

PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS



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Cover: **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*)**. Following just two or three accepted records in the state's history before 2006 (all in 1993), there have been at least five records since. One of the most recent was of this flock of 10 at the Susquehanna Riverlands in *Luzerne* from 6/10 to at least 6/20 (here 6/14), which also proved to be one of the most photo-friendly. (*Wayne Laubscher*)

... from the Editor

Briefly...

So begins my fourth year of editing *Pennsylvania Birds*. The experience has been very rewarding, and in the end the finished issue is something I always enjoy seeing become a reality: the product of many people volunteering many often thankless hours simply because they believe in the value of a journal of this sort. It's something that all contributors can and should be proud of. I know I am.

Of course, there are frustrations too. Many of these are minor problems or annoyances that really are simply my own to deal with. (If it was all sunshine and roses all the time, it wouldn't be rewarding, right?)

But perhaps the most frustrating aspect of this job is something not within my direct control. We continue to struggle to find feature articles to print in these pages. The established departments of *Pennsylvania Birds* are indeed well established, and form the very backbone of the journal, as I've discussed here many times. (In fact one of these departments returns in this issue after a two-year absence—the PAMC Summary.) But feature articles add a needed spark to the content, and a compelling reason for the reader to look forward to each new issue.

You'll notice that there are no feature articles in this issue. I can say it is not for lack of trying on my part. I do have two short notes queued up for future issues but neither was ready in time for this issue's deadline. So it is with great regret that I open the fourth year of my editorship without a feature article to lead the Table of Contents.

I implore all readers, especially members of PSO (after all, this journal is very much of, by, and for the membership of PSO) with a talent for writing to consider submitting articles for consideration. By now the scope of acceptable topics should be well known, but if you have an idea but you're not sure whether it's in the spirit of the journal, do not hesitate to contact me. PSO's two publications are a wonderful opportunity to express your inner creative self.

Compiler News

More news from the ranks of the compilers. Certainly all readers at least recognize **Dustin Welch's** name from his many wonderful contributions to the Photo Highlights in this journal over the years. In my opinion Dustin is clearly one of the rising stars among Pennsylvania's bird photographers, earning three *Pennsylvania Birds* covers and dozens of photos on the pages inside during my time as editor. Now Dustin will lend his writing talents to the journal as well, taking over as compiler for *Carbon*, replacing the outgoing David Hawk. Also, **Phil Keener** has agreed to add *York* to his

list of reporting duties, where he succeeds the outgoing Peter Robinson. A few seasons ago Phil also took over the *Adams* duties from Peter.

As usual many thanks are owed both Peter and David for their contributions over the years, and to Dustin and Phil for volunteering their time to keeping *Pennsylvania Birds* moving in the right direction.

Peter Robinson will continue as department editor of the annual Pennsylvania Birdlists feature.

Geoff Malosh
Editor-in-Chief

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Observations from the 2010 Pennsylvania Migration Count

John Fedak and Frank Haas

Overview

Our 19th annual Pennsylvania Migration Count (PAMC) occurred on Saturday, 8 May 2010. As usual, weather was definitely a factor across the state, but birders still managed to get out and participate in observing spring migration in Pennsylvania!

Here are the numbers for 2010:

- 675 observers contributed
- 2,238.1 field hours logged
- 148,539 birds tallied
- 220 species found
- 39 counties reporting

Participation was down this year. For the last few years, the report for the count has been either delayed or nonexistent, which could have contributed to the lack of participation in the count this year. However, a more definitive cause for the drop in participation this year may have been the weather.

Weather

There was some clearing in a few areas, some rain or storms in a few others; but overall, PAMC 2010 turned out to be a very windy day. In some areas, wind speeds were in excess of 25 mph, with gusts as high as 45mph.

In the eastern edge of the state in *Bucks*, the calm winds of pre-dawn quickly became gale-force winds by day's end. Despite this, Diane Allison commented that the count was enjoyed.

In the center of the state at *Centre*, the day was described as "rain... then wind... then more wind... then even more wind". Nick Kerlin also commented that despite birding being difficult due to birds being "hunkered down," all observers did a great job under very difficult birding conditions.

At the western end of the state in *Greene*, Kathy Kern reported that the weather was a factor, as some of those that did participate in the count did not stay out that long. She also surmised that the warmer weather through late April moved migrants through the area, putting them well north of the county.

Speaking from experience, and feeling a little embarrassed by it, some observers did not participate due to the weather.

Participation

There were about 300 fewer birders and 1100 fewer field hours logged this year than five years ago. A variety of reasons exist for this lack of participation. The last report of the PAMC available online was 2005. With the lack of available information, interest in the state for the count may have waned a bit. That is the bad news.

The good news is that future reports should be made available both online and in print in a more timely fashion, hopefully increasing interest amongst birders in the state and keeping the PAMC in mind when making plans the second Saturday of May. With any luck, the 2011 count day will have good birding weather and ample participation by birders

Table 1. Top 10 counties by field hours

	County	Hours
1	Franklin	221
2	Bucks	167
3	Berks	131
4	Lancaster	123
5	Schuylkill	114
6	Westmoreland	113
7	Indiana	111
8	Bedford	103
9	Cumberland	93
10	Bradford	83

Table 2. Top 10 counties by participants

	County	Observers
1	Franklin	67
2	Bucks	62
3	Indiana	55
4	Lancaster	44
5	Chester	34
6	Bedford	33
7	Berks	32
8	Westmoreland	30
9	Greene	25
9	Juniata	25

Species encountered

The 2010 PAMC yielded new High Counts (HC) for seven species, and tied the high count for three others. Conversely, seven species had new low counts, and seven species counts tied their low number. Although no new species were found in 2010, since 1992, a total of about 272 species have been found on the count (not counting escapees and domestic fowl)!

Hooded Merganser, Great Cormorant, Black Vulture, Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, and Blue Grosbeak were all found in record numbers. Chickadee species were also recorded as a new high number. Little Blue Heron, Sandhill Crane, and Eurasian Collared Dove all tied their old high count numbers.

However, Ruffed Grouse, Semipalmated Plover, Black-capped Chickadee, Golden-winged Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Nashville Warbler, and Henslow's Sparrow were all counted at record lows. Northern Shoveler, Canvasback, Redhead, Northern Goshawk, Black-bellied Plover, Olive-sided Flycatcher, and Clay-colored Sparrow all tied their record lows. Undoubtedly, the record lows can be attributed to fewer participants and poor weather for much of the 2010 count day.

Once again, American Robin was the most recorded species with 13,309 individuals observed. It is interesting to note that this year, no warbler made the top 20 species. This may in part be due to the weather. Strong winds were recorded over most of the state and they could have contributed to low warbler counts.

Geese through Ducks

Canada Goose numbers were below average for PAMC counts. 6298 were counted statewide, compared to the average count of 7982 for all previous years. Mute Swan (55) was also below average, with *Berks* reporting the most swans. Fifteen species of ducks were found, with a new high count of 65 Hooded Mergansers (14 in *Dauphin*). A single Northern Shoveler was found in *Schuylkill*; a single Canvasback in *Bucks*; and a single Redhead in *Luzerne*. In general, waterfowl were found in low numbers. Exceptions were Mallard with 2177, and Wood Duck with 917. The most woodies were found in *Juniata* (172).

Fowl through waders

Ruffed Grouse, our state bird, were at an all time low of 35. *Schuylkill* recorded almost one-third of these with 10. Only 13 counties recorded our state bird, just one-third of the counties reporting. 397 Wild Turkeys were

found in 31 counties. Ten Northern Bobwhites were found, most or all of which are probably released birds.

Great Cormorant numbers were high (33), with 31 in *Chester* and 2 in *Bucks*. Four Least Bitterns were found in *Huntington*, as well as 2 of the 4 Little Blue Herons reported statewide. Two Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were found in *Cumberland* and one Snowy Egret was seen in *Bedford*.

Vultures, raptors

Although Mississippi Kites were starting to become regular in the southeast earlier this decade, no kites were located this year. Black Vultures turned up in new high numbers with a total of 504 reported, 229 of which were found in *Lancaster*. Bald Eagles are also continuing to increase with 140 found in 25 counties, 49 in *Lancaster* alone. Only 14 Northern Harriers were found, and only one Northern Goshawk was located. *Wyoming* had 3 of the harriers and *Bradford* turned up the lone goshawk.

Falcons were in evidence this year with 152 American Kestrels found, which is below the count average of 195. Surprisingly, only two Merlins were found. For a species now confirmed breeding in the state, this seems like a low number, until one considers the counties represented in this year's count; *McKean* and *Warren*, where breeding Merlins can be found, were did not report this year. Peregrine Falcons however were recorded in all time high numbers: 22 total, of which 7

were reported in *Bucks*.

Rails and shorebirds

Seven Sandhill Cranes in *Sullivan* tied the high count. Once again, *Lawrence*, where Sandhill Cranes are more likely to be found, did not submit a report. Seven American Coots were seen in six different counties. Sixteen Virginia Rails were found in four counties, seven of which were located in *Bucks*. *Bucks* and *Lebanon* tied at three Soras apiece, combining for half of the 12 found statewide.

Shorebirds seemed low overall with only 14 species reported for the count. Only one Black-bellied Plover was found, and a low of only 11 Semipalmated Plovers were located. 514 Killdeer were located in 36 of the 39 reporting counties and 459 Spotted Sandpipers were reported in 32 of the 39 counties. *Bedford* reported five shorebird high counts. There was no report from *Erie*. It would be interesting to see if Presque Isle would have turned up any more numbers with the higher winds of the day.

Gulls and terns

A total of 1561 Laughing Gulls were found with 1534 in *Bucks*. Ring-billed Gulls followed a close second with 1471, 1065 of which were located in *Lancaster*. Four tern species (Caspian, Common, Forster's, and Black) were found. All four were reported in *Lancaster*, and the high counts of three of the four species were

also found in *Lancaster*. Three of the 9 Caspian Terns were located in *Lebanon*, while 58 out of 103 Common Terns, 11 out of 30 Forster's Terns, and 6 out of 8 Black Terns were in *Lancaster*.

Doves through nightjars

Eurasian Collared-Dove was reported only from *Franklin* where 4 individuals were found. Mourning Doves were reported in 38 of the 39 reporting counties. Cuckoo numbers seemed a little low with 62 Yellow-billed Cuckoos reported—14 in *Franklin*. Nineteen Black-billed Cuckoos were found in 12 counties with 3 reported in *Juniata*.

A lone Barn Owl was reported from *Lebanon*. It was not reported from County where the birds can usually be found. Eastern Screech, Great-horned and Barred Owls were reported in lower numbers than average. No Northern Saw-whet Owls were reported for the count.

Swifts through swallows

Bedford County reported 44 of this year's 246 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds. The number fell far below average for the PAMC. Only 128 Belted Kingfishers were reported, with 13 from *Lancaster*. *Bucks* reported 138 of the 985 Red-bellied Woodpeckers. Only 21 Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were reported, with 5 each from *Wayne* and *Wyoming* Counties.

Greene and *Lehigh* each reported a single Olive-sided Flycatcher, to tie the low count for that species. One Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (in *York*) was reported on the count. Nine Philadelphia Vireos were found in three counties, with 7 being reported from *Juniata*.

Sixty-three of the 301 Fish Crows were reported from *Cumberland*. Considering that 111 ravens were reported from *Potter* alone in 2003, 110 Common Ravens statewide does not seem like a very high number. Eighteen of the ravens were reported from *Juniata*.

Chickadees through waxwings

The number of "chickadee sp." has risen in recent counts to a high of 219 this year. It is interesting to think this may be due to the northward advancing of the Carolina Chickadee and its hybridization with Black-



As usual, the familiar American Robin led the way in the Pennsylvania Migration Count, with 13,309 reported in 2010, slightly above the PAMC historical average. (Geoff Malosh)

capped Chickadees. 517 Carolina Chickadees were reported with 123 in *Bucks*; 625 Black-capped Chickadees were reported with 99 in *Indiana*. This represents a new low count for Black-capped Chickadees. Was it due to hybridization or was it due to the smaller number of participants this year?

Only 12 Winter Wrens were located, with 5 in *Westmoreland*. *Philadelphia* accounted for 9 out of the 10 Marsh Wrens found during the count. 751 Carolina Wrens was above the count average, but lower than the last 10 year average.

Bucks found one half of the state's 6 Gray-cheeked Thrushes. American Robin numbers were higher than in 2009 with 13,309, but only slightly above the PAMC average. American Pipits were found in five counties with 83 of the 128 located in *Juniata*. European Starling numbers fell below the PAMC average in 2010 with only 9522 birds found.

Warblers

Warbler numbers were very low. Golden-winged, Tennessee and Nashville Warblers all set record lows. Only 9 Golden-winged Warblers were located. Seven of the 18 Tennessee Warblers were found in *Indiana*. Nine Nashville Warblers were found in *Westmoreland*, about a third of the 29 statewide. *Perry* had 44 of the 150 Blackburnian Warblers and shared in the total of 2 Mourning Warblers with *Juniata*. The total number of species was good: 35 warbler species were reported across the state, but none were in very high numbers. Yellow Warblers and Common Yellowthroat did not even make the top twenty species, with just 1995 and 2025 found respectively. Mix in some wind on count day and the neck-straining warblers must become harder to find!

Tanagers through cardinal

Once again on count day, no Summer Tanagers were found. It has been missed in 3 of the past 5 counts. The lone Clay-colored Sparrow was found in *Northampton*. Twelve of 15 American Tree Sparrows were found in *Bedford*. The lone Henslow's Sparrow was found in *Indiana* County. Only 78 Dark-eyed Juncos were located, 13 in *Bradford*, well below the averages for recent counts and PAMC history.

A new high count of 40 was set for

Blue Grosbeak! Twenty-nine individuals were found in *Bedford* and it was recorded in four counties.

Blackbirds through finches

A total of 555 Bobolinks were reported in 26 counties, with 82 found in *Wyoming*. Thirty-four Rusty Blackbirds, a species of concern, were reported in five counties, 20 of them in *Bedford*. Baltimore Orioles were found in 37 of the 39 reporting counties with a total of 2536.

House Finch numbers remain well below the previous 5 year average with 1099. Both American Goldfinch and House Sparrow remained below average.

Table 3. Top 20 most abundant species

	Species	Count
1	American Robin	13309
2	European Starling	9522
3	Red-winged Blackbird	7774
4	Common Grackle	7428
5	Canada Goose	6298
6	Barn Swallow	4841
7	Gray Catbird	4615
8	Tree Swallow	4484
9	American Crow	4384
10	Northern Cardinal	3123
11	House Sparrow	3053
12	Mourning Dove	2997
13	Red-eyed Vireo	2955
14	Blue Jay	2911
15	American Goldfinch	2803
16	Baltimore Oriole	2536
17	Chipping Sparrow	2337
18	Song Sparrow	2327
19	Mallard	2177
20	Turkey Vulture	2133

The PAMC Future

The Pennsylvania Migration Count has been the topic of much discussion recently. This year the numbers of participants were slightly lower than the PAMC/NAMC history. Was this a factor due to weather? I would like to think so. In recent years, little has been reported about the count for various reasons. Perhaps it has slipped the minds of local birders. However, stronghold counties are still participating with the vigor of old—a good and hopefully indicative factor.

The information gained through the count is still as valuable as it ever was. This year an effort was made to get the results of the count out promptly. As happens often with good intentions, promptly doesn't happen as fast as it should or as fast as we wanted it to occur. I sit here finishing

up the written report in November. I wanted to be done at the end of summer.

I went into this venture expecting it to be easy. I was very wrong. This is a task that is difficult for even two people undertaking it. It is my hope that future reports be completed sooner and in more detail. It will still be a hard task, but with the experience of working on this report, I think I can do better next season....

With that being said, I hope you make it harder for me with more participation from more people in more counties and seeing more individuals of more species of birds!

Summary

Looking at this report with only 39 of 67 counties reporting, and knowing that most of the northern tier was not represented, I am hoping for more participation from birders and bird clubs in the future. This count has really taken off in Pennsylvania. We have almost two decades of data that can be used to locally map environmental changes in species and in migration. Personally, I think we should make an effort to increase participation. I fervently hope to see 67 counties participating next year!

Thanks go out to all the participants this year that braved a sometimes wet and mostly windy day to collect data. I look forward to seeing all of you collecting more data next year.

Please note that the 2011 count will take place on May 14. Mark your calendars now!

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Editors note: the county-by-county species lists can be found on the PSO website <www.pabirds.org>. We no longer publish the species-level PAMC table in the journal.

BOOK REVIEW

Gene Wilhelm

AVIAN ECOLOGY AND CONSERVATION: A PENNSYLVANIA FOCUS WITH NATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

Edited by Shyamal K. Majumdar, Terry L. Master, Margaret C. Brittingham, Robert M. Ross, Robert S. Mulvihill, and Jane E. Huffman. A Publication of the Pennsylvania Academy of Science, Easton, Pennsylvania 18042. Printed by Sheridan Printing Company, Inc., Alpha, New Jersey 08865, 2010, 6 x 9 in., 368 pp., numerous figures, subject index, hard cover, \$70.00.

This tome is the most recent in a series of 30 books published by The Pennsylvania Academy of Science, and appeared at the most opportune time for use as a primary reference for the written stage of the second Pennsylvania Bird Breeding Atlas project (2004-2009). The book is simply an extraordinary compilation of updated scientific data gleaned from a rich spectrum of avian conservation research and monitoring activities that have been conducted recently in Pennsylvania. As the editors state in the Preface (p. v): "The book ... brings together in one volume a comprehensive overview of Pennsylvania's avian communities, current and emerging conservation issues, and the specific contributions Pennsylvania biologists, avian ecologists, and conservationists have made to the science of ornithology."

The book's Introduction is a Historical Overview of Pennsylvania Ornithology by Scott Weidensaul, who immediately reminds readers that Pennsylvania was the cradle of American ornithology long before Alexander Wilson. Weidensaul divides the introduction into five historical sections: Colonial and Early Periods, Wilson and Audubon, Philadelphia: Center of Ornithology, Rise of the Professionals, and Ornithology Since the Atlas, ending the essay with succinct References (pp. 10-11). Nevertheless, the presence of two strong ornithological institutions, the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia (east), and the Carnegie Museum of Natural History in Pittsburgh (west), divided by the Appalachian Mountains, formed two distinct geographical regions for many

years. This spatial split conspired against a unified, statewide approach to ornithology until the 1980s when the first Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas was undertaken, which led to formation of the Ornithological Technical Committee of the Pennsylvania Biological Survey in 1986, and under its auspices, the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee in 1988. In 1990, the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology was founded, giving the state at last an ornithological organization with statewide breadth. Other good "citizen-science" statewide projects were added to long-established projects like the National Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count (CBC) and the federal Breeding Bird Survey (BBS), to new efforts like Cornell's Birds in Forested Landscapes, Project Feeder Watch, and its Golden-winged Warbler Atlas. Annually, ongoing breeding season monitoring of more than 80 Important Bird Areas, designated by Audubon Pennsylvania, is accomplished across the Commonwealth by volunteer birders. However, the "capstone" has been the second Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas, which concluded its final sixth season of fieldwork in 2009, coordinated by Robert Mulvihill of Powdermill Nature Reserve. Mulvihill indicates that the differences between the original and second atlases—in the use of digital technology, the quantity and level of detail represented by the data—are extraordinarily superior, and mark another exciting chapter in the ongoing development of Pennsylvania ornithology.

Following the Introduction are 27 chapters with contributions from more than 50 selected in-and out-of-state experts. The volume is divided into four major sections: I. Breeding Birds of Pennsylvania and Their Habitats; II. Migration and Wintering Ecology; III. Conservation Issues and Challenges; and IV. Emerging Issues and Their Impact on Birds. Each section begins with an overview by expert ornithologist(s) providing a summary of the chapters included within the sections. For example, in section one various habitat types, conservation challenges and management issues of Pennsylvania breeding birds are presented. In section two, topics on migration routes and wintering ecology

of raptors and other land bird species, as well as tracking methodologies, such as satellite telemetry, genetic markers, and stable isotope technology, are covered. Section three chapters stress conservation issues facing birds in Pennsylvania and the northeast and offer management solutions for maintaining healthy and functional ecosystems for birds. Chapters in section four cover such diverse topics as global climate change, wind power mortality, West Nile Virus, avian influenza, and impact of environmental contaminants on avian populations.

Each chapter in each section is rich in ornithological details, such as facts, figures, trends, analyses, conclusions, and even recommended future plans of action. Certain chapters will quickly resonate with field ornithologists and citizen-scientists who were involved with the written segment of the second atlas. In fact, this one volume was a tremendous asset for such writers because it presented current ornithological data in one source. Further, most chapters contain copious figures, tables, graphs, and cited literature, often pages long. It is fair to say that each chapter, all 27 of them, deserves reader attention because there is so much new information available.

Finally, this book is not intended for beginning birders or the public at large. Indeed, this scientific endeavor has targeted a special scientific audience including ornithologists, other professional biologists, college students, natural resource managers, and professional conservationists. However, the book is also a valuable scientific reference piece for public libraries, environmental education centers, and research field stations in the state and the eastern part of the United States. Indeed, the book should be a model for other states to emulate.

All of us in the ornithology community extend a tremendous gratitude of thanks to the many fine professionals responsible for *Avian Ecology and Conservation: A Pennsylvania Focus with National Implications*.

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Birds of Note – June through July 2010

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. "Listserv" indicates records deemed credible which were gleaned from the PABIRDS listserv for counties with no reporting compiler. "Atlas" indicates valid records deemed credible which were entered into the PBBA database but which do not appear in the county reports. "eBird" indicates valid records deemed credible which were entered into the eBird database 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.

Black-bellied Whistling Duck* – *Luzerne*: 10 were discovered 6/10 at the Susquehanna Riverlands by a group of students from Bloomsburg University and reported to Clem McIntyre, PPL staff naturalist at the Susquehanna Riverlands. They remained until at least 6/20.

Snow Goose – *Berks*: 4 summering at Shartlesville (Matt Wlasniewski) and one at Gotwals pond, Oley (Rudy Keller) stayed through the period; *Bucks*: one at Quakertown 6/28 (Devich Farbotnik); *Lehigh*: one lingered at Leaser Lake to 6/2 (Matt Loyko).

Tundra Swan – *Bucks*: reported at Pine Run Dam 5/21 was found dead on 6/3 (Mike Homel, Devich Farbotnik).

Gadwall – *Butler*: 3 lingered through June at Lake Arthur (Mark Vass, Joanne Wilhelm, Gene Wilhelm).

American Wigeon – *Butler*: 2 lingered through June at Lake Aurthur (Mark Vass, Joanne Wilhelm, Gene Wilhelm).

Northern Shoveler – *Butler*: 3 lingered through June at Lake Aurthur (Mark Vass, Joanne Wilhelm, Gene Wilhelm); 3 *Schuylkill*: one on Lake Wynonah 6/29 (Amy Beres, eBird).

Ring-necked Duck – *Berks*: a drake lingered in the Peters Creek cove of L. Ontelaunee 7/4-8/1 (Mary Schmeck) and another drake was in tiny Mensch Mill pond, Hereford Twp. for the last three weeks of July (Rudy Keller); *Butler*: 21 lingered through June at Lake Arthur (Mark Vass, Joanne Wilhelm, Gene Wilhelm), *Dauphin*: a drake was observed just south of SR West Fairview 7/27 (Richard Williams).

Lesser Scaup – *Bucks*: found 7/31 at Rohm and Haas Ponds (Devich Farbotnik); *Luzerne*: a male seen 6/6 at the Plymouth Flats and was presumed to be injured by the observer (Kevin Ripka); *Philadelphia*: reported in May, were still on the impoundment at Tinicum 7/3-8/1 (Denis Brennan, Frank Windfelder).

Bufflehead – *Bucks*: one at Core Creek Park 6/8 (Bill Keim).

Ruddy Duck – *Bucks*: one at Churchville Park 7/10 (Chris Stieber); *Cambria*: a lone adult male at Prince Gallitzin 6/27 (Dave Gobert); *Chester*: observed at Longwood Gardens 7/10 (Larry Lewis *vide* Carol Majors); *Crawford*: 5 at Pymatuning Spillway 6/5 (Mark Vass).

American Bittern – *Butler*: a single male again called almost nightly in a favorite Slippery Rock Township wetland throughout the period (Gene Wilhelm); *Chester*: discovered 6/19 to the end of the period indicated

possible breeding.

Least Bittern – *Chester*: a nest containing four young was discovered in June; *Erie*: one was reported for the period on 6/10 in Long Pond (*vide* Don Snyder); *Philadelphia*: at least one pair nested at Tinicum with both male and female observed (Frank Windfelder, Denis Brennan).

Little Blue Heron – *Beaver*: a juvenile at Independence Marsh 7/16 present until at least 7/22 (Mark Vass); *Bucks*: an immature at Rohm and Haas 7/11 was the season's first, and 2 were there 7/31 (Devich Farbotnik). First one and then 2 were at Core Creek Park 7/26-31 (Bill Keim), and 2 more were at Bradford Dam 7/31 (August Mirabella), and one was at Penn Warner Tract 7/31 (ph. Misha-Linda Spina); *Centre*: one discovered at the south end of Colyer Lake 7/21 (Drew Weber) was gone by 7/24 (Nan Butkovitch); *Lancaster*: 2 on 7/20 at Conejohela Flats (Mike Epler) continued through the end of July.

Snowy Egret – *Bucks*: 3 were at Rohm and Haas 7/31 for the only report (Devich Farbotnik); *Erie*: one at Gull Point was a rare find 6/24 (Mike Schall).

Tricolored Heron* – *Lebanon*: one seen briefly 7/2 at the Memorial Lake State Park dam (Joan Renninger, no doc.).

Cattle Egret – *Lancaster*: one at Susquehanna River, Conejohela Flats 7/15 (Bob Schutsky).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron – *Delaware*: at Hank's Place on 6/4 (Holly Merker, eBird), 6/14 (Judy Ford, eBird), and 6/18 (Gail Johnson, eBird), and Brandywine Conservancy 6/14 (Larry Lewis); *Dauphin*: 3 adults were observed in the Bellevue neighborhood of Harrisburg, with one sitting on nest; and one adult and one immature were seen at West Fairview 7/17 (Pat & Richard Williams); *Philadelphia*: an immature along the Manayunk Canal on 7/1 (Ken Januski).

Glossy Ibis – *Lancaster*: 2 were at the Conejohela Flats 7/28 (Devin Bosler, Justin Bosler, Bob Schutsky) and were still present 7/30; *Montgomery*: an immature was at Church Road, GLR 7/26-31, marking the first county record since 2002 (Kevin Crilley, Diane Cameron, m.ob.).

Mississippi Kite* – *Berks*: a sub-adult was seen drifting over farmland east of Robesonia 6/18 (Rudy Keller); *Northampton*: a fly-by along the ridge by the Koch farm in Williams Twp. 6/18 (Arlene Koch).

Northern Goshawk – *Clarion*: breeding successfully not far from the Clarion River, with two adults and two young,

one of each sex, banded by Dave Brinker of Maryland on 6/5.

