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Geoff Malosh - Editor-in-chief

450 Amherst Ave

Moon Twp, Pa 15108-2654

(412) 735-3128 pomarine@earthlink.net

<http://www.pabirds.org>

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Seasonal Editors

Daniel Brauning
Michael Fialkovich
Greg Grove
Deuane Hoffman

Department Editors

Book Reviews

Gene Wilhelm, Ph.D.
513 Kelly Blvd.
Slippery Rock, PA 16057-1145
724-794-2434
GeneWilhelm@aol.com

CBC Report

Nick Bolgiano
711 W. Foster Ave.
State College, PA 16801
814-234-2746
NBolgiano@minitab.com

Hawk Watch Reports

Lindsay Zemba
Keith Bildstein
410 Summer Valley Rd.
Orwigsburg, PA 17961
570-943-3411
bildstein@hawkmtn.org

PAMC

Bill Etter
1030 Old Bethlehem Road
Apt#2
Perkasie, PA 18944
(215)-258-0229
better@netcarrier.com

Pennsylvania Birdlists

Peter Robinson
P. O. Box 482
Hanover, PA 17331
pabirder@hotmail.com

Photo-Quiz

Rick Wiltraut
Jacobsburg EE Center
835 Jacobsburg Road
Wind Gap, PA 18091

Data Technician

Wendy Jo Shemansky
41 Walkertown Hill Rd.
Daisytown, PA 15427
pabirdsrus@zoominternet.net

Publication Manager

Franklin Haas
2469 Hammertown Rd.
Narvon, PA 17555
fchaas@pabirds.org

Cover: **White Ibis** (*Eudocimus albus*). This individual, one of two late-summer White Ibises found in Pennsylvania this season, spent at least four weeks on the Susquehanna River between Wade Island and West Fairview beginning in early August. Photographed here on the day of its discovery 8-Aug-2007 (Don Detwiler).

from the Editor...

Introductions

It began a little over a year ago, when I sent Nick Pulcinella an unsolicited email. I had gotten involved with *Pennsylvania Birds* in the middle of 2005 by volunteering to be county compiler for Beaver and Washington Counties, and had quickly found that the task was not only enjoyable (for the most part) and rewarding, but that compiling came easier to me than I had expected it would. I felt that I could contribute more, so I sent Nick a note explaining my interest in contributing a larger role in the production of *Pennsylvania Birds*. I didn't have anything specific in mind... I was simply exploring the possibilities. I told him that if he was ever faced with having to replace any of the key players on the *Pennsylvania Birds* staff, such as a Department or Seasonal Editor, he should keep me in mind.

I was expecting his reply to be something along the lines of a quick "Thanks, I'll let you know". Needless to say, I was quite surprised when he replied by asking if I'd be interested in taking over for *him* someday, as Chief Editor. He wasn't resigning yet... he was just exploring the possibilities too. I told him I'd consider it, but it didn't take me very long to decide that I wanted to do it. Near the beginning of 2007, Nick announced his resignation, and the rest is history.

I've been a reader of *Pennsylvania Birds* since the very beginning. I held a subscription to the journal as a teenage birder back in the late 1980s and early 1990s, which I let slip when I moved out of Pennsylvania for most of 8 years beginning in 1993. Upon returning to Pittsburgh permanently in 2002, I was delighted to see that *Pennsylvania Birds* was still going, and I quickly ordered every back issue that I had missed... 34 of them in all. It was right around then that Nick had agreed to take over as Chief Editor.

Looking back now, it's clear to

me that the significance and importance of Nick's accomplishments as editor of *Pennsylvania Birds* cannot be understated. Under his stewardship, the publication schedule was brought back on time after falling behind by over a year. Nick actively sought articles and photos worthy of inclusion in the journal, and unfailingly succeeded in teaming with all manner of contributors to create interesting and important reading. The process of publishing an issue from the ground up—observers reporting to compilers reporting to our tireless Data Entry Technician reporting to the Seasonal Editors reporting to the Chief—was streamlined to the point that my learning curve in this new role has been basically nil.

Of course, Nick did not do all of this alone. Having now been through the process of editing an issue myself, I am actually inclined to think that the role of Seasonal Editor is harder than that of the Chief, and I am grateful that our four Seasonal Editors are as knowledgeable and dedicated as they are. Department Editors play just as important a role, by keeping alive and thriving the many staples and traditions of *Pennsylvania Birds*: CBC and PAMC Summaries, Spring and Fall Raptor Migration Summaries, Pennsylvania Birdlists, Book Reviews, and the Photo Quiz... the journal would not be the same without them. It would be very easy to allow any of these efforts to slip, but they never have, and that is a credit to the entire staff.

Finally, and most importantly, thanks and appreciation must be extended to our County Compilers and their legions of observers, many of whom are you, the very readers of this journal. Without you and the Compilers you report to, there would be no *Pennsylvania Birds*. Ours is an extremely ambitious project, with a scope that far exceeds nearly every other comparable ornithological journal in print today. *Pennsylvania Birds* is nearly unique in its effort to

publish a report from every one of the state's 67 counties in every issue. The level of detail published herein is nothing short of amazing, and it all begins with the relationship between observers and the County Compilers. The dedication, determination, and diligence of the Compilers forms the very backbone of the journal, and like the rest of the journal's staff, they do it for nothing other than the satisfaction of creating and sustaining the record of Pennsylvania birding.

It is my charge to continue in these, the best traditions of *Pennsylvania Birds*, and hopefully to start a few traditions of my own. I am very excited about this opportunity, and consider it a great honor that I've been asked to act as the Chief Editor of a journal I began reading as a kid over 20 years ago. Above all, it is my promise to ensure that the hours and hours of volunteered time and effort of all those I have mentioned above will be as well represented and richly rewarded in these pages as is possible. I look forward to the challenge, and I hope all of you are as optimistic about the future of this journal as I am.

Compiler News

Tom Clauser has agreed to come back aboard the *Pennsylvania Birds* staff as compiler for Schuylkill County. We look forward to having reports from this county once more. See the Local Notes for Tom's contact information. The following counties still have vacancies: **Blair, Cameron, Clearfield, Elk, Lackawanna, Northumberland, Pike, and Wayne**. If you have bird sightings from any of these counties you wish to share, please send them to the Chief Editor. If you live and/or bird in any of these counties and want to contribute as a County Compiler, by all means contact the Chief Editor!

Geoff Malosh
Editor-in-Chief
pomarine@earthlink.net

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Confessions of a Peregrine Addict

Scott Gregg

I first started doing it just for a good time, for the buzz and the high I got from the dopamine rush. Some other people I knew and liked were doing it too. But then I started needing to do it; it took control of me. I think I was becoming an addict, becoming obsessed with it. My wife and kids complained about my alienation and obsession. I'm writing my story hoping that it will be a warning to others, a warning about becoming a Peregrine addict.

"Peregrine!!!" When Kim VanFleet, the hawk counter at Waggoner's Gap (near Carlisle), jumped to her feet, steadied herself on her boulder perch, and yelled at the top of her lungs, "Peregrine!!!", that got my attention. It was a mid-October day sometime in the mid 1980s, and I was a young impressionable 20-something just getting into hawk watching. I figured when someone who watches raptors 24/7 got excited about a particular bird, it had to be cool. She proceeded to give a dramatic explanation of another time when a Peregrine came so close, it forced her to duck (hence the name duck hawk?) to avoid a collision with her as it stooped at her owl decoy. To say the least, she encouraged the start of my addiction.

In the 1980s, seeing a peregrine falcon was a rare occurrence. In fact, I made several 3-hour trips to Cape May, New Jersey during this period of my life just to get a glimpse at one. This is when I also bought my first T-shirt with a picture of the lighthouse at Cape May and a flying Peregrine superimposed over it. I wore it everywhere. As a novice hawk watcher I was being indoctrinated. I learned that three raptors were the holy grail of hawkwatching: the Bald Eagle, the Golden Eagle, and above all, the Peregrine Falcon.

Nurturing an Addiction

Fast forward twenty years or so. My typical winter raptor watching does not include the area around the East Rochester-Monaca Bridge over the Ohio River in western Pennsylvania, but that changed when Mark Vass, a fellow birder from Ambridge, posted on the PA Birds listserv that he spotted a Peregrine, the pinnacle of the holy grail triumvirate, within seven miles of my house. This was like giving a shopaholic a new credit card with unlimited purchasing.

The Peregrine had been hanging around the East Rochester-Monaca Bridge since sometime in late December. I began to make daily forays to the bridge to catch a glimpse. This daily anticipation got me through 2 1/2 hours of pre-dawn snow removal responsibilities in January and February. My obsession was getting to the point where I was passing up Bald

Eagles to see the Peregrine. I should have been able to recognize how serious my addiction was becoming.

It was almost always there, either on the bridge or on one of the high-tension towers near the bridge. So instead of going to the bridge once a day to get a fix, I started having to go twice a day, and sometimes three times. What made the temptation even greater was that on Tuesdays, one of my daughters had her 1 1/2 hour art lesson within two miles of the bridge, and on Wednesdays, my son had his piano lesson within one mile of the bridge. Blaming the kids—now that's a true addict.

Having read several of my posts to PA Birds about the Peregrine, Dr. F. Arthur McMorris, coordinator of the PA Game Commission's Peregrine Project, contacted me and wanted me to let him know if another bird showed up. He also wondered if I would start journaling my observations. Making an addict feel important about what he's doing—thanks Art.

When I arrived at the bridge in the afternoon on Feb. 27, in disbelief I said aloud, "No way! There's no way!!!" For the first time, I saw two Peregrines flying around the bridge! That's just too good to be true. These would be the first known bridge-nesting Peregrines in western PA, and only the third nesting pair. At the recommendation of Kate St. John, one of Pittsburgh's Peregrine experts, a long period of silence and secrecy began. We decided that until the birds had definitely established territory and the young were hatched, the territory could be abandoned if too many other people interfered. All it takes is one idiot trying to get a good picture or a close look. No more posts were made public on PA Birds.

During this observation period, I gained a new perspective on the flight and form of the Peregrine Falcon. Numerous times I've been to the two nest sites on buildings in Pittsburgh, with head and neck bent back to their furthest limits, looking to the sky around the buildings hoping to get a millisecond glimpse at one of the birds. And I've seen them zip past hawk watches. But Monaca is different. Most times, they are observed at eye level, and many times they fly lower than the observation area, making them very difficult to spot against the backdrop of the water or the opposite shore. They also perch for long periods of time, giving great opportunities for close-up observation.

Art McMorris sent me a timetable for mating, egg laying, incubation, and hatch. At this point I really started spending a lot of time at the bridge, observing, taking notes, and doing what I do best: napping. My observation time ranged from 1-3 or more hours per day. As a landscaper and horticulturalist, this was my slow time of the year anyway.

My best observation during the courtship period took place directly over head on March 14. Both birds came in from the southwest, with the male in the lead. He tail chased a dove and hit it, knocking it end over end, but intentionally did not take it. The female came in from behind and took the prey before it lost any altitude. She proceeded to take it to one of the bridge towers to dissect and consume it. The male gave her about 10-15 minutes to finish the meal before he came in and made a very vocal copulation with her. In this case, he was the screamer! When I later recounted the event to Doug Dunkerley, one of our Wildlife Conservation Officers, he aptly summarized the whole series of events as "dinner and a date." Dr. Tony Bledsoe, an ornithologist from the University of Pittsburgh, suggested this was evidence of a new couple, since the long-established Pittsburgh pairs now copulated silently. March 15 was the last time I observed mating activity.

From late March through mid-April, I started to see only one bird at the bridge, so I believed incubation was taking place. I didn't realize how long and boring this process would be. After all the excitement that went with the arrival of the second bird and the courtship and mating activity, my expectations were high. But the birds were less and less visible now, and I wasn't getting a fix anymore. I was getting worried. At the end of April and the beginning of May, I visited the nest site three times and didn't see either bird. Two of those times, I spent more than two hours observing. At one point in early May, five days passed when I did not go to the bridge at all. I knew it was all too good to be true; all was for naught. I knew the new nest would probably fail, not an uncommon occurrence for a first-time attempt. The birds were gone, and I was suffering from big-time withdrawal.

Miracle at Monaca

The entourage that helped with the banding of the Peregrine chicks on the morning of May 16, 2007 at the Gulf Tower in downtown Pittsburgh was scheduled to visit the East Rochester-Monaca Bridge that same afternoon. It was a notable assemblage: Dan Brauning, Supervisor of the Wildlife Diversity Program for the Pennsylvania Game Commission and head of the Peregrine Project; Dr. Todd Katzner, Director of Field Conservation and Research for the National Aviary; Beth Fife and Doug Dunkeley, Pennsylvania Game Commission Wildlife Conservation Officers and long-time Peregrine banders, and Tammy Colt, Wildlife Diversity Biologist. I e-mailed Beth a few days earlier and told her they would probably be wasting their time making



Peregrine
Falcon

Falco
peregrinus

Plate 1: The author's daughter, Karena Gregg, is a talented pen-and-ink artist, specializing in portraits of raptors. Karena created this beautiful drawing of the Monaca Peregrines as a Father's Day gift to her Peregrine-obsessed father. See more of Karena's work at <www.raptorsink.com>.

the 45-minute trip north from Pittsburgh to Monaca. I wasn't seeing either bird anymore, the nest was most likely abandoned. But she insisted that the team wanted to go under the bridge anyway and have a look at where the birds may have attempted to nest. After their assessment, arrangements could be made for a nest box to be installed the following year.

I did have one thing to look forward to as I drove to the bridge that afternoon: I was going to meet some really great, important people who knew a lot about Peregrines. They might be able to figure out what happened to cause the birds to abandon their nesting attempt. I arrived at the bridge first, and once again, in disbelief I said aloud, "No way! There's no way!!" The male was again on the high-tension tower tearing apart a dove. The light, warm, westerly winds of early May were placing the plucked feathers right at my feet.

Presently, an impressive motorcade of official vehicles arrived at the observation point in time to see the male on the tower. I had spent four months observing in total loneliness, with the exception of a few times when I had taken my kids along. And once Kate St. John had visited too, and a couple times Karen Lang, the discoverer and one of the monitors of the Pitt birds, checked in. But for the most part, I watched the pair alone, so it felt good to have some people around and to have one of the birds here again.

After some introductions and bird talk, I pointed to where I had seen them enter and exit from under the bridge. Dan, Todd, and Doug offered to let me go under the bridge with them, but I took one look through the access hole straight down at the water about 100 feet below and immediately declined. I'm not a fool. Instead, I waited on the bridge deck with Beth Fife and Tammy Colt for an eternal fifteen minutes. Dan reappeared at the access hatch, but only to inform us that they had not yet found the nest site and that it did not appear to be where I had expected. Another fifteen minutes passed as they made their way further under the bridge. Dan once again looked up through the access hole, and this time the excitement on Beth Fife's face told all. There were two chicks on the nest! Todd estimated that they were about one week old. Dan emerged from under the bridge with a blue jay's head in his shirt pocket. Sweet, sweet revenge—a blue jay, this time on the receiving end. I got a new high, a dopamine rush, and a mega-fix.

After ascending again to the bridge deck, Dan, Todd, and Doug proceeded to explain what the nesting site looked like. The birds had chosen a steel channel about eighteen inches wide by about fifteen feet long, with four inch high sides along the long sides. Since a plate was directly under one of the expansion joints in the bridge, a nice amount of fine road gravel had fallen onto it. Doug Dunkerley commented that the female

had room to lay fifteen eggs if she had been able.

That day, I was reminded of some very important principles of bird watching, and observing nature in general. I knew these things to be true, but veterans sometimes forget the rudimentary stuff. Tons of perseverance and patience, and hours and hours are spent in the field just to gain a minute glimpse at an unforgettable occurrence. And even experienced birders and nature observers can get frustrated, lonely, and sometimes, downright depressed. Above all, a little bit of faith and optimism doesn't hurt.

On Thursday morning, May 31, the chicks on the Cathedral of Learning at the University of Pittsburgh were banded. I was recognized at the banding for discovering one of the new pairs of Peregrines in western PA and was also interviewed by one of Pittsburgh's TV news programs. After the Pitt banding, the group headed to Monaca. In attendance at the Monaca banding were three PennDOT workers familiar with the bridge accesses, Dr. Katzner and one of his assistants from The National Aviary, Beth Fife and Doug Dunkerley, a local news reporter and photographer, a maintenance man from the nearby industrial park who had also become intrigued by the birds, two of my daughters, and me. That's thirteen people in all. My ten-year-old daughter and I were the only ones to remain on the bridge deck. She begged to go down through the access door, but I didn't want her to show up her dad. I'd never hear the end of it. My seventeen year old daughter did it with no compunction, though. The following Sunday, The Beaver County Times ran a full front-page picture of one of the chicks and a feature length story.

For some time, I had suspected the female was banded but that the male was not. My observations proved correct. Todd Katzner emerged from under the bridge with digital pictures of the female taken at a distance of three feet, making her leg bands easily readable. It was quickly discovered that her name was Kelly. She hatched in 2003 at 125 S. Wacker St. in the heart of downtown Chicago. She was one of a brood of five females, and, at age eighteen, her father Jingles was one of the oldest Peregrines known to still be a viable breeder. But the origin of the Monaca male remains a mystery, since his legs lack bands. Art McMorris has informed me there are several nest sites in Pennsylvania alone that are inaccessible. Those chicks are not banded and so he could be from anywhere.

The next turn of events took place on Saturday night June 16. Two young boys, each about age twelve, approached me while I was at the bridge observing with my scope. "Excuse me sir, what are you looking at?" To be patronizing, I gave them a half-hearted answer, "Peregrine Falcons". "We saw one of them today on our boat dock," one of them asserted. "Um," I replied. By this point in my life, I've heard a good many bird experts, so I was thinking, "Yeah right kid. Get lost. Peregrine Falcons don't sit on boat docks, ducks do." They left, probably sensing I didn't have the time of day for them.

About an hour later, a middle-aged man approached me with the same inquiry, "What are you looking at?" "A Peregrine Falcon," I explained, since I was talking to a fellow adult this time. "There was one of them on the boat dock today," he said. "It looked just like the picture on your shirt." (My wife had given me a t-shirt for Father's Day with



Plate 2: This photo of Kelly, the female half of *Beaver's* first known pair of Peregrine Falcons in "modern" times, was made during the banding of the pair's two young 31-May-2007. (Photo by Todd Katzner)

a picture of Kelly on it.) "It had huge legs," he continued, showing me with his fingers, "and it had an orange band on its one leg." Neither of the chicks had been tagged with orange tape... but still, all these folks couldn't be making the same mistake. I immediately e-mailed Beth Fife, who informed me that earlier in the day, one of the local residents contacted the Game Commission when he found the bird and saw that it was banded. By the resident's description, Beth confirmed it was the male chick, based on the red (not orange) electrical tape "band" it was wearing. Maybe Peregrines do sit on boat docks (hence the name duck hawk?).

I didn't get back to the bridge again until mid afternoon on Sunday. Karen Lang was already there and had found the male fledgling perched precariously on one of the steel braces directly over the roadway. Sometime late Saturday evening or Sunday morning, he had flown from the ground all the way up to the top of the bridge. At this time, since she's originally from Beaver County and I'm not, Karen offered me the most scientific explanation for the "orange tape" description given by the local resident: "People from Beaver County never were very good with colors."

Kate St. John arrived later that day, and with my scope, confirmed the red tape on his leg. Kate, my daughter Karena, and I attempted to walk out onto the bridge to get a closer look at the male fledgling, but Kelly did not approve at all. Only a fool messes with a mother Peregrine. Translated, her fierce kak-kak-kak! roughly means, "Do you want a piece of me? Just bring it on!" She's more than capable of backing it up, and just like a mom, she wasn't making idle

threats. We retreated.

Dave Woods, who has a boat and had been regularly seeing both chicks perched on the edge of the nest platform, wasn't seeing the other chick, the female. I assumed the worst—she had fallen into the water and drowned. But Art and Beth both speculated that she could have moved to another location under the bridge. As Peregrine chicks get older, they move around a lot. Sure enough, on June 21, while the fledged male was sitting on the high-tension tower on the west bank, I witnessed one of the adults carrying prey under the bridge. Then, plucked feathers blew out in a steady stream, wafted by a stiff breeze. They glistened in the sun like snowflakes. There must still be another chick under the bridge.

On Friday night June 22, I finally found the female fledgling in a very perilous location. Obviously, she had not learned much from her brother's first flight attempt. On her first try, she had landed on the concrete ledge of one of the bridge piers, only about twenty feet above the water. I watched and felt helpless; she cried and wasn't moving. I immediately called Beth Fife, who gave me this advice: "Let's leave her alone. Her first flight may have scared the crap (modified) out of her." Beth's instincts were right again. When I returned to the bridge on Saturday morning, I was astounded. Just like her brother, she had somehow managed to fly to the top of the bridge.

Through most of June, I could usually find both juveniles and at least one parent. Later in June, I often didn't find any of the birds. Kate St. John and Karen Lang say that the parents take the juveniles to a new location where the

prey is plentiful and easy to catch. I guess I know by now just to believe and be optimistic. By the end of the summer, the juveniles will leave Beaver County and probably never return again. Hopefully, they will live to give some other potential addict the experience I've had.

I would like to take the opportunity to recognize some people who were helpful to me. Art McMorris, Beth Fife, Todd Katzner, and Kate St. John answered my questions and didn't treat me like the idiot that I am. And some other people who took an interest in this pair of Peregrines and helped monitor them: Ken Byron, the maintenance man at Moor Industrial Park; Dave Woods, who helped monitor "those birds" from below in his boat; and Wayne Nichols, the owner of the boat dock where the male fledged, who was hospitable, and who gave me access to all the area around the docks.

4000 Fourth Avenue
Beaver Falls, PA 15010
scott.christie@verizon.net

About the Author: Scott is originally from Lancaster County, but now lives in Beaver Falls, Beaver County. He is a graduate of Geneva College with a B.A. in English, earning his degree in 1997. His enduring interest in raptors for has now spanned almost 30 years. He has a wife and four children, two of whom are also birdwatchers, and one, Karena, is an accomplished raptor artist. Scott and Karena can be contacted through Karena's web site <www.raptorsink.com>.

Smart Hummingbird Behavior

Franklin Haas

One of our Hummingbird feeders is a "test tube" feeder — two test tubes with red caps inserted in a copper wire frame (Figure 1). The tubes are angled up slightly to prevent leakage, so they act like a teeter-totter. Whichever tube has the most nectar weighs down that side and hangs lower.



On July 20, a Ruby-throated Hummingbird came in and landed on the near-empty tube, thereby causing it to lean lower and make the remaining nectar accessible. However, once the hummingbird had his first drink, the tube returned to its higher position, making the nectar unreachable again. The hummer quickly figured this out and, holding on to the perch, flapped his wings to rise up and then stopped flapping to settle back down, thereby lowering the tube again for another drink. He did this about a dozen times before heading off to another food source.

I first observed this on July 20, but I saw more than one hummingbird doing this behavior throughout August. I assume they were different birds, since migration is in full swing at that time of year. Smart birds!

2469 Hammertown Rd
Narvon, Pa 17555
fbhaas@ptd.net

White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*), Northampton County, 7-Aug-2007

Arlene Koch

I forgot how hot and humid it was on August 7 when the phone rang late in the afternoon and Barry Transue told me he had a young White Ibis in the pond on his property. Barry and wife Doris have been birding a long time. Their backgrounds include stints as teachers at the Audubon camp on Hog Island, ME, where they met and mixed with people like Roger Tory Peterson, Alan Cruickshank, and others who are remembered for making birding what it is today. I knew that if Barry Transue said he had a White Ibis at his backyard pond, he surely did.

I managed to get Dave DeReamus on his cell as he was driving home from work, and an hour later the two of us were standing on the Transues' 100+ acre wooded property looking at the ibis. Dave clicked off photos with my camera as the bird poked around the muddy edge of the natural pond and in its shallow water. Occasionally it would come up with a newt or salamander in its bill, which was just beginning to show orange at its base. Its back was still dark but its belly shone white. It had been very dry in this part of the state and all the streams, ponds, and rivers were low. This was no doubt a factor as to why the ibis chose to put down there.

Because there was only one previous record of a white ibis in Northampton County, I knew a lot of birders would want to see this one. Barry and Doris gave permission for people to come but only with certain stipulations, and I was not to put the word out on the internet. I feel it's important to note this. When a bird shows up on private property it's up to the owners to set the rules, not the birders. I also knew that regardless of how I handled the situation some people wouldn't be happy. When Dave and I left Barry told me he'd let me know if the ibis was still around in the morning.

Around 7:30 the next morning Barry called and said the bird had just flown away. Three birders were already there and had seen it, but it no longer had mudflats to poke around in. I live 25 miles south of the Transue property and overnight we had had a few very welcome showers. But up there they had torrential thunderstorm rains and the pond was now overflowing. Early in the afternoon the ibis came back for a very short time, but that was it. When the mudflat disappeared, so did the bird.

*1375 Raubsville Road
Easton, PA 18042*



Plate 1: Providing the second record for *Northampton*, this juvenile White Ibis spent two days in the backyard of Barry and Doris Transue from 7 to 8-Aug-2007. (Photo by Dave DeReamus)

White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*), Dauphin County, 8-Aug-2007

Don Detwiler

Why is it that so often people seem to see something special on their last day birding at a place? Is it fate, or is it that we are subconsciously more aware of our surroundings, because we are just trying to take it all in one last time before we return to the semblance of normalcy that is our everyday existence? Maybe it was fate that was responsible for our good fortune (or more likely a weather system moving through our area during the typical dispersal period for juvenile wading birds). On the last day of our last summer of research, my partner and I observed an immature White Ibis standing on a gravel-bar in the middle of the Susquehanna River amongst an array of juvenile Great Egrets and Black-crowned Night-Herons.

Brad Romano and I, both of us graduate students from East Stroudsburg University, have been studying the foraging and reproductive habits of Black-crowned Night-Herons and Great Egrets at Wade Island in Harrisburg for the past two years. On 8-Aug we were wrapping up the last of our research tasks by mapping the water willow beds between Fort Hunter and the north end of the Sheets Island Archipelago. We accessed the area using kayaks in which we had seemingly spent our lives for the past two summers. As we approached the north end of the Sheets Islands on the west side of the Susquehanna, about a hundred yards from shore, we rounded the top of a nameless small island and saw a group of young egrets and what I thought was a juvenile night heron on a gravel spit exposed by the extremely low river level.

I didn't pay much attention initially, but as I slowly approached and inevitably violated the invisible line that sends birds lazily gliding to the next grass beds, I noticed that what I had written off as an immature night-heron had stayed on the gravel bar with its head tucked under its wing, which is an uncharacteristic behavior for a normally shy and retiring night-herons. My curiosity got the better of me and I pulled out my camera. (I had neglected to bring binoculars to save weight and space in the kayak.) So, camera in hand, I started my approach from about a hundred yards, staying low in the water and moving slowly and carefully. Things went great and by the time I had gotten to within about thirty yards, the bird pulled its head from under its wing. The second it picked its head up I knew we had seen something special—a juvenile White Ibis. I took a few pictures so I would have a record of the sighting and decided to press my luck by moving closer. I figured the worst thing that would happen was I'd get a flight shot. But instead the bird lazily started to forage in the shallows near a grass bed, as if unaware of my presence.

After watching the bird for another

ten minutes I figured I had ducked my work for long enough, so I stood up expecting the ibis to spook and finally give up the flight photo I had been hoping for, but as so often happens with birds, the ibis decided it liked where it was and just went about its business. By this point Brad had come over and was able to confirm the identification. Shortly thereafter, the bird flew off up river when I wasn't paying attention, and missed my shot! Fortunately, it soon returned to its gravel bar, I got my picture, and we decided we had annoyed the bird enough for one day.

1609 Constitution Ave
Pen Argyl, PA 18072
d.detwiler@yahoo.com



Plate 1: White Ibis is rare but regular post-breeding wanderer to southeastern Pennsylvania. This cooperative juvenile was discovered by Don Detwiler and Brad Romano on 8-Aug-2007 near Wade Island, *Dauphin*. After disappearing for several days after its discovery, it reappeared in the vicinity of West Fairview where it remained into September and was seen by many. (Photo by Don Detwiler)

Observations from the 2007 Pennsylvania Migration Count

Bill Etter

Overview

The 16th annual Pennsylvania Migration Count (PAMC) took place on Saturday, 12 May 2007, and the birding gods smiled upon us! On count day, birders statewide encountered hospitable weather (in *most* regions, at least...), and the bountiful array of birds that only a mid May Pennsylvania day can bring. Participants took full advantage of birder-friendly conditions and remained in the field longer than usual; this year's hours-per-observer ratio was the second highest ever. Thanks to our combined efforts, a fine list of birds was assembled.

Here are some of the numbers for PAMC 2007:

924 participants
3,496 field hours logged
224,206 birds tallied
237 species found
Reports received from 55 counties

Weather

As usual, conditions varied across the state, but there were no reports of severe weather or total washouts. In the southwest, *Washington* had temperatures between 56° and 73°F, with clear skies by noon. Similar conditions were reported way over in *Philadelphia*. In between, south central Pennsylvania's weather was characterized by gathering cloud cover and local showers in late afternoon. At Presque Isle in *Erie*, the high temperature was only 58° F, with light rain and overcast conditions throughout the day. Similarly, in *Bradford*, the high was 64° F, with 100% cloud cover and afternoon showers.

Effort

Our collective effort bounced back a bit from last year. 924 participants was less than hoped for, but those who contributed clocked in for a record breaking 3496 party hours. PAMC participants work harder every year, and the level of enthusiasm for this project among Pennsylvania's birding community remains nothing short of fantastic. There is no comparable statewide effort anywhere in the United States.

Table 1. Counties with the most field hours

1	Franklin	239.5
2	Bedford	236.5
3	Bucks	233.5
4	Bradford	222

5	Indiana	219
6	Allegheny	195
7	Lancaster	169
8	Berks	150.5
9	Greene	149
10	Dauphin	137

This is, more or less, the usual list. *Bradford* was a new edition to the top 10 last year, and already cracked the top 5 for 2007. Compiler Trudy Gerlach's workload increases with each passing year!

Table 2. Counties with the most species, with comparison to hours ranking

	County	Spec.	Hrs.
1	Lancaster	180	7
2	Bucks	163	3
3	Berks	161	8
4	Franklin	159	1
5	Indiana	157	5
6	Westmoreland	155	12
7	Luzerne	153	14
8	Schuylkill	146	11
9	Bedford	145	2
10	Dauphin	143	10

Lancaster's incredible total of 180 species was a new PAMC single county record. *Lancaster* offers a wide array of birding "opportunities" (i.e. habitats), and the talented pool of birders from this area never fails to produce an impressive list of birds on Count Day.

Areas covered

With few exceptions, the northern tier of the state continues to be a huge blank on Count Day. Participants from the northeast have slowly been disappearing over the past few years. In the northwest, *Erie* was an especially notable miss last year, so a surprise report from Randy Stringer was most appreciated this year! Effort remains low or absent in most remote areas, yet the few reports received from Pennsylvania's more wild regions tend to be outstanding. I continue to encourage participants to "migrate" to one of the state's more out-of-the-way areas on Count Day! Bear in mind that many of these same areas are also in desperate need of Breeding Bird Atlas (BBA) coverage as we enter the final 2008 season of the 5-year BBA effort.

Species encountered

2007 brought one new species—a Black Rail in *Westmoreland*—to the PAMC list, which currently stands at 289 species. New high counts (HC) were established for an additional 25 species, and 4 other previous HCs were matched. The most notable new HCs were Least Bittern (11 in 4 counties far exceeds the previous HC of 4 birds), Least Sandpiper, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Horned Lark, Tennessee Warbler, Hooded Warbler, and Brown-headed Cowbird. As usual, American Robin (14,692) was, by far, the most commonly reported bird. There were no big surprises in the top twenty most-reported birds, though Brown-headed Cowbird (#21) was just 16 ticks shy of cracking the PAMC top 20 for the first time.

