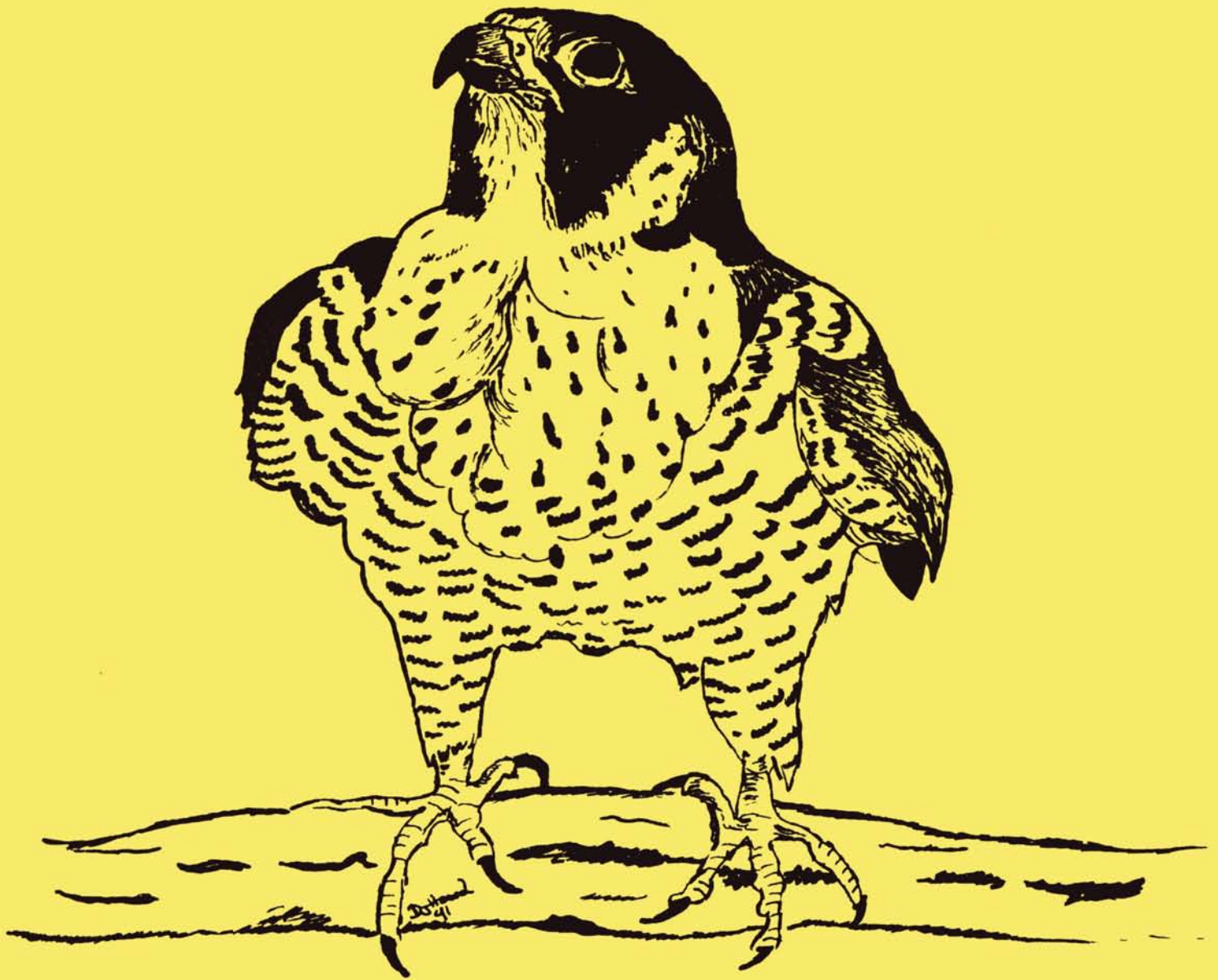


PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS



VOLUME 5, No.2 Apr-Jun 1991
ISSUED SEPTEMBER 1991



PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS

VOLUME 5, NUMBER 2, APR – JUN 1991

Franklin C. Haas & Barbara M. Haas
Co-editors
(215) 445-9609

Contents

53	Editorial
54	Letters
55	Cliff Swallows Use Artificial Nests. Ken Kitson & Bruce McNaught
58	Appalachian Spring. Marcia Bonta <i>Brush Mountain Notebook</i>
59	Status of Peregrine Falcons in Pennsylvania Dan Brauning & Chris Dooley
62	Osprey Nesting in Somerset County. Anthony J. Marich Jr.
63	Pennsylvania Species of Special Concern. Dan Brauning
64	Pennsylvania Rare Bird Alerts. Frank & Barb Haas
65	Warblers at the Bubbler. Jerry Pasquarella
65	The Mother of All Bird Alerts. Jerry Dyer
68	State Game Lands #110. Kerry Grim <i>Site Guide, Berks County</i>
70	Book Reviews <i>Appalachian Spring. Sandy Sherman</i> <i>Through the Seasons. Barbara Dean</i>
71	Rare Bird Reports <i>Red-necked Phalarope, Lancaster County. Robert Schutsky</i> <i>Clay-colored Sparrow, Erie County. Jerry McWilliams</i> <i>Thayer's Gull, Erie County. Jerry McWilliams</i>
74	Summary of the Season
76	County Reports – April through June 1991

ILLUSTRATIONS:

COVER: Peregrine Falcon by *Donna Housel*
Page 58 – Penny DeReamus



from the Editors...

COUNTY RECORDS

Pa. Birds has afforded the opportunity for many counties to have a data base to judge early and late dates, unusual species, and trends for constant comparison. Obviously we cannot print every observation of every species in each county, but we can provide our readers with the highlights and trends as submitted to us. Five years are but a nanosecond in the overall history of birdlife in Pennsylvania, but it is a start.

We urge all our compilers, and those submitting records to them, to amass their data in an organized fashion that could possibly lead to a separate annotated checklist or bird-finding guide for that county or region. One of the most comprehensive compilations we have seen is that tome generated by Jerry McWilliams for *Erie*. His 5-inch thick (and growing) notebook lists sightings over several decades. He has further depicted the data by creating bar graphs of each species. For some families, such as shorebirds and gulls, he has noted the age of the birds and their arrival/departure dates. He can therefore cite with assurance that **Whimbrel** have occurred at Presque Isle on 17 May historically.

You might want to give Ken Kitson's method a try. See his article in *Pa. Birds* 5:1. Thousands of records were reviewed by members of the *Lancaster* annotated checklist committee as they prepared for the Second Edition of *The Birds of Lancaster County*, which is

now being finalized for publication. In order for data to have be useful, it has to be organized. The time to start is yesterday.

SURVEY PLOTS

Survey plots are areas that are censused on a regular basis for long term study of population trends. They used to be published regularly in *Am. Birds*, but no longer have a home. However, many of the participants continue to census these areas in hopes of the data being used in the future.

This data is most useful in comparing past and present populations. Doug Gross mentioned the reduction in the number of Black-capped Chickadee and Tufted Titmouse in his study areas. This kind of observation is supported by hard data, not just an opinion.

If you still conduct one (or more) of these studies, we would welcome articles summarizing or drawing on your data.

PA BIG YEAR UPDATE

Deuane has healed and is back in pursuit of the Pennsylvania Big Year Record. As of the end of August, he was up to 266 species. By the time you are reading this, he will have led the **first annual Lake Erie pelagic trip!** We will be on that trip and will report the results in the next issue. We are hoping for Sabine's Gull or jaegers. Stay tuned.

COVER PRINTS STILL AVAILABLE

We still have signed and numbered prints of the Hawk Owl cover from last issue. See the ad inside the back cover.

Also, we still have checklists available. They are 10 for \$2.00, 50 for \$6.00 or 100 for \$8.00. We are going to be reprinting them shortly, and because of increased costs, the new ones will cost more. So, get them while the prices are cheap!

PA SOCIETY FOR ORNITHOLOGY

We will be attending the PSO meeting in September and hope to announce in the next issue an agreement between them and us combining our efforts toward the furtherance of Pennsylvania ornithology.

If you haven't joined already, you should. Dues is only \$10.00 per year and should be sent to:

PSO
c/o Hawk Mountain
Sanctuary
RR 2, Box 191
Kempton, PA 19529

☉ **Barb and Frank Haas**
Co-editors

PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS (ISSN 0898-8501) is published four times a year by Pennsylvania Birds. Editorial and business offices are located at 2469 Hammertown Road, Narvon, PA 17555-9726. Subscriptions, all in US\$: One year U.S.A. \$15, Canada \$25, Foreign \$36. Library rate \$23. Single copies: \$3 (1987, 1988 only), \$4.50 (89, 90, 91). Checks and money orders in U.S.\$ only should be made payable to PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS. Copyright © 1991 by Franklin C. Haas and Barbara M. Haas.
SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NARVON, PA 17555
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS, 2469 Hammertown Road, Narvon, PA 17555-9726.

LETTERS

Dear Editors:

Please, please, please keep **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS** going. It has become the best state bird magazine in the East, with all deference to my own, to *The Kingbird*, *The Chat*, and to *Bird Observer* (of Eastern Massachusetts). Heady company indeed. The timeliness, diversity, the quality, and the completeness of the season reports make it not only a joy to read, but an invaluable reference. I know it is a struggle, but there must be a way. (I even forgive you the decision not to add s to bird names, an editorial practice that is like squeaky chalk on a blackboard to my eye and ear.)

It occurs to me that yours is the only state journal not associated with a statewide bird club. I hope Pennsylvania gets itself moving and creates one, or at least a federation of clubs as in New York. That way lies solvency.

I was fascinated by the small note in your last issue about the grassland bird survey being planned in Pennsylvania. I am in the process of trying to put together a conference on grassland birds in Maryland. We have come to realize that it is the most pressing bird habitat problem in Maryland at the moment, with evidence of appalling, and frightening, declines in grassland species. BBS data for Maryland show Eastern Meadowlarks are declining at an average annual rate of 5.7% (1966-1989), which equals a loss of 74% of the breeding birds. Grasshopper Sparrows declined at a rate of 6.7% for the same period, a loss of 79.7%. Vesper Sparrows declined at a rate of 7.7%, a loss of 84%. This is some scary stuff. In central Maryland Red-winged Blackbirds are taking a bath, and the decline in Ring-necked Pheasants over the period 1980 through 1989 is 15.5% per year.

I agree that the problem is complicated by the fact that many of these birds were probably less common before the appearance of the European settlers. Still, with populations falling throughout the

East, I think it is imperative to halt the declines if possible. There is no reasonable hope of significantly changing agricultural practices. Political reality must be acknowledged. But state-owned lands can be managed for grassland birds rather than rented out, or mowed, or allowed to revert to small (biologically useless) woodlots. First we have to establish the size of the problem, and then we have to determine which species to manage for and decide how to best go about it. All grasslands are not attractive to all grassland birds. I am hopeful that over time we will be able to create some refugia, but it will take a while.

Sorry we do not get the chance to talk more often. I read almost every word of the magazine, however, so feel we are keeping in touch.

Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. 1 Thessalonians, Verse 21

Hang in there.

*Rick Blom
Bel Air, MD 21015*

Pa. now does have a statewide organization, the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology, but it was founded after we began Pa. Birds. We are currently negotiating an agreement with them to form a cooperative effort to benefit both endeavors.

—Eds.

Dear Editors:

We just received our copy of **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS** and decided immediately that we needed to have a copy of the N. Hawk Owl print.

We've enclosed a check for \$20.00. This issue looks great as usual. Keep up the good work!

*Don and Robyn Henise
Newville, PA 17241*

Dear Editors:

Sorry I missed you when I visited Kathy McKenna several months ago in Harrisburg with the

completed manuscript *A Checklist of Lichens of Pennsylvania*. It took two years and two grants to complete this project but it fills the need for the state on a group of plants which has been neglected in the past.

Your last issue of **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS** reported a Hawk Owl in the state. I should have waited for its arrival, as my only record was obtained in Newfoundland in a coniferous forest west of St. John's during WWII on April 20, 1942!

Warmest regards to you and Barbara and congratulations on your excellent publication. No birder in Pennsylvania should be without it!

*James K. McGrath, President
Delaware Valley Conservation Society*

*P.O. Box 393
Lansdowne, PA 19050*

Dear Editors:

Since you asked for opinions in the forest v. fields controversy, I would like to vote for diversity.

As a resident of Elk County, which is over 90% forest, this means the preservation of all our fields, and possibly the creation of new ones. Since we have very few large bodies of water, our bird diversity is already limited. The loss of grassland species would be a further blow.

Fields also provide grasshoppers for grouse, turkey, and roosting areas for woodcock. They also provide the only good areas to "spotlight" for deer and elk.

There may be counties with a shortage of forest, but our area needs all the fields it has.

*David J. Sorg
308 W. Theresia Rd.
St. Marys, PA 15857*

Cliff Swallows, *Hirundo pyrrhonota*, Use Artificial Nests at Center Bridge Bucks County

Ken Kitson and Bruce McNaught

For a number of years there has been an active Cliff Swallow (*Hirundo pyrrhonota*) colony under the bridge of the Delaware Canal at Center Bridge, Pa. In the spring of 1990 the Delaware River Bridge Commission contacted the Bucks County Audubon Society with the news that they had to replace the bridge. They wanted to know the best time to start construction without disturbing the birds and whether the Audubon group could do something to help reestablish the colony after construction was completed. We agreed, of course, particularly because the Cliff Swallow is listed as "Threatened" in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. We recommended construction begin in late August, after the birds were finished nesting and most had left for the year. The bridge was closed for four months during reconstruction.

In working with the Bridge Commission we discovered that unlike the old bridge, the new structure would not have any exposed I-beams underneath, but rather a smooth concrete bottom. This posed a serious problem for the swallows because there would no longer be a ledge on which they could construct their nests. We had to design and install beams that would be suspended below the new concrete base for the swallows to use. Because this arrangement would be completely different for the birds, we feared that when they returned, the beams alone would not be attractive enough for them to rebuild the colony. We decided to build and attach a number of artificial nests to the beams.

In 1983, the New Jersey Division of Fish, Game & Wildlife completed a similar successful program using artificial nests to reintroduce Cliff Swallows at Lambertville, N.J. In answer to our inquiries, the Department provided reprints of several articles (one about their project at Lambertville and another thorough one of Cliff Swallow studies in California) plus a nest mold and latex form to get us started.

Two steps were required to make the artificial nest. The first was to make a mold for casting

hollow (using a cardboard form) and a $\frac{3}{8}$ " dowel was laid across it to provide a handle. Finally, we made a base on which to set the mold when casting the nests. This helped to control the plaster of paris which spilled down off the shell.

We feel that a mold with clay or something similar could be made using the rough dimensions for Cliff Swallow nest of $5\frac{1}{2}$ " by $4\frac{3}{4}$ " oval, $5\frac{1}{2}$ " deep, a $\frac{1}{2}$ " flange around the base, and a $1\frac{5}{8}$ " opening. As we learned later, the swallows did not seem to be too fussy as to the exact size of



Installing beams with artificial nest sites.

the nest. In our case we had the example from New Jersey that we could copy. We did this by making a rubber form using a liquid latex rubber obtained from a hobby store. About fifteen coats were brushed onto the original mold. This provided a substantial flexible form. The form was then placed into sand to hold it while plaster of paris was poured into it to make a new mold. The center of this mold was kept

the nest.

The second step was casting the final shells that were used for the artificial nests. These were made from two-inch strips of paper towel soaked in plaster of paris. These were laid over the latex form supported from underneath by the mold. They were placed on the form in such a way as to allow an opening where the entrance would be. The

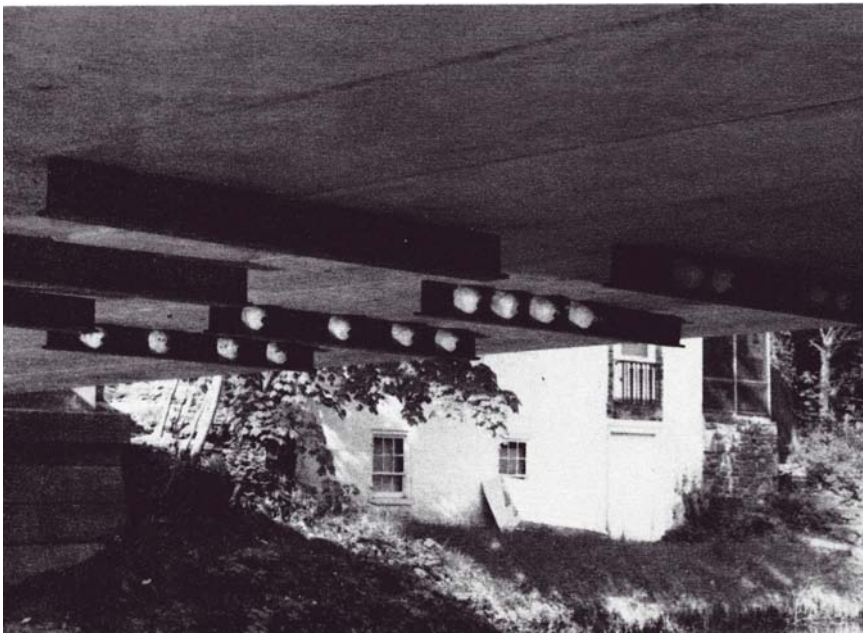
plaster was a soupy consistency (it took several tries to get it right). Coloring was added to the plaster of paris mix by using a brown latex paint color additive. This made a tan finish which helped cut the white glare of the plaster. A final coat was smoothed on and the shell was allowed to dry before it was removed from the mold. We then went over each one to improve the entrance. Using a 1 $\frac{5}{8}$ " glass jar as a form, plaster of paris was packed around the opening. Thirty-one artificial nest shells were made.

they mounted them a week later. Threaded holes in the concrete under the bridge had been prepared during construction. These were used to fasten angle irons to the underside of the bridge. The beams with the nests were then bolted to the angle irons. All the beams were installed parallel to the canal. Four were set with the nests facing one side, and the other four were set with the nests facing the other side. This was done to avoid possible conflict between the birds because of the close proximity of nests facing

their own liking. By early May several new nests of mud were also underway. There are now twenty additional mud nests for a total of 51 nests now in use by the Cliff Swallows. The mud nests that were added were all placed on the four beams closest to the center of the canal. This indicated that although they readily accepted the artificial nests close to the path, when given a choice, they preferred the safer distance. Also, interestingly, all of the mud nests were added only to the sides of beams that had the artificial nests, regardless of which way they faced (even though the edge on the bottom of the beam was the same on both sides). The nest size and location did not seem to be too critical. We turned the entrance on a few nests different ways to see if it mattered. It did not. And some of the mud nests that the birds made were squeezed into spaces on top of the artificial nests so that they were only about half the typical width.

The Cliff Swallows readily accepted their new homes, but we don't think this would have happened if we had only provided them with the beams. As Welton (1983) summed up in her report to the New Jersey Department of Fish, Game and Wildlife, although Cliff Swallows are very site tenacious they frequently will not return when old nests are removed. Also, when they do return the first year the artificial nests not only attract, but provide a one to two week advantage over the natural nest builders. This in turn improves production because the artificial nesters were more apt to have a second brood. We saw at least a two-week advantage for those using the artificial nests.

Therefore we are very pleased to be able to report a success story of the Cliff Swallow. We also think it is a success story for the cooperative efforts of a governmental department, a private organization, and volunteers. It is hoped we can all report many more of these



Newly erected artificial nest sites.

Next we prepared the eight beams that would hold the nests. These were made from treated lumber by attaching a 1" x 6" x 8' board to the edge of 2" x 8" x 8' board to form an upside down "T." This provided an edge for the swallows to use when making their mud nests. The nest shells were mounted on one side of each beam using screws and 1" fender washers. Then the plaster was packed around the base of the shell to make a good seal against the beam.

The beams were delivered to the Delaware River Bridge Commission on 11 March, and

each other, and to allow space for the swallows to build their own nests. Two of the beams were mounted only about ten feet away from the public tow-path (see footnote).

We were concerned early in April when some House Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*) began to carry nesting material into several nests. However, the Cliff Swallows began to arrive on 14 April and by end of the month all thirty-one nests were occupied with swallows. The House Sparrows had departed.

The swallows added mud to the entrances to shape them to

stories.

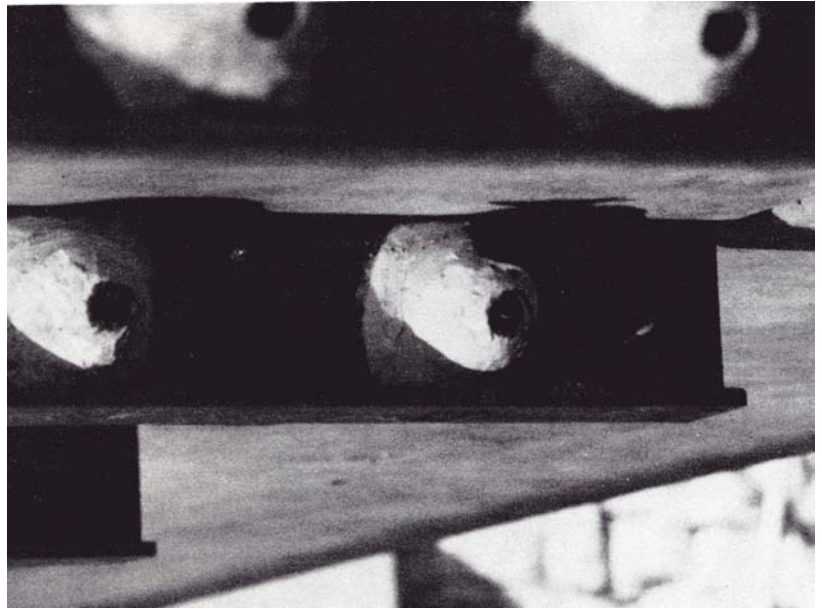
Footnote. On 4 July we discovered that the Cliff Swallow site had been vandalized and approximately a dozen artificial and natural nests were destroyed on the beams closest to the towpath. Fortunately, the swallows remained at the nests that were not vandalized to finish their second brood. We have discussed relocating two sets of beams to the far side of the bridge where they are less accessible to people. We are also discussing suspending wire fencing from the bottom side of the bridge to protect the nests from thrown objects. A sign explaining the project and the status of this species is also in the works. It is extremely unfortunate that these measures must be taken. Vandalism of Cliff Swallow nests is not new. Bent (1942) mentioned it as a contributing factor in the serious decrease of the species in the late 1920s in New Jersey. However, this incident serves to remind us how much work remains to be done to educate others about respect for the environment and its creatures.☺

*RD 1, Box 60B
Ottsville, 18942*

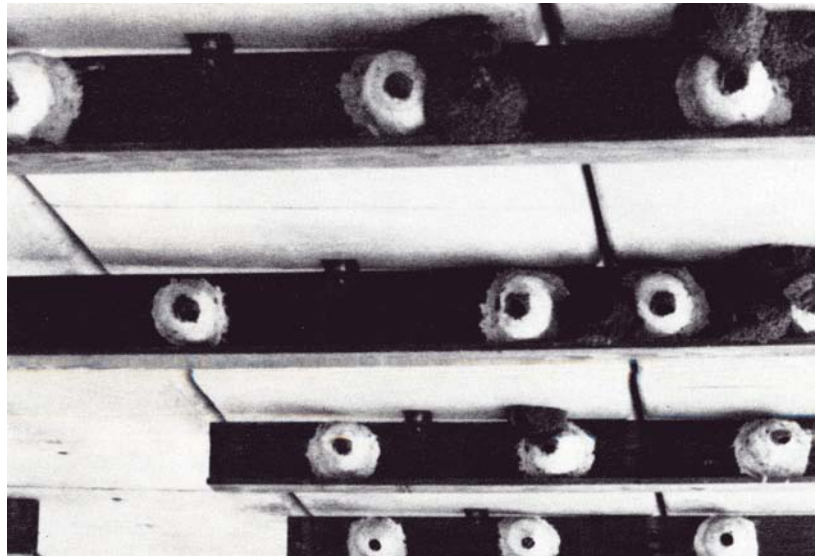
*RD 1, Box 263
New Hope, 18938*

References

- Bent, A.C. 1942. *Life Histories of North American flycatchers, larks, swallows and their allies*. Dover 1963. New York
- Harrison, H.A. 1975. *Field Guide to Bird Nests*. Houghton Mifflin Co. Boston.
- Mayhew, W. Jan 1958. The Biology of the Cliff Swallows in California. *The Condor* 60.
- Welton, M. Nov 1983. Cliff Swallow Nesting Success and the Use of Artificial Nests. Report to the N.J. Division Fish, Game and Wildlife.



Cliff Swallows in and near artificial nests.



Artificial nests and natural nests later in the season.

"Appalachian Spring" *Brush Mountain Notebook* by Marcia Bonta

May 3. As I stepped out into the yard this morning I heard the loud "wheep, wheep," of the first returning great crested flycatcher. Throughout the day I heard them calling all over the mountain. This kingbird-sized flycatcher with rufous bright wings and tail, gray neck and breast, yellow belly, and a bushy crest which it raises when it is excited, is a favorite of mine—probably because its explosive call is so easy to identify. Although it is more often heard than seen, I have had a couple of close-up views over the years. The first bird I caught flying frantically around in our shed, and I was surprised, when I held it, to learn how small it really was. Certainly its size (eight to nine inches) does not match the strength of its call. The second was an unusually curious bird that took, one spring, to landing on a locust branch near our front porch and cocking its head this way and that, clearly examining whoever was sitting on the chaise longue.



Another noticeable bird in our dooryard this morning was the common yellowthroat flitting around in the forsythia hedge. Common yellowthroats also have an easy-to-identify song. "Witchedy, witchedy, witchedy," they call with monotonous regularity. But what striking birds these warblers are. The male has a bright yellow breast and throat and a large black mask that is unmistakable; the female is less distinguished with only a yellow neck and breast. Both birds have white bellies and olive brown

backs, and they hold their long tails at a wrenlike tilt, especially when I approach their nests, hidden somewhere in the depths of the undergrowth in the power line right-of-way. No matter how much they scold and I search, I have never yet found a nest.

Along the Guesthouse Trail I spotted another warbler, the ovenbird. Not nearly as flashy as the yellowthroat, it looks more like two other dull-colored warblers, the northern and Louisiana waterthrushes, with its brown back, white breast heavily streaked with brown, and long pink legs. It is distinguished from the waterthrushes only by the orange stripe outlined in black at the top of its head and by its penetrating "teacher, teacher, teacher" call. Today's ovenbird plunked along beneath the laurel and stopped to regard me, cocking its head and fixing me with its quizzical eye. Ovenbirds nearly always have what seems to be an interested-in-you look when I catch them unawares.

The Far Field Road was also awash in warblers today, chiefly male American redstarts. In fact, during the spring and summer I think of the Far Field Road as "redstart alley." The black male—small and butterflylike—has bright orange wing and tail patches; the female is olive brown with bright yellow wing and tail patches. The area along our Far Field Road is obviously prime nesting territory, and these less than shy birds zip about the trees calling "teetsa, teetsa teet" from morning until night. Once they start nesting, though, they are as secretive as any other songbird. Despite great exertion on my part, I have not found any of their nests either.



While great crested flycatchers, common yellowthroats, ovenbirds, and American redstarts are all nesting species, I had a glimpse of an uncommon migrant as well along the Far Field Road. At first I thought that it was a black-and-white warbler but a closer look revealed its distinguishing white cheek and throat and graying back. A male blackpoll warbler sat quietly on a tree limb as I adjusted my binoculars. Definitely a day for the birds, as so many days in May are wont to be. ☺

Reprinted from Appalachian Spring, by Marcia Bonta, by permission of the University of Pittsburgh Press. © 1991 by Marcia Bonta.

Recent History and Current Status of Nesting Peregrine Falcons, *Falco peregrinus*, in Pennsylvania

by Dan Brauning and Chris Dooley

HISTORY

The Peregrine Falcon historically was known to nest at 34 locations scattered across eastern Pennsylvania (Poole 1964). Pairs were observed at an additional 10 sites, but nesting was not confirmed at these (Peregrine Fund, *pers. comm.*). Most aeries were on cliffs overlooking the Susquehanna and Delaware rivers and their major tributaries. Nest sites were documented by falconers, egg collectors and early ornithologists. Nationally prominent raptor biologists contributed to our knowledge of Peregrines in Pennsylvania, including the Craighead brothers who went to Penn State University and Joseph Hickey who conducted a thorough search of nest sites across the eastern United States in the 1940s. George Sutton's Peregrine investigations nearly cost him his life when he fell from a cliff in Clinton County.

Despite the high level of interest in the species, Peregrine Falcons dramatically declined during the 1950s and were last known to nest in Pennsylvania in the late 1950s. Of the nearly 350 nesting pairs estimated in the eastern United States, no young were produced by 1962 (Hickey 1969). The history of this decline is well known and documented in many accounts. Banning of DDT pesticides in the United States opened the way for restoration of the Peregrine Falcon.

The recovery of the species was initiated in 1974 with the appointment by the US Fish and Wildlife Service of a Recovery Team (Nickerson 1989). The Peregrine Fund began releasing young raised in captivity in 1975 (Cade 1988). One of the early release sites was near a historic nest site at the Dauphin narrows (Dauphin County). Because of heavy losses of young falcons at cliff release sites, many hack sites were subsequently conducted in urban areas (including Philadelphia in 1981) and coastal marshes. By 1990, over 1100 Peregrine Falcon young had been released into the eastern United States using a procedure known as hacking. Released birds began nesting

successfully in 1980 at two towers in New Jersey marshes. From there the population expanded to include 84 pairs that ranged from Maine to South Carolina, including 54 that attempted nesting (Gilroy and Cade 1990).

The first indication of a recovering population in Pennsylvania came at the Philadelphia hack site when a sub-adult falcon was observed in the vicinity of the hack site. Little effort was made to find nesting birds during the early 1980s. The earliest indication of nesting in Pennsylvania was found on bridges spanning the Delaware River when, in 1986, an adult Peregrine was observed on the Walt Whitman Bridge. No nest site was discovered in that year in Pennsylvania (Browne 1987). However, one young fledged from the New Jersey side of the Commodore Barry Bridge that year, marking the first young produced in the Delaware River valley since the 1950s. The Peregrine Fund discovered nest sites on the Girard Point and Walt Whitman bridges in 1987, although neither of these sites produced young that year.

The population continued to expand. An increased level of monitoring in 1991 greatly increased our knowledge of the status and success of Peregrine Falcon nests. Chris Dooley, working for the Pennsylvania Game Commission, walked seven of the large bridges spanning the Delaware and Schuylkill rivers that year. He was able to confirm nesting activity on five bridges (one in New Jersey) and in the eastern portion of downtown Philadelphia. More nest sites were found and more young were produced in Pennsylvania in 1991 than at any time before the species' decline. The nests in downtown Philadelphia and the Turnpike Bridge were newly discovered, but may have been active in previous years. The new nesting pair in Pittsburgh represents a major expansion in the population.

Although the number of active sites has increased in the past few years, reproductive success continued to be rather low, particularly at bridge sites. Only 11 of the 21 known eggs known laid in Pennsylvania hatched, and only 9

young fledged. An average of only 1.2 young (adjusted for known losses) were raised per successful nesting attempt. This is considerably lower than the eastern US average of 2.1 young in 1990 (Gilroy and Cade 1990).

Each site has distinctive hazards and problems, but bridge nests appear to be particularly poor sites for nesting Peregrines. Bridge nest sites generally have very little gravel to provide a nest scrape, they are frequently too small to permit the young to develop properly, and few perches are available for the young to reach in initial flights. Young at some bridge nests appear to be particularly susceptible to disease. The following is a summary of the status of each of the sites in Pennsylvania.

CURRENT STATUS

The **Commodore Barry Bridge** appears to be the most successful site on the Delaware River. Nest sites have varied in both New Jersey and Pennsylvania, from under the roadway to the top of the tower. Two young were raised there in 1991, apparently on the Pennsylvania side of the bridge, but the specific nest site was not determined.

The **Girard Point Bridge** has been monitored carefully over the past four years and has the worst record of young production: not one young can be attributed to this site. The adult female was hacked at a tower in New Jersey in 1981 and has been present at this bridge for at least four years. For some reason the young at this site appear to be particularly susceptible to disease. Nestlings as young as 5 days old have tested positive for *Trichomonas* (a flagellate parasite) and a host of fungal diseases were found on young in 1991 that otherwise appeared to be developing normally. The two young hatched there in 1991 were badly infected by the time they prematurely fledged, even though they were raised in a nest box provided for them.

The **Walt Whitman Bridge**, although active for at least five

years, has not fared well. As with most bridge nests, the site selected appears to serve poorly. Nestlings have been seen, or heard, on this bridge during several years, but fledged young have never been seen in the area, until 1991. The first young attributed to this site was found at the base of the bridge in 1988 and released on the Girard Point Bridge. It was seen later that summer. In 1991, the single young to hatch was moved into a nest box placed immediately above the original nest. It fledged normally and was seen a number of times through the summer.

Little is known about falcon activities on the **Benjamin Franklin Bridge**, or why this huge structure is the only bridge not to have had a Peregrine pair in recent years. This is the only large bridge on the Delaware River north to the fall line not being used by at least one Peregrine Falcon in 1991.

Nesting on the **Betsy Ross Bridge** has been documented for a number of years at a site in New Jersey. Young have successfully fledged in at least three years, but recently fledged young also have been found with serious cases of *Trichomonas* infections.

The **Tacony-Palmyra Bridge** is dwarfed in comparison with the Ben Franklin Bridge, but an adult pair were regularly seen there in 1991. Behavioral evidence suggested that there was a nesting attempt, but a nest site could not be found. A nest box is planned for this site which, it is hoped, will improve the success of any future nesting activities.

A single bird has been observed at the **Burlington-Bristol Bridge**, but no nesting activity has been documented there.

Just to the north, Peregrines were confirmed nesting on the **Pennsylvania/New Jersey Turnpike Bridge** for the first time in 1991. Individual birds, or pairs, had been seen for the past two years on this structure, but nesting had never been documented. At least three nesting attempts were made on this bridge this year, but no young produced. Several eggs were collected in an attempt to determine the cause of the failure.

SUMMARY

There has been a substantial recovery of Peregrine Falcons in the eastern United States. However, many of the nesting birds appear to be facing serious problems and the number of pairs on New Jersey marshes has declined in recent years. Pairs nesting on bridges appear not to be producing enough young to even replace themselves. Disease, disturbance, and generally poor nest sites are all factors. There is real concern that these bridge nests are a population sink, requiring an immigration of birds to keep sites occupied.

Recent sightings and second-hand reports of Peregrine Falcons near cliffs has increased the hope that birds will recolonize historic natural nesting areas. In order to provide an extra level of protection to these locations, specific cliffs will not be publicized. However, no cliff-nesting Peregrines have been found in Pennsylvania to date.

A number of specific activities were initiated by the Peregrine Fund and, more recently, carried out by the Game Commission to improve nesting success. An attempt is made to band all young in order to track the population. Nest boxes or trays have been placed on a variety of bridges and buildings to provide more secure nesting locations. These boxes were used by at least two pairs nesting in Pennsylvania and may have contributed to the successful fledging of the one young placed in a box on the Walt Whitman Bridge. In recent years, nestlings have received medicine from the University of Pennsylvania Veterinary Hospital to combat the *Trichomonas* infection, but a single treatment appears not to be effective. Further actions will be taken by the Pennsylvania Game Commission to improve nesting success of all Peregrines Falcons in the state. ●

*RD 2, Box 484
Montgomery, 17752*

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Marty Gilroy, formerly of the Peregrine Fund, contributed tremendously to our knowledge of Peregrines and intelligent management of these birds on man-made structures. He was consulted on the placement of the nest box in Pittsburgh and used the plywood from his own pickup truck in 1989 to build the nest box used by the pair on the Girard Point Bridge in 1991.

Penn Veterinary Hospital staff, particularly Dr. Carol Yeisely, are to be credited for volunteering their time treating young at nest sites and injured birds brought to the hospital. Charles Bier and a number of volunteers contributed a great amount of time overseeing the Peregrine pair in Pittsburgh. Kathy Clark provided useful information on New Jersey nest sites.

LITERATURE CITED

- Browne, R. 1987. Monitoring New Jersey's Bridge Peregrines, 1986. (Report) Prepared for N.J. Division of Fish, Game, and Wildlife. Tuckahoe, New Jersey.
- Cade, T. J. 1988. The Breeding of Peregrines and Other Falcons in Captivity: An Historical Summary. pp 50-51, in *Peregrine Falcon Populations: Their Management and Recovery*. T.J. Cade, J.H. Enderson, C.G. Thelander, and C.M. White, Eds. The Peregrine Fund. Boise, Idaho.
- Gilroy, M.J. and T.J. Cade 1990. Eastern Peregrine Falcon Reintroduction Program, 1990 Summary Report. The Peregrine Fund, Inc., Boise Idaho.
- Nickerson, P.R. 1989. Raptor Restoration: Its History, Criteria and Points of Debate. Pp 255-258, in *Proceedings of the Northeast Raptor Management Symposium and Workshop*. R.G. Pendleton, Ed. National Wildlife Federation, Scientific and Technical Series No 13.

Table 1. PEREGRINE FALCON POPULATION 1991 PRODUCTION SUMMARY

PAIRS	8	
CONFIRMED NESTING PAIRS	6	
PRODUCTIVE PAIRS	5	(83% of Nesting Pairs)
EGGS PRODUCED	21	(3.5 Eggs/Nesting Pair)
YOUNG PRODUCED	11	
YOUNG FLEDGED	9	(1.5 Young Fledged/Nesting Pair)
FLEDGLINGS KNOWN LOST**	3	
ADJUSTED PRODUCTION	6	(1.2 Young Raised/Successful Nest)

Notes: * Egg production is a minimum estimate. Two successful nest sites were not discovered and eggs were attributed only to the fledged young observed. ** Three young in Pittsburgh were known to be lost within a month of fledging.

Table 2. SUMMARY OF PEREGRINE FALCON BREEDING ACTIVITY IN PENNSYLVANIA

DELAWARE/SCHUYLKILL RIVER BRIDGES IN PA. AND N.J. (listed from south)

	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	Site Prod
Commodore Barry	s	(1)	(1)	1	1	p/?	2	6
Girard Point	#	#	p	0	0	0	0	0
Platt Bridge	#	#	#	#	#	#	sp	
Walt Whitman		p	0	?	1*	0	1	2
Ben Franklin					?	#	#	
Tacony-Palmyra						#	p	
PA./N.J. Turnpike						p	0	

OTHER PENNSYLVANIA NEST SITES

Downtown Phila					?	?	2	2
Pittsburgh						sp	1	1

ACTIVE PA. PAIRS	#	1	2	3	3	4	7	
PA. PRODUCTION		0	0	1	1	0	5	7
Young/Active	#	#	#	0.3	0.3	0	0.7	.3
Young/Successful	#	#	#	1	1	#	1.5	
% Pairs Successful	#	0	0	33	33	0	66	

DELAWARE RIVER NEW JERSEY LOCATIONS

Betsy Ross Bridge (N.J.)			1	0	?	2	2	5
Burlington-Bristol Bridge						s	s	

OTHER NONBREEDING SUMMER OBSERVATIONS IN PA.

Cliffs							s	
Rittenhouse Square, Phila.							s	

"#" - No activity
s - Single bird observed through breeding season
sp - Sub-adult pair present
- Young was fostered into the Girard Point nest
p - Pair present, no nesting attempt documented
0-4 - Number of young successfully raised
? - Inconclusive reports

Osprey, *Pandion haliaetus*, Nesting in Southwestern Somerset County

by Anthony J. Marich, Jr.

A pair of Osprey was found in southwestern Pennsylvania and had a nest partially constructed by 7 April 1991. They built in the same tree where a post-nesting season nest was found on 8 July 1990. That original nest had fallen out of the tree by 7 October 1990 and had to be completely rebuilt this year.

The Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) was notified of the Osprey nest-building and urged to increase patrols in the area. I obtained copies of the Pennsylvania Wild Resources Fun Newsletter which featured a story on Osprey reintroduction efforts and went door-to-door at summer cottages located within sight of the nest distributing the article and the PGC toll-free telephone number. The cottage residents were told how special these birds are and urged to help protect them. These public relations efforts were well-received and the residents did an excellent job of watching out for the birds.

Incubation had begun by 26 April 1991. Following reports of boaters with video cameras and some fishermen getting close enough to disturb the incubating Osprey, an area was posted by the PGC to keep people 50 to 75 yards away from the nest. The few complaints voiced by fishermen of the birds eating fish were quelled by explaining that the more numerous Snapping Turtles in the lake ate many more fish. Nest behavior indicated the young had hatched by 10 June 1991. Two young were first seen on 15 June 1991 and were feeding themselves from fish brought to the nest by the male by 25 June.

The incubation responsibility seemed to be shared by both parents, but catching food and leading crows away from the nest seemed to be the male's job. One evening I

watched the male lead three crows away as he crossed the lake, dived to catch a fish, and continue to out-distance the crows as he flew off into the woods. He later returned to the nesting mate with the fish. It is the male's habit to bring a fish to the nest just before dusk for the evening meal.

Both adults have aluminum leg bands on their right leg and the male has a yellow band on his left leg reading W22W. This is reportedly a bird from the West Virginia hacking project. Only one young bird was in the nest when the PGC personnel went to band them 17 July 1991 (D. Brauning, *pers. comm.*).

Another pair of Osprey was reported by John King to be present through the quarter at Rockwell Lake. This is a secluded private lake with similar nesting suitability.

An interesting debate exists as to the best way to protect nesting Osprey in areas of public

access. One thought is that secrecy is the best protection while the other faction believes natural resource agencies are currently unable to exercise absolute control in public use areas and that a well-informed public is the best protector in these situations.☺

#1 Rock Cabin Rd.
Markleton, PA 15551



Ospreys at nest, Cranberry Glade Lake, Somerset County, 4/26/91. Photo by Anthony Marich

Pennsylvania Species of Special Concern
Report of the Ornithological Technical Committee
of the Pennsylvania Biological Survey
 by Dan Brauning

The Ornithological Technical Committee (OTC) is one of eight Technical Committees of the Pennsylvania Biological Survey (PBS). The Biological Survey was incorporated as a nonprofit scientific organization to "increase the knowledge of and to foster the perpetuation of the natural biological diversity of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania" (from the Constitution and Bylaws of the PBS). A broad range of animal and plant experts and governmental agencies are represented on the PBS.

One of the primary activities of Technical Committees has been to update the lists of special concern species. Since the publication of the *Species of Special Concern in Pennsylvania*, much information has been gathered to revise the status of the state's birds. The revised list, finalized in April 1991, is presented below. The Endangered and Threatened birds were adopted by the Pennsylvania Game Commission (with the exception of the Common Snipe) for official regulatory purposes.

Species of Special Concern are assigned to the following categories that reflect their disappearance or risk of disappearance from the state: Extinct, Extirpated, Endangered, Threatened, and Candidate. Candidates are divided into sub-categories—At-Risk, Rare, and Undetermined.

The OTC has adopted several criteria for inclusion of birds onto these lists. (1) Only native birds that nested over a period of at least 10 years in the state can be assigned to one of these categories. (2) Extirpated species are those that bred for at least 10 consecutive years and have not nested in the state for at least 10 years, but occur elsewhere in the United States. (3) Any Extirpated species rediscovered in Pennsylvania is automatically regarded as Endangered. Species are selected to the various categories based on the relative risk of their disappearing from the state.