Merlin – *Luzerne*: originally found by Peter Carlin while bike riding along the dike on 7/27 and confirmed nesting at the Forty Fort Cemetery the next day by Bruce Lockard, the nest produced at least 2 young; *Pike*: a single eBird report 6/5 at the previous nesting location of Promised Land State Park; *Sullivan*: a lone bird was found in LaPorte in late July (Keith Huffman).

Common Moorhen – *Butler*: at their historic Slippery Rock Township breeding site (Brian Slamecka); *Crawford*: five were watched 6/16 at Geneva Marsh (Ron Leberman); *Crawford*: an adult and 5 young were watched 6/16 at Geneva Marsh (Ronald F. Leberman); *Lawrence*: 7 chicks and 3 adults 6/25 at New Galilee Road Marsh (Mark Vass); *Monroe*: one found at Skytop wetland 6/10 (John Serrao).

American Coot – *Washington*: one continued residence at AMD Pond on Hahn Rd. for another season (m.ob.).

Black-bellied Plover – *Lancaster*: at the Conejohela Flats on 6/5 (Deuane Hoffman, Bob Schutsky).

American Avocet – *Cumberland*: one was present at the Deerfield Commons retention ponds from 7/22-25 (Vernon Gauthier, m.ob.); *Lancaster*: one at Conejohela Flats 7/25 (Bruce Carl, Bob Schutsky, m.ob.); *York*: 6 were seen the morning of 7/1 from a Lake Redman boardwalk (Sandy Wynand), but were not found the next morning.

Willet – *Montgomery*: 2 found 7/10 on the Church Rd. mudflats (Kevin Crilley).

Upland Sandpiper – *Bucks*: one stopped at Plumstead Twp. on 7/30 (Devich Farbotnik); *Butler*: at 2 active sites (Gene Wilhelm); *Crawford*: at Pymatuning Management Area 7/1; *Lancaster*: 3 at the intersection of Williams Run and Smyrna Road in the southern part of the county 7/27 (Jeff Loomis), still present 7/28; *Northampton*: early migrant seen at Graver's Hill 7/26 (Dustin Welch); *Venango*: 3 along County Line Road on 6/17 (Gary Edwards, Jerry Stanley).

Whimbrel – *Montgomery*: one drop in 7/10 to the Church Rd. mudflats, only to fly away within minutes (Ian Baldock, Jason Horn, John Pushock, Ken Reiker) represents the first county record. Another also stayed for just a few minutes there on 7/14 (Jason Horn).

Marbled Godwit – *Erie*: one was spotted also at Gull Point on 6/24 (ph. Mike Schall), and five on a sand spit west of Walnut Creek in Fairview Township on 7/4 (Brian Pardini).

Ruddy Turnstone – *Bucks*: one with multiple leg bands at Penn Warner Tract 6/14 (ph. Misha-Linda Spina) appeared to have an injured wing; *Delaware*: one on 7/29 (Al Guarente); *Lancaster*: present on the Conejohela Flats on 6/5 (Deuane Hoffman, Bob Schutsky).

Sanderling – *Lancaster*: one at Conejohela Flats 7/21 (Justin Bosler).

Western Sandpiper – *Bucks*: one at Rohm and Haas 7/31 (Devich Farbotnik).

White-rumped Sandpiper – *Lancaster*: 7 at Conejohela Flats 6/5 and 6/6 (Deuane Hoffman, Bob Schutsky); *Luzerne*: one at Plymouth Flats on 6/6 (Kevin Ripka).

Wilson's Snipe – *Crawford*: one was located at PGMA 6/19 (Mike Fialkovich).

Wilson's Phalarope – *Bucks*: one stopped at Core Creek Park 7/31 (Devich Farbotnik).

Laughing Gull – *Delaware*: 2 seen on 7/27 and 7/29 on the

Delaware River (Al Guarente, eBird); *Lancaster*: 9 adults were on the lower Susquehanna River at the discharge of the Peach Bottom power plant 7/26 (Bob Schutsky).

Bonaparte's Gull – *Chester*: an early juv. was reported to be on the lake at Marsh Creek State Park 7/28, and was seen until the end of the reporting season (John McNamara, Holly Merker).

Herring Gull – *Allegheny*: a nest at Emsworth Dam on the Ohio R. contained 2 chicks 6/27 (Mark Vass), at least five nests were on the Highland Park Bridge over the Allegheny R. (Mike Fialkovich); *Armstrong*: one was seen near Leechburg 6/26 (Marge Van Tassel).

Lesser Black-backed Gull – *Bucks*: about 20 were at Penn Warner Tract 7/5, the normal summer occurrence of sub-adults there (Devich Farbotnik); *Delaware*: 6 were found on 7/29 along the Delaware River (Al Guarente, eBird).

Common Tern – *Crawford*: seen at the Pymatuning Spillway 7/31.

Forster's Tern – *Delaware*: high of 25 on the Delaware River 7/27 (Al Guarente, eBird); *Luzerne*: two seen on 7/25 on the Susquehanna River in Hanover Twp. (Kevin Ripka).

Least Tern – *Lancaster*: 3 adults were found at Susquehanna River, Conejohela Flats 6/6 (Eric Witmer, m.ob.) and two 6/20 (Bob Schutsky).

Black Tern – *Lancaster*: at least 2 on Susquehanna River, Conejohela Flats 6/6 (Eric Witmer, m.ob.).

Eurasian Collared-Dove – *Franklin*: 4 on 6/10 (Deuane Hoffman, eBird) and one on 7/24 (Tom Johnson, eBird); *Lebanon*: bird of 5/31 was seen the next day on 6/1 along with a second bird (Pat Williams, Richard Williams) on Rt. 322 between South Mt. Pleasant Road and Mount Pleasant Road. On 7/2 a single bird was seen again on the same stretch of road along Rt. 322 (Shannon Thompson).

Northern Saw-whet Owl – *Cambria*: heard calling 6/7 at Prince Gallitzin (Cory Destein).

Chuck-wills-widow* – *Lebanon*: first reported by Jerry Howard on 6/5 at Fort Indiantown Gap, was heard on 6/13 by many observers right before dusk and for the next hour. The bird was heard weekly (Tim Becker) through the period and was last heard 7/25 (Kyle Aldinger, Justin and Devin Bosler).

Olive-sided Flycatcher – *Adams*: vocalizing at Mountain Road and Plantation Rd 6/15 (Don & Jennifer Gilbert); *Sullivan*: a pair was observed in suitable habitat in early June. At least two subsequent trips were made to the location with no further sightings reported (Doug Gross).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher – *Adams*: at SGL 249 on 7/11 (Don & Jennifer Gilbert).

Sedge Wren – *Franklin*: singing male heard during a bird survey on 6/13 (Dan Snell).

Loggerhead Shrike – *Cumberland*: 2 on Gobbler Knob Road 6/1-6/5 (Dan Snell, Vern Gauthier, Andrew Markel, Chad Kauffman) and another on Station Road south of Newville originally found on 5/26 (Deb Seifken) continued with up to 3 individuals birds (Tom Johnson & Janet Getgood, eBird).

Prothonotary Warbler – *Berks*: singing at Lake Ontelaunee 6/21 in an area some distance from the territorial male of recent years (Mary Schmek); *Crawford*: 2 were found at McMichael Road 6/7 and two there 6/22 with 3 eggs at the bridge nest box and 3 dead young in the other box (Thomas Clare Nicolls, Adam Troyer); *Cumberland*: a male originally

found 5/26 (Ramsay Koury) which continued through 6/5 at the first propagation pond after the barn on Bridgewater Road of SGL169 (Annette Matthes, Vernon Gauthier, Sue Strassner); *Lancaster*: reported nesting again at Conejohela Flats, Susquehanna River; *Pike*: at the Delaware Water Gap on 6/11 (Al Guarente, eBird).

Swainson's Warbler* – *Westmoreland*: lingering from the spring season was a bird singing until 6/6 at Calvery Lodge at the end of Powdermill Road (no doc.).

Clay-colored Sparrow – *Clarion*: noted along Stockdill Rd on the edge of Mount Zion, with 3 singing 6/5 and 2 there 6/14 (SG, CW).

Western Meadowlark* – *Franklin*: heard during a bird survey on 6/13 (Dan Snell, no doc.).

Painted Bunting* – *Berks*: an adult male made a brief, glitzy appearance on 6/30 at a feeder on Antietam Rd. near Reading from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. (Mary Schmeck) for a fifth county record.

Dickcissel – *Bucks*: increased to 14 singing males 6/3 at two

sites on the capped landfill at Penn Warner Tract (Devich Farbotnik); *Cumberland*; several were reported along Hilltop, Hanna, and Three Square Hollow Roads north of Newburg 6/27 (Tom Johnson), along with 2 others north of Newville on Mountain Road 7/5 (Vern Gauthier, Chad Kauffman, and Aden Troyer); *Franklin*: up to 5 seen on Portico Rd. between 6/8 and 19 (m.ob. eBird); *Lancaster*: one singing from the intersection of Williams Run and Smyrna Road 6/6 (Drew Weber, m.ob.).

Pine Siskin – *Butler*: a lone female visited a bird feeder in Slippery Rock Borough 6/21-23 (Gene Wilhelm, Joanne Wilhelm); *Indiana*: one turned up at a feeder near Lewisville 6/29 (Marcy Cunkelman) where it lingered for several weeks; *Lycoming*: 4 visited thistle feeders in Bastress Twp on 7/13 were photographed (Alex Savakinas, fide Dave Ferry).

Summary of the Season Dan Brauning

The comments of many county compilers are borne out by NOAA weather statistics, indicating that June and July were warmer than usual (particularly in the eastern and southern counties), and precipitation was higher than usual in the western counties in July, principally due to a notable storm on 7/10. In fact, 2010 brought the highest average summer temperatures on record Northeastern states. This season again displays an impressive compilation of observations among the counties reporting. The amount of field time as well as thoughtful summarization expressed in the following pages is remarkable!

A variety of lingering and transient waterfowl with very limited or no breeding history in Pennsylvania typically begin summer reports, particularly from *Bucks*, *Butler*, and *Berks*. Species including **Snow Goose**, **Gadwall**, **American Wigeon**, **Ring-necked Duck**, **Bufflehead**, and **Lesser Scaup** often make the summer list with individuals (often males) lingering on impoundments and wetlands in these and sometimes other counties. Among this group, the real status **Ruddy Duck** remains a curiosity. Does this species regularly nest in the Pymatuning Refuge of *Crawford*? Annual observations of multiple individuals near the spillway in summer have in the past produced sightings of flightless young.

Pennsylvania's few previous observations of **Black-bellied**

Whistling Duck have occurred during this season, but the 10 easily observed birds in *Luzerne* 6/10 through at least 6/20 comprise the rarest species reported this summer, and clearly a case of transient birds. This group suggestively followed the observation on 5/30 of 5 individuals in *Dauphin*. While we know much about birds, we can only guess where the added 5 came from, how the 10 got to *Luzerne* without notice, and where they went from there? Notably, at least 3 were seen in Cape May Point, New Jersey, in July!

Post-breeding dispersal of the long-legged waders is a predictable phenomenon along the state's waterways beginning in July, but some species appear to be in decline. **Snowy Egret** was reported just once each from *Bucks* and *Erie* this July, but formerly would have been expected more frequently across southeastern PA. On the other hand, 7/2 is a very unusual date for **Tricolored Heron**, found in *Lebanon*.

Continued expansion of **Sandhill Crane**, noted in the Spring report, bears out through the summer season also. The addition of *Somerset* to the list of counties with *confirmed* breeding demonstrates the wide, although thin distribution of this intriguing bird. Cranes are now established in at least three corners of the state. The 7/22-25 observation of a single crane in *Chester* may suggest future expansion!

The sightings of **Merlin** in

Luzerne, *Pike*, and *Sullivan* reflect some indication that this recently established breeder will remain and even expand its distribution. Continued growth in the nesting populations of **Bald Eagle** and **Peregrine Falcon**, though not necessarily obvious in the county comments, is indicated by the Game Commission's monitoring efforts.

Several counties reported shorebirds in response to the strong weather 7/10, although the list of shorebirds seems to be less impressive this year than usual. Highlights of that fallout were the first county record of **Whimbrel** that dropped into the Church Rd mudflats, *Montgomery*, on 7/10 with another there on 7/14, and 2 **Willetts** at the Church Rd mudflats also on the same date and location; the only reports of these species this season. This year, **American Avocet** were documented in *Cumberland* 7/22-25, *Lancaster* 7/25, and *York* 7/1, continuing an annual treat somewhere in Pennsylvania for 20 years! From previous Birds of Note compiled by Frank Haas, at least 27 counties have reported avocets, with *Lancaster* topping the list. The **Black-bellied Plover** in *Lancaster* 6/5 was a noteworthy observation for this season away from *Erie*. Other than the above-noted shorebird highlights, a **Western Sandpiper** in *Bucks* 7/31 and a **Ruddy Turnstone** in *Delaware* 7/29 were notable among the typical cast of southbound migrants.

The only report of **Black Tern**, the

only tern species regularly breeding in Pennsylvania, was of 2 migrants in *Lancaster*. Regrettably, no nesting of this rare species was apparently documented in the state in 2010. For other tern species, the Great Lakes and Atlantic coast are the primary attraction. So, a summer observation of **Common Tern** at the Pymatuning Spillway in *Crawford* and **Least Tern** on two June dates on the Conejohela Flats in *Lancaster* would have been exceptional anywhere else. The lower Delaware River provides opportunities to observe occasional post-breeding dispersal of coastal species of the order Charadriiformes, as is the case for the eBird report of 25 **Forster's Terns** in late July in *Delaware*. This number is not exceptional along the lower Delaware River. A similar phenomenon is found with summer observations of **Laughing Gull** in *Delaware*, and regular enough in *Philadelphia* to not warrant a reference, but notable anywhere else, including the 9 at Peach Bottom 7/26 in *Lancaster*. The "inland" observation of **Bonaparte's Gull** in

Chester came at the most unlikely date of 7/28.

Among the more celebrated birds of the summer was the **Chuck-will's-widow** at Fort Indiantown Gap, *Lebanon*. It was reported to the birding listserv nearly daily, as many gathered for the evening chorus. Summering **Chuck-will's-widows** were in fact reported almost annually during the Second Breeding Bird Atlas.

The listing of endangered and threatened birds is based on breeding status, so observations of rare breeders are of particular interest for the clarification of official status listings. While the Game Commission sustains active monitoring efforts for some listed species (as mentioned above, **Bald Eagles, Osprey, and Peregrine Falcons**), a number of other official listed species do not garner such attention, for a variety of reasons. So, reports through the *Pennsylvania Birds* county reporting network and birding list serves become useful and important source of observations. Distinguishing between transients (like

this season's **Black Terns**) is always important, but not always obvious (like *Delaware* and *Philadelphia's* **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons**). All this is to say that the summer observations of **Loggerhead Shrike** in *Cumberland* were particularly intriguing. Without reviewing in depth the on-again and off-again history of shrikes nesting in Pennsylvania, the discovery of a bird during a standardized grassland bird survey in *Cumberland* 5/26 resulted in persistent observations near Stanton Rd. through June of up to 3 individual birds (Tom Johnson and Janet Getgood, eBird). Sightings along Gobblers Run Road, about 10 miles distant but also in *Cumberland*, of up to 2 individuals (Al Guarente and Pat & Richard Williams, eBird), likely involved different birds. This summary includes eBird sightings which helped clarify the records. The last confirmed breeding of **Loggerhead Shrikes** in Pennsylvania goes back to 1999, although summering individuals were reported as recently as 2007.

The spring observations of **Swainson's Warbler** at Powdermill trickled into the summer report with a single observation in June nearby. The lack of a single historic confirmed breeding record of this enigmatic species remains beguiling.

Providing one of the few modern June records of **Painted Bunting**, an adult male no less, was well described as making "a brief, glitzy appearance" on 6/30 at a feeder on Antietam Rd near Reading, *Berks*, from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m., then disappeared. For a species in steep decline in its native southeastern US range, such observations in mid-summer are remarkable. As a "threatened" species, **Dickcissel** observations in *Cumberland* and *Franklin* (from eBird) comprise the persistent population. Growth to 14 singing males at two sites of the Penn Warner landfill on 6/3, *Bucks*, is exceptional. Additional observation of a singing male in *Lancaster* probably reflects the species' irruptive behavior.

In stark contrast to 2009, when nesting was report in "nearly every county," **Pine Siskins** went almost undetected this season. Only *Butler, Lycoming, and Indiana* provided reports.



Sandhill Cranes have slowly but surely become a thin but widely distributed breeding species in Pennsylvania. With the discovery of a breeding pair in *Somerset* this season, only the southeastern corner of the state remains without a confirmed nesting record. Might this bird photographed at Exton in *Chester* on 22 July 2010 be the harbinger of things to come? (Holly Merker)

PHOTOGRAPHIC HIGHLIGHTS



Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*). Many photographers took advantage of a close encounter with this rare but recently rather frequent vagrant to Pennsylvania, making many wonderful photos along the way. The flock of 10 was photographed at the Susquehanna Riverlands, Luzerne 14 June 2010. (Christopher Bohinski)



Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*). This female with 6 ducklings in tow was photographed at the recently constructed mitigation wetlands at Wingfield Pines, Allegheny on 4 July 2010. It took just a few years since the completion of construction at the site for many water-oriented birds to find and take advantage of this remarkable place. (Geoff Malosh)



Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*). Another fine, confiding portrait of one of the 10 birds at Susquehanna Riverlands, Luzerne 13 June 2010. (Jeffery Davis)



Common Merganser (*Mergus merganser*). Another female with 6 ducklings in tow, this family group was photographed 29 May 2010 at Shoemakerville on the Schuylkill River in Berks. (Steve Fordyce)



Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*). A rare opportunity at an unobstructed image of our Commonwealth's official bird was not squandered when this photo was made at Weiser State Forest, Carbon 22 June 2010. (Dustin Welch)



Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*). The wonderful images of Peregrine Falcons kept coming this summer from *Clinton's* resident Peregrine expert. This fledgling was photographed at McElhatten 1 July 2010. (*Wayne Laubscher*)



Common Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*). This adult with young was found and photographed at the edge of a parking lot in the city of Pittsburgh, *Allegheny* 12 July 2010. Amazingly, the bird may have nested right in the parking lot itself. (*Bobak Karimi*)



American Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*). One of three found statewide this summer, this bird was found and photographed at the Conejohela Flats, *Lancaster* 25 July 2010. (*Devin Bosler*)



Common Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*). Here the chick from the photo above is shown alone. If the nesting did not take place in the parking lot itself, this bird likely would have fallen from a nearby rooftop, the only other nearby possibility for nesting. Pittsburgh, *Allegheny* 12 July 2010. (*Bobak Karimi*)



Marbled Godwit (*Limosa fedoa*). Rare at any season, this bird at Gull Point, *Erie* 24 June 2010 was doubly surprising given the date, which can't be definitively interpreted either as a late spring date or an early fall date. In fact there are very few, if any, June records for the species in the state's history. (*Mike Schall*)



Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*). A very cooperative adult male in a Moon Township *Allegheny* backyard, photographed 31 July 2010. (*Geoff Malosh*)



Eastern Phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*). This outstanding portrait of an adult carrying food was made near Greenville, Crawford in June 2010. (Steve Gosser)



Cliff Swallow (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*). This previously unknown nest site on the side of a barn in Stewart Twp., Fayette, was discovered by the photographer during a BBS route 12 June 2010. Birds were seen in the area of this barn on previous BBS routes but no nests were noted. In 2010 there were an estimated 15-20 pairs present. (Geoff Malosh)



Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*). Despite ongoing development nearby, undisturbed portions of the Imperial Grasslands remain Allegheny's primary stronghold for grassland and shrubland specialists, such as this Eastern Kingbird photographed there 5 July 2010. (Geoff Malosh)



Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*). This amazing (and gruesome) spectacle of an adult Blue Jay killing and eating a fledgling Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*) was captured in an East Allen Township, Northampton backyard 14 June 2010. The bluebird fledged from a box in the same yard. (Dustin Welch)



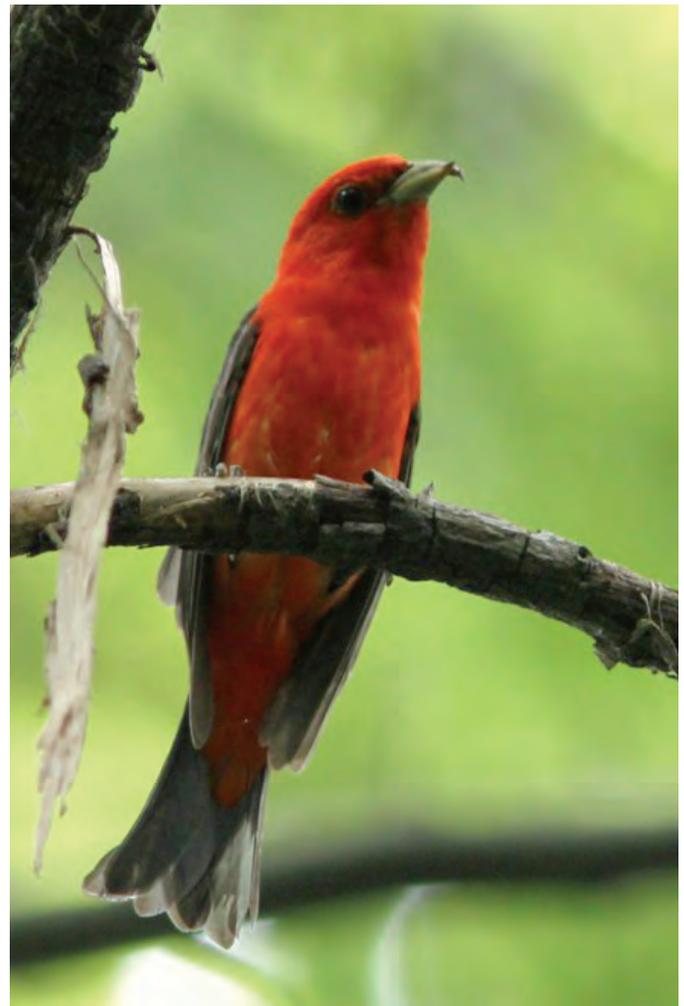
Marsh Wren (*Cistothorus palustris*). Marsh Wrens have not bred in *Chester* since the mid-1970s, so the discovery of an adult carrying food at the Cheslen Preserve in early July was quite an unexpected and welcome surprise. This bird was photographed at the preserve 19 June 2010. (*Holly Merker*)



Black-throated Blue Warbler (*Dendroica caerulescens*). This singing male was photographed at Clear Creek State Park, *Jefferson* in June 2010. (*Steve Gosser*)



Canada Warbler (*Wilsonia canadensis*). A memorable image of a singing male at Delaware State Forest, *Pike* 8 June 2010. (*Dustin Welch*)



Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*). This adult male with a crossed bill was photographed at Bucktoe Creek Preserve, *Chester* 27 June 2010. Interestingly, since the bird is an adult, it must have survived at least one year with this deformity. (*Holly Merker*)



Field Sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*). Adult feeding a juvenile at Jacobsburg State Park, Northampton 21 July 2010. (Dustin Welch)



Clay-colored Sparrow (*Spizella pallida*). The Piney Tract area of Clarion remains the most dependable location in Pennsylvania to find this species in summer. This bird was photographed there in June 2010. (Steve Gosser)



Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*). A wonderfully photogenic juvenile at Graver's Hill, Northampton 21 July 2010. (Dustin Welch)



Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*). This species continues to appear variously throughout the southeastern corner of the state away from apparently established areas in Cumberland and Franklin. This bird was photographed in Lancaster 2 July 2010. (Frank Haas)



Henslow's Sparrow (*Ammodramus henslowii*). This species continues to do well in certain portions of the Imperial Grasslands in Allegheny, but the areas suitable for them continue to dwindle. This singing male was photographed there 5 July 2010. (Geoff Malosh)



Blue Grosbeak (*Passerina caerulea*). Another species that remains a specialty of the southeastern state, despite periodic appearances (and even breeding) in other regions, is the Blue Grosbeak. This singing male was photographed in southern Chester in July 2010. (John McNamara)



Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*). This bird was part of an impressive flock of 35 or more adults and juveniles at the Imperial Grasslands 5 July 2010. (Geoff Malosh)



Purple Finch (*Carpodacus purpureus*). Female at Clear Creek State Park, Jefferson, June 2010. (Steve Gosser)

(Editor's note: the following photo by Devin Bosler was slated for the Spring 2010 issue, Volume 24 No. 2, but was inadvertently omitted through a personal error on the part of the chief editor.)

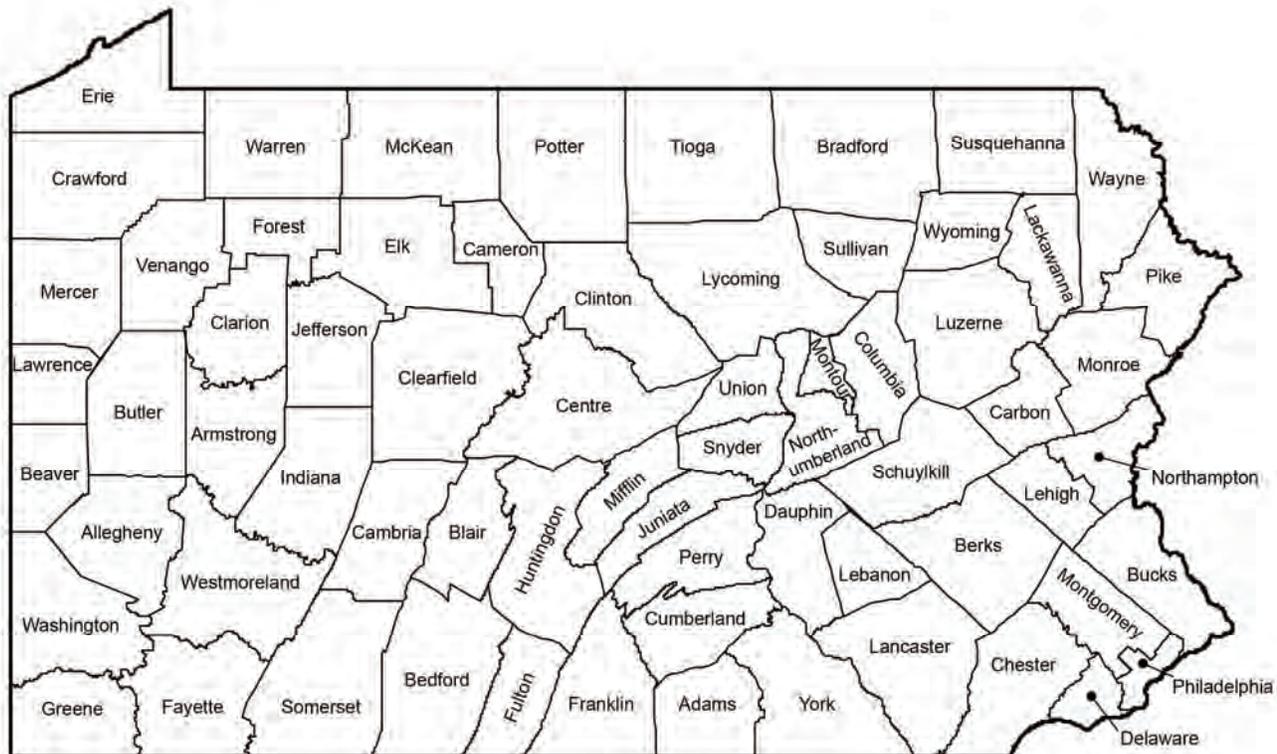


Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*). This recent fledgling was photographed in a Bentleyville, Washington backyard in June 2010. (Andy Berchin)



Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*). A rare look at a blue morph Ross's in the eastern United States was provided by this adult at Middle Creek W.M.A., Lancaster, 5 March 2010. (Devin Bosler)

Local Notes – June to July 2010



ABBREVIATIONS

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

Adams County

Locations: Michaux State Forest (MICH), Mountain Rd (MTN), SGL 249 (SGL), Waynesboro Reservoir(WR)

The species count of 82 is reflects the limited reporting this season. Waterfowl reports were ordinary and confined to SGL.

