreys as they flew over the field heading south. Once more Steve stations himself in the field with his spotting scope, performing an autumn ritual that will continue until well into November. Who knows what else he will see as the migration proceeds?

The season is full of surprising bird encounters. One I enjoyed for several days was with a mourning dove that bobbed up and down the weedy road just outside the garden fence. When I first discovered it, I thought it was unusually bold. But once I caught up with it, it attempted to fly and couldn't. Still, it was nimble enough to stay out of reach and I let it go its way each time I saw it. I had never before been close enough to a mourning dove to see its thin blue eye ring and to admire the unexpected subtlety of browns and grays on its wings and back.

With so many chances to see something different in the bird kingdom, I walk as often as possible, noting the isolated calls of resident and migratory birds, watching for a flash of warbler color among the chickadees or a floating of prey bird high in the sky. Certainly there is no confusion of song like there is in the springtime, but there are still single voices to hear before the silence of winter descends on the mountain once again. ☺

*Mrs. Bonta is author of the book, "Outbound Journeys in Pennsylvania, A Guide to Natural Places for Individual and Group Outings." It 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.*

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# Gypsy Moth Predators

Almost every quarter Joe Grom sends us interesting material for inclusion or ideas that we can use in **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS**. This quarter was no exception. He received a list of observations by Paul Brown of bird species in *Allegheny* eating various stages of the moths. In addition, he sent along a list of avian predators of the Gypsy Moth published by Fernald in his book *Useful Birds*. These follow. In Joe's own inimitable way, he challenges sharp-eyed Pennsylvania birders to try and find more species. Report to us what you find.

Yellow Warbler	adult
Downy Woodpecker	pupae
Redstart	stage not given
N. Oriole	larvae
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	larvae
G. Crested Flycatcher	ad., pupae, larvae
N. Flicker	larvae
Hairy Woodpecker	pupae
Robin	pupae
Y-B Sapsucker	pupae
Scarlet Tanager	adult & larvae
N. Cardinal	adult

<u>Bird</u>	<u>Life cycle portion</u>
Yellow-throated Vireo	larvae
Chestnut-sided W.	larvae
Ovenbird	larvae
Song Sparrow	larvae
Blue Jay	larvae and pupae
Red-breasted Nuthatch	larvae
Black-billed Cuckoo	larvae
R-b Grosbeak	larvae & pupae
Catbird	larvae
Red-eyed Vireo	larvae
Common Grackle	larvae
B-c Chickadee	ad., larvae, pupae
Black & white W.	pupae
Crow	pupae
Phoebe	moths
Wood-pewee	stage not given
Least Flycatcher	stage not given
Kingbird	adults
Rufous-sided Towhee	ad., larvae, pupae
Chipping Sparrow	stage not given
Swamp Sparrow	stage not given

<u>1989 Allegheny sightings</u>			
1	R - b	W o o d p e c k e r	
		North Park	7/7
2	R-b Woodpecker	Hartwood Acres	7/8
2	R-b Woodpecker	Hartwood Acres	7/13
		(to fledgling)	
1	Downy Wood.	Hartwood Acres	7/8
1	Blue Jay		
		Indiana Twp	7/1
2	Blue Jay		
		North Park	7/7
2	Blue Jay		
		Hartwood Acres	7/8
1	Chicadee sp.	Hartwood Acres	7/8
1	T u f t e d	T i t m o u s e	
		Indiana Twp	7/1
1	T u f t e d	T i t m o u s e	
		Hartwood Acres	7/15
1	Red-eyed Vireo	Indiana Twp	7/1
1	Red-eyed Vireo	Hartwood Acres	7/15
1	Scarlet Tanager	Hartwood Acres	7/8
1	N. Cardinal		
		Hartwood Acres	7/8
	Chipping Sparrow	Hartwood Acres	7/8
	N. Oriole to 2		
		Indiana Twp	7/13
		fledglings	

What can you add? ☺

## Predictions for the Next State Bird

Barb Haas

This issue's entries are from Ed Kwater and John Ginaven.

### Ed Kwater

1. California Gull
2. Pacific Loon
3. Mew Gull
4. White-winged Tern
5. Long-tailed Jaeger
6. Little Stint
7. Rock Wren
8. Sage Thrasher
9. Smith Longspur
10. Smew or Garganey

### John Ginaven

1. Clark's Grebe
2. Long-billed Curlew
3. Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
4. California Gull
5. Gull-billed Tern
6. Eurasian Collared-Dove
7. Boreal Owl
8. Three-toed Woodpecker
9. Ash-throated Flycatcher
10. Great-tailed Grackle

*John tried to convince us that he really had meant to put Black-capped Petrel on his list!!! Which reminds us to remind you to send in your list. The Black-capped Petrel which was added this past quarter is a perfect example that one never knows what is going to show up. ☺*

**PLEASE LOOK AT YOUR MAILING LABEL ON THE COVER. IF IT DOES NOT HAVE A NUMBER GREATER THAN "89" AT THE END OF THE CODE AT THE TOP RIGHT, IT IS TIME TO RENEW.**

### Mary Leberman 1911-1989

Mary Leberman, Meadville, Pennsylvania, died 28 August 1989 after an extended illness. Birder and bander, Mary quietly, modestly, and consistently contributed over the years to the knowledge of the birds of northwestern Pennsylvania. She was part of the first bird banding station at Presque Isle State Park when in 1960 she and her husband, Charles (who died in 1973), along with two sons Ronald F. and Robert C. began to study the peninsula's birds. A banding station was also maintained at the Leberman home in Meadville.

Ron will continue his work at the Presque Isle and Meadville banding stations while Bob serves as resident bander for Carnegie Museum at Powdermill Nature Reserve, Rector, PA. Mary will be missed by all who knew her.

*Jean Stull  
Waterford, PA*

**King Rail Sighted**  
*Tioga County*  
by Warren Goodrich

Martha Copp, President of the Tiadaghton Audubon Society, called. She was excited. I had no idea what she was talking about. My impression was that she had struck oil in her back yard. When she calmed down I finally gathered that she had spotted a new bird. (For a real birder, which Martha is, there's nothing quite as thrilling as ticking off a species from their checklist.)

"King Rail," she said, "It was a King Rail!"

Being of the bird illiterati, I wasn't ever sure she was talking about a bird. Perhaps there was a visiting monarch in town.

"King Rail, *rallus elegans*, about the size of a small hen, rusty colored, long, slender bill...it was at my daughter Cindy's farm, north of Tioga. She and Denny are right on the edge of a marsh. I was walking up their long drive and I spotted this rail...I was pretty sure it was a King Rail but I wasn't positive. Later Dick Sargent and I were up near the Wilcox's house, that's my daughter and son-in-law, you know, and here comes this old cat with something black and fuzzy in its mouth. Dick got it away from the cat. It was a King Rail chick. It was dead, but still in pretty good shape, so I decided to...are you still there?"

"Yes," I said, "I'm still here."

"So I decided to send the chick to Dan Brauning at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia for identification. There are only three confirmed breeding spots in Pennsylvania, you know."

"Yes, I know," I said, which was a lie.

"So I got some dry ice and I was going to send it UPS but then Jack Cupper was going to Philly so he took it to Dan."

"What happened?"

"Well, Dan got some of his super-ornithologist buddies together and, by golly, they confirmed it. King Rail!"

"Congratulations, Martha!" I said, and I really meant it. Anyone who can get that excited seeing a funny-looking, long-beaked marsh bird who goes bup-bup, bup-bup-bup, deserves all the credit she can get. ☺

*Editor, The Raven  
Newsletter for Tiadaghton  
Audubon Society*

**Royal Tern**  
*Northumberland County*  
Stanley Stahl

On 23 September 1989, while parked at the Sunbury Fabridam, I observed a large tern near the far shore on the western side of the river. The orangish bill, forked tail, and no noticeable darkness to the underside of the primaries suggested a Royal Tern (*Sterna will look up rest when Audi II is not on my lap*). It flew closer to my car and landed on some rocks about 30-50 feet from the near shore with a Forster's Tern and 3 Common Terns. The larger size compared with the others was easily apparent. It had a yellow-orange bill, a white forehead, and a marked shaggy black crest. The bill was thinner and more yellow-orange than a Caspian Tern's thicker bill. But not thin and decurved like the Elegant Tern. It appeared to have a slimmer body than a Caspian Tern.

Note: I did not see a Caspian Tern here, but I saw 2 Caspian Terns near Harrisburg (West Fairview) later in the afternoon. The observation was made about 1:30 p.m. in steady rain with a Bushnell Spotting Scope 20-45X, mounted on the car window.

*610 Chestnut Street  
Montoursville, PA*

*Editor's Note: A fine description of this same bird was also received from Allen Schweinsberg. However, it is our policy to print only one description of any rare sighting. Other submissions are included with the original when being reviewed by the P.O.R.C..*

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**Sabine's Gulls**  
*in Erie and Lancaster Counties*  
by Ed Kwater

The week of 18 September 1989 will long be remembered in the eastern United States for the violent weather conditions associated with the passage of Hurricane Hugo. The hurricane hit South Carolina early on the morning of 21 September. It moved inland, being downgraded to a tropical storm and veered north. On the night of 22 September it passed over western PA, producing strong winds and heavy rain. A number of interesting bird sightings resulted, including a Royal Tern (*Sterna maxima*), and four Black-capped Petrels (*Pterodroma hasitata*). The Sabine's Gulls (*Larus sabini*), which arrived in Erie and Lancaster Counties on 23 September were also thought by many people to have been associated with Hugo. However, it is much more likely that they were

blown in by strong northwesterly winds produced by a cold front which passed through northwestern Pennsylvania on the morning of the 23rd. Sabine's Gulls are largely pelagic migrants, wintering off the coasts of South America and southwest Africa. Very small numbers of juveniles pass through the Great Lakes annually in late September and October. Sabine's Gulls are occasionally seen on the southern shore of Lake Erie (particularly in the area of Cleveland, Ohio) during northwesterly gales.

On 23 September, Jerry McWilliams and I began birding at Presque Isle State Park, Erie, at 7 a.m. A 35 to 40 mph northwesterly wind was blowing and torrential rain made birding difficult. From approximately 10 a.m. onwards, large numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls (*Larus philadelphia*) and Common Terns (*Sterna hirundo*) were observed flying past Gull Point and moving south into Presque Isle Bay. Birding stopped at noon due to a meeting of the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee in Erie, but began again in earnest at 5 p.m.

On my way down the peninsula I stopped at Leo's Boat Livery, a small spit jutting out into Presque Isle Bay. Scanning thru the gulls and terns I saw a juvenile Sabine's Gull flying towards me. The bird was identical in size to a Bonaparte's Gull but the wings appeared to be slightly broader. The pattern of the upperparts was striking. The crown, nape, mantle and wing coverts were sandy brown, but I was not close enough to the bird to see any fine detail in the feathers. The outer primaries, primary coverts and allula were black, forming a dark triangle on the outer wing from the carpal joint to the wing tip. The inner primaries, secondaries and outer greater coverts were white, forming a contrasting triangular wedge along the trailing edge of the inner wing. The tail was slightly forked and white with a black terminal band. The underside of the body and underwings appeared to be totally white. The bill was short and black. After observing the bird at a range of 100 to 200 yards for less than two minutes I left the area to alert other birders. Jerry McWilliams was subsequently fortunate to locate the bird off Leo's. He watched it for no more than half a minute before it was lost to sight. The bird could not be relocated, despite an intensive two-hour search of the bay.

Other species observed in Presque Isle Bay as a result of the cold front included approximately 3,000 Bonaparte's Gulls, 4 adult Little

Gulls (*Larus minutus*), over 1,500 Common Terns, at least a dozen Caspian Terns (*Sterna caspia*), and 3 Black Terns (*Chlidonias niger*). Most of these birds moved out of the area overnight as on the 24th very few of them remained.

A second juvenile Sabine's Gull was found on 23 September by Dan and Lori Heathcote on the Susquehanna River just south of Washington Boro, Lancaster. It was seen in the afternoon following the arrival of strong northwesterly winds. The bird was found again at dawn on the 24th by Jerry Book. It stayed for several hours allowing a number of birders to see it, but was not seen on subsequent days.

These sightings represent the fifth and sixth records of Sabine's Gull for Pennsylvania. The previous four records are as follows:

1. 10/15/79 - Juvenile found moribund at Presque Isle State Park.
2. 9/19/81 to 9/22/81 - juvenile on the Susquehanna River at Sunbury.
3. 9/17/87 - Adult at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary.
4. 10/8/87 - Juvenile at Presque Isle State Park. ☉

2396 Highland Avenue  
Allison Park  
Pittsburgh, PA

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**A SEDGE WREN**  
*Crawford County*  
by Rob Criswell

On the morning of 11 June 1989 I was in a blind attempting to photograph the activity at a Bobolink nest I had located in a hayfield the day before. This area is located just north of Saegertown in Crawford, at my former residence. As I concentrated on this nest I thought I heard the song of Sedge Wren in the background. Several minutes of careful listening confirmed my thoughts. This song was familiar to me through observations of Sedge Wrens at a breeding site in eastern Crawford in 1987 and at Cape May, NJ, in 1988.

That afternoon I further investigated the area and flushed a Sedge Wren approximately 100 yards from the Bobolink nest. The bird uttered a single, almost nasal alarm call, flew to a stalk of timothy 15 feet away, and called several times before diving into the vegetation. It was clearly a small wren with light underparts and subtle streaking on its

back.

As I moved around the area it became clear from his agitated behavior that the wren was defending a territory of approximately one acre. He would always fly to another area of this territory when flushed and would not leave the one-acre tract, although the field was 25 acres in size and contained the same plant composition throughout. I did not note any other wrens in the field.



Sedge Wren, Crawford County, 15 June 1989.  
Photo by Rob Criswell.

At this time I was in transition between Crawford and Huntingdon. I decided not to publicize this site because of the possibility that wrens might breed there, the area was easily accessible by foot, and I would be unable to monitor visitation to the area because of periods of absence.

Subsequent observations were made on 14, 15, 23 and 24 June. On each occasion only the single male was observed. On the nights of 14 and 23 June the wren sang constantly from approximately ten o'clock until midnight. On the first night I taped the song (crude but identifiable) and on the 15th I photographed the bird while singing. I moved on 24 June and did not return until 3 and 4 July, at which time no wren was located.

Although this observation did not include confirmed breeding behavior and only one bird was observed, the circumstances are worth noting. The site was an upland hayfield dominated by timothy, brome-grass, red clover, and orchard grass, with an average height of 30 inches. There were no wetlands in the immediate area. Although there are a few records of a similar nature, we tend to concentrate our efforts to locate this species in wet, sedgy areas. While there are also accounts of this bird singing at night, how many birders utilize this time while searching for this wren? On the nights I listened to the male singing, there was no competition for my ear from other birds, insects, or daytime human activity.

It is hoped this account will stimulate birders to search some upland areas and at night for this species. Perhaps these types of observations will help confirm that this species is one of our rarest breeding birds,

or that it occurs more regularly than we think and is simply being overlooked.

As a footnote, I should mention that the owner of this property, Greenleaf Corporation, was prepared to forestall mowing the hay in the area of the wren's territory as long as there was activity at the site. ☉

P.O. Box 228  
Huntingdon, PA 16652

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## About the Cover Artist:

### Dave Keuger

This is Dave's second cover for us. He did the Black-necked Stilt on the last issue. In addition to his illustrations this issue, Dave has contributed a fine article on the Swainson's Warbler. We appreciate his efforts and look forward to more offerings from him. ☉



## Summary of the Season

A quick review of the past Summer issues of **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS** shows some very interesting comparisons. In 1987 the "hottest" bird was the **Sabine's Gull** that flew by Hawk Mountain Sanctuary. Close on the heels was a **Yellow Rail** rescued from a cat in *Allegheny*. An **Eared Grebe** in *Erie* followed closely by a raft of shorebird sightings from various counties and **Yellow-headed Blackbird** in *Centre* added to the spice. The main topic in 1988 was the drought and its possible devastating effect on the **Cattle Egret** breeding population in the Commonwealth. Unfortunately this scenario continued into 1989. The **Dickcissel** invasion was unprecedented and Bob Mulvihill's article clearly delineated the situation. How fortuitous it was that the Atlas was still going on putting observers into previously unchecked areas. There was no repeat invasion this year.

What happened this year? Generally July was wet, August dry, and thanks (?) to Hurricane Hugo September was also quite wet. Equally important was the fact that temperatures were on average below normal. While these may have been good conditions for birders, what effect did they have on the birds? We will try to sort some of it out based on the county reports.

### Hurricane Hugo's influence

One must read Wilhelm's report on the downing of hundreds of birds in *Butler* to appreciate what 50 mph winds can do to migrating birds. The species that were definitely hurricane related were **Black-capped Petrel** and **Royal Tern**. At least five of the former were brought to the attention of birders, lending speculation as to how many others perished without being found. This is all very likely since they were found in both ends of the state, *Allegheny*, *Lackawanna* and *Venango*. There were reports for New York state as well. The previous few records of Royal Tern were all most likely hurricane related and this one should not be considered an exception.

As for the **Sabine's Gulls** in *Erie* and *Lancaster*, it is much more likely that they were influenced more by the strong cold front than Hugo as Ed Kwater's article so clearly states. *Erie* went from a windfall day on 23 September to virtually nothing in

numbers the next day, although the **Ruff** found by Ron Leberman on the 24th was more than a little exciting. But as Jerry McWilliams states, the incredible numbers of birds were also more cold front than Hugo related. One always wonders what went by unnoticed.

### Too much water

Grassland species such as **Upland Sandpiper** probably benefited from the rains. Mowing of fields had to be delayed as Barb Dean and others described. But the rains may have had a deleterious effect on the **Black-necked Stilt** chick in *Philadelphia*. It was not seen after the torrential rains over the 4th of July weekend. Was rain equally responsible for the exceptionally late **Yellow-crowned Night Heron** fledging date of 4 September in *Lancaster* asks Bob Schutsky? Even waterfowl seemed to be adversely affected as witnessed by Dave Wolfe's reports to Linda Christenson in *Elk*.

### Good nesting/poor nesting

**King Rail** was confirmed breeding in *Tioga*, making Martha Copp one of the happiest birders in that County. This may be only one of two extant breeding locations for the Commonwealth. Arlene Koch may have discovered the northernmost nesting locale for **Black Vulture** — *Northampton* — where she observed two adults and a fledged young bathing in a stream. Although Dave Krueger was unable to verify nesting of **Swainson's Warbler** in *Fayette*, the fact that it was around from 10 June until 6 August should whet the appetites of southwestern birders to comb the hinterlands for possible breeders. His in-depth article gives clues for all interested.

It was hard to determine just exactly what the weather's effect was on some species. **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** were noted late in some areas, and their numbers were decidedly down in others. Did they enjoy a good breeding success? While most compilers that reported on **Purple Martin** felt they had an extremely poor season, it was heartening to learn that the Glen Mills (*Delaware*) colony had a banner year. There is only one known colony in *Philadelphia* and that was discovered only this year by Frank Windfelder.

Very disheartening was any good evidence that **Whip-poor-will** are holding their own. Maybe some effort should be expended to see just what effect the spraying for Gypsy Moths is having as reported by the Gerrishes to Glenn and Ruth Sager (*Somerset*). **Eastern Bluebirds** may have enjoyed some second or third brood success, but the *Tioga* situation was grim all season. Several compilers remarked that the **Common Nighthawk** was anything but common. The best migration count was 200+ in *Franklin*.

### Out of place for the season

Was it just a coincidence that so many record early dates of Fall migrants were recorded? Or was nesting failure to our north responsible? This ran the gamut from gulls (*Carbon*, *Centre*, *Lancaster*) to warblers. An incredible possible two sightings of **Am. Avocet** in York, one in August and one in July, makes one wonder what this long-legged wader was flying from. **Red Knot** were found outside of *Erie* in *Crawford* and *Lancaster*. Ron Leberman remarked on the first decent showing of **Stilt Sandpiper** in a long time in *Crawford*.

**Caspian Terns** were especially widespread and in good numbers with even *Westmoreland* enjoying a record. **Am. Pipit** (new name for **Water Pipit**) were found early in *York* and *Northampton* counties. Two reports were received of **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** in *July*, one on the 2nd in *Montour* and two on the 28th in *Forest!* The former bird was even singing.

### A final note

There were early sightings of **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, **White-throated Sparrow**, **Dark-eyed Junco** everywhere. **Pine Siskin** were found in good numbers in many areas, **Purple Finch** were seen with more regularity, and even **Evening Grosbeaks** were reported. Let's hope the redpolls are not far behind. ☺

Records of rare and unusual bird sightings reported in this section should be considered tentative, pending review by the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee.

# COUNTY REPORTS - July through September 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, **fi:**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.

## ALLEGHENY COUNTY

Joe Grom

*Abbreviations: Deer Lakes Park (DLP), Frick Park (FrP), North Park (NoP), Pittsburgh (PGH), South Park (SoP).*

On the very day that PB was listing a PB - **Pied-billed Grebe** - in DLP, nature in the form of devastating "Hugo" had picked up ahead of it somewhere in the Caribbean around St. Croix and the Virgin Is., among other birds, a *Pterodroma hasitata*. This particular **Black-capped Petrel** was deposited on the streets of Elizabeth Twp in such poor condition that it succumbed the very next day. It is now part of the Carnegie Museum's collection.

At Chatham College (PGH) VDz recorded a somewhat late, 10/22, **Green-backed Heron**. Twenty **Wood Duck** at NoP 7/18 by TF was a good count. Scattered among the hundreds of tame **Mallard** there an equally tame 10 **Am. Black Duck** were discerned by TF's sharp eye that same 7/18.

Single **Turkey Vulture** on 8/8 and 9/2 were reported by AG at Vincentian Home in the North Hills. PB saw an **Osprey** over Ross Twp, North Hills (PGH) 10/3. TF observed an ad. pair of **Broad-winged Hawk** (no dates) fledge 4 nestlings in a FrP (PGH) nest.

80+ **Killdeer** were quite an assemblage at NoP 8/25 (HRL). A "very early" **Solitary Sandpiper** at FrP caught TF's attention 7/1.

PB, *Allegheny's* Health Dept. employee tracking gypsy moths, who earlier had noted an increased presence of both cuckoos in areas of major infestations, has compiled a list of PA bird species that he personally observed eating various stages of this new forest pest. Such a list is presented elsewhere. Perhaps PA birders, an observant bunch, will contribute to this list. *See separate article.*

The **Common Nighthawk** fall migration got underway at FrP 8/10 according to TF; the last reported sighting on 9/22 of 10 birds was made by VDz in the Murray Hill Ave. section of PGH not very far from FrP. The I-79, I-279, McKnight Rd. corridor from the N into PGH proved to be especially attractive to 100's of migrants (nighthawks) during the intervening evenings as they worked their way toward the 3 rivers and then s.w. down the Ohio Valley.

