

# PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS



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## Contents

### Editorial

- 164 Occurrence and Identification of Greater White-fronted Goose in Pennsylvania  
..... Cameron Rutt
- 170 A Difficult Dowitcher in Beaver County..... Geoff Malosh
- 173 Purple Gallinule Macungie, Lehigh County. .... Alan Lee Levengood
- 176 Answer to Photo- Quiz #14. .... Rick Wiltraut
- 177 Autumn Raptor Migration Summary 2006. .... Lindsay Zemba
- 184 Official List of the Birds of Pennsylvania. .... Nick Pulcinella
- 190 BOOK REVIEW - *John James Audubon: The Making of an American*. ....  
..... Gene Wilhelm
- 192 Changes in Pennsylvania's Breeding Birds Since the First Atlas, According  
to the Breeding Bird Survey (Addendum)..... Nicholas C. Bolgiano
- 195 Summary of the Season - August - November 2006. .... Deuane Hoffman
- 197 Birds of Note - August - November 2006
- 200 Photo Highlights
- 207 Local Notes
- Photo-Quiz #15 - Inside back cover

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Cover: **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** (*Tryngites subruficollis*).

One of the 31 species of shorebirds recorded this fall on the Conejohela Flats, Lancaster, this juvenile was photographed 28 August (Cameron Rutt).

## from the Editor...

### Fall Migration Tables

A reminder that the 2006 Fall Migration 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.

### Compiler News

It is with sadness that we announce the death of long-time Warren County compiler Ted Grisez. Ted served as Warren compiler from the inception of *Pennsylvania Birds*. Don Watts will now serve as the Warren compiler.

Margaret Buckwalter is stepping down as Clarion County compiler after 17 years. We will miss Margaret's thorough and informative summaries. Carole Willenpart will now serve as Clarion compiler. Beginning with the winter 2006-2007 season there will be new county compilers for Chester, Cumberland, Mifflin and Wyoming counties. Their respective contact information is listed in the local notes.

Once again if you have bird sightings from counties that do not have an official County Compiler, they may be sent directly to the Chief Editor for inclusion. If you are a birder from a county that has no Compiler and you wish to volunteer your

services, please contact the Chief Editor. These counties currently do not have an official County Compiler: **Blair, Cameron, Elk, Jefferson, Lackawanna, Northumberland and Wayne.**

### Correction

We apologize to Nick Bolginao for omitting data tables from his fine article in the Summer Issue. The missing tables can be found in this issue.

*Nick Pulcinella*  
Editor-in-Chief

## Now Available!

### *The Annotated List of the Birds of Pennsylvania* Second Edition

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# Occurrence and Identification of Greater White-fronted Goose in Pennsylvania

Cameron Rutt

This "research project" all started when I observed three Greater White-fronted Geese (hereafter GWFG) at Peace Valley Park, Bucks County on Christmas Eve, 2005. I photographed the birds and was generally pleased with this uncommon encounter. After sending the pictures to Nick Pulcinella, I was bombarded with a surge of emails about these three geese. Over the years, I have come to assume that all GWFG in the northeast were of the Greenland variety (*Anser albifrons flavirostris*) because I had only been aware of orange-billed individuals. However, a couple of experts strongly suggested that these birds were more likely an interior subspecies (*A. a. frontalis*). Since then, I have been on a legitimate "wild goose chase" as I have attempted to learn a little about this rare visitor to the state.

The taxonomic issue of subspecies is, quite simply, a mess. Jon Dunn summed it up well: "The situation is really a nomenclatural quagmire, with much disagreement about the systematics and how many subspecies should be recognized as well as to which population scientific names should apply (Dunn 2005)." Some sources acknowledge four subspecies while others five. The subspecific breakdown is very complex, and further research only clouded the issue for me.

*A. a. flavirostris (flavirostris)* refers to the bird's colorful beak) breed in Greenland and winter in Ireland and Great Britain (Linegar unpub). The nominate Eurasian subspecies, *A. a. albifrons*, nests across northern Russia and Siberia and mainly winters in Europe as far west as Great Britain (Linegar unpub). The problem occurs with the two or three North American subspecies. The Tule GWFG, *A. a. elgasi*, breeds around Cook Inlet, Alaska, which is just outside of Anchorage and winters in the Sacramento Valley of California (Dunn 2005, Reid 2006). Another far-ranging subspecies, *A. a. frontalis*, breeds from eastern Siberia across northern Alaska east to the Hudson Bay (Reid 2006, National Environmental Research Institute 2006). Western *frontalis* winter along the Pacific coast, while those from eastern Alaska across

northwest Canada use the Central Flyway and wind up in Mexico, Louisiana, and Texas during the winter months (Ely and Takekawa 1996). If one of these "western" subspecies were to show up on the east coast, it would most likely be this subspecies. Finally, the last and probably most questionable subspecies, *A. a. gambelli*, apparently breeds in the Mackenzie Basin of the Northwest Territories (Madge and Burn 1988). Some sources do not even acknowledge this subspecies, while others refer to it by a different scientific name.

Sibley illustrates taiga, tundra, and Greenland GWFG in his field guide (Sibley 2000). Taiga translates to *gambelli/elgasi*, which apparently show similar field characteristics. Tundra is equivalent to *frontalis* and Greenland, of course, is *flavirostris* (Sibley 2006). GWFG shows sexual size dimorphism, as males are 5% larger and 10% heavier than females (Ely et al. 2005). Wayward travelers have ended up in North Carolina and Florida and even as far south as Cuba and Bermuda (Linegar unpub).

## Greenland Greater White-fronted Goose

*Flavirostris* breeds along coastal southwestern Greenland from Nuuk to Upernavik (Walsh 2006). Each year they stage in Iceland en route to their wintering grounds in Ireland and Great Britain and on their return trip to Greenland. They are present on their wintering grounds from about mid-October to mid-April (A.D. Fox pers. comm.).

Presently, there are four banding records of *flavirostris* in North America (A.D. Fox pers. comm.). Three of these occurred in the St. Lawrence region in the 1940s and 1950s; however, the fourth one comes from Pennsylvania's own Green Lane Reservoir, Montgomery County (Walsh 2006). A 2nd cycle *flavirostris*, that was banded the previous fall in Ireland, was observed with a few hundred Canada Geese on December 7, 1990, and then seen again in Ireland the following winter.

This subspecies is especially unique among GWFG, and some sources note its distinctive morphological and behavioral

characteristics as enough evidence to warrant a split in the near future. One particular trait that *flavirostris* displays is extended parent-offspring relationships (National Environmental Research Institute 2006). Juveniles remain with their parents for an unusually long period of time. For juvenile *flavirostris*, 94% of young birds were observed with their parents during their first winter, and some even associated with their parents the following summer, despite the fact that the parents were raising another brood (Warren et al. 1993). A substantial 31% of juveniles were still in the company of their parents during their fifth winter, and some young birds even remained with their parents for up to six winters after hatching. The average age for a juvenile *flavirostris* to leave its family was found to be between 1.6 and 2 years.

Recently, figures on *flavirostris* from both its breeding and wintering grounds indicate a sharp decline which could be as high as 50% (A.D. Fox pers. comm.). In the past few decades, both breeding and non-breeding Canada Geese have become established across a similar range in Greenland as *flavirostris* (Kristiansen et al 1999). Unlike GWFG, Canada Geese have increased dramatically in number; however, most of these birds are non-breeders (A.D. Fox pers. comm.). The breeding population of Greenland Canada Goose appears to be stable, while the non-breeding birds have increased almost six-fold in only a six year time span. Over a hundred of these Greenland Canada Geese have been banded in Greenland, and subsequently, many have been recovered or resighted in the United States and Canada (Kristiansen et al. 1999). These Greenland Canada Geese have been reported from Labrador and New Brunswick, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and New York, with birds as far south as Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Maryland (Kristiansen et al. 1999). Most of the resightings have occurred in Pennsylvania, New York, and Connecticut. In addition, a fairly large percentage of these birds have been found returning to Greenland in following years. These

Greenland Canada Geese are thought to be mostly of the interior subspecies (*Branta canadensis interior*) (A.D. Fox pers.comm.).

### Identifying *flavirostris* in the Field

A study of skins from the National Museum of Natural History and Smithsonian Institution Washington, D.C. shed some light on the separation between *frontalis* and *flavirostris* (MD/DC Records Committee 2003). *Flavirostris* was observed as having more extensive belly barring and a darker head. The use of the white terminal band of the tail, the pale fringes of the scapulars, coverts and tertials (the bird's "back"), and the size of the white flank stripe was reported as being of little use in the field. However, if needed, *flavirostris* shows a narrower terminal tail band and a narrower flank stripe compared to *frontalis*. Tony Fox, a senior researcher from the Department of Wildlife Ecology and Biodiversity, Denmark, has done extensive research with *flavirostris* as well as some of the other subspecies (including those in the Canadian arctic). He stated (and a comparison of skins provided supporting evidence) that the dark, chocolate brown coloration of the head, neck, and breast is the easiest separation factor from the paler coloration exhibited by *frontalis* in these respective regions. The

bellybands are more extensive in *flavirostris*, but appear to stand out less due to the overall darker belly coloration. Also, *flavirostris* show less extensive white "fronts" as compared to other subspecies (A.D. Fox pers. comm.).

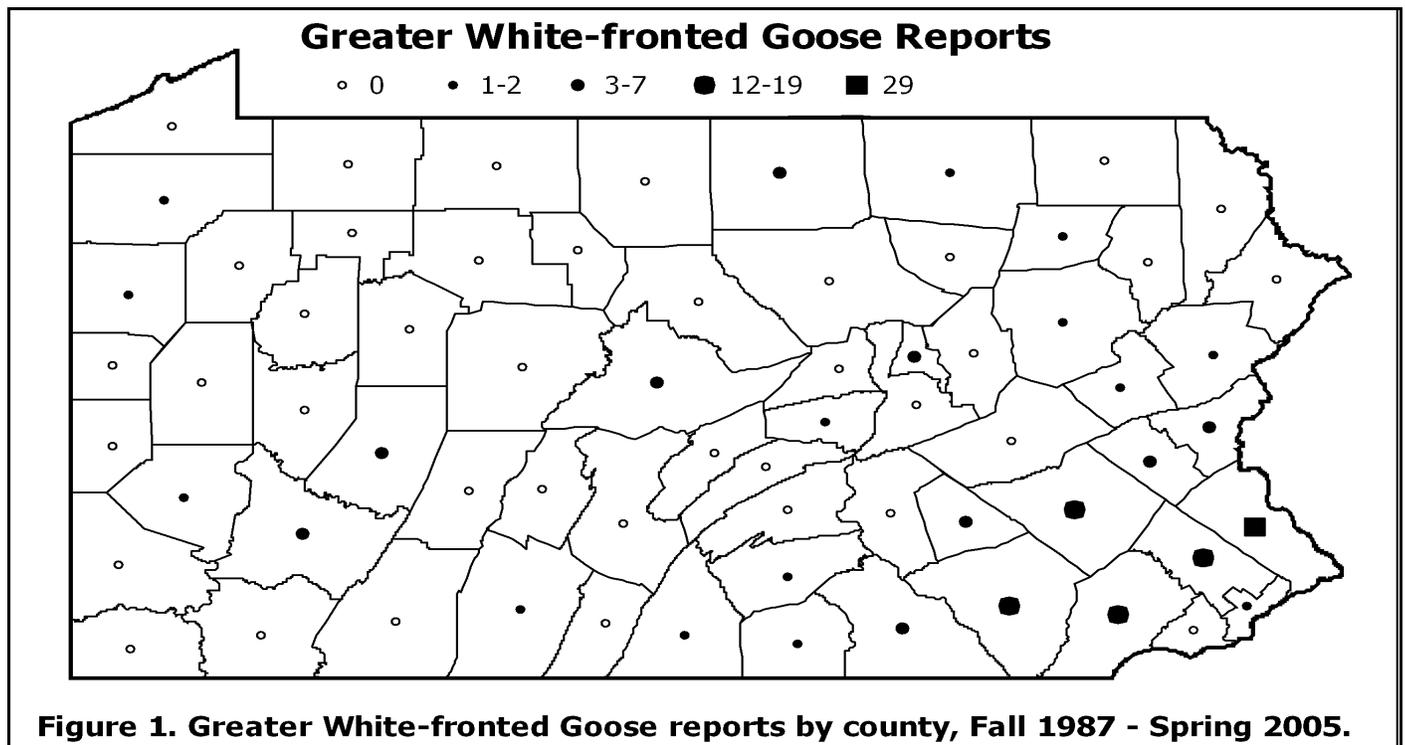
The often discussed bill color is apparently not foolproof and shouldn't solely be used to identify *flavirostris*. One observer who has had extensive experience with wintering *frontalis* and *elgasi* along the Pacific coast reported that a number of these birds had some orange to their bills (Deuel 2006). Both of these subspecies are supposed to be pink-billed. Kenn Kaufman published a brief article about GWFG subspecies in a *Birding* over a decade ago. To cloud even further the usefulness of bill color, he experimented by asking people to determine the color of GWFG bills from geese along the west coast and Texas, all of which "should have" pink bills (Kaufman 1994). Although answers varied considerably, most people concluded that the birds had orange bills. He summed up the article with a rather bold statement: "Until definite field marks are established, I would recommend that subspecific names not be applied to sight records of GWFG in northeastern North America (Kaufman 1994)." From his experience, Fox echoed Kaufman's caution at separating birds by bill color because light can alter color

perception and to make matters worse, he has handled *flavirostris* with pink bills! With that said, Fox maintains that an orange bill is still one important clue that you are working with *flavirostris* (A.D. Fox pers. comm.).

### Historical Pennsylvania Records

The *Birds of Pennsylvania* comments that "GWFG are rare regular migrants and irregular winter visitors in the Piedmont" (McWilliams and Brauning 2000). Outside of the Piedmont, there were only three winter reports with two in Crawford County and one in Montour. Historical records show only one report (Delaware River in 1877) away from the western part of the state. This is very much contrary to what birders have observed in recent years. Until just recently, GWFG was exempt from PORC documentation in the following counties: Berks, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Lancaster, Lebanon, Montgomery, and Philadelphia. However, a recent decision by PORC has eliminated this species for review statewide.

Sutton presented a couple of historical records in the *Birds of the Pymatuning Region*. Both groups were registered in the spring with a "small flock" seen on March 8, 1908 on Conneaut Lake and another flock of 13 birds on April 3, 1926, at the same location (Grimm 1952). Poole's



unpublished manuscript describes one other shot specimen from Tarentum, along the Allegheny River, which was bagged on November 28, 1895 (Poole unpub). Finally, another Pymatuning specimen was shot on October 23, 1956. Berks County data that date back to 1897 contain seven records in the 1970s and early 1980s (Uhrich 1997). A number of these sightings are from late April and early May, quite late in the spring season compared to recent years, perhaps evidence of a later migration due to colder winters and springs. A Berks County high count of seven birds was reported at Lake Ontelaunee on February 24, 1985.

### Analysis of the Last 18 Pennsylvanian Winters

After pouring through 76 issues of *Pennsylvania Birds* and compiling all of the GWFG records, some interesting statistics emerged. With the exception of some unusual dates, sightings took place from October 10-April 23. Of these, most of the records occurred during the spring [Table 1]. GWFG is most often seen among Canada Goose flocks, but has been noted with flocks of Snow Geese a number of times, particularly in Berks County after the influx of thousands of Snow Geese began in March of 1996 (Uhrich 1997). Since then, six GWFG sightings have been with Snow Geese. It is also noteworthy to point out that at least three Pennsylvania reports consisted of "pink-billed" individuals.

While most sightings came from only a few select counties, 28 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties had at least one GWFG over the past 18 winters. However, only half of these 28 counties had more than two records. The top five counties were: Bucks, Lancaster, Berks, Montgomery, and Chester, respectively. Northampton County took sixth place with seven records over the time span. All other counties had less than four records. Bucks totaled a substantial 29

different sightings; Lancaster came in second with 19; Berks had 17; Montgomery placed fourth with 15 reports; and Chester tallied 12 different records. The Pennsylvania county map [Figure 1] clearly shows that the vast majority of all GWFG found in the state occur in the southeast.

In both the table [Table 2], and the subsequent analysis, the major outliers for both dates and numbers of individuals were omitted (three unusual dates and two especially large flocks). For example, a GWFG was detected in late May, and on two different occasions a GWFG was noticed in July! All in all, during the past 18 winters a total of 146 reports were made, which translates to 213 individual GWFG. With the two outlying flocks included, the total number of birds rises to 328.

Some exceptional GWFG observations have surfaced among the more mainstream sightings. Typically, GWFG show up as individuals or in small groups, with up to five birds being seen on occasion. A good-sized group of six birds was seen flying over the Council Cup Hawk Watch, Luzerne County, in mid-November, 1998. However, significantly larger flocks have been noted on two occasions. An outstanding 18 birds were observed at the Montour Preserve, Montour County on January 20, 1997, some of which lingered for a few days. The most impressive collection of GWFG was an astonishing 97 that were spotted over Yellow Creek State Park, Indiana County, on November 6, 1999. I corresponded with one of the two lucky observers, Steven Graff, who gave a good description of what is probably an unprecedented number of birds in the northeast (Steve Graff pers. comm.).

Two sizeable concentrations of GWFG were again noted this winter. While the entire data from the winter of 05/06 were unavailable for me to consider, these noteworthy sightings are worth including. A flock of 32 was noticed in Whitetail,

Bedford County, on March 18, 2006, and two groups of nine and three floated about upper Bucks County from late December through most of February, 2006. The notion of GWFG being more "common" recently seems to be accurate. As compared to the average of individuals and reports from the winters of 87/88 to 91/92 (5.6 reports/year to 7.8 individuals/year), the numbers are significantly larger for the winters from 00/01 to 04/05 (average of 11.2 reports/year to 17.6 individuals/year). However, it is challenging to know if this is attributable to more eyes looking more intensely or an actual increase in birds.

### GWFG Reports from the North Atlantic

For comparison to Pennsylvania records, I contacted a couple provinces that are, needless to say, a bit closer to Greenland and hopefully, in theory, to Greenland GWFG. A couple gracious individuals pieced together their respective GWFG provincial records and provided me with the summaries. In the last six winters (from 99/00-04/05), a total of 10 reports for 10 individuals has been reported in Nova Scotia (B. McDonald pers. comm.). This is considerably less than has been reported in PA over the same period. In fact, in just one winter of that time period (04/05), PA had more reports, 11, and more individual birds, 18. Nova Scotia has similar dates of occurrence as seen here in PA (late September through late April), but the majority of the sightings in this province occur during fall migration. Newfoundland/Labrador, admittedly an under-birded locale, has only 18 records in over a hundred years (Lingear unpub). Its breakdown per season is comprised chiefly of fall GWFG with a number of spring reports. It is interesting to note that there are no winter records for Newfoundland or Labrador. Most

Percentage of PA sightings by season		
Fall (October through mid-December)	Winter (mid-December through mid-February)	Spring (latter half of February-April)
22%	33%	45%

Table 1. Breakdown of GWFG sightings by season for the last 18 Pennsylvanian winters.



**Figure 2.** In addition to the bill color, the gray-buff coloration and extensive white forehead point to a non-*flavirostris* subspecies for Tony Fox. Even if the observer had thought the bill was the brightest orange, Fox would still feel confident that the bird was not *flavirostris*. (12/24/2005 Peace Valley Park, Bucks County, PA © Cameron Rutt)

sightings were of individuals, but small groups ranging from 2-9 birds have been seen from October 2 to May 28 in Newfoundland/Labrador; a similar fall arrival date as PA but a considerably later spring date. Newfoundland is only 850 miles away from the southernmost tip of Greenland (Tuck 1971).

Kathy Meeres, from the White Goose Collar Observation Project provided some valuable information from the Canadian and USA banding database. In the past 50 years there have been seven GWFG recoveries along the Atlantic seaboard, which pertain to birds that were originally banded in the Canadian and Alaskan arctic (this means non-Greenland GWFG) (K. Meeres pers. comm.). The banding recoveries range from New Brunswick to South Carolina. The birds were initially banded from Queen Maud Gulf, Northwest Territory, west of the Hudson Bay, to western Alaska! Pennsylvania has two of the seven recoveries. If correct, this would constitute the first confirmed record of a western GWFG subspecies in the state. The first bird was an adult that was banded along the Alaskan/Yukon border and recovered seven years later just north of Clear Spring, York County. The second bird was also an adult and came from Wood Bay, Northwest Territory, southeast of

the Beaufort Sea. This bird was recovered 10 years later northwest of Hartstown, Crawford County. The average recovery time was 4.4 years indicating that these strays were mainly adults. It is safe to say that these birds stray east, but unfortunately this information

cannot be used with 100% certainty (D. Bystrak pers. comm.). Danny Bystrak from the Bird Banding Lab quoted these numbers with about 60% certainty, as it would only take one misread number to invalidate a recovery.

### Conclusion

So what can we make of all this? Tony Fox believes that with more geese migrating from Greenland to North America than ever before due to the blossoming Greenland Canada Goose population, we should likewise expect higher numbers of *flavirostris* accidentally hitchhiking with these migrating flocks. It seems safe to say that some of these birds are coming from Greenland; however, it also seems likely that we may be getting a number of birds from the western population (for instance, where did the 97 GWFG at Yellow Creek SP, Indiana County come from?). Since the majority of all geese are seen in the southeast, it is challenging to assign regionality to these vagrant GWFG (i.e. eastern PA=*flavirostris*, western PA=*frontalis*). I believe that the majority of Pennsylvania's GWFG are from the Greenland population, but it is likely a small but substantial number of the sightings instead pertain to an interior subspecies like *frontalis*.

Birds from both populations are



**Figure 3.** Here, the stubby orange bill, limited white "front," and the darker brown coloration especially on the head make this individual a very likely candidate for *flavirostris*. (2/9/2006 Hershey, Dauphin County, PA © Tom Johnson)

being banded so we continuously need to be on the lookout for banded or collared birds. I think that observers need to downplay the importance of one field mark while birding and not report Greenland GWFG whose identification is based solely on an orange bill. With more attentive observers looking at multiple field marks, we should be able to learn something about the consistency of how GWFG appear in the state. With so many birds present, it seems that, in time, field-separable, subspecific characteristics may be identified. I would encourage people to obtain photographs whenever possible, discuss these birds with other keen birders, and most of all to keep looking through those geese flocks!

### Acknowledgments

I would like to thank everyone that contributed time and information in compiling the data for this article. Thanks especially to Tony Fox whose willingness to share his personal research was invaluable, to Nick Pulcinella who provided plenty of helpful resources, to Kathy Meeres, Paul Linegar, Bob McDonald, and Rudy Keller for going out of their way to provide additional information, and to August Mirabella and Deuane Hoffman who graciously shared their resources with me. Additionally, I would like to thank Paul Hess, Nick Pulcinella, and August Mirabella for revising previous drafts of this article. Finally, a special thanks to Nick Bolgiano for supplying the GWFG state distribution map (Figure 1).

### More Photographs

The following two websites have additional photos for direct comparison between *flavirostris* and *frontalis*:

*f l a v i r o s t r i s* :  
<http://www.greenlandwhitefront.homestead.com/files/Pictures/Greenland.jpg>  
<http://picasaweb.google.com/avechicof/GreaterWhiteFrontedGoose>

*frontalis* (since the photograph was taken in northeastern Alaska).  
 Especially take note of this bird's " p i n k " b i l l :  
[http://www.birds.cornell.edu/programs/AllAboutBirds/BirdGuide/Greater\\_White-fronted\\_Goose\\_dtl.html](http://www.birds.cornell.edu/programs/AllAboutBirds/BirdGuide/Greater_White-fronted_Goose_dtl.html)

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**Table 2. GWFG sightings over the last 18 Pennsylvanian winters.**

Year (by winter)	Reported Dates	# of individuals	# of reports	Counties	Notes
04-05	10 /10-3/11	18	11	Bucks, Mont, Berks, North, Bradford, Allegheny, West, Lancaster	5 at Donegal Lake, Westmoreland 2/22
03-04	10/11-4/23	26	17	Bucks, Mont, Berks, North, Chester, Centre, Indiana, Lehigh, West, Bradford, Monroe, Carbon	5 at Coatesville, Chester 12/26
02-03	10/17-3/15	10	8	Bucks, Berks, North, Chester, Lancaster, Tioga	
01-02	11/23-3/9*	13	9	Bucks, Mont, Berks, Chester, York, Montour	imm at Long Arm, York 5/29
00-01	10/30-2/19*	21	11	Bucks, Mont, North, Chester, Lancaster, Lebanon, Wyoming	1 at Braintrim Twp, Wyoming 7/22
99-00	11/6-3/11	8 (105)**	9	Bucks, Mont, Berks, North, Chester, Indiana, Mercer	<b>97 at Yellow Creek SP, Indiana 11/6</b>
98-99	11 /15-3/16	18	8	Mont, Berks, Bradford, Lebanon, West, Luzerne	6 over Coucil Cup Hawk Watch, Luzerne 11/15
97-98	11/19-3/10	7	7	Bucks, Mont, Berks, Lancaster, Franklin, Montour	
96-97	11/9-3/24	12 (30)**	10	Mont, Berks, Lancaster, Lebanon, Franklin, Lehigh, Mercer, Montour, Crawford	<b>18 at Montour Preserve, Montour 1/20</b>
95-96	11 /15-4/12	9	8	Bucks, Mont, Lancaster, York, Centre, Cumberland, West	
94-95	10/23-4/9	5	5	Bucks, Berks, Chester, Centre	
93-94	12/3-3/26	17	8	Bucks, Mont, Chester, Lancaster, Indiana	5 at Yellow Creek SP, Indiana 3/25 1 "pink-billed" at Green Lane, Mont 3/13
92-93	12/24-3/26*	10	7	Mont, Chester, Lancaster, Adams, Tioga	2 imm at Hammond Lake, Tioga 7/14 were noted as possible escapees
91-92	1/17-4/2	7	5	Bucks, Lancaster, Adams, Tioga	
90-91	10/9-4/3	10	8	North, Chester, Lancaster, Tioga	Middle Creek WMA, Lancaster had 3 of the 8 reports
89-90	12/20-3/3	10	4	Bucks, Berks, Lancaster, Snyder	1 of 3 along Susquehanna River, Snyder was noted as having a pink bill
88-89	1/21-3/31	7	7	Bucks, Berks, Chester, Philadelphia, Bedford, Crawford	1 in Crawford 1/21 mentioned as being of the "pink-billed" race
87-88	12 /19-3/25	5	4	Bucks, Chester, Lancaster, York	Struble Lake, Chester has had GWFG 10 of the previous 12 years

\*not including outliers (See Notes for unusual dates)

\*\*w/ and w/o the large flocks (See Notes)

**Abbreviations:** Mont-Montgomery, North-Northampton, West-Westmoreland

More recently: 32 at Whitetail, Bedford 3/18/06

# A Difficult Dowitcher in Beaver County

Geoff R. Malosh

On the evening of 28-Aug-2006, I found a group of five dowitchers at Little Blue Lake in western Beaver County, which I was able to study from a position between 80 and 200 feet away, between 6:15 PM and 7:15 PM. Conditions at the time were heavily overcast, made darker by the approach of sunset, with no wind. At 7:15 PM, a heavy downpour ensued, which drove Mark Vass (who had arrived a little after 7:00 PM upon receiving a call from me) and me away from the scene.



Plate 1. Putative juvenile Long-billed Dowitcher; note plain coverts and tertials with very subtle internal markings (Geoff Malosh).

Four birds of the group were obviously typical juvenile Short-billed Dowitchers, featuring the classic marks for that species and age in both structure and plumage. They had a very fresh, crisp molt, underparts awash in orange and buff, and brightly marked tertials that showed a dark base color and very bright orange internal “saw tooth” markings. The coverts and scapulars were similarly dark with bright centers.

The fifth bird, also a freshly molted juvenile, was noticeably different. After extensive study, based on the characters I describe herein, I identified this odd individual as a juvenile Long-billed Dowitcher. Several photographs were obtained, four of which are included here (Plates 1–4). Of course, I never heard the bird’s flight-call, otherwise the identification would have been trivial.

The plumage was what made this individual “jump out” as distinctive among its Short-billed companions. The tertials and the

greater coverts were each very plain, dark brown, and thinly fringed with white or orange/rufous (see Plate 1). The scapulars were dark-centered with bold orange/rufous edges. The underparts of this bird were considerably duller than the nearby Short-billed Dowitchers; the putative Long-billed was somewhat orange underneath but was grayer, especially in the neck, which led to an overall impression of a duller bird when considered in conjunction with the plain coverts and tertials. Since

the identification of juvenile Long-billed Dowitchers is known to hinge on the existence of plain tertials and a duller overall appearance (Sibley 2000, Paulson 1993 and 2005), this individual seemed to me to be a fairly straightforward juvenile Long-billed Dowitcher.

However, closer inspection revealed several anomalies. To begin with, some of the tertials did show

some internal “saw tooth” markings in very dull rufous, and a few of the greater coverts showed internal markings as well (see Plates 1 and 2). The bird, while duller than the nearby Short-billed, was still very bright—maybe too bright for a Long-billed Dowitcher. The bird’s cap, which is supposed to be grayer and exhibit less contrast on Long-billed compared to Short-billed, seemed to be of exactly the same color and contrast as the Short-billeds (see Plate 4). Also, the bird’s tail seemed to be showing a considerable amount of white—perhaps too much white for a

Long-billed Dowitcher. Conventional wisdom teaches that the tail appears darker overall on a Long-billed, based on the fact that Long-billed tends to have thicker black bars across the tail than Short-billed (see Paulson 1993 and 2005). However, I did note during one wing-stretch that this bird’s tail did appear darker overall than the nearby Short-billeds, yet not “obviously” dark when considered alone.

Considering the recently published “advances” in structural jizz field marks for dowitchers, this bird did not stand out in the crowd of Short-billeds. It did not seem particularly thick-bodied: the popular modern analogy is that Long-billed appears to have “swallowed a grapefruit” (see O’Brien et al. 2006). Nor was there a definitive “indentation” in the bird’s lower back (see O’Brien et al. 2006, Lee and Birch 2006). The bill was not obviously long—if anything it was rather short—but it was straight along its length, which is a very subtle characteristic in favor of Long-billed Dowitcher (Plate 3). Considering the concept of loral angle (see Lee and Birch 2006), this bird seemed to have a rather highly placed eye, which gave the impression of a high loral angle and an arched supercilium. With the exception of the apparently straight bill, all of these structural characteristics lean toward an identification of *Short-billed*, not



Plate 2. Another view of tertials and coverts (Geoff Malosh).

Long-billed.

Despite this, after reviewing my notes, my photos, and my memory of the event, I ended up with an identification of Long-billed Dowitcher, based largely on plumage characteristics. I considered the structural characteristics of this bird to be marginal for Long-billed, but not to the point of excluding Long-billed from consideration. As for the brightness of the plumage, I conceded that it was indeed too bright for a typical Long-billed Dowitcher, but Long-billeds do sometimes show internal markings on their coverts and tertials, and those that do would probably also tend to be a little brighter overall than typical. Additionally, this bird was about two weeks earlier than the first juvenile Long-billed Dowitchers usually appear in Pennsylvania (McWilliams and Brauning 2000). It did not seem unreasonable to think that this bird could appear a little brighter than the typical Pennsylvania juvenile Long-billed Dowitcher based on this early date.

#### Agreement to disagree

Later that evening, I gathered my notes and my photos and emailed them to over fifteen of Pennsylvania's best identification experts, and asked for their opinions. I was very surprised to find that nearly every response I received favored Short-billed Dowitcher rather than Long-billed. The two responses I received that were "officially unsure" leaned toward Long-billed Dowitcher, but I received no positive affirmation of Long-billed Dowitcher. Of those firmly in the Short-billed camp, everyone agreed that structurally, this bird was a typical Short-billed Dowitcher and that the structure, not the plumage, should carry the identification.

Most opinions were based on the

relatively new structural "jizz" characters of dowitcher identification, as published in *The Shorebird Guide* (O'Brien et al. 2006) and by Lee and Birch in *Birding* (2006). There were several specific arguments: The bird's tarsi did not appear appreciably different than the Short-billed's in the comparison photograph I obtained (Plate 4). The loral angle was too large for Long-billed Dowitcher, and the supercilium was too arched. There was no "thick bodied-ness" apparent in the photographs. The bill was too short—shorter than the shortest Long-billeds should appear. The coverts (especially) and tertials had too many internal markings, and the light-colored fringes on the scapulars were too broad.



**Plate 3.** Though the contrast is poor, note straightness of bill and overall structural profile (Geoff Malosh).

In summary, the opinions were that this was a dull Short-billed Dowitcher with almost no tertial markings, as opposed to a bright Long-billed Dowitcher with minor tertial and covert markings.

Although I tended to disagree with the assertions about the bird's plumage as being definitive for Short-billed, I did find myself swayed by the arguments regarding the bird's structure, and began to believe that my initial identification was incorrect and that the bird was

probably a Short-billed Dowitcher. Around the same time, I decided to expand the audience by creating a web page with my field notes and the four pictures included in this essay (Plates 1-4), which I posted to ID-Frontiers. (ID-Frontiers is an email listserv like PA-Birds, but which is dedicated to discussion of difficult identification problems in any aspect of birding. A large fraction of the giants of North American birding—people such as David Sibley, Kenn Kaufman, and Alvaro Jaramillo, to name a few—subscribe to and participate in the discussion on ID-Frontiers. The web site that houses the archives of the ID-Frontiers listserv is listed in the references.)

The verdict came back from ID-Frontiers: undecided. Three people, all from the Pacific Coast, favored Short-billed Dowitcher, while four favored Long-billed Dowitcher, including Kevin Karlson, co-author of *The Shorebird Guide*, and Julian Hough, a noted shorebird identification expert currently residing in Connecticut.

Karlson, ironically, argued to the ID-Frontiers audience that the Beaver bird was a Long-billed Dowitcher based largely on the bird's structure. He opined that the bird *did* appear heavier, was thicker necked, and straighter-billed than the typical Short-billed Dowitcher (see ID-Frontiers archives). Julian Hough replied to me only in a private discussion, in which he identified the bird as a Long-billed Dowitcher using the same approach I initially took: by disregarding the bird's structure as intermediate and instead focusing on plumage details. Hough compared the Beaver dowitcher to another puzzling dowitcher that turned up in Great Britain in 1998, and referred me to an online article entitled "An Interesting Dowitcher", in which he thoroughly reviewed and commented



**Plate 4.** Putative juvenile Long-billed Dowitcher (right) with juvenile Short-billed Dowitcher (Geoff Malosh).

on the bird. This Great Britain dowitcher was ultimately identified and accepted as a Long-billed Dowitcher (Hough 1999).

Despite Karlson's discussion, in which he advocated the new jizz-focused approach to shorebirding, I remained unconvinced by his argument, because I could not definitively see the structural differences he outlined between the Beaver bird and a typical Short-billed Dowitcher. I did recall the bird appearing perhaps just a little "heavier" than the Short-billeds when I was studying them in the field, but it was not obvious, and in the field I considered this exquisitely subtle difference in bulk to be largely an artifact of the birds' periodically shifting posture and behavior, and not an obvious and definitive difference between the target bird and the Short-billed Dowitchers.

Hough, on the other hand, considered the Beaver bird to be nearly identical to the mystery Great Britain bird both in its intermediate structure and its too-bright-but-acceptable plumage. To condense his thoughts to a single line, Hough argued that since the Great Britain bird was acceptable as a Long-billed Dowitcher, so too was the nearly identical Beaver bird.

In the end, my own final verdict on this individual rested primarily on my own time spent with the bird, and my own conclusions. For reasons I articulated in a recent issue of *Pennsylvania Birds* (see Malosh 2006), I found the structural jizz characteristics of this individual too intermediate to be of use. In this case, the plumage is very much like that of a Long-billed Dowitcher, but confusion is introduced when considering the bird's structure, which is more Short-billed-like but not exclusively wrong for Long-billed. Since juvenile dowitchers are the easiest fall dowitchers to identify by plumage alone, and since this bird's plumage fits juvenile Long-billed Dowitcher very well, the jizz-based field marks must be set aside in this case as intermediate. Said another way, I do not find the structural jizz definitive enough to overturn the identification to either "unknown" or to "Short-billed," and so it does not carry the identification, nor really help at all.

This bird is a classic example of the variability that many dowitchers can exhibit in structural jizz. One need look no further than the fact that Kevin Karlson himself believed the Beaver bird to be a Long-billed

Dowitcher based largely on structure, while many birders here in Pennsylvania identified the bird as a Short-billed based in no small part on the usage of Karlson's recent jizz-based shorebird reference, *The Shorebird Guide!* Since structure does not supply useful clues in this case (in my opinion), I turned back to plumage, and thereby returned to my original impression of the bird on 28-Aug: This bird was an unusually early, unusually bright, intermediately structured, juvenile Long-billed Dowitcher.

This is the second record of this species for Beaver County.

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# Purple Gallinule

## Macungie, Lehigh County

Alan Lee Levensgood

On reflection I often think 'was it really just another day birding, or otherwise?' In light of what followed it clearly was not. It was a pleasant sunny and dry Saturday with temperatures in the high 50's and 4-5 mile per hour breezes but because of other personal commitments I was not able to get out in the field that morning to indulge my birding interests. Later in the afternoon I did sneak away from my chores and drove about 7 miles to a local township park which hosts a partially water filled quarry and some woodlots to see what might be present on or moving about the area. After spending an hour or two roaming and scanning the area with bins and scope I had seen the usual flocks of Canada Geese, Mallards, Black Ducks, a Pied-billed Grebe, several Northern Shovelers, a smattering of Ring-necked Ducks, a Great Blue Heron, soaring Red-tailed Hawks, Yellow-rumped Warblers and the usual contingent of Blue Jays, Cardinals, Chickadees, Titmice, etc. and I became restless for a change of location.

It was approaching 5:00 PM and although I was expected home by 6:00 PM, or so, I decided to take "the scenic route" through three contiguous new home developments laid out so that all the homes were located on one side of a new street running parallel to the main route of my travel. All three developments were only 1-2 years old and all three still hosted active construction. The developments and the side of the street opposite the new homes were bordered for about 1 to 3/4 of a mile by brushy open space varying from 75 to 200 yards deep, a 20-30 foot wide tree-line, active railroad tracks and a small stream, which in combination with the generally light traffic allowed for easy and leisurely viewing from your vehicle without serious safety concerns. I had found the general area amazingly productive for wildlife (deer, racoon, mink, various amphibians and reptiles as well as birds) in the past.

Included in the open space paralleling the road, are a series of 5 detention/retention basins placed sporadically along the length of the street, 3 of which basin are filled with water fairly continuously and the other 2 being inundated intermittently. I had stopped at the first basin observing a small flock of Canada Geese which included a single pied dark phase Snow Goose. As it was now 5:30 PM and rapidly approaching dusk, I continued to the second basin. This basin which seems to contain water continuously is constructed in the shape of a capital "L" with the upright leg running parallel to the street. The top of basin is 10 to 15 feet lower than the road and the entire basin is surrounded by short

grasses/reeds from 10 to 24 inches tall giving an almost unobstructed view of the resulting pond except in one corner of the basin.

As I pulled up to this second basin, it was now about 5:40 PM, I remained in my car given the rapidly dwindling light quickly scanned the water surface and observed a number of Mallards 'tipping' at the back of the leg of the pond extending away from the road. Out of the corner of my eye, I 'noticed' a flash, or more accurately, several flashes of white, along the other side of the pond maybe 70 feet away from my location, which caught my attention as being reminiscent of the morse code light signals seen coming from naval vessels in old war movies or the 'bouncing sing along ball' on the old Mitch Miller show for those old enough to remember either of those images. Although I immediately redirected my bins and attention to the area of the movement, it was becoming increasingly dark and I could only generally make out the water surface, grasses/reeds running up to the water line, what appeared to be movement from an indistinct 'brown form' and a faint white spot moving from left to right parallel to the water surface. There are no street lights in the area, there was not yet any indirect light from the surrounding homes, amazingly no vehicle or pedestrian movement and no sound from the area of the pond other than the hushed quacks of the Mallards on the opposite side of the pond which disclosed any clue of the nature of the 'form' I could just barely make out. Immensely curious, but in frustration, I left the basin about 6:15PM and returned home.

Later that evening quizzical about what I had seen, or not seen, but knowing that again because of previous commitments I could not get to the basin site until late on Sunday afternoon, October 1, 2006, I was anxiously hoping that what ever it was would remain and I began trying to plan out a way to return at the earliest moment. Even though the site is only 2 1/2 miles from my home it was 2:30 PM when I was finally able to get away and drive to the site. As I pulled up to the site, the weather and visibility being a carbon copy of the previous day, I parked my car, and was immediately concerned about the level of noise and disturbance within feet of the basin.

Getting out of the car I quickly scanned the perimeter of the basin with my bins finding nothing other than 5-6 Mallards again 'tipping' along the right side of the basin. Momentarily frustrated I observed their activity for 5-10 minutes, intermittently scanning the grassy edges, without noticing any other activity. Suddenly, I noticed movement

in an area of grasses/reeds, standing approximately 20 inches tall along the waters edge in the vicinity of the previous nights sighting, about 70 feet from my position followed by the appearance of a 'small brownish head and upper neck' about a foot above the water level. With a head/neck action ('bob') reminiscent of a chicken feeding, the rest of the body emerged from the reeds revealing long bright yellow legs, very obvious elongated yellow toes, an oval body, tan/brown above the color extending across the back to a short inverted 'v' tail and deepening in tone down through its wings a buff throat/upper chest turning to cream across the belly with a 'very visible and distinct' area of white undertail coverts. The undertail coverts seemed vibrant in the sun, reminiscent of the undertail of a white tailed deer as it runs from danger and were most likely the intermittent white 'bouncing ball' I had noticed the night before. Stunned, and not at that time knowing a specific identification for this bird, I watched for 10-15 minutes while the bird walked back and forth at the water's edge, maybe 20 feet in either direction, along the perimeter of the basin. I particularly noticed that each time it raised its foot it did so very deliberately, grabbing some of the grass/reed stalks with its toes, bending them over 90 degrees and then stepping on the bend stalks using them as a 'pad/landing site' for its feet. I also noticed that it would intermittently grab a single stalk of grass with its foot take the stalk in its beak (which was short, somewhat triangular in shape, brownish above and brown/yellow below) and begin to pull the grass seed head through its beak from bottom to the top of the stalk., which I took to be gleaning seeds for food. During this first observation, I did not see the bird enter the water except to occasionally peck at the surface (picking up dropped seeds or other vegetation?), it did not make any vocalization, did not lift or move its wings in any apparent manner and generally it did not seem to be disturbed by or even aware of the children playing basket ball within 80 to 100 feet of its location.

It was only after an outburst of laughter and smash mouth shouts from the children that the bird stepped out of sight, back into the reeds, and I remembered that I had not taken my scope from the car trunk and went to retrieve it and set it up for further viewing. While at the car I also grabbed the obligatory 'bird books' (Peterson's, National Geographic and Sibley's were at hand) although I wanted a closer look at the real thing and put them on the ground for future reference. As I set up my scope aimed at the location of the



Plate 1. Purple Gallinule (*Porphyrio martinica*). Macungie, Lehigh, 3 October 2006 (Cameron Rutt).

bird's withdraw and focused to the reeds, the bird almost immediately reappeared and proceeded to repeat the 'platforming and gleaning' activities I had previously observed continuing in this manner for another 15 minutes intermittently withdrawing into the reeds but returning to the water's edge almost immediately. After this close by and extended observation through the scope, realizing the bird was not disturbed by the fairly close by human activity, that it was not giving any indications of leaving the area, and with me not knowing the identity of the bird off the top of my head (but with lots of possibilities and just as many impossibilities crashing around my skull from herons, to rails, to larger sandpipers and almost all those possibilities being just as quickly discarded/discounted) and finally with no other birder that I knew of in the vicinity nor wanting necessarily to call the bird to the children's immediate attention, I knew I did not know what I 'had' so I left the scope and rapidly began leafing through the books.

While remaining transfixed at the spot, within unaided eye-sight of the bird., I opened Peterson's and started with the rails, quickly scanning the pages for anything similar to the 'real thing', continuing through the sandpipers in the following section and then jumped back to the herons, simply to exclude the later, without a successful identification. Having no immediate success, I went through the process a second time and although I could not put

my finger on an identity or place any of the pictures as identical to the bird which remained within my vision, it gave me a very general 'impression' of the members of the rail family but in each instance, the size, the coloring, the bill length, the geographic location or all four excluded them as matches. In going through the pages a third time I stumbled upon the page immediately preceding the rails in Peterson's which contains the plates of the American Coot (but color and lack of lobed feet excluded it) Common Moorhen (which are occasionally present in general area, but lack of face shield and 'racing stipe' excluded it) and Purple Gallinule (but color as depicted in Peterson's, lack of face shield and its typical geographic area seemed to exclude it). As further confirmation, I have a brother who resides in Southeastern Florida and have seen the gaudy deep violet/purple adult Gallinule puddling across the surface of the waters of numerous Florida ponds with their yellow face shield and red bill while visiting him and despite subconscious desires I may have had to the contrary, I knew that I was standing in Macungie, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania and was nowhere remotely near Florida or the Gulf coast.

Frustrated and at a loss after 15 minutes working at Peterson's, I return to my bins and began a closer observation of the bird which during my 'page turning' had slowly moved from left to right about 40-50 feet along the waters edge but always remaining out of the water rather stepping on 'platforms'

of grasses/reeds it had bent for the purpose. The bird was now within several feet, more or less, of the group of Mallards which itself had drifted over from the far right of the basin. The unidentified bird and the Mallards remained in close proximity, the Mallards floating in the water and what to me had become by then 'the bird' resting on the platforms, each dabbling or gleaning seeds for the next 5 minutes. Then 'the bird' which to that time had not made any vocalization, not lifted it's wing(s) to give a view of their undersides, nor entered the water in any fashion, without preamble or other apparent cause simply stepped back into the reeds and was not seen for the next 10 minutes.

Given the lack of anything else to do, I picked up my Sibley's and again started leafing through the pages starting with the rails; however, this time through a quirk of fate the pages following the rails contained plates of the Moorhen, Gallinule and Coot. As I skimmed the page my attention almost immediately lit on the drawing of the juvenile Purple Gallinule resulting in a stunned eureka moment. Even though I had not been magically transported to Florida via Dorothy's ruby slippers, 'the bird' which had chosen that moment to reappear from the reeds and was visible over the top of the fieldguide, was an exact duplicate of the drawing of the juvenile Purple Gallinule with its warm brown, buff and cream coloring, long bright yellow legs and elongated toes even down to the 'bright white' undertail coverts. While I now had no doubt of the ID, my next thought was 'who is going to believe this', then how long is this bird going to stay in a residential development with all its disturbances and how do I get the word out for others to confirm and enjoy the bird.

It was now 3:45 PM on Sunday, sundown would take place in about two hours and I was not carrying a cell phone, a camera or video camera to record the find. I took the chance that the Gallinule would remain put, jumped in the car and raced home. I immediately phoned the Eastern PA Birdline maintained by Dave DeReamus and left what I am sure was a rasping, somewhat rambling and not immediately credible message on the service tape (best I can remember I gave my name, the day/date, the bird ID, the site ID and directions to the site and belatedly thought to give the time and my telephone number if , as I suspected, everyone had questions/expressions of disbelief). As I ended that call I thought, 'if this bird moves tonight or tomorrow, the message on the tape will be meaningless' as I did not have a camera and no one else had yet seen or confirmed the ID. I hunted for and found an old copy of the *Osprey* the newsletter of Lehigh Valley Audubon and got a series of phone numbers that I thought might be useful. First, I made a call to Arthur and Pauline Morris who I had briefly met on

a previous field trip and who I understood lived in fairly closed proximity to the site got their answering machine and left a message, then I contacted Friz Brock who I had met on the same field trip got his machine and left a message, then I contacted Arlene Koch who I heard about during prior field trips and once again got her machine and left a message. I made three more phone calls each with the same taped message result and began to think that I would not reach anyone that late on a Sunday afternoon.

I had not yet spoken to any live person and I began to think about returning to the site. It was about 4:20 PM when I received a return phone call from Arlene Koch and we quickly exchanged information regarding the sighting/ID, location, directions, etc., and she mentioned that she would make some additional calls and contact the PA Bird Alert. After finishing that call I again tried to reach the Morris', this time with success and talked to both, gave them directions and told them I would meet them at the location within a short time. By 4:45 PM I was back at the site, the Morris' had just arrived and to my relief the bird cooperated by appearing and remaining visible for long enough for the ID to be confirmed and a digital video recorded. Later that evening I was told by Arlene Koch that Jason Horn had also traveled to the site, arriving I believe after I had left for the evening, and that he had also confirmed the ID and gotten stills and video of the bird. We also discussed the nature of status of the bird in Pennsylvania and the limited number of sightings recorded in the literature (I had hear and later read of one in the 1990's in Erie, and other scattered reports including at least 11 reports since 1960 and 10 reports prior to 1960 according to *The Birds of Pennsylvania* which also notes the only fall record having been October 22, 1983 in Philadelphia but it appeared that this might be a first record for Lehigh County).

On Monday October 2, 2006, I again had prior commitments in the morning but was able to get to the basin site about 2:30 PM where I met Jason Horn a respected local birder who had videoed the bird the night before and another 'avid birder' from Pittsburgh who had seen the listing on the web and driven to Macungie overnight. They told me that there had been a steady stream of birders visiting the site that morning including a reporter from the Allentown *Morning Call* who had been there prior to my arrival and wanted to talk to me. The reporter and I did speak later that day and he wrote a lengthy article which appeared on page one of the Tuesday morning paper. A number of birders (anyone getting out of their car with bins or a scope in this neighborhood that first day was not a local) continued to arrive throughout the afternoon and the bird was generally cooperative remaining visible for extended periods of time and



Plate 2. Purple Gallinule (*Porphyrio martinica*). Macungie, Lehigh, 2 October 2006 (Geoff Malosh).

continuing its 'platforming and gleaning' activities. As these developments were still active construction sites a number of loaders, graders, tri-axil dump trucks and other construction gear regularly ran back and forth around and about the basin area the bird, however, did not appear to be unduly disturbed by the noise and commotion. Little did I know that the viewing fun was just beginning..

The next day the newspaper article appeared and the hotline and web listing services were spreading the word which again resulted in a steady influx of observers throughout the day with a spike in the late afternoon/early evening following work hours. Most of the observers that I met on Monday and Tuesday were birders with varying degrees of expertise but avidly committed to their interest, but an increasing number each day after the news article ran were locals, not necessarily birders, who just wanted to see the 'strange bird'. Visitors were generally patient, respectful, and non-intrusive with respect to both the neighborhood and the bird, with one significant exception being a gentleman on Tuesday afternoon who impatient with the non-appearance of the bird and before anyone could react proceeded to walk around the basin and thrashing and about the reeds to flush the bird. A number of others who were present

yelled and complained and this gentleman ultimately withdrew and then left. The flow of birders/observers was fairly consistent through out the week, including some from New Jersey, Delaware and one young man I met from Vermont that "stopped by" on his way from there to see his girlfriend at Penn State. The bird continued to be generally cooperative "platforming and gleaning" and had by the end of the week been observed by several people to lift and flap its wings and on two occasions to enter the water and 'swim' short distances along the basin edge. Numbers spiked that weekend when several bird clubs stopped by to observe.

Given the number of cars, people, bins and scopes now regularly present in the area around the basin (which is in the heart of and on the main travel route through three residential developments), the residents and particularly the school age children began to take notice of and an interest in the commotion. As the basin was within feet of the road surface, drivers would pull over and stop when on their way to or from work or other chores and inquire about 'all the fuss', or having read the newspaper article would inquire whether the bird was still present and visible and would often accept an offer from a birder, many of whom were happy to spread their enthusiasm and share their interests and equipment, to look at a fieldguide, use a pair of bins or look

through a scope. On more than one occasion I saw whole families get out of an idling car to catch a glimpse through the various scopes set along the road.. A number of construction workers, including several tri-axil truck drivers, also pulled their rigs over while passing by/through and borrowed a pair of bins or glimpsed through the scopes.

Children particularly from the immediate neighborhood when returning from the school bus drop offs, later from an ever expanding area as word got around on the weekends would stop by to 'chat up' the birders present, most of whom seemed generally pleased and willing to share their knowledge and the use of their fieldguide, bins and scopes to view the bird. Generally the neighbors did not seem to mind the human (birders/visitors) commotion in the area, at least not according to the comments of those who stopped by for updates on the status of "their bird" on a regular basis, a number also took an interest in and helped police the area, and monitor the children and neighborhood animals (dogs/cats) so that they would not disturb or stress the bird. Given the positive interaction between the

neighbors and visitors, I became familiar with several of the neighbors on a first name basis. Visiting the site on an almost daily basis I also met many of the visiting birders (a number of whom made three or more visits to observe, take digital stills or video, etc.). Many of these birders I had previously heard of by name/reputation or having read their articles, books and other works.

The juvenile Purple Gallinule which arrived in Macungie, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania, in some manner was first identified on September 30, 2006, and remained at the same detention/retention basin for a period of two weeks during which it was visible and observed each day, intermittently seeking cover, but sometimes observable for an hour at a time. The number of birders/visitors/observers was estimated in the 100s and ranged from expert birders, to total novices, construction workers to children and all manner in between.

