Cover: Yellow-crowned Night Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*). This species is one of the state’s rarest breeders. This adult was photographed at Kiwanis Park, York, 9 July 2005 (Geoff Malosh) where a pair nested for the second consecutive year.
The breeding season allows birders to move from the hectic whirlwind of spring migration into the slower paced but nonetheless still exciting period of studying our breeding species.

For those who attended the PSO meeting in Clarion can identify with Ron Montgomery’s article on Grassland Birding. Where in Pennsylvania can you step out of your car and find that the most dominant sparrow singing is Henslow’s or wander through the scattered pines and hear the buzzing song of Clay-colored Sparrows a recent addition to our breeding avifauna.

Breeding site fidelity is a well-established fact and through banding studies individual birds have been known to return to the same yard year after year. Arlene Koch’s article clearly demonstrates how site fidelity occurred in one yard involving a species that may look delicate but in reality is tough as nails.

Of course, some birds have no rhyme or reason as to when they make their appearance. When Jerry McWilliams writes of finding a Parasitic Jaeger in mid-July, it reminds us that when we think the breeding season is a time of settled parenting by our feather friends, there is the occasional rarity to get us in the mood for the coming migration.

Breeding Season Tables

A reminder that the 2005 Breeding Season Tables for this issue are available on the PSO website http://www.pabirds.org/. For those who do not have internet access and wish to have copies of the Tables, please contact the Chief Editor.

Corrigendum

V19:123 & 125 - Photos of Ross’s Goose and Laughing Gull should be credited to Dave DeReamus.

Nick Pulcinella
Editor-in-Chief

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Ron Montgomery
Courtesy: Seneca Rocks Audubon Society

Getting there

Take Rt. 80 to Exit 53 (Knox) and follow black-topped Canoe Ripple Road south across the Clarion River to the first left (Elliot Rd.) after crossing the river. Before you get to the river, there is a sharp right curve with a dirt road going straight; follow the blacktopped road. Be careful turning left onto Elliot Road; it is at the crest of a hill.

Elliot Road becomes a dirt road. Follow it for a mile or so, until you reach the crest of a hill from which you can see the expanse of grassland (SGL 330) ahead. This is a good place to start birding! Look for both grassland and edge-habitat birds.

Description

Multiple lodging, dining, and shopping facilities are available at Exit 62 (one of the Clarion exits) off Route 80. During your outing you may wish to get a quick meal at the Korner Restaurant (814-745-2660) at 405 Colerain St, Sligo; you pass it on Route 58 if you follow the directions below. Tell them we sent you!

BJ’s Restaurant on the North side of Exit 53 also provides quick and inexpensive meals. Elegant dining is available at the Wolf’s Den in the same general area. A portion of this outing goes through the nationally recognized 2300-acre Important Bird Area (I.A.) #21 (Mount Zion/Pine Tract). The newly acquired 1800-acre PA State Game Land (SGL) 330 resides within the IBA #21.

Details

Continue on Elliot Rd. for a short distance to a T on Mt Zion Road and turn left (East). Drive to the top of the next hill, where there is a crossroad of sorts. This is a good location for several grassland birds (especially Henslow’s Sparrow and, at dusk, Short-eared Owl). Follow the path/road to the right (south). A section from about 0.5 to 1.5 mi has been good for Clay-colored Sparrow.

Return to Mt Zion Rd. The pine stand on the other side of Mt Zion is good birding, but not for grassland birds. Continue on Mt Zion Road for about 0.6 mi to a T on Limestone Flat Road; turn right.

After about a mile, notice Wyman Rd. to the left. The Wyman Rd. side trip can provide Vesper Sparrow and Short-eared Owl. The Vesper Sparrow habitat is on Wyman Rd. after about a half mile and continuing almost to Stockdill Rd. Turn left on Stockdill and drive to the top of the hill to explore a good grassland area. Return to Limestone Flat Road.

Turn left on Limestone Flat Rd. and continue to Rt 58. Turn right on Rt 58 and take the first left onto Morris Rd., which becomes Stewart Rd. When Stewart Rd. reaches a fenced pasture area on the right, start looking for Upland Sandpipers. This area, which we call Mt Airy, is all private land and you should not wander from the road. Upland Sandpipers can be difficult to observe when they are nesting in June. Continue on Stewart Rd. to Shannon-Tipple Rd.; turn right, cross Mt Airy Road and continue to the first Right. This is an excellent spot for several grassland birds, including Upland Sandpipers.

Return to Mt Airy Rd., turn left. Notice Murray Hollow Rd. on left. Explore Murray Hollow if you want another look at the grassland you just observed, but from the other side. There are pull-off locations on the left side of Murray Hollow Rd. Continue on Mt Airy past a farm house and barn to another great grassland.

Continue on Mt Airy to the bottom of the hill and to a T. Turn Right and continue to Rt 368. (If you do not have time to complete the outing, turning right here will put you on Rt 58 back to Sligo). To continue the outing, turn left on Rt 368, continue through Callensburg and take the first left on Callensburg Rd. Take the first right on McCall Rd. Watch for grassland birds, go through a crossroad, where the road becomes Limestone Flat Rd. Continue about a half mile on Logue and park at a tiny (private) dirt road on the right. A short walk back the dirt road could yield Clay-colored Sparrows, among other grassland birds.

Conservation

If you are not from the Clarion area, we would appreciate being informed of your visit, because we want a measure of the interest in our grassland habitat and its impact on the local economy. Please email Field Trips Chair Ron Montgomery at ronnjudy@penn.com or President Deb Freed at dfreed208@adelphia.net. We are interested in what you see, how long you stay, the number in your party, where you are from, and anything else you wish to pass along. You may also visit the Seneca Rocks Audubon Society website at www.senecarocksaudubon.org to send feedback.
Parasitic Jaeger  
Presque Isle State Park, Erie County  
Jerry McWilliams

Date: July 17, 2005  
Time: 9:15 to 10:45 AM  
Weather: mostly cloudy, wind southerly  
Viewing distance: as close as 25 feet.

I knew that using plumage alone was not going to be very useful, so I paid particular attention to its size, shape, and behavior in order to identify it to species. It gave me plenty of opportunities to study it in flight as it would often pass by me within 25 feet. I also took the opportunity to take many photographs for later study. It was frequently seen chasing Herring and Ring-billed Gulls, especially the former. It was also seen pursuing Sanderlings and even a couple of American Avocets that were eventually driven away.

Compared to Herring Gull in size it was noticeably smaller and compared to Ring-billed Gull it was slightly smaller. The flight of the jaeger was fast and erratic, often switching back to chase gulls or shorebirds making it difficult to take photos. Except for the rump and uppertail coverts, the entire upperside of the jaeger was dark brownish-gray and upon closer inspection there appeared to be some scapulars that were pale edged. The rump and uppertail coverts where pale with some dark barring. The outer primary shafts were white. It was difficult to get an accurate count of how many primary shafts were actually white, since depending upon the angle of the bird or position of the primaries, anywhere from three to five shafts appeared to be white.

Plate 1. Side view shows the extensive white on the undersides of the primaries. The body is white with coarsely spotted breast band. There is just a hint of the central rectrices (Jerry McWilliams).

Sometimes at certain angles a small white patch could be seen at the base of the upper primaries (the difference in the amount of white in the primary shafts is evident in the photographs). The underside of the wings appeared white or creamy and heavily barred. There was an extensive amount of white on the undersides of the primaries (about half the distance up from the base of the primaries). There was also a noticeable amount of white in the under-primary coverts, which is more typical of Pomarine Jaeger, but according to Olsen and Larsson, Parasitic Jaegers at this age can be nearly identical to Pomarine Jaeger.

The underside was white with a complete heavily smudged or spotted breast band. The head and neck were mainly pale buff with a dusky and not well defined cap that included some dark feathering around the eye. The bill was of moderate length and the basal 2/3 was gray and the outer third or tip was black. The upper flanks had some blotches or remnants of bands closest to the base of the wings. The lower flanks and the undertail coverts were boldly barred. The tail was dark and rounded, but there were no tail projections. Some photos show the central rectrices to appear pointed, but certainly not rounded or blunt tipped. The legs were gray and the feet were black. I was able to determine that this jaeger was a Parasitic because the size, shape, and behavior seemed consistent with Parasitic Jaeger juveniles that I have seen in the past. It was slightly smaller than a Ring-billed gull, so it was too small to be a Pomarine Jaeger, plus this bird did not have broad-based wings, the body was not particularly heavy, the bill and head was too small, and the central rectrices were not blunt-tipped.
Long-tailed Jaeger was considered, but this bird’s wings did not appear to be narrow enough, the central rectrices were not blunt-tipped and there was far too much white in the primaries. The white flash at the base of the underside of the primaries on a Long-tailed Jaeger would not extend half way up the primary, like this bird, and it should not show a white patch on the under-primary coverts. Long-tailed Jaegers have small bills with more black at the tip (at least 50% of the bill length). The flight of this jaeger was not light and buoyant, which is more typical of Long-tailed Jaeger. The photographs I took should clearly show plumage characteristics and body and wing shape and in some photographs, size comparison with nearby gulls.

Plate 2. The coarsely spotted breast band and flanks are quite evident in this photo as well as the heavily barred underwings. The bill is slender, not heavy as in a Pomarine Jaeger (Jerry McWilliams).

Plate 3. From above, except for light collar the bird appears entirely dark. This angle shows at least three white primary shafts (Jerry McWilliams).

Plate 4. This photo shows the Parasitic Jaeger chasing a Herring Gull. The jaeger is noticeably smaller. In general, Parasitic Jaeger is only slightly smaller than a Ring-billed Gull (Jerry McWilliams).

3508 Allegheny Rd.
Erie, PA, 16508
GUIDE TO GARDENING FOR LIFE IN SOUTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

BOOK REVIEW
Gene Wilhelm


Since individual actions at home can have a direct impact on native avian populations, the National Audubon Society produced a book in 2003 titled Audubon At Home in Seattle: Gardening for Life in hopes of creating a culture of conservation where home and neighborhood activities help protect local, regional and global bird populations. The book’s success inspired the establishment of this Pennsylvania version and also led to a similar project in Colorado soon to be published. These books make sense, cultural, economic and ecological sense and their grassroots emphasis at the home level is long overdue. In fact, with the number of birdwatchers in the USA rapidly approaching 100 million, it is shocking that it has taken Audubon so long in this vitally critical endeavor. At last, Audubon At Home provides the tools needed to make safe and healthy habitats for birds and other wildlife on private property and local public lands. Further, it helps people understand their vital connection to local habitats and empowers them to live in harmony with nature through wise personal decisions made at home, the store, in the neighborhood and community. This delightful, concise, well written and beautifully illustrated book tells you what, how, when and where to make your garden.

The nine sections include Introduction, Challenge and Champion for Creating a Healthy Backyard, Reducing the Lawn, Wetland and Riparian Buffers, Our Rainy Region, Campuses and Development, Issue: Oh Deer, What a Problem, Answer: Native Plants Deer Like Least, Essay: From the Ground Up and Resources: Attracting Wildlife (from birds to invasives) and Contacts, Resources and Contributors.

Although primarily printed for residents in the Delaware Valley, this workbook is a perfect model for all bioregions in Pennsylvania. In fact, most if not all of the issues discussed here relate directly to the challenges facing all of Pennsylvania. At the end of each ‘Challenge’ essay can be found an At Home Action (AHA!) page. Combine the AHA’s with the personal tips of the ‘Champions’ profiled in the accompanying stories and the makings of a plan to adopt similar actions emerges for your property. Of course, not every yard or garden is the same everywhere, nor resources equal and, in some cases, the champion profiles represent projects that took several years to complete. But fortunately we live in an ecologically rich state that will easily accommodate your personal changes and commitments to avian conservation. The book wisely states that to achieve your own conservation goals, be patient, take small steps, and, of course, enjoy the journey. Finally, although ‘yards’ and ‘backyards’ are terms used throughout the text, the principles and practices of habitat gardening for birds and butterflies are equally applicable to both smaller and larger landscapes from patio gardens and schoolyards to university campuses and corporate commercial properties.

The Introduction titled Healthier Yards, Healthier Neighborhoods, Healthier World lists Pennsylvania’s criticality and specifies “this book is exceptionally well written and states (p. 4): “Our backyard is our private space. It is our piece of the world. But it is also part of a larger landscape we share with our community and with plants and wildlife.” This last sentence should be revised to read: “But it is also a part of a larger landscape or community that includes plants, wildlife and us” for, indeed, all life depends on having a clean, healthy, sustainable place to live. “No matter how small, our yards and properties are becoming more and more important as wildlife habitat.” Loss, fragmentation, and degradation of suitable habitat are the leading causes of population declines in birds, other wildlife, and plants.” We can go so far as to say that backyard habitats are now critically important pieces of Earth, the first line of defense, holding together an increasingly fragmented landscape.”

The Introduction (p. 4) lists Audubon At Home’s “Big 5:” Plant native species. Remove exotic plant pests (invasive species). Conserve water. Protect water quality. Reduce pesticide use. The bottom line is that each of us can make a difference. But I would go farther regarding pesticides and flat out say: Do away with pesticides. Lawn and pesticide use is widespread and growing. In fact, approximately 50 percent of all U.S. households treat their yards with some sort of outdoor pesticide and a sizable number of households apply more than recommended doses. As stated in the text (p. 7):

“We need to recognize that any pesticide we apply to our lawn or garden may kill beneficial and non-pest species, may not stay where we apply it, and may persist in the environment for some time.”

Birds, butterflies, honeybees, lady beetles, earthworms and other higher organisms are frequently the unintended victims but so are our pets and children exposed to potential risk. In a recent University of Washington study of children living in Seattle, traces of garden chemicals were found in 99 percent of the 110 children tested with concentrations significantly higher in children whose parents reported that they used pesticides on their yards and in their gardens.

Two other features in the Introduction are especially appealing: the essay Evict Your Invasives (p. 8) and a side bar for Notes (p. 9), a feature that is repeated throughout the workbook. Such space can be used to create lists of things that exist in your yard and garden and things that you would like to add. This ‘wish list’ then becomes the basis for transformation. In fact, you can take the workbook outside and add notes as you stroll, observe, think and brainstorm new ideas.

The first Challenge: Creating a Healthy Backyard – Simple Steps for a Lively Garden includes assessing your yard’s existing conditions as the first step towards designing future avian habitats (p. 12). The AHA! (p. 13) says it like it is: Plant it and they will come. Stop killing things (98 percent of all insects are beneficial). Stop cleaning up. Good news…you have cavities (tree cavities, that is). Make a plan. That is, draw a base map (p. 15) and make a list of everything that exists in the yard now, then design a layout plan to determine how much and what parts of the yard you are ready to dedicate to a woodland, meadow, rain garden, etc. The challenge ends (p. 16) with a list of plants with high wildlife value. The Champions, Phyllis and Don Morway, follow the Challenge and have planned their yard to be inviting habitats for birds and other fauna and flora (pp. 17-19). The essay Chasing Nature’s Lively Garden includes six color photographs and personal hints called The Morway Way (p. 20).

I was particularly intrigued by one Challenge: Reducing the Lawn: Meadows and other Lawn Alternatives (pp. 21-26) and an important Issue: Oh Deer, What a Problem and the Answer (pp. 63-68) because both pertain to our own property in Slippery Rock Borough. A list titled Plants for Lawn Conversion (p. 24), the AHA! Responsible Care for the Lawn that Lingers (p. 26) and the list of things to do for the busy family in their urban environment (p. 32) are especially appealing. The deer problem, on the other hand, is challenging because clearly the negative impacts of overabundant deer in Pennsylvania are costly to our birds, other wildlife, habitats, natural heritage, economy, public safety, and quality of life. Ecologists warn that damage may become permanent and forest...
biodiversity and sustainability will be forever reduced if aggressive measures are not taken to control deer populations. The AHA! on p. 66 advises all households what to do to discourage deer from ruining your vegetation and even publishes a recipe (p. 68) that is called a Homemade Deer Deterrent. Once you read the ingredients you will see why.

Finally, I appreciated the Essay: From the Ground Up: Ecology, Soil, and Plant Communities (pp. 69-72) because it is such an enlightened approach to gardening, one that should be used everywhere in Pennsylvania. Simply begin with local, native plant communities as a guiding concept of microhabitat gardening in which the objective is to copy what nature provides. As stated in the text (p. 71): “The plants that grow in these communities have evolved with each other over thousands of years and complement each other’s growth patterns and needs. Planted together, they will form a familiar structure, one that birds and other wildlife will recognize.” One way to do this is to allow parts of the native forest, meadow or wetland to invade portions of your property, making them an extension of naturalness. As Albert Einstein said (p. 69): “Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better.”