At Whitehall, 50+ **Chimney Swift** seen by WH 9/9 were certainly an indication of a movement, although a really major migration occurred 2 weeks later when, Paul Hess relates, hundreds flew over just outside *Allegheny* at Moraine SP. A **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was visiting nearby flowers at flood-lit Whitehall pits where WH was pitching horseshoes on 9/7 — at 11 o'clock at night! Hummers were seen 9/21, one at Vincentian Home, by AG, others 9/26-28, still defending feeders, Allison Park at Clare's place (*fi* JG). In Kilbuck Twp PB had 1 of few **Red-breasted Nuthatch** from 9/2-30.

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was very early, 7/29, in FrP reported by RG and TF. This was the same locale for an 8/30 **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** and the general area including nearby Schenley Park where **Acadian Flycatcher** was a common to abundant nester all summer. This latter species was considered "the bird of the AOU Convention 8/8-10 (Carnegie, PGH) birdwalks in the city parks" according to reporter TF.

JG counted 20 **Barn Swallow** at NoP 7/12. At FrP a lone,

persistent **Winter Wren** sang 7/1 but could not again be found by TF. Three more were moving 9/30 at DLP (T&NMc). Over 200 **Am. Robin**, mostly birds of the year, were noisy on Anderson Rd. in Shaler Twp 8/14 (R. Karausky *fi* JG).

**White-eyed, Yellow-throated, Red-eyed, Warbling vireos**—all were "singing at the same time" at NoP 7/18 (TF).

TF indicates a so-so flight of warblers for FrP then lists 20 species seen there for the month of Aug. He calls a **Tennessee** "remarkably early" on 7/29. First **Blackpoll** 8/30; a **Pine** 8/19; uncommon **Prairie** 8/19; and **Am. Redstart** most numerous migrant after 8/1. On 9/29 in Agan Park, Springdale Borough, JP and HRL in a 3-hour sweep counted 43 warblers of 10 species, including 18 **Black-throated Green** and 11 **Cape May**. JC got himself a "lifer" at NoP 9/11 when he finally found a **Mourning Warbler** skulking in the weeds.

AG estimated up to 2000 **Common Grackle** in the North Hill 8/27. The first **Dark-eyed Junco** for the Fall was a single at SoP by WH. JG found **Am. Goldfinch** extremely common 8/16-25 across n. *Allegheny*.

OBSERVERS: Paul Brown, Jim Clark, Vickie Dziadosz, Ted Floyd, Randi Gerrish, Al Grom, **Joe Grom, 9360 Babcock Blvd., Allison Park 15101 (412-366-9495)**, Walter Hammond, Paul Hess, Glenn Koppel, H. R. Leapman, Tom & Nellie McGary, Joe Panza.

## ARMSTRONG COUNTY

Margaret and Roger Higbee

*Abbreviations: Allegheny R. (AR), Ford City (FC), Keystone Res. (KR), Kittanning (KTN), Manorville (MNV), McGrann (MGN).*

**Armstrong is badly in need of reporters. Anyone birding in this county is requested to send reports.** All of this period's observations were made by Ed Slovensky unless otherwise noted.

A **Common Loon** summering on the AR was still present 7/16 (*fi* CD). A **Double-crested Cormorant** was observed near KTN 9/20. Two **Red-shouldered Hawk** over FC were the lone report.

Several trips to KR during late Aug. and Sept. (MH,RH) were virtually unproductive because of high water levels. Sufficient rainfall covered the vast mudflats exposed during drier years. Shorebird reports of interest along the AR included 3 **Semipalmated Sandpiper** at MGN 8/25 and 3 at MNV 8/28. Top **Least Sandpiper** count was 4 at MNV 8/6. A well-described **Baird's Sandpiper** at MGN 8/26 was a nice find. A single **Common Snipe** was observed near MNV 8/28,31. Two **Am. Woodcock** were spotted at FC 9/11 (DS,ES). A single **Herring Gull** was listed at MNV 8/6.

The acrobatics of a flock of 300+ **Chimney Swift** over FC at dusk on 9/23 were described in great detail (GW). Five **Common Nighthawk** were still present at FC 9/25 (GW).

Migrant thrush reports, all at FC, included **Veery** 9/2, **Gray-cheeked** 9/28, and **Swainson's** 9/20. Best tally of **Cedar Waxwing** was 80 at FC 9/17. Three **Philadelphia Vireo** were found at FC 9/13. Twenty-three species of warblers were reported, all found in small flocks, with best concentration on two dates—9/19,20. Interesting reports from FC include **Pine Warbler** 9/6, 2 **Wilson's** 9/17, and 1 **Canada** 9/13. A flock of 5 ♂ **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was listed 9/10. A **Lincoln's Sparrow** was found at FC 9/19. First **White-throated Sparrow** arrived at FC 9/28.

OBSERVERS: Caroline Davies, **Margaret and Roger Higbee, RD #2, Box 166, Indiana 15701 (412-354-3493)**, Dorothy & Ed Slovensky, Gloria Winger.

## BEDFORD COUNTY

Tom Dick

*Abbreviations: Allegheny Front (AF) near Central City, Shawnee SP (SSP), Yount (YO).*

Weather for the third quarter was unremarkable. Hurricane Hugo meandered W and then NE bypassing the county. We received a little wind and rain on 9/21-22. Nothing unusual was reported from ridge outlooks during Hugo's tenure. In general, although reporting

was fair, the quarter was uneventful. On an upbeat note the warbler migration was excellent.

**Common Loon**, 1-2, lingered at SSP through July and well into Aug. **Pied-billed Grebe** persisted at SSP through the quarter. **Great Egret** were reported near Bedford Hospital 8/21 (RS) and YO 8/29,31 (GH). Five **Green-backed Heron**, considered breeding birds, were seen at a SSP marsh 7/17. **Wood Duck** seemed to have had another banner breeding year with many reports.

The Fall hawk count has been moved from Tussey Mt. 35 mi further W to Allegheny Mt. near Central City. It has been our goal to explore the various ridge and mountain systems to better understand local raptor and passerine migration. It is hoped others will take up the Tussey lookout in the future. The new lookout, situated at 2800 ft, sits on the e. escarpment called the Allegheny Front. This mountain system runs from *Bedford* to the northeastern corner of PA. We have high expectations for this location. Unless otherwise noted, the raptor data are for the new hawk watch. Sept. produced E winds on 15 days, good winds for the AF. On 9/4, 10 **Osprey** and 3 **Bald Eagle** heralded the Fall migration. A real treat was 9/19 when 1500 **Broad-winged Hawk** kettled past the summit in one hour. Seven **Peregrine Falcon** was about average. It's interesting to note modest **Merlin** and **Peregrine** counts so far removed from the coast. Near the AF in a boggy mountain bench, a pair of **N. Goshawk**, probably nesting, were seen through the summer.

The excellent wild food crop, especially acorns, means good winter conditions for **Wild Turkey**. Imm. **Virginia Rail** were reported at YO 7/9 (GH). Woodpeckers were well-reported with the exception of **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**. **Red-breasted Nuthatch** with an unusually strong migration peaked around 9/17. Reports of **Winter Wren** were above average.

During foggy morning at the hawk site we had ample time to watch warblers and determined that the following had strong flights: **Black-throated Blue**, **Pine**, **Magnolia**, **Yellow-rumped**, and **Black-and-white**. The peak for these species was 9/10-17. Other Sept. warblers had fair flights. **Lincoln's Sparrow** was reported on four occasions, widely distributed within the county (GH,JS). The only noteworthy finch was a flock of 11 **Evening Grosbeak** flying past the AF in mid-Sept.

OBSERVERS: Jack & Terry Carnila, Sally & Thomas Dick, 1003 Eisenhower Blvd., Johnstown 15904 (814-266-7912), Gordon Hassel, Donna Hausel, Ruth Sager, Janet Shaffer.

## BERKS COUNTY

Rudy Keller

*Abbreviations: Big Spring Farm, Robesonia (BSF), Blue Marsh Lake (BML), Hawk Mt. Sanctuary (HMS), L. Ontelaunee (LO).*

Wet weather prevailed through summer and early fall. Rainy or overcast days and unfavorable winds in Sept. depressed the **Broad-winged Hawk** count at HMS, where the big day was 9/15 with 2030 birds. Hurricane Hugo helped keep rain gauges full but brought no exotic birds to *Berks*. However, a major flight of **Red-breasted Nuthatch** began in late August, and small flocks of **Purple Finch** and **Pine Siskin** appeared at the end of September, previewing a wave of these birds in October. May the **White-winged Crossbill** observed at North Lookout, HMS 8/27, prove to be the harbinger of the finch year we've all been waiting for!

A **Common Loon** was at LO 9/17 (MS) and 4 flew over HMS 9/30 (LG). Seven **Double-crested Cormorant** were seen at LO 9/17 (RK,MS) and 125 were counted flying over HMS 9/24 (LG). A pair of **Am. Bittern** flew low over a cattail/calamus meadow near Kempton 7/1 (RK) and a **Least Bittern** was seen at a pond north of Kutztown 7/28 (JB). An imm. **Snowy Egret** was at a pond near Oley 9/24 (RK). A **Mute Swan** was seen at LO 8/13 and 9/10 (MS). The **Bufflehead** that spent last winter at BSF was still there 7/9 (MS).

Eleven **Black Vulture** were present on several days in Sept. at HMS (LG). Were there really only 2 **Osprey** seen away from the Kittatinny Ridge, or has this species become too commonplace to report? In contrast with last year, the **Bald Eagle** count at HMS was good, with peak days of 5 birds 8/30 and 9/18. The count stood at 35 on 9/30 (LG). In addition, an ad. was seen in Perry Twp. 8/10 (KDG) and an imm. was at BML 9/16 (HJS). A **N. Goshawk** was seen at HMS 9/2 (LG) and an imm. was in Hamburg 9/23 (KDG). The only **Broad-winged Hawk** reports away from the ridge were from Flying Hills near Reading, where 145 birds were counted 9/13 and 93 on 9/15 (EB).

A **Chukar** was on the South Lookout trail at HMS 8/5 (LG). The first fall migrant **Solitary Sandpiper** were single birds seen at BSF and near Oley 7/9 (RK,MS). Because of high water, few other shorebirds were seen. A **Caspian Tern** was at LO 9/17 (MS).

HMS tallied 93 **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** this season, with high counts of 22 on 8/30 and 18 on 8/31 (LG). An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was seen at the Earl L. Poole Nature Preserve 8/27 (MS). In Hamburg, the last **Purple Martin** fledglings left the nest on the very late date of 8/22 (KG). A **Cliff Swallow** at LO 9/24 was late (MS). Three **Common Raven** were counted at HMS 9/15 and 2 on 9/27 (LG).

The first half-dozen **Red-breasted Nuthatch** were reported shortly after passage of a strong cold front 8/25-26. Reports quickly increased, and by late Sept. the birds could be heard in conifer stands throughout the county. A **Brown Creeper** near Leesport 9/5 (AVK) was early. **Winter Wren** were well reported again this year, beginning as usual in late Sept.

The bluebird success story continued in spite of a wet season. At Daniel Boone Homestead, 12 pairs of **E. Bluebird** fledged 59 young (TK) and near Plowville 12 pairs fledged 108 young (HL). A **Gray-cheeked Thrush**, seldom reported in spring or fall, was seen near Leesport 9/29 (AVK).

Birders rated the fall warbler migration average to good, reporting five *spp.* of vireos and 26 *spp.* of warblers. Dates for uncommon fall migrants follow. Vireos: **Yellow-throated** 9/2 (KG) and 9/30 (AVK), **Philadelphia** singing at HMS headquarters 8/24 (LG). Warblers: **Prairie** 8/20 (MS), **Worm-eating** 9/11 (HJS), **Kentucky** 9/6 (RK). In a backyard birdbath near Leesport, single **Connecticut** were studied 9/5,14 and 9/18, and an ad. male **Mourning** came to drink and bathe 9/14 (AVK). Pairs of **Hooded** and **Canada** were seen with fledged young at the Hamburg Reservoir in July (KG).

This year's wandering **Blue Grosbeak** was a male singing near Hamburg 8/17 (KG). On 7/1, KG counted 12 **Grasshopper Sparrow** singing in Bern Twp. A **Lincoln's Sparrow** was near Leesport 9/4 (AVK).

Those who remember birding before **House Finches**, take note: this fall, **Purple Finch** completely replaced House Finch at HMS feeders! (No, it's too much to hope for...must have been a fluke.)

OBSERVERS: Ed Barrell, Jim Bednarz, Laurie Goodrich & HMS staff, Kenneth & Dorothy Grim, Kerry Grim, **Rudy Keller, R.D. 4, Box 235, Boyertown, PA 19512 (215) 367-9376**, Anna & Vernon Kendall, Terry Knorr, Harold Lebo, Harold & Joan Silagy, Matt Spence.

## BLAIR COUNTY

Dave Kyler

*Abbreviations: Brush Mt. (BM), Canoe Creek SP (CCSP), Sinking Valley (SV), Spruce Creek (SC).* All observations by compiler unless otherwise noted. Unusual species for the quarter included **Double-crested Cormorant** and **Peregrine Falcon**.

CCSP was the reporting site for 1 **Double-crested Cormorant** 8/31, while at the same location 24 **Killdeer** were found 9/21. **Am. Woodcock**, an unusual visitor to the high elevation of BM, were found 7/20 (MB).

Raptors reports were 1 **N. Harrier**, 3 **Sharp-shinned Hawk**, and 1 **Peregrine Falcon**, all over BM 9/26 (MB). **Barn Owl** were found in SV 9/23, with 6 juv. found on a nesting platform (ML). A **Great Horned Owl** was present at L. Altoona 9/16 (BK).

A **Least Flycatcher** was on BM 7/11 (MB) with 1 **Winter Wren** and **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** arriving 9/30. **Swainson's Thrush** were found passing S on BM 9/27 and **Wood Thrush** sang their last song of the season 7/30 (MB).

Warbler waves on BM 9/19 produced the following species: **N. Parula**, **Black-throated Blue**, **Magnolia**, **Canada**, **Blackburnian**, **Worm-eating**, and **Hooded** (MB).

Sparrow reports were limited to **Field Sparrow** still incubating eggs on BM 8/10 (MB).

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

## BRADFORD COUNTY

Bill Reid

Two **Swainson's Thrush** were seen near SGL 36 on 9/23 (RM.). At Spring Hill, the **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** reported earlier continued to come to a feeder through July, eventually bringing young with them (EB).

OBSERVERS: Elizabeth Beebe, Randy Miller, **William Reid**, 73 W. Ross St., Wilkes-Barre 18702 (717-836-2525).

## BUCKS COUNTY

Ron French

*Abbreviations: Delaware R. (DR), Nockamixon SP (NSP), Peace Valley Park including L. Galena (PVP),*

**Double-crested Cormorant** were seen at PVP all quarter. On some dates in Sept. as many as 3 birds were present at one time. One ad. and 2 imm. **Black-crowned Night-Heron** frequented the island by the bridge at PVP. Fifteen **Common Merganser** were seen on the DR at Center Bridge 8/28-29 (BMc).

**Osprey** continue to use L. Galena as a resting place during migration in Aug/Sept. On one morning in Sept. 6 birds were sighted roosting in the trees along the lake. A single Osprey was seen repeatedly on the lake at NSP in July and Aug (HR). It is assumed that this bird may have summered there, perhaps suggesting a future nesting. Several reports of **Bald Eagle** were received: 1 ad. on the DR just s. of New Hope 8/28 (DR), an imm. just e. of Doylestown 8/30 (MR), an imm. at PVP 9/4 (AM), and 2 birds (1 imm. and 1 ad.) at NSP 9/27 (RH). A pair of **Cooper's Hawk** fledged young (*location deleted*. -Eds.). A **Peregrine Falcon** was reported at a quarry, also in July. Efforts were made to determine if nesting was in progress but the bird was not seen again. A very early **Merlin** was sighted at PVP 8/12 (RF *et al.*) during the Saturday morning birdwalk. Another was seen at PVP 9/10 (AM). This latter bird hung in the area of the bridge at PVP for several days.

**Ring-necked Pheasant** continue to be very scarce. A **Wild Turkey** was sighted in Bedminster with young in tow. A single **Am. Coot** was seen frequently on L. Galena all quarter (AM). A **Lesser Golden-Plover** seen in the Richboro area 8/27 (RH) was the find of the quarter. Although sandpipers were rare due to the high water at the known migration stops in *Bucks*, two **Solitary Sandpiper** were seen at PVP 9/13 (BB). **Barn-Owl** were reported in the Spring Valley area for the last two weeks of July (KW), and a nesting pair with young were seen frequently in a Sycamore tree on the lawn of a private home in Warminster in Aug (BH).

Many sightings of **Red-breasted Nuthatch** were reported in migration. **Solitary Vireo** were also numerous throughout the area. An early **N. Waterthrush** at Chalfont 8/7 (RF) and imm. **Mourning Warbler** [1 at Chalfont 9/3 (RF) and 1 at PVP 9/23 (GF)] were notable. Many observers felt that warbler migration in general was excellent this Fall. **Lincoln's Sparrow** were reported at PVP (AM,RF) on the birdwalk and at Chalfont (RF) on 9/28 and 9/30 respectively.

*Our many thanks to Bruce McNaught who was compiler for Bucks County since the beginning. He has turned over the duties to Ron French, whom we know will provide excellent reports. He begins his tour with this issue and welcomes your sightings.*

OBSERVERS: Barbara Brillhart, George Franchois, **Ron French**, 3469 Limekiln Pike, Chalfont 18914 (215-997-1765), Ray Hendrick, Bill Hoehne, Bruce McNaught, Augie Mirabella, Dave Rubin, Hart Rufe, Margie Rutbell, Kathy Wanamaker.

## BUTLER COUNTY

Gene Wilhelm

*Abbreviations: Book Rd. (BR), Butler Boro (BB), Camp Crestfield (CC), Center Twp (CT), E. Butler (EB), Glades SGL (GSG), Jennings Env. Ed. Ctr. (JEEC), L. Arthur (LA), L. Oneida (LO), Moraine SP (MSP), Mt. Chestnut (MC), Slippery Rock area (SRA),*

*Slippery Rock Cr. (SRC), Slippery Rock Univ. (SRU), Swamp Run Rd. (SRR), Wolf Creek Narrows (WCN).*

The major highlight of the quarter, of course, was the effect that tropical storm Hugo had on *Butler* 9/23-24. Torrential wind in excess of 50 mph and over 2" of rain caused much tree damage and flooding, especially in the southern part. Total precipitation for Sept. was 4.95" compared to a normal 2.8". Unfortunately, the storm hit at the peak of Fall migration and actually caused thousands of water birds and passerines to reverse their south trek. Fallouts were evident 9/23-24 GSG, MSP and WCN as birds traveled from S to N with the strong winds. Most unusual were 2 exhausted **Least Bittern** and 6 **Green-backed Heron** found together in a tiny marsh on SRU campus 9/24. All were gone the next day, but 6 **Common** and 3 **Black** terns were still resting on a gravel bar in WCN 9/25 and another flock of 12 **Common** and 3 **Forster's** terns next to a farm pond in SRA. Many phone callers identified scores of vireos, wood warblers, **Scarlet Tanager**, and **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** waiting out the storm on porches, in open garages, and even under feeding trays. In contrast to super-wet May, June, and Sept., July was extremely dry (second driest July on record) and Aug. relatively dry and cool. However, weather again played havoc in the breeding success of many bird families.

A single **Common Loon** on LA 7/20 was unusual (HF). The only report of **Pied-billed Grebe** was on LA 8/21 (MG). **Double-crested Cormorant** was reported more often and in good numbers, with 10 on LA 8/26 (AH,J&GW) the high. A new **Great Blue Heron** rookery was discovered on a farm near MC 7/20 with 20 nests. A single **Great Egret** on LA 9/8 was the only report (HF).

The extremely wet Spring had a dire effect on the breeding success of waterfowl, marsh birds, and shorebirds. Some species tried nesting again in July but with little success. Elevated nest boxes for **Canada Goose**, **Wood Duck**, and **Hooded Merganser** helped these species, but high water levels in marshes and swamps continued unabated into July-Aug. and destroyed many suitable nesting sites. Some 25 **Wood Duck** on LA 9/1 (MG) and 49 in WCN 9/17 are noteworthy.

A pair of **Bald Eagle** built a nest at GSG in the spring but the female never laid eggs. Pair remained near the nest site every day of the quarter. This may be the 1st confirmed breeding record for *Butler*. No reports of **N. Harrier**, but **Sharp-shinned** and **Cooper's** hawks were migrating over SRA 9/18,25 (GW). **Red-shouldered Hawk** continues its crash, with no report. **Broad-winged Hawk** nested later than usual (due to rain?), but did well in several locations. **Am. Kestrel** was below average with 4 at Unionville (BD) being the best report. A **Merlin** was seen 9/5 at MC attacking starling (MG), another at GSG 9/17, and a third over SRA 9/25 (GW).

**Ring-necked Pheasant** continues its decline, with 2 at CC 9/16 the only report. **Ruffed Grouse** was not reported, but **Wild Turkey** reports from various locations were encouraging. A lone ♂ **N. Bobwhite** sang in SRA 8/18-25 (J&GW), the only report. High water prevented mudflats from forming, thus shorebirds were scarce: 1 **Semipalmated Plover**, 2 **Solitary**, 1 **Spotted**, and 2 **Semipalmated** sandpipers were observed at LO 8/8 (MG). **Killdeer** and **Spotted Sandpiper** had a rough breeding season due to the extremely wet conditions, but these same conditions were conducive for the **Upland Sandpiper**. Farmers could not mow until July, allowing this species badly needed grass cover for nesting. Some 6-8 indiv. were observed in their favorite SRU campus staging area 8/15-17 and Uplands succeeded in raising 2 young on BR (GW). Some 50+ **Ring-billed Gull** remained at LA in Jul-Aug, then disappeared (MG).

**Black-billed Cuckoo** was recorded more often: 1 at MC 7/8 (MG), 2 at JEEC 8/26 (AH,J&GW), and 2 at BB 9/8 (BS), in contrast to no report for **Yellow-billed**. The number of owl reports was encouraging. Unusual was hearing **E. Screech-**, **Great Horned**, and **Barred** in SRA 8/19 with a full moon (GW).

