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 Photo-Quiz #10 - Inside back cover

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.

from the Editor...

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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Grassland Birding on Old Strip Mine Sites near Sligo, Clarion Co, PA

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 Logue 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 had walked to Gull Point to conduct the International Shorebird Survey, so I wasn't expecting anything like a jaeger in the middle of the summer. Perhaps this bird was carried here by Hurricane Dennis. However, this storm was quickly reduced to a tropical storm as soon as it made landfall in the Florida panhandle. It drifted north and stayed over Missouri, Illinois, and Indiana for several days before passing over Pennsylvania this weekend. As I approached the tip of the point I noticed that the gulls were flying around and were dispersing in all directions. It wasn't long before I spotted a dark falcon-like bird chasing a Herring Gull. I recognized it as a jaeger immediately, though I was still very surprised. It was in a plumage I had never seen before. According to Olsen and Larsson's, *Skuas and Jaegers*, the plumage of this jaeger was closest to a second summer bird. Jaegers between the ages of hatching year and adult can be very challenging. Birds of this age group are not often encountered in inland North America.

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 were 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.

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.



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).



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).

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.

*3508 Allegheny Rd.
Erie, PA, 16508*



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).

BOOK REVIEW

Gene Wilhelm

GUIDE TO GARDENING FOR LIFE IN SOUTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

Produced by Audubon At Home, National Audubon Society in partnership with Bucks County Audubon Society and Funding by Waste Management. 133 color illustrations, 84 pp. 2005. Contact Honey Hollow Environmental Education Center, Bucks County Audubon Society, New Hope, Pennsylvania for information.

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.

Contents 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 AHAs 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 Habitats 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. 17-20) as illustrated by 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 an 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

During 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 was 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 but 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.

*1375 Raubsville Rd.
Easton, PA 18042*

The Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee Review List

Nick Pulcinella P.O.R.C. Secretary

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 decreasing 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

Great Cormorant *(exempt in Bucks, Delaware, Philadelphia)*

Anhinga
Magnificent Frigatebird
Tricolored Heron
Cattle Egret
Yellow-crowned Night Heron

White Ibis
Glossy Ibis
Roseate Spoonbill
Wood Stork
Swallow-tailed Kite
Mississippi Kite
Swainson's Hawk
Gyr Falcon
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 on-
 line via the PSO web site
<http://www.pabirds.org>

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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-distant 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 age 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 remarked on the challenges of birding during the dog days of summer. Generally, nesting activity continued to be vigorous through mid-July, providing many enjoyable days afield for Breeding Bird Atlas efforts throughout the state. Of course the Atlas was a common theme for many county reporters; some indicated that this project invigorated birding

activity while others lamented the lack of available volunteers.

As to the birds, various county 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, accidentals, 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 scap 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: *Erie* 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, *Erie* 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 *Erie* 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 observe. 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

Birds of Note - June through July 2005

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

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 (Patricia and Richard Williams).

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

American Wigeon - *Crawford*: sighting 6/15 (Marvin Byler).

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 Vass); *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 Christman, 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); *McKean*: heard in swamp and reported to the Atlas Project (John Fedak); *Northampton*: one flew over a marshy area in Mt. Bethel 6/2 (Sherri LaBarr).

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

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 Gehringer - 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).

Dunlin - *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);

- Lancaster*: Conejohela Flats 7/28 (Deuane Hoffman).
- 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).
- Arctic Tern*** - *Bucks*: a basic plumage observed 6/4 flying around Peace Valley Park (Howard Eskin, August Mirabella, Chuck Crunkleton, Elaine Crunkleton).
- Sooty Tern*** - *Lancaster*: an adult was seen on two occasions flying past Avocet Point at Conejohela 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, Conejohela Flats 6/19 (Bob Schutsky), 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 Heavenly Acres Road in Thompson Twp. 6/5 (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)



Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*). Four young at a nest site in Hartleton, Union, 5 July 2005 (Wayne Laubscher).



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



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



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.

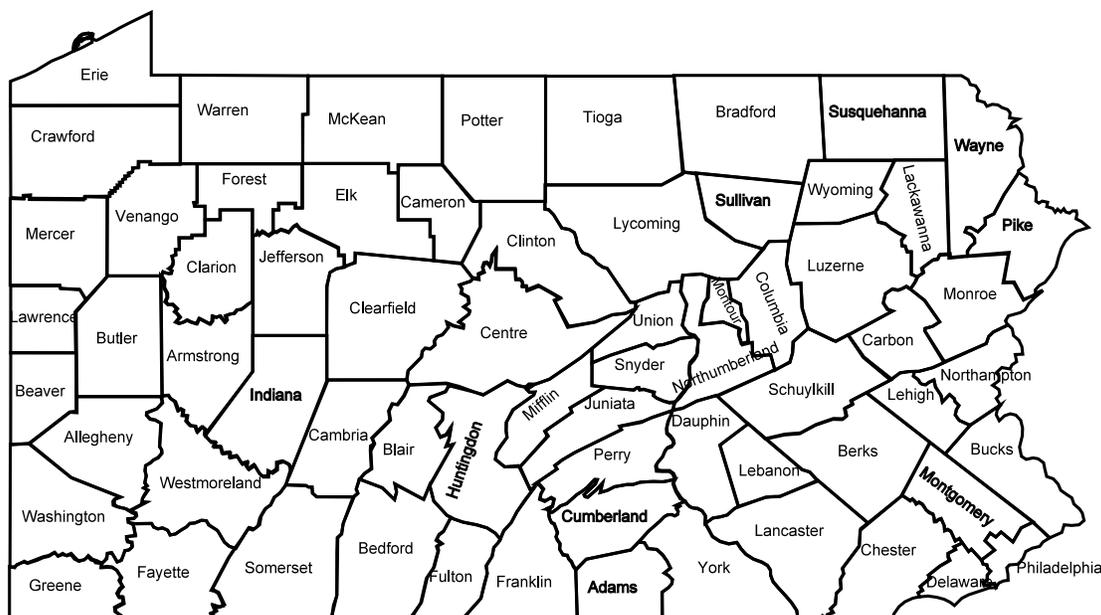


Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*). This bird photographed 9 July 2005 was one of an amazing 11 singing males in Cumberland this summer (Geoff Malosh).



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

Local Notes - March through May 2005



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 **Bald Eagle** was an unexpected sight flying along the Ohio R. near Pittsburgh 6/8 (CT).

A few late northbound shorebirds were reported at IMP in early Jun. The first southbound migrants appeared in Jul. A **Greater Yellowlegs** and a **Lesser Yellowlegs** along with 11 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were there 6/3 (MV). Probably the first southbound migrants, up to 4 **Least Sandpipers** were found 7/1-5 along with a **Lesser Yellowlegs**. Two **Pectoral Sandpipers** were found 7/31 (MV). A **Short-billed Dowitcher** was there 7/8 (MV), 2 were there 7/15 (MV) and 7/23 (GM); one remained 7/25 (MV), and **Solitary Sandpipers** were there 7/24 and 7/31 (MV). A **Solitary Sandpiper** was at the recently repaired pond at Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve in Fox Chapel 7/27 where it was attracted to the muddy margins of the partially filled pond (BSh). A flock of 33 **Killdeer** flew off the roof of a school in Churchill 7/27 (MF).

A **Whip-poor-will** was calling at SGL 203 on 6/7 (MF, BM, PL, SL). A **Least Flycatcher** was found in West Deer Twp. 6/27 (DY). Two were found at a nest in SGL 203 in Marshall Twp. 7/4 (BVN). The breeding status of this species in *Allegheny* is unclear since **Least Flycatchers** are not reported annually during the breeding season. An **Alder Flycatcher** was an interesting find in West Deer Twp. 6/27 (DY). This species is not known to breed in the county and is a rare migrant.

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).

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 Nighthawk** reports included one near Ford City 6/1 (JV, JVa) and 2 in Kittanning 6/12 (MH, RH).

Atlasing in the McG 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.

Atlasing 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-wings 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 Cochran's 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) was a nice find. **Black-throated Green Warblers** were widespread with good counts of 5 near EV 6/2 (CG, MH), 4 near Mt. Tabor 6/9 (CG, MH), and 5 near McG 6/22 (CG, MH). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** in the sycamores at the traditional Cochran's Mill location 6/2 (MH, RH) was the lone report. **Prairie Warblers** were in good numbers with as many as 5 singing males in a Christmas tree field near MD 7/1 (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 6/2 (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. Atasing 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 at 9 locations (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.).

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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), Dunning's 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% within the county.

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 Ashcomb quarry and 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 BBS: **Red-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Warbling Vireo, White-eyed Vireo** and **Blue-headed Vireo**. The **Carolina Wren**, whose numbers were down for several years, appeared to have a good breeding season.

