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Cover: **Blue Grosbeak** (*Passerina caerulea*). This male was one of an amazing 21 Blue Grosbeaks tallied in central and southern Bucks 12 July 2008, most of which were found on unmown sections of two landfills at the Penn Warner Tract in the southern section of the county. (*Devich Farbotnik*)

... from the Editor

All Business

This editorial is a bit of a departure from the past few, but it is necessary to take care of some housekeeping. Thanks to those of you who wrote me privately about some of the topics on technology I have addressed in recent editorials. Now if only some of you would turn those replies into formal letters to the editor... (smile)

I also want to thank those of you who have been making suggestions for improvements and new features for *Pennsylvania Birds*. I consider them all very carefully. Space concerns and our budget for printing, sadly, make some things totally impractical that I'd be thrilled to implement, while other suggestions are absolutely within the realm of possibility if only we had a volunteer to take ownership of them. I will be in contact with those of you who have brought these ideas to me (and yes, you will be the first person asked to volunteer), so stay tuned.

I also might as well digress at this point into the usual plea for articles for publication in *Pennsylvania Birds*. Ideas on new recurring features are always interesting to explore, but each issue also carries one or two feature articles, and most times these are hard to come by. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all authors who have shared their time and talent with PSO over the past year, and to those with whom I am currently working. But I'll be honest; authors are not exactly banging down the door here at *Pennsylvania Birds* in an effort to be published. I encourage all readers to think about contributing more than just your sightings to *Pennsylvania Birds*. This publication is truly "of, by, and for" The Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology, and anyone can and should contribute.

When I bring this up in conversation with folks I meet in the field and through email, often hear the reply that would-be authors are not comfortable enough with their abilities to write in the "scientific style" of *Pennsylvania Birds*. To this I can only

reply with three points.

First, though these "scientific" articles generally do receive highest priority here, *Pennsylvania Birds* is not exclusively scientific in nature. Far from it, actually. The history of this journal is rife with anecdotal accounts of time spent in the field and tales of discovery both of the wondrously rare and of the beautifully commonplace. Commentaries and even simple personal observations on birding, listing, and even culture have appeared here. These kinds of topics have a place in these pages too if handled in the right way.

Second, if you have a good idea in mind but aren't sure enough about your writing ability to pull it off, well, that's what editors are for. At least run the idea by me and we'll see where it goes.

Finally, it is true that not everything is suitable for *Pennsylvania Birds*, and you just might get an actual rejection letter from me, but some things which don't belong here may fit in very well over at *The PSO Pileated*. I am sure our newsletter editor, Margaret Higbee <bcoriole@alltel.net> would love to hear from you too.

As for new features in this journal, there is one in the works which I plan to release in the next issue or two, depending on when I am ready with the first installment, so stay tuned for that as well. Without divulging the whole thing just yet, I will admit without compunction that I pretty much lifted the idea directly from another state's journal. It is not an original idea, but the research and effort involved (and of course the data supporting it) will all be home grown right here in Pennsylvania, and I'll be putting my own little spin on it too.

Pennsylvania Birdlists

Just a quick reminder that we are coming up to the end of 2008, which means it is Pennsylvania Birdlists time again. (*Insert tired cliché regarding unbelievability of the quick passage of time here.*) You should have received the data sheet for reporting your list

numbers for 2008 with the most recent *PSO Pileated*, which was mailed out in November. Birdlists compiler, Peter Robinson <pabirder@hotmail.com> will also be sending email reminders to the PABIRDS email list and to other regular list contributors. Please report your totals to Peter either using the paper form or via email as soon as possible after December 31. Though no longer news, it is worth a reminder that we have changed the printing schedule of the yearly list updates to Volume 4 (mailed no later than April), in order to publish updated totals as close after the turn of the new year as possible. Don't risk having your totals left out! Get your results to Peter as quick as you can.

Compiler News

Joe Greco has volunteered to be *Lackawanna* compiler, filling a void for this county that has been too long in vacancy. His contact information can be found in the Local Notes. Many thanks to Joe, and to all of you northeastern birders, make sure you get in touch with Joe and share your sightings and support this fledgling compiler!

Clarion's compiler Carole Willenpart has changed her name to **Carole Winslow**, and also has a new email address. See the Local Notes for her updated contact information.

Blair, Cameron, Elk, McKean, Northumberland, Pike, Warren, and Wayne all remain without a compiler. Some of these have been without a compiler since I started as editor, others are recent additions to the compiler-less list. All of these vacancies are a true shame because each of these counties has something unique to contribute to the record. If you wish to make a meaningful contribution to the ornithological history of Pennsylvania and you live in or near one of these counties, please consider volunteering.

Geoff Malosh
Editor-in-Chief

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From the files of PORC: Arctic Tern identification

Tom Johnson

Terns have been long thought of as one of the most difficult groups of birds to identify in North America. But much of this notoriety is undeserved, and given careful study and adequate views, most (perhaps all) terns can be reliably identified. This article will review the history of the Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*) in Pennsylvania and will discuss the field identification of the species as compared to the closely related Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*).

Arctic Tern: Pennsylvania records

The Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee (PORC) has reviewed eleven reports of the Arctic Tern. Of these, six were accepted and five were not accepted.

Though “not-accepted” does not necessarily mean the bird in question was identified incorrectly, it does mean that the committee felt that the documentation submitted did not support the claimed identification. Improving the quality of documentation of rarities has been discussed at length elsewhere (Johnson 2008, Dittman & Lasley 1992, PORC 2000) and the reader is encouraged to review these and other articles on the topic.

Of the six accepted Arctic Tern records in Pennsylvania, only two fit what I consider to be the expected scenario of occurrence of this species in the state: adults seen from mid- to late May during spring migration (2 adults on 16 May 1989 at Beltzville Lake in Carbon County, one adult on 26 May 2003 at Van Sciver Marsh in Bucks Co.). Scattered records have been made throughout the Northeast during this time period (Levine 1998, Veit & Petersen 1993), and indeed, a regular migration pathway across the Northeast has been hypothesized (Godfrey 1973).

Hurricane Isabel provided exciting seabirding in Pennsylvania and throughout the mid-Atlantic region in September 2003. Though it did not produce many inland records of Arctic Tern, three Pennsylvania records of the species can probably be attributed to the storm (one adult on 20 Sept 2003 at

Bald Eagle State Park in Centre Co., one immature on 23 Sept 2003 at Lake Nockamixon in Bucks Co., and one adult on 28 Sept 2003 at the Conejohela Flats in Lancaster Co.). Amazingly, Hurricane Isabel brought half of the accepted PA records of Arctic Tern to the state. These were likely birds that were migrating offshore the southeastern United States in the Atlantic Ocean and were brought back inland by the storm, as suggested by the presence of other seabirds such as storm-petrels and shearwaters in Pennsylvania during and after the event.

The last accepted record is



Plate 1. Adult Arctic Terns show bright white translucence throughout the flight feathers. Churchill, Manitoba, June. (Tom Johnson)

somewhat anomalous: an immature Arctic Tern was carefully studied on 4 June 2005 at Peace Valley County Park in Bucks Co. This record is notable primarily because of the age of the tern. Most *Sterna* terns, after fledging, spend their first few years of life at sea without returning to land. However, though Common Terns very rarely return to the breeding colonies before adulthood, young (first summer) Arctic Terns are known to visit breeding colonies and nearby beaches in Maine (pers. obs.) and Massachusetts during the spring and summer (Veit & Peterson 1993). Furthermore, recent scrutiny of large flocks of terns on eastern Long Island, NY has revealed that immature—especially first summer—Arctic Terns are regular visitors in June and July (Mitra, *in*

prep). For the most part, though, immature Arctic Terns should not be expected to appear in Pennsylvania outside of the exceptional context of a hurricane or tropical storm; their habits are too strongly pelagic and their occurrence inshore too infrequent and restricted to coastal areas.

Identification

The remainder of this article will focus primarily on the identification issues that surround adult Arctic Terns, particularly in contrast to the similar Common Tern. Though consideration of immature Arctic Tern is important, many of the identification criteria involving structure and wing pattern are applicable to immatures as they are for adults as discussed.

Bill

The shapes of Common and Arctic Tern bills are quite different. Common Terns have deeper based, thicker, longer, and more angular bills; those of Arctic Terns are shorter and more uniform in thickness, and without much in the way of a noticeable gonydeal angle. Usually, alternate adult Arctic Terns have completely dusky red bills; however, it is not uncommon at all to see Arctic Terns in summer with small dark tips on the bill. Common Terns usually have paler red bills with obvious black tips; however, occasionally Common Terns have all red bills, especially in the middle of the summer (pers. obs.). Therefore, bill color, though a good supporting feature, should NOT be considered definitive for identification purposes.

Head shape

Head shape is a character most easily observed when looking through groups of terns at rest. Relaxed Arctic Terns usually show high-crowned, rounded heads with no obvious peaks or angles. Common Terns appear to have more elongated, angular crowns. This is analogous to the differences in body shape discussed below.



Plate 2. The thin black trailing edge to the primaries is an excellent field mark for adult Arctic Terns.



Plate 3. The bulging chest and streamlined taper of this adult Arctic Tern represents the typical shape of this species.



Plate 4. A thin dark trailing edge to the primaries is also present on the upper wing on adult Arctic Terns.

(All Arctic Tern photos: Churchill, Manitoba, June. *Tom Johnson*)



Plate 5. The short tail and blocky chest and belly typical of Common Tern are all readily visible on this late-summer adult. Delaware, August. (*Tom Johnson*)



Plate 6. The notch between the primaries and secondaries on this Common Tern indicates molt. Molt in the flight feathers is almost never observed in North America on adult Arctic Terns. Also note the dark trailing edge to the primaries, much thicker than on Arctic Tern. Delaware, August. (*Tom Johnson*)



Plate 7. The restricted pale window in the outer secondaries and inner primaries is indicative of Common Tern. Also note the double bulge of the body, a subtly different shape than the smooth taper of Arctic Terns. Oregon, August. (*Tom Johnson*)

Leg Length

One constant structural feature that helps to identify Arctic and Common Terns is tarsus length, visible on birds at rest. Arctic Terns have very short, stubby legs; this contributes to the impression that Arctic Tern bellies almost graze the sand when they are standing on beaches along with taller-standing, longer-legged Common Terns. But as with any structural feature, tarsus length should be used carefully, as terns standing in flocks on uneven ground may appear to stand at different heights, even without variation in leg length.

Body Structure

Overall body shape of *Sterna* terns is something that has not been emphasized enough in identification literature; however, when looking at Common and Arctic Tern, there are consistent differences that can be separated in the field. Arctic Tern usually appears small-headed without much of a neck, whereas Common Terns appear somewhat large-headed and longer necked in comparison. The more impressive distinguishing shape feature deals with where the bulk of the body lies in each species. Arctic Tern is very front heavy, with a smoothly bulging chest tapering evenly to the undertail, imparting a sleek, powerful look. The body of Common Tern appears blocky and lumpy, with a distinct “beer belly” in addition to a distinct bulge in the lower chest. Of course, body shape does vary somewhat between individuals and even within the same individual; for a good

analogy, consider the variation in dowitcher body shape (big rounded Long-billed Dowitchers and leaner, more angular Short-billed Dowitchers, a set of identification criteria popularized recently in *The Shorebird Guide* by O’ Brien et al.). Of course, when identifying terns, as with dowitchers or any “difficult” group of birds, even though shape is often diagnostic for identification, structural characters should be supported by other marks such as overall coloration and wing pattern.

Primary pattern

Primary pattern is diagnostic when identifying Arctic and Common Tern, but it is useful to look beyond the apparent shade patterns of the wings and understand why certain parts of tern wings are lighter or darker. First, and most importantly, freshly molted feathers are pale, becoming darker with time (Kaufman 1990, Zimmer 2000). Therefore, in terns that show multiple ages of feathers per tract, such as Common Tern, the older feathers appear darker than the newer feathers. This age-related contrast is useful in species identification.

Alternate (in the case of terns, “alternate” is equivalent to “breeding” plumage) adult Common Terns have a dark wedge in the outer primaries, due to differential molt timing among the flight feathers. In late summer on their breeding grounds, adult Common Tern begins a complete molt including the inner primaries. But primary molt is

arrested during migration, and finishes when the tern reaches its wintering grounds in Central and South America (Nisbet 2002). Staggered, protracted flight feather molt in the Common Tern usually results in blocks of uneven-aged feathers, a feature never present in adult Arctic Terns in North America. In the spring, when Arctic/Common Tern identification is perhaps most relevant in our region, the wing aspect (appearance) of Common Tern usually manifests as gray secondaries and inner primaries contrasting with darker outer primaries. The undersides of the primaries show a wide dark trailing edge, much thicker and less clean cut than on Arctic Tern.

Arctic Tern undergoes a complete wing molt after migrating out of North American waters in the fall. This species moves very long distances to the edges of the Antarctic continent where it molts its flight feathers quite rapidly. Consequently, an adult medium-sized *Sterna* tern in North America that is in active wing molt (evident as different-length primaries or secondaries or gaps in these feather tracts) is almost certainly NOT an Arctic Tern. Since, as previously noted, all flight feathers are replaced in a short period of time, they appear to be of uniform shading on adults in North America. Therefore, for our (Pennsylvanian) purposes, this species shows uniformly gray primaries with narrow black tips, forming a thin black line on the trailing edge of the outer wing. This character is especially visible on the underside of the primaries. Careful inspection shows that a thin dark trailing edge is visible

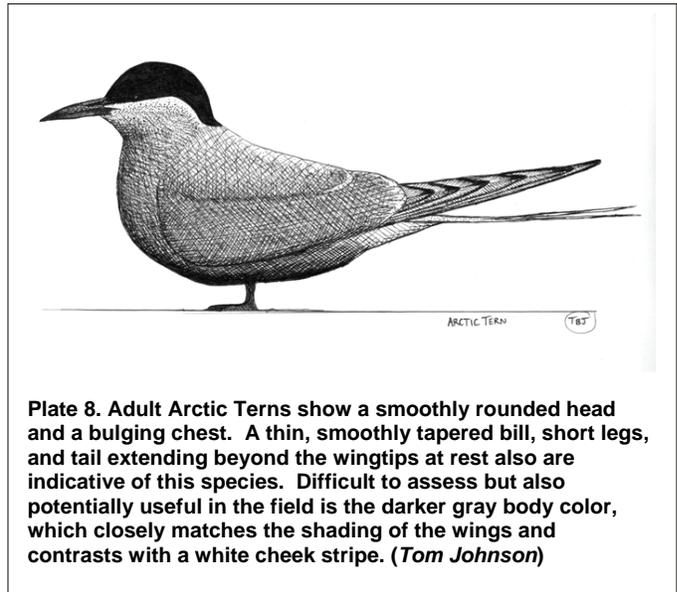


Plate 8. Adult Arctic Terns show a smoothly rounded head and a bulging chest. A thin, smoothly tapered bill, short legs, and tail extending beyond the wingtips at rest also are indicative of this species. Difficult to assess but also potentially useful in the field is the darker gray body color, which closely matches the shading of the wings and contrasts with a white cheek stripe. (Tom Johnson)

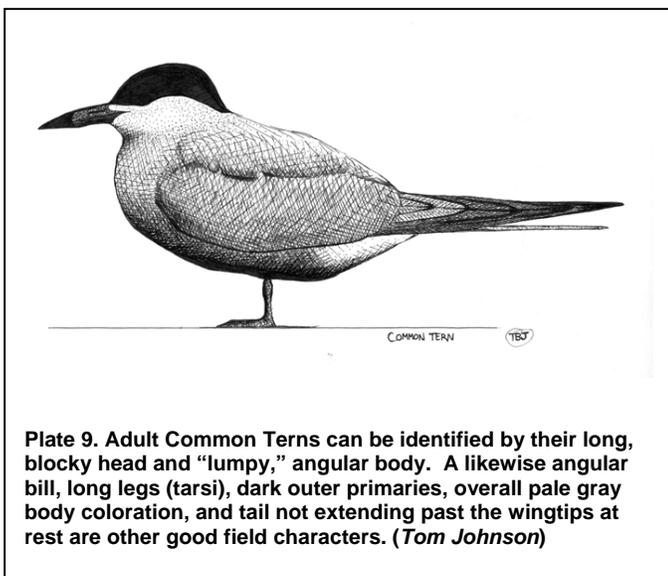


Plate 9. Adult Common Terns can be identified by their long, blocky head and “lumpy,” angular body. A likewise angular bill, long legs (tarsi), dark outer primaries, overall pale gray body coloration, and tail not extending past the wingtips at rest are other good field characters. (Tom Johnson)

on the upperwing as well, especially with long, close views.

Wing translucence

An interesting characteristic that can be used to separate adult Arctic and Common Terns is the degree of translucence in the flight feathers. This is best assessed on flying terns in bright light illuminating the tern from behind. Arctic Terns show uniform panels of translucence throughout the primaries and secondaries. On the other hand, Common Terns exhibit a small contrasting pale window of translucence in the outer secondaries and inner primaries.

Overall coloration

Body coloration is difficult to use as an identification character with terns except in flat lighting conditions, much like the problems encountered with analyzing upperparts shading in large gulls. However, Arctic Terns have darker gray body plumage than Common Terns. Often this darker gray extends onto the face in Arctic Tern, and it is divided from the black cap by a paler, whitish stripe. If observing terns in brightly lit conditions, it is imperative that observations of body coloration are backed up by notes on structure and wing pattern.

Further study

Perhaps the best way to be able to confidently and accurately identify Arctic Tern in the field is by means of field experience with this and other closely related species in the core of their ranges. Excellent and accessible places to study Arctic Terns include nesting islands off the coast of Maine, Churchill (Manitoba), Nome (Alaska), and the pelagic zone off the coasts of California, Washington, and Oregon.

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R E M I N D E R

The final season of the Second Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas is complete!

The fifth and final field season of data collection for the Second Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas is finished, but it is not too late to enter any and all outstanding data into the atlas database. In fact, it is now more critical than ever that these data are reported, since the analytical phase of the project is commencing. Making sure that you have all your data entered into the online entry portal by the end of 2008 will ensure that your records are included in the analysis. The data entry interface will remain open into early 2009, but only data entered before the end of 2008 is guaranteed to be incorporated into the statistical analyses. Essentially, if you volunteered your time and energy for the Atlas effort, this is your last chance to document your effort!

With more than 700,000 records already submitted to the database, the 2nd PBBA is already an enormous success. The project coordinators wish to express their gratitude for every single record that volunteers have taken the time to record and submit, whether electronically, on paper field cards, or "backyard" forms. Every single record is tantamount to a "vote" that registers loudly and clearly, that Pennsylvania biodiversity and the habitats that support it in Pennsylvania are important all of us.

The PBBA website can be found at <<http://bird.atlasing.org/Atlas/PA/Main>>, where you can enter your data, or find contact information for your regional coordinator who can assist with any final data entry.

-Editor

Great Blue Heron Five-year Statewide Survey Results, 2007-08

Catherine D. Haffner and Douglas A. Gross

The Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) is one of the most widely distributed and recognizable colonial-nesting wading birds in North America (Butler 1992). Historically hunted for their elegant plumage and jeopardized by the use of the synthetic pesticide DDT, populations have since stabilized or increased across most of their range, thanks to legislative protection and habitat conservation measures (Butler 1992, Kushlan 1997). Wading birds are recognized as bioindicators of specific environmental contaminants in aquatic ecosystems, for instance, heavy metals and pesticides (Kushlan 1997), and thus continue to be monitored by governmental and non-governmental agencies worldwide, such as the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and BirdLife International.

In Pennsylvania, Great Blue Herons were reported to have significantly retracted their range in the late 1800s and early 1900s, and were in danger of extirpation (Schwalbe and Ross 1992). By the mid 1900s, the population seemed to be rebounding, however the species was still at risk from habitat destruction, and was considered "vulnerable" on the list of Species of Special Concern in 1985 (Schwalbe and Ross 1992, Gill 1985).

Currently, Great Blue Herons are secure in the Commonwealth (Pennsylvania Game Commission 2005); however, the Game Commission continues to track colonies to ensure a stable statewide population. The documentation of heronries has occurred for many decades, but a more comprehensive approach was implemented in the 1990s to survey the entire state for Great Blue Heron colonies at five year intervals. The effort is made possible by of the gracious assistance from many dedicated volunteers. Selected large colonies continue to be monitored annually because of their conservation value to the species, and are protected through the Pennsylvania Game Commission Environmental Review process and the Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program (2008), a partnership between several state agencies and non-governmental organizations. All data are cataloged by the Natural Heritage Program to

protect colonies and allow for cooperative conservation planning across political boundaries. This article summarizes the results of our 2007-08 statewide survey and offers a discussion on the status of Great Blue Herons in Pennsylvania.

Methods

We started the 2007 statewide Great Blue Heron survey in spring 2007 and concluded in June 2008. We contacted surveyors who participated in the 2002 count and requested additional assistance and reports through the on-line listserv PABIRDS, and the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology (PSO) newsletter, *The PSO Pileated*. There are overlaps between these groups, but these forums allow for wide dispersal of requests for information not available in previous surveys. Field observers visited rookeries in the spring before leaf-out while pairs established territories. All active nests were counted from a distance that would not disturb the colony, but would allow for a complete nest count. A complete count of the state's largest rookery at Barrows in Mercer County was not possible due to high water this spring, so we plan to revisit the site this fall to obtain a complete count. Lastly, we extracted confirmed breeding observations from the 2nd Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas database and contacted the observers for updated information on each colony. Regional coordinators for the Atlas project made this source of information possible and productive. We submitted geographic coordinates, nest count data, and disturbance threats (if known) to the Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program.

Results and Discussion

We counted 2217 Great Blue Heron nests in 116 active colonies across 52 counties in the 2007-2008 statewide survey. This represents a 34% increase in total nests compared to the 1654 nests counted in 2002 in 61 active colonies across 36 counties. Although distribution and abundance increased during this survey, average colony size decreased slightly since 2002 from 14.1 to 11.4 nests per colony (excluding Barrows due to an

incomplete survey in 2008). The small size (less than 10 nests) of newly identified colonies in the 2007-08 survey likely accounts for this difference. In addition, a greater percentage of surveyed colonies were found to be active during this survey (73%) than in 2002 (66%).

The most notable difference from past surveys is the expansion of the breeding range in the state (Fig. 1). Great Blue Herons nested statewide until the early 1900s when habitat destruction and direct persecution restricted their range to northern counties (Pennsylvania Game Commission 2005). The first Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas (1984-1989) illustrated that breeding range had not expanded dramatically since that time, with nesting largely restricted to the glaciated regions of the state (Schwalbe and Ross 1992). By the time of the 1997 statewide census, 71 colonies in were identified in 28 counties. Today, colonies are found in all but 15 counties, including those in the central and southern portions of the state.

We can only speculate on reasons for this observed expansion. There are several possible factors contributing to the success of the survey and longer list of heron colonies.

First, previously large colonies may be splintering into smaller colonies due to natural or unnatural disturbances or changing patterns of resource availability. Breeding habitat is constantly threatened by natural and human disturbances such as wind throw, forest stand succession, logging, development, and recreation. Although the Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program and the PGC Environmental Review process protect larger colonies, Great Blue Herons can be unpredictable and desert colony sites for unexplained reasons. In an effort to protect exceptional breeding sites, several heron colonies were selected as Pennsylvania Important Bird Areas (IBA) because of their importance to conservation of this species (Audubon Society of Pennsylvania, 2008). IBA adoption has increased participation in bird conservation throughout the state, and has provided opportunities for birders to assist in counting heron nests.

Secondly, the statewide population

may have increased to the point at which it is able to recolonize parts of its former range. Since passage of the federal Clean Water Act in 1972, much attention has been paid to assessing, protecting, and improving Pennsylvania's surface waters. Although an estimated 16,000 of the Commonwealth's more than 86,000 stream miles are still impaired by acid mine drainage, nutrients, and sedimentation (Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection 2008), great strides have been made by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, local conservation districts, watershed associations, private landowners, and other partners to proactively address sources of pollution to our waterways. Water quality improvements and wetland protection and restoration efforts may present greater foraging opportunities to herons, leading to an expansion of the population that is now being noticed during colony surveys.

In addition, public interest and engagement in conserving bird species has heightened over the years. Individuals are more aware of wildlife laws, and more educated on the importance of birds than they were in the past, thanks to stewardship from Audubon chapters, bird clubs, local conservancies, and wildlife agencies, possibly allowing for higher reproductive success at Great Blue Heron colonies. This enthusiasm also translates into more involvement in volunteer monitoring of bird populations. For example, there has been an increase in participation in "citizen science" programs over the last decade that may be enhancing successful bird inventory and conservation programs. Several heron colonies have been found through the County Natural Heritage Inventories that are part of the Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program. Many birders and naturalists cooperate in these surveys and contribute to the common knowledge of the state's colonial birds. Moreover, the 2007-08 Great Blue Heron survey was certainly enhanced by the efforts of volunteers participating in the Second Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas. At the time of this writing, over 95,600 block hours have been logged by more than 3,160 volunteers statewide (Second Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas website, 2008). The emphasis on completing Atlas blocks and obtaining

a long species list for each block, especially the priority blocks, significantly increased the number of identified colonies. With the Atlas in its final year, for the next statewide survey we will be looking at observations submitted by birders to the newly launched Pennsylvania eBird website <www.ebird.org/content/pa> as a way to identify where Great Blue Herons are nesting throughout the state.

Increased communications between birders with each other and with wildlife agencies, through Audubon chapters and IBA volunteers, the PSO, the PABIRDS listserve, and, now, eBird, has greatly improved our ability to involve many people in heron colony surveys. As a result, birders have found previously undocumented heron colonies and have cooperated with this survey, birders who might not have been able to do so in the past. For these and other reasons we have not explored, the results of the 2007-08 statewide survey were impressive. As our partnerships with birders, non-governmental organizations, private industry, and private landowners continue to grow, we look forward to what the next statewide survey has in store. Mark your calendars for 2012!

Acknowledgements

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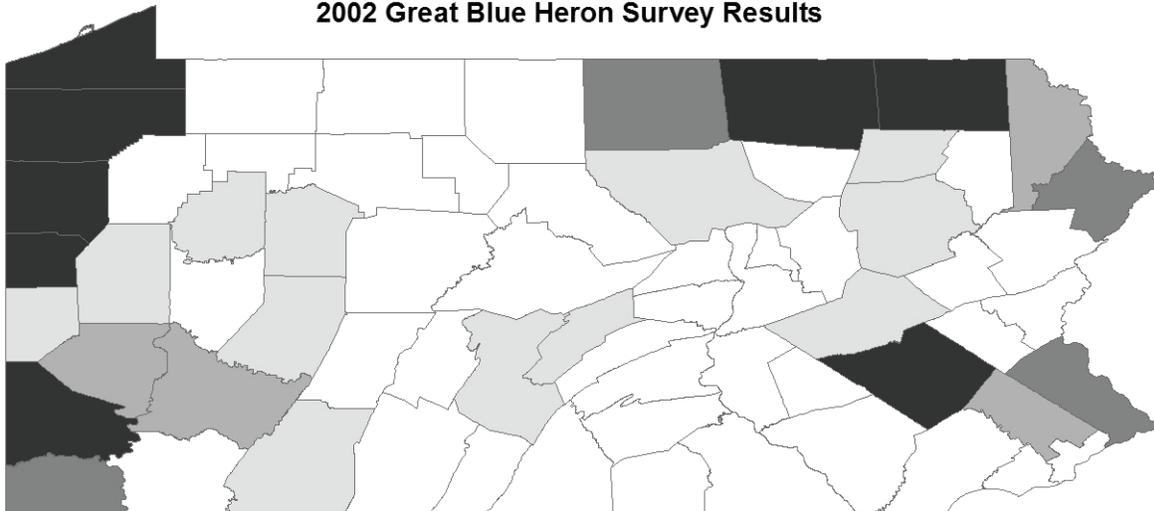
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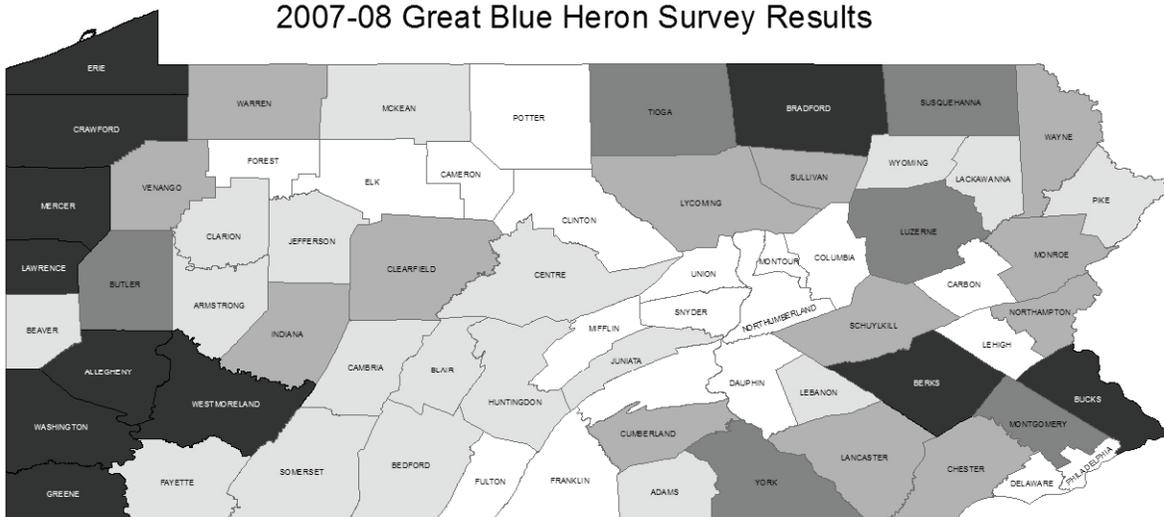
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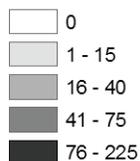
2002 Great Blue Heron Survey Results



2007-08 Great Blue Heron Survey Results



Active Great Blue Heron nests per county



0 25 50 100 Miles



Figure 1. Relative distribution of active Great Blue Heron nests per county from the 2002 and 2007-08 statewide surveys. Note that a total count at the largest colony in the state (Mercer Co.) was not able to be conducted in 2007-08, so the highest number of nests reported represents a minimum count.

BOOK REVIEW

Gene Wilhelm

SMITHSONIAN FIELD GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA

by Ted Floyd. Edited by Paul Hess and George Scott, designed by Charles Nix, 730 detailed and up-to-date color range maps by Paul Lehman, more than 2500 extraordinary color photographs covering 730 North American avian species by a cadre of outstanding nature photographers and a DVD of 587 downloadable bird songs; 512 pp., published 2008 by Harper Collins Publishers, NY, printed in Singapore, soft cover, \$24.95 USD.

Ted Floyd, editor of *Birding*, the flagship magazine of the American Birding Association (ABA), and his competent editorial team, including Pennsylvania's own expert birder, Paul Hess, positively advance the field identification of birds with this new spectacular guide. In many ways, the book reflects emerging trends not only in field ornithology but also in conservation biology and macro-micro ecology. We should not be surprised by this fact since the human species has noticed differences in native animals, including birds, and plants for tens of thousands of years on Earth. Such human curiosity, in fact, was the actual beginning of science.

Admittedly, field ornithology has gone through a long evolutionary process involving the "natural history" approach to avian identification, starting with the extraordinary number of birds collected by the gun as scientific specimens, and hoards more for sport in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Fortunately, a bit of these professional scientific endeavors resulted in seminal publications, perhaps best exemplified by Arthur Cleveland Bent's monumental *Life Histories of North American Birds*, published by the Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, and superceded more recently by A. Poole and F. Gill, editors, of *The Birds of North America: Life Histories for the 21st Century*, published by The Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, PA.

