

# PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS



Volume 18, No. 3  
Jun - Jul 2004  
Issued January 2005





# PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS

Journal of the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology

Volume 18 Number 3 June- July 2004

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**COVER: Dickcissel** (*Spiza americana*). Several individuals of this species were found in early summer, but breeding could not be confirmed. This bird was photographed 8 June 2004 in the Lancaster City Park, Lancaster where it was present until 26 June (*Tom Amico*)

## from the Editor...

We are fortunate in our state to have many energetic birders of all levels who engage in many personal birding projects. These projects could take the form of surveying one's local park or township, keeping annual records of arrival and departure date for migrants, long-term waterbird or shorebird counts, or working on or updating county check-lists. There is plenty of interesting and informative data floating around out there and *Pennsylvania Birds* is an excellent forum for publishing this type of data. Since I became editor with V16:#3, I have had the pleasure of publishing only one county bird list (PB17:31-32). Much of our state's birding is based at the county level and there are many county's that lack an updated check-list. I would like to have a goal of publishing at least one new county check-list per volume. If anyone is currently working on a county check-list or considering doing so, please consider *Pennsylvania Birds* as a resource an outlet for your work

### Corrigendum

The date for the upcoming 2005 Pennsylvania Migration Count published in *Pennsylvania Birds* V18:82 was incorrect. The correct date for the 2005 PAMC is Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup> 2005.

### Addendum

With the addition of new data the following are updates to the final 2004 PAMC totals:

Total hours = 3,395.5

Total observers = 1, 076

Total hours Lancaster Co. = 128.75

Total observers Lancaster Co. = 40.

*Nick Pulcinella*  
*Editor-in-Chief*

## PSO T-shirts now come in three colors!

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**PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS** (ISSN 0898-8501) is published four times a year by The Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology. Editorial and business offices are located at 2469 Hammertown Road, Narvon, PA 17555-9730. Subscriptions, all in US\$: One year U.S.A. \$28.50, Canada \$40, Foreign \$45. Library rate \$30. Single copies: \$5.50. Checks and money orders in U.S.\$ only should be made payable to **PSO**. Copyright © 2005 by The Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology. **SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NARVON, PA 17555**

**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to **PSO**, 2469 Hammertown Road, Narvon, PA 17555-9726.

# Falcon Wanderings: Daily Movements of Five Juvenile Peregrine Falcons

Dan Brauning

The recovery of Peregrine Falcons in North America is one of the landmark conservation successes of the Endangered Species Act. The proximity of nesting peregrines to urban areas, such as Pittsburgh and Harrisburg, and access provided by internet images and web pages have brought this remarkable recovery into the “backyard” of millions of people. This familiarity has made the peregrine an icon of wildlife research and conservation. The Harrisburg nest in particular has drawn a large audience – with 54 million hits to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) web site registered several years ago. Fans watch from first arrival of the breeding pair on the nest ledge to the last visit of fledged young. At the Harrisburg web site (RCSOB 2004) one can watch eggs hatch, live, and observe many other intimate moments. The uncommon view provided by web video into the life of these impressive birds is a remarkable real life adventure that has developed support for conservation. Certainly, their dramatic recovery in urban centers is a modern phenomenon.

The question that remains at the end of the nesting season for those who followed the birds is, “Where did they go?” Where do the young Peregrine Falcons go when they leave the nest? Technically speaking the issue is called “natal dispersal,” a poorly known aspect of avian natural history in general. The implications are tremendous — at the heart of population studies and risk assessment. The question involves life-and-death realities during what is generally thought to be the most dangerous stage of a bird’s life. First-year mortality, observed in a wide range of raptor studies, ran from 31 to 73% (Brown and Amadon 1968). A banding study found 58% of nestling peregrines died in their first year (Yates et al. 1988). The reality is that we don’t know much about what happens to these birds during their first year of life. The answer to the question may be the difference between the peregrine’s dramatic recovery or a weak population requiring ongoing management after millions of dollars and untold effort to restore the species. Other issues, such as habitat use

by urbanized birds and population inbreeding, also are entwined in natal dispersal.

Banding data provides some hint at survivorship rates and dispersal patterns. Of the 140 juvenile peregrines banded in Pennsylvania from 1990 through 2000 (Table 1), 37 (26%) were later observed away from their nest site (BBL 2004; personal communications). That’s a remarkable return rate for banding, which generally sees the recovery in single digits. A large network of enthusiasts, nest monitors, and hawk banders contribute to this high band-recovery rate. Few of Pennsylvania’s peregrines, however, have been captured in migration. Recoveries of peregrines banded as nestlings generally fall into two categories: the birds are either found dead or on nesting territory. That’s why I refer to peregrine banding returns as “end-point” data. The suggestion from Pennsylvania’s banding recoveries is that most disperse to nesting areas to the north and west — Cleveland, Detroit, and Toronto. Other sightings and recoveries have also been to the north, such as a road kill at Montezuma, New York, and a winter resident in Burlington, Vermont. Several exceptions indicate that the genetic mixing includes eastern movements, such as a Williamsport hacked young found in Scranton.

Radio telemetry, a traditional tool of the wildlife biologist, is used to address detailed questions of survival, home range, and habitat use. In contrast to banding, telemetry can provide continuous locational information. Peregrine Falcons present a huge challenge for telemetry studies because of their ability to fly long distances in a short period. Traditional radio telemetry requires an antenna, fixed on a vehicle, plane, or simply hand-held, to detect the bird. Tracking a bird expected to fly hundreds of miles or migrate to South America is an enormous undertaking.

Our project was designed to track birds during dispersal from their nest site through migration and back. To accomplish that, the “antenna” deployed in this project is a set of satellites capable of following the birds anywhere

on the globe! Satellite telemetry can track a bird’s daily movements, revealing the dispersal pattern, direction, travel rate, and provide detailed activities of the bird carrying the transmitter. Transmitters are programmed to send a signal on a regular schedule that is automatically detected by passing satellites. The resulting location information is accessed by researchers (essentially by e-mail) in the form of data that includes location, time, data quality, and ambient temperature. The technology deployed is not new (see Craighead 1982; Fuller et al. 1995) but has changed dramatically. It is described in detail on the World Wide Web site (Argos, Inc. 2004).

This report covers the year and one-half of satellite telemetry tracking four juvenile Peregrine Falcons produced in Pennsylvania in 2002 and one in 2003. Three of the birds were raised in the nest on the Gulf Tower, Pittsburgh, and the other two were raised on the Rachel Carson State Office Building (RCSOB) in Harrisburg. Both nests are “wild” and were monitored by web-based cameras (WPC 2004 and RCSOB 2004). A male and female were marked from each site in 2002 and one female in 2003. A transmitter was placed on the birds either prior to (Pittsburgh) or just following (Harrisburg) the date of fledging. Transmitters were programmed to send a signal on various schedules, ranging from every other day to every fourth day. I will refer to these birds as they have been on the PGC web site: the Pittsburgh male and female (PM and PF), the Harrisburg male and female (HM and HF), and the “new” (2003) female from Pittsburgh (new PF). Three of the transmitters were solar powered, while the Pittsburgh females carried battery-powered units both years. The transmitters, about the size of a small pack of gum, weigh no more than 28 grams, or less than 3% of the bird’s body mass and are mounted with a ‘backpack’ harness.

In short, the telemetry project has been wildly successful. Unexpectedly, none of the five birds migrated very far south for the winter. These urbanites visited a wide range of habitats,

including such places as Virginia's coastal marsh and New York City's 'Ground Zero' during their wanderings. The birds dispersed from the nest sites between July 3 and August 5, 6-8 weeks after fledging. Most remarkably, all four 2002 birds (and transmitters) survived their first full year. While remaining in the mid-Atlantic region, they visited at least eight states from Vermont to West Virginia. They defied the odds, in contrast to the other two telemetry studies ongoing in Ontario and Virginia, where roughly two-thirds of birds died during their first year (CPF 2004). During the first 12 months, 3,261 reasonably precise locations were obtained as well as another 2,702 data points with poor locational precision (Table 2).

While the general patterns described above apply to all four, the individual behaviors of these birds confirm that it is dangerous to draw broad conclusions from data observed in a small sample. The dispersal process documented by this telemetry study was a complex experience of trial and error, with inexplicable forays of hundreds of miles between returns home. The fall dispersal flights have already changed interpretations previously based on banding returns. Some birds traveled northwest, but each spent considerable time in New Jersey, with New York City a significant destination! As with most research, our results raise many questions even as we learn more of the complexities of life. One thing is clear, that the name *peregrine*, meaning *wanderer*, is an apt description for these remarkable birds! Only one of the five birds are known to have died to date (Table 3). An animated presentation of each bird's first year of flights may be found on the Game Commission web page (PGC 2004). The following is a summary of the movements of each of the five birds.

#### **Pittsburgh Male**

PM completed his dispersal flight in a dramatic movement east during July 3 to 6, 2002, ending up very near a popular vacation destination, Atlantic City. From there, he settled in an agricultural area in southern New Jersey for the remainder of that summer and most of the fall and winter. Intervening movements of various length, including several short trips to New York City and several longer flights to western

Pennsylvania, occurred. In his first spring, PM flew north and west through central New York to arrive near Toronto, Canada, in late April. [readers would be interested to know if he flew across Lake Ontario or around it, something the data should show] He remained in Hamilton along the southwest shore of Lake Ontario through the summer. He then moved south very close to Long Point on the north shore of Lake Erie where a signal was last received on September 10, 2003. In a most unexpected twist to this story, PM unfortunately showed up dead in Pittsburgh on February 5, 2004 from a trauma injury. He was still carrying the non-functioning transmitter.

#### **Pittsburgh Female**

The female from Pittsburgh followed a similar pattern to her sibling. Her first flight came about 7 weeks after fledging, on July 15. She had a slightly northern trajectory, which took her to southern Vermont. PF quickly went south to Philadelphia in August. Over the following winter and spring, she made numerous brief trips to New York City and a couple trips west toward, but apparently not to, her natal area. She ended up spending her second summer in South Philadelphia where she was observed near the Walt Whitman Bridge. Her battery-powered transmitter gradually faded and stopped providing data in early fall 2003. At that point PF was doing well. We hope to locate her at a nest site and recover the transmitter.

#### **Harrisburg Male**

The story of HM was the least dramatic of the four. One flight south into Virginia in mid-August marked his dispersal, but on August 19 he had flown to the New York City area and remained there until we lost contact in June, 2003 — just past his first "hatch-date." During his jaunt in NYC, he visited Ground Zero — in southern Manhattan — and spent considerable time along the lower Hudson River region between Manhattan and Jersey City, New Jersey. The last best location was received on June 30, 2003 at the edge of a small airport near Patterson, New Jersey. A few subsequent transmissions included no location information. A local volunteer found no remains or evidence of mishap. Because the last data received was from the vicinity of a known hazard,

we believe that HM could have been struck by an airplane and the transmitter lost.

#### **Harrisburg Female**

This bird has undertaken consistent movements and continues to provide meaningful data. On July 31, HF flew south through the Delmarva Peninsula and ended at the southern tip near Cape Charles between the Atlantic Ocean and the Chesapeake Bay. She started south from there on September 29, during the migration season of Arctic peregrines bound for South America, but disappointed us by abandoning that move on October 1 for a return to the Delmarva. She spent the winter along the coastal dunes of Virginia. In late March, she meandered north through New Jersey, then spent a month wandering between Long Island and southern New Jersey. By early May she had settled and remained for the summer on the coastal marshes and barrier islands of central New Jersey, just north of the John Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge. In October, she returned to the Delmarva where she spent her second winter in the vicinity of her first winter residence. Good data continued being received from location on Long Island, NY, but the motion detector on the transmitter confirmed that it was stationary after May 19. We undertook an expedition and recovered the transmitter on June 10 in an open *spartina* marsh on Long Island. As best as we can tell, the transmitter fell off. There was no evidence of mortality at the site of the transmitter recovery; it appears that she slipped free of the transmitter and has a real prospect of survival. If she appears at a nest site in the next few years, this will confirm our suspicion and completing her amazing.

Our best reconstruction of the event goes as follows. The neoprene harness was fraying, and possibly hung loose on the bird when it became snagged on the piling used as a perch. Fighting to break free of the backpack she carried since her first week of flying, she tore the straps, leaving the remains of the harness and transmitter hanging in the marsh. Now free, she continued her wanderings. The transmitter, hanging on the stump, continued to produce high-quality data which lead us directly to the island and its recovery. HF is one of fewer than ten juvenile peregrines that have been tracked for nearly 2 years.

**“New” Pittsburgh Female**

A transmitter deployed on another Pittsburgh juvenile female in 2003 showed her dispersed to Cleveland, Ohio, in early August, after which we lost contact in November. Her final outcome is unclear.

In summary, four of five birds survived through their first year. We lost track of one female at 6 months. One male was confirmed dead at 20 months and a second male is suspected to have succumbed during his 14<sup>th</sup> month since fledging. One of the original three solar-powered transmitters no longer provided

data after 16 months of alternate-day data transmissions. The 2002 battery-powered transmitter produced data for over 14 months. As we close out a second year, the confirmed mortality (of five birds with transmitters) is 20%.

Transmitters performed similarly among the four birds for which we have 1 year of data. Between 54 and 59% of points received by solar-powered transmitters were precise enough to map (Table 2). The battery-powered unit yielded only 48% useful coordinates, with fewer points overall because of a lower transmission frequency.

Dispersal was a dramatic and dangerous phase in the life of the young

peregrines. Long flights were undertaken from established locations (territories) at various points during their first year. These flights seem well suited to the wandering falcon. The adaptive value of these flights may relate to finding a vacant territory or reliable food sources, but we honestly don't know what drives these wanderings. Some of the southerly flights, particularly during migration season, may have been driven by migratory urges or simply from following another falcon.

This report provides only a preliminary look at the information generated. Additional analysis of habitat

**Table 1. Recoveries of juvenile Peregrine Falcons banded in Pennsylvania from 1990 to 2000.**

Banding (source) information						Recovery information			
Band #	Site	Type <sup>1</sup>	Sex	Year	M/D	State	Year	M/D	Outcome
180736872	Pittsburgh	N	F	1992	5/26	VT	1993	6/7	sight record
220624601	Pittsburgh	N	M	1993	5/28	PA	1993	8/9	injured
220624602	Williamsport	H	M	1993	6/7	ONT	1997	7/7	nesting
180744104	Harrisburg	H	F	1993	6/10	MA	1994	10/24	found dead
180744104	Harrisburg	H	F	1993	6/10	MA	1994	3/14	trapped & released
180744110	Reading	H	F	1994	5/31	ONT			nesting
180744109	Del R Trnp Br	N	F	1994	6/6	MD	1994	9/24	trapped & released
220624608	Reading	H	M	1994	6/20	NY	1994	8/11	killed by plane
220624611	Williamsport	H	M	1994	7/15	PA	1994	7/25	killed - electr
220624615	Pittsburgh	N	M	1995	5/31	PA	1995	8/14	wire strike
220624617	Williamsport	H	M	1995	6/6	PA	1995	7/1	found dead
220624623	Allentown	H	M	1995	6/13	NJ	1996	4/9	found dead
220624632	Williamsport	H	M	1995	7/17	PA	1997	11/17	injured
180744120	Williamsport	H	F	1995	7/17	MD	1995	11/2	wire strike
220624628	Harrisburg	H	M	1995		PA	1995	7/	dead - auto
180744121	Pittsburgh	N	F	1996	5/28	OH	1996	8/12	found dead
220624633	Pittsburgh	N	M	1996	5/28	OH			nesting
220624639	Williamsport	H	M	1996	6/20	PA	1997	6/22	sight record
220624642	Williamsport	H	M	1996	6/24		1997	7/	injured
180744127	Williamsport	H	F	1996	7/19	NC	1996	11/24	killed by auto
220624643	Williamsport	H	M	1996	7/19	PA	1998	6/	nesting
180744127	Williamsport	H	F	1996	7/19	NJ	1996	10/21	trapped & released
220624646	Girard Pt Br	N	M	1996		PA	1999		nesting
180744129	Williamsport	H	F	1997	6/14	NY	1997	8/26	found dead
220624651	Allentown	H	M	1997	7/2	PA	1997		found dead
220624650	Allentown	H	M	1997	7/2	MD	1997	11/29	killed by plane
220624656	Phila City Hal	N	M	1998	5/19	NJ	1999	1/21	found dead
180744145	Pittsburgh	N	F	1999	5/4	ONT	2001	1/30	killed by hawk/owl
180744144	Pittsburgh	N	F	1999	5/4	OH	2002	2/9	nesting
220624661	Phila City Hal	N	M	1999	5/10	DE	1999	8/28	injured
220624662	Girard Pt Br	N	M	1999	5/25	NY	2000	9/9	found dead
220624663	Girard Pt Br	N	M	1999	5/25	PA	1999	6/28	found dead
180744149	Wilkes-Barre	N	F	1999	6/7	ONT	2001	6/16	nesting
220624666	Pittsburgh	N	M	2000	4/25	OH	2002	10/1	found dead
180744157	Harrisburg	N	F	2000	6/1	PA	2000	6	found dead
220624671	Harrisburg	N	M	2000		NJ	2002		nesting - Cliff
180744162	Del R. Trn Br	N	F	2001	5/24	NJ	2001	8/1	found dead
180744175	Harrisburg	N	F	2002	5/30	NY	2002	11/16	killed by plane

use by these birds will provide useful information on early life history. At first glance, our urban falcons spent considerable time in rural/open areas during their first year. For additional information, including the animated maps, visit the PGC web page (PGC 2004).

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**Table 2. Number and percent of telemetry readings by telemetry quality category (code) and bird identification (H=Harrisburg, P=Pittsburgh, M=male, and F=female).**

Bird	Count (and percent of total) by telemetry code							Total
	Z (worst)	B	A	0	1	2	3 (best)	
HF	331 (17%)	210 (11%)	220 (12%)	673 (36%)	301 (16%)	113 (6%)	20 (1%)	1868
HM	332 (20%)	242 (14%)	204 (12%)	706 (42%)	157 (9%)	43 (3%)	6 (<1%)	1689
PM	331 (20%)	242 (14%)	206 (12%)	601 (36%)	239 (14%)	53 (3%)	9 (<1%)	1681
PF	174 (24%)	122 (17%)	80 (11%)	273 (38%)	52 (7%)	14 (2%)	1 (<1%)	715
Total	1168	816	710	2253	749	223	36	5953

**Table 3. Disposition, as of May 2004, of five juvenile peregrines monitored by satellite telemetry deployed in the summer of 2002 and 2003.**

Nest-site origin	Sex	Last location	Status, last date
Harrisburg 2002	male	northern NJ airport	unknown; July 1, 2003
Harrisburg 2002	female	Long Island, NY	Transmitter recovered June 10, 2004
Pittsburgh 2002	male	Pittsburgh, PA	Deceased Feb 4, 2004
Pittsburgh 2002	female	S. Philadelphia, PA	Battery failure Sept 2003
Pittsburgh 2003	female	Michigan	Lost contact December 2003

# Scissor-tailed Flycatcher

*Lebanon County*

Chuck Berthoud

Since 1988 I have participated in the same section of the Lebanon Christmas Bird Count. With the breeding bird atlas the boundaries are somewhat different. Thus on Wednesday June 9, 2004 I found myself on the north side of the Swatara Creek in "new" territory. I had just finished walking a riparian area along the creek and drove away to the east on Black's Bridge road. This area is open meadows.



Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*). Apparent 1<sup>st</sup> year bird showing extensive white below and shorter tail than an adult. Bellgrove, Lebanon, 9 June 2004. (Tom Johnson).

Suddenly a large light-colored bird flew up off the barbed wire fence. As I had encountered quite a few cuckoos this year it struck me odd that one had been on a fence. Stopping the car, I observed a cuckoo-sized bird with a very white belly contrasting with a dark back sitting on the fence wire. As I approached within 150 feet, it flew displaying the large forked tail.

It was not the extended tail of an adult and as Tom Johnson posted, did not have the adult's extensive pink under wing. Tom posted a nice photo on the web showing the classic "X" pattern. I had seen the bird many times in Texas but was only

aware that the Forked-tailed Flycatcher had been seen in the northeast. This bird had sufficient pink in the under-wing to rule out the forked-tailed bird.

After watching the bird for a while and taking a few photos, I called Greg Burgdorf at work to ask him to post directions on PABIRDS. This was his first posting at 10:31 AM. By 2:15 PM, Jason Horn had seen the bird and had called Arlene Koch to confirm the sighting. Joan Silagy and others reported seeing the flycatcher being chased by "an obnoxious mockingbird" the next morning. Randy Miller, Lebanon County compiler, was the last person to see the bird on the evening of June 10. On the 11<sup>th</sup> a rain/wind front passed through the area and the bird was not found by Jonathan Heller Friday morning or by me that night. Saturday morning a handful of birders from eastern and central Pennsylvania could not find this two-day wonder.

This is the second county record for the scissor-tailed flycatcher. The previous bird was found 1 January 1988.

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Scissor-tailed Flycatcher breeds in south-central portion of the U.S. They wander regularly throughout the rest of the lower forty-eight and Canada. There approximately 16 records of this species for Pennsylvania with the majority falling in the period of mid-May-August. This is the third June occurrence. The



Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*). Nice underneath view again showing short tail and extensive white underparts with lack of deep salmon colored flanks and underwing. Bellgrove, Lebanon 9 June 2004. (Tom Johnson).

photos and written documentation that were submitted to the P.O.R.C. clearly rule out Fork-tailed Flycatcher, the other long-tailed flycatcher that has occurred several times in the northeast but still remains hypothetical in our state.— Ed.



Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*). Photo of this species' typical pose, sitting on a fence scanning an open meadow. Bellgrove, Lebanon 9 June 2004. (Chuck Berthoud)

# Summary Of The Season - June through July 2004

Dan Brauning

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The 2004 summer season was unlike that of recent years in a number of ways. The main difference was the breeding bird atlas. At least a thousand birders took to the field to survey atlas blocks in what otherwise tends to be a slow birding season. The result was over 43,000 atlas 'records' (as of November) scattered all over the Commonwealth. The results of this fine effort did not always make it into many summer season county reports, but resulted in newly vitalized summer birding.

Wet weather also played a role on a number of fronts. Weather was not so bad that it kept people from getting into the field, but May, June, and July had above-average statewide rainfall, with July showing the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest precipitation on record. In *Berks*, the wetlands at Glen Morgan Lake were restored to pre-drought levels and provided habitat for a variety of rare nesting birds, including **Pied-billed Grebes**, **American Coots**, and **Least Bitterns** far from other records of these species. On the flip side, shorebird habitat was under water for a second year where previous dry years had attracted shorebird concentrations. Record-setting July rainfall in *Montgomery*, for example, resulted in a near washout of Green Lane Reservoir shorebirds where 21 species were reported during the 2002 season. Four species, two of which are local breeders, were mentioned there this year. Similar disappointment met with shorebird enthusiasts at Shenango Reservoir, *Mercer*.

Lastly, the periodic cicadas, primarily in the southern and eastern half of the state, raised a ruckus not heard for years. While being eaten by many species of birds, a highlight of the season were two **Mississippi Kites** that visited *Bucks* to feast on the 17-year cicadas bonanza near Lumberville. Although first reported on the New Jersey side of the Delaware River and spending much of their time there, the kites were first reported crossing into *Bucks* on 6/19 and were seen on several occasions. They continued until at least 6/27, providing many observers with long satisfying aerobic displays. An immature **Mississippi Kite** flew over

Yellow Creek State Park (*Indiana*), a first county record, but probably not related to cicadas. Cicadas probably had limited impact on birding, although some surveys were deterred by the incessant buzz.

Despite flooded flats, shorebirds make up many of the 'birds of note' this year. Water levels at Gull Point on Presque Isle in Lake Erie were adequate to attract good shorebird variety, including 3 **Willetts**, 4 **Whimbrel**, and 8 **Red Knots**. An **American Avocet** also made an appearance. One of the state's other prime shorebird locations is similarly less affected by rainfall: the Conejohela Flats on the Susquehanna River at Washington Boro, *Lancaster*. Water level there is controlled by the Safe Harbor Dam, so shorebird habitat at this hot-spot produced **American Avocet**, **Marbled Godwit** and a big highlight was a female **Ruff**. A *Bucks* high count of **Whimbrels** is the exception.

The status of **Lesser Black-backed Gull** continues to be revealed. A count of 17 at the Penn-Warner Tract, *Bucks*, and a July 'record' of 19 in *Northampton* confirm that this expanding species is here year-round. There is no suggestion of breeding in Pennsylvania.

This season is focused on breeding birds, and common and rare alike were documented. Breeding records of the **Common Merganser** into southern counties such as *Bucks*, *Montgomery* and *Indiana* (for the first time) reflects continued expansion. A pair of **Eurasian Collared Doves** carrying nesting materials in *Lebanon* expands the potential for nesting in Pennsylvania (as warned by Kibbe and Zwier in "Summary of the Season - December 2003-February 2002; PB18:42) now established in the South and observed in recent years around the state.

Barn Owls continue to be very scarce. With confirmed breeding in just five southern counties, they could rightly said to be in trouble. Owl observations in general continue to be sparse, with the widespread **Great Horned** and **Eastern Screech-Owls** reported by less

than 20% of atlas blocks reporting data to date and not noted in all counties with breeding summaries. The **Northern Saw-whet Owl**, gaining much attention during migration, fared more poorly, with just three counties listing it as a breeder and **Long-eared** and **Short-eared Owls** went unreported to date! Specialized efforts, to be unveiled for the Atlas Project, are demonstrably needed. We are wholly unable to address the impact of West Nile Virus, or other threat, on the populations of these nocturnal birds without such efforts.

Highlights among breeding songbirds include the continued expansion of **Fish Crow**, with begging juveniles demonstrating confirmed breeding for the first time in *Allegheny*. Observations of dependent young provided confirmation of our rarest nesting warbler, **Prothonotary**, in *Bucks* and *Lancaster*. **Clay-colored Sparrows** continue at strongholds in reclaimed mine lands in *Clarion*, *Centre*, and were found to expand in *Indiana* and *Armstrong*. **Dickcissels** were discovered in unlikely places, but that seems to be the nature of the species in Pennsylvania. In what appears to have been an irruption, **Pine Siskins** were reported in at least 10 counties, and confirmed in *Bedford*, *Cambria*, *Indiana*, and *McKean*.

While not a breeding record, the immature-plumaged **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher**, seen in *Lebanon* may be the rarest bird of the season.

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# Birds of Note - June through July 2004

(Species not expected or reported in fewer than five counties this period)

This report summarizes unexpected species and species reported in fewer than 5 counties during the reporting period.

Rare and unusual sightings for which details have been submitted will be reviewed by the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee. "No Desc" means no description of the bird was submitted, or we are unaware of such a submission at this time.

Birds in *Italics* are uncommon, but occur during this time period in most years.