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## Answer to Photo Quiz #14

At first glance you can see that this is a small tuftless owl roosting in a dense evergreen, which quickly brings to mind two eastern owls, the Northern Saw-whet and the Boreal. Note the brown upperparts that are evenly spotted with white. Also note the large head. This bird has a whitish facial disk with a distinct dark border. The forehead is dark brown with small white spots. If you look closely you can barely detect the bill, which is pale. Northern Saw-whet Owl is similar, but smaller with reddish-brown upperparts and less spotting, especially on the back. It also has a buffy brown facial disk which lacks a dark border. The forehead is reddish-brown with fine white streaks (not spots). The bill of the Northern Saw-whet Owl is dark.

This Boreal Owl was photographed in "Owl Woods" on Amherst Island, Ontario, probably the closest reliable location to see this species, especially during "invasion years." They should be looked for in Pennsylvania during invasion years, particularly in dense evergreens in the northern tier. Try looking for them in April. There seems to be a definite movement around the Great Lakes in April during invasion years. When I worked at Whitefish Point Bird Observatory in Michigan during the spring of 1984, I found a Boreal Owl in a banding net on April 19<sup>th</sup>. On April 22<sup>nd</sup>, banders there netted 13! By the end of the month, 45 Boreal Owls had been banded. Since that time, banding data at Whitefish Point has consistently shown that the main push of Boreal Owls occurs during the last two weeks of April through the first week of May. There have been several spring records from Braddock Bay, New



York along the south shore of Lake Ontario, including one on April 4, 1979. The only record for Ohio was an immature female which flew into a window in Lake County, just west of the Pennsylvania border, on April 9, 1997. It was rehabbed and released. The only modern record of a Boreal Owl in Pennsylvania was one banded at Presque Isle State Park, Erie County on April 7, 2001. Presque Isle would seem to be a logical place to continue to look for this species, especially in April during invasion years.

# Autumn Raptor Migration Summary 2006

Lindsay Zemba

Eleven hawkwatches reported counts for autumn 2006 (Table 1). The number of hours ranged from 285 to 1186, for a total of 7,566. The number of days at all sites ranged from 34 to 152, for a total of 1,093. A total of 151,421 raptors representing 17 species was reported. A single Mississippi Kite was reported at both Hawk Mountain Sanctuary and Rose Tree Park (Table 2).

Average count effort for the twelve watchsites was greater in 2006 than in 2005 (687 hours/site vs. 629 hours/site).

Data are available for all watchsites at the Hawk Migration Association of North America's *Hawk Count* website (<http://hawkcount.org/>).

## Composition of the flight

Overall, the three most numerous migrants were Broad-winged Hawks (*Buteo platypterus*), Sharp-shinned Hawks (*Accipiter striatus*), and Red-tailed Hawks (*Buteo jamaicensis*) (Table 2). Broad-winged Hawks (49% overall), ranged from 30% of the flight at Waggoner's Gap to 76% at Allegheny Front; Sharp-shinned Hawks (20% overall) ranged from 6% of the flight at Allegheny Front to 32% at Waggoner's Gap; and Red-tailed Hawks (13.5% overall) ranged from 2.2% of the flight at Militia Hill to 28% at Stone Mountain. Of the remaining regular migrants, only Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*) and Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*) made up at least 3% of the flight.

This year's passage rate (birds/hour) was almost 23% higher than in 2005 (Table 2). Species passage rates increased by 30% for Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*), by 26% for Sharp-shinned Hawks, and by 45% for Broad-winged Hawks. Passage rates decreased by 69% for Northern Harriers (*Circus cyaneus*), 77% for Northern Goshawks (*Accipiter gentilis*), 76% for Red-shouldered Hawks (*Buteo lineatus*), and 89% for Rough-legged Hawks (*Buteo lagopus*). All other species differed by 20% or less from the previous year. Overall, many sites reported record-breaking flights of Golden Eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*), Bald Eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), and Broad-winged Hawks. Peak counts of Bald Eagles, Ospreys, and broadwings occurred

on similar dates among several sites (Table 3). In addition, peaks for Sharp-shinned Hawks were comparable among six sites, and Golden Eagles peaked on similar dates (17-22 Nov) for Allegheny Front (39), Bake Oven Knob (14), Hawk Mountain (10), Little Gap (6), Second Mountain (9), and Stone Mountain (11).

## Seasonal highlights

**Allegheny Front** (Bedford County) – Six new records were broken this season: total birds per hour (20.15), season total (18,348 raptors, beating last year's total of 18,268), total count hours (910.25), and season high records for Bald Eagles (70), Broad-winged Hawks (13,974), and Golden Eagles (222). The highest one-day count was on 15 Sep, with 8,023 raptors recorded, 7,979 of which were broadwings, making Sep an extraordinary month with a total of 14,508 raptors. Nov also produced high numbers, including 129 Golden Eagles from 20 – 28 Nov. Dec was noteworthy as well because of the 42 Golden Eagles counted, 22 of which were counted on 12 Dec. The broadwing count made up 76% of the total flight. Red-tailed Hawks, broadwings, and Sharp-shinned Hawks, together made up 90% of the flight (8%, 76%, and 6%, respectively). Peak flights of Turkey Vultures (459 birds, 2.5% of total flight) and Sharp-shinned Hawks (1177 birds, 6% of total flight) were recorded between 5 and 21 Oct, and numbers of redtails were steady through Oct and the first half of Nov (1548 birds, 8% of total flight).

**Bake Oven Knob** (Lehigh County) – This was a huge flight year, with a total count of 20,855, the largest since 1978. Eleven species were above the 10-year average. The count of 330 Black Vultures set a new record. Ospreys had the third highest count (649) ever recorded; Northern Harriers (247) and Sharp-shinned Hawks (4,062) were above both the 5 and 10-year averages; Cooper's Hawks (469) had the second highest count ever; Red-shouldered Hawks (224) had the highest tally since 1985; Broad-winged Hawks (9,735) had the second highest count in almost 30 years; Red-tailed Hawks (3,191) were down a bit from

last year but still had the sixth highest count ever recorded for this species; Golden Eagles, at 130 birds, approached the record of 137 set in 2003. Bald Eagles (171) were slightly below the 5-year average but still well above the 10-year average; Merlins (106) were down from 2005 but 2006 was still the second highest count ever recorded for the species; American Kestrels (190) were well below the 5-year average and equal to the 10-year average; and Peregrines (40) were below the 5-year average but well above the all-year average (Kunkle, 2007).

**Hawk Mountain Sanctuary** (Berks/Schuylkill Counties) – The total number of raptors this year (25,276) was the highest recorded since 1986, when more than 29,000 passed through. Broadwings, redtails, and Sharp-shinned Hawks, combined made-up 85% of the flight (47%, 16%, and 22%, respectively). It was the highest season-total for broadwings (11,801) since 1978, and the fourth-highest count ever at Hawk Mountain. Season records include Golden Eagles (169); Merlins (204), making the count for this species the highest in the state; Peregrine Falcons (62), which ties the record set in 2002; and a one-day record of Northern Harriers (36) seen on 27 Sep, which ties a 53-year old record. In addition, counts were higher than the 10-year average for Turkey Vultures, Black Vultures, Sharp-shinned Hawks, Cooper's Hawks, Red-tailed Hawks, Bald Eagles, and Osprey. A Mississippi Kite was spotted on 11 Sep. Peak flights for Sharp-shinned (427) and Cooper's Hawks (84) were recorded on 21 Oct. Other peak flights include Osprey (90; 27 Sep), Turkey Vulture (76; 1 Nov), Red-tailed Hawks (266; 20 Nov), and Red-shouldered Hawks (26; 30 Oct). American Kestrels (season total = 412) were 20% below their 10-year average.

**Jack's Mountain** (Mifflin County) – Count effort at Jack's Mountain has been low the past few years, including the 202 hours in 2006. This resulted in below-average counts for all species. The majority of Broad-winged Hawks passed through between 12 and 22 Sep, with the biggest day being 12 Sep when 616 birds were recorded. Other peak

counts this year included Turkey Vultures (47 birds on 9 Oct), Osprey (11 birds on 12 Sep), Red-tailed Hawks (55 birds on 5 Nov), Sharp-shinned Hawks (88 birds on 19 Oct), and American Kestrels (15 birds on 15 Sep).

**Little Gap** (Northampton County) – Little Gap had its highest passage rate ever (38 birds/hour vs. the previous record of 30 birds/hr set in 2002), as well as the highest passage rate in the state. Season record highs were set for Turkey Vultures (555), Red-shouldered Hawks (181), Cooper's Hawks (673) and total raptors (20,949). On 12 Sep, 4,663 broadwings passed through, which is a single-day record for that species. Other peak counts include Turkey Vultures (93 birds on 21 Oct), Northern Harriers (30 birds on 22 Oct), Bald Eagles (14 birds on both 31 Aug and 10 Sep), American Kestrels (25 birds on 21 Sep), Merlins (9 birds on 22 Oct). Osprey (67 on 22 Sep), Red-tailed Hawks (252 on 25 Oct), Red-shouldered Hawks (25 birds on 19 Nov), and Golden Eagles (9 birds on 25 Oct).

**Militia Hill** (Montgomery County) – The total number of raptors counted was 5,467. Broadwings, at 2,966, were lower than the 10 year average. The biggest numbers occurred on 20 Sep, when 546 broadwings were counted, along with 94 other raptors. Several records were set this year at Militia Hill. They included record season highs of Bald Eagles (73), Osprey (406), Sharp-shinned Hawks (1,153), Cooper's Hawks (194), Red-shouldered Hawks (72), and Golden Eagles (5). One-day peak flights include Osprey (42 birds on 25 Sep), Bald Eagles (6 birds on 3 Sep), Northern Harriers (8 birds on 22 Oct), Sharp-shinned Hawks (83 birds on 21 Oct), Red-shouldered Hawks (15 birds on 27 Oct), and American Kestrels (20 birds on 20 Sep).

**Rose Tree Park** (Delaware County) – At Rose Tree Park, record season highs included Black Vultures (117) and Peregrine Falcons (24). The broadwing flight peaked between 20 and 26 Sep (3954 birds; 78% of total flight). Other peak counts in Sep were Sharp-shinned Hawks (144 birds on 26 Sep), Osprey (30 birds on 26 Sep), Bald Eagles (8 birds on 10 Sep), and American Kestrels (31 birds on 17 Sep). Oct brought peak flights for Cooper's Hawks (22 birds on 1 Oct). Other peak counts included Red-shouldered Hawks (20

birds on Nov 1), Turkey Vultures (82 birds on 2 Nov), and Red-tailed Hawks (49 birds on 2 Nov).

**Second Mountain** (Lebanon County) – The month of Sep brought the first big flights of the season, accounting for 46% of the total flight. The majority of broadwings occurred between 8 - 29 Sep, reaching a total of 3,317 for the season. This was a record-breaking season for both Bald Eagles (129) and Golden Eagles (110). Except for Northern Goshawks (43 birds vs. 10 year average of 64 birds) and Broadwings (3317 birds vs. 10 year average of 4225 birds), all other species were above or close to the 10 year average. Oct held season highs for Sharp-shinned Hawks (207 birds on 22 Oct), Cooper's Hawks (22 birds on 8 Oct), Northern Goshawks (6 birds on Oct 31), Red-tailed Hawks (123 on 31 Oct). Nov held season peaks for Red-shouldered Hawks (23 birds on 2 Nov), and Golden Eagles (9 birds on 20 Nov).

**Stone Mountain** (Huntingdon County) – Stone Mountain had an above average year (6,688 birds). All season totals for individual species also were above or close to their 10 year average. All species, except Turkey Vultures, also were up from last year's count, including Osprey (118 vs. 66), Bald Eagles (62 vs. 25), Golden Eagles (174 vs. 91), Northern Harriers (149 vs. 52), Sharp-shinned Hawks (1352 vs. 788), American Kestrels (136 vs. 93), and Peregrine Falcons (30 vs. 9). Peak counts included Red-tailed Hawks (207 on 2 Nov), Golden Eagles (11 on both 17 Nov and 2 Dec), and American Kestrels (12 birds on 29 Sep).

**Tuscarora Summit** (Fulton County) – This season was the highest total count since 1991. Two records were broken: the high count for Broad-winged Hawks for a single day (2,662) and the high count of Bald Eagles for the season (57). All species were close to or above the 10 year average except for Black Vultures (16 vs. 30), Turkey Vultures (171 vs. 301), Northern Goshawks (0 vs. 6), Red-tailed Hawks (556 vs. 713), and Golden Eagles (27 vs. 39). Ninety-four percent of the broadwing flight passed between 12 and 18 Sep (peak count was on 12 Sep). Osprey also had their peak count on Sep 12 (12 birds). Other peak counts included Turkey Vultures (45; 14 Oct), Black Vultures (9; 10 Oct), Northern Harrier (13; 31 Oct), Sharp-shinned

Hawk (108; 3 Oct), Cooper's Hawks (7; 4 and 8 Oct 4), Golden Eagles (5; 31 Oct), Bald Eagles (5; 17 Sep and 31 Oct), American Kestrels (6; 4 Oct), Merlins (3; 31 Oct), and Peregrine Falcons (3; 29 Sep).

**Waggoner's Gap** (Cumberland County) – Season record highs were set for Bald Eagles (332), Golden Eagles (275), Osprey (682), and Peregrine Falcons (82). Overall, the site recorded more Bald Eagles, Golden Eagles, Northern Harriers (366), Osprey, Sharp-shinned Hawks (7,931), Cooper's Hawks (986), Red-shouldered Hawks (306), Peregrine Falcons, and Turkey Vultures (1,415) than any other site in Pennsylvania. All species' counts were close to or above the 10 year average, except for Northern Goshawks (29 vs. 99), Red-tailed Hawks (4239 vs. 4514), and Rough-legged Hawks (3 vs. 9). Most (93%) of the 6,926 broadwings occurred between 9 and 26 Sep. Other peak counts include Osprey (76; 12 Sep), Bald Eagles (20; 15 Sep), Merlins (5; 7 Oct), Black Vultures (23; 9 Dec), Turkey Vultures (163; 31 Oct), Sharp-shinned Hawks (722; 7 Oct), Cooper's Hawks (54; 7 Oct), American Kestrels (28; 15 Sep), Red-shouldered Hawk (41; 2 Nov), Red-tailed Hawk (261; 2 Nov), and Northern Harrier (26; 31 Oct).

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#### References:

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<b>Watchsite</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Hours of Observation</b>
Allegheny Front	Bedford	910
Bake Oven Knob	Lehigh	111
Hawk Mountain	Berks/Schuylkill	1116
Jack's Mountain	Mifflin	202
Little Gap	Northampton	556
Militia Hill	Montgomery	443
Rose Tree Park	Delaware	649
Second Mountain	Lebanon	1084
Stone Mountain	Huntington	285
Tuscarora Summit	Fulton	326
Waggoner's Gap	Cumberland	1186

**Table 3. Peak count dates for Osprey, Bald Eagle, and Broad-winged Hawk at Pennsylvania watchsites in autumn 2006.**

<b>Watchsite</b>	<b>Osprey</b>		<b>Bald Eagle</b>		<b>Broad-winged Hawk</b>	
	<b>Count</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Allegheny Front</b>	13	09/15	7	09/21	7978	09/14
<b>Bake Oven Knob</b>	77	09/21	12	09/09	4154	09/11
<b>Hawk Mountain</b>	90	09/26	15	09/10	7508	09/11
<b>Jack's Mountain</b>	11	09/11	6	09/14	616	09/11
<b>Little Gap</b>	67	09/21	14	09/09	4663	09/11
<b>Militia Hill</b>	42	09/24	6	09/15	546	09/19
<b>Rose Tree Park</b>	30	09/25	8	09/09	1402	09/19
<b>Second Mountain</b>	21	09/21	9	09/21	381	09/11
<b>Stone Mountain</b>	8	09/18	4	09/23	223	09/13
<b>Tuscarora Summit</b>	12	09/11	5	09/16	2662	09/11
<b>Waggoner's Gap</b>	76	09/11	20	09/14	1614	09/11

**Table 2. Hawkwatch Results for Autumn 2006 in Pennsylvania.**

ALLEGHENY FRONT (Bedford)  
Che Mincone, compiler

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	Unid	Total
August	17	132	6	0	11	23	0	30	8	0	2	129	21	0	0	10	2	0	17	259
September	30	225	1	69	87	32	17	215	35	0	1	13,831	76	0	1	36	10	17	80	14508
October	31	237	13	370	26	11	28	902	136	0	28	14	902	0	15	29	20	30	115	2,639
November	30	215	0	17	1	2	15	30	10	4	48	0	497	4	164	0	0	1	40	833
December	15	102	0	3	0	2	1	2	2	1	2	0	52	0	42	0	0	0	2	109
<b>Total</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>911</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>459</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>1,179</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>13,974</b>	<b>1548</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>18,348</b>
Total per hr			0.02	0.5	0.14	0.08	0.07	1.3	0.21	0.01	0.09	15.4	1.7	0.00	0.24	0.08	0.04	0.05	0.28	20.1
% of flight			0.11	2.5	0.7	0.4	0.3	6	1.0	0.0	0.4	76	8	0.0	1.2	0.4	0.2	0.3	1.4	100

**BAKE OVEN KNOB (Lehigh)**  
Dan Kunkle, compiler

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	Unid	Total
August	17	111	51	121	34	19	7	7	4	0	2	40	28	0	0	7	0	0	23	343
September	30	239	113	241	501	89	61	867	113	1	5	9675	99	0	0	122	40	31	145	12103
October	31	269	118	514	113	44	119	2957	310	11	89	20	1606	0	55	60	61	14	119	6092
November	26	183	48	81	1	19	60	221	42	4	128	0	1458	0	75	1	5	0	56	2199
<b>Total</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>802</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>957</b>	<b>649</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>4,052</b>	<b>469</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>9,735</b>	<b>3,191</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>20,737</b>
Total per hr			0.41	1.2	0.8	0.2	0.3	5.1	0.6	0.0	0.3	12.1	4.0	0	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.4	25.9
% of flight			1.6	4.6	3.1	0.8	1.2	20	2.3	0.1	1.1	47	15	0	0.6	0.9	0.5	0.2	1.7	100.0

**HAWK MOUNTAIN (Berks and Schuylkill)**  
Laurie Goodrich, compiler

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	U nid.	Total*
August	19	148	1	0	34	13	8	13	8	0	0	47	15	0	0	16	3	1	4	163
September	30	293	17	13	544	103	95	1039	206	0	7	11718	118	0	1	276	56	35	76	14305
October	31	306	19	289	94	44	113	4110	641	2	101	36	1739	0	60	119	132	26	133	7658
November	30	237	41	140	1	29	53	316	74	11	130	0	1822	1	78	1	12	0	84	2793
December	20	132	7	10	2	14	6	2	1	2	19	0	254	0	30	0	1	0	9	357
<b>Total</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>1116</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>452</b>	<b>675</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>5,480</b>	<b>930</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>11,801</b>	<b>3,948</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>412</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>25,276</b>
Total per hr			0.08	0.4	0.6	0.2	0.2	4.9	0.8	0	0.2	10.6	3.5	0	0.2	0.4	0.2	0	0.3	22.6
% of flight			0.3	1.8	2.7	0.8	1.1	22	3.7	0.1	1.0	47	16	0	0.7	1.6	0.8	0.2	1.2	100.0

\*Total includes one MK

**JACK'S MOUNTAIN (Mifflin)**  
Ron Singer, compiler

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	Unid.	Total
September	15	96	4	49	50	21	13	104	18	1	1	2578	28	0	0	50	2	0	2	2921
October	15	83	0	116	6	7	11	346	32	0	4	0	166	0	5	11	5	8	11	728
November	4	24	0	0	0	1	9	5	3	1	2	0	97	1	7	0	1	0	0	127
Total	34	203	4	165	56	29	33	455	53	2	7	2,578	291	1	12	61	8	8	13	<b>3,776</b>
Total per hr			0.02	0.8	0.3	0.1	0.2	2.3	0.3	0	0	12.8	1.4	0	0.1	0.3	0	0	0.1	18.7
% of flight			0.1	4.4	1.5	0.8	0.9	12	1.4	0.1	0.2	68	8	0	0.3	1.6	0.2	0.2	0.3	100

**LITTLE GAP (Northampton)**  
Michael Schall, compiler

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	Unid	Total
August	16	32	5	0	30	21	3	6	5	0	0	30	4	0	0	12	0	0	9	125
September	30	179	8	33	430	91	54	1155	140	0	8	11263	175	0	1	188	28	15	61	13650
October	31	181	39	437	70	28	74	2866	491	6	69	31	1310	0	38	61	47	25	66	5658
November	30	139	11	85	0	24	31	90	36	5	102	0	1082	1	37	1	2	0	9	1516
December	10	26	1	0	0	9	0	1	1	1	2	0	33	1	2	0	0	0	1	52
Total	117	557	64	555	530	173	162	4,118	673	12	181	11,324	2,604	2	78	262	77	40	146	<b>21,001</b>
Total per hr			0.1	1.0	1.0	0.3	0.3	7.4	1.2	0.02	0.3	20.4	4.7	0.004	0.1	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.3	37.8
% of flight			0.3	2.6	2.5	0.8	0.8	20	3.2	0.1	0.9	54	12	0	0.4	1.2	0.4	0.2	0.7	100

**MILITIA HILL (Montgomery)**  
Marylea Klauder, compiler

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	Unid	Total
September	30	212	2	0	298	46	25	439	50	0	14	2664	24	0	0	141	5	7	31	3746
October	31	231	17	60	108	27	49	714	144	2	58	302	98	0	5	79	17	6	44	1730
Total	61	443	19	60	406	73	74	1,153	194	2	72	2,966	122	0	5	220	22	13	75	<b>5,476</b>
Total per hr			0.04	0.1	0.9	0.2	0.2	2.6	0.4	0	0.2	7	0.3	0	0	0.5	0	0	0.2	12.4
% of flight			0.4	1.1	7.4	1.3	1.4	21.1	3.5	0	1.3	54	2.2	0	0	4.0	0.4	0.2	1.4	100.0

ROSE TREE PARK (Delaware)  
Jim Lockyer, compiler

Month	Days	Hours	TUVU	BLVU	OSPR	NOHA	BAEA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	U nid.	Total*
August	12	83	0	3	25	4	8	15	10	0	8	48	7	0	0	4	0	0	2	134
September	30	190	12	3	172	33	57	615	115	1	7	4253	21	0	0	158	21	4	27	5501
October	31	200	145	14	83	30	102	795	140	5	57	753	156	0	1	98	29	17	17	2425
November	30	177	249	97	1	22	35	264	42	8	128	0	281	0	4	3	8	3	11	1156
Total	103	650	406	117	281	89	202	1,689	307	14	200	5,054	465	0	5	263	58	24	57	9,216
Total per hr			0.6	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.3	2.6	0.5	0	0.3	7.8	0.7	0	0	0.4	0.1	0	0.1	14.2
% of flight			4.4	1.3	3.0	1.0	2.2	18	3.3	0.2	2.2	55	5.0	0	0	2.9	0.6	0.3	0.6	100.0

\*Total includes one MK

SECOND MOUNTAIN (Lebanon)  
David Schwenk, compiler

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	Unid	Total
August	31	198	0	3	7	10	1	10	6	1	5	111	64	0	1	7	0	0	3	229
September	30	244	0	0	173	53	55	518	71	6	3	3180	108	0	3	98	23	15	16	4322
October	31	265	30	294	35	48	72	1865	195	27	51	26	593	0	52	36	23	11	33	3391
November	29	201	153	184	1	15	41	117	22	5	101	0	658	1	46	1	1	0	28	1374
December	31	178	142	316	0	11	2	4	0	4	4	0	177	1	25	0	2	1	5	694
Total	152	1086	325	797	216	137	171	2,514	294	43	164	3,317	1,600	2	127	142	49	27	85	10,010
Total per hr			0.3	0.7	0.2	0.1	0.2	2.3	0.3	0.0	0.2	3.1	1.5	0	0.1	0.1	0	0	0.1	9.2
% of flight			3.2	8.0	2.2	1.4	1.7	25	2.9	0.4	1.6	33	16	0	1.3	1.4	0.5	0.3	0.8	100.0

STONE MOUNTAIN (Huntingdon)  
Greg Grove, compiler

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	Unid	Total
August	3	7	8	10	59	29	74	677	162	7	44	1088	912	2	80	68	21	15	64	3320
September	17	86	0	0	47	13	25	148	53	0	3	1076	25	0	0	52	5	8	23	1478
October	20	101	8	10	12	8	23	471	98	5	12	11	411	0	9	15	15	7	28	1143
November	13	64	0	0	0	3	26	56	10	2	29	0	444	1	53	1	1	0	11	637
December	6	28	0	0	0	9	1	0	1	0	3	0	60	1	32	0	0	0	3	110
Total	59	286	16	20	118	62	149	1,352	324	14	91	2,175	1,852	4	174	136	42	30	129	6,688
Total per hr			0.1	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.5	4.7	1.1	0	0.3	7.6	6.5	0	0.6	0.5	0.1	0	0.5	23.5
% of flight			0.2	0.3	1.8	0.9	2.2	20	4.8	0.2	1.4	33	28	0	2.6	2.0	0.6	0.4	1.9	100.0

TUSCARORA SUMMIT(Fulton)  
Dale Gearhart, compiler

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	Unid	Total
September	21	119	5	0	72	33	18	284	39	0	14	3752	32	0	3	27	3	7	42	4331
October	29	151	9	154	33	20	39	659	66	0	12	5	256	0	14	33	9	8	41	1358
November	12	56	2	17	0	4	21	27	6	0	6	0	268	0	10	0	0	0	13	374
Total	62	326	16	171	105	57	78	970	111	0	32	3,757	556	0	27	60	12	15	96	6,063
Total per hr.			0.1	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.2	3.0	0.3	0	0.1	11.5	1.7	0	0.1	0.2	0	0	0.3	18.6
% of flight			0.3	3	1.7	0.9	1.3	16	1.8	0.0	0.5	62	9	0	0.4	1.0	0.2	0.2	1.6	100.0

WAGONER'S GAP (Cumberland)  
David Grove, compiler

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	Unid	Total
August	31	207	0	0	23	32	9	22	18	0	4	142	11	0	0	44	0	0	7	312
September	29	259	0	0	556	183	119	2041	183	2	13	7233	87	0	4	221	22	45	60	10769
October	30	292	46	1061	101	74	159	5484	689	14	79	46	1676	0	69	89	57	34	92	9770
November	28	213	25	300	2	26	73	364	87	9	194	0	2006	1	137	3	3	2	24	3256
December	30	215	63	54	0	17	6	20	9	4	16	0	459	2	65	1	0	1	10	727
Total	148	1186	134	1,415	682	332	366	7,931	986	29	306	7,421	4,239	3	275	358	82	82	193	24,834
Total per hr			0.1	1.2	0.6	0.3	0.3	6.7	0.8	0.0	0.3	6.3	3.6	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.2	20.9
% of flight			0.5	5.7	2.7	1.3	1.5	32	4.0	0.1	1.2	30	17	0.0	1.1	1.4	0.3	0.3	0.8	100.0

TOTAL FOR ALL WATCHSITES

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	Unid	Total*
August	146	918	71	137	223	151	110	780	221	8	65	1,635	1,062	2	81	168	26	16	129	4,885
September	292	2142	162	408	2,930	697	539	7,425	1,023	11	76	71,223	793	0	13	1,369	215	184	563	87,634
October	311	2316	444	3,319	681	341	789	21,169	2,942	72	560	1,244	8,913	0	323	630	415	186	699	42,592
November	232	1509	529	921	7	145	364	1,490	332	49	868	0	8,613	10	611	11	33	6	276	14,265
December	112	681	213	383	2	62	16	29	14	12	46	0	1,035	5	196	1	3	2	30	2,049
Total	1,093	7566	1419	5,168	3,843	1,396	1,818	30,893	4,532	152	1,615	74,102	20,416	17	1,224	2,179	692	394	1,697	151,425
Total per hr			0.2	0.7	0.5	0.2	0.2	4.1	0.6	0.02	0.2	9.8	2.7	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.2	20.0
% of flight			0.9	3.4	2.5	0.9	1.2	20.4	3.0	0.1	1.1	48.9	13.5	0.01	0.8	1.4	0.5	0.3	1.1	100.0
% change from 2005**			-20.8	-10.3	29.5	12.7	-68.9	25.6	20.6	-76.5	-75.6	44.5	7.4	-88.9	-4.9	10.9	11.6	-12.4	-91.4	22.7

\*Total includes 2 Mississippi Kites

\*\*Total birds per hour in 2006 vs. total birds per hour in 2005

# OFFICIAL LIST OF THE BIRDS OF PENNSYLVANIA

## Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Nick Pulcinella - Secretary

The Official List of the Birds of Pennsylvania was first published in 1990 (PB V4:51). Subsequent editions were published in 1995 (PB V9:118-123) and 2000 (PB V14: 109). One of the responsibilities of the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee (P.O.R.C.) is to review the status of all species on the state list and to publish an Official State List every five years. The committee has completed its assignment and the following list is the result of its work.

### Definitions

#### CLASSIFICATION OF RECORDS

**Class I:** An accepted species documented by identifiable specimen, diagnostic photograph, or diagnostic recording.

**Class II:** An accepted sight record documented independently by two or more observers.

**Class III:** An accepted sight record documented independently by one observer.

The records must meet Class I criteria to be included on the Official List. Species in Class II and Class III are accepted to the **Provisional List** until they can be elevated to Class I status through submission of physical evidence (specimen, photograph, sound recording).

#### STATUS DEFINITION

**Regular:** Species recorded 8,9, or 10 of the last ten years.

**Casual:** Species recorded 4,5,6, or 7 of the last ten years.

**Accidental:** Species recorded 3 or fewer of the last ten years.

**Extirpated:** A previously regularly occurring species that has not been recorded in fifty years.

**Extinct:** Species which no longer exists.

Note: These definitions reflect the number of years in which the species has been recorded, not the number of occurrences within one year. Therefore, 100 occurrences in one year in the last ten years would still be classified as Accidental.

#### DOCUMENTATION

**Bold-faced/Underlined** species and any species not already on the list are classified as rarities, and sightings of these species therefore require a specimen, photograph, recording, or

one or more written descriptions for consideration of acceptance by P.O.R.C.

The distribution of certain rarities varies widely according to geographical location within Pennsylvania. Therefore, some species are exempt from the documentation requirement in certain areas and are noted in the list below. For example, Great Cormorant occurs annually along the Delaware River in *Bucks, Delaware, and Philadelphia* counties, but is extremely rare elsewhere in the state. For this reason, sightings of Great Cormorant in *Bucks, Delaware and Philadelphia* counties do not need documentation in order to be verified but require documentation for acceptance when found outside these areas.

#### NOMENCLATURE

The taxonomic treatment and species sequence follows the changes made in the 42<sup>nd</sup>, 43<sup>rd</sup>, 44<sup>th</sup>, 45<sup>th</sup> and 46<sup>th</sup> Supplements to the 1998 AOU Checklist, as published in *Auk* 117:847-858 (2000); 119:897-906 (2002); 120:923-931 (2003); 121:985-995 (2004); and 122:1026-1031 (2005).

#### THE PENNSYLVANIA LIST

This fourth third edition of the Official List contains 401 species in Class I, 4 species on the extirpated list and 2 on the extinct list. The Provisional list contains 8 species.

There are 18 additions to the Official State List since the publication of the third edition in 2000. The additions are given below. The year in parenthesis indicates the original date of documentation if different from the date the species was added to the list.

**Changes in the Pennsylvania List since the last edition that resulted from changes in the AOU checklist are given below.**

#### Changes in English names:

Oldsquaw becomes Long-tailed Duck (*Clangula hyemalis*)

Rock Dove becomes Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*)

#### Changes in scientific names:

Purple Gallinule (*Porphyryula martinica*) becomes (*Porphyrio martinica*)

Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicaria*) becomes (*Phalaropus fulicarius*)  
 Eastern Screech-Owl (*Otus asio*) becomes (*Megascops asio*)  
 Snowy Owl (*Nyctea scandiaca*) becomes (*Bubo scandiacus*)  
 Boreal Chickadee (*Poecile hudsonicus*) becomes (*Poecile hudsonica*)  
 Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapillus*) becomes (*Seiurus aurocapilla*)  
 Blue Grosbeak (*Guiraca caerulea*) becomes (*Passerina caerulea*)

**Change in the Pennsylvania List as a result of splits in the AOU checklist:**

Common Snipe becomes Wilson's Snipe (*Gallinago delicata*) split from (*Gallinago gallinago*)

**Addition to the Pennsylvania List as a result of splits in the AOU checklist:**

Cackling Goose (*Branta hutchinsii*)

**Additions to the Pennsylvania List:**

Greater Shearwater - added in 1999 by photograph.  
 Band-rumped Storm-Petrel - added in 2006 by photograph (2003).  
 White-tailed Tropicbird – added in 2002 from specimen collected in 1954.  
 Anhinga - moved from Provisional List in 2006 by photograph.  
 Long-billed Curlew – added in 2005 by photograph.  
 Curlew Sandpiper – added in 2002 by photograph.  
 Long-tailed Jaeger – added in 2000 by photograph.  
 California Gull - added in 2002 by photograph.  
 Black Guillemot – added in 1999 by photograph.  
 Calliope Hummingbird – added in 2002 by photograph.  
 Hammond's Flycatcher – added in 2000 by photograph.  
 Ash-throated Flycatcher - added in 1997 by photograph.  
 Gray Kingbird - added in 2004 by photograph.  
 Fork-tailed Flycatcher – added in 2006 by photograph.  
 Cave Swallow – moved from Provisional List in 2006 by photograph.  
 Redwing – added in 2005 by photograph.  
 MacGillivray's Warbler – added in 2004 by photograph.

**Class I - 401 SPECIES**

**Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*) Accidental.  
**Pink-footed Goose** (*Anser brachyrhynchus*) Casual.  
 Greater White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*) Regular.  
 Snow Goose (*Chen caerulescens*) Regular  
 Ross' Goose (*Chen rossii*) Regular.  
 Brant (*Branta bernicla*) Regular.  
 Cackling Goose (*Branta hutchinsii*) Regular

Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*) Regular.  
 Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*) Regular  
 Tundra Swan (*Cygnus columbianus*) Regular.  
 Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*) Regular.  
 Gadwall (*Anas strepera*) Regular  
 Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*) Regular  
 American Wigeon (*Anas americana*) Regular  
 American Black Duck (*Anas rubripes*) Regular  
 Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) Regular.  
 Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*) Regular  
**Cinnamon Teal** (*Anas cyanoptera*) Accidental  
 Northern Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*) Regular  
 Northern Pintail (*Anas acuta*) Regular  
 Green-winged Teal (*Anas crecca*) Regular.  
 Canvasback (*Aythya valisineria*) Regular  
 Redhead (*Aythya americana*) Regular.  
 Ring-necked Duck (*Aythya collaris*) Regular  
**Tufted Duck** (*Aythya fuligula*) Accidental.  
 Greater Scaup (*Aythya marila*) Regular.  
 Lesser Scaup (*Aythya affinis*) Regular.  
**King Eider** (*Somateria spectabilis*) Accidental  
**Harlequin Duck** (*Histrionicus histrionicus*) Accidental  
 White-winged Scoter (*Melanitta fusca*) Regular  
 Surf Scoter (*Melanitta perspicillata*) Regular  
 Black Scoter (*Melanitta nigra*) Regular.  
 Long-tailed Duck (*Clangula hyemalis*) Regular.  
 Bufflehead (*Bucephala albeola*) Regular.  
 Common Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*) Regular  
**Barrow's Goldeneye** (*Bucephala islandica*) Accidental.  
 Hooded Merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*) Regular  
 Common Merganser (*Mergus merganser*) Regular  
 Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*) Regular  
**Masked Duck** (*Nomonyx dominica*) Accidental  
 Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*)  
 Ring-necked Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*) Regular  
 Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*) Regular  
 Wild Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*) Regular.  
 Northern Bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*) Regular.  
 Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*) Regular.  
**Pacific Loon** (*Gavia pacifica*) Accidental.  
 Common Loon (*Gavia immer*) Regular.  
 Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*) Regular.  
 Horned Grebe (*Podiceps auritus*) Regular.  
 Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*)  
 Eared Grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*) Regular.  
**Black-capped Petrel** (*Pterodroma hasitata*) Accidental.  
**Cory's Shearwater** (*Calonectris diomedea*) Accidental.  
**Greater Shearwater** (*Puffinus gravis*) Accidental  
**Leach's Storm-Petrel** (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*) Accidental.  
**Band-rumped Storm-Petrel** (*Oceanodroma castro*) Accidental  
**White-tailed Tropicbird** (*Phaethon lepturus*) Accidental  
**Northern Gannet** (*Morus bassanus*) Accidental.  
 American White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) Regular.  
**Brown Pelican** (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) Accidental.  
 Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) Regular.  
**Great Cormorant** (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) Regular. (Bucks, Delaware, Northampton, Philadelphia exempt).  
**Anhinga** (*Anhinga anhinga*) Accidental.

**Magnificent Frigatebird** (*Fregata magnificens*) Accidental.  
 American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*) Regular.  
 Least Bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*) Regular.  
 Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) Regular.  
 Great Egret (*Ardea alba*) Regular.  
 Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*) Regular.  
 Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*) Regular.  
**Tricolored Heron** (*Egretta tricolor*) Regular.  
**Cattle Egret** (*Bubulcus ibis*) Regular.  
 Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*) Regular.  
 Black-crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) Regular.  
**Yellow-crowned Night Heron** (*Nyctanassa violacea*) Regular.  
**White Ibis** (*Eudocimus albus*) Casual (status change)  
**Glossy Ibis** (*Plegadis falcinellus*) Regular.  
**Roseate Spoonbill** (*Ajaia ajaia*) Accidental  
**Wood Stork** (*Mycteria americana*) Casual  
 Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*) Regular.  
 Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*) Regular.  
 Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) Regular.  
**Swallow-tailed Kite** (*Elanoides forficatus*) Casual  
**Mississippi Kite** (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) Casual.  
 Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) Regular.  
 Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*) Regular.  
 Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter striatus*) Regular.  
 Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*) Regular.  
 Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*) Regular.  
 Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*) Regular.  
 Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*) Regular.  
**Swainson's Hawk** (*Buteo swainsoni*) Accidental  
 Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) Regular.  
 Rough-legged Hawk (*Buteo lagopus*) Regular.  
 Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) Regular  
 American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*) Regular  
 Merlin (*Falco columbarius*) Regular  
**Gyrfalcon** (*Falco rusticolus*) Accidental  
 Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) Regular.  
**Yellow Rail** (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*) Accidental.  
**Black Rail** (*Laterallus jamaicensis*) Accidental.  
**Clapper Rail** (*Rallus longirostris*) Accidental.  
**King Rail** (*Rallus elegans*) Casual  
 Virginia Rail (*Rallus limicola*) Regular.  
 Sora (*Porzana carolina*) Regular.  
**Spotted Rail** (*Pardirallus maculatus*) Accidental.  
**Purple Gallinule** (*Porphyrio martinica*) Accidental.  
 Common Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*) Regular.  
 American Coot (*Fulica americana*) Regular.  
 Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*) Regular.  
 Black-bellied Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*) Regular.  
 American Golden-Plover (*Pluvialis dominica*) Regular.  
**Snowy Plover** (*Charadrius alexandrinus*) Accidental.  
**Wilson's Plover** (*Charadrius wilsonia*) Accidental.  
 Semipalmated Plover (*Charadrius semipalmatus*) Regular.  
**Piping Plover** (*Charadrius melodus*) Casual  
 Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*) Regular.  
**American Oystercatcher** (*Haematopus palliatus*) Accidental.  
**Black-necked Stilt** (*Himantopus mexicanus*) Casual.  
 American Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*) Regular.  
 Greater Yellowlegs (*Tringa melanoleuca*) Regular.

Lesser Yellowlegs (*Tringa flavipes*) Regular.  
 Solitary Sandpiper (*Tringa solitaria*) Regular.  
 Willet (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*) Regular.  
 Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*) Regular.  
 Upland Sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*) Casual  
**Long-billed Curlew** (*Numenius americanus*) Accidental  
**Whimbrel** (*Numenius phaeopus*) Regular.(Exempt in Erie and Lancaster)  
**Hudsonian Godwit** (*Limosa haemastica*) Casual  
**Marbled Godwit** (*Limosa fedoa*) Casual.  
 Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*) Regular.  
 Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*) Regular.  
 Sanderling (*Calidris alba*) Regular.  
 Semipalmated Sandpiper (*Calidris pusilla*) Regular.  
 Western Sandpiper (*Calidris mauri*) Regular.  
 Least Sandpiper (*Calidris minutilla*) Regular.  
 White-rumped Sandpiper (*Calidris fuscicollis*) Regular.  
 Baird's Sandpiper (*Calidris bairdii*) Regular.  
 Pectoral Sandpiper (*Calidris melantus*) Regular.  
**Purple Sandpiper** (*Calidris maritima*) Casual (Exempt in Erie)  
 Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*) Regular.  
**Curlew Sandpiper** (*Calidris ferruginea*) Accidental  
 Stilt Sandpiper (*Calidris himantopus*) Regular.  
 Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Tryngites subruficollis*) Regular.  
**Ruff** (*Philomachus pugnax*) Accidental.  
 Short-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus griseus*) Regular.  
 Long-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus scolopaceus*) Regular.  
 Wilson's Snipe (*Gallinago delicata*) Regular.  
 American Woodcock (*Scolopax minor*) Regular.  
 Wilson's Phalarope (*Phalaropus tricolor*) Regular.  
 Red-necked Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*) Regular.  
**Red Phalarope** (*Phalaropus fulicarius*) Casual Exempt in Erie)  
**Pomarine Jaeger** (*Stercorarius pomarinus*) Casual  
**Parasitic Jaeger** (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) Casual.  
**Long-tailed Jaeger** (*Stercorarius longicaudus*) Accidental  
 Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*) Regular.  
**Franklin's Gull** (*Larus pipixcan*) Regular. (Exempt in Erie)  
**Little Gull** (*Larus minutus*) Regular. (Exempt in Erie ??)  
**Black-headed Gull** (*Larus ridibundus*) Regular.  
 Bonaparte's Gull (*Larus philadelphia*) Regular.  
**Mew Gull** (*Larus canus*) Accidental.  
 Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*) Regular.  
**California Gull** (*Larus californicus*) Accidental  
 Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*) Regular.  
**Thayer's Gull** (*Larus thayeri*) Regular. (Adults only reviewed)  
 Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucooides*) Regular.  
 Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*) Regular.  
 Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*) Regular.  
 Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*) Regular.  
**Sabine's Gull** (*Xena sabinii*) Casual  
**Black-Legged Kittiwake** (*Rissa tridactyla*) Casual.  
**Ross's Gull** (*Rhodostethia rosea*) Accidental.  
**Gull-billed Tern** (*Sterna nilotica*) Casual  
 Caspian Tern (*Sterna caspia*) Regular.  
**Royal Tern** (*Sterna maxima*) Accidental.  
**Roseate Tern** (*Sterna dougallii*) Accidental.  
 Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*) Regular.  
**Arctic Tern** (*Sterna paradisaea*) Casual  
 Forster's Tern (*Sterna forsteri*) Regular.

Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum*) Casual.  
**Sooty Tern** (*Sterna fuscata*) Accidental.  
 Black Tern (*Chlidonias niger*) Regular.  
**Black Skimmer** (*Rynchops niger*) Casual.  
**Dovekie** (*Alle alle*) Accidental.  
**Thick-billed Murre** (*Uria lomvia*) Accidental.  
**Black Guillemot** (*Cephus grylle*) Accidental.  
**Ancient Murrelet** (*Synthliboramphus antiquus*) Accidental.  
 Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*) Regular.  
**Eurasian Collared Dove** (*Streptopelia decaocto*) Casual.  
**White-winged Dove** (*Zenaida asiatica*) Accidental  
 Mourning Dove (*Zenaida macroura*) Regular.  
**Common Ground-Dove** (*Columbina passerina*) Accidental.  
 Black-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*) Regular.  
 Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*) Regular.  
 Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) Regular.  
 Eastern Screech-Owl (*Megascops asio*) Regular.  
 Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*) Regular.  
 Snowy Owl (*Bubo scandiacus*) Regular.  
**Northern Hawk Owl** (*Surnia ulula*) Accidental.  
 Barred Owl (*Strix varia*) Regular.  
**Great Gray Owl** (*Strix nebulosa*) Accidental.  
 Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus*) Regular.  
 Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*) Regular.  
**Boreal Owl** (*Aegolius funereus*) Accidental.  
 Northern Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*) Regular.  
 Common Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*) Regular.  
**Chuck-wills-widow** (*Caprimulgus carolinensis*) Casual.  
 Whip-poor-will (*Caprimulgus vociferus*) Regular  
 Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*) Regular.  
 Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*) Regular.  
**Calliope Hummingbird** (*Stellula calliope*) Accidental.  
 Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*) Regular.  
 Belted Kingfisher (*Ceryle alcyon*) Regular.  
 Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) Regular.  
 Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Melanerpes carolinus*) Regular.  
 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*) Regular.  
 Downy Woodpecker (*Picoides pubescens*) Regular.  
 Hairy Woodpecker (*Picoides villosus*)  
**Black-backed Woodpecker** (*Picoides arcticus*) Accidental.  
 Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*) Regular.  
 Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*) Regular.  
 Olive-sided Flycatcher (*Contopus cooperi*) Regular.  
 Eastern Wood-Pewee (*Contopus virens*) Regular.  
 Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (*Empidonax flaviventris*) Regular.  
 Acadian Flycatcher (*Empidonax virescens*) Regular.  
 Alder Flycatcher (*Empidonax alnorum*) Regular.  
 Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*) Regular.  
 Least Flycatcher (*Empidonax minimus*) Regular.  
**Hammond's Flycatcher** (*Empidonax hammondi*) Accidental.  
**Pacific Slope Flycatcher** (*Empidonax difficilis*) Accidental.  
 Eastern Phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*) Regular.  
**Say's Phoebe** (*Sayornis saya*) Accidental.  
**Vermilion Flycatcher** (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*) Accidental.  
**Ash-throated Flycatcher** (*Myiarchus cinerascens*) Accidental.  
 Great Crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus crinitus*) Regular.  
**Western Kingbird** (*Tyrannus verticalis*) Casual.  
 Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*) Regular.

**Gray Kingbird** (*Tyrannus dominicensis*) Accidental.  
**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** (*Tyrannus forficatus*) Accidental.  
**Fork-tailed Flycatcher** (*Tyrannus savana*) Accidental.  
**Loggerhead Shrike** (*Lanius ludovicianus*) Regular  
 Northern Shrike (*Lanius excubitor*) Casual.  
 White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus*) Regular.  
 Yellow-throated Vireo (*Vireo flavifrons*) Regular.  
 Blue-headed Vireo (*Vireo solitarius*) Regular.  
 Warbling Vireo (*Vireo gilvus*) Regular.  
 Philadelphia Vireo (*Vireo philadelphicus*) Regular.  
 Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*) Regular  
 Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*) Regular.  
 American Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) Regular.  
 Fish Crow (*Corvus ossifragus*) Regular.  
 Common Raven (*Corvus corax*) Regular  
 Horned Lark (*Eremophila alpestris*) Regular.  
 Purple Martin (*Progne subis*) Regular.  
 Tree Swallow (*Tachycineta bicolor*) Regular.  
 Northern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*) Regular.  
 Bank Swallow (*Riparia riparia*) Regular.  
 Cliff Swallow (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*) Regular.  
**Cave Swallow** (*Petrochelidon fulva*) Accidental.  
 Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) Regular.  
 Carolina Chickadee (*Poecile carolinensis*) Regular  
 Black-capped Chickadee (*Poecile atricapillus*) Regular.  
**Boreal Chickadee** (*Poecile hudsonica*) Accidental.  
 Tufted Titmouse (*Baeolophus bicolor*) Regular.  
 Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*) Regular.  
 White-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis*) Regular.  
 Brown Creeper (*Certhia americana*) Regular.  
 Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*) Regular.  
**Bewick's Wren** (*Thryomanes bewickii*) Accidental.  
 House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*) Regular.  
 Winter Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*) Regular.  
**Sedge Wren** (*Cistothorus platensis*) Casual.  
 Marsh Wren (*Cistothorus palustris*) Regular.  
 Golden-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus satrapa*) Regular.  
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus calendula*) Regular.  
 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila caerulea*) Regular.  
**Northern Wheatear** (*Oenanthe oenanthe*) Accidental.  
 Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*) Regular.  
**Mountain Bluebird** (*Sialia currucoides*) Accidental.  
**Townsend's Solitaire** (*Myadestes townsendi*) Accidental.  
 Veery (*Catharus fuscescens*) Regular.  
 Gray-cheeked Thrush (*Catharus minimus*) Regular.  
**Bicknell's Thrush** (*Catharus bicknelli*) Accidental  
 Swainson's Thrush (*Catharus ustulatus*) Regular.  
 Hermit Thrush (*Catharus guttatus*) Regular.  
 Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*) Regular.  
**Redwing** (*Turdus iliacus*) Accidental.  
 American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) Regular.  
**Varied Thrush** (*Ixoreus naevius*) Casual.  
 Gray Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*) Regular.  
 Northern Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*) Regular.  
 Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*) Regular.  
 European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) Regular.  
 American Pipit (*Anthus rubescens*) Regular.  
**Bohemian Waxwing** (*Bombicilla garrulus*) Casual.

Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) Regular.  
 Blue-winged Warbler (*Vermivora pinus*) Regular.  
 Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*) Regular.  
 Tennessee Warbler (*Vermivora peregrina*) Regular.  
 Orange-crowned Warbler (*Vermivora celata*) Regular.  
 Nashville Warbler (*Vermivora ruficapilla*) Regular.  
 Northern Parula (*Parula americana*) Regular.  
 Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia*) Regular.  
 Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Dendroica pensylvanica*) Regular.  
 Magnolia Warbler (*Dendroica magnolia*) Regular.  
 Cape May Warbler (*Dendroica tigrina*) Regular.  
 Black-throated Blue Warbler (*Dendroica caerulescens*) Regular.  
 Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Dendroica coronata*) Regular.  
**Black-throated Gray Warbler** (*Dendroica nigrescens*) Casual.  
 Black-throated Green Warbler (*Dendroica virens*) Regular.  
**Townsend's Warbler** (*Dendroica townsendi*) Accidental.  
 Blackburnian Warbler (*Dendroica fusca*) Regular.  
 Yellow-throated Warbler (*Dendroica dominica*) Regular.  
 Pine Warbler (*Dendroica pinus*) Regular.  
**Kirtland's Warbler** (*Dendroica kirtlandii*) Casual.  
 Prairie Warbler (*Dendroica discolor*) Regular.  
 Palm Warbler (*Dendroica palmarum*) Regular.  
 Bay-breasted Warbler (*Dendroica castanea*) Regular.  
 Blackpoll Warbler (*Dendroica striata*) Regular.  
 Cerulean Warbler (*Dendroica cerulea*) Regular.  
 Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*) Regular.  
 American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*) Regular.  
 Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*) Regular.  
 Worm-eating Warbler (*Helmitheros vermivorus*) Regular.  
**Swainson's Warbler** (*Limnithlypis swainsonii*) Casual.  
 Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapilla*) Regular.  
 Northern Waterthrush (*Seiurus noveboracensis*) Regular.  
 Louisiana Waterthrush (*Seiurus motacilla*) Regular.  
 Kentucky Warbler (*Oporornis formosus*) Regular.  
 Connecticut Warbler (*Oporornis agilis*) Regular.  
 Mourning Warbler (*Oporornis philadelphia*) Regular.  
**MacGillivray's Warbler** (*Oporornis tolmiei*) Accidental.  
 Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*) Regular.  
 Hooded Warbler (*Wilsonia citrina*) Regular.  
 Wilson's Warbler (*Wilsonia pusilla*) Regular.  
 Canada Warbler (*Wilsonia canadensis*) Regular.  
 Yellow-breasted Chat (*Icteria virens*) Regular.  
**Summer Tanager** (*Piranga rubra*) Regular.  
 Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*) Regular.  
**Western Tanager** (*Piranga ludoviciana*) Accidental.  
**Green-tailed Towhee** (*Pipilo chlorurus*) Accidental.  
**Spotted Towhee** (*Pipilo maculatus*) Accidental  
 Eastern Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*) Regular  
 American Tree Sparrow (*Spizella arborea*) Regular.  
 Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella passerina*) Regular.  
 Clay-colored Sparrow (*Spizella pallida*) Regular.  
 Field Sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*) Regular.  
 Vesper Sparrow (*Pooecetes gramineus*) Regular.  
**Lark Sparrow** (*Chondestes grammacus*) Casual.  
**Lark Bunting** (*Calamospiza melanocorys*) Accidental.  
 Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*) Regular.  
 Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*) Regular.  
 Henslow's Sparrow (*Ammodramus henslowii*) Regular.