Unfortunately, only a tidbit of this valuable avian information trickled into the elementary school educational system as "nature study" that remained only of minor and isolated interest in some public school districts

for decades.

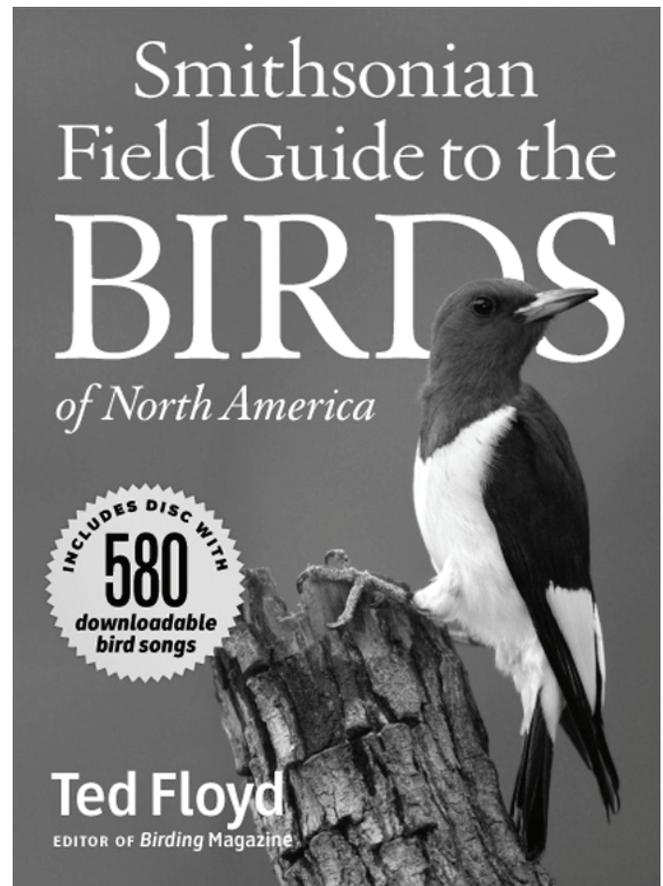
This all changed in 1934 when a young bird artist from Jamestown, New York, at age 26, published *A Field Guide to the Birds*. That author was, of course, the great Roger Tory Peterson. The work revolutionized bird identification forever, and his field guide concept quickly evolved into a field guide series numbering dozens of titles, covering virtually every facet of natural history. As Floyd correctly states: "Peterson did not merely solve the problem of field identification, he also conceived it... Peterson created a bare-bone manifesto with an audacious agenda: to empower the user to quickly and efficiently name every bird. His field guide used the simplest possible combination of characters to uniquely identify each species." (p. 2)

The Peterson guide ruled supreme for 32 years when in 1966 *The Golden Guide* covered the entire North American continent, and in 1983 the *National Geographic Field Guide* used several artists and set a new standard of accuracy. In 2000, *The Kaufman Field Guide* first employed enhanced digital photography, and in the same year *The Sibley Guide* was exclaimed for its "thoroughness and user-friendliness" (p. 2). And, I might add, Sibley's beautiful art work. In fact, many art ornithologists call Sibley the third John James Audubon because Audubon, Peterson and Sibley accomplished their beautiful artistic results with little or no help from others.

So what makes this new guide different from the others? *The Smithsonian Field Guide to the Birds of North America* has two special emphases that reflect emerging trends in the field identification of birds: a focus on natural variation within and among species, and a "holistic" view of the

bird as the sum of its behavioral, morphological and ecological parts. As Floyd comments: "This field guide includes a suite of information for each species. Descriptions are keyed on variation in appearance, behavior, habitat, ecology, molt strategy and voice. Multiple photographic images depict the birds in their natural surroundings. Detailed maps show birds' ranges across the continent. A DVD of bird song is included to assist in identifying birds by the sounds they make throughout the year and from region to region. The goal of this 'holistic' approach is to equip users with the best possible tools to identify birds simply and enjoyably in the field." (p. 2)

At the same time that the evolution of the avian field guide began in the 1960s, a new concept in the science of biology began to take root: ecology. Although the idea was known since the early 19th century in Europe, it was Rachel Carson's book, *Silent Spring*, published in 1962, that became the impetus that allowed synecology or community ecology to gain wide attention and acceptance in the United



States. Conservation biology still emphasized saving individual species, such as the Brown Pelican, California Condor, Peregrine Falcon and Whooping Crane, but it did also open the door enough to allow the ecosystem-based approach to be accepted, ever so gradually, by the community of biological scientists, and eventually to become the newest focal point in biodiversity preservation. Actually, biologists in the early 21st century are already promoting an even higher level of ecology in biodiversity preservation: entire major terrestrial ecosystems, or biomes, for example, the boreal forest (taiga) of Canada, or the Arctic tundra of Alaska. Such an ecological planning strategy encompasses preserving all the living and nonliving parts of these huge natural areas, and allows dynamic natural processes to continue unabated by human activities.

Granted, the Smithsonian guide is oriented mostly to professional field ornithologists and advanced amateur birders. Certainly, too, the field guide duplicates some points in the identification suite that are found in Sibley's and other guides, but the dual focus on variation within and among species and the holistic view are true to the author's intention. I suspect that much of the field data collected for this dual focus originated in the ABA's Institute for Field Ornithology programs. I used such interaction between graduate students and instructor at the Alexander von Humboldt Institute north of Bar Harbor, Maine, for several summers, learning to identify confusing shore birds in various non-breeding plumages. If only this marvelous guide, with its "most like" pairs of confusing species, depicted side by side in splendid photographs, would have been available five years ago. Teaching advanced field ornithology would have been so much easier.

I especially appreciate the use of space in the Smithsonian guide, starting with the inside left front cover illustrating "Key to the Range Maps" that shows the distribution of each main species in five different colors: green for breeding, blue for winter, purple for year round, orange for migration and yellow for rare. "Plumage, Molt, and Age Terminology" on the inside right front cover include definitions for plumage, molt, juvenile, immature, subadult, adult and worn feathers that are normally

confusing even to semi-professional individuals. The same page, under "ABA Codes", notes how that organization maintains its own checklist of all bird species recorded in the ABA Area, defined as the region of North America north of Mexico, which includes the continental United States, Canada, the French islands of St. Pierre et Miquelon (off the coast of Newfoundland), and off shore waters to 200 miles. The status of each species is summarized in the ABA checklist under six codes and in main accounts throughout the guide as follows: Code 1. Occurs widely and regularly in North America; Code 2. Regular within a restricted region of North America; Code 3. Rare but regular; occurs annually, usually in small numbers; Code 4. Casual; well-defined pattern of occurrence, but not annual; Code 5. Accidental; or a few records with no defined pattern; Code 6. Extinct or otherwise impossible to observe in the wild.

However unique these aspects are of this field guide, I personally want to emphasize perhaps the most important one of all: the Smithsonian Field Guide to the Birds of North America Birdsong DVD (pp. 491-494). The guide includes an incredible 587 MP3 sound files of birdsongs and vocalizations for 138 bird species found in North America. Created by Lang Elliot of NatureSound Studio, with Kevin Colver and Ted Mack, the files represent years of expert fieldwork and sound engineering to provide the finest quality digitally mastered birdsong recordings available anywhere to the public. As the author states: "The selection of species in this collection of vocalizations is based on coverage of a variety of species, the complexity of songs, calls, notes, and other vocalizations, and the beauty of some of the songs. This DVD is by no means a comprehensive collection of songs and other vocalizations for North American birds. However, it provides an excellent representative variety of vocalizations for each selected species." (p. 491). The disk is formatted as a data/audio DVD and contains over five and one-half hours of playing time, and nearly a gigabyte of data. Unfortunately, the disk will not work in an audio CD player or a CD-ROM drive that is common in older personal computers.

Associated with each MP3 file on the DVD is a digital color image of the avian species as "album art". With the sound files on a computer or on a

portable MP3 player, users will have both digitally mastered sound and a crisp color photographic image of the species. The MP3 audio files on the DVD are organized in separate folders by the name of the bird and a standard six-letter abbreviation code. Each MP3 recording on the DVD is named with the text abbreviation of the bird's name, a number for the species track, a brief description of the vocalization and in many cases the geographic area where recorded. For example, the Chipping Sparrow folder on the DVD contains the following MP3 files: CHISPA_1. fast song NY, CHISPA_2. slow song NY, CHISPA_3. chattering song ND, CHISPA_5. dawn song (stereo) NY, CHISPA_6. alarm calls MI, and CHISPA_7. interaction calls NY. (p. 492)

The combination of detailed text, vivid photographs, and excellent range maps in the printed guide, along with the birdsongs and vocalizations on the DVD, will give users a powerful suite of tools to assist in learning to identify birds by both sight and sound. It also establishes this avian field guide as the superior choice among so many other new guides currently available in this competitive market.

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Summary of the Season – June to July 2008

Dan Brauning, Summer Season Editor

The summer of 2008 was remarkable from the standpoint of the effort put into reporting breeding birds. At least 18,000 hours of fieldwork were documented by over 2,000 volunteers working the 2nd Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas, surveys were conducted in all counties of the state, and over 100,000 bird observations were entered into that database! This effort was truly monumental, as birders from across the state rallied to complete the project in this the final of five scheduled years, resulting in a respectable list of birds in most blocks. The weather for the summer season was cooperative: warm with sporadic rain, lacking any particularly noteworthy event in 2008.

Interestingly, this monumental field effort, much of it during this season (June-July), resulted in the discovery of relatively few rarities. The real highlight—and the primary contribution provided by birders this season—was routine documentation of fairly common species in block after block, and the unveiling of changes in bird distribution patterns. I will not attempt to summarize those results here in any detail; that much larger task will be completed over the next two years in preparation of the Atlas publication. Atlas efforts did translate into a higher percentage of counties submitting Local Notes, and resulted to the discovery of a few accidentals, most notably a **Western Kingbird** and multiple **White Ibis**. Suffice it to say that atlassing was a huge effort to redefine our understanding of Pennsylvania's breeding bird distributions, which will guide conservation efforts for years.

An unusual number of waterfowl species lingered into this season or remained through the summer, including 10 not known to breed regularly (or ever) in Pennsylvania. Although no new breeders were documented during the 2008 season, a few observations do give pause for thought: the pair of **Lesser Scaup** found at the Pymatuning Spillway, *Crawford*, was not unprecedented, but the irregular presence of the female during June only makes one wonder if a (albeit highly unlikely) nesting attempt was made. The species nests in

prairie potholes on the Great Plains and further west. Single pairs of **Ring-necked Ducks** similarly were found in *Monroe* and *Susquehanna*, but this species nests widely in the Adirondacks, as shown in the soon-to-be published New York Breeding Bird Atlas, a handsome effort due out December 2008! The presence of a male and female (discretely not referred to as a pair) in *Bucks* through much of June was another unlikely waterfowl that contributed to a record 16 species of *Anatidae* listed in this summer Birds of Note.

Multiple sightings of **White Ibis** in the southeastern counties contribute to the increase in frequency of post-breeding dispersal of immature from southern states. The **Glossy Ibis** story in *Chester* continued again this year.

Notable for an obvious increase in sightings in recent years is **Sandhill Crane**. Summer sightings just this season came from *Adams*, *Bradford*, *Crawford*, *Lancaster*, *Lebanon*, *Mercer*, and *Sullivan*; nesting in scattered northern and western counties would have been unthinkable even 15 years ago. Today it exceeds the limits of the noteworthy!

Constraining the summer season to June and July focuses this report on breeding birds and has reduced the number of shorebirds appearing in this summary, but a number of vagrant and seasonal migrants still occur at the start and end of the season. The only **Black-bellied Plovers** were at traditional stopover habitat in *Lebanon* and *Lancaster*. Notable observations of **Whimbrel** and **Hudsonian Godwit** on the very productive Mud Level Rd, *Cumberland*, secured these impressive species into this report. The intriguing observation of what was estimated to be 2000 **Ruddy Turnstone** and a score of **Red Knot** migrating overhead in *Bucks* provides a hint into the mysterious nocturnal migrations of shorebirds from their well-known wintering areas toward Arctic breeding grounds. These birds probably overfly Pennsylvania annually; how many go undetected?

Though **Wilson's Phalarope** occurs annually somewhere in the state, reports in summer have been very scarce. The *Allegheny* report 7/31

barely qualifies for this period! The lone **American Avocet** of the season was in *Berks*. **Franklin's Gull** also made it into this report by way of an individual which lingered a few days into June from the spring season in *Somerset*.

A very noteworthy pair of sightings this year was of a **Royal Tern** flying down the Delaware River on 7/12 in *Bucks*, and with quick coordination, by another observer downriver in *Philadelphia*. This resulted in 2 noteworthy county records and a first record of this species in Pennsylvania during June or July, notably without apparent influence from a hurricane (although Hurricane Bertha passed Bermuda on this date).

The possibility that **White-winged Doves**, which seem to be increasingly reported, including this year in *Berks* and *York*, were escapes cannot be ruled out. Scattered reports of **Eurasian Collared-Dove** in *Chester*, *Lancaster*, and *Lebanon* reflect a slight expansion of this now annual (or resident?) breeding species.

The vast majority of bird observations this season during the atlas effort were of breeding songbirds, common or uncommon, in Pennsylvania's fields and forest. For whatever reason, this large group makes up the bulk of species and numbers in most breeding bird atlas blocks, but constitutes well less than quarter of the Birds of Note. Such injustice! The **Western Kingbird** photographed by an ardent atlasser on 7/4 provides a notable exception. Nearly annually observed in Pennsylvania, this bird provided the most unexpected highlight of the season as the second July record for Pennsylvania.

Other passerine highlights represent rare species that have bred or regularly breed in the state. Scattered **Dickcissel** sightings in counties not known to have breeding populations were reminiscent of a small "invasion year". The enigmatic **Red Crossbill** in *Bradford* makes the author wonder where this species breeds. The **Evening Grosbeak** in *Bradford* is remarkable; even in winter this bird has been scarce in recent years.

Birds of Note – June through July 2008

This report summarizes unexpected species reported in Pennsylvania for this period. As a general rule birds must have been recorded in five or fewer counties to qualify for inclusion here, but rare species recorded more frequently, or irregular species exhibiting an unusual seasonal occurrence, are also included. "Atlas" indicates record gleaned from the 2nd PBBA database; "Listserv" indicates records deemed credible which were gleaned from the PABIRDS listserv for counties with no reporting compiler.

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 terms "no doc" and "doc submitted" indicate whether documentation has been submitted on reports of Review List species listed herein; "no doc" indicates that no documentation was known to have been submitted as of the time of writing. The PORC Review List can be found at the PSO web site <<http://www.pabirds.org>>.

Birds in *Italic* typeface are uncommon or rare, but occur during this time period in most years.

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

Birds in *Italic and Underlined* typeface occur fewer than 4 to 7 out of 10 years during this time period.

Birds in Normal typeface are noteworthy for rarity, but are recorded annually, usually in more than one county.

Snow Goose – *Bucks*: An adult was at Peace Valley Park 6/6 (August Mirabella); *Northampton*: Two spent the entire period at Martins Creek Environmental Preserve (Rick Wiltraut).

Tundra Swan – *Lebanon*: An adult was at Mt. Pleasant Road on 6/5-6, second Jun record (Randy C. Miller).

Gadwall – *Northampton*: At Christian Spring Rd, Nazareth into mid-Jun (Rick Wiltraut).

American Wigeon – *Lancaster*: Lingered at Susquehanna River, Conejohela Flats to 6/12 (Eric Witmer).

Blue-winged Teal – *Bucks*: At Rohm and Haas, Bristol 6/30 (Devich Farbotnik), apparently the county's first summer report; *Butler*: Female in atlas block 43D63 on 7/26 (Jim Gray, Atlas); *Lehigh*: Male observed in two ponds 6/10 behind 860 Nestle Way (Adam Smith, Atlas), and on 6/1 (Jeff Hopkins, Atlas).

Northern Shoveler – *Northampton*: One at Martins Creek Environmental Preserve 6/24 (Rick Wiltraut).

Green-winged Teal – *Bucks*: Two continued from May at Penn Warner Tract to at least 6/1 (Devich Farbotnik); *Crawford*: Six at Pymatuning Goose Management Area 7/20 (Ron Leberman); *Lancaster*: Lingered at Susquehanna River, Conejohela Flats until 6/12 (Eric Witmer); *Northampton*: Spent the entire period at Martins Creek Environmental Preserve (Rick Wiltraut).

Canvasback – *Adams*: One in eclipse plumage observed and photographed on a pond near Biglerville on 6/18 (Dick and Pat Williams); *Bucks*: A male was found 7/7 at Central Park, Doylestown Twp. and remained through the season (Bob Thompson, ph. Pat Thompson), first recorded summer county report.

Ring-necked Duck – *Bucks*: A male at The Penn Warner Tract 6/21-22 and again 7/13 (Devich Farbotnik); *Montgomery*: One lingered in the Unami Creek Valley until at least 6/1 and another summered at Upper Perkiomen Valley Park (Steve Kacir); *Monroe*: Male and female on a small pond just off Rte. 534 south of Jonas, several dates including 6/26 and 7/8 (Bernie Morris, Atlas); *Somerset*: Bird lingered until 7/10, apparent first summer for county (Mark Vass, Geoff Malosh); *Susquehanna*: Pair seen on "tailings ponds" 6/14 (Mike Ward, Atlas).

Greater Scaup – *Somerset*: Male stayed at Garret Mudflats until at least 6/3 (Jeff, Laurretta, and Chris Payne).

Lesser Scaup – *Bucks*: One or 2 were seen throughout May at The Penn Warner Tract, continued to at least 6/8 (Devich Farbotnik); *Clearfield*: Male photographed at Treasure Lake 7/7 (Andy Wilson, Atlas); *Crawford*: Pair

present at Linesville Fish Hatchery all of May and Jun; male seen almost every day, female was with him irregularly (6/10), suggesting she may have at least attempted nesting (Robert Leberman); *Northampton*: Female spent the entire period at Martins Creek Environmental Preserve (Rick Wiltraut).

Bufflehead – *Bucks*: A male and female were noted 6/15 at Penn Warner Tract and were still there 6/22 (Devich Farbotnik); *Northampton*: One at Martins Creek Environmental Preserve until 7/6 (Rick Wiltraut).

Common Goldeneye – *York*: Seen at a small pond near Delta 6/30 (John Dennehy).

Red-breasted Merganser – *Berks*: A female seen at Lake Ontelaunee 6/22 (Matt Spence); *Dauphin*: Two females seen on the Susquehanna River from West Fairview Boat Launch 6/3 (Ramsay Koury).

Ruddy Duck – *Allegheny*: A female was found at Barati's Ponds in Jefferson Borough 7/26 (Sam Sinderson); *Bucks*: An adult male was at Pine Run Dam 6/19 (Mike Homel); *Crawford*: Nine at Pymatuning Spillway 7/2 (Robert Leberman); *Somerset*: Lingering migrant 6/1 at Somerset Lake (Jeff Payne).

Common Loon – *Armstrong*: One at Crooked Creek Park 6/9 (Mike Fowles); *Bucks*: One in non-breeding plumage at Peace Valley Park 6/4 (Rob Fergus), another at Penn Warner Tract 6/30, and 4 at Penn Warner Tract 7/13, including one in breeding plumage (Devich Farbotnik); *Luzerne*: One at Mill Creek Reservoir on 6/28 (Jim Hoyson, Peter Carlin).

Horned Grebe – *Bucks*: A breeding plumaged bird found at Nockamixon State Park 7/6-15 (Bill Etter, ph. Howard Eskin), a first summer report for county; *Crawford*: At the Fish Hatchery 6/1 (Becky Smith); *Somerset*: Lingering migrant 6/3 at Somerset Lake (Jeff Payne).

Great Cormorant – *Bucks*: An adult provided an assumed new spring late date 6/1 at Rohm and Haas at Bristol (Devich Farbotnik) and an adult discovered at Morrisville on 7/14 (Bill Keim) may indicate it never left; apparently first Jun and Jul reports for *Bucks*.

American Bittern – *Bradford*: Very small roadside pond bird in cattails in block 36B25 on 6/12 (Larry Brown, Sr., Atlas); *Crawford*: Noted at Geneva 6/6 and two were there 6/20 (Ron Leberman, Robert Leberman); *Cumberland*: One on several evenings flying into Mountain Road marsh at SGL 169 through the start of Jul (Andrew Markel); *Lycoming*: A single was flushed along Little Pine Creek just north of Little Pine Lake 7/6 (Kate Miller and Randy Miller).

Least Bittern – *Bucks*: Discovered 6/15-22 at U.S. Steel in Falls Twp. (Devich Farbotnik); *Cumberland*: 2 pairs at Mountain Road marsh at SGL 169 (Andrew Markel); *Philadelphia*: One photographed at John Heinz N.W.R. 7/14 (Todd Fellenbaum); *Warren*: One bird heard calling near Akely Swamp 6/17 (Andy Wilson, Atlas).

Snowy Egret – *Bucks*: at Core Creek Park at the end of May continued until 6/1 (Devich Farbotnik). One was at Rohm and Haas 7/27 (Bill Keim); *Lancaster*: Seen 7/27 (Drew Weber); *McKean*: One at Hamlin Lake, Smethport 6/3 (Len Groshek, *vide* John Fedak, listserv).

Little Blue Heron – *Bucks*: An adult was at Penn Warner Tract 6/30 (Devich Farbotnik); *Cumberland*: An adult one day at Le Tort Spring Run in Carlisle during the last week of Jul (Herb Weigl); *Indiana*: Two were present at Yellow Creek State Park 7/22 (Margaret Higbee) through 7/26 (Steve Gosser, David Kaltenbaugh); *Lancaster*: Seen at Susquehanna River, Conejohela Flats 7/10; *Washington*: Juvenile at Canonsburg Lake on the evening of 7/29 (Dave Wilton), county second record.

Tri-colored Heron – *Philadelphia*: Juv. was found 7/21 and remained at John Heinz N.W.R. to 7/25 (J. Berner, Ned Connolly, Todd Fellenbaum, Al Guarente).

Yellow-crowned Night Heron – *Chester* (and *Delaware*): An adult in Birmingham Twp. 7/22 (Larry Lewis); *Cumberland*: Juv. reported at Cabin Road section of SGL 169 (Andrew Markel, Vernon Gauthier); *Dauphin*: Three nests were confirmed with 12 fledglings in the Bellevue neighborhood of Harrisburg 7/8 (Sandy Lockerman, Chad Kauffman), also reported in West Hanover Twp. 7/20 where one was observed at a farm pond (Beth Carricato), and from West Fairview where two juveniles were noted the morning of 7/30 (Kermit Henning); *Lancaster*: Juvenile at Alcoa Marsh 7/25-26 was notable (Devin Bosler, Drew Weber).

White Ibis* – *Adams*: A mostly brown juvenile in Marsh Creek, seen from Red Rock Road 7/31 (Mike Weible); *Lancaster*: An immature was at Susquehanna River, Conejohela Flats 7/10-15 (Tom Amico, Emily Braught, Bob Schutsky, Andy McGann), another immature was found near Stop 1 at Middle Creek WMA 7/17 (Barry Bell) through at least 7/23 (m.ob.) and sporadically well into Aug, was known to be a different individual (*vide* Geoff Malosh, Drew Weber).

Glossy Ibis – *Bucks*: Three at Penn Warner Tract 6/1 added our third report for the year (Devich Farbotnik); *Chester*: 15 Glossy Ibis were observed from 6/30 (Larry Lewis) through the end of the season (m.ob.) feeding in a sewage lagoon on a dairy farm near Landenberg, probably a record number for the county. *Lancaster*: Seen in eastern *Lancaster* 7/13 (Chuck Chalfant).

Mississippi Kite* – *Juniata*: Observed on a float trip along the Juniata River (Aden Troyer, Mary Troyer, *no doc*).

Merlin – *Bradford*: Seen 6/16 harassing a Turkey Vulture in Litchfield Twp. (Bob Fowles) and on 6/26 in Sayre, first confirmed nesting record in county (Bill Howe); *Elk*: An adult male seen between BBS stops 7/2 (John Fedak, Atlas); *Franklin*: Seen flying at Hades Church Road over a field 7/25 (Joan Duffield, Atlas); *Northampton*: Flying west across the ridge carrying a snake 6/30 (Arlene Koch).

King Rail* – *Butler*: Attempted to nest this season, but with high water levels in all wetlands, they were unsuccessful (Gene Wilhelm, *no doc*).

Common Moorhen – *Bucks*: Again believed to be breeding

at U.S. Steel, but no young were reported (Devich Farbotnik); *Butler*: Birds continuing in Slippery Rock Twp. failed to nest due to low water caused by human destruction of a beaver dam (Gene Wilhelm); *Crawford*: On 7/4, 3 adult and 7 young at Geneva (Ron Leberman).

American Coot – *Fayette*: At Jacob's Creek Lake 6/20 (Mike Fialkovich); *Somerset*: Lingered to 6/3 near Kingwood on a large pond (Jeff and Laretta Payne); *Washington*: Resident bird at the pond in N. Strabane Twp. was still present this season (Mark Vass, Geoff Malosh, et al.).

Black-bellied Plover – *Bucks*: 25 on 6/3 over Quakertown (Devich Farbotnik); *Cumberland*: one at Mudlevel Road during first week of Jun (Vernon Gauthier); *Lancaster*: Conejohela Flats, Susquehanna River 6/1 (Jonathan Heller).

American Avocet – *Berks*: One briefly at the Dry Brooks Day Use Area of Blue Marsh Lake 7/25 (Keith Lutz, *vide* Joan Silagy).

Upland Sandpiper – *Adams*: Gettysburg area grasslands 6/19 (Michael OBrian, Atlas); *Butler*: Four pairs recorded with fledglings in Marion Twp. (Gene Wilhelm); *Chester*: Seen at Laurels Preserve 7/29 (Pam Fisher); *Crawford*: At Pymatuning Goose Management Area 7/19 (Mark Vass); *Clearfield*: Pair in a plowed field near corner of 104 Cavalry Rd. and Mt. Zion Rd 6/25 (Jocelynn Smrekar, Atlas); *Franklin*: Four birds at roadside engaging in much vocalizing 6/13 north of Greencastle (Andy Wilson, Atlas), and at least two singing on Brandt's Church Rd. 6/12-13 (Dale Gearhart, Atlas); *Somerset*: Garret Mudflats 6/3 (Jeff, Laretta, and Chris Payne), and one was reported in Berlin Area 6/10 (Levi Yoder).

Whimbrel – *Cumberland*: One on Mudlevel Road 6/4-5 (Andrew Markel), a first for the county.

Hudsonian Godwit – *Cumberland*: Two at Mudlevel Rd. with birds continuing through 6/5 (Andrew Markel, Bob Keener, Ramsay Koury, Vernon Gauthier), first spring record.

Ruddy Turnstone – *Bucks*: Approximate total of 2000 on 6/3 over Quakertown (Devich Farbotnik), probably the county's highest total ever.

Red Knot – *Bucks*: Approximate total of 20 on 6/3 over Quakertown (Devich Farbotnik), probably the county's highest total ever.

Western Sandpiper – *Bucks*: A bird at Rohm and Haas 7/20 established a new fall early arrival date (Devich Farbotnik); *Lancaster*: One at Conejohela Flats, Susquehanna River 6/1.

White-rumped Sandpiper – *Bucks*: Up to 3 stayed at PWT through most of Jun (Devich Farbotnik), decreasing to one by 6/22; *Northampton*: Late spring migrants were at Green Pond 6/5, and a high of 5 on 6/18-19 (Dave DeReamus) when the flooded field began to dry up.

Dunlin – *Bucks*: Lingered at the Penn Warner Tract, with the last one reported 6/7 for a new spring late departure date, "unprecedented" was the appearance of 10 in breeding plumage at Penn Warner Tract 7/13 (Devich Farbotnik), for first reports for Jul or Aug; *Lancaster*: Susquehanna River, Conejohela Flats 6/1.

Short-billed Dowitcher – *Bucks*: Three at CCP 7/13 (Devich Farbotnik); *Crawford*: Single at Pymatuning Goose Management Area 7/30 (Robert Leberman); *Lancaster*: First fall migrant at Susquehanna River, Conejohela Flats 7/12; *Lawrence*: Two *hendersoni* birds at Mason Rd gravel pond in Plain Grove 7/4 (Mark Vass,

listserv).

Long-billed Dowitcher – *Northampton*: One at Hanoverville Rd 7/24-8/3 was second county record and first photographed record (Brett Schick, m.ob.).

Wilson's Phalarope – *Allegheny*: One at Imperial 7/31 (Mark Vass, ph. Geoff Malosh).

Franklin's Gull – *Somerset*: First-year bird first found 5/30 persisted until 6/2 (Jim Moses, Meg Moses, Jeff Payne, Laretta Payne, Chris Payne.)

Bonaparte's Gull – *Somerset*: Lingered migrant on Somerset Lake 6/3 (Jeff Payne).

Lesser Black-backed Gull – *Bucks*: A few were at Penn Warner Tract in Jun, probably remained all season.

Caspian Tern – *Bucks*: Two at Bensalem 7/6 ((Devich Farbotnik) were the first fall arrivals, one was at Nockamixon State Park 7/13 (Bill Etter), and one stopped at Peace Valley Park 7/15 (Alan Brady); *Crawford*: At the Fish Hatchery 7/19 (Mark Vass) and 8 at the Pymatuning Causeway marina 7/23 (Robert Leberman); *Lancaster*: Three were at Susquehanna River, Conejohela Flats 7/10 and continued to be seen later in the month; *Erie*: Several sightings, including Edinboro Lake 6/26 and 7/6 (Patrick Kramer, Atlas) and from Roderick Preserve on 6/22 (Thomas Wasilewski and Pat Howell, Atlas); *Philadelphia*: First reported from Rhawn St. at the Delaware River 7/19 (Frank Windfelder), continued into Aug.

Royal Tern* – *Bucks*: One 7/12 on the Delaware River was a second county record (ph. Devich Farbotnik); *Philadelphia*: Frank Windfelder observed the same bird at Rhawn St. on the Delaware River at 6:00 PM.

Common Tern – *Bucks*: Three were at Penn Warner Tract 6/21, followed by another at Nockamixon State Park 6/22 (Devich Farbotnik), and 5 at Nockamixon State Park on the slightly more expected date of 7/27 (Bill Etter); *Crawford*: One at the Pymatuning Spillway 7/23 (Mark Vass); *Washington*: A storm 6/4 brought a small fallout of 8 birds near Bentleyville (Andy Berchin).

Forster's Tern – *Lancaster*: Adult feeding two juveniles on a snag at Susquehanna River, Conejohela Flats 7/19, and 9 at the same location 7/26; *Philadelphia*: First reported 6/22 (Michael Drake), parents feeding young were present in late Jul (Doris McGovern, m.ob.).

Black Tern – *Crawford*: At Geneva 7/23 (Robert Leberman); *Lancaster*: Seen late in Jul Susquehanna River, Conejohela Flats; *Northampton*: One spent the day at a retention pond on Gremer Rd. (Ken and Gladys Price).

Eurasian Collared-Dove – *Chester*: Fly-by in West Chester 7/2 (Larry Lewis); *Lancaster*: At the intersection of Puseyville and Street Roads near the State Game Lands 136 parking lot 7/20 (Tom Raub); *Lebanon*: 6/5 along Colebrook near Rt. 322 at the Mark Hershey farm (Randy C. Miller).

White-winged Dove* – *Berks*: Well described by a Reading man, but no location (*no doc*); *York*: 6/22 on a telephone wire at the old York County landfill on Althouse School Rd (Randy Phillips, *no doc*).

Long-eared Owl – *Monroe*: Report near Tannersville in mid-Jun could not be confirmed.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher – *Monroe*: Male banded at TNC's Two Mile Run Preserve near Blakeslee 7/13 (Darryl Speicher).