Perhaps this is the most encouraging note about this wonderful workbook. It not only takes property owners, whoever they are, by the hand and shows them graphically what to do and how to do it but also introduces these same property owners to the process of consciousness of what Earth is all about. There is probably no more effective way to make Audubon At Home tangible to yourself, your family, neighborhood and community than to follow the gardening guidelines and accumulated wisdom exposed in this publication. What we need now is a similar workbook for each and every other physiographic region in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

I am pleased to report that this workbook recently has been made available on-line because of the many requests from near and far, so please go to this web site:
http://www.audubon.org/bird/at_home/GuidetoGardeningForLife_PA.html

513 Kelly Blvd.  
Slippery Rock, PA 16057

Answer to Photo Quiz #9

The coloration of this preening bird is dark overall. The back and crown feathers are very dark, appearing slate-colored. The bird appears to be a small raptor of some sort and is heavily streaked below, suggesting a female American Kestrel or Merlin. Although female American Kestrels are streaked below, the streaking is not as bold as on the bird pictured here. Female American Kestrels have rufous-brown backs. Also notice that the feathering around the legs has a rufous wash. This male Merlin was photographed at Graver’s Hill, Northampton County where this species occasionally appears in winter to prey on Horned Larks.

Rick Wiltraut
Banded Hummingbirds
Arlene Koch

While the period June through August of 2005 three different banded ruby-throated hummingbirds showed up in my yard. In all the years I've been obsessively observing and landscaping for them, I never had this happen before. For four years hummingbird banding sessions have been conducted here during peak migration time, but all of those banded birds either moved on the same day or shortly thereafter. And all three of these birds appeared before any banding was done this summer.

When I saw the first bird, an adult male, with what I thought was a band on his right leg, I wasn't sure my eyes weren't playing tricks on me. It was at a feeder ten feet away from the kitchen window and all I knew for sure that the sunlight was glinting off something on its leg. But it flew off as I reached for my binoculars and it was more than two weeks before I saw this particular bird again. This time I saw it through a scope and it did indeed have a band on its right leg. But I'd only see it sporadically and usually in the evening, and eventually it disappeared from the yard, taking its unread band with it.

Then in the late afternoon of July 8, at which time the first banded bird was still around, I saw a different adult male ruby-throat also wearing a band on its right leg. It was at a feeder on the front porch and once again it was the sun that revealed the tiny aluminum band. Like before, I didn't have binoculars in hand by this time I didn't need them.

Having one banded ruby-throat around and not knowing where or when it was banded or who banded it was maddening enough. But when a second banded bird showed up, my frustration level changed from yellow to orange. But there are only a few licensed hummingbird banders in the state, none of whom live close by. And even if one had been able to come, there was no guarantee they'd ever be able to catch either one of these birds. There never is.

Then one night, on a dark, overcast evening, Jason Horn fixed his scope on the feeder on the front porch and we waited for the second banded bird to appear. When it did he was able to see two of the six digits – two 7's – on the minuscule band. A few nights later, and in much better light, Devich Farbotnik did the same thing but this time when the banded bird came in he was able to take digital photos through his scope. Every so often I'd move the feeder to a different angle. After two nights of doing this, Devich fed the photos into his laptop computer, slowed it down to 1/30 of a second, and incredibly we were able to decipher all six digits on the band – N22772. Scott Weidensaul and Wayne Laubscher banded this bird here on my property in August 2004 as an “after hatching year” bird.

I came to think of this bird as “Mr. N” because he stayed around until August 17. On August 12, while he was still here, another banded ruby-throat, this one an adult female, appeared on a feeder outside the kitchen door. Like the other two, her band was also on the right leg. I only saw her twice that day and once the next morning and then she disappeared.

It was extremely gratifying to personally experience the end result of what banding is all about. Seeing these bands reiterated what banders have proven time and time again. Hummingbirds have intense site and migration route fidelity. I have no way of knowing for sure if the two birds whose bands weren't read were also banded here in years past, but that's my best guess. In some ways it would be more exciting if they'd been banded elsewhere, but I'll never know.

My sincere thanks to Scott and Wayne whose banding operation put this whole thing in motion. Equal thanks are due to Jason and Devich, both of whom show up whenever I call them even though most times their trips are for naught. Now I will spend the winter wondering what the hummingbird season of 2006 will bring.
The Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee (P.O.R.C.) Review List is a list of casual and accidental species for which P.O.R.C. would like to receive documentation. This documentation adds to the historical record and contributes to our knowledge of a species' abundance and distribution.

At each annual P.O.R.C. meeting the Review List is discussed and changes are proposed. Changes usually consist of additions, deletions or changes in county exemptions. Additions to the list are usually species that have recently been added to the state list (first state records) or species whose occurrence is increasing and the committee would like to gain a better understanding of its status. Deletions are species that through documentation, have been found to occur on a regular basis. Change in county exemption is made when it has been determined through documentation, that a species occurs in a specific county on a regular basis and thus no longer requires documentation.

These recent changes were made at the April 2005 meeting: Rufous Hummingbird was deleted from the list. This species is now regular in occurrence with eight documented in 2003 and nine in 2004. Our knowledge of the abundance and distribution of this species has greatly increased through banding and in-hand measurements. There was some discussion that by removing this species from the Review List, a record of the similar Allen's Hummingbird might be missed. P.O.R.C. felt that if a claim of Allen's Hummingbird were to be made, acceptance would need to be based on documentation via in-hand measurements and photographs. Since attempts to band late season hummingbirds in Pennsylvania will continue regardless of its review status, it seems unlikely an Allen's Hummingbird will go undocumented. Whimbrel was made exempt in Lancaster County; it is a regularly occurring species with as many as 150 observed in May 2004; Red Knot was made exempt in Erie County where it is a regular migrant; and Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow was made exempt in both Bucks and Lancaster Counties where it has been documented as a regularly occurring fall migrant.

Yellow-crowned Night Heron was also discussed and retained on the Review List until its true breeding status is determined through the work of the 2nd Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas.

The Review List

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck
Pink-footed Goose

Greater White-fronted Goose (exempt in Berks, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Lancaster, Lebanon, Montgomery, Philadelphia)

Ross's Goose (exempt in Berks, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Lancaster, Lebanon, Montgomery, Philadelphia)

Eurasian Wigeon
Cinnamon Teal
Tufted Duck
King Eider
Common Eider
Harlequin Duck
Barrow's Goldeneye
Masked Duck
Greater Prairie-Chicken
Pacific Loon
Northern Fulmar
Black-capped Petrel
Cory's Shearwater
Greater Shearwater
Leach's Storm-Petrel
White-tailed Tropicbird
Northern Gannet
Brown Pelican

White Ibis
Glossy Ibis
Roseate Spoonbill
Wood Stork
Swallow-tailed Kite
Mississippi Kite
Swainson's Hawk
Gyrfalcon
Yellow Rail
Black Rail
Clapper Rail
King Rail
Spotted Rail
Purple Gallinule
Snowy Plover
Wilson's Plover
Piping Plover
American Oystercatcher
Black-necked Stilt
Whimbrel (exempt in Erie and Lancaster)

Eskimo Curlew
Black-tailed Godwit
Hudsonian Godwit
Marbled Godwit
Surfbird

Red Knot (exempt in Erie)
Purple Sandpiper (exempt in Erie)

Curlew Sandpiper
Ruff
Red Phalarope
Pomarine Jaeger
Parasitic Jaeger
Long-tailed Jaeger
Laughing Gull (exempt in Erie and the lower Delaware and Susquehanna rivers)

Franklin's Gull (exempt in Erie)
Little Gull (exempt in Erie and Lancaster)

Black-headed Gull
Mew Gull
California Gull
Thayer's Gull
Sabine's Gull
Black-legged Kittiwake
Ross's Gull
Gull-billed Tern
Royal Tern
Roseate Tern
Arctic Tern
Sooty Tern
Black Skimmer
Dovekie
Thick-billed Murre
Black Guillemot
Ancient Murrelet
Band-tailed Pigeon
Eurasian Collared-Dove
White-winged Dove
Common Ground-Dove
Northern Hawk Owl
Great Gray Owl
Boreal Owl
Chuck-will's-widow
Calliope Hummingbird
Lewis's Woodpecker
Black-backed Woodpecker
Hammond's Flycatcher
Pacific-slope Flycatcher
Say's Phoebe
Vermilion Flycatcher
Ash-throated Flycatcher
Western Kingbird
Gray Kingbird
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher
Loggerhead Shrike
Violet-green Swallow
Cave Swallow
Boreal Chickadee
Brown-headed Nuthatch
Bewick's Wren
Sedge Wren
Northern Wheatear
Mountain Bluebird
Townsend's Solitaire
Bicknell's Thrush
Redwing
Varied Thrush
Bohemian Waxwing
Black-throated Gray Warbler
Townsend's Warbler
Kirtland's Warbler
Swainson's Warbler
MacGillivray's Warbler
Summer Tanager
Western Tanager
Green-tailed Towhee
Spotted Towhee
Bachman's Sparrow
Lark Sparrow
Lark Bunting
LeConte's Sparrow
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow
(exempt in Bucks and Lancaster)
Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow
sharp-tailed sparrow species
(exempt in Bucks and Lancaster)
Seaside Sparrow
Harris' Sparrow
Golden-crowned Sparrow
Black-headed Grosbeak
Blue Grosbeak (exempt in Berks, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Lancaster, Montgomery, Philadelphia, York)
Lazuli Bunting
Painted Bunting
Western Meadowlark
Yellow-headed Blackbird
Bullock's Oriole
Brambling
Pine Grosbeak
Hoary Redpoll.

Recognizable forms and subspecies

"Black" Brant
Green-winged (Common) Teal
"Eastern" Willet
Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler
White-crowned (Gambel's) Sparrow
Dark-eyed Junco other than "Slate-colored"

Documentation on any Review List species can be submitted to me at the address below. A Rare Bird Report Form is available online via the PSO web site http://www.pabirds.org

613 Howard Road
West Chester, PA 19380
nickpulcinella@comcast.net
Summary of the Season – June through July 2005

Dan Brauning

Not a month of the year can be named in which birds are not on the move, either actively en route between summer and winter residences or pushed by weather to escape starvation. So it is with the summer season. With the peak of nesting activity by long-distance migrants and local residents alike culminating in June and July, the focus of this season is clearly on the breeding season. Nevertheless, the “Birds of Note” for this season continues to be populated by rare seasonal vagrants such as gulls, shorebirds, and waterfowl. The “summary” of this season has been drawn from three sources of bird information. Daily notes on Audubon’s PABIRDS Listserv provide a running stream of bird sightings and insights. This was reviewed and highlights were extracted for the Birds of Note summary. The 2nd Breeding Bird Atlas Project provided the majority of bird records for this season. Some of the details were obtained directly from Atlas databases. Of course the county reports and table provides the body of this report and the core information for each season. One of the challenges in this information is to juggle the various information sources, finding areas in which they complement each other and deciphering where they disagree. To the credit of county compilers, most of the breeding rarities reported to the Atlas or noted on the list serve were mentioned in county summaries for which we have reports.

The summer of 2005 was widely reported to be unusually hot and dry. Scranton and Erie each set records for the highest average June-July temperatures. River levels were low and hot clear days predominated. Improved shorebird conditions with declining water levels were noted by a few, but other compilers reported a number of local ‘firsts’, but generally the season lacked major anomalies. There were first breeding records for such species as Common Merganser in Berks, but only a few first county records. This season is, as always, a mix of local residents, accidents, late or early vagrants, but all of them winged wonders that we enjoy to pursue and peruse.

The relics of the previous season are always a curiosity of the present season. A few waterfowl remained from the spring migration. Reports of Ring-necked Ducks were numerous enough to bump them off the “birds of note” summary, but none of them appeared to be nesting. Some remained through the season on particular ponds raising the question of their ability to escape in, for example Allegheny. The Tundra Swan of Snyder was reported in flight. Summer observations of Gadwall and American Wigeon in Crawford suggest the possibility of rare nesting events. Bufflehead and both scaup were clearly just lingering.

Vagrant shorebirds during this summer season were typical. It is not always clear whether they were “coming or going” to or from northern breeding grounds during June and July. In one case, a bird simply stayed: Érie reported a “first” summering Dunlin. The dry season provided habitat in some places that have been under water in past years, such as Green Lane Reservoir, Montgomery, although the species list there and elsewhere was typical. The regular appearance by such marvels as American Avocet and Marbled Godwit at Presque Isle, Érie did not disappoint.

One of the more unusual observations during the summer period was a Parasitic Jaeger found by Jerry McWilliams 7/17, a first summer record for Érie and ergo for Pennsylvania! The unexpected observation of Sooty Tern not directly associated with a passing hurricane was in part explained by sightings several days earlier to our south in the aftermath of Hurricane Dennis. The count of 14 Lesser Black-backed Gulls 6/4 at Peace Valley Park, Bucks, builds the case that this expanding species is in fact a year-round resident. As illustrated by Frank and Barb Haas’ new “Annotated List” – this species is now found in Pennsylvania in every month of the year.

Noteworthy is the continued expansion of Eurasian Collared-Doves. The discovery of several 7/11 in Coatesville, Chester, drew much attention. However, the quiet expansion of nesting activity to Greencastle from Shady Grove, in southern Franklin, continues unabated with uncertain potential. Could this be the next Rock Pigeon? Probably not representing an “expansion” like that of the collared-dove, was the report of Chuck-will’s Widow for a second successive year in Centre. The bird remained through the whole season. Remarkably similar was the presence of this species in Armstrong during the first Atlas. How often do we overlook such vagaries?

As with any season, some bird observations raise additional questions. While the sighting of an Olive-sided Flycatcher 6/4 in Monroe is simply a late migrant, one can only ask “what was the bird doing in Northampton” 6/19? Olive-sided Flycatchers haven’t been documented nesting in Pennsylvania since about 1930, and Northampton would not be the most likely location! A vagrant Western Kingbird made for a first-county report for Indiana 7/28, a particular oddity for July.

Documentation in the Atlas Project of over 550 records of regional rarities with supplemental details is a shining achievement of the 2005 breeding season. Rarities such as Sedge Wren in Philadelphia and Elk make up important components of this large project.

But for me, the overwhelming highlight of this season was the documentation of the routine and regular, those remarkable jewels of our fields and woods, the every-day birds of extraordinary beauty that don’t make a list of notables but filled our summer mornings with delights. The Canada Warbler singing vigorously from the rhododendron, the energetic antics of
Bobolinks in a field about to be mowed, the hush in the woods that preceded a Cooper's Hawk's intrusion, and the list goes on. These observations were noted and compiled by the network of informants that make up the Atlas Project.

With the advent of the Internet, these observations become statewide maps and lists almost immediately available for all to observer. The summary of this season is made up of approximately 80,000 bird sightings, each of which was an encounter between man and bird. Maybe that encounter was just a song detected from the far woodlot, but often these statistics represent a face-to-face exchange of delight and wonder. The Worm-eating Warbler beating a caterpillar against a branch, or the mixed emotion of a noisy cowbird begging and being fed by the stately Hooded Warbler (two confirmations at once, but...) -- each of these was a seasonal highlight, and similar experiences were shared by hundreds of others.

The tally of warblers comes to mind. With 29 species breeding in Pennsylvania, warblers make up the most diverse family of birds nesting here. With the delightful mix of yellows, reds, and muted greens, they are a colorful lot. Some species are found statewide and many are widespread. Pennsylvania lies close to the southern edge of a number of species and at the northern edge of others. Dauphin and Snyder counties each reported 25 warbler species with some breeding evidence, the highest counts during this season. They are positioned centrally enough to support those of southern affinity like Kentucky Warbler and sub-Canadian species on the forested ridges such as Magnolia Warbler.

This is not to suggest that with careful fieldwork, a higher tally could not be obtained in a single field season in other counties! The apparent expansion of Prothonotary Warblers to new locals in Lancaster is encouraging.

The persistence of Dickcissels was noteworthy. Some of the best counts ever were reported this year in Cumberland, and individuals continue to show up in scattered locations. Not bad for a species not known to nest in the state 25 years ago and occupying a habitat in which all of its associates are declining precipitously. Similarly, the Clay-colored Sparrow continues its slow expansion, mostly on reclaimed surface mines. The White-crowned Sparrow in Crawford and Yellow-headed Blackbird in Dauphin each appear to be first summer records for the state.

61 Windy Lane
Montgomery, PA 17752
This report summarizes unexpected species and species reported in fewer than five counties during the reporting period.

An * denotes species on the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee (PORC) Review List. Details or descriptions that are submitted for species on the PORC Review List will be reviewed by the committee. The term “No Desc” refers to a Review List species for which no description of the bird was submitted, or we are unaware of such a submission at this time. The PORC Review List can be found at the PSO web site http://www.pabirds.org

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.

Birds reported only on the Pennsylvania Birds list-serve are noted following the observer with a PABL. Records reported only to the Atlas Project are noted accordingly.