Table 3. Most abundant species

1	American Robin	14692
2	Red-winged Blackbird	11217
3	Common Grackle	10746
4	European Starling	10107
5	Canada Goose	7769
6	Gray Catbird	7601
7	Northern Cardinal	5449
8	Mourning Dove	5127
9	American Crow	5005
10	Barn Swallow	4845
11	Tree Swallow	4812
12	American Goldfinch	4728
13	Blue Jay	4675
14	Song Sparrow	4176
15	Red-eyed Vireo	4126
16	House Sparrow	4096
17	Chipping Sparrow	4041
18	Ovenbird	4000
19	Common Yellowthroat	3975
20	Baltimore Oriole	3878

Count highlights

Please note that five or ten-year averages presented below are inclusive through 2007, and, unless noted otherwise, references to increases or declines for any given species refer *only* to PAMC results. Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) and BBA trends often mirror those of the PAMC, but not necessarily in every instance. The intent of the Pennsylvania Migration Count is to obtain an annual "snapshot" of migration, and to compare the ever-accumulating data as years pass. Though the early years were lean, we

now have over a decade and counting of fairly solid PAMC numbers. Here are some of the highs (and the lows) for 2007:

Geese through ducks

Despite its ranking as the sixth most abundant PAMC bird for 2007, Canada Goose numbers continue to decline. 7,769 Canadas was the lowest total since 1995, and 2.22 birds per party hour (b/hr) is a far cry from 1998's high of 6.19 b/hr! It remains unknown whether our late spring, non-migratory Canada Goose population is declining, under-reported, or perhaps simply learning to migrate.

Seven lingering Tundra Swans in five counties beat the previous HC by one bird. Eighteen species of ducks were reported in 2007. The *Aythya* genus was particularly well represented this year, with new HCs attained for Ring-necked Duck (21), Greater Scaup (14), and Lesser Scaup (61). Lesser was found in 10 counties, with the total bolstered by 28 present in *Dauphin*. Single Canvasbacks in *Bedford* and *Erie* were enough to match the previous HC from 1998. Ten Common Goldeneye from three counties represented a good May total.

Quail through waders

Northern Bobwhite (11) was only found in six counties. No coveys were noted...all were singles or pairs. Horned Grebe (10) was in five counties - the second highest PAMC count. A lone Great Cormorant lingered on the Delaware River in southern *Bucks*. Least Bittern was found in *Berks* (6), *Bucks* (1), *Butler* (2), and *Philadelphia* (2); the former HC of 4 was far surpassed. Southern *Bucks* held a flock of a dozen Snowy Egrets, while additional single birds in *Lancaster* and *York* contributed to the new HC of 14 for this species. Black-crowned Night-Heron (58) was reported from 8 counties, most having been found on the lower Susquehanna (19 in *Cumberland*, 10 in *Lancaster*, 15 in *York*). Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was missed for the third straight year.

Vultures, Raptors

Black Vulture (376) was just 9 birds short of last year's HC. Osprey (95) was a bit off the 10-year average of 123. A single Mississippi Kite was in *Berks*. Rudy Keller had the bird over his home near Boyertown, but did not see it quite well enough to identify to a specific age. There were two other reports of Mississippi Kite in that area in mid May, including one the very next day. Mississippi Kite was missed in 2006, but has now been recorded on four counts since its PAMC debut in 2002.

Recently removed from the Federal Endangered Species list, Bald Eagle was found in record numbers. 122 eagles were noted in 28 different counties, with

the highest numbers from *Lancaster* (34), *Crawford* (13), *Pike* (12), *Bradford* (10), and *Bucks* (8).

Whereas the two more common accipiter species were present in above average numbers, the larger and decidedly rarer Northern Goshawk was missed entirely for just the third time since 1992. Sharp-shinned (89) and Cooper's (102) were both above the 10-averages of 72 and 87, respectively, and both have been increasing consistently on the PAMC.

American Kestrel totals were similar to those from 2006 (203 this year, for a net gain of 2 birds). This total is well below 2003's HC of 283. Peregrine Falcon (10) was found in 6 counties, with nearly all reports having come from known nest sites.

Rails and shorebirds

Two of our more secretive birds, Virginia Rail (21), and Sora (31), occurred in numbers just slightly above average. The generally more cooperative American Coot (164), however, set a new HC. It was found in triple digits on the count for just the second time, handily besting the previous HC of 135 from 1997. On the heels of last year's HC (7), Sandhill Crane was missed entirely for the first time since 2000, but should be noted that no '07 PAMC reports were received from *Lawrence*, where cranes have become established breeders.

Of the 17 species of shorebirds found on count day, five occurred in numbers above average, while five others were below. New HCs were set for Semipalmated Plover (163 in 16 counties) and Least Sandpiper (1059 in 25 counties). Least Sandpiper numbers were far greater than the 10-year average of 645! Totals for each of these species were certainly bolstered by very impressive numbers from *Bucks* (89 and 487, respectively). *Lancaster's* 16 Black-bellied Plovers were notable; the only other report was of a single bird in *Beaver*. State exclusives were an Upland Sandpiper in *Crawford*, a Sanderling in *Bucks*, and a pair of Short-billed Dowitchers in *Indiana*.

Gulls and terns

Following the PAMC discoveries of a California Gull in 2005 and a Little Gull in 2006, it is somewhat noteworthy that *no* rare gulls were reported from *Lancaster* this year! Therefore, the 2007 PAMC Gull of the Year Award goes to Devich Farbotnik's immature Iceland Gull in Tullytown, southern *Bucks*. Laughing Gulls were in *Bucks* (118) and *Philadelphia* (61), and Lesser-black backed Gulls lingered in *Bucks* (2) and *Northampton* (13).

Last year, tern numbers were terrible, with just four individuals reported statewide. Results from this year were more typical; all four of the expected species were reported, though Common (10) and Forster's (12) were

still well below average.

Doves through nightjars

The Eurasian Collared-Doves of Shady Grove, *Franklin* County have become PAMC regulars. The 2007 total was three birds. Collared-Doves have only been found outside of *Franklin* on one count (2002), when a single bird was discovered in *York*. Cuckoos made a great showing this year, with a new HC set for both species! Black-billed (175) was found in 39 counties, and Yellow-billed (535) was found in 43. The new HC for the latter blew away the previous best of 350 from two years ago. Top Yellow-billed counts came from *Juniata* (82), *Franklin* (58), *Lancaster* (46), *Blair* (30), and *Cumberland* (30).

Here's some more good news: the 2007 Barn Owl total increased significantly following several years of continued decline. This year's total of 16 is actually the second best showing for the species in PAMC history. Barn Owls were in *Bedford* (1), *Cumberland* (6), *Juniata* (5), and *Lebanon* (4). Last year's Barn Owl total was *one*.

PAMC participants contributed a total of 99 hours of nocturnal birding this year, equaling the previous HC for Eastern Screech-Owl (106 in 2002). Double-digit counts came from *Bucks* (22), *Chester* (17), and *Juniata* (21). In *Bucks*, Butch Lishman's five-hour owling effort resulted in nearly 20% of all Screech-Owls statewide; he located 19 individuals in and around Nockamixon State Park. Eastern Screech must be among the most under-reported birds in the state.

Great Horned Owl (53) was found in numbers somewhat below average. No "eared owls" were observed, though six Saw-whets in four counties was a decent total.

Swifts through swallows

Ruby-throated Hummingbird was presented in record PAMC numbers this year. Our new HC is 818, far exceeding the previous total of 715 from 1996. Four of our seven woodpeckers were noted in numbers slightly higher than average, with a new HC set for Hairy Woodpecker (342). The b/hr ratio for this species has been increasing steadily over the past several years. Of the expected ten flycatchers, half were found in numbers above average. As in 2006, Least Flycatcher (187) was the exception.

Warbling Vireo (694) was a new HC, while our other five vireos were tallied in roughly average numbers. Blue Jay (4675) was one of just seven species found in all 55 reporting counties this year, but it was present in numbers notably below the PAMC average. Though Blue Jay increased significantly over last year (just 3608 in 2006), numbers pale in comparison to 2005's HC of 7800 jays. American Crow (5005) was also reported from all 55 counties, but numbers declined for the fourth

consecutive year. West Nile Virus was first documented in Pennsylvania in 2000; subsequently, PAMC American Crow numbers have declined fairly steadily toward this year's low.

Table 4. Occurrence of American Crow on the PAMC since 1997

Year	Total	Birds/hr
2007	5005	1.4316
2006	5266	1.7220
2005	5509	1.6362
2004	5968	1.7349
2003	7052	2.0399
2002	6682	2.0397
2001	7820	2.5234
2000	6298	2.2969
1998	6748	3.1197
1997	6079	na

Horned Lark (309) set a new HC, far above the 10-year PAMC average of 147.

It was a poor year for swallows on the count. PAMC swallow numbers have been trending significantly downward for three species, and moderately so for one other. Two species have been increasing slightly. A brief synopsis of each species' PAMC occurrence is presented below:

* Purple Martin occurred in above average numbers. 1378 martins (0.394 birds/hr) was a higher count than both the 5-year and 10-year PAMC averages.

* Tree Swallow was low for the second consecutive year. This year's 4812 birds was the lowest total since 2000 (an abnormally low count). The b/hr ratio (1.376) was well below the 10-year average of 1.736. Recent BBS results from Pennsylvania indicate a steady breeding population.

* Northern Rough-winged Swallow (1120) was tallied in numbers only slightly below average this year. Birds / hour (0.320) was just a bit below the 10-year average, but significantly lower than what has occurred on recent counts.

* Bank Swallow (816) numbers were also low this year; the 10-year PAMC average is 1309 birds per year.

* Cliff Swallow (1187) fared well this year. The b/hr ratio (0.339) far exceeded the 10-year PAMC average (0.244 b/hr).

* Barn Swallow was the third swallow species that was found in below-average numbers. Like Tree Swallow, this species is seemingly abundant on the PAMC, perennially among the top 10 most frequently reported birds. But its "Top 10" status this year (11th) demonstrates the fact that, along with Tree Swallow, it has been decreasing steadily on the count for the past five years. 2007's total (4845) was the lowest in over a decade, and the b/hr ratio (1.386 b/hr) was the lowest since 1992's inaugural count. The significance of the apparent PAMC decrease of these two

common swallows remains unknown; recent BBS results indicate a slightly declining breeding population in Pennsylvania. The notion that swallows may be migrating earlier each spring is of interest, and future PAMC numbers will be monitored.

Chickadees through waxwings

Carolina Chickadee (747) continued to make headway into southern

Pennsylvania. The 10-year average is 651.

All of our regularly occurring wrens were found in excellent numbers. Carolinas continued to thrive following their crash in 2003. House (1813) and Marsh (29) Wrens set new HCs. Oddly, the previous HCs for each of these species occurred in 2002. Marsh Wren was noted in 6 counties, led by Tioga (12), Crawford (8) and Philadelphia (6). Only 9 were found in 2006. Winter Wren (65) also occurred

Table 5. Occurrence of warblers on the 2007 PAMC, compared to the 10-year average 1997-2007*

Species	'07 Total	10-yr
Blue-winged Warbler	547	532
Golden-winged Warbler	57	62
Tennessee Warbler	237	102
Orange-crowned Warbler	7	3
Nashville Warbler	132	156
Northern Parula	535	392
Yellow Warbler	3421	3285
Chestnut-sided Warbler	851	676
Magnolia Warbler	493	438
Cape May Warbler	54	23
Black-thr Blue Warbler	693	531
Yellow-rumped Warbler	1407	2476
Black-thr Green Warbler	1256	1255
Blackburnian Warbler	353	368
Yellow-throated Warbler	75	52
Pine Warbler	45	72
Prairie Warbler	412	316
Palm Warbler	65	64
Bay-breasted Warbler	79	66
Blackpoll Warbler	278	150
Cerulean Warbler	224	182
Black-and-white Warbler	804	777
American Redstart	1871	1504
Prothonotary Warbler	13	10
Worm-eating Warbler	213	217
Swainson's Warbler	1	1
Ovenbird	4000	3587
Northern Waterthrush	106	110
Louisiana Waterthrush	272	256
Kentucky Warbler	98	107
Connecticut Warbler	1	1
Mourning Warbler	19	11
Common Yellowthroat	3975	3817
Hooded Warbler	726	495
Wilson's Warbler	47	42
Canada Warbler	132	99
Yellow-breasted Chat	133	132

* No data are available for 1999

in numbers well above average. Ninety-one Ruby-crowned Kinglets was a low count, though a definite improvement over last year's total of 21. Of the thrushes, Veery (548) and Swainson's (204) were both well above average. No significant efforts to tally nocturnal flight calls were reported for thrushes this year. Like the Carolina Wren, Northern Mockingbird (1036) has increased steadily since an apparent crash in 2003. Its PAMC advance was razor thin this year, however, with a net gain of just one bird over last year's total.

Warblers

Warblers were definitely a highlight of this year's count. All 37 "expected" species were reported, as were both "winged-warbler" hybrids. Just four species were found in numbers significantly below average, while 16 were above, including 4 new HCs. The following table shows this year's totals compared to the 10-year PAMC average for each species.

The number of warbler species reported in fairly high numbers was particularly encouraging following last year's dismal totals. Tennessee Warbler (237) was a new HC, far outnumbering the 1996 high of 137. The best totals came from the southwest, especially Allegheny (52) Butler (49), and Washington (28), where Ross Gallardy observed a flock of 14 Tennessees at once. Orange-crowned (7) was notable, found in four counties (three in *Westmoreland*). Cape May (54) had its best showing in over a decade, tying 1994's count, but a bit shy of 1996's HC of 70. Yellow-throated Warbler (75) was reported in near-record numbers as well. Top counties were *Dauphin* (16) and *Greene* (10). Prairie Warbler (412) set a new HC. Nearly one quarter (101) of all Prairies were in *Bucks*, where 67 were found in one upper county area alone. Blackpoll Warbler (278) had its third best count. Typically a late spring migrant, this species was found in higher numbers in the southeast, most notably *Bucks* (44), *Lancaster* (23) and *Philadelphia* (55). Cerulean Warbler (224) tied its HC from 2004. The top counts for this troubled species came from *Blair* (36), *Juniata* (22) and *Westmoreland* (19). Since the mid 1960s, BBS trends for this species have been sinking at an alarming rate, both in Pennsylvania and across its range. We average one PAMC Swainson's Warbler per year, and 2007's bird was found in *Allegheny* by county compilers Carol and Fred McCullough. This unusual skulker lingered until at least June 17, a full three weeks beyond the Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas "Safe Date" for the species. Though breeding was never confirmed, the bird was seen and heard (though mainly the latter) by several skilled birders. Ovenbird (4000) totals were notable, as were Mourning Warbler (19). Mourning was only one shy of the

HC from two years ago. A rare spring Connecticut Warbler was in *Westmoreland*. Hooded Warbler (726) set yet another HC, this for the sixth time in seven years; Hooded appears to be doing well in Pennsylvania.

Low counts were tallied for a handful of warbler species this year. Golden-winged Warbler (57) was a bit shy of its 5-year and 10-year averages (70 and 62, respectively). Nashville Warbler (132) was similarly low. Yellow-rumped (1407) numbers improved slightly over the past two counts, but were still pretty lean compared to the 10-year average (2476). Finally, Pine Warbler (45) had its worst showing since 1995; the 10-year average is 72 birds per year.

Tanagers though sparrows

Following a two-year absence, Summer Tanager reappeared on the PAMC list in 2007. One bird was seen for one day only in Washington Township, *Greene*. This is the sixth time since 1993 that Summer Tanager has been reported on the PAMC from *Greene*. Far more common, Scarlet Tanager (2105) was found in near record numbers. The b/hr ratio (0.602) was well above the 10-year PAMC average (0.462).

Several sparrow species were reported in lower than average numbers, particularly Savannah Sparrow (169), Fox Sparrow (2), and White-crowned Sparrow (212). A notable exception was Grasshopper Sparrow (221). Like so many grassland birds, the Grasshopper Sparrow has been declining sharply on BBS routes in Pennsylvania and elsewhere. This year's total was the best since 2000. Randy Stringer found two Clay-colored Sparrows at *Erie's* Presque Isle State Park, keeping the PAMC Clay-colored streak alive at eight consecutive years. Lapland Longspur was one of the more unusual PAMC birds to have been reported this year. Four breeding plumaged females were found in farmland northwest of Ephrata, *Lancaster*. The PAMC history for this species is easily summarized: past records occurred in 2000 (3 in *Dauphin*) and 2001 (5 in *Lancaster*).

Cardinals through finches

New PAMC HCs came for three species in this category. Dickcissel (2) was noted in Cumberland and Franklin. Brown-headed Cowbird (3862) far exceeded its former HC (3129). Similarly, the cowbirds b/hr (1.105) was well above the 10-year average (0.709). Orchard Oriole (516) set a new HC for the 3rd straight year. Below average counts came for a pair of field birds—Bobolink (783) and Eastern Meadowlark (815) were each well short of the PAMC average. Rusty Blackbird (5) was in just two counties, dismal showing, but still five times better than the 2006 total. The 10-year average of 25 Rusties per year was greatly bolstered by the abnormally

high total of 111 from 2005. Pine Siskin (18) was included in just three county reports. Finally, a welcomed report of a single Evening Grosbeak was received from *Bedford*.

PAMC Table

Beginning this year, the PAMC county-by-county table will no longer be published in *Pennsylvania Birds*. Instead, the spreadsheet and a PDF version will be available on PSO's website <<http://www.pabirds.org>>. Readers who do not have internet access can contact the Chief Editor to request copies..

PAMC 2008

Many, many thanks to all who helped out with the count this year! The information we all help to accumulate is of great value.

Please note that the 17th annual Pennsylvania Migration Count will take place on Saturday, May 10th 2008. Reserve the date!

Appendix: List of coordinators and key participants by county.

Many thanks to the following people for making the 2007 PAMC count possible. Most served as county compilers. Some were key participants, and a few were simply the sole participants for a given county. Listing every individual participant is, unfortunately, no longer practical. Please accept my apologies in advance to those who aren't listed below. For the contact info for any of the following PAMC county compilers and participants listed below, please contact the PAMC State Coordinator.

PAMC State Coordinator:

Bill Etter
1030 Old Bethlehem Rd, Apt#2
Perkasie, PA 18944.
215-964-3613
esbittern@verizon.net

County coordinators and key participants:

Adams - Peter Robinson
Allegheny - Carol and Fred McCullough
Armstrong - Margaret Higbee
Beaver - Geoff Malosh
Bedford - Ron Kidd
Berks - Matt Wlasniewski
Blair - Stan Kotala, Marcia Bonta
Bradford - Trudy Gerlach
Bucks - Diane Allison
Carbon - Dan Kunkle
Cambria - Dave Gobert
Cameron - John Fedak
Centre - Bob Snyder
Chester - Martin Page
Clarion - Margaret Buckwalter, Carole Willenpart

Clearfield - Steve Belin
Clinton - Wayne Laubscher
Crawford - Marvin and Lena Byler
Cumberland - Ramsay Koury
Delaware - David Eberly
Dauphin - Carl and Nancy Juris
Elk - John Fedak
Erie - Randy Stringer
Forest - Flo McGuire
Franklin - Donna Hocker
Greene - Kathy Kern
Huntingdon - Doug Wentzel

Indiana - Margaret Higbee
Juniata - Chad Kauffman, Linda Whitesel, Elmer Petersheim
Lancaster - Bruce Carl
Lebanon - Randy Miller
Lehigh - Jon Levin
Luzerne - Jim Shoemaker
Lycoming - Dave Ferry
McKean - John Fedak
Mercer - Neil Troyer and the Troyer family, Suzanne Butcher
Mifflin - Margaret Kenepp and Jesse Swarey
Montgomery - Sheryl Johnson, Rob Fergus
Montour - Jon Beam

Northampton - Mike Schall
Perry - Mickey Wesler and Don Orris
Philadelphia - Doris McGovern
Pike - Jen Naugle, Joe Yuhas, Pocono Environmental Education Center staff
Schuylkill - Mike Ward
Snyder - Mick and Donna Brown
Sullivan - Robert Megraw
Tioga - Ann Vayansky
Venango - Russ States
Warren - Scott Stoleson
Washington - Amy Taracido
Wayne - Voni and Joe Strasser
Westmoreland - Dick Byers
Wyoming - Joe DeMarco
York - Phil Keener

Answer to Photo Quiz #17

Rick Wiltraut



Note the bright olive-green upperparts and the light yellowish, unstreaked underparts on this bird. Also note the prominent yellowish supercilium, dark line through the eye, and the fine, sharp bill. You can also see that this bird has a rather short tail and long primary extension.

Orange-crowned Warbler is very similar to this bird, but the upperparts are not as bright and the supercilium is shorter and less distinct. Orange-crowned also has a longer tail and shorter primary extension, a noticeable split eye ring, less distinct eye line, and blurry streaking on the underparts. Immature Yellow Warblers of some of the northern subspecies (especially *D. p. parkesi*) are similar in color, but have a plain face and lack a noticeable supercilium and eye line. Philadelphia Vireo is olive-backed with yellowish underparts, but has a thicker bill and gray cap. Another possibility is Arctic Warbler, which has occurred several times in California. Arctic Warblers have a longer supercilium, which tends to curve up at the rear, and darker olive upperparts. The bill is thicker and less pointed on Arctic Warbler.

This fresh fall plumaged Tennessee Warbler was captured at the Little Gap Banding Station on the Kittatinny Ridge in Northampton County. Like the Cape May Warbler, the Tennessee is a spruce budworm specialist and their numbers in fall fluctuate in response to spruce budworm outbreaks. In some years during the 1970's and 1980's, Tennessees and Cape Mays were common in fall on European Weeping Birches in my yard in Whitehall, Lehigh County, no doubt a reflection of these outbreaks. Besides insects, both species feed on fruit and nectar, especially on their wintering grounds. I have seen Cape Mays at grapes and sapsucker wells and have often observe Cape Mays, Tennessees, and Black-throated Blue Warblers feasting on the small, purple berries of *Aralia*, *sp.*

Belated Report of Northern Gannet in Warren County

Geoff Malosh

In early June 2007, an amazing report fell onto the desk of Pennsylvania Game Commission ornithologist Dan Brauning. An immature Northern Gannet had been found and photographed at close range at the home of Richard Patterson of Columbus Township, Warren County. The catch: the bird was found 16 months prior to the report, on 19-Feb-2006!

Mr. Patterson had contacted Cory Turben, also of Columbus Township, and told him about this odd bird which had been in his yard for some time but would not fly. Neither was familiar with their strange visitor, and ultimately they identified it as an immature Common Loon. Cory described the bird as unwary and apparently uninjured, yet unwilling to fly.

Based on the photos obtained, it is clear that the bird was actually a Northern Gannet and not a Common Loon. Being a primarily pelagic species, this bird had clearly gotten off course somehow and turned inland, where it subsequently wandered without food for untold day(s) before finally coming to a stop in northeastern Warren County. Like many "wrecked" pelagic species that are sometimes found inland after tropical storms, this bird was probably on the brink of starvation; though it appeared uninjured, it was doomed nonetheless. Not recognizing the bird's dire situation, and still assuming it was a Common Loon, Turben captured the bird and released it on nearby Brokenstraw Creek under the premise that, being a loon, it needed to be on water in order to take flight. It is unknown what ultimately happened to this gannet, but likely it grounded somewhere on the creek bank and succumbed.

Although the origin of this bird is ultimately unknowable, it is worth noting that there was a strong south-southwesterly wind across the Ohio Valley region from 14 to 17-Feb-2006 (source: National Weather Service). With this flow came very warm temperatures in the high 60s, a good 20 degrees above normal in this region for mid-February. Things turned sharply colder on the 18th when a cold front ushered strong north winds and temperatures below freezing to northwestern Pennsylvania, one day before the gannet was discovered. The most obvious scenario is that this bird was forced off nearby Lake Erie or Lake Ontario and into inland Warren County by this cold front, but there is an intriguing alternative theory. If the bird was lost and wandering aimlessly inland, it would likely have followed whatever prevailing winds it encountered, possibly for days, meaning it may have rode the *southerly* winds into Pennsylvania, perhaps from somewhere along the mid-Atlantic or Carolinas, and not from the north or

northeast as one might intuitively suspect. Wherever it came from, it stands as a reminder that when it comes to birds, anything is possible, so always be ready!

There are eight previously accepted reports of Northern Gannet for Pennsylvania, two from Lake Erie and the other six from the lower Delaware River Valley. The most recent was a bird that stayed from 30-Nov to 3-Dec-2002 at Presque Isle in Erie County. If accepted by PORC, this bird would represent the ninth record for the state.

Note: The National Weather Service provides climatology data for selected sites across the United States, and these data formed the basis of the discussion of weather in western Pennsylvania in February 2006. Specifically, data for northwestern Pennsylvania were sourced from <<http://www.weather.gov/climate/index.php?wfo=cle>>.

450 Amherst Avenue
Moon Township, PA 15108-2654
pomarine@earthlink.net



Plate 1: This Northern Gannet was found grounded in a Warren backyard on 19-Feb-2006, providing the first record for Warren and the ninth for the state, if accepted. (Photo by Cory Turben)

Summary of the Season—June to July 2007

Dan Brauning, Summer Season Editor

This season focuses on breeding birds, and the 2nd Breeding Bird Atlas bolstered the field effort in many counties. *Bradford*, for example, is a typical example of the effect of Atlas effort, resulting significantly greater fieldwork on nesting species than is usually reported. A high number of counties providing seasonal reports also provided good coverage and a valuable insight into local bird life during the summer of 2007. But the ebb and flow of migration is not missed during this season, particularly with shorebirds that are heading northward to distant nesting areas even in June, and others moving southward already by late July. Many county compilers noted the moderate, dry conditions through much of this season, which provided good habitat for shorebirds in many counties along the receding shorelines of lakes and rivers. For no obvious reason, an unusual list of waterfowl was found scattered across the commonwealth long after normal migratory seasons.

Waterfowl not normally found in this season away from Lake Erie included **Greater** and **Lesser Scaup**, **Bufflehead** and **Gadwall** in *Dauphin*. **Common Goldeneye** and many **Ruddy Ducks** increased the list of summering waterfowl. A quick sighting of **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** in *Lancaster* may be the rarest bird reported statewide for the season, if accepted by PORC.

Water birds were well represented, including a healthy number of **American** and **Least Bitterns**, primarily in established areas. But **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** and **Black-crowned Night-Herons** are barely holding on to nesting populations. The developing story of **Glossy Ibis**, particularly in *Chester*, suggests that Pennsylvania is, at minimum, within the foraging radius of the nesting colony on Pea Patch Island, New Castle County, Delaware.

The confirmed nesting of **Merlins** for a second year, both in last year's locations and newly this year in *Sullivan* and *Pike*, suggest this to be more than an anomaly; more likely this is an extension of a major range expansion of Merlins occurring across the country, even into our latitudes. What might be the limits of this particular speeding bullet? A similar expansion from the south is less clear, but **Mississippi Kites** are likewise undergoing a

range-wide *northward* advance and now are annual, though unpredictable, across southeastern counties during the summer, but for this species, PA's birders have yet to find the first nest!

Though *Bucks* reported high water levels that reduced shorebird activity, it seems this was the exception and many counties did well with these species. The species list is not exceptional this year, but many birders detected shorebirds in receding ponds and rivers around the state during what was a dry summer. **American Avocets** are welcome any time, but sightings in *Allegheny* and *Cumberland* were real headliners for those counties. Counts of 3000 **Least Sandpiper** in the draining impoundments at J. Heinz Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum, *Philadelphia*, were notable.

Two gulls sightings represented possible firsts: A single 1st summer **Iceland Gull** at the Tullytown landfill, *Bucks*, apparently represents the first summer sighting in the region, and proves that not only is identifying these vagrants challenging, but the terminology associated with them is tricky too! The other "first" was more easily described adult plumage, and if Bill Etter is right, the **Lesser Black-backed Gull** sighted by Tom Johnson and company on the Conejohela Flats, *Lancaster*, may be Pennsylvania's first summering adult. This would be another milestone in another remarkable expansion.

Among the most intriguing sightings of the season were the observations (including photographs!) of **Chuck-will's-widows** in southern *Fulton* at the end of May and early June. Summer sighting of this species in Pennsylvania are not unprecedented, since Chucks were found for multiple years in *Indiana* during the 1st Atlas, and a bird has been heard over several years during this second Atlas effort in *Centre*. Somehow, however, *Fulton* seems a more likely scenario for a regular breeding population, even though the recently completed Maryland 2nd Atlas doesn't report them commonly south of *Fulton's* border!

A **Western Kingbird** in *Bucks* was an exceptional June observation and, on the same day in *Lebanon*, an **American Pipit** was found much later than expected.

Among other tantalizing almost-

breeding records, Pennsylvania has long been teased by vagrant and occasionally lingering **Swainson's Warblers**. So was the case in 2007, with a properly un-advertised resident in *Allegheny* remaining until at least 6/17, but no indication (again) of a mated pair or any breeding evidence. Lingering into early June again this year were migrant **White-crowned Sparrows**, found in early June in *Crawford*, *Northampton*, and *Susquehanna*.

A highlight of the breeding season was scattered observations of **Red Crossbills**, including recently fledged young in *Pike*.

Reference to seasonal anomalies of migration or even rare breeders in no way captures the essence of the 2007 summer season. During this fourth year of the Atlas, the statewide network of Atlas volunteers invested over 20,000 hours of effort and nearly 200,000 miles driven, even with gasoline selling at nearly \$3 per gallon, and contributed approximately 140,000 breeding bird entries. 2007 truly was an important milestone for the 2nd PA Breeding Bird Atlas.

Many changes to the Pennsylvania's breeding avifauna are already apparent, such as the exponential growth of the state's Bald Eagle population, but thanks to some analysis by Bob Mulvihill and Mary Shidel, a few other changes are also manifest. Dramatic expansions are apparently being discovered for **Red-breasted Nuthatch** and **Hooded Merganser**, whereas **Golden-winged Warbler** and **Common Nighthawk** are notably on the list of species experiencing severe declines. Despite recent discoveries, **Barn Owls** have seriously retracted their range, while the **Canada Goose** continues to expand. **Pine Warbler** has already been found in 61% more blocks than in the first Atlas effort, but **Red-headed Woodpecker** has declined by 69%. Much more will come to light, and is available for public analysis at the official Atlas web site:

<<http://bird.atlasing.org/Atlas/PA/Main>>.

Birds of Note – June 2007 through July 2007

This report summarizes unexpected species and species reported in fewer than five counties during the reporting period. Observations were gleaned from county reports, the PABirds Listserv (denoted listserv), and the 2nd Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas web site (denoted Atlas).

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.

Black-bellied Whistling Duck* – *Lancaster*: 2 flew past the Conejohela Flats 6/24 (Chuck Chalfant).

Snow Goose -- *Lebanon*: A flock of 30 were seen at Middle Creek WMA through the season, most were thought to be grounded by injuries (m. obs.); *Philadelphia*: A lingering bird remained in northeast Pennypack area.

Gadwall – *Dauphin*: Remained at Wildwood Lake to 6/2 (Chris Rebert).

Blue-winged Teal – *Beaver*: Pair seen occasionally through summer near SGL 285 (Geoff Malosh); *Crawford*: 6 young noted at Shellito's Pond 7/21 (Ronald F. Leberman, Robert C. Leberman), a male at Conneaut Marsh along Geneva-Watson Station Rd 7/20, and a female or immature near Custard Bridge 7/25 (Robert C. Leberman, Atlas); *Indiana*: male at Yellow Creek 6/12 (m. obs.); *Lancaster*: one at Conejohela Flats 7/12 (Tom Johnson); *Venango*: adult male at shallow end of Justus Lake 6/10 (Russ States, Atlas).

Green-winged Teal – *Bucks*: Male near Doylestown 6/14 (John Tramontano); *Crawford*: 3 at Miller' Pond 7/1 (Robert F. Leberman, Mark Vass), 7/4 (Randy Stringer) and a mated pair 7/24; *Cumberland*: Continued at Wildwood Lake to 6/2 (Chris Rebert); *Indiana*: eclipse plumage bird at Little Yellow Cove, Yellow Creek SP 7/3,12 (Margaret Higbee) and 7/17 (Susan Comfort and Margaret Higbee); *Lancaster*: pair on the Conejohela Flats 7/1 (Bob Schutsky and Eric Witmer).