P E N N S Y L V A N I A ' S
ENDANGERED,
THREATENED, AND
EXTIRPATED
SPECIES LIST

ENDANGERED

Osprey
 Bald Eagle
 Peregrine Falcon
 King Rail
 Black Tern
 Short-eared Owl

THREATENED

American Bittern
 Least Bittern
 Great Egret
 Yellow-crowned Night-Heron
 Upland Sandpiper
 Sedge Wren
 Yellow-bellied Flycatcher
 Common Snipe*

EXTIRPATED

Greater Prairie Chicken
 Piping Plover
 Common Tern
 Olive-sided Flycatcher
 Bewick's Wren
 Loggerhead Shrike
 Bachman's Sparrow

CANDIDATE SPECIES LIST

AT RISK

Snowy Egret
 Northern Harrier
 Barn Owl
 Prothonotary Warbler
 Henslow's Sparrow

RARE

Pied-billed Grebe
 Green-winged Teal
 Northern Goshawk
 American Coot
 Marsh Wren
 Swainson's Thrush
 Summer Tanager
 Blue Grosbeak
 Dickcissel

UNDETERMINED

Northern Shoveler
 Gadwall
 American Wigeon
 Ruddy Duck
 Cattle Egret
 Northern Bobwhite
 Long-eared Owl
 Northern Saw-whet Owl
 Whip-poor-will
 Common Nighthawk
 Red Crossbill

EXTINCT

Passenger Pigeon

* Note, the Common Snipe is listed as "At-risk" by the official Pennsylvania Game Commission list.●

*RD 2, Box 484
 Montgomery, 17752*

Pennsylvania Rare Bird Alerts

by Franklin C. Haas and Barbara M. Haas

How do you find out about rare or uncommon birds that are being seen in Pennsylvania?

Who do you contact when you see a rare bird?

WHERE TO CALL?

For the first question, there are now four Rare Bird Alerts in Pennsylvania. They are as follows.

SOUTHEASTERN PA.

(Philadelphia)
215-567-BIRD

Usually changed each Thursday night or if a spectacular bird shows up. Concentrates on southeastern Pa., southern New Jersey and Delaware. To report sightings, call the Ornithology Department of the Academy of Natural Sciences at 215-299-1181 or Armas Hill at 302-529-1876.

NORTHEASTERN PA.

(Wilkes Barre)
717-825-2473

Concentrates on northeastern Pa. To report sightings, call Bill Reid at 717-836-2525 or 717-822-8433.

EASTERN PA.
(Lehigh Valley)
215-759-5754

Concentrates on central-eastern Pa. with mention of good birds elsewhere. Sponsored by the Lehigh Valley Audubon Society. To report sightings, leave message at end of tape.

WESTERN PA.
(Pittsburgh)
412-963-0560

Concentrates on western Pa.

Sponsored by the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania. To report sightings, leave message at end of tape.

By calling any of the numbers above, you can find out what birds are around and where to go to see them. These numbers also frequently provide information on trips and other activities of interest to birders.

WHO TO CALL?

The second question is partly answered by the Bird Alert numbers, but you **should also notify your county compiler** (or the editors of *PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS* 215-445-9609).

Now that Pennsylvania has a records committee, it is more important than ever to document sightings. (See Volume 4, Number 2 of *PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS* for a list of birds that should be documented and, therefore, reported.)

Although the original observer should be the one to get credit for the sighting and should submit a description, getting more observers to see the bird will lend more credence to the sighting, increase the chances for a photograph and, of course, make for good will in the birding community.

If you find a rare bird or hear of one, **CALL SOMEONE!** Share your sightings with others. Most birders want to see as many different species as possible. However, they all can't travel far from home to see them. Therefore, seeing rare birds close to home gives them an opportunity that would otherwise be lost.

In addition to the formal Rare Bird Alerts mentioned above, there are a number of birders in Pennsylvania who are willing to "chase" rare birds. *ie.* drive across the state at the drop of a hat to add

a new bird to their list. These birders, headed by us, spread the word whenever a good bird shows up. We have a semi-formal list of people we call in each part of the state, who in turn call the local birders. (You should see our phone bill whenever a rare bird shows up!)

We try to limit our list of birders to those who are willing to go to another part of the state to see a new bird. We do this strictly on economic terms. We don't want to waste money calling people who won't bother to go to see the bird (or who won't call others about it). If you are interested in being on the list of chasers, please let us know. We will either add you to our list or let someone closer to you know about your interest.

Of course, we encourage you to organize local hotlines for spreading the word about local sightings. The more we communicate, the more everyone can enjoy.☺

*2469 Hammertown Road
Narvon, 17555*

Warblers at the "Bubbler"

by Jerry Pasquarella

This was a day unlike any other that I have ever experienced. The day was 5 May 1991. My home is located approximately 1 mile east of the Brandywine River Valley in southeast Pennsylvania (Chester County). The trees in my yard are primarily oaks, which I've noticed are one of the favorite species of trees that migrating warblers use. My woods are adjacent to an additional 250 acres of oak forest. In my yard I have constructed a bird pool with a recirculating water pump. I got the idea for it from Paul Earley of West Chester, a fellow birder. After hearing about the enormous success he had in luring birds to his pool, which he referred to as "the bubbler," I knew that I had to give it a try. I installed it over five years ago but never saw anything like what happened this day.

It was a beautiful spring morning this day. The skies were clear, it was 63°F, and there was not even a hint of a breeze. The minute I stepped onto my deck I encountered a chorus of song that was simply awe-inspiring. When I cast my glance upwards I saw movement everywhere. I simply didn't know where to look first. I heard and/or observed at least ten Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warblers, five Black-throated Blue, three or four Black-throated Green, three Northern Parula, four Yellow Warblers, two Blue-winged Warblers, two Black-and-white, two Blackpolls, two Common Yellowthroats, three Ovenbirds, a single Chestnut-sided, and, one of my favorites, a gorgeous Blackburnian Warbler. Together with all of the other birdsong in the woods, this was nothing less than a symphony to a birder's ears.

The birds remained in the area throughout the day. But it wasn't until 3:30 p.m. that things got even better. I heard what sounded like a Golden-winged Warbler song. Since I've heard Blue-winged's sing this same song, I went in search of the bird. This would have been a great addition to my yard list. I was pleasantly surprised when I discovered the bird. It was a "Brewster's" Warbler, the hybrid of Blue-winged/Golden-winged. It immediately flew down to the bubbler. Once it landed there another bird popped up and chased it. This was a Nashville Warbler. I walked closer to the bubbler and there was a Common Yellowthroat and a Black-throated Green.

I hastily grabbed my child's Fisher-Price Playhouse (when you want a blind, you find whatever works!) and set it up next to the bubbler in an attempt to get some photographs. I took a few good shots and then I moved the "blind" and myself away. This was just so enjoyable that taking pictures was too much of a burden and I felt that my view was hampered by the blind. I sat on the deck and I just couldn't believe the way the birds kept materializing. Next to arrive were four Yellow-rumped Warblers and a Prairie Warbler. Of course, the earlier visitors were still flitting about. The birds kept appearing... Wood Thrush, Veery, Yellow Warbler, Catbird, grackles, a robin, a couple of Blue Jays, a Red-winged Blackbird, and two gorgeous male Black-throated Blues. Just then that horrible sound—the ringing of the telephone—interrupted. I took care of whatever call that was and returned. Upon opening the door to the deck I looked straight ahead at the tree above the bubbler. There to my sheer delight was a flaming "firethroat," a male Blackburnian Warbler, AT EYE LEVEL!!! It was so nice to actually look **down** at one of these resplendent creatures. He was followed to the bubbler by both a Black-and-white Warbler and a Northern Parula. And just when I thought that this was the end of all of this excitement a new "yard bird" sang above in a tree. It was a gorgeous male Cerulean Warbler.

I don't know if I'll experience another day quite like this ever again, but the memories are there for a lifetime. After I talked to Paul about this at a West Chester Bird Club meeting, he said that he had actually had days somewhat similar to this, although not as varied in the species totals. All I can do is highly recommend that, if anyone wants to experience warblers (and other birds for that matter) up close and personal, they install some type of moving and/or dripping water system in their yards. They won't regret it!☺

*2209 Cranberry Lane
Coatesville, PA 19320*

The Mother of All Bird Alerts: A Cautionary "Tail"

by Jerry Dyer

Okay, okay, so it wasn't, but let's just say it had been a, oh, let's say a Chestnut Munia. Or it might have been (it wasn't, you understand) but let's just say it had been a Bananaquit (actually, I really did see a Bananaquit once, but it wasn't in York County). Or, hey, let's say it was a Melodious Grassquit or any other of these whacked-out weirdos that help Mr. Peterson fill up the last few pages of his *Eastern Guide*. What then, huh? That would have been major news; it would go on my epitaph: "He discovered the only Red-breasted Fly Zipper ever seen in the 174 ZIP code." Or, what if it had been a Passenger Pigeon? What about that? So, why not? Just imagine, here's this bird, right, crouching in the shrubbery since about 1913 and it decides to jump up and get discovered BY ME! That would be an even bigger deal than that guy who discovered the Ivory-billed Woodpecker in Cuba. "Dyer was the discoverer of a seventy-eight year-old Passenger Pigeon in the 174 ZIP Code which is better than that guy in Cuba" it would read. Now that's an epitaph. But it wasn't, at least I don't think it was, a Passenger Pigeon.

God knows what it was. And He isn't saying. But my friend The Really Super Birder is. Sort of.

My friend, the Really Super Birder—part of the world-wide, galactic, United Nations, Smithsonian, OPEC, NATO, CIA, FBI and WCTU Mother of all Birds Alerts which I set off one day in June—anyway, my friend thinks he knows what it was. He also knows for sure what it wasn't: he's sure it wasn't one of those back-of-the-book-Peterson's-Guide "Monkey-Eating-Storm-Sparrow"-type birds. Now, frankly, as much as my friend, the Really Super Birder, knows about birds, if he told me he thought it was a Great Auk, I'd believe him.

But I digress. Let's see what you think it was. (FIELD NOTE: The fact that this thing sat on a power line, in plain sight, about thirty feet up, for

about four hours, on a sunny day of course explains why I didn't take a picture of it. As everyone knows, wildlife photography takes time and skill and patience and a camera. END OF FIELD NOTE, continue on to next digression).

So anyhow, after I'd managed to alert everybody from the **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS** staff (true!) to the Luther League, my friend (see above) showed up. Now it must be emphasized here, lest somebody throws old vegetables at me, that this fellow who really knows birds spent over an hour looking at this creature. He even sketched it before he, more or less and maybe, decided what he might be looking at.

But I digress. What do you think? It was about Mockingbird size. It sat at a slight angle to the wire. Had a round, muddy brownish head, no eye lines or eye rings or any of that stuff. Muddy brown belly, white throat and (hint: here comes the first major clue) a pinkish bill. But, the plot thickens: it had a pure white tail! No color on that guy's tail at all, top or bottom. Had white undertail coverts. Plus it had muddy brown wings and...pure white wingtips. Yeah, yeah...I was cold sober and I rement that resark!

Any guesses?

No? Okay, then my friend discovered the bird had a slight iridescence at the side of the throat. Aha! you say. Eureka! you say. That's what he said. Or, in the immortal words of Richard Nixon, it was a "partial, limited" Aha! Eureka! In fact, more like a "maybe."

He thinks it might have been, maybe was, could have been...an escaped racing pigeon or homing pigeon or show pigeon or some such goofy non-bird, bird. It certainly was a "show" something-or-other. It put on an hours-long show just sitting on that wire watching us watch it. "Being at the same spot for so long a time," my friend pointed out, "I'm sure it was raised in captivity and didn't know how to act in the outside world." Kind of sad, actually; by late afternoon it was gone.

So, this is, I guess, a cautionary tale (a pure white one!). And the moral is: don't be so anxious to go down in history lest the epitaph reads: "Boob Birder Puzzled by Pigeon."●

445 Quaker Drive
York, 17402

MOVING?

Please let us know. It costs us \$1.33 in return postage and then another \$1.33 to mail it to the correct address!

Considering that you only pay \$3.75 per issue, you can see how that hurts. Just include us in the stack of change-of-address cards that you send out. Thank you, *The Editors*.

HAWK WATCH PROPERTY FOR SALE

Located 10 miles south of Sunbury on Little Mountain. 20 acres, 35 foot high hawkwatching tower, 10' x 20' cabin.

Own your own Hawkwatching site! No crowds, no long hike to a lookout, good birds, convenient and comfortable hawkwatching. (We just don't have the time anymore.) Call for details - 215-445-9609.

THE CAMERACRAFT SHOP

29 S. State St.
Newtown, PA 18940
(215) 968-2833

BINOCULARS TELESCOPES SPOTTING SCOPES

Bausch & Lomb, Bushnell, Nikon, Swift,
Celestron, Zeiss, Minolta, Kowa, Optolyth

Discounts from 20% to 40%
Mention PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS and 5%
of cash sale is sent to your club.

News Briefs...

After our recent trip to Guatemala, participants voted their "top 10 birds." Here's the **collective** TOP TEN for the trip:

- 1 - Northern Royal Flycatcher
- 2 - Resplendent Quetzal
- 3 - Lesser Ground-Cuckoo
- 4 - Slaty-breasted Tinamou
- 5 - Pink-headed Warbler
- 6 - Ruddy Crake
- 7 - Blue-crowned Chlorophonia
- 8 - Red-capped Manakin
- 9 - Prevost's Ground-Sparrow
- 10 - Dot-winged Antwren

If these birds are not on your life list, they could be. Join us in Guatemala next year **April 2–12, 1992, for \$1,150.**

Is the Black-cheeked Ant-Tanager on your life list? This attractive bird is one of just a handful of birds in the AOU region first described in this century, and one of just 4 Costa Rican endemics. For this, and a number of other southern Costa Rica specialties, that is, birds not found on most Costa Rica tours to the usual places, join our Southern Costa Rica tour: **March 14–24, 1992, from \$1140.**

Another Costa Rica birding possibility, available through FON, can be arranged for virtually any week of the year: a birding tour for you *when you want it*: 8 days, Saturday to Saturday, including the best of both northern and southern Costa Rica: Rara Avis in the north, on the Atlantic slope; Tiskita Lodge in the south, on the Pacific coast. For **\$828** including everything in Costa Rica.

Also, next year (1992) in Venezuela, a similar birding week *for you when you want it*, to an area with some of the *best birding in the world*: the llanos. Price to be announced.

Some of the *best "rainforest birding" in the world*, in February 1992, during our tour to Ecuador, including a full week at 'La Selva Lodge.' And Andean birding as well. **February 6–18, from \$1295.**

Maybe THE GALAPAGOS is a place you've always wanted to go. For *virtually any week of the year*, FON can arrange a superb 7-night cruise onboard a comfortable 110-foot yacht, the "Coral." One of our clients this year described it as "the best trip of her life." As many as 10 islands are visited, so many of the Galapagos bird specialties should be seen. **Only \$1595.**

Other upcoming tours to such diverse places as: Alaska, Argentina, Arizona, Baja California, Belize, Brazil, Chile, Delaware, the Falklands, Nebraska, New England, Newfoundland, North Carolina, Puerto Rico, Saint Lucia, and Spain.

Plus a "stellar" tour if ever there were to be one. To the land of Steller's Sea-Eagles, Sea-Lions, and Eiders. To JAPAN in December 1992, including the islands of Hokkaido, Honshu, and Kyushu. Highlights would be: at least 3 species of cranes, and a pelagic trip. Price to be announced.

For more information about any of these tours, contact Armas Hill at FOCUS ON NATURE TOURS, PO Box 9021, Wilmington, DE 19809. Call **302-529-1876**, or toll-free **1-800-547-8893**. Fax: 302-529-1085.

"Remember, always the best possible birding at the best possible price."

SITE GUIDE: State Game Lands #110, Shartlesville

Berks County

by Kerry Grim

State Game Lands #110 north of Shartlesville is one of the best birding areas in northern *Berks* for spring migration. During May the birder can observe migrants returning to the more northerly breeding grounds as well as our local birds establishing their territories. A good morning of birding should produce 50 or more species, of which 14 to 18 will be warblers. Birding each weekend from late April to early June should produce 90 species of birds. A maximum number of warblers can be found by walking Northkill Road (see map) several times. By doing this you can intersect successive waves of migrant warblers as they drift northward. These waves will spread out as they ascend the mountain.

Traditionally, mid-May is supposed to be the peak time for warblers. Ten years ago this would have been true. Now I find the weather to be more important than the date. A word of caution is in order, as turkey hunters will be in the woods, especially on Saturday mornings. There is no hunting on Sundays.

WEATHER NOTE: May mornings are often chilly and require a windbreaker and light gloves. Never pass up the opportunity to go birding in the rain. My largest warbler waves have always been associated with a warm front stalled over the area with fog or rain. On 14 May 1989 I did my entire walk in a light to moderate rain. Lighting was poor and many migrants passed unidentified. However, it was my best warbler day that spring, with 18 species.

Directions from Reading: Travel north on Rt. 61 to I-78 at Hamburg. Follow I-78 west and take Exit 8 at Shartlesville. Turn right () on Mountain Rd. and continue straight ahead onto Forge Dam Rd. Turn left at the "Y" intersection and follow Northkill Rd. to Parking Lot 1 on your right.

Search the trees for vireos and warblers. One or two Mourning Warblers are usually found each spring in the dense growth around the parking lot. Listen for the male's *chorry, chorry* call. Scan the treetops for Scarlet Tanager and Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

Between the parking lot and the intersection, follow the footpath on your left and scan the pond for Wood Ducks. They can be found here each spring, but nesting remains

unconfirmed. The field adjacent to the pond is sometimes a hot spot for migrant warblers. However, you will need waterproof boots to enter this area. Several pairs of Com. Yellowthroat can be found here.

Return to Northkill Rd. and continue to walk east. E. Phoebe may be nesting under the bridge, just a few feet above the stream. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher may also have their nest built by the middle of May. Carolina Wren, Wood Thrush, Black-and-white Warbler, Ovenbird, Louisiana Waterthrush, and N. Cardinal will all be singing to advertise their territories in this area. Listen for the ruckus of a Pileated Woodpecker as it is winging its way through the woods. Cerulean Warbler can be found here each year. They will be very difficult to find and may not appear until early June. Walk to the storage shed and look for migrants along the tree line.

Retrace your steps to Parking Lot 1 and continue walking for approximately 1/8 mile. Acadian Flycatcher, Veery, Red-eyed Vireo, Ovenbird, Louisiana Waterthrush, and Kentucky Warbler nest in this area. Listen for the upward spiraling songs of Swainson's Thrush. Unfortunately I have found a decrease of Swainson's Thrush during the past several years.

Drive to Parking Lot 2 and walk the dirt road toward the mountain top. There will be only a handful of migrants in this area. Red-eyed Vireo, Black-and-white Warbler, and Ovenbird are the commonest species here. Look and listen for Black-throated Green Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Hooded Warbler, and Canada Warbler, all of which nest here. A distant Winter Wren may be singing near the stream.

Continue walking until you come to the browse cut area at the gate. Follow this road for 1/4 mile, then backtrack. This browse cut area has become prime nesting habitat for Com. Yellowthroat, as well as three pairs of Chestnut-sided Warblers. Look for Lincoln's Sparrow in this area. I have seven sightings for the past seven years, the majority from here. Look for any movement near the ground, and listen for the soft finch-like song of the male. If you do locate a Lincoln's Sparrow, watch quietly, as trying to call one closer will send him into hiding.

Walk from the gate to the top of the mountain. Ovenbirds will be the most plentiful species. Listen carefully: One will sing, then three others will

respond. Look for Great Crested Flycatcher, Gray Catbird, more Chestnut-sided Warbler, Rufous-sided Towhee, Field Sparrow, and Chipping Sparrow. Com. Raven are occasionally seen on the mountain top.

Return to Parking Lot 2 while scanning the sky for Com. Loon, Double-crested Cormorant, migrant and local raptors. An alternative to backtracking is to follow the dirt road west for 2.3 miles, then bear left, following Sand Spring Trail for 2.0 miles, thus returning to the parking lot. I did this in 1989 and saw or heard 123 Ovenbirds! Hooded Warbler also nests here, and it is interesting to see the springs bubbling up through the sand. However, this is a rather long walk and probably should not be attempted unless you are familiar with the area or have a map.

JUNE SPECIAL: My summer would not be complete without an evening walk to hear the songs of the Hermit Thrush, which can be heard on the mountain top at twilight. The summer evening chorus of Wood Thrushes on the higher parts of the mountain is also beautiful. On my return to the car I can expect to hear Whip-poor-wills, although they appear to be decreasing as their habitat (a large clear-cut area) has returned to dense forest. Listen for their calls in the area between the mountain top and the browse cut area well after sunset. A flashlight and long-sleeved shirt are necessities.☺

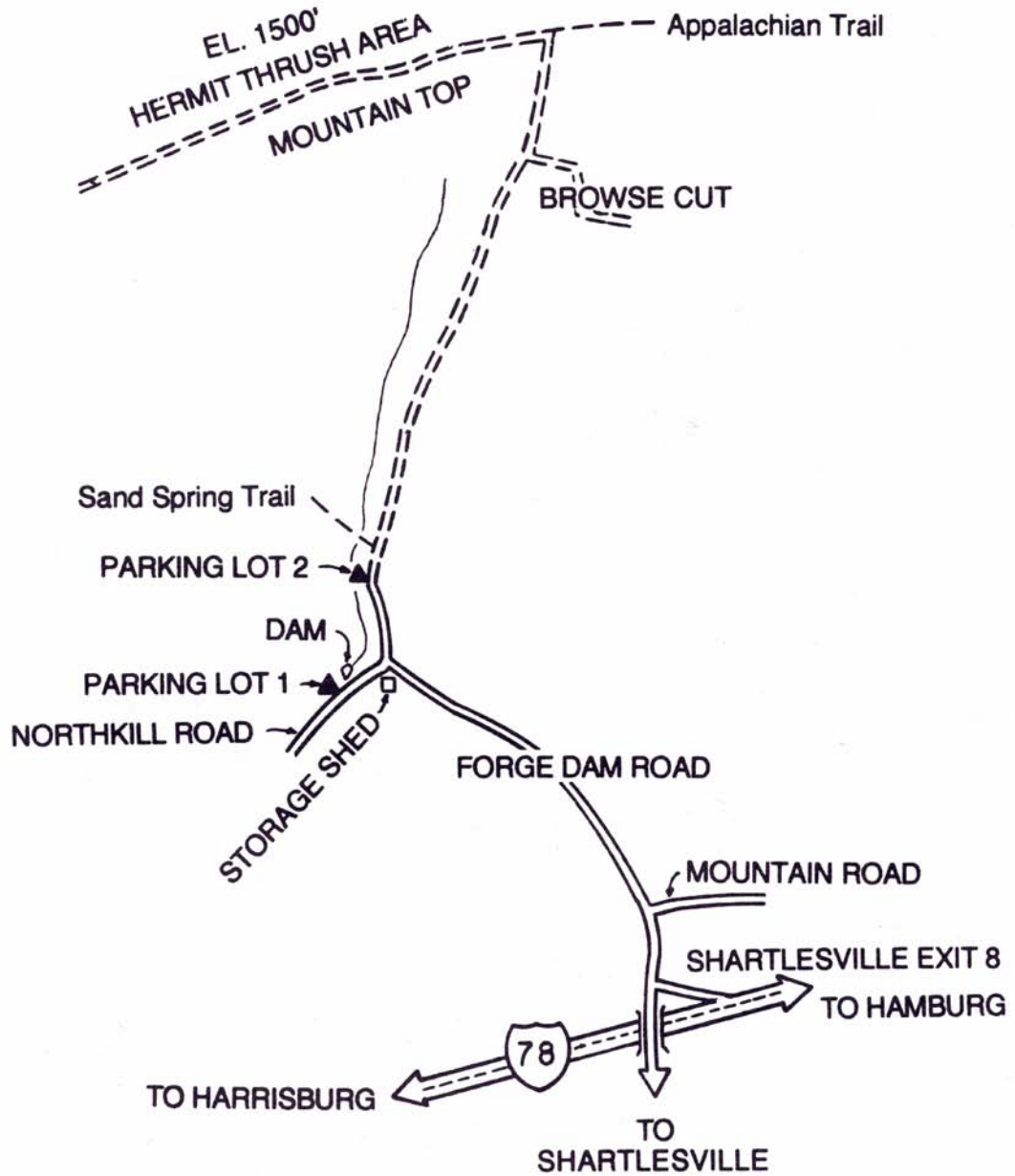
707 Turner Street
Hamburg, 19526

For your reference:
Sportsmen's Recreation Maps. Pennsylvania Game Commission, PO Box 1567, Harrisburg, PA 17105-1567. Very good maps of State Game Lands available at a low price.

Fifty Hikes in Eastern Pennsylvania. By Carolyn Hoffman. Describes trails in the Shartlesville area, as well as other trails in *Berks* and surrounding counties. Available in local bookstores.

Abstracted from The Distelfink (Spring 1991), Newsletter of the Baird Ornithological Club.

SHARTLESVILLE SGL #110



Book Reviews

Appalachian Spring

By Marcia Bonta, 198 pp., cloth \$19.95, Paper \$9.95, University of Pittsburgh Press.

After living on a Pennsylvania mountaintop for 20 years, Marcia Bonta, a frequent contributor to *PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS*, has developed a sure sense of who her neighbors are and who is just visiting.

The wood frogs in the pond and the woodchucks in their den stay year-round, hibernating up on Brush Mountain. But the woodcock are just passing through, "peenting" along the way, and the Wood Thrush show up the day she plants peas. Even the orchids known as Pink Ladies Slippers have "migrated" from her woods to the ridge above the mountain.

In this book, *Appalachian Spring*, Bonta gives a close-up look—through binoculars and even microscope—at her central Pennsylvania world as the earth reawakens and performs its natural show. Writing in diary form, she lets us in on the secret lives of all the players—birds, herps, mammals, insects, plants—by way of her own detailed observations of the land she knows so well.

Those who delight in birds should find it pleasant reading, and for those of us who are merely bird watchers, she adds a context to each species: what it eats, how it lives, whom it associates with.

A windy mid-March day brings American Pipits to the meadows. She describes their actions, their calls, their subtle shading as they preen: "Watching them most of that long afternoon, as they ran over our barren ground still patched with snow and swept by wind and cold, I felt as if I had been magically transported to the tundra for a few hours."

On an early April walk, she describes a close encounter with a drumming Ruffed Grouse that was so engrossed in his ritual, she was able to creep within 10 feet of it. A woodchuck cut short the show when it wandered by.

In scenes such as these, Bonta acknowledges her trick to being part of these intimate observations: pure patience. She will sit stock still for an hour to watch a scene unfold. Witness this interaction between new mother and young fawns:

"I never moved until they were gone, not wishing to panic them into headlong flight and thereby ruining the peace and beauty of the scene. It was only when I stood up and stretched my cramped limbs that I

realized I had been sitting in the mud."

While the reading is enjoyable, Bonta's use of diary style sometimes wears thin. After a while, one may feel like the friend who is cornered by a proud grandparent recounting every new word of a beloved grandchild. It's fine for the relatives, but do we need to sit through each sighting of the fox family, described in what she acknowledges to be anthropomorphic terms?

While there's nothing wrong with relying on the Arthur Cleveland Bent series on bird behavior—it's the best resource on avian life histories we have, at least until the Academy of Natural Sciences completes its current update of Bent—much of Bonta's ornithological reference material seems dated, and the index is incomplete.

And, in an anachronism perhaps introduced by an editor, she says her Peterson field guide "confirmed" her sighting of American Pipits—but, in the 1980 Peterson guide, as cited in the reference material, of course would have listed them as Water Pipits. The American Ornithologists' Union split the two species in 1990. The description of the birds being circumpolar and wintering in, among other places, southern Asia, refers to *Anthus spinoletta*, not *A. rubescens*, the newly split species.☺

Sandy Sherman
912 North Street
Collingdale, 19023

Through the Seasons: A Celebration of Creation

By Gene Wilhelm, Ph.D. v + 74 pp; 13 color photographs by the author + table of contents. OIKOS Publications, No. 1, 1990. \$10.85 including postage and handling. Make check payable to: Gene Wilhelm, RD 2, Box 2120, Slippery Rock, PA 16057. For subscribers to *PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS*, please deduct \$0.55.

Gene Wilhelm stood in his backyard in Slippery Rock, Pennsylvania, on one cold December morning and waited for the sunrise to become enriched in color. At the precise moment that he sensed the full color spectrum and felt its impact, he pressed the shutter button. The result is the stunning photograph that graces the cover of *Through the Seasons* and your clue to the contents of this uncommonly beautiful book.

The book is the outgrowth of Wilhelm's weekly "Nature Notes"

column which he has been writing for the *Butler Eagle* since January 1986. His writing, like his photography, is motivated by the purest and simplest of human emotions: a love of nature. He moves through the seasons with a poetic prose style of writing.

Wilhelm begins the calendar year with the star-studded skies of "January Nights" and a wondrous view of the ancient constellations and finishes the month with sensitive observations of how some of the wild animals seek the warmth of the winter sun. In February he writes about the "Masked Shrew" which may be found under our bird feeders and in March he takes us through the subtle changes from winter to spring. In "June Chorus" I was deeply moved when I read what happens to bird song moments before the sun appears. And this sublime passage speaks for itself: "Summer ripens with the milkweed pod. One mild September afternoon summer will go shimmering down the valley on a banner of silken floss." One of my favorite passages is "Night Smells" which includes a sudden encounter with a Gray Fox. The reader cannot help being impressed with the flashes of insight in October's "Fall Frenzy." In November, I could almost hear the sound of the wind and the voices of the owls. Anyone familiar with Wilhelm's past record as preservationist will appreciate his final urgent message of the possibility of global disaster if humans do not awaken in time to accept our responsibility as protectors of nature.

Nature is beautiful as it is and if Wilhelm only wrote what he saw the book would be a beauty too, but he took the unknown and mysterious road and used insight and imagination. He listened and let nature speak to him. This is the difference between looking at nature and looking into it. He shows us that nature embraces the whole universe and the ability to deal with it and be a part of it belongs to all of us.

A collection of thirteen brilliant, full-page color photographs from winter-scapes to wildflowers add substance and artistic quality to the book. All were taken in Pennsylvania. In sum, the book should be purchased by anyone who truly appreciates nature and wants a deeper, more meaningful relationship to it.☺

Barbara Dean
321 E. Meyer Avenue
New Castle, 16105

Rare Bird Reports

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus* Lancaster County Robert M. Schutsky

Date: 23 May 1991 (not seen on two subsequent days.)

Location: PP&L's Holtwood Flyash Pond, NE corner in intersection of PA 372 and Old Pinnacle Road, Martic Township.

Viewing time: Initially 0930 to 1015, then intermittently through the day by various individuals and small groups until close to sunset.

Weather: Sunny, warm, and humid, light breeze, temperature in the 80s.

Optical Equipment: Bushnell Custom 10X40 binoculars and Bushnell Spacemaster II 20-45X spotting scope. To the best of my knowledge no photograph was obtained.

Initial observers: Bob Schutsky and Cathy Hicks. Later seen by Harold Morrin, Jonathan Heller, Steve Santner, Randy Miller, Jo Pederson, Chris Pederson, Jerry Book, Beth Morrison.

Description: Upon arrival at the Flyash Pond, a quick scan revealed what appeared to be a phalarope near the far end of the impoundment. The initial identification was based upon general size, body shape, and the distinctive behavior of spinning around from side to side while picking and stabbing for food.

Cathy and I walked along the dike until we were as close as we could be to the bird, which varied from approximately 100 to 300 feet. From this distance sufficient details were seen to identify the bird as a female Red-necked Phalarope in breeding plumage. The bill was dark and straight, but not exceedingly long and needle-like as in Wilson's Phalarope (*P. tricolor*). The head and nape were dark gray or black, with a small amount of white near the eye, perhaps a broken eye ring. The chin was white. The throat was reddish brown, which extended around the neck and somewhat up onto the lower nape, which constricted the black of the nape at

that point.

The overall mantle and back color was dark gray. There were two bright buffy stripes on each side over the scapulars and coverts. The sides and underparts were white, with large black spotting on the flanks. Leg and foot color were not noted.

The only previous spring record for the county was a female at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area on 18 May 1978.☉

PO Box 10
Drumore, 17518

Clay-colored Sparrow *Spizella pallida* Erie County Jerry McWilliams

On 6 May 1991, at the Beach 11 parking lot on Presque Isle State Park at 1840 h, I discovered a Clay-colored Sparrow. It was feeding among a flock of about 30 Chipping Sparrows (*S. passerina*) and 8 or 10 Field Sparrows (*S. pusilla*) and it appeared to be the same size.

I was in my car, so I approached the flock to within 75 feet and remained in the car at which time the following characteristics were noted. The head of the Clay-colored Sparrow was the most prominent feature of the bird. The crown was brown with a narrow buffy median stripe. The supercilium was white. A dark buffy patch on the face just covered the eye and extended over the ear coverts to a broad gray area on the side of the neck. It had a dark brown eyestripe and moustachial stripe. A narrow, but distinctive dark brown malar stripe separated the white submoustachial stripe from the pale gray throat. The mantle was heavily streaked dark brown on light brown. The wings were brown with two narrow wing bars formed by white edges to the median and greater coverts. The tail was brown and deeply forked.

The entire underside was buffy-gray, buffiest on the breast.

I was able to get excellent views of the bird at this close range using a 10X40 Zeiss binocular. Even more stunning views were made by looking through a 25X Bushnell Spacemaster spotting scope mounted on my window. The bird was studied for about 15 minutes before a passing car flushed the flock. When the flock returned to the parking lot, the Clay-colored could not be found again.

The sky was heavily overcast with stratus clouds and the wind was from the west-southwest to about 25 mph. I have seen five out of the 11 Clay-colored Sparrows found in *Erie*. I have also seen several in Texas.☉

3142 W 12th St.
Erie, PA 16505

Partial Remains of Thayer's Gull, *Larus thayeri*, from Presque Isle State Park

Erie County

by Jerry McWilliams

On 22 April 1991 while walking through phragmites at Gull Point on Presque Isle State Park, I discovered the remains of a gull which I tentatively identified as *Larus thayeri* in definitive plumage. The remains consisted of the outer portion of the right wing, scapulars from the same side and several feathers from various parts of the underside of the bird. The skeletal remains were missing.

The partial remains of a Herring Gull (*L. argentatus*) were also discovered in another area of Gull Point. The right wing on this bird was missing, so the left wing was collected to use for direct comparison with the right wing of *L. thayeri*. Unfortunately the first primary (P) of *L. argentatus* is missing. The age of this bird may be 3 years since the P2 lacks a white spot.

The criteria I used to determine the identification of this species are as follows. *L. thayeri* is on the top and *L. argentatus* is on the bottom of each photo. In photo No. 1 the upperside of the primaries is shown. The basic ground color of the primaries of both wings is gray. They are nearly equal in tone. Please note that there are more greater coverts present in *L. argentatus*, which tends to make *L. argentatus* look slightly darker than *L. thayeri*. The outer webs of the first two primaries are black with paler inner webs. The first primary tip is nearly all white with a subterminal spot on the inner web. The white spot on the P2 primary extends from the inner web to the outer web. The black is more extensive on P3, P4, and P5, but is confined to the ends of the primaries forming a narrow band. The end of P6

is white with a black subterminal bar.

In photo No. 2 the underside of the primaries of *L. thayeri* shows a pattern similar to that on the upperside except that there is much less black showing in the wing tips. The inner webs of P1 and P2 are noticeably paler than the inner web of P2 in *L. argentatus*. Also note the overall paleness of the primaries of *L. thayeri* compared with *L. argentatus*. In photo No. 3 the primaries are closed in both wings as they would appear when the birds were gliding or soaring. The only black visible in *L. thayeri* is near the very tips of the primaries forming a thin black line. The black in *L. argentatus* extends further down the primaries, although P2 would show less black if P1 were present.

Summary of comparing the wing pattern of *L. thayeri* with *L. argentatus*. The black on the upperside of the primaries of *L. thayeri* is less extensive, confined on the outer webs of P1 and P2

except for the tips. White subterminal spots in P1 and P2 usually more extensive. The undersides of the primaries are paler overall, with black confined to the very tips. Comparing *L. thayeri* with Iceland Gull (*L. glaucoides kumlieni*), the basic ground color of the primaries of *L. thayeri* is darker gray with black wing tips rather than dark gray or frosty wing tips. The black in the outer webs usually extends further down the primaries than the gray or frosty outer webs in *L. glaucoides kumlieni*. The dark subterminal spot on P6 in *L. thayeri* is absent on P6 of *L. glaucoides kumlieni*.

The wings of both species have been deposited in the Department of Biology at Edinboro University.☺

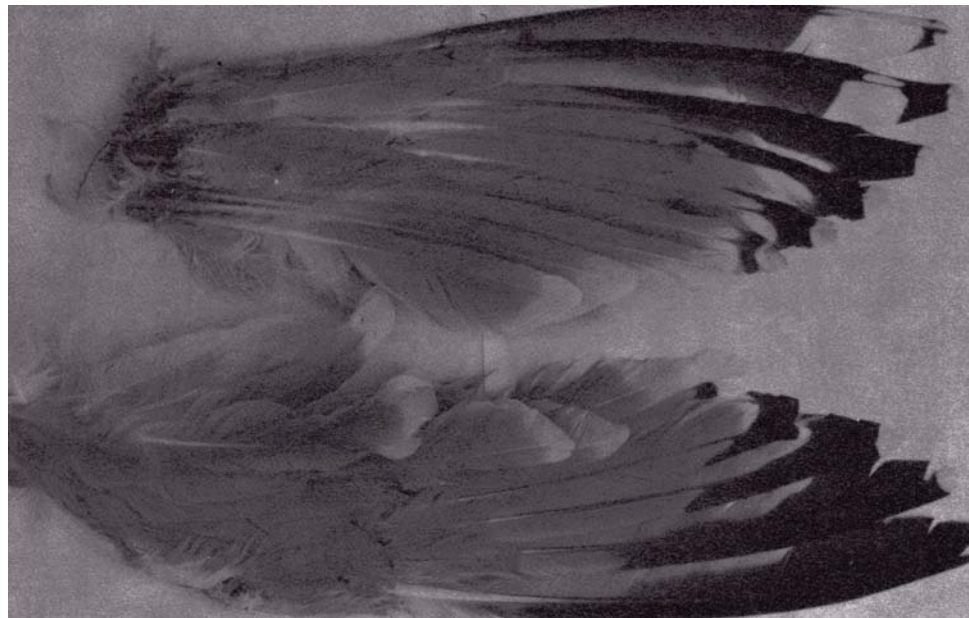


Photo #1 - *L. thayeri*, top and *L. argentatus*, bottom. Photo by G. McWilliams.

3142 W 12th St.
Erie, PA 16505

REFERENCES

- Godfrey, W.E. 1986. *The Birds of Canada*. National Museum of Natural Sciences, National Museums of Canada.
- Gosselin, M. and D. Normand. 1975. Field identification of Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*) in eastern North America. *Amer. Birds*, 29: 1059-1066.
- Grant, P.J. 1986. *Gulls: A Guide to Identification*. Buteo Books in USA, T & A D Poyser Ltd. in Great Britain.
- Harrison, P. 1983. *Seabirds: An Identification Guide*. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston.
- Kaufman, K. 1990. *A Field Guide to Advanced Birding*. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston.
- The Audubon Society. *Master Guide to Birding*. J. Farrand Jr. (Ed.). Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., New York.

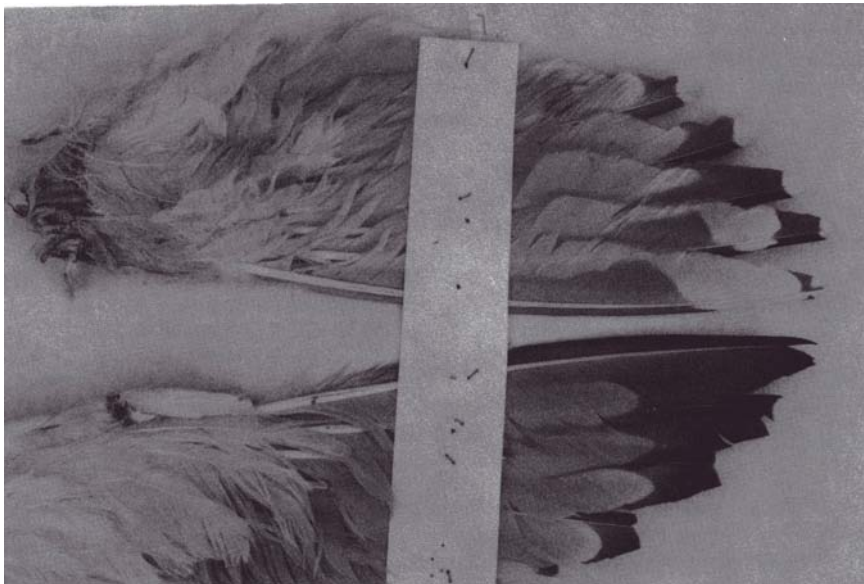


Photo #2 - *L. thayeri*, top and *L. argentatus*, bottom. Photo by G. McWilliams.

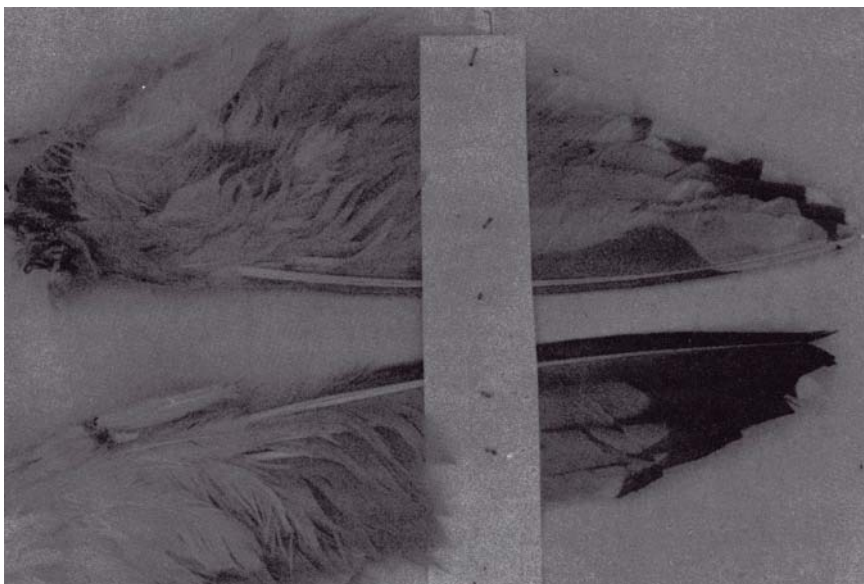


Photo #3 - *L. thayeri*, top and *L. argentatus*, bottom. Photo by G. McWilliams.

Summary of the Season - April to June 1991

Several impressions were formed as we typed in the compilers' reports.

First, the amazing number of early dates for many species. It has long been our contention that long-distance migrants could not possibly know the weather conditions hundreds or thousands of miles away from their breeding grounds. Usually there are rather small windows when these birds first start appearing in our area. And, although this was still generally true, there were some notable exceptions: **Little Blue Heron**, **Caspian Tern**, **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**, and a host of record early dates in *Erie*.

