

PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS



VOLUME 4, No.3

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PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS

VOLUME 4, NUMBER 3, JUL – SEP 1990

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ILLUSTRATIONS:

COVER: Ruby-throated Hummingbird by *Georgette Syster*
(See Page 92)

from the Editors...

We head into the Holiday season looking forward to CBCs, the New Year and ending up our Year Lists. It is a time to pause and reflect on what is happening with our birds. Even though there is another issue of **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS** due for 1990 (mailing in March 1991), it is a traditional time to review a year.

It's so easy to count rarities. Like, I mean, you know, how hard is it to count to one? But maybe we had all expend some effort in trying to keep track of our more common species. When reports come in that there seem to be fewer Ovenbirds, thrushes, warblers, etc., we should all sit up and take notice.

Perhaps there was less information forthcoming because our Atlas work is over. But is it ever over? We need to always be monitoring what is happening. Without hard data it is difficult to fight for any cause. There are new projects in which to involve yourself. Doug Gross called the other evening and we discussed the up-coming field data sheets for censusing State Parks and Wildlife Areas. What a neat idea that is fun and yet beneficial to all birders.

Have you considered joining Project FeederWatch? Refer to Margaret Brittingham's article in the last issue. You can become a participant by writing: Project FeederWatch, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, NY 14850.

There are few hobbies that can give the scientific world as much help as birding. Professional ornithologists do rely on the non-professional observers for information. Rarities provide distributional data for them. Banders, at the minimum, provide status and distribution data as well as some relative degree of abundance. The forthcoming Atlas

will provide us all with fond memories as we look at various blocks and say, "I was there and found those species. Those are **my** marks, **my** blocks."

But we must not stop now. Participate, and the personal pleasure will give all the rewards necessary.

Speaking of participating. Although there is still one more issue for 1990 to come, please consider renewing early to **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS**. We had a very high rate of non-renewals for this year and it was, needless to say, quite disturbing. Anyone want to venture a guess as to why?

What would you like to see more of, less of, added, etc.? Would someone be interested in taking on a Photo Quiz section? We can even help by supplying some good puzzlements. What about tracing the range expansion of Blue Grosbeaks or Golden-crowned Kinglets across the state?

We need articles, articles, and more articles. Wide interest, narrow interest, humorous, scientific, you name it, we need it. We need photographs to help dress up the pages. The more contrast, the better for reproducing, preferably prints.

Checklists for the ease of record keeping of your Pennsylvania birds (and neighboring states) are still available from the Editors. Get your supply before the thousands on hand are exhausted. Prices: only 10/\$2; 50/\$6; 100/\$8. **postpaid**.

We wish you all a happy and safe Holiday Season with numerous birds to count on your CBC. And, even if your CBC is run in January 1991, please report it to us for the final issue of 1990. PLEASE get your sightings to your compiler as soon as possible in order that he/she can

have the material to us by the **end of January**. Delays to us and the pressures of work make it more and more difficult to have the issues out on time. Your cooperation is sincerely appreciated.

As usual, we have a variety of articles for you this issue. Our regular contributor, Marsha Bonta, enlightens us about Screech Owls. We welcome another article by Arlene Koch on another one of her chases.

What will the next new state bird be? We look at the guesses submitted so far.

We have two site guides, one in Lycoming County and one in Delaware County. Why not write one up on your favorite birding place?

Plus some general notes, rare bird reports and updates to the Official State List.

Barb and Frank Haas
Co-editors

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"The Jack Sprat Syndrome"

Brush Mountain Notebook

by Marcia Bonta

The screech owls began their quavering, down-scale trilling at dusk on 8 July. According to screech owl researcher Frederick R. Gehlbach, such calling is a sign that dispersing screech owl youngsters are about, triggering the mature male screech owls to defend their territories from the young interlopers. Although the down-scale trilling is the most common noise screech owls make, they do screech when frightened. They also hoot, bark, chatter and clack their bills together when threatened by predators.

Both my husband Bruce and I can testify to all those noises, plus others that are beyond description, because several summers ago, on the evening of 5 August 1986, screech owls congregated in the woods below our house and set up such a caterwauling that the deer snorted in fright and ran off into the woods. We turned on our spotlight but could not see anything even though we were almost certain screech owls were making all the weird noises, since we could also hear the familiar screech owl trills interspersed among the unusual whistles and calls. The cacophony continued off and on for over an hour and a half, prompting Bruce to wonder whether our neighbors would ever quiet down so we could get some sleep!

Apparently male screech owls have lower pitched trills than females and do most of the trilling because they use it in territorial defense and in communication with their mates, whereas the larger, heavier females do most of the nest and nestling defending and so are more likely to hoot and bark. Probably what we heard that night were all sexes and ages mixing it up. In addition to the

usual down-scale trilling of late summer, screech owls also give a sweet, melodious, one-pitch trill in late winter when they are declaring ownership over their cavity nest. Since they mate for life, they don't have to call to attract a mate.

They also do not construct their own nests, taking over abandoned nests of flickers or pileated woodpeckers instead and laying four to six white eggs, often at two or three day intervals. Usually the female begins brooding as soon as she lays her first egg. From then until a week after the owls hatch (approximately five weeks) her mate provides all her food. She only leaves the nest once a day, at dusk, to drink and defecate. The mate she depends on is at least 17 percent smaller than she is with 25 percent less body weight per unit of wing surface area. In fact, female screech owls choose the smallest males they can find as mates.

Researcher Gehlbach, after studying screech owls for 19 years, believes that the smaller the male, the less food he needs for himself because he expends less energy in flying. Therefore he burns up less calories. As a consequence, he will provide more food for his mate. The heavier the female, on the other hand, the better she is at defending the nestlings, laying the maximum number of fertile eggs and raising her youngsters to maturity.

So, for screech owls, small males and large females (what I call the "Jack Sprat" syndrome and scientists call "reversed size dimorphism"), does make sense. Furthermore, Gehlbach maintains that, "Female choice of a small, energetically efficient mate may be the most critical selective factor in the evolution of size dimorphism," not only

among screech owls but other birds of prey that have larger females than males.

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. -eds.

Mr. Floyd and Mr. Franklin

by Arlene Koch

At the urging of a friend I counted up the species on my Pennsylvania bird list. I should, he said, have way over the cutoff mark of 200 since my life list is now over 500. OK, I thought, I guess I can get into this now. I had always shied away from making any more lists than I had to, circumstances being what they were. A lot of my friends keep extensive state and county lists, but I never seemed to have the time between family and work. Now, however, things have changed and I no longer have an excuse not to keep better records.

As I started tallying up the list I started thinking about what great times I have had pursuing some of these birds. Isn't that, after all, what it's all about? Sure, there's the research, education and documentation side to it; but let's face it, chasing after something you have never seen before or may never see again can be a great rush! The obsessed birder in pursuit of that elusive new species gets to go places and do things he would never dream of doing under normal circumstances. Just think of some of the places you end up. And birds don't know human etiquette; they don't care if they're in a dump or manure pile or if they're in a swamp or somebody's back yard as long as they have what they need to survive. They can't read "No Trespassing" signs. The smell of rotting fish doesn't bother them.

Every species on my PA list was fantastic to see the first time I saw it, even down to the horrendous House Finches which now invade my feeders day after day after day. But the rare ones, the ones that required effort, excuses and explanations, are the ones that really stay in my mind. Take for instance the possible rare heron species that

showed up on the Susquehanna River at the same time that my son was playing in a baseball tournament with visiting teams from Massachusetts. I was one of the ones who was supposed to feed and entertain them after the last game had been played. My husband and son understood, but the rest of them didn't seem to. I felt like Mr. Rogers trying to get away from his neighborhood on that one. "Now boys, can you say heron? Say it with me now, herr-r-r-on."

Back in December of 1985 Kathy Sieminski and I chased a Tufted Duck which had appeared on Lake Silkworth in Nanticoke on a bitter cold day. Five years ago neither of us was too proficient at identifying unfamiliar waterfowl. I remember checking out so many Ring-necked Ducks that after a while they all started looking like Tufted Ducks. It was cold, so very cold, and the wind was blowing their feathers around on their heads so that pretty soon we had a whole lake full of rare ducks. That was until a car drove up and the people inside told us that if we were looking for the Tufted Duck it was all by itself over there around the corner. We didn't tell any of our more advanced birder friends about this for a long time. We were no fools!

In September of the same year, prior to the Tufted Duck episode, Bernie Morris called me and said that there was a Wood Stork just outside of State College. "Sure," I said. "This is some kind of joke, isn't it?" "No," he said. "Supposedly it's been verified." I guess it was the word "supposedly" that bothered me, but off I went anyway. And sure enough, there it was—a real honest-to-goodness Wood Stork standing almost motionless in

some guy's back yard. If we hadn't known it was real we might've thought it was a lawn ornament. That one was weird, very weird.

But counting up my list made me think even more of the birds we had chased after and never saw. There was the report of an Anhinga, an extremely southern species, on a river in extreme northern Pennsylvania. The river was next to the small town where everyone knew everyone else. The mere presence of strange cars was enough to bring out the local cop to check things out. Well, I bet we must have looked really suspicious, because he checked us out a number of times. I can't imagine why, considering that about eight of us stood in the pouring rain for hours, staring with binoculars at an empty river. We never did find that bird; it may even have been a cormorant, rare enough for that area. We did, however, have a great meal at some restaurant whose name has forever left my consciousness.

My latest PA expedition was rather easy compared to a lot of them. When the call came through from Frank Haas that there was a Franklin's Gull verified on the lower Susquehanna River I didn't hesitate to go after it, especially considering the fact that Dave DeReamus was also going after it and wanted to drive. He likes to both drive and leave early; I've known him to go thirty hours without sleep. So this was a piece of cake; Washington Boro was only two hours away. In August we had driven to Martha's Vineyard and back in 16 and a half hours, pursuing a redshank.

We left Easton at 6 a.m. At that time on 8 October it was still dark outside. The weather was unusually warm for this time of year so Dave opened the sun roof of his little black Nissan with the license plate that reads "BECARD." He doesn't talk much, which was fine with me at that hour of the morning, so you listen to music most of the time. I laid my head back on the seat and watched the clouds scudding by the moon as *Pink Floyd* played endlessly on the speaker next to me. When the song entitled "Learning to Fly" came on I thought about how wonderful it would be to be able to do just that. Maybe that, after all, is why I'm so intrigued by birds. They have a sense of freedom few humans can ever hope to experience. There in the dark, gazing out through the roof, I felt very much at peace and very alone; moments like this are always very short-lived, but I know enough to grab them when I can. The sound of a truck passing us brought me back to reality very quickly.

We arrived at the river at 8 a.m. A car with two men in it drove up along the tracks and told us that the Franklin's Gull was on some logs out in the river down a little ways. I don't know who they were, but I thank them profusely. We had expected a large crowd, but they were the only other ones there and they

left shortly after we arrived. Dave grabbed his scope and walked briskly down the tracks to a place where he could better see out onto the river. There it was; the Franklin's Gull was sitting on a log right smack in the middle of fourteen Ring-billed Gulls. It stuck out like a sore thumb. Its small size and partial hood were unmistakable. It had almost been too easy!

Dave and I had told our respective spouses that we would probably be gone most of the day. We hadn't expected to find the bird like this. It was now 8:30 and we had nothing more to do. I guess we could have driven up and down the river, checking out other species, but we didn't. We turned around and headed right back home. Keeping one's mate happy under what can sometimes be very trying circumstances is essential to future listings on the life/state lists.

Mr. Franklin was the most recent entry on my PA list. It's funny how things can sometimes turn out to be very strange. He was exactly number 250.

1375 Raubsville Road
Easton, PA 18042

Arlene penned us a note with the article indicating that she hoped it would prod some people into submitting their PA lists or at least pay more attention to them. We second that thought and hope it will also spur some interest in writing articles about your favorite chase, whether the bird was seen or not, or any other aspect of Pennsylvania birding.

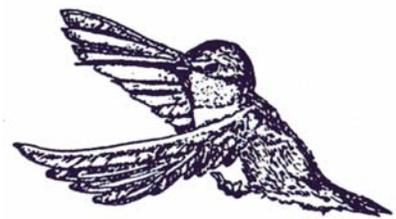
About the Cover Artist

Georgette Syster

This is Georgette's third cover for **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS** (See Volume 2, Number 4 and Volume 3, Number 1). She has been an avid birdwatcher for about seven years and is quite well known locally for her "day" trips. She writes, "If I have a day off and some money in my pocket, I'll go birding as far as time and money will allow..." Her dog-eared copies of the magazine attest to a lot of planning prior to any trip in Pennsylvania.

A member and past President of the Todd Bird Club (Indiana County), she has been a field observer and contributor to **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS** since its inception in 1987 and a field observer for the Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

We had the pleasure of meeting Georgette at the first Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology meeting in Lamar in October. Recently, we were "gabbing" while investigating a November *Myiarchus* flycatcher in Butler County. Her enthusiasm is so contagious, be careful if you are a casual birder visiting Armstrong or Indiana County.



More Predictions

by Barbara M. Haas

In Volume 3, No. 1 we solicited lists from readers as to what they thought (hoped) the next state bird would be. We received several lists, which were published in later issues. Now that there is an Official State List we welcome more from our readers.

Ted Floyd of Penn State University has submitted his:

Brown Pelican
Ross' Goose
Am. Oystercatcher
Long-tailed Jaeger
California Gull
Black-legged Kittiwake
Gull-billed Tern
Sandwich Tern
Great-tailed Grackle
Shiny Cowbird

All of the above are likely candidates, with the first eight having been found as close as New Jersey. The latter two are quite interesting. The Great-tailed Grackle is a more inland bird, which has shown recent range expansion. The Shiny Cowbird, although only a recent addition to the avifauna of the United States has ventured north of Florida already!

Who knows what may turn up ...and where. Green-tailed Towhee, the most recently documented new bird, had been found on at least a couple of occasions in New Jersey long before it was discovered at a feeding station in Bucks County.

California Gull has gotten the most votes so far, probably based on the fact that they seem to be showing up everywhere else in the East in recent years.

Brown Pelican is second with four votes. With their increasing

occurrence off New Jersey, it is only a matter of time before one flies up the Delaware and officially joins the Pennsylvania list.

Long-tailed Jaeger and Ash-throated Flycatcher, with three votes each, are tantalizing in that we just received a description of a Long-tailed Jaeger from Presque Isle (still to be reviewed by PORC) and a very late (Nov 20) Great Crested Flycatcher was reported as a possible Ash-throated. The time of year was right for Ash-throated, but the bird wasn't!

Below is a listing of the species submitted so far with the number of votes after each. The purpose of this exercise is to point out that the next bird you see may not be something common, but something rare that looks common. Note the gulls and shorebirds on the list. These could easily be passed over while scanning through a flock, if care isn't taken.

It is very likely that the next bird won't even be on this list. What do you think?

California Gull 5

Brown Pelican 4

Long-tailed Jaeger 3
Ash-throated Flycatcher 3

Pacific Loon 2
Long-billed Curlew 2
Little Stint 2
Stint (any species) 2
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper 2
Mew Gull 2
Gull-billed Tern 2
Groove-billed Ani 2

Three-toed Woodpecker 2
Rock Wren 2
Great-tailed Grackle 2
Smith's Longspur 2

Clarke's Grebe
Wilson's Storm Petrel
Ross' Goose
Garganey
Smew
Am. Oystercatcher
Rufous-necked Stint
Ross' Gull
Black-legged Kittiwake
Sandwich Tern
White-winged Tern
Eur. Collared Dove
Burrowing Owl
Black-chinned Hummingbird
Lewis' Woodpecker
Fork-tailed Flycatcher
Violet-green Swallow
Sage Thrasher
Shiny Cowbird
Chestnut Collared Longspur

SITE GUIDE: Rose Valley Lake

Lycoming County

by Wesley Egli

Rose Valley Lake is located in Gamble Township, Lycoming County, approximately three miles east of the town of Trout Run. Map coverage of the area can be found on the Bodines, 7.5 minute U.S.G.S. quadrangle. Access to the lake is provided by township roads T846 and T691, also LR41047. U.S. Route 15 passes four miles to the west. Williamsport, the nearest city, is located about ten miles to the south. The area surrounding the lake is primarily agricultural, with forested hills and woodlots.

The lake was formed in October 1972 by impounding the headwaters of Mill Creek, a small, relatively infertile, freestone stream. Ownership of the dam and lands adjoining the lake is held by the Pennsylvania Fish Commission, which constructed the lake to provide public fishing. However, this also provided migrating waterfowl and shorebirds a stopover during spring and fall and one of Lycoming County's finest birding spots.

Rose Valley Lake is impounded by an earthen fill dam, approximately 25 feet in height. The elevation of the lake at normal pool is 1235 feet above sea level. Water normally leaves the lake via a concrete spillway at the eastern side of the dam. The lake surface area is 389 acres. Length of the shoreline is 6.1 miles and the maximum depth approximately 18 feet.

The lake has three public access areas, each with boat launch facilities, and parking for approximately fifty cars. Sixty-eight percent of the shoreline is within 305 feet of a road or access area.

The birding at Rose Valley Lake can be very good almost any time of the year, but is especially attractive during migration. With the available

road and access areas, this makes viewing the lake that much easier.

Some of the many species which have been found over the years include: Red-throated Loon, Red-necked Grebe, Eared Grebe, Surf and White-winged scoters, Osprey, and Bald Eagles, as well as Dunlin, and Common, Black and Caspian terns. Clay-colored and Henslow's sparrows have been found in the fields near the lake. These areas surrounding the lake are excellent for viewing numerous other species as well.

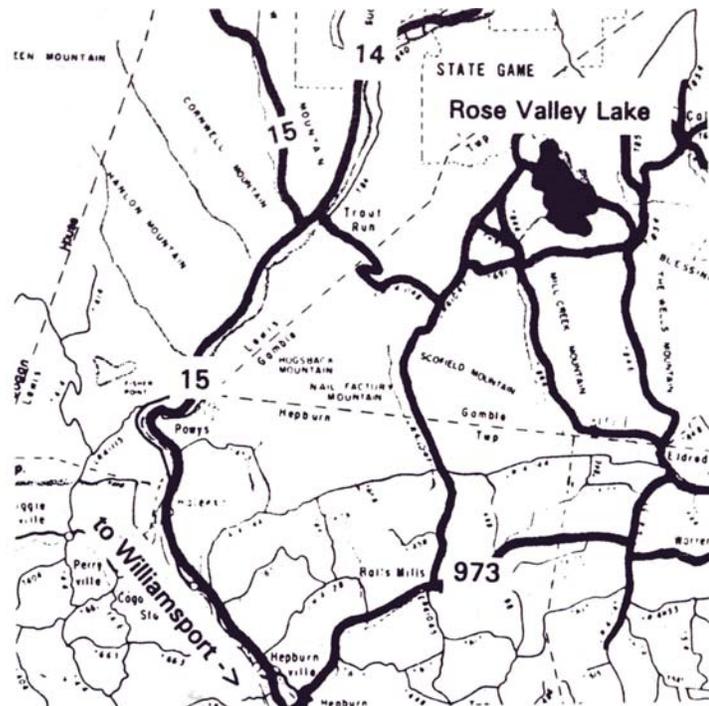
Spotting scopes are recommended when visiting during waterfowl and shorebird migration.

Rose Valley Lake is one of the best locations in Lycoming County for birding and is one of my favorite spots to visit. If you are visiting the county, no matter what time of year, be sure to stop by the lake. You may find some

interesting birds. Enjoy your visit. If you find anything unusual, please contact me.

Resource: Pennsylvania Fish Commission, Northcentral Region, Lamar, PA.

*123 N. Main, PO Box 381
Picture Rocks, PA 17762*



SITE GUIDE: Tyler Arboretum

Delaware County

by Al Guarente

The Tyler Arboretum, located in Delaware County, in the most southeastern portion of Pennsylvania, embraces 700 acres of trees, flowers and wildlife. Tyler is one of the few remaining natural open space areas in the county. Within its boundaries are 20 miles of hiking trails, an extensive rhododendron collection considered one of the finest in the eastern United States, and a fragrant garden for the blind.

But the main attraction for me is the birdlife. Over the years the Arboretum has attracted more than 175 species of birds. Each season has something to offer the birder who is willing to walk the gorgeous grounds. The spring migration typically brings the birder 33 species of warblers, including Tennessee, Nashville, Blackburnian, Pine, Bay-breasted, Cerulean (rare), Worm-eating, Wilson's and Canada. Also in spring you can find all the species of thrushes, along with most species of woodpeckers.

The summer has many breeders to spark your interest. Tyler is noted locally for its large Eastern Bluebird nesting trail, which produces 60 or so young each year. If you want a bluebird in Delaware County, this is the place to be. Another nesting bird, one of my favorites, is the Hooded Warbler. At least three pairs nest in the East Woods section each year. Other nesting warblers include Blue-winged, Chestnut-sided, N. Parula, Pine, Worm-eating, Louisiana Waterthrush and Kentucky.

With the autumn weather come the hawks, both kinglets, and in August we usually can find an Olive-sided Flycatcher or two. Fall migration once again includes most warblers, along with Red-eyed, Solitary and an occasional Philadelphia vireo.

The sparrows are typically well-represented at this time of year by the usual species, but once in a while we get treated to a Lincoln's Sparrow.

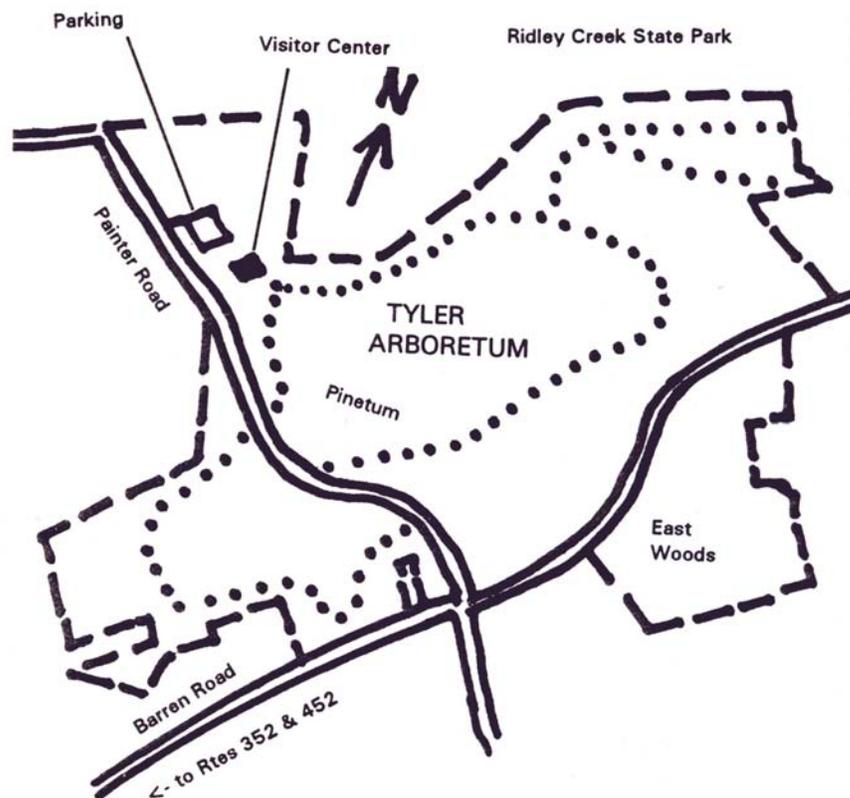
Although I am not a winter person, the birdlife still manages to get me outdoors. Screech and Great Horned owls are common and Long-eared and Saw-whet owls show up sporadically. The Christmas count usually produces 40-45 species of birds each year, which isn't bad considering there is no large body of water in the arboretum.

So, if you have a couple of hours to spend in Delaware County, come to the Tyler Arboretum.

From the intersection of Routes 352 and 452 take Barren Road northeast to Painter Road. Turn left onto Painter Road and drive to the Arboretum parking

lot. There is a small admission fee.

*421 Old Middletown Rd.
Media, PA 19063*



Notes from the Field

A Hawk at Play

Barry Blust

On 23 September I was at Springton Manor Farm County Park near Glenmoore for the purpose of censusing the birds. It was a beautiful, partly cloudy, warm day with a variable west breeze blowing. I noticed a Red-tailed Hawk as I drove into the park. It was flying about treetop level over open fields and carried an object in its talons. As I watched, it dropped the object, which appeared to be a short, stout stick that tumbled end over end to the ground. The bird made no attempt to retrieve it.

About 20 minutes later as I was walking in the park, I spotted a Red-tailed Hawk flying into the wind carrying an object in its talons. This time the object appeared to be a small twig and was easily carried away in the wind. The hawk proceeded to land in a tree which had several dead branches and moved rather awkwardly from branch to branch trying to break one off. I went on my way, and it must have finally succeeded in its task, because shortly thereafter it reappeared in the air and began "kiting" with an object in its talons. It again dropped it into the wind and seemed to turn its head and watch it blow away.

Twice more I observed this "game," but one time there was a twist. The object was a leaf which was passed from the talons to the bill. The hawk then tossed its head as it threw the leaf into the wind.

About the time of the third occurrence, I noticed a second Red-tailed Hawk also riding the wind a short distance away. I wondered if the first bird could be "showing off" for the second, but got the distinct impression that it was enjoying the nice weather and using the breeze to

amuse itself. In any case, it was sheer delight to watch these escapades.

My Silent Fall

Neal Thorpe

As I looked hopefully for warblers this September I found myself writing "No warblers," or "Nada!" or "Zilch!" so often in my field notebook that I began thinking of the season as my Silent Fall.

To try to get a measure on how serious things were I dug out my field notes for 1986. (I checked 1985 first, but found I had spent so much time out of state that migration season that a statistical comparison with 1990 was impossible.) In order to compare apples with apples I counted just the days between the dates of 8/23-9/30 in both years, on which I had birded in the Montgomery County portion of the Schuylkill River valley.