**Chimney Swift** numbers were down and **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** unexpectedly vanished in July, reappearing at feeders in Aug-Sept (weather responsible for these changes?). Last ♂ left SRA 9/18 and last ♀ 9/27 (GW). **Red-headed Woodpecker** continues its downward trend in numbers, the only exception being 5 ad. migrating in SRA 8/27 (EH,GW) and 1 on SRR 9/14 (BD,MG). **Red-bellied Woodpecker** is still expanding its breeding range northward; 2 **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** seen at LO 9/20 (MG) the only report. **N. Flicker** did not have a good breeding season and only 1 **Pileated Woodpecker** was seen at MSP 7/14 (MG) and another in SRA 8/29-9/5 (GW).

All flycatchers were below average (weather-caused?) **E. Wood-Pewee** was way down for second consecutive year and vacated haunts early: 4 pewee, 2 **Great Crested Flycatcher**, and 4 **E. Kingbird** at JEEC 9/2 seemed to be moving with a mixed flock of

*Empidonax* sp. **Purple Martin** had a horrible breeding season and left at the end of Aug. **Red-breasted Nuthatch** invaded en masse after 8/25; 1 **Brown Creeper** at LO 9/20 the only report (MG). **Carolina Wren** continues its comeback, with numerous reports from everywhere. **House Wren** did better than average, especially by taking over abandoned **E. Bluebird** boxes in wet May-June, forcing bluebirds to re-nest in July.

The rare **Sedge Wren** still breeds in the Propagation Area of MSP, with 5 indiv. observed 8/3 (AH,GW). Although occurring there for years, first confirmation of its breeding was in 1984. However, the area may be opened to ice fishing which could have dire impact on the species. Although similar habitat is found elsewhere in MSP, the area is the ONLY KNOWN breeding spot for the species and the only locale where all human activities have been prohibited year-round for 20 years.

**Marsh Wren** did surprisingly well this breeding year, being found at GSG, LA, LO, and WCN (GW). Both **kinglets** came in with a bang, recorded everywhere and in high numbers. Spotted thrushes were above average in numbers and early: **Veery** at WCN 9/15 (GW); 5 **Swainson's** at JEEC 9/12; 1 **Hermit** at MSP 9/14, and 1 **Wood** at LO 9/20 represent latest reports. **Brown Thrasher** left somewhat later than usual: 2 at CC 9/16 (BD) were the last seen. **Cedar Waxwing** was seen everywhere in high numbers.

Several mini-waves of vireos and wood warblers developed, culminating in a grand display before, during, and after Hurricane Hugo. Many birds started moving S early as attested by 1 **White-eyed**, 1 **Solitary**, and 2 **Red-eyed** vireos joining a mixed flock of **Blue-winged**, **Tennessee**, **Yellow**, **Chestnut-sided**, **Black-throated Green**, **Blackburnian**, and **Black-and-white** warblers at JEEC and LO 8/12 and 8/20 (MG,GW). Another mini-wave hit JEEC and CC 9/2, dominated by **Blue-winged**, **Tennessee**, **Nashville**, **Magnolia**, and **Cape May** (BD,GD,MG,BS,GW). Two **Black-throated Blue** were unusual at JEEC 9/2 (BS,MG) and a lone **Cerulean** there 9/1.

But these above-mentioned mini-waves paled by comparison with the major wave that hit SRA, GSG, and WCN 9/23-24 when hundreds of vireos and warblers descended after fighting strong head winds. Perhaps many of these birds were caught by Hugo winds farther south and carried back north as was the case of some pelagic birds in adjoining counties, but the mixture of species was *incredible*: 18 **Solitary** and 29 **Philadelphia** vireos, 11 **Orange-crowned**, 29 **Nashville**, 33 **Magnolia**, 41 **Cape May**, and 66 **Yellow-rumped** warblers in SRA alone. Other species represented were **Black-throated Green**, **Palm**, **Bay-breasted**, **Blackpoll**, **Am. Redstart**, **Ovenbird**, **Common Yellowthroat**, **Wilson's** and **Canada** warblers.

**Scarlet Tanager** and **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** started migrating in late Aug. and continued unabated through 9/20 (MG,BS,GW). **Indigo Bunting** had a good breeding season, despite the weather conditions or perhaps because of them. **Vesper**, **Savannah**, **Grasshopper**, and **Henslow's** sparrows had a rough time in the wet spring but recovered nicely in Jul-Aug. A new reclaimed strip-mined field in SRA harbored all four of these species this year. **Swamp Sparrow** was reported along with 4 **Savannah** and 6 pairs of **Grasshopper** sparrows on another restored strip-mine field in CT 7/8 (MG). The first **White-throated Sparrow** returned 9/26 and **Dark-eyed Junco** appeared at LO 9/30 (BS,MG). Flocks of **Bobolink** were seen at GSG 8/26 (AH,J&GW), perhaps numbering 400+ individuals. **Purple Finch** continues to give way to **House Finch** with 5 indiv. seen at LO 8/11 and 6 at LO 9/30 (MG).

OBSERVERS: Barb & George Dean, Cork Eakin, Helen Ferguson, Marguerite Geibel, Anke Heintz, Earl Houts, Nancy Rodgers, Betty Starr, Joanne & Gene Wilhelm, RD 3, Box 8, Slippery Rock 16057 (412-794-2434).

## CARBON COUNTY

Bernie Morris

Abbreviations: *Beltzville SP (BSP)*, *Wild Creek Res. (WCR)*.

On 7/21 a **Snowy Egret** was at WCR, and **Great Egrets** and imm. **Little Blue Herons** were at BSP (RW). A very early ♀ **Red-breasted Merganser**, and 9 early **Ruddy Duck** were at BSP 9/26 (RW). A **Black-bellied Plover** and a calling **Lesser Golden-Plover** were both found at BSP 9/21 (RW). On 8/11, an ad. **Bonaparte's Gull** was seen at BSP (RW). This is the 1st summer record for this species in this area. Two **Caspian Tern** were also at BSP 8/13 (RZ).

A **Willow Flycatcher** nest with 3 eggs was found near BSP 7/6 (RW). A fledged **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was seen near Christmans 7/9 (BLM,BCM). An early **Palm Warbler** was found at Penn Forest 9/13, and a **Yellow-breasted Chat** was seen singing at BSP 7/6 (RW). A pair of **Dark-eyed Junco** carrying food was seen near Christmans 7/9 (BLM,BCM).

OBSERVERS: Barbara C. Malt, **Bernard L. Morris**, 825 N. **Muhlenberg St.**, Allentown 18104 (215-435-9134), Rick Wiltraut, Richard ZainEldeen.

## CENTRE COUNTY

John and Becky Peplinski

Locations: *Bald Eagle S.P. (BESP)*, *Walnut Springs Park (WSP)*.

Wet conditions continued from the last quarter into this period with July's 5.75" being 2" above normal. August saw a minor drought with 0.89" (-2.74"), and Sept. was 0.58" above normal with 3.58" of rainfall. Temperatures were below normal for all three months; July 70.7° (-1.2°), August 68.4° (-1.5°), and September 60.5° (-2.3°).

Early single **Common Loon** were seen at Colyer L. 9/17,24 (KJ, JJ). An imm. **Double-crested Cormorant** visited a small farm pond ½ mile w. of Port Matilda from 7/4-6 (GB). An **Am. Bittern** was present at Fairbrook 9/29 (JP).

One **Black Vulture** 7/18 and 2 on 7/19 were seen returning to a roost with Turkey Vultures 9 miles w. of State College (JP,BP). **Bald Eagle** sightings included a juv. at BESP 8/22 (MW) and another indiv. there 8/30 (MW).

Shorebird sightings included 1 **Lesser Golden-Plover** 9/24 at BESP (MW); 2 **Semipalmated Plover** 9/23 at BESP (HH); **Greater Yellowlegs** 8/27 along Old Gatesburg Rd. (JP,BP) and 9/23 at BESP (HH); 1 **Lesser Yellowlegs** at BESP 9/23 (HH); and a single **Solitary Sandpiper** along Tadpole Rd. 8/6 (JP,BP). In addition, a single **Sanderling** was at BESP 9/5 (MW). Single **Semipalmated Sandpiper** were at BESP 7/13 and 8/5 (MW). Two **Least Sandpiper** were along Tadpole Rd. 8/6 (JP,BP), and singles were reported from BESP 8/5 (MW) and Tadpole Rd. 8/9 (JP,BP). Up to 8 **Pectoral Sandpiper** were present in flooded fields along Tadpole Rd. between 8/2-9 (JP,BP), while 1 was at BESP 8/5 (MW), and another there 9/23 (GY). A single **Dunlin** was seen 9/23 at BESP (GY), while 2 **Short-billed Dowitcher** were along Old Gatesburg Rd. 8/27 (JP,BP).

A 1st-year **Laughing Gull** was at BESP 9/23 (HH). Although the **Ring-billed Gull** is a regular species in all months at BESP, it was interesting to note that among the 45 second-year birds there 7/1, was one in juv. plumage (MW), apparently having moved south from L. Erie. **Herring Gull** are not that unusual at BESP, but the 1 on 7/20 (MW) is earlier than usual for Fall migration. An uncommon migrant in *Centre*, **Caspian Tern** reports from BESP included 1 on 7/20 (MW), 2 on 8/24 (AF), and 2 on 9/15 (MW). One **Common Tern** 9/15 and 3 on 9/23 were at BESP. Also there 9/23 was 1 **Forster's Tern** (HH).

One **Olive-sided Flycatcher** reported 7/22 (HH) at Black Moshannon SP was outside normal migration dates. The bird was not found again on two subsequent trips to the area. The habitat appears to be suitable for this species to breed, although searches in previous years have never revealed this species. The only **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** reported was the 1 seen at near Colyer L. 9/24 (KJ, JJ).

The **Gray-cheeked Thrush** coming to a feeder in State College 9/20 was the only 1 reported (EB). A **Swainson's Thrush** was along Big Hollow Rd. 9/17 (JP,BP). The **White-eyed Vireo** at WSP 9/17 was fairly late (GY, m.ob.). **Philadelphia Vireo** sightings included 1 on 9/10 along Big Hollow Rd. (JP,BP), 1 at WSP 9/17 (HH), and 1 at Toftrees 9/17 (JP,BP). Reports of **Palm Warbler** included 3 at BESP 9/24 (MW), and 1 near Stormstown 9/30 (JP).

Two **Lincoln's Sparrow** were observed at Toftrees 9/17, 3 at

WSP 9/24, and 1 at Big Hollow Rd. 9/24 (JP, BP). There are very few summer records of **White-throated Sparrow** in *Centre*, so the 1 ad. seen 7/1 at BESF (MW) was one of the highlights for the summer season.

OBSERVERS: Ed Budd, Gail Butler, Alice Fuller, Harry Henderson, Katherine & Jennings Jones, **John & Becky Peplinski, 4 Beaver Branch Rd., Box 364, Pennsylvania Furnace 16865 (814-238-6541)**, Merrill Wood, George Young.

## CHESTER COUNTY

Jerry Pasquarella

*Abbreviations: Honey Brook Sewage Ponds (HBSP), Kurtz' Fish Farm (KFF), Marsh Creek SP (MCSP), Octoraro L. (OL), Struble L. (SL), Pond on Wood's Rd., near Struble (WRP).*

A **Common Loon** was seen in flight near Honey Brook 9/25. A single **Pied-billed Grebe** was at MCSP 7/14. A flock of 26 **Double-crested Cormorant** was seen flying S very high up near Mortonville 9/5. One **Snowy Egret** was at WRP from 9/12-15. A **Little Blue Heron** was at WRP 9/12-18. The latest report of **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was a flyover at the Exton Square Mall, of all places, on 7/20. There was a single **Glossy Ibis** reported at SL 7/30. The **Snow Goose** that was at WRP last quarter remained until at least 7/11. This bird was seen as well at KFF through that time. A rather late pair of **Blue-winged Teal** was seen at WRP 7/3 and a single **Ring-necked Duck** was there as well until 7/16.

Numerous reports of **Osprey** were received from late Aug. on, but of interest was a single bird at KFF 7/20. There were a few nice cold fronts during Sept. which produced good hawk flights, particularly 9/15-18 and 9/25-26, with as many as 500 **Broad-winged Hawk** seen 9/25. Once again **Bald Eagle** reports are encouraging. They are as follows: 1 imm. along the French Cr. in Warwick Twp 8/13; an ad. in W. Goshen Twp 9/15; an imm. near West Chester 9/17, and a 3rd year bird at SL 9/22 during the storm that accompanied Hurricane Hugo. A **Peregrine Falcon** was reported near West Chester 9/18.

A total of 2 **Caspian Tern** were at SL 8/6 and 2 **Common Tern** were at WRP 7/20. OL continues to be the place to go if you wish to see **Barred Owl**, where as many as 3 were seen 7/8. **Red-breasted Nuthatch** first arrived 8/25 and have been seen ever since in various locales. Warblers began arriving the last week of Aug. in good numbers, both of individuals and species. The peak time was 9/2-8.

A **Blue Grosbeak** was in my yard near Mortonville 9/5. Both **Purple Finch** and **Pine Siskin** have been reported since mid-Sept. in good numbers, which leads one to believe that this will be a good year for winter finches.

OBSERVERS: D. B. Chrisman, John Ginaven, Joe Meloney, **Jerry Pasquarella, 2209 Cranberry Lane, Coatesville 19320 (215-486-6440)**, Grier Saunders, Era VanDenburg.

## CLARION COUNTY

Margaret Buckwalter

*Abbreviations: Beaver Creek Project (BC), Clarion area (CA), Cook Forest SP (CFSP), Curllsville (CV), Kahle L. (KL), Shipperville area (SVA), Mt. Zion (MZ).* Unless otherwise noted, assume the compiler is the observer in SVA.

Two **Double-crested Cormorant** were present at KL 8/23-27 (WF). A **Green-backed Heron** was feeding at BC 7/20 and KL 8/29 (WF). **Wood Duck** completed a very successful nesting season using the boxes at the BC (WF). Six **Redhead** were loafing on KL 8/29 (WF). One ♀ **Common Merganser** with 11 young proved they had bred there this season.

An **Osprey** was a frequent visitor at BC and KL all quarter. Up to 6 **N. Harrier** were common at both CV and MZ during the period. One almost mature **Bald Eagle** frequented KL 8/17-27 (WF).

**Ruffed Grouse** were heard drumming on and off during Sept.

A late **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was present at SVA 9/17. **Willow Flycatcher** were still singing 7/20 at Knox and 7/23 on McEwan Rd. near Sligo. An **E. Kingbird** successfully nested during July at BC right over one of the ponds not more than 18" from the water (WF). **Cliff Swallow** again nested in barns in e. *Clarion*. A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** with food for young was noted at CFSP 7/15. A **Winter Wren** sang continuously 7/25-31 (PD) on Rapp Run, CA. (Late? breeding? -eds.).

The **Merlin** being mobbed by songbirds at Leeper 7/14-15 (LC) might possibly have been the rehabilitated Merlin released at North Park (*Allegheny*) a short while earlier according to Joe Grom. When the Merlin was first seen sitting on the road it seemed more afraid of the Blue Jays than of the observer who was able to get quite close to it. The next day at the same place the kingbirds put the Merlin right out of the orchard and it left for good.

An unusual concentration of 25 **E. Bluebird** was noted at the Rapp Farm near Shipperville 9/21 (JH). A **Swainson's Thrush** on Tom's Run in CFSP was tape recorded independently by the compiler on 7/11 and Joe Panza on 7/15. Both **Solitary** and **Warbling vireos** were present at CFSP 7/15 (JG).

Territorial **Blue-winged Warbler** were no rarity in *Clarion* last quarter and this, but on 7/4 at Auge Run in the n. part of the county, a ♂ **Golden-winged Warbler** showed up and perched in precisely the same tree that had been occupied by a Blue-winged a few minutes before. The Golden-winged was searched for but not seen subsequently. (Tapes of both are available.)

A **N. Parula** was at CFSP 7/15 (JG). **Black-throated Blue Warbler** were fairly common in CFSP all quarter. A small flock of **Yellow-rumped Warbler** continued at Leeper until the end of the quarter (LC). **Prairie Warbler** sang on territory on McNaughton Hill 7/11. **Mourning** and **Hooded** warblers were tape recorded in the valley of Hemlock Cr. 7/2-11. A **Canada Warbler** was sighted in the rhododendron thickets along the Clarion R. 7/9.

**Swamp Sparrow** were at BC 7/20.

OBSERVERS: **Margaret Buckwalter, RD 2, Box 26, Shipperville 16254**, Lois Callahan, Peter Dalby, Walter Fye, Joe Grom, Janice Horn, Joe Panza.

## CLINTON COUNTY

Paul and Glenna Schwalbe

A **Cooper's Hawk** was observed on and near its nest throughout late summer. Two **N. Bobwhite**, a rare bird in the county, were seen on the Eagleton Rd. 7/4 (VS).

A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** appeared in Lock Haven 9/8+. **Am. Robin**, which disappeared in Lock Haven during August were present again in Sept. Are these more northern breeding individuals that showed up after the local residents had departed for the south? **E. Bluebird** continue to increase and nested in natural cavities at the country club, their first year at this location. **Cedar Waxwing** were quite active and in good numbers through Sept. The first fall **White-throated Sparrow** appeared in Lock Haven 9/28; and following several years of decline, the **House Sparrow** is up in numbers.

OBSERVERS: All of the above reports are from Cecil Hazlett except for the one from Vesta Schach. **Paul and Glenna Schwalbe, 546 Wilson St., Jersey Shore 17740 (717-398-4514)**.

## COLUMBIA COUNTY

Douglas A. Gross

The winter drought continued through April, but was broken decisively by abundant rains in May and early June. Migration seemed ahead of schedule until late April. Inclement weather and high stream levels impaired both bird migration and observations. Many spring migrants were observed in lower than normal numbers on this account. Dave and Linda Unger again proved to be Atlas All-Stars by covering some tough blocks along the *Northumberland* line, sometimes on mountain bikes. All observations made by D. A. Gross unless otherwise noted. Overall trends also include concensus of several NBBC members.

*Abbreviations: Briar Creek L. (BCL), North Branch Susquehanna River (NBSR), Rohrsburg (Rohrs).*

### Second Quarter:

Although **Pied-billed Grebe** were observed at BCL, numbers are down (KH,DG). **Canada Geese** continued to increase in the area. **Am. Black Duck** were still present, especially at BCL and along NBSR, but on the decline.

More **Osprey** have been observed each spring for the last few years, not only along NBSR, but also along smaller streams, especially Fishing Cr. (m.ob.). With high waters, some Osprey were seen in remote ponds and streams. There were rumors of an Osprey nest along Fishing Cr., but none was verified. A pair of **N. Harrier** lingered near Rohrs until early May, but then inexplicably disappeared. Later, I heard that a neighbor shot a hawk which was snatching one of his free-running chickens. **Sharp-shinned Hawk** again nested where they have nested each year for over 10 yr. (SK). **N. Goshawk** apparently nested in n. *Columbia* this year (RS). **Short-eared Owl** (2) were at Rohrs as late as April 11.

**Wild Turkey** are still doing very well. **Ring-necked Pheasant** populations are difficult to decipher because of private releases of incubator birds (fox fodder); some Ring-necks are nesting successfully in farmlands (usually with late or no mowing) and Christmas tree farms. **Mourning Dove** had an exceptionally successful breeding season.

Both **cuckoos** were more common than recent years. **Red-bellied Woodpecker** may be increasing in the riverside communities near Bloomsburg.

A cold spell in late April caused some **Tree Swallow** nest failure. **Fish Crow** migrated into the area later than usual (most arriving in April), but invaded farmlands further away from the river than ever before. At least one pair stayed near Rohrs through June, perhaps nesting. **Common Raven** seem to be resident near Iola (J&SG). Migrant **Winter Wren** and resident **Carolina Wren** were more common than usual. **E. Bluebird** struggled to produce their first brood in the May monsoons and some nests were abandoned due to the cold stretch in late April. **Swainson's Thrush** was found near Mainville 5/16 (JF). **Warbling Vireo** was found to be common in Lime Ridge along the NBSR. In general, migrant warbler numbers seemed dampened by the wet May weather. Exceptions to this were **Yellow-rumped Warbler**, which was even more abundant than usual, and **Pine Warbler**, which was reported with increasing frequency in this and adjacent counties, including newly discovered breeders near Buckhorn and Bear Gap (DG, DU). **Prairie Warbler** and **Grasshopper Sparrow** seemed to be moving into more Christmas tree plantations. **Vesper Sparrow** is declining where corn fields have been converted to other crops or allowed to go fallow. A pair of **Blue Grosbeaks** were observed near Orangeville in June (D&HH), but apparently left the area when the roadside overgrown area in which they were probably nesting was mowed. The report of this locally very rare bird sounded very convincing, but was unfortunately not confirmed by the coordinator because of uncooperative weather and farmer. **Purple Finch** is uncommon in *Columbia*, so it was good news to hear that they nested near Iola (J&SG).

### Third Quarter:

**Pied-billed Grebe** (2) were at BCL 9/30 (KH). **Great Egret** were observed by many along NBSR and ponds throughout the county in July and Aug. **Double-crested Cormorant** hung around Berwick on the NBSR in Aug. & Sept. (ND,JF,DG). **Canada Geese** and **Wood Duck** had very successful nesting seasons near Berwick; 120+ young geese were observed near Nescopeck & Berwick 9/1. NBBC members were delighted to find 4 ♂ **Common Merganser** at Twin Bridges Park near Stillwater (Huntingdon Cr.) 6/15. This species also apparently nested along Fishing Cr. (D&HH). More **Common Tern** (3) were observed near Berwick this quarter than in any previous year. An imm. **Bonaparte's Gull** was spotted along NBSR near Berwick 9/1.

**Osprey** were observed near Berwick in Aug & Sept in greater than normal numbers (ND,JF,DG). An imm. **Bald Eagle** was observed flying down the NBSR near Berwick 8/28 (JF). A good **Broad-wing Hawk** flight (161 on 8/24) was observed near Berwick (ND). **N. Harrier** returned to Rohrs fields, early Sept.

Fledgling **Acadian Flycatcher** were along Catawissa Cr. near Shumans 7/17. **Fish Crow** stayed all summer near Rohrs and Buckhorn (DG), and **Common Raven** near Iola (J&SG). A raven was sighted in lowland forested habitat near Derrs in July, and another, probably a migrant, near Berwick 9/24 (ND). A family of **Red-breasted Nuthatch** moved into DG's backyard 9/16 and stayed. **N. Mockingbird** seemed to be invading more upland areas where they can find multifloral rose. **Yellow-throated Vireo** is invading some upland woodlands near Berwick. **Solitary Vireo** and **Dark-eyed Junco** were again found apparently nesting near Derrs at a fairly

low elevation (950 ft) along a hemlock-bordered stream. Territorial **Solitaries** were also found on Little Mt., e. of Bear Gap (D&LU). **Vesper** and **Grasshopper** sparrows were also commonly found near Bear Gap. In fallow, forb-covered fields where **Vesper Sparrow** nested commonly only 2 yr. ago, **Song Sparrow** and **Red-winged Blackbird** have increased near Rohrs (**Vespers** like bare soil!).