A **Double-crested Cormorant** was seen at SGL on 6/29(DJG). SGL provided good numbers of **Green Heron** with a high of 9 on 7/5(DJG). Six **Wild Turkeys** were at MTN 6/29 (RDS). Also at MTN were a pair of **Red-shouldered Hawks** 7/13 (RDS).

A **Spotted Sandpiper** was seen at the WR spillway. The SGL wetland pond at Gun Club Rd. had abnormally low water levels; 3 **Spotted Sandpipers** and 2 **Least Sandpipers** were seen 7/25 (PK). The low water levels continued into the peak migration period, affording ongoing shorebird viewing opportunities.

A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was heard in a deer management area off Newman Rd. 7/1(PK). The expected owls—**Eastern Screech**, **Great Horned**, and **Barred**—were all reported. A single **Whip-Poor-will** was heard along the Lippencote Trail in MICH 7/1(PK).

Some nice flycatcher reports included a vocalizing **Olive-sided Flycatcher** at MTN and Plantation Rd. 6/15 (RDS), a **Yellow-bellied**

Flycatcher at SGL 7/11(DJG), and multiple **Willow Flycatchers** at SGL throughout the period (DJG,PK). The sole **Horned Lark** report came from MTN 6/13(RDS).

Warblers of note were **Prairie Warbler** at SGL 6/20 and 7/5 (DJG), **Louisiana Waterthrush** at MTN 6/2 (RDS), a **Hooded Warbler** at MTN 6/13 (RDS), and a **Yellow-breasted Chat** at SGL 7/16 (PK).

Possum Hollow Rd. continues to be a good spot for grassland species with a **Savannah Sparrow**, **Grasshopper Sparrow**, and **Eastern Meadowlark** 7/25 (PK). A first year male **Blue Grosbeak** was seen at the intersection of Shippensburg Rd. and Wenksville Rd. on 7/29 (MW). The location provides suitable habitat, but the elevation of ~1260 feet is likely noteworthy. Bob Schutsky's species account in the First Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas notes, "The large majority of records come from areas at elevations less than 1000 feet." Paired **Orchard Orioles** were seen at SGL 7/16 (PK).

Observers: **Phil Keener**, 198 Jacobs Street, East Berlin, PA 17316, (717)-259-9984, pittche74@yahoo.com, Vern Gauthier, Dale Gearhart, Don & Jennifer Gilbert (DJG), Bob Keener, Ralph & Deb Siefkin (RDS), Mike Weible (MW).

Allegheny County

Locations: Boyce-Mayview Park and Wingfield Pines Area (BMP), Dashields Dam on the Ohio River (DASH), Imperial (IMP), North Park (NP).

Waterfowl reports include a **Wood Duck** with 6 young at BMP 7/12 (ST) and a female **Hooded Merganser** at IMP 6/4 (MV).

A nice total of 5 **Ruffed Grouse** were found at Knob Hill Park 6/21 (KD). Hopefully reports of this species will continue.

A **Double-crested Cormorant** was at DASH 6/29 (MV). A few linger on rivers in the area during the summer every year. For the second year, a single pair of **Great Blue Herons** nested in Allegheny Cemetery in Lawrenceville. Four young fledged from the nest the week of 7/4 (AB, CB). A **Great Egret** was at IMP 7/22-25 (MV, MF) and one was at BMP 7/28 (JM). A pair of **Green Herons** nested in the IMP area this summer (GM).

Two **Osprey** were at DASH in June and July (MV). As mentioned previously, they are probably the pair currently nesting in nearby *Beaver*. An **Osprey** was seen at the Westinghouse Bridge in East Pittsburgh 6/18 (GM), two continued from last season at Brunots Island in the Ohio River at McKees Rocks/Woods Run through July (JF), and one was seen flying over Monroeville 7/28 (ABe). A pair of **Cooper's Hawks** nested in Pine Twp. and fledged two young in June (PL, SL). *Cooper's Hawks* have become quite tolerant of people in recent years and several nests have been found in city parks and suburban areas where there is a lot of human activity. **Red-shouldered** and **Broad-winged hawks** were also in the same location in Pine Twp. in June and July (PL, SL) where both species regularly nest. A new **Peregrine Falcon** nest was discovered this year on the Westinghouse Bridge that takes Rte. 30 over East Pittsburgh. Three chicks were banded at the site; all males (*fide* KSJ). Two were noted on this bridge in the spring of 2007 during the Second Breeding Bird Atlas but never confirmed breeding. It's surprising the birds nested successfully this year because the bridge is undergoing a major renovation. The structure spans a wide valley and is largely made of concrete with ledges on the underside that apparently served as a favorable nest site. A bird was present all season at the Tarentum Bridge over the Allegheny River (SV, *fide* PH); a location that observers have been monitoring for a possible nesting pair.

Southbound shorebirds began to appear in mid-July. A single **Greater Yellowlegs** was at IMP starting 7/14 remaining most of the month (MV, et al.). A **Lesser Yellowlegs** was also there that day (MV). Two **Solitary Sandpipers** were at IMP 7/10 (MV). A **Semipalmated Sandpiper** at IMP 6/2 (MV) was a late northbound migrant. Five **Least Sandpipers** were at NP 7/11 (MV) and a **Pectoral Sandpiper** was there 7/26 (BM).

A **Herring Gull** nest at Emsworth Dam on the Ohio R. contained 2 chicks 6/27 (MV). At least five nests were on the Highland Park Bridge over the Allegheny R. this summer (MF).

Two **Barred Owls** were heard calling at DASH 6/22 (MV). **Common Nighthawks** were reported from five locations including an adult and fledgling in a parking lot in the Oakland section of Pittsburgh 7/16 (TB).

Acadian Flycatchers were in Knob Hill Park 6/21 (KD), Frick Park 6/23 (MF, MVV), NP 6/24 (DN) and BMP 7/9 (DN). **Willow Flycatchers** were at IMP 7/5 (GM). **Great Crested Flycatchers** were at Harrison Hills Park 6/13 (AH, PM), NP 6/24 (DN), and Pine Twp. for most of June into early July (PL, SL). **Eastern Kingbirds** were at IMP where they are fairly common in summer (MV, GM), and 3 were at BMP 7/12 (ST). A **White-eyed Vireo** near a baseball field in Greenfield 6/29 was out of place (KSJ). A juvenile clearly showing a dark iris was at IMP 7/17 (MF). A **Blue-headed Vireo** was a surprise at NP 7/3 (DN); perhaps a breeding bird or a lone singing male. This species breeds just to the north in *Butler*, so it's possible a breeding pair could be found in northern *Allegheny*. NP is a reliable location in the county for breeding **Veery** and 9 were tallied there 6/24 (DN). One was in nearby Pine Twp. 6/14 (PL, SL).

Black-and-white Warblers were at Harrison Hills Park 6/13 (AH, PM) and at DASH 6/21 (MV), both reliable locations for this local breeder. **American Redstarts** were at Harrison Hills Park 6/13 (AH, PM) and NP 6/24 (DN). Two **Worm-eating Warblers** were at Harrison Hills Park 6/13 (AH, PM). This has once again become a reliable breeding location for this species in the last few years. An **Ovenbird** was at Knob Hill Park 6/21 (KD). This is another local breeding warbler and seems to be restricted to the northern parts of the county (where

this one was) and the western areas around IMP. **Yellow-breasted Chats** continue to hang on at IMP despite continuing habitat destruction, with one 6/10 and 3 singing 7/5 (GM).

Savannah Sparrow numbers seemed to be down this year at IMP, but **Grasshopper Sparrows** were reported regularly during the season in that area. Five **Henslow's Sparrows** were tallied there 7/5 (GM). A nice size flock of 35 **Bobolinks** was in the IMP area 7/5 (GM).

Two **Purple Finches** were in Pine Twp. 6/27 and a pair with a juvenile were there 7/10 (PL, SL). One was in Plum 7/31 (RG, SG).

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Armstrong County

Locations: Cochran's Mill (CM), Crooked Creek Park (CC), Kittanning (KT), Leechburg (LB).

Eleven **Common Mergansers** were present on the Kiski River near LB 7/19 (MVT). A flock of 15 **Wild Turkeys** near CM included 13 young 6/7 (MVT). A **Common Loon** lingered on the Kiski near LB 6/10 (*fide* MVT). A **Double-crested Cormorant** visited CC 6/7 (MVT).

An **Osprey** at CC 7/23 (MVT) was unusual as they have not been known to nest at this location. A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was listed near Dayton 6/6 (MH, RH); a **Red-shouldered Hawk** was found near KT 6/26 (MH, RH), and a **Broad-winged Hawk** was at CM 7/12 (MVT).

A **Herring Gull** was seen near LB 6/26 (MVT), the lone report. A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was calling along the Baker Trail near CC 7/5 (MH, RH). Two **Common Nighthawks** were flying over KT calling at 05:00 on 6/26 (MH, RH).

Six singing **Acadian Flycatchers** were noted at CC 6/3 (MH, MVT). Three **White-eyed Vireos** were listed on the KT BBS 6/6 (MH, RH); another was heard at Lenape Golf Course 6/8 (RH). A **Blue-headed Vireo** was found on three dates at CC 6/30, 7/12, and 7/23 (all MVT). Two **Yellow-throated Vireos** were present at CC 6/3 (MH, MVT); singletons were reported 7/5 (MH, RH) along the Baker Trail and at Girty. One **Warbling Vireo** was spotted near KT 6/6 (MH, RH). Three **Common Ravens** were observed at CC 6/3 (MH, MVT).

The **Purple Martin** colony near Elderton (DS) contained 45 pairs that produced more than 200 young, up again from last year's 163. In addition the colony at West Shamokin High School which yielded no birds last year fledged 8 young; at least two eggs were lost at this colony to House Sparrows (DS).

A **Blue-winged Warbler** was found at CC 6/3 (MH, MVT), and 2 were near Echo 6/26 (MH, RH). A **Northern Parula** was singing 6/3 (MH, MVT) at CC. **Yellow Warbler** count included 14 on the KT BBS route 6/6 (MH, RH), down 3 from last year's count. **Chestnut-sided Warblers** included 2 on the KT BBS 6/6 (MH, RH) and 2 at CC 7/12 (MVT). A **Magnolia Warbler** on the KT BBS 6/6 (MH, RH) was unexpected. A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was still singing at CM 7/5 (MH, RH). **Cerulean Warblers** included one at CM 6/3 (MVT), one at Rearick's Fording 6/15 (MVT), 3 near Echo 6/26 (MH, RH), and 2 along the Baker Trail 7/5 (MH, RH). Among many reports, **Black-and-white Warblers** included one at CC 6/3 (MH, MVT) and 2 on the KT BBS 6/6 (MH, RH). The KT BBS 6/6 (MH, RH) also yielded 3 **American Redstarts** and 9 **Ovenbirds**. A **Louisiana Waterthrush** was noted near Robb's Fording 7/5 (MH, RH). The only **Kentucky Warbler** reported was one near Echo 6/26 (MH, RH). The KT BBS yielded 24 **Common Yellowthroats** and 5 **Hooded Warblers** 6/6 (MH, RH).

Four **Savannah Sparrows** and one **Grasshopper Sparrow** were reported 6/26 (MH, RH) near Dayton. A singing **Henslow's Sparrow** was a good find on the KT BBS 6/6 (MH, RH). A yard near LB yielded 3 **Purple Finches** 6/6 (MVT).

Observers: **Margaret Higbee, 3119 Creekside Road, Indiana, PA 15701-7934, bcoriole@windstream.net**, Roger Higbee, Duke Snyder, Marge Van Tassel.

Beaver County

Locations: Ambridge Reservoir (AR), Independence Marsh (IND), Raccoon Creek State Park (RCSP).

Wood Ducks bred successfully at IND (MF, MV). A **Wild Turkey** with 16 young was seen at RCSP 6/18 (MV), a species which continues to increase as a breeder in the county. A juvenile **Little Blue Heron** at IND 7/16 (MV) was quite a surprise, considering the last known sighting in the county was made in 1925. The bird was present until at least 7/22 but proved elusive during its stay, and not all observers who searched for the bird were successful. Photos were made 7/18 (GM).

Osprey bred successfully at Aliquippa and Potter Twp. again this season, but no report was received regarding the Midland nest. **Bald Eagles** are still not known as a summer resident in the county, but may be on the brink of establishing a nest locally. Most intriguing was an adult found at IND 7/16 (GM), where it remained through the season and into August, when it was joined by a second adult bird (BS, MV). An immature Bald Eagle was reported over Independence Twp. 6/14 (BS *vide* MV).

S.A.

During the winter of 2009-10, I was invited to serve on a committee to review out-of-range records in the second Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas database, prior to their incorporation into the final analysis. It was during this process that I became aware of some very unusual species reported on *Beaver's* western border with Ohio in June 2008 by observers who were atlasing border blocks for the Ohio BBA. Among the unusual species found on the Pennsylvania side were **Black-throated Blue Warbler**, **Magnolia Warbler**, and **Black-throated Green Warbler**. Both Black-throated Blue Warbler and Magnolia Warbler were until 2008 never reported as nesting species in *Beaver*. Though the details submitted to the atlas were quite sufficient for acceptance, I was eager to see the area for myself this summer, and on 6/24 I obtained permission to enter the area, which is a closely guarded private reserve along Pine Run in South Beaver Twp., part of the Little Beaver Creek watershed. The area proved to be an especially pristine hemlock ravine habitat, and as if on cue as I entered the hemlocks, the first of two **Black-throated Blue Warblers** began to sing! Though nesting of Black-throated Blues was not confirmed in 2008 or 2010, it is very likely that they are in fact nesting in the Pine Run ravine, a first for *Beaver*. Unfortunately, on 6/24 I did not see or hear any **Magnolia Warblers**, but was told that they were present a few weeks earlier (JD).

The other notable species, **Black-throated Green Warbler**, was ubiquitous, with at least 5 singing males heard and seen 6/24. Confirmation of nesting was not obtained, but like Black-throated Blue, it seems a foregone conclusion that they are indeed nesting there. Black-throated Green Warbler is apparently increasing as a summer resident in the county, with several sightings in the past four years at RCSP and AR. They were found RCSP again this year, when MV had 5 singing males there 6/18. So with the species present now in at least three locations in the county in June, it seems only a matter of time until a nest is actually found.

The Pine Run preserve is especially rich and ornithologically diverse. Several habitat types are present other than the hemlock ravine, and the day's list on 6/24 also included **Yellow-throated Vireo**, **Red-eyed Vireo**, **Wood Thrush**, **Blue-winged Warbler**, **Chestnut-sided Warbler**, **Ovenbird**, **Yellow-breasted Chat**, **Scarlet Tanager**, and **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**. The discovery of **Chestnut-sided Warblers** marks the third known summering location for the species in the county; they also breed at SGL 173 and SGL 285.

Many thanks are owed to Ohio atlasers Aaron Boone and Jim Dolan for making this remarkable discovery, and especially to Jim for arranging access to the preserve for this very interested Pennsylvania birder.

A **Northern Harrier** in Independence Twp. 6/14 (BS *vide* MV) was unusual for the location. A **Cooper's Hawk** nest with young was found at AR (BS); the young were on the verge of fledging by 7/11. The **Peregrine Falcon** nest in Monaca apparently failed this year; the

Pennsylvania Game Commission searched for young on two occasions in late spring and came up empty (*vide* SG). An adult was present at the site 7/11 (MV).

Mudflats developed at IND by mid-Jul and attracted a few early returning shorebirds. A **Lesser Yellowlegs** was present 7/10 as was the first **Solitary Sandpiper** (MV); by 7/29, Solitaries numbered 22 (MV). First **Least Sandpiper** was reported 7/28, and first **Semipalmated Sandpiper** on 7/29 (MV). A lingering **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was still at Hereford Manor L. 6/5 (MV), the last of the northbound shorebirds to be found. **Black-billed** (MV) and **Yellow-billed cuckoos** (MF) were both in evidence at IND this summer. **Common Nighthawks** were reported only from Aliquippa and Ambridge in June (MV) and in Beaver 6/18 (GM).

A juv. **Horned Lark** at IND 7/29 was quite out of place (MV). The **Purple Martin** colony at Hereford Manor Lake, *Beaver's* only known nesting colony, was successful this year, with young seen starting 7/3 (MV, RN). A number of **Bank Swallows** were at AR 7/11 (BS), which would represent a new location for them if they nested locally. A few **Bank Swallows** were found near Darlington during the *Beaver/Lawrence* BBS 6/14 (GM), likely from the *Lawrence* colony at a gravel pond near New Beaver. Unfortunately for the swallows, the company discontinued operations at the site this past winter and leveled the terrain around the gravel pond. The pond remains but the **Bank Swallows** will not return next year. During the BBS a few adults were also seen around the gravel pond but no nesting activity was taking place, of course.

A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was unexpected at RCSP 6/18 (MV); the species is not known as a summer resident in *Beaver* but they do summer nearby in northern *Washington*. A **Brown Thrasher** was at IND 7/10 (MV).

A **Louisiana Waterthrush** was singing from a very odd location near Beaver 6/18 during the BBS survey (GM), but besides this and the aforementioned news regarding Bank Swallows, the BBS was very uneventful this season. Interesting was a report of a family of **Purple Finches** coming to a feeder near Ambridge (BA, BS) seen frequently through the season to at least 7/11.

Observers: **Geoff Malosh, 450 Amherst Avenue, Moon Township, PA 15108-2654, (412) 735-3128, pomarine@earthlink.net**, Bruce Anderson, Jim Dolan, Mike Fialkovich, Scott Gregg, Richard Nugent, Becky Smith, 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 L. (BML), L. Ontelaunee (LO), State Gamelands #110 and #106 (SGL).

June was the fourth warmest on record with rainfall about 1.5 inches below average. The warm and dry trend continued through July, which was on schedule to become the second warmest on record until a cooling trend in the last two days dropped it to sixth warmest. July rainfall was about a half inch below average, and the official rainfall for January through July recorded at Reading Airport was 4.65 inches below average.

Four summering **Snow Geese** at Shartlesville (MW) and one at Gotwals pond, Oley (RK) stayed through the period. A resident **Mute Swan** pair at LO raised three cygnets, and about 11 non-breeders also summered there. A drake **Ring-necked Duck** lingered in the Peters Creek cove of LO 7/4-8/1 (MS) and another drake was in tiny Mensch Mill pond, Hereford Twp. for the last three weeks of July (RK). A female **Hooded Merganser** was in a retention pond on Long Lane off Rt. 222 near Topton for about a week until 7/25 (SF). Another female was in a farm pond on Bordner Rd. near Rt. 501 south of Bethel 6/12 (RK). A female **Common Merganser** was at LO 6/6 (MS). Both of these merganser species were confirmed breeding elsewhere in *Berks* in May. Crowing **Ring-necked Pheasant** cocks were heard at a few places in farm country on early morning CREP breeding bird survey routes in June (RK), a change from the usual lack of breeding season

reports. About six non-breeding **Double-crested Cormorants** spent the summer at LO, which is normal (RK).

Great Egret reports increased in late July, with a high of three at Blue Mt. Academy pond near Hamburg 7/30 (MW). Two downy **Green Heron** chicks incapable of flight, but with wing feathers starting to grow in, were in a multiflora rose on the island in Gotwals pond, Oley (where they have nested for years) 7/31 (RK). This was a late nesting, as chicks that age are usually seen about a month earlier. About 30 large, fledged **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were loudly begging to be fed 6/30 (RK) at the colony in suburban Reading. Up to eight adults could be seen fishing at the base of the LO spillway through July, with the first juv. seen there 7/13 (RK). Birds were also seen at BML in July (JS).

Black Vulture and **Turkey Vulture** pairs fledged young at traditional sites in southern *Berks* (RB). A sub-adult **Mississippi Kite** was seen drifting over farmland east of Robesonia 6/18 (RK). At least two large **Bald Eagle** chicks were in the Marion Twp. nest 6/18 (RK). The nest beside the Manatawny Creek in Oley Twp. contained one young 6/25 (SS, *fide* JH). Adults were regularly seen at LO all period, and one fledged juv. was seen there in late July (RK). The **Sharp-shinned Hawk** pair nesting in a Norway spruce plantation in District Twp. fledged two young, which were still noisily demanding to be fed in mid-August (RK). A juv. **Broad-winged Hawk** was at Hay Creek 7/31 (RK, KL). Reading's **Peregrine Falcon** brood of four fared badly. The two female chicks died of trichomoniasis, a parasitic digestive system disease. One male was found dead in the nest of unknown causes. The other male collided with a car at 5th & Penn Sts. and was taken to Red Creek Wildlife Center near Schuylkill Haven for rehabilitation. He was returned to the nest in healthy condition 7/1 and was seemingly accepted by the parents, but was not reported again (*fide* BU).

A few presumably southbound **Lesser Yellowlegs**, a **Solitary Sandpiper** and **Least Sandpipers** were in *Berks* by 7/10-11 (RK). A **Greater Yellowlegs** and two **Pectoral Sandpipers** were first reported 7/25 (SF). About 20 non-breeding **Ring-billed Gulls** summured at BML as usual (JS). Three **Caspian Terns** were at BML 7/31 (JS). Two **Black-billed Cuckoos** at SGL 110 on 7/27 (KG) were the only ones reported. **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were seldom heard before mid-June, but after that were widely distributed. Three **Barn Owl** pairs nesting in boxes in Rehrersburg, near Daniel Boone Homestead and in Barto fledged five young each, and the young were banded by PGC's Dan Mummert (RB).

A **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** nest containing one egg and one chick was found seven feet above ground in a maple tree in Bern Twp. 6/30 (EB). **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were at traditional breeding sites such as Bastian Rd. near Lyons, where one juv. was seen in July (SF). **White-eyed Vireos** were feeding brown-eyed fledglings at SGL 106 on 7/28 (RK). **Blue-headed Vireo** breeds only on the Kittatinny Ridge and is not confirmed every year. A bird at SGL 106 on 7/31 (KG) was the only one reported. **Common Ravens** were heard at Henningsville 7/24 (PS) and nearby in District Twp. 7/26, 27 (RK). They may be frequenting a rock outcrop at nearby Bear Creek ski resort, but this is unconfirmed. **Horned Larks** were heard on CREP survey routes in farmland along the Rt. 222 corridor and in nw. *Berks* in June (RK).

Purple Martins at colonies in Mohrsville and Centerport (about 25 pairs each) were feeding young in the nests 6/22 (RK). **Martin** colonies on Short Rd. near Fleetwood and near Topton were feeding fledged young and beginning to disperse by the third week of July (RK). About a dozen burrows of **Bank Swallows** remained in the mountains of sand at the Haines & Kibblehouse quarry at Hay Creek south of Birdsboro 7/31, but the birds had dispersed (RK, KL). This is the only known colony in *Berks*. Both of the large **Cliff Swallow** colonies at LO fledged young and were dispersing by mid-July (RK). Early migrating **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were heard at SGL 110 on 7/17 and 7/27 (KG) and in District Twp. 7/29-30 (RK). After two years of low numbers, there may be a larger flight this fall.

An adult male **Brewster's Warbler** was at SGL 106 on 7/28 (RK). The first confirmed breeding of **Brewster's** in *Berks* occurred here in 2009. A **Cerulean Warbler** was heard in June (KL) at Hay Creek, a breeding area since the mid-20th century. Two male **Ceruleans** were on territory from June to mid-July (KG) on the Bartram Trail along the Schuylkill R. near Hamburg, a more recently discovered breeding area. A **Prothonotary Warbler** was singing at LO 6/21 in an area some distance from the territorial male of recent years (MS). Birds benefiting from regeneration after logging and edge cutting at SGL 110 included 17 territorial **Chestnut-sided Warblers** and 16 **Black-and-white Warblers** heard 6/2, and 31 **Eastern Towhees** heard 6/30 (KG).

Vesper, **Savannah** and **Grasshopper** sparrows persist at low

density in farmland along the Rt. 222 corridor and in northern *Berks* (RK). A count of six **Grasshopper Sparrows** 6/5 (KG) in Windsor Twp., which still has extensive grass hayfields, was good for recent years. **Bobolinks** and **E. Meadowlarks** are also still reliably found in northern *Berks*, much less so elsewhere. A singing male **Blue Grosbeak** was found south of Rehrersburg 6/12 and 6/26, and another in Marion Twp. 6/18 (RK) on early morning CREP surveys. **Blue Grosbeak** has been confirmed breeding in *Berks*, but is unpredictable because it does not consistently return to territories occupied the previous year. An adult male **Painted Bunting** (fifth county record) made a brief, glitzy appearance at a feeder on Antietam Rd. near Reading from 14:00 to 18:00 on 6/30, then it disappeared like a rock star blowing through town on a gig. The observer, Mary Schmeck, reported the bird on WEEU's call-in radio nature show hosted by Jack Holcomb, who requested documenting photographs, which were provided.

Observers: **Rudy Keller, 71 Lutz Rd., Boyertown, PA 19512, 610-845-7310, rckeller@dejazzd.com**, Ed Barrell, Rich Bonnett, Steve Fordyce, Kerry Grim, Jack Holcomb, Dean Kendall, Katrina Knight, Ken Lebo, Peter Saenger, Mary Schmeck, Joan Silagy, Matt Spence, Stefan Strunk, Bill Urrich, Matt Wlasniewski.

Blair County

No compiler.

Bradford County

Locations: Echo Beach Road (on the Susquehanna River south of Wysox) (EBR), Peck Hill (PEH), Susquehanna River (SUR), Trudy Gerlach farm near New Era (TNE).

This summer the county experienced extremely hot, humid conditions, with long rainless periods, a very few cool days, and isolated heavy rains. However, the lack of warbler species reported may be due to absence of observers in the higher wooded mountains of the county. During the Breeding Bird Atlas, there was some coverage of these areas, but much less now. Gas drilling continues intensely here, but the effect on bird life is undetermined at this point.

On 6/19 a female **Common Merganser** with 8 chicks was floating down Sugar Creek at the Rt. 6 Cuts just east of Troy (RY). This is particularly interesting since this species was not recorded breeding in the area during the recent PBBA. On 7/22 an unusually large flock of 40 were seen on the SUR at EBR (DN).