Breeding Bird Atlas data thus far has 23 species of warblers for *Bedford*, it is anticipated we will add **Nashville, Yellow-throated and 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. **Louisiana Waterthrush** 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 **Canadas** along headwater streams of the AF and the **Hoodeds** more dispersed between the AF and the county at large. **Yellow-breasted Chats** were widely distributed but generally hard to find.

Twenty-three species of warblers breed on a line drawn from the AF to SSP, a distance of 5 miles. The importance of the AF as 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 infrastructure unless the state mandates siting regulations.

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Berks County

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

The headliner 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

was reported at Telford and Spring Sts, West Lawn, near the long established herony of this species on Norman St. (fide RB).

An **Osprey** was at GML 6/5 (KL) and both imm and ad **Bald Eagles** were seen all season (m.ob.). **Sharp-shinned Hawks** nesting in a mature Norway spruce plantation surrounded by deciduous woodland in Pike Twp. produced at least 2 fledged young, which were heard giving food begging calls until mid-Aug (RK). Nesting records of this species south of the Kittatinny Ridge have been scarce in recent decades. Single **Common Moorhens** were seen at GML 6/5 and at a pond on Lowland Rd., Hamburg 6/12 (TC,KG). Birders searched for the latter for weeks afterward, but it was not seen again. The 6 **Barn Owl** chicks reported in a box in Rehrersburg in May all fledged (RB). A **Whip-poor-will** calling near a large clearcut at SGL 110, Northkill Gap (KG) was the first territorial bird reported in *Berks* in years. As many as 3 birds may have been present. **Red-headed Woodpeckers** at Kaufmann Rd., Oley Twp, a traditional nesting area, were feeding at least one juv 7/23 (SF).

At least 3 male **Alder Flycatchers** were found singing in Jun. Males at BML 6/4 (JS) and Boyertown Res. 6/26 (RK) were not found later. A bird in a dry, regenerating clearcut at SGL 110, Northkill Gap stayed from 6/11 (KG) to at least 6/20 (SB). There was no evidence of breeding. A **Least Flycatcher** was singing 6/14 at Hay Creek, one of the last places this species formerly nested in *Berks* (KL). **Blue-headed Vireo** was confirmed breeding on the Kittatinny Ridge at Hawk Mt (DB) and SGL 110, Northkill Gap (KG), the southeastern edge of its breeding range in PA. Two ad **Common Ravens** followed by 4 presumed juvs giving begging calls were at SGL 110, Northkill Gap 6/18 (MW). This was probably the same family that provided our first confirmed breeding record a month before (KG). The county's only known breeding site for **Bank Swallows** at Kernsville Dam, Hamburg had nine active nest burrows 7/7 (TC). Single **Red-breasted Nuthatches** at Boyertown Res. 7/4 (RK) and LO 7/9 (SS) were near mature conifer plantations and may have been local breeders. **Hermit Thrush**, also at the southeastern edge of its PA breeding range on the Kittatinny, had about 8 territories at SGL 110, Northkill Gap (KG).

The large clearcut and several edge cuts on the Kittatinny at SGL 110, Northkill Gap, regenerating since 2000, provide prime breeding habitat for early-successional scrub nesting birds. Found this year were 40 territories of **Chestnut-sided Warbler**, 3 of **Prairie Warbler**, 80 of **Common Yellowthroat**, 8 of **Yellow-breasted Chat** and 16 of **Field Sparrow** (KG). A much smaller regenerating clearcut at Boyertown Res. hosted smaller numbers of the same spp. (RK). A few territories of **Black-throated Blue Warbler**, **Black-throated Green Warbler** and **Canada Warbler** (KG,MW) were also found on the Kittatinny, their only nesting area in the county. **Cerulean Warbler** was reported only from its traditional nesting area at Hay Creek near Birdsboro (KL). Of the 2 **Prothonotary Warblers** discovered at LO in May, one was heard till 6/25 (JB). Breeding status is unknown. A **Northern Waterthrush** near Leesport 7/25 (DK) was probably headed south. A **Kentucky Warbler** was on territory at the Boyertown Res. In late Jun (RK) and a female was at SGL 106 near Eckville 7/22 (TC). Dense understory resulting from logging at Hay Creek and oak canopy death from caterpillar defoliation at French Creek SP increased numbers of **Hooded Warblers**, **Eastern Towhees** and **Indigo Buntings** in the forest interior (RK).

Grasshopper Sparrows, **Bobolinks** and **Eastern Meadowlarks** were reported mainly from the extensive grass hayfields in Windsor Twp. (KG,MW). A **White-throated Sparrow** at a Bern Twp feeder 6/23 (JS) and a **Dark-eyed Junco** in a yard on Bloody Spring Rd. off the Kittatinny 7/12 (SB) were anomalies.

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Blair County

No Report. No Compiler.

Bradford County

Locations: Barclay Mountain (BM), New Era (NE), Mud Pond (MP).

In contrast to the past two years, summer was extremely dry and hot. In the following notes, confirmed breeding status of the observed birds will be noted.

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 Harrier** observations were a mated pair 5/31 at Mt. Pisgah 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 in the Laquin area, BM (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 exhibiting highly agitated behavior in the Moxie vicinity 6/6, and 3 again were highly agitated in the Laquin area, BM 6/21 (TG). A singing **Marsh Wren** was present at a pond in the Standing Stone area 6/20, and on Spring Hill 7/12 (BR). **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** have not frequently been recorded as breeding here, although this may just be lack of observers: a pair were observed 5/14 at their nest near Monroeton (BF) and one exhibiting agitated behavior for a number of days beginning 6/8 near NE (TG). Amazingly unusual was the report of 4 fledgling **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. On 6/7 a **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was observed near MP, BM (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 Shrader Creek (TG), the last three all on BM. A **Pine Warbler** was observed in Tuscarora Twp. 7/12 (BR), and a **Worm-eating Warbler** 6/20 in the Wyalusing area (BR). Adult **Northern Waterthrushes** were feeding young at Mill Creek, Mt. Pisgah 6/20 (RY). On 4/19 there were an amazing 5 singing **Louisiana Waterthrushes** on 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 Tuscarora 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

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 varies greatly at this time of year 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 about normal preventing good early shorebird habitat. Breeding Bird Atlas work seemed to continue quietly and apparently 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. An out-of-season **Ring-necked Duck** that could fly was reported from TNT from mid-May- until mid-Jul for the only summer report of this species (MM). Not unusual, a late **Red-breasted Merganser** was still at NSP 6/1 (BE). A **Northern Bobwhite** was calling in TNT (DA) for several weeks but must be assumed to be a released bird. Summer non-breeding plumaged **Common Loon** reports are not unprecedented. However, one at PVP 6/11 and again 6/27 into the second week of Jul was unusual there (AM). An unexpected breeding-plumaged bird at WNT 7/31 was a surprise (DF). Where only one to four **Double-crested Cormorants** remained at PVP last summer, this year 15 to 20 were present (AM). Surprising was an adult pair displaying courtship behavior at a nest on 7/30 (AM). This same behavior was noted on 7/11/98 when 35 birds summered. In both instances, the nest was gone a week later.

American Bittern was at QTS at least until 6/6 (BE) but was not reported later probably due to lack of effort rather than absence. A **Great Egret** at PVP 6/4 was the last of only five spring reports (BL), while one at NSP 7/9 (BE) and one at Pine Run Dam 7/13 (IB) were the first reports of post-breeding wanderers. The largest counts reported later were four at NSP 7/30, nine at Churchville Res. 7/27 (NZ), and 14 at Rohm & Haas, Bristol 7/31 (DF). A **Snowy Egret** at PVP 6/5 was the only spring report (BL). A **Little Blue Heron** was at Rohm & Haas, Bristol 7/24 (DF). No other reports were received for the latter two species that have become less regular over the years especially away from the southern end of the county. Surprising was the lack of **Black-crowned Night-Heron** reports. **Turkey Vulture** was a confirmed breeder in the Rockhill Quarry (BE). The two **Osprey** nests near Mud Is. and Riegelville apparently were successful (HD, AK) but no new nests were reported. **Bald Eagle** still eludes us as a breeder but my guess is there is a nest somewhere in the county. The only **Broad-winged Hawks** reported came from Nockamixon Twp. (HM), NSP (fide BE), and Doylestown (BG). A soaring **Red-tailed Hawk**, being harassed by passerines, met an untimely death at PVP 7/1 when a probable **Great Horned Owl** snatched it, banked, and quickly glided back into the woods (HE).