**Trumpeter Swan** - *Lawrence:* two at Atlantic States gravel pond in New Beaver 6/19 (Mark Vaas-PABL).

**Tundra Swan** - *Snyder:* one seen flying at Faylor Lake 6/12 (Particia and Richard Williams).

**Gadwall** - *Crawford:* male seen 6/8 and 7/7 (Ron and Robert Leberman); *Pike:* a fly-by 6/11 (Bob Mercer).


**Green-winged Teal** - *Crawford:* two were seen 7/25 at Pymatuning Goose Management Area (Robert Leberman).

**Lesser Scaup** - *Carbon:* adult male on Wild Creek Reservoir 6/26 (Richard Rehrig-PABL).

**Greater Scaup** - *Erie:* one 7/17 at Presque Isle (Ben Coulter).

**Bufflehead** - *Elk:* one seen at East Branch Reservoir 6/11 (John Fedak-PABL).

**Ruddy Duck** - *Beaver:* a drake on the Beaver River at Rochester 6/3 (Mark Vaas); *Chester:* one was seen in the Struble Lake area 6/1 (Chuck Chalfant), and reported to the Atlas Project 6/5 (Rick Robinson).

**American White Pelican** - *Crawford:* two observed 6/3 flying near the spillway of Pymatuning Reservoir and again seen 6/11 (Jack Christian, Ron Leberman, Mark Vass), and an immature was seen at the Fish Hatchery 7/25 (Ron Leberman, Robert Leberman); *Erie:* one discovered by tour boat operator Terry Smith at Gull Point on Presque Isle 7/13.

**American Bittern** - *Bradford:* one heard calling 6/20 at the pond in the Standing Stone area (William Reid); *Bucks:* at Quakertown Swamp at least to 6/6 (Bill Etter); *Crawford:* one flushed at Hartstown Marsh 7/22 (Ron Leberman); *McKeen:* heard in swamp and reported to the Atlas Project (John Fedak); *Northampton:* one flew over a marshy area in Mt. Bethel 6/2 (Sherril LaBarr).

**Snowy Egret** - *Bucks:* one at Peace Valley Park 6/5 (Butch Lishman); *Lancaster:* a first-year bird 7/20 at Conejohela Flats (Chuck Chalfont).

**Little Blue Heron** - *Bucks:* one was at Rohm & Haas, Bristol 7/24 (Devich Farbotnik).

**Cattle Egret** - *Lancaster:* one seen at south end of Green Island on Conejohela Flats 7/28 (Deuane Hoffman-PABL). No Desc.

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** - *Dauphin:* a nest contained young 6/6 (Sandy Lockerman) continued to be observed through at least 8/16 when three were reported near the Susquehanna River at Fairview (Gerald McWilliams). *York:* a pair nested at Kiwanis Park (multiple observers).

**Glossy Ibis** - *Chester:* a flock of about 10 “on and off through summer”, with 22 on 7/14 flying south, toward state of Delaware (Andrew Leidig) No Desc.; *Northampton:* one juvenile seen at Green Pond from 7/1-10 (Nancy Johnston).

**American Coot** - *Beaver:* at the New Brighton boat launch of Beaver River thru the period (Mark Vaas); *Washington:* one seen at acid mine pond along Hahn Rd. 7/11 (Mark Vass-PABL).

**Sandhill Crane** - *Lawrence:* three adults seen in field along Golf Course Rd. near Plain Grove 6/25 (Mark Vass-PABL); *Crawford:* one adult through June feeding and calling on SGL 69 last year (Ron Mumme - Atlas) and another adult believed to be part of nesting pair north of Cambridge Springs seen 6/15 (Chuck Gehring - Atlas).

**American Avocet** - *Erie:* two seen at Gull Point 7/17 (Jerry McWilliams), one 7/19 (Ben Coulter) and 3 there 7/27 (Jerry McWilliams); *Lancaster:* a female was seen at the Conejohela Flats 7/20 (Deuane Hoffman).

**Willet** - *Erie:* one with an injured leg was seen at Presque Isle 7/23-27 (Mike Fialkovich) and 3 there 7/26 (Jerry McWilliams); *Lancaster:* one seen at Conejohela Flats 7/28 (Deuane Hoffman – PABL).

**Upland Sandpiper** - *Crawford:* one seen along Rt 285 (Ron Leberman) and other reports to Atlas in Pymatuning Goose Management area through season; *Franklin:* two reported along Brandts Church Rd off Rte 416 near Mercersburg 6/15 (Dale Gearhart).

**Whimbrel** - *Erie:* four seen 7/14 at Gull Point (Jerry McWilliams) and 2 on 7/27 at Gull Point (Jerry McWilliams).

**Marbled Godwit** - *Erie:* a rather late spring migrant was identified 6/5 (Mark Vass) and another bird was found on the more expected date of 7/18 at Presque Isle (Ben Coulter).

**Elimlin** - *Erie:* successfully summered at Gull Point on Presque Isle for the first time (Jerry McWilliams).

**Stilt Sandpiper** - *Crawford:* a single bird was at Pymatuning Goose Management Area 7/21-22 (Ron Leberman, Robert Leberman); *Erie:* singles on Presque Isle 7/13, 19, and 27 (Jerry McWilliams);
Prothonotary Warbler - Adams: adult female was seen at a small pond along Mountain Road 6/2 (Deb Siefken - PABL).

Red-necked Phalarope - Adams: adult female was seen at a small pond along Mountain Road 6/2 (Deb Siefken - PABL).

Parasitic Jaeger* - Erie: a pale morph, believed to be a two year old bird, actively pursuing gulls and shorebirds at Gull Point 7/17 was a first summer record for Erie (Jerry McWilliams).

Franklin Gull* - Erie: adult observed along outer beach 6/14 (Jerry McWilliams).

Bonaparte Gull - Centre: one seen at Benner Springs Fish Hatchery 6/1 (Jeff Michaels); Erie: single bird at Presque Isle 6/18 (Mark Vass - PABL), another 7/30 at Gull Point (Mark Vass - PABL).

Lesser Black-backed Gull - Bucks: unusual for Peace Valley Park in June was a count of 14 on 6/4 (August Mirabella). Other sightings include 5 still at Nockamixon State Park until at least 6/5, 2 on 7/23 and up to 5 there for the rest of July (Bill Etter).

Sooty Tern* - Lancaster: an adult was seen on two occasions flying past Avocet Point at Conewago Flats 7/24 (Eric Witmer, Bruce Carl, and others).

Eurasian Collared-Dove* - Chester: found in Coatesville 7/11 (Larry Lewis) and during the weeks following seen and photographed by many; Franklin: a new nesting site has been located in Greencastle. They also continue to nest in Shady Grove (Dale Gearhart).

Long-eared Owl - Cumberland: fledged young reported to Atlas Project 5/21 (Ron Freed); Northumberland; nestlings found and taken to rehabilitator 4/30 (Jan Getgood).

Short-eared Owl - Clarion: adult carrying food to likely nest site near Curllsville 6/29 (Carole Willenpart).

Northern Saw-whet Owl - Armstrong: one during a “toot route” in the North Point area 7/6 (Carol Guba, Margaret Higbee); Cumberland: two heard on “toot route” 6/23 on South Mountain in the area south of the town of Walnut Bottom; McKean: reported through the season, to seem “downright common this year” (John Fedak).

Olive-sided Flycatcher - Monroe: a late migrant was found near Bushkill 6/4 (John Serrea); Northampton: one observed along Raubsville Road, Williams Twp., 6/19 (Dave DeReamus).

Western Kingbird* - Indiana: found on telephone wires at the intersection of Willow and Swan near McIntyre 7/28-29 a first county record (Margaret and Roger Higbee).

Sedge Wren* - Philadelphia: one found at Spring Lane 6/29 (Chuck Hetzel); Crawford: singing male in meadow south of Mumford Rd. 6/29 (Robert Leberman – atlas report); Elk: a territorial bird seen carrying a fecal sac 7/30 (John Fedak).

Loggerhead Shrike* - Fulton: a sighting while driving near the Bedford/Fulton line in late-May (Margaret Higbee).

Prothonotary Warbler - Berks: one was heard at LO till 6/25 (Joe Beatrice). Breeding status is unknown; Bucks: a male remained into June this year (Chris Stieber, Nick Zahn); Lancaster: one singing on Green Island, Conewago Flats 6/19 (Bob Schutzky), a pair in atlas block 93B71 on 6/20 (Tom Raub), and at Holtwood and in the Bainbridge area; Northampton: one heard at Bangor Vein Rd. near Bear Swamp 6/22 (Michael Schall) and a fledging seen at this location 7/2 (Jake Mohlmann); Crawford: heard 6/20 at bridge on Brown Hill Rd. (John Tautin – Atlas).

Clay-colored Sparrow - Armstrong: one singing for several hours near McGregor 6/9 could not be found on subsequent trips (Carol Guba, Margaret Higbee); Clarion: now regular at Curllsville, Mt. Zion and newly found on Summerville Rd. near Rimersburg mid-June (Carole Willenpart); Clinton: while doing point counts for the breeding bird atlas, two heard singing 6/14 (Lewis Grove-PABL).

White-crowned Sparrow - Crawford: an adult appeared at a feeder east of Cambridge Springs 6/30 and remained to 7/4 (Frank Zalik).

Dickcissel - Cumberland: a single singing bird along Rte. 997 north of Newburg and again a pair and 3 singing males 7/8; 13 singing males at five locations in the Newburg area on 7/16 (Ramsay Koury and others); Fulton: a singing male was found along Heaven Acres Road in Thompson Twp. 6/5/6 (Dan Snell) and found again the next day in the same location but not after the hay was cut; Northumberland: one observed and hear 6/20 (Allen Schweinsberg); Wyoming: one at least between 7/13-24 in Eaton Twp (Bill Reid).

Yellow-headed Blackbird* - Dauphin: single female observed 7/27 west of Graz (William Reid). No Desc.
PHOTOGRAPHIC HIGHLIGHTS

**Black-crowned Night Heron** (*Nycticorax nycticorax*). 9 July 2005
Kiwanis Park, York (Geoff Malosh).

**Glossy Ibis** (*Plegadis falcinellus*). This immature was present at Green Pond, Northampton, 1-10 July 2005 (Dave DeReamus).

**Hooded Merganser** (*Lophodytes cucullatus*). This female nested at East Bangor, Northampton, 14 April 2005 (Brad Kreider).

**Barn Owl** (*Tyto alba*). Four young at a nest site in Hartleton, Union, 5 July 2005 (Wayne Laubscher).
Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*). Unusual for July was this individual that spent two days near Macintyre, Indiana. Photographed 29 July 2005 (Geoff Malosh). This photo shows nicely the white edge to the outer tail feathers, a key field mark to identifying this species.

Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*). Imperial, Allegheny 2 July 2005 (Geoff Malosh).

Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*). Female at nest cavity Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve, Allegheny, 13 June 2005 (Brian Shema).

Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*). This bird photographed 9 July 2005 was one of an amazing 11 singing males in Cumberland this summer (Geoff Malosh).
Adams County

No Report

Compiler: Peter Robinson, P.O. Box 482, Hanover, PA 17331, (717) 632-8462 pabirder@hotmail.com

Allegheny County

Locations: Imperial (IMP).

Two Ring-necked Ducks lingered in the area through the period. A male was present on a pond in Findlay Twp. and a female was nearby at IMP during the same period (MV). Apparently, neither bird moved from its chosen pond through the season. A single Hooded Merganser was at IMP in Jun, but breeding was not confirmed this year.

A pair of Pied-billed Grebe were noted at IMP through May and on 6/17, two chicks were observed with an ad (MV). This was the first known breeding record in the county since 1893 (noted in Todd’s Birds of Western Pennsylvania). Birds have been seen in recent years until Jun, but never confirmed breeding. A late Common Loon was at Leetsdale on the Ohio R. 6/15 (BS).

Normally reported only during the winter along area rivers (particularly when lakes are frozen), a Black-throated Blue Warbler was an unexpected sight flying along the Ohio R. near Pittsburgh 6/8 (FM, CM).

Fish Crows returned to North Braddock for the second year. One was present in May and a group of 4 were seen 6/25 (MF). A late Black-throated Blue Warbler was singing at Riverview Park in Pittsburgh 6/8 (FM, CM).

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Observers: Mike Fialkovich, 805 Beulah Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15235, (412) 731-3581, mpfial@earthlink.net, Randi Gerrish, Sarah Gerrish, Carol McCullough, Fred McCullough, Pat Lynch, Sherron Lynch Bob Machesney, Geoff Malosh, Brian Shema (BSh), Becky Smith, Chuck Tague, Bob VanNewkirk, Mark Vass, Dan Yagusic.

Armstrong County

Locations: Dayton (DT), Eddyville (EV), Mahoning Dam (MD), McGregor (McG), McWilliams (McW).

The top Canada Goose tally was 51 at Crooked Creek Park 6/21 (JV, Jva). A female Wood Duck and a hen Mallard, accompanied by 4 and 5 young respectively, were at Keystone Res. 7/1 (CG, MH). Three Common Mergansers were listed at MD 6/1 but could not be found on subsequent trips (CG, MH). A Northern Bobwhite calling near Kittanning 6/12 was out of habitat and of undetermined origin (MH, RH).

A Northern Harrier near EV 7/1 was unexpected (CG, MH). The Armstrong portion of the Shelocta BBS yielded 7 Killdeer 6/4 (MH, RH) as did the Margaret BBS 6/11 (MH, RH).

A Ring-billed Gull at Crooked Creek Park 6/1 was the lone report for that species (JV, Jva).

Four Black-billed and 4 Yellow-billed Cuckoo reports were received (v.o.). A toot route in the North Point area yielded one Great Horned Owl, 2 Barred Owls, and one Northern Saw-whet Owl 7/6 (CG, MH). Common Nighthawks reports included one near Ford City 6/1 (JV, Jva) and 2 in Kittanning 6/12 (MH, RH).

Atlantic in the McC area 6/22 (CG, MH) yielded 5 singing Acadian Flycatchers. Alder Flycatchers were more numerous this season with reports of one near McW 6/9 (CG, MH) and 2 near the Mahoning-Little Mahoning confluence 7/6 (CG, MH). Least Flycatchers were listed only near McW 6/2,9 (CG, MH).

White-eyed Vireos were unreported while Blue-headed Vireos were noted at 4 locations (v.o.). Twelve Yellow-throated Vireos were listed at 9 locations (v.o.). Five Warbling Vireo reports were received. Single Horned Larks were spotted 6/2 (CG, MH) near Belknap and near McW.

Atlassing in the DT quad yielded 15 Wood Thrushes 6/2 (CG, MH). Listed at 7 locations, Northern Mockingbirds included 2
on the Shelocta BBS 6/2 (MH, RH) and 3 on the Margaret BBS 6/11 (MH, RH).

McW yielded 3 Blue-winged Warblers 6/2 (CG, MH); Blue-woods were reported from 9 other locations, but no Golden-winged Warblers or hybrids were noted. Two Northern Parulas were territorial at MD from 6/2-7/1 (CG, MH) while individuals were found near EV 6/2 (CG, MH), near Cochrans Mill 6/4 (MH, RH), and on the Margaret BBS 6/11 (MH, RH). A Magnolia Warbler singing near Mt. Tabor 6/9 (CG, MH), and 5 near McW 6/22 (CG, MH). A Yellow-throated Warbler in the sycamores at the traditional Cochrans Mill location 6/2 (RH, MH) was the lone report. Prairie Warblers were in good numbers with as many as 5 singing males in a Christmas tree field near MD 7/11 (CG, MH); Armstrong seems to be a good stronghold for Cerulean Warblers – at least 7 were counted at MD 7/1 (CG, MH); reports also came from 6 other locations (v.o.). A Black-and-white Warbler was observed carrying food at MD 6/1 (CG, MH). A late Northern Waterthrush was singing near McW 6/22 (CG, MH). The observers watched an adult Louisiana Waterthrush carrying food at MD 6/1 (CG, MH) and saw 2 of the fledglings plus an ad 6/22 (CG, MH). Kentucky Warblers were noted 6/2 and 6/9 at EV (CG, MH) both south of DT and near McG. Atlassing in the DT quad 6/2 (CG, MH) yielded at least 16 Hooded Warblers; other good counts included 9 near McG 6/22 and 8 near EV 7/1 (CG, MH). Three Yellow-breasted Chats were listed on the Shelocta and Kittanning BBS routes 6/2 and 6/12 (MH, RH), but none were found on atlas trips.

Eighteen Scarlet Tanagers were found in the DT quad 6/9 (CG, MH); 7 was a good count near Atwood 7/17 (MH, RH). A Clay-colored Sparrow singing for several hours near McG 6/9 could not be found on subsequent trips (CG, MH). Savannah Sparrows were listed most commonly at DT (v.o.). Two Grasshopper Sparrows were counted n.e. of Elderton 6/20 (MH), s. of DT 6/22 (CG, MH), and at Milton 7/1 (CG, MH). Swamp Sparrows were widespread with best count of 3 at Keystone Res. 6/1 (CG, MH). Bobolinks were found in fields near EV and McW 6/2 (CG, MH) and south of DT 6/9 (CG, MH). Orchard Orioles were observed at 8 locations (v.o.).

Observers: Margaret Higbee, 3119 Creekside Road, Indiana, PA 15701, (724) 354-3493, bcoriole@mailtel.net, Carol Guba, Roger Higbee, Joe Valasek, Josie Valasek (JVa).