Canvasback – *Erie*: Male at Gull Point 6/6 (Mark Vass).

Ring-necked Duck – *Dauphin*: Male near mouth of Swatara Creek 6/20 (Pat and Richard Williams), also at West Fairview (Tom Johnson and Andy McGann).

Greater Scaup – *Dauphin*: One male seen 7/9-10 just upstream of the Harvey Taylor Bridge on the Susquehanna R. in Harrisburg (Tom Johnson and Andy McGann); *Northampton*: (Probable) at Minsi Lake 6/10-19 (Lillian Shupe).

Lesser Scaup – *Dauphin*: One bird between Shelley and Beech Island 7/2 (Pat Sabold), 2 males just upstream of the Harvey Taylor Bridge on the Susquehanna R. at West Fairview 7/9-10 (Tom Johnson and Andy McGann); *Lancaster*: One male 7/9-28 at the Conejohela Flats, Susquehanna River (Bob Schutsky and Andy McGann, listserv).

Bufflehead – *Dauphin*: One at West Fairview 6/26 (*vide* Art Schiavo); *Schuylkill*: Male at Sweet Arrow Lake near Pine Grove to at least 6/6 (Dave Krue).

Common Goldeneye – *Lancaster*: Male at Peach Bottom 6/2 (Tom Raub, listserv).

Red-breasted Merganser – *Erie*: 5 females at Presque Isle 6/9 (Mark Vass); *York*: Along Codorus Creek just south of Route 30 on Toronita Street, City of York 7/13 (Lou Carpenter, listserv).

Ruddy Duck – *Bucks*: A female at Lake Caroline 6/4 was joined by a male and remained to 6/10 (Bill Keim), another at Peace Valley Park 6/6-16 (August Mirabella), and a female or immature 6/28-7/8 at Warminster Community Park (Gail Johnson); *Centre*: male present from early May to 6/22 at Julian mitigation wetland (Nick Kerlin, Andy Wilson, Atlas); *Crawford*: 6 at Spillway on Pymatuning Reservoir 7/21 (Robert C. Leberman, Ronald F. Leberman, Mark Vaas).

American White Pelican – *Warren*: On the Allegheny River 6/3 in Starbrick (Jack Hamlin, John Schultz, William Hill).

American Bittern – *Bradford*: Near Bentley Creek 7/15 (Tony Liguori); *Clinton*: Near Mill Hall 6/27-28 (Wayne

Laubscher, Tom Amico, listserv); *Crawford*: at Geneva 6/2, 7/20, 7/31 (Ronald F. Leberman, Robert C. Leberman) and Gordon Rd, Harmonsburg area 6/22 (Chris Lundberg, Atlas); *Delaware*: at the Tincum mitigation area along the Delaware R. 6/10 (Al Guarante); *Tioga*: Heard calling 6/13 and responded to playback at 9 of 11 stations 6/14 in the Muck IBA (Dianne Franco, Robert Ross), and a fledged juvenile seen 7/4 (Andy Wilson, Atlas).

Least Bittern – *Bucks*: Calling at Quakertown Swamp 6/2-15 (Mike Tanis, Bill Etter, August Mirabella), and another at Rohm and Haas, Bristol 7/1 continuing from May (Devich Farbotnik); *Crawford*: a pair calling at Geneva (Ronald F. Leberman); *Delaware*: at the Tincum mitigation area along Darby Creek 6/10 (Al Guarante); *Erie*: calling and seen in flight at Presque Isle 6/25 (Tom Johnson); *Lancaster*: Calling from the lower end of Sharptail Island, Conejohela Flats 7/5 (Bruce Carl, Bob Schutsky); *Warren*: at least 2 individuals responded to playback 6/6 at Akeley Swamp (John Fedak).

Snowy Egret – *Bucks*: One at Mudd Island 7/21-29 (Devich Farbotnik); *Lancaster*: 4 at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area 6/8-9 (Ann Marie Traynor, John Traynor and Eric Witmer); *Lancaster*: 2 at Conejohela Flats 7/4 (B Schutsky), adult 7/21-24 at Conejohela Flats (Tom Johnson); *Philadelphia*: 3 at Tincum in mid-July (John Miller).

Little Blue Heron – *Berks*: Adult at the farm pond on Old Rt. 22 east of Shartlesville 7/29 (Matt Spence); *Bucks*: 2 juveniles at Washington Crossing Historic Park 7/31 (Bill Keim); *Philadelphia*: Present in mid-July at Tincum (Frank Windfelder).

Yellow-crowned Night Heron – *Cumberland*: Nest observed 4/1 through July producing young, along the Connedoguin Creek (Cathy Partusch); *Dauphin*: 3 active nests produced at least 10 fledged young in the Bellevue neighborhood of Harrisburg (Tom Johnson, m. obs.), and 2 adults were observed 7/14; *Montgomery*: adult observed 6/4 at Norristown's Riverfront Park, but no breeding behavior noted (Stephen Kacir, Atlas).

Plegadis Ibis* – *Bucks*: A juvenile at Pine Run Dam 7/12 remained until at least 7/20 (August and Judy Mirabella); *Chester*: multiple sightings of up to 10 in flight in the New Garden area (Joe Sebastiani, Tom Amico, Molly Daly); *Lancaster*: single with another unidentified *Plegadis* ibis at Conejohela Flats 7/24 (Tom Johnson); *York*: One circling a wetland on Codorus Creek 7/6 (Phil Keener, listserv).

Mississippi Kite* – *Chester*: Sub-adult at Marsh Creek State Park near Eagle 6/7 (Larry Lewis); *Fulton*: 2 sub-adults at Big Cove Tannery 6/2 (Tom Johnson, Dan Snell), and one relocated in the same area 6/3 (Tom Johnson).

Merlin – *Cumberland*: An early migrant seen and photographed on Blue Mountain (Mary & Randy Brenner); *McKean*: Heard through the summer (Lisa Fedak), and a juvenile and adult confirmed breeding at Bradford for 2nd year (John Fedak); *Pike*: nest found at Promised Land State Park and monitored through season, including fledging of young (Rick Wiltraut); *Sullivan*: confirmed breeding 7/30 in Eagles Mere (Doug Gross); *Warren*: at least 2 young on Conewango Ave. 7/17 (Chuck Conaway), two adults and 2 young seen on Jefferson St. 7/20 (where they nested last year) (John and Mary McKown).

King Rail* – *Tioga*: Responded to tape 6/16 at undisclosed location (Deuane Hoffman, Drew Weber, Atlas); *Warren*: Responded to tape 6/25 at undisclosed location (John Fedak, Atlas).

Common Moorhen – *Beaver*: Pair seen in Wampum/New Galilee pond 6/9 (Tom Johnson); *Bucks*: 4 young observed at Falls Twp. 7/1 (Devich Farbotnik); *Clinton*: near Mill Hall 6/27-28 (Wayne Laubscher); *Lawrence*: juvenile seen at Cooper Rd. wetlands 7/1 (Barb Dean, Atlas); *Northampton*: at Green Pond 6/1 (Dustin Welch); *Philadelphia*: an adult was occasionally seen, but never a pair, at Tinicum; *Tioga*: responded to playback on 6/30 in the Muck (Deuane Hoffman); *Warren*: 6/6 (John Fedak, Atlas).

Sandhill Crane – *Lawrence*: 7 seen in 2 different places (listserv); *Bradford*: 2 seen 7/3, 7/12 near Hollenbach where known to nest (Charlene Miller, George Miller); *Crawford*: 5 at Miller's Pond 6/27 (Irene Field) and 7/1 (Mark Vass), 2 along Pine Rd., Hartstown Marsh, 6/5 (Marvin Byler); *Montour*: 2 adults and one juvenile at Harris Rd. marsh 6/14 (Bill Hinze, Atlas); *Sullivan*: Confirmed breeding again (Rob Megraw).

Black-bellied Plover – *Crawford*: one at Pymatuning 7/24 (Robert C. Leberman); *Lancaster*: 3 at Conejohela Flats 6/6 (Chuck Chalfont, Tom Johnson, Andy McGann); *Philadelphia*: 3 at the drained impoundment at Tinicum 7/12.

American Avocet – *Allegheny*: one male at the outflow of Pine Creek on the Allegheny River in Etna 7/29 (Dan Yagusic); *Cumberland*: along Brackbill Rd, Mechanicsburg 7/25 (Steffan Karkuff); *Lancaster*: 2 at Gull Island, Conejohela Flats 7/12, 7/19 (Chuck Chalfont, Andy McGann, Tom Johnson) and one 7/31 (Deuane Hoffman, Andy McGann).

Willet – *Dauphin*: Susquehanna River off Liverpool 7/12 (Deuane Hoffman); *Erie*: Gull Point at Presque Isle 7/19 (Linda McWilliams); *Lancaster*: Conejohela Flats 7/9 (Bob Schutsky).

Upland Sandpiper – *Clarion*: On usual territory at Mount Zion and Curllsville (Ron Montgomery, Mike Weible); *Crawford*: one at Miller's Pond 6/6-7/1 (Mark Vass, m. obs.) and 7/4 (Randy Stringer, listserv); *Somerset*: a single bird reported at former Berlin area stronghold (Levi Yoder).

Whimbrel – *Erie*: Gull Point, Presque Isle 7/24 (Jerry McWilliams).

Red Knot – *Lancaster*: 2 at Conejohela flats 6/6 (Deuane Hoffman).

Sanderling – *Bucks*: Mudd Island 7/14 and 3 more on 7/29 (Devich Farbotnik); *Lancaster*: Conejohela Flats 7/21 and 3 on 7/28 (Tom Johnson); *Philadelphia*: one at Tinicum 7/25 (Frank Windfelder).

White-rumped Sandpiper – *Bucks*: one 7/28 (John Miller, Frank Windfelder); *Crawford*: one at Pymatuning 7/14 (Ronald F. Leberman and Irene Frey) and 7/27 (Robert C. Leberman); *Lancaster*: 19 at Conejohela Flats 6/6 (Tom Johnson); *Philadelphia*: At drained impoundment at Tinicum 7/28 (John Miller, Frank Windfelder).

Baird's Sandpiper – *Lawrence*: Plain Grove Twp., at the Mason Rd. gravel pond 6/2 (Mark Vass).

Stilt Sandpiper – *Lancaster*: 3 beginning 7/24 at Conejohela Flats (Tom Johnson); *Philadelphia*: 4 alternate-plumaged on 7/26 and up to 6 to 7/30 (Frank Windfelder).

Long-billed Dowitcher – *Philadelphia*: First of season found 7/25 (Frank Windfelder).

Red-necked Phalarope – *Beaver*: One female 6/3 (Mark Vass).

Laughing Gull – *Erie*: One adult at Gull Point 6/1 (Jerry McWilliams).

Franklin's Gull* – *Lancaster*: 1st summer plumage 6/9-10 on Conejohela Flats (ph. Eric Witmer).

Bonaparte's Gull - *Crawford*: One at Miller's Pond 7/4 (Randy Stringer, listserv), and one to 3 from 7/5 to end of July at the Pymatuning Spillway (Mark Vass, m. obs.); *Centre*: Non-breeding plumage at Bald Eagle State Park 6/22, first local summer record (Greg Grove).

Herring Gull – *Allegheny*: 21 adults and young at nests on Allegheny River 6/6, with 8 young at the Highland Park Bridge and 2 at Dashields on established nests (Mark Vass); *Beaver*: One at Beaver R. on 7/20, likely post-breeding wanderer (Mark Vass); *Luzerne*: 7/8-20 (Bill Hintze, Jim Shoemaker).

Iceland Gull – *Bucks*: A first summer bird reported at

Tullytown landfill 7/4 and 7/17 (Thomas Johnson, Alan Brady), apparently the first ever reported in this season and region.

Lesser Black-backed Gull – *Bucks*: About 6 1st- and 2nd-year birds noted at Tullytown through the season (Thomas Johnson, Devich Farbotnik, Carla Veltrup), one at Peace Valley Park 7/21 (listserv); *Lancaster*: **Adult** on Conejohela Flats, could be the first summer record of an adult in Pennsylvania (Tom Johnson, listserv).

Least Tern – *Lancaster*: 4 adults 6/23 (Bob Schutsky, Tom Amico), 2 refound 6/24 (m. obs.).

Black Tern - *Crawford*: One at Miller's Pond 7/4 (Randy Stringer, listserv); *Lancaster*: Conejohela Flats 6/10 (Tom Amico, Bob Schutsky).

Eurasian Collared-Dove – *Chester*: Returned to the Turkey Hill in Coatesville but nesting not confirmed this year (Larry Lewis); *Cumberland*: just north of Shippensburg 6/3 (Andy Wilson); *Lancaster*: over Peach Bottom Village on the evening of 7/9 (Bob Schutsky); *Lebanon*: on Mt. Pleasant Rd about 1 mile north of Route 322 on 7/4 (John Fedak) and again on 7/21 (Ben Miller, Randy C. Miller).

Long-eared Owl – *Centre*: Adult with five young at undisclosed location 7/21 (Margaret Brittingham); *Fulton*: Detected on 2 point counts in Ayr Twp. 5/14 (Marilyn and Daniel Snell).

Short-eared Owl – *Somerset*: Pair seen 7/21 (Thomas and Sheri Roberts).

Chuck-will's-widow* – *Fulton*: Pair seen, recorded, and photographed from 5/24 to at least 6/2 (Tom Johnson). This is the 2nd documented record for the county (Tom Johnson, Daniel Snell).

Western Kingbird* – *Bucks*: Seen briefly in Plumstead Twp. 6/2 ("Babe" Webster).

Marsh Wren – *Bucks*: Buckingham Wetlands 6/22 (Ray Hendrick); *Philadelphia*: 2 found at Rhawn and the Delaware R. (Frank Windfelder).

American Pipit – *Lebanon*: Along Mt. Pleasant Rd. 6/2, a new late date (Randy C. Miller).

"Lawrence's Warbler" – *Monroe*: At the previously reported site off Rt 209, just short of the Bushkill Creek (Rett Oren); *Venango*: Along Meadville Pike in the town of Sugar Creek 6/13 (Tom Johnson, listserv).

Prothonotary Warbler – *Crawford*: McMichael Road 6/6 (Ronald F. Leberman), a female with 3 recently fledged young there 7/30 (Robert C. Leberman, Ronald F. Leberman), and one at Zuckenfouse Rd., Pymatuning 6/30 (Irene Frey); *Cumberland*: male seen late June (Andy Wilson) and 7/7-10 near propagation ponds at SGL 169 (Vern Gauthier, Ramsey Koury); *Dauphin*: on an island north of Halifax 6/1 (Chris Rebert); *Lancaster*: nesting at Conejohela Flats (Jonathan Heller); *Philadelphia*: one at Cobb Creek Park 6/9 considered a late migrant (Matt Sharp).

Swainson's Warbler* – *Allegheny*: Bird reported last season in Settler's Cabin Park was present until 6/17 (Fred and Carol McCullough).

White-crowned Sparrow – *Crawford*: Adult at Maple Hill 6/14 (Robert C. Leberman); *Northampton*: adult at Koch Farm to 6/6 (Arlene Koch); *Susquehanna*: Northern end of county, 6/6 (Jerry Skinner).

Dickcissel – *Clarion*: Singing persistently southeast of Curllsville 6/16 (Lewis Crowell); *Cumberland*: one near Shippensburg 7/7 (Andrew Markel); *Franklin*: Photographed along Winger Rd. between St. Thomas and Edenville 6/8, and near Lemasters; *Greene*: Homeville Rd. (Terry Dayton).

Red Crossbill – *Pike*: Two or more first heard at Pocono Environmental Education Center near the front pond, later two adults with two young (their tails were absent) were seen 6/19, confirming breeding at PEEC (Adam Sabatine); *Potter*: 2 females overhead 7/3 (Tom Johnson).

Pine Siskin: *Clarion*: 2 spotted 7/12 near the office of the Cook Forest State Park flew into *Forest* and then *Jefferson* (Mike Weible); *Clinton*: southern edge of town of Black Forest 6/7 (Nick Bolgiano, Atlas); *Somerset*: at the Payne property through July (Jeff, Loretta, and Christopher Payne).

PHOTOGRAPHIC HIGHLIGHTS



Common Merganser (*Mergus merganser*). This family group photographed 9-Jul-2007 at Valley Forge National Park probably represents the first breeding record for *Chester* (Rick Wolf).



Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*). Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, 18-Aug-2007 (Tracy Feldman).



Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) with Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*). Providing just the second record for *Fulton*, this sub-adult bird was one of two present at Dickey's Mountain 2 to 3-Jun-2007 (Tom Johnson).



American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*) with chicks. Swissdale, Clinton, 27-May-2007 (Wayne Laubscher).



Merlin (*Falco columbarius*). Blue Mountain near Linglestown, Dauphin, 31-Jul-2007 (Mary Brenner).



American Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*). These two birds spent most of a day on the Conejohela Flats, Lancaster, 12-Jul-2007 (Tom Johnson).



American Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*). This male discovered by Dan Yagusic was a one-day wonder on the Allegheny River at Etna 29-Jul-2007, providing just the second county record for Allegheny (Geoff Malosh).



Sanderling (*Calidris alba*). This nice looking adult, still mostly in breeding plumage, was on the Conejohela Flats 24-Jul-2007 (Tom Johnson).



Franklin's Gull (*Larus pipixcan*). Extremely rare in summer anywhere in Pennsylvania away from Lake Erie, this bird was photographed nicely during its brief stay at the Conejohela Flats, Lancaster, 9 to 10-Jun-2007 (Eric Witmer).



Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum*). Four Least Terns were found on the Conejohela Flats, Lancaster, 23-Jun-2007 by Bob Schutsky and Tom Amico. Two remained in the vicinity the next day when this photo was made (Tom Johnson).



Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum*). One of two birds present on the Conejohela Flats, Lancaster, 24-Jun-2007 (Geoff Malosh).



Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*). These five birds were found on a nest in Pottsgrove, Northumberland, and photographed on 11-Jun-2007 (Wayne Laubscher).



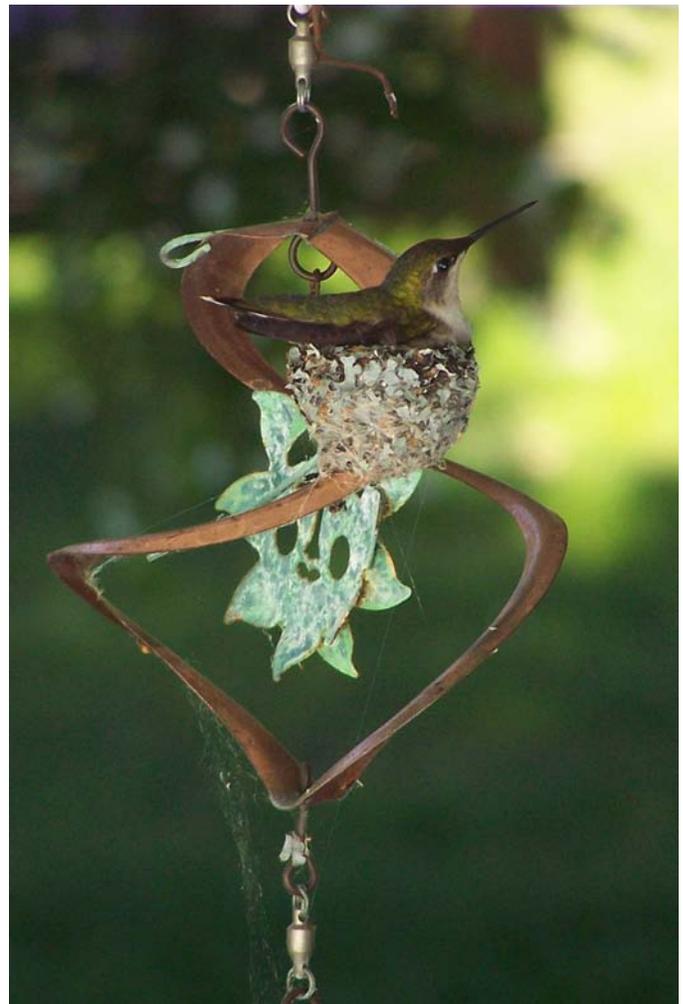
Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*). This photo of a female feeding young on a nest in Lower Paxton Twp., *Dauphin*, was made 14-Jul-2007 (*Peter Houts*).



Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*). *Lewisburg, Union*, 3-Jul-2007 (*Wayne Laubscher*).



Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*). Nest with young, *Dauphin*, 11-Aug-2007 (*Peter Houts*).



Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*). This female Rubythroat in *Indiana* chose a very curious location for her nest—a windchime on the porch of the photographer's house! Photographed here 9-Jun-2007 (*Jennifer Schoch*).



“Lawrence’s Warbler” (*Vermivora* hybrid). This striking bird, present at Sugar Creek, *Venango*, from 13 to at least 23-Jun-2007 (here 14-Jun), drew the attention of several western Pennsylvania birders (*Tom Johnson*).

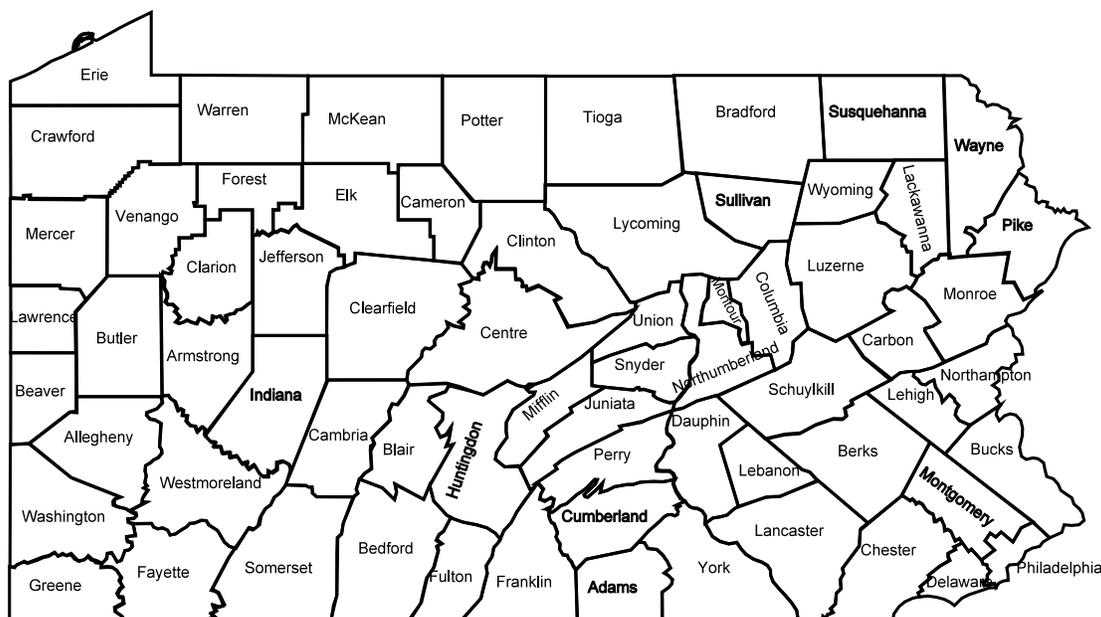


Clay-colored Sparrow (*Spizella pallida*). One of Pennsylvania's rarest summer residents, this species has nonetheless been a fixture at Piney Tract, *Clarion*, for several years, where this territorial male was photographed 23-Jun-2007 (*Geoff Malosh*).



Clay-colored Sparrow (*Spizella pallida*). Piney Tract, *Clarion*, 23-Jun-2007 (*Geoff Malosh*).

Local Notes - June through July 2007



ABBREVIATIONS

B.B.S.	Breeding Bird Survey	max	maximum	Rte.	Route
C.A.	Conservation Area	min	minimum	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.)	subadul(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 Area		
L.	Lake	Res.	Reservoir		

Adams County

No Report.

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

Allegheny County

Location: Imperial (IMP).

A **Hooded Merganser** was present at IMP 6/1 (MV). IMP was the first location in the county where breeding was confirmed for this species, but it has not been seen with young there for a few years. The presence of this bird may indicate they still breed, but out of sight.

Double-crested Cormorants began to appear on Pittsburgh's rivers in mid-July (MV). A **Green Heron** was along the Allegheny R. in Lawrenceville 7/29 (MF).

There were four **Bald Eagle** reports this season. One was flying up the Allegheny R. near Blawnox 7/1 (JH), an immature was observed flying over Marshall Township 7/8 (BM), one was observed flying over the Oakland section of Pittsburgh 7/23 (MVV) and a second year bird was flying over Boyce Mayview Park 7/30 (DW). A partial albino **Red-tailed Hawk** was seen in Homestead Cemetery 6/23 and 6/30, when it was observed carrying prey (MF). It had alternating white and brown wing feathers giving a striped appearance to the upper side of the wings. The head was pale, and the underside was paler than normal, although the bird still had a belly band.

A **Peregrine Falcon** found dead near the nest site at the University of Pittsburgh 7/2 was believed to be the bird that tried to take over the territory in the spring. The resident male and female were still present, so the intruder did not get away (KSJ).

The most exciting wader this season was an **American Avocet** in breeding plumage along the Allegheny R. in Etna 7/29 (DY). The bird spent the day amid numerous boaters, water skiers, fisherman and other people enjoying the river, but stayed put. This was the second county record. A search the following morning failed to recover the bird. A **Semipalmated Plover** at Imperial 6/1 (MV) was a bit late on its way north. Southbound shorebirds began to return in early July. All reports are from IMP. A **Greater Yellowlegs** was present 7/6, a **Lesser Yellowlegs** 7/7, a

Least Sandpiper 7/6, five on 7/7 and 7/14 (MV). Single yellowlegs of both species continued through July. Two **Solitary Sandpipers** were found 7/7. This species continued through July with a high of 8 on 7/29 (MV). A **Pectoral Sandpiper** was present 7/18, and a **Short-billed Dowitcher** was there 7/13-16 (MV).

Herring Gulls continue to nest on the Highland Park Bridge on the Allegheny R. and at Dashiels Dam on the Ohio R. Eight chicks were counted at Highland Park and two at Dashiels Dam (MV).

One **Common Nighthawk** was seen 6/1, and two 6/10 in Edgeworth (MV). Up to 4 were in Oakmont 6/16 where they were performing courtship displays (MF). Three were in Homestead 7/7 where one was performing the courtship diving display (MF). A female **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** gathering nesting material (down from a Spiny-leaved Sow Thistle) in Penn Hills 7/8 was a bit late for nest-building (MF).

Two **Acadian Flycatchers** were singing along Rte. 48 in Elizabeth Township 7/21 (MF). A **Great Crested Flycatcher** was observed carrying nesting material in Pine Township 6/6 (PL, SL). Although this species nests in the county, actual nesting behavior is rarely reported. Despite several visits to the **Fish Crow** breeding location in North Braddock this summer, I did not find any birds. A **Cliff Swallow** was flying around a pond at IMP 7/19 (GM). **Purple Martins** were feeding young at the colony at Butler's Golf Course in Elizabeth Township 7/21 (MF).

A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** 7/1 was a surprise summer find in Schenley Park, and believed to be a transient (EH). A **Veery** was heard in North Park 6/2 (JSC) and in nearby Pine Township 6/11 (PL, SL). This is the most reliable area in the county to find them during the nesting season. A **Cedar Waxwing** was observed at a nest in a Sycamore along the Monongahela R. at the Waterfront Shopping Center in Homestead 6/23 (MF).

A **Cerulean Warbler** and a **Black-and-white Warbler** were at Harrison Hills Park 7/3 (DB). **Black-and-white Warblers** are rare breeders in the county, but this is one of the reliable locations to find them in summer. A late **Pine Warbler** moved through East Liberty 6/2-3 (DY). The **Swainson's Warbler** reported last season in Settler's Cabin Park was present until 6/17 (FM, CM). An **Ovenbird** was exhibiting agitated behavior in Pine Township 7/13 (PL, SL). This species' status as a breeder in the county is not well known, but probably is a local breeder. A **Northern Waterthrush** at East Liberty 6/1 was a bit late (DY).

A **Song Sparrow** was observed feeding a fledgling **Brown-headed Cowbird** (and a fledgling Song Sparrow) in a yard in Penn Hills 7/7 (MF). A **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was feeding a fledgling in Shaler Township 7/5 (JH).

A first year male **Purple Finch** was singing in Penn Hills 6/20-22 (MF). Another first year male was singing in Natrona Heights 7/11 (PH), and a juvenile was found the same day in Pine Township (PL, SL).

Observers: **Mike Fialkovich, 805 Beulah Road, Pittsburgh, PA, 15235, (412) 731-3581, mpfial@verizon.net**, Doug Bauman, Eric Hall, Paul Hess, Joyce Hoffmann, Pat Lynch, Sherron Lynch, Bob Machesney, Geoff Malosh, Carol McCullough, Fred McCullough, Kate St. John, Joanne Scheier (JSC), Mark VanderVen (MVV), Mark Vass, Dave Wilton, Dan Yagusic.

Armstrong County

Locations: Belknap (BK), Cochran's Mills (CM), Keystone Reservoir (KR), Kittanning (KT), Margaret (MG), Perry Twp. (PT).

Five young **Wood Ducks** trailed behind a female at KR 6/12 (MH,RH). A **Northern Bobwhite** was near Barnards 7/17 (MS). Three young **Great Blue Herons** visited a wetland near BK 7/14 (MH,RH). A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** near Orchard Hills 6/9 (MH,RH) and a **Cooper's Hawk** near BK 7/14 (MH,RH) were the lone reports for these species.

KR hosted 3 **Solitary Sandpipers** 7/27 (MH) and 4 on 7/31 (CG,MH). Four **Spotted Sandpipers** were at KR 7/27 (MH) while 5 were tallied 7/31 (CG,MH). Two **Least Sandpipers** were present at KR 7/27 (MH) and had increased to 7 by 7/31 (CG,MH).

Four **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were noted (MH,RH). A **Common Nighthawk** nested in a parking lot in downtown KT in June (*vide, The Leader Times*).

The *Armstrong* portion of the Shelocta BBS 6/2 (MH,RH) and the MG BBS 6/9 (MH,RH) yielded 8 and 7 singing **Acadian Flycatchers**, respectively. One of 3 **Willow Flycatchers** observed near BK 7/14 (MH,RH) was confirmed carrying food. A **Least Flycatcher** near KT 6/10 (MH,RH) comprised the entire report for this species. Two **Great Crested Flycatchers** near Mt. Tabor were actively feeding their young 7/31 (CG,MH).

Single **White-eyed Vireos** near Crooked Creek and near Forks Church, both 6/2 (MH,RH), were the only ones listed. **Blue-headed Vireos** were found 6/5 (CG,MH), both near McGregor and near McWilliams; 2 were near BK 7/14 (MH,RH). **Yellow-throated Vireo** records, among many, included an individual near Idaho 6/2 (MH,RH), one near Barnards 6/8 (MH), 3 on the MG BBS 6/9 (MH,RH), and 2 on the KT BBS 6/10 (MH,RH). **Warbling Vireos** were spotted near Idaho 6/2 (MH,RH), in PT 6/24 (CW), and near BK 7/14 (MH,RH). A **Horned Lark** was singing near Mateer 6/9 (MH,RH), the lone report.

By 7/22 (DS) the **Purple Martin** colony near Elderton contained 28 pairs and produced 132 young. Supplemental feeding comprised of crickets and scrambled eggs helped the birds survive the cold, wet weather in April. A new colony was established at West Shamokin High School where one pair fledged 4 young (DS). The high **Tree Swallow** count was 12 at Yatesboro 6/30 (ED). **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were feeding young in PT 6/24 (CW). Five **Veeries** were counted in PT 6/24 (CW). A late **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was observed near Girty 6/2 (MH,RH). Three **Hermit Thrushes** were listed near Mt. Tabor 7/31 (CG,MH). The 3 BBS routes with sections in the county yielded at total of 51 **Wood Thrushes** (MH,RH). **Northern Mockingbirds** were listed at 5 locations (MH,RH). Recently fledged **Brown Thrashers** were noted near Barnards 6/8 (MH).