OBSERVERS: Nancy Dennis, John Fridman, John & Sue Graves, **Douglas A. Gross, Ecology III, RD1, U.S. Rt. 11, Berwick, PA 18603**, Doyle Harris, Dot & Harry Henderson, Karen Hiller, Scott Killam, Diana & Hugh McFadden, Robert G. Sagar, Dave & Linda Unger, the North Branch Bird Club.

### CRAWFORD COUNTY

Ronald F. Leberman

*Locations: Conneaut Marsh (CM), Erie NWR (ENWR), Meadville (MDV), Pymatuning SP [including the Causeway, Fish Hatchery, Goose Management Area (GMA), Spillway (PSP)], Norrisville, Saegertown, Tamarack L., Woodcock L.*

All waterfowl reports from PSP unless otherwise noted. **Pied-billed Grebe** were noted in small numbers at area lakes from 9/23-29 (RFL). Two **Double-crested Cormorant** 9/16 was a lower count than usual (RFL). A **Great Egret** was seen 8/2 (RFL). Two **Mute Swan** across from the Fish Hatchery all of Aug. and Sept. was a bit unusual here (RFL). The estimated 3,000 **Canada Geese** 8/2 had doubled by 9/23 (RFL). There was an excellent mid-summer count of 14 **Green-winged Teal** 7/2 (RCL,RFL). About 150 **Am. Black Duck** were counted 9/25 (RFL). A **N. Shoveler** was found 8/12,20 (RFL,EK). Three **Gadwall** were at Miller Pond 8/12 and 2 at CM 9/23 (RFL).

Two ad. **Bald Eagle** at Hartstown Marsh 7/2 were not unusual (RCL,RFL) and they continue to be seen at PSP. A **N. Harrier** was at Custards 9/23 (RFL).

A **Peregrine Falcon** was seen for 10 minutes at Custards 9/23 chasing 30 **Am. Wigeon** back and forth across the marsh and, bing, unsuccessful he landed in a tall dead tree at the marsh's edge and looked perplexed—if a hawk can do that.

Eight **Common Moorhen** were at Custards 9/24 (RFL,RCL). All shorebird sightings from Miller Pond, PSP, unless otherwise noted. A **Black-bellied Plover** was seen 9/21 (SF). Four to 5 **Semipalmated Plover** were noted 8/12 to 9/10 (RFL,RCL,EK,SF). **Lesser Yellowlegs** were seen 8/2-26, with a high count of 19 noted 8/20 (EK). One **Solitary Sandpiper** was found at ENWR 8/12 (RFL). Two **Red Knot** were found 8/12 (1 in alternate plumage and 1 in basic plumage); 1 **Sanderling** was seen 8/27 (RFL). **Semipalmated Sandpiper** were noted 8/12-20, with a good count of 16 there 8/20 (EK). A **Western Sandpiper** was seen 8/27 (RFL). The 10 **Least Sandpiper** found 8/21 was the high count (RCL). A **Baird's Sandpiper** was well-studied with a 30X scope 9/10 (RFL). **Pectoral Sandpiper** were common throughout the period (RFL). Two **Dunlin** were found 9/21 (SF). For the first time in many years we had a good flight of **Stilt Sandpiper**, with 2 found 8/21 (RFL,RCL) and 9 ad. and 5 juv. seen 8/26 (EK). **Short-billed Dowitcher** were noted in numbers from 1-9 from 7/8 to 8/31 (RFL,RCL,MNL,EK). One to 3 **Long-billed Dowitcher** were found 8/20-26 (ED,RFL,RCL). A total of 19 **Common Snipe** were seen 9/10 (RFL). A **Wilson's Phalarope** was found by EK 8/20 and seen again 8/21 (RFL,RCL).

Two ad. **Black Tern** were noted at HM 7/2 (RFL,RCL) and an imm. was at Miller Pond 8/12 (RFL). Two **Red-headed Woodpecker** were found at CM 9/25 near the Geneva Bridge (RFL,RCL). A low estimate of 1500 **Tree Swallow** was made at PSP's Upper Lake 9/23 (RFL).

OBSERVERS: Sara Flaugh, Ed Kwater, Mary M. Leberman, Robert C. Leberman, **Ronald F. Leberman, RD #1, Saeger Hill, Meadville 16335 (814-724-5071)**.

## CUMBERLAND COUNTY

Deuane Hoffman

*Abbreviations: Green Springs area (GSA), Kuhn L. (KL), Mud Level Rd., Shippensburg (ML), Shillito Ponds, Williams Grove (SP), Waggoners Gap (WG), West Fairview Boat Launch (WF).*

Two sightings of **Common Loon** at WG were 8/20 and 9/30 (DHe). A **Glossy Ibis** was seen at WF 9/11 (RK). This is a very rare visitor to this area on the Susquehanna R. An imm. **Tundra Swan** that hung out at SGL 169 over the quarter was found dead 8/19 by DHe.

An imm. **Laughing Gull** was at WF 9/11 and seen again 9/18 (RK). Two good tern sightings of note made this quarter's report. The first of 3 **Caspian Tern** 9/13 and 9/18 at WF (RK). The other, also at WF, was of 2 **Black Tern** 9/11 (RK).

Although not seen in this quarter, but not found out about by this compiler until 5 Oct., was a sighting of a **Sandhill Crane** seen near Oakville (w. part of the county) in a farm field by Jim Binder, Wildlife Conservation Officer, and John Dunn, Biologist for the PGC, some time in early June!

Two **N. Bobwhite** sightings in the w. end of the county lend hope that some small populations still survive. One was at GSA 7/1 (DHe) and 1 on Rt. 641 near Plainfield 7/8 (DHe). A **Virginia Rail** was heard at KL 8/1 (DHe). The 14 species of shorebirds were found by DHe include: **Upland Sandpiper** 7/3 to 8/5 at ML, with a peak of 12 on 8/3; 2 **Sanderling** at SGL 169 on 9/8; 1 **Stilt Sandpiper** at SGL 169 on 9/8,14; 1 **Short-billed Dowitcher** at SP 8/13,22.

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at SGL 169 on 8/24 (DHe). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** came into WG with an early date 9/18 (DHe). A confirmed **Hermit Thrush** nest was found on Ridge Rd. 7/18 near the Appalachian Trail (CG). This may be the only confirmed site in the county.

Twenty-three species of warblers were found during the Fall migration, and this was found to be a very good total.

And, finally, it may be a good winter finch year with the sightings of **Dark-eyed Junco** and 20 **Pine Siskin** all at WG 9/30 (DHe). For the latter species this is an early date.

OBSERVERS: Carl Garner, Don Henise (DHe), **Deuane Hoffman, 3406 Montour St., Harrisburg 17111 (717-564-7475)**, Ramsay Koury.

## DAUPHIN COUNTY

Steve Santner

*Abbreviations: Clark's Valley (CV), Harrisburg (HBG).*

The third quarter started out cool and wet but during August and most of Sept. very little rain fell. The Susquehanna R., because of heavy spring and early summer rains, remained high almost throughout the period, providing very little shorebird habitat. Since there were no strong fronts, landbird migration did not concentrate in waves and although not spectacular, was good in Aug. and the first half of Sept.

**Double-crested Cormorant** were common throughout the summer on the Susquehanna n. of HBG (m.ob.), but have apparently not yet nested. A delayed report of a ♀ **Hooded Merganser** with young on the Susquehanna at West Fairview in late May (RK) is certainly unusual, as was the report of a ♂ **Common Merganser** on the Swatara Cr. in Hummelstown in mid-July (WE).

The **Bald Eagle** which spent the previous three summers on Dehart Res. apparently did not return this year.

*Empidonax* flycatchers other than **Yellow-bellied** are not often identified in Fall migration, but a **Least** called 9/8 in HBG (JW). About 50 **E. Kingbird** were seen in 20 minutes at Ft. Hunter 8/19 (JW). **Bank Swallow** are rare nesters locally; the colony found at a quarry near Elizabethville was only the 2nd atlas report for *Dauphin* (GR). A **Blue Jay** was seen "begging" on the late date 9/15 in HBG (JW).

Two **White-eyed Vireo** were reported singing a song much like that of an Alder Flycatcher in Linglestown (JW). Perhaps these were young birds which have not yet "learned" the song. Odd songs are fairly common in some species (Song Sparrow is one) in which the full

song is acquired the following spring after listening to older males singing on territory. On 9/3, all 6 species of vireo were seen at one location in CV (SS), 5 of these were in one tree! Another **Philadelphia Vireo** was seen 9/8 in HBG (JW). Warbler migration was good this year despite the lack of storm fronts to concentrate the birds. Some of the better sightings were **Nashville** 9/3 in CV, **Pine** and **N. Waterthrush** 9/8 in HBG (JW), **Hooded** in CV 9/3 (SS) and **Wilson's** in HBG 9/16-18 (JW).

On 8/31 and 9/1, while camping on mountainland s.e. of Gratz, there was a **Brown Creeper** at the campsite. On the 1st, it was singing! Also on 9/1, a **Red-headed Woodpecker** was present at the same site.

Bill Reid

OBSERVERS: Charles D. & Charles J. Bowen, Wade Edris, Ramsay Koury, Grance Randolph, **Steve Santner, 3 Overbrook Village Green Apt., Elizabethtown 17022 (717-367-5857)**, Judy Ward.

## DELAWARE COUNTY

Al Guarente

*Abbreviations: Darby Cr. near Tinicum Environ. Center (DC), Delaware R. (DR), Ridley Creek SP (RCSP), Tyler Arboretum (TA).*

The summer months were relatively moderate in temperature, well within the averages. Sept. brought quite a bit of rain which seemed to slow the hawk migration considerably.

At the new United Parcel Service building along the DR a **Glossy Ibis** was found 8/6 (BS). Three **Least Bittern** were at DC 7/10, apparently holding their own in the Tinicum area. Along the DC, a report of 100+ **Wood Duck** 9/10 (JCM). One **Black Vulture** was seen at Rose Tree Park 8/9 (NP). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was seen flying around Elwyn, Inc. 7/8 (AG) and then possibly the same bird was seen at RCSP the next day. No evidence was found of nesting, however. A **Merlin** was seen flying over a parade in Media 9/24 (AG, JL).

Two different **Baird's Sandpiper** were seen, 1 along the DR 9/3 (BS) and 1 at DC 9/8 (JCM). Fifteen **Dunlin** along DC in Folcroft 9/4 (NP) seemed a bit early. There were 1000+ **Laughing Gull** at Tinicum I. 9/10 and 100+ **Forster's Tern** at DC 9/12 (JCM). There seemed to be an influx of **Caspian Tern** this year, with several reports in the area. Four were at Tinicum 8/24 and 3 more there 9/10 (JCM) and still there 9/18 (BS). A juv. **Black Tern** was present at DC 8/5 (AG).

Reports of cuckoos were scarce this season. Two **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** were at TA 7/26 (JG). A nice find was a **Barred Owl** calling on a dark, dreary dat at 2:15 p.m. in Swarthmore (HMc). The first **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** of the season was found at TA 9/27 (AG, JG). A **Pileated Woodpecker** was seen at the Chesley Office campus in Media 7/18. One **Olive-sided Flycatcher** made its appearance at TA 8/22 (NP). Also at TA, 9/3, was a **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** (SC).

The Glen Mills **Purple Martin** colony is really booming. This year 313 young were banded (JCM) versus 281 counted last year. The number of nests also increased from 68 in 1988 to 87 in 1989.

Two **Red-breasted Nuthatch** made their first appearance at TA 8/22 (NP). Then they started showing up everywhere. We hope this could be an indication of what is going to come the winter season.

A **Philadelphia Vireo** was found at TA 9/1 (SC, TR). Two **Warbling Vireo** were found along DC 7/18 (JCM). The warbler on this report has to be the **Orange-crowned** at Swarthmore College 9/13 (HMc). **White-throated Sparrow** flocked in numbers to TA 9/27, when 12 were present, the first of the season. The first **Dark-eyed Junco** was early, 9/30, in Media.

OBSERVERS: Skip Conant, John Ginaven, **Al Guarente, 421 Old Middletown Rd., Media 19063 (215-566-8266)**, Jim Lockyer, Helen McWilliams, John C. Miller, Nick Pulcinella, Tom Reeves, Bill Stocku.

## ELK COUNTY

Linda G. Christenson

*Abbreviations: Allegheny National Forest (ANF), Benzinger Twp (BT), Crow Run Marsh (CRM).*

**Great Blue Heron** continue to be plentiful with many sightings. According to Dave Wolfe, sightings of nesting waterfowl were extremely low as more and more beaver dams were found to be washed out by June's heavy rains. The only waterfowl reported were 2 ad. **Canada Geese** with 4 goslings 7/22 at CRM, 6 **Wood Duck** at Owl's Nest 8/19 (DW), 1 **Wood Duck** at Glen Hazel (LC), and a ♀ **Mallard** at Owl's Nest 9/23 (DW). One upbeat note was the continuation of **Common Merganser** along the Clarion R. There were many reports of females attending broods of various sizes including 6 birds between Hallton and Belltown 9/23 (DW).

A **Red-shouldered Hawk** pair was seen in July at CRM (DW) and 1 was seen 9/19 at Glen Hazel (LC). Forest Service personnel reported many **Ruffed Grouse** and **Wild Turkey** broods during the summer in the ANF.

When I moved from *Westmoreland* to *Elk* in July, 1988, I thought I would see few **E. Bluebirds** because our county is heavily wooded. I was in for a surprise! They are expanding their range on the ANF according to Dave Wolfe and I am seeing them on the gamelands. This is probably due to the bluebird box program on the ANF and also that they are using "snags" for nesting, which are free of House Sparrows.

Several rarely seen **Tufted Titmouse** were at SGL 25 on 8/12 (LC). Two **Yellow-rumped Warbler** near McKinley 7/3 and **Ovenbird** with fledged young near James City 7/15 were nice finds (DW).

The **Scarlet Tanager** and **N. Oriole** that moved through a BT yard late Aug. and early Sept. were definitely lower in number than the previous year (LC). A very large flock of blackbirds roosted in the same BT area as previous years on 9/26 (DS).

OBSERVERS: Linda Christenson, 602 Sunset Road, St. Marys 15857 (814-781-3156), Dave Sorg, Dave Wolfe.

## ERIE COUNTY

Jerry McWilliams

Every reporting period compilers have the task of summarizing the events of the period. When a compiler reflects on past records he often finds that the variability of each season makes it nearly impossible to determine any trends with accuracy. I won't attempt to define any major changes in breeding bird numbers or juvenile survival rates, but plant succession on Gull Point and its effect on shorebirds is worthy of note.

Shorebirds continue to use Gull Point as a brief resting area, but they soon discover a lack of abundant food and habitat. Expansive open sand flats with pools not surrounded by vegetation no longer exist in this area. A newly developed shallow pool on the north side of Gull Point has interested a few shorebirds, but its insignificant size will probably only attract small numbers of birds. I wonder how the breakwalls which are now under construction will affect the future of Gull Point.

House Finches began gathering at Gull Point in early July and by late August, over 250 individuals could be seen. The birds have been attracted to this area by the abundance of Sea Rocket (*Lakile edentula*), the seeds of which this species of finch is apparently fond.

The effect of Hurricane Hugo in *Erie* was not felt as strongly as the cold front that collided with Hugo late Friday evening, spilling thousands of birds into Presque Isle Bay on Saturday, 23 Sept. This was the day to be on Presque Isle for ticking off rare birds. The following day all was quiet, with the bay nearly void of birds. However, the weekend ended with a bang with the sighting of a **Ruff** at Gull Point in the afternoon. The long list of 9/23 sightings tells the story of this exciting weekend.

All sightings from Presque Isle SP unless noted otherwise.

Several small flocks of **Double-crested Cormorant** totaling 46 indiv. was a good count 8/26 (EK). The **Snowy Egret** found 7/16

(BL) remained here until 7/30. This was the 1st *July* record. A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was seen 8/11 (JM). The ♀ **Greater Scaup** seen 9/2 was 33 days earlier than our previous record early Fall date (EK). A **Common Merganser** was seen 9/3 (EK). One **Red-breasted Merganser** was seen 7/2-23 (JM,BH). Very unusual was a ♂ **Ruddy Duck** that summered on a fish hatchery pond near Corry (fide JHS).

Single **Merlin** were seen from 9/2-24 (JGS,EK,LM). A **Peregrine Falcon** was seen 9/23 (FH,BH).

Up to 8 indiv. **Lesser Golden-Plover** were present 9/16,23 & 24 (MH,EK,JM). An ad. **Piping Plover** was discovered 7/22 and remained there throughout the day despite the human activity on the beach. It could not be located the next day (JM,EK). **Willet** made their rare annual visit with 1 on 7/1 and 1 on 7/23 (JM). A very late **Upland Sandpiper** was studied as it flew back and forth over Gull Point 9/16 (EK). This sighting is only 7 days earlier than the latest Fall record for this species set in 1896. Single **Whimbrel** were seen 8/1 (JM), 8/7 (JM), 9/2 (EK). A **Marbled Godwit** was seen 9/5; this represents the 12th record. Two ad. **Red Knot** 7/20 were about 3 weeks earlier than they have ever been recorded before (BC); a total of 4 birds were seen from 9/12-17 (JM). Six different **Western Sandpiper** were found, with 1 on 7/4,22, 8/6, and 9/23-24 (JM). A **White-rumped Sandpiper** was found 9/23 (JM). Several indiv. **Baird's Sandpiper** were noted from 7/29 to 9/23 with daily highs of 4-5 birds (m.ob.). Rarely seen in July was a **Dunlin** found 7/1 (JM). Single **Stilt Sandpiper** were seen 7/23 (FH), 8/1,20 (JM). A **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** was noted 9/9 (SS,JGS). A **Ruff** observed 9/24 at Gull Point was an exciting find for RL, only the 2nd *Erie* record.

The **Little Gull** in juv. plumage discovered 9/5 was the second record of a bird in this plumage (JM). The more typical ad. plumaged birds were observed 9/23 totaling 4 birds (EK). Another out-of-season record of a **Lesser Black-backed Gull** (appeared to be in third summer plumage) was discovered 8/2 for the 1st August record (JM). The **Sabine's Gull** seen briefly 9/23 was an exciting find constituting the 3rd *Erie* record and the 6th for the state (EK,JM).

The increasing number of **Caspian Tern** was evident this summer with a high count of 16 (ad. and juv.) 7/22 (EK). The 97 **Common Tern** 9/16 was a good count (EK), but it was nothing compared to the estimated 1500 on 9/23 (EK, et al.). Only 7 **Forster's Tern** were reported for the entire quarter! One **Black Tern** was seen 8/27 (RS), 1 on 9/16 (JM), and 3 on 9/23 (BH,FH,EK).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was seen 8/20 (JM). A singing **Sedge Wren** was discovered 7/2 while atlasing the western-most part of *Erie*, s. of W. Springfield, but unfortunately it was not heard or seen again after several visits to the area (JHS,JGS). Two **Pine Warbler** were seen 9/23 (FH,BH). Fifteen **Lapland Longspur** were seen 9/24 (SS) and 3 on 9/30 (JM).

OBSERVERS: Bill Callista, Barb & Frank Haas, Margaret Higbee, Ed Kwater, Bob Leberman, Ron Leberman, Linda & Jerry McWilliams, 3142 W. 12th St., Erie 16505 (814-833-3169), Russ States, Jean Stull (JHS), Jim Stull (JGS), Sam Stull.

## FAYETTE COUNTY

Cindy Cook

*Abbreviations: Bear Run Nature Reserve (BRNR), Normalville (NVL).* All sightings at Normalville by compiler unless otherwise noted.

A **Great Blue Heron** was seen 7/26. A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was noted 9/11 (WC). **Wild Turkey** were heard clucking throughout the day 9/27. Two **Barred Owl** were at Farmington 9/20.

A **Common Raven** was at BRNR 8/6 and an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** noted there 8/23 (DK). An imm. **N. Parula** was seen 9/21. But the exciting news was that the **Swainson's Warbler** at BRNR remained until 8/6 (DK). A **Louisiana Waterthrush** visited our NVL birdbath 7/13. Several **Bobolink** were at BRNR 8/23 (DK).

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

## FOREST COUNTY

April D. Walters

*Abbreviations: Allegheny R. n. of Tionesta (ARNT).*

Once the rains of June ended, the weather became quite nice. **Great Blue Heron** were more abundant than in recent years at

ARNT (CRM). **Black-crowned Night-Heron** were heard calling most of the summer at dusk at West Hickory Bridge (EF).

**Osprey** were plentiful as they migrated in Sept. at ARNT (ADW). A **Bald Eagle** spent 7/1 on Tionesta L. (WA).

Forest has a large area that the tornado destroyed in 1984. This year **Am. Kestrel** were thriving on Pigeon Hill, where downed trees bordered fields (RAW,ADW).

Many residents feed **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** throughout the summer and this year they were here until the end of Sept. - two weeks longer than previously noted (ADW).

An early report of 2 **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** at Kelletville 7/28 (MT *fide* Ted Grisez), who stated, "I was quite close to two of them and they were positively identified."

OBSERVERS: William Alex, Edward Foreman, C. R. Mann, Richard A. & April Walters, Box 127, Endeavor 16322 (814-463-9306), Marian Terwilliger.

## FRANKLIN COUNTY

Carl L. Garner

Abbreviations: *Falling Spring Rd. (FSR), Mt. Parnell Fish Hatchery (MPFH)*.

All sightings by compiler unless otherwise noted.

A **Great Egret** was at FSR 7/29 and 5 were there 9/6. One **Bald Eagle** was seen flying over MPFH 8/27 (JW). An **Osprey** was noted at Sylvan 7/8 (CB); 1 was at MPFH 9/4 (JW).

The following shorebirds were seen at MPFH between 9/16-19: 17 **Killdeer**; 4 **Greater Yellowlegs**; 2 **Lesser Yellowlegs**; 5 **Semipalmated Sandpiper**; 2 **Least Sandpiper**; 5 **Pectoral Sandpiper**; 6 **Dunlin** (CB); and 2 **Stilt Sandpiper**.

About 200+ **Common Nighthawk** were counted flying along Rt. 75 s. of Ft. Loudon 8/28 (CB).

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

## GREENE COUNTY

Ralph Bell

This quarter was much wetter than usual here in the s.w. corner of PA, but most species of birds seemed to have had good nesting success. Several species evidently started to migrate a bit earlier than usual.