Beaver County

Locations: Little Blue (LB), Independence Marsh (IM), Beaver River (BR)

There was a late drake Ruddy Duck at Rochester (BR) 6/3 and an American Coot was at the New Brighton boat launch (BR) thru the period. An immature Bald Eagle was at (LB) 7/3.

Shorebird highlights include one Baird’s Sandpiper and 26 White-rumped Sandpipers 6/5 at LB, with the White-rumped last seen 6/19; 3 Sanderlings and 10 Solitary Sandpipers were seen at IM. 7/24

Observers: Mark Vass.

New compiler - Geoff Malosh 450 Amherst Ave., Moon Township, PA 15108, (412) 269-1413 pomarine@earthlink.net Beginning Fall 2005.

Bedford County

Locations: Allegheny Front (AF), Dunnings Creek Wetland (DCW), Shawnee State Park (SSP).

The weather for the period was hot and extremely dry. One hundred and thirty-seven species were reported including species for the Breeding Bird Atlas categories of 17 possible, 44 probable and 76 confirmed species.

Needless to say one of the most successful breeders was Canada Goose. This was followed by Wood Ducks and Mallards. Wood Duck broods suffered 30% to 60% mortality from snapping turtles especially at DCW. Despite this problem the Wood Duck banding season in Aug has surpassed other years. Blue-winged Teal and Common Merganser were listed as possible and probable breeders respectively. Galliformes such as Ruffed Grouse, Ring-necked Pheasant and Wild Turkey had a good year with fledglings found in most suitable habitats.

Bald Eagle sightings and a nest (yet to be confirmed) have been reported along the Raystown Branch of the Juniata R. Osprey, although present throughout the period, still show no signs of nesting. Frequent raptor sightings suggest that the following are breeding: Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper’s Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, and American Kestrel. The success rate of kestrel box occupancy has been around 80% without an estimate.

Soras persisted throughout this period with no proof of successful nesting while Virginia Rails left as the drought worsened at DCW. Shorebirds with successful nesting were Killdeer and one pair of Spotted Sandpipers. The following listings are for DCW: Solitary Sandpipers in small numbers persisted throughout the period while other shorebirds include 2 Western Sandpipers 7/24, one Baird’s Sandpiper 7/28, and 4 Pectoral Sandpipers 7/8.

Common Ravens have been reported as breeding at the Ashland and on the other locations within the county in addition to the AF. The following empidonax flycatchers are listed in order of most common to uncommon breeders: Willow, Least, Acadian and Alder Flycatchers.

Five breeding vireos are listed in order of abundance as found thus far in BDS: Red-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Yellow throated Warbler, Prothonotary Warblers from recent information received. The four most common warblers were Common Yellowthroat, Yellow Warbler, American Redstart and Ovenbird. Blue-winged Warblers are very slowly increasing. Golden-winged Warblers are fairly common but frequently switch habitats as habitats mature. Northern Parulas are found along many of the sycamore-lined streams. Chestnut-sided Warblers are common and increasing within lumbered areas. Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, and Blackburnian Warblers were found most commonly on the AF. Pine Warblers are increasing their numbers especially at SSP while Prairie Warblers and Cerulean Warblers are becoming increasingly harder to find. Black-and-white Warblers are wide spread and Worm-eating Warblers were found in many locations near and on the AF escarpment. A Missisquoi Warbler has been found on six streams and Northern Waterthrush on four streams thus far. Kentucky Warblers have been found in reasonable numbers especially near headwater streams of the AF. Both Hooded and Canada Warblers were more commonly found along the AF. The Canada Warbler breeding habitat becomes striking when you realize it runs across the entire state from the southwest to the northeast. A looming threat may be the advent of wind generators and their influence on warbler breeding habitat.

Frequent raptor sightings suggest that the following are breeding: Bald Eagle, Cooper’s Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, and American Kestrel. The success rate of kestrel box occupancy has been around 80% without an estimate.

Observers: Tom Dick, 123 Hummer Lane, Cairnbrook, PA 15924, (814) 754-5727, thomasd102@aol.com, wetmeadow@aol.com, Sally Dick, Connie Hunt, Mike and Laura Jackson, Jef and Retta Payne.

Berks County

Locations: Blue Marsh L. (BML), Glen Morgan L. (GML), L. Ontelauneo (LO), State Game Lands (SGL).

The headline this nesting season was the discovery of a female Common Merganser with 9 ducklings on the Schuylkill R. at the Five Locks bridge near Shoemakersville 6/15 (MW), establishing the first county breeding record. The ducklings were about 75% grown. Common Mergansers lingering late into spring had raised suspicions of nesting for several years. Four or 5 Snow Geese summering at Shartlesville pond was a typical number for recent years. On a visit to the privately owned GML IBA, to which access is restricted, 40 adult and 20 juv Wood Ducks and 11 ad and 5 juv Pied-billed Grebes were counted 6/5 (KL). An active Black-crowned Night-Heron nest...
A Ring-necked Pheasant was seen in the NE vicinity 6/19 (TG). The only American Bittern the season was heard calling 6/20 at a pond in the Standing Stone area (BR). There was a dispersing Great Egret 7/27 in the Wildwood area (RS). Among some of the confirmed breeding Northern Parulas were observations 6/14 at their nest near 5/31 at Mt. Pigsah SP (RY), and one on Marcy Hill, Liberty Corners 6/17 (BF). Various sightings of Red-shouldered Hawks included one 5/15 in the NE vicinity (TG) and one 6/7 in the MP area of BM (TG). On 6/20 a Virginia Rail was observed in the Standing Stone area and one in Tuscarora Twp (BR). An unusual sighting was of 2 Solitary Sandpipers 7/13 in the Wildwood area, possibly early migrants (RS). Unusual during the breeding season was a Spotted Sandpiper observed on the mud flats of the Dairy Pond near Moxie 6/20 (TG). There were numerous cuckoo sightings, possibly due to higher tent caterpillar presence. Black-billed Cuckoo sightings included one 6/7 in the Carbon area of BM (TG) and one 6/19 on Scrib Meadow Rd., Rienze area (TG). Among Yellow-billed Cuckoo observations was a pair 5/17 near NE (TG), and one both 6/21 and 6/13 near the NE area (TG). The only potentially breeding Yellow-throated Vireo was heard singing in the Sugar Run area 6/17 (TG). Although Brown Creepers must certainly breed here, only one was heard singing within the appropriate time span, near NE 6/6 (TG). A pair of Winter Wrens were feeding young at Mill Creek, Mt. Pigsah 6/20 (BR). A pair of Ruby-crowned Kinglets, which breed well to the north of this area, on Wood Road 7/18 (CM - will require atlas review). On 7/8 Northern Mockingbirds were observed at a second nesting in the Troy area (RY).

A number of seemingly unusual warblers were observed during the breeding season, probably due to the higher observer activity connected with the Breeding Bird Atlas. A Northern Parula was seen near Sugar Run 6/20 (BR). There was a singing Magnolia Warbler near MP, BM 6/7 (TG). Black-throated Blue Warblers were observed reasonably frequently at the higher elevations: 6/7 MP (TG), 6/21 Laquin area (TG), 6/23 MP, all on BM (TG), among other sightings in the SGL 110 area, BM 6/17 (TG). Blackburnian Warblers were observed widely in the county, including 6/8 in SGL 172, Oak Hill area (CM,GM); 6/21 singing at Foot Plains Rd, 6/23 Laquin vicinity (TG), and 6/23 (PR) 2 countersinging on the Little Shraeder Creek (TG), the last three all on BM. A Piping Plover observed behavior on the mud flats 7/12(2)(BR), and a Worm-eating Warbler 6/20 in the Walusing area (BR). Adult Northern Waterthrushes were feeding young at Mill Creek, Mt. Pigsah 6/20 (RY). On 4/19 there were an amazing 5 singing Louisiana Waterthrushes at the Satterlee Run, Kellogg Mtn. and one again singing there on 6/13 (TG). On 6/20 a Mourning Warbler and a Hooded Warbler were observed on Spring Hill (BR). Three Canada Warblers were countersinging in the MP vicinity, BM 6/7 (TG). On 7/12 a Vesper Sparrow was observed in Tuscara Twp. (BR). There were greater numbers of Grasshopper Sparrow observations than in recent years, including one 6/25 near NE (TG) and another breeding confirmed 6/27 on Armenia Mt. (RY). The only Henslow's Sparrow of the summer was heard near NE 7/8 (TG). An Orchard Oriole was nest building in the Troy area 6/2 (RY).

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Bucks County

Locations: Nockamixon State Park (NSP), Peace Valley Park (PVP), Quakertown Swamp (QTS), Tinicum Twp. (TNT), The Penn-Warner Tract (WNT).

Historical references are from Birds of Bucks Co. by Ken Kitson (1998) and subsequent updates recorded in this Journal. Weather statistics are from Willow Grove Naval Air Station (Accuweather) or
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Allentown (NOAA). A total of 117 species was reported on the breeding bird chart submitted with this report. Of these, 90 were confirmed, 15 were tagged as probable, and 12 were indicated with possible breeding evidence. The temperature averaged above normal for both months. Rainfall was below average on the average, with 0.5 to 1.5 in. from place to place but based on nearby Allentown and Willow Grove, was above average for the two months combined. However, hot dry weather after mid-July quickly dried things out but water levels in lakes remained below normal preventing good early shorebird habitat. Breeding Bird Atlas work seemed at this time to be still in good shape.

A Snow Goose was at WNT 7/31 (DF). The Barnacle Goose with a plastic leg band, reported at the end of May in Buckingham Twp. continued through the period (RN). Another, also in Buckingham Twp. about two miles away without a band, was discovered in early Jul (AB) and also continued through the period. These apparent escapes add to the problem of determining the origin of individuals of this species when they occur in the proper season. An out-of-season Ring-necked Duck that could fly was reported from TNT mid-May until mid-Jul for the only summer report of this species when they occur in the proper season. These apparent escapes add to the problem of determining the origin of individuals of this species when they occur in the proper season.

Buckingham Twp. continued through the period (RN). Another, also uneventfully with this compiler receiving no reports of any surprises or comments on success or failure. A Snow Goose was at WNT 7/31 (DF). The Barnacle Goose with a plastic leg band, reported at the end of May in Buckingham Twp. continued through the period (RN). Another, also in Buckingham Twp. about two miles away without a band, was discovered in early Jul (AB) and also continued through the period. These apparent escapes add to the problem of determining the origin of individuals of this species when they occur in the proper season.

In July there was a report of a Horned Owl feeding young starting 7/1 (AM). The female had a significant amount of diffused blue in the head, very pale diffused blue on the upper tail coverts, and a small blue area on what were probably the median coverts. This is unlike any female shown in most field guides but not as bright as a blotchy solid blue first year male. After last year's apparent wipe out of the Prothonotary Warbler family at Churchville Res. by car collisions, only a male remained in Jun this year (NZ,GS). A female was only seen in May. Our first Jun report of Purple Martin was a female that continued from 5/20-6/2 in TNT (MM).

Exotics: Egyptian Goose continued at NSP (BE). A pair of Black Swans that had young late last fall was found to have three new young cygnets at Hilltown Twp. 6/8 (GB).


Butler County

Locations: Cranberry Township (CT), Evans City (EC), Jennings Environmental Education Center (JEEC), Lake Arthur (LA), Moraine State Park (MSP), Slippery Rock Borough (SRB), Slippery Rock Creek (SRC), Slippery Rock Township (SRT), State Game Lands 95 - Glades (SGL 95), Wolf Creek (WC).

Atmospheric conditions changed abruptly this season in comparison to the three previous years, thanks in large measure to the storm remnants of Hurricane Dennis-stalling over the midwest for two weeks. In fact, over three inches of rain fell in June and nine inches in July. But it was the hot, muggy consecutive days of 90 degree + F temperatures (6/25-28 and 7/20-23) that heavily impacted the birds. It was frustrating weather. The weather was such that breeding success was far less active in the field, resulting in a paucity of avian data and this brief seasonal report.

For the second consecutive year, no Wood Ducks were found nesting in SRB but Common Mergansers did well along SRC and WC with 4 females and 9 young recorded (G&JW). At least one pair of Red-tailed Hawks was heard and seen through the season in SRB. Two Great Egrets lingered in a beaver-created wetland in CT from 6/1-13 (CT). No breeding records were tablulated for the Green Heron this season. Where Turkey Vultures nests in the county is still an unsolved mystery as is the abrupt disappearance of all male Hens.

Somehow, someway the single pairs of Cooper's, Red-shouldered, Broad-winged, and Red-tailed Hawks "clung by their talons" and bred in over-developed SRB. I have no county records over three decades of field observations where four hawk and three owl species breed...
together in the same forest but here in SRB. The big question is for how much longer? The Black-billed Cuckoo was scarce in JEEC/MSP and elsewhere this season but just the opposite was true for the Yellow-billed Cuckoo. In fact, as many as eight pairs nested in SRB and used Ptit Forest as a staging area for early migration in late Jul. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds had a successful breeding year with ten or more individuals appearing together at some county feeding stations. The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker population in SRB remained stable this season but something happened to the resident female Piti Woodpecker, thus no youngsters were produced this season. A pair of Red-breasted Nuthatches appeared out of nowhere in our backyard in SRB at the end of Jul and are still here (G&JW). After being absent for two years, a pair of Winter Wrens bred successfully and fledged four youngsters in SRB in late Jun (G&JW).

Field, Vesper, Savannah, Grasshopper and Henslow’s Sparrows had a rough breeding season with a paucity of rain in Jun, allowing farmers to cut hay and land developers to start construction much sooner than in the previous three years. In fact the last lovely pair of Grasshopper Sparrows, Bobolinks and Eastern Meadowlarks met their demise when a grassy field in SRB was mowed before 7/4 (G&JW). The only encouraging news was that one Vesper Sparrow (G&JW). After being absent for two years, a pair of Dark-eyed Junco were confirmed at PT all summer suggests possible breeding. Common Grackles were at various locations, but nothing in PT (JJ). Possibly a first confirmation for the colony contained three active nests in Jun. The colony is located in northern Cambria near the Clearfield border (DG, JS). Judy Johns reports that an ad Bald Eagle was seen at BDRD 6/25. One ad Bald Eagle at PG all summer suggests possible for Bald Eagles. Northern Harriers were at various locations, but no confirmations were made. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were seen at five locations on SGL26 (JJ). There are now three active Clitf Swallow colonies at PG totaling 100 nests (JS). Carolina Wrens continue their comeback with many birds nesting in the Dec 6/11 (P&JF, 2G). Two separate confirmations of Golden-crowned Kinglets were located in the PG area (RB, JS). Vesy and Wood Thrush were common singers in the area south of PT (P&JF).

Prairie, Northern Parula, Yellow-rumped Warblers and American Redstart were confirmed at PG (RB). Northern Parula and Yellow-rumped Warblers were first time breeders for Cambria. Yellow-breasted Chat and Hooded Warblers were located at a Gameland adjacent PG (RB). Clay-colored Sparrow was found at PG and stayed around the area singing for 10 days but no breeding was observed (RB, JS). Dark-eyed Junco was confirmed at DA area (JJ). Possibly a first confirmation for Orchard Oriole in northern Cambria was reported at PG (RB).

Observers: Dave Gobert, 287 Beech St., Patton, PA 16668, (814) 674-8359, dgobert@webtv.com; John Salvetti, 519 E. Crawford St., Ebensburg, PA 15931, (814) 472-9298, jsavetti70@aol.com, Rory Bower, P.J. Falatek, Judy Johns.

Cameroon County
No Report. No Compiler.

Carbon County
No Report. Compiler: David Hawk, 521 Walnut Street, Lehighton, 18235, (610) 377-2407, finch@ptd.net
Numbers for this report were augmented by the Breeding Bird Counts conducted by Valley Forge Audubon Society (VFBCB) 6/4 and West Chester Bird Club (WCBBC) 6/12. These counts are conducted in the same circles as the Christmas Bird Counts. VFBCB had numbers comparable to previous years. The weather was cool and drizzly to partly cloudy. The weather during the WCBBC was very hot and humid. Birds quieted about 9 A.M. There were somewhat fewer hours spent in the field than last year, less miles driven than last year, and humid. Birds quieted about 9 A.M. There were somewhat fewer

Canada Geese are vastly populating the area with goslings seen all over the county. Two ad Wood Ducks with 11 ducklings were on the WCBBC 6/12 (JR). There was an ad Wood Duck and 7 ducklings at the Chester Bird Club (WCC).

There was a "probable" American Crow on territory near Sarah Furnace 6/19 (CW). A new location for Northern Harrier was found on the road by a car or it was a victim of a predator before it could fly. The Northern Goshawk that usually nests in CFSF was conspicuous by its absence, not one "kek-kek" all season (DL).

A Upland Sandpiper was found in late May, were so visible in May, were seen all over the county. A Spotted Sandpiper that were so visible in May, were seen all over the county. A Spotted Sandpiper was found near the golf course. A Great Egret was seen in NT 6/16 (ST). Bobolinks were seen in two locations in the county with 4 at SP 7/5 (MP), and 4 in the WCBBC area. A Golden-crowned Kinglet pair nesting high in a mature, planted spruce tree, was reported at CW.