Very, very unusual in summer, four **Black Vultures** were seen several times in June and July along Spring Hill Rd (EW). The only **Osprey** sighting this summer was of 2 on 7/31 flying up Towanda Creek (IF). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was calling 6/7 on top of Cahill Mt, and calling numerous times during July as it had been in spring at TNE (TG). A **Broad-winged Hawk** was observed on 6/19 just south of Wyalusing during a BBS route (BF). A **Golden Eagle** was at Edinger Hill 8/7 (EW). There were many sightings of **Bald Eagles**, including a pair of adults seen several times perched on trees along Towanda Creek close to Monroeton during June and July (GB); five eagles in one tree and a 6th in another adjacent tree 7/10 on the SUR above Laceyville (DB, MB); on 7/15 one calling on 7/15 along a branch of the Sugar Run Creek near the Sugar Run post office (TG); three present for a week beginning 7/15 at EBR (DN).

Surprising were 2 **Virginia Rails** seen 6/1 at the Beer's Nature Center at Wysox (SR). Two adult **Sandhill Cranes** with one chick were seen 6/6 near Hollenbach (RW). An **Eastern Screech Owl** was heard calling 7/15 and other dates at PEH (AV, GV). A first at this location, an **Acadian Flycatcher** was singing (including morning and evening (6/25) songs) numerous times close to my house at TNE during June and July (TG). An **American Crow** was behaving in an unusual way in late June, wading in a pool in a Troy creek, then abruptly plunging in and emerging with a minnow in its bill (RY). A **Yellow-throated Vireo** was singing at Woodside throughout June (BF); and one was calling just south of Wyalusing 7/10 in the late morning (TG).

A **Winter Wren** (a probable breeder in this new location) was singing numerous times during June and July on Iron Bridge Road near the Sugar Run Creek (TG). At least 6 **Wood Thrushes** were singing 7/14 on Travis Hill Rd, near New Era (TG), an unusually large number to be singing in such close proximity. A **Nashville Warbler** was observed 6/19 in the Wyalusing vicinity on a BBS route (BF). A **Black-**

throated **Blue Warbler** was observed 7/2 on Armenia Mt. (RY). A **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was heard singing 7/13 on Iron Bridge Rd (TG). There were only two reports of **Prairie Warblers** (a smaller number than normal): one 6/7 at PEH (AV, GV); and one in Troy (RY). A juvenile female **Canada Warbler** was seen (unfortunately because it was brought in by a cat) 7/10 at PEH (AV, GV).

Two large flocks of **Bobolinks** (40-50 birds) were seen 7/15 near Burlington (RG). A t least 500 **Red-winged Blackbirds** were spread across 2 or 3 fields, feeding and flying short distances in a generally se. direction near Zern's Pond, between Hollenbach and Wilmot, It's quite unusual to see such large flocks here (TG). Eight **Purple Finches** were feasting on Collard seed pods 6/24 at Woodside (BF, IF).

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Bucks County

Locations: Bradford Dam (BRD), Churchville Park (CVP), Core Creek Park (CCP), Maple Knoll Farms, Buckingham Twp. (MKF), Morrisville Levee (MVL), Peace Valley Park (PVP), The Penn Warner Tract (PWT), Rohm And Haas, Bristol (RHS).

A total of 121 species was reported on the breeding bird chart submitted with this report. Of these, 74 were confirmed, 34 were tagged as probable, and 13 were indicated as possible. Weather again was extreme, with both months about 4.5°F above normal. Conditions were very dry until a cold front 7/10 brought showers. Despite sporadic showers thereafter, conditions remained dry due to the heat. Rainfall amounts vary from place to place as always this time of year due to isolated showers. The June deficit at Trenton, New Jersey was about 2.76 inches, and July was only low by 0.16 inches. No weather impact on nesting was reported. The cold front 7/10 brought the first reported shorebirds for the season to mudflats produced by the very hot dry weather. Rare breeding of species outside their normal range was confirmed this year.

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 nearby NOAA at Trenton, New Jersey. The stated normal period used on the NOAA website is 1961 through 1990. All reports from PWT and RHS are from Devich Farbotnik unless otherwise noted. Data from eBird are included in this report.

Waterfowl always provide some interesting reports. A banded **Canada Goose** with orange neck collar H2N5 was near Kintnersville along the Delaware R. on 7/2 in a flock of about 50 birds, including about 25 partially grown young (AM, JM). It was found to have been banded 7/4/2007 as an adult near Varennes, east of Montreal, Quebec. It seemed surprising that it had not returned to Canada this year, and it was assumed it was injured in some way. The bander, Jean-Francois Giroux, was questioned as to whether this record was unusual. He replied, "No, it's not strange; some of 'your' birds, especially sub-adults or failed breeders (there are some control programs on nests in USA) do undertake a moult migration north to our latitude and even further north in the Nunavik (northern Quebec) in summer. They arrive at the beginning of June in our area and we catch them, mark them in late June-early July during our annual banding program along with 'our' birds that started breeding here 15 years ago. It's thus not uncommon to have birds banded here during moult that stay in the US the following years. However, it is interesting that this particular bird H2N5 did nest with success in our area in 2009! We also saw it during moult in 2008 but not this year. We are starting to accumulate enough observations to see some interesting facts about these birds, but we still need more to better understand their behaviour. I cannot say that this happens often and thus the importance of reporting your observations. We will see what happens next year."

A **Snow Goose** was at Quakertown 6/28 (DFa) for the only report. The first summer **Tundra Swan** reported last season at Pine Run Dam 5/21 was found dead 6/3 (MH, DFa, ph.). Two **Black Ducks** at US Steel, Falls Twp. 6/27 (DFa) and one at PVP 7/3 (AM) provided the normal rare reports of this species in the breeding season. A gathering of 132 **Mallards** at the MVL 6/22 was an interesting seasonal count (BK). A **Lesser Scaup** found 7/31 at RHS was a very rare summer

report. A late spring **Bufflehead** was at CCP 6/8 (BK). A female **Hooded Merganser** continued from May through at least 6/20 at Quakertown Swamp, supporting the probability of breeding there (DFa). A female **Common Merganser** had a flotilla of 42 juvs. on the Delaware R. at Tinicum Twp. 6/5 (DFa), and another female had 18 juvs. north of Riegelsville 7/1 (EB). A group of 18 juvs. was also at New Hope (BH). Family groups were reported as far south as Washington's Crossing 7/2 (JMr) and at MVL 6/28 (BK). Summer sightings of **Ruddy Duck** are rare. One at CVP 7/10 (CS) was probably a post-breeder. A **Common Loon** in non-breeding plumage was at PVP 6/6-10 (KA, AM), providing a new late spring date. A **Pied-billed Grebe** was at BRD 6/22 (GJ), and another was at MVL 7/12 (BK). They were assumed to be post breeders as they are not expected at these sites. The single site high report of 25 **Double-crested Cormorants** came from PVP 6/5 (AM). Numbers decreased there as usual to less than 10 through most of Jul (BW, KA). Usually, only first year birds remain at this time. **Northern Bobwhite** was in Bedminster Twp 6/4 (DFa), another was at BRD 6/27 (RfR), one was in Plumstead Twp. 7/17-18 (LD), and up to two frequented a feeder at MKF 7/14-27 (RS, VS). These represent an unusual number of reports, probably indicating an unusual number of released birds. The Bedminster and Plumstead sites are not far from a site known in the past to raise and release unusual birds. The highest count of **Wild Turkey** was 19 at Quakertown 7/24 (ES).

It was a good season for post breeding herons and egrets. A **Great Egret** at SGL 56 on 6/1 (PC) was the only report in Jun. The first probable post breeding bird arrived at Giving Pond near Uhlerstown 7/8 (EB). After that, high counts included 9 at CVP 7/19 (NZ, VD), 9 at CCP 7/31 (DFa), and 22 at RHS 7/31. One to 3 were reported at PVP (DFa), Pine Run Dam (MH), MKF (RS, VS), MVL (BK), Fountainville (AM), and BRD (LW, VM). Three **Snowy Egrets** were at RHS 7/31 for the only report. An immature **Little Blue Heron** at RHS 7/11 was the season's first, and 2 were there 7/31. First one and then 2 were at CCP 7/26-31 (BK), and 2 more were at BRD 7/31 (AM). One was at PWT 7/31 (ph. MS). A **Green Heron** count of 13 at BRD 7/31 (AM) was noteworthy as the highest single site report. The lake-clogging alien European water chestnut (*Trapa natans*) apparently provides a good hunting platform for them. Adult and juv. **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were at CVP in Jul (HD, CS), 2 were at CCP 7/4 (DFa), one was at MVL 7/12 (BK), and one juv. was first noted at PVP 7/27 (AM, JM, DFa).

Black Vulture was seen entering the unused barn in Buckingham Twp. (RH) where they have nested in the past. **Turkey Vulture** nested for at least the third year in a row under the same fallen tree at MKF (RS). The Riegelsville **Osprey** nest had 2 juvs. in mid-July (EN). The new Bristol nest reported last season contained one youngster 7/11 (DFa) but was determined to actually be across the border on the New Jersey side of the river (LR). Thus, we still only have two known nests. The pair near Mud Island had no youngsters in the nest 7/11 (DFa) and no one else reported them earlier. Three of our up to six known **Bald Eagle** nests had 7 young (GD, JM, EN). Production at the other three nests was not reported. An adult with one young bird 7/27 on the Delaware R. island where our unconfirmed nest was reported adds evidence of a nest there (LG). **Sharp-shinned Hawk** manages to appear on at least one report each breeding season and has been reported as a rare breeder here. One each was reported from Langhorne 6/5 (CW), Doylestown 6/10 (BW), and CVP 7/10 (CS). Difficulty in separating Accipiters is always a concern in these unexpected reports. An adult **Red-shouldered Hawk** at Lower Makefield Memorial Park 6/16 was unexpected but may indicate nearby breeding (BK). **Broad-winged Hawk** is rare now in the breeding season. One seen in the first half of Jun from Nockamixon State Park (DFa) was the only report. **American Kestrels** fledged 29 young from seven boxes with unknown numbers fledged from five other known occupied boxes (SB, AM, DFa). Two of the boxes used were Barn Owl boxes in Blooming Glen (AM). Another pair was evicted from a Barn Owl box by a **Barn Owl** and nested again in a nearby kestrel box (DFa). After several years with only one pair at a box at PVP, a second pair occupied another box at the other end of the park (AM). The male at this second box nested at the first box last year and has a probably broken yellow wing tag. It is believed to be one banded in New Jersey sometime from 2006 to 2008 (JS). It most likely was a 2008 bird, as it appeared at PVP in the spring of 2009 (AM).

Shorebirds gathered primarily at CCP and RHS, with relatively small numbers elsewhere. The first southbound migrants of the more common species were reported as follows: one **Semipalmated Plover** at CCP 7/27 (BK); 2 **Greater Yellowlegs** at CVP 7/12 (BK); 8 **Lesser Yellowlegs** and a **Solitary Sandpiper** at BRD 7/10 (DFa); one

Semipalmated Sandpiper at RHS 7/24; and 4 **Least Sandpipers** at BRD 7/10 (DFa). A **Spotted Sandpiper** with young was found 6/16 in the Warminster industrial park where they have nested before (GJ). The site is being developed. Either this species is secretive or rare here as a breeder based on the few breeding season reports. A rare **Upland Sandpiper** stopped at Plumstead Twp. 7/30 (DFa). After no earlier reports, a **Ruddy Turnstone** with multiple leg bands was at PWT 6/14 (ph. MS). It appeared to have an injured wing, which probably explains why it provided a new spring late date. One wonders if the banding process injured the bird. The first southbound **Western Sandpiper** at RHS 7/31 (DFa) was among the rare species reported. A surprisingly early season count of 98 **Least Sandpipers** were at CCP 7/11 (DFa), and the highest report there was 113 on 7/13 (BK). A **Pectoral Sandpiper**, considered occasional here, was at RHS 7/24 for the first southbound report. Also on the rare side here, 2 **Short-billed Dowitchers** at BRD 7/10 (DFa) provided our only report. **American Woodcock** often is unreported or rarely reported after their peak displaying period. One was at Tinicum Twp. 6/5 (PC), and another was at Tyler State Park 7/21 (DL). Another rarity here, a **Wilson's phalarope** stopped at CCP 7/31 (DFa).

About 20 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were at PWT 7/5 and represented the normal summer occurrence of sub-adults there (DFa). A **Caspian Tern** at Bristol 7/14 (DFa) was the first southbound migrant, with another at CVP 7/29 (BK). After a poor showing this spring and no reports after mid-May, 2 **Black-billed Cuckoos** travelling together were north of Riegelsville 6/11 (AM, JMi) but could not be found later. Up to 2 calling birds were at PVP 6/25-7/3 for a surprise there (GH, JMi, AM, BW). A road kill was found at CCP 7/28 (BK, SW). **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** fared a little better, with reports from only four sites (m.ob.). A **Barn Owl** at a box in a Bedminster Twp. silo 6/14, followed by 2 there 7/10, was the first such find in several years. Since there were no pellets present, they were assumed to be recent arrivals. In addition, **American Kestrel** eggs in the box indicated the owl had evicted the former tenant. Assumed to be late migrants, **Common Nighthawk** was reported from CVP 6/5 (VD) and Tinicum Twp. 6/11 (DFa). Believed to be unusual for being in close proximity, two nesting **Belted Kingfishers** were only 200 feet apart at US Steel, and a third may have been nesting another 400 feet away (DFa). Young **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were heard calling inside our only known nest site at Tinicum Twp. on several dates starting 6/24 (DFa, DA, JMi). No one reported fledged young. The **Common Raven** remains a rare bird, with only one report 6/21 at Chalfont (KA). A count of 46 **Fish Crows** at MVL (BK) was the highest single site report.

Previously unreported, new small **Purple Martin** colonies were found in upper Buckingham Twp., Wrightstown Twp., (both SB), and central Bedminster Twp. (DFa). A pair frequented a box at Warminster Community Park (GJ), but no nest was found (RN). The four known colonies at Bolton's Turkey Farm (AM), east of Perkasio (HR), northern Upper Makefield Twp. (JMa), and western Plumstead Twp. (DFa) were all active. Monitoring the colonies of this difficult to maintain species and trying to attract them to new sites would be a worthwhile project for someone. An annual summer evening roost of swallows in corn fields at MKF had high counts of 210 **Barn Swallows** 7/25 and 90 **Cliff Swallows** 7/16 (RS, VS). A mixed flock of an estimate of 400 swallows was tallied there 7/18 (RS, VS). With **Red-breasted Nuthatch** present all winter and through the spring at CVP, it was not unexpected that one on 7/3 was believed to be a juv. (BL). This confirmed breeding in the county for only the second time. One at Doylestown Twp. 6/10 (RH) was a surprise for both the date and the fact there were so few in the county this winter and spring. A mature pine and spruce area of Nockamixon State Park provided proper breeding habitat for the pair of **Golden-crowned Kinglets** first reported there in May. Four juvs. 6/12 provided the first confirmed breeding of this species in the county (DFa).

A total of 16 warbler species were reported during the period. All were likely breeding birds except for **Cerulean Warbler**. Many of these warbler species are rare breeders here. **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was last reported as a probable breeder in 2005 and was feared gone. However, one singing in Durham Township 6/1 (MC) and 6/12 (DFa), plus one singing on an island in the Delaware R. 6/5 at Tinicum Twp. (DFa) may indicate some still persist. The 2 singing **Yellow-throated Warblers** found 5/30 at Riegelsville continued through at least 6/27 (DFa). Another was found at a historical spot at Bowman's Hill 6/9, after no breeding season reports there since 2001 (AM, JMi). It also continued there through at least 6/27 (DFa). Another singing male was at Kintnersville 7/2 (JMi, AM), making this the first year in several where multiple potential breeding sites were reported. A **Cerulean Warbler**

was reported at Riegelsville 7/9 (EB) for a now very rare breeding season report. This may have been a post breeding wanderer, as it had not been reported earlier from this well birded location and was not found later. There is still hope that they may survive on islands in the Delaware R. Prothonotary Warbler was missed this season. The **Kentucky Warbler** at Nockamixon State Park in May did not continue into Jun, but one at SGL 157 was present until at least 7/3 (DFa). **Yellow-breasted Chat** was not reported after May.

Savannah Sparrow seems to slip through the radar in summer. Warminster Community Park had up to 2 on 6/8-7/18 (GJ), and another was in the nearby industrial park 6/16 (GJ). Up to 3 were at MKF 7/10-18 (RS, VS), and another was reported from Bedminster Twp. (DFa). **Grasshopper Sparrow** was reported at three sites in Tinicum Twp. in Jun (JMi, DFa, AM), with only one singing male per site. One was at Warminster Community Park 6/16 (GJ). Another was first seen near Fountainville 6/29 and was still there a few weeks later (CC). Another was about a third of a mile away east of Fountainville (CC). Northampton Twp. Community Park had 3 singing birds in the first week of Jun (CG). A pair of **Blue Grosbeaks** was at PVP 6/10 (AM) and last noted there 6/26 (MHo). Six were on the PWT landfill 6/3, where our highest concentration of this species occurs. Unfortunately, some of their preferred habitat there was found cut down on 7/11 (DFa). A male was found in Tinicum Twp. 7/19 (DFa). For the third year in a row, **Dickcissel** was on the capped landfill at PWT, but increased from the 2 singing males of last year to the astonishing 14 singing males 6/3 at two sites. Numbers of this species are known to vary greatly from year to year in its normal range, so it will be interesting to see what happens here in the future. Unfortunately, despite an agreement to not mow the two sites supporting these birds, they were mowed sometime before 7/11, and no birds were found.

CORRIGENDA: The **Osprey** nest reported at Bristol on a Delaware R. marker in the spring season 2010 (Volume 24, No. 2), is not in *Bucks* but rather on the New Jersey side of the border (LR).

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Butler County

Locations: Birdwatchers Store (BS), Buffalo Creek (BC), Forrester Road (FR), Jennings Environmental Education Center (JEEC), Lake Arthur (LA), Miller Woods (MW), Moraine State Park (MSP), Old Stone House (OSH), Poplar Forest (PF), Slippery Rock Borough (SRB), Slippery Rock Creek (SRC), Slippery Rock Township (SRT), Slippery Rock University (SRU), Wolf Creek (WC).

Cool, wet weather in May gradually gave way to a typical month of June with rain peaking at 5.25 inches in July. An unusual number of transient waterfowl species lingered throughout June, including 3 **Gadwalls**, 2 **American Wigeons**, 5 **American Black Ducks**, 20 **Mallards**, 17 **Blue-winged Teal**, 3 **Northern Shovelers**, and 21 **Ring-necked Ducks** on LA (MV, GW, JW, et al.). **Hooded** and **Common Mergansers** were impacted by high water on the SRC and WC and other county wetlands. **Ring-necked Pheasant**, **Ruffed Grouse**, and **Northern Bobwhite** were not reported anywhere in the county, while **Wild Turkey** had a poorer than usual breeding season because of a wet July (GW et al.). A single **Common Loon** in full breeding plumage made its "home" for the month of June into early July on LA, unusual because it is usually first year birds that frequently spend the summer south of the normal breeding range (MV, GW, JW). It is pleasing to report that a single male **American Bittern** again called almost nightly

in a favorite SRT wetland throughout the period, and the breeding "colony" of 5 **Green Heron** pairs continued to do well in an adjacent wetland (BS, JS).

Osprey, **Bald Eagle**, and **Northern Harrier** held their own this breeding season with one new nest site reported for each species, but the pleasant surprise was a very active male **Sharp-shinned Hawk** that almost daily visited the many bird feeders at the BS and the backyard of the Wilhelms in SRB most of the period (CS et al., GW, JW). This season was the first for no reports of the **Cooper's Hawk** breeding in SRB (GW). More interesting were 4 **Red-shouldered Hawk** fledglings that vacated their crowded nest in PF 6/5 (WE, GW et al.). These siblings represent the first record of four birds using the same nest at the same time anywhere in SRB-SRT. **Broad-winged Hawk** and **Red-tailed Hawk** vacated PF because of development but nested in MW, MSP, SRU and elsewhere in SRT. However, **American Kestrel** continues its steep decline in breeding pairs throughout the county.

No county nesting reports of King or Virginia Rails or American Coot, but **Sora** and **Common Moorhen** did return to their historic SRT breeding site (BS). **Sandhill Cranes** were reported often flying over their historic tri-county breeding area but it is too early to receive nesting results for the season. Far fewer **Killdeer** were evident this year because of extreme encroachment on their nesting sites. Further, spring and autumn staging areas are now intramural playing fields on the SRU campus. No report of nesting **Spotted Sandpiper**, but **Upland Sandpiper** and **American Woodcock** are holding on at just two active sites each. **Black-billed Cuckoo** and **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** were scarce this year with no reports of nesting. However, **Eastern Screech**, **Great Horned**, and **Barred Owls** did have a successful breeding season in PF.

Female **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** finally arrived in early June in PF and elsewhere, established nests, and by 7/4 were feeding youngsters. But **Red-headed Woodpecker** and **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** are in population trouble with only one productive nest for the former and two active nests for the latter species. All flycatcher species were accounted for but the **Eastern Wood-Pewee**, **Alder**, **Willow**, and **Least Flycatchers** were down considerably in nesting sites compared to last year. The **Red-breasted Nuthatch** did not return to PF to nest as it did for three consecutive years (2007-2009) in SRB (GW). **Carolina Wren** still has not recovered from the severe 2009-2010 winter, reflecting its absence in PF and the SRB. However, **Winter Wren** bred for the second consecutive year in the west end of JEEC in a wetland of felled trees and skunk cabbage (GW). **Northern Mockingbird** continues to expand its population in the northern tier of the county with several males singing from telephone wires and garage roofs north and east of SRB (GW). However, **Brown Thrasher** has declined to one nesting pair in the SRB. **Cedar Waxwing** was conspicuous by its absence during the period with plenty of wild fruits keeping huge flocks south and west of the county.

Cerulean Warbler continues to do well in proper habitats, especially in the zone from the OSH to MSP, and the same is true for **Yellow-breasted Chat** on the SRU campus. However, **Ovenbird**, **Northern Waterthrush**, **Louisiana Waterthrush**, and **Kentucky Warbler** apparently no longer breed in PF due to surrounding development impact. This same impact has destroyed favorable habitat for the **Field Sparrow** too, with its breeding population plummeting to just two pairs. A tremendous discovery of a nesting **Dark-eyed Junco** in the BC valley 6/1 (CT, et al.) apparently is the first breeding record for the county, with plenty of photographic proof backing the record. Finally, a lone female **Pine Siskin** visited a bird feeder in SRB 6/21-23 (GW, JW), perhaps the final remnant of the stupendous irruption last winter.

Observers: **Gene Wilhelm**, 513 Kelly Blvd., Slippery Rock, PA 16057-1145, genewilhelm@aol.com, William Elliott, Birdwatchers Store employees, Cathy Setzer, Brian Slamecka, Jaime Slamecka, Chuck Teague, Mark Vass, Joanne Wilhelm.

Cambria County

Locations: Hastings (HA), Patton (PA), Prince Gallitzin St. Park (PG), St. Lawrence (STL).

A lone adult male **Ruddy Duck** was at PG on 6/27 (DG). A family of **Broad-winged Hawks** took up residence in GD's backyard and allowed some great pictures near HA. A single **Caspian Tern** was seen at PG on 7/1 (DG). A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was heard calling 6/7 at

PG (CD).

Purple Martins expanded their colony at PG with 3 active nests and over 20 adults and sub-adults present. **Barn Swallows** were double brooded with many still feeding young in mid-August. This is unusual for our area. A **Cerulean Warbler** was seen at PG 6/7 (CD). **Canada Warblers** were seen carrying food at STL (JS). This is the first time they were seen nesting there. A pair of **Orchard Orioles** was seen at PG 7/1 (DG).

Observers: **Dave Gobert**, 287 Beech Rd., Patton, Pa. 16668, (814) 674-8359, djgobert@verizon.net, Gregg Doll, Cory Destein, John Salvetti.

Cameron County

No compiler.

Carbon County

No report.

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Centre County

Locations: Bald Eagle State Park (BESP), Colyer Lake (COL), Curtin Wetland (CUR), Remediation wetlands west of Julian (JUL), State College (STC), Toftrees Pond, and adjacent areas (TOF).

More information about some of the locations mentioned is available at <www.scbirdcl.org> and from the recently published *Birds of Central Pennsylvania* (2010) (BCP) by Nick Bolgiano and Greg Grove.

An imm. **Double-Crested Cormorant** was spotted at TOF 6/8 (CM). A rarely seen **Little Blue Heron** was discovered at the south end of COL 7/21 by (DW), photographed by (RC) 7/22, also reported by (MH, MSH) 7/22, and gone by 7/24 (NAB). Three juvenile **Bald Eagles** that fledged this year were seen and photographed at their well-known nest at BESP 6/12 (CG).

The impending southbound shorebird migration was indicated by a **Greater Yellowlegs** at COL 7/14 (DW), a **Solitary Sandpiper** at JUL along with several **Killdeer** 7/10 (DW), a **Solitary Sandpiper** at COL 7/12 (GG), 14 at COL 7/14 (DW), and three at COL 7/22, an imm. **Semipalmated Sandpiper** at COL 7/14 (DW), and 15 **Least Sandpipers** at COL 7/14 (DW) and two 7/22 (MSH).

A **Barred Owl** and the wheezing sound typical of its young was heard near SGL 176 beyond the end of Tow Hill Rd. 6/1 (MD), and one was seen along Detwiler Run 7/11 (JD).

An adult **Red-headed Woodpecker** was seen at the farm near the intersection of Airport and Geary Roads 6/6 (JV). A **Marsh Wren**, an infrequently seen species, was heard and photographed at CUR 7/14 (BS).

Blue-winged and **Golden-winged Warblers** were observed at Upper Green Run area at BESP 6/12 (NEK). A **Louisiana Waterthrush** was a surprising find in a bird bath in residential STC 7/7 (KO).

A singing male **Blue Grosbeak** was found on an old strip mine field north of Snow Shoe in the area called Pancake 7/3 (GG, DG), which is the same location where singing individuals were found in 2008 and 2009. It is not known if they are breeding there. The location is at higher elevation on the Allegheny Plateau and much further north than known breeding in central Pennsylvania.

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Chester County

Locations: Bucktoe Creek Preserve (BTPR), Cheslen Preserve (CHPR), Church Farm School (CFS), Marsh Creek State Park (MCSP), Octorara

Reservoir (OCTRES), Rustin High School (RHS).

The birding community of *Chester* would like to thank **Nick Pulcinella** for his tenure as county compiler for the last several years. Nick's seasonal summaries for our county were nothing short of excellent, and represented our county's bird distribution well and in thorough detail.

Last year's unseasonably wet and cooler breeding season was contradictory to this year's record heat and dry spells in June and July. A strong weather event 7/10 that moved in from the west and dumped record rainfall into some parts of the county provided us the first southbound shorebird migrants, including **Short-billed Dowitcher**.

No doubt the highlights of the season for *Chester* were some unusual breeding birds of the wetlands. Two separate **Marsh Wrens** were discovered on territory. In addition, both bittern species were found and noted through the end of the reporting season at two undisclosed locations within the county.