The MG BBS yielded 3 **Blue-winged Warblers** 6/9 (MH,RH) and 2 were found near McWilliams 7/5 (CG,MH), but no Golden-winged Warblers or hybrids were noted this period. Single **Northern Parulas** were singing 6/2 (MH,RH) near Crooked Creek and 6/9 (MH,RH), both at Cochran's Mills and near Brownstown. **Yellow Warbler** BBS counts included 22 on the MG route 6/9 (MH,RH) and 18 on the KT route 6/10 (MH,RH). Five **Chestnut-sided Warblers** on the KT BBS 6/10 (MH,RH) were the only ones noted. **Black-throated Green Warbler** reports included one in PT 6/24 (CW), 4 near McWilliams 7/5 (CG,MH), 7 near BK 7/14 (MH,RH), and 6 near Mt. Tabor, including an adult feeding a fledgling, 7/31 (CG,MH). The Shelocta BBS yielded 4 **Cerulean Warblers** 6/2 (MH,RH), including a pair carrying nesting material near Cochran's Mills; another was sighted near Echo 6/10 (MH,RH). **Black-and-white Warblers** included 4 on the Shelocta BBS 6/2 (MH,RH), one in PT 6/24 (CW), and 2 near BK 7/14 (MH,RH). Single **Worm-eating Warblers** were listed only in PT 6/24 (CW) and near BK 7/14 (MH,RH). The only **Louisiana Waterthrushes** noted were found 6/2 (MH,RH) near Cochran's Mills and 6/9 (MH,RH) east of Brick Church. Best **Kentucky Warbler** report included 3 near Hoosicks Mill 7/27 (MH). Four **Hooded Warblers** were listed near BK 7/14 (MH,RH). **Yellow-breasted Chats** were spotted near Forks Church 6/2, east of Brick Church and near Brownstown 6/9, and near Sunnyside 6/10 (all MH,RH).

High **Scarlet Tanager** tally was 10 near BK 7/14 (MH,RH). A **Vesper Sparrow** near Brick Church 6/2 (MH,RH) was the lone report. **Savannah Sparrows** were observed carrying food south of Dayton 6/8 (MH) and recently fledged young were seen near BK 7/14 (MH,RH) and near

Hoosicks Mills 7/27 (MH). **Grasshopper Sparrow** reports included 3 on 6/10 (MH,RH), one near Stone House and 2 near Greendale. **Swamp Sparrows**, noted at four locations, included one feeding young near BK 7/14 (MH,RH). One **Bobolink** was found near Mateer 6/9 (MH,RH) and singletons were near Greendale and south of Dayton the following day (MH,RH).

Observers: **Margaret Higbee, 3119 Creekside Road, Indiana, PA 15701-7934, bcoriole@alltel.net**, Erma Dovenspike, Carol Guba, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Duke Snyder, Mark Strittmatter, Carole Willenpart.

Beaver County

Locations: Ambridge Reservoir (AR), Beaver River (BR), Big Beaver Wetlands (BBW), Independence Marsh (IND), Raccoon Creek State Park (RCSP).

It was a mundane breeding season in the county. Very few reports were received from atlasers and it seems *Beaver* is suffering from a lack of quality coverage during this second statewide effort. Most sightings herein are my own and from the northwestern corner of the county, where I worked to wrap up several blocks in and around SGL 285.

A pair of **Blue-winged Teal** was seen sparingly throughout the summer on a small pond near SGL 285 (GM). There are a few breeding records for the county, but confirmation was not made this year. A female **Ruffed Grouse** with four young in tow at SGL 285 (GM) made for a comical show as the young squeaked and bumped into each other while scurrying around rocks and downed logs trying to keep up with their mother. A presumed second-summer **Common Loon** spent a few days at AR in the middle of Jul (MV). AR has held one or two of this species for the past few summers. **Green Heron** numbers at IND peaked at 14 on 7/25 (GM), which was a bit early for such a high number.

The Potter Twp. **Ospreys** fledged two more young this year (SG, GM). This pair has had great success at this location since at least 2003. The other known nest in *Beaver*, at Midland, is still something of an enigma. A single adult was seen at this nest as late as 8/5 (SG, GM), but the pair apparently failed again to raise any young successfully this year. An immature **Bald Eagle** winged down the BR at College Hill 6/24 (MG, SG). **Broad-winged Hawks** were found probably nesting near Patterson, when SG sighted a territorial individual there 6/15, and GM confirmed three nests in nw. *Beaver* during atlasing. A **leucistic Red-tailed Hawk** near Patterson 6/15 (SG) was noteworthy. The **Peregrine Falcon** pair which nested on the East Rochester Bridge this spring successfully fledged both of their offspring: the young male fledged 6/16, followed by the female 6/22 (SG). By 7/6, SG reported witnessing their first halting attempts at hunting, and both were still in the area of the bridge to at least 8/13.

Virginia Rails inhabited Madden Run Marsh again this year but were harder to find, and so no "confirmed" breeding evidence was gathered this year either (GM). The one or two **Soras** which hung around at Little Blue Lake into late spring were not heard from after that. For the second consecutive year, an **American Coot** (probably the same bird) summered on the BR at the New Brighton Boat Launch (MV). A large concentration of **Killdeer** at IND peaked at 78 birds 7/2 (MV). Shorebird habitat was shaping up at IND and BBW nicely throughout Jul, but heavy rains in early Aug quickly put an end to that. A complete shorebird report will be made in the fall issue. Two **Ring-billed** and one **Herring Gull** were found on the BR 7/20 (MV)—early migrants and a post-breeding wanderer, respectively.

Whip-poor-will song persisted at SGL 285 into Jul (GM), but unsurprisingly they again eluded confirmation for the PBBA. A **Chimney Swift** roost that GM discovered in Midland last year was more closely monitored this year, and several hundred were found to be using it, making for one of the larger known roost locations in the county. Perhaps the premiere location to observe **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** in *Beaver* is the backyard of R&EH in Independence Twp., where the scene at their feeders in Jul and Aug is reminiscent of a day in southern AZ (in terms of number of individuals, not species diversity, of course). On a good day after nesting is completed and the year's young are mobile, a dozen or more rubythroats might be seen at once buzzing around their otherwise inconspicuous yard. This is the same location which hosted *Beaver's* only Rufous Hummingbird, in Nov 2005.

For the second straight year GM discovered an **Alder Flycatcher** at SGL 285, this time staying until the tantalizing date of 6/18. Unfortunately, nothing came of it. **Willow Flycatchers** were quite successful there this year, however, as were **Eastern Kingbirds**. GM was also able to confirm **White-eyed, Yellow-throated, Warbling, and Red-eyed Vireos** on and around the gamelands, but Blue-headed, a real prize in sw. PA, eluded detection. A colony of **Bank Swallows** exists on the property of the Glacial Sands Gravel Company just over the border in *Lawrence*, with foraging individuals of this group regularly spilling over into *Beaver* at BBW and elsewhere nearby. After counting 45 birds there during PAMC 5/12, GM counted another 35 while running a BBS route through the area 6/17, and TJ noted juveniles there about a week before GM's BBS observations. **Carolina Wren** numbers seemed down in GM's estimation, probably due to the harsh weather of Feb 2007, though more data are needed before drawing a conclusion. A **Veery** was heard at RCSP 7/8 (KSJ) and in two

more blocks on SGL 285 in Jun and Jul (GM).

A **Nashville Warbler** found just north of Brady's Run Park during a BBS survey 6/17 (GM) was a strange (and outstanding) find. The bird was not singing and not in "typical" habitat for this species, and not relocated later. Nashville Warblers are sparse breeders throughout PA, but as a rule they are absent from the sw. corner in the summer, so what this bird was up to is something of a mystery. A **Northern Parula** sang into early June at SGL 285 (GM), which was a bit unexpected for that location. Similarly, a **Black-throated Green Warbler** which persisted until the last week of Jun (GM) was a surprise. Chestnut-sided Warblers nested on the gamelands again this year (GM). **Prairie Warblers** continue to hold strong at SGL 285, with at least five pairs noted this year (GM). **Cerulean** and **Kentucky Warblers** are also more numerous than expected around the gamelands. Last year, **Black-and-White Warblers** were found to be in good numbers at SGL 285, but this year's results exceeded the expectations set last year with at least 4 breeding pairs confirmed (GM).

It's now well documented that grassland sparrows do very well on the reclaimed strip mines adjacent to SGL 285, and this year GM was able to confirm **Vesper**, **Savannah**, **Grasshopper**, and **Henslow's** (though not all in the same place). **Swamp Sparrows** probably bred at Madden Run Marsh, and also possibly at IND (GM). **Bobolinks** continue to struggle in *Beaver* due to the premature mowing of the few appropriate hay fields they inhabit, but a previously unknown pair which was left in peace on a long-fallow field north of Brady's Run Park was encouraging (GM).

ADDENDUM: I received a late report of a **Snow Goose** associating with a small flock of Canada Geese on Connoquenessing Creek for about a week beginning 2/9 (DK). This bird appeared along with many other wayward visitors during the onset of a deep freeze at the beginning of Feb.

Note new phone number for compiler (412) 735-3128.

Observers: **Geoff Malosh**, **450 Amherst Avenue, Moon Township, PA 15108-2654**, (412) 735-3128, pomarine@earthlink.net, Simone Bennett, Mike Fialkovich, Marianna Gregg, Scott Gregg, Rich and Elizabeth Hoge, Debbie Kalbfleisch, Kate St. John (KSJ), Tom Johnson, Mark Vass.

Bedford County

Locations: Bedford Springs Resort Area (BS), Bedford Township (BED), Colerain Township (COL), Cumberland Township (CUM), Harrison Township (HAR), Juniata Township (JAR), Londonberry Township (LON), Mann Township (MANN), Monroe Township (MON), Southampton Township (SH), State Game Lands #104, near Hyndman (SGL104), Swe7et Root Picnic Area (SRPA), West Providence Township (WEST)

The following report was submitted by: Daniel Snell, PO Box 653, Shippensburg, PA 17257, (717) 530-8313 dan_snell@hotmail.com

Northern Bobwhite: 6/7 Town Creek Rd, SH. **Black Vulture**: 6/7 pair above Chaneyville Elementary, SR326, SH; 6/29 one flyover just north of Hyndman, LON; 7/14 Carribean Rd., MON. **Bald Eagle**: 7/14 adult above the Miller Rd, SR2010 intersection, MON (I was watching 5 **Red-tailed hawks** and 2 **Turkey Vultures** at the time).

Northern Harrier: 6/11 adult male on Glade Pike Rd., HAR. **Sharp-shinned Hawk**: 6/7 with **Black Vultures** above Chaneyville Elem, SH. **Cooper's Hawk**: 6/10 pair along Martin Hill Rd COL; 6/29 above Mulligans Cove Rd, HAR; 6/29 two brown-bodied immatures in same hemlock tree flushed when I went to get a better look at two **Louisiana Waterthrushes**. Amazingly the hawks were sitting directly above the stream, within 25 feet of the waterthrushes. **Red-shouldered Hawk**: 6/28 vocal pair near Beans Cove Rd/ Albany Rd intersection, SH; 6/29 SGL104; 7/14 pair vocalizing on SR2007, MON. **Broad-winged Hawk**: many locations in Jun and Jul. **American Kestrel**: 6/11 fledgling along Orchard Hollow Rd HAR; 6/12 fledgling along Valley Rd west of Rainsburg, COL.

Northern Saw-whet Owl: 6/8 calling along Lake Gordon perimeter, CV. **Red-headed Woodpecker**: 6/12 walnut grove along Centennial Rd, COL; 6/28 called during a rain downpour along Bear Gap Rd, just north of Bean's Cove, CV. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**: 6/10 Martin Hill Rd vista area, COL. **Black-billed Cuckoo**: 6/11 SR3019, 6/15 Mtn Rd just west of Artemas, MANN.

Willow Flycatcher: many locations in Jun and Jul. **Least Flycatcher**: 6/7 Town Creek Rd SH; 6/8 Narrow Lane along Evitts Creek Basin, CV; 6/11 SR3019; 6/29 Tariwater Rd, LON; 6/29 Pine Pitch Rd, LON; 7/14 Miller Rd MON. **White-eyed Vireo**: 6/12 Koontzville Rd, COL; 6/20 Elk Lick Rd MON; 6/26 Teaberry Rd, CV; 6/29 three singing birds along Mulligans Cove Rd, HAR; 7/10 SR2011, WEST. **Blue-headed Vireo**: 6/8 Evitts Creek Rd, CV; 6/10 Martin Hill Rd, COL; 6/11 Fleming Hill Rd, JUN; 6/28 at the Beans Cove Church, CV, singing from five large conifer specimen trees—I consider this bird a migrant; 6/29 Mulligans Cove Rd, LON; 7/14 Pine Ridge Rd, MON; 7/14 carrying nesting material along Kinser Ridge Rd, MON. **Purple Martin**: 7/10 at least twelve near farm pond along SR2018, WEST; 7/10 one flyover at Sollenberger Rd, WEST. **Cliff Swallow**: 6/7 nest building at Blues Gap Rd, SH; 6/11 SR31 and Fleming Hill Rd intersection, JUN; 6/12 Centennial Rd, COL; 7/10 on nest at Wilkins Rd and SR2016 intersection, WEST. **Veery**: 6/8 SR3009 at Lake Gordon, CV.

Golden-winged Warbler: 6/12 singing birds at SR3013 and

Centennial Rd intersection, COL; 7/14 Mearkle Rd, MON. **Northern Parula**: 6/7 at least 4 counter-singing males at SRPA, many other locations in county. **Chestnut-sided Warbler**: 6/7 SR326 near Maryland border, SH; 6/29 Tariwater Rd, LON; 6/29 in SGL104. **Black-throated Blue Warbler**: 6/26 heard along BusRt 220 just north of BS. **Blackburnian Warbler**: 6/7 at least 3 males at SRPA; 6/10 two territorial males at Blankley Picnic Area; 6/10 five counter-singers on Martin Hill Rd, COL. **Pine Warbler**: 6/15 Bennett Rd, MANN; 6/15 Creek Rd, MANN; 6/20 SR2012; MON, 6/20 at least 6 singing birds along Jess Rd (best population density I witnessed), MANN. **Prairie Warbler**: seven sightings in Jun and Jul. **Cerulean Warbler**: 6/8 Evitts Creek Rd, CV; 6/8 Narrow Lane along Evitts Creek Basin, CV; 6/8 Dark Hollow Rd, CV; 6/10, 10+ singing along Blankley Rd, CV and COL; 6/10 Martin Hill Rd, COL; 6/12 SR3013; 6/12 Centennial Rd, COL; 6/29 in SGL104. **Black-and-white Warbler**: 6/11 Robb Rd, JUN; 6/10 Blankley Rd near Evitts Mtn Trail intersection, CV; 6/12 SR326 south of Rainsburg (Buchanan SF), COL; 6/26 Teaberry Rd, CV. **Northern Waterthrush**: 6/8 Narrow Lane along Evitts Creek Basin CV. **Kentucky Warbler**: eight sightings in Jun and Jul. **Yellow-breasted Chat**: eight sightings in Jun and Jul.

Henslow's Sparrow: 6/11 one singing along Diehl Rd, HAR. **Dark-eyed Junco**: 6/10 Blankley Picnic Area; 6/10 two counter-singers Martin Hill Rd, COL; **Blue Grosbeak**: 6/7 male carrying food along SR326 near Maryland border, SH; 6/28 singing male along Bear Gap Rd, just north of Bean's Cove, CV; 7/10 SR2029 about 1/10 mile from PA Turnpike, WEST; 7/14 Ward Rd, MON.

Bobolink: 6/11 Diehl Rd, JUN; 6/11 SR3019, JUN; 6/11 a pair at SR3019 and Diehl Rd intersection, HAR; 6/11 Orchard Hollow Rd, HAR; 7/10 female along Sollenberger Rd, WEST. **Purple Finch**: 6/12 Valley Rd west of Rainsburg, one male utilizing residential white pine linear plantation, COL; 6/26 Teaberry Rd, CV.

Compiler: **Tom Dick**, 123 Hummer Lane, Cairnbrook, PA, 15924, (814) 754-5727, thomas102@aol.com, wetmeadow@aol.com

Berks County

Locations: Blue Marsh L. (BML), L. Ontelaunee (LO), State Game Lands #110 and #106 (SGL).

The privately owned Glen Morgan L. IBA, slated for residential development, has been closed even to the few local birders previously allowed access. Therefore, the breeding status of its aquatic birds such as **Ruddy Duck**, **Pied-billed Grebe**, **Least Bittern**, **Am. Coot** and **Common Moorhen** was unreported. A female **Common Merganser** with a large brood of ducklings was seen resting on rocks in Northkill Cr. above BML 6/13 by a PA Game Commission employee familiar with the sp. (*fide* JS). This is the second breeding record of this expanding species in Berks. A lone female **Common Merganser** was at LO 7/8 (MS). A **Common Loon** at LO 6/10 (MS) provided another of many summer records of non-breeders. An adult **Little Blue Heron** was at the farm pond on Old Rt. 22 east of Shartlesville 7/29 (MS).

Suburban Reading's **Black-crowned Night-Heron** colony was forced to move after new property owners built an addition onto the house and cut most of the Norway spruce nest trees. The birds moved to Norway spruces in the back yard of a home in nearby Wyomissing Hills, where 10-15 active nests were counted 6/16 (BU). The home owner, presently willing to live with the birds, reported the ground littered with eggshells about two weeks previously. The movement of these birds as they have been evicted from one place after another in these residential neighborhoods has been an interesting decades-long saga. Their fidelity to the area has been tenacious, to say the least. Birds presumably from this herony were seen at BML and LO through the period (JS,MS,MW).

Two **Black Vulture** nests monitored at French Cr. State Park fledged one and three young (RB). A **Broad-winged Hawk** nest near Fleetwood fledged three young in July (MW). Berks County's first nesting attempt by **Peregrine Falcons** ended in failure. According to Bill Uhrich of the *Reading Eagle*, "Although several people downtown reported seeing three **Peregrine Falcons**, these reports haven't been confirmed and it's still assumed that neither of the two young from the nesting atop the Madison Building in the 400 block of Washington St. survived. One of the nestlings was found dead on the roof June 27. The adult falcons have remained downtown through July."

The first fall migrant shorebirds, including 2 **Solitary Sandpipers**, 20 **Least Sandpipers** and a **Short-billed Dowitcher**, were seen at Lowland Rd., Hamburg 7/24 (MW). A **Barn Owl** box in Rehrersburg fledged two young (banded) and a box in a silo near Daniel Boone Homestead fledged three young (RB). Nests in Perry Twp. and Bally were abandoned before eggs hatched (RB). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was at its nest hole near Shoemakersville 7/28 (MW). A **Brown Creeper**, a local breeder, was heard singing on the Boone Trail in French Cr. State Park in June as last year (RK).

A late migrating **Magnolia Warbler** was near Leesport 6/3 (DK). A **Cerulean Warbler**, irregular except in the Hay Cr. valley, was singing south of Hawk Mt. Sanctuary on two visits in June (RB). Not far away, a **Kentucky Warbler**, another uncommon nester, was on territory at SGL 106 on 6/16 (TC). Recent clearcutting at SGL 106 provided much new

habitat for **Prairie Warbler**, **Yellow-breasted Chat** and other early successional breeders (TC). **Blue Grosbeak**, still an irregular breeder, was found in at least one atlas block in northern Berks (KG).

Observers: **Rudy Keller, 71 Lutz Rd., Boyertown, PA 19512, (610) 845-7310, rkeller@dejazzd.com**, Rich Bonnett, Tom Clauser, Kerry Grim, Dean Kendall, Joan Silagy, Matt Spence, Bill Uhrich, Matt Wlasniewski.

Blair County

No Report. No Compiler.

Bradford County

Locations: Compiler's farm near New Era (FNE), reclaimed strip mines on Long Valley Rd., Barclay Mt. (LVBM).

Atlas blocks referenced include:

37A46-NW Smithfield Twp., 37A51-Wilawana, 37A52-Sayre, 37A53-Western Athens Twp., 37A54-Green's Landing, 37A56-Milan, 37A61-Sayre Hill, 37A63-Orange Hill, 37A72-Windham, 37A74-Tyrell
37B54-Saco, 37B56-Overshot, 37B63-Hornbrook, 37B64-Lake Wysauking, 37B66-Wysox, 37B75-Mercur, 37B76-Herrick
37C45-Sunfish Pond, 37C46-Carbon Run/Laquin, 37C51-Northwest of Franklindale, 37C53-North central Barclay Mt., 37C54-Weston, 37C55-Central Barclay Mt., 37C56-Millstone Rd., 37C61-Monroeton, 37C62-Uhdey, 37C65-Kellogg Mt., 37C66-Robwood Mt., 37C72-Lime Hill, 37C73-Spring Lake, 37C75-New Era
37D52-Junks Pond, 37D71-South Terry Twp.

The Breeding Bird Atlas has increased the level of bird observations in the county to epic proportions! Because of this, a number of species I would previously have thought were scarce here turned out to be relatively widespread. Because of the volume of sightings this summer, I have not tracked down the location of every observation: in many cases, I've simply noted the Breeding Bird Atlas block the bird was found in. Also, Marty Bork (MBo) was accompanied by John and Marilyn Palmer on much of his atlasing. Since it would be difficult to distinguish between his solo trips and those which the Palmers participated in, I'm simply listing his observations as MBo.

A **Common Merganser** was confirmed breeding (by distraction display) on 6/20 in 37A52 and one seen 6/22 in 37A54, both (MBo). A **Ring-necked Pheasant** was observed 6/26 in 37C61 (BF). Extremely unusual during the breeding season, there was an **American Bittern** on 7/15 near Bentley Creek (TL).

There were many sightings of **Green Herons**: 6/7 in 37A52 & 6/17 in 37A61 both (MBo); 6/18 in 37D71, 6/22 at FNE, 6/26 in 37C54, (all TG); 6/30 at Sayre along the Chemung River (BM, KM, RM). Two **Great Blue Heron** colonies were located: one 6/16 near Burlington (RY) and one 6/26 in 37A51 (MBo). Among various sightings of **Bald Eagles** were 5 at an island in the Susquehanna River off Sugar Run on 7/20 (DB, MBu). On 6/20 a male **Northern Harrier** was attacking an immature Red-tailed Hawk at the LVBM, on 6/28 a female was seen at Mud Pond on Barclay Mt. both (TG). On 6/30 a **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was chasing a 4th year Bald Eagle up the Chemung River near Sayre (BM, KM, RM); one was seen 8/3 in 37A52 (CC, JC). **Red-shouldered Hawks** were observed 6/3 at Woods Rd. (CM, GM) and 6/20 near LVBM (TG). On 6/28 a **Broad-winged Hawk** was on nest near Troy (RY).

A **Virginia Rail**, the only one in recent years, was heard near Dug Rd. on 7/2 (BF). The county's **Sandhill Cranes** continue to be seen (but without any young as yet): 2 on 7/3 and 2 on 7/12 near Hollenbach (CM, GM). An **American Woodcock** was near the LVBM on 6/20 (TG). On 6/21 a recently fledged **Spotted Sandpiper** was confirmed breeding in 37A56 (MBo). **Ring-billed Gulls** were seen during the breeding period on 6/4 in 37A54 and 6/8 in 37A51 (MBo); and along the Chemung River at Sayre on 6/30 (BM, KM, RM). Although there were a number of **Yellow-billed Cuckoos**, the only **Black-billed Cuckoo** of the summer was in 37A54 on 6/27 (RS). On 6/18, two **Eastern Screech-Owls** were vocalizing near the Foster Branch of the Sugar Run Creek (TG). On 6/14 a **Northern Saw-whet Owl** sang in response to protocol CD playing on Barclay Mt. (TG).

Not heard in the county since the first atlas, there were a number of observations of **Acadian flycatchers**: 6/11 at Pine Valley Rd (BF), 2 on 6/12 in 37C56, 3 on 6/13 in 37C56 and 2 on 6/14 in 37C65 all (TG); 6/29 Kellogg Mt. and 6/30 Deep Hollow Rd. (BM, KM, RM). **Willow Flycatcher** observations include breeding confirmation 6/12 in 37A53, probable 6/17 in 37A61 both (MBo); 6/13 in 37A63 (WF); 7/13 in 37A74 (LB). Proving not to be as unusual as previously thought, there were many sightings of the **Yellow-throated Vireo**: 6/6 in 37C65 (TG); 6/7 confirmed in 37A52, probable 6/13 in 37A63, 6/17 in 37A61, 6/22 in 37A54, all (MBo); 6/4 & 6/12 in 37B56, 6/15 in 37B75, 6/29 in 37B76, all (BF); 6/21 at Peck Hill (AV, GV). **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were observed 6/25 in 37B63 (RS); nesting 6/4 in 37A54, a pair on 6/19 in 37A56 both (MBo); and 6/14 in 37C72 (BF). **Bank Swallow** sightings include recently fledged 6/17 in 37A61, 6/21 in 37A52, 6/22 in 37A54, and nesting 6/21 in 37A56, all (MBo). **Cliff Swallows** were nesting on 6/4 in 37A54, and on 6/21 a recently fledged one was in 37A56, both (MBo).

On 6/30 a **Common Raven** was feeding suet to a noisy fledgling at Junks Pond Rd.. SGL 36 (BM, KM, RM). A **Brown Creeper** was heard 6/12 in 37C56 and two on 6/12 in 37C55 (TG); 6/11 in 37B56 (EM); 6/26 a territorial bird in 37A51 (MBo). **Winter Wrens** were heard 6/12 & 6/13 in 37C56, and 7/17 in 37C55, all (TG). There were eight sightings of **Northern Mockingbirds**, another bird previously thought to be quite unusual. Among sightings of this species were reports on 6/2 in 37B56 (BF), 6/8 a territorial bird in 37A51 (MBo), and 7/1 in 37A72 (LB).

Warbler observations included some very unusual finds for this county, and large numbers of sightings of species previously considered rare in the area. There were five **Blue-winged Warbler** observations, including 6/6 in 37B66 (BF), a territorial bird 6/7 in 37A52 (MBo), 6/13 in 37C62 (WF), and 7/1 in 37A72 (LB). Providing the first that I'm aware of, a **Northern Parula** was heard on 6/2 singing in the woods along the roadside in 37C66 (WF). **Magnolia Warblers** were observed 6/20 in 37C53 and a territorial bird 6/22 in 37C75, both (TG); also territorial 6/11 in 37B56 (EM). **Black-throated Blue Warblers** are present in fairly large numbers in areas of extensive woods, usually at the higher elevations: I had 9 sightings in June, many probable breeders, mostly in the Barclay Mt. area, such as 6/20 in 37C45, and one at a lower elevation on 6/1 (a probable breeder) in SGL142 near Wilmot (TG); others included sightings 6/2 in 37C66 (WF), 6/11 in 37B56 (EM), a territorial bird in 37A61 on 6/15 (MBo), 6/30 in 37D52 (BM, KM, RM), 7/2 in 37A46 (BF). **Blackburnian Warbler** sightings include 6/11 in 37B56 (EM), 6/12 in 37B56 (BF), confirmed breeding 6/19 in 37A56 (MBo), 6/30 Junks Pond Rd., SGL 36 (BM, KM, RM). Probably unknown here until now, a **Worm-eating Warbler** was singing 7/2 in 37A46 (BF). Quieter in June, but still singing at times, 3 **Louisiana Waterthrushes** were heard 6/6 at Satterlee Run and an agitated single 6/19 on the Millstone Creek, both (TG). Another warbler not previously recorded in the county during the breeding season in recent years was a **Mourning Warbler**, heard singing in Laquin 6/7 and 6/13 (thus a probable breeder) (TG). There were three observations of **Hooded Warblers**: singing 6/2 in 37B56 (BF), 6/11 in 37B56 (BF), and carrying food for young 6/23 on Armenia Mt. (RY). **Canada Warblers** were singing at higher elevations: an agitated bird 6/20 at a swamp near the top of Falls Creek, two on 6/23 near Cash Pond, two on 6/24 near Klondike Swamp, all (TG).

Becoming quite unusual in recent years, there were two observations of **Grasshopper Sparrows**: 7/10 in 37C51 and 7/6 in 37B64, both (BF). The only **Henslow's Sparrow** was singing in a large field at FNE 7/9 and 7/17 (thus a probable breeder) and continuing into August (TG). **Swamp Sparrows** were seen in a variety of locations: a territorial bird on 6/18 at a swamp on SGL 142, a territorial one also at Swamp Poodle 7/16, and carrying food for young at Klondike Swamp on 6/24, all (TG). A **White-throated Sparrow** was singing at Mud Pond on Barclay Mt. on 6/28 (TG). The only **Orchard Oriole** reported was in 37C72 on 6/14 (BF). A territorial **Purple Finch** was in 37A61 on 6/9 (MBo), and a pair was at Deep Hollow Rd. on 7/1 (BM, KM, RM).

Observers: **Trudy Gerlach, RR2, Box 228, Wyalusing, PA 18853, (570) 746-9270, tgswoods@epix.net**, Lois Bingley, Marty Borko (MBo), David Buck, Melody Buck (MBu), Carol Camp, Jack Camp, Bob Fowles, Trudy Gerlach, Will Faux, Tony Liguori, Evan Mann, Ben Miller, Charlene Miller, George Miller, Kate Miller, Randy Miller, John Palmer, Marilyn Palmer, Richard Shelling, Anne Vivino-Hintze, George Vivino-Hintze, Ronald C. Young.

Bucks County

Locations: Churchville Park (CVP), Mudd Island (MUI), Peace Valley Park (PVP), Rohm and Haas, Bristol (RHS), Tullytown (TYT), Warminster Community Park (WCP).

A total of 113 species was reported on the breeding bird chart submitted with this report. Of these, 82 were confirmed, 21 were tagged as probable, and 10 were indicated as possible. Weather was rather benign with regard to impact on the breeding season. No surprises resulting from the Breeding Bird Atlas work were reported to this compiler. Water levels in lakes remained high, preventing good early shorebird habitat. As usual, historical references are from *Birds of Bucks County* by Ken Kitson 1998 and subsequent updates recorded in this journal. Weather statistics are from NOAA at Trenton, NJ.

A **Great Blue Heron** reduced a late Jul **Wood Duck** brood by one, when it snatched one at PVP and, after some dunking, swallowed it (AM). A drake **Green-winged Teal** 6/14 (JT) near Doylestown was one of several unexpected waterfowl reported this season. In that category, a female **Hooded Merganser** remained at PVP through the period until at least 7/20 but was suspected of being injured (AM). A **Common Merganser**, though expected, was noteworthy for the 25 young it had in tow on the Delaware R. at Point Pleasant 6/14 (TF). After early Jun stragglers leave, **Ruddy Duck** is not expected here, but recent reports indicate they may be more regular than previously thought. A female **Ruddy Duck** was at Lake Caroline 6/4, a male joined it the next day, and both lingered until 6/10 (BK). Another was at PVP 6/6-6/16 (AM), and one molting female was at WCP 6/28-7/8 (GJ,RF). A late alternate plumaged **Common Loon** was at Yardley 6/10 (BK). More expected were one year

old individuals, which included one bird at PVP 6/10-6/16 (AM) and 2 at The Penn-Warner Tract, Falls Township 6/30-7/1 (DFa). There were 9 young **Pied-billed Grebes** in at least 3 family groups at US Steel, Falls Twp. 6/30 (DFa). This is the 2nd year in a row that nesting was confirmed there. One at Pine Run Dam 6/7 (MHo), another at CVP 6/23 (BK), and one at PVP 7/2 (AM) were more difficult to categorize. A male and 3 female **Northern Bobwhite** were heard and seen throughout the period in Buckingham Twp. (MR), and the species was also reported from Tinicum Twp. (DFa,DA). The fact that they survived for an extended period is noteworthy since they are assumed to be released birds.