Virginia Rail was at QTS as usual (BE) but **Sora** was not reported after Apr. A heard-only possible **Common Moorhen** at QTS on 7/3, if correct, is one of very few recent reports (SK). It has not been noted as a breeder in the county for over 50 years. Only seven shorebird species were reported for the season. Two **Greater Yellowlegs** were at PVP 6/5 for the last spring report (BH). The first fall report was one at WNT 7/24 (DF). The first **Lesser Yellowlegs** was at WNT 7/3. Three **Solitary Sandpipers** were also at WNT 7/24 (DF) for the first report for fall. The first **Least Sandpiper** was also reported there that day (DF). Five **Short-billed Dowitchers** at PVP 6/4 was our second report for this species there this spring, both of which were unusual for the upper county (CC). Unusual for PVP in Jun was a count of 14 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** 6/4 (AM). Five were still at NSP until at least 6/5 (BE). NSP had two 7/23 and up to five for the rest of Jul (BE). Not surprising is that these summer reports are usually not adults. A **Caspian Tern** 7/19 over Warminster was the only report (CC). What was believed to be a non-breeding plumaged **Arctic Tern** was at PVP 6/4 for only our fifth county report (HE,AM,CC,EC). Since an adult should be in breeding plumage in Jun, it was assumed that this bird was a one year old or possibly a second summer bird.

A **Barn Owl** was reported to be nesting but the property owner would not allow confirmation (DF). Adult and young **Barred**

Owls were heard at QTS in late Jun and early Jul (BE). **Red-headed Woodpecker** again nested at State Game Land 157 (BE, DF). **Black-capped Chickadees** were believed to be nesting in a box in TNT (DA). The observer stated she "is as certain as she can be" (DA) considering that the borderline for **Black-capped/Carolina** is believed to be north of us and considering the difficulty in determining mixed heritage. A pair of **Brown Creepers** in TNT into the first week of May was possibly nesting (DF). No follow-up was done after that date. One at PVP 7/31 was unusual there (CH). Singing **Marsh Wren** was reported at QTS again this year (BE,SK). Unprecedented for Jul was a heard only, through the bedroom window no less, **Golden-crowned Kinglet** south of NSP 7/16 (BE). Unfortunately, it could not be confirmed visually and was not heard again.

Four singing **Grasshopper Sparrows** were in TNT (DA,DF). Adults and a juvenile found in Blooming Glen 7/19 confirmed nesting there where they have nested before (CR). A **White-throated Sparrow** reported in May continued through the summer in Levittown with a drooping wing, which likely explains its presence (PR). Possibly the same bird or another was reported to 6/1 a few blocks away (GC). The pair of **Blue Grosbeaks** at PVP were noticed 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,CS). A female was only seen in May. Our first Jun report of **Pine Siskin** 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).

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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 nature and humans alike. Such excessive weather probably was the cause for 25 **Purple Martin** deaths north of SRB and an overall steep decline in passerine breeding success. Extreme weather conditions also forced birders to be 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 **Northern Bobwhites** were 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 tabulated 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 **Hooded** and **Common Mergansers** after June 1 (G&JW). Somehow, somehow 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 (**Eastern Screech, Great Horned and Barred**) 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 Poplar 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 **Pileated 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 lonely 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** was recorded 6/11-19 in EC and 2 male **Swamp Sparrows** were noted singing there 6/18 (CT).

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Cambria County

Locations: Beaver Dam Run Dam Area (BDRD), Beaverdam Sportsman Property Area (BSP), Dunlo Area, (DA), Prince Gallitzin State Park (PG), Patton Area (PT)

Three imm **Common Loons** summered at PG. We have had summering loons approximately every third year but no breeding has occurred. The **Great Blue Heron** 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 breeding. **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 **Cliff Swallow** colonies at PG totaling 100 nests (JS). **Carolina Wrens** continue their comeback with many birds singing in the PT (PJF, DG). Two separate confirmations of **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were located in the PG area (RB, JS). **Veery** and **Wood Thrush** were common singers in the area south of PT (PJF).

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, djgobert@webtv.com; John Salvetti, 519 E. Crawford St., Ebensburg, PA 15931, (814) 472-9298, jsalvetti70@aol.com**, Rory Bower, P.J. Falatek, Judy Johns.

Cameron County

No Report. No Compiler.

Carbon County

No Report.

Compiler: **David Hawk, 521 Walnut Street, Lehighton, 18235, (610) 377-2407, finch@ptd.net**

Centre County

Locations: Benner Spring Fish Hatchery (BSH), Bald Eagle State Park (BESP), Bear Meadows (BM), Beech Creek (BC), Black Moshannon State Park (BMSP), Centre Hall (CH), Colyer Lake (COL), Penn State Horticultural Farm (PSH), Millbrook Marsh (MBM), Shingletown Gap (SG).

More information about some of these locations is available at www.scbirdcl.org. Almost all of the species information comes from postings to the State College Bird Club listserv scbirdcl@lists.psu.edu during this period. This is also true for the Breeding Tables.

A **Wood Duck** with 9 downy young were seen at BSH 6/1 (JM). A **Common Loon** was near the dam at BESP 6/27 (TP), and one in breeding plumage on the lake at BESP 7/4 (BS). Breeding **Pied-billed Grebe** was found sitting on a low platform nest at Scotia Barrens Pond, 7/7 (MR).

Two young **Bald Eagles** in the nest at BESP were observed to be healthy and ready for flight soon 6/10 (BS) and an imm **Bald Eagle** was seen soaring at COL 8/2 (MH). An imm **Red-tailed Hawk** was observed and photographed as close as four feet for 30 minutes on the Penn State campus 6/21 (JL). **Red-tailed Hawks** have been seen regularly on campus over the years and some permit remarkably close approach. Five **Cooper's Hawks** including at least 3 juvs were found at BSH 7/11 (JM). At least 3 **American Kestrels** fledged from a nest box in Boalsburg 6/21 (DO).

A **Bonaparte's Gull** in mid-molt was sitting on a pond bank at BSH 6/1 (JM). A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** at PSH 6/8 (BS). A single **Barred Owl** was at SG 7/14 (RS).

Eastern Phoebe seen feeding a **Brown-headed Cowbird** at BSH 7/11 (JM). 4 or more territorial **Alder Flycatchers** along swampy section adjacent to Beech Creek 6/3 (GG). Both **Willow** and **Alder Flycatchers** were at the Toftrees gamelands 6/4 (RS). Seven **Willow Flycatchers** were found at MBM 6/5 (NAB).

A **Red-eyed Vireo** nest with young hanging beneath the down-curved limb of a weeping cherry tree next to a house deck, Stormstown 6/18 (DB); this is an example of how low the nest for this species can be in contrast to where the species usually sits high in the canopy singing in the breeding season. **Blue-headed Vireo** was seen gathering nesting material 6/21 near CH (MH). A kettle of **Common Ravens** were calling one at a time to each other near PSH 6/27 (BS). **Purple Martin** houses, some with young at Howard 7/5 (BS).

Winter Wren was heard 7/14 at SG (RS). A mostly albino **American Robin** (not completely white, but from the back all you see is white) returning for the second year in Bellefonte 6/17 (RM).

Yellow Warbler feeding a begging **Brown-headed Cowbird** fledgling was at Strawberry Hill Rd. 6/27 (MH). There was a recently fledged **Worm-eating Warbler** in an area heavily infested with woolly adelgid in SG 7/6 (DO). Adult **Swamp Sparrows** were feeding fledged juveniles 6/19 in several locations at Bear Meadows (JM).

A visiting birder from England (CS) reported seeing a male **Blue Grosbeak** about 7/16 along the upper part of Laurel Run Rd, between Pine Swamp and Bear Gap Roads. His description included that the bird was blue, larger than an Indigo Bunting with a larger bill than the bunting, and with two brown wing bars. This is near the *Centre-Huntingdon* border (NB).

Following is a meadowlark-nest conservation story: Behind the house of CN near CH were several hay fields with many **Eastern Meadowlarks**. After speaking to the farmer who was getting ready to mow one of them, he agreed to try to mow around nests she posted with markers 6/2 (CN).

Estimated flock of 1500 **Common Grackles** at MBM 6/17 (NAB). Steady stream of 2000-3000 **Common Grackles** seemed unusual at this time of year at BSH 7/1 (JM). **Orchard Orioles** with young were at CH 6/13 (MH).

Observers: **Bob Fowles, P.O. Box 266, Pine Grove Mills, PA 16868, 814 238-1990, rbf@psu.edu**, Don Bryant, Nick Bolgiano (NB), Nan Butkovich (NAB), Deb Grove, Greg Grove, Lewis Grove, Molly Heath, Jen Lee, Jeff Michaels, Roger Munnell, Christy Nickerson, Dan Ombalski, Tom Pluto, Matt Rockmore, Cyril Shelly, Bob Snyder, Rob Stone.

Chester County

Locations: Caln Township (CT), Chambers Lake (CL), Church Farm School (CFS), East Goshen Township (EGT), Embreeville County

Park (EP), Marsh Creek State Park (MC), many observers (m.ob), Newlin Township (NT), Nottingham County Park (NP), Stroud Preserve (SP), Struble Lake (SL), Struble Trail (ST), Valley Forge National Historical Park (VF), West Goshen (WG), White Clay Creek (WCC).