American Black Ducks (LL) were observed in *Chester* waters of the OCTRES during June and July, but no evidence of breeding was noted. Also swimming in county waters at OCTRES was a **Green-winged Teal** on 7/17 (HM). A non-breeding **Ruddy Duck** was observed at Longwood Gardens on 7/10 (LL *fide* CM). A **Common Loon** was heard yodeling and then observed in non-breeding plumage on the lake at MCSP on 7/14 (HM). As noted above, **American Bittern** was discovered to be a probable breeder within a vast wetland. One, possibly two birds were first found on 6/19. Additional observations were made of up to two individuals, which were seen on several occasions in the same area until the end of the reporting season. This is likely the first evidence of probable breeding for this endangered species in *Chester*. **Least Bitterns**, also endangered in Pennsylvania, were confirmed as breeding when a nest containing four young was discovered in June. Multiple observations of adult birds, in the same vicinity, continued through the reporting period.

Reports of **Great Egrets** continued into June, though they are not breeders in the county. A single bird was reported 6/9 in the wetlands on Brandywine Road (JMcn). Additional reports of multiple birds continued with a high count of 12 reported from the same location 7/21 (LL). It was good summer for wading birds. Two imm. **Little Blue Herons** were observed foraging in *Chester* waters of the OCTRES on 7/16, 7/18, and 7/21 (LL, JMcn, KF, HM). Notable this season was the absence of reports of Glossy Ibis, found for the past several summers in the Landenberg area.

Multiple reports of **Osprey** continued in summer again this year, including observations of single birds foraging along the Brandywine Cr. 6/14 (CM), and Kurtz's Fish Hatchery 6/15 (HM). Additional reports of this species were reported from MCSP, including one 6/17, and two birds noted together 7/5 (CK). These growing summer reports give hope that this species may someday soon nest in the county. A pair of **Bald Eagles** is also being continuously seen in West Goshen Twp. (m.obs), and is presumed to be nesting in the region.

Remarkably, two active **Red-shouldered Hawk** nests were discovered in back yards of Uwchlan Twp. This species is an irregular nester in the county. One active nest was reported to have adults tending young (*fide* BBI). Another nest, less than a mile away, was carefully monitored. Two chicks were observed being tended to, and fledged from this location around 7/12. The adults and juv. continued to be heard and seen around the neighborhood through the end of July (JC). A **Broad-winged Hawk** was presumed to be breeding in N. Coventry Twp again this year, and was observed actively hunting throughout the season. The observer notes: "I verified that it is the same bird I had last year as it has a funny white bulls-eye marking on the back of its head." (SK).

An interesting discovery was two **Virginia Rails** in a wetlands area of MCSP 6/11 (HM). Two birds continued to be present into late June. No evidence to confirm nesting was found, but behavior and fidelity to the precise location was highly suggestive. An unusual species to be found in summer in *Chester* was an adult **Sandhill Crane** 7/22 at the CFS pond area. The crane remained sporadically present through the morning of 7/25 (HM, et al.).

An intense storm on the morning of 7/10 brought in the first southbound migrant shorebirds. Three **Least Sandpipers** were observed in a flooded farm field in Goshen Twp (HM), but the best find was a **Short-billed Dowitcher** that was observed in that same field earlier in the day (NP).

An early juv. **Bonaparte's Gull** was reported to be on the lake at MCSP 7/28, and seen for several days until the end of the reporting

period (JMcn, HM). Also present with the Bonaparte's 7/28 was a single **Ring-billed Gull** (JMcn).

Yellow-billed Cuckoos were seemingly late in making their presence known, but were heard and observed in multiple locations throughout the county during the breeding season. Only a single report of **Black-billed Cuckoo** was noted during June, with presumably the same singing male found in various locations on the property of BTPR 6/27 (HM, DH). This species was not found on the property thereafter.

Whip-poor-wills were heard reliably during the first week of July at the Goat Hill Preserve in the Serpentine Barrens region of the county. This region continues to be the only stronghold of this species, and reports of up to four birds heard singing (HM, KF, A&SG). Two observations of **Bank Swallows** were made in the Pickering Cr. watershed, including a report of two birds on the wire at Atwood Quarry 6/12 (DK), and another individual noted over a field nearby (VS). It is suspected that the banks of the nearby Pickering Cr. may provide suitable breeding habitat for this species, but evidence was not discovered.

Two separate **Marsh Wrens** were outstanding finds for *Chester* during the breeding season. These records reflect the first evidence of breeding of this species in the county since the early 1970's. A single singing male was first discovered at RHS in late May, and continued to remain present and singing through July (NP). Additional birds or further evidence of breeding was not found, but this male's behavior was very suggestive. Unbelievably, a second singing Marsh Wren was found at the CHPR 6/17 (JMcn). This species was confirmed to be nesting when a bird carrying food and additional individuals were spotted 7/6. These birds continued to be present through the end of July.

Yellow-throated Warbler is an irregular breeder in *Chester*, and for the second year in a row, a singing male was heard and seen into mid-July at Kerr Park in Downingtown (m.obs). **Cerulean Warblers** were reported in two locations known as breeding spots. Single birds were noted along the Pickering Cr. during the VFAS BBS 6/5 (VS). Additionally, a singing Cerulean continued from spring along the Struble Trail into early-July, a site reliable for this species in the last decade. **Kentucky Warbler** is a low density breeder in *Chester*, and an observation of a pair in the newly established park, Coventry Woods, on 7/1 was a good find (RK). An interesting report of **Kentucky Warbler** was that of a probable post-breeder noted on a telephone wire in a wetland meadow in the Phoenixville area 7/18, a habitat not suitable to support nesting of that species. **Yellow-breasted Chat** were found in multiple locations around the county this season, with reports coming from Binky Lee Preserve (RW, VS), CHPR (JMcn), and Goat Hill Preserve (KF, HM), and seven individuals noted at Nottingham C.P. 6/12 (BBy). Both **Savannah and Grasshopper sparrows** were not reported in June and July, but this is likely a reflection of the lack of coverage of the areas where they are known to breed. **Swamp Sparrows** are annually reported at nesting at CHPR. This year continued the trend with adult and juv. birds being spotted multiple occasions (JMcn).

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks are irregular nesting birds in *Chester*. This year, a pair was noted at Black Rock Sanctuary 6/28 (RK), and a presumed juv. bird using a feeder in Phoenixville in June (VS), these reports giving evidence of probable breeding. **Blue Grosbeak** is an annual breeder in low numbers.

An active nest was discovered in July within a backyard of Oxford Twp (*fide* JMcn). BTPR also hosted at least one pair that continued to be reported through the end of the breeding report (m.ob.). The small section of RHS which hosted a **Marsh Wren**, also held **Blue Grosbeaks**, as a bird was noted 7/7 (NP), and at least two individuals noted by others 7/17.

The lack of reports of Dickcissel from Runnymede Farm this year was notable considering the previous two breeding seasons hinted at possible breeding in this area with a pair being noted each year. **Bobolink** and **Eastern Meadowlark** continued their strong presence within a few isolated locations, notably along Wilson Road in the Doe Run area (m.ob.) and the Stroud Preserve (JMcn).

Observers: **Holly Merker, 520 Baintree Run, Downingtown, PA 19335, (610) 733-4392, Hcybelle@aol.com**, Barry Blust (BBI), Brian Byrnes (BBy), Joshua Clapper, Kevin Fryberger, Al and Sharon Guarente (A&SG), Doug Hughes, Rick Keyser, Susan Killeen, Douglas Kraemer, Carol Kuniholm, Larry Lewis, Carol Majors, John McNamara (JMcn), Jim McVoy (JMcn), Nick Pulcinella, Vincent Smith, Richard Wolf.

Clarion County

Locations: Curllsville (CV), Mount Zion (Piney Tract IBA) (MZ), Strattanville (ST).

Summer highlights were slim for the year with reporting down, however grassland birds appeared to have a very successful breeding season with numbers up, and one exceptional raptor nesting story probably tops the list for the county this season.

In the more wooded areas in the eastern part of the county along the Clarion River near ST and Fisher, consistently noted were both **Broad-winged** and **Red-shouldered Hawks** during the month of June, with likely nesting in the area. **Northern Harriers** also seemed to have some positive uptick in numbers this summer with reports from three separate grassland areas. On 6/5 along Stockdill Rd. on the edge of MZ, a male was captured in a stunning photo taking a likely Henslow's Sparrow for prey (SG). A female was also noted in another area of the MZ grasslands on several dates in June both by individual observers and volunteers for the current grassland sparrow study by Jason Hill from PSU (SG, CW). At the reclaimed strip mine near CV known as "the strips", a female was noted on various dates in June and continuing through 7/31, with this adult bird seen carrying food to likely young 7/14 (KN, D&PW, CW). By the far the most exciting raptor event this year was a pair of **Northern Goshawks** breeding successfully in the northeastern part of Clarion not far from the Clarion River. This nest was found early in May and followed throughout the nest cycle, with two adults and two young, one of each sex, banded 6/5 by Dave Brinker of Maryland. During a visit to recheck the nest 6/22 one of the young birds was observed on branches next to the nest, a likely female due to the size, very vocal giving alarm calls, and another bird heard giving the wail call not far away. After the young bird flew off a short distance in possibly her first flight, an adult female appeared and voiced her severe disapproval of the disturbance (RM, DF, CW). The bands on both these birds were clearly visible, and it appeared from this visit that the nesting was successful, as males usually fledge a little earlier than females, and no sign was seen of nest disturbance or any adverse event affecting the other young bird. Given the poor nest success for these birds in the past two years, a positive turn of events for this species in the county is welcome.

Eastern Screech-Owls again nested near CV with one adult and one fledged young found roosting during daylight hours 7/13 in a barn commonly used in the past year by these birds (CW). A nesting **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was found along a lower branch of a roadside maple near CV 6/14 and observed over the next three weeks with 2 young observed in the nest during the last week, apparent fledging 7/10-11 (JP, CW). **Willow Flycatchers** are not uncommon in the county, at least in the southern areas, but even this year seemed particularly good with at least eight individual birds seen or heard during a visit to the CV strips area 6/13 (CW). In a rather unusual area for the species, a territorial **Blue-headed Vireo** was seen over various dates during June along pine plantations on the edge of MZ (CW). Also seen in these areas of pine plantations scattered over MZ were **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, noted in various spots during June (GE, RM, CW). Five seen together 7/12 along Mauthe Rd., several fledged young with an adult female (CW). This last sighting provided possibly the first confirmed breeding record for this species in the IBA.

Among warbler records, **Cerulean Warblers** was first on the list with singing birds noted 6/8 along the Armstrong Trail in Sarah Furnace, a good riparian area along the Allegheny where these birds have been found regularly in past years (AB). Through the southern part of the county **Prairie Warblers** continue to utilize the shrubby overgrown fields from old farms and strip mines as well as pine plantations from old strip areas as well, with good numbers this year particularly at CV where at least 7 singing males were found scattered over great habitat there 6/13 (CW). Another bird sharing this habitat is the **Yellow-breasted Chat** and they were present through the summer here as well with various sightings throughout June (KN, D&PW, SS, CW), and 4 birds seen 7/14, including adult birds feeding fledged young, to provide the first confirmed breeding record at this site (CW). Another great confirmed breeding record was provided by a pair of **Worm-eating Warblers** along the Armstrong Trail in Sarah Furnace 6/8, where they were observed both singing and carrying food to a presumed nest site (AB). Efforts made to find a first confirmed breeding record for the county for **Pine Warblers** this year were unsuccessful, however they were found to be territorial along Wyman Rd at the edge of MZ in the pine plantations there, with the first sighting 6/14, again 6/17, and then 2

birds noted singing 6/19 (GE, RM, CW). A single bird still apparently on territory, judged by singing and call response, was noted continuing there at least through 7/12 (CW). With the great amount of this type of habitat in the county, confirmed breeding is hopefully just a matter of time and footwork, as these birds are almost certainly overlooked by many unfamiliar with their call or just not aware of their likely presence here.

Grassland sparrows apparently had a very successful season in Clarion this year, with numbers being up from some recent years and improved weather also from last season. **Clay-colored sparrows** were noted along Stockdill Rd. on the edge of MZ, with 3 singing 6/5 and 2 there 6/14 (SG, CW). At the CV strips area, numbers continue to climb as a high number of 9 birds were noted 6/13 (CW), and reports regularly of these birds through July by various observers (SG, KN, SS, D&PW), including a young bird with adult 7/31 (CW). None of this species were reported this year along their usual spots in MZ, likely due to changes in habitat there with clearing by the PGC. However, these same changes in habitat from last year seemed to provide a positive change for another sparrow, as **Vesper Sparrows** moved into this barren cleared area this year, singing males being noted there 6/14, 6/18, and 6/26 (SG, SS, CW). As noted in previous reports, this species is now the most difficult grassland sparrow to find normally in the county. **Grasshopper Sparrows** were numerous in numbers this year both at MZ and at CV strips area, as well as the many other grassland spots in the southern county, some high numbers at MZ noted at 14 on 6/14, but actual bird numbers actually probably a good bit higher. A spring grass fire at the MZ area covered several hundreds of acres but appeared to have little effect on breeding birds there, particularly **Henslow's Sparrows**. Even on the recently burned areas, singing males were still noted there in early June, although numbers not as high as on areas not burned. A high of 30+ birds were heard/seen here at the main grassland site 6/14 (CW). At the CV strips area numbers were also good for the season with a high of 25+ on 6/13, as well as other reports there through July (SG, SS, D&PW, CW).

Observers: **Carole Winslow, 159 Moggey Rd, Sligo, PA 16255, (814) 745-3818, cjnal@windstream.net**, Anthony Bledsoe, Dave Brinker, Margaret Buckwalter, Gary Edwards, Deb Freed, Ron Montgomery, Steve Gosser, Kenneth Nicholson, Richard Nugent, James Parker, Steve Sanford, Dick and Pat Williams.

Clearfield County

Locations: Five Points (FPT), Houtzdale (HD), La. Jose (LJ).

A pair of **Northern Harriers** was at LJ in early June (DG). **American Kestrels** nested at the same site, a large reclaimed strip mine. Later in July, 25 + were present feeding on astronomical numbers of grasshoppers. This had to be all of the adults and their young from miles around. An **American Woodcock** was at LJ 7/16 (DG, JS). **Cliff Swallows** nested on the side of the bridge at LJ. A **Louisiana Waterthrush** was at FPT 6/22 (DG). Several male **Henslow's Sparrows** were heard singing at HD 6/20 (DB). A family group of **Orchard Orioles** were at LJ 7/23 (DG).

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

Clinton County

No report.

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

Columbia County

No report.

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

Crawford County

Locations: Atlantic Lake Road (ALR), Conneaut Lake (CL), Conneaut Marsh (CM), Custards (CU), Erie National Wildlife Refuge (ENWR), Fish Hatchery (FH), Ford Island (FI), Geneva Marsh (GM), Hartstown Marsh (HM), McMichael Road (McM), Pymatuning Goose Management Area (PGMA), Pymatuning Area (PA), Pymatuning Causeway (PC), Pymatuning Spillway (PS), Spring Boro (SPR), Sugar Lake (SL), Tamarrack Lake (TL), Woodcock Lake (WL).

There were 10 different sightings of **Hooded Mergansers** at PA, WL, CM, and SPR including young (m. ob.). One **Gadwall** was observed 7/5 at PGM likely a non-breeding male. Up to 12 **Green-winged Teals** were noted at HM and PYM all this period (MB, MV). Six **Blue-winged Teal** were noted at PA 6/16 and two 7/26. Many **Wood Ducks** were seen this period including 14 at G 6/27, 18 at CM 7/17 and 7/19. The only report of **Ruddy Ducks** was of 5 at PS 6/5 (MV).

A pair of **Pied-billed Grebes** was noted 6/27 at CU, and one was seen at PGMA 7/17. **Double-crested Cormorants** were seen in the PA and TL area most of the summer with 33 there 7/31. On 7/10 RFL found 3 young at the FH far ponds and was able to get as close as 30 feet away without spooking them. Were they local nesters or early migrants from western Lake Erie? They were not seen the next day. One **Great Egret** was located at FH 6/19 (MF), and 1 there 7/22 and 2 thru 7/31. A **Green Heron** was seen at SL 6/15 (RE). RFL flushed 2 off a small pond in Brown Hill Road CM 7/10.

A **Ruffed Grouse** was seen near SL 6/8 (RE). Seven **Sandhill Cranes** were seen at PGM 6/19 (SC) and RFL had 2 there 7/15. On 6/20 a **Virginia Rail** was called at McM. An adult and 5 young **Common Moorhens** were watched 6/16 at GM.

A good total of 28 **Turkey Vultures** were noted at Meadville and PC 6/11, 14 at each location. A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was found at HM 7/26 (MB) and a **Cooper's Hawk** was located near CM at Brown Hill Road 6/23. Both **Red-tailed** and **Red-shouldered hawks** were well recorded throughout western *Crawford* from CM, HM, SL and PA (MO). A **Broad-winged Hawk** was seen along Townline Road (PA) 7/10. **Osprey** again nested at WL (2 pair) and the signal tower at (PC) this summer, and young were noted at all nests (m.ob.).

A **Wilson's Snipe** was located at PGMA 6/19 (MF) and a lone **Short-billed Dowitcher** was present at FH 7/9, 7/17, and 7/19 (MV). **Least Sandpipers** were seen at the FH with 8 on 7/9 and 7/17 (MV). One to 6 **Greater Yellowlegs** were noted at PGMA on FH throughout July (m.ob.), and one to 10 **Lesser Yellowlegs** there through July (m.ob.). A **Solitary Sandpiper** was seen at PGMA 7/9 and 7/17 (MV). The last reported **Upland Sandpiper** was found at PGMA 7/1. **Spotted Sandpipers** were noted at Wilson's Slute along French Creek 7/5 and 7/17, and one was at Wayland east of Meadville on a small farm pond 7/31. Two were at FH 7/10 and 2 at PA 7/0 (MV). A pair of **Bobwhites** was watched feeding at CM 6/27 (likely escape from a collector).

An immature **Great Black-backed Gull** was found at PC 8/27. A total of 348 **Ring-billed Gulls** were seen at PYM 7/26. One to 4 **Caspian Terns** were noted in the PS and one at WL 7/19 (RE). A **Common Tern** was seen at the PS 7/31.

A rarely seen **Barn Owl** in *Crawford* was watched 7/8 flying over my house at 20:45, heading north likely from the TL area and heading toward WL. This was only my fourth record in 60 years of living in *Crawford*. Single **Barred Owls** were recorded 6/12 at CM, 6/23 at Meadville, 7/26 and 7/30 at HM (MB), and at ENWR 6/26. **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were seen 6/7 at Geneva (TCN), 2 at McM 6/19 (MF), and 2 at McM 7/17. Although most flycatchers were noted there seemed to fewer than the usual numbers reported.

A **Horned Lark** was found at Porter Road near CL, and one was at ALR near HM (MB). Though they got off to a chilly start, **Purple Martins** did pull through and were found in good numbers. Several new **Purple Martin** boxes were erected in the CL area. **Cliff Swallows** nested at the FH this summer. As usual, the **Red-eyed** and **Warbling Vireos** did well and **Blue-headed Vireos** were seen at Pine Road 6/3 and 6/10, and at ALR 7/26 (MB). One to 2 **White-eyed Vireos** were found at Townline Road east of Linesville 6/27, 7/10, and 7/31.

A lone **Carolina Wren** was seen near SPR 6/10, one was at SH 6/27, and one was at ALR 7/26 (MB). Good finds were singing **Winter Wrens** near SL 6/8 and 6/28 (RE). No Sedge Wrens were reported, and fewer **Marsh Wrens** than usual, with only 3 reports 6/7 and 6/27 at Geneva (CL, TCN). A **Brown Creeper** was sighted at Geneva 6/7 (TCN). The lone report of a **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was at McM 6/22 (TCN). **Wood Thrushes** were in evidence with at least 20 at CM 6/27,

and many reports of **Veerys** from CM, SL, and PA (m.ob.).

In general warblers were hard to find, perhaps due to the long hot and dry weather. Two **Prothonotary Warblers** were found at McM 6/7, and two were there 6/22 with 3 eggs at the bridge nest box and 3 dead young in the other box (TCN, AT). Single **Blue-winged Warblers** were noted at Towpath 6/12 and at SB 6/18 (TCN). A **Cerulean Warbler** was seen in Spring Township 6/10 (TCN) and one at Geneva 6/27. A **Mourning Warbler** was found near SL 6/8 (RE). **American Redstarts** were recorded at FI and SP 6/19 (MF).

Eastern Meadowlarks were recorded at WL, HM, CM, PA and SL all period (m.ob.). Always a good bird in *Crawford* was an **Orchard Oriole** found near SPR 6/9 (TCN). A pair of **Purple Finches** was studied at McM 6/23 and one was noted through 6/19 (MF). **Vesper Sparrows** were seen regularly near ALR, HM 6/1-7/31 (MB). A **Henslow's Sparrow** was heard singing near TL 6/12 and one was at McM Road near Rte. 285 (TCN) 7/29. One was at PGMA 6/27 (RS). **Dark-eyed Juncos** were seen at a feeder east of Meadville 6/23 (RFL), 2 were near SL 6/28 (RE), and one was at a feeder on SLR 7/2 (MB). **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** and **Indigo Bunting** were well recorded over this region with several reports, as well as **Scarlet Tanagers** from 6/12 through 7/29 (m. ob.).

Observers: **Ronald F. Leberman, 11508 Pettis Rd., Meadville, PA 16335, (814) 724-5071**, Marvin Byler, Richard Eakin, Mike Fialkovich, Chris Lundberg, Thomas Clare Nicolls, Steve Rotkovecz, Adam Troyer, Mark Vass.

Cumberland County

Locations: State Game Lands 169 (SGL169).

There was an undated report of a **Least Bittern** seen at two separate locations at SGL169 (AM). Least Bitterns have been confirmed breeders in the past and there is a good likelihood that they are regular breeders at SGL169. One **American Avocet** was present at the Deerfield Commons retention ponds 7/22-7/25 (VG, DS, DB, BO, BK, TJ).

There was a **Loggerhead Shrike** on Gobbler Knob Road 6/1-6/5 (DS, VG, AM, CK) and another **Loggerhead Shrike** on Station Road south of Newville was originally found 5/26 (DS) and continued through the end of the period (VG).

The only warbler of note was a male **Prothonotary Warbler** originally found 5/26 (RK), which continued through 6/5 at the first propagation pond after the barn on Bridgewater Road of SGL169 (AnM, VG, SS). There has been a male Prothonotary Warbler singing there for a brief period two of the last three years, with no evidence of breeding.

Several **Dickcissels** were reported along Hilltop, Hanna, and Three Square Hollow Roads north of Newburg 6/27 (TJ), along with 2 others north of Newville on Mountain Road 7/5 (VG, CK, AT). In addition, one **Blue Grosbeak** was reported along Hanna Road 6/27 (TJ) and one was on Rte. 944 east of Dogwood Acers 7/5 (VG, CK, AT).

Observers: **Vernon Gauthier, 111 W. Big Spring Ave, Newville, PA 17241, (717) 385-9526, pabirder@gmail.com**, Dale Bicksler, Tom Johnson, Chad Kauffman, Bob Keener, Ramsay Koury, Andrew Markel, Annette Matthes (AnM), Bill Oyler, Deb Seifken, Dan Snell, Sue Strassner, Aden Troyer.

Dauphin County

Locations: Ft. Indiantown Gap, west corridor (FIG), Harrisburg (HBG), Hershey Important Bird Area #45 (HIBA), South Hanover Twp. (SHT), Susquehanna River (SR), SR from Fort Hunter (SRFH), SR from Harrisburg (SRHB), SR from Marysville (SRMV), SR from West Fairview (SRWF), Three Mile Island (TMI), Wildwood Lake (WL).

This summer season will be remembered more for the heat and humidity than for the birds. With nearly 30 days at 90 degrees or above it was the hottest summer of the decade. Three **Mute Swans** made a brief stop at the farmstead pond along Swatara Rd. within the HIBA 7/13 (PK). A drake **Ring-necked Duck** was observed just south of SRWF 7/27 (RW), and two **Green-winged Teal** were reported flying over the river SRWF on the same date (M&RB). A female **Common Merganser** with eight chicks was observed SRMV 6/2, possibly the

same family observed in May, and four other adult **Common Mergansers** were noted at the same location (P&RW). Another **Common Merganser** family, one female with 12 young, was found on the Swatara Creek within the HIBA 7/22 (P&RW). This is the second year in a row **Common Mergansers** were confirmed breeding within the HIBA. Three **Common Loons** were observed at a quarry in Derry Twp. behind the Giant Center 6/19 (BC). This is quite late for what appeared to be healthy birds. Another late discovery was a **Pied-billed Grebe** found on the Swatara Creek at the Derry Twp. park on Boathouse Rd. 6/25 (P&RW). This is also a rare June/July sighting.

After a few years without any reports of **Northern Bobwhite**, a few came in this spring. First reported 5/30 at Deer Valley Golf Club (TJ, P&RW, et al.), another was reported in the HIBA 6/1 (P&RW), another from near Middletown 6/13 (ME), and one from Red Top Rd. in Lower Paxton Twp. 6/17 (BC). There is no evidence of a sustainable population so the frequency of reports was most likely a coincidence. As the nesting season came to an end **Great Egrets** continued to be a common sight along the SR and at WL with reports of 10-20+ throughout the season (m.ob.). Viewing the Wade Island colony on the SR from Enola 7/14 yielded 17 **Great Egrets**, 3 **Black-crowned Night-Herons** and 16 **Double-crested Cormorants** (CB, WL). With both **Black-crowned** and **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** nesting in the HBG area SRWF has been a reliable spot for finding both species (m.ob.). Three adult **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** were observed in the Bellevue neighborhood of HBG, with one sitting on nest, and one adult and one immature were seen SRWF 7/17 (P&RW). Eleven **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were counted SRHB 7/3 (SBa).

A pair of **Northern Harriers** was observed at FIG 6/17 (DM). On a *Dauphin* Parks and Rec. outing along the SR 6/4, 9 **Bald Eagles** were counted. This included two adults, 5 immature birds of various ages, and two nestlings on Haldeman Island (SBI). An appropriate sighting on Independence Day was a single adult **Bald Eagle** along Canal Rd. SHT 7/4 (P&RW), and another was reported near Hummelstown 7/11 (PK). Both the **Osprey** and **Peregrine Falcon** nests on TMI fledged two young (MS) while the **Peregrine Falcon** nest in downtown HBG fledged three males.

A **Semipalmated Plover** was found at SRWF 7/27 (M&RB). A **Solitary Sandpiper** was at a small retention pond along Canal Rd. 7/13 (P&RW). It was observed there again 7/24 (TB) and 7/25 (P&RW). On 7/31 three **Lesser Yellowlegs** were found at the Deer Valley Golf Course pond (P&RW), and two were reported SRWF (RK). A **Great Black-backed Gull** was observed at SRWF 7/6 (RW). A favorite perch for **Great Black-backed Gulls** as noted by LU is on the light posts along the Harvey Taylor Bridge, where one or two were observed sitting on three occasions the last week of July. A single **Caspian Tern** was observed at SRWF 7/23 (RK).

Banding of the young **Barn Owls** this quarter totaled 14 at the three nesting sites on Milton S. Hershey School grounds (NM). Congratulations to the MSH School and the Pennsylvania Game Commission for a very successful year. A **Barred Owl** was heard calling from The Hotel Hershey hillside 6/24 (P&RW).