Birds Underlined occur at least 4 to 7 out of 10 years during this time period.

*Italics Underlined* occur fewer than 4 to 7 out of every 10 years during this time period.

**Green-winged Teal** - *Dauphin*: hen with chicks at Wildwood Lake on 6/24 (Sandy Lockerman) was a first county nesting record; *Fulton*: a drake in eclipse plumage was discovered on Forbes Trail Road Pond on 7/19 (Dan Snell, Regina Reeder); *Luzerne*: Lee's swamp at Loyalville (Rick Koval, Jim Hoyson); *Montgomery*: 2 males summered at Church Rd., Green Lane Reservoir (mobs).

**Canvasback** - *Dauphin*: 6/29-7/1 on the Susquehanna River near the southern boundary of the county off Bashore Island (Pat Sabold, photo submitted).

**Ring-necked Duck** - *Fulton*: a female first discovered in mid-May was present up to 8/29 at Haines-Seville Wetlands Restoration Area (Dan Snell, Regina Reeder).

**Lesser Scaup** - *Dauphin*: on the Susquehanna River near the southern boundary of the county off Bashore Island, 6/21-23 (Pat Sabold); *Lawrence*: a drake continued at the Slippery Rock Materials gravel on 7/10 (Mask Vass, from PABL).

**Surf Scoter** - *Indiana*: 1 at Yellow Creek 6/1 (Carol Guba, Margaret Higbee, Gloria Lamer, Scott Speedy).

**Bufflehead** - *Dauphin*: on the Susquehanna River 7/1 near the southern boundary of the county off Bashore Island (Pat Sabold).

**Ruddy Duck** - *Bucks*: 1 seen 6/3 at Peace Valley Park was assumed to be a late migrant (Steve Farbotnik).

**Horned Grebe** - *Dauphin*: a drake in breeding plumage on the Susquehanna River near the southern boundary of the county off Bashore Island, 6/23-7/1 (Pat Sabold, photo submitted).

**American Bittern** - *Philadelphia*: a lone bird continued to be seen into this season in the marshy edges of the coves at Tinicum National Wildlife Refuge; *York*: one was seen again 7/17 at Codorus State Park (Karen Lippy), and another was seen 7/31 near Shrewsbury (Randy Phillips).

**Least Bittern** - *Armstrong*: 1 on 7/8 one flew across the marsh area of Keystone Reservoir (Carol Guba, Margaret Higbee), relocated 7/18 (Dennis Lauffer) and again on 7/19 (Carol Guba, Margaret Higbee); *Berks*: on 6/4 a record 7 were heard (Ken Lebo) at Glen Morgan Lake; *Erie*: 1 seen at Niagara Pond on Presque Isle on 6/12 (Mark Vass); *Luzerne*: heard at Lee's swamp at Loyalville (Rick Koval, Jim Hoyson); *Philadelphia*: Young from one of the broods were present in the "horseshoe" in the Tinicum National Wildlife Refuge; *Snyder*: Seen near Selinsgrove on 6/2 (Mick Brown).

**Snowy Egret** - *Bucks*: 5 on 7/23 at Penn-Warner Tract (Devich Farbotnik); *Lancaster*: Several from 7/30 on at the Conejohela Flats.

**Little Blue Heron** - *Armstrong*: Keystone Reservoir yielded a white morph (immature), a third county record, on 7/15 (Margaret and Roger Higbee) again 7/17 (mobs), and last reported 7/18 (Dennis Lauffer); *Delaware*: two were at

Tinicum National Wildlife Refuge on 7/24 (Al Guarente); *Lancaster*: from 7/24 at Conejohela Flats.

**Tricolored Heron** - *Dauphin*: showed up for the Ned Smith Center's festival 7/31 (Chris Rebert)

**Cattle Egret** - *Adams*: one in a cow pasture along Carroll's Tract Road, 6/7 (Ralph & Deb Siefken) *Bucks*: seen briefly, unconfirmed at Peace Valley Park 7/23 (Steve Farbotnik, Barbara Hiebsch).

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** - *Bucks*: The injured adult first reported 5/5 at Peace Valley Park, was captured 6/3 and died after surgery; *York*: pair nested again this year at Kiwanis Lake's Black-crowned colony. A juvenile was seen 6/26 (Al Spiese) and 2 juveniles were seen 7/24 (Dave Wilton).

**Plegadis ibis** - *Berks*: transitioning juvenile (streaky white throat, pinkish bill, green gloss on wing coverts; iris color not noted) in Albany Twp. 7/25 (Lee Simpson).

**Mississippi Kite** - *Bucks*: 2 were first reported on the PA side 6/19 (Devich Farbotnik) and continued until at least 6/27; *Indiana*: an immature flew over Yellow Creek State Park 6/1 (Carol Guba, Margaret Higbee, Gloria Lamer, Scott Speedy), a first county record.

**Merlin** - *Erie*: 1 seen flying over Erie on 6/4 was very late (Toby & Jean Cunningham).

**Common Moorhen** - *Centre*: a male at Toftrees Pond on 6/19 (Rob Stone), lingered until at least 6/24, was seen by many; *Crawford*: at Conneaut Marsh and Hartstown, seen by many; *Lawrence*: a total of 34 in the marsh along Wampum New Galilee Rd. including 7 brand new chicks on 7/3 and 4 nesting pairs (Barb Dean); *Philadelphia*: 2 were found on 8/15 at Hog Island in the lagoons surrounding Ft. Mifflin (Kate Somerville); *York*: one was found the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of June at a small cattail marsh on Brunner Island (Richard Humbert), then was seen 6/29 (Bill DelGrande) and 7/10 (John & Jean Prescott).

**American Coot** - *Berks*: on 8/15, 8 adult and 2 juveniles at Glen Morgan Lake; *Bradford*: seen near Canton on 6/7 (Sharon May).

**Sandhill Crane** - *Bradford*: flying above the Welles Mountain area (west of Wyalusing) on 5/15 and 7/31 (Charlene Miller, others). State's first nest was found while conducting atlas point counts (Will Faux); *Crawford*: 2 adults and fledged 2 young were seen at or near Cambridge Springs confirmed 7/22 (Jerry McWilliams, Susan Smith); *Dauphin*: remained into the Atlas season and was observed at the Tobias Animal Farm near Halifax (Gail Randall).

**American Golden-Plover** - *Dauphin*: 2 were found in a field along Hoernerstown Rd. in South Hanover Township, 8/24 (Tom Johnson).

**American Avocet** - *Carbon*: two in alternate plumage at Beltzville State Park, Franklin Township (Steve Hawk

- and David Hawk, photos, from PABL), first for the county; *Erie*: 1 at Gull Point, Presque Isle on 7/22 (Ben Coulter); *Lancaster*: 7/29-30 at Conejohola Flats (Dan Heathcote, Deaune Hoffman from PABL); *Schuylkill*: briefly stopped by a Hidden Valley Golf Course pond on 7/12 before flying off to the northeast at dusk.
- Willet** - *Erie*: up to three were recorded at Gull Point on Presque Isle on 7/4, 22, & 31 (Mark Vaas, Jerry McWilliams, Ben Coulter).
- Whimbrel** - *Bucks*: 9 found at the Penn-Warner Tract was probably the highest county tally and the 7<sup>th</sup> county record (Devich Farbotnik); *Erie*: Four were present at Gull Point on Presque Isle from 7/18-31 (Jerry McWilliams, Ben Coulter).
- Marbled Godwit** - *Lancaster*: 1 on 7/31 at Conejohola Flats (Dan Heathcote).
- Ruddy Turnstone** - *Bucks*: a new fall first arrival date 7/27 at Mud Island (Devich Farbotnik); *Erie*: 5 on 7/31 at Gull Point (Ben Coulter, from PABL).
- Red Knot** - *Erie*: 8 on 7/31 at Gull Point was a good count for this rare species (Jerry McWilliams).
- Sanderling** - *Bucks*: 3 were found at 7/27 at Mud Island (Devich Farbotnik); *Erie Lancaster*: seen at the Conejohola Flats on 7/27; *Erie*: 1, Gull Point, 7/4 (Mark Vass).
- Western Sandpiper** - *Erie*: an adult was studied at Gull Point on Presque Isle on 7/12 (Jerry McWilliams); *Lancaster*: 2 on 7/29 at Conejohola Flats (Deuane Hoffman from PABL); *Lebanon*: 1 on 6/3 was a new late date.
- Baird's Sandpiper** - *Indiana*: 1 at Yellow Creek State Park 7/20 (Carol Guba, Margaret Higbee, Gloria Lamer, Scott Speedy).
- White-rumped Sandpiper** - *Allegheny*: 1 in fine breeding plumage at Bald Knob 7/13-15 (Mark Vaas, from PABL).
- Stilt Sandpipers** - *Allegheny*: 7 at Bald Knob, Imperial 7/26 during the passage of a thunderstorm (Dave Wilton, Mark Vaas); *Erie*: fallout of July 31 at Gull Point on Presque Isle including 37 (Ben Coulter); *Lancaster*: seen at the Conejohola Flats on 7/27 and 7/29 (Deuane Hoffman).
- Ruff** - *Lancaster*: a female (i.e., a Reeve) on 7/19 at the Conejohola Flats (Deuane Hoffman, Chad Kauffman), details needed.
- Long-billed Dowitcher** - *Allegheny*: an adult, on 7/18 at Imperial was photographed (Geoff Galosh), a first county record; *Erie*: an adult was identified by its call on 7/22 for early record (Ben Coulter).
- Wilson's Snipe** - *Centre*: 4 were flushed repeatedly by the groundskeeper at Meditate Airport 7/3 very near a site where they were reported winnowing last quarter; *Crawford*: 6 at Conneaut Marsh 6/6; *Luzerne*: at Lee's swamp at Loyalville (Rick Koval, Jim Hoyson); *Somerset*: still winnowing as late as 6/5 (Jeff Payne, Lauretta Payne).
- Wilson's Phalarope** - *Bucks*: a male continued from the spring season at E. Rockville Twp., stayed to 6/1 (Cameron Rutted).
- Red-necked Phalarope** - *Berks*: a female was at the farm pond on Old Rt. 22 east of Shartlesville 6/3-7 (Matt Wlasniewski, m.obs.).
- Laughing Gull** - *Erie*: 1 at Gull Point on Presque Isle seen on 6/12 and 7/10 (Mark Vass, Ben Coulter).
- Bonaparte's Gull** - *Chester*: 1 immature at Struble Lake on 6/2 (Larry Lewis); *Erie*: 20, including juveniles, at Gull Point on 7/10 (Ben Coulter, Mark Vaas, from PABL).
- Lesser Black-backed Gull** - *Bucks*: 17 at the Penn-Warner Tract on 7/11, including two adults (Devich Farbotnik); *Erie*: observed on 7/21 and remained to at least 7/31 on Gull Point at Presque Isle, was a first July record for this species (Jerry McWilliams); *Northampton*: 19 at the Martins Creeks PPL facility along the Delaware River and reported that this is probably the highest count ever for this species in July (Rick Wiltraut).
- Forster's Tern** - *Delaware*: were on Tincum area creeks from 7/24 in mixed age groups of up to 50 birds; *Lancaster*: the Conejohola Flats produced decent numbers on 7/19 (Deuane Hoffman, Jonathan Heller); *Lebanon*: 2 on 6/5, one adult and 1 winter plumage were seen at Memorial Lake State Park for a first June record (Randy Miller, mob).
- Least Tern** - *Lancaster*: 1 on 7/19 at the (Deuane Hoffman, Jonathan Heller).
- Black Tern** - *Crawford*: 2 adults at the traditional nesting location in Harstown Marsh 6/19 (Marvin Byler); *Allegheny*: 7 at Imperial on 7/30 remained until 7/31 (Ross Gallardy). A flock of 9 birds appeared at Dashields Dam on the Ohio River on 7/31 (Becky Smith).
- Eurasian Collared Dove** - *Lebanon*: A pair visiting feeders in a backyard on South 6th Street in the town of Lebanon from at least 5/15 through 7/22, observed carrying nesting materials (Rosemary Spreha, from PABL).
- Olive-sided Flycatcher** - *Bradford*: a singing bird was present in the East Smithfield area 6/13-20 (Rich Gulyas).
- Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** - *Luzerne*: found but nesting not confirmed in Ross Twp. (Rick Koval, Jim Hoyson, Doug Gross); *Wyoming*: confirmed nesting at Coal Bed Swamp (Doug Gross, et al.).
- Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** - *Lebanon*: a young bird 6/9-10, in the snags at near Bellgrove (Rosemary Spreha, photo, mobs).
- Sedge Wren** - *Crawford*: listed as 'possible' breeding (no loc); *Erie*: 1 singing at the Erie International Airport on 6/20, but the field where the bird was found was cut the following week( Jerry McWilliams); *Lackawanna*: 1 several times on territory in Newton Twp. (Rick Koval); *York*: nest found (see photo) in hayfield (Randy Phillips), but not believed to have been used.
- Marsh Wren** - *Wyoming*: a small colony of marsh wrens in Nicholson Twp. (William Reid).
- Swainson's Thrush** - *Forest*: found in 2 locations, and confirmed near Kellettsville on 7/21; *Luzerne*: found in Ross Twp. (Rick Koval, Jim Hoyson, Doug Gross) but not confirmed breeding; *Westmoreland*: latish spring banding record at Powdermill Nature Reserve 6/1 (Adrienne Leopold); *Wyoming*: confirmed the breeding at Coal Bed Swamp (Doug Gross).
- "Brewster's Warbler"** - *Chester*: a male was found on 6/13 and relocated 6/26 in the West Valley Nature Area.
- Prothonotary Warbler** - *Bucks*: young were observed at Churchville Res in mid-June (Chris Stieber, Marlon Corn); *Lancaster*: in Bainbridge adults were feeding young on 6/8/04 (Jonathan Heller), but a car killed both male both and female and at least 1 of the young.
- Blackpoll Warbler** - *Berks*: identified at Hawk Mt. Sanctuary 6/23 by a visiting California birder (Catherine Waters).

The previous late spring date was 6/13/1926; *Wyoming*: confirmed breeding again at Coalbed Swamp (Doug Gross).

**Summer Tanager** - *Northampton*: On 7/16 1 was heard calling "pikitukituk" call repeatedly at Jacobsburg near the Boulton parking lot on Henry Road (Rick Wiltraut)

**Clay-colored Sparrow** - *Armstrong*: 1 heard in a Christmas tree plantation near Keystone Reservoir 6/26 and 7/1 (Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee) closely associating with a Chipping Sparrow; *Centre*: a singing male at Black Moshannon State Park on 7/2 in a overgrown beaver pond (Nick Bolgiano). Also near Snow Shoe, but in more usual habitat, a reclaimed strip-mine (George and Susan Young); *Clarion*: in a different area of Mount Zion and Stockdill Rd. than in previous years (Carole Willenpart); *Indiana*: first heard then seen at the Gypsy Strips 7/1 (Margaret Higbee), but not be relocated on 7/10.

**Dickcissel** - *Adams*: 6/3 in a great looking weedy field along Schriver Rd. (Ralph & Deb Siefken ). A followup visit resulted in finding 4 territorial Dickcissels singing in the field (Peter Robinson). *Lancaster*: 1 at the Lancaster County Central Park was last noted on 6/26 (Lou Carpenter), around the time that the field was reportedly mowed; *Lebanon*: 1 found on 6/1 near Bellegrave, but not after (Chuck Berthound); *Luzerne*: copulation observed with a male and female, although no young were observed. (Jim Hoyson, Rick Koval, Stan Galenty, et al.).

**Red Crossbill** - *Westmoreland*: 1 at Spruce Flats Bog, Rector on 6/5 (Dave Tetlow).

## Answer to Photo Quiz #5

Rick Wiltraut

One of the most challenging identifications for many birders is telling Sharp-shinned Hawks from Cooper's Hawks. Most of the literature regarding the differences between Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks refer to birds in flight since most sightings of these two species are of birds flying past hawk lookouts.

The main differences used for identifying the two species in flight is the shape of the tail (rounded in Cooper's vs. squared in Sharp-shinned), the projection of the head past the leading edge of the wing (well beyond in Cooper's, little projection in Sharp-shinned) and, if seen well, amount of white at the tip of the tail (broad white tip in Cooper's, narrow in Sharp-shinned). These field marks work for both adults and juveniles. Although Cooper's Hawk are larger than Sharp-shinned Hawks and size is useful in separating the two (especially when flying together), it does not work all the time since female accipiters are much larger than males and a male Cooper's Hawk may be very close in size to that of a female Sharp-shinned Hawk.

Cooper's Hawks tend to flap slower than a Sharp-shinned Hawk with shallower wing beats, but this seems to be a field mark of little use depending on what the bird is doing at the time and the experience of the observer. However, both species are often observed attacking songbirds at feeders. At these times they are either seen as a blur chasing a bird through the yard or perched eating a meal or waiting for their next chance.

Like those seen in flight, perched birds can also be a challenge. Both species in the adult plumage have blue-gray upperparts and rufous colored underparts. On perched birds, getting a good look at the tail shape and amount of white in the tail tip is important, but equally as important is a good look at the head. Superficially it would appear that the heads of the two species are very similar, but on an adult Cooper's Hawk the crown is much darker than that of an adult Sharp-shinned Hawk, contrasting with the lighter colored nape and the rest of the upperparts. The crown of a Sharp-shinned is a bluish-gray color much like the rest of the upperparts, with very little contrast. Cooper's Hawks have a rather large head, which is often squarish in shape, especially when its hackles are raised. This also makes the eye appear closer to the beak. The head of a Sharp-shinned is smaller and rounded and the eye always appears centrally placed. Although this photograph shows a bird with a somewhat rounded head (hackles relaxed), note the darkness of the cap.

This adult male Cooper's Hawk was photographed during the fall at the Little Gap Raptor Research Station on the Kittatinny Ridge in Northampton County.



## PHOTOGRAPHIC HIGHLIGHTS



**Canvasback** (*Aythya valisineria*). Photographed 29 June 2004 (*Pat Sabold*), this male was present along the Susquehanna River, *Dauphin* for three days.



**Bufflehead** (*Bucephala albeola*). Unusual in mid-summer this bird was found along the Susquehanna River, *Dauphin*. Photographed 1 July 2004 (*Pat Sabold*).



**Horned Grebe** (*Podiceps auritus*). This male was observed along the along the Susquehanna River, *Dauphin* beginning 23 June 2004. It remained in the area for nine days photographed here 24 June (*Pat Sabold*).



**Mississippi Kite** (*Ictinia mississippiensis*). This was one of two birds present near Lumberville, *Bucks* 10-27 June 2004. The birds were very fond of the 17yr cicadas which provided a large portion of their diet. This bird was photographed 20 June (*Thomas Ford-Hutchinson*)



**Sandhill Crane** (*Grus canadensis*). This species continues to expand its breeding range within Pennsylvania. This photo of two adults and two fledged young taken June 2004 (Scott Anderson) confirm nesting near Cambridge Springs, Crawford.



**American Avocet** (*Recurvirostra americana*). Rare but annual in fall, these three birds were photographed on the Conejohela Flats, Lancaster, 1 August 2004 (photo from video Rick Wiltraut)



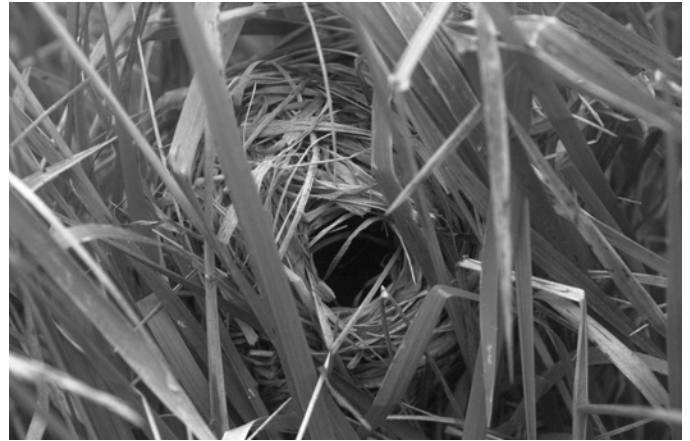
**Long-billed Dowitcher** (*Limnodromus scolopaceus*). This early fall adult was photographed 18 July 2004 at Bald Knob, Allegheny (Geoff Malosh). A first county record.



**Fish Crow** (*Corvus ossifragus*) Another species with an expanding breeding range, this bird established a first Allegheny breeding record when it nested at Forest Hills. This individual was photographed there 10 July 2004 (Geoff Malosh).



**Northern Rough-winged Swallow** (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*). 24 July 2004, Imperial, Allegheny (Geoff Malosh).



**Sedge Wren** (*Cistothorus platensis*). A pair nested in southern York this year. This photograph was of an apparent "dummy" nest used by the pair. (PGC/Joe Kosack).



**Prothonotary Warbler** (*Protonotaria citrea*). Several pairs nested north of their usual range this summer including this bird near Churchville Nature Center, Bucks. Photographed here 29 June 2004 (Carol Fitzpatrick).



**Henslow's Sparrow** (*Ammodramus henslowii*). 24 July 2004, Imperial, Allegheny (Geoff Malosh).



**Grasshopper Sparrow** (*Ammodramus savannarum*). South Sproul SF, Clinton, 21 June 2004 (Wayne Laubscher).



**Northern Cardinal** (*Cardinalis cardinalis*). This albino hatchling was photographed in Montgomery, June 2004 (Joe Greco).



**Pine Siskin** (*Carduelis pinus*). Unusual in summer, this bird was photographed 1 July 2004 Saylorsburg, Monroe (photo from video Rick Wiltraut)

# Local Notes - June through July 2004

## Adams County

With little birding done during the June/July 2004 summer season just 76 species were reported, even fewer than the 82 species reported during the June/July summer 2003 season, but there were a few noteworthy sightings.

A **Cattle Egret** was seen 6/7 in a cow pasture along Carroll's Tract Road (RDS), but it could not be found the next day. There was one report of **Wild Turkey**, at SGL 249 on 6/20 (DJG). There were two reports of **N. Bobwhite**, 6/3 and 7/5, both heard along Schriver Rd. (CS).

A few **Upland Sandpiper** were found. Two were found along Camp Gettysburg Rd. on 6/3 (RDS), and another was found along Pumping Station Rd. on 6/26 (PJR).

A late **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was reported 6/13 at SGL 249 (DJG). **Horned Larks** were found along bird survey routes – 4 on 6/7, and 2 on 6/25 (PJR). A **Dickcissel** was found 6/3 in a great looking weedy field along Schriver Rd. (RDS). A followup visit resulted in finding 4 territorial Dickcissels singing in the field (PJR).

Observers: **Peter Robinson, P. O. Box 482, Hanover, PA 17331, (717) 632-8462 pabirder@hotmail.com**, Elizabeth Daniels, Don & Jen Gilbert, Nancy Locher, Ralph & Deb Siefken, Carole Simon.

## Allegheny County

Location: Imperial (IMP)

A **Bald Eagle** was an unexpected visitor at Leetsdale on the Ohio River 6/24 (BS).

Late spring migrant shorebirds were found in June including a **Semipalmated Plover** 6/16 at IMP (MV), 13 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** 6/13 and 1 remaining 6/14 (MV), and a **Least Sandpiper** 6/4-5 (MV), all at IMP. A **White-rumped Sandpiper** was at IMP 6/1-15 (MV). By mid-July, the first southbound migrant shorebirds were reported at IMP including **Semipalmated Plover**, **Lesser Yellowlegs**, **Solitary Sandpiper**, **Semipalmated Sandpiper**, **Least Sandpiper**, and **Pectoral Sandpiper**. A group of 7 **Stilt Sandpipers** was a great find at IMP 7/26 during the passage of a thunderstorm (DW). Three dowitchers were there 7/18 (GM, MV, DW, JH, MF). Two were definite **Short-billed Dowitchers**, however one bird was studied and photographed as it showed characters of an adult **Long-billed Dowitcher**. Several local birders studied the bird and the excellent photographs (GM) with mixed conclusions. Further research and analysis of the photos by experienced observers across the country determined the bird in question was an adult **Long-billed Dowitcher**, a first county record.

Thunderstorms dropped **Black Terns** into the county 7/30. A flock of 7 was a nice find at IMP 7/30 (RG) where they remained until 7/31. A flock of 9 birds appeared at Dashields Dam on the Ohio River 7/31 (BS).

A **Blue-headed Vireo** was at Sewickley Heights Park 6/25-26 (CK). Interesting were **Bank Swallows** at Dashields Dam in June (MV). This is one of the least reported swallows in the county, but its presence at this time of year leads to suspicions of possible breeding in the county or nearby. A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was an out of season visitor to a yard in Natrona Heights 6/18-19 (PH, DH). **Common Ravens** continued to be seen at IMP into June (v.o.). Following the first county record of **Fish Crow** in May, several were found in All Souls Catholic Cemetery

in North Braddock 7/3 (MF). Begging juveniles were observed 7/12 (DW) for confirmed breeding of this expanding species.

A **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was at Sewickley Heights Park 6/18 (CK) and two **Black-throated Green Warblers** were found there 6/2 and 6/18 (CK). A **Black-and-white Warbler** was on territory in Plum Borough 7/11 (JV). All are possible uncommon breeders in the county.

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## Armstrong County

Locations: Breeding Bird Survey (BBS), Elderton (ELD), Keystone Power Plant (KPP), Keystone Reservoir (KR), Margaret (MG), Rural Valley (RV), Shelocta (SH)

High count of **Canada Geese** was 25 at KR 7/19 (CG,MH). Ten **Wood Duck** and 7 **Mallard** ducklings were found 6/8 at KR(MH,SS,LW); 68 Mallards had congregated at KPP 7/28 (RH). Only 3 family groups of **Wild Turkeys** were reported this season, a group of 10 near RV 6/5 (MH,RH), a hen with 4 young near KR 7/17 (MH,RH), and a hen with 2 young near ELD 7/30 (RH). A **N. Bobwhite** was calling near Maysville 6/12 (MH,RH). A **Double-crested Cormorant** stopped by the MG mine drainage treatment ponds 6/1 (RH).

Highlight of the Atlas season occurred 7/8 when the 2 observers stopped briefly at the marsh area of KR and spotted a **Least Bittern** fly from one section of the marsh to the edge of a small pool where it disappeared into the vegetation (CG,MH). The bittern was relocated 7/18 and observed 7 times during the course of 4 hours (DL). The following morning, it was seen 3 times and at one point sat on a reed for 12 minutes (CG,MH); this was a second county record. KR also yielded a white morph **Little Blue Heron**, a third county record, on 7/15 (MH,RH); it was seen again 7/17 (EF,MF,MH,RH) and last reported 7/18 (DL).