An early migrating **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was caught and banded 9/25, the earliest fall banding record since 9/21/62. Two **Magnolia Warbler** were banded in our yard 9/18, tying the early record set in 1961. A **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was banded 9/15, the earliest fall record in 34 years of banding (the average arrival date is 9/24). **Blackburnian Warbler** were also early as the first one was banded 8/22, tying the former early migrant date set in 1978. A **Cerulean Warbler** was banded in our yard 9/12. Although a common nester here on our farm, it was my first fall banding record since 1955. Few of this species are banded anywhere because it is a "treetop" bird. A **Grasshopper Sparrow** was noted singing on the farm 7/24 for the first time in many years. They were considered common here around 1930.

An imm. **Purple Finch** was banded 8/24. This species was never seen here during this period until there was an unsuccessful nesting attempt in our yard in 1987. The **House Finch** numbers are still increasing. In fact, some people with feeders claim they are becoming an aggressive pest. I banded a total of 299 (mostly young of the year) during the month of August; 34 were banded 8/22 and 36 the next day.

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

## HUNTINGDON COUNTY

Dave Kyler

Abbreviations: *Aitch Access (AA), Entriaken Overlook (EO), L. Raystown (LR), Stone Valley L. (SVO)*.

Weather patterns for the third quarter could be described as typical. As memory serves me, a "hot and humid" July followed by a "dog days" August ended with a "warm days/cool nights" Sept. Sightings below are by the compiler unless otherwise noted. Unusual species reported include **Olive-sided Flycatcher**, **Yellow-throated Warbler**, and **Lincoln's Sparrow**.

Waterfowl include 8 **Canada Geese** fledged at AA and observed 8/27; 2 **Gadwall** at AA 9/11 (RC); and flyover **Wood Duck** at Huntingdon 8/8. **Green-backed Heron** were found at SVO 8/8 (GG) and at Huntingdon 9/27.

Raptors include imm. **Red-shouldered Hawk** at Donation 8/12 and **Osprey** sightings at EO 8/19,30. Two ad. **Bald Eagle** were present at LR throughout the period (RC).

A mixed kettle of 8 **Turkey Vulture** and 1 **Black Vulture** was attacked by a pair of **Common Raven** over Huntingdon 8/14. The lone Black Vulture was singled out by the ravens and "escorted" out of the area.

**Barred Owl** were heard calling from the McAlevy's Fort area 8/15 (GG) and 5 **Barn-Owl** young were found near Eden Hill 7/9 (ML). A single Barn Owl was found as a road fatality near Blair's Mills 9/7 (RC).

Observed over Huntingdon 8/29 were 35 migrating **Common Nighthawk** (TK) and a single **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was seen hunting from a tree-top perch at AA 9/21.

Warblers reported include **Chestnut-sided**, **Worm-eating**, and **Hooded**, all at SVO 8/13 (GG). A single **Yellow-throated Warbler** was at Waterstreet 9/10 (ML).

Sparrows include a pair of **Vesper** found on Piney Ridge 7/6 and a skulking **Lincoln's** near Alexandria 9/19 (ML).

OBSERVERS: Rob Criswell, Great Egret Grove, David Kyler, RD 4, Box 159A, Huntingdon 16652 (814-643-6030), Trudy Kyler, Melvin Lane.

## INDIANA COUNTY

Margaret and Roger Higbee

Abbreviations: *Blairsville (BLV), Clarksburg (CKG), Indiana (IND), Margus L. (ML), Shelocta (SHL), Yellow Creek SP (YC)*.

The period started off dry with below-average rainfall. Normal amounts of precipitation fell in Aug., but by Sept. rainfall was well above average. Rainfall totaled 12.4" for the three-month period. Temperatures were normal throughout the period. Highlights of the season were few, with only **Bald Eagle** and **Black Tern** at YC to add a little spice.

All water bird reports are from YC unless otherwise noted. A **Common Loon** and 3 **Pied-billed Grebe** appeared 9/8 (MH,GL). The season's first **Double-crested Cormorant** was listed at ML 8/9 (GL), but 3 at YC 8/29 were a nice find (GL). Single **Great Egret**, the period's only reports, were found on 8/9 at ML (GS) and 8/16 at YC (GC). Despite efforts to ship **Canada Geese** south during the early summer, 60 were tallied 8/21 (BF,GL). Top **Wood Duck** count 9/8 was a low 9 (MH,GL), but **Mallard** fared well this season with 85 tallied at ML 9/1 (MH,GL). **Blue-winged Teal** count was 15 on 9/8 (MH,GL). A lone **Am. Wigeon** was observed 9/23 (MH,RH).

High **Turkey Vulture** tally was 20 at YC 9/8 (MH,GL). An **Osprey** at YC was observed 8/8 (AB,DB), 9/5 (TF), and 9/12 (ES,DS). An ad. **Bald Eagle** was observed near Penn Run flying toward YC about 3:30 on 9/23 (JG); about one hour later BF reported an ad. at YC. **N. Harrier** reports included 1 near SHL 7/28 (AB,DB) and a ♀ near IND 8/18 (GS).

Shorebird reports are from YC unless otherwise noted. Single **Black-bellied Plover** was listed 8/21 (BF,GL) and again 9/23 (MH,RH). A single **Semipalmated Plover** 9/23 was the lone report (MH,RH). Single **Greater Yellowlegs** were found 8/30 (GL) and 9/8

(MH, GL). Top **Lesser Yellowlegs** count was 10 on 9/7 (GL). Only 2 **Solitary Sandpiper** were listed—at ML 8/25 (GC, BF, GL, GS) and at YC 8/29 (GL). Top **Spotted Sandpiper** tally was 6 on 9/8 (MH, GL). Two **Semipalmated Sandpiper** were observed 7/21, 8/29, and 9/5 (GL). Best **Least Sandpiper** count was 7 on 8/30 (GL). Two **Short-billed Dowitcher** 9/8 were a nice find (MH, GL). First **Common Snipe** of the Fall was seen 8/30 (GL).

**Ring-billed Gull** were present at YC throughout the quarter with top count of 39 on 7/31 (GL). Two **Herring Gull** were listed 8/8 (AB, DB). Two **Common Tern** at YC, which had been present during May and June, were last seen 7/5 (GL) until 10 appeared 9/1 (MH, GL). Two were again listed 9/23 (MH, RH). **Black Tern** continued at YC after last period's presence, with last sighting 7/20 (GL). **Barred Owl** was hooting near SHL 9/18, 19 (MH, RH). Last **Common Nighthawk** reported was 9/9 in IND (TBC). **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** lingered until 9/30 near CKG (MC). An imm. **Red-headed Woodpecker** near BLV 9/21 (MC, MH) was the lone report. A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was observed at YC 9/8 (MH, GL). Three **Common Raven** near CKG were both seen and heard 9/29 (MC).

**Red-breasted Nuthatch** continued near SHL throughout the quarter (MH, RH) despite select cutting of their previous nesting area. Two migrants were found in IND 9/20 (PJ). Thrush reports were limited to single **Swainson's** found 9/18, 25 at SL (MH) and at YC 9/23 (MH, RH). **N. Mockingbird**, not frequently reported, was found at IND 9/9 (TBC). Top **Cedar Waxwing** tally was 100+ birds at Nolo 8/26 (GL).

**Philadelphia Vireo** reports included a singleton at IND 9/9 (TC) and 3 at CKG 9/21 (MC, MH). Twenty-seven warbler species were listed, but no large flocks were spotted. Highlights include 2 **Yellow-throated Warbler** near CKG 9/29 (MC), **Pine** near SHL periodically throughout (MH, RH), **Palm** near CKG 9/26 (MC), **N. Waterthrush** near Robinson 9/10 (GC, GS), **Wilson's** at IND 8/27 (PJ), and **Canada** also at IND 9/9 (TBC).

A **Lincoln's Sparrow** was observed scuttling among pokeweed near SHL 9/29 (MH). First **White-throated Sparrow** arrived near SHL 9/25 (MH). **Common Grackle** count at SHL peaked at 1300 on 9/11 (MH).

OBSERVERS: Alice & Dave Beatty, Greg Cook, Marcy Cunkelman, Betsy & Tom Fetterman, Judy Gallo, **Margaret and Roger Higbee, RD #2, Box 166, Indiana 15701 (412-354-3493)**, Pat Johnner, Gloria Lamer, Dorothy & Ed Slovensky, Georgette Syster, Todd Bird Club.

#### JEFFERSON COUNTY

Diane L. Greeley

*Abbreviations: Brookville (BV), North Fork Cr. (NFC), Roseville (RV).*

The weather went from almost constant rain last quarter to no rain at all in July and almost none in Aug. and Sept. At least it wasn't as hot as last year!

On 9/8, I watched an interesting bit of interaction between species. It was cold, raining and very gloomy. A **Great Blue Heron** was flying S at ±1000 ft. It flew straight into a flock of unidentified swallows. Suddenly, the swallows turned and attacked the heron. It made a right hand turn, flew about 300 ft., made a left turn, and kept flying S. The swallows went back to their original position and also resumed their flight! Within the same time frame, I also saw **Turkey Vulture, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Am. Kestrel, Killdeer** and **Common Raven** all heading south.

On 8/22 there was a large migration of hawks, etc. I have my own mini hawk watch over the highest hill in sight from my house. Some days there are 50-75 birds kettling over this hill at once. This day there were **Turkey Vulture, N. Harrier, Sharp-shinned, Cooper's,** and **Red-tailed** hawks and **Am. Kestrel**. A third-hand report was received about an **Osprey** that fished for 6 days in a row on NFC. Only details were it was seen by two fishermen near the end of Sept.

**Wild Turkey** seem to be more numerous this year (RG). **Ring-billed Gull** were in BV 9/8 (JG). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was spotted at our home 9/16 (JG).

There was a flock of **Am. Crow** estimated to be at least 1000 on 8/25. They were flying N. We had received reports that a flock of this size had been seen several times last winter near here, so we are looking for a roost. Will let you know what we find. A flock of **Common Raven** numbering near 100 was seen 9/15. This was quite unusual for here; they breed here but are seldom seen in such large numbers. A **Carolina Wren** came 7/18, sang daily for three weeks, then left. **E. Bluebird** are gaining in population here. Flocks numbering 25-30 have been seen this Fall near RV (JH). The flocks of **Eur. Starling** are quite large this year also; one flock was estimated to be 500.

**Solitary Vireo** and **Yellow-rumped Warbler** were seen together as early as 7/29. Several flocks of the latter were seen at least two weeks earlier than usual; one flock had nearly 100 birds. **Palm Warbler** were seen 9/26; this species is usually seen only in Fall.

**Dark-eyed Junco** arrived as early as 9/15 (EM). A large flock of **Red-winged Blackbird** and **Common Grackle** were seen 9/30, as was a large flock of **Purple Finch**.

On 9/20 there were many birds singing. I went out and found 26 species of juvenile birds practicing for Spring and they were all recognizable. Already by 9/25, we had 7 species visiting the feeders.

And, just as a side note, which has nothing to do with birding, I think we are on a flyway for Monarch Butterflies. On one day alone, I counted literally hundreds flying past our driveway.

OBSERVERS: Diane L. Greeley, RD 1, Box 55, Corsica 15829 (814-856-2000), James & Ross Greeley, Joan Hartzell, Evelyn McNeil.

#### JUNIATA COUNTY

Linda Whitesel

**Great Blue Heron** and **Great Egret** expanded their ranges this quarter to include smaller waterways than in past years.

An ad. **Bald Eagle** was sighted 8/21 over the Juniata R. near Thompsontown by J. Southerton; while fishing that day he observed it three different times.

After a scarcity of **Whip-poor-will** this year, it was a real pleasure to hear 1 singing near my home the morning of 9/2.

OBSERVERS: Joe Southerton, Linda Whitesel, RD 3, Box 820, Mifflintown 17059-9770 (717-436-8048).

#### LACKAWANNA COUNTY

Gerald Klebauskas

*Abbreviations: Blakely area (BA), Dalton (DA), Lackawanna SP (LSP), L. Scranton (LS), Susquehanna R. (SR), Thornhurst (TH).*

**Great Blue Heron** 8/17 and imm. **Black-crowned Night-Heron** 8/15 were found at the Lackawanna R. in BA. Three **Green-winged Teal**, 3 **Blue-winged Teal**, 3 ♀ **Common Merganser** and 1 **Green-backed Heron** were at the SR 9/12. A ♀ **Common Merganser** was also at LS that same day.

**Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Sharp-shinned,** and **Broad-winged** hawks were all noted at TH 9/16. All shorebird reports came from the SR and included 2 **Semipalmated Plover** 8/12 and a peak of 15 **Killdeer** 9/12; 2 **Greater** and 1 **Lesser Yellowlegs** 8/9; 2 **Solitary** and 6 **Spotted** sandpipers 8/9; and 2 **Pectoral Sandpiper** 9/12.

Four juv. **E. Screech-Owl** were found at DA 7/7. A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** appeared at DA 9/27 and 2 were seen at LSP 9/30. Three **Pileated Woodpecker** were at DA 8/7.

One **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was seen at DA 9/3 followed by 2 there 9/10. About 400 **Cedar Waxwing** were at LSP 9/30.

**White-crowned Sparrow** were noted at LSP 9/30. There were many reports of this species this autumn. In fact, one imm. that hit a window of the high school in which I teach was brought in by another teacher to be identified. **Fifteen White-winged Crossbill** were found at Elmhurst 8/1. Two of these were males.

OBSERVERS: Derry & Nancy Bird, Rosann Bongey, Betty Harris, Gerald Klebauskas, RD 2, Box 2321, Factoryville 18419 (717-344-4690), George Mozurkewich, Sue & Tinka Zenke.

## LANCASTER COUNTY

Eric Witmer

*Abbreviations: Middle Creek WMA (MC), Muddy Run, including Fisherman's Park (MR), Susquehanna R. including the Conejohela Flats (SRCF).*

This season produced some of the county's finest birding, especially the "Hurricane Hugo weekend" 23-24 Sept. For the season, the Conejohela flats produced 21 species of shorebirds, with **Baird's Sandpiper**, **Red Knot**, and **Buff-breasted Sandpiper**. A personal highlight for myself and others would have been seeing all five species of "peep" in a mudflat/pool of about 100 square yards! on 9/24. However on this "Hugo" weekend, the county's 1st **Sabine's Gull** stole the show. Also on the flats in late Aug. was a dark-backed **Lesser Black-backed Gull**. The Pederson's reported a good warbler migration this Fall, with a record 21 species seen 9/9.

**Double-crested Cormorant** were present throughout the period along the Susquehanna R., with high counts of 17 on 9/15 and 28 on 9/22 at MR (RMS *et al.*). Few **Little Blue Heron** were reported, with 1 at SRCF 7/23 (JB) and 1 at MC 8/25 (FH). Four juv. **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** were just fledging from a nest near Eden on the late date 9/4 (RMS). An imm. **White Ibis** was in Warwick Twp 8/8 (FH). A **Green-winged Teal** was elsewhere in Warwick Twp 8/8 (FH). 200+ **Am. Black Duck** were the first noticeable migrants at MR 9/15 (RMS). "Non-breeding" **N. Harrier** continue to be seen, with 1 near Shoeneck 7/26 (FH) and occasionally at MC throughout the period (m.ob.). The peak **Broad-winged Hawk** flight at Cornwall Fire Tower (CFT) was 2120 on 9/18 (FH, HM). The Sept. CFT hawk watch data will be included in the next issue's full hawk report, but did total 4443 individuals and 129 hours of coverage. **Merlin** were found flying downriver at SRCF with 2-3 on 9/17 (TG, EW), 1 on 9/23 (TK, NC), and 1-2 on 9/24 (m.ob.). A leg-banded (red) imm. **Peregrine Falcon** was at MC 8/12 (TK, NC). Twelve **Wild Turkey** were found in SGL 156 near the CFT 9/21 (PM). An imm. **Virginia Rail** was at MC 8/20 (EW) and a **Sora** at SRCF 9/16 (JB).

Twenty-four trips (yielding 21 species of shorebirds) were made to SRCF this period. The following sightings are all from SRCF unless otherwise noted. High counts are underlined, but not necessarily outstanding. One to 3 **Black-bellied Plover** 9/16-30; 1-6 **Lesser Golden-Plover** 9/2-30 with 6 on 9/30 (JB); 10 **Semipalmated Plover** 8/12 (TG, EW); 110 **Killdeer** 9/4 (JB); 19 **Lesser Yellowlegs** 9/16 (JB); 1-3 **Ruddy Turnstone** 9/1-16; 1 **Red Knot** 8/12 (TG, EW) with 6 on 9/23 (DH, LH); 14 **Sanderling** 8/12 (TG, EW); 40 **Semipalmated Sandpiper** 9/4 (JB); 1-4 **Western Sandpiper** 8/27-9/24, 9 on 9/1 (JB) and 3 **Western** at MC 8/19-20 (TK, EW); 50 **Least Sandpiper** 9/17 (TG, EW); 1-3 **White-rumped Sandpiper** 9/24-30. **Baird's Sandpiper** were seen on four dates from 9/4-30, with 3 on 9/24 (m.ob.); 1-8 **Stilt Sandpiper** 9/16-30, with 8 on 9/24 (TG, EW) and another **Stilt** was at the Holtwood Flyash ponds 9/23 (RMS *et al.*). The first **Dunlin** was 9/30 (JB). The first **Common Snipe** was 9/4 (JB) with many more by the end of the period.

**Fourteen Laughing Gull** were found 8/22 (JB). **Lancaster's** earliest Fall **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was 8/26-27 (EW *et al.*). The mantle of the bird was as dark as a Great Black-backed Gull's, indicating a Scandinavian subspecies. However the "find" of the season was the county's 1st **Sabine's Gull** 9/23-24 (DH, LH *et al.*). The imm. bird arrived via the remnants of Hurricane Hugo and an intense cold front. The bird was found in the 9/23 a.m. and later relocated 9/24 a.m. by many observers. The bird was well photographed and occasionally seen flying. It was mostly seen resting and picking "shorebird like" along the mudflats by the water's edge. Five **Caspian Tern** were at MR 9/23 (RMS *et al.*). The only **Common Tern** of the period was 9/27 (JB). **Forster's Tern** in the SRCF were present in small numbers from mid-July to Sept., with a high count of only 25 on 9/9 (m.ob.). Single **Black Tern** were 8/12-13, 9/1 (JB *et al.*) and 6 on 9/23 (DH, LH).

The following sightings were by Ed and Jo Pederson at their home in woodlands (Birders Paradise) of Providence Twp unless otherwise noted. The only reported **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was 9/9. A late **Cliff Swallow** noted at SRCF 9/24 (m.ob.). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** appeared throughout by mid-Sept. after last year's absence. The only reports all year of **Gray-cheeked Thrush** were 9/12 (E&JP) and 9/27 (B&FH). **Golden-winged Warbler** 8/26, 8/8-9; **Orange-crowned Warbler** 9/9; first ever Fall **Cerulean Warbler** 9/9. A **Prothonotary Warbler** was still singing at Rookery I. 8/18 (EW); a late **Kentucky Warbler** 9/15; and a **Connecticut Warbler**

at MC 9/10. **Mourning Warbler** were at Lancaster 8/18 (RB) and a "nice male" at the Pederson's 9/9-10, and a **Wilson's Warbler** 9/13.

**OBSERVERS:** Jerry Book, Ray Bubb, Nancy Clupper, Tom Garner, Barb & Frank Haas, Fred Habegger, Dan & Lori Heathcote, Tom Kurtz, Pat McElhenny, Harold Morrin, Robert M. Schutsky, Eric Witmer, 805 Pointview Ave., Ephrata 17522 (717-733-1138).

## LAWRENCE COUNTY

Barb Dean

*Abbreviations: Bessemer area (BA), Ellwood City area (ECA), McConnell's Mill SP (MMSP), New Castle area (NCA), Plain Grove area (PGA).* Sightings by compiler unless otherwise noted.

Farmers could not get into their fields due to the extremely wet conditions of May and June. The first cutting of hay did not begin until 8 July. This delay benefited the breeding success of **Upland Sandpiper** and some of the other grassland species.

This county does not have large bodies of water and no mud flats, so when a tiny area dried up at the edge of a pond on Vosler Rd. we were treated to a modest mix of shorebirds 8/3-12.

We received over 6" of rain in Sept., which is almost double the average. The effects of Hurricane Hugo amounted to almost 2" of rain on 9/22-23. Warblers were on the move 9/2, but the most variety and largest numbers were seen from 9/10-24.

It has been a full year since a **Pied-billed Grebe** has been seen in Lawrence! 24 **Great Blue Heron** were found at a marsh in NCA 7/16 (BD, BW); we have suspected a heronry here in the past and will check the area later. A **Great Egret** returned to the ECA 9/20 (BW). Breeding of **Green-backed Heron** was confirmed in four location 7/30, but only 1 indiv. was found after 8/30.

An imm. **Red-tailed Hawk** was seen with a dead Starling in BA 7/2 and many imm. were heard calling 7/30+. Once again, we have no report of **Red-shouldered Hawk**! But **Broad-winged Hawk** sightings have increased in the past 3 years. Ad. **Sharp-shinned Hawk** were found 7/22 through 8/20 in NCA, ECA, and PGA. Only report of **Cooper's Hawk** was an imm. at PGA 9/2 (BD, GD, BW). The **Am. Kestrel** continues to do well and were found feeding young in BA and PGA.

A ♀ **Merlin** was observed for 25 minutes at Washington Twp 9/10. It was perched 3' off the ground on a fallen dead tree in open pasture. Fifteen Blue Jays were perched and calling from a low bush 30' away. George and I watched from the car on McCreary Rd. from 100' away where 4 more jays were calling. The Merlin flew low over the pasture with a jay following it. At the same moment, another jay knocked a flicker down as the flicker began to fly up from the ground. The Merlin was not seen again. A family of 3 kestrels watched from high up in a dead tree nearby.

The Wilvers report **Wild Turkey** continues to do well at MMSP. We have not seen or heard **N. Bobwhite** for over a year at Amish areas. An ad. **Virginia Rail** was at the Rt. 551 marsh in BA 7/2; 3 ad. and 1 chick were in a wet meadow in NCA 7/2. And at least 2 **Virginia Rail** were heard at the Rt. 18 marsh 7/30. **Sora** were not seen or heard this quarter. It has been 2 years since **Am. Coot** were reported in Lawrence.

The small flock of shorebirds in PGA 8/3-12 were: 1 **Semipalmated Plover**, 5 **Greater Yellowlegs**, 1 **Lesser Yellowlegs**, 2 **Solitary Sandpiper**, 1 **Least Sandpiper**, 1 **Pectoral Sandpiper**, 1 **dowitcher sp.**, and 1 **Common Snipe** (GD, BD, BW). The first **Solitary Sandpiper** was recorded in Amish area 7/17. **Upland Sandpiper** bred successfully in PGA, but were not seen in July. On the other hand, the Uplands at the Amish area remained till 7/17.

