

PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS



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PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS



VOLUME 5, NUMBER 3, JUL – SEP 1991

Franklin C. Haas & Barbara M. Haas

Co-editors

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from the Editors...

The Legislature, Senate, and Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania have decided to impose a six percent tax on periodicals that are mailed at least four times a year. Of course that includes *PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS*. The tax was effective 1 October 1991, with the funds to go to the Public Transportation Assistance Fund.

This means that all new subscriptions as of that date have to be taxed. The interpretation of the law, as we see it, is that it may be up to the individual subscriber to pay that tax to the government unless it is remitted with subscription or renewal of the subscription. If sent with the subscription or renewal, we will forward it on to the Commonwealth on a timely basis in accordance with their schedule.

Our printing costs increased by \$.40 per copy (8%) just between Volume 5, No. 1 and Volume 5, No. 2, and we suspect that this issue will cost more. As you all know, the postal rates were also increased last year—for Second Class, 40%.

1987 was 144 pages, 1988 was 162 pages, 1989 was 164 pages, and 1990 was 180 pages! So far we are on a pace that for 1991 it will be 208 pages! However, we have not increased the subscription rate to *PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS* since 1989.

As many of you know, this journal is produced by us in our home in our "free time." Supplies and materials have also increased in cost as well as the imposition of a new tax on long distance intrastate telephone calls (necessary for clarification of details, etc.).

We suspect there are few other fools out there who would continue to dedicate their time and resources for five years without any compensation. We lost money the first three years and barely made expenses last year. We may regress in 1991 due to the size of the publication and increased costs.

We are dedicated to the study and understanding of Pennsylvania's birdlife. We know that *PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS* is vital to that end. We are therefore dedicated to keeping this publication alive. No other individual or organization in Pennsylvania has been willing to invest the time and money that we have. The Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology cannot afford such a publication. And we are not alone. In Michigan, the Michigan Audubon Society's publication, *The Jackpine Warbler*, which was comparable to *PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS* (although smaller), was recently replaced with an even smaller publication, of which only a small part is now devoted to bird reports and articles. Cost was the factor.

So, what do we do? If we raise the subscription rate, there may be those who say it is too expensive to continue. If we don't raise the subscription rate, we will continue to lose money. If we reduce the pages, there may be complaints that we are not devoting enough space to reports. What would you do in the same position?

One possible solution is to have a larger subscription base. But efforts over the years have been marginally productive in getting non-renewals to renew. At one point we were over 700 subscribers, but this has dropped to about 600 now. One very interesting point is that if all the people whose

names have appeared as Observers in the County Reports section subscribed to *PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS*, we would have over a thousand subscribers!

Another possible solution would be to print only enough copies for those people who have subscribed for that issue. But fewer copies printed increases the cost per copy. And what to do about someone who hears about the magazine in the middle of a year and wants all issues for that year? It would also mean changing the entire database for subscribers and sending out individual renewal notices—another costly procedure.

Another possibility is getting more advertising. That is very time-consuming and when you say to a potential advertiser that your subscriber base is only in the 600s, many companies are not interested, no matter how low our advertising rates may be.

Our only recourse at this time is to raise the subscription rate to \$17.50 (\$16.50 subscription fee and \$1.00 tax) for 1992. That's only a 10% increase, not including the tax. If this would present a hardship to anyone, we regret it. We recognize the state of the economy and would be distressed to lose any subscriber because of the increase.

We would appreciate hearing your views on this matter. And, if anyone can provide an alternative, we would love to know what it is.☺

Barb and Frank Haas
Co-editors

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LETTERS

Dear Editors:

We enjoyed the April-June issue and are glad to hear that an agreement is in the works between you and the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology. We see such an agreement as in the best interests of all Pennsylvania ornithologists, amateur and professional alike.

One quick correction: You mentioned that the results of Breeding Bird Census studies no longer have a publishing home. To the contrary, the results of these studies are published in a yearly supplement to the *Journal of Field Ornithology*, published by the Association of Field Ornithologists. This special supplement, which also contains the results of Winter Bird Population Studies (WBPS), is a cooperative effort of the association and the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology.

Instructions on how to set up a census plot are available from the Cornell lab's bird population studies office.

Alan and Monica Gregory
Conyngham, PA 18219

Thanks for the correction. We should have checked with someone before we made that statement, but it was a last minute thought and we had no time. However, it does show how easy it is to lose track of projects such as this when they switch publications. We had always followed the plot reports from Pennsylvania in American Birds and missed them when they stopped carrying them. Somewhere in the shuffle, we missed any notice that they were now being published in the Journal of Field Ornithology.

Anyone interested in this organization or journal should see Vol 4 No. 4 page 129 for more information.

—Eds.

Dear Editors:

I'd like to offer an alternative response to the "American Crow eating House Finch" story by Linda Whitesel (*Juniata*) in your last issue (Vol. 5 (2), page 89).

The initial response by an elementary school class is not surprising, but, in my opinion, the teacher missed a remarkable opportunity to explain a natural, daily (if gruesome) experience to a group of young, impressionable minds. Most of us rarely get the opportunity to observe a predation event first hand. When we do, what should our response be? Marcia Bonta's article in a recent

issue of *Bird Watcher's Digest* provides an alternative to intervening. She received considerable criticism for not preventing a Black Snake from consuming a nest of House Wrens, but her study of the obstacles faced and strategies of the snake are insightful. Predation is a natural event that, if understood, will provide a much more balanced view of ecological processes.

Daniel Brauning
Montgomery, PA 17752

Dear Editors:

Greetings from Carmel, Indiana!

Yesterday, 1 October, I received your excellent magazine in the current, not-so-excellent condition. Today, I went to the Post Office in Carmel to register a formal complaint concerning their condition. It appears, from speaking to a supervisor, that nothing can be done by the Post Office to correct the situation or get them to correct the matter. They, the Post Office, suggested that the publisher could replace the damaged copies. So, I guess the ball is in your court.

Naturally, I would like to have the publications for a long while. I have all the issues of **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS** since the first issue and would like to have them all in good condition to be saved. If you would be so kind, I would appreciate your consideration of replacing the damaged issues.

P.S. I believe the damage was done by the government, but what can one do?

Randy Stringer
Carmel, IN

We, unfortunately, had several comments of a similar nature. That issue was prepared for the Post Office in the same manner as all previous ones. Short of going to the considerable expense of having the magazine wrapped in plastic (which we do not want to do because it is not environmentally sound) or enclosing them individually in envelopes, our hands are tied once they leave our home.

We regret that it occurred and only hope that it will not happen in the future. We are sure the Post Office is not concerned with the additional expense of wrapping or having to send individual replacement copies.

—Eds.

I have been feeding birds for 12 years in the same location. I know how many to expect and when to expect them. It was with no small amount of sadness that I realized this fall that something is wrong with my Downy and Hairy woodpecker populations—they seem to have disappeared.

There has been no change in habitat in the area. The only significant event which occurred was our trees were sprayed aerially with Dimilin in 1990 and 1991 to control Gypsy Moth caterpillars.

There is no way to scientifically prove two consecutive years of Dimilin use contributed to the demise of the woodpecker and other insect-eating bird populations. Environmental stress factors are too numerous to allow one to be singled out as the factor causing an ecological change.

I present this observation for consideration by those who are faced with the prospect of choosing a chemical solution to the gypsy moth problem. Until further research proves Dimilin safe to the environment, Bt should be the spray of choice. Bt, a non-chemical insecticide, is less effective but much less harmful to the environment. With Bt, there will be more gypsy moth caterpillars, as well as a lot of other desirable caterpillars and leaf-eating insects, but, perhaps there will also be a lot more insect-eating birds.

Mary Jan Seipler
Murrysville, PA 15668

No spray, whether chemical or biological, is specific to Gypsy Moths. They all kill other leaf-eating caterpillars and some kill other flying insects as well. To protect the trees in our yard, about 40 oaks, we tie burlap around the trunks and "harvest" the caterpillars when they come down and hide during the day. Even though we had a major outbreak in 1990, we had virtually no damage to our trees, and we had practically no caterpillars this year.

—Eds.

Dear Editors:

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher

Empidonax flaviventris

Nesting in Pennsylvania

with a Review of its History,
Distribution, Ecology, Behavior,
and Conservation Problems

by Douglas A. Gross



Fig. 1. ♂ Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Sullivan County, 1991.

INTRODUCTION

The Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas Project (PBBA) has had a profound effect on Pennsylvania ornithology, even before the book has been published. One of its many benefits has been the increase in knowledge about the distribution of rare and poorly-known species, especially those which primarily occur in poorly documented sections of the state. The Yellow-bellied Flycatcher certainly belongs in this category. This paper provides some historical background about its distribution in Pennsylvania and documents the advancement in knowledge about this little-known bird since the beginning of the PBBA in 1983. It also includes results of my ongoing study of its distribution and habitat preferences in Northcentral Pennsylvania. Dan Brauning and I studied this species in 1990, and I continued the study in 1991.

The PBBA revealed that the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher still nested in the state, but in very low numbers. As a result of this discovery, the Ornithological Technical Committee of the Pennsylvania Biological Survey decided to classify the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher as Threatened in 1989. This classification has drawn attention to a boreal species which was once probably more widespread on the forested plateaus in northern counties. This paper is not meant to be the final word on the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher in Pennsylvania, but rather it attempts to summarize what is now known and to stimulate further study of the species. I plan to continue studying its ecology, behavior, and distribution. Defining the breeding range and habitat of Yellow-bellied Flycatcher is a long-range goal of this project; the observations offered here are qualitative and tentative in

nature. I also intend to stimulate others to learn more about other species which remain inadequately studied, and to impart some of the rewards and excitement that come from concentrating on one interesting bird and witnessing aspects of its life rarely observed.

HISTORY OF NESTING IN PENNSYLVANIA

PRE-ATLAS: The Yellow-bellied Flycatcher has always been one of the most poorly known birds in the state, a virtual mystery bird before the Atlas Project. Historical documentation of this species was poor for good reasons. It is a small, quiet species which evaded observation in the highland forests of the state's rural northern counties. Few people visited its haunts before logging and other disturbances disrupted its nesting grounds. Even in the early twentieth century, many areas were fairly inaccessible, forcing ornithologists like Mr. Clyde Todd to hike long distances to explore many locations. Mountain roads were often slow and difficult to travel, and railroads did not stop at birding hotspots.

As species go, the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher is fairly new to science. It was first described from a specimen collected near Carlisle, Cumberland Co., in 1843 (AOU 1983). It is not surprising that this species may not have been well-known by many field workers. Yet, Warren (1890) claimed that it was "reported by numerous observers to be a regular summer resident in various parts of the state, especially in the mountainous districts." Some of these early reports may represent misidentifications.

Always regarded as a rare breeder wherever it was found, the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher is best represented in

historical records by the Poconos (Poole 1968). The longest and most detailed accounts were from the area near Mt. Pocono, Monroe Co., and near LaAnna and Newfoundland, Pike Co. (Bent 1942, Poole 1968). Near Mt. Pocono, Bailey (1916) found and described several nests in high elevation sphagnum bogs where conifers predominated.

There were also some reports of Yellow-bellied Flycatchers nesting or at least spending the summer in Northcentral Pennsylvania. Jonathan Dwight collected a male, 4 July 1896, in a swamp near Lopez, Sullivan Co. (Poole 1968). Otto Behr found this species in the same area near the Sullivan/Wyoming Cos. border (Stone 1900). August Kock claimed that this flycatcher was fairly common in streamside thickets in Lycoming Co. (Warren 1890), but Harlow (1913) did not find any when he searched for it in there.

Although no nests have been found in western Pennsylvania, early ornithologists found a few breeding Yellow-bellied Flycatchers in northwestern Pennsylvania forests and swamps (Todd 1940). Yellow-bellieds were reported in the summer near Kane and in Katrine Swamp, McKean Co.; near Dubois, Clearfield Co.; and in both Warren and Forest counties where it was considered rare (Harlow 1913, Todd 1940). Most of these observations were made in the nineteenth century or the first two decades of the twentieth century. Todd speculated that it nested in Potter Co., but found it neither there or in Tamarack Swamp, Clinton Co. Neither Cope or Reimann found this species breeding in Tamarack Swamp when they surveyed it in 1900 and 1947, respectively (Reimann 1947). However, Poole (1968) found one

singing in Tamarack Swamp, 12 June 1957, "under conditions that would seem to indicate nesting." In 1970, Paul Schwalbe heard a singing individual in the same swamp (Hall 1970). This was to be the last report of breeding Yellow-bellied Flycatcher in western Pennsylvania until the PBBA.

By the 1950s, the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher became more scarce in the Poconos where it had once been found regularly (Poole 1968). Bogs in the La Anna area which were home to several pairs in the 1930s were destroyed by that time (Street 1956). Although migrants were found in the Poconos, no breeding birds were found from the 1950s until the mid-1980s (Street 1976, Street and Wiltraut 1986). Poole (1968) assumed that this boreal species had retracted its range north out of Pennsylvania. However, in July 1980, I found an adult Yellow-bellied Flycatcher with dependent young in a hemlock grove not far from a beaver dam near Nordmont, Sullivan County (Figure 4). This is the first breeding observed in several decades in northcentral Pennsylvania. It was also the first confirmation of nesting in Pennsylvania in over 40 years. In retrospect, this observation should have been documented in a bird journal and invites the speculation that other field workers may have observed breeding yellow-bellieds in Pennsylvania without reporting it for review.

ATLAS PERIOD (1983-89): During the Atlas Project, the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was found breeding in 13 blocks (Gross *in press*). All of these were found on the plateaus in the northern two tiers of counties (Figure 4). One of the PBBA surprises was a cluster of Yellow-bellied Flycatcher locations near the Lycoming/Tioga county boundary. At one of these locations in Lycoming County (LC-A Bog), I confirmed Yellow-bellied Flycatchers nesting by finding an adult with dependent young, 2 August 1985, where Dan Brauning had previously found a singing bird, 25 June, while he was blockbusting in this remote area. I also confirmed nesting at the same location in 1988 and 1989 by finding dependent young with adults. The two other locations were also remote, both found in 1987. Dan and Marcia Brauning found a territorial male in a forested wetland west of Ralston, Lycoming County, and Allen Schweinsberg found several flycatchers singing in a grown-in beaver pond

wetland near Canton, Tioga County. He also found yellow-bellieds there in 1988.

The remaining ten blocks were scattered in the Pocono Northeast and in the forested counties of the Northwest. Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were found in some counties, notably Bradford and Elk, where they were not documented before. These findings were the result of a higher level of field work in remote areas during the Atlas than at any previous time. However, the flycatcher was not well-represented in the central part of the Poconos or in Warren County, two historical strongholds.

During the Atlas, experienced field ornithologists made concerted efforts to find more Yellow-bellied Flycatchers but failed to find them in many locations where they were previously found or could be expected. However, since more yellow-bellieds were found in Pennsylvania than were found in the last four decades, it lead some to wonder if this elusive species was more common than records indicated and deserved more study.

THE CURRENT STUDY

1990 FINDINGS: As a result of these concerns, Dan Brauning and I studied the nesting distribution and habitat requirements of Yellow-bellied Flycatchers in 1990 under a Wildlife Resource Conservation Fund Grant (Brauning and Gross 1991). We searched for this species in several upland forested wetlands in Northcentral and Northeastern Pennsylvania. Brauning and Rick Wiltraut searched for this species in the Pocono Mountains, while I concentrated on the Allegheny Plateau in eastern Lycoming County and Sullivan County. Brauning found singing yellow-bellieds in a historically-occupied Monroe County swamp near Mt. Pocono. I found at least three breeding birds in a Sullivan County bog (SC-A Bog) where it had never been previously found. In SC-A Bog, I observed a breeding pair drive off a third flycatcher which I also found singing in an adjacent territory. One of the adults led me to four newly fledged young on 9 July. This confirmed breeding in Sullivan County for the first time since 1980.

In 1990, we searched in eleven other likely locations without success. Although we found two breeding locations not found during the PBBA, we still felt that this species was rare

and vulnerable. We had also made progress in better delineating the habitat requirements and distribution of this species. Some of these results will be reported later.

1991 FINDINGS: I discovered two active Yellow-bellied Flycatcher nests in 1991, the first found in Pennsylvania in over 50 years. Both were in a forested wetland in Sullivan County which I refer to as SC-A Bog. Yellow-bellieds had returned here as early as 25 May (S. Conant, pers. comm.) in the same part of the bog where I found them in 1990. I witnessed a pair in a display and chase, 9 June, in the same area. On 16 June, I found the first nest (Nest 91-A) by carefully watching the female as she foraged low in vegetation. She revealed the location of the nest only after I backed away from the nest area and hid my face from her, making her feel safe to go to the nest. After that morning she grew habituated to my presence and moved freely to and from the nest even when I was sitting within 25 feet of it.

Nest 91-A contained four freshly hatched, slightly downy nestlings. It was extremely well-hidden in a small cavity in a moss-covered log (Figure 2). Its side entrance was also obscured by moss, hiding it more completely. The nest itself is a delicately constructed cup woven of very fine fibrous materials (moss stems, rootlets, needles, grasses, sedges) within a cup of coarser plant materials (Bent 1942, Harrison 1975, pers. obs.). This structure not only delicately cradled the eggs, but also protected them from moisture.

The adults carefully approach the nest and, only after surveying for predators and inspecting the local area, flew into the side entrance much the way a cavity nesting species would. From the side, the young were well-hidden in the darkness. The young fledged successfully on 23 June, only seven days after it was discovered. I saw an immature flycatcher being fed by the male in its territory as late as 7 July.

I continued to study the Yellow-bellied Flycatchers in SC-A Bog through July and early August. One of my objectives was to find out if any pairs were double-brooded, a condition apparently never observed or recorded (Ehrlich *et al.* 1988). Without a nest to act as an activity center, I had a much more difficult time finding and tracking flycatchers.

I did locate at least two more pairs in the same section of the bog. I found a second family in another territory on 13 July, but was not able to locate it after that (Pair 91-B). This pair was located on the southern edge of the bog where shrubs and ferns were particularly dense.

On 20 July, Rob Megraw and I found a second Yellow-bellied Flycatcher nest in SC-A Bog (Pair 91-C). We surveyed the territory of Pair 91-A and then worked our way south in the bog after hearing a "sneeze" call in that direction. Rob had a close encounter with a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher when one flew within a few inches of his knee. We then sat down and waited until this bird, apparently a female, revealed the location of her nest (Nest 91-C). This nest was less concealed than Nest 91-A. It was couched in a dense mat of sphagnum moss under a rhododendron, and contained four slightly downy nestlings.

The male of Pair 91-C was extremely reluctant to approach the nest with humans nearby. I did see him at least twice, but only briefly. This male apparently had a territorial skirmish with one of the Pair 91-A flycatchers in dense hemlock vegetation about 50 feet north of Nest 91-C at the southern edge of the territory of Pair 91-A. The behavior of the male of Nest 91-C convinced me that this was a second pair, rather than a pair nesting a second time.

On the morning of 24 July, I returned to Bog SC-A in order to follow the progress of Pair 91-C. After I spent two hours in the nest area, it was apparent that the flycatchers were not active there. The nest was empty probably due to predation, since nestlings take 13 to 14 days to fledge (Ehrlich *et al.* 1988). The nest cup appeared otherwise undisturbed. I did not find any Yellow-bellied Flycatchers in the immediate area and I observed none in the bog after this date. There are several possible predators. Blue Jays (*Cyanocitta cristata*) nested within 100 feet of the site and were in the area continuously. Common Ravens (*Corvus corax*) frequently flew overhead. I also observed eastern chipmunk, red squirrel, and raccoon in the immediate area. Weasels, skunks, opossums, foxes, coyotes, mice, and snakes are also possible suspects. On 9 June, I found a territorial male in another Sullivan County bog (SC-B Bog). It sang from perches in a hemlock-and-fern



Figure 2. 1991 Nest location in Sullivan Co. bog. Nest opening in center of photo is approximately 1" high.

dominated swampy area near Laporte. For ninety minutes, I observed the bird fly from perch to perch, frequently calling, around the wetland. This male covered a large area as if it were searching for other flycatchers. Its territorial behavior led me to believe that this was not just a late migrant. I did not find this bird in two return visits to the same location, but since I made these visits in poor field conditions, I am uncertain about the fate of this bird. This wetland closely resembled SC-A Bog and is part of a fairly extensive swampy woods on private property. This new location is about four miles from both SC-A Bog and the 1980 Nordmont area location (Brauning and Gross 1991).

I resurveyed the LC-A Bog on 1 June to find only one singing male in the area. Return visits failed to find any other Yellow-bellied Flycatchers and I concluded that there was no nesting in this wetland in 1991. I also surveyed several other high elevation forested wetlands in and near Sullivan County without finding any other yellow-bellieds.

IDENTIFICATION AND BEHAVIOR

IDENTIFICATION: The distribution of the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher has been obscured because of difficulties in its identification. Early field

ornithologists did not have the advantage of today's plethora of field identification technical literature. Even in the modern birding era, flycatchers pose challenges to field observers. Visually, the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher can be confused with any other *Empidonax* flycatcher, especially the greenish Acadian (*E. flaviventris*). This is especially true in poor light or dense vegetation. Also, the calls of the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher can be confused with calls of the Least Flycatcher (*E. minimus*) and the Eastern Wood-Pewee (*Contopus virens*).

The Yellow-bellied Flycatcher is the most distinctively marked *Empidonax* flycatcher found regularly in Pennsylvania. Yet, I urge caution in its identification. By sight, yellow-bellieds can be most easily separated from other Pennsylvania empids by its yellowish throat and green back (Eckert 1983, Pyle *et al.* 1987).

Generally, its breast is extensively olive and washed with some yellow. However, I have found that the breast color varies so much between individuals that I could use it to confidently differentiate between two members of a pair (Pair 91-A). Some yellow-bellied are fairly pale-breasted, but still have a yellowish throat and vent area. The male of Pair 91-A had indistinct narrow streaks on its flanks and chest (Figure 1). In good viewing

conditions, the eye-ring, lower mandible, wing bars, and the bend of its wing are also yellow. These yellowish parts contrast with the black of the upper mandible, legs, and flight feathers.

Compared to our other empids, Yellow-bellied Flycatchers look somewhat short-tailed, short-winged, and big-headed. Unfortunately, these and other characteristics are sometimes not evident in drawings and paintings. Empids are very similar in appearance, but not exactly alike. The eye-ring of yellow-bellieds appears narrower than other empids, but this can be a difficult character to judge in the field. It is narrowest above the eye and directly below it, thinning almost to a close behind the eye and widening in the lores to appear like a spot.

Immature Yellow-bellied Flycatchers have buffy wing-bars and fresh, dark flight feathers. In July, August, and early September (when immatures can be found in Pennsylvania), adults have a more worn plumage than young birds because adults normally do not undergo their pre-basic molt until they reach their wintering grounds in Latin America (Pyle *et al.* 1987). Immature yellow-bellieds usually undergo a partial pre-basic molt before migrating. Studies of migrating yellow-bellieds indicate that adults precede immature birds in migration (Hussell 1982). Again, I urge caution in making these judgements in the field and remind the reader that

many aging characteristics are more appropriate for hand-held birds. Identification confusions are more likely in the fall when some Acadian Flycatchers can have a yellow wash on the throat (Phillips *et al.* 1966). For more details about the intricacies of identifying empids by sight I urge you to study some technical references (Phillips *et al.* 1966, Philips and Lanyon 1970, Pyle *et al.* 1987, Kauffman 1989).

Some yellow-bellieds can be very confiding and will carefully observe human intruders in their territory. They tilt and swivel their heads while sitting fairly immobile on a perch, searching for prey items nearby. Yellow-bellieds habitually wag or quiver their tail, especially immediately after landing on a perch or when they are excited, but not as emphatically as an Eastern Phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*). They quiver their wings also, but not as noticeably as some other small flycatchers.

SONGS AND RELATED BEHAVIOR:

Males characteristically give the territorial *killink* (or *killik*) call while both sexes will respond to the whistled *tu-wee* or *chu-wee* call (Walkinshaw and Henry 1957; pers. obs.). I usually hear the *killink* call fairly early in the morning (mostly in pre-dawn and within a half-hour of dawn), but I have also heard this call near noon and at 8:15 PM, DST (within 15 minutes of sundown), in early June. This call is abrupt like the *che-bek* call of the Least Flycatcher, but not as loud. When heard

in close quarters, the *killink* call sounds somewhat metallic. Males usually give this call quite frequently (8 to 12 times per minute) when they are setting up territory in late May and early June (pers. obs.). They may sit fairly high in trees to declare territory, but will also deliver this call within a foot of the ground in a thicket. Once their young are fledged (late June to late July), the males rarely use the *killink* call. There is a possibility that the females also occasionally give the *killink* call, but I do not believe that I encountered this during my study.

The *tu-wee* (or *chu-wee*) call functions as a contact call (Fitzpatrick 1980) or "position call" (Walkinshaw and Henry 1957; pers. obs.). This call functions like the *whit* call of the Least Flycatcher (Davis 1954, Walkinshaw and Henry 1957). It is fairly easy to imitate by whistling lightly. The *tu-wee* call is also referred to as a *pea*, *pee-wee*, or *too-lee* call by various authors and is the call resembling the Eastern Wood-Pewee or Semipalmated Plover (*Charadrius semipalmatus*), a plaintive two-note whistle with the second note more prolonged and ascending (Todd 1940, Bent 1942, Walkinshaw and Henry 1957). Males and females both utter the *tu-wee* call, but it is more commonly employed by the female. The pair will call back and forth as the male feeds away from the nest, or as he approaches it. The female will even call while sitting on the nest—an oddly muffled sound, since the nest is often cavern-like. This call may be used on the wintering ground in a territorial or assertive manner (Stiles and Skutch 1989). Yellow-bellied Flycatchers also utter a distinct, abrupt call note which resembles a sneeze and is barely recognizable as the call of a bird (Chapman 1912; Pough 1946; pers. obs.). It somewhat resembles the call of the Acadian Flycatcher (*E. virescens*) in quality. I believe that males chiefly use this call later in the breeding season.

Individuals can also be brought closer with "squeaking" noises on the back of the hand, or an imitation of the *tu-wee* call



Figure 3. SC-A Bog, Sullivan Co., in the middle of a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher territory. Hemlock, black gum, laurel, and cinnamon ferns predominate.

(Bent 1942; Walkinshaw and Henry 1957; pers. obs.). These flycatchers are curious, but shy, and will quickly retreat from you into dense vegetation. Some of the birds became habituated to me and would forage within 25 feet after I called them in. I urge observers to refrain from calling Yellow-bellied Flycatchers persistently. Continuous use of taped calls, pishing, whistling, and other allurements could disrupt and harass a pair of these rare birds, resulting in a nesting failure or abandonment of a nesting ground.

The foraging behavior of the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher is a key to its habitat selection. I watched yellow-bellieds forage in their nesting territories in three bogs for several hours. These flycatchers hawked for flying insects from an open perch like an Eastern Phoebe, but more frequently sally-gleaned prey from vegetation somewhat in the manner of an American Redstart (*Setophago ruticilla*). Unlike phoebes or pewees, yellow-bellieds fly to a new perch after each prey capture, often within six feet of the ground. Sometimes yellow-bellieds briefly hover as they snap up their prey, or knock an insect off the vegetation before picking it off of the ground. This foraging technique is also used on its wintering grounds (Stiles and Skutch 1989). In the past, I also observed Yellow-bellied feeding on fruit while in migration. Two migrating individuals regurgitated wild grapes in my hand while I held them for banding. Their taste for small fruit has been documented by others (Bent 1942, Stiles and Skutch 1989).

HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION

During the current study, I am trying to define the habitat characteristics of the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher in Pennsylvania in the southern part of its breeding range. Territories in Pennsylvania do not necessarily represent the width of habitat preferences at the heart of this boreal flycatcher's breeding range. Yellow-bellieds can be found in a wider variety of wooded habitats in Canada and highland New York, particularly on the Canadian Shield and in the Adirondacks (Bull 1974, Godfrey 1986). However, my observations concerning the vegetation in Yellow-bellied Flycatcher territories bear many similarities to descriptions of its nesting habitat in the north.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher Nesting Locations

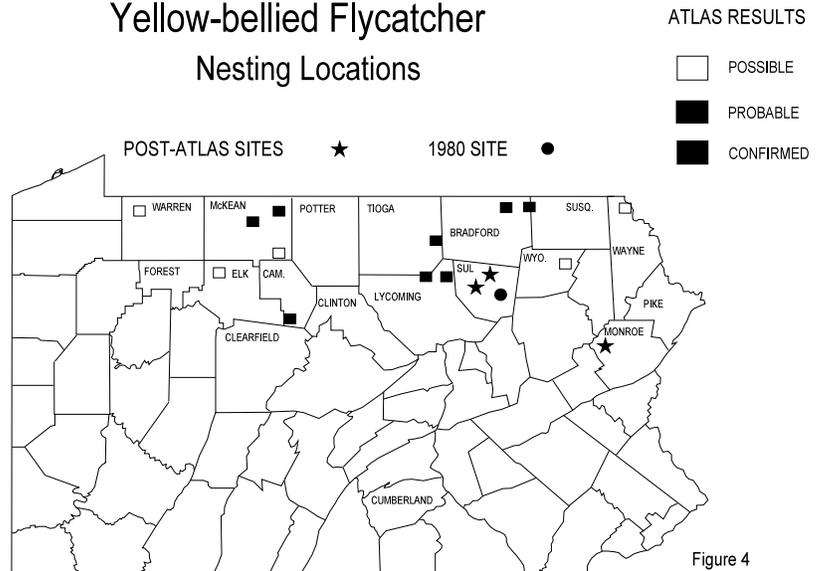


Figure 4

The Yellow-bellied Flycatcher reaches the southern limit of its contiguous breeding range in Pennsylvania (AOU 1983). This population is somewhat isolated from the nearest populations high in New York's Catskill Mountains (Peterson 1988). The Catskill Mountain population is small and limited to the very high elevation Catskill Peaks. Yellow-bellieds are much more common and widespread in the boreal conifer forests of the Adirondacks. There have also been small, isolated, intermittent populations on Mt. Rogers and at Clifton, Virginia; on Grandfather Mt., North Carolina; and on some West Virginia mountains (Scott and Cutler 1974; Hall 1983a, 1983b, 1985). Both the New York and southern Appalachian populations are generally associated with high elevation (>3000 feet) spruce forests. Some New York locations were swampy woods in hemlock northern hardwoods like those of this state (Peterson 1988).

The Yellow-bellied Flycatcher is a decidedly boreal species, more at home in the moist conifer forests of Canada or the Adirondacks than the drier forests of mountainous Pennsylvania. All breeding Yellow-bellied Flycatcher locations in Pennsylvania for which I have documentation were above 1500 feet in elevation. Pennsylvania yellow-bellieds nest in forested wetlands, often in sunken areas with poor drainage, typically near the headwaters of streams. These wetlands are generally part of an extensive northern

hardwoods forest in fairly remote areas. Forested wetlands occupied by this species have not recently been disturbed by tree-cutting, drainage, or flooding by humans or beavers (Mellon 1990).