Western Kingbird* – *Northumberland*: Found 7/1 during atlassing near Milton. The bird was perched on a pile of debris in a large field, which had been cleared for

developing (Lauri Shaffer, *under review*).

Sedge Wren – *Crawford*: Found at SGL 277 on 7/6 (Jim Flynn); *Erie*: Heard and observed carrying nesting material near West Greene on 7/25 and 7/29 (Chris Lundberg); *Somerset*: Singing bird heard north of Jennerstown 6/22 (Mike Lanzone); *York*: 6/22 in a hayfield along Tunnell Hill Rd. (Bill Hintze), and a pair on the morning of 6/23 responded to playback (Chuck Berthoud), not found 6/24 following mowing.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet – *Bradford*: Responded to pishing 7/26 in a field in the Windham Center vicinity (Marty Borko, John Palmer, Marilyn Palmer); *Montgomery*: At Kulpsville 7/19 (Steve Kacir).

Swainson's Thrush – *Elk*: Singing 7/4, just outside Allegheny National Forest (Andy Wilson, Atlas); *Forest*: One singing male 6/18 (Andy Wilson, Atlas); *Lycoming*: Territorial birds 6/19 along Rock Run (Dan Brauning) and 6/26 in the ravine of E. Branch of Mill Creek (m.ob.); *Sullivan*: Male in full song 0.5 miles up Mineral Springs Rd. above Worlds End State Park 6/26 (Dave Ferry, Atlas), and in thick deciduous saplings on hillside alongside logging Rd 6/7 (Robert Megraw, Atlas).

Blackpoll Warbler – *Indiana*: A late migrant was singing near Shelocta 6/1 (Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee).

Summer Tanager* – *Allegheny*: A pair at Frick Park 6/29 (Stuart Demansky *vide* John Campsey); *Cumberland*: juvenile male at Elk Hill Road near Colonel Denning State Park 7/27 (Herb Weigl), the third county record; *Venango*: Male singing for 30 minutes on 6/4 (Jerry Stanley, listserv). (*No Doc for any*)

White-crowned Sparrow – *Juniata*: Singing 6/14 at Lost Creek Shoe Shop (Aden Troyer).

Dickcissel – *Adams*: Five were singing on Brough Hill Rd 6/20, and one was found the next day on Red Bridge Rd (Ramsey Koury); *Bucks*: Territorial pair at Penn Warner Tract landfill 7/12; adults were seen carrying food, making for the first breeding report for the county; *Chester*: A pair of at Runnymede Farm 6/20 was suspected as nesting but not relocated (Brian Brynes, Pam Fisher, Nick Pulcinella, Sharon Pulcinella); *Cumberland*: Three singing in a field off Hill Top Road just north of Newburg 6/5 (Andrew Markel, Ramsay Koury), and 7/7 (Ramsay Koury), along with one or 2 singing on Gephart Road just off of Mudlevel Road (Andrew Markel, Bob Oyler, Vernon Gauthier).

Red Crossbill – *Bradford*: At a feeder on Wilawanna Rd, Sayre, 6/7 (Marsha Zwierlein).

Pine Siskin – *Centre*: At a thistle feeder in Black Moshannon State Park 6/4 (Nick Bolgiano); *Elk*: 7/4 (Andy Wilson, Atlas); *Luzerne*: Reports on 6/22 at FSSP (Jim Hoyson) and another individual 7/23 at Nescopeck State Park (Rick Koval); *Somerset*: Two throughout the season at Payne Property (Jeff, Laretta, & Chris Payne); *McKean*: One seen near Ludlow on 6/20 (Andy Wilson, listserv).

Evening Grosbeak – *Bradford*: Female at a feeder at East Smithfield on 6/8 (Rich Gulyas).

PHOTOGRAPHIC HIGHLIGHTS



Canvasback (*Aythya valisineria*). This male, probably left over from the spring migration, was noticed in early July at a park in Doylestown Twp., Bucks, providing the county's first summer record. It showed no outward signs of illness or injury when it was photographed here on 7 July 2008, though an ailment of some sort was likely. (*Pat Thompson*)



Egret sp. (*Egretta sp.*). This juvenile egret present 29 to 31 July (here) at Octoraro Reservoir, Lancaster, showed many characters consistent with Little Egret, but unfortunately separation of juvenile Snowy and Little Egret is not straightforward since many features are variable and overlapping, and this bird was never seen in direct comparison with a juvenile Snowy Egret. It caused much discussion among the birding community, but ultimately a majority of birders left the bird unidentified, and no documentation has been submitted to PORC as of this writing. (*Devin Bosler*)



Horned Grebe (*Podiceps auritus*). Another great mid-summer find in Bucks was this Horned Grebe at Lake Nockamixon 6 to 15 July 2008 (here 13 July), a first summer record for Bucks. (*Howard B. Eskin*)



Egret sp. (*Egretta sp.*). Close up of the Octoraro egret's face. Note the dark lores, a character usually associated with Little Egret, however, juvenile Snowy Egrets can show the same. (*Devin Bosler*)



Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*). Juvenile at John Heinz N.W.R., Philadelphia, 21 to 25 July 2008 (here 22 July). (*Todd Fellenbaum*)



Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*). Two juveniles at Yellowcreek State Park 26 July 2008. (*Steve Gosser*)



Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*). One of two at Yellowcreek State Park, *Indiana*, 26 July 2008; these birds were part of a small incursion of this species into sw. Pennsylvania this season. (Steve Gosser)



White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*). It was another great season for White Ibis in Pennsylvania. This bird frequented the Conejohela Flats, *Lancaster*, from 10 to 15 July 2008 (here 15 July). (Devin Bosler)



Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*). These three birds at the Penn Warner Tract 1 June 2008 were already the county's third reported Glossy Ibises for calendar '08. (Devich Farbotnik)



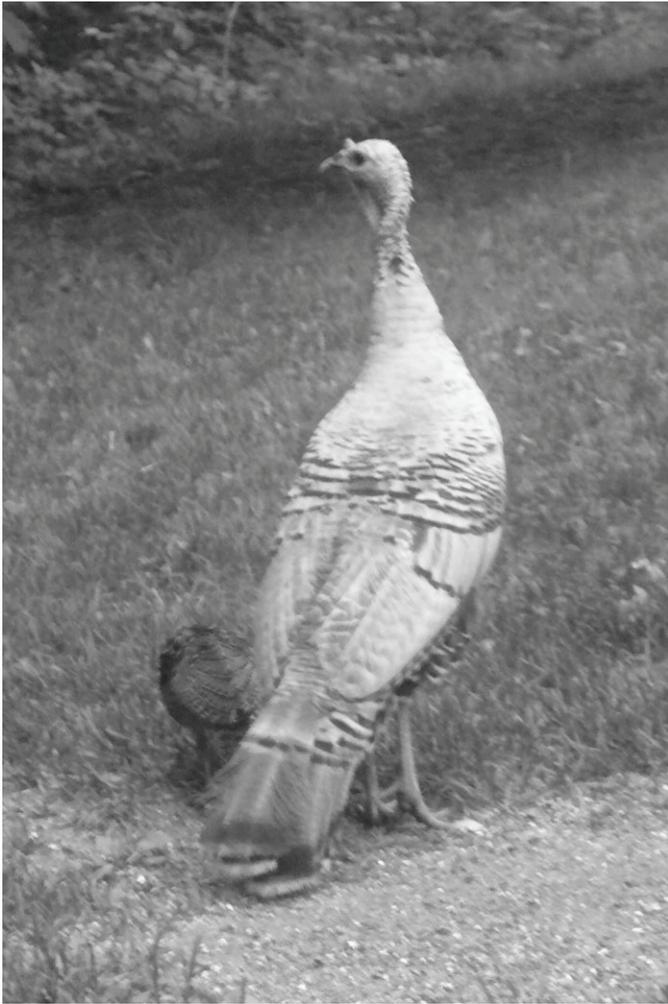
White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*). Appearing at Middle Creek W.M.A. in *Lancaster* 17 July 2008 and staying through August (here 20 July), this bird was suspected as being the same as the Conejohela Flats bird pictured above; however close inspection of the bill coloration proved it was a different individual. (Geoff Malosh)



Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*). Up to 15 Glossy Ibis were seen this season beginning 30 June 2008 in the vicinity of Landenberg, *Chester*. The group was photographed here 1 July and was seen through the end of the period. See the S.A. in the *Chester* report for more details. (Sharon Pulcinella)



White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*). This bird was a serendipitous find for Mike Weible along Marsh Creek, *Adams*, 31 July 2008, where it remained for a few days. It was photographed here on 1 August. (Bob Moul)



Leucistic Wild Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*). This leucistic individual was present in a *Washington* backyard for a second consecutive season, photographed here 12 July 2008. (Cassie Campsey)



Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*). This crane was photographed 6 June 2008 in *Lebanon*, one of an amazing seven counties reporting this ever-increasing species in Pennsylvania. (Randy Miller)



American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*). This family of birds was photographed 5 July 2008 atop a nest box in Peace Valley Park which kestrels have used for a few years in a row now, a welcome sign for a species that is suspected to be in decline in southeastern Pennsylvania. (Howard B. Eskin)



American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*). A fine looking male photographed 17 June 2008 during a banding session in *Northampton*. (Dustin Welch)



Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*). This injured bird was captured during a banding session in McElhatten, *Clinton*, 16 July 2008. (Wayne Laubscher)



Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*). This fine portrait was made 20 July 2008 at Wagontown, Chester. (Joe Sebastiani)



Upland Sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*). The Upland Sandpiper is one of Pennsylvania's rarest and most enchanting breeders. This outstanding photo was made at Piney Tract, Clarion, 7 June 2008 (Steve Gosser).

[Editor's Note: Regrettably, photos appearing in Volume 22 No. 2 by Steve Gosser, one of Pennsylvania's top bird photographers, were captioned as "Steve Grosser". I am thoroughly appalled at this gross mistake and extend deep apologies to Steve.]



White-rumped Sandpiper (*Calidris fuscicollis*). This species is a characteristically late spring migrant in Pennsylvania. This bird was photographed 5 June 2008 at Green Pond, Northampton. (Dave DeReamus)



Long-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus scolopaceus*). This well-studied dowitcher at Hanoverville Road in Northampton, present 24 July to 3 August 2008 (here 28 July), proved to be a Long-billed after careful consideration, and provided a second county record. (Dave DeReamus)



Long-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus scolopaceus*). 3 August 2008 at Hanoverville Road, Northampton. Normally thought of as one of the later-arriving shorebirds in fall, there have been an increasing number of Long-billed Dowitchers—especially adults—reported in July in recent years, possibly due to increased scrutiny of dowitchers by an ever-more-knowledgeable birding public. (Dustin Welch)



Wilson's Phalarope (*Phalaropus tricolor*). This juvenile photographed at Imperial, *Allegheny*, 31 July 2008 represented the seventh record for the county and first since 2002. (*Geoff Malosh*)



Royal Tern (*Sterna maxima*). Totally unexpected was this tern found on the Delaware River in *Bucks* 12 July 2008. It represents the first record for Pennsylvania in June or July, and notably it appeared without assistance from a tropical cyclone. (*Devich Farbotnik*)



Franklin's Gull (*Larus pipixcan*). This bird was present at Somerset Lake, *Somerset*, 30 May to 2 June 2008 (here 30 May). This species was recently removed from the PORC review list based on its regular (albeit rare) appearances across the state. (*Jeff Payne*)



Eastern Screech-Owl (*Megascops asio*). Fledgling at Downingtown, *Chester*, 5 June 2008 (*Joshua Clapper*)



Black Tern (*Chilodoniass niger*). A nice flight shot made 1 June 2008 at Greomar Road, *Northampton*. (*Dustin Welch*)



Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*). Nestling during banding at Turbotville, *Northumberland*, 16 June 2008. (*Wayne Laubscher*)



Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*). A territorial male at Imperial, Allegheny, 12 July 2008. (Geoff Malosh)



Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*). This juvenile was nicely photographed in Moore Township, Northampton, 13 July 2008. (Dustin Welch)



Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*). This bird was a surprise for an atlasser at Milton, Northumberland, 1 July 2008. (Lauri Shaffer)



Henslow's Sparrow (*Ammodramus henslowii*). Singing male at Piney Tract, Clarion, 28 June 2008. (Steve Gosser)

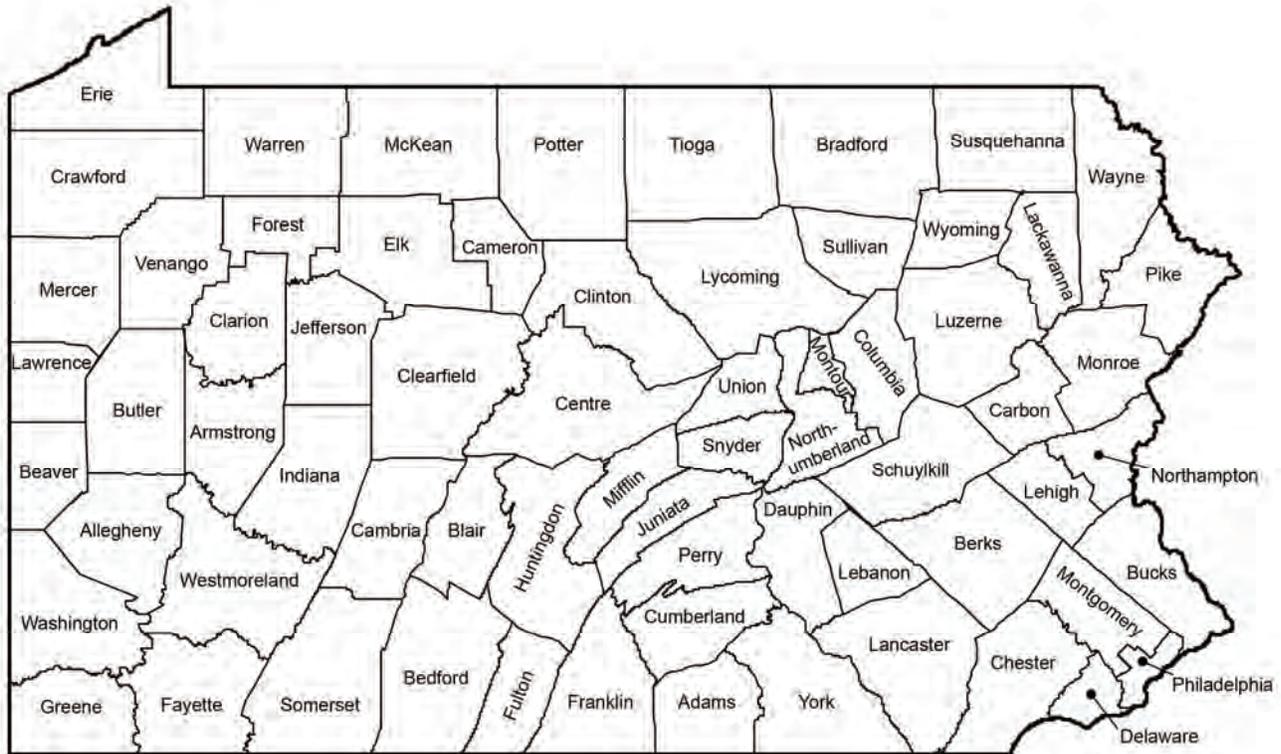


Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*). Imperial, Allegheny, 12 July 2008. (Geoff Malosh)



Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*). Good flight photos of passerines are hard to capture. This worthy effort was made at Piney Tract, Clarion, 7 June 2008. (Steve Gosser)

Local Notes – June to July 2008



ABBREVIATIONS

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

Adams County

Locations: Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve (SHNP).

A **Ruffed Grouse** was found 7/2 (m.ob.) at SHNP in the hilly western edge of the county, the only part of the county where they are found. *Adams* participated in this summer's influx of **White Ibis** in the state. While driving along Red Rock Road 7/31, MW looked down Marsh Creek as he crossed the bridge and spotted a mostly brown immature White Ibis in the water about 150 yards away! About an hour later two others (MO, PJR) got there to see the ibis as it turned stones looking for crayfish. A **Sandhill Crane** showed up 7/9 at a rural residence near Biglerville, where it regularly clapped its beak at its reflection in the windows of the home (m.ob.). It was still there the end of the period. A pair of **Spotted Sandpipers** and a juvenile were seen 7/22 along Conewago Cr. (PK).

Common Nighthawks were seen 7/2 at SHNP (m.ob.)—nesters or early migrants? A **Blue Grosbeak** was singing southwest of Littlestown 6/2 (PJR), and another was a "yard bird" 7/22 in Fairfield (MO). A group of 5 **Dickcissels** were singing on Brough Hill Rd. 6/20 (RK), and one was found the next day on Red Bridge Rd. (RK). Both discoveries were the result of atlassing.

Observers: **Peter J. Robinson, P. O. Box 482, Hanover, PA 17331, (717) 632-8462, pabirder@hotmail.com**, Phil Keener, Ramsey Koury, Mike O'Brien (MO), Mike Weible.

Allegheny County

Location: Imperial (IMP).

The summer season is quiet as birds settle into their breeding activities and birders recover from the busy spring migration, although a few out of season species were found in the county and shorebirds began passing through in July. Atlassing efforts in the southern part of the county provided reports from this little-birded area, and many other reports were submitted as part of atlassing efforts.

Two female **Wood Ducks** were leading seven chicks around a pond at IMP 7/3 (MF, MV). A female with five chicks was in North Park 7/20 (MV). An unusual summer visitor, a female **Ruddy Duck** was found at Barati's Ponds in Jefferson Borough 7/26 (SSn). A **Pied-billed Grebe** was at IMP 6/20 (MV), a breeding location in recent years.

A **Great Egret** was an unusual find for this time of year near IMP

6/16 (CT). The putative **Great Egret x Great Blue Heron** that frequents Canonsburg L. in *Washington* was spotted flying over the Bridgeville area 6/26 (RT).

On the heels of a **Black Vulture** from the spring season, two were soaring over the Ohio River near the West End Bridge 6/13 (DD). A **Peregrine Falcon** was observed flying from the Tarentum Bridge 6/8 (SK). The male at the 62nd Street (R.D. Flemming) Bridge in Etna was identified as a bird born in Boston in 2004 (AM). The new male discovered at the Cathedral of Learning on the campus of the University of Pittsburgh this spring was identified as a bird that was born in 2005 at the Gulf Building in Pittsburgh (fide KSJ). All young that were fitted with telemetry devices by the Game Commission have dispersed great distances from the area, so this bird is the exception. A bird harassing **Herring Gulls** at the Highland Park Bridge 7/21 (SK) might have been one of the pair that bred on the 62nd Street Bridge.

The last of the spring migrant shorebirds were 6 **Semipalmated Plovers** at IMP 6/4 (MV). By mid-Jul, **Killdeer** started to gather in post-breeding flocks. At Hampton Community Park 37 birds were counted 7/21 (DN), and 27 were counted at the ponds on Moody Road in Findlay Township 7/22 (MV). Southbound shorebirds began to appear in early Jul. A **Greater Yellowlegs** and a **Solitary Sandpiper** were at IMP 7/9 (GM), and by mid-Jul **Solitary Sandpipers** were on the move with 3 at North Park 7/20 (MV), one at Barati's Ponds in Jefferson Borough (SSn), one at a small wetland in Penn Hills (EH), and 4 at IMP (MV), all on 7/22. The first migrating peeps included a **Semipalmated Sandpiper** at North Park 7/24 (MV) and a Least Sandpiper at IMP 7/23 (MV). A **Wilson's Phalarope** was a nice find at IMP 7/31 (MV), providing the seventh county record.

Herring Gull nesting sites along the Ohio and Allegheny Rivers were monitored primarily for the 2nd PBBA. Nine chicks were counted at the Highland Park Bridge 6/24; a single chick and a juvenile were at Natrona Heights 7/3. A total of 105 birds were at the Highland Park Bridge 7/21 including 3 juveniles (all SK). Three chicks were at the Dashiels Dam nests 6/1 (MV).

Attention was focused on **Common Nighthawks** as a response to recent discussions on the PABIRDS listserv regarding the decline of this species, spurred on by the 2ndPBBA project. Birds were reported from 16 locations this season (m. ob.).

Unusual at this time of year, a **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** visited a feeder in Leetsdale the week of 6/14 (BS).

Fish Crow observations were few, but at least 3 were at the previous (or continuing) nesting site at a cemetery in North Braddock 7/20 (MF). Three were in Blackridge 7/21 (TS, JSh). The activity at the **Common Raven** nest reported last season on a railroad bridge in Aspinwall remained a mystery during the reporting period (DY). Limited observation time may have been a contributing factor but young were not observed.

Acadian Flycatchers were at Renziehausen Park in McKeesport and White Oak Park 6/21 (MF), several were found in Forward Township 6/25 (MF, JV), and one was at Boyce Park 6/28 (MF, DY). A **Willow Flycatcher** was in Forward Township 6/25 (MF, JV) and one was in a small wetland in Penn Hills 6/30 (EH). A **Great Crested Flycatcher** was reported from North Park 6/9 and 6/14 (DY) and again 7/20 (MV). An **Eastern Kingbird** was observed on a nest along the Allegheny R. in Harmar Township 6/21 (AH, PM).

Three **Purple Martin** colonies in the county were visited this season. At least 10 birds were at the colony at the Yough Country Club in Elizabeth Twp. 6/21 (MF), and at least 5 were around the houses at Butler's Golf Course in Elizabeth Twp. 6/25 (MF, JV). Seven to 9 pairs were present at the Natrona Heights lock and dam on the Allegheny R. during the season (KK).

A pair of **Horned Larks** was observed with two chicks at IMP 7/11 (MV). Two **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** were at Frick Park 7/19 (MF). Unlike their obvious presence in spring, this species is not reported often during the summer, probably because they are hidden in dense foliage and are less vocal.

A **Veery** was at North Park 6/9 and 6/24 (DN); the most reliable location to find this species that is local in the county. **Brown Thrashers** were in Forward Twp. 6/25 (MF, JV) where they were fairly common. It appears the rural areas in the southern and western part of the county support good numbers of this species, probably due to the abundance of roadside brush.

A **Blue-winged Warbler** was singing in Boyce Park in late Jun and early Jul (DY, MF), providing a territorial code for the 2ndPBBA. One was at an overgrown, brushy area in Forward Twp. 6/25 (MF, JV). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** and a **Louisiana Waterthrush** were singing

along the Youghiogheny R. in Elizabeth Twp. 6/22 (JV). A **Louisiana Waterthrush** was in Penn Hills 7/22 and was probably a migrant (EH). Three **Yellow-breasted Chats** were active at a power line cut in Forward Twp. 6/25 (MF, JV). Two were singing and another was observed flying across the cut. One was found in Penn Hills 6/30 (EH).

I received a late report of a pair of **Summer Tanagers** at Frick Park 6/29 (SD, fide JC). Subsequent searching did not relocate the birds. 2ndPBBA coverage in Forward Twp. produced two **Savannah Sparrows** in two locations 6/25 (MF, JV). A **Song Sparrow** was feeding a fledgling **Brown-headed Cowbird** in Penn Hills the first week of Jul (MF). A **Purple Finch** was found while atlasing in Penn Hills 6/30 (EH), an unusual location for this species.

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Armstrong County

Locations: Belknap (BK), Cochran's Mills (CM), Crooked Creek Park (CC), Hoosick's Mill (HM), Keystone Reservoir (KR), Kittanning (KT), Margaret (MG), McGregor (McG), McWilliams (McW), Shelocta (SH), Smeltzer (SZ)

Five young **Wood Ducks** trailed behind a female at KR 7/16 (MH). A **Common Loon** and a **Double-crested Cormorant** were at CC 6/9 (MF). A **Great Egret** visited CC 6/4 (MVT). A pair of **Bald Eagles** nested at CC producing 2 young, all of which were observed 6/9 (MF); another pair nested at Mahoning Lake (fide *The Indiana Gazette*), producing two young; an adult was spotted at KR 6/18 (CG, MH). A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** w. of KR, a **Cooper's Hawk** on the Margaret BBS, a **Red-shouldered Hawk** w. of KR, and a **Broad-winged Hawk** near Avonmore, all 6/8 (MH,RH), were the lone reports for these species. Young **Red-tailed Hawks** were spotted near BK 7/16 (MH).

A **Virginia Rail** was heard 6/19 (CG, MH) at KR which hosted 2 **Solitary Sandpipers** 7/16 (MH). **Spotted Sandpiper** reports at KR included singletons 6/19 (MH, RH) and 7/16 (MH). An **American Woodcock** was flushed near McG 6/25 (EF, MH).

Three **Black-billed Cuckoos** and 5 **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were noted (m.ob.). A **Ruby-throated Hummingbird's** nest with eggs was found near HM 6/9 (CG, MH).

An **Eastern Wood-Pewee** was on nest near SZ 6/19 (CG, MH). The *Armstrong* portion of the SH BBS 6/1 (MH, RH) and the MG BBS 6/8 (MH, RH) each yielded 8 singing **Acadian Flycatchers**; other good counts were 8 near HM 6/9 (CG,MH) and 7 near McW 6/18 (CG,MH). **Willow Flycatchers** were observed carrying food s. of Dayton and near BK 7/16 (CG, MH). Single **Least Flycatchers** w. of KR 6/11 (MH,RH) and near KT 6/14 (MH,RH) comprised the entire report for this species.

Single **White-eyed Vireos** at CM 6/1, on the MG BBS 6/8, and on the KT BBS 6/14 (MH, RH) were the only ones noted. **Blue-headed Vireos** were found 6/18 (CG, MH) near McW, 6/19 (CG, MH) near SZ, with the best count of 4 near McG 6/25 (EF, MH). **Yellow-throated Vireo** records, among many, included an individual at CM 6/1 (MH, RH), one at KR 6/9 (MH), and one n. of Bryan 7/16 (MH). Single **Warbling Vireos** were spotted near Girty 6/1 (MH, RH) and near HM 6/9 (CG, MH), while 2 were listed on the KT BBS 6/14 (MH, RH).

By 7/7 the **Purple Martin** colony near Elderton contained 31 pairs that had produced 124 young, up from 28 pairs last year but down from the 132 young fledged (DS). The colony established last year at West Shamokin High School was vacant this year (DS).

A **Brown Creeper** was singing near SZ 6/19 (CG, MH). The three BBS routes with sections in the county yielded a total of 45 **Wood Thrushes** (MH, RH); a nest with eggs was found 6/9 (CG, MH) near HM while adults were observed carrying food near McW 6/18 (CG, MH) and near SZ 6/19 (CG, MH). **Northern Mockingbirds** were widespread with fledglings near Barnards 6/18 (CG, MH). Recently fledged **Brown Thrashers** were being fed by the adults near Barnards 6/18 (CG, MH), and an adult was carrying food near Dayton 6/25 (EF, MH). **Cedar Waxwings** were on nest near McW 6/18 (CG, MH) and carrying nesting material near McG 6/25 (EF,MH).

The MG BBS yielded 4 **Blue-winged Warblers** 6/8 (MH, RH), and singletons were found near McW 6/18 (CG, MH), near McG 6/25 (EF, MH), and n. of Bryan 7/16 (MH). Single Northern Parulas were singing 6/1 (MH, RH) near CM and 6/8 (MH, RH) near Brick Church. **Yellow Warbler** BBS counts included 30 on the MG route 6/8 (MH, RH) and 21 on the KT 6/14 (MH, RH), both up from last year. **Chestnut-sided Warblers** included individuals 6/1 on the SH BBS and at CM, 2 on 6/9 on the MG BBS, 3 on 6/14 (all MH, RH) on the KT BBS, and 2 on 6/19 (CG, MH) near SZ. Single **Magnolia Warblers** near McW 6/18 (CG, MH) and near BK 7/16 (MH) were the only reports. **Black-throated Green Warblers** were carrying food near McG 6/25 (EF, MH). Fledglings were still accompanying their parents near BK 7/16 (MH). Both the SH and the MG BBS routes yielded single **Yellow-throated Warblers** 6/1 and 6/8 (MH, RH), respectively. The McW-Mt. Tabor area was the hotspot for **Prairie Warblers** 6/18 (CG, MH) when 8 were counted. Two **Cerulean Warblers** were at CM 6/1 (MH, RH); one was found on the MG BBS 6/8 (MH, RH); a pair was actively feeding near HM 6/9 (CG, MH); 2 singing males were listed near Echo 6/10 (MH, RH). **Black-and-white Warblers** included 2 on the SH BBS and one at CM 6/1 (MH, RH), 2 on the MG BBS 6/8 (MH, RH), one near HM 6/9 (CG, MH), and 3 on the KT BBS 6/14 (MH, RH). **American Redstarts** were carrying food near HM 6/9 (CG, MH). Fledgling **Ovenbirds** were observed near Mt. Tabor 6/18 (CG, MH). The only **Louisiana Waterthrushes** noted were found 6/1 (MH, RH) near Robbs Fording and 6/25 (EF, MH) near McG. Best **Kentucky Warbler** report included 3 w. of KR 6/11 and again 7/2 (MH). The Skrgic tract w. of KR yielded 7 **Hooded Warblers** 6/11 (MH), including two pairs carrying food and 8 adults 7/2 (MH). **Yellow-breasted Chats** were spotted only near Spaces Corners 6/14 (MH, RH) and near McW 6/18 (CG, MH).

Scarlet Tanagers were seen carrying food near SZ 6/19 (CG, MH) and feeding young near McG 6/25 (EF, MH). Single **Vesper Sparrows** near Brick Church 6/1 (MH, RH) and on the KT BBS 6/14 (MH, RH) were the lone reports. **Savannah Sparrows** were mowed out for the second time 6/11 (MH) near Elderton. **Grasshopper Sparrow** reports included 2 w. of KR 6/11 (MH), 3 on the KT BBS 6/14 (MH, RH), one near SZ 6/19 (CG, MH), and 2 n. of Bryan 7/16 (MH). **Swamp Sparrows** were noted at five locations. **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were feeding young near HM 6/9 (CG, MH). **Indigo Buntings** were carrying food near McG 6/25 (EF, MH). Seven **Bobolinks** near SZ 6/19 (CG, MH) was the high tally. **Orchard Orioles** were widespread with reports of 18 individuals in addition to a nest with young near SZ 6/9 (CG, MH). **Baltimore Orioles** were carrying food w. of KR 6/11 (MH). Christmas tree farms near McW and Mt. Tabor each yielded 2 **Purple Finches** 6/18 (CG, MH).

Observers: **Margaret Higbee, 3119 Creekside Road, Indiana, PA 15701-7934, bcoriole@alltel.net**, Erma Dovenspike, Evelyn Fowles, Mike Fowles, Carol Guba, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Duke Snyder, Lorraine Uplinger.

Beaver County

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

Wood Ducks surely bred at BBW this year; 2 were present during a Breeding Bird Survey 6/28 (GM), and 13 were counted there 7/26 (MV). A **Common Merganser** summered on the BR at New Brighton, first sighted there 6/6 (MV) and remaining to at least 7/18. Ditto for a duo of **Double-crested Cormorants** in the same location over the same dates (MV), but *Beaver*, and all of western Pennsylvania for that matter, still awaits the first nesting attempt of the this species. **Green Herons** were present this summer at traditional locations at IND, RCSP, and BBW (GM, KSJ, MV).

After failed attempts for at least the past two years, the **Osprey** nest in Midland was successful at last, with 3 hatchlings first noted on the nest this year 6/29 (MV). Juveniles were seen in flight in the area in mid Aug (GM). The long-established and historically successful Potter Twp. nest was active again this year, with the first chick noted 6/6 and three visible by 6/29 (MV). **Red-shouldered Hawks** nested in RCSP (KSJ) and again in Chippewa Twp. (SG, SB); however, the pair in suburban Beaver was not seen following disturbances to the tree in which they nested in prior years. **Broad-winged Hawks** were sighted in RCSP in mid-Jun (GM) and 7/7 (KSJ). The "Monaca" **Peregrine Falcon**

pair nested again this year on the underside of the East Rochester Bridge. Four chicks were banded 6/2 (*fide* SG), two of which fledged by 6/15. Unfortunately one of these two was found road-killed on the bridge deck 6/19. Two juveniles were noted 6/21 (MV), but from that point to the end of the season, only the surviving bird from the 6/15 fledging was seen again. The fate of the second two chicks is unknown.