**Black-billed Cuckoo** reports remain down, with only 3 sightings from 8/25 to 9/2 in PGA and BA; however we spent less hours in the field. On a rainy walk at Rock Point in ECA 9/16 we heard a **N. Saw-whet Owl** calling (BD, SM, BW). **Common Nighthawk** was not common in NCA, with only 1-2 seen through the end of July. The only sign of migration was 16 going over NCA 8/28 (GD). **Chimney Swift** numbers increased to 200+ throughout Sept. in NCA. A **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was on 2 egg 7/17 (BW).

Fierce fighting between ♂ and ♀ hummers occurred 8/16-17 including physical bumping, as ad. ♀ took dominance over feeders previously "owned" by males. Young were noticed 8/24. The last ♂ was seen 8/31. Our "regular" ♀ stayed till 9/19. From 9/22-30 there were 3 late ♂ moving through. Sightings and numbers were down all over the county. (We remind you of Barb's article on hummingbirds in her yard in PB2:9).

Scattered pairs of **Red-headed Woodpecker** were feeding young 7/4 in NCA, Volant, and Amish areas. It was 7/8 before we noticed **E. Wood-Pewee** singing and in good numbers. **Acadian Flycatcher** were in normal numbers, but **Willow** was down. **Great Crested Flycatcher** numbers were way down, but **E. Kingbird** were in good numbers in Amish areas. Silent *Empidonax* were recorded through 9/24.

**Purple Martin** were gone from Amish area by 7/30 and few young were seen. Only a few ad. were in the Pulaski area 7/4. **Bank Swallow** were feeding young at Vosler Rd. 7/17, but there was only 1 bird left at this location 7/25. At least 3 **Cliff Swallow** were at the *Lawrence/Mercer* line 7/20.

Two **Red-breasted Nuthatch** were in SGL 178 on 9/15. **Carolina Wren** were in great numbers everywhere. A **Marsh Wren** was found singing 7/16 at the NCA marsh (BD,BW). M. Geibel gave us our first **Winter Wren** in 4 years at MMSF; it was singing 7/11.

**E. Bluebird** were common everywhere and Walczak reports many fledged the first week in July, which would have been their second nesting. Our only **Gray-cheeked Thrush** report came from SGL 151 on 9/24. **Swainson's** and especially **Hermit Thrush** migration was exceptional! The Swainson's movement was first detected 9/11 and many sightings of Hermit Thrush from 9/15+ in NCA and PGA. We had a *rare breeding* record of **N. Mockingbird** in ECA. Two ad. and 1 imm. were found on private property in Wayne Twp. Folks living there commented that this the 1st year these birds appeared on their property and *nested* 20' from their back door. One ad. mockingbird was also in BA 8/6. **Brown Thrasher** were seen through 8/25 and seemed to disappear until 9/10-16 when many were found moving—some very young.

A surprising number of singing **Philadelphia Vireo** were seen 9/10-11 at PGA and NCA. **White-eyed Vireo** were found 9/15-20 in NCA. The last **Yellow Warbler** was moving through 7/25. Some **Bay-breasted** were on the move 9/2-15, but from 9/10-24 it was not unusual to see from 7-9 sp- in one area. Large waves of **Magnolia** were moving the entire month. A surprisingly large number of **Ovenbird** were seen from 9/2-24. Two **N. Parula** were seen 9/16, along with 1 **Connecticut**. Both ♂ and ♀ **Wilson's Warbler** were noted 8/25 to 9/10. Only 5 **Blackburnian** were seen all month. Many **Am. Redstart**, imm. **Chestnut-sided** and **Hooded** were seen the entire period.

**Scarlet Tanager** and **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** were going through in very high numbers around 9/10. **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** were feeding young in the BA 7/2 and had a highly successful breeding season. **Chipping, Field,** and **Savannah** sparrows had successful nesting. Hundreds of **White-throated Sparrow** flooded into the county 9/30 and several **White-crowned Sparrow** were seen at this time.

**Bobolink, Red-winged Blackbird,** and **E. Meadowlark** had a very successful season and scores of meadowlarks and red-wings remained to quarter's end. Two **Purple Finch** were at Neshanock Falls 9/24, but no sign of **Pine Siskin** or **Evening Grosbeak**.

OBSERVERS: Mary, George, and **Barbara Dean, 321 E. Meyer Ave., New Castle 16105 (412-658-3393)**, Marguerite Geibel, Shirley McCarl, Bob Walczak, Joan & Ed Wilver.

## LEBANON COUNTY

Steve Santner

The third quarter started out cool and wet but in Aug. and early Sept. the rain nearly stopped. This created good shorebird habitat in the Iona/Reistville farm ponds. Additionally, since there were no strong fronts, landbird migration was not concentrated across a few days. Although there were a few exceptions, the migration overall was excellent.

An imm. **Little Blue Heron** was at L. Duffy 7/21 (FH), the only 1 reported. A few **N. Shoveler** and an **Am. Wigeon** were in the farm ponds area in addition to the usual teal and a concentration of 23 **Wood Duck** was found on a pond in the Monroe Valley, n. of

Lickdale (FH,PM,VM).

Coverage began at the Second Mt. hawk watch 8/15. The first bird seen was an imm. **Peregrine Falcon** (MC). A **N. Goshawk** was found 8/16, possibly a local bird. By the end of the period it was clear that this would be a record year for **Bald Eagle** and **Peregrine Falcon**. A probable imm. **Swainson's Hawk** was seen 9/30. The identification could not be confirmed as it was impossible to rule out all intermediate or dark forms of **Red-tailed Hawk**. Despite record Peregrine numbers, only 1 **Merlin** had been recorded by the end of Sept., but 1 was seen near Campbelltown on the early date 9/3 (KL).

Overall, shorebird migration was excellent this year, with 15 sp. recorded, all from the farm ponds in the Iona/Reistville area. Only 1 **Semipalmated Plover** was reported, that on 9/12 (PM,VM) while a flock of 11 **Lesser Golden-Plover** were found 9/2 (NC,TK,SS). A **Willet** in winter plumage, and therefore unidentifiable as to race, was seen on a very small temporary pond 8/20 (SS) (*good details - eds.*). Among the "peeps," a **Western Sandpiper** was seen 9/2-3 (m.ob.) and a **Baird's Sandpiper** was found 8/31 (PM,VM). Two **Stilt Sandpiper** were reported: 1 early 8/7 (JB), the other 9/3-4 (SS).

A late **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was n. of Lickdale 9/23 (PM,VM). A **Common Nighthawk** was seen migrating over the woods of SGL 145 on 9/13 (RM). Hummingbirds were scarce migrants this year along upper Hammer Cr., but were noted at Second Mt. (m.ob.). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was observed drinking water from a gutter on a house in the city of Lebanon 9/8; a location in which one had been seen two years previously (PM). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** were fairly common migrants this year, while thrushes continued their scarcity. No **Swainson's** or **Gray-cheeked** located this Fall.

A **Philadelphia Vireo** was found along upper Hammer Cr. 9/4 (SS). This was an excellent year for warbler migration. There were many days when 10+ species could be seen, while a total of 26 species was reported. Good numbers of individuals were seen of most species. Four separate **Golden-winged Warbler** were found (m.ob.) while on 9/9 a **"Brewster's"** hybrid was found in SGL 145 (RM). Usually 1-2 **Worm-eating Warbler** are seen in the Fall; this year about 10 were found (m.ob.). Other reports of interest included **Prairie Warbler** n. of Lickdale 9/4 (PM) and an early **Palm** 9/10 in SGL 145 (RM). This year **Pine Siskin** has been seen in small numbers; 1 went by the Second Mt. hawk watch 9/25 (MC).

OBSERVERS: Jerry Book, Nancy Clupper, Morris Cox, Fred Habegger, Tom Kurtz, Ken Light, Pat McElhenny, Val McElhenny, Randy Miller, **Steve Santner, 3 Overbrook Village Green Apt., Elizabethtown 17022 (717-367-5857)**.

## LEHIGH COUNTY

Bernie Morris

*Abbreviations: Bake Oven Knob (BOK).*

A very early **Double-crested Cormorant** was at BOK 9/2 (FB). **Snowy** and **Great** egrets, and a very early **Blue-winged Teal** were at Spring Cr. 7/31 (RW). An ad. **Bald Eagle** was seen along the Lehigh R. in Catasaqua 9/14 (JS) and another, which was seen 9/16 at BOK was in ad. plumage, but still had a black terminal band on its tail (BLM,FB). Over 500 **Broad-winged Hawk** flew by BOK *in one hour in the rain* 9/16 (BLM,AK). On 9/10 at BOK, a migrating **Am. Kestrel** carrying a mouse dropped it, and then swooped down to catch it again in mid-air.

Good shorebirds at Spring Cr. included **Semipalmated Plover** 8/27-30, **Short-billed Dowitcher** 8/12-21, **Stilt Sandpiper** 8/17-21, **Semipalmated Sandpiper** 8/27-31, and up to 15 **Least Sandpiper** 8/27 (BLM,RW). A **Wilson's Phalarope** was at Iron Run 8/17 (RW). An **Upland Sandpiper** was at the ABE Airport 9/8 (RW). **Barn Owl** fledged 3 young in Whitehall (RW,DW). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was seen in Breiningsville 8/13 (JS).

Fledged **Tree Swallow** were seen near New Tripoli 7/4 (BLM,AK). A colony of about 35 **Bank Swallow burrows** was found along the Lehigh R. near Slatington (RW,DW). This is the only known nesting site in the county. A very late imm. **Yellow Warbler** of the Alaskan race was seen in Whitehall 9/22 (RW). A late **Worm-eating Warbler** was seen at the Walter tract 9/9 (BLM,FB). Two late **Wilson's Warbler** were in Whitehall 9/14 (RW).

OBSERVERS: Fritz Brock, Arlene Koch, **Bernard L. Morris, 825 N. Muhlenberg St., Allentown 18104 (215-435-9134)**, Joanne Steiner, Rick & Doug Wiltraut.

## LUZERNE COUNTY

Bill Reid

*Abbreviations: Forty Fort (FF), Harding (HA), Harveys L. (HL), Pittston (PI), Wyoming (WY).*

Two fall-plumaged **Common Loon** were noted at HL 8/15 to 9/2 (JH,JS). A **Double-crested Cormorant** was seen at Smith's Pond 8/30 (WE) and 2 were at PI 9/8 (WR). Added to two spring records of the species, this makes 4 reports in 1989 of a species which generally goes unrecorded. **Great Egret** were reported in the WY-FF area 7/22 to 8/26 (WR,JS,BY); and an imm. **Little Blue Heron**, 1 of only 4 or 5 county records, was present in the same area 8/5-29 (JS, m.ob.). Three **Green-winged Teal** were seen at WY 9/7 and 11 **Blue-winged Teal** at HA 9/8 (WR). An ad. **Bald Eagle** was watched as it fed on a dead fish on the river at HA 9/17 (MT). A single **Am. Coot** was seen at HL, where it winters commonly, in late July (JH).

Twelve species of shorebirds were noted along the Susquehanna R. in the PI-FF-HA area before the heavy rains of mid-Sept. covered exposed shorelines. A **Lesser Golden-Plover** in partial summer plumage was at FF 8/18-25 (WR, m.ob.); and a fall-plumage bird was at HA 8/29 to 9/8 (WR). Three **Semipalmated Plover** were at PI 9/8; and singles were at HA 8/10 and FF 9/8 (WR). **Lesser Yellowlegs** outnumbered **Greater**s by a 3:1 ratio. Two **Dunlin**, 1 with some black on its belly, were at PI 9/8; and a **Short-billed Dowitcher** was at FF on the same date (WR). A probable **N. Saw-whet Owl** was heard calling for an hour at WY in the early morning of 8/30 (BL).

A pair of **Mourning Warbler** apparently nested near Beach Haven (a wooded hillside near Susquehanna SES), the first known local nesting (DG).

OBSERVERS: William Evans, Doug Gross, James Hoyson, Betty Ludlow, William Reid, 73 W. Ross St., Wilkes-Barre 18702 (717-836-2525), James Shoemaker, Martha Terry, Bonnie Yuscavage.

## LYCOMING COUNTY

Wesley Egli

*Abbreviations: Huntersville (HNT), Loyalsock Cr. (LC), Montoursville (MTV), Muncy area (MA), Picture Rocks area (PRA), Plunketts Cr. Twp (PCT), Rose Valley L. (RVL).*

Two imm. **Bald Eagle** were seen flying over the Lycoming Sportsman's Grounds (PCT) 9/19 (E&TR). A single ♀ **N. Harrier** was seen hunting a field in MA 8/27 (WE). One **Merlin** was seen at MTV 8/25 (SS). On 8/6 at LC, 1 **Solitary Sandpiper** was spotted (SS). Three **Caspian Tern** were observed at RVL 8/14 (SS).

A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was seen feeding a fledgling 7/19 in PRA (WE). An **Alder Flycatcher** was seen near the airport at MTV 8/3 (SS). **Least Flycatcher** were observed in PRA throughout July (WE).

A **Common Raven** was spotted in MA 8/9 (WE). Three **Red-breasted Nuthatch** were seen in MTV 9/26+ (SS). A **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was seen near the airport at MTV 9/17 (SS). A **Blue-winged Warbler** and a **Magnolia Warbler** were also seen near the airport 9/19 (SS). **Cape May Warbler** were seen in MTV throughout Sept. (SS). A **Worm-eating Warbler** seen near HNT 7/5 (WE) and 1 near MTV 7/9 (SS). One **Mourning Warbler** was spotted at LC 8/27 (SS). On 8/9 a **Canada Warbler** was observed near HNT (WE).

OBSERVERS: Wesley Egli, 123 N. Main, PO Box 381, Picture Rocks 17762 (717-584-2222), Ed & Tink Reish, Stanley Stahl.

## MC KEAN COUNTY

Linda Ordiway

*Abbreviations: Gilbert Lane Res. (GLR), Willow Bay (WB), Glendorn Estate (GE), Derrick City (DC), Sugar Bay (SB).*

The weather in the county was quite typical for the season. Days in the 70's to days in the 20's. A killing frost the third week in Sept. was followed by heavy hail and snow-showers on the 23rd.

Single **Pied-billed Grebe** seen 8/20, 9/15 at GE and WB respectively. The 8 **Common Merganser** were still at WB 9/30. An **Osprey** was reported to be fishing along the Tunaguawant Cr. 9/23. A **N. Harrier** 8/26 was flying from the Warren line into *McKean*, we'll count him! And, 9/26 was the latest the 2 commonly seen **Broad-winged Hawk** were observed at GLR.

The last week of Sept., a ♀ **Ring-necked Pheasant** flew into the closed memorial park in the Presbyterian church in downtown Bradford. She was confused in the glass doors, and eventually found her way out. **Wild Turkey** seem to be around the residential areas more often.

Heavy rain, hail and wind at SB 9/23 turned up 3 **Semipalmated Plover**. Two **Greater Yellowlegs**, 3 **Solitary** and **Spotted** sandpipers were at WB 8/16. Two **Least Sandpiper** also at WB 8/16 seemed to be seeking cover from the wind behind the rocks and were not bothered by our presence. The latest **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** at DC was 9/10. By 9/27 at GLR the winter resident **Red-breasted Nuthatch** appeared at the feeder, accompanied by the singing winter resident the **Carolina Wren**. Three flocks of 50, 39, and 25 **Am. Robin** were in the area 9/15.

At DC, 8/16 was the latest date a **N. Parula** was heard singing from his familiar oak tree in his territory. And, 14 **White-throated Sparrow** were at GLR in the beaver flats 9/21.

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

## MERCER COUNTY

Marty McKay

*Abbreviations: Hermitage Area (HA), Shenango R. Res. (SRR).* Observations by compiler unless otherwise noted.

It was bound to happen: **Double-crested Cormorant** are now present at SRR; 2 were seen 7/7, 11 and 9/8, 12, always perched on the same snag in a propagation pond. Four were on the mud flats 9/19.

Great news from the Brucker **Great Blue Heron** Sanctuary. Over 425 breeding adults were in the colony this season and there were 1000+ fledglings (EB). A **Great Egret** was spotted at SRR 9/5, 29 (JS,BS). **Black-crowned Night-Heron** appeared in September; 1 imm. at SRR 9/24 (ME,JS) and 3 ad. there 9/29 (JSt,BS).

Two **Wood Duck** and 10 **Am. Black Duck** were at SRR 9/8 and 8 **Wood Duck** were on a pond at HA all morning 9/11.

There were reports of a possible imm. **Bald Eagle** at SRR and also 1 **Osprey** seen there in Sept. (CB). The pair of **Red-shouldered Hawk** at (location deleted. -Eds.) successfully fledged 2 young (BS). Another pair also fledged 2 young, 1 of which remained near the nest site until 9/30+. The locations of both nests are surprisingly similar: where several large, wooded lots, in an upperclass suburban neighborhood, back up to each other, and where the understory has been cleared out. (Have *Mercer* Red-shouldered Hawks learned to appreciate the life-style of the rich and famous?)

The water level at SRR remained high, covering the best mud flats, until mid-Sept. However, the following shorebirds were reported between 8/25 and 9/5: 37 **Killdeer**, 2 **Lesser Yellowlegs**, 1 **Solitary Sandpiper**, 2 **Spotted Sandpiper**, and 3 **Semipalmated Sandpiper**.

A **Ring-billed Gull** was observed making two trips carrying grasses to a second gull on a Canada Goose nesting float at SRR 7/7.

Two young **E. Wood-Pewee** were still being fed by an ad. at HA 9/15. Five **Black-capped Chickadee** gorged on poison-ivy berries at HA 9/13. (How nice they are not bothered with blistering bills!). Never has **Red-breasted Nuthatch** been so common. From 9/6-30, about 2 per day were seen at HA. The first **Winter Wren** passed through HA 9/20. A flock of 17 **E. Bluebird** was observed at HA 8/29 and a few **Swainson's Thrush** were heard in mid-Sept. Three large flocks of **Cedar Waxwing** were reported: 100 at SRR 8/11, 25 and 65 at HA 8/29.

Two **Warbling** and 1 **Yellow-throated vireo**, all still singing, were at SRR 9/12. Six **Palm Warbler** were at SRR 8/11. Both waterthrushes were seen at SRR, 1 **Louisiana** 8/11 and 1 **Northern** 8/25. The other isolated warbler sightings were of expected mid-Sept. species.

OBSERVERS: Ed Brucker, Chuck Brudowsky, Mike Estock, Marty McKay, 2320 Valley View Road, Sharpsville 16150 (412-962-7476), Bill Sarver, Janet Snow, Jim Stull (JSt).

## MIFFLIN COUNTY

Margaret Kenepf

Summer nestings and young rearings seemed to be quite normal after the heavy Spring rainfall. All sightings by compiler unless otherwise noted.

On 9/29, a **Great Blue Heron** returned to fish in the small

stream after an absence of perhaps a year. A **Green-backed Heron** has also frequented the stream since Aug. Perhaps the higher water level in the small stream has made a difference since last season.

Large kettles of **Turkey Vulture** have been observed during the last two weeks of Sept. and still continue. Several counts reported ranged between 30+ and 120+, with the addition of 10-12 **Black Vulture** also noted (TM,AM). Several kettles remained to roost near the Ferguson Valley area. Several **Osprey** frequented the Juniata R. this summer, however there seemed to be no activity at the nest site which was started three years ago and worked on again two years ago. One **Osprey** was observed circling Mattawana area then flying S along the Juniata R. 9/28. A **N. Harrier** was observed over a corn stubble field w. of McVeytown 9/25. There was a local report of **Barn Owl** returning to nest in a silo.

**Red-headed Woodpecker** were not observed nesting this season, however 4 juv. and 1 ad. visited the suet in the back yard 9/25. The juv. were very drab in color, but very noisy.

**Common Raven** and **Am. Crow** had a noisy confrontation over the wooded area near the house 9/26. A **Great Horned Owl** was sitting in an oak tree just observing the hassle.

Warbler migration was heavy during mid- and late-Sept. Near Perryopolis, at the Harmon residence, a **Wilson's Warbler** flew into a window but soon regained composure and again flew on.

OBSERVERS: **Margaret Kenepf, Box 343, RD 2, McVeytown 17051 (717-899-6252)**, Tim Marks, Audrey Morgan, Annie Yoder.

## MONROE COUNTY

Rick Wiltraut

A flock of 13 **Fish Crow** was seen at E. Stroudsburg 7/13,20 (SL). A **Cliff Swallow** was seen gathering mud at Saylorsburg 7/2 (RW) and an active **Purple Martin** colony was at the Saylorsburg Flea Market (RW).

OBSERVERS: Sherri Labar, **Rick Wiltraut, 54 Pershing Blvd, Whitehall 18052 (215-435-8632)**.

## MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Neal Thorpe

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

A rainy July on top of the rainy spring, plus a heavy rain 8/15 and an even heavier one 9/20 that flooded the Perkiomen Cr. seems to have seriously reduced counts of summering herons and egrets, as well as provided only intermittent landing spots for shorebirds at GLR. Sudden cool weather 8/25-25 brought the first warbler wave, but intervals of hot, humid weather thereafter meant waves were sporadic through Sept. By 9/30 migrant thrushes and arriving winter birds were well under way. Best sightings led off with an imm. **Bald Eagle** that flew over GAF's Pennsburg house, appropriately, on July Fourth, and a **Cooper's Hawk** that flew over GLF's house at GLR 7/2. Another Cooper's hawk flew low over the reservoir 9/17 and a **Merlin** there favored a certain roost site from 9/24-30 (both GAF). Other highlights were a **Baird's Sandpiper** at GLR 8/28 (GLF), a **Laughing Gull** 9/29 and 2 **Great Black-backed Gull** 9/4 over the Militia Hill hawk watch at FWSP (WM), a **Pileated Woodpecker** in a black walnut tree in a private yard in Wynnewood 8/27-28 (WmMcL), a **Golden-winged Warbler** in the UCV 9/3 (GLF), a "**Brewster's**" **Warbler** in the MCC area 8/24 (NT), an **Orange-crowned Warbler** at GLR ("the first in years") 9/24 (GAF), a ♀ **Mourning Warbler** in the UCV 9/1 (GLF), a **Sharp-tailed Sparrow** well seen at GLR 9/2 by Frank Bader and Ralph Bardman (and sought for in vain by a dozen birders the next morning), and a **Lincoln's Sparrow** singing faintly but determinedly from an exposed perch at GLR 9/24 (NT).