All flycatcher-occupied bogs that I have studied contained a mid-layer of shrubs and saplings as well as an open canopy of trees (Figure 3). Conifers are an important vegetative component of all Yellow-bellied Flycatcher territories that I have observed; both as trees and in the understory. Usually, the most abundant tree is eastern hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*), but other conifers are also possible in this habitat, especially eastern white pine (*Pinus strobus*), balsam fir (*Abies balsamea*), and black spruce (*Picea mariana*) (Gleason and Cronquist 1963, Johnson 1985). In addition to the species already mentioned, trees may also include red maple (*Acer rubrum*), black gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*), American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), yellow birch (*Betula lutea*), and mountain ash (*Pyrus americana*). This canopy provides shade, protection, and perches from which the flycatchers can hunt, call, and scan the area for prey and predators.

All flycatcher territories that I have studied also have a substantial understory, usually including several species of shrubs. These include highbush blueberries (*Vaccinium atrococcum* and *V. corymbosum*), mountain-holly (*Nemopanthus mucronatum*), red chokeberry (*Pyrus arbutifolia*), rhododendron (*Rhododendron maximum*), mountain

laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*), wild raisin (*Viburnum cassinoides*), and common winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*). These shrubs form raised clumps and thickets that were sometimes difficult for humans to penetrate.

As a ground nester, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher is unique among Pennsylvania flycatchers (Harrison 1975). The limited literature about the nesting behavior of this species stresses the importance of the ground vegetation (Bent 1942, Walkinshaw and Henry 1957). Sphagnum mosses (*Sphagnum* spp.) were a dominant component in all flycatcher territories, covering the ground, logs, stumps, and roots in a thick spongy mat.

Flycatcher-occupied wetlands tend to be somewhat patchy in character with clumps of woody vegetation separated by lower ground covered by sphagnum mosses, ferns, and typical wetland forbs. These open areas are very wet after rains, sometimes with standing water. The moss can float on a spongy deep bed of saturated peat that can prove tricky to traverse. Sedges and typical bog plants such as pitcher plants (*Sarracenia purpurea*) and cranberries (*V. macrocarpum* and *V. oxycoccus*) are sometimes in these openings. Dense colonies of ferns were sometimes extensive in flycatcher-occupied wetlands. It is not known at this time whether ferns or any of the undergrowth plants have any significance to the flycatchers, but larger ferns, such as cinnamon fern (*Osmunda cinnamomea*), may be an important foraging substrate.

In Pennsylvania, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher nesting territories inevitably contain a substantial amount of conifers, usually hemlocks. Yellow-bellieds use these trees for foraging substrate and perch sites. They will also sequester their newly fledged young in a densely foliated evergreen. Hemlock groves are an important feature of the edges of Pennsylvania bogs and Yellow-bellied Flycatchers use them frequently.

CONSERVATION CONCERNS

The various breeding grounds of Yellow-bellied Flycatcher are scattered throughout the plateaus of northern Pennsylvania. Each inhabited forested wetland acts as a population island separated from others (MacArthur and Wilson 1967). The small size and relative isolation of these breeding populations make the Yellow-bellied

Flycatcher especially vulnerable to either natural or human-derived effects. Indeed, these small populations may not prove viable without continued influx of new birds. Thus far, only one recent colony comprised more than three pairs. Immigration from distant, small populations can be difficult (MacArthur and Wilson 1967). Considering the short life span of this small bird and its possible vulnerabilities as a neotropical migrant, any of these populations could be easily extirpated. Hall (1983) may have summarized the plight of these isolated colonies when he commented on southern Appalachian birds: "The prospects for these southernmost populations look dim."

The association of this species with wetlands that are protected by legislation and with professionally managed lands give me cause for guarded optimism for Pennsylvania's Yellow-bellied Flycatchers. Even these wetlands could be affected by logging, roadway management, and other habitat modification routinely performed on both State Forest Lands and State Game Lands. Flooding by either people or beavers could also destroy Yellow-bellied Flycatcher habitat (Mellon 1990). The edges of these wetlands are also apparently important to this species, especially the hemlock stands. Preserving a buffer zone at the edge of forested wetlands should be part of the management plan for the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher.

The use of at least three bogs in consecutive years suggests that some Yellow-bellied Flycatcher colonies are self-perpetuating. However, the apparent failure of Yellow-bellied Flycatchers to breed at one previously successful nesting ground (LC-A Bog) warn of how small populations can easily disappear. We still know very little about the population size and dynamics of this Threatened species.

Boreal habitats, both wetlands and forests, have declined in Pennsylvania since the early 1800s, and with them, the boreal bird species (Todd 1940, Poole 1968). The decline of boreal habitats has severely depreciated the biodiversity of Pennsylvania. Along with the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, several other species have declined in abundance and distribution since earlier this century when the northern counties were logged. Among these are Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*), Olive-sided Flycatcher (*Contopus*

borealis), Swainson's Thrush (*Catharus ustulata*), Northern Waterthrush (*Seiurus noveboracensis*), and Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*). Many others could also be named. Some species have apparently rebounded from this period, notably Northern Goshawk, Common Raven, Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*), Golden-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus satrapa*), and Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Dendroica coronata*).

The boreal forested wetlands which I have studied harbor a large diversity of species. In one of them, I have found at least 35 species demonstrating breeding behavior in a ten acre area, including some rare species such as Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*), Swainson's Thrush, Northern Waterthrush, Canada Warbler (*Wilsonia canadensis*), and White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*). Northern forested wetlands need protection and perhaps deserve some aggressive reclamation efforts.

Considering the paucity of information about the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, it seems appropriate to continue searching for other breeding sites, surveying populations of known sites, and studying its habitat requirements. I invite serious Pennsylvania field ornithologists to search for more nesting grounds of this species. Information shared with me will be treated confidentially and I urge others to be careful about their field techniques and the effects their presence will have on rare species. The safety and continued presence of the birds should be of paramount concern.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This study was supported by the Pennsylvania Wildlife Resource Conservation Fund. Thanks to all who have contributed to this endeavor to support research on Protected Species. Thanks to Dan Brauning for helping this study in many ways, including sharing in the 1990 field work, producing the distribution map, and offering advice on the 1991 study and this paper. Roger "Skip" Conant, Rob Megraw, and Rich Megraw were valuable field trip companions. Sharon Harrell assisted with vegetation field work. Thanks are also due to all those Atlas Volunteers that went the extra distance to blockbust in the remote areas of northern counties. ☺

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—Ecology III
RD 1, U.S. Rt. 11
Berwick, PA 18603

About the Cover Artist

Michael McNelly

This is the second cover by Michael this year. However, unlike the Northern Hawk Owl, this illustration was not produced specifically for **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS**. It was created for the *Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas* due out next spring. We thank the University of Pittsburgh Press, Dan Brauning, and Michael for their permission to use this illustration for this issue.

With illustrations by artists such as Michael McNelly and authorship by such as Doug Gross, we know that the atlas will be well worth purchasing. We are looking forward to its release.

See Volume 5, Number 1, page 7 for more information about Michael McNelly.

Can you hear Blue-winged Warblers?

by Barbara M. Haas

Can you hear a Blue-winged, Golden-winged, or Black-and-white warbler at a 100 yards? Or a Grasshopper Sparrow? If not, then you may have a high frequency hearing loss.

Many of you know that I am an audiologist as well as a birder. Perhaps the only audiologist/birder in the country. In the twenty years I have worked with hearing impaired people and hearing aids, I have constantly endeavored to provide amplification which would furnish the extended high frequencies in order that birders with a hearing loss could again hear warblers, sparrows, etc., in the field.

Hearing aids in the past had high frequency emphasis, but not the extended high frequencies necessary for birders. Other inherent problems in the devices often made them unsuitable for field listening, most noticeably the amplification of loud sounds, *i.e.*, traffic, etc.

That is, until the *Birder* was developed. I can now state with assurance that **most** hearing losses can be fitted **successfully**, especially those with a pure high frequency loss! I have worked closely with one manufacturer to the point that I now have the *Birder* available. Originally developed for those individuals with mild-to-moderate high frequency losses, it now has a significantly broader range of fitting.

The patented amplifier has a unique feature: *it only amplifies quiet sounds*. Other sounds that present problems for most hearing aid wearers (dishes clattering, paper crunching, wind howling, someone shouting) pass through without amplification, just as if the hearing aid were not there. Gain for loud sounds is *available* if the user chooses it, but will usually not be necessary.

In essence it gives the most treble boost for *quiet* sounds by having a built-in sensor that detects and amplifies only quiet sounds, and it is acoustically transparent for loud sounds.

I know what birders are listening for and have made it my quest to try to

help them. Fortunately for me, my husband (unfortunate for him) has a moderate high frequency hearing loss bilaterally, so I was able to utilize his ears for empirical studies. When birding together it was apparent he was missing many of the Blue-winged and Black-and-white warblers and Grasshopper Sparrows, for example, unless we were exceptionally close to them. I tried everything available to try and help him, but there were **always** disparaging comments about the instruments. Until the *Birder*.

He tried one and then, not unexpectedly, said that although he could now hear these birds, he could not localize them, so now he is wearing two *Birders* (one for each ear) for birding and all other less-than-ideal listening situations. I might add that when he is wearing them, the volume of the TV in the house and the radio in the car are significantly lower.

There is an added feature. They serve as **active ear protection**. When wearing them, you can be around noise, such as power tools, lawn mowers, etc., without the excessive noise causing further damage to your hearing. I use them when mowing our lawn.

And there is a further advantage for birders. I wear them on bird counts! It is amazing how much more one can hear. They should prove to be outstanding for BBS routes, since birds in that zone between stops may be picked up...or for hearing those birds calling in that woodlot out across the field. Wait till they catch on for Big Days! No corner of New Jersey will be safe for the World Series of Birding!

In order to demonstrate it to birders, I play a tape of Blue-winged and other warblers with high-pitched songs with the volume of the tape recorder set low and have the individual stand across a 30-foot room. With the *Birder* they are able to hear it clearly. Many have remarked that they are hearing the **full song** once again. Without the *Birder* they often are just a couple of feet away from the speakers before they can pick up part or all of the song. And when appropriate, we

also go outside and listen.

The *Birder* in-the-ear (ITE) instrument is only available in a full shell model. For this model it is imperative that the wearer have an adequate-sized ear canal. In December 1991 our company will have a behind-the-ear (BTE) model available for those without adequate-sized canals. The *Birder* can be made in a smaller model, but **does not have** the extended range that I feel is critical for birders.

It all boils down to the fact that I have never been so excited about being able to help birders...EVER. The *Birder* is doing what it is supposed to do. If you, or anyone you know, would be interested in following up on this quantum leap, dramatic breakthrough, please let me know.

If all goes as planned, I will be at the ABA convention in Mobile, Alabama, in April and the ABA mini-convention in McAllen, Texas, in January. Otherwise, I am here to answer your questions either by telephone or in person. If out of the office, my answering service will give you the approximate time I should return. Or just leave a message with the service and I will get back to you as soon as possible.

What is also important is that the *Birder* has been a tremendous success for non-birders as well. The extended high frequencies allow for the high pitched consonants to be amplified, thereby making speech, a crucial aspect in our lives, more easily understood. To date, everyone I have fit has been extremely pleased. A bonus is that music is more enjoyable as well.

For further information, please contact me at (215) 445-5010 or (800) 762-6360 or write to: Haas Hearing Center, 2469 Hammertown Road, Narvon, PA 17555-9726. ☺

Nominations for PORC Membership Sought

NOTICE: Nominations are being accepted for the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee (P.O.R.C.). Three years ago an august group of Pennsylvania's birders gathered to fill a long-vacant gap in the state's organized birding community—a records' committee. This group has met annually and reviewed a vast number of historic and recent bird records. Their reports appear in *PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS* (see Vol. 5, No. 1, page 26, for the most recent report). The major accomplishment of the group to date was the publication of an official list of Pennsylvania's birds (Vol. 4, No. 2, pp 51–53). This list will continually be updated as additional sightings are reported and past records are reviewed.

The records committee serves as a sub-committee of the Ornithological Technical Committee (OTC) of the Pennsylvania Biological Survey. The P.O.R.C. bylaws, published in *PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS* 2(3):91–94, specifically designate that members be selected for three-year terms by vote of the OTC. The initial membership was to be staggered to maintain continuity, but elections were not held for the first three years as a result of an oversight by the OTC chair.

Two positions will be open in 1992 for a three-year term. Article III (Membership) of the bylaws states: "Qualifications for (Pa Ornithological Records) Committee membership should include expertise in identification of birds, knowledge of Pennsylvania birds, and familiarity with birders and localities in Pennsylvania. A geographical balance to the Committee is desirable, but should not override the criteria above." I might add that the ability to interpret written descriptions and a willingness to work hard on difficulties in identification and preparation of statements to support or reject the species in question are also most important. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please send a brief synopsis of your qualifications (your ornithological/birding résumé) to the chairman of the OTC:

**Dan Brauning
Chairman OTC
RD 2, Box 484
Montgomery, PA 17752 ●**

PENNSYLVANIA SOCIETY for ORNITHOLOGY

1992 ANNUAL MEETING*

Location: PRESQUE ISLE STATE PARK, Erie, Pa.

Date: May 15, 16 and 17, 1992

Birding Bird Banding

Presentations on: Ecology of Presque Isle Impact of deer on birds

For more information, contact:

Shonah A. Hunter
Dept. of Biological Sciences
Lock Haven University
Lock Haven, PA 17745
717-893-2062

*Open to members and non-members alike.

BLUE JAYS AND RUSSIAN ROULETTE

by Paul W. & Glenna P. Schwalbe

The sun had broken through the fog on the morning of 28 August 1991, and it was getting warmer. Leaving the road and walking along the trail through one of our favorite spots, a dense dark grove of beautiful hemlocks, we came to the bog. Walking out into Rosecrans Bog on this particular morning was easy. Because of the drought, there was only a small puddle of water out in the middle. Actually, it was so parched it looked like a disaster area. We had never before been able to go so far out with dry feet. Deer tracks were all over. In fact, two deer up at the western end were watching our progress through the bog. The ground did start to become soggy about two hundred feet out and we had to stop.

Here we were, standing in a dried up, drought-ravaged bog, trying to fabricate Olive-sided Flycatchers in the tops of the snags surrounding us, however without success. Glenna saw a flock of Cedar Waxwings flycatching from the bare top of a birch tree outlined against the sky across the bog. It was then that Paul noticed a truly amazing spectacle going on about one hundred yards to the left. Several species were involved, but it was the Blue Jays that caught our attention.

They were talking among themselves, calling and jumping about. We raised our binoculars. "Look, there are some flickers too, and what's that! It's an accipiter! It has to be a Sharp-shinned, see how small it is." Thus began our first experience with Russian Roulette—Blue Jay Style.

Guess what the procedures are for Russian Roulette—Blue Jay Style? First, there are definitely no rules, no protocol, absolutely no courtesy. Obviously you need Blue Jays, determined Blue Jays, and, of course, slightly insane Blue Jays. We had about nine or ten. Also needed is an equally determined, feisty, and

perhaps demented, Sharp-shinned Hawk. We had an immature one. These were the principle players, all of whom had decided that that part of the earth's crust belonged to them.

Second, there was an audience, which in this case consisted of two Yellow-shafted Flickers, a Pileated Woodpecker, an American Kestrel and, of course, ourselves.

Then it's on!

At that moment one of the jays dove at the hawk. And not to be outdone, the hawk, at breakneck speed, took off after it; the jay screaming and the hawk making a sound something like "Irratt, Irratt, Irratt", very hoarse and deep. After a short up-and-down, dodging chase, the jay escaped and the hawk landed on another snag. During this chase and succeeding ones, we could compare in flight the size of the hawk with the jays. Both of us felt that this Sharp-shinned was about an inch longer than the jays it was chasing.

After each chase, four or five other jays would fly into the snag where the hawk was perched. One would get too close, and the duel was on again.

Another dive by a jay. Its screaming and the hawk's "Irratt, Irratt, Irratt" resounding during the short chase. The audience gasped and continued watching. With mixed emotions, we realized that with talons extended, the sharpie came within inches of the jay, but still missed.

Just who should we be for anyway?

The jays gathered forces. Next, one landed on the snag below the hawk, and it gave immediate chase, this time almost driving the jay into the ground, but with a tight turn the jay escaped again.

Still no bloodshed.

Then from atop another snag an immature kestrel dove at the sharpie, to be chased itself in turn.

How antisocial can you get? A confused Pileated Woodpecker, whether an innocent bystander or otherwise we know not, was flushed twice by the direct passes of the Sharp-shinned. The flickers stayed mostly perched on the tops of their respective snags, but one made a quick exit with the Sharp-shinned in close pursuit, albeit for a short distance.

When we first observed this melee, one of us had the foresight to check the time. When we reached the point where we could no longer hold our binoculars up, fifteen minutes had passed. The Sharp-shinned Hawk had chased various jays at least nine times, and still everybody sat around glaring at each other.

During this process an Osprey flew overhead. Then an immature Red-shouldered Hawk came circling by, looking beautiful with its characteristic light tan slashes across the upper side of the primaries showing prominently as it banked. They seemed to bother no one, except the Kestrel acted a little distrustful of the Red-shouldered. The dozen or so Killdeer on the open part of the bog didn't seem interested in the events, nor did the few Great Blue Herons, but they were quite a distance away.

It wasn't that we necessarily felt ourselves sinking, it was the muck starting to cover our shoes that made us suddenly sidestep to higher, slightly firmer ground. We now had to move on to other areas, and as we were walking back to the edge of the bog, we could hear behind us "Irratt, Irratt, Irratt." We were afraid to look. Did one jay pull the trigger once too often? We didn't want to know! ●

546 Wilson St.
Jersey Shore, PA 17740

PENNSYLVANIA BIRDLISTS REPORT FORM

Name (Please print)

Address

Address

City State Zip

Report totals as of 31 December.
Mail by March 15 to:

Terence Schiefer
203 E. Gillespie St.
Starkville, MS 39759

----- Pennsylvania Lifestist

COUNTY LIFELISTS

- | | | |
|------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| ----- Adams | ----- Delaware | ----- Monroe |
| ----- Allegheny | ----- Elk | ----- Montgomery |
| ----- Armstrong | ----- Erie | ----- Montour |
| ----- Beaver | ----- Fayette | ----- Northampton |
| ----- Bedford | ----- Forest | ----- Northumberland |
| ----- Berks | ----- Franklin | ----- Perry |
| ----- Blair | ----- Fulton | ----- Philadelphia |
| ----- Bradford | ----- Greene | ----- Pike |
| ----- Bucks | ----- Huntingdon | ----- Potter |
| ----- Butler | ----- Indiana | ----- Schuylkill |
| ----- Cambria | ----- Jefferson | ----- Snyder |
| ----- Cameron | ----- Juniata | ----- Somerset |
| ----- Carbon | ----- Lackawanna | ----- Sullivan |
| ----- Centre | ----- Lancaster | ----- Susquehanna |
| ----- Chester | ----- Lawrence | ----- Tioga |
| ----- Clarion | ----- Lebanon | ----- Union |
| ----- Clearfield | ----- Lehigh | ----- Venango |
| ----- Clinton | ----- Luzerne | ----- Warren |
| ----- Columbia | ----- Lycoming | ----- Washington |
| ----- Crawford | ----- McKean | ----- Wayne |
| ----- Cumberland | ----- Mercer | ----- Westmoreland |
| ----- Dauphin | ----- Mifflin | ----- Wyoming |
| | ----- York | |

Annual Lists (County or Statewide)

e.g.

240 Pennsylvania 1990
235 Franklin 1989

Number	County	Year	Number	County	Year
-----	<u>Pennsylvania</u>	-----	<u>1990</u>	-----	-----
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-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----



Place
Stamp
Here

Terence Schiefer
203 E. Gillespie Street
Starkville, MS 39759



First Documented Record of Summering Winter Wrens *Troglodytes troglodytes* in Philadelphia

by Freda Rappaport and Ed Fingerhood

This summer I was richly rewarded with the beautiful song of the Winter Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*) on my early morning walks in the upper Wissahickon Valley in the northwestern section of Philadelphia. I walk a wide path, called Forbidden Drive, on the west bank of the Wissahickon Creek. The creek cuts a deep gorge with steep hills of mixed deciduous-evergreen woodlands rising on either side of the creek. The singing occurred high on a deeply wooded slope strewn with fallen logs and boulders about 1/2-mile below Bell's Mill Road in an area around marker #405.

I first heard the song early in June. I heard the singing again on 17 June and had unsatisfactory looks at a bird flitting around the moss-covered logs high on the hill. Starting 1 July I heard the Winter Wren every day for 15 consecutive days and was very frustrated because I had yet to get a satisfactory look. At last, on 16 July, while walking near #405 with Ruth Pfeffer, the Winter Wren flew down the hill and sang near the path. We both had good looks. At last I was sure of what I had been hearing. One bird was heard or seen every day from 17 to 25 July, except on the 21st.

On 26 July, surprisingly, I saw two Winter Wrens on the creek side of Forbidden Drive near #403. They followed one another, foraging and flying about. One of the wrens was singing. I had very close views for 5–8 minutes. One, presumably a male, sang from a low hemlock branch near the path. The other wren did not sing. It poked about on the ground nearby, around an old, rotted upturned stump, a few feet off the path. It seemed to ignore the singer, but clearly was associated with it. The presumed male displayed briefly by fluttering the wings and fanning its little, upright tail. It sang throughout the display and encounter. Eventually, both birds flew off together. I looked for evidence

of a nest in the area where the female (?) was foraging, but without success.

The bird was tape-recorded on 6 August by Ed Fingerhood, and seen off and on until August 10. The bird was not heard singing after 6 August. According to Arthur Bent, the Winter Wren's singing extends "up to the first week in August or later." To quote Armas Hill, "This bird read the book."

On 10 and 11 August, Ed, Keith Russell, and Erica Brendel scoured the area from the upper trail looking for evidence of nesting with no success. The bird was neither seen nor heard. However, on 10 August, it was seen by Ruth Pfeffer. I resumed my observations on 13 August and for the next two weeks neither saw nor heard the wren again.

Keith tells me that my dear, departed friend and birding mentor, Evelyn Kramer, reported hearing a Winter Wren singing in the upper Wissahickon during the spring and summer of 1972. I think she would be very pleased.

7373 Ridge Ave., Apt. 415
Philadelphia, PA 19128

Some Additional Notes - Ed Fingerhood

Winter Wrens summering in southeastern Pennsylvania is, indeed, unusual. Other than the E. Kramer record, we know of no other from the area. In general, they are gone by the first week of May and do not arrive back until the third or fourth week in September.

Summering birds suggest the possibility of nesting. A careful search of the area, however, was unsuccessful. Dan Brauning informs me that the forthcoming *Atlas of Breeding Birds in Pennsylvania* will indicate that the most southerly confirmed nesting in Pennsylvania was in Luzerne and Pike counties.

Probable nesting was recorded from the Hawk Mt. area and Dauphin County (pers. comm.). All these records are at some considerable distance from and higher elevations than the Wissahickon Valley in Philadelphia.

The cessation of song that Arthur Bent describes in early August (see his Winter Wren account, p. 155), was confirmed by our observations. However, Christopher Walters, who visited Mt. Desert Island, Maine, at the end of August- beginning of September, 1991, reports the singing of at least one Winter Wren there on 30 August 1991. And Stanley Cramp, ed., *Birds of the Western Palearctic*, Vol. V, 1988, notes that the nominate subspecies, *T. t. troglodytes*, sings "throughout the year" but the singing does drop "almost to nil in August" with "some resurgence afterwards" (p. 532).

The widespread western palearctic Winter Wren subspecies, *troglodytes*, exhibits courtship display—continuous song, wing-quivering and fanned tail—(Cramp, ed. *Ibid*, p. 534, fig. C), which is similar to that described above. The most likely southeastern Pennsylvania subspecies is *T. t. hiemalis*. If the two subspecies engage in similar display, then Freda Rappaport's suggestion that her encounter with the two Winter Wrens on 26 July might represent a male/female courtship interaction seems supported by her observations. This display is thought to excite the female and prepare her for mating. Such breeding behavior in southeastern Pennsylvania, to my knowledge, has not been reported previously. ●

541 W. Sedgwick St.
Philadelphia, 19119

Marbled Godwit

Limosa fedoa

Lancaster County

Jonathan Heller

On 3 August 1991 I was exploring an island off Marietta, Lancaster County, Pa., where there was a lot of exposed gravel with patches of mud because of the unusually low water. At 900 h. I saw two large shorebirds fly in from the north and land on the island. I identified them as Marbled Godwits (*Limosa fedoa*) and observed them for 10 to 15 minutes with good lighting and viewing conditions. The godwits ventured within 100 feet and were still present when I moved on. I viewed them through 8.5X44 Swift binoculars and a 15-45 zoom Bushnell scope.

Details. Viewed from above in flight these shorebirds appeared buffy, with cinnamon tones and extensive dark brown, almost black, mottling. The tail was buffy with fine, dark barring. The underwing was not seen, but the upper wing was buffy with dark mottling and dark brown outer primaries. On the upperwing most of the inner primaries and secondaries appeared to be an unmarked bright, buffy color. The birds had very long and slightly upcurved pink and black bills. At least the first third of the bill was pink. At rest the rather long, dark legs could be seen; and the dark primaries were especially apparent. The breast and flanks were moderately barred with dark brown, and the overall cinnamon tones were especially apparent.

Very few species can be confused with Marbled Godwit; but the Bar-tailed Godwit (*L. lapponica*) can resemble it, especially in juvenile plumage. I eliminated the Bar-tailed Godwit as a contending species because of the extensive barring below, the long legs, the very long and upcurved bill (shorter legs and bill in Bar-tailed Godwit), and the strong buffy tones including all of the tail and rump (the tail and rump should not have strong buffy tones in the Bar-tailed). The cinnamon tones also support Marbled Godwit. Just this past April I saw over a hundred Marbled Godwits at Flamingo in the Everglades National Park, Florida. But I have never seen a Bar-tailed Godwit.☉

194 Newcomer Rd.
Mt. Joy, PA 17552

Red Phalarope

Phalaropus fulicaria

First County Record for

Greene County

Ralph K. Bell and

George A. Hall

Date: 22 September 1991

Location: The Robert Goslin Farm, near Dry Tavern, Greene County, Pa.

Habitat: A small farm pond that was at a low water level because of the drought. The owner had been bulldozing out the bottom muck and so the pond was quite muddy.

Characteristics Noted: That the bird was a phalarope was obvious from the characteristic black through the eyes. The bill was black (as it is in young birds), but was stout and not needle-like as in the Red-necked Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*). The back was gray and unmarked. The dark stripe on the wing was more obvious than it is in most field guide pictures. The legs were yellow-olive.

Circumstances: Mr. Goslin reported that it had been present for about a week when he informed Bell of the bird. Bell went to see it on 22 September and made a tentative identification, although he had had no previous experience with any phalarope. Bell then called Hall and the two of them studied the bird on the afternoon of 22 September 1991.

Previous Experience: Bell had no previous experience with any phalarope. Hall has seen all three species and has studied the Red Phalarope offshore from Long Beach and San Francisco, California, and a grounded individual at Cape May, New Jersey. Several years ago he examined a large number of museum specimens of the Red Phalarope in preparation for a paper on the soft-part colors of the species that he and K. C. Parkes proposed to write but never did.☉

Ralph K. Bell
RR 1, Box 229
Clarksville, PA 15322

George A. Hall
RR 12, Box 89
Morgantown, WV 26505

Blue Grosbeak

Guiraca caerulea

Fourth County Record
for

Northampton County

Rick Wiltraut

On 30 July 1991 I was banding nestling Eastern Bluebirds (*Sialia sialis*) at the Little Gap Bird Observatory, Northampton County, Pa. when I heard what I presumed was a male Purple Finch (*Carpodacus purpureus*) singing nearby. Although Purple Finches regularly nest near Penn Forest Res., a few miles to the north in Carbon Co., I thought it was unusual to find one in song on top of the Blue Mountain in July.

I soon located the singer at the top of a tree and when I look at it through my binoculars, I was astonished to see a male Blue Grosbeak (*Guiraca caerulea*). The entire bird was deep blue in color except for two rusty wingbars on each wing. The bird was larger than an Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*) and appeared to be about the same size as the adult Eastern Bluebirds nearby. It had a very large conical beak with a noticeable silver lower mandible. It flew from the tree and landed in a stand of phragmites nearby, offering me excellent looks. As the bird perched on one of the stalks, it twitched its tail from side to side and sang its warbled song. I observed the bird for approximately five minutes through 10X40 binoculars at distances between 50 to 150 feet before it flew north and out of sight. The area was a powerline cut with tall grasses bordered by second-growth woods of pine, oak, and laurel. The elevation here is about 1400 feet.

There are three previous records of Blue Grosbeaks in Northampton County, including two sightings in August, 1990. near the southeastern corner of the county. My previous experience with the species includes male birds seen in Arizona and at Pymatuning Lake and Tinicum National Environmental Center in Pennsylvania.

Since the Blue Grosbeak is slowly extending its breeding range northward, birders in the northern counties should check out any "Purple Finches" they hear singing in Blue Grosbeak habitat.☉

205 Washington St.
Nazareth, PA 18064

Summary of The Season - July to September 1991

This quarter will be remembered as the third consecutive year of drought in most of the state, and Pennsylvania was not suffering alone. Ponds dried up. Wells went dry. Crops withered in the fields. Not exactly the conditions of the Dust Bowl of the 1930s, but bad enough. It can be assumed that birds were affected as much as we were, but it's just a bit harder to quantify since they don't publish a balance sheet at the end of a breeding season.

From "good" to "exceptional" (numbers) of long-legged waders were reported in various counties. But was this good? It was probably not the result of increased breeding success. Low water levels in rivers, streams and lakes made for prime feeding conditions, attracting early wanderers. **Cattle Egret** continue to be absent from their *Lancaster* haunts, and best reports came from *Berks* and *Chester*, but very few. A **Tricolored Heron** spent several weeks in *Lancaster* and a **Glossy Ibis** visited *Bucks*.

A **Brown Pelican** was reported along the L. Erie shore in Ohio and Pennsylvania. Although well described by Ohio observers, no eyewitness account from Pennsylvania has been received, although several persons saw it on the Pennsylvania side of the state line!

Double-crested Cormorant across the state are now the rule, not the exception. See the comments by Keller (*Berks*) and Schweinsberg (*Montour*). An **Am. Bittern** (*Crawford*) was the "first...at Pymatuning in many years," notes Leberman. Waterfowl migrated earlier in many locations (*i.e.*, *Erie*, *Huntingdon*). Dean (*Lawrence*) is alarmed at the decreasing numbers of hawks. Others echo the thought. More monitoring should be done by all of us. The introduced **Ring-necked Pheasant** numbers are down, but the **Ruffed Grouse** and **Wild Turkey** populations seem good. Rails were well reported, but again was this "good" or "bad"? **Common Moorhen** and **American Coot** continue their declines.

And shorebirds. When we were in Delaware on 4 July there were already over a thousand dowitchers there, numbers not usually expected for another two to three weeks! In Pennsylvania, shorebird enthusiasts

had more (both numbers and species) to look at than in many recent years. **Ls. Golden-Plover** were widespread. The sweltering heat brought two separate **Am. Avocet** to *Erie*. A **Willet** (*Butler*) and an **Upland Sandpiper** (*Venango*, 1st record) were unexpected. Both **Hudsonian** (*Crawford*) and **Marbled** (*Erie, Lancaster*) godwits were reported. **Sanderling** appeared in a half-dozen counties. Early peeps were all over the place, with **Baird's Sandpiper** in ten counties. **Buff-breasted Sandpipers** made their most impressive showing in years, being seen in 7 counties, including a first county record for *Carbon*. And all three phalaropes were reported, including four sightings of **Red Phalarope**, one of which was a county record for *Greene*.