Virginia Rails, at least 3, were again present at Madden Run Marsh this year (GM), but once again they eluded actual confirmation for the PBBA. A **Sora** was heard at LBL 6/6 (MV) for the second Jun in a row; however, the inaccessibility of the location makes confirmation a practical impossibility. An **American Coot** was at LBL 6/6 (MV).

Early returning shorebirds included a **Lesser Yellowlegs** at LBL 7/18 (MV) and 2 **Solitary Sandpipers** at BBW 7/26 (MV). **Spotted Sandpipers** were noted at several county locations this season (GM, et al.). Interesting was an adult **Ring-billed Gull** on the BR 7/18 (MV). Usually mid-summer Ring-bills are second summer birds that never made it beyond Pennsylvania during the spring migration. Four **Herring Gulls** were on the BR 6/6 (MV), a species now long overdue for a nesting attempt in the county.

Black-billed and Yellow-billed Cuckoos were noted in RCSP 7/7 (KSJ), and Yellow-billed was also at LBL 7/18 (MV), a traditional location for them. **Common Nighthawk(s)** spent the summer in the Ambridge area (MV) and were also heard in Beaver on the morning of 6/28 (GM). **Whip-poor-wills** continue a strong presence, one of the best in the Three Rivers area, on SGL 285 (GM). KSJ confirmed **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** on SGL 173.

White-eyed Vireos were common on SGL 173 on 6/22, according to KSJ. A **Purple Martin** was seen atop a martin house at Hereford Manor L. 7/13 (MV). If confirmed, this would represent the only known nesting location in *Beaver*. A flock of 42 **Barn Swallows** at IND 7/17 also included 2 Bank Swallows 7/17 (MV), an unusual date and location for this species. **Bank Swallows** were again noted this year (6/28, GM) at industrial gravel ponds straddling the *Beaver-Lawrence* border, where a nesting colony exists just over the border in *Lawrence*. Apparently nobody checked on the Ohio R. colony this season, where Bank Swallows have nested for several years. **Wood Thrush** continues to do quite well in the RCSP area, per the observations of GM and KSJ.

In sections of SGL 173 specifically managed for "edge" habitat, **Blue-winged Warblers** are abundant. KSJ was duly impressed with their presence during a visit 6/22. Unfortunately so are **Brown-headed Cowbirds**, and their presence 6/22 was just as impressive. During the same visit 6/22, KSJ was also able to confirm nesting of **Chestnut-sided Warblers**. Until nests were discovered on SGL 285 by GM during the PBBA, SGL 173 was the only known nesting location for this species in *Beaver*, but it is also a terribly under-birded area, so it was encouraging to hear that they still persist there. **Cerulean Warblers** continue in the summer at RCSP (KSJ), one of sw. Pennsylvania's best strongholds for this troubled species. A **Yellow-breasted Chat** at Midland 6/29 (MV) was a bit surprising.

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were confirmed on SGL 173 on 6/22 (KSJ), as were **Indigo Buntings**. At least 100 **Red-winged Blackbirds** roosting at IND 7/17 was an interesting mid-summer aggregation (MV). A family of **Orchard Orioles** was located in Midland 6/29 (MV), a previously unknown summer location for this species.

Observers: **Geoff Malosh, 450 Amherst Avenue, Moon Township, PA 15108-2654, (412) 735-3128, pomarine@earthlink.net**, Simone Bennett, Scott Gregg, Kate St. John, Mark Vass.

Bedford County

No Report.

Compiler: **Tom Dick, 123 Hummer Lane, Cairnbrook, PA, 15924, (814) 754-5727, Thomasd102@aol.com**.

Berks County

Locations: Blue Marsh Lake (BML), French Creek State Park (FCSP), Lake Ontelaunee (LO).

A **Mute Swan** pair fledged three cygnets at LO (RK). A female scaup sp. was at LO 6/8 (MS). Scaup of both spp. have occasionally lingered well into Jun, and even later in the case of **Lesser Scaup**. A female **Common Merganser** with a brood of nine ducklings was at BML

7/25 (JS). This is the third *Berks* breeding record, and the second at BML. A pair of **Common Mergansers** was at LO, another potential breeding site, 5/18, and a female was there 6/8 (MS). A female **Red-breasted Merganser** seen at LO 6/22 (MS) is one of very few summer records.

A few non-breeding **Double-crested Cormorants** and **Great Egrets** were at BML and LO all period. **Great Blue Heron** colonies near Oley, Bethel, Lenhartsville and in Spring Twp. were active but not censused. The **Black-crowned Night-Heron** colony off Wyomissing Blvd. was not censused, but as many as 11 birds presumably from this colony were seen at BML and LO during the period (RK, JS).

One each of **Turkey Vulture** and **Black Vulture** chicks fledged from nests in FCSP (RB). Breeding of two hawks uncommon in the Piedmont Region was confirmed. A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** pair fledged five young in a mature Norway spruce grove in District Twp., where they had previously nested (RK). The fledglings grew increasingly noisy and conspicuous until they dispersed 8/16. Two other pairs nested in southern *Berks* in similar habitat, mature conifer plantations growing in a larger landscape of deciduous forest with openings for houses and farms (HH, RK). A pair of **Red-shouldered Hawks** fledged at least one young in an area of District Twp. where nesting had not previously occurred (RK). Breeding pairs were also noted at Green Hills L. (KL) and FCSP (RK, LM). Four **Barn Owl** chicks were banded in a nest box in Rehrersburg 8/1, and four chicks were in a box near Daniel Boone Homestead on the same day (RB). **Barred Owls**, which may be more widespread in the Piedmont than thought, were heard calling in District Twp. and near Longswamp in July (RK, PS).

An **American Avocet** was briefly at the Dry Brooks Day Use Area of BML 7/25 (KL, *fide* JS). Heavy recreational use of this area probably scared it away. At the farm pond on Old Rte. 22 east of Shartlesville, southbound **Greater** and **Lesser Yellowlegs** appeared 7/20, **Solitary Sandpiper** 7/31, and **Least Sandpiper** 7/15 (MW).

A Reading man called Jack Holcomb's nature oriented call-in radio show on WEEU 6/21 seeking help identifying a large dove at his feeder. He accurately described a **White-winged Dove** in direct comparison with a Mourning Dove. He did not mention any vocalization. He gave no address, so no confirmation was possible, but the report falls within the time frame of previous occurrences in Pennsylvania. **Red-headed Woodpeckers** bred near Shoemakersville (MW) and Bethel (SB), and adults were seen at well known locations near Oley and Bowers (RK, PS). Four territorial **Blue-headed Vireos** at the Hamburg Reservoir on the Kittatinny Ridge 7/7 (KG) was a good number here at the southeast edge of its range in Pennsylvania. **Purple Martins** nested in Hamburg and Centerport (MW, JS) as usual. Six **Bank Swallows** at Hay Creek, Birdsboro 6/10 (KL) were the only possible breeders reported since the destruction of the only known nesting colony at Kernsville Dam, Hamburg. Besides occupying their usual colonies at LO, **Cliff Swallows** nested on the Five Locks bridge near Shoemakersville (MW). A David and Goliath scene played out in District Twp. 6/15. A daredevil **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** attacked a **Red-tailed Hawk**, actually landing on the hawk's back while trying to drive it away (CRE)!

A previously unknown cluster of four or five territorial **Cerulean Warblers** discovered on the Bartram Trail near Port Clinton in May yielded at least two breeding confirmations (CRE, SS). One nest photographed 6/11 by SS contained both Cerulean Warbler and **Brown-headed Cowbird** chicks. Two Ceruleans were also heard 6/10 at Hay Creek, Birdsboro, a long known breeding location (KL). The three grassland sparrow spp.—**Savannah**, **Grasshopper**, and **Vesper**—were reported from a few places near Fleetwood, Hamburg and Robesonia (SF, MW). **Swamp Sparrow** nested at Five Locks near Shoemakersville (MW). An adult **Dark-eyed Junco** visited a feeder on Bloody Spring Road near Bethel twice in Jul and again 8/7 (CC). This location is at the base of the Kittatinny Ridge, on which junco have rarely been found during the breeding season in the past. **Bobolinks** and **Eastern Meadowlarks** hold on at the few farms where cool season grass hayfields are cut late enough to allow nesting, mostly now in northern *Berks* (PO, KG, MW).

Observers: **Rudy Keller, 71 Lutz Rd., Boyertown, PA 19512, (610) 845-7310, rckeller@dejazzd.com**, Rich Bonnett, Steve Brady, Chuck Cravotta, Catherine R. Elwell, Steve Fordyce, Kerry Grim, Holly Hartshorne, Jack Holcomb, Keith Lutz, Patrick O'Donnell, Barry Pounder, Peter Saenger, Sue Schmoyer, Joan Silagy, Matt Spence, Matt Wlasniewski.

Blair County
No Compiler.

Bradford County

Locations: Cahill Mt. (CAH), East Smithfield (ESM), Kellogg Mt. (KEL), Minersville, which is in SGL12 south of Laquin (MIN), Mt. Pisgah State Park (MPS), Sheshequin (SHE), Susquehanna River (SR), Trudy Gerlach's farm near New Era (TNE).

The high level of birding activity in *Bradford* during this final year of the 2nd Pennsylvania Breeding Bird (2ndPBBA) resulted in the most complete picture of our breeding bird life since the first atlas. Since there were large numbers of observations of notable species, instead of listing each observation, I've noted the number of observations of each species and included one or two of the actual sightings as examples.

There was a pair of **Hooded Mergansers** 4/1 in a pond on Lone Mary Rd. near New Era (TG). On 7/1 a **Northern Bobwhite** was singing on a steep slope in previously logged mature forest near Fall Creek, Ridgebury Twp. (TG). A **Double-crested Cormorant** was observed 6/12 flying from a small to a larger farm pond in the ESM area (BF). A **Great Egret** 7/22 was at the SR bridge in Sayre on 7/22 (DA, NA). There were 10 observations of **Green Herons**, including one on 6/18 in the West Windham area (LBi).

There were 6 observations of **Bald Eagles**, for instance on 6/17 an immature bird attacking a duck on Burgess Pond (JT, ST), one on the Towanda Creek near Monroeton on 7/4 (IF), and five on 7/24 (2 adults, a first year bird, and a fourth year bird) along the SR near Terrytown (SC). A **Northern Harrier** was in the Litchfield area 7/17 (MB, JP, MP). A **Northern Goshawk** was found 6/11 on Armenia Mt. (DH). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was observed 6/8 over mixed riparian forest near MIN (DG); one 6/9 flying over the observer, calling repeatedly, on CAH, one on 7/3 calling from a perch beside a creek and wetland on Beaver Run near New Albany, and one on 7/10 calling on CAH (all TG). Among seven observations of **Broad-winged Hawks** was one carrying prey on Barclay Mt. on 6/25 (TG). There were 29 **American Kestrel** sightings, with confirmed breeding 7/17 in the Litchfield area, and 7/31 in the Bumpville area (both MB, JP, MP). On 6/16 a **Merlin** was harassing a **Turkey Vulture** in Litchfield Twp. (BF). The first nesting record of Merlins in the county came on 6/26 in Sayre (BH). The first Merlin nesting in *Sullivan*, adjacent to *Bradford*, occurred just last year.

A **Virginia Rail** responded to playback 6/11 in a wetland at MPS (DH). A **Sandhill Crane** "bugle" call was heard 6/19 south of Hollenbach (TG), and 2 adult cranes were seen 7/7 near Hollenbach (RWa). A **Spotted Sandpiper** was along the SR at Towanda on 6/12 (PW, RWi), on 6/19 one was at Ridgebury Lake (BB, LBo), and on 7/24 twelve were seen along SR north of Terrytown (SC). There were 4 **Ring-billed Gull** observations: 6/12 along the SR near Hornbrook, 6/13 twelve along the river near SHE and one along the SR in Towanda, and 6/14 one flying far from the river, in the Hoblet area (PW, RWi). Only one **Black-billed Cuckoo** was observed, on 6/11 in the vicinity of MPS (DH). **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were fairly numerous due to the presence of caterpillars: there were 5 observations including one singing on 6/5 near Doan's Greenhouse in the New Albany area (TG).

An **Eastern Screech-Owl** was observed 6/16 in the Orwell area (JD), on 6/25, three responded to playback in the LeRaysville area (JS), on 7/11 one was calling at TNE (BL), and on 7/25 fledgling Screech-Owls were found near ESM (RG). On 5/28 five **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were responded to playback on CAH (TG). On 4/20, **Great Horned Owl** chicks were found in a nest at Peck Hill (AV, GV).

An **Acadian Flycatcher** was observed in riparian forest near MIN 6/8 (DG), one sang along the Schrader Creek on 6/11, 2 sang along a mountain stream on KEL 6/17, and on 6/22 and 6/27, one sang near a beaver pond at TNE, an unusual location (all TG). There were 13 sightings of **Alder Flycatchers** including three at the south end of Stephen Foster Lake, MPS, on 6/11 (DH). Among 11 observations of **Willow Flycatchers** were two countersinging in a brushy field in ESM area (PW, RWi). **Yellow-throated Vireos** were frequently seen, with 18 observations including two breeding confirmations, one 6/10 feeding a nestling in the Ghent/North Rome area (BF), and one 6/13 sitting on a nest near SHE (PW, RWi). A **Fish Crow**, which is a species only ever observed in the Sayre/Athens area in *Bradford*, was seen in the Tioga Point Cemetery, Sayre, on 6/20 (BH).

There were 6 observations of **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** including confirmed breeding (on nest) 6/26 in the Litchfield area (RF).

On 7/8 the observation of 2 adult **Bank Swallows** with young at Ackley's Pond confirmed breeding (BF). There were 6 observations of **Cliff Swallows** including confirmed breeding on 6/13 in the SHE area and 6/14 in the Towanda area (both PW, RWi), and 6/15 near Bailey's Corners (BF). Two of seven observations of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were of birds in hemlocks, for instance, 6/30 in a dense hemlock forest near Hoblet (BF), and 4 were from spruce plantings, such as 6/19 in mature spruce grove near Cumiskey (TG). Among numerous observations of **Brown Creepers** was a pair seen 6/20 in the Rome area (BF). There were 5 observations of **Winter Wrens** including 2 countersinging on 6/11 along Nate's Run, CAH in mature forest (TG). Among six observations of **Northern Mockingbirds** was a probable breeder 6/16 in the Orwell area (JD). Very unusual was a **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** on 7/26 responding to pishing in the Windham Center vicinity (MB, JP, MP).

As happened last summer, atlassing brought many warbler species into view, including more numerous sightings of some that are rare in this county. Six observations of **Blue-winged Warblers** included confirmed breeding 7/17 in the Litchfield area (MB, JP, MP). Nine observations of **Magnolia Warblers** included one 6/8 in a riparian forest near MIN, Barclay Mt. (DG). Among 10 observations of singing **Black-throated Blue Warblers** were 2 countersinging on 6/12 in a mature forest with old caterpillar damage near MIN (TG), several singing in a dense coniferous forest near Orwell (JD) 6/16, and fourteen singing on Kellogg Mt (TG) 6/17. Three observations of **Yellow-rumped Warblers** included a probable breeder 6/11 at MPS (DH). Nine observations of **Blackburnian Warblers** included a pair and several others 6/17 on KEL (TG). A male **Pine Warbler** was singing in a pine tree grove on 6/26 in the Litchfield area (RF). Among 10 observations of **Black-and-White Warblers** was one 6/11 near MPS (DH). **Worm-eating Warblers**, quite unusual in the county, were observed five times, including 6/17 seen singing on top of KEL (TG) and 7/7 in a brushy area adjacent to forest in SHE Twp. (BF). Only one **Northern Waterthrush** was observed, on 6/19, near MPS (RY). A **Louisiana Waterthrush** was in the SHE area 6/9 (BF), on South Branch Creek near Kellogg on 6/11 (WF) and in Wysox Twp. 6/21 (BF). A **Mourning Warbler** sang at TNE on 6/3, two countersang in recently timbered forest on CAH 6/13 (both TG). A **Hooded Warbler** was seen 6/3 on the north side of KEL (TG), 6/11 near Monroeton (WF), and 6/12 in the Burlington area (PW, RWi). There were 4 observations of **Canada Warblers**, all at high elevations, for instance, 6/25 a number were heard around a swamp near Swimming Dam on Barclay Mt. (TG). There were four **Vesper Sparrow** observations including a pair 7/8 in Asylum Twp. (BF).

Eight observations of **Grasshopper Sparrows** included two probable breeders 6/13 in the area northwest of Franklindale (WF), and one singing 7/2 near Ridgebury (TG). There was a **Henslow's Sparrow** 6/10 singing on top of Baptist Hill in northwestern Bradford County (DH), and 6/11 two probable breeders were near Monroeton (WF). A **White-throated Sparrow** was at Peck Hill on 6/10 (AV, GV). Very unusual was a female **Red Crossbill** at a feeder on Wilawanna Rd, Sayre 6/7 (MZ). Also unusual was a female **Evening Grosbeak** at a feeder at ESM on 6/8 (RG).

Observers: **Trudy Gerlach, RR2, Box 228, Wyalusing, PA 18853, (570) 746-9270, tgswoods@epix.net**, Dick Allyn, Nan Allyn, Lois Bingley (LBi), Marty Borko, Bruce Boselli, Lee Boselli (LBo), Skip Conant, James Dunn, Will Faux, Bob Fowles, Ingrid Fowles, Roanna Fuller, Trudy Gerlach, Rich Gulyas, Doug Gross, Deuane Hoffman, Bill Howe, Jim Lowe, Beth Lyon, John Palmer, Marilyn Palmer, Jerry Skinner, Jack Thomas, Sondra Thomas, Anne Vivino-Hintze, George Vivino-Hintze, Randy Walker (RWa), Patricia Williams, Richard Williams (RWi), Ronald C. Young, Marsha Zwierlein.

Bucks County

Locations: Churchville Park (CVP), Core Creek Park (CCP), Nockamixon State Park (NSP), Peace Valley Park (PVP), Rohm and Haas at Bristol (RHS), The Penn Warner Tract (PWT), US Steel at Falls Twp. (USS).

A total of 117 species was reported on the breeding bird chart submitted with this report. Of these, 94 were confirmed, 16 were tagged as probable, and seven were indicated as possible. Two new breeding species for the county were recorded this year, and one species was found again after several years of no reports. Temperatures were about

3.3 °F above normal in June and 1.3 °F above for July. Rainfall varied greatly across the county as usual for this time of year, but, in general, some heavier rain at both ends of the period resulted in overall near average rainfall. However, with the higher temperatures, conditions were generally dry for a few weeks during the middle of the period. No comments were received indicating any weather impact on nesting success. Good migrant shorebird habitat continued at PWT and RHS through the period. The result was northbound birds continuing well into Jun, almost immediately followed by southbound birds. Not a normal summer destination, a hot July day on the private PWT landfill near Tullytown produced some interesting data. In addition, several out of season reports added to the recent reports of birds not following the beaten path.

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, New Jersey. All reports from PWT, RHS, and USS are from Devich Farbotnik unless otherwise noted.

There were more out of season waterfowl than normal this year. An adult **Snow Goose** was at PVP 6/6 (AM). A female **Blue-winged Teal** at RHS 6/30 apparently represented our first summer report of this species. Two **Green-winged Teal** continued from May at PWT to at least 6/1. A male **Canvasback** was found 7/7 at Central Park, Doylestown Twp. and remained through the season (BT, ph. PT). This provides our first recorded summer report, but I suspect the bird may be injured. A male **Ring-necked Duck** was a surprise at PWT 6/21-6/22 and again 7/13. None had been reported after Apr before these. One or 2 **Lesser Scaup** that were seen throughout May at PWT, continued to at least 6/8. A male and female **Bufflehead** were noted 6/15 at PWT and were still there 6/22. A male had been seen there 5/18 for the last spring report, which was considered late, and this male could have been the same bird. An adult male **Ruddy Duck** was at Pine Run Dam 6/19 (MH). Summer reports of this species are more frequent in recent years. A non-breeding plumage **Common Loon** was reported at PVP 6/4 (RF), and another was at PWT 6/30. Four at PWT 7/13, including one in breeding plumage, is a noteworthy number for the season.

Pied-billed Grebes with young were again found at USS 6/15. The only other report was an adult near Five Mile Woods 7/7-7/8 (BK, MD). A breeding plumaged **Horned Grebe**, found at NSP 7/6-7/15 (BE, photo HE), was our first ever summer report. An adult **Great Cormorant** provided an assumed new spring late date 6/1 at RHS. However, an adult discovered at Morrisville 7/14 (BK), may indicate it never left. These are our first Jun and Jul reports for this species. A **Least Bittern** was discovered 6/15-6/22 at USS, where it probably was breeding. A **Great Egret** was reported at RHS 6/1. The next report came from PWT 6/21-7/4, followed by the usual widely reported post breeding birds at many locations (m. ob.). Locally high numbers were at RHS in Jul (DFa), with 18 being the highest count 7/27 (BK). The following three species are noteworthy for their relative scarcity in recent years. The **Snowy Egret** at CCP at the end of May continued until 6/1 (DFa). One was at RHS 7/27 (BK). An adult **Little Blue Heron** was at PWT 6/30. Two **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were again reported throughout Jun at CVP (BK). Two second year birds were at CCP 6/3 (MD). Up to 3 were at Silver Lake Park 6/22 (DFa) and 7/27 (BK), and Morrisville had one 7/29 (BK). This species was regular starting the first week of Jul at PVP (fide KK). Three **Glossy Ibis** at PWT 6/1 added our third report for the year.

The county's fourth confirmed **Bald Eagle** nesting site was reported from private property in southern Bucks (DG). The Pennsylvania Game Commission is not disclosing the site location. The Scudder's Falls Bridge **Peregrine Falcon** nest was checked 6/23, one young bird was banded, and 2 failed eggs were collected for analysis (AMc). Following the late-May report of 2 **Peregrine Falcons** at Warrington Twp., two hunting at nearby Buckingham Twp. 7/12 (DFa) was intriguing, possibly indicating another breeding pair. Only seven miles away, possibly the same birds were noted during the period north of New Hope (AB). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** with a drooping wing was at RHS 7/11, and survived through the period. A road-killed sub-adult hawk was picked up at NSP 6/3 (DFa). It was unclear whether it was a **Broad-winged Hawk** or **Red-shouldered Hawk**. **American Kestrels** fledged 3 young at a box at PVP again this year (AM). **Virginia Rails** were noted at Quakertown Swamp 6/8 and 6/22, where they nest. (BE, DFa). The spring season **Sora** at PWT continued 6/1 and probably was breeding there. **Common Moorhen** was again believed to be breeding at USS, but no young were reported.

Although not surprising that large numbers of shorebirds leave

Delaware Bay in late May into early Jun and pass over our area, it is surprising that the observer had the patience to wait for them in one spot several nights in hopes of catching a glimpse of the migrating flocks. The observer was rewarded with large northbound flocks 6/3 at Quakertown (DFa). The approximate counts from that evening are in the following table.

MIGRATING SHOREBIRDS: Quakertown, 6/3

SPECIES	COUNT
Black-bellied Plover	25
Ruddy Turnstone	2000*
Red Knot	20*
Semipalmated Sandpiper	100

*These were probably the highest count reports here ever for Ruddy Turnstone and Red Knot, and only the second recorded report for Red Knot.

Spring **Semipalmated Plover** continued at PWT until at least 6/4, when 8 were noted. The first southbound bird was recorded at RHS 7/23. On 6/30 southbound shorebird migration started with one **Greater Yellowlegs** and 2 **Lesser Yellowlegs** at PWT. A **Solitary Sandpiper** on 7/10 at PWT provided the first southbound report for this species. A **Spotted Sandpiper** with young in tow proved nesting for the second year in a row at Warminster Community Park (CW). A probable second family group was at the nearby industrial park (BK), where nesting was observed last year. Seven **Semipalmated Sandpipers** at PWT 6/4 provided the last spring report, with 3 returning southbound birds there 7/12. Rarely reported here, a **Western Sandpiper** at RHS 7/20 established a new fall early arrival date. Two **Least Sandpipers** at PWT 6/4 provided the final spring sighting, with 2 southbound birds noted there 6/30. This beat the previous early southbound date by one day. One to 2 **Dunlin** lingered at PWT, with the last one reported 6/7, for a new spring late departure date. Unprecedented was the appearance of 10 **Dunlin** in breeding plumage at PWT 7/13 (DFa). We have no previous reports for Jul or Aug. Three **Short-billed Dowitchers** at CCP 7/13 (DFa) provided the first report for southbound migrants. The first southbound **Pectoral Sandpiper** arrived 7/13 at PWT, with 2 there 7/23. Up to 3 **White-rumped Sandpipers** stayed at PWT through most of Jun, decreasing to one by 6/22. This extended the previous spring late date by 10 days.

A few **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were at PWT in Jun as usual and probably remained all season. Two **Caspian Terns** at Bensalem 7/6 (DFa) were the first fall arrivals, one was at NSP 7/13 (BE), and one stopped at PVP 7/15 (AB). Out of season, 3 **Common Terns** were at PWT 6/21, followed by another at NSP 6/22 (both DFa). Five were at NSP on the slightly more expected date of 7/27 (BE). Only our second ever report of **Royal Tern** was found 7/12 on the Delaware River at our southern border (ph. DFa). **Red-headed Woodpecker** continued at the Tinicum Twp. site 6/22, where they apparently have been resident for the past two years (DFa). One appeared at a feeder in Warminster 7/29 and remained through the end of the month (GJ). This is certainly unexpected for both location and behavior for this season. Two **Common Ravens** were seen being harassed by blackbirds at Bedminster Twp. 6/14 (CW), and probably were the birds believed to be nesting five miles away last season near NSP. However, no activity was observed in the vicinity of the presumed nest site during this season, so the attempt apparently was never completed. A **Common Raven** was also spotted being harassed by **American Crows** 6/10 in Telford (TB). These were our first recorded breeding season reports and added to an unprecedented number of sightings this year. A post-breeding gathering of 38 **Purple Martins** 7/31 in West Rockhill Twp. was the highest count reported (DFa). The Upper Makefield Twp. **Brown Creeper** pair could not be found this year, but one was at CVP 7/12 (GB). They probably breed somewhere in the county each year but are apparently rare.

Again, **Chestnut-sided Warbler** and **Cerulean Warbler** were not reported for this breeding season. A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was found along the canal towpath north of Riegelsville in late Jun (AK). A singing male was again found there 7/10 (DFa), with 2 birds subsequently found there (AK). This is the first known presumed breeding in the county in a few years. The species had formerly been regular at several sites along the Delaware River. It is unknown why it has vanished despite apparent suitable habitat. CVP is a good **Pine Warbler** breeding location where several can be found (BK). The spring

Prothonotary Warbler at PVP continued to at least 6/19 (HE), but only one bird was seen. Two pairs of **Kentucky Warblers** were at SGL157 6/8 (DFa) where they are expected. One singing at Hidden Lake, Newtown Twp. 6/26-6/28 could not be confirmed as breeding there (BK). Finally, a presumed migrant was in Nockamixon Twp. 7/27 (HM). After no reports during last year's breeding season, 4 **Yellow-breasted Chats** were detected in Jun at NSP (BE), USS, and PWT. Two were last noted at PWT 7/27. One was also at PVP 6/3 but not later (DP). Warrington Community Park area continued to be a good site for **Savannah Sparrow**, with about 20 there 7/6, including fledglings (BK). Two **Grasshopper Sparrows** at Tinicum Twp. continued to be reported into mid-Jul (DFa). The PWT landfill produced one 7/12.

After reporting in the spring season that the status of **Blue Grosbeak** historically has remained rare or occasional, a day spent on the landfill at PWT found that they are not so rare after all in that area. A total count there and at nearby USS property yielded 14 singing males, 2 females, and 4 fledglings. This area has been the stronghold for the species in the county in the past, but to my knowledge, no one has ever recorded that many there. In addition, a pair was found at PVP 6/26 and continued into Jul in an area where they may be annual now but not always detected (HE). Other possible pairs were reported from Nockamixon Twp. (DFa), and New Britain Twp. (BH), where males were seen last year as well. Another was seen in Solebury Twp. 7/26 (DFa). The find of the season was a territorial **Dickcissel** pair at PWT landfill 7/12 carrying food. The observer reasoned that since reports in New Jersey were only eight miles away, they should be in suitable habitat in **Bucks**, also. The site was on a capped area of the landfill. This is the first breeding report for the county. The area had been left without mowing for some time despite regulations controlling landfills to the contrary. The state inspectors had ordered the area to be mowed, which was done shortly after the discovery of the Dickcissels. It is hoped enough time had elapsed to allow the young to fledge. **Eastern Meadowlark** was again confirmed as a breeder at Pine Run Dam (MH). Aggressive mowing by the county occurred there again, despite agreements not to do so this year. A **Purple Finch** was at CVP 6/22, probably due to a severe case of finch eye disease having prevented it from migrating (BK).

EXOTICS: A **Zebra Finch** was found at Bradford Dam 7/20 (DFa).

CORRIGENDA: The report in the Winter Issue Vol.22, No. 1 of a **Barred Owl** on the Central Bucks County Christmas Bird Count 12/20 should have a date of 12/30.

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Butler County

Locations: Lake Arthur (LA), Glades (SGL 95), Marion Township (MT), Miller Woods (MW), Moraine State Park (MSP), Poplar Forest (PF), Slippery Rock Borough (SRB), Slippery Rock Creek (SRC), Slippery Rock Township (SRT), Wolf Creek (WC).

Although temperatures moderated considerably in June and July from relatively frigid May, precipitation actually increased from the spring period with 8.5 inches in June and 9 inches in July for a total of 17.5 inches of rain recorded in SRB (GW, JW). A sum of 3.5 inches fell on 6/5, 1.5 inches on 6/13-14, one inch on 6/21-22, 1.5 inches on 6/26, 2 inches on 7/3, 2.75 inches on 7/13-14, one inch on 7/22, and 1.75 inches on 7/27. Most of this heavy rainfall was associated with a series of tropical depressions which originated in the Gulf of Mexico and channeled their way up the Ohio River Basin. Unusual were the 20 days of violent thunderstorms with strong winds and hail, even a tornado watch for three hours the night of 7/22. No tornado developed.

The abundant precipitation did have a positive result for wild birds, since farmers could not mow or bale hay until late in the period. High, dense grasses provided wonderful cover for all grassland birds that started nesting earlier and continued later than usual in the season.

High breeding density was especially noticeable for the Bobolink and Eastern Meadowlark (see comments below).

The **Wood Duck** and **Hooded Merganser** had good local breeding success but high creek levels caused unusual mortality for fledged **Common Mergansers** that were drowned by swift currents and whirlpools on SRC and WC (GW). Gallinaceous species, on the other hand, did quite well with numerous reports throughout the county of young **Ring-necked Pheasants** following hens in several fallow fields. Even young of the **Northern Bobwhite** were observed in three localities in and near MSP, and 3 males repeatedly called all season in SRT (GW, JW, et al). The **Wild Turkey** surprisingly did well with so much rain as evidenced by 21 youngsters following 3 hens in the yards of PF families (CB, et al). No report this year of **Ruffed Grouse** nesting anywhere in the county, possibly indicating that the species is getting less common each year.