Numbers for this report were augmented by the Breeding Bird Counts conducted by Valley Forge Audubon Society (VFBBC) 6/4 and West Chester Bird Club (WCBBC) 6/12. These counts are conducted in the same circles as the Christmas Bird Counts. VFBBC 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 less owing done. We ended with 1700 less birds than last year, 9 less species than last year, and a decrease in the number of birds of 29 species! Among the declining species were four flycatchers, two vireos, **American Crow**, **Wood Thrushes**, **Field Sparrows**, and **Indigo Buntings**. We'll see if this data is indicative of any kind of trend. Perhaps the lower number was entirely weather-related.

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 VF 7/2 (RW). A pair of **Ring-necked Ducks**, which should have been gone from the area, were found during the WCBBC 6/12 (DD). One **Ruddy Duck** was seen in the SL area 6/1 (CC, WG).

Pied-billed Grebes were reported at CL 7/24 (DKr) and MC 7/26 (RW). The only **Double-crested Cormorants** reported were 5 seen at SL 6/1 (WG). Six **Great Egrets** were found feeding together on a little pond on Reeceville Rd. near Guthrieville 7/27 (MR). Only one **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was seen, an imm at CFS 6/12, (NP, SP). AL reported a flock of 10 **Glossy Ibis** flying over his house in Landenberg off and on since May. On 7/14, that number increased to 22. He believes that the flock may roost at Pea Patch Island, just a few miles from his home, and then feed somewhere in PA during the day.

The **Bald Eagles** that nested this year just off Route 23, east of Phoenixville, were monitored and appreciated by many people. MH and LT stopped at their viewing spot 6/12 and had great looks at the ad perched above the nest, and one juv, clearly visible, jumping up and down and flapping its wings! This nest was found while surveying the area for the Breeding Bird Count. A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was found on a nest in the Elverson area 5/2 (REC). **Cooper's Hawk** breeding was confirmed in WG (NP, SP). An unexpected **Merlin** was found during the VFBBC 6/4. No details were given. A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was reported during the WCBBC in the Willistown area 6/12 (MH et al.). **Spotted Sandpipers** were reported consistently during the summer along the *Chester* shore of the Schuylkill R., where the river flows through VF (RW). One **Solitary Sandpiper** was in EGT 7/26-31 (NP, SP). They also had 3 **Least Sandpipers** in EGT 7/22 and 7/25 and 2 on 7/26.

Eurasian Collared-Doves were found in Coatesville 7/11 (LL) and, during the days and weeks following, seen and photographed by m.ob. They were first seen at the tennis courts near Coatesville Area High School. More information will be sent about these birds during the next report.

A treat has been the reappearance of the **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** in the county: one at NP on 6/7 (TD); one at SP 6/8 and 6/12 (MP); one at EP 6/12 (PE, et al.), and one at MC 7/26 (RW).

While birding in southwestern *Chester* 6/15 (TD) found a **Whip-poor-will** singing from 20 feet away in fair light. **Whip-poor-wills** are probably present each year, but are seldom reported.

TD found on 6/15, a **Barn Owl**, another very scarce bird, was found 6/15 between Octoraro Res. and Rt. 10 (TD). It was flying over a farm field and calling. A **Barred Owl** was found 6/9 at Modena. (TD).

A lingering **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was found on the WCBBC 6/12 (MAK, et al.), the "rarest" bird found during the count. A "probable" **Least Flycatcher** was heard at SL 6/1 (WG). No details were submitted, but that is the time for migrating flycatchers. One for the books, was an **Eastern Kingbird** riding on and pecking at the back of a **Red-tailed Hawk**. at MC 7/12 (RW), he didn't see the end of that episode.

A pair of **Yellow-throated Vireos** was found nesting at WCC 5/24 (AL). **Purple Martins** must have been really scarce in the county this summer, 8 were seen at Longwood Gardens 7/22 (TD) and only

15 were seen during the WCBBC 6/12. These are the only reports sent to me.

A **Pine Warbler** was observed carrying food 6/7 at NP, a fairly reliable breeding location for this species (TD). Late migrant **Blackpoll Warblers** was seen in WG from 6/1-2 (NP, SP) and at CFS 6/12 (NP, SP). A **Hooded Warbler** was seen 6/5 at WCC (NP, SP).

Five **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were found on the VFBBC 6/12. After much searching, one **Blue Grosbeak** was found in NT 6/16 9TD). **Bobolinks** were seen in two locations in the county with 4 at SP 7/5 (MP), and 4 in the WCBBC area. A new location for **Eastern Meadowlarks** was discovered at the newly-created park named Kirkwood Preserve when 4 were found there 6/21 (MP).

Observers: **Eleanor Wolf, 148 Harvest Lane, Phoenixville, PA 19460, (610)933-6414, wolfriel@voicenet.com**, Barry Blust, Chuck Chalfant, Robert E. Cook, David Davis, Theodore Drozdowski, Paul Earley, Tony Fernandes, Mike Harvell, Mary Alice Knox, Dave Krueel, Andrew Leidig, Larry Lewis, Martin Page, Nick Pulcinella, Sharon Pulcinella, Marita Richards, Jim Russell, Linda Stockman-Vines, Lisa Tull, Valley Forge Audubon Society, Wednesday Group, West Chester Bird Club, Eleanor Wolf, and Richard Wolf.

Clarion County

Locations: Cook Forest SP (CFSP), Curllsville (CV), Kahle Lake (KL), Mt. Zion (MZ), Rimersburg (RI), Sarah Furnace (SF), Shippenville (SV), Strattanville (ST).

Practically all the observations this season were connected with the 2nd Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas. Some of the areas of the county were birded extensively but others were neglected in favor of "home" blocks. We need more atlasers!

A **Northern Harrier** nest was confirmed at CV 6/23 when a female was noticed dropping food to a hidden nestling (CW). Subsequently the battered wing of a young bird tentatively identified as a harrier was found on the road. The feathers of the bird were just emerging from their sheaths. Either the bird was hit 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 CFSP was conspicuous by its absence, not one "kek-kek" all season (DL).

The **Upland Sandpipers** that were so visible in May, were very secretive in Jun. None were confirmed nesting, breeding status just probable this year. Three **Black Terns** were reported at KL 6/3 which is within their safe dates but none have ever been reported nesting here (WF).

Yellow-billed Cuckoos were reported heard in larger numbers than usual all over the county (m.obs). The first sighting of a **Short-eared Owl** this season was at CV 6/29 (CW), and breeding was confirmed 7/3 when one fledgling was present (MB,CW). Later, two young were found 7/9 (C&RW). They left the area shortly thereafter, presumably with two offspring.

A fledgling **Hairy Woodpecker** at SV, while waiting for its parent to feed it some suet, discovered the nearby hummer feeder and proceeded to take several swigs 6/2 (MB). **Acadian, Alder and Willow Flycatchers** have all been reported from southern *Clarion* in their respective habitats (CW). A **Golden-crowned Kinglet** pair nested high in a mature, planted spruce tree plantation at CV and fledged three youngsters 6/23 (CW). This boreal species is an uncommon nester in northwestern Pennsylvania.

Thrushes in general were more numerous than usual with many **Wood Thrushes**, **Hermit Thrushes**, and **Veeries** being reported. An unusual **Gray-cheeked Thrush**, probably a late migrant, turned up at CV 6/1 (CW). A **Swainson's Thrush** was heard singing in one area of CFSP all season but neither singer nor nest were confirmed (DL).

Black-throated Blue Warblers continue to be plentiful in the valley of Mill Creek (RM). One **Cerulean Warbler** was on territory near Sarah Furnace 6/19 (CW). A **Black-and-white Warbler** was carrying food near ST 6/18 (RM). A new location for **Kentucky Warblers** was found 6/14 near Leatherwood (CW).

Along with the usual grassland sparrows on our old strip mines, a new locality for **Clay-colored Sparrows** was found on Summerville Rd. near RI mid-June. This makes three places the spreading **Clay-colored Sparrows** are found here: CV, MZ, and RI (CW). **Orchard Orioles** have had a good year, at least in the southern part of the county. Five nesting spots were confirmed (CW). One nest was destroyed, probably by a **Red-tailed Hawk**, but the

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@alltel.net**, Ted Buckwalter, Paulette Colantonio, Walter Fye, Charles Herrold, Mike Leahy, Dale Luthringer, Ray and Alice McGunigle, Ron Montgomery, Carole & Richard Willenpart.

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 stop in the atlas blocks.

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. **Black-throated Blue** and **Hooded Warblers** were present in the understorey of the forested area along the *Cambria/Clearfield* border. Singing **Blackburnian** and **Black-throated Green Warblers** were found in the Lajose area.