Great Black-backed Gulls in August! "Incredible" numbers of **Black Tern** for the Susquehanna River counties (*Cumberland, Lancaster*), plus a more normal few in *Erie* and *Indiana*. No great input for cuckoos. A **Long-eared Owl** in *Tioga* in September was noteworthy. Goatsuckers remain in trouble, it appears. Reports of **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** ran the gamut from "higher than usual" (*Dauphin*) to "rather scarce" (*Greene*), with several reports of earlier than normal departures. As Bell said, "possibly because of the exceptionally dry summer and wildflowers were very, very scarce."

Good news was the finding of a second **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** nest in *Sullivan*. Read the feature article for more details. We suspect from the reports that it was tough pickings for all the insectivores this summer. Swallows left early (*Mifflin, Tioga, etc.*). The **Jackdaws** remain in Lewisburg. **Carolina Wren** continue their expansion to higher elevations (*Sullivan*) with apparent good breeding success. Floyd (*Allegheny*) writes, "The absence of *Catharus* species continued to alarm...observers" and we second his comments. Maybe it is finally time to do more censusing of those in our areas. **Cedar Waxwing** reports were excellent across the northern tier counties, at least by their presence. *Adams* still has probably the only breeding pair of **Loggerhead Shrike** in the state.

Vireos and warblers were most

likely stressed as well. "A singing male **White-eyed Vireo** in inappropriate habitat...7/3 may have indicated breeding failure," writes Hess for *Allegheny*. It must be youth that had Hoffman (*Cumberland*) saying the flight was "awesome" Certainly not the sentiment of most compilers. The expected variety was found during migration, but many commented that their local breeding birds seemed below average.

And back to *Allegheny*, "was a pair of **Scarlet Tanager** feeding on achenes of *Eupatorium* sp. a consequence of the dry weather?" **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were difficult to find (*Bedford, Delaware*). **Blue Grosbeak** in July (*Berks, Northampton*) may also have been breeding failure birds.

Best reports for sparrows seemed to be for those who inhabit drier locales. A **Lincoln's Sparrow** (*Wyoming*) in mid-September was extremely early. **Sharp-tailed Sparrows** started making their appearance on the Susquehanna R. (*Lancaster*) in late September. A **Yellow-headed Blackbird** in August (*Bucks*) was quite early for recent times. A mixed flock of blackbirds (*Cambria*) at the end of September was estimated at 102,000 birds. Orioles received their, by now standard, mixed reviews. Reports of **Purple Finch** were few and of only one or two individuals. Reid (*Wyoming*) hit the nail on the head when he said, "...a species which is becoming increasingly scarce." Obviously, not what one says about **House Finch**. A few **Pine Siskin** bred again this year (*Somerset*).

Reports from Canada and New England indicate that this will be a good year for Snowy Owls and other northern visitors. There have already been several Snowy Owl reports in Pennsylvania (since September), and the reports from up north of Boreal Owls, Northern Hawk Owls, Bohemian Waxwings, and winter finches are too numerous to mention.

We thought that last winter would be a good finch year because of the early fall movement of Black-capped Chickadees, Purple Finches, and Pine Siskins. Let's hope this year's signs are not also a false alarm. ☺

COUNTY REPORTS - July through September 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, *vide*:reported by, **Ft.**:Fort, **imm.**:immature, **indiv.**:individual(s), **I.**:Island, **Is.**:Islands, **Jct.**:Junction, **juv.**:juvenile, **L.**:Lake, **max.**:maximum, **min.**:minimum, **m.ob.**:many observers, **Mt.**:Mountain, **Mts.**:Mountains, **NF.**:National Forest, **NWR**:National Wildlife Refuge, **Res.**:Reservoir, **R.**:River, **S.F.**:State Forest, **SGL**:State Game Lands, **S.P.**:State Park, **sp.**:species, **spp.**:species plural, **ssp.**:subspecies, **Twp.**:Township, **w.**:western, **WMA**:Wildlife Management Area, **v.o.**:various observers, **N,S,E,W.**:direction of motion, **n.,s.,e.,w.**:direction of location, **>**:more than, **<**:fewer than, **±**:approximately, or estimated number, **♂**:male, **♀**:female, **♂**:imm. or female, *****:specimen, **†**:documentation, **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: Bullfrog Rd (BFR), Michaux SF (MSF), Pumping Station Rd (PSR), Red Rock Rd (RR), Warbler Woods (WW).

The county suffered tremendously from the drought. Many of the farm ponds became very low and provided us with some good sightings. This, our first summer and fall in our new home, gave us a chance to become acquainted with the area. Our WW is located on the w. end of BFR and contains mostly hardwood trees. We built a waterfall and a series of birdbaths and had very good results. AK spent most of his life in turfgrass, Agronomy and Horticulture, and EK decided we would not have any lawn to mow. This gave us a lot of time to birdwatch. Our 8-acre woods produced 66 spp., of which 28 were warblers at the birdbaths.

A **Com. Loon** was on Long Pine Run Dam 8/8-9/23 (CG). Max. numbers of 8 **Great Blue Heron**, 6 **Great Egret**, & 20 **Green-backed Heron** (a roost was found) were at a pond on BFR 8/9; the roost was active till 8/23. 2 **N. Harrier** were on PSR 9/19. A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was feeding on a chipmunk in WW 9/21. 15 **Wild Turkey** were in MSF 8/5 (CG). A small covey of **N. Bobwhite** was on PSR 7/16. 2 **Gr. Yellowlegs** & 3 **Spotted Sandpiper** were on RR 8/10. **Upland Sandpiper** were seen all summer and 16 were seen in one flock 7/12 (AK,FM), with 2 as late as 8/5.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo were noted all summer. **Whip-poor-will** were heard in July in MSF. We know of 5 **Red-headed Woodpecker** nest sites on PSR, RR, & BFR. An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was in MSF 8/28,29 (CG). **Bank Swallow** nested again at a quarry on BFR. 3 **Com. Raven** were in MSF 8/27 (CG).

It was an excellent year for **E. Bluebird** and all spotted-breasted thrushes used our baths. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** appeared in WW 8/22.

While driving home on PSR 8/20, we saw an imm. **Loggerhead Shrike** sitting on a fence post. This is about -m i from where we usually see the shrike. We inquired at the farm and one of the help told us that he had seen 3 imm. and 2 ad. on a fence earlier this spring. After intensive questioning, we felt sure he had seen the 5 shrikes. We continue to see shrikes on RR.

White-eyed, Yellow-throated, and Red-eyed vireos nested on BFR or WW, and 1 **Warbling** & 5 **Philadelphia** came through WW plus 1 in MSF (CG). First migrant warblers were noted 8/21. Highlights were **Cerulean, Connecticut, Mourning, and Prothonotary**. The latter stayed in the bath and flew to a tree nearby and preened. Both **Kentucky** and **Ovenbird** used the bath

and the latter brought 4 imm. in several times. Also utilizing the bath were **Scarlet Tanager** and **N. Oriole**, often bathing together. Sep. brought many **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** to eat the many red berries on the dogwood trees.

OBSERVERS: Carl Garner, Eleanor & Art Kennell, 2332 Bullfrog Rd, Fairfield 17320 (717-642-6995), Floyd Mitchell.

ALLEGHENY COUNTY

Ted Floyd

Abbreviations: Beechwood Farms (BF), Frick Park (FP), Harrison Hills Park (HH), Natrona Heights (NH), Pittsburgh (PG), Schenley Park (SC), Swisshale (SW).

Dry weather throughout the summer may have resulted in decreased reproductive success for multiple-brooded species (PH). The first two months of the fall landbird migration were rated as slow (MF).

Last **Turkey Vulture** was 10/7 over PG (RG). An **Osprey** over the Youghiogheny R. 8/7 was early (PB). A **Bald Eagle** was a good find at FP 9/1 (MF,RP). Summering accipiter included a **Sharp-shinned Hawk** at Springdale 7/14 (PH) and a **Cooper's** at NH 7/16 (PH). A **N. Harrier** was listed near HH 9/1 (R&SG). **Broad-winged Hawk** was absent all quarter from FP, a usual breeding locale (MF).

A pair of **Ruffed Grouse** was listed at HH 9/29 (R&SG *et al.*). Up to 40 **Wild Turkey** were found in Fawn Twp (*vide* RG). Last **Com. Nighthawk** were 6 over PG 9/28 (PH), and last **Chimney Swift** was a single bird over SW 9/29 (MF). **Red-bellied Woodpecker** and **N. Flicker** were in good numbers at HH 9/29 (R&SG *et al.*). First **Brown Creeper** was at SW 9/29 (MF).

The absence of *Catharus* spp. continued to alarm various observers. A single **Veery** at HH 9/1 (PH,R&SG) was the only report. **Swainson's Thrush** max. was 5 at BF 9/12 (DS). **N. Mockingbird** was listed at 6 locations (v.o.). At least 100 **Cedar Waxwing** were present at FP 9/1 (TF). A singing ad. ♂ **White-eyed Vireo** in inappropriate habitat at NH 7/3 may have indicated breeding failure (PH). **Vireo** sightings include: **Solitary** 9/29 at HH (v.o.); a **Yellow-throated** was noted in Plum Borough 9/23 (SG); a **Philadelphia** at BF 9/12 (DS); last **Red-eyed** was at HH 9/29 (R&SG *et al.*).

The very poor fall warbler flight was comprised of these reports: 3 **Blue-winged** at FP 9/1 (TF); 2 **Tennessee** at FP 9/1 (TF); 1 **Nashville** at FP 9/1 (TF) and 1 at HH 9/1 (PH); 1 **Chestnut-sided** at FP 9/1 (TF) and 1 at BF 9/12 (DS); 5 **Magnolia** at FP 9/1 (TF) and 2 at BF 9/12 (DS); 2 **Black-throated Blue** at FP 9/1 (TF); 5 **Black-throated Green** at FP 9/1 (TF); 4 **Blackburnian** at FP 9/1 (TF); 1 **Pine** at HH 9/29 (R&SG *et al.*); 1 **Bay-breasted** at FP 9/1 (TF) and 1 at BF 9/12 (DS); 2 **Blackpoll** at FP 9/1 (TF); 1 **Am. Redstart** at FP 9/1 (TF); and 1 **Com. Yellowthroat** at FP 9/1 (TF).

Was a pair of **Scarlet Tanager** feeding on achenes of *Eupatorium* sp. (PB) a consequence of the dry weather? First **White-throated Sparrow** was at SC 9/28, and first **Dark-eyed Junco** at SW 9/29 (MF).

OBSERVERS: Paul Brown, Mike Fialkovich, Ted Floyd, Pesticide Research Lab., Penn State University, University Park 16802 (814-8633390), Randi & Sarah Gerrish, Paul Hess, Rob Pruehs, Dennis Smeltzer.

ARMSTRONG COUNTY

Margaret and Roger Higbee

Abbreviations: Crooked Creek (CC), Elderton (EL), Ford City (FC), Keystone Res. (KR), Manorville (MV), Rosston (RS).

The highlight of the quarter was the appearance of **Baird's Sandpiper** at KR on two dates.

Double-crested Cormorant reports, all at KR, include 1 8/22 (ES), 4 9/4 (GL,GS), and 1 9/7 (FE,M&RH). **Great Blue Heron** were reported in nice numbers at KR, 7 7/30 (BB,MH), & 6 9/7 (FE,M&RH). Up to 11 **Green-backed Heron** were found at KR 8/26 (ES). **Canada Goose** max. include 36 at MV 8/4 (ES), 63 at KR 9/1 (ES) & 14 at CC 9/3 (JV). Small numbers of **Wood Duck** were at RS (ES) & MV (ES,JV). **Green-winged Teal** arrived at KR 9/1 (ES), with top count 9 9/6 (M&RH). A N. **Shoveler** at MV 8/2 (ES) was unusual. **Osprey** was noted at RS 8/13-18 (ES), at KR 9/4 (GL,GS), at FC 9/19 (ES), & MV 9/26 (ES). The only accipiter reported was 1 **Sharp-shinned Hawk** at MV 9/8 (ES).

Low water level at KR was conducive to a good shorebird migration. All shorebird reports from KR unless otherwise noted. 1-2 **Semipalmated Sandpiper** were observed 8/18-9/8 (v.o.). **Killdeer** peaked at 31 9/7 (FE,M&RH). **Gr. Yellowlegs** was found 8/20,26 (ES). Single **Ls. Yellowlegs** reported 8/20,22,26 (ES). 1-3 **Solitary Sandpiper** were listed between 7/30 (BB,MH) & 9/8 (ES); Solitary was also listed at MV 9/8 (ES). **Spotted Sandpiper** max. include 14 7/30 (BB,MH) & 4 at MV 8/2,6 (ES). 10-12 **Semipalmated Sandpiper** were seen 8/18-26 (ES). **Least Sandpiper** was noted 7/5 (FE,MH,GL,GW) & 9/6 (ES), with top count 14 8/18 (ES). Two **Baird's Sandpiper** were a nice find 8/18 and a singleton was still present 8/26 (ES). 6 **Pectoral Sandpiper** found 9/1 (ES) were still present at quarter's end (M&RH).

2 **Ring-billed Gull** were at KR 7/30 (BB,MH). At least 3 **Purple Martin** were seen at the EL colony 7/5 (FE,MH,GL,GW). The strips nr EL produced 2 **Vesper**, 2 **Savannah**, and 13 **Grasshopper** sparrows 7/5 (FE,MH,GL,GW). A **Rusty Blackbird** was at Ford City 9/26,29 (ES).

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

BEAVER COUNTY

Ed Kwater

No report this quarter, but I am ready to write one as soon as some information is sent to me.

COMPILER: Ed Kwater, 9828 Presidential Dr. Apt 108, Pittsburgh 15101 (412-366-2061).

BEDFORD COUNTY

Janet Shafer

Abbreviations: *Bedford (BED), Bedford Valley (BV), Belden (BL), Black Valley (BKV), Fishertown (FI), Hopewell (HO), Shawnee SP (SSP).*

During July and Aug. we had very little if any rainfall. Many streams dried up completely, and one observer noted that birds clustered around the spring near his home. All banding in BV by JES.

Our most talented and dedicated birder (Gordon Hassel) has moved from the county, so coverage was reduced by half or more. It appears that observers are listening and reporting more on owls, but waterfowl and shorebirds at SSP and Yount were not monitored.

Great Blue Heron was reported July and Aug. from BL (R&CM) and HO (JES). **Green-Backed Heron** on several dates in July and Aug. also in BL (R&CMc) and **Tatesville Bridge** 7/26 HO (JES). During Sep. 3 **Great Egret** were seen along the Juniata R. nr Everett; 2 seen 9/20 (JES). 6-25 **Wood Duck** at a time were observed throughout July and Aug. at BL (R&CM). **Sharp-shinned Hawk** reported 8/15 from BL (TC) and **Red-tailed Hawk** 7/16 FI (CMc) & 9/4 BED (CMc). **Ruffed Grouse** and **Wild Turkey** were frequently observed in BL (R&CM), with a high count of 50 turkeys noted by them 7/21. Several **Killdeer** seen at a farm pond in Cypher Beach area 9/20 HO (JES).

On 7/18, Linda Christenson from Elk was camping at SSP and reported 2 **Caspian Tern**. (Reports from visitors are always very welcome.) Also **Com. Tern** was observed at BL (R&CM) 9/26. E.

Screech-, Great-Horned and Barred owls were frequently reported from BL (R&CM), BKV (L&MJ), and BV (JES). Red-phase Screech d.o.r. on Rt. 26 1 mi n. of Everett 9/20. **Whip-poor-will** last heard singing 8/25 BV (JES). On 8/24, L&MJ, BKV, observed 35 **Com. Nighthawk** feeding on insects over their mountain fields in early evening. In previous years, Laura reports seeing them streaming N along Warrior Ridge, and she suspects there's a staging area near there.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird reported from BL (R&CM) with a total of 10 birds 7/8; last date observed 9/23. Last hummer in BV seen 9/28 (JES) with temperature at 38°F. Three **Downy Woodpecker** banded and **Pileated** frequently seen flying across area roads. 3 juv. **Red-headed Woodpecker** observed 7/10 in BL (TC), a juv. N. **Flicker** 8/7, & **Red-bellied** seen 7/29, same area. E. **Wood-Pewee**, **Acadian** 8/3 and **Least flycatchers** 7/28, & E. **Phoebe** were banded.

Francis Wigfield reported that most of the **Purple Martin** in his colony in Everett departed 8/10. He has had martins since 1946, and now has 5 houses.

Cliff Swallow nested in a barn near L. Gordon in BV (EW). On 8/21 an **Am. Crow** was d.o.r. BV (JES). It was determined to be an old female who appeared to be in very poor condition. 10 **Carolina Wren** banded. **Gray Catbird** 9/30 and **Brown Thrasher** 9/14 reported from BKV (L&MJ). N. **Mockingbird** present 7/20-22 BL (R&CM) and juv. seen 7/26 BL (TC). **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** reported 8/3 BV (JES) & 8/4 BL (R&CM). **Cedar Waxwing** 8/28 BL (R&CM) and 2 young rescued 8/21 from middle of road near Manns Choice (JES). **White-Eyed Vireo** seen 9/15 BKV (L&MJ) and **Red-eyed** last banded 8/3. A **Philadelphia Vireo**, banded 9/28, was a new species for station.

Warblers reports: **Golden-winged** 9/14 BKV (L&MJ), **Yellow** 7/15 BL (R&CM), **Magnolia** 9/28 BV (JES), **Black-throated Green** 9/20 BKV (L&MJ), **Blackpoll** 9/8 BV (JES), **Cerulean** 8/3 BV (JES), **Am. Redstart** 9/14 BKV (L&MJ), **Worm-eating** 7/28 BV (JES), **Ovenbird** (13 banded), **Kentucky** 8/3 BV (JES), **Com. Yellowthroat** (appeared scarce to this reporter) 7/15 BL (R&CM) & 8/24 BV (JES), **Hooded** 9/14 BKV (L&MJ), **Canada** 8/25 BV (JES), **Yellow-Breasted Chat** 9/15 BV (JES).

Scarlet Tanager numbers seemed down BV (JES). **Rose-Breasted Grosbeak** 8/16 BV (JES) & **Indigo Bunting** (also down?) 7/18 BL (R&CM). **Rufous-sided Towhee** 9/30 BKV (L&MJ). **Chipping** 9/28, **Field** 9/30, **Grasshopper** 9/8, & **Song** sparrows 9/2, all banded. E. **Meadowlark** observed 8/5 FI (CMc).

OBSERVERS: Terry Carnilla, Linda Christenson, Laura & Michael Jackson, Rosie & Clyde McGinnett, **Janet Shafer, RR 6 Box 338, Bedford 15522 (814-356-3553)**, Eric Wilhelm.

BERKS COUNTY

Rudy Keller

Abbreviations: *Hawk Mt. Sanctuary (HMS), L. Ontelaunee (LO).*

The rarest bird of the season was a **Red Phalarope** seen at Kaercher Creek Park, Hamburg, at a distance of about 20' 9/27 (KG,MSc). There are 2 previous records, both from LO: 11/10/32, Dr. Earl L. Poole saw 3 birds on the lake during a severe northeasterly storm; and 12/29/40, after two days of rain, Poole watched a single bird spinning on the lake and picking at the surface (Poole, *A Half Century Of Bird Life In Berks County, Pennsylvania*. Reading Public Museum And Art Gallery Bull. No. 19, 1947).

All birders afield during the quarter commented on the abundance of migrating Monarch Butterflies. HMS kept count. Butterfly big day was 9/11, when over 900 Monarchs streamed past North Lookout. By the end of Sep., over 5700 had been counted—almost as many butterflies as Broad-wings (DL)!

7 **Double-crested Cormorant** were at LO 8/19 & 9 9/10 (MS). This bird has quickly gone from **bold underlined** to almost expected. A **Cattle Egret**, not often reported, turned up near Bechtelsville in early Aug. (RK) and 2 were in Tulpehocken Twp 9/14 (HJS). An ad. and 2 imm. **Black-crowned Night-Heron** were nr Oley most of Aug. (RK) and 3 imm., possibly the product of a local nesting, took over the brick patio of a Kutztown home the last week of Aug. The owner

didn't appreciate the whitewash job, says MW. A **Hooded Merganser** at Moselem Springs 8/8– 9/1 and 2 **Com. Merganser** there 9/1 were early (MS).

As usual, **Osprey** appeared at local lakes in late summer, with a high of 4 at Blue Marsh 9/7–14 (HJS). **Bald Eagle** reports, both written and hearsay, are increasing away from the hawk lookouts. A total of 7 birds, 4 of them imm., were reported near county lakes in Aug. and Sep. (HJS,MS). HMS had counted 41 Balds by 9/30 (DL). A **N. Harrier** was seen in Bern Twp 8/25 (HJS). An ad. **Sharp-shinned Hawk** accompanied by a fledgling 7/21 provided a rare breeding confirmation of this sp. (KG). A **Cooper's Hawk** was soaring over Reading 8/24 (MW). **Broad-winged Hawk** again by-passed the ridge, with a big day count of only 1568 birds at HMS 9/13 (DL).

The drought caused mudflats at LO, but few shorebirds took advantage of them. Of the 12 spp. reported, the most interesting was **Ls. Golden Plover**, 4 of which were seen 8/18 (MS). **Black-bellied Plover**, 16 **Pectoral Sandpiper** and a **Short-billed Dowitcher** were also reported (MS). A **Laughing Gull**, casual in summer and fall, was at LO 8/4 (BS, MS) and an imm. **Great Black-backed Gull** flew over HMS 9/17 (DL). **Caspian Tern** passed through in mid- to late Aug., with a high of 5 at Moselem 8/25 (MS).

Com. Nighthawk was last heard in Reading by MW 8/15. HMS had recorded 648 **Chimney Swift** by 9/30, with a peak of 69 on 9/16 (DL). Their fall total of 82 **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was lower than average, but higher than last year (DL). An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** at HMS 9/12 (MW) was the only one reported. A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was at Antietam L. 9/4 (MS). In Hamburg, 112 **Purple Martin** were staging on utility wires 7/28 (KG). MS thought that 3 to 4 **Bank Swallow** at LO 7/14 appeared to be nesting. If so, this is a new breeding location. At HMS, **Barn Swallow** peaked at 295 on 8/11, with 566 counted by 9/30 (DL). The only **Red-breasted Nuthatch** reported stayed at Leesport 9/16– 21 (AK,DK). A **Brown Creeper** perched on KG's window in Hamburg 7/4, well within the breeding season. **Winter Wren** sang till mid-July nr the Port Clinton fire tower and at SGL 110 (KG).

Two **E. Bluebird** housing projects in s. Berks fledged 227 bluebirds, 139 **Tree Swallow** and 173 **House Wren** (TK,HL). TK noted that Tree Swallow returned earlier than usual this spring and competed more with bluebirds for boxes. A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** at Leesport 9/14 was on time, but a **Swainson's Thrush** there 8/30 was early (AK,DK). The latter, a common migrant in the 1960s and 70s, was scarce again this fall, as it has been most of the last 10 years. **Hermit Thrush** numbers continue to increase along the top of the Kittatinny Ridge, the southern fringe of their range here. KG found 14 singing ♂♂ this summer, including 9 on a 2.5 mi. walk from HMS toward Port Clinton 7/28.

There were 31 spp. of vireos and warblers reported, mostly in small numbers. Vireos included **White-eyed** 9/2, **Yellow-throated** 9/29 and **Philadelphia** 9/14,17. Warblers included **Pine** 9/6, **Prairie** 9/3, **Prothonotary** in a Bern Twp birdbath 8/27 (HJS), **N. Waterthrush** 9/15,18, breeding **Kentucky** last seen 9/14, **Connecticut** 9/25, **Mourning** 8/27 & 9/8, and **Wilson's** 5 times 8/20–9/25 (RK,AK,DK,MS,MW). HJS's celebrity birdbath was visited by a **Blue Grosbeak** 7/21.

OBSERVERS: Kerry Grim, Rudy Keller, RD 4 Box 235, Boyertown 19512 (215-376-9376), Anna Kendall, Dean Kendall, Terry Knorr, Doug Laye & HMS staff, Harold Lebo, Mary Schappell, Harold & Joan Silagy, Barton Smith, Matt Spence, Matt Wlasniewski.

BLAIR COUNTY

Marcia Bonta

Abbreviations: Brush Mt. (BM), Canoe Creek SP (CC), Ft. Roberdeau (FR), Lakemont Park (LP). All BM reports by the compiler unless otherwise noted.

A **Green-backed Heron** seen at FR 7/18 (DK), who also saw an ad. **Wood Duck** with 3 young at LP 7/21. An **Osprey** flew over BM 9/5 and a ♀ **N. Harrier** hunted a BM field 8/24. I watched a **Sharp-shinned Hawk** appear as if from nowhere, whizz across the

wide First Field like a bullet, straight and low overhead, and snatch 1 of 2 **Chipping Sparrow** sitting and chattering loudly on an open tree branch at the edge of the field 7/29. 2 **Cooper's Hawk** called from the edge of our yard 7/15, then flew down the hollow. On both 9/18,20, I watched a **Pileated Woodpecker** attack and chase off a **Cooper's Hawk** sitting in a Black Walnut tree in the yard. And a **Cooper's** stayed in our yard most of 9/28. SAK reported 200+ **Broad-winged Hawk** in a kettle over Elberta 9/2. First **Am. Kestrel** seen on BM since early spring was hunting grasshoppers 8/29.

A ♀ **Ruffed Grouse** with 6 half-grown young seen on BM 7/28 and 12 half-grown **Wild Turkey** 8/12. First **N. Bobwhite** ever recorded on BM 9/17,18, calling at dusk and dawn, although they could have been game farm escapes from the valley. An **Am. Coot**, first seen at CC (SAK) 9/2 was there through 9/18. 2 **E. Screech-Owl** were heard calling on BM 7/16.

A flock of ±100 **Chimney Swift** migrated over BM 9/2. The hundreds which wheeled over the powerline right-of-way 9/5 were the first major migration I had ever seen over BM. A scolding family of 5 **Tufted Titmouse** on BM 7/9. A **Winter Wren** on BM 9/27 and the first migrating **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**, part of a mixed warbler migration 8/24. Last **Wood Thrush** song 7/15. A huge wild Black Cherry crop brought 30 **Cedar Waxwing** to BM 9/7. Large flocks continued through the quarter. 2 **Red-eyed Vireo** gave a distraction display 7/4 and 1 with food in its beak 8/2.

Several mixed warbler flocks over BM in Aug. & Sep. starting 8/24 (others 8/28,31 & 9/21,25). A **Nashville** was seen 9/2. DK saw 2 **Yellow Warbler** at CC 7/27. Also from BM: a **Chestnut-sided** 8/28; **Magnolia** 9/25; **Black-throated Blue** 8/24 & 9/21,25; **Black-throated Green** 8/24,31; ♂ **Blackburnian** 8/24,31 (SB); 1 **Worm-eating** with a caterpillar scolded me 7/28. A pair of **Ovenbird** followed me along a path for several hundred yards scolding and raising their orange crests 7/7. A **Louisiana Waterthrush** still singing 7/30. 4 **Com. Yellowthroat** 8/2, all flying up from the field and scolding. A singing **Hooded Warbler** 8/27. A ♂ **Canada** seen 8/10, was possibly the first migrant since it has not been noted as a breeding bird here. A **Scarlet Tanager** still singing 7/15 and 2 **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** distraction displaying 7/2. From 8/10–12, a ♀ **Indigo Bunting** was distraction displaying along the same trail. A **Field Sparrow** with food 8/2. DK saw 2 **Grasshopper Sparrow** at FR 7/13 and an **Orchard Oriole** at CC 7/26.

OBSERVERS: Marcia Bonta, PO Box 68, Tyrone 16686 (814-684-3113), Steve Bonta, Stan & Alice Kotala, Dave Kyler.

BRADFORD COUNTY

Bill Reid

An **Osprey** was at Sayre 9/19; and a **N. Harrier** was seen at SGL 239 8/5. **Com. Nighthawk** and 25 **Chimney Swift** were noted by the river at Athens 8/17. A **Prairie Warbler** was at SGL 239 8/5–11 (JR).

OBSERVERS: Bill Reid, 73 W Ross St, Wilkes-Barre 18702 (717-836-2525), Jim Rodolfi.

BUCKS COUNTY

Ron French

Abbreviations: Bradford Dam (BD), Burlington-Bristol Bridge (BB), Chalfont (CH), Delaware R. (DR), E. Rockhill Twp (ERT), Honey Hollow (HH), New Hope (NH), Nockamixon SP (NSP), Peace Valley Park (PVP), Revere (RV), Rushland (RU), Silver Lake Nature Center (SL), Tyler SP (TSP).

Undoubtedly, the bird of the quarter, a ♂ **Yellow-headed Blackbird**, was observed in Furlong 8/29. It had been coming to the feeders of 2 neighbors for about a week (BL *vide* BMC, ph.?).

A **Pied-billed Grebe** was at NSP 9/19 (SF) & 1 at PVP 9/28+ (RF *et al.*). 6 **Great Cormorant** were on the DR nr the BB in Sep. (CD). **Double-crested Cormorant** was widely reported, with a high

of 75 on the DR nr Morrisville in late-Aug. (BMc). Max. for **Great Blue Heron** was 16 at BD in Aug (BH,RF). A **Great Egret** at HH 7/12 was a 1st for that location (BMc); and quite widely reported elsewhere (v.o.). 13 **Snowy Egret** were at NH 8/2 (BH). Only **Little Blue Heron** report was of 1 at NH 8/2 (BH). A **Glossy Ibis** was observed at NSP by some fishermen who had an excellent look at it (*fide* SF). A flock of 57 **Wood Duck** was at NH 9/12 (BH) and 3 **Blue-winged Teal** on the 8/24 Birdwalk at PVP. The **Com. Merganser** family noted last quarter was joined by others reaching a high of 29 at NH 8/14 (BH). 6 **Ruddy Duck** arrived at PVP 9/29 (KC).

Black Vulture numbers continue to increase in the NH area, with 38 counted 9/23 (BH). **Osprey**, widely reported, also utilized the platforms at NSP & PVP. **Bald Eagle** were at NSP, single imm. 8/31 and 9/23 plus 2 9/29; & PVP, an imm. 9/13 and an ad. 9/19 (AM *et al.*). A **N. Harrier** passed through PVP 9/30 (SF). Both PVP & SL reported **Cooper's Hawk** in Sep. (RF,CD *et al.*), 2 at Pineville 7/20 suggest possible nesting (BH), and 1 in Edison 9/5 (DM,RF). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was at BD 7/25. A kettle of 33 **Broad-winged Hawk** went over NH 9/22 (BH). Only **Merlin** report was 1 at Ottsville 9/15 (KK). Research on the **Peregrine Falcon** revealed that a ♂ was present on the BB, a pair on the Turnpike Bridge, and another ♂ on the Nockamixon Cliffs, all along the DR (CD).