**LeConte's Sparrow** (*Ammodramus leconteii*) Casual.  
 Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Ammodramus nelsoni*) Regular.  
**Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow** (*Ammodramus caudacutus*) Accidental  
**Seaside Sparrow** (*Ammodramus maritimus*) Accidental.  
 Fox Sparrow (*Passerella iliaca*) Regular.  
 Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*) Regular.  
 Lincoln's Sparrow (*Melospiza lincolni*) Regular.  
 Swamp Sparrow (*Melospiza georgiana*) Regular.  
 White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*) Regular  
**Harris' Sparrow** (*Zonotrichia querula*) Casual.  
 White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*) Regular.  
**Golden-crowned Sparrow** (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*) Accidental.  
 Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis*) Regular.  
 Lapland Longspur (*Calcarius lapponicus*) Regular.  
 Snow Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis*) Regular.  
 Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*) Regular.  
 Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*) Regular.  
**Black-headed Grosbeak** (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*) Accidental.  
**Blue Grosbeak** (*Passerina caerulea*) Regular. (Exempt in Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Lancaster, Philadelphia, and York)  
**Lazuli Bunting** (*Passerina amoena*) Accidental.  
 Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*) Regular.  
**Painted Bunting** (*Passerina ciris*) Casual.  
 Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*) Regular.  
 Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*) Regular.  
 Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) Regular.  
 Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*) Regular.  
**Western Meadowlark** (*Sturnella neglecta*) Casual.  
**Yellow-headed Blackbird** (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*) Regular.  
 Rusty Blackbird (*Euphagus carolinus*) Regular.  
 Brewer's Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*) Regular.  
 Common Crackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*) Regular.  
 Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) Regular.  
 Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*) Regular.  
 Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*) Regular  
**Bullock's Oriole** (*Icterus bullockii*) Accidental  
**Brambling** (*Fringilla montifringilla*) Accidental.  
**Pine Grosbeak** (*Pinicola enucleator*) Regular.  
 Purple Finch (*Carpodacus purpureus*) Regular.  
 House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*) Regular.  
 Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*) Regular.  
 White-winged Crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*) Regular.  
 Common Redpoll (*Carduelis flammea*) Regular.  
**Hoary Redpoll** (*Carduelis hornemannii*) Accidental  
 Pine Siskin (*Carduelis pinus*) Regular.  
 American Goldfinch (*Carduelis tristis*) Regular.  
 Evening Grosbeak (*Coccothraustes vespertinus*) Regular.  
 House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) Regular.

#### EXTIRPATED - 4 SPECIES

Greater Prairie-Chicken (*Tympanuchus cupido*)  
 Eskimo Curlew (*Numenius borealis*)  
 Brown-headed Nuthatch (*Sitta pusilla*)  
 Bachman's Sparrow (*Aimophila aestivalis*)

#### EXTINCT - 2 SPECIES

Passenger Pigeon (*Ectopistes migratorius*)  
Carolina Parakeet (*Conuropsis carolinensis*)

## TOTAL - 407 SPECIES

**Provisional List** - Although no species is accepted on the official Pennsylvania list without documentation by specimen, photograph or tape-recording, the Committee may accept sight records (i.e. for species not on the state list) which are supported by written details alone. Such species are added to this "Provisional List". If documentation in the form of specimen, photograph, or tape recording finally becomes available, the species is then moved to the state list.

**Common Eider** (*Somateria pscherei*) Accidental  
**Northern Fulmar** (*Fulmarus glacialis*) Accidental.  
**Black-tailed Godwit** (*Limosa limosa*) Accidental  
**Surfbird** (*Aphriza virgata*) Accidental.  
**Band-tailed Pigeon** (*Columba fasciata*) Accidental  
**apus sp.** (*Apus*). Accidental  
**Lewis's Woodpecker** (*Melanerpes lewis*) Accidental  
**Violet-green Swallow** (*Tachycineta thalassina*) Accidental

## Recognizable forms and subspecies

This is a list of recognizable forms and subspecies that have occurred in Pennsylvania and which documentation of future sightings is requested.

**"Black" Brant** (*Branta bernicla nigricans*).  
**Green-winged (Common) Teal** (*Anas crecca crecca*).  
**"Eastern" Willet** (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus semipalmatus*).  
**Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler** (*Dendroica coronata auduboni*).  
**White-crowned (Gambell's) Sparrow** (*Zonotrichia leucophrys gambelii*).  
**Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco** (*Junco hyemalis thurberi*).

## Acknowledgments:

Everyone who has birded in Pennsylvania and reported their record(s) for publication has contributed to this Official List. P.O.R.C. wishes to thank the many observers who took the time to submit photographs and written documentation of bird species in Pennsylvania.

## REQUESTS FOR CORRECTIONS AND RECORDS

This Official List should not be considered as the final word on Pennsylvania birdlife. It is only our knowledge to the

present, and will be outdated soon after it is published. Undoubtedly, there will be errors, typographical or technical, and perhaps omissions. When these are noted or when authentic records are obtained for species that are not listed, that information should be forwarded to the **Pennsylvania Ornithological Records, Nick Pulcinella, Secretary. 613 Howard Road, West Chester, PA 19380.**

## Book Review: Gene Wilhelm

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**JOHN JAMES AUDUBON: THE MAKING OF AN AMERICAN** by Richard Rhodes.

516 pp., including 16 copies of Audubon's original paintings, 85 black and white illustrations and 4 maps, copious notes (pp. 439-479), bibliography (pp. 481-489), acknowledgments, and index (pp. 493-514). Alfred A. Knopf, New York. Hard cover, \$30.

Occasionally a book is received for review that demands immediate and full attention in reading it from cover to cover. *John James Audubon: The Making of an American* by the Pulitzer-writing historian and biographer Richard Rhodes is such a rare tome. The book even has an important connection to Pennsylvania.

Jean Rabin – his name until he was eight years old – was born out of wedlock in Saint Domingue (later called Haiti) on April 26, 1785 and, although his father and his wife welcomed him into their home in Nantes, France, all were aware that “in France bastard children were denied inheritance.” Not so in America, to which the renamed eighteen year-old John James Audubon came in 1803. His father, Jean Audubon, owned a plantation called Mill Grove on Perkiomen Creek near its junction with the Schuylkill River northwest of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, close above Valley Forge. And that is where he settled. His father had sent his cherished only son to America to escape conscription into the forces Napoleon Bonaparte was mustering for his war with England.

Wherever Audubon went from youth to old age, he watched birds. On his passage from Nantes, France, at the Grand Banks off Newfoundland miles from shore, he scattered ship's biscuit on the deck and enticed migrating Brown Titlarks (American Pipits) to land and feed. “They came on board wearied,” he wrote, “and so hungry that the crumbs of biscuit thrown to them were picked up with the greatest activity.” Audubon studied birds in fables to learn their habits, patterns and systems of living. He had begun drawing birds in France but once in America he “formed the resolution, immediately on my landing, to spend, if not all my time in that study, at least all that portion generally called leisure, and to draw each individual of its

natural size and coloring.” This is retrospect, of course, but it catches the eighteen-year-old's excitement, determination and bravado. In fact, he wanted to make art of bird illustrations to bring the birds he drew back to animated life, “to complete a collection not only valuable to the scientific class, but pleasing to every person.” At the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, it must be recalled, hardly any American birds had been described and museum specimens were unrealistic and lifeless. Thus, Audubon's ‘real work’ at Mill Grove was his committed investigation of the natural world around him in Pennsylvania, focused on observing, collecting, mounting and drawing birds.

Actually, Audubon began drawing birds as a child in France but in America this passion grew into an obsession. He was single-minded in this devotion, driven by a desire literally to revivify the dead. Luckily he found time to wed a singularly patient English ‘girl next door’ to Mill Grove, Lucy Bakewell, who traveled with him across the Appalachians to Kentucky to establish a general store, scarcely complaining about the hardships of the journey. However, his business venture failed due to a depression in 1819 that was beyond his control. Nevertheless, for him, birds overshadowed everything except his devotion to his wife, Lucy, who encouraged him in all his endeavors and supported the family when he went on quests for new birds to paint.

Traveling into the American wilderness, Audubon, completely at home on the frontier, observed birds endlessly. In fact, Audubon gave us the first comprehensive portraits and filed observations of American birds, reporting in detail on more than 400 species that he traveled from Labrador to Florida and Galveston Bay to observe. It must be remembered that in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century to draw a bird one had to shoot it first.

Audubon shot, collected, mounted and drew. And after he drew, he dissected, investigating the bird's anatomy and what it ate. Sometimes he shot multiple ‘specimens’ to determine the type and preserve the skins for museums. Then, since he was in the wilderness for weeks at a time collecting and drawing, he almost always cooked and ate the carcasses. Today, people do not realize that wild birds, even songbirds, were considered a valuable food resource and were shot in great numbers for sale in local markets.

Audubon aspired to create a great work of art that would also be a great work of natural history and ornithology. *The Birds of America*, his four-volume masterpiece of 435 hand-colored engraved prints – each 29.5 inches wide and 39.5 inches high – gave all the American birds known at that time at life size in all their colorful glory of attitude and display. Even these generous proportions barely accommodated the lifelike portraits of some of the larger birds, which forced the naturalist to cram them within the frame in striking poses, like the Whooping Crane bending its long neck to eat a baby alligator. Audubon's great challenge was how to set up his freshly killed specimens so that he could draw them as if animated and alive. He tried drawing in the field but simply could not get close enough to the birds to sketch them going about their routine activities. Then, he awoke one morning at Mill Grove with an inspiration: make a grid mounting board studded with sharpened spikes on which he could impale his recently killed specimens in lifelike positions, ones he had observed carefully in the field. The grid made it easy to transfer an outline to his paper. Audubon was nineteen years old at the time. That was the beginning but he still had years of careful study and work to do before his drawings took on realistic life. Every year

or two he deliberately destroyed most of his recent drawings to force himself to improve. It was only in the mid-1820s, when Audubon was in his 30s, that he finally achieved his mature style. The Edinburgh engraver William Lizars had engraved many bird illustrations before Audubon presented his portfolio to him in 1826. Lizars' initial response to Audubon's work was: "My God, I never saw anything like this before."

Rhodes deserves a great deal of gratitude for his painstaking in-depth research into the life of Audubon. In fact, Rhodes proves that there is still fresh ground to be tilled from examining the copious journals and letters of the John James Audubon family. Rhodes illuminates the American frontier of the early 19<sup>th</sup> century with a deft use of precise details.

Scores of quotations, short and long, bring to life the voices of Audubon, Lucy, family, friends and, yes, even the milieu in which they lived. For me, reading this book was like writing my own personal daily journal on site in place of Audubon. Indeed, most of the quotes were taken directly from the journals and letters of Audubon himself. Further, although not a naturalist, Rhodes uses the names for birds, other animals and plants that Audubon used and often gives the current nomenclature in parentheses when they differ. Thus the vivid and authentic descriptions of birds, other animals and their habitats help clarify Audubon's deep passion for wild America.

Few Americans are as iconic as John James Audubon. Over 150 years after his death on January 27, 1851, his legacy remains vital to the conservation movement in the United States with 550 chapters of the National Audubon Society existing throughout the country and beyond.

So it was surprising to me that much of what we knew about John James Audubon was inaccurate until the appearance of this book. Although he killed birds to study, paint and eat, he deplored the slaughter of wildlife, especially the Passenger Pigeon (barges on the Hudson River piled high with dead birds going to the New York City markets) and the Bison

(thousands of dead bodies floating down the Missouri River). He had a huge respect for Native Peoples and was a keen observer of the decimation of the American wilderness. His work first gained acclaim in Europe and he only became rich and famous when he moved to England. He and Benjamin Franklin were the only two Americans elected Fellows of the Royal Society of London before the Civil War - the 19<sup>th</sup> century's highest scientific distinction. Audubon was also generous to fellow naturalists and ornithological experts by often assigning new species names in their honor. Readers will readily recognize such personalities as John Bachman, William Bartram, John Bell, Thomas Bewick, Charles Bonaparte, William Clark, William Cooper, Richard Harlan, Edward Harris, Louis Heermann, Rev. John Henslow, Sir Thomas Lawrence, Thomas Lincoln, William MacGillivray, Isaac Sprague, William Swainson, John Swift and Alexander Wilson, all contemporaries of Audubon. Finally, he was a great writer as well as painter as attested by his marvelous journals depicting not just birds but all aspects of natural history.

Audubon's goal had been to draw and write the greatest book about American birds of all time. *The Birds of America* was that and artistically it still is. Although the United States has been blessed with more recent avian artists like Roger Tory Peterson and David Allen Sibley, no one has ever drawn birds with more life than Audubon. I could not help admiring the first exquisite illustration in the book of Audubon's three (one male, two females) Ivory-billed Woodpeckers that were repeatedly recorded along the lower Mississippi River by the artist in the mid-1800s and how quickly the species disappeared with the denuding of its bottomland forest habitat. As Rhodes states so well: "By 1839, when he finished producing *Birds* and its accompanying five volumes of 'bird biographies,' (the *Ornithological Biography*), Audubon was fifty-four years old, which was a lot older then than it is today. He turned out a great deal of work after that. He and his sons published a smaller, popular version of *Birds* in the United States, printed by

lithography, that earned the modern equivalent of nearly a million dollars."

I was repeatedly amazed at the drive, determination and sensitivity of Audubon in accomplishing his many goals in life. In fact, it was only later that he gradually, reluctantly with failing physical and mental health allowed his two grown sons to take more artistic and financial responsibility for the Audubon family. Tragically, both sons died at an early age, forcing their mother, Lucy, to sell Audubon's original drawings for *The Birds of America* to the New York Historical Society for \$2,000 and sold the copper engraving plates for scrap. Lucy Bakewell Audubon died of pneumonia at age eighty-six in Shelbyville, Kentucky, on June 18, 1874.

Rhodes concludes: "Born a bastard, he emigrated to a new country, learned its language, pioneered on its frontier, ran a successful business, lost everything in a financial panic not of his making, started over bravely at 34 with nothing more than pencil and paper and the clothes on his back, found a new calling in art and natural science, almost single handedly (with Lucy's stalwart support and encouragement) explored the American wilderness and recorded its wonders, created and funded a major work of art and became one of the most celebrated Americans of his age. . . . He estimated that it cost him \$115,640 to publish *The Birds of America* - in modern dollars, about \$2,140,000. Unsupported by gifts, grants or legacies, he raised almost every penny of that immense sum himself from painting, exhibiting and selling subscriptions and skins."

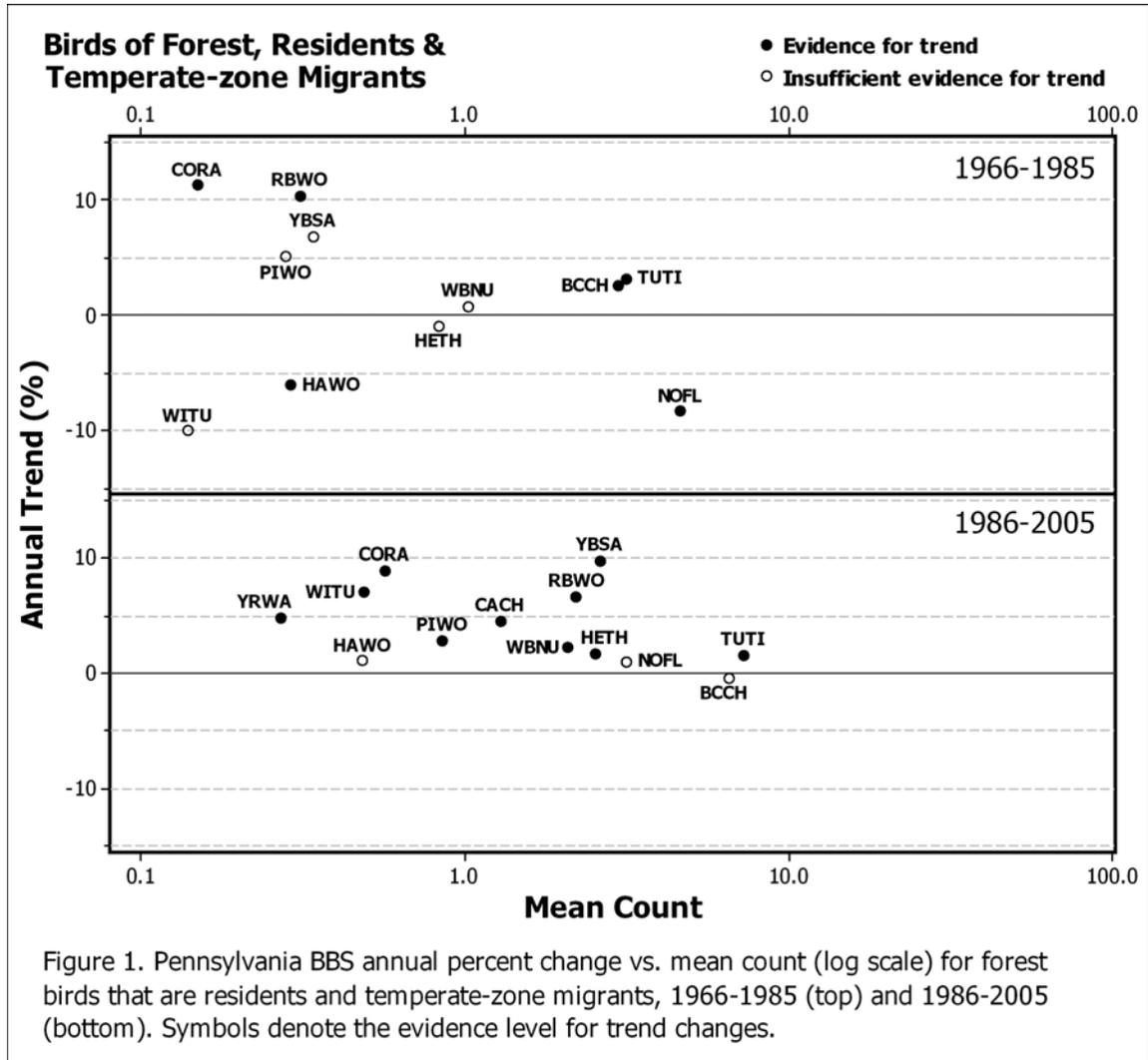
This book should be on every naturalist-type's 'must read' list.

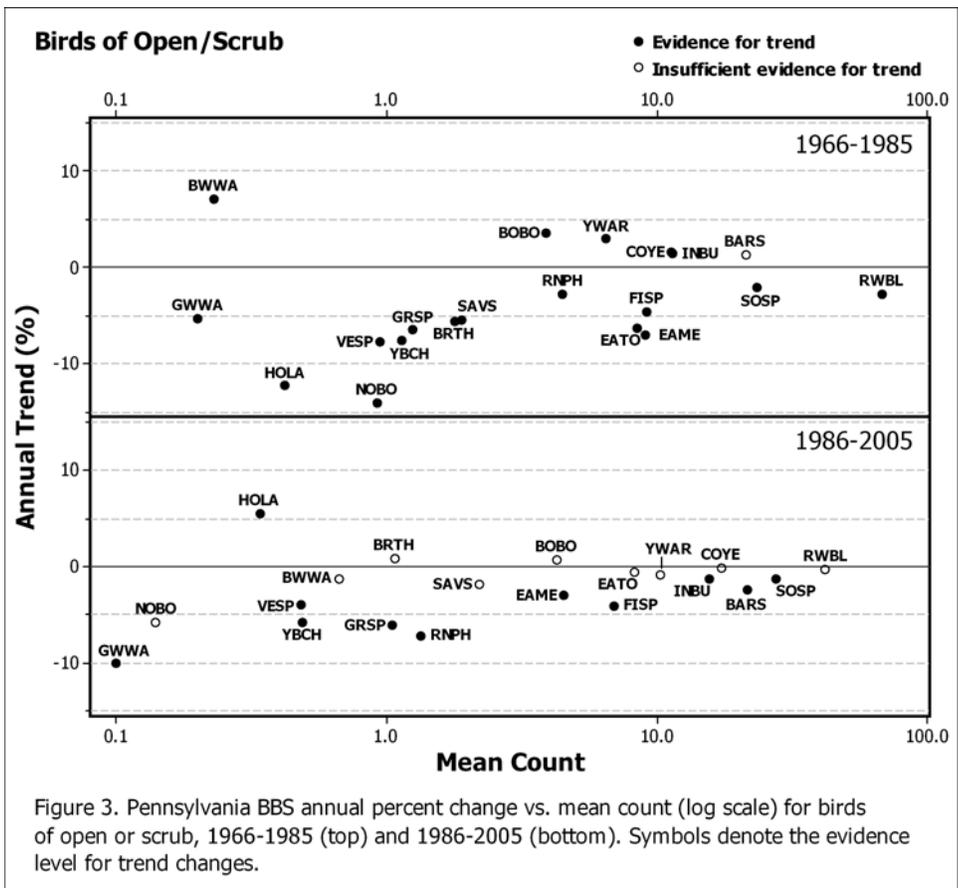
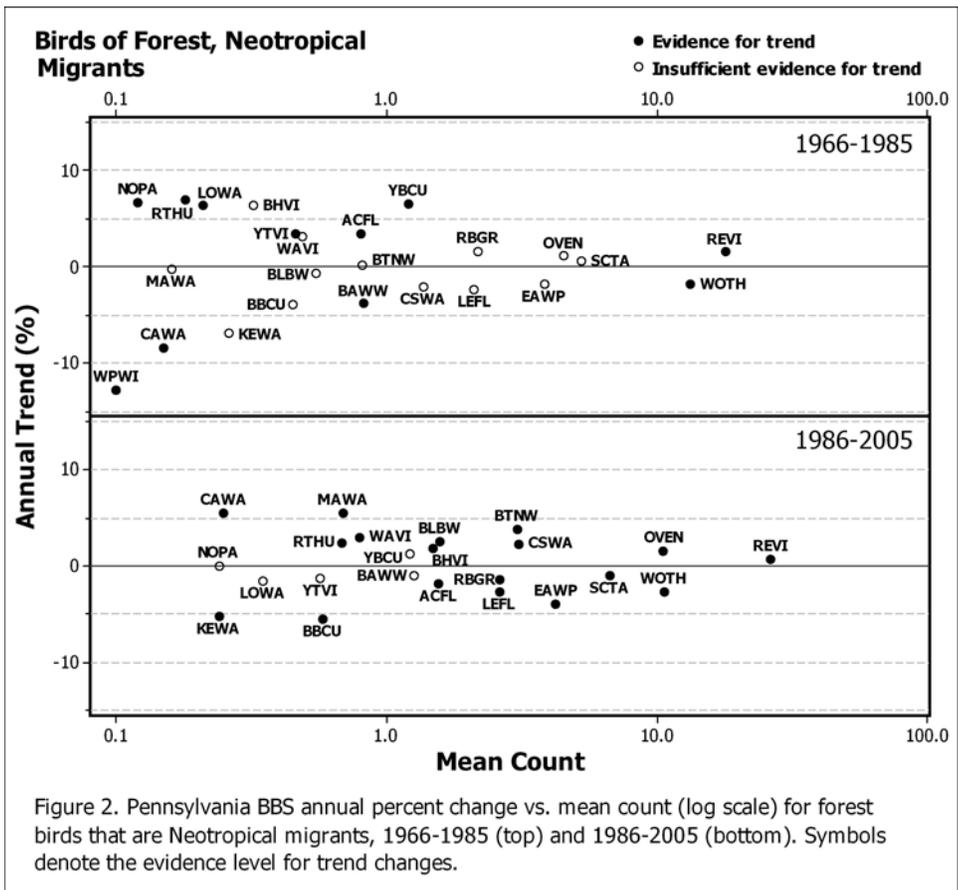
513 Kelly Blvd.  
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# Changes in Pennsylvania's Breeding Birds Since the First Atlas, According to the Breeding Bird Survey

Nicholas C. Bolgiano  
(Addendum)

The following tables were inadvertently left out of the article on Breeding Bird changes in the last issue.





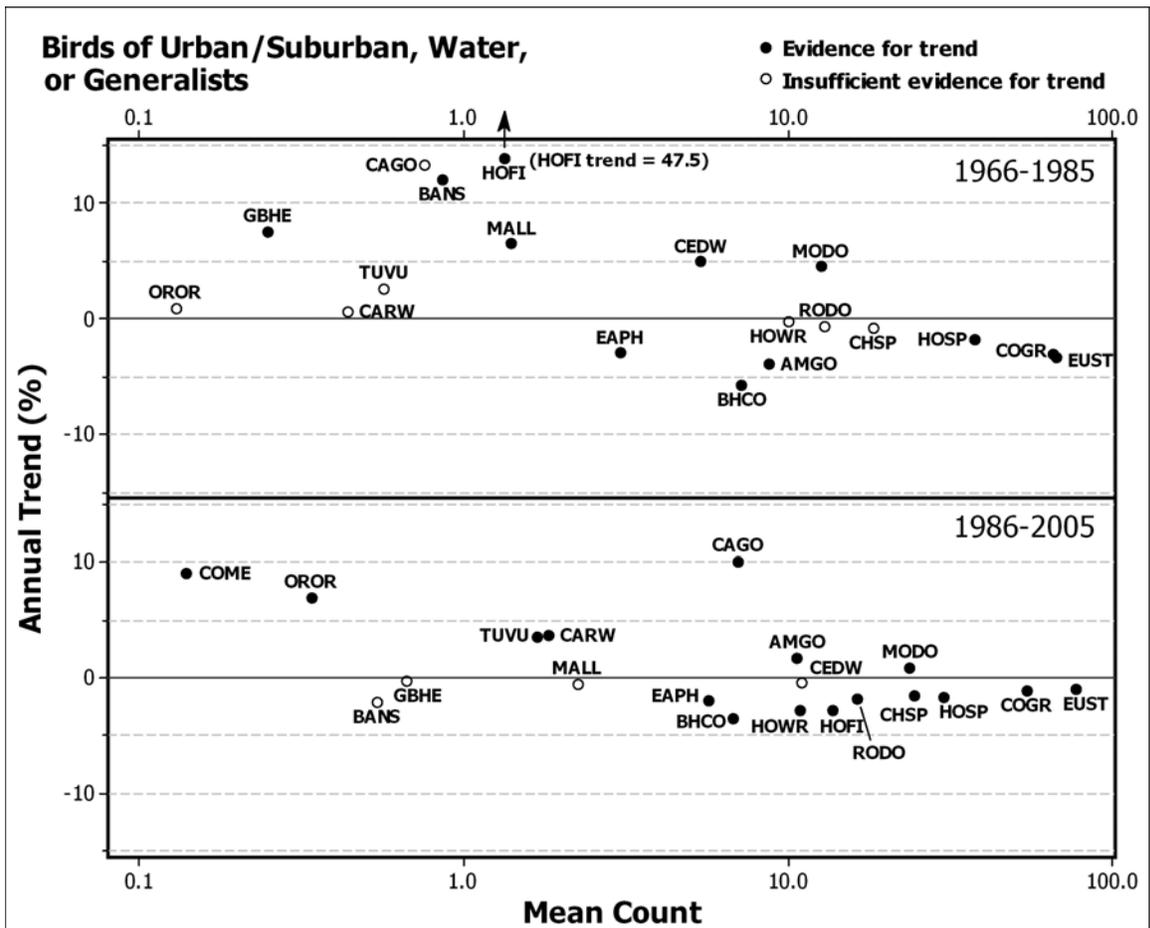


Figure 4. Pennsylvania BBS annual percent change vs. mean count (log scale) for birds of areas other than forest or open/scrub, 1966-1985 (top) and 1986-2005 (bottom). Symbols denote the evidence level for trend changes.

# Summary of the Season - August through November 2006

Deuane Hoffman

Without a doubt the highlight this season was the passage of the remnants of Hurricane Ernesto through Pennsylvania. While it was not a strong storm, only a category 1 on the Saffir-Simpson scale, and it had made landfall many miles to the south in North Carolina, the passage of this storm once again made it clear the number of storm related birds that get carried along into lands they are foreign to.

With the track of the storm taking it into western PA the eastern side of the system and therefore eastern PA was the place to be. This held true with the lower Susquehanna and Delaware River valleys reaping the rewards for attentive birders.

Over the dates of September 2– 4, dedicated birders in southeastern PA recorded a plethora of unusual sightings. From **Wilson's** and **Band-rumped Storm-petrels**, **American Oystercatcher** and **phalaropes** galore to **jaegers**, **Sabine's Gull** and a **Sooty Tern** bonanza on the Susquehanna River! P.O.R.C. will have its hands full going over all of the records produced by this tropical system!

Tropical storms aside the fall 2007 season was filled with exciting birds. The long staying **Cinnamon Teal** at Tinicum, *Philadelphia*, was last seen on 8/8. An impressive statewide fallout of **Red-throated Loon** occurred in mid-November with birds being recorded in 21 counties. Also widespread were the seven

counties reporting **Red-necked Grebe** this season. Away from their usual Erie haunts **Eared Grebe** were found in *Adams*, *Centre* and *Mercer*.

Good news came from the few **Yellow-crowned Night-herons** in the state; new nests along the Conodoguinet Creek in *Cumberland* and the addition of another nest at the *Dauphin* locale give hope that this species will continue to hold on as a breeder in the state.

Breaking away from spring trends, the seasons only **Mississippi Kite** was a single bird seen from the Rose Tree Hawk Watch, *Delaware*. The states first of the season **Rough-legged Hawk** was recorded 10/7 in *Wyoming*.

Arguably the best "stand alone" rarity of the season was the juvenile **Purple Gallinule** found in a detention pond in a *Lehigh* sub-division. The bird stayed for weeks much to the delight of the many birders that came to look for it.

Many traditional shorebirding sites were under too much water this season to produce many records. Exceptions to that generalization were Little Blue Lake, *Beaver*, the "under new management" John Heinz NWR at Tinicum, *Delaware/Philadelphia*, where a new habitat restoration program is already reaping rewards and the old stand-by Conejohela Flats, *Lancaster*. I personally spent many days on the Conejohela Flats helping record a new all time annual high of

33 shorebird species. With all of the time I spend at The Flats the place never ceases to amaze me with its ability to produce! Highlights from The Flats this season include, **American Avocet**, **Willet**, **Hudsonian** and **Marbled Godwit**, **Long-billed Dowitcher**, **Buff-breasted Sandpiper**, **Wilson's** and **Red-necked Phalarope**. Not to be outdone Little Blue Lake, *Beaver*, held its fair share of good birds throughout the season. Much credit goes to the small group of dedicated birders gathering data from this difficult to access location. Highlights from Little Blue Lake this season include, **American Avocet**, **Willet** (twice), and **Long-billed Dowitcher**.

Notable Larid sightings away from Ernesto influenced sightings were few this season. A **Franklin's Gull** in *Bucks* provided a fifth county record. Par for the course the seasons only **Little Gull** records came from Presque Isle State Park, *Erie*. Also from Presque Isle State Park was the only **Glaucous Gull** recorded this season.

A most intriguing nocturnal sighting came from *Fulton*. A **Northern-Hawk Owl** was reported by two observers near the village of Waterfall. Subsequent daytime searches for the bird came up empty.

**Rufous Hummingbird** continued their annual autumnal parade into Pennsylvania. Numbers were somewhat reduced from previous

years however with “only” six birds being reported from five counties, with *Delaware* recording two birds. Another event establishing itself as annual was the influx of **Cave Swallow** into the region. This year three sightings totaling seven birds provided records for four counties. *Bedford* and *Somerset* shared a sighting from Allegheny Front. Increased knowledge and diligence by a small group of birders has led to the activity of nocturnal flight call listening. This year observers from across the state recorded thousands of birds. Most impressive was the recording of ~50 **Gray-cheeked Thrush** 9/25 in *Allegheny*.

Warbler sightings seemed on par for the course with all of the usual suspects being sighted. Impressive were the 16 counties reporting at least one **Connecticut Warbler** and the 12 counties recording **Orange-crowned Warbler**. Both of these species are notoriously difficult to find and or identify so I attribute the increased sightings to heightened birding skills in PA birders.

Notable sparrow records were plentiful from southeastern PA. **Lark Sparrow** was located in *Bucks*, *Lancaster* and *Northampton*, with the *Bucks* bird staying from 10/14 till the time of this writing in late March. A well-seen and documented **LeConte’s Sparrow** provided a first county record for *Bucks*. Away from the traditional lower Susquehanna River stronghold **Nelson’s Sharp-tailed Sparrow** was found in *Adams* (providing a first county record),

*Dauphin* and *Philadelphia*.

Icterid sightings providing excitement this season included the **Brewer’s Blackbird** in *Washington* and the **Yellow-headed Blackbird** found by Chuck “Mr. Chester County 2006” Chalfant in *Chester*. Chuck earns this tongue in cheek nickname from his unwavering dedication to his 2006 Chester County Big Year.

Crossbills were few and far between this season. The usual sightings at hawk watch sites held for both species with **White-winged Crossbill** being recorded from Hawk Mountain only. **Red Crossbill** was a bit more widespread with five counties reporting. After the huge invasion in 2005 – 2006 of **Purple Finch**, **Pine Siskin** and **Red-breasted Nuthatch** throughout the state the 2006 fall season was a bust. While all three species were reported statewide numbers of all three were very low. A probable reason for this was the enormous bumper crop of food in Canada and the northeastern USA.

Lastly and playing a familiar tune to recent trends was the lone observation of a flock of 15 **Evening Grosbeak** in *Bedford*. I hope the dearth of sightings in PA over last decade is truly due to a shift in the birds’ population and not a significant decline in overall numbers.

I would like to thank all of the observers and compilers for taking the time to document the birds seen for this issue. I truly enjoy reading the recap of events that took place last fall, which by no coincidence is my favorite season of the year. Thank you

again for another opportunity to help document Pennsylvania bird life.

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# Birds of Note - August through November 2006

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 Doc" refers to a Review List species for which no supporting documentation 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 10 years during this time period.

**Greater White-fronted Goose** - *Bedford*: One was first sighted Dunning's Creek Wetlands 11/26 staying into early December. (Connie Hunt); *Bucks*: One was at Pine Run 11/17 (Mike Homel); *Montgomery*: One was at Church Road, Green Lane Reservoir 11/22 (George A. Franchois)

**Trumpeter Swan** - *Beaver*: The two unbanded birds continued at or near Big Beaver Wetland from the summer season, but beginning 10/15, one of the two went missing and may be deceased. The second bird remained throughout the season (Mark Vass, Geoff Malosh).

**Cinnamon Teal** - *Philadelphia*: The male reported last quarter at Tinicum was seen for the last time 8/8 (Denis Brennan, Todd Fellenbaum).

**Eared Grebe** - *Adams*: One was found 8/13 at Lake Heritage (Dan Heathcote) – it was seen there again on 8/15 (Peter Robinson, Mike Weible); *Centre*: One was seen at the Penn State Retention Pond 9/20 (Joe Verica) a second county record; *Erie*: One was observed at Presque Isle State Park 11/15 (Dan Yagusic, Dave Wilton); *Mercer*: One was at Saguall's Ponds 8/15 (Harriett Bauer).

**Wilson's Storm-Petrel** - *Berks*: A flock of about 12 birds identified as this species (Joan Silagy) was seen by several observers at the State Hill hawkwatch above Blue Marsh Lake 9/4 in the wake of an offshore hurricane. "No Doc."; *Dauphin*: One on 9/3 at Royalton (Deuane Hoffman) "No Doc."; *Delaware*: one on 9/3 was reported "padding" on the surface of the Delaware River 100 yards off-shore around 8:00 a.m (Dave Wilton). "No Doc."

**Band-rumped Storm-Petrel** - *Bucks*: One was a petrel at Penn-Warner Tract 9/2-9/3. Initially believed to be a Wilson's Storm-Petrel on 9/2, presumably the same bird was seen again 9/3, and the identity changed to Band-rumped Storm-Petrel, based on rump pattern and flight characteristics (Devich Farbotnik, Gerry Dewaghe).

**Least Bittern** - *Bedford*: Three were seen 8/6 at Dunning's Creek Wetlands (Tom Dick); *Berks*: one at Blue Marsh Lake 8/18 provided a very rare fall record (Joan Silagy); *Lancaster*: one

or more were observed on multiple locations on the Conejohela Flats from 8/26-9/28 (m.obs); *Philadelphia*: Single bird seen 8/29 at Tinicum Refuge (No observer listed).

**Cattle Egret** - *Bedford*: One was observed at Dunning's Creek Wetlands following in the footsteps of a Belgium Horse on the late date of 11/8 (Tom Dick), a new county record. *Bucks*: one stopped at Buckingham Township 11/6 (Richard and Vickie Smith) providing a new fall late date; *Montgomery*: one at a farm pond in Lower Frederick Township (Paul Guris, m.obs).

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** - *Cumberland*: Dispersal of local breeding birds into quarter; *Dauphin*: Dispersal of local breeding birds into quarter; *Juniata*: An immature highlighted a Juniata River float trip 9/19 (Aden and David Troyer)

**Mississippi Kite** - *Delaware*: One at Rose Tree Park Hawk Watch 9/10 (Sheryl Johnson, Chris Pugliese).

**Yellow Rail** - *Bucks*: One was flushed at Pine Run on 10/31 again 11/5 and last reported 11/7 (August Mirabella, Ken Reiker, Devich Farbotnik video, Mike Homel). This is only the 4<sup>th</sup> report since 1950 but the 2<sup>nd</sup> since 2002.

**Purple Gallinule** - *Lehigh*: A juvenile at a small pond near Macungie 9/30-mid October (Lee Levensgood, m.obs) a first county record.

**American Oystercatcher** - *Philadelphia*: Found in the wake of Ernesto on 9/3 on an abandoned pier at Snyder Ave. along the Delaware River (Devich Farbotnik, Jason Horn, et al).

**American Avocet** - *Beaver*: One at Little Blue Lake 7/16, the second county record (Mark Vass); *Lancaster*: A solo bird seen on the Conejohela Flats 8/5 (Deuane Hoffman)

**Willet** - *Beaver*: One at Little Blue Lake in the afternoon of 8/17 (Mark Vass) remained the next morning (Geoff Malosh), and a second bird flew over the lake without stopping on the afternoon of 8/20 (Geoff Malosh); *Lancaster*: Two birds seen 7/22 on the Conejohela Flats (Deuane Hoffman).

**Hudsonian Godwit** - *Lancaster*: 30 were seen during "Ernesto Watch" on the Conejohela Flats 9/3 (m.obs.). "No Doc.";

*Westmoreland*: At least 20 (in 3 different groups) were detected the night of 9/24-25 flying over the Powdermill Avian Research Center (Mike Lanzone). The calls were verified both by ear and electronically. *York*: One was found 10/9 at Codorus State Park and was seen until at least 10/22 ((Mike Weible, m.obs).

**Marbled Godwit** - *Lancaster*: Single bird observed on Conejohela Flats 8/15. (m.obs.)

**Purple Sandpiper** - *Erie*: A single bird on 11/20 and one or two on 11/28 & 11/30 at Presque Isle State Park were right on time and where they were expected.

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper** - *Lancaster*: Multiple birds were on the Conejohela Flats from 8/27-9/10 with a peak of 3 on 8/27 (Deuane Hoffman, et al)

**Long-billed Dowitcher** - *Beaver*: A juvenile at Little Blue Lake 8/28 (Geoff Malosh); *Erie*: An adult was carefully identified by plumage and call on 8/27 (Ben Coulter); *Lancaster*: Two were observed 8/30 on the Conejohela Flats (Deuane Hoffman); *Philadelphia*: One was at Tinicum 9/18 (Matt Sharp); *York*: One was at Codorus State Park 10/13-10/21 (Dave Wilton. m.obs).

**Wilson's Phalarope** - *Lancaster*: Single birds observed on the Conejohela Flats 8/24 (Deuane Hoffman) and 9/15 (Jason Horn); *Philadelphia*: A juvenile bird was on the impoundment at Tinicum 8/28 (Denis Brennan, Todd Fellenbaum); *York*: A single bird appeared at Codorus State Park 9/11 (Peter Robinson).

**Red-necked Phalarope** - *Bucks*: Ernesto brought 12 to the Penn-Warner Tract and 7 to the lower Delaware River 9/2 (Devich Farbotnik); *Dauphin*: Three were spotted at Fort Hunter 9/2 (Cameron Rutt, Ramsay Koury, Dave Yeany), plus, one 9/3 seen from Marysville (Andy Markel, Ramsay Koury); *Delaware*: 49 were counted in several small groups 9/3 along the Delaware River (m. obs.); *Lancaster*: multiple sightings on Conejohela Flats from 8/9-9/3 with a peak of 5 on 9/3 (m.ob.); *Philadelphia*: See Delaware County account.

**Red Phalarope** - *Bucks*: Two at Penn-Warner Tract and one on the lower Delaware River 9/2 were mixed in with the other phalaropes (Devich Farbotnik) "No Doc."; *Delaware*: Ten were counted in several small groups 9/3 along the Delaware River (m. obs.). "No Doc."

**Phalarope species** - *Dauphin*: On 9/3, as many as 20 *phalarope* sp. were observed at Harrisburg. (Deuane Hoffman)

**Parasitic Jaeger** - *Dauphin*: One was at Harrisburg 9/3 (Deuane Hoffman). "No Doc."; *Lancaster*: Tropical Storm Ernesto managed to produce at least one and probably two. One was seen chasing gulls below the York Haven Dam at Falmouth 9/2 (Deuane Hoffman) "No Doc." and another was seen from Long Level 9/3 (Tom Hopson, Tom Raub). "No Doc."

**Pomarine Jaeger** - *Erie*: An immature was carefully identified

flying past Roderick Wildlife Reserve on 11/18 (Geoff Malosh).

**Jaeger species** - *Dauphin*: One was reported from Harrisburg 9/2 (Cameron Rutt, Dave Yeany); *Erie*: A Parasitic/Pomarine Jaeger made a brief appearance on the Waterbird Count at Presque Isle State Park on 10/24 (Jerry McWilliams)

**Franklin's Gull** - *Bucks*: One was at Penn-Warner Tract 10/8 (Devich Farbotnik) for only the 5<sup>th</sup> county report. All but one of these reports has occurred since 2002.

**Little Gull** - *Erie*: Two flew past Sunset Point, Presque Isle State Park during the Waterbird Count on 10/10 (Jerry McWilliams) and another was observed elsewhere on the park on 11/11 (Ross Gallardy).

**Glaucous Gull** - *Erie*: An immature was recorded on the Waterbird Count at Presque Isle State Park on the early date of 11/25 (Randy Stringer, Jerry McWilliams).

**Sabine's Gull** - *Delaware*: Two immatures on 9/6 flying south on the Delaware River (Al Guarente).

**Royal Tern** - *Delaware*: A single bird seen flying over the Delaware River during "Ernesto Watch" on 9/2 (Jason Horn). "No Doc."; *Northampton*: Tropical Storm Ernesto was likely responsible for a first county record on 9/3 when an adult bird circled the main pond at Green Pond for several minutes (Dustin Welch). "No Doc."

**Arctic Tern** - *Bucks*: Ernesto also brought the 6<sup>th</sup> county record of at least one and possibly 3 to the lower Delaware River 9/2 (Devich Farbotnik). "No Doc."; *Delaware*: A total of 9 birds were seen flying upriver over the Delaware River during "Ernesto Watch" on 9/2 (Jason Horn, m.obs). "No Doc."

**Sooty Tern** - *Dauphin*: One was observed 9/3 at Royalton along with six Black Terns (Jonathan Heller, Ramsay Koury, Andy Markel, Joan Renninger, Peter Robinson), a first county record. "No Doc."; *Delaware*: Two birds were seen flying upriver over the Delaware River during "Ernesto Watch" on 9/2 (Jason Horn). "No Doc."; *Lancaster*: At least four and possibly 5 were seen at Conejohela Flats, Long Level and the 'Rocks' area near Columbia 9/2-9/3. One adult was seen around 6:45 p.m. 9/2 from Long Level and about 30 minutes later one adult and two juveniles were seen several miles upriver near the Columbia-Wrightsville Bridge. The next morning one adult was perched on a rock in the Susquehanna just south of Columbia at an area referred to as the 'Rocks.'

**Sandwich Tern** - *Delaware*: A probable bird was seen flying upriver over the Delaware River during "Ernesto Watch" on 9/2 (Jason Horn). "No Doc."

**Northern Hawk-Owl** - *Fulton*: One was found during the night along a road near Waterfall on 10/09. (Jim & Delores Purnell).

**Rufous Hummingbird** - *Allegheny*: An adult male visited a feeder in Richland Township where Powdermill staff banded it on

10/26 (Adrienne Leppold). It was last seen 11/24 and provided the third county record; *Berks*: An adult female banded 11/5 was at a Green Hills L. feeder 11/5-12/8 (Ken Lebo); *Chester*: An immature female was in 10/26- 10/31 (Dave Krueel, Nick Pulcinella); *Delaware*: One immature female was at a feeder in Middletown Township 10/12- 12/3 (Dolly Mignona, Nick Pulcinella) . Another immature female was at a different Middletown Township feeder 11/10 - 12/3 (Al Guarente, Nick Pulcinella); *Washington*: An adult female was at a feeder in McDonald in mid- or late Oct and remained through at least 12/9, hosted (Ray and Edyie Posel, m.obs).

**Say's Phoebe** - *Chester*: One in Avondale 11/5 (Jesse Grantham). " No Doc.

**Cave Swallow** - *Bedford*: A flock of four flying across the Allegheny Front 12/1. This was a new record for *Bedford* and *Somerset* (Mike Lanzone). "No Doc."; *Bucks*: One at Penn-Warner Tract 11/19 was seen at very close range and videotaped for the county's 2<sup>nd</sup> record and 1<sup>st</sup> fully documented (Devich Farbotnik); *Dauphin*: Two were found with about 15 Tree Swallows flying over the Susquehanna River just south of Dauphin 11/30 (Deuane Hoffman). "No Doc."; *Somerset*: See Bedford County account.

**Sedge Wren** - *Adams*: One was found at SGL 249 10/5 (Peter Robinson, Mike Weible); *Bucks*: One was reported at Pine Run 10/1 (Ken Reiker) followed by the same or another bird 10/14 (Cameron Rutt). Another was at Peace Valley Park 10/7 (Ken Reiker) and Core Creek Park contributed one 10/9 (Bill Keim); *Lancaster*: Three were present and observed singing on territory for several weeks at Middlecreek WMA in August (Tom Raub, m.obs.); *Lebanon*: Two were found singing at Middlecreek on 8/6 on Chapel Road (Tom Raub).

**Bicknell's Thrush** - *Bucks*: One was at the Quinlan Nature Area, New Britain Borough 10/10 (Ron French, Bob Shaffer); *Dauphin*: Nocturnal flight calls recorded on three separate nights from a Harrisburg residence (Deuane Hoffman).

**Lark Sparrow** - *Bucks*: One was found in Buckingham Township 10/14 and remained through the period (Richard, Vickie and Hannah Smith); *Lancaster*: First winter bird which was first heard singing and then seen on the Conejohela Flats 10/15 (Tom Amico, Bob Schutsky). " No Doc."; *Northampton*: A juvenile bird was at the Koch Farm 10/19-10/20 (Arlene Koch, Adam and Matt Sabatine). " No Doc."

**LeConte's Sparrow** - *Bucks*: One at Pine Run 11/24 furnished the first county record (Cameron Rutt, Tom Johnson, m.obs).

**Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow** - *Adams*: At least one, and possibly two were found 10/5 at State Game Land 249 - one was found again and photographed 10/6 (Mike Weible, Dan Richards); *Dauphin*: two in a field in West Hanover Township 10/9 (Tom Johnson); *Lancaster*: One was seen on 9/30 at Bainbridge (Deuane Hoffman) and another 10/1

at Conejohela Flats. (Tom Johnson, Cameron Rutt); *Philadelphia*: One at the park at the end of Rhawn St. in Northeast Philadelphia 10/8 (Matt Sharp).

**Dickcissel** - *Chester*: One in West Goshen Township 10/3 (Nick Pulcinella); *Lehigh*: One At Jordan Creek Parkway 10/12- 10/13 (Jeff Hopkins); *Northampton*: There were multiple sightings on the Koch farm in Sept. and Oct.

**Yellow-headed Blackbird** - *Chester*: One adult male was on the east side of Octoraro Reservoir 11/24 (Chuck Chalfant).

**Brewer's Blackbird** - *Washington*: A single adult female at Canonsburg Lake 9/26 (Ross Gallardy).

**Red Crossbill** - *Berks*: Twenty at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary 11/12 (Dave Barber); *Lebanon*: One at 2<sup>nd</sup> Mt. on 11/24. *Luzerne*: Several flew over Plains Twp. 10/3 (Stan Galenty); *Monroe*: a female 8/13 at Pocono Avian Research Center's Two Mile Run banding station near Blakeslee (Darryl Speicher); *Northampton*: Several at Little Gap Hawk Watch 11/4-11/5 (Michael Schall, Zach Rowe)

**White-winged Crossbill** - *Berks*: Five were seen 11/27 at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary (Chris Farmer).

**Evening Grosbeak** - *Bedford*: Fifteen at White-tail Wetlands Bed and Breakfast 9/28 (Connie Hunt).

# PHOTOGRAPHIC HIGHLIGHTS



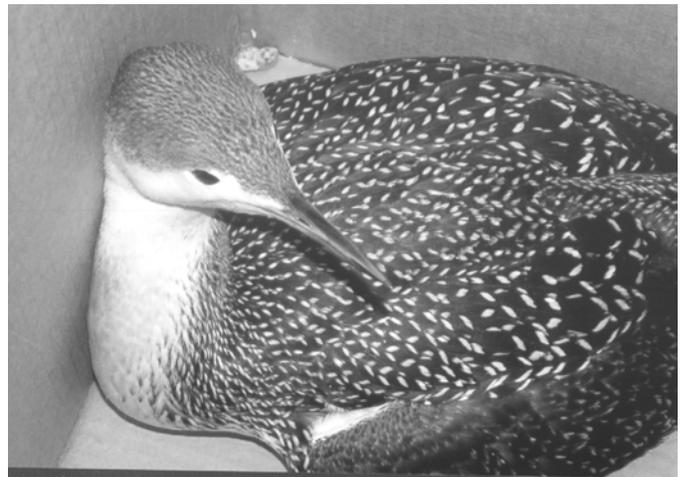
**Band-rumped Storm-Petrel** (*Oceanodroma castro*). Displaced inland by Tropical Storm Ernesto, this bird was present at Van Sciver Lake, *Bucks*, 2 September 2006 (*Devich Farbotnik*)



**Tundra Swan** (*Cygnus columbianus*). Dashields Dam, *Allegheny*, 4 November 2006 (*Geoff Malosh*).



**Red-throated Loon** (*Gavia stellata*). Only the fourth record for *Allegheny*, this bird was photographed on the Allegheny River, O'Hara Twp., 24 November 2006 (*Mike Fialkovich*).



**Red-throated Loon** (*Gavia stellata*). Mackeyville, *Clinton*, 15 November 2006 (*Wayne Laubscher*). This bird was grounded, rescued and eventually released into the Susquehanna River



**Snowy Egret** (*Egretta thula*). Wildwood Lake, Dauphin, 13 August 2006 (Tom Johnson).



**Cattle Egret** (*Bubulcus ibis*). Maple Knoll Farm, Bucks, 6 November 2006 (Richard Smith).



**Glossy Ibis** (*Plegadis falcinellus*). This was one of two birds present at John Heinz NWR, Philadelphia photographed here 26 November 2006 (Bill Moses).



**American Oystercatcher** (*Haematopus palliatus*). Forced inland during the passage of Tropical Storm Ernesto, this bird spent most of its time frequenting this loading dock along the Philadelphia waterfront, 3 September 2006 (Devich Farbotnik).



**Yellow Rail** (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*). This secretive individual was at Pine Run Bucks, 31 October - 7 November 2006 (Devich Farbotnik).



**Black-bellied Plover** (*Pluvialis squatarola*). This bird was present at Blue Marsh Lark, Berks, 16-22 September 2006 (Joan Silagy).



**American Golden Plover** (*Pluvialis dominica*). Conejohela Flats, Lancaster, 3 September 2006 (Cameron Rutt).



**Marbled Godwit** (*Limosa fedoa*). Presque Isle S.P., Erie, 27 August 2006 (Ben Coulter).



**Hudsonian Godwit** (*Limosa haemastica*). This popular bird was observed by many during its stay at Codorus S.P., York, 9 -22 October 2006. Photographed here on the 15<sup>th</sup> (Cameron Rutt).



**Ruddy Turnstone** (*Arenaria interpres*). Conejohela Flats, Lancaster, 22 August 2006 (Cameron Rutt).



**Stilt Sandpiper** (*Calidris himantopus*). This photo shows four of the eight juveniles present at Independence Marsh, Beaver, 2 September 2006 (Geoff Malosh).



**Franklin's Gull** (*Larus pipixcan*). Van Sciver Marsh, Bucks, 8 October 2006 (Devich Farbotnik).



**Sooty Tern** (*Sterna fuscata*). This adult was brought inland by Tropical Storm Ernesto. It was photographed in the area of the Susquehanna River, Lancaster known as "The Rocks", 3 September 2006 (Cameron Rutt).



**Ruby-throated Hummingbird** (*Archilochus colubris*). Present in Jennersville, Chester into November, this individual was unusual not only for being late, but also for being an adult male. Most late Ruby-throats are usually females or immatures. Photographed here 7 November 2006 (Nick Pulcinella).