Somewhat more routine was the presence of 2-4 **Double-crested Cormorant** at GLR throughout the season, with a max. of 8 counted 8/28 (GLF). The absence of **Snowy Egret** and **Little Blue Heron** there was of some concern (last year up to 4 imm. little blue summered there), as was the low number of **Great Egret** and **Green-backed Heron** both at GLR and in the Schuylkill River. One imm. Little Blue was spotted in the large silt-basin area on the n. side of VFNP 7/5 (NT), not to be seen again, and another was at

UPVP 8/13-27 (GAF). One ad. and 1 imm. **Black-crowned Night-Heron** were at GLR through the quarter (GAF).

One to 2 **N. Shoveler** were seen at GLR by different observers 9/14-27. The Militia Hill hawk watch at FWSP had a good Sept., with 100+ **Osprey**, 2 ad. and 2 imm. **Bald Eagle**, **Merlin** and **Peregrine**, and a late **Broad-winged Hawk** flight 9/24-25, with a count of 1000+ in the two days (WM). A **Wild Turkey** was seen in Marlborough Twp 7/8 (GLF), and the ♀ in the UCV was seen 7/14 with 12 young (WM).

By late August waters were down enough for small numbers of the expected shorebirds to stop off at GLR. Almost rivalling GLR was the VFNP silt basin. This area is well vegetated and usually dry in summers, but this summer its hollows held many shallow rainpools. Two small pools in particular, in a large grassy meadow, had muddy edges and all Sept. was used by numbers of **Greater Yellowlegs** and **Solitary Sandpiper** as well as **Great Blue Heron** (half a dozen in the area), the **Green-backed Heron** pair and lesser numbers of **Least Sandpiper** and **Lesser Yellowlegs** (NT). One to 2 **Stilt Sandpiper** were at GLR from 9/11-9/17 (m.ob), an early **Dunlin** was seen there 9/13 (NT), and **Common Snipe** arrived in force in Sept., with 20 counted 9/30 (GLF).

**Black-billed Cuckoo** reports remained good, with WM noting that in the UCV they outnumbered **Yellow-billed** 3:1. Brian Swedford saw 1500+ **Chimney Swift** gathered over Royersford 9/10-23 (*vide* KC). A pair of **Carolina Chickadee** were noted during most of July in Sassmansville, which would put a possible breeding pair at the extreme n.w. edge of the Carolina's range (GLF). A pair of **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was in the UCV as early as 8/26, and by the end of Sept. they were being heard and seen by several observers in contrast to last year's scarcity. Thrush reports were few, but a **Gray-cheeked** was in the MCC area 9/12 (NT) and a **Swainson's** in the PES vicinity 9/25 (JH). The UCV took honors with 4 *sp.* of vireo and 19 *sp.* of warbler from late August to 9/30 (GLF), while PES had 16 warbler *sp.*, including a **Worm-eating** 8/24 and good numbers of **Ovenbird**, including 3 together 9/21 (JH).

A **White-throated Sparrow** in NT's yard 9/27 beat other early Fall sightings by 3 days. WM sums up the latter with his note about FWSP 9/30: "Winter migrants have shown up. Three **Winter Wren**, 6 **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, both kinglets, 1 **Dark-eyed Junco**, **White-throated Sparrow**, 3 **Brown Creeper** and 3 **Common Loon** at the hawk watch. Winter cometh."

OBSERVERS: Kevin Crilley, George A. Franchois, Gary L. Freed, Jeff Herbst, William McLean, William & Naomi Murphy, **Neal Thorpe, Box Q., Mont Clare 19453 (215-933-2127)**.

## MONTOUR COUNTY

Allen Schweinsberg

The PP&L fly ash basin (with Hugo's help?) served up a variety of birds in late Sept. **Double-crested Cormorant** and **Great Egret** were present there during the last half of the month (WE,AS) with 4 of the former and 2 of the latter 9/23. An unusual number of **Green-winged Teal** (at least 75) were present 9/23. About 75 distant shorebirds (including 1 **dowitcher sp.**) went unidentified in the wind and rain associated with Hugo 9/23. All that remained in nice weather the next day was 1 **Lesser Golden-Plover**, 1 **Semipalmated Plover**, 1 **White-rumped Sandpiper**, and 2 **Semipalmated Sandpiper**. One **Bonaparte's Gull** was at Montour Preserve 8/9 (SS). A **Common Tern** was also present 9/23 (Antou).

On 7/2, RF reported seeing a **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** and heard it singing as well near St. James Cemetery in Anthony Twp.

OBSERVERS: Wes Egli, Roy Fontaine, **Allen Schweinsberg, 1200 Zeigler Rd., Lewisburg 17837 (717-524-0432)**, Stanley Stahl.

## NORTHAMPTON COUNTY

Rick Wiltraut

*Abbreviations: Little Gap Bird Observatory (LG), Nazareth Sewage Ponds (NSP), Seiple's Farm (SF).* Uninitialed sightings by compiler.

Three **Common Loon** flew past LG 9/30 and a **Great Egret** was seen at a pond along Rt. 22 near Rt. 378 on 8/30. An early **Green-winged Teal** was at Hecktown Dairy 8/28 and a duck believed to be a **Red-breasted Merganser** in eclipse plumage was seen on the Monocacy Cr. near the Aspen Inn 9/26-27 (DG,JZ).

Arlene Koch saw 2 ad. **Black Vulture** and a fledged young bathing in a stream on her farm in Williams Twp 7/15. This is the first evidence of nesting in the county and perhaps the northernmost record for PA.

About 2000 **Broad-winged Hawk** were counted at LG 9/15 (m.ob.). Of 10 **Bald Eagle** sighted at LO, 7 were ad., 4 imm. One imm. on 9/15 had a yellow patagial marker on its right wing (SB,BS). A heavy flight of **Osprey** was noted at LG 9/15, when 42 were sighted in 2 hours (SB,BS). Three **Peregrine Falcon** were seen 9/25 (RW,GY) and another was seen 9/26 (BS).

Up to 12 **Ruffed Grouse** were seen along the trail at LG during Sept. (m.ob.). Two **Semipalmated Plover** were seen at SF near Bath 9/8,15. Six **Least** and 1 **Semipalmated** sandpiper and 3 **Lesser Yellowlegs** were seen at SF 8/30 and 3 **Spotted** and 3 **Solitary** sandpipers were somewhat late at NSP 9/23. Two **Pectoral Sandpiper** were at SF 9/15 and 10 were in a flooded field near NSP 9/23. A **Wilson's Phalarope** was seen at SF 9/18 (RW), about the 4th county record. An **Am. Woodcock** was seen at Walnutport 7/16 (JS).

An interesting record of an **E. Screech-Owl** residing in a mail box was reported near Moorestown (DD). A late **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was at LG 9/28 and single **Red-headed Woodpecker** were noted at LG 9/7 and at Easton 9/20. A **Pileated Woodpecker** was seen at N. Bangor 7/6 (SL). **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** were noted at their usual Fall locations at LG and at jewelweed patches in the area between 8/29 and 9/10, but no more than 3 per day. One was mist netted at Danielsville and released (BS,JS).



*Wilson's Phalarope, Bath, 18 Sept 1989. Photo by Rick Wiltraut.*

An **Alder Flycatcher** was noted at Bear Swamp 7/11-25 (SL) and single **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** were seen at LG 8/25 (RW) and 8/30 (SB). **E. Phoebe** nested inside a banding blind LG (LGBO staff). *Were they banded? -eds.* On 8/20, a major swallow flight occurred in Williams Twp with all 5 smaller species being observed (AK). The first **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was observed at LG 8/25, becoming a regular sight/sound at this spot throughout the rest of the quarter (LGBO staff). A **Brown Creeper** was noted at Bear Swamp 7/11 (SL). Up to 3 **Winter Wren** were regularly seen at their usual Fall spot along the trail at LG during the last week of Sept. (LGBO staff).

Three early **Am. Pipit** were seen at SF 9/18 (RW). Two **White-eyed Vireo** were still singing at Nazareth 9/8. A **Philadelphia Vireo** was seen at LG during the fog and rain 9/21 (RW).

On 8/31, an imm. **Red-eyed Vireo** was seen caught by its wing in a spider web at Easton. The bird finally freed itself, preened its feathers, then continued to feed among the branches (RW).

**Cerulean Warbler** were heard singing at Kirkridge 7/3 (SL) and at Easton 7/6. The pair of **Yellow-throated Warbler** at Frost Hollow were last seen 7/20. Unfortunately, no fledgling was observed (RW). **Wilson's Warbler** were seen at Nazareth 8/29 and at LG 9/20.

A **Black-throated Green Warbler** at Pt. Phillips 8/3 was probably from a local breeding area on or just n. of the Blue Mt. (DD).

**Lincoln's Sparrow** were seen at Jacobsburg SP 9/28 (DD) and at Nazareth 9/29 (RW). An early **Purple Finch** was seen at Nazareth 8/29, possibly indicating a good finch year.

OBSERVERS: Steve Boyce, Dave DeReamus, Dan Gerlach, Arlene Koch, Sherri Labar, Brad Silfies, Joel Silfies, **Rick Wiltraut**, 54 Pershing Blvd, Whitehall 18052 (215-435-8632), Gordon Yoder, Joe Zajecek.

## NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY

Dave Unger

*Abbreviations; Delaware Twp (DT), Sunbury Fabridam (SF), Riverside (RS), Rush Twp (RT).* Observations by Dave and/or Linda Unger unless otherwise noted.

The highlight for the quarter was a **Royal Tern** found at SF, details are given below.

Nine **Double-crested Cormorant** were at SF 8/31 (SS). There were several **Great Egret** sightings beginning 8/5 at SF (SS) and others throughout Aug. along the Susquehanna R. in RS and RT. A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was at SF 8/20 (SS).

Although **Turkey Vulture** are not uncommon, a flock of 9 roosting in a snag in Rockefeller Twp 9/7 was noteworthy. Osprey were a much more common sight along the Susquehanna R. this quarter, with 1 on 8/28 in RT, 2 on 9/5 in RS and several sightings at SF (SS). **Wild Turkey** continue to increase, with a flock of 12 seen in relatively open DT (RF).

**Black-bellied Plover** were at SF 9/15,18 and a **Lesser Golden Plover** in mostly breeding plumage was there 9/5 (SS). The SF yielded all the shorebirds reported: **Ruddy Turnstone**, **Sanderlings**, **Semipalmated**, **Least** and **Pectoral** sandpipers were all observed during the period 8/31 to 9/15 (SS).

The passage of Hurricane Hugo gave us 4 species of terns at SF on 9/23. A **Royal Tern** was seen at SF 9/23 by S. Stahl along with **Common** and **Forster's** terns. A. Schweinsberg saw it at dusk the same day sitting along with a **Caspian Tern**, so the differences were well noted. We can thank Hurricane Hugo for this salt water species and the 1st record for *Northumberland*. See their verbatim reports elsewhere in this issue.

Two ad. and 1 imm. **Pileated Woodpecker** were seen 9/30 in RT along with a **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**. This was one of the best years for observing swallow migration with several large (300+) flocks of **Barn**, **Bank**, **Cliff**, **Rough-winged** and **Purple Martin** passing through RT from 8/15 until 9/1; DT was another good location for swallows (MB). **White-breasted Nuthatch** had a very good late nesting season in RT, with two nests found that each successfully raised 7 young. SGL 84 in Cameron Twp might be an excellent area for breeding warblers. A clearcut along Rt. 125 on 7/8 produced **Black-and-White**, **Hooded**, and **Worm-eating** warblers along with a **Yellow-breasted Chat** (CS). **Bobolink** were common in the farmlands in DT earlier in the quarter (MB).

OBSERVERS: Mark Berryman, Roy Fontaine, Allen Schweinsberg, Christine Smull, Stan Stahl, Linda and Dave Unger, RD 6, Box 246, Danville, 17821 (717-672-3254).

## PERRY COUNTY

Deuane Hoffman

All sightings by compiler. A flock of 23 **Double-crested Cormorant** was at Liverpool 7/26. Nesting on the Susquehanna R. only seems to be a matter of time.

A **N. Goshawk** was seen 7/12 (*location deleted. -Eds.*) in prime nesting habitat.

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was seen at Little Buffalo SP 9/1. OBSERVER: Deuane Hoffman, 3406 Montour St., Harrisburg 17111 (717-564-7475).

## PHILADELPHIA COUNTY

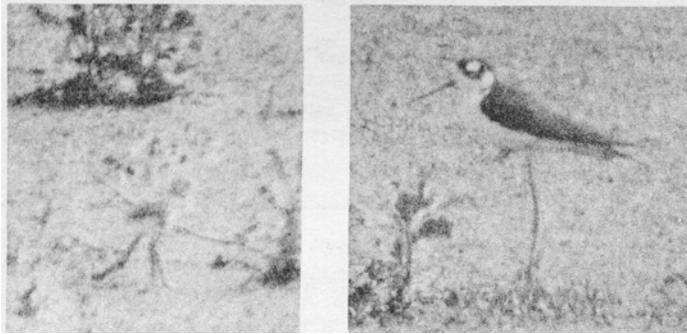
Edward Fingerhood

Abbreviations: *Carpenter's Woods (CW)*, *Ft. Mifflin (FM)*, *Pennypack Park (PP)*, *Schuylkill Valley Nature Center (SVNC)*, *Tinicum National Environ. Center (TNEC)*, *Wissahickon Cr. (WC)*.

The period began with torrential rains over the July 4th weekend. Considerable local flooding resulted. Rain persisted off and on throughout the month but kept temperatures in the 80's. But the last week produced some sultry 90's. August remained seasonably hot and a little drier than July, as was Sept. Hurricane Hugo passed many miles inland and to the west of the county 9/23. There were no reported effects of Hugo on the bird life of the region.

While many **Double-crested Cormorant** are found along the Delaware R., few are reported up the Schuylkill. Thus 3 found 8/29 along Boat House Row were noteworthy (EF). **Least Bittern** "had a good year in the area" (JCM). Twenty-five **Great Egret** found at TNEC 8/30 (EK) confirm JCM's noting of "lots of young" at FM. An early **N. Pintail** arrived at TNEC 9/30 (SS), but other duck species lagged.

No **Osprey** are known to nest in Phila., but single indiv. were seen over TNEC 7/14 (EF), 8/30 (EK), and 9/30 (SS). **N. Harrier** were also found at TNEC, perhaps the same bird on 8/30 (EK) and 9/30 (SS). Ad. **Peregrine Falcon** were found at the same place by the same observers on the respective days.



*Black-necked Stilt, (chick left, adult right), Philadelphia, 2 July 1989. Photo by Franklin C. Haas*

The nesting **Black-necked Stilt** remained at the Sewage Ponds off I-95 into July. Two pair of adults with downy chick were observed 7/2 by Steve Santner, John C. Miller, *et al.* Torrential rain and local flooding inundated the entire area 7/4-5. Subsequently the chick could not be found and one or two ad. were seen through 11 July (BS,EF). At least one ad. still exhibited aggressive behavior to nearby shorebirds 7/11,14 (EF). From 7/12-21 only one ad. was found (BS,DB,EF). None was seen after the 21st despite return visits to the nesting area until 7/27 (EF).

The only other *Philadelphia* records of this species are: 1 found at TNEC 13 July 1961, 1 ad. at the Sewage Ponds 28-31 May 1979, and 2 ad. at the Sewage Ponds 1-5 July 1988.

High water due to the abundance of rain kept shorebirds down in the traditional shorebirding areas. But **Stilt Sandpiper** were found at TNEC, 1 on 8/30 (EK) and 2 on 9/30 (SS). **Laughing Gull** were found up the Delaware R. in the vicinity of the foot of Linden Ave. on 7/2,16 (3 each) and 8/26 (1) (EF). **Caspian Tern** put in a prolonged visit to TNEC. Our earliest record is 2 on 8/27 (SS), followed by 7 on 8/30 (EK), 4 on 9/9 (TR), and 1 on 9/30 (SS). Sixteen **Forster's Tern** were at the Refuge 9/30 (EK).

Cuckoos were sparse. Only one report, a **Yellow-billed** in CW 8/3 (EB). A **Great Horned Owl**, unusual for CW, was found 7/25 (SL). **Common Nighthawk** seemed to have peaked in the CW area 9/9, when 85 were counted (SL). The season was especially good for **Chimney Swift**, (EB,SL), including 100+ in W. Phila. 9/22 (MD). **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** put in their first appearance 9/29-30 in CW (MD,SL), and a ♀ **Pileated Woodpecker** was in the Woods 9/6 (MD).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** appeared along WC 9/16 (HF) and a migratory **Least Flycatcher** was in CW 8/30 (MD). An impressive 7 **E. Kingbird** were at SVNC 8/19 (SL).

In late June, Frank Windfelder discovered **Purple Martin** in the Academy Gardens section of NE Phila. On the morning of 7/7 a pair was seen, 1 of which was removing a fecal sac from the nest site (EF). Later that day two newly fledged young were found nearby. On 7/9 an ad. ♀ was seen feeding a young bird and again on 7/19 both parents were feeding 2 young at the nest box (FW). This small group of Purple Martins is the only known colony in the Philadelphia area.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch**, "absent last year," appeared in PP in late Aug. (FW). A **Brown Creeper** was reported 9/29 in CW (MD). **Winter Wren**, 2 at PP, and 1 at CW, were seen on the same day, 9/30, by FW and SL respectively. Six **Veery**, moving early through the CW area were found 7/9. SL remarks that they are silent after 8/1. FW and SL also saw **Gray-cheeked Thrush**, 1 each 9/30, in PP & CW. **Swainson's Thrush**, in small numbers, were found in CW from 9/15-23 (MD,EB).

Two **Solitary Vireo** at PP (FW) and 1 at TNEC (SS) were migrating 9/30. **Philadelphia Vireo** were found 9/4,13 in PP (FW). At least 3 pair of **Warbling Vireo** nested at TNEC (JCM) and **Red-eyed Vireo** seemed to "increase this year" in the CW area (SL); 5 were found 7/9, a pair nested at TNEC (JCM).

The Fall warbler migration was not disappointing to most observers. **Blue-winged** were noted as early as 8/19 at SVNC (SL). A **Golden-winged** found CW where MD found it 9/2. **Tennessee** spanned dates from 9/2 in CW (MD) to 9/30 in TNEC (SS). **Nashville** were first reported 8/30 in CW (MD), then in late Sept. in PP (FW). **Black-throated Blue** moved in numbers through the area. A ♀ was seen 8/19 in CW (SL) for the earliest report. Two were found there 9/4 (MD). This picked up to 4 on 9/23 (EB), then 3 each day 9/27-30 in CW (MD). FW reported an "amazing" 7 in PP 9/30. He noted their feeding in association with the Devil's Walking Stick (*Aralia spinosa*) and wonders if others have noticed this association. Several **Worm-eating** were reported in CW 9/15 (MD) and 9/30 (SL). A **Louisiana Waterthrush** was found at Livesey Lane 7/9 (SL). Could it have bred there? A **Wilson's** at SVNC 8/19 (SL) was early, while another 9/12 in CW (MD) was more timely. Finally, a number of **Canada** sightings spanning 8/17 (SL) to 9/15 (MD) at CW rounded out a good warbler year. Drake called his 13 species at CW 9/15 the "best fallout," and Lawrence considered the warblers on 9/19 a "major flight."

The earliest **White-throated Sparrow** were at TNEC 9/30 (SS), while a good number, 6, **N. Oriole** were found at SVNC 8/19 (SL).

OBSERVERS: Dan Brauning, Erica Brendel, Michael Drake, Edward Fingerhood, 541 W. Sedgwick St., Philadelphia 19119 (215-843-5818), Harry Franzen, Ed Kwater, Steve Lawrence, John C. Miller, Tom Reeves, Sandra Sherman, Bill Stocku, Frank Windfelder.

## PIKE COUNTY

An ad. **Bald Eagle** was seen 1 mi s. of Milford on the Delaware R. 7/16 (PZ *vide* Alan Brady).

OBSERVER: Paul Zorn.

## SCHUYLKILL COUNTY

Dan Knarr

Abbreviations: *New Ringgold Flood Control Dam (NRD)*, *Schuylkill Haven (SH)*, *Tumbling Run Dam (TRD)*.

An imm. **Little Blue Heron** was seen 8/16-23 on Pleasant Run Rd., w. of Drehersville (JT).

Tom Clauser resumes the duties of compiler after several months of birding travels. Please send your sightings to Tom at 213 Deerfield Dr., Pottsville 17901 (717-622-1363). We thank Dan for filling in during this hiatus.

At the NRD 1 N. **Saw-whet Owl** and #6 E. **Screech-Owl** were heard 8/6 (DK,MK). The latter species was found in SH 7/30 and Pottsville 8/10 (TC). A **Barred Owl** was seen at TRD 8/31 (TC) and NRD 9/7 (DK,MK).

**Red-breasted Nuthatch** were at TRD 8/31 (TC). **Carolina Wren** were at Pottsville 8/5,8 (TC). A **Swainson's Thrush** was at TRD 8/31 (TC).

OBSERVERS: Tom Clauser, Margie & Dan Knarr, RD 1, Box 23d, New Ringgold 17960 (717-386-4880), Jeanne Tinsman.

## SNYDER COUNTY

Allen Schweinsberg

A **Double-crested Cormorant** was found on Faylor L. 9/1-2 (R&PW). Four **Great Egret** were seen along the Susquehanna at the s. end of the county 7/10 (R&PW). A pair of **Mute Swan** was present on Faylor L. at least from 8/10 through 9/16 (R&PW). Five **Black Vulture** were at Faylor L. 8/20 (AS). This species was first documented in the county at the end of May. **Ring-necked Pheasant** appeared to be up in numbers (R&PW).

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

## SOMERSET COUNTY

Ruth and Glenn Sager

Abbreviations: High Point L. (HPL), Hooversville (HV), L. Somerset (LS), New Centerville (NC), Shanksville (SV), Wilson Cr. (WC).

Higher temperatures than normal were recorded throughout the quarter. July was wetter than normal, Aug. and Sept. were drier than normal. Waves of migrants began 25 Aug., when nighttime temperatures dropped into the 50's. Although no unusual species or large numbers per species was recorded, the day-by-day presence of various warblers made for interesting birding. Several cold, rainy days in mid-Sept. accounted for the best warbler flights, while the birds waited for clear weather to move on. Large flocks of several thousand Starlings and grackles were downed by Hurricane Hugo 9/22-23. The strong, relentless winds seemed to limit the activity of smaller birds. A **Double-crested Cormorant** was at LS 9/9 (AM). The formal HV hawk watch was abandoned this year by the Sagers because of regular duties on the new Allegheny Front hawk watch near Central City (see *Bedford* report). Scattered sightings at HV indicated a normal hawk migration at this site. **Osprey** and **N. Harrier** reports were good in late Sept. AM noted that **N. Harrier** were seen regularly on reclaimed strip mines at NC and WC from 8/23+. A **N. Goshawk** was seen in the SV area 7/26 (JP).