One **Cooper's Hawk** at KR 6/26 was the lone report (MH,RH). First fledged **Red-tailed Hawks** were listed near KR 6/23 (MH). Two young **Am. Kestrels** were found west of KR 7/15 (MH,RH). KR continued to harbor at least 5 **Soras** 6/8, one of which was gathering wet marsh vegetation for nesting material (MH,SS,LW); 2 were heard calling 7/3 (MH,RH).

RV yielded a family group of 6 **Killdeer** 6/5 (MH,RH). A **Solitary Sandpiper** flew over KR 7/19 but did not land because of the unavailability of habitat (CG,MH,DL). Two **Am. Woodcocks** were sighted sw. of SH 6/14 (RH).

**Black-billed Cuckoos** appeared near ELD 6/1 (RH) and at KR 6/8 (MH,SS,LW). **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were seen carrying nesting material at KR 6/5 and at another location near KR the same day (MH,RH). An **E. Screech-Owl** was heard calling near MG 6/12, the lone owl report (MH,RH). Three **Common Nighthawks** flew over KT 6/13 (MH,RH). A pair of **Belted Kingfishers** were seen carrying food to a probable nest site at KR 6/4 (MH).

Young **Downy Woodpeckers** were found at KR 6/8 (MH,SS,LW). **N. Flickers** were carrying food at KR 6/3 (CG,MH). The *Armstrong* portion of the SH BBS yielded 9 **E. Wood-Pewees** and 15 **Acadian Flycatchers** 6/6 (MH,RH). The MG BBS yielded

4 **Willow Flycatchers** and 3 **Great Crested Flycatchers** 6/12 (MH,RH). A pair of **E. Kingbirds** was busy nest building at KR 6/8 (MH,SS,LW); another pair was on nest near ELD 6/16 (RH). **Yellow-throated Vireos** were listed at 9 locations. Two **White-eyed Vireos** near KR 7/17 (MH,RH) were the only ones noted. A **Blue-headed Vireo** west of KR 7/15 (MH,RH) was the only one reported. **Warbling Vireo** reports included 1 on the *Armstrong* section of the SH BBS 6/6 (MH,RH), 1 along Dutch Run, and 1 carrying food near KR, the latter 2 sightings 6/26 (MH,RH). Adult **Red-eyed Vireos** were feeding young at KR 6/23 (MH). **Common Raven** reports included 1 at KR 6/5 (MH,RH) and 1 near ELD 7/15 (MH,RH). A pair of **Horned Larks** was present near RV 6/5 (MH,RH).

The **Purple Martin** colony near ELD contained 16 pairs and fledged 65 young (fide DS); DS banded the last 4 young 7/29. **N. Rough-winged Swallows** and **Barn Swallows** were feeding young along Dutch Run 6/26 (MH,RH). A **Cliff Swallow** on the MG BBS 6/12 (MH,RH) was unusual; another was at KR 7/17 (MH,RH); these were the lone reports.

A nest hole containing young **Black-capped Chickadees** was found at KR 6/4 (MH); the adults were feeding the young near that nest 6/23 (MH). A family group of **White-breasted Nuthatches** including 4 young was observed near Hoosicks Mill 7/17 (MH,RH). **Carolina Wren** fledglings were spotted with the adults at KR 6/4 (MH). **Gray Catbirds** were carrying food at KR 6/25 (MH,RH). A young **Brown Thrasher**, accompanied by 2 adults, was at KR 6/23 (MH). **Cedar Waxwings** had fledged near Whitesburg 7/15 (MH,RH).

**Blue-winged Warblers**, present at KR 6/4 (MH), were feeding fledged young 6/23 (MH). A **Golden-winged Warbler**, in very close proximity to the previous pair, was singing on territory 6/4 & 6/23 (MH) but no further evidence of breeding could be documented. The *Armstrong* portion of the SH BBS yielded 18 **Yellow Warblers** 6/6 (MH,RH); the MG BBS, 32 on 6/12 (MH,RH). **Chestnut-sided Warbler** reports included 4 on the KT BBS 6/13 (MH,RH), 2 near KR 7/3 (MH,RH), and 1 at another location, also near KR, 7/17 (MH,RH). A **Magnolia Warbler**, seen and heard at the Sportmen's Ramp of Mahoning Creek 7/19, was the lone report (CG,MH). **Black-throated Green Warblers** were present at various spots around KR 6/4 (MH), 6/8 (MH,SS,LW), 6/26 and 7/17 (MH,RH); Sportmen's Ramp yielded at least 3 singing males 7/19 (CG,MH). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was singing near Cochran's Mill 6/6 (MH,RH). **Prairie Warbler** reports included 3 at KR 6/8 (MH,SS,LW), 3 near Atwood 6/14 (MH,RH), and 1 near Dayton 7/19 (CG,MH), to list just a few. **Cerulean Warblers** included 3 on the SH BBS 6/6 (MH,RH); 1 each on the MG and KT BBS, 6/12, 6/13 respectively (MH,RH); 1 near KR 6/23 (MH); and 1 near Hoosicks Mill 7/17 (MH,RH). The SH BBS yielded 2 **Black-and-white Warblers** 6/6 (MH,RH); 1 was at KPP 6/16 (RH); Sportmen's Ramp yielded 1 on 7/19 (CG,MH). **Am. Redstarts** were carrying food near RV 6/5 (MH,RH); 1 was on nest at KR 6/8 (MH,SS,LW). A **Worm-eating Warbler** near MG 6/12 was unusual (MH,RH). A pair of **Ovenbirds** was feeding young in a nest at the base of a shrub at KR 6/4 (MH). The SH and MG BBS routes, 6/6 and 6/12 respectively (MH,RH), each produced 1 **Louisiana Waterthrush**. **Kentucky Warblers** were noted at 4 locations (MH,RH). **Common Yellowthroats** were still carrying nesting material near Atwood 6/14 (MH,RH). **Hooded Warblers** were widespread with top count of 7 on both the *Armstrong* section of the SH BBS 6/6 (MH,RH) and on the KT BBS 6/13 (MH,RH). **Yellow-breasted Chats** were noted at 9 locations (v.o.).

A pair of **Scarlet Tanagers** and their recently fledged young were spotted near Hoosicks Mill 7/17 (MH,RH). Several pairs of **E. Towhees** were carrying nesting material at KR 6/4 (MH). A **Clay-colored Sparrow** was heard in a Christmas tree plantation near KR 6/26 (MH,RH); a return trip to the spot 7/19 rewarded the

observers with an excellent view of the bird which was closely associating with a **Chipping Sparrow** (MH,RH). It was relocated 7/3 (LG,SGr,SG). **Field Sparrows** were feeding fledged young at KR 6/23 (MH). **Vesper Sparrow** reports included 1 on the KT BBS 6/13 (MH,RH), 1 near KPP 6/14 (RH), and 2 near KR 7/17 (MH,RH). Among many reports, 5 **Savannah Sparrows** each were listed near RV 6/5 (MH,RH) and near Glade Run Marsh 7/19 (CG,MH). The *Armstrong* portion of the Edgewood GBS 6/16 (MH,RH) yielded 6 **Grasshopper Sparrows** and 2 **Henslow's Sparrows**. Another **Henslow's** was found 7/17 near KR (MH,RH). At least 9 **Swamp Sparrows** were counted at KR 6/8 (MH,SS,LW); Glade Run Marsh also yielded 1 on 7/19 (CG,MH). **Indigo Buntings** were carrying food at KR 6/23 (MH).

A **Bobolink** was found near KR 6/8 (MH,SS,LW); the *Armstrong* section of the KT BBS yielded 5 on 6/13 (MH,RH). At dawn on 7/17 (MH,RH), 1200 **Red-winged Blackbirds** exited the KR marsh; later that morning female **red-wings** were still feeding young. Five **Orchard** and 17 **Baltimore Orioles** were tallied on the MG BBS 6/12 (MH,RH).

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#### **Beaver County**

No Report.

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#### **Bedford County**

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#### **Berks County**

Locations: Blue Marsh Lake (BML), Glen Morgan Lake (GML), Lake Ontelaunee (LO)

The second wet summer in a row dropped 20 inches of rain in July alone. The wetlands at GML returned to pre-drought water levels and produced many young waterbirds, some rare. On 6/5, 16 adult and 17 juv. **Pied-billed Grebes** were counted. On 8/15, 8 adult and 2 juv. **American Coots** were found among 300 **Wood Ducks**, half of them juv. (KL). On an evening canoe trip around the lake 6/4, a record 7 **Least Bitterns** were heard along with a **Virginia Rail** (KL). The future of this private IBA remains in doubt, complicated by the presence of asbestos and heavy metals in the lake sediments and the desire of the owner to develop the property. Two **Green Heron** nests in multiflora rose bushes at Gotwals pond, Oley fledged broods of 3 and 4 young in late June (RK). There were about 15 active nests in the **Black-crowned Night-Heron** colony in suburban West Lawn, one of the few in the state (fide PR). At LO, 5-6 adult **Black-crowned** and 1 juv. were seen 6/6,7 (MS). A transitioning juv. **Plegadis ibis** (streaky white throat, pinkish bill, green gloss on wing coverts; iris color not noted) was in Albany Twp. 7/25 (LS). Though it was most likely a **Glossy Ibis**, White-faced Ibis can't be ruled out in this plumage. Two **Black Vulture** nests around French Creek SP each fledged 2 young (RB). A pair of **Snow Geese** summered at Gotwals pond, Oley. Three imm. birds from this family group moved on in June (RK). A female **Hooded Merganser** at BML 6/12 (RK,JS) and 2 female **Common Mergansers** on the Schuylkill River near Shoemakersville 7/20 (BH) raise the possibility of nesting. There is no *Berks* nesting record of

**Common** and only a few of **Hooded Merganser**. The **Bald Eagle** nesting at LO, a first attempt, failed.

A female **Red-necked Phalarope**, the second this year, was at the farm pond on Old Rt. 22 east of Shartlesville 6/3-7 (MW, m.obs.). A few nonbreeding **Ring-billed Gulls** summered at BML as usual (JS). Two **Caspian Terns** stopped at LO 7/19 (JB). Both **Black-billed** and **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were more widely reported than in recent years. Since there were few gypsy moth or eastern tent caterpillars, perhaps the bonanza of Brood X periodical cicadas helped account for their numbers. Six healthy young **Barn Owls** in fine feather fledged from a box in Rehersburg 6/10 (RB). This compiler received no reports of nesting **Common Nighthawks**. A **Red-headed Woodpecker** pair on Kaufmann Rd., Oley Twp. fledged 2 juvs. in early July. A third juv., perhaps from a second pair, was there in late August (RK). An **Alder Flycatcher** sang for several weeks at a small wetland near Oley, but nesting was not confirmed (RK). Males of this sp., apparently unmated, occasionally hold territories in *Berks*. Nesting **Horned Larks** are seldom reported, but this year adults with fledged young were seen in Robesonia 6/11 (fide BU) and in Upper Bern Twp. 6/27 (KG). A wandering **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was in District Twp. 7/10 (RK). The first season of the 2<sup>nd</sup> breeding bird atlas produced no surprising warbler breeding records. A record late **Blackpoll Warbler** was identified at Hawk Mt. Sanctuary 6/23 by a visiting California birder (CW). The previous late spring date was 6/13/1926 (Anna & Mary Deeter).

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#### **Blair County**

No Report. No Compiler.

#### **Bradford County**

The summer of 2004 has been extremely wet, even more so than the summer of 2003, and somewhat cool. This season's report has considerably more birds, due in great part to more effort by more observers involved with the Breeding Bird Atlas. Great!

A **N. Bobwhite** (probably a released bird) was heard calling on 6/27 in the East Smithfield vicinity (RG). A **Double-crested Cormorant** was reported 6/3 from Eddinger Hill in the Laceyville area (PR, EW). I was delighted to see a **Great Egret** on Zern's Pond near Wilmot 7/21 (TG). A **N. Harrier** (probable breeder) was observed 6/16 in the Troy area (RY).

A **Virginia Rail** and a **Sora** were seen on 6/11 on a pond near Standing Stone (BR), while an **American Coot** was seen near Canton on 6/7 (SM). The most impressive sighting of the summer, however, were the **Sandhill Cranes** flying above the Welles Mountain area (west of Wyalusing) on 5/15 and 7/31 (CM). **Sandhill Cranes**, either two or three, were seen by various observers during this time period in the vicinity (MB, etc.).

In a spectacular flight, hundreds of **Chimney Swifts** were soaring and entering a chimney in the Sayre area, 7/18 (MZ). A singing **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was present in the East Smithfield area 6/13-20 (RG). An astonishing 13 **Acadian Flycatchers** were observed on 7/24 in the Junk's Pond area west of Overton (RM). Two virtuoso **N. Mockingbirds** were heard (and seen at the same time) perfectly imitating a Northern Flicker, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Eastern Towhee, American Robin, Blue Jay, Gray Catbird, Wood Thrush and Eastern Bluebird in the space of ½ hour by one amazed observer (RY).

A number of possibly breeding warblers were unusual for this county: **Nashville** and **Cerulean Warblers** in the Wyalusing area, and a **Worm-eating Warbler** in the Laceyville area, all on 6/11 (BR). A **Mourning Warbler** was present in the Huckleberry Mt. area (near Overton) on 6/27 (RM) and a **Hooded Warbler** (a probable breeder) in the Monroeton vicinity 6/19-20 (BF). A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was seen near Laceyville on 7/9 (BR). Also in the Laceyville area an **Orchard Oriole** was observed 6/11 (BR). Two singing male **Henslows Sparrows** were heard on Barclay Mt. on reclaimed strip mines 6/23 (BS).

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#### **Bucks County**

Locations: Blooming Glen (BLG), Delaware River (Del.R.), Haycock Twp (HYT), Mud Island (MUI), Nockamixon State Park (NSP), Peace Valley Park (PVP), The Penn-Warner Tract (WNT), Tincum Twp.(TNT)

Four female **Hooded Mergansers** at PVP 6/3 were assumed to be late migrants as was a **Ruddy Duck** 6/15 (SF). A female **Common Merganser** with eight youngsters in tow in late June confirmed their continued breeding along the Del.R. (mobs.). A female **Red-breasted Merganser** was also assumed to be late at PVP on 6/7 (AM,SF). A **Pied-billed Grebe** at PRN of 7/8 was the earliest fall first arrival by a week (MH). Possibly the heavy rains displaced it early. Both American Bittern and least Bittern were believed to have nested at Quakertown Swamp and were heard through the period (DF). A **Great Egret** at Morrisville 6/28 (RM) and two at SGL56 6/30 (AM,JM) were early reports of post-breeding dispersal followed by others in early to mid-July from several locations. A flock of 20 flew by PVP on 7/11 where similar large flocks have been reported in recent years (CC,ER). Five **Snowy Egrets** 7/23 at WNT was a good local count (DF). A possible **Cattle Egret**, seen briefly, was at PVP 7/23 (SF,BH). Imm. **Black-crowned Night-Heron** arrived at Churchville Res. the first week of July (NZ) and PVP 7/17 (CC). The injured adult **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron**, first reported 5/5 at PVP, was captured 6/3 and died after surgery (AM).

A highlight of the season was the two **Mississippi Kites** that stayed to feast on the 17 yr. Cicadas that were abundant near Lumberville. Although first reported on the NJ side of the Del.R. and spending much of their time there, they were seen crossing into PA on several occasions. They were first reported on the PA side 6/19 (DF) and continued until at least 6/27 providing many observers with long satisfying aerobatic displays. Amazing pictures taken of the birds in a tree showed Cicada wings sticking out of the body plumage (ER). The Mud Is. **Osprey** nest fledged two young approx. in early July (CR). A **Cooper's Hawk** pair consisting of a first year female and an adult male fledged five young 7/4 at Silver Lake Park (BM). No wonder they are now common locally. A **Broad-winged Hawk** at Upper Black Eddy on 7/7 was the first summer sighting there in several years (RFo) and a now rare summer report. The second **Peregrine Falcon** reported to suffer at the hand of humans locally this year, was found shot near Tullytown (RF). It is alive but cannot be released. It had been banded as a nestling on the Throg's Neck Bridge in New York. It had not been reported since.

A total of 13 species of shorebirds were reported for the season. On 7/23 at WNT, a count of nine **Whimbrels** was probably

the highest county tally and the 7<sup>th</sup> county record (DF). Locally rare, a **Ruddy Turnstone** set a new fall first arrival date 7/27 at MUI (DF). Three **Sanderlings**, also relatively rare here, were found at the same place and date (DF). As previously reported for the spring season at E. Rockhill Twp., a male **Wilson's Phalarope** visited 5/31-6/1 (CR). A count of 17 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** at WNT 7/11, including two adults, and 35 at WNT 7/24 is an indication that some are probably there all summer (DF). A **Caspian Tern** 7/14 at PVP (SF) was the first of its kind to be reported this year, as were four **Forster's Turns** 7/24 at MUI (DF). Three more **Caspian Terns** were seen at Pine Run Dam 7/30 (MH).

Observers commented that **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** were everywhere and **Black-billed Cuckoo**, although in much lower numbers was also easier to find than normal. This was true even at PVP where Cicadas were rarely heard. **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were seen carrying food to their nest hole on 6/30 at SGL157 (AM, JM). WNT is one of the very few local strongholds for **Blue Grosbeak**. It held at least three males 7/27 (DF). **Prothonotary Warbler**, always a very good find locally, was found breeding at Churchville Res. in mid-June (CS, MC). Unfortunately, a car killed the male but the female fledged the young alone. Before independence, a car also killed the female and at least one of the young. For the second time this year, the county mowed the meadows at Pine Run Dam, while singing **Grasshopper Sparrows** were present. On 7/24, at least three singing mails were heard (CR) just before the mowing.

#### EXOTICS:

**Egyptian Goose** was found nesting under a Rt 563 bridge over the Haycock Creek at NSP. This is the second year that breeding has been confirmed (BL, BE).

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#### *Butler County*

No Report.

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#### *Cambria County*

Location: Prince Gallitzin State Park (PGSP)

Due to the warmer than usual weather during the early part of the breeding season, it appears the nesting success was above average. Highlights include the first confirmation by DG of a **Great Blue Heron** nesting in *Cambria* since we have been keeping records. The nest was found in a remote area and was reported to us by several persons who had seen the sitting bird and several young fledglings. Even though the nest was abandoned when we located it in late July, it was apparent it had been used this season. The eye witnesses are good friends and have no reason to create false stories.

**American Woodcock** were reported confirmed from two locations. **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** nested successfully around DG's residence with four young raised. **Blue-headed Vireos** appear to be more abundant than in past years with several confirmation. **Purple Martins** made an appearance at the nest

site of PGSP but apparently were driven away by nesting **Tree Swallows**. All attempts to isolate the **Tree Swallows** from the gourd rack proved fruitless. JS reports a record number of **Eastern Bluebirds** (137 fledged) and a record number of **Tree Swallows** (197 fledged) at PGSP. Success is believed to be due to recently installed predator guards on all boxes. Confirmed reports of nesting **Hermit Thrushes** from Dean and Dunlo area by JJ. **Wood Thrushes** were common, however there was only one breeding confirmation. Confirmed warblers include **Yellow-breasted Chats** by JS at PGSP, **Blackburnian** at Dean Gamelands. **Chestnut-sided Warblers** and **American Redstarts** have seemed to increase. JJ and JS both had nesting **Dark-eyed Juncos**. All grassland species seemed to do well with **Field** and **Grasshopper Sparrows** in very good numbers. **Bobolinks** appeared to be expanding along with **Easter Meadowlarks** into new areas of unmowed fields. A lone **Pine Siskin** spent the summer at a feed in Patton.

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#### *Cameron County*

No Report. No Compiler.

#### *Carbon County*

No Report.

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#### *Centre County*

Locations: Bald Eagle Mt. (BEMt), Bald Eagle State Park (BESP), Bear Meadows (BM), Black Moshannon State Park (BMSP), Colyer Lake (CL), Midstate Airport (MA), Scotia Barrens (SB), Toftrees Pond (TP), Thicthead Rd. (TR), Snow Shoe Rd. near Unionville (SSRd), and Link Marsh (LM).

During June and July, Breeding Bird Atlas (BBA) participants worked on finding breeding birds, as well as updating records and codes. Here are some examples. At BESP, 3 hatching-year **Pied-billed Grebes** (with striped heads, necks) popped up (literally as well as figuratively) at Skater's Pond and were seen by MH, 7/6. This was, of course, Confirmed Breeding! I was delighted to report the news to BS, the block owner!

Fledging raptors because of their conspicuous size, or vocalizing, caught people's attention during July. First, DB reported that 3 newly fledged **Cooper's Hawks** "called and crashed about" on his property on BEMt 7/20. That very same day, a neighbor of mine (AP), telephoned to say that a young **Cooper's Hawk** was in a tree on her property, "calling for its mama!" Two **Bald Eaglets** fledged from their nest in a white pine at BESP about 10 days apart, during the second and third weeks of July. Both had fledged by 7/25. Multiple observers, including BS, MH, watched their progress.

On 6/13 BS found a **Sora** at Skater's Pond, BESP, and began to look for signs of confirmed breeding, such as a nest or young. On 6/19 RS found a male **Common Moorhen** at Toftrees Pond. The bird lingered until at least 6/24, was seen by many. The report is especially interesting because according to Poole, 1964, "a scattering of nesting records come from Berks, Lebanon, and Centre Counties" (Brauning, D. ed. 1992. *The Atlas of Breeding Birds in Pennsylvania* p.128). Four **Wilson's Snipes** were flushed repeatedly by the groundskeeper at MA, as he mowed grass 7/3. MA is very near a site at BMSP, where NB had found: "winnowing snipe, during April of 2004."

On 6/3 CA found a **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** in her own backyard and wondered if the species breeds locally. A young **N. Saw-whet Owl** found injured by FH on Nimitz Ave., State College Borough, was taken immediately to Robyn Graboski, Wildlife Rehabber on 7/22. Whether its discovery means a Code "CO", or not, for this little owl species, remains an open question [editor's comment – why not?!] **Whip-poor-wills** were seen and heard along the SB road near the shooting range all through June and July after dusk (BIF). They probably breed here but no evidence was seen other than their presence. They have been seen here for many years.

**Red-headed Woodpeckers** returned to 3 traditional *Centre* sites, this year: Williams Rd. (CM, ME); Sharer Rd., (CM, ME) and MH, and finally, to a site off highway #550, in Halfmoon Township (MB). Three young **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were found, with a molting adult, all together in the same dead tree 8/20 (MH). Excavation activities had been observed by CM and ME at the site, during May 2004.

On 6/17, BS saw 4 **Common Ravens** flying in a family group over Howard, not far from the Link Marsh area where he had found a **Common Raven's** nest in 2003. He counted the 6/17 observations as confirmed breeding. NB also was pleased to find that **Golden-crowned Kinglets** had returned, during safe dates, to a glade at Bear Meadows, where he had found them breeding in earlier years.

The birds MR found at SB 7/29 give an excellent idea of species that are likely confirmed breeding there. He observed: **Black-billed Cuckoo, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Least Flycatcher, Blue-headed Vireo, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Wood Thrush, Golden-winged Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, American Redstart, Ovenbird, Hooded Warbler, Canada Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, and Indigo Bunting.** A colorful array, indeed!

New places were found for some warbler species, as well: on 7/3, JD and MH found 2 singing **Cerulean Warblers** (during a block-busting effort) in Block 62A13. The birds were on SSRd, which goes right, off highway #504, 1.5 miles beyond Hall's Rd., as one comes from Unionville. A family of **Worm-eating Warblers** (parents tending young birds) were found during a different Atlas effort by JD and MH at Thichead Rd. not far from its junction with Treaster Kettle Rd., which is above the CL area 7/5. MR discovered a female **Kentucky Warbler** near SB Pond on 7/24. That date is within BBA safe dates for this species making it a possible breeder.

During July some new potential breeding sites were found for several of our more unusual sparrow species. For instance, on 7/2, NB identified a singing male **Clay-colored Sparrow** at BMSP. Forest surrounds the site, which consists of a semi-open swamp, originally a beaver pond. Also, three singing **Clay-colored Sparrows** were found 7/4 near Panther, which is near Snow Shoe, by GSY, in a reclaimed strip-mine, a more usual habitat for the species in our general area. Slightly later, observers found a large number of singing **Grasshopper Sparrows** and also **Henslow's Sparrows**, near the GSY **Clay-colored Sparrow** site 7/11 (JD, MH).

Finally, there are reports of birds that did not breed in *Centre*, but passed through our area after breeding elsewhere. **Great Egret** is one such example. The species doesn't breed locally, but is known to breed on the lower Susquehanna River. A **Great Egret** was seen from 7/7-14 by MB on a small pond off highway #550, a half mile south of highway #322. BS found one bird 7/16, another 7/18 in or near BESP. RB found two at once, in a small pond off highway #322, just east of Tait Tree Farm 7/20. Lastly, MH found one bird at CL, 7/27.

The first and only **Caspian Tern** of the period was found by GG on 7/23, as the bird flew by the beach, at BESP. **Caspian Tern**, like **Great Egret**, does not breed in *Centre*, but passes

through our area, after breeding elsewhere. Interestingly enough, a probable member of this species ended up in the hands of Robyn Graboski, this August, after it was found by people who thought the ailing bird was a "sea-gull!" Not a bad guess, decided Robyn (who has experienced far woolier identifications, over the years).

Observers: **Molly Heath, 234 Irvin Ave, State College, PA, 16801, maheath@aol.com; Bob Fowles, P.O. Box 266, Pine Grove Mills, PA, 16868, (814) 238-1990, rbf@psu.edu,** Cindy Angelone, Nick Bolgiano, Roy Boyle, Margaret Brittingham, Don Bryant, Jim Dunn, Bob and Ingrid Fowles, Robyn Graboski, Greg Grove, Falene Hamilton, Chuck Musser, Mary Evens, Ann Pangborn, Matt Rockmore, Bob Snyder, Rob Stone, George and Susan Young.

### *Chester County*

Locations: Crosslands Retirement Community (CRC), West Chester Breeding Bird Count (WCBC) - Based on the West Chester Christmas Bird Count Circle

A healthy number, 32, **Wood Ducks** was found in Area 1 of the WCBC circle 6/13 (TF, BP, BE, JE). BB made a delightful discovery in the West Valley Nature Area 6/13 during the WCBC. when he found a hen **Wild Turkey** with 6 tiny chicks (4 to 5 inches in size) which then disappeared into the surrounding brush. He recorded the location to determine what Atlas block this area is in.

RW was amazed to see 7 **Great Egrets** 7/4 while in his kayak on a reservoir in Phoenixville. He was on the reservoir a few times after that in July but found just 1 egret 7/26. **Green Herons** seem to be doing well in the county with reports from several people. High numbers, 6, were reported 6/13 in the Embreeville area (PE) and 12, 7/26, at a Phoenixville reservoir (RW). During the week of 7/1, JC reported seeing "a **Green Heron** fly out of the willow tree, and as it was flying overhead, it looked like it was fly catching (swooping swallow style after what I assume were bugs)." Also flying out of the same willow tree was a fledgling **Green Heron** which landed in the middle of a road in the Oaklands Corporate Center in Exton. "Once there it looked like it had no idea what to do, so it raised its head up in the air and froze (to blend in with the center road stripe perhaps). I had to stop the car and shoo the bird back into the marsh." One **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was seen at Phoenixville reservoir 7/20 (RW).