**Ruby-throated Hummingbird** (*Archilochus colubris*) (Geoff Malosh). This immature was a late visitor to Fox Chapel, Allegheny, 15 October - 2 November 2006 (Geoff Malosh).



**Rufous Hummingbird** (*Selasphorus rufus*). This adult female visited a yard in Green Hills, *Berks*, 5 November- 8 December 2006. It was trapped and banded 5 November (*Ken Lebo*).



**Rufous Hummingbird** (*Selasphorus rufus*). Another photograph of the Green Hills, *Berks* bird showing a definite "notch" on the R2 tail feather aiding in the identification of this species. 5 November 2006, *Berks* (*Scott Weidensaul*).



**Rufous Hummingbird** (*Selasphorus rufus*). This was one of two Rufous Hummingbirds that were present simultaneously in Media, *Delaware*. The locations were about a mile apart and both birds were eventually trapped and banded. This immature female was photographed 10 November 2006 (*Al Guarente*). Both birds departed 8 December 2006.



**Rufous Hummingbird** (*Selasphorus rufus*). This adult female was present in McDonald, *Washington*, 15 October - 9 December 2006. It had been previously banded in Diamond Head, Mississippi 25 January, 2006.



**Eastern Wood-Pewee** (*Contopus virens*). This albino juvenile was photographed begging food at Bucktoe Tract, Chester, 7 September 2006 (Derek Stoner).



**Cave Swallow** (*Petrochelidon fulva*). This individual was seen briefly at the Penn Warner Tract, Bucks, 19 November 2006 (Devich Farbotnik).



**Sedge Wren** (*Cistothorus platensis*). Peace Valley Park, Bucks, 7 October 2006 (Rob Hynson), one of four fall reports of this species for Bucks.



**Sedge Wren** (*Cistothorus platensis*). One of three birds present at Middlecreek WMA, Lancaster, photographed here 6 August 2006 (Tom Raub).



**Le Conte's Sparrow** (*Ammodramus leconteii*). Although secretive in nature, this bird was observed by many at Pine Run, *Bucks*, 24 November 2006 (*Mike Lynam*).



**Clay-colored Sparrow** (*Spizella pallida*). While searching for a Lark Sparrow in Buckingham Twp, *Bucks*, 23 October 2006, birders were treated to this cooperative bird (*Howard Eskin*).



**Lark Sparrow** (*Chondestes grammacus*). This bird first seen in Buckingham Twp., *Bucks* 4 October 2006 remained at this same location through the end of the year (*Howard Eskin*).

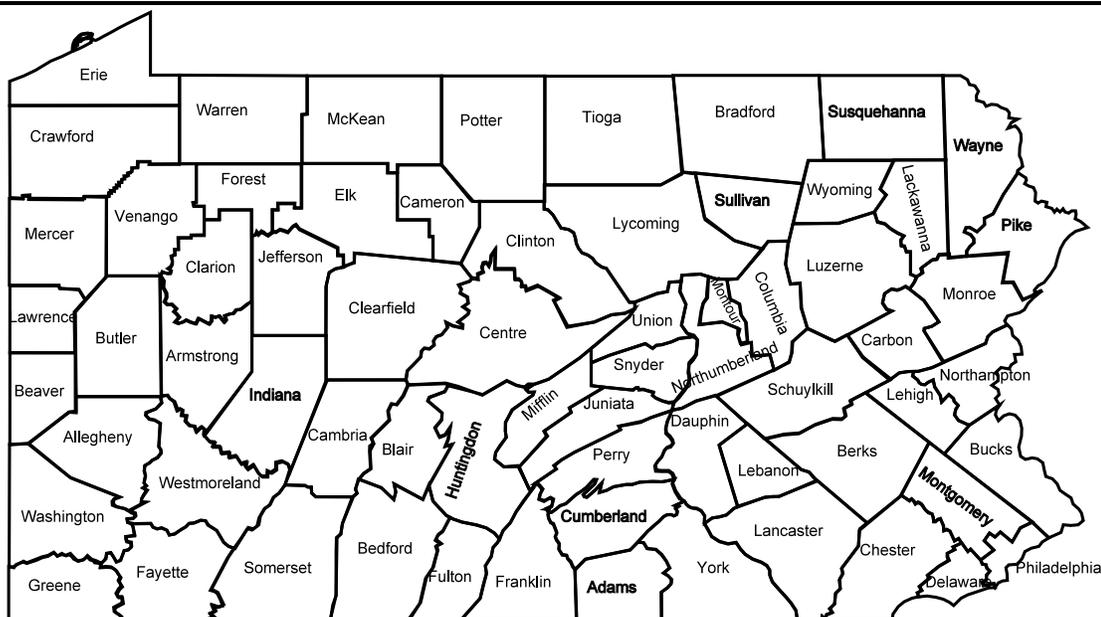


**Oregon Junco** (*Junco hyemalis*). This male was frequenting a feeder in Allen Twp., *Northampton*, 18 - 25 November 2006 (*Jim Figlar*).



**Baltimore Oriole** (*Icterus galbula*). Several lingered into late November including this bird in Harborcreek, *Erie*, 12 November 2006 (*Bonnie Bowen*).

# Local Notes - August through November 2006



## ABBREVIATIONS

B.B.S.	Breeding Bird Survey	max	maximum	Rte.	Route
C.A.	Conservation Area	min	minimum. obs many observers	S.F.	State Forest
C.B.C.	Christmas Bird Count	Mt. (Mts)	Mount/Mountain/Mountains	SGL	State Game Land
C.P.	County Park	N.A.	Nature Area or Natural Area	S.P.	State Park
Cr.	Creek	N.F.	National Forest	S.T.P.	Sewage Treatment Plant
et al	and others	N.M.	National Monument	subad (subads.)	subadult(s)
Ft.	Fort	N.P.	National Park	Twp.	Township
G.C.	Golf Course	N.W.R.	National Wildlife Refuge	vr.	voice recording
G.P.	Game Preserve	ph.	Photographed	vt.	videotape
Hwy.	Highway	Pt.	Point	W.A.	Wildlife Area
imm (imms.)	immature(s)	R.	River	W.M.A.	Wildlife Management Area
Jct.	Junction	R.A.	Recreational Area		
juv (juvs.)	juvinal [plumage]; juvenile(s)	R.B.A.	Rare Bird Alert		
L.	Lake	Res.	Reservoir		

### Adams County

Locations: Lake Meade (LMDE), Mountain Rd. (MTN), State Game Land 249 (SGL)

There were 159 species reported during the August through November fall migration period, including 24 waterfowl species, 22 warbler species, and 12 sparrow species. Thanks to more SGL coverage than in the past, the 159 total species was far more than the paltry 69 species reported in 2005 and the 56 species reported for the 2004 fall season. State Game Land 249 was "bird central" for the county this fall, with sightings that included **American Bittern**, **Black-crowned Night-Heron**, **Merlin**, **Virginia Rail**, **Sora**, **Sedge Wren**, **Orange-crowned Warbler**, **Clay-colored Sparrow**, and **Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow**!

A **Cackling Goose** was found 11/21 on Marsh Creek (BM) and was seen again 11/22 on a pond on Camp Gettysburg Rd. (MW). A **Long-tailed Duck** was at LMDE 11/19 (MW), 2 **Red-throated Loons** were there 11/17 (PJR). An **Eared Grebe** was found 8/13 at L. Heritage (DH) – it was

seen there again 8/15 (PJR, MW). An **American Bittern** 11/19 (CR, DY) and a **Black-crowned Night-Heron** 9/14 were both at SGL.

A **Rough-legged Hawk** was seen 11/22 along Pumping Station Rd. (PJR). There were three reports of **Merlin**: one 10/6 (MW) and another 10/22 (CR, MW) at SGL, then one 10/23 along Rt. 94 just north of Hanover (PJR).

A **Virginia Rail** was at SGL 11/19 (CR, DY). A **Sora** was found 8/11 (MW) and 9/8 (MW) at SGL, where a pair are believed to have nested this year. **American Woodcock**, much more difficult to find in the fall than in the spring, were spotted at SGL -- one 9/19 (MW) and two 10/30 (MW). There were several reports of migrating **Common Nighthawk** from 8/18-9/23 with a high count of 35 at MTN (RDS).

A little late was the **Eastern Wood-Pewee** at SGL 10/14 (MW). There were three **Winter Wren** sightings: one 10/22 at SGL (CR, MW), one 1/11 along Plantation Rd. (RDS), and two 11/19 at SGL (CR, DY). While trying to re-locate a **Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow**, a **Sedge Wren** was found in the same bush where the sparrow had been an hour earlier (PJR, MW)!

There was one report of **Tennessee Warbler**, a single 9/11 at SGL (MW). A very uncommon **Orange-crowned Warbler** was found and was seen well at close range at SGL 10/22 (CR, MW). Two **Cape May Warblers** were seen at SGL – one 9/11 (MW), one 10/2 (MW). Single **Wilson's Warblers** were at SGL 9/10 (MW) and 9/14 (MW).

A **Clay-colored Sparrow** was heard singing at SGL 10/13 (PJR, MW). At least one, and probably two **Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows** were found 10/5 at SGL – one was found again and photographed 10/6 (MW, DR). The only **Fox Sparrow** reports were from SGL, where they arrived 11/1 (MW), with a high count of 30 on 11/11 (CR, DW, DY). **Lincoln's Sparrows** were also reported only from SGL, with several seen regularly from 9/24 (MW) to 10/22 (CR, MW).

There was a report of a very early pair of **Rusty Blackbirds** 8/14 at SGL where they were also seen several times from 10/14 (MW) through 11/19 (CR, DY), with a 10/22 high count of 20 (CR, MW). A late **Baltimore Oriole** was at SGL 10/13 and 10/14 (MW). There were just two **Purple Finch** reports – one 11/17 at MTN (RDS) and three at SGL 11/11 (MW).

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### **Allegheny County**

Locations: Dashields Dam on the Ohio River (DASH), Imperial (IMP).

A **Snow Goose** was a nice find at North Park 10/29 (BM). **Tundra Swans** moved through in Nov with 64 flying over Mayview Park 11/1 (DW) and 56 over Lawrenceville 11/21 (PB) the high counts. Three **Blue-winged Teal** at North Park 9/5 (BM), a **Green-winged Teal** at IMP 8/6 and 8/15 (MV) and a **Northern Pintail** at Etna 8/27 (DY) were all rather early, particularly the pintail. A **Long-tailed Duck** was found at DASH 11/5 (MV). A nice count of 31 **Common Mergansers** flew past DASH 11/5 (MV).

A well described **American Bittern** was reported in a yard in Braddock Hills 9/22 on Scott Shalaway's Birds and Nature radio show. Two **Great Egrets** at Fox Chapel (MF, BSh, DY) and one at North Park 10/14 (BS) were late.

A **Red-throated Loon** at DASH 11/23 (MV) provided the fourth county record. Presumably the same bird was relocated on the Allegheny R. in Ohara Twp. and Fox Chapel 11/24 (ST) where it remained until at least 11/26 (m.obs.). A loon was found at this location 11/21; however the observer did not have a scope or a good pair of binoculars at the time to make a positive identification (JV). This species was last found in the county in 1983 and eagerly sought by many local birders. A **Common Loon** was at DASH 11/12 (MV).

Late **Osprey** were reported 11/1 at Sharpsburg (TB) and 11/4 at DASH (MV). A **Bald Eagle** was seen flying over Etna headed downriver 9/3 (DY). One was also seen in Oakmont 9/25 (JPO) and East Liberty 9/26 (DY) which could have been the same bird. One was at DASH 11/2 and 11/11 (GM). Single **Merlins** were reported from Pine Twp. 9/29 (PL, SL), McCandless Twp. 10/25 (BSh), Mayview Park 11/2-4 (DW), Schenley Park 11/7 (KSJ), and Edgworth 11/10 (MV). A **Rough-legged Hawk** was spotted at the Pittsburgh Airport 10/18 (TR), and single birds were seen at IMP 10/21 (MF) and 11/25 (JV).

Large numbers of **Killdeer** gathered in Clinton in Nov; 137 birds 11/12 (DY) was the high count. A **Semipalmated Plover** at IMP 9/4–9/11 (MV) was the only report. **Greater Yellowlegs** were in small numbers this

fall at IMP with single birds reported 8/2–10/13 with the exception of 3 birds 8/31 (MV). **Lesser Yellowlegs** were also in small numbers with a high count of 8 at IMP 9/9 (MV). Three **Solitary Sandpipers** were at Harrison Hills Park 9/1 (JS, SS, PH) and single birds were at IMP 8/2–8/30 (MV). There were only two reports of **Semipalmated Sandpipers**, both at IMP 8/11 and 9/2 (MV). **Least Sandpipers** were there most of Aug through late Oct with a high count of 10 on 8/11 (MV). Four **Pectoral Sandpipers** at IMP 8/7 was the max count for the period (MV). A **Short-billed Dowitcher** 8/23-8/25 and again 9/23 (MV) and a **Wilson's Snipe** 8/23, 10/15 (MV) and a rather late bird 10/30 (DW) rounded out the IMP shorebird reports. An **American Woodcock** was found at Mayview Park 11/14 (DW).

A flock of 33 **Bonaparte's Gulls** was found on the Allegheny R. at Blawnox 8/27 (DY) and 7 were at DASH 10/29 (GM). Two **Caspian Terns** were a nice find at Cheswick 9/1 (DY).

A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was heard calling in a backyard 10/10 (MMc). **Common Nighthawk** migration peaked in late Aug with the following high counts: 423 in Etna 8/24 (DY), 101 in Natrona Heights (PH), 275 in Moon Township (GM), and 163 in Etna (DY) 8/25. A high count of over 200 **Chimney Swifts** was tallied in the skies above Oakland 9/21 (KSJ).

A hummingbird visiting flowers in a yard in Fox Chapel 10/15 was determined to be a very late **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** (*vide* BSh). Despite the homeowners placing a feeder in the yard, the bird continued to feed on the flowers and never visited the feeder. It was last seen 11/2. An adult male **Rufous Hummingbird** visited a feeder in Richland Twp. where it was banded by Powdermill staff 10/26 (AL). It was last seen 11/24 and provided the third county record.

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at East Liberty 9/1-9/4 (DY) and one was at Frick Park 9/8 (MV). The only **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** reported was at Sewickley Heights Park 9/20 (BVN). Single **Acadian Flycatchers** were found at Harrison Hills Park 9/1 (PH, JS, SS) and Pine Twp. 9/26 (PL, SL). A **Yellow-throated Vireo** at Walker Park in Sewickley 9/30 (BS) was the only report. A **Philadelphia Vireo** was found in East Liberty 9/4 (DY), 2 were at Harrison Hills Park 9/16 (TRBC Outing), and one was in Sewickley 9/17 (MV). Twenty plus **Black-capped Chickadees** at Harrison Hills Park 9/10 was considered a migrant flock (PH). An early **Red-breasted Nuthatch** visited a feeder in Pine Twp. 9/26 (PL, SL). **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were found later than usual with birds regularly reported up to 11/17 (m.ob.).

Two **Bank Swallows** were found at Blawnox and 3 at Cheswick 9/1 (DY), and this species was present at DASH 9/2 (MV). Two **Cliff Swallows** were at Etna and 3 at Blawnox 9/1 (DY), 4 were at DASH and one was at IMP 9/2 (MV). Four **Barn Swallows** at IMP 10/21 were rather late (DY). A **Winter Wren** in Shaler Twp. 9/14 was a bit early (JH) and a **Marsh Wren** was a rare find in Fox Chapel 10/14 (MF). The last record was May 2004.

A **Veery** in East Liberty 9/1 (DY) and one in Moon Township 9/25 (GM) were the only reports. Single **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** were found at Harrison Hills Park 9/16 (PH), East Liberty 9/26-9/27 (DY), and Ross Twp. 9/29 (BM). An estimated 50 were heard flying over Moon Township before dawn 9/25 (GM). A large roost of **American Robins** was observed at Mayview Park from mid-Oct to mid-Nov with a maximum count of 1753 birds (DW). A late **Brown Thrasher** remained at East Liberty through Nov (DY). Single **American Pipits** at IMP 10/15 (DY) and 11/4 (MF) were the only reports.

A total of 28 species of warblers were reported. Highlights include a **Northern Parula** at Harrison Hills Park 9/16 (MF), a late **Yellow Warbler** in East Liberty 9/27 (DY), a **Cape May Warbler** at Frick Park 8/28 (SS),

and a nice count of 4 in Pine Twp. 9/19 (PL, SL). **Orange-crowned Warbler** reports were very good with one at East Liberty 9/27, 10/9, 10/19 and 2 there 10/17 (DY). Single birds were found at Beechwood Farms 10/9-10/13 (BSh), Mayview Park 10/16 & 10/18 (DW), Frick Park 10/16 (SS), and Harmar Twp. 10/18 (DY). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was a good find at Settler's Cabin Park 9/5 (NN), a species rarely reported in fall. Several **Pine Warblers** were reported including one at Harrison Hills Park 8/26 (PH, GM, MF), one in Pine Township 9/15 (PL, SL), and one in Sewickley 9/17 (MV). **Palm Warbler** reports were very good this fall with birds found in seven different locations, a fine showing for this species that is uncommon in *Allegheny*. A **Northern Waterthrush** was in East Liberty 8/23-25 and 9/6 (DY). Exceptional were 2 **Connecticut Warblers**: one at Beechwood Farms 8/31 (BSh), and an immature at Frick Park 9/6 (MH) that spent the entire day quietly foraging on the ground. A **Common Yellowthroat** lingered at East Liberty through Nov (DY). Two **Hooded Warblers** harassing a snake at Harrison Hills Park 9/16 was certainly an interesting observation (MFO, EF). **Wilson's Warbler** reports were good with individual birds at Frick Park 8/20 (SS), Harrison Hills Park 8/31 (PH), East Liberty (DY) and Harrison Hills 9/1 (PH, JS, SS), East Liberty 9/7-9/8 (DY), Frick Park 9/9 (MF), and Sewickley Heights Park 9/13 (BVN). Always a welcome sight, single **Canada Warblers** were found in Frick Park 8/29 (JS, SS), Pine Twp. 8/31 (PL, SL), and Harrison Hills Park 9/1 (PH, JS, SS).

A **Vesper Sparrow** was still at IMP 9/30 (MV) and 5 **Savannah Sparrows** were there 10/21 (MF). **Fox Sparrows** were reported 10/8-11/22 and **Lincoln's Sparrow** reports ranged from 9/29-11/2 at various locations. A total of 140 **Song Sparrows** were counted at Mayview Park 10/25 (DW). Three **Swamp Sparrows** were found at that location 11/14-11/28 (DW).

Several large flocks of **Common Grackles** were reported. Over 1000 were noted in Schenley Park 10/31 (KSJ). Birds were observed commuting to a roost site at Mayview Park the first half of Nov with a maximum tally of 2560 birds (DW), and a flock of over 4000 were in Findlay Twp. 11/4 (MF). A good count of 192 **Brown-headed Cowbirds** were in the IMP area 10/25 (GM). A **Purple Finch** was found at East Liberty 8/8 (DY), 3 were in Findlay Twp 9/30 (MV), one was in Pine Twp. 9/30 and 10/2 (PL, SL) and one was in Mayview Park 10/20 (DW).

CORRECTION: Pat and Sherron Lynch were inadvertently omitted from my observer list in Volume 20, No. 1 & 2.

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### **Armstrong County**

Locations: Keystone Reservoir (KR), Rural Valley (RV), Worthington (WT), Yatesboro (YB).

November 15 produced **Canada Goose** maxima of 44 at KR (MH)

and 30 near WT (CG). A **Mute Swan** remained at Rosston throughout the fall (JV, JVa). Fourteen **Tundra Swans** visited KR 11/16 (LC). **American Wigeon** reports at KR included one 9/6 (MH) and 4 on 10/27 (LC). Four **American Black Ducks** and 12 **Mallards** were listed 10/27 at KR (LC); 2 **American Black Ducks** were also noted there 11/16 (LC). KR yielded 2 **Blue-winged Teal** and one **Green-winged Teal** 8/30 (MH); another blue-wing was present 9/6 (MH). Eight **Ring-necked Ducks** rested at KR 10/15 (LC). Ten **Buffleheads** stopped at KR 11/16 (LC). **Hooded Merganser** reports included one on a farm pond near WT 10/27 (CG) and one at KR 11/15 (MH). Seven **Red-breasted Mergansers** were at KR 11/15 (MH). Single **Ruddy Ducks** were spotted at KR 10/27 (LC) and 11/15 (MH).

Three **Red-throated Loons** were nice finds at KR 11/15 (MH). One **Common Loon** was present at KR 10/27 (LC) and 11/15 (MH); 3 were counted 11/16 (LC). KR yielded the first **Pied-billed Grebe** 9/14 & 9/21 (MH); 14 were counted 10/15 & 10/27 (LC); 15 was the tally 11/16 (LC). A **Horned Grebe** was found 11/9 (MH) and again 11/16 (LC). A flock of 37 **Double-crested Cormorants** visited KR 10/27 (LC). Three **Great Blue Herons** were seen at KR 9/21 (MH). Single **Great Egrets** were listed near WT 9/15 and 10/11 (CG). Last **Green Heron** was spotted at KR 9/14 (MH). **Turkey Vulture** reports included 10 near WT 9/7 (CG), 5 at YB 9/18 (ED), and 2 at RV 9/21 (LU). An **Osprey** was sighted at KR 8/30, 9/6-9/7 (MH). An adult **Bald Eagle** fished at KR 8/30 and 9/14 (MH); another Bald Eagle soared along the river at Kittanning 11/16 (RH). **Northern Harrier** was found only near WT 9/27; 10/6 & 10/14; and 11/15 (CG).

The top **American Coot** count at KR 10/15 (LC) was 190. The meager mudflats at KR attracted 8 **Killdeer** 9/21 (MH). A **Solitary Sandpiper** at KR 8/30 (MH) and a **Wilson's Snipe** near WT 10/10 (CG) were the lone reports. **Ring-billed Gulls** were found on only two days at KR, 2 on 11/15 (MH) and one the following day (LC). Eight **Caspian Terns** were counted at KR 8/30 (MH); 2 **Forster's Terns** were there 11/16 (LC). Nine **Black Terns** were feeding over the water at KR 8/30 (MH).

Five **Chimney Swifts** were last seen near WT 10/3 (CG). Last **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was listed at YB 9/18 (ED). **Eastern Wood-Pewees** were still present near KR 9/6 (MH). Last dates included 9/26 at RV for 2 **Eastern Phoebes** (LU), 9/4 near WT for 2 **Eastern Kingbirds** (CG), 9/14 for **Red-eyed Vireo** at KR (MH), and 9/11 for 6 **Barn Swallows** near WT (CG). A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** made a brief visit to a YB feeder 10/23 (ED). Last **House Wrens** were 2 at RV 8/22 (LU). **Wood Thrush** was last seen at KR 9/21 (MH).

A **Tennessee Warbler** and 2 **Nashville Warblers** 9/7 (MH) and one **Magnolia Warbler** 9/14 (MH), all at KR, were the only ones reported. **Cape May Warblers** made a good showing this year at KR. Sightings included one 9/6, 11 on 9/7, 7 on 9/14, and 4 on 9/21 (MH). A single **Black-throated Blue Warbler** visited KR 9/21 (MH). The best **Yellow-rumped Warbler** count at KR was 6 on 10/15 (LC). One **Black-throated Green Warbler** 9/6 (MH) and one **Black-and-white Warbler** 9/14 (MH) at KR were the lone reports. Three **Common Yellowthroats** 9/21 (MH) and a **Hooded Warbler** 9/6 (MH) at KR were last.

Sep 21 (MH) was the last date for **Scarlet Tanagers** at KR. An **Eastern Towhee** still lingered at YB 10/28 (ED). Last **Chipping Sparrows** were 2 at RV 10/27 (LU). A **Fox Sparrow** joined a flock of **White-throated Sparrows** at KR 11/15 (MH). Seven **White-throated Sparrows** and one **White-crowned Sparrow** had arrived at KR 10/15 (LC). **Dark-eyed Juncos** appeared at a RV feeder 10/20 (LU) and at a YB feeder 10/21 (ED). Two **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** at YB 9/18 (ED) and an **Indigo Bunting** near WT 9/27 (CG) were last. WT also yielded the last **Eastern Meadowlark** 10/2 (CG). Twenty-five **Common Grackles** remained at YB 10/28 (ED). Two **Baltimore Orioles** at KR 9/7 (MH) were last.

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### **Beaver County**

Locations: Ambridge Reservoir (AR), Beaver River (BR), Big Beaver Wetlands (BBW), Independence Marsh (IND), Little Blue Lake (LBL), Ohio River (OR), Raccoon Creek State Park (RCSP).

The season started off with a dry but not excessively hot August, which created good conditions for shorebirding at multiple locations until mid-September when the rains finally returned. Normal precipitation and slightly above normal temperatures dominated the rest of the autumn. Shorebird highlights from LBL once again produced the best rarities of the season, including **American Avocet**, two **Willet**, multiple sightings of **Sanderlings**, a **Western Sandpiper**, and a **Long-billed Dowitcher**. Other than this excitement, the season was rather pedestrian, despite some good waves of passerines (particularly warblers, vireos, and sparrows) and a total of 188 species recorded.

A single white **Snow Goose** found feeding in a Hanover Twp. farm field 12/6 (GM) was an excellent find of this locally rare species. Snow Geese seem to be found more often in fall than spring in sw. Pennsylvania—the reverse of the expected pattern elsewhere in the state. Two **Tundra Swans** at LBL 10/29 and a group heard overhead there 12/2 (MV) were the only reports despite a better than average flight in nearby *Allegheny*. The two unbanded *Beaver/Lawrence Trumpeter Swans* continued at or near BBW from the summer season, but beginning 10/15, one of the two went missing and may be deceased. The second bird remained throughout the season (MV, GM).

**Wood Ducks** were reported through the season, with high counts of 24 at AR 9/23 and 29 at LBL 9/29 being notable (MV). Ten **Gadwall** on the OR at Rochester 10/29 (MV) and 6 at AR 11/2 (GM) were the only reports. Five **American Wigeon** were at LBL 10/17, with one continuing to 10/20 (MV). **American Black Ducks** were present around the county through the season, but the best count that could be managed was a mere 14 on the BR 11/12 (MV), though 19 were split between the BR and LBL 12/1 (MV). An interesting mid-summer congregation of 92 **Mallards** was at LBL 7/7. **Blue-winged Teal** had an outstanding showing from 8/11-10/22, highlighted by superior counts of 22 at LBL 9/9 (MV) and 48 at AR 10/9 (BS). Single **Northern Shovelers** appeared sporadically at IND, AR, and LBL throughout most of the season (MV, GM). A male **Northern Pintail** spent a week at BBW in mid-Sep, and a pair was found at LBL 9/29 (MV).

**Ring-necked Ducks** first appeared 10/5, with the best count being a respectable 48 at the industrial gravel ponds near BBW 11/4 (MV). **Greater Scaup** reports were rather frequent from those same gravel ponds in mid-Nov, including 13 counted on 11/10 (MV). **Lesser Scaup** were reported from there as well in a broader window spanning most of Nov. A female **Surf Scoter** was an excellent find on the OR at Rochester 11/12 (MV) but was not the only sea duck reported: one of 4 **Long-tailed Ducks** found at Dashields Dam on the OR in nearby *Allegheny* was seen floating across the county line into *Beaver* 11/4 (MV, SM, BS). This sighting continued a superb calendar year for Long-tailed Ducks in *Beaver*, with seven separate reports in 2006. The only report of **Common Merganser** was of an impressive flock of 31 flying downriver on the OR past Dashields

Dam (*Allegheny*) and tracked into *Beaver* 11/5 (MV). Rounding out waterfowl reports were **Green-winged Teal**, **Bufflehead**, **Hooded Merganser**, and **Ruddy Duck** (MV, GM). Canvasback, Redhead, Common Goldeneye, and Red-breasted Merganser were not reported.

*Beaver* would have missed out entirely on the impressive state-wide Nov flight of **Red-throated Loons** were it not for a single adult that put down on the OR at Rochester for all of ten minutes 11/14 (MV). This represented the fifth or sixth record for the county. **Common Loons** were reported only from AR, where one or two remained through Nov beginning 11/2 (GM). Two long-staying **Great Egrets** were found: one at BBW was present 9/15-10/1 (MV), and one at AR remained 9/23-10/20 (MV, GM). A **Green Heron** at IND that lingered to 10/19 was a bit of a procrastinator (GM). A **Ring-necked Pheasant** at Riverfront Park in Rochester 11/3 (MV) was wildly out of place, and another (or perhaps by chance the same bird) was similarly lost along PA-68 in Industry 12/1 (MV). The only stable population of this species known in the county is on and around SGL 189.

**Ospreys** nested successfully again at Industry, and at least one bird remained along that section of the OR to 9/15 (MV, GM). Several **Bald Eagles** were reported throughout the county (SG, PN, MV, GM) from late summer throughout the season, and one was seen at the now-regular wintering location on the BR beginning 10/29 (SG). The only report of **Red-shouldered Hawk** was of one in Chippewa Twp. 11/3 (MV), and the last report of **Broad-winged Hawk** came early this year on 9/4 at RCSP. A **Merlin** at AR 11/2 (GM) was an excellent find, but despite suitable habitat, the bird apparently did not stay. As reported last season, one or two **Peregrine Falcons** were frequenting LBL in the late summer, and were last noted 8/11 (MV, GM). The only other report was of one on the OR near Industry 9/15 (MV).

Shorebirding at LBL was at its typical level of excellence, but the dry conditions of Aug and early Sep also allowed for the development of good mudflats at both IND and BBW. IND had one of its best shorebirding years in recent memory from early Aug until 9/14 when heavy rains flooded most of the mudflats there for the rest of the season.

There were at least 6 records of **Black-bellied Plover** at LBL beginning with one 8/4 and ending with a late bird there 11/5. Two separate groups of 3 on 9/22 and 10/5 each equaled the highest single count for the county (MV, GM). Three **American Golden-Plovers** were at LBL 9/3 (GM), and one stayed for two days 9/7-9/8 (MV). These represented the fifth and sixth county records for this species, though it is clear that they are likely annual at LBL, and counting the county records going forward will not be very meaningful. **Semipalmated Plovers** were easy to find at LBL 7/28-9/22 (MV, GM, DW, WF) and IND 8/31-9/14 (MV, GM, MF). There was also one **Semipalmated Plover** out of place at the Beaver Falls Dam 9/10 (MV). **Killdeer** counts peaked with 107 at LBL 9/3 (GM) and 55 at IND 9/8 (MF). A few persisted at LBL and on the BR into early December (MV).

“Amazing” was the description MV gave to the **American Avocet** he found at LBL 7/16, the second county record and the second record for that location. **Greater Yellowlegs** were present in low density through 10/18, whereas **Lesser Yellowlegs** numbers were more notable. At LBL, 33 put down during heavy rain 8/27 (MV, GM), and 30 stopped briefly 9/3 (MV); additionally, 15 at IND 9/13 were impressive for that location. **Solitary Sandpiper** numbers peaked at IND with 12 on 8/31 (MV, GM), and one lingered at AR until 11/2 (GM) making for one of the later records in county history. Incredible were 2 separate **Willetts** located at LBL; one found in the afternoon of 8/17 (MV) remained the next morning (GM), and a second bird flew over the lake without stopping on the afternoon of 8/20 (GM). These were the first two **Willetts** for *Beaver* since the first half of the

20<sup>th</sup> Century. **Spotted Sandpipers** hung around IND until 10/12. A **Ruddy Turnstone** at LBL 8/6 was a good find (MV).

Once again **Sanderlings** showed surprisingly well at LBL, odd for an "inland" lake. There were 5 reports probably referring to 3 separate birds, all juveniles, from 8/20-9/19 (MV, GM). **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were very numerous in late Aug at LBL, with at least 25 staying throughout the last week of that month. They also appeared at IND, AR, and BBW, with the latest being a bird at IND 10/7 (MV). A juv **Western Sandpiper** at LBL 8/13 was an excellent find, probably the fourth for the county (GM, MV). An outstanding total of 97 **Least Sandpipers** were counted at LBL 8/13 (GM, MV). An adult **White-rumped Sandpiper** that put down at IND during rainfall 8/28 (GM) was the only report and the only shorebird species found in the county this season not at LBL. **Baird's Sandpipers** are apparently fairly common, annual fall visitors to LBL; as many as 4 were present most any given day 7/21-8/28. **Pectoral Sandpipers** had an outstanding season, with a peak of 50 counted at LBL 8/6, and up to 22 at IND 9/10-11 (MV, GM). Stragglers remained at LBL until 11/3, which is notably late. **Dunlins** were noted 10/7-11/3 at LBL (MV, GM).

It was a banner year for **Stilt Sandpipers** in *Beaver*. A flock of 8 juvs, all more or less at the same stage of transition to basic plumage, stole the show at IND for three days 9/2-9/4 (ph. GM). This is easily the high count for this species in the county's history. Another juvenile, known to be different than the flock of 8 based on its stage of molt, was at IND 9/7-9/13 (MV, GM). Additionally, there were four reports of **Stilt Sandpiper** from LBL 7/26-8/20 (GM, MV, DW, WF). **Short-billed Dowitchers** were frequently reported at LBL 7/13-8/31 (MV, GM), and singles also showed at IND 8/30 and at BBW 9/2-9 (MV). Probably the most interesting shorebird of the season was a juvenile dowitcher closely studied and photographed by GM at LBL 8/28, which he tentatively identified as a **Long-billed Dowitcher**. Despite some dispute, the identification was largely validated during a discussion of the bird on ID-Frontiers. This was the second record of this species for the county. **Wilson's Snipes** were occasionally reported beginning 9/2. In all, 23 species of shorebirds were reported for the fall season. Twenty-five species were found in the county in 2006, all of which were seen at LBL at least once.

An odd sighting of 4 **Bonaparte's Gulls** was made in Green Twp. 10/9 as the birds migrated over the junction of US-30 and PA-151 (GM). Otherwise, reports of this species were few, though 42 counted on the OR at Rochester 10/29 was a good total. Likewise, reports of all gulls were off this season, with no return of the large staging flocks of Ring-billed Gulls on the rivers until the second week of Dec, over three weeks later than the peak of gull migration in 2005. A good flight of 450 **Ring-billed Gulls** that passed Dashields Dam in *Allegheny* 10/29 (GM) had flown through *Beaver* on their way, but they were not inclined to stop. In some years, these late Oct migrant gulls may stop along the BR and the OR where their numbers then build throughout Nov. But that was not the case this season—the first truly good count of staging **Ring-billed Gulls** was not noted until 12/10, when GM estimated 1335 on the BR between the Beaver Falls Dam and the river mouth. An update on their movements will be made in the winter report. Four instances of **Caspian Terns** 8/10-9/2 (MV, GM) and a single **Black Tern** 8/29 (DW), all at LBL, represented the only terns reported for the season.

Seventeen **Common Nighthawks** at IND 8/17 was the highest daily count (MV). **Chimney Swift** roosts were discovered in Midland (GM), Ambridge (MV), and Beaver Falls (SG), with reports persisting into early Oct. Two **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were reported: one at LBL 10/7 (GM) and one at AR 10/10 (MV).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** at SGL 285 on 8/12 was a welcome

sighting and the only report of this locally rare species (GM). **Eastern Wood-Pewees** were incredibly numerous at RCSP in the first two weeks of Sep, and one was found there still singing at the late date of 9/23 (GM). **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were twice found at RCSP: 2 were there 9/4, and one 9/9 (GM). **Acadian Flycatchers** continued with singing at RCSP up to 9/9 (GM). **Eastern Phoebe** persisted at LBL until 10/22 (MV), but the last records for both **Great Crested Flycatcher** and **Eastern Kingbird** came early from RSCP 9/4 (GM).

A great showing of all six **vireo** species at RCSP 9/9 included the following totals: one **White-eyed**, 3 **Blue-headed**, 2 **Yellow-throated** (still singing), at least 10 **Warbling**, one **Philadelphia**, and at least 50 **Red-eyed** (GM). Elsewhere this season, **Blue-headed Vireos** persisted at AR and SGL 285 until the second week of Oct (MV, GM), one **Philadelphia Vireo** was at AR 9/9 (MV), and a somewhat late **Red-eyed Vireo** was at RCSP 9/29 (GM).

Two **Purple Martins** at IND 8/10 were the only report (BS). Notably late swallows included one **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** at AR 10/18 and one **Barn Swallow** at LBL 10/17 (MV). **Bank Swallow** (9/2, MV) and **Cliff Swallow** (9/9, MF) were both reported at IND. **Winter Wrens** were one at LBL 9/29 (MV), one at AR 9/29 (MV), and 4 near LBL 10/7 (GM). **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were widespread and easy to find, including a very good count of at least 25 at SGL 285 10/8 (GM), and a late bird at RCSP 11/19 (LC).

Monitoring of nocturnal migration by GM produced a few good counts of **spot-breasted thrushes**: Near SGL 189 on 9/16, 200 **Swainson's**, 200 **Wood**, 5 **Gray-cheeked**, and 2 **Veeries** were tallied. Near LBL 10/7, 70 **Swainson's**, 19 **Gray-cheeked**, 4 **Hermit**, and 2 **Wood** were counted. Besides these, *Catharus* reports were few as is typical. One **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was at AR 9/29 (BS) and two were near LBL 10/7 (GM), 2 **Swainson's Thrushes** were on the Montgomery Dam access road 9/23 (MV), and one **Hermit Thrush** was at AR 10/10 (MV). A **Gray Catbird** at LBL 10/22 and a **Brown Thrasher** at LBL 10/20 were both somewhat late (GM), but another very late **Gray Catbird** at SGL 285 12/10 (GM) was extraordinary. **American Pipit** reports were of one at IND 9/11 and 12 at LBL 10/5 (MV).

Thirty species of wood-warblers were reported this season. The best single-day showing occurred at RCSP 9/4, when GM recorded 17 species in three separate large waves throughout the park. AR also was quite productive for warbler flocks in the first two weeks of Sep. Following are the highlights of the season:

Best of all warblers was a gorgeous adult male **Golden-winged Warbler** at RCSP 9/4 (GM). **Tennessee Warblers** were more scarce than usual, but were reported in small numbers at AR and RCSP 9/4-22. An **Orange-crowned Warbler** near LBL 10/7 (GM) rounded out the warblers in *Beaver* for calendar 2006, as it was the last of the 36 regular Pennsylvania warbler species that had not yet been recorded. **Nashville Warblers** persisted at AR until 10/20 (MV). A **Northern Parula** at RCSP 9/22 (GM, MV) was good since this species becomes hard to find after the breeding season. Up to 4 **Cape May Warblers** were at RCSP 9/4-9/9 (GM), and a group of six were found at SGL 285 on 9/24 (GM). A **Black-throated Blue Warbler** near LBL 10/7 was somewhat late (GM). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** seen away from breeding areas near LBL 8/7 was interesting, given that the fall migration of this species is poorly known but is considered to happen earlier than most other species. Unsurprisingly, therefore, this was the last report of the season. Twice GM made good counts of 13 **Palm Warblers**, at SGL 285 on 9/24 and near LBL 10/7. Ten **Bay-breasted Warblers** at RCSP 9/22 was the best count for that species (GM, MV). A **Cerulean Warbler** was an unexpected find

at SGL 285 on 9/24 (GM), providing a rare late Sep record. An **Ovenbird** was found lingering at AR on 10/17 (GM). A **Louisiana Waterthrush**, probably the earliest migrant wood-warbler, was found away from breeding habitat at LBL 7/25 (MV) and was not reported thereafter. This species can become difficult to find in the county as early as the end of June. A female **Common Yellowthroat** persisted at a small wetland near SGL 285 until 12/3 (GM). Two **Wilson's Warblers** were found: one at IND 8/28 (GM), and one at AR 9/29 (MV). The only report of **Canada Warbler** was of a drab first-fall female at RCSP 9/4 (GM).

**Scarlet Tanager** numbers in mid-Sep at RCSP were very impressive, when daily counts exceeded 25 birds three times from 9/4-29 (GM).

An impressive 12 species of sparrow (13 counting **Eastern Towhee**) were found at SGL 285 on 10/8, which included the last **Vesper Sparrow** and **Grasshopper Sparrows** of the season (GM). **Savannah Sparrows** lasted until 11/13 at SGL 285 (GM) but they likely remain there into Dec in small numbers. **Henslow's Sparrows** continued at their stronghold on SGL 285 until 9/24 (GM). **Lincoln's Sparrow** reports were scattered between SGL 285, LBL, and IND from 9/24-10/15. Likewise, **Swamp Sparrows** were sporadically reported from Madden Run Marsh, LBL, and SGL 285 from 9/29 through the season (MV, GM), with a peak of 7 at SGL 285 on 10/8 (GM). Very impressive counts of **White-throated Sparrows** were made on back-to-back days in early Oct: 125 were near LBL 10/7 and 100 were at SGL 285 on 10/8 (GM). Good numbers of **White-crowned Sparrows** were right alongside their White-throated cousins on these days, with 30 on 10/7 and 50 on 10/8 (GM). **White-crowned Sparrows** continued through the season at SGL 285 in dwindling numbers (GM).

Three **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** heard on nocturnal migration near LBL 10/7 were late, but not as late as the single **Bobolink** heard on the same count (GM). Blackbird reports were minimal, with none received for Rusty Blackbird and no reports of large **Red-winged Blackbird** or **Common Grackle** flocks. A few **Eastern Meadowlarks** were still hanging on at SGL 285 12/10 (GM). The two **oriole** species left for warmer climes more or less on time.

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### **Bedford County**

Locations: Allegheny Front Hawk (AFHW), Dunnings Creek and White-tailed Wetlands (DCW), Shaffer Mountain (SH), Allegheny Front (AF), Shawnee State Park (SSP).

The weather was unusually wet and warm for July through December with the first serious cold front passing through the end of November. December was generally warm with open water extending throughout the period. The reporting period was an interesting seasonal mix which included **Greater White-fronted Geese**, **Ross's Goose**, **Cattle Egret**, **Little Blue Heron**, **Common Moorhen**, **Sandhill Crane**, **Northern Shrike**, **Cave Swallows** and **Evening Grosbeaks**. Unless noted otherwise all sightings were made by the author.

A single **Greater White-fronted Goose** was sighted among 90 **Canada Geese** at DCW 11/26. It lingered for a week until DCW iced over and the flock moved to the open water of SSP. After several warm days,

the ice melted at DCW and the **Greater White-fronted Goose** and the associated **Canada Geese** returned to DCW. On 10/23 and 10/25, a single **Ross's Goose** was found within a large flock of Canada Geese and 40 **Snow Geese** at DCW. This is a second county record for Ross's Goose. Seven **Mute Swans** flew over AF 9/15. This is the first time in four years, since Mute Swan control efforts were initiated, that I've seen this number in *Bedford*. Approximately 10,000 **Tundra Swans** crossed the AF during the first week of Dec. Unless otherwise noted, the following were counted at DCW: 16 **Wood Duck** 8/30, 10 **Gadwall** 11/11, 2 **American Wigeon** 11/3, 45 **American Black Ducks** 11/9, 120 **Mallards** 11/15, 4 late **Blue-winged Teals** 11/3, 30 fly-over **Northern Pintails** at the AFHW 11/26, 28 **Green-winged Teal** 11/1 (an interesting note is this species raised 10 young at DCW, a first time DCW breeding record for this species), 2 **Redheads** 11/3, 8 **Hooded Mergansers** 11/15, 21 **Common Merganser** 11/4 as flyovers at the AFH, 20 **Red-breasted Mergansers** 11/27 at SSP and 3 **Ruddy Ducks** 11/1.

Two **Common Loons** were first seen 10/23 with larger flocks up to 45 continuing until 12/4 at the AFHW. One **Pied-billed Grebe** was reported at DCW 11/3 and 4 at SSP 12/16. The only **Horned Grebe** was a singleton on 12/17 at SSP. Seven **Double-crested Cormorants** made their first appearance 9/3 at the AFHW. Two **American Bittern** were seen 7/16, and 3 **Least Bittern** 8/6 at DCW. **Great Egrets** in numbers varying from one to 7 lingered throughout the period until the late date of Dec 2 at DCW. A **Cattle Egret** was observed at DCW following in the footsteps of a Belgium Horse on the late date of 11/8. The Cattle Egret is the newest *Bedford* record. The rarely found **Little Blue Heron** was seen 8/3 at DCW.

The AFHW had a great and unusual season this year. West wind generally account for 2/3 of the season's wind direction, but carry only 1/3 of the birds. This year was exceptional in that west winds accounted for the vast majority (estimated 85%) of the birds counted. This is mostly due to **Broad-winged Hawks** which came through in record breaking numbers on west winds. The following are the season results: **Black Vulture** 20, **Turkey Vulture** 459, **Osprey** 125, **Bald Eagle** 70, **Northern Harrier** 61, **Sharp-shinned Hawk** 1179, **Cooper's Hawk** 191, **Northern Goshawk** 5, **Red-shouldered Hawk** 81, **Broad-winged Hawk** 13,974, **Red-tailed Hawk** 1548, **Rough-legged Hawk** 4, **Golden Eagle** 222, **American Kestrel** 75, **Merlin** 32, **Peregrine** 48, unidentified raptors 254 for a total of 18,348 (TB,TD,GF,NF,EH,MM,RM,CM,JR,BS)

A nice surprise was a **Common Moorhen** 8/6 at DCW. In the past, this species has only been reported in the spring and not every year. One **Sandhill Crane** was seen at DCW 10/21. The following shorebirds were counted at DCW: 14 **Semipalmated Plover** 9/14, 3 **Greater Yellowlegs** 8/10, 10 **Lesser Yellowlegs** 8/10, one **Solitary Sandpiper** 10/2, 14 **Semipalmated Sandpiper** 9/10, 4 **Least Sandpiper** 9/10, 11 **White-rumped Sandpiper** 8/12, 3 **Baird's Sandpiper** 8/12, 6 **Pectoral Sandpiper** 9/12 and 2 on 9/14 and 18 **Short-billed Dowitcher** 8/25. Gulls and terns were absent from my watch with the exception of a **Black Tern** that lingered 7/26-7/27 at DCW.

The following owls were heard, seen or banded: **Eastern Screech** 9/23 at SSP, **Great Horned Owl** at AF 10/4, **Barred Owl** at Allegheny Front 12/10, 3 **Short-eared Owls** flying meadows at DCW, 5 **Northern Saw-whet Owls** banded at AFHW 10/14 (DD).

**Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** were observed migrating at AFHW with 31 on 9/6, 45 on 9/7, and 56 on 9/9. An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was spotted 8/31 and a **Least Flycatcher** 9/12 at DCW (CH). A **Northern Shrike** was seen on Lambert Mountain Rd in Bedford 11/25 close to where two others were seen at Hidden Acres Farm in *Somerset*, not more than a mile away. It's likely this is one of the two. **White-eyed Vireos** were

observed 8/26, **Yellow-throated Vireos** 9/28, **Warbling Vireos** 8/6 and a **Philadelphia Vireo** 8/26 all at DCW (CH). **Purple Martin** were observed 8/5 and **Bank Swallows** 8/18 at DCW (CH). By far the most spectacular swallow of the season was a small flock of 4 **Cave Swallows** flying across the Allegheny Front 12/1. This was a new record for *Bedford* and *Somerset* (ML).

**Common Ravens** had a spectacular aerial spectacle 12/12 when over 60 were observed at the same time diving and soaring upward just off the AF (ML, TD, CM). Seven **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were counted on a River Birch along Dunnings Creek 12/16. The first **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were observed 10/9 followed by **Golden-crowned Kinglets** 12/1 at the AFHW.

The following 21 species of warblers were observed at DCW: **Golden-winged** 8/5, **Tennessee** 7/3, **Northern Parula** 8/15, **Yellow** 8/20, **Chestnut-sided** 9/18, **Cape May** 9/12, **Black-throated Blue** 9/5, **Yellow-rumped** 10/4, **Black-throated Green** 8/31, **Blackburnian** 8/31, **Pine** 9/14, **Palm** 9/14, **Blackpoll** 9/18, **American Redstart** 9/5, **Worm-eating** 9/3, **Ovenbird** 8/20 and **Northern Waterthrush** 8/31. **Connecticut Warblers** were seen in multiple locations this fall: AFHW 9/27 (TD), DCW 8/22(CH), SSP 9/9 (JD) and several locations bordering *Bedford* and *Somerset* (ML,JP). Other warblers included **Hooded** 9/5, **Wilson's** 9/3, and **Canada** 9/3 all at DCW (CH,TD).

The following sparrows were found at DCW: **Vesper** 10/23, one **Henslow's** 10/4, four **Lincolns** 9/16 and two **Swamp** 9/27. **White-throated** and **White-crowned Sparrows** were in the hundreds 10/16 (TD,CH). A **Snow Bunting** was observed along Rt. 96 going into New Paris 11/12. Forty-two **Rusty Blackbirds** were observed at the Allegheny Front 10/26 (MH). On the early date of 9/28 there were 15 **Evening Grosbeaks** in a Sunburst locust Tree at White-tail Wetlands Bed and Breakfast (CH). The Evening Grosbeak, now somewhat problematic, continues to show up at certain feeder stops with regularity.

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### **Berks County**

Locations: Blue Marsh L. (BML), Hawk Mt. Sanctuary (HMS), L. Ontelaunee (LO), State Game Lands (SGL).

The headliner this fall was a storm blown pelagic. A flock of about 12 birds identified as **Wilson's Storm-Petrels** (JS) was seen by several observers at the State Hill hawkwatch above BML 9/4 in the wake of an offshore hurricane. Earl Poole was reasonably sure that he saw two Wilson's Storm-Petrels in a large fallout (more than 100 birds) of Leach's Storm-Petrels at LO after a severe northeaster August 23 to 24, 1933, but decided to leave his observation hypothetical (Uhrich, *A Century of Bird Life in Berks County, Pennsylvania*). There is no other county record.

A **Cackling Goose** was at LO 11/8 (DW). Several overhead **Brant** flocks were seen, starting with one of 20 birds over Green Hills L. 10/21 (KL). Three flocks totaling 64 birds flew over HMS 10/27-11/18 (DB). Birders reported 23 duck spp. in mostly small numbers. A late Oct storm dropped three **Surf Scoters** and two **White-winged Scoters** at LO 10/28 (MW), 18 **Black Scoters** at BML 10/27 (JS) and 110 **Bufflehead** at LO 10/29 (MW). Two **Long-tailed Ducks** were at LO 11/12 (MS). Though

there was no large Nov loon fallout, one to three **Red-throated Loons** were seen at BML and LO 11/17-11/25 (RK, KL, JS, DW). Nine **Red-necked Grebes** were reported at BML and LO 10/28-11/23 (TS, MS, MW). A juv **Great Cormorant** was at LO 10/28-11/25 (JE, m.obs.), where the species was long overdue. A **Least Bittern** at BML 8/18 (JS) provided a very rare fall record. An adult **Glossy Ibis** foraged at ponds on Lowland Rd., Hamburg and Blue Mt. Academy 8/26-8/29 (TC, m.obs.).

HMS tallied another fall **Mississippi Kite** 9/11 (DB). The **Bald Eagle** success story continues, with adults and a juv. seen at LO in summer and fall. The single-day high count of 26 **Nothern Harriers** at HMS 9/27 tied a record set 53 years ago (DB). The 7508 **Broad-winged Hawks** tallied at HMS 9/12 gave the sanctuary its fourth highest one-day count of this species (DB). HMS also set new seasonal records of 164 **Golden Eagles** and 204 **Merlins** (DB). A **Sandhill Crane** flew over the State Hill hawkwatch, BML 9/17 (JS).

High water levels again reduced shorebird habitat, resulting in only 15 spp. being reported. Among them were a **Black-bellied Plover** at BML 9/16-9/22 (RK, JS), two **American Golden-Plovers** near Lyons 10/15 (MW), two **Sanderlings** at BML 9/1 and three there 9/3 (JS), and single **Western** and **White-rumped Sandpipers** at Shartlesville 8/28 (MS). A **Common Tern** was at LO 10/1 (BS, MS). One or two **Black Terns** visited LO 8/27-9/2 (RK, KK, MS).

**Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were feeding fall webworms to fledged young near Leesport 9/1-9/13 (DK). A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was found at LO 11/19 (BS, MS). A **Barred Owl** called for about two weeks in Pike Twp. in early Oct (RK). An ad. female **Rufous Hummingbird**, banded 11/5 by Scott Weidensaul, was at a Green Hills L. feeder 11/5-12/8 (KL). A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was at SGL 110 9/9 (KG). All five vireo spp. were well reported, with a high count of 25 **Blue-headed Vireos** at HMS 9/26 (DB). Seasonal roosts of **Fish Crows** included about 1000 at BML in late Aug and about 200 in District Twp. in early Oct (RK, JS). Two **Common Ravens** were seen and heard several times in flight near Leesport in the rapidly urbanizing agricultural valley of central *Berks* 10/8-12/11 (DK). Until recent years, there had been no credible sighting of ravens south of the Kittatinny Ridge.