An ad. **Wild Turkey** was leading 4 young across Rt. 563 at NSP 9/9 (SF). Sandpiper reports include a **Solitary** at NH 7/27 (BH), plus 2 at RV 9/1 & 3 at PVP 9/24 (SF); 3 **Western** lingered at NSP 8/27-30, & 1 9/3 (SF); 12 **Least** were at a NH swamp 7/30 (BH). An imm. **Laughing Gull** was at PVP 9/4 (SF) and a **Ls. Black-backed Gull** was along the DR at NH 8/4 (BH). **Caspian Tern** was reported from both NSP & PVP, 2 at NSP 8/31 (SF), 3 at PVP 8/22 (SF) & 1 there 9/5 (RF).

HR reported a **Black-billed Cuckoo** at ERT 8/6; a **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was at TSP 7/11 (JH). 15 **Com. Nighthawk** went over NH 8/21 (BH). **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was found at NH & RV 9/30 (BH,SF). 3 **Pileated Woodpecker** were in RV all Sep. (SF). GC reports that **Carolina Chickadee** is the summer resident in the portion of the county s. of Newtown. **Willow Flycatcher** nested at ERT & SL (HR,JC,GC). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** were in RV 9/17 (SC) & NH 9/21 (BH). **Winter Wren** was at RV 9/23 (SF), and both SC & RF noted how common they were in the RU and CH areas during late Sep. Although most observers noted a scarcity of *Catharus* thrushes, SC reported an unusually high number of the various species, including 2 **Gray-cheeked Thrush** at RU in late Sep. **Solitary Vireo** was common at CH & PVP in Sep/Oct (RF *et al.*), while the **Philadelphia** was first reported 9/1 at PVP (RM), then at NH 9/21 (BH) and at PVP in mid-Sep.

A **Golden-winged Warbler** was at PVP 9/30 (TE) and an **Orange-crowned** at Bristol the last week of Sep. was a special find (CD). 2 **Connecticut Warbler** were at PVP (F&TR) & 1 at TSP 9/13 (JH), and a **Mourning** found at RU 9/28 (SC). A **Wilson's Warbler** was noted at PVP 9/5 (RF *et al.*). JH reported a **Yellow-breasted Chat** at TSP 8/19.

SC noted a flock of 25 fall plumaged **Indigo Bunting** in her RU fields during late Sep. Two ad. and 3 young **Grasshopper Sparrow** were in one group in NH 7/15; a total of 10 was reported from the same field 8/21. **Lincoln's Sparrow** was widely reported, with sightings in Sep. in CH, PVP, RU being noteworthy (RF,SC, *et al.*). BH noted a flock of 37 **Bobolink** at NH 8/21.

OBSERVERS: George Carmichael, Sally Conyne, Kevin Crilley, Jewel Cummings, Chris Dooley, Ted Evans, Steve Farbotnik, **Ron French, 3469 Limekiln Pike, Chalfont 18914 (215-997-1765)**, Jeff Herbst, Bill Hoehne, Ken Kitson, Barbara Lacey, Robert Maly, Don McClintock, Bruce McNaught, Augie Mirabella, Fred & Terri Reckner, Hart Rufe.

BUTLER COUNTY

Paul Hess

Abbreviations: Butler city (BC), Glades SGL (GSG), Jennings Nature Reserve (JNR), L. Arthur (LA), L. Oneida (LO), Moraine SP (MSP), Slippery Rock Twp (SRT).

3 **Pied-billed Grebe** at LA 9/29 (MG) were first. **Double-**

crested Cormorant visited GSG 7/1 (DB) & 2 were at LA 7/29 (MG,BD,SM). 6 **Great Blue Heron** at GSG 7/1 (DB) & 3 at LA 7/29 (MG,BD,SM) led few reports. **Great Egret** was found at GSG 8/11 (NR) & at LA 8/18 (MG) & 9/3 (NR). Up to 4 **Green-backed Heron** were at LO (D&PH). Top **Canada Goose** tally was 325 at GSG 7/1 (DB). Waterfowl at LA included 5 **Wood Duck** & 5 **Am. Black Duck** in Sep. (MG).

Turkey Vulture max. in Sep. was 12 at SRT (G&SB,RC) & 7 at MSP (NR). GSG's **Bald Eagle** pair and all 3 young, after fledging 7/9-10, remained all quarter (NW). MSP's raptors included **N. Harrier** 7/29 & 9/12 (MG,BD,SM), and **Sharp-shinned** 9/5, 12 (MG), and **Cooper's** hawks 9/12 (MG). The year's young **Red-shouldered Hawk** survivor remained through Sep. (G&SB,RC). Very few **Broad-winged Hawk** reports. **Ring-necked Pheasant** continued scarce, while top **Wild Turkey** counts were 10 at GSG & 7 at MSP (MG). First **Am. Coot** were 3 at LA 9/29 (MG). Best shorebird report was a **Willet** at LA 9/3 (NR). LO shorebird max. was 15 **Killdeer** & 5 **Pectoral Sandpiper** 8/10 (D&PH) then 2 **Ls. Yellowlegs**, 3 **Solitary**, 1 **Spotted**, & 1 **Semipalmated** sandpipers 9/4 (MG). At GSG a **Solitary** & a **Spotted Sandpiper** were noted 8/11 (G&SB,RC). **Ring-billed Gull** max. was 12 at LA 8/18, where a **Com. Tern** appeared 9/29 (MG).

After tremendous **cuckoo** numbers this spring, a **Black-billed Cuckoo** at SRT 8/11 (G&SB,RC) was this quarter's lone report. Did they depart when the Gypsy Moths' larval stage was over? **Com. Nighthawk** began moving as early as 8/2 at SRT (G&SB,RC), and migrants included 35 at BC 8/18 (MG) & 12 nr Harrisville 8/22 (NR). Up to 30 **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** visited an SRT feeding station, where last date was 9/22 (G&SB,RC). 1-2 **Belted Kingfisher** were at LA & LO (v.o.).

7 **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** at LA 9/29 (MG) was a good migrant tally. **Pileated Woodpecker** were noted at MSP (MG) & SRT (G&SB,RC). **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was a nice find at MSP 8/18, where **E. Kingbird** max. was 7 (MG). 4 **Bank Swallow** appeared at LO 7/20 (G&SB,RC). A final count showed 60+ nests at MSP's new **Cliff Swallow** colony (NR).

Carolina Wren numbers were good (v.o.). First kinglet dates were 9/28 for **Golden-crowned** at SRT (G&SB,RC) & 9/24 for **Ruby-crowned** at JNR (MG). Up to 5 **E. Bluebird** were noted at LA (MG) and a pair with young was at GSG 9/15 (G&SB,RC). A *now-standard lament: no migrant thrushes were found*. At GSG 7/1, **Gray Catbird** numbers were notably high and 5 **Brown Thrasher** were counted (DB).

4 **Solitary Vireo** at MSP 7/29 (MG,BD,SM) were either early migrants or perhaps wanderers from some nearby nesting locality. Best among an undistinguished warbler array were a **Connecticut** at SRT 9/22 (G&SB,RC) and a **Wilson's** at JNR 9/8 (MG). **Rufous-sided Towhee** numbers were especially good at GSG (NR). 3 **Vesper Sparrow** and 4 **Bobolink** were noted at MSP 8/18 (MG).

OBSERVERS: Gene & Suzanne Butcher, Dick Byers, Ruth Crawford, Barb Dean, Marguerite Geibel, Deborah & Paul Hess, 1412 Hawthorne St, Natrona Heights 15065 (412-226-2323), Shirley McCarl, Nancy Rodgers, Ned Weston.

CAMBRIA COUNTY

Georgette Syster & Gloria Lamer

Abbreviations: L. Rowena (LR), Patton area (PA), Prince Gallitzin SP (PG), St. Lawrence SGL (SGL), Wilmore Dam (WD).

All waterfowl reports from PG unless otherwise noted. 1-3 **Com. Loon** seen from 7/31+. 1 **Pied-billed Grebe** could be found 9/10, 30 (DG) & 2 at Duman L. 9/19 (GL,GS). Best count of **Double-crested Cormorant** was 4 9/19. **Great Blue Heron** numbers were good all quarter, with 4 7/30 (DG,GL,GS), 4 9/13 (JS), & 1 9/28 (DG). But **Green-backed Heron** were more prevalent, with top counts of 5 7/6 (DG), 4 7/30 (DG,GL,GS), & 3 9/9 (JS); 3 were also seen 9/10 at LR (GL).

64 **Canada Goose** were present 9/2 at WD (JS) and the ±20 PG residents were joined by a **Snow Goose** (escape?) that remained to 9/9 (GL,JS,GS). First **Wood Duck** young seen 7/5 (DB), with quarter's high count 48 9/4 (JS). First report of **Green-winged Teal**

9/19. Only report **Am. Black Duck** was 6 9/28 (DG). **Blue-winged Teal** first appeared 8/20, with a nice count of 26 (DG). Though there are records of "numerous sightings of ♀ **Red-breasted Merganser** in w. Pa." during the summer, 2 seen from 7/11–30 (DG, GL, JS, GS) constitute a 1st county record.

July & Aug. showed no **Osprey** at PG, even though a pair was observed during the 2nd quarter around the nesting platform. First appearance was 9/1 (DB) with up to 3 present 9/30 (DG). An imm. **Bald Eagle** 7/30 (DG, GL, GS), observed for - hour, probably constitutes the only record for PG. A ♀ **N. Harrier** was seen quartering a field nr Carrolltown (GL, GS) and singletons were noted at PG 9/21, 27 & at PA 8/22 (DG). 2 **Sharp-shinned Hawk** were at PG 7/11 & 1 at PA 9/29. A **Cooper's** there 7/9 (DG). An imm. **Red-shouldered Hawk** was at PG 7/31 and **Broad-winged** at PA 9/2 (DG). A flock of 16 **Wild Turkey** was counted at PA 9/27 (DG). A morning outing at the marsh at PG produced ±5 **Virginia Rail** 7/30 (DG, GL, GS) & 2 seen 8/9 along with a **Sora** (DG). Two days later DG noted 1 ad. and 1 juv. in the same area.

A **Black-bellied Plover** was found resting on the pier at PG Marina 9/19 with a fishing line protruding from its bill. The observers proceeded to quickly fill a small garbage bag with discarded monofilament which was promptly taken to the park office (GL, GS).

Low water at WD and the drawdown of LR in Ebensburg for the construction of a handicap fishing ramp, provided good shorebird numbers. High counts for **Killdeer** were 42 at LR 8/3 & 90 at WD 9/2 (JS). **Gr. Yellowlegs** were scarce with 1 at LR 8/30 (JS) and 1 at PG 9/19. GL found 12 **Solitary Sandpiper** at LR 8/2, with the only other report being 2 at PA 7/21 (DG). **Spotted Sandpiper** were consistent at PG with 2 7/6 (DB), 2 7/13, 3 9/9, & 1 9/28 (DG). DG found 2 at PA 7/22. First reported **Sanderling** was at PG 8/6 (DB) and 2 tallied 9/19 (GL, GS). JS reported the only **Semipalmated Sandpiper**, with 4 at LR 8/30 & 7 at WD 9/2. Single **Least Sandpiper** 8/2 and 2 **Pectoral** were at LR 9/10 (GL). DG reports 1 **E. Screech-Owl** at PA 9/8 & 1 **Barred Owl** at PG 7/6. GL, GS, while working on SAP at PG 9/19, were serenaded for 15 minutes by 2 Barred Owl doing tremulous one-note calls.

Only report of **Com. Nighthawk** was at PA with 4 8/16 & 2 8/19 (DG). 40 **Chimney Swift** were over the water at PG 9/19. A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was at PA 8/8 and a juv. 9/24–28 (DG). **Willow Flycatcher** were confirmed feeding young at PG with 5 present 7/30 (GL, GS) and 4 at PA 8/1 (DG). A high count of 10 **Least Flycatcher** was at PG 9/19; but only 2 **Great Crested Flycatcher** at SGL 7/6 (DB). **Cliff Swallow** reports were scarce, with singletons 7/30 at the strip mines nr ST. Benedict (DG, GL, GS) & at PG 8/21 (DG). A **Marsh Wren** was a nice find at PG 9/13 (JS). 2 pair of **Veery** at PA 7/15 (DG). A **Swainson's Thrush** at PA 9/28 (DG) & 6 **Wood Thrush** at SGL 7/6 (DB).

A good warbler migration through DG's backyard at PA included: **Tennessee, Nashville, Chestnut-sided, Blackburnian, Pine, Prairie, Black-and-white, Am. Redstart, & Wilson's**. JS reported the only **N. Parula** from PG plus **Bay-breasted** and **Hooded** from Ebensburg. The only **Ovenbird** noted were 8 at SGL (DB).

On 9/29, JS watched a mixed flock of **Eur. Starling, Red-winged Blackbird** and **Com. Grackle** fly from Cresson toward Cresson Country Club for 51 minutes. He did not see the start of the flight. He estimated 2000 birds per minute, with flock dimensions fluctuating from 20–300 feet in width. Total estimated flock size was 102,000 birds.

2 **Vesper Sparrow** landed on a grassy bank at PG 7/30 (DG, GL, GS). Earliest report of **White-throated Sparrow** was 2 at PA 9/27 (DG). A **N. Oriole** was seen by JS at PG 9/9. GL, GS had 2 **Purple Finch** at PG 7/11 and DG had 3 7/31.

OBSERVERS: Dick Byers, Dave Gobert, 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

Bald Eagles again spent the summer at Stevenson Dam. However there is still no indication that they are nesting in the area.

The summer itself was rather slow, but during late Aug. and Sep. an unusually large number of **E. Screech-Owl** were reported by various people. I probably heard more this year than I have in the last 5 years.

A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was seen in the Tree Run Rd. area of Quehanna (MH).

OBSERVERS: Bill Hendrickson, RR 1 Box 224, Driftwood 15832 (814-546-2097), Marsha Hendrickson.

CARBON COUNTY

Bernie Morris

Abbreviations: *Beltzville SP (BSP)*.

3 **Double-crested Cormorant** were at Wild Creek Res. 8/28 (RW). Low water levels at BSP brought in many shorebirds. The following sightings are all from Rick Wiltraut: **Semipalmated Plover** 8/28 & 9/11; 3 **Ls. Golden-Plover** 9/11, 18; a **Baird's Sandpiper** 9/18, 19 (2nd county record); **Semipalmated Sandpiper** 9/6; **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** (1st county record & Pocono Mountains record!); 3 **Pectoral Sandpiper** 9/19. An ad. **Laughing Gull** at BSP 9/6 was the 1st county fall record (RW).

An **E. Screech-Owl** was seen eating hatchling trout nr Leighton in Sep. (BR). A pair of **Pileated Woodpecker** was heard calling to each other at Hickory Run SP 9/22 (PE, BLM). A singing **Alder Flycatcher** was at BSP 7/2 (RW). A family of **Horned Lark**, several of which were immature, was seen at the Hickory Run Service Plaza on the NE Extension of the Pa. Turnpike in early- and mid-Aug (FH). A **Lincoln's Sparrow** was at BSP 9/12, 19 (RW).

OBSERVERS: Pauline England, Frank Hohenleitner, **Bernie L. Morris, 825 N. Muhlenberg St, Allentown 18104 (215-435-9134)**, Barry Reed, Rick Wiltraut.

CENTRE COUNTY

John and Becky Peplinski

Abbreviations: *Bald Eagle SP (BESP), Penn State University (PSU), Scotia Barrens (SB), Walnut Spring Park (WSP)*.

Two **Black Vultures** were seen 7/30, flying into a roost nr Fairbrook that has been used by Turkey Vultures for many years. Single **Black Vulture** were observed in the same area 8/9 and 9/14 (JP). An imm. **Bald Eagle** was reported w. of Fairbrook 8/3 (LR). A **N. Goshawk** was on the PSU campus 9/18 (TF).

Sightings of **Sanderling** in the County are rare, so the reports from BESP of 1 on 9/3, 2 on 9/17, and 2 on 9/23 (EZ) were significant. Another good shorebird species was the single **Baird's Sandpiper** seen at the beach at BESP 8/12 (ph. RW) and 8/24 along with several **Least** and **Semipalmated** sandpipers (DD).

Most unusual was the 9/24 sighting around 1 a.m. of a **Barn Owl** on top of Holuba Hall on the PSU campus (TF). One **Red-headed Wood-pecker** was near Colyer L. 9/26 (KJ, JJ). Reports of **Olive-sided Flycatcher** included 1 on 8/24 (JP, BP), 2 on 8/25 in the same tree (JP, BP), and 1 on 8/28 (JP, BP, DB, BB). 2 recently fledged **E. Wood-Pewees** were seen 9/1 in SB (JP). A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was seen at WSP 9/14 (TF), and another 1 was seen there 9/15 (JP). **Swainson's Thrush** sightings included 1 at WSP 9/8, 3 nr Fairbrook 9/12, 1 at Toftrees 9/14, 2 nr Fairbrook 9/20, and 2 at WSP 9/24 (JP). The only report of **Am. Pipit** was of 1 at BESP 9/17 (EZ).

An imm. **White-eyed Vireo** was in the SB from 8/31–9/2 (JP,BP). Single **Yellow-throated Vireo** were at Black Moshannon SP 7/6 (AF,RF), and 9/1 in the SB (JP). It was a very good fall migration for **Philadelphia Vireo** with sightings of 1 on 8/24, 1 on 8/31, 1 on 9/2, 4 all in SB (JP,BP), 1 at WSP 9/13 and 3 on 9/20 (JP,BP), 3 at Toftrees 9/14 (JP), 1 in SB 9/16 (JP,BP), 1 in SB 9/21 (TF), & 1 at WSP 9/24 (JP).



Baird's Sandpiper, Bald Eagle SP, 8/12/91. Photo by Rick Wiltraut.

Blue-winged Warbler were seen 8/31 in the SB (JP,BP), 9/8 at WSP (JP,BP), and 9/21 (ties late date) in the SB (JP,BP). Single "**Brewster's**" **Warbler** were in the SB 8/17 and 8/18 (JP,BP). A "**Lawrence's**" **Warbler** was seen in the SB 8/18 (JP,BP) for only the 2nd county record. The **Tennessee Warbler** seen 8/17 in the SB set an early-date record by 10 days (JP). The **Connecticut Warbler** seen 9/21 in the SB (JP) was the 1st reported in the county in 5 years. **Mourning Warbler** reports included individuals 8/31 in the SB (JP), 9/8 at WSP (JP,BP), 9/13,16,18 at WSP (JP), plus 9/14 at WSP (SCFT). Two **Wilson's Warbler** 8/17 in the SB (JP) set an area early-date record by 6 days. A late-date **N. Oriole** was seen 9/26 near Colyer L. (KJ,JJ).

OBSERVERS: Dorothy and Blanche Bordner, Dave DeReamus, Ted Floyd, Alice & Roana Fuller, Katherine & Jennings Jones, **John & Becky Peplinski, 761 Beaver Branch Road, Pennsylvania Furnace 16865 (814-238-6541)**, Larry Ragan, State College Field Trip (SCFT), Eugene Zielinski.

CHESTER COUNTY

Jerry Pasquarella

Abbreviations: *Embreeville County Park (ECP), Honey Brook (HB), Kurtz' Fish Farm (KFF), Octoraro Res. (OR), Springton Manor Farm (SMF), Struble L. (SL)*. Note: Sightings at OR are from the Chester side only!

Only report of **Com. Loon** was a flyover near Romansville 9/21. As many as 5 **Double-crested Cormorant** were at OR from 8/31–9/5. **Great Blue Heron** were very prevalent, with sightings throughout the county. There was also confirmed breeding along the Schuylkill R. (Chester side) near Phoenixville. Also in good numbers were **Great Egret**, with sightings from mid-July until mid-Sep. in places like ECP, SL, KFF, near HB, Thorndale, and a high count of 19 at OR along Mt. Eden Rd. 9/3. A total of 4 **Snowy Egret** were at the same spot 8/7. Two **Little Blue Heron** were at the Coatesville Res. 7/19 and 2 more were at OR 8/7. After not being seen in any good numbers over the past couple of years at the usual spot at Doe Run, **Cattle Egret** made an earnest appearance there from 7/15 until early Aug., with as many as 100 indiv. counted 7/21. **Green-backed Heron** were at various locales during Aug. and Sep. A single ad. **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was observed at SL 8/7.

The ♂ **Ring-necked Duck** stayed at the HB Sewage Plant until

at least mid-Aug. A rather early migrating **Osprey** was at KFF 7/17, with at least 2 at ECP 8/26+. **Bald Eagle** was reported from the expected areas at OR and others as follows: An ad. near Compass 9/7 and an imm. there 9/15, and ad. flew over Lionville 9/26. No real migration of hawks was noted by any observer. The largest "kettle" of **Broad-winged Hawk** was 6 in early Sep. The best birds of the quarter had to be the shorebirds at OR. At least 9 spp. were there from early Aug. until early Sept. As follows: On 8/7, 1 **Semipalmated Plover**, numerous **Killdeer**, and 1 **Western, 1 Least, 12 Semipalmated**, and 3 **Pectoral sandpipers**. On 8/9, the same spp. in greater numbers as well as 2 **Baird's Sandpiper**, and 2 **Short-billed Dowitcher**. Best bird was the **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** there 9/6 along with a **Stilt Sandpiper (LL,GS)**. There were also shorebirds at the Coatesville Res. during mid-Sep. including **Least, Pectoral**, and 2 **Lesser Yellowlegs**.

Only two reports of migrating **Com. Nighthawk** from ECP & HB 9/18. Another spot for **Red-headed Woodpecker** is near the intersection of Rts. 10 & 340. Of course, the pair along Pleasant View Rd. near HB remain. The first **Brown Creeper** was at SMF 9/22. The passerine migration was rather dull, with the best day 9/22, when BB had warblers at SMF, including **N. Parula, Magnolia, Black-throated Green**, and **Black-and-white**. The fields along the entrance there contained **Grasshopper Sparrow** until as late as 7/22. Also there 9/22 was a **Swamp Sparrow** and the first **White-throated Sparrow** of the season. BRING ON THE WINTER FINCHES!!!

OBSERVERS: Barry Blust, Larry Lewis, Joe Meloney, **Jerry Pasquarella, 2209 Cranberry LN, Coatesville 19320 (215-486-6440)**, Grier Saunders, Neal Thorpe.

CLARION COUNTY

Margaret Buckwalter

Abbreviations: *Leeper (LP), Shipperville (SV)*.

A **Double-crested Cormorant** was seen daily 8/31–9/5 at L. Marie Eileen, a small lake nr Knox (W&AF). The 3 young **Red-shouldered Hawk** and their parents were much in evidence (location deleted. -eds.) perching on "No Trespassing" signs in the fields or on telephone poles and on trees of an apple orchard (LC). This has been a good year for **Wild Turkey**. The largest flock, 100+, was reported 9/7 from LP (LC). A **Great Horned Owl** was calling 9/5 at LP (LC). A **Barred Owl** was heard 9/11 in the valley of Paint Cr. nr SV (MB). A **N. Saw-whet Owl** was calling 9/3 at LP (LC) and another 9/14 at SV (MB).

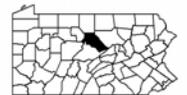
The last 2 **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** were feeding at SV 9/11 (MB). 1 **Com. Raven** showed up at LP 8/3,14, & 9/29. On all 3 occasions it was being chased by **Am. Crow** so the observer had a good chance to compare sizes and voices (LC). 1 **Pine Siskin** was at Limestone 9/20 (JL).

A ♂ **Hooded Warbler** bathed twice in a deep drinking water container at SV 9/27 (MB). He just hopped in and appeared to swim briefly with fluttering wings before he flew off to a neighboring tree.

OBSERVERS: **Margaret Buckwalter, RR 2 Box 26, Shipperville 16254 (814-782-3925)**, Lois Callahan, Walter & Annabelle Fye, John Laswick.

CLINTON COUNTY

Paul and Glenna Schwalbe



Abbreviations: *Lock Haven (LH), Rosecrans (RO)*.

Sightings by compilers unless otherwise noted. At least 18 **Wood Duck** with 2 **Green-winged Teal** were at RO 9/5. 10 **Com. Merganser** (one family?) in lower Pine Cr. 9/7 were interesting. **Osprey** 8/28; **Sharp-shinned Hawk** 8/28 & 9/5; **Cooper's Hawk** 8/28; imm. **Red-shouldered Hawk** 8/28 & 9/5; and **Am. Kestrel** 8/28 & 9/5 were among the raptors seen at RO this fall. On 8/28, 13 **Killdeer** were on the all but dry bog at RO. Migrating **Com. Nighthawk** were seen at LH, 14 8/27 and 7 8/31 (CH). Good numbers (6–8) of **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** were defending "their"

feeders at Swissdale in late Aug. (WL).

The **Red-bellied Woodpecker** is now seen in this area with more frequency than is the **Hairy Woodpecker**. Post-breeding **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** detected 8/2 remained for about a week. Up to ±60 **Cedar Waxwing** were flycatching at RO 8/28 & 9/5. **Black-and-white Warbler** 7/30 and **Am. Redstart** 7/29 were the first post-breeding wanderers (early migrants?) noted. **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** of the same status were first seen 7/28.

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

COLUMBIA COUNTY

Douglas A. Gross

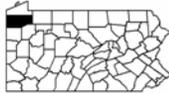
Abbreviations: *Rohrsburg (RB)*.

Com. Merganser nested in or nr Millville, where young birds were found in the borough and had to be returned to Little Fishing Cr. (HP *vide* DB). Some **N. Harrier** foraged regularly nr RB in Aug. (DG). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** family appeared 9/7 in DG's yard nr RB. **Carolina Wren** continued to move into higher elevation yards and shrubby areas (DG,RS). **House Wren** were extremely common nest-box users nr RB. Warbler migration was fairly heavy nr RB in Sep (DG) with **Black-throated Green** comprising about half of the migrants observed in early Sep. and **Yellow-rumped** the most common later in the month.

OBSERVERS: **Douglas A. Gross**, RR 1 Box 147, Orangeville 17859, Dan Brauning, Hugh Palmer, Robert G. Sagar.

CRAWFORD COUNTY

Ronald F. Leberman



Abbreviations: *Conneaut Marsh (CM)*, *Erie Inland (EINWR)*, *Hartstown Marsh (HM)*, *Pymatuning SP (PSP)* including the *Causeway*, *Fish Hatchery (FH)*, *Ford I. (FI)*, *Goose Management Area (GMA)*, *Miller Pond (MP)*, *Shelitoes Pond (SP)*, *Spillway (SW)*, *Woodcock L. (WL)*.

A **Com. Loon** was along the causeway 7/2,6 (RCL,RFL). A **Pied-billed Grebe** at CM 8/4, 2 at HM 8/31, and 4 at CM 9/30 (RFL). From 1–10 **Double-crested Cormorant** were noted on several trips to PSP and 1 at WL 8/8 (RFL); 1 was at HM 8/31 (RF,TF,HT). The **Am. Bittern** across the road from the FH 9/30 was the 1st I have seen at PSP in many years, and a **Great Egret** was also there (RFL). 5 **Green-backed Heron** were at WL 8/10 (RFL) and 4 at HM 9/15 (RF,TF,HT). Low water levels at area lakes and marshes provided better than usual sightings of this and other species, perhaps letting us get a truer picture of numbers present (RFL). An imm. **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was at PSP 8/20 (RCL).

An imm. **Snow Goose** was at the SW 7/13 (RFL). **Wood Duck** continues to do well, with 29 at PSP 8/31 (RFL), and 73 at HM 8/31 (RF, TF,HT). **Green-winged Teal** noted all quarter, with 9 at PSP 9/8 and 2 at MP 9/30 (RFL). 23 **Blue-winged Teal** were at HM 8/31 (RF,TF,HT) and 50 at CM 9/30 (RFL) nr Custards. A **N. Shoveler** was at PSP 8/4 (RFL), 6 at CM 8/19 (RCL), and 2 at the FH 9/8 (RFL). 4 **Gadwall** were at WL and 4 at PSP 8/21 (RFL); 6 at HM 8/31 (RF,TF,HT). 1 **Am. Wigeon** was at WL 8/31, and 250 at CM 9/30 (RFL). The ♂ **Ring-necked Duck** at HM 7/2 may have been a late migrant? 5 (3 ♂, 2 ♀) **Hooded Merganser** were at WL 8/31 (RFL). Five young **Bald Eagle** fledged from 5 area nests (DB). An ad. ♀ **N. Harrier** was at the SW 8/31 (RFL). A **Cooper's Hawk** was at the causeway 9/15 (RFL). 38 **Com. Moorhen** were counted at HM 8/31 (RF,TF,HT,RFL).

Shorebirds. Due to the drought in w. Pa., many lakes and ponds had very low water levels, and indeed some completely dried up. This provided them the best feeding and rest areas in at least 10 years. Some highlights were: 2 **Black-bellied Plover** at WL 8/31 (RFL) & 9/15 (RFL, GF); 1 **Ls. Golden-Plover** at PSP 8/17 (EK), and 6 then 3 at WL 9/7,15 (RFL,GF); 2 **Semipalmated Plover** at WL 7/22, and 4 at PSP 9/15 (RFL); 2 **Gr. Yellowlegs** at MP 7/2 (RCL), 24 at PSP

8/10, and 6 at WL 9/15 (RFL); **Ls. Yellowlegs** were present at PSP all quarter, with a high count of 53 8/20 (RFL); 3 **Solitary Sandpiper** at ENWR 7/5 (RCL), and 4 at PSP 8/10 (RFL); 1 **Upland Sandpiper** at GMA 7/22 (RFL); 3 **Hudsonian Godwit** at SP 9/17 (DH); 1 **Red Knot** in basic plumage was at the Andover, Ohio end of the causeway 8/31 (RFL); 3 **Semipalmated Sandpiper** at MP 7/20 (RFL) built to 60 at SP 8/19 (RCL); 1–2 **Western** were at SP 8/10–9/13 (RFL,RCL,EK,DS); high count for **Least** was 91 at PSP 8/31 (RFL,RCL); 1 **White-rumped** at SP 9/17 (DH); best counts for **Pectoral** were 35 at SP, although 40 were at Andover, Ohio 8/19 (RCL); 1–4 **Stilt** were at SP 8/3–9/13 (JB,RCL,EK,DS,DH); single **Buff-breasted** were at SP 8/31 (JB) & WL 9/15 (RFL); high count of 20 **Short-billed Dowitcher** was at SP 8/10 (RFL); 1–2 **Long-billed Dowitcher** at SP 9/8–23 (RFL,LL,DH); a **Com. Snipe** was at ENWR 7/5 and 5 at MP 7/13 (RCL,RFL).

An imm. **Great Black-backed Gull** was on a sand spit at the Jamestown end of PSP lake 8/31 about 1430 h with 30 **Ring-billed** and **Herring** gulls and 2 **Caspian Tern** for good comparison. It was about 150 yards away. I was using a 30X spotting scope and lighting was good. I am familiar with this species at Erie. This would be a 2nd county record in about 3 years; 1 was at Conneaut L. in Dec. 1988 (RFL). In addition to the Caspian Tern noted above, 1 was off the causeway 8/10 (RFL).