A male singing **Dark-eyed Junco** was found in the same area. Two confirmations of **Louisiana Waterthrush** were recorded along 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 mountaintop 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 Gena 6/29 (RCL, RFL). 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, MV). 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 resting 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 6/27 (MB) and Marvin Byler 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 young and ad **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 Cochranon 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 Sparrows** 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 Gallii, Robert C. Leberman (RCL), Jerry McWilliams, Becky Smith, Kathy Saunders, Mark Vass, Dan Yagusic, Frank Zalik.

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.

Observers: **Deuane Hoffman, 3406 Montour St., Harrisburg, PA 17111, (717) 564-7475, corvuscorax@comcast.net**, Tom Johnson, Ramsay Koury, Joan Renninger, Andy Wilson

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 monitored in Jun and Jul 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 atlasing 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, Jenni & Barry Horton, Ramsay Koury, Sandy Lockerman, Gerald McWilliams, Jane Pianovich, Joan Renninger, William Reid, Rosemary Spreha, Patricia Williams, Gene Wingert, Sally & Rich Zaino.

Delaware County

No Report.

Compiler: **Doris McGovern, 209 Dogwood Rd., Media, PA 19063 (610) 565 8484 mcgovern@masca.museum.upenn.edu**,

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.

Two **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 Scaup** 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 7/19 (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**, believed to be a two year old bird, that made a totally unexpected visit to 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 (BG). 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 Coulter, Mike Fialkovich, Joan Galli, Brian Gula, 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 Youghiogheny R. at OSP 6/11 (MF, TRBC). She made several attempts to land in the 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** (JB).

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 (MMC). Two **Henlows** and one **Grasshopper Sparrow** were heard singing at a reclaimed stripmine near Ohiopyle.

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).

Forest County

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

Data for Summer 2005 in Forest County shows 17 species Possible, 38 Probable, and 64 Confirmed, for a total of 119. Sightings are by Flo and Jim McGuire 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-bellied 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 plantation at Cornplanter S.F. 4/15.

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).

Forty-seven Bluebird Boxes at Tionesta L. and the Kellettsville 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. **Magnolia 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 Trunkville 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 7/8. **Pine Siskins** were listed as probable near TI 6/6.

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

Franklin County

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.

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

Whip-poor-will made their presences known in Little Cove, Gilbert Rd. and Heisy Rd. until late Jun. **Cliff Swallows** appeared at Greencastle Res. 7/22 and on 7/24 **Bank Swallows**, **Tree Swallows** and **Barn Swallows** were active over the water.

Blue Grosbeaks were heard singing and seen 6/14 in the northern sector of the county near Willow Hill and Concord. **Dickcissels** were missing this summer. Habitat is fast disappearing, hopefully we just missed seeing and hearing them and they remain somewhere in the county. **Bobolinks** were seen and heard near St Thomas and southwest of Mercersburg in May and Jun.

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.

Observers: **Dale L. Gearhart, P.O. Box 155, Shady Grove, PA 17256, (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)

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).

One female **Northern Harrier** was found 6/12 along Palmer Rd. (DS). The sighting represented the first official harrier record during a *Fulton* CREP route in five years. An occasional nester in *Fulton*, two **Red-shouldered Hawks** flew together over HSWRA- one carrying a snake 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 Vireos**, 4 **Brown Creepers**, 2 **Hermit Thrushes**, 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 Rice 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 (RS). 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: **Daniel Snell, PO Box 653, Shippensburg, PA 17257, (717) 530-8313 dan_snell@hotmail.com**, Carl Garner, Dale Gearhart, Margaret Higbee, Deuane Hoffman, Eric Martin, Regina Reeder, Rosemary Spreha.

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 of where they were standing. Meanwhile the female was scurrying the children to the side of the creek and into the cover along the bank. A family of **Ringed-necked Pheasants** were seen by MK escorting their brood across Muddy Creek Rd. in CUM.

Unfortunately, one way of confirming that a particular species bred in the area is finding a dead fledgling. An imm **Cooper's Hawk** was found dead on S.R. 3008 between Pine Bank and Meighen Rd. 7/16 (LO, KK). They took the bird to RB who confirmed imm ossification of the skull. The bird appeared to have a broken neck. The wing span was 33 inches, so it was thought to be a female.

Red-tailed Hawks seemed to have a good fledgling year. The young could be heard calling and begging for food in many locations. RB once again banded the young **American Kestrels** on his farm. The box in his hayfield yields a nice brood every year! LO reported watching a **Red-shouldered Hawk** defending his dinner from a group of **Turkey Vultures** which were hoping to help him eat it. The hawk held his ground refusing to yield to the vultures. An **Osprey** was reported at Ryerson Station S.P. by Dennis Miller, Park Manager 6/24.

At the SGL 223, 4 **Spotted Sandpipers**, 2 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** and 3 **Green Herons** were reported 7/31 (MH, JH). SS reported her son watched an **American Woodcock** lead its brood across Hunting Hills Rd. in Monongahela Twp. early one morning.

Black-billed Cuckoos and more frequent, **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were heard throughout the county, though neither were in great numbers. **Eastern Screech Owls** and **Barred Owls** were both heard at RBF (RB). **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** nest throughout the county. ML has had fun watching the hummingbirds. She states, "They are like little bumblebees buzzing around the feeders." She has fed more than 19 quarts of sugar water just in the month of Jul! Three young **Belted Kingfishers** were observed begging food from their parents at a small stream along Hoy Run in PER (EK, KK). KR watched a male **Hairy Woodpecker** bring a fledgling to the suet in CUM.

LO and KK had the displeasure of seeing a **Blue Jay** empty a **Red-eyed Vireo's** nest of its contents 6/1 on Bowly Hill Rd.. The vireos shrieked and flew at the jay, but it was undisturbed by them.

If you build it, they will come. At the Mason-Dixon Historical Park in southern PER, they put up martin houses and gourds 2 years ago and have had nesting **Purple Martins** both years. KK observed adults still feeding fledglings 7/23. **Tree Swallows** were also present. KR had 2 young. **Tufted Titmice** begging food from their parent at her feeders in CUM. She also reports **Carolina Wrens** nested in an Ivy Geranium pot on her porch. She also found a used **Carolina Wren** nest on the top of a propane tank. The property owner said the nest was used this year. MK found a young **Cedar Waxwing** on the ground in his yard on Haines Hill in PER. The parent scolded him from high in the tree. ML on Big Shannon Run in PER had a similar experience. Both young managed to get themselves back to safety.

MH found her first **Yellow Warbler** fledgling 6/7 at Enlow Fork. She also heard a **Nashville Warbler** singing in Center Twp. 6/18. KR had an interesting relationship with a **Northern Parula** this summer. KR visits clients scattered around the county, and at one stop on Harts Run Rd. in Springhill Twp., a **Northern Parula** would fight its reflection in the rear-view mirrors on her car every time she was there, over a period of about one month. On one visit the bird managed to get in the car and ride home with her. She did not realize this until she was at her home about 40 miles later. She released the bird at her home. Two days later when she visited the client again, a **Northern Parula** was fighting with its reflection in the mirrors on her car. Since the bird had no band on, it is not possible to say it was the same bird, but it sure had the same habits!

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 one was still found at Kern Farm on Kennel 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-Junco** with a crooked tail (but not as bad as described above) flew up in front 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!

Observers: **Kathy Kern, 322 Kennel Rd, Waynesburg, PA 15370, (724) 627-5376, M3xsj@alltel.net**, Ralph Bell, Jerry Howard, Marjorie Howard, Ed Kern, Mark Kesner, Mary Laplante, Linda Olczak, Kathy Reeves, Sally Sisler.

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 *Huntingdon*, *Mifflin* and *Centre*. Each route consists of fifty, three-minute stops with the majority of the stops found in *Huntingdon* (NB, GG). The ten most frequently recorded species this year from the combined routes are noted along with their fourteen-year averages in parenthesis. **Red-eyed Vireo**, 251 (184); **Ovenbird**, 143 (157); **Scarlet Tanager**, 69 (70); **Eastern Towhee**, 63 (77); **Wood Thrush**, 47 (49); **Eastern Wood Pewee**, 44 (36); **Black-throated Green Warbler**, 43 (29); **Hooded Warbler**, 41 (22); **Chipping Sparrow**, 37 (32) and **Common Yellowthroat**, 29 (46). In addition, **Great Crested Flycatcher** and **Brown-headed Cowbird** 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.

Observers: **Doug Wentzel, Shaver's Creek Environmental Center, 3400 Discovery Road, Petersburg PA 16669, (814) 863-2000**, Nick Bolgiano, Robin Cordier, Greg Grove.

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 (CG,MH,SS). 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 Snickles 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 poults in years. Personally, I think our local (*Indiana*) grouse populations are very low overall."