On 6/16, PE checked the **Bald Eagle** nest on Homeville Road and found two young birds about to leave the nest. An adult eagle was sitting on an electricity tower nearby. DM had a **Cooper's Hawk** nesting in a back yard near Parkerville and Pocopson Rds. Three chicks were found in the nest.

LL and GS found some late migrant shorebirds at Kurtz Fish Farm: 13 **Semipalmated Plovers** from 6/1-6/3; 2 **Greater Yellowlegs** 6/2; 1 **Lesser Yellowlegs** 6/1, 19 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** from 6/1-6/3; 3 to 5 **Least Sandpipers** 6/1-6/3; and 1 **White-rumped Sandpiper** 6/2. LL found 1 immature **Bonaparte's Gull** at Struble Lake 6/2. Three **Ring-billed Gulls** were seen at Struble Lake 6/1 (LL,GS,CL). DD found 6 **Ring-billeds** 6/13 in Area 10 of the WCBC circle.

TD heard quite a few **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** in Cain and Newlin Twps. This species has been mostly absent for several years, so it was gratifying to have them in the county again. Two **Yellow-billeds** and a possible **Black-billed Cuckoo** were heard in the Crosslands area at the beginning of June (DM); 13 **Yellow-billeds** were found during the WCBC 6/13; and 2 **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were found in Yellow Springs 7/21 (BE). Single birds were reported by other observers.

JB heard two **Whip-poor-wills** singing in Nottingham Park just after sunset 6/16. On the same day, he also heard a **Great Horned Owl** call just before sunset. He noticed an interesting phenomenon of **E. Wood-Pewees**, **Yellow-breasted Chats**, **Pine Warblers** and **Prairie Warblers** singing after dark. "They just did not want to stop when the sun went down." Always a welcome sight, a **Red-headed Woodpecker** was located in Nottingham Park 6/6 (TR, KR, JB).

A rare occurrence in *Chester* of an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** in Nottingham Park was noted on or about 6/2 (DW) and again reported by JB. Numbers of **Purple Martins** have been decreasing alarmingly in the county in recent years according to DM during a slide program she presented to the West Chester Bird Club this spring. On a positive note, DM reported three pairs in a new colony started in CRC by DH. PE and his group counted 215 **Tree Swallows** 6/13 in Area 9 during the WCBC. This large number of birds was the result of a nesting program conducted by LM who works for the West Bradford Parks Department. PE and his group counted 110 **Eastern Bluebirds** 6/13, also a result of LM's nesting program. TD was able to confirm breeding of **Brown Thrashers** in Newlin Twp. These birds are difficult to locate after the initial spring migration, so finding them breeding is welcome news.

BB made an interesting discovery: he found a male **Brewster's Warbler** in the West Valley Nature Area 6/13 where TD and he found a **Brewster's** last year. The bird was identical to last year's bird, marked like most male Brewsters except that the wingbars were yellow instead of white on this bird. Its song was just like a Blue-winged Warbler's song. On the same day, Barry was able to see two **Blue-winged Warblers** on this property. He relocated the **Brewster's Warbler** at the nature area 6/26. At that time there wasn't much singing, so he was unable to determine if Blue-winged Warblers were also still present.

**Vesper Sparrows** are extremely rare, one was found in the Oxford area 6/1 (LL, GS). **Grasshopper Sparrows** are becoming more and more scarce as the county is developed. TD reported seeing just one bird in the Unionville block, an area where he can usually find numbers of them. Only two reports of **Blue Grosbeaks** in *Chester* were received. DD saw one 6/13, and TD had 2, 6/17. TD found **Bobolinks** to be numerous in southern Newlin Twp. but wasn't able to confirm breeding. TD was able to confirm breeding for **Eastern Meadowlarks** in June. This is another species that is becoming more scarce in *Chester* where it was once plentiful.

One of the reporters (who shall remain nameless for safety's sake) of sightings in *Chester* had an interesting discovery in his "home block" while doing some PA Bird Atlas work. He was birding a very overgrown field behind a small strip mall when he "stumbled upon some marijuana growing in five-gallon buckets. The pot was being grown in a small clearing with bamboo poles and wire to keep out the deer. While wandering farther into the brush, I discovered quite a few more plants growing wild along a trail. All this was within 70 yards of a major highway! The police were quite impressed with my find."

Observers: **Eleanor Wolf, 148 Harvest Lane, Phoenixville, PA 19460, (610) 933-6414, wolfriel@voicenet.com** Elwood Barnes, Nancy and Bob Bernhardt, Barry Blust (BB), Justin Bosler, Joshua Clapper, Bob Cook, David Davis, Theodore Drozdowski, Paul Earley, Bob Elmer, Jen Elmer, Tony Fernandes, Ellie and Jim Harmstead, Mike Harvell, Beth Hopkins, Doc Houston, Mary Alice Knox, Grant and Margie Lashbrook, Carolyn Laskowski, Larry Lewis, Dale Linat, Doris McGovern, Holly Merker, Steve Molnar, Martin Page, Bruce Piecukonis, Nick Pulcinella, Tom Raub, Marita Richards, Ken Rieker, Jim Russell, Grier Saunders, Marianne Seitzer, Vince Smith, Lisa Tull, West Chester Bird Club

(WCBC), Breeding Bird Count (BBC), Dan and Hoy White, Judy White, Dave Wilton, Richard Wolf (RW).

### *Clarion County*

Locations: Curllsville (CV), Mt. Airy (MA), Mt. Zion (MZ), Sarah Furnace (SF), Shipperville (SV).

Some regular observers were busy with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Breeding Bird Atlas this summer, hence, an abbreviated report. A new wetland has developed in the last two years in SV at the old racetrack behind the Lutheran Church. Water from the last couple of summers of wet weather plus clay washed in from the old track have enlarged a vernal pond, killing many of the standing larger trees and making suitable habitat for waterfowl. On 6/22 one **Wood Duck** family and one **Hooded Merganser** family were observed here. Both families were seen regularly through 7/26. In addition, two **Green Herons**, a family of **Mallards**, many **Red-winged Blackbirds**, **Common Grackles**, **E. Phoebes**, **E. Kingbirds** and swallows were observed (HB,MB). On 7/29 a **Great Egret** at a Clarion golf course pond near I-80 Exit 62 surprised DH.

This observation of **Red-tailed Hawk** behavior at the Willenpart farm CV is worth passing along. "Yesterday, 7/22, while mowing our top fields that didn't get hayed this year, my husband had a great time watching our local **Red-tail** family, two adults and two young, having a feast as all the field mice, voles, etc., were left open to prey upon on the newly mowed area. He commented on all the different ways they have of catching prey. They seem to know the sound of the tractor because they usually show up shortly after he starts; apparently having learned it means an easier meal!" (CW)

The Delaware Valley Ornithological Club (DVOC) spent 6/26-27 in *Clarion* hitting the birding hot spots under the leadership of Ron Montgomery of Seneca Rocks Audubon. Mt. Zion was their prime destination and they found almost all the grassland species they were looking for: **Northern Harrier**, **Upland Sandpiper** (MA); **Clay-colored**, **Vesper**, **Savannah**, and **Henslow's Sparrows**, as well as **Bobolinks** and **Eastern Meadowlarks** (DM). The **Clay-colored Sparrow** has also been documented in a different area of MZ, Stockdill Rd., than in previous years (CW).

In southern *Clarion* on 6/10, 6/17, and 6/23 the **Cerulean Warbler** has been found in two separate areas: near SF Furnace and on the Philipston Rd.(CW). A **Louisiana Waterthrush** was also seen near SF on 6/22 (CW). **Kentucky Warblers** have been found in 4 southern areas of the county, one near SF also on 6/22 (CW). A **Yellow-breasted Chat** at CV was present on 6/26 (CW).

Observers: **Margaret Buckwalter, 249 Maple Dr., Shipperville, PA, 16254, (814) 782-3925, buckwalter@alltell.net**, Hendrika Bohlen, Dixie Humphrey, Doris McGovern (DM for DVOC), Ron Montgomery, Carole Willenpart

### *Clearfield County*

No Report. No Compiler.

### *Clinton County*

A Cattle Egret was in South Avis 6/20 (RL). A **Pine Siskin** visited a feeder in the Avis area on 7/8-9 (WL).

Observers: **Wayne Laubscher, 749 E. Croak Hollow Rd., Lock Haven, PA, 17745, (570) 748-7511, wlausch@cub.kcnet.org**, Robert Lugg.

## **Columbia County**

No Report:

Compiler: **Doug Gross, 144 Winters Road, Orangeville, PA, 17859, (570) 458-4568, douggross@sunlink.net**

## **Crawford County**

Locations: Erie National Wildlife Refuge (ENWR), Pymatuning Spillway (PS), Hartstown Marsh (HM), Conneaut Marsh (CM), Pymatuning Goose Management Area (PGMA), Miller Pond (MP), Linesville Fish Hatchery (FH), Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas (PBBA).

**Sandhill Cranes** were again reported in the county: 2 adults and 2 fledged young were seen at or near Cambridge Springs confirmed 7/22 (JMW, SS). This is a new location for the county. An adult was seen near Gilbert's, not far from ENWR 7/29 (KG, JS). The first **Great Egret** to arrive was at PGMA 7/24 (MV). A **Mute Swan** was seen at PS 6/19 (MV). A **Blue-winged Teal** was seen at (HM) 6/6 and 1 at PGMA 7/26. As many as 18 **Hooded Mergansers** were counted at PL and a few at ENWR and CM (MO).

**Ospreys** were seen at HM 6/6 and 6/12 (MB) and one at FH 6/21. **Bald Eagles** did well this period although I don't know the number of young fledged at this time. Fair numbers of **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were noted and two pairs of **Broad-winged Hawks** nested both east and west of Meadville (RFL).

A nice find was a hen **Ring-necked Pheasant** and 2 chicks along a dirt road N. of Linesville on the PBBA. It has been several years since I found wild pheasant chicks in this county (our winters are so harsh few breeding birds can survive)(RFL).

Two **Virginia Rails** were seen at Geneva (CM) 6/6 and 2 nearby 6/29. One **Sora** was found at HM 6/19 (MV) and **Common Moorhens** were found at CM and HM all this period (m.ob.). Single **Lesser Yellowlegs** was found at PGMA's MP 7/24 (MV) and one to two **Spotted Sandpipers** were at HM 7/18 (MB). MV found 7 **Least Sandpipers** at FH 7/10. I had 6 **Wilson's Snipe** at CM 6/6.

A rarity in *Crawford*, presumably from Lake Erie was a **Great Black-backed Gull** on Stone Jetty at PL 6/19 (MV). Two **Black Terns** (adults) were observed at HM 6/19 (MB) and a **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was found at HM 6/7 (MB). Three **E. Screech-Owl** nestlings were fledged on S. Morgan St in Meadville 6/29 (RL).

A pair of **Barred Owls** were calling at CM 6/29 (RCL). Two **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were seen at HM 6/1-7/11 (MB). A pair of **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were seen at HM 6/1 and 6/30 (MB) and one was noted at CM 6/6 (RFL). A **Blue-headed Vireo** was present at HM 6/6 and 7/18 (MB). A **White-eyed Vireo** was found 6/20 at CM (RCL) and at HM 7/18 (MB). A good total of 40 **N. Rough-winged Swallows** were at HM 7/18 (MB). I counted 250 **Cliff Swallow** nests 6/1-7/26 at the FH Visitor Center Building, 200 occupied by swallows others used by **House Sparrows** or empty. A **Brown Creeper** was noted at CM 6/6 (RFL). A **Winter Wren** was found along French Creek, along Bike Trail south of Meadville 6/21 (RCL, RFL). **Wood Thrushes** seem to be doing well here in central *Crawford* with at least 44 birds in the CM area 6/9 as well as several **Veeries**. MB reported 2 **N. Mockingbirds** 6/1 at HM.

**Canada Warbler** numbers were down here but most of the usual warblers did well, especially **Hooded**. Also found here were **Magnolia**, **Chestnut-sided**, **Mourning Warblers**, and at least 3 different **Yellow-breasted Chats** and one **Kentucky Warbler** (MO). **Swamp** and **Savannah Sparrows** did well here and many **Vesper Sparrows** were found along with a few **Henslow's**. RCL found a pair of **Orchard Orioles** at CM 6/19 and single birds were noted at HM 6/17 (EB) and 6/25 (MB).

Observers: **Ronald F. Leberman (RFL), 11508 Pettis Rd., Meadville, PA, 16335, (814) 724-5071**; Paul M. Brown, Edwin Byler, Marvin Byler, Kattie Goodblood, Robert C. Leberman (RCL), Ralph Linzey, Jerry McWilliams, Susan Smith, Jerry Stanley, Mark Vass

## **Cumberland County**

No Report.

Compiler: **Deuane Hoffman, 3406 Montour St., Harrisburg, PA, 17111, (717) 564-7475, corvuscorax@comcast.net**

## **Dauphin County**

Locations: Carsonville Area (CAR), East Hanover Twp. (EHT), Hershey Area Farms (HAF), Halifax Area (HAL), Haldeman Island (HI), Hershey IBA (HIBA), Highspire Reservoir/Lisa Lake (HRL), SGL 246 near Middletown (MGL), Middletown Area (MID), Stony Creek Valley (SCV), Susquehanna River from Ft. Hunter (SFH), Susquehanna River from Harrisburg (SHB), South Hanover Twp. (SHT), Susquehanna River from Marysville (SMV), Susquehanna River from Royalton (SRT), Susquehanna River from West Fairview (SWF), Wildwood Lake (WL).

Although many block reports have not yet been submitted the early results are exciting. Thus far four species have been confirmed nesting that were not recorded during the initial Breeding Bird Atlas project in the 1980s. The first was the report of a **Green-winged Teal** hen with chicks at WL 6/24 (SL). **Green-winged Teal** is quite common at WL during much of the year but this may be the first county record of nesting for this species and it could not have come at a better time. The second was the discovery of an **Osprey** nest near Three Mile Island (LC). Unfortunately, the nest was abandoned and **Turkey Vultures** were observed feeding on the remaining eggs 7/14 (SL & MM). The third species is the **Peregrine Falcon**. Its nesting success, five consecutive years, on the Rachel Carson Building in downtown Harrisburg is well documented. Less known is the nesting pair, for the second year, at the nuclear power facility on TMI where this year two young were successfully fledged 7/14 (SL, MM). The fourth is the **Double-crested Cormorant** that began nesting at the Wade Island Egret colony in 1996 and had 40 nests this spring when the annual survey was taken. In addition, **American Black Ducks** were confirmed and pairs of **Hooded** and **Common Mergansers** were observed in their "safe dates" at SHB (SL).

On a note of avian interest, an aerial engagement took place over the streets of Harrisburg on 8/5 and an immature **Red-tailed Hawk** learned a valuable lesson and survived. Don't mess with an adult **Peregrine Falcon** on its own turf! The **Red-tailed Hawk** was literally knocked from the sky. Dazed and disoriented it was taken to City Island where, after a brief respite, it regained its composure and took flight (JFt). An unusual assortment of summer stragglers were reported, and photographed, on the SR near the southern boundary of the county off Bashore Island. The first to appear was a **Lesser Scaup** 6/21-23, followed by a **Horned Grebe** drake in breeding plumage 6/23-7/1, **Common Loon** 6/24, a **Canvasback** 6/29-7/1, and a **Bufflehead** 7/1 (PS). A **Tricolored Heron** showed up for the Ned Smith Center's festival SMB 7/31 (CR) while a **Sandhill Crane** remained into the Atlas season and was observed at the Tobias Animal Farm near Halifax (GR). Two **American Golden Plovers** were found in a field along Hoernerstown Rd. in SHT 8/24 (TJ).

A pair of **Red-headed Woodpeckers** near the Tobias Animal Farm are being monitored for possible nesting (GR). The **Alder Flycatcher** reported this spring in a field near Royalton with **Willow Flycatchers** remained through mid June but no evidence of breeding was observed 6/19 (PF). A migrating **Olive-sided Flycatcher** paid a visit to SHT 8/25 (TJ). Two active **Bank**

**Swallow** colonies were also discovered on nearby Shelley Island during this period (PS).

An elusive hybrid **Lawrence's Warbler** was reported in an Atlas block north of the borough of Dauphin along with five singing **Cerulean Warbler** males on Peters Mt. 6/21 (CBt). On a "warbler hunt" a few days later 6/25 in WSF, a family of **Golden-winged Warblers** was among the discoveries. Also found that day were **Black-throated Blue**, **Black-throated Green**, and **Chestnut-sided Warblers**, as well as **Veery** and **Hermit Thrush**. (TJ, RK, JR). **Pine Warbler** was confirmed in a block at the west end of Blue Mt. (JC, BH).

A female **Red-winged Blackbird** was observed feeding an albino fledgling, "complete with pink legs and pink eyes", at WL 6/24 (SL). **Bobolinks** and **Horned Larks** were among the probable nesters on Milton Hershey School farm land east and north of Hershey (CBt, SS, P&RW).

Observers: **Patricia & Richard Williams, 3 Parkside Dr., Hummlestown, PA, 17036, (717) 566-6562, RWPuffin@aol.com**, Chuck Berthoud, Scott Bills, Joe Church, Larry Coble, Jack Farster, Jodi & Pete Fox, Jan Getgood, Bill Hintze, Ernest Johnson, Tom Johnson, Ramsay Koury, Karl Kugle, George Kurie (GL), Sandy & Gary Lockerman, Mike Murphy, Gail Randall, Sharon & Steve Rannels, Chris Rebert, Joan Renninger, Pat Sabold, Scott Seibert, Rosemary Spreha, Pam White, Sally & Rich Zaino

#### **Delaware County**

Locations: John Heinz NWR at Tincum-Delaware County portion (TI)

The breeding months were cooler and wetter than average with long strings of rainy, gloomy days. Springton Res. showed no muddy edge after larger than usual amounts of rain throughout the breeding season overflowed the banks. Most shorebird sightings came from the edge of the Delaware River near the Philadelphia Airport and the mud flats along Darby Creek at TI.

Bluebird trail monitors at Greenbank Farm were also keeping tabs on three **Green Heron** nests in the willows around the small pond (RW, SW). At least four herons fledged, but the heavy rain and/or predation seem to have destroyed one or both of the other nests. While checking on the progress of the nests, we found small balls of downy fluff strewn around the pond—not a good sign.

Several reports of a **Bald Eagle** along Crum Creek were probably an unmated bird lingering in the area, or more likely one of the birds from the NJ pair across the Delaware River from Tincum Twp. **Cooper's Hawk** nested at Tyler Arboretum, and three fledglings were seen in the pinetum for over a week. The **Broad-winged Hawk** pair could be heard and only occasionally seen in the woods behind my house near Media. They have moved the nest site downstream toward Crum Creek, and I could not confirm breeding (although I'm sure they tried).

Two **Solitary Sandpiper** at TI on 7/24, were accompanied by **10 Greater Yellowlegs**, **4 Lesser Yellowlegs**, and several hundred **Least** and **Semipalmated Sandpiper** (AG). At the Fire Fighter's Pond inside the Airport fence AG found a **Dunlin** on 6/1. Two **Little Blue Heron** were at TI on 7/24 (AG). **Turkey** and **Black Vulture** are increasingly abundant throughout the county (RH), and usually little effort is needed to locate nest sites. However, at Haverford College, SJ added **Black Vulture** to the Breeding Bird Atlas block list and confirmed the species when she found a nest with one chick.. This is the second nest record I know of since the 1987 nest was found at Ridley Creek SP.

**Forster's Terns** were on Tincum area creeks from 7/24 in mixed age groups of up to 50 birds. While atlasing in Swarthmore

DE found a **Fish Crow** nest on a residential street corner in the vicinity of Little Crum Creek, hardly typical habitat. The single **Cliff Swallow** nest under the Gradyville Rd. bridge was not successful. **Common Nighthawk** were not reported this season, although some of the mall roofs might provide adequate habitat. I have seen a few industrial sites in Aston which have installed the stone roofs these birds prefer.

Reports on the common passerines were unremarkable and their breeding status is reflected in the seasonal tables. As far as I've been told, none of the hoped for species, such as **Black-and-White Warbler**, **Worm-eating Warbler** or **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**, were found.

Three **Eastern Meadowlark** continued at the Philadelphia Airport through 6/4, but nesting behavior was not observed (AG).

Observers: **Doris McGovern, 209 Dogwood Rd., Media, PA 19063, (610) 565 8484, mcgovern@masca.museum.upenn.edu**, Brian Byrnes, Dave Eberly, Al Guarente, Rich Horwitz, Sheryl Johnson, Rick West, Sharon West.

#### **Elk County**

No Report. No Compiler

#### **Erie County**

Locations: Erie International Airport (EIA), Presque Isle State Park (PI)

This summer was colder and wetter than normal, which was good for shorebirds at Gull Point at Presque Isle State Park since the constant rain kept the flats wet with pools. Despite the cold wet weather cavity nesting birds such as **Eastern Bluebirds** and **House Wrens** fledged at least two broods. Below are the more unusual sightings for this period.

A **Red-breasted Merganser** lingered until 6/12 at Gull Point on PI (MV). Unusual was a **Common Loon** observed flying high over Lake Erie on 6/24 west of PI (BC). Two **Great Egrets** were observed at Gull Point on PI 7/31 (BC). The only **Least Bittern** report was one seen at Niagara Pond on PI on 6/12 (MV).

A **Merlin** seen flying over Erie on 6/4 was very late (TJC). The **Peregrine Falcon** flying past Sunset Point at PI on 7/19 was one of only two July records for this species in *Erie* (IT). An **American Avocet** was present at Gull Point at PI on 7/22 (BC). The 200+ **Lesser Yellowlegs** counted during a shorebird fallout at Gull Point on PI on 7/31 was an exceptionally high number for *Erie* (BC). Up to three **Willetts** were recorded at PI on 7/4, 22, & 31 (MV, JM, BC). While conducting a bird survey for the EIA on 6/13 JM spotted an **Upland Sandpiper** on the airfield, but unfortunately was not seen again. A total of four **Whimbrel** were present at Gull Point on PI from 7/18 to 31 (JM, BC). Eight **Red Knots** on 7/31 at Gull Point on PI was a good count for this rare species (JM). An adult **Western Sandpiper** was studied at Gull Point on PI on 7/12 (JM). **Stilt Sandpipers** made a good showing during the fallout of 7/31 at Gull Point on PI when BC counted 37 in the a.m. and JM counted 18 in the pm. An adult **Long-billed Dowitcher** was identified by its call on 7/22 for a very rare and early record for *Erie* (BC). The rare but regular **Laughing Gull** was seen at Gull Point on PI on 6/12 and 7/10 (MV). The **Lesser Black-backed Gull** that appeared on 7/21 and remained to at least 7/31 on Gull Point at PI, was a first July record for this species in *Erie* (JM).

A partial albino **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** visited a feeder in Waterford in late June (CB fide EB). A singing **Sedge Wren** was heard during a bird survey at the EIA on 6/20, but the field where the bird was found was cut the following week (JM).

Very rare in summer were three **N. Mockingbirds** at the EIA through at least 7/5 (JM). **Grasshopper Sparrows** are very rarely found breeding in the county, so the confirmed breeding pair at the EIA was a good find (JM, BC). Two **Pine Siskins** coming to a feeder through 6/16 in Union City were suspiciously late (DP).

Observers: **Jerry McWilliams, 3508 Allegheny Rd, Erie, PA, 16508, (814) 868-3059, jerrymcw@aol.com**, Charles Burns, Ed Burns, Ben Coulter, Toby & Jean Cunningham, Donna Peters, Igor Titov, Mark Vass

### **Fayette County**

Some interesting breeding species were found in the county. All reports are from Quebec Run Wild Area and were submitted by Walt and Dana Shaffer.

Five **Ring-necked Pheasants** were recorded 6/6 as well as 7 **Ruffed Grouse** and surprisingly, only 1 **Wild Turkey**.

Montane species found included **Hermit Thrush, Black-throated Green Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, and Northern Parula**. Second growth specialists such as **Golden-winged and Prairie warblers** were nice additions to the list of breeders.

Grassland species represented included **Grasshopper Sparrow, Bobolink, and Eastern Meadowlark**; always present but scattered in this heavily forested county.

Observers: **Mike Fialkovich, 805 Beulah Road, Pittsburgh, PA, 15235, (412) 731-3581, mpfial@earthlink.net**, Dana Shaffer, Walt Shaffer.

### **Forest County**

Locations: German Hill (GH); Kellettsville (KE); Neiltown (NE); Stewart Run (SR).

Work on the Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas provided a great boost to our breeding data this year, more than doubling the number of confirmed species from 2003, although the total number of species was not quite as high. Following sightings by F&JM unless otherwise indicated.

A **Bald Eagle** was seen "On Nest" at a site which was successful in 2003, but this nest apparently failed and was abandoned. Three successful **N. Goshawk** nests were found in *Forest* this year (DB, USFS, F&JM). A **Broad-winged Hawk** nest was confirmed with 2 young on GH on 6/27 (F&JM).

**American Woodcock** were reported as "Possible" or "Probable" at eleven different locations, 10 in the GH area and 1 near SR. An **Acadian Flycatcher** was found feeding young near KE on 7/21. A **Yellow-throated Vireo** was spotted near KE on 6/16. **Common Raven** was reported feeding young on 6/15 near NE (BA). A **Purple Martin** colony was discovered on 6/30 near Whig Hill. **Bank Swallows** were nesting along Tionesta Creek on 6/27. **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were found in three locations and confirmed in one of them, near Tionesta (unnamed atlas observer). A **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was spotted at Buzzard Swamp on 5/24 (JS, RM, GE, RS, F&JM).

The Tionesta Lake Bluebird Trail's 48 boxes (including 4 at KE) fledged 92 **Tree Swallows**, 21 **Black-capped Chickadees**, 4 **House Wrens**, and 37 **Eastern Bluebirds** this year. There was not much predation this summer, but on 5/23 it was discovered that 5 nests begun by **Eastern Bluebirds** and 1 begun by **Black-capped Chickadees** had been taken over by **Tree Swallows**.

**Swainson's Thrushes** were found in 2 locations, and confirmed near KE on 7/21. **Blue-winged Warbler** was confirmed near Tionesta (PBBA, unknown reporter or date). **Golden-**

**winged Warbler** was reported near Lake Lucy on 6/20 (JF); also near SR on 6/1. **Northern Parulas** were seen in several locations, and one was seen carrying food on 6/27 near KE. A **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was reported feeding young near NE (BA). A **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was seen near NE on 6/19 (BA); they were also found in two locations near SR on 6/17 and 6/28. A **Cerulean Warbler** was reported feeding young near NE on 7/7 (BA). **Canada Warblers** were found at 3 different locations; one was seen feeding young on GH on 7/8.