This covers a roughly six-mile stretch from Valley Forge National Historical Park upriver (west) to the riverside trails and hills above Black Rock Dam. The entire area is productive and close to home.

In 1986 I made 15 trips within the area, saw warblers on 11 of those days, wrote "no warblers" on four days. That's a 73% success rate. Furthermore, I see whole pages of notes like that for 9/1 around Valley Creek, in which I wrote "2 doz. warblers in small area at observation tower," and identified a dozen species plus "A pair of gray-cheeked thrushes!" In the course of the 1986 period I also ran into three tantalizing *empidonax* sp. In 1990 (older and less inclined to dash off to Cape May and Hawk Mountain) I birded the area on

24 days. On only ten of those days did I see at least one warbler; on 14 days I noted no warblers. That's a drop to a 42% success rate. And those days' notes are miserable: 8/26 "1 Kentucky heard," 8/30 "2 redstarts." The peak was 9/20, again along Valley Creek, when I was happy to see a Black-throated Blue, a Nashville, a Tennessee, a Blackburnian and four Ovenbirds. I saw no *empidonax* at all in the period.

It's frightening to think how silent next spring may be.

Rare Bird Reports

Parasitic Jaeger

Erie County

Ed Kwater

On Saturday, 22 September 1990, I was birding at Gull Point on Presque Isle State Park with Jerry and Linda McWilliams and a small group from Erie Audubon Society. At approximately 9:30 a.m. Eric Hall and Dave Darney arrived and informed us that they had just seen a jaeger (*Stercorarius sp.*) to the west at Sunset Point. Eric, Dave and I then left the rest of the group and headed back towards Sunset Point in an attempt to relocate the bird. The jaeger was still present, chasing gulls (*Larus spp.*) over the beach and frequently alighting on the sand. Over the next one and a half hours we were able to approach to within fifteen yards of the bird, obtaining excellent views and a series of photographs. Eventually, Jerry arrived with his group and was also able to observe the bird at length.

The jaeger was present until after midday, spending long periods of time preening on the sand, but also frequently flying up to a mile offshore to chase gulls, mostly Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*). After one such period of parasitism it disappeared and was not relocated. At the time of the sighting a cool twenty-five mile per hour north-westerly wind was blowing, perfect conditions for pushing a migrant jaeger close inshore in Erie County.

Due to exceptionally close and prolonged views, identification of the bird as a pale-phase, juvenile Parasitic Jaeger (*S. parasiticus*) was made relatively straightforward. The following description was taken:

The bird was very slightly smaller than a Ring-billed Gull in flight, but more streamlined in shape. The wings were fairly broad-based but narrow at the tips and generally narrower across the "hand" than in accompanying gulls. The tail was quite long and distinctly wedge-shaped, especially when spread and the projecting central pair of rectrices could be easily seen. The body appeared about as heavy or perhaps slightly heavier than that of a Ring-billed Gull, but more

elongated at the hind end due to the length of the tail. The flight was very powerful and falcon-like, rather reminiscent of a Peregrine (*Falco peregrinus*). At one stage it flew to within ten feet of us. The jaeger accelerated very rapidly to chase gulls and easily overtook them.

The head was tawny yellow, particularly pale on the nape and very finely streaked. The pale nape could be picked out at a great distance when the bird was in flight. The mantle, coverts and scapulars were chocolate brown with prominent tawny-yellow edges to all the feathers. The flight feathers were very dark brown above with conspicuous white wing patches formed by the pale base to the outer primaries. These white crescent-shaped marking could be seen even at a distance of 800 yards. The underwing coverts were whitish, heavily barred with black. The undersides of the primaries were largely white with black tips, forming conspicuous pale patches in flight. The rump was cinnamon and the uppertail coverts were white, creating a marked contrast with the dark mantle and tail. The tail was black and wedge-shaped, the central pair of rectrices projecting about an inch beyond the rest of the tail. The tips of these central rectrices were noticeably pointed, not rounded as in Long-tailed Jaeger (*S. longicaudus*) or blunt as in Pomarine (*S.*

pomarinus).

The chin and throat were whitish buff. The breast band was rather indistinct and mottled gray. The belly was whitish, heavily mottled with gray and only slightly paler than the breast. The undertail coverts were heavily barred with cinnamon brown and black. This character was very obvious when the bird was preening on the sand, and also in flight.

The bill was blue-gray with a black tip. It was about as long as a Ring-billed Gull's bill but slimmer, and more hooked at the tip. The legs were blue-gray with a slight fleshy-pink tinge.

The bird was observed through 10X binocular and 20X spotting scope. This was the 11th reported sighting of Parasitic Jaeger for Erie County. There are fewer than 20 records for Pennsylvania as a whole.

I have had a substantial amount of experience with this species in Britain, involving at least 700 individuals. I have also seen small numbers in California and Alaska.

2396 Highland Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15101



Parasitic Jaeger, Presque Isle SP, 9/22/90. Photo by Ed Kwater.
Also see other photo in Erie County Report.

Long-tailed Jaeger Erie County

Ed Kwater

On Sunday, 2 September 1990, I was watching shorebirds at Gull Point, Presque Isle State Park, with Joyce Hoffman, Walt Schaeffer, and Mike Fialkovich. At around 10 a.m. Joyce drew my attention to a fairly dark bird flying diagonally away from us over Lake Erie. When first spotted the bird was approximately 200 yards away. I identified it as a *Stercorarius* sp. and my initial impressions were confirmed when the bird increased its speed dramatically and banked steeply upwards to overtake and chase a Bonaparte's Gull, *Larus philadelphia*. The pursuit lasted for about a minute, then the jaeger gave up and flew west just a few feet above the water surface.

After flying for several hundred yards it again increased its speed dramatically and began to chase a Ring-billed Gull, *L. delawarensis*. Eventually the jaeger flew off to the northwest, disappearing into the lake mist about 500 yards from shore. The whole observation lasted for approximately ten minutes. After piecing together all the evidence I am absolutely certain that the bird was a Long-tailed Jaeger, *S. longicaudus*, on the following characters:

In direct comparison the jaeger was noticeably smaller than a Ring-billed Gull, but slightly larger than a Bonaparte's. It was slim-bodied, lacking the deep-chested appearance of the two larger jaeger species. The wings were long and narrow at the base, looking proportionately slimmer than those of a Ring-billed Gull. This character tended to accentuate the length of the body and the tail behind the wings giving the bird a much slimmer and streamlined profile than in Parasitic or Pomarine jaegers.

Jaegers in anything but adult plumage can be notoriously difficult to age, but my impression was that this bird was a juvenile. The head, mantle, upper wings and tail were a fairly dark uniform gray brown. There was also a gray-brown breast band. The belly was almost pure white with dusky flanks. I could not make out any barring on the undertail coverts. The undersurface of the primaries was white, the rest

of the underwing gray brown. When the jaeger began to chase the Bonaparte's Gull it banked steeply upward, spreading its tail about as wide as it could go. The central pair of rectrices projected noticeably beyond the rest of the tail. The tips of these feathers were noticeably rounded, not pointed as in a juvenile Parasitic Jaeger or square-tipped as in a juvenile Pomarine Jaeger. No white shafts were visible to the outer primaries on the upperwing, a typical situation in Long-tailed.

The bird's flight was very buoyant and graceful, reminiscent of a small gull or a tern. It was the shape of the bird and its flight action that clinched the identification as much as any plumage characters, although the shape of the central rectrices was an extremely good clue.

I have had extensive previous experience of Parasitic Jaegers involving many hundreds of individuals on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean and also several dozen Pomarine Jaegers. I have seen approximately ten other Long-tailed Jaegers, mostly on the Pacific coast of North America.

2396 Highland Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15101

Jaeger (Pomarine or Parasitic) Erie County

Jerry McWilliams

On Sunday, 30 September 1990, I spent the morning standing on Gull Point at Presque Isle State Park. It was cloudy (stratus) with light winds from the northwest early in the morning increasing to approximately 15–20 mph by late morning. It rained continually throughout the morning with occasional heavy downpours. Viewing conditions were poor most of the morning with conditions becoming fair at best. At approximately 9 or 9:30, Bonaparte's Gull (*Larus philadelphia*) began flying in from the east feeding briefly and then continuing on along the lake shore in a southwesterly direction. At 11:50, while searching through the passing Bonaparte's Gulls for rarities I spotted a dark spot flying

directly toward me which could have been more than a mile away.

As it approached from the east flying possibly 100 feet above the water it began to take shape. I could see its wings at this point, so I could see the bird alternately flap and glide. At this point it was close enough to see that it was all dark holding its wings below the horizontal plane when gliding. This wing position is typical of falcons. As it approached feeding Bonaparte's and Ring-billed (*L. delawarensis*) gulls, I could see that it was large enough to be a Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*). However, as the bird continued to come closer, but still several hundred yards away from me, it angled away a little revealing an all dark gull-like bird with white primary bases on the underside. I immediately identified the bird as a jaeger by this plumage characteristic.

Within moments of seeing the white flashes I observed the bird pursue an adult Ring-billed Gull. It chased it for only a second or two and then abandoned the chase to continue east towards Gull Point. The jaeger appeared to be as big, if not slightly bigger, by weight and length as the Ring-billed Gull. The jaeger came within approximately 200 yards of the shoreline before turning north to pass the point.

At this point the following field marks were noted. The bird looked heavy with slow wing beats compared to the faster wing beats of the Bonaparte's. It looked like a very dark gull, though its behavior was more like a falcon than a gull. The entire upper side of the bird was very dark (darker than basic I plumaged Herring Gulls) with a trace of white at the base of the primaries. The underside was heavily barred (indicating the bird was a juvenile or an immature) especially on the upper breast and less so, but still very distinctively barred on the belly. The wing coverts were barred with the primaries appearing dark grey with a distinctive white patch at the base. The upper side and the lower side of the tail were uniformly dark and wedge-shaped. Because of heavy rain and distance

of viewing, the central tail projections could not be seen.

I watched the bird continue in a northerly direction. At this time it was only two or three feet above the water until it disappeared flying in a northwesterly direction. It followed the shoreline, but never closer than 300 or 400 yards away after the closest approach of 200 yards or more earlier. The entire time I watched the jaeger fly away it never stopped flapping its wings. The wing beats were always slow, but powerful enough to keep the bird flying ahead of the gulls.

The jaeger may have been a Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*) which the behavior and size of the bird would suggest, but because of the poor viewing conditions the bird should remain as a jaeger (*S. pomarinus-S. parasiticus*). I have seen five Parasitic and one Pomarine jaeger on Presque Isle, with all but one Parasitic at Gull Point. I have also seen Parasitic Jaegers off Ocean City, Maryland. I was using a 10X40 Zeiss binocular and a 25X Bushnell spotting scope.

3142 W. 12th St.
Erie 16505

Western Kingbird

Northampton County

Rick Wiltraut

14 September 1990,
Seemsville

The bird was first observed sitting on a wire, then it took off after a Mockingbird. Through 10X50 binoculars I could clearly see white outer tail feathers. The bird then landed near the top of an apple tree and I watched it through a 32X scope.

The light gray head, whitish throat, and yellowish belly were clearly seen for approximately one minute. The bird then took off and headed east. The flight was different from that of an E. Kingbird. It did not fly on quivering wing-tips like an E. Kingbird.

The bird was looked for after

the initial sighting, but could not be found. A front had just passed through the area, with moderate southwest winds. I have previously seen the species in Colorado, Michigan, and Cape May, New Jersey.

205 Washington St.
Nazareth, PA 18064

Western Kingbird

Philadelphia County

Sandra Sherman

On Saturday, 15 September 1990, I visited Tinicum National Environmental Center in Philadelphia. The morning was warm and sunny. By the time I got to the path along the old trolley tracks, the only migrants I had found were one American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*) and one Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*).

About half-way down the tracks, I noticed a bird sitting over the impoundment with its back to me. It appeared to be a slim, medium-sized flycatcher—very similar in size and shape to an Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*)—but as it began flycatching, it dropped into the vegetation below, showing a flash of yellow. It finally came back up on the dead branches, and this is what I observed as it sat with its back to me.

The head, nape, mantle and back were a medium gray, the wings a darker gray with some buffy edges to the feathers. The tail, folded up tight as it perched, was black. When the bird began flycatching, I easily observed white in the outer tail feathers. The tail was not notched. The gray on the head extended onto the sides of the face; there was no sharp demarcation between the cap and the face and neck as might be on an Eastern Kingbird, of which I saw none, or even an Eastern Phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*). An indistinct black line extended through the eye.

The bill was black and close in size to an Eastern Kingbird's—it

was neither exceptionally long nor heavy. The chest and upper breast were a pale gray and the throat was even paler than that. The yellow on the belly was a pale lemon yellow and was distributed evenly across the belly.

I am familiar with the Western Kingbird (*T. verticalis*) from two trips to Texas [where I also have seen Couch's Kingbird (*T. couchii*) and Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*)], one trip to Arizona [where I've also seen Cassin's (*T. vociferans*), Tropical (*T. melancholicus*) and Thick-billed (*T. crassirostris*) kingbirds and Ash-throated Flycatcher] and one trip to Oregon. Additionally, I have seen Western Kingbirds in Cape May, N.J., a number of times in the fall.

Similar species: I have eliminated both Great-crested (*M. crinitus*) and Ash-throated flycatchers because the bird was gray, not brown. I have eliminated Cassin's Kingbird by the light color of the throat and chin and the white outer tail feathers. I do not believe the bird was a Tropical or young Thick-billed kingbird because the bill was not heavy and, again the outer tail feathers were white and the tail was dark.

I have eliminated a young Eastern Phoebe because of the grayness overall, the lack of a clear distinction between the cap and the cheeks, the contrasting wings, the black tail and the white outer tail feathers. The bird continued flycatching, returning to various dead branches over the water; after about five minutes, it flew away from me over the impoundment. As far as I know, no one else reported seeing the bird at Tinicum that day.

In the few minutes I was able to observe the bird, I made special note to check the throat/upper chest and the tail, since I have studied the differences among western flycatchers.

I have no question in my mind that the bird I saw at Tinicum was a Western Kingbird, *Tyrannus verticalis*.

912 North Street
Collingdale, PA 19023

Lawrence's Warbler

Erie County

Jerry McWilliams

On Saturday, 8 September 1990, at approximately 1 p.m. about 150 to 200 yards east or southeast of the east entrance to Dead Pond Trail on Presque Isle State Park I discovered a female Lawrence's Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera* X *Vermivora pinus*). It was first seen feeding in an oak about 15 to 20 feet above the ground with Cape May Warblers (*Dendroica tigrina*).

The entire head was dusky with a bright yellow stripe crossing above the eye from the upper mandible circling around and behind the ear coverts and continuing to the base of the lower mandible. The yellow separating the dusky cheek and ear coverts from the dusky cap, throat, and chin (pattern identical to that of a typical Golden-winged Warbler (*V. chrysoptera*)). From the dusky throat to the white undertail coverts was bright yellow. The wings resembled a typical Blue-winged Warbler (*V. pinus*). They were pale blue with two distinct white wing bars. The back was olive-gray, slightly darker than the dusky areas on the head, throat, and chin. Ed Kwater and Geoff Robinson also saw the bird. I have only seen this hybrid once before at Cape May, New Jersey. It was variably cloudy (altocumulus), the wind was approximately 15 mph from the east. The bird was viewed through a 10X40 Zeiss binocular for less than five minutes before it flew off.

3142 W. 12th St.
Erie 16505

P.O.R.C. Updates

by Barbara Haas, Secretary

At the recent P.O.R.C. meeting in November, the following decisions and corrections to the Official List of Birds of Pennsylvania were made.

Cattle Egret and **Common Grackle** belong on the Class I list (omitted first printing).

Lazuli Bunting has been upgraded from **Pending Decisions** to **Class I** following receipt of the photograph from Bob Cook (*Chester*).

Eared Grebe should have been **bolded/underlined**.

Brant no longer requires separate documentation, but of course one should still be careful with records.

Willet and **Red Knot** should read "Erie exempt."

Glossy Ibis should be **bolded/underlined**. Sightings should have documentation. The reason is that there is always the possibility of a White-faced Ibis. A review of the separation of these species in Kenn Kaufman's book, *Advanced Birding* (1990) in the Peterson Field Guides series (39) will be useful.

Please get your details of species requiring documentation for this quarter (and previous) to us. P.O.R.C. is champing at the bit to review unusual species and out-of-time birds, ie. very late or very early or unusual over-wintering summer birds. There are some long winter nights coming up and all Committee members want to have reading material to puzzle over.

PENNSYLVANIA BIRDLISTS

It is time again to submit your state, county, annual and life lists for inclusion in the Pennsylvania Birdlists feature next year. The form on the next page can be cut out, folded and stapled and sent to Terry Schiefer. It is already addressed. (Be sure to put a stamp on it!)

Please send your totals by March 15, 1991, so that we can include them in the first issue of next year.

STOP!

Before you read any further, check your mailing label. If the last two digits of your account code are not "91" or greater, it is time to renew.

There will be only one more issue for 1990 (in March), so be sure to renew now so as not to miss the first issue for 1991. We need your support to continue improving:
PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS.

Thank you.

The Editors

PA Birdlist Report Form

PA Birdlist Report Form

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Summary of the Season - July to September 1990

It's a good thing that Charles Dickens did not have a copyright on the opening words of *A Tale of Two Cities*, perhaps my favorite novel, as it describes this quarter (and many others) for birders in Pennsylvania.

Compilers in some areas seemed blessed with excellent sightings, others remarked on the absolute paucity of breeders and early migrants. Are we finally seeing the effects of the destruction of the wintering grounds for our breeding birds? And/or are we seeing our own harsh treatment of the local environment?

Are swallows declining? It might behoove us all if some tabulations were kept in the various counties of some supposedly abundant species. Without such information it might be impossible to document decreases. Censusing one or several areas for numbers of each species would go a long way in providing good data. Reports from around the state vary widely. Hess (*Butler*) thought perhaps the frequent heavy rain during July's last three weeks may have troubled in-flight feeders trying to sustain their young and that N. **Rough-winged and Barn** swallow populations were especially low at some usual locations.

Some excellent numbers were provided by many observers, but do they compare favorably with historic records? Ron Leberman witnessed about 6000 **Barn Swallow** and a few **Tree Swallow** roosting in cattails the end of July in *Crawford*. Sensational numbers of **Bank Swallow** were noted in *Lancaster* in migration. Although good numbers of **Tree Swallow** were noted during migration in *Delaware* and 5001000 **Cliff Swallow** were noted one day in *Lebanon*, they seemed to be the exception. There was a slight decrease in banding numbers of **Purple Martin** in *Delaware*. Bell in *Greene* reports **Purple Martin** still scarce since Hurricane Agnes came through in 1972, but at least his farm's colony had 15 pairs. He also comments that if **Tree Swallows** are competing with **E. Bluebirds** nest sites, adding boxes seems to take care of any problems.

From *Clarion*, Buckwalter states the **Cliff Swallow** colony... "was down to only four nests"... Unger reports from *Northumberland* that both **Bank** and **Rough-winged** swallows had left one township by 7/13 and the **Bank Swallow** colony did not raise any young, as all the nesting burrows in the boiler-ash pile were destroyed by heavy rains. *Venango* compilers report on an area which held a **Bank Swallow** colony for the last several years which appeared to be almost deserted this year ... there were less than ten nest holes where there had been dozens before. In *York*, all **Cliff Swallow** had departed one nesting area by 7/22. This is just one family of birds

that should be carefully watched.

The numbers and distribution of **Double-crested Cormorant** appears to be growing in the summer months each year. It is probably just a matter of time before this species is found breeding in the state. Early **Snow Geese** flew by in *Northampton* (9/18) and *Huntingdon* (9/30). A **Sandhill Crane** was found in *Clarion*.

Bald Eagle reports were encouraging. *Mercer* observers now know that the birds seen at the Shenango River Reservoir are probably visiting from the new nesting location in Ohio. Although complete summaries of the various hawk watches will be given next quarter, there were Swainson's Hawks reported from five counties. One of two seen in *Lebanon* was photographed. Top number of **Broad-winged Hawk** went to *Chester*, where over a thousand were seen streaming out of one kettle on 11 September. It is not uncommon for this species to have better numbers away from the ridges.

Shorebird reports ranged from dismal to terrific. *Chester* had 20 species, *Lancaster* 24 species. Exposed mudflats provided good conditions, although we can personally attest that slogging through calf deep (and deeper if you had watched Book, Garner and Witmer losing boots and flailing at *Washington Boro* in *Lancaster*) muck is not exactly fun. A **Willet** in *Dauphin* was an exciting find for Hoffman. *Erie* had decent numbers of **Sanderling** (80+), a species that is declining on an international scale, writes Kwater. **Sanderling** were also seen in *Carbon* (4), *Chester* (2) and *Indiana* (7), and **Lesser Golden-Plover** and **Ruddy Turnstone** were also nice finds for *Indiana*. **Baird's Sandpiper** were found in *Chester*, *Delaware*, reported as scarce in *Erie* (only 2) and *Lancaster*. For a variety of reasons, mainly high water, many other counties struggled to find only one or two species.

A year of the jaegers in *Erie*. All three sightings were well-documented. A **Parasitic Jaeger** (including photographs), a non-adult **Pomarine/Parasitic jaeger**, and a very convincing probable state record of a **Long-tailed Jaeger**. Almost a hat trick! The most exciting gull report came from *Lancaster*, where a **probable Franklin's Gull** was observed. A few weeks later a first-winter bird was seen and photographed, but details will be published in the next issue, as this bird wasn't seen until October. **Caspian Tern** were well-represented in *Chester* and *Lancaster*. Very exciting was the first successful nesting of **Black Tern** at *Presque Isle State Park* since 1958.

Concern was expressed about cuckoos by Thorpe (*Montgomery*) and Christenson (*Elk*), but Hendrickson in *Cameron* felt they were in good numbers

with the **Gypsy Moth** infestation up there.

How distressing that the **Short-eared Owls** have not returned to *Clarion* since they bred there in 1988. In 1989 they were at least there, but there was no evidence of breeding. This year there was not even evidence of them being there!

Single Western Kingbirds were well-documented from *Chester*, *Northampton*, and *Philadelphia*; and a probable **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** was found in *Huntingdon*.

If shorebird reports were dismal to terrific, the same could be said for the warbler migration. But before we get into that, the **Swainson's Warbler** was found once again by Krueger in *Fayette* near to its 1989 location. *Mercer* reported a good variety of warblers, but Murphy (*Montgomery*) commented, "This has been the worst fall migration I have seen in a long time." Our *Venango* compilers wrote, "...It is still the worst total for the last three years," despite finding a **Yellow-throated Warbler** for only their second county record. Banding reports from *Westmoreland* had them writing "flight ... very poor ...very poor showing ...slightly below average ...well below average" with only a few species (**Golden-winged**, **Cape May**, **Blackpoll**) getting above average counts.

A pair of **Blue Grosbeak** was found with three fledglings in *Northampton*, certainly a good northern locations for this southern species. Also interesting was a pair of **Blue Grosbeaks** that spent a July day at *Hawk Mt. Sanctuary* (*Berks*).

Best icterid sighting was of a female **Yellow-headed Blackbird** in *Clearfield*, more than likely a first county record. Hopes are high that this may in fact be a winter finch year and we look forward to reading about them next issue if this is so.

There is a lot to ponder as we review the breeding season and early fall migration. Can some of it be attributed to a lack of observers in the field since the wind-up of the Atlas program? Or is the decline in birds an on-going situation that we are chronicling each issue? Did you see anything of interest in the field that was omitted from your county's report? Did you remember to send/call it in to the compiler? If you don't report it, only you will know about it.

Our readership wants to know what you are seeing. Please share.

COUNTY REPORTS - July through September 1990

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

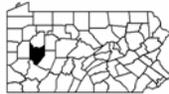
ALLEGHENY COUNTY



Joe Grom has retired as editor of the Allegheny report. We always enjoyed his reports which were thorough and often amusing. We wish him well in his future pursuits.

We had hoped to have a new compiler in time to report for this past quarter, but to no avail. We are desperately looking for a new compiler for *Allegheny*. If you are interested, or know someone who might be, please contact us. —the Editors

ARMSTRONG COUNTY



Margaret and Roger Higbee

Abbreviations: Allegheny R. (AR), Crooked Creek Park (CC), Elders Ridge (ER), Ford City (FC), Manorville (MNV), N. Buffalo Twp (NBT), Pine Furnace (PF), S. Buffalo Twp (SBT), SGL 247 (SGL).

High water levels discouraged shorebirds from stopping off this fall. Although the AR was checked almost daily, few shorebirds were found. The warbler migration, however, was termed "the best of the past several years" by one observer. Highlights of the season include **Alder Flycatcher** at ER and a **Connecticut Warbler** at FC.

Great Blue Heron reports included 1 indiv. attempting to swallow a 4-inch wide softshell turtle at MNV 8/17; the heron was persistent, as the observer watched its unsuccessful attempts for 45+ minutes (ES). Best **Canada Goose** tally was 100+ at SBT 9/26 (JV). **Wood Duck** were reported at 3 localities during the period (ES).

A **N. Harrier** at ER 7/3 (BB,MH) was the lone report. **Am. Kestrel** reports included 2 family groups, 5 at PF 8/1 (ES) and 4 at NBT 9/17 (JV). A **Virginia Rail** was heard in a marsh near ER 7/3 (BB,MH). **Killdeer** congregated on the banks of the AR at MNV (ES), but best count was 16 at CC 9/25 (JV). **Spotted Sandpiper** was seen at ER 7/10 (BB, MH) and 1-3 at MNV 8/1,7,27 (ES).

Top **Chimney Swift** tally was 169 at FC 9/2 (GW). The **Alder Flycatcher** at ER continued into the quarter with sightings 7/3 (BB,MH) and 7/10 (BB,MC,MH,GL), but singing had diminished considerably. Four **Horned Lark** were counted at ER 7/10 (BB,MC,MH,GL). Two **Cliff Swallow** at MNV 7/30 (ES) were the lone report. Eleven **E. Bluebird** were tallied at CC 9/25 (JV). A **Swainson's Thrush** was at FC 9/12 (ES). Two **White-eyed Vireo** were seen 9/25 at SGL (ES). One

to 2 **Philadelphia Vireo** were present 9/11,17,25 at SGL.