A Black-throated Blue Warbler was on territory near Sarah Furnace 6/19 (CW). A Black-and-white Warbler was carrying food near ST 6/18 (RM). A Golden-crowned Kinglet pair nesting high in a mature, planted spruce tree, was reported at CW.

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adults rebuilt 6/20 in another place and were seen carrying food to the nest 7/13 (CW). From 6/15-7/17, Purple Finches fed in a yard at CV. On the last date adults were feeding fledglings, proving they nested somewhere nearby (CW).

Observers: Margaret Buckwalter, 249 Maple Dr., Shippenville, PA 16254, (814) 782-3925, buckwalter01@alitel.net, Ted Buckwalter, Paulette Colantonio, Walter Fye, Charles Herrold, Mike Leahy, Dale Luthringer, Ray and Alice McGuinigle, Ron Montgomery, Carole & Richard Willenpert.

Clearfield County

The Great Blue Heron colony along Chest Creek in southern Clearfield had 4 ad present in late Apr. Only one bird was found sitting on a nest mid-Jun. The foliage hid some of the nests. Spotted Sandpipers were present at several strip mine ponds, but no breeding could be confirmed. Both cuckoos were heard at almost every outing, the only truly reported here. A Brown Creeper was found on a nest in the Five Points area. Veery and Hermit Thrush were on territory in the high country along the Cambria/Clearfield border. Wood Thrush were common in the forested area along Chest Creek. One stop yielded 4 pairs in a rather small area. Two Black-throated Blue and Hooded Warblers were present in the understory of the forested area along the Cambria/Clearfield border. Singing Blackburnian and Black-throated Green Warblers were found in the Lajoze area.

A male singing Dark-eyed Junco was found in the same area. Two confirmations of Louisiana Waterthrush were recorded along a feeder stream which empty into Chest Creek. A strip mine site in the Five Points area yielded food-carrying Grasshopper Sparrows and 2 pairs of Henslow Sparrows. Pairs of Purple Finch were found in the Westover area.

Observer: Dave Gobert.
No Compiler.

Clinton County

As a belated report, a Red-headed Woodpecker was observed in a backyard woodlot in Woolrich 5/16 (GF). It was not seen again. This is a species that is suspected by some to be a breeder in Clinton but is, in fact, rarely reported here. At Tamarack Swamp 6/25, a possible Blackpoll Warbler was heard (TR). A followup visit to relocate it soon thereafter was unsuccessful.

On 6/9 near Keating at a grassy montain top field with scattered brush and pines, two Clay-colored Sparrows were heard singing (LG). On 6/30 and 7/1, they were again heard and also seen at the same location (LG, WL). This represents the second report record for Clinton and a first probable breeding record.

Observers: Wayne Laubscher, 749 E. Croak Hollow Rd., Lock Haven, PA 17745, (570) 748-7511, wlaubsch@kcnet.org, Gail Floruss, Lewis Grove, and Tom Roberts.

Columbia County

No Report:
Compiler: Doug Gross, 144 Winters Road, Orangeville, PA 17859, (570) 458-4568, douggross@sunlink.net

Crawford County

Locations: Fish Hatchery at Pymatuning at Linesville (FH), Hartstown Marsh (HM), Pymatuning Goose Management Area - includes Miller Ponds (PGMA), Pymatuning Spillway (PS), Woodcock Lake (WL)

Wood Ducks and Hooded Mergansers were in usual numbers. Two Green-winged Teal were seen 7/25 at PGMA (RCL). An American Wigeon 6/15 (HM, MB) and a Gadwall at PGMA 6/8 and 7/7 were more unusual (RFL, MV). Pied-billed Grebes did well at area marshes this summer. Six at HM 6/18, and five at FH 7/17 all had chicks with them (RFL, DY).

American White Pelicans are becoming a regular post breeding wanderers at Pymatuning L. Two were spotted at PS 6/3 (MV, JC) and two again 6/11 PS (MV, RFL) an imm was at FH 7/25 (RCL, RFL).

An American Bittern was flushed at HM 7/22 (RFL) and a good find was a Least Bittern at HM 6/19 (MB). A list posted at the Pymatuning Museum stated 13 eaglets were raised in Crawford this season. Ospreys were seen at WL 7/25 (RCL, RFL) and one still there 7/30 (RFL). A Northern Harrier was seen south of Geneva 6/29 (RCL). A Peregrine Falcon was found chasing shorebirds at the Miller Ponds 7/17 (DY); it was unsuccessful.

One Semipalmated Plover was seen PGMA 7/16 and 3 there 7/23 (MV). Small numbers of Greater Yellowlegs were found at PGMA 7/8 (RCL) through 7/28 (MB, RFL). Mark Vass had 3 Lesser Yellowlegs at PGMA 7/4 and 12 were noted there 7/25 (RCL). One Upland Sandpiper was seen off route 285 (RFL). Two Semipalmated Sandpipers were found at PGMA 7/7 (RFL). A Least Sandpiper was observed at PGMA 7/9 (MV) and there were 30 there 7/16 (RFL). The first Pectoral Sandpiper were found PGMA 7/23 and 7/25 (MV) and 15 there 7/23 (MV). A single Stilt Sandpiper was at PGMA 7/21-22 (RCL, RFL). A Short-billed Dowitcher was noted at PGMA 7/5 (RCL, RFL) and a good count of 26 there 7/16 (MV). Three Caspian Terns were rested on the rocks at PS 7/7 (RFL) and 2 were seen there 7/9 (MV). The only report of a Black Tern was of one at PS 7/23 (KS, MV).

This was a good summer for cuckoos in the area: Black-billed Cuckoos were at Meadville 7/5, 7/16 (RFL), HM 8/27 (MB) and Mark Vass found two Yellow-billed Cuckoos at HM 6/2 and one 6/5 and 7/2.

A Barred Owl was found at HM 7/3 (MB) and 2 were seen at HM 6/5-7/26 (MB). A pair of Red-headed Woodpeckers were seen at HM 7/3 (MB) and there was an south of Conneaut L. 7/10 (RFL). Numerous Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were found in western Crawford on the Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas blocks. The Cliff Swallows used about 80 nests of the FH building this year about half the number of last year. House Sparrow and European Starlings could be interfering? Marvin Byler found a White-eyed Vireo near Westford 6/2. One was very vocal and followed my brother and I along the bike trail south of PS 6/29 (RFL, RCL). There were up to two Northern Mockingbirds in Hayfield Twp. to at least 6/10 (JG).

Blue-winged Warblers were seen at HM 6/1-7/3 (MB) and a pair of Blackburnian Warblers were noted at HM 6/1, 6/13 (MB). Several Cerulean Warblers were heard south of Cochranston 6/29 and 7/2 (RCL, RFL). A late Yellow-breasted Chat remained in Hayfield Twp. until 6/11 (JG, JT).

A pair of Vesper Warblers were found 6/5 along Pine Rd, near HM (MB). Several Dark-eyed Juncos were seen and heard singing at Wayland, east of Meadville 7/24 (RFL, RCL). About 60 Bobolinks were seen at PGMA 7/22 (RCL, RFL). Orchard Orioles were seen HM 6/2-7/2 (MB). A real surprise was an ad White-crowned Sparrow that appeared at a feeder east of Cambridge Springs 6/30-7/4 (FZ). A Pine Siskin made a one-day appearance at the same feeder that had the White-crowned Sparrow east of Cambridge Springs 7/4 (FZ).

Observers: Ronald F. Leberman (RFL), 11508 Pettis Rd., Meadville, PA 16335, (814) 724-5071, Marvin Byler, Jack Christman, Joan Galli, Robert C. Leberman (RCL), Jerry McWilliams, Becky Smith, Kathy Saunders, Mark Vass, Dan Yagnost, Frank Zalk.

Cumberland County

A holdover Common Loon was still present on the lake at Colonel Denning S. P. 6/11 (AW).
An exploratory "Toot Route" was run 6/23 on South Mountain in the area south of the town of Walnut Bottom. Nocturnal birds discovered during the route include one Eastern Screech-owl, one Great-horned Owl, 2 Northern Saw-whet Owl and 8 Whip-poor-will (RK). Encouraging numbers of grassland related sparrows and finches were located at various locations in the western third of the county. The first Dickcissel of the season, a singing male, was located 6/9 near Newburg (RK, JR). Subsequent searches of the surrounding countryside turned up some impressive numbers of birds to include the following: A trip 7/9 discovered 4 Northern Harriers, 25 American Kestrels, 12 Vesper Sparrows, 3 Savannah Sparrows, 20 Grasshopper Sparrows and 11 Dickcissels (RK, JR). A foray 7/16 located 13 singing male Dickcissels at five locations in the Newburg area (DH, TJ, JR). Unfortunately breeding confirmation could not be established. The highest breeding code obtained was of the probable category.
Blue Grosbeaks made a good showing this breeding season with singing males discovered at half a dozen locations to include confirmed breeding at a site less than 10 miles from Harrisburg city proper.

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Dauphin County

Locations: Boyd's Big Tree Conservation Area (BBT), East Hanover Twp. (EHT), Harrisburg (HBG), Londonderry Twp. (LDT), Lower Paxton Twp. (LPT), Millersburg (MBG), Susquehanna River (SR), Susquehanna River at Harrisburg (SRH), Susquehanna River at West Fairview (SWF), Wildwood Lake (WL)

The reconfirmation of both a Yellow-crowned Night-Heron and a Great Blue Heron nest site were the high point of an otherwise uneventful summer. In a residential neighborhood in HBG at least one Yellow-crowned Night-Heron nest contained young 6/6 (SL) continued to be observed through, at least 8/16, when three were reported at SWF (GM). As many as five active Great Blue Heron nests were identified 6/17 near Lykens (JP). One nest still had three young as late as mid-July.

An ad Bald Eagle was reported in LDT 6/15 (PF) and, a Northern Harrier was observed cruising over the fields of EHT 7/25 (S&RZ). A family of Red-headed Woodpeckers was reported this summer just north of MBG (GW) and a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was found within its breeding “safe dates” on City Island HBG (SL). While foraging in LPT, a Northern Parula, an unusual county breeder, was found along Beaver Creek 6/20 (RS). More than half a dozen Vesper Sparrows were located in the fields along the entrance road to BBT 6/25 (J&BH).

A Yellow-headed Blackbird was reported 7/27, a female sitting on a wire about 1/4 of a mile from the road which goes from just west of Gratz on Rt. 25 to Pillow. It was with a flock of about 200 European Starlings, but was sitting by itself on a telephone wire. After a few minutes it flew to a nearby field where several thousand Red-wing Blackbirds and Common Grackles were feeding. No white was seen on the wing of the Yellow-headed Blackbird when it was in flight, confirming the bird as a female rather than an immature male (WR).

Observers: Richard Williams, 3 Parkside Dr., Hummelstown, PA 17036, (717) 566-6562, RWPuffin@aol.com, Nancy Cladel, Pete Fox, Jerry Kline, John, Koury, Sandy Lockerman, Gerald McWilliams, Jane Pianovich, Joan Renninger, William Reid, Rosemary Spreha, Patricia Williams, Gene Wingert, Sally & Rich Zaino

Delaware County

No Report.

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Elk County

No Report. No Compiler

Erie County

Location: Presque Isle State Park (PI)

The summer season was hotter than normal, but remained relatively wet. Though Erie witnessed a fairly normal nesting season, there was a more than usual number of reports of both species of cuckoos, especially Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Just south of Erie in northern Crawford there were some reports of both boreal and southern species present during the period. I have included those records in this report. As usual, there were a few lingering birds and a few surprises as well like the Parasitic Jaeger, that may have been carried here by Hurricane Dennis. Most reports came from Presque Isle State Park.

The American Black Ducks lingered later than usual to at least 6/12 at PI (MV). The two Great Egrets that appeared 6/8 at PI, were a bit later than usual (JM). A Greater Scap 7/17 at PI was a rather late date for this diver (BC). Least Bitterns made a showing at Gull Point, Leo’s Landing, and near Big Pond on PI in their usual haunts this summer (JM, TS, BC) and breeding was confirmed at Leo’s landing 6/29 (TJ, CR). The American White Pelican that made a surprise visit at Gull Point at PI 7/13 was discovered by a tour boat operator (TM). A Black-crowned Night-Heron discovered at PI 6/3 (BC).

American Avocets made one day visits in Jul on PI with two birds present 7/7 (JM), one 7/18 (JM), and three 7/27 (BC). A Willet with an injured leg was seen at PI from 7/23-27 (MF) and 3 were there 7/26 (JM). Four Whimbrel were present at PI 7/14 (JM) and 2 were there 7/27 (JM). A rather late Marbled Godwit was identified 6/5 (MV) and another bird was found on the more expected date of 7/18 at PI (BC). Two Western Sandpipers were identified 7/17 on PI and a single was there 7/24 (GM). White-rumped Sandpipers continued to be seen well into Jun this year with 2 at PI 6/14 (JM), up to 5 from 6/17-19 at PI (BC), and a single bird there 6/29 (TJ, CR). An ad White-rumped Sandpiper 7/27 at PI was about on time (JM). A Dunlin successfully summered at Gull Point on PI which was the first time this species has spent the entire period in Erie. Single Stilt Sandpipers were at PI 7/13, 19, and 27 (JM). Wilson’s Snipe are rarely reported during the summer in Erie, so the single bird found near Lake Pleasant 6/30 was noteworthy (DS). The Parasitic Jaeger was a nice surprise visit at Gull Point at PI 7/17 was the first summer record for Erie (JM). The nearly annual Franklin’s Gull discovered at PI 6/14 was a rare find for this area (JM). Single Black Terns were observed at PI from 6/18-24 (MV, DS) and 3 birds were seen 7/4 near Big Pond on PI (SM). The 3 birds were believed to be 2, ad and a juv, which may indicate successful breeding in the park. Black Terns have been known to nest in the past in the area of Big Pond.

One Northern Mockingbird was at beach-10 parking lot at PI 7/29 (JM). A singing Swainson’s Thrush was unusual at PI on the late date of 6/12 (JM).

Observers: Jerry McWilliams, 3508 Allegheny Rd., Erie, PA, 16508, (814) 868-3059, jerrymcw@aol.com. Ben Coultier, Mike Fialkovich, Joan Galli, Brian Gould, Tom Johnson, Craig Kern, Tom Macaluso, Geoff Malosh, Cameron Rutt, Terry Smith, Don Snyder, John Tauton, Mark Vass, Frank Zalik.

Fayette County

Location: Ohiopyle State Park (OSP).

A female Common Merganser was observed flying over Ferncliff Peninsula along the Yougoiheny R. at OSP 6/11 (MF, TRBC). She made several attempts to land that forest, but never did and repeated this activity several times. This species is not confirmed as a breeder here, so perhaps she was searching for, or had a nest in a tree cavity. Later, I received a report of a female with young in the area 6/27, confirming breeding (NN).

A Bald Eagle was a nice surprise flying over OSP 6/11 (MF, TRBC).

Cliff and Barn Swallows continue to nest on the Rte 381 bridge at OSP and at the bridge over Mill Run Res. (MF). On 6/11, two pairs of Cedar Waxwings were observed building nests in a tree in a parking lot at OSP. A male Northern Parula was gathering food in the parking lot, even coming to the ground, and a female American Redstart was building a nest in a tree in the same area of the park that is busy with human activity (MF, TRBC). A search 7/5 revealed chicks in the American Redstart nest (MF).

Two Golden-winged Warblers were seen and heard at OSP 6/11 (MF, TRBC). A Canada Warbler was found at Quebec Run Wild Area 6/26 (KSJ), a reliable breeding location in the county. A male Cerulean Warbler was observed feeding a fledgling at OSP 7/5 (MF).

Birds found at Fort Necessity National Battlefield 6/15 included a Brown Creeper, 8 Northern Parulas, 5 Chestnut-sided Warblers, 6 Black-throated Green Warblers, a Blackburnian Warbler, 3 Prairie Warblers, 5 Ovenbirds, Common Yellowthroats, 2 Hooded Warblers, and 2 Yellow-breasted Chats (UB).

A recently fledged Rose-breasted Grosbeak with adults was observed at OSP 6/11 (MF, TRBC). Bobolinks breed on a farm along Middle Ridge Rd. just outside Ohiopyle; 6 birds were there 7/5 (MF). Bobolinks were also reported in the western part of the county 6/1 (MM). Two Henlsons’ and one Grasshopper Sparrow were singing at a reclaimed stripmine near Ohiopyle.

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A new nesting sight for the **Eurasian Collared Doves** has been located in Greencastle. They also continue to nest in Shady Grove.

Cliff Swallows

A pair of **Common Mergansers** along Sideling Hill Creek 5/12 provided *Fulton*’s first breeding evidence this century (DS). Two **Northern Bobwhites** were counter singing near Souders Rd 7/25 (DS). Some years this species is not recorded in *Fulton*. An outstanding find was the discovery and first **Fulton** nesting confirmation of **Bald Eagle** (DG, EM). The private landowner stated the eagles nested at the same place last year (fide DG). This year the nest produced two offspring 7/27 (DG, CG) and occasionally these imms were found at nearby MGL 7/30 (DS, RR), TS (DG), and Mt. Parnell Fish Hatchery (CG).