As many as 54 **Double-crested Cormorants** remained at the east end of LA throughout the period, and it may be sooner than later that the species starts nesting there (GW). This season was the first in many years for both the **American Bittern** and **Least Bittern** being reported in the county, the former apparently a late migrant, the latter a possible breeder (GW). **Green Heron** was reported nesting in several coves of LA and in SRT a small island housed a colony of 5 nesting herons. Seven **Osprey** pairs successfully bred atop telecommunication towers in the county producing a total of 13 fledglings (GW, m.ob.). Immature **Bald Eagles** added their parts to the aerial dynamic displays performed above SRB-SRT almost daily through Jun and Jul. Both active **Red-shouldered Hawk** nests in PF and nearby SRT produced 2 fledglings each, with the 2 in PF leaving the nest on 6/30 (GW, BE). The tameness shown by these two families was amazing; both nest sites were in front yards of nearby homes. The adults willingly shared displays of their nesting behavior with scores of human neighbors on a daily basis. The breeding pair of **Broad-winged Hawk** in PF was scared away from its nesting site by development; 2008 was the first year that the **Cooper's Hawk** did not nest in PF. The breeding status of **American Kestrel** continues to decline with just 2 recorded nesting sites in the northern part of the county (GW).

Rails (King, Virginia, and Sora) attempted to nest this season, but with high water levels in all wetlands, were unsuccessful. Last season's successful **Common Moorhen** in SRT failed to nest because of low water caused by human destruction of a beaver dam. However, **Killdeer**, **Spotted Sandpiper**, and the rare **Upland Sandpiper** had an excellent breeding season with 4 pairs recorded with fledglings in MT (GW). **Ovenbird** and **Hooded Warbler** joined the expanding list of previously annual Neotropical breeders that have stopped nesting in PF and SRB.

As previously reported for the spring season, the **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**, **Blue-headed Vireo**, **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, **Brown Creeper**, **Winter Wren**, **Golden-crowned Kinglet**, and **Northern Waterthrush** did indeed breed successfully in PF, all producing fledglings. In fact, the two pairs of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** celebrated their fourteenth consecutive month in PF by bringing youngsters to black sunflower seed feeders (GW, JW).

Unfortunately, even in this extraordinarily wet season, mowing in MSP disrupted the nesting by 2 pairs of **Henslow's Sparrows** after appearing earlier in the spring. **Vesper**, **Savannah**, **Grasshopper**, **Henslow's** and **Swamp Sparrows** did well elsewhere in the county. Amidst vast grasslands on the *Butler-Venango* line, it was common to see as many as 50 male **Bobolinks** chasing each other, females and even sparrows out of their territories. **Eastern Meadowlark** rebounded in large numbers this season, evidenced by a comparison between 2006 and 2007. **Wood Thrush**, **Scarlet Tanager**, **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**, **Indigo Bunting**, **Orchard Oriole**, **Purple Finch** and **House Finch** were heavily parasitized this season by numerous **Brown-headed Cowbirds** in PF, SRB and SRT. Forest fragmentation continues unabated for more development each year. The future, indeed, looks bleak for these forest and edge species in SRB. One by one, open spaces are being developed, as witnessed by the precipitous decline of the **Field Sparrow** from 15 breeding pairs in 2005 to just 4 pairs in 2008.

Observers: **Gene Wilhelm**, 513 Kelly Blvd., Slippery Rock, PA 16057-1145, genewilhelm@aol.com, Bill Elliott, Dean Kildoo, Laura Mihalik, Peg Ozmun, Poplar Forest Wetlands Initiative, Bonnie Renick, Terry Steele, Amanda Seibel, Mark Vass, Joanne Wilhelm, Kevin Wilhelm.

Cambria County

Locations: Patton (PT), Prince Gallitzin State Park (PG), St. Joseph's (STJ).

Great Blue Herons nested at the same location as previous years, but only one pair was present. The colony has held up to 3 pairs. A **Broad-wing Hawk** was observed with nesting material at PT (DG). A pair of **American Kestrels** produced five young at PG (DG, JS). **Virginia Rails** and **Soras** nested at PG (JS).

Unusual were **Red-bellied Woodpeckers** feeding young in early Jul and mid Aug at a backyard feeder at PT (DG). **Wood Thrush** appeared to have two broods at the same location (DG). An **American Redstart** was on a nest in early June at PG (DG). A **Canada Warbler** was seen at a new location at PT (DG). **Field**, **Savannah**, **Grasshopper**, and **Henslow's sparrows** were seen feeding young at STJ (DG). **Bobolink** and **Eastern Meadowlark** nested there also.

Observers: **Dave Gobert**, 287 Beech Road, Patton, PA 16668, (814) 674-8359, djgobert@verizon.net, John Salvetti.

Cameron County

No Compiler.

Carbon County

No Report.

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

Centre County

Locations: Scotia Barrens (SCO), Spring Creek, Wetlands west of Julian adjacent to Rte. 220 (JWET).

See <www.pabirdatlas.org> for more information about the 2nd PBBA, and for the location of the blocks mentioned in this report (e.g., 61B61, 63A62). More information about some of these locations is available at www.sbirdcl.org. Almost all of the information in this report comes from postings to the State College Bird Club listserv or from 2008 BBA data. The summer Breeding Table was constructed from 2008 BBA data. The 2nd PBBA data entered from 2/1 through 8/15 indicates 31 possible, 40 probable, and 64 confirmed species for a total of 135.

An adult **Pied-billed Grebe** with four striped young was seen at JWET 6/1 (NK); four full-grown juveniles were later seen at JWET 6/25 were most likely the same ones seen earlier in the season (AW). A **Great Egret** was observed at JWET 7/14 (NAB), two at JWET 7/18 (MAH), and two at JWET 7/20 (NAB).

A **Northern Goshawk** was heard calling along Bear Meadows Rd 7/12 (JY). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was seen at Curtin Narrows in 62A33 on 7/6 (RF, JD), and one was heard in block 63A63 on 6/2 (MH).

A **Sora** was heard calling at JWET 6/1 (NK), and one hidden in cattails was heard loudly calling "chu-wee" four times in 62B14 on 7/10 (NK). A **Virginia Rail** responded to a "swamp tape" in 62A24 on 6/1 (RM, DG), and two juveniles were observed in 62B11 6/27 (NK).

Two **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** hatchlings appeared in a nest and there were two eggs yet to hatch with the adults bringing food to the young and still sitting on the nest 6/8 Howard (BS). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was found in 63A44 on 6/1 (RF). An **Acadian Flycatcher** was heard calling 6/1 in 62B11 (NK). A **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was heard in mixed forest in 63A64 6/13 (MH).

A **Brewster's Warbler** was found in SCO 7/10 (JY). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was heard singing loudly from the treetops for several hours in 62A25 6/6 (DO). At least four **Cerulean Warblers** were seen near the base of the Allegheny Front, along Dug Rd. and nearby East Mountain Rd. 6/4 (NB); a singing male was heard on a hillside on Old Pike Road 63A44 on 6/1 (RF); one was heard singing from treetops in deciduous woods with a few hemlocks in 63A62 on 6/22 (AS); one was heard singing in a State Game Land in 62A12 on 6/1 (GG); and a male was seen and heard in a tall maple tree in 62A12 on 6/20 (JP). Two **Louisiana Waterthrushes** were seen carrying food in 62B11 6/1 (NK).

A **Clay-colored Sparrow** was heard calling in a typical Pennsylvania habitat which consisted of a mixture of foot pine, six-foot locust trees, and foot grass in 61B61 on 6/8 (GY). A **Vesper Sparrow** was seen in block 61B74 6/15 (AW), and one in 61B61 7/14 (TP). In a field along Fowler Hollow Rd. nw. of Port Matilda, seven singing **Grasshopper Sparrows** were observed 6/25 (AW). A **White-throated Sparrow** was found in SCO 7/10 (JY). A **Dark-eyed Junco** was observed as a confirmed breeder along Black Moshannon Creek in 61B71 7/13 (NB); the species was also observed in 17 other blocks in the county during this quarter (NB, NAB, RF, JP, GG, MH, JD, AS). At least six male and several female **Bobolinks** were seen in a field along Fowler Hollow Rd. nw. of Port Matilda 6/25 (AW).

An **Orchard Oriole** was seen at JWET 6/1 (NK), and one was observed along Spring Creek in 62A24 on 6/14 (RM, NAB, RF). A **Pine Siskin** was seen at a thistle feeder in Black Moshannon State Park 6/4 (NB).

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Chester County

Locations: Bucktoe Preserve (BTPR), Kurtz Fish Hatchery (KFH), Marsh Creek State Park (MCSP), Valley Forge National Park (VFNP).

The Summer Season was hot and dry with several consecutive days of 90 degree temperatures. Highlights of the season included **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron**, **Glossy Ibis**, **Upland Sandpiper**, **Eurasian Collared-Dove**, and **Dickcissel**.

Wood Duck families were numerous at KFH, BTPR, and VFNP (m.ob.). **Common Mergansers** nested again at VFNP with a family groups observed along the Schuylkill R. (ERW). Last year was the first confirmed breeding in *Chester* for this species.

A non-breeding **Double-crested Cormorant** was at MCSP 7/7 (NP). Herons and egrets were well reported this season. **Great Egrets** were reported from Longwood Gardens 6/6 and 7/1 (CM). An adult **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was at MCSP 6/8 (JM). Very rare in the county was an adult **Yellow-crowned Night Heron** in Birmingham Twp. 7/22 (LL). The bird remained only briefly in *Chester* and then spent the remaining weeks in *Delaware*.

S.A.

During the past two years, there have been multiple reports of singles or pairs of **Glossy Ibis** seen in flight over southern *Chester*. Nearly all of these reports have come from the New Garden area in the southern portion of the county. Speculation has been that these birds were moving back and forth (east-west) from their nesting colony at Pea Patch Is., Delaware, to unknown foraging areas. To add a little more mystery to the situation, this summer 15 **Glossy Ibis** were observed from 6/30 (LL) through the end of the season (m.ob.) feeding in a sewage lagoon on a dairy farm near Landenberg. This area is not exactly on an east-west flight path over New Garden, in fact, it is little north, so it is difficult to say whether these birds were part of previous year's sightings. Whatever the case, it was nice to have this many birds present and easily seen through the season. This is probably a record number for *Chester*.

Ospreys are not confirmed yet as breeding in Chester, so summer reports are always intriguing. This season singles were noted at MCSP 6/9 (JM), Londonderry Twp. 6/20 (BBy), and along the Brandywine Creek in Pennsbury Twp. 6/29 (NP). **American Kestrels** have become a rare breeding species in *Chester*. This year, confirmed pairs were found at BTPR (JS, et al.) and Binky Lee Preserve (NP, SP). **Upland Sandpiper** is a rare, irregular migrant through the county, thus one photographed at the Laurels Preserve 7/29 was an outstanding find (PF). Returning southbound **Least Sandpipers** were found beginning 7/10 at Goshenview Farm (NP). A high count of 10 was at Octoraro Res. 7/19 (NP).

A fly-by **Eurasian Collared-Dove** was in West Chester 7/2 (LL). There were no verified nesting reports of this species from its traditional Coatesville location. A **Common Nighthawk** was seen in the Coatesville area 6/9 (JM). This may have been a late migrant; there are no confirmed breeding records in the county during the 2nd PBBA. **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were reported from throughout the county (m.ob.). **Willow Flycatchers** were reported from multiple locations with at least 5 pair nesting at BTPR.

Purple Martin numbers were good at traditional sites in Honeybrook Twp., Longwood Gardens, and KFH. Ten at CHLA 7/27 were probably southbound birds (NP). Nesting **Horned Larks** were found in Highland Twp. and Honeybrook Twp. (m.ob.). **Wood Thrush** numbers were good at both BTPR (CM, et al.) and Binky Lee Preserve (NP, SP). A single observer high of 55 **Gray Catbirds** was recorded at BTPR 6/8 (CM). **Cedar Waxwings** had a second consecutive good nesting year. Numbers were found throughout the county beginning in early Jun (m.ob.). Multiple nesting pairs were noted at Goat Hill, Longwood Gardens, and BTPR.

Cerulean Warblers nested again at the Struble Trail (HM, m.ob.). **Black-and-white Warbler**, an uncommon nesting species, was reported from Guthriesville 7/6 (AD) and Black Rock Sanctuary 7/12 (VS). A **Worm-eating Warbler**, a rare nesting species, was also present in Guthriesville 7/6 (AD). **Hooded Warblers** were found at Templin Rd. (NP) and Guthriesville (AD), and **Kentucky Warblers** were located in Franklin Twp. (NP). **Yellow-breasted Chat** numbers were up at many locations. At least 5 were at Nottingham Park 6/6 (BBy) and 7/19 (NP). They were also noted at Goat Hill (BBy), Guthriesville (AD), White Clay Creek (NP) and Binky Lee Preserve (NP).

Grassland sparrows were in higher numbers than usual. Two **Vesper Sparrows**, a rare and irregular nesting species, were in Highland Twp. beginning 6/18 (PF, et al.). **Grasshopper Sparrows** were found at multiple locations including Honeybrook Twp., Highland Twp., and Londonderry Twp. (NP, BBy, et al.). At least two **Savannah Sparrows** were noted in Londonderry Twp. from 6/20 (BBy, et al.). One **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**, also a rare and irregular breeder, was at Black Rock Sanctuary 6/28 (VS). A nesting pair of **Blue Grosbeaks** were in Highland Twp. 6/22 (LL, et al) and another was in Landenberg 6/28 (AL). One of the best finds of the season was a pair of **Dickcissels** at Runnymede Farm 6/20 (BBy, PF, NP, SP). Nesting was suspected as the pair was seen chasing each other over nearby fields, and the male appeared to be singing on territory. But they could not be relocated during subsequent visits to the area.

Bobolinks appeared to have a good nesting season at their traditional sites. A single-observer high of 12 was counted at Runnymede Farm 6/20 (BBy).

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Clarion County

Locations: Curllsville (CV), Foxburg (FO), Shippenville (SV).

In the final year of the PBBA, some new and interesting breeding records were found as well, as many other observations not listed here but to be found on the PBBA website. The following summary is based largely on atlas coordinator records for this summer.

On 6/19, an adult female **Hooded Merganser** along with fledged young was found on a pond and wetland area outside of Callensburg, not a common sighting for the county (CV). A new **Great Blue Heron** colony with 8 active nests was noted this year on an island in the Allegheny River south of FO (CW, FW).

In the raptor category, a **Northern Harrier** pair was watched in courtship and hunting over reclaimed strip mine habitat near CV starting in April. At this same site on 7/19, 3 young were seen with an adult female to confirm successful breeding (CV). **Bald Eagles** sightings are continue to increase, and two new nest sites found this year along the Clarion R.: one in the northeast area of *Clarion* and one in the more central area of the county (PD,DL). Two immature birds were noted near the second site in early July (PD). **Northern Goshawks** were found nesting in SGL 283 on 4/25 (MB, RM). Unfortunately the nest (adult male and immature female pair) failed only one week after

discovery, for unknown reasons.

Belted Kingfishers have been probable nesters in CV for many years but this season adults were finally seen feeding fledged young 7/24. This is not always an easy species to confirm (CW). **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were confirmed in several county blocks this year with adults feeding fledged young; additionally there was one sighting 7/15 near Lucinda (PC, CW). Their range appears to extend through the top third of the county in appropriate habitat. **Alder Flycatchers** were again found in safe dates in a few scattered areas this season, including areas near New Bethlehem 6/26 with appropriate habitat (CW). Without good follow up on sightings it is hard to rule out late migrants. **Willow Flycatchers** continue to be found in good numbers in the southern end of the county and also were confirmed this year near Knox at Beaver Creek Wetlands, with fledged young with adults 7/24 (CW). **Purple Martins** were present this year and continue in an established colony near Kossuth, and a new colony was reported 7/15 near Knox (MB). **Winter Wrens** continue to provide interesting contrast for a "grassland" county with small numbers found reliably in remaining pockets of thick hemlock slopes along Toby Creek and smaller streams in the northern part of *Clarion*. Some birds were still actively singing in mid-Jul (CW).

Two interesting warbler species were noted this year with increased sightings. **Yellow-rumped Warblers** on territory were found near Miola 7/15, at Huefner 7/11, and were confirmed by an adult male carrying food near SV 6/14 (CW). All of these areas have pine plantings of varying age consisting of white and red pine as well as some larch. **Pine Warblers** were found with singing males on territory in 2 areas of pine plantings on land previously strip mined- near Callensburg 7/1 and outside of SV 6/14. The male outside of SV remained singing through subsequent visits until mid-Jul but was unable to be confirmed (CW). **Clay-colored Sparrows** were found singing 6/26 at yet another new location for the county, this on Champion Rd. near New Bethlehem (CW). Habitat at this area is overgrown reclaimed strip mine fields, very similar to sites where other birds in the county have been breeding.

Observers: **Carole Winslow, 159 Moggey Rd, Sligo, PA 16255, (814) 745-3818, cjnal@windstream.net**, Margaret Buckwalter, Paulette Colantonio, Pete Dalby, Dale Luthringer, Ron Montgomery, Fran Williams.

Clearfield County

Locations: Burnside (BRN), Magees Mills (MM), Irvona (IRV), Mahaffey (MH).

A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was seen at BRN in good nesting habitat (DG). A **Warbling Vireo** was at MM (JS). A small group of **Cliff Swallows** were nesting on the side of the Rte. 36 bridge at MH (DG). **Veerys** were very agitated at the observer's presence on a hillside above MH (DG). A **Blackburnian Warbler** was seen at MM (JS). **Prairie Warblers** were found at several reclaimed strip mine areas. **Henslow's Sparrows** were probable at IRV (JS). A **Dark-eyed Junco** was at MM (JS). A male **Orchard Oriole** was chasing everything in sight at a location in BRN (DG).

Observers: **Dave Gobert, 287 Beech Road, Patton, PA 16668, (814) 674-8359, djgobert@verizon.net**, John Salvetti.

Clinton County

The only noteworthy report of the period also happened to be one of the most exciting in the county in quite some time and a fitting finale for the 2008 atlassing season. On 7/15, one adult and two juvenile **Peregrine Falcons** were discovered on the bridge between Woolrich and McElhatten over the Susquehanna R. (L&SF). The juvenile birds had recently fledged. One of the young falcons was subsequently injured when it flew into a car on the deck of the bridge. It was quickly rescued and taken to a rehabilitator but unfortunately perished a few days later (WL). Later information indicated that two of the falcons had been seen perched on the railing of the bridge deck on 7/14 (JF).

Anecdotal information provided later revealed that the most recent previous nesting record in *Clinton* was from sometime in the 1940s, interestingly, from cliffs over nearby McElhatten Creek (G&PS). A further interesting anecdotal footnote was that the 1940s record apparently involved ornithologist Olin S. Pettingill, Jr. receiving a minor

injury from a fall off the aforementioned cliffs while inspecting the nest (G&PS).

The surviving juvenile falcon was observed periodically throughout the remainder of the reporting period at the same bridge location.

Observers: **Wayne Laubscher, 749 E. Croak Hollow Rd., Lock Haven, PA 17745-8153, (570) 748-7511, wlaubsch@kcnet.org**, Jeff Frank, Linda and Skip Frye, Glenna and Paul Schwalbe.

Columbia County

No Report.

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

Crawford County

Locations : Erie National Wildlife Refuge (ENWR), Fish Hatchery at Linesville (FH), McMichael Road (also called Red Dot Rd) (MCM), Pymatuning Causeway (PC), Pymatuning Goose Management Area (PGMA), Pymatuning Spillway (PS), Sugar Lake (SL), Tamarack Lake (TL), Woodcock Lake (WL).

A late **Horned Grebe** was found at FH 6/1 (BS), and three young **Pied-billed Grebes** were seen at Custards 7/27 and also on 7/30 (RCL). An **American Bittern** was noted at Geneva 6/6, two were there 6/20 (RFL, RCL). A single **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was seen at MCM 7/23 (RCL). Ten **Wood Ducks** were at Geneva 7/12. Six **Green-winged Teal** were studied at PGMA 7/20. A pair of **Lesser Scaup** present at Linesville Fish Hatchery all of May and Jun; a male was seen almost every day, and the female was with him irregularly (6/10), suggesting they may have at least attempted nesting. Nine **Ruddy Ducks** were found at PS on 7/2, and 18 Turkey Vultures were counted at the Pennsylvania end of the PC 6/11 (RCL). A **Black Vulture** was well studied at PGMA 6/22 circling above the Miller Ponds in with a **Turkey Vulture** and a **Red-tailed Hawk** for good comparison. This is the third known record for *Crawford*.

A pair of **Ospreys** nested and raised 2 young at WL, and a second nest just east of the PC at the top of an extremely high signal tower also produced two young (m.ob.). A **Northern Harrier** was recorded near SL 6/6 (RE). On 7/4, 3 adult and 7 young **Common Moorhens** were at Geneva. A pair of **Sandhill Cranes** was seen along Rte. 285 east of Geneva 7/14 with 2 half grown young (SR). **Greater Yellowlegs** were noted at PGMA all of Jul in small numbers, and on 7/29 RCL noted 12 there. Thirty-eight **Lesser Yellowlegs** were also noted there 7/30 (RCL). MV reported a **Solitary Sandpiper** there 7/12. Two **Spotted Sandpipers** were flushed at the ENWR 7/6, and a single bird was noted at PGMA 7/19 (MV). An **Upland Sandpiper** was seen at PGMA 7/19 (MV). A late northbound **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was found at PGMA 6/2, and one located at FH 7/20 was southbound (MV). MV reported 10 Least Sandpipers at PGMA 7/19. A single **Short-billed Dowitcher** was found at the FH 7/30 (RCL).

A **Caspian Tern** was at the FH 7/19 (MV) and 8 were located at the PC marina 7/23 (RCL). One **Common Tern** was at the PS 7/16 and a **Black Tern** was at Geneva 7/23. A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was seen at Geneva 7/20. A **Common Nighthawk** was seen at Meadville 6/6 (RE).

A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was present at MCM 7/2. Three **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were noted near ENWR 6/21 (RCL). Some 67 **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were at TL 7/31. A good find was a **Sedge Wren** at SGL 277 on 7/6 (JF). At least 20 **Wood Thrush** were noted along Towpath Rd. near Custards 6/22 (RCL). A **White-eyed Vireo** was found near Linesville on 6/14 (RCL). A **Prothonotary Warbler** was at MCM 7/16 (CT). A **Kentucky Warbler** was singing 7/28 along French Creek near Cochranon (RCL).

Observers : **Ronald F. Leberman, 11508 Pettis Rd., Meadville, PA 16335, (814) 724-5071**, Jim Flynn, Richard Eakin, Robert C. Leberman, Steven Rotkovecz, Becky Smith, Chuck Tauge, Mark Vass.

Cumberland County

Locations: Colonel Denning State Park (CDSP), Le Tort Spring Run (LTSR), Mudlevel Road (MLR), Pine Grove Furnace State Park

(PGFSP), State Gamelands 169 (SGL 169), Stoughstown Pond (STP).

A first confirmed breeding record of **Pied-billed Grebe** in *Cumberland* for the 2nd PBBA was reported in Shippensburg at the Craig farm (MC). The Mountain Road marsh at SGL 169 provided 2-3 pairs of **Sora**, one pair of **Virginia Rail**, and 2 pairs of **Least Bitterns** (AM). Though no young were found, all 3 species were probable breeders. In addition, one **American Bittern** was seen flying into the marsh on several evenings through the start of Jul (AM).

There was a **Little Blue Heron** reported for one day at LTSR in Carlisle during the last week of Jul (HW). Though it is not unheard of to see a Little Blue Heron in *Cumberland* from late Jul to Sep, what was unusual is that the bird was an adult rather than a juvenile. Other wading birds included up to 15 **Black-crowned Night-Herons** reported at the Cabin Rd. section of SGL 169 throughout the period. As with last summer no nests were found. It is very likely that the Night-Herons are flying in from other areas to feed at the private fish hatchery located on Fish Hatchery Road, only about a half mile from the roost. There was also a juvenile **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** reported at the same location on a couple different occasions (AM, VG).

The beginning of this reporting period witnessed the end of an extraordinary "spring" shorebird migration at MLR with birds continuing to be seen through the first week of Jun. Two **Hudsonian Godwits** were seen 6/4-5 (AM, RK, BK, VG) along with one **Whimbrel** (AM). The Godwits were a first spring record for *Cumberland* and the Whimbrel a first for the county in any season. Other shorebirds species identified included 6 **Semipalmated Plovers**, 24 **Semipalmated Sandpipers**, one **Black-bellied Plover**, one **Greater Yellowlegs**, 2 **Pectoral Sandpipers**, and 3 **Spotted Sandpipers** (RK).

The end of this reporting period witnessed the start of the "fall" shorebird migration season with 6 species being seen at STP over the last few days of Jul. The species seen included one **Pectoral Sandpiper**, 2 **Spotted Sandpipers**, 6 **Least Sandpipers**, one **Semipalmated Sandpiper**, 2 **Lesser Yellowlegs**, and 2 **Solitary Sandpipers** (VG).

One **Northern Bobwhite** was seen at the intersection of MLR with Running Pump Road 7/5 (BO). A pair of **Barn Owls** nested once again in the barn at SGL 169. Possible "northern breeders" included one **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, 2 **Brown Creepers**, and 2 **Golden-crowned Kinglets** at PGFSP 6/5 (RK).

As far as field birds go, only the second confirmed breeding pair of **Blue Grosbeaks** in *Cumberland* for the 2nd PBBA was reported just north of Newville on Hunters Road 6/1 (RF). The confirmation came when RF noticed the male carrying a fecal sack in a photo that he took. Various other birders saw the same pair 6/5. There were also 3 **Dickcissels** singing in a field off Hill Top Road just north of Newburg 6/5 (AM, RK, m.ob.) and 7/7 (RK), along with one or 2 **Dickcissels** singing on Gephart Road just off of MLR on several occasions (AM, BO, VG). In addition, **Vesper Sparrows** and **Savannah Sparrows** were reported at several locations.

The only warblers of note were a singing male **Prothonotary Warbler** at SGL 169 6/7 (RK) and a **Yellow-throated Warbler** at Pine Hill (Enola) 6/14 (RK).

Last but not least was the sighting of a juvenile male **Summer Tanager** at Elk Hill Road near CDSP 7/27 (HW). This is only the third record for the species in *Cumberland* and the first summer record for the county. It is not known if this bird was produced locally or was wandering.

Observers: **Vernon Gauthier**, 111 W. Big Spring Ave, Neville, PA 17241, (717) 385-9526, evgauth@pa.net, Mary Craig, Ron Freed, Bob Keener, Ramsay Koury, Andrew Markel, Bob Oyler, Herb Weigl.

Dauphin County

Locations: Harrisburg (HBG), Susquehanna River (SR), SR from West Fairview SWF), Three Mile Island (TMI), West Hanover Twp.(WHT).

Five **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons**, one adult and four juveniles, were observed 7/8 in the Bellevue neighborhood of HBG (CK, DH). A total of three nests were confirmed with 12 fledglings at this site (SL). Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were also reported in WHT 7/20 where one was observed at a farm pond (BC), and from SWF where two juveniles were noted the morning of 7/30 (KH). **Red-breasted Mergansers** were found 6/3 at SWF (RK).

Two **Black Vulture** chicks fledged 7/25, from the Middletown barn mentioned in the spring report, and were still observed in the vicinity with an adult 8/1 (GK). The Rachel Carson Bldg. **Peregrine Falcons** in downtown HBG fledged four, all females, 6/10-14. Two additional young peregrines were fledged from the TMI nest this summer (SL).

Three **Barn Owl** nesting sites, two in silo mounted boxes, were confirmed in southeastern *Dauphin* this summer with a total of 14 owlets (GB). This demonstrates the success of the Quittapahilla Audubon Barn Owl box project.

An atlassing highlight was finding a **Cerulean Warbler** singing above in the trees, and a **Kentucky Warbler** singing below in a brushy ravine, both on the north slope of Mahantango Mt. 6/30 (P&RW).

Observers: **Richard Williams**, 3 Parkside Dr., Hummelstown, PA 17036, (717) 566-6562, RWPuffin@aol.com, Gerry Boltz, Beth Carricato, Kermit Henning, Deuane Hoffman, Chad Kauffman, Gary Kinkley, Ramsay Koury, Sandy Lockerman, Patricia Williams.

Delaware County

Locations: Big Bend Farm (BB), Delaware River (DR), Philadelphia Int'l Airport-Delaware (PHL), Ridley Creek State Park (RCSP), Tincum/John Heinz NWR-Delaware (TI), Tyler Arboretum (TY).

June was hot. The average high temperature was 5.4 degrees higher than usual and the month featured 8 days above 90 compared to an average of 4.6 days above 90. July temperatures were only slightly above average. Precipitation levels were fairly normal. Other than the effect of the heat on the birders, no significant weather events affected birding this season.

Summer excitement for *Delaware* birders was provided by an adult **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** near the Brandywine Creek in Chadds Ford on 7/22 (LL). The creek defines the border between *Delaware* and *Chester*. The bird was first spotted on the *Chester* side then crossed over the creek and settled in a marsh adjacent to a popular diner in the area. It was subsequently viewed regularly in that marsh from the diner parking lot by many observers until 7/31. **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** is a rare irregular summer visitor to *Delaware* and this is the first report outside the area of TI. Also viewed from this location were families of **Wood Ducks**, and as many as 6 **Great Egrets** and 6 **Green Herons** (NP, AG, DE, et al.).

Two **Osprey** nests were active on the DR (NP, DE). Of interest were an **Osprey** carrying a fish along the Chester Creek near Aston 6/28 (DE) and another **Osprey** at BB 6/29 (NP). The Chester Creek bird was 4 miles inland from both DR nests and the BB bird was a similar distance from one of those nests. It is uncertain whether these represented dispersal, unpaired birds, or members of the known nesting pairs. Although power lines abound in these areas there are no large bodies of water any nearer to these locations than the DR so inland nesting seems unlikely to *Delaware* birders.

The Game Commission reported that on 6/24 a young **Bald Eagle** fledged from the nest first discovered in Dec (AG). This is the first reported post-DDT-era Bald Eagle nest in *Delaware*.

The increasingly common **Cooper's Hawk** nested at TY (TR). Increasingly less common in *Delaware* were 2 **American Kestrels** at PHL as reported by AG, who believes the same pair was present all summer. Another American Kestrel was at BB 7/8 (NP).

AG found 2 lingering migrant **Semipalmated Plovers** at TI 6/1. Other shorebirds reported at TI were **Greater Yellowlegs** and **Lesser Yellowlegs** 7/31 (BB), **Semipalmated Sandpiper** 6/1 (AG), and 50 **Least Sandpipers** 7/20 (DE).

Willow Flycatchers are regular at TI where BB counted 13 on 6/1 and along the nearby DR where AG counted 11 on that same day. Outside these usual haunts were one or two breeding pairs near Linville Orchards (DE, AG) and an individual at RCSP (EP).

Purple Martins were breeders at RCSP (AS, AG, NP) and were also seen later in the summer in Aston 7/10 (NP) and Newtown Square 7/26 (SJ). At least 6 **Cliff Swallow** nests were at the stables at RCSP (AG, NP).

A **Brown Creeper** was spotted at TY 6/18 (TR). Classified as "accidental" in *Delaware*, this species nested at TY in 1984 (AG), and a dead, unaged individual was found in a Media parking lot 7/12/06. Though Brown Creeper should still be classified as accidental in summer in *Delaware*, birders should be alert to the possibility of a change in this status and additional reports would be appreciated.

In addition to the usual nesters, **Hooded Warblers** were again at RCSP (EP), and a **Yellow-breasted Chat** also summered at RCSP (EP). Four Yellow-breasted Chats were found at BB 6/14 (NP).

Observers: **Dave Eberly, 112 S. Princeton Ave., Swarthmore, PA 19081, (610) 543-3499, david.eberly@gmail.com**, Brian Byrnes, Al Guarente, Sheryl Johnson, Larry Lewis, Jim Lockyer, Edie Parnum, Nick Pulcinella, Tom Reeves, Alice Severeid, Janis Zane.