The scant handful of **Red-breasted Nuthatch** reports indicates that they stayed north. High counts of nocturnal flight calls of thrushes in District Twp. fell into the pattern of recent years, with about 400 calls of **Veery** 8/23; 10-12 calls of **Gray-cheeked Thrush** 9/13, 9/20 and 10/4; 500-600 calls of **Swainson's Thrush** 9/13 & 9/20; and 100-200 calls of **Wood Thrush** 9/13 & 9/20 (RK). **Hermit Thrush** apparently peaked in Nov, with 30 at HMS 11/4 (RR) and 11 at SGL 110 on 11/19 (KG). Fog and localized rain increased the thrush counts 9/13, and also caused an unprecedented fallout of more than 75 **Brown Thrashers** at BML, where the bushes also dripped **Gray Catbirds** and sparrows (JS). About 100 **American Pipits** were near Lyons 10/15 (MW). Over 2000 **Cedar Waxwings** streamed by North Lookout, HMS 9/9 (RK, SS). Hundreds interested in ripe mountain ash fruits clustered around the lookout until a passing **Merlin** snatched one, dispersing the flock.

Birders reported 30 warbler spp. at expected times. **Black-throated Blue Warblers** passed through HMS in record numbers, with high counts of 23 on 9/26 and 24 on 9/27 (DB), as well as 11 at nearby SGL 110 9/24 (KG). Numbers of **Chestnut-sided Warblers** and **Black-throated Green Warblers** (61 on 9/26) were above average at HMS (DB). A **Northern Waterthrush** was near Leesport 9/3-9/9 (DK). Seven **Connecticut Warblers** were found 9/14-10/9, with two at HMS 10/1 (MW) and two near Leesport 10/9 (DK). Several **Mourning Warblers** were reported 9/1-10/1, mostly near Leesport, where an unmanicured landscape with weedy

patches and in-ground birdbaths attracts many warblers every year. A **Yellow-breasted Chat** at SGL 106 on 9/10 (TC) adds to the sparse fall records of this sp.

A **Blue Grosbeak** was at LO 8/6 (MS) and two imm. birds were near Leesport 10/3,4 (DK). Seedy food plots planted at BML attracted about 200 **Indigo Buntings** 9/1 and as many during the rainy fallout 9/13 (JS). The high count of **Bobolinks** was 50 at BML 9/3 (JS). **Purple Finches** were even more scarce than **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, perhaps enjoying large boreal cone crops. A few crossbills are counted almost annually at HMS. This year, 20 **Red Crossbills** were there 11/12 (DB) and 5 **White-winged Crossbills** 11/27 (CF). A **Pine Siskin** 10/9 at a feeder near Leesport (DK) was the only one reported.

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#### **Blair County**

No Report. No Compiler.

#### **Bradford County**

An **Osprey** was seen over the Susquehanna R. near Wysox 8/11 (TD), and one on Peck Hill 10/11 (AV, GV). Two adult **Bald Eagles** were sitting on a branch above the Susquehanna R. at Towanda 11/21 (TG). A **Northern Harrier** was present between Burlington and Monroeton, near East Rd., 10/13 (BF,IF).

**Sandhill Cranes**, present during the summer, were still seen in Aug and Sep: two 8/18 and four 9/19 (the last date they were sighted this year) near Oak Hill (CM,GM). The most noteworthy sighting of the season was a **Barn Owl** nest, with several young still present, near Troy 9/20 (KW). **Eastern Screech Owl** was present 8/5 on Peck Hill (AV,GV), one in the Hollenback vicinity 9/19 (MB,NB), and one heard calling 10/1 near my house near New Era (TG). **Barred Owls** were calling near my house near New Era many nights 8/1-10/31 (TG), one was seen near New Albany 8/7 (GM), and heard on Woods Rd. 8/9 (CM), four were calling on Woods Rd. 8/17 (CM).

Approximately 100 **Common Nighthawks** were flying over Sayre 8/28 (RY). An imm **Mourning Warbler** was on Peck Hill 8/27 (AV,GV).

Correction: The **Merlin** reported near Terrytown in the Summer Issue should be credited to Bill Reid.

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#### **Bucks County**

Locations: Broadwing SEPT Hawk Count (SPT), Buckingham Twp. (BUT), Delaware River (Del. R.), Tropical Storm Ernesto (Ernesto), Nockamixon State Park (NSP), Peace Valley Park (PVP), Pine Run Dam (PRN), Penn-Warner Tract (PWT), Rohm & Haas-Bristol (RHS), State Game Lands

#157 (SGL157). Historical references are from "Birds of Bucks Co." by Ken Kitson 1998 and subsequent updates recorded in this Journal. Weather statistics are from Trenton (NOAA). Broadwing SEPT data was provided by Kirk Moulton.

Except for August, which had below average rainfall, the rest of the period was significantly above in rainfall. Temperatures were above normal in August and November but below for September and October. With high water, no significant shorebird habitat occurred this year. There were no apparent irruptions, which is not surprising considering that last year was good. As usual, a few excellent rarities were reported. Ernesto produced some noteworthy reports. Otherwise, migration was pretty normal compared to recent years. The 13<sup>th</sup> annual Broad-winged Hawk Count (SPT) held 9/13-9/25 at six sites had a much better showing after three low count years. The 15,163 **Broad-winged Hawks** were still lower than the previous 12-year average of 18,345. A total of 235 species was reported for the four-month period. Again this year, the warm weather may be why 10 new fall late departure dates far exceeded only four new fall early arrival dates.

A **Greater White-fronted Goose** was at PRN 11/17 for the only report (MH). The first **Snow Goose** report was also the highest count report 11/20, when 400-500 passed over NSP (BE). County reports are normally of small numbers. The only **Brant** report was one at PVP 11/3 that was still present at the end of the period (AM). A bird thought to be a **Cackling Goose** flew by the Pleasant Valley SPT site on the early date of 9/25 (KM,LM). It was with more than 5000 migrating **Canada Geese** counted there that day, marking the first sizable wave of migrant geese throughout the area (KM,LM). A more expected arrival date for **Cackling Goose** was one 11/4 at PRN (DFa), and others were reported later in the month there (CR) and at PVP (AM). The only other reported very large migration day for **Canada Geese** was 10/5 at PVP, where flocks passed almost continuously most of the day (AM). A flock of geese, believed to be the first non-resident arrivals at NSP 8/28, contained a collared bird banded 7/4/2005 as an adult at Boucherville, PQ, near Montreal (BE). Another adult banded 6/27/2006 at Atlantic Beach, NY, was first noted at PVP 9/27 and stayed through the period (AM).

In general, the only location with noteworthy quantities of waterfowl was Falls Twp., which includes PWT. A count of 12 **Blue-winged Teal** 10/1 at PWT (DFa) was the highest report. A good high count of 400-500 **Green-winged Teal** was made at PWT 10/9 (DFa). Always low here, only a total of 3 **Canvasbacks** was reported between 11/3-11/21 at PVP (RFe,AM) and PWT (DFa). Also scarce here, a **Redhead** was at PVP 10/30 (RFe) for the only report. The high count for **Ring-necked Ducks** was 341 at Falls Twp. 11/19 (DFa). Scoters were scarce. One **Surf Scoter** was at NSP 10/28 (BE). Three **White-winged Scoters** stopped at PVP 10/7 for a new fall early arrival date (KR), one was at NSP 10/30 (BE), and 4 were there 11/2 (BE). NSP had one **Black Scoter** 10/27 and 2 on 10/28 (BE), with PVP having the high count of 11 females 11/19 (KR). Approximately 8 **Long-tailed Ducks** were reported between 10/28-11/30 from PVP (AM), PWT (DFa), and Churchville Res. (DFa). **Bufflehead** peaked earlier than last year with 116 at NSP 11/2 (BE) and 82 at PVP 11/3 (AM). A **Ruddy Duck** in Warminster Twp. continued from Jul through at least 8/20 for a rare county summer occurrence (NZ, HD). The highest count was 228 at Falls Twp. 11/19 (DFa). A good showing of at least 11 **Red-throated Loons** was reported between 11/3-11/23 from NSP (BE), PVP (JT), Core Creek Park (DFa), and PWT (DFa). **Common Loon** was first noted 10/27 at NSP but was very scarce, with the norm being no more than one seen at a time (BE) except for 2 there 11/16 (MH). A good high

count of 24 **Pied-billed Grebes** was reported from Falls Twp. 11/19 (DFa). Our highest report of 10 **Horned Grebes** was reported from PWT 11/5 (DFa).

The most rare bird resulting from Ernesto was a storm-petrel at PWT 9/2-9/3. Initially believed to be a **Wilson's Storm-Petrel** on 9/2, presumably the same bird was seen again 9/3, and the identity changed to **Band-rumped Storm-Petrel**, based on rump pattern and flight characteristics (DFa). Photos (GD) show a long-winged storm-petrel. This would be a first county record if accepted. A **Double-crested Cormorant** with a missing wing became a fixture at PVP in Oct and Nov (RH). **American Bittern** was reported more than normal. One each was at Quakertown 8/19, Milford Twp. 9/7 (BE), PRN 10/31 (AM), and Plumstead Twp. 11/22 (CW). The latter two dates were later than any previous fall reports. After leaf-fall, a more accurate count of **Great Blue Heron** nests was made in the NSP colony, which increased the count from 11 reported in the spring report to 20 assuming all were active (BE). All but one of these nests are just outside the park boundary. Thus, the revised total count for nests in the county for 2006 is as many as 115. Some high counts for **Great Egret** were 14 at RHS 8/7, 16 there 8/27, and 8 at CCP 8/25 (DFa). Two were still at PWT 11/20 (DFa). A good local count of 6 **Snowy Egrets** was at RHS 8/27, and the last report from there was 9/10 (DFa). A juv **Little Blue Heron** stopped at PVP 7/22 (CC), one was at Bradford Dam 8/8 (AM), and one lingered in Quakertown 8/21-8/30 (DFa, BE). A rare **Cattle Egret** stopped at BUT 11/6 (RS, VS) providing a new fall late date. Lake Towhee provided food for a high count report of at least 14 **Green Herons** 8/30 (AM, JMi). A new fall late date by a month was established by a juv **Green Heron** at PVP 11/9-11/15 (AM). There have been 4 reports on Christmas Counts of wintering birds, however. At least one **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was lingering at PWT 11/26 (DFa).

An unusually high count of both vultures was made on 11/21 in the upper part of the county. The total was 148 **Black Vultures** and 238 **Turkey Vultures** (BE). Included in that total was a 5-year high for the NSP roost, with 50 **Black** and 122 **Turkey** (BE). The SPT **Osprey** count was the 4<sup>th</sup> highest with 285 compared to a 12-year average of 239. NSP regularly has a late **Osprey** and this year was no exception with one still there through the period. The SPT **Bald Eagle** count of 78 was the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest. The previous 12-year average was 60. **Northern Harrier** had its third highest SPT tally with 58 compared to an average of 42. **Cooper's Hawk**, with a previous SPT average of 76, established a new high count of 181, reflecting the recent dramatic increase in this species. **Red-shouldered Hawk** was under-reported for the season. NSP reported this species 8 times over four months (BE), but only one other was reported which was at the BUT SPT site. A **Broad-winged Hawk** at the Pleasant Valley SPT site 9/25 was reported to be a rare dark phase bird (KM, LM). This was probably the first ever reported in the county. A **Golden Eagle** at PVP 10/19 (JT) and one at Lake Towhee 11/17 (ABr) were the only reports. **American Kestrel** held on with a SPT near average count of 176. The increasing **Merlin** had its 2<sup>nd</sup> best SPT year with 33 compared to an average of 19. The SPT **Peregrine Falcon** tally was 12, tying the previous 2<sup>nd</sup> highest count.

A **Yellow Rail** was flushed at PRN 10/31 (AM). It was also flushed 11/5 (KR, DF video), and last reported 11/7 (MH). This is only the 4<sup>th</sup> report since 1950 but the 2<sup>nd</sup> since 2002. It had previously been listed as occasional in the 19<sup>th</sup> century pre-1876. Two migrant **Virginia Rails** were at PRN 9/27 (KR). Three **Soras** 9/23 (DFa), one 10/1 (KR), and another establishing a new fall late date 10/31 (DFa), were all found at PRN. At least three **Common Moorhens** lingered through the period at US Steel, Falls Twp. where they nested (ABi, NB). A count of 31 **American Coots** at

NSP 10/15 was considered noteworthy by the observer due to poor showings for several years (BE). Other than Christmas Count numbers, no long-term fall historical numbers exist for this species at PWT to allow for comparison, but a high count of 672 11/19 set a new record for the observer (Dfa). Two **Sandhill Cranes** flew by the Pleasant Valley SPT site 9/25 for the 6<sup>th</sup> county report (KM, LM).

A good total of 19 shorebird species was reported. The most noteworthy reports, due to being rare to one degree or another in occurrence or date, are listed below. One adult **American Golden Plover** made a brief stop in Plumstead Twp. 8/30 (AM), 2 were at PWT 9/2 due to Ernesto (DFa), and 4 were at PWT 9/23 (DFa). Three **Solitary Sandpipers** were late at Quakertown 10/17 with one lingering there to 10/27 (DFa). Two **Sanderlings** were at RHS 8/27 (DFa). Ernesto brought reports of **White-rumped Sandpiper** 9/2. Three were at PWT (DFa), and one was at Markey Park in East Rockhill Twp. (AM, HE). Another was at PWT 10/15 (DFa). A late **Least Sandpiper** was at PWT from 11/25 through the end of the period (DFa). One **Stilt Sandpiper** was delivered by Ernesto 9/2 at PWT (DFa). A **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** was in Southampton Twp. 9/9 (DFa). A **Short-billed Dowitcher** was at RHS 8/27 (DFa), and Ernesto brought 2 to PWT 9/2 (DFa) and 3 to Markey Park 9/2 (AM, HE). Ernesto brought 12 **Red-necked Phalaropes** to the PWT and 7 to the lower Del. R. 9/2 (DFa). At least 2 were still there 9/3 (DFa). Even more rare, 2 **Red Phalaropes** at PWT and one on the lower Del. R. 9/2 were mixed in with the other phalaropes (DFa).

A juv. **Laughing Gull** at PVP 8/16-9/2 was unusual away from the lower part of the county (AM) and for so long a period. For the same reason plus its lateness, one was noteworthy at PRN 11/27 (GM). A count of 2600 at Falls Twp. Community Park 10/5 (BK) was the highest report, with 400 still there 11/18 (MS). A **Franklin's Gull** was at PWT 10/8 (DFa) for only the 5<sup>th</sup> county report. All but one of these reports have occurred since 2002. Peak counts for **Bonaparte's Gull** were 24 at NSP 10/29 (BE), and 30 at PVP 11/16 (JT, AM). Although Richboro is one of the locations for high counts of **Lesser Black-backed Gulls**, it normally is not until late winter. Heavy rains bringing worms to the surface were probably the cause of counts of 290 on 10/6 and 390 on 11/12 in athletic fields there, for the highest single site report this fall (ABn). At nearby Churchville Res. 11/8, 310 were present (ABn). **Caspian Tern** was well reported this year. A peak count of 6 was at PVP 9/11 (MH). A higher than normal total of 32 were reported between 7/28-10/9 (m. ob.). The unusually high number of **Black Terns** throughout the tri-state area was reported here, also. Six were at PWT 8/27 (DFa), one was in Plumstead Twp. 8/28 (DFa), and 11 were at Lake Towhee 8/30 (BE, AM). Ernesto resulted in an outstanding 26 at PWT 9/2, 18 there 9/3, 22 on the Del. R. below Bristol 9/2 (all DFa), and 3 at NSP 9/2 (BE). A peak of 9 **Common Terns** at PVP 9/28 (AM, JT) was unusual. Ernesto brought 5 to PWT and one on the lower Del. R. 9/2 (DFa). The above normal total for the season was 18 between 8/30 and 10/29 (AM, DFa, BE). Ernesto also brought the 6<sup>th</sup> county record of at least one and possibly 3 **Arctic Terns** to the lower Del. R. 9/2 (DFa). A low total of approx. 12 **Forster's Terns** was reported from NSP, PWT, and the Del. R., between 8/13 and 9/17 (BE, DFa).

A bird believed to be a **Eurasian Collared-Dove** was mostly seen in flight in Bedminster Twp. 8/7 (BE). Not all field marks were seen. Another possible sighting was a fly-by at PVP 9/20 by another experienced observer (JT). There have been no previous reports in the county. **Barn Owls** went unreported again. One heard-only **Long-eared Owl** at BUT 11/9 (MR) was highly unusual in being the sole report for the season. **Short-eared Owl** and **Northern Saw-whet Owl** were missing from reports. Rarely reported as a migrant here, a juv **Red-headed Woodpecker** was

at PVP 9/24 (SP). The SGL157 residents were reported 8/19 (CR,AM) and 9/3 (BE). SGL157 continues as the local hot spot for migrant **Olive-sided Flycatchers**. One there 8/5 established a new early fall arrival date (CR) but was not alone, as one was also seen that day at PVP (CC). Rarely reported, **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was at SGL157 8/20 (CR), PVP 9/7 and 9/10 (AM,JMi), and PWT 9/23 (DFa). A **Yellow-throated Vireo** at NSP 10/2 (BE) represented a new fall late date. **Philadelphia Vireo** was at PVP (AM,JMi) and E. Rockhill Twp. (BE) 9/11 for the only reports. An estimated 2000 **Tree Swallows** at PWT 10/22 (DFa) was the highest reported count. An unusually high count of 250 **Bank Swallows** 10/22 at PWT, also provided a new fall late date (DFa). A single **Cave Swallow** at PWT 11/19 was seen at very close range and videotaped for the county's 2<sup>nd</sup> record and 1<sup>st</sup> fully documented (DFa).

After last year's irruption, **Black-capped Chickadee** and **Red-breasted Nuthatch** went unreported. Continuing last year's unprecedented multiple reports of **Sedge Wren**, 4 reports were received this year. One was reported at PRN 10/1 (KR) followed by the same or another bird 10/14 (CR). Another was at PVP 10/7 (KR), and Core Creek Park contributed one 10/9 (BK). Previous to last year, this species was classified as accidental here. **Marsh Wren** was reported as usual in small numbers, but 2 singing at BUT 11/16 through the end of the period were possibly wintering (RH). *Catharus* thrushes can be a challenge to identify and when reports are not during expected times, a flag is raised. However, when four competent observers from four sites reported **Veery** when not expected between 10/21-10/27, it becomes convincing (NZ, HD, BK,BGa). Maybe reverse migration was a factor due to southwest winds preceding the reports. A **Bicknell's Thrush** was convincingly described 10/10 from Quinlan Nature Area, New Britain Borough (RFR,BS) for a 6<sup>th</sup> county report, but the observers conservatively left it as a probable. A late **Brown Thrasher** at PVP 11/7 (JT) was surprisingly the only one reported in Nov.

A total of 31 warbler species was reported. **Golden-winged Warbler**, **Yellow-throated Warbler**, **Prothonotary Warbler**, **Kentucky Warbler**, and **Yellow-breasted Chat** were completely missing from reports. A **Blue-winged Warbler** with yellow wing-bars at PVP 8/25 was a believed to be a **Brewster's Warbler** (CC,MH). A photographed **Tennessee Warbler** was at PVP 10/23 (BMu), furnishing a new fall late date. An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was photographed at BUT 10/30-10/31 (HE,RS) and was the only report. A **Pine Warbler** at Silver Lake Park 11/25 (DFi) adds to the rare post-Oct reports. A **Palm Warbler** was late at PVP 11/21 (AM). **Cerulean Warbler** was reported at SGL157 on 8/5 and 8/20 for our only reports (CR). A total of four **Connecticut Warblers** were seen between 9/9-9/30 in Warrington Twp. where they are regular in fall (RFR). **Connecticut Warblers** at PVP 9/17 (CC) and 9/20 (AM) were the only others reported. Similarly, four **Mourning Warblers** were seen at Warrington Twp. between 9/8-9/27 (RFR). **Mourning Warbler** was also at BUT 9/9 (RS,VS) and PVP 9/24 (AM). Late **Common Yellowthroats** were at PWT 11/19 (DFa) and PRN 11/24-11/25 (CR,KS).

A **Clay-colored Sparrow** was found and photographed in BUT 10/23 for a rare county record (HE). The first fully documented report of **Lark Sparrow** was found in BUT 10/14 (RS,VS,HS) and remained through the period. This furnished our 5<sup>th</sup> report. A **Grasshopper Sparrow** was at PRN 11/24-11/26 (CR,TJ,BMr) furnishing a new fall late date. A fully documented **Le Conte's Sparrow** at PRN 11/24 furnished the first county record (CR,TJ) and was seen by many. **Snow Bunting** appeared in small numbers as usual between 11/3-11/26, with a low peak report of 4 at NSP 11/6 (AM,JMi). A late **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** stopped at PVP 10/22-11/7 (AM,KR), furnishing a new late fall date. A male **Blue Grosbeak** was still singing to at least 8/19 at Blooming Glen (CR,AM). Two to 8, including

5 juvs, were at BUT 8/28-9/17 (RS,VS). A rare **Dickcissel** at BUT 10/8 (RS) was the only report. PRN was a good spot for migrant **Bobolinks** from Aug-late Sep (MH) with a peak count of 75 on 9/23 (DFa). A count of 12 **Eastern Meadowlarks** at Churchville Res. 11/14 was noteworthy for this locally dwindling species (CG). Two **Rusty Blackbirds** made a late stop in Warrington Twp. 11/26 (RFR), although this species is now believed to over-winter in appropriate habitat due to our warmer winters. A **Purple Finch** at PRN 11/26 (GG) was the only one reported as compared to last year's large irruption. **Pine Siskin** went unreported this year.

Exotics: A **Maned Duck** with a purple cable tie on one leg was at PVP in late Aug to at least 11/11(AM).

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#### **Butler County**

Locations: Butler City (BC), Cranberry Township (CT), Jennings Environmental Education Center (JEEC), Lake Arthur (LA), Macoskey Center (MC), Moraine State Park (MSP), Poplar Forest (PF), Poplar Manor (PM), Slippery Rock Borough (SRB), Slippery Rock Township (SRT).

The weather for the period varied considerably. Although Pittsburgh experienced three consecutive days of 90 degrees F., calling it a 'mini-heat wave,' northern *Butler* only reached a maximum of 86 degrees F. In fact, below normal temperatures continued in Sep (-3 degrees F.) and Oct (-2.2 degrees F.) but were above normal in Nov (+ 0.1 degrees F.). Precipitation was normal in Aug (5.75 inches), above normal in Sep (4.70 inches vs. normal of 2.01 inches), below normal in Oct (3.20 inches vs. normal of 3.21 inches) and Nov (1.38 inches vs. normal of 2.52 inches). Total precipitation for the year to the end of Nov was 32.89 inches (normal 34.49 inches) or 1.60 inches below the normal. Unusual were several violent wind storms associated with northwestern cold fronts that resulted in severe forest blow downs that had ill effects on late breeding birds.

The season's **Tundra Swan** migration route shifted to the southwestern corner of the county with people calling and e-mailing about scores of swans flying over CT 9/14-9/17, a week later than usual. A count of 89 **Wood Ducks** at LA 9/19 (ILR) was the high mark for the season. Waterfowl highlights at MSP were 3 **White-winged Scoters** 11/19 (TRBC) and 3 **Black Scoters** 10/27 (DD). Waterbirds in general were in lower numbers than usual, with 300 **Ruddy Ducks** and 650 **American Coots** the only large counts (TRBC). Five **Great Egrets** 9/10 (DD) were a good total for the Lake Arthur, and 2 on 10/22 (TRBC) were rather late.

Two hen **Ring-necked Pheasants** in SRT were observed in Oct-Nov as were the 21 **Wild Turkeys** recorded in PF/PM. At least 5 **Northern**

**Bobwhite** uttered their covey calls daily in SRB 9/20-9/30 (GW). A lone **Pied-billed Grebe** on LA 9/19 was the only report (ILR). A **Red-necked Grebe** was spotted at MSP 10/27 (DD). **Turkey Vultures** stayed throughout the period in SRB/SRT but the last **Osprey** at LA was 10/31, the last adult pair of **Broad-winged Hawks** departed PF 8/15, nine days before their 2 youngsters left 8/24.

At least 25-27 **Sandhill Cranes** gleaned leftover corn in SRT in Oct-Nov but the last **Killdeer** migrated from SRB/SRT 10/31. Unusual was a lone **American Woodcock** in PF 8/28 while that same evening a male **Whip-poor-will** was singing for several minutes (PO).

As many as 8 **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** staged in PF/PM from 8/28-8/31 but no **Black-billed Cuckoos** accompanied them. All three species of PF/PM owls, **Eastern Screech**, **Great Horned** and **Barred**, were calling in Aug-Sep but remained silent in Oct-Nov. **Chimney Swifts** were still migrating over LA with **Tree Swallows** 11/11. The last female **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** left PM 9/9 whereas a **Eastern Wood Pewee** was still singing in PF 10/16. Unusual were 10 **Eastern Kingbirds** flying north (to a staging area?) over PM 8/28.

A good nocturnal migration of mixed vireos occurred the night of 9/4 with a fallout in PF/PM 9/5 yielding 7 **Yellow-throated**, 4 **Blue-headed**, 3 **Warbling** and 11 **Red-eyed**. A female **Red-breasted Nuthatch** arrived at a PM feeder 11/3, remaining until the end of the month. **Carolina Wrens** exploded in number with 5 pairs in PF/PM alone and another 5 pairs in SRB. All males were "singing" as was a male **Winter Wren** with his mate until the end of Nov. Many **Golden-crowned Kinglets** migrated through PF/PM in Oct-Nov and a pair of **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** lingered until 9/30.

Interesting was a mixed flock of 11 **Eastern Bluebirds**, 24 **American Robins**, 69 **Cedar Waxwings** and 100 + **European Starlings** devouring the fruit on mock pear trees along Kelly Blvd. in SRB between 11/25-11/30. It took about one-half hour for the huge flock to finish one tree on a coming-going basis. The flock invaded nearby dogwood trees in PF for a little variety of food. A nocturnal migration of mixed thrushes (**Veery**, **Swainson's**, **Hermit** and **Wood**) occurred over PF/PM 9/18 and 4 **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** were observed at MSP 9/19 (ILR). MC was the site for 4 **Brown Thrashers** 9/7.

A heavy nocturnal migration above PF/PM 9/25 resulted in 4 **Magnolia**, 11 **Yellow-rumped**, 5 **Black-throated Green** and 3 **Hooded Warblers** being counted the next morning at JEEC (ILR). The last **Common Yellowthroat** in PF was 9/30. A **Cape May Warbler** 10/22 (TRBC) and an **American Redstart** 10/27 (DD) at MSP were later than usual. A **Mourning Warbler**, infrequently recorded at the park, was found 9/6 (DD). The only decent nocturnal migration of **Scarlet Tanager**, **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** and **Baltimore Oriole** in SRB was 9/26.

The **Eastern Towhee** did well this year and lingered until 11/30. The **Chipping Sparrow**, on the other hand, was far less than usual in numbers as attested by the few individuals that used local bird feeders this period. Every year there are fewer local **Field Sparrows** due to the destruction of habitat by over-development in SRB/SRT. A few individuals stayed until 11/30. Two **Lincoln Sparrows** at MSP 9/19 were enjoyed by all observers because of their tameness (ILR). Neither **White-throated Sparrow** nor **Dark-eyed Junco** appeared in SRB until 10/19, quite unexpectedly late. No **American Tree Sparrows** appeared the entire period, which is highly unusual. A single female **Indigo Bunting** at MC 9/26 was the last observation (ILR).

Literally thousands of **Red-winged Blackbirds**, **Common Grackles** and **Brown-headed Cowbirds** invaded the uncut corn fields in SRT daily through Oct and early Nov. However, the present surprise was a flock of

**Rusty Blackbirds** that started with only a few individuals 9/6, increased to 15 birds 9/14 and peaked with 41 individuals 11/30 (GW).

Finally, what happened to the **Purple Finch**? This species was still around in the spring but suddenly dropped out of the local picture this past summer. It is customary for the species to enjoy eating the abundant fruit of the wild black cherry in late Aug and throughout Sep but no birds were observed doing so this year. The mild period probably discouraged any boreal invasion, although 5 **Pine Siskins** were recorded in PF 11/24-11/30 (GW).

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#### **Cambria County**

No Report.

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#### **Cameron County**

No Report. No Compiler.

#### **Carbon County**

No Report.

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#### **Centre County**

Locations: Bald Eagle State Park (BESP), Centre Furnace Pond - AKA Duck Pond (DP), Colyer Lake (COL), Dowdy's Hole Rd (DHR), Jo Hayes Vista on Tussey Mt. (JHV), Lowes Ponds (LP), Millbrook Marsh (MM), Penn State Retention Pond (RP), Scotia Barrens (SCB), State College (SC), Toftrees (TOF).

More information about some of these locations is available at www.scbirdcl.org. SCB and JHV are parts of IBAs (see Important Bird Areas at pa.audubon.org). Almost all of the species information for this report comes from postings to the State College Bird Club listserv list scbirdcl AT lists.psu.edu during this period. .

Birds of note include: **Eared Grebe**, **Sandhill Crane**, **Black-crowned Night Heron**, **American Bittern**, **Black Tern**, **Merlin**, **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**, **Olive-sided Flycatcher**, **Northern Shrike**, and **Blue Grosbeak**.

180 **Tundra Swans** gathered at COL 11/12 (JV), and 11/13 (MH). A **Northern Pintail** showed up at DP 9/21 (JV), which also hosted an **American Wigeon** 11/19 (MN,NBu). Fourteen **Green-winged Teal** were seen at COL 11/19 (MH), and an uncommon **Blue-winged Teal** along with some **Green-winged Teal** were found at DP 10/15 (NBu). Eight **Black Scoters** were observed at BESP during a field trip 11/12 (BS). Seven **Long-tailed Ducks** were seen at BESP 10/28 (GG), and four 11/20 (DO). An uncommon **Common Goldeneye** showed up at COL 11/10 (DO). Five **Ruddy Ducks** were found at TOF 9/29 (JV).

A **Ruffed Grouse** appeared in a front yard on Oneida St. in State College 9/27 (MJ), and another grouse stayed on the road and was not

deterred by the observer's car at Krise Valley Rd. 8/12 (JD).

A **Red-throated Loon** in winter plumage at BESP 10/28 (GG), and five were found at COL 11/18 (MH). Two **Common Loons** in winter plumage at BESP 10/28 (GG). A rare **Eared Grebe** was seen at RP 9/20 (JV); the last report of this species was at DP in 1999 (SR); it appears that these are the only two records for *Centre*. Six **Horned Grebes** were seen at COL 11/19 (MH).

An **American Bittern** made a rare appearance at MM 11/15 (JV), 11/16 (SLW), 11/17 (SLW), and 11/18 (JV). Three **Great Blue Herons**, one **Green Heron**, and two **Great Egrets** were seen at Miles Hollow Rd. Marsh, near Julian, 8/5 (MH). One **Great Egret** was feeding along with one **Great Blue Heron**, and three **Green Herons** at COL 8/6 (MH). A juv **Black-crowned Night Heron** was a very uncommon find in a private backyard on the banks of Spring Creek along Trout Rd. 9/17 (JL).

The migrating species of raptors: **Osprey, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Coopers Hawk, Sharp Shinned Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Golden Eagle, American Kestrel** were observed at JHV 9/15, 9/19, or 11/2 at various times and in varying numbers (CW). Two **Black Vultures** were seen perched in a tree at COL 11/5 (MH). A late season **Osprey** was seen at BESP 10/28 (GG). A fledgling **Bald Eagle** from this year was seen at BESP 8/28 (MH); a **Bald Eagle** was found at TOF 9/1 (JV); an adult was found at DHR near BESP 9/9 (SK); and an adult was in the nest tree at BESP 11/18 (BS). An imm **Red-shouldered hawk** was found at COL 10/21 (JD), and a perched **Red-shouldered Hawk** was seen at COL 11/4 (MH). On 10/1 there were several **Merlin** sightings at different locations: TOF game land (CG), SCB (GG), Penn State campus (NEK), and one perched along 322 between Carson's Corners and the bypass 10/1 (DB).

A secretive **Sora** was observed near Spring Mills 9/3 (LR). An **American Coot** was found at RP 10/15 (NBu), 130 were found at the BESP beach 11/5 (GG), and over 125 at BESP during a field trip 11/12 (BS). A **Sandhill Crane** soared over the TOF golf course 9/16 (LG), and 20 were seen flying over the water tower above Centre Hills Golf Club 11/14 (CAI).

A **Semipalmated Plover** was found at COL 8/28 (MH, LG). Two **Lesser Yellowlegs** were seen at BESP 9/2 (GG), and one at LP 8/14 (HB). About five **Solitary Sandpipers** and about four **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were enjoying the new LP 8/24 (GG). Four **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were seen at BESP beach 9/2 (GG). A **Least Sandpiper** was observed at LP 8/14 (HB), and one 8/24 (GG); there were four at COL 8/12 (JD), and one at BESP beach 9/2 (GG). Two **Dunlin** in winter plumage at COL 10/17 (GG). About 25 **American Woodcocks** were seen in about 15 minutes at SCB 10/16 (GG).

One **Bonaparte's Gull** appeared at COL 11/18 (MH). About five **Black Terns** were seen at COL 8/28 (MH, LG, GG, RF), and four were seen at BESP 9/2 (GG). A **Caspian Tern** was found at BESP 9/3 (BS).

A **Barred Owl** was calling regularly from the side of Tussey Mt near where Pennsylvania Furnace Road crosses the ridge just into *Huntingdon* west of State College 8/11 (JD). Several sightings of **Common Nighthawks** occurred during the annual nighthawk migration (see <http://members.localnet.com/~risinger/> for information about Project Nighthawk) in Aug and include: five flying around a home in Graysdale 8/23 (SL), about 50 flying over the Community Field in SC 8/25 (CA), 22+ in Kaywood 8/25 (KO), 30 at Harner Farm and Pine Grove Mills 8/24 (GG, DG), four at SCB 8/25 (GG), about 45 over SC 8/24-8/25 (NB), at least 30 over SC 8/28 (NB), and nine at Park Forest Village in SC 8/29 (NEK).

This was a good season for **Olive-sided Flycatchers**: one was seen at Bear Meadows 8/19 (NB), one at SCB 8/23 (GG), one at DHR 8/28

(MH), one at SCB 8/30 (GG), and one near Spring Mills 9/3 (LR). An uncommon **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was seen at SCB Pond 9/6 (RS).

A **Northern Shrike** was seen at Lusk Run Rd. wetland by an unidentified couple 11/18 (BS). Two **Philadelphia Vireos** were found at the SCB pond 9/21 (LG), and two late-season **Blue-headed Vireos** were seen at MM 11/24 (NBu).

A late season **Red-eyed Vireo** was observed and photographed at Lusk Run 11/22 (BS, WL, DR). About 20 **Fish Crows** were observed feeding on trash from a Penn State football game 10/1 (NBu). Most of the **Purple Martins** moved from Howard where they nest to the west end of the BESP lake (where they perch in dead trees etc.), across from Upper Green's Run landing, as they do every year around early August prior to migration (BS). A **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was sighted at SCB 9/11 (GG). Many hundreds (perhaps thousands) of **American Robins** were seen flocking at SCB 10/1 (GG). Late season **Gray Catbirds** were found at BESP 10/28 (GG).

Scotia Barrens (SCB) is a designated IBA (see Important Bird Areas at [pa.audubon.org](http://pa.audubon.org) for more information) which is a pass-through area for a large number of migrating warblers every fall and spring. The most active areas this fall as in past years were SCB Pond and the SCB Weather station entrance and areas close to it. The migrating warblers reported at these areas from 8/6-9/21 were the following 22 species: **Blue-winged, Tennessee, Nashville, Northern Parula, Yellow, Chestnut-sided, Magnolia, Cape May, Black-throated Blue, Yellow-Rumped, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Pine, Palm, Bay-breasted, Black-and-white, American Redstart, Ovenbird, Common Yellowthroat, Hooded, Wilson's, and Canada** (GG, RS, GY, LG). These areas can become extremely active under the right conditions. E.g., on 9/9/2005, 21 warbler species were seen (RS).

A sign of the progression of the seasons were lots of **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** at SCB 9/30 (GG), and again 10/2 (GG). An imm **White-crowned Sparrow** was seen at TOF 10/3 (CG). **Lincoln's Sparrows** were found at the SCB pond area 9/18 (GG), five were seen at SCB 9/21 (LG, JY), and one at SCB 10/4 (JV). A **Fox Sparrow** was seen in Pine Grove Mills 10/9 (JB), and numerous **American Tree Sparrows** and **Field Sparrows** were found at SCB Pond 11/10 (GG).

A mixed flock (500+) of **Common Grackles** and **European Starlings** was observed at TOF 9/8 (NK). About 5 migrating **Blue Grosbeaks** were carefully observed at TOF Pond 9/22 (JV). Unfortunately, these very uncommon visitors did not stay long and were not seen by anyone else. Six **Pine Siskins** were seen flying over COL 9/21 (LG); they are frequently common winter finches around the area, but last year they occurred in unusually low numbers.

Observers: **Bob Fowles, P.O. Box 266, Pine Grove Mills, PA, 16868, (814) 238-1990, rbf@psu.edu**, Cindy Alley (CAI), Cindy Angelone, Joe Bishop, Hillel Brandes, Nick Bolgiano, Don Bryant, Nan Butkovich (NBu), Jim Dunn, Roana Fuller, Chet Gottfried, Deb Grove, Greg Grove, Lewis Grove, Molly Heath, Mike Johnson, Nick Kerlin, Nancy Ellen Kiernan (NEK), Stan Kotala, Wayne Laubscher, Jen Lee, Scott Lewis, Mark Niessner, Katie Ombalski, Dan Ombalski, Larry Ramsey, Steve Repasky, Dave Rockey, Bob Snyder, Rob Stone, Joe Verica, Sandy Lynn Welch, Chuck Widman, John Yerger, George Young.

#### **Chester County**

Locations: Avondale (Ad.), Chambers Lake (CL), Church Farm School

(CFS), Coatesville Reservoir (CR), Doe Run (DR), East Nantmeal Twp. (ENT), Embreeville County Park (EP), Hibernia County Park (HP), Kurtz Fish Hatchery (KFH), Marsh Creek State Park (MC), Marshallton (Mar.), New Garden Twp. (NGT), Octoraro Reservoir (OR), Pickering Creek Reservoir (PCR), Sadsbury Township Park (SaTP), sewage treatment plant (STP), Struble Lake (SL), Unionville (Uv.) Upper Uchlan Township (UUT), Valley Forge National Historical Park (VF), West Fallowfield Twp. (WFT), West Goshen Twp. (WGT), White Clay Creek (WCC).

Reports of waterfowl were somewhat scarce except for the ever-present **Canada Geese** and **Mallards**. **Cackling Geese**, in small numbers, were being identified among flocks of **Canada Geese**, mainly at CR, where they can be up close and easily studied. **Green-winged Teal**, **Ring-necked Ducks**, and **Ruddy Ducks** were seen in-groups in several locations in the county.

The only sighting of **Tundra Swans** was a flock of 47 birds flying over CFS 11/15 (JL). On 10/29, (RR) sent a report about bird activity at CL and passed along a very distressing piece of information, "HP rangers told him that hunters had illegally taken an **American Wigeon** the night before; duck hunting is not permitted on Chambers Lake." Hopefully, no more hunting will occur at this location!

A few birders got to see a single **Canvasback** and **Greater Scaup** at MC, the former in late Nov, and the latter 10/30. Single **Surf Scoter** 10/28 (CC) and **White-winged Scoters** 11/24 (PF) put in one-day appearances at MC. Only two reports of **Long-tailed Ducks** were sent, one at CL 11/20 (RR), and 2 birds at MC 11/23 (CC). **Buffleheads** have been present, but the only reports of substantial groups came from (SK) who had 10 at MC 10/30, and (CL) who counted 12 **Bufflehead** at MC 11/27. A female **Common Goldeneye** stayed at CL for several weeks, as well as a **Hooded Merganser** that spent the summer in that small body of water. **Ruddy Ducks** seem to find MC the best place in the county to congregate. They began to increase in flock size from 10/7, when (NP, SP) counted 12 ducks to 11/22, when (CC) counted 175.

A migration of **Red-throated Loons** through the state left one at CL which arrived mid-Nov and stayed through the end of the month. Another **Red-throated Loon** joined the original bird for a few days the third week of the Nov (RR). A few **Common Loons** were seen at CL and MC, usually as singles.

**Pied-billed Grebes** began appearing in Aug when (CC) saw one bird at SL 8/17. The highest number found was 15 at CR 11/19 (PF). Fifteen birds were also seen at MC 11/22 (CC). In late Oct **Horned Grebes** began appearing in groups of one to 4, mainly at MC, but one report also came from CL (RR). The first report came from (CL) 10/24 when she saw one **Horned Grebe** at MC. The high count was 4 at MC 10/27 (JMa).

**Double-crested Cormorants** have been seen throughout the report period, usually as single birds. The highest count came from (CC) who found 3 at MC 10/28.

**Great Blue Herons** have been seen throughout the county during the report period and appear to be doing well. The largest group of 35 was reported was at OR 8/18 (CC). Many **Great Egrets** were found; the highest number, 15 birds, was seen at various locations. A couple of the largest groups were seen 8/12 at KFH where 12 birds were counted (CC), and 8/15 at OR where 15 individuals were seen (CC). A rarer county visitor was a **Snowy Egret** that was seen at KFH from 8/17-9/9 (LL, ST, m.ob.). One or two immature **Little Blue Herons** also enjoyed the bounty of fish at KFH and were seen by (m.ob.) from 8/12-9/9. A single **Little Blue Heron** was seen at MC 8/12 (NP), and another at PCR 9/11 (RW). **Green Herons**, after making a somewhat late arrival at the beginning of the

summer, were seen almost everywhere there was a bit of water. (CC) found the largest group of 50+ at OR 8/18. With numbers gradually diminishing, they lingered until 10/1.

The last **Osprey** report was 10/30 when (SK) saw one bird at MC. **Northern Harriers** were scarce. Just 3 reports were received. A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was at CR 11/19 (PF). Four **Merlin** sightings were received: one at CL 9/18 (RR); one at MC 9/28 (JMa); another at MC 11/24 (NP); one at CR 11/24 (LL, SS, and PF).

**American Coots** again gathered at MC; the high count was ~90 on 10/23 (EW). That number may be reduced throughout the coming winter. **Bald Eagles** have been reported in the area and have been seen feasting on these hapless birds in the past few years.

**Killdeer** were common in the county with a high count of 60+ in WFT 8/12 (CC). **Lesser Yellowlegs** were common sights in wetter areas of the county with a high count of 20 at a s. *Chester* STP (CC).

**Least Sandpipers** were seen in groups of 100+ 8/24 and 8/28 at a s. *Chester* STP (CC). **Wilson's Snipe** are becoming harder to locate in the county since farmers began putting fences along waterways to keep livestock away from the streams and help to reduce pollution and erosion in the Chesapeake Watershed. Single birds were found at DR 9/9 (CC), HBT 10/6 (CC), EP 10/24 (JMa), and ENT 11/12 (AMc).

**Bonaparte's Gulls** were reported on three occasions by (CC) who was 'out and about' in Chester County nearly every day, doing a Big Year. He found single birds at MC 10/6 & 10/28, and a bird at the UUTSTP 10/28. A single **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was found at MC 11/24 (PF). **Caspian Terns** began appearing 8/12 when (CC) had 2 at MC; (LW) had the latest report of one at SL 9/21. A **Forster's Tern** was first reported at CL 9/11 (CC) and last reported at MC 11/18 (HM). One **Black Tern** was reported during the period, 8/19 at SL (JL et al.).

**Common Nighthawks** were quite scarce with one bird seen 8/24 in Downingtown (CC), and 2 birds 8/28 in WGT (NP, SP).

A late-occurring hummingbird was found in Mar. 10/26 by the Trout family and reported by (DKr). It was netted and banded 10/31, and positively identified it as a **Rufous Hummingbird** (NP).

A hatch-year albino **Eastern Wood-Pewee** at a private tract in NGT 8/17 was photographed (JS); it remained in that area through 9/4. He said, "It was really a beautiful sight!" Single **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** made appearances 9/9 in WGT (NP, SP), and 9/11 at HP (CC). A **Say's Phoebe** was in Av 11/15. The sighting was made by (JG), a long time National Audubon employee and former resident of the area. **Philadelphia Vireos** appeared at HP 9/9 when (RR) found 2 of these rarely seen vireos.

**Tree Swallows** lingered in the county until 11/24 when (PF) found a lone bird at MC. **Bank Swallows** were seen mixed in with a large flock of **Tree Swallows** 9/9 at KFH (CC).

**Red-breasted Nuthatches** were hard to find this autumn. (RR) did see several at CR 11/21. (KFr) spent a 'profitable day' in the UV area counting ~125 **American Pipits**, and 4 species of sparrows, including a **Vesper**, 20 **Savannah**, and 2 **Fox**. (JS) had 13 species of warblers passing through s. Chester County 9/2. (RR) also had a 13-warbler day 9/9, as they passed through HP, and (JL) had 9 warbler species 9/22 at CFS. (CC) enjoyed the continued passage of warblers through the county 10/1 when he had 7 warblers that decorated a small tree beside CL for 15 minutes.

Warblers were found in several locations throughout *Chester* in a prolonged migration. (CC) located SaTP on Zion Hill and found a nice collection of warblers, including a **Connecticut Warbler**, 9/30. Species that were still here in Oct, usually as single birds, were **Nashville Warbler** at UUTSTP 10/7 (NP, SP); **Northern Parula** in WGT 10/8 (NP, SP) and

VF 10/8 (RW); **Chestnut-sided Warbler** at VF 10/9 (RW); **Magnolia Warbler** at WGT 10/4 (NP, SP); **Black-throated Blue Warbler** in WGT 10/8 (NP, SP). (JL) had "dozens and dozens of **Yellow-rumped Warblers** at CF 10/4, but nothing else." **Black-throated Green Warbler** were at MC 10/6 (JMa) and 10/9 at WGT (NP, SP); 2 **Blackburnian Warbler** were in WGT 10/8 (NP, SP); (JMa) had a flock of 20+ **Palm Warblers** 10/24 at MC; a **Blackpoll Warbler** was at UUTSTP 10/7 (NP, SP); and a **Wilson's Warbler** was at HP 10/4 (JL).

Warbler species found in *Chester* into November were **Yellow-rumped Warbler** 11/7 at AD (CC), **Pine Warbler** 11/19 at CR (PF), **Palm Warbler** at EP (JMa) and 3+ on 11/7 at AD (CC), and **Common Yellowthroat** at SL 11/25 (NP). **Yellow-breasted Chats** have become very scarce with just a couple of sightings this report period: WCC 9/10 (CC, EC) and SaTP 9/30 (CC).

CL appears to be a good site for migrating **Lincoln Sparrows** in *Chester*. (RR) had his first 9/10. (RW) found 150-200 incoming **Dark-eyed Junco** in the Mount Misery area of VF 10/26 as well as 100+ **White-throated Sparrow**.

Rare passerines were **Blue Grosbeaks** with just two reports from CFS: one bird 9/22 (JL) and 2 birds 9/25 (NP, SP), and a **Dickcissel** in WGT 10/3 (NP, SP). **Eastern Meadowlarks** have become increasingly scarce, but you can find them if you know where to look. (KFr) had 15 in the Unionville area 10/31. While seeking to lengthen his Big Year list, (CC) found an adult male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** 11/24 on the east side of OR.

Observers: **Eleanor Wolf, 148 Harvest Lane, Phoenixville, PA, 19460, (610) 933-6414, randewolf@verizon.net**, Mike Bertram, Barry Blust, Chuck Chalfant, Elaine Chalfant, Paul Earley, Pamela Fisher, Kevin Fryberger, Jesse Grantham, Al Guarente, Sandra Keller, Kathy King, Dave Kruel, Carolyn Laskowski, Larry Lewis, Jeff Loomis, Andy McGann, John McNamara (JMa), Holly Merker, Jim Morris, Patty Morris, Patrick O'Donnell, Nick Pulcinella, Sharon Pulcinella, Rick Robinson, Ellen Sebastiani, Joe Sebastiani, Sandy Stowell, Laura Wagner, West Chester Bird Club, Richard Wolf.

**New Compiler starting Winter 2006-2007**

**Nick Pulcinella, 613 Howard Road, West Chester, PA 19380, (610) 696-0687,**

**nickpulcinella@comcast.net**

#### **Clarion County**

No Report.

**New Compiler - Carole Willenparte, 159 Moggey Road, Sligo, PA, 16255, (814) 745-3818, rwillenpart@windstream.net**

#### **Clearfield County**

No Report. No Compiler.

#### **Clinton County**

Locations: Lock Haven (LH), Mill Hall (MH), South Avis (SA), Susquehanna River (SR), Swissdale (SD), and Woolrich (WR).

Waterfowl reports for the period were spotty but noteworthy. Flyover **Tundra Swans** were heard 11/9 at SD (WL). A late **Green-winged Teal** was reported 12/16 on the SR at SA (VS, BZ). A **Surf Scoter** was seen at LH 11/21 (JS). On 12/7 one **White-winged Scoter** was found at SA (JS) and a **Black Scoter** found on the SR at LH 11/16 remained there until

11/26 (JS, C&CH). On 11/15, a **Red-throated Loon** grounded itself at Mackeyville. It was rescued and subsequently released into the SR at LH (KP, WL). A **Red-throated Loon** (possibly the same bird) was observed on the SR at LH 11/18-11/25.

Individual **Great Egrets** were seen 9/21 near WR (C&CH) and 10/1 at Salona (WL). A **Rough-legged Hawk** was seen near Lamar 11/18 (JK) and two were found in the Rauchtown area 12/16 (DK, DRr). At least four late **Turkey Vultures** were located in the WR area 12/16 (SR, TH).

A **Sora** was heard at the MH mitigation wetlands 10/29 (JS) and a juv **Common Moorhen** was found there 11/9-11/11 (JS, C&CH, JD, WL). From 10/15-11/24, fourteen **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were trapped and banded at SD (WL). Another **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was banded there 12/16 with a second one heard nearby (WL).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was observed near LH along the SR 9/6 (JS). A great find for the county was an imm **Northern Shrike** located at the MH wetlands 11/5 (JS). It remained there until at least 11/21 when it was last reported (DH, DT, WL). A very late **Red-eyed Vireo** was found at the MH wetlands 11/21 and confirmed with a photograph (RS, DR). A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was seen 8/18 and continued throughout the period at a residence in WR (B&DB).

The first **American Tree Sparrows** were reported 11/11 at WR (C&CH). Individual **Lincoln's Sparrows** were observed at WR 9/26 and 10/4 (C&CH). **Rusty Blackbirds** were found at East Branch Swamp 10/15 (NB) and a large flock of 500- 600 birds was seen at the MH wetlands 11/14 (DR, WL).

There were a few noteworthy finch reports. **Purple Finches** were reported from MH 11/21 (DH, DT, WL), the Avis area 12/16 (LC, MC), and at LH 12/16 (JB, PS). A lone **Pine Siskin** was seen at a feeder at SD 12/16 (BD).

Observers: **Wayne Laubscher, 749 E. Croak Hollow Rd., Lock Haven, PA, 17745, (570) 748-7511, wlaubsch@cub.kcnet.org**, Nick Bolgiano, JoAnn Bowes, Beth and Don Brobst, Lisa Cass, Mark Cohen, Brenda Dunlap, Carol and Charles Hildebrand, Deuane Hoffman, Jay Keller, David Krempasky, Ken Packard, David Rockey (DR), David Rothrock (DRr), Vesta Schach, Jeff Schaffer, Peggy Scott, Robert Snyder, David Trently, Beth Zbegner.

#### **Columbia County**

No Report

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

#### **Crawford County**

Locations: Conneaut Lake (CL), Conneaut Marsh – Custards and Geneva Marsh – Marsh Road (CM), Fish Hatchery (FH), Ford Island – Museum (FI), Hartstown Marsh (HM), Linesville (L), Meadville (MEAD), Old Duck Farm (ODF), Pymatuning Area (PA), Pymatuning Causeway (PC), Pymatuning Goose Management Area (PGMA), Pymatuning Spillway (PS), Smith's Marsh (SM), Tamarock Lake – Meadville (TL), Woodcock Lake (WL).

A very wet summer was followed by a wet fall here, leaving our ponds and lakes far too high to support stopover habitat for shorebirds. October and November was for the most part warmer than usual.

A **Snow Goose** was present at PGMA 11/4 and 11/6 and a "**Blue Goose**" at Custards 9/9 (RFL). **Tundra Swans** were basically seen flying

over with the following – 50 at HM 11/3 (MB), 450 at HM 11/4 (MB), 45 at HM 11/10 (MB), and 6 at WL 11/18 (RFL). There was a fair total of 1032 **Wood Ducks** tallied at Blair's Bridge PGMA 9/16 (AMJr.). Twelve **Blue-winged Teal** were found at FH 10/7 (RFL) and I had 40 **Green-winged Teal** at PGMA 11/12. **Northern Shovelers** had returned to PGMA 9/21 with a high count for the period of 25 at FH 10/8 (MV). **Godwalls** were in good numbers with 116 at PGMA 11/12 (AMJr.); 106 there 12/3 and 93 on 11/26. Fifteen **American Widgeon** were reported at PGMA 8/17 (a little early) (MB) and 294 were counted there 11/18 (RFL). **Ring-necked Duck** was present in the area 10/5-11/26 but in rather small groups from 2–30 (MO) as were **Lesser Scaup**. **Common Goldeneye** were seen at CM 11/13 (AMJr.). **Hooded Merganser** were common in the area with 230 at PL 11/6 being the largest total (RFL). **Common Mergansers** were present at FI 10/29 (RFL).