**Savannah Sparrows** were spotted at two different locations near KE, and seen carrying food near Little Hickory on 6/27. A **Grasshopper Sparrow** was discovered near Little Hickory on 6/22. **Bobolinks** were found in 3 locations – confirmed at Whig Hill on 6/24 and near Little Hickory on 6/22. **Purple Finches** were sighted at 7 different locations in the county; they were confirmed at Little Hickory on 6/22.

Observers: **Flo McGuire, HC 1 Box 6A, Tionesta, PA, 16353, (814) 755-3672, mcguires@usachoice.net**, Bob Anderson, Dave Brinker, Gary Edwards, John Fedak, Ron Montgomery, Jerry Stanley, Russ States, US Forest Service, Don Watts, Flo & Jim McGuire

### **Franklin County**

No Report.

Observers: **Dale L. Gearhart, PO Box 155, Shady Grove, PA, 17256, (717) 597-3979, gear@innernet.net**,

### **Fulton County**

Locations: Buchanan State Forest (BSF), Forbes Trail Road Pond (FTRP), Haines-Seville Wetlands Restoration Area (HSWRA)

Highlight of the quarter was the sudden reappearance of certain species characteristic of more southern deciduous forests and brushy lands. **N. Bobwhite, White-eyed Vireo, and Blue Grosbeak** are not detected every year in *Fulton*. However during the Summer of 2004, above average numbers were tabulated for these birds. It is suggested that the 17 year cicada phenomena was a factor that favored the birds' northward reestablishment to reside near the abundant ephemeral cicada food supply.

At HSWRA, a female **Ring-necked Duck**, first discovered in mid-May, was present up to 8/29. After numerous visits, only **Ring-necked Duck** agitated behavior was noted (DS,RR). A drake **Green-winged Teal** in eclipse plumage was discovered on FTRP on 7/19 (DS, RR). An actively feeding fledgling **Pied-billed Grebe** was found at HSWRA on 6/6 (DS, RR).

On 6/5, a road-killed **N. Bobwhite** was found along Timber Ridge Road (DS, RR). A **Red-shouldered Hawk**, an unusual summer visitor, was observed along Stahle Road on 6/21 (DS). During a 6/21 bird survey, **White-eyed Vireos** were singing along High Germany and Negro Mtn Roads (DS). On 6/21 a **Bank Swallow** was noted feeding along Schultz Road (DS).

The BSF Roaring Run Trail, a white pine predominated wetland forest, hosted 2 **Blue-headed Vireos** and 4 **Black-throated Green Warblers** on 7/18 (DS, RR). The summer **Blue Grosbeaks** were found in substantial numbers – most in recent memory. West of Needmore at separate locations, 4 **Blue Grosbeaks** were found along a 6/14 bird survey (DS). On 6/21, a singing male **Blue Grosbeak** was noted on Harmon Rd (DS). In a Buck Valley residential lawn, a **Common Grackle** was observed holding a baby bird on the ground 6/21 (DS). As the grackle was feeding on the bird, a male **Yellow Warbler** flew at the scene and hobbled onto the ground feigning a broken wing display. The baby bird was quite large and the observer felt the baby was indeed a **Brown-headed Cowbird**.

Observers: **Dan Snell, PO Box 653, Shippensburg, PA 17257, (717) 530-8313, dan\_snell@hotmail.com, Regina Reeder**

### **Greene County**

Locations: Ralph Bell Farm – Morgan Twp. (RBF), Center Twp. (CTR), Cumberland Twp. (CUM), Drift Ridge Road – Wayne Twp. (DRR), Kern Farm – Morgan Twp. (KF), Mary Laplante Farm – Perry Twp. (MLF), Santucci Farm - Morgan Twp. (SF)

Again this summer we had a cool wet season in *Greene*. Overall the birds seem to do well with this. The Atlas Breeding Bird Project has more folks out watching behavior, thus making this report more substantial.

A **Ring-neck Pheasant** was observed near KF walking along at the edge of a hayfield with a chick (nearly dove size) in early June (KK). NP saw a mother **Wild Turkey** with 5 babies (robin sized) on DRR 6/12. RB reported seeing a **Sharp-shinned Hawk** fly over his farm (RBF) 7/15, although he seldom sees them in the summer. He also had a **Cooper's Hawk** that was frequently chased by his nesting **Purple Martins** (at least 25 pair) and **Barn Swallows** (25-30 pair). He banded 5 baby **American Kestrels** that were raised in a box on his farm. They left the nest by 6/25. On 6/6, NP rescued a nearly fledged **Mourning Dove** at DRR, when her cat chased it from the nest. When she returned it to the nest the mother came to it and started to feed it.

ML reports at the busiest time in July at MLF, her many newly fledged **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** went through a quart of sugar water a day. She states, "They were like a swarm of insects-impossible to count them." She also has found they especially like the hollyhocks, trumpet vine, hosta, butterfly bush, and fuchsia growing around the house. KR observed a young **Downy Woodpecker** at her suet feeder in CUM 5/15. Again this year, RB often noted a pair of **Common Ravens** fly over RBF, but he fears their nest was destroyed when workmen tore down the big concrete building at the old mine site in Mather. ML also reports many **Barn Swallow** nests (8-10) in the barn at MLF with at least 2 broods raised from each nest. She watched more than 40 of them on the power line taking a "bath" in the rain. As of 8/24, she only had 8 left, three of which are very young.

KR had a **Carolina Chickadee** pair next in a bluebird box in her yard in CUM, while ML enjoyed the antics of her **Carolina Wrens** at MLF. She had 2 nests in the barn. One was in a canoe that hangs upside down, with the nest tucked into the bow, and the other behind a sheet of plastic that covers a window. As for outside birds, KK at KF had difficulty keeping the twine that supports her climbing flowers on the deck, in one piece. In May, a **House Finch** pair picked at the twine repeatedly, stealing enough to make a satisfactory nest. Then from 6/15-17, a pair of **Cedar Waxwings** picked enough to finally break the twine, ignoring the loose pieces she had laid out for them.

At MLF, ML reports a **Parula Warbler** that flew at the basement window for several days defending his territory. MH found a **Chestnut-sided Warbler** in CTR 6/13. At DRR 7/17 NP spotted a **Scarlet Tanager** beginning to molt.

On 7/10 RB was invited to a neighbor's field to identify a bird. To his delight he found two **Henslow's Sparrows** singing. The field had not been mowed this year and the **Henslow's** apparently found it to their liking. They are pretty scarce in *Greene*. ML watched as a **Song Sparrow** built a nest this summer in the same shrub that had been occupied by a **Song Sparrow** last summer (same bird?). They successfully raised two broods.

KR had a baby **N. Cardinal** begging food from its parent at her feeder 6/10. KK was working in the garden at KF when she noticed a little brown baby bird sitting on a cornstalk. The mystery was soon solved when a male **Indigo Bunting** flew in to feed his youngster. KR watched as a baby **House Finch** begged

food from its parent at her feeder in CUM. ML reports **House Sparrow** nests high in a tall spruce tree in her yard at MLF, and of course, in a blue bird box in the yard.

Observers: **Kathy Kern, 322 kennel Rd., Waynesburg, PA, 15370, (724) 627-5376. M3xsj@alltel.net, Ralph Bell, Kathy Reeves, Nancy Phillips, Marjorie Howard, Mary Laplante.**

### **Huntingdon County**

For the 13th consecutive year, 3 Breeding Bird Survey routes were conducted within Rothrock State Forest in *Huntingdon, Mifflin* and *Centre*. Each route consists of 50, 3-minute stops with the majority of the stops found in *Huntingdon* (NB, GG). The ten most frequently recorded species this year from the combined routes are noted along with their 13-year averages in parenthesis. **Red-eyed Vireo**, 235 (179); **Ovenbird**, 183 (158); **Scarlet Tanager**, 77 (70); **Eastern Towhee**, 63 (79); **Wood Thrush**, 50 (49); **Black-throated Green Warbler**, 46 (28); **Common Yellowthroat**, 43 (48); **Hooded Warbler**, 32 (20); **Acadian Flycatcher**, 29 (27); and **Eastern Wood Pewee**, 27 (35). **American Redstarts** and **Brown-headed Cowbirds** were recorded at record low numbers while **Veeries** and **Blue-headed Vireos** were recorded well above their 13-year average.

Juniata College's Raystown Field Station raised six **Ospreys** during their second year of a project to re-establish an inland breeding population in the Juniata River basin. Three of the birds were killed by a **Great-horned Owl**, but the remaining 3 were successfully fledged near Lake Raystown (CY). A pair of **American Kestrels** also successfully fledged 2 young at a nest site in an abandon house in Ennisville (DW).

Observers: **Doug Wentzel, Shaver's Creek Environmental Center, 3400 Discovery Road, Petersburg PA, 16669, (814) 863-2000, djw105@psu.edu** Nick Bolgiano, Greg Grove, Chuck Yohn.

### **Indiana County**

Locations: Blue Spruce County Park (BS), Creekside (CS), Gipsy Strips (GS), Lewisville (LV), Little Mahoning Creek (LMC), North Point (NP), Yellow Creek State Park (YC).

High count of **Canada Geese** was 72 at YC 6/27 (LC). **Wood Duck** ducklings were found 6/18 near LV (MH,RH), 6/25 near NP(CG,MH), and 7/12 at the Ernest coal refuse pile (MH,RH). A pair of **Am. Black Ducks** at YC 6/27 and 7/17 was unusual (LC). First **Mallard** fledglings were 5 at YC 6/15 (CG,MH). A late **Surf Scoter** was at YC 6/1 (CG,MH,GL,SS). Two female **Common Mergansers** with 6 young confirmed this species for the first time in *Indiana* 6/3 (CG,MH).

In spite of the intensity of field work during the summer months because of the Breeding Bird Atlas, only 2 **Ruffed Grouse** were noted, 1 near Five Points 6/14 (MH,RH) and 1 near NP 6/25 (CG,MH). **N. Bobwhite** was found only near Dayton 6/13 (MH,RH) and near Clymer 6/15-18 (EB). A family group of 4 **Green Herons** was spotted at YC 6/29 (MH,SS).

An immature **Mississippi Kite** flew over YC 6/1 (CG,MH,GL,SS), the second of the season in the state for the three of us who had attended the PSO meeting (CG,MH,GL); this was a first county record. An immature **Bald Eagle** near Clymer 6/13 was the lone report (EB). A male **N. Harrier** at the GS 7/10 was unexpected (LC,MH,RH). **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were listed at 6 locations (v.o.); **Cooper's Hawks**, at 4 (v.o.). Fledgling **Red-shouldered Hawks** were found at YC 6/29 (MH,SS); an adult was seen at the GS 7/10 (LC,MH,RH). **Broad-winged Hawk** reports came from 9 locations. A **Semipalmated Plover** stopped at YC 6/1 (CG,MH,GL,SS). By 7/13, 8 **Killdeer** had

started to congregate on the limited mud at YC which was completely flooded by the month's end (MH,JS,SS); 30 near CM 7/28 was the high tally (EB). **Spotted Sandpiper** was territorial only at the Homer City Power Plant; a singleton showed up at the Ernest coal refuse pile 7/12 (MH,RH), and 2 appeared at YC the following day (MH,JS,SS). The season's first were 2 **Least Sandpipers**, 1 **Baird's Sandpiper**, and 1 **Short-billed Dowitcher** at YC 7/20 (MH,GL,JS,SS); all of these shorebirds were still present later that evening (EF,MF,DL). **Am. Woodcock** reports included 1 near SH 6/7 (MH,RH) and 3 near CM 6/14 (EB). YC hosted 1 **Ring-billed Gull** 6/29 (MH,SS) and again 7/20 (MH,GL,JS,SS); 4 were noted 7/27 (MH,SS) in the rain. A **Caspian Tern** visited YC 7/13 (MH,JS,SS) during yet another downpour.

**Black-billed Cuckoos** appeared to be in good numbers with 11 reports. **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were seen carrying food 6/25 near NP (CG,MH) and 7/10 at the GS (LC,MH,RH). No **E. Screech-Owls** were noted, and **Great Horned Owls** were listed at only 4 locations (v.o.). One **Barred Owl** near SH 6/23 was the lone report (RH). No **Common Nighthawk** reports were received. June 23 yielded 1 **Whip-poor-will** in Dark Hollow and 1 between SH and CS (EF,MF,MH,RH). **Belted Kingfishers** had successfully fledged 2 young at YC 7/13 when all 4 were sighted (MH,JS,SS). **Red-headed Woodpecker** was found only near LV 6/25-26 (MC). A **Red-bellied Woodpecker** nest with young was found 6/15 (CG,MH) at YC, where a **Downy Woodpecker's** nest with young was found 6/1 (CG,MH,GL,SS). **Hairy Woodpeckers** were feeding young at BS 7/2 (MH). **N. Flickers** brought their young to a SH feeder 7/16 (MH,RH). A family group of 4 **Pileated Woodpeckers** near CS 7/21 was a noisy find (MH).

An **E. Wood-Pewee's** nest contained young east of NP 7/8 (CG,MH). An **Acadian Flycatcher** was sitting on its nest near Rochester Mills 6/12 (MH). An **Alder Flycatcher** near Parkwood 6/10 (MH,RH) and another at the confluence of LMC and Mahoning Creek were the lone reports. Though widespread, no **Willow Flycatchers** were confirmed breeding. Unsettling was the total dearth of **Least Flycatchers**, which had not been a difficult bird to find in years past. BS yielded 5 **Great Crested Flycatchers** 7/2 of which 3 were young being fed by the adults (MH). **E. Kingbirds** nested about 40 feet up on an electric transmission pole near SH 6/14 (MH,RH). **White-eyed Vireos** seemed to be in low numbers with reports only at YC 6/1 (CG,MH,GL,SS) and 6/27 (LC); near SH 6/14, 17, 24 (MH); near Homer City 6/21 (RH); and near CS 6/24, 7/21 (MH). **Yellow-throated Vireos**, too, were in short supply with reports only from near Smicksburg 6/3 (CG,MH), near CS 6/24 and 7/21 (MH), and near NP 6/25 and 7/8 (CG,MH). The LMC Valley yielded 8 **Blue-headed Vireos** 6/12 including one pair with a nest of young (MH); the presence of 1 at BS 7/2 was unusual as they had previously been only migrants through the park (MH). **Warbling Vireo** was noted at 5 locations including a territorial pair along Crooked Creek near SH 6/6,14,26 (MH,RH). **Red-eyed Vireos** were reported in good numbers; one sighted carrying nesting material on 7/20 seemed late (MH,GL,JS,SS). At least 1 **Fish Crow** continued on the IUP campus (LC). A group of 5 **Common Ravens** flying near CM 6/18 comprised the lone report (EB).

A pair of **Purple Martins** nested for the first time near Smicksburg (fide DS); the male had been banded at Yough Country Club in *Westmoreland* while the female was unbanded. The nest had problems with blowflies, but one nestling may have fledged successfully. **Tree Swallows** were found nesting 6/12 at the GS in many of the boxes erected by Tom Betts' biology class (MH). Last **N. Rough-winged Swallows** occurred 6/29 at YC (MH,SS). One **Bank Swallow** at YC 7/27 was the lone report (MH,SS), and no **Cliff Swallows** were noted; surely these two species nest somewhere in the county, but no nest sites have yet

been found. First **Barn Swallow** fledglings were listed 6/18 near Homer City (MH,RH). EB counted as many as 120 Barn Swallows, including the fledged young, at his family's barn near CM on 7/19. **Black-capped Chickadees** were still feeding young at YC 7/13 (MH,JS,SS). A **Tufted Titmouse** nest was located at YC 6/1 (CG,MH,GL,SS); this was one of many confirmations. **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were present near SH during June and July, but nesting was not confirmed this year (MH,RH). First fledged **White-breasted Nuthatches** were recorded at YC 6/15 (CG,MH). **Brown Creepers** were listed only near the GS 6/12 (MH) and at YC 6/22 (MH,SS), 7/13 (MH,JS,SS), and 7/20 (MH,GL,JS,SS). **Carolina Wrens** were observed at only 5 locations. A **Winter Wren** sang almost constantly for 2 hours at BS 6/7 (CG,MH); it appeared to be an unmated bird and could not be relocated on later trips. **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were territorial in mature spruce near NP 6/25 and 7/8 (CG,MH); they were confirmed nesting near SH 7/12 (MH). Seven insatiable downy young were perched on a horizontal pine bough and being fed by two very active adults; it looked like a picture for a Christmas card!

**E. Bluebirds** still had young in the nest at YC 7/20 (MH,GL,JS,SS). A **Veery** near CS 7/9 was not believed to be nesting (CG,MH). One to two **Hermit Thrushes** were present in the LMC Valley 6/12 (MH), 7/1 (MH), and 7/10 (LC,MH,RH); another Hermit Thrush was heard at SGL 262 on 7/31 (EB,MH,RH). YC yielded 15 **Wood Thrushes** 6/15 including several carrying food (CG,MH). **Gray Catbirds** were widespread with high counts of 19 at YC 6/29 (MH,SS) and 11 near SH 6/24 (MH). **N. Mockingbirds** occurred at 11 locations but remained unconfirmed this season. The first fledgling **Brown Thrashers** were found 7/6 at YC (MH,JS,SS).

**Blue-winged Warblers** were observed carrying food near Five Points 6/14 (MH,RH) and near CS 6/24 (MH). A **Golden-winged Warbler**, the lone report, was singing under a powerline near SH 6/25 (MH,RH). **N. Parula** was listed only at YC 6/15 (CG,MH) and near NP 6/16, 25 (CG,MH). Various **Yellow Warblers** were observed carrying both nesting material and food south of NP 6/3 (CG,MH). **Chestnut-sided Warblers** were confirmed carrying food at YC 6/15 (CG,MH) and near CS 7/21 (MH). More **Magnolia Warblers** than expected were found this summer: 3 at YC 6/22 (MH,SS) included a pair; 2 along LMC 7/1 (MH) and 7/10 (LC,MH,RH) with one on the latter date carrying food; and 2 east of Dayton 7/19 (CG,MH). The LMCV yielded 16 **Black-throated Green Warblers** 7/1 including 3 fledglings being fed by an adult (MH) and 1 **Blackburnian Warbler** 6/12, 7/1 (MH) and 7/10 (LC,MH,RH). YC harbored as many as 3 **Blackburnians** throughout the period. **Pine Warblers** continued near SH through at least 7/16 (MH). Adults were feeding young **Prairie Warblers** at YC 6/22 (MH,SS). A **Cerulean Warbler** was singing near NP 6/16 (CG,MH); about a mile further upstream another was found 7/8 (CG,MH). **Black-and-white Warblers** were on territory near NP 6/3,16,25 and 7/8 (CG,MH) and near CS regularly through 7/21 (MH). **American Redstart** was spotted on a nest near NP 6/16 (CG,MH); by 7/8, the young had fledged and were being fed by the parents (CG,MH). **Ovenbirds** were carrying food by 6/7 at BS (CG,MH). **Louisiana Waterthrushes** nested along LMC, Laurel Run, and along Little Yellow Creek A fledgling **Kentucky Warbler** was spotted with 2 adults near SH 7/12 (MH). **Common Yellowthroats** were first seen carrying food 6/2 near SH (MH) and 6/3 south of NP (CG,MH). YC yielded 11 **Hooded Warblers** 6/15, one of which was very agitated and holding a green caterpillar in its bill (CG,MH). At least 5 **Yellow-breasted Chats** were present around the Homer City power plant 6/21 (RH).

Young **Scarlet Tanagers** were out of the nest by 6/12 near Rochester Mills (MH) and 6/15 (CG,MH) at YC. A **Clay-colored Sparrow** was first heard then "scoped" at the GS 7/1 (MH); the

bird could not be relocated on 7/10. Three **Vesper Sparrows** were found on the *Indiana* portion of the Edgewood GBS; the only other reports were near LV 6/10 (MH,RH), at the GS 6/12 (MH) and 7/10 (LC,MH,RH); near SH 6/14 (MH,RH); near NP 6/25 and 7/8, (both CG,MH); and near CM 7/11 (EB). **Grasshopper Sparrows** were carrying food at the GS 7/1 (MH). **Henslow's Sparrow** reports included 3-5 at the GS on 3 dates (MH) and 1 at Locust 7/1 (MH). **Swamp Sparrows** were at YC throughout the season (v.o.); 4 were found near NP 7/8 (CG,MH) and 3 near Dayton 7/19 (CG,MH). **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were first seen carrying food at YC 6/15 (CG,MH). **Indigo Buntings** were still nesting near NP 6/16 (CG,MH). A pair of **Bobolinks** was still on territory at the GS 7/10 (LC,MH,RH). First fledged **E. Meadowlarks** were spotted near CM 6/8 (EB). An adult **Orchard Oriole** feeding young and fledgling **Baltimore Orioles** were found near NP 7/8 (CG,MH). Young **Purple Finches** were listed near CS 7/5 (JG,MH) and near Indiana 7/23 (GF,MH,GL). Two **Pine Siskins** appeared near LV 6/3,7 (MC) then 1 returned 7/6 (MC).

Observers: **Margaret Higbee, 3119 Creekside Rd., Indiana, PA, 15701, (724) 354-3493, bcoriole@twd.net**, Eli Beiler, Lee Carnahan, Marcy Cunkelman, Gary Ferrence, Evelyn Fowles, Mike Fowles, Joyce Griffith, Carol Guba, Roger Higbee, Gloria Lamer, Dennis Lauffer, John Salvetti, Duke Snyder, Scott Speedy.

#### *Jefferson County*

No Report. No Compiler.

#### *Juniata County*

No Report.

Compiler: **Toby Petersheim, RR2, Box 539, Mifflintown, PA, 17059**

#### *Lackawanna County*

A **Sedge Wren** several times on territory in Newton Twp. (Rick Koval).

No Compiler.

#### *Lancaster County*

Locations: Susquehanna River (SR), Conejohela Flats (CF); Middlecreek WMA (MC)

This summer was one of the coolest on record with only two days hitting ninety degrees or higher. It was also a summer with above average precipitation and frequent storms. This weather did not turn up a lot of great rarities, but it did increase the attractiveness of the Conejohela Flats to migrating shorebirds and waders since there were not a lot of other mudflats available.

This summer both a **Mute Swan** and **Tundra Swan** spent time at the SRCF for most of the period (m.ob.). A few straggling **Snow Geese** that spent the summer at MC were probably attributable to birds that were injured. In early July, as many as five adult **Wild Turkeys** were seen with as many as 17 young at MC.

In July the egret numbers were built to solid levels with a peak count of 85 **Great Egrets** on 7/31 (DHe). Several **Snowy Egrets** (from 7/30) and **Little Blue Herons** (from 7/24) were also present at SRCF.

Once again, the various **Osprey** and **Bald Eagle** nests in the southern part of the county were successful at fledging some young (JS)

The shorebirds once again stole the show this summer and began to appear in numbers in the middle of July. The highlight

was a female **Ruff** (i.e, a **reeve**) on 7/19 at the SRCF (DH, CK). Other shorebirds that same day included 2 **Greater Yellowlegs**, 15 **Lesser Yellowlegs**, 7 **Spotted Sandpipers**, 12 **Semipalmated Sandpipers**, 170 **Least Sandpipers**, and 3 **Short-billed Dowitchers**. **Semipalmated Plover** were seen on 7/24 (JH). Other birds seen at CF on 7/27 included **Sanderling**, and **Stilt Sandpiper**. A check at SRCF on 7/30 added several additional species of shorebirds to the tally such as two **Black-bellied Plover**, **American Avocet**, two **Western Sandpipers**, 8 **Pectoral Sandpipers**, and **Long-billed Dowitcher**. The next day added **Marbled Godwit** with a strong tally of 220 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** and 180 **Least Sandpipers** (DHe). The CF also produced decent numbers of **Caspian** and **Forster's Terns** along with a **Least Tern** on 7/19 (DH, JH, CK).

The Breeding Bird Atlas generated a few additional reports in the slower summer season. One highlight was an **Acadian Flycatcher** on the nest in block 93B73 on 6/29 (JS). The **Prothonotary Warblers** in the Bainbridge area continued and as mentioned in the previous report were seen feeding young on 6/8 (JH, et al). The **Dickcissel** at the Lancaster County Central Park was last noted on 6/26 (LCa), around the time that the field was reportedly mowed.

Observers: **Jonathan Heller (JH), 716 Bentley Ridge Blvd., Lancaster, PA, 17602, (717) 940-6067, rheller@paoline.com**, Tom Amico, Jerry Book (JB), Jim Binder (JBi), Devin Bosler, Justin Bosler, Bruce Carl, Lou Carpenter (LCa), Larry Coble (LC), Tom Garner, Chad Kauffman, Dan Heathcote (DHe), Deuane Hoffman (DH), Tom Hopson, Randy Miller, Peter Robinson, Tom Raub, Bob Schutsky, Jim Smith, Eric Witmer.

#### *Lawrence County*

Barb Dean reported counting a total of 34 **Common Moorhens** in the marsh along Wampum New Galilee Rd. including 7 brand new chicks on 7/3 and 4 nesting pairs. (From PABIRDS List)

No Report

Compiler: **Randy Stringer, 409 Shady Drive, Grove City, PA, 16127, rcstringer@gcc.edu**

#### *Lebanon County*

Locations: Fort Indiantown Gap (FIG), Memorial Lake State Park (MLSP), Reistville (RV), State Drive (SD), State Game Lands 145 (SGL145), SGL211, Swatara State Park (SSP).

The highlights for this report include a pair of **Eurasian-collared Doves** coming to the feeders of Nancy Youtz at S. 6<sup>th</sup> St. and Vine St. in Lebanon. They were first seen on 5/15. Birders found out on 7/21 and by 7/30 one was seen carrying nesting material (GB). A nest hasn't been found yet. This is a 1<sup>st</sup> county record. The second highlight was the 2<sup>nd</sup> county record of an imm **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** near Belle Grove on 6/9-10 (CB). It was seen by many observers and was harassed by a **N. Mockingbird**.

The third highlight was to confirm breeding of **Common Raven** when 2 adult and one noisy fledgling were found on 7/10 in Stony Valley along 2<sup>nd</sup> Mt. Where adults were heard earlier in the season (RCM).

About 14 **Snow Geese** stayed at MC, most had broken wings. On 7/4 a **Mute Swan** was seen at Lake Duffy. A **Common Loon** was seen until 6/19 at MLSP in the Spillway (RCM, mob.) A **Pied-billed Grebe** was at MLSP on 7/17 for a 1<sup>st</sup> mid-July record (RCM).