**House Sparrows** were noted nesting 7/21 in Hawthorn Trees next to the parking area at Blue Mountain Interchange for the turnpike. The weaver like nests (three and four in a tree) had entrances on the side of the poorly made nests. Quite interesting.

**Common Ravens** nested near NE 6/29 (DS). One female **Northern Harrier** was found 6/12 along Palmer Rd. (DS). The sighting represented the first official harrier record during a snipe 5/14 (DS, RR). A **Least Flycatcher** pair 6/12 at Beatty Rd, provided only the second known *Fulton* breeding location in 15+ years (DS). A possible **Loggerhead Shrike** was spotted while driving near the Bedford/Fulton line in late May (MH). Three subsequent trips 6/5 (DS), 6/20 (DS), and 7/3 (DS, RR) did not detect the bird. A trip to Roaring Run Trail 7/3 resulted in 4 **Blue-headed Violets**, 4 **Brown Creeper**, 2 **Hermits**, one **Black-throated Green Warbler**, one **Dark-eyed Junco**, and one **Black Bear** with cub (DS, RR). This is the only known area in *Fulton* for all these northern species.

Several locations for breeding evidence **Fish Crows** and **Common Ravens** were noted. A **Yellow-throated Warbler** along Licking Creek at the Pittman Rd. bridge 5/8 was *Fulton*’s first known record during the species’ breeding safe dates (DS). **Three Henslow’s Sparrows** called from a lane Rd. field 7/22 (DS) and 7/23 (DH). Unfortunately the hay field was cut on 7/24 (DG) and the birds left the area. This record was the first *Fulton* Henslow’s in over five years.

Only three **Blue Grosbeak** sightings were noted. One vocal male along Pleasant Grove Rd 6/12 (DS), one by Wertzville Rd 6/12 (DS), and one first year male at Rice Rd. 7/25 (DG, EM). A male **Dickcissel** was found along Heavenly Acres Rd 6/5 (DS). Another trip 6/26 netted a male near the same location (DS). Unfortunately the hay field was cut and the bird was not present 6/29 (RR). This was the first since the First Breeding Bird Atlas.

Two male territorial **Bobolinks** were perched along Harmon Rd 5/12 (DS). Unfortunately the hay field was cut and on 5/15 no birds were detected (DS).

**Observers:** Dale L. Gearhart, P.O. Box 155, Shady Grove, PA 15726, (717) 597-3979, dgearhart01@comcast.net. Carl Garner, Bob Keener, Regina Reeder, Dan Snell, Joyce Schaff.

**Fulton County**

**Locations:** Haines-Seville Wetlands Restoration Area (HSWRA), Meadow Grounds Lake (MGL), Tuscarora Summit - *The Pulpit* (TS)...

**whether**... **intersection**... **turnpike**. **whether**... **found**... **nest**... **where**... **used**. **other**... **found**... **nest**... **July**... **July**... **July**... **July**... **July**... **July**... **July**... **July**... **July**... **July**... **July**... **July**... **July**... **July**... **July**... **July**... **July**... **July**... **July**... **July**... **July**... **July**... **July**... **July**... **July**... **July**... **July**... **July**... **July**... **July**... **July**... **July**... **July**... **July**... **July**... **July**... **July**... **July**...

**Northern Red-winged Blackbird**

**Black-capped Chickadees**

**Blue-winged Warbler**

**Purple Martin**

**Canada Geese** are causing water quality concerns at the Greencastle Res. Large numbers of geese (and their young) make the reservoir their lodging.

A small number of **Northern Bobwhite** are being reported from areas where habitat is suitable. There were no reports last year.

**Bald Eagles** have appeared at two locations (near Mercersburg and Waynesboro) in the county several times this summer. Four **Red-tailed Hawk** nests have been monitored this year and all were successful parents. Several other nests were reported as well.

A **surprise sighting** for **Franklin** were two **Upland Sandpiper** 6/15 (DS, RR) near Mercersburg. Only two previous sightings are known.

**Observers:** Mike Fialkovich, 805 Beulah Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15235, (412) 731-3581, mpfial@earthlink.net. John Boback, Kate St. John, Mark McConaughy, Neil Nodelman, Dana Shaffer, Walt Shaffer, Three Rivers Birding Club (TRBC).

**Franklin County**

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**Locations:** Endeavor (EN), Kellettville (KE), Neiltown (NE), Tionesta (TI), West Hickory (WH)

Data for Summer 2005 in Franklin County shows 17 species Possible, 38 Probable, and 64 Confirmed, for a total of 119. Sightings are by Flo and Jim McGuir unless otherwise indicated.

**A Bald Eagle** was confirmed as it was seen carrying a small mammal for a long distance near the Allegheny R. 6/15. **A Broad-winged Hawk** was seen carrying food near KE 7/22.

**A Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was observed carrying food near NE 6/18. Many **Yellow-billed Sapsuckers** were found; one was confirmed when fledglings were observed near EN 7/15. **Acadian Flycatchers** were found in several locations and listed as Probable breeders. **Blue-headed Vireo** was confirmed when fledglings were seen near WH 6/18. **A Warbling Vireo** was reported nest building near KE 5/26 (SS, LO). **A Common Raven** nest was found in a pine planting near the CREP.

**The Purple Martin** colony found in 2004 was not used, and no others were found in the county. **Cliff Swallows** were confirmed feeding young at the nests on the TI bridge 6/20, and at the KE bridge 5/17.

**Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were on nest at the TI Outflow bridge 4/19, and feeding young 5/17.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch** was reported as a possible breeder to the Atlas Project by an unknown observer. **Winter Wren** was confirmed near EN 7/15 when fledglings were observed. **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were observed at 2 locations during the safe dates – 6/18 near WH (TJ), and by the PSO field trip to Buzzard Swamp 5/21 (DH, et. al).

Fifty-seven **Bluebird Boxes** at Tionesta L. and the Kellettville Campground fledged 29 **Eastern Bluebirds**, 54 **Tree Swallows**, 36 **Black-capped Chickadees**, and 10 **House Wrens**. The data suggests that the bluebirds nested primarily in May and Jul, and did not try to compete with the **Tree Swallows** in Jun. **Veery** was confirmed near WH when fledglings were seen 7/2.

**Blue-winged Warbler** was coded as probable near WH 7/1. A **Nashville Warbler** was spotted near EN 6/16. **Acadian Warblers** were confirmed when seen feeding young at the TI Outflow 7/26 and near EN 6/20. **Black-throated Blue Warblers** were confirmed breeding in three different blocks: 2 near EN and one near WH. **Blackburnian Warblers** were observed in several locations and listed as probable. **A Cerulean Warbler** was found on nest 5/26 near WH (SS, LO). **A Kentucky Warbler** was reported near Trunk Keyville 7/10 (TA, MG). A **Black-and-white Warbler** was seen carrying food 6/18 near WH (TJ). **Worm-eating Warbler** was listed as Probable near WH 5/26 (SS, LO). **Mourning Warbler** was coded as Probable near Jamison Run 7/2.

**Grasshopper and Henslow’s Sparrows** were found near NE 6/29 (TJ) and 7/19 and listed as probable. **Eastern Meadowlark** was seen carrying food near NE 6/29. **Purple Finch** was confirmed when fledglings were seen near EN 7/6. **Pine Siskins** were listed as probable near TI 6/6.

**Observers:** Flo McGuire, HC 1 Box 6A, Tionesta, PA 16353, (814) 755-3672, mcguires@esonline.net, Terry Ashbaugh, Mary Grishaver, Deane Hoffman, Tom Johnson, Flo & Jim McGuire, Linda Ordway, Scott Stoleson.
Greene County

Locations: Ralph Bell Farm (RBF), Cumberland Township (CUM), Mary Laplante Farm (MLP), Perry Township (PER).

Again this summer there were no shortages of Canada Geese in Greene. They are easy to find at nearly every farm pond and large stream and breeding is easy to confirm. Wood Ducks are another matter. They rarely give you a good look, but LO and KK had an interesting encounter with a family of them. While standing on a bridge over Dunkard Creek in Wayne Twp. near Brave, they saw the whole family swimming downstream. The drake took flight and flew directly toward them, just over their heads about 10 feet to the right. They were quite an interesting encounter with a family of them. While standing on a stream and breeding is easy to confirm.

Wood Ducks

Perry Township (PER).

Greene County

RB once again banded the young birds. In one instance, the bird had no band on, it is not possible to say it was the same bird, but he was still Wood Duck. RR at Round Hill in PER had a young Black-billed Cuckoo on 6/7. ML on Big Shannon Run in PER had a similar experience. Both young managed to get themselves back to safety.

Black-billed Cuckoo

Huntingdon County

The Juniata College Raystown Field Station and the US Army Corps of Engineers successfully ended the first phase of their Osprey Introduction Program by releasing 5 Ospreys near L. Raystown. During the past three years, they have fledged 14 birds and the first year birds could return as early as next spring to mate (RC).

For the 14th consecutive year, three BBS routes were conducted within Rothrock SF in Huntington, Millfin and Centre. Eastern Wood Pewees were recorded near record low numbers, while Black-capped Chickadee, Blue-headed Vireo, Mourning Dove and Veery were recorded well above their fourteen-year average.

Eastern Wood Pewee

Indiana County

Locations: Indiana (IN), Parkwood (PW), Shelocta (SH), Yellow Creek State Park (YCSP).

Top Canada Goose tally was 79 at YCSP 7/3 (LC). The 2 Mute Swans present at YCSP since the last quarter were last listed 6/14 (GG). Best Wood Duck count was 15 at YCSP, 7/19 (MH, SS). A female Mallard with her 7 yellow fluff-ball young was spotted 6/14 (CG, MH, SS) at YCSP where the maximum count was 16 on 7/24 (LC). An adult Ruffed Grouse with 9 young northeast of SH 6/23 was the only report (MH). WCO Patrick Snickle writes, "I rarely ever see a grouse when I’m out and about. It doesn’t matter if I’m on public or private ground. Also, I haven’t seen any grouse pouls in years. Personally, I think our local (Indiana) grouse populations are very low overall."

Ruffed Grouse

A single Double-crested Cormorant appeared at YCSP 6/28 (CG, MH, SS). Six Great Blue Herons were counted at YCSP 7/26 (MH, SS). YCSP also yielded the high of 11 Green Herons 7/24 (LC).

Double-crested Cormorant

Many of these sightings/events occurred while folks were working on the Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas. The antics of our avian friends are easy to see, if we stop long enough to watch them!

By mid to late May the Dark-eyed Juncos are gone—or should be, but I saw him still Wood Duck Center Point Rd. in Morgan Twp. (KK). When approached, it would always hop/run away into the bushes—not fly. I finally got a good look at it and saw why. The tail was very thin. The outer white feathers were still present but there were only a very few dark feathers in the center and the whole tail was to the left of the bird. Seen from behind the left side of the tail was pretty much where it should be in relation to the body of the bird, but the right side of the tail was where the center should be-white feathers and all. It seemed healthy otherwise. By the first part of Jun the bird could fly a short distance but always stayed within a foot or so of the ground and the flight always veered to the right. By mid-Jun it was able to fly 3 to 4 feet up into a spruce tree, but it was a struggle. Up to this time it had stayed within 25 feet or so of the house. I did not see it for a while, then the second week of Jul a Dark eyed-Juncro was on a wood rail (but stop reading with the majority of the car as I was going out the driveway. The flight was a still somewhat labored and the bird wavered a bit to the right, but it flew rather steeply up about 12-15 feet into one of the spruce trees that line the driveway. It was making progress! I saw the bird only one more time in late Jul, again flying up, more strongly this time, into the spruces along the driveway. I have not seen it now for nearly a month. I will be watching the feeders this winter for a Dark-eyed Junco with a slightly crooked tail!

Dark-eyed Junco
and 7/29 (MH,RH). A Black Vulture soaring with Turkey Vultures over Dilltown 6/2 was a second county record (AB,GL,GS). Sharp-shinned Hawk was listed at only 3 locations (v.o.). All shorebird reports are from YCSP unless otherwise noted. The first Solitary Sandpiper arrived 7/19 (MH,SS) while 11 was the high count 7/26 (MH,SS). Three Spotted Sandpipers were reported at YCSP 7/24 (LC). A Semipalmed Sandpiper appeared 6/3 (CG,MH,SS) and again 7/27 (EF,MF). YCSP harbored the first Least Sandpiper 6/28 (CG,MH,SS); at least 8 were present 7/19 (MH,SS). The prison wetlands yielded 7 on 7/31 (MH,RH). The White-rumped Sandpiper with the injured leg, present at YCSP since 5/31, was last noted 6/7 (MH,SS). A lone Pectoral Sandpiper was noted 7/19,26 (MH,SS), 7/27 (EF,MF), and 7/29 (MH,RH). A single Ring-billed Gull was present at YCSP throughout the summer (v.o.). Two Forster’s Terns at YCSP 6/7 (MH,SS) were the only ones reported. Both cuckoos were present at YCSP throughout the summer (v.o.). Two Western Kingbirds were reported on 7/19 and 7/29 (MH,RH). A Forster’s Tern was a nice find in the McTyr ground on (ARR) north of Mifflintown. The Barred Owls were both seen and heard in the late dusk, during the rain. With all of that excitement, we heard the Whip-poor-will call a few times behind us. Several juvies and at least one ad. Barred Owl were seen and heard at ARR 7/7 (AT,RC,CK). I was able to play some Stokes CD calls to get them started and even attempted some mouth calls. The parents were trying to get the young to fly away from us, but the young one wanted to chat with us. Some amateur photos were taken as well.

An ad Bald Eagle was seen at MRA 7/4 (DT). Another Bald Eagle was given to LW on the Mifflin side west of BI above the river bridge 7/30. While walking on the Cuba Mills Rd. 7/31, AT got to the hot spot for American Kestrels. Within one spot, he was able to count 15 separate birds in his field of view. There were 2 males and 13 others. He was able to see many food runs from the 15 birds.

Two Winter Wren nests were confirmed 7/9 and 20 pairs of Ovenbirds were observed while walking on the FTVD (TP, HP). A first year male Orchard Oriole was seen 6/5 at ERLCR west of Mifflintown (LW). Twelve pair of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were seen or heard 6/11 while doing their walk on the FTVD (TP, HP).

Observers: Toby Petersheim, RR2, Box 539, Mifflintown, PA 17059, Chad Kaufman HCR 63 Box 65, Mifflintown, PA 17059, (717) 436-6465, chickkauffman@acsworld.com. Ron Colledge, Peter Usher, Toby Petersheim, Aiden Troyer, David Troyer, Linda Whitesel.

Lackawanna County
No Report. No Compiler.
Lancaster County

Locations: Middle Creek WMA (MCWMA), Susquehanna River, Conojeholia Flats (SRCF)

This summer was quite hot with below average precipitation in sharp contrast to the cool and wet summer that we experienced last year. There were no significant ornithological trends reported this summer, but the rarest sighting was an adult Sooty Tern reported from the Conojeholia Flats.

Pied-billed Grebe is a regular migrant, but one bird seen 6/20 near Holtwood was very late (TR). This summer, Great Egret numbers began to build at SRCF in early Jul and reached 43 by 7/20. This is a fairly normal number but represents less than half the peak count from 2004. Great Egrets also put in appearances in other locations in the county including at a pond in the Bentley Ridge apartment complex near Lancaster where at least one bird was present sporadically throughout Jul with a peak of seven seen 7/14 (JH). A Snowy Owl

Osprey and Bald Eagle were confirmed breeding again this year and continue to successfully raise young at well known locations along the Susquehanna R. near Holtwood as well as at a number of other less publicized locations in the county. Cooper’s Hawk was also confirmed at several locations in the county and reported in many locations all summer. Years ago I can remember when Cooper’s Hawk was a rare sight in the summer time. The breeding population has declined dramatically and it seems that they become more prevalent every year. At the same time, American Kestrels seem to be doing well in many locations although the nest box at a farm near Mount Joy after a five year absence (JH).

The exotic sighting of the quarter goes to a Japanese Green Pheasant with poult at MCWMA 7/13. Pheasants of any species are very scarce anywhere outside of MCWMA, but at the same time Wild Turkeys continue to be observed more frequently throughout the county, but especially in the northern end.

The fall shorebird migration got off to a start 6/19 at SRCF with presumed southbound migrants including Semipalmated Plover, White-rumped Sandpiper and Raccoon Island Sabine. The numbers of shorebirds reported through the end of Jul were running at a weaker level than 2004. However, as this report is being prepared, shorebird numbers in Aug have been much stronger. Notable highlights and high counts included a female American Avocet on 7/13 (TA), a Snowy Owl on 7/20, a peak at SRCF 7/20, and a 104 Least Sandpiper 7/13. The variety and numbers of birds did improve considerably during Aug.