**Red-throated Loon** one at CL 11/4 and one at PC 11/15 (RFL); **Common Loon** one at WL 10/24 (RFL) was earliest and 48 at Pymatuning Lake 11/18 (best count) (RFL); **Horned Grebe** numbers here lower than usual (1-5); **Pied-billed Grebe** one at PGMA 8/19, 9 were at WL 11/8 (RFL) was the high count; **Double-crested Cormorant** 143 PA 10/26 was top count (RFL); **Glossy Ibis** one at PGMA, Miller Pond was found 9/16 (MV) also seen 9/17 (RFL, EF, MF); **American Bittern** one at Genua, 9/16; A lost **Green Heron** was seen 10/9 at Custards (RFL); **Great Egrets** one was WL 8/10, 3 at WL 9/10 (RFL), 2 at PA 9/12 (MV), 2 PA 9/25 (RFL); there were several records for **Sandhill Crane** including 2 at Swamp Rd., PGMA 8/5 (MV), 6 there 9/9 (JC), 8 at PGMA 9/17 (BVN), 2 at PGMA 9/16 (RFL), 6 at PGMA 10/1 (AMJr.), 5 at FI 10/8 (MV), 4 at PGMA 11/6 (AMJr.), one at FI 11/26 (MV).

A good total of 18 **Turkey Vultures** were seen 10/8 at PA. **Bald Eagles** totaled 1-7 on most trips to Pym (MO) and one imm **Golden Eagle** was observed near Shermonsville just east of PGMA 10/22 (RFL).. Three **Northern Harriers** were found at PGMA 10/8 (MV). Five **Cooper's Hawks** were noted at HM 9/24 (MB). A **Broad-winged Hawk** was seen at Meadville 8/17 (RFL) and one dark **Rough-legged Hawk** was at PGMA 11/12 (RFL). On 8/26, I witnessed a **Peregrine Falcon** in pursuit of a **Mourning Dove** at PGMA. At least 600 **American Coots** were on CL 11/30 (RFL).

Most of the shorebird sightings were from PA the Fish Hatchery and the 1<sup>st</sup> Miller Pond where water levels were lowered for a very short time. Three **Semipalmated Plovers** were at PGMA 8/6 (RFL) and one was seen there 9/16 (MV). Both yellowlegs species were found at Pymatuning, but in small numbers 1-7 **Greater Yellowlegs** and 1-10 **Lesser Yellowlegs** (MO). Mark Vass found 2 **Solitary Sandpipers** at PGMA 8/5 and 2 at FH 10/1. Four **Spotted Sandpipers** were noted at PGMA 8/17 (perhaps family group?) (MB). One was at FH 9/25 (RFL). Ten **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were seen 8/6 PGMA and 3 last noted at FH 10/2 (RFL). At least 12 **Least Sandpipers** were at PGMA 8/3 (RFL) and 16 there 8/5 (MV). **Pectoral Sandpipers** were in good numbers with 1-21 Aug-Oct 8 (MO) and 1- 2 **Short-billed Dowitchers** were found at PGMA 8/3-8/12 (MV). Four **Dunlin** were feeding at FH 10/19 and 14 at WL 11/4 (RFL). Thirty-four **Common Snipe** were counted at CM 11/7 (TMJr.) a good total for fall.

A single **Bonapartes' Gull** was noted at PGMA 10/15 and numbers increased there with a high count of 1281 at PL 11/12 (RFL). A single **Laughing Gull** turned up at PS 8/29 (SK) and one at FH gate-pond 9/21 (MV), both very good records away from Lake Erie. **Caspian Terns** were seen in lesser numbers (1-2) this period and one **Common Tern** was noted on CL 8/29 (SK).

A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was along (CM) 8/31 (RFL) and 4 **Great Horned Owls** were at HM 11/3 (MB). One **Barred Owl** was noted

Meadville 10/6 (RFL). Three **Common Nighthawks** were seen 8/24 at TL (RCL, RFL) and one over Saeger Hill in Meadville 9/5 (RFL). A late **Eastern Phoebe** was seen HM 10/13 (MB). A late **Eastern Kingbird** was noted at SNWR 9/10 (RFL) and a rare **Western Kingbird** was closely seen for 5 minutes on a telephone wire along CM 8/26 (RFL). White outer tail feathers well seen (no white on tail tips) and the yellow breasted stomach.

The last (1) **Tree Swallow** was noted at PGMA 10/29 (RFL) considering the mild fall it is a bit surprising no later dates reported. More of a surprise was the 2 **Barn Swallows** on the FI Museum Rd. circling the lake several times on 11/4 (RFL). A total of 80 **Horned Larks** along Pine Rd. (HM) 11/4 was a good find (MB). At least 5 **Warbling Vireos** were seen at SP 9/21 (RFL). Single **Blue-headed Vireos** were noted at SP, FI, G and HM (MO). A **Northern Shrike** was seen at FI 11/5 (TCN) and one was at Geneva (CM) 11/18 (RFL). A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was seen at SP 8/17 and one at my feeder (Mead) 10/24-11/4 (RFL). A **Brown Creeper** was noted at HM 11/27 (MB). **Carolina Wrens** were common (MO) and a late **House Wren** was at HM 9/15 (MB). A **Winter Wren** was at HM 9/30 (MB) and one at CM 10/7 (RFL). Ten **Marsh Wrens** were last seen at CM 8/17 (RFL). The last record for a **Veery** was one 8/17 Mead (RFL). A single **Swainson's Thrush** was found at Custards 9/16 (RFL). Marvin Byler had a late **Wood Thrush** (HM) 9/30. The lone **Northern Mockingbird** was one at Porter Rd. west of CL (RFL). A pair of **Gray Catbirds** were last noted SP 10/1 (RFL).

A **Nashville Warbler** was found at FH 9/9 (RFL). Single **Yellow Warblers** were found at FH (BVN) and CL (RFL) 9/18 the last date reported this fall. A **Blue-throated Green Warbler** was seen at HM 9/24 (MB). Mark Vass had a **Blackburnian Warbler** at SP 10/1 and one was found at FI 10/7 (RFL). A nice surprise was a pair of **Prothonotary Warblers** at PC 8/19 (RFL) few fall records at Pymatuning! **Pine Warblers** were noted at Custards 9/18, FH 9/24 and FI 10/7 (RFL). "**Western**" **Palm Warblers** were seen at HM 9/23, 9/26 and 10/16 (MB). Five **Blackpoll Warbler** were a good find at SP 10/1 (MV). The last report of **Common Yellowthroat** was one at SR 9/21 (RFL). A single **Hooded Warbler** was seen in my year (Meadville) 9/18 (last date reported) and 4 **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were last seen at my feeder 8/17 (RFL).

An **Indigo Bunting** was a good find at HM 9/16 (MB). **American Tree Sparrows** returned to CL area 10/1 (RFL). Two **Fox Sparrows** were at a Springboro feeder 11/4 and one also at a Pine Rd. feeder HM – MB. A **Dark-eyed Junco** appeared at my feeder Mead 9/2 and early migrant or just a local bird? (RFL). A **Snow Bunting** was seen 11/1 in Rockdale Twp (LAR) Cambridge Springs. Nine were seen at PC 11/5 (TCN) and 2 were there 11/12 (RFL).

The last reported **Bobolink** was at HM 8/29 (MB). An estimated 12,000 **Red-winged Blackbirds** were noted at HM (MB) 11/6 and he found 50 **Rusty Blackbirds** HM 10/21 (MB). A single **Purple Finch** came to my feeder 9/12 (Mead) (RFL) and one was noted at HM 9/24 (MB).

Observers: **Ronald F. Leberman, 11508 Pettis Rd., Meadville, PA, 16335, (814) 724-5071**, Marvin Byler, Jack Christman, Wes Fritz, Evelyn Fowles, Mike Fowles, Scott Kinzey, Robert C. Leberman, Anthony Marich, Jr., Bob Van Newkirk, Thomas Clare Nicolls, Lee Ann Rieners, Mark Vass, Dave Wilton.

#### **Cumberland County**

No Report

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## New Compiler starting Winter 2006-2007

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### Dauphin County

Locations: Dauphin (DAU), East Hanover Twp. (EHT), Harrisburg (HBG), South Hanover Twp. (SHT), Stony Creek Valley (SCV), Susquehanna River in general (SR), Susquehanna River from Fort Hunter (SFH), Susquehanna River From Harrisburg (SHB), Susquehanna River From Marysville (SMV), Susquehanna River from Royalton (SRT), Susquehanna River from West Fairview (SWF), West Hanover Twp. (WHT), Wildwood Lake (WL).

Three **Mute Swans** continued to frequent the shoreline SMV throughout the season (many). A flock of seventeen **Brant** were observed 11/8 SRT (DH). The first **Blue-winged Teal** of the season was recorded at WL 8/28 (CRb) and with the mild weather **Gadwall**, **Green-winged Teal**, and **Wood Duck** continued to be reported there through Nov (many). A female **Northern Shoveler** was also observed from the north boardwalk blind 11/29 (RW). The first real waterfowl migration on the SR began the last week of Oct. **Black** and **Surf Scoter**, **Long-tailed Duck** and **Ruddy Duck** were reported SFH 10/27-10/28 (EC, RK). A **Black Scoter** was also seen SWF 10/28 (CRt). All three scoters were observed from various locations along the SR 11/8 along with **Lesser Scaup**, **Long-tailed Duck**, **Common Goldeneye**, and **Common Loon** (DH). Although the first **Horned Grebes** of the season were reported 10/28 SFH (EC) a major "fallout" occurred Thanksgiving morning 11/23 SHB when nearly **1400** were counted (TJ). This was the largest concentration of this species reported in the county over the past 20 years (RW). Along with the **Horned Grebes** that day were all three **scoters**, **Long-tailed Duck**, two **Red-throated Loons**, 15 **Common Loons**, and a **Red-necked Grebe** among other waterfowl (TJ, RK, PW, RW). The first **Bufflehead** was reported 10/29 SFH (EC, RK).

An **American Bittern** was observed near City Island, HBG 9/6 (BK). The **Snowy Egrets** that were first reported at WL in Jul continued to be observed there with as many as six reported in early Aug (EC, CRb, LU, et al.). At least one remained to 9/21 (CRb).

**Bald Eagles** continue to be enjoyed with regularity along the SR (many) but finding three deep in SCV 9/7 was noteworthy (BH). A **Golden Eagle** was also reported from SCV 11/15 (BH). An unusually large flight of **Broad-winged Hawks** occurred over SHT 9/16 when 300+ were counted (JG). There were three **Merlin** reports, the first 9/2 SFH (CRt, DY), and the second two from SCV, one 9/28 (RK) and four days later 10/2 (BH), possibly the same individual.

A **Virginia Rail** flew into a window in SHT 10/9, it was recovered and released the same day (JG). Three **American Coot** were at SWF 10/17 (CRt), but 10-15 were regular at WL from 10/29 into early Dec (many). A **Solitary Sandpiper** was found at a retention pond at the new Giant along Rt. 39 in SHT 8/8 (CB). A **Lesser Yellowlegs**, one **Short-billed Dowitcher**, and five **Least Sandpipers** were reported at WL from 8/26-8/31 (CRb, SL, JS). Two very late sightings were of an **American Woodcock** the last week of Nov in SCV (BH) and a **Spotted Sandpiper** on the rocks near the Rockville Bridge 12/2 (CRt).

Tropical storm *Ernesto* accounted for some of the following rarities that occurred in early Sep. Three **Red-necked Phalaropes** were spotted at SFH 9/2 (CRt, RK, DY) and, on 9/3, as many as 20 **phalarope sp.** were observed at SHB (DH) and a **Red-necked Phalarope** was seen from SMV

(AM, RK). A **jaeger sp.** was reported from SHB 9/2 (CRt, DY) while on the following day, near the same location, a **Parasitic Jaeger** was identified (DH). Another good find was a **Wilson's Storm Petrel** 9/3 SRT (DH) and, on the same date near this location, a **Sooty Tern** was observed along with six **Black Terns** (JHe, RK, AM, JR, PR). The report of the **Sooty Tern** was a first for *Dauphin*. An adult **Common Tern** made an appearance at SFH 9/2 (CRt, DY) and two **Caspian Terns** were observed 9/5 SHB (BK), and another was seen 9/7 near this same location (PW, RW) Also, two **Laughing Gulls** were found near the SR PA Turnpike bridge 9/3 (DH).

The banding station at Small Valley recorded only 59 **Northern Saw-whet Owls** this season (Oct-Nov) This compares to 198 during the 2005 season (SL). **Common Nighthawk** flights were reported from 8/23-9/3 (many). The highest counts included 40 at SMV 8/26 (J&BH), and, two days later, 15 were observed near Lykens and 25 at HBG (SL, GL).

Thousands of swallows, all local species except Cliff were observed, from various points along the SR 9/3. "I could not believe the number of swallows on the river today" reported (DH). **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were still found SFH 10/27 (RK). The season ended with another county first, two **Cave Swallows** were found with about 15 **Tree Swallows** flying over the SR just south of DAU 11/30 (DH).

After first arriving 8/17 a single **Red-breasted Nuthatch** continued to visit a yard in SHT into Dec (PW, RW). **Philadelphia Vireo**, **Gray-cheeked and Swainson's Thrush**, and **Orange-crowned Warbler** were among the species tallied on an Appalachian Audubon walk in SGL 246 9/16 (CB, DH, CRt, et al.). The only **Connecticut Warbler** reported this season was from SCV 9/21 (TS).

**Horned Larks** were found in fields along Swatara Rd., Hershey IBA, mid-Oct-Nov (many) with more than 100 reported 10/30 (EC), and about 15 **American Pipits** were in a wet field along Early's Mill Rd. in EHT 11/19 (S&RZ).

The first **White-throated Sparrow** was observed in SCV 9/21 (RK), the initial **White-crowned Sparrow** report was from EHT 10/7 (S&RZ) and a **Lincoln's Sparrow** was found in SHT 9/15 (JG). With a number of sightings in early Nov, **Fox Sparrow** began their semiannual migration (many). The best sparrow report however, was of two **Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows** in a field in WHT with **Grasshopper** and **Savannah Sparrows** 10/9 (TJ). This is the first time this species has been found away from the SR.

**Rusty Blackbird** returned to WL with four reported 10/15 and continued to be found there with regularity into Dec (LU, et al.). Several **Snow Buntings** were observed on the rocks downriver from SFH 10/27 (RK). Other than a couple **Purple Finch** reports in Oct.-Nov. there were no "winter finch" sightings this fall.

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### Delaware County

Locations: Brandywine Conservancy (BC), Crum Creek (CC), Darby Creek (DC), Darlington Tract (DT), Delaware County Community College

(DCCC), Delaware River (DR), Haverford College (HC), John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum-DelCo portion (TI), 2<sup>nd</sup> Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas (PBBA), Philadelphia International Airport (PHL), Ridley Creek State Park (RCSP), Rose Tree Park Hawkwatch (RTP), Springton Reservoir (SR), Tyler Arboretum (TY)

A mild, dry and relatively uneventful fall was interrupted by Tropical Storm *Ernesto* which roared up the DR 9/2 bringing in its wake tropical gulls, nine species of terns, and more phalaropes than anyone could imagine. The 6<sup>th</sup> Hawkwatch at RTP contributed many good sightings including a **Mississippi Kite** and two **Rufous Hummingbirds** in Middletown were a treat. Although **Monk Parakeet** is not on the state list, a bird was seen near the UPS facility at PHL 11/28 (BH) and I will report this species again in the winter summary for *Philadelphia*.

The **Snow Goose** movement started 10/5 over RTP with 6 flyovers and ended with 120 over HC 11/24 (SJ). SR was almost devoid of migrating waterfowl this fall, but a few ducks were seen over RTP: **Wood Duck** as late as 11/28 and 15 **Blue-winged Teal** 10/3. About 800 **Green-winged Teal** were at DC (JM) and 20 came over RTP 10/31. **Hooded Merganser** were at the Brandywine Conservancy (BC) 10/24 (BB) and on both reservoirs of Crum Creek. A **Common Merganser** over RTP 10/25 was the first report. **Common Loon** passed RTP from 8/24-11/20.

On 9/3 a **Wilson's Storm Petrel** was reported "paddling" on the surface of the DR 100 yards off-shore around 8:00 a.m. (DW). I arrived at 8:05 to find Dave celebrating, since it was "the" petrel he needed for his PA list. As a potential state record, we hope this encounter and the other rarities listed below will be well documented. **Double-crested Cormorant** are frequent migrants at RTP and are found daily in good numbers at DC and on the DR. I saw 7 **Black-crowned Night-Heron** leaving their roost at a pond's edge at Exit 10 of I-95 on 9/11.

The 6<sup>th</sup> fall season of the RTP was it best with 9233 birds of 16 species (JL and a host of dedicated counters). The **Osprey** total was down from earlier highs in the 400's with 281 and a high count of 30 on 9/26. A **Mississippi Kite** was the most unusual sighting 9/10 (SJ, CP). **Bald Eagle** at 203 were down from last fall's all time high of 297, but the high count of 12 on 10/14 is a sign of the species rebound. Since 2003 **Cooper's Hawk** totals (high of 22 on 10/1) has been about 17% of the **Sharp-shinned Hawk** (69 high on 10/5) totals and that was true again this year. The 14 **Northern Goshawks**, 3 of which passed 11/21, are the second highest total in 6 years. **Red-shouldered Hawk** also had their 2<sup>nd</sup> best year with 200 and a high of 11 on 11/1. The big story, however was the 5054 **Broad-winged Hawk**, 4500 of which passed between 9/20-10/1 to the delight of many who came to see the spectacle. Five **Golden Eagles** are about average for the count. Falcons were represented by an ever declining number of **American Kestrel** at only 263, along with 58 **Merlin** and an all time high of 24 **Peregrine Falcon**. This report benefits greatly from this dedicated group of birders.

While scanning the DR after Tropical Storm *Ernesto* passed, DW called my attention to a **Wild Turkey** with chicks on Little Tinicum Island. This brood became our first breeding record, for this species which until recently was not recorded in the county. Subsequently, I learned that **Wild Turkey** were being seen daily in the Lenni area, close to Aston (NP). A dead **Sora Rail** (road kill?) was found near Ridley Lake in Ridley Park 8/24 (NC).

On 9/2 as the remnant of Tropical Storm *Ernesto* moved northward, Jason Horn took a position on Hog Island Rd., behind the UPS facility at PHL and scoped the DR from 5:30 a.m until dusk. When I joined him in the fog and rain, he had already logged only a handful of **Caspian Tern**

compared to 30-40 **Caspian Tern** NP had seen heading north from Marcus Hook. Jason also had seen 2 **Sooty Tern**, an adult **Royal Tern** and a probable **Sandwich Tern**. He thought the **Gull-billed Tern** might have been on the New Jersey side of the river. As many more birders assembled, his tally reached 29 **Common Terns**, 9 **Arctic Terns** and 21 **Black Terns** along with over 500 **Forster's Terns**. At least 20 **Black Terns** moved northward as we pierced the fog and rain with scope and binocular, trying not to miss a bird. In addition, multiple groups of phalaropes flew swiftly northward just skimming the river surface. Ten **Red Phalaropes** and 49 **Red-necked Phalaropes** were counted in several small groups. Nine species of shorebirds were reported by JH including an **American Golden Plover** he heard and numerous peeps. As the water level at the TI impoundment rose **Lesser Yellowlegs** congregated in a group of up to 200 on the grass at PHL 9/2 (NP). On 9/5 the *Ernesto* fallout continued in the reverse direction when DF saw flocks of **Red Phalaropes** and **Red-necked Phalaropes** returning south on the DR. Last, but far from least, on the foggy morning of 9/6, Al Guarente saw 2 imm **Sabine's Gulls** flying south on the DR at 7:30 a.m.

**Black-billed Cuckoo** was only reported at RCSP 9/17 (AG) and **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was seen at BC 9/7 (BB). **Chimney Swifts** were abundant in migration at RTP 10/20 and the last report came 10/29. The first of two imm female **Rufous Hummingbirds** arrived at Dollie Mignona's Middletown feeders 10/12. About a month later 11/10, a mile away, but still in Middletown, a second **Rufous Hummingbird** visited Al Guarente's pineapple sage and loved it, ignoring attractively placed and well-stocked feeders. Both birds were banded by NP, and both departed 12/3 after just a few nights with low temperatures (well before the Glenolden CBC! Is there no justice?).

S.A.

The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual **Common Nighthawk** Watch at Haverford College was conducted from 8/21-9/11 with only two rain-out days. Sheryl Johnson reports, "The total count of 3168 birds is the highest since the count began in 2000. The high point was 650 nighthawks 8/27, flanked by 384 birds 8/26, and 309 birds 8/28. August 23 produced 395 nighthawks [the 4<sup>th</sup> highest night ever], and there were 224 on 8/24. This year there were over 100 birds on half of the nights we counted!" Results are available on the web through Project Nighthawk or at a site designed by Lauren Johnson: <http://mysite.verizon.net/nighthawkwatch/Lauren's%20Web%20Site.htm>

Farther to the west of Haverford College 8/25 were 60 **Common Nighthawk** feeding over Rt. 252 and St. David's Rd. at dusk (MT). **Chimney Swift**, which had a big final push over RTP 10/20, were last seen 10/29.

Two new, but not unexpected, locations reporting **Pileated Woodpecker** are Darlington Tract 10/21 (AG) and BC 11/10 (BB). A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was found at RCSP 8/26 (AG). Cardinal O'Hara H.S. parking lot in Springfield produced a late **Blue-headed Vireo** 11/4 (BB). **Purple Martin** left Bruce Child's colony 8 /14. **Tree Swallow** was seen over RTP until 11/1.

The 18 warbler species reported hardly represents the scope of the migration. See the migration tables for what few species and dates I have. A **Black-throated Blue Warbler** seen at TY 11/15 by TR and his bird group fell short of the county's extreme late record of 12/18 for this species. **Lincoln's Sparrow** and the first **Dark-eyed Junco** of the season stopped at HC 9/30 (SJ). Many **Bobolink** were calling overhead at PHL in early Sep.

**Observers:** Doris McGovern, 209 Dogwood Rd., Media, PA 19063 (610) 565 8484 mcgovern@masca.museum.upenn.edu, Brian Byrnes, Bruce Childs, Nick Crocetto, Devich Farbotnik, Al Guarente, Barbara Heibsch, Jason Horn, Lauren Johnson, Sheryl Johnson, Jim Lockyer, Holly Merker, Dolly Mignona, John Miller, Chris Pugliese, Nick Pulcinella, Tom Reeves, Mike Tanis, Dave Wilton.

#### **Elk County**

No Report. No Compiler

#### **Erie County**

Migration was uneventful through most of the period with the exception of a late movement of **Common Terns** with unprecedented numbers observed in October. There were no major passerine groundings or shorebird "fallouts" for the reporting period. No northern finches were reported despite the overabundance of catkins on the European white birches at Presque Isle State Park.

The following unusual birds were recorded from Presque Isle State Park unless noted otherwise. The only **Brant** of the season was one recorded on the waterbird count (WC) 11/19 (JM). A white form **Snow Goose** was on a pond in Waterford 11/19 (JH). The expected number of **Red-necked Grebes** was recorded on the WC with a total of three for the season on the dates of 10/22, 10/24, & 10/26 (JM). A single **Eared Grebe** was observed 11/15 (DY, DW).

A rather late **Great Egret** was seen flying over Lake Erie during the WC 10/12 (JM). **Black-crowned Night-Herons** are regular in fall but are usually rare, so two 8/17 in Millcreek Twp. (JD) and one at Presque Isle 9/1 (DS) was noteworthy.

The single **Rough-legged Hawk** report received for the season was one bird just south of Union City 11/8 (RS). The only **Merlin** reports were from the WC when (JM) recorded one 10/5 and one 10/6. A total of seven **Peregrine Falcons** were counted on the WC periodically from 9/30-10/16 (JM) and a single bird was noted at the Roderick Wildlife Reserve 10/2 (TW). A flock of about 50 **American Golden Plovers** flying across Lake Erie on the rather late date 10/22 was a surprise during the WC (JM). **Upland Sandpipers** are rarely reported in fall, so the individual found 9/1 (DS, BC) and 9/3 (MV) was unexpected. A **Whimbrel** made a brief appearance at Gull Point 9/4 (RSt), but even more noteworthy was the **Marbled Godwit** there 8/27 (BC). A single **White-rumped Sandpiper** was identified 9/4. **Purple Sandpipers** are rare but annual on the breakwaters at Presque Isle in Nov, so the single bird 11/20 and one or two 11/28 & 11/30 were right on time and where they were expected. The only **Stilt Sandpiper** observed for the season was one reported 8/19 (BC). An adult **Long-billed Dowitcher** was carefully identified by plumage and call 8/27 (BC).

An imm **Parasitic/Pomarine Jaeger** made a brief appearance on the WC 10/24 (JM) while later an imm **Pomarine Jaeger** was carefully identified flying past Roderick Wildlife Reserve 11/18 (GM). Not expected in the fall was a basic I plumaged **Laughing Gull** observed during the WC 10/22 (JM). Two **Little Gulls** flew past Sunset Point during the WC 10/10 (JM) and another was observed elsewhere on the park 11/11 (RG). An imm **Glaucous Gull** was recorded on the WC on the early date of 11/25 (RSt, JM). It is not unusual to have a high count of **Common Terns** in early fall, so the following totals during the WC by (JM) were unprecedented for such a late date: 226 on 10/10, 342 on 10/16, and 128 on 10/24. **Forster's Terns** were also observed in Oct during the WC with as many as 27 counted on the late date of 10/16 (JM). Three **Forster's**

**Terns** remained in the area until 10/29 (DS).

At least three weeks later than the latest record in *Erie* was a **Chimney Swift** sighted 11/5 near Conneaut Twp. (DS). The first **Northern Shrikes** of the season were observed 11/4 (RSt) and 11/25 (JM). The **White-eyed Vireo** seen 9/30 was a good find, but even more unexpected was the **Yellow-throated Vireo** discovered on the same day (RSt). The latter bird represents only the third county fall record. A **Blue-headed Vireo** found 10/15 matches the latest *Erie* record (JM). A few **Tree Swallows** lingered later than usual with two counted on the WC 10/27 (JM) and one elsewhere on the park 10/29 (DS). On the exotic side, but still a remarkable find, was a stunning **Great Tit** that visited a feeder in Harborcreek Twp. from 10/13-10/29 (JWG, fide SS). Even though it showed no signs of captivity, vagrancy from Europe where the species is resident seems very unlikely. To honor the property owners wishes, the sighting was kept secret.

An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was identified 9/30, but even more unusual was a **Prairie Warbler** the same day (RSt). The WC yielded one **Lapland Longspur** 10/7 and two 10/27 flying past Sunset Point (JM). Three **Lapland Longspurs** were with a large flock of **Snow Buntings** at the beach 11 parking lot 11/4 (RSt).

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#### **Fayette County**

Location: Jacob's Creek Lake at Jacob's Creek County Park (JCL).

Early November brought good numbers of waterfowl to the county. A fallout occurred 11/2 and the following were recorded at JCL: 521 **Tundra Swan**, 37 **Gadwall**, 24 **Greater Scaup**, 300+ **Bufflehead**, 3000+ **Ruddy Duck**, 11 **Pied-billed Grebe**, 18 **American Coot**, and 4 **Ring-billed Gull** (LH, LiH). Other waterfowl reported during the period include a nice count of 15 **Wood Ducks** at Bridgeport Res. 10/15 (LH, LiH), which lies on the border of *Fayette* and *Westmoreland*; in fact, the county line runs through the center of it. Ducks at JCL 11/14 included 3 **Greater Scaup**, 2 **Lesser Scaup**, 20 **Bufflehead**, and 10 **Ruddy Duck** (LH, LiH). In addition to the **Gadwall** listed above, 4 were at Bridgeport Res. 11/8 (LH, LiH), and 2 were at JCL 11/16 (MF). A single **Hooded Merganser** was there 11/3 (MF).

Although resident I don't always get reports of **Ruffed Grouse**, so a bird at Bear Run Nature Reserve 11/12 (KSJ) was a welcome report.

*Fayette* hosted **Red-throated Loons** during a state wide fallout in mid-Nov. Four were found at JCL 11/14 (LH, LiH) and they remained to at least 11/16 (MF). There were many reports of **Pied-billed Grebes**. Single birds were at JCL 10/15 (LH, LiH) and 11/16 (MF). Four were there 10/29 (LH, LiH), 11 was the high count 11/2 (LH, LiH), 3 were there 11/8 (LH, LiH, DB), and 2 on 11/14 (LH, LiH) were the last reported this season.

A **Great Egret** was present at Bridgeport Res. 10/15 (LH, LiH). A **Black-crowned Night-heron** was a rare visitor to JCL 11/8 (LH, LiH, DB). A bit unusual was a **Northern Harrier** at JCL 11/2 (LH, LiH). The maximum count of **American Coots** at JCL was 29 on 11/14 (LH, LiH).

Three **Bonaparte's Gulls** were at JCL 11/14 (LH, LiH). In addition to the **Ring-billed Gulls** mentioned above, a single bird was present at the lake 10/29 and 9 were there 11/14 (LH, LiH). Late **Common Terns** were

reported in several locations in the state this fall so 2 birds at JCL 11/14 (LH, LiH) added to that trend.

A large flock of at least 2-300 **American Crows** were noted at JCL 10/29-11/16 (LH, LiH, MF). I received a migration report from two locations 9/26. At Friendship Hill birds found included a **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**, 7 **Chimney Swifts**, a **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**, **Red-eyed Vireos**, a **House Wren**, a **Chestnut-sided Warbler**, **Magnolia Warblers**, **Black-throated Green Warblers**, a **Blackburnian Warbler**, 3 **American Redstarts**, and a **Scarlet Tanager**.

Birds found the same day at Dunbar's Knob included a **Tennessee Warbler**, **Magnolia Warblers**, **Black-throated Green Warblers**, 3 **Blackpoll Warblers**, a **Hooded Warbler**, and a **Scarlet Tanager** (JB).

Observers: **Mike Fialkovich**, 805 Beulah Road, Pittsburgh, PA, 15235, (412) 731-3581, mpfial@verizon.net, John Boback, Dick Byers, Len Hess, Linda Hess (LiH), Kate St. John.

### **Forest County**

Locations: Buzzard Swamp (BS), German Hill (GH), Kellettsville (KL), Mayburg (MB), Neiltown (NE), Pleasantville (PL), Tionesta (TI), Tionesta Lake (TL)

Notable birds for the period included **Merlin**, **Northern Shrike**, **Olive-sided Flycatcher** and **Gray-cheeked Thrush**, all near MB at Scott Stoleson's banding site.

There were three reports of **Tundra Swans** with a high of forty-nine at MB 11/6 (SS et al). The last **Turkey Vulture** was spotted at KL 10/15 (FM, JM). Two **Osprey** fly-overs were noted at MB 9/26 and 9/29 (SS et al). There were several **Bald Eagle** reports from MB, TI, and TL during the period (m.ob.). The last **Broad-winged Hawk** was observed near TI 9/7 (FM, JM). Two **Merlins** were seen in flight at MB 9/25 (SS et al).

The last **Killdeer** report was near TI 10/5 (FM). A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was seen near NE 8/1 (FM, JM). The last **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was spotted near TI 9/25 (FM, JM). **Olive-sided Flycatchers** were found at MB 8/7 and 9/1 (SS et al). A **Northern Shrike** was noted at MB 11/6 (SS et al) and another at GH 11/12 (FM, JM).

The final **Blue-headed Vireo** was spotted at GH 10/4. **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were reported from several locations, with a high of 3 at BS 11/5 (FM, JM). **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were banded at MB 9/25 & 9/26 (SS et al).

A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was a great find at MB 9/26; **Swainson's Thrushes** were seen at MB 8/31 and 9/29; the last **Hermit Thrush** was noted at MB 9/26 (SS et al).

**Blue-winged Warblers** were reported at NE 8/1, KE 8/3, and MB 8/7; the latest was banded at MB 8/30 (SS et al). The last **Tennessee Warbler** and 2 **Nashville Warblers** were observed near TI 9/17 (FM). Final **Magnolia Warbler** was banded at MB 9/26 (SS et al). **Cape May Warblers** were found near TI 8/31 (FM) and at MB 9/25 (SS et al). The last **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was seen near TI 9/2; 3 **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were found at TL 10/8; the last **Black-throated Green Warbler** was observed near TI 10/14; 2 **Blackburnian Warblers** near TI 10/4 provided the latest report (FM, JM).

The first **American Tree Sparrow** was seen at a feeder near TI 11/3, where the last **Chipping Sparrow** was noted 10/15, and 2 **Fox Sparrows** were found 11/3. **White-crowned Sparrows** were seen at several locations in Oct, with a high of 4 at BS 10/6, and the first **White-throated Sparrow** was spotted near TI 10/7 (FM, JM).

The latest **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was caught and banded at MB 9/29, and the last **Indigo Bunting** 9/26 (SS et al). **Purple Finches** were observed at 3 different locations. Two **Pine Siskins** made a single appearance at a feeder near TI 8/30 (FM).

Observers: **Flo McGuire**, HC 1 Box 6A, Tionesta, PA, 16353, (814) 755-3672, fmcguire1@verizon.net, Nancy McGill, Jim McGuire, Linda Ordiway, Briana Smrekar, Scott Stoleson, Emily Thomas, Don Watts.

### **Franklin County**

**Common Loons** and grebes were few in numbers this fall. Shorebirds and ducks were also rather low in numbers and species this year in the county. The Greencastle Res. produced a good variety of waterfowl, shorebirds and swallows but not high numbers of any species except **Tree Swallows** (over 400 at one sighting). A few not so commonly seen sightings were the **American Golden Plover**, **Double-crested Cormorant** and **Short-billed Dowitchers**. Carl Garner has been very helpful with these sightings at several of the listed locations.

A **Bald Eagle** made a surprise landing in a field on the farm at the Greencastle Res. to feed on the carcass of a dead groundhog. A reliable sighting of a **Sandhill Crane** near Chambersburg was reported along the Falling Spring waterway.

**Great Horned Owls**, **Barred Owls** and a few **Eastern Screech Owls** were either seen or heard calling this fall. Screech Owls have been rather hard to find in the county. A goodly number of **Great Horned Owls** have been reported. **Eurasian Collared Doves** continue to be present in Shady Grove and Greencastle.

About 200 **American Pipits** were seen on different days in the Greencastle area and at least 31 remain near Clay Hill as of 12/22. Also a **Merlin** was observed eating a small bird near the sighting of the pipits (could have been a pipit). The **Merlin** stayed in the area several days.

The warbler season brought the usual sightings of various warblers with a rather uncommon sighting of a **Connecticut Warbler** which was seen for several days by Bob Keener along Heisey Rd.

**Purple Finches** and **Pine Siskins** usually are seen this time of the year but only the reported sightings have been two **Purple Finches** (JS) along Warm Spring Rd. and two **Pine Siskins** Fayetteville (HB).

Observers: **Dale L. Gearhart**, PO Box 155, Shady Grove, PA, 17256, (717) 597-3979, dgearhart01@comcast.net, Henry Betz, Carl Garner, Bob Keener, Kathy Lauver, Ruth Ann Smith, Joyce Schaff, Dan Snell

### **Fulton County**

The outstanding fall season highlight was the nighttime discovery of a **Northern Hawk Owl** 10/9 (J& DP). The owl was found during the night along a road near Waterfall. While driving around 9:00 pm on 10/9, the Purnell's saw a bird along the side of the road feeding on a Great Blue Heron carcass. The owl feeding site was underneath a small residential line of 20' high spruce trees buffering the roadside. The area was a 'gap' between mountain ridges. The Purnells watched the owl by headlight for a few minutes, drove and picked up some friends and ventured back to the site. Amazingly the owl was still there feeding voraciously. The excitement in the car over the sighting flushed the owl into the darkness- not to be observed again. Subsequent daytime visits were fruitless. To my knowledge this observation is a first county and first 21<sup>st</sup> century record for Pennsylvania.

An adult male **Wilson's Warbler** was found at Cowan's Gap on 10/4 (DS). At the Tuscarora Summit Hawkwatch 11/1, a **Snow Bunting** made a brief appearance along the entrance road (CG, D&KL). The bunting allowed observers to photograph it.

Observers: **Daniel Snell, PO Box 653, Shippensburg, PA, 17257, (717) 530-8313, dan\_snell@hotmail.com**, Carl Garner, Dick & Kathy Lauver, Jim and Delores Purnell.

### **Greene County**

Locations: Ralph K. Bell Farm, Morgan Twp. (RBF), Preacher's Road, Franklin Twp. (PR), Big Shannon Run, Perry Twp. (BSR).

Any type of water-related birds, other than Mallards or Canada Geese, are considered a good find in *Greene* these days, so a **Great Egret** found on a pond near Dry Tavern 11/1 was a special treat (RKB). **Great Blue Herons** are still being seen over the county at the end of Dec and will stay as long as the mild weather and open water persists. A **Great Blue Heron** seen in Center Twp. 12/16 was so huddled down and had its feathers so fluffed up, it took some studying to be sure (KR).

Eagles seem to be including *Greene* in their migration and winter stop over territory. There have been several sightings of **Bald Eagles**, mostly in the western half of the county. The first eagle was reported in the New Freeport area (JL). Another eagle was spotted 10/11 in Center Twp. (AD). George Blystone, Washington Twp., identified a **Bald Eagle** 10/29. Roger Parry has seen a **Golden Eagle** on his property on Long Run in Center Twp. again this Dec. He has seen at least one for several winters now. A **Sharp-Shinned Hawk** visited the diner at MLP's on BSR 12/8 and chose a **Mourning Dove** from the menu.

**Wild Turkeys** are doing well. On 9/16 at BSR, MLP notes that in the group of 10, which she sees on a regular basis, she can hardly tell the babies from the adult hens. As the season progressed the flock grew to about 22. They come in twice a day to pick at corn under the feeders but especially love to scratch through the manure pile near the barn.

Two **Solitary Sandpipers** were at the Waynesburg Water Dam 9/3 along with 6 **Killdeer** (MH & JH). A **Ring-billed Gull** was seen at the local Wendy's restaurant parking lot by 11/14 (MH & JH). On 8/14 at BSR, MLP heard a **Barred Owl** and an **Eastern Screech Owl** calling after 10 PM. The latest **Chimney Swift** was noted by RKB 10/5. **Ruby-Throated Hummingbirds** seemed to leave early this year. The latest date one was seen was 9/24 at PR (MH & JH).

While running the Ryerson CBC, Sally Sisler and KK had a treat in seeing and hearing a pair of **Pileated Woodpeckers** in Center Twp. RKB noted the following last sightings of the flycatcher family: **Eastern Phoebe** 10/12 and **Eastern Kingbird** 8/24 at RBF. **White-eyed Vireos** disappeared after 9/4, which is the last day one was found at PR (MH&JH). MH&JH also had a **Blue-Headed Vireo** 10/14 at PR. RKB last heard a **Yellow-Throated Vireo** 9/21 at RBF, and a **Red-Eyed Vireo** was last noted 9/12 at PR (MH&JH).

On 9/7 RKB saw the last 2 **Barn Swallows** at RBF. The first **Red-breasted Nuthatch** of the season was noted 11/2 at RBF (RKB), but he states, "They are scarce this fall." He notes the first **Golden-Crowned Kinglet** was 10/16 and the first **Ruby-Crowned Kinglet** was 10/9 at RBF. He also reports the last **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** left RBF 9/2. Apparently raising two broods this summer, MLP reports on 8/12 the **House Wrens** are feeding young in the nest at BSR.

A **Cedar Waxwing** nest still had 4 young in it at RBF 9/12 (RKB).

The latest **American Redstart** was noted 9/4 (MH&JH). They noted the first **Yellow-rumped Warbler** 9/18 and saw a **Black-throated Blue Warbler** passing through 10/2 all at PR. RKB heard a **Scarlet Tanager** singing at RKB 9/12 but none later. He states no **Summer Tanagers** were reported to him this year. He lists the last note of a **Chipping Sparrow** at his feeders 11/5. The first **White-throated Sparrow** at PR was 10/4 (MH&JH). On 11/23 (MH&JH) found a **Swamp Sparrow** near their home on PR. The first **Dark-eyed Junco** was noted there 10/20 (MH&JH) and 11/1 MLP reported a flock of 30+ at BSR. The latest **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was 9/4 at PR (MH&JH). RKB reports the last **Bobolink** he heard was flying over 9/5, and the last **Eastern Meadowlark** was 10/18. KK reported 4 **Red-winged Blackbirds** in a nearby tree fussing at her 10/21 while she was working in the garden at KF, as if she were in their way to come in for seeds.

On 9/18 MLP reports young **American Goldfinches** are still begging to be fed while sitting on the sunflower feeder. Their daddy obliged the youngsters

Observers: **Kathy Kern, 322 Kennel Rd., Waynesburg, PA, 15370 (724) 627-5376, n3xsj@alltel.net**, Ralph K. Bell, Jerry Howard, Marjorie Howard, Mary LaPlante, Kathy Reeves.

### **Huntingdon County**

Locations: Huntingdon (HU), McAlevy's Fort (MF), Old Crow Wetland at Huntingdon (OC), Shaver's Creek Environmental Center (SC), Stone Mountain Hawkwatch (SM).

Eighty **Snow Geese** were reported 11/19 and a season high 125 **Tundra Swan** 11/3 at SM (NB). A **Common Merganser** was spotted on the Juniata R. near HU 8/27 (DK). DK observed 21 **Black Vultures** and 5 **Turkey Vultures** at an established roost near HU 11/28. Counters at SM logged 285 hours (81% of the 12-year average) and tallied 3355 raptors (80% of average). The season's peak flight days included 74 **Sharp-shinned Hawks** 10/21, 13 **Red-shouldered Hawks** and 207 **Red-tailed Hawks** 11/2, 223 **Broad-winged Hawks** 9/14, and 6 **Peregrine Falcons** 9/24. Both **Bald Eagles** and **Golden Eagles** were recorded slightly above the site average, and for the second consecutive year, **Ospreys** were at record low numbers (GG).

A late day flight of over 100 **Common Nighthawks** were observed near MF 8/28 (GG). Non-raptor migrants noted from SM include a **Black-billed Cuckoo** 10/5 (DK), 7 **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** 9/9 (GG), a **Red-headed Woodpecker** 9/21 (DK), and a high count of 300 **Tree Swallows** 9/29 (NB). For the second year in a row, a **Winter Wren** frequented the grounds of SC from 10/27-10/31 (DW). A flock of 150 **Red-winged Blackbirds** and 500 **Common Grackles** gathered at OC 8/31 (DK).

Observers: **Doug Wentzel, Shaver's Creek Environmental Center, 3400 Discovery Road, Petersburg, PA, 16669, (814) 863-2000, djw105@psu.edu**, Nick Bolgiano, Jennifer Brackbill, Don Bryant, Bill Dietz, Deb Grove, Greg Grove, David Kyler, Trudy Kyler, Laurie McLaughlin, Jeff Michaels, Doug Steigerwalt and Chuck Widmann.

### **Indiana County**

Locations: Blue Spruce County Park (BS), Conemaugh Dam (CD), Ghost Town Trail (GTT), Indiana (IN), Lewisville (LV), Reservoir Hill (RH),

Shelocta (SH), Two Lick Reservoir (TLR), Yellow Creek State Park (YC).

All waterfowl reports are from YC unless otherwise indicated. A **Ross's Goose** was observed with a flock of **Canada Geese** inside the Seward power plant 11/18-11/24 (TR). This was a third county record. **Tundra Swans** began moving through our area 11/1 when the first flocks included at least 311 birds at YC (MH,JW), 45 over Lewisville (MC), and 6 at TLR (LC). Best **Wood Duck** count was 46 on 9/19 (SB,LC,MH). Migrant duck arrival dates were generally later than normal with maxima lower than normal. First **Gadwalls** arrived 10/24 (LC,CG,MH,SS) while top count reached 11 on 11/1 (LC,MH). Five **American Wigeons** were first arrivals 10/3 (LC,CG,MH), but 15 was the high count 10/24 (LC,MH). High counts of 19 **American Black Ducks** and 55 **Mallards** were achieved 10/31 (LC,CG,MH,BJ). Fourteen **Blue-winged Teal** 9/19 were amazingly the only ones noted this season (LC). Three **Northern Pintails** were present 11/1, the lone report (LC,MH). Five **Green-winged Teal** arrived 9/26 (SB,LC,CG,MH,BJ); top count was 7 on 11/1 (LC). Five **Canvasbacks** appeared 10/31 (LC,CG,MH,BJ), and 3 were last noted 11/14 (LC,MH,GL). Three **Redheads** lingered on the same part of the lake 11/4 (MH,RH,3RBC) through 11/14 (LC,MH,GL). **Ring-necked Ducks** were in better numbers this fall than last with best counts of 14 on 10/24 (LC,MH) and 63 on 11/14 (LC,MH,GL); TLR yielded 18 on 11/15 (LC). Best **Lesser Scaup** count was 30 on 10/24 (LC,MH). A drake **Black Scoter** was a great find 11/14 (LC,MH,GL). **Buffleheads** peaked 11/1 with a tally of 161 (LC). High **Hooded Merganser** count was a mere 7 on 11/1 (MH). A single **Red-breasted Merganser** was present from 9/26 (SB,LC,CG,MH,BJ) through 11/7 (LC,MH). First **Ruddy Duck** arrived 10/2 (LC), and numbers peaked 11/1 (LC) at 432.

The season, the best on record for **Red-throated Loons**, began 11/14 (LC,MH,GL) when 8 arrived at YC; the same day LC found 3 more on TLR. On 11/17 (LC), 2 were again at YC. Five were counted at YC 11/21 (LC,MH) while another trip there 11/26 yielded 4 (LC). These were not all the same birds because other birders checked the lake between these dates and failed to see any **Red-throated Loons**. **Common Loons** were moving 10/24 (LC,MH) when 15 were counted flying over YC in addition to one individual on the lake. On 11/1 (LC) YC harbored 23 while another was at TLR (LC). The season's first **Pied-billed Grebe** appeared 9/19 (LC); by 11/7 (LC,MH) 62 were present. YC yielded the first 2 **Horned Grebes** 11/4 (MH,RH,3RBC); numbers remained low with the high count of only 4 on 11/26 (LC). Flocks totaling 148 **Double-crested Cormorants** appeared over YC 10/24 (LC,MH); only 58 of them landed on the water, the remainder continued southward. Two **Great Egrets** stopped at YC 10/3 (LC,CG,MH). A **Green Heron** was still at YC 10/8 (LC), a normal last date; but an individual 11/1 (MH) was a real surprise and the latest date on record.

**Turkey Vulture** maxima included 38 near LV 9/16 (MC) and 47 near IN 11/5 (PJ); last reported was one 11/10 (MC) near LV. First **Osprey** arrived at YC 8/17 (MS); in flight at one time over the lake were 5 on 10/6 (KBi,MS). YC yielded the first **Bald Eagle** 8/25 (MS); adult eagles were also seen at YC 9/16 (MH,DL) and 11/14 (LC,MH,GL). Eight was the count over LV 9/16 (MC). Near SH reports included an adult passing over 10/19 (MH) and a second-year bird the following day. The only **Northern Harriers** reported, all singletons at YC, occurred 10/2 (LC), 10/31 (LC,CG,MH,BJ), and 11/21 (LC,MH). Migrating over LV were 295 **Broad-winged Hawks** 9/16 (MC); last was listed 9/26 (SB,LC,CG,MH,BJ) at YC. An adult **Golden Eagle** flew over SH 10/28 (MH). A **Merlin** was a nice find at LV 9/22 (MC).

A **Virginia Rail** was heard calling at YC 10/10 (LC,MH). Not

frequently found in the county, **Common Moorhen** was a nice surprise 10/2 (LC). The first 20 of many **American Coots** arrived at YC 9/26 (SB,LC,CG,MH,BJ); by 11/17 at least 1475 were present (LC).

After last year being the best on record for shorebirds at YC, the migration went almost unnoticed this season because of high water levels. Even our high count of 11 **Killdeer** 9/16 (LC,MH,BJ,MS) was hardly noteworthy. Seventeen **Greater Yellowlegs** flew over YC 10/24 (LC,MH), calling but not stopping. One **Solitary Sandpiper** and one **Wilson's Snipe** were noted 10/8 (LC), the lone reports for both species.

One **Bonaparte's Gull** 11/21 (LC,MH) at YC comprised the entire report for this species. First **Ring-billed Gull** arrived at YC 9/26 (SB,LC,CG,MH,BJ) with best count of 18 on 11/21 (LC,MH). TLR yielded the fall's only 3 **Herring Gulls** 11/14 (LC). Five **Black Terns** 9/12 (MH,MS) were great finds at YC.

Last **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was noted 9/22 (MH) at BS. **Eastern Screech-Owl** was noted at 3 locations; **Great Horned Owl** at only 2 this period. October 4 was the last date near SH (MH) for **Chimney Swift** and near Creekside (MA) for **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**. A very late **hummingbird sp.** was seen briefly near Creekside 10/27 (JG). An adult **Red-headed Woodpecker** appeared near Homer City 11/22 (LC). First **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** arrived near LV 9/16 (MC) and at TLR 9/26 (PJ); 5 was a good count at BS 10/2 (MH). One to 2 **Olive-sided Flycatchers** were spotted near Jacksonville 9/13-9/14 (EF,MF). **Eastern Wood-Pewees** were still calling near SH 9/27 (MH) and at BS 10/2 (MH). This was the best season on record for **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** in the county with BS being the hotspot. First arrival was 8/29 (MH) near SH; BS yielded singletons 9/15 (EF,MF,MH) and 10/2 (MH) and 3 on 9/22 (MH).

RH yielded the last **Least Flycatcher** 9/17 (PJ) and YC, the last **Eastern Phoebe** 10/31 (LC,CG,MH,BJ). Last **Eastern Kingbirds** were noted near McIntyre 8/31 (MH, RH). Vireo dates of departure included 9/4 (MH,RH) for **White-eyed Vireo** along the GTT; 10/18 for **Blue-headed** near SH (MH); 9/8 (CG,MH) for **Yellow-throated** at BS; 9/4 (MH,RH) for **Warbling** at Saylor Park, and 9/25 (EF,MF) for **Red-eyed Vireo** at CD. **Philadelphia Vireos** included one at Saylor Park 9/4 (MH,RH) and 2 at BS 9/15 (EF,MF,MH)

A **Fish Crow** was heard calling in IN 8/26 (RH). **Common Ravens** continue to be widespread with reports from 3 localities this period. Members of the 3RBC outing 11/4 enjoyed watching 3 late **Tree Swallows** feasting on Red-panicle Dogwood berries. Last dates included 9/12 (MH) for **Bank** and **Cliff Swallows** and 9/19 (SB,LC,MH) for **Barn Swallow**, all at YC.

One to 3 **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were present near SH throughout the period (MH,RH). Last **House Wren** lingered on RH 10/25 (PJ), the latest date on record. First **Winter Wren** was found along the GTT 8/23 (CG,MH); RH yielded singletons 9/3-11/8 (PJ); 3 were at BS 10/2 (MH) and another, on the Ferrence farm near IN 10/14 (KB,GF,MH,JK,TK). Small flocks of **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were found between 9/22 (MH) and 11/14 (LC,MH,GL) with largest numbering 14 at BS 10/2 (MH). Last **Veery** was on RH 9/3 (PJ). **Swainson's Thrushes** migrated through the county 9/15 (EF,MF,MH) through 10/10 (PJ); pre-dawn calls were heard 9/17, 9/18, 9/21, and 9/27 (MH) near SH. Two **Hermit Thrushes** were found on RH 10/25 (PJ). BS harbored the last **Wood Thrush** 10/2 (MH). A late **Gray Catbird** lingered on RH 11/24 (PJ). Last **Brown Thrasher** was found at YC 10/3 (LC,CG,MH).