A count of 74 **Double-crested Cormorants** 6/25 on the Delaware River at Morrisville is a noteworthy tally for that date (BK). **Least Bittern** was reported calling on multiple dates at Quakertown Swamp from 6/2-6/15 (MT,BE,AM) indicating probable nesting. Another was at RHS 7/1 (DFa), where one was also seen in May. A new **Great Blue Heron** colony was reported from Springfield Twp. (BE) but details are not available at this time. A **Great Egret** was reported at CVP 6/2 (GJ). The next report was also from there on 6/23 (fide BK). The highest count reported for this species among the many normal reports of post breeding wanderers was 6 at RHS 7/8 (DFa). A **Snowy Egret** was at MUI 7/21-7/29 (DFa). Two juv. **Little Blue Herons** were found at Washington Crossing 7/31 (BK). **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was reported throughout Jun at CVP (BK) producing some hope that they may nest nearby. Three at Silver Lake Park 6/19 led the observer to classify the sight as a possible breeding site (BK). One sub-adult bird on 6/24 (DFa) was followed by one to 3 juv. birds that remained at PVP throughout Jul (FG,AM). A juv. **Plegadis Ibis**, probably a **Glossy Ibis**, was found at Pine Run Dam 7/12 and remained for an unusually extended stay until at least 7/20 (AM,JMi).

A count of 20 **Black Vultures** and 200 **Turkey Vultures** 7/13 at TYT must indicate their appreciation of the landfill buffet our wastefulness provides (CV). Progress of a **Turkey Vulture** nest was well documented with photos at Maple Knoll Farms, Buckingham Twp. (HS), where two nests were discovered. A **Northern Harrier** at RHS 7/23 (DFa) was our earliest ever fall migrant, assuming that it was a migrant. **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was reported from several locations during the period and was indicated as a confirmed breeder in Tinicum Twp. (DA). Several **Cooper's Hawk** nests were reported, which is now expected (m. obs.). **American Kestrels** again used boxes at PVP and one at nearby New Britain Twp. (AM). The PVP male was seen carrying snakes to the female on multiple occasions (RH,AM). The turnpike bridge **Peregrine Falcon** pair raised 3 young, but only 2 successfully fledged (LR).

Two adult **Virginia Rails** with small young were seen at Quakertown Swamp 6/15 (AM,HE) confirming breeding there. The pair of **Sora** continued from spring at Warwick Twp. until at least 6/22 (CW). The **Common Moorhen** breeding site found last year at US Steel, Falls Twp., produced 4 young observed 7/1 (DFa), providing the second known breeding in *Bucks* in 50 years. An **American Coot** at Lake Caroline 6/3 (BK) tied our latest spring date established last year.

Five northbound **Semipalmated Plovers** were still at Bradford Dam 6/2 (AM). A **Solitary Sandpiper** 7/8 at RHS marked the beginning of the fall shorebird migration and established a new fall early arrival date (DFa). A relatively rare **Sanderling** was at MUI 7/14, with 3 more there 7/29 (DFa). The 7/14 sighting establishes a new fall early arrival date. A **Semipalmated Sandpiper** lingered at Bradford Dam until 6/2 for the last spring migrant report (AM). Two **Least Sandpipers** 7/12 at RHS were the first of their kind to be tallied going south. The first southbound **Lesser Yellowlegs** was reported 7/14 at MUI (DFa). A **Spotted Sandpiper** displaying to a potential mate at Bradford Dam 6/2 (GJ), and a bird repeatedly flying to a probable nest site in late Jun and early Jul in Warminster Twp. (AM,JMi), were good indications of probable breeding. The species was confirmed breeding in Quakertown (BE). Two **Pectoral Sandpipers** were noted 7/31 in Newtown (BK) for the first fall report.

Interest in gulls wanes but is not completely ignored during this season due to the five species of gulls that are present all summer at the landfill at TYT. Several juv. **Ring-billed Gulls** had already arrived at TYT 7/4 (TJ), presumably traveling from distant nesting areas. **Great Black-backed Gull** numbered 100 at Morrisville 6/25 (BK) where they are abundant in winter. A first summer **Iceland Gull** was reported at TYT 7/4 and 7/17 (TJ,ABr) for apparently our 1st ever report for this season. About 6 first and second year **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were noted at TYT throughout the season (TJ, DFa,CV). The first returning **Caspian Tern** was reported 7/29 at MUI (DFa). A **Common Tern** at The Penn-Warner Tract 6/30 (DFa) was unprecedented for that time period. A post-breeding **Forster's Tern** was first noted 7/14 at MUI (DFa), two were there 7/23, and one was at PVP 7/27 (AM). The 7/14 sighting provided a new early arrival date for this species.

Rare breeding-season **Common Nighthawks** were reported 6/22 from WCP (CW) but could not be found again. **Belted Kingfishers** were seen at a nest cavity in Doylestown Twp. (CL). Two adults and 2 juv. **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were found at our only known nest site at State Game Land #157 (BL). A bird seen briefly three times feeding at a hummingbird feeder in E. Rockhill Twp. was identified as a **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** (VM). This is unprecedented here for this season. A **Western Kingbird** seen briefly in Plumstead Twp. 6/2 takes honors for the best find of the season (BW). It represented only our 7th county report. There have been very few spring reports in the state, but this date is consistent with

other state records. The **Purple Martin** colony in Upper Makefield Twp. had only 17 pairs, which is average for the past three years, but low compared to the longer term (JMa). A **Tree Swallow** was found sitting on eggs in late Jun and early Jul in a box that already had fledged young. This was noteworthy both for the late date and the possibility of a 2nd nesting, which is apparently very rare (RH). Of course, it could also have been a different female who had a failed nest and relocated to a new site. Last year's apparent breeding of **Red-breasted Nuthatch** in Tinicum Twp., following a large winter invasion, was not repeated this year. After a near absence of this species this past winter, a cluster of 4 reports was unprecedented for the season. Individuals were at Northampton Twp. 6/18-6/25 (ABi), about 0.5 miles away near Langhorne 7/1 (BK), at CVP 6/30 (BL), and at Solebury Twp. 6/29 (DFa). **Brown Creeper** was again believed to be nesting in Upper Makefield Twp., where a pair was located 6/2-6/6 (BK). Buckingham Wetlands is becoming a good site to see **Marsh Wren**. One was again reported there 6/22 (RH).

Chestnut-sided Warbler, **Yellow-throated Warbler**, **Cerulean Warbler**, **Kentucky Warbler**, **Prothonotary Warbler**, and **Yellow-breasted Chat** were not reported for this breeding season, which continues the recent decline or absence of these as local breeders. A **Worm-eating Warbler** met an untimely death when it hit a window in Buckingham Twp. 6/30, where it is not expected in Jun (MHa). WCP and the adjacent industrial park continue to be a good site for **Savannah Sparrow** and **Grasshopper Sparrow** (GJ). A fledgling **Grasshopper Sparrow** was seen there 7/19 (GJ). **White-throated Sparrow**, with a possible drooping wing, was in Levittown most of Jun and last seen 6/25 (GC). **Blue Grosbeak** was nesting at Maple Knoll Farms (RS), The Penn-Warner Tract (DFa), and in Solebury Twp. (DFa) where they were seen multiple times through the period. Single sightings came from Lower Makefield Community Park 6/1 (BK) and New Britain Twp. 7/2 (AM). **Eastern Meadowlark** was confirmed as a breeder again at Pine Run Dam (SK) in spite of continued aggressive mowing by the county.

Exotics: A **Whooper Swan** at Nockamixon State Park 7/14 was undoubtedly one of the released birds that have been frequenting the area for the last few years. Since only one was reported, possibly the second has died. A **Chukar** appeared in Northampton Twp. 6/29 (ABi). A **European Goldfinch** stopped briefly in Warrington Twp. 6/6 (RF). This is at least the 3rd site in two years for this species, which indicates an unknown source of released birds.

Observers: **August Mirabella, 1443 Wheaton Lane, North Wales, PA, 19454, (215) 368-0594, augustinmirabella@aol.com**, Diane Allison, Alana Balogh (ABa), Adrian Binns (ABi), Alan Brady (ABr), George Carmichael, Gerry Dewaghe, Howard Eskin, Bill Etter, Devich Farbotnik (DFa), Doug Filler (DFi), Ron French, Fred Gagnon, Marya Halderman (MHa), Ray Hendrick, Mike Homel (MHo), Thomas Ford-Hutchinson, Gail Johnson, Thomas Johnson, Bill Keim, Sandra Keller, Ken Kitson, Butch Lishman, Cindy Long, Vicky Mahmoud, Joe Majdan (JMa), Judy Mirabella (JMi), Linda Rowan, Margie Rutbell, Cameron Rutt, Richard Smith, Vicky Smith, Hannah Smith, Mike Tanis, John Tramontano, Carla Veltrup, Chris Walsh, "Babe" Webster.

Butler County

No Report.

Gene Wilhelm, 513 Kelly Blvd., Slippery Rock, PA, 16057, (724) 794-2434, genewilhelm@aol.com

Cambria County

Locations: Barnesboro Area (BAR), Chest Springs Area (CP), Patton Area (PT), Prince Gallitzin St. Park (PG).

Great Blue Herons continue to nest in the same area near the *Cambria-Clearfield* border. The small colony started out with four nests, but an April windstorm knocked a tree down which contained two nests. Hopefully the birds were able to nest elsewhere. The two remaining nests produced young. We list **Ospreys** as possible since we see birds throughout the breeding season, but with no known nesting we have started a hacking program at PG. Twelve young **Ospreys** were obtained from Maryland and 11 were successfully fledged. One developed a wing problem and had to be put down. While we continued to feed the young birds after they left the platform, a wild bird showed up and took fish left out for the hacked youngsters. All our birds were double banded, and this bird had none. **American Kestrels** seem to be doing well as most suitable areas have confirmed nesting.

Virginia Rails are nesting at PG (JS). A **Spotted Sandpiper** with two downy chicks was seen on 6/10 at BAR (DG). Two pairs of **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were probable in the PT area (DG). **Winter Wren** was seen at CP (RB). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was seen during Jun at BAR (DG), but no nesting was observed. **Dark-eyed Juncos** are nesting in several areas. Our third summer record of a **Blue Grosbeak** was found at CP (RB). **Orchard Orioles** continue to be found in new areas. Whether this is result of the atlas and us covering more ground, or an actual increase in our breeding birds, is not known.

Observers: **Dave Gobert 287 Beech RD. Patton, Pa.16668, (814) 674-8359, djgobert@verizon.net**, Rory Bower, John Salvetti.

Cameron County

No Report. No Compiler.

Carbon County

No Report.

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

Centre County

Locations: Aaronsburg, Bald Eagle State Park (BESP), Boalsburg, Breeding Bird Atlas Blocks: 48C25, 48D13, 48D26, 48D33, 48D35, 61B62, 61B72, 61B73, 61B75, 62A11, 62A15, 62A26, 62A41, 62A43, 62B11, 62B25, 62B32, 63B42, 62B43, 62B45, German Settlement reclaimed grasslands, Howard, Lingle Road, Middle Road, Park Forest Village, State College, Penn State (PSU), PSU Beaver Stadium, PSU White Golf Course, Wetlands west of Julian adjacent to Rte. 220 (JWET).

More information about some of these locations is available at <www.scbirdcl.org>. Almost all of the species information comes from postings to the State College Bird Club listserv (scbirdcl@lists.psu.edu) and 2007 Breeding Bird Atlas (BBA) data. The summer Breeding Table was constructed from 2007 BBA data. The 2007 BBA data entered from 2/1 through 8/15 recorded 18 possible, 33 probable, and 83 confirmed species for a total of 134 species in *Centre*.

An adult **Pied-billed Grebe** with four half-grown young were seen about a month after the last one was heard at JWET 6/15 (AW); three nearly full-sized but still downy young were seen there 7/1 (AW). A **Green Heron** and a **Great Egret** were both present at JWET 7/26 (GG).

Two **Cooper's Hawk** chicks were seen in a nest in Park Forest Village, State College 7/1 (DAB). An adult **Cooper's Hawk** flew into a pine tree near the area of tee #18 of the PSU White Golf Course carrying a nice sized snack in its talons; a few calls summoned first one, then two, then a third, and finally a fourth immature **Cooper's Hawk** from all directions, each hoping to get a share 7/24 (JL).

A **Sora** was heard calling at JWET 6/15 (AW). A **Spotted Sandpiper** was seen in the same location where it had been seen during the spring in 62B11 on 6/20 (AW).

A **Long-eared Owl** with five young was discovered in 61B62 7/21 (MB). A **Barred Owl** was found in 48D26 on 6/11, and in 48D35 on 6/12 (NK).

A **Common Nighthawk** was seen over a well-lit parking lot in a small shopping center in 62A26 on 6/6 (RM), and one was seen at PSU Beaver Stadium at 11:40 a.m. 6/28 (AW). An adult **Red-headed Woodpecker** was seen overhead in 48C25 on 5/31 (GG), and a pair was seen along the south end of Bartges Rd. near Aaronsburg 6/27 (NK). A male **Alder Flycatcher** was heard singing during two different visits to a location in 62A43 on 6/14 (RF). An **Acadian Flycatcher** was found along Lingle Rd. in 63B42 on 6/18 (RF, NAB, DG). A **Winter Wren** was observed near Lingle Rd. 63B42 6/18 (RF, NAB, DG). A male **Yellow-throated Vireo** was heard on the edge of a patch of forest with extensive gypsy moth damage in 61B73 on 6/8 (AW). A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** visited a feeder in 62A11 on 6/15 (JD for MS). In Howard on 6/20, a **White-breasted Nuthatch** attempted to distract the observer from photographing its young by flying to a branch above and feigning injury (BS).

A **Blue-winged Warbler** was heard calling in an open area in 61B75 on 6/8 (MB). Three counter-singing male **Cerulean Warblers** were seen in an area virtually defoliated by moth caterpillars in 61B72 on 6/21 (AW). A **Pine Warbler** was seen in a medium-sized deciduous tree in 62A11 in 7/14 (JD), and one was heard singing in a pine tree over a stream in 62B25 6/21 (JD). A male **Northern Waterthrush** was seen in 62B45 on 6/27 (DB).

A **Grasshopper Sparrow** was observed in 62A41 6/9 (RF), and one was seen carrying food at the German Settlement reclaimed grasslands in 48D13 on 6/14 (GG). A **Vesper Sparrow** was seen in 62B43 on 6/5 (RF). A **Song Sparrow** pair that had been visiting feeders brought along their "offspring", a hungry, pushy **Brown-headed Cowbird** chick, in Howard 7/15 (BS).

A male **Bobolink** was observed sitting on a fence post in 62A41 on 6/14 (RF). The 2nd PA Atlas project resulted in several sightings of **Orchard Orioles**, which generally aren't often reported in *Centre*: a female **Orchard Oriole** in 62B43 on 6/21 (DB), a male on Middle Road in 62B32 on 6/2 (RF), a male seen feeding what appeared to be a juvenile in an apple tree at a home in Boalsburg 6/22 (RF for KO), one in 61B75 on 6/8 (MB), one singing along the edge of the lake at BESP 6/22 (GG), one carrying food in 48D33 on 6/25/07 (NK), and a singing male heard on three occasions 5/14-6/20 in 62B11 (AW). A **Purple Finch** pair was observed together in a wooded area in 62A15 6/16 (SW).

Observers: **Bob Fowles (BF), P.O. Box 266, Pine Grove Mills, PA 16868, (814) 238-1990, rbf@psu.edu**, Dorothy Bordner (DB), Margaret Brittingham, Don Bryant (DAB), Nan Butkovitch (NAB), Jim Dunn, Roana Fuller, Greg Grove, Delia Guzman, Nick Kerlin, Jennifer Lee, Roger

Munnell, Katie Ombalski, Mary Shoemaker, Bob Snyder, Andy Wilson, Suzanne Wrye.

Chester County

Locations: Bucktoe Creek Tract (BTCK), Chamber's Lake (CHLA), Church Farm School (CHFS), Kurtz's Fish Hatchery (KFH), Marsh Creek State Park (MCSP), Valley Forge National Park (VFNP).

The Summer Season was hot and dry with several consecutive days above 90 degrees. Consequently, there was very little available shorebird habitat for returning migrants. There was one new addition to the county's list of Breeding Birds, with the discovery of a family of **Common Mergansers**. For the 26th consecutive season, the West Chester Bird Club held its annual Breeding Bird Count 6/10, covering the same area used for the Christmas Bird Count. Eighty-eight species were recorded this year.

Wood Ducks had a very successful nesting with numerous families noted at CHFS, KFH, and VFNP (m.obs). A male **Hooded Merganser** was present at CHLA 6/24 (RR). This might have been the same bird that summered here in 2006. A family of 15 **Common Mergansers** was observed on the Schuylkill R. in VFNP (ph. RW). This apparently is a first county breeding record.

Non-breeding **Double-crested Cormorants** were noted at CHFS 6/10 (NP); CHLA (RR); VFNP (EW, RW). An immature **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was at MCSP 6/8 (JM).

During most of June there were multiple sightings of **Glossy Ibis** in southern *Chester*, especially in the New Garden area. All reports, with numbers as high as 10, were of birds seen in flight. The birds were always noted either in the early morning or in the evening, which created speculation that they were being observed as they headed out and returned from a favored feeding location. The roosting or feeding locations were never discovered, but again, speculation revolved around the possibility that the birds originated from the rookery on Pea Patch Is. *New Castle, DE*, and the feeding location was somewhere in southern *Lancaster*. According to JS, he has noted these movements for several years in that portion of the county. Hopefully, with further study we will be able to discover both the origin and favored feeding area for this species. Thanks to TA, MD, and JS for their on-going reports.

One of the best finds of the season was a sub-adult **Mississippi Kite** observed circling over MCSP 6/7 (LL). There were no further reports. This was the 3rd county record. Migrant **Least Sandpipers** were noted in East Brandywine Twp. 7/23 (NP) and Goshenview Farms, West Goshen Twp. 7/29-7/30 (NP).

Eurasian Collared-Doves were again found in Coatesville, but nesting could not be confirmed (LL, et al.). It was a very good season for **Yellow-billed Cuckoos**, with multiple reports throughout the county. **Black-billed Cuckoos** were found in Glenmoore 6/9 (BB) and CHLA 6/24 (RR). A nice find was a **Red-headed Woodpecker** in Spring City 6/2 (RK). There was no additional word regarding this rare county breeder. **Willow Flycatcher** numbers were up this season, with a single-observer high of 16 at CHFS 6/10 (NP), though **Great Crested Flycatchers** appeared to be on the low side. **Purple Martins** were in good numbers, occupying their apartment nests and gourds on the Amish Farms in Honeybrook Twp. (LM). **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** had a good nesting season at VFNP, where 50+ were seen daily (RW).

Good numbers of **Wood Thrush** were reported with a single-observer high of 14 at BTCK 7/4 (AU). **Cedar Waxwings** began arriving in late May, and by Jun there were double-digit reports from all over the county. Several pairs were found nest-building at CHFS 6/10 (NP).

A pair of **Cerulean Warblers** was noted nesting again along the Struble Trail (HM, et al.). A **Black and white Warbler** was heard along Old Valley Rd. 6/10 (NP) a location where this species has nested before. **Hooded Warblers** were found nesting at Hibernia Park (LW) and Templin Rd.(NP), and a male was found at Immaculata College 6/10 (NP), but nesting could not be confirmed. A hopeful sign were three reports of possible nesting **Yellow-breasted Chats**. They were found in Glenmoore 6/2 & 6/9 (BB), Church Farm School 6/10 (NP), and in Warwick Twp. 6/30 & 7/7 (BB). They were confirmed again in Elk Twp. (NP).

At least five **Grasshopper Sparrows** were heard this summer in Honeybrook Twp. (LW, MP). They were also noted at the King Ranch (DM, et al.). **Grasshopper Sparrows** were also confirmed at BTCK 7/27 when 3 adults and one juv were found (JS, et al.). In the same fields in Honeybrook Twp. where the **Grasshopper Sparrows** were found, several **Savannah Sparrows** were heard singing (LW). Always a nice find, there were three reports of **Blue Grosbeaks** this summer, all single birds and all males: CHFS 6/10 (NP), southern *Chester* 7/18 (MD), and Rustin High School campus 7/19 (NP, AG). The bird at CHFS bird may have been a returning individual; a pair was found in the same location in 2006, but after the "safe date" for this species.

Bobolink and **Eastern Meadowlark** numbers were holding steady at Stroud Preserve and the King Ranch area (m.obs). **Eastern Meadowlarks** were also probable nesters in Warwick Twp., where they were observed 6/9 & 6/17 (BB).

Observers: **Nick Pulcinella, 613 Howard Road, West Chester, PA**

19380, (610) 696-0687, nickpulcinella@verizon.net, Tom Amico, Barry Blust, Molly Daly, Al Guarente, Rick Keyser, Larry Lewis, John MacNamara, Laura Martin, Doris McGovern, Holly Merker, Martin Page, Rick Robinson, Joe Sebastiani, Andy Urquhart, Eleanor Wolf, Rick Wolf.

Clarion County

Locations: Cook Forest SP (CF), Clarion River (CR), Cullsville (CV), Foxburg (FO), Mt. Airy (MA), Mt. Zion (MZ), Rimersburg (RI), Sarah Furnace (SF), Shippenville (SV), Strattanville (ST).

A single female **Common Merganser** was seen on the CR 6/4, upstream from Piney Creek inlet. Several females were seen later in the season there, but breeding was not confirmed (CW). **Ruffed Grouse** seemed to be present in increased numbers this year, with breeding confirmed by observations of females with groups of young in various areas of the county (CW). **Northern Bobwhite** male and female were reported together, and heard calling at CV strips area through Jun (CW, GE, MW, RM).

Great Blue Herons were confirmed at a rookery of 10 nests along the north side of the CR between Deer Creek and Canoe Ripple (DF).

An unusual sighting, **Turkey Vultures** were listed as probable breeders near CV as a result of an observation of copulation (RW). **Bald Eagles** continue to be reported regularly along the CR and the Allegheny and Redbank Creek boundaries of the county, but no breeding confirmed (CW, LM, RM, PC, SC). At the new SGL 330 at MZ, **Northern Harrier** was confirmed through the discovery of an active nest with seven eggs (GS). A pair of **Broad-winged Hawks** nested and successfully fledged 3 young from a nest beside I-80, along a forested ridge top above the CR (CW). Territorial **Upland Sandpipers** were reported as usual at MA, as well as at MZ and CV (RM, MW). No Short-eared Owls were confirmed this year in Clarion, with only one known sighting at MZ within breeding dates (CW). A report of a **Barn Owl** near SV 7/16 would be wonderful news if confirmed. The bird reported was only heard, and no further sightings were reported (RMc).

Two unusual sightings of **Red-headed Woodpecker** were received within safe breeding dates, both qualifying for "possible" status. One was found in a wooded backyard near SV (MB) and the second in a yard near Fryburg (PC). **Willow Flycatchers** were found in usual numbers in the open field/stream areas of southern Clarion, but only one report of possible **Alder Flycatcher** at a marsh area outside of SV (CW). **White-eyed Vireo** are not as frequently reported, with only two probable sightings of countersinging males from southern areas of the county near RI and Turkey City (CW). **Blue-headed Vireos** were found during atling in some unexpected areas, including an adult carrying food near Clarion in deciduous woods with only widely scattered hemlock (CW). **Yellow-throated Vireos** continue to be found regularly on wooded hillsides along the Allegheny River near SF (CW). A new **Clarion Purple Martin** colony successfully fledged young this year near Nickleville. An established colony near Kossuth (WT, GE, MB) was also active this year. Near RI, an uncommon singing **Winter Wren** was present from 6/2 through the end of Jul at a steep hemlock hillside next to a stream (CW). At CF, a pair of **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were seen 7/12 (MW).

In what seems to be an unusual combination of habitats, **Hermit Thrush** were present and confirmed nesting in hemlock woods along the CR, just over the hill from MZ where many birders visit to see grassland species (CW). **Northern Mockingbirds** continue to be regular breeders in southern Clarion in old fields, farmland, and reclaimed mine areas.

Near FO this year, **Northern Parulas** were present and countersinging through Jun on wooded edges of town above the Allegheny River (CW, PC, SC, FW). One report of **Yellow-rumped Warbler**, a territorial male, came 6/22 at a small pine/spruce plantation near SV (CW). **Cerulean Warblers** continue in regular locations on wooded hillsides along the southern county border at the Allegheny River near East Brady and SF (CW). A family of at least 4 **Worm-eating Warblers** was seen together along Armstrong Trail in late Jul, and singing adults were also found near RI and FO (CW). A new location for **Kentucky Warbler** was found 6/2 near RI, in appropriate hillside habitat, and small but regular numbers continue to be found in previously known areas in the southern reaches of the county (CW). Two apparent **Yellow-breasted Chat** territories were observed at CV strips this season (CW, MW), as well as two new locations near RI including one with 3 territorial singing males present and visible at the same time 6/16 (CW).

Clay-colored Sparrows were found in a new area in Clarion, at a reclaimed strip mine near ST (RM), bringing the county's total to at least five areas with possible breeding birds. Five to six birds were present throughout the season at CV strips area (CW, GE, MW, RM). **Savannah Grasshopper**, and **Henslow's Sparrows** were all present at usual spots, but observed to be in lower numbers than usual (CW, LC, MW). **Swamp Sparrows** continue to be regularly present in marshy cattail areas in reclaimed strip mine territory, and were confirmed again near RI and outside of SV (CW). **Orchard Orioles** are most frequently reported for the southern part of the county, often in streamside willows, overgrown fields and brush near reclaimed strip mine areas, and farms, and were confirmed again near CV (PC). **Purple Finches** were reported as possible breeders only in CF this year, as were **Pine Siskin** (MW).

Observers: **Carole Willenpart, 800 Greencrest Dr, Apt. 22, Shippenville, PA 16254, (814) 226-5958, cwillenpart@libcom.com**, Margaret Buckwalter, Paulette Colantonio, Pat Conway, Susan Courson, Lewis Crowell, Gary Edwards, Deb Freed, Ray McGunigle, Ron Montgomery, Lisa Moore, Glenn Stauffer, Warren Thomas, Mike Weible, Richard Willenpart, Fran Williams.

Clearfield County

No Report. No Compiler.

Clinton County

No Report.

Wayne Laubscher, 749 E. Croak Hollow Rd., Lock Haven, PA, 17745, (570) 748-7511, wlaubsch@kcnet.org

Columbia County

No Report

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

Crawford County

Locations: Erie National Wildlife Refuge (ENWR), Conneaut Marsh (CM), Fish Hatchery (FH), Hartstown Marsh (HM), Pymatuning Goose Management Area (PGMA), Pymatuning Spillway (PS), Woodcock Lake (WL), Tamarock Lake (TL), Pittsburgh Paint Glass Plant (PPG), Shellito's Pond, Pymatuning (SP).

A pair of **Pied-billed Grebes** were seen at Custards 7/20 and single ones there 7/26 and at Geneva 7/30 (RFL RCL). I found an **American Bittern** 6/2 and 7/31, and one was well seen there 7/20 (RFL, RCL). A pair of **Least Bitterns** was calling at Geneva (RFL). Though **Great Blue Herons** were in their usual good numbers, **Green Heron** populations where the best in several years, with no less than 16 at GM 7/27 (RCL). Five **Sandhill Cranes** were located at PGMA 6/27 (IRF) and 7/1 (MV). Two cranes were seen along Pine Road, HM 6/5 (MB).

Wood Ducks were located at Custards and Geneva Marsh throughout the period, with counts from 30 to 40. An adult female and 6 young **Blue-winged Teal** were noted at SP 7/21 (RCL, RFL) and three **Green-winged Teal** were first noted at PGMA 7/1 (RFL, MV). There were 7 Hooded Mergansers at WL and 7 at the FH at Pymatuning 7/5 (RFL). Six **Ruddy Ducks** were spotted at PS 7/21 (RCL, RFL, MV).

Bald Eagles seem to be doing well. Several adults were recorded along with immatures at CM and Pymatuning. Single **Ospreys** were seen at Wilson's Shute on French Creek south of Meadville 7/26 (RCL), and a pair was at WL 7/22 (RCL, RFL). A lone **Northern Harrier** was seen at PGMA 7/22 (RFL, RCL). A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was seen at Hartstown Marsh 7/21 (RCL). One **Cooper's Hawk** was present near Custards along Rte. 285 on 6/23 (RFL). Lone **Red-shouldered Hawks** were found in this area 6/9-7/29, and a family group of 4 were monitored at Pymatuning Lake near Penn-Line 7/21 (RFL, RCL). Rails and **Moorhens** did rather poorly here this summer, at least in accessible areas, due to higher water levels during Jun and early Jul. Three **Virginia Rails** were found at Geneva 6/9 and one was found calling at TL Dam at the western outflow (RFL, RCL) 7/14.

The only report of **Black-bellied Plover** was of one at PGMA 7/24 (RCL). Two **Greater Yellowlegs** were seen at PGMA 7/14 (RFL, IF), and a total of 14 were tallied at WL, CM and PGMA 7/31 (RFL). One **Lesser Yellowlegs** was reported at FH 7/1 (MV) and 17 were totaled at area marshes 7/31 (RFL). A **Solitary Sandpiper** was noted at PGMA 7/21 (MV), and three were located at Geneva 7/31 (RFL). **Upland Sandpipers** were found at PGMA 6/6-7/1 (MO). **Least Sandpipers** made a good showing at PGMA, WL and CM 7/1-31 (MO). Single **White-rumped Sandpipers** showed up at PGMA 7/14 (RFL, IF) and 7/27 (RCL). Up to three **Pectoral Sandpipers** were noted at PGMA 7/21-31 (MV, RFL, RCL).

One to 3 **Bonaparte's Gulls** could be found at the PS from 7/5 to the end of Jul, a bird seldom noted that early at Pymatuning (MO). Three **Caspian Terns** were seen at PS 7/21, and 7 were there 7/27 (MO). Both species of **cuckoo** were present all summer (MO). A **Barred Owl** was heard at Saeger Hill near Meadville 7/20 and 7/27 (RFL). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was located alone Pine Road, HM 6/15 (MB).

A family group of 4 **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** (female and 3 young) was observed at McMichael Road, CM 7/24 (RCL, RFL). All the expected **swallows**, including **Purple Martin**, did well this summer, and **Cliff Swallows** peaked at the FH Visitor Center with about 20 present 7/21 (RFL). Three **Horned Larks** at PGMA 7/14 were a good find (IF). **Common Ravens**, rarely found in Crawford, were located at Bell Hill near Cochran 6/10 (RFL, RCL). A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was seen at PGMA 7/24 (RCL). From one to 6 **Marsh Wrens** were noted at Geneva 6/9-7/29 (RFL, RCL). **Wood Thrushes** seemed to be doing well in this area, with good numbers at Meadville, CM and Pymatuning (RFL). A **Winter Wren** was located at Pine Road, HM in Jul (MB).

The only report of **Northern Mockingbird** was of one at PGMA 6/10 (RCL, RFL). A **Nashville Warbler** was located at Towpath Road, CM 7/29 (CL, RFL). Two **Chestnut-sided Warblers** were seen at ENWF 6/30 (RFL, MO), and one was at HM 6/30 (MB). A **Prothonotary Warbler** was noted

at McMichael Road 6/6 (RFL), and a female and 3 recently fledged young were seen up close 7/30 (RFL, RCL). Also, one was found at Zuckenfouse Road on Pymatuning's eastern edge 6/30 (IKF). A **Kentucky Warbler** was singing loudly along Nickleplate Road south of Cochranon 6/10 (RFL, RCL). A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was located along Bell Hill Road 6/10 (RCL, RFL). Two **Hooded Warblers** were seen along Towpath Road, CM 7/22 (RFL, RCL). A **Mourning Warbler** was a good find at HM 6/12 (MB).

A **Grasshopper Sparrow** was at Maple Hill in eastern Crawford 6/14 (RCL). A **Henslow's Sparrow** was located near the PPG plant south of CM 6/10 (RCL, RFL), and another was near maple Road 6/14 (RCL). Very unusual for this area was an adult **White-crowned Sparrow**, which was seen well at Maple Hill 6/14 (RCL). **Bobolink** numbers seemed lower than usual with only 16 as the high count at PGMA 6/6 (RFL). A juvenile **Orchard Oriole** was well studied at SP 7/24 (RCL).

Observers: **Ronald F. Leberman, 11508 Pettis Rd., Meadville, PA 16335, (814) 724-5071**, Marvin Byler, Ike Field, Irene Frey, Robert G. Leberman., Many Observers, Mark Vass.

Cumberland County

Locations: Big Springs (BGS), Stoughstown Pond (SP), West Fairview (WF), Conodoguinet Creek (CC).