Second, there were a significant number of late dates recorded. The Snowy Owl in *Lebanon* until 3 April was 4 days later than the latest noted by Poole (unpublished manuscript) for southeastern Pennsylvania. **Com. Redpoll** in *Westmoreland* in April was the only report for the quarter.

Third, one species that is typically infrequently reported was noted in good numbers: **Orchard Oriole**. And, **Carolina Wren** may have risen to new heights.

Fourth, the breeding records of **Osprey** in *Somerset* and Yellow-throated Warbler in *Lycoming* and *Northampton*.

Rarities for the state (to be reviewed by PORC) include: **White Ibis**, **Barrow's Goldeneye** (*Erie*), **Eurasian Wigeon** (*Crawford*), **Swallow-tailed Kite** (*Monroe* and *Westmoreland!*), **Mississippi Kite** (*Lebanon* and *Northampton!*), **Chuck-will's-widow** (*Cumberland*), **Western Kingbird** (*Lehigh*), and **Clay-colored Sparrow** (*Erie* and *Lehigh*).

Both species of expected loons

were seen. High number of **Common Loon** was 200 in *Carbon*. Interesting was the fact that most reports of **Red-throated Loon** were 6-11 May, dates not normally associated with this species. An injured Red-throated Loon was placed in a protected pond in *Tioga*. Unfortunately there was no great number of either **Pied-billed** or **Horned** grebes anywhere. **Red-necked Grebe** were highlighted in *Bedford*, *Blair*, *Butler*, *Center*, *Erie*, and *Lebanon*, with 12 counted in the last county on one day! **Double-crested Cormorant** continues to be seen across the state and someday soon someone may just find that first breeding location. It's bound to happen. If you want to see a **Great Cormorant** in Pa., the best bet is still along the Delaware River and one of the prime spots is where the *Bucks* and *Philadelphia* lines meet. What is remarkable is that Chris Dooley has now noted them for every month of the year! Getting one in August was tough.

Not too much to say about bitterns, except most **American** were found in early to mid-April and numbers of **Least** seemed to be down in traditional breeding areas. **Little Blue Heron** is not a species that is typically associated with spring. Outstanding were the reports from *Bucks*, *Crawford*, *Huntingdon*, and *Lycoming*. The *Huntingdon* bird may be a *first county record*. Equally impressive were the reports of spring **Tricolored Heron** in *Chester* and *Erie* (*9th record*). Not to be outdone, *Indiana* had its *first record* of **Cattle Egret**. Other good records for this species were: *Erie*, *Lycoming*, *Montgomery*, and *Union*. Since they abandoned their rookery in *Lancaster*, this species is even becoming scarce in the southeastern part of the state. A **White Ibis** in *Mercer* is probably a *first record* there. **Glossy Ibis** were found in *Chester*, *Erie* (*9th record*), and

York. With the rash of **White-faced Ibis** sightings along the Atlantic coast, please remember to check all Glossy Ibis for this potential first state record. Immatures are very tricky (some say impossible) to separate, so careful documentation should be made and photographs taken, if possible.

Only **Gr. White-fronted Goose** was in *Tioga*. Late **Snow Geese** were in *Montour* 10 May and in *Montgomery* through June. The 15 **Brant** in *Blair* in May were the first Dave Kyler has seen in central Pa. and the only other listing was in *Lancaster* in April. Doug Gross writes that the **Am. Black Duck** may be nearly extirpated as a breeder in lower *Luzerne*. A **Eurasian Wigeon** was seen and photographed in *Crawford*. All three species of scoter were found, and as expected, most were **White-winged**.

There was good and bad news about **Black Vultures**. The nest that has been monitored in *Berks* was vandalized. Good were the sightings in *Erie* (*2nd record*) and a *first record* for *Tioga*. The **Osprey** report continues to be excellent. They are now breeding in *Somerset*, a new Pa. location, and three nests in *Northampton* yielded six young. **Two** species of kite were seen. Only about a dozen records for **Swallow-tailed Kite** exist. This season there were two sightings: one in *Monroe* 24 May and one in *Westmoreland* 22 June! And **two** sightings of **Mississippi Kite**: one in *Lebanon* and one in *Northampton*, both during the first week of April. **Bald Eagle** successfully fledged **three** young in *Butler* and one in *Tioga*, but the *Lancaster* pair were unsuccessful this year. We will continue to delete the locations of breeding hawks. Several compilers noted an apparent decline in breeding of some of the more common species. Let's hope this is not a new trend.

Virginia Rail bred in *Erie* for the first time in many years, and one visited Stan Stahl's backyard in *Lycoming*. **Com. Moorhen** reports were few and far between, and Al Guarente lamented that numbers of this species are way down in the Tinicum area. A **Sandhill Crane** made a brief visit to a *Bucks* yard. Twenty-four species of shorebirds, including **Com. Snipe** and **Am. Woodcock**, were tallied. The **Black-necked Stilt** returned to *Philadelphia*, but did not breed; and two individuals appeared in *York*. Excellent spring records include **Western Sandpiper** (*Erie*), **Wilson's Phalarope** (*York*), and two reports of **Red-necked Phalarope** (*Lancaster* and *Montgomery*). A dozen **Willet** in *Indiana* was an excellent record. Also good finds were the **Ruddy Turnstone** in *Bucks*, *Indiana*, and *Lancaster*.

Bonaparte's Gull seemed rather widespread. *Erie* birders recorded **Laughing**, **Little**, **Thayer's**, and **Lesser Black-backed**. The 75 **Laughing Gull** in *Delaware* was a good count. Not only were **Caspian Tern** found across the state, they were in good numbers (200 in *Erie*) and early (23 April in *Philadelphia*). A **Com. Tern** in *Northampton* was only the 3rd county record. **Black Tern** did not return to breed in *Erie*, and in fact few were reported. Numbers of cuckoos ranged from "phenomenal" (*Butler*), "countless" (*Lawrence*), and numerous (*Venango*), but more interesting was that *Lawrence*, *Mercer*, and *Somerset* compilers said they were mainly **Black-billed** and wondered why not **Yellow-billed**? An early **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was in *Delaware* 7 April.

A good record for *Cameron* was a **Common Nighthawk**. Two separate **Chuck-will's-widow** were tape recorded (*Fulton*, *Cumberland*) and the latter bird was photographed! At least **Whip-poor-will** numbers are good somewhere: *Carbon*. But the decrease of large, flying insects may continue the species' decline unless wanton spraying is

discontinued. Very early reports of **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** were 7 April (*Bedford*) and 19 April (*Delaware*). A male and female **Hairy Woodpecker** colored yellow where normally white were at Hawk Mt. Sanctuary (*Berks*) all summer. Any comments?

The bad news/good news story about **Olive-sided** and **Yellow-bellied** flycatchers can be read in the *Sullivan* report. A review of our literature could produce no previous record of a **Western Kingbird** in spring in Pa., so it would be new for the season as well as a 1st county record for *Lehigh*. An **E. Kingbird** was early in *Armstrong*. Allen Schweinsberg writes, "After six years of failure, Lewisburg's **Common Jackdaw** fledged 2 young on 6/10,11, bringing the (national?) population to 4 birds."

The couple in *Clarion* deserve special credit for having the only **Purple Martin** colony. Are **Tufted Titmouse** really that scarce in *Elk*? They appear to be expanding their range in parts of *Sullivan* and *Wyoming*. A **Sedge Wren** (*Erie*) was notable, as were six **N. Mockingbirds**. At least a few *Catharus* were reported, especially in a visually-poor migration.

A late report was received about a **N. Shrike** (*Lawrence*), a 1st there in 9 or 10 years. For a change, it was good to report three sightings of **Loggerhead Shrike**. Single birds in *Somerset* and *Union*, where the latter was the 1st record in ten years.

White-eyed Vireo really went north! *Erie* had no less than 15 birds reported and Russ States and Gary Edwards (*Venango*) remarked there were more of this species "seen this year than in all other years combined!" All 36 expected species of warblers were found somewhere in the state. Numbers seemed miserable until one talked with birders who visited the breeding grounds of our transient species, so apparently most of them flew over

in the absence of "bad weather." Whether it was a function of early arrival of many of the breeding species and the very hot weather during May or not, it was very difficult for us to find or hear breeding warblers (and other species) on the southern *Lancaster* Summer Bird Count. Perhaps they set up housekeeping early and shut up. For example, we saw only two **Worm-eating Warbler** in an area where we usually have five or six pairs. Did any of you experience the same phenomenon?

An **Indigo Bunting** was quite early in *Bedford*. Only **Dickcissel** report was of one (*Franklin*). Grassland sparrow (and other grassland species) reports should prove very interesting over the next years as more Grassland Bird Surveys are run, tallied, and analyzed. Some *Erie* birders were treated to a breeding plumaged **Lapland Longspur** in late April and a **Snow Bunting** in early May, both new late date records.

It was most encouraging to read of the number of **Orchard Oriole** found this quarter. This is a species that can go under-reported, unless there were truly more of them around this year. A real trick is finding them in August or later! **Purple Finch** found feeders to their liking especially during the last week of April in various areas. Only **Centre** and *Dauphin* had sightings of **Red Crossbill**. **Pine Siskin** and **Evening Grosbeak**, albeit in small numbers, were found in all regions.☺

COUNTY REPORTS - April through June 1991

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, GBS:Grassland Breeding Survey; imm.:immature, indiv.:individual(s), I.:Island, 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, SF:State Forest, SGL:State Game Lands, SP: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, ♂imm. or female, *:specimen, ph.:photographed, ft.:feet, mi:miles, m:meters, km:kilometers, date with a + (e.g., May 4+):recorded beyond that date.

ADAMS COUNTY

Art and Eleanor Kennell

Abbreviations: Birch Run Dam (BRD), Bullfrog Rd (BR), Long Pine Run Dam (LP), Michaux SF (MSF), Pumping Station Rd (PS), Red Rock Rd (RR), SGL 249 (SGL).

1-2 **Com. Loon** seen at LP 4/16-6/4 (CG). 2 **Double-crested Cormorant** on BRD 6/4,5 (CG). Single **Great Blue Heron** and **Green-backed Heron** were found along creeks and ponds in various locations. **Canada Goose** had another good year, as did **Wood Duck** and **Mallard**. A lone **Bufflehead** at LP 5/28-6/4 (CG). 4 **Red-tailed Hawk** nests were found in area of PS and RR. An ad. **Bald Eagle** was at LP 5/29 (CG). **Osprey** were near PS 4/2-16 (A&EK). **Am. Kestrel** were nesting throughout the county, 1 on PS in a farmer's attic. **Wild Turkey** were seen and heard on BR until the spring gobbler season opened, as were **Ruffed Grouse** in Apr. **N. Bobwhite** are found on BR, PS & RR.

5 **Gr. Yellowlegs** were on RR 4/27-5/7 and 3 **Ls. Yellowlegs** on RR 5/10. First **Upland Sandpiper** was seen on PS 4/2; 2 on 4/3, and 8 on 4/8. Young **Uppies** were at some farms on PS in May & June. *This might be a good year, as farm owners did not cut their hay as early as usual.* 11 **Spotted Sandpiper** at LP 4/24 (CG) and on RR in early Apr (A&EK). **Am. Woodcock** with young were near BR 5/20. We were fortunate to see **Com. Snipe** on PS and RR in flocks of 3 to 47 as late as mid-Apr. ±100 **Ring-billed Gull** with unidentified terns among them on PS 4/20. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was seen and heard most of June on BR (A&EK). A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was at LP 5/29 (CG). **E. Screech-**, **Great Horned** and **Barred** owls were near BR, and the latter 2 species were successful nesters. The **Short-eared Owl** was seen near RR until 4/17, an area where they were found nesting in the 1950s by a man who atlased this part of the county.

Whip-poor-will were in SGL and MSF in May. We have 4 nesting sites of **Red-headed Woodpecker** near BR, PS & RR. An unusual high number of **E. Kingbird** nested. **Great Crested** and **Acadian flycatchers** nested on BR; **Willow** and **Alder** at LP 5/29 (CG); **Least** seen and heard on SGL 5/11 (A&EK). **Bank Swallow** arrived in Apr at a quarry on BR and reoccupied some of their nests from last year. A flock of ±40 **Am. Pipit** were on PS from 4/6-15. The **Loggerhead Shrike** was seen on RR 4/27, but because of our moving we have not spent much time looking for the bird. **White-eyed**, **Yellow-throated**, **Red-eyed** and **Warbling vireos** were seen and probably nesting on BR.

The following warblers were seen during migration or nesting by A&EK: **Blue-winged**, **Golden-winged**, a **Brewster's** in MSF 6/14 (CG), **Orange-crowned**, 2 **Nashville** at MSF 5/4 (CG), **N. Parula**, **Yellow**, **Chestnut-sided**, **Magnolia**, **Cape May**, **Black-throated Blue**, **Yellow-rumped**, **Black-throated**

Green, **Blackburnian**, **Pine**, **Prairie**, **Bay-breasted**, **Cerulean**, **Black-and-white**, **Am. Redstart**, **Prothonotary**, **Worm-eating**, **Ovenbird**, **Louisiana Waterthrush**, **Kentucky**, which nested in our woods and bathed and drank from the bird bath. **Com. Yellowthroat**, **Hooded** 5/1 (CG) and 5/5 on SGL (A&EK), **Canada**, and **Yellow-breasted Chat**. **Bobolink** were on PS 4/8-6/5, when the hay was cut. This area also showed an increase of **E. Meadowlark** through the end of June.

OBSERVERS: Carl Garner, Art & Eleanor Kennell, 2332 Bullfrog Rd, Fairfield 17320.

ALLEGHENY COUNTY

Ted Floyd

Abbreviations: Allegheny R. (AR), Frick Park (FP), Harrison Hills Park (HH), Kilbuck Twp (KT), Natrona Heights (NH), N. Braddock (NB), North Park (NP), Penn Hills (PH), Pittsburgh (PG), Plum Borough (PB), Schenley Park (SP), Walker Park (WP).

Double-crested Cormorant max. was 8 at AR 4/8 (MF). Only **Great Blue Heron** were 2 each at HH and NH (PH).

A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** at HH 4/6 was the only report (PH). **Cooper's Hawk** at 8 locations (v.o.) included a nesting pair (location deleted. -eds.) (PB). At least 4 **Peregrine Falcon** were at PG 6/5 (TF *et al.*). 3 **Ring-necked Pheasant** were at NB 4/13 (MF). **Ruffed Grouse** were reported from FP 4/7 (MF) and WP 4/21 (MF). **Wild Turkey** reports came from NP 4/21 (MF) and PB 5/8 (RG).

As usual the county was seemingly bypassed by the order *Charadriiformes*. First **Solitary Sandpiper** was 4/21 at NP (MF), where a **Herring Gull** was seen the same day (MF). Otherwise, there were no reports. A **Ringed Turtle-Dove** at NB 6/22+ was probably an escape (MF). First dates: **Black-billed** and **Yellow-billed** cuckoos at FP 5/7 (MF); **Com. Nighthawk** at Ben Avon 5/1 (PB); **Chimney Swift** at NH 4/26 (PH); **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** not until 5/13 at PH (MF). A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** at SP 5/12 was late (MF). **Pileated Woodpecker** was listed at KT (PB) and WP (MF).

Tyrannids and *Hirundinids* went virtually unreported. A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** at KT 4/27 was the only report (PB). **Brown Creeper** were reported from only 4 locations (v.o.). A **House Wren** at FP 4/7 was early (MF). **Winter Wren** were found at 3 locations 4/6-4/21 (v.o.). The **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** flight was rated below average at HH (PH). **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** numbers, however, were above average at HH (PH). *Catharus* thrushes were very scarce, as were **Wood Thrush** (v.o.). First **Gray Catbird** was at PB 4/27 (RG). **N. Mockingbird** continue to increase, with reports from 7 locations (v.o.). First **Brown Thrasher** was at Swissvale 4/20 (MF).

Vireo first dates: **White-eyed** at HH 4/28 (PH); **Solitary** at FP on the early date 4/7 (MF); **Yellow-throated** at FP 4/27 (MF); **Red-eyed** at FP 4/29 (MF). The spring passage of transient warbler species was considered poor (PH). First dates for these and other warbler species: **Blue-winged** at FP 4/27 (MF); **Tennessee** at Forest Hills 5/12 (MF); **Nashville** at FP 4/27 (MF); **Yellow** at HH 4/25 (PH); **Chestnut-sided** at FP 4/29 (MF); **Magnolia** at FP 5/7 (MF); **Black-throated Blue** at FP 5/7 (MF); **Yellow-rumped** not until 4/25 at HH (PH); **Black-throated Green** at NP 4/21 (MF); **Blackburnian** at FP 4/27 (MF); **Yellow-throated** at WP 4/21 (MF); **Pine** not until 4/27 at FP (MF); **Prairie** at PH 4/20 (MF); **Bay-breasted** at HH 5/4 (PH); **Blackpoll** at PH 5/13 (MF); **Cerulean** at FP 4/27 (MF); **Black-and-white** at FP 4/27 (MF); **Am. Redstart** at FP 4/29 (MF); **Ovenbird** at FP 4/27 (MF); **Louisiana Waterthrush** at PH 4/20 (MF); **Kentucky** at HH 5/4 (PH); **Mourning** at SP 5/12 (MF); **Com. Yellowthroat** at FP 4/29 (MF); **Hooded** at FP 4/27 (MF); **Canada** at SP 5/12 (MF); **Yellow-breasted Chat** not until 5/13 at PH (MF).

Scarlet Tanager were in conspicuously low numbers (PH).

First **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was at FP 4/29 (MF), and first **Indigo Bunting** at FP 5/7 (MF). Other first dates: **Rufous-sided Towhee** at HH 4/6 (PH); **Chipping Sparrow** at NH 4/6 (PH); **Field Sparrow** at HH 4/6 (PH). **Fox Sparrow** were at HC 4/7 (MF) and at PH 4/20 (MF). Last **White-throated Sparrow** were at FP 5/7 (MF). **Orchard Oriole** were at NH 5/4 (PH) and at PH 5/13 (MF). **Purple Finch** at 7 locations (v.o.) included at least 50 at Sewickley Twp 4/21 (MF).

OBSERVERS: Paul Brown, Mike Fialkovich, Ted Floyd, Pesticide Research Lab, PSU, University Park 16802 (814-863-0844), Randi Gerrish, Paul Hess.

ARMSTRONG COUNTY

Margaret and Roger Higbee

Abbreviations: Craigsville (CGV), Elders Ridge strips (ER), Elderton (ELD), Ford City (FC), Keystone Res. (KR), Kittanning (KTN), Manorville (MNV), N. Buffalo Twp (NBT), Plum Cr. (PC), Rosston (RST), Wattersonville (WTV), W. Lebanon strips (WL).

All reports by ES at RST unless otherwise noted.

2 **Com. Loon** were at RST 4/1 and at WTV 5/12 (DL). KR produced singletons 4/24 (PF,MH) & 5/7 (BB,MH). **Pied-billed** and **Horned** grebes were reported only between 4/2-12 and 4/1-2 respectively. 3 **Double-crested Cormorant** were seen 4/3; 4 at MNV 4/13 (JV); and 1 at KR 5/10 (MH,GL,GS). 1-3 **Great Blue Heron** were at 5 locations (all ES). A **Great Egret** appeared at MNV 4/13 (JV).

Last **Tundra Swan** report was 2 on 4/1. 4 **Snow Goose** 4/1 were a nice find. Up to 19 **Wood Duck** counted 4/2. A single **Green-winged Teal** 4/9 was the lone report. **Blue-winged Teal** reports: 2 at RST 4/7 and 2 at KR 4/24 (PF,MH). 2 **Am. Wigeon** were seen 4/3 and 6 **Canvasback** 4/1. 11 **Gr. Scaup** was a nice count 4/1, with best **Ls. Scaup** tally 28 on 4/12. 3 **Com. Goldeneye** were seen 4/1 and high **Bufflehead** count was 91 on 4/1. 3 **Hooded Merganser** found 4/1; and **Red-breasted** reports include 4 at MNV 4/10, 11 at RST 4/12, & 12 at KR 4/24 (PF,MH).

Single **Osprey** were at ER 4/24 (PF,MH) & at CGV 4/29. **N. Harrier** was still present at ER 5/10 (MH,GL,GS). A nest of **Broad-winged Hawk** fledged 2 young (location deleted. -Eds.) 6/27 (FE). **Ruffed Grouse** were seen with young near Cowansville 6/23. Top **Wild Turkey** count was 39 at NBT 4/6 (*vide* JV). A **Sora** at KR was a nice find 5/10 (MH,GL,GS). **Solitary Sandpiper** arrived at CGV 5/2; 3 were at ER (MH,GL,GS) & 1 at WL 5/10 (MH,GL,GS). **Spotted Sandpiper** was observed at CGV 4/29, 5/2; PC & KR produced 2 each 5/7 (BB,MH). An ad. **Com. Snipe** was found in a field near ELD 5/7 (BB,MH); a trip to the area 5/10 yielded a juv. that was approx. 1/3 grown (MH,GL,GS). Gull max. included 24 **Bonaparte's** and 98 **Ring-billed** at RST 4/1.

2 **Whip-poor-will** were heard near Pyrra 5/19 (M&RH), the lone report. 2 **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** were at KTN 4/11 (CD). **Willow Flycatcher** was singing at ER 5/10 (MH,GL,GS). **E. Kingbird** at FC 4/6 (JV) was very early. The lone **Horned Lark** report was 1 on the KTN BBS 6/29 (M&RH). Up to 4 **Purple Martin** were counted at the colony near ELD 5/10 (MH,GL,GS). More **Carolina Wren** were reported this quarter; several observers noted their abundance. The following BBS routes produced the indicated number of Carolina Wren: Margaret, 12 (up from 2 in 1990); Kittanning, 4 (up from 1 in 1990); and Shelocta, 5 (up from 3 in 1990). [Even though the Shelocta route begins in *Indiana*, the bulk of it (37 stops) is in *Armstrong*.] Very few warblers were reported during migration, mostly singletons, and no unexpected species.

The Edgewood GBS 6/27 (M&RH), which covers a portion of *Indiana* as well, yielded 4 **Vesper**, 5 **Savannah**, 16 **Grasshopper**, and 17 **Henslow's** sparrows. **Orchard Oriole** was listed at WL 5/10 (MH,GL,GS). Best **Purple Finch** count was 15 at KTN 4/22 (CD). The lone **Evening Grosbeak** report was 5 indiv. at FC 4/16 (JV).

OBSERVERS: Becky Byerly, Caroline Davies, Flo Emmonds, Paula Fleming, Margaret and Roger Higbee, RR 2 Box 166, Indiana 15701 (412-354-3493), Gloria Lamer, Debby Livengood, Ed Slovensky, Georgette Syster, Joe Valasek.

BEDFORD COUNTY

Janet Shafer

Abbreviations: Bedford (BED), Bedford Valley (BV), Belden (BL), Cessna (CE), Shawnee SP (SSP), Yount (YT).

Rainfall in the BED area was well below normal, but SSP lake was full again. Observers reported **Com. Loon** 4/2 (CV) and 4/4-5/20 (GH), **Pied-billed** and **Horned** grebes 4/2 (CV), and 9 **Double-crested Cormorant** 4/24 (GH). A **Red-necked Grebe** was with mergansers at SSP 4/23 (DM). **Great Blue Heron** found in BL 4/27-5/9 (CM) & 6/29 (TC). **Great Egret** seen at small farm pond along Rt. 220 n. of Centerville 4/9 (JES), and 1 at SSP 4/24 (GH) & 4/30 (CV). **Green-backed Heron** present in BL all quarter, 5 seen 6/3 (CM). 8 **Canada Goose** 5/31; a **Mallard** with 8 young 6/1,2; and **Wood Duck** 4/9 (CM), all BL. **Blue-winged Teal**, **Am. Wigeon**, and **Redhead** were at SSP 4/3,4 (GH). **Canvasback** with a flock of **Redhead**, **Ring-necked, scaup**, and **Bufflehead** at SSP 4/2 (CV). **Ls. Scaup** in BL 4/15 (CM) and 8 **Oldsquaw** at SSP 4/29 (GH). At SSP 10 **White-winged Scoter** 4/30 (CV), 12 **Com. Goldeneye** 4/29 (GH), and **Bufflehead** 4/2 (CV).

Black Vulture at YT 4/11 (GH). **Osprey** reports: at YT 4/11 & 6/6 (GH); SSP 4/9 (CV); BED 4/17 (JES); & BL 4/21 (CM). **Bald Eagle** seen of the e. slope of Wills Mt. 4/4 (DB *vide* LH). **N. Harrier** at YT 4/3 (GH). **Sharp-shinned** at BED 4/24 (CM), and **Cooper's** at BL 4/5 (TC) & 5/13 (CM). **Red-shouldered** at YT 5/9 (GH). **Ring-necked Pheasant** 4/1-14 BL (CM). **Ruffed Grouse** dead on road (d.o.r.) (JES) and **Wild Turkey** 6/1 BL (CM). **Ls. Yellowlegs** 4/3,24, **Least Sandpiper** 4/4 & **Com. Snipe** 4/4 on mudflat in BL (GH). **Bonaparte's Gull** were at SSP 4/2,29 (CV,GH) and 2 **Caspian Tern** at SSP 4/23 (CV).

On 6/7 a **Mourning Dove** flew down and pecked at its dead mate (?) lying at the side of Rt. 31 w. of BED (JES) and a banded **Rock Dove** was at BL 6/9 (CM). Cuckoo reports: **Black-billed** 6/3 & **Yellow-billed** 5/12-29 in BL (CM). **E. Screech-Owl** in BL 4/8 & 6/10 (CM) and a young one d.o.r. in BV 5/24 (JES), a **Barred** with a snake in YT 6/14 (GH). Earliest report of **Whip-poor-will** was 4/19 from Pigeon Hill, nr. BED (EG). **Chimney Swift** 4/22 BED (JES) and **Ruby-throated Hum-mingbird** 4/7 BL (CM). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was nr. CE 5/8 (CM) and a juv. in BL 6/29 (TC). First **E. Kingbird** 4/27 & **Great Crested Flycatcher** in BL 5/26 (CM). **Tree, Bank, Cliff**, and **Barn** swallows at SSP 4/9 (CV). **Purple Martin** in CE 6/27 (TC). **Com. Raven** 5/11 YT (GH).

On 5/3 I stopped to examine a freshly killed **Black-capped Chickadee** (♀ with brood patch) near SSP. Its mate (?) flew over to the dead bird, then went and chattered and fussed in a nearby tree (JES).

Family of 4 **White-breasted Nuthatch** 6/10 BL (TC). **House Wren** 4/15+. **Winter Wren** 4/20 YT (GH), and **Carolina Wren** 4/4-24 BL (CM). A **Brown Thrasher** in BV 4/30 (JES) and **N. Mockingbird** 4/8-19 BL (CM). **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** 4/7 BV (JES); **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** 4/15 BL and **Cedar Waxwing** 4/29, 6/2 BL (CM). **White-eyed Vireo** banded 5/12 BV (JES), **Solitary** observed 5/4 YT (GH), **Warbling** 4/24 & 6/14 YT (GH), and **Red-eyed** banded 5/27 BV (JES).

15 spp. of warblers noted at YT including **Brewster's** 5/9, **Palm** (western race) 5/1, and **Mourning** 5/9 (GH). A **Yellow-breasted Chat** banded in BV 5/5 (JES). **Rufous-sided Towhee** 4/13+ (CM). Sparrows include: **Field** 4/15 BL (CM); **Grasshopper** 4/29 BV (JES); **Lincoln's** and **Swamp** banded 5/5 BV (JES); **White-crowned** still present 5/11 BV (JES) & YT (GH); **White-throated** in YT 5/11 (GH). Last **Dark-eyed Junco** 4/27 BL (TC). **E. Meadowlark** 5/25 BL (CM), and a **N. Oriole** fluffed up and singing 5/4 in 34°F weather BV (JES). Other return dates include **Scarlet Tanager** 5/5 (CM); **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** 5/7 (TC); **Indigo Bunting** 4/14 BL (CM), and **Evening Grosbeak** last seen 5/5 BV (JES). **Purple Finch** 4/5-5/10 and **Pine Siskin** 4/27 BL (CMc).

OBSERVERS: Diana Braman, Terry Carnila, Etter Grazier, Gordon Hassel, Les Hollinger, Rosie & Clyde McGinnett, Dick Murphy, Janet Shafer, RR 6 Box 338, Bedford 15522 (814-356-3553), Charlie Voytko.

BERKS COUNTY

Rudy Keller

Abbreviations: French Creek SP (FC), Hawk Mt. Sanctuary (HMS), L. Ontelaunee (LO), SGL 110, Kittatinny Ridge above Shartlesville (SGL).

Spring migration was virtually over by mid-May, and weather patterns that brought record high temperatures caused little songbird fallout. Flycatchers, thrushes and warblers that don't breed locally were reported in exceptionally low numbers. For example, on a county big day 5/12, MS found only 4 non-breeding warbler spp.! On the plus side were two interesting owl records. A **N. Saw-whet Owl** was calling 5/3-9 in Bern Twp, where a pair nested a few years ago (HJS).

While camping in FC 6/1, RB listened to a **Barred Owl** pair interacting with 1 or 2 young giving food begging calls. The only previous breeding record I know of away from the Kittatinny Ridge is from 1888 (E.L. Poole, *A Half Century Of Bird Life In Berks County, Pennsylvania*).

The spring high count of **Com. Loon** was 11 flying over SGL 5/4 (KG); the latest was 1 at LO 5/25 (EB). Small flocks of **Double-crested Cormorant** were seen off and on at LO all spring, the last 6/16 (MS). Our only known **Great Blue Heron** rookery produced 21 fledglings, double last year's count (RK,DK). A **Great Egret** was at LO 4/21,28 (RK,MS). 2 **Black-crowned Night-Heron** were at Oley, where they probably nest, 4/28,30 (RK), and the W. Lawn rookery had about 11 nests, but no fledgling count was made. 2 imm. white **Snow Goose** were at Oley 4/28,30 (RK). 2 **Am. Black Duck** at LO 6/9 (MS) were late. Some of the less common waterfowl seen at LO this spring were 2 **N. Shoveler** 4/7, this spring's only **Oldsquaw** 4/21, a **Com. Goldeneye** still present 5/12, and a **Red-breasted Merganser** 4/14 (RK,BS,MS).

A **Black Vulture** nest at FC that RB has been monitoring for several years was apparently vandalized and abandoned this year. There were 2 June **Osprey** records: 1 at LO 6/16 (BS,MS) and 1 near Vinemont "about 6/27" (PM). A **N. Harrier**, considered a "local resident," was seen in Greenwich Twp 5/27 (KG). **Cooper's Hawk** was seen at 2 locations during the nesting season (KG,DK,MS). A **Merlin** flashed across LO 4/14 (RK,BS,MS) and a **Peregrine Falcon** over HMS 4/6 (*vide* LG).

High count of **Bonaparte's Gull** was 12 at LO 4/14 (BS,MS), and a **Caspian Tern** was there 4/21 (RK). A **Barn Owl** pair in an Oley Valley silo fledged 6 young (banded) in mid-May (RB). There were more **Whip-poor-will** reports than usual: a migrant was calling at the Hamburg Res. 4/25 (KG), a pair called all summer near Birdsboro (*vide* RB) and 1 was heard in Tulpehocken Twp 6/1 (HJS). A ♂ and ♀ **Hairy Woodpecker** colored yellow where normally the plumage is white were at HMS all summer (LG). A **Horned Lark**, uncommon after winter, was singing in Windsor Twp 6/2 (KG).



Leucistic Eastern Bluebird, Mt. Penn, 4/13/91.
Photo by Matt Spence.

Purple Martin arrived in Hamburg 4/4, KG's earliest record. A **Com. Raven** was at HMS 6/9 (LG). An extremely pale bluebird on Mt. Penn 4/13 caused some wishful thinking about Mountain Bluebirds, but turned out to be a leucistic **E. Bluebird** singing its typical song (MS).

Winter Wren were heard in June in boulder fields and along hemlock-lined streams of the Kittatinny Ridge, the s. edge of their range in this region. Also heard were **Hermit Thrush**, which seem to prefer ridgetop woods with a fairly dense blueberry understory.

Though spring warbler migration was depressing, there was encouraging evidence that some of the locally less common breeding warblers were holding their own or had even increased slightly in favorable areas. These spp. include **Chestnut-sided, Am. Redstart, Worm-eating, Kentucky, Hooded** and **Canada** (KG,RK,MS). Where large tracts of farmland haven't been replaced by shopping malls or housing projects or given over to permanent corn, grassland birds can also hold their own. On a 1.5 mi drive through Windsor Twp farmland 6/2, KG recorded 6 **Vesper**, 4 **Savannah**, 8 **Grasshopper** sparrows, 12 **Bobolink**, and 12 **E. Meadowlark**, plus the above mentioned Horned Lark. Most of these spp. were also reported in other parts of the county (RB,RK,HJS,MW). On 5/5, KG saw 2 **Lincoln's Sparrow** at SGL, and 1 was at HMS 5/11 (RK). High counts of **Purple Finch** were 8 in Bern Twp 4/8 (HJS) and 8 in Pike Twp 4/14 (RK).

OBSERVERS: Ed Barrell, Rich Bonnett, Laurie Goodrich & HMS staff, Kerry Grim, **Rudy Keller, RD 4 Box 235, Boyertown 19512, 215-367-9376**, Dean Kendall, Pam Munroe, Harold & Joan Silagy, Bart Smith, Matt Spence, Matt Wlasniewski.

BLAIR COUNTY

Marcia Bonta

Abbreviations: Brush Mt. (BM), Canoe Creek SP (CC), Elberta (EL), Ft. Roberdeau CP (FR), Kettle Res. (KR), Reese's Pond (RP), Sinking Valley (SV). Reports from BM and by compiler unless otherwise noted.

Unusual waterfowl for our area were seen at both CC and RP. A **Red-necked Grebe** was found by SMB 4/15 while driving home from Penn State on Rt. 220. DK found a **Green-backed Heron** at CC 6/9, but his best day there was 5/6 when he identified 15 **Brant**, the 1st he has seen in c. Pa., in the company of 2 **Black Scoter**. 2 **Wood Duck** were found on a duckweed-covered pond at the base of BM 5/10 (MAB). MAB also saw a **N. Pintail** flying low overhead 4/16, giving us our 161st species on BM over the last 20 years. 1 **Bufflehead** seen at RP 4/15 (SMB).

An **Osprey** was at CC 4/26 (DK) and an imm. **Bald Eagle**, also at CC, 5/8 (JS). First **N. Harrier** 4/16 (MAB); another, a ♀, flew right over his head 5/10. MB was startled 4/6 by the sight of a **Cooper's Hawk** flying low after a **Ruffed Grouse** in the woods. It did not catch it, but landed in a nearby tree to preen as she watched. SAK saw a **Broad-winged Hawk** at EL during the Juniata Valley Audubon Society birdathon 5/11 and the same couple saw another at KR 5/29.

2 **Spotted Sandpiper** appeared at CC 5/2 (DK) and 57 **Ring-billed Gull** 5/8 (JS). One **Com. Tern** at RP along with the grebe and Bufflehead 4/15 (SMB). The first **Black-billed** and **Yellow-billed** cuckoos called 5/6 (MAB). 4 **Com. Nighthawk** were hawking for insects above our mountaintop field 6/28. A **Red-headed Woodpecker** 5/3 (MAB) and a **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** 4/5. MAB also discovered our 162nd species with his sighting of an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** 5/15. **E. Wood-Pewee** returned 5/8 (MAB). A great year for flycatchers altogether on BM. An **Acadian** 5/14 (MAB) followed by 5 singing in the hemlock woods along the stream 5/15 and for several more days when they were also heard by the compiler. DK discovered a **Willow Flycatcher** in SV 5/29, and the first **Least** was back on BM 4/9 (MAB). The first **Great Crested** was not heard until 5/5. Finally, an **E. Kingbird** 5/5.

First **Tree Swallow** back at CC 4/4 (SAK). A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** on BM 5/14 (MAB). First of the year, singing **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** 4/7 and first **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** 4/16. A **Veery** on BM and singing for the first time and on 5/26 near dusk a **Gray-cheeked Thrush** sang seemingly in response to a singing **Wood Thrush**, reminded me of last fall when those same two

species foraged together near dusk. The first migrating **Hermit Thrush** 4/6 and the first singing, returning Wood Thrush 4/28. Other first returns on BM—**Gray Catbird** 5/6, a flock of **Cedar Waxwing** 5/14 to feed on young Gypsy Moth caterpillars, **Solitary Vireo** singing 4/7, **Yellow-throated** (MAB) 5/7 and **Red-eyed** singing 4/7.

What an outstanding spring for warblers on BM. Altogether 28 species recorded, some many times, and mostly by MAB who spent a good part of the warbler migration in the woods. But even when he worked in the yard, warblers came to him. First **Blue-winged** (MAB); and **Golden-winged** 5/7, with 1 singing for at least 2 weeks. Golden-winged were also seen at CC 5/8 (JS) and in SV 5/21 (DK). A good year for **Tennessee**; SAK saw 1 at FR 5/11 and MAB saw 1-3 on BM 5/11-15. First **Nashville** 4/28 and also 5/10, 16. 2 **N. Parula** 5/8, **Chestnut-sided** 5/6, **Magnolia** 5/5, **Cape May** 5/13, 3 **Black-throated Blue** 5/8, **Yellow-rumped** 5/5, **Black-throated Green** 4/28, and 2-3 **Blackburnian** 5/7-16 (MAB). MMB both had wonderful, long views of a **Palm** 4/16 as it hung around the yard and field in low shrubs for several hours. It is only the 2nd Palm for BM by compiler. 3 **Bay-breasted** 5/10 (MAB) and 1 at FR 5/11 (SAK). **Blackpoll** 5/13-16 (MAB). A **Cerulean** 5/5 (MAB) and **Black-and-white** 4/28, **Am. Redstart** 4/30, **Worm-eating** 4/28, & **Ovenbird** 4/28, all breeding species on BM. SAK saw the first singing **Louisiana Waterthrush** at CC 4/4, MAB saw a **Kentucky** 5/10 and a **Hooded** 5/5, with 6 Hooded 5/10. Two Hooded, a ♂ and ♀, distraction-displayed for me 6/9, nearly flying into my face when I "pished." Other interesting sightings were 2 **Wilson's Warbler** 5/6, a **Canada** 5/13 and numerous **Yellow-breasted Chat** beginning 5/11 (MAB). On 6/16 a distraction display by a chat verified for the first time nesting of this species on BM.

Lots of **Scarlet Tanager** starting 4/20 and **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** 5/3 (SS) which continued numerous all quarter. First **Rufous-sided Towhee** 4/9 (MAB), and **Chipping Sparrow** 4/9. SK participated in the GBS in SV 6/18, where he discovered singing **Vesper, Savannah**, and 4 **Grasshopper** sparrows. First **White-throated Sparrow** in migration on BM 4/9 (MAB) and 14 **White-crowned Sparrow** at CC 5/8 (JS). On BM we had the rare treat of a singing **E. Meadowlark** 5/8 where it sang high up in a Black Walnut tree in our yard for a half hour before flying off in the direction of SV. First **N. Oriole** back 5/1. **N. Oriole** abundant everywhere this year. DK reported that a pair seen in SV 5/29 was building their nest in a balled-up tree at a tree nursery. Finally, 2 ♀ **Purple Finch** at the BM feeder 4/28.

OBSERVERS: Marcia Bonta, PO Box 68, Tyrone 16686 (814-684-3113), Mark Andrew Bonta, Steven & Mark Bonta, Stan Kotala, Stan & Alice Kotala, Dave Kyler, John Salvetti, Scott Shalaway.

BRADFORD COUNTY

Bill Reid

Abbreviations: Wyalusing (WY).

A **Com. Merganser** was at WY 6/5 (WR). LH saw an ad. **Bald Eagle** at Wysox 6/7. An ad. **Cooper's Hawk** was at WY 6/5 (WR). A **Ring-billed Gull** was on the river at Towanda 6/29 (WR). An **Alder Flycatcher** was singing at Reinke 6/5 (WR). **Winter Wren** were singing at Spring Hill 5/28 and WY 6/5 (WR). A **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was heard at SGL 172 on 6/5 (WR). A small flock of **Evening Grosbeak** came to a feeder at Spring Hill daily until 4/18 (EB).

OBSERVATIONS: Elizabeth Beebe, Lisajean Hoefner, Bill Reid, 73 W Ross St, Wilkes-Barre 18702 (717-836-2525).

BUCKS COUNTY

Ron French

Abbreviations: Buckingham Twp. (BuT), Bucks Audubon Society Birdathon (BRD) 5/11, Doylestown Twp (DT), Honey Hollow (HH), L. Towhee (LT), Levittown (LV), L. Warren (LW), Mill Creek, lower Bucks (MC), New Hope (NH), Nockamixon Cliffs

(NC), Nockamixon SP (NSP), Peace Valley Park (PVP), Quakertown (QU), Revere (RV), Tyler SP (TSP).

20 **Com. Loon** were at NSP 4/24 (GF), 1 on the Delaware R. at NH 4/11 (BH), 1 on the BRD (GD *et al.*). A **Pied-billed Grebe** was at LW 5/11 (JM *et al.*) and 1 in QU area 5/25 (RH). SF noted a **Horned Grebe** at PVP 4/24, and 1 at NSP 5/20 (SF). A **Red-necked Grebe** was at PVP 4/22 (SF). **Double-crested Cormorant** reported from many locations (v.o.). A **Least Bittern** was at PVP 4/27 (SF). A **Great Egret** was at NSP (SF) 4/27-5/11 (BB *et al.*) & a **Little Blue Heron** there 4/30 (SF). 3 **Black-crowned Night-Heron** were at QU swamp 5/20 (KC).

A **Snow Goose** was at LW 4/27 in the company of a **Canada Goose** and acting like a mated pair (SF), another 1 at NH 5/8 (BH). A **Ring-necked Duck** at LW 5/11 was surprisingly late (BH *et al.*). 10 **Oldsquaw** at NSP 4/19 & 2 ♂ at PVP 4/15 (SF). Scoter reports include: 2 **Surf** at NSP 4/24 (GF) & 1 ♂ and 2 ♀ at NSP 5/1 (SF); 7 ♂ **White-winged** at PVP 4/15 (SF). 2 ♀ **Hooded Merganser** were at TSP 4/19 (JH). An exciting find of a **Com. Merganser** with 17 in tow was noted on the river at NH 6/7, this family seen repeatedly all quarter with all young present and accounted for (BH). 3-4 **Red-breasted Merganser** were at PVP & at NH 4/16 (SF, BH).



Turkey Vulture chicks, Chalfont, 6/10/91. Photo by Alan Brady.