One **Upland Sandpiper** was near NC 7/17 (AM) and 7 imm. near Hillmont 7/28 (J&RP). Heightened interest by several birders in grassland species, especially in strip-mined areas, indicates that **Horned Lark** are in higher numbers in the county than expected. Good numbers were reported 7/28 in SV (J&RP). The Paynes also found a pair of **Alder Flycatcher** in SV 7/28.

The Gerrishes interject a question about kill-off of birds due to spraying programs. They cite a visit by them 9/8-10 to the YMCA Camp near HPL where the camp naturalist reported a major die-off of **Indigo Buntings** two weeks after a gypsy moth spraying program. They also raised the question of spraying as a possible cause of **Whip-poor-will** problems reported in **PB 3:61**.

OBSERVERS: Anthony Marich, Jeff & Retta Payne, Randolph W. Gerrish, Jr., & Sarah H. Gerrish, Glenn and Ruth Sager, RD 1, Box 176-B, Hooversville 15936 (814-798-3242).

## SULLIVAN COUNTY

Douglas A. Gross

See the *Columbia* report for weather notes.

## Second Quarter:

Both DG and SC found **Green-backed Heron** in new areas of the county. **Canada Geese**, **Green-winged Teal**, **Mallard**, **Wood Duck**, and **Hooded Merganser** all nested in ponds of SGL 57 between Lopez & Ricketts Glen SP (SC,DG). Also, some **Am. Black Duck** were found in some ponds near Dushore. An excited DG watched a ♂ **Ring-necked Duck** swimming on a pond at a BBS stop. However, the excitement died and the eraser came out when the duck steamed toward the BBS volunteer to seek a hand-out. Fellow birders, beware of tame fowl! (It leads to fame fowled?) **Ring-billed Gull** visited Eagles Mere L. in June. **Virginia Rail** were heard at Splashdown Pond in May (*fide* SC).

On a BBS route, DG was pleasantly surprised by a **N. Goshawk** which flew out of hemlock at a stop. A pair of Gos were reported in the area all spring and summer. Reports reached DG of recent Gos breeding grounds being logged or developed, and abandoned by the hawks. Eagles Mere residents reported some calling **Great Horned Owl** near town. For the first time in several years of birding in the Lopez area, SC heard a **N. Saw-whet Owl** near his cabin.

The find of the season was a **Common Snipe** sitting atop an old wooden fencepost in a wet pasture/meadow near Dushore 6/11 (DG). Unfortunately, a busy Atlas schedule did not permit a quick return to the area, but I feel that this was a breeder reviewing his domain (the *1st* reported in the area). I will return.

More **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** were counted on *Sullivan* BBS routes and at lower elev. than prior years.

While rolling to a stop 6/18, DG spotted a largish greenish-brown flycatcher looking away from him while perched on a wire over a small backwater pond of Loyalsock Cr. He spotted white on its wings, and before getting a better view, it flew into a thick grove of sycamores, out of sight. After several return trips, this observer grew convinced that he got overly excited about a young phoebe (check your field guides, folks), instead of what he wanted to see (you know what). Lesson: Beware of freshly fledged flycatchers!

**Winter Wren** were common in several new areas for the second consecutive year. A **Swainson's Thrush**, carrying food for young, stood in the middle of the road at one of DG's BBS stops in Wyoming SF (n.e. of Eagles Mere). It flew away and treated the route runner to a few songs afterwards. **Yellow-throated Vireo** was discovered in open woodland n. of Dushore and along Muncy Cr. at Muncy Valley and along Loyalsock Cr., s. of Hillsgrove. Both SC and DG thought that **Blackburnian Warbler** were more widespread than ever before. **Myrtle Warbler** were singing in several locations in Eagles Mere, even on the grounds of the (rhymes with tea) Crestmont Inn. Myrtles were also on Bear Mt. in old Norway spruce plantings. **Louisiana Waterthrush** was common along most small streams, even in the far NE part of the county (SC,DG). **Mourning Warbler** returned to their roadside thicket near Muncy Valley (BS,SC) and were found in a clear-cut n. of World's End SP (DG). The rich warble of the **Purple Finch** was a commonly heard song in Eagles Mere and the woods near Lopez (DG, SC); others were heard near Dushore and Hillsgrove. Each time DG drove through Muncy Valley on his way back from the wilds of *Sullivan*, he heard an **Orchard Oriole** singing along Muncy Cr.; the nest was found, a *1st* for the county.

## Third Quarter:

Many **Great Blue Heron** were seen throughout the county, but few nests have been discovered.

A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** flew off with prey in front of SC and DG in a newly explored area. **Broad-winged Hawk** proved to be quite widespread in the county, with several observed in new locations (SC,DG). On 7/12, DG found a calling **E. Screech Owl** at Celestial L., near Laporte.

On a return trip to the **Common Snipe** spot in early Aug., DG failed to find this species. On 7/11 a **Solitary Sandpiper** was wading in a small beaver pond near Wheelerville.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** were found in even more places including scattered woods n. of Dushore (SC,DG). They're everywhere, flatlanders! **Common Raven** are fairly common in the Briskey Mt. area near Colley (AG,TS). It was found that many warblers were more rare or absent in the Dushore area than in the more heavily forested parts of the county.

OBSERVERS: Skip Conant, **Douglas A. Gross RD1 Box 147 Orangeville 17859**, Andy Gurzynski, Deborah Reeder, Barbara Sonies, Terry Soya, the Eagles Mere Conservancy.

### SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY

Bill Reid

Late vocalizing was noted in Dimock Twp on 8/23 where a **Least Flycatcher** was heard calling, and **Solitary** and **Yellow-throated vireos**, **Black-and-white Warbler**, and **Ovenbird** were all heard singing.

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

### TIOGA COUNTY

Martha M. Copp

We noticed much less of a goose migration this Fall. Twenty-three **Wood Duck** were found on Marsh Cr. 9/7 (BR). **Turkey Vulture** were apparently migrating 9/26, when many were found (HR). A **Red-tailed Hawk** nest with an ad. feeding 1 young was found 8/5 (MC).

**King Rail** was confirmed breeding (DB) at a marsh 3 mi n. of Tioga boro 7/3 (CCW,DW,DS,MC). Please see the separate article.

A gray-phase **E. Screech-Owl** was found on the shoulder of Rt. 349, 3 mi s. of Sabinsville. It had been hit by a car and was taken by a game warden for rehabilitation (HR). Two **Long-eared Owl** were seen and heard for over an hour near Mansfield 7/17 (BR,CC,JS). A **Pileated Woodpecker** was at Roundtop and Lambs Cr. (MC,DS).

John Olson, the bluebird man of Galeton, PA, has made and installed 120 bluebird houses. John cleans and maintains the bluebird trails. This year (1989) was a bad year for bluebirds due to the gypsy moth infestation. Only about 20 houses had baby birds that fledged. The gypsy moth worms drove most of the birds away. In 1987, 160 bluebirds fledged.

OBSERVERS: Martha Copp, R.D. 3, Box 197, Wellsboro, 16901 (717-724-7751), Cindy Copp-Wilcox, Carol Cupper, Bob Ross, Howard Rushmore, Joanne Stickler, Dennis Wilcox.

### UNION COUNTY

Allen Schweinsberg

A **Merlin** flew overhead in Kelly Twp. as it headed due S 9/14 (AS). Word was received that **Barn-Owl** have been inhabiting the barn at Dry Valley. They have nested successfully recently and were still there through Sept. (JC). Two **Common Raven** were spotted in SGL 252 near Allenwood 9/5 (MB).

OBSERVERS: Mark Berryman, John Clark, Allen Schweinsberg, 1200 Zeigler Rd., Lewisburg 17837 (717-524-0432).

### VENANGO COUNTY

Russ States and Gary Edwards

Abbreviations: Cooperstown (CPT), Oil City (OC), Oil Creek SP (OCSP), Two Mile Run Lake (TMRL).

It was a mostly uneventful quarter. The ducks have not yet arrived. The hawks, however, were seen in good numbers. Shorebirds were missed with none being seen. Woodpeckers were found in good numbers. The warbler migration was slight (as usual) with very few species or numbers being seen. But we added a species of warbler not previously seen this year, bringing the total to 27 (plus 1 hybrid).

Also Hurricane Hugo brought us a present, or should I say three of them. With only one week left of the quarter, it left 3 **Black-capped Petrel** in three different Venango locations. Three **Black-capped Petrels**, 1 each in OC 9/23, and OCSP and Franklin area 9/24.

**Green-backed Heron** found until 9/18 in various locations.

The only significant ducks were a ♀ **N. Shoveler** at TMRL 9/26-30; and 46 **Hooded Merganser** in OCSP the first week in Aug. (NK).

Good raptor numbers were observed all quarter. An **Osprey** was in OCSP from 9/22 until at least 9/27. Three **N. Harrier** on a s. Venango strip mine 9/18 and 1 in a different location 9/30. **Red-shouldered Hawk** at TMRL 9/30. A flock of **Wild Turkey** that was being observed through the summer had its numbers reduced from 3 ad. ♀ and 24-25 young to 3 ad. ♀ and 14 young by 9/22.

The last **Common Nighthawk** was seen in OC 8/24. They are usually around until late Sept. A flock of **Chimney Swift** was spotted near OC 9/29 (GE). An **Acadian Flycatcher** was found near CPT 7/23.

Sixteen warbler species were seen this quarter. Highlights: **Black-and-white** OCSP 8/31, **Golden-winged** 7/18,23, **N. Parula** 7/15,23, **Cerulean** (new for the year) 7/16 near Kennerdell, **Mourning** 7/15, **Canada** 7/18, **Am. Redstart** OCSP 9/18.

**Scarlet Tanager** were found until 9/6 at OCSP. The first **White-throated** and **White-crowned** sparrows were seen in various locations 9/30. Ten **Rusty Blackbird** were observed at TMRL 9/27 (RS).

OBSERVERS: Gary Edwards, 450 Stevens Dr., Apt. 304, Pittsburgh 15237 (412-931-4379), 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 on the AR 9/30 (KC). There was a **Great Egret** at the pond s.w. of Lander, at least 9/12-14 (JM).

The first "fall" **Osprey** report was 1 on the Allegheny R. s. of Irvine 8/18 (JK). An ad. **Bald Eagle** was at Cornplanter Run on the AR 9/23 (KC). One **N. Harrier** was near Lander 7/1 (DW). A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was in Warren 9/9 (BH).

Watts and Highhouse have 40 nest boxes up for **Am. Kestrel**. Close monitoring by Don and Beth Watts showed that 34 of them were used by kestrels. Bluebirds also used one, and Screech-Owls another, both successfully. Cold, wet weather early in the season apparently caused poorer results than in recent years. Only 108 of the 167 eggs laid hatched. Ninety-four fledged, for an average of 2.8 per box used. Other years averaged 4+ per box.

**Red-headed Woodpecker** were seen near Lander 7/1,30 (DW). **Cliff Swallow** nest on at least nine concrete bridges in Warren, but the KD is by far their favorite. Grisez counted about 350 fresh-looking nests there. Two **Common Raven** flew over Hatch Run, N. Warren, 9/6,8 (JP).

A **Worm-eating Warbler** was on Clark I., AR, s. of Irvine 8/14 (JK).

On one of the PGC's grassland bird surveys in the n.w. part of Warren, Watts counted 8 **Killdeer**, 8 **Field Sparrow**, 24 **Savannah Sparrow**, 31 **Bobolink**, and 15 **E. Meadowlark** at 30 stops 6/24.

A hatching year ♂ **House Finch** banded by Grisez at Warren 7/4/85 was trapped and released 55 mi n.e. at Farmersville Station, NY, by Donald Clark 3/12/89.

OBSERVERS: Keith Confer, Ted Grisez, 8 Belmont Dr., Warren 16365 (814-723-9464), Bill Highhouse, Jim King, Jerry McWilliams, Jan Palmer, Beth & Don Watts.

### WESTMORELAND COUNTY

Robert Leberman & Robert Mulvihill

Abbreviations: Cedar Creek Park (CCP), Donegal L. (DL), Latrobe Res. (LR), Ligonier Valley (LV), Powdermill Nature Reserve (PNR).

A lone **Common Loon** summered at LR; it was seen from early June through the end of the period (MEW,RCL). Two imm. **Double-crested Cormorant** remained at DL from 9/2+ (v.o.). The only **American Bittern** reported was from PNR 9/14 (RSM). A flock of 21 **Am. Wigeon** at DL 9/18 was somewhat early (RCL); a **Hooded Merganser** at DL on the same date was also early (RCL). The highlight of the season was an adult **Golden Eagle** seen flying over PNR on the unusually early date of 9/7 (MEW,RSM,RCL). A flock of

5 **Caspian Tern** at DL 7/31 (RCL) was unusual with respect to both number and date for the mountains of southwestern PA.

PNR banding totals included a below average 29 **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** between 8/5 and 9/28, but **Acadian Flycatcher** were especially abundant during the period with 44 netted. A rather late **Great Crested Flycatcher** was captured 9/30. By mid-Sept. **Red-breasted Nuthatch** were being widely reported in the mountains, and 1 was found west of the ridges at CCP 9/28 (VC). A **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was banded at PNR 9/26, and 2 were at CCP 9/28 (VC), both being late migration dates for this area. There was a good flight of **Philadelphia Vireo**, a species that is notoriously inconspicuous in the field; 43 were banded at PNR between 9/8-30.

We banded a typically plumaged **Brewster's Warbler** at PNR 7/30. The first **Tennessee Warbler** arrived at PNR 8/25; the first migrant **N. Waterthrush** appeared there 7/28. The last **Louisiana Waterthrush** of the season was netted 8/11. A below average total of 13 **Connecticut Warbler** was netted at PNR between 9/8-17; a total of just 7 **Mourning Warbler** between 8/17 and 9/21 was also below average for the period. The first **Wilson's Warbler** was at PNR 8/19. Although **Scarlet Tanager** were hard hit by inclement spring weather, they were in above average numbers (76 banded) during this period. Our first **Lincoln's Sparrow** arrived at PNR 9/12. **Orchard Oriole** is very uncommon in the LV at any time, so a juv. ♀ seen at PNR on 8/3 is noteworthy.

OBSERVERS: Virginia Cronenberger, Mike and Evaleen Watko, and Robert C. Leberman and Robert S. Mulvihill, Powdermill Nature Reserve, Star Route South, Rector, PA 15677 (412-593- 7521).

## WYOMING COUNTY

Bill Reid

*Abbreviations: North Eaton (NE), Phelps Swamp (PS), South Eaton (SE), Tunkhannock (TU).* Observations by compiler unless otherwise noted.

An **Am. Bittern** was seen at PS 8/12 (JH,JS). At the same location there were up to 40 **Wood Duck** through the summer. **Virginia Rail** with 3 young were seen 7/14; and **Sora** was heard on several occasions. **Common Moorhen** were seen at the same location through July-Aug., and 5 young were seen there 8/12 (JH,JS). Until 1989 Atlas work, this area was totally unfamiliar to birders.

A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was seen at SE 9/10. There were at least 5 records of **Red-breasted Nuthatch** in the TU area in the last half of Sept. (RD,WR). Three singing **Winter Wren** were heard at NE 7/3. A **Marsh Wren** was present at PS through the summer. Small numbers of **Gray-cheeked** and **Swainson's** thrushes were heard flying over TU on the nights of 9/18,20. Two **Philadelphia Vireo** were seen at SE 9/20. A **Bay-breasted Warbler** was seen at SE on the very early date 8/15. **Worm-eating** and **Hooded** warblers were seen and heard singing on territory at NE 7/3.

OBSERVERS: Robert Daniels, James Hoyson, William Reid, 73 W. Ross St., Wilkes-Barre 18702 (717-836-2525), James Shoemaker.

## YORK COUNTY

Al Speise

*Abbreviations: Brunners I. (BI), Codorus SP (CSP), Impounding Dam (ID), Marietta Watershed (MW), Rocky Ridge County Park (RRCP), Safe Harbor Dam (SHD), Spring Grove (SG), Susquehanna R. (SR), Wrightsville (WR), York Haven (YH).*

Except for a few hot days, this quarter was cooler than normal. There was plenty of rain. Many of our hawk watching days had N and NW winds, which are very unfavorable at our lookout.

A **Monk Parakeet** ventured into a residential area e. of York for part of two days. An **Am. Avocet** was reported twice. A rare first.

Once again **Double-crested Cormorant**, as many as 10, frequented the SR all Summer. That no **Snowy Egret** was found in Aug. was unusual. Single imm. **Little Blue Heron** were at BI 7/29 (AS) and at CSP 9/2-3 (RR). Max. 5 ad. and 3 juv. **Black-crowned Night-Heron** were at the ID complex, but no nesting activity could be found. **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** at their usual nesting area may have been forced out to other areas due to high waters along the Conewago Cr.; the first sighting was 7/1.

No **Am. Black Duck** could be found; we usually have a few

pairs. An **Am. Wigeon** was at CSP 9/23 (RR). Three ♀ **Common Merganser** were below SHD 9/23.

A preliminary check indicates that our Sept. hawk watch totals at RRCP were below the norm of the past few years. A **Sora** was at BI 7/7 (JD,LD).

On 8/9, one of the Park Rangers at CSP saw this large long-legged bird within a gathering of Canada Geese. He identified it from a Peterson's field guide as an **Am. Avocet**. On 9/22 Dan Heathcote and his wife positively identified what could be a second bird, also at CSP. Neither could be found on following days. Other shorebirds found were: 1 **Solitary Sandpiper** at SG 7/4, 1 **Red Knot** at YH 9/9, 1 imm. **Sanderling** and a **White-rumped Sandpiper** at BI 8/4, and 2 **Baird's Sandpiper** at BI 9/20 (all AS); 4-5 **Dunlin** at BI 9/17 (JD,LD); 1 juv. **Long-billed Dowitcher** at BI 9/11 (AS).

The only **Laughing Gull** found was a sub-ad. (with pink legs) at WR. A **Lesser Black-backed Gull**, seen 7/15 to 8/4, returned to a certain rock for resting and roosting (AS); it was confirmed 7/22 (JeP,JoP). A few **Great Black-backed Gull** were seen along the SR all Summer, as in recent years. A **Forster's Tern** was noted at CSP 8/1 and 1 **Black Tern** was at CSP 9/22 (KL).

On 7/5, Rita Gross heard some loud shrieks in back of her home. Upon investigating, she couldn't find anything. Later, after hearing the same sounds, she found a **Monk Parakeet** sitting in a tree in her neighbor's yard. She heard it again the following day.

A **Least Flycatcher** was on Woodland Rd. near Pahagaco L. 7/7 (JD,LD). An est. 3000 **Bank Swallow** gathered on a BI mudflat 8/4 (AS); some local breeding birds were still using nest holes 9/20, although most had departed. Everyone reported large numbers of **Tufted Titmouse** after nesting. A **Winter Wren** was at Lock 12 on 9/30 (BS). The 3 **Am. Pipit** at BI mudflats 9/28 were early. Two **Yellow-throated Vireo** were at RRCP 9/11-12.

Most of the fall migrating warblers were recorded. A few notable finds were: 1 **Nashville** at RRCP 9/9; 1 **Chestnut-sided** at MW 8/8 (JeP,JoP); **Black-throated Green** seemed to be the most common from reports received; 1 **Blackburnian** at MW 8/20 (JeP,JoP); 2 **Yellow-throated** noted at Lock 12 on 9/30 (BS); 1 **Prothonotary** at RRCP 9/6; 1 **Worm-eating** at RRCP 8/30; and single **Wilson's** at Gut Rd. 8/26 (JeP,JoP) and CSP 9/4 (RR).

**Blue Grosbeak** at 7 locations shows a recent expansion into some new areas.

OBSERVERS: Jack & Lil Downs, Rita Gross, Dan Heathcote, L. Heathcote, Karen Lippy, Jean Prescott, John Prescott, Russell Ryan, Bob Schutsky, Al Speise, 4086 Old Orchard Rd., York 17402 (717-755-8309).

## LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

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Dear Editors:

I hope you are settled by now. Having gone through too many moves, I know what it is like.

I have found **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS** to be very interesting and often read through it again and again to see what is where. I can understand your request for shorter reports, but hopefully it will not make the county reports too dull. One way to have shorter reports is to eliminate the weather report most compilers seem to start their reports with. After looking through Volume 3, No. 2, I see on page 64 Centre County's detailed weather report to page 66 Cumberland County's brief report. Possibly the weather should only be listed in the Summary of the Season.

Maybe you should remind birders as to the numbers for commonly seen, uncommonly (seen) and rare. I was reminded of this last night at a meeting. I use commonly as meaning easily seen when I believe there are certain numbers for commonly, etc.

I like the birder profiles. After reading the same names again and again, it is interesting to learn something about the person. I would not be interested in a Photo Quiz. Identification Tips would be great.

The cover of the Jan-March 1989 **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS** looked familiar to me too. **American Birds**, November 1982, has a similar Eastern Meadowlark. I know this because I drew that bird for my son. I have often wondered if an artist would draw or paint a picture from a published photo, if the artist would be in violation of copyright laws, if the picture were published in turn.

*Linda Christenson  
Compiler, Elk County  
St. Marys, PA*

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Dear Editors:

Greatly enjoy **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS!** You really produce a remarkably detailed State review with the County reports...the articles add a lot also (the "104 Upland Sandpipers," for example, was great).

Enclosed ink drawing of Tree Sparrow might be of use as a space filler with the upcoming Tree Sparrow decline article?

Keep up the good work!

*Charlie Leck  
State Ornithologist  
Kendall Park, NJ*

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Dear Editors,

### **Warbler Watch Efficiency Report**

Soon after the fall migration began, I wondered how many I could identify. From 10 September to 10 October, I spent 72 hours looking for warblers; counted 182 individuals, but could identify only 73 (40.1%). The unidentified ones moved too fast. I know someone who gave up birding for fossils, which do not move!

The warblers identified were Tennessee 6, Nashville 9, Chestnut-sided 2, Magnolia 4, Cape May 3, Black-throated Blue 1, Yellow-rumped 10, Black-throated Green 9, Blackburnian 1, Palm 3, Blackpoll 2, Black-and-white 1, Am. Redstart 2, and Common Yellowthroat 20.

*Merrill Wood  
811 N. Allen St. State College, PA*

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**COMING  
NEXT ISSUE!**

Black-capped Petrels!

Tree Sparrows (Part 2)

**PENNSYLVANIA BIRDLISTS**

Winter Finches  
(Hooray!)

More Bad-weather Birds

**AND MORE!**

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