Two **Common Nighthawks** were observed in Paxtang 6/24 (DH). As many as three **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were found at FIG from 7/7 through 7/26 (DM) and **Red-headed Woodpecker** was also reported this season near Halifax (GR). An **Alder Flycatcher** was reported from FIG 6/17 (DM), and a **Least Flycatcher** was observed along Swatara Rd. in the HIBA 7/6 (PK).

While doing a BBS route a **Fish Crow** was observed carrying nest material 6/12 near Elizabethtown in northern *Dauphin* (BH). There were many reports of **Fish Crow** along the SR and from the Hummelstown and Hershey areas (m.ob.). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was reported from FIG 7/26 (DM). The **Cliff Swallow** colony on the Clarks Ferry Bridge was active again this year with about 30 observed going and coming from nests on the west end of the bridge 6/23 (P&RW). Good numbers of **Bank Swallows** in migration were counted, including 150 along the SR in Royaltown 7/15 (P&RW), more than 20 at Boathouse Park in Derry Twp. 7/30 (DM), and 50 at SRWF 7/31(RK).

The tops of Peter's Mt. and Blue Mt. continue to be the most reliable spots for **Cerulean Warbler**. Four were counted on Peter's Mt. 6/21 (DH) and one or more was reported on Blue Mt. on at least four different dates (DM). The first non-nesting migrating passerine reported was a **Nashville Warbler** observed atop BM 7/31 (M&RB). A pair of **Blue Grosbeaks**, first noted in May on FIG, were reencountered 6/3 (JD, DM).

A second pair of **Blue Grosbeaks** was observed during a survey in the same area 6/17 (DM). The male **Blue Grosbeak**, first observed

along Canal Rd. in SHT in May, continued throughout the quarter and was, on 6/26, joined by a second (m.ob.).

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Delaware County

Locations: Brandywine Conservancy, Chadds Ford (BC), Crum Reservoir (CR), Darby Creek watershed (DC), Darlington Tract (DT), Delaware River (DR), Haverford College (HC), Hildacy Farm-Natural Land Trust (HF), John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum-DelCo portion (TI), Philadelphia International Airport (PHL), Ridley Creek State Park (RCSP), Springton Reservoir (SR), Swarthmore College (SC), Tyler Arboretum (TY).

The record breaking heat this summer would have been expected to keep the bird reports down in this normally quiet season. The birds hunkered down in the shade and the birders hunkered in the A/C. However a few brave souls ventured out and their efforts deserve reporting.

A number of young birds were among 67 **Wood Ducks** counted TI 7/10 (AG). A **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** returned to the same location at BC for the third year in a row 6/14 (LL).

Three **Osprey** nests were known to be active in *Delaware* this season. The Lester nest hatched 2 chicks 7/18 (DM) and 2 chicks were seen on the Harrah's Casino nest 7/10 (AG). Two attentive adults but no young were seen on the Marcus Hook nest 7/15 (DM). A surprise sighting while driving in Newtown Square was an overhead **Broad-winged Hawk** 7/28 (CP). This species is described as a sporadic nester in *Delaware*. A presumed very early fall migrant **Merlin** was found and photographed in Springfield 7/29 (AB). The earliest *Delaware* reports I could find for this species was 8/17/03 at the Rose Tree Park Hawk Watch. There is an ebird report from *Lancaster* 7/25/05 but I could find no other southeastern Pennsylvania reports in July of this species.

An interesting shorebird report was a **Ruddy Turnstone** DR 7/29 (AG). This species has only previously been reported as an accidental spring and winter bird in the county. This is the first fall county record known. **Semipalmated Plovers** were on DR 7/29 (AG), **Least Sandpipers** were first found TI 7/10 (AG), and **Greater Yellowlegs** were at TI 7/25 (AG, DE), but that was about it for summer shorebirds besides numerous **Killdeer**.

The passerine reports were pretty unremarkable as the summer doldrums settled in on the birds and the birders. An early July **Worm-eating Warbler** RCSP 7/3 (AG) suggests nesting. This species is known to be a sporadic nester in the county.

Another possible rare breeder was a singing **Savannah Sparrow** at the UPS parking lot on two dates PHL 7/7, 7/11 (AG). **Blue Grosbeaks** are not found every year so reports from PHL 7/7 (AG) and TI 7/25 (AG, DE) were welcome.

Observers: **Dave Eberly, 112 S. Princeton Ave., Swarthmore, PA 19081, (610) 543-3499, david.eberly@gmail.com**, Adrian Binns, Michael Coll, Al Guarente, Sheryl Johnson, Amy Langman, Larry Lewis, Doris McGovern, Chris Pugliese, Tom Reeves, Bill Roache.

Elk County

No compiler.

Erie County

All sightings are from Presque Isle State Park unless noted otherwise.

Rarely reported in *Erie* were nesting **Pied-billed Grebes**, with at least one pair with two young at the head of Presque Isle Bay in mid-

July (MF). A pair of **Mute Swans** with five cygnets was found at the head of Presque Isle Bay in mid-June with three cygnets surviving through the end of the period (MF). Even though **Least Bitterns** nest on the park only one was reported for the period on 6/10 in Long Pond (*fide* DS).

A **Great Egret** was present for a day on Long Pond on 6/3 (*fide* DS) and another was present at the head of Presque Isle Bay for four days in mid-July (MF). There were also two on a small lake west of Edinboro 7/23 (CN). The **Snowy Egret** at Gull Point was a rare find 6/24 (MS). On the same day as the **Snowy Egret**, the very rare **Marbled Godwit** was spotted also at Gull Point 6/24 (ph. MS). Even better was the group of five **Marbled Godwits** on a sand spit west of Walnut Creek in Fairview Township 7/4 (BP, no doc.). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** are rarely recorded in summer in *Erie*, so the immature seen in *Erie* 7/12 was quite unexpected (KA).

Contributors: **Jerry McWilliams, 3508 Allegheny Rd. Erie, Pa. 16508-2129, jerrymcw@aol.com**, Ken Andersen, Michele Franz, Brian Pardini, Mike Schall, Clare Nichols, Don Snyder.

Fayette County

Locations: Dawson (DAW), Ohiopyle State Park (OSP), Youghiogheny River from Dayton to Lawton (YR).

Observations from a canoe trip and a Breeding Bird Survey 6/13 comprise most of the sightings in this report.

A canoe trip on the YR 7/4 resulted in a few waterfowl sightings. **Wood Ducks** and **Hooded Mergansers** were seen in several places and a **Common Merganser** was spotted with 17 ducklings (TK, JK).

Four **Ruffed Grouse** were found along Dinnerbell Road near Ohiopyle 7/11 (ST). An immature **Bald Eagle** was a nice sighting along the YR 7/4 (TK, JK).

Several **Spotted Sandpipers** were along the YR 7/4 (TK, JK). **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were found in Springfield Twp., Stewart Twp. and Wharton Twp. 6/13 (GM). One was in DAW 6/20 (KSJ). A **Belted Kingfisher** was seen along the YR 7/4 (TK, JK).

Flycatcher reports include a total of 12 **Eastern Wood-Pewees** during a BBS 6/13 (GM), several in DAW 6/20 (KSJ), and along the YR 7/4 (JK, TK). **Acadian Flycatchers** were found in Springfield, Henry Clay, and Wharton Townships 6/13 (GM), DAW 6/20 (KSJ), and the YR 7/4 (TK, JK). **Eastern Kingbirds** were in Stewart Twp. 6/13 (GM) and DAW 6/20 (KSJ).

A **Yellow-throated Vireo** was in Springfield Twp. 6/13 (GM) and several were heard along the YR 7/4 (TK, JK). Two **Blue-headed Vireos** and a **Warbling Vireo** were in the Ohiopyle area 6/13 (GM). **Warbling Vireos** were in DAW 6/20 (KSJ) and were numerous along the YR 7/4 (TK, JK) in their favored riparian habitat. Three **Common Ravens** were along the YR 7/4 (TK, JK).

A colony of **Cliff Swallows** was found in Springfield Twp. 6/13 (GM). There were about 35 birds present and nests were discovered on the side of a barn. Last year birds were noted at this site, however nests were not found (GM). The well known nesting colony under a bridge at OSP was also observed that day (GM). This species was also present in DAW 6/20 (KSJ) and along the YR 7/4 (TK, JK).

Yellow Warblers were found along the YR 7/4 (TK, JK) and **Yellow-throated Warblers** were numerous in DAW 6/20 (KSJ). Other warblers found in DAW 6/20 include **Yellow Warbler**, **Cerulean Warbler**, **Black-and-white Warbler**, **American Redstart**, **Ovenbird** and **Hooded Warbler** (KSJ). **Cerulean Warblers** were also heard along the YR 7/4 (TK, JK).

Additional highlights from the BBS Route 6/13 that covers Springfield Twp., Ohiopyle, Stewart Twp., Henry Clay Twp and Wharton Twp include one **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**, 21 **Wood Thrushes**, **Cedar Waxwings**, 4 **Northern Parulas**, 4 **Yellow Warblers**, 7 **Black-throated Blue Warblers**, 5 **Black-throated Green Warblers**, one **Blackburnian Warbler**, 2 **Cerulean Warblers**, 9 **Black-and-white Warblers**, 25 **American Redstarts**, 16 **Ovenbirds**, one **Louisiana Waterthrush** (at OSP), **Common Yellowthroats**, 23 **Hooded Warblers**, 14 **Scarlet Tanagers**, 5 **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks**, and 36 **Indigo Buntings** (all GM).

Three **Savannah Sparrows** and 2 **Grasshopper sparrows** were in Stewart Twp. 6/13. Five **Bobolinks** shared the fields with the sparrows at that location and one was in a field at OSP 6/13. Five **Eastern Meadowlarks** were tallied during the BBS 6/13 in Stewart

Twp. and OSP (all GM).

The only **Orchard Oriole** report was in DAW 6/20 (KSJ).

Observers: **Mike Fialkovich, 805 Beulah Road, Pittsburgh, 15235, (412) 731-3581, mpfial@verizon.net**, Janet Kuehl, Tom Kuehl, Kate St. John, Geoff Malosh, Shannon Thompson.

Franklin County

No report.

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Forest County

Locations: Allegheny National Forest (ANF), Buzzard Swamp (BS), Cook Forest (CF), Kellettsville (KL), Tionesta (TI), Tionesta Lake (TL), Tionesta Outflow (TO).

Thanks to some faithful eBird reporters who visited a variety of spots during the breeding season, we have more data than usual for *Forest*. Two **Henslow's Sparrows** found at BS 7/5 highlight this report. From the same location, we have probably the first county record of breeding **Osprey**. Another uncommon species for *Forest* was a **Yellow-breasted Chat** spotted near Beaver Meadows.

A **Wood Duck** and 7 young were seen at BS 6/19 (FM, JM), and a **Green Heron** was observed there 7/5 (JF). Two **Osprey** were noted 6/19 on the rim of a nest on a nesting platform at BS. They were leaning into the nest and working with their beaks, probably feeding young (FM, JM). There were several **Bald Eagle** sightings from various areas of the county; one known active nest continues (FM, JM, CW).

Three **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were noted 6/8 in the ANF near Minister (NF), three more were spotted 6/12 in the Lynch area, five 6/12 in the Marienville area, and another 6/19 near TC (FM). Two **Alder Flycatchers** were observed 7/5 at BS (JF). A **Great Crested Flycatcher** was seen 6/8 in the ANF near Minister (NF). A **Warbling Vireo** was reported 6/12 near TI (TF). **Common Ravens** were seen throughout the period at various locations in the ANF. The **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** colony continues at the TO bridge (FM, JM). Four **Winter Wrens** were heard singing 6/12 at separate locations in the Lynch area (FM). Two **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were a nice find 7/5 at BS (JF). A **Veery** was reported from the ANF 6/8 near Minister (NF), 5 were noted 6/10 at separate locations in Redbrush, and another 6/19 near TC (FM).

Northern Parulas were reported from several locations along the river and Tionesta Creek. They can be found throughout June in the large spruce trees in and around TI (TR, FM, JM). **Black-throated Blue Warblers** were reported from various spots in the ANF 6/8, 6/12, and 6/19 (NF, FM). **Blackburnian Warblers** were found 6/10 in Redbrush, and 6/12 at 4 separate locations in the Lynch area. A **Cerulean Warbler** was seen at 6/19 at CF (PW, RV). A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was noted near Beaver Meadows in mid-July, in an area thick with vegetation; the bird was reportedly very skulky (SS, DW).

A **Henslow's Sparrow** sighting 7/5 at BS was probably the first breeding-season record for *Forest*, reported by a visiting birder from Georgia. He reports that he first heard a Henslow's distinctive *schlik!* as it continued to sing from fairly deep in the field, and he was able to spot a second bird (JF).

Observers: **Flo McGuire, 609 Ponderosa Lane, PA 16353, (814) 755-3672, fmcguire1@verizon.net**, Ted Floyd, James Flynn, Nate Fronk, Deborah Grove, Jim McGuire, Theo Rickert, Scott Stoelton, Don Watts, Patricia Williams, Richard Williams, Carole Winslow.

Fulton County

No report.

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Greene County

Locations: East View (EV); Kern Farm (KF); Hunting Hills (HH); Last Chance Ranch (LCR); Nineveh (NV); Ralph Bell Farm (RBF).

Canada Geese with young were found at many sites. **Mallard** pairs were noted throughout *Greene* although no one reported young. A **Wild Turkey** with two young was seen in the yard at EV 7/2 (MH). On 7/1 she hosted a **Great Blue Heron** accompanied by a juvenile. That same day a **Green Heron** was also spotted. The **Northern Bobwhites** nested successfully at Hunting Hills again this year (SS). **Turkey Vultures** are also noted by many observers throughout the area.

An adult **Bald Eagle** was seen in the Hargus Creek area over a two week period by Terry Whipkey and others. He took a photograph of it sitting in a tree in his field 6/14. At RBF a **Cooper's Hawk** was a problem again this summer (RKB). It would hide in nearby trees and try to get fledgling **Purple Martins** when they left their nests. **Red-tailed Hawk** young were heard at KF throughout July (KK). A pair of **American Kestrels** made use of the nest box provided at RBF and fledged a family of five (RKB). **Killdeer** nested at the Zalar residence in Franklin Township on the gravel driveway (KK).

Rock Pigeons can be found on nest at the Railroad underpass on Rte. 21 in Waynesburg. A **Mourning Dove** nested in an old American Robin nest on a masonry pilaster on a shop building at KF. At least two broods were fledged from this nest (KK). **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** and **Black-billed Cuckoo** were both heard throughout the period at KF (KK).

An **Eastern Screech-Owl** was heard at KF through July on moonlit nights calling softly, probably to its young (KK). **Chimney Swifts** are present in the skies over Waynesburg and take advantage of the old tall chimneys on many houses. The feeder at LCR provided a nice buffet for the local **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** and their young with so many buzzing around that counting them was not possible (MLP), and a total of 12 were counted at the feeders at EV (MH).

A pair of **Red-bellied Woodpeckers** continues to come to the feeders all summer at NV (CA). At LCR a family of **Eastern Phoebes** made their home under a bridge over the creek (MLP). At field and woods edges at HH **White-eyed Vireos** were often found (SS). **Yellow-throated Vireos** were heard at KF in late July (KK). Near a covered bridge in Morgan Township there is a huge old sycamore and a few other tall trees that are usually home to at least 3 singing **Warbling Vireos** in past years. This year only one was heard sporadically (KK).

MLP reports from CLR: "A family of **American Crows** is quite vociferous, announcing my appearance as I step outside. I think they have 4 or 5 young this year. They have learned that on trash day if they peck at the neighbors' plastic bags that are set out for pick up they will find something to eat. If the bags are outside for more than an hour there is litter scattered everywhere and the crows are just having a grand ol' time. That has to be learned behavior passed down to the young. Surely the young wouldn't know how to do that without coaching. The neighbors probably don't think it's interesting but I enjoy the crows out there making a mess." At least 10 **Common Ravens** were found eating apples in the yard at EV (MH).

At least 22 pairs of **Purple Martins** nested at RBF this year (RKB). By July 30 only 6 were returning to roost each evening. **Barn Swallows** were plentiful this year with 30 pairs nesting at RBF (RKB) and several nests in the barn at LCR, some even had two broods. They left abruptly 8/22 (MLP). A **Carolina Wren** nested in an ornamental bird house on the porch at NV (CA). A singing **House Wren** built a stick nest in a bird box in the back yard at KF (KK).

Eastern Bluebirds nested at NV (CA). **American Robins** nested in the lattice work of the pergola in the yard at NV and also in a nearby shed (CA). A **Northern Mockingbird** serenaded folks at NV at 3 AM on the house roof (CA). Myra Gibson noted several **European Starling** babies in her yard in Rogersville.

Northern Parulas and **Yellow-throated Warblers** were heard in yards at LCR and on Claylick Road (KK). A **Yellow Warbler** was heard singing throughout the period at KF (KK). Also at Claylick Road at least two **Kentucky Warblers** were heard singing in the understory at the edge of the woods (KK).

A **Chipping Sparrow** built a nest (probably second nesting) in a tomato plant about 2 feet of the ground in the garden at KF. Of the two eggs laid only one hatched and fledged (KK). At RBF, RKB states, "Lots of Chipping Sparrows nested on the farm this year. In fact, I don't detect a noticeable change in any species this year". He continued, "I believe 2 pairs of **Bobolinks** raised young here this summer as the meadows

were not mowed as early as usual. I even saw an adult male carrying food on 6/8, and the **Eastern Meadowlarks** were plentiful." **Common Grackles** visited the feeders through the summer at NV (CA). A pair of **Orchard Orioles** spent the season in the yard at KF (KK). While not nearly as profuse as a few years ago, **House Finches** did nest at RBF (RKB) again this summer.

Observers: **Kathy Kern 322 Kennel Road, Waynesburg, Pa. 15370 Phone 724.627.5376 n3xsj@windstream.net**, Carol Andrews, Ralph K. Bell, Marj Howard, Mary La Plante, Sally Sisler.

Huntingdon County

As part of the Pennsylvania (and U.S.) Nightjar Survey, four routes were run in Rothrock SF and Stone Valley, with most stops in northern *Huntingdon*, and a few each in neighboring *Mifflin* and *Centre*. Surveys consist of a listening period (no recordings used) at each of ten stops spaced at one-mile intervals. A total of 40 **Whip-poor-wills** were counted on the 40 stops (GG, DB).

For the 19th year, three Breeding Bird Surveys (BBS) were conducted within Rothrock SF, a total of 150 point counts (GG, DG, NB). Most stops are in *Huntingdon*; some are in *Centre* and *Mifflin*. The 12 most abundant species are listed with 2010 counts followed by 19-year average in parenthesis: **Red-eyed Vireo** – 200 (avg. 193); **Ovenbird** – 131 (149); **Eastern Towhee** – 110 (79); **Scarlet Tanager** – 67 (71); **Wood Thrush** – 41 (48); **Common Yellowthroat** – 31 (44); **Eastern Wood Pewee** – 40 (37); **Chipping Sparrow** – 39 (34); **Black-throated Green Warbler** – 30 (29); **Acadian Flycatcher** – 33 (26); **American Redstart** – 26 (26); **Hooded Warbler** – 39 (26).

With no caterpillar infestations again this summer, there were few cuckoo reports, and none at all on the three BBS routes. Only two **Black-capped Chickadees** were tallied, compared to an average of 12. In contrast, 22 **Tufted Titmice** were counted; the 19-year average is 13. In recent years, **Tufted Titmice** seemed to be making inroads into the interior of Rothrock SF.

Observers: **Greg Grove, 4343 McAlevys Fort Road, Petersburg, PA 16669, gwg2@psu.edu**, Diane Bierly, Nick Bolgiano, Deb Grove.

Indiana County

Locations: Indiana (IN), Shelocta (SH), Yellow Creek State Park (YC).

A healthy count of 55 **Wood Ducks** at YC 7/20 (LC, MH, DM, MVT) included many young. **Mallards** did not exhibit a strong presence at YC this summer with the best count a mere 3 on 6/1 (LC, SD, MH), and no young were observed. The appearance of a partially grown **Hooded Merganser** at YC 6/29 (LC, TG, MH) suggested local breeding.

A **Common Loon** on the lake at Blue Spruce was still present 6/13 (MA, MH); we later learned that the park's maintenance men had unsuccessfully tried to catch it as it was entwined in fishing line. A call to the park office later yielded the information that the bird several weeks later had been in poor condition and was being taken to a rehabilitator but had died en route. YC lake hosted 5 **Double-crested Cormorants** 6/1 (LC, SD, MH) and one a week later (LC, SD, MH, MVT). **Bald Eagle** reports, all at YC, included an adult on 6/15 (LC, SD, TG, MH, MVT) and 6/22 (LC, TG, MH, DM, MVT) and a pair of adults on 7/2 (LC, MH, GL). The only **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was spotted at YC 6/15 (LC, SD, TG, MH, MVT) while **Cooper's Hawks** were noted at only two locations (m.ob.). Only 3 **Broad-winged Hawk** reports were received (m.ob.). Leaving the observers breathless, a **Peregrine Falcon** flew over YC 6/29 (BB, KB, LC, SD, MH).

The water level at YC remained relatively high exposing few mudflats in Little Yellow Cove until August, so few shorebirds were noted. A **Semipalmated Plover** arrived 6/1 (LC, MH). One Lesser **Yellowlegs** and a **Solitary Sandpiper** appeared 7/13 (LC, TG, MH, DM); 6/1 (LC, MH) marked the appearance of a **Semipalmated Sandpiper**.

Seventy **Ring-billed Gulls** stopped by YC 6/1 (LC); one on 7/6 (LC, TG, MH, DM, MVT) was the only other one reported.

Neither cuckoo was widely reported. **Black-billed Cuckoos** were listed only near the JS Airport in IN 6/2 (BF, TF, MH), at YC 6/29 (BB, KB, LC, SD, MH) and 7/2 (LC, MH), and near SH between 7/11-21 (MH,

RH). **Yellow-billed** was listed only at Homer City 6/3 (LC). Two **Barred Owls** were hooting at Nolo 6/14 and 7/15 (AB, DB). A **Common Nighthawk** over IN 6/18 (DW, RW) was the lone report.

A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was calling near SH 7/11 (MH, RH). A family group of 5 **Common Ravens** was present near Homer City 6/3 (LC); two flew over YC croaking on 6/15 (LC, SD, TG, MH, MVT).

A **Golden-winged Warbler** song was heard on the Virginia BBS near Dilltown 6/12 (MH, RH). A territorial **Northern Parula** sang at YC 6/1 (LC, SD, MH,) through 6/15 (LC, SD, TG, MH, MVT). Among several reports, **Chestnut-sided Warblers** included 4 on the *Indiana* section of the Patton BBS 6/13 (MH, RH). A single **Magnolia Warbler** was noted at YC 6/29 (BB, KB, LC, SD, MH). **Blackburnian Warbler** was listed at YC 6/1 (LC, SD, MH). **Pine Warblers** were present at YC throughout the summer (v.o.). **Prairie Warblers** included singletons on the *Indiana* section of the Patton BBS 6/13 (MH, RH) and near Dayton 6/26 (MH, RH). **Louisiana Waterthrush** was last noted at YC 7/20 (LC, MH, DM, MVT).

A **Vesper Sparrow** was found near Dayton 6/6 (MH, RH), the lone report. Best **Swamp Sparrow** count was 10 at YC 7/2 (LC, MH, GL). A **Bobolink** near Dayton 6/6 (MH, RH) was the only one reported.

Orchard Orioles were feeding young at YC 6/29 (BB, KB, LC, SD, MH) and 7/6 (LC, TG, MH, DM, MVT). YC also yielded a nest with young **Baltimore Orioles** 6/8 (LC, SD, MH, MVT). A **Pine Siskin** turned up at a feeder near Lewisville 6/29 (MC) where it lingered for several weeks.

Observers: **Margaret Higbee, 3119 Creekside Road, Indiana, PA 15701-7934, bcoriole@windstream.net**, Mary Assenat, Alice Beatty, Dave Beatty, Bill Budris, Karen Budris, Dave Beatty, Lee Carnahan, Marcy Cunkelman, Sue Dickson, Betsy Fetterman, Tom Fetterman, Tom Glover, Roger Higbee, Gloria Lamer, Donna Meyer, Marjorie Van Tassel (MVT), Daniel Winstead, Ray Winstead.

Jefferson County

No report.

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Juniata County

Ruffed Grouse with 4 young were spotted together 7/5 at Hammer Hollow (LW). **American Woodcock** with young were found 7/5 at Hammer Hollow (KT). A flyby **Barn Owl** was seen 7/9 flying over Rte. 22/322 near Thompsontown (JS).

Observers: **Chad Kauffman, HCR 63 Box 65 Mifflintown, PA 17059, (717) 436-6465, chadkauffman@earthlink.net**, Karen Taylor, Linda Whitesel.

Lancaster County

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

June and July were hotter and dryer than normal in *Lancaster* and the birding was relatively uneventful. A **Pied-billed Grebe** was early at SRCF 7/15 and a **Bufflehead** was late at the same location 6/5 (DH, BS). **Great Egrets** started to show up at SRCF in July with a count of 32 on 7/28 which is lower than in recent years. **Cattle Egret** is no longer annual so one at the same location 7/15 (BS) was significant. Another sighting of a possible **Cattle Egret** at SRCF occurred 7/20 and it was joined by 2 **Little Blue Herons** (ME). One or 2 **Little Blue Herons** continued through the end of July. Two **Glossy Ibis** were at SRCF 7/28 (DB, JBo, BS) and were still present 7/30.

Peregrine Falcons were a big story this summer with the pair on the Columbia Bridge confirmed as having two nestlings. This is the first in *Lancaster* in 60 years (ML) and one of 22 pairs in Pennsylvania to fledge young this year. Not quite as spectacular, but interesting nonetheless, **Black Vultures** were confirmed nesting near Octoraro Lake (JM). **Virginia Rails** evidently had breeding success as well and an apparent juvenile was well photographed at the Wood's Edge Pond near Centerville 6/9 (CC, et al.). There were two adults with the juvenile,

and an adult **Sora** was well seen making for a very successful June outing.

Shorebirds during the spring migration at SRCF included **Black-bellied Plover** 6/5, **Semipalmated Plover** 6/5, **Ruddy Turnstone** 6/5 (DH, BS), **Semipalmated** 6/5, **Least** 6/5, and 7 **White-rumped Sandpipers** 6/5 and 6/6 (DH, BS). Highlights from returning shorebirds later in July included **American Avocet** 7/25 (BC, BS, m.ob.), **Sanderling** 7/21 (JBo), **Semipalmated Sandpiper** 7/15, 140 **Least Sandpiper** 7/24, **Pectoral Sandpiper** 7/25 through month end, and 2 **Short-billed Dowitcher** 7/15 and another 7/24. On 7/25 Wood's Edge pond produced 5 species of more common species of **Killdeer**, **Spotted Sandpiper**, **Solitary Sandpiper**, **Lesser Yellowlegs** and **Least Sandpiper** (BC). **Upland Sandpiper** is a scarce migrant in the county and this year they were seen at two locations. The first report was of 3 at the intersection of Williams Run and Smyrna Road in the southern part of the county 7/27 (JL). As is often the case they were seen in alfalfa fields. They were still present 7/28.