3 **Black Vulture** at NSP 4/24 was the only report. **Turkey Vulture** nested at Chalfont, first discovered 4/30, the nestlings were almost fully feathered by the end of the period (RF). **Osprey** were reported almost daily through April & May (v.o.), with a late bird at NSP 6/14 (SF). Good **Bald Eagle** reports: 2 ad. 4/18 (SF); at PVP 4/28 (TS); an imm. at RV 5/22 (SF); an imm. at NH 6/19, and another imm. at PVP 6/26 (DP). **Cooper's Hawk** was at TSP 4/27 (JH); 1 for the BRD 5/11 (RF *et al.*); and a 3rd at Ottsville 4/30 (KK). PVP also harbored a **N. Goshawk** 4/26 (SF). Although **Broad-winged Hawk** migrated through the area as usual, only 1 possible nesting was reported, KW found this species in BuT from May+. An ad. **Golden Eagle** was over Cross Keys 4/18 (TS). The **Peregrine Falcon** at NC was a great find for the BRD (HR, JC *et al.*). The **Merlin** first seen 4/19 at PVP remained in the area for about 3 weeks (SF *et al.*). 10 **Wild Turkey** were at RV 4/15 (SF); a hen was busy at HH with her 9 chicks in early June (BMc). 5 **N. Bobwhite** spent time under a dumpster riding out a thunderstorm in Holland 4/24 (JH). At QU swamp 2 **Virginia Rail** were heard 5/20, 22 (KC); this sp. had also been heard for the BRD by some teams. A **Sora** was at PVP 4/10 (DA). A very lost **Sandhill Crane** alighted on the lawn of CJ's home at PVP; it remained only for a few minutes and then flew to parts unknown (CJ, CO).

One BRD team counted a **Ruddy Turnstone** amongst their finds (GD *et al.*). **Semipalmated Plover** was found 4/11 (GD *et al.*) & at LT 5/30 (SF). **Semipalmated** and **Least** sandpipers were found 5/11 (GD *et al.*). A **Dunlin** was at NSP 4/29 (SF). 8 **Laughing Gull** at NH and 6 at Uhlerstown were found 4/6, 8 (BH). AM *et al.* reported 10 **Bonaparte's Gull** at PVP 4/13; SF

saw 1 4/15, 23 4/17, and 51 4/18 at NSP. A **Forster's Tern** was at PVP 5/12 (SF *et al.*).

A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was at RV 5/8 (SF), and **Yellow-billed** at RV 5/16 (SF) & Silver L. 5/26 (GC). A **Barn Owl** was at RV 4/19. Two reports for **Barred Owl**: 1 heard at Chalfont 5/8 (P&AG) and 1 heard at QU swamp 5/11 (RF *et al.*). In early June an ad. **N. Saw-whet Owl** was feeding a fledgling at Carversville (MR).

Com. Nighthawk was noted along the river at NH 5/6,7 (BH) & 2 in Dublin 5/19 (SF). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was found for the BRD in Upper Bucks (HR,JC *et al.*). **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was at RV 4/6 (SF) & at TSP 4/14 (JH). An **Acadian Flycatcher** was at TSP 5/21 (JH). **Cliff Swallow** are again present at the PVP Dam after an absence of one year (P&AG). After several failed attempts, **Carolina Chickadee** arrived at feeders in LV with several young (GC). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** were in DT 6/22 (RH). A successful nesting of Brown Creeper was observed at RV in Apr., this pair also counted on the BRD 5/11 (SF *et al.*).

A pair of **Veery** at TSP, probably nesting, were seen 6/20 (JH), & 4 singing ♂ reported from NH 6/25 (BH). **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was seen 5/11 & another at MC 5/14 (GC). A **Yellow-throated Vireo** was at Washington Crossing SP 5/13 (RF) & 1 at RV 5/24 (SF). **Warbling Vireo** was at PVP 5/15 (SF) & 6/1 (RF *et al.*), and at TSP 5/22 (JH). SF recorded a **Philadelphia Vireo** at RV 5/9.

Warbler flights were spotty at best. Noteworthy were the following: a **Blue-winged** singing a **Golden-winged** song was seen and heard by many at PVP 5/11; this bird remained in the area and was heard frequently (RF *et al.*); a Golden-winged was present at NSP 5/11 (BT *et al.*). A **Tennessee** at RV 5/9 and a **Nashville** at NSP 4/26 (SF). BH had a flock of approx. 100 **Yellow-rumped** passing through NH 4/21; the **Audubon's** race of this sp. was closely observed in LV 5/8 (JnC). A singing **Cerulean** was a treat for BH at NH 6/21. A **Worm-eating** at PVP 5/30 was a nice find (SF). JH noted **Kentucky** at TSP 5/20, still present and singing 6/20. SF reported a **Wilson's** at PVP 5/15. A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was at TSP 6/22 (JH), and another present at PVP in late June.

A **Grasshopper Sparrow** was noted for the BRD (GD *et al.*), and 2 nesting pair were in a field nr. NH 6/3. One of these pair was known to have fledged young subsequently. A **Lincoln's Sparrow** appeared briefly at PVP 5/10 (SF). Only **Bobolink** report was of 2 birds 4/27 at TSP (BH). An **E. Meadowlark** at TSP 5/27 was a special find for this part of *Bucks* (JH). A late **Rusty Blackbird** was at RV 5/15 (SF). **Orchard Oriole** was at PVP 4/30 and remained to successfully nest. A ♂ **Purple Finch** at TSP 4/25 (JH) rounds out our report for this quarter.

OBSERVERS: Don Aiman, Bill Benner, George & Jean (JnC) Carmichael, Kevin Crilley, Jewel Cummings, Gerry Dewaghe, Steve Farbotnik, Gary Freed, **Ron French, 3469 Limekiln Pike, Chalfont 18914 (215-997-1765)**, Anita & Paul Guris, Ray Hendrick, Jeff Herbst, Bill Hoehne, Corey Jarin, Ken Kitson, Bruce McNaught, Augie Mirabella, Jamie Morrissy, Don Parlee, Hart Rufe, Margie Rutbell, Terry Shaffer, Bill Trumbauer, Kathy Wannemacher.

BUTLER COUNTY

Paul Hess

Abbreviations: Bartramian Audubon Society (BAS), Bartramian Birdathon 5/18 (BB), Buffalo Twp (BT), Glades SGL (GSG), Lancaster Twp (LT), L. Arthur (LA), Marion Twp (MT), Moraine SP (MSP), Slippery Rock Twp (SRT), Todd Sanctuary (TS).

Highlights were 3 eaglets at GSG and a large new **Cliff Swallow** colony at MSP. Lack of strong fronts for fallout meant an uneventful landbird migration, though the continual warm and dry weather returned more birds than usual in April. It also speeded the breeding cycle: e.g., by 6/9 **Gray Catbird** and **N. Oriole** were feeding young (BD,BW).

Max. were 15 **Com. Loon** at LA 4/29 (MG), 5 **Pied-billed Grebe** at GSG 4/7 (DB *et al.*), and just 1 **Horned Grebe** at LA 4/3-11 (MG, BAS). A **Red-necked Grebe** was a rare visitor at LA 4/29 (MG). Up to 7 **Double-crested Cormorant** were at LA (MG, BAS) and 5 at GSG (G&SB,RC) in Apr. 3 **Great Blue Heron**

at GSG 4/7 (DB *et al.*) and on the BB led few reports. **Great Egret** appeared at GSG 4/7 (DB *et al.*) & 6 **Green-backed Heron** were listed (v.o.).

Spring waterfowl max. were 100 **Canada Goose** and 15 **Wood Duck** at GSG 4/7 (DB *et al.*); 12 **Green-winged Teal** at GSG 4/4 (MG); only 3 **Am. Black Duck** but 35 **Blue-winged Teal** at GSG 4/7 (DB *et al.*); 1-2 **N. Shoveler** at GSG 4/4-7 (MG, DB *et al.*); 8 **Am. Wigeon**, 100 **Bufflehead**, and a fine 200 **Hooded Merganser** at LA 4/3 (MG); 6 **Com. Merganser** at GSG 4/7 (DB *et al.*), and 50 **Ruddy Duck** at LA 4/3-14 MG, CL). 18 **Turkey Vulture** were at MSP 4/10 (MG). DB's group saw an **Osprey** catch a sunfish at GSG 4/7; 1 roosted at TS in early May (CB).

GSG's eaglets hatched about 4/17, 4/25 & 4/30, and all fledged 7/9-10 (NR, NW). Good weather, vigorous parental care and abundant carp were apparent keys to this rare triple success. Prey also included an ad. **Mallard**. Judged by size, the young are 2 females and a male (NW).

N. Harrier was noted at GSG 4/7 (DB *et al.*) and near MSP 6/23 (BD, BW). A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** caught a young **Killdeer** near MSP 4/25 (BD, NR), and the BB had one. **Cooper's Hawk** was seen at GSG (G&SB, RC) and BT (CB). 2 **Red-shouldered Hawk** were present at TS (CB) and 1 at MSP 4/29 (MG), while just 1 of 3 nestlings survived to fledge at (location deleted. -Eds.) (G&SB, RC). 1-2 **Broad-winged Hawk** were listed at only three localities, and fewer than usual were at BT (CB).

2 **N. Bobwhite**, present several years, were near Evans City 6/9 (BD, BW). **Virginia Rail** was heard at GSG 4/15 then seen with 2 young 5/18 G&SB, RC). **Am. Coot** max was 25 at LA 4/3 (MG). The BB listed 4 **Gr. Yellowlegs**. 1-2 **Solitary Sandpiper** were at SRT 5/8-12 (GB, SB, RC) and the BB had one. First **Spotted Sandpiper** appeared 4/25 at GSG (G&SB, RC). 35-45 **Com. Snipe** were in a wet field at GSG 4/6, with 6 still present 4/28 (G&SB, RC). LA gull max. were 15 **Bonaparte's** 4/13 (CL, MHC), 200 **Ring-billed** 4/3 (MG), and 6 **Herring** 4/13 (CL, MHC). 5 **Caspian Tern** were at LA 4/13 (CL, MHC), where 2-4 **Forster's Tern** were seen 4/11-20 (BAS, CL, MHC).

"Phenomenal" numbers of both **cuckoos** (MG) apparently reflected the enormous Gypsy Moth presence. **E. Screech-Owl** was noted at only 4 localities, and **Barred Owl** at GSG (MG), SRT (G&SB, RC) & BT (CB). **Kingfisher** were scarce. 2 **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** were at SRT 4/7 (G&SB, RC). Flycatcher data included an **Olive-sided** at GSG 5/18 (G&SB, RC), **Acadian** exceptionally numerous (MG), but very few **Willow** reports, and single **Least** only at Jennings Nature Reserve 5/12 (MG) and LT 6/9 (BD, BW). 6 **Horned Lark** were at Portersville 6/9 (BD, BW). **Purple Martin** were listed at 4 localities and **N. Rough-winged Swallow** at five. The BB had 4 **Bank Swallow**.

A new **Cliff Swallow** colony on the Rt. 528 bridge at MSP had 5 nests when NR discovered it last year. 1991 total was at least 40 nests, perhaps many more on bridge sections not readily visible (NR). The species is spreading southward (*Am. Birds* 44:1105) into parts of the eastern range where it was largely absent for a half-century or more. Meanwhile, a few birds visited recent years' GSG nest site in May but no nesting was evident (G&SB, RC).

A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** at Butler 4/5 (MG) was the only report. Few **Brown Creeper** were listed, but **Carolina Wren** was common. 5 **Golden-crowned Kinglet** at GSG (DB *et al.*) led a scant passage 4/4-7. A heavy **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** flight occurred at GSG 4/25 (BD, NR), but other reports low. **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was at BT by 4/6 (CB), slightly early. A few territorial **Veery** were at BT (CB), but no migrant **Catharus** thrushes listed. **Wood Thrush** was scarce again at TS (CB). **Gray Catbird** returned to GSG by 4/25 (G&SB, RC), slightly early. 20 **Am. Pipit** were at GSG 4/7 (DB *et al.*).

A **Solitary Vireo** sang into mid-June at TS, a previous nesting locality (CB). **Red-eyed Vireo** numbers were very high

(MG), but the other nesting vireos were average at best. The warbler passage was one of the poorest observed in memory, with counts cut drastically by early foliage and no weather creating large waves. Scant migrant reports included a good 5 **Black-throated Blue** at MSP 5/5 (MG), 3 slightly early **Yellow-rumped** at GSG 4/7 (v.o.), and a rather late **Blackpoll** at TS 6/8 (CB). Among nesters, **Blue-winged**, **Yellow** and **Com. Yellowthroat** numbers were very high; at the other extreme, **Yellow-breasted Chat** very scarce and **Golden-winged** unreported. Meanwhile, **Yellow-throated** remain established in the s.e. corner with scattered territories in Buffalo & Little Buffalo Cr. valleys (CB).

Rufous-sided Towhee were exceptionally numerous (MG). Sparrow reports included a **Vesper** at LT (BD,BW), **Grasshopper** at MT (G&SB, RC), 2 **Fox** at SRT 4/13 (GB,SB,RC), and very low **White-throated** numbers. Last **Dark-eyed Junco** date was 4/28 at SRT (G&SB,RC). 12+ **Bobolink** at LT (BD,BW) topped a handful of reports. Good **N. Oriole** numbers were listed (v.o.). 5 **Purple Finch** at SRT (G&SB,RC) led a poor migration, while a nesting pair at BT (CB) and a singing male at LT 6/9 (BD,BW) were the only breeding-season reports. A few **Evening Grosbeak** flocks moved N in Apr., with up to 16 at SRT (G&SB,RC).

OBSERVERS: Charles Bier, Gene & Suzanne Butcher, Dick Byers, Mary Helen Chiodo, Ruth Crawford, Barb Dean, Marguerite Geibel, Paul Hess, 1412 Hawthorne St, Natrona Heights 15065 (412-226-2323), Carroll Labarthe, Nancy Rodgers, Bob Walczak, Ned Weston.

CAMBRIA COUNTY

Georgette Syster & Gloria Lamer

Abbreviations: Carrolltown area (CA), Duman L. (DL), Ebensburg (EB), Hinckston Res. (HR), Nanty Glo Res. (NGR), Patton area (PA), Prince Gallitzin SP (PG), St. Lawrence Game Lands (SLGL), Wilmore Dam (WD). Sightings by compilers unless otherwise noted.

All waterfowl reports from PG unless otherwise noted. Up to 3 **Com. Loon** seen all quarter (A&LB,DG,JS) and 1 noted at HR 4/20 (JS). A **Pied-billed Grebe** was seen 4/2 (A&LB) and 4 seen 4/9 (JS). A **Double-crested Cormorant** was noted 4/6 (DG) and 2 at WD 5/2 (JS). **Great Blue Heron** numbers were sparse, with the exception of 3 4/2 (A&LB), but **Green-backed Heron** reports were more numerous all quarter with a high 4 on 5/8 (DG). The only **Great Egret** were 2 on 4/9 (JS). Lone **Tundra Swan** report was 4/2 (JS). First reported young **Wood Duck** were 8 on 5/13 with high 18 on 5/17 (DG). 9 **Green-winged Teal** were seen 4/4 (GL,GS), with 1 **Blue-winged Teal** 4/2 (A&LB), 8 on 4/4 (GL,GS) & 6 on 4/25 (JS). 1 **Gadwall** 4/2 was the only report (A&LB). 5 **Ring-necked Duck** were at DL with high count 20 at PG 4/4. 3 **Ls. Scaup** were recorded 4/4 (GL,GS) with 1 three 4/12 (JS). A nice count of 7 **Oldsquaw** was tallied 4/2 (A&LB). A raft of 25 **Bufflehead** seen 4/6 (DG) increased to 28 by 4/9 (JS). A **Com. Merganser** was seen 4/2 (A&LB) and 2 on 4/25 (DG). **Red-breasted Merganser** were more numerous with a nice raft of 38 on 4/9 (JS).

JS reports 1 **Osprey** on the nesting platform in PG's marsh area 4/9; 2 noted 4/25 (DG,JS) with apparently no attempt to nest. Last sighting was singleton 5/26 (DB). Accipiter data include: 1 **Sharp-shinned** at Belsano 6/22 (C&GL) and 1 at PG 4/4 (GL,GS), plus multiple reports of single **Cooper's** 6/28-30 (DG). **Broad-winged Hawk** were seen 5/17 with 3 in PA (DG) and 1 at PG (GL,GS); an imm. was at FC 6/27 (DG). A **Ring-necked Pheasant** was heard along HR 6/7. **Wild Turkey** were at 3 locations with 6 at PG 4/5 (DG), 1 at SGL 108 5/17 (DB) and 1 hen with 4 young at SLGL 6/4 (DG). **Sora** was heard calling at PG 4/25, with 3 on 5/13,18 (DG) and 1 found in a strip mine pond about ½-mi outside PG 5/26 (DB). Only 1 Am. Coot found, at PG 4/5 (DG).

Shorebird reports: 7 **Semipalmated Plover** at PG 5/17; 2 **Gr. Yel-lowlegs** at PG 4/4 & 5/1 (GL,GS,JS); 3 **Ls. Yellowlegs** at PG 5/1 (JS); 1 **Solitary Sandpiper** at NGR 4/29 (JS) with 2 in PA 5/12 and 1 at PG 5/13,18 (DG); 2 **Spotted Sandpiper** at PG 4/25 (JS), 1 in PA 5/17 and for PG 1-2 5/18-6/17 (DG); 2 **Semipalmated Sandpiper** at PG 5/17 (GL,GS) and 3 on 5/18 (DG); and 3 **Least Sandpiper** at PG 3/17. Outstanding gull and tern data from PG: 92 **Bonaparte's** 4/4 (GL,GS); 120 **Ring-billed**

gulls 4/9 (JS), and 4 **Caspian Tern** 4/12 (JS).

Black-billed and **Yellow-billed** cuckoo reports were numerous in May and June possibly due to the Gypsy Moth infestation. A **Barred Owl** at Glendale 5/16 and 2 at PG 5/26 (DB). 2 **Pileated Woodpecker** were at PG 5/26 (DB) & a **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** in PA 4/6 (DG). *Empidonax* numbers were good at PG, with 6 **Acadian** 5/26 (DB); 2 **Willow** 5/26 (DB) plus 1 at PA 6/28 (DG); 8 **Least** 5/17. Best count of **Great Crested Flycatcher** was 4 at PG 5/26 (DB). Numerous sightings of **Horned Lark** reported from CA & Patton areas all quarter (DG,GL,GS). Six **Cliff Swallow** were present at PG 5/18, but only 4 remained 6/1 (DG). Several nests were erected under the eaves of the building at the main marina, but were removed by unknowing vo-tech students doing maintenance on the building. The park staff has been alerted to the problem and will make sure this doesn't happen again.

Lone report of **Brown Creeper** was from Blacklick Cr. 4/4. 2 **Carolina Wren** were in PA 4/30 (DG) & 1 at PG 5/26 (DB). JS reports 2 **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** at PG 4/18. 2 **Veery** were at SLGL mid-May (DG). 8 **Solitary Vireo** in SLGL 4/25 (DG).

Notable warbler sightings at PG 5/17: 1 **Blue-winged**; 2 **Black-throated Blue**, plus 2 in EB 4/30; & a **Cerulean** (DB,GL,JS,GS). Others included **Black-throated Green**, **Hooded, Ovenbird**, **Am. Redstart**, **Blackburnian**, **Chestnut-sided**, **Prairie**, **Black-and-white**, **Yellow-rumped**, and **Kentucky** (DB,DG,GL,JS,GS). 3 **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** were in PA 5/4 (DG) & at PG 5/17 (GL,GS) & 2 at WD 5/2 (JS). All grassland species were found on large abandoned strip mine sites which were planted with a variety of grasses and weeds or on large agricultural tracts. 2 **Vesper**, up to 7 **Savannah**, & 3 **Grasshopper** in PA 6/18,19 (DG) plus 1 Savannah near CA 4/4 (GL,GS). A **Henslow's** was near HR 6/7 (GL,GS) & 3 in PA 6/30 (DG). Only report of **White-crowned** came from DL where a flock of ±10 was seen 5/7 (JS). **Swamp** was from PG only. **Bobolink** continue to "hold their own" in agricultural areas with nesting pairs observed throughout the county and earliest sighting at EB 5/5 (JS). An **Orchard Oriole** was seen and heard at DL 5/17 (GL,GS) and 8 **N. Oriole** noted at PG 5/26 (DB). **Purple Finch** numbers were low with single sightings in PA 5/1, at PG 4/4, and a pair 5/17 (GL,GS).

OBSERVERS: Arlene & Larry Brown, Dick Byers, Dave Gobert, Clayton & Gloria Lamer, RR 1 Box 183D, Penn Run 15765 (412-349-1159), Georgette Syster, RR 1 Box 183C, Penn Run 15765 (412-349-6293), John Salvetti.

CAMERON COUNTY

Bill Hendrickson

Though the sightings this period were few, we did get some firsts! On 5/4, a **Com. Nighthawk** was seen in the Driftwood area (MJ,BH). Though this species is not uncommon, none was recorded in Cameron during the PBBAP. On 5/11 we held our annual Big Day. The weather started out nice, but by midday it had become too hot to make birding very good. However, we did see a pair of **Solitary Sandpiper** and an **Orchard Oriole**.

The **Bald Eagle** have again returned to the G. B. Stevenson Dam. They draw quite a lot of attention during the spring and summer. Also, for the 3rd year in a row a pair of **Prairie Warbler** are nesting in the Quehanna area. Finally, there seems to be an increase in the number of nesting **N. Parula**. From no reports until the last year of the atlas project (when 1 was reported) to this year when 2 were found without any extensive searching (RF,MJ,BH).

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

CARBON COUNTY

Bernie Morris

Abbreviations: Beltzville SP (BSP), Penn Forest Res. (PF).

A group of about 200 **Com. Loon** was at PF 4/19 (SB). A **Red-throated Loon** was at BSP on the unusually late date 5/6 (BS). A record early **Caspian Tern** was at BSP 4/18 (JH), and another there 5/6 (BS). A **Forster's Tern** was at BSP 5/19 (BDT1) & 1 very late there 6/15 (SB).

Whip-poor-will have been reported to be declining all over the state, but they are still going strong in a small area near PF, where they have been present for years. At least 22 were actually seen, not just heard, along the road (BDT1).

An **Alder Flycatcher** was at BSP 5/18 (BDT2). 5 **Golden-crowned Kinglet** were nr. Wild Creek 5/19 (BDT1). A trip to Hickory Run SP 6/1 produced 8 spp. of warblers including **N. Waterthrush** and numerous **Blackburnian**; **Golden-crowned Kinglet**, **Hermit Thrush**, and **Dark-eyed Junco** (BLM,PE). A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was at BSP 5/19 (BDT1). A singing **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was nr. Mecklewood 6/30, and a family group of **Purple Finch** at BSP that same day (PE,BLM). A **White-crowned Sparrow** was at BSP 5/19 (BDT1).

OBSERVERS: Big Day Team 1 (Dave DeReamus, Rick Wiltraut, Steve Boyce), Big Day Team 2 (Fritz Brock, Steve Smith, Arlene Koch, Zajacek), Pauline England, Jason Horn, **Bernie L. Morris**, 825 N Muhlenberg St, Allentown 18104 (215-435-9134), Brad Silfies.

CENTRE COUNTY

John and Becky Peplinski

Abbreviations: Bald Eagle SP (BESP), Black Moshannon SP (BMSP), Colyer L. (CL), Scotia Barrens (SB).

The average temperatures were above normal and the average precipitation below normal. Spring migration was rather uneventful this year. Warbler migration was average with some spp. apparently flying over the State College area. **Cape May Warbler** numbers were very low, **Blackpoll**, **Bay-breasted**, and **Tennessee** average. Peak movement of warblers was between 5/9-14. **E. Wood-Pewee** numbers seemed to be down in the area as noted by several birders. **Grasshopper Sparrow** were down and **no Henslow's Sparrow** found despite several searches of fields where they have nested during the last several years. Other grassland spp. were perceived to be present in normal numbers, with **Bobolink** definitely increased over the last few years. Both spp. of **cuckoos** were present in good numbers this year.

6 **Red-necked Grebe** were at BESP 4/20 (m.ob.), and 2 at CL 4/22 (MW). **Double-crested Cormorant** sightings included 9 at BESP 4/20 (m.ob.), 10 at CL 4/21 (K&JJ), 3 at BESP 5/12 (JP), and 1 at BMSP 5/19 (JP). One **Am. Bittern** was at Toftrees Pond 4/14 (HH), and 5/9 (TF), while another was at BESP 4/20 (HH). A **Great Egret** was at BMSP 4/17 (SY). Two **White-winged Scoter** were at BESP 4/20 (m.ob.). Although both are suspected of being escapes, single **N. Bobwhite** were seen 5/15 in the Barrens (EB), and 5/25 along Mountain Rd. n. of Port Matilda (J&BP).

Single **Semipalmated Plover** were at BESP 5/12 (J&BP), and a pond along Old Gatesburg Rd. 5/12 (m.ob.). 3 **Gr. Yellowlegs** were at BESP 4/20 (m.ob.), 1 along Tadpole Rd 5/5 (J&BP), and 1 along Nixon Rd 5/12 (MC). A **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was at BESP 5/18 (JP). 2 **Least Sandpiper** were at BESP 5/16 (GG), and 1 there 5/18 (JP). Reports of **Bonaparte's Gull** included 1 at BESP 4/10 (G&PS), several at BESP 4/20 (m.ob.), and 1 at CL 5/9 (K&JJ). **Forster's Tern** reports included 1 at Toftrees Pond 4/14 (HH), 1 at BESP 4/14 (HH), and 1 at BESP 5/12 (J&BP). 5 **N. Saw-whet Owl** were heard calling in the

Barrens 5/12, 2 on 5/18 (J&BP), and 1 on 6/2 (JP). The first reported **Whip-poor-will** was 4/18 (slightly early) in the SB (JH). **Whip-poor-will** numbers seem to be good in *Centre*: 5 were seen 6/15 along Steele Hollow Rd. on the Allegheny Front (J&BP), and at least 20 were heard in the SB 6/22 (JP).

One **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was at Toftrees 5/11 (HH). An early **Alder Flycatcher** was at BMSP 5/12 (J&BP). This sp. is increasing in the SB; 5 heard 5/27, and 7 on 6/22 (JP). The only **Philadelphia Vireo** reported was seen 5/5 (DB,BB). A "**Brewster's**" **Warbler** was found at Rocksprings 5/5 (JP). A **Yellow Warbler** was at Toftrees Pond 4/19 (JS), one day short of the area's earliest date. The only **Yellow-throated Warbler** report was at Toftrees Pond 5/9 (TF). A ♂ **Mourning Warbler** was seen 6/4 nr. Fairbrook (J&BP).

A single **Lincoln's Sparrow** was present nr. Fairbrook 5/8-11 and was heard singing (J&BP). Fairly late **White-crowned Sparrow** were reported 5/9 at CL (J&JJ), and 5/12 at BESP (J&BP). 10 **Rusty Blackbird** were at CL 4/21 (K&JJ). Three **Red Crossbill** were in the Barrens 4/27 (J&BP), and 5 of this sp. were nearby 5/4 (JS,JB).

OBSERVERS: Justin Baker, Ed Budd, Dorothy & Blanche Bordner, Mary Coleman, Ted Floyd, Greg Grove, Harry Henderson, Jeff Hoover, Katherine & Jennings Jones, **John & Becky Peplinski**, Box 364, Pennsylvania Furnace 16865 (814-238-6541), Glenna & Paul Schwalbe, Joe Sebastiani, Merrill Wood, George & Sue Young.

CHESTER COUNTY

Jerry Pasquarella

Abbreviations: Honey Brook (HB), Hibernia Park (HP), Kurtz' Fish Farm (KFF), Marsh Creek SP (MC), Octoraro L. (OL), Struble L. (SL).

Many of the migrant spp. were back slightly earlier than usual. 4-8 **Horned Grebe** were at SL from 4/7-17. A single **Double-crested Cormorant** was at OL 5/10. A **Tricolored Heron**, a very good bird for the county, was at SL on the morning 5/19. 3 **Cattle Egret** were found in a field adjacent to MC 4/17. Only 2 **Black-crowned Night-Heron** were in the fields on Supplee Rd. near the HB Sewage Plant 4/24. This is significantly fewer than in years past. Two probable **Glossy Ibis** were observed at Doe Run 4/2. (They weren't checked for White-faced Ibis markings). A couple of wild **Mute Swan** were observed throughout most of the season until 6/9. They were often seen at either KFF or SL. A ♂ **Canvasback** was at either KFF or the pond on Isabella Rd. from 5/9-6/22! This is a unique place to find this species. Once again this year, 1 **Ring-necked Duck** was at HB Sewage Plant until the end of June. It was still there as of the first week of July! A flock of 37 **Ls. Scaup** was at MC 4/3. Also at MC intermittently were 1-2 **White-winged Scoter** 4/15-29. Single **Com. Goldeneye** were at SL 4/27 and at KFF 5/10. A ♀ **Red-Breasted Merganser** was at SL 4/14,15.

Good numbers of **Osprey** were seen migrating from early to mid-Apr. Sightings of **Bald Eagle** continue to be good in the area adjacent to OL. An ad. **N. Goshawk** was chasing a squirrel at the residence of GS near HB 4/1. The squirrel survived! **Ring-necked Pheasant** are now being heard/seen more frequently than in recent years. The wetlands located in the new Embreeville County Park continue to be an excellent place to see both **Virginia Rail** and **Sora**. At least 7 Virginia and 5 Sora were there 4/17. The main pond at KFF was drained in early May and provided good habitat for shorebirds. All of the expected spp. were found daily. These included: 2 **Black-bellied Plover**, 1 **Semipalmated Plover** (with 17 there 5/13), numerous **Killdeer**, both **Ls.** and **Gr. yellowlegs**, 1 **Solitary Sandpiper**, at least 40 **Least Sandpiper** 5/12, **Pectoral Sandpiper**, 3 **Dunlin** 5/8, and a single **Short-billed Dowitcher** 5/12. Two **Pectoral Sandpiper** were at the pond on Lewis' Mill Rd. near Rt. 82 4/24. An **Upland Sandpiper** was a flyover at SL 5/11 (GS). On 5/11 both **Pectoral** and **White-rumped** sandpipers were at OL.

A lone **Caspian Tern** was at KFF 4/23. At SL 5/8,14 were 2 **Com. Tern**. A **Forster's Tern** was at MC 5/6 and 2 **Black Tern** were at SL 5/8. Still the only reliable spot for **Whip-poor-will** is Nottingham Park in the s. part of the county. At least 1 of the **Red-headed Woodpecker** has returned to the area along

Pleasant View Rd. near HB where a pair were for the last couple of years.

At least 8 **Red-breasted Nuthatch** were still present in the area of Immaculata College 5/7. A **Winter Wren** was at Springton Manor 4/13. All of the expected warblers were sighted during migration, etc., but in fewer numbers. As PH put it, "Warblers were in **pathetic** numbers compared to former times." Noteworthy, though, was "**Brewster's**" **Warbler** in my yard near Mortonville 5/5. Also interesting, 2 singing ♂ **Hooded Warbler** were in HP in the same spot that the birds were found to be nesting last year. Last year's nesting of this sp. was the *1st* confirmed nesting for the county! Also at HP 5/11 was a single **Wilson's Warbler**. **Bobolink** were still found nesting in the fields along Sycamore Rd. in Charlestown Twp. I had 2 ♂ **Purple Finch** in my yard 4/6-7. Also there 5/5 was 1 **Pine Siskin** at a thistle feeder.

OBSERVERS: Barry Blust, Phyllis Hurlock, **Jerry Pasquarella**, 2209 Cranberry Ln, Coatesville, PA 19320-4706), Grier Saunders, Neal Thorpe.

CLARION COUNTY

Margaret Buckwalter

Abbreviations: Clarion area (CA), Curlsville (CV), Kahle L. (KL), Leeper (LP), Mt. Zion (MZ), Shippenville (SV).

KL was the site of most of the waterfowl/raptor observations: 1 **Com. Loon** 4/29 & 5/11; 3 **Oldsquaw** 4/20 (R&CR); a small flock of **White-winged Scoter** 4/20 (R&CR); an **Osprey** 4/21 (R&CR), and a **Bald Eagle** 5/3,8 (CR). The courting **Red-shouldered Hawk** pair mentioned last quarter were feeding 3 young in their nest 6/18 (LC). A **Merlin** catching a **Mourning Dove** was observed 4/15 at Snyderburg (A&FO).

A pair of **Upland Sandpiper** was seen frequently at MZ culminating in the sighting of 1 ad. and 2 juv. 6/22. A pair of **Short-eared Owl** was seen barking and flying together at CV 4/7, while 1 was at MZ on the same date (WF). Several birdathon teams saw a lone **Short-eared Owl** 5/11 at CV, but none has been seen since. Either they left or they are being very secretive.

Com. Nighthawk were back in CA 5/8 (PD). One **Whip-poor-will** was heard 5/6,8 at LP (LC). A **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** seemed to be looking for his feeder where it was last year in SV 4/27. First **E. Wood-Pewee** appeared 5/14 at SV. A **Great Crested Flycatcher** was first heard 4/30 at SV.

Mr. and Mrs. Gale Rex of Cranberry RD 1 have the only **Purple Martin** colony in *Clarion*. They credit their success to the survival of four out of five fledglings that they fed and cared for after Hurricane Agnes in 1972. The colony now consists of about 33 pairs and is thriving.

Bank Swallow were absent 5/11 but present 5/17 at Perryville where there is a good sand and gravel cliff. ±200 excavations were counted (MB,JH). The **Cliff Swallow** colony under the bridge at Cooksburg had at least 5 nests 5/11. First **House Wren** appeared at SV 4/26. A **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was at LP 4/24 (LC). First **Veery** reported at Summerville 5/3 (J&FW).

A **N. Mockingbird** was seen frequently at MZ this quarter (WF,C&RR). The first GBS was conducted 6/9 on some reclaimed strip mines. **Field**, **Vesper**, **Savannah**, **Grasshopper** and **Henslow's** as well as **E. Meadowlark** and **Bobolink** were abundant. One **Pine Siskin** appeared at SV 5/13. Last **Evening Grosbeak** stayed until 5/12 at LP (LC).

OBSERVERS: Margaret Buckwalter, RR 2 Box 26, Shippenville 16254 (814-782-3925), Lois Callahan, Peter Dalby, Walter Fye, Janice Horn, Al & Frances Ochs, Ruth & Carl Rowe, John & Frances Williams.

CLINTON COUNTY

Paul and Glenna Schwalbe

The Susquehanna R. is one of the major flyways for the **Ring-billed Gull** each spring when returning to their nesting grounds in the eastern Great Lakes Region and perhaps beyond. This is a well-known fact and their movement is enjoyed by many in *Clinton* every year. This migration takes place primarily during March and April and frequently coincides with the plowing of our agriculture fields. The birds can be seen in flocks of up to a couple of hundred birds following tractors and other equipment to pick up the goodies that are exposed by the overturned soil.

This spring was no exception and particular note was taken of the flight that went through South Avis near the end of April, especially on 4/28. This group was composed almost entirely of imm. birds, we would say about 95%. The adults had passed through with the earlier flights.

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

COLUMBIA COUNTY

Douglas A. Gross

Two **Double-crested Cormorant** on the Susquehanna R. near Espy in late May (NBBC) may have been the same ones that wandered to nearby Susquehanna Riverlands in *Luzerne*. Some **N. Bobwhite** live in the wild near Buckhorn, probably as a result of private releases. As a good start in the Jakey's Hollow Natural Area S.A.P., RS found a **Wild Turkey** nest in the new DER Natural Area. A **N. Goshawk** blew by DG in early May in a *Columbia* woodland, lending credence to the suspicion that this rare accipiter has a small local population. **Cooper's Hawk** were sighted fairly regularly (JF,DG). **Am. Kestrel** has probably benefitted from recent mild winters and is a more common breeder than in the last several years. A lost **Virginia Rail** was hiding under bushes in RS's backyard one morning in early May. NBBC birders have not reported nesting **Barn Owl** for 3 yrs., but other owl populations seem good. Cuckoos were not common anywhere, which is not surprising considering the lack of Gypsy Moth caterpillars this year.

Tree Swallow pairs were not as successful this year, perhaps because of the drought (DG). **Fish Crow** nested in Greenwood Valley near Rohrsburg, but were not nearly as common as **Am. Crow** (DG); this location is over 10 mi away from the Susquehanna. **Carolina Wren** is expanding up valleys and in brushy areas throughout the county (DG,RS). **Golden-crowned** and **Ruby-crowned kinglets** both staged good spring migrations (NBBC). **E. Bluebird** seemed to struggle in early spring, but continued its success throughout the county. An extremely early **Brown Thrasher** was heard singing near RB 4/6 (DG). A thrasher nest fledged 6/1 in the same field. Migrant **Solitary Vireo** seemed sparse. For the most part, warblers and other neotropical migrants were early. **Yellow-rumps** were even more common than usual.

Vesper Sparrow has disappeared near RB where corn fields have grown over with grasses and herbs, and have been replaced by **Grasshopper Sparrow** (DG).

OBSERVERS: Nancy Dennis, **Douglas A. Gross**, RD 1 Box 147, Orangeville 17859, Karen Hiller, Robert Sagar, North Branch Bird Club.

CRAWFORD COUNTY

Ronald F. Leberman

One ad. **Little Blue Heron** n. of Titusville 4/16 (AB). One **Eurasian Wigeon** at Geneva Marsh 4/4- (ph. GM, m.ob).

OBSERVERS: Al Broadhurst, **Ronald F. Leberman** RR 1, Meadville 16335 (814-724-5071), Gerald McWilliams.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY

Deuane Hoffman

Abbreviations: *Brackbill Pond (BP)*, *Creek Rd. Marsh (CRM)*, *Doubling Gap (DG)*, *Green Springs area (GS)*, *Huntsdale Fish Hatchery (HD)*, *Kuhn L. (KL)*, *Mud Level Rd. (ML)*, *Michaux SF (MSF)*, *Opossum L. (OL)*, *SGL 169 (SGL)*, *W. Fairview Boat Launch (WF)*.

A good migration served up numerous good sightings. The 1st *Cumberland Big Day*, held 5/11, tallied 124 spp., 1 short of the goal. The bird of the quarter was, without contest, a **Chuck-will's-widow** heard and then recorded by Ann Burnett 5/24 at a New Cumberland home. This is undoubtedly a 1st county record.

A **Red-throated Loon** was at WF 5/8,9 (DH,RK). Max. for **Com. Loon** was 10 flying over Blue Mt. at SGL 230 4/27 (v.o.). **Pied-billed Grebe** enjoyed KL in early Apr., with an average of 3 seen (DHe). A high of 16 **Horned Grebe** was at WF 4/17 (RK). Single sightings of the elusive **Am. Bittern** were at SGL 4/4 (DHe) and HD 4/18 (DH). A good record away from the river was a **Snowy Egret** at SGL (DHe). A high of 48 **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was at HD 4/20 (DHe). Where do these birds nest locally? We may never know. First **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was along the Conodeguinet Cr. 4/4 (RK).

A lone **Snow Goose** was at KL 4/1 (DHe). A good count of 30 **Blue-winged Teal** was at NV 4/30 (DHe), and max. count for **Ls. Scaup** was 79 at WF 4/17 (RK). 3 **Oldsquaw** were at KL 4/15, plus 1 at OL 4/20, and WF 5/12 (v.o.). Only **scoter** was a **White-winged** at OL 5/2 (DHe). 110 **Bufflehead** gathered for migration at WF 4/17 (RK). **Ruddy Duck** graced KL on 7 occasions, all single birds except for a pair seen 4/30 (DHe). A **Ruddy** that was apparently soaked in oil was at BP 5/11 (RK,DHe,DC). Late date, or possibly summering, **mergansers** were at WF 6/15 including 2 ♀ **Red-breasted** and 8 **Common** (1♂, 2♀) (RK).

Numerous **Osprey** were seen, with a high of 8 at HD 4/20,27 (D&RH,DH). An imm. **Bald Eagle** was in the Newville area 4/9,10 (DHe). **N. Harrier**, presumed to be nesting at ML, were seen regularly during visits. A migrating **N. Goshawk** was seen flying over the Henise home during their Big Day at Home sit 5/4. A **N. Bobwhite** was seen 5/28 in GS (DRH); this bird is 1 of only a handful left in the w. farm country.

Virginia Rail were at HD 4/20 & 5/11, with 2 on the latter date. **Sora** was also at HD 5/11 and at CRM 5/11,23 (DHe). A high of 20 **Upland Sandpiper** was seen 6/28 at their favored haunt along ML (DHe). **Least Sandpiper** were at BP 4/30 (DH) and GS 5/19 (DHe). Ideal habitat along CRM led to the sighting of 17 **Com. Snipe** 4/8 (DHe). 20 **Bonaparte's Gull** were at KL 4/5 (DHe); this location usually produces good numbers, but it is unusual for it to beat out WF for high count honors. 2 **Com. Tern** were at WF 5/5 (RK), the only sighting. Only 2 sightings of **Black Tern** was a big disappointment; 2 on 5/7 (RK) and 1 5/8 (RK). A good count of 16 **Forster's Tern** was tallied 5/9 (DH,RK). 2 **Forster's** were also seen 4/14 on a farm pond nr. Newburg (DHe). A possible all-time high count of 11 **Caspian Tern** was made 6/13 at WF by Troy Corman, an Arizona birder home to central Pa. for a visit.

DHe had both **cuckoos** 6/15 while walking in the DG area. The Newville **Barred Owl** nested again this year in their downtown locale. Also nesting like clockwork for the 15th year were a pair of **Barn Owl** nr. Middlesex. *These birds nest in a chimney of an occupied house!* Oh, to be those lucky homeowners. Good news about **Whip-poor-will** this year. They were found at 2 locations in the MSF. JE & LJ found 3 along Cold Spring Rd. 6/13, then DC located 11 birds by driving and stopping to listen every ¼-mi. **Chuck-will's-widow** information as above.

Red-headed Woodpecker, possibly 2 pairs, were found to be nesting at a rumored locale near Newville. This was good news about a locally declining sp. 3 **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** were at Wildcat Rocks 4/6. An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was found at DG 5/19 (DRH). Around these parts, this is usually a fall migrant, so this was a nice find. **Purple Martin** lovers take note. Three new colonies were found: all in the w. farm county. I guess all those insects buzzing around the cornfields won't have it so easy anymore! DHe found the colonies.

Most likely nesting in the area was the **Brown Creeper**

seen 6/2 at Col. Denning SP (DRH). **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** migration this Apr. was impressive. It seemed that the North American pop. was at HD 4/8. DH saw >20 birds. Counting was hard due to constant movement and numbers were purposely kept conservative. An excellent count of 100+ **Am. Pipit** was seen in the farmland around ML 4/18 (DHe). A flock of 40 **Cedar Waxwing** was at Big Springs 4/13 (DHe).

Warbler migration was good, with 27 spp. seen. The "moving" Big Day team tallied 22 spp. Two interesting reports come from DHe. While birding at NV 4/9 he had a **Yellow-throated Warbler**, and on the same date along the Yellow Breeches Cr. at Messiah College another was seen. This sp. is on the move northward and it is hoped it will nest along our sycamore-lined streams soon. Second note was a **"Brewster's" Warbler** seen while hiking in DG 6/29.

The ML has excellent numbers of grassland sparrows, with evidence of nesting **Savannah, Vesper** and **Grasshopper**. Some of the farmers in this area are amish and practice environmentally-friendly farming, and evidence of this shows! The Henises' **White-crowned Sparrow** left 5/11, the same date as for the past two years. I never knew birds carried calendars!. A good count of 40 **Rusty Blackbird** was made in GS 4/4 (DHe). 4 separate **Orchard Oriole** were found, 2 at WF (date), 1 5/4 (RK) and 1 5/12 (DC); a possible nesting bird at GS was seen quite regularly (DHe). 4 **Purple Finch** were at GS 4/14 (DHe). A calling **Pine Siskin** was detected 4/27 while RK,DH,DRH were eating lunch at Pine Grove Furnace SP 4/27. **Evening Grosbeak** were at Pine Hill Refuge 4/28 (RK), and the last ones at the Dietz's home in MSF left during the 2nd week of May.