A pair of **Black-crowned Night Herons** were seen regularly at MLSP. A 4<sup>th</sup> year **Bald Eagle** was seen until 7/20 at

Lake Duffy, SGL145 (AB, RCM). Only single **Virginia Rails** were found on SGL145 until 7/4.

Shorebirds were still here in June along SR with a **Lesser Yellowlegs**, 4 **Semipalmated Sandpipers**, a **Western Sandpiper**, and a **White-rumped Sandpiper** on 6/3. The **Western Sandpiper** was a new late date. Only one **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was seen on 6/4. A **Caspian Tern** on 7/17 at MLSP is the first July record. It was seen for about 15 minutes until it flew east (RCM). On 6/5 an adult and winter plumage **Forster's Tern** were seen at MLSP for a first June record (RCM, mob).

The **Barn Owls** in SGL145 fledged 1 out of 5. Only one egg hatched (RM). **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were reported in several spots through out *Lebanon*. One adult was killed on Patrick Rd. but the other adult raised 3 young (MA). An adult **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was found on SGL211 at the Holly Field for the second July sighting (RCM).

The **Alder Flycatchers** were seen until the end of June next to Camp Shand (SW). Up to 8 **Hermit Thrushes** were heard on SGL211 along Sharp Mt. on 6/19. **Golden-winged Warblers** were found breeding at FIG where 2 fledglings were seen on 7/2 (TJ). They have not been seen during the breeding season since 6/18/95. A singing **Nashville Warbler** on 6/19 at Sharp Mt. was a good find, but more work needs to be done in the breeding season (RCM). **Blackburnian Warblers** were found in Stony Valley throughout the period (RCM, TJ). **N. Waterthrushes** were found until 7/10 in Stony Valley (TJ, RCM).

**Dark-eyed Juncos** were found on Sharp Mt. on 6/6 with 2 adults and on 6/17 with 2 fledglings. (RCM). A **Dickcissel** was found on 6/1 near Bellegrove, but not after (CB). Two separate sightings of male **Blue Grosbeaks** were made on 6/21 at SR and one seen at FIG on 7/10 (RCM).

Observers: **Randy C. Miller, 607 Woodland Drive, Manheim, PA, 17545, (717) 644-3778**, Mike Adams, Doug Anderson, Chuck Berthound, Ann Bodling, Greg Burkhart, John Fedak, Deuane Hoffman, Tom Johnson, Kate Miller, Randy C. Miller, Ryan Miller, Rosemary Spreha, Nancy Youtz, Susan Wheeler.

#### *Lehigh County*

No Report.

Observers: **Jon Levin, 1899 Aster Rd., Lehigh, PA, 18062, (610) 366-9996, levinjl@planet-save.com**,

#### *Luzerne County*

At Lee's swamp at Loyalville RK and JH found the followings birds well within the Atlas safe dates: **Pied-billed Grebe** (all summer), **American Bittern**, **Least Bittern**, **Green-winged Teal** (all summer), **Hooded Merganser** (all summer), **Virginia Rail**, **Sora**, and **Wilson's Snipe**. None were confirmed, but most were seen on multiple occasions and some displayed territorial behavior.

**Black-poll warbler**, **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**, **Swainson's Thrush** were again found in Ross Twp. (RK, JH, DG). None were confirmed, but they were certainly "probable" breeding records.

**Dickcissels** and **Blue Grosbeaks** continued through the summer at the reclaimed mine strip at Glen Lyon. Neither was confirmed, though copulation was observed with a male and female **Dickcissel**; and male **Blue Grosbeaks** were very territorial as they chased other males from their chosen sites. (JH, RK, SG, et al.). Several **Henslow's Sparrows** were found on several occasions near Mehoopany (RK).

Observers: **Rick Koval, 305 William St., Plains, PA, 18705, (570) 829-4381, unibirder@aol.com**, William Reid, Doug Gross, Jim Hoyson, Stan Galenty

#### *McKean County*

No report.

Observers: **John Fedak, 26 Race St., Bradford, PA, 16701, (814) 275-4086, jlfedak@atlanticbb.net.**,

#### *Mercer County*

Seventy-three species were confirmed as breeders in the county, and 28 as probable, and six as possible. Unexpected listings were **Alder Flycatcher** (possible), **Hermit Thrush** (possible), and **Magnolia Warbler** (possible) (TF).

As early as 7/20, a few **Chimney Swift** were using the chimney on Hermitage Middle School for night roosting, a sign their migration had begun. No sightings or breeding reports of **E. Screech Owl** or **Common Nighthawk** is disturbing.

Eleven species of warblers were listed as confirmed or probable breeders in the county this summer. Of note were the above mentioned **Magnolia**, **Black-throated Green** (confirmed), **Cerulean** (probable), **Ovenbird** (probable), and **Louisiana Waterthrush** (probable). A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was seen 6/10 on Rutledge Rd. (TF).

Somewhat unusual, was an **American Robin** successfully nesting 4 times, and using the same nest each time, which was located in a protected spot on a log house. Incubation for the 4th brood began 7/28. Should this frazzled-looking robin perhaps be contacted by the Avian Planned Egg-laying Organization?

Observers: **Marty McKay, 841 East Lake Rd, Transfer, PA, 16154, (724) 962-7476**, Allen Troyer, Daniel Troyer, Eli Troyer, Harvey Troyer, Jerry Troyer, Melvin Troyer, Neil Troyer.

#### *Mifflin County*

MK observed both **Baltimore** and **Orchard Orioles** nesting in her yard near McVeytown at the same time. The **Baltimores** nested in the large Walnut tree and about 100 feet away **Orchards** nested on the very top of the pine tree. **Orchards** were very quiet and only became noticed when the young started begging for food. **Carolina Wrens** nested twice in a wicker basket on the porch and fledged a total of 12.

Other interesting breeding species found at the power line on Licking Creek Road in early June were **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers**, **Yellow-breasted Chats**, **E. Wood-Pewee**, **Great-crested Flycatchers**, **E. Kingbirds**, **Golden-winged**, **Blue-winged**, **Yellow**, and **Prairie Warblers**. Near a residence a **House Wren** and an **E. Bluebird** were found. Along the Juniata River were **Canada Geese** with dozens of juveniles.

Some highlights of the Ryde BBS in mid June were a **Solitary Sandpiper**, both **Yellow-billed** and **Black-billed Cuckoos**, and a **Grasshopper Sparrow**. On Jacks Mountain, the usual **Black-and-white Warblers**, **Scarlet Tanagers**, **Ovenbirds** and all vireo species were observed. At Lockport, near the Juniata River, KM and F&DD have been regularly observing two **Bald Eagles** during June and July. DY observed a **Bald Eagle** near Mattawana flying low over the River going upstream.

In the Big Valley area near Belleville at my farm, **Vesper** and **Savannah Sparrows** sang joyously through the summer until the end of July. A **N. Rough-winged Swallow** family spent several days here the first week of July. On 7/4, a **Cliff Swallow** pair checked out nesting prospects in the barn but didn't return. I counted nearly 30 **Barn Swallow** nests in the one barn so they

are the most abundant bird here. Two **Solitary Sandpipers** arrived 7/18 and spent much time in the manure storage facility. On 7/23 a **N. Bobwhite** began singing mainly in the evenings. On 7/26 an **Indigo Bunting** started singing near the house probably because the corn had grown high enough. I saw a **Great Egret** just briefly at a nearby neighbor's farm pond on 7/28. I heard a **Grasshopper Sparrow** singing along the Yoder road on 7/18. Two pairs of **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were found along the Back Mountain road near Plum Bottom farm, another fledgling young along Green Lane, and a fourth pair was located along the Taylor Mill Road.

Observers: **J. Irvin Zook, 132 Beech Tree Lane, Belleville, PA, 17004, knjzook@pa.net**, Frank and Donald Davidheiser (F&DD), Margaret Kenepp (MK), Ken McMullen (KM), Denny Yoder (DY)

### **Monroe County**

Locations: Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (DWGNRA).

A somewhat dry June was followed by a wetter, cooler July. Two new **Osprey** nests were discovered during the period; one on a telephone pole in a powerline right-of-way near The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) Two Mile Run preserve (VM) and another off Route 940 west of Pocono Pines located not on an artificial structure but in a snag (JL).

The Brodhead Creek **Bald Eagle** nest fledged one bird in early July (DS) and nesting **Cooper's Hawks** were reported from the Brodheadsville area (SG). The **Cooper's Hawk** nest, in a stand of white pines, fledged 4 young in mid-July.

**Red-headed Woodpeckers** were observed 6/16 feeding young at a nest hole in the headquarter's swamp in DWGNRA (DS). **Nashville Warbler**, **N. Waterthrush**, and **Canada Warbler** were all probable breeders in TNC's Tannersville Bog, singing on territory in June (BH). Four **Pine Siskins** were at a Saylorburg feeder 6/7 with one reported there as late as 7/1 (RW).

Observers: **Brian Hardiman, MCEEC, 8050 Running Valley Rd, Stroudsburg, PA 18360, (570) 629-3061, bhmccd@ptd.net**, Susan Galente, Judy Lyon, Victor Motts, John Serrao, Darryl Speicher, Rick Wiltraut.

### **Montgomery County**

Locations: Green Lane Reservoir (GLR), Unami Creek Valley (UCV), Upper Perk Valley Park (UPVP).

The summer season received good birding coverage, as the 2nd Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas got underway. Detecting birds by ear proved challenging, however, as periodical cicadas (Brood X) droned on through the third week of June. Temperatures were below average and precipitation was well above average for the period.

Two **Snow Geese** (presumed to be injured) spent the period at Walt Rd, GLR. Two male **Green-winged Teal** (presumed to be lost) summered at Church Rd, GLR (GAP, mobs.) A male **Hooded Merganser** spent the summer at UPVP (RG, KC). Our best waterfowl report, by far, was that of a female **Common Merganser** with 11 young at Church Rd, GLR (GAP, mobs). This is the first known breeding for the species here in recent memory. Birds found out of their normal seasons included a **Common Loon** at Hill Rd, Green Lane Reservoir 6/17, and a **Pied-billed Grebe** at Upper Perk Valley Park 6/2 (SG, m.obs.). **Double-crested Cormorants** spent the entire period at Walt and Church Roads, GLR (GAF, AC, m.obs.).

Out of character for *Montgomery* were multiple reports of **Sharp-shinned Hawk** from GLR and UPVP 6/12-26 (KC, GAP, GLF). The species is not known to be a breeder in western *Montgomery*. Also noteworthy was the scarcity of **Broad-winged Hawks**. Our only report was of a UCV fly-over 6/20 (KC). **Osprey** were also problematic, with one in the UCV 6/17, and one near Perkiomenville 7/1 (KC, RG). GLR's **Bald Eagle** pair fledged 3 young 6/24 + (GAP, m.obs). This is believed to be the first successful nesting for the species in over a century! (In spite of the well publicized arrest and guilty plea of two persons who disturbed the nest in 2003, several boat operators were caught within the posted area near the nest tree this year. It is incredible what some "nature-lovers" will do for a photograph!)

Given our record-setting July rainfall (11.88 inches!), it was no surprise that shorebirds were scarce during the period. Single **Spotted Sandpiper** were reported from UPVP Park 6/10 and 7/19 (KC, RG). Single **Lesser Yellowlegs** were at Church Rd 7/26 and UPVP 7/29 (GAP, KC). Other shorebirds from the flooded ice-skating rink at UPVP were a **Least Sandpiper** and 20 **Killdeer** 7/26 (KC). A **Ring-billed Gull** was at Knight Road, GLR 6/7 (KC, GLF). A **Caspian Tern** was at Church Rd, GLR 7/15 (SG).

One of the season's biggest surprises was an adult **Red-headed Woodpecker** at the GLR Nature Center 6/19-20 (KC, mobs). Although it was viewed by over 20 observers, it was an apparent two-day wonder. Although this species is rare, at best., in the county, all previous records have occurred between mid-October and early May. Both **cuckoo** species were found at scattered locations (mobs).

Periodical Cicadas (which appeared in western Montgomery 5/15) continued to provide abundant food for birds that chose to partake. Among species observed feeding on them in *Montgomery* and surrounding counties were **Red-tailed, Broad-winged and Red-shouldered Hawk, Amer. Kestrel, Wild Turkey, Ring-billed Gull, Red-headed Woodpecker, Great-crested Flycatcher, E. Kingbird, Blue Jay, Gray Catbird, Amer. Robin, European Starling, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, and N. Cardinal!** (KC, JH). While the vast majority of grackles stalked cicadas on the ground, certain enterprising individuals had success in fly-catching these big, clumsy flyers over open areas (mobs).

**Purple Martin** migration seemed early, with 2 birds at Church Rd, GLR 7/1, and 15 staging at UPVP 7/8. Other reports from the UCV and Upper Gwynedd Twp. all fell, on or before 7/19 (GAP, KC, AM, JM). Attesting efforts failed to locate any breeding colonies in these areas, so they just be presumed to be migrants. Our first **Bank Swallows** were detected 7/2 when 2 birds were at Church Road, GLR (GAP).

**White-eyed Vireos** were another scarce bird this summer, with only 2 reports from the UCV 6/10 and 6/20 (KC, GAP). **Brown Thrasher** (rare and local in western *Montgomery*) was confirmed breeding near Walt Rd, GLR. **Veery** continued their downward trend in the county with only two UCV reports 6/2 and 6/13 (GAP, KC).

Warblers were generally hard to find during the period. Noteworthy were a pair of **Yellow-throated Warblers** at their traditional UCV haunt 6/19+ (LT, MH, m.obs.). The **Blue Grosbeak** near Palm continued until at least 6/24, and **Bobolink** numbers reached a peak of 30 near Church Rd, GLR 7/28 (GAP).

Observers: **Kevin Crilley, PO Box 100, Sumneytown, PA, 18084, (215) 234-6867, great-gray@att.net**, Andrew Curtis, George Franchois (GAF), Gary L. Freed (GLF), Ron Grubb, Steve Grunwald, Jason Horn, Mike Harvell, August and Judy Mirabella, Lisa Tull.

### **Montour County**

No Report.

Observers: **Jon Beam, Montour Preserve, 700 Preserve Rd., Danville, PA, 17821, (570) 437-3131, jdbeam@pplweb.com.**

#### *Northampton County*

Rick Wiltraut counted 19 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** at the Martins Creeks PPL facility along the Delaware River 7/13 and reported that this is probably the highest count ever for this species in PA in July.

Observers: **Michael Schall, 1149 Mickley Ave. Whitehall, PA, 18052, (610) 435-2781, mdtjschall@yahoo.com,**

#### *Northumberland County*

No Report. No Compiler.

#### *Perry County*

No Report.

Compiler: **Deuane Hoffman, 3406 Montour St., Harrisburg, PA, 17111, (717) 564-7475, corvuscorax@comcast.net**

#### *Philadelphia County*

Locations: John Heinz NWR at Tinicum-Philadelphia portion (TI), Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education (SCEE)

The breeding season was not as warm as average with only five days in July above 90°, but it was significantly warmer than last year when nesting birds were severely impacted by the cold. Rainfall totals were 5" above average with 4.6" falling on 7/11-12, but the relative warmth of this season had a mitigating effect. Although no rarities were found, activity for the Breeding Bird Atlas had a few dedicated birders in the field.

In Philly, as elsewhere, **Wood Duck** populations have rebounded partly due to successful nest box programs on public lands. At TI during July's post breeding dispersal it's easy to see 100-200 **Wood Duck**, especially at dusk. Now that the species has recovered, the refuge staff will end their attention to the more than 20 Wood Duck nest boxes, which were 100% occupied this season. I guess the ducks will compete for natural cavities from now on. A few **American Black Ducks** returned to the refuge 7/25 and gathered with the **Mallards** that nested this year. The lone **American Bittern** continued to be seen at the marshy edges of the coves, and young from one of the **Least Bittern** broods were present in the "horseshoe."

**Osprey** started to nest on a buoy off Ft. Mifflin at the mouth of the Schuylkill River (JM). The nest was partially formed when they abandoned it, but the presence of a pair at TI all summer suggests they like the area, but not whether they nested or will return next year to nest again. This nest attempt was a stone's throw from the failed nest on a navy ship mast three years ago. I do not know the fate of the two pair who usually nest on the DR in the northeast. Two **Common Moorhen** were found on 8/15 at Hog Island in the lagoons surrounding Ft. Mifflin (KS). These were the only two birds reported.

Shorebirds arrived on schedule in late July at the mud flats along Darby Creek, beginning with a few birds on 7/20. Less than twenty **Greater** and **Lesser Yellowlegs** and a few hundred **Least Sandpiper** and **Semipalmated Sandpiper** plus a few **Semipalmated Plover** comprise the usual group of migrants on a good day. Diversity of peeps is and has been low and acres of invasive vegetation, such as spatterdock (*nuphar luteum*) or yellow pond lily as it is commonly called, make viewing difficult. An herbicide will be applied to specific plant groups in September in an attempt to gain some control over the vegetation's spread. As common breeders **Spotted Sandpipers** are always seen in good

numbers at low tide. **American Woodcock** have not been reported since May. Non-breeding **Forster's Tern** have over-summered in the area, but not this year. They congregate along the Delaware River and Darby Creek sand bars in late July in small family groups. No **Caspian Tern** was reported, but a few usually arrive with the Forster's.

**Black-billed** and **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** were heard in the Pennypack 6/23 near the Creek Road Bridge. Cuckoos were widely reported in June and appear to be breeding in greater numbers than usual. **Warbling Vireo** and **Orchard Oriole** are abundant breeders in proper habitat. In contrast, the pair or two of **Blue Grosbeak** which nested annually along the Delaware River seems to have been forced out of the limited habitat they enjoyed, probably due to the ATV riders who carved miles of dusty trails in the grosbeak territory.

I asked contributors, "What's up with **Blue-winged Warblers**?" Steve Dupont responded, "I used to see/hear Blue-wings regularly at certain areas of the SCEE. It's been two to three years since I've recorded one there other than during May. The habitat has gone from 3-6 foot scrub brush to small trees (15-20 feet) with brushy undergrowth. I've noticed a similar reduction at Peace Valley (*Bucks*), but not as drastic--possibly because there's still brushy habitat." The other warblers of concern at SCEE are **Louisiana Waterthrush** which typically visits in April, but doesn't stay to nest. Also, a **Kentucky Warbler** has not returned to the last nest site in spite of an attempt to restore the vegetation. Some late warblers showed up in Kate Somerville's Northern Liberties backyard, **Yellow-throated Warbler** and **Black-throated Blue Warbler** 6/6 and a **Canada Warbler** 6/13. On 6/14 I saw a **Song Sparrow** pair feeding four Cowbirds, a sad way to "Confirm" both species.

Observers: **Doris McGovern, 209 Dogwood Rd. Media, PA 19063, (610) 565 8484 mcgovern@masca.museum.upenn.edu,** Denis Brennan, Brian Byrnes, Steve Dupont, Rich Horwitz, Ken Januski, John Miller, Kate Somerville

#### *Pike County*

Observers: **Mike Brubaker, RR2 Box 1010, Dingmans Ferry, PA, 18328, mikebru@ptd.net,**

#### *Schuylkill County*

Location: Tumbling Run Watershed (TRW)

The breeding season began with the Second Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas being conducted. An excellent participation by county birders produced some very fine breeding results. The **Great Blue Heron** rookery at the Weiser State Forest near Taylorsville continued to be very active and successful. **Wood Ducks** were quite abundant, with very noticeable successful breeding at Landingville (TC).

Besides the normal breeding of accipiters, it was very nice to discover breeding **Red-shouldered Hawks** at the Lebanon Reservoir in the county (TC). **American Kestrels** are surely breeding, however with the possible onslaught of West Nile Virus, as well as other possible factors, it is becoming increasingly difficult to locate breeding pairs.

**Black-billed Cuckoos**, which are normally not easy to find, were most unexpectedly found breeding this year, a very nice surprise (BC). **Common Nighthawks** continued their annual flight above the rooftops of downtown Pottsville, although very difficult to confirm breeding success. **Whip-poor-will** reports were increasingly evident this year, with probable breeding in various locations (AML, DK). **White-eyed Vireos** were once again found breeding at Swatara SP (TC) and a **Yellow-throated Vireo**

territory continues at SGL-132 (DK). **Common Ravens** continued their breeding success at a somewhat northern area of the county.

The TRW and the Owl Creek Watershed continued to attract **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, **Brown Creepers**, and **Golden-crowned Kinglets**, with breeding success encountered by the first two mentioned species this year (DK, TC). **Brown Thrashers** were once again found to be breeding in the Hidden Valley Area (AML). **Hermit Thrushes** were found quite regularly on territory at the Minersville Watershed, a favorite area for them, but no confirmed breeding observed (MW).

**Golden-winged Warblers** appear to be continuing their decreasing trend, unfortunately. **Magnolia Warblers** were not as easily found at the TRW, after some loss of preferred habitat due to logging. The TRW is perhaps the best breeding area in the county for warblers, with at least fifteen species being confirmed. Both **Hooded Warblers** and **Canada Warblers** are in particular fairly easy to be found breeding at the watershed. Unfortunately, Tumbling Run remains unaccessible to birders without a special permit. **Purple Finches** continued to be present in the Clamtown area of South Tamaqua for the second straight summer, with confirmed breeding success this year, with a single juvenile bird being observed (BB).

As for non-breeding birds of interest, the most exciting finds of the summer were two **American Avocets**, which briefly stopped by a Hidden Valley Golf Course pond on 7/12 before flying off to the northeast at dusk.

Observers: **Tom Clauser, 213 Deerfield Drive, Pottsville, PA, 17801, (570) 622-1363, Birdline (570) 622-6013, skua01@comcast.net**, Roland Bergner, Barb Birosik, Aaron Clauser, Brian Clauser, Barb McGinley-Clauser, Viv Connor, John DeBalko, Jonathan DeBalko, Dave Dolinsky, Laurie Dolinsky, Denise Donmoyer, Marilyn Gamble, Laurie Goodrich, Kerry Grim, Sue Guers, Barb Jucker, Doris Klint, Brittany Kramer, Dave Kruel, Carole Laughlin, Ann Marie Liebner, Joanne Purcell, Dan Schwartz, Sandy Schwartz, Karen Smith, Nancy Trout, Mike Ward, Scott Weidensaul, Sally Weisacosky, and Doug Wood.

### *Snyder County*

Locations: Bald Eagle State Forest Jack's Mt. Area (BEJM), Centerville Swamp (CS), Faylor Lake and Environs (FL), Middle Creek Twp. (MCT), Selinsgrove Area (SEL), Susquehanna River (SR), Tall Timbers Natural Area (TT), Walker Lake and Environs (WL).

An adult **Bald Eagle** was observed at WL 6/9 and again 6/15 while an **Osprey** made an appearance at FL 6/17 (P&RW). **Double-crested Cormorants** paid visits to both lakes a number of times in June (P&RW). A **Least Bittern** was seen near Selinsgrove 6/2 (MB) and a **Greater Yellowlegs** was still present at SGL 188 along Creek Rd. 6/4 (P&RW). An adult **Spotted Sandpiper** with three young was found at Faylor Lake 6/19 (P&RW).

An east coast storm, of which we had many this summer, probably accounted for a **Caspian Tern** and a **Common Tern** finding their way to WL 6/5 (P&RW). An early migrating **Common Nighthawk** was reported 8/16 at MCT (MB), while six more were observed hawking insects over recently mowed fields at dusk near Troxelville 8/26 (P&RW). The report of a **Fish Crow** in the block south of New Berlin in Jackson Twp is somewhat unusual because it is about ten miles west of the SR (ML).

Working a few Atlas blocks in June and early July in the BEJM we were encouraged to find the following species in more than one block or location: **Winter Wren**, **Hermit Thrush**, **Black-throated Blue Warbler**, **Chestnut-sided Warbler**, **Blackburnian Warbler**, **Canada Warbler**, and **Dark-eyed**

**Junco** to mention a few. Also found at a single location were **Least Flycatcher**, **Yellow-rumped Warbler**, and **Pine Warbler** (P&RW).

Observers: **Patricia & Richard Williams, 3 Parkside Ave, Hummelstown, PA, 17036, (717) 566-6562. RWPuffin@aol.com**, Mick Brown, Robert Gutheinz, Mark Larson, Allen & Joanne Schweinsberg

### *Somerset County*

Locations: Berlin Area (BA), Garrett Mud Flats (GMF), Payne Property (PP)-an old farm along the Allegheny Front

Another wet season with cool conditions resulted in lush vegetation and birds vocalizing well into July. This helped efforts for the first year of the second breeding bird atlas.

**Ring-necked Pheasant** broods were widespread at least partially due to extensive plantings of warm season grass project areas by the PA Game Commission. A group of three **Black Vultures** was seen in the Berlin Area twice in the season with a single near Fairhope. Perhaps breeding will be confirmed in the atlas period? **Northern Harriers** seen on 6/4 and again in late July near Reels Corners (JP,LP) and near Rockwood in July (AM) were felt to be likely breeders. A pair of **American Kestrels** in BA; first observed copulating in March, successfully fledged young after their nest tree was cut down. The cavity containing the young was placed on the stump and the parents fed the young there until fledging a week later.

A bird identified as a young **Virginia Rail** was flushed from a cattail lined treatment pond near Garrett (AM). Up to three pairs of **Upland Sandpipers** in BA and two pairs at GMF (RH, JP, LP) were an encouraging number. **Wilson's Snipe** were still winnowing at BC as late as 6/5 (JP, LP) and were probable breeders in this wet season. A **Least Sandpiper** in BA 7/1 (JP) was a bit early. Both **cuckoos** were widespread this year and both were frequently seen and heard at PP throughout the season.

As usual large numbers of **Willow Flycatchers** were present along Stoneycreek and Buffalo Creek swamps with several **Alder Flycatchers** also found singing. **White-eyed Vireos** were found only at two locations near Confluence-this area is also where the season's **Yellow-throated** and **Warbling Vireos** were found.

**Common Raven** continues to do well with new nesting sites on bridges along the Allegheny Highlands bike trail. **Winter Wren** was also found singing 6/6 along this trail near Fort Hill (JP, LP). **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was territorial 6/8 at Kimberly Run Natural Area.

Twenty-one species of warblers were found during June atlas efforts. Also found on these surveys were **Vesper Sparrows** in several new spots in BA. **Henslow's Sparrows** had a large colony near Reel's Corners with at least 12 birds heard 7/30 (AP,JP). **Pine Siskins** were seen until at least 7/29 at PP but no confirmed breeding this year.

Observers: **Jeff Payne, 9755 Glades Pike, Berlin, PA 15530, (814) 267-5718**, Scott and Jill Bastian, Tom and Sally Dick, Rita Hawrot, Anthony Marich, Lauretta Payne, Alan Peterson.

### *Sullivan County*

No Report. No Compiler.

### *Susquehanna County*

No Report.