After being a spring fixture at WF for most of the past 15 years (including nesting), 3 adult **Yellow-crowned Night Herons** were found along the CC this May, well upstream from WF (JE, CP). Two of the adults built a nest and fledged three young—one of only three atlas blocks in which this species was confirmed in the state according to the most recent atlas data. The birds were present throughout the period, with the non-paired adult remaining in the vicinity of the nest. A very respectable tally of 19 **Black-crowned Night-Herons** was made on Cabin Road in SGL 169 on 7/7 (BF, VG). A late **American Coot** was found lingering at SGL 169 on 6/4 (JD).

The migrant highlight for the summer season was an **American Avocet** found along Brackbill Road, Mechanicsburg 7/25 (SK). Although the pond was checked again the following day, the avocet was not to be found. This is at least the 3rd report from the past couple of decades; the other two were detected in August. The only other shorebird reports were of a single **Least Sandpiper** at SP 7/4 (VG), and a pair of **Solitary Sandpipers** at Huntsdale 7/7 (RK). A pair of adult **Bald Eagles** was sighted along the CC near Middlesex, at various points in both Jun and Jul (*vide* PL); this species is not known to breed in the county. **Barn Owls** continued their presence in the county from the spring season with at least 2 birds at SGL 169 to 7/2 (MW). Representing just the second county record, a **Eurasian Collared-Dove** was found just north of Shippensburg 6/3 (AW). Although this species nests in adjacent *Franklin*, strays to this county have been quite few.

Interestingly, **Alder Flycatchers** were found at two different locations well into Jun this summer. Although a notoriously late migrant, both birds fell within atlas "safe dates". The first **Alder Flycatcher** was found at Opossum L. 6/10 (RK), and the second bird was recorded at SGL 169 on 6/18 (DH). Multiple **Alder Flycatchers** were noted in late May at the latter location (MW). Though certainly out of the ordinary, summer sightings are not unprecedented. There is at least one record, that from 7/31/1997 at Kuhn L. (DH, RH). A quick look at the PBBA results thus far shows that this species is quite uncommon in the southern third of the state, particularly away from the Allegheny Mts. Since this species was not reported in the spring, a sighting of 2 **Cliff Swallows** near Newville 6/9 (BF) was noteworthy.

A very tardy **Swainson's Thrush** was heard singing from a Newville backyard 6/10 (VG). A cluster of local and uncommon *Cumberland* breeders were found in a large spruce stand along Ridge Road 6/15: a **Golden-crowned Kinglet**, **Hermit Thrushes**, and two **Yellow-rumped Warblers** (RK, DH, RH), providing a much more "northern" atmosphere. The **Yellow-rumped Warblers** are particularly exceptional, though the species has been seen here in previous summers (RK). Other interesting warbler sightings came in the form of a somewhat late **Blackpoll Warbler** at BGS 6/1 (VG), and a male **Prothonotary Warbler** that was viewed 7/7–10 near one of the propagation ponds at SGL 169 (VG, RK). Apparently, the **Prothonotary Warbler** was initially found in late Jun (AM). Jun and/or Jul **Prothonotary Warblers** have been noted at SGL 169 a number of times in the past, including in 1992, 1993, and 1997. Following much higher numbers of **Dickcissels** reported in each of the past two summers, I received only one report of a bird this year, near Shippensburg 7/17 (AM).

Observers: **Cameron Rutt, PO Box 223, 727 Blooming Glen Road, Blooming Glen, PA 18911, (215) 453-9585, cr1193@messiah.edu**, John Dunn, Jane Earle, Bill Franz, Vern Gauthier, Don Henise, Robyn Henise, Steffan Karkuff, Ramsay Koury, Peter Lusardi, Andrew Markel, Cathy Partush, Mike Weible, Andy Wilson.

Dauphin County

Locations: Blue Mountain (BM), Harrisburg (HBG), Haldeman Island (HI),

Hummelstown (HUM), Lower Swatara Twp. (LST), Middletown (MID), Susquehanna River at Harrisburg (SRH), Susquehanna River in general (SR), Susquehanna River at West Fairview (SWF), Wildwood Lake (WL).

There were a number of lingering, non-breeding waterfowl reported this season. Both **Green-winged Teal** and **Gadwall** were still at WL 6/2 (CR). A drake **Ring-necked Duck** was found near the mouth of the Swatara Creek 6/20 at MID (PW & RW), and a lone **Bufflehead** was observed at SWF 6/26 (*vide* AS). On 7/2, a **Lesser Scaup** was reported along the east shore of the SR near Shelley Island (PS), and on 7/9-10, a **Greater Scaup**, two **Lesser Scaup**, and a **Ring-necked Duck** were found at SWF (TJ & AM). Three **Hooded Merganser** chicks were at SWF 7/2 (RK), and **Common Mergansers** were noted at a few locations.

Black Vultures were confirmed nesting when an adult and two chicks were discovered during the first week of Jun in an abandoned barn along Rt. 441 in LST (EC). In nearby MID, a kettle of about 80 **Black Vultures** was reported 7/3 (ME). A very early **Merlin** was observed and photographed near the top of BM 7/31 (M & RB). The HI **Bald Eagle** pair fledged two young in Jun, and at least one other was fledged from a second nest monitored by the PGC, but the Berrier Island and Dehart Dam nests went unused this season (SB).

This was a very good season for the nesting **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** in the Bellevue neighborhood of HBG. Three active nests were located and monitored through Jun, and on 7/10, 10 newly fledged **Yellow-crowns** were counted in the neighborhood (TJ, et al.). On 7/14, two adults were observed (CM). Although **Black-crowned Night-Herons** have been regular seasonal visitors to WL for years, few observers made note of their presence this season (AS, LU, et al.).

An **American Coot** was found at WL 7/1 (TC, JR) and noted again 7/5 (CR). The first report of a migrating shorebird was of a **Solitary Sandpiper** 7/10 at SWF (TJ). The best report was of a **Willet** 7/12 on the "flats" of the SR off Liverpool (DH). This was only the fourth Willet sighting reported in the county over the past 20 years. By the end of Jul, **Greater** and **Lesser Yellowlegs**, **Solitary**, and **Least Sandpipers** were being reported from WL or other compounds near HBG (EC, CR, et al.).

Some interesting Atlas postings included the following: a **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** reported 6/9 in Powells Valley, located by the discovery of fresh sap holes (S&GL), a **Red-breasted Nuthatch** found near the east end of Clarks Valley on 6/23 (MM), and a **Prothonotary Warbler** found on an island just north of Halifax 6/1 (CR). The sighting of a **Common Raven** near HUM 7/18, in the vicinity where they have been observed the past few summers, lends support to the possibility of nesting in a nearby quarry (PW). A pair of **Purple Finches** paid a visit to feeders near the top of BM 7/8 (M&RB).

Finally, although **Eastern Kingbirds** are common throughout the nesting season, the behavior of one reported on 6/26 is worth noting: "I watched a **Red-winged Blackbird** and an **Eastern Kingbird** harassing and dive-bombing a young **Red-tailed Hawk** perched on top of a utility pole. The hawk finally grew tired of the attack and took off. The blackbird ceased the attack but the kingbird didn't give up...it continued chasing the hawk and then actually landed on the back of the hawk for several seconds. It rode that hawk like a surfer on a giant wave! It was one of the funniest bird behaviors I've ever seen: Hawk Surfing!" (LU).

Observers: **Richard Williams, 3 Parkside Dr., Hummelstown, PA 17036, (717) 566-6562, RWPuffin@aol.com**, Scott Bills, Mary & Randy Brenner, Ed Chubb, Troy Corman, Mike Epler, Jan Getgood, Kermit Henning, Jenni & Barry Horton, Deuane Hoffman, Tom Johnson, Ramsay Koury, Sandy & Gary Lockerman, Andy McGann, Cara Musser, Matthew Miller, Chris Rebert, Joan Renninger, Pat Sabold, Art Schiavo, Joe Swift, Larry Usselman, Patricia Williams, Sally & Rich Zaino.

Delaware County

Locations: 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-DeIco portion (TI), Philadelphia International Airport (PHL), Ridley Creek State Park (RCSP), Springton Reservoir (SR), Tyler Arboretum (TY).

Summer weather was unremarkable, bringing only occasionally excessive heat, normal rain fall totals, and no tropical storms. On the Summer Breeding Chart, 96 species are reported, of which 83 were confirmed as breeders, 4 probably bred, and 9 possibly bred. This report is based on very limited information. Most of the PBBA blocks in *Delaware* are complete and summer birding activity was low.

A **Least Bittern** was seen in the TI mitigation area along DC 6/10 (AG). Given the changes in the water levels and habitat in the Philadelphia portion of TI, it is not surprising to see a bird wandering from traditional nest sites. The willow trees surrounding the lagoons along Rte. 291 are good places to find roosting **Black-crowned Night-Herons**, and AG found four near the Renaissance Hotel in Lester (6/10). I have reported several birds leaving the roost at dusk to feed in the tidal marsh of DC.

A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was reported at TY on 6/13, along with a **Cooper's Hawk** on 7/25 (TR). Another **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was observed in Glenolden 6/9 (JM). There were multiple reports of a **Cooper's**

Hawk hunting over the Folcroft Landfill. A **Peregrine Falcon** pair has been present at a breeding site since 1987, but breeding has not been confirmed since 2001 due to lack of access. The pair was observed this year (AM). The **Red-tailed Hawk** fledglings mentioned in spring were observed on the HC campus for weeks (SJ). Two **Wild Turkey** males have been sighted on the Folcroft Landfill (DB) and of course we believe these are the sires of the 5 young turkeys in Philadelphia Co.

The **Great Black-backed Gull** (first state breeding record in 2006) has been a resident species increasing in numbers for over a decade. It was not reported breeding in 2007 since most of the DR waterfront where it had nested is off limits to the public. We can only wonder if the pair nested again. Four **Common Terns** were feeding along the DR from Lester to Ft. Mifflin 6/20-21 (JM).

A **Pine Warbler** was found at TY 6/13, 7/4 and 7/25 (TR), suggesting it nested. A singing **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** attracted SJ's attention in her PBBA block on the Goshen Trail, but she never found its mate. A male **Blue Grosbeak** commanded everyone's attention on the Wednesday Bird Walk at TY 7/4 (TR), and was still being seen 7/25.

Observers: **Doris McGovern, 209 Dogwood Rd., Media, PA 19063 (610) 565-8484 mcgovern@masca.museum.upenn.edu**, Al Guarente, Sheryl Johnson, John Miller, Art McMorris, Tom Reeves.

Elk County

No Report. No Compiler

Erie County

Locations: Presque Isle State Park (PI)

The summer started out dry with below average rainfall, but by mid-July, rain arrived and brought the total rainfall for the summer season near normal. The continuing atlas project has sprung some surprises, including the first probable nesting pair of **Prairie Warbler** and **Clay-colored Sparrow** for *Erie*.

The following unusual birds were recorded from PI unless noted otherwise. A male **Canvasback** lingered at least 6/6 at Gull Point (MV). The one or two **Black-crowned Night-Herons** found near the south pier on the late date of 6/1 were still being seen to 6/5 (JD). There was a small group of **Sandhill Cranes** reported from PI on 6/8 (fide SS).

The only **Willet** reported for the season was one at Gull Point on 7/19 (LM). A one mile walk along the beach at SGL 314 at Roderick turned up an amazing 60 **Spotted Sandpipers** on 7/12 (TW). This was a very high number of **Spotted Sandpipers** for this time of year. There was a **Whimbrel** that flew off of Gull Point on 7/24, providing only the sighting of this species for the period (JM). An adult **Laughing Gull** made a brief visit at Gull Point 6/1 (JM).

A singing **Northern Parula** in McKean Township 6/16 was a rare find in summer, since it is not known to breed in the county (BC). **Magnolia Warblers** continue to be reported during the breeding season in *Erie*, so it was no surprise that a singing bird was found in McKean Twp. 7/13 (BC). A juvenile **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was identified in Edinboro 7/5 (DS). This warbler is also not known to breed in *Erie*. The first probable nesting of **Prairie Warbler** was documented in Washington Twp. when a pair was found in suitable breeding habitat 6/11 (DS).

Also surprising was the discovery of 2 **Clay-colored Sparrows** in Elk Creek Twp. 7/13-14 (JT). **Clay-colored Sparrow** has not been confirmed as a breeding species here as yet. **Grasshopper Sparrows** are rarely reported in *Erie*, so a singing bird found in Greenfield Twp. was a good find 7/13 (BC).

Observers: **Jerry McWilliams, 3508 Allegheny Rd, Erie, Pa. 16508-2129, jerrymcw@aol.com**. Ben Coulter, John DePaul, Linda McWilliams, Susan Smith, Don Snyder, John Tautin, Mark Vass, Tom Wasilewski.

Fayette County

No Report.

Mike Fialkovich, 805 Beulah Road, Pittsburgh, PA, 15235, (412) 731-3581, mpfial@verizon.net

Forest County

Locations: Allegheny National Forest (ANF), Cook Forest State Park (CFSP), Kellettsville (KL), Marienville, (MA), Mayburg (MB), Neiltown (NE), Pigeon (PI), Tionesta (TI), Tionesta Lake (TL), West Hickory (WH).

Data for *Forest* this summer show 20 species Possible, 47 Probable, and 41 Confirmed, for a total of 108 species. Notable species include **Golden-crowned Kinglet**, **Yellow-rumped Warbler**, **Kentucky Warbler**, **White-throated Sparrow**, and **Pine Siskin**.

A **Bald Eagle** was spotted 6/7 in a snag along Tionesta Creek (DW). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was "on territory" 7/10 near PI (AM). A food exchange between male and female **Sharp-shinned Hawks** was witnessed 7/6 near Lynch (AM).

American Woodcocks were reported as possible or probable breeders in several locations in the county (FM, JM, DW). The only **Whip-poor-will**

report was a pair that was heard calling repeatedly 5/27 at a summer home near TI (DY).

Acadian Flycatchers were noted at several locations. **Alder Flycatcher** was found 6/14 near Queen (FM, JM) and 6/29 near PI (SS). **Least Flycatchers** were observed in several locations.

Northern Rough-winged Swallows were at their traditional site on the bridge at TL 4/24; 20 **Cliff Swallows** had returned to the bridge at KL by 5/7 (FM, JM). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was confirmed 7/5 when fledglings were observed near PI (SS). **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were found 7/5 at 2 different locations near PI (DW, SS), 7/10 in the ANF near Blue Jay (LO, ET), and a pair 7/12 at CFSP (MW).

Forty-eight nest boxes monitored at TL and KL for the Army Corps of Engineers produced 23 **Eastern Bluebirds**, 5 **Black-capped Chickadees**, 47 **Tree Swallows**, and 22 **House Wrens**, for a total of only 97, significantly fewer than the previous 3 years. The first Eastern Bluebirds fledged 6/19, but most of them fledged in Jul or even Aug, after Tree Swallow competition had diminished (FM, JM).

Swainson's Thrushes were observed in 3 locations in the ANF: 6/6 near MB (DW), 7/10 near Blue Jay (LO, SS), and 7/10 near Muzette (FM, JM). A **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was a nice find 6/7 near Lynch (DW). Another unusual breeder for *Forest* was the **Kentucky Warbler**, recorded twice in a spot-mapping study and deemed territorial 6/1 near MB (SS, DW).

A **White-throated Sparrow** was a nice surprise 7/5 near PI (DW, ET). Two **Pine Siskins** were spotted 7/12 near the office at CFSP. From this vantage point they were first observed in *Clarion*, quickly crossed the line into *Forest*, then eventually flew off toward *Jefferson* (MW).

Observers: **Flo McGuire, HC 1 Box 6A, Tionesta, PA 16353, (814) 755-3672, fmcguire1@verizon.net**, Jim McGuire, Amy Morrison, Linda Ordiway, Scott Stoleson, Emily Thomas, Don Watts, Mike Weible, and Dan Yagusik.

Franklin County

Locations: Greencastle (GR)

A **Bald Eagle** has been sighted along the east branch of the Antietam Creek west of Waynesboro and flying over Shady Grove on several occasions. **Barn Owls** were at a nesting site near St. Thomas again this year and were seen in Jun.

Red-headed Woodpeckers seem to be surviving local timber cutting. More **Red-headed Woodpeckers** have been reported this year than in the past, with several nesting sites located. They are also regular visitors to various feeders during Jun and Jul. A very large number of **Cedar Waxwings** were observed and photographed for several weeks near the GR Sewer Plant located just off of the Grant Shook Road west of GR. These included adults and fledglings.

Northern Parulas were seen and heard 6/8 along Jacks Mill Road just west of Route 995 along the Conococheague Creek, and were in this location for several weeks or more around this date.

Savannah and Grasshopper Sparrows have been rather easy to find at county grasslands. **Vesper Sparrows** were present at several locations as well but more scattered. **Blue Grosbeaks** were observed inside the Letterkenny Army Depot by DC (who works inside the fenced area) on 6/18, and were heard several times after this date. They were also heard singing by JB 6/14 in an area near the depot fence. **Dickcissels** were observed and photographed along the Winger Road between St. Thomas and Edenville on 6/8, and were seen and heard on several dates earlier and later. They were also observed on a farm near Lemasters around the same time period.

Eastern Meadowlarks were present at several locations: on a farm 3 miles south of GR along the Williamsport Pike, near Marion along Guilford Springs Road, and along Jacks Mill Road west of Route 995.

Observers: **Dale L. Gearhart, P.O. Box 155, Shady Grove, PA 17256 (717) 597-3979, dgearhart01@comcast.net**, Dave Cooney, Carl Garner, Joan Bowen

Fulton County

Locations: Ayr Township (AYR), Belfast Township (BEL), Bethel Township (BET), Brush Creek Township (BC), Licking Creek Township (LC), Meadow Grounds Lake, (MGL), State Game Lands #65 (SGL65), Thompson Township (THOMP), Union Township (UN).

The summer of 2007 will be remembered in *Fulton* for the large gypsy moth colonies that occupied our forested ridge-tops. These insects cleared entire wooded areas of leaves. Visitors reported actually hearing the chewing of leaves, and insect droppings hitting the ground with a cadence like that of light rain. As the summer went on, it was interesting to note which avian species had an affinity for these moth-infested areas. Since no data was obtained from the northern part of county, this report is based on reports south of US Route 30.

North of Crystal Spring, the three newly created ponds on South Valley Rd. in BC all had many **Mallard** and **Wood Duck** fledglings during

a 7/15 visit. These shallow ponds boast accompanying wet meadows that could potentially host other interesting species.

The lone summer report of **Northern Bobwhite** was made along Back Run Rd., AYR, on 7/4. A non-vocal male responded to the compiler's pseudo-Bobwhite sounds. Since the 1980s, this gallinaceous bird was never numerous in our area, and unfortunately, from the other side of the road, a curious red fox lurked toward my manufactured sounds. Hopefully the semi-tame quail avoided crossing paths with the fox.

On 6/2, a **Common Loon** flopped around on land and managed to eventually find its way into a half-acre farm pond in THOMP (TJ, DS). This loon probably grounded itself during strong thunderstorm activity the previous night. This is the second consecutive year that basic-plumaged loons were found locally in Jun.

Numerous reports of soaring **Black Vultures** were made throughout the county. Although most were of pairs and single birds, three flew over Pleasant Grove Rd., BET 6/16.

On 6/2, one of the most amazing reports of the summer was the discovery of two sub-adult **Mississippi Kites** over Dickey's Mountain near Big Cove Tannery (TJ, DS). The two kites were located within a mixed kettle of **Black and Turkey Vultures** and first-spring **Broad-winged Hawks**. As the kites were actively feeding on insects, TJ was able to photograph the birds. A revisit to the area on 6/3 found one **Mississippi Kite** (TJ). If accepted this would constitute a 2nd county record. 2007 was at least the third consecutive year that adult **Bald Eagles** staked claim to the only known *Fulton* nesting location. The only report of **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was made at dawn 7/15, when an adult flushed along Black Bear Rd. in LC. The season's only **Cooper's Hawk** sighting was an adult and juvenile in a riparian thicket west of Akersville, BC, 7/5. The summer's lone **Red-shouldered Hawk** report occurred 6/16 high above Gem Bridge Rd, THOMP. There were also very few reports for **Broad-winged Hawks**. Most interesting was a roadside bird that hopped onto the ground to successfully prey on a small black rat snake along Gem Rd in BEL 6/16.

As noted in the introduction, *Fulton* witnessed a large gypsy moth infestation this summer. Large tracts of mountain forest were completely defoliated by these insects. From my fieldwork, cuckoo numbers were slightly below average at best. Based on previous year's records, **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** numbers seemed to dip by 25%. Always extremely uncommon in the lower *Fulton* elevations, this summer's three **Black-billed Cuckoo** sightings shared two commonalities: dense wooded thickets along the periphery of the caterpillar defoliation efforts, and a spring or mountain stream.

By making use of the Breeding Bird Atlas Owl Protocol Surveys this May, more owl species were found on 2007 than any other summer on record. Noteworthy included a night in UN that produced 5 different owl species. Three **Barn Owls** responded at two locations in AYR on 5/14. Another flying **Barn Owl** called above a THOMP field 5/18. An interview with a THOMP resident revealed an unused barn with owl activity. Two survey points detected **Long-eared Owl** in AYR 5/14. At the first location, a bird responded with a hoot call (MS, DS). Later, a half-mile away, the compiler left the car and a **Long-eared Owl** vocalized its barking call before any tapes were played! It is interesting to note is that all detected **Long-eared** and **Barn Owl** vocalizations only occurred between midnight and 3:00 a.m. **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were also found. At the base of a mountain with thick brushy deciduous understory, one flew overhead and was heard in UN on 5/4. Two survey stops in BEL found vocal **Saw-whets** 5/22. Both locations, elevation 800-900 feet, had mixed woods with hemlocks and brush along a stream. The first owl survey point saw one bird respond and fly over the tape player (MS, DS). At the second location, the owl "tooted" eight times. It is interesting to note that the latter area was a hemlock-studded cow pasture. These records are probably the first **Northern Saw-whet Owl** summer records for *Fulton*.

One of the other amazing records of the 2007 summer season was the discovery of a **Chuck-will's-widow** in THOMP. On 5/24, Atlas point counter TJ ran an informal goatsucker survey in southern *Fulton*. Numerous **Whip-poor-wills** and one **Chuck** were counted. On a revisit on 5/25, one **Chuck-will's-widow** was photographed and audio recorded (TJ et al.). Based on the evidence noted on the revisit, TJ concluded that there was a pair. This is the 2nd documented record for the county. A follow-up visit on 6/2 found one vocalizing bird (TJ, DS).

The only report of the rarely detected **Red-headed Woodpecker** occurred along a Pigeon Cove Rd farm in BET 6/16. In open streamside brushy habitats, **Willow Flycatcher** numbers were at least stable. The lone report of another streamside brush denizen, the uncommon **White-eyed Vireo**, was feeding young west of Akersville in BC 7/5.

The only two reports of **Blue-headed Vireos** were recorded both on 7/5 in BC: a pair on hemlock-lined Pleasant Valley Rd, and one in oak-pine mixed woods (an unusual low elevation habitat for *Fulton*) on Betsey Rd Jeep trail.

During this century, **Fish Crow** continues to expand its range in the county. Twenty years ago, this corvid was only an occasional visitor to southern Buck Valley. **Fish Crows** today can be found in good numbers: a parking lot in McConnellsburg contained over 15 crows 7/4, and another 20+ birds flocked to the south of McConnellsburg in AYR 7/5. Pioneering birds include a lone bird chased by **American Crows** 6/16in BEL, and a pair along Llama Lane, LC 7/15. It seems reasonable that the **Fish Crow** will continue to expand their population into the lower elevations of *Fulton*.

Horned Larks continue to use agricultural areas to breed. Some of the larger farming tracts with countersinging territorial males included Cito Rd. in AYR, Church Rd. in BC (TJ, DS), Papertown Rd. in BC (TJ,DS), and Flickerville Rd. in BET.

Three **Bank Swallows** were located near a Warfordsburg gravel quarry 6/2 (TJ, DS). In the 1980s and 1990s, this area was a stronghold for nesting Bank Swallows. Unfortunately since the first atlas, **Bank Swallows** gradually disappeared from these known breeding areas. It was suggested that the **N. Rough-winged Swallow** replaced the **Bank** in most nesting locations. Hopefully this new discovery will lead to more clues as to **Bank Swallow's** status and survival in the county. Once again **Purple Martins** weren't detected this season in *Fulton*. Unfortunately it appears that martins may eventually become transient migrants only here. **Cliff Swallows** continue to be found nesting more often in areas with barns than under bridges, but the lone **Cliff** report was a barn nest along Pleasant Valley Rd. in BC 7/5. From my fieldwork, the **Cliff Swallow** ratio for barn nesting to bridges in *Bedford* is nearly even (3:2), but in *Fulton*, the ratio tilts significantly more to barns than bridges (5:1).

Generally, the warblers were represented in appreciable numbers in the county. Once again the only accessible spot for **Black-throated Green Warbler** had several singing males in the Pleasant Valley Rd hemlock stand 7/5. This forested tract will bear watching in the near future as several trees are showing signs of the dreaded wooly adelgid disease. **Pine Warbler** numbers appear stable, as this species was recorded in all *Fulton* townships south of Route 30. Drier ridgetop pines and pine plantations seem to always have at least one singing male. Once again the highest density of **Pine Warbler** numbers appears to be the Moss Rd area of SGL128. **Prairie Warbler** and **Yellow-breasted Chat** numbers are strong in favorable habitat, with best densities for both species noted at the newly discovered Betsey Rd. early successional area of Buchanan State Forest. New areas for **Cerulean Warbler** activity were discovered: on 6/2 several stops along the base of Dickey's Mountain in AYR and THOMP confirmed breeding evidence (TJ, DS). Ceruleans were also found atop Little Scrub Ridge in TODD on 7/5, and atop Sideling Hill in UN 6/28. Only three records of the enigmatic **Black-and-White Warbler** materialized: on Scrub Ridge in AYR 7/04, Little Scrub Ridge in TODD 7/04, and Sideling Hill at SGL 65 on 6/2. This year the declining **Hooded Warbler** seemed to favor areas where the strongest gypsy moth defoliation occurred. A warbler species for which local populations could be increasing is the **Kentucky Warbler**. This season was a banner year for Kentuckys—twice the average number of summer records. **Worm-eating Warbler** numbers appeared to be stable with this species also seeming to prefer areas where defoliation occurred.

All grassland sparrows: **Field** (common), **Vesper** (uncommon), **Savannah** (occasional), and **Grasshopper** (common) were found in good numbers throughout the county. The best sighting of the quarter was a **Vesper vs. Grasshopper Sparrow** confrontation on a round hay bale. Initially, a **Vesper** pair perched on a hay bale, about a foot below the top, and was well camouflaged with breast feathers facing the bale. Next, with bright green insects in bill, a **Grasshopper Sparrow** pair flew onto the same hay bale top. Suddenly, one appeared to side hop the other as it sang a complex song before performing a bizarre flight. Initially it looked like an airplane takeoff—the bird fluttered its wings while running at the **Vesper Sparrows** along the bale. The **Vespers** eventually flew off the bale with the **Grasshoppers** chasing.

Both expected grosbeaks in *Fulton* are occasional summer visitors. **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were located twice: 6/16 atop Scrub Ridge in BEL, and 7/15 along Black Bear Rd. in LC. The only **Blue Grosbeak** sighting was of two territorial males at a Moss Rd horse pasture in BC (TJ, DS).

The Icterid highlights included a **Bobolink** heard along Pleasant Valley Rd. in BC 7/5, and a small flock of first year orioles on 7/15. Along Llama Lane in LC, one first year **Baltimore** and four first year **Orchard Orioles** were feasting on a single berry shrub in a cut hayfield. The birds flushed and all gave a field-guide-like side-by-side comparison as they perched on a telephone guy wire.

Observers: **Daniel Snell, PO Box 653, Shippensburg, PA 17257, dan_snell@hotmail.com, (717) 530-8313.** Tom Johnson, Marilyn Snell. All entries without initials were made by the compiler.

Greene County

Locations: Carmichaels Cumberland Township (CAR), Franklin Township at East View (EV), Hunting Hills Road Monongahela Township (HH), Last Chance Ranch Perry Township (LCR), Morris Township (MT), New Freeport Township (NF), Ralph K. Bell Farm Morgan Township (RBF).

It seems that working the Atlas and doing bird count routes makes us note and record more detail than we usually do. Instead of seeing "Blue-winged Teal with some young", we see "Female Blue-winged Teal with 7 young swimming in a tight group to her left". Indeed, we pay more attention and are usually rewarded for doing so.

Canada Geese were found everywhere and were producing nice clutches, averaging 4 or 5 young making it to flight status. **Wood Ducks** also are doing well with 15 adults and 7 young reported in EV 6/10 (MH),

and one adult with 6 young seen 6/28 at HH (SS). On Meadowbrook Road in Morgan Twp., 3 broods of **Ring-necked Pheasants** and at least one pair with young on Goodwin Hill Road in Wayne Twp. were reported. Not to be outdone, **Wild Turkeys** with young were also seen regularly, although most groups of young were small in number. A group of 2 hens with only 3 young were noted 7/19 at LCR (MLP), and 2 hens with 6 young were seen on Bruckner Road in Jefferson Twp. in late June (RKB). Young **Wild Turkeys** were noted 7/17 at HH (SS) and on Hathaway Road in Cumberland Twp. 6/19 (KR). One **Northern Bobwhite** was seen over a two-week period in mid-Jun by Judy Cholok, on her farm in the western part of the county. One was heard by RKB during his BBS route on Green Lakes Road in Greene Twp. He also found a **Great Blue Heron** on nest at SGL 223 near Davistown on the BBS route. A pair of **Green Herons** adopted the pond on HH last year, and this year returned and fledged young (SS).

Cooper's Hawks are more easily found than they used to be. LH saw them many times through the summer in her yard at CAR checking out her feeders (not for seed). Late in the summer she reported adults and their young on wood's edge next to her yard. Conversely, there was only one report of **Broad-winged Hawk**, at NF on 6/12 (MH). **Red-tailed Hawks** and **American Kestrels** both with young were reported by many observers in different parts of the county. An **Eastern Screech Owl** was calling in Cumberland Twp. 7/16 (KR), and a **Barred Owl** was reported calling at 9:24 P.M. 7/15 at RBF (RKB).

Watching fledglings can be rather entertaining. Young **Red-bellied Woodpeckers** seem to have no fear, but their landing gear does not always work well at first. Seeing a juvenile trying to keep up with its parent recalls the movie *George of the Jungle*... "Watch out for that tree!" states KK. Always welcome sights are **Pileated Woodpeckers** with young, such as was seen at HH 6/25 (SS). A rare find was a **Least Flycatcher** 6/13 in MT (MH). **Common Ravens** were well reported, beginning with 5 at RBF 6/4, which were thought to be 2 adults and 3 young (RKB). While working on the Breeding Bird Atlas later in the month, RKB also found two ravens on Clarksville Road near Ten Mile Creek Park. One was seen and heard on Nebo Ridge 6/16 and one found in NF 6/30 (MH). Finally, 2 adults and 2 young were found on Woodring's Road in Cumberland Twp. 6/19 (KR).

After a difficult start following 2 weeks of cold wet weather in Apr, **Purple Martins** were plentiful this year. Many "landlords" stated their houses/gourds had "No Vacancies", and they may need to add more next year. Most young had fledged by 7/4 (RKB) and many birds had begun gathering in the evening at Rohanna's Pond in Franklin Twp. 7/6 (RKB). This gathering site has been known for several years, but the overnight roosting site was not known until last summer when it was discovered that martins were moving from the pond a mile so to a State Prison that has many tall light standards. They were still present, although in considerably fewer numbers, 8/21. There are still some folks with martin (or bluebird) houses up that do not get the residents they are seeking, but instead host other species. At LCR and CAR, one pair of **Tree Swallows** was feeding young in a blue bird box, and a second pair was doing the same in the martin house (MLP and LH). **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were found lined up on a utility line near the Monongahela River at Rices Landing 6/26 (KR). Finally, regarding **Barn Swallows**: a count of 21 was made at LCR 7/16 (MLP), and by 8/14, second broods were out of the nest with two nests fledging 5 each and several more with 2 to 4 fledglings. On 8/18 in the early morning, dozens of **Barn Swallows** were flying around the pasture as usual, but by 11:00 A. M. they had disappeared and only 5 individuals remained.