Red-bellied Woodpecker continue to increase in the area, with a pair at my feeder daily and 3 along Towpath Rd at CM 9/30 (RFL). **Cliff Swallow** are also doing well, with ±80 nests found at an Atlantic farm building 7/1 (RCL) and successful at PSP (RFL). 3 **Swainson's Thrush** were at FI 9/9 (RFL). A **Warbling Vireo** was at FI & FH 9/8 (RFL). FI also produced **Tennessee, Black-throated Green**, ±25 **Bay-breasted**, and 6+ **Blackpoll** warblers 9/8 (RFL). 2 **Savannah Sparrow** were at PSP along Rt. 285 9/8 and 4 **Rusty Blackbird** were at CM 9/30 (RFL).

OBSERVERS: Jim Barker, Gary Fields, Richard Floyd, Ted Floyd, Deuane Hoffman, Ed Kwater, Robert C. Leberman, **Ronald F. Leberman**, Don Snyder, Humberto Teixeira.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY

Deuane Hoffman

Abbreviations: *Brackbill Pond (BP)*, *Colonel Denning SP (CD)*, *Green Springs area (GS)*, *King Gap SP (KG)*, *Kuhn L. (KL)*, *Messiah College (MC)*, *Mud Level Rd. (ML)*, *Pine Grove Furnace SP (PG)*, *SGL 169 (SGL)*, *West Fairview Boat Launch (WF)*, *Wildcat Rocks (WR)*.

We experienced one of the worst droughts in 20 years and while this is generally not a good thing, it did bring many spp. not normally seen. Low water levels in the Susquehanna R. exposed vast areas of mud and rock islands which enticed numerous waders that we don't often see.

The only grebe was a **Pied-billed** at WF 9/25 (RK). Single **Double-crested Cormorant** were at SGL 7/13 (RK) & 9/6 (CG). A high count of 31 **Great Egret** was at SGL 8/22 (CG). An invasion of **Snowy Egret** peaked with 19 at WF 8/1 (RK,LE,DH). 2 **Little Blue Heron** were at WF 7/21 (DC); singles were noted often, but the 2 never seen together again. A **Little Blue Heron** was at SGL from 7/26–28 (DHe) and a good count of 12 **Green-backed Heron** was made there 7/13 (RK). Although declining in our area, RK had 4 **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** at WF 8/26. Let us hope this sp. can hang on to the only known colonial nest site in Pa.

Early waterfowl migration was average with the following high counts: 38 **Wood Duck** WF 8/28 (RK); 6 **Green-winged Teal** KL 9/6 (DHe); 7 **Blue-winged Teal** KL 8/20 (DHe); 16 **Am. Wigeon** WF 9/25 (DHe); and while not a migrant, but more of a summer visitor, was a ♀ **Com. Merganser** at WF 7/17 (RK). A good count of 10 **Black Vulture** at WR 9/29 (DRH). A **N. Harrier** was at ML 8/28 (DHe), a breeding bird? A family of 1 ad. & 6 imm. **Wild Turkey** was at CD 7/4 (RK). Only 2 **N. Bobwhite** were reported: 1 at SGL 7/12 and 1 at GS 8/18 (DHe). This sp. is in serious decline in our area. Single **Sora** were at WF 8/7 and 9/13 (RK).

Shorebirds at WF were the best any of our local crew can remember. The river was low enough most of the time to allow us to

walk out to the birds to get better coverage. This, along with increased days of observation, helped us add a few new birds (*) to the WF list. 2 **Black-bellied Plover** 9/10 (RK); 2 **Semipalmated Plover** KL 9/4-8 (DHe); 30 **Killdeer** KL 9/37 (DHe); 9 **Solitary Sandpiper** SGL 7/11 (RK); 1 **Upland Sandpiper** ML 7/1 (DHe); 1 **Sanderling** KL 9/8 (DHe); 9 **Semipalmated Sandpiper** WF 7/25 (RK); 1 **Western** WF 7/21 (DC) & 1 8/7 (RK); 15 **Least** WF 8/7 (RK); 1 **Baird's Sandpiper** 7/17 (RK,DH); 13 **Pectoral** 8/17 & 9/14 (RK); 8 **Stilt Sandpiper** WF 7/25 (DH,TC,LE) & 1 at BP 7/21 (DC); 4 **Short-billed Dowitcher** WF 7/22 (RK); and 3 **Wilson's Phalarope** BP 7/16 (DH).

An ad. **Laughing Gull** was at WF 8/5 (DH). 2 summer wandering **Great Black-backed Gull** were at WF 8/7 (RK). A high count of 4 **Caspian Tern** was at WF 8/24 (DC). Only **Forster's Tern** was 1 at WF 9/6 (RK). A most incredible number of 12 **Black Tern** was at WF 8/20 (RK,LE,DH), this by far our highest count ever. A **Black Tern** was also at BP 7/26 (DH,RK). DC was surprised to see a large green and yellow bird flying with a flock of Rock Dove 9/14 and upon closer inspection he identified it as a **Budgerigar!**

While playing a screech-owl tape to attract warblers, RK woke up 5 **E. Screech-Owl** who responded at KG 8/24. A resident **Barred Owl** was heard on numerous occasions at MC (JH).

DHe reports the last **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** at his feeders 9/9. An impressive count of 350 migrating **Chimney Swift** at WF 9/3 (RK). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was at ML 7/12 (DHe), and at least 2 pairs are using a small grove of trees nr Newville (DH). Only 1 **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was seen at the traditionally good spot at KG. This lone bird was found 8/28 (DH). RK reported he had all of the expected swallows at WF 7/20. A **Swainson's Thrush** was on the Shippensburg Univ. campus 9/6 (DHe) and a **Gray-cheeked Thrush** at KG 9/1 (DH).

Vireos and warblers were, to say the least, **awesome**. It was without a doubt the best we can recall. Increased birding time didn't hurt. A **Philadelphia Vireo** was at KG 9/2 (RK,DRH) & 1 at SGL (DHe). RK & DRH had 13 spp. 9/2, their best day. In total, observers found 30 spp. Highlights are: **Golden-winged** at CD 7/4 (RK) and 1 at PG 8/2 (RK,LE); 9 **Hooded** CD 7/4 (RK); 7 **Canada** at KG 8/24 (RK); and 2 **Wilson's** at SGL 9/6 (CG).

3 **Savannah Sparrow** were at ML 9/25 (DHe) & **Vesper** there the next day. 10 **Swamp Sparrow** were at MC 9/25 (JH). 2 **Lincoln's Sparrow**, good for us, were at KL 9/24 (DRH). First **White-throated Sparrow** and **Dark-eyed Junco** were at MC 9/22 (JH). Lastly, while attending to business at Mechanicsburg Navy Depot, DC saw 4 **Evening Grosbeak** resting in a small tree. Let us hope for more winter finches!

OBSERVERS: Dick Colyer, Toni Camplese, Lee Elias, Carl Garner, Jeff Hapeman, Don & Robyn Henise, **Deuane Hoffman**, 3406 **Montour St, Harrisburg 17111 (717-564-7475)**, Ramsay Koury.

DAUPHIN COUNTY

Steve Rannels

The most notable report was a good flight of 29 **Com. Nighthawk** 8/28 (RK) along the Susquehanna R. Higher than usual numbers of **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** were reported in gardens and at feeders throughout July and Aug, and they were easily found feeding on the abundant crop of Spotted Jewelweed into Sep. Migrant warblers peaked in early Sep. with a good flight of 11 spp. plus **Purple Finch** at the Hershey Hotel 9/7 (S&SR).

OBSERVERS: Ramsay Koury, Sharon & Steve Rannels, 237 **E Areba Ave, Hershey 17033 (717-534-2480)**.

DELAWARE COUNTY

Al Guarente

Abbreviations: *Crum Creek Res. (CCR), Delaware R. (DR), Ridley Creek SP (RC), Springton Res. (SR), Tinicum National*

Environmental Center (TN), Tyler Arboretum (TA).

Two **Pied-billed Grebe** (NP) were at SR 8/24 and 4 there 9/25. Flying down the DR 7/7 were 4 **Double-crested Cormorant** (AG). At SR 8/19-24 were 5 **Double-crested Cormorant** (BB,NP) and along the DR 9/6 50+ (JCM) were seen. A **Great Egret** (NP) was at CCR 8/5, which is unusual for this small marshy area plus 35 at the TN tidal flats 9/6 (JCM). 4 **Little Blue Heron** (NP) made their appearance at Darby Cr. in TN 7/27; another stayed for 2 weeks at CCR until 9/22 (HM). No **Glossy Ibis** has been reported again this year indicating how the Delco area and TN in particular are changing for the worst. The one sp. which appears to be doing all right at TN is the **Wood Duck**. There are consistent reports of high numbers. On 9/11 35+ **Wood Ducks** (JCM) were on the tidal flats.

On a bird walk at TA 1 **Black Vulture** (HM,AG) was found 8/10. First **Osprey** (AG) of the fall appeared over Media 8/31. On 7/4 at RC a **Sharp-shinned Hawk** (FH) made an appearance on this strange date. A **Peregrine Falcon** (AG) was seen flying over Sharon Hill 9/23, probably heading for TN. **N. Bobwhite** (EK) were present most of the summer in a Boothwyn backyard. Shorebirds put in another poor showing this migration. Birds present at TN: **Semipalmated Plover; Semipalmated, Least, White-rumped, Western, and Baird's sandpipers** (AG), but all in poor numbers. The usual **Yellowlegs** and **Killdeer** were also present. A **Sanderling** (AG) made an uncommon appearance at TN 9/8. Along the DR 500+ **Laughing Gull** (JCM) could be found 9/4. **Caspian Tern** made an impressive showing this fall when 4 (SC,AG,ML) were at TN 8/11 and 4 more (JCM) on the DR 9/4-5, but the big flight was 9/23 when 16 **Caspian Tern** (AG) were migrating S along the DR. A consistent number of 25+ **Forster's Tern** (NP) were present at Darby Cr. from 8/1+ and 100+ were present 9/11 (JCM). Swarthmore seemed to be the place this year for both spp. of cuckoos. A **Black-billed** (NP) was there 7/10 and **Yellow-billed** (HM,NP) was there 7/15 & 8/22.

Pileated Woodpecker reports 7/1 (BB) at Rose Tree Park and 1 7/2 (NP) from Swarthmore were about average. A **Least Flycatcher** (NP) was observed and also heard calling at Swarthmore 9/23. Another **Least Flycatcher** (SC) was observed in Springfield 9/20. 9/28 brought 1 **Solitary Vireo** (NP) to Swarthmore. A rare treat was a **Philadelphia Vireo** (SC) 9/20 in Springfield, a new yardlist addition. The first migrating warbler was seen in Collingdale 8/14. The **Canada Warbler** (SS) was found sitting on a 3-ft high chain-link fence. A total of 16 spp. of warblers (NP) was reported from Swarthmore for the season. Some of the better ones were **Blue-winged, Tennessee, Nashville, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian** and **Bay-breasted**. The 4 **Pine Warbler** (AG,HM) spent the summer at TA, but nesting was not confirmed. I don't know how other observers made out this year but I had a hard time finding any **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** on migration. I only had 2 during the whole season. Apparently there is still hope for the **E. Meadowlark** (EK) in Delco as 3 were reported from Boothwyn and 1 still present 9/30.

OBSERVERS: Bob Bodine, Skip Conant, **Al Guarente, 421 Old Middletown Rd, Media 19063 (215-566-8266)**, Frank Hohenleitner, Evelyn Kopf, Mike Logan, Helen McWilliams, John C Miller, Nick Pulcinella, Sandy Sherman.

ELK COUNTY

Linda Christenson

Abbreviations: *Benzinger Twp (BT), Cole Run (CR), Crow Run Marsh (CRM), McKinley (MK), Owl's Nest (ON), Upper Mill Cr. (UMC).*

It was an uneventful quarter. Yes, **Tufted Titmouse** are that scarce in Elk—at least in the northern half of the county where there are active birders. We figure we see more ravens than titmice. Since moving here in 1988, I average about 3 titmice per year.

Great Blue Heron common (DW). 2 **Green-backed Heron** seen flying over Wilcox 7/24 (LC). **Wood Duck** seen SGL 28 (DW), CR (JW), and 1 ♀ with 7 young at Buzzard Swamp (LC). Several **Hooded Merganser** noted at CR 8/13 (JW), while at Hallton 8/17 a ♀ **Com. Merganser** was seen with a brood of 5 (DW).

An **Osprey** was fishing at CR 8/13 (JW). DW saw his share of

hawks this quarter: **Cooper's** at MK 7/14; **Red-shouldered** at CRM 7/4, at UMC 7/13 & 8/4, and at ON 8/3; **Red-tailed** at MK 7/14 & UMC 9/1. A pair of **Spotted Sandpiper** was seen at ON 8/3 (DW).

LC realized why summer bird feeding was costing so much—69 **Mourning Dove** were in here BT yard 7/2! A **Com. Nighthawk** hung around NM's house all day just sitting in her driveway, until a neighbor scared it away. On 7/5, 2 ad. ♀ **Downy Woodpecker** at a BT suet feeder showed 1 feeding the other (LC). Last **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** noted 9/5 (DS), who also mentions that he noted increased activity at his feeder in Aug.

A family of 5 **E. Kingbird** was fun to watch at St. Marys Res. 7/1 (LC). **Blue Jay** were very, very evident this Sep. **Com. Raven** seen all quarter at UMC & ON (DW). 1 **Red-breasted Nuthatch** showed up at a BT feeder 9/24 (LC). **Carolina Wren** reappeared in a BT yard in Aug. (LC). 2 **Winter Wren** seemed fearless and weren't concerned I was so close to them, and I was able to watch them for some time on SGL 25 9/24 (LC). **E. Bluebird** doing fine, with 3 broods reported by DS at BT and an adventurous bluebird pair had a successful nesting in AH's **Purple Martin** house—the only occupants in a 24-room house! First **White-throated Sparrow** noted in SGL 25 9/24 (LC).

OBSERVERS: **Linda Christenson, 602 Sunset Rd, St. Marys 15857 (814-781-3156)**, Ann Hackett, Nancy Marton, Dave Sorg, John Weyant, Dave Wolfe.

ADDENDUM. Dave Wolfe mentioned that the neck-collared **Tundra Swan** he saw in May was a 2nd-year ♂ that was banded near Pungo, North Carolina, on 2 February 1991.

ERIE COUNTY

Jerry McWilliams

Abbreviations: *Presque Isle SP (PI)*, *Siegel Marsh (SM)*. All observations from PI unless otherwise noted.

Shorebird habitat is disappearing due to plant succession at Gull Point on PI. Phragmites have choked out existing ponds and Cottonwoods have established on the ridges with some trees several feet tall, leaving little habitat for shorebirds. Lack of rain throughout the period allowed the two or three small pools on Gull Point to dry up leaving grassy depressions in the sand. Many flocks of shorebirds that would normally land to feed or rest were observed circling the point a few times and then flying away in search of a more desirable feeding area. Gull Point is unique in Pa. as being the only place where certain species of shorebirds occur annually, e.g., **Whimbrel** and **Willet**. If there is no longer any natural sand replenishment and plant succession continue on Gull Point, species such as these may eventually become very difficult to see again in *Erie*.

The most exciting find this season, in terms of rarities, was a **Brown Pelican** along L. Erie 7/22. It was first seen near Raccoon Creek County Park (GK). Later that day identification was confirmed by experienced birders (JB,CB) across the state line near Conneaut, Ohio, and then was seen back in Pa. approximately 4 mi. e. of the county park (GE). Despite intensive searching along the Pa. boundary of L. Erie, the pelican could not be relocated. (We have received a description of the bird from one of the Ohio sightings, but we have not received a description from any of the Pennsylvania observations —Eds.)

1 **Horned Grebe** 8/4 (EK). The breeding success of **Double-crested Cormorant** is evident along the Great Lakes with the frequent sightings all quarter. 1 at L. Leboeuf 7/22 was a little unusual away from L. Erie in summer (RM). 1 **Am. Bittern** 8/14 (JGS) and single **Least Bittern** from 8/18–9/21 (JGS). Up to 4 **Great Egret** were at SM all quarter (RM). A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was at Union city 8/1 and 1 at PI 8/4–31 (JM). Waterfowl report include 1 **Green-winged Teal** 7/13; 8 **Surf Scoter** 9/29; 1 **Com. Goldeneye** 7/30; and 1 **Bufflehead** 7/31 (JM).

Six **Merlin** were seen 9/8–22 (JM,WS,DH). A total of 21 **Ls. Golden-Plover** were found 8/16–9/18 (DH,EK,JM,JH). A ♀ **Am. Avocet** was seen 7/20 (ph FH,†SSa,BH,DH) and another indiv. 8/18 (JGS,JHS, ph.DD) for the 13th and 14th records. Single **Willet** seen 7/7 & 9/4 (JM). **Whimbrel** sightings were 1 7/12 (GR); 2/7/13 (EK); 1 7/25 (JGS); and 1 9/8 (JM). The **Marbled Godwit** 7/7 (ph.JM,GR) was the 13th record. A total of 12 **Red Knot** were seen 8/3–9/19 (RP,DS,CT,JM,DH). Sandpipers: 1 **W. Sandpiper** 7/30 (JGS,JHS) & 8/16 (DR,DB); up to 12 **Baird's** 8/16–9/18 (DH,EK,JM); 1 **Stilt** 7/23 (JGS), 8/3 (EK), 9/16 at SM (JM), and 9/19 (CL); 1 **Buff-breasted** 9/13,14 (JGS,JH). 2 **Red-necked Phalarope** 8-10 mi. n. of Walnut Cr. on L. Erie 8/16 (JB) & 1 9/3 (DH).



Am. Avocet, Presque Isle SP, 8/18/91. Photo by Randy Miller.

1 **Laughing Gull** 9/7 (JM) & 3 **Little Gull** 9/15 (EK) plus 1 9/18 (JGS). 2 **Forster's Tern** found 8/24 (EK) plus singles 9/13,28 (JGS,EK). 3 **Black Tern** 8/16 (DH,DB) & 1 9/23 (JGS).

Very rare in fall was a **White-eyed Vireo** banded 9/21 (JHS) and later recaptured by JHS 9/29! A different bird was seen 9/26 (JHS). 2 **Orange-crowned Warbler** were seen 9/22 (DH), including 1 banded (JHS) and another banded 9/28. 2 then 1 **N. Parula** seen 9/27,28 (JHS,JM). 1 **Pine Warbler** 9/22 (JH) & 2 9/28 (JH,JM). The **Palm Warbler** 8/31 (JM) was earliest fall record by 6 days. 4 records of **Connecticut Warbler**: 1 banded 9/7 (RL), 9/14 (JM), 9/17 (DH), & 9/27 (JGS). A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was in Waterford 7/21 (JGS); this sp. is rarely reported in summer.

At least 10 pairs of **Henslow's Sparrow** were found in a traditional field in McKean Twp, with others also present in fields nearby (SS). 4 **Lapland Longspur** were seen 9/29 (JM). The 300+ **Bobolink** present in McKean Twp through July was a good county number (JGS,JHS).

OBSERVERS: Carolyn & Jim Baxter, Dick Bollinger, Dave Darney, George Eckendorf, Barb & Frank Haas, Deuane Hoffman, Joyce Hoffmann, Gary Knecht, Ed Kwater, Carol Labarthe, Ronald Leberman, Robin McClenehan, **Jerry McWilliams, 3142 W 12th St, Erie 16505 (814-833-3169)**, Rob Preuhs, Geoff Robinson, Don Snyder, Walter Shaffer, Jean (JHS) & Jim (JGS) Stull, Sam Stull, Steve Santner (SSa), Chuck Tague.

FAYETTE COUNTY

Cindy Cook

Abbreviations: *Ohioypyle SP (OSP)*.

The following account was sent directly from OSP by Darlene Madarish. 2 **Great Blue Heron** flew over the park office 7/14. With

the dry summer, many of the smaller ponds in the area have dried, so heron are frequenting the river more. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** frequented the Train Station Visitor Center's hummingbird and oriole feeders. Some days as many as 8 hummers were observed hovering at the same feeder taking turns drinking! On two occasions they (1 ad. ♂, 1 imm.) entered the station and had to be netted and removed. On 7/14, 8 **Cedar Waxwing** were present at the train station, with 1 inside the building.

Two pairs of **Com. Raven** were seen from 8/8–9/28. One pair is seen in the area of Sugarloaf Knob and the other about 4 mi away at Tharp Knob. A flock of **Cliff Swallow** nested, as usual, under the 381 bridge over the Youghiogheny R. Approx. 25–35 ad. were seen at the beginning of the nesting season, with about three times that many by the end of summer. Bluebird box usage by **E. Bluebird** was down from previous years (possibly due to the hot, dry summer?), with fewer second and no third clutches of eggs produced. Usage by **Tree Swallow** and **House Wren** remained normal. A single ♂ **N. Oriole** was at the Visitor Center 9/14.

FOREST COUNTY

April D. Walters

Bald Eagle were seen at various times on the Allegheny R. A **Merlin** flew across the road at Hopkins Farm 8/20 (ADW). **Wild Turkey** have been seen all over the county in very large flocks (ADW, RAW).

A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was at KV in mid-Sep. (GLW). A **Horned Lark** was in a newly plowed field in Red Brush 7/28 (RAW, ADW). Our Bluebird Trail produced 88 **E. Bluebird**, 89 **Tree Swallow**, 28 **House Wren**, 25 **Black-capped Chickadee**, and 3 **Brown-headed Cowbird**. Numbers of bluebirds were down from last year. An imm. **Brown-headed Cowbird** was observed begging food from a **Yellow-rumped Warbler** at Church Hill 7/12 (ADW).

OBSERVERS: Gary L. Walters, Richard A. & April D. Walters, Box 127, Endeavor 16322 (814-463-9306).

FRANKLIN COUNTY

We are looking for a new compiler for Franklin County, as Carl Garner has decided not to continue in this capacity. If you are interested, please let us know.

GREENE COUNTY

Ralph Bell

Unless otherwise noted, all observations were on or near the Bell farm near Jefferson. It was very HOT and DRY until mid-Sep., then on 9/21 we had an early, heavy frost with the temperature dropping to 31°F.

A **Red Phalarope** (1st county record) was at a small farm pond about 3 mi e. of here from 9/15–22 (†RB, CF, †GH).

A peak of 50+ **Com. Nighthawk** was noted on the evening of 8/22. A **Least Flycatcher** was singing here on the morning of 7/9. July records of this species are quite scarce, as the only other July sighting was 7/21/82. The last **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was noted 8/25. They seemed rather scarce this summer—possibly because of the exceptionally dry summer and wild flowers were very, very scarce. Our **E. Kingbird** failed to raise any young this summer. They nested high in the Sycamore tree in our yard, but evidently the **Blue Jays** found their nest. **Blue Jays** are getting to be a problem. They were first noted on our Christmas count in 1959 and my first summer record was in 1967, when 1 was noted about 4 mi. s. of here. Now they seem to be everywhere each summer. No doubt the great increase in feeding stations has greatly helped this species.

An early **Red-breasted Nuthatch** noted in our yard 9/2. Only in 2 other years have they been noticed earlier. The last **Purple Martin** noted was 7/24. Although we had 20 nesting pairs, they are

still rather scarce, as there are many empty boxes in the county and only about 6 or 7 having any occupants. An imm. **Summer Tanager** was banded here in our yard 9/25. The only later record was 1 banded 9/27/81.

OBSERVERS: Kim Barbetta, Ralph Bell, RR 1 Box 229, Clarksville 15322 (412-883-4505), Clay Faddis, George Hall.

HUNTINGDON COUNTY

Greg Grove

Abbreviations: Aitch Access (AA), Detweiler Run (DR), Huntingdon (HU), McAlevy's Ft. (MF), Stone Mt Summit (SM), Stone Valley L. (SVL), Water Street (WS).

I begin my first effort at compiling by expressing my appreciation to Dave Kyler for his work as compiler over the last several years. I also wish to thank Dave for his help and advice to me as I began birding in Huntingdon 3 years ago. When it comes to birding or to assisting others in finding birds, Dave is never anything less than 100% enthusiastic.

Unusual shorebirds at AA were the highlight of this hot, dry summer season. All reports are by the compiler unless otherwise noted.

Single **Great Egret** were seen at HU 9/9 (DK) and MF 9/7. 2 **Green-backed Heron** summered at SVL. A ♂ **Ring-necked Duck** stopped for a day at SVL 8/28, far ahead of schedule. 3 **Black Vulture** were over HU 9/5 (DK) and up to 6 passed by SM during Sep. Highlights of hawkwatching from SM included 7 **Osprey** 9/11, 70 **Broad-winged Hawk** 9/14, and 1 **Peregrine Falcon** 9/29. A **N. Goshawk** passed through WS 9/15 (ML).

DK saw the following shorebirds at AA: 1 **Ls. Yellowlegs** 9/4; and 2 **Solitary** 9/2, 2 **Western** 9/4, 1 **Least** 9/2, and 1 **Pectoral sandpiper** 9/23; and 1 **Short-billed Dowitcher** (with a broken leg) 9/23. We know of no earlier co. records for the Western Sandpiper or the dowitcher.

8 **Com. Nighthawk** were migrating over HU 8/15 (DK) and 5 at MF 8/27. Flycatchers included 1 **Yellow-bellied** and 1 **Least** at AA 9/4 (DK) and 1 **Olive-sided** at SVL 8/30–31. 2 **Swainson's** and 1 **Gray-cheeked Thrush** were in DR 9/8. The Kyler's reported a backyard **N. Mockingbird** which insisted on entertaining them with song through much of the night, each and every night during the last 2 weeks of July. A **White-eyed Vireo** was found at HU 9/8 and a **Warbling Vireo** along the Juniata R. 9/12 (DK). Warblers found in DR 7/27 included a ♂ **Black-throated Blue** on a nest, pairs of **Black-and-white** and **Canada**, a **Black-throated Green** in song, and a ♀ **Hooded** (MB). A **Blue-winged** 9/14 and a **Chestnut-sided** 9/12 were seen at WS (ML) and a **Tennessee** and a **Wilson's** at SVL 9/8. A **Swamp Sparrow** was at AA 9/4 (DK).

OBSERVERS: Marcia Bonta, Greg Grove, RR 1 Box 483, Peters-burg 16669 (814-667-2305), Dave Kyler, Melvin Lane.

Note the new compiler. Greg Grove has replaced Dave Kyler. We thank Dave for his years of reporting for Huntingdon and his efforts in getting *Pa. Birds* in several local libraries.—eds.

INDIANA COUNTY

Margaret and Roger Higbee

Abbreviations: Clarksburg (CL), Margus L. (ML), Robinson (RB), Shelocta (SH), Yellow Creek SP (YC).

Highlights of the season, all seen at YC, include **Black-crowned Night-Heron**, **Bald Eagle**, **Black Tern**, and **Olive-sided Flycatcher**.

All waterfowl sightings from YC unless otherwise noted. 1 **Com. Loon** summered at YC (v.o.), but by quarter's end 3 were present (GC). **Pied-billed Grebe** began their influx 8/27 (BB, GC, MH, GL), with top count 6 9/24 (GL, JS). 1 **Double-crested Cormorant** was at ML 8/18, 21 (C&GL). Best **Great Blue Heron** counts were 4 at YC 9/21 (DB, PJ, B&MM, GS, PZ; hereafter GS *et al.*) and 2 at CL (MC). **Great Egret** was listed 8/19 (GL), 8/27 (BB, GC, MH, GL) & 9/3 (MH, CL, GL, MS, H&SS; hereafter MH, GL *et al.*). **Green-backed Heron** max. included 8 at ML 8/21 (GL) and 4 at YC 9/24 (GL, JS). 2

Black-crowned Night-Heron 8/29 (ES) and again 9/18 (GL,GS) were a nice find.

Top **Canada Goose** and **Wood Duck** tallies, both 8/27, were 79 & 24, respectively (BB,GC,MH,GL). 4 **Green-winged Teal** were listed 9/17 (BB,MH,GL). Single **Am. Black Duck** were seen 9/17 (BB,MH,GL) & 9/26 (GL). High **Mallard** count was 45 9/3 (MH,GL *et al.*). 12 **Blue-winged Teal** were present 9/3 (MH,GL *et al.*). 1 **Am. Wigeon** was found 9/17 (BB,MH,GL), but ML produced 6 on 9/30 (GL).

Turkey Vulture max. included 9 at Homer City 9/1 (GL,CL) & 4 at Nolo 9/13 (GL). An **Osprey** was seen at YC 9/10–24 (v.o.). An imm. **Bald Eagle** was a superb find at YC 8/27 (BB,GC,MH,GL) & again 9/3 (MH,GL *et al.*). **N. Harrier** was present at YC 8/29+ (ES,v.o.); another at Nolo 9/20 (GL). **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was reported from 3 locations, but **Cooper's** found only at YC. A **Rough-legged Hawk** at YC 9/29 (GC) was early. A ♀ **Wild Turkey** was seen with 13 young at Nolo 7/27 (AS). A **Sora** was heard at YC 7/16 (MH,GL) and seen there 9/27 (GC).

The shorebird migration was better than average because of low water and exposed mud at YC. 1–3 **Semipalmated Plover** stopped between 8/14 (GL) & 9/17 (BB,MH,GL). **Killdeer** had not yet peaked before quarter's end, with top count a mere 15 8/18 (C&GL) & 8/28 (ES). High **Gr. Yellowlegs** tally was 19 9/4 (GL,GS). 2 **Ls. Yellowlegs** were noted 9/4 (GL,GS) & 1 seen 9/17 (BB,MH,GL). **Solitary Sandpiper** was found at ML 8/21 (GL) & at YC 8/29 (ES). 4 **Semipalmated Sandpiper** were seen 8/19 (GL), but 1–2 were reported on 5 succeeding dates. First **Least Sandpiper** arrived 7/9 (BB,MH,GL), but best count was 9 8/15 (GL); last report was 9/21 (GS *et al.*). 1–5 **Pectoral Sandpiper** were present between 8/14–9/26 (GL). Single **Com. Snipe** listed 9/10,17 (BB, MH,GL,JS,GS). **Am. Woodcock** was recorded at Nolo 8/2,28 (GL,GS).

1–2 **Ring-billed Gull** surfaced sporadically at YC (v.o.). A **Forster's Tern** 8/7 (GL) was the lone report. **Black Tern** was noted 8/18 (C&GL,GS), 9/17 (BB,MH,GL), & 9/18 (GL,GS).

5 **E. Screech-Owl** were heard at CL 7/18 (MC) while a YC owling outing 8/28 produced 4 (GL,GS). **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was last seen at RB 9/27 (GC). **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was found at YC 9/18 (GL,GS). **Alder Flycatcher** was still singing on territory at YC 7/16 (MH,GL). 2 **Purple Martin** migrated through YC 9/18 (GL,GS). Top **Tree Swallow** count at YC was 127 7/9 (BB,MH,GL). 2 **Cliff Swallow** appeared at YC 9/3 (MH,GL *et al.*). **Com. Raven** reports include 2 at YC 9/2 (M&RH), 2 at CL 9/11,21 (MC), & 1 at Nolo 9/26 (GL,GS). Single **Red-breasted Nuthatch** found only at SH 9/10–13 (M&RH) & at CL 9/26 (MC). *Once again this season the total lack of migrant thrush reports was alarming.* A **N. Mockingbird** was listed at YC 9/3 (MH,GL *et al.*) and again 9/24 (GL,JS). **Cedar Waxwing** staged a major migration through YC with 205 9/3 (MH,GL *et al.*).