OBSERVERS: Tony Campese, Dick Colyer, Jane Earle, Don (DHe) & Robyn Henise, **Deuane Hoffman, 3406 Montour St, Harrisburg 17111 (717-564-7475)**, Larry Jackson, Ramsay Koury.

DAUPHIN COUNTY

Steve Rannels

Abbreviations: *Clark's Creek (CC)*, *Harrisburg (HBG)*, *Hershey (HS)*, *Stoney Creek (SC)*, *Susquehanna R. (SR)*, *Wildwood L. (WL)*.

This quarter continued with the mild conditions of Mar. and soon led into a record hot May, with all migrants arriving to luxuriant foliage. Spring Cr. in HS had its group of **Black-crowned Night-Heron** by 4/2 (DS) and **Com. Loon** were passing overhead from 4/6–5/4 along the SR (JW). There were 4 **Great Egret** at WL 4/4, along with 12 **Wood Duck**, 25 **Green-winged Teal**, 10 **Blue-winged Teal**, 2 **Fox Sparrow**, and **Rusty Blackbird** (RK). A return trip to the same location 4/18 yielded 4 **Cattle Egret**, 2 **Green-backed Heron**, **Spotted Sandpiper**, and **Caspian Tern** (RK). A county heron survey 4/29 (DB) tallied 81 **Great Egret** and 276 **Black-crowned Night-Heron** nests on Wade I. Nearby Governor's I. held 7 **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** nests. An early **Double-crested Cormorant** was seen at Liverpool Falls (EC) 4/9, however there were few other reports of water birds in the area aside from a **Com. Goldeneye** on the Swatara 4/23 (RW).

Raptors returned as expected, **Osprey** through Apr (JW), **Broad-winged Hawk** over HS 4/17 (RW), and **Red-shouldered Hawk** through May (JW,SR). By 5/10, **Am. Woodcock** chicks were found in N.HBG (JW), a date which also marked the peak of **Com. Nighthawk** migration through HBG (JW) and HS (SR). Owls continued to be seen in the area, with 2 fledgling **E. Screech-Owl** in HS (DES,SSR) and 3 young **Barn Owl** in a n. HS silo (KL).

Early warblers were noted as expected, with **Louisiana Waterthrush** and **Pine** along CC 4/7 (SS), **Palm** 4/18 at WL (RK), **Prairie** at HBG 4/19 (JW), but the peak was from 5/4–10. By this time, **Carolina Wren** and **House Finch** were already feeding young in HBG 4/24 and 5/3, JW) and the first **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** had zoomed through HS 5/1 (SR). A good sighting was a ♂ **Red Crossbill** passing through 4/22 (SB). Repeated visits to Blue Mt. by JW from 5/4–9 yielded 21 species of warblers including **Cerulean, Hooded, Canada, Kentucky**, and up to 3 **Worm-eating**. JW also added **Mourning Warbler** there 5/12 and a **"Brewster's" Warbler** 5/6 to her spring list! On

a search for hybrids 5/15 in SC, JKL and SR found a ♂ **Lawrence's Warbler** among many Blue-winged pairs. The HS Hotel was hot on 5/8 for RW with 6 warblers including Worm-eating, along with **Veery** and **Wood Thrush** and lingering **White-throated Sparrow** and **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**. **Least, Acadian** and **Willow** flycatchers were all reported during the period along with good numbers of **Great Crested Flycatcher** (m.ob.). SR continued to have **Blackpoll Warbler** in HS through the end of May and small flocks of **Cedar Waxwing** were feeding in town 6/24. This spring was the best in several for **Cape May Warbler** (SR).

OBSERVERS: Scott Bills, Dan Brauning, Ed Chubb, Ramsay Koury, Jane & Ken Light, Sharon & Steve Rannels, 237 E Areba Ave, Hershey 17033 (717-534-2480), Dave & Eileen Schwenk, Steve Santner, Judy Ward, Richard Williams.

DELAWARE COUNTY

Al Guarente

Abbreviations: Crum Res. (CR), Ridley Creek SP (RCSP), Springton Res. (SR), Springhaven Country Club (SCC), Tinicum Nat'l Environmental Center (TNEC), Tyler Arboretum (TA).

Three **Red-throated Loon** (BS) were observed flying up the Delaware R. in Marcus Hook 4/9 (BS). **Com. Loon** were in good numbers with 2 present at SR (NP) 4/19 and 3 on 4/21. A late **Com. Loon** was seen flying by the Commodore Barry Bridge on 6/19 (BS). A single **Pied-billed Grebe** was on SR 4/4 (NP). 6 **Double-crested Cormorant** (NP) were noted on Darby Cr. in Essington 4/23 (NP). **No reports of either bittern from Delco.** Very disappointing. 4 **Ring-necked Duck** and 3 **Bufflehead** at SR 4/4 (NP). An **Oldsquaw** was at SR on 4/11 (NP), a good find. An **Osprey** was on Darby Cr. 4/23 (NP). A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** flying over Media 6/15 (AG) gets one to wondering about this bird breeding in the area. A **N. Bobwhite**, very scarce nowadays, was in a Boothwyn backyard 5/27 (EK). 2 **Virginia Rail** (EK) were ferreted out of the marshes at CR 4/7 and a **Sora** (NP) was discovered there 5/12 (NP).

Com. Moorhen seemed to arrive very late this year and even when present their numbers were extremely low. On 4/23 at Darby Cr. 25 **Gr. Yellowlegs** (NP) were on location. On 5/17 3 **White-rumped Sandpiper** (AG,NP) were at the Rt. 420 mudflats of TNEC. 150+ **Common Snipe** (JCM) were discovered at TNEC 4/5. Although this is a large number of snipe it seems to be an average number for this species this time of year. 75± **Laughing Gull** (JCM) were present at TNEC 5/10. This is a very high number for this area. On 4/23 a **Caspian Tern** (BS) was present at TNEC. An early **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** (AG) was discovered at Smedley Park 4/7. Two **Barn Owl** (JCM) were still holding on to their little niche in the community at TNEC as they were found there 4/10. The only **N. Saw-whet Owl** (JG) found this quarter was 1 at TA discovered 4/4. **Com. Nighthawk** were far from common this spring. No one reported seeing any in large groups anywhere. A very early **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** arrived in RCSP 4/19 (Bonnie Harper *vide* B. Haas). What must have been a weird sight was a **Pileated Woodpecker** flying from New Jersey across the Delaware R. to the town of Marcus Hook 4/17. Marcus Hook is not noted for its large wooded areas!

Black-capped Chickadee were reported in small numbers this year with a few lingering into the mid-April. **Red-breasted Nuthatch** (HMc) lingered until 6/12 at the SCC but couldn't be located after that day. **Carolina Wren** are increasing in numbers throughout the region probably due to the warm winters we've been experiencing. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** (NP) were coming through in numbers 4/23 at RCSP when 14 were seen on one trail alone. A **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** (AG,EK) was slightly ahead of schedule at CR 4/7. **Swainson's Thrush** were low and **Gray-cheeked Thrush** were nonexistent this spring. A **Solitary Vireo** (HMc) was noted 4/23 in Swarthmore. **Warbling Vireo** were well represented this year with the usual ones at TNEC, RCSP & Red Bridge.

An extremely early **Black-throated Green Warbler** (AG) was at Smedley Park 4/7 singing his heart out, but no one listening but me! A large number of **Pine Warbler**, 10 to be exact, was found at TA 4/7. A **Pine Warbler** (HMc) with young was

found at the SCC 6/19. A good find was 1 **Prothonotary Warbler** (HMc) at CR 5/12. **N. Waterthrush** (AG) were everywhere this year from 5/10– 5/15. 3 **Canada Warbler** were at RCSP 5/7. One **Mourning Warbler** (NP) was present 5/22 on the bridge trail at RCSP, but as usual I missed seeing it. **Chipping Sparrow** arrived on schedule at TA 4/6. An **E. Meadowlark** (NP) was found at the Swarthmore College 4/19 but didn't stick around. However, there were meadowlarks (EK) that nested in Boothwyn in a hay field until 6/24 when the field was mowed. That was the last day they were seen. 6 **Orchard Oriole** (HMc) were located in Swarthmore 5/12. A small flock of 4 **Purple Finch** (NP) was seen flying over Swarthmore 5/4.

Observers: John Ginaven, Al Guarente (421 S Old Middletown Rd, Media, Pa 19063 566-8266), Evelyn Kopf, Helen McWilliams, John C. Miller, Nick Pulcinella, Bill Stocku.

ELK COUNTY

Linda Christenson

Abbreviations: Bendigo SP (BSP), Benzinger Twp (BT), Buzzard Swamp (BS), Cole Run (CR), Crow Run Marsh (CRM), Owl's Nest (ON), St. Marys Res. (SMR), W. Creek Beaver Pond (WCB). Observations by compiler unless otherwise noted.

Oldtimers in the county commented they haven't had a spring such as the one in 1991 in many years. It was absolutely beautiful with all the wildflowers and flowering trees. Several observers commented on the increase of certain species such as **Black-billed Cuckoo**, **Com. Nighthawk**, **Hairy Woodpecker**, **Veery**, **Hermit Thrush**, **Ovenbird**, **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**, and **Purple Finch**.

1 **Com. Loon** was at SMR 4/22 & 5/3 (LC) and another at ON 5/12 (DW), the first he has seen there. 1–2 **Pied-billed Grebe** at SMR 4/3–10 (LC) while 2 were at CR 4/1 and ON 5/12 (DW). 1 **Horned Grebe** was at SMR 4/12. For a few days around 5/22, a **Double-crested Cormorant** rested at WCB, the 1st that locals have seen here (DiD *et al.*). LC got a good look at the **Am. Bittern** flying over a pond near SMR 4/1. 3 **Green-backed Heron** were flying over WCB 6/3 (CC,LC) and DD called with the exciting news that they were nesting near her BT pond in June.

1 lone **Tundra Swan** was seen over SMR 4/9 (LC) and DW watched another loner at CRM 5/12 with neck band #K546. 2 **Wood Duck** at SMR 4/4 and 2 at BSP 4/16 & 5/14 (LC), while DW saw them at CR 4/1, 5/26 and at ON 4/14 & 6/22. TG reported 2 ♂ **Green-winged Teal** at BS 5/15. There was a ♀ **Am. Black Duck** with brood of 5 at CRM, a 1st DW has seen since May 1988. A **Blue-winged Teal** pair at SGL 25 pond 4/23 (LC), while 1 at CR 4/1 (DW). ON had 2 ♂ and 1 ♀ **Ring-necked Duck** 4/14 and a pair of **Old-squaw** 4/7 (DW). 22 **Bufflehead** at SMR 4/3. A ♀ **Hooded Merganser** shepherded a brood of 13 at CR 5/26 (DW). 2 **Com. Merganser** at BSP 4/8 and Glen Hazel 4/18,28, 1st time seen in these areas (LC). Also several noted on the Clarion R. near Hallton 4/28 (DW). 17 **Red-breasted Merganser** at SMR 4/5, while 4 were there 4/10.

Osprey noted at BS 5/15 (TG). DS reported **Cooper's Hawk** in BT 5/10 and DW saw 1 at Laurel Mill Ski Trail 6/16. This year only 1 active **N. Goshawk** nest was found 6/23 (location deleted. -Eds.) and the thinking is that the birds may have abandoned the area for cooler climes (DW). On 5/31, DS had the experience of a **Ruffed Grouse** luring him from its brood. An **Am. Coot** was swimming in the river at BSP 5/14. DW watched a **Solitary Sandpiper** at Sackett and a **Spotted Sandpiper** at ON, both 5/4. **Com. Nighthawk** first noted at Ridgway 5/25 (DW). There were several unconfirmed reports of **Whip-poor-will**—I checked them out, but couldn't hear the bird—spent several evenings at 10 p.m. wandering around the local cemetery! (LC).

First **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was 5/17 (DS). **Willow Fly-catcher** was heard at WCB 5/25. **Least Flycatcher** easily seen. 1 **N. Rough-winged Swallow** was at SMR 4/9. LC and DS think the **Blue Jay** population is normal, while DW thinks there is a lack of them this spring! A **Tufted Titmouse** at DS's feeder is his 1st county record! First **House Wren** 4/27; first **Brown Thrasher** (LC), while others noted in BT 6/27 (DS) and Kersey 6/11 (JS). **Cedar Waxwing** seem to be nesting closer to people this year (DS,DW). **N. Parula** was singing loudly at Trout

Run 6/9 and **Blackpoll Warbler** also loudly at BT 5/21 (LC). **Fox Sparrow** at BT 4/5. A pair of **Swamp Sparrow** were at WCB 6/3 (CC,LC) and a pair at SGL 35 swamp 5/5 (LC). First **White-crowned Sparrow** 5/5 BT. **Purple Finch** built up to about 20 at a BT feeder 4/24 and left around 5/6 to nest. These birds were very common in the area and were nesting. A nest fell out of a pine tree at Trout Run during an art workshop and one artist decided to use it for a pastel painting. Only 1 **Pine Siskin** in BT 4/27, & 5/1,5,10. **Evening Grosbeak** stayed until 5/22 (LC,DS,DW).

Dave Wolfe writes: "I observed an Osprey at the Cole Run Duck Pond on the evening of 5/11. I had watched this bird catch a small fish for its supper and it flew to a large tree behind the pond to eat it. About a half hour later it returned to hover above the pond. The Osprey then started to dive and I expected it to go into the water after a fish. Instead, it flattened out its dive to where it was gliding parallel to the pond's surface. It glided low enough to the water that it would drag its talons through the surface long enough to leave a wake 40 or 50 yards long. The Osprey would then fly up and hover over the pond again. It repeated this procedure twice before flying back to its "supper" tree for the night."

In *Life Histories of North American Birds of Prey*, Arthur Cleveland Bent, page 370, describes the above as "foot-washing." "The reason for this action is doubtless to cleanse the toes and claws of the fish-slime that must necessarily accumulate on them."

OBSERVERS: Craig Christenson, **Linda Christenson, 602 Sunset Rd, St. Marys 15857 (814-781-3156)**, Dick Dornisch, Dolly Dornisch, Ted Grisez, Jay Sager, Dave Sorg, Dave Wolfe.

ERIE COUNTY

Jerry McWilliams

Abbreviations: Edinboro L. (EL), Presque Isle SP (PI). All sightings from PI unless otherwise noted.

Probably the most interesting ornithological event of the spring season was the occurrence of many record early arrivals. Some of the records were very remarkable, especially those birds that winter in the tropics. Below is a list of those birds which set new arrival county dates.

Species	New Record	Observer	Previous Record
Black-bellied Plover	4/10	JM	4/14/85
Dunlin	3/9	EK	3/29/87
Olive-sided Fly	5/10	JM	5/15/?
Great Crested Fly	4/3	DD	5/2/84
	4/27	JHi	
Veery	4/6	IF	5/5/85
	4/13	JGS	
	4/28	JM	
Gray Catbird	4/20	JM	4/29/57
Solitary Vireo	4/17	JM	4/18/86
Red-eyed Vireo	4/11	JHS	5/2/85
	4/27	JHi	
Tennessee Warbler	5/4	JHi	5/8/60
	5/5	JHS	
Magnolia Warbler	4/27	JH	4/30/60
Hooded Warbler	4/28	JM	5/3/83

Spring migration was well under way by early May with fairly good numbers of most migrants until 5/17. After that date, daily temperatures climbed to the low 80s with clear skies, gentle warm breezes from the south, and few birds through the remaining 2 weeks of May. The concern about spot-breasted thrushes continues, but many observers felt that there were a few more **Wood Thrush** and **Veery** this spring. However, all agreed

that the **Swainson's Thrush** was scarce.

A **Red-necked Grebe** was at EL 4/23 (JHo). **Double-crested Cormorant** continue to be seen more often, with an average of 15 birds seen per day from early Apr. to late May. Large numbers were also seen on inland lakes, especially L. Leboeuf, where JM counted 50 on 4/24. A total of 13 **Am. Bittern** were found 4/7-5/19 (m.ob). Only 4 **Least Bittern** were found 4/24-5/26 (JHS,JM,EK). Four **Great Egret** were seen at PI 3/30-5/27 (WS,EK); 2 were near Wattsburgh 4/10 (JHS); 1 at Siegel Marsh 5/2 and 1 through June there (RM). The **Tricolored Heron** 4/29 was our 9th record (CT,VR). A **Cattle Egret** was at Harborcreek 4/21 (LU). At PI a total of 5 **Black-crowned Night-Heron** noted through 5/17 (JM) and 1 at Baldwin Flats 6/9 (LM). A **Glossy Ibis** 5/5 (JS) was our 9th record. Our local **Mute Swan** was joined by another for about a week in late Apr. (JM,JHS).

On 4/27 a **Green-winged Teal** was flushed from a nest that contained 2 eggs. On 5/9 there were 7 eggs. It was unfortunate that the teal chose a nest site only 5 ft from a well-traveled path and that the park is full of natural predators. Later the nest was found abandoned with a broken egg remaining. This is the 1st nesting record for PI and only the 2nd for Erie.

A **Gadwall** was noted 6/16; 1 **Redhead** 6/6; and 1 **Ls. Scaup** 6/13 (JM). The 135 **Oldsquaw** seen 4/1 at EL was a large number for an inland lake (JHi). A total of 9 **Surf Scoter** seen through 4/20 (JM,EK), with 1 late bird 5/9 (JHS,JGS); 1 at EL 4/19 (JHi). A **Com. Goldeneye** seen 6/19 (JM). An ad. ♂ **Barrow's Goldeneye** found 4/26 was our 5th record (†AT). 1-2 **Red-breasted Merganser** to at least 6/30 (JM).

The 2nd record for **Black Vulture** was established when JGS and JHS independently saw and identified the bird after a heavy hawk migration 4/29. Several **Bald Eagle**, too numerous to detail individually, were seen primarily along L. Erie (JHS,KM,JM) and at EL and Wheelertown Swamp (JHi). **N. Goshawk** were found 4/14 at w. Erie and 4/22 at Union City (JM). A total of 16 **Merlin** seen to 5/19 (JGS,DD,JM, RK); and 1 at EL 4/24 (JHi). A **Peregrine Falcon** was at Roderick Wildlife Reserve 4/23 (JGS,JHS); 1 each on 4/26 (EK) & 4/29 (JGS,JHS) at w. Erie.

Not recorded, at least in recent years in Erie, was successful nesting of **Virginia Rail**. On 6/1 n.w. of Edinboro, Don Snyder was forced to stop his vehicle when 2 ad. and 12 young crossed the road in front of him.

A **Sora** 4/8 was early (JHS,JGS). 1 **Black-bellied Plover** 6/8 (GR); 1 **Gr. Yellowlegs** 6/16,24 (JM); 1 **Ls. Yellowlegs** 6/22,23 (RS,JM). 2 **Willet** were seen 5/5 and 1 6/7 (JM). 10 **Whimbrel** seen 5/27 (JM). Very rare in spring and the our only record for April was a **Western Sandpiper** in full alternate definitive plumage 4/24 (JHS,JGS). A total of 7 **White-rumped Sandpiper** 5/17-28 (RK,JM,EK,DS) and 5-6 from 6/13+ (JM).

Single **Laughing Gull** were seen 5/11 (EK) & 5/12 (JH). Single **Little Gull** 4/14 (JHS,JGS) and 1 ad. 5/4 (EK). The remains of an ad. **Thayer's Gull** were found 4/22 (†,ph JM). A ad. **Ls. Black-backed Gull** seen 4/30 (EK) and 3 **Glaucous Gull** found to 4/14 (JM). **Caspian Tern** continue increase in numbers, with a county record of 200 seen 4/17 (JHS, JGS). **Com. Tern** were not common, but **Forster's Tern** were seen in fair numbers (m.ob.). Four Forster's Tern were unusual at Corry 6/12 and possibly the same 4 were at Siegel Marsh 6/25 (JM). No **Black Tern** was reported this spring.

No longer regularly reported, a **Barn Owl** was roosting in a pine tree 4/7 (DD). The **Snowy Owl** reported for the winter season in s.w. Erie was last seen 4/3 (DS). [Poole's unpublished manuscript gives 3/23/46 as the latest Pa. date. -eds] Up to 4 **Long-eared Owl** found 4/6-13 (DD). **Short-eared Owl** sightings away from s.w. Erie were ±9 indiv. all from PI (m.ob.). 1-2 **N. Saw-whet Owl** through 4/27, with a daily high of 5 on 4/7 (DD).

2 **Whip-poor-will** noted 4/27 (JH) & 4 on 4/29 (JM).

A **Sedge Wren** was seen in the open within a few feet of the observer (5/13 (DS)). No less than a total of 6 **N. Mockingbird** was reported from PI, McKean, & Waterford (JHS, JM, EK, JHi). **White-eyed Vireo** were more numerous than usual with birds arriving as early as 4/26 in Girard (JB). There were no less than 15 birds reported for the period, most from PI (m.ob.). Up to 4 **Golden-winged Warbler** reported from 5/10–14 (GR, JH, JHS). Single **Orange-crowned Warbler** reported 5/6 (DB), 5/11 (JGS), 5/14 (JHS). A "**Brewster's**" **Warbler** 5/6 (DB). A **Worm-eating Warbler** was found 5/1 (JM).

The **Clay-colored Sparrow** seen 5/6 (†JM) was the 11th record. Quite unusual was the appearance of a ♂ **Lapland Longspur** in alternate definitive plumage on the unprecedented date 4/28, at least a month later than our latest spring record (JM). Nearly as unusual as the longspur was the **Snow Bunting** 5/9 passing the previous late record by 2 days set in 1986 (JM, JGS). Very rare on PI was an **Orchard Oriole** 5/1 (JH) and 5/15 (EK). The last **Pine Siskin** were migrants over Gull Point on PI 5/19 (JM). The last **Evening Grosbeak** reported at Edinboro was 4/28 (JHi). However, a ♀ present at a feeder to at least 6/11 was quite late (JHo).

Other species seen that are usually seen annually, but in small numbers, were **Red-bellied Woodpecker**, **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**, **Alder Flycatcher**, **Carolina Wren**, **Gray-cheeked Thrush**, **Philadelphia Vireo**, **N. Parula**, **Pine Warbler** (more common than usual), **Cerulean Warbler**, **Prothonotary Warbler** (scarce, may be withdrawing from this area again), **Yellow-breasted Chat**, and **Lincoln's Sparrow**.

EXOTICS. A ♂ **Red-crested Pochard** appeared on PI 4/13 and remained to at least 5/14 (EK, JHS).

OBSERVERS: Jim Baxter, Dick Bollinger, Al Broadhurst, Dave Darney, Isaac Fields, Ted Floyd, James Hill (JHi), Joyce Hoffmann, Joan Howlett (JHo), Ramsay Koury, Ed Kwater, Kitty Maloney, Robin McClenahan, Linda & Jerry McWilliams, 3142 W 12th St, Erie 16505 (814-833-3169), Geoff Robinson, Vicky Roth, Walt Shaffer, Don Snyder, Russ States, Jim Stratton, Jean Stull (JHS), Jim Stull (JGS), Chuck Tague, Dorothy Thomas, Andrew Troyer, Lynn Urban.

FAYETTE COUNTY

Cindy Cook

Abbreviations: Greenlick Dam (GD), Ohiopyle SP (OSP).

All water birds reports from GD by M&EW unless otherwise noted. 2 **Com. Loon** 4/14; 16 **Mallard** (3 ad., 13 ducklings) at Trotter 5/18 (DM); 2 **Am. Wigeon**, 6 **Bufflehead**, and 16 **Ruddy Duck** 4/2. 2 **Bonaparte's Gull** and 1 **Caspian Tern** were at GD 4/14 (M&EW).

A **Great Horned Owl** at Trotter 4/13 for the 4th year in a row & **Barred Owl** was in OSP 5/3. 14 spp. of warblers were found in or nr. OSP 5/3–18 (DM, RB).

OBSERVERS: Ray Budd, Cindy Cook, RR 1 Box 259A, Normalville 15469 (412-455-7356), Darlene Madarish, Michael & Evaleen Watko.

Cindy writes us that she unfortunately can no longer be compiler for Fayette since she became a licensed wildlife rehabilitator this spring. "Every waking minute of my time not spent working has been totally devoted to this volunteer position... I hope someone will step forward to take my place. Keep up the good work." Thank you, Cindy. If you are interested in being a compiler, please contact us —eds.

FOREST COUNTY

April D. Walters

Abbreviations: Allegheny R. n. of Tionesta (ARNT), Nebraska Bridge (NB), Tionesta Creek (TC).

A **Com. Loon** was on Tionesta L. 6/19 (PS, GLW). On this same day a **Pied-billed Grebe** with 5 young was seen on TC (PS, GLW). **Double-crested Cormorant** were on the ARNT up to W. Hickory from 4/17–23 and some stayed the entire quarter at Buzard Swamp, but no nesting has been observed

(JH, RAW, ADW, PT). The first week of April brought an unidentified egret to NB & ARNT (RAW, ADW).

An **Osprey** was observed at NB 4/28 (TG). An ad. and imm. **Bald Eagle** are still being seen occasionally on TC and ARNT. A **Com. Raven** nest had 2 well-grown young 4/18 (TG). An imm. **Brown-headed Cowbird** was seen begging and being fed by a **Dark-eyed Junco**.

OBSERVERS: Pam Thurston, Ted Grisez, Jim Hall, Parks Swartzfager, Gary L. Walters, Richard & April D. Walters, Box 127, Endeavor 16322 (814-463-9306).

FRANKLIN COUNTY

Carl L. Garner

Abbreviations: Bender's Pond (BP), Coldbrook Ave (CA), Edwards Ave (EA), Fannettsburg L. (FL), Little Cove (LC), Mt. Parnell Fish Hatchery (MP), Renfrew Park (RP), Reservoir Rd (RR). Sightings by compiler unless otherwise noted.

Unless otherwise noted all water birds from BP. 4 **Pied-billed Grebe** 4/16; 6 **Horned Grebe** 4/15 (CB); 1 **Green-backed Heron** 4/16; 1–2 **Tundra Swan** 4/15 (CB) & 5/7 (CG); 8 **Canada Goose** at FL 4/15 (CB); 1 **Green-winged Teal** 4/16; 3 **Gadwall** 4/15 (CB); 3 **Ring-necked Duck** 5/7; 1 **Ls. Scaup** at FL 4/15 (CB); and on 4/15, 6 **Oldsquaw**, 6 **White-winged Scoter**, and 2 **Ruddy Duck** (CB).

As mentioned last quarter, the McKinley St. and Kohler Rd. **Red-tailed Hawk** nests were monitored. The former hatched 2 young 4/17 and the latter 4/29. The adults carried food to young through May (JB). 2 **Am. Coot** were at BP 4/16.

Three **Greater** and 1 **Lesser yellowlegs** were at MP 4/17. 1–3 **Solitary Sandpiper** were at EA 4/13 (JB), RP 4/19 (CG), and EA 5/2 (JB). A **Spotted Sandpiper** was at EA 5/12 and 1 **Com. Snipe** there 4/24 (JB). 4 **Bonaparte's Gull** noted at BP 4/16 and 2 at RR 5/9, with 16 **Ring-billed Gull** at BP 5/7. 1–2 **Forster's Tern** seen at FL 4/15 (CB), BP 5/7 & RR 5/9 (CG). Young **Great Horned Owl** had left 2 nest sites by end April (CG, JB). 1 **Short-eared Owl** was at Loudon Rd 4/2 (JB).

A **Com. Nighthawk** was over CA 5/19 (JB). 2 **Whip-poor-will** at Gilbert Rd 6/2 (CG, KG). An **Acadian Flycatcher** was found on nest at Bear Valley SP 5/30 (JB), and 2 **Willow Flycatcher** at RP 5/14 (CG). 3 **Purple Martin** found at Scotland Ave. 4/7 (JB). 10 **Tree Swallow** had arrived at BP 4/24. Earliest **N. Rough-winged Swallow** was at RP 4/12. A **Bank Swallow** was at BP 4/24 & 4 at RR 5/9 (CG). Both **Cliff** and **Barn swallows** were at BP 4/25. **House Wren** had arrived by 4/12 at RP. A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was at MP 5/14 (CB), **Brown Thrasher** at CA 4/14 (JB), and **Am. Pipit** on Wye Rd 4/4 (CG).

2 **White-eyed Vireo** found at LC 4/26 (CG, CB, KG). 19 species of warblers were found. None in great numbers, no real early or late dates noted, generally just lackluster for a spring migration (v.o.).

Single **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** were found on Upper Strasburg Rd 5/30 (JB) and Broad Mt. Rd 6/13 (CG). Single **Dickcissel** were also found at RP 5/14 (CG) and Pine Rd (JB). 2 **Vesper Sparrow** were at Portico Rd 4/17 and 2 **Savannah Sparrow** at Eby Rd 6/5 (CG). A **Grasshopper Sparrow** was at LC 4/26 (CG, CB, KG). 4 **Bobolink** were at Boundary Rd. 5/9 (CG) and 3 at Pine Rd 5/16 (JB). An **Orchard Oriole** was at LC 4/27 (CB). Single **Purple Finch** 4/9 and **Pine Siskin** 4/22 were at CA.

OBSERVERS: Joan Bowen, Charles Brightbill, Ken Gabler, Carl L. Garner, PO Box 391, Marion 17235, Randall & Lista Snurr.

FULTON COUNTY

A **Chuck-will's-widow** was found in Fulton in late May and was photographed and recorded on 6/9 (CB, et.al.).

OBSERVERS: Charlie Brightbill, Dick Colyer, Deuane Hoffman, Randy Miller.

HUNTINGDON COUNTY

David Kyler

Abbreviations: Aitch Access (AA), Alexandria (AL), Brumbaugh Access (BA), Detweiler Run (DR), Huntingdon (HU), Raystown L. (LR), Stone Valley L. (SVL), Whipple's Dam SP (WD). All reports by compiler unless otherwise noted.

Unusual spp. reported include **Little Blue Heron** and **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**.

Waterfowl include 2 **Com. Loon** in breeding plumage at SVL 5/4 (GG), 3 **Double-crested Cormorant** at LR 5/7 (RC) and 1 at SVL 5/14 during a thunderstorm (GG). An ad. **Little Blue Heron** made its appearance at WD 4/21,22 and is possibly a *1st county record* (GG). It was put to flight by encroaching fishermen and was not seen again. A single **Canvasback** was at SVL 4/17 and an unusually late **Oldsquaw** was out "tacking" the sailboats at SVL 5/24 (GG).

2 **Black Vulture** continued to be seen in the company of 12 **Turkey Vulture** 4/2 nr. HU. A single **Osprey** was observed hovering over Greenwood Furnace L. 6/20 (JK). Shorebirds were restricted to single **Gr. and Ls. Yellowlegs** both at SVL 4/25 standing side-by-side (GG) and a lone **Solitary Sandpiper** at HU 5/2. Gulls were represented by **Ring-billed** everywhere in the county all quarter and 25 **Bonaparte's** at SVL 4/21 (GG). Terns were better represented with 3 spp. observed: 1 **Forster's** at SVL 4/14 (GG), 2 **Common** over LR 4/29 (RC), and 1 **Caspian** at AA 5/11. **Barn Owl** have again returned to AL with 2 ad. and 6 juv. reported 5/11 using man-made nesting boxes (ML). Nightjars include 1 **Whip-poor-will** 6/3 nr. HU and 4+ **Com. Nighthawk** over HU all quarter.

A **Red-headed Woodpecker** colony has been established nr. HU with 4 indiv. present 6/4. A single **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was found in migration at SVL 5/14 (GG) and a pair of **Winter Wren** were located at DR 6/5 (GG). Warbler spp. found include 2 **Blackburnian** at DR 6/5; 2 **Yellow-throated** at Little Juniata 5/2; 1 **Blackpoll** 5/13 at Three Springs; 5 **Canada** at DR 6/5; and 1 **Palm** at Water Street 5/4 (GG). 2 **Purple Finch** and 1 **Pine Siskin** were at HU feeders 4/22, and a pair of **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** were at McAlevy's Fort feeder 4/30 (GG).

OBSERVERS: Rob Criswell, Greg Grove, **Dave Kyler, RR 4 Box 159A, Huntingdon 16652 (814-643-6030)**, Joshua Kyler, Melvin Lane.

INDIANA COUNTY

Margaret and Roger Higbee

Abbreviations: Blue Spruce County Park (BS), Clarksburg (CKG), Indiana (IND), Margus L. (ML), Plumville (PV), Shelocta (SHL), Strongstown (ST), Timber L. (TL), Yellow Creek SP (YC).

Highlights of the season include **Red-throated Loon**, **Cattle Egret**, **Willet**, and **Black Tern**, all at YC.

All waterfowl reported from YC unless otherwise noted. **Red-throated Loon** arrived 4/2 (BB,MH,GL); 3 on 4/15 (ph. GL); and 2 still present 4/16 (MH,CaL,GL). **Com. Loon** was found all quarter with top count 7 on 4/17,21 (C&GL) and a singleton lingered at quarter's end (MH,GL). 1-4 **Pied-billed Grebe** were present 4/2-28 (v.o.). Best **Horned Grebe** tally was 7 on 4/2 (BB,MH,GL), but last 1 appeared 5/9 (GL). Top **Double-crested Cormorant** count was 9 on 4/16 (MH,CaL,GL).

A **Least Bittern** was calling from the marsh before dawn 5/10 (MH,GL,GS). Last reported **Great Blue Heron** at YC was 5/28 (BB,MH,GL). Single **Great Egret** were listed 4/2,17 & 5/3 (BB,MH,C&GL,BM). A **Cattle Egret** 4/25 (GL,PM) was the *1st known county record*.

Last **Tundra Swan** was at ML 4/12 (GL). Top **Wood Duck** tally was 12 on 4/13 (TBC); first fledglings noted 6/19 (D&GS). High **Green-winged Teal** count was 17 on 4/10 (JS). **Am. Black Duck** were last seen 4/5 (GL). A single **N. Pintail** alternated between YC & ML 4/9-5/14 (v.o.). Best **Blue-winged Teal** report was 32 on 4/10 (JS). A **N. Shoveler** near YC 5/10 (MH,GL,GS) was the lone report. 1-4 **Gadwall** listed 4/3 & 5/2 (GL,GS). Top

Am. Wigeon tally was 8 on 4/2 (BB,MH,GL). 12 **Canvasback** were observed 4/1 (GC,GL), and 1 on 4/6 (TBC). High count of **Ring-necked Duck** was 156 on 4/2 (BB,MH,GL), but 1 lingered at ML until 5/13 (GL). **Ls. Scaup** peaked during the last quarter, but 53 was still a nice count 4/1 (GL). **Oldsquaw** were present on 9 trips between 4/2-22, with high of 11 on 4/9 (MH,CaL,GL). 2 **White-winged Scoter** appeared 4/5 (GL), the lone report. **Bufflehead** numbered 176 on 4/3 (GL); 7 still there 5/10 (MH,GL,GS). 2-4 **Hooded Merganser** were observed 4/5-18 (v.o.) and single **Com. Merganser** found 4/19 (JS) and 6/9 (ES). On 4/2 (BB,MH,GL), rafts of 98 **Red-breasted Merganser** and 16 **Ruddy Duck** were recorded.



Cattle Egret, Yellow Cr. S.P., 4/25/91. Photo by Gloria Lamer.

1-2 **Osprey** were at YC & ML 4/6 (TBC) to 5/1 (GL). A **N. Harrier** at Nolo 5/8 (GL) was the lone report. **Sharp-shinned Hawk** were at 5 locations and **Cooper's Hawk** at 3 (v.o.). **Virginia Rail** was a nice find at YC 5/9 (GL) and cooperated for a Big Day by calling spontaneously 5/10 (MH,GL,GS). **Sora** was heard from the marsh at YC 4/26 (MH, GL). **Com. Moorhen** was well seen 4/18 (JC,JG,MH,GL,HL) and lingered until 4/24 (GL,FM). 22 **Am. Coot** were listed 4/2 (BB,MH,GL).

A **Black-bellied Plover** was found on the beach 5/8 (BF,GL). **Gr. Yellowlegs** were reported 4/5-5/10 (MH,GL,GS) with top count 7 on 4/17 (GL). 1-4 **Ls. Yellowlegs** were noted 4/24-5/7 (GL,JS). First **Solitary Sandpiper** arrived 4/26 (MH,GL). A flock of 12 **Willet** was the highlight 4/30 (BF,MH,ph. GL,JS,GS). A lone **Willet** appeared 5/6 (C&GL).



Willetts, Yellow Cr. S.P., 4/30/91. Photo by Gloria Lamer.

Spotted Sandpiper were first listed at YC 4/27 (TBC). **Ruddy Turnstone** reports were 7 on 5/7 (GL,JS,GS) and 1 5/8 (BF,GL). Single **Semipalmated Sandpiper** and 2 **Dunlin** were seen 5/7,8 (GL,JS,GS). **Com. Snipe** reports were 2 at TL 4/1 (GL) & 1-2 at YC 4/2-26 (BB,MH,GL).

Gull max. were 169 **Bonaparte's** 4/3, 168 **Ring-billed** 4/17 (GL), and 2 **Herring** 5/21 (MH,GL,JS,JT). 2 **Caspian Tern** were present 4/15, but only 1 on 4/16 (MH,CaL,GL). **Com. Tern** were found on 3 dates: 1 on 5/15, 4 on 5/25 and 7 on 6/16 (MH,GL,TBC,GC). **Forster's Tern** were listed on 11 trips between 4/12-5/10 (TBC,MH,GL,GS) with largest flock 9 on 4/13 (TBC). 4 **Black Tern** were a nice find 5/6 (C&GL).

Black-billed Cuckoo arrived at YC 5/2 (GL,GS) and **Yellow-billed** first seen near SHL 5/9 (MH). **Barred Owl** was found at Nolo, ST & SHL (DS,GL,GS,M&RH). The lone **Whip-poor-will** reported was a singleton near ST 5/28,31 (JM,SM). First **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** returned to CKG 4/27 (SC). 5 **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** were found at Nolo 4/7 (GS); 2 at CKG 4/8 (MC); and 2 at YC 4/18 (v.o.). **Alder Flycatcher** was singing in opposition to **Willow** at YC 5/21,28 (BB,MH,GL) and 1 still there 6/18 (GC,MH,RM,GS).

Bank Swallow was found at YC 4/23-5/25 (v.o.) and **Cliff Swallow** was present in small numbers 4/23-5/10 (BB,MH,GL,GS). **Barn Swallow** at Penn Run 4/5 was early (GS). 4 **Com. Raven** were at CKG 6/6 and at least 1 sounded immature (MC). **Winter Wren** was reported only at YC 4/22 (MH,GL). Top **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** count was 26 at YC 4/23 (BB,MH). **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** arrived at CKG 4/8 (MC), the first report. Once again thrushes were absent during migration with the report of 1 **Hermit** 4/25 near Brush Valley (GL,FM); no **Veery**, **Gray-cheeked**, or **Swainson's** was reported. 2 **N. Mockingbird** were at CKG 4/7 (MC). Noted for its absence was **Cedar Waxwing**; first flocks did not appear until 5/14 when 24 were seen at YC (MH,GL).

The warbler migration began rather early. **Golden-winged** was listed only at YC 5/10 (MH,GL,GS). Best **Tennessee** tally was 18 at YC 5/14 (MH,GL). **N. Parula** was singing on territory near YC after 6/18 (BB,GC,MH). Top **Yellow-rumped Warbler** count was 23 at YC 4/30 (MH,GL, *et al.*). First **Black-throated Green** was early 4/16 (MH,CaL, GL) & **Blackburnian**, also early, noted at SF 4/27 (TBC). A **Yellow-throated** was singing at YC 4/18 (MH,GL). 1-2 territorial **Pine** were at YC all quarter (v.o.); another was found consistently near SHL 4/29+ (M&RH). A **Palm** was at YC 5/2 (GL,GS), the lone report. Very few **Bay-breasted** were reported; **Blackpoll** listed at YC 5/10 (MH,GL,GS). **Black-and-white** arrived at YC 4/18 (MH,GL). 3 **Worm-eating** at SGL 273 on 6/4 (MH,GL). **Ovenbird** at BS 4/26 (M&RH *et al.*), while **Louisiana Waterthrush** arrived at CKG & YC 4/8,9 (MC,MH,CaL,GL). SGL 273 produced 4 **Kentucky** and 11 **Hooded** 6/4 (MH,GL). First **Yellow-breasted Chat** seen at YC 4/30 (MH,GL,JS,GS).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak appeared at YC 4/27 (TBC). 2 **Savannah Sparrow** at YC 4/2 (MH,CaL,GL) were first. An area adjacent to SGL 273 netted 3 **Grasshopper** and 3 **Henslow's** sparrows 6/4 (MH,GL); the **Grasshopper** was feeding young. **White-crowned Sparrow** was listed at YC 5/4-14 (v.o.). **Bobolink** were in fields near YC & Nolo 5/10+ (MH, C&GL,GS). 2 **Rusty Blackbird** were at Nolo 4/1 (GL); best YC count was 6 on 4/21 (C&GL). An **Orchard Oriole** was singing at YC 5/25 (RG *et al.*) and **N. Oriole** returned to PV 4/29 (BJ). 1-5 **Purple Finch** were at Nolo, YC and near SHL (C&GL,M&RH) during the first half of the quarter. **Evening Grosbeak** were sporadic with top count 48 near Alverda 4/25 (PM); last flock of 6 was found at New Florence 5/12 (MM).

OBSERVERS: Becky Byerly, Jim Clark, Suzanne Conner, Greg Cook, Marcy Cunkelman, Betsy Fetterman, Randy Gerrish, Joe Grom, Margaret and Roger Higbee, RR 2 Box 166, Indiana 15701 (412-354-3493), Betty Johnston, Harry Jones, Carroll Labarthe (CaL), Clayton & Gloria Lamer, Herschel Leapman, Beth Marshall, Mary McClure, Frances Michny, Jim Michny, Sharon Michny, Renee Miller, John Salvetti, Ed Slovensky, Dan & Georgette Syster, Joe Taylor, Todd Bird Club.

JUNIATA COUNTY

Linda Whitesel

Abbreviations: Hammer Hollow (HH), Juniata R. at Port Royal (PR), Juniata Valley Audubon Society (JVAS).

Great Egret came early to the county this year. They were first seen the week of 6/16 at PR (DW); speculation is that the low river was the cause of this early arrival. Also unusual was the **Oldsquaw** on the creek at the Renno farm and his neighbor's farm 4/13,16 (MR). A ♀ **Com. Merganser** stayed late, 5/9, at PR.

On his way to work 5/30, DW spied what turned out to be an imm. **Bald Eagle** approx. 2½ mi. e. of Mifflintown along Lost Creek Ridge. The next day he took his camera along and the **Bald Eagle** remained perched in an oak tree while he got some good pictures. The bird allowed Dusty to walk under it. Searched for after 5/31, the eagle apparently had gone on its way; at least we other searchers saw a picture of it.