The warbler migration was quite good this fall, much better than in recent years. Last **Blue-winged Warbler** was noted at BS 9/15 (EF,MF,MH). **Tennessee Warblers** moved through BS between 9/8 (CG,MH) when 7 were counted and 10/4 (MH) when 2 were listed. An

**Orange-crowned Warbler** was well seen low in shrubbery at BS 9/15 (EF,MF,MH). One to 6 **Nashville Warblers** were listed on 7 reports between 9/5 (MH) and 9/30 (LC,PJ). Single **Northern Parulas** were found 8/23 (CG,MH) along the GTT; 9/15 (EF,MF,MH) and 9/22 (MH) at BS; and 10/25 (PJ), the latest date on record for this species, on RH. Last dates included 10/2 (MH) for **Chestnut-sided Warbler** and 10/4 (MH) for **Magnolia Warbler**, both at BS. After very low numbers of **Cape May Warblers** the past few years, the fall migration was wonderful. First was one along the GTT 8/23 (CG,MH); BS flocks included 16 on 9/8 (CG,MH), 12 on 9/15 (EF,MF,MH), 10 on 9/22 (MH), and 4 on 10/2 (MH). In addition, 5 were near SH 9/27 (MH). Five **Black-throated Blue Warblers** appeared at BS 9/22 (MH); single birds were seen 9/4 (MH) near SH and 9/26 (BJ) at YC. RH yielded the first **Yellow-rumped Warbler** 8/25 (PJ); maxima included 16 at YC 10/10 (LC,MH), 18 on the Ferrence farm near IN 10/14 (KB,GF,MH,JK,TK), and an even 50 near SH 10/19 (MH). A very late **Black-throated Green Warbler** cooperated for the entire group at YC 11/4 (MH,RH,3RBC). First migrant **Blackburnian Warbler** appeared on RH 8/24 (PJ); last noted was one at CD 9/25 (EF,MH). SH produced last dates for both **Pine Warbler** 9/28 (MH) and **Prairie Warbler** 9/5 (MH). Two **Palm Warblers** at BS 9/8 (CG,MH) and one at YC 10/10 (LC,MH) were the only ones reported. **Bay-breasted Warblers**, noted only at BS, included 3 on 9/8 (CG,MH) and one 9/15 (EF,MF,MH). One to 5 **Blackpoll Warblers** were noted on 8 dates beginning 9/8 (CG,MH) at BS, where the last vagrant was found 10/4 (MH). A **Cerulean Warbler** and 5 **Black-and-white Warblers** visited BS 9/8 (CG,MH). Last were one **Black-and-white** near LV 9/30 (MC); an **American Redstart** and an **Ovenbird** at BS 10/2 (MH); **Common Yellowthroat** near SH 10/9 (MH); and 2 **Hooded Warblers** at CD 9/25 (EF,MH). Single **Wilson's Warblers** were listed 8/23 (CG,MH) along the GTT, 9/5 (MH) near SH, and 9/15 (EF,MF,MH) and 9/22 (MH) at BS. **Canada Warblers** included 2 at BS 9/8 (CG,MH) and one near LV 9/22 (MC).

**Scarlet Tanager** was last found at BS 10/4 (MH). **Eastern Towhee** continued near SH through 11/2 (MH). Arrival date for **American Tree Sparrow** near LV was 10/12, the earliest date on record (MC). The next reported tree sparrow was found at YC 11/4 (NN). Three **Chipping Sparrows** still lingered near LV 11/10 (MC). A **Clay-colored Sparrow** paid a brief visit to a yard near LV 10/2 (MC). Two **Savannah Sparrows** stopped on the beach at YC 8/22 (MH). **Fox Sparrows** moved through *Indiana* 10/29 (MC) through 11/15 (MH) with top count of 4 on 11/7 (LC,MH) at YC. Single **Lincoln's Sparrows** were recorded near SH 9/21 (MH) and on RH 9/24 (PJ). First **White-throated Sparrow** appeared 9/25 (EF,MH) at CD; 21 were counted at BS 10/2 (MH). **White-crowned Sparrow** arrived 10/6 near Creekside (MA) and near LV (MC); high tallies were 9 at YC 11/1 (MH) and 11 near LV 11/10 (MC). SH produced the first **Dark-eyed Junco** 10/6 (MH). Last date for **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was 10/13 (MH,PJ) at BS; for **Indigo Bunting**, 10/19 (MH) near SH.

Seventeen **Bobolinks** flew over a yard near SH 8/31 (MH). **Rusty Blackbirds**, with reports the past few years, were seen in better numbers this fall at YC where tallies included 170 on 10/10 (LC,MH), 120 on 10/24 (LC,MH), 140 on 10/31 (LC,CG,MH,BJ), 81 on 11/1 (MH), 84 on 11/14 (LC,MH,GL), and 10 on 11/21 (LC,MH). **Common Grackle** maxima included 3500 near McIntyre 8/31 (MH,RH) and 400 near Penn Run 10/21 (MH,RH). Last **Brown-headed Cowbird** visited RH 10/10 (PJ). Last 2 **Baltimore Orioles** were found 9/8 (CG,MH) at BS. A **Pine Siskin** stopped near LV 10/26 (MC), the lone report.

Observers: **Margaret Higbee, 3119 Creekside Road, Indiana, PA 15701, (724) 354-3493 bcoriole@alltel.net**, Moose Anderson, Ken Bisbee (KBi),

Ken Byerly, Sandra Burwell, Lee Carnahan, Marcy Cunkelman, Gary Ferrence, Evelyn Fowles, Mike Fowles, Joyce Griffith, Carol Guba, Roger Higbee, Bob Jackman, Pat Johner, Jan Kuehl, Tom Kuehl, Gloria Lamer, Neil Nodelman, Tom Roberts, Mike Shaffer, John Walker, Three Rivers Birding Club (3RBC).

#### **Jefferson County**

No Report. No Compiler.

#### **Juniata County**

Locations: Arch Rock (AR), Cedar Spring Road (CSR), Clearwater Reservoir (CR), Metz Road (MR), Mifflintown River Access (MRA), Muskrat Springs (MS), Oakland Mills (OM), Walnut (W).

A single **Bald Eagle** was seen flying over the Mexico Swamp 11/5 (TP). A **Northern Harrier** was seen hunting over fields at CSR 9/20 (GR). A single **Rough Legged Hawk** was spotted on CSR 11/26 (AT). A **Merlin** was in OM 9/21 (AT).

Six **Great Egrets** were seen roosting at MRA 8/21 (CK, TP) and a single **Great Egret** was seen at a new location CR 9/1 (LW). An imm **Yellow Crowned Night Heron** highlighted of a river float in the county 9/19/06 (AT, DT, etc.).

Two **Barn Owls** were seen in a silo at AR 8/16 (SF). A **Common Nighthawk** was seen in OM 8/13 (AT) and 19 were seen flying overhead at MRA 8/23 (CK, TP). A **Yellow billed Cuckoo** made appearances in OM 9/21 (AT). **Eastern Wood Pewee** was seen feeding young in OM 9/4 (AT, DT). On that same date, 2 **Purple Martins** and upwards of 2000 **Tree Swallows** were spotted at MS (TP). The last **Purple Martin** for the year was seen CSR 9/9 (AR). Two late **Tree Swallows** were seen near MS10/14 (TP).

A small flock of **American Pipits** flew overhead MR 11/12 (CK, AT) and several **American Pipits** and **Snow Buntings** were spotted on CSR 11/26 (AT). Two **Snow Buntings** were spotted in Walnut 11/7 (JS).

Seven **Palm Warblers** and ten **Chipping Sparrows** counted at MS 10/6 (TP). **Purple Finch** were seen at a feeder in Mifflintown 10/18-10/19 (CK).

Observers: **Chad Kauffman, HCR 63 Box 65, Mifflintown, PA 17059, (717) 436-6465 chadkauffman@earthlink.net**, Toby Petersheim, Amos Renno, Gideon Renno, Jackie Stoner, Swarey Family, Aden Troyer, David Troyer, Linda Whitesel.

#### **Lackawanna County**

No Report. No Compiler.

#### **Lancaster County**

Locations: Middlecreek WMA (MC), Muddy Run Pumped Storage Area (MR), Octoraro Lake (OL), Susquehanna River, Conejohela Flats (SRCF), Susquehanna River, Long Level (LL).

This fall the weather was fairly normal and most of the birds were too. Many of the highlights of the season came from SRCF and a lot of good sightings occurred in early September during the passing of Tropical Storm *Ernesto* when birds like **Hudsonian Godwit**, **Parasitic Jaeger** and **Sooty Tern** were seen. The rarest bird of the season was a **Lark Sparrow** and it was also at SRCF.

The first **Snow Goose** of the season appeared 9/27 at MR (CC) and two **Cackling Geese** were at SRCF 10/12 (BS). **Mute Swans** were present all season and the first **Tundra Swan** was spotted 9/30 at MR. A decent variety of waterfowl was present at SRCF until scattered by hunters in early Sep. **Blue-winged Teal** were present 8/5-9/11, **Northern Shoveler** was first seen 8/15, **Northern Pintail** 9/11, **Green-winged Teal** 8/11, and a **Common Goldeneye** (JHo) was early 9/15. There were not a lot of reports of storm driven waterfowl in *Lancaster* this fall, but some bad weather 10/28 resulted in sightings of both **Greater** and **Lesser Scaup**, 3 **Surf Scoters** and 18 **Black Scoters** on the Susquehanna R. between Marietta and LL (JH, DHe). **Red-throated Loons** were also seen multiple times this fall with sightings 11/9 at MC (m.ob.), 6 at LL 11/23 (AM), and 2 at OL 11/24 (CC). An early **Pied-billed Grebe** was at SRCF 7/23 and a count of 105 **Horned Grebes** at LL 11/23 (AM) was a very high count.

This fall **American Bittern** was at SRCF 10/1 (m.ob.) and at MC 10/25 (PF) and 11/1 (AH). More surprising, **Least Bittern** was observed on multiple locations at SRCF from 8/26-9/28. One was first seen 8/26 (RK, TM), 9/1 (TA), and 9/28 (CR). A **Snowy Egret** at SRCF remained through Oct and was last reported 11/1 (m.ob.) when a **Green Heron** was also sighted. This is an unusually late date for both species. **Little Blue Heron** was reported from MC from 8/7- 8/15. **Glossy Ibis** was at SRCF 8/25 (BS). **Merlin** was first reported 8/26 and **Peregrine Falcon** 8/9. Both species were seen throughout the fall at SRCF.

**Sandhill Crane** was seen flying over a yard near the town of Gap 9/17 (PF). Another **Sandhill Crane** was first found at MC 11/12 and was present through the end of the year (m.ob.).

This was another banner year for shorebirds in the county. A total of 31 species were seen at SRCF this fall for a record total of 33 species for the full year (**Black-necked Stilt** and **Whimbrel** were seen in the spring but not in the fall) which surpassed the total of 32 in the year 2000. In addition, one other species, **Upland Sandpiper** was found at the Lancaster Airport 8/16 when two individuals were seen in the grass along route 501 south of Lititz (JBo). The season's highlights included **American Avocet** 8/5 (DH), 2 **Willet** 7/22 (DH), 88 Lesser Yellowlegs 9/15 (JHo), 30 Hudsonian Godwit 9/3 (m.ob.), **Marbled Godwit** 8/15 (m.ob.), **Red Knot** 7/23 (TJ), **Ruddy Turnstone** 8/16-8/21, juv **Ruff** 7/23 (TJ), 32 **White-rumped Sandpiper** 9/3, 15 **Stilt Sandpiper** 9/3, **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** from 8/27-9/10 with a peak of 3 on 8/27 (DH), 2 **Long-billed Dowitcher** 8/30 (DH), multiple sightings of **Red-necked Phalarope** from 8/9-9/3 with a peak of 5 on 9/3 (m.ob.) and **Wilson's Phalarope** 8/24 (DH) and 9/15 (JHo).

The season did not produce any rare gulls, but **Lesser Black-backed Gull** first appeared 9/15 SRCF (JHo) and several **Laughing Gulls** were seen regularly from 8/15-10/28. Tropical Storm *Ernesto* did manage to produce at least one and probably two **Parasitic Jaegers**. One was seen chasing gulls below the York Haven dam at Falmouth 9/2 (DH) and another was seen from LL 9/3 (TH, TR). Both **Least Tern** and **Sooty Tern** were seen this year. **Least Tern** was reported from SRCF 8/2 (DH) and at least four and possibly 5 **Sooty Terns** were seen at SRCF, LL and the 'Rocks' area near Columbia 9/2-9/3. One adult was seen around 6:45 p.m. 9/2 from LL and about 30 minutes later one adult and two juvs were seen several miles upriver near the Columbia-Wrightsville Bridge. The next morning one adult was perched on a rock in the Susquehanna just south of Columbia at an area referred to as the 'Rocks.' This was also a good year for **Black Terns** with a peak count of 48, 8/19 at SRCF.

A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was heard calling at the Atglen Sportsman's Club 10/14 (CC). **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was reported from SRCF 9/5 and **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was reported from the powerline

off of Pinch Rd. which borders *Lancaster/Lebanon* 9/4 and 9/9 (RM). This year several **Tree Swallows**, one **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** and one **Barn Swallow** were at the sewage treatment plant along Blue Rock Road near Washington Boro until 10/28. That same day 50 **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were seen near Bainbridge (CR).

**Marsh Wrens** were seen several times at SRCF between 9/28-11/1.

S.A.

**Sedge Wrens** put in an appearance at MC in Aug. They were present for several weeks and at least three birds were observed singing on territory (TR, m.ob.) along the tour route at several locations. Fortunately plans to mow the fields where the birds were on territory was put on hold once the management was notified. These birds were present in both *Lancaster* and *Lebanon* and it is very likely that at least one pair bred this year. In early Aug a pair of **Sedge Wrens** was seen at one location in *Lebanon* where a male had previously been on territory. Both birds became very agitated upon approach. Upon closer examination a nest was located which was approximately a foot off the ground. The round nest had a single entry hole was composed primarily of sedge grasses. Many of the grasses were still green so it had been composed recently. Because the birds were obviously agitated, the nest was not examined closely enough to determine the presence of young or of eggs.

Both **Gray-cheeked Thrush** and **Swainson's Thrush** were scarce this fall and the only reports were at the Kirchenwald Church Camp 10/4 (AB). The fall migration did not seem to produce very high numbers of migrant songbirds. I did not receive any reports of really high numbers of migrants although there was a bit of a fallout surrounding *Ernesto* when 50+ **Black-throated Green Warblers** were reported along with lesser numbers of other species in northern *Lancaster* 9/3 (RM). Hopefully this is a reflection of weather patterns or lack of observers. Two **Cape May Warblers** were along Umbletown Rd. 9/17 (PF). This species is still seen every fall, but it seems much less common than in past years.

The rarest bird of the season was a first winter **Lark Sparrow** which was first heard singing and then seen at Sharptail Island on SRCF 10/15 (TA, BS). The annual **Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow** was seen 9/30 at Bainbridge (DH) and 10/1 at SRCF. This year the water was high during Oct and this limited the habitat on the grassy islands near Bainbridge where these species are most easily found. **Snow Bunting** was first seen 10/27 at SRCF and 22 were seen there 12/3 (DH, CR). **Baltimore Orioles** continued to appear well into Dec at a feeder in Peach Bottom (BS). No reports of winter finches were received.

Observers: **Jonathan Heller, 720 Aspen Lane, Lebanon, PA , 17042, (717) 228-2161, jonathan.heller@comcast.net**, Tom Amico, Jim Binder (JBi), Anne Bodling, Jerry Book (JB), Justin Bosler (JBo), Bruce Carl, Chuck Chalfont, Larry Coble, John Fedak, Pamela Fisher, Tom Garner, Dan Heathcote (DHe), Jonathan Heller (JH), Deuane Hoffman (DH), Tom Hopson, Jason Horn (JHo), Anne Hurst, Tom Johnson, Ramsay Koury (RK), Andrew McGann, Tom McNamara, Randy Miller, Carl Perry, Tom Raub, Peter Robinson, Cameron Rutt, Bob Schutsky, Jim Smith, Eric Witmer.

#### **Lawrence County**

No Report.

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

#### **Lebanon County**

Locations: Camp Shand (CS), Fort Indiantown Gap (FIG), Memorial Lake

SP (ML), Middlecreek WMA (MC), North Mt. Pleasant Rd. (NPR), Reistville ponds (RV), 2<sup>nd</sup> Mountain Hawk Watch (2<sup>nd</sup> Mtn.), SGL 145, SGL 211, Thousand Trail Campground (TTC).

A flock of **Snow Geese** over 2<sup>nd</sup> MTN 11/21 were the first migrants for the season (DS). **Tundra Swans** were found at MC from 11/10 (AH). There were two reports of single **Cackling Goose**, the first was at ML 11/12 (RCM) and the second was at TTC 11/26 (JF). Duck numbers were low this fall. Seven **Northern Shovelers** and 2 **Green-winged Teal** were at RV 9/22 (RCM). Two male **Canvasback** 11/13 at ML was a good find (DY). A **Lesser Scaup** at TTC 11/26 was the only one reported (JF). A **Common Merganser** at ML 11/12 was an early migrant. There was a **Mallard x Northern Pintail** hybrid at TTC 11/26 for a rare find (JF).

A **Red-throated Loon** 11/29 at ML was an excellent find (DY). **Common Loons** were recorded only in flight from 2<sup>nd</sup> Mtn starting with 50 on 11/19. On 11/20 there were 116 counted (m.ob). A flock of 300 **Double-crested Cormorants** 10/21 at 2<sup>nd</sup> Mtn set a new county high. Three imm **Black-crowned Night Herons** at ML 10/1 set a new late date (RCM).

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Mtn Hawk Watch reported that most species were spread out during the season. The last **Osprey** of the season was 11/18. The **Bald Eagle** total was at 130 and counting for a new season record. The last **Broad-winged Hawk** was 10/14 with a season count of 3317. The high daily count for **Broad-winged Hawk** this season was 381 on 9/12. **Golden Eagles** were also in record numbers for the season with 116 and counting. The first **Golden Eagle** was seen 8/29 and a record day was set 10/31 with 15. Away from 2<sup>nd</sup> Mtn there was an adult **Bald Eagle** walking on Rt. 72 near Bound Lane. It walked off the road and into a field (TF). I received a report of a probable **Bald Eagle** nest north of Palmyra, the site will be checked in the spring (JF). A **Peregrine Falcon** at RV was after **Killdeer** in 9/25 but went away empty-handed (JH).

A **Sandhill Crane** was found on the *Lebanon* side of MC 11/11 for a 7<sup>th</sup> record (JT). All other records are from Feb-Apr.

**American Golden Plover** were found from 9/23 with 5 (TH) to 10/7 (JH, RCM). **Semipalmated Plover** were seen from 8/25 with 2 (JH) until 9/2 (RCM), all at RV. **Killdeer** numbers peaked 9/23 with 152 at RV (JH, RCM). **Lesser Yellowlegs** were at RV from 8/8 (CB) to 10/27 (RCM) with a fall high count of 73 on 9/23 (JH, RCM). Three **Western Sandpipers** were found on 8/11 at RV (RCM). **White-rumped Sandpipers** were found from 9/22 with one (RCM) to 3 on 9/24 (RK, JR) also at RV. A **Baird's Sandpiper** was seen at RV 9/23 (JH, RCM). One **Dunlin** was seen 10/5 at MPR (RCM). **Stilt Sandpipers** made a good showing at RV from 9/1-9/29 (RCM) with 16 on 9/23 for a new county high ((JH, RCM). Two **Common Snipe** at RV 9/24 set a new early date (JR, RK). **American Woodcock** were at ML until the end of the season (RCM).

There were 2250 **Herring Gull** at ML 11/24 (RCM). **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were found from 11/9 (DY) with 5 adults 11/24. One **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was almost black with not as much streaking on the head and neck. They were also at ML. Two *tern sp.* were at Bethlehem Steel Lake 9/3, but they flew off (GB).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** at 2<sup>nd</sup> Mtn 8/5 set a new early date (RS, DY). **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were seen 9/3, 9/4, and 9/9 at SGL 145 (KM, RCM). Fall migration was very good through the entire month of Sep. The last **Blue-headed Vireo** was at ML 10/16 (TR). **Yellow-throated Vireo** were reported many times at SGL 145 with the last being found 9/15 at CS (JH). **Philadelphia Vireo** was found from 9/16 with 2 until 9/23 at CS (JH).

Two **Red-breasted Nuthatch** were found 10/19 at SGL 145 (KM, RM). Two **Sedge Wrens** were found singing at MC 8/6 on Chapel Rd.

(TR). On 8/7, one was seen carrying a small green caterpillar (KM, RCM). Another pair was found at Chapel Rd. and the tour road (KM, RCM) and 8/8 one was seen with nesting material on Chapel Rd.(JH). This part of MC is closed in fall so no follow-up was done. The last record of breeding **Sedge Wren** in the county was at Cleona and Jonestown in the 1950's. There was 110 **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** seen 9/27 at SGL 145 (RCM). Up to 65 **Eastern Bluebirds** fledged at the Lebanon landfill this summer (RL). The last **Veery** was found 9/23 at CS (SW). **Swainson's Thrush** were found from 9/16 (JH) at CS to 10/19 at Spring Hill Acres (RCM) with 14 being found at SGL 145 on 9/27.

**Tennessee Warblers** sent a new high with 41 counted 9/27 at SGL 145 (RCM). **Orange-crowned Warblers** were found 9/15 in Spring Hill Acres (JH) and 10/5 at FIG (DYa, DY). This warbler has only ever been reported in singles. A **Cape May Warbler** was reported 9/9 at SGL 145 (RCM). **Black-throated Green Warblers** were found until 10/11 in SGL 145 (RCM). **Palm Warblers** were found at FIG 10/4 with 4 (DYa) to 10/16 at MLSP (TR). **Bay-breasted Warblers** were seen from 9/16 (JH) at CS to 9/27 (RCM) at SGL 145. A **Connecticut Warbler** at CS 9/20 was a nice find (SW). A **Canada Warbler** at FIG 10/4 set a new late date (DYa). A **Yellow-breasted Chat** at CS 9/30 also set a new late date (SW).

Four **American Tree Sparrows** were seen at 2<sup>nd</sup> Mtn 11/24 (RCM). A **Fox Sparrow** at ML 10/1 set a new early date (KM, RCM). A **Lincoln's Sparrow** at FIG 10/4 was the only one reported (DYa). **White-throated Sparrows** were in good numbers with approximately 500 on 10/19 at SGL 145 (KM, RCM). A **Snow Bunting** at 2<sup>nd</sup> Mtn 11/24 stayed only a minute before flying west. **Blue Grosbeak** set a late date when 2 were found on Homestead Rd. 10/4 (DYa). There are no records in Aug or Sep. There were 52 **Indigo Bunting** at SGL 145 on 9/24 for a new fall high count (RCM). A **Red Crossbill** 11/24 at 2<sup>nd</sup> Mtn was the only one reported.

Observers: **Randy C. Miller, 607 Woodland Dr. Manheim, PA, 17545, (717) 664-3778**, Chuck Berthoud, Gerry Boltz, John Fedak, Pam Fisher, Ted Frey, JoAnn Gible, Jonathan Heller, Tom Hopson, Ann Hurst, Tom Johnson, Gary Koppenhaver, Ramsay Koury, Richard Light, Kate Miller, Richard Pohner, Joan Renninger, Thomas Randall (Thr), Tom Raub (TR), Dave Scwenk, Rosemary Spreha, Kate St. John, John Traynor, Susan Wheeler, Dan Yagusic (DYa), David Yaney II.

### *Lehigh County*

The most exciting bird seen this fall in *Lehigh* was a juvenile **Purple Gallinule**. It was first seen 9/30 by Lee Levengood at a small pond near Macungie. It was seen by many observers after this and even made news in the local paper. The **Purple Gallinule** was seen through mid-October. This was a first for *Lehigh*

There was a lot of rain in July in *Lehigh*. The rain flooded a field near Trexlertown which created some good habitat for migrating shorebirds and some other waterfowl. An unusual summer sighting of one adult **Tundra Swan** was seen in this flooded field 8/13 (DW). Dustin also saw two **Semipalmated Plovers** 8/13 along with **Lesser Yellowlegs**, **Solitary**, **Spotted**, **Semipalmated**, **Least**, **White-rumped**, and **Pectoral Sandpipers**. Along reported here were **Greater Yellowlegs** and **Killdeer** (m.obs). When the water was deeper the flooded field attracted good numbers of **Great Egrets**. **Great Egrets** ranged from one or two to a high number of sixteen seen 8/3 (JO). This flooded field provided entertainment for many people to observe birds in *Lehigh* that are uncommonly seen in this area.

A possible **American Bittern** was at Leaser Lake 9/6 (FD). Also

reported from Leaser Lake, were reported a **Great Egret, Spotted and Least Sandpipers, and Cliff Swallows** (JH).

Present at Jordan Creek Parkway 9/6 were **Alder Flycatcher, Canada and Blackburnian Warblers (DW)**. An **Orange-crowned Warbler** at Jordan Creek Parkway 10/10. Another **Orange-crowned Warbler** (BM,PM) was seen in the Macungie area 9/23. And yet Peter Saenger saw another **Orange-crowned Warbler** from Baer Rocks 9/10. Later in the fall at Jordan Creek Parkway four **Rusty Blackbirds** along with **Winter Wren, Blue-headed Vireo, Palm Warbler, and Common Yellowthroat** were reported (DW). Also at Jordan Creek Parkway a **Dickcissel** was found 10/12-1013 (JH). A **Red-eyed Vireo** and **Tennessee Warbler** were at the Parkway 10/10 (JH). Mark Boyd saw a **Bald Eagle** in Salisbury Twp. at the Walking Purchase Park 11/12. He also saw a late **House Wren** on 11/11 at the Allentown Waste Water Treatment Plant, and a **Blue-headed Vireo** 11/4 and two **Palm Warblers** 11/4.

In other parts of the county, Corey Husic viewed thirty **Black Vultures** from the Orefield area 11/12. Peter Saenger saw a **Merlin** 9/11 in Trexler Park. Jon Levin in his backyard near Trexletown spotted **Red-eyed Vireo, Eastern Towhee, Chestnut-sided Warbler, and Scarlet Tanager** 10/1. Jon saw **Northern Parula** and a **Black-throated Green Warbler** also in his backyard 10/3.

Observers: **Jon Levin, 1899 Aster Rd., Macungie, PA, 18062, (610) 366-9996, levinjl1@yahoo.com**, Mark Boyd, Bernie Morris, Pauline Morris, Jane Ostroski, Dustin Welch.

#### **Luzerne County**

Locations: Council Cup (CC), Francis Slocum State Park (FSSP), Harvey's Lake (HL), Huntsville Reservoir (HR), Plymouth Fats (PLYF), Ricketts Glen State Park (RGSP), Susquehanna River (SR)

Although the majority of shorebirds have passed through our area by the time this season begins, early September has historically been very good for shorebirds in the county. Periods of heavy rain during the summer kept area waterways high and muddy right into the beginning of the fall season, limiting shorebird viewing opportunities. Even the traditional quarry ponds that usually provide extensive mud flats were bank full, further reducing the available viewing potential. As a result, there were no shorebird records for the quarter with the exception of a late **Killdeer** 11/28 (RK). After a few years of no formal hawk count at CC, Don Kapral logged 70 hours of personal observations during the season and counted 867 birds of prey.

Waterfowl migration was about normal with the first **Common Loons** reported at HL 10/28 (RK, JH). A **Pied-billed Grebe** arrived on HL 9/23 (JH) with numbers increasing to 5 or 6 individuals during the remainder of the period. A **Red-necked Grebe** was found on HL 10/26 (EJ, SGo) but only stayed for the day and up to 3 **Horned Grebes** were seen 11/18 (RK) with at least one staying until 11/30. Some early duck arrivals followed a modest cold front 10/6 with 3 **American Black Ducks** moving through the area at FSSP (JH) and the following day 10/7 a **Ruddy Duck** was seen on the Ice Ponds in Mountaintop (RK). A female **Northern Shoveler** was found on a small farm pond in southern *Luzerne* 11/2 (BH) and stayed at least until 11/26. A **Common Goldeneye** was found on HR 11/23 (RK) and a **Long Tailed Duck** was seen on HL 11/19 (RK, JH). All three scoter species made an appearance this fall with 8 **Black Scoters** at RGSP 10/27 (MB, SB) **White-winged Scoter** on HL 11/12 (RK) that lingered until 11/19 and a female **Surf Scoter** 11/18-11/19 (JH). Additional sightings

included a flock of 100 plus **Snow Geese** flying over downtown Hazleton 10/30 (AG) and a **Mute Swan** on Blythburne Lake 9/24 (RK).

There were 2 **Black Vultures** seen over Stockton Rd. in Hazle Twp. 10/3 (AG) and another **Black Vulture** was seen soaring with a flock of **Turkey Vultures** 10/29 in Shickshinny (RK, JH). **Black Vultures** are relatively new comers to our area and the only reliable place to see them continues to be southern *Luzerne* especially near Shickshinny. At least 20 **Bald Eagles** were reported throughout the period (DK, et al) with some usually staying to winter along the SR in recent years. A modest 150 **Broad-winged Hawks** were reported at CC 9/16 and represented the highest daily total for the period (RK, JH). An imm **Northern Goshawk** at CC 9/10 was a nice find (MB, SB). **Northern Harrier** seems to be doing well in the southern part of the county with several records reported (BH). In addition to **American Kestrel**, two other species of falcons were seen in the county during the report period with one migrant **Peregrine Falcon** at CC 10/24 (DK) and at least one of the resident **Peregrines** at Campbell's Ledge 11/5 (JS), 2 **Merlins**; one along the SR at the Plains Flats 9/30 (RK, JH) and one further away from the SR in Plains Twp. 10/24 (SGa). **Merlin** has become a regular fall and winter visitor in the last 3 years along the SR.

Any species of tern is a treat for us in *Luzerne* and 3 **Black Terns** 9/3 at PLYF were an exceptional find (RK). The only report of **Short-eared Owl** was of an individual that apparently has set up winter residence since it's been present most of Nov in a field in Conyngham (AG).

There was a late record of **Eastern Phoebe** that was present until at least 11/26 along the Nescopceck Creek in Butler Twp. (AG). An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** in W. Wyoming 9/24 was a wonderful addition to one's yard list (SGa) and one that is easily missed in the county. There were at least 2 **Philadelphia Vireos** at FSSP 9/10 in a mixed flock that included several **Red-eyed** and **Blue-headed Vireos** (JH). The **Tree Swallows** observed 10/29 at Sylvan Lake (RK) and Black Creek Twp. (AG) were late for our area. There were quite a few reports of **Winter Wren** with some observers reporting 5-6 individuals in a few hours of birding (RK, et al). Although sight records of **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** were non-existent many were heard as they flew overhead during their nocturnal migration flights 9/16 & 9/26 (RK, JH).

At least 16 species of wood warblers were reported in good numbers including several late reports of **Palm Warbler** 11/4 & 11/5 from the southern part of the county (BH, JH). And a well documented **Orange-crowned Warbler** in Plains Twp.10/3 (SGa) was one of only a handful of records recorded for this species in the county.

**American Tree Sparrows** arrived 11/5 at FSSP (BT). Also 11/5 there were at least 9 **Fox Sparrows** at the PP&L River Lands complex just north of Berwick including one singing male (RK, JH). **White-crowned Sparrows** were seen in good numbers throughout the county from 9/30-11/2 (BH, et al) and **Lincoln's Sparrows** made a strong showing from 9/23-10/8 (JH, et al). The only report of **Rusty Blackbird** was 11/5 from FSSP (BT). Several **Red Crossbills** flew over Plains Twp. 10/3 (SGa). Could this be a harbinger of things to come this winter?

Observers: **Jim Hoyson, 88 Ridge St., Shavertown, PA 18708, (570) 696-4925 birdder@aol.com**, Susan Baron, Mark Blauer, Stan Galenty (SGa), Sandy Goodwin (SGo), Alan Gregory, Bill Hintze, Ed Johnson, Don Kapral, Rick Koval, Bill Reid, Jim Shoemaker, Bruce Troy, Bob Wasilewski.

#### **Lycoming County**

No Report

**Steve Pinkerton, 182 Log-RunRoad, Williamsport, PA 17701, (570)**

### McKean County

No Report

**John Fedak, 26 Race St., Bradford, PA, 16701, (814) 275-4086, [jfedak@atlanticbb.net](mailto:jfedak@atlanticbb.net)**

### Mercer County

**Tundra Swan** moved through as usual in Nov, but only in small skeins, and not stopping at Shenango R. Res. The high water at SSR prohibited waterfowl and shorebird sightings until after 11/23 when draw down at last began.

Mark Vass found the following 11/26 at SRR: 8 **Hooded Merganser**, 12 **Common Merganser**, and one **Red-breasted Merganser**, one **Ruddy Duck** and one **Common Loon**. One **Eared Grebe** was at Saguallas Ponds 8/15 (HB). Unusual was the late **Double-crested Cormorant** 12/22 at SRR. A **Great Egret** was at SP 8/15 (HB).

A **Merlin** was harassed by **American Kestrels** 9/5 along S. Vernon Rd. One **Merlin** 10/12, and 2 10/13 were observed headed south at low altitude (NT). MV saw a **Sora** 8/26 in clear view feeding at the SRR propagation ponds. Celery Swamp held 21 **American Coot** 10/22 (HB). Two **Sandhill Crane** were at Rt.#62 south of Jackson Center 10/15 (NT). A **Dunlin** was found 11/26 at SRR, as were 125 **Bonaparte's Gulls** (MV).

Last sightings of **Common Nighthawk** were 9/14, **Chimney Swift** 9/26, **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** 9/24, **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** 9/27 - all normal last dates. Eight **Eastern Kingbird** 8/26 were together as a group chattering and flycatching at SRR (MV).

Just before dusk 9/11, hundreds of **Barn** and **Tree Swallow** (with a few **Bank** and **Cliff** mixed in) flew over Williamson Rd. ahead of a low-pressure system, that brought several days of rain. **Winter Wren** dribbled through 9/19-12/14. **Swainson's Thrush** was reported in good numbers, but the opposite was true for **Hermit Thrush**.

Twenty species of warbler were noted. The "best bird" was a very cooperative and vocal adult male **Connecticut Warbler** 9/14 at Nicklin Lane apparently grounded during another low-pressure system (NT). Species usually found, but missed this fall were: Orange-crowned, Cape May, Mourning, Louisiana Waterthrush, Wilson's, and Canada Warbler (NT).

**Dark-eyed Junco** was a late arrival, not seen until 10/15. A small flock of **Snow Buntings** was heard over WR 10/27. **Baltimore Oriole** 9/17 was a noteworthy late date. No winter finches were reported.

Observers: **Marty McKay, 841 East Lake Rd., Transfer, PA, 16154, (724) 962-7476**, Harriett Bauer, Mark Vass, Neil Troyer.

### Mifflin County

No Report

**New Compilers starting Winter 2006-2007**

**Greg and Deb Grove, 4343 McAlvey's Fort Road, Petersburg, PA 16669, (814) 667-2305, (Greg) [gwg2@psu.edu](mailto:gwg2@psu.edu), (Deb) [dsg4@psu.edu](mailto:dsg4@psu.edu)**

### Monroe County

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

Only three reports were received for the season. A rare sighting away from the Blue Mountain migration corridor was a **Golden Eagle** near

Long Pond 11/19 (PM). Only one **Red-headed Woodpecker** was seen at DWGNRA's headquarters swamp near Bushkill in early Sep (DS); subsequent searches later in the fall revealed no birds.

The highlight of the season was the capture of a female **Red Crossbill** 8/13 by Darryl Speicher at Pocono Avian Research Center's Two Mile Run banding station near Blakeslee. The bird had a brood patch that was determined to be at "peak development." The current PA Breeding Bird Atlas (BBA) has three records for this species but no confirmed breeding. The first PA BBA in 1984-1989 had 6 records at the "possible" level but, again, no confirmed nesting. The bird was found in a spruce-tamarack swamp. In P.R. Street's *Birds of the Pocono Mountains* (1956), only several summer records for the area were mentioned dating back to 1893 and 1906.

Observers: **Brian Hardiman, MCEED, 8050 Running Valley Rd, Stroudsburg, PA 18360, (570) 629-3061, [bhmccd@ptd.net](mailto:bhmccd@ptd.net)**, Pat McElhenny, Darryl Speicher.

### Montgomery County

Locations: Green Lane Reservoir (GLR), Haverford College (HC), Lower Frederick Township (LFT), Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust (PERT), Unami Creek Valley (UCV), Upper Gwynedd Township, (UGT), Upper Hanover Township (UHT).

The fall season brought unseasonably mild and unusually moist weather in the county. As a result, shorebird sightings were few, and many waterfowl species went unreported. All sightings by George A. Franchois (GAF.), unless noted otherwise. Waterfowl variety was a bit disappointing, with 21 species recorded. This was likely due, in part, to the mildest November in memory. Highlights included a **Greater White-fronted Goose** at Church Rd., Green Lane Res. 11/22, a **Cackling Goose** there 11/17, and a "left-over" **Snow Goose** during the entire period. All of the expected dabbling ducks were observed, including 9 **Blue-winged Teal** at Walt Rd., GLR 9/21. Diving duck highlights included 126 **Bufflehead** at Walt and Church Rds 11/3 (KC), and 8 **Surf Scoters** at Walt Rd. on the record-early date 10/8 (GAF). **Ruddy Ducks** were unusually easy to find this fall, with 15-30 birds present daily at Walt Rd. mid-Oct-Nov. The notable exception to this pattern was a season-high count of 120 birds 11/2.

A **Red-throated Loon** was at Walt Rd. 11/13-11/14 (KC), and 30 **loons** (species unknown) flew over Church Rd. 11/19 (GAF). A high of 6 **Horned Grebes** were at Walt Rd. 10/25 (KC, GAF).

A **Cattle Egret** at a farm pond in Lower Frederick Twp. was our first in several years. (PG, m.obs). An imm **Black-crowned Night Heron** at Church Rd., GLR was our lone report.

Green Lane Reservoir's resident **Bald Eagles** began rebuilding their fallen nest in mid-Oct. **Broad-winged Hawk** numbers peaked at 70 near Walt Rd., GLR 9/18. A **Merlin** was at Walt Rd. on at least five different days between 9/19-10/23.

Given our very rainy season, it was no surprise that shorebirds had a very brief stay at Church Rd., GLR. A total of 9 species were reported, all in modest numbers. (A nine-day rainfall total beginning 8/25 exceeded 6.5 inches and dashed all hopes of mudflats for the season.) Highlights among shorebird reports were a **Semipalmated Plover** 8/10, and a **Pectoral Sandpiper** 10/6. The latter was seen on a high-school athletic field, since any mudflats were long gone by that date!

Gulls worth noting included 3 early **Bonaparte's Gulls** at Walt Rd.

9/10, and our first **Lesser Black-backed Gull** at Church Rd. 10/23 (KC). Tern reports from Church Rd. included 3 **Caspian Terns** 8/11+, and 13 **Black Terns** 8/28.

**Common Nighthawk** reports were again scarce this fall, with highs of 1-2 birds over GLR and Upper Gwynedd Twp.(GAF, AJM). **Blue-headed Vireos** were fairly widespread, and were last reported from UGT 10/23. (m. obs., AJM). A **Warbling Vireo** in the Unami Creek Valley 9/21 was our lone report (KC).

**Purple Martins** reached a "high" count of 3 on 8/23 at Walt Rd. Other noteworthy swallows were 24+ **Bank Swallow** 8/27 and 6 **Cliff Swallow** 8/13, both reports from Church Rd.

A lone **Red-breasted Nuthatch** at Walt Rd. 10/9 was our only report. **Winter Wren** arrived at Haverford College 10/22, and 3 were in the UCV 11/7 (SJ, GAF). In contrast to the two previous autumns, **Black-capped Chickadees** had a poor flight year in 2006 (m.obs).

A **Swainson's Thrush** was in Upper Hanover Twp. 10/1 (JG), and another in the UCV 11/7 appears to be our second ever Nov record! **Brown Thrasher** reports were of single birds at Walt and Church Rds. in Sep (GAF, KC).

Warblers had a fair showing with 18 species reported. Our best finds were **Nashville Warbler** at Walt Rd. and the GLR Nature Center, **Cape May Warbler** at Walt Rd., **Pine Warbler** at Walt Rd., UGT, and UCV, and **Connecticut Warbler** at Church and Walt Rds. (GAF, KC, AJM).

Sparrows also had a decent (but not great) showing. Church Rd. hosted a **Savannah Sparrow**, 3 **Lincoln's Sparrows**, 18 **Swamp Sparrow** and 3 **White-crowned Sparrows** in Oct (GAF, KC). Walt Rd. had a **Lincoln's Sparrow** and 4 **Fox Sparrows**. Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust produced a **Vesper Sparrow** 10/19, and a high of 30 **American Tree Sparrows** 11/21 (Paul Driver).

**Purple Finch** had their worst showing in many years, with 1-2 birds at GLR 10/22, 11/25, and 11/28. (GAF, KC).

Observers: **Kevin Crilley, PO Box 100, Sumneytown, PA, 18084, (215) 234-6867, KCRILLEY@mail.montcopa.org**, Paul Driver, George A. Franchois, Joe Greco, Paul Guris, Sheryl Johnson, Rudy Keller, August and Judy Mirabella.

#### **Montour County**

No Report

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#### **Northampton County**

Locations: Green Pond (GP), Koch Farm, Williams Twp (KF), Little Gap Hawk Watch Site (LGHS).

Green Pond was a prime spot for egrets, herons, and shorebirds in Aug and Sep. A high count of 19 **Great Egrets** were at GP 8/29 (MS). The imm **Glossy Ibis** and **Little Blue Heron** from 7/31 were last seen 8/8. An adult **Little Blue Heron** was at East Bangor Dam 9/16 (AS). A juv **Black-crowned Night-heron** was seen sporadically at GP 8/6 into early Sep. (DW). Notable waterfowl included 3 **Canvasback** at Minsi L. 11/3 and a **Redhead** at Echo Lake 11/8 (AS). The LGHS spotted a **Red-throated Loon** amongst Common Loons 11/19 (MS).

There were 14 **Bald Eagles** counted at the LGHS 9/10 while the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest **Broad-winged Hawk** total (4663) since 1981 occurred 9/12 (MS, KM). A **Rough-legged Hawk** was seen in Flicksville 11/14 (AS) and a dark

morph **Rough-legged Hawk** flew past the LGHS 11/18 (MS). **Sora** were at School Rd. 10/7-10/12 (BW) and one was seen feeding at East Bangor Dam 10/14 (AS).

An **American Golden Plover** was at Willow Brook Farm 9/2 (BW) and 10/12 (AS). A **Sanderling** was at a retention pond near Hecktown along Cobblestone Lane 9/7 (AS). Shorebird Habitat at GP was excellent for migrant shorebirds. Highlights included a rare county record **Western Sandpiper** 8/20 (DW), a **White-rumped Sandpiper** 8/28 (AS), 2 **Baird's Sandpipers** 8/23-8/28 (DD), **Stilt Sandpipers** 8/28-9/12, and a **Short-billed Dowitcher** 8/9. Tropical Storm *Ernesto* was likely responsible for a first county record of **Royal Tern** 9/3 when an adult bird circled the main pond at GP for several minutes (DW). The storm also produced a **Common Tern** at Minsi Lake 9/3 (AS).

**Northern Saw-Whet Owls** were heard in Washington Twp 10/5 & 10/30 (AS). It was a good showing for several uncommon passerines with multiple sightings in several locations. Notables included **Red-headed Woodpecker**, **Olive-sided Flycatcher**, **Philadelphia Vireo**, **Connecticut Warbler**, and **Mourning Warbler**. A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was seen in Moore Twp 8/12 and a late **Least Flycatcher** was at the KF 9/23-9/26 (AK). Another late bird was a **Great-crested Flycatcher** in Flicksville 10/3 (AS, DW). A **Marsh Wren** was spotted at the KF 10/19 (AK). Late warblers were a **Black-throated Blue Warbler** in Bethlehem 10/27 and a **Northern Parula** in Bethlehem 10/7 (JY).

**Clay-colored Sparrows** made a great showing with sightings in Washington Twp 10/1 & 10/12 (AS) and at the KF 9/26 & 11/20 (AK). The 2<sup>nd</sup> county record of **Lark Sparrow** (juv) was at the KF 10/19-10/20 (AK, AS, MaS). An adult male "Oregon" **Dark-eyed Junco** visited a feeder in Allen Twp 11/18-11/25. The KF continued to produce good birds with multiple sightings of **Dickcissels** in Sep and Oct.

Winter Finches had few reports with **Red Crossbills** at LGHS 11/4-11/5 (MS, ZR) and **Pine Siskins** at Jacobsburg State Park 10/30 (AS) and along National Park Dr 10/12 (AS).

Observers: **Michael Schall, 126 N. Chestnut St, Bath, PA 18014, (610) 737-5275, mdtjschall@yahoo.com**, Dave DeReamus, Arlene Koch, Zach Rowe, Adam Sabatine, Matt Sabatine, Billy Weber, Dustin Welch, Joe Yuhas.

#### **Northumberland County**

No Report. No Compiler.

#### **Perry County**

No Report

**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), Darby Creek (DC), Delaware River (DR), East Park Reservoir (EPR), John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum-Philadelphia portion (TI), Morris Arboretum (MA), Pennypack Environmental Center (PEC), Philadelphia International Airport (PHL), Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education (SCEE), Schuylkill River (SR), 2<sup>nd</sup> Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas (PBBA)

This was an exceptional fall with more rare birds and bird reports than I've had since 1999, making this the most complete and

representative report so far. It was due to the avian fallout in the aftermath of Tropical Storm *Ernesto* as it roared up the Delaware River 9/2-9/3 and the drawdown of the 140 acre freshwater impoundment at John Heinz NWR at Tinicum (TI) for a multi-refuge shorebird migration study. Twenty-two species of shorebirds were seen during the second season of the "draw-down" study. In addition, many hundreds of egret and heron, numerous Osprey and Bald Eagle, tern and swallow species were attracted to abundant, easily accessible food supply. The high daily-count by refuge biologist Brendalee Philips was 2,328 birds with more than 1000 present daily from mid-July to early September.

Frank Windfelder's annual October backyard bird count produced many good records and a glimpse of raptor migration over the county while mild dry weather meant birders were in the field early and often. Matt Sharp's timely visits to the BRSP community gardens alerted us to this new sparrow "hot spot."

Usually a smattering of the **Snow Goose** migration passes over *Philadelphia*, but this year they escaped detection entirely. Two **Brant** were at the "waterworks" near the AM 9/18 (MS). One of the two **Mute Swan** at TI died in early Aug. The warm weather didn't entice **Wood Ducks** to remain longer than usual, but a few were seen at EPR through 11/14 (KR, MS). There were no huge groups of **Gadwall** this season, just a few at the usual places. The high count of **Gadwall** on 11/14 was 42 at FDR (MS), 30 on 11/8 at FDR (KR), and 30+ at TI (DM). As soon as the TI impoundment was refilled, **American Black Duck** arrived in good numbers with 650 present 11/28. The **Cinnamon Teal** reported last quarter at TI was seen for the last time 8/8 (DB, TF). **Blue-winged Teal** arrived early at TI 8/12 and numbered around 100 by 9/27 probably because of the resurgence of the wild rice stands along DC. EPR hosted a single bird 8/20 (KR). The high count of 150 **Northern Shoveler** and 250 **Northern Pintail** was 11/7. **Green-winged Teal**, always harder to count because they move sporadically with the tides, were present in usual numbers at TI and FDR. The Audubon initiative to establish a nature center at EPR led to its being open more often allowing birders more access. **Canvasback** which are usually plentiful at EPR were missed 10/30, but 2 **Redheads** were found and two more were at EPR 11/24 (KR). Three **Canvasback** were in the area of Pennypack St. and the DR 11/14 (FW), at Tinicum 11/29 (TF) and finally at EPR 12/2 (KR). Other divers, like a female **Greater Scaup**, were seen at FDR 11/8 (KR) and TI 11/24 (JM). **Lesser Scaup**, first found at FDR 10/30 (MS) reached a high of 23 at FDR 11/23 (MS). **Bufflehead** were reported from 10/30 and 2 **Common Goldeneye** at TI 11/20 (TC) were a nice find away from the DR. I thought 9 **Ruddy Duck** at TI 10/2 was a decent find, but by 11/7 Matt Sharp counted 246 of which 230 were still present at the end of the season.

A **Red-throated Loon** flying over EPR caught MS by surprise 10/17. **Pied-billed Grebe** were present in good numbers: 9 at EPR 10/30 (MS), 5 at FDR 11/23 (DM) and 10 at TI during Nov. Both **Horned Grebe** sightings were at TI, one 10/29 (JR) and 2 birds 11/7 (TF, DB, MS). **Great Cormorant** are very rarely seen away from the DR, so a lone bird at EPR 9/7 was most unusual (KR). **Double-breasted Cormorant** flocked to the pools of trapped carp at TI in Aug. Everyday at least 50 cormorants fed in the impoundment.

Strangely, only two bittern individuals were reported: an **American Bittern** 10/31 at TI (TF, DB) and a **Least Bittern** 8/29. The abundance of heron and egret feeding at TI during the shorebird study was spectacular. **Great Blue Heron** numbered 67, 8/15 and increased to exceed 100 by late Aug. **Great Egret** increased from 145 (8/13) to 267 on 8/25 (JM). **Snowy Egret**, once a common migrant, but recently scarce, were present from 8/12 (MS) to 9/10 (JD) with a high count of 8 on 8/28-8/30 (LR, DM, MDe).

**Green Heron** were last reported 10/14. Several **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were seen at TI 8/21-1017 (BC, MD, AS, MS). Two *plegadis* (presumably two immature **Glossy Ibis**) were sighted 11/18 by Brian Byrnes as he led the TI weekend bird walk. The *plegadis* pair fed, flew, and foraged together until at least 11/26 (MD, TC, DB). By 11/29 only one bird remained, seen through 12/23. On 12/25 the lone bird was gone (DM).

Following the summer report of a **Black Vulture** pair that presumably breed at Awbury Arboretum in NW Philly, MS saw an adult pair feeding a downy-headed young bird from a road kill on Germantown Ave. at E. Roumfort, 1.5 miles 'as the vulture flies' from Awbury Arboretum 9/17. This sighting adds weight to our belief that they successfully bred at Awbury.

An **Osprey** pair breeds in NE Philly, but FW never sees them over his house, so 3 **Osprey** in Aug and another 10/12 were welcome finds. Five **Bald Eagles** were reported from TI in mid-Aug (JM) probably included the local family and some migrants. Militia Hill Hawkwatch, thanks to Marylea Klauder and many conscientious hawk watchers, reported 17 **Bald Eagle** crossing south into the county in Sept and Oct. A lone eagle was seen at EPR 10/30 (KR). **Northern Harrier** were over FW's NE Philly home 9/21-11/2 and TM had **Sharp-shinned Hawk** at BRSP as early as 8/20. FW tallied 9 **Red-shouldered Hawk** 9/21-11/2. **Broad-winged Hawk** migration lasted about month from 8/31 with a bird over TI (DM) to 46 on 9/25 (FW). The first **Golden Eagle** flew over FW's home in NE Philly 10/5. At Militia Hill Hawkwatch an imm bird 10/29 and an adult 10/31 were seen, while several miles south at TI Denis Brennan saw an immature **Golden Eagle** 10/30. The same young bird? **American Kestrel** migration spanned 8/6-11/24 at FW's home. **Merlin** were reported at TI 9/4 (TC) and 10/14 (MS). **Peregrine Falcon** are resident with numerous sightings from numerous locations.

TI is the location of the last predictable pair of **Ring-necked Pheasant** in *Philadelphia*. There may be others birds at PHL or along the DR in undeveloped tracts of land soon to become casinos (KS) whose breeding status the PBBA may clarify. **Wild Turkey**, normally seen in the NE section of the city are being seen daily at TI (m.obs.) (See the Delaware Co. report for new breeding location just 2 miles from TI.)

**Common Moorhen**, last reported at TI 9/4, numbered 10 on 8/25 (FW) and **American Coot** numbered 30 at FDR 11/8 (KR) and 37 at TI 11/25 (FW).

The following sightings come from TI. An **American Golden Plover** 9/18 was a great find (MS). **Semipalmated Plover** stopped over 8/12-9/18 with a high count of 20 in mid-Aug (JM, TF). **Killdeer** reached a high count of 45 on 8/28. I found 40 **Killdeer** at EPR 9/7 and two were seen at FDR 11/8 (KR). In the wake of Tropical Storm *Ernesto* 9/3 an **American Oystercatcher** was found on an abandoned pier at Snyder Ave. and the DR. (DF, JH). This bird moved northward and was relocated on a pier's narrow ledge viewed from the New Jersey side of the river (DM, m. obs). The passage of **Lesser Yellowlegs** began with 32 on 7/28 (DM), grew to 600+ on 8/18 (JM), decreased to 520 8/25 (DM) and fell to 320 8/28 (MS) mirroring the refilling of the impoundment in preparation for waterfowl migration. Later, 9/7 I found 51 **Lesser Yellowlegs** at EPR in the very deep unused basin that held the **Killdeer** mentioned above. **Greater Yellowlegs** were only reported from TI in single digits prior to the high of 17 on 9/18 (MS). **Solitary Sandpiper** were present 8/4-9/4 (BB) with a high of 12 on 8/28 (MS). Eight **Spotted Sandpipers** 8/28 (MS) were probably migrants, but could have included some of the breeders from the *Delaware* portion of TI. A **Ruddy Turnstone** 9/18 was a great find (MS). **Semipalmated Sandpiper** and **Least Sandpiper** numbers varied from day to day, increasing to highs in mid-Aug of 2800 **Semipalmated** (JM)

and 1200 **Least Sandpiper**. Other peeps included **Western Sandpiper** 8/12-8/13 (MS, DM), as many as three **White-rumped Sandpipers** 8/24-9/18 (JM,MS), and **Baird's Sandpiper** 8/7-8/23 (TF, DM). **Pectoral Sandpiper** increased from 2 on 8/18 to 75 on 8/28 declining to 60, 9/18. Frank Windfelder counted 26 **Stilt Sandpipers** 8/30. Both dowitchers were attracted to the feast: **Short-billed Dowitcher** stayed the longest 8/12-9/7 with 5 high 8/24, and **Long-billed Dowitcher** was only seen by MS 9/18. **American Woodcock** were at three locations: TI 8/31 (DM), EPR 10/17 (MS), and BRSP 11/5 (FW). How did we miss **Wilson's Snipe**? A juv **Wilson's Phalarope** was on the impoundment mud floor 8/28 (TF, DB) and a **Red-necked Phalarope** was found at TI 9/3 (JD), a day after more than 50 **Red-necked Phalaropes** were counted flying north into *Philadelphia* from *Delaware* over the DR. See that county report for the birds that passed through *Philadelphia*, but were not viewed for lack of spotters and access to the river.