A large flock of warblers consisting of 40-50 indiv. of 6 species was observed 9/9, and over 100 indiv. were tallied 9/11 at SGL (ES). **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was found at SGL 9/12,16 (ES). Two **Pine Warbler** were found 9/18 at FC, where 3 were listed 9/30 (FE) and 2 **Prairie Warbler** were still present at FC 9/18 (FE). One to 3 **Blackpoll** were seen at SGL between 9/4-30 (ES). A **Worm-eating Warbler** was recorded near Kittanning 8/11 (DW,PW). Single **Ovenbird** lingered at FC 9/29 (FE). A **Connecticut Warbler** at FC 9/24 (FE) was a good find. **Hooded Warbler** was sighted at SGL from 9/4-25 and a ♂ **Wilson's Warbler** was well observed there 9/8 (ES).

Lincoln's Sparrow, merely glimpsed 9/11, was well seen twice at SGL the following day (ES). **White-throated Sparrow** arrived at SGL 9/25 (ES). Two ♂ **Bobolink** flew into a marsh near ER 7/3 (BB,MH). An **Orchard Oriole**, singing in a treeline adjacent to that same marsh on 7/3, was the county's lone report (BB,MH). **Purple Finch** joined the myriad **House Finch** at a FC feeder 8/10,11 (DW,PW).

OBSERVERS: Becky Byerly, Marcy Cunkelman, Flo Emmonds, Margaret and Roger Higbee, RD #2, Box 166, Indiana 15701 (412-354-3493), Gloria Lamer, Ed Slovensky, Joe Valasek, Dick Williams, Pat Williams, Gloria Winger.

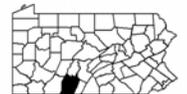
BEAVER COUNTY



Barb Dean writes us of a marvelous "fall out" 9/16. From 9-11 a.m. it rained continuously, but she still managed to see 4 **Magnolia**, and single **Bay-breasted** and **Black-and-white** warblers, and an **Am. Redstart**. When the rains stopped she was in SGL 173 and in addition to 4 **White-eyed Vireo** she estimated 50-70 warblers. Species seen were: **Nashville, Chestnut-sided, Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, Palm, Bay-breasted, Black-and-white** and **Common Yellowthroat**, plus others that went unidentified. **Magnolia** was the most abundant warbler.

At SGL 1063 "there were warblers everywhere, an estimated 70 birds." In addition to the species listed above she noted "scores" of **Cape May**, plus **Black-throated Green, Prairie, Ovenbird** and **Hooded**. Many were feeding on the wild cherry trees and grape vines. Other species noted at one or both of the two locations were **Red-tailed Hawk, Ring-necked Pheasant, Red-bellied Woodpecker, N. Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Blue Jay, Red-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, N. Cardinal, Rufous-sided Towhee, Song Sparrow** and **Am. Goldfinch**.

BEDFORD COUNTY



Janet E. Shaffer

Abbreviations: Bedford (BED), Bedford Valley (BV), Beldon (BL), Black Valley (BKV), Yount (YT).

A **Great Blue Heron** was present on a farm pond in BV from 9/21-29 (JES), and **Green-backed Heron** was reported at YT 9/25 (GH). Only waterfowl report came from YT with 6 young **Wood Duck** 8/9 (GH). Four **Black Vulture** were spotted 9/4 by hawk watchers on the *Bedford/Somerset* boundary, definitely on the e. side (RS). A 1st for *Bedford* was a **Swainson's Hawk (No details. -Eds.)** spotted by KG 9/1 during the Hawk Watch on the e. side of the Allegheny Front.

An **Osprey** was fishing over the Juniata R. at BED 7/23, and 1 also reported from YT 9/1 (GH). An imm. **Bald Eagle** was spotted at YT 9/15 (GH). **N. Harrier** were reported 8/26 YT (GH) and 9/19 BV (JES). Hawks reported from YT (GH) were **Sharp-shinned** 9/29, **Red-shouldered** 8/17 and **Broad-winged** 9/15. On 7/30 an imm. ♂ **Am. Kestrel** was found

dead on road 3 mi s. of BED. **E. Screech, Great Horned** and **Barred** owls reported early Sept. in YT (GH) and screech-owls were seen frequently in a Wood Duck box on a pond near the McGinnett's home in BL. Five **Common Nighthawk** were seen in YT 9/1 (GH).

A flock of 17 **Chimney Swift** was flying s.w. over Chalybeate 9/6 (JES). **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** were reported end of Sept. from YT, BV and BKV. Pair of **Pileated Woodpecker** along Valley Rd. 7/24 (JES) and 5 **Downy Woodpecker** banded this quarter in BV (JES). **E. Kingbird** reported 7/27 and **Great Crested Flycatcher** (5 young birds from two nests) 8/13 YT (GH). **E. Phoebe** 9/29, **E. Wood-Pewee** 9/20 and **Acadian Flycatcher** 8/19 were banded in BV (JES). **Barn Swallow** were still in YT 9/1 (GH). **Common Raven** were reported YT and BV from 7/23-9/25 (GH, JES).

House Wren 9/29 and **Carolina Wren** 9/16 were banded in BV (JES). **Gray Catbird** 9/20, **Brown Thrasher** 9/3, **Wood Thrush** 9/16, **Swainson's Thrush** 9/16 and **Gray-cheeked Thrush** 9/29 in BV (JES). **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** began to show up 9/23 BV (JES). A dozen **Cedar Waxwing** were present 9/25 YT (GH). Both **White-eyed** and **Yellow-throated vireo** were banded 8/4 and **Red-eyed** 9/20 BV (JES).

The number of warblers reported was pretty impressive, beginning with **Black-and-white** in YT and BV on the same date, 9/15, (GH, JES). Eight **Worm-eating** were banded this quarter, last one 8/25 BV. **Tennessee** 9/20, **Magnolia** and **Cape May** 9/26 BV (JES). **Golden-winged** 8/5, **Nashville** 8/13 and **Yellow** 7/15 from YT (GH). Latest **Black-throated Blue** was 9/9 from BKV (LJ, MJ). **Orange-crowned** 9/7, **Black-throated Green** 9/29, **Blackburnian** 9/29, **Pine** 9/15, **Chestnut-sided** 9/9, **Bay-breasted** 9/11, **Blackpoll** 9/14, **Prairie** 9/15 and "**Brewster's**" 8/4 from YT (GH). **Ovenbird** 8/4 and **N. Waterthrush** banded 9/21 BV (JES). Other warblers from YT (GH) were: **Kentucky** 8/31, **Mourning** 7/28 and **Common Yellowthroat** 9/25. **Yellow-breasted Chat** 7/14, **Hooded** 8/12 and **Am. Redstart** 9/9, banded BV (JES).

E. Meadowlark in 8/2 YT (GH), **Orchard Oriole** 7/21 in BV (JES) and **N. Oriole** 8/31 in YT (GH) were also reported. **Scarlet Tanager** 9/29, **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** 9/17 and **Indigo Bunting** 9/26 all from YT (GH). **Rufous-sided Towhee** were common singers and 1 imm. ♂ was banded 9/21 BV (JES). Last date **Grasshopper Sparrow** heard in BV was 8/10 (JES). **Lincoln's Sparrow** reported from YT 9/21 (GH).

OBSERVERS: Kevin Georg, Gordon Hassel, Laura & Mike Jackson, Rosie & Clyde McGinnett, Ruth Sager, **Janet E. Shaffer, RD 6, Box 338, Bedford 15522.**

BERKS COUNTY

Rudy Keller

Abbreviations: *Hawk Mt. Sanctuary* (HM), *Lebanon* (LO), *Peters Creek near LO* (PC), *State College* (SC), *Shartlesville* (SGL).

As has happened in of recent years, the **Hawk** migration mostly bypassed the Kittatinny Ridge. At HMS the big day was 9/13 with 1374 birds, and only one other day saw more than 400 birds. The main Broad-wing movement occurred over NYC and eastern NJ (LG). However, **Osprey** seemed to be heading for another record and both **Bald Eagle** and **Peregrine Falcon** were above average in numbers. On 9/12, a dark-phase **Swainson's Hawk** (No details. -Eds.) flew in low overhead (*fide* LG).

Double-crested Cormorant sightings at LO included 2 on 8/16 and 3 on 9/16 (BS, MS, MW), and many more flew over the hawk lookouts. Herons reported were a **Snowy Egret** at Geigertown 9/4 (RB), 2 imm. **Little Blue Heron** and 3 **Black-crowned Night-Heron** at LO 8/19 (MS, MW). There were three unusual summer records of ducks: an **Am. Wigeon** at PC 7/1 (BS, MS), a **Common Goldeneye** at a pond near Strausstown 7/1-22 (BS, MS) and a **Hooded Merganser** in Windsor Twp 8/2 (KG).

An imm. **Turkey Vulture** was still in its nest at SGL 8/1 (CH). Summer sightings of **Osprey** included individuals at LO (BS, MS) and at E. L. Poole Nature Preserve (m.ob.) 7/15, and at LO 8/12 (MS). A **N. Harrier** was at Blue Marsh Lake 8/23 (HJS).

Two **White-rumped Sandpiper** were at Moselem Springs 9/9 (BS, MS). Single **Herring Gull** at LO 7/1, 22 (MS) augmented the few July records. Two **Caspian Tern** were at LO 8/12 (MS). On 7/17, CH heard 3 **Barred Owl** calling at SGL. This is the third location on the Kittatinny Ridge where these birds were reported this year. They are rarely found elsewhere in the county. Two **Whip-poor-will** were calling nightly in Birdsboro till the end of August (*fide* RB). Because little atlas was done at night, the range of this species is poorly known in *Berks*.

The **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** flight was below average at HMS. Only 67 were tallied for the season, with a peak of 12 on 8/27 (LG). A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** turned up at PC 7/22 (MS) and a few others were found in various pine plantings in late Aug. and Sept. (RK). Nesting was not confirmed for the **Winter Wren** that sang well into July at HMS (LG). The first migrant Winter Wren were 2 at the Hamburg Res. 9/19 (KG). It was a very productive year for **E. Bluebird** near Plowville; 15 pairs fledged 205 young, with some triple-brooded pairs (HL). At Daniel Boone Homestead, 14 pairs hatched 96 and fledged 83 young, with 13 nestlings lost to cold spring weather.

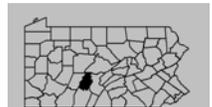
There was no dramatic vireo/warbler fallout. Sightings of less common migrants included a season total of 3 **Philadelphia Vireo** at HMS (LG), **Golden-winged Warbler** 9/2 (RK) and 9/9 (BS, MS), **Worm-eating Warbler** 8/26 (RK) and 9/5, 6 (AK), **Kentucky Warbler** 9/4 (RK) and 9/5, 6 (AK) and **Connecticut Warbler** 9/10, 16 (AK).

A **Blue Grosbeak** (No details. -Eds.) pair was observed at close range while the male sang at HMS 7/3 (PP, *fide* LG). They were gone the next day. Because of defoliation of the forest canopy by Gypsy Moths, many blackbirds and other open-country species foraged in the woods at HMS this summer (LG). A **Purple Finch** at Leesport 9/21 (AK) was the only report.

OBSERVERS: Rich Bonnett, Kerry Grim, Laurie Goodrich & HMS staff, Carl Hess, **Rudy Keller, R.D. 4, Box 235, Boyertown, PA 19512, 215-367-9376**, Anna Kendall, Terry Knorr, Harold Lebeau, Paul Perneluzi, Harold & Joan Silagy, Barton Smith, Matt Spence, Matt Wlasniewski.

BLAIR COUNTY

Marcia Bonta



Abbreviations: *Brush Mt.* (BM), *Canoe Sink* (C), *Sinking Valley* (SV), *Tyrone Sewage Plant* (TSP), *Windsor Twp* (W). Sightings by the compiler unless otherwise noted.

CCSP provided a number of good sightings. Sept. One **Double-crested Cormorant** was seen at SGL (DK), along with 3 **Canada Goose** 9/4 (DK), and 1 **Osprey** 9/15 (SAK). Single Osprey continued to be seen at the base of BM 9/23 (SB) and at TSP 9/24, 25 (DK). First migrating **Cooper's Hawk** reported along BM 9/25 (SB) and first **Am. Kestrel** on BM 9/20 since spring.

Ruffed Grouse began fall drumming on BM 9/24. SAK noted that **Wild Turkey** were extremely common throughout the s. part of SV, with daily sightings of 1-12 during most days of the report period. Twenty-two **Killdeer** were at CCSP 9/4 (DK). Two **Sanderling** and 1 **Semipalmated Plover** were seen on a rainy beach at CCSP standing together in a close knit group near the water's edge 8/23 (DK). A week later 4 imm. **Ring-billed Gull** appeared at CCSP 8/30 (DK). On that day the same observer saw 1 **Forster's Tern** in winter plumage at CCSP.

E. Screech-Owl began calling on BM 7/8. The first **Great Horned Owl** called 9/8 and was joined by **E. Screech-Owl** calling at the same time.

Four **E. Phoebe** nestlings attempted to fledge from the veranda column nest on BM 7/27 but were covered with red mites. Two died and 2 left the nest and went into shrubbery. The observer could not find them the following day nor were any signs seen of their parents, both of which had been faithfully feeding their youngsters in the nest while trying to entice them to fledge before they were mature enough.

One **E. Kingbird** was calling from a treetop near the concession stand at CCSP 8/23 (DK). Two **Cliff Swallow** were on a power wire in the same location. A **Common Raven** was seen flying over the Kettle Res. several times in Sept. (SAK). A **Brown Creeper** was sighted on lower BM near Altoona 9/30 (SAK). **Carolina Wren** returned to BM 7/10 and on 9/5 two fledglings were found perched on a house ladder (SB). First **Winter Wren** of the season spotted on BM 9/30 (SAK), first **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** at BM 9/9 (SB), and a **Gray-cheeked Thrush** in company with a **Wood Thrush** on BM 9/20 near dusk, the former sitting quietly on a branch 4 ft above the foraging Wood Thrush. The last day the Wood Thrush sang on BM was 7/27. A singing **Solitary Vireo** was on BM 7/19.

First major warbler migration swept through over BM in the late afternoon of 9/9 after heavy rains. The majority of warbler species were **Black-throated Green** and **Black-and-white** warblers with 1 **Kentucky Warbler** (SB) and several **Common Yellowthroat**. One ♂ **Am. Redstart** found on BM 9/18 foraging silently amid a mixed flock of Carolina Wren, **Red-bellied Woodpecker**, **White-breasted Nuthatch** and **Blue Jay**. A single **Ovenbird** scratched along ridge-top trail on BM 9/17. A singing **Hooded Warbler** appeared on BM 7/19. Two **Canada Warbler** foraged quietly along with calling **E. Wood-Pewee** and **White-breasted Nuthatch** on BM 9/18. An imm. **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was seen on BM 7/15 and a mature one at CCSP 8/23 (DK). A ♀ **Rufous-sided Towhee** with 3 imm. found on BM 7/26. Huge flocks of **Common Grackle** ranged over BM the week of 9/10. Two **Am. Goldfinch** mated on the lowest branch of a black walnut tree on BM 7/27.

OBSERVERS: Marcia Bonta, PO Box 68, Tyrone 16686, Steven Bonta, Stan & Alice Kotala, David Kyler.

BRADFORD COUNTY

Bill Reid

No report for this quarter.

COMPILER: William Reid, 73 W. Ross 18702 (717-836-2525).

BUCKS COUNTY

Ron French

Abbreviations: Core Creek Park (CC), Nockamixon SP (NSP), Peace Valley Park (PVP) Tyler SP (TSP).

A breeding-plumaged **Common Loon** 7/15 (SF) and 4 were at NSP 8/19 (JC,HR). Nin **Cormorant** flew over NSP 8/19 (JC,HR). A **Little Blue Heron** noted at TSP 9/18 stayed for about a week in the area (JH) and 1 imm. was at NSP 8/25 (SF). As many as 5 imm. **Black-crowned Night-Heron** were seen at PVP during Sept. (RF *et al.*). During the period 6/17-7/3, an eclipse-plumaged **Am. Wigeon** continued to be observed in the NH area (BH). On the Delaware R. at NH, 21 **Common Merganser** were seen 7/9 (BH). The **Red-breasted Merganser** on the river at NH 9/22 seemed quite early (BH).

Nine **Black Vulture** kettled over NSP 8/25 (SF). **Osprey** were widely reported. In late Sept. an imm. **Bald Eagle** was observed fishing on the Delaware at NH (BMc). **Cooper's Hawk** was reported by several observers (JH *et al.*), including a nesting pair with 3 young about to fledge 7/18. An early **N. Goshawk** was seen in Revere 9/25 (SF). In Sept., a flock of 25 **Wild Turkey** was noted in Solebury Twp, and another flock was present at Bowman's Hill (BMc).

A **Lesser Golden-Plover** was at Comly's Turf Farm in Wycombe 7/2-5 (BH) and 1 was found there 9/3 (SF). The PVP Saturday bird-walks produced a **Pectoral Sandpiper** 8/4 and a **Common Snipe** 9/16 (RF, JJ *et al.*). Thirty **Laughing Gull** were noted at Levittown and the nearby dump (SF). A **Forster's Tern** was at CC 8/20 (BM). At NSP 9/7, RH spotted 3 **Black Tern**. Four **Barn Owl** had fledged from a cavity in a Sycamore tree in Warminster 7/1 (BH *et al.*). A box installed by BH in a barn outside of Quakertown produced 2 young Barn Owl 8/9. A

migrating flock of 50+ **Common Nighthawk** was observed 8/28 over Doylestown (RH).

An imm. **Red-headed Woodpecker** was in Revere from 8/21-8/25 (SF). An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was in Revere 8/21 (SF) and an **Acadian Flycatcher** was present at NSP in Aug. (JC,HR). A report of a colony of **Cliff Swallow** at Randts Mill Bridge in Tinicum Twp was good news (DA). A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was observed in Doylestown Twp 7/26 and remained for 2 weeks (JJ). **Philadelphia Vireo** was widely reported; 1 at Chalfont 8/30 (RF); 1 at PVP 9/16 (JC) and 1 at NH 9/22 (BH) were noteworthy. Two rare "**Brewster's**" **Warbler** were carefully observed in Warwick Twp 8/30 (SC). An early **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was in PVP 8/31 (RF). A **Worm-eating Warbler** was present in Doylestown Twp 7/4 (JJ). A wave of warblers (17 sp.) including a **Mourning Warbler** and a **Hooded Warbler** was observed on the 9/1 bird-walk (RF *et al.*). A Mourning Warbler was also present in Warwick Twp 9/15 (SC).

A very early **Dark-eyed Junco** was noted at E. Rockhill Twp 8/23 (JC,HR). Over 100 **Bobolink** were at Tabor Rd., Ottsville, 8/18 (RH). **Orchard Oriole** fledged from a nest at PVP 7/7 (BH *et al.*). A ♀ **Purple Finch** was noted on the 9/8 bird-walk at PVP (RF *et al.*). The sighting of a **Pine Siskin** at a feeder at SL 7/28 was most unusual (BM,GC).

OBSERVERS: Diane Allison, George Carmichael, Sally Conyne, Jewel Cummings, Steve Farbotnik, Ron French, 3469 Limekiln Pike, Chalfont 18914 (215-997-1765), Ray Hendrick, Jeff Herbst, Bill Hoehne, Joan Janowitz, Bruce McNaught (BMc), Bob Mercer, Hart Rufe.

BUTLER COUNTY

Paul Hess

Abbreviations: Crestview Camp (CC), G Jennings Nature Reserve (JNR), L. Arthur (L (LT)), Little Creek Rd. (LCR), Moraine SP (M. Twp (SRT), Slippery Rock Univ. (SRU), Stone West Liberty (WL).

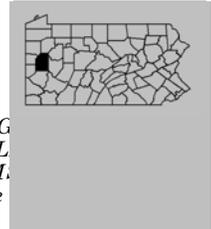
The period's temperatures averaged nearly normal, but precipitation was normal only in Aug. Frequent heavy rain during July's last three weeks may have troubled in-flight feeders trying to sustain their young. **N. Rough-winged** and **Barn** swallow populations were especially low at some usual locations. Soggy Sept., with more than twice normal rainfall, brought good fronts for migrant fallout but capped a season of notably scant shorebird habitat.

Three **Horned Grebe** at GSG 8/31 (MG) were rather early. Single **Great Blue Heron** at LA 8/24 (MG) and SRT throughout the season (SB, GB,RC) were the only reports. **Great Egret** was found at LA 8/24 (MG) and 9/22 (CL,MHC), where 4 **Green-backed Heron** 8/24 (MG) were the best count. The 400+ **Canada Goose** at GSG 9/29 (BD,GW) indicated a major arrival. Waterfowl included 14 **Wood Duck** and 4 **Blue-winged Teal** at LA 8/24 (MG).

Top **Turkey Vulture** tallies were 25+ at SRT 9/16 (GW) and 16 at MSP 8/24 (MG). **Osprey** was noted at Butler 8/27 (MG) and LA 9/22 (CL,MHC). GSG's **Bald Eagle** pair remained through the period. **N. Harrier** was seen at GSG 8/31 (MG) and SRT 9/30 (SB,GB,RC). **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was listed only at GSG 9/29 (BD,GW), but **Cooper's Hawk** was present at LCR 7/5 (BD), MSP 8/24 (MG) and SRT 9/2 (SB, GB,RC). Two **Red-shouldered Hawk** fledged (location deleted. -Eds.), but no others were reported, and few **Broad-winged Hawk** were listed. A **Merlin** was a rare sight in a Butler yard 8/31 (MG), rather early.

A **Ruffed Grouse** hen and 8 young were noted at SRT (SB,GB,RC). Up to 20 **Wild Turkey** were seen at LA (CL,MHC) and a hen with young were noted at SRT (SB,GB,RC). **Killdeer** total 103 at SRU 9/29 (BD, GW). Top **Ring-billed Gull** count was 7 at LA 9/9 (GW).

The lone cuckoo report was a **Black-billed** at Rt. 488 7/5 (BD). **E. Screech-Owl** was listed only at CC 8/30 (BD), and **Great Horned** and **Barred** owls only at SRT (SB,GB,RC). Last **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** date was 9/15 at SRT (SB,GB,RC). **Belted Kingfisher** at several localities included up to 3 at LA (MG). Three **Red-headed Woodpecker** were found at SCR and 1 at LT in early July (BD). **Pileated Woodpecker** was noted at GSG (BD,GW) and SRT (SB,GB,RC).



Last **E. Wood-Pewee** date was 9/23 at SRT (GW). Among flycatcher reports were 3 **Least** at JNR 8/8 (BD) and 6 *Empidonax* (sp.) there 8/19 (MG). Some 15 **Horned Lark** were present at SCR 7/5 (BD). Eight **Purple Martin** at Rt. 488 in early July (BD) were the only report. Last **Barn Swallow** left SRT 9/15 (GW), and numbers seemed markedly reduced at various localities this season (PH). First **Red-breasted Nuthatch** were 2 at SRT 9/10 (GW). Good **Carolina Wren** numbers were indicated by reports from seven localities. A **House Wren** still sang 9/20 at SRT (GW). First kinglets were 2 **Golden-crowned** 9/30 and 2 **Ruby-crowned** 9/28 at SRT (GW). A dozen **E. Bluebird** each at WL area (MG) and CC (BD) were tops. The lone **Veery** was listed at SRT 9/2 (SB,GB, RC), and last **Wood Thrush** was noted 9/28 at SRT (GW). A count of 15 **Gray Catbird** at GSG 9/29 (BD,GW) rounded out a boom year. Two dozen **Cedar Waxwing** at SRT in Sept. (GW) were tops.

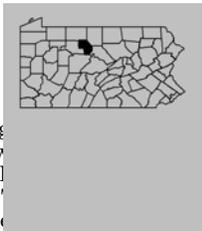
Vireo included **Solitary** at MSP 8/8 (BS) and SRT 9/28 (GW), **Warbling** at Rt. 488 7/5 (BD), **Philadelphia** at MSP 8/27 (MG), and good **Red-eyed** numbers generally (JG). Late-Aug. warbler tallies included 7 **Blue-winged** at MSP and JNR 8/24 (MG), 6 **Magnolia** at MSP 8/27 (MG), 12 **Black-throated Green** 8/30 (BD) and 2 **Canada** at JNR 8/24 (MG). Warbler waves were observed at SRT 9/11,12,13,20 (GW), and 9/22 was last date for local **Chestnut-sided** and **Hooded** at SRT (SB,GB, RC).

Mixed flocks of **Scarlet Tanager**, **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** and **N. Oriole** were among fallouts at SRT 9/10,13,20 (GW), and 25 **Indigo Bunting** were a good migrant wave at GSG 9/29 (BD,GW). **Vesper Sparrow** at SCR 7/5 (BD) was the only report, 9 **Savannah Sparrow** at SCR 7/5 (BD) were the best count, and **Grasshopper Sparrow** was listed only at LT 7/3 (BD). Species at GSG 9/29 included a **Lincoln's Sparrow**, 19 **White-throated Sparrow** and **Purple Finch** (BD,GW).

OBSERVERS: Gene Butcher, Suzanne Butcher, Mary Helen Chiodo, Ruth Crawford, Barbara Dean, Marguerite Geibel, Joe Grom, **Paul Hess, 1412 Hawthorne St., Natrona Heights 15065 (412-226-2323)**, Carroll Labarthe, Betty Starr, Gene Wilhelm.

CAMERON COUNTY

Bill Hendrickson



With the end of the BBAP, the birding precipitously this summer. However, there were several events this summer. Among them was a family of **Owl** that were in the vicinity of RF's house. A pair of **Owl** were in the area for a couple of weeks in July. Some excursions were taken (RF).