Nine adult **Laughing Gulls** were on the lower Susquehanna River at the discharge of the Peach Bottom power plant 7/26 (BS). This is a good number anywhere in the county, but is especially unusual away from SRCF. **Least Terns** were seen again this year. Three adults were found at SRCF 6/6 (EW, et al.) with two **Black Terns**. Two **Least Terns** were at SRCF again 6/20 (BS). A **Ringed Turtle-Dove** provided a brief bit of excitement to the observer who was hoping for Eurasian Collared-Dove. The bird was seen along route 72 north of Manheim, just beyond Hosler's Hardware 6/16 (JH). Three **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were in residence near the intersection of Williams Run and Smyrna Road 7/27 (JL). **Alder Flycatcher** can be a tough bird to see in the county so one at MCWMA 7/27 (BC) was noteworthy.

Black-throated Green Warbler was heard singing 6/22 and 6/24. The location was along Reservoir Road in the Welsh Mountains of eastern *Lancaster*. The habitat includes tall trees of Norway spruce, white pine, and larch mixed with areas of deciduous forest and cut over areas growing up with shrubs, tree saplings, and various herbs and vines. Another out of season warbler was a **Canada Warbler** reported from a yard in Lititz 7/31 (DK). **Prothonotary Warblers** were reported nesting again at SRCF, but once again I did not receive many reports from other locations in the county this year.

Blue Grosbeaks were in good numbers this year with multiple reports from SRCF (m.ob.) and sightings at MCWMA during July. The final noteworthy sighting was a **Dickcissel** reported from the intersection of Williams Run and Smyrna Road 6/6 (DW, m.ob.). The bird was singing on territory and persisted at least through the end of July.

Observers: **Jonathan Heller, 720 Aspen Lane, Lebanon, PA 17042 jonathan.heller@comcast.net**, Tom Amico, Barry Bell, Devin Bosler, Jerry Book, Justin Bosler (JBo), Bruce Carl, Chuck Chalfant, Mike Epler, Tom Garner, Deuane Hoffman, Tom Johnson, David Kubitsky, Meredith Lombard, Jeff Loomis, Andy McGann, John McNamara, Kate Miller, Randy Miller, Tom Raub, Bob Schutsky, Jim Smith, Drew Weber, Eric Witmer.

Lackawanna County

No Report

Compiler: **Joe Greco, 3116 Township Woods Road, East Greenville, PA 18041, (610) 457-1812, joe@grecfamily.org.**

Lawrence County

Locations: Three Rivers Gravel Pond (TR), Volant Strips (VS), Wampum - New Galilee Road Marsh (NG), Mahoning Township (MT).

Few reports came in for *Lawrence* this summer, and this compiler was barely able to get out and help the effort in June and July. We'll begin with a bang (number-wise), though, with a nice count of 32 **Wood Duck** consisting of one busy drake with several hens and young at NG 6/25 (MV). Notable was a female **Bufflehead** 6/11 at TR (MV), seen there on that day with a family of 18 **Hooded Merganser**. MV reports he has seen hens with chicks there for the last few years now.

A lone **Ring-necked Pheasant** was reported 6/17 at VS (ML, RN). An **American Kestrel** and a **Bald Eagle** making a pass over BS 6/17 (ML, RN) were the only raptor reports received in the period.

Hoping for some migrant shorebirds, ST made a trip to TR 7/11, but only found a pair of **Spotted Sandpiper** and four **Killdeer**. Rounding out the nice-sized family theme started above were ten **Common Moorhen**, seven chicks and three adults, seen 6/25 at NG (MV).

A **Great-crested Flycatcher** was seen 6/17 at BS (ML, RN). **Eastern Wood-Pewee** and an **Acadian Flycatcher** were reported on a hot and steamy 7/6 in MT (CH), where he also picked up both **Red-eyed Vireo** and **White-eyed Vireo** that day. A **Horned Lark** was reported 6/12 in NW (MV). **Purple Martins** were seen checking out two apartments of a martin house 6/12 in NW (MV). One report of **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** came in 7/6 in MT (CH).

Warbler reports included **American Redstart**, **Common Yellowthroat**, and **Hooded Warbler** 7/6 in MT (CH). A Hooded Warbler was also spotted 6/17 at BS (ML, RN). CH also picked up **Eastern Towhee** and **Scarlet Tanager** 7/6 in MT.

Bobolink were in good numbers, with 36 reported 6/17 at VS, and 15 at BS that day (both ML, RN). At least eight **Eastern Meadowlark** were had 6/17 at VS, with two reported at BS that day as well (both ML, RN). It was nice to get a report of **14 Henslow's Sparrow** 6/17 at VS (ML, RN). Two **Grasshopper Sparrows** and three **Savannah Sparrows** reported 6/17 at VS rounded out the sparrow reports this summer (ML, RN). An **Orchard Oriole** was a nice find 7/6 in MT (CH).

Observers: **Stephen Tirone, 135 Isolda Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15209, (724) 719-8643, stephen.tirone@gmail.com**, Craig Holt, Melissa Little, Richard Nugent, Mark Vass.

Lebanon County

Locations: Fort Indiantown Gap (FIG), Kreider Farm Pond on Mount Pleasant Road (KP), Memorial Lake State Park (MLSP), Reistville Ponds (RS).

After a busy spring, summer sightings were more typical of previous years. However the long-term presence of a **Chuck-wills-widow** at FIG and the return of a **Eurasian-collared Dove** continued to attract birders from outside the county.

On 7/2 a **Tricolored Heron** was seen briefly at the MLSP dam (JR). This was a third county record. At KP, **Semipalmated Sandpipers** seen 6/14 set a new late date (CC, JH, RCM). A growing field of corn in front of KP blocked the view from the road for the rest of the reporting period. Since this is a poultry farm, no permission can be granted to access closer to the lake. Early returning **Least Sandpipers** were seen 7/26 at RS, (RCM).

With all the attention upon spring migrant shorebirds at KP there was bound to be additional interesting sightings as well. Indeed, the **Eurasian-collared Dove** found by JH 5/31 was seen 6/1 along with a second bird (PW, RW) on Rt. 322 between South Mt. Pleasant Road and Mount Pleasant Road. On 7/2 a single bird was seen again on the same stretch of road along Rt. 322 (TB).

The county's third **Chuck-wills-widow** was first reported at FIG by JHo 6/5 who was attending a shooting exhibition/competition. Since this was a second hand report provided to DH, the location details were not precise. On 6/10 TB reported a **Chuck-wills-widow** to eBird. As he was unsure of the call, no further report was made. On a hunch at the end of a long day birding through central Pennsylvania, DW and ST of *Allegheny* relocated the bird on 6/12. On 6/13 many observers heard the Chuck right before dusk and for the next hour. Several nearby **Whip-poor-wills** provided an interesting comparison. The bird was heard weekly (TB) through the period and was last heard 7/25 (KA, JDB). In July the bird would make introductory grunts right at dusk and then sing for only a few minutes before going silent. Observers coming at dark would not hear the bird. There was only one report of not hearing the bird, on 7/17 (JR).

A pair of **Red-headed Woodpeckers** and **Blue Grosbeaks** was believed to be breeding in the area where the FIG public tours were led by DM to view grassland birds and the eastern butterfly colony of the Regal Fritillary.

Observers: **Chuck Berthoud, 47 Brookside Avenue, Hershey, PA 17033, (717) 533-7136**, Kyle Aldinger, Tim Becker, Justin and Devin Bosler, Chuck Chalfont, Jonathan Heller, Deuane Hoffman, Jerry Howard, David McNaughton, Randy C. Miller, Joan Renninger, Shannon Thompson, Pat Williams, Richard Williams, Dave Wilton.

Lehigh County

Locations: Bake Oven Knob (BOK), Lehigh Canal Park (LCP), Leaser Lake (LL), Trexler Game Preserve (TGP), Walking Purchase Park (WPP).

Low birder activity resulted in relatively few observations this season, so a total of 117 species for the period reflects well upon those who sent reports. Our collected data reveal that breeding was confirmed for 73 species, thought probable for 24 species, and possible for 15 species. An additional 5 species were "observed only", with no breeding status attributed. Weather was generally warm this season. June was dry, followed by a rainy July. The combined mean temperature for June and July was 3.4°F above the 30-year norm (1971-2000). By the same standard, total precipitation was -1.77 inches in June, but +4.60 inches in July. The latter month's total precipitation was bolstered by 2 thunderstorms, and 7 days with heavy rain, including a total of 5.69 inches over 24 hours 7/9 -10. Apparently July's surplus precipitation was absorbed quickly, as water levels were average to low by the end of the month (NOAA / National Weather Service data for Allentown, archived at <<http://www.weather.gov/climate/index.php?wfo=phi>>). Data from the Lehigh Valley Audubon Society database were greatly useful in preparing this report (LF, LVAS records chair).

A lingering **Snow Goose** was at LL 6/2 (ML). In Slatington, a lone **American Black Duck** flying up river 6/29 was our only report (BE). **Wood Ducks** and **Common Mergansers** were breeders at several sites along the Lehigh River, and a **Double-crested Cormorant** that appeared to be a juvenile was present at LCP 7/17 (MB). The first post-breeding **Great Egret** wandered into the county 7/21 at LCP (MB), and another was in a muddy field in South Whitehall Township 7/30 (LF).

The county's first **Osprey** nest was noticed in North Whitehall Township in early July (BE); at least one chick was successfully raised atop a high tension tower overlooking the Lehigh River. A nest from 2009 situated across the river in *Northampton* was unused this year (ML), suggesting that the pair may have simply moved a quarter mile across the border. In any case, an exciting piece of news... and we hope an eagle nest will be found soon as well! Speaking of which, an adult **Bald Eagle** was noted soaring over North Whitehall 7/24 (BE). Another was at LCP 7/11 (MB). **Red-shouldered Hawk** was reported from Macungie 7/21 (JL) and North Whitehall 7/24 (BE). Rounding out our raptor report, **Peregrine Falcons** bred successfully in Allentown for the third straight year. Two female chicks were banded at the 8th Street Bridge 6/11, but the third chick, a male, had already fledged (AM). The last report of a juvenile falcon here was around 7/18 (MB), but the adults remained through July. Allentown's Peregrines have now raised a total of 11 chicks since 2008!

Though there were few sightings in spring, **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** became more obvious by late June, with several reports from BOK and TGP in June and July (BE, BH, ES). A **Black-billed Cuckoo** calling at BOK 7/3 was our only report (JH). There were few owl reports, but 4 or 5 **Eastern Screech-Owls** at LL 7/3 were almost certainly a family group (ML). **Great Horned Owl** was also a probable breeder at LL, as well as in West Allentown (ML, BCM). An **Eastern Wood-Pewee** that appeared to be maintaining a nest on the late date of 7/30 was an interesting find at WPP (ES). **Alder Flycatcher** was a probable breeder in Heidelberg Township, where it was on territory until at least 7/5 (BH). At BOK 7/3, a group of 5 **Common Ravens** was another likely family group (JH). The **Purple Martin** colony in Slatedale had at least two dozen pairs this year. In Upper Saucon Township, the **Bank Swallow** colony adjacent to the Promenade Shops was active for at least the fourth straight year, but with no estimates as to numbers. In West Allentown, a **Red-breasted Nuthatch** at a backyard pond was believed to be a juvenile; the species has been noted here in previous summers, and was present throughout the spring period (BCM). A recently fledged **Northern Mockingbird** took a wild ride 7/16 while trapped within the grill of a car that traveled from Allentown to East Stroudsburg (*Monroe*), a distance of about 50 miles. Upon arrival in East Stroudsburg, the owner of the car quickly noticed the poor bird, and set about freeing it—no small task, as the grill of the car had to be removed. Once extracted from its predicament, the stunned young bird was soon able to gather its wits, take flight, and perch in a tree in the front yard of its new home. It was hoped that the juvenile mocker was old enough to fend for itself without parental supervision (*vide* KS)!

Fourteen warbler species reported this period did not include several expected breeders. A **Black-throated Blue Warbler** at BOK 7/5 was unusual for the date (BH). There seem to be few breeding season

records for this species in the county, but it should be looked for in the future. **Yellow-throated Warbler** was a possible breeder at LCP (MB). Among the warblers most notably absent from our seasonal list were Northern Parula, Black-throated Green Warbler, and Pine Warbler. A southbound **Northern Waterthrush** at WPP 7/30 was notably early (ES). There were multiple reports of field birds such as **Savannah Sparrow**, **Grasshopper Sparrow**, and **Bobolink**, mainly from Heidelberg and Lynn Townships. A **Vesper Sparrow** in Heidelberg 7/3 was the sole report this period (JH).

CORRIGENDA: The **Olive-sided Flycatcher** noted 5/8 in the 2010 spring season report (Volume 24, No. 2), was at Walking Purchase Park, not South Mountain (MB). The **Dickcissel** reported in Heidelberg Township 5/30 should have been credited to BH.

Observers: **Bill Etter, 209 E. South St, Slatington, PA 18080, billetter01@gmail.com**, Mark Boyd, Linda Freedman, Bob Hoopes, Jeff Hopkins, Jon Levin, Matt Loyko, Barbara Malt (BCM), Art McMorris, Bernie and Pauline Morris, Ed Sinkler, Kathy Stagl.

Luzerne County

Locations: Forty Fort Cemetery (FFC), Harveys Lake (HL), Plymouth Flats (PLYF), Susquehanna River (SR), PPL Susquehanna Riverlands (SRL).

The weather during the summer breeding season was unusually hot and dry. The breeding birds in the woodlot next to my home in Shavertown seemed less numerous than past seasons. This is based purely on personal observation, but **Wood Thrush** and **Scarlet Tanager**, which in past seasons have been rather easy to observe and hear on a daily basis, were virtually absent. Reports from the field were sparse as is usually the case during the nesting season especially since the Second PBBA has been completed. However, two reports stand out and certainly were the highlights for the reporting period. The first was of vagrants from the south moving north, and the other of a northern nester that has recently made Pennsylvania its southern frontier.

The first highlight of the season was the appearance of a flock of 10 **Black-bellied Whistling Ducks** at the SRL. They first showed up 6/10 when they were discovered by a group of students from Bloomsburg University and reported to CM, the PPL staff naturalist. They were seen by many individuals and well documented with a number of photos that were posted on the PABIRDS listserv. They remained until at least 6/20. A male **Lesser Scaup** was seen at the late date of 6/6 at the PLYF and was presumed by the observer to be injured (KR). A **Common Loon** in non-breeding plumage spent the summer at HL and was joined by another on 6/26 which was either a new arrival or an individual that went undetected until then (JH, KR).

Great Egrets began appearing in our area around 7/23 when 2 were reported in Wyoming (JS). Numbers gradually swelled into the double digits before the end of the period.

The second highlight of the season was the discovery of nesting **Merlins** at the FFC. They were originally found by PC while bike riding along the dike 7/27, and were confirmed the next day by BL. Upon receiving the report 7/29, I travelled to the area and was rewarded with seeing 4 **Merlins**. At least 2 of the birds were immature and could be heard loudly vocalizing each time one of the adults would fly nearby. The birds were very active and could be seen flying to and from the tree that contained what appeared to be an old crow's nest, and sometimes would sit in the nest. *Luzerne* can now boast of having three species of falcons nesting within a two mile radius; **Peregrine Falcon** and **American Kestrel** are the other two.

A few late shorebirds were observed at PLYF 6/6 when a single **White-rumped Sandpiper** along with several **Semipalmated Sandpipers** and **Semipalmated Plovers** were found (KR). Southerly moving shorebirds began appearing on 7/25 when one **Solitary Sandpiper**, one **Pectoral Sandpiper**, and 18 **Least Sandpipers** were seen along the SR in Hanover Twp. Also seen were 2 **Forster's Terns** (KR).

A scarcity of **Common Nighthawks** was noted with only one reported during the period, on 7/25 in Kirby Park (JS). Passerines went largely unreported. Several folks remarked that they either had difficulty locating or could not find **Yellow-Billed Cuckoo**, **Black-billed Cuckoo**, **Alder Flycatcher** and **Scarlet Tanager**.

Observers: **Jim Hoyson, 88 Ridge St., Shavertown, PA 18708, (570)**

696-4925, birdder@aol.com, Peter Carlin, Sandy Goodwin, Ed Johnson, Rick Koval, Bruce Lockard, Clem McIntyre, Kevin Ripka, Jim Shoemaker, Bruce Troy, Bob Wasilewski.

Lycoming County

Locations: Little Pine State Park (LPSP).

Bird sightings during the summer 2010 season were obtained from local Lycoming Audubon members, as in the past, web-based eBird submissions, and other traditional birding summaries including the Audubon listserv, and from the compiler's Breeding Bird Survey route.

A **Hooded Merganser** was seen at LPSP (RM) on 7/2.

Whip-poor-wills were observed by various observers around the county (NF, JS, RM) through the season.

For a second year, **Purple Martins** nested in a box placed by the Lycoming Audubon Society at the County Conservation District offices on County Farm Road. This year, a high count of 8 adult martins was observed 6/14. Four nests produced 18 eggs, of which 7 hatched and 5 (in 2 nests) fledged (FS, NF). The increase in nesting activity is extremely gratifying. One of the birds was discovered 6/10 to be carrying a leg band (SP). While the band was photographed, a number could not be deciphered. **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was observed 6/25 at the RBL (LC) and another at LPSP on 7/1 (RM).

One of few observations of **Worm-eating Warbler** was 7/15 at Mid-State Trail at Rte. 44 Ravine Springs (LC). A great variety of resident breeding warblers were found at Crystal Lake camp area by R&CH 6/3, including **Black-throated Green**, **Black-throated Blue**, **Blackburnian**, **Canada**, and **Magnolia**. The Ramsey Boy Scout Loop produced **Northern Parula** and **Hooded Warbler** 6/5 (LC). Notable was the observation 7/3 of **Yellow-throated Warbler** near the dam breast of LPSP (RM), a longstanding location for this rare southern bird, which seems to have been overlooked in recent years.

A singing male **Purple Finch** was in Picture Rocks 6/16 (WE). Four **Pine Siskins** visited thistle feeders in Bastress Twp. 7/13 (AS, *fide* DF, ph.).

Two singing **White-throated Sparrows** and a low flying **Red-shouldered Hawk** were found on the Sand Springs Trail in Devil's Elbow Natural Area 6/25 (TG).

Observers: **Dan Brauning, 1920 Inverness Rd, Montoursville, PA 17754, 570-433-0309, dan@thebraunings.net, (Note new contact information)**, Linda Cass, Ed Clark, Wes Egli, Dave Ferry, Nate Fronk, Trudy Gerlach, Ron & Carol Hughey, Randy C. Miller, Alex Savakinas, Jeff Schaffer, Fred Stiner.

McKean County

No compiler.

Mercer County

Locations: Shenango R. Res (SRR), Williamson Rd (WR)

The first nesting attempt by **Osprey** on the Rte. 18 causeway over SRR (on the raised platform on a utility pole) failed, but the second attempt was successful. The three chicks began to fledge 7/16, returning now and then to the nest waiting to be fed.

Eastern Screech-Owl was heard 7/31 along the north side of SRR. This was the first one seen or heard in several years.

At the Game Commission headquarters building on Lake Rd. along SRR, the ponds produced one or 2 **Short-billed Dowitchers** 7/16 and 7/24, 7 **Least Sandpiper** 7/24 and 8 on 7/16, one **Semipalmated Sandpiper** 7/24 and 3 on 7/30, 4 **Solitary Sandpiper** 7/24 and 5 on 7/16, 5 **Spotted Sandpiper** 7/16 and 4 on 7/24, 2 **Lesser Yellowlegs** 7/16, and 12 **Killdeer** 7/16 and 7/24 (all MV). Another **Solitary Sandpiper** was heard in flight over WR 7/21 (NT). Three **Semipalmated Plovers** were found at the previously mentioned ponds 7/30, as were 2 **Green Heron** (MV).

Bald Eagle is doing well, with one adult and 3 young at SRR 7/16 (MV). NT states that **Purple Martin** had a successful year at WR, fledging about 75% of their young, compared to last year's rate of 10% which was due to cool, rainy weather the last week of June. He saw a decrease in second year birds. All 5 **swallow spp.** were observed.

Both **cuckoos** were probable breeders, as were all **vireos**, the exception here being **Warbling**, which was confirmed (NT).

A **Henslow's Sparrow** (probable breeder) was singing at a new spot along Airport Rd. in early July (NT). On 7/10, a pair of **Dark-eyed Juncos** were seen at SGL 130, close to the location where they were observed at the end of May (NT).

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

Mifflin County

No report.

Compiler: **Gregory and Deborah Grove, 4343 McAlevys Fort Rd., Petersburg PA, 16669, (814) 667-2305, gwg2@psu.edu, dsq4@psu.edu.**

Monroe County

Locations: Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (DWGNRA), Monroe County Environmental Education Center (MCEEC).

The season was notable for its exceptionally dry and hot conditions, especially in July. Few reports were received. A lone **Hooded Merganser** hen lingered into June on the MCEEC pond, likely the same individual that nested in a box at this location last spring (BH). This past spring and summer a pair of **Peregrine Falcons** occupied the Mt. Minsi cliffs on the *Monroe* and *Northampton* line in the DWGNRA (JT, AA, BH, RW). A team led by PGC biologist Art McMorris inspected the suspected nest ledge 6/30, but it showed no evidence of successful breeding. The plumages of both peregrines indicated they were young birds, and fingers are crossed that next year this pair will successfully nest on the Delaware Water Gap cliffs—an event that has not occurred at this location since the late 1950s.

Likely breeders, a **Sora** and **Common Moorhen** were outstanding finds in a Skytop wetland on the *Monroe* and *Pike* line 6/10 (JS). Red-headed Woodpecker was absent again from the DWGNRA headquarters swamp, once a breeding stronghold in recent times for this species (DS, JS). An uncommon local breeder, **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was calling in a stand of white pines at MCEEC 6/24 (BH) and also found at Skytop during the period (JS). For the second year in a row a **Yellow-throated Warbler** was singing on territory in June along the Brodhead Creek in sycamores south of *Canadensis* (RW), providing a rare summer record for the county.

The newly created Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge will benefit humans and many plant and animal species over the long term, including the **Bobolinks** and **Eastern Meadowlarks** found there in June—one of the few county breeding locations for these two grassland species (DS, RW).

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

Montgomery County

Locations: Evansburg State Park (ESP), Green Lane Reservoir (GLR), Norristown Farm Park (NFP), Unami Creek Valley (UCV), Upper Hanover Township (UHT), Upper Perkiomen Valley Park (UPVP).

The summer season brought above average temperatures and below average precipitation to *Montgomery*. Rainfall for the period measured 7.63 inches, over two inches below our long-term average. While weather conditions caused discomfort for birders, they also resulted in extensive mudflats at Green Lane Reservoir. A lone **Snow Goose** (most likely injured) was at Norristown Farm Park 6/5 (MD, m.ob.). **Wood Ducks** appeared to have better than average breeding success at Green Lane Reservoir, Unami Creek Valley, and Upper Perkiomen Valley Park (m.ob.). A season high count of 25 was noted at Church Road, GLR 7/8 (GAF). A group of 6 early migrant **Green-winged Teal** were at Church Road 7/26 (KC). **Common Mergansers**

again bred successfully at GLR, UPVP and Lower Providence Township (GAF, BS).

An early summer **Great Egret** was at Church Road, GLR 6/1 (KC), and fall migrants began to arrive as early as 7/14 (m.ob.). Their numbers eventually reached a maximum of 14 on 7/20, our highest in many years (RG). An immature **Glossy Ibis** was at Church Road, GLR 7/26-31, marking our first county record since 2002 (KC, DC, m.ob.).

A migrant **Osprey** at Church Road, GLR 7/21 was unusually early (JG). GLR's fledgling **Bald Eagle** was in the company of two adult birds until at least 7/14 (KC, m. ob.). A pair of **Broad-winged Hawks** at Evansburg State Park 6/5 marked a welcome report of a breeding species in decline (JHu, m.ob.). Given the extreme drought conditions from June into July, it is little surprise that shorebirds were the big story for the period. "Best bird" honors could be called a toss-up between two species, both 7/10. During a much needed rainfall that day, 2 **Willetts** were found on the Church Road mudflats (KC, m.ob.), representing the second county record and sixth for the region. While observing these birds a few hours later, several lucky observers watched a **Whimbrel** drop in, only to fly away within minutes (JHo, JP, KR, IB). This represented the first county record, and fifth for the region. On 7/14 during another rain event, another **Whimbrel** dropped in, but again stayed for only minutes (JHo). Shorebird variety was good overall, with 12 species reported. Other shorebirds of note included record early dates for **Semipalmated Plover** and **Semipalmated Sandpiper**, both 7/14 (JHo, m.ob.). A season high count of 21 **Short-billed Dowitchers** were at Church Road 7/10 (m.ob.). Other shorebird species reported included **Greater** and **Lesser Yellowlegs** and **Pectoral Sandpiper** (m.ob.). Away from GLR, 3 **American Woodcock** at Norristown Farm Park 6/5 was a very nice find (MR).

Two **Caspian Terns** on Knight Road, GLR 7/15 set another record early date (KC).

Single **Red-headed Woodpecker** were reported from ESP (BM, MP) and Peter Wentz Farmstead (DB, m.ob.), both 6/5. These were welcome reports for yet another species in decline in our county. Three **Purple Martins** in the UCV 7/27 were surprisingly the only report for the period (KC). The season's first **Bank Swallows** arrived at Church Road, GLR 7/10 (GAF). **Brown Thrashers** were found at Walt Road and Church Roads, GLR on several dates during the summer (GAF).

Warblers of note included a late "spring" **Blackpoll** at Haverford College 6/4 (SJ). Among breeding species, **Yellow Warbler** numbers seemed higher than average (GAF), and an American Redstart was a good find in Upper Hanover Township 6/9 (JG). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** remained at UPVP until at least 6/29 (RG). An early migrant **Black-and-White Warbler** was in Upper Gwynedd Township 7/16 (AM). Our only sparrow worthy of mention was a singing **Grasshopper Sparrow** at NFP 6/5 (EP, MR). An **Eastern Meadowlark** was at Church Road, GLR 6/4, marking our sole report for the species.

Observers: **Kevin Crilley, PO Box 100, Sumneytown, PA 18064, (215) 234-6867, kcrilley@mail.montcopa.org**, Ian Baldock, Debbie Beer, Diane Cameron, Martin Dellwo, George A. Franchois, Joe Greco, Ron Grubb, Jason Horn (JHo), Joe Hudson (JHu), Sheryl Johnson, Bob Murray, Edie Parnum, Mike Perez, John Pushock, Ken Reiker, Mike Rosengarten, Beth Shimer.

Montour County

No report.

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

Northampton County

Locations: Green Pond (GP), Jacobsburg State Park (JSP).