A pair of **Carolina Wrens** moved into a potted fern on the front porch at CLR and fledged three young on 7/15 (MLP). As mentioned above, **House Wrens** also took over housing intended for other species at LCR and CAR, with both pairs producing fledglings (MLP, LH). We are glad to report that Wood Thrushes still commonly populate wooded areas throughout *Greene*. They can be heard singing their sweet melodies in the evening anywhere there is suitable habitat. A **Gray Catbird** pair raised a family in a rhododendron bush at LCR, where 3 babies hatched 6/30 (MLP). We think of berries and fruit when we think of **Cedar Waxwings**, but of course they take insects also. At LCR on 6/25, two were seen catching insects "flycatcher" style from the top of a snag (MLP).

While overall numbers of warblers are in decline according to IBA studies during Jun by Pat Hutcheson and Marj Howard, there are still many species reported. Here is a brief overview: **Blue-winged Warbler** 6/24 Deep Valley (MH), **Northern Parula** 5/29 (RKB); **Chestnut-Sided Warbler** 6/30 NF (MH); **Yellow-throated Warbler** LCR 6/27 (MLP); **Prairie Warbler** and **Cerulean Warbler** in MT 6/13 (MH); **American Redstart** at RBF—female and young—7/12 (RKB); **Kentucky Warbler**, **Hooded Warbler**, and **Yellow-Breasted Chat** 6/13 in MT (MH, LH).

PBBA surveys turned up **Chipping, Field** and **Song Sparrows** 6/9 in Cumberland Twp. (KR). A pair of **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were seen at LCR 6/18 and 7/23 (MLP). A rare find of a **Dickcissel** was made on Homeville Road (TD). A **Baltimore Oriole** was seen carrying food 6/9, and an **Orchard Oriole** was found also carrying food 6/19 in Cumberland Twp. (KR).

Observers: **Kathy Kern, 322 Kennel Road, Waynesburg, PA 15370, (724) 627-5376, n3xsj@alltel.net**, Ralph K. Bell, Terry Dayton, Marj Howard, Mary LaPlante, Kathy A. Reeves, Lisa Haight, Sally Sisler.

Huntingdon County

Location: Rothrock State Forest (RSF)

A late season **Common Loon** was sighted on Lake Raystown 6/10, along with 4 **Ring-billed Gulls** (DK). An **Upland Sandpiper** was found 6/17 near Three Springs, but was not relocated (DK).

A pair of **Northern Goshawks** was banded along with 2 male nestlings in RSF 6/2 (DB, DK). For the fourth year in a row, pair of **American Kestrels** successfully fledged young at a nest site in an abandon house in Ennisville (DW).

For the 16th consecutive year, three BBS routes were conducted within RSF in *Huntingdon*, *Mifflin* and *Centre*. Each route consists of 50 3-minute stops, with the majority of the stops in *Huntingdon*. The ten most frequently recorded species this year from the combined routes are noted along with their 16-year averages in parentheses: **Red-eyed Vireo** 245 (190); **Ovenbird** 141 (153); **Scarlet Tanager** 77 (71); **Eastern Towhee** 60 (75); **Chipping Sparrow** 45 (33); **Hooded Warbler** 40 (23); **Eastern Wood Pewee** 39 (37); **Wood Thrush** 39 (47); **American Redstart** 35 (25); **Common Yellowthroat** 34 (45). Overall trend was positive, since 17 of the 33 total species showed an increase of 10% or more above their 16-year average, though 9 of the 33 where recorded 10% below their average. **Mourning Dove**, **Blue Jay**, **Veery**, **Chestnut-sided Warbler** and **American Redstart** were all observed at record high numbers, and **Red-eyed Vireo** and **Tufted Titmouse** were recorded at their second highest. **Acadian Flycatcher** was the only species tallied at a record low (NB, DG, GG).

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

Indiana County

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

Top **Canada Goose** tally was 85 on 7/24 (MH) at YC. A drake **Blue-winged Teal** was an unusual find on the annual Todd Bird Club pontoon outing at YC 6/12 (MA,SC,CG,MH,LJ,JJ,MS). A **Green-winged Teal** in eclipse plumage, first found and photographed in Little Yellow Cove at YC 7/3 (MH), was still present 7/12 (MH) and 7/17 (SC,MH). A drake **Common Merganser** was observed on Mahoning Creek near Smicksburg 6/8 (MH); a young bird about one-third grown was found at Mottarns Mill 6/15 (CG,MH), which was the second confirmed breeding record for *Indiana*.

A **Common Loon** flew over Penn Run 6/22 (TE,BF,MH), and another was photographed at YC 7/23 (TF). Twelve **Turkey Vultures** were roosting near Crete 6/14 (MH,RH). An immature **Bald Eagle** was noted along Mahoning Creek near McCormick 6/21 (CG,MH).

Sharp-shinned Hawk was listed only 6/21 (SB) north of IN and 7/20 (CG,MH) near Pine Flats, where at least 2 fledglings and an adult were observed. **Cooper's Hawks** were found at nine locations (v.o.). Single **Red-shouldered Hawks** were found at Canoe Ridge 6/11 (MH) and at YC the following day (MA,SC,CG,MH,LJ,JJ,MS). YC hosted the lone **Semipalmated Plover** reported this season 7/24 (MH,BJ). July 17 (SC,MH) yielded the high **Killdeer** count of 18 as well as 2 **Lesser Yellowlegs** and a **Solitary Sandpiper**, all at YC. Three **Least Sandpipers** were present at YC 7/12 (MH), and 2 were listed there 7/17 (SC,MH). One very agitated **Spotted Sandpiper** at SGL 273 on 6/27 (MH) performed a noisy distraction display while at least one still downy young hid in the grass near the pond. An **American Woodcock** walked across the road between Stops 1 and 2 of the PW BBS 6/3 (MH,RH), the only report. A **Ring-billed Gull** and a **Forster's Tern** flew over Blairsville 6/3 (MH,RH). YC yielded only one **Ring-billed Gull** 6/5 (MH) and 2 **Forster's Terns** 7/17 (SC,MH). **Black-billed Cuckoos** were listed only near IN 6/23 (MH,RH) and near Marion Center 7/21 (MH), but there were 16 **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** reports (v.o.).

An **Eastern Screech-Owl** produced young near PV by 6/1 (*fi*de Gmys family), the lone report. A **Whip-poor-will** was listed only near SH 6/20 (EF,MF). A **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** built an unusual nest atop a wind chime near Tanoma (JS,MLT) where she successfully raised two young (see photo highlights -ed.).

Atlasing near YC 6/19 (MH) yielded the first confirmed nesting of **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** for *Indiana*. Single **Alder Flycatchers** were singing at Brush Valley 6/20 (SC,MH) and near Taylorsville 6/30 (MH,RH), the only two reports this season.

White-eyed Vireos were in short supply, with only one report from PV 7/26 (MH). Atlasing Hemlock Lake Co. Park yielded 6 **Blue-headed Vireos** 6/11 (MH). **Yellow-throated Vireos** were listed at five locations (v.o.), and **Warbling Vireos** at seven (v.o). A **Horned Lark** near Edgewood 6/1 and 6/7 (MH,RH) and one near North Point 6/8 (MH) were the only reports.

A female **Purple Martin** perched atop a martin box at an Amish farm near North Point 6/8 (MH); 2 pairs at a new colony near Trade City produced 6 young which were banded 7/22 (DS). These are the first

Indiana nesting records in recent years.

Northern Rough-winged Swallows were feeding young in a drainage hole nest 6/11 (MH) at Hemlock Lake. **Cliff Swallows**, uncommon breeders in the county, were territorial near Marion Center 6/6 (MH) and 6/15 (CG,MH); they were also on nest near Heilwood 6/14 (MH), and at least two nests with young were in a barn near Taylorsville 6/30 (MH,RH).

Hermit Thrushes were listed at eight locations, with best count being of 4 singing males near Strongstown 7/12 (MH). The *Indiana* portion of the PW BBS yielded 28 **Wood Thrushes** 6/3 (MH,RH). Listed at 16 locations, **Northern Mockingbirds** included an adult feeding young near PV 7/26 (MH).

The *Indiana* section of the PW BBS yielded 3 **Blue-winged Warblers** 6/3 (MH,RH); blue-wings were reported from 7 other locations, but no Golden-winged Warblers or hybrids were noted. **Northern Parulas** were found near Smicksburg and near McCormick 6/8 (MH), and near YC 6/19 (MH). **Chestnut-sided Warblers** were well reported this season with 36 records (v.o.). **Magnolia Warblers** were territorial near Cookport 6/4 and 6/14 (MH) and near Strongstown 6/19 and 7/12 (MH); two fledglings were present with an adult at SGL 79 on 7/24 (MH). **Blackburnian Warblers** were listed at 5 locations this season (MH). A **Blackpoll Warbler** singing in Pine Grove Cemetery near Rochester Mills 6/11 (MH) was a rather late migrant. Two **Cerulean Warblers** were observed 6/8 (MH) near Smicksburg. The *Indiana* section of the PW BBS yielded 6 **American Redstarts** 6/3 (MH,RH). A **Worm-eating Warbler** near PV 6/1 (CG,MH) was an interesting find. A **Northern Waterthrush** singing near Heilwood 6/9 (MH) could not be found thereafter. **Louisiana Waterthrushes** were noted near Mentcle 6/14 (MH), near Nolo 6/19 (MH), at a second location near Nolo 6/22 (BF,MH), and at SGL 273 on 6/27 (MH). **Kentucky Warblers** were reported at 4 locations this period (v.o.). A singing **Mourning Warbler** was both heard and seen on Tower Hill 6/4 (MH). Forty-one **Common Yellowthroats** were counted on the *Indiana* section of the PW BBS 6/3 (MH,RH). Two **Yellow-breasted Chats** were listed near Blairsville 6/3 (MH,RH).

Scarlet Tanagers were observed feeding young at five locations between 7/10 (CG,MH) and 7/26 (MH). Among many reports, **Vesper Sparrows** included one near PV (CG,MH) and 3 near Edgewood (MH,RH) on 6/1, 2 near North Point 6/8 (MH), and 2 near Littletown 6/26 (BF,MH). **Savannah Sparrow** reports were numerous (v.o.). **Grasshopper Sparrows** were listed at 18 locations (v.o.). Deckers Point was a new site for **Henslow's Sparrow** 7/10 (CG,MH). **Swamp Sparrows** were widespread with best count of 5 at YC 6/12 (MA,SC,CG,MH,LJ,MS). Two **Dark-eyed Juncos** near Mentcle 6/14 (MH) were feeding young in a nest along the road embankment. An adult **Orchard Oriole** was accompanied by two young near Crete 7/9 (MH).

Observers: **Margaret Higbee, 3119 Creekside Road, Indiana, PA 15701-7934, bcoriole@alltel.net**, Mary Assenat, Sidney Blair, Lee Carnahan, Susan Comfort, T Empfield, Betsy Fetterman, Tom Fetterman, Evelyn Fowles, Mike Fowles, Carol Guba, Roger Higbee, Bob Jackman, Jessica Jopp, Pat Johner, Linda Jones, Jennifer Schoch, Mike Shaffer, Duke Snyder, Mary Lu Tucker.

Jefferson County

No Report.

Mike Weible, 124 N. Third Street, Shippenville, PA, 16254, (717) 357-3319, feather_ridge@yahoo.com

Juniata County

Locations: Mountain Road in McAlisterville (MR), Hammer Hollow in Licking Creek Valley (HH), Willow Run (WR).

A **Bald Eagle** was sighted 6/20 at HH (LW). On 6/17, a **Black-billed Cuckoo** made a visit to a backyard in Mifflintown (CK).

A **White-eyed Vireo** was spotted at MR on 7/29 (CI). A **Henslow's Sparrow** were seen and heard near WR on 6/2 (LG) and 2 were located again on 6/4 (CK, AT). Another trip to the sparrow location at WR 6/6 provided **Vesper Sparrow**, **Grasshopper Sparrow** and **Henslow's Sparrow** again. Grass fields were soon cut after this day (CK, MM, CM, MO).

Observers: **Chad Kauffman, HCR 63 Box 65, Mifflintown, PA 17059, chadkauffman@earthlink.net, (717) 436-8257 (W), (717) 436-6465 (H), (717) 436-5488 (fax), (717) 994-6715 (M)**; Lewis Grove, Clara McCahren, Michael McCahren, Mackenzie Osborne, Aden Troyer, Linda Whitesel.

Lackawanna County

No Report. No Compiler.

Lancaster County

Locations: Susquehanna River (SR), Conejohela Flats (SRCF), Middlecreek Wildlife Management Area, (MCWMA).

This summer was fairly typical in temperature and precipitation.

Much of the precipitation was very spotty, so some areas received more than normal while other nearby areas experienced near draught conditions. **Snow Geese** were at MCWMA all summer, but most were injured birds. A number of waterfowl remained later than normal, such as **Blue-winged Teal** at SRCF 7/12 (TJ) (maybe on its way back south), a **Lesser Scaup** which spent the summer at SRCF, and a juvenile **Hooded Merganser** at the same locale 7/21. One of the rarer sightings for the quarter was of two flyby **Black-bellied Whistling Ducks** at SRCF 6/24 (CC). Unfortunately this was a very brief sighting and the birds could not be relocated. Two **Common Loons** were still on the SR near Columbia 6/8 (RM).

Least Bittern has become almost annual in the county; this season one was found at SRCF 7/4 (BC, BS). Four **Snowy Egrets** were at MCWMA 6/8-9, and they were seen on several locations at SRCF in Jul. Great Egrets were present all summer with the numbers gradually building toward the end of Jul. A single **Glossy Ibis** with another unidentified **plegadis ibis** was at SRCF 7/24 (TJ).

Osprey and **Bald Eagle** were confirmed breeding again this year, and continue to successfully raise young at well known locations along the SR near Holtwood as well as at a number of other less publicized locations in the county. This summer, **Peregrine Falcons** attempted to nest on the Rte. 30 Bridge over the SR. An adult **Peregrine** was observed calling in an agitated way and chasing an **Osprey**; also, a **Peregrine** was carrying food and flew across the river landing under the route 30 bridge 6/6 (RM). **Virginia Rail** and **Sora** were both present at the Wood's Edge Pond near Centerville 6/6 (RM), and were presumed to be nesting.

Shorebirds highlights at SRCF included: 3 **Black-bellied Plover** 6/6, 2 early **Semipalmated Plover** 6/23, 2 **American Avocets** 7/12 (CC, TJ, AM) and one on 7/31 (DH, AM), **Willet** 7/9 (BS), 2 **Red Knots** 6/6 (DH), **Sanderling** 7/21 and 3 on 7/28, 2 **Western Sandpipers** 6/23 were either very early or late migrants, 19 **White-rumped Sandpipers** 6/6, 3 **Stilt Sandpipers** 7/24 (TJ), **Short-billed Dowitcher** 7/12-13, 7/24 and 7/31.

A first summer **Franklin's Gull** was at SRCF 6/9-10 (EW et al.). **Caspian** and **Forster's Terns** began to reappear at SRCF in late Jul, and a **Common Tern** was there 7/28. A late **Black Tern** was at the same location 6/10. The highlight among terns came in the form of 4 **Least Terns** 6/23 (TA, BS) with two remaining until 6/24 (m.obs.). The terns were showing courtship behavior that included wing-spreading with head raised and neck stretched, and offering small fish to each other. This happened several years ago when there were six **Least Terns** in exactly the same area, but no breeding attempt occurred at that time. All four of the birds were adults and none were banded. The closest known nesting colony is in Havre de Grace, MD, at the mouth of the SR where it empties into the Chesapeake Bay. Havre de Grace is not known to be the source of the birds that occur nearly annually on the Lower Susquehanna, but it is a possibility.

A **Eurasian Collared-Dove** flew over Peach Bottom Village 7/9 (BS). This bird is nearly annual in the county, but so far most of the sightings have been very brief. This summer, **Barn Owls** nested again at MCWMA and one was seen sitting on the window ledge of the bat house 7/28 (TH). As usual, all six swallow species were seen at SRCF this summer. **Cliff Swallow** was reported around the route 462 bridge near Columbia 6/8 (RM). In early June, **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were still present in the northern end of the county near the old Cornwall Fire Tower. They were presumed to be nesting, but were not confirmed (JH). **Prothonotary Warblers** were reported nesting at SRCF, but I did not receive many reports from other locations in the county this year.

Observers: **Jonathan Heller, 720 Aspen Lane, Lebanon, PA 17042 jonathan.heller@comcast.net**, Tom Amico, Bruce Carl, Chuck Chalfont, Tom Garner, Tom Hobson, Deuane Hoffman, Tom Johnson, Andy McGann, Kate Miller, Randy Miller, Tom Raub, 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: Middlecreek Wildlife Management Area (MCWMA), Mt. Pleasant Road (MPR), State Game Lands (SGL) 80, SGL 145, SGL 156, SGL 211.

A late report from 2nd Mountain Hawk Watch: on 4/28, a new county high count of 87 **Osprey** passed over. There were also 2 **Bald Eagles**, 2 **Northern Goshawks**, and 177 **Broad-winged Hawks** (RB, DS).

A flock of 30 **Snow Geese** were seen flying at MCWMA in Jun. Most had been thought to be grounded because of injuries (m. obs.).

A **Ring-necked Pheasant** with 5 young at MCWMA was a rare find for this uncommon species (RCM, RP). **Ruffed Grouse** had a good year on SGL 80, with many young seen (m. obs.) **Wild Turkeys** also did well, with sightings of young throughout the county (m. obs.).

The **Great Blue Heron** nest on SGL 211 had 2 young on 6/2 (m. obs.). There were 2 adult **Black-crowned Night Herons** at the Lebanon

Landfill all season (RL). There was an immature **Black-crowned Night Heron** along the Swatara Creek near Union Road that had trouble flying 6/5 (RCM). There was a fresh road kill of a **Semipalmated Plover** on 6/10, providing a new late date at MCWMA (RCM, RP). The closest pond was 100 yards off the road.

There were 2 reports of **Eurasian Collar-Dove**: a single was observed at MPR on 7/4 (JF), and again at the same location on 7/21 (BM, RCM). This was the 5th county record. **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were very common throughout the county (m. obs.).

Barn Owls were doing well in the county's few sites, with 7 young at MCWMA being the highest number reported (JB). An immature **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** at SGL 156 near Rexmont was near the site of last year's breeding pair (RCM).

Willow Flycatchers were found in some new sites around Fredricksburg (RCM). **Yellow-throated Vireos** were found throughout the county. A **Yellow-throated Vireo** was seen chasing an **American Goldfinch** at SGL 80 on 7/7 (RCM).

There were 2 **Brown Creepers** found on SGL 80 on 7/4. Both were found along the Appalachian Trail on Blue Mountain (RCM). Two **Golden-crowned Kinglets** at Swatara SP on 7/4 were in a grove of old Hemlocks (RCM).

An **American Pipit** on 6/2 at the pond along MPR set a new late date (RCM, m. obs.). **Chestnut-sided Warblers** were found in good numbers on SGL 145 and SGL 156 (RCM). A **Prairie Warbler** was found on SGL 80 on 7/4 on the Boyer Tract, a new location for this species (RCM). **Worm-eating Warblers** were found in very good numbers (RCM). There were 4 **Northern Waterthrushes** at SGL 211 on 6/2, always a good find (m. obs.). **Yellow-breasted Chats** were in a few spots on SGL 145 and SGL 80 (RCM).

Grasshopper Sparrows were found away from MCWMA. One was at Lebanon Valley BP most of Jun, and another was found 6/4 near Myerstown (RCM).

Observers: **Randy C. Miller, 607 Woodland Dr., Manheim, PA 17545, (717) 664-3778**, Doug Anderson, Jim Binder, Randy Brenner, Elizabeth Conroy, John Fedak, Don Franks, Dennis Harnley, Fritz Heilman, Richard Light, Jim C. Logan, Ben Miller, Kate Miller, Richard Pohner, Dave and Kitty Rota, Dave Schwenki, Susan Wheeler, Dale Zimmerman.

Lehigh County

Locations: Leaser Lake (LL),

At Johnson's Pond Wildlife Park near Schnecksville on 7/17, an adult **Pied-billed Grebe** was found diving among the lilies on the smaller pond (DW). Nearby, DW also had **Horned Lark** (several juveniles with adults), and **Grasshopper, Vesper, and Savannah Sparrows**. On 7/2, a **Pied-billed Grebe** was seen on a pond behind near Center Valley. It stayed at least 2 or 3 days (BE).

A **Great Egret** was seen 7/2 near a flooded field near Trexlertown (JL). A **Double-crested Cormorant** was at the bend of the Lehigh River in Allentown 6/2 (BM,PM). A **Green Heron** was seen in the Little Lehigh in Lower Macungie Township 7/15 (JL). A **Green Heron** was also seen at LL on 7/8 (JH). Along with the **Green Heron**, JL saw a few **Killdeer** and many swallows including **Tree, Rough-winged, Barn Swallows, Purple Martins**, and a lone **Bank Swallow**.

A female **Common Merganser** (BM,PM) was seen 6/29 with 8 very small young at the bend in the Lehigh River in Allentown. One of the young climbed up on the female's back as they were swimming away. A **Common Merganser** (BM,PM) was also seen on the Little Lehigh at the Pool Wildlife Sanctuary in Emmaus 7/3. It was surprising to see this species on such a small stream. No young were observed but there was heavy cover so there may have been some. A possible **Godwit** was seen on 6/28 near Breiningsville (PS). On 7/16, a juvenile **Cooper's Hawk** was in Allentown (BM). Territorial **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were seen 7/5 in Upper Milford Township (BM,PM). A **Great Horned Owl** was seen 6/24 near Germansville being harassed by crows (BM,PM). An unusual summer sighting of a **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was made 7/1 near Center Valley (BE). **Eastern Kingbirds** were on a nest near Coopersburg 6/9 and in Allentown 6/22 (BM,PM). **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** were observed near Germansville 6/24 and Coopersburg 6/30 (BM,PM). On the mountain behind LL, JH had **Worm-eating and Hooded Warblers, Ovenbirds, Scarlet Tanager, Indigo Buntings** and many **Red-eyed Vireos**. A territorial **American Redstart** was seen at Canal Park in Allentown 6/11 (BM,PM).

In grassy areas near LL there were **Grasshopper, Vesper, and Savannah Sparrows** along with a pair of **Kestrels**. JH also had **Grasshopper, Horned Lark**, and a pair of **American Kestrels** on Utt Road. There were at least 10 **Bobolinks** seen 6/19 near Germansville (BM,PM). An **Orchard Oriole** was spotted on a nest near Coopersburg 6/9 (BM,PM).

Observers: **Jon Levin, 1899 Aster Rd., Macungie, PA, 18062, (610) 366-9996, levinjl1@yahoo.com**; Dustin Welch, Bill Etter, Bernie Morris, Pauline Morris, Barbara Malt, Jon Levin, Jeff Hopkins, Peter Saenger.

Luzerne County

Locations: Council Cup (CC), Francis Slocum State Park (FSSP), Harveys Lake (HL), Huntsville Reservoir (HR), Kirby Park Natural Area(KP), Nescopeck State Park (NSP), Plymouth Fats (PLYF), Pennsylvania Power & Light (PPL), Ricketts Glen State Park (RGSP), Susquehanna River (SR), Sylvan Lake (SL).

The summer season was relatively dry and seasonally warm. Conditions appeared to be good for nesting, and field observers reported that weekend conditions (when many have a chance to bird) were conducive to working on their Breeding Bird Atlas blocks, in contrast to the past two breeding seasons when heavy rain occurred on many weekends.

There were 4 **Double-crested Cormorants** observed on the SR between Nescopeck and Wapwallopen 6/1 (BH), but there were no reports after this date. **Double-crested Cormorants** have become fairly common and taken for granted which might explain the lack of reports. There has been no breeding evidence however, so this species should continue to receive our attention. An early or possible overshoot migrant, a **Great Egret** was seen 6/9 along the SR near Nescopeck (BH). Other **Great Egrets** were reported (when expected) 7/21-7/31 along the SR from Nescopeck north to Harding (BH, RK, JS).

A **Black Vulture** was reported 7/12 in the Shickshinny area (BW, BH). As noted in an earlier report, **Black Vultures** continue to be seen in *Luzerne*, but there has been no confirmation of breeding as yet. However, a **Turkey Vulture** was confirmed nesting this year when RK, while conducting a Timber Rattlesnake assessment, peered into a crevice and saw a down covered chick staring back at him. A rather unexpected but welcome find. (And yes, he did find plenty of rattlesnakes in the same area!)

There is at least one known **Bald Eagle** nest site in the county, and this season's report left us guessing as to its success. Jeff Hartman discovered the nest and has tried to keep track of it the best he can. This year he was unable to confirm any young birds due to the difficulty of seeing into the nest from his observation site. He did see the adults entering and leaving the nest, however, so it appears they might have been incubating eggs or feeding young. The adults were not visible once they entered the nest so it was impossible to determine exactly what they were doing while on the nest. Jeff never saw any fledglings but some acquaintances told him they saw two immature birds in the general area of the nest around the time they would have fledged.

Another raptor species that has recently (past 10 years) called *Luzerne* home is the **Peregrine Falcon**. This year we have bittersweet news from BW and JH. First the sweet: the Wilkes-Barre birds hatched one male and two females and the Pittston pair hatched four males. All seven appeared to have fledged successfully. Now for the bitter: the nest reported in the last issue at CC was apparently destroyed. According to reports received, a search and rescue crew had to call in a helicopter to assist in the search for an attempted suicide or potential suicide victim. Observers of the operation said that the helicopter flew close to the cliff face where the nest was located several times. It is believed that the nest and two nestlings were swept from the ledge by the turbulence created by the rotating blades. A visit to the site after the incident confirmed that the nest was no longer in existence. A side note to this tragedy is that the female **Peregrine** has not been seen since, and it is feared that she may also have been killed during this unfortunate event (BW, JHa, et al.).

Red-shouldered Hawk was noted from several locations with the largest number of sightings coming from the RGSP area (RK, JH). A **Sora Rail** was found at Jimmy Kane Swamp 6/17, an area that was recently purchased by the county (RK). **Ring-billed Gull** 6/6 and **Herring Gull** 7/8-7/20 sightings were unusual for *Luzerne* at this time of year (BH, JS).

Both **Black-billed** and **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were reported by most observers. As noted in last season's report, the county didn't spray for Gypsy Moths this year due to a lack of funding, and with the subsequent abundant food supply, the cuckoos appeared to have had a favorable nesting season.

The only report of **Golden-winged Warbler** came from the Jimmy Kane Swamp area on 6/17 (RK). With both **Sora** and the **Golden-winged** sightings from this same tract of land recently acquired by the county, it would certainly appear that our Commissioners have made a good investment. **Cerulean Warbler** continued throughout the period at the PA Fish & Boat Commission Access near Shickshinny, and another was found at NSP on 6/2 (RK).

A **Blue Grosbeak** was found in a reclaimed strip mine on Green Mountain just west of Freeland 6/14-6/15 (BH, SL). Unfortunately the adjacent woodlot was logged soon after the discovery and subsequent visits were unproductive in relocating the grosbeak. An **Orchard Oriole** pair had a successful nesting season and was seen bringing their young to a feeder near FSSP (BT).

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

Lycoming County

Breeding birds reported to the Atlas form the bulk of this report, as is the case in many counties this year.

American Black Ducks were found in two locations during the breeding season in small wetlands on the Susquehanna R. floodplain, one with ducklings upstream of Montgomery 6/22 (StB, SaB, DB, MB). **Common Mergansers** fit their name, commonly occurring along all the major creeks and even on smaller tributaries. Two **Common Loons**, seen for about a month on Rose Valley Lake, were noted on 6/16 (N. Fronk). A new **Great Blue Heron** colony, containing 5 active nests, was discovered by Barb Feigles in May near Ralston.

A **Northern Goshawk** pair was found on territory 6/14 (DF) and again 6/21 not far from Williamsport (DF, NF). **Red-shouldered Hawks** demonstrated considerable adaptability, being seen over Montoursville, Rte. 15 in Brady Twp, and various other urbanized locations through the season. A **Bald Eagle** was seen flying over Rose Valley Lake 7/6 (NF) and other dates, but no nearby nest is known. **Peregrine Falcons** nested again at the cliff below Montgomery, but two young disappeared prior to scheduled banding 6/12 (DB). A **Black Vulture** fly-by on 7/16 (J. Schaffer) near Linden was notable but not unprecedented, as this species is increasingly being reported in this area.

Northern Saw-whet Owls responded to screech-owl tape 6/20 close to Williamsport (DF), and were found 6/1 on a saw-whet survey route (RH). **Barn Owl** was confirmed nesting in the White Deer Hole valley at a traditional site (*vide* D. Ferry).

Whip-poor-wills were found along flank of Allegheny Front 6/3 and 6/15 (RH) and along White Deer Hole Ck. 6/8 (DB). A **Fish Crow** 6/16 at Rose Valley Lake (NF) is indicative of a much more widespread species. Similarly, **Winter Wren** family group along Mill Creek in the valley north of Williamsport 7/2 was a pleasant surprise (DB), though this species is found regularly in the mountain valleys.

Alder Flycatcher, still vocal 7/3, was found in a regenerating clearcut as expected in Tiadaughton State Forest (DB). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** seem to be more widespread than they were during the previous atlas. RH found them on 7/10, 7/13, and 7/16 in Norway spruce off the plateau, but noted they are not in every pine plantation.

Northern Parula was seen widely, including by WE 6/30 near Oglonia. This bird is most readily located along riparian bottomlands in planted spruce. **Yellow-throated Warbler** was found 6/5 (DF) and again seen 6/14 among tall sycamores along Lycoming Creek (DF, DH). This species has not been found as a local breeding bird in Lycoming since the first atlas. These sycamores provide ideal habitat and also hosted the locally uncommon **Yellow-throated Vireo**. Several **Blue-winged Warbler** males were found singing on several dates including 6/9 on a brushy slope of the Susquehanna R., where Golden-wings were seen as recently as last year (DB). **Mourning Warbler** has been very elusive in *Lycoming*, but several males were found singing 6/25 in clearcuts and along slopes covered with nettles along Cascade Rd. (DB). Very unusual on the plateau was a **Yellow-breasted Chat** along Steam Valley Rd 6/14 (DF, DH). Another **Chat**, found by FS in May, was refound 7/2 on a brushy hillside along Mostetler Rd (DB, FS).

Orchard Oriole, probably overlooked in this area, was seen 6/21 and later confirmed breeding by NF at the south end of SGL252 on the *Union* border (DB). **Purple Finch** has been elusive, but several birds including at least one pair were found in Norway spruce trees at the Grays Run camp 6/27 (DF).

Observers: **Steve Pinkerton, 182 Log-Run Road, Williamsport, PA 17701, (570) 494-1308, stevepinkerton@suscom.net**, Dan Brauning, Steve Brauning, Sandra Brauning, Marcia Brauning, Wes Egli, David Ferry, Nate Fronk, Ron Houghey, J Schaffer; Lauren Shaffer; Fred Stiner.

McKean County

The Pa. Breeding Bird Atlas has been going well in *McKean*, so the Breeding Bird data are very accurate, with the exception that we could with a little more effort to confirm breeding for almost all the species listed. The data were entered by atlas volunteers for Regions 31, 32, and 33. I really want to stress that without their concentrated effort, the list would be much smaller, and many others have all contributed information.

Exciting was the fact that **Merlin** bred in the county for the second year in a row. Lisa Fedak kept hearing the birds near our residence in Bradford off and on all summer, and in Aug, a juvenile bird and adult bird in the spruce tree across the street provided a slightly belated confirmation. We have many breeding **Northern Saw-whet Owls**, and also many warbler species breed in the county. Please take the time to come up and contribute to the atlas in one of the northern regions, such as 31, 33, 34, 35, or 36. You will be happy you did. Good birding!