Elk County

No Compiler.

Erie County

Location: Presque Isle State Park (PISP).

The following unusual birds were recorded from PISP unless noted otherwise: Three **Peregrine Falcons** were reported this summer. One was at Gull Point on 6/1 (JM), another was at State Game Lands 314 on 7/7 (TW), and the last one reported was along Beach 10, PISP 7/23 (JM). The first ever **Laughing Gull** in Erie away from PISP was an adult at the Lake View Landfill on 6/20 (MB). Though suspected of breeding on PISP, **Whip-poor-Will** breeding was not confirmed until 6/2 when a female was discovered sitting on two eggs near Pine Tree Trail (JM).

White-eyed Vireos are rarely reported in Erie, so a singing bird found along Pine Tree Trail 6/11-14 was interesting (JM). **Northern Mockingbirds** continue to be found in summer in Erie where they likely nest every year, so a bird found at Villa Maria in Erie on 6/8 was not a surprise (RS). The first in over 20 years was confirmed nesting of **Prothonotary Warblers** in Erie on 7/18 near Corry, when an adult was observed feeding young (FJM). Very rare in summer in Erie was a singing **Yellow-breasted Chat** along Pine Tree Trail from 6/10 to at least 6/16 (JM).

Observers: **Jerry McWilliams, 3508 Allegheny Rd., Erie, PA 16508-2129, jerrymcw@aol.com**, Mary Birdsong, Flo and Jim McGuire, Russ States, Tom Wasilewski.

Fayette County

Location: Ohiopyle State Park (OSP), Quebec Run Wild Area (QRWA).

Summer reports were good with continuing coverage for the 2nd PBBA and a resurrected Breeding Bird Survey route, which together provided most of the observations for the season.

A female **Common Merganser** at Ohiopyle 6/29 (GM, KM) was probably a breeding bird. This species was confirmed in recent years as a breeder along the Youghiogheny River.

A **Great Egret** at Mill Run Reservoir 7/7 (WS) was either a post breeder or non-breeding individual. The unusual time of year confounds efforts to make that determination. **Ruffed Grouse** reports have been few in recent years so a female with young in Dunbar Township 6/29 was a welcome report (MB). An **American Coot** was unexpectedly at Jacob's Creek Lake 6/20 (MF). Further searching to determine if a pair was present did not reveal another bird.

A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was found in Wharton Township 6/16 (DN). Eight **Eastern Wood-Pewees** and two **Acadian Flycatchers** in Springfield Township, a **Great Crested Flycatcher** in Henry Clay Township, and two **Eastern Kingbirds** in Wharton Township were tallied during a BBS route 6/29 (GM, KM). **Acadian Flycatchers** were also found in North Union Township 6/16 (DN).

The BBS route produced two **Blue-headed Vireos**, one each in Springfield Twp. and OSP, as well as a fine tally of 63 **Red-eyed Vireos** (GM, KM).

Interesting were **Cliff Swallows** on Kooser Road in Springfield Township near a barn 6/29 (GM, KM). It is likely these were foraging birds from the nesting site on the Mill Run Reservoir Bridge, which is a little more than a mile from the Kooser Road location.

A nice count of five **Common Ravens** were tallied 6/14 on Wirsing Road near QRWA (MB).

Reports of high elevation specialties included a **Winter Wren** in Dunbar Township 6/29 (MB) and 3 **Veeries** at QRWA 6/14 (MB). Four

Veeries were noted on the BBS route 6/29, all on Maple Summit Road in Stewart Township at consecutive stops (GM, KM), illustrating the importance of suitable habitat supporting a particular species in good numbers. The same BBS route tallied a nice total of 20 **Wood Thrush**. A **Brown Thrasher** was observed with three fledglings at Jacob's Creek County Park 6/20 (MF).

A combined bike ride and atlassing outing along the Youghiogheny Bike Trail from Ohiopyle to Confluence 6/11 produced the following species: **Northern Parula, Yellow Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, American Redstart, Ovenbird, Louisiana Waterthrush and Common Yellowthroat** (JV).

Atlassing efforts generated reports of two local breeders: a **Golden-winged Warbler** along Brynor Road just outside OSP and a **Magnolia Warbler** in Brownfield Hollow 6/14 (MB). **Golden-winged Warblers** are most often reported from a traditional site at OSP so a report from another location is welcome. Other warblers found 6/14 included a **Blue-winged Warbler** and numbers of the following species from various locations: **Chestnut-sided Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, and Hooded Warbler**. Two **Blackburnian Warblers** were at QRWA that day (MB).

Warblers reported during the BBS Survey 6/29 included three **Northern Parulas** in Stewart Twp. and OSP, 9 **Chestnut-sided Warblers**, 7 **Black-throated Blue Warblers**, 12 **Black-throated Green Warblers**, one **Black-and-white Warbler** at OSP, 9 **American Redstarts**, 9 **Ovenbirds**, **Common Yellowthroats** and 13 **Hooded Warblers** (GM, KM). Surprisingly only a single **Yellow Warbler** was noted in Springfield Twp., although by late Jun their breeding activity is winding down. Only a single **Kentucky Warbler** was found at OSP however the BBS is a road oriented survey and may not enter prime habitat for this species of concern (GM, KM).

Atlassing 6/16 produced **Chestnut-sided Warbler** and **Hooded Warbler** in Wharton Twp. and an **American Redstart** in North Union Twp. (DN). Another good find for the county was a **Worm-eating Warbler** in Dunbar Twp. 6/29 (MB). A **Black-throated Green Warbler**, a **Cerulean Warbler**, and two **Kentucky Warblers** were also found that day (MB).

Atlassing 7/6 produced the following warblers: **Black-throated Blue Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Prairie Warbler, and Yellow-breasted Chat** (MB).

A great total of 26 **Scarlet Tanagers** and 38 **Indigo Buntings** were counted during the BBS Survey 6/29 (GM, KM).

Three **Grasshopper Sparrows** were near QRWA along Wirsing Road 6/14 and many were in another nearby location along with good numbers of **Henslow's Sparrows** 7/6 (MB). Three **Savannah Sparrows** were found near Fairmont Road in Springfield Twp. 6/29 along with 7 **Grasshopper Sparrows** (GM, KM). A juvenile **Dark-eyed Junco** was in Dunbar Twp. 6/29 (MB).

Five **Bobolinks** were found in Springfield Twp. and OSP 6/29. Four **Eastern Meadowlarks** were also tallied that day (GM, KM).

A quick but productive atlas trip to Jacob's Creek County Park 6/20 yielded a male **Baltimore Oriole** calling to a responsive fledgling and a male **Orchard Oriole** feeding a fledgling (MF).

Observers: **Mike Fialkovich, 805 Beulah Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15235, (412) 731-3581, mpfial@verizon.net**, Mark Bowers, Geoff Malosh, Kristin Malosh, Dick Nugent, Walt Shaffer, Jim Valimont.

Forest County

Locations: Allegheny National Forest (ANF), Cook Forest State Park (CFSP), Kellettsville (KL), Marienville (MA), Muzette (MU), Nebraska (NB), Neiltown (NE), Pigeon (PI), Red Brush (RB), Tionesta (TI), Tionesta Lake (TL).

All sightings by FM & JM unless otherwise indicated. Data for Forest this summer shows 13 species Possible, 39 Probable, and 55 Confirmed, for a total of 107 species. Golden-crowned Kinglet, Yellow-rumped Warbler and Pine Warbler were notable species for this breeding season.

A new **Bald Eagle** nest found near TI was apparently successful. A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was seen 6/26 along a forest road near Lamonville, and another 7/14 in a clear-cut area of the ANF near MU. One active **Northern Goshawk** territory was found, but the pair failed to produce young this year. The bander has noted that twice in 2 years in

the ANF area he has witnessed an occurrence of a female being killed and eaten by a predator—presumed Fisher hair was found in the nest (DB). **Red-shouldered Hawks** were observed: 7/1, 7/5, 7/10, and 7/14 at different ANF locations (different atlas blocks) all in the MU area; 7/2 near Lamonaville; 7/15 near MA; 7/1 at SGL 24.

American Woodcocks were on territory 5/12 and continued at MU. **Whip-poor-wills** were heard calling 6/1 at RB.

Acadian Flycatchers were noted at 6 different locations. Four **Alder Flycatchers** were found 7/19 along a forest road near PI. **Least Flycatchers** were observed 6/28 near RB and 7/5 at ANF near MU.

Common Ravens were noted at several locations, mostly in or near the ANF, and confirmed as breeding. Two were seen 5/23 chasing **Turkey Vultures** away from a road-kill that may have been too close to the nest; apparent flight-training of a young raven was observed 7/5.

A community of **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** nested again on the bridge at TL, and **Cliff Swallows** returned to the bridge at KL, where several active nests could be observed. **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was heard 8/6 at a pine plantation near TI. **Winter Wrens** were found singing at several locations: 5/23 near TC, 6/23 at the ANF near MU, 6/26 near LA, 6/28 near RB, and 7/5 near NB. A singing male **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was a nice find by an atlasser 7/4 in a pine plantation near NB (CW).

Forty-eight nest boxes monitored at TL and KL for the Army Corps of Engineers fledged 37 **Eastern Bluebirds**, 24 **Black-capped Chickadees**, 49 **Tree Swallows**, and only 6 **House Wrens**, for a total of 116. Eight Bluebirds fledged in Jun, 14 fledged in Jul along with all 49 Tree Swallows, and 15 fledged in Aug after the Tree Swallows had gone. This year it was noted that in several instances bluebirds successfully built over an old tree swallow nest before it was cleaned.

Veery was confirmed 6/23 near MU when fledglings were seen, and were listed in at least 7 other locations. A **Hermit Thrush** was seen carrying nesting material along Hemlock Rd. near RB 6/28, and the species was also observed at 10 other locations. **Wood Thrush** numbers are good, with probable breeding noted in at least 7 locations, and possible in 2 others.

A **Blue-winged Warbler** was noted 6/19 in the ANF near MU. A **Nashville Warbler** was noted 5/30 along Wolf Run, and another 7/19 at Hunter Creek, both near Lamonaville. Several singing male **Northern Parulas** were found in hemlocks in TI and near TL, also 6/9 along Hemlock Road near RB. **Magnolia Warblers** were found at 10 locations. A **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was seen feeding young 7/10 near Lamonaville, and the species was listed as probable at 8 other locations. A singing male **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was found 7/16 on the edge of a mature pine-spruce plantation near Redclyffe. Nine **Blackburnian Warblers** were seen at various locations, including one carrying food 7/14 in the ANF near MU. A singing male **Yellow-throated Warbler** 5/10 at TL was within the safe dates but was not re-located. A **Pine Warbler** was deemed "on territory" 7/4 by an atlasser near NB (CW). **Prairie Warblers** were singing 6/19 and 7/1 in 2 different areas of SGL 24 near MU, and another singing male was found 6/7 at Redclyffe. The only **Black-and-white Warbler** was spotted 6/19 on a walk in SGL 24 near MU. **Louisiana Waterthrush** was found on territory near NB. A **Mourning Warbler** was found carrying food 7/1 in the ANF near MU, and at least 4 others were reported in the county.

A **Savannah Sparrow** was found 7/15 near MA. A **Grasshopper Sparrow** was spotted 7/4 near NB (CW). A **Swamp Sparrow** was singing 7/16 near Redclyffe. A **Purple Finch** fledgling confirmed the species 7/16 near Redclyffe, and 6 others were located.

Observers: **Flo McGuire, HC 1 Box 6A, Tionesta, PA 16353, (814) 755-3672, fmcguire1@verizon.net.** Dave Brinker, Jim McGuire, Carole Willenpart.

Franklin County

No Report.

Compiler: **Dale L. Gearhart, P.O. Box 155, Shady Grove, PA 17256, (717) 860-5799, dgearhart01@comcast.net.**

Fulton County

Locations: Ayr Township (AYR), Belfast Township (BEL), Brush Creek Township (BC), Licking Creek Township (LC), Meadow Grounds Lake (MGL), Union Township (UN).

North of Crystal Spring, the three newly created South Valley Rd. BC ponds all had many **Mallard** and **Wood Duck** fledglings on a 7/5 visit. These shallow ponds boast accompanying wet meadows that could potentially host other interesting species.

Several new areas were discovered for the uncommon **Red-headed Woodpecker**. Records included: a nest site along Negro Mountain Rd., UN, 7/3; a vocal bird at Back Run Rd., AYR, 7/4, and a pair noted along Overly-Raker Rd. 6/18. Hopefully these attractive woodpeckers continue to increase countywide. In the open streamside brushy habitats, **Willow Flycatcher** numbers were at least stable. The lone report of another streamside brush lover, the uncommon **White-eyed Vireo**, was of one along SR 484 in UN on 7/3.

Once again **Purple Martins** weren't detected in breeding season in *Fulton*. Unfortunately it appears that martins may eventually become just migrants through the county. **Cliff Swallows** continue to be found nesting more in areas with barns than under bridges. Several Cliff reports were a flock near McConnellsburg 7/4, a Beatty Rd. barn in BEL 6/18, and along Gem Bridge Rd. Bridge in LC 6/18.

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 along the Pleasant Valley Rd. pure hemlock stand 6/30. This forested tract will be watched in the near future as several trees are showing signs of the dreaded woolly adelgid disease. **Pine Warbler** numbers look stable; it was recorded in all *Fulton* townships south of Rte. 30. Dryer ridge-top 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 Owl Creek Rd. early successional area. Although only approximately 800 feet in elevation, a surprising find along Owl Creek Rd. was a singing male Chestnut-sided Warbler on 6/18. The only report for Cerulean Warbler was a singer along Black Bear Rd. 6/18.

All grassland sparrows: **Field** (common), **Vesper** (uncommon), **Savannah** (occasional), and **Grasshopper** (common) **Sparrows** were found in good numbers throughout the county.

Both expected grosbeaks in *Fulton* are occasional or rare summer visitors. **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** lone report was a singing male at MGL 7/4. Two **Blue Grosbeak** sightings were confirmed along Peach Orchard Rd., AYR on 6/18 and Llama Lane on 6/18. The Icterid highlight was a **Bobolink** heard along Chester Rd. 6/18.

Observer: **Daniel Snell, PO Box 653, Shippensburg, PA 17257, dan_snell@hotmail.com, 717-530-8313.**

Greene County

Locations: Garrison (GR); Hunting Hills Farm (HH); Kern Farm (KF); Last Chance Ranch (LCR); Morgan Township (MT); Ralph Bell Farm (RBF); Springhill Township (SPH); Washington Township (WT).

With 2008 being the last year of gathering data for the 2nd PBBA, folks were out frequently trying to reach the target numbers for blocks or adding to target blocks. Birders reported finding 93 species in *Greene*.

Wood Ducks were found in abundance at a farm pond in MT in late Jul (KK). There were multiple pairs with young of many sizes including nearly as big as the parents to quite small. At least two of the adult males were in molt. There were a few **Mallards** in the mix with young also. **Wild Turkey** babies seen were small for the date and few in number throughout the summer, perhaps indicating either delayed nesting or failure of early nests with later re-nesting as a result of so much rain in the spring and early Jun. A pair of **Northern Bobwhite** were heard and seen at RBF (RKB). Also in MT, JH reports inadvertently mowing over a nest. He states the species has been present on his farm for several seasons. It is known that a neighbor (about 1/2 mile away) had put out birds in the past, but has not for at least 5 years. The area is a large expanse of two farms that adjoin and are kept mowed, and the species has continued to prosper there.

Great Blue Herons are thriving as known colonies continue to have most nests occupied. A pair of **Green Herons** attending young was found at Waynesburg Sportsman's Club pond 7/27 (JH).

At RBF a **Cooper's Hawk** was seen daily in mid-Jul coming into the yard trying to catch recently fledged **Purple Martins** and **Barn Swallows** (RKB). The **Red-tailed Hawk** nests must have done well this

year as no matter where you were in *Greene* mid- to late Jul, you could hear their cries and see the youngsters learning to hunt (KK). The young of a pair of **American Kestrels** were not out of the nest until 6/20 at RBF which is much later than usual (RKB). When he went to band the nestlings as he does yearly the third week of May, there were still eggs at the nest. Perhaps this late nesting was also due to rainy weather.

As mentioned in the spring report, a **Mourning Dove** chose an odd place for a nest atop an exterior pilaster of a masonry building. Two broods were raised and fledged from this nest at KF (KK). At LCR, two **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were heard singing on 7/5 (MLP). **Black-billed Cuckoos** were heard throughout the period (KK).

There are still areas in *Greene* where there are large, appropriately wooded tracts that hold nice surprises. While visiting at the L&JW residence near GR, **Whip-poor-Will** and **Eastern Screech-Owl** were heard (MC, JC, MH). A **Great Horned Owl** was heard early in the morning 6/19 at RBF (RKB). He states they are not common locally anymore and wonders if the West Nile Virus could be affecting them. On the other hand, **Barred Owls** are being reported with increasing frequency. While working on the 2nd PBBA, a Barred Owl was observed for several minutes as it sat on a sycamore tree branch stretching over Castile Run near Clarksville (RKB, KK). Also at GR, a **Red-headed Woodpecker** visited the feeder (LJW). A rare treat for *Greene* was a Least Flycatcher found in SPH 6/11 on an old farm (MH, KK).

American Crow young were out of the nest being fed in the yard at RBF 6/23 (RKB). On 6/12 two adult and 2 young **Common Ravens** were noted at RBF (RKB). Many **Purple Martin** colonies had "NO VACANCY" this summer. The fledging started 7/19 at RBF (RKB). **House Wrens** were apparently not as ubiquitous as usual this year as MLP reported not seeing or hearing any this summer. However, such was not the case at KF (KK). A large yard tractor with a roof over it became the nesting site of a House Wren. The wren was noticed carrying sticks into a corner under the roof where the supports, which are hollow, come together but do not close. In late Aug, a thoroughly soiled used nest was removed.

On 6/11 an **American Robin** nest with two eggs was found in the grape arbor at LCR. Also the **Eastern Bluebird** nest had 4 eggs for the second time after a successful first fledging (MLP). Meanwhile at RBF a **Northern Mockingbird** chose an unusual nest site in a rain gutter on the barn 7/24. Three eggs were laid and the bird was seen going to and from the nest many times, but the nest was abandoned after heavy rains (RKB). On 6/11 a **Cedar Waxwing** was observed tugging at a piece of baling twine that was used to tie a sapling to a stake in the yard at LCR. The bird tugged until a small thread came loose then flew high into a spruce tree. A pair was noted in the area (MLP).

On a 2nd PBBA trip 6/11 a total of 12 warblers were found in SPH. These were **Blue-winged, Yellow, Yellow-throated, Cerulean, Black-and-white, Kentucky,** and **Hooded** warblers, and **Northern Parula, American Redstart, Ovenbird, Louisiana Waterthrush,** and **Common Yellowthroat** (MH, KK). While making a circuit around the property at HH in mid-July, 9 **Yellow-breasted Chats** were found by SS. Another BBS field trip produced a **Worm-eating Warbler** and a **Grasshopper Sparrow** 6/8 in WT (MH). The wet weather in early summer made birding trips very muddy and challenging at times and forced birders to crawl through, around, and over downed trees as occurred on three IBA visits to Enlow Fork SGL in Richhill Twp. (MH). However she reports it was fun to watch three **Louisiana Waterthrushes** foraging in a large mud puddle along the old road.

A treat at LCP 6/26 was finding two male and one female **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** in the yard (MLP).

Finally, there is another **Song Sparrow** story from LCR. On 6/17 she watched a Song Sparrow attack a garter snake. The bird jumped on the snake several times and the snake "jumped" each time it was pounced upon. Apparently the bird recognized the snake as a threat to its nest nearby in a shrub (MLP).

ADDENDUM: A missed report for 5/24 was the sighting of a **Red-shouldered Hawk** near Pollock Mill Road in MT (KK).

Observers: **Kathy Kern 322 Kennel Road, Waynesburg, PA 15370, (724) 627-5376, n3xsj@alltel.net,** Ralph K. Bell, Mike Campsey, Judy Campsey, Jerry Howard, Marj Howard, Mary La Plante, Sally Sisler, Llew and Jeanne Williams.

Huntingdon County

Northern Goshawks fledged 3 young in Rothrock S.F., one more bird than last year (GG). For the fifth consecutive year, a pair of **American Kestrels** successfully fledged 2 young at a site in an abandon house in Ennisville (DW).

For the 17th consecutive year, three BBS routes were conducted within Rothrock SF in *Huntingdon, Mifflin* and *Centre*. Each route consists of fifty, three-minute stops with the majority of the stops found in *Huntingdon*. The eleven most frequently recorded species this year from the combined routes are noted along with their seventeen-year averages in parentheses: **Red-eyed Vireo**, 241 (193); **Ovenbird**, 133 (152); **Scarlet Tanager**, 89 (72); **Eastern Towhee**, 88 (76); **Wood Thrush**, 49 (48); **Black-throated Green Warbler**, 42 (29); **Eastern Wood-Pewee**, 41 (37); **Common Yellowthroat**, 38 (44); **Hooded Warbler**, 38 (24); **American Redstart**, 37 (26); and **Chipping Sparrow** 37 (34). Overall trends continue to be positive. Of the 26 species that have averaged at least 10 individuals per year, 11 species showed an increase of 25% or more above their seventeen-year average, while only three where recorded 25% below their long term average. **Veery, Hermit Thrush, Chestnut-sided Warbler, American Redstart** and **Indigo Bunting** were all observed at record high numbers, but **Eastern Phoebe, Great Crested Flycatcher,** and **Brown-headed Cowbird** were recorded at record low numbers (NB, DG, GG).

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

Indiana County

Locations: Indiana (IN), Plumville (PV), Shelocta (SH), Spruce Grove (SG), Yellow Creek State Park (YC).

A **Pied-billed Grebe** was found at YC 7/25 (MVT) and 7/26 (SG). Ten **Double-crested Cormorants** appeared at McCreary's Pond 6/9 (RM); singletons were found 6/17 (MH, MVT) at YC and 7/12 (MH, RH) at Hemlock Lake where it remained through 7/24 (MH). Two **Little Blue Herons**, representing the ninth county record, were present at YC 7/22 (MH) through 7/26 (SG, DK). An adult **Bald Eagle** was found near Homer City 6/2 (DB). Both **Sharp-shinned Hawks** and **Cooper's Hawks** were noted at three locations (m.ob.). **Red-shouldered Hawks** were found only near Kenwood 6/10 (MH, MVT) and se. of PV 7/14 (MH). Ten **Broad-winged Hawk** reports were received (m.ob.) and the species was confirmed breeding at YC 7/15 (MJA, MH, LM, TM, DS, MVT).

The water level at YC began subsiding, exposing mudflats in Little Yellow Cove by mid-Jul. First **Semipalmated Plover** and **Lesser Yellowlegs** arrived 7/29 (MH, MVT), and 7/22 (MH) was the arrival date for **Solitary Sandpiper, Least Sandpipers,** and **Pectoral Sandpiper.**

Both **cuckoos** were noted widely with 5 **Black-billed** and 6 **Yellow-billed** reports. Three **Whip-poor-wills** were actively calling in Dark Hollow 6/12 (EF, MF, MH).

Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were confirmed nesting near Heilwood, a second confirmed county record. Two adults (one seen, one heard) were present 6/12 (BF, MH); an adult male was feeding a well camouflaged fledgling 7/1 (MH). On 7/7 (MH) a female was found with a fledgling while another sapsucker called from the stand of trees on the opposite side of the road.

An **Alder Flycatcher** was singing near Smicksburg 6/23 (MH). Single **Least Flycatchers** were found near Deckers Point 6/2 (MH), near Kenwood 6/10 (MH, MVT), near Penn Run 6/12 (BF, MH), and near Dayton 6/14 (MH, RH). Six **White-eyed Vireo** reports were received, and **Yellow-throated Vireos** were noted at 10 locations this summer (m.ob.). Single **Warbling Vireos** were found near SH 6/1 (MH, RH), near Blairsville 6/7 (MH, RH), and near PV 6/9 (CG, MH). A **Fish Crow** was calling at 4th and Philadelphia in Indiana 6/28 (MH, RH). A pair of **Horned Larks** accompanied a fledgling near McCormick 7/28 (EF, MH). A pair of **Purple Martins** nested near Rossmoyne, raising four young (MA, MH). At a nearby Amish farm, several martins summered but did not nest. A **Cliff Swallow** near SH 6/1 (MH, RH) was still present through mid-Jul; another was spotted near Purchaseline 6/30 (MH).

A pair of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** was feeding a very young fledgling at YC 6/17 (MH, MVT); at least one was present near SH

throughout the summer. A family group of 4 was found in Indiana 7/21 (MC). A **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was still present at the traditional site at YC 6/24 (MJA, MH, MVT). A single **Veery** singing near Pine Flats 6/21 (MH, RH) was the lone report. **Hermit Thrushes** reported included 2 near Strongstown 6/12 (BF, MH), 2 near Gypsy 7/9 (MH), a pair near SG 7/17 (BF, MH), and one near Locust 7/24 (MH). The *Indiana* portion of the Parkwood BBS yielded 20 **Wood Thrushes** 6/7 (MH, RH).

Ten **Blue-winged Warblers** (m.ob.), but no Golden-winged Warblers or hybrids, were noted this period. A territorial **Northern Parula** sang at YC 6/10 (MH, MVT) through 7/1 (MH). The *Indiana* section of the Parkwood BBS yielded 19 **Yellow Warblers** 6/7 (MH, RH). Among numerous reports, **Chestnut-sided Warblers** included 5 near Elkin 6/4 (MH). Single **Magnolia Warblers** were noted at six locations (MH). **Black-throated Green Warblers** were widespread with the species confirmed carrying nesting material near Heilwood 6/12 (BF, MH) and by carrying food both at YC 6/17 (MH, MVT) and near Rossiter 7/12 (MH, RH). **Blackburnian Warblers**, listed at five locations, were confirmed carrying food at YC 6/24 (MJA, MH, MVT). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was seen and heard near Blairsville 6/7 (MH, RH). **Pine Warblers** were singing at the Indiana Country Club 6/9 (RH), near SH 7/2 (MH), and at YC 7/8 (MH). **Prairie Warblers** included 2 near Deckers Point 6/2 (MH) and single birds at eight other locations (m.ob.). A late **Blackpoll Warbler** was singing near SH 6/1 (MH, RH). A **Cerulean Warbler** was singing along Glade Run 6/9 (CG, MH). Only 4 **Black-and-white Warblers** and 37 **American Redstarts** were noted (m.ob.). **Louisiana Waterthrushes** were reported only near PV 6/9 (CG, MH), at YC 6/17 (MH, MVT) and 7/8 (MH), and along Mahoning Creek 7/9 (MH). Among many reports, **Kentucky Warblers** listed included 2 near Taylorsville 6/2 (MH) and 2 near Elkin 6/4 and 6/23 (MH). **Common Yellowthroat** fledglings were spotted between 7/7 (MH) and 7/31 (MA, MH). Top **Hooded Warbler** counts included 8 on the Parkwood BBS 6/7 (MH, RH), 7 in the Tanoma area 7/4 (MH, RH), and an equal number near SG 7/17 (BF, MH). **Yellow-breasted Chats** reports included 2 near Blairsville 6/7 (MH, RH), a territorial pair at YC 6/24 (MJA, MH, MVT) and 7/15 (MJA, MH, LM, TM, DS, MVT), and singletons near JS Airport 6/28 (MH, RH), near Littleton 7/8 (MH) and again 7/10 (BF, MH), and near Rossiter 7/12 (MH, RH).

Fifteen **Scarlet Tanagers** were found near SG 7/17 (BF, MH) with multiple confirmations of adults feeding young or carrying food. A **Vesper Sparrow** was found near Elkin 6/4 (MH); 2 were s. of Dayton 6/9 (CG, MH), and another was spotted near Edgewood 7/9 (MH, RH). Best **Grasshopper Sparrow** counts were 5 se. of PV 7/14 (MH) and 5 n. of Marion Center 7/31 (MA, MH). **Swamp Sparrows** were widespread this period with as many as 5 near Rayne 6/30 (MH) and 4 near Tanoma 7/4 (MH, RH). A **Dark-eyed Junco** was singing at Sun Cliff 7/10 (BF, MH). At least 3 **Bobolinks** were spotted in a field that was being mowed near SG 6/12 (BF, MH); a field near Taylorsville 6/30 (MH) harbored at least 8 individuals including several fledglings. **Eastern Meadowlarks** were widespread, but the only breeding confirmation was obtained 6/4 (MH) near Elkin.

Observers: **Margaret Higbee, 3119 Creekside Road, Indiana, PA 15701-7934, bcoriole@alltel.net**, Mary Jane Alexander (MJA), Mary Assenat, Dave Beatty, Marcy Cunkelman, Betsy Fetterman, Evelyn Fowles, Mike Fowles, Don Frew, Ross Gallardy, Steve Gosser, Carol Guba, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Pat Johner, Connie Johnston, David Kaltenbaugh, Rick Mauk, Lori McCann, Trevor McCann, Deanna Schaeffer, Marjorie Van Tassel (MVT), Ray Winstead.

Jefferson County

No Report.

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

Juniata County

Locations: Arch Rock Road (ARR), Juniata River Canal House (JRCH), Juniata River (JR), Lost Creek Shoe Shop (LCSS), Locust Run (LR), Mountain Road in McAlisterville (MR), Van Wert (VW).

An imm. **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was seen 7/5 at MR (ThP, PR). Five imm. **Common Mergansers** were spotted 7/1 at JRCH (MM,

LW).

A Juniata River float trip 7/8 offered 24 **Great Blue Heron** (BI), 2 **Great Egrets**, 5 **Bald Eagles** (3 adult, one imm., and one subadult), 25 **Killdeer** (CB), and a single **Osprey** near Mexico (TjP). The Bald Eagle fledgling was last seen 6/1 on its nest at LR (JS).

Two **Alder Flycatchers** were heard 6/1, but only one was seen at ARR; one was seen and heard 6/2 (CK, AS) and again on 6/5 (CK, HP).

One **Common Nighthawk** was seen 6/27 flying around in the evening at LCSS (AT, ST).

During a river float trip 7/4, 2 **Common Mergansers**, and singles of **Osprey** and **Mississippi Kite** were found along the JR (AT, MT).

A **Clay-colored Sparrow** was seen and heard on 7/5 in a grassy farm field at VW (AR) and again on 7/6 (CK, HP, AR, AmR, AT, m.ob.). A singing **White-crowned Sparrow** was heard 6/14 at LCSS (AT).

Observers: **Chad Kauffman, HCR 63 Box 65, Mifflintown, PA 17059, (717) 436-6465, (717) 994-6715 (cell), chadkauffman@earthlink.net**, Marilyn Miller, Henry Petersheim, Toby H Petersheim, Toby J Petersheim, Amos Renno (AmR), Andy Renno (AnR), Paul Renno, Art Schiavo, Jim Stoner, Aden Troyer, Mary Troyer, Stevie Troyer, Linda Whitesel.

Lackawanna County

No Report

NEW COMPILER BEGINNING FALL 2008: Joe Greco, 3116 Township Woods Road, East Greenville, PA 18041, (610) 457-1812, joe@grecofamily.org.

Lancaster County

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

This summer was highlighted by multiple sightings of **White Ibis**, **Sandhill Crane** and **Eurasian Collared-Dove**.

American Wigeon and **Green-winged Teal** were lingering at SRCF 6/12 (EW). A **Pied-billed Grebe** at SRCF 7/10 seemed a little early. A high count of 58 **Great Egrets** was made at SRCF 7/26 (BS). Two **Snowy Egrets** were at Octoraro Reservoir 7/27 (DW). On 7/29 another egret reported as a possible **Little Egret** was at the same location (CC, m.ob.). Many people who saw the bird felt that it showed plumage and behavioral characteristics consistent with Little Egret. Unfortunately it did not have the characteristic head plumes and was not seen in the presence of a Snowy Egret. **Little Blue Heron** was seen at SRCF 7/10. **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** no longer breeds in *Lancaster* so a juvenile at Alcoa Marsh 7/25-26 was notable (DB, DW).