Yellow-throated Vireo was still singing at CL 9/16 (MC). The fall warbler migration was unimpressive, with no large flocks reported. All reports from YC unless otherwise noted. 1–2 **Tennessee** at YC 9/3 (MH,GL *et al.*), SH 9/14 (MH), & RB 9/28 (GC). 1 **Nashville** 9/10 (m.ob.) and **Chestnut-sided** 9/3,10 (MH,GL *et al.*). A **Magnolia** found 7/2 (BB,MH,GL) may have been on territory; they began moving through the area 8/27, with 1–3 reported at YC (v.o.), SH (MH), & CL (MC). **Cape May** noted 9/2 (M&RH) & at SH 9/11 (MH), the lone reports. **Black-throated Blue** was seen 8/29 (ES), 9/21 (GS *et al.*), & 9/24 (GL,JS). 9 **Yellow-rumped** 9/24 (GL,JS). Best **Black-throated Green** count was 5 9/2 (M&RH). 2 **Blackburnian** were singing at YC 7/16 (MH,GL), 1 seen 9/2 (M&RH) & 9/21 (GS *et al.*); 2 were at CL 9/17 (MC). **Pine** was on territory during the quarter (BB,MH,GL); and 1, present nr SH since last quarter, was still there 9/16 (R&RH). 2 **Palm** were noted 9/10 (m.ob.). 2 **Bay-breasted** 9/3 (MH,GL *et al.*). A **Wilson's** was a nice find there 9/3 (MH,GL *et al.*). First **White-throated Sparrow** arrived at CL 9/21 (MC).

OBSERVERS: Don Beck, Becky Byerly, Greg Cook, Marcy Cunkelman, Margaret and Roger Higbee, RR 2 Box 166, Indiana 15701 (412-354-3493), Pat Johner, Carroll Labarthe (CLa), Clayton & Gloria Lamer, Bill & Margie Mitchell, John Salvetti, Mary Shirland, Andy Sleppy, Ed Slowensky, Harvey & Shirley Spindle, Georgette Syster, Pattie Zawadowski.

JUNIATA COUNTY

Linda Whitesel

Abbreviations: Juniata R. (JR).

A **Double-crested Cormorant** was on the JR at Port Royal 8/31. Other uncommon visitors were the **Great Egrets** which stayed from 6/16 through mid-Sep; we usually get them after mid-July. **Great Egret** were also present in higher numbers than usual, with a high count of 15 at Port Royal 7/24 (DW). The most unusual bird this quarter was an imm. **Black-crowned Night-Heron** seen by DW while canoeing the JR nr the Muskrat Springs access 8/26. This canoe trip of about 7 mi also produced a count of 348 **Canada Goose**; the population of this species is expanding rapidly.

100+ **Wood Duck** were seen in a corn field about 1 mi s. of Mifflin along Rt. 35 8/13 (DW); 317 were later counted at the swamp near Caner's Crossing 8/27. A **Blue-winged Teal** was early on the JR nr Mexico 8/11 (DW). The ♀ **Com. Merganser** previously reported 5/6,9 stayed on this section of the JR at least through 8/10.

2 **Black Vulture** were seen over Rt. 322 nr Mexico 9/20 (B&FH). 2 **N. Bobwhite** continued their residence nr the home of Janice Auker through 7/4; there is good fencerow cover here. 2 **Least Sandpiper** were welcome finds at a mulch pile on Tyson's Hill 7/28,30 (DW).

My hairdresser and her family were canoeing (mainly portage due to the drought) on the Juniata R. s. of Mifflintown in July. She noticed a small bird in what she thought was labored flight flying towards them. Softly she said, "Do you see this bird coming towards us?" When she turned around a **Cedar Waxwing** had landed on her husband's outstretched arm. It stayed a few moments and then flew back to the shore. Barb Haas

OBSERVERS: Barb & Frank Haas, Dusty Weidner, Linda Whitesel, RR 3 Box 820, Mifflintown 17059-9770 (717-436-8048).

LACKAWANNA COUNTY

Gerald Klebauskas

Abbreviations: Dalton (DA), Factoryville area (FA), Lackawanna SP (LSP), L. Scranton (LS), Susquehanna R. (SR), Thornhurst (THE).
Extremely dry conditions prevailed for the third consecutive year.

2 **Double-crested Cormorant** were at LSP 9/7. 10 **Great Egret** were at SR 8/24. A pair of **N. Bobwhite** with young were at DA 8/22,25; 2 were at LSP 9/28. Both species of **yellowlegs**, **Solitary**, **Spotted**, and **Pectoral** sandpipers, and many **Killdeer** congregated on the SR 9/24.

Chimney Swift were last seen at FA 9/30 and last date for **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** at DA 9/6. A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was at DA 9/28. **Cedar Waxwing** were prevalent the last half of Sep. Latest **vireo** dates were **Yellow-throated** at DA 9/27; **Red-eyed** at DA 9/7; and **Warbling** at FA 9/30.

Warbler reports include: **Black-and-white** at DA 8/4; **Nashville** at DA 7/25; **Black-throated Green** most common migrant; **Black-throated Blue** at THE 9/20; imm. **Chestnut-sided** at DA 7/25; **Com. Yellowthroat** at DA 9/9; **Am. Redstart** at DA 7/21; and **Yellow-breasted Chat** at FA 7/12. An **Ovenbird** at DA 7/16–8/9 was seen at times picking up bits of suet that fell to the ground under a feeder. 2 **Purple Finch** at DA 8/3.

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

LANCASTER COUNTY

Eric Witmer

Abbreviations: Cornwall Fire Tower (CFT), Middle Creek WMA (MC), Muddy Run Pump Storage area (MR), Octoraro L. (OL), Pumping Station Rd. (PSR), Susquehanna R. at Conejohela Flats (SRC).

Highlights of the period include a **Tricolored Heron** and 2 **Marbled Godwit** along the Susquehanna R. at Marietta. **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** made a good showing at 3 locations, with up to 4 at a sod farm in the Centerville area; all previous county records were of single birds, mostly on the SRC. A flock of 18 **Black Tern** was observed on the SRC. Good numbers of **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** and **Philadelphia Vireo** noted.

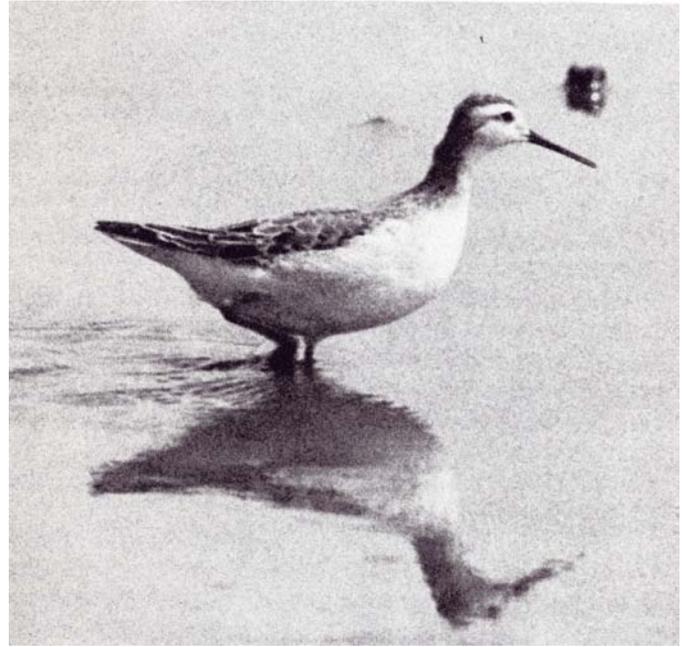
A **Pied-billed Grebe** was at MC 7/3 (FH). No significant gathering of post-breeding waders noted at SRC this period. Further up river at Marietta (shallow from drought) high counts were made of 50+ **Great Egret** 8/1; 12 **Snowy Egret** 8/3; and 1-3 **Little Blue Heron** 8/1-5 (JH). The most unusual wader was an imm. **Tricolored Heron** at Marietta 8/14-9/15 (JH *et al.*). **Glossy Ibis** sightings include 5 at SRC 7/6 (RMS) & 1 at MC 7/14 (PC). **Wood Duck** numbers were down compared to previous years on SRC. A **Blue-winged Teal** was on SRC 7/4 (EW). A ♂ **Com. Merganser** was on the river above Brunner's I. 7/9 (AS).

Two imm. and 1 ad. **Bald Eagle** were in the Marietta area during Aug (JH); 3 imm. were also at SRC 9/7 (JB). **N. Harrier** were seen at MC and nr the Hammer Cr. in July & Aug. (FH). A **N. Goshawk** was in Lancaster 8/28 (R&SB). 1800+ **Broad-winged Hawk** and a **Golden Eagle** were observed from the CFT 9/13 (JG,FH). A **Merlin** was seen flushing shorebirds at MC 9/18 (FH). **Peregrine Falcon** sightings away from the CFT include 1 at MR 8/5 (RMS); another was between Penryn and Manheim 9/4 (LC). An ad. and imm. were on the SRC 9/27 (JH). 20 **Wild Turkey** were nr the CFT 9/27 (FH). A high count of 6 **Sora** was on the SRC 9/7 (JB).

2 early **Ls. Golden-Plover** were at SRC 8/23 (JB). The highest count made at the SRC was 22 9/28 during the major drawdown of the river (RM). Away from the river in agricultural areas were 20 nr Ronks 9/15 (C&JG) and 9 nr Mt. Joy 9/24 (JH). 180 **Killdeer** were at a sod farm in W. Hempfield Twp 9/3 (JH). **Upland Sandpiper** reports include 3 in Upper Leacock Twp 7/20 (JH), 14 in Earl Twp (Red Well Rd.) 7/31 (RM) and 5 again 8/14 (RMS). 2 **Marbled Godwit** were on the river at Marietta 8/3 (JH). The only report of **Ruddy Turnstone** was of 2 on SRC 8/2 (JB). Single **Baird's Sandpiper** were on SRC 8/11-25 (JB *et al.*); 2 Baird's were on a W. Hempfield Twp sod farm 9/8-15 (m.ob.). **Stilt Sandpiper** sightings were down, with high count of 3 at OL 9/14 (TK) and 3 at MC 9/12-15 (JH,TG). 2-4 **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** were on a W. Hempfield sod farm 9/6-19 (†JH *et al.*); singles were also at OL 9/11 (LL) and in a field nr Ronks 9/15 (C&JG). An early **Com. Snipe** was at SRC 8/11 (JB,TG,RMS). A **Wilson's Phalarope** was at MC 8/29-31 (m.ob.) and a **Red-necked Phalarope** in basic plumage was also at MC 8/8 (DB).

An imm. **Bonaparte's Gull** was at SRC 8/4+ (TG,EW *et al.*). Noteworthy was a 4 spp. tern day (**Caspian**, **Common**, **Forster's**, and **Black**) on the SRC 8/23 (JB). Early Caspian Tern sightings include 2 flying downriver of the Holtwood Pinnacle 7/1 (RMS) & 2 nr SRC 7/16 (JH). High counts of Caspian include 9 at MC 9/18 (JH), 11 at Marietta 8/22 (JH) & 8 on the SRC 8/25 (JB,TG,SS,EW). 1-3 **Com. Tern** were irregularly seen on the SRC in Aug. & Sep. (m.ob.). A **Forster's Tern** was on the SRC 7/6 (RMS). High count of **Forster's** on the SRC was 150 8/4 (TG,EW). **Black Tern** noted between Marietta and SRC 8/18-25 (JH *et al.*) with an impressive high count of 18 on the SRC 8/18 (JB,TG,SS,EW).

An average of 160+ **Chimney Swift** were seen leaving a chimney in Lancaster 9/20-25 (BC,LC). An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at PSR (SGL 156) 9/10 (JH,HM). **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** were seen at several location from at least 8/25-9/6 (m.ob.). Good numbers of **Bank Swallow** were again along the river with a high count of 5000+ nr Washington Boro 7/19 (JH); away from the river were 200 at Penryn 8/19 (BC). An imm. **Cliff Swallow** was on the SRC 9/29 (TG,EW). A **Winter Wren** was at Lancaster 9/6 (WT). **Philadelphia Vireo** were reported more often than usual and at more locations from at least 9/7-22 (m.ob.).



*Wilson's Phalarope, Middle Creek WMA, 8/31/91.
Photo by Randy Miller.*

From early Aug., J&EP observed 26 spp. of warblers from their Providence Twp home, including **Golden-winged**, **Connecticut**, & **Mourning**. 3 Golden-winged and a "**Brewster's**" **Warbler** were at PSR 8/25 (RM) & another Golden-winged was at Chickies Park nr Mt. Joy 8/30,31 (JH). **Orange-crowned Warbler** sightings were made at PSR 8/25 (RM) and nr Mt. Joy 9/24 (JH). A **Yellow Warbler** was still on the SRC 9/22 (TG,EW). Early migrant **Magnolia** and **Canada** warblers were at MC 8/16 (FH). A Connecticut and Mourning warbler were at PSR 9/7 (RM). A pair of **Blue Grosbeak** were nr Washington Boro 8/12 (DH). Another pair with 3 young were above Marietta at Vinegar Ferry Rd 8/4 (TG,EW). A **Sharp-tailed Sparrow** was at SRC 9/28 (RM).

OBSERVERS: Jerry Book, Dan Brauning, Ray & Shirley Bubb, Bruce Carl, Lynn Carl, Pam Clark, Jack Downs, Tom Garner, Jay George, Carl & John Groff, Fred Habegger, Dennis Harnly, Jonathan Heller, Tom Kurtz, Larry Lewis, Randy Miller, Harold Morrin, Ed & Jo Pederson, Nick Pulcinella, Steve Santner, Robert M. Schutsky, Al Spiese, William Tawzer, **Eric Witmer**, 805 Pointview Ave, Ephrata 17522 (717-733-1138).

LAWRENCE COUNTY

Barb Dean

Abbreviations: Bessemer area (BA), Ellwood City (EC), Leesburg Pond (LP), Mahoning R. (MR), Neshannock Cr. (NC), New Castle area (NCA), Volant Strip Mines (VS), Vosler Rd. (VR), W. Pittsburg area (WP).

3 **Great Egret** were reported at LP to end July (HB,SM,BW,BD). 55 **Wood Duck** were accounted for at 3 locations 7/25-8/18 (BW,SM,BD). 4 **Green-winged** and some **Blue-winged teal** were at LP 7/23-9/13 (BW). **Mallard** population was down.

Until 2 years ago I was only able to report on **N. Harrier** from mid-Sep. to Apr. Now both adults are reported all year at VS (SB,GB *et al.*). An imm. was there 9/30, but breeding not confirmed. An ad. ♂ 7/17 and 1 imm. 8/17. Other sightings: 1 ad. ♂ in NCA 8/13 and an ad. ♀ in WP 8/17. Our hawk numbers are still way down! Could all the spraying for Gypsy Moths, etc., be hurting the hawk populations? Most noticeable is the drastic drop in **Red-tailed Hawk** numbers. Although **Sharp-shinned Hawk** reports are also down, on 7/13 SM and BD watched 1 struggle to carry a dead Mourning Dove over the LP to the woods. The dove was dropped, but this might lend credence

to breeding here. A **Cooper's Hawk** was in NCA 9/13 (BW). **Am. Kestrel** was reported from only 3 locations (SB,GB,BW,SM). My son found an ad. and 12 young **Wild Turkey** just e. of NCA 7/2.

Virginia Rail was reported in a cattail marsh off Rt. 18 8/17. The first build-up of **Killdeer** was noted 7/23, with ± 200 accounted for by end of the quarter. The LP mudflats yielded 2 **Semipalmated Plover**, many **Greater** and a few **Lesser** yellowlegs, **Semipalmated**, 1 **Western**, and **Pectoral** sandpipers, and 3 **dowitcher** sp. **Spotted Sandpiper** breed there.

It was sunny and warm at 3 p.m. 7/31. Grasshoppers were flying all over the road and fields. They were all over my windshield and flying into the car as I drove along the VS area. I finally had to wind up the windows to keep them out of the car. First I saw 3 **Upland Sandpiper**, then a fourth and finally found 4 ad. and 4 younger birds. The birds were definitely on the move and Uppies do love grasshoppers. They stayed about 2 weeks, as SM had 4 there 8/15.
Barb Dean

Black-billed Cuckoo remained at many locations in July and a fledgling was seen at VR 7/23. **E. Screech-Owl** were heard in 2 new locations, WP and MR areas. Our **Com. Nighthawk** population has remained very low for the past 2 years and no migration movement was detected this quarter; high count was 6 over NCA 8/18. **Chimney Swift** numbers are healthy, with 300+ over my house 9/19.

The **Belted Kingfisher** population remains below normal. Only a few **Red-headed Woodpecker** reports, but that is due to lack of birding time; we were not able to check the ± 25 scattered breeding locations. A σ **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was in SGL 151 9/30. Other woodpecker numbers were normal, although **Hairy's** may be lower. Most flycatchers remained vocal through the end of Aug. We had an **outstanding** population of **Acadian Flycatcher** and 3 nests were found nr the Covered Bridge. Adults were on nests 7/1. The nests were 15' off the road at the edge of a deciduous woods a little above eye level (MG,BD). A few **Alder Flycatcher** were at Strawberry Fields, but **Willow** were down in numbers; **Least** were in SGL 151 and along MR (HB,LW,SM,BD). **E. Kingbird** numbers were low. 100+ **Horned Lark** were at VS 7/13 (SM,BD). **Purple Martin** did well in Amish areas. **Tree Swallow** numbers are way down, but BW reported young in the nest 7/3. **Only 6 Bank Swallow** were seen. It is hoped that the large, 70+, colony had time to fledge young. I did not get to check the nest site till late and the area had been destroyed. 3 **Cliff** were perched with 40 **Barn** swallows 7/25. Peak day for Barn Swallow build-up was 7/31, when 4-500 perched on lines, in surrounding trees, on corn stalks, and even on the road at a location n. of NCA. Few found after mid-Aug.

Our **House Wren** numbers were very low, so we actually saw and heard more **Carolina Wren** this quarter. **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** numbers were high through 8/18 and **E. Bluebird** continues to do well (BW,BD). 50 **Am. Pipit** were in NCA 9/30. **Cedar Waxwing** were in high numbers, with large flock at NC and MR 9/2-13. Vireos: **White-eyed** were also in high numbers all season. **Solitary** were at 4 sites 7/23+. This summer we saw more **Yellow-throated** than in the past 8-9 years; they were found at many locations and imm. were seen 7/31+ (BD,MG). 8 **Philadelphia** were found n. of NCA 9/13 (BW,BD). Wild grapes seemed a preferred food for many **Yellow-throated** and **Red-eyed**.

We experienced a delightful warbler migration, especially 9/2-13. On 9/13 BW & BD found 17 spp. in <5 hr. n. of NCA. Included in this total were 2 **Connecticut**, 2 **Mourning** and 1 **Brewster's!** On 9/15, SM and BD found an imm. **Connecticut Warbler** in NCA.

If you pull 1 beeguard off your hummingbird feeder in May and Sep., some **Cape May Warbler** may enjoy the nectar.

Scarlet Tanager were in low numbers except during the 1st

half of Sep. and the same can be said for **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** (BD,BW). Sparrow reports: **Chipping** went through in good numbers 9/30. A few **Vesper** were in a field nr MR 7/1. **Grasshopper** were in BA & NCA 7/1-13. This was our **best** year for **Henslow's**. The birds in the BA abandoned the field when a new road went through, but they moved to a nearby field. A new colony was found in the vast WP strip mines 7/4. They were also found on Oregon Rd. 7/13 (SM,BD). A **Lincoln's** was on VR 9/30. **Swamp** fledglings were in Volant in early July. The first 2 **White-throated** were in SGL 151 9/29. Ditto for 2 **Dark-eyed Junco**. **E. Meadowlark** were carrying food to young 7/23. A flock of 400 **Brown-headed Cowbird** was in Volant 7/23+. 3 pair of **Orchard Oriole** fed young along MR 7/1 (MG,BD); ditto for **N. Oriole**. 15 **N. Oriole** were in 1 willow tree 7/17. Many **Am. Goldfinch** were in NCA 7/1 and copulation observed 7/29. Later, noisy young fed on zinnia petals here in the yard.

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

LEBANON COUNTY

Steve Santner

The drought intensified this quarter. By the end of the period, the total rainfall was about 8" behind the normal for the year-to-date. The overall effect of the drought on birdlife is not clear, but among the local breeding birds the **E. Bluebird**, and probably other nestbox-using species, suffer much higher mortality than normal. Shorebird migration was also affected as the usually productive farm ponds of Iona and Reistville were nearly all dry, even the "permanent" ones. Effects on landbird migration are less clear but many of the insects on which most early migrants feed, were hard hit. On the other hand, stress stimulates fruit and nut bearing plants to produce more. This year was evidently very stressful as quantities of grapes, crabapples, acorns, and hickory nuts were very high. Certainly the best bird reported this quarter was the light-phase **Swainson's Hawk** seen at the Second Mt hawk watch, but unfortunately no written details were received for this bird.

The remaining highlights include an early **Com. Loon** over Second Mt 9/27 (MC) and **Double-crested Cormorant** all summer at Middle Creek WMA, including the *Lebanon* portion (SS). All birds were imm. The complete Second Mt report will be given next quarter but besides the previously mentioned Swainson's Hawk, seen 9/12 (EB), there have been record numbers of **Merlin**, **Peregrine Falcon**, and **Bald Eagle**.

Shorebird migration was poor; only 8 spp. were reported and included 2 **Western Sandpiper** and a **Sanderling** at Middle Creek 7/28 (RM). There was a **Red-headed Woodpecker** in an area with almost no trees near Iona 8/10 (SS). Early migrants included **Red-breasted Nuthatch** 7/13 at Middle Creek (RM) and a slightly early and out of place **Wilson's Warbler** on top of Second Mt 8/25 (NC,MC,TK). Warblers in general were poor in *Lebanon* although 2 observers (RM,SS) both saw excellent numbers elsewhere. Spotted thrushes (except possibly the **Hermit Thrush**) are all in trouble, as numbers in migration here continue to decline.

OBSERVERS: Ellis Blauch, Nancy Clupper, Morris Cox, Tom Kurtz, Randy Miller, **Steve Santner**, 3 **Overbrook Village Green Apts**, Elizabethtown 17022 (717-367-5857).

LEHIGH COUNTY

Bernie Morris

Abbreviations: Bake Oven Knob (BOK), Leaser L. (LL).

A flock of ± 50 **Double-crested Cormorant** flew over BOK 9/21 (FB,m.ob.). A family of **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was at the back pond behind Dorney Park in early July (N&JB). A flock of ± 20 **Wild Turkey** was seen nr LL 8/30 (PE,BLM). 2 **Sharp-shinned**

Hawk were at LL 7/21 (N&JB). 5 Bald Eagle went by BOK 9/2 (SS). The peak flight of Broad-winged Hawk at BOK was noted 9/13, with ±1500 birds (WB).

Solitary Sandpiper at Applewood 7/28 (PE), 4 Upland Sandpiper at the ABE Airport, where they are regularly seen, in late July (RW, DG, JG). Two other Uppies were seen, and almost run over, in the K-Mart's parking lot 8/24 (FB, BCM).

The first summer sighting of Herring Gull in our area was of 2 birds in the parking lot of a K-Mart nr Allentown 7/21 (BLM). A very early Bank Swallow was at Applewood 7/10 (PE). 2 ad. and 5 young Horned Lark were at the ABE Airport 8/27 (RW). A Com. Raven was also at the airport 9/11 (FB). This is one of the few sightings away from the Blue Mt. A late Hooded Warbler was at Applewood 9/10 (PE), and a Connecticut Warbler was seen there 9/1 (PE, BLM). A Lincoln's Sparrow was found at the Pool Wildlife Sanctuary 9/30 (BLM).

OBSERVERS: Wes Beltz, Nancy & John Boyer, Fritz Brock, Pauline England, John Galm, Dick Gemmel, Barbara C. Malt, Bernie L. Morris, 825 N Muhlenberg St, Allentown 18104 (215-435-9134), Steve Smith, Rick Wiltraut.

LUZERNE COUNTY

Bill Reid

Abbreviations: Forty Fort (FF), Harding (HA), Nescopeck (NS), Pittston (PT); PP&L Riverlands (PPL), Wilkes-Barre (WB).

Double-crested Cormorant numbers have been increasing in recent years, with 1-2 records each season; this fall numbers exploded with flocks of up to 9 seen at numerous places along the river from 8/1-mid-Sep. (v.o.). An Am. Bittern was seen in PPL 9/26 (JF, DG). This was the best year for Great Egret in the last 30 years; 6 roosted and foraged nr PPL 7/17, 18 (DG) and up to 11 were found at HA during late Aug., and there were numerous other reports along the river (v.o.); the only report away from the river was 1 at Kytyle in Aug. (JH). A roost of ±20 Black-crowned Night-Heron was at Wilkes-Barre through Aug. (FP).

The local Canada Goose flock reached 382 nr NS 8/28 (DG). Wood Duck had a good year, with as many as 35 young seen at one time in July & Aug. (DG). 30 Blue-winged Teal were at HA 9/24, 25 (WR, JS); and smaller numbers seen along the river at PT and FF. 3 Gadwall were at HA 8/16; and 6 Am. Wigeon at FF 9/6. Com. Merganser probably nested nr NS (DG). Osprey numbers were above normal. An imm. Bald Eagle went by the Council Cup hawk watch 9/2 (A&MG). A Merlin zipped by DG as he stood by the Susquehanna R. nr NS 9/6.

14 spp. of shorebirds were found along the river; 10 spp. were seen both 8/3 & 9/28 (WR). A Ls. Golden-Plover was at Port Blanchard 9/15 (JH, JS). First Solitary Sandpiper report was of 3 at PT 8/1 (WR). A Western Sandpiper, closely observed at PT 8/13, was extremely early (WR). A White-rumped Sandpiper was at PT 8/1 (WR); and at the same location 9/28, 2 Baird's Sandpiper were seen with 6 Western and 1 Least Sandpiper. This represents the 2nd county record of Baird's (WR). Earliest Pectoral was at PT 8/13; 3 Short-billed Dowitcher were seen the same day at Wyoming (WR). First Com. Snipe was at HA 8/29 (JS).

There were several reports of migrating Com. Nighthawk along the river in Aug., the latest and largest being 100 from PT to WB 8/26 (JH, JS). Nighthawks usually remain well into Sep., but it was unreported after Aug. this year. Thousands of Chimney Swift were seen between PT & WB 8/26 (JH, JS) & nr Wapwallopen in Sep. (AG, DG). A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was at Huntsville 9/28 (WR). An Olive-sided Flycatcher at PPL 9/23-27 (DG) was extremely late; it chased several birds away from its favored perches, including E. Kingbird. Most swallows departed very early, with few records after 8/20.

On 9/28 there were 2 Winter Wren and 1 Marsh Wren at Loyalville (WR). The warbler migration was unspectacular. A Worm-eating Warbler at PPL 7/27 (A&MG) was a late record of a sp. which simply seems to vanish after breeding in the northern part of its range. A Pine Warbler was at Kirby Park 9/28 (WR).

OBSERVERS: Alan & Monica Gregory, John Fridman, Doug Gross, Jim Hoysan, Fred Paolitch, William Reid, 73 W Ross St,

Wilkes-Barre 18702 (717-836-2525), Jim Shoemaker.

LYCOMING COUNTY

Wesley Egli

Abbreviations: Crystal L. (CL), Jersey Shore (JS), Muncy Borough (MB), Muncy Cr. Twp (MC), Picture Rocks (PR), SGL 252 (SGL), Susquehanna R. (SR). Reports by compiler unless otherwise noted.

Great Blue Heron were seen often from 8/9+ in Hughesville, SGL, PR, MC, & CL. A Great Egret flew over SGL 7/31 (DB). Green-backed Heron were in PR & SGL 7/24-9/19. An Osprey with a fish flew from the SR at MB 9/19. A N. Harrier was seen off I-180 nr Montoursville 9/22. An imm. N. Goshawk appeared in a JS backyard 8/4 (G&PS). At least 2 Red-shouldered Hawk fledged (location deleted. -eds.) 7/11 (DB). Ruffed Grouse were seen & heard drumming in Wolf Twp 8/31, 9/16, 30. A covey of N. Bobwhite crossed in front of me in MC 9/5.

Shorebird reports from SGL were 2 Gr. Yellowlegs 9/5 (G&PS); 3 Ls. Yellowlegs 9/1 (WE); 1 Solitary Sandpiper 9/7 (DB); 6 Least Sandpiper 8/4 (G&PS); 2 Pectoral Sandpiper 9/14 (DB), & 1 Short-billed Dowitcher 9/5 (G&PS). Pectoral was also seen on SR nr Montgomery G 8/6, 7 (DB). Yellow-billed Cuckoo were heard at SGL 8/24 & 9/1.

Last Chimney Swift were observed in Williamsport 9/25 (WE) and last Ruby-throated Hummingbird in JS 9/3 (G&PS), but in PR 9/30 (WE). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker were nr Ellenton 7/14 & MB 7/29. A Purple Martin colony was discovered in MT 7/25. Solitary Vireo were seen & heard at Little Pine SP 7/14. Magnolia and Black-and-white warblers were in PR 9/15 (WE) and a ♀ Blackpoll at CL 9/14 (m.ob.).

OBSERVERS: Dan Brauning, Wesley Egli, PO Box 381, Picture Rocks 17762 (717-584-2222), Glenna & Paul Schwalbe.

MERCER COUNTY

Marty McKay

Abbreviations: Blacktown Rd. (BR), Creek Rd. (CR), Greenwood Dr. Sewage Ponds (GSP), Grove City area (GC), Hermitage area (HA), Limber Rd. (LR), Shenango R. Res. (SRR).

2 Com. Loon were at SRR 9/17 (SM). ±440 Great Blue Heron breeding ad. occupied the Brucker Sanctuary. Estimated numbers of fledged chicks was 375-425. The effect of the drought on young was unknown. Max. Green-backed Heron count at SRR was 8 8/31 (v.o.). 3 Green-winged and 2 Blue-winged teal and 1 ad. Bald Eagle were at SRR 8/31 (RF, TF, HT). A N. Harrier was nr LR 7/24 (HB, LW). A Sharp-shinned Hawk was at CR 8/27 (BD, SM). 1 Cooper's and 2 imm. Red-tailed hawk were seen frequently at HA, and Am. Kestrel was common at LR (HB, LW). 1 Sora was found 8/3 at BR (HB, LW).

The following chart shows the surprising variety and numbers of shorebirds found at SRR (due to extremely low water level) and GSP.