Observers: **John Fedak, 26 Race St., Bradford, PA, 16701, (814) 362-1052, jifedak@atlanticbb.net**, Matt Bango, John and Holly Dzemyan, Lisa Fedak, Scott Stoleson, Don Watts

Mercer County

Nothing unusual was reported except one **Least Sandpiper**, seen as a fly-by over Poole Rd. 7/6 (NT). Sixty-seven species were confirmed as breeders, 29 as probable, and 2 as possible.

A possible contributing factor to the decline of Common Nighthawk (none have been reported all year) has surfaced. Identifiable remains of a few nighthawks were discovered beneath the nest of a **Peregrine Falcon** at a Youngstown, Ohio site. This site was occupied by a nonmigratory Peregrine, which perhaps shifted prey items from **Rock Pigeon** (no decline in numbers noted) to night migrants. Or maybe nighthawks were easier to catch. Or...?

Observers: **Marty McKay, 841 E. Lake Rd., Transfer, Pa. 16154, (724) 962-7476**, Neil Troyer.

Mifflin County

An adult and 3 fledgling red-phase **Eastern Screech-Owls** were found in the yard of Jess Peachey, Barrville 6/28 (JZ). An albino **American Robin** was observed in the Milroy area in June (JZ). Breeding Bird Atlas highlights include **Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Spotted Sandpiper, Yellow-throated Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Purple Martin, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Blue-winged Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Northern Parula, Cerulean Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Bobolink, and Orchard Oriole** (JD). On 6/28, 2 **Savannah Sparrows**, 2 **Grasshopper Sparrows**, 5 **Eastern Meadowlarks** and 5 **Bobolinks** (4 male and 1 female) were found in a large un-mowed field at Three Cent Road (IB, IB, JZ).

Observers: **Gregory and Deborah Grove, 4343 McAlevys Fort Road, Petersburg Pa. 16669, (814) 667-2305, gwg2@psu.edu, dsq4@psu.edu**. Ivan Byler, Ivan Byler Jr., Jim Dunn, Jess Peachey, Jay Zook.

Monroe County

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

This period saw average temperatures and below average rainfall. The two known **Bald Eagle** nests in the county, one on the Delaware R. and one on the Brodhead Cr., each fledged one bird in early Jul (RG, DS). Three recently fledged **Red-shouldered Hawks** were observed near Neola 6/18 (BH).

A single **Ruffed Grouse** was reported from the Skytop area 6/2 (JS). The **Red-headed Woodpeckers** at the DWGNRA headquarters swamp near Bushkill reappeared this summer. A pair of adults were seen at a cavity 7/1 (JT), and breeding was confirmed 7/15 when adults were observed feeding a nestling at the same hole (BH, JT).

A new **Cliff Swallow** colony was found at the entrance to East Stroudsburg's Mr. Z's grocery store 6/26 (BH, RW). Observers noted early movements of **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, but the single bird near Bushkill in DWGNRA 7/14 may have been a breeder (JT), and breeding was confirmed at Skytop where a family was observed 7/22 (JS).

The last report for the Bushkill **Lawrence's Warbler** was 6/2 (BH, JT). The **Yellow-rumped Warbler** in Tobyhanna 6/30 was a likely breeder (JS), and a rare find was an **Ovenbird** nest with 4 eggs at Skytop 6/28 (JS). Also likely breeders were 2 **Dark-eyed Juncos** at Skytop 7/3 (JS).

Observers: **Brian Hardiman, Monroe County Environmental Education Center, 8050 Running Valley Rd, Stroudsburg, PA 18360, (570) 629-3061, bhmcdd@ptd.net**. Russ Gladd, John Serrao, Darryl Speicher, Jim Thomson, Rick Wiltraut.

Montgomery County

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

The summer season began with below average temperatures and ended with a prolonged hot, dry spell the last three weeks of Jul. All sightings by George A. Franchois (GAF) except as noted.

Common Mergansers bred at Church Road, Green Lane Reservoir for the 4th consecutive year. A male **Hooded Merganser** was on the Lower Perkiomen Creek on the unusual date of 6/2 (JH, m. obs.).

Double-crested Cormorants lingered through the season again at GLR. One to two **Green Herons** were found in the UCV, UPVP, and GLR throughout the season (GAF, JG). An **Osprey** at GLR 7/22 was likely a bird that spent the entire period here (JG). GLR's two fledgling **Bald Eagles** were still in the company of one adult until at least 6/14. A male **Northern Harrier** in the VF vicinity 6/2 was another out of season find (TR, DB). A productive **Cooper's Hawk** nest in Lansdale fledged four youngsters (KR, m. obs.). A **Broad-winged Hawk** in VF 6/2 and another in Upper Gwynedd Township 7/27 were also surprise visitors (DS, A&JM)

With less than 2 inches of rain in a 3-week period, GLR began to show extensive mudflats by season's end. **Killdeer** numbers peaked at 10 on 7/22. Two **Greater Yellowlegs** there 6/30 were unusually early (JG). Other shorebirds of note at GLR included 20 **Lesser Yellowlegs**, a

Solitary Sandpiper and a **Pectoral Sandpiper** 7/22, 2 **Spotted Sandpipers** 7/31, and 10 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** in the company of 60 **Least Sandpipers** 7/25 (GAF, JG).

Yellow-throated Vireos were in their usual haunts in the UCV, UPVP, and GLR. Small numbers of "spring" migrant **Purple Martins** were in Pennsburg 6/12, and southbound "fall" birds began passing over the UCV 7/13 (GAF, KC). (Now I understand those restrictive safe dates in the Breeding Bird Atlas.) An impressive gathering of 30 **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were at UPVP 6/17, and southbound **Bank Swallows** were noted at Walt Road, GLR 7/24.

Brown Thrashers were noted near Church Road, GLR, and at the Green Lane Nature Center (GAF, KC). Warblers worth noting were few, but did include a **Black-and-white Warbler** at Walt Road, GLR 7/17. Our only standout sparrow was a singing **White-throated Sparrow** near VF 6/2 (DS). Breeding **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** are scarce in *Montgomery*, but one in the big woods of Upper Hanover Township 6/20 likely nested there (JG). **Bobolinks** continue to be rare in the county, with a "high" of 2 near Church Road, GLR 6/10. Finally, 3 immature **Orchard Orioles** were at Walt Road GLR 7/31.

Observers: **Kevin Crilley, PO Box 100, Sumneytown, PA 18084, (215) 234-6867, kcrilley@mail.montcopa.org**, Dennis Brennan, George A. Franchois, Joe Greco, Joe Hudson, August and Judy Mirabella, Tom Reeves, Ken Reiker, Dan Sullivan.

Montour County

The highlight of the breeding season this year was the pair of **Peregrine Falcons** that nested at PPL's Montour Electric Plant. The pair had three eggs, but after the first hatched, the other two eggs disappeared. PA Game Commission biologist gave the female nestling a physical and tagged her on 6/4. About two weeks later she fledged. This all took place 350 feet up one of the exhaust stacks, where a nest box was installed 10 years ago in the hopes of attracting this species.

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

Northampton County

Several good late migrants were found, including 2 immature **Black-crowned Night-Herons** at Green Pond 6/15 (JY). A **Scaup** (probably Greater) was at Minsi Lake 6/10-19 (LS). With few records for the county, a **Common Moorhen** at Green Pond 6/1 was a super find (DW). It hung out at the flooded fields close to the road all day allowing several birders to see it. The pines at the Bethlehem Municipal Golf Course held a **Red-breasted Nuthatch** 6/30. This species has been seen here during other summer periods. **Winter Wren** was confirmed breeding at Jacobsburg State Park 6/12 (RW) when Wiltraut observed both adults feeding 4 fledglings. Wiltraut noted that this site is probably at the southernmost limit for nesting **Winter Wren** in eastern PA.

There was a **Mourning Warbler** on 6/3 at Monacacy Nature Center (LF). **Blue Grosbeak** had already been a confirmed breeder in the county during the BBA before these two sightings: one bird was in Williams Twp 6/1 (AK), and an immature male was seen along Spring Hill Rd in Northampton 7/2 (DW). A late **White-crowned Sparrow** was still around at the Koch Farm 6/6 (AK).

Observers: **Michael Schall, 126 N Chestnut St, Bath PA, (610) 737-5275, mdtjschall@yahoo.com**, Linda Freedman, Arlene Koch, Lillian Shupe, Dustin Welch, Rick Wiltraut, 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), 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), 2nd Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas (PBBA).

Philly's summer weather was unremarkable, with some excessive heat, normal rainfall, and no influential storms. Good birding weather didn't bring especially great birds, but the 3rd drawdown during this the final year of the impoundment study at TI caused excitement due to the number and variety of shorebirds it attracted. On the Summer Breeding Chart I listed 99 species of which 77 were confirmed breeders, 4 were probable, and 18 possibly bred. The 2007 spring report also referenced breeding species.

The lingering **Snow Goose** reported in the northeast Pennypack area had lost all its remiges on one wing. By late Jul, new flight feathers had molted in and the bird was expected to migrate (BJ). **American Black Duck**, a former breeder at TI, appeared 7/15 (FW). A female **Hooded Merganser** was present 7/7 (FW).

By late Jun, 49 **Great Egrets** were feeding at TI, and their number grew from 135 on 7/31 to a high of 155 on 8/20, as water was let back into the impoundment. **Great Blue Herons** were found in comparable numbers, and 3 **Snowy Egrets** (JM) and a **Little Blue Heron** (FW) were present in mid-Jul. **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were found at Rhawn St. and the DR, and a very young Night-Heron with an adult was at TI 7/25 (FW).

The Northeast Airport was home to 4 **American Kestrels** 7/16 (FW). **Peregrine Falcons** nested successfully at several locations in the City. Seven **Wild Turkeys** were seen frequently at TI; two males have been seen across DC in Delaware Co. in the area of the Folcroft Landfill.

Common Moorhen could not be confirmed as a breeder at TI. An adult moorhen was occasionally seen, but the horde of birders looking for shorebirds never found a pair. Two **American Coots** at TI 6/28-7/15 (FW, AG) stirred discussion of the possibility of their breeding, but no evidence was reported.

Twenty species of shorebird stopped at the muddy, drained impoundment at TI including 3 **Black-bellied Plovers** 7/12. **Semipalmated Plovers** were present in small numbers through late Jul. **Killdeer** also bred at TI on the shoreline exposed as the water was let out. A few **Greater Yellowlegs** arrived as expected, but 50 **Lesser Yellowlegs** was a sharp decline from last year's high count of more than 300. A lone **Sanderling** 7/25 was a good find (FW). **Semipalmated Sandpipers** reached a high of 800 on 7/30, and **Least Sandpipers** increased throughout the month of Jul to a high of 3000 7/31 (FS, JM). **White-rumped Sandpiper** was found 7/28 (JM, FW), and **Pectoral Sandpiper** was present from 7/15. Up to 6 **Stilt Sandpipers** were observed 7/26-30. The first **Long-billed Dowitcher** (found 7/25, FW) and **Short-billed Dowitcher**—a *Hendersoni* in breeding plumage—present 7/27-29 (FW) were both seen by many birders.

Two **Caspian Terns** were on the DR 6/18 (MDr) to 7/3 (FW). Several **Common Terns** were foraging on the DR 6/15 (JM) and **Forster's Terns** were present throughout Jul.

Four **Common Nighthawks**, Gregg Gorton's son's favorite birds, were observed over the Temple Univ. campus in the last week of Jul. A **Black-billed Cuckoo** found on the PEC Breeding Bird Census 6/16 was a good bird (MDr, BS). A pair of **Eastern Wood-Pewees** feeding young on 7/20 was a first breeding record for TI (JM). A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** on 7/27 at Glen Foerd mansion on the DR was an early sighting consistent with many early reports throughout the state (FW). **Marsh Wren** is usually reported only from TI, but FW found two birds at Rhawn and the DR (7/3). A **Prothonotary Warbler** in Cobb's Creek Park was a late migrant and a good find 6/9 (MS). An unexpected **Northern Waterthrush** at TI really startled FW on 6/28, since it was over a month later than expected. A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was seen at SCEE 6/2 (SD). A male **Scarlet Tanager** sang at TI 6/6-7/8 (JM, FW), without any breeding evidence, for the first time ever.

Observers: **Doris McGovern, 209 Dogwood Rd., Media, PA 19063 (610) 565-8484, mcgovern@masca.museum.upenn.edu**, Denis Brennan, Brian Byrnes, Ned Connolly, Marty Dellwo, Michael Drake, Steve Dupont, Todd Fellenbaum, Gregg Gorton, Ken Januski, Bill Jelink, Chuck Lyman, John Miller, Keith Russell, Matt Sharp, Frank Windfelder.

Pike County

No Compiler, No Report.

Potter County

No Report.

David Hauber, RR 2 Box 153, Coudersport, PA 16915, (814) 274-8946, huabers3@penn.com

Schuylkill County

No Report.

NEW COMPILER BEGINNING WINTER 2007-08: Tom Clauser, 701 W. Market St., P.O. Box 531, Pottsville, PA 17901, runner01@comcast.net

Snyder County

No Report.

Richard Williams, 3 Parkside Ave., Hummelstown, PA, 17036, (717) 566-6562, RWPuffin@aol.com

Somerset County

Locations: Berlin Area (BA), Payne Property (PP), Somerset Lake (SL)

It was a busy season for the fourth year of the Breeding Bird Atlas with efforts to get information for a majority of the blocks. About 130 coded breeders were located and a few migrant shorebirds were seen during the season.

An **American Black Duck** was found at Cranberry Lake 7/29 (AM). This lake has recently been invaded by a new plant, a watershield called *Brasenia schreberi*, which is covering about 30% of the lake and may change bird usage and nesting. **Hooded Merganser** again successfully bred at the Beach/Louie created wetlands near Somerset (AM). **Osprey** fledged 2 young at SL 7/8, and one young **Osprey** was lingering near the nest at Cranberry Lake 7/29 (AM).

Upland Sandpipers had seemed to disappear at their BA stronghold, but a single was seen by a local farm boy in early Jun (LY). A **Short-billed Dowitcher** was at a farm pond being drawn down for irrigation 7/11 (JP, LP, CP), and the first returning **Solitary Sandpiper** was seen 7/26, both in BA (JP, AP).

Red-headed Woodpeckers were sparse except for a colony of about 6 birds at Callimont, a few near Springs, and 3 birds in Northampton Twp. (L&NA, JP, LP, CP). An **Alder Flycatcher** was calling near PP from 6/10 to at least 6/15 (LP, JP). **Willow Flycatchers** are widespread and relatively common in swampy creek bottoms. Two female **Purple Martins** were present at a newly erected BA nest box 5/28-6/2, but then departed (LY, JP). Twenty-eight **Bank Swallow** holes were counted in a sand pile at a limestone quarry near High Point Lake 7/9 (AM).

Red-breasted Nuthatches were present sporadically in Jul at PP (JP, LP). Two territorial **Winter Wrens** were present in a ravine on the Allegheny Front west of New Baltimore 6/30 and 7/4 (LP, CP, JP). Three **Brown Thrashers** set up territories at PP (LP).

There were 19 warbler species reported during the period. Noteworthy were **Golden-winged Warblers** near Garret 6/18 and near Glencoe 6/14 (CP, JP, LP); a **Prairie Warbler** singing at PP 6/4 (CP); 3 singing **Worm-eating Warblers** in a ravine at Allegheny Front 6/30 (LP, CP); **Northern Waterthrush** at Kimberly Run Natural Area throughout Jun (LP); **Kentucky Warbler** in Allegheny Township (JP, LP); and **Yellow-breasted Chats** near Somerset 6/7 (JP, LP, CP).

Henslow's Sparrows were at the Garret Mudflats from 5/29 through at least 8/12 (JP, LP, CP). **Bobolinks** seemed to be late in arriving in May but were widespread in Jun. **Orchard Orioles** were unusually numerous in the county, with 5 separate birds being found in a breeding block south of Berlin 6/12 (JP, LP). A **Pine Siskin** was at feeders and singing at PP throughout Jul; another (or perhaps the same) bird was at another feeder one half mile away 6/20 (JP, LP, CP).

Observers: **Jeff Payne, 9755 Glades Pike, Berlin PA 15530, (814) 267-5718, Anthony Marich, Christopher Payne, Lauretta Payne, Levi Yoder.**

Sullivan County

The emphasis again this year was block busting for the 2nd PA Breeding Bird Atlas. The target blocks were 51A63, 37D56, and 37D65. The effort confirmed 12 breeders, 67 probables, and 30 possibles. Close to 30 hours of observation time was logged with 650 miles traveled.

The following species were confirmed in one of the 3 blocks: **Canada Goose, Ruffed Grouse, Wild Turkey, Eastern Phoebe, Red-eyed Vireo, Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow, American Robin, Brown Thrasher, European Starling & House Sparrow.** Both **Bald Eagles & Sandhill Cranes** were confirmed breeders in the county again.

Other highlights include 19 species of warbler including the addition of **Hooded Warbler** this year, 9 species of sparrows including the addition of **Grasshopper Sparrow** this year, 5 waterfowl, 7 raptors, 6 woodpeckers adding **Red-bellied** as a possible over last year, and 4 owls adding **Northern Saw-whet** as probable.

Northern Cardinal was again noted this year. **Warbling Vireo** has now been observed for at least 3 years in a row with additional locations being added each year. This bird was not found at higher elevations during the first atlas.

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

Susquehanna County

No Report.

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

Tioga County

Locations: Cowanesque Lake (CL), Darling Run access to Pine Creek Gorge IBA #28 (DRPC), Hammond Lake/Ives Run Recreation Area (HL), Hills Creek State Park (HCSP), Lamb's Creek Recreation Area (LC), Muck/Marsh Creek Important Bird Area #27 (Muck), PBBA (Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas), State Game Lands (SGL).

Most observations this period were made by birders working on the PA Breeding Bird Atlas. Representative sightings follow along with block ID numbers where appropriate.

Observations of waterfowl breeding in *Tioga* were limited almost exclusively to **Canada Geese, Wood Ducks, and Mallards**, all of which are prolific breeders throughout the county. However, a female **Common Merganser** with at least a dozen newly fledged young was on the Tioga

River 6/10 at LC (GT); a **Hooded Merganser** was seen flying into a nest box 6/16 in 35B64 (DH); and a **Pied-billed Grebe** responded to vocalizations 6/14 at the Muck IBA #27 (RR).

Of the smaller wading birds, **Soras** were reported responding to CD recordings in two locations: 6/11 in 35B63 (DF, RR) and 6/16 and 6/30 in 35B64 (DH). One or two **King Rails** responded to a CD recording played 6/16 in 35B64 in two different areas of the same marsh (DH, DW). An attempt was made to achieve a repeat performance 6/30, but was not successful. **Virginia rails** responded to CD recordings at 9 out of 11 stations 6/14 during a point survey of the Muck IBA #27 (DF, RR). At least five **Virginia Rails** responded to recordings played 6/16 in 35B64 (DH). A **Common Moorhen** responded to a CD recording on 6/30 in 35B64 (DH). **American Bitterns** also responded to CD recordings at 9 out of 11 stations 6/14 during a point survey of the Muck IBA #27 (DF, RR).

Raptor species were well represented in our largely rural county. **Red-tailed Hawks** were confirmed breeding 7/15 in 35B66 (RR). A probable breeding **Broad-winged Hawk** was seen from mid-May through mid-Jun at HCSP (JH, GT). A **Cooper's Hawk** was seen 6/2 in 35B66 (DF, RR); a **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was visiting a backyard near HCSP (GT) on several dates; an **American Kestrel** was defending territory 7/15 in 35B66 (RR); and a **Northern Harrier** was seen in an extensive area of open fields 6/1 in 35C56 (DF, RR).

This year three active **Bald Eagle** nests were found in the county, and all were successful. The pair at HL started to incubate eggs in their nests as early as 2/18, and the pair at CL had begun by 2/21 (JH). Two chicks were seen at each site 3/28, and they fledged approximately 7/1-7/4 (JH). At least two fledgling **Bald Eagles** were in the nest at DRPC on 6/28 (RF, GT, KM). Two recently fledged **Ospreys** could be seen in the nest visible from R287 just south of the entrance to Hammond Lake/Ives Run Recreation Area 6/25 (GT). Other **Ospreys** were reported on nests at CL (JH, GT).

Probable breeding **Black-billed Cuckoos** were reported 6/6 in 35B66 (DF, RR) and 6/17 in 35B64 (DH). A pair of **Eastern Kingbirds**, nesting in the immediate vicinity of the Bald-Eagle nest at DRPC, were seen 6/28 trying to drive off one of the adult Bald Eagles when it came too close to the water's edge, where the kingbird nest was apparently located. (FR, TF, GT). An **Eastern Wood Pewee** was on a nest in a section of Tioga SF just east of Tiadaghton 6/14 (DF, GT). **Alder Flycatchers** were seen 6/11 in 35B63 (DF, RR) and 6/11 35B76 (GT); **Willow Flycatchers** were found 6/12 in 35B62 (DF, RR), 35B73 (GT), and 6/30 in 35B64 (DH); and **Least Flycatchers** were seen in numerous locations, including 35B62 and 35C56 on 6/13 (DF, RR).

A pair of **Blue-headed Vireos** were seen 6/7 in Tioga SF near Asaph; one of the vireos was carrying food (DF, KR, GT). Several **Warbling Vireos** were found 6/10 at Lamb's Creek near Mansfield; others were seen 6/17 in 35C56 (DF, RR) and on several dates at HL.

Northern Rough-winged Swallows were seen 6/11 in 35B63 and 6/16 in 35B64 (DW). **Cliff Swallows** returned to their breeding sites under the bridges at HL and CL (GT) and were also seen 6/12 in 35B62 and 6/16 in 35B66 (DF, RR). **Bank Swallow** colonies were also observed 6/15 in several locations along Crooked Creek, which feeds HL (GT).

Red-breasted Nuthatches were confirmed breeding 7/3 in PBBA block 35B62 and 7/4 in 35B64 (DF, RR). **Carolina Wrens** continue to expand their march northward in the county, building nests at a farm in 35B76 (GT) and in 35B63 (DF, RR). **Marsh Wrens** had set up housekeeping in the Muck by early Jun; others were heard in a marshy area 6/16 along a new section of the Pine-Creek Rail Trail in 35B63 (DF, RR).

A pair of **Northern Mockingbirds** was seen in an open, farm area 6/25 in 35B73 (GT). **Eastern Bluebirds**, always a subject of interest, were observed successfully raising broods throughout Jun and most of Jul at a farm in 35B76, near and in HCSP, and at HL (GT).

Many species of wood warblers breed in Tioga's forests, particularly in the higher elevations. Representative sightings this summer include: a pair of **Blackburnian Warblers** in Tioga SF near Asaph 6/7; a female **Black-throated Blue Warbler** feeding a fledgling 6/17 in SGL 37 near HCSP; probable breeding **Black-throated Blue Warblers** in a number of other wooded locations, including 6/13 in 35C56; a pair of **Black-and-white Warblers** in a section of Tioga SF just east of Tiadaghton 6/14 (DF, GT); a **Yellow-rumped Warbler**, a pair of **Black-throated Green Warblers**, and a pair of **Chestnut-sided Warblers** at DRPC 6/28 (RF, TF, GT). Other summer warbler sightings include a **Magnolia Warbler** 7/21 in 35B62 (DF, RR), probable breeding **American Redstarts** 6/7 in 35B56; probable breeding **Hooded Warblers** 6/7 in 35B56, and probable breeding **Canada Warblers** 6/16 in 35C56.

Tioga's large forested tracts yielded many breeding-season sightings of woodland species considered to be declining because of habitat destruction in Central and South America. These species include **Wood Thrush, Scarlet Tanager, and Baltimore Oriole.** **Wood Thrushes** were reported 6/12 in PBBA block 35B62, 6/10 in 35B66 (DF, RR), and 6/13 in 35B56. A pair of **Scarlet Tanagers** were at DRPC 6/28 (RF, TF, GT), and other sightings were made 6/2 in 35B66, 6/17 in 35C56, and 7/3 in 35B62 (DF, RR). **Baltimore Orioles** were recorded numerous days at DRPC and HL, and 6/12 in 35B62 (DF, RR), 6/16 in 35B64 (DW), and 7/15 in 35B66 (RR).

Despite many acres of seemingly suitable habitat, grassland birds

have been difficult to find. A **Savannah Sparrow** defending territory was spotted 6/27 and 7/3 in 35B62 (DF, RR); a singing **Grasshopper Sparrow** was seen 6/27 in a large, grassy meadow 6/27 in 35B62 (DF, RR). **Bobolinks**, **Eastern Meadowlarks**, and **Savannah Sparrows** were at the same location on the same day (DF, RR). Confirmed breeding **Bobolinks** were reported 6/13 in 35B56 (RR) and 7/15 in 35B66 (RR). **Eastern Meadowlarks** were found 6/10 in 35B65, 6/20 in 35B76, and 6/25 35B73 (GT).

Probable breeding **Purple Finches** were seen near HCSP 6/24 (GT).

Observers: **Gary Tyson, 130 Hills Creek Drive, Wellsboro, PA 16901, (570) 724-5789, gnats3@ptd.net**, Rich Faber, Dianne Franco, Deuane Hoffman, Jeff Holbrook, Ken Meyer, Kathy Riley, Robert Ross, Drew Webber. Tioga County

Union County

No Report.

Christy Bowersox, 968 Furnance Road, New Columbia, PA, 17856, cabowersox@yahoo.com

Venango County

The highlight of the period was the county's first confirmed **Turkey Vulture** "nest" with young. The nest, merely a scraped area on the dirt floor of a collapsed garage, was located in a wooded section with no residences nearby. The bird probably nested in the same location last year, since the individual who found it this year also flushed a vulture from the building during spring turkey season last year, but thought it probably was feeding on something dead. Upon flushing a vulture from the same location again this year, he decided to investigate, and after about fifteen minutes of searching, found two eggs.

Also, Flo and Jim McGuire confirmed a **Northern Waterthrush** breeding in OCSP, and Jerry Stanley located a "**Brewster's**" **Warbler** in Sugarcreek Borough.

Observers: **Gary Edwards, 224 Meadow Rd, Apt 9, Seneca PA 16346, (814) 676-3011, gedwards@csonline.net**, Nancy Baker, Dave Edwards, Kathie Goodblood, Meg Kolodick, Jerry Stanley, Russ States.

Warren County

Several **Double-crested Cormorants** were reported 8/15-8/31. They were seen on the Allegheny River from Warren to Starbrick (JS, JF, DW). **Common Loon** sightings were more common than usual this year, starting with one in non-breeding plumage 5/9, and two in breeding plumage 5/21 (ET, LO, SS, DW, KN). An **American White Pelican** was reported 6/3 on the Allegheny River in Starbrick (JH). This extremely unusual sighting was verified by JS and WH.

A first year **Golden Eagle** was near U.S. 321 in Sugar Bay 4/25 (SS, DB, DW). Sightings of this species have been increasing here in recent years.

Merlins that bred successfully in Warren in 2006 were thought not to have returned, but on 7/17/ two adults and 2 to 4 young fledglings were reported by CC at his residence on Conewango Ave. and verified by MG. Two adults and two young were reported by M&JM on 7/20 on Jefferson Street, the location of the 2006 nest. Unverified reports indicate they may have nested in the Cobham Park area this year.

A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was at Marge Neel's feeder in Scandia 5/5-7, a known breeding site in *Warren*. Otherwise, this bird is occasionally seen in *Warren* during migration.

Observers: **Don Watts, 163 Crestview Blvd., Warren PA, 16365-3310, watts_3@yahoo.com**, Dave Brinker, Chuck Conaway, Mary Grishaver, Jack Hamlin, William Hill, Marge Neel, John and Marcia McKown, Ken Nicholson, Linda Ordway, John Schultz, Scott Stoleson, Emily Thomas.

Washington County

Locations: Canonsburg Lake (CL), Coal Center (CC), Greencove Wetlands (GCW), Nottingham Township (NT), West Bethlehem Township (WBT), West Pike Run Township (WPRT).

Reports were very thin this season but those received did contain good detail and comprised 102 total species suspected of or confirmed as breeding in the county. A **Ring-necked Pheasant** in WPRT 6/15 (AT) was the only reported. This species probably no longer sustains itself in *Washington*. A **Wild Turkey** in NT 7/21 (MF, MB) was surprisingly the only one reported.

A mid-summer **Great Egret** appeared on cue at CL in mid-Jul and remained to the end of the season (RG). The putative **Great Blue Heron x Great Egret** hybrid was also present at CL for the fourth consecutive season (m. obs.), which advanced the bird's minimum age to seven years. There was no sign of a second hybrid-type heron after initial reports to that effect in mid-May. A **Turkey Vulture** nest containing two downy young at an undisclosed location near Avella 7/10 (JB) was an excellent find. Turkey

Vultures are conspicuous summer residents throughout Pennsylvania but nests are seldom found, especially in the southwestern corner of the state. A juvenile **Osprey** of unknown birthplace was located at CL 8/2 (RT).

The only report received of **Black-billed Cuckoo** was of one in NT 7/21 (MB, MF). A **Pileated Woodpecker** nest at Daisytown fledged one chick this year (WJS, NS, E&JZ), another species that often eludes confirmation of breeding.

A **Great Crested Flycatcher** singing in WBT 7/5 (MF) was the only report received. **Yellow-throated Vireos** apparently did well this year with reports coming from three separate locations in late June (MF, AT). A **Warbling Vireo** was at WBT 7/5 (MF).

This author is still struggling to understand the extent of **Common Raven** expansion into the counties of sw. Pennsylvania. **Ravens** seem to be in the habit of appearing unpredictably just about anywhere, at just about any time, in sw. PA. This summer's oddball raven report came from the city of Canonsburg 8/12 (RG). Nine **Purple Martins** took up residence on private property in CC during Jul (AT). A pair of **Carolina Wrens** which successfully raised at least one brood in Daisytown (WJS, NS, E&JZ) was the only of this species reported. The lack of coverage this season is a shame considering the harsh weather in Feb of this year. It would be very interesting to track the success of **Carolina Wren** for the next few years, since this species seems particularly prone to local population crashes during extremely harsh winters.

A **Swainson's Thrush** heard on nocturnal migration at Canonsburg 7/26 (RG) was very early, perhaps the earliest on record for *Washington*. **Cedar Waxwings** were apparently quite successful this season, with good numbers reported throughout, including 100+ at Washington Reservoir #4 on 6/16 (LC). A **Northern Parula** singing at WBT 7/5 (MF) was a nice report. Other breeding wood-warblers reported included **Blue-winged Warbler**, **Yellow Warbler**, **Yellow-throated Warbler**, **Cerulean Warbler**, **American Redstart**, **Ovenbird**, **Louisiana Waterthrush**, **Common Yellowthroat**, **Hooded Warbler**, and **Yellow-breasted Chat** (var. obs.). Several **Bobolinks** were reported in early Jun near Avella (JB). A pair of **Purple Finches**, one of *Washington's* most sporadic and unpredictable breeders, was discovered at Washington Reservoir #4 on 6/20 (LC).

ADDENDUM: I received late reports of two noteworthy species from the spring season. A **Mourning Warbler** was found at an undisclosed location 5/28 (RG), and a **Blue Grosbeak** was located south of Cross Creek 5/30 (RG), which represented just the third record for *Washington* I know of. Subsequent searches for this bird were negative. Note new phone number for compiler (412) 735-3128.

Observers: **Geoff Malosh, 450 Amherst Avenue, Moon Township PA 15108-2654, (412) 735-3128, pomarine@earthlink.net**; John Boback, Mark Bowers, Lauren Conkle, Mike Fialkovich, Ross Gallardy, Nancy Shemansky, Wendy Jo Shemansky (WJS), Amy Taracido, Ryan Tomazin, Ellen & John Zelina (E&JZ).

Wayne County

No Report. No Compiler.

Westmoreland County

No Report.

Robert C. Leberman, 1847 Route 381, Rector, PA, 15677, (724) 593-6021, rcleberm@winbeam.net

Wyoming County

NEW COMPILER STARTING WINTER 2007-2008

Rebecca Lesko, 54 Wisniewski Road, Tunkhannock, PA 18657, EMNCinfo@yahoo.com

York County

No Report.

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

PHOTO QUIZ #18

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	May 31	July
Mar-May	Aug 31	October
Jun-Jul	Oct 31	December
Aug-Nov	Feb 28	April

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