With a large infestation of Gypsy Moths this summer, there was a notable increase in the number of cuckoos, especially **Yellow-billed/** On one trip, this reporter stepped out of his vehicle and heard 5 **Yellow-billed** and 1 **Black-billed** at the same time (BH).

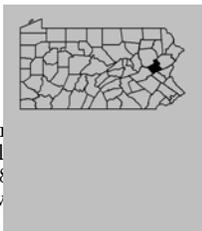
On two different occasions in two different locations in the Driftwood area, **Whip-poor-will** were heard (MJ). During the entire five years of the BBAP, there were only two sightings. It is hoped they are on the increase in the area.

During the fall migration, two things were noticed by the observers. First, it appears that the **Am. Robin** left early and they were all gone at once. None was seen after the second week of Sept. Second, there seemed to be a larger than normal number of **Cooper's Hawk** seen in migration.

OBSERVERS: Randy Flament, **Bill Hendrickson, RD 1, Box 265B, Emporium 15834 (814-486-1546)**, Marsh Jeffrey.

CARBON COUNTY

Bernie Morris

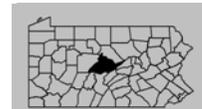


Two imm. **Pied-billed Grebe** were seen at Bel 7/22 (J&NB). Four **Sanderling** were at Bel and an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was found there & **Thrush** were seen and heard near Albrightsv

OBSERVERS: John & Nancy Boyer, Pauline England, **Bernard L. Morris, 825 N. Muhlenberg St., Allentown 18104 (215-435-9134)**, Rick Wiltraut.

CENTRE COUNTY

John and Becky Peplinski



Abbreviations: **Bald Eagle SP (BESP)**, **BHR**, **Colyer L. (CL)**, **Walnut Spring Park (WSP)**. Cooler and wetter than normal conditions the period. Temperatures were below normal for an early **Common Loon** was at CL 9/16. **Double-crested Cormorant** were observed at Scotia pond 9/29 (TF). A **Great Egret** was seen at BESP in Hunter's Run from 8/7-9/9 (MW). The Great Egret seen at BESP 9/15 (PS,GS) was possibly the same indiv. An imm. **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was at BESP 8/7 (MW). It was unusual to have 9 **Green-backed Heron** in view from one spot at Toftrees Pond 9/1 (JP,BP).

Two imm. **Bald Eagle** were at BESP 9/15 (PS,GS). The ad. **Golden Eagle** seen near Curtin Village 8/30 provided an unusual summer record (PS,GS). A **Peregrine Falcon** was along Bald Eagle Ridge 9/23 (DB,HH), and another indiv. was observed at the same site later that day (TK). It was a dismal period for shorebird sightings. Except for the usual **Killdeer** and **Am. Woodcock**, the only report of a shorebird species was of a single **Sanderling** at BESP 9/15 (PS,GS). A **Caspian Tern** was at BESP 9/15 (PS,GS). The 10 **Common Nighthawk** observed 9/29 in the Scotia Barrens (TF) were relatively late migrants for the county, while the 1 **Whip-poor-will** heard calling in the Barrens 9/29 was also fairly late (TF). The **Least Flycatcher** near Fairbrook 9/25 was the last reported (JP).

The only **Swainson's Thrush** noted were 1 along BHR 9/3 and 3 near Fairbrook 9/28 (JP). One **Philadelphia Vireo** was seen at WSP 9/23 (JP,BP). Rare in fall migration, the **Blue-winged Warbler** seen 9/15 near Fairbrook was also late (JP). A single "**Brewster's**" **Warbler** was observed along BHR 9/3 (JP), while fairly late **Worm-eating Warbler** were seen there 9/3 and at Fairbrook 9/8 (JP,BP). Two **Palm Warbler** were at the University Woodlots 9/23 (JP,BP). A single imm. ♂ **Mourning Warbler** was observed in the Barrens 9/30 (JP,BP). A small wave of several **Blackburnian** and **Magnolia** warblers along Tussey Mt. above Pine Grove Mills 8/25 contained an early **Wilson's Warbler** (JP,BP). A **Lincoln's Sparrow** was found 9/23 at WSP, and the first migrant **White-throated Sparrow** appeared in the State College area 9/22 (JP). Several **N. Oriole** were observed at BESP 9/15 (PS,GS).

OBSERVERS: Dave Bell, Ted Floyd, Alice & Ted Fuller (TFu), Harry Henderson, Tim Kimmel, **John & Becky Peplinski, 4 Beaver Branch Rd., Box 364, Pennsylvania Furnace 16865 (814-238-6541)**, Paul & Glenna Schwalbe, Merrill Wood.

CHESTER COUNTY

Jerry Pasquarella



Abbreviations: **Kurtz's Fish Farm (KFF)**, **MCSP**, **Nottingham Park (NP)**, **Octoraro Reservoir (OR)**, **Manor Farm (SMF)**, **Struble L. (SL)**.

The highlight of this season was, without doubt, the presence of shorebirds at SL when the lake was drained. A total of 20 species of shorebirds was present at one time or another during the period from 8/30+.

Double-crested Cormorant were seen frequently, with up to 8 at SL 8/24 and 9/11, as well as flocks of between 8-15 flying over various locales until mid-Sept. **Great Blue Heron** were observed in larger numbers this year, particularly at SL during the draining. Also there during that time were good counts of **Great Egret**, **Green-backed Heron** and **Black-crowned Night-Heron**. A **Great Egret** was present at MCSP from 7/25-29. The **Tundra Swan** reported last quarter was still around KFF as of 7/9 and another (?) was at OR 9/24. The strange looking

domestic goose is still around KFF. It has kept good company with the small flock of **Canada Goose** that is there. The only reports received of ducks were of 3 **Green-winged Teal** and 2 ♀ **N. Shoveler** at SL 9/20.

Black Vulture reports are coming in from all over the county now and, of course, the best area to see them is around the Elverson or Doe Run roosts. Many reports (happily too many to mention) of **Bald Eagle** were received throughout Sept. from all over the county. Hawk migration got off to a fairly good start in our area with kettles of **Broad-winged Hawk** being seen in various areas during Sept. As many as 1000+ were seen streaming out of one kettle 9/11 near SL and on 9/23 at least 60 were seen rising up from a night's roost at NP. **Merlin** reports were excellent. Reports of single birds were received from all over the county and 1-2 were present at SL along with all of the shorebirds there. Needles to say, this kept the shorebirds just a little "on edge." One was seen to take a swallow. Last date one was seen was 9/24.

All of the following shorebirds were at SL during the draining. Listed are the high numbers observed for each species and the date first seen: 6 **Black-bellied Plover** 9/7,24; 8 **Lesser Golden-Plover** 9/14; 3 **Semipalmated** 9/14; 55 **Killdeer** 9/14; 2 **Greater Yellowlegs** 9/14; 30 **Lesser Yellowlegs** 9/4; 4 **Solitary Sandpiper** 9/4; 8 **Spotted Sandpiper** 9/4; 2 **Sanderling** 8/30 and 9/14; 30 **Semipalmated Sandpiper** 9/4; 15 **Western Sandpiper** 9/14; 120 **Least Sandpiper** 9/4; 6 **White-rumped Sandpiper** 9/4 and 9/20; 2 **Baird's Sandpiper** 9/12; 20 **Pectoral Sandpiper** 9/4; 2 **Dunlin** 9/4,30; 2 **Stilt Sandpiper** 9/13,20; 2 **Short-billed Dowitcher** 9/18,30; 2 **Long-billed Dowitcher** 9/20,30; 5 **Common Snipe** 9/1. The best day GS had at SL was 9/14, when 181 indiv. were counted. Some shorebirds were also seen at other locations, such as Rt. 82 & Lewis' Mill Rd., which had 4 **Pectoral Sandpiper** 7/27. Three **Lesser Golden-Plover** were found along a stream near Honey Brook 8/29.

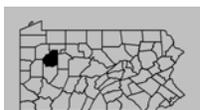
On 9/3, a flock of 14 **Laughing Gull** was seen flying over West Chester and another flock of 12 was seen from the same yard 9/17. **Caspian Tern** were at SL from 8/24-9/16, with a high count of 8 there 8/24. A **Black Tern** was at the farm pond at Bollinger and Wood Rds. 8/13. Migration of **Common Nighthawk** was "fair" with a flock of 12 seen near West Chester 9/12. The best place to see/hear **Whip-poor-will** continues to be NP.

A well-documented **Western Kingbird** was at NP 9/8 (BBa). Two rather late **Purple Martin** were at SL 9/19. The first **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was seen 8/25 and as many as 6 have been in the evergreens near the 10th tee at the Downingtown Golf Club. An early **Am. Pipit** was at SL 9/8 and as many as 10 were there 9/24. Warbler migration was generally good. The only notables were **Wilson's Warbler** at SL 9/2 and another at SMF 9/24. A somewhat early **Canada Warbler** was seen at SMF 8/18. Yet another nesting spot for **Grasshopper Sparrow** has been discovered — SMF. MCSP is another good spot for this species. A total of 18 **Bobolink** was at SL from 8/30 through 9/20.

OBSERVERS: Bill Barber (BBa), Barry Blust, Barb & Frank Haas, Larry Lewis, Joe Meloney, **Jerry Pasquarella, 2209 Cranberry Lane, Coatesville 19320 (215-486-6440)**, Grier Saunders, Neal Thorpe, Era VanDenburg.

CLARION COUNTY

Margaret Buckwalter



Abbreviations: Clarion area (CA), Curlls (KL), Leeper (LP), Mt. Zion (MZ), Shippensburg (SV), Wentlings Corners (WC).

Increased sightings of **Bald Eagle** in Clarion County were noted throughout the quarter. One imm. was seen in a field near the Gourley Packing Company n. of New Bethlehem 8/19 (LG). At KL, a mature **Bald Eagle** was seen again 8/26 (TB, RB). **N. Harrier** continued on the reclaimed strip mines at MZ and CV through the end of the quarter. Three **Red-shouldered Hawk** frequented LP through 9/30, apparently having had a successful nesting there (LC). On Rt. 208, n. of SV 8/22, an imm. **Broad-winged Hawk** dove for a small mammal

(vole?) crossing the highway and was killed by an untimely UPS truck.

A **Wild Turkey** hen and 12 chicks about a day old were seen 7/17 at LP (LC). If the courtship occurred about 6/1, when she heard a lot of gobbling, and the chicks were hatched about 7/16, does this point to the spring gobbler season being out of sync this year, or does it just represent a second nesting attempt?

On 9/20, a **Sandhill Crane** was observed by Bernie Spozio about 8 a.m. as he came to his office on the hill above the Mayfield Golf Course just off Exit 9 of I-80 in CA. The bird was about 30 yards away and he had no field glasses, but he recognized the bird from having seen it in Nebraska and Iowa. It was a little misty at the time, but he saw red on the head and the general gray-brown color. The bird was walking in a clover field next to some standing corn. The bird walked warily away. Forty-five minutes later Walter Fye arrived. By this time the mist had lifted and the bird was "not over 100 yards away" (WF), still walking in the clover, "craning"(!) its neck to watch the observer. It disappeared into the corn. WF has had experience with Sandhill Cranes in Florida. In pursuit of the same Sandhill Crane this compiler was not so lucky, but she did turn up 3 **Lesser Golden-Plover** with a flock of 20 **Killdeer** on the golf course that day.

There was no evidence of **Short-eared Owl** this quarter. A lone **Red-bellied Woodpecker** was seen in CA 7/3 (JH). The **Cliff Swallow** colony on the Clarion R. bridge at Cooksburg was down to only four nests this year on 7/17. Two **Red-breasted Nuthatch** were in CA 7/7 (JW).

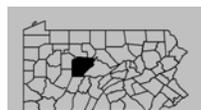
A pair of **Carolina Wren** have been coming to Barb Graff's feeder in WC for two winters. This year on 8/8 she saw them investigating her porch. On 8/14 she found their tunnel-like nest in a hanging basket of lobelia and impatiens on the porch. On 8/16 painters came to paint the porch and they carefully moved the basket to a willow tree nearby for a few hours. When they replaced it there were four eggs in the basket instead of three as on 8/17. On 8/29 the parents were still sitting on the eggs, and on 9/2 the pair was feeding tiny fuzzy worms to the young. On 9/7 WF banded the four nestlings and on 9/12 the birds fledged. On 9/24 three banded nestlings flew out of the nearby orchard in response to taped calls. (Isn't this a late nesting?)

Two **Gray-cheeked Thrush** were banded at 9/23 (WF). One **Bay-breasted Warbler** paused in an apple tree at LP 9/13 (LC). One ♂ **Canada Warbler** was singing on territory 7/7 and another was also seen at Strattanville (JW). **Vesper Sparrow** were observed 9/20 at Clarion Co. Park in SV. An **Orchard Oriole** was found dead 7/11 at Mechanicsville by Eric McCleary.

OBSERVERS: Margaret Buckwalter, RD 2, Box 26, Shippensburg 16254, Rose Buckwalter, Ted Buckwalter, Lois Callahan, Walter Fye, Larry Gourley, Carl Rowe, John Williams.

CLEARFIELD COUNTY

Jocelynn L. Smrekar



All locations in DuBois unless noted otherwise. **Great Blue Heron** were sighted regularly throughout the quarter (MA). **Canada Goose** arrived 9/16 at MA. **Wood Duck** came last week of Sept. regularly (MA).

A **Cooper's Hawk** seen regularly in DuBois, where he

appears to reside year-round (MA). **Broad-winged Hawk** seen 7/16, 8/30 and 9/8 (MA). **Red-tailed Hawk** seen first few days of Sept. in DuBois and throughout quarter in Helvetia-Troutville area (D&JS). A **Ruffed Grouse** 9/27 died after apparently hitting a window in a very residential neighborhood in DuBois (MA).

Red-headed Woodpecker, uncommon in this county, was seen several times along a fence-row during last week of Sept. in Troutville area (DS). **Willow Flycatcher** sighted almost daily in second half of July (MA). **Alder Flycatcher** heard daily 7/25–8/6 (MA). **Cliff Swallow** seen on 7/12,13 (MA). **Carolina Wren** appeared regularly, if not frequently, throughout quarter (MA). Thrush family was well-represented during this period by abundant the **Wood, Veery** 7/13,14 and **Hermit** 7/21 (MA).

The **Golden-winged Warbler** seen 7/27 (MA) was a good find, as they were scarce here this breeding season (JS). **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was seen through July (MA). **Yellow** and **Common Yellowthroat** warblers seen through first week of Aug. (MA). **Am. Redstart** was spotted 7/1,2,8 (MA). Did not see a **Yellow-breasted Chat** during entire breeding season (JS). Rose-breasted Grosbeak seen 7/1 (MA). **Savannah Sparrow** seen frequently during July (MA). **Swamp Sparrow** seen daily in July and also 8/1–4,7,8 and last seen 8/21 (MA). **Song Sparrow** was heard singing on 9/25 (MA). **Bobolink** seen and (to my delight!) heard regularly in July and Aug. in hayfields near Troutville (JS). Two **Red-winged Blackbird** flocks were seen flying south 8/12 (MA); a flock of several hundred sighted 9/2–4 was alternating feeding in a corn fields and roosting in tall larch trees (MA).

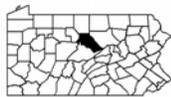
A ♀ **Yellow-headed Blackbird** (No details. —Eds.) was seen from a distance of 5 feet feeding on the ground in the center of the race track at Clearfield County fairgrounds in Clearfield 8/1 as cars continued to park around it (MA)! This is most likely a 1st county record.

Pine Siskin seen 7-11 (MA).

OBSERVERS: Marianne Atkinson, Dan & Jocelynn Smrekar, RD 4, Box 409A, DuBois 15801 (814-583-5110).

CLINTON COUNTY

Glenna and Paul Schwalbe



Where does one look for fall warblers? Why in cornfields and at feeding stations, of course. Oh, yeah? Yeah!

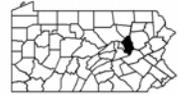
There is an area where we take almost daily walks along a back road, where there are woods on one side of the road and extensive cornfields on the other side. On several days in late Aug. and early Sept. we noted a good bit of warbler activity in this area. These warblers were not just in the trees, but were consistently flying back and forth across the road between the cornfield and the woods. They were low on the corn stalks near the silk as well as high in the tassels. Apparently there were insects in the corn that they were interested in.

Why would a **Worm-eating Warbler** and a **Hooded Warbler** be peering into our window from about a foot away. For several years now we have noticed that when there is a lot of activity around our feeders, primarily by the House Finch, fall warblers seem to be attracted to this activity. They come into the trees and shrubs in the general area of the feeders. They will look around some, and then go on their way. In addition to the above two species, this fall we have had **Tennessee, Magnolia, Prairie, Black-and-white, Am. Redstart, Ovenbird** and **Common Yellowthroat** just outside our windows. Eleven species in all. A very enjoyable experience.

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

COLUMBIA COUNTY

Douglas A. Gross



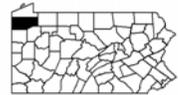
Abbreviations: Rohrsburg (RB).

With the exception of **Canada Goose** flocks in late Sept. and early Oct., waterfowl migration was quite poor (NBBC). Local Canada Goose population continues to expand with resident geese nesting at almost every available body of water. The number of **Wood Duck** and **Mallard** ducklings indicate that those species are also doing well, but **Am. Black Duck** continue to decline. **Long-eared Owl** remained in a pine woods in s. *Columbia* where PW kept watch over the four owlets which fledged in late June. The identification of the Long-eared Owls was successfully field-checked by DG in early July. The NBBC installed 2 bird boxes at Greenwood Friends School in June and were pleased to see both **Tree Swallow** and **E. Bluebird** fledging out of them in July (DG,DH,SL). Warbler migration was going strong by Aug 18 when both **Yellow** and **Prairie** warblers were numerous near RB (DG).

OBSERVERS: Douglas A. Gross, R.R. 1, Box 147, Orangeville, PA 17859, Nancy Dennis, John and Sue Graves, Karen Hiller, Diana and Hugh McFadden, Pat Webb, North Branch Bird Club.

CRAWFORD COUNTY

Ronald F. Leberman



Abbreviations: Conneaut Marsh (CM), Pymatuning SP [including the Causeway, Fish Hatchery (FH), Miller Pond (MP), Wildlife Management Area WMA), Spillway], Woodcock L. Observations by compiler unless otherwise noted.

An ad. and 2 young **Pied-billed Grebe** were found at CM 7/15 (RCL). Three **Double-crested Cormorant** were at PSP 9/16. A **Great Egret** was at WMA 7/14,15 (RCL) and 2 at WL 9/14+ (RFL,TP,JB,GF, m.ob.). A **Snow Goose** was at the WMA 9/29. Two **Green-winged Teal** were at MP 7/14, with a high count there of 20 on 9/8.

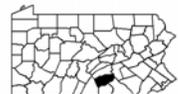
A **N. Harrier** was at PSP 7/15. A **Black-bellied Plover** was at FH 9/16 (DD,RFL). A **Solitary Sandpiper** was at CM 7/15 (RFL,RCL). At PSP 1 **Upland Sandpiper** was found 7/19 (RCL), 2 **Stilt Sandpiper** 7/27 (RCL), 9 **Short-billed Dowitcher** 7/14 (RFL,RCL) and 1 **Long-billed Dowitcher** still in summer plumage 9/23. Two **Black Tern** were at FH 7/19 (RCL).

A conservative estimate of 6,000 **Barn Swallow** and a few **Tree Swallow** was made of them roosting in the cattails near Geneva at the CM 7/26 (RFL,RCL). A **N. Mockingbird** was near Conneautville 7/10 (TCN). A pair of **Prothonotary Warbler** was found at the Custards Bridge in CM 7/15 (RFL,RCL).

OBSERVERS: Jim Barker, Dave Darney, Gary Field, Robert C. Leberman, Ronald F. Leberman, RD #1, Saeger Hill, Meadville 16335 (814-724-5071), T. C. Nicolls, Thelma Patton.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY

Deuane Hoffman



Abbreviations: Brackbill Pond (BP), Huntsdale Fish Hatchery (HDL), SGL 169 Newville (SGL), Susquehanna R. (SR), Waggoners Gap (WG), West Fairview Boat Launch (WFBL), Wildcat Rocks (WR).

On the whole it was an average quarter. A few surprises did pop up. A **Little Blue Heron** at SGL and a **Swainson's Hawk** at WG added spice to a typical season.

A lone **Pied-billed Grebe** made BP its home for over a month. Another was at Opossum L. 8/17 (DH). An impressive 36 **Double-crested Cormorant** were seen at WR 9/3 (DHe). These were assumed migrating. (Wildcat Rocks is a new hawk watch located on the South Mt. Front. It overlooks the Cumberland Valley with a northern view. Having a watch on this ridge will

help document how many birds use this ridge instead of the Blue Ridge, the one on which WG and Hawk Mt. are located.) Twenty-seven Double-crested Cormorant were at WFBL 9/15 (DH).

A count of **18 Great Blue Heron** was made at HDL 9/22 (DHe). This is a large number for this locale. Also at HDL 9/9, ten **Great Egret** were seen (DHe). A well-documented imm. **Little Blue Heron** was seen at SGL 7/27 (DHe). The bird was viewed for an hour. A search the following day could not turn up the bird. This is a very irregular bird even along the SR, let alone at a locale over 35 air miles inland. An impressive 30 imm. **Black-crowned Night-Heron** were seen at HDL 8/20 (DHe). While this area has no known nests, it is a favorite haunt of this species.

Five **Osprey** were at HDL 9/9 (DHe). A well-seen **Swainson's Hawk** (No details. -Eds.) went by WG 9/30. Four observers were present. Each made their own identification first and then all concurred that it was a Swainson's. One of the observers is a die-hard hawk watcher and has seen the species before (DC,GVF, et al.).

Eight **Ruffed Grouse** were spotted near WR 7/31 (DHe). This species is quite common in the scrub oak habitat of South Mt., but as usual quite elusive. A flock of 17 **Wild Turkey** was seen at Doubling Gap 8/22 (DH). Two different sightings of **N. Bobwhite** in the farmland of w. *Cumberland* offers hope that this bird can make a comeback. It's not like there isn't any habitat for the bird! One bird was seen on several dates in July at the Henise home in Green Springs, and at least 3 were heard 7/31 at an Amish farm near Oakville.

A single **Semipalmated Plover** was seen at SGL 7/28; also 1 at BP 8/21 (DH). An impressive number of 100+ **Killdeer** were seen in the farmlands around WG 8/12 (DHe,RH). The first **Solitary Sandpiper** noted returning south was at BP 7/24 (DC). During a driving rainstorm 19 **Greater Yellowlegs** were at BP 8/21 (DH). As usual, DHe found **Upland Sandpiper** at a favorite haunt. This time there were 2 at ML 7/18. Uppies have bred here in the past, but these were probably migrants.

Four **Caspian Tern** were cavorting at WFBL 8/25 and 2 were also seen 9/2 (DH). A lone **Black Tern** was seen 8/21 at BP (DC,DH). This may be only the 2nd or 3rd fall record.

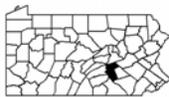
A rarely seen **Barn Owl** was spotted flying over a field at dawn near Blosserville 7/16 (DH). It's good to know a few of these rodent-controlling birds still exist in the county. Three **Barred Owl** were along the banks of the Conodoguinet Cr. 7/20 (DHe). While not common by any means, **Red-headed Woodpecker** still inhabit the farm country in the western portion. Henise saw 1 bird 7/30 and again 7/31 in the Shippensburg area. Three separate sightings of **Olive-sided Flycatcher** were recorded. One on 8/31 and 9/22 at WR (DHe,RH) and 1 at WG 9/30 (DC). A colony of **Purple Martin** successfully produced 7 young out of 10 nests at a house owned by Donald Pattison of Carlisle. **Philadelphia Vireo** is very uncommon in our area, so the two sightings were exciting. One bird 9/14 in DC's backyard at Camp Hill and another at WR 9/18 (DHe,RH).

A good total of 21 species of warblers was tallied, including 15 species sighted at WR. A weedy field near HDL held five species of sparrows, including **Field**, 2 **Vesper**, 6 **Grasshopper**, 1 **Savannah** and numerous **Song** along the edge 8/16 (DH). **Pine Siskin** cut in under the wire, with 13 seen at Big Pine Flat (Michaux SF) 9/29 (DH).

OBSERVERS: Dick Colyer, Don Henise (DHe), Robyn Henise, **Deuane Hoffman, 3406 Montour St., Harrisburg 17111 (717-564-7475)**, Glenn Van Fleet.

DAUPHIN COUNTY

Steve Rannels



Abbreviations: *Clark Creek Valley (CCV), Harrisburg (HBG), Hershey Medical Center (HMC).*

At least 4-6 **Black-crowned Night-Heron** summered along Spring Cr. in Hershey, remaining through Sept. (SR). Migrant **Great Egret** (3) were observed feeding along a stream near HMC 7/26 and for several days later (SR). A **Willet** (No details. -Eds.) was seen along the Susquehanna R. 8/25 (DH).

On 8/25, a large group of 50+ **Common Nighthawk** flew

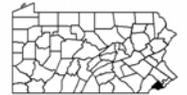
over the Hummelstown area (RPW), with a small group of 4 seen over Hershey on the same date (SR). A rather late flight again occurred over Hershey 9/26, when 3 birds were observed (SR). One of the earliest signs of southward movement was a **Red-breasted Nuthatch** in Hershey 7/26 (SR), with 2 more birds sighted much later with 2 **Purple Finch** in CCV 9/2 (SS).