2 **Solitary Sandpiper** were seen on two separate creeks in "The Swamp" area off Cedar Spring Rd. 5/11. Both **cuckoos** are very scarce this year; none was recorded on either BBS in the county or on the day of JVAS birdathon held 5/11. Both **Black-billed** and **Yellow-billed** are here, but infrequently observed. MR reported a **Red-headed Woodpecker** near Van Wert 5/9; this is the 1st since Dec. 1988.

7 **Am. Pipit** stopped off at the Renno farm during the week of 5/11 to search the newly plowed fields. The JVAS birdathon produced 2 **Nashville Warbler** which sang on a timber farm near Evandale. **N. Parula** have also been newly observed this year in the same location. First seen and heard 4/28, they were again observed 5/11 and 6/26 (MK,LW). Searched for, but not found, this year on old territory on SGL 171, the **Kentucky Warbler** was a very welcome sight when it was observed in HH for the first time 6/24 and later seen 7/5 feeding 1 of its young.

An **Am. Crow** interrupted my class at Walker Elementary School 5/30 when it flew to the ground outside the windows of the classroom. Surrounded by very upset smaller birds, mostly **House Finch**, the crow clutched a baby bird. Although the students remained in their seats, they were visibly and vocally upset crying, "It will kill it!" I hammered on the window to try and startle the crow, which remained unperturbed. I then decided to prevent further disturbance of my class by going out to chase the crow away. I announced my intention and went out the door. As I headed down the hall, I heard a cheering section behind me shouting, "Go, Miss Whitesel!" and "Right on, Miss Whitesel!" Of course, by the time I got out there the crow had already left still clutching the baby bird.

Probably a fall-out from the inclement weather, 2 **White-crowned Sparrow** appeared in HH 5/6. After non-appearance at previously recorded spots on BBS 068, the **Orchard Oriole** parents not only were present at Honey Grove 6/11, but they were feeding 1 young.

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

LACKAWANNA COUNTY

Gerald Klebauskas

Abbreviations: Bald Mt. (BM), Coveys Swamp (CS), Dalton area (DA), Factoryville area (FA), Lackawanna SP (LSP), Lackawanna Audubon Society (LAS), Scranton (SC), Susquehanna R. at Falls (SU).

Average rainfall until mid-May, then dry for the rest of the quarter, for the 3rd year in a row. Once again most observers agreed that the spp. are there, but the numbers are not. A new high count of 144 spp. was seen on the LAS birdathon 5/11.

Great Blue Heron at CS 5/9, **Green-backed Heron** at FA 4/27, and **Black-crowned Night-Heron** at CS 5/11. **Wood Duck** in FA 5/11.

A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was at SC 6/28, **Red-shouldered** at BM 5/8, and **Broad-winged** nesting at DA. **Spotted Sandpiper** at SU 5/11. **Black-billed Cuckoo** noted at SU & LSP 5/11. **Whip-poor-will** at Montage Mt. 5/11, with **Com.**

Nighthawk at SC & LSP 5/10,11. First **Chimney Swift** at FA 4/29 and ♀ **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** at FA 6/7. **Willow** and **Least flycatchers** at Marshwood 6/15. **N. Rough-winged Swallow** at FA 5/6 and first **Barn Swallow** at DA 4/26. **Hermit Thrush** at BM 6/8. ±12 **Am. Pipit** were in a plowed field in Clifford Twp 4/29,30. 4 spp. of vireo were found 5/11.

20 spp. of warblers noted, with best a **Wilson's** at CS & SU 5/11. A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was found at DA 5/19+. Last **White-throated Sparrow** was at FA 4/24. Both **N. and Orchard orioles** were at LSP. **Purple Finch** were at DA 4/16 and 6/8 at BM.

OBSERVERS: Derry & Nancy Bird, Rosann Bongey, Mike Freidlin, Gerald Klebauskas, RR 2 Box 2821, Factoryville 18419 (717-945-3949), George Mozurkewich, Sue & Tinke Zenke.

LANCASTER COUNTY

Eric Witmer

Abbreviations: Chickies Cr. near Mt. Joy (CC), Conowingo Pond portion of Susquehanna R. above Conowingo Dam (Pa. only) (CP), Holtwood Flyash Pond (HFP), Middle Creek WMA (MC), Muddy Run (MR), Susquehanna R. (SR), Susquehanna R. Conejohela Flats (SCF).

Birding during the quarter was somewhat slow. The passerine migration most likely "zoomed" by with few fallouts associated with bad weather. The best shorebird was **Red-necked Phalarope** for only the 2nd spring record.

The 15th Annual SoLanCo Summer Bird Count (SBC) was held 6/8. Thirty-one observers tallied 108 spp. and 10,624 indiv. Twenty-three spp. established record high counts, among them **N. Rough-winged** and **Barn swallows**, **Carolina Chickadee**, **Tufted Titmouse**, **White-breasted Nuthatch**, **E. Bluebird**, **Wood Thrush**, and **Orchard Oriole**. All time low counts were established for **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**, **White-eyed Vireo**, **Prairie Warbler**, and **Yellow-breasted Chat**.

A breeding plumaged **Horned Grebe** was at MC 5/11 (AG,JW *et al.*). 67 **Double-crested Cormorant** were at MR 5/1 (NP). An **Am. Bittern** was at SCF 5/8 (JB). **Cattle Egret** continue to be observed irregularly in small numbers (<25) between Safe Harbor Dam and Columbia along the SR, but nesting has not been confirmed anywhere this season in the area. Two pairs of **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** were found nesting in April nr. Brownstown and Eden (v.o.). A **Tundra Swan** was on a small pond nr. Lititz for the entire period (EW). 8 **Brant** were on the CP 4/8 (RMS,EP,HM). 33 **Am. Wigeon** were at MC 4/7 (RM). 35 **Oldsquaw** were at SCF 4/15. **Black Scoter** sightings include 1 on CP 4/8 (RMS,EP,HM) and 3 on SCF 4/20 (JB). 5 **Com. Merganser** were along the SR at Wrightsville 6/9 (J&LD).

2 **Osprey** fledged from the Peach Bottom nest, however, the 2 Holtwood nests produced no young (RMS). The **Bald Eagle** nest nr. MR was not successful this year. A pair of **Cooper's Hawk** successfully nested and fledged 2 young (location deleted. -eds.) (*vide* RMS,JB). Another pair of **Cooper's Hawk** was noted in May & June; nesting was not confirmed but suspected (TW,JW,EW). A **Merlin** was at Penryn 4/17 (BC) and a **Peregrine Falcon** was seen flying N at Holtwood Dam 4/26 (FH).

20 **Semipalmated Plover** were at HFP 6/4 (RMS). A **Gr. Yellowlegs** was at SCF 6/15 and a **Ruddy Turnstone** there 5/4 (JB). **White-rumped Sandpiper** sightings include 1 at HFP 5/13 (RMS *et al.*), 1 at SCF 5/19 (JB,TG,EW), 1 at HFP 5/24 and 5 there 6/4 (RMS). 13 **Dunlin** at Octoraro L. 5/6 (JS). 3 **Short-billed Dowitcher** at SCF 6/9 (JB). The most unusual bird this quarter was the **Red-necked Phalarope** at HFP 5/23 (RMS *et al.*). 35 **Bonaparte's Gull** were at Speedwell L. 4/8 (JB) and 1 still on the SCF 5/19 (JB,TG,EW). A **Ls. Black-backed Gull** was in a field near Rheems 4/1 (JH). A **Caspian** and 5 **Common terns** were at SCF 6/15 (JB). 2 **Forster's Tern** were at MC 5/14 (JB).

A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was at MR 5/1 (NP). Last date for **Long-eared Owl** at MC was 4/9 (DG). Some unusual **Red-headed Woodpecker** sightings include an ad. in Caernarvon Twp 5/6,7 (BH) and at SCF 5/18 (RM). **Bank Swallow** were reported nesting along Little Beaver Cr. 4/17 (RB). Another nest site for **Cliff Swallow** is the Rt. 462 bridge of the SR at

Wrightsville (AS). A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was at CC 5/20 (JH). 75 **Am. Pipit** were at Lime Rock Rd (Clay Twp) 5/2 with several remaining until at least 5/13+ (EW *et al.*). **Cedar Waxwing** seemed almost nonexistent before 5/12 but afterwards they were widespread and in good numbers.

A **Golden-winged Warbler** was at Providence Twp 5/2 (E&JP). A **"Brewster's"** was nr. CC 5/11 (JH) and the much rarer **Lawrence's** was reported 5/26 nr. Safe Harbor overlook (JB). A **Yellow-throated** was at MC 5/5 (RM). This sp. was found again nesting in the traditional areas of the Conestoga R. at Safe Harbor (JB,TK). An early **Prairie** was at MR 4/6 (NP) and a **Cerulean** was at MC 5/5 (FH,TK). **Prothonotary** could again be found on territory on Rookery & Greene Is. A **Mourning** was at MC 5/20 (TG). A pair of **Blue Grosbeak** was found near Turkey Hill trail (RM), another pair was near CC 5/13-6/28, but no evidence of nesting was found (JH). A **Lincoln's Sparrow** was at MC 5/11 (JW *et al.*). Most unusual was a **Dark-eyed Junco** at Providence Twp 6/17 (JP). A good count of **Purple Finch** was made at Chickies Park nr. Mt. Joy 5/2 (JH).

OBSERVERS: Jerry Book, Ray Bubb, Bruce Carl, Jack & Lil Downs, Don Garner, Tom Garner, Al Guarente, Barb Haas, Fred Habegger, Jonathan Heller, Tom Kurtz, Randy Miller, Harold Morrin, Ed & Jo Pederson, Nick Pulcinella, Jim Scheetz, Robert M. Schutsky, Al Spiese, Toni Willwerth, **Eric Witmer, 805 Pointview Ave, Ephrata 17522 (717-733-1138)**, Jan Witmer.

LAWRENCE COUNTY

Barb Dean

Abbreviations: Bessemer area (BA), Mahoning R. (MR), Mount Jackson (MJ), Leesburg Ponds (LP), Neshannock Cr. (NC), New Castle area (NCA), Volant area (VA), Vosler Rd. (VR). Sightings by compiler unless otherwise noted.

1st Quarter 1991

72 **Wood Duck** flew out of a wetland off Rt. 18 3/30 (BW,BD). **Short-eared Owl** were seen from the start of the quarter through 3/15. No courtship was observed. 1 **Short-eared Owl** was seen at the Wampum strip mine area. From 1/4-3/15, from 1-3 owls were at Vosler Rd. Only 3 or 4 mi separate Volant strips from Vosler Rd. area.

We had an early **Gray Catbird** in BA 3/30 (same date as last spring). The Butchers found a **N. Shrike** at the Volant strips 3/14-15. It has been 9 or 10 years since a shrike was seen in Lawrence. 500 **Snow Bunting** were at BA 2/18, but the next day only 1 was recorded there.

2nd Quarter 1991

I missed the spring warbler migration, but word has it that most went through quickly the second week of May. Many woodland breeders arrived the first week of May. The hot, dry weather of May and June favored early, successful breeding of most of our birds.

A pair of **Pied-billed Grebe** returned to our only known breeding location in New Galilee 4/6 and 1 was at the Rt. 18 marsh 4/6. The **Great Blue Heron** rookery n. of NCA was abandoned for unknown reasons. Only 4 of the 42 nests were visible 4/6. The heronry off Rt. 168 had 38 active nests visible from the road 4/6. One **Great Egret** was at LP 5/26. We usually have from 1-4 sightings of **Great Egret** each spring. This is a trend that began 4 years ago.

2 **Tundra Swan** were at Elder's pond in NCA 4/6. 65 mph winds and a frightening electrical storm may have forced several **Snow Geese** down onto Elder's pond 4/10 where they remained for less than a day (BG). 3 **Black Duck** were in BA 4/6. Our **Mallard** population is noticeable down this year. 5 **Blue-winged Teal** were in MJ 4/6 and also at LP 6/30 (BW,BD). 300+ **Ring-necked Duck** were at LP 4/6, as were 2 **N. Pintail**. 8 **Red-breasted Merganser** were at VR 4/6-10.

A pair of ad. **N. Harrier** was noted all quarter at Volant strips. **Sharp-shinned Hawk** sightings were way down. Only 1 **Red-shouldered Hawk** was reported on Davis Rd. 4/24. Only 1

Broad-winged Hawk was found off the Ellwood Rd. 6/16 (BW). The Broad-winged Hawk did not nest in NCA this year. Even our **Red-tailed Hawk** population is down! Some were on nests 5/18 and some Red-tails were seen with young 6/14. I find the hawk situation alarming. Our **Am. Kestrel** population is also down by perhaps 1/3. A few pairs were seen with young by quarter's end.

Ring-necked Pheasant populations are booming all over the county with at least 15 sightings from a dozen locations (GW,BD). **Wild Turkey** continues to flourish here. **Virginia Rail** and **Sora** were seen and heard in MJ and NCA 5/18. **Upland Sandpiper** returned to breed at VR 4/24. They also returned to the Amish area. I have been checking McCreary Rd. area (NCA) for 5 years. Finally—a probable breeding pair was found 6/7. The Butchers gave us our best shorebird report: 8 **Gr. Yellowlegs**, 3 **Least** and some **Semipalmated** sandpipers were at the Volant strips 5/11–14. We had 9 **Pectoral Sandpiper** at VR 4/10. Walczak reports **Spotted Sandpiper** at Rock Point 5/4. BD and BW had 30+ shorebirds sp. at LP 6/30. We look forward to some decent shorebirding in July. **Killdeer** with 3 young were 1st reported 5/6 (BW). For the 1st time in 5 years we did not find **Com. Snipe** in Amish areas, but 1 was at VR 5/18. Two pairs of **Spotted Sandpiper** were seen with 3 young at VA 5/28 (BW,BD,SM). A few **Ring-billed Gull** were in downtown NCA 5/18. Only 1 **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was found in BA 5/18, but countless **Black-billed Cuckoo** invaded us all quarter. We have cuckoos and we have Gypsy Moths. Our **E. Screech-Owl** population remains excellent.

I was planning on birding along the NC 6/12 when I heard a terrible ruckus. I watched my resident gray-phase screech owl being chased across the creek by about 7 **Blue Jay**, 3 **Carolina Wren**, 1 **Tufted Titmouse**, 3 **Black-capped Chickadee**, 2 **N. Cardinal**, a pair of **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**, 1 nuthatch, 2 **Song Sparrow**, and countless robins. I birded the area in 30 seconds flat!

The owl laid low in a ravine on the other side of the creek. **Scarlet Tanagers** and **Gray Catbirds** joined in the fray. A pair of **N. Oriole** flew at the owl's face and came within inches of it.

Two **Barred Owl** were in NCA in Apr (BW). **Com. Nighthawk** were in NCA 5/3 (BW). **Chimney Swift** arrived in NCA 5/5 and in good numbers (BD,BW). **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** arrived 4/29 and seen performing the "get out of my territory" side-to-side flight to a **Red-bellied Woodpecker** 6/14, with courtship flight in our yard 6/25. The hummer population is healthy, but down slightly in NCA. Our **Belted Kingfisher** population is down by 50% in the past 2 years. A pair was reported nesting along NC 4/19 (GD). The **Red-headed Woodpecker** population consisting of scattered pairs seems stable. **Red-bellied Woodpecker** are numerous and young were seen 5/6. **Hairy** and **Downy** woodpeckers were with young 6/8. **N. Flicker** sightings were average.

A rare but regular migrant **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was observed on VR 4/24. 1 **Least Flycatcher** was noted on VR 5/18 and 2 found on E. River Rd. along the MR 6/14–16 (SM,LW,HB,BD). **Willow Flycatcher** was found in below average numbers. Great **Crested Flycatcher** was found in 7 locations, about average. **E. Kingbird** numbers are way down! **Horned Lark** do well in our Amish areas at VA and in NCA. Many young were noted in NCA 6/4. **Purple Martin** arrived in Amish areas in good numbers. The Butchers recorded 2 at Volant strips in with the flock of shorebirds. **Tree Swallow** are big trouble here with few found. Walczak found 1 pair with eggs the 1st week of June. **N. Rough-winged Swallow** numbers are down; some young were being fed along MR 6/14. **Barn Swallow** numbers are down too. They were 1st recorded 4/10 and some on nests by 4/22; young were in Amish areas 6/9. Strange but true, that our **Bank Swallow** numbers are way up. A colony off Rt. 422 on 5/6 (BW); 6 pair on VR and some at Rock Point (BW). I have a new large colony in Volant with 70+ nests; they were excavating nests 5/18.

White-breasted Nuthatch were feeding young in NCA 6/7. **Carolina Wren** population is outstanding all over the county, especially along the rivers and creeks. 2 were seen carrying food 5/26. A 3/4-mi stretch along NC recorded 10+ there 6/12. I believe our **House Wren** population is down this year. Peak days for

Ruby-crowned Kinglet sightings were 4/24–25. Only a few **Golden-crowned Kinglet** reported in NCA 4/6. I was amazed at the outstanding numbers of **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** found this quarter. The most I've seen in 8 years. **E. Bluebird** are doing great. Walczak reports some on eggs 5/5. The **Veery** report is up; 6 were in SGL 151 5/18–6/12. A peak date for thrush movement was 5/18. One **Swainson's** was in VA and 1 **Hermit** in SGL 151 5/18. **N. Mockingbird** is usually seen in spring or fall here, but in the past 3 years we have found a few during breeding season; 1 on Bates Rd. 6/23 (BW,BD) and 1 other report from BW. Historically we have only 1 breeding record. We had high numbers of **Brown Thrasher**. 200+ **Am. Pipit** at VA and hundreds on VR the 1st week of Apr, but none after 4/24. Incredible numbers of **Cedar Waxwing** were noted.

I have 6 reports of **White-eyed Vireo** at 6 locations. Only 2 reports of **Solitary Vireo**, 1 on VR 4/24 and 1 at Boy Scout Camp 5/18. Good numbers of **Yellow-throated Vireo** were present; 1 in SGL 151 5/18; 1 in VA 5/26, several by MR in June (BD,HB,MG,LW,SM). **Warbling** and **Red-eyed** vireos were in normal numbers. **Blue-winged Warbler** were recorded in good numbers at many locations 1 **Brewster's** was noted along MR 6/14 (BD). The warbler migration was pretty much over by 5/18. One **Nashville**, some **Magnolia**, a **Canada**, and just the usual **Am. Redstart**, 1 **Black-and-white** were recorded. SGL 151 was the site for 1 **Prothonotary** 5/18 only. **Yellow-rumped** were last noted 4/24. Our only known **Prairie Warbler** area was discovered on a Christmas tree farm on Bates Rd. near *Beaver* line, with many feeding young 6/23 (BW,BD). About 9 **Cerulean Warbler** were found along the MR (SM,LW,HB,BD). **Hooded Warbler** were carrying food to young 6/30 at various locations. Only 2 **Yellow-breasted Chat** were found 6/9 (BW,BD). **Yellow-throated Warbler** (2 pair at least) were found along MR 6/14+ (EC,BD,MC,SM,HB,LW,MG). This is *Lawrence's 5th* record and 4th location, all s. of NCA. All areas contain large sycamores and are near a river or stream.

I feel **Scarlet Tanager** are in poor numbers this year. **N. Cardinal** were carrying grape vine strips to nest in hemlocks here 4/6 and feeding 1st brood 5/3 and feeding 2nd brood 6/24. **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** numbers are slightly down; they were feeding nestlings 6/30. Many **Chipping Sparrow** were here by 3rd week of Apr. **Vesper Sparrow** numbers are up; several were at VA 4/10 and some were carrying food to young in BA 5/25. Many **Field Sparrow** arrived 4/4 but didn't start singing until 4/6. **White-crowned Sparrow** reported from BA 4/6. Many reported 5/5 (HB,LW); 7 were in NCA 5/6 (BW). **Savannah** and **Song** sparrows in good numbers. Higher numbers of **Swamp Sparrow** were recorded county-wide and in SGL 151 ad. were feeding young 5/26.

The **Bobolink** population has been outstanding here for the last 2 seasons. They were found in numerous locations doing courtship flights in May and feeding young by quarter's end. More **E. Meadowlark** seen and heard this season than in the past 9 years. 3 **Rusty Blackbird** were in BA 4/6. A banner year for **Orchard Oriole**, especially along MR. Ad. were carrying food to young 6/13+ (MG,LW,BD,HB,SM). **N. Oriole** were feeding young 6/25+ (MG,BD). I personally saw 10 Purple Finch at the Rodgers' feeder in Volant in Apr., most I've ever seen in one location here.

OBSERVERS: Harriett Bauer, Gene & Suzanne Butcher, Eric & Shelly Cratty, **Barb Dean**, **321 E. Meyer Ave, New Castle 16105 (412-658-3393)**, George Dean, Marguerite Geibel, Bob Grass, Shirley McCarl, Nancy Rodgers, Bob Walczak, Lorraine Weiland, Gene Wilhelm.

Barb Dean has resumed the responsibilities of compiler once again. We welcome her back to the ranks. -eds.

LEBANON COUNTY

Steve Santner

Abbreviations: Memorial L. (ML), Middle Creek WMA (MC).

The weather this past quarter was very warm with normal to slightly above normal precipitation during Apr and the first half of May, followed by drought conditions the rest of the period. Although landbird migration, particularly warblers, was poor again this spring, overall this was a very interesting quarter.

Honors for the bird of the quarter go to the Mississippi Kite which flew past the Governor Dick fire tower on the early date of 4/7. The first GBS in *Lebanon* was conducted, producing 9 of the 13 species being surveyed. These were **Ring-necked Pheasant**, **Killdeer**, **Horned Lark**, **Field Vesper**, **Grasshopper** and **Savannah sparrows**, **E. Meadowlark**, and **Bobolink**. Of the four missing species, **N. Bobwhite** and **Dickcissel** are casual breeders here, **Upland Sandpiper** is recently extirpated and **Henslow's Sparrow** has not been known to nest.

A very high count of 12 **Red-necked Grebe** was at ML 4/14 (MC,SS,DH). Several **Double-crested Cormorant** were at a pond in the *Lebanon* portion of MC 6/3. All were immature. Two **Mute Swan** of unknown origin were at MC 4/17 (RM). A blue-phase **Snow Goose** was near Iona 4/13 (SS). A late **Ruddy Duck** was at ML 5/11 (SS *et al.*) while 3 **Ring-necked Duck** were there 5/13 (SS *et al.*).

The previously mentioned Mississippi Kite was a 1st county record. It was a well-described first spring bird traveling N through the Furnace Hills near Mt. Gretna (RM). A somewhat early **Osprey** was seen 4/10 in SGL 145 near Mt. Gretna (m.ob.).

Shorebird migration was rather poor despite the presence of good habitat in the ponds near Iona. The best sightings in this area were a late **Semipalmated Plover** 6/3 (NC,TK), an early (4/7,SS) and late (6/3,NC, JK) **Ls. Yellowlegs**, and a **White-rumped Sandpiper** 5/5 (KL,SR,ES). The first **Spotted Sandpiper** was reported at ML 4/17 (MC). **Am. Woodcock** are fairly common in n. *Lebanon*, but are not seen or heard much after early May when they stop calling. A group of 4 presumed young of the year was found along a creek in Levitz Park 5/22 (CB,DW). Five **Bonaparte's Gull** were at ML 4/14 (SS).

The **Snowy Owl** which spent most of the winter in a trailer park in *Lebanon* was last seen 4/3 (MC). As mentioned, landbird migration was very dull. The best reports were: 2 **Olive-sided Flycatcher**, 1 at Green Point 5/13 (SS *et al.*) and 1 5/14 in SGL 145 (RM); a somewhat early **Cliff Swallow** at ML 4/15 (MC); a **Prothonotary Warbler** at Swatara Gap SP 5/12 (RL); a **Mourning Warbler** there 5/18 (GR,JW); and **Bobolink** nesting at Iona after an absence of 2-3 years (m.ob.).

OBSERVERS: Chuck Berthoud, Nancy Clupper, Morris Cox, Deuane Hoffman, Jay Kool, Tom Kurtz, Ken Light, Richard Light, Randy Miller, Grace Randolph, Steve Rannels, **Steve Santner**, 3 **Overbrook Village Green Apts, Elizabethtown 17022 (717-367-5857)**, Ed Spreha, Judy Ward, Dennis Wingle.

LEHIGH COUNTY

Bernie Morris

Abbreviations: *Applewood (AW)*, *Jordan Park (JP)*, *Leaser L. (LL)*, *Spring Creek (SC)*.

The spring migration in this area was interesting, to say the least. Three Big Day Teams went out in mid-May: BDT1 (DeReamus, Wiltraut, and Steve Boyce) had 130 species 5/19; BDT2 (Brock, Smith, Arlene Koch, and Zajacek) had 126 on 5/18; and BDT3 (England and Horn) had 120, also 5/18. Most observers rated the migration as a whole as average or below average, but the number of good species that were seen made up for this, at least for those lucky enough to see these birds! Outstanding rarities include: **Western Kingbird**, **Mourning Warbler**, and **Clay-colored Sparrow**.

A **Pied-billed Grebe** was at SC 5/6 (FB). A good hawk flight was seen on South Mt., in Emmaus, 4/18; 21 **Osprey**, 1 **N. Goshawk**, 30 **Red-shoulders**, over 700 **Broad-wings**, and 30 **Red-tails** were seen in 2 hours (JH). A **Bald Eagle** was at LL 5/18 (BDT2). On 5/3, 8 spp. of shorebirds, including 13 **Least Sandpiper**, were at SC (BLM). LL was drained for dam repair, creating excellent shorebird habitat. Unfortunately this occurred too early in the season to attract many shorebirds. **Semipalmated Plover** were at several locations in late May (m.ob.), and 1 at LL as late as 6/1 (RW). An early **Gr. Yellowlegs** was nr. LL 3/30 (PE,BLM), and a late **Semipalmated Sandpiper** there 5/31 (JH).

3 **Black-billed Cuckoo** were found nr. Germansville 5/10 (PE). An early **Great Crested Flycatcher** was seen 4/28 (FB),

and 2 **E. Kingbird** seen 4/27 (N&JB). A **Western Kingbird** was seen and heard in JP 5/30 (JG,DG). The bird's white outer tail feathers and yellow belly were clearly seen. This was the 1st county record. Unfortunately it could not be relocated. A late **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was seen 6/1 in Emmaus (JH). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** were seen as late as 5/10 nr. Allentown (N&JB). A **Winter Wren** was heard calling above LL 5/25 (m.ob.). An early **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was at JP 4/4 (AJ). **Veery** were seen as early as 4/28 (FB,DG,JG). A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was nr. LL 5/18 (BDT3). **Am. Pipit** seen 4/27 at LL (BLM,PE). **Warbling Vireo** were noted as early as 4/28 at JP (TF,JG,DG).

The warbler migration started off well in late April, but was almost dead by mid-May. Early warblers were: **Blue-winged** 4/28 (TF,PE), **Black-and-white** 4/17 (DG,JG), **Am. Redstart** 4/29 (DG,JG), **Ovenbird** 4/28 (FB), and **Hooded** 4/28 (PE). Over 500 **Yellow-rumped** were seen 4/26 at JP (N&JB). ±10 **Palm** were at JP 4/20 (AJ). A singing **Mourning Warbler** was found at LL 5/25 (FB,m.ob.). **Yellow-breasted Chat** were near Hosensack 5/24 (JH), and at AW 6/7 (PE). An early **Scarlet Tanager** was found 4/30 (KZ).



Clay-colored Sparrow, Allentown, 4/30/91. Photo by Steve Smith.

A **Clay-colored Sparrow** was in FB's backyard in Salisbury Twp 4/30-5/1 (FB,m.ob.) for a 1st county record. The brown cheek patch and buffy crown stripe were well seen. Photos were taken, it was too far away for a really good picture, but it is identifiable (ph. SS, BLM). Late **Dark-eyed Junco** were reported 5/18 (BDT1) and 5/24 at JP (DG,JG). **Orchard Oriole** were in good numbers; 2 pair at AW 5/2 (PE). On 6/25, 8 orioles (4 Orchard & 4 Northern) were seen in a single tree at AW (PE). A late **Pine Siskin** was at JP 5/18 (BDT2).

OBSERVERS: Fritz Brock, Nancy & John Boyer, Pauline England, Ted Fritzinger, John Galm, Dick Gemmel, Jason Horn, Alan Jennings, **Bernie L. Morris, 825 N Muhlenberg St, Allentown 18104 (215-435-9134)**, Brad Silfies, Steve Smith, Joan Thirion, Rick Wiltraut, Joe Zajacek, Kim Ziegler-Arthur.

LUZERNE COUNTY

Bill Reid

Abbreviations: *Harveys L. (HL)*, *Kirby Park (KP)*, *Susquehanna Riverlands (SR)*, *Susquehanna Steam Electric Station (SEES)*, *Wapwallopen (WP)*.

Com. Loon were scarce except for 2 at HL through Apr. (v.o.). 4 **Horned Grebe** were at HL 4/15 (WR). **Double-crested Cormorant**, almost unknown a few years ago, continue to be seen; 1 at KP 5/11 (MB,JH) & 2 in SR 5/30,31 (DG). An extremely early **Am. Bittern** was flushed out of a SR marsh 4/4 (DG) & 1 was at Lee's Swamp 5/11 (GWVAS). The **Black-crowned Night-Heron** rookery at Pittston has not been occupied since 1986 and the sp. has become very uncommon; the only report was a single bird at KP 4/28 (JS). The **Am. Black Duck** is nearly extirpated as a breeder in lower *Luzerne* (SR and along the river near WP), but both **Wood Duck** and **Mallard** are doing quite well (DG, JF). 9 **Oldsquaw** were at HL 4/9 (TB), and 2 **Red-breasted Merganser** were there the same date (WE).

N. **Bobwhite** continue to maintain a small breeding population near Pond Hill (JM,BM). A small colony of **Virginia Rail** continues in SR marsh, but the **Sora** population is gone (DG). An early **Virginia Rail** was observed at SR 4/13 (DG,A&MG). Very few shorebirds were seen; the only "peep" reported was a **Semipalmated Sandpiper** at KP 5/11 (MB,JH). 7 **Bonaparte's Gull** were at HL 4/15 (WR). Both **Black-billed** and **Yellow-billed cuckoos** were not common this spring, perhaps in response to low gypsy moth numbers (DG). A **Barred Owl** was heard at Loyalville 5/11 (MB,JH).

A&MG note an increase in **Com. Nighthawk** numbers at Hazelton. **Whip-poor-will** was again present at Nanticoke (MB *et al.*). An **Acadian Flycatcher** was present at its Ricketts Glen breeding area 5/11 (GWVAS). **Least Flycatcher** seems to be increasing in riparian forests near SSES, while **Willow Flycatcher** persists in overgrown fields and shrubby wetlands (DG). The **SR Tree Swallow** population was lower than in any year since 1984 (JF). A **Cliff Swallow** colony of 120+ nests developed on a large building at SSES in June. **Black-capped Chickadee** and **Tufted Titmouse** populations in 2 forest plots were lower this year than in most previous years (DG). A pair of **Red-breasted Nuthatch** were observed on Council Cup in early May, perhaps nesting outside the study plot (DG). **Carolina Wren** continues to expand and multiply in lower *Luzerne*, even in areas over a mile from the river (DG).

The first **Hermit Thrush** report was at KP 4/9 (TB). **Cedar Waxwing** began nesting relatively early (6/4) near SSES (DG). **Solitary Vireo** was uncommon in migration near SSES (DG), but other vireos were quite common. A **Philadelphia Vireo** was seen 5/11 (GWVAS).

Contrary to reports from other states, the **Wood Thrush** nesting population near SSES is not highly parasitized by cowbirds; no cowbird eggs found in any thrush nests found in 2 breeding bird census plots (DG).

Warblers: A **Blue-winged** at KP 4/28 was early (JS). **Blackburnian** has become a regular breeder in DG's two upland forest plots near SSES and WP. 2 **Pine** were at SR 4/14, and a **Palm** was at Conyngham on the same date (A&MG). **Worm-eating** was more common than in most summers in oak forests near SSES (DG). An **Ovenbird** at KP 4/28 was early (JS). The only **Mourning** reported was at Bunker Hill 5/25 (WR). In spite of rumors of their demise, **Golden-winged** and **Yellow-breasted Chat** continue their success in transmission corridors and overgrown fields near SSES (DG). **N. Cardinal** continues to increase near SSES (DG). There were two **Fox Sparrow** reports: 4/4 at Trucksville and 4/8 at Nescopeck SP (KC). A late **Evening Grosbeak** was at KP 5/11 (MB,JH).

OBSERVERS: Mark Blauer, Kevin Crilley, William Evans, John Fridman, Greater Wyoming Valley Audubon Society, Alan & Monica Gregory, Doug Gross, James Hoyson, Brian Mangan, James Montgomery, **Bill Reid**, 73 W Ross St, Wilkes-Barre 18702 (717-836-2525), James Shoemaker.

LYCOMING COUNTY

Wesley Egli

Abbreviations: *Antes Fort (AF)*, *Bald Eagle Mt. (BEM)*, *Jersey Shore (JS)*, *Montoursville (MV)*, *Picture Rocks area (PR)*, *Rose Valley L. (RVL)*, *SGL 252 (SGL)*, *Tiadaghton SF (TSF)*, *Washington Twp (WT)*.

Several **Com. Loon** were on RVL 4/21 (WE,JJ). **Pied-billed Grebe** was seen there 4/2 (A&LB) & 4/21 (WE,JJ). A single **Double-crested Cormorant** was on a pond at SGL 5/4 (WE). A **Little Blue Heron** was in Hepburn Twp 5/7 (RB,FS). A **Cattle Egret** was at AF 4/19-23 (G&PS). 1 **Snow Goose** was with Canadas at SGL 4/14, 5/4 (WE). **Green-winged** and **Blue-winged** teal were first at SGL 4/3 (DB). **Ring-necked Duck** were at RVL 4/2, and with an **Am. Black Duck X Mallard** hybrid, **Bufflehead**, **Hooded Merganser**, **Ruddy Duck**, and

Am. Coot (A&LB). 3 late **Com. Goldeneye** were at RVL 5/3 (KS).

1 **Osprey** at SGL 4/2 & 2 at RV 5/3 (KS). An ad. and 1 imm. **Bald Eagle** at Little Pine SP 4/2 (JW). A **Broad-winged Hawk** was in PR 5/5 (WE). 3 ♂ **Ring-necked Pheasant** were nr. RVL 5/3 (KS). A **Virginia Rail** stopped to feed in SS's backyard in MV 4/18, and 2 **Sora** were at AF 4/29,30 (G&PS). **Solitary** and **Spotted** sandpipers were at SGL 5/11 (WE). 3-6 **Least Sandpiper** at AF 5/1,6 (G&PS). DB hear **Whip-poor-will** singing early 5/15 in WT.

A ♀ **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** passed through the backyard of WE in PR 4/6. **Pileated Woodpecker** seem to be doing well in PR, seen 5/5,25 & 6/1, with 1 boldly feeding on a tree stump on Main St. as traffic sped by (WE). A population of **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** in a remote bog seems to have diminished to only 1 singing ♂ found in June (DG) where up to 3 were heard in 1990. An **Acadian Flycatcher** was in song along a creek ±3 mi s. of RVL 5/27 (SS). 1 **Alder** and several **Willow flycatchers** were singing nr. the MV airport (SS). A **Least Flycatcher** was nr. PR 5/5 (WE). **Purple Martin** are again nesting successfully in Hughesville (WE).

On 6/30, 2 **Com. Raven** were seen just e. of the airport at MV, headed towards the Susquehanna R. One had something whitish in its beak, possibly a fecal sac, giving indication these birds may be nesting in the river valley, rather than the usual mountain forest areas.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet were found 5/3 at RVL (KS), along with **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**. **Veery** were in Huntersville 5/18 (WE). As in last summer, no **Swainson's Thrush** were found in TSF where they were located in some recent years (DG). A singing **White-eyed Vireo** was discovered at SGL 5/8 (DB).

Warblers found 5/2 at SGL were **Golden-winged** and **Yellow** & at RVL the following day **Yellow**, **Palm** and **Am. Redstart** were seen (KS). **Magnolia**, **Blackburnian**, and **Yellow-rumped** were consistently found in high elevation conifer groves and bogs in TSF (DG). **Black-throated Blue** were again found more commonly in TSF than in most years (DG). **Pine** and **Ovenbird** were in Proctor 4/4 (PB). A **Louisiana Waterthrush** was heard 4/11 at SGL 298 (FS). **Cerulean** were singing nr. the Susquehanna R. at MV 5/25,26 (SS). 1 **Kentucky** and several **Hooded** warblers were observed on s. side of BEM nr. Rt. 15 5/28 (SS).

On my BBS route I again picked up the **Yellow-throated Warbler** at Little Pine SP. There were minimally 3 singing males at the entrance to the camping area on 6/20, and three additional birds that day up stream as far as the town of English Center. The birds always are found in areas with large Sycamore and White Pine trees. They appeared to be feeding young on 6/20. Could this be a local, but widespread bird that's overlooked in *Lycoming*?

This is the northern-most regular location for the species in the eastern United States. Dan Brauning

Fox Sparrow were at SGL 4/3 (DB) & 4/14 (WE), with 1 present and singing 5/8-13 in JS, a bit late (G&PS). 3 late **White-throated Sparrow** were at SGL 5/15 (DB). **Swamp Sparrow** were at SGL 4/14 (WE). **E. Meadowlark** at RVL 5/3 (KS). 15 **Rusty Blackbird** were at SGL 4/11 (DB). Two ♂ **Purple Finch** were at my PR feeder 4/6 (WE) & also present in JS on 3 different days in April for G&PS only spring records. Several **Pine Siskin** stopped in PR 5/3-5 (WE). **Evening Grosbeak** present in JS 4/18 (G&PS), and 3 flying over at SGL 5/1 (DB).

OBSERVERS: Peggy Bigger, Ron Beach. Dan Brauning, Arlene & Larry Brown, **Wesley Egli**, PO Box 381, **Picture Rocks 17762 (717-584-2222)**, Doug Gross, Jim Jacobs, Fred Stiner, Glenna & Paul Schwalbe, Kate Somerville, Stan Stahl, JoAnn Wolfe.

MC KEAN COUNTY

Linda D. Ordiway

An imm. Bald Eagle flew over 6/1 across from the Kiasuth Campground. (Linda Christenson).

MERCER COUNTY

Marty McKay

Abbreviations: Bend Rd (BR), Creek Rd (CR), Grove City area (GC), Hermitage area (HA), Saguallas Ponds (SP), Shenango R. Res. (SRR), Spring Rd (SR), White Chapel Rd (WCR), Willow Pond (WP).

Hot + dry + the Gypsy Moth = an unpleasant spring for the birder, but the birds were out there. Single **Com. Loon** were at SRR 4/16 and WP 4/26 (HB,LW). The only report of **Pied-billed Grebe** was 1 at SRR 4/20 (HB,SM,LW). The 4 **Double-crested Cormorant** at SRR 4/2 increased to 57 by 4/20 (HB,SM,LW). Single **Green-backed Heron** were at WP 4/26 and the fish hatchery 5/4 (HB,LW).

One of the superb finds of the period was an ad. **White Ibis** 5/5 at a beaver dam off the Grove City/Leesburg Rd (SM). The observer ruled out the possibility of an escapee by checking with the Pittsburgh aviary and will follow up with details.

The following waterfowl were at SRR unless otherwise noted: 3 **Green-winged Teal** 4/12; 20 **Am. Black Duck** were unusual, since the species has never before been reported from SRR; 1 **N. Pintail** 4/2, 6–8 **Blue-winged Teal** 4/2,16; 1 **N. Shoveler** 4/20 (HB,SM,LW); max. 50 **Am. Wigeon** 4/7, and a few at WP (HB,LW); 100 **Ring-necked Duck** at WP 4/26 (HB,LW); 200 **Ls. Scaup** 4/12; 8 **Hooded Merganser** 4/2; 1 **Com. Merganser** 4/2; 73 **Red-breasted Merganser** 4/26.

An **Osprey** was at SP 4/19 (HB,SM,LW). A **Sharp-shinned** and a **Cooper's hawk** at HA continued as feeder predators. A pair of **Red-shouldered Hawk** was noted all quarter. **One lone Am. Coot** was at SRR 4/26, where 10 years ago there were hundreds. 1 **Ls. Yellowlegs** was at SRR 4/16 and 5 4/26. BD reports a probable breeding pair of **Upland Sand-piper** at WCR 6/7 and another pair at the Pa. Century Farm 6/8. 1 **Pectoral Sandpiper** was at CR 4/27 (HB,LW) and 1 **Am. Woodcock** at Whiteside Rd 6/29 (HB,BD,LW). 6 **Bonaparte's Gull** visited SRR 4/20 (HB,SM,LW). Also unusual was a **Caspian Tern** at SP 4/16 (SM).

As expected, sightings of **Black-billed Cuckoo** (why not Yellow-billed?) increased due to the Gypsy Moth invasion. **Red-headed Woodpecker** was found 5/4 at the fish hatchery (HB,LW) and 2 at BR 6/1 (BD,BW). **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**, always a punctual migrant at HA, was noted as usual 4/15. All the *Empidonax* flycatchers were accounted for except **Yellow-bellied** (BD,MM). **Horned Lark** were found at Limber Rd 4/19 (HB,SM,LW), 6 at BR 5/1 (BD,BW) and adults with young at WCR 6/7 (BD).

Purple Martin remain scarce with only 1 report: 1 at SP 4/26 (HB, LW). **N. Rough-winged Swallow** was reported from SR 4/27 (HB,LW), and from 2 locations on BR 5/1 (BD,BW). **Cliff Swallow** began returning 4/26 to their nesting colony on the Headquarters Bldg. at the SRR propagation ponds. 1 **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was seen at HA 4/24, and 1 sampled a GC feeder 4/28 (HB). A prolific pair of **Carolina Wren** continue at HA, and last period's bird at GC remained until 5/14 (HB). There were normal numbers of **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** at HA 4/15, i.e., 30. A **Hermit Thrush** was at HA 4/11. **Wood Thrush**, first arrived 4/25, which is 6 days early. A **N. Mockingbird** was found of Rt 58 on 6/27 (BD,SM). 100 **Am. Pipit** were in Amish fields on WCR 4/29 (BD). The 6 expected vireo species were noted at various locations. The peak migration at HA occurred 5/7, when 10 spp. were observed. 22 species of warblers were noted, including **Cerulean** (HB,LW), a ♀ **Prothonotary** 6/29 in Rattlesnake Swamp (HB,BD,LW), and **N. Parula** 5/7 at HA. The earliest **Black-and-white** was 4/11 at HA, and numbers of this species were high. No waterthrush seen. **Bay-breasted** numbers were low again. At least 1 **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was doing

her part to control the Gypsy Moths. A ♀ snatched a moth while sitting on her nest 6/29 (HB,BD,LW). Sparrow reports were: A few **Vesper** at WCR 6/7 (BD), 3 **Grasshopper** at Limber Rd 4/28, and some at SR 5/3 (HB,LW), 2 **Swamp** at HA 4/8, 1 **White-crowned** 4/30 at HA and another 5/3 at CR (HB,LW). The few **Purple Finch** reports are: 3 near New Wilmington 5/31; 1 at BR 6/3 (BD,BW), and 1 at GC feeder 5/14 (HB).

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

MIFFLIN COUNTY

Margaret Kenepf

Abbreviations: Belleville (BV), Juniata R. (JR).