As mentioned earlier the clear highlight was an ad Sooty Tern at SCRF on 7/24 (EW, BC, et al). This sighting was especially unusual considering it occurring during clear sunny weather. Several days earlier a number of Sooty Terns were seen in KY and OH in the aftermath of Hurricane Dennis. Several people speculated that this bird probably came from that storm and was simply trying to find its way back to sea. The bird was first located around 2:00 p.m. and was last seen at 5:45 p.m. It made a total of five飞翔s and was seen by a total of five people both on the shore and on the river islands. To my knowledge this is the first sighting of Sooty Tern in Lancaster that did not occur after a hurricane passed through the county. Slightly less exciting but still of importance, 2 Black Terns were seen at SRCF 7/17 (TA, BS).

In early Jun a property near Quarryville attracted a red-phase Eastern Screech Owl with young. The same property also supported six species of woodpecker including 2 Red-headed and 2 Pileated Woodpeckers. This summer Red-headed Woodpeckers were seen again along the Pequea Creek near Paradise. Unlike last year they were not confirmed breeding, but several birds were seen during Jun and Jul. Red-headed Woodpeckers used to be more prevalent, but they have been pressured by habitat loss and competition for nest holes from birds like European Starlings.

The Golden-crowned Kinglet in block 9B24 7/2 was quite curious (CC). This is not a species that is known to breed in Lancaster. Breeding bird atlas block 93B71 produced Yellow-throated, Cerulean and a pair of Prothonotary Warblers 6/20 (TR). Prothonotary Warblers have been a success story over the past few years and, in addition to their presence in Holtwood, are also breeding at SRCF and in the Bainbridge area. The breeding bird atlas encourages people to get out and check areas that might not otherwise be visited. Savannah and Grasshopper Sparrows were found to be surprisingly abundant in several fields near Paradise (JH).

Blue Grosbeak is readily found in the southern part of the county, but one was heard singing throughout the summer on the shore at SRCF. The ongoing breeding bird atlas continues to provide more information about bird distribution in the county. I did not receive any reports suggesting any surprising distribution trends, but it will be interesting to see how they develop over the coming years and to see what impact the increased development has had on bird populations in the county.

Observers: Jonathan Heller, 716 Bentley Ridge Blvd., Lancaster, PA 17602, jonathan.heller@comcast.net, Tom Amico, Jerry Book (JB), Jim Binder (JBI), Bruce Carl, Lou Carpenter (LCA), Larry Cobble (LC), Tom Garner, Chad Kaufman, Dan Heathcote (DHE), Jonathan Heller (JH), Deane Huffman (DH), Tom Hopson, Randy Miller, Peter Robinson, Tom Raub, Bob Schutsky, Jim Smith, Eric Witmer.

Lawrence County

No Report.
Compiler: Randy Stringer, 409 Shady Drive, Grove City, PA 16127, rrcrstringer@gcc.edu

Lebanon County

Locations: Memorial Lake S.P. (MLSP), Middlecreek WMA (MC), Mt. Pleasant Road (MPR), SGL 145, SGL 156, SGL 211.

A Blue-winged Teal was found 7/15 at the Calvary Dam, SGL 145 (RCM). The Great Blue Heron nest in Stony Valley was checked 6/4. One adult was seen nearby (m.ob.). Black-crowned Night-Herons were reported from Millardsville Quarry and Arrowhead Trout Hatchery. There may be a colony in the area but more field work needs to be done.

An ad Bald Eagle was found sitting in a field near Fontana being bombed by a Red-tailed Hawk. A Cooper’s Hawk nest with 4 young was found 6/26 at Stoever’s Park in Lebanon. This park is heavily used (FH).

Shorebirds were here in Jun with 4 species setting new late dates 6/9 at MPR. There were 2 Semipalmated Plovers, 8 Solitary Sandpipers, 2 Least Sandpipers, and one White-rumped Sandpiper. A Solitary Sandpiper 7/11 at Calvary Dam set a new early date (RCM).

Red-headed Woodpeckers were found at two new sites west of Palmyra (JL). Red-breasted Nuthatches were found 6/26 at SGL 211 when 3 were at Box Car Rocks. One was seen carrying food for a second breeding record. A pair was also found at Pine Meadow Rd. 6/26. And a single was found 7/22 at the Rexmont Dam area (RCM). On 7/9 a Winter Wren was singling at Box Car Rocks (RCM).

The highlight for the quarter was the first breeding record of Yellow-rumped Warbler when one of 3 was seen carrying food 6/26 at SGL 211 near Box Car Rocks. Only singles were found in this area since 2001 (RCM). A Nashville Warbler was found 7/9 on Sharp Mountain (RCM). Several Blackburnian Warblers were singing 6/26 at Box Car Rocks. (RCM). Two Cerulean Warblers were at Second Mountain 6/4 (m.ob). Yellow-breasted Chats were back after being missed for a few years, the last one reported was 7/10 at SGL 145 (FH).

On 6/9, a Dark-eyed Junco was seen along s. MPR (RCM). A male Blue Grosbeak was seen up until 7/27 around Keystone Dr. area. This is the second year with no female being seen.

Observers: Randy C. Miller, 607 Woodland Dr. Manheim, PA 17545 (717) 664-3778, Doug Anderson, Fritz Heilman, Jane Light, Sandy and Gary Lockerman, Jo Ann Studler, Kate Miller, Ryan Miller, Susan Wheeler, Dale Zimmerman.

Lehigh County

Locations: Upper Milford Township (UMT), Weisenberg Township (WT)

It was a hot and dry summer in Lehigh. The weather was not very favorable for bird watching. I hope at least a few were out doing the BBA in spite of the heat.

An imm Double-crested Cormorant was seen 6/12 and through the summer at the Fogelsville Quarry (B&P). A Red-shouldered Hawk was seen 6/5 on SGL 217 along Blue Mountain (B&P). A fledged Red-headed Woodpecker was observed 7/24 near Stine’s Corner (B&P).
An Acadian Flycatcher was heard calling at the base of Blue Mountain near Leaser Lake on 6/26 (JL). A Willow Flycatcher was heard 7/17 on SGL 205 (JL). At least four White-eyed Vireos were seen 7/10 on SGL 205 (JL). Both ad and juv were seen. Two more White-eyed Vireos were heard 7/17 also on SGL 205 (JL). A pair of Horned Larks were seen doing a courtship display 7/1 in WT (B&PM). A colony of about 15 Cliff Swallows were seen nesting on a WT barn 6/19 (B&PM). There was an unusual Lehigh summer sighting of a Brown Creeper feeding at a peanut butter feeder 7/8 in UMT (B&PM). A single Blue-winged Warbler was viewed 7/10 on SGL 205 (JL). The distinctive zeeeeeep song of the Northern Parula was heard 7/10 also on SGL 205 (JL). There was a pair of Chestnut-sided Warblers were on SGL 217 on 6/5 (B&PM). A mile or so west of this pair was another singing Chestnut-sided Warbler 7/1 on top of Blue Mountain on another section of SGL 217. The morning was very humid and foggy. An agitated pair of Louisiana Waterthrush’s was seen 6/26 with possible young near Leaser Lake (JL). A Kentucky Warbler was seen 6/5 in UMT (B&PM). At least two singing Hooded Warblers were heard 6/5 on SGL 217 (B&PM). Two or three Yellow-breasted Chats were seen or heard 7/10 on SGL 205 (JL).

A Savannah Sparrow was seen 6/25 in WT (B&PM). Also in WT Grasshopper Sparrows were seen several times during the reporting period (B&PM). Continuing with WT, a Bobolink was seen there 6/25 (B&PM). Two Bobolinks were also seen 7/10 on SGL 205 (B&PM). There was a sighting of an Orchard Oriole on its nest 6/8 near Breinigsville (B&PM). There were also other sightings of Orchard Orioles in the area during report period (B&PM).


Luzerne County

Following reports were sent by Bill Reid.

A adult-plumage male Ring-necked Duck was seen at Harveys Lake 6/24 (EJ). Nesting near Dallas through the period was Red-breasted Nuthatch (EJ). EJ also found Nashville Warbler nesting at Bear Creek.

Observer: Ed Johnson
No Compiler.

Lyon County

Locations: Third Gap Road (TGR).

The majority of bird records in this report are derived from Breeding Bird Survey routes and Atlas Project efforts.

Hooded Mergansers were noted in several areas, including a brood of well-developed young along the West Branch of the Susquehanna at the Rt. 54 bridge (DB), an unlikely habitat if not unlikely species, and the more likely report of a brood reared in Wood Duck boxes at SGL 252, both in mid-June. The nesting pair of Peregrine Falcons was again successful on the cliff downstream of Williamsport. A Red-tailed Hawk was seen making a pass on a single, recently fledged young in early Jun but was driven away by the adults (DB). Nesting Bald Eagles again had a year of growth, with nests along Little Pine and Pine creeks (DG) and a pair observed near the White Deer Golf Course (BK) and a single adult seen in SGL 252 7/13 (DB).

Nesting Northern Harriers nested on a farm off Mill Hill Rd in central Lycoming. This is an area that supports many harriers and Rough-legged Hawks in winter (DF). There is a habitat connection, the local farmers entered their land in CREP two years ago, resulting in improved habitat for grassland birds!

Whip-poor-will was heard 6/1 along N. Bald Eagle ridge (CS). Golden-crowned Kinglets were found on territory in old spruce plantations on TGR 6/29 and in the historic town of Masten 7/6 (DB).

Acadian Flycatchers were noted on 6/29 at several locations along the White Deer Hole Creek, Washington Twp. (DB). Winter Wrens were heard at the gap of TGR, along Cascade road, Truman Run Rd in McHenry Twp (DB). The Breeding Bird Atlas provided impetus for fieldwork at various corners of the county. Resulting were Worm-eating Warbler sightings on steep slopes along the Susquehanna R. in Clinton Twp., along a ridge in Washington Twp., along Pine Cr. in Porter and McHenry Twp. Cerulean Warblers were again found in tall sycamores along the river near the Perkiomen nest this Gap Road, west of Elimsport, continues to support a large population of Hooded Warblers, as well as numbers of Canada and Black-throated Blue warblers.

A highlight of the season were two territorial Mourning Warblers along Cascade Road on 7/6. The habitat was not typical and activity was centered in dense thickets of shrubs and grape vine within a generally open, park-like forest with nettle understory (FS, LS, DB). This species was reported here during the first Atlas, but I am not aware of another location in Lycoming in the interim.


McKean County

Thanks to the 2nd Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas, the report seems more and more accurate as to what is breeding in the county! Special thanks to the block owners and volunteers that helped out this season.

The surprising thing about this season was the number of locations with Yellow-rumped Warblers, Red-breasted Nuthatches, and Northern Saw-whet Owls. Any likely looking area seemed to produce these species. Northern Saw-whets seemed downright common this season. Time will tell if they are really that common all the time.

Observers: John Fedak, 26 Race St., Bradford, PA 16701, (814) 725-4086, jfedak@atlanticbb.net, Danny Fedak, Bailey Fedak, Lisa Fedak, Len Groshek and family, Janet Heinz, Tom Jacoby, Bob James and family, Tom and Janet Kuehl, Pam Melling, Lynn Ostrander, Tom Raught Jr., Tom Raught Sr., Karen Smith and family, Scott Stoleson, Janet Stuckey, and the seasonal wildlife biology staff at the Allegheny National Forest.

Mercer County

Mute Swan introduced at Buhl Park, continues to breed there. Thriving are Osprey and Bald Eagle. On the down side, Northern Bobwhite went unreported.

Eastern Screech Owl was not even heard, and Common Nighthawk was almost nonexistent. On the upside, Red-headed Woodpecker was a confirmed nester, and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker probably bred at SGL 130. Noteworthy was Winter Wren, a probable breeding, and Dark-eyed Junco confirmed, both at SGL 130.

Sightings of Orchard Oriole increased. At SGL 130, near Mercer, 18 species of warblers were listed. Eight of those were confirmed nesters, 8 were probable, and 2 were possible. Among the “good finds” were Northern Parula, Ovenbird, Louisiana and Northern Waterthrushes, Kentucky, Mourning, and Yellow-breasted Chat (Troyer family).


Mifflin County

No Report.

Compiler: J. Irvin Zook, 132 Beech Tree Lane, Belleville, PA 17004, knzook@pa.net

Monroe County

Locations: Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (DWNRA), Buck Hill Falls (BHF), Long Pond (LP), Monroe County Environmental Education Center (MOEEC), State Game Lands 221 (SGL 221), Tannersville Bog (TB), Tobyhanna State Park (TSP), Zimmer Preserve (ZP).

A thanks to all who took the time to contribute to this report. Overall, the season was hot and humid with below average rainfall. The Broadhead Creek Bald Eagle nest was successful and fledged.
one bird in early Jul (DS). More than one observer commented on the number of cuckoos seen or heard. Both species were reported from the Bushkill area 6/5 and Yellow-billed were at BHF 6/26 and Skytop 7/2 (JS), while both species were also at SGL 221 6/25 and Yellow-billed was noted at ZP through Jul (EP).

Red-headed Woodpeckers continued their occupation of the DWGNR. At headquarters

swamp near Bushkill-at least one was seen there 6/5 (JS). The record of a Yellow-billed Sapsucker nest found just a few meters from a Pileated Woodpecker nest at Skytop 5/23 was received too late for the spring report (JS). The Yellow-billed Sapsucker is a more common breeder in the northern tier counties, but 2 were noted at TSP 6/25, one was at BHF 6/26 (JS), and another was reported from SGL 221 6/26 (EP). A migrant Olive-sided Flycatcher was near Bushkill 6/4 (JS). MCEEC had its first record of Acadian Flycatcher 6/2 within the safe breeding dates, but it was never relocated (DS). Canoeing LP 6/25 produced 24 singing Alder Flycatchers during a 4-hour paddle (RW).

A pair oftime-honored was also reported feeding young at a nest in a rhododendron at TB 7/26 (BH). Another first record for MCEEC was a Yellow-throated Vireo 6/2, also within the safe breeding dates but never relocated (DS). A single Cliff Swallow was reported from Canadensis 7/1 (EP). A nice find was a singing Winter Wren at GLR on 6/4. GR’s Bald Eagle/Tunkhannock Creek on Hypsy Gap Rd 7/7 (BC). A Pine Warbler feeding a fledgling was observed at MCEEC 7/1 (BH). The LP canoe trip 6/25 also recorded 54 Common Yellowthroats and 59 Swamp Sparrows (RW).

Observers: Brian Hardiman, MCEEC, 8050 Running Valley Rd, Stroudsburg, PA 18360 (570) 629-3061, bhmccd@ptd.net. Bud Cook, Eddie Parnum, John Serrao, Darryl Speicher, Rick Wiltrut.

Montgomery County

Locations: Church Road (CR), Green Lane Reservoir (GLR), Unami Creek Valley (UCV), Walt Road, Green Lane Reservoir (WR)

All sightings by George A. Franchois, except where noted. The summer season was our warmest and driest in several years. Some late-moving waterbirds in June and early migrant shorebirds in July added interest to an otherwise ordinary season.

Common Merganser bred at CR, GLR for the second year in a row. MCEEC A pair of Great Egrets at Norristown Farm Park 7/20 were early and were followed by 3 at GLR 7/31 (KC). Yellowlegs, Solidarid Sandpiper, Lesser Yellowlegs, Solitary Sandpiper and Semipalmated Sandpiper had joined them on the mudflats (GAF, KC). While 7 species didn’t sound much like it, it equals our fall season total for 2001 and surpasses our season total for 2003 !

Yellow-billed Cuckoo were fairly widespread this season, while Black-billed Cuckoo went unreported. A Common Nighthawk was near WR 6/1. A long-established Purple Martin colony in Franconia Twp. had over 100 individuals present from this location. Early migrant martins were noted beginning 7/14. High Purple Martin counts in migration included 18 in the UCV 7/18 and 22 at Upper Perkiomen Valley Park 7/29 (KC, GAF).

Our last report of migrant Blackpoll Warbler was one at WR 6/1. The Kentucky and Bobolinks reported last quarter from the UCV remained on territory until at least 6/18 (KC, MH, LT).

Post-breeding movement of Bobolinks was noted 7/20 when some 24 were present at CR, GLR.

Observers: Kevin Crilley, PO Box 100, Sumneytown, PA 18084, (215) 234-6867, great-gray@att.net. George Franchois, Mike Harvell, Lisa Tall.
Poqussing Creek again this year. Chuck reported that one chick fledged and by late Jul seemed to be on its own. A nesting pair of American Kestrel was found using the cavities of decaying brick walls at the old Philadelphia Naval Base (AM, JM). A pair that has nested here most years in past years was not reported. The Philadelphia Naval base, difficult to access for years, is now open to birders for what little time remains before the huge tract is developed with residential and commercial projects. A Sharp-shinned Hawk seen by Steve Dupont 7/2 at the Spring Lane field where he was searching for the Sedge Wren is a good Philly bird in summer.