Warbler migration commenced with reports of **Magnolia, Chestnut-sided, Am. Redstart, Wilson's** and **Canada** from 8/18-23 in N. HBG (JW). An overall dull migration was highlighted for JW 9/5 when she studied a **Connecticut Warbler** on Blue Mt. The bulk of the warbler migration passed through the area around 9/27. Unusually high numbers of **Blackpoll** (30-40) at HMC were feeding with **Black-throated Green** (50+), 8 **Black-throated Blue**, 6 **Bay-breasted** and 4 additional warbler species. **Cedar Waxwing, Rose-breasted Grosbeak**, and good numbers of **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** were also present (SR). This flight also brought some potential wintering species such as **Brown Creeper, Winter Wren** and **Dark-eyed Junco**. A similar flight passed through the HBG area 9/28. JW reported 5 warbler species along with **White-eyed, Solitary** and **Red-eyed vireos. Winter Wren, White-throated Sparrow**, juncos and 1 **Lincoln's Sparrow** were observed the same day on Blue Mt. (JW).

OBSERVERS: Deuane Hoffman, **Steve Rannels, 237 E. Areba Ave., Hershey 17033 (717-534-2480)**, Steve Santner, Judy Ward, Scott Weidner, Richard & Patricia Williams.

DELAWARE COUNTY

Al Guarente



Abbreviations: *Delaware R. (DR), Crum Creek Res. (CCR), Ridley Creek SP (RC), Tinicum National Environmental Center (TN), Tyler Arboretum (TA).*

One **Pied-billed Grebe**, the only grebe report this period, was at CCR 9/20 (EK). On 8/7, 1 **Double-crested Cormorant** was noted flying along the DR. On 9/8 at TN, 30+ **Great Egret** were noted (JCM). From 8/17-20, 2 **Tricolored Heron** were at CCR (HMC), which is a nice find for this location. Some 240+ **Green-winged Teal** were noted at TN 9/28, along with 55 **N. Pintail** (JCM).

One imm. **Bald Eagle** was seen at Darby Cr. 8/24 (JCM). Another imm. **Bald Eagle** was noted flying over a Media backyard 9/15 (EK). And *still another* **Bald Eagle** was in Radnor 9/18 (JL). **Cooper's Hawk** were reported in many locations throughout Sept., but usually in low numbers at all locations. Some 350+ **Broad-winged Hawk** were seen soaring past in less than five minutes at TN 9/23 (DM). On 9/1 at Darby Cr. in the TN area was a **Peregrine Falcon** swooping through the marshes chasing the 100+ **Wood Duck** which were present (AG,NP). Also at TN was an ad. **Peregrine Falcon** 9/23 (DM) chomping down on a peep it had just taken. Another **Peregrine** was in the area of Chester 7/28 where it nested.

The opening of the UPS building behind the airport has allowed easier access to the DR and as a direct consequence of this, 2 **Western Sandpiper** were found mixed in a small flock of **Least Sandpiper** 8/7 (AG). A month later, 9/5, at the same location, 1 **Baird's Sandpiper** was recorded (AG). Five **Caspian Tern** were found at TN 9/1 (AG,JCM,NP). The high count for the season was 61 **Forster's Tern** at TN 8/24 (JCM). Along the DR 8/7 there were 2 **Common Tern** heading southward (AG). Always a pleasure to find was 1 **Black Tern** at TN 7/28 (SC). Apparently the **Barn Owl** at TN can still tolerate all the noise from the I-95 traffic, as it was observed 9/5 (JCM).

Imagine being awakened in the wee hours of the morning in suburban Springfield and hearing a **Barred Owl** right outside your window (SC). Well, that's what happened 9/27 and the owl remained there well into October.

Lingering **Common Nighthawk** were present in Media 9/28 when a flock of 9 birds was observed (JS). At one yard in Upper Providence, 2 **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** were

present all summer and were showing defensive behavior. On one day the birds were picking ants off the feeder support structures. Later in the season, 5 birds were present and 3 appeared recently fledged (WT).

Two ♂ **N. Flicker** 7/8 performed peculiarly most of the day, crossing bills, spreading wings, dancing and clucking on the ground (HMc). They were using an abbreviated version of their calls and could be approached very closely. **Hairy Woodpecker** started using a Swarthmore feeder as early as 7/9 (HMc). **Pileated Woodpecker** were observed all summer in Swarthmore (HMc) and 1 was seen flying over Media 9/3 9AG).

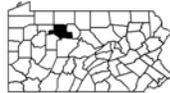
An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was found in Thornbury 9/9, the only report (WT). A good find was a **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** at TA 9/8 (AG,TR). The banding of **Purple Martin** (JCM) during July at Glen Mills School showed a slight decrease in young produced this year. In 1990, 295 young martins were banded versus 313 young in 1989 and 201 birds in 1988. During their migration 1000+ **Tree Swallow** were reported at TN 9/6 (JCM). One **Cliff Swallow** was seen at Hildacy Farms 7/7 (AG) flying in among the other **Barn** and **Tree Swallow**. No subsequent sighting of this swallow was noted. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** appeared suddenly in large numbers as a cold front swept through the area 9/16, with as many as 30 being reported at each of several locations.

A pair of **Warbling Vireo** were present at TN during July (JCM). The warbler migration this year seemed to be pretty good. One day at TA 15 species were noted moving through. Other observers noted similar days and numbers. A **Tennessee Warbler** found in a Media backyard 9/20 (EK) was a relatively late date. One of the birds I always enjoy seeing, but missed this year, is a **Connecticut Warbler**. However, 1 Connecticut was found 9/9 (WT) on the Darlington Trail in Middletown Twp.

OBSERVERS: Skip Conant, Ed Fingerhood, **Al Guarente**, 421 Old Middletown Rd., Media 19063 (215-566-8266), Evelyn Kopf, Jim Lockyer, Doris McGovern, Helen McWilliams, John C. Miller, Nick Pulcinella, Tom Reeves, Walt Thurber.

ELK COUNTY

Linda Christenson



Abbreviations: *Allegheny NF (ANF), Benzinger Twp (BT), Crow Run (CR), Owl's Nest (ON), Upper Mill Creek (UMC).*

Several BT residents had feeders destroyed by bear. The compiler's feeder attracts red squirrel and, in Sept., a gray and a black (color phase of gray) squirrel showed up to feast on sunflower seeds.

DS was lucky enough to observe closely a **Great Blue Heron** in July and Aug. when it visited the small pond next door in BT. A formerly active rookery was abandoned and no new nesting area was found in ANF. Only 7/8, 5 Great Blue Heron were spotted further up from the abandoned rookery (DW). One Great Blue Heron was also found at Glen Hazel 9/25 (LC). After Aug., **Canada Goose** seem to disappear from the ANF, possibly to go farther north to agricultural areas (DW). Two broods of **Wood Duck** were discovered in late July at ON. DW says there is some evidence that starlings use the duck boxes before the Wood Duck use them. No **Am. Black Duck** or **Mallard** reported. The **Hooded Merganser** brood seen at CR in May was down to 5 young from 7 on 7/8 (DW). There was an unconfirmed report of **Red-breasted Merganser** at ON during the summer (*vide* DW).

During Sept., both ad. and imm. **Sharp-shinned Hawk** and **Cooper's Hawk** visited at various times of the day the BT backyard of LC to keep her birds on their toes! Another Cooper's Hawk was spotted by DW at Slide Run in Aug. One area produced 2 juv. **Red-shouldered Hawk** and 1 **Broad-winged Hawk** 7/22 (DW). Three Red-shouldered Hawk were observed at another area 9/25 (LC). The only **Wild Turkey** reported were 8 at North Fork 8/25 (LC).

Is there a downward trend for cuckoo? Only 2 **Black-billed Cuckoo** were noted (DW). A **Great Crested Flycatcher** pair was seen 7/1 in CR, which is heavily populated by **E. Kingbird** (DW). **Common Raven** are doing well—DS heard 1 in a populated area of BT 9/29, while DW mentioned 5 nests were located in ANF.

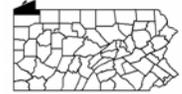
Red-breasted Nuthatch visited a BT suet feeder all

quarter, while **Carolina Wren** reappeared in July and stayed (LC). An **Ovenbird** checked a BT feeder 9/23,25 at almost the same time (LC). **Mourning Warbler** were found at UMC 7/22,28 and 8/5 (DW) and he noted that they seem to be moving into 2–3 year-old clear cut areas. A lone **Purple Finch** was at my feeder 8/7 and **Pine Siskin** stayed around a BT feeder until 7/7 (LC).

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

ERIE COUNTY

Jerry McWilliams



The most notable events of the reporting period were first successful nesting of **Black Tern** in recent years on Presque Isle SP (PI), as many as 8 species of out-of-season waterfowl, and a possible new state record. The following species were recorded on PI unless noted otherwise.

Double-crested Cormorant were seen from 7/24+ (JM). An **Am. Bittern** was seen 9/29 (EK). Single imm. **Black-crowned Night-Heron** were seen 7/19–31 (BS,JM) and 8/29 (JM) and 1 ad. 9/30 (JP). A **Great Egret** was found 7/9 (JM). One **Green-winged Teal** 7/5 and 1 **N. Pintail** 8/5 were both early (JM). The **Gadwall** found 7/31 (JM) was the 1st county record between 6/30 and 9/1. An **Am. Wigeon** 8/3 was early. One **Greater Scaup** was seen 7/5–8/5 (JM). One ♂ **Black Scoter** 9/23 (JM) was the earliest fall record by six days. Three **Common Merganser** were at Siegel Marsh 9/7 (JM) and 4 found 9/8-9 (GR). One **Red-breasted Merganser** was seen all quarter (EK).

The 40+ **Turkey Vulture** at Lakeview landfill 6/3 is unprecedented on this date in *Erie* (JGS). Single imm. **Bald Eagle** were seen 7/21–23 (LM,DS) and 8/5 (JM). A **Merlin** was at Siegel Marsh 9/4 (JM) and a total of 5 were on PI 9/8–9 (EK,JM, MF). Single **Peregrine Falcon** were found 9/16 (JGS), 9/29 (GR) and 9/30 (JM).

A total of 35 **Lesser Golden-Plover** were seen 9/2+ (EK,JM). A **Willet** was found 7/30 (JM). Rarely seen in migration in *Erie* was an **Upland Sandpiper** 7/26 (JM). A total of 12 **Whimbrel** was noted 7/14–31 (EK,JM,DS). A **Red Knot** was seen 8/25 (EK), 2 on 9/22 (JM) and 1 on 9/29 (JM). The 80+ **Sanderling** 8/19 was a good number for a species whose numbers are declining on an international scale (EK). One **Western Sandpiper** was found 7/23 (DS); and 2 **White-rumped Sandpiper** were found 8/19 (EK) and 6 on 9/30 (JM). **Baird's Sandpiper** were scarce this year with only 2 reported, 1 on 9/2 (EK) and 1 on 9/30 (JM). A total of 5 **Stilt Sandpiper** were seen 7/15, 27 and 29 (JM), plus 1 on 9/2 (EK) and 2 on 9/9 (JM). Single **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** were found 8/30 (EH) and 9/2 (EK). A **Long-billed Dowitcher** was seen 9/22 (DP,JM, ph. EK). A juv. **Parasitic Jaeger** was seen 9/22 (EH,DD, ph. EK), representing the 11th sighting for *Erie*, totaling 15 different individuals. One non-adult **Long-tailed Jaeger** was seen 9/2 and, if accepted by P.O.R.C., would be a 1st state record. A non-adult **Jaeger (Pomarine-Parasitic)** was found 9/30 (JM). Several **Forster's Tern** seen periodically from 7/23+ (m.ob.).

On 7/6, JGS saw a juv. Black Tern sitting on a nest nearly fledged and on 7/14 EK saw a juv. flying with the adults and possibly another still unfledged bird on the nest. This is the first successful nesting of Black Terns since 1958 on PI and the first since the early 1960s in *Erie*! A nest with 2 eggs was discovered in 1988 on PI, but no young were ever seen. A single ad. Black Tern was seen from 9/9/24 (JM).

Two **Olive-sided Flycatcher** were found 8/25 (EK). Very unusual was the discovery of an **Am. Pipit** on 7/4, remaining until 7/10 (JM). This is the 1st July record for *Erie* and possibly PA. A ♀ **Lawrence's Warbler** was found 9/8 (JM,EK,GR) for the 3rd *Erie* record and first fall record for this hybrid. An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was found 9/29 (EK). **Connecticut Warbler** sightings include 1 on 9/2 (JH), 1 at Union City 9/20 (JM), 1 on 9/27 (JHS,JGS) and 2 on 9/29 (EK). A total of 10 **Lapland Longspur** were found 9/24–30 (EK,DD,JM).



Parasitic Jaeger, Presque Isle SP, 9/22/90. Photo by Ed Kwater.

OBSERVERS: Dave Darney, Mike Fialkovich, Eric Hall, Joyce Hoffman, Ed Kwater, Linda & Jerry McWilliams, 3142 W. 12th St., Erie 16505 (814-833-3169), Dora Porter, Geoff Robinson, Bob Scribner, Don Snyder, Jean (JHS) & Jim (JGS) Stull.

FAYETTE COUNTY

Cindy Cook



Abbreviations: Deer L. (DL), Greenlick Dam (GD), Normalville (NV), Ohiopyle SP (OSP), SGL 51 (SGL).

The most exciting news of the quarter was that the **Swainson's Warbler** returned to an area near Bear Run Nature Reserve. It was present from 5/22-7/10 (DK). This is close to where it was found in 1989.

GD was host to the following: 1-2 **Pied-billed Grebe** 8/25 (RS) and 9/17 (M&EW), 1 **Double-crested Cormorant** 8/25 (RS), 1 **Great Blue Heron** 8/15 (RS) and 1 **Green-backed Heron** 8/19-9/5 (RS). An **Osprey** was there 9/17 (M&EW). Two **Broad-winged Hawk** were in NV 7/24 (CC). Two **Ring-necked Pheasant** were at DL 7/3 (BR,DM). **Ruffed Grouse** and **Wild Turkey** were noted at SGL 7/3 (BR,DM). A **Sora** was at GD 9/2-5 (RS). Single **Solitary Sandpiper** were noted at GD 8/15 and 9/3 (RS).

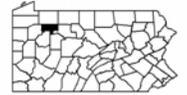
A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was at DL 7/3 (BR,DM). An **E. Screech-Owl** was calling at 10 a.m. in NV 8/25 (CC). Some 25 **Common Nighthawk** and 100+ **Chimney Swift** were seen at OSP 9/10 (TS). Two **Belted Kingfisher** fished our NV pond all quarter and 4 **E. Bluebird** fledged (CC).

Three pair of **N. Parula** were at OSP and 1 **Magnolia Warbler** at Bear Run 7/3 (BR,DM). A **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was in NV 8/25 (CC). **Yellow-rumped Warbler** were noted at SGL 7/3 (BR,DM) and NV 8/25 (CC). **Black-throated Green** and **Black-and-white** warblers were at SGL 7/3 (BR,DM). An **Am. Redstart** was in NV 8/25 (CC). A **Louisiana Waterthrush** was found feeding young in OSP 7/3 (BR,DM). Three **Hooded Warbler** were in NV 8/25 and "many pair" were found in SGL 7/3 (BR,DM). **Scarlet Tanager** were noted in SGL 7/3 (BR,DM) and NV 9/14 (CC). **Indigo Bunting** were in SGL 7/3 (BR,DM). A **Swamp Sparrow** was at DL 7/3 (BR,DM). One **Pine Siskin** was caught in a NV bird feeder 8/4 and 1 imm. was at the feeder 8/25 (CC).

OBSERVERS: Cindy Cook, RD 1, Box 259A, Normalville 15469 (412-455-7356), Dave Krueger, Darlene Madarish, Bob Ross, Terry Springer, Roberta Stauffer, Mike & Evaleen Watko.

FOREST COUNTY

April D. Walters



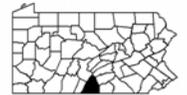
A serious illness in the family prevented us from gathering any information for this quarter. However my husband, Rick, penned this poem and we hope that more reports are forthcoming next quarter.

We checked the forest,
We checked the fields,
We searched the marsh,
The glen and the hills.
We saw warblers,
Sparrows, thrushes and wrens.
There were ducks and hawks
And Blue Jays in blue,
But when summer was over
We had seen nothing new!

COMPILER: April D. Walters, Box 127, Endeavor 16322 (814-463-9306).

FRANKLIN COUNTY

Carl L. Garner

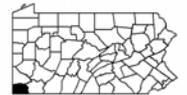


A **Great Egret** was seen along Falling Spring Rd. (FSR) 7/28; 2 on 9/4, and 5 on 9/5. Two **Snowy Egret** 9/4, 4 on 9/5, and 3 on 9/7 were seen along FSR (CG, m.ob.). A **Bald Eagle** was seen at Mt. Parnell Fish Hatchery 9/20.

OBSERVERS: Carl L. Garner, P.O. Box 391, Marion 17235.

GREENE COUNTY

Ralph K. Bell



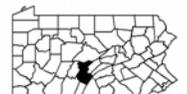
A very wet summer, but no severe storms here in the s.w. corner of PA, and late nesters seemed to have had a successful season.

The last young **Purple Martin** left our box 7/29 but, of course, the young usually come back for another 8-10 evenings to roost in the box. Although still scarce in this area, they had a successful year at our box. I believe 15 pair raised young. **Tree Swallow** are no longer an unusual nesting species in n.e. *Greene*. The Bell farm probably has the most nesting pairs because of the open fields and plenty of available nest boxes. They first tried to nest here on the farm in 1978 and we now have 8 nesting pairs (the male of one pair had been banded as a nestling on 5/31/88 by R.M. Tuttle approximately 25 mi n. of Columbus, Ohio. They will compete with E. Bluebirds for nest boxes, but adding more boxes seems to take care of any problems. I banded a **Wilson's Warbler** here in our yard 9/18—only the 2nd one banded here in the fall since 1965. Also banded an imm. ♀ **Black-throated Blue Warbler** 9/18. Although not an unusual migrant in the mountains e. of here, this was the 1st one caught and banded here since 9/12/66.

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

HUNTINGDON COUNTY

Dave Kyler



Abbreviations: Aitch Access (AA), Detweiler's Run Natural Area (DR), Huntingdon (HT), L. Raystown (LR), Raystown Dam (RD), Stone Valley L. (SVL), Tussey Mt. (TM).

Unusual species reported include **Peregrine Falcon**, **Olive-sided Flycatcher** and **Yellow-throated Warbler**. All

records are by the compiler unless otherwise noted.

A lone **Horned Grebe** was observed at Weaver's Falls at LR 8/15, an early migrant (RC). Three imm. **Double-crested Cormorant** were found at SVL 9/9 (GG) in the company of 2 **Green-backed Heron**. A single **Great Egret** was located on a Hill Valley farm pond 8/10 (RC) for another early migrant record.

Two flights of **Canada Goose** heading s.e. over TM 9/30 held an unusual member. The second goose in the second flight of 13 was an ad. **Snow Goose**. Although obviously flapping with a faster wingbeat, this interloper was holding its place in line. After apparently relocating from a sewage pond, a family of 6 **Wood Duck** were observed feeding in the Juniata R. at HT 7/12.

Raptor sightings include 3 **Black Vulture** sharing a thermal with 12 **Turkey Vulture** over HT 9/17. **Osprey** sightings were 3 on 8/15, 2 on 9/12 and 4 on 9/26, all at LR (RC). An ad. **Bald Eagle** was also observed feeding on a groundhog carcass near RD 8/10 (RC). A single **Cooper's Hawk** was observed harassing songbirds in the vicinity of RD 9/12 (RC). An imm. **Peregrine Falcon** was observed in a stoop over TM 9/30 with its intended prey a fast-moving Blue Jay. Their passage, past my left shoulder at a distance of eight feet, literally ripped the air with the sound of tearing material!

Common Nighthawk were present over HT 9/2, with 21 feeding in the early evening (ML). On 8/30, a single **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was observed feeding from a perch at AA. This marks the third year in which this species has frequented this location during the same time frame.

On 9/6, Lane observed an imm. **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** on Butler's Knob on Jack's Mt. in central *Huntingdon*. Observation was made with 8X binoculars at a range of 100 yards for thirty seconds. The day was overcast so colors were not easily discernable, but this individual was flying up from a perch after insects and that its tail was definitely split and flowing. He tried to call others' attention to this bird, but unfortunately it had flown during that interval and was not seen again.

Five **Winter Wren** were identified at DR on a mid-summer survey 7/7 (GG). Five **N. Mockingbird** and 3 **Brown Thrasher** family groups were located in the HT area 7/22 and 7/7 respectively.

Warbler records include the following from SVL 9/16: 1 **Tennessee**, 1 **Magnolia** and 1 **Cape May** (GG). Found on a three-mile survey of DR 7/7 were 6 **Black-throated Blue**, 10 **Black-throated Green**, 2 **Blackburnian**, 14 **Ovenbird**, 10 **Hooded** and 8 **Canada** (GG). **Palm Warbler** were found pumping their tails in HT 9/29 and **Yellow-throated Warbler** were observed feeding cowbird young at Water Street 7/22 (ML).

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

INDIANA COUNTY

Margaret and Roger Higbee



Abbreviations: *Brush Valley (BV)*, *Clarksburg (CKG)*, *Indiana (IND)*, *Shelocta (SHL)*, *Yellow Creek SP (YC)*.

After last period's flurry of unusual species at YC, it seems like this quarter was contrastingly dull. The shorebird migration was better than average, but the warbler migration was rather sparse. The highlights included **Lesser Golden-Plover** and **Sanderling** at YC.

All waterfowl reports are from YC. One to 2 **Common Loon** were present sporadically during the entire period (GL). **Pied-billed Grebe** arrived 8/2 (GL), but max. tally was 10 on 9/29 (TBC). Three **Double-crested Cormorant** were spotted 8/24 (DS,ES). Best **Great Blue Heron** count was 4 on 8/30 (TF). Up to 54 **Wood Duck** were found 9/6 (GL, GS). Four **Am. Black Duck** were listed 9/18 (CL,GL). Top tally of **Blue-winged Teal** was 24 on 9/10 (CL,GL). Best **Am. Wigeon** count reached 9 on 9/8

(MH,RH). A single **Ring-necked Duck** was present from 9/21–27 (BB,JB,MH,GL).

Two **Osprey** were spotted at YC 8/20 (CL,GL), but none reported again until 9/11, when a singleton was sighted (BB,MH,GL). One **N. Harrier** was intermittent at Nolo after 8/16 (CL,GL). Few **Ruffed Grouse** were reported, but 1 drumming was mentioned at CKG 9/25 (MC). Small flocks of **Wild Turkey** were widespread (MC,RH,DS), but the largest group consisted of 22 indiv. near YC (TF). A **N. Bobwhite**, of undetermined origin, was heard then later spotted at YC 7/9 (GL).



Lesser Golden Plover, Tellow Creek SP, 9/7/90. Photo by Gloria Lamer.

All shorebird reports are from YC. Nine **Black-bellied Plover** were found 8/22 (CL,GL), but singletons were listed 8/24 (CL,GL), 8/25 (GL, GS) and 9/20 (CL,GL). A **Lesser Golden-Plover** was a nice find 9/7 (BF, CL,GL,GS) and was photographed (GL). One **Semipalmated Plover** 8/23 was the lone report (BF,CL,GL,GS). **Killdeer** congregating on YC's beach peaked at 43 on 9/12 (GL). Single **Greater Yellowlegs** were seen 8/6 (GL) and 8/22 (CL,GL). **Lesser Yellowlegs** was recorded only 8/22 (CL,GL). Single **Spotted Sandpiper** reports were sporadic (CL,GL). One **Ruddy Turnstone** was present 8/20 (CL,GL). Up to 7 **Sanderling** were counted and photographed between 8/21–27 (CL,GL,GS). Five **Semipalmated Sandpiper** were listed 8/22 (CL,GL), but a singleton was observed 9/12 (GL). **Least Sandpiper** was listed on 4 dates, all in Aug., with counts of 1–3 (BF,CL,GL). A **Short-billed Dowitcher** was seen 8/24 (CL,GL). Lone **Common Snipe** were found 9/13 (CL,GL,FM) and 9/29 (TBC). One to 2 **Bonaparte's Gull** at YC were seen 8/1–5 (BF,CL,GL). Top **Ring-billed Gull** count was 31 on 7/9 (GL). **Caspian Tern**, found at YC between 8/21–25, numbered 7 on 8/24 (GL,DS,ES). Three **Common Tern** were well seen 8/22 (CL,GL).

E. Screech-Owl was reported at 5 localities, all after 8/2 (JBe,MC, MH,GL,DS,GS). **Barred Owl** was listed only at CKG (MC) and Nolo (GS). **Whip-poor-will** reports included 4 near Nolo 7/7 (CL,GL,JM,SM), 1 near SHL in early July (MHi), and 1 near Alverda 7/13 (FM).

A **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** tangled in cobwebs was rescued 9/15 at CKG, where 1 still lingered 9/27 (MC). Two **Red-headed Woodpecker** at YC were a nice find 9/20 (CL,GL). One **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** at YC 9/29 (TBC) was the region's only report. A flock of 17 migrant **E. Kingbird** passed through YC in mid-Aug (CL,GL). The bluebird trail mentioned below fledged 70 **Tree Swallow** (PA). Single **Cliff Swallow** were spotted 8/25 (GL,GS) and 9/25 (JB,BB,MH). Top **Barn Swallow** count at YC was 40+ on 9/8 (MH,RH). **Common Raven** put in an unexpected appearance at Nolo 8/25 (GS) and 9/6 (RB,GL,GS); 1–3 ravens continued in the CKG area all quarter (MC).

After last winter's disappearance, **Carolina Wren** numbers have increased dramatically, with reports from wide-ranging parts of the county. A bluebird trail in the BV area, consisting of 82 boxes, fledged 6 **Black-capped Chickadee**, 27 **House Wren** and 184 **E. Bluebird** (PA). **N. Mockingbird** was found only at IND throughout the period (MH,RH). **Cedar Waxwing** was observed nest-building 8/8 at CKG (MC); late Sept. flocks at Nolo consisted of 12–33 indiv. (CL,GL). **White-eyed Vireo** was singing continuously at YC 9/11 (BB,MH,GL). **Yellow-throated Vireo**

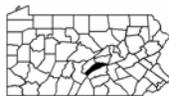
lingered t CKG until 9/29 (MC).