This quarter became very interesting after I returned home from an early April birding adventure to Arizona with the Kyler. I found the normal spring happenings on the porch and in the backyard. Three pairs of **House Finch** had taken up residence in 3 of my hanging planters with a total of 11 eggs. The **Carolina Wren** pair had a beautiful dome-shaped nest among my potted cactus plant. It looked like a western setting. Bluebirds were occupying 2 boxes in the orchard and **Tree Swallow** were trying to evict a pair of bluebirds from a new box, so I hurriedly tied a box to a stake and within a few minutes the swallow were happily approving the box, not far from the bluebirds. We estimate 28–30 bluebirds fledged and possibly 8 Tree Swallow, within a half-mile radius. A **Great Blue Heron** was observed flying from the JR towards the farm pond and 1 **Green-backed Heron** visited occasionally.

4/23. MA reported a strange bird had been sitting on a branch for several days, not moving as he mowed his grass near the river bank. He asked me to come immediately. It was a **Black-crowned Night-Heron** that stayed 3 days. He said that each night at dark it made some strange calls, left, but had returned by daybreak.

Waterfowl counts on JR seemed down except for **Canada Geese**, **Wood Duck**, **Mallard**, and **Com. Merganser**. The geese had young by 6/8 at Ryde (RS). 1 swan flew over Lewistown 5/9 (MM). Another was on a farm pond 5/10 (MD) and rested and preened until evening then flew off to the N. Unfortunately it was not there for our birdathon 5/11.

Turkey Vulture numbers at the Ferguson Valley roost, near Spring Run Church, seemed low—hundreds several years ago to 50–60 indiv. this year (PL). **Red-tailed Hawk** did not return to nest, only 1 seen in the area. **Am. Kestrel** numbers about average.

6/1. **Killdeer** calls and nest reports were great. OH reported a nest on his driveway for the 2nd season. On our BBS 6/11, both **Yellow-billed** (Ryde) and **Black-billed** (BV) cuckoo were recorded.

6/11. Juv. **E. Screech-Owl** were vocal in our Basswood tree. **Great Horned Owl** haven't been heard since 4/23, except at Ryde for BBS. **Com. Nighthawk** were observed over Lewistown at 9 p.m. 5/11 (MK). 2 ♂ **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** arrived at feeder 4/23, with a ♀ 5/1 and by end-June the usual count of 6 was made at our feeders. **Red-bellied Woodpecker** were successful in nesting and brought their 2 young to our suet feeder 6/14. **Horned Lark** were found in BV for the BBS, but in an adjoining field from last year; the crops had been rotated and the field changed from tall weeds to corn.

Some nesting observations. I discovered a nearly completed **Am. Robin** nest in a hanging planter. I took the nest out and placed it in an empty planter (and hung it up again). The ♀ came back and mended the nest and over the next 3 days, 3 eggs were laid and subsequently hatched. When the parents brought large mouthfuls of food, they placed it in each of the 3 extended mouths only to keep removing it and go around again stuffing it into each open mouth and finally a lucky little one had the food stuffed down its throat. This happened each time the parents arrived with food. I wonder why they used this method to feed and how they decided which bird got the food. During the very hot weather during the day, and after the birds were quite large, we saw the ♂ sitting on the nest, perhaps keeping the heat off the young birds? He only flew to the rim of the hanger until the ♀ fed the young and again sat down. During the nights he was seen sitting

on the rim of the planter.

Cedar Waxwing were building a nest in the Basswood tree 6/26. Local migrant warbler sightings were low. It was better on Blue Mt. the 2nd week of May, with **Blackburnian, Yellow-rumped, Worm-eating, Black-and-white,** and **Cerulean.**

5/12. The kite which Jim & Rebecca were flying became entangled in the limbs of the Locust tree. Almost immediately a ♂ **N. Oriole** flew to the limb and tried frantically to take the string. It tugged and pulled to no avail. As Jim was pulling in some of the string and dropping it in front of his feet, the bird landed and again tried frantically to take it. In the meantime we placed some string nearby on the grape vines for the bird to find and we remember the effort that bird made to secure nesting material.

More unusual nesting behavior. On 6/24 we had a call from Joanne Rhodes that a small bird had been staying on its nest in the grass just outside their pool. The pool and their residence are near some weedy fields and fencerows. Upon investigation it was identified as a **Field Sparrow**. It seems the bird was happy to bathe and feed from near the pool or on the pool cover. When the cover was on, a pie pan was put under the diving board, and the bird bathed in the water and drank from the pan. The nest was repeatedly run over by the push mower as the lawn was cut. The bird was sitting on 4 eggs. It was not frightened by the swimmers.

OBSERVERS: Michael Adams, Larue Dunmire, Orville Heister, Paul Lewis, **Margaret Kenepf, RR 2 Box 343, McVeytown 17051 (717-899-6252),** Marilyn Miller, Romaine Shawver.

MONROE COUNTY

Rick Wiltraut

Abbreviations: *Hialeah/Shawnee (HS), Penn Forest Res. (PFR), Skytop L. (SL).*

A flock of 52 **Com. Loon** was at SL in the fog 4/18 and 19 **Ring-necked Duck, 5 Bufflehead,** and a **Ruddy Duck** were there 4/8 (JS).

Undoubtedly the highlight of the season was the sighting of an ad. **Swallow-tailed Kite** flying overhead between Jonas and PFR 5/24 (RZ). The bird occurred after a day of steady SW winds. The observer had previously seen the sp. in Florida and Costa Rica.

Single **Bald Eagle** were at PFR 5/24 (RZ) and SL 6/19 (JS). RZ stresses that he thinks **Broad-winged Hawk** were down in numbers. A **Semipalmated Plover** was at Cherry Valley Pasture 5/27 (SB,RW). Two courting **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** were at SL 4/18 (JS).

A **White-eyed Vireo** was seen feeding fledged young at HS (SB,RW), possibly the 1st nesting record for the Poconos. This is a classic example of a southern sp. expanding its range northward along the Delaware R. 2 singing **N. Parula** were present through June at HS. Five singing **Cerulean Warbler** were at Kirkridge 5/10 (SL) and a **Kentucky Warbler** at Tannersville 6/7 was unusual for that location (TM).

OBSERVERS: Steve Boyce, Sherri LaBar, Terry Master, John Serrao, **Rick Wiltraut, 205 Washington St, Nazareth 18064 (215-759-5184),** Richard ZainEldeen.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Neal Thorpe

Abbreviations: *Green Lane Res. (GLR), Ft. Washington SP (FW), Lower Schuylkill valley: from USV to Oaks (LSV), Unami Cr. Valley (UCV), Upper Perkiomen Valley Park (UPV), Upper Schuylkill Valley Park (USV), Valley Forge Nat'l Historical Park (VF).*

Highlights were a lone **Cattle Egret** feeding openly on a lawn at GLR 4/25,26; a breeding-plumaged **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** doing likewise at USV 4/22-27 (m.ob.); a **Red-necked Phalarope** in partial breeding plumage at GLR 5/18

(NT); a **Black Tern** at UPV 5/28 (RG); an **Alder Flycatcher** at GLR seen intermittently 6/6-15 (RG,GLF); a **Com. Raven** seen in good detail at FW 5/19 (WM,DT); and 4 singing **Prothonotary Warbler**: 1 at VF 5/15 (NT), the others the length of the Perkiomen. Two different ones were simultaneously at GLR and UPV, and were seen by m.ob. from 5/28 to mid-June. The fourth was on Indian Head Rd. along the lower Perk 5/6, where 1 was found last year (KH). Finally, **Yellow-breasted Chat** are uncommon in the county, but a pair were nr. USV (KH,BF), and 1 in the UCV (KC,GLF), from mid-May+.



Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Upper Schuylkill Valley Park, 4/22/91. Photo by Bob Fetterman.

Com. Loon numbers reached 5 at GLR 4/24 (GAF) and 4 in the UCV 4/27 (GLF). A late **Horned Grebe** in breeding plumage was at GLR 4/9 (m.ob). **Double-crested Cormorant** were back, with flyovers noticed from Whitpain Twp to the LSV and a max. of 9 at GLR 6/15. A single **Great Egret** was at GLR 6/2 (GLF), a **Mute Swan** was there in June (KC), and a **Snow Goose** puzzled m.ob. by lingering there through June. 1-2 **N. Pintail** were at GLR in late April, with 1 late ♀ observed 6/13 (RG). Best ducks there were a **N. Shoveler** 6/15, a late ♂ **Oldsquaw** 4/28 and a **Red-breasted Merganser** 4/14 (GAF,GLF).

Earliest returning **Osprey** was in the lower Perk valley at Audubon 4/2 (BF); by May they were seen at GLR and up and down the SR. The mated **Red-shouldered Hawk** pair that's been watched for over a year was seen with an imm. 6/13 (RG). On the other hand, KC reports that 2 dead nestlings were on the ground in the same general area 6/8, with the parents calling nearby—whether the same pair or not is unclear. **Broad-winged Hawk** were regularly seen in the UCV, and BF saw a kettle of 30 fly over his LSV yard 4/22. **Ruffed Grouse** were again heard drumming in the UCV and several birders inadvertently flushed **Wild Turkey** hen and chicks at GLR. **N. Bobwhite** were calling there throughout June, but since none had been reported there for years, chances are they were released.

It was no spring for shorebirds. Very small numbers of **Semipalmated, Gr. and Ls. yellowlegs,** and **Solitary, Spotted, Semipalmated,** and **Least** sandpipers found toeholds at GLR during May, with Least the most abundant (max. 13). A few Solitary were also along the Skippack (RG) and the LSV. A Ls. Yellowlegs and 1 Least Sandpiper at GLR 6/30 (GLF), caused him to observe, "Fall migration has begun!" A **Caspian Tern** was at GLR 4/18 (GAF), and 3 there 6/15 (GAF, GLF).

A **Black-billed Cuckoo** at GLR, first seen 5/8, made itself conspicuous by calling at night and then seen feeding young 6/8 (GAF,GLF). 2 **E. Screech-Owl** fledglings in NT's yard in the LSV were also conspicuous as they slept side-by-side on an exposed branch over a small stream for the entire afternoon of 6/19. Oddly, 1 was sleek, with developed flight feathers, the other was a ball of down twice its sibling's size (BF,NT). 2 **Barred Owl** were seen and heard in the UCV from mid-May+ (GAF, GLF), and 1 was calling in FW 3/30 (W&NM).

Both **Com. Nighthawk** and **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** were reported as "scarce," although one hummer was nesting in the UCV (KC), as were the area's 2 resident pairs of **Pileated Woodpecker** (GAF,GLF). 4 **Acadian Flycatcher** were counted in the UCV and 7 **Willow** at GLR (GLF); both spp. were evident at Evansburg SP (FH). Very few **Purple Martin** returned with the other swallows: 1 at GLR 5/3 (KC) and 2 there 6/8 (GLF). A **Brown Creeper** was found nesting in the UCV and

a **Marsh Wren** was at GLR 4/30 (GAF). Single sightings of **Gray-cheeked Thrush** were at VF 5/14 (NT) and in the LSV 6/2 (BF). Last views of single **Hermit Thrush** were in the LSV and the UCV 4/26 & 5/4. **Brown Thrasher** seemed particularly abundant in all areas this year.

In general, a number of observers described the migration period as brief, but great. As RG put it, "Like I haven't seen in 5 years or more. Then, after a week and a half of excellent migration, it just plain fizzled out." Thanks to the warm weather it began early. At FW, WM found 5/4 the best warbler day (19 species, 200 indiv.), followed by excellent days through 5/10, things winding down by 5/12 and over by 5/15. The experience in the county's other busiest flyway, the UCV, was much the same. 2 **Solitary Vireo** came through there 5/4, and the total UCV warbler count from all observers reached 26 spp., almost all of them seen well before 5/15. In addition, GLR was visited by a **Tennessee** and a **Blackpoll**, neither on the UCV list. Concern was expressed about the low numbers of **Tennessee**, **Nashville**, **Cape May**, and **Cerulean**. RG reported **Blackburnian** as among those "doing well," but no other observers reported a single sighting of it. Warbler reports from the LSV, never a great spring flyway, were modest, but included single sightings of a **Cape May**, a **Blackpoll**, and a **Cerulean**.

Blue Grosbeak were once more conspicuous by their total absence. **Grasshopper Sparrow** and **Bobolink** were in the same area near GLR in June, with a max. of 12 of the latter seen. **Orchard Oriole** were doing very well in the LSV. Winter postscript: **Purple Finch** dwindled from 20 at RG's Perkiomenville feeder 4/6 to a last 1 seen 5/8, and he had a visitation of 4 **Pine Siskin** 4/7.

OBSERVERS: Kevin Crilley, Bob Fetterman, George A. Franchois, Gary L. Freed, Ron Grubb, Kevin Hakun, Frank Hohenleitner, William & Naomi Murphy, **Neal Thorpe**, **Box Q**, **Mont Clare**, PA 19453 (215-933- 2127), Dale Twining.

MONTOUR COUNTY

Allen Schweinsberg

Abbreviations: Montour Preserve (MP).

An estimated 85 **Com. Loon** were on the lake at MP on the rainy day of 4/24. **Double-crested Cormorant** were seen there on several occasions between 4/10–5/31 with a notable high count of 7 on 5/7. An **Am. Bittern** put in an appearance at MP 4/9 (CS). Numerous observations of as many as 3 **Black-crowned Night-Heron** 4/14+ were made several hundred yards s. of the Danville bridge (CS).

A **Snow Goose** lingered at the PP&L ash basin as late as 5/10 (AS&CS). On 4/7 an estimated 90 **Green-winged Teal**, 20 **Blue-winged Teal**, 30 **Am. Wigeon**, and 20 **Bufflehead** were at the preserve (KC). Very unusual for the date was a ♀ **Hooded Merganser** on a rock in the Susquehanna R. near the mouth of Mahoning Cr. 6/17 (CS).

On 5/10 AS peered over the embankment at the PP&L ash basin on a big-day count expecting to find a modest collection of shorebirds. Instead he found a solitary **Peregrine Falcon** standing on the ash flats. A **Virginia Rail** called from Tobias Marsh 5/10 (CS). On 6/22 CS found an ad. **Spotted Sandpiper** with a fledgling at the PP&L fly ash.

A **Palm Warbler** was at MP 5/2 (KS), and a **Yellow-breasted Chat** was noted 5/7,25 in a brushy field adjacent to the PP&L ash basin (CS). Four **Orchard Oriole** were at MP 5/10, including 1 carrying nesting material (AS).

OBSERVERS: Kevin Crilley, **Allen Schweinsberg**, 1200 **Zeigler Rd**, **Lewisburg** 17837 (717-524-0432), **Christine Smull**, **Kate Somerville**.

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY

Rick Wiltraut

Abbreviations: Delaware R. (DR), E. Bangor Dam (EBD), Graver's Hill (GH), Klecknersville Pasture (KP), Little Gap Bird Observatory (LG), Lehigh R. (LR), Minsi L. (ML), Smith Gap (SG), Todt's Gap (TG).

13 **Double-crested Cormorant** passed SG 4/16 and another was at Albert Rd. Ponds 5/18 (DD). A **Great Egret** at Copella 6/15 was unusual for the date (DD). A pair of **Mute Swan** with 7 young were on a pond nr. Portland in May (BLM,RW). 30 **Green-winged** and 11 **Blue-winged** teal were at EBD 4/18 and 46 **Ring-necked Duck** were there 4/4 (DD). **Wood Duck** are doing very well. Besides their usual breeding spots at ML and EBD, they're now regularly found in wooded sections along the DR and 20 were counted on Chain Dam island in the LR 6/13 (DD,RW). **Com. Merganser** continues to expand its breeding range southward along the DR & LR. A pair was seen nr. Easton 5/19 (DD,RW) and a ♀ with 8 young on the LR nr. Walnutport (BS,JS).

Usually **Osprey** are victimized by **Bald Eagle**, but on 4/6 I watched an **Osprey** dive-bombing a **Bald Eagle** at LG. After a number of attacks, the eagle, which was migrating north, finally had enough and headed south (RW). Our **Osprey** picture is looking great. Three nests, the traditional Portland site and 2 at Martin's Cr., produced a total of 6 young. It's a great feeling to see these magnificent birds patrolling the DR during the summer and I tip my hat to Larry Rymon and Charles Schaad, who began the **Osprey** Reintroduction Project. Each pair of the 3 active nests had a bird originally hacked in Pa. from nests in the Chesapeake Bay (TM). An **Osprey** seen along the LR nr. Walnutport was unusual for the summer, and one wonders if it came from a nesting pair nearby (BS,JS). A late migrating **Osprey** was seen at LG 5/23 (RW).

All **Black Vulture** sightings in summer came from locations along the DR from Portland s. (SB,AK,RW). One of the highlights of the season was the sighting of **Mississippi Kite** at Morgan's Hill 4/4 (AK). The kite was observed hawking insects for about 10 minutes. This is the 2nd county record, both from this spot.

A **N. Bobwhite** was in WT 5/17 (AK). A **Virginia Rail** was heard at EBD 5/19 (DD,RW). A **Greater** and a **Lesser** yellowlegs were seen at Martin's Cr. Quarry 4/14 and 3 **Pectoral Sandpiper** were there 4/7 (DD). A very early **Solitary Sandpiper** was at EBD 4/4 and 45 **Com. Snipe** at KP 4/5 was an excellent count (DD). A **Com. Tern** at ML 5/27 was about the 3rd county record (SB).

3 **Barred Owl** were heard at ML 5/19 (SB,DD,RW) and 2 **Long-eared Owl** were heard in May nr. Hellertown (D&EM). 2 **Whip-poor-will** were heard at LG 5/29 (DG,JS). **Com. Nighthawk** were conspicuously absent. A pair of **Great Crested Flycatcher** ignored a nesting box at LG, but decided on a natural cavity in the same tree instead (SB,RW) and a pair of **E. Phoebe** nested in the north banding blind at LG after their usual site in the south blind was burned down during a brush fire (RW). Another pair nested again at their usual cave site at TG (SB,RW). Two **Acadian Flycatcher** were heard along National Park Rd. 6/22 (SB,RW). It's interesting to note that Poole (*Pennsylvania Birds*, 1964) had no nesting or presumed nesting records for the county. At that time the sp. was regularly breeding only in the extreme s.e. part of the state. **Horned Lark** were found during the summer at GH, our only known breeding location (DD) and a **Cliff Swallow** was seen nr. a barn at GH 6/2 for the 2nd year in a row, again our only known breeding spot (DD).

Another highlight was the sighting of both hybrid warblers. A "**Brewster's**" **Warbler** was at Jacobsburg SP 5/18 (DD) and a nice ♂ **Lawrence's Warbler** was discovered by SB nr. Portland 5/4. Both birds sang Blue-winged songs. Singing **N. Parula** were found at the same spots as last year, with 2 singing at Fry's Run 6/14 (RW) and 1 at SG 6/23 (SB). A singing ♂ **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was singing in a mountain laurel thicket at TG 5/27 (SB,RW). Although it was not found again, it raises hopes that this sp. might eventually be found breeding in the county. The best spot for **Cedar Waxwing** is SG, where a "colony" is established. A singing **Yellow-throated Warbler** was discovered after a year's absence along the DR, this time at Sandt's Eddy (SB). In June a nest was found, and eventually an ad. was seen feeding fledged young for the 1st successful nesting in the county (RW). This spot is approx. 2 mi n. of the only other nesting record at Frost Hollow. **Chestnut-sided Warbler** were noted at TG

6/22, our only breeding location (SB,RW). **Prairie** will probably become more abundant at LG as a result of the brush fire 4/10. **Kentucky Warbler** were found at SG (DD) and TG (SB,RW). No **Yellow-breasted Chat** reported. 50 **Bobolink** were at KP 5/11 (SL).



Lawrence's Warbler, Portland, 5/5/91. Photo by Rick Wiltraut.

OBSERVERS: Steve Boyce, Dave DeReamus, Jack Galm, Dick Gemmel, Arlene Koch, Sherri LaBar, Don & Elaine Mease, Bernie Morris, Terry Master, Brad Silfies, Joel Silfies, **Rick Wiltraut, 205 Washington St, Nazareth 18064 (215-759-5184).**

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY

Dave Unger

1st Quarter 1991

Dave and Linda write they are sorry no reports have been sent in for a while, but they are still interested in any sightings you may have.

Abbreviations: Montandon Marsh (MM), Riverside (RS), Roaring Creek Water Co. (RC), Rush Twp. (RT), N. Branch Susquehanna R. at Riverside (SR).

A single **Pied-billed Grebe** was noted 2/28. **Great Blue Heron, Am. Black Duck, Mallard, and Com. Merganser** were along the SR all quarter (CS,DU). Less frequently seen were **Bufflehead, Canada Geese** started passing through in large numbers in late Feb; 150+ were at RC 2/25 (BK).

First **Turkey Vulture** were seen in RS and RT 2/25. One imm. and possibly 2 ad. **Bald Eagle** were at RC the first two weeks of Mar. (BK, JT). **Rough-legged Hawk** were uncommon in RT. **Herring and Ring-billed Gull** were common all quarter along the SR. **Great Black-backed Gull** were on the SR 1/18, 2/1, & 2/6-8 (CS,DU). A **Short-eared Owl** was at the RT municipal building 1/3. **Horned Lark** were along the roads of RT after each mediocre snowfall. No reports of any northern irruptive species including **Evening Grosbeak** were received and no early arrival dates were noted.

2nd Quarter 1991

Black-crowned Night Heron were along the SR from mid Apr+ (CS). 2 **N. Shoveler** were at MM 4/16 (AS). Several sightings of **Com. Merganser** with young were made by CS along the SR.

Several **Osprey** were seen at RC during early Apr. (BK). A pair of **Cooper's Hawk** was observed building a nest (location deleted. -eds.). in early May. It was later abandoned. Reports from MM, which is being checked weekly this year, yielded 4 **Virginia Rail** and a **Com. Snipe** 4/16, and only 1 **Virginia Rail** and a **Sora** 5/10 (AS). There were no sightings in June, probably

due to the extremely dry weather. An unconfirmed report was received of an **Upland Sandpiper** with young in a strip-mined area in Mt. Carmel Twp in early June.

Ring-billed Gull remained along the SR throughout the quarter, possibly due to the low water level and increased number of dead fish. A single **Black Tern** was seen 5/8 on the SR. A **Long-eared Owl** was heard 4/17 near Elysburg. Both **Barred Owl** and **Whip-poor-will** were reported to be common at RC (BK). The **Bank Swallow** colony failed to return to RS after their unsuccessful nesting attempt last year. In contrast, **Rough-winged Swallow** were more plentiful in RS.

The warbler migration was hard to track again this year due to the early emergence of vegetation. The only highlight was a **Prothonotary Warbler** along the SR 5/8. **Purple Finch** were numerous in both RS and RT during mid Apr. and a single **Pine Siskin** was in RT 4/27 for the only record this year.

OBSERVERS: Bill Krieger, Allen Schweinsberg, Chris Smull, **Dave & Linda Unger, RD6 Box 246, Danville 17821 (717-672-3254), John Taby.**

PERRY COUNTY

Deuane Hoffman

A broken ankle sidelined me for migration and early breeding season, so I was unable to check out some favorite places...please excuse the limited report.

4 **Double-crested Cormorant** were seen 4/14 along the Susquehanna R. at Marysville (RK).

After being inspired by the **Whip-poor-will** he saw in *Cumberland*, DC went N looking for more. On 6/29 he found a total of 7 birds at Lambs Gap. Dick is available for rent to any birder looking for Whips—he seems to have a knack for finding them!

While doing a BBS route 6/9, Linda Whitesel and Margaret Kenepf saw a "**Brewster's**" **Warbler**. Later, Linda along with Dusty Weidner relocated the bird and photographed it. This time they also heard a **Golden-winged Warbler** singing. The locale is ±3 mi w. of Liverpool. Keep tuned next year for a **Lawrence's!**

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

PHILADELPHIA COUNTY

Ed Fingerhood

Abbreviations: Andorra Nature Center (AN), Carpenter's Woods (CW), Ft. Mifflin (FM), Franklin Square (FS), Philadelphia (PHL), Pennypack Park (PP), PHL Sewage Ponds (PSP), Roxborough (RX), Tinicum Nat. Environ. Center (TN), W. Fairmount Park (WFP), Wissahickon Cr. (WC), W. Mt. Airy (WMA), Walt Whitman Bridge (WWB). Dates and abundance reflect data received since the inception of *Pa. Birds* (1987) and not necessarily historical records unless otherwise noted.

A **Com. Loon** went over CW 5/9 (MD). **Pied-billed Grebe** were at TN 4/11,25 (NP,JCM). **Great Cormorant** continued on the Delaware R. at PP at least until 4/3 when KS found 3 ad. & 4 imm. and 6 ad. **Double-crested Cormorant** were there on a buoy. Numbers of the latter built to 18 there, plus an imm. at TN 6/1. 1-4 **Least Bittern** were at TN 5/7+ (JCM,KS,B&NM). A **Little Blue Heron** was at TN 6/14 (KS). A **Cattle Egret** was at WFP 4/30, "a first" (CM). 20, then 11, **Ruddy Duck** were at the PSP pond 4/1-11 (KS). A ♀ **N. Harrier** went over CW 4/12 (MD), while a probable nesting bird was at the PHL airport 5/17 (NP). A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was at CW 4/30 (SL) and a **Cooper's** in WMA 4/7 (EB). A pair of **Broad-winged Hawk** were in courtship flight over a n.w. PHL home 4/23 (RR). Other Broadies were over CW 4/17,19 (MD). At least 6 **Red-tailed Hawk** were resident in WFP for the season (CM). The w. PHL pair of **Am. Kestrel** were noted 4/9+ (EB). *Please refer to the separate article, "Recent History and Current Status of Nesting Peregrine Falcons in Pennsylvania" by Brauning and Dooley.*

In early June RR found an ad. Cooper's Hawk feeding an imm. on his property just n. of the city limits in n.w. PHL. This evidence of nearby breeding indicates that the heavily wooded far reaches of the Upper WC near AN is the probable nest site. MD found a Cooper's in AN 6/17.

Wild Turkey were released in PP 3+ years ago. Broods of 3-10 have been reported (FW *et al.*). Whether these birds can become self-sustaining remains to be seen. Currently they are quite tame and are being fed by those who released them. 2 pre-dawn **Virginia Rail** and a **Sora** were calling at TN 5/17 (NP).

Black-necked Stilt again visited the PSP but did not remain to breed; 3-4 seen 4/23,28 (JCM), but only 1 5/1-5 (JCM,FW,EF). 3 **Solitary Sandpiper** were on Concourse L. in WFP 5/7 (CM). A **Spotted Sandpiper** at TN 6/1 suggested nearby breeding (KS). 21 **Com. Snipe** at TN 4/11 and 5 **Am. Woodcock** peenting at the airport 5/17 (NP). 14 ad. **Laughing Gull** were on a pond just s. of WWB on Delaware Ave 4/29 (EF); 3 on the Delaware R. at FM 5/17 (NP). A **Caspian Tern** fly-by at TN 4/23 was a good find (JCM). A **Barn Owl** in WFP 4/5 in the same area as in Jan. suggested breeding somewhere in the park, but the **E. Screech-Owl** population there is reported as "decreasing." Up to 4 **Long-eared Owl** put in a now rare appearance at TN 4/1-15 (JCM).

25 **Com. Nighthawk** seen at the dam in WFP 4/5 (CM) was an unusually high number; others seen 5/13,17 in CW (MD). Probable nesting was in s. PHL 6/7 (MD). **Chimney Swift** first appeared 4/16 (KR), latest report was of 4 in RX 6/3 (FU). 11 **Red-bellied Woodpecker** were in WFP 4/5 (CM) and several in RX 4/9 (FU). 2 **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** were in WFP 4/5, plus others in FS 4/16-5/9 (JS). **Hairy Woodpecker** were "hard to find" in WFP; only 2 were found in an early Apr. search (CW); but EF had 1 tattooing his territory in WMA all season.

E. Wood-Pewee first noted at AN 5/11 (KS) where 5 nesting pairs were found (MD); none stayed to breed in CW after a sighting 5/14 (MD). A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** calling "chuw-ee" was in CW 5/5 (MD). 19 **Acadian Flycatcher** were singing in PP in June. FW reports an "explosion in their nesting in the last few years." An **Alder Flycatcher**, extremely rare in the city, was calling in CW 5/7 (KR,MD). Unusual was a **Least Flycatcher** in CW 5/7 (KR). **Great Crested Flycatcher** arrived in CW 5/2 (MD,EB) and **E. Kingbird** 5/1 (EB); this latter sp. is not often found in CW. 6 were in PP 5/22+ (KS). The **Purple Martin** of n.e. PHL failed to return to their "house" again this year. Only 1 report, a single bird, flew by WMA 4/10 (MD). DVOC members watched 3 **N. Rough-winged Swallow** at the zoo meeting 4/28 (EF). CM noted **Blue Jay** "still down" in WFP, but reports came in for FS and TN (JS,KS). A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was in WMA 4/10 (MD), plus 2 **White-breasted** in PP 4/16-17 (KS), and 1 in RX 5/12 (FU). **Brown Creeper** lingered till 4/25 in CW (EB) and n.e. PHL till 4/17 (KS). First **House Wren** came to RX 4/27 (FU). New late dates were set for **Winter Wren** 4/14 in WMA (MD) and **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** in FS 5/8 (JS). At least 2 of the latter were singing in CW 4/19 (MD), and SL notes "very low" numbers in Apr., "almost nonexistent in May" for CW. 1-3 **Golden-crowned Kinglet** were noted in CW 4/5,6 (SL,EB).

Veery came through CW, FS, & AN 4/30-5/11 (v.o.). Nesting was recorded in AN & PP (MD,FW). EB found a **Gray-cheeked Thrush** 5/10 and SL had 1 each on 3 days in May. **Swainson's Thrush** moved through CW 5/5-18; peak was 6 on 5/14,18 (SL). Several were in FS 5/13,14 (JS). **Hermit Thrush** was found 4/5-5/5 (v.o.). "Several" **Wood Thrush** arrived in CW 4/25 (MD). **Brown Thrasher** arrived in FS 4/9 (JS), but NP notes their numbers are "down" in TN. A nice flock of 15 **Cedar Waxwing** was in CW 5/9 (SL) and a breeding pair at TN 6/15 (B&NM).

Vireo reports include: **Solitary** first in CW 4/20 (SL,MD) and last 2 seen 5/9 (SL). **Yellow-throated** were found in CW 5/7,11 (MD,SL). FW, noting that nesting spp. diversity is increasing at PP, recorded 3 pair in June. **Warbling**, noted 5/15 in CW (MD),

were again breeding at TN and along the river in n.e. PHL (B&NM,FW). **Red-eyed** arrived in CW 5/2 (MD), with 6 found 5/15 (SL), and a census in AN revealed 22 indiv.

The warbler migration produced 29 spp. KR reports it was a good migration, "spotty, but not outstanding" as in years past. Highlights were: **Blue-winged** arrived in CW 4/29 (EB) and doing well at AN, where 5 were considered breeding. A **Golden-winged** at TN 5/2 (JCM) and **Tennessee** in CW 5/7,11 (KR) were good finds. **Nashville** in CW 5/5,9 were on good flight days (MD). Several **N. Parula** were in CW rather early, 4/29 (MD), and at FS 5/14,15 (JS), and at least 2 pair nested in PP (FW). **Chestnut-sided** appeared 5/1 in WMA & CW (EB). A "few" **Magnolia** were in CW 5/7 (MD) and 5 5/9 (SL). Both sexes of **Cape May** were in CW 5/9,10 (MD,SL). An early **Black-throated Blue** was in CW 5/1 (MD), and peaked at 10 5/9, when they were also found in FS (JS). 2 **Blackburnian** in CW 5/1 (MD). A **Yellow-throated**, uncommon, was in n.w. PHL 5/1 (RR). Only **Prairie** was in CW 4/29 (EB). **Palm** were seen 4/4-11 at TN (JCM) & CW (MD), plus 1 in RX 4/8 (FU). An early **Blackpoll** appeared in AN 5/4 (MD), last seen 5/24 in WMA (EB). A **Cerulean** with nesting material was in TN 5/15 (FW), but breeding could not be confirmed; but the sp. did breed in AN (MD). A ♀ **Prothonotary** in CW 5/7 was rare (KR). An early **Ovenbird** was noted in CW 4/30 (MD). **N. Waterthrush** was in CW 4/29-5/15 (SL,MD), but only 1 **Louisiana**, 5/9 in CW (MD). An early **Kentucky** appeared in CW 4/30 (SL) and a few bred in AN (MD). A rare **Mourning** was singing in CW 5/7 (KR). **Hooded** seem down at AN (MD). **Canada** arrived 5/9 and 5+ were in TN 6/1 (KS).

Scarlet Tanager arrived at FS & CW 5/1 (JS,MD). **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** remained to breed at AN (MD). 3 **Blue Grosbeak** were at the NE PHL airport in June (FW). Only 1 singing **Indigo Bunting** could be located at TN (B&NM) and at AN (MD) in June. Last **White-throated Sparrow** reported 5/15 (MD,JS). **Dark-eyed Junco** persisted until 4/20, with 1 in CW (SL). FW reports that **E. Meadowlark** continue to nest at the NE PHL airport. **Brown-headed Cowbird** at TN are "unfortunately way up" (NP). NP found **Orchard Oriole** at TN 5/21 and the sp. is nesting in 2 locations in PP (FW). A **Purple Finch** was in CW 5/5 (KR). A **Pine Siskin** 4/25 in n.w. PHL was a surprise in a non-finch year (RR).

OBSERVERS: Erica Brendel, Michael Drake, Edward Fingerhood, 541 W Sedgwick St, Philadelphia 19119 (215-843-5818), Steve Lawrence, Chris McCabe, John C. Miller, Bill & Naomi Murphy, Nick Pulcinella, Robert Ridgely, Keith Russell, Jack Siler, Kate Somerville, Fred Ulmer, Frank Windfelder.

PIKE COUNTY

We received a late report from Bob Ross (*Tioga*) who birded in the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. Excerpts follow. Single **Cooper's** and **Broad-winged** hawks were seen 5/1. A **Ring-necked Pheasant** found 5/29. A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was noted 5/16 and a **Fish Crow** flew over 4/18.

Earliest **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was 4/17 and earliest **Yellow-throated Vireo** 4/30. First dates for selected warblers were: 5+ **Nashville** 4/29; **N. Parula** 4/29; **Yellow**, **Chestnut-sided**, and **Magnolia** 5/1; **Black-throated Green** 4/30; **Prairie** 5/2; **Cerulean** 4/30; **Worm-eating** 6/19.

SCHUYLKILL COUNTY

Dan Knarr

Abbreviations: *Swatara S.P.(SSP)*.

Rough-winged Swallow was seen at 6/22 and a **Yellow-throated Vireo** was seen on nest near Suedberg 6/22 (GR). **Vesper Sparrow** was seen at SSP 5/26-7/13 and 2 **Swamp Sparrow** 6/22 (GR).

OBSERVERS: Dan Knarr, RD 1, Box 23D, New Ringgold 17960 (717-386-4780), Grace Randolph.

SNYDER COUNTY

Allen Schweinsberg

Faylor L. birds included a **Red-throated Loon** 5/10 (AS,JS), 4 **Double-crested Cormorant** 5/17 (R&PW), 3 **Red-breasted Merganser** 4/13 (R&PW), a **Semipalmated Plover** 5/10 (AS,JS), and 3 **Bonaparte's Gull** 4/13 (R&PW).

A pair of **Barred Owl** was still present in Centerville Swamp in May in spite of human inroads in the area.

Highlights of a trip to Tall Timbers 5/25 included 3 **Winter Wren**, a **Solitary Vireo** on its nest, **Nashville Warbler**, and **Louisiana Waterthrush** (R&PW). R&PW found several **Bobolink** near Faylor L. 5/17,25. An **Orchard Oriole** was present there 5/10 (AS,JS).

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

SOMERSET COUNTY

Ruth and Glenn Sager

Abbreviations: Black Twp (BT), Boswell (BW), Central City (CC), Cranberry Glade L. (CGL), High Point L. (HPL), Hooversville (HV), Jennerstown (JT), L. Somerset (LS), Milford Twp (MT), New Centerville (NC), Quemahoning Dam (QD), Roxbury (RB), Stoughton L. (SL), S. Glade Cr. (SGC), White Horse Mt. (WHM).

Topping the birding news were nesting **Osprey** in the s.w. part of *Somerset* (see separate article by Marich) and the sighting of a **Loggerhead Shrike** 4/9 (DM) when it flew to the top of a lone tree in farm area between JT and Gray.

Reports from an official Grassland Bird Survey (GBS) 6/3 of 15 mi in Quemahoning and Stoystown Quads and an unofficial survey 6/13 on restored strip-mined grassland of 7½ mi in N. Baltimore and Central City Quads (SMGS) by Ruth Sager are incorporated into this report. It is interesting to note the very high numbers of **Savannah**, **Grasshopper**, and **Henslow's** sparrows, **Bobolink**, and **E. Meadowlark** on the SMGS, considering that the route is half the distance of the GBS.

The waterfowl migration was over by the end of April, numbers being low or average. LS produced the highest counts or only counts of the following: 37 **Com. Loon** 4/22; 1 **Double-crested Cormorant** 4/19; 16 **Great Blue Heron** 4/1; 2 **Green-winged Teal** 4/3; 14 **Blue-winged Teal** 4/1; 13 **Am. Wigeon** 4/1; 4 **Canvasback** 4/1; 1 **Redhead** 4/3-22; 41 **Ls. Scaup** 4/2; pr. of **Com. Goldeneye** 4/9; 48 **Bufflehead** 4/1; and 37 **Ruddy Duck** 4/2. A late pr. of **Ring-necked Duck** was present at LS 5/23-6/24. QD had the highest counts or only counts of the following: 4 **Pied-billed Grebe** 4/6; 7 **Horned Grebe** 4/6; 13 **Mallard** 4/6. HPL had a pr. of **Gadwall** 4/1; its 138 **Ring-necked Duck** contrasted greatly with the only other counts of 4-5 at LS from 4/3-16; and led **merganser** counts with 16 **Hooded** 4/1 and 70 **Red-breasted** 4/2. Two **Green-backed Heron** were seen several times in late June near RB; 23 **Canada Geese** were caught 6/20 near Meyersdale Sewage Lagoons by the PGC for transfer to the Middlecreek WMA; the first brood of **Wood Duck** was along SGC 5/17; and 5 **N. Shoveler** were at BT 4/22.

Turkey Vulture seem to increase each year and AM reported 41 at a roost nr. Ft. Hill 4/6. In addition to the **Osprey** noted above, there was much speculation about the nesting possibility of 1-2 seen along the Stonycreek R. between Holsopple and HV and at the QD until 6/4, when the pair were seen diving for fish at the dam. **N. Harrier** were at HV 4/2-4, at RB 4/6, in MT 4/15 and BT 6/3-10; 2 imm. **Sharp-shinned Hawk** were at HV 6/19, an imm. **Cooper's** at WHM 6/12, **Red-tails** nesting WHM in June; **Broad-winged** migrating at HV 4/8-23 and a pair

present through June; and **Am. Kestrel** nesting at CC in June. Young **Ring-necked Pheasant** were seen in mid-June at CC and counts were average on GBS. A sighting by AM of a pheasant nr. NC which lacked the white ring and had a faded white spot on one side of its neck raises the issue of the Sichuan/ringnecks released by the PGC in northern counties. TD also reported seeing a pheasant lacking the white ring, but described it as otherwise identical in markings and coloring to others in the same flock. Pheasants will undoubtedly be scrutinized more carefully in the future by birders as the hybrids are introduced for hunting. The very low "high" of only 15 Am. Coot at LS 4/1-3, lower numbers there to 4/19, and no other reports cause more concern for this species.

Shorebird reports include: first pr of **Solitary Sandpiper** at JT 4/30; first 5 **Spotted Sandpiper** at SL 5/11; 1 **Upland Sandpiper** at RB 5/4 and 4 nr. Shanksville 6/22, when 1 flying bird was pursued by a Barn Swallow; 1 **Com. Snipe** at RB 5/4, and 5 along SGC nr NC 4/26; and **Am. Woodcock** 4/4-5 at HV and 6/15 at WHM. Highs of 120 **Bonaparte's** were at LS 4/3 and 49 **Ring-billed** gulls there 4/28; an unidentified tern was over SL 4/30; and a **Com. Tern** at QD 6/18. The only **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was heard at HV 5/5, but more than normal **Black-billed** were there from 5/8 to end of May and counts were also good at CC, coinciding with the Gypsy Moth invasion. Two **Short-eared Owl** were along SGC nr NC 4/15 at the same location where 3 were reported in 1990.

First **Com. Nighthawk** was at BW 5/13, and first **Chimney Swift** there 5/3. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** were first reported 4/27 at QD and noted as "very good," "plentiful," etc. through the quarter, with first imm. at CC 6/10. Two pairs of **Red-headed Woodpecker** nesting at CC 5/31 and singles at MT 5/9 and at Dumas 6/12; and a **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was at CC all quarter. **Willow Flycatcher** nested in wetlands between BW and Jerome and at QD. A nest with 3 young **Horned Lark** was found 4/15 on a surface mine along SGC; they were heard regularly until 5/1 in a HV field where good counts were made last quarter; they were present at RB in May and June and 2 were heard 6/13 on the SMGS.

The site of the 1990 **Bank Swallow** colony at HPL quarry was abandoned, but 40-50 birds were present 6/30 at 5 separate new locations in the same area. AM found 2 dead birds and an egg and about 20 active nests and speculated that the dispersed nesting seemed to be the result of digging activity that was impacting some of the nests. A **Com. Raven** was at WHM 5/29 and 5 there 6/30. Single **Red-breasted Nuthatch** were reported only at HV 4/28-5/12. The **Carolina Wren** pr. reported in Am's garage at Markleton last quarter were incubating 4/16 and number of reports for this species indicate their numbers to be above average. **House Wren** arrived first at HV 4/16 and occupied or filled 10 nesting boxes and a bird feeder at the Sagers. 1-3 **Golden-crowned Kinglet** were at HV and SL 4/5-23 and **Ruby-crowned** at HV 4/17-30, with high of 10 on 4/19. First **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was at HV 4/16. **E. Bluebird** were in good numbers all over. First **Wood Thrush** was 5/1 at HV; a **N. Mockingbird** 4/5 at SL, first **Brown Thrasher** at JT 4/30, and the only **Am. Pipit** 5/11 at RB. Only a few **Cedar Waxwing** were reported in April and May, but were very common in June.

First **White-eyed Vireo** was at HV 5/12 and **Solitary** there 5/9-10. The following migrant warblers passed through HV in very low numbers of 1-3 as follows: **Nashville** 4/26; **Cape May** 5/12; **Yellow-rumped** 5/5; **Black-throated Green** 4/18 & 5/15, **Prairie** 5/8, **Black-and-white** 5/1, and **Kentucky** 5/1. Nesting warblers were found at HV as follows, with arrival dates noted: **Golden-winged** 4/28; **N. Parula** 4/18; **Yellow** 4/27, **Chestnut-sided** 4/5; **Am. Redstart** 5/5; **Ovenbird** 5/1; **Com. Yellowthroat** 4/28; and **Yellow-breasted Chat** 5/13. First **Scarlet Tanager** arrived at HV 4/19, first **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** 4/30, and first **Indigo Bunting** 4/29.