Although most birders regard audio-playback as potentially damaging to breeding birds, a point count utilizing audio-playback in a marsh bird survey at TI indicated Common Moorhen might be nesting. Subsequent visits without audio playback confirmed the fact. I found a pair of Common Moorhen with two chicks at TI in Jul and JM found second pair in the Fort Mifflin ponds and a third pair inside the PHL fence during his work on the 2 BBA. Three pair is a 300% increase over last year when I thought none were breeding before a good thing. However, the remaining button bush (Cephalanthus occidentalis) and hybiscus or marsh mallow (Althaea officinalis) are submerged at least 6" higher than usual. As usual I received sightings of Black-crowned Night Heron along Tacony Creek in early Apr (BS) and throughout the season at TI, but no breeding site has been discovered after two seasons of atlasing. These birds range far to feed, so perhaps they’re across the DR in New Jersey, or they’re unattached adults.

A Black Vulture was spotted on a Big Day 5/10 at the BRSP (KR, MS). CL saw as many as four Osprey in the area of the nest he marked last year. There was a successful nest. He also observed an ad and imm Bald Eagle sharing the same branch. Perhaps this is the family from Petty Island, NJ. A Northern Harrier was seen off and on at TI until early Apr. A Cooper’s Hawk nest was discovered in the northeast (KR/MS) and the Red-shouldered Hawk at TI was still present 3/20.

Virginia Rail were found at TI during the Marsh Bird Survey, two on 5/8 and one 5/26. Another bird was reported 6/14 (no details). The first bird I heard responded to playback at the “horseshoe” where I saw and heard it and a Common Moorhen. Four red fox pups were seen swimming in the bank water so extraordinarily high in the female Mallard wing 5/7. I hope they didn’t have rail or moorhen for any subsequent meals. Another Virginia Rail was found squished on the roadway 4/25 in E. Mt. Airy at the corner of Durham and Ardsley Sts.

At the FDR pond, there have been Lesser Yellowlegs and Wilson’s Snipe 4/29. Morris Arboretum has a small wetland area that hosted: 2 Solitary Sandpiper 5/9/5/29 (KJ, KR, MS), 2 Spotted Sandpiper 5/29 (KJ), and 2 Least Sandpiper 5/9. Other than very few Dunlin at the edge of the impoundment, there were none on the NAMC at TI (SC, EP). Wilson’s Snipe were seen at Rhawn and the DR (ID) 4/8 and at TI 4/24. American Woodcock were dancing in the TI parking on the very cold dusk of 3/7 (BE) and at SCEE 3/16. On 3/25 Wilson’s Snipe were present on the bus stop island at TI 3/25 (DB, TR). Wild Turkey and Ring-necked Pheasant were seen at TI this season.

Among hundreds of Ring-billed Gulls at FDR Park 2/28, there was a lone Laughing Gull sitting on the lake, as snow began to fall.

The last report of the three Long-eared Owls at TI was one seen on the trolley bed during the last week of Mar, but other unexpected Long-eareds appeared: at SCEE 3/11 and at 45° Osage where a lone bird sat out in the open among the university’s victorian houses. Ish D’lessandro found a Short-eared Owl around Delaware and Allegheny Aves. Once a breeding species, and now around the Philadelphia, this species is now hard to find. Our only predictable Barred Owl used to be a bird on Apologin Rd in the Wissahickon, but two Barred Owl called from CW in mid-Apr (EB), KR hear a bird, which may have been one of the birds from CW call from his W. Mount Airy home.

A Whip-poor-will was heard calling in Germantown at the Awbury Arboretum 4/29 (BR).

In FP Olive-sided Flycatcher were recorded 5/14 (DM, AS) and 5/25. Kate Somerville spotted another Yellow-bellied Flycatcher also 5/25. Kate Somerville spotted another Yellow-bellied Flycatcher 2/3 at Poplar. 5/31. Least Flycatcher was seen 5/5 at the Bio-pond (38° and Hamilton Walk at the University of PA), an area that is monitored carefully by Steve Kacir; at CW 5/8 (KR) and at the Wellness Center in FP 5/14 (DM, AS).

On 3/6 we looked for the Least Sandpiper which had been discovered after two seasons of atlasing. These birds continue to be scarce and in lower numbers. The 5/14 NAMC results of 135 species (610) 565-8484, mcgovern@masca.museum.upenn.edu
vain over a snow-covered field.

Chuck Hetzel monitors the fields surrounding his Spring Lane home for E. Meadowlark and Bobolink as well as rarer grassland sparrows. He probably was surprised and I know he was delighted, when he heard, saw and recorded a Sedge Wren singing in the weedy field just east of his house. The bird sang and was seen by several birders on 6/28-29. One wonders how long this little bird was singing before he heard it's subdued song.

**Gray-cheeked Thrush** was seen at TI 5/12 (UF) in CW and at Tacony Creek 5/22 (MD). **Swainson's Thrush** were first reported at the Biopond at U of PA. 5/12 (SK) and at TI 5/30 (KJ) and finally at City Hall 5/31 (KS). Also at City Hall were 3 Hermit Thrush 5/8 (KS).

In the shrubby border between the maintenance road and the pipeline cut at TI, a hybrid **Blue-winged x Golden-winged Warbler**, a **Brewster's Warbler** was found 5/11 (DB). The bird was seen by several birders and described by CL for the NAMC as having "characteristics of a Brewer's backcross... with an overall grayish coloration, yellow cap, and a black eye-stripe. However, the individual differed from the typical Brewster's backcross in that it had a yellow wash on the throat and breast (similar to the Brewer's 1st generation adult); the wing bars were narrow and white in color; and there was no noticeable yellow on the wings."

The breeding status of **Blue-winged Warbler** is uncertain, so when a bird that was seen at SCEE in their 6/9 summer census, hike increased that the species would be confirmed as a breeding species. **Chestnut-sided Warbler** is another unconfirmed breeder found at four locations in the NAMC. A **Blackburnian Warbler** 4/21 in CW is the earliest record (KR) and as scarce as they were this year CH had one. Hope was again dashed when one was found at SCEE on their 6/9 summer census. **American Woodcocks** were also confirmed nesters by the beaver swamps NW of PEEC 6/8 (EH, SQ). A **Green Heron** was spotted on a nest, 6/8, in the beaver swamps NW of PEEC as well (EH, SQ). Raptor sightings included a Sharp-shinned Hawk near PEEC staff housing 6/15 (MT). **Red-shouldered Hawks** were seen and heard around PEEC's front pond, over the main campus, and staff housing on several occasions, including documented dates of 6/10 and 6/17 (SQ, MT). These are believed to be the same nesting pair that abandoned their nest near PEEC's old dining hall, but have recently seemed to establish a nest near PEEC's Pickerel Pond.

**Owls** present around PEEC included a **Great Horned Owl** 6/23 (MG, SQ) and a **Barred Owl** 6/8 (MG, SQ), with Barred Owls frequently being heard throughout the season.

**Songbird viewing included 4 Yellow-billed Cuckoos** 6/24 at Bruce Lake Natural Area (EP), as well as one Black-billed Cuckoo spotted perched in a tree beside cabin 8 on PEEC's campus 6/7 (EG, SG, EH).

Several good bird sightings occurred at Bruce Lake Natural Area 6/24. A pair of Least Flycatchers, one Alder Flycatcher, 8 Hermit Thrushes, 15 Veeries, one Yellow-throated Vireo, and 3 Blue-headed Vireos were recorded. One Warbling Vireo and one Blue-headed Vireo were recorded by PEEC's Naturalist on an early morning bird walk around campus 7/13 (EH).

Warblers were also confirmed nesters by the beaver swamps NW of PEEC and the DWGNA included several looks at Black-throated Greens 6/1, 6/24, 7/13, and 7/30 (EH, EP), a pair of Cerulean Warblers 7/30 (EH), one Magnolia Warbler 6/24 (EP), 4 Canada Warblers 6/24 (EP), 23 Chestnut-sided Warblers 6/24 (EP), several Blackburnian Warblers 6/1, 6/8 and 6/18 (EH), and 3 Worm-Eating Warblers 6/18 and 7/13 (EH).

One **Orchard Oriole** was spotted just off Emery Rd. near PEEC 6/19 (GR). **Purple Finches** displaying courtship behavior were registered in the spruces by PEEC's new dining hall 6/18 (MB).

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**Pike County**

Location: Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (DWGNA), Pocono Environmental Education Center (PEEC).

This report is based on the data compiled from PEEC’s staff notes, PEEC led bird walks, and the bird registry in PEEC’s visitor center.

Summer waterfowl sightings included nesting **Wood Ducks** around the beaver swamps NW of PEEC 6/8 (EH, SQ). **Two American Woodcocks** were also confirmed nesters by the beaver swamps NW of PEEC 6/8 (EH, SQ). A **Green Heron** was spotted on a nest, 6/8, in the beaver swamps NW of PEEC as well (EH, SQ). Raptor sightings included a Sharp-shinned Hawk near PEEC staff housing 6/15 (MT). **Red-shouldered Hawks** were seen and heard around PEEC’s front pond, over the main campus, and staff housing on several occasions, including documented dates of 6/10 and 6/17 (SG, MT). These are believed to be the same nesting pair that abandoned their nest near PEEC’s old dining hall, but have recently seemed to establish a nest near PEEC’s Pickerel Pond.

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**Schuylkill County**

No Report

Compiler: Dave Kruei, 540 Pine Street, Pottsville, PA 17901, (570) 622-3704, accip@infionline.net,

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**Snyder County**

Locations: Centerville Swamp (CS), Faylor Lake and Environs (FL), Jack’s Mt. Ridge and Valleys (JM), Middle Creek Twp. (MCT), Shade Mt. (SM), Susquehanna River (SR), Walker Lake and Environs (WL)

While canoing FL 6/12 a lone **Tundra Swan** flew in and, on nearby WL an **Osprey** was observed 6/21 (PW, RW).

Nesting **Red-headed Woodpecker** was confirmed in the CS along Zerbe Rd. 7/12 (PW, RW). **Fish Crow** reports continue to increase in the western portion of the county. One was found at WL 6/21 and another at SGL 188 on 7/14 (PW, RW). Combined with the spring sightings this adds to the possibility of nesting at sites away from the SR.

A **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was found singing again this year along Hunter Rd. on JM near the Aspen Pen 6/20 (PW, RW) and
another was found during the breeding season on SM (KW). Two White-throated Sparrows were found calling near Selinsgrove 6/19 which makes this another interesting possible breeder (MB). A pair of Swamp Sparrows were found along Buckeye Rd. in CS 7/12 (PW, RW). Unfortunately this part of the CS has been heavily timbered and lots have been surveyed and are for sale.

In the blocks through which Hunter Rd. runs on JM the following are some of the probable or confirmed breeders: Whip-poor-will, Blue-headed Vireo, Common Raven, Winter Wren, Hermit Thrush, Blackburnian, Black-throated Blue, Chestnut-sided, Pine, and Canada Warblers, Dark-eyed Junco, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Near the northern western corner of the county both Golden-crowned Kinglet and Magnolia Warbler have been reported within their “safe dates”.

Observers: Richard Williams, 3 Parkside Dr., Hummelstown, PA 17036, (717) 566-6562, RWPuffin@aol.com, Mick Brown, Patricia Williams, Ken Wolgemuth.

Somerset County
Locations: Buffalo Creek (BC), Payne Property, Berlin (PP), Somerset Lake (SL), State Game Lands 82 (SGL82)

Early summer saw a brief flurry of Breeding Bird Atlasizing efforts, but with a low number of observers there are still many untouched blocks in the county. Nevertheless, about 125 species were possible or recorded in this year and another early or early-late shorebirds visited the county this season. Weather in general was warmer than average with rainfall slightly decreased across the county.

A good find was a brood of Hooded Mergansers at the Beachey Wetlands, first found in May and relocated in Jun (AM). Only one Ruffed Grouse brood was reported from the southern part of the county (MH), but Wild Turkey broods were widespread. Northern Bobwhite overwintered from stockings near Berlin and were heard calling through the spring and early summer. A pair of Great Blue Herons was seen around BC with an imm bird present 6/7 from a presumed nearby nesting. Along with numerous Turkey Vultures, a single Black Vulture was seen 6/9 and 7/30 near Roxbury for the third year in a row - is there breeding in the county?

The SL Ospreys had two young in the nest in mid Jun. A female Northern Harrier was hunting fields at SGL 82 on 6/2L The solo Red-shouldered Hawk report was 6/14 near Macdonaldton. Ring-necked Pheasant broods were widely reported mostly in areas of warm season grass plantings.

A brood of Spotted Sandpipers was found at PP in a poorly revegetating pipeline project. Late shorebirds migrants were 50 Semipalmated Sandpipers, one Semipalmated Plover, and one White-rumped Sandpiper at the Ganett Mud Flats 6/7. The earliest return migrants were 2 Solitary Sandpipers at Buffalo Creek 7/9. Another late migrant was a Black Tern at SL 6/12 (AM).

Cuckoos were widespread and plentiful with 13 Yellow-billed within 3 miles of PP 6/10 and 12 in/or near SGL 82 on 6/2l. Interestingly, although the predominate calls heard were Yellow-billed, when birds were seen more than half were Yellow-billed. With farm grounds in many areas of the county being planted in warm season grasses or left fallow there seems to be an increase in Vesper, Savannah, and Grasshopper Sparrows away from the old strip mines. Henslow’s Sparrows were found at the Flight 93 memorial site, strip mines south of Berlin, and at a new site on SGL 82. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were abundant at PP this year with young being brought to the sunflower feeders. Purple Finches were also common at PP, but only a single Pine Siskin was seen sporadically through the period to at least 7/22.

Observers: Jeff Payne, 9755 Glades Pike, Berlin, PA 15530, (814) 267-5718, Anthony Marich, Eric Hall, Mark Holliday, and all uncited observations by Jeff, Retta or Chris Payne.

Sullivan County
No Report. No Compiler.

Susquehanna County
No Report.
Compiler: Rob Byre, Hidden River Farm, 300 Sanatoga Road, Pottstown, PA 19465, rbyre@audubon.org

Tioga County
No Report.
Compiler: Jeff Holbrook, 2631 King Circle, Corning, NY 14830, (607) 936-5059, mycteria@stny.rr.com

Union County
No Report. No Compiler.

Venango County
No Report.
Compiler: Gary Edwards, 224 Meadow Rd., Apt. 9, Seneca, PA 16346, (814) 676-3011, gedwards@csonline.com

Warren County
No Report.
Compiler: Ted Grisz, 10 Belmont Dr. Warren, PA 16365, (814) 723-9464.

Washington County
No Report.
New compiler - Geoff Malosh 450 Amherst Ave., Moon Township, PA 15108, (412) 269-1413  pomarine@earthlink.net  Beginning Fall 2005.

Wayne County
No Report. No Compiler.

Westmoreland County
No Report.
Compiler: Bob Leberman, 1847 Route 381, Rector, PA 15677, (724) 593-6021, rcleberman@winbeam.com

Wyoming County
There is no doubt but that the Atlas project is changing the birthing patterns in our area. In the past, the summer doldrums arrived and many birders went on vacation. With the Atlas, that has changed and we are getting out a lot more in the summer months. Bird sightings are from William Reid unless otherwise attributed.

On 7/11, toward evening, I was surprised to see a compact group of 6 Blue-winged Teals fly by my home on the river. On 7/14, I saw a single male Blue-winged Teal in the river by an island shortlly below my home. It is quite possible that the teal found a place to nest somewhere along the island. My neighbor, George Zenge also saw the bird 7/14.

On 6/16, I saw 2 Black-crowned Night-Heron fly down the river by my home. A few years ago they nested on one of islands upstream from me (a single pair, not a colony). It is possible that they could be nesting on some nearby island.
A single Osprey at S. Eaton 6/23. Again, possibly breeding nearby. Both ad and young Bald Eagles are seen quite often, sometimes sitting on a dead limb. Again, a possible breeder, but no evidence was found. A pair of Red-shouldered Hawks was present in Lemon Twp.

From at least 7/14-31 there was a gull at S. Eaton which looked like Sibley's picture of the Herring-Glaucous hybrid. It had almost no marking on the ends of the primaries. No photograph was obtained.

A single Virginia Rail and Marsh Wren were found in Lemon Twp. 7/14. Acadian Flycatchers are scarce in our area, but one was at Centermoreland 7/9.

A Nashville Warbler was found in Falls Twp. 7/11. A Black-throated Blue Warbler was at Evans Falls 6/24 (SG). Yellow-rumped Warbler was confirmed (FY) in my yard at S. Eaton. Cerulean Warbler was found 6/24 at Evans Falls (SG) and one at Falls 7/11 (WR). Worm-eating Warblers were found in several locations this year. A Mourning Warbler was located at Centermoreland, 7/9. Hooded Warblers were found in several blocks - above average.

Henslow's Sparrows were found again this year at their nesting site of last year in Mehoopany (RK, JD). A Dickcissel was present at least between 7/13-24 in Eaton Twp.


York County

No Report

Compiler: Peter Robinson, P. O. Box 482, Hanover, PA 17331, (717) 632-8462 pabirder@hotmail.com
PHOTO QUIZ #10

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

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