Fall warblers began dribbling through the county in mid-Aug. with no large flocks reported. **Tennessee** were few in number, with reports limited to singletons. **Magnolia** were found at YC primarily between 9/6- 11 (BB,MH,GL,GS), but 2 were listed at CKG 9/27 (MC). Top **Cape May** tally was a low 7 at YC 9/25 (BB,JB,MH). **Blackburnian** was last reported at YC 9/22 (TBC). **Pine** continued singing at SHL 7/1-12 (MH, RH) but did not reappear until the period's end (MH). Four was the best **Bay-breasted** tally 9/25 (JB,BB,MH). Remarkable was the total absence of **Blackpoll** in all reports received. **Black-and-white** was seen at CKG 9/27 (MC). Last **Ovenbird** was listed at YC 9/25 (JB,BB,MH). **Wilson's** was spotted at YC 9/8 (MH,RH). **Am. Goldfinch** was still feeding young at CKG 9/25 (MC).

OBSERVERS: Pat Andrascik, Julie Barker, Becky Byerly, Richard Beaulé, John Beaulé (JBe), Marcy Cunkelman, Betsy Fetterman, Tom Fetterman, **Margaret and Roger Higbee, RD #2, Box 166, Indiana 15701 (412-354-3493)**, Marty Higgins (MH), Clayton Lamer, Gloria Lamer, Frances Michny, Jim Michny, Sharon Michny, Dorothy Slovensky, Ed Slovensky, Dan Syster, Georgette Syster, Todd Bird Club.

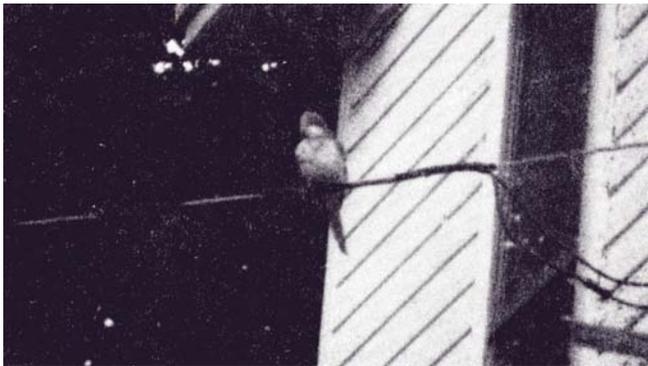
JUNIATA COUNTY

Linda Whitesel



Abbreviations: *Hammer Hollow (HH), Juniata R. (JR).*

First sighted by Janette and Ken Saner near their home in Maze 7/7, a Monk Parakeet spent the next several weeks attempting to build a nest on the eave of their home; it even laid three eggs there. As soon as it was positively identified, the bird was reported to the PGC. Subsequently, the bird was captured and is now a live educational resource for the PGC.



Monk Parakeet, Maze, 7/15/90. Photo by Linda Whitesel

Throughout the summer and up to 10/8, there was a mixed flock of **Black** and **Turkey** vultures within the vicinity of Van Wert. About 30 vultures made up the flock, which included at least 9 Black Vulture (MR). One **Osprey** was seen near Walker Access on JR 9/20. A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was a welcome sight at the Thompsettown Access 8/7. Three **Broad-winged Hawk** near Evandale 9/23 (DW) was the latest report.

The **Wild Turkey**, like the Canada Goose, continue to increase in numbers in this county. This was especially noted when I arrived home from work 9/24 to find that a group had walked up my drive and through the lawn on their way to the woods. One **Greater Yellowlegs** and 1 **Spotted Sandpiper** stopped at the Mifflintown Access 9/9.

An **Acadian Flycatcher** was seen in HH 8/22. Two **Common Raven** were spotted in the valley near Locust Run 9/14. Three **Golden-crowned Kinglet** made an early appearance in HH 9/23. Two **White-eyed Vireo** were seen at a tree farm near Evandale 8/7. One **Hooded Warbler** was still on territory in HH 9/23.

OBSERVERS: Moses Renno, Dusty Weidner, **Linda Whitesel, RD 3, Box 820, Mifflintown 17059-9770 (717-436-8048).**

LACKAWANNA COUNTY

Gerald Klebauskas



Abbreviations: *Covey's Swamp (CS), Dalton area (DA), Eagle L. (EL), Factoryville area (FA), L. Scranton (LS), Thornhurst (TH).*

During the period a wildflower roundup day (252 species) was held in mid-July and a roundup (90 species) for birds was held 9/28-29 by the Lackawanna Audubon Society. Only one large concentration of warblers was reported by the many observers taking part in the Sept. count. The **Black-throated Green Warbler** was the most common species seen.

A **Common Loon** was at LS 9/15. **Great Blue Heron** were seen all quarter on the Lackawanna R. at Peckville and a **Green-backed Heron** was found in FA 9/7. **Canada Goose** nested at EL. Seven **Common Merganser** were at Peckville 9/6. An **Osprey** was noted at FA 8/30, as well as a **Red-shouldered Hawk** there 9/6. **Broad-winged Hawk** nested at EL. **Ring-necked Pheasant** 7/30 and **Ruffed Grouse** 8/24 were noted at DA. About 150 **Killdeer** and a **dowitcher sp.** were at Lakeland 8/18. **E. Screech-Owl** were found at FA 8/18, at DA 8/16 and at CS 9/28. A **Long-eared Owl** was at CS 9/28.

Last **Common Nighthawk** flock was noted at FA 9/3. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** were seen all quarter. A **Red-bellied Woodpecker** was seen at Falls 9/29. Young **Downy** and **Hairy** woodpeckers were seen at DA feeders. A **Pileated Woodpecker** was seen at DA 8/4,6. Two broods of **E. Phoebe** were successfully raised in DA.

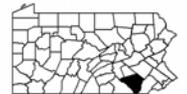
Although a **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was seen in FA 9/10, they were nowhere near as plentiful as the previous six months. **Carolina Wren** were seen occasionally at FA and DA. A **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was seen 9/23 at DA. **Gray Catbird** had gone by 9/11 at DA. A **Philadelphia Vireo** was at DA 9/19 and **Red-eyed Vireo** there 9/13.

Thirteen species of warblers were found in Sept. at various locations. They included: **Blue-winged, Nashville, Chestnut-sided, Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Green** (very common from 9/24-29), **Blackburnian, Bay-breasted, Black-and-white, Am. Redstart, Ovenbird** and **Common Yellowthroat**. A **Scarlet Tanager** was in DA 9/13. Juv. **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** were in DA 9/13. First **Dark-eyed Junco** was found in FA 9/25.

OBSERVERS: Derry & Nancy Bird, Rosann Bongey, **Gerald Klebauskas, RD 2, Box 2821, Factoryville 18419 (717-945-3949)**, George Mozurkewich, Sue & Tinka Zenke.

LANCASTER COUNTY

Eric Witmer



Abbreviations: *Cornwall Fire Tower (CFT), Susquehanna R. at the Conejohela Flats (SR), Middle Creek WMA (MC).*

Highlight of the period included 24 species of shorebirds on the SR. **Lancaster's** second record of **Franklin's Gull** was seen briefly, also at the flats.

Double-crested Cormorant were present all quarter along the Susquehanna R. and at MC, a high count of 110 went by SR the a.m. of 8/25 (JB). Single **Glossy Ibis** were at SR 7/15 (JB,TG,EW) and at MC 9/10 (LH). A flock of 11 flew upriver by SR 8/11 (TG,HM,EW) reminiscent of the mid 1970s and the Rookery I. colony. A **Snow Goose** (blue) was at MC on the odd date 7/4 (SS).

At least 5 imm. **Bald Eagle** were seen resting on the vast mudflats of SR 9/29 (TG,JW,EW). A count of 1100 **Broad-winged Hawk** was seen from the CFT 9/13 (FH,JG). A **Merlin** was at MC 9/9 (LC). A most cooperative ad. **Peregrine Falcon** was at SR 9/29-30 (m.ob.).

A **Black-bellied Plover** was in a field in Leacock Twp 9/15 (SS). **Lesser Golden-Plover** made a good showing on the SR due to prolonged low water conditions. About 35 were present on the

weekend 9/22–23 and built to 60 by 9/29 when water levels were near top level for the first time in ten days (m.ob.). The only reported **Upland Sandpiper** were 5 in Leacock Twp 7/20 (JB). A **Whimbrel** (No details. –Eds.) was observed flying from the SR early in the morning 9/4 (JB). A **Ruddy Turnstone** was on the SR 8/25–26 (m.ob.). A **Sanderling** was at MC 9/1,9 (SS, RM); a high count of 5 were at SR 8/25–26 (m.ob.). **Nine White-rumped Sandpiper** were at SR 8/25–26 (m.ob.). An early **Baird's Sandpiper** was at MC 7/22 (SS). Baird's made a good showing on the SR, with 1–2 birds present on at least seven dates between 8/31+. Excellent were **46 Pectoral Sandpiper** at SR 9/21–25 (m.ob.). Single **Stilt Sandpiper** were at MC 9/3 (SS) and at SR 9/15 (JB, RMS). A **Long-billed Dowitcher** was at SR 9/16 (TG, EW) and 9/29 (JB).

The most exciting bird this quarter was a first-winter **Franklin's Gull** 9/15, seen briefly on the SR (JB, RMS). The bird was searched for but could not be found. However, another/same bird was confirmed 10/6–7. Details in the next quarter's report.

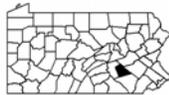
About 12–15 first-year **Laughing Gull** were at SR 9/16 (TG, SS, EW). A winter ad. **Bonaparte's Gull** was at SR 8/5 (TG, EW). Remarkable were **30 Great Black-backed Gull** on the SR 7/8, outnumbering **Ring-billed Gull**. Three **Caspian Tern** were at MC 8/9 (RK) and a high count for the SR was 12 on 8/25–26 (JB). Fifty **Forster's Tern** were on the SR 9/22 (EW). A **Black Tern** was on the SR 8/25 (TG, DH, EW).

Sensational **Bank Swallow** numbers were noted, with 5000+ at SR 8/11 (TG, EW, HM) and 10,000 at the more traditional Bainbridge area 9/6 (LC). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** were first reported 9/11 at CFT and continued through the period (FH). Single **Gray-cheeked Thrush** were at Lancaster 9/11 (R&SB) and at Providence Twp 9/14 (J&EP). A **Philadelphia Vireo** was at Octoraro L. 9/16 (RM). Warbler reports include a **Golden-winged** at Providence Twp 8/26–27 (J&EP); an **Orange-crowned** in n. Rapho Twp 9/24 (RM); a **Connecticut** at Mt. Joy 9/12 (JH); and different **Mourning** seen 8/26–27 at their Lancaster home (R&SB).

OBSERVERS: Jerry Book, Ray & Shirley Bubb, Larry Coble, Tom Garner, Jay George, Fred Habegger, Lloyd Hassel, Johnathan Heller, Deuane Hoffman, Ramsay Koury, Randy Miller, Harold Morrin, Ed & Jo Pederson, Steve Santner, Robert M. Schutsky, Eric Witmer, 805 Pointview Ave., Ephrata 17522 (717-733-1138), Jan Witmer.

LEBANON COUNTY

Steve Santner



The weather this quarter was just about normal—slightly warm, but with normal precipitation and no tropical storms. This contributed to a dull season. Only the hawk migration provided some interest as the falcons and **Osprey** continue their increases at the Second Mt. hawk watch. By the end of Sept., the **Osprey** had already surpassed all previous full-season totals. All three falcons were near their all-time high season totals as well. The top finds, however, were two separate **Swainson's Hawk**. The first was a very cooperative dark-phase bird seen 9/16, which circled overhead for some time, allowing itself to be photographed (MC, DS, et al.). The second was an intermediate-phase bird seen 9/20 (MC).

Shorebird migration was dull despite the presence of suitable habitat in the ponds near Iona. Highlights here included **2 Upland Sandpiper** 7/22 (SS), **3 dowitcher** (sp.) and **1 White-rumped Sandpiper** 8/26 (JKL, SS) and **1 White-rumped, 2 Western** and **5 Semipalmated sandpipers** 9/11 (RM). The peak **Pectoral Sandpiper** count was only 6, seen 8/26 (RM) and again 9/2 (SS).

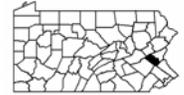
Ruby-throated Hummingbird is a fairly common migrant at Second Mt., but 21 on 8/27 was a high number. **Common Nighthawk** were reported in unusually high numbers this year (m.ob.). **Cliff Swallow** is normally a regular migrant in small numbers (25 or fewer per day) in late Aug/early Sept. This year was very unusual in that **500–1000** moved through in the Iona area 9/2 (SS). Many were seen 9/1,3 as well (SS et al.).

Vireo and warbler migration was especially dull this year, as no wave days were reported. Highlights of the season were **1 Philadelphia Vireo** 8/28 in SGL 145 (RM) and **1 Golden-winged Warbler** there 8/26 (SS). Five **Hooded Warbler** were seen there 8/4 (RM). This is a high total and early as well—possibly this was a family group raised locally. One **Mourning Warbler** was found n. of Lickdale 9/20 (PM). Finally, among the many thousands of blackbirds in the Iona area over Labor Day weekend were 15–20 very early **Rusty Blackbird** 9/2 (JKL).

OBSERVERS: Ellis Blouch, Morris Cox, Jane & Ken Light, Pat McElhenny, Randy Miller, Steve Santner, 3 Overbrook Village Green Apt., Elizabethtown 17022 (717-367-5857), Dave Schwenk.

LEHIGH COUNTY

Bernie Morris



Six **Great Egret** were at Spring Cr. 7/21 (SS). An **Am. Bittern** was seen at Jordan Park 8/12 (FB, TF, m.ob.). The only **Black-crowned Night-Heron** reported was an imm. bird at the Fogelsville Pond 7/22 (PE). These birds used to be much more numerous in our area, where have they gone?

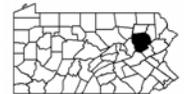
The **Broad-winged Hawk** flight was a poor one on the Blue Mt. (Kittatinny Ridge), with only a single day of over 1000 birds. Off the main hawk ridge a light-phase ad. **Swainson's Hawk** (No details. –Eds.) was seen 9/21 (JH); a *1st* record for the county away from Blue Mt. On 9/17, 4 imm. **Bald Eagle** (3 at one time) were seen there, and a **Merlin** went by 9/11 (JH). A **N. Harrier** was seen 7/27 near New Tripoli (JG, DG). A **Short-billed Dowitcher** was seen in a drainage pond near Fogelsville 7/24 (RW). Two imm. gulls (sp.) were seen fighting over a chicken bone in a parking lot in Allentown (DGe). **Ring-necked Pheasant** continue their decline, but good numbers of **Ruffed Grouse** were seen all over the area. Both **cuckoo** were seen in good numbers.

Olive-sided Flycatcher were seen in Emmaus 8/11 (JH) and near Lyon Valley the next day (PE, BLM). A singing **Winter Wren** was heard near Leaser L. 7/15 (PE). A **Philadelphia Vireo** was at Jordan Park 9/16, along with a very late singing **Warbling Vireo** (BLM, PE, BCM). A **Yellow-throated Vireo** was seen in Emmaus 9/18 (BLM). A **Connecticut Warbler** was found along the trail to Bake Oven Knob 9/29, and a late **Hooded Warbler** was seen near there 9/17 (DGe). Good warbler flights occurred in late August and early Sept. Three **Orchard Oriole** were seen at Jordan Park 7/7 (TF), and an imm. was at Applewood 7/17 (PE).

OBSERVERS: John & Nancy Boyer, Fritz Brock, Pauline England, Ted Fritzing, John Galm, Dick Gemmel, Dan Gerlach (DGe), Jason Horn, Barbara C. Malt, Bernard L. Morris, 825 N. Muhlenberg St., Allentown 18104 (215-435-9134), Steve Smith, Rick Wiltraut.

LUZERNE COUNTY

Bill Reid



Abbreviations: *Duryea* (DU), *Harding* (HA), *Harveys L.* (HL), *Kirby Park* (KP).

A fall-plumaged **Common Loon** was at HL 9/2 (JS). A **Pied-billed Grebe** summered at Exeter, but gave no indication of breeding (v.o.). Four **Great Egret** were at HA 7/30 (JS, MT); 2 were at DU 8/22 (PS); they were seen along the Susquehanna R. through late Aug., but no more than 4 were seen on any day (DG); and singles were noted at Wyoming and Forty Fort through Aug. (v.o.). An imm. **Little Blue Heron** was at HA 8/25–29 (JS, MT). **Black-crowned Night-Heron** were scarce this summer; the only reports were 2 at Wyoming 8/18 and 1 at HA 8/25 (JS).

A **Green-winged Teal** was at DU 8/22 (PS); and 4 **N. Shoveler** were noted at HA 9/3 (WR). Eleven **Common Merganser** were noted at Wyoming 8/30 (WR). The first **Osprey** report was at Campbell's Ledge 8/25 (JS). A **Virginia Rail** was observed at DU 8/22 (PS). The earliest **Lesser Yellowlegs** report was at Wyoming 7/21 (JH, JS). Five **Least Sandpiper** were seen

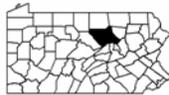
at Pittston 8/4 (WR). There were 2 **Stilt Sandpiper** reports: Forty Fort 8/4 (WR) and DU 8/22 (PS).

An early **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was seen at KP 9/3; there was also a heavy flight of **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** at KP on the same date (JS). A **Swainson's Thrush** seen at close range at Campbell's Ledge 8/25 was very early (JS). There were 2 **Philadelphia Vireo** reports from KP, 8/31 (WR) and 9/2 (JS). Migrating **Chestnut-sided** and **Black-throated Green** warblers were seen at Dallas 8/13 (NS). A **Bay-breasted Warbler** and an early **Blackpoll** were at KP 8/31 (WR). A **Worm-eating Warbler** was still present at Council Cup 7/28 and a **Wilson's Warbler** was seen at the PP&L wetlands 8/18 (A&MG).

OBSERVERS: Alan & Monica Gregory, Doug Gross, Jim Hoyson, William Reid, 73 W. Ross St., Wilkes-Barre 18702 (717-836-2525), Nedra Sekera, Jim Shoemaker, Pete Sidari, Martha Terry.

LYCOMING COUNTY

Wesley Egli



Abbreviations: *Hughesville (HVL), Huntersville (HTV), Jersey Shore (JS), Muncy area (MA), Picture Rocks area (PR)*. Sightings by compiler unless otherwise noted.

A **Double-crested Cormorant** was found at JS 7/28 (G&PS). A **Great Egret** was seen 8/25 near Muncy Cr. between HVL and MA. **Great Blue Heron** were seen 7/29 and 8/20 in PR as well as in HVL and MA throughout the quarter. Two **N. Harrier** were at Antes Fort 9/18 (G&PS). Young **Red-shouldered Hawk** were found (location deleted. -Eds.) in July and Aug. (DG). An imm. **Sora** was found dead in HVL 9/11, presumably hit by a car. **E. Screech-Owl** were heard calling 9/9 in PR. One colony of **Purple Martin** nested successfully in HVL, while another previously used site was unoccupied.

Carolina Wren numbers seem to be up throughout the county. However, **Wood Thrush** and **Ovenbird**, usually quite common in PR, were not nearly as common this summer. Loss of winter habitat may be taking its toll on these as well as other species. A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was seen in JS 8/26-29 (G&PS). **Worm-eating** and **Hooded** warblers were among 11 species seen in JS from late-Aug. through early Sept. (G&PS). A **Grasshopper Sparrow** was seen near HTV 7/16 (ML).

OBSERVERS: Wesley Egli, 123 N. Main, PO Box 381, Picture Rocks 17762 (717-584-2222), Doug Gross, Melvin Lane, Glenna & Paul Schwalbe.

MC KEAN COUNTY

Linda Ordiway



Bird reports for this quarter are nearly nonexistent. Going to school this summer reduced my birding time and the high water levels handicapped chances of finding anything particularly exciting. No special trends were evident even among common species. My other sources proved the same. The Aug/Sept shorebird migrants were missed, other than **Solitary** and **Spotted** sandpipers. My guess is that the high level of water and subsequent lack of mudflats encouraged them to pass right through.

Definitely looking forward to Oct., Nov., Dec!

COMPILER: Linda Ordiway, 72 Gilbert Lane, Bradford 16701 (814-368-7464).

MERCER COUNTY

Marty McKay



Abbreviations: *Big Bend (BB), Grove City area (GC), Hermitage area (HA), New Wilmington area (NW), Shenango R. Res. (SRR), Springfield Sportsman Club (SSC)*.

Double-crested Cormorant were observed at SRR from

8/31 to mid-Sept. in groups of 4 to 12. Two **Am. Black Duck** were at SRR 8/31. **Wood Duck** were seen in three areas: 2 at SRR 8/22, ad. with young 7/22 off Rt. 19 (BD) and 2 very recent broods with 1 ad. ♀ doing distraction display at BB 7/1. There was 1 **Great Egret** at SRR 9/7 and 3 there 9/14. The only **Green-backed Heron** report was of 1 at SRR 9/7.

The mystery of the Bald Eagle sightings at SRR has been solved. Chuck Budowsky of the Army Corps of Engineers reports a first-year nest in the Pymatuning watershed area just n.w. of Mercer near Kinsman in Trumbull County, Ohio. The nest was built in March, one egg was laid, hatched, and one young fledged. By 7/26 the family was feeding and bating around the nest area and SRR.

A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was observed at NW 7/5 (BD) and another all quarter at GC (HB). On 8/22, an imm. **Red-tailed Hawk** perched 15 ft from our window, watched dinner being served inside. Considerable thought was given to sharing a chicken leg with the hungry uninvited guest, but the handsome bird flew away with an empty crop, evidently uninterested in our dessert of chocolate cake. **Am. Kestrel** seem plentiful in s. Mercer: 4 were at NW 7/5 and 2 at White Chapel Rd. 7/22 (BD).

The heavy rainfall throughout the quarter covered most mud flats. However, the following shorebirds were noted at SRR: 1 **Semipalmated Plover** 7/24, 8/22 and 9/11; 1 **Greater Yellowlegs** 8/22 and 2 on 9/7; 1 **Solitary Sandpiper** 8/31; 1 **Stilt Sandpiper** 8/22; 1 **Short-billed Dowitcher** 7/24, 9/11; and 1 **Common Snipe** 8/31. On 9/4, competing with 4 **Killdeer** on a small mud flat, were 6 opportunistic **Eur. Starling**. All 10 birds were unconcerned with 3 young wrestling raccoons 25 ft away.

A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was seen at HA 7/24. An **E. Screech-Owl** was heard at HA 7/20 and 8/4. Another was present at Creek Rd. 9/1 (HB,SM,LW). On 9/2, 17 **Common Nighthawk** were at HA, and all headed north! Two **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** stayed at GC until 9/28 (SM) Two **Red-headed Woodpecker** were at Dillin Rd. 9/22 (HB,SM) and several were at Bend R. 7/22 (BD).

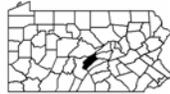
An **E. Phoebe** sang for several extended periods all day at HA 9/28. **Great Crested Flycatcher** moved through GC 9/8-23 (HB). **E. Kingbird** was common at SRR and BB; they were also seen 7/5 on Bend Rd, and 7/22 at White Chapel Rd (BD). Four **N. Rough-winged Swallow** were at NW 7/5 (BD) and 1 at BB 7/1 (HB,SM,LW). Twenty-two **Bank Swallow** were feeding young at Bend Rd. 7/15 (BD), and a small colony was located at BB 7/1 (HB,SM,LW). By 7/13 the **Cliff Swallow** colony on the Headquarters Bldg. at SRR-Propagation Area had grown to 6 or 7 active nests. A **Blue Jay** was giving a good rendition of a Cooper's Hawk call at HA 9/21. Two **Carolina Wren** arrived at HA 7/17 and remained all quarter and 1 was heard at SSC 8/3. The first **Winter Wren** appeared at HA 9/22. Two **Swainson's Thrush** moved through HA 9/4. About 100 **Cedar Waxwing** began flocking at SRR 9/4.

Yellow-throated and **Warbling** vireo are easy to find in late summer since they are still singing. One **Yellow-throated** was at HA 9/27 and single **Warbling** were found at SRR 9/7, at Bend Rd. 7/5 (BD), at SSC 8/13 (BD) and at Creek Rd. 9/1 (HB,SM,LW).

An amazing variety of warblers was found, including three that are rare for the county: 6 **Orange-crowned** and 1 **Connecticut** at Creek Rd. 9/1 and 1 **Yellow-breasted Chat** at BB 7/1 (HB,SM,LW). At HA 9/5, there were single **Chestnut-sided**, **Wilson's** and **Canada** and 10 **Magnolia** all found in one bush and, as so often happens, mixed in with several chickadees. Others noted were: **Blue-winged**, **Yellow-rumped**, **Black-throated Green**, **Palm**, **Black-and-white**, **Am. Redstart**, **Ovenbird**, **Common Yellowthroat** and **Hooded**. A **Cape May** feasted on ants on a hummingbird feeder at GC (SM). The 17 **E. Meadowlark** at Limber Rd. 9/23 were noteworthy (HB,SM,LW).

OBSERVERS: Harriett Bauer, Barb Dean, Shirley McCarl, Marty McKay, 2320 Valley View Road, Sharpsville 16150 (412-962-7476), Loraine Weiland.

MIFFLIN COUNTY



Margaret Kenepf

All records by compiler unless otherwise noted.

Seven or 8 **Canada Goose** continued all season near the Juniata R. Two **Black Vulture** were seen 9/24. Kettles of **Turkey Vulture** were observed during Sept. A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** visited our feeder for a dinner of 1 goldfinch 8/4. Three **Broad-winged Hawk** were seen over Jack's Mt. between McVeytown and Belleville 9/20. Our nesting **Red-tailed Hawk** have been absent since the end of Aug. We usually have at least 2 **Am. Kestrel** from Aug. through the winter in a 2-mi radius of our home, and this year is no exception. A flock of **Wild Turkey** was heard 7/24. We have had good numbers of **Killdeer** all season.