Sparrow reports: The 18 **Field** on GBS was in normal range, and 15 on SMGS a high count for distance traveled. First **Vesper** at JT 5/25. **Savannah** at HV 5/1, 12 counted on GBS and 23 on SMGS. **Grasshopper** first heard in CC 5/17, 14 on GBS and 23 on SMGS. No **Henslow's** on GBS, compared with 34 on SMGS. 1-3 **Fox** remained at HV from 4/1-16 and 3 pr. present at CC until 5/5. A **Swamp** was at JT 5/9. Last **White-throated** at HV 5/14 ended a good migration there; but **White-crowned** migration was poor and ended at HV 5/16. 150-200 Dark-eyed

Junco daily from 4/1–4 at HV was an unusually high count and they tapered to 20–40 from 4/5–19, the last 1 there from 5/7–9. **Bobolink** were at MT 5/9+, 20+ at RB in May and June, 3 pr at CC 5/21, in very good numbers at HV, 16 on GBS and 31 on SMGS. The 9 **E. Meadowlark** on GBS was very low for that survey, but 21 was extremely high for SMGS. An **Orchard Oriole** was at WHM 5/10 and first **N. Oriole** at HV 5/1. **Purple Finch** were reported in very good numbers through May and some remained to end of June. **Pine Siskin** in small flocks were at various locations to mid-May, to end of period at CC, and to 6/23 at WHM. Up to 10 **Evening Grosbeak** were at JT 4/1–20, 2–12 at HV irregularly 4/6–5/8 and the last seen at WHM 5/9.

OBSERVERS: Shelly Bock, Dick Byers, Tom & Sally Dick, David Escherich, Wanetta Escherich, Brian Freiwald, Anthony J. Marich, Jr., Dick Murphy, Jeff & Retta Payne, Glenn and Ruth Sager, RR 1 Box 176B, Hooversville 15936 (814-798-3242), Dennis Smeltzer, Richard Murphy, Evaleen & Michael Watko.

SULLIVAN COUNTY

Douglas A. Gross

Abbreviations: *Eagles Mere (EM)*, *World's End SP (WESP)*, *Wyoming SF (WSF)*.

A **N. Goshawk** was spotted on a BBS route near Hillsgrove 6/18, being chased by robins (DG). SC found another near Lopez 6/30. A ♂ **N. Harrier** was seen hunting near Lopez 7/2, raising more suspicions that there is a small local breeding population (SC). Several **Red-shouldered Hawk** were observed in June, especially in WSF and near WESP (SC, DG). **Red-tailed Hawk** were seen regularly near Piatt and Shunk (DG) as well as in WESP (DG, MN). **Wild Turkey** broods were reported from several locations (SC, DG). **Great Horned Owl** were heard in the EM and Forksville areas this spring (FC, EMC members). **Barred Owl** pop. seem healthy. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** is certainly increasing in pop. throughout *Sullivan* forests (DG, SC); they were more common on DG's BBS routes than in any past year and the most frequently counted woodpecker on these routes.

On 6/16 a **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** nest was discovered in a forested wetland by DG. The well-concealed nest held 4 nestlings which fledged by the end of the month. This is believed to be the first nest of this rare breeder found in the state in over 60 years. A ♂ **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was singing at this location as early as 5/25 (R&RM, SC). There were at least 3 pairs in this wetland (DG). Another singing ♂ was found in a similar wetland elsewhere in the county 6/9, but apparently this bird remained unpaired (DG). Other likely locations were searched for this rare species, but none was found. More about this discovery will appear in *Pa. Birds* in the near future.

While exploring a variety of high elevation wetlands in June, DG was impressed (or, perhaps, depressed) by the lack of **Olive-sided Flycatcher**, once widespread in this area. More **Acadian Flycatcher** were found in WSF near Ogdonia than in the last 3 yrs (DG). Unlike reports from other parts of the state, **Least Flycatcher** continues to be common in n. hardwood forests (DG, SC). A flock of 9 **Fish Crow** flew over WESP 5/19, when NBBC was conducting a S.A.P. inventory (DG, RS); the 1st known report of this sp. in the county. **Com. Raven** continues its success wherever there are large expanses of woodland, especially remote locations with cliffs. DG found 2 families within a mile of each other in WSF n. of Hillsgrove 6/29. A nest of ravens was heard by NBBC S.A.P. volunteers in WESP 5/19 (RS, DG), where these birds are getting somewhat less shy and raiding garbage in the park (MN). **Tufted Titmouse** is greatly increasing its range, especially near homes and in wetland areas (SC, DG, WE). This includes WSF swampy woods above 2000 ft and WESP (DG, MN). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** pairs were discovered in EM, WESP,

and in some hemlock stands of WSF (DG, WE). **Brown Creeper** were commonly heard along BBS routes and in both SGL 13 and WSF (DG). **Winter Wren** is not as common as it was 2 years ago, but it continues to be fairly widespread in ravines and near forested wetlands. **Swainson's Thrush** were found in 3 WSF locations, all near water at high elevations (DG, SC): Ryans Trail Bog and two spots along Shanerburg Rd. The **Golden-crowned Kinglet** population in WSF found in Atlas years persists in an old CC Camp planting (SC, RCM). **Solitary Vireo** was commonly found in hemlock groves and wet woods throughout the county.

The fairly uncommon **N. Parula** was found along Loyalsock Cr. in WESP (DG, SC). **Black-throated Green Warbler** continues to be our most common forest warbler, but other warbler spp. seem to be increasing. **Blackburnian** continues to increase its breeding pop. in mixed hemlock/hardwood forests, even in EM (DG, SC, WE). **Black-throated Blue** seems to be increasing modestly in WSF (DG, SC). **Chestnut-sided** has expanded in WSF in some clearcuts and on High Knob where Gypsy Moths ravaged oak stands (DG, SC). Like **Blackburnian**, the "Myrtle" is certainly expanding in the highlands, especially where tall evergreens are found; this includes EM, many old plantings, and in WSF (SC, WE, DG). The Muncy Valley **Mourning Warblers** entertained several visitors from lowland Pa. throughout June (Rb&RCM, SC). **Canada** was commonly found in shrubby wetlands throughout (DG, SC). **N. Waterthrush** is a regular breeder in shrubby forested wetlands of WSF (DG, SC).

The drought affected grassland birds by allowing very early haymowing. Many upland hayfields were mown by 6/15 which probably decimated many grassland sparrows (**Grasshopper**, **Savannah**, and **Vesper**), **Bobolink**, and **E. Meadowlark**. All of these spp. had low tallies on DG's BBS routes.

The plaintive strains of the **White-throated Sparrow** were heard in virtually every bog and swamp that DG investigated in June. This includes six forested wetlands throughout WSF and Laporte Bog (DG, SC) where this boreal sparrow was locally common; young were found in some WSF locations. **Dark-eyed Junco** seemed to be common in every forest and swamp we surveyed; many first-time visitors to the area are surprised at the abundance of this breeder (SC, DG).

OBSERVERS: Skip Conant, Fred Crafts, Wes Egli, Douglas Gross, Ecology III, Susquehanna SES Environmental Laboratory, RR 1, Berwick 18603, Rich Megraw (RCM), Rob Megraw (RbM), Mike Norris, Barbara Sonies, Eagles Mere Conservancy (EMC).

TIOGA COUNTY

Bob Ross

Abbreviations: *Crooked Cr. (CC)*, *Colton Point SP (CP)*, *Hills Cr. L. (HCL)*, *Hammond L. (HDL)*, *Liberty area (LA)*, *Mansfield area (MN)*, *Marsh Cr. (MC)*, *Millerton area (MA)*, *National Fishery Lab (NFL)*, *Pine Cr. (PC)*, *Sabinsville area (SA)*, *The Muck (TM)*, *Tioga SF (TSF)*, *Wellsboro area (WA)*, *Westfield (WE)*.

A winter-plumage **Red-throated Loon** was found unable to fly and placed in a protected pond at NFL 5/11 (WB, GP, RMR). 1–2 **Com. Loon** were observed on Nessmuk L., HCL, & HDL 4/12–5/11 (RMR, JW, WB, FH, PM). A **Pied-billed Grebe** was on HDL 4/3 while single **Horned Grebe** were seen on HDL & HCL 4/7 & 5/6 (A&LB, FH). **Great Blue Heron** returned to a new heronry near TM 4/1, only to find a ♀ **Great Horned Owl** occupying one of the nests (RMR). **Green-backed Heron** were first sighted 4/6–5/27 at MA, WE, & TM (A&LB, HR, RMR).

A few **Tundra Swan** remained at HDL & CC through Apr. (A&LB, MB, RMR) with a straggler feeding on TM until 5/12 (RMR). A solitary **Gr. White-fronted Goose** was observed on HDL 4/3 (A&LB). Both **Wood Duck** and **Mallard** production on TM (a future SGL) appeared excellent this season (RMR). **Am. Wigeon** were observed as late as 4/20 at CC (MB, RMR), while **Ring-necked Duck** stayed through 5/6 at HCL (FH). **Gr. Scaup**

were not seen after 4/3 at HDL (A&LB), but **Bufflehead** stayed at HCL until 5/7 (FH).

Possibly a 1st record for *Tioga* was a flock of ±20 **Black Vulture** flying over Armenia Mt. 6/22 (LB). Single **Osprey** were seen 4/4–5/7 at SA, PC, TM, & HCL (v.o.). At HDL 14 Osprey are being hacked by the Army Corps of Engineers again this year. Our resident pair of **Bald Eagle** are raising a single chick this year in their newly built nest not far from the previous fallen nest (CD). Single **Sharp-shinned Hawk** were observed 4/6, 6/15 at TM and WA and a **Cooper's** 5/24 at TM (RMR,C&JC). A **Broad-winged Hawk**, seldom reported here, was at PC 4/20 (MB,RMR). Last **Rough-legged Hawk** was reported from MA 4/29 (A&LB). **Am. Kestrel** nested in a duck box 4/23 at NFL (WB).

Virginia Rail were first observed 5/19 at TM and 6/13 at LM (RMR,EE). Responding readily to conspecific tape recordings, several pair remained to breed at TM (RMR). A **Sora** was heard 5/4 at TM but not later, suggesting a transient bird (RMR). 2 **Solitary Sandpiper** were seen at TM 5/4 and at SA a day later (RMR,HR), only 2-4 days earlier than last year. Single **Spotted Sandpiper** were recorded from TM 5/6 and from HCL a day later (RMR,FH), also 2–3 days earlier than last year. No less than 6 **Com. Snipe** winnowed nightly on a small segment of TM the entire month of Apr. and until 5/12 (RMR). **Com. Snipe** were seen as late at 6/10 (probable breeding) at MA (A&LB). **Am. Woodcock** were heard or seen occasionally this quarter at TM, MA, and LM (RMR,A&LB,EE). **Ring-billed Gull** continued to broaden their distribution locally with sightings of 4 birds each at NFL & HCL 4/25 and 5/6 (RMR,FH). A **Forster's Tern** was also identified at HCL 5/6 (FH).

Of the two spp., **Black-billed Cuckoo** were seen more frequently, from 4/6–6/24 at SA, TM, & MN (HR,RMR,EE). A **Yellow-billed** was heard at WA 6/16 (RMR). An **E. Screech Owl** was last heard at TM 4/11 (RMR). A&LB found a **Long-eared Owl** at MA 5/26, but their **Short-eared Owl** were last seen there 4/19. A pair of these owls went through courtship (wing-clapping, etc.), but further breeding evidence was not found (A&LB). **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** returned to PC 5/5, 2 days earlier than last year (FC).

CP and Leonard Harrison SP encompass segments of the PC gorge. PC sightings of various migratory birds are frequently 2–3 weeks ahead of "first" sightings elsewhere in the Co., suggesting that the gorge (Pennsylvania's Grand Canyon) is a major migratory corridor in central Pennsylvania for many species. Birds using the corridor may either continue to migrate N or distribute more slowly to appropriate habitat locally, thus accounting for the 2-3 week discrepancy.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker were first reported 4/19,20 at SA and CP (HR,MB,RMR). **E. Wood-Pewee** arrived at TM 5/12. Earliest dates for *Empidonax* flycatchers include 5/11 for **Acadian** at TSF (RMR), 5/22 for **Alder** at TM (RMR), 5/19 for **Willow** at TM (RMR), and 5/3 for **Least** at MA (A&LB). **Great Crested Flycatcher** were first sighted at MN 5/16 (A&LB), while **E. Kingbird** returned to TM, SA, & HCL 5/4–7 (RMR,HR,FH), ±5 days later than last year. A dozen **Rough-winged Swallow** were at CC 4/20 (MB,RMR) and the same number of **Bank** at HCL & TM 5/6 (FH,RMR). **Cliff Swallow** swept over TM with **Tree** 5/3, while **Barn Swallow** were first seen at LA 4/9 (JR). **Com. Raven** lived up to their name with sightings of 1–3 birds all quarter (m.ob.). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** were reported 5/2-16 at MC, PC, & MA (DL,RMR,A&LB). A single **Brown Creeper** foraged at TM 4/7 (RMR). Four spp. of wren were present this quarter. A **Carolina** nest was destroyed by cats at MC (DL); **House** returned to MA by 4/26 (A&LB); a **Winter** sang in Pennsylvania's Grand Canyon 4/20 (MB,RMR); and **Marsh** bred in abundance at TM 6/14+ (RMR). **Golden-crowned** and **Ruby-crowned kinglet** were found 4/6-9 and 4/25 at MN, TM, & MA (EE,RMR,A&LB). **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** returned to TM 4/23 and **Veery** 5/17, both to breed (RMR). **Gray Catbird** returned to MC 5/5 (RMR), 4 days ahead of last year. **N. Mockingbird** were at MA 5/8 and **Brown Thrasher** 4/25 (A&LB), 1 day later than last year. Five spp. of vireo were

encountered. **Solitary** were first seen and heard at CP 4/20 (MB,RMR), while the majority of "first" reports came 5/4–6 (FH,RMR).

Yellow-throated and Warbling were first noted at HCL 5/6 (FH). A Philadelphia did not escape sighting by A&LB at MA 5/27, and Red-eyed returned to TM 5/11 (RMR). Nineteen spp. of Warbler were first seen 4/6-5/23 as the following table best shows:

Species	Date 1st reported	#	Location	Observer
Blue-winged	5/8	1	MA	A&LB
Tennessee	5/6	1	HCL	FH
Yellow	4/28	1	TM	RMR
Chestnut-sided	5/8	1	MA	A&LB
Magnolia	5/8	1	MA	A&LB
Cape May	5/10	1	SA	HR
Black-throated Blue	5/11	1	PC	RMR
Yellow-rumped*	4/6	6	LA	BC
Blackburnian	4/6	4	LA	BC
Yellow-throated	4/6	2	LA	BC
Pine	4/6	4	TM	RMR
Palm	5/6	1	HCL	FH
Blackpoll	5/15	2	MA	A&LB
Cerulean	5/23	1	MA	A&LB
Black-and-white	4/28	1	TM	RMR
Am. Redstart	4/28	1	TM	RMR
Ovenbird	5/4	1	TM	RMR
Com. Yellowthroat	4/28	1	TM	RMR
Canada	4/6	1	LA	BC

*see *PA Birds* 5(1):49 for first record of year.

Scarlet Tanager returned to WA 5/10 (JW), while Rose-breasted Grosbeak were noted at MA 5/7 (A&LB). The first Indigo Bunting used a TM feeder 5/6 (RMR, one week ahead of last year), and Rufous-sided Towhee returned to TM 4/20 (RMR, 1 day ahead of last year). Eight spp. of migratory Sparrow left or returned to Tioga this quarter (2 spp. last quarter). **Am. Tree** were last seen at TM 4/14 (RMR), while Chipping returned to LA 4/8 (JR). Field sang on TM 4/5 (RMR), and Vesper were seen 5/10 at LA (JR). Savannah returned to MA 4/4, but Grasshopper were not noted there until 6/18 (A&LB). White-throated were last seen at both MA and TM 5/11 (A&LB,RMR), while White-crowned stayed only 5/1-15 (HR,RMR,A&LB). Dark-eyed Junco last used TM feeders 5/4 (RMR), but either shifted habitat or were replaced by migratory birds to breed in Co. forests. Bobolink were observed at LA and MA 5/6,10 (JR,A&LB), nearly the same dates as last year. **N. Oriole** returned to TM 5/5 (RMR). **Purple Finch** were sighted only twice, at LA and TM 4/9,28 (JR,RMR). **Pine Siskin** were last reported at MA 5/20 and Evening Grosbeak 5/11 (A&LB).

OBSERVERS: Wayne Bonney, Margaret Brittingham, Arlene & Larry Brown, Flossie Comstock, Bob Cupper, Carol & Jack Cupper, Chuck Dillon, Ethel Erickson, Frank Haas, Dorothea Leber, Pat Murphy, Robert M. Ross, RD2 Box 113A, Wellsboro 16901 (717-376-5394), Jean Rothrock, Howard Rushmore, Julie Wetherbee.

UNION COUNTY

Allen Schweinsberg

A **Cattle Egret** was seen along Buffalo Cr. at Airport Rd. 4/24 (E&JP). On 5/13, students at the Lewisburg High School were startled to see a hen **Mallard** and 13 downy chicks on a broad, second-story ledge outside their classroom. Apparently the Mallard chose the ledge as a nesting site, even though the school is located at the intersection of two major highways some distance from water. Since the chicks appeared to be stranded, a game protector was called to remove the birds to a more appropriate location.

After six years of failure, Lewisburg's **Common Jackdaws** fledged 2 young on 6/10,11, bringing the (national?) population to 4 birds (JP).

A **Loggerhead Shrike** was seen along Kelly Rd. for the 1st county record in 10 years (AS). In spite of some searching, it was never found again. 18 **White-eyed Vireo** were heard at SGL 252 near Allenwood 5/14,18. **Warbling Vireo**, **Chestnut-sided Warbler**, and **Black-throated Blue Warbler** were early migrants on the Dale's Ridge Trail 4/27.

A cursory survey in SGL 252 near Allenwood 5/14,18 yielded 5 **Blue-winged Warbler**, 3 **Golden-winged Warbler**, and 1 **"Brewster's" Warbler**. Although the 1985 tornado created new space for these species, appropriate habitat seems down overall from 10 years ago when a similar count produced 3 Blue-winged, 11 Golden-winged, 4 Brewster's, and 1 Lawrence's. From these numbers one can also detect the expected progress of Blue-winged Warbler at the expense of Golden-winged (AS).

On 5/10 & 6/19, **Orchard Oriole** were seen at the start of Dale's Ridge Trail along Buffalo Cr. On 6/19, hundreds of **Com. Grackle** fed on hordes of 17-year cicadas atop Dale's Ridge.

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

VENANGO COUNTY

Gary Edwards and Russ States

Abbreviations: Allegheny R. (AR), Barkeyville area, Clintonville area (CA), Flatiron Rd. (FR), Hovis Pond (HP), Kahle L. (KL), Oil City area (OCA), Oil Creek SP (OCSP), Shaffer Pond (SP), Two Mile Run Park (TMR).

The quarter was certainly better than the same period last year. Numbers and sightings were up for the shorebirds, flycatchers and warblers. The shorebirds I don't know about; we have so few areas for them to stop it is hard to say whether their numbers are low or not. The warblers were earlier than usual. Fourteen species showed up in April due, I suppose, to the unusually warm weather. I don't know if less rain than last year helped the flycatchers, but I'm certain that reduced aerial spraying for the gypsy moth had to be beneficial.

All waterfowl at KL unless otherwise noted. **Com. Loon** were fairly common and found until 5/11. **Horned and Pied-billed grebe** both until 4/22. There were **Double-crested Cormorant** 4/7 and 7 were seen 5/8. An **Am. Bittern**, only the 2nd county record, was discovered and photographed at TMR 4/12 (GE). The first **Green-backed Heron** was seen 4/12. The only **Great Egret** was observed at HP 5/4. **Great Blue Heron** were again nesting near President. A **Mute Swan** stayed until 5/4 near KL. **Green-winged Teal** 4/21. A **N. Shoveler** was on a pond near KL 4/7. **Am. Wigeon** 4/4 TMR. **Blue-winged Teal** 4/12-28. Small flocks of **Ring-necked Duck** were at TMR & KL 4/6-21. **Ls. Scaup** 4/6 TMR and 4/12,28 KL. No **Gr. Scaup** reported. 5 **White-winged Scoter** were on KL 4/21. **Bufflehead** remained in the area until 4/20. Last **Hooded Merganser** was 4/21, last **Red-breasted Merganser** 4/28. And the only **Ruddy Duck** this quarter was 4/21.

Osprey were spotted at KL & TMR from 4/12-5/4. There were 2 **N. Harrier** sightings on the reclaimed strip mine area of s. Venango in April, 4/12,14, and a pair in the same area 6/8. **Sharp-shinned Hawk** sightings were up, with at least 4 being observed through 5/31. **Cooper's Hawk** seen on many occasions throughout the county. **Red-shouldered Hawk** first showed 5/10. First **Broad-winged Hawk** was 4/22.

Shorebirds were much improved from last year. We never have large numbers, but both the numbers and species were

improved. There were **Am. Coot** at TMR 4/4,20 and 1 was found 6/1, our 1st June record. At least 7 **Semipalmated Plover** were seen 5/10,11 BA. **Gr. Yellowlegs** were around, never more than 1 or 2 at a time, from 4/13-5/12 at HP, CA, and BA. **Ls. Yellowlegs** from 4/26-5/11 in the same areas. **Solitary Sandpiper** were recorded 4/12 OCSP, 4/28 HP, and 5/10-11 CA. **Spotted Sandpiper** were seen all months with 3 or 4 pairs in BA. A **Sanderling** was in BA 5/6, and 6 **Semipalmated** and 7 **Least sandpiper** 5/10,12 on a pond at the w. edge of the county. A **Pectoral Sandpiper** was at HP 4/7. Two **Dunlin** were found in BA 4/13,14. **Com. Snipe** were in many locations from 4/12 into May. **Am. Woodcock** reported 4/3 into June.

Over 100 **Bonaparte's Gull** were seen 4/1 AR, 75 on 4/4 AR and TMR, 3 on 4/14 TMR, and 2 on both 4/19 KL and 4/20 TMR. **Ring-billed Gull** were observed on many occasions through 5/16, with 75+ seen 4/1 AR and 75+ on 4/4 AR & TMR. The only tern this quarter was **Forster's Tern** with singles seen 4/16 TMR and 5/11 KL.

Just an observation on how hard ground nesting birds must have it. I stopped one day to watch a pair of juncos and I noticed the female carrying nesting material. As I sat and watched them I noticed a **Black-and-white Warbler** carrying food nearby. I went to check and found the junco nest and then the warbler nest less than ten feet away. And about two feet from that was an abandoned junco nest. I don't know if that one was unsuccessful or just too close to the warbler nest. I stopped the next day and again saw the warbler carrying food, but not coming to the nest. I went to investigate and found that the nest had been trampled, probably by a deer. The juncos were still building their nest so I left them to it. The next time I stopped I found the female sitting on eggs in the nest. Then about a week later I found the nest empty, too soon for the young to have fledged, so I have to assume that something happened to them. The adults were still in the area, however, so I watched them for a while and they seemed to have another nest about ten feet away. I wasn't able to locate a new nest, and decided to leave. They had already lost two nests so I didn't want to hurt their chances on having a successful third nest.

Both **Yellow-billed** and **Black-billed cuckoo** were numerous all over. Our last **Short-eared Owl** observation was 1 indiv. 4/13 in s. Venango. Only **Great Horned Owl** report was 5/11 OCSP. **Barred Owl** were hard to find this year, the first being heard 5/4 TMR. There is a report of **E. Screech Owl** in TMR 6/1. **Whip-poor-will** were calling 5/7 OCSP, the earliest I've heard them in the county. **Com. Nighthawk** were first seen 5/7 OCA. First **Chimney Swift** was seen 4/28.

Flycatcher numbers generally were up from last year. **E. Wood Pewee** were again common this year, the earliest 5/14. **Acadian** was seen 6/8 on FR; **Alder** on 5/26; the first **Willow** 5/26 KL; and the first **Least** 4/30. **Great Crested Flycatcher** were nest-building in OCSP. **E. Kingbird** were fairly numerous, the 1st was seen 5/10. All swallows had returned by 4/28 except **Cliff Swallow** which wasn't seen until 5/5. The first **Veery** was 5/1. A **Swainson's Thrush** was observed 5/11 (GE).

There were more **White-eyed Vireo** seen this year than in all other years combined. Several indiv. were found 4/28 OCSP, and singing males seen 5/10,11 in different locations. **Solitary Vireo** first observed 4/21. Warbler numbers also improved over last year. The total number of spp. this year was 26, up from 21 last year. All warbler sightings in OCSP unless otherwise indicated. Some of the warbler highlights include: **Golden-winged** 5/10,11 & 6/8; **Tennessee** 5/11 KL; **Nashville** 5/8,11; **N. Parula** first seen 4/28 and nest-building soon after; **Cape May** 5/15 (NK); **Blackpoll** 5/12; **Wilson's** 5/22 (GE); **Canada** first seen 4/30 and pairs found in at least two new locations; **Louisiana Waterthrush** 4/28; and **Yellow-breasted Chat** 5/7. Two hybrid warblers were observed in OCSP. The first was seen 4/30. It had a yellow cap, a thin black line through the eye, a white breast, a blue-gray back and wings, with yellow wing bars. The other was seen 5/3 and had the typical Brewster's Warbler markings.

All our grassland sparrows returned to the reclaimed strip mine area in the s. part and were fairly numerous. A **Lincoln's**

Sparrow was seen 5/8 OCA. A **Dark-eyed Junco** pair was observed building a nest 6/6 at FR. **White-throated Sparrow** were seen until 5/11 OCSF, and the only **White-crowned Sparrow** reports this spring were 5/8,11 OCA (RS). Last **Evening Grosbeak** were seen at a feeder 4/28 OCA.

OBSERVERS: Dave Edwards, 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: Akeley (AK), Akeley Swamp (AS), Buckaloons Recreation Area near Irvine (BR), Irvine (IR), Newbold Estate (NE), Starbrick (ST), Warren (WA).

A **Pied-billed Grebe** was at AS 5/15 (TG). One or 2 **Least Bittern** were calling at AS the evening of 6/5 (DW,TG). Two imm. **Mute Swan** were on the river at ST in late Apr. (TG). A **Blue-winged Teal** was at AS 6/5 (TG,DW). A ♀ **Com. Merganser** with a brood of 7 tiny ducklings was seen 6/19 on the Allegheny R. at NE by a birthing group, and a ♀ with 14 young over half her size below Kinzua Dam 6/21 (TG).

An **Osprey** was in WA 4/18 (BW), 1 near IR, and 1 at ST 4/20 (DW). Two imm. **Bald Eagle** were at AS (CP), and an imm. was reported at the Allegheny Res. 6/1 (DM). A **N. Harrier** was seen at Scandia 6/15–16 (DW). A **N. Goshawk** nest was reported to DW and confirmed by him in May.

Thirty-two of 43 nest boxes were occupied by **Am. Kestrel**. In three cases starlings were evicted and kestrels moved in (DW). A nestling kestrel banded by John Dorio in 1985 n. of Lander was trapped and released in March, 1991, near Springville, N.Y., about 50 mi. northeast. This is the second *Warren* kestrel nestling caught near Springville, where about 20 nest boxes are up.

A **Sora** was found at AS (BW,DW). A **Whip-poor-will** was heard at Chapman St. Park 5/22 (DL). Two **Red-headed Woodpecker** were seen at IR 5/11 (DW) and a **Red-bellied Woodpecker** was at AS (CP). Two **Horned Lark** were at AK 5/4 (DW). A **Com. Raven** nest was apparently occupied 4/16. Two were seen at Cherry Grove, and 4 at Dunham Siding were feeding on a porcupine road kill 4/16 (TG). A late **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was at BR 5/18 (TG). A **White-eyed Vireo** was at NE 5/10 (BH). One to 3 **N. Parula** were seen often in late Apr. at BR (DW). A ♂ **Yellow-throated Warbler** has been found in the same area of the BR from 4/8 through at least 6/16 (DW,TG,PY), and 1 was seen at close range by a birthing group 6/19 at NE.

Two singing **Grasshopper Sparrow** were located s.e. of Barnes 5/27 (DW) and 1 n. of Youngsville 6/1 (DW,BH). 5 **Purple Finch** were at BR 4/18 (DW). About 50 **Evening Grosbeak** visited DD's feeder in WA through Apr. and the first week of May. The annual GBS 6/22 (DW) listed 2 **Ring-necked Pheasant**, 16 **Killdeer**, 3 **Field Sparrow**, 20 **Savannah Sparrow**, 42 **Bobolink**, and 14 **E. Meadowlark**.

OBSERVERS: Dan Doherty, Ted Grisez, 8 Belmont Dr, Warren 16365 (814-723-9464), Bill Highhouse, Don Lauger, Dale Martin, Chase Putnam, Brenda & Don Watts, Peter Yoerg.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY

Robert C. Leberman & Robert S. Mulvihill

Abbreviations: Bushy Run Park (BRP), Donegal L. (DL), Idelwild Park (IP), Ligonier Valley (LV), Mammoth Park (MP), Powdermill Nature Reserve (PNR), Trout Run Res. [also called Latrobe Res.] (TR).

Here, as elsewhere in the state, spring came early and was unbelievably brief. We suspect that many migrating birds either

simply passed over our area altogether, or moved through much more quickly than usual. Certainly, there were no strong weather fronts to concentrate birds during the peak migration time. The earliness of the season is evidenced by several of the arrival dates given below.

During the recent PA Breeding Bird Atlas Project we were unable to confirm breeding by **Great Blue Heron** anywhere in the county, thus two nests (at least one of which held young) found along White Oak Run near Stahlstown in early June were an interesting find (JW). An adult-plumaged **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** at PNR (RCL,RSM, v.o.) from 5/3–5/8 was just the 3rd record of the species for the Reserve, and one of very few recent sightings for *Westmoreland*.

There were 3 **N. Shoveler** at TR 4/3 (RSM,BM). The best count of **Ring-necked Duck** was 30 at DL 4/2 (MEW). The most unusual water-fowl sighting was 6 (4♂,2♀) **White-winged Scoter** at TR 4/22 (RSM). There were 6 **Bufflehead** at DL 4/2 (MEW), and a dozen **Ruddy Duck** on that same date (MEW).

The best report of the quarter was of a **Swallow-tailed Kite** 6/22 nr. TR (RSM,BJM). Details of this sighting have been sent to PORC. If accepted, this would be the 1st record of the species for *w. Pa.* A very early **Broad-winged Hawk** was seen and heard over PNR 4/8 (RSM). On 4/27, a ♀ **Merlin** was found dead on a deck at a home in Murrysville, apparently having hit a window (DBG, *fide* DB). **Wild Turkey** are unusual here w. of the mountains, so a report of 3 at BRP 4/6 was of interest (VC). The best count of **Com. Snipe** was 13 just s. of Ligonier 4/2 (LB). Four **Bonaparte's Gull** appeared at TR 4/2 (RCL), and 100+ were there the next day (RSM,BM).

Good owl finds included 2 **Barred**, a **Great Horned**, and an **E. Screech**-at Murrysville 4/25 (DB). For the second year in a row **Whip-poor-will** were heard near Linn Run SP beginning in early May (CN, *fide* RES); apparently this species is finally starting to make a comeback in the region, where it rather mysteriously disappeared about 25 years ago.

The first **Chimney Swift** had returned to Greensburg by 4/15 (DS). Both **E. Wood-Pewee** and **Acadian Flycatcher** had returned to IP nr. Ligonier by 5/10 (DS). VC reported an even earlier **Acadian Flycatcher** at BRP 5/4. A **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was heard nr. IP at various times from late May+ (DS), suggesting that mature spruce plantings are more important to breeding kinglets in this area than is elevation. The spring flight of **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was heavy at PNR where we banded 232 during April and May—the last on a (locally) record late 5/22. Although not many were banded at PNR, we felt that **Wood Thrush** were especially numerous in the field this season. The first **Solitary Vireo** was found at PNR 4/8 (RSM). A **Yellow-throated Vireo** was heard singing nr. Ligonier (DS) 4/30.

The **Golden-winged Warbler**, in contrast to the trend in most regions, continues to do well at PNR where 9 were banded this period; just 6 **Blue-winged** were netted during the same period. A rather typically plumaged "**Brewster's Warbler**" was banded at the Reserve 5/6 (RSM). A rather early **Tennessee** was at BRP 4/29 (VC). The first **Black-throated Green** heard at PNR was a record early 4/7 (RSM). **Yellow-throated** was also first recorded at PNR on the slightly early date of 4/7 (RSM,RCL). The **Yellow-throated** continues to increase as a breeding bird locally, and several pairs were known to be breeding at PNR in May and June; 1 was at Murrysville 4/25 (DB); another at Ligonier 4/30 (DS). A **Pine**, always a rare migrant at PNR, was seen 4/19 (RSM). An early **Blackpoll** was nr. Greensburg 5/9 (DS). There were numerous reports of **Cerulean** throughout, with 4 at Guffy Hollow 5/1 (DS). A **Black-and-white** was at PNR on a record early 4/11 (RSM,RCL). The first **Ovenbird** was at PNR on a rather early 4/25 (RCL,RSM). **N. Waterthrush** arrived at PNR on an early 4/19.

Three **Bobolink** had returned to Pandora by 4/30 (DS). An **Orchard Oriole** was at MP 5/15 (DS). Considering that there had been no mid-winter records of **Com. Redpoll** for *Westmoreland*, 2 on a Beaver Run field trip 4/6 were a surprise (DB,VC,WBCB). Widely scattered small flocks of **Evening Grosbeak** were reported from the LV throughout April; the last birds seen at PNR 5/6 (RSM).

OBSERVERS: Robert C. Leberman & Robert S. Mulvihill, Powdermill Nature Reserve, Star Route South, Rector 15677 (412-593-7521), Larry Barth, Dick Byers, Virginia

Cronenberger, Doug & Bjorg Grangers, Bonnie Mulvihill, Chuck Norton, Robert E. Shaw, Dennis Smeltzer, Michael & Evaleen Watko, Westmoreland County Bird Club, John Whiting.

WYOMING COUNTY

Bill Reid

Abbreviations: Phelps Swamp (PS), Schmitthenner L. (SL), Sordoni's Farm (SF), SGL 57 (SGL), W. Nicholson (WN). Observations by compiler unless otherwise noted.

A **Least Bittern** was recorded at PS 5/24. 2 **Green-winged Teal** were at Falls 5/3. They were again found nesting in the Creveling Ponds in SGL 7/2 (SC) where they have had an established small pop. for many years (FH). Three **Oldsquaw** were at L. Carey 4/16 (JS). First **Osprey** was at SF 4/8. A ♀ **N. Harrier** was chased by **Killdeer** in front of SC's cabin near SL 6/29. Other hawks include a **Cooper's** at Jayne's Bend 6/8, and **Red-shouldered** at Mill City 6/1. **Virginia Rail** was present at PS 4/26 through June; and a **Com. Moorhen** was noted there 5/24. **Com. Nighthawk** was present at Tunkhannock until about 6/10 and may have attempted nesting on the same flat-roofed building which is used annually by Killdeer as a nest site. **Whippoorwill** were heard calling near SL 6/28,29, but generally this sp. has decreased markedly from prior populations (SC). A **Barn Swallow** at SF 4/6 was very early (TB). A **Com. Raven** below 1000 ft elevation was seen at Black Walnut 4/26. **Tufted Titmouse** has colonized some higher elevation residential areas and swampy areas in w. Wyoming, including the SL area (SC). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was scarce. 2 **Winter Wren** were singing at Dixon 5/31 and another at Davis' Crossing 6/1. A **Marsh Wren** was at PS 5/24. A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was noted at Factoryville 5/19.

Golden-winged Warbler has become very scarce; it was heartening to have 1 singing at Mehoopany 5/17. A "**Brewster's**" at Vosburg 5/4 was singing the Blue-winged song. **Yellow-rumped** were found in several locations, including Crane Swamp (s. of Lovelton) (SC,DG). A **Pine** was at Vosburg 5/27; a **Palm** at PS 4/26; and a **Cerulean** at its traditional site at Camp Lackawanna 5/27. **Louisiana Waterthrush** continues to be very scarce following the flooded streams of 2 years ago. Other warblers reported include: **Hooded** at Falls 5/29; **Wilson's** at N. Eaton 5/25; and **Yellow-breasted Chat** at WN 5/24. A **N. Mockingbird** was at a high elevation location near SL 6/29 (SC).

A 30-stop GBS run 6/21 (WR) included stops in both *Susquehanna* and *Wyoming* and yielded the following: 1 **Horned Lark**, 7 **Field Sparrow**, 26 **Savannah Sparrow**, 4 **Grasshopper Sparrow**, 1 **Henslow's Sparrow**, 89 **Bobolink**, and 30 **E. Meadowlark**.

Grassland sparrow reports were all of single birds: **Vesper** at Mehoopany 6/3; **Grasshopper** at Lovelton 5/21 and PS 5/24; and **Henslow's** at WN 5/24+. In and near Crane Swamp, **White-throated Sparrow** was one of the most common and conspicuous breeders (SC,DG); some young were found there. Otherwise, this sp. was scarce. 2 **Bobolink** at SF 4/29 were early. The only **Rusty Blackbird** report was at L. Carey 4/5. An **Orchard Oriole** was at Mehoopany 5/16. The area near SL continues to harbor a good population of **Purple Finch**, a sp. that has declined almost everywhere else (SC,DG). Small flocks of **Evening Grosbeak** were noted in Apr. at Noxen, Laceyville, and Clinton Twp.

OBSERVERS: Terry Baltimore, Skip Conant, Doug Gross, Fred Hartman, Bill Reid, 73 W Ross St, Wilkes-Barre 18702 (717-836-2525), Jerry Skinner.

YORK COUNTY

Al Spiese

Abbreviations: Brunner's I. (BI), Century May Run 5/11 (CR), Codorus Furnace (CF), Codorus SP (CSP), Gifford Pinchot SP (GP), Long Arm Dam (LAD), Marietta Watershed (MW), Rocky Ridge CP (RR), Sheppard Myers Dam (SMD), Spring Grove (SG).

Some birds seemed to arrive a day or two earlier than average. Hot weather increased numbers, especially in the field nesting birds.

Last sighting of **Com. Loon** at CSP 5/11. An **Am. Bittern** at BI 4/23-30 (AS,DH). A **Great Egret** at Wild Horse farm pond and 1 at GP 4/1 (AS), 5 **Little Blue Heron** (3 imm., 2 ad.) at BI 6/26 (AS,JS), 1 **Cattle Egret** at Nashville 6/6 (RR) & 4 flew over nr. CF 6/11 (J&LD). It was estimated there were 8-12 nests in a small **Black-crowned Night-Heron** rookery off Loucks Mill Rd. (MS).

Two **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** on Conewago at BI 4/16 (AS), a **Glossy Ibis** at LAD 5/12 (KL). A pair of **N. Shoveler** last seen at LAD 4/5 (AS), and the **Gr. Scaup** at CSP 6/2 was possibly injured (RR).

Broad-winged Hawk nesting activity noted at 3 locations and 1 at MW 5/20. 1-2 **Merlin** at Wrightsville 4/27 (AS). **Wild Turkey** were in a yard nr. GP (MS *et al.*). 2 **Black-necked Stilt** were at SG 5/11 (RR,B&JW).



Black-necked Stilts, P.H.Glatfelter Prop., 5/11/91.
Photo by Russ Ryan.

Other shorebirds: 2 **Semipalmated Plover** 5/5-8; 1 **Gr. Yellowlegs** 6/10-12 at BI, 2nd June record; 20 **Solitary Sandpiper** at SG 5/12; 2 **Least Sandpiper** at BI 6/29 a 1st June record; 1 ♂ **Wilson's Phalarope**, rare in spring, at a BI pond for 1 day 5/13 (AS). There were 4 **Barred Owl** reports; 2 fledged from a SG nest hole in top of a dead tree at the edge of a wooded area in early May (BW). 80 **Bonaparte's Gull** at CSP 4/23; 3 **Forster's Tern** at LAD 4/13,14 (RR). 3 recently fledged **Mourning Dove** all sitting on a tree branch in CO's yard.

Red-headed Woodpecker continue to be discovered in new areas, mostly s. of Rt. 30. A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** at CF 5/6 (AS). Dry weather might have had an effect on the above average number of **Least Flycatcher** reports. 2 **N. Rough-winged Swallow** on a pond off Board Rd. 4/1 (AS). Not all the **Bank Swallow** had arrived at BI, but nest hole building began 4/16. Later estimates conclude ±280 nest holes were used (AS). **Cliff Swallow** nested at a SMD bridge (RR). A **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was at RR 5/6 (AS).

A **White-eyed Vireo** at Bull Rd. 4/20 (J&JeP). They were also found at 7 other locations after migration. **Chestnut-sided Warbler** were at Otter Cr. 4/20 (J&LD), who also had a **Hooded Warbler** at MW 6/11. 3 **Yellow-throated Warbler** at Kunkels Mill 4/13 (J&JeP), and 1 **Wilson's** on Isaac Walton grounds 5/8 (RR). 3 **Yellow-breasted Chat** 6/24+ at Safe Harbor S on Rt. 425; lately this has been an elusive bird in our area (AS,J&JeP). A **Savannah Sparrow** returned to most of their known area. A **Savannah Sparrow** at LAD 3/20-26 and several **White-crowned** on CR (RR). 2 **Purple Finch** at GP 5/12 (J&JeP).

OBSERVERS: Jack & Lil Downs, Dick Humbert, Karen Lippy, Charles Oberdick, John & Jean Prescott, Russell Ryan, Mike Sankovich, John Shue, Al Spiese, 4086 Old Orchard Rd, York 17402 (717-755-8309), Bill & Jean Welsh.

CORRIGENDA: Bob Schutsky's name was inadvertently omitted from last quarter's list of observers. And the leucistic Am. Robin last issue was a No. Cardinal

NORTHERN HAWK OWL PRINT

In commemoration of the **Northern Hawk Owl** experience in Wayne County this February, we are making available signed and numbered (500) limited edition prints of the Northern Hawk Owl by Michael McNelly as seen on last issue's cover. These fine prints are 15" x 15" and printed on 80-lb acid-free, archival paper.



Only \$20 postpaid!

Make check payable to
PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS
and send to:

PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS
2469 Hammertown Rd.
Narvon, PA 17555-9726

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE: Materials to be included in the publication are needed by the due dates listed below.

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Due Date</u>	<u>Publication Date</u>
Jan-Mar	Apr 30	June
Apr-Jun	Jul 31	Sept
Jul-Sep	Oct 31	Dec
Oct-Dec	Jan 31	Mar

SUBMISSION OF MATERIALS FOR PUBLICATION: We welcome submission of articles, artwork or photographs. Any materials submitted must be accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope if the author desires to have the material returned. **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS** assumes no liability or responsibility for any unsolicited materials.

REPRINTS: Requests for reprints of articles will be handled by the editors.

PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS is not responsible for the quality of goods or services advertised herein.

PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS is now being abstracted in the AOU's recent literature supplements.

ADVERTISING: Current rates for classified ads are \$0.75 a word with a minimum of 20 words. A copy-ready block of approximately 2" by 2" would be \$50.00 per issue. Rates for other sizes or types of advertising are negotiable. Copy deadline is as noted above. Payment should be sent with copy.