The breeding period was hot and dry with a few exciting observations made. An injured male **Blue-winged Teal** continued at the flooded field by GP (DD). It was in eclipse plumage 7/31. A **Pied-billed Grebe** and 2 **Great Egrets** were at the ponds on Greinar Rd. near Nazareth 7/25 (JH). A **Great Egret** was also seen along Timberline Dr. near Danielsville 7/27 (CH) and at the Albert Rd. ponds 7/29 (KS). The rarest find for the county was a fly-by **Mississippi Kite** along the ridge by the Koch farm in Williams Twp. 6/18 (AK). Notable shorebirds include a **Semipalmated Plover** at GP 6/14 and 73 **Killdeer** at GP 6/28

(DD). Likely an early migrant, an **Upland Sandpiper** was seen at Graver's Hill 7/26 (DW).

Probably a rare breeder in the county, a **Blue-headed Vireo** was seen along the Appalachian Trail at Little Gap 7/19 (RW). Suitable habitat can be found along the Blue Mountain boundary area of the county. Hopefully this wasn't just a wandering bird. On 6/11, 2 **Yellow-throated Warblers** were found by the Bethlehem Boat Club and another where Farmersville Rd ends (RW). This area continues to be a reliable area for finding breeding **Yellow-throated Warblers**. A singing **Kentucky Warbler** was heard by the Slatford Creek along Nat Park Dr 6/1 (JY) and at JSP 6/2 (MS, CCS). Also at JSP was a **Yellow-breasted Chat** 6/12 (KS).

For the second year in a row, **Blue Grosbeak** was confirmed nesting at Grand Central Landfill near Pen Argyl (RW). On 6/29, he observed the male grosbeak feeding fledglings. There was a male **Blue Grosbeak** singing at the Koch farm 7/8-9 (AK) and another young male was found at the Martins Creek Environmental Preserve 7/14 (RW). Graver's Hill hosted juvenile **Grasshopper**, **Savannah**, and **Vesper sparrows** 7/26 (DW).

Observers: **Michael Schall, 126 N Chestnut St, Bath, PA 18014, (610) 737-5275, mdtjschall@yahoo.com**, Dave DeReamus, Jeff Hopkins, Corey Husic, Arlene Koch, Corinne Campbell Schall, Kathy Sieminski, Dustin Welch, Rick Wiltraut, Joe Yuhas.

Northumberland County

No compiler.

Perry County

Red-headed Woodpeckers continue to be found northwest of Liverpool. Two were seen there on 6/5 (CK, AT) and one was there on 6/8 (RK). A trip to the Hemlocks Natural Area on 6/27 produced a **Blue-headed Vireo**, a **Winter Wren** and a number of **Blackburnian Warblers** (DG, GG).

Observers: **Ramsay Koury, 123 Old Ford Dirve, Camp Hill, PA 17011, Rkoury123@aol.com**, Deb Grove, Greg Grove, Chad Kauffman, Ramsay Koury, Aden Troyer.

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), Pennypack on the Delaware (POD), Schuylkill River (SR), Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education (SCEE), Wissahickon Creek (WC).

Unlike the record cold summer of 2009, real summer returned in 2010 with temperatures above 90°F on 54 days, another Philly record. Our Breeding Bird Chart lists 96 species of which 80 were confirmed breeders, most of which were found on the SCEE and PEC annual summer censuses. Birders at PEC found 81 species of which 69 were possible, probable or confirmed breeders. An increasing number of **Wood Duck** broods and a **Pileated Woodpecker** nest were observed (BS). The census at SCEE located 57 species of which 54 were breeders. At Morris Arboretum **Wood Duck** also are thriving (KJ). Not surprisingly, 31 species of breeding birds were found on a brief walk around BRSP 6/20 (DR).

Houston Meadow has undergone extensive restoration and is currently monitored for changes in bird population due to the enhanced habitat. **Eastern Bluebird** started nesting there two years ago and there is a need for more nest boxes to accommodate their increase. I welcome additional records from the Meadows for all seasons.

Two reports of errant **Snow Goose** came from TI 6/12 and 6/14 (FW, DBE). Eclipse plumage **Green-winged Teal** and the **Lesser Scaup** reported in May by HM were still on the impoundment at TI 7/3-8/1 (DBr, FW). At least one pair of **Least Bittern** nested at TI with both male and female observed (FW, DBr). While searching for a **Green**

Heron to sketch, KJ found an immature **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron**, along the Manayunk Canal 7/1. Threatened in the Commonwealth, this species probably uses the Schuylkill and DR each year during dispersal and passage, but is rarely seen. An **Osprey** family with two young birds was at TI daily, but the nest site is still unknown. Refuge staff at TI found one of the young **Bald Eagles** on the ground, unable to fly. At Tri-state Bird Research and Rescue it was determined that the bird had a congenital defect and was euthanized. Three **Cooper's Hawk** fledged at TI and two **Cooper's Hawk** were found on the SCEE breeding bird census 6/19. An **American Kestrel** pair was found at the Northeast Airport 6/21 (FW).

Seven species of the most common shorebirds with none higher than 50 birds were a poor showing due to unfavorable water levels at TI and the heat which kept all but the hardest birders indoors. At POD **Semipalmated Plover** and **Solitary Sandpiper** were found 7/11-23 (FW).

Black-billed Cuckoo at TI 6/12 was a delight for the morning bird walk (DBE, m.ob.). After speculation in the spring report, **Common Nighthawk** continued to be seen over S. Broad St, 9th and South Sts. and at 11th and Morris Sts. (m.ob.) through mid-June, but we do not know if these are late migrants or breeders or possibly a combination.

Some late warbler reports are interesting. FW found a **Pine Warbler** at Hermit Lane in the Wissahickon 6/3. A **Prairie Warbler** at TI 6/17 (BH) reminded me of a time decades ago when we thought **Prairie Warbler** would nest in the fields there. It never happened. A **Blackpoll Warbler** was in Philly 6/10 challenging the 1998 record of an individual on 6/15 (KR). **Northern Waterthrush** was recorded in the WC 6/11 (AA) and our only possible nesting **Kentucky Warbler** continued to sing at PEC 6/16 (FW). A singing **White-throated Sparrow** at Houston Meadow 6/8 was late in its departure (AA), but not quite as late as a 6/28/2008 bird at Independence National Historical Park.

Observers: **Doris McGovern, 209 Dogwood Rd., Media, PA 19063, (610) 565-8484, mcgovern100@comcast.net**, Andrew Albright, Debbie Beer (DBE), Denis Brennan (DBr), Brian Byrnes, Tony Croasdale, Martin Dellwo, Gregg Gorton, Barb Hiebsch, Ken Januski, Steve Kacir, Pete Kurtz, Lynn Roman, Keith Russell, Brian Schultz, Martin Seltzer, Frank Windfelder.

Pike County

No compiler.

Potter County

No report

Compiler: **David Hauber, RR 2 Box 153, Coudersport, PA 16915, (814) 274-8946, haubers3@penn.com**.

Schuylkill County

No report.

NEW COMPILER BEGINNING FALL 2010: Mike Ward, 86 Sherwood Road, Pottsville, PA 17901, (570) 628-5571, Pm5Le@aol.com.

Snyder County

Locations: Bald Eagle State Forest (BESF), Faylor Lake (FL), Walker Lake (WL).

A single male **Common Merganser** was found on WL and a female **Northern Bobwhite** was observed along WL Rd. 6/22 (P&RW). One adult **Bald Eagle** was observed at FL, and 2 (one adult and one immature) were found at WL 6/22 (P&RW).

A search for **Whip-poor-Will** proved very successful the evening of 6/22 between 20:45 and 21:30. Four were found along Hunter Rd., two were calling at Jack's Mt. Trailhead parking lot along Rt. 235, and one was along Water Company Rd. near Troxelville. One was also calling at our cabin near Troxelville at 04:30 on 6/23 (P&RW).

A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was observed 6/22 in the Zerbe Rd. swamp (P&RW). **Acadian Flycatcher** and **Winter Wren** were among the species noted along Timber Rd. BESF, and a **Hermit Thrush** was singing at Jack's Mt. Trailhead parking lot 6/22 (P&RW). Among the

birds found along the Tall Timbers Trail 7/1 were **Veery**, three **Canada Warblers**, and a **Blackburnian Warbler** (JW).

Observers: **Richard Williams, 3 Parkside Dr., Hummelstown, PA 17036, (717) 566-6562, RWPuffin@aol.com**, Jason Weller, Patricia Williams.

Somerset County

Locations: Berlin Area (BA), Buffalo Creek (BC), Payne Property (PP), Somerset Lake (SL), Summit Mills (SM).

A rather warm June and July helped balance out the cold, wet winter. Birding effort was much decreased with the breeding bird atlas work being wrapped up. The birds of the season were the successful breeding **Sandhill Cranes** at BC.

The **Ospreys** were successful at SL, although the breeding tower is ready to fall (JM, MM, CP, JP). **American Kestrels** were seen entering a kestrel box in BA and were considered probable breeders. A **Virginia Rail** was at BC 7/30 where it was a probable breeder.

The pair of **Sandhill Cranes**, which returned to BC after staying the summer of 2009 with no visible nesting attempt, was successful in raising a youngster this year. They were first found 4/15 and were seen on several evenings noisily flying into a marshy area at dusk. On 5/4, 5/16, and 5/28, a single bird was observed silently flying into same area at dark. On 7/7 a partially grown colt was first seen by RC. Subsequently, all 3 were seen in late July and August. These are the southernmost nesters in Pennsylvania known to this compiler.

Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were plentiful at PP this year with many young at feeders in July and August. **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were near Callimont 6/7 (JP,CP) and seen throughout June and July near Somerset (MM). A fledgling **Horned Lark** was seen in SM 6/20 (EB). There were 17 **Cliff Swallow** nests active at a barn near SM 6/20 (EB). **Winter Wrens** were singing 6/15 on Laurel Mountain near Seven Springs (JP,CP).

Twenty species of wood warblers were found during the breeding season, with a very early migrant **Yellow-rumped Warbler** 7/31 at PP possibly being from a local, unknown breeding locale. Three fledgling **Orchard Orioles** were found at SM on 6/14. After being nearly absent during the winter season, **Pine Siskin** was detected 7/7 in SM (EB) with another bird at PP feeders 7/30. It would be interesting to know the life history of these siskins!

Observers: **Jeff Payne, 9755 Glades Pike, Berlin, PA 15530, (814) 267-5718**, Elmer Brenneman, Robert Croner, Anthony Marich, Meg Moses, Jim Moses, Chris Payne, Dan Snell.

Sullivan County

Locations: Loyalsock State Forest (LSF)

There were a few reports or observations during this breeding season that appeared to promise some interesting and unusual breeders in the county. Unfortunately, none of these produced anything further and all fell well short of consideration as being even probable. These are all discussed below and involve **Merlin** and **Olive-sided Flycatcher**. There is always hope for next year. And beyond the hopefuls there was some fascinating breeding behavior to observe among the usual suspects.

A pair of **Common Merganser** were found as well as multiples of the common breeders; **Mallard, Wood Duck**, and **Hooded Merganser**. Young poult of both **Ruffed Grouse** and **Wild Turkey** were seen on more than one occasion.

The **Bald Eagle** nest that has been used for the past several years appears to have been abandoned. Regardless, there continue to be enough sightings of eagles in the county to believe they are still nesting somewhere. I observed a **Sharp-shinned Hawk** in the vicinity of Shady Nook Lake during the PAMC. The bird was calling in an agitated manner and the call was a spot on match to the Sibley guide description that indicates the call is given at nest site. **Merlin** was confirmed nesting in Eagles Mere a few years ago and a lone bird was found in LaPorte in late July (KH). The bird was aggressive toward a vulture suggesting that one possibility for the behavior was a nearby nest. There have been no further sightings.

Sandhill Crane was a confirmed nester again this year. Two adults and two very small young were found near Dushore where they have been for several years now. They were spotted the day of the migration count marking the first time that I found them on count day proper. One of the juveniles disappeared in the beginning of June and one of the adults disappeared about three weeks later. Only a single adult and single juvenile were seen together after that time. I observed a single adult 8/26. The bird was about a mile from the usual location and calling incessantly. A passerby told me the bird was there every day and was always vocal. I have no way to know if the bird is one of the adults observed in May.

American Woodcock were found displaying in multiple locations. Every year the most commonly heard territorial tapping is the distinct rap of **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**. And every year the summer woods are full of immature sapsuckers. This year was no exception.

A pair of **Olive-sided Flycatchers** was observed in suitable habitat in early June. At least two subsequent trips were made to the location with no further sightings reported. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was confirmed nesting at an undisclosed location within the county (DG). **Eastern Phoebe**s reused a nest under the eaves of my cabin for what is at least the third consecutive year.

My youngest son walked into the cabin over the Memorial Day weekend and informed me that some birds were using one of the nest boxes on the property. He told me the box had young inside and the adults were black and white. He was pretty sure they were chickadees. He nailed the identification. I watched two adult **Black-capped Chickadees** over the next couple of days make numerous sorties in order to feed the seven hatchlings inside the box. Only about three weeks later the same nest box was occupied by **Eastern Bluebirds**. Another box on the property was occupied by **Tree Swallows** prior to Memorial Day. They were still using the box as late as 7/4.

Several observers (SC, RM, MB, TR, GB) witnessed **Red-breasted Nuthatch** repeatedly entering and exiting a nest hole high in a tree in the Dutch Mountain area near the *Wyoming* border. The bird passed in and out several times; leaving empty and returning with food. The same group of individuals also witnessed a pair of **Canada Warblers** in LSF. The female was carrying nesting material. A female **Baltimore Oriole** was also seen carrying nesting material. All of these observations were made the weekend prior to Memorial Day.

I came across a group of four or five **Brown Creepers** in a planted stand of larch on my property during the 7/4 weekend. I saw no direct contact such as feeding but there were plenty of communication calls. The group seemed to move through the area as a group always staying within a few trees of each other. The behavior was interesting to watch. That same weekend I also found an adult **Prairie Warbler** carrying food, **Chipping Sparrows** copulating, and a family group of **Dark-eyed Junco**.

Observers: **Rob Megraw, 131 Butternut Drive, Pottstown, PA 19464, (610) 323-0119, robert.r.megraw@xo.com**, Gary Becker, Mike Brawley, Skip Conant, Doug Gross, Keith Huffman, Matt Megraw, Tom Reeves.

Susquehanna County

No report.

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

Tioga County

No report.

Compiler: **Gary Tyson, 130 Hills Creek Drive, Wellsboro, PA, 16901, (570) 724-5789, gnats3@ptd.net**.

Union County

No compiler.

Venango County

Locations: Allegheny River (AR), Buttermilk Hill Nature Sanctuary (BHNS) County Line Road (CLR), Kahle Lake (KL), Oil City (OC), Oil

Creek State Park (OCSP), Slatertown Road (SR).

Highlights include at least 7 vocalizing **Whip-poor-wills** at SGL 45 on 6/17 and 6/23 (GE) and 6/20 (GE, RS); 3 **Upland Sandpiper** along CLR 6/17 (GE, RS); singing **Yellow-rumped Warbler** and **Pine Warbler** 6/21 along SR (GE, RS); and **Purple Finch** visiting feeders during the entire period (NB, KG, JS). Our lone **Mourning Warbler** sighting was by JS at BHNS 7/18. **Canada Warbler** was observed in OCSP 7/2 by RN. It can be found reliably along the bike trail within a half mile of the park office.

Late departing **Semipalmated Sandpiper**, **Least Sandpiper**, and **Caspian Tern** were at KL 6/3 (RS). Also departing late was a **Green-winged Teal** at KL (RS). Arriving early were **Common Loon** in breeding plumage on the AR near OC (GE), **Pied-billed Grebe** in breeding plumage at KL 6/21 (GE), **Great Egret** on the AR near Franklin 7/20 (GE), **Solitary Sandpiper** 7/30 (RS), and **Greater Yellowlegs** 7/29 (JS). Our lone gull sighting was of three **Ring-billed Gulls** along the AR between OC and Franklin 7/16 (GE, JW). MK shared a photograph of a **Northern Cardinal** without feathering in the facial area.

KL showed promise for good shorebird habitat in the next season due to exposed mudflats caused by the water level draw-down that will continue for at least the next year or two. The mud flats are not extensive but extend around the lake, except for the dam area.

Observers: **Gary Edwards**, 224 Meadow Rd, Apt 9, Seneca, PA 16346, (814) 676-3011, gedwards@csonline.net; **Russ States**, 111 E. 4th St., Oil City, PA 16301, (814) 676-6320, pabirder@verizon.net; Nancy Baker, Kathie Goodblood, Craig Holt, Meg Kolodick, Richard Nugent, Jerry Stanley.

Warren County

No compiler.

Washington County

Locations: AMD Pond on Hahn Road (AMD), Bavington (BAV), Canonsburg Lake (CL), Greencove Wetlands (GCW).

At least 160 **Mallards** used AMD as a roost 7/12 (MV), impressive for mid-summer. Observations of dozens of Mallards heading southwest through Boyce-Mayview Park (*Allegheny*) on summer evenings (DW) suggest many of the AMD birds may be using ponds in the Boyce-Mayview area during the day. Two **Hooded Mergansers** were at GCW 7/10-11 (ST, DW).

Sightings of **Ring-necked Pheasant** continued into the summer, with several seen in Coal Center 6/25 (AT). **Wild Turkeys** with young were seen at GCW 7/16 (ST). The putative **Great Blue Heron x Great Egret hybrid** was still at CL 6/19 (MV) but was not reported thereafter. A **Great Egret** was at CL 6/12-19 (MV), and a juvenile **Green Heron** was found at GCW 7/16 (ST).

Very odd was an immature **Bald Eagle** discovered in a field near Canonsburg eating a dead groundhog 6/30 (RG). **Red-shouldered Hawks** bred successfully at the Meadowcroft Museum in Avella again this season (JB).

The **American Coot** continued residence at AMD for another season. The only reports of shorebirds were of **Solitary Sandpipers**: one was at GCW 7/10-11 (ST, DW), and 5 were at CL 7/26 (MV).

Yellow-billed Cuckoos and **White-eyed Vireos** were at GCW 7/10 (ST, DW). A **Common Raven** was over Avella 7/22 (JB). At least 8 **Red-breasted Nuthatches** including a juvenile were counted at Washington Cemetery 6/19 (MV). Several **House Wrens** used nest boxes along the Montour Trail in Cecil Twp. this season (KSJ). Breeders in evidence at BAV this season included **Wood Thrush** (MF), **Prairie Warbler** (JB), **Common Yellowthroat** (MF), **Indigo Bunting** (MF), and at least 4 **Henslow's Sparrows** (JB). **Kentucky Warblers** bred at the Meadowcroft Museum in Avella (JB). At least 8 **Yellow-breasted Chats** and 4 **Swamp Sparrows** were at GCW 7/10 (ST, DW).

Observers: **Geoff Malosh**, 450 Amherst Avenue, Moon Township, PA 15108-2654, (412) 735-3128, pomarine@earthlink.net, John Boback, Shawn Collins, Mike Fialkovich, Ross Gallardy, Kate St. John, Amy Taracido, Shannon Thompson, Mark Vass, Dave Wilton.

Wayne County

No Compiler.

Westmoreland County

Locations: Beaver Run Reservoir (BRR), Donegal Lake (DL), Hunter's Lane(HL), Kuehl Property (KP), Keystone State Park (KSP), Laurel Ridge (LR), Loyalhanna Game Lands(LG), Murrysville Community Park (MCP), Spruce Flats Bog(SFB), West Penn Trail to Conemaugh River (WPT), Powdermill Nature Reserve(PNR).

The summer featured good tomato weather (and no blight this year!): hot, and enough rain to keep the grass green. An unscientific overview of the season was a shortage of breeding **Carolina Wrens** and both **Cuckoos**, with speculation that the cold and heavy snow of the winter was to blame for the former. Minus JM's report of normal breeding activity at her home in Harrison City, the consensus from other respondents to my inquiry was that **Carolina Wrens** went silent over the winter and in most cases (and especially in the higher elevations in the eastern part of the county) had not yet returned. At the Kuehl property (lower elevations in Murrysville), which has a long history of breeding wrens (often in the porch hanging-basket), **Carolina Wrens** were not heard until 6/23. No specific inquiry was made on cuckoos, but there certainly was a lack of heard cuckoos by this observer, who had no observations until 6/19 when he heard both **Black-billed Cuckoo** and **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** on the West Penn Trail, and a **Black-billed Cuckoo** at the KP.

A **Ruffed Grouse** (now a relatively rare sighting) hen and chicks were flushed by JK off Felgar Road, near a Powdermill Nature Reserve property 6/26. Joining in with sightings from around the Commonwealth, **Great Egrets** were sighted at Keystone State Park 7/18 (TV) and at Mutual Wetlands 7/31 (MM).

On 6/19 on the West Penn Trail, KB and TK observed a family group of **Northern Waterthrush**, spotted a **Double-crested Cormorant** in the Conemaugh River, and also noted that a **Bald Eagle** chick remained on a nest found earlier by TV. Also on 6/19, KB and TK found the Loyalhanna Game Land Osprey platform nest unoccupied after more than 10 years of continuing nesting success. Adult **Ospreys** were observed at various times in the county, and a single chick was seen by JK and TK 7/3 at the longtime Osprey nest at Donegal Lake. KD reported several home flyovers of Bald Eagles at her home near the Beaver Run Reservoir.

Coopers Hawks nested on the KP, where **Broad-winged Hawks** had nested in the previous year. **Broad-winged Hawks** were heard and seen several times during the reporting period, including by TK 7/3, but no nest was found. An **American Kestrel** family group was seen by TK at the Murrysville Community Park 6/21. The wetland at MCP provided for nesting habitat and many summer sightings by TK of **Cedar Waxwings** and **Eastern Kingbirds**. At that location 7/5, JK and TK observed both adults and fledged young **Purple Martins** near a first-year nest box.

American Woodcock adults and numerous fledglings were seen by LH near Stahlstown 7/25-26. **Eastern Screech-Owls** and **Barred Owls** were heard at the KP, and after several weeks of hearing begging calls, a **Pileated Woodpecker** chick was seen peeking from a hole in a tree at the base of the KP driveway 7/2.

Reports from individual and bird club outings, and from participants of the Powdermill Butterfly Count held 7/26, provided observations on some of the species most often just found in the Laurel Highlands portion of the county. Highlights were **Alder Flycatcher**, **Black-and-white Warbler**, **American Redstart**, **Blue-winged Warbler**, and **Golden-winged Warbler** (along with a Black Bear) by MF and Three Rivers Bird Club members at Hunter's Lane 6/12. **Hermit Thrush**, **Veery**, **Blue-headed Vireo**, **Canada Warbler**, **Magnolia Warbler**, **Black-throated Blue Warbler**, and **Black-throated Green Warbler** were observed near Spruce Flats Bog by AH and PM 7/11 and 7/18. **Blackburnian Warblers** were numerous at Linn Run State Park, as were **Chestnut-sided Warblers** on Laurel Ridge 6/26.

Back to lower elevations at the KP, generally heard-daily songsters included **Acadian Flycatcher**, **Wood Thrush**, **Hooded Warbler**, **Common Yellow-throated Warbler**, and **Scarlet Tanager**. In reclaimed strip mine habitat along Silvis Road in Murrysville, TK observed a pair of **Yellow-breasted Chats** 6/25. Field Sparrows were summer-long songsters in this area. MF reported that **Grasshopper Sparrow** and **Savannah Sparrow** were singing near New Stanton 6/25.

On a closing note, the last report of **Swainson's Warblers** was from ML, who reported them singing until 6/6 at Calvery Lodge at the end of Powdermill Road. (Swainson's Warblers were reported as captured at PNR Banding Station and reported by several observers in that area in the Spring Migration report).

Observers: **Tom Kuehl, 3615 Hilty Road, Export, PA 15632, (412) 398-1977, tjkuehl@comcast.net**, Ken Byerly, Karen DeSantis, Mike Fialkovich, Amy Henrici, Len and/or Linda Hess, Tom Kuehl, Janet Kuehl, Mark McConaughy, Joanne McIlhatten, Mike Lanzone, Pat McShea, Tim Vechter.

Wyoming County
No Report.

Compiler: **Joe DeMarco, 15 West Tioga Street, Tunkhannock, PA 18657, (570) 836-1468, jdemarco@epix.net**.

York County

A **Hooded Merganser** pair was at a Spring Grove pond 6/2 (PK). Six **American Avocets** were seen the morning of 7/1 from a Lake Redman boardwalk (SW), but were not found the next morning. A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** called 6/6 along Strikhouser Rd. (PJR).

A **Yellow-throated Vireo** was heard 6/13 on Blain Rd. (PJR). There was a **Blue-winged Warbler** along Benedicts Rd. 6/8 (PJR). A **Northern Parula** was heard 6/12 along SR2075 (PJR). Two **Prairie Warblers** were found 6/8, one along Benedicts Rd. and another on Yeager Rd. (PJR). Two **Worm-eating Warblers** were heard 6/6 along

Tannery Rd. and another one was heard on Old Forge Rd. 6/12 (PJR). A total of three **Kentucky Warblers** were found 6/13 on Blain Rd., Bare Rd., and Kline Rd. (PJR).

A **Blue Grosbeak** was heard 6/6 on Wolfgang Rd. (PJR). A total of four were located 6/13 on McDermott Rd., Mitchell Rd., Bridgeton Rd., and Kline Rd.

Observers: **Peter J. Robinson, P. O. Box 482, Hanover, PA 17331, (717) 542-8341, pabirder@hotmail.com**, Lou Carpenter, Phil Keener, Sandy Wynand.

NEW COMPILER BEGINNING FALL 2010: Phil Keener, 198 Jacobs Street, East Berlin, PA 17316, (717) 259-9984, pittche74@yahoo.com.

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

Issue	Sightings due to Compilers by...	Articles due to Editor by...	Publication Date
Dec-Feb (Vol. 1)	31 March	1 May	July
Mar-May (Vol. 2)	30 June	1 August	October
Jun-Jul (Vol. 3)	31 August	1 October	December
Aug-Nov (Vol. 4)	31 December	1 February	April

SUBMISSION OF MATERIALS FOR PUBLICATION: We welcome submission of feature articles, artwork, or photographs focusing on any aspect of Pennsylvania birds or birding. We strongly encourage that submissions be sent in electronic format by email.

For articles, the Microsoft Office suite (any version) is preferred; however we will accept any popularly used format, or plain text. Please send written materials in an attached document in its original source format (i.e., no PDF files, please).

Digital photos or scanned images sent for consideration should be JPEG files resized down to 600-1200 pixels on one axis (if available), and compressed to no larger than 250kB. Larger or less compressed files will be requested by the editor if necessary. Submitted photos may be cropped or adjusted for color or contrast as the editor sees fit without notice to the photographer. When submitting by email, all files should be sent as attachments—DO NOT embed pictures or documents within the email body.

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Send all articles, artwork, advertising, etc. to **Geoff Malosh, 450 Amherst Avenue, Moon Township, PA 15108-2654, pomarine@earthlink.net**.

IN FOCUS



Little Blue Heron, Beaver County. See p.148. (Jeff McDonald)



Northern Goshawk, Clarion County. See p. 154. (Ron Montgomery)



Willet, Northampton County. See p.162. (Photo by Mike Schall)



Loggerhead Shrike, Cumberland County. See p. 155. (Jeffery Davis)

PHOTO QUIZ #29



Answer in the next
issue.