Long-eared Owl were observed as usual on Mattawana Hill (AY). They fly into a grove of trees just after the blackbirds start to roost in large flocks in summer. They were observed flying in from the direction of the Ridge, as usual and, particularly on moon-lit nights, were very vocal, sometimes all during the night and when neighbors' roosters started to crow they really became noisy. **Belted Kingfisher** have been noted in good numbers and several locations.

Note, Annie Yoder and I have an aunt who lives in West Virginia. She and all her neighbors this summer, fed their hummingbirds strawberry Jello. She said they loved it. A box of Jello with one cup hot water and 2 cups cold water. General Foods would love this plug!

Red-headed Woodpecker was absent this season, but an ad. and 2 imm. **Red-bellied Woodpecker** were at the suet feeder 9/1. An imm. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was seen in the Lewistown area 9/10 (BW). Several **Downy Woodpecker** visited the feeders, but no **Hairy Woodpecker**. **White-breasted Nuthatch** were frequent visitors. An **E. Phoebe** was still vocal by the stream 9/30. **Barn Swallow** left the Zook barn in the Belleville area 8/17; however, some nests still had young and it was noted that this group left about a week later (EZ).

Two winters ago I learned that Carolyn Wray had read of a bluebird winter feeder from the book, *Bluebirds—Their Daily Lives and How to Attract and Raise Bluebirds*, by Tina and Curtis Dew and Reber Laben. Carolyn and Joe Wray have had such great pleasure feeding bluebirds at their backyard that they shared the information with me. My husband made two boxes and last winter we had the pleasure of having several visits from the welcome guests during a snowy, cold period.

They loved raisins, currants and rose hips. Our boxes are in place and anxiously we are waiting to see the bluebirds start to use them. This summer Carolyn actually saw an adult bluebird go to the house and feed the young inside a chopped up raisin. I find that the colder the weather, the finer I chop the food, as it becomes very firm in the cold temperatures.

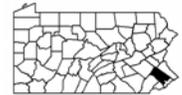
Ruth Smeltzer of Burnham also put out the same sort of box and she has enjoyed chickadees, Tufted Titmice and finches, which sometimes forget how to exit the box and she needs to lift the lid and let them out.

Am. Robin nested early in the season, but also were noted to have fledged 3 young 9/19. From McVeytown we learned of a ♂ robin that kept flying at her window for six weeks this summer. She tried unsuccessfully on many occasions to discourage its presence (JS). Warblers observed in our backyard in Sept. were: **Black-and-white**, **Cerulean**, **Chestnut-sided** and a **Yellow-rumped** which hit the window and died.

OBSERVERS: Margaret Kenepf, Box 343, RD 2, McVeytown 17051 (717-899-6252), Artie Pursel, Ruth Smeltzer,

Joyce Sunderland, Dave Treaster, Bill Womer, Annie Yoder, E. Zook.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY



Neal Thorpe

Abbreviations: Green Lane Res. (GLR), Fort Washington SP (FWSP), Schuylkill River valley (SRV), Unami Creek valley (UCV), Valley Forge National Historical Park (VFNP).

GLR, as usual, generated most of the excitement this quarter: a **Sora** seen there 7/31—a first there for GLF who has been monitoring the area for many years; a one-day-only **Black-bellied Plover** 8/6 (m.ob); a **Lesser Golden-Plover** 9/9 (GAF); a juv. **Sanderling** 9/11-12 (m.ob); and a **Wilson's Phalarope** 9/2-4 (KC, GLF).

Other top birds were a **Red-headed Woodpecker** at VFNP 9/17 (RG); a single **Cliff Swallow** at FWSP 8/31 (W&NM); and either one traveling **Philadelphia Vireo** or 2 different ones 9/1, at GLR (GLF) and at nearby UPVP (GAF). In spite of an outstandingly poor migration season, warblers seen included an ad. ♂ **Nashville** in the UCV 9/23 (GLF); 2 **Connecticut**, 1 imm. in RG's Perkiomenville yard 9/9, the other an ad. ♂ in the UCV 9/16 (GLF); and 2 **Mourning**, 1 in FWSP 9/16 (W&NM) and an imm. in RG's yard 9/20. Finally, see box describing RG's view of a **Western Tanager** in VFNP 9/17.

There were a max. of 7 **Double-crested Cormorant** summering at GLR. Herons were reported in about normal numbers, with **Green-backed Heron** finally turning up in moderate numbers in the SRV and UPVP and single **Black-crowned Night-Heron** at both GLR and UPVP (GLF). Both teal were in good numbers at both places, a **N. Shoveler** and some **Gadwall** turned up by the end of Sept., and 2 **Am. Wigeon** spent Aug. at UPVP. An imm. ♂ **Hooded Merganser** coming into adult plumage was first seen at GLR on the early date of 9/30 (GAF).

A 1st-year **Bald Eagle** was at GLR 9/6 (KC, GAF) and an ad. flew by the Militia Hill hawk watch at FWSP 9/23. **Wild Turkey** were prolific around the upper Perkiomen, with up to 40 in several flocks at GLR and others reported in the area by RG. At least 1 pair of the 3 **Virginia Rail** first reported at GLR in May stayed and produced 3 chicks. GLR was brimming all summer, so shorebird numbers were modest. Small numbers of **Western Sandpiper** were seen late-July/early-Aug. (NT, GLF); 2 **White-rumped Sandpiper** 9/9-12 (KC, GLF) and a single **Stilt Sandpiper** 8/6 (KC).

Cuckoo reports were scant: a **Black-billed** at GLR 7/17 and the first **Yellow-billed** not seen there till 7/9. The **Pileated Woodpecker** RG had in his yard "almost daily" during May disappeared in June (RG theorizes to raise a family), but started reappearing regularly 9/8. KC reports that 95 **Tree Swallow** fledged in GLR's nest boxes, and both GLR and the SRV had some **Bank Swallow** among their large swallow populations. GLF had an early **Red-breasted Nuthatch** in his GLR yard 9/2. KC also reports that 30 **E. Bluebird** fledged there in nest boxes and 29 in natural cavities.

Ron Grubb submitted the following report of a **Western Tanager**: "I saw this bird on the trail along Valley Creek about 10 am. in good light [on 17 September in Valley Forge National Park]. It was perched in the open near the top of a tree about 20 yards away and about 50 feet up. I first saw it front view and thought it was just a winter **Scarlet [Tanager]** brighter yellow than usual. Then it turned 3/4 front and I immediately noticed the shoulder patch and wing bar. Seeing this I looked for other field marks and got a dark back (which **Scarlets** don't show). Also the bill was rather dark. It then flew across in front of me to another tree where it disappeared, and I never saw it again. The wing bars were clear in flight. I only saw it for about 30-40 seconds, but saw it well."

Remarks on the passerine migration in general ranged from

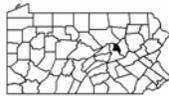
RG's "Magnolia, Black-throated Green, Canada, Am. Redstart and Wilson's good in migration, all others poor. Wood Thrush and Veery good, other thrushes poor. Over-all migration not so good," to WM's "This has been the worst fall migration I have seen in a long time." The latter's best day at FWSP, 9/16, produced 16 species of warbler, including the **Mourning**. GLF's six dates of Sept. birding in the UCV also produced 16 warbler species, including the **Connecticut**, for him a state life-bird.

Note that Ron Grubb's yard record in Perkiomenville was also extraordinary for the second quarter in a row. His visitors included a Pileated Woodpecker, 2 Winter Wrens, a Wilson's Warbler, an imm. Connecticut Warbler and an imm. Mourning Warbler. However, all was not roses. The Red-shouldered Hawk chick that fledged in his yard last quarter was found dead in front of one of his windows 8/7. "Apparently it had flown into it and killed itself. It was taken to the Nature Center at GLR and will some day be on display. In that, his passing may at least serve some purpose."

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

MONTOUR COUNTY

Allen Schweinsberg

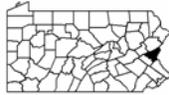


Double-crested Cormorant are appearing more frequently, with sightings this summer by CS at Montour Preserve 6/30; on 8/5, 9/9, 12 and 9/20 in the Susquehanna R. at Danville; and 9/18 at the PP&L ash basin. **Black-crowned Night-Heron** were spotted by CS on three occasions: 2 ad. near the Danville bridge 8/15; 1 ad. and 1 imm. 8/31 and 1 imm. 9/2 along the Susquehanna R. near the mouth of Mahoning Cr.

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

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY

Rick Wiltraut



Abbreviations: Little Gap Bird Observatory (LGBO), Martin's Creek (MC), Pt. Phillip (PP).

Two **Double-crested Cormorant** were at MC 9/30 (AK) and another was seen at LGBO that same day (SB,RW). Another was seen at Green Pond 9/3 (DD). Single **Great Egret** were seen at PP 9/14 (DD) and MC 9/19+ (AK). An excellent count of 20 **Green-backed Heron** was made at MC 8/29 (AK) and **Black-crowned Night-Heron** were found in the vicinity of Sandt's Eddy in Aug (SB,RW).

An early **Snow Goose** was in a flock of **Canada Goose** at LGBO 9/18 (RW). Fifteen **Wood Duck** were at MC 9/23 and 25 **Green-winged Teal** were counted there 9/3 (AK).

An ad. **Bald Eagle** was at a farm pond in Williams Twp 7/13 (fide LM) and 4 **Bald Eagle** were at LGBO 9/15 (SB). An imm. N. **Goshawk** 9/8 and an ad. 9/18 at LGBO may have been local summer residents (SB, BS,RW). An early **Merlin** was banded at LGBO 9/4 (BS,JS) and 3 were seen 9/15 (SB). Another **Merlin** off the ridge at MC 9/19 was unusual (AK). **Peregrine Falcon** were seen at LGBO 9/23,25 (SB,BS).

Five **Greater** and 3 **Lesser** yellowlegs were at MC 9/19+ and 7 **Pectoral Sandpiper** were there 9/25 (AK). **Barn Owl** were noted at Tatamy 8/19 (DD) and MC 9/23 (AK). **Great Horned Owl** seem to be moving into residential areas, probably to prey upon the ever present Norway rats and skunks. Two were heard nightly outside my apartment in Nazareth 9/11-17. Two **Whip-poor-will** were heard at LGBO 7/22 (SB, RW) and another was seen at Jacobsburg 9/7 (DD). A **Chimney Swift** nest was discovered in an abandoned cement tower at MC 9/25 (AK,DD,RW), an unusual location. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** were regular but uncommon migrants in late-Aug/early-Sept. at LGBO (LGBO staff). Single **Red-headed Woodpecker** were seen at LGBO 9/15 (SB) and 9/19 (BS, RW). A N. **Flicker** was seen entering a crevice in a barn at dusk near

Bath 9/3 (RW) and a **Pileated Woodpecker** regularly heard/seen at LGBO in Sept. was unusual (LGBO staff).

On 9/14 at approximately 2:45 pm, I was driving near Seemsville when I spotted a kingbird on a wire that looked different. When I stopped and got out, the bird took off after a N Mockingbird then veered to the right revealing white outer tail feathers. A Western Kingbird! The bird landed near the top of an apple tree, then quickly flew off to the east and out of sight. A thorough search of the area failed to turn up the bird. A front had just passed through the area at the time of the sighting followed by moderate southwest winds.

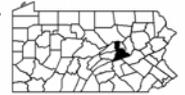
A **Common Raven** was seen at LGBO 9/15 (SB). A **Winter Wren** arrived at LGBO 9/20 (DD) and an early **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was seen there 9/9 (SB,RW). **Chestnut-sided Warbler** nested near Hellertown (EM), an unusual record for the s. sector of the county. Two **Cape May Warbler** were feeding on wild grapes near Bath 9/3 (DW,RW) and **Black-throated Green Warbler** was the most regular/common migrant warbler at LGBO in Sept. (RW). Single **Connecticut Warbler** were seen at LGBO after a cold front on 9/17,18,20. The latter bird was an ad. ♂ and all 3 were easy to study after being flushed from the ground (RW).

One of the highlights of the season was the sighting of a pair of **Blue Grosbeak** (No details. -Eds.) with 3 fledglings on a farm in Williams Twp 8/15 (AK). The area was described as being fields bordered by hedgerows, very suitable for breeding. There are no known breeding records for the county. Curiously, another (same?) ad. ♂ **Blue Grosbeak** was seen a few miles from this location 8/9 (LM).

OBSERVERS: Steve Boyce, Dave DeReamus, Arlene Koch, Lisa Mattioli, Elaine Mease, Brad Silfies, Joel Silfies, Dorothy Wiltraut, Rick Wiltraut, 205 Washington St., Nazareth 18064 (215-759-5184).

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY

Dave Unger



Abbreviations: Riverside (RS), Rush Twp. (RT), Susquehanna River near Riverside (SR).

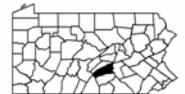
Great Egret were a common sight along the SR all quarter, with as many as 5 in sight at one time. **Snowy Egret** were also seen frequently, but were not as numerous. The highlight of the quarter was an imm. **Little Blue Heron** along the SR. It was seen on both the *Montour* and *Northumberland* sides from 8/27 till at least 8/31 (CS,DU). **Osprey** remained common along the SR. An imm. **Bald Eagle** was at the SR 8/27 and there were many more unconfirmed sightings this quarter. An ad. N. **Goshawk** in a tree at the township building in RT 8/30 was my first sighting in the county.

Black-bellied Plover were along the SR early this year, with 9 seen 8/2. **Killdeer** were numerous; a flock of 22 was at the Cherokee Golf Course 8/29. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** remained late due to the mild weather; there were still 3 in RT 9/21. Both the **Bank** and **Rough-winged** swallows were last seen in RS 7/13. *The Bank Swallow colony did not raise any young, as all the nesting burrows in the boiler ash pile were destroyed by heavy rains.* Migrating **Tree** and **Barn** swallows were seen until nearly the end of the quarter, probably due to the mild weather.

OBSERVERS: Chris Smull, Linda and Dave Unger, RD 6 Box 246, Danville 17821 (717-672-3254).

PERRY COUNTY

Deuane Hoffman



All sightings by compiler.

Twenty-three **Double-crested Cormorant** were seen at the

Liverpool Boat Launch 9/7.

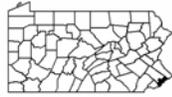
A **Great Horned Owl** resided in a woodlot of the Carson Long Military Institute in New Bloomfield all quarter.

Two separate **Winter Wren** were seen in the Hemlocks Nature area 7/17. Breeding at this locale is probable. A count of 13 species of warblers was tallied at SGL 179 on 9/17, including a **Wilson's Warbler**. Nine **Bobolink** were seen in a field near Ellitsburg 7/22, but breeding success is unknown. An **Orchard Oriole** was seen at its nest near Marysville 7/6.

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

PHILADELPHIA COUNTY

Edward Fingerhood



Abbreviations: **Carpenter's Woods (CW)**, **Ft. Mifflin (FM)**, **Girard Point Bridge-Rt. I-95 (GPB)**, **Livesy Lane (LL)**, **Pennypack Park (PP)**, **Phila. Int'l Airport (IA)**, **Roxborough (RX)**, **Sewage Treatment Plant (STP)**, **Tinicum National Environmental Center (TN)**, **West Fairmount Park (WFP)**, **West Mt. Airy (WMA)**.

Least Bittern had a good year at TN, at least 12 pair nested (JCM). On 8/16, 2 juv. were observed still covered with down (FW). Six pair of **Great Egret** nest in the FM area in July (JCM). CM found 4 **Green-backed Heron** in WFP 8/25 and 1 was in the vicinity of the IA 9/14 (EF). **Black-crowned Night-Heron** did exceptionally well this season. Miller found 65+ pair nesting at FM and another 55 nesting pairs at TN in July. **Glossy Ibis** showed up at the IA 8/15 (BS). Perhaps JCM saw the same 2 at nearby TN the next day. **Blue-winged Teal** arrived at least by 9/16, when 8 were found at TN (EF).

One **Osprey** was at RX 9/5 (CM) and 1 seen over CW 9/23 (SL, MD). An imm. **Bald Eagle** overflew TN 8/24 (JCM). A **N. Harrier** in RX 9/20 was found hovering over farm fields (CM), and at least 1 pair was confirmed nesting at the IA (JCM). **Sharp-shinned Hawk** were noted on five dates, starting with an imm. 8/10 in CM+W (MD) and ending 9/23 (SL,MD) in CW. Two **Cooper's Hawk** were found by SL in WMA, 1 each 9/17 and 9/23. Rare in **Philadelphia**, a **N. Goshawk** was found 9/29 at the NE Airport (Al Kronschnabel). Only 1 **Red-shouldered Hawk** was noted. SL saw it over WMA 9/23. **Broad-wings** were first noted 9/16 over CW (EB,MD), and good flights there 9/17 of 40+ (SL) and 30+ on 9/23 (MD) made it a good flight year. But DM's 413 between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. 9/23 at TN was spectacular for a city flight. A single **Red-tailed Hawk** over WMA 9/17 was the only report (SL). The breeding **Am. Kestrel** at 44th & Market Sts. were 3 on 7/9. Copulation was observed on that advanced date (EB). The disappearance of the juv. **Peregrine Falcon** from the GPB nest site remains unexplained. Adults were seen there in July (JCM, Dan Brauning) and 8/14 (EF). An ad. ♂ was observed at TN 9/23 (DM). **Common Moorhen** nested; an ad. with 3 juv. was seen at TN 7/11 (JS). JCM reports 40+ on 9/13 and EF 31 on 9/17 at the STP.

A **Common Snipe** "out-of-habitat" was noted 9/24 in PP (FW), and a single **Am. Woodcock** was seen in RX 9/30 (CM). **Caspian Tern** were seen on three dates, 8/20 one at TN (JS), 3 on 825 on the Delaware R. near FM (BS) and 7 at TN 8/3 (JCM). A **Forster's Tern** 8/5 (JS) and an uncommon **Black Tern** 7/22 (SC) were also seen at TN.

An **E. Screech-Owl** was found in RX 9/30 (CM) and **Great Horned Owl** 8/12 in WFP—a breeding pair, and in RX 9/4 (CM). An early **Common Nighthawk** over WFP 7/15 may have bred locally (CM), but the major migration appears to have started about 8/7, when JS saw 1 over TN. Our reports indicate this species for 12 dates from 8/7–24. Some better flights were 8/11,20 at WMA (SL), and 9/12,13 on the Walnut Lane Bridge (EF). A **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was seen in WMA 7/24, and at CW 8/7, 9/16,23 (MD). CM suggests breeding **Hairy Woodpecker** due to 2 seen 7/11 in WFP.

"Many" **Least Flycatcher** were in PP from Aug. through early Sept. (FW) and 1 in CW 9/23.

Two **Purple Martin** were found in RX 8/11–13 (CM). Over 100 pair of **Tree Swallow** nested at TN and 12 pair of **Bank Swallow** nested at FM (JCM). A flock of 18+ **Blue Jay** mobbed

a **RX feeder** 9/30 (CM). One **Winter Wren** appeared in CW 9/30 (EB) and **Marsh Wren** nested at TN, seen 7/11 (JS). The only known colony of nesting **E. Bluebird**, at RX, fledged at least 7 young. They were still being fed 9/10 (CM). An early **Swainson's Thrush** appeared in CW 9/4 (SL). Other thrushes there were **Wood**, 9/2 (EB) and 9/21 (MD). Three pair of **Warbling Vireo** nested at TN from July through Aug (JCM). A **Philadelphia Vireo** was seen in TN 9/17 by two experienced observers (AG,SC).

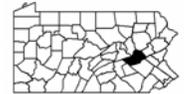
The best bird of the quarter was a **Western Kingbird**, convincingly described by Sandra Sherman, at TN 9/15. Regrettably, no other observers were present at the time and the bird could not be found subsequently. A full description has been submitted to P.O.R.C. The only other *Philadelphia* report of this species, of which I am aware, is for 12/31/61 at the IA. (See page 99)

The fall warbler flight produced 26 species. Migrant **Blue-winged** were at CW 8/12 (EB) and 8/23 (MD). A **Tennessee** was in WMA 9/17 (SL). A very well described **Orange-crowned** at TN 9/17 (AG) was convincingly differentiated from the possibly confusing **Tennessee**. **Nashville** were seen in CW 9/2,16 (EB). An impressive 10 **N. Parula** were in WMA 9/17 (SL); the species was last noted 9/23 when 2 were in CW (EB). A **Yellow** remained at TN until 9/17 (SC). **Chestnut-sided** showed up first 8/23 and last noted 9/21 in CW (MD). The **Magnolia** flight lasted from 9/2–23. All but a 9/17 report from TN (SC) were at CW (EB). At least 2 **Cape May** were at TN 9/17 (SC,AG). **Black-throated Blue** were found in CW 9/13–30 (EB,MD), and **Black-throated Green**, an impressive 20+ in WMA 9/17 (SL), spanned the period 9/16–21 (EB, MD,AG,SC). Two **Blackburnian** reports reached us, 1 each from TN 9/17 (SC) and CW 9/21 (MD). A **Prairie** at TN 9/17 was the only report (SC,AG). Only 1 **Palm** was noted, an ♂ in WMA 9/2 bathing in a birdbath—what else? (EB). **Bay-breasted** were seen from 9/2—a nice early date—to 9/28 (EB,MD) in CW; 1 noted at TN 9/17 (SC). **Blackpoll** reported only 9/16 in CW (EB) and TN 9/17 (SC,AG). **Am. Redstart** arrived 7/29, an early date, in PP (FW). Two reports in Aug. and 6 in Sept. ended 9/23 when 1 was in CW (MD). FW found 1 "migrant" **Worm-eating Warbler** each day 8/23,31 in PP. Three **N. Waterthrush** reports spanned the period 8/5–9/17 at TN (JS,AG), a 9/15 bird was at CW (MD). **Kentucky** in WMA 7/8 (SL) and in CW 9/2 (EB) were the only reports. An ad. ♀ **Connecticut** in PP 9/6 was a good find for FW, as was his imm. or ♀ **Mourning** a week earlier, 8/31, also in PP. Finally, **Canada** were seen 4 times in CW from 8/12 (EB) to 9/18 (EB,MD,SL).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak were moving 9/15 in TN (SS), and in WMA where 5 were seen that day (SL). Last report was an imm. ♂ 9/19 in CW (EB). Three pair of **Blue Grosbeak** nested at FM in July (JCM). **Indigo Bunting** bred in WMA, where an imm. was seen 7/3 (SL), and in WFP 8/7 where 2 ad. were observed feeding 3 juv. (CM). A rare **Lincoln's Sparrow** was seen in PP 9/6 (Bob Sehl). Our earliest **Dark-eyed Junco**, surely an advanced migrant, appeared in CW 9/21 (MD). A ♀ **Orchard Oriole**, a migrant, was found in PP 8/11 (FW).

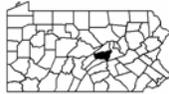
OBSERVERS: Erica Brendel, Skip Conant, Michael Drake, Edward Fingerhood, 541 W. Sedgwick St., Philadelphia 19119 (215-843-5818), Al Guarente, Steve Lawrence, Chris McCabe, Doris McGovern, John C. Miller, Sandra Sherman, Jack Siler, Frank Windfelder.

SCHUYLKILL COUNTY



Tom Clauser is moving to Oregon, so will be retiring as Schuylkill County compiler. We wish him well. **Dan Knarr, R.D. 1, Box 23D, New Ringgold, PA 17960 (717-386-4780)**, has agreed to assume the compiler's duties and welcomes your sightings.

SNYDER COUNTY

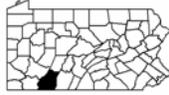


Allen Schweinsberg

A hike on 7/2 in Tall Timbers from the parking area to the fire tower cut-off by R&PW included a pair of **Acadian Flycatcher** taking food to their nest, 8 singing **Winter Wren**, a **Nashville Warbler**, **Black-throated Green Warbler**, **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**, and **Dark-eyed Junco**.

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

SOMERSET COUNTY



Ruth and Glenn Sager

Abbreviations: *Black Twp (BT), Central City (CC), Cranberry Glade L. (CGL), Hooversville (HV), L. Somerset (LS), North Fork Dam (NFD), Milford Twp (MT), Quemahoning Dam (QD).*

One **Common Loon** was seen first at QD 8/16 and remained to 9/30. A **Double-crested Cormorant** was at QD 8/16, 3 on 9/9–10 and 2 to 9/30. One **Great Blue Heron** appeared at QD 8/23, several were seen there and on nearby Stonycreek R. in Sept. A **Great Egret** was at QD 8/23. NFD had 1 **Green-backed Heron** and QD had 2 on 8/22, and several remained at QD to end of Sept. AM reported 23 **Canada Goose** at LS 9/7 and 29 on 9/26. The brood of 4 young at Confluence turned out to be **Canadas**, in spite of being reared by Emden Goose and a **Canada Goose** (see **PB** 4:2). The **Canada** was seen in company of a ♂ **Canada** prior to nesting (AM).

Hawks generated the most excitement for birds in the quarter. On 7/8, AM discovered a nest in a tree proved to be a post-nesting season building of an **Osprey** at the lake on several occasions and observed added to the nest until 8/5, but did not see the actual nest building. However, he interviewed lakeside residents who had seen **Osprey** calls during the day and evenings was reported to the PGC and nest platforms are to be placed on the lake and the **Youghiogheny R.** in anticipation of **Osprey** nesting next spring.

AM noted 1 **N. Harrier** 7/31, 1 on 8/16, 2 on 9/20 and 5 on 9/25 in MT; 1 was seen 8/29 in BT. Ninety raptors, including 70 **Broad-winged Hawk**, passed the Allegheny Front lookout on the opening day, 8/30. This being only the second year for this watch, it is a little early to make comparisons. However, there was a likely cause for very low **Broad-winged** counts in the cold weather, west winds, and rain during their peak migration period. There were no **Merlin**, compared with 10 in Sept. last year. Other species were comparable or much better than last year. The complete hawk watch report will be published in the next issue.