White Ibis was reported in several spots this summer for the first time in many years. An immature was at SRCF 7/10 (BS, TA, AM, EB) and continued through at least 7/15. Another immature was found near Stop 1 at MCWMA 7/17 (BB). It was seen regularly through at least 7/23 (m.ob.) and more sporadically well into Aug. A **Glossy Ibis** was seen at an unidentified area in eastern *Lancaster* 7/13 (CC). The pair of **Peregrine Falcons** that were showing territorial behavior around the Norman Wood Bridge did not nest this year. However, Peregrine Falcons were seen in mid-Jul at Safe Harbor Dam (TR). A **Virginia Rail** was at the Wood's Edge Pond near Centerville 6/11 (CC, et al.). **Sandhill Crane** is now seen every year in *Lancaster*. However, this year the season's first report occurred 7/10 at SRCF (BS, TA, AM, EB). This bird was reported on various occasions through the remainder of Jul and even managed to make the local paper.

Shorebirds during the spring migration at SRCF included **Black-bellied Plover** 6/1, **Semipalmated Plover** 6/1, **Semipalmated** 6/1, **Western** 6/1, and **Least Sandpipers** 6/1, and **Dunlin** 6/1. Highlights among returning shorebirds later in Jul included **Pectoral Sandpiper** 7/26 and **Short-billed Dowitcher** 7/12. By the end of Jul, shorebirds were still being reported only in small numbers. Three **Caspian Terns** were at SRCF 7/10 and continued to be seen later in the month. A **Forster's Tern** was seen feeding two juveniles on a snag at SRCF 7/19 and there were 9 at the same location 7/26, and **Black Tern** was also seen late in Jul. **Eurasian Collared-Dove** was reported at the intersection of Puseyville and Street Roads near the State Game Lands 136 parking lot 7/20 (TR). This is a species that is now annual, but never seems to be reported regularly from the same area.

Cliff Swallows were reported nesting under the River Road Bridge crossing the Conestoga River in Safe Harbor. It has been a number of years since they have nested at this location (TR). Various **warblers** reported from MCWMA included **Chestnut-sided**, **Black-throated Blue**, **Black-and-white Warbler**, and **American Redstart** 6/4 (CC, et al.). **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, Barry Bell, Devin Bosler, Emily Braught, Bruce Carl, Chuck Chalfant, Tom Garner, Tom Johnson, Andy McGann, Kate Miller, Randy Miller, Tom Raub, Bob Schutsky, Jim Smith, Drew Weber, Eric Witmer.

Lawrence County
No Report.

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

Lebanon County

Locations: Camp Shand (CS), Fort Indiantown Gap (FIG), Lebanon Valley Business Park (LVBP), Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area (MC), Mt. Pleasant Road (MPR), SGL #80, #145, #211 and #156.

The highlight of the quarter was the first Jun record of an adult **Sandhill Crane** found on 6/5 at the Quittapahilla Creek headwaters (FH). The Sandhill Crane was there since 5/23 according to the local home owner. It was photographed on 6/6 but not seen after (RCM).

An adult **Tundra Swan** was at MPR on 6/5 and 6/6. This is only the second Jun record (RCM). A hen **Wild Turkey** with a thin 4-inch beard was seen in Spring Hill Acres on 6/7 (RCM). **Ruffed Grouse** with young were found on SGL 80 at Little Mountain in Jun (RCM).

A **Great Blue Heron** colony with 10 nests was reported along Beck Creek (FH). On 6/9 there were 10 adults and 5 young (RCM). In 2006 there were 2 or 3 nests (FH).

Black-crowned Night-Herons were reported in good numbers. On 6/5, 2 adults were flying up the Little Swarta Creek near where an immature was found last year (RCM). Also on 6/5, one adult and one immature were found at FIG. Old nests were seen in the area (DMc). And also on 6/5, 2 adults and one immature were seen at Mine and Birch Road in a quarry pond (FH). One adult and 3 immatures were found there on 6/10 (GK). They were last seen on 7/22 (GK).

Bald Eagles were found away from MC with 2 adults along Spangler Road (m.ob.) and near Freeport Mills near the Swatara Creek (RS). A female **Northern Harrier** was seen again along Birch Road near Myerstown but the field was mowed on 6/10 (GK). While working on the BBA at SGL 80, a **Broad-winged Hawk** was seen diving at a **Turkey Vulture** until they went over Blue Mountain (GK).

On 6/2 there were 5 **Semipalmated Plovers** and 2 **Least Sandpipers** at MPR (RCM).

A **Eurasian Collared Dove** was found on 6/5 along Colebrook near Rt. 322 at the Mark Hershey farm (RCM). **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were very common this quarter (RCM). **Barn Owls** bred at MC again with 3 young banded on 6/11 (JB), and on 6/26 six young ranging from four and a half to 6 weeks old were banded near Lebanon (DM). **Whip-poor-wills** were found on SGL 80 on 6/2 (RCM) and at FIG with many heard near Hotel Road (DMc).

Red-headed Woodpeckers were seen along Fonder White Road but no young were seen (RCM).

On 6/2 there were 52 **Eastern Wood-Pewees** heard or seen on SGL 80 for a new county high (RCM). An **Acadian Flycatcher** was singing along Mill Road on 6/5, a new location for this species (RCM). **Alder Flycatchers** were first heard 6/2 at CS. They have been there since 2002 (SW).

Red-eyed Vireos were reported in very low numbers this summer (m.ob.). **Common Ravens** were reported twice outside SGL 211. One was sitting in a tree near FIG (DMc). There were 4 circling over a quarry near Palmyra along Miller Road on 7/3 (DW, PW).

A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was found on 6/2 on SGL 80 on Blue Mountain where it was heard on 5/11 (RCM). Two **Cerulean Warblers** were found on top of Blue Mountain on 6/2 (RCM). **Yellow-breasted Chats** were found on SGL 80 and FIG in Jun (m.ob.).

A **Vesper Sparrow** was found at LVBP on 6/17 (RCM). **Grasshopper Sparrows** were found away from MC on 6/5, with one at Long Road and Pleasant Road (RCM), and on 6/8 one was along Birch Road near Myerstown (GK). A white-stripe morph **White-throated Sparrow** was at the Boyer Tract on 6/2 for only the second Jun record (RCM).

Two adults and one immature **Dark-eyed Junco** were found at SGL 80 near the Boyer Tract (RCM). **Blue Grosbeaks** were found at LVBP on 6/13, 6/25, 7/17, 7/18, 7/24, and 7/28. On 7/17, 2 males were counter-singing. On 7/18 there were 2 males and 2 females or immatures. Two females were with one male but when the observer tried for a closer look, they flew off (RCM). One **Orchard Oriole** was found at LVBP on 7/9 singing (RCM).

Observers: **Randy C. Miller 607 Woodland Dr., Manheim, PA 17545, (717) 664-3778**, Jim Binder, Morris Cox, Pam Fisher, Fritz Heilman, Jonathan Heller, Barbara Hunsberger, Gary Kinkley, David McNaughton (DMc), Kate Miller, Dan Mummert, Sandy Schwartz, Rosemary Spreha, Susan Wheeler, Dick and Pat Williams.

Lehigh County
No Report.

Compiler: **Jon Levin, 1899 Aster Rd., Macungie, PA 18062, (610) 366-9996**, levinjl1@yhoo.com.

Luzerne County

Locations: Francis Slocum State Park (FSSP), Nescopeck State Park (NSP), Ricketts Glen State Park (RGSP)

The summer breeding season saw slightly above average rainfall. Temperatures were average with several days of hot and humid weather, but the hot spell was not as long-lasting as in other years.

A **Common Loon** was seen at Mill Creek Reservoir while the observers were collecting field data for the 2nd PBBA on 6/28 (JH, PC). On 6/7-8, a **Pied-billed Grebe** was found at NSP in suitable nesting habitat (RK).

Black Vulture once again eluded attempts to confirm its breeding in the county, but they were reported throughout the nesting season (JH, RK). The county's 3 known **Peregrine Falcon** nest sites were once again occupied and the parents managed to fledge several more chicks this year (BW, JHa, DK).

Red-shouldered Hawk was noted from several locations, with the largest number of sightings coming from the RGSP area (RK, JH). RGSP appears to be a stronghold for this species in the county.

RK reported seeing quite a few **Wild Turkey** and **Ruffed Grouse** with young this season while working in the field. Although Wild Turkey numbers have been increasing for several years, the Ruffed Grouse population appeared to be declining, so we hope this is an indication that the cycle is on the upswing.

Both **Black-billed** and **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were reported by most observers. There was an abundance of Eastern Tent Caterpillars, and some areas of the county had an outbreak of Gypsy Moths. The county did spray in some areas this year so it's unclear how this may have affected the nesting success of the cuckoos. Another bird that continues to be found in more locations is the **Whip-poor-will** with a report of several calling at NSP 6/8 (RK). Unfortunately, the same can't be said for **Common Nighthawk**. The only reports were of a few individuals seen in Wilkes-Barre in early June (JS, JH).

Alder, **Willow**, **Acadian**, and **Least flycatchers** were all reported in suitable habitat during the reporting period. There were no reports of Yellow-bellied Flycatchers this season although they're known to nest in a few isolated bogs in the nw. section of the county.

At least two **Cerulean Warbler** males continued to be found this year at the PA Fish and Boat Commission Access area in Union Twp., although they weren't always easy to find (RK, JH). A **Kentucky Warbler** was on territory on top of Campbell's Ledge by the reservoir (SGa). **Hooded Warblers** were also reported from the same area. The power line cut in Harding once again hosted several **Yellow-breasted Chats** with at least 3 males seen on 6/3 (SGa).

Vesper Sparrow continues to be a difficult bird to find in the county and only one was reported this season from the southern area near Berwick on 6/14 (RK, JH). There were two reports of **Pine Siskin**,

one on 6/22 at FSSP (JH) and another individual 7/23 at NSP (RK). There was no evidence of breeding other than being seen within the safe dates.

Observers: **Jim Hoyson, 88 Ridge St., Shavertown, PA 18708, (570) 696-4925 birdder@aol.com**, Peter Carlin, Stan Galenty (SGa), Sandy Goodwin (SGo), Jeff Hartman (JHa), Don Kapral, Rick Koval, Jim Shoemaker, Bruce Troy, Bob Wasilewski.

Lycoming County

Locations: Montgomery (MTG).

[Ed. Note: this report was compiled by the Summer Seasonal Editor, Dan Brauning.]

A lone female **Hooded Merganser** found on a beaver pond in Cascade Twp. 6/26 by a blockbusting group (m.ob.) represented the sole *Lycoming* report this season, but others probably lurk. A single **American Bittern** was flushed along Little Pine Creek just north of Little Pine Lake while kayaking 7/6 (KM, RM). **Northern Bobwhites** were calling near the farm house of RA adjacent to Allenwood Prison Camp in neighboring Union 6/18 (DB), and at the north end of same near Maple Hill. All are believed to be released.

Several **Great Blue Heron** nest colonies were investigated as part of the statewide census, including a growing colony south of Ralston containing at least 20 active nests (DB) on 4/22, a rebuilding colony of 5 in white pines at Barbours (DB) 4/22. A single nest was found by WE near Picture Rocks 6/22.

Green Herons are a common sight, but the presence of two nearly fledged birds 7/17 in an ornamental spruce in the yard of DB culminated an interesting summer of 2nd PBBA fieldwork.

A single **Black Vulture** was among the growing swirl of **Turkey Vultures** 7/25 over the Lycoming Landfill south of MTG, which provided the first nesting-season record for PBBA Region 50 (DB).

Annual nesting of **Peregrine Falcons** on the cliff at MTG produced two young males, which were banded on 6/10 and both believed to have fledged.

Both **Sora** and **Virginia Rail** were found at scattered wetlands responded to tape playback, effectively doubling the records of these species in *Lycoming*. Sora responded to a Virginia call on 6/1 along Bonnell Rd south of Marsh Hill on 6/1 in flooded bottomland (DF), and in impressive marshes in South Williamsport 7/17 (DF). Virginia Rails responded to Sora calls at Powey's Curve along Lycoming Ck. in mitigation wetlands 6/1 (DF) and on SGL 252 in a flooded brushy field 6/4 (DB). A **Herring Gull** and **Great Egret** flying north together over farm land near the Lycoming Valley Mall on 6/5 were clearly passing through (DB). **Whip-poor-will** was heard calling before daylight 6/13 along Mountain Rd. in Tiadaghton State Forest (RH).

Northern Goshawk was confirmed breeding in *Lycoming* (undisclosed location) based on a report 5/26 from JH. **Barn Owls** continue in Washington Twp. at two neighboring farms along Rte. 44 (DB). Five young were banded 8/6 at one farm; a pair was observed nearby but no young (MG). **Fish Crows** were reported at scattered locations, including some away from the major rivers (LS). **Warbling Vireo** was found fairly commonly along Lycoming Ck. (DF) and along Muncy Ck 6/5 (DB), and the locally less common **Yellow-throated Vireo** was heard singing 6/16 along Pleasant Stream, a tributary of same (DF).

The only county report of **Purple Martin** was on 6/25 of an apparent 'scout' visiting a martin house near Montoursville (FS). A highlight for *Lycoming* was the presence of a **Swainson's Thrush** pair along Rock Run in Tiadaghton State Forest (DB) 6/19, and of singing male in the ravine of E. Branch of Mill Creek during a blockbusting trip 6/26 (DB, R&CH, FS, LS). This area adjoins state forest land in which the species regularly occurs, and the sightings suggest that this species may be expanding its range. **Horned Larks** were heard 6/10 in fields east of Leisure Acres Rd. off of Gap Road (DB, SB).

A **Nashville Warbler** sang from an open swamp in McNett Twp. Following unexpected success early in the season, a focused effort on **Mourning Warbler** proved them fairly widespread, with birds in 7 blocks along the dissected front of the Allegheny Mountains, northern *Lycoming* (DB, DF).

Several **Cerulean Warblers** were found at several points in tall oaks along the slope of the Allegheny Front northeast of Williamsport

through June (5, 6, 9, 22), (DB, RH).

One of the rarest breeding birds of the season was a territorial male **Clay-colored Sparrow**, first discovered 5/29 and relocated 6/5 in an overgrown field north of the Lycoming Valley Mall (DB).

Observers: Ryn Agnew, Scott Bearer, Dan Brauning, Wes Egli, Dave Ferry, Jack Hubley, Ron Hughey, Carol Hughey, Mario Giazzon, Kate Miller and Randy Miller, Lauri Schaffer, Fred Stiner.

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McKean County

No Compiler.

Mercer County

In spite of the extremely wet June and July, which adversely affected nesting success, 62 species were confirmed nesters, 41 were probable, and 5 were possible.

Not common in the county, **Broad-winged Hawk** was listed as a possible nester. The PGC confirmed **Sandhill Crane** as nesting at Rattlesnake Swamp in the southern part of the county. Usually 5-10 **Ruffed Grouse** can be heard drumming at SGL 130, but this year numbers were near zero. SGL 130 produced a pair of **Brown Creeper** 6/21, and the following warblers: **Magnolia, Blackburnian, Black-and-white, Northern Waterthrush, Louisiana Waterthrush and Kentucky**, all listed as probable breeders (NT). Three singing **Dark-eyed Juncos** were also at SGL 130 on 6/21 (NT).

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

Mifflin County

Location: Rothrock State Forest (RSF).

Two **Bald Eagles**, one adult and one sub-adult, were seen at the Juniata River 6/13 and 6/14. An **Osprey** was also seen there 6/14 (JD). A **Spotted Sandpiper** was observed at the Juniata River near Strode's Mills 6/14 (JD). Two **Whip-poor-wills** were heard 7/8 in the RSF bordering Big Valley (JD). A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was confirmed breeding for the 2nd PBBA in Big Valley 7/5 (JD). **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were found at two locations in Big Valley 6/22, 7/5 (JD). **Purple Martins** were confirmed breeding for the PBBA in Big Valley 6/8 (JD). **Bank Swallows** were also established at the probable status near McVeytown 6/2 and 6/14 (JD). Warblers found include a **Brewster's Warbler** 6/8, **Golden-winged Warbler** 6/8, and a breeding **Prairie Warbler** 6/8 in Big Valley by JD. A **Worm-eating Warbler** was noted on 6/2 by JZ in Big Valley.

Birds of note found on a BBS in RSF 6/3 included **Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Acadian Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Blue-headed Vireo, Veery, Hermit Thrush, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, Hooded Warbler, and Canada Warbler** (DG, GG).

ADDENDUM: **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were located at three locations along a PBBA owl route in May. **Barred Owls** at two locations responded to the Saw-whet track on the CD (RF, DGr, DG, GG).

Observers: **Gregory and Deborah Grove, 4343 McAlevys Fort Rd., Petersburg, PA 16669, (814) 667 2305, gwg2@psu.edu, dsg4@psu.edu**. Jim Dunn, Roana Fuller, Debra Grim, Jay Zook.

Monroe County

Locations: Delaware State Forest (DSF), Monroe County Environmental Education Center (MCEEC), The Nature Conservancy (TNC).

The first half of Jun was especially hot and humid, followed by seasonable weather the rest of the period. Only a few reports trickled in.

A **Wood Duck** hen and 10 young were seen on the MCEEC pond 6/21 (BH). The county's two known **Bald Eagle** nests, on the Delaware River and Brodhead Creek, were again successful and fledged two and one young, respectively, in early Jul (RG, DS). A pair of **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were found nesting at MCEEC in mid-Jun; later in Jul two fledglings were seen and a third was found dead (DS, BH).

A tantalizing report, but with few details, of a **Long-eared Owl** near Tannersville in mid-Jun could not be confirmed. No reports were received on the **Red-headed Woodpeckers** at the DWGNRA headquarters swamp. An exciting event was the banding of a **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** at TNC's Two Mile Run Preserve near Blakeslee 7/13 (DS). The bird, a likely adult male, was captured in suitable breeding habitat—a boreal wetland with black spruce, tamarack, and balsam fir. Three singing **Brown Creepers** were heard at MCEEC 6/21 and another was heard at DSF's Meesing site 7/16 (BH), all in association with Norway spruce stands.

Observers: **Brian Hardiman, Monroe County Environmental Education Center, 8050 Running Valley Rd, Stroudsburg, PA 18360, (570) 629-3061, bhmccd@ptd.net**, Bob Demarest, Russ Gladd, Edie Parnum, Darryl Speicher.

Montgomery County

Locations: Green Lane Reservoir (GLR), Norristown Farm Park (NFP), Unami Creek Valley (UCV), Upper Gwynedd Township (UGT), Upper Perkiomen Valley Park (UPVP)

The summer season was somewhat uneventful in *Montgomery*. Early season mudflats at Church Road, GLR were inundated by nearly 6 inches of rainfall in Jul.

A female **Wood Duck** with 6 young was in the UCV 6/24 (GF). More surprising was a **Ring-necked Duck** that apparently summered at UPVP, and another lingered in the UCV until at least 6/1 (SK). A female **Common Merganser** with 11 young was at Church Road, GLR 6/12, marking their sixth consecutive breeding season there (GAF). Reports of single **Great Egrets** were received from Riverbend Environmental Education Center 6/8 (SK), UPVP 7/19 (SK), and Church Road, GLR 7/22 (JG). An immature **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was at Walt Road, GLR 6/16 (GAF). Two hen **Wild Turkeys** with 15 young were in the UCV 7/22. This was an encouraging sign, given their continued decline in western *Montgomery* (KC). **Double-crested Cormorants** remained all season at GLR (m.ob.). GLR's **Bald Eagle** pair fledged 2 young 6/9, marking their fifth consecutive successful breeding season (GAF, m.ob.). Unlike previous years, the young remained conspicuous around the lake though the end of Jul. An adult **Red-shouldered Hawk** was being mobbed by **Common Grackles** near Walt Road, GLR 6/12 (GAF). An **Osprey** at Walt Road 7/1 led to speculation if the bird was present all season (GAF). In keeping with their recent trends, **Cooper's Hawks** appeared to be everywhere. Reports were received from GLR, UCV, NFP, UGT, and presumably elsewhere (GAF, KC, A&JM). More intriguing was the report of a pair of **Sharp-shinned Hawks** at Church Road, GLR 6/6 (SK). This species is not a confirmed breeder in the region, but that status could change in the coming years.

Low rainfall and high temperatures in Jun exposed mudflats at Church Road, GLR by early Jul. A **Greater Yellowlegs** was there on the record early date 7/4 (SK), and was followed by 6 **Killdeer** and 6 **Least Sandpipers** 7/9 (GAF). A **Solitary Sandpiper** was joined by a **Spotted Sandpiper** at UPVP 7/27 (SK), and a **Lesser Yellowlegs** was on the Perkiomen Creek above GLR 7/25 (GAF). Nearly 6 inches of rainfall in Jul inundated any and all mudflats by month's end, suspending birders' hopes for more shorebirds. **White-eyed Vireos** continue to decline in the county, so reports from Fort Washington State Park 6/1 and Spring Mountain 7/20 were encouraging (SK).

A female **Purple Martin** in the UCV 6/23 was noteworthy (and timely in the final year of the 2nd PBBA) (KC). Purple Martin migration was brief as usual. The first migrants were noted in the UCV 7/20, followed by small numbers daily until 7/28 (KC). Similarly, GLR had a high of 8 birds 7/25, and UPVP had 12 on 7/26 (GAF). Church Road, GLR had 4 Bank Swallows 7/19 (SK).

A **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** in Kulpsville 7/19 was an unexpected find (SS). Four **Brown Thrashers** in Limerick 7/20 was another good find (SK). Another nice surprise was a male **Protonotary Warbler** in Royersford 6/15 (SK).

A single **Eastern Meadowlark** was observed at Church Road,

GLR 6/14 (JG). In another bit of good news, a female **Bobolink** was observed carrying a fecal sac near Church Road, GLR 6/25 (GAF).

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Montour County

No Report.

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Northampton County

Locations: Martins Creek Environmental Preserve (MCEP)

An adult **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was at Green Pond 6/4-7 (DD). Two **Great Egrets** were at the Delaware R. 7/11 (MS) and another at Hanoverville Rd.7/24 (DW). A surprising number of waterfowl spp. lingered and summered in the county. A **Gadwall** was at Christian Spring Rd, Nazareth, into mid-Jun; 2 **Snow Geese**, a female **Lesser Scaup**, and a **Green-winged Teal** spent the entire period at MCEP. A **Northern Shoveler** was at MCEP 6/24 (RW) and a male **Bufflehead** was at MCEP until 7/6 (RW). On 6/1, an adult **Black Tern** spent the day at a retention pond on Gremer Rd. (K&GP). Early southbound shorebirds included a **Solitary Sandpiper** at Hanoverville Rd. 7/13 (JH), **Least Sandpipers** 7/13 (DW), and **Semipalmated Sandpipers** at Gremer Rd.7/24 (DW). Late spring migrant **White-rumped Sandpipers** were at Green Pond 6/5 with a high of 5 on 6/18-19 (DD) when the flooded field began to dry up. A great find was a **Long-billed Dowitcher** at Hanoverville Rd. 7/24-8/3 (BS, m.ob.). This is the second county record known, and the first photographed.

There were 2 **Cliff Swallows** flying near the I-78 bridge over the Delaware R. 6/13 (DD). It has been many years since Cliff Swallows nested in the county. A **Brown Creeper** was singing at Jacobsburg State Park 6/14 (RW), and a **Brewster's Warbler** was there 6/2 (JY, MA). During an outing 6/28, 6 **Yellow-throated Warblers** were at the Lehigh R. by the Bethlehem Boat Club (RW). A male **Blue Grosbeak** was at Grand Central Landfill in Pen Argyl 6/4-7/6 (RW, MS), and another was in Williams Twp. 7/13-24 (AK).

Observers: **Michael Schall, 126 N Chestnut St, Bath, 610-737-5275, mdtjschall@yahoo.com**, Mike Arnold, Dave DeReamus, Jeff Hopkins, Arlene Koch, Ken & Gladys Price, Brett Schick, Dustin Welch, Rick Wiltraut, Joe Yuhas.

Northumberland County

No Compiler.

Perry County

No Report.

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Philadelphia County

Locations: Art Museum (AM), Benjamin Rush State Park (BRSP), Carpenter's Woods (CW), Darby Creek (DC), Delaware River (DR), East Park Reservoir (EPR), Fairmount Park (FP), Franklin D. Roosevelt Park (FDR), John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum-Philadelphia portion (TI), Naval Business Center (aka Navy Yard) (NBC), Pennypack Environmental Center (PEC), Philadelphia International Airport (PHL), Rhawn St. at the Delaware River (R-DR), Schulykill River (SR), Schulykill Center for Environmental Education (SCEE), Wissahickon Creek (WC).

This Philly summer was moderate in temperature and lacking significant rainfall. Of the 97 possible breeding species reported, 80

species were confirmed. This included **Bald Eagle** which fledged one chick at the NBC, the first successful record following last summer's failed attempt (DB). Missing this summer were Common Moorhen and Yellow-breasted Chat.

The SCEE Nesting Census on 6/7 yielded 63 species, and PEC's breeding census 6/14 turned up 73 species, 70 of which were in Philly (BS, PK). Scheduled bird walks at BRSP added to the record. In early June, Keith Russell and Mike Coll were accompanied inside the Northeast Airport where it is thought that **Grasshopper Sparrow**, **Eastern Meadowlark**, and other grassland birds could still nest. They found **Eastern Meadowlark** with no evidence of breeding, but most importantly they gained entrance to this very productive area which has been off limits to birders for years.

Our resident **Mute Swan** pair is still on the ponds of the Southwest Sewage Treatment Plant (KR), raising cygnets for the red fox and snapping turtle to eat. One of the three ponds at Island Green Country Club on Red Lion Rd. hosted a **Pied-billed Grebe** 7/1 (CA). There was no report of a grebe at EPR where they bred successfully last year.

Least Bittern was missed at TI until TF took a photo of one 7/14. Although the TI impoundment was not lowered for the shorebird migration, 120 **Great Egret** congregated 8/15 (JM). A juvenile **Tricolored Heron** was found 7/21 and remained at TI until at least 7/25 (JB, TF, NC, AG). Six **Black-crowned Night-Heron** were found at R-DR 6/17 (FW), one on the PEC 6/14 census, and at TI 7/23 (TF).

As mentioned above a **Bald Eagle** was monitored in a nest at NBC until 6/28 after which it fledged (DB). In addition to a **Cooper's Hawk** pair that nested successfully in the pines (there are only four) at TI and at Woodland Cemetery, others were seen in the Upper Wissahickon area 6/6 (KR). A **Broad-winged Hawk** viewed from the Northeast Airport 6/18 (KR) was an intriguing report. **American Kestrel** were observed from 41st St. to 52nd St. in West Philly (RH), Mt. Moriah cemetery (DM), Citizens Bank Park 6/16 (MW), in the ne. (FW) at NE Airport 6/18, and in North Philly on 7/4 (KR). Most important was a family of four kestrels observed on 6/30 in the vicinity of Tasker and 3rd Sts. (MD). Dickinson Park and the fields north of Snyder Ave. at the DR seem to provide enough prey for this pair to raise two young.

"There were 27 Peregrine Falcon nests in Pennsylvania this year, up from 24 in 2007 and 16 in 2006. Philadelphia had 5 nest sites, 4 of which were successful, producing 11 young. So, the population is increasing... [with] 20% of the nests in the whole state being in Philadelphia—not bad!" Thus wrote AM, the Peregrine Falcon coordinator for the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

Wild Turkey bred at TI where many poults were seen throughout the season. **Common Moorhen** was not reported. FW found a few sandpipers at R-DR: 3 **Semipalmated Sandpiper** and 20 **Least Sandpiper** on 7/21. An **American Woodcock** was seen in Houston Meadow in FP 7/1 (TW) and at TI 7/9 (TF). On 7/5 SD heard an insistent call note which came from a **Spotted Sandpiper** on Brook Creek path in Conshohocken. On 7/11, SD returned to find a juvenile Spotted Sandpiper, still in downy plumage, along the edge vegetation.

On 7/12, DF photographed a **Royal Tern** in *Bucks* flying south into *Philadelphia* along the DR. He alerted FW who observed the juvenile bird at R-DR at 6:00 PM. **Caspian Tern** were first reported from R-DR 7/19 (FW) and continued into Aug. The first **Forster's Tern** was reported 6/22 (MD) and parents feeding young were present in late Jul (DB, TF, DM, LR). **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** were unusually scarce, seen at SCEE 6/7, at PEC 6/14, NBC 6/26-28 (DB), and at TI 7/6 (SD), all with no hint of breeding activity. Single **Common Nighthawk** were reported from various areas of the county where they surely nest, but a juvenile bird was rescued and photographed in the Mayfair section 7/7 (BE) before being taken to rehab. FW observed Belted Kingfisher feeding young begging birds in the northeast.

Willow Flycatcher were found at PEC 6/14 (BS), at BRSP, and at SCEE 6/7 (LA). **Great Crested Flycatcher** and **Eastern Phoebe** are also found at BRSP. Most likely a *Bucks* **Purple Martin** was seen flying over R-DR 7/21 (FW). Migrating **Bank Swallow** were observed at TI 7/6-24 (SD, AG, TF). **Eastern Bluebirds** are known breeders at SCEE, BRSP, and PEC. On 6/7, breeding behavior of a **Blue-winged Warbler** was observed at SCEE where a **Yellow Warbler** was seen feeding a **Brown-headed Cowbird** (SD). **American Redstart** which bred at TI for the first time in 2007 was seen 7/6 (SD). In Center City 6/28, MD heard a **White-throated Sparrow** singing its heart out at Independence Mall (see similar record in *Montgomery*). A late **Dark-eyed Junco** was reported from SCEE 6/5 (*fide* SK). As mentioned above, **Eastern Meadowlark** was found at Northeast Airport.

Observers: **Doris McGovern, 209 Dogwood Rd., Media, PA 19063, (610) 565-8484, mcgovern@masca.museum.upenn.edu**, Leigh Ashbrook, Debbie Beer, J. Berner, Denis Brennan, Brian Byrnes, Ned Connolly, Tony Croasdale, Jim Deasey, Martin Dellwo, Michael Drake, Steve DuPont, Bill Etter, Devich Farbotnik, Todd Fellenbaum, Gregg Gorton, Al Guarente, Cliff Hence, Chuck Hetzel, Ken Januski, Steve Kacir, Pete Kurtz, Chuck Lyman, Art McMorris, John Miller, Lynn Roman, Keith Russell, Brian Schultz, Win Shafer, Judy Stepanaski, Gary Stolz, Matt Webster, Frank Windfelder, Tom Witmer.

Pike County

No Compiler.

Potter County

No Report.

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Schuylkill County

Locations: Landingville Dam (LVD), Tumbling Run Watershed (TRW).

The **Great Blue Heron** colony in an undisclosed western sector of the county continues to do very well, despite recent logging in the immediate area.

A pair of **Black Vultures** most probably bred in the county, although the location is not being made public. **American Kestrels** appear to be doing slightly better than in recent years.

Whip-poor-wills were confirmed breeding, and recent photos were taken of young birds not long after hatching. **Willow Flycatchers** were confirmed breeding in the area of the Landingville Marsh, as well as elsewhere in the county. **Acadian, Alder, and Least flycatchers** are all probable breeders in various locations. **Blue-headed Vireos** were confirmed breeding in the more northern areas of the county.