More than 700 **Laughing Gulls** were flying down river on the DR at Rhawn St. 10/30 (MS). This is a relatively small group compared to many thousand that are occasionally reported in the fall. Gulls and terns were also attracted to the food that was exposed by the low water level. **Bonaparte's Gull** was present on the rivers and at TI from mid-Aug through the end of Nov with a high count of 38 on 8/26 at TI. A **Lesser Black-backed Gull** has evidently been a common visitor at the Linden Ave. boat ramp for more than a year (FW). **Caspian Tern** were present in usual numbers, but FW counted 22 **Common Tern** moving up the DR from his vantage point at Palmyra, NJ 9/2. **Black Tern**, always looked for, but often missed, ruled this season. The first **Black Tern** arrived 8/16, soon there were 9 at TI, and then in the wake of *Ernesto*, the count at TI reached 20 on 9/10. The flock appeared to be hawking insects in the air and looked more like a flock of swallows than terns. Our most uncommon tern, the **Least Tern**, was seen 7/1 while SJ and LJ were looking for the **Cinnamon Teal** at TI.

FW saw his first 3 migrating **Common Nighthawk** 8/23 and I saw 18 moving toward the DR at dusk 8/31 (DM). As late as 10/4, 35 birds passed over TI (JM), but he nighthawk Keith Russell saw at EPR 11/6 is the second latest record. The late date is 11/16, and the previous second latest date was 10/19. **Chimney Swift** roost sites are being monitored by more and more *Philadelphia* birders. The Jenks Elementary School had 125 swifts sleep in its chimney 9/18. The last Chimney Swift was spotted over EPR 11/4 (KR). A **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** at BRSP was the last seen 10/8 (MS). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** put in a brief appearance at TI 9/29 (DB, TF). Pennypack Park hosts at least 2 **Pileated Woodpecker** (FW). **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** continue to be attracted to City Hall vegetation and the parks of center city.

Flycatchers were on the move in late Aug. In what Frank Windfelder termed a "bonanza," an **Eastern Wood-Pewee**, a **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**, and a **Least Flycatcher** were all in his Northeast garden at the same time 8/28. His soft Screech Owl whistle gave him great looks at all the birds. KS found an **Acadian Flycatcher** dead in center city 8/24. A **Blue-headed Vireo** at Kitchen's Lane bridge in the Wissahickon was a late find 11/5 (KJ).

BRSP hosted 35 **Horned Lark** 10/22 (MS). The insect laden air over the impoundment floor at TI was a fantastic lure for swallows. Thousands of swallows came through in waves. From 8/10-8/17 there were at least 1000 **Bank Swallow**, by far the largest number we'd ever seen in *Philadelphia* (JM, DM). **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** were more numerous, in the thousands, and by 9/22 they were the dominant species by far. At the Northeast Pollution Control Plant where **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** have been overwintering, we counted 140 on 11/4 (KR,

DM). Question: What was a **Marsh Wren** doing in a City Hall courtyard 10/6 instead of being in the cattails at TI? Answer: With a group of **Common Yellowthroat**, **Northern Waterthrush** and numerous **Gray Catbirds**, it was waiting for the **Eastern Phoebe** and 2 **Ovenbird** that were arriving 10/9 (RH)! Tiny pockets of vegetation attract and retain odd groups of species and City Hall is always a magnet in migration. BRSP would be an ideal location for an **Eastern Bluebird** trail, if anyone's interested; FW counted 14 there the fall. Other thrush reports were few and unremarkable. Five **American Pipits** were in the grassy fields at Rhawn St. and the DR 10/22 (MS).

A **Tennessee Warbler** at TI 9/29 is the only sighting (TF, DB). An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was banded at TI 10/13 (JM) and a distinguished visitor found 2 birds 10/19 (MI). A **Nashville** 10/30 was a nice late find at FDR (MS), and the 2 **Northern Parula** seen on my scheduled bird walk 10/29 at TI beat the old late record of 10/25. A **Black-throated Blue** (late date- 11/10) was with the two **Northern Parula**. An amazingly early **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was the first warbler migrant to appear at TI 8/20 (EP,MDe, FW, DM). Another late bird was the **Black-throated Green Warbler** FW found at SCEE 11/11. At the University of Pennsylvania bio-pond SK found a **Worm-eating Warbler** 8/9 and the 2 **Ovenbirds** at City Hall stayed until at least 10/25 (RH). A visitor to TI reported a **Connecticut Warbler** 9/11 at TI and another bird was found along the Haul Road 10/2 (JM, RM, MM).

A **Clay-colored Sparrow** fed along the weedy edges of the Wal-Mart parking lot on Snyder Ave., as storm watchers looked for vagrants in *Ernesto's* wake (JH, DF). Matt Sharp had an "excellent, but brief view of a **Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow** ... at the park at the end of Rhawn St in NE Phila."10/8. Three **Vesper Sparrow** in the community gardens at BRSP were among 200 sparrows including 40 **Savannah Sparrow** and 2 **Lincoln's Sparrow** 10/22 (MS). Ten **Savannah Sparrows** were still at BRSP 11/5 when FW reported that one large, extremely pale Savannah lacking a bold eye ring or white outer rectrices could be an **Ipswich Sparrow**. If I saw this bird at the coast, I would call it an **Ipswich** with certainty, but fifty miles from the coast, gives rise to many more questions. Shows how well I don't know Savannahs! All **Lincoln Sparrow** reports come from BRSP 10/8-10/22 (MS). A **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was a good bird in the MA wetland area 10/8 (KJ). **Bobolinks** were attracted to the fresh wild rice stands in DC 8/31(DM) and 4 were at EPR 9/18 (MS). Only 2 **Eastern Meadowlarks** were reported 10/22 at TI. **Purple Finch** were scarce as were other winter irruptive species.

Observers:**Doris McGovern, 209 Dogwood Rd., Media, PA 19063 (610) 565 8484 mcgovern@masca.museum.upenn.edu**, Denis Brennan, Bruce Childs, Ned Connolly, Tony Croasdale, Jim Deasey, Martin Dellwo, Michael Drake, Dave Eberly, Chris Engelhardt, Kathy Evans, Devich Farbotnik, Todd Fellenbaum, Doug Filler, Gregg Gorton, Nikolas Haass, Jeff Hall, Jason Horn, Rob Hynson, Marshall Illiff, Ken Januski, Lauren Johnson, Sheryl Johnson, Steve Kacir, Marylea Klauder, Chuck Lyman, Tim McFadden, John Miller, Ray Miller, Marlene Miller, Edie Parnum, Dave Smart, Donna Smith-Remick, Joanne Raine, Lynn Roman, Tom Reeves, Keith Russell, Matt Sharp, Andy Smith, Kate Somerville, Dave Wilton, Frank Windfelder

**Pike County**  
No Compiler

**Potter County**  
No Report

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### Schuylkill County

No Report

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### Snyder County

Locations: Faylor Lake (FL), Selinsgrove (SEL), Susquehanna River (SR), Walker Lake (WL).

Waterfowl reports from FL 10/31-11/2 included **Tundra Swan**, **American Wigeon**, **Ring-necked Duck**, **Bufflehead**, **Common** and **Red-breasted Merganser**, **Common Loon**, **Pied-billed** and **Horned Grebe** and **American Coot** (MB, CK). A more unusual discovery was a **Red-throated Loon** at WL 11/18 (MB).

A **Great Egret** was found at WL 8/9 and another was sitting on the Beaver Creek bridge along Rt. 235 9/25 (PW, RW). A good place for **Great Egret** and **Black-crowned Night-Heron** in Aug is the SR at SEL. On 8/23, 18 **Great Egrets** were counted at a roost site, although down from the 50+ often seen here and, a few miles upriver at the Fabri Dam there were a few **Black-crowned Night-Herons** (MB, MS).

**Bald Eagles** were observed at WL in Aug (VK, DU) and at SEL 8/23 (MB, MS). A **Golden Eagle** was observed flying over the SR (*Northumberland*) near SEL 11/11 (DU). Ten **Black Terns** were counted along the SR 9/1 (MB) and 36 **Common Nighthawks** were tallied 8/23, also in the SEL area (MB, MS).

The highlight of the season was finding a **Northern Shrike** near WL 11/22 (MB). It was still being reported from this location into Dec. A late post-breeding season report of a **Northern Waterthrush** came in from WL 8/28 (VK, DU). In his book "Birds of the Central Susquehanna Valley" A. Schweinsberg mentions how rare Aug reports are for this species.

Observers: **Richard Williams**, 3 Parkside Ave., Hummelstown, PA, 17036, (717) 566-6562, RWPuffin@aol.com, Mick Brown, Chad Kauffman, Vicky King, Mary Schmoyer, Don Ulrich, Patricia Williams.

### Somerset County

Locations: Berlin Area (BA), Buffalo Creek (BC), Payne Property (PP), Somerset Lake (SL), Quemahoning Reservoir (QR)

There were no dramatic weather systems early in the season and virtually no noticed southbound shorebird migration. Overall, passerine variety and numbers were good with fallouts from late August to mid October at PP. Some nice warbler surprises brought the county's year total to 36 species. A few decent waterfowl counts occurred in early November.

A **Red-throated Loon** showed up at SL 11/14 (LP), the number increased to 3

11/15 (JP) with at least 2 remaining until 11/24 (AM). **Common Loons** were present on various reservoirs from 11/4 to the end of the period with a maximum of 8 at QR 11/12 (JP, CP) **Pied-billed Grebes** were wide spread with a high count of 12, 11/12 at QR (JP, CP). **Horned Grebes** were scarce with 2 reported at SL from 11/9-11/18 (AM, JP, CP). A nice surprise was a **Red-necked Grebe** at Stoneycreek L. 11/8 (AP, CP, JP, and LP). Only single **Double-crested Cormorants** were found at SL 11/14

(LP) and 11/15 (AM).

A **Great-blue Heron** at SL 11/7 was observed dropping into the middle of the lake, catching a fish, becoming airborne from swimming position and carrying the fish to shallow water to eat it (JP). A **Great Egret** at SL fished from 8/15-9/2 (JP, CP). Three **Black Vultures** were in Brothers Valley Twp. 9/14 and a **Turkey Vulture** at BC was getting late 11/29 (CP).

The waterfowl of the year was a **Ross's Goose** in BA 11/12-11/13 (JP,LP,CP). This bird was in the same flooded pasture that the county's first showed up in 2004 and may have been the same bird. Small flocks of **Tundra Swans** were found at QR 11/12, Lake Stoneycreek 11/18 and flying over PP 11/10 (JP). The largest roost of **Wood Ducks** was about 100 at BC 10/14 (BC) with 37 at Boswel 9/1 (AM). Of 8 **Gadwall** reported, 4 were at SL 11/12 (AM). Eighteen **American Wigeon** 11/12 (JP, LP), one **Northern Shoveler** 11/23 (AM), and 2 **Northern Pintail** 11/12 (JP, LP) were the only reports and all from SL. Six **Greater Scaup** were at Indian L. 11/12 (JP, AP) and a maximum of 90 **Lesser Scaup** were at SL 11/12 (JP, LP). A **Long-tailed Duck** was at Indian L. 10/27. **Bufflehead** were recorded frequently from 11/2-11/25 with high count 11/2 at SL (AM). The only **Common Goldeneye** for the season was harvested 11/23 at SL (AM). **Hooded Merganser** maximum was 14 at High Point L. 11/20 (AM). Nine **Red-breasted Mergansers** set down at SL 11/23 (AM). Flocks of **Ruddy Ducks** included 562 at SL 11/2 (AM) and 700 at QR 11/12 (JP, CP). **Bald Eagle** migrants were at BA 9/6 and PP 11/11 (JP, LP, CP). Single imm **Northern Goshawks** were at BA Kimberly Run Natural Area 10/7 just in time for pheasant stocking for youth day. A migrant **Red-shouldered Hawk** was at PP 11/10 (JP, AP) while the first flyover **Golden Eagle** detected there was 10/10 (JP). A **Merlin** was sitting in a partially dead spruce near downtown Somerset 9/29 (JP) while one obligingly sat next to an **American Kestrel** in BA 10/24 (CP, JP).

Two **Sora** were calling at Boswell 9/1 (AM) and a single was flushed in BA 10/24 (JP). SL had 21 **American Coots** 11/2 (AM). A single **Solitary Sandpiper** 8/25 at PP (JP), 3 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** and one **Baird's Sandpiper** 9/2 at Flight 93 (LP) were the only long distance shorebirds reported. Two **Wilson's Snipe** at BC 11/29 (JP) along with a few **American Woodcock** 11/10-11/14 at PP (JP,LP) rounded out the shorebirds. **Bonaparte's Gulls** were at SL 10/28 (20:JP, LP) to 11/20 (4:AM). Two **Common Terns** were at SL 8/31 (JP).

The last **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** at PP was 9/4 (JP). **Common Nighthawks** were seen once on the east side of the Allegheny Front 8/27. The maximum in one group was 27 with about 100 total passing (JP). A single **Red-headed Woodpecker** was in BA 8/23 (JP). **Northern Flickers** migrated in highest numbers at PP in early Sep with 12, 9/3 and 15, 9/8 (JP).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was cooperative at BC 9/2 (CP, JP). A single **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was at PP 9/8 (JP). **Eastern Phoebe** held out until 11/13 at PP (LP). Good flocks of up to 10 **Eastern Kingbirds** were seen in migration on active strip mines in BA (CP, JP). An elusive high elevation **White-eyed Vireo** was calling at PP 9/8 (JP). **Philadelphia Vireos** were migrating from 9/5-9/26 at PP (CP, JP, LP).

A late **Tree Swallow** was flying over a flooded field in BA 11/12 in 35 degree weather (around the Ross's Goose) (CP, JP, LP). An early **Winter Wren** was at PP 9/3 (JP), maximum of 4 on 10/8 (LP) and last detected 11/14 (JP). A nice find was a **Marsh Wren** in a grassy field in BA on a snowy 10/23 (JP). Of the numerous *kinglet sp.* at PP, **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** started first 9/14 and **Golden-crowned Kinglets** hit a respectable 37 seen from one spot 11/11 (JP). Single **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** were at PP 9/3 and 9/5 (LP). Good numbers of descending

thrushes were heard predawn at PP from 9/3-10/10. **Hermit Thrushes** were flying low and vocalizing in light rain at 10:30 PM on 10/10. This was one demonstration of birds migrating low in certain weather conditions and therefore susceptible to striking the thousands of wind turbines being proposed for Pennsylvania's ridges. **Cedar Waxwing** flocks were visible and numerous many Oct to early Nov mornings at PP.

Mixed flocks of migrant warblers, vireos, tanagers, etc. had traditionally been looked for at PP mainly in the mornings. The phenomenon of evening feeding frenzy was enjoyed this fall for the first time. The last two hours before sunset had some of the largest, most diverse flocks of the entire day as birds apparently fueled up on the active insects before evening migration.

The following warblers, unless noted, are from PP with early and late dates. Some larger counts are in parentheses. **Blue-winged** 9/5-9/6; **Tennessee** 9/5-10/5; **Orange-crowned** 10/5; **Nashville** 9/4-10/5; **Northern Parula** 8/15-10/6; **Chestnut-sided** 8/25-9/16; **Magnolia** 8/25-10/5, 9/15 (15); **Cape May** 8/26-9/16, 8/27 (5); **Black-throated Blue** 8/15-10/5; **Yellow-rumped** 10/2-11/9; **Black-throated Green** 9/15 (11)-10/5; **Blackburnian** 9/4-9/15 (5). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** 9/5 (LP) was a new PP yard bird. The only **Pine Warbler** was 8/25. Hidden Acres Farm had a **Prothonotary Warbler** seen from a house window 8/31 (TD). Back at PP were **Palm** (4) 10/6; **Bay-breasted** 9/15-10/5; **Blackpoll** (3) 9/16; and **Black and white Warblers** 9/3-10/3; **American Redstart** 9/3-9/16; and **Ovenbird** 9/7-9/18. All three **Oporornis** warblers were found in one thick corner of woods about 100 yards in diameter: **Kentucky** 8/11, **Connecticut** 9/14, and **Mourning** 9/16. **Common Yellowthroat** 9/3 (12) - 11/2; **Hooded Warbler** 9/5; **Wilson's Warbler** 9/3-9/15; and **Canada Warbler** 9/3-9/14 were also recorded.

**Scarlet Tanager** migrants topped at 8 on 9/7 with one 9/18 still doing "chick burr" call at PP. **Eastern Towhee** was getting late 11/11/2 at PP. **American Tree Sparrow** arrived and **Chipping Sparrow** left 11/12 at PP. Migrant **Field Sparrows** topped at 15 on 9/26.

On 9/3 both **Vesper Sparrow** and **Henslow's Sparrows** were cooperative at the Flight 93 site. At least 30 **Song Sparrows** were in fields at PP 9/26. **Fox Sparrows** were at feeders from 10/24-11/8. **Lincoln's Sparrow** appeared 9/15 (3) and topped out at 10 on 10/6 in PP fields. **White-throated Sparrows** arrived 9/27 and **White-crowned** 10/3. **Dark-eyed Junco** returned 9/26 and 75 moved past one spot in 2 hours on 11/11.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were present until at least 10/5 when one male was still adorned in mostly breeding plumage. **Indigo Buntings** reached a maximum count of 80 on 9/15 with 10 still present 10/4 at PP.

Up to 3 **Bobolinks** were mixed in with the sparrows and buntings 9/15 at PP. Ten **Eastern Meadowlarks** were in Somerset Twp. 11/15 (AM). **Rusty Blackbirds** were in BA 11/3 and several flocks passed PP 11/10 (JP). The only **Pine Siskin** reported was at PP 9/7.

Observers: **Jeff Payne, 9755 Glades Pike, Berlin, PA, 15530, (814) 267-5718**, Tom Dick, Anthony Marich, Chris Payne, Laretta Payne, Alan Peterson.

#### **Sullivan County**

Most of the birding for the fall season in *Sullivan* was concluded by the middle of September. Summer cabins started to close for the winter as everyone got back to the daily grind. Total observation hours were not measured but were certainly low for the period.

There were virtually no transient birds observed during the period. The only exceptions were **Solitary Sandpiper** and **Ruby-Crowned**

**Kinglet**. The sandpiper was observed the first weekend in Aug and **Ruby-Crowns** were observed the weekend of 10/7-10/8. **Swainson's Thrush** has nested in the county but the individual observed 9/17 was likely a migrant. **Pied-billed Grebe** may also nest in the county, however, individuals observed 10/8 were likely migrants.

The resident **Sandhill Cranes** were last observed 9/8. The resident adult **Bald Eagles** were last observed on the first weekend in Aug – and only one individual. A juv was observed in the nesting area as late as 8/25.

The following species were all observed between 8/20 & 8/27 and not seen again thereafter: **Killdeer, Barn Swallow, House Wren, Eastern Bluebird, Chestnut-sided, Black-throated Blue, Black and white Warblers, Scarlet Tanager, Eastern Towhee, Dark-eyed Junco, Common Grackle, Baltimore Oriole** and **American Goldfinch**.

Birds still present Labor Day but not observed again include: **Red-tailed Hawk, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Red-eyed Vireo, Tree Swallow, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Magnolia** (still feeding young in late Aug), **Black-throated Green** and **Blackburnian Warblers** and **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**.

Present as of 9/17 and not observed again were: **Hooded Merganser, Wild Turkey, Great Blue Heron, American Kestrel, Mourning Dove, Barred Owl, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Northern Flicker, Blue-headed Vireo, Brown Creeper, Wood Thrush, Gray Catbird, Chipping** and **White-throated Sparrow**.

Birds still present on the last weekend of observations (10/7-10/8) included **Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Turkey Vulture, Northern Harrier, Belted Kingfisher, Hairy Woodpecker, Eastern Phoebe, Blue Jay, American Crow, Northern Raven, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch**, both kinglets, **Hermit Thrush, American Robin, Cedar Waxwing** (seems late), **Yellow-rumped Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Song** and **Swamp Sparrow, Eastern Meadowlark** and **Purple Finch**.

It should, of course, be noted that the dates and observations are by no means definitive as any of the reported species could still have been present after their 'last date'.

Observers: **Rob Megraw 131 Butternut Drive, Pottstown, PA, 19464, (610) 323-0119, robert.r.megraw@xo.com**, Skip Conant.

#### **Susquehanna County**

No Report

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

#### **Tioga County**

No Report

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

#### **Union County**

Locations: R.B.Winter State Park (RBW.S.P.), Halfway Lake (HWL)

Three species of waterfowl visited HWL. Four **American Widgeon** and one **Pied-bill Grebe** stopped at HWL for a day 10/13 (CB, MHB). A small flock of four **Buffleheads** were also seen at HWL for a few hours 11/13 (CB, LG).

Four **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** and one **Magnolia warbler** were seen 10/18 near the environmental learning center. A lone **Golden-**

**crowned Kinglet** and a single **Carolina Wren** foraged in brush near bird feeders at RBWS.P. 10/20 (CB, MHB).

Observers: **Christy Bowersox, 968 Furnace Road, New Columbia, PA 17856, (570) 205-5434, cabowersox@yahoo.com.** MaryAnn Haladay-Bierly and Lori Goodling.

#### **Venango County**

No Report

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

#### **Warren County**

No Report

#### **New Compiler**

**Don Watts, 163 Crestview Boulevard, Warren, PA, 16365, (814) 723-9125, watt\_3@yahoo.com**

#### **Washington County**

Locations: AMD Pond near Canonsburg (AMD), Canonsburg Lake (CL), Dutch Fork Lakebed (DFL), Greencove Wetlands (GCW), Mingo Creek County Park (MC), Robinson Township (RBT), Washington Reservoir #4 (R4), West Pike Run Township (WPRT).

It was a great season for local rarities in *Washington*, due largely to the efforts of RG and AT. Highlighting the list of rare birds discovered this season were **Red-necked Grebe, Upland Sandpiper, Clay-colored Sparrow, Dickcissel, and Brewer's Blackbird.** Additionally, "**Blue**" **Goose, White-winged Scoter, Merlin, Sora, Common Moorhen, and Marsh Wren** added depth to a list already full of excellent sightings. The story of the season and the year, however, came in the form of a previously banded **Rufous Hummingbird** in McDonald, which not only added this species to the county list (at long last), but also furnished a critical datum in the quest to understand the occurrence of western hummingbirds in the eastern United States (see S. A. below).

A blue-phase **Snow Goose** at GCW 12/3 was an outstanding find for the county. Snow Geese are very rare here, with "Blue" Geese even more so. RG spent considerable time studying **Canada Geese** this season at county lakes, and was rewarded (or punished depending on one's perspective) by finding six odd birds that some suggested represented the *B. c. parvipes* population of Canada Goose (one at CL 11/12 and 5 at Washington Cemetery 11/19). Though the status of *parvipes* in Pennsylvania is poorly understood, not to mention the difficulty in separating *parvipes* from "Richardson's" Cackling Geese (*B. h. hutchinsii*) or even from the normal variations of the expected varieties of Canada Geese, the efforts of determined observers such as RG are an important key to putting this puzzle together. Not unexpectedly, the specific issue regarding the identification of these six birds went unresolved, but the discussion was nevertheless educational for those involved.

Waterfowl reports as a whole were very poor with many species not recorded at all, though there were a few rarities. There were three reports of **Tundra Swans**: 70 passed over Coal Center 11/3 (JT), ca. 20 were heard over McDonald 11/21 (GM, DW), and another flock was heard over GCW 12/3 (RG). A **Mute Swan** was at R4 10/29 (RG). **Wood Duck** numbers peaked at GCW with an impressive 75 on 10/14 (RG). CL also seems to be a late summer home to a few dozen of this species. A female **American Wigeon** was seen periodically in RBT 9/23-10/11 (MF, MV).

Four **American Black Ducks** that spent a few days at AMD 11/17-11/20 were the only report (MV). A single **Blue-winged Teal** at CL 9/27 (MV, DW) likewise was the only one found. At Washington Cemetery, the now-annual **Northern Pintails** returned for another winter; the female was first noted 10/7 (MV) and a (the?) male arrived 11/19 (RG). In the meantime, a second, more wary female briefly joined the resident female 10/29, but she disappeared quickly (RG). **Green-winged Teal** were present 9/16-11/19, with a peak of 11 in RBT 11/2 (MV). Gadwall and Northern Shoveler went unreported.

Thirty-seven **Ring-necked Ducks** were split between Peter's Lake and R4 on 10/29 (RG), providing the high count. A **Greater Scaup** at GCW 11/4 was a good find but the only report, and **Lesser Scaup** were similarly scarce with just two reports 10/29-11/4. A juv **White-winged Scoter** on the Monongahela R. at Coal Center was a superb find and one of only a few records for the county (AT ph.). This bird appeared as part of a large fallout of loons, grebes, and waterfowl at lakes throughout nearby *Fayette* and *Indiana* in the first week of Nov. **Buffleheads** were reported from CL 11/3 and R4 on 11/12 (RG). With the Buffleheads at R4 on 11/12 were the season's only **Hooded Mergansers** (2) and **Ruddy Ducks** (5).

A **Common Loon** at Peter's Lake 11/19 (RG) was a nice find. Much better, though, were 2 well-described, basic-plumaged **Red-necked Grebes** on the Monongahela R. at Coal Center 11/20 (AT), possibly a first county record. A **Double-crested Cormorant** hung around R4 until at least 11/7 (RG).

A **Great Egret** remained at CL 8/10-8/14 (MV, RT). CL is an excellent location for this species during spring and fall migrations. Additionally, another **Great Egret** seen over Coal Center 8/10 (JT) was indicative of a movement of this species on that day. The "Hegret" (the putative **Great Blue Heron x Great Egret hybrid**, nickname courtesy of RT) was last reported from CL 8/10 (MV). Here's hoping it returns for a sixth season next spring. **Green Herons** made an on-time departure by 9/27.

A **Ruffed Grouse** near Burgettstown 11/18 (RG) was a welcome report. GCW is host to a population of **Ring-necked Pheasants**, with reports from 10/1-11/19. Another three **Ring-necked Pheasants** were in a Denbo Heights yard 11/27 (*fide* MF).

The only report of **Bald Eagle** was of two adults near Canonsburg 9/17 (RG). Up to 5 **Northern Harriers** spent the season at a traditional grassland location in RBT (MV). RG, ever the birdwatcher even when otherwise occupied, caught sight of an impressive kettle of 85+ **Broad-winged Hawks** near Canonsburg while participating in a soccer match 9/6! This was an excellent count for *Washington*. RG also found another kettle of 35 **Broad-wings** near Canonsburg 9/17. A **Merlin** at DFL 9/30 (RG) was very good.

Surprising, but in retrospect probably not unexpected, were **Soras** discovered at GCW 9/4 (2 birds) and 10/1 (RG). Equally good for *Washington* was a **Common Moorhen** at GCW 9/4 (RG). These wetlands, which also hosted a juvenile **Least Bittern** in early Aug, certainly do show a great deal of promise from spring through fall and deserve much closer scrutiny. The resident **American Coot** remained at AMD through the season (m. obs.), and a group of 5 also spent a few weeks at GCW 10/29 to at least 11/12 (RG).

Shorebirds were almost non-existent this season, yet, in the spirit of the "season of local rarities", there were a few good finds. One or two **Greater Yellowlegs** frequented CL 9/27-10/29 (RG, RT, MV, DW). **Lesser Yellowlegs** were occasionally found at CL and RBT 8/30-10/11 (MV, RG). **Solitary Sandpipers** were the only species with a respectable showing, with the last being a somewhat late bird at AMD 10/23 (MV). Best of all

shorebird reports were 2 **Upland Sandpipers** at a farm near Eighty Four during the week of 8/20 (*fide* AT), one of just a few records for the county. One **Least Sandpiper** and 2 **Pectoral Sandpipers** at RBT 10/11 (MV) were the only reports for those species. Two juvenile **Short-billed Dowitchers** at RBT 9/24-9/28 (MV) were rare enough for the county that a handful of local birders went out of their way to see them and add the species to their *Washington* lists. The only **Wilson's Snipe** was reported at CL 8/30 (MV). Interesting was a late-fall **American Woodcock** near Burgettstown 11/18 (RG). Reports of this species after summer are very few and little is known about the fall migration of this species.

Whereas shorebird reports were almost non-existent, Larid reports truly were non-existent, with absolutely no reports of any species!

Late **Yellow-bellied Cuckoos** were one dead bird in a backyard near Pine Run Creek 9/27 (*fide* AT), and 2 in Washington 10/5 (LC). **Short-eared Owls** joined the **Northern Harriers** at a traditional wintering site in RBT 11/24 (MV), when 4 were noted that evening. **Barred Owls** were vocal in Daisytown throughout the period (WJS, NS, E&JZ), and another was located near Burgettstown 11/25 (RG). **Eastern Screech Owls** were still attending a fledgling at a nest box in Daisytown in late Sep (WJS, NS, E&JZ). Thirty **Common Nighthawks** were migrating over Canonsburg 9/6, but much more interesting was a late bird in the same location 10/14 (RG).

Proving beyond all reasonable doubt that he has the state's most interesting list of birds found while playing organized soccer, RG reported seeing a **Chimney Swift** actually *land* on an active soccer field in Canonsburg 9/3 during a game in which he was participating! It remained on the ground for at least 20 minutes while the game was proceeding and was often approached by players to within a few feet. Eventually the bird resumed flight and disappeared.

**Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** stayed in WPRT until 9/27 (AT). Only one report of **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was received: 2 birds at Washington Cemetery 11/30 (LC). A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** at MC 9/3 was a good find (RG). **Eastern Phoebe** reports continued until 12/3, though this species often stays later into December in *Washington*—look for an update next quarter.

A **White-eyed Vireo** at DFL 9/30 was getting late (RG). **Blue-headed Vireos** were reported from MC and GCW 9/10-10/1 (RG). The only **Yellow-throated Vireo** reported after the breeding season was one at the Buffalo Creek IBA during a 3RBC outing 9/3 (LH). Same for **Warbling Vireo**.

A single **Common Raven** at GCW 10/14 and 2 at nearby SGL 232 on 12/3 (both RG) were a continuation of sightings of this expansion-minded species in *Washington*. Eleven **Horned Larks** at RBT 11/18 (RG) were a good sighting. Two reports of **Purple Martin** were of 4 at Coal Center 8/2 (JT) and one at CGW 9/4 (RG). Three **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** at CL 10/7 were late (MV, NN). An albino **Barn Swallow** was reported at a farm near Eighty Four during the week of 8/27 (*fide* AT).

S.A.

By far the most exciting find of the year was *Washington's* first **Rufous Hummingbird**, an adult female that appeared at a feeder in McDonald in mid- or late Oct and remained through at least 12/9, the time of this writing (R&EP, DW, ph. GM). Hosts Ray and Edyie Posel had been feeding and observing the bird for over five weeks when they finally contacted Brian Shema of the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania on 11/20, who quickly spread the word to Pittsburgh-area birders. The next day, Geoff Malosh and Dave Wilton were warmly invited by the Posels to observe and photograph the bird. They confirmed that it was an adult female *Selasphorus* species and probably a Rufous based on the limited views of the tail that were managed.

But the buzz of an addition to the county list was soon to be relegated to the status of a minor footnote, because it was soon discovered that this bird was keeping a much more important secret. Wilton put the staff at Powdermill Nature Reserve (PNR) in contact with the Posels, and a banding attempt was immediately scheduled for the next day. Bob Mulvihill and Felicity Newell (both of PNR) trapped the bird on the afternoon of 11/22. Needless to say, all in attendance, which included Wilton, Malosh, the Posels, and their neighbors, were shocked when Mulvihill pulled the bird out of the trap and announced, "It's already banded!" This was the first recapture of a Rufous Hummingbird by the researchers at PNR and one of only a few ever in the northeastern U.S.

The news and the band number (N-71927) spread quickly across the country to all the major players in North American hummingbird research. (In the words of Bob Sargent in a personal communication to Malosh, "Word of a recapture spreads like head lice.") Within five days, PNR was ready to announce the details of the original banding. According to Adrienne Leppold (PNR), "[The McDonald Rufous] was banded in Diamond Head, Mississippi on 25-Jan-2006 by Mark Myers. She was recorded as a healthy adult female then, much as she was when she was recaptured [by Mulvihill]. This was a great recapture because it helps confirm a lot of speculation that these PA birds are, in fact, northern tier stopover migrants that are on their way to the southeastern U.S. for the winter."

Though indeed still speculation, this author concurs that the most likely explanation for the dramatic increase in late-fall occurrence of Rufous Hummingbirds in the northeastern U.S. is that they are stopover migrants destined for the Gulf Coast. A certain population of this species seems to be developing a new migration route to new wintering grounds. Undoubtedly, some Rufous Hummingbirds that pass our way do indeed stop their migration too soon and perish in the cold, as should be expected for a species exploring a new frontier. But they are not all hapless waifs, hopelessly lost and doomed to die in the harsh Pennsylvania snow, as is still widely believed. As more and more birds like N-71927 survive the task of making a migratory stopover in the northeastern U.S. on their way to the southeast, the more likely it becomes that they will pass this "trait" on to their offspring. It further seems likely that Rufous Hummingbird occurrence in Pennsylvania will continue to increase as a result. The recovery of N-71927 in *Washington*, via Mississippi, is a long-awaited revelation in the ongoing saga of the expansion of Rufous Hummingbird range. These little birds are probably much tougher than they look, unfazed by the heavy frosts and freezing temperatures of northeastern autumns and winters. Clearly, they are much more fascinating creatures than we ever imagined.

**Red-breasted Nuthatches** returned to Washington Cemetery, where they are very reliable every winter, beginning 10/7 (MV). Ten **House Wrens** at DFL 9/30 was a good count. **Winter Wrens** were reported sporadically 10/4-10/29 (LC, RG). Incredible were three reports of **Marsh Wren**: one at GCW 9/4 (RG), one at GCW 10/1 (ph. RG), and 3 at SGL 232 on 10/7 (RG, MV, DY, DW)!

Once again RG had a good year monitoring nocturnal migration at Canonsburg. Probably most impressive were 400 **Veery** calls 9/16. Fifty **Gray-cheeked Thrush** calls were heard that same evening, making for the high count for that species. Good **Swainson's Thrush** flights were heard 9/16 and 9/26, with 100-200 calls each of those mornings.

Daytime sightings of spot-breasted thrushes were few. Most interesting was a **Veery** lingering in Washington until 10/6 (LC). This is probably the latest date for the county. A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was seen in the same location 10/5 (LC). One **Swainson's Thrush** was at SGL 232

on 9/30 (RG). **Wood Thrush** remained at Daisytown until mid-Oct (WJS, NS, E&JZ).

Only 23 species of wood-warblers were reported, though some locally breeding species known to remain into Aug or even Sep were left off that list. Highlights were scarce. (All warbler reports RG unless noted otherwise.) **Tennessee** and **Nashville Warblers** were both at MC and DFL 9/10-30. A large migration of **Yellow Warblers** was reported in southern *Washington* 8/10, though estimated numbers were not provided. **Magnolia Warblers** persisted to 10/1 at MC. Five **Cape May Warblers** at DFL 9/30 furnished the only report. A **Black-throated Blue Warbler** at *Washington* 10/5 was somewhat late (LC). Seventy-five **Yellow-rumped Warblers** at DFL 9/30 was a great total. A **Louisiana Waterthrush** continued singing along Pine Run Creek until 8/4 (AT), which is late for this species to still be in song. The only **Wilson's Warbler** reported was at DFL 9/30, and the only **Canada Warbler** was at MC 9/3. **Yellow-breasted Chats** remained active around a nest site in WPRT until 8/23 (AT), and another remained at a Daisytown backyard through the end of Aug (WJS, NS, E&JZ).

*Washington*, particularly at the wetlands on and near the Buffalo Creek IBA, is quickly building a reputation as a prime location for sparrows in fall. Daily counts of many species of sparrows in the first half of Oct are probably as good as anywhere in the state, particularly **Swamp Sparrows**. On 9/30, RG tallied 75 **Swamp Sparrows** at GCW and at least 25 at DFL, making a daily total of at least 100. That same day, RG found a total of 34 **Lincoln's Sparrows** and over 350 **Song Sparrows** at GCW, DFL, and SGL 232. At SGL 232 alone 10/7, 125 **Swamp Sparrows** were estimated (MV, RG, DW, DY)! These numbers are clearly significant single-location totals for anywhere in Pennsylvania. Over 20 **Swamp Sparrows** remained to be counted at GCW and nearby SGL 232 on 12/3 (RG). Additionally, **Fox Sparrows** were especially numerous 11/17, with 25 to 30 counted at GCW and another 15 at SGL 232 (RG). Five **Fox Sparrows** remained at GCW 12/3 (RG).

Besides these exciting totals, sparrow highlights also included the following: A well-described **Clay-colored Sparrow** was found at GCW 9/30 (RG), also one of only two or three records for the county. **Henslow's Sparrows** were still obvious on grasslands in RBT as of 8/12 (MF). At least 50 **White-crowned Sparrows** remained at GCW through 11/17 and 20 through 12/3 (RG); varying numbers will stay into the winter at that location.

The last **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were a few birds heard on nocturnal migration over Canonsburg 9/26 (RG). **Indigo Buntings** remained until 10/7, a bit later than normally reported. A **Dickcissel** was yet another outstanding rarity for the county, found at GCW 10/6 (RG). The bird was not relocated the next day. A **Bobolink** heard on nocturnal migration over Canonsburg 9/26 was a good pick-up (RG).

A flock of at least 500 **Red-winged Blackbirds** coming in to roost at CL 9/26 contained a single adult female **Brewer's Blackbird** (RG), furnishing yet another outstanding record, the second for the county. The bird was well described but not photographed, and unfortunately DW and MV could not relocate it the next evening, though they did estimate the blackbird flock as having grown to at least 2000. A single **Rusty Blackbird** at CL 10/26-29 (RG) was the only report, following a better than average spring season for this species. A **Baltimore Oriole** heard on nocturnal migration over Canonsburg 9/16 was the latest reported.

Observers: **Geoff Malosh, 450 Amherst Ave., Moon Township, PA 15108, (412) 269-1413, pomarine@earthlink.net**, Lauren Conkle, Mike Fialkovich, Ross Gallardy, Larry Helgerman, Neil Nodelman, Ray and Edyie Posel, Nancy Shemansky, Wendy Jo Shemansky, Amy Taracido,

José Taracido, Three Rivers Birding Club (3RBC), Ryan Tomazin, Mark Vass, Dave Wilton, Dan Yagusic, Ellen and John Zelina.

#### **Wayne County**

No Report. No Complier.

An imm **Golden Eagle** was seen circling high above the Poyntelle vicinity 11/5. The following were seen in *Wayne* 10/14: **Northern Harrier**, **Magnolia Warbler**, **Yellow-rumped Warbler**, and **White-crowned Sparrow**.

Observer: Trudy Gerlach.

#### **Westmoreland County**

Locations: Beaver Run Reservoir (BRR), Donegal Lake (DL), Powdermill Nature Reserve (PNR), Trout Run Reservoir [Latrobe Reservoir] (TRR).

At least 185 **Tundra Swans** passed over PNR on a rather early date of 11/1 (ML, AL, BM, ED, FN), and 55 flew over Delmont 11/18 (Ken Byerly). A flock of over 30 **Wood Ducks** was flushed from a small pond at PNR 10/9 (David Norman, RCL). A group of 8 **Gadwall** was a good find at DL 11/29 (L&LH). Four **American Wigeons** and a flock of 200 **Mallards** were at TRR 11/27 (RCL). Three **Northern Shovelers** were unusual on Powdermill's Crisp Pond 10/9 (Chris Benson). The first **Common Merganser** was at DL 11/8 (L&LH), and 2 had arrived at BRR by 11/18 (KB). A flock of 46 **Ruddy Ducks** made for a good fall count at DL11/2 (L&LH). Always a local rarity, 2 **Red-throated Loons** put down on TRR 11/9 (RCL), and a single Red-throat was at DL 11/14 (L&LH, DB). In a lack-luster flight, best **Common Loon** count was of just 3 at TRR 11/2 (L&LH, DB).

An **American Bittern**, first flushed (CB) at PNR 10/6 was later observed there (DN, ML) 10/12. A **Great Egret** stopped at DL 9/9 (RCL); one was spotted along Loyalhanna Creek, near Rector, (CB, DN) 10/12, and one at Bridgeport Dam 10/15 (L&LH). The flock of 7 **Black-crowned Night-Herons** flying over PNR (ML) 8/18 was exceptionally large for anywhere in *Westmoreland*, and a single bird was at BRD 9/17 (KB). Linda Hess observed an adult **Bald Eagle** over her home along Old Distillery Road near Stahlstown 11/21. Leberman watched a male **Northern Harrier** patrolling an open field near Wilpen 11/17. Two **Northern Goshawks** (1 adult and an immature) were spotted together just east of Rector 9/21 (RCL, BM, PF), and one was found near DL 10/03 (L&LH). Rare along the more westerly of Pennsylvania's ridges, a 1<sup>st</sup> year **Golden Eagle** was spotted near TRR along the east slope of Chestnut Ridge 11/15 (RCL), and on the afternoon of the 24<sup>th</sup> single adults (perhaps the same bird?) were seen in the Ligonier Valley near Stahlstown (L&LH) and over PNR (RCL). A **Merlin** was a good find at DL on 9/13 (FN), one was at Delmont 9/29 (KB), and single birds were seen at PNR 9/23 (ML, TM, RCL, *et. al.*), 10/15 (AL, RCL) and 10/19 (RCL). The lone report of **Sora** was of a bird at PNR 8/15 (RCL).

A flock of over 100 **Killdeer** was feeding on mudflats at DL 11/14 (L&LH, DB) for the season's best count. Following the passage of *Tropical Storm Ernesto*, at least 20 **Hudsonian Godwits** (in 3 different groups) were detected the night of 9/24-9/25 flying over the Powdermill Avian Research Center, (ML), and verified both by ear and electronically. Lanzone reported a flock of 4 **Least Sandpipers** at PNR 8/11. A rather late **Spotted Sandpiper**, 5 **Pectoral Sandpipers** and 3 **Short-billed Dowithers** were on mudflats at DL 11/2 (L&LH). The only report of **Caspian Terns** was of 2 at DL on 9/11 (RCL).

The best count of **Common Nighthawks** was 55 over PNR the evening of 9/9 (ML), and a flock of 41 was at Delmont 8/22 (KB). The **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** fight was very heavy in the Ligonier Valley, where 325 were banded at PNR during the season (AL, *et. al.*). The only report of **Olive-sided Flycatcher** came from PNR 9/6 (ML). In a good flight, 62 **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were banded at PNR between 8/10-10/5 (*fide.* AL). Latest date for **Cliff Swallow** was 9/13 at DL (FN). An exceptionally early **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** appeared at Delmont 8/20 (KB); and in a heavy flight 1007 **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were banded at PNR between 9/3-10/9 (AL *et. al.*). A late **Veery** was banded at PNR on 10/27 (AL, *et. al.*), and an even later bird was carefully studied near Stahlstown 11/6 (DB).

A **White-eyed Vireo** remained at Delmont as late as 10/10, and a **Yellow-throated Vireo** lingered there through 10/9 (KB). Two **Philadelphia Vireos** were listed at Hunter's Lane north of Jones Mills 9/22 (L&LH). An adult male **Lawrence's Warbler** was an unusual banding at PNT 9/12 (AL). The first **Tennessee Warbler** of the fall was listed at PNR 8/6 (ML), and 3 were seen at Delmont by 9/4 (KB). The first **Orange-crowned Warbler** appeared near Stahlstown 9/10 (L&LH). A **Yellow-throated Warbler**, rarely seen locally in fall, was a good find at Stahlstown 8/25 (L&LH). A rather late **Worm-eating Warbler** was netted at PNR 9/5 (AL). A **Connecticut Warbler** was spotted at Stahlstown 9/7 (L&LH), and others were at Delmont 10/1 (T&JK) and 10/10 (KB).

In a poor season for **Rusty Blackbirds**, 6 at Loyalhannah Dam (KB) were a good find. Peak flight of **Eastern Meadowlarks** may have occurred 10/21 when a flock of at least 35 flushed from a roadside field just west of PNR (RCL). The lone fall record of **Orchard Oriole** was of a young male banded at PNR 8/6 (*fide.* AL).

Observers: **Robert C Leberman, 1847 Route 381, Rector, PA 15677, (724) 593-6021, rcleberm@winbeam.com**, Chris Benson, Ken Byerly, Dick Byers, Pam Ferkett, Emma DeLeone, Len and Linda Hess, Tom and Janet Kuehl, Mike Lanzone, Adrienne Leppold, Bob Mulvihill, Felicity Newall, David Norman.

### Wyoming County

The most intriguing record in *Wyoming* during late summer, 2006 was an apparent Wudermann's Heron which I saw along the Susquehanna River 7/12-7/17. The bird was seen on the Tunkhannock Twp. side of the river, and as the observer I was on the Eaton Two side of the river about 500 ft. away. Observations were made with 7x35 Bausch and Lomb Binoculars and with a 20 power scope.

My first sighting of the bird was made 7/12 when I saw the bird fly in. At first I thought that a Great Egret was flying. It appeared to be all white. The heron landed beside 2 Great Blue Herons and I immediately discovered that the bird was too large for an egret. Indeed the bird seemed to be slightly larger than the Great Blues, and its bill appeared longer and heavier than the Great Blue's bills.

The most outstanding mark of the bird was the color of the back. It was not white as a Great White Heron would be and it was not as dark a blue as the Great Blue's backs. Instead the back and the primaries were very light blue – blue like the blue of the clear sky on a brilliant clear summer day.

When the bird was facing head-on a little dark blue could be at the base of the wings and a little streaking on the sides.

Attempts to photograph the bird were not successful. The heron did not show up at the right time. Each time I saw the Wudermann's there

were one or two Great Blue Herons there. There was no interaction between the Great Blues and the Wudermann's. The only interaction came on 7/17. The Wudermann's Heron flew in and quickly caught a fairly large fish. A Bald Eagle flew in and in a moment flew off with the fish. I was the only observer that I am aware of. A couple of other birders turned up at the wrong time.

An adult **Snow Goose** seen at Harveys L. (*Luzerne*) 9/20 was seen at nearby Sordoni's Farm 9/21 (EJ). The only **Cackling Goose** of the season was one closely seen with Canadas 12/23. Four **Brant** were seen with Canadas at Oxbow L. 12/8. Several **Blue-winged Teals** were present at Phelps Swamp and another nearby swamp from 8/11-9/25.

The only **Great Egret** reported was at a marshy pond about 2 miles s. of S. Auburn, Meshoppen Twp., 7/25.

**Rough-legged Hawk** numbers were very low. One was at S. Eaton 10/7. A **Common Moorhen** at Phelps Swamp 7/26 was the first reported there since the 1<sup>st</sup> BBA. Five **Wilson Snipe** were seen in flight over Tunkhannock 12/8. Gulls were scarce, but a **Common Tern** was seen at So. Eaton 8/5.

On 9/5 two **Olive-sided Flycatchers** were seen about ½ mile apart at Lemon Twp. Among unusual warblers, a **Tennessee**, an **Orange-crowned**, and a **Cape May** were seen at So. Eaton 8/24, and a **Prothonotary** was seen at about 30' in Lemon Twp. 8/30.

**Lincoln's Sparrows** were seen at Lemon Twp. 10/2 and at Phelps Swamp 10/9. A fly-over **Common Redpoll** was at So. Eaton 12/5.

Observers: **William Reid, 73 W Ross St. Wilkes-Barre, PA, 18701 or 36 Maple Grove Rd. Tunkhannock, PA, 18657, (570)-836-2734**, Mark Catalano, Joe DeMarco, Sandy Goodwin, Jim Hoyson, Edwin Johnson, Rick Koval, Joe Lesko, Rebecca Lesko, Bruce Troy.

**New Compiler starting Winter 2006-2007 Rebecca Lesko, 54 Wisniewski Road, Tunkhannock, PA 18657, EMNCinfo@yahoo.com**

### York County

Locations: Black Rock Flats (BRF), Codorus State Park (CSP), Gifford Pinchot State Park (GPSP), Gut Rd. (GUT), Long Arm Reservoir (LAR), Rocky Ridge County Park (RRCP), Spring Valley County Park (SVCP), Wrightsville (WRIT).

There were 155 species reported during the August-November fall season, including 18 waterfowl species, 17 species of shorebirds, and 24 species of warblers. During the 2005 fall season there were 142 species reported including 19 waterfowl species and 24 species of warblers. The Black Rock Rd. mud flats at CSP was one of the better shorebird spots in the state this fall, hosting a good variety and some unusual species.

The only **Northern Shoveller** report was the five at LAR 10/9 (JLD). **Red-throated Loons** were found – five 11/24 at GPSP (SC) and one there 11/25 (KSJ). A **Red-necked Grebe** was at CSP 11/12 (PJR). A **Great Egret** at CSP 11/16 was somewhat late (PJR).

There were several **Bald Eagle** sightings, including five at LAR 11/7 (BP) and eight at LAR 11/16 (TM). Also at LAR was a **Golden Eagle** 11/13 (CBF). A **Merlin** was at BRF/CSP 10/13 (BK, DW) and another was a fly by 10/23 just north of Hanover (PJR). On 10/13 a **Peregrine** flew by low over Black Rock Bay at CSP at about 75 yards distance (PJR).

A **Hudsonian Godwit** was found 10/9 at BRF/CSP (MW) and was seen by many birders until at least 10/22. A **Sanderling**, uncommon for the county, was found 9/2 along the shore of the Susquehanna R. at WRIT (PJR). **Stilt Sandpipers** were at BRF/CSP – one 9/8 (PJR) and two 9/11

(PJR). During a search for the Hudsonian Godwit, a **Long-billed Dowitcher** was found 10/13 at BRF/CSP (DW). It too was seen by a number of birders until at least 10/21. A **Wilson's Phalarope** also appeared at BRF/CSP, on 9/11 (PJR). There was one **Caspian Tern** report-- two 9/8 at CSP (PJR), and one **Forster's Tern** sighting -- one 9/12 at CSP (PJR).

Single **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were seen 8/13 along GUT (JJP), 9/21 at RRCP (JJP), and 10/1 at RRCP (PJR, MW). Twenty **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were banded during the period near New Freedom (BF). An very unusual albino **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was photographed at Lock 15 (BM). A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was found 9/11 at GPSP (RK). **Least Flycatcher** is a fairly uncommon migrant in the county, but there were four reports: single birds at RRCP 8/23, 9/2, and 9/8 (JJP), plus one at CSP 9/12 (PJR).

A **Yellow-throated Vireo** was at Spring Valley County Park 8/6 (JJP), and another was a little late along GUT 10/10 (JJP). There were five reports of **Blue-headed Vireo**, and two **Philadelphia Vireo** sightings -- two at GPSP 9/22 (RK), and one at GPSP 9/23 (PJR). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were scarce, just one at GPSP 9/22 and another 10/1 at RRCP (PJR, MW). The only **Gray-cheeked Thrush** found was at RRCP 10/1 (PJR, MW). A **Blue-winged Warbler** was seen 9/7 at RRCP (JJP) and another one was at GPSP 9/11 (RK). A few **Tennessee Warblers** were found at GPSP: one 9/11 (RK), two 9/22 (RK), and one 9/23 (PJR). **Cape May Warblers** were seen only at WRIT, one 9/21 (JLD) and one 10/9 (JLD). **Pine Warblers** were also found only at WRIT, one 9/23 (JLD) and another 10/19 (JLD). A **Prairie Warbler** at GPSP 9/11 (RK) was the only one reported. A **Palm Warbler** was at RRCP 9/20 (JJP), 3 were found (10/16) along GUT (JJP), and one was at WRIT on the late date of 11/6 (PJR). The only **Bay-breasted Warbler** report was the three at GPSP 9/22 (RK). A Cerulean Warbler was at Indian Steps, where they probably nest, 10/3 (JLD). A **Hooded Warbler** was seen 9/22 at GPSP (RK) and another one was at WRIT 10/9 (JLD). The sole **Wilson's Warbler** report was one at CSP 9/12 (PJR).

**American Tree Sparrows** showed up 11/18 along GUT (JJP). Also along GUT was a **Field Sparrow** at the late date of 11/25 (JJP). There should have been, but there were no reports of **Fox Sparrow**, **Lincoln's Sparrow**, or **Purple Finch**.

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## PHOTO QUIZ #15

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



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<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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