Ruffed Grouse seemed to be in fewer numbers than normal, but **Wild Turkey** were numerous, often traveling in large flocks. One **Sora** was at LS 9/7 (AM). There was one flock of 54 **Killdeer** at MT 9/25, but few were at QD throughout Sept. Only **Greater Yellowlegs** was reported at NFD 8/22. One **Solitary Sandpiper** was at MT 8/1, 2 at QD 8/22, 1 at NFD and QD 8/23, and 1 at QD 9/24. Two **Spotted Sandpiper** were seen 8/1 and 1 **Common Snipe** 9/25 in MT. A single **Ring-billed Gull** was at LS 7/15 (AM); and 2 **Caspian Tern** were there 9/25 (RL, RM).

After several years of increasing numbers of **Red-bellied Woodpecker**, none was seen at HV during the quarter until 1 appeared 9/27. After low counts in the last quarter also, the only **E. Wood-Pewee** at HV was seen 9/13. AM found an **E. Kingbird** nest with 3 eggs on top of a stump 18" above water at CGL 7/8, and 5 at LS 9/7.

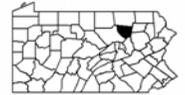
Fourteen **Horned Lark** were seen in MT 8/16 and 6 in BT

8/29 (AM). **Blue Jay** migration was noted at CC 9/23. The first **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was seen 9/29 at HV. A single **White-eyed Vireo** was seen 7/21 at HV and 1 **Philadelphia Vireo** was seen there 9/4. Up to 4 **Solitary Vireo** were at HV 9/29–30 and a few heard in late Sept. at CC. Many **Red-eyed Vireo** were on the move with warblers 9/5–6 at HV.

Warbler reports are all from HV area, since no other reports were received. Except for a very good movement of young **Am. Redstart** during the post-nesting period in late July and early Aug. and good numbers of **Common Yellowthroat**, there were few sightings of species that nest in mountain woodlands nearby—**Black-throated Blue**, **Black-throated Green**, **Black-and-white**, **Kentucky** and **Hooded**. The migration in Sept. was very meager, beginning with 1 **Magnolia** 9/2. Best dates were 9/5–6 and 9/12. **Magnolia** and **Am. Redstart** were most numerous, but never with more than 10 at one time. Other species with less than 4 per day in the period from 9/4–13 were **Tennessee**, **Nashville**, **Pine** (singles 9/5–6), **Chestnut-sided**, **Hooded**, **Blackburnian** and **Cape May**. **Cape Mays** and **Black-throated Greens** had a few more birds daily 9/22–30. Since the Sagers were on hawk watch almost continually in Sept., any daytime waves would have been missed by them and this report is of morning and evening counts.

OBSERVERS: David Escherich, Kevin Georg, Robert Leberman, Anthony J. Marich, Jr., Jim Moses, Robert Mulvihill, A.C. & Marion Mincone, Glenn and Ruth Sager, RD 1, Box 176-B, Hooversville 15936 (814-798-3242).

SULLIVAN COUNTY



Douglas A. Gross

Abbreviations: *Wyoming State Forest (WSF).*

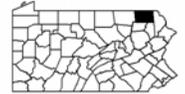
Red-shouldered Hawk fledglings were conspicuously common in WSF in July (DG). DG heard rumors of **Bald Eagle** and **Osprey** visiting some **Sullivan** lakes during the summer, but the eagle reports went unconfirmed. There were several reports of both **Great Horned** and **Barned owls** in the **Eagles Mere** area (FC, EMC). Over 30 **Wild Turkey** walked in front of DG's truck while he was driving near **Shunk** in Aug.

An ad. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was followed from a bog into an adjacent grove of hemlocks where it fed three fledglings, 7/9 (DG, SC). This observation confirmed nesting for this species in **Sullivan** for the first time since 1980 (DG). Unlike some **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** that I have observed in the state, these birds did not stay in the nesting territory in late July or Aug. Other bogs were searched for **Yellow-bellieds** with no success (DG).

Common Raven families were noisily conspicuous throughout the county's state forests and gamelands in the quarter. **Canada Warbler** and **N. Waterthrush** fledges were found in WSF bogs in July and early Aug., as well as fledges of the more commonly found **Black-throated Green** and **Magnolia warblers** (DG).

OBSERVERS: Douglas A. Gross, RR 1, Box 147, Orangeville, PA 17859, Skip Conant, Fred Cracraft, Eagles Mere Conservancy.

SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY



Bill Reid

Abbreviation: *Lymanville (LY).*

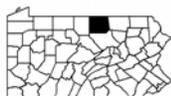
A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was seen near Lawton 7/31 (WR). An **Alder Flycatcher** was calling at LY 7/10–16 (WR); and 3 **Horned Lark** were seen there 7/26 (JH, JS). A **Brown Creeper** was still singing at Springville 8/27 (WR). A **Vesper Sparrow** was found at LY 7/5–9; and a **Grasshopper Sparrow** was heard there 7/16 (WR). The **Henslow's Sparrow** n. of Meshoppen were seen with young in July

and were still present 7/31 (JH,WR,JS).

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

TIOGA COUNTY

Bob Ross



Abbreviations: Colton Point SP (CP), Hamilton L. (HL), National Fishery Laboratory-Asaph (NFL), Pine Cr. (PC), Wellsboro area (WA), Wellsboro Jct (WJ), Whitneyville (WV).

Double-crested Cormorant continue to increase their presence on Tioga lakes. A dozen were observed swimming on Hamilton L. 8/1 (MC). Two active colonies of **Great Blue Heron** were located this summer near WJ and WV (RMR). **Canada Goose** were observed flying S in moderate-to-large-sized V-formations the last day of the quarter by independent observers (MC,RMR). **Wood Duck** appeared to have had good productivity this year with small groups and pairs observed throughout on creeks, marshes and small farm ponds (CC,JC,RMR).

Observers in HL and WA 9/24 watched **Turkey Vulture** migrating in large numbers (MC). Eight of 9 imm. **Osprey** were successfully hatched at HL this summer in a re-introduction program by the Army Corps of Engineers. Single "wild" **Osprey** (who knows how many of these birds were raised without human assistance?) were also observed frequently in Sept. at NFL (RMR) and at Beechwood L. 9/23 (HR). Two ad. and 1 imm. **Bald Eagle** (presumably the resident pair and its recently fledged young) were observed perched in the same tree on PC 7/7 and 9/29 (CD). Two ad. **Bald Eagle** were also seen at CP 9/2 (MC). A **Red-tailed Hawk** twice dove on an ad. **Bald Eagle** as it circled over PC near Gaines 9/17 (HR). **Red-tailed Hawk** did well this year, as imm. were found frequently county-wide (RC,RMR). **Am. Kestrel** were also found in good numbers, with up to 8 birds observed together (FC,RC,CC,JC,RMR).

Wild Turkey were numerous from WA to HL (MC). A **Virginia Rail** was seen in a small wetland near HL 9/17 (MC). A **Great Horned Owl** was seen flying over a field at dusk in Sabinsville 7/10 (HR), while another was found dead below power lines at WA (JC). Imm. were heard frequently at WA and PC, with identification based on their characteristic loud screams (RC,FC,BD,RMR).

The last **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**, thought to be a migrant, used a feeder at PC 9/30 (FC). Presumed resident hummers apparently last used the PC feeder 9/23 (FC). MC independently observed one (apparent migrant) feeding on her impatiens at WA 9/29, while her resident hummer had last been seen 9/24. **E. Phoebe** were in good numbers at WA through the last week of the quarter (MC,RMR). A fearless **E. Kingbird** attacked and drove a kestrel from power lines at WA 7/22 (RMR).

Carolina Wren were unusually abundant this year, with pairs seen or indiv. heard singing all quarter at WA (FC,RC,RMR). One wren was seen taking nesting material from a door wreath 8/18 (FC). A pair of **N. Mockingbird** and nest with 4 young was found in a backyard spruce tree at Stony Fork 7/14 (SW,RMR).

After a strong spring migration, **warblers** in general were reported in poor numbers in terms of both post-breeding summer populations and fall migration (m.ob.). Whether extensive, regional, Gypsy Moth spraying programs played a role in the observed low numbers is open to speculation. Such spraying kills native caterpillars, on which many warblers rely to feed their young, because the sprays are not specific to Gypsy Moth larvae. *Tioga* experienced heavy infestations, but above-average summer rainfall dampened the potential damage to most trees, which were able to refoliate after most moths had pupated.

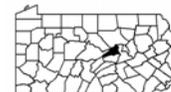
House Finch continue to dominate suburban and rural feeders county-wide.

OBSERVERS: Flossie & Ron Comstock, Martha Copp, Carol &

Jack Cupper, Chuck Dillon, Betsy Driebelbies, Robert M. Ross, RD 7 Box 238, Wellsboro 16901, Howard Rushmore, Scott Wilcox.

UNION COUNTY

Allen Schweinsberg



An **Am. Woodcock** was flushed in SGL 252 on 11/20 for an unusual mid-summer record (AS,RR). In early July, 9 **Barn Owl** (suspected to consist of 2 ad., this year's fledglings and last year's young as well) were found in an old barn and outbuilding two mi e. of Mifflinburg. Seven were counted there 7/18, but only 2 were found 8/16 (JS). On 7/28, MM reported that there were no **Common Nighthawk** in Lewisburg this summer.

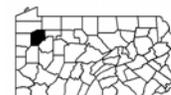
An **Alder Flycatcher** was heard in SGL 252 on 7/23 (AS,RR). On 7/19, JS and RG reported 1 ad. **Least Flycatcher** and 3 fledged young near Hoffa Mill Rd.—a welcome nesting record in a county where this species is decidedly uncommon.

A **Blue-winged Warbler** and a "**Brewster's**" **Warbler** (singing the Golden-winged song) were found together 7/23 in a portion of SGL 252 ravaged by the 1985 tornado (AS,RR). On 8/14, **Worm-eating Warbler** and **Ovenbird** were surprising back-yard migrants in Kelly Twp (AS). At the Walker Farm along Buffalo Cr., a **Connecticut Warbler** and 2 **Pine Warbler** were seen 9/16 (A&JoS).

OBSERVERS: Robert Gutheinz, Michael Molesevich, Robert Roadcap, Allen Schweinsberg, 1200 Zeigler Rd., Lewisburg 17837 (717-524-0432), Joanne Schweinsberg (JoS), Joe Southerton.

VENANGO COUNTY

Gary Edwards and Russ States



Abbreviations: Allegheny R. (AR), Clintonville area (CA), Hamme L. (KL), Oil City area (OCA), Oil Creek SP (OCSP), President area (PrA), Two Mile Run Park (TMRP).

The first **Pied-billed Grebe** of the season was seen 9/30 at TMRP. An **Am. Black Duck** was seen on the AR 7/5. **Blue-winged Teal** were near CA 9/30. **Common Merganser** were observed in OCSP all quarter.

An **Osprey** was seen from the last week of Aug. through the third week in Sept. in OCSP (NK). And there was a newspaper article saying that the PGC found an **Osprey** nest near Kennerdell, but it still isn't certain whether they actually had a young bird on a nest or just near what may have been a nest. As soon as more details become available we'll pass them along.

And there were several **Bald Eagle** sightings along the AR in Aug. and Sept. A **N. Harrier** was seen 8/5 in the strip-mined area in the s. part of the county. **Sharp-shinned** and **Cooper's** hawks were seen throughout the quarter. A small flock of **N. Bobwhite** was seen for the first two weeks of July (GE) in Seneca. It is not known whether this was an escaped flock or not. Our shorebirds for the quarter included 1 **Greater** and 1 **Lesser Yellowlegs**, a **Spotted Sandpiper** and a **Semipalmated Sandpiper**, all at a pond in CA 8/26.

The only gull of the quarter was a **Ring-billed Gull** seen on AR 7/5. At least 3 **E. Screech Owl** were observed in OCSP 7/1 (CW) and 1 in same location 7/8 (RS). A young **Great Horned Owl** was heard through the quarter. The last **Common Nighthawk** was seen at OCA 9/13, and **Whip-poor-will** was in OCSP 7/1,7.

The first **Least Flycatcher** of the year was not seen until 7/8. The area which held a **Bank Swallow** colony for the last several years appeared to be *almost deserted* this year. Swallows were present in the spring, but when the area was visited the first week of July, there were less than ten nest holes where there had been dozens before. A **Barn Swallow** was nest-building on 7/1 near Cooperstown.

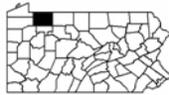
Some of the fall migration records for *Venango* are pretty skimpy, so some effort was made this year to fill in some of the gaps. The effort was fairly successful, especially with the warblers. We normally do not find **Red-breasted Nuthatch** during migration, so 1 in OCSP 9/20 is noteworthy. Several **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** were seen 9/14 in OCSP. Both **Solitary** and **Red-eyed** vireos were observed in OCSP 9/14. Four warbler species were added to the yearly total this quarter bringing it to 25. *It is still the worst total for the last three years.* The warbler highlights (all sightings from OCSP unless indicated otherwise) are: **Orange-crowned** 9/20; **N. Parula** 9/14; **Magnolia** 9/14,20; **Cape May** 9/14,20 in CA, **Black-throated Blue** 9/14; and **Black-throated Green** 9/14,20,30 in CA. The 2nd *Venango* record for a **Yellow-throated Warbler** was in PrA 7/8, also in the same area we had our first **Kentucky Warbler** in several years and the farthest north of any of our records. Previous records were all from the extreme s.w. corner of the county, with one OCA record. There was also a **Wilson's Warbler** 9/20 and a **Canada** 7/8 in PrA.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak remained until 9/14 in OCSP, and **Rufous-sided Towhee** were spotted all quarter. All our grassland sparrows were seen this quarter in the former strip-mine area in the s. portion and a **Vesper Sparrow** was seen 7/10 in OCA, and 9/30 in the strip-mine area. This area also held 100+ **E. Meadowlark** 9/10. We had 2 **Purple Finch** reports this quarter, 7/8 in PrA and 9/20 in OCSP.

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

WARREN COUNTY

Ted Grisez



Abbreviations: Allegheny R. (AR), North Warren (NW), Sugarbrook (SA), Starbrick (ST), Warren (WA).

Three **Double-crested Cormorant** were seen on the Allegheny Res. 9/2 (KC). A **Great Egret** was seen periodically on the AR near ST since about 7/21, and 2 from 8/21 to mid-Sept (CMN,BH,TG, DW,JS). Four **Tundra Swan** were seen 9/12 (CP) and 30 over Akeley 9/15 (KC). A ♂ **Wood Duck** joined the Mallards and domestic fowl that people feed on the river at the Warren Hospital again (BHi). One was there most of last winter. An **Osprey** was flying over the Conewango in NW 8/2 (TG), and 1 was seen near Irvine 9/2 (BW).

The Am. Kestrel nest box project resulted in 39 out of 42 boxes used by kestrels. There may not have been 39 different pairs. At least 175 eggs were laid. Those that didn't hatch and eggs or young that simply disappeared resulted in a count of 112 young, of which about 110 fledged (DW,BH).

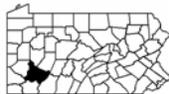
An **E. Screech-Owl** was calling at SA 8/25 through most of Sept. (CMN), and others heard or seen at NW (CP) and WA (TG) in Sept.

A **N. Mockingbird** was recorded in WA 9/24 (BHi). Good warbler stopovers were reported at SA in Sept. (CMN). **Cape May Warbler** were the most common at home in WA in Sept. (TG).

OBSERVERS: Keith Confer, Ted Grisez, 8 Belmont Dr., Warren 16365 (814-723-9464), Bill Highhouse, Bill Hill (BHi), Chuck & Marjorie Neel, Chase Putnam, John Schultz, Don Watts, Bob Winter.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY

Robert C. Leberman & Robert S. Mulvi



Abbreviations: Donegal L. (DL), Latrobe Res. (LR), Powdermill Nature Reserve (PNR; all bird banding records come from this locality).

A **Great Egret** was at DL 8/5 (MEW). A **Merlin**, a rare migrant

in this county, was seen just n.e. of Ligonier 9/8 (MR). The first "fall" migrant **Solitary Sandpiper** was seen at Powdermill on the somewhat early date 7/5.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird had a good flight through PNR, where a total of 144 was banded during the period. A **N. Flicker** intergrade (Yellow-shafted X Red-shafted) was banded at PNR 9/20; intergrades are recorded at PNR approximately once every three or four years. The first of a few migrant **Olive-sided Flycatcher** at PNR was seen 8/31; two were seen near LR 9/1 (RSM,BJM). A below average total of 23 **E. Wood Pewee** was banded, where the species was last recorded 9/30. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** had a poor flight at PNR; a total of 22 was banded between 8/22 and 9/29. **Acadian Flycatcher** had an average flight; 19 were banded, the last one 9/27. With just 12 banded (the last 9/25), "**Trail's**" **Flycatcher** were caught in about half their usual numbers at PNR. **Least Flycatcher** (52 banded; last one 9/27) were also below average based on banding totals.

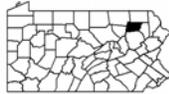
Carolina Wren numbers were down somewhat compared to the last two years at PNR. First **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was banded at PNR 9/20. Forty-nine **E. Bluebird** nestlings were banded in boxes monitored near PNR (BR). With just 6 banded, the **Veery** had its worst showing at PNR in the past five years. On the other hand, **Gray-checked Thrush**, with 27 banded after a 9/13 arrival at PNR, had a good flight compared to recent years. A total of 81 **Swainson's Thrush** was banded between 8/31 and the end of the quarter, which is below average for recent years. With just 13 banded, **Wood Thrush** made their worst showing at PNR in the last five years. **White-eyed Vireo** were numerous at PNR, where 23 were banded. The first **Solitary Vireo** was banded 9/2. A **Warbling Vireo**, a rare migrant in the mountainous eastern half of this county, was banded at PNR 9/20. A total of 18 **Philadelphia Vireo** banded, after a 9/8 arrival, is below the average of the most recent five years.

An average 14 **Blue-winged Warbler** were banded at PNR, the last one 9/16. **Golden-winged Warbler** were above average (12 banded; last one 9/9). A "**Brewster's**" **Warbler** was banded 9/8. Following last spring's record flight, the "fall" flight of **Tennessee Warbler** (after a first arrival 8/5) was poor; just 52 were banded, whereas three times that many is usual. **Nashville Warbler** also made a very poor showing (just 11 banded) after last spring's excellent flight. The 56 **Chestnut-sided Warbler** banded at PNR constitutes an average flight; last of this species was banded 9/29. **Magnolia Warbler** (126 banded) were below average. The warbler species of the quarter at PNR was the **Cape May Warbler**: 284 were banded, beginning on 9/1, the most since 1986, when a record 352 were banded. Migrant **Black-throated Blue Warbler** occurred at PNR between 8/11 and 9/28; the range of migration dates for **Blackburnian Warbler** was 8/6-9/27. A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was banded at PNR 9/22, which is a record late date for the species in this region. The first **Palm Warbler** was banded 9/14, the first **Bay-breasted** 9/8 and the first **Blackpoll** 9/10. The flight of Bay-breasted was poor, while that of Blackpoll was above average. With 144 banded (last one 9/30), **Am. Redstart** were slightly below average. **Ovenbird** (56 banded) had an average flight based on banding totals. First **Northern Waterthrush** was banded 8/1, and 31 more (about average) were banded by the end of the quarter. Last of 14 **Louisiana Waterthrush** was banded 8/23. **Kentucky Warbler** made a poor showing—only 7 were banded, none after 9/8. Seven **Connecticut Warbler** were banded between 9/12-21, and 6 **Mourning Warbler** were banded between 8/30 and 9/25. Totals for both these species were well below average. **Hooded** and **Wilson's** warblers were below average according to banding totals at PNR, but **Canada Warbler** was average or slightly above.

PNR saw a very good flight of **Scarlet Tanager** (74 banded), **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** (88 banded) and **Indigo Bunting** (136 banded). First **Lincoln's Sparrow** was banded 9/17; the first **White-throated Sparrow** 9/19. Our banding total of 14 **N. Oriole** is almost five times the average catch for the last five years for this quarter.

OBSERVERS: Robert C. Leberman & Robert S. Mulvihill, Powdermill Nature Reserve, Star Route South, Rector 15677 (412-593-7521), Bonnie J. Mulvihill, Barb Rich, Mark Rutledge, Michael and Evaleen Watko.

WYOMING COUNTY



Bill Reid

Abbreviations: N. Eaton (NE), S. Eaton (SE), *unintelligible* (TU).

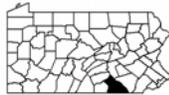
A **Great Egret** was noted at NE 8/1. Among duck reports were: a **N. Pintail** at SE 9/2; 4 **Am. Wigeon** at SE 8/28; and 5 **Common Merganser** at NE 8/1. Two **Solitary Sandpiper** were at Phelps Swamp 7/20. Two **Willow Flycatcher** were still calling at W. Nicholson 7/20; a **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was seen at SE 9/1; and a **Least Flycatcher** was still calling at TU on the late date 8/27.

Each year flocks of 250 Purple Martin congregate around the courthouse in TU throughout the month of July. Apparently they are not necessarily birds that breed locally, since this year martins at the nearest nesting colony to TU (2½ mi away) were still at their breeding site until 7/30, while the courthouse birds had arrived by 7/5.

Three **Common Raven** were seen at Mehoopany Mt. 7/5. A **Marsh Wren** was at Phelps Swamp 7/20. An early **Swainson's Thrush** was seen at SE 9/2. Two **Philadelphia Vireo** were observed at SE 8/26. **Tennessee, Cape May, and Bay-breasted** warblers were all seen at SE 8/29.

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

YORK COUNTY



Al Spiese

Abbreviations: *Brunners I.* (BI), *Codorus Furnace* (CF), *Cocorus SP* (CSP), *Gifford Pinchot SP* (GP), *Impounding Dam* (ID), *Long Arm Dam* (LAD), *Long Level* (LL), *Marsh Run* (MR), *Muddy Creek Boat Launch* (MCBL), *Rocky Ridge Park* (RR), *Sheppard Myers Dam* (SMD), *Wrightsville* (WR).

This was a particularly unusual quarter, especially for waterfowl. There were many early and late dates and unusual times. It was exciting because the unexpected became the norm. Some smaller birds also showed at unpredictable times. The most notable was of 2 **Purple Finch** at the end of August.

The 2 ad. **Common Loon** at the ID complex were still there 7/14 (KY). Some 45 **Double-crested Cormorant** flew past the RR hawk watch 9/18 (AS). An ad. **Little Blue Heron** was at CSP 8/13+ (KL,MT,RR). Unusual dates were noted for the following: a pair of **N. Shoveler** at CSP 8/31 (KL); 1 ♂ **Am. Wigeon** at BI 9/23 (J&JP); 2 **Oldsquaw** at LAD 7/20 (KL); 1 ♀ **Red-breasted Merganser** at LL 9/14; and 1 **Ruddy Duck** at LAD 9/2 (KL). Since last quarter, 2 more **Ruddy Shelduck** were found at LAD 8/18 (R&RG) and 8/22 (AS). They stayed into Oct. (RR).

Only 1 **Sharp-shinned Hawk** reported at Reservoir Hill, 7/23 (AS). Preliminary report of the hawk watch at RR: 43 **Osprey**, 7 **Bald Eagle**, 1539 **Broad-winged Hawk** and 5 **Peregrine Falcon** (JD). In July, **N. Bobwhite** were found in two new locations n. of York. Four **Virginia Rail** in different stages of development, and 2 **Sora** were seen at MR 7/5 (CL, AS). An **Am. Coot** was found at CSP 8/8 (RR) and 9/4 (KL). Two **Black-bellied Plover** were at BI 9/23 (J&JP).

Three **Great Black-backed Gull** at LL 9/20; 1 ate its own feather. A **Black Tern** was at GP 9/2 (RK). There were two sightings of **Ringed Turtle-Dove**: the first in a York yard with a feeder (AS,J&LD). This bird was completely white. The second was discovered at CSP 9/17 (KL). A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was n. of WR 7/9-31 (J&LD). A **Whip-poor-will** was heard at CSP 6/23 (RR).

A **Red-headed Woodpecker** went through RR 9/19 (AS), about on time for previous records. An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at MCBL 9/21 (HM,BS *et al.*). A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was at CF 9/1 (J&JP). In Sept., migrating **Bank Swallow** were seen entering the same holes earlier nesting birds had used. All **Cliff Swallow** had departed the WR nesting area by 7/22. Two **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** were at RR 9/8 (AS). The **E. Bluebird** report from CSP: 192 fledged this year and a total of 1071 since 1981 (KL). Both sightings of **Yellow-throated Vireo** in July were in the s. portion of the county. A **Philadelphia Vireo** was at GP 9/20 (RK).

Black-throated Green Warbler seems to be the most common migrating warbler extending through the fall. A **Pine Warbler** was at SMD 7/31 (CL,AS); 1 **Cerulean Warbler** was at CF 7/5 (J&JP); a **Worm-eating Warbler** was at RR 9/19 (AS); 1 **Kentucky Warbler** at RR would respond and come in close by playing *most any warbler song* on the tape (AS). Eleven species of warbler seen at GP 9/20. The

Wilson's was a good find (RK). There was no report of **Yellow-breasted Chat** this quarter. The **Blue Grosbeak** at Marietta Watershed was another new location for this species (J&JP). Two **Purple Finch** were at GP 8/30 (RK).

OBSERVERS: Jack & Lil Downs, Jerry Dyer, Rita & Roy Gross, Ramsay Koury, Charles Latterman, Karen Lippy, Harold Morrin, John & Jean Prescott, Russell Ryan, Bob Schutsky, Al Spiese, 4086 Old Orchard Rd., York 17402 (717-755-8309), Michele Thomas, Kim Young.