Species	No.	Location	Date	Observers
Black-bellied Plover	1-3	SRR	8/31-9/16	RF, TF, HT, BD, SM
Ls. Golden-Plover	1-7	SRR	8/31-9/28	m.ob.
Semipalmated Plover	1-14	SRR	7/1-9/16	RF, TF, SM, HT
Killdeer	380	SRR	8/31	RF, TF, HT
Gr. Yellowlegs	1-2	SRR, GSP	8/31-9/28	RF, TF, SM, HT, MM, HB
Ls. Yellowlegs	10-74	SRR	8/30-8/31	MM, RF, TF, HT
Ruddy Turnstone	1	SRR	9/16	SM
Sanderling	4	SRR	9/16	SM
Semipalmated Sand.	1-33	SRR, GSP	7/17-8/31	BD, RF, TF, SM, HT, HB
Least Sandpiper	1-35	SRR, GSP	7/17-9/17	RF, TF, BD, HB, SM, HT
White-rumped Sand.	1	SRR	9/22	EK
Baird's Sand.	1	SRR	9/13	DS
Pectoral Sand.	1-122	SRR, GSP	7/6-9/16	m.ob.
Dunlin	1	SRR	8/6-9/17	HB, LW, SM
Stilt Sandpiper	1	SRR	7/24-9/17	HB, LW, SM, MM
Buff-breasted Sand.	1-3	SRR	8/31-9/17	m.obs
Short-billed Dow.	1-4	SRR	7/17-9/17	BD, SM

1 **Am. Woodcock** was at HA 7/28,29 and 1 at GC 9/27 (SM). An **E. Screech-Owl** was frequently heard at HA 8/21+. Its whinny call was sometimes given at the same time as hooting from the resident **Great Horned Owl** pair, around 0615 h.

Summer evening entertainment was provided by a pair of **Barred Owl** in HB's GC backyard 7/2-8/3 (m.ob.). Predictably at dusk they perched on metal clothespoles, cackled to each other, and periodically pounced to the ground to catch what were probably Gypsy Moths, to return to the poles again. All activity was viewed from a comfortable screened-in porch, 50' distant.

Com. Nighthawk were observed migrating at HA with 12 8/26 & 8 8/27 at 1945 h. 300+ **Chimney Swift** were at SRR 9/6 and 75 there 9/13. The chimney of the Hermitage Middle School is a major migration roost for swifts. 300+ gathered there at sunset 9/20, whirled around for 30+ minutes, then descended. The descent began at 1945 h. and took 7 minutes.

2 **Red-headed Woodpecker** were at LR 7/14 (HB,BD), and 1 at HA 9/22. A **Least Flycatcher** was at BR 8/3 (HB,LW). An **E. Phoebe**, perhaps mistaking a church sanctuary for a bird sanctuary, helped keep worshippers awake by flying around inside during a Sunday morning service at HA 9/8. The **Cliff Swallow** colony on the Headquarters Bldg. at SRR Propagation Ponds grew to 34 nests. The expansion involves the N side of the building. (Only the S side was used previously.). 2 **Brown Creeper** at HA 7/3 was unusual. **Carolina Wren** is becoming common here. First **Winter Wren** at HA was 9/22. A **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was at CR 8/31 (HB, MG, SM, LW). A few **Veery** moved through HA 9/18, and a few **Swainson's Thrush** 9/25,26. 80 **Cedar Waxwing** were at SRR 9/6, and 3 young fledged at GC 8/30 (SM). A **Philadelphia Vireo** was at SRR 8/6 (HB,LW).

A good variety of warblers moved through the 3rd and 4th weeks of Aug., and again 9/18 just before a strong cold front. 18 spp. were noted: **Blue-winged**, **Nashville**, **Yellow**, **Chestnut-sided**, **Magnolia**, **Black-throated Blue**, **Yellow-rumped** (scarce), **Black-throated Green**, **Blackburnian**, **Pine**, **Bay-breasted**, **Black-and-white** (numbers up), **Am. Redstart**, **Ovenbird** (numbers up), **Kentucky**, **Com. Yellowthroat**, **Hooded**, and **Wilson's**. LR was a great place for sparrows: 1 **Clay-colored** 7/14-19 (MF *et al.*), and several **Field**, **Savannah**, **Grasshopper**, and **Henslow's**.

OBSERVERS: Harriett Bauer, Barb Dean, Mike Fialkovich, Richard Floyd, Ted Floyd, Marguerite Geibel, Deuane Hoffman, Ed Kwater, Shirley McCarl, Marty McKay, 2320 Valley View Rd, Sharpsville 16150 (412-962-7476), Jerry McWilliams, Don Snyder, Chuck Tague, Humberto Teixeira, Loraine Weiland.

MIFFLIN COUNTY

Margaret Kenepf

With the hot, dry summer we observed some unusual bird happenings. Our bird baths during the preceding years were used for occasional bathing, but this season there was lots of activity at the water sources. The chickadees and titmice were in company with robins, bluebirds, Carolina Wrens, and dozens of House Finches. They drank and bathed and needed continual refreshing of the water supply. The stream was almost dry and it was also murky most of the time. One thing good about the situation was our close observation of feeding and drinking outside the kitchen window from early morning until late evening.

The low stream flow caused **Great Blue Heron** to fish the farm ponds all season. **Osprey** were observed above Ryde at the Juniata

R. 9/20,22. **Killdeer** were common all season and on 9/19 on the neighbor's newly plowed field I observed 32 and there were possibly more over the crest of a small hill. They took off noisily and beautifully. They were so protected by coloration on that newly turned ground and could only be seen when they moved in search of food. **E. Screech-Owl** vocal all season. **Com. Nighthawk** were over Lewistown 9/24.

During a serious illness we were away during 25 days from mid-Aug. to 9/13, and our neighbor, Grace Miller, cared for our needs and fed birds. A **Magnolia Warbler** had apparently hit the window. It was a beautiful bird. She froze it in an ice cube tray for us to see. She was also busy filling the hummingbird feeders as their numbers were up this season. We were delighted with 8-9 ad. and 6-7 imm. were very feisty at the feeders and flowers until 9/25. On 8/21, Jim Harmon observed 2 **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** in a hassel and as they landed on their patio nr Perryopolis he saw that 1 of the birds had locked its mouth over the other's leg. They remained on the patio floor for a time and then flew off.

A pair of **Red-bellied Woodpecker** visited suet with only 1 imm.; they had 2 earlier in the season. **White-breasted Nuthatch** and **Tufted Titmouse** brought young to suet all season, however only ad. **Hairy Woodpecker** fed this season. A **Great Crested Flycatcher** was in a woodlot 9/20+. **E. Phoebe** fledged 5 young in our carport. Gloria Bickel noted **N. Rough-winged Swallow** nesting in trailers parked near the Lewistown Hospital. They didn't mind the traffic of cars and people at all. By 8/4 Ezra Zook reported a large percentage of **Barn Swallow** had gone.

Last summer the crows were busy harassing a Great Horned Owl, this summer they have been having a great noisy time chasing after a **Red-tailed Hawk**. Only 1 crow seems to start after the hawk and suddenly from every direction they come and it usually goes on for half an hour or more. Finally the hawk just alights in a tree and the contest is over. A **Com. Raven** was observed daily flying to the cornfields nr. the river during Sep. As usual, only 1. **Carolina Wren** nested in 2 flower baskets and 1 pair nested in the rolled up rug in the garage, gaining entrance through the squirrel hole in the garage door. They fledged 9 young. As Elaine Harmon gathered Rebecca's cowgirl outfit from the clothes line on the porch 8/21, a Carolina Wren flew from her pocket. It had snuggled in for the night.

E. Bluebird numbers were great and by 9/25 were in flocks of 14-18 locally. Louise Reed observed a flock of 20 in their yard nr Lockport. **Red-eyed Vireo** were vocal early in the season, however nests are still not located in an area where the 3 were found last season. **Dark-eyed Junco** were found on Blue Mt. 9/28.

OBSERVER: Margaret Kenepf, RR 2 Box 343, McVeytown 17051 (717-899-6252).

MONROE COUNTY

Rick Wiltraut

Abbreviations: *Snow Hill (SH)*, *Skytop (ST)*, *Tobyhanna (THE)*.

An imm. **Bald Eagle** was seen at ST 7/10 (JS) and a **Red-shouldered Hawk** at SH 9/2 (PE, BLM). A **Wild Turkey** with 14 chicks was at ST 7/13 and a flock of 22 was at THE 9/18 (JS). An **Am. Woodcock** was at ST 8/3 (JS) and a **Barred Owl** at SH 9/2 (PE, BLM).

A **Pileated Woodpecker** was at ST 9/7 and **Acadian Flycatcher** noted there 7/4 (JS). A **Com. Raven** was seen feeding on a road-killed woodchuck at THE 8/4-5 and another there 9/23 (JS). A roost of at least 20 **Fish Crow** was at E. Stroudsburg throughout the quarter (SL) and a group of 5-6 **Yellow-throated Vireo** noted at SH 9/2 (PE, BLM).

OBSERVERS: Pauline England, Sherri Labar, Bernie Morris, John Serrao, Rick Wiltraut, 205 Washington St, Nazareth 18064 (215-759-5184).

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Neal Thorpe

Abbreviations: Green Lane Res. (GLR), Ft. Washington SP (FWSP), Schuylkill R. (SR), Unami Creek Valley (UCV), Upper Perkomon Valley Park (UPVP), Valley Forge National Historical Park (VF).

GLR had most of the rarities, thanks mostly to the drought, which provided a wide expanse of mudflats and excellent shorebirding. Generating telephone calls among excited local birders were the following, all seen by m.ob. unless otherwise indicated: An imm. **Sora** from 8/16–21; counts of 4–9 **Ls. Golden-Plover** 9/6–20; an **Upland Sandpiper** on a lawn near the res. 9/2 (GLF); gatherings of 3 **Sanderling** seen sporadically 8/19–9/11, a single sanderling seen 9/25 (RW); sporadic sightings of single **Baird's Sandpiper** 8/13–9/6; a **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** 9/6–10 (ph.RW); a **Wilson's Phalarope** 8/17–21; a **Red Phalarope** 9/20 (GAF, RG).



*Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Green Lane Res., 9/10/91.
Photo by Rick Wiltraut.*

Other good birds were **Pileated Woodpecker**, unusual at GLR 8/27 (KC), not so unusual in the UCV 9/8 (GLF); an **Alder Flycatcher** at GLR 7/9 (GLF); 4 **Cliff Swallow** there 8/17 (KC) and 10 9/15 (GLF).

A cold front 9/1 following a hot, humid summer began to bring in the migrating passerines. Standouts were 2 **Philadelphia Vireo** in the UCV 9/8 and 1 at GLR 9/29 (GLF), an **Orange-crowned Warbler** in the VF silt basin 9/26 (NT) and not 1 but 2 **Connecticut Warbler** in ragweed at GLR 9/2 (GAF). A ♀ **Summer Tanager** was reported at Hatboro 9/1 (Jim Hunt). A **Grasshopper Sparrow** was at GLR 7/4 (GAF, GLF) and 4–5 were nr Gilbertsville 7/3 (RW). Finally, 3 different **Lincoln's Sparrow** were at three different GLR locations 9/22, 28, 29 (GLF).

More expected birds included up to 9 **Double-crested Cormorant** at GLR in Aug., with small numbers lingering through Sep. (KC). A single was seen in the Betzwood area of the SR 9/30 (NT). Among many heron sightings were single **Snowy Egret** in the company of **Great Egret** in both the SR and GLR, a **Little Blue Heron** at UPVP 7/27 (GAF), another at GLR 8/20 (GLF), and a max. of 7 **Black-crowned Night-Heron** (3 ad., 4 imm.) at GLR in early Aug. (GLF, GAF). A **Mute Swan** was at UPVP 9/20–27 (KC), and 1 was seen at nearby GLR 9/29 (GLF). An out-of-season **Snow Goose** at GLR 8/10, 18 (GLF) was not as surprising at it sounds; singles have summered before with the hordes of **Canada Goose** in the area. **Wood Duck** continue to proliferate at UPVP, with a max. of 66 counted (KC). The expected non-diving ducks had moved into there and GLR by the end of Sep., including 2 **N. Shoveler** at GLR.

Hawk reports were widespread from north to south. A full report from the Militia Hill hawk watch in FWSP won't come until the 4th quarter, but in Sep. it counted 10 **Bald Eagle** and 5600 **Broad-winged Hawk** (WM). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** reported in the UCV 9/8 (GLF), but none from Perkiomenville. A **Merlin** was seen regularly at GLR throughout Sep. The most exciting report came from BF who spent much of 9/29, a good cold-front day, looking for hawks from his roof in the SR valley. He counted 7 raptor spp. and 14 indiv., including a Red-shouldered, a low-flying Merlin and 2 **Peregrine Falcon**. He called it "a tremendous day."

24 spp. of shorebirds were noted at GLR. 6 **Black-bellied Plover** made only a 1-day stand there 9/5 (KC, RW, RG). **Western, White-rumped** and **Stilt** sandpipers were intermittent from late Aug. to late Sept. (m.ob). The first **Dunlin** was 9/19 (NT). On 8/20 at GLR, RW saw 5 ad. and 2 imm. **Caspian Tern**, "the largest number I've ever seen locally." From 2–4 were seen on subsequent days through 9/14 by m.ob., and 2 **Forster's Tern** were there 7/2 (GAF, GLF). **Com. Nighthawk** were reported over Oreland and GLR, but WM commented that the 30 he saw 8/19 were "way down from the 70-100 of past years." 6 **Purple Martin** were at GLR 8/14–21 (KC), and a few **Bank Swallow** were among the large summer population of other swallows.

A **Winter Wren** was in WM's Oreland yard 9/29. The first **Am. Pipit** were at GLR 9/14, 25 (GLF, RW). A **Solitary Vireo** was along the SR 8/25 (BF), another at GLR 9/29 (GLF). Thanks to the return of hot weather in much of Sep., it was a long warbler season, with the first small fallout noticed at FWSP 8/11 (WM), and warblers lingering and still arriving 9/30. In all, some good fallout days and a total of 24 spp. reported by all observers, making it a much better season than last fall's discouraging count. On 9/13, 300 warblers of 13 spp. were counted in FWSP (WM); 20 spp. were counted in VF in Sep. (NT). Three hawthorne bushes in NT's yard has annually attracted fall **Cape Mays**, but this year an imm. pair was regularly seen from 9/20–29. For 3 days they were joined by a **Pine**. And a **Prothonotary** spent the night in the same bushes 9/1–2. An **N. Waterthrush** at GLR 8/20 and a **Yellow-breasted Chat** there 7/6 (GLF) were good finds.

8–12 **Bobolink** were found at GLR through July and Aug. (KC). On 9/1 a migrating flock of 200+ came through (GAF).

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

MONTOUR COUNTY

Allen Schweinsberg

Double-crested Cormorant are becoming so commonplace that one wonders if they are still reportable. From 8/13+, from 1–5 could be at Montour Preserve, the PP&L flyash basin, and on the Susquehanna R. (SR) at Danville (CS). A report by a fisherman of ±50 cormorants flying up the river at Danville in mid-Aug. cannot be dismissed as incredible.

A **Snowy Egret** was at the mouth of Mahoning Cr. 8/25 (CS). The **Black-crowned Night-Heron** mentioned last quarter were still easily found through the summer at Danville along the SR s. of the bridge. Imm. appeared by early July. As many as 5 ad. and 4 imm. were present.

At the ash basin, 110+ **Bank Swallow** were counted 7/5 (WE). OBSERVERS: Wes Egli, Allen Schweinsberg, 1200 Zeigler Rd, Lewisburg 17837 (717-524-0432), Christine Smull.

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY

Rick Wiltraut

Abbreviations: Little Gap Bird Observatory (LG), Martins Cr. (MC).

3 early **Com. Loon** were seen at LG 9/28 (RW) and 15 **Great Blue Heron** were at MC 7/28 (DD, AK, RW). **Great Egret** were seen in July & Aug. at MC & Lehigh Valley Industrial Park and an imm. **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was compared with 3 **Black-crowned Night-Heron** on the Delaware R. at MC 8/3 for only the 2nd county record (SB).

3 ad. **Peregrine Falcon** were seen at LG 9/29 (SB) and a **Merlin** was seen eating a cowbird in WT 9/16 (AK). 3 **Semipalmated Sandpiper** were at Seiple's Farm 7/26 (RW). 2 pair of **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** with young were present all quarter at DeReamus' feeders at Copella and up to 4 were present at Silfies' feeders in Danielsville in July/Aug. The last Copella bird was seen 9/12 (DD). The only **Red-headed Woodpecker** report was of an ad. at LG 9/29 and an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was seen there 9/1 (SB).

A **Com. Raven** passed LG 8/25 (SB) and the first migrant **Red-breasted Nuthatch** there 8/22 (RW). The first movement of warblers was noted at Monocacy Nature Center 7/27, including **Blue-winged Warbler**, **Am. Redstart**, and **Blue-winged Warbler** (LF).

Finally, an ad. ♂ **Blue Grosbeak** was observed singing at LG 7/30, the 4th county record (†RW).

OBSERVERS: Steve Boyce, Dave DeReamus, Linda Freedman, Arlene Koch, Brad Silfies, Rick Wiltraut, 205 Washington St, Nazareth 18064 (215-759-5184).

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY

Dave Unger

Abbreviations: Ralpho Twp (RaT), Riverside (RS), Roaring Creek Water Co. (RC), Rush Twp (RT), N. Branch Susquehanna R. at Riversville (SR).

Both **Black-crowned Night-Heron** and **Great Blue Heron** were common along the SR all quarter with several imm. **Black-crowned Night Herons** observed (CS). **Great Egret** were commonly seen along the SR after July along with infrequent sightings of **Snowy Egret**; 12+ **Great Egret** were at riffles upstream from Northumberland 7/21 (DG). An ad. **Bald Eagle** was in RS 8/11 (CS).

Ring-necked Pheasant continue their decline in RaT & RT while **Wild Turkey** continue their increase in RCWC & RT. The low level of the SR due to the drought allowed more open ground for the fall shorebird migration. Both **yellowlegs**, **Solitary**, **Spotted**, **Semipalmated**, and **Least** sandpipers, and several unidentified peeps were seen during Aug. and early Sep. (CS,DU). **Killdeer** had an excellent nesting year in RS and along the SR, with 49 seen 8/14 in RT. **Ring-billed Gull** were common along the SR throughout the quarter.

Both **Black-billed** and **Yellow-billed** cuckoos were non-existent in RaT & RT for the first time in several years, possibly due to the collapse of the Gypsy Moth population. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** were in RT until 9/19. **Blue Jay** were conspicuously absent in RT until late Sep. **Carolina Wren** continue to increase in RaT, RS & RT. **Brown Thrasher** also are increasing and were very common in RS & RT. **Worm-eating**, **Prairie**, and **Yellow** warblers nested in RT, while **Canada**, **Black-and-white**, **Parula**, **Pine**, and **Black-throated Green** warblers were reported from the RC (BK). **Am. Redstart** were common along the SR. Both **Vesper** and **Grasshopper** sparrows were sighted in RT.

OBSERVERS: Doug Gross, Bill Krieger, Chris Smull, Dave & Linda Unger, RD 6 Box 246, Danville 17821 (717-672-3254).

PERRY COUNTY

Deuane Hoffman

50+ **Wood Duck** were counted on an 8/20 canoe trip on the Juniata R. from Newport to Amity Hall, a distance of 10 miles. Also found were 7 **Double-crested Cormorant**, 1 **Snowy Egret**, and 2 **Semipalmated** and 3 **Least** sandpipers.

An ad. **Bald Eagle**, presumably 1 of the Haldeman I. birds, was seen at Duncannon 7/27 (DC). A group of 30 **Com. Nighthawk** was flying over Marysville 8/24 (DC).

Increased coverage of the Lambs Gap (LG) and Millers Gap (MG) areas produced some impressive warbler numbers. Total spp. from these locales surpassed 30 spp. Highlights are: 2 **Mourning** at MG 9/1 (RK) & 1 ♂ at Ickesburg, also 9/1 (DC); 1 **Orange-crowned** at LG 9/2 (DC). 15 spp. were at MG 9/1 (RK) and 13 spp. at LG 9/2 (DC).

A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was at MG 9/1 (RK). A large group of 250+ **Cedar Waxwing** was at LG 9/2. Also on 9/2 another large group was seen, but this time it was thousands of migrating Monarch Butterflies (DC).

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

PHILADELPHIA COUNTY

Ed Fingerhood

Abbreviations: Carpenter's Woods (CW), Delaware R. (DR), Frankford (FF), Franklin Square (FS), Livezy Ln (LL), Philadelphia (PHL), Pennypack Ave (PA), Roxborough (RX), Tinicum Nat. Environ. Center (TN), Schuylkill R. (SR), Upper & Lower Wissahickon Creek valley (WCV), W. Fairmount Park (WFP), W. Mt. Airy (WMA).

An unusual location for 9 **Double-crested Cormorant** was on the SR dam below the Art Museum 8/25 (CM); high count was ±23 on the DR at PA (KS). A **Least Bittern** was at TN 7/28, with 10 there 9/15 (JCM). 2 **Great Blue Heron** were on the SR dam 8/7 (CM). Other long-legged wader reports include: 35 **Great** and 15 **Snowy** egrets & **Little Blue Heron** were at TN 8/26 (NP); 5 **Green-backed Heron** (3 imm.) were in WFP 8/24 (CM). **Black-crowned Night-Heron** nested on the island adjacent to SR where 9 were seen 8/7 (CM).

519 summering **Canada Goose** counted in WFP 8/6 (CM). High count of **Wood Duck** at TN was 25 8/11 (EF,KS) & 9/10 (JCM). Interesting was a group of 6 at PA and the DR 8/16 (KS), who also found 50-70 **Am. Black Duck** there. 33 **Mallard** were nr the SR dam 8/6 (CM).

2 **Osprey** were over CW 9/12 (MD) & 1 rested on the dam 9/29 (CM). An imm. **N. Harrier** was at TN 9/6 (NP), and a **Sharp-shinned Hawk** perched over a feeder in WMA 9/16 (EB). 1 imm. **Red-shouldered Hawk** 8/15, 23 was unusual for CW (SL). An ad. **Broad-winged Hawk** 8/11 at CW (SL) may have nested nearby, but a kettle of 17 there 9/12 were surely migrating (MD). Max. for **Am. Kestrel** was 4 in RX 9/29 (CM). **Wild Turkey** in Pennypack Park appears to be holding its own; 6 (5 imm.) were seen 9/21 (EF). 4 ♀ **N. Bobwhite** were in RX 7/27 (CM).

A limited study of **Com. Moorhen** in a pond off the Bartram Ave. ramp to I-95S adjacent to TN from 7/21-9/30 revealed 2 family groups. One group of 5, (2 ad., 3 juv., down apparent) dwindled to 3 by quarter's end. The other group of 3 (2 ad., 1 imm.) declined to 2 by 9/27 (EF). JCM reports that this species is at an "all time low" at TN.

So little shorebird habitat is left in PHL that nearly every report is of interest (at TN unless otherwise noted). A **Ls. Yellowlegs** 7/28 (KS). For sandpipers, 1 **Spotted** on WCV at LL 7/5 (SL); 2 **Upland** at the PHL airport 8/11 grew to 12 8/26 (JCM); a "handful" of **Semipalmated** at TN reached ±25 8/11 (KS); 3 **Western** (NP) & a few **Least** 7/28 (KS); 1 **White-rumped** 9/6; **Pectoral**, with 1 8/11 (JS) & 31 by 9/29 (NP); 1 **Stilt** 9/29 (NP). NP reports that only 1 **Short-billed Dowitcher** was at TN "all quarter," 7/27. JS found a (well-described) **Long-billed Dowitcher** 7/27, remarkably early. *The impoundment at TN is now so deteriorated that current shorebird counts in no way resemble the numbers and diversity of spp. even just 10 years ago.* 35 **Herring Gull** sat on the SR dam 8/6, along with 1 **Great Black-backed Gull** (CM). **Caspian Tern** at TN highlighted an otherwise dreary quarter there; 1-3 were seen 8/10, 11, 29 & 9/6 (JS,KS,JCM,NP). 12 **Forster's Tern** were at TN 8/10 (JS), but 25+ were there in Sep. (JCM).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo were in WCV 8/6 (EF) & CW 9/20 (MD). A **Barn Owl** was flushed in RX 8/5 (CM). FU noted an **E. Screech-Owl** in WCV 7/21. Migration of **Com. Nighthawk** was underway 8/7 when CM counted 15 in the SR dam area; high was 12 in WMA 9/12 (SL), latest 9/26 at CW (MD). A high of ±150 **Chimney Swift** was at TN 9/29. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**, seen mostly as single ♂♂, 8/1-9/29 (SL,FU). KR wonders if a ♀ on a nest 8/6 in WCV was incubating or resting? A pair of **Belted Kingfisher** was at LL 8/7 (SL); plus 1 in WCV & a pair 7/16+ at PA and the DR (KS). **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** were at LL & CW 9/29, 30 (SL,MD). **Pileated Woodpecker** were found in LL, WMA, CW, & WCV 7/4-8/7 (SL,MD,FU).

Only **Olive-sided Flycatcher** reported was 1 in WMA 8/23 (SL). A ¼-mi stretch in WCV 8/11 was probable nesting for ≤8 **E. Wood-**

Pewee (EF,KR). 2 unidentified *Empidonax* were along the same stretch 8/11. A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** at TN 9/13 was noteworthy (JS). ≥8 nesting **Acadian Flycatcher** were calling in WCV 8/6 (EF). A **Willow Flycatcher** was in RX 9/22 (FU). JS tracked 2 **E. Phoebe** in FS 9/17+, and an **E. Kingbird**, unusual for WMA, was seen 7/7 (MD).

1000+ **Tree Swallow** swarmed over TN in Sep. (JCM), but only 1 **N. Rough-winged Swallow** was hawking insects along the WCV 8/11 (EB). Only 3 **Bank Swallow** were at TN 7/28 (NP) and even fewer **Barn Swallow**, 1 in WMA 7/3 (SL) & 8/11 along the WCV (EB). At least 1 flock with fledgling **Blue Jay** was seen in RX in July (FU). **White-breasted Nuthatch** may have nested in RX as 2 were seen/heard 7/7–9/20 (FU). **Winter Wren** summered in WCV this year. First heard by Freda Rappaport 6/17, they were still being heard 8/10. See article for details!

Other Winter Wren were in CW & WMA 9/21,28 (MD,SL). ±15 **Marsh Wren** at TN 9/29 and **Golden-crowned Kinglet** in Overbrook & TN 9/28,29 (NP) and **Ruby-crowned** were in CW 9/28 (EB,MD,EF). **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** were at TN & CW 8/11 (KS,EB). Latest **Veery** report was in CW 9/19 (MD), while **Swainson's Thrush** were at CW 9/7,19,20 (MD). Numerous **Wood Thrush** reports indicate it may be doing reasonably well. **Am. Robin** began to flock in RX 7/29, with an astounding 3000+ mixed into a **Com. Grackle** roost there 9/18 (FU). A **Gray Catbird** was still in RX 9/29 (FU), but no report of **Brown Thrasher**! **Cedar Waxwing** reports included 1 at TN 8/11 (KS) and a good 45 in WMA 8/13 (EB).

First **Solitary Vireo** appeared in CW 9/21 (MD), and a **Philadelphia** was found in TN 9/6 (NP). Latest **Red-eyed** was 9/28 (EB). 22 spp. of warblers were found. TN has been a good location for **Connecticut Warbler** through the years, and Al Guarente found 2 9/8. Only 1 **Yellow-breasted Chat**, increasingly difficult to find in PHL, was in RX 9/25 (FU). The other spp. found were expected, though there was no real high number of any species found (v.o.).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak were in CW 9/19–28 (MD,EB,EF). **Song Sparrow** can be numbered among the few doing well at TN; 50+ were there 9/29 (NP). Earliest **White-throated Sparrow** in CW and **Dark-eyed Junco** at FS (JS) were 9/30. **Bobolink** appeared 7/27,28 at RX & TN (CM,NP). A **Com. Grackle** roost in RX, hundreds, from 8/29–9/12 was vividly described (FU). 4 **N. Oriole** at both WMA 7/4 (EB) & TN 7/28 (KS) seemed to indicate they are doing well.

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

PIKE COUNTY

The following observations were sent by Frank Hohenleitner of *Delaware*, who has property in *Wayne*, but does most of his birding in *Pike*. He has "poked around more-or-less for about 35 years."

There seems to be a news blackout on the **Bald Eagles** being released at L. Shohola. I have seen both ad. and imm. birds there during the quarter. Early in Aug. at Shohola, a **Cooper's Hawk** which had captured a bird was making a pass over a field. In Decker's Hollow, nr Hawley, in July I found **Sharp-shinned**, **Cooper's**, **Red-shouldered**, **Broad-winged**, and **Red-tailed** hawks. **Pileated Woodpecker** were also there. My son, Paul, heard a **Barred Owl** there in Sep, as well as a **Great Horned Owl**.

A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was also found in July along the power transmission lines deep in the forest nr Hobday Rd. All of these **Sharp-shin** sightings (and there were a total of 3 others in July in other counties) were significant to me, because I never saw a Sharpie before in July.

I found an **Orange-crowned Warbler** at Billing's pond, nr Lord's Valley, 9/14. It was seen well, with all field marks. The behavior and environment were classic for the bird (according to Bent). A life bird.

All of this plus 3 bears and 2 rattlesnakes. And some people pay to go to Great Adventure!

SNYDER COUNTY

Allen Schweinsberg

No report this quarter.

SOMERSET COUNTY

Ruth and Glenn Sager

Abbreviations: Allegheny Front Hawk Watch (AFHW), Berlin (BL), Black Twp (BT), Central City (CC), Cranberry Glade L. (CGL), High Point L. (HPL), Hooversville (HV), Jennerstown (JT), L. Somerset (LS), Markleton (MK), New Centerville (NC), Quemahoning Dam (QD), Roxbury (RB), White Horse Mt. (WHM).

A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** and an **Orange-crowned Warbler** 9/7 in the yard of JRP at WHM added lustre to an otherwise dull migration season for passerines. The surprising early flight of 17 **Peregrine Falcon** from 9/13–30 and 9 **Bald Eagle** from 8/16–9/16 highlighted a good flight of raptors at the AFHW on the border of *Somerset* and *Bedford* near CC.

There was little excitement at dams and waterways depleted by the drought. 3 **Pied-billed Grebe** at LS 9/14 and singles at QD various dates from mid-Sep. were the only reports. An unusual **Double-crested Cormorant** with dirty-white facial patch and underparts appeared 9/22+ at QD with 1–3 other normal-plumaged individuals also present. Max. of 9 **Great Blue Heron** gathered at QD 9/18 and 5 were at LS 9/14. 1–2 **Great Egret** were at QD 9/18,22, and 3 **Green-backed Heron** there 8/21 was best count. 5 **Canada Geese** at QD 7/7–8/7 and 5 **Wood Duck** at QD 8/21 made for a poor fall show there. AM reported that the seasonal drawdown of LS started 9/3 and this lake continues to be abandoned as a **Wood Duck** roost site. A proposed drawdown of CGL was postponed until later in order to allow the fall roosting and migrational staging activities to proceed undisturbed. AM counted 77 **Wood Duck** entering the roost at dusk 9/27. Thanks goes to the Somerset County Sportsmen's League for contacting the Pa. Fish Commission and requesting the drawdown be delayed at CGL. **Mallard** were also low at QD, with 9–14 there 7/30–8/21. A single ♀ **Ring-necked Duck** stayed at LS all quarter.