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)

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 **Semipalmated Plover** arrived 6/28 (CG,MH,SS). **Killdeer** had begun congregating on the mud in Little Yellow Cove where numbers had peaked at 49 on 7/24 (LC). A **Lesser Yellowlegs** was spotted 7/24 (LC), but 3 were present by 7/26 (MH,SS). The first **Solitary Sandpiper** arrived 7/19 (MH,SS) while 11 was the high count 7/26 (MH,SS). Five **Spotted Sandpipers** was the best tally 7/24 (LC). A **Semipalmated 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 noted more widely than usual with 9 **Black-billed** and 8 **Yellow-billed** reports.

An **Eastern Screech-Owl** near Homer City 7/23 (LC) was amazingly the lone report. One **Great Horned Owl** and one **Barred Owl** were observed near Jacksonville 6/25 (MH,RH) during daylight hours. Attempts to find **Common Nighthawk** in IN were unsuccessful (GF). **Whip-poor-wills** were listed only at Clymer 6/6-23 (BM) and near Alverda 7/24 (BM). Top **Belted Kingfisher** count was 4 at YCSP 7/3 (LC), but away from YCSP, the only other report was a single bird near Blairsville 6/5 (MH,RH).

Atlasing in the Jacksonville area 6/25 (MH,RH) yielded at least 8 singing **Acadian Flycatchers**. **Alder Flycatchers** were more numerous this season with reports of one near PW 6/5 (MH,RH), one at YCSP 6/14, 28 (CG,MH,SS), 2 singing along Dark Hollow 6/15 (MH), and one north of SH 6/20 (MH). **Least Flycatchers**, which seem on the decline in our county, were listed only near Trade City 6/4 (MH,RH) and near Dilltown 6/18 (MH,RH). Highlight of the season was a **Western Kingbird** found near McIntyre 7/28 (MH,RH) and relocated the following morning and late afternoon (m.ob.), a first county record.

White-eyed Vireos were in short supply with reports from only 5 locations (v.o.). A walk along the Ghost Town Trail yielded 4 **Blue-headed Vireos** 7/29 (MH,RH). **Yellow-throated Vireos** were listed near SH 6/1 (MH), south of Dayton 6/9 (CG,MH), at YCSP 6/14 (CG,MH,SS), and near Jacksonville 6/25 (MH,RH). **Warbling Vireo** was territorial at YCSP throughout Jun; individuals were also found near SH 6/4 (MH,RH) and near Blairsville 6/5 (MH,RH). A **Horned Lark** near YCSP 7/5 (CG,MH) was the lone report.

Northern Rough-winged Swallows still had young in the nest 7/5 (CG,MH) at YCSP. First migrant **Bank Swallow** arrived at YCSP 7/26 (MH,SS). Three **Cliff Swallows** were found at YCSP 7/19 (MH,SS); one was present 7/26 (MH,SS). Another was perched on a barn near Commodore 7/31 (MH,RH). **Barn Swallows**, too, still had young in the nest near Creekside 7/31 (CJ). At least one pair of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** remained near SH through the end of the summer. A family group of **Brown Creepers** was observed at YCSP 6/7 (MH,SS). Two family groups of **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were present near SH 7/15 (MH). A very downy kinglet was perched on a branch patiently waiting while an adult was singing farther back in the trees. Several hundred yards down the gas well road, another family group included 4 young and the two adults who were busily foraging and attempting to keep everyone well fed.

Veeries included singing males near Dilltown 6/18 (MH,RH) and near Brush Valley 7/10 (MH,RH). **Hermit Thrushes** included one at SGL 79 6/28 (CG,MH,SS), one near Ewings Mill 7/29 (MH,RH), 4 near Red Mill 7/29 (MH,RH), and one at SGL 262 7/31 (MH,RH). The McIntyre area yielded 15 **Wood Thrushes** 7/12 (MH,RH). Listed at 8 locations, **Northern Mockingbirds** included 2 near IN 7/7 (GF,MH). At least 4 **Brown Thrashers** were found at YCSP 6/28 (CG,MH,SS). The *Indiana* section of the PW BBS yielded 4 **Blue-winged Warblers** 6/5 (MH,RH); blue-wings were reported from 11 other locations, but no Golden-winged Warblers or hybrids were noted. A **Northern Parula** was territorial in the main recreational area at YCSP until 6/28 (CG,MH,SS) while another was on the north shore 7/12 (MH,PJ,SS). SGL 79 yielded a high count of 9 **Chestnut-sided Warblers** 6/21 (MH,SS). A **Magnolia Warbler** at YCSP 6/7 (MH,SS) was on territory and nesting. A **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was a nice find in the rhododendron tangles at SGL 79 on 6/21 (MH,SS); this SGL also yielded 6 **Black-throated Green Warblers** on the same trip. **Pine**

Warbler was still singing at YCSP 6/14 (CG,MH,SS). At least 3 **Prairie Warblers** were singing in a Christmas tree farm near IN 7/7 (GF,MH). At SGL 79, 3 **Black-and-white Warblers** were observed 6/21 (MH,SS). The *Indiana* section of the PW BBS yielded 5 **American Redstarts** and 8 **Ovenbirds** 6/5 (MH,RH). The observers watched an adult **Louisiana Waterthrush** feeding a noisy fledgling at YCSP 6/7 (MH,SS). Three **Kentucky Warblers** each were noted near SH 6/1 (MH) and at SGL 79 6/21 (MH,SS). Thirty-four **Common Yellowthroats** were counted on the *Indiana* section of the PW BBS 6/5 (MH,RH). Top **Hooded Warbler** tallies included 14 at SGL 79 on 6/21 (MH,SS) and 9 near SH 6/23 (MH). Three **Yellow-breasted Chats**, which are usually hard to find away from the Blairsville area, were listed near IN 7/7 (GF,MH). Fourteen **Scarlet Tanagers** were found near Cookport 7/19 (MH,RH). **Vesper Sparrow** reports included one near Brush Valley 7/10; one near McIntyre 7/12, 29; and 2 near the Homer City Power Plant 7/21, (all MH,RH). **Savannah Sparrows** were listed at 10 locations (v.o.). High **Grasshopper Sparrow** counts were 6 near IN 7/7 (GF,MH) and an equal number near Commodore 7/31 (MH,RH). **Swamp Sparrows** were widespread with best count of 5 at YCSP 7/19,26 (MH,SS). Twelve **Bobolinks** flushed from a field near Commodore 7/31 (MH,RH). An adult **Orchard Oriole** was observed carrying food near Willet 6/15 (MH,CJ); a family group of 5 was noted northeast of SH 7/17 (MH,RH). Three **Purple Finches** were found at YCSP 7/26 (MH,SS).

Observers: **Margaret Higbee, 3119 Creekside Road, Indiana, PA 15701-7934, bcoriole@alltel.net**, Alice Beatty, Dave Beatty, Lee Carnahan, Gary Ferrence, Evelyn Fowles, Mike Fowles, Carol Guba, Roger Higbee, Pat Johner, Connie Johnston, Gloria Lamer, Bob Michny, Scott Speedy, Georgette Syster.

Jefferson County

No Report. No Compiler.

Juniata County

Locations: Arch Rock Road (ARR), Bell Island (BI), Ehrenzeller Road, Licking Creek Road (ERLCR), Mifflintown River Access (MRA), State Game Lands #107 (SGL107), Tuscarora State Forest Fire Trail at Van Dyke (FTVD).

Several **Barred Owls** made their presence known 6/28 (AT, DT, CK) while looking for Whip-poor-wills on (ARR) north of Mifflintown. The **Barreds** 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 juvs 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 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** sighting 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 was 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** where seen or heard 6/11 while doing their walk on the FTVD (TP, HP).

Observers: **Toby Petersheim, RR2, Box 539, Mifflintown, PA 17059, Chad Kauffman HCR 63 Box 65, Mifflintown, PA 17059, (717) 436-6465, chadkauffman@acsworld.com**, Ron Colledge, Henry Petersheim, Toby Petersheim, Aden Troyer, David Troyer, Linda Whitesel.

Lackawanna County

No Report. No Compiler.

Lancaster County

Locations: Middle Creek WMA (MCWMA), Susquehanna River, Conejohela 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 Conejohela Flats.

Pied-billed Grebe is a regular migrant, but one birds 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 Egret** was also present 7/20 at SRSF.

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 in 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 increased dramatically and it seems that they become more prevalent every year. At the same time, **American Kestrels** seem to be declining in many locations although a breeding pair utilized a 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 poults 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 **Pectoral Sandpiper** (BS). 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** at SRCF 7/20 (DH), a peak of **9 Short-billed Dowitcher** 7/20, **2 Sanderling** 7/20, and a peak of **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 SCRFF on 7/24 (EW, BC, et al). This sighting was especially unusual because 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 3:45 p.m. It made a total of five passes 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 94B24 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 what trends 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 Coble (LC), Tom Garner, Chad Kauffman, Dan Heathcote (DHe), Jonathan Heller (JH), Deuane Hoffman (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, rcstringer@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** 6/19 (S&GL). 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 **Semipalmated 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 singing 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 Stadler, 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&PM). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was seen 6/5 on SGL 217 along Blue Mountain (B&PM). A fledged **Red-headed Woodpecker** was observed 7/24 near Stine's Corner (B&PM).