Compiler: **Rob Blye, Hidden River Farm, 300 Sanatoga Road, Pottstown, PA, 19465, rblye@audubon.org**

### *Tioga County*

Four young **Northern Harriers**, almost fledged, were found by Rocky Gleason in State Forest in the Cherry Flats quad 6/30. The wetland was a monoculture of leatherleaf.

Compiler: **Jeff Holbrook, 2631 King Circle, East Corning, NY, 14830, (607) 936-5059, mycteria@stny.rr.com**

### *Union County*

No Report. No Complier.

### *Venango County*

The summer season was cool & wet. With the beginning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas, we should be able to improve our summer records.

A **Great Blue Heron** rookery south of Franklin is up to about 20 nests. A new **Bald Eagle** nest was successful near Sugar Creek. A **Cooper's Hawk** pair fledged 3 young at BHNS. **Upland Sandpiper** again were able to raise young at Barkeyville fields.

A notable absence this year was **Whip-poor-will**, despite repeated attempts to locate some. The **Bank Swallow** colony just west of Franklin was down to just a few nests from nearly 300. Another **Cliff Swallow** colony was located at the bridge on Rt. 8 over Sandy Creek.

Despite the severe winter **Carolina Wren** were still fairly common. A **N. Mockingbird** nest was reported at Barkeyville fields. This turned out to be in *Butler* by about 50 yards, but it is the closest nesting to *Venango* that we have on record. Nineteen species of warblers were reported during the breeding season, with only a few confirmed, and none unexpected. **Henslow's & Grasshopper Sparrows** are maintaining their nesting areas in Barkeyville despite much disturbance. Probably they will no longer be found there in a few years.

A late **Pine Siskin** record 6/12 in Franklin cemetery indicates possible breeding, but could not be confirmed.

Observers: **Gary Edwards, 224 Meadow Rd, Apt 9, Seneca, PA, 16346, (814) 676-3011, geowards@csonline.com**

### *Warren County*

No Report.

Compiler: **Ted Grisez, 10 Belmont Dr. Warren, PA, 16365, (814) 723-9464,**

### *Washington County*

No Report. No Complier.

### *Wayne County*

No Report. No Complier.

### *Westmoreland County*

Location: Powdermill Nature Reserve (PNR)

High water levels this summer limited shorebird habitat even more than usual, however the first fall **Solitary Sandpiper** put down at PNR's Crisp Pond 7/17, and 7 were there on the 31st (BL).

**Red-breasted Nuthatch** was a good find at Spruce Flats Bog, Laurel Hill near Rector in mid June (ML). A latish spring **Swainson's Thrush** was banded at PNR 6/1 (AL, DM). Unprecedented numbers of **N. Mockingbirds** were documented during Atlas field work in the Ligonier area (DL). In early June three pairs of **Golden-winged Warblers** (and 2 of their nests)

were located in a small breeding census plot at PNR (ML). Breeding **Cerulean Warblers** seem to be holding their own in the Ligonier Valley where good numbers were detected in several Atlas blocks, and 4 were banded at PNR between 6/17 and 7/24 (AL, BL, BM, ML). A late spring **N. Waterthrush** was still at PNR 6/6, and an early fall migrant arrived there 7/18 (AL, BM, BL). **Mourning Warbler** just made this season's list, when the last spring migrant was banded at PNR 6/1 (AL, BM, BL). **Hooded Warbler** nesting success was high at PNR, where 50 birds were banded from 6/23 through the end of July (fide AL), and 251 **American Redstarts** were banded there during the same period. Among fledgling warblers found at Hunter's Lane north of Jones Mills 6/20 (JS, SS) were **Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Chestnut-sided, Canada, and American Redstart!** Once considered locally rare, **Orchard Orioles** continue to increase as breeding birds in the Ligonier Valley, were several were sighted during Atlas field work (BL). Perhaps the most unusual finds of the season was a **Red Crossbill** at Spruce Flats Bog, Rector, 6/5 (DT). Several fledgling **Pine Siskins** were observed at PNR in early June (ML).

Observers: **Bob Leberman, 1842 Route 381, Rector, PA, 15677, (724) 593-6021, rleberm@charterpa.net,** Adrienne Leopold, Mike Lanzone, Bob Mulvihill, Jack Solomon, Sue Solomon, Dave Tetlow.

### *Wyoming County*

Locations: Phelps Swamp in Nicholson Twp (PS); Eaton Township (ET)

Several have noted that **Ruffed Grouse** numbers are low this year. The only report of **Great Egret** for this year was one seen by WR at West Falls on 7/24.

Unusual this far north in the state was a **Black Vulture** seen in ET 6/30. A July 4th surprise was an **Osprey** which was standing on the edge of the Susquehanna R. across the river from my place in S. Eaton. The bird was there for 15-20 minutes; and in the afternoon it was flying around that section of the river and calling constantly. It was not seen or heard after that. **Osprey** was not found anywhere in the county on the first breeding bird atlas (WR). GZ reports that on several occasions during the summer he and others watched an adult **Bald Eagle** as it sat eating fish on the same branch on a tree on an island right across the river from his home which is also in S. Eaton. No nest was seen, but we will look more carefully after the leaves fall. A female **N. Harrier** was seen at least three times flying over the fields near PS in Nicholson Twp (WR). A pair of **N. Goshawks** raised young in the county.

**Virginia Rails** nested at PS. At least 3 were present on one occasion. On 7/13 one responded to a tape, coming out of the swamp and walking directly beneath my car. (I was sure that it was not there when I drove off! WR). A **Sora** was heard calling at PS 6/7 (WR). At S. Eaton, an early **Greater Yellowlegs** was present 7/14 and a late **Lesser Yellowlegs** was found 6/11 (WR).

DG again confirmed the breeding of **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Swainson's Thrush, and Blackpoll Warbler** at Coal Bed Swamp. An **Alder Flycatcher** was found at Lemon Twp. 6/7. (WR). The only **Purple Martin** report from the county was a female flying with **Barn Swallow** at a pond near Marcy Station Rd. in Lemon Twp (WR). On 7/5 in ET I saw a young **Cliff Swallow** begging for food from an adult **Barn Swallow**. The request was denied (WR). Several have reported that swallow and flycatcher numbers were quite low this year.

On 6/23 a small colony of **Marsh Wrens** was found at PS. There were at least 3 singing males. They were still there into

September. No nests were found (WR). A **Worm-eating Warbler** was found in ET 5/27.

While atlasing along Space Rd in Lemon Twp. 7/26, I played a tape of a screech-owl calling. **Chickadees** and a number of other species responded. One bird which responded around 11:30 a.m. was an **E. Screech-Owl**. But the one that I will never forget was a small bird which flew in and landed in a small bush along the road. About 20 feet from me there was a male **Mourning Warbler** in all of his splendor! That was another bird which I never found in the first atlas and which I did not expect to find this time (WR).

**Grasshopper Sparrows** were found at several locations in the county. RK found a small colony of **Henslow's Sparrows** near the village of Mehoopany. They remained there all summer. On 5/30 I found a **Henslow's** in Lemon Twp. and on 6/9 I found 2 in Falls Twp. but none of these birds were ever found again (WR).

Observers: **William Reid, 73 W. Ross St, Wilkes-Barre, PA, 18701, (570) 836-2734**, Bob Daniels, Doug Gross, Jim Hoyson, Rick Koval., George Zenger.

### **York County**

Locations: Brunner Island (BI), Codorus State Park (CSP), Lake Redman (LRED)

A total of 115 species were reported during the 2004 June/July summer season. During the 2003 summer season there were 101 species reported.

A few **Common Loons** stayed at Lake Marburg, Codorus State Park. Two were seen 6/7 (KL) and 6/26 (FC), then 3 were seen 7/20 (KL). There were at least 4 sightings of 1 or 2 **Double-crested Cormorants** during the period. It would not be too surprising if they eventually nest on one of the Lake Marburg islands.

An **Am. Bittern** was seen at CSP on 5/27 and 5/31 (KL, FC), causing speculation that it might have been nesting, or at least trying to do so. One was seen again 7/17 at CSP (KL), and another was seen 7/31 near Shrewsbury (RP). **Great Egrets** nested at Kiwanis Lake's Night-Heron colony. Three adults were seen 5/13 working on 2 nests (PJR), incubation was observed at one nest and an adult was standing on the other nest 5/24 (PJR), then 3 young were seen in one of the nests on 6/1 and again 6/19 (AS). Great Egrets were reported visiting several other spots, including 10 near New Freedom 7/12 (MNS) and 9 at CSP 7/15. A **Little Blue Heron** was at LRED 7/12 and 7/13, and an immature was seen there 7/31 (BF, SW). A pair of **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** did nest again this year at Kiwanis Lake's Black-crowned colony. A juvenile was seen 6/26 (AS) and 2 juveniles were seen 7/24 (DW).

An albino Canada Goose was in interesting sight at CSP on 7/18 (KL). Two adult **Hooded Mergansers** with 8 juveniles were seen at BI the 2<sup>nd</sup> week in June, demonstrating successful nesting (RH). A **Red-breasted Merganser** was at CSP on the late date of 6/15 (FC, KL).

**Osprey** nesting at a York Haven site was successful. There were several other sightings of Osprey and adult **Bald Eagles** at CSP and LRED during the period. On 6/22 Karen Lippy received a telephone call about a hawk that had spent 8 days sitting in a yard in a Hanover residential area. The caller believed that the hawk was ill or was injured. Karen expected to find a Cooper's or Red-tailed Hawk, but instead she found a fledgling **Broad-winged Hawk**. The next day she found an adult at the in-town location, and also found a nest that the hawks probably used.

There were 3 reports of 1-3 **Wild Turkey** during June, and a single report of a **N. Bobwhite** that was heard 6/12 along a bird survey route (PJR). A **Common Moorhen** was found the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of June at a small cattail marsh on BI (RH), then was seen 6/29

(BDG) and 7/10 (JJP). There were very few shorebird sightings because of very high water levels in lakes and ponds. Three **Caspian Terns** were seen at CSP on the unusual date of 7/17 (KL), and an uncommon **Common Tern** was there 6/21 (KL).

There were several **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** reports, but only one **Black-billed Cuckoo** sighting 6/4 at CSP (KL). A few **Yellow-throated Vireos** were reported -- 1 at Codorus Furnace 6/4 to 7/11 (JJP), another along a 6/22 bird survey route (PJR), and 1 on 7/15 at LRED (JJP). The lone **Blue-headed Vireo** report was a single bird at CSP on the late date of 6/15. A **Common Raven** 7/18 on Pumping Station Road (KL) was only report for that species.

The **Sedge Wrens** first found 5/31 in a hay field at an old county landfill near Shrewsbury were confirmed to be nesting on 6/21 (RP). The nest used was found, along with dummy nests. The nest and the wrens were photographed and a report was sent to the PORC. The last sighting was 7/22 (RP).

A surprise among a flock of 25 juvenile **E. Bluebirds** at CSP on 7/9 was a white one. Included in the 14 species of warblers reported was one **Blue-winged Warbler** sighting 6/18 at CSP; single **Ceruleans** at Codorus Furnace 6/4 & 6/26 (JJP), then one 6/22 on Lower River Rd. (PJR); a **Prothonotary** 6/18 at Stillmeadow Park, and "several" along the Susquehanna River at BI (RH). A bird survey route run 6/20 produced a nice count of 8 **Vesper Sparrows**, and a route run 6/22 turned up 5 **Blue Grosbeaks** (PJR).

Observers: **Peter Robinson, P. O. Box 482, Hanover, PA 17331, (717) 632-8462 pabirder@hotmail.com**, Ryan Abbey, Lou Carpenter, Fred Clark, Steve Collins, Jack & Lil Downs, Bill DelGrande, Bruce Fortman, Richard Humbert, Phil Keener, Karen Lippy, Randy Phillips, John & Jean Prescott, Beth Pugliese, Mike & Noreen Sankovich, Anna May Shaffer (AMS), Al Spiese (AS), Steve Wildasin, Dave Wilton.

### **Spring Report (March 1-May 31, 2004)**

Locations: Codorus State Park (CSP), Gifford Pinchot State Park (GPSP), Lake Redman (LRED), Lake Williams (LWMS), Long Arm Reservoir (LAR), N. Am Migration Count (NAMC), Rocky Ridge County Park (RRCP), Sheppard-Myers Reservoir (SMR), Wrightsville (WRIG)

There were 197 species reported during the spring 2004 season, including 23 species of waterfowl and 31 species of warblers. During the spring 2003 season, there were 191 species reported including 30 species of warblers. The 12 participants in the May 8 North American Migration Count (NAMC) tallied 135 species, with 25 warbler species that included 3 Pine, 10 Cerulean, 1 Prothonotary, and 1 Wilson's. The 2003 May 10 NAMC participants found 141 species, in spite of steady rain all morning and some showers in the afternoon.

A late **Canvasback** was seen 5/7 at CSP (RP, PJR). There were 4 reports of **Redhead**, with a high of 18 at LAR on 3/30 (BP). A few rather large flocks of ducks were seen. On 4/9 at CSP there were 150 **Lesser Scaup**, 350+ **Bufflehead**, and 220 **Ruddy Duck** (DHe). Other **Bufflehead** sightings included 130 on 4/9 at LAR (BP) and 250 on 4/10 at CSP (KL). There were 3 reports of **Long-tailed Duck** – 2 on 3/15 at LAR. (DHo), then 2 on 3/27 and 6 on 4/9 at CSP (DHe). Two adult **Hooded Mergansers** with 7 juveniles were seen 5/8 at Brunner Island, demonstrating successful nesting.

There were several reports of **Wild Turkey**, including a flock of 10 near the Susquehanna River in Fairview Twp. on 3/11 (PJR). There was just one report of **N. Bobwhite**, very scarce in the county these days, a single bird 5/11 in WRIG (LF).

There was a single **Red-throated Loon** report, 4 at CSP on 4/22 (JLD). The eight reports of **Red-necked Grebe** included a high of 16 at CSP on 4/9 (DHe). They were found at various locations, from 3/15 to 4/22. **Double-crested Cormorant** numbers continue to increase. The first report this year was the 3 on 3/15 at LAR (DHe), the last was 2 on 5/9 at SMR (PJR), and there were high counts at CSP of 235 on 4/8 (PJR) and 400 on 4/9 (DHe). The 2003 high was 80 on 4/7 at CSP (KL).

An **Am. Bittern** was seen at CSP on 5/27 and 5/31 (KL, FC), causing speculation that it might have been nesting, or at least trying to do so. **Great Egrets** nested at Kiwanis Lake's Night-Heron colony. Three adults were seen 5/13 working on 2 nests, and there was competition for nest material with an Egret seen chasing a Night-Heron away from a stick that the Egret wanted (PJR). Incubation was observed at one nest and an adult was standing on the other nest 5/24 (PJR). Three young were seen in one of the nests on 6/1 (AS). **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were first reported 3/29 with 9 of them at the Kiwanis Lake colony (AS). Thirty nests were seen there 5/24 (PJR). A pair of **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** are believed to have nested again this year at Kiwanis Lake. An adult was seen flying away 5/24 (PJR), then 2 juveniles were seen a few weeks later (DW).

Adult **Bald Eagles** were seen regularly in the LRED-LWMS area, and at LAR, but no nests have been located yet. A **Rough-legged Hawk** at the Briarwood Golf Course 4/27 (PK) and a **Merlin** 3/12 at Stillmeadow Park (LC) were unexpected sightings.

A **Laughing Gull**, quite unusual in the county, was seen 5/2 at CSP (KL). Another unusual find, especially in the spring, was a **N. Saw-whet Owl** heard calling 3/18 in Glenville (RP). Two early **Chimney Swifts** were seen 4/10 in Saginaw (TJ). **Least Flycatcher** is a rather uncommon migrant in the county, but 2 were found 5/7, 1 at GPSP and 1 at SGL 242 (RP, PJR).

While eating lunch at a CSP picnic area on 5/6, Karen Lippy saw a **Fish Crow** fly to a cavity in a tree and watched as the crow broke off a twig, then used it to pry something from the cavity, which it took high in the tree to eat. It gave out a few nasal call notes, then returned to the cavity, picked up the stick again and used it to pry at the hole a second time. A pair of **Common Raven**, which have nested in the Pigeon Hills for several years, were seen there 3/22 (JLD). A pair was also seen mid-May along the Susquehanna River near WRIG, which may be a second nesting pair.

**Winter Wrens** are not known to nest in the county, but one was seen at WRIG on the late date of 5/10 (JLD). A **Sedge Wren** was found 5/31(RP) at an old county landfill. It was subsequently determined to be part of a pair that nested there. The only **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** were 1 on 4/27 in Fairview Twp. (PJR), and 1 at WRIG 5/27 (JLD). Early birds found 4/1 at RRCP (RP) were a **Wood Thrush**, an **Ovenbird**, and a **Scarlet Tanager**. A fairly late **A. Tree Sparrow** was at WRIG on 4/25 (JLD).

The male **Painted Bunting** that a home owner first saw at their feeder in the village of Saginaw on 2/7, and that the PA birding community learned about on 3/24, stayed and divided its time between 2 feeders in the neighborhood until 4/22, long enough for 150 or more birders to see it. This bird was less than 2 miles from the mouth of Codorus Creek where a Painted Bunting was found 27 May 1946.

A **Yellow-headed Blackbird**, seldom found in the county, was seen in a flock of about 2000 other blackbirds in southern York County on 3/14 (BF, SW). The only **Pine Siskin** was 1 in Saginaw on 4/9 (BE).

Observers: **Peter Robinson, P. O. Box 482, Hanover, PA 17331, (717) 632-8462 pabirder@hotmail.com** Doug & Steph Broadhecker, Lou Carpenter, Fred Clark, Kathy Clark, Jack & Lil Downs, Bill Etter, Huey & Jane Evangelista, Clyde & Barb Fisher, Bruce Fortman, Lois Fultz, Dan Heathcote (DHe), Deuane

Hoffman (DHo), Richard Humbert, Tom Johnson, Phil Keener, Karen Lippy, Andy Markle, Ben Markle (Bma), Andy McGann, Bob Moul (BM), Ann Pettigrew, Randy Phillips, John & Jean Prescott, Beth Pugliese, Doug Rhone, Anna May Shaffer (AMS), Pat Shaw, Al Spiese, Steve Wildasin, Dave Wilton.

BREEDING BIRD TABLES - 2004

SPECIES	GOOSE CANADA	SWAN MUTE	WOOD DUCK	DUCK AMERICAN BLACK	MALLARD	BLUE- WINGED	TEAL GREEN- WINGED	MERGANSE HOODED COMMON	DUCK RUDDY	PHEASANT RING-NECKED	GROUSE RUFFED	TURKEY WILD	BOBWHITE NORTHERN	GREBE PIED-BILLED
ALLEGHENY	CO		PR		CO	CO		PR			PR	CO		PR
ARMSTRONG	CO		CO		CO					PO	PO	CO	PO	
BEDFORD	PO	PO	CO	PO	CO	CO		PO		CO	CO	CO	PO	PO
BERKS	CO	CO	CO		CO			PO	PO	PR	CO	CO	PO	CO
BRADFORD	CO	CO	CO		CO			PR			PR	CO	PO	
BUCKS	CO	CO	CO	PO	CO			CO		PO		CO		
BUTLER	CO		CO		CO	CO		CO		CO	CO	CO	CO	
CAMBRIA	CO		CO		CO			PO		PO	CO	CO		
CHESTER	CO	CO	CO		CO							CO		
CLINTON	CO		CO	CO	CO			CO			CO	CO		
CRAWFORD	CO		CO	CO	CO	PR	PO	CO	PO	CO		CO		PR
DAUPHIN	CO	PO	CO	CO	CO		CO	CO		CO	CO	CO	PO	
DELAWARE	CO		CO	CO	CO			CO				CO	PO	
ERIE	CO	PO	CO	CO	CO	PO		CO			PO	CO		
FAYETTE	CO		PR		CO					PR	PR	CO		
FOREST	PR		PR		PR		CO			PR	PR	CO		
FRANKLIN	CO		CO	PR	CO					PO	PR	PO	PO	CO
FULTON	CO		CO		PR		PO			PR	PR	PR	PO	CO
GREENE	CO		PR		CO					CO		CO		
HUNTINGDON	CO		CO		CO						PR	PR		
INDIANA	CO		CO	PR	CO					CO	PR	CO	PO	
LANCASTER	CO		CO	PO	CO			CO		CO	PR	CO	PO	
LEBANON	CO	PO	CO	CO	CO		PO	PO		CO	CO	CO	CO	PO
MCKEAN	CO		CO	PO	CO			CO		CO	CO	CO	PO	
MERCER	CO		CO		CO					CO	CO	CO	PO	
MONTOUR	CO		PO							PO		CO		
PHILADELPHIA	CO	CO	CO	PO	CO					CO		CO		
PIKE	CO		PO		PO					PO	CO	CO		
SNYDER	CO	PO	CO	PR	CO			PO		CO	CO	CO	PO	
SOMERSET	CO		CO		CO			CO		CO	CO	CO	PO	
VENANGO	CO		CO		CO			PO		PR	PR	CO	PO	

PO = Possible PR = Probable CO = Confirmed

BREEDING BIRD TABLES - 2004

SPECIES	CORMORANT DOUBLE- CRESTED		BITTERN		HERON GREAT BLUE	EGRET GREAT	HERON GREEN	NIGHT-HERON		VULTURE		OSPREY	EAGLE BALD	HARRIER NORTHERN	HAWK	
	AMERICAN	LEAST	BLACK- CROWNED	YELLOW- CROWNED				BLACK	TURKEY	SHARP- SHINNED	COOPER'S					
ALLEGHENY					CO		CO							PR		CO
ARMSTRONG	PO		PR		PR		CO							PR		PO
BEDFORD		PO	PO		PO		CO		PO	PO					PR	CO
BERKS			PR		CO		CO		CO	CO			CO		CO	CO
BRADFORD	PO				CO		PR		CO	CO			CO	PR	PO	PO
BUCKS	PO	PO			CO		CO	PO	PO	CO	CO		PR	PR	CO	CO
BUTLER					CO		CO			PR			CO	PR	CO	CO
CAMBRIA					CO		PR			PR			CO	PR	CO	CO
CHESTER							CO	PO	PO				CO	PR	CO	CO
CLINTON							CO	PO	PO				CO	PR	CO	CO
CRAWFORD					CO		PO						CO	CO		CO
DAUPHIN	CO				PO		CO	PO	PO				CO	PR	CO	PR
DELAWARE					CO		CO	PO	PO				CO	PO	CO	CO
ERIE					CO		CO						CO	PO	PO	PO
FAYETTE					PO		PR		PR				CO	PR	PO	PO
FOREST					PO		CO						CO	PR	PO	PO
FRANKLIN					PO		CO	PO	PO				CO	PR	PO	PO
FULTON					PO		PR		PO				CO	PR	PO	PO
GREENE					CO		CO		PO				CO	PR	PO	PO
HUNTINGDON					CO		CO		PO				CO	PR	PO	PO
INDIANA					CO		CO		PR				CO	PR	CO	CO
LANCASTER					CO		PR		PR				CO	PR	PR	PR
LEBANON					PO		CO	PR	PR				CO	PR	CO	CO
MCKEAN	PO				CO		CO		CO				PR	PR	PO	PO
MERCER					CO		CO		PR				CO	PR	PR	PR
MONTOUR					CO		CO		PR				CO	PR	PO	PO
PHILADELPHIA					PO		CO	PR	PO				CO	PR	PR	PR
PIKE					CO		PO		PO				CO	PR	PR	CO
SNYDER					PO		CO		PO				CO	PR	PR	CO
SOMERSET					PO		PR		PR				CO	PR	PR	PR
VENANGO					CO		PR		PR				CO	PR	PR	CO

PO = Possible PR = Probable CO = Confirmed

BREEDING BIRD TABLES - 2004

SPECIES	GOSHAWK NORTHERN	RED- SHOULDERED	HAWK BROAD- WINGED	RED-TAILED	KESTREL AMERICAN	FALCON PEREGRINE	RAIL VIRGINIA	SORA	MOORHEN COMMON	COOT AMERICAN	CRANE SANDHILL	KILLDEER	SANDPIPER SPOTTED	SANDPIPER UPLAND	SNIPE WILSON'S
ALLEGHENY		CO	CO	CO	CO	CO							CO		
ARMSTRONG			PO	CO	CO		CO	CO				CO			
BEDFORD	PO	CO	CO	CO	CO		CO	CO				CO	P		
BERKS		PR	CO	CO	CO		PR			CO		CO	CO		
BRADFORD		PO	PR	PR	PR		PO	PO			PR	CO	PR		
BUCKS			CO	CO	CO	CO	PR	PR				CO	CO		
BUTLER		CO	CO	CO	CO							CO	CO	CO	PR
CAMBRIA			CO	CO	CO		PR	PR				CO	PO		
CHESTER				PO	PO							CO	PO		
CLINTON			PO	PR	CO		PR	PR				PR			
CRAWFORD		PR	CO	CO	CO		PR	PR	CO	PO	CO	CO	CO	PR	PR
DAUPHIN		CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	PO				CO	CO	CO		
DELAWARE			CO	CO	CO	CO						CO	CO		
ERIE		PO	PO	CO	CO		PO	PO				CO	CO	PO	
FAYETTE			PR	PR	PR							CO	PR		
FOREST	CO	PR	CO	PR								CO			
FRANKLIN		PO	CO	CO	CO						CO	CO	PO		
FULTON		PO	PO	PR	CO							CO	PR		
GREENE			PO	PR	CO							CO	PO		
HUNTINGDON			PR	PR	CO							PR			
INDIANA		CO	PR	CO	CO							CO	CO		
LANCASTER		PR	CO	CO	CO							CO	CO		
LEBANON	PO	CO	CO	CO	CO		PO				CO	CO	CO		
MCKEAN	CO	CO	PR	CO	PR		PR	PR				CO	CO		PR
MERCER			PR	CO	CO							CO	PR		
MONTOUR				PO								PR			
PHILADELPHIA				CO	CO	CO			PO			CO	CO		
PIKE		CO	CO	CO		CO						PO	CO		
SNYDER	PO	CO	CO	CO	CO		PO			PO		CO	CO		
SOMERSET		PR	PR	CO	CO		CO					CO	CO	PR	PO
VENANGO		CO	CO	CO	CO		PO	PO				CO	PR	CO	