Single **Black Vulture** passed the AFHW 9/8,13. The complete hawk watch totals will be presented in the next issue, but it should be noted that all spp. surpassed Sep. 1990 totals, except **N. Harrier** which lagged only 2 below last year. A **N. Harrier** was present all quarter at MT and several reported from late Aug. at other locations. A group of 10 **Am. Kestrel** was nr NC 7/19.

AM continued to observe the first successful **Osprey** nesting in many years in w. Pa. at CGL in which one young was fledged. His last sighting was 8/11 when he saw a lone Osprey perched atop a snag. A report received from the F&WS indicated one of the adults was probably hacked from Romney, W. Va., in 1986, but banding data on this bird is incomplete due to a loss of records for 1986. If so, the bird may have been 5 years old before successful nesting.

Reports of **Osprey** in the QD vicinity continued through the quarter. When the leaves are off the trees, the Sagers will attempt to find an **Osprey** nest along the Casselman R. near Salisbury. While trout fishing there, RB saw an **Osprey** take a fish from the stream and was told by an unidentified fisherman that there was an **Osprey** nest nearby, but RB did not know the significance of that information at the time. AM points out the natural route for spread of hacked birds from W. Va. into *Somerset*. We keep wondering if there are more!

Best **Wild Turkey** report was of 30 on WHM from mid-Aug. A **Sora** was at HPL 9/15 and 1 **Am. Coot** at CGL 9/27. Shorebird reports include: 2 **Semipalmated Plover** on a farm pond between RB & BL 8/15; a **LS. Golden-Plover** at LS 9/20; a few **Killdeer** at

QD in July & Aug. and 8 between RB & BL 8/15; 2 **Gr. Yellowlegs** at QD 9/20; single **Solitary Sandpiper** at MT 7/26, QD 7/30 and BT 8/21; 2 **Spotted Sandpiper** between RB & BL 8/15 & 1 at QD 8/21; 9 **Pectoral Sandpiper** at LS 9/20 and 3 between RB & BL 8/15; and 1 **Am. Woodcock** at HV 8/21. A large gull (sp. ?) was at LS 8/7 and 1 ad. and 1 imm. **Herring Gull** there 8/14.

AM saw a **Great Horned Owl** perched in a window of an old barn at Shamrock 7/13 and it moved back inside the barn as he watched. On 9/13 he also saw 2 Great Horned along Iser's Run at MK, 1 perched in a tree with a Gray Squirrel and the other flying up out of the stream bed, where numerous trout could be seen in shallow water with low stream flow due to the drought.

2 **Com. Nighthawk** were over Somerset 8/20, and 30 at HV 8/27. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** peaked at JRP's WHM feeders in late July and last reported at JT 9/29. 2 **Belted Kingfisher** were at QD 7/30 and several there and on Stonycreek R. near Hollsopple until end of quarter. A build-up of **N. Flicker** peaked in the last week of Sep. at CC, with up to 12 seen daily. 2 **Com. Raven** were picking through garbage in BT 7/22 and numbers increased there to a high of 16 9/18. 11 were seen nr Fort Hill 9/26 leaving an evident roost on a strip mine site and forming a kettle, and up to 10 were seen in groups that delight hawk watchers at AFHW. First **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was reported 9/11 at CC. **Carolina Wren** were reported in good numbers. **House Wren** were "abundant" at WHM & HV. 50 **Cedar Waxwing** was an early high count, flycatching from a reservoir fence on WHM 7/9 and numbers built up elsewhere to flocks of 50-75 later. It was **vireo** day 9/7 at WHM as a **White-eyed, Red-eyed**, 2 **Philadelphia**, and a **Warbling** appeared in JRP's yard.

Warblers slipped by unnoticed or were under-reported—JRP had a **Com. Yellowthroat** 9/7 in addition to the Orange-crowned, and the Sager's had a few **Tennessee** and **Nashville** from 9/10-15, **Cape May** 9/18-21, **Yellow-rumped** 9/25+ but their coverage was meager due to hawk-watching duties. JRP reported a **Scarlet Tanager** 7/22 at WHM, but they seemed unusually hard to find by song when the extremely hot days of summer hit at HV, and a few were seen the first week of Sep. First **Dark-eyed Junco** was at WHM 9/27. **N. Oriole** seemed to disappear with the end of the nesting season, last reported 7/24 at WHM. Young **Pine Siskin** were at CC 7/3 (STD). Few **Am. Goldfinch** were in normally-good nesting areas at HV—result of drought?

OBSERVERS: Robert Borsuk, Doris Brown, Sally & Tom Dick, Wanetta Escherich, Shirley Jensen, Dean & Phyllis Jobe, Alberta Long, Anthony Marich, Mary Mock, Jeff & Retta Payne, **Glenn and Ruth Sager, RR 1 Box 176B, Hooversville 15936 (814-798-3242)**, Evaldeen & Michael Watko.

After next quarter, Ruth and Glenn will no longer be doing this report. They have been compilers since the beginning and never missed a deadline. But they will still be out in the field, ready and willing to send their reports to whomever volunteers to take over the job. Any takers?

SULLIVAN COUNTY

Douglas A. Gross

Abbreviations: *Creveling Pond (CP)*, *Crystal Lakes Camps (CLC)*, *Pa. Society for Ornithology field trips (PSO)*, *Shuman's L. (SL)*, *World's End SP (WSP)*, *Wyoming SF (WSF)*.

The PSO Annual Meeting took place at Crystal Lake Camps on the *Lycoming/Sullivan* boundary n. of Tivoli 9/14,15. There were field trips to WSP, parts of WSF, CP n. of Ricketts Glen (*Wyoming* boundary), and Montour Preserve, but the best stop may have been the surprising CLC. **Com. Raven** croaking overhead each morning were among the many boreal delights of this rustic, Maine-like setting.

An **Osprey** flew over SL 9/1 (SC). There were 3 imm. **Bald Eagle** at SL (2.5 mi e. of Lopez) 9/3 (SC); 1 perched and 2 overhead. Non-birders also reported eagles along the *Wyoming* border in Sep. **Red-shouldered Hawk** were nr Lopez 9/1 (SC) and CL 9/14 (PSO). 15 **Broad-winged** and 10 **Sharp-shinned** hawks staged a small flight nr Lopez 9/2 (SC). Up to 30 **Wild Turkey** were nr Lopez 9/1 (SC) and 3 surprised RS at CP 9/14.

RM and DG found the second **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** nest in a bog this year. See separate article. **Com. Raven** seem to be expanding throughout the county and adjacent areas (SC,DG,TS). 3 spp. of wren were found at CLC 9/14 (**Winter, House, Carolina**); the latter sp. is expanding into higher elevation wetlands, including some in WSF over 2000' (SC,DG). A **Hermit Thrush** nest with eggs was found 7/20 in WSF, suggesting a second or third nesting (DG). There were still **Cedar Waxwing** young in a nest in WSP 9/1 (DG); this sp. seemed particularly abundant this summer. A rarely observed **Philadelphia Vireo** was seen 9/2 at SL (SC).

Warbler migration seemed to peak during the first weekend of Sep nr Lopez, with 10 spp. seen each day (SC). An imm. ♀ **Blackpoll** was seen by PSO at CLC 9/14. **Yellow-rumped Warbler** were abundant nr SL 9/1 (SC). In dense fog, RS and DG found a mini-fallout of warblers at CP; 6 spp. in one small apple tree in 15 minutes, including 7 **Cape May** and 6 **Blackpoll**. PSO observers found that **Dark-eyed Junco** is one of the most abundant (breeding) birds of Pa.'s forested plateau when they visited CLC. WSF, & WSP. **Swamp Sparrow** were in several wetlands, nesting in WSF swampy areas and almost anywhere there were a few acres of wet habitat (SC,DG). Several fledgling **White-throated Sparrow** were observed in WSF swampy woods and nr Lopez (SC,DG).

OBSERVERS: Skip Conant, **Douglas A. Gross, RR 1 Box 147, Orangeville 17859**, Rob Megraw, Robert G. Sagar, PSO participants.

TIOGA COUNTY

Bob Ross

Abbreviations: *Hamilton L. (HLL)*, *Hammond L. (HDL)*, *Leonard Harrison SP (LH)*, *Millerton area (MA)*, *Pine Cr. (PC)*, *Rattler Mt. (RM)*, *Sabinsville area (SA)*, *Tioga L. (TL)*, *The Muck (TM)*.

A southward migration of 22 **Turkey Vulture** was noted at SA 9/26 (HR). At HDL 13 young **Osprey** were successfully hatched in the 2nd year of an Army Corps restoration project. The imm. **Bald Eagle** at PC fledged 7/31 and in doing so knocked down the nest newly built this year (CD). A **N. Harrier** at TM appeared to exhibit a strong search image 8/25-9/28 as it flew through huge flocks of blackbirds without distraction (RMR). Both **Sharp-shinned** and **Cooper's** hawks successfully obtained meals at TM feeders 8/18-9/8 when chickadees and goldfinches dominated feeders (RMR). An imm. **Red-tailed Hawk**, however, failed twice within 5 min. to take an imm. **Wild Turkey** both on the ground and in the air at TM 9/8 (RMR). It later failed to catch blackbirds in a large flock. A **Merlin** was seen at MA 9/14 (A&LB), and even more noteworthy was a **Peregrine Falcon** at TL 8/12 (LB).

Only 1 **Ring-necked Pheasant** (♀) was reported at MA 9/25 (A&LB) and **Ruffed Grouse** at TM 9/26 (RMR). **Wild Turkey** were reported in good numbers at SA & TM 7/26-8/13 (HR,RMR). Two **N. Bobwhite** were heard and seen at RM (reclaimed strip mine) 7/18 (F&RC, RMR). **Virginia Rail** were heard throughout Aug. at TM (RMR). **Solitary Sandpiper** returned to HLL 8/3 (MB,RMR) & to TL 8/12 (LB). 3 **Least Sandpiper** were found at HLL 8/3 (MB,RMR). An **Am. Woodcock** was flushed at TM 7/14+ (RMR). **E. Screech-Owl** were reported from SA 8/24, TM 8/26, & HDL 9/14 (HR,RMR,JS). Two imm. **Great Horned Owl** screamed at night through 9/24 at TM (RMR). A **Long-eared Owl** was also at HDL 9/14 (JS).

Com. Nighthawk were observed at MA 7/15 & SA 8/13 (A&LB, HR). Resident **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** left MA 9/12 & TM 9/14 (A&LB,RMR). Migrant hummers were seen at feeders only once beyond those dates: 9/18 at TM & PC (RMR,F&RC). These dates are 10-12 days earlier than those of last year, and favorable, warm (even hot) weather continued several days beyond this year's departure dates. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** bred successfully this year with imm. noted at SA 7/27 (HR) and ad. at Tioga SF & LHSP 8/3-8 (MB,RMR,A&LB). **Alder Flycatcher** "sang" through 8/3 on TM, while **E. Kingbird** were very productive this year at TM and other locations where power lines were used frequently as perches (RMR).

Tree Swallow were last observed at TM 7/27, **Bank Swallow**

(3) at TM 7/18, and **Barn Swallow** at MA 8/18 (RMR,A&LB). Several pairs of **Marsh Wren** sang all quarter at TM (RMR). Over a dozen **E. Bluebird** were noted at a reclaimed strip mine on RM 7/18 (F&RC,RM). **Veery** sang until 7/28, **Hermit Thrush** until 8/4 and **Wood Thrush** until 7/28 at TM (RMR). **N. Mockingbird** were often seen at MA all quarter (A&LB).

Migrating **Solitary Vireo** sang while foraging at TM 9/7-28 (RMR). Both **Warbling** and **Red-eyed** vireos were observed as late as 9/16 at MA (A&LB). The following table summarizes warbler sightings for the quarter:

Species	Date	#	Location	Observer(s)
Tennessee	9/7	25	SA	HR
Nashville	8/24	1	LHSP	A&LB
Yellow	9/13	1	MA	A&LB
Magnolia	8/8	1	LHSP	A&LB
Black-thr'd Blue	8/8	1	LHSP	A&LB
Yellow-rumped	9/23	1	MA	A&LB
Black-thr'd Green	8/8,9/8	2,1	LHSP,TM	A&LB,RMR
Blackburnian	8/8	3	LHSP	A&LB
Pine	9/7,14	1	TM,MA	RMR,A&LB
Prairie	8/8	1	LHSP	A&LB
Bay-breasted	9/23	1	HDL	A&LB
Black-and-white	8/23,9/14	1	LHSP,MA	A&LB
Am. Redstart	7/19	1	TM	RMR
Mourning	9/2	1	TM	RMR
Com. Yellowthroat	9/24	1	TM	RMR
Wilson's	9/12,16	1	MA,HDL	A&LB,JS
Canada	8/1	2	TM	RMR

Three species of grassland sparrow were reported. **Vesper** were seen 7/18 at MA & RM (A&LB,RMR,F&RC). **Savannah** were seen as late as 9/23 at MA (A&LB). A **Grasshopper** sang at RM (reclaimed strip mine) 7/18 (RMR,F&RC). Imm. **Bobolink** foraged off breeding habitat in TM wetlands 7/21 (RMR). A flock of 1,000-1,200 **Red-winged Blackbird** responded nervously to hawks and other disturbances at TM 8/5+ (RMR). A group of 15 **E. Meadowlark** was last seen at SA 9/20 (HR), and a single **Purple Finch** was noted at MA 9/16.

OBSERVERS: Margaret Brittingham, Arlene & Larry Brown, Flossie & Ron Comstock, Chuck Dillon, **Robert M. Ross, RD 2 Box 113A, Wellsboro 16901 (717-376-5394)**, Howard Rushmore, Joanna Stickler.

UNION COUNTY

Allen Schweinsberg

An ad. and 6 young **Com. Merganser** were seen on Penns Cr. nr Millmont toward the end of July (RH). A **N. Goshawk** nest was found by TK, the 1st ever documented for the county. A flock of 31 **Wild Turkey** was seen 9/30 in White Deer Twp (D&PF).

In July RH discovered **Cliff Swallow** nesting on, not a barn, not a bridge, but a limestone cliff at the w. end of Limestone Ridge by the old Swingle dump.

OBSERVERS: David & Pauline Fletcher, Robert Holman, Tim Kimmel, **Allen Schweinsberg, 1200 Zeigler Rd, Lewisburg 17837 (717-524-0432)**.

ADDENDUM. The date of the **Loggerhead Shrike** sighting, 6/13, was inadvertently omitted from the report last quarter.

VENANGO COUNTY

Gary Edwards and Russ States

Abbreviation: *Two Mile Run Lake (TMR)*.

The quarter began hot and dry, became dry and hot in Aug., and returned to hot and dry in Sept. 5 **Pied-billed Grebe** were on a pond

in the Clintonville area 7/6. Our 2nd **Black-crowned Night Heron** record, this an imm., was first observed at TMR 9/8+. An **Osprey** was at Kahle L. 8/16 and the year's first (and only, to date) **Bald Eagle** report was along the Allegheny R. 7/7.

While the lack of rain may not have been appreciated by fishermen at TMR, the resulting extended mudflat area has produced the best shorebird influx in recent years. **Semipalmated Plover**; **Gr. and Ls. yellowlegs**; **Solitary, Spotted and Least** sandpipers; and **Com. Snipe** were all present during Sep. Ls. Yellowlegs, Solitary and Least sandpipers returned 8/21. Spotted Sandpiper were present at several ponds throughout the quarter. The 1st county record (so far as we can tell) of **Upland Sandpiper** was of 1 seen and photographed on the same reclaimed strip mine in the Barkeyville area that produces **Short-eared Owl** records during winter months. Two evenings later an ad. and 2 young were seen at the same location.

Carolina Wren, not seen or heard this spring, was finally seen 7/7. The year's first **Am. Pipit** were at TMR 9/30 and the first **Philadelphia Vireo** was seen 9/11. Several warblers species, missed during spring migration, were thoughtful enough to pass our way on their way south. An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was seen at Oil Creek SP 9/11 and a **Palm Warbler** was finally observed 9/28. **Mourning Warbler**, a not uncommon nesting species for a few years in tornado areas, but now becoming increasingly hard to find, was first seen this year 8/18. **Lincoln's Sparrow** was present at TMR 9/20-24.

In general, fewer than normal **Red-shouldered Hawk**, **Yellow- and Black-billed** cuckoos, **Red-bellied Woodpecker**, **Least** and **Great Crested Flycatcher** were seen. Overall spp. numbers were good with 108 recorded in July, 101 in Aug., and 110 in Sep.

OBSERVERS: Shay Ames, **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)**.

WARREN COUNTY

Ted Grisez

Abbreviations: *Akeley Swamp (AS)*, *Allegheny Res. (AR)*, *Chapman SP (CSP)*, *Saybrook (SA)*, *Warren (WA)*.

A **Double-crested Cormorant** was on AR 7/11 (KC). At least 10 **Green-backed Heron** were counted at AS 8/7 (TG), and an **Osprey** was also there. An Osprey was at AR 8/11 (KC), and another about 8/15 at Tionesta (TK). An imm. **Bald Eagle** and a **Com. Raven** were flying together above Kinzua Dam 8/19 (BH). An ad. **Bald Eagle** was seen during the summer at CSP (MI). A **N. Harrier** was nr Scandia 8/1 (BH), close to the site where 1 was seen earlier in the summer. A **N. Goshawk** was nr WA 7/17 (TK).

The **Am. Kestrel** nest box project of DW and BH had 35 of the 43 boxes occupied by kestrels. 170 eggs were laid (4.86 per nest), 116 hatched, and 113 young fledged (3.23 per nest). Eight nestings were failures, but one box had 7 eggs and all hatched and fledged.

A **Com. Moorhen** was at AS 7/15 (BW). **E. Screech-Owl** were recorded 7/10,12 nr WA (DW), 7/20-29 at N. Warren (CP), and 9/9 at WA (TG). Two **Com. Raven** were at Sandstone Spring s. of WA 8/7 (TG). A **Carolina Wren** was at SA through the last half of July (CMN), and there were several reports in Sep. A **Pine Siskin** appeared at CMN's feeder at SA 8/16.

OBSERVERS: Keith Confer, **Ted Grisez, 8 Belmont Dr, Warren 16365 (814-723-9464)**, Bill Highhouse, Maxine Inter, Ted Kirsch, Charles & Marjorie Neel, Chase Putnam, Brenda Watts, Don Watts.

WAYNE COUNTY

Pat Walters

We welcome Pat as the new compiler for Wayne. She owns a store called For the Birds and has been looking for a journal such as Pa. Birds to determine status and distribution of birds in her area. Maybe someone will venture up to the Hawk Owl site to check it out and find some wintering finches or who knows what else!

WESTMORELAND COUNTY

Robert C. Leberman & Robert S. Mulvihill

Abbreviations: Bushy Run SP (BRP), Donegal L. (DL), Keystone SP (KSP), Latrobe Res. (LR), Mammoth Park (MP), Powdermill Nature Reserve (PNR), Twin Lakes Park (TWL). All banding records from PNR.

An unrelenting drought characterized the mid-summer and early fall seasons. The water level in most of the area reservoirs and fishing lakes was down several feet, creating the most extensive mudflats that we have ever seen in our region. In general, the songbird migration was slightly early and fairly heavy, as evidenced by banding records from PNR.

First **Pied-billed Grebe** was at DL 8/7 (MEW). An imm. Night-Heron (sp.?) was at MP 9/5 (DS). Two Accipiter reports included interesting predator-prey observations. A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** at KSP 9/27 was seen feeding on a **Chimney Swift** (DS), certainly a very challenging prey item for a non-falcon raptor. At LR 9/25 an imm. **N. Goshawk** made two passes at a ♀ **Mallard** that was swimming in several feet of water (RSM,BM). The Mallard, of course, *ducked* both times, disappearing below the water's surface the second time. For a few moments the goshawk perched on the mudflat at the water's edge, then noticed the observers' presence and flew away. The Mallard wasted no time taking noisy flight to the far end of the reservoir. The observers doubted that the goshawk could have succeeded without becoming water-logged in the process! A **Merlin** was at PNR 9/28 (RSM,TR), for one of only a handful of county records.

No doubt related to the availability of mudflats, the quarter's list of shorebirds was somewhat better than usual. A **Black-bellied Plover** was at LR 9/16 (RCL). A **Ls. Golden Plover**, one of just two or three local records, was at DL from 9/10-27 (RCL,LB,MEW). LR had a **Semipalm-ated Plover** 8/7 and the first **Gr. Yellowlegs** 7/27 (MEW). First **Solitary Sandpiper** was at PNR on the somewhat early date 7/11. A **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was seen at DL 9/10 (RCL). There were 3 **Com. Tern** at DL 9/25 (RCL).

An unusual concentration of 600+ **Mourning Dove** was seen at BRP 8/25 (DB). A **N. Saw-whet Owl** caught in a banding net at PNR on the somewhat early date of 9/27 still had much juv. plumage, suggesting that it may have hatched locally. Over the years we have accumulated considerable circumstantial evidence that Saw-whets breed atop Laurel Mt. e. of PNR. A flight of 200 **Com. Nighthawk** was seen over Murrys ville the evening of 8/25 (DM), and a **Whip-poor-will** was heard nr Stahlstown 8/24 (JS). There was a good flight of **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** at PNR, with a total of 114 banded. As many as 40 hummingbirds were reported visiting the feeders at a house e. of Ligonier (WS), and many other people in the Ligonier Valley told us that they had more hummingbirds than usual this year. Two **Red-headed Woodpecker** were seen nr Livermore along the Conemaugh R. 9/8 (DS); following unexplained regional declines in the 1970s, this sp. is currently rare here.

Flycatchers, in general, seemed especially numerous. The first **Yellow-bellied** was banded 8/3 and 34 were banded through Sep. (our best total in the last 3 years, although still much lower than the years prior). Other flycatcher totals at PNR included 28 **Acadian** (2nd highest total in the past 5 years), 38 "**Trail's**" (highest total in the past 5 years), and 88 **Least** (also best total in the past 5 years). In addition we banded 91 **E. Phoebe**, which would be a good *annual* total for this species most years.

First **Red-breasted Nuthatch** record was 3 at TWL 9/22 (DS).

It was probably the best year ever for **Carolina Wren**, at least in the mountainous regions of the county; an all-time high total of 27 banded. A **Marsh Wren** was banded 9/28. **Golden-crowned Kinglet** appeared at Jeanette, away from the species' nesting range in the county, 9/30 (VC). First **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was at PNR 9/13. Most of the thrushes had slightly below to slightly above average flights at PNR compared to recent years: **Veery** (21 banded); **Swainson's** (113); and **Wood** (32). First **Gray-cheeked** was banded on the late date 9/21, and a very poor total of just 7 banded through the end of the month. With 335 banded, the **Gray Catbird** was incredibly abundant; this total exceeds most previous years by more than 100 birds! Two **N. Mockingbird** were seen nr Greensburg 9/1 (DS).

A very early Philadelphia Vireo was netted 8/30; even more noteworthy is the fact that the bird was in the middle of its prebasic (=postnuptial) molt, a molt that is usually completed on the species breeding grounds. Occasionally, however, some indiv. of northern nesting species like the **Tennessee Warbler** and **Swainson's Thrush** leave their breeding grounds early, perhaps following a failed nesting, and enter their molt cycle after they have traveled a considerable distance south. This is our first such record for the Philadelphia Vireo, whereas the other two species mentioned show this phenomenon most years (see Tennessee Warbler record below). A total of 30 of these vireos was banded. We banded 198 **Red-eyed Vireo** during the same period, which is just about average. Among the wood warblers, a few spp. had exceptionally good or very poor flights based on PNR banding totals: in the "good" column were **Ovenbird** (80 banded), **Hooded** (154—a record high total), and **Com. Yellowthroat** (312); on the very poor side were **Tennessee** (25) and **Bay-breasted Warbler** (7—probably a record low total). An early Tennessee in the beginning stages of its prebasic molt was caught 7/25. First **Orange-crowned** was netted 9/29. First **Cape May** was on a somewhat early 8/25. First **Yellow-rumped** was at MP 9/21 (WCBC), and first **Palm Warbler** was at PNR 9/12.

A total of 66 **Scarlet Tanager** banded was slightly lower than recent years. With 113 banded, **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** had a very good flight; our catch of 98 **Indigo Bunting** was slightly better than average. First of 36 **Lincoln's Sparrow** was caught 9/1. First **White-throated Sparrow** was banded 9/15; no White-crowned Sparrow or migrant **Dark-eyed Junco** had been recorded by the end of the quarter.

OBSERVERS: Larry Barth, Dick Byers, Virginia Cronenberger, Robert C. Leberman and Robert S. Mulvihill, Powdermill Nature Reserve, Star Route South, Rector 15677 (412-593-7521), Dale Matuza, Bonnie Mulvihill, Ted Rich, Walt Saling, Dennis Smeltzer, Jan Stanford, Mike & Evaleen Watko, Westmoreland County Bird Club.

WYOMING COUNTY

Bill Reid

Abbreviations: Phelps Swamp (PS), Stevens L. (SL), Tunkhannock (TU). All observations by the compiler.

Ducks seen at PS included: **Wood Duck** 11 8/26, 12 9/13, & 8 9/27; 8 **Green-winged Teal** 8/26, 18 9/13, & 4 9/27; 2 **N. Pintail** 9/27; 3 **Blue-winged Teal** 8/26, & 10 9/27; and 1 **Gadwall** 9/27. A **N. Harrier** was at Sordoni's Farm 9/28. An imm. **N. Goshawk** was seen in Lemon Twp 7/8 & an ad. was near TU 9/7.

Sora were present at PS 8/26-9/27, with 3 recorded on the latter date. A **Com. Moorhen** was at PS 8/26. Two alternate-plumaged **Ls. Golden-Plover** in TU Twp 9/2 were this observer's *1st county* record. 3 **Solitary Sandpiper** were at PS 9/13. **Com. Snipe** were at PS 9/13,27.

A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was at SL 8/26. A **Com. Raven** nr Meshoppen 7/6. A **Marsh Wren** was at PS 9/27. **Swainson's Thrush** were all recorded as night migrants at TU, but numbers were very low compared to most years. The warbler migration was un spectacular. From SL: **Tennessee** 9/2; **Magnolia** 8/26; **Cape May** 9/2; **Bay-breasted** 8/26 & 9/13; and **Canada** 9/13. A **Lincoln's Sparrow**, closely observed at PS, 9/13 was extremely early. A **Purple Finch** at SL 9/2 was the only report of a species which is becoming increasingly scarce.

Early evening, 7/8, I stopped at a place where I have heard **Barred Owl** on several occasions and tried to call one in vocally. As soon as I gave the first call, an imm. **N. Goshawk** in a nearby tree started to call loudly and flew directly overhead. The bird flew over me at about 20–25' the first four times that I gave the owl's call, calling loudly each time. After that, it did not fly over me but flew from one tree to another, calling each time that I gave the owl call. After about 10 minutes, it stopped responding. A few days later I returned to the same place at the same time of day, this time with a tape recording of Barred Owl, but got no response from the hawk. On neither occasion did I see or hear a Barred Owl.

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

YORK COUNTY

Al Spiese

Abbreviations: *Brunner's I. (BI), Codorus SP (CSP), Conewago Cr. (CC), Gut Rd. (GR), Long Arm Dam (LAD), Reservoir Hill (RH), Rocky Ridge (RR), Sheppard Myers Dam (SMD), Susquehanna R. (SR).*

The weather can be described in two words, HOT DRY. Near daily coverage in Sep. at several locations produced good warbler numbers and above average "waves." The rare bird was a **Red Phalarope**.

2 **Com. Loon** at CSP 9/28 (AS). 1–12 **Little Blue Heron** on CC & BI from 7/15–8/12; 1 was an ad. No **Green-backed Heron** after 8/5 as most of the marshy areas had disappeared by then. 4 ad. & 3 imm. **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** on CC; last ad. seen 9/5, but 3 imm. remained until 9/17 (AS). 2 **Green-winged Teal** at CSP 8/3 (RR) and ±20 along GR 9/26–29 (J&JeP). 1 pair **N. Pintail** at SMD 9/29 (RR), 1 ♂ **Am. Wigeon** at CSP 9/6–8. A ♀ **Com. Merganser** with an injured wing surface feeding on CC at mouth of SR 7/9–8/28, by which time the wing seemed to be back in place (J&JeP,AS).

±50 **Black Vulture** at York Haven 8/15 (DH). 1 **Bald Eagle** reported fledged from nest nr Safe Harbor Dam. There was also a BI sighting 7/27 (J&JeP) & 1 at SMD 8/10 (RR), both imm. The early report from RR hawk watch from 8/1–9/28 produced 7 **Bald Eagle**, 1 **N. Harrier** 8/12, 2 **Sharp-shinned Hawk** 8/16, a best day of 1362 **Broad-winged Hawk**, with earliest 1 8/16, and 3 **Peregrine Falcon**.



Red Phalarope, Codorus SP, 9/28/91. Photo by Russ Ryan.

1 imm. **Virginia Rail** at Marsh Run 8/5 (CL,AS). 3 **Black-bellied Plover** in Sep; 2 **Semipalmated Plover** 7/24, 2 **Solitary Sandpiper** 7/1; 1 **Sanderling** 8/5 and 3 9/4; 1 **Baird's Sandpiper** at BI 9/7 (AS); 2 dowitcher sp. at LAD 8/28 (KL); 1 **Wilson's Phalarope** at BI 8/12 (AS); 1 **Red Phalarope** at CSP 9/28 (RR). 2 **Caspian Tern** at CSP 7/20 (RR).

There were no summer reports of **Com. Nighthawk** and only 23 migrants. 1 **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** at RR 8/22 (AS). 1 **Red-breasted Nuthatch** at SMD 9/27 (RR) and 1 **Veery** at RR 8/27 (AS).

A leucistic **Bank Swallow** was sitting on power lines with several hundred others. When some of them flew, this bird became the "leader of the pack" in a mad chase, but none of them made any body contact with this bird (KG,CB,AS).

Bluebird report from CSP. Although **E. Bluebird** egg laying started at a later date than normal, from several boxes was produced a third brood for a total of 209 young, plus 126 **House Wren**, 285 **Tree Swallow**, and 9 **Carolina Wren**.

1 **White-eyed Vireo** singing at RH 9/7 (AS); 2 **Philadelphia Vireo** at RR 9/12 (AS) & 1 at CSP 9/28 (RR). A "**Brewster's**" **Warbler** was at GR 9/23 (JW) and a **Louisiana Waterthrush** s. of Codorus Furnace 7/19 (J&JeP). Migrating **Savannah Sparrow** were above average A **Lincoln's Sparrow** reported at BI 9/29. A ♂ **Purple Finch** at RR 9/25 (AS).

EXOTIC. One of the pair of **Ruddy Shelduck** that was at LAD until 4/29 is there again as of 9/29. Gender has not yet been determined.

OBSERVERS: Charles Brightbill, Jerry Dyer, Ken Gabler, Dick Humbert, Charlie Latterman, Karen Lippy, John & Jean Prescott, Russell Ryan, **Al Spiese, 4086 Old Orchard Rd, York 17402 (717-755-8309)**, Joe Worley.

ADDENDUM. A forgotten record from last quarter was an **Am. Bittern** at L. Redman 6/1 (JD).

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