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 Vireo's** were seen 7/10 on SGL 205 (JL). Both ad and juvs were seen. Two more **White-eyed Vireo's** 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 zeeeeeeep 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 6/6 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).

Observers: **Jon Levin, 1899 Aster Rd., Macungie, PA 18062, (610) 366-9996, levinjl@planet-save.com**, Bernie and Pauline Morris.

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.

Lycoming 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-Jun.

The nesting pair of **Peregrine Falcons** was again successful on the cliff down-stream 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 Twps. **Cerulean Warblers** were again found in tall sycamores along the river near the Peregrine nest. Third 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 understorey (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.

No compiler. Reports from Dan Brauning, Dave Ferry, Doug Gross, B. Klinger, Charlie Schwartz, Fred Stiner, Lauri Shaffer.

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 to see if they are really that common all the time.

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

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

Mifflin County

No Report.

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

Monroe County

Locations: Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (DWGNRA), Buck Hill Falls (BHF), Long Pond (LP), Monroe County Environmental Education Center (MCEEC), 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-bellied 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-bellied 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 6/25 (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 of **Blue-headed Vireos** was observed 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** in hemlocks along 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, Edie Parnum, John Serrao, Darryl Speicher, Rick Wiltraut.

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. Francois, 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. A **Common Loon** was at WR 6/1. Small numbers of **Double-crested Cormorant** were at Walt and CR, GLR throughout the season. An ad **Black-crowned Night Heron** was at WR 6/9-on. A pair of **Great Egrets** at Norristown Farm Park 7/20 were early and were followed by 3 at GLR 7/31 (KC).

GLR's **Bald Eagle** nest fledged one youngster around 6/11. As was the case in 2004, the young bird left the area about 6 weeks after fledging. Other raptors of interest included an **Osprey** at WR all season. A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was in the UCV 6/18-19 (GO, MH, LT) and at WR 7/10. While these are obviously not migrants on these dates, we have yet to confirm breeding in western *Montgomery*. An adult **Broad-winged Hawk** in the UCV 7/26 was our only report of this former local breeder (KC).

A prolonged hot dry spell in Jun and Jul suggest that GLR may have its first fall shorebird migration in 3 years! **Spotted Sandpiper** was our first arrival 7/20 and was followed by **Least Sandpiper** 7/26. By the end of Jul, **Killdeer**, **Semipalmated Plover**, **Lesser Yellowlegs**, **Solitary Sandpiper** and **Semipalmated Sandpiper** had joined them on the mudflats (GAF, KC). While 7 species doesn't sound like much, 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 7/10. Away 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 **Hooded Warblers** reported last quarter from the UCV remained on territory until at least 6/18 (KC, MH, LT).

Post-breeding movement of **Bobolinks** was noted 7/30 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 Francois, Mike

Harvell, Lisa Tull.

Montour County

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

Northampton County

During a BBS route 6/2, an **American Bittern** flew over a marshy area in Mt Bethel (SL). This species was not seen in the county during the first atlas project. A **Great Egret** was on the Delaware R. below Martins Creek 7/29 (SL). The future of the flooded field by Green Pond may be limited because of proposed development. This location has attracted many uncommon species regularly including a juv **Glossy Ibis** 7/1-10 (NJ). It will be a shame to lose this small wetland; currently zoning problems are saving it.

I am thrilled to report that 2 of 3 **Peregrine Falcon** eggs hatched with 2 chicks on 6/2 at the Martins Creek PPL power plant. According to John Drabic Jr. of PPL, the parents were excellent providers, flight lessons began 7/11, and recently on 8/17, all 4 falcons were seen flying together.

On 6/19 an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was observed at Raubsville Rd in Williams Twp (DD). Three **Yellow-throated Warblers** were at the Bethlehem Boat Club area 6/10. A **Prothonotary Warbler** was seen 6/22 at Bangor Vein Rd where this species nested last year (MS). Confirmed nesting was verified 7/2 when an ad was seen feeding young (JM). An impressive 41 **Grasshopper Sparrows** were counted in surrounding fields in Lehigh Twp. 7/24 (DW). In the same area on Murphy Rd, **Blue Grosbeaks** were found 7/20. Confirmed nesting occurred 7/27 when a nest containing 2 powder blue eggs was located (DW). An unusual summer visitor was a juv **Pine Siskin** at a feeder 7/6-7 in Williams Twp. (AK).

Observers: **Michael Schall, 1149 Mickley Ave, Whitehall, PA 18052, (610) 435-2781, mdtjschall@yahoo.com**, Dave DeReamus, Nancy Johnston, Arlene Koch, Sherri LaBarr, Jake Mohlmann, Dustin Welch.

Northumberland County

No Report. No Compiler.

Perry County

No Report.

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

Philadelphia County

Locations: Art Museum (AM), Benjamin Rush State Park (BRSP), Delaware River (DR), John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum-Philadelphia portion (TI), Pennypack Environmental Center (PEC), Philadelphia International Airport (PHL), Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education (SCEE), Schuylkill River (SR), 2nd Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas (2nd BBA)

There are only a few notes from the email messages I collected this summer and my own birding observations. As always, consult the seasonal charts for more information of breeding species in *Philadelphia*.

My mention in the previous report of the **Sedge Wren** which Chuck Hetzel found at Spring Lane 6/29 was irresistible, even though the record properly belongs here.

A pair of **American Black Duck** nesting in the Ft. Mifflin area was a stunning find since it's been years since we have had evidence of this once common species breeding in the county (JM). A **Pied-billed Grebe** that was seen and heard calling for a week in mid-Jun (m.obs.) on the TI impoundment was seen again briefly in early Jul (DM).

Least Bittern nests declined from 5-6 in previous years to two this year. A bittern pair probably nested at TI in the "horseshoe" and another pair nested in the ponds between the trolley bed and Rt. I-95. The decrease might be due to the high water level of the TI impoundment during most of the breeding season.

A **Black Vulture** over Prospect Park in Jun highlights the species' range expansion (JM). CL monitored a successful **Osprey** nest visible from the Glen Foerd Mansion at the mouth of the

Poquessing Creek again this year. Chuck reported that one chick fledged and by late Jul seemed to be off on it's 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 repeatedly in a light stand on route I-95 was not located. 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 2ndBBA. Three pair is a 300% increase over last year when I thought none were breeding before a late report indicated a pair might have been at the Ft Mifflin ponds.

Observers: **Doris McGovern, 209 Dogwood Rd., Media, PA 19063, (610) 565-8484, mcgovern@masca.museum.upenn.edu**, Steve Dupont, Chuck Hetzel, Chuck Lyman, Art McMorris, John Miller.

SPRING REPORT 2005

Philadelphia County

Locations: Art Museum (AM), Benjamin Rush State Park (BRSP), Delaware River (DR), John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum-Philadelphia portion (TI), Pennypack Environmental Center (PEC), Philadelphia International Airport (PHL), Philadelphia Mid-winter Bird Census 1/8 (PMBC), Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education (SCEE), Schuylkill River (SR), 2nd Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas (2nd BBA), Southwest Water Pollution Control Facility (SWPC), Wissahickon Creek (WC)

May in Philadelphia was one of the coldest months in more than two decades, giving support to birders who judged migration to be about two weeks late. **Eastern Wood-Pee-wee**, **Indigo Bunting**, and **catharus** thrushes were species most often missed when they were expected. **Tree Swallows** returned on time, but nested later than usual and in lower numbers. The 5/14 NAMC results of 135 species on a day when migrants were hard to come by, contradict the pessimism and hint that 150 species is within reach. **Eurasian Wigeon**, **Sedge Wren**, **Brewster's Warbler** and **Summer Tanager** were highlights of the quarter.

Preliminary results of the Department of Agriculture study at John Heinz NWR indicate that Philadelphia is a hotbed for West Nile Virus. Testing of banded and recaptured birds showed that of 479 birds, 168 were antibody positive for West Nile Virus. Upon recapture 27% of the antibody negative birds had become antibody positive. **Gray Catbirds** were 262 of the 479 birds captured. The implications of this for species that are known to be a risk is alarming.