PO = Possible PR = Probable CO = Confirmed

BREEDING BIRD TABLES - 2004

SPECIES	WOODCOCK AMERICAN	GULL RING-BILLED	GULL HERRING	TERN BLACK	PIGEON ROCK	DOVE MOURNING	CUCOOO BLACK-BILLED	CUCOOO YELLOW-BILLED	BARN	EASTERN SCREECH-BILLED	OWL GREAT HORNED	BARRED	NORTHERN SAW-WHET	NIGHTHAWK COMMON	WHIP-POOR-WILL
ALLEGHENY	PR		CO		CO	CO	PR	PR		CO	CO	PR		PR	PR
ARMSTRONG	PR				PR	PR	PR	CO		PO		PR		PR	
BEDFORD	CO				CO	CO	CO	CO	PO	CO	PR	PR	PR	CO	PO
BERKS	PR				CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	PR		PR	
BRADFORD	CO				CO	CO	PR	PR		CO	PR	CO			
BUCKS	PR				CO	CO	CO	CO		PR	CO	PR			
BUTLER	CO				CO	CO	CO	CO		CO	CO	CO		CO	CO
CAMBRIA	CO				CO	CO	CO	PR		PR	PR	PR			
CHESTER						CO	CO	PO		PO	PO	PO			PO
CLINTON						CO				PR	CO	PO			PR
CRAWFORD	PR			PR	CO	CO	PR			CO	PR	PR		PR	
DAUPHIN	CO				CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO		CO	CO
DELAWARE	PR				CO	CO	CO	CO		CO	CO	CO		PO	
ERIE	PO	PO			CO	CO	PO	PO		PR	PR	PR		PO	
FAYETTE	PR				CO	CO	PR	PR		PR	PR	PR		PR	
FOREST	PR				PR	CO	PO	PO		PR	PO	PR			
FRANKLIN					CO	CO		CO	CO	CO	CO				
FULTON	CO				PR	CO	PO	PR		PO	PO	PR			PR
GREENE	PO				CO	CO	PO	PO							
HUNTINGDON	PR				CO	CO	PO	PR	CO	PR	PR	PR		PR	PR
INDIANA	PR	PO			PR	CO	PR	CO		PR	CO	PR		PR	PR
LANCASTER	PR				CO	CO	PR	PR		CO	CO	PO			
LEBANON	CO	PO			CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO		PR	PR
MCKEAN	CO	PO	PO		CO	CO	CO	CO		CO	PR	CO	PO	PR	
MERCER	CO				CO	CO	PR	PR		CO	CO	CO			
MONTOUR	PO				PR	PO				PO	PO				
PHILADELPHIA	PO				CO	CO		CO		CO	CO			PR	
PIKE	CO					CO	PO	PO		CO	CO	CO			
SNYDER	CO				CO	CO	CO	CO	PO	CO	CO	CO			CO
SOMERSET	CO				CO	CO	PR	PR		PR	CO	CO			PO
VENANGO	CO				CO	CO	CO	PR		PR	PR	PR		PR	

PO = Possible PR = Probable CO = Confirmed

BREEDING BIRD TABLES - 2004

SPECIES	SWIFT	HUMMINGBIRD	KINGFISHER	WOODPECKER		SAPSUCKER	WOODPECKER		FLICKER	WOODPECKER		WOOD-PEWEE	FLYCATCATCHER			LEAST
				RED-HEADED	RED-BELLIED		YELLOW-BELLIED	DOWNY		HAIRY	NORTHERN		PILEATED	EASTERN	ACADIAN	
ALLEGHENY	PR	CO	CO		CO		CO	CO	CO			PR			PR	PO
ARMSTRONG	PR	PR	CO		CO		PR	CO	CO			PR			PR	
BEDFORD	CO	CO	CO		CO		PR	PR	PR			PO		PR	CO	CO
BERKS	CO	CO	CO		CO		CO	CO	CO			CO		PO	CO	
BRADFORD	CO	PR	CO		CO		PR	PR	PR			PR		PR	PR	PR
BUCKS	CO	CO	CO		CO		CO	CO	CO			CO		CO	CO	CO
BUTLER	CO	CO	CO		CO		CO	CO	CO			CO		CO	CO	CO
CAMBRIA	CO	PR	PR		CO		CO	CO	CO			PO		PO	CO	CO
CHESTER	PR	CO	PO		PR		PO	PO	CO			PR		PO	PR	
CLINTON	CO	CO	CO		CO		PO	CO	CO			CO		CO	PR	PR
CRAWFORD	PR	CO	CO		PR		CO	CO	CO			PR		PR	PR	PR
DAUPHIN	CO	CO	CO		PO		CO	CO	CO			CO		PO	CO	PR
DELAWARE	CO	CO	CO		CO		CO	CO	CO			CO		CO	CO	PR
ERIE	PR	CO	CO		CO		PO	PR	PR			PR		PR	PR	PR
FAYETTE		PR	PR		PR		PR	PR	PR			PR		PR	PR	PR
FOREST	CO	CO	CO		PR		PR	PR	PR			PR		CO	PR	PR
FRANKLIN	CO	PO	PO		CO		PO	CO	CO			PR		PO	CO	PR
FULTON	PR	PO	PR		PR		PR	CO	PR			PR		PO	CO	PR
GREENE	PR	CO	CO		CO		CO	CO	CO			PO		PO	PR	PR
HUNTINGDON	PR	PR	PR		PR		PR	PR	PR			PR		PR		PR
INDIANA	CO	CO	CO		CO		CO	CO	CO			CO		CO	PR	
LANCASTER	CO	PR	PR		CO		CO	CO	CO			PR		PO	PR	
LEBANON	CO	CO	CO		CO		CO	CO	CO			CO		PR	CO	CO
MCKEAN	CO	CO	CO		PR		CO	CO	CO			CO		PR	CO	CO
MERCER	PR	CO	PR		CO		CO	CO	PR			PR		PO	CO	PO
MONTGOMERY		PO	PO		PO		PO	PO	PR			CO		CO	CO	
PHILADELPHIA	CO	CO	CO		CO		CO	CO	CO			CO		CO	CO	CO
PIKE		CO	PO		CO		CO	CO	CO			CO		CO	CO	CO
SNYDER	CO	CO	CO		PO		CO	CO	CO			CO		PO	CO	CO
SOMERSET	PR	CO	PR		PR		CO	CO	CO			PR		PO	PR	PO
VENANGO	CO	PR	PR		PR		PR	CO	CO			PR		PO	PR	PO

PO = Possible PR = Probable CO = Confirmed

BREEDING BIRD TABLES - 2004

SPECIES	PHOEBE EASTERN	FLYCATCHER GREAT CRESTED	KINGBIRD EASTERN	WHITE-EYED	BLUE-HEADED	VIREO YELLOW-THROATED	WARBLING RED-EYED	JAY BLUE	CROW AMERICAN	RAVEN COMMON	LARK HORNED	MARTIN PURPLE	SWALLOW TREE
ALLEGHENY	CO	PR	CO	PR	PO	CO	PR	CO	CO		PR	CO	CO
ARMSTRONG	CO	PR	CO	PR	PO	PR	CO	CO	CO	CO	PR	CO	CO
BEDFORD	CO	CO	CO	PR	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO
BERKS	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	PR	PR	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO
BRADFORD	CO	PR	CO	CO	PR	PO	PR	CO	CO	PR		CO	CO
BUCKS	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO		CO	CO	CO
BUTLER	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO		CO	CO	CO
CAMBRIA	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	PO	PR	CO	CO
CHESTER	PR	CO	CO	PO	CO	PO	PR	CO	CO	PR	PO	CO	CO
CLINTON	CO	CO	PR	PR	CO	PR	PR	CO	CO	PR	PR	CO	CO
CRAWFORD	CO	CO	CO	PR	CO	PR	PR	CO	CO		PR	CO	CO
DAUPHIN	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	PO	CO
DELAWARE	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO
ERIE	CO	PR	CO	PR	PR	PR	CO	CO	CO		PR	CO	CO
FAYETTE	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR		CO	CO
FOREST	CO	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	CO	CO	CO	CO		CO	CO
FRANKLIN	CO	CO	CO	PR	PR	PR	CO	CO	CO	PO	PR	CO	CO
FULTON	CO	PR	CO	PO	PR	PO	PR	PR	PR	CO	PR	CO	CO
GREENE	CO	CO	CO	PO	PR	PO	PO	CO	CO	PR		CO	CO
HUNTINGDON	CO	CO	PO	PR	PR	PO	PR	PR	PR	PR	PO	PR	PR
INDIANA	CO	CO	CO	PR	CO	CO	PR	CO	CO	PR	PO	CO	CO
LANCASTER	CO	CO	CO	PR	CO	PR	CO	CO	CO	PR	PR	CO	CO
LEBANON	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	PO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO
MCKEAN	CO	PR	CO	CO	CO	PO	CO	CO	CO	PR		CO	CO
MERCER	CO	PR	CO	PO	CO	PR	PR	CO	CO		PO	CO	CO
MONTOUR	CO	PO	CO	CO	CO	PR	CO	CO	PR				PR
PHILADELPHIA	CO	CO	CO	CO	PR	PR	CO	CO	CO				CO
PIKE	CO	CO	CO	CO	PR	PR	PO	CO	CO	PO			CO
SNYDER	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	PR	PO	CO
SOMERSET	CO	PR	PR	PR	PR	PO	PO	CO	CO	CO	PR		CO
VENANGO	CO	PO	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	CO	CO	CO	CO		CO

PO = Possible PR = Probable CO = Confirmed

BREEDING BIRD TABLES - 2004

SPECIES	SWALLOW		BARN	CHICKADEE		TITMOUSE TUFTED	NUTHATCH		CREEPER BROWN	CAROLINA	HOUSE	WREN WINTER	SEDGE	MARSH
	NO ROUGH-WINGED	BANK		CLIFF	CAROLINA		BLACK-CAPPED	RED-BREASTED						
ALLEGHENY	CO	PO	CO	CO	CO	CO		CO		CO	CO			
ARMSTRONG	CO		CO	CO	CO	CO		CO		CO	PR			
BEDFORD	CO	CO	CO	CO	PR	CO	PO	PO	PR	PR	CO	PO		PO
BERKS	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	PO	CO	PO	CO	CO	CO		
BRADFORD	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	PR		PR	PO	CO	CO	PR		
BUCKS	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO		CO	PO	CO	CO			PR
BUTLER	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO		CO	PR	CO	CO		CO	PR
CAMBRIA	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO		CO		CO	CO			PR
CHESTER	CO	PO	CO	CO	CO	CO		CO		CO	CO			PR
CLINTON	PR		CO	CO	CO	CO		CO		PR	CO			PR
CRAWFORD	PR	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO		CO		CO	CO		PR	CO
DAUPHIN	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO		CO	CO	CO	CO	PR		PO
DELAWARE	PR	PO	CO	CO	CO	CO		CO		CO	CO			CO
ERIE	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	PR	CO		PR	CO	PO		CO
FAYETTE	PR		CO	PR	PR	PR		PR	PR	PR	PR			
FOREST	PR	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	PR	PR	CO			
FRANKLIN			CO	CO	CO			CO		CO	CO			
FULTON	PR	PO	CO	PO	PR	PR		CO		PR	PR			
GREENE	PR		CO	CO	PO	PO		PO		CO	CO			
HUNTINGDON	PO		CO		PR	PR	PR	PR		CO	CO	PR		
INDIANA	CO		CO	CO	CO	CO	PR	CO	PR	CO	CO	PO		
LANCASTER	CO		CO	CO	CO	CO		PR		CO	CO			
LEBANON	CO	PO	CO	CO	CO	CO	PR	PR		CO	CO	CO		
MCKEAN	PO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	PO	PR	CO	CO	CO	CO		
MERCER	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO		PR		CO	CO			
MONTGOMERY	CO	CO	PO	PO	PO	PO		PO	PO	PR	CO			PR
PHILADELPHIA	CO	PO	CO	CO	CO	CO		CO		CO	CO			CO
PIKE	PO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO		CO		CO	CO			
SNYDER	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	PO	CO	CO	CO	CO			PO
SOMERSET	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO		CO	CO	PR	CO	CO		
VENANGO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	PR		CO	PR	PR	CO			

PO = Possible PR = Probable CO = Confirmed

BREEDING BIRD TABLES - 2004

SPECIES	KINGLET GOLDEN- CROWNED	GNATCATCHER BLUE-GRAY	BLUEBIRD EASTERN	VEERY	SWAINSON'S HERMIT	THRUSH	WOOD AMERICAN	ROBIN	CATBIRD GRAY	MOCKINGBIRD NORTHERN	THRASHER BROWN	STARLING EUROPEAN	WAXWING CEDAR	BLUE- WINGED	WARBLER GOLDEN- WINGED
ALLEGHENY		CO	CO	PR			CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	
ARMSTRONG		PR	CO				PR	CO	CO	PR	CO	CO	CO	CO	PR
BEDFORD		PR	CO	PR			PR	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	PR	CO
BERKS	PO	CO	CO	CO		CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	
BRADFORD	PR	PO	CO	PR		PR	CO	CO	CO	CO	PR	CO	PR	PR	
BUCKS		CO	CO	CO			CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	
BUTLER		CO	CO	CO			CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	
CAMBRIA		CO	CO	PO		CO	CO	CO	CO		PR	CO	CO		
CHESTER		CO	CO	PO			PR	CO	CO	PO	CO	CO	PO	PO	
CLINTON		CO	CO	CO		CO	PR	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO		
CRAWFORD	PR	PR	CO	PR		PR	CO	CO	CO	PR	CO	CO	PR	PR	
DAUPHIN		CO	CO	CO		CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO
DELAWARE		CO	CO	CO			CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	
ERIE		PR	CO			PO	PR	CO	CO	PR	PR	CO	CO	PR	
FAYETTE		PR	CO	PR		PR	PR	CO	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR
FOREST	PO	CO	CO	PR		PR	PR	CO	CO	CO	PO	CO	CO	CO	PO
FRANKLIN		CO	CO					CO	CO	CO	PO	CO	PO		
FULTON		PR	CO				PR	CO	CO	PR	PR	CO	PR	PR	
GREENE		CO	CO				PO	CO	CO	CO	PR	CO	CO	PO	
HUNTINGDON	PO	PR	CO	PR		PR	PR	CO	PR	PO	PR	PR	PR	PR	
INDIANA	CO	CO	CO	PO		PR	CO	CO	CO	PR	CO	CO	CO	CO	PO
LANCASTER		CO	CO	PR			CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	PR	PR	
LEBANON		CO	CO	CO		PR	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO
MCKEAN	PO	CO	CO	CO			CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO
MERCER		CO	CO	CO		PO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	
MONTGOMERY		PO	CO	CO			PR	CO	PR	PR	PO	CO	PO	CO	
PHILADELPHIA		CO	CO	CO			CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	
PIKE	PO			PR		PR	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	PO	
SNYDER		CO	CO	CO		CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	PR	PR
SOMERSET	PO	PO	CO	PR		PR	PR	CO	CO	PR	PR	CO	CO	PR	PR
VENANGO	PR	PR	CO	PR		PR	PR	CO	PR	CO	PR	CO	PO	PR	PR

PO = Possible PR = Probable CO = Confirmed

BREEDING BIRD TABLES - 2004

SPECIES	WARBLER NASHVILLE	PARULA NORTHERN	YELLOW	CHESTNUT- SIDED	MAGNOLIA	BLACK- THROATED BLUE	YELLOW- RUMPED	WARBLER BLACK- THROATED GREEN	BLACKBURNIAN	YELLOW- THROATED	PINE	PRAIRIE	CERULEAN	BLACK-AND- WHITE	REDSTART AMERICAN
ALLEGHENY			CO	PR				PO		CO		PO	PR	PR	PR
ARMSTRONG		PO	PR	PR	PO			CO		PO		PR	PO	PO	CO
BEDFORD		CO	CO	PR	PO	PR		PR	PO		PO		PO	PO	PR
BERKS		CO	CO	CO		CO		CO			CO	CO	PR	CO	CO
BRADFORD	PO		CO	CO	PR	PR	PO	PR	PR		PO	PR	PO	PR	PR
BUCKS		PR	CO	PR				CO		PO	CO	CO		PR	CO
BUTLER		CO	CO	CO	PR			CO		CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO
CAMBRIA			CO	CO	PR	PR		CO	CO			PR		CO	CO
CHESTER			PO	PO							PO	PO		PO	PO
CLINTON		PR	CO	CO	PO			CO	PR				PR	CO	CO
CRAWFORD			CO	PR	PR		PO	PR	PR	PO	PO	PO	PR	PR	
DAUPHIN		CO	CO	CO	PO	PR		CO	PR		CO	CO	CO	CO	CO
DELAWARE	PO	CO	CO	CO	CO							CO			CO
ERIE			CO	PR	PO			PR			PR		PR		PR
FAYETTE		PR	CO	PR		PR		PR	PR	PR		PR	PR	PR	PR
FOREST		CO	PR	CO	CO	CO	PR	PR	CO				CO	CO	PR
FRANKLIN	PO	PO	PO			PO		PO			PO	PO	PO		PO
FULTON	PO	PO	CO					PR			PO	PO	PO	PR	PR
GREENE		PR	PR	PO						PR	PO	PO	PO	PO	PO
HUNTINGDON		PO	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PO	PR	CO	PR
INDIANA		PR	CO	CO	CO	CO		CO	PR	PO	PR	CO	PR	CO	CO
LANCASTER		PR	CO	PO						PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR
LEBANON	PR	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO		CO	CO			CO	PR	CO	CO
MCKEAN	PO	PR	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO			CO	CO	PR	CO
MERCER			CO	PR	CO			CO				PR	PR		CO
MONTOUR			PO												
PHILADELPHIA			CO												CO
PIKE		CO	CO	CO	PO			CO	CO		CO	CO	PO	CO	CO
SNYDER		CO	CO	CO	PO	CO	PO	CO	CO		CO	PR	PO	CO	CO
SOMERSET		PR	PR	PR	PR	PR		PR	PR	PR			PR	PR	PR
VENANGO		PR	CO	CO	PR	PR		PR	PR	PR			PR	PR	PR

PO = Possible PR = Probable CO = Confirmed

BREEDING BIRD TABLES - 2004

SPECIES	WARBLER PROTHONOTARY	WARBLER WORM-EATING	OVENBIRD	WATERTHRUSH NO. LOUISIANA	WARBLER KENTUCKY	WARBLER MOURNING	YELLOWTHROAT COMMON	WARBLER HOODED	WARBLER CANADA	CHAT YELLOW-BREASTED	TANAGER SCARLET	TOWHEE EASTERN	SPARROW CHIPPING	SPARROW CLAY-COLORED
ALLEGHENY		PR	CO	CO	PR		CO	PR		CO	CO	CO	CO	PO
ARMSTRONG		PO	CO	PR	PO		CO	PR		PR	CO	CO	CO	PR
BEDFORD		PR	CO	PR	PO		CO	CO	PR	CO	PR	CO	CO	
BERKS		CO	CO	CO			CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	
BRADFORD		PO	CO	PO		PO	CO	PR	PO	PO	PR	PR	CO	
BUCKS	CO	PR	CO	CO	PR		CO	PR		CO	CO	CO	CO	
BUTLER			CO	CO	CO		CO	CO		CO	CO	CO	CO	
CAMBRIA			PR	PR			CO	PR	PR	CO	CO	CO	CO	
CHESTER	PO		PO	PO	PO		PR			PO	PO	CO	PR	
CLINTON			CO	PR			CO	PR		PR	CO	CO	CO	
CRAWFORD	PR		PR	PR		CO	CO	CO	PR	PR	PR	PR	CO	
DAUPHIN		CO	CO	CO	CO		CO	CO	PR	CO	CO	CO	CO	
DELAWARE		PR	CO	CO	CO		CO	CO		CO	CO	CO	CO	
ERIE			PR	PR		PR	PR	PR			PR	PR	CO	
FAYETTE		PR	PR	PR	PR		PR	PR		PR	PR	PR	PR	
FOREST			PR	PO		PO	CO	CO			CO	PR	CO	
FRANKLIN	PO	PO	PO	CO			PO	PO		PO	PO	CO	CO	
FULTON		PO	PR	CO	PO		PR	PO		PO	PR	PR	CO	
GREENE		PR	PR	CO	PO		PR	PR		PO	CO	CO	CO	
HUNTINGDON		PR	PR	PR			PR	PR	PR	PO	PR	PR	CO	
INDIANA		PR	CO	CO	CO		CO	CO		PR	CO	CO	CO	PO
LANCASTER	CO	PR	PR	PR	PO		CO	PO		PR	PR	PR	CO	
LEBANON		CO	CO	CO	CO		CO	CO	CO		CO	CO	CO	
MCKEAN		PO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	PO	CO	CO	CO	
MERCER			PR	PR			CO	CO			PR	CO	CO	
MONTOUR			PO				PO				CO	CO	CO	
PHILADELPHIA			CO	PO			CO	PO		CO	CO	CO	CO	
PIKE		CO	CO	CO	CO		CO	CO			CO	CO	CO	CO
SNYDER		CO	CO	CO	PO		CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	
SOMERSET		PO	PR	PR	PR		CO	PR	PR	PR	CO	CO	CO	
VENANGO			PR	CO			CO	CO	PR	PR	PR	PR	CO	

PO = Possible PR = Probable CO = Confirmed

BREEDING BIRD TABLES - 2004

SPECIES	SPARROW										BUNTING INDIGO	DICKCISSEL	BOBOLINK
	FIELD	VESPER	SAVANNAH	GRASSHOPPER	HENSLOW'S	SONG	SWAMP	WHITE- THROATED	JUNCO DARK-EYED	CARDINAL NORTHERN			
ALLEGHENY	CO	PR	PR	PR	PR	CO	PR	PR	CO	CO	CO		PR
ARMSTRONG	CO	PR	PR	PR	PO	PR	PR	PR	PR	CO	CO		PR
BEDFORD	CO	PR	CO	CO	PO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO		CO
BERKS	CO	PR	PR	PR	PO	CO	PR	PR	CO	CO	PO		CO
BRADFORD	PR	CO	CO	CO	PO	CO	CO	CO	PR	CO	CO		CO
BUCKS	CO			PR		PR	PR	PR	CO	CO	CO		CO
BUTLER	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO			CO
CAMBRIA	CO	PR	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO			CO
CHESTER	PO			PO		CO	PO	PO	CO	CO	CO		PO
CLINTON	CO			CO		CO	CO	CO	CO	PR			CO
CRAWFORD	CO	CO	CO	PR	PR	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO			PR
DAUPHIN	CO	CO	CO	CO		CO	PR	PR	CO	CO	PO		CO
DELAWARE	CO			CO		CO	CO	CO	CO	CO			CO
ERIE	PR	PR	PR	CO		CO	PR	PR	PR	PR			PR
FAYETTE	PR		PR	PR		CO	PR	PR	CO	PR			PR
FOREST	CO		CO	PO		CO	PR	PR	CO	CO			CO
FRANKLIN	PO	PO	CO	CO		CO	CO	CO	CO	PO			CO
FULTON	CO	PR	PR	PR		PR	PR	PR	PR	PO	PR	PO	PO
GREENE	CO		PO	PR	PR	CO	PR	PR	CO	PO	PR		CO
HUNTINGDON	PR	PO	PR	PR		PR	PR	PR	PR	PO			CO
INDIANA	CO	PR	CO	CO	PR	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO			CO
LANCASTER	CO	CO	PR	CO		CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	PR		CO
LEBANON	CO	PR	CO	CO		CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	PR		CO
MCKEAN	CO		CO	CO		CO	CO	CO	CO	CO			PR
MERCER	CO		PR	PR		CO	PR	PR	CO	CO			CO
MONTOUR	PO			PO		PO	PO	PO	PO	PO			CO
PHILADELPHIA	CO					CO	CO	CO	CO	CO			CO
PIKE		CO				CO			CO	CO			CO
SNYDER	CO	CO	PR	CO		CO	PR	PR	CO	CO			PO
SOMERSET	CO	PR	PR	PR	PR	CO	PR	PR	CO	CO			CO
VENANGO	CO		PR	CO	PR	CO	PO	PR	CO	PR			CO

PO = Possible PR = Probable CO = Confirmed

BREEDING BIRD TABLES - 2004

SPECIES	BLACKBIRD RED-WINGED	MEADOWLARK EASTERN	GRACKLE COMMON	COWBIRD BROWN- HEADED	ORIOLE ORCHARD	ORIOLE BALTIMORE	FINCH PURPLE HOUSE	SISKIN PINE	GOLDFINCH AMERICAN	SPARROW HOUSE	Possible	Probable	Confirmed	Total
ALLEGHENY	CO	PR	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	7	33	71	111
ARMSTRONG	CO	PR	CO	CO	PR	CO	PR		CO	CO	14	43	48	105
BEDFORD	CO	CO	CO	CO	PR	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	22	30	74	126
BERKS	CO	PR	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO		CO	CO	5	14	101	120
BRADFORD	CO	CO	CO	PR	PO	PR	PR		CO	CO	20	51	49	120
BUCKS	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO		CO	CO	8	18	86	112
BUTLER	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO		CO	CO	0	7	111	118
CAMBRIA	CO	CO	CO	PR	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	8	22	71	101
CHESTER	PO	CO	PO	CO	PO	CO	CO		CO	CO	43	11	34	88
CLINTON		CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	PR	CO	CO	5	24	58	87
CRAWFORD	PR	PR	CO	CO	PR	CO	PR		PR	CO	5	69	58	132
DAUPHIN	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	PO		CO	CO	15	6	112	133
DELAWARE	CO		CO	CO	CO	CO	CO		CO	CO	4	4	82	90
ERIE	CO	CO	CO	CO	PR	CO	PR	PO	PR	CO	23	45	48	116
FAYETTE	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR		PR	CO	3	90	12	105
FOREST	CO	PR	CO	PR		PR	CO		PR	CO	14	33	59	106
FRANKLIN	CO	CO	CO	CO	PR	CO	CO		CO	CO	27	6	47	80
FULTON	PR	PR	CO	CO	PR	CO	PR		CO	PR	27	50	26	103
GREENE	CO	CO	CO	PR	CO	CO	CO		PR	CO	29	16	42	87
HUNTINGDON	PR	PR	CO	CO		CO	CO		PR	CO	15	72	24	111
INDIANA	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	10	25	82	117
LANCASTER	CO	PR	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO		CO	CO	6	35	64	105
LEBANON	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO		CO	CO	10	12	106	128
MCKEAN	CO	PO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	15	17	91	123
MERCER	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	PR		CO	CO	5	27	68	100
MONTOUR	CO	PO	PO	PO	PO	PO	PO		PR	PR	36	11	8	55
PHILADELPHIA	CO		CO	CO	CO	CO	CO		CO	CO	10	3	72	85
PIKE	CO		PO	PR	PO	CO	PR		CO		17	5	63	85
SNYDER	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO	CO		CO	CO	17	7	100	124
SOMERSET	CO	CO	CO	CO	PO	PR	CO	PR	CO	CO	17	52	51	120
VENANGO	CO	PR	CO	PR	PR	CO	PR		PR	CO	7	56	47	110

PO = Possible PR = Probable CO = Confirmed

# PHOTO QUIZ #6

Can you identify this bird? Answer in the next issue.



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

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Due Date</u>	<u>Publication Date</u>
Dec-Feb	Mar 31	May
Mar-May	Jun 30	August
Jun-Jul	Aug 31	October
Aug-Nov	Dec 31	February

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