All **six species of swallows** were confirmed breeding, with the **Bank Swallow** colony at LVD doing quite well in spite of continual displacement of the silt banks. **Brown Creepers** have been confirmed as breeding at the TRW, and **Red-breasted Nuthatches** likely also continue to breed there as well as at other locations in the county.

A male **Prothonotary Warbler** was present on territory at LVD in prime habitat from 5/21 through 5/25, moving on after failing to attract a mate. **Northern Waterthrushes** were found to be possibly breeding in a couple of county locations. Grassland sparrow species: **Vesper, Savannah, and Grasshopper sparrows** were all found to be probably breeding in prime county habitats. **Dark-eyed Junco** is a species found to be probably breeding in northern sectors of the county. **Blue Grosbeak** was found to be a possibly irregular breeder, especially at LVD.

Observers: **Tom Clauser, P.O. Box 531, Pottsville, PA 17901, (570) 294-9760, runner01@comcast.net**, Roland Bergner, Brian Clauser, Jonathan DeBalko, John DeBalko, Denise Donmoyer, Laurie Goodrich, Doris Klint, Kerry Grim, Sue Guers, Barb Jucker, Dave Kruel, Nancy Kruel, Ann Marie Liebner, Dan Schwartz, Devin Schwartz, Sandy Schwartz, Mike Ward, Scott Weidensaul, Doug Wood, Sue Wolfe.

Snyder County

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

A pair of adult **Bald Eagles** was over the SR (*Northumberland*) at Hoover Island, and one imm. was at Fishers Island in Jul (DU).

A lone **Purple Martin** was among the species reported on a kayak outing on FL 6/28 (CK, TP). Although nesting in nearby counties (*Union and Juniata*), this is a rare sighting in *Snyder*.

Winter Wren and **Canada Warbler** were among the species found along the Tall Timbers Trail in Snyder-Middleswarth S.P. 6/27 (LW). On two separate atlassing ventures into a block in the northwestern corner of the county, which includes portions of *Union* and *Mifflin*, **Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, Blackburnian, and Canada** were among the

warbler species 6/1-2 (AS, P&RW), and along Shade Mt. Road 7/16, **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was added to two blocks (P&RW). Several **Purple Finches** continued to visit feeders in Selinsgrove through the summer (DU).

Observers: **Richard Williams, 3 Parkside Dr., Hummelstown, PA 17036, (717) 566-6562, RWPuffin@aol.com**, Chad Kauffman, Toby Petersheim, Allen Schweinsberg, Don Ulrich, Linda Whitesel, Patricia Williams.

Somerset County

Locations: Berlin Area (BA), Buffalo Creek (BC), Garret Mudflats (GMF), Payne Property (PP), Somerset Lake (SL).

Weather in June was cool and moist which kept birds singing long into afternoon. This helped with the considerable effort to fill in the holes in atlas blocks in the last year of the second 2nd PBBA. July warmed and bird song died down as birds turned to the task of raising young. Most noteworthy birds may have been some late holdover waterfowl and gulls from the cold, wet May. Vying for "bird of the season" were a couple possible breeders first showing up in the fifth year of the PBBA.

Late migrants at SL included **Horned Grebe** 6/3, 8 **Double-crested Cormorants** 6/1, 3 **Ruddy Duck** 6/1, 12 **Ring-billed Gulls** 6/3, one **Bonaparte's Gull** 6/3, and the first year **Franklin's Gull** first found 5/30 which persisted until 6/2 (JP, LP, CP, JM, MM). A male **Greater Scaup** stayed at GMF until at least 6/3 (JP, LP, CP). The **Osprey** at SL and Cranberry Lake successfully raised young this year (AM).

Intriguing was an **American Coot** 6/3 near Kingwood on a large pond in company with breeding **Mallards** and **Canada Geese** (JP, LP). Two **Upland Sandpipers** were found at GMF 6/3 (JP, LP, CP) and one was reported in BA 6/10 (LY).

Red-headed Woodpeckers were found in several widely separated areas during PBBA efforts this year, but most sightings were one or two birds. **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were using the same nest tree in Forbes State Forest on Laurel Mountain that they were when first found during 2006. Two **Purple Martins** spent 3 weeks ending 6/27 at a martin house near Salisbury, but were probably chased off by **European Starlings** and **House Sparrows** (NY). **Cliff Swallows** seem to be spreading to more barn nesting locations from their stronghold bridge nesting sites.

Twenty species of warblers were located this breeding season with notables being new sites in the southwest part of the county for **Golden-winged Warbler** and **Cerulean Warbler**. **Vesper Sparrows** and **Henslow's Sparrows** were rather easily found at GMF through Jun and Jul (JP, LP, CP, AP). Two **Pine Siskins** were seen throughout the season at PP (JP, LP, CP).

Observers: **Jeff Payne, 9755 Glades Pike, Berlin, PA 15530, (814) 267-5718**, Anthony Marich, Jim Moses, Meg Moses, Laretta Payne, Chris Payne, Nancy Yoder, Levi Yoder.

Sullivan County

Emphasis was placed on the 2nd PBBA. A concentration was placed on premiere block Eagles Mere 6. The rest of the county had already been fairly well-covered, and therefore remaining efforts were put to upgrading existing or finding new species.

Only two confirmations were obtained in Eagles Mere 6 (51A56). Forty-four species fell into the probable category, along with 24 possibilities and one "observed" in unsuitable habitat.

Highlights for the block include confirmation on **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** as well as 14 species of warbler, **Swainson's Thrush**, **Great-crested Flycatcher**, and an **Orchard Oriole**.

Both **Bald Eagle** and **Sandhill Crane** were confirmed breeders in the county again. Other confirmations include **Canada Goose**, **Wood Duck**, **Ruffed Grouse**, **Wild Turkey**, **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**, **Eastern Phoebe**, **Eastern Bluebird**, **American Robin**, **Black-capped Chickadee**, **White-breasted Nuthatch**, and **Chipping Sparrow**.

New this season was a **Fish Crow** observed in the town of Dushore in mid-May. No observations of **Warbling Vireo** were recorded this year. This species had been observed for at least 3 years in a row with additional locations added each year. They were 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.

Compiler: **Jerry Skinner, Woodburn Preserve, RR 6 Box 6294, Montrose, PA 18801, (570) 278-3384, js Skinner@epix.net**.

Tioga County

Locations: Darling Run access to Pine Creek Gorge IBA #28 (DRPC), Hammond Lake/Ives Run Recreation Area (HL), Hills Creek State Park (HCSP), Muck/Marsh Creek Important Bird Area #27 (Muck), State Game Lands (SGL).

Most observations this period were made by birders working on the 2nd PBBA. 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. Fledged **Common Mergansers** were seen 6/12 at DRPC (DF, RR, GT, EW) and 7/6 at a reservoir owned by the Mansfield Water Auth. west of Mansfield (GT).

A pair of **Soras** was seen and photographed at the Muck 6/28. The Soras were confirmed breeding later in Jul (RR). **Virginia Rail** adults and one chick were seen at the same place and time (GT).

A pair of courting **Black Vultures** was seen at the reclaimed Anna S. Mine site south of Wellsboro 6/3 (DF, RF, TF, JR, RR, GT). This is a very unusual sighting for *Tioga*. Increased numbers of Black Vultures have been reported in the county as far north as Millerton (LB).

According to the Game Commission, this year there were five active **Bald Eagle** nests in the county; unfortunately three of them—two at HL and one at DRPC—were destroyed by late spring ice storms and were not rebuilt. The eagles were not observed selecting alternate sites (GT).

Ospreys took possession of a pole nest next to an Army Corps of Engineers administration building at HL, and raised one chick. Another nest visible from Rte. 287 just south of Hammond Lake was used again this year, but a count of young raised is not available. Other Ospreys were reported on nests at CL (GT).

A **Ruffed Grouse** hen and numerous chicks were flushed 7/6 in property owned by the Mansfield Water Authority west of Mansfield (GT).

A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was seen 6/8 in 35B76 (GT). **Alder Flycatchers** were reported in numerous places in the county (GT), but **Willow Flycatchers** seemed to be harder to find this year. A pair of **Least Flycatchers** was seen in 35B76 (GT).

By 6/1 **Tree Swallows** were seen occupying nest boxes at HL. The colony of **Cliff Swallows** beneath the bridge leading into Ives Run/Hammond Lake had returned and were busy rebuilding their houses. **Banks Swallows** had returned to various locations along Crooked Creek, and **Barn Swallows** that nest under the piers at the HL boat landing were in place (GT).

Pairs of **Brown Creepers** were seen 5/24 at HCSP and 6/26 at the Mansfield Water Authority site (DF, RF, TF, RR, GT). Singing **Winter Wrens** were heard in Pine Creek Gorge near Leonard Harrison Park 6/12 (DF, RR, EW, GT) and on the access road to the Bear Run Mine east of Wellsboro (DF, TF, RR, GT).

Tioga's large forested tracts yielded many breeding-season sightings of woodland species identified as declining because of habitat destruction in Central and South America. These species include **Wood Thrush**, **Scarlet Tanager**, and **Baltimore Oriole** (GT).

Hopes were raised early in the year for a banner crop of **Eastern Bluebirds**; however, a late cold spring resulted in a lot of losses in nest boxes at HCSP and HL (GT).

Of the many species of wood-warblers breeding in *Tioga's* forests, particularly in the higher elevations, representative sightings this summer included **Blackburnian Warblers**, numerous **Black-throated Blue Warblers** in many locations, **Black-and-white Warblers**, **Yellow-rumped Warblers**, **Black-throated Green Warblers**, **Chestnut-sided Warblers**, **Magnolia Warblers**, **American Redstarts**, and **Hooded Warblers** (GT et al.).

Despite many acres of seemingly suitable habitat, grassland birds

have largely been difficult to find. Nevertheless, **Savannah Sparrows** and a pair of **Grasshopper Sparrows** were seen 6/3 at the old Anna S. Mine site south of Wellsboro (DF, RF, TF, JR, RR, GT). **Bobolinks** and **Eastern Meadowlarks** were also seen in numerous fields scattered throughout the county (GT).

Observers: **Gary Tyson, 130 Hills Creek Drive, Wellsboro, PA 16901, (570) 724-5789, gnats3@ptd.net**, Larry Brown, Rich Faber, Terry Faber, Dianne Franco, Jeff Holbrook, Joe Runyon, Robert Ross, Ed Washington.

Union County

No Report.

Compiler: **Christy Bowersox, 968 Furnace Road, New Columbia, PA 17856, (570) 205-5434, cabowersox@yahoo.com**.

Venango County

No Report.

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

Warren County

No compiler.

Washington County

Locations: Canonsburg Lake (CL), Robinson Township (RBT), West Pike Run Township (WPRT).

Unfortunately, I did not receive very many reports for *Washington* this season. A male **Ring-necked Duck** reported last season which appeared on a small pond in RBT 5/4 (MV) and stayed into Jun was last noted 7/10 (GM). This may well represent the first true summer record for the county. Interesting was a leucistic **Wild Turkey** in a Claysville yard, where it was present for the second consecutive year (CC, MC).

The putative **Great Blue Heron x Great Egret hybrid** was present at CL all season, and for the first time was seen outside *Washington's* borders (see the *Allegheny* report). The best bird of the season, and the only true rarity, was a juv. **Little Blue Heron** at CL on the evening of 7/29 (DW), *Washington's* second. It was apparently part of a small incursion of Little Blue Herons into sw. Pennsylvania this season.

American Kestrels probably bred at the grasslands of RBT; a total of 6 were seen along a roadside there 7/5 (MV). The **American Coot** which resides permanently at the AMD Pond in N. Strabane Twp. was still present this season. First returning shorebirds were a **Least Sandpiper** at CL 7/14 (MV) and 2 **Solitary Sandpipers** at CL 7/21 (MV). Totals of the latter at CL grew to 5 by 7/30 (RT). A storm on 6/4 brought a small fallout of late northbound waterbirds to a pond in Bentleyville, including 41 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** and 8 **Common Terns** (AB). Both totals may be the highest on record for the county.

Both cuckoo spp. were noted in the county this summer, with **Black-billed Cuckoos** found during atlassing in WPRT 7/12 (MF, AB), and **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** noted in Coal Center 7/21 (AT). **Common Nighthawks** were heard throughout Jul in California on the Monongahela R. (AT), a location they have probably frequented for some time but from which there are no previous reports. AT reported a noticeable uptick in the numbers of **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** in WPRT in the third week of Jun, undoubtedly as the year's young descended upon her feeders.

An **Eastern Kingbird** was seen feeding a nestling in RBT 6/27 (MV) and a few were also noted in Union Twp. 6/25 (MF, JV). An odd-looking bird under a WPRT birdfeeder in Jun initially left the observer without any idea, but eventually proved to be a fledgling **Eastern Phoebe** (WJS), a reminder that freshly fledged juveniles can be very confusing.

Atlassing in WPRT, Union Twp., and Fallowfield Twp. in late Jun and early Jul turned up many expected species and provided the only reports for the following: **White-eyed Vireo**, **Yellow-throated Vireo**, **Warbling Vireo**, **Northern Rough-winged Swallow**, **Wood Thrush** (reported in good numbers), **Brown Thrasher**, **Yellow Warbler**,

Yellow-throated Warbler, **Louisiana Waterthrush**, **Kentucky Warbler**, **Common Yellowthroat**, **Hooded Warbler**, **Scarlet Tanager**, **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**, and **Orchard Oriole** (MF, JV, AB).

The season would not be complete without yet another report of **Common Raven** from yet another new location; 3 were seen in Coal Center 7/12 (JT). Two colonies of **Purple Martins**, a scarce breeder in sw. Pennsylvania, were located near Bealsville 7/12 (MF, AB).

Savannah Sparrows were found in Deemston Twp. 7/12 (MV, AB), as were **Grasshopper Sparrows**, a new location for this species. Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows were seen at their traditional breeding grounds in RBT (MV, GM). A report of **Bobolinks** near Dunningsville in the third week of Jul was encouraging (JT); with any luck these birds were left alone long enough to complete their nesting cycle for the season. **Eastern Meadowlarks** were reported from RBT (GM) and two other locations in central *Washington* (MF, JV, AB).

Observers: **Geoff Malosh, 450 Amherst Avenue, Moon Township, PA 15108-2654, (412) 735-3128, pomarine@earthlink.net**, Andy Berchin, Cassie Campsey, Mike Campsey, Mike Fialkovich, Wendy Jo Shemansky, Amy Taracido, José Taracido, Ryan Tomazin, Jim Valimont, Mark Vass, Dave Wilton.

Wayne County

No Compiler.

Westmoreland County

No Report.

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Wyoming County

No Report.

NEW COMPILER BEGINNING FALL 2008: Joe DeMarco, 15 West Tioga Street, Tunkhannock, PA 18657, (570) 836-1468, jdemarco@epix.net.

York County

Locations: Brunners Island (BRUN), Sheppard-Myers Reservoir (SMR)

A **Common Goldeneye** was a surprising find 6/30 at a small pond near Delta (JD). **Double-crested Cormorants** were found at a Spring Grove pond where there is a **Great Blue Heron** colony, including a juvenile 6/14 and a pair of adults 6/19 (PK), which suggested the possibility of nesting. **Black-crowned Night-Herons**, probably from the York colony, were seen as follows: one 6/11 at BRUN (LC), one 6/23 at a very small pond along Breezewood Drive near Hanover, and one at the Spring Grove pond 6/27 (PK). A **White-winged Dove** was observed 6/22 from 30 yards away as it sat on a telephone wire at the old York County landfill on Althouse School Rd (RP). It flew from the wire into a hayfield, and was not relocated in spite of several hours of searching the hayfield and the surrounding area.

A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** at SMR 6/7 (PJR) was a big surprise, because they are not known to nest in the county. During atlassing on the morning of 6/22, a **Sedge Wren** was found in a hayfield along Tunnell Hill Rd. (BH). It was not re-found that afternoon, but a pair of Sedge Wrens showed themselves the morning of 6/23 in response to the playing of a recording of their song (CB). The hayfield was mowed that afternoon, and the wrens could not be found anywhere in the area 6/24. A **Pine Warbler** sang and was seen at SMR 6/7 and 6/17 (PJR). A **Prothonotary Warbler** was found at BRUN 6/11 (LC) and 6/14 (BJH). A pair of **Blue Grosbeaks** was seen 6/11 at BRUN (LC), and one was at the old landfill 6/16 (RP).

Observers: **Peter J. Robinson, P. O. Box 482, Hanover, PA 17331, (717) 632-8462, pabirder@hotmail.com**, Chuck Berthoud, Lou Carpenter, John Dennehy, Bill Hintze, Barry & Jenni Horton, Phil Keener, Randy Phillips, Rich Stevik.

ADDENDUM TO THE SPRING 2008 REPORT

EDITORS NOTE: Due to an unfortunate problem during the print production of Volume 22, No. 2, Page 132 was duplicated and Page 133 was dropped completely from the final print version of the issue. This resulted in the omission of the Fayette and Forest County seasonal reports from the Local Notes. We apologize to the compilers and observers from each of these counties. Both reports are reprinted in their entirety here.

Fayette County – Spring 2008

Locations: Jacob's Creek Lake at Jacob's Creek County Park (JCL), Ohio State Park (OSP).

Spring is the season I receive most of my reports for this terribly under-birded county. With waterfowl fallouts and returning Neotropical migrants, many birders begin to return to the county to enjoy the migration. A good variety of waterfowl were reported during the season, particularly on days with heavy precipitation. March 18 and 28 produced good fallouts. All waterfowl reports for the season were from JCL except where indicated.

A flock of 36 **Tundra Swans** put down 3/18-19 during a rainy day (MF). The first **Wood Duck** was reported 3/15 (DB); 12 on 3/19 (GM) was the max count. **American Wigeon** were only reported 3/15-19 with no more than 4 birds present (DB, DB, GG, LG, MF, GM).

An overcast day with showers 3/28 produced a good fallout that included 2 **Gadwall**, 7 **Blue-winged Teal**, 8 **Northern Shovelers**, 2 **Green-winged Teal**, 55 **Ring-necked Ducks**, one **Greater Scaup**, 59 **Lesser Scaup**, 2 **Long-tailed Ducks**, 46 **Buffleheads**, 4 **Hooded Mergansers**, 24 **Red-breasted Mergansers**, and 10 **Ruddy Ducks** (MF).

In addition to the fallout, **Northern Shovelers** were reported in small numbers with 7 on 3/8 (LH, LiH) and 5 on 3/19 (GM). **Canvasbacks** were present at the lake 3/8-25 with a high of 10 on 3/15 (DG, GG, LG, DB). **Redheads** were present 3/16-21 with a max of 9 on 3/18 (MF). High counts of **Ring-necked Ducks** in addition to the fallout included 60 on 3/17 (MF) and 21 on 3/19 (GM). **Greater Scaup** were present for most of Mar with a max of 10 on 3/15 (DB), and **Lesser Scaup** were found the second half of Mar. **Hooded Mergansers** were present most of Mar with a high of 24 on 3/25 (LH, LiH, JA). **Common Mergansers** were in small numbers in Mar, and 3 were on the Youghiohony River 3/9 (MB). **Red-breasted Mergansers** reached a max of 31 on 3/19 (GM).

Red-throated Loons appeared in great numbers this spring. A single bird was at JCL 3/15 (DB, DG, GG, LG) and 3/16 (RG, SG). An incredible number were on the lake 3/18 when rain showers moved through the area all day. A raft of 30 was resting on the lake near dusk. The group took flight and circled the lake several times with many birds calling as they flew over. They appeared to leave but soon returned and fed actively (MF). They were not present at dawn the following morning (GM). On 3/28, only (!) seven were present at the lake (MF). **Common Loon** numbers were surprisingly much lower than Red-throated. Single birds were present 3/18 (MF) and 3/19 (MF, GM), 4 on 3/27 (MF), and 9 was the tally 3/28 (MF), all at JCL.

Pied-billed Grebes were in good numbers at JCL this spring. Thirteen were there 3/25 (LH, LiH, JA), 16 on 3/27 and 11 on 3/28 (MF). **Horned Grebe** reports were also good with 15 present 3/19 (MF, GM), 16 on 3/25 (LH, LiH, JA), and 63 during the fallout 3/28 (MF).

The only **Osprey** report was a single bird at JCL 3/25 (LH, LiH, JA). Two **Turkey Vultures** were observed feeding on a dead White-tailed Deer near SGL 296 on 3/9 (MB).

Up to 50 **American Coots** spent the month of Mar at JCL (m. obs.). Shorebirds are never reported in great numbers or variety, but this spring the only species reported was **Killdeer** (LH, LiH).

Bonaparte's Gulls stopped to rest in small numbers at JCL. A single bird was present 3/18 (MF), 6 were found 3/19, one 3/21 (LH, LiH), 4 on 3/27 (MF), and 10 on 3/28 (MF). **Ring-billed Gulls** are also attracted to JCL during migration. They were present 3/12-25 with high counts of 140 on 3/16 (RG, SG) and 170 on 3/18 (MF).

Owl reports were good due to atlas efforts this spring. A few **Barred Owls** were heard 5/6, and 3 **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were heard that day in the OSP area (MB, EH).

A **Ring-necked Pheasant** was in Springfield Twp. 5/4 (GM) and a **Ruffed Grouse** was drumming at Quebec Run Wild Area 5/26 (KSJ).

The first reports for vireos this spring included 2 **White-eyed** at OSP, **Yellow-throated** at OSP and Mill Run, **Blue-headed** at Normalville, and **Warbling** at OSP 5/4 (GM).

Two **Common Ravens** were seen at SGL 51 on 3/9 (MB) and 2 were at OSP 5/4 (GM). A **Hermit Thrush** was found at Quebec Run Wild Area 5/26 (KSJ), a known breeding location.

Unfortunately I did not receive any reports of **Golden-winged Warbler**, however one observer searched for them at OSP 5/4 but concluded they probably had not yet arrived. Perhaps the summer report will contain observations of this appealing species. A trip through the county 5/4 provided the first spring dates for many warblers. Four **Northern Parulas** were at OSP (MB, GM), **Yellow Warblers** were present, a **Magnolia Warbler** and **Chestnut-sided Warbler** were at OSP, up to 10 **Black-throated Blue Warblers** were at various locations, **Yellow-rumped Warblers** and **Black-throated Green Warblers** were widespread, a **Blackburnian Warbler** and a **Cerulean Warbler** were at OSP, at least 6 **Black-and-white Warblers** were present at OSP and surrounding areas (MB, GM), **American Redstarts** and **Ovenbirds** were present, a **Louisiana Waterthrush** was detected near OSP, one **Kentucky Warbler** was at OSP, and **Common Yellowthroats** and **Hooded Warblers** were widespread (all GM except where indicated). Five **Nashville Warblers** at OSP and Normalville and a **Palm Warbler** at Mill Run 5/4 represented the only migrant species for the area that day (GM).

Quebec Run Wild Area on Chestnut Ridge provides breeding habitat for a variety of warblers and a trip to that location 5/26 yielded the following species: **Magnolia Warbler**, **Black-throated Blue Warbler**, **Black-throated Green Warbler**, **Cerulean Warbler**, **Black-and-white Warbler**, **Ovenbird**, **Hooded Warbler**, and **Canada Warbler** (KSJ). A **Blackpoll Warbler** was the only certain migrant found at that location 5/26 (KSJ).

There were a good variety of sparrow reports this spring, a group that is not well represented in the reports normally. **Savannah Sparrows** were present at a farm near OSP 5/4 along with a **Grasshopper Sparrow** (GM). Three **Fox Sparrows** were found 3/9; one or 2 were at SGL 51 and the other at an unspecified location (MB). A **White-throated Sparrow** was still present at OSP 5/4 (GM) and **Dark-eyed Juncos** were at Quebec Run Wild Area 5/26 where they breed (KSJ).

A nice count of 15 **Purple Finches** was at OSP 5/4 (GM).

Observers: **Mike Fialkovich**, 805 Beulah Road, Pittsburgh, 15235, (412) 731-3581, mpfial@verizon.net, Janice Andrews, Mark Bowers, Dick Byers, Randi Gerrish, Sarah Gerrish, Deb Grove, Greg Grove, Lewis Grove, Eric Hall, Len Hess, Linda Hess (LiH), Geoff Malosh, Kate St. John, Jack Solomon, Sue Solomon.

Forest County – Spring 2008

Locations: Allegheny National Forest (ANF), Buzzard Swamp (BS), Kellettsville (KE), Marienville (MA), Muzette (MU), Nebraska (NB), Red Brush (RB), Tionesta (TI), Tionesta Creek (TC), Tionesta Lake (TL), Tionesta Outflow (TO).

Spring migration was plentiful in *Forest*, with a good assortment of waterfowl; most of the passerines reported probably breed here.

Tundra Swans at BS 3/21 numbered 115 (DY); smaller groups were reported near TI 3/7 (FM, JM) and 3/11 (NM). BS was the spot for waterfowl this spring: 4 **Gadwall**, 7 **Blue-winged Teal**, and 4 **Northern Shovelers** were reported 4/12 (TB), 9 **Northern Pintail** and 4 **Green-winged Teal** on 3/21 (DY), a high of 8 **Bufflehead** 4/12 (TB), and 5 **Hooded Mergansers** 4/6 (FM, JM). A single **Red-breasted Merganser** was noted on the river at TI 4/2, where a **Common Loon** was also seen 4/19 (FM, JM).

The first **Turkey Vulture** was seen near TI 3/17. An **Osprey** was reported at BS 5/10 (FM, JM). Adult and immature **Bald Eagles** were reported from several locations, and a new active nest was found. The only **Northern Harrier** was seen near TI 3/21, and the first **Broad-winged Hawk** was near TI 4/15 (FM, JM).

Greater Yellowlegs and **Lesser Yellowlegs** were located at BS 5/10 for the PAMC, when **Spotted Sandpipers** were found in several locations in the county (FM, JM). Perhaps a dozen **American Woodcocks** were flushed at BS 3/21 (*vide* DY).

The first **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was noted near TI 5/15. The first

Whip-poor-will was reported from RB 5/10. A **Northern Flicker** was seen near TI 4/10, and the first **Chimney Swifts** were at TI 5/10. First **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was near TI 5/10 (FM, JM).

The earliest **Acadian Flycatcher** was heard at NB 5/14. **Least Flycatchers** were found at several locations as early as 5/10. The first **Eastern Phoebe** was found at BS 4/6. Seven **Eastern Kingbirds** were tallied at RB 5/10. The earliest **Blue-headed Vireo** was noted at RB 4/14; first **Red-eyed Vireos** were found 5/10 for the PAMC at several locations (FM, JM).

Early date for **Tree Swallows** was 4/6 at BS. **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** returned to a traditional nest site at TO 4/23; a high of 12 was counted there 5/10. A **Bank Swallow** was seen at TC 4/23, when the first **Cliff Swallows** were noted at KE. Seven **Barn Swallows** were tallied at RB 5/10. The first **House Wren** was noted near MU 5/23, and **Winter Wrens** were singing at 3 different locations 5/10. The first **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was spotted near TI 4/17. The only **Veery** report was made 5/23 near MU. Nine **Hermit Thrushes** were found in various locations 5/10. The first **Wood Thrush** was seen near TI 5/9; a count of 14 **Wood Thrushes** for the PAMC was above average for *Forest*. The earliest **Gray Catbird** was calling near TI 5/10. Two **Brown Thrashers** were found at TL 4/23 (FM, JM).

The first **Blue-winged Warbler** was found near TI 5/9. A **Golden-winged Warbler** was a good find on an atlassing trip near MU 5/23. **Nashville Warblers** were noted near MA 5/20 and near MU 5/23; **Northern Parulas** were singing at TO and at KE 4/23. **Yellow Warblers** were found at several locations 5/10. The first **Chestnut-sided Warbler** and the first **Magnolia Warbler** were singing near TI 5/5. **Black-throated Blue Warblers** were found at several locations 5/10; the first **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was near TI 5/9. The first **Black-**

throated Green Warbler was heard near TI 4/25, with a high of 15 at RB 5/10. Fifteen **Blackburnian Warblers** were reported from various locations in *Forest* for the PAMC 5/10. A singing **Yellow-throated Warbler** came into view in the low branches of a sycamore at TO, providing a PAMC highlight 5/10. A single **Black-and-white Warbler** was found at RB 5/10; 4 **American Redstarts** and 21 **Ovenbirds** were found at RB 5/10. **Louisiana Waterthrushes** were singing at RB and NB 5/10; the first **Common Yellowthroats** were found 5/10 at 6 different locations in *Forest*. Four **Hooded Warblers** were found near TI 5/10. A **Canada Warbler** was seen near KE 5/10 (FM, JM).

The first **Scarlet Tanagers** were noted at various locations 5/10. An **Eastern Towhee** was singing near TI 4/14. The last **American Tree Sparrow** was seen at feeders near TI 3/30, the first **Chipping Sparrow** near TI 4/7, and the first **Field Sparrow** near TI 4/23. A **Savannah Sparrow** was found at RB 5/10. Feeders near TI hosted the last **Fox Sparrow** 4/10, the last **White-throated Sparrow** 5/10, the last **White-crowned Sparrow** 5/10, the first **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** 5/10, and the first **Indigo Bunting** 5/10. The first **Bobolinks** (9) were singing in a hay field at RB 5/10. The first **Red-winged Blackbirds** were found near TI 3/3 (FM, JM). The first **Eastern Meadowlarks** (14) were seen at BS 3/21 (DY). The first **Common Grackle** came to feeders near TI 3/8, where a high of 20 was seen 3/22. **Baltimore Orioles** were found at several locations 5/10 (FM, JM). The only **Evening Grosbeak** reported for the period was a single bird that visited a feeder near Tionesta 4/5 (FM, JM).

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Answer to Photo Quiz 21

Rick Wiltraut

This poor bird is obviously some kind of perching bird. Note the grayish brown streaking on the underparts, particularly on the dull white undertail coverts, and that the streaking is broad. Also note that this bird has a relatively long tail. Although birders don't rely heavily on the undertail coverts as an aid in identifying different species, it can help clinch identification in some cases. For example, if you're studying a flock of waxwings in a crabapple tree and you spot one with rufous undertail coverts, you automatically have a genuine Bohemian. The color of the undertail coverts can also be useful in separating "difficult" warblers, e.g. white in first winter Blackpoll, buffy in first winter Bay-breasted.

Not all birds have plain undertail coverts. Many species of wrens have barring on the undertail coverts. Several species of finches have streaked undertail coverts including Common Redpoll, Pine Siskin, House Finch and, in the west, Cassin's Finch. In Common Redpoll and Pine Siskins, the streaking on the undertail coverts is thin. They also have short, notched tails. In the west, Cassin's Finch also has finely streaked undertail coverts and a rather short tail. Although usually lacking streaks on the undertail coverts, Purple Finches, particularly young birds in the western part of its range, can have streaking on the undertail coverts. However, these streaks are also thin. White-winged and Red Crossbills have dark chevrons on the undertail coverts, which may appear like streaking. Both species have short, notched tails. In the west, the three species of Rosy-Finches also have dark chevrons on the undertail coverts and short tails. Although some sources fail to mention it, several species of sparrows have dark centers on pale undertail coverts (e.g. Seaside, Lincoln's, Song) and many other sparrows have streaking on the flanks, which may appear as streaking on the undertail coverts. With the exception the Song Sparrow, these species have short tails. Female and winter male Lark Buntings have pale undertail coverts with dark centers, but have short tails. Female and fall male Bobolinks and Eastern Meadowlarks have dark streaks on the undertail coverts, but the coverts are yellowish and their tails are short.

I took this gruesome photo of a House Finch at Church Road, Green Lane Reservoir, Montgomery County, the unfortunate victim of an immature Northern Shrike that frequented the area several years ago. Many years ago I found a Fox Sparrow in the same condition on a barbed wire fence in a field near Fullerton, Lehigh County, which alerted me to the presence of a Loggerhead Shrike.



References

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PHOTO QUIZ #22

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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