John Miller found an **Eurasian Wigeon** in the TI impoundment 3/24, feeding with **American Wigeon**, many **Northern Shoveler**, **Wood Duck** and **Common Merganser**. The next day Alan Jackman searched in vain for the Tinicum **Eurasian Wigeon** which had been seen early in the morning. Alan turned his attention to FDR Park where he found a second **Eurasian Wigeon**, brighter on the head than the Tinicum bird, but with only a pale wash on the breast. I saw both birds and was present when a man started hitting stones in to the small pond at FDR. It must have chased the bird because it was not seen again. FDR provides several ponds and a stream for waterfowl including on 3/4 16 **Gadwall**, 8 **American Wigeon**, 8 **Northern Shoveler**, along with 50 **Mallard** and 4 **American Black Duck**. Divers on the same day were 5 **Ring-necked Duck**, 4 **Ruddy Duck**, **Bufflehead**, **Common Merganser**, 2 **American Coot** and 4 **Pied-billed Grebe**. The species list at FDR changes weekly as birds circulate among the various ponds in southeast Philly. More coverage would undoubtedly turn up more records. While atfasing at the sludge ponds, JM watched a male **Gadwall** and female **Mallard** swimming together from mid to late May. No brood or mating behavior was observed. **Blue-winged Teal** continue to be scarce with only two seen, 3/25 and 4/6. **Lesser Scaup** were present in the last week of March: 4 at TI (SD) and a pair at FDR.

In addition to a lone **Pied-billed Grebe** at TI (there usually are a half dozen) DB spotted a **Horned Grebe** 3/22. Much later on 6/17

a **Pied-billed Grebe** was calling in the TI impoundment where it remained for a week. We can speculate regarding the origin of the bird, but it did not appear to have a mate even when it was seen again in Jul (DM). Just north of where Orthodox St. meets the DR, on 3/6 I saw 5 **Great Cormorant** with breeding plumes blowing in the freezing wind and iridescent feathers shining in the sun. These cormorant were still on the river when Chuck Lyman went to check on an **Osprey** nest 3/26 at the Glen Foerd Mansion. The **American Bittern** at TI was last reported 4/23 (DB, BB). **Least Bittern** returned to TI to find the water level so extraordinarily high in traditional breeding areas, it's hard to see how this threatened species will find a place to breed. Large stands of the purple loose strife (*lythrum salicaria*) have succumbed to the high water and that's a good thing. However, the remaining button bush (*cephalanthus occidentalis*) and hibiscus 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 atfasing. 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 monitors and 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 being raised in the bank at the survey point were munching on a 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 Ardleigh 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 records of the expected sandpipers, a **Dunlin** was found 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 button bush 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 45th and 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 in and 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 5/29 and **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** also 5/29. Kate Somerville spotted another **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** at 13th & Poplar 5/31. **Least Flycatcher** was seen 5/5 at the Bio-pond (38th 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 **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** where 21 had been found in Jan. We found 10 or more feeding over the aeration tanks of the pollution control plant across from the Tioga Marine Terminal at Lewis St. at the Delaware River. Three days later ID found only 6 **Rough-winged Swallows**. And, at FDR Park 3/3 at 22° F a **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** hawked insects in

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 (JF) 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 Brewster'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 Brewster'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 one was found at SCEE on their 6/9 summer census, hope increased that the species would be confirmed as a breeding species. **Chestnut-sided Warbler** is another unconfirmed breeder found at four locations on the NAMC. A **Blackburnian Warbler** 4/21 in CW is the earliest record (KR) and as scarce as they were this year CH had three on the NAMC at Spring Lane. A **Yellow-throated Warbler** delighted birders at TI from 4/4-6 and when I was talking to Brian Schultz at PEC, he dropped the phone to chase a yellow bird that looked interesting . . . a **Yellow-throated Warbler** on 4/8. In West Philadelphia, a **Pine Warbler** sang outside an apartment window 3/15 (NH), but an earlier bird had been seen at TI 3/7 (BB). Six **Bay-breasted Warbler** were reported from 5/6-16. **Prothonotary Warbler** was seen at TI 4/22 (DB) and heard singing 4/24 in Germantown (KR). A bird lingered at 13th and Arch or 17th and the Parkway (DW). **Worm-eating Warbler**, first noted at TI 4/22 (DB), became "abundant" in the first week of May when I had four calling for two days. Our first **Ovenbird** was at the Biopond 4/20 (KC) and our only **Kentucky Warbler** reported was at CW 5/16 (EB). Kate Somerville found a **Mourning Warbler** at TI 5/22. And last, but far from least, Chuck Hetzel found a breeding pair of **Yellow-breasted Chat** near Hagy's Mill Rd., a bird not recorded at SCEE in years! This is our only breeding pair and a great find given the demise of the pair at TI. Warblers that were hoped for, but not seen were **Golden-winged**, **Tennessee**, **Cape May** and **Cerulean**.

A bird that used to be an irregular migrant, but which hasn't been reported in years is **Summer Tanager**. One was seen in CW by John Goschke 5/23.

On 4/10 at FDR a **Vesper Sparrow** was found near the path by the marsh restoration pond, with lingering **Dark-eyed Juncos**. Eight **Savannah Sparrow** is a good number for an area that doesn't get birded much, that's the Northeast Airport. They were found 5/9 (MS, KR). In the most unlikely spot, City Hall in Center City, Kate Somerville monitors the migrant population which included a **Lincoln's Sparrow** 5/21-30. Two **Blue Grosbeak** at Bartram's Gardens on the NAMC were unexpected, but not out of place (JG, DB). There appears to be suitable habitat, but whether the birds agree is not known yet. Also in the newly created acres of warm season grasses were **Bobolink**: several 5/7-8, 20 on 5/14. Three were in the fields at Spring Lane and 20 were found at BRSP 5/9 (KR, MS).

In the northeast section of the city a **Baltimore Oriole** was at a platform feeder 3/8 in the company of a blackbirds.

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Pike County

Location: Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (DWGNRA), 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 (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: 4 **Least Flycatchers**, one **Alder Flycatcher**, 8 **Hermit Thrushes**, 15 **Veeries**, one **Yellow-throated Vireo**, and 3 **Blue-headed Vireos** were recorded (EP). One **Warbling Vireo** and one **Blue-headed Vireo** were registered by PEEC's Naturalist on an early morning bird walk around campus 7/13 (EH).

Warblers seen around PEEC and the DWGNRA 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, 6/6 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).

Observers: **Mike Brubaker, RR2 Box 1010 Dingmans Ferry, PA, 18328, (570) 828-2319, mikebru@ptd.net**, Mike Galbraith, Ellis Gunther, Skye Gunther, Ethan Huner, Edie Parnum, Shannon Queen, Gail Rosalsky, Megan Taylor. A special thank-you to both Shannon Queen and Ethan Huner for compiling the data for this summer's report.

Potter County

No Report

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Schuylkill County

No Report

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

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 canoeing 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 Bucksey 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 northwestern 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 Atlas efforts, but with a low number of observers there are still many untouched blocks in the county. Nevertheless, about 125 species were possible or higher-coded breeders this year and another 4 early or 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 shorebird 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 **Black-billed**. **Whip-poor-wills** were found at two spots on the eastern side of the Allegheny Front. **Red-headed Woodpecker** singles were spotted 7/11 and 8/1 just north of Berlin-perhaps the spring pair stayed to nest?

Willow Flycatchers were again abundant along the Buffalo and Stoneycreek bottoms. **Alder Flycatcher** was found in suitable breeding habitat south of Berlin 6/14. **White-eyed Vireo** is an uncommon breeder in the county, in addition to its normal Confluence haunts, it was found south of Berlin and east of the Allegheny Front. **Blue-headed Vireos** were very common this season. **Yellow-throated Vireos** were located on the east flank of the Allegheny Front as well as Laurel Creek / Confluence locations. **Warbling Vireo** was found only in Confluence. **Purple Martins** were unreported and no nesting **Bank Swallows** were found.

A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was at PP from 7/16 to the end of the period. **Winter Wren** and **Golden-crowned Kinglet** were reported on Mount Davis during atlasing (EH).

Twenty species of warblers were found during the period. **Golden-wingeds** were found near Quemahoning Reservoir and at SGL 82 on 6/2L. **Blackburnians** were along Allegheny and Laurel Mts. in mid-to late Jun, while **Ceruleans, Hooded** and **Kentuckys** were

found on the east side of Allegheny Front. **Worm-eating** and **Magnolia** were at SGL 82 6/21. **Northern Waterthrush** was at PP and at the Somerset County Conservancy's Kimberly Run Natural Area. A surprise **Yellow-breasted Chat** was found on the east side of Allegheny Front 6/10 and 6/15.

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.

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Venango County

No Report.

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Warren County

No Report.

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Washington County

No Report.

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Wayne County

No Report. No Compiler.

Westmoreland County

No Report.

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Wyoming County

There is no doubt but that the Atlas project is changing the birding 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 shortly 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 Nigh-Heron** fly down the river by my home. A few years ago they nested on one of islands up-river 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.

Observers: **William Reid, 73 Ross St., Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701, (570) 836-2734**, Joe DeMarco, Sandy Goodwin, Doug Gross, Ed Johnson, Rick Koval, George Zenger.

York County

No Report

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PHOTO QUIZ #10

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



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

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

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