

PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS



Volume 25, No. 3
Jun - Jul 2011
Issued December 2011





PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS

Journal of the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology

Volume 25 Number 3 June-July 2011

Geoff Malosh, Editor-in-chief
450 Amherst Avenue
Moon Township, PA 15108-2654
(412) 735-3128 pomarine@earthlink.net
<http://www.pabirds.org>

Seasonal Editors

Daniel Brauning
Michael Fialkovich
Greg Grove
Geoff Malosh

Department Editors

Book Reviews

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

CBC Report

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

Hawk Watch Reports

Laurie Goodrich
Keith Bildstein
410 Summer Valley Rd.
Orwigsburg, PA 17961
(570) 943-3411
goodrich@hawkmtn.org
bildstein@hawkmtn.org

PAMC

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

John Fedak
26 Race Street
Bradford, PA 16701
jlfedak@atlanticbb.net

Pennsylvania Birdlists

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

Data Technician

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

Publication Manager

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

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Cover: **White-rumped Sandpiper (*Calidris fuscicollis*)**. Western Pennsylvania birders were treated to a memorably close encounter with late-migrating shorebirds in high breeding plumage at a flooded field near Grove City, *Mercer*. This bird was one of at least three present into the first week of June, shown here 3 June 2011. (*Jeff McDonald*)

... from the Editor

Letter to the Editor

The following letter was received in response to the article "Leucistic Barn Swallows" which appeared in Volume 24, Number 4.

With interest I've read the article in *Pennsylvania Birds* Vol. 24, No. 4 titled "Leucistic Barn Swallows", especially as for many years I have researched colour aberration in birds in general and in corvids and pigeons in particular. I would like to make a few comments.

In comparison with other species, aberrant coloured plumage is not that uncommon in the Barn swallow. Over the years during my research I've seen at least 40 different aberrant coloured specimens of this species. Most common aberrations are Brown, Diluted, and Ino. In Brown, all black plumage is changed into brown, whereas Diluted and Ino result in pale or washed-out colours.

True leucism is extremely rare in Barn swallows. Leucism is due to the heritable absence of pigment cells in the skin, and therefore feathers growing from that part of the skin cannot be provided with any melanin pigment, and thus contain no melanin (in other words, they are white). Leucism can be partial, with a piebald effect, or complete, with a totally white bird as a result. In leucism, the colour of the eyes is normal or dark, but never red as in albino.

Birds with a washed-out plumage do not lack their pigment cells and are therefore *not* leucistic. The Barn swallows shown in your article clearly show diluted pigmentation, rather than complete white or a piebald effect. The plumage colouration of this bird is probably best classified as diluted.

I also do not agree with the statement that birds with aberrant (white/light) plumage colour do not survive long in the wild. About 80% of the colour aberrant birds I've observed during the years (both museum specimens and living birds) were adult, which means that they had already survived the most vulnerable time of

their lives. Only true albino individuals can be rightly assumed not to survive for long in the wild; however that has not as much due to being white as it is due to the poor vision exhibited by albinos. Leucistic/white individuals are certainly at a disadvantage with respect to the use of coloration as camouflage, but in my opinion many predator species are not focused on aberrant colour but rather on aberrant behaviour (slow and ill prey), and therefore they do not necessarily catch aberrant coloured individuals first. Sparrow hawks, for example, look for prey that is the slowest in the flock and do not necessarily pick an odd coloured starling. The point I would like to make is that not every aberrant coloured specimen is doomed to be killed by a predator.

Hein van Grouw
Curator, Bird Group, Dept. of Zoology
The Natural History Museum
Akeman Street
Tring, Herts, HP23 6AP, UK
h.van-grouw@nhm.ac.uk

[Editor's response: Thanks very much for your note, Hein. I certainly agree with your definitions of leucism, dilute, etc., and your definitions of course agree with their original meanings and with their usages as understood by most biologists, particularly mammalogists and herpetologists. Unfortunately the original meaning of "leucism" has been degraded over many years when used in reference to birds, particularly by the authors of field guides and even by many ornithologists. Birders and bird enthusiasts in particular have embraced the term to refer to just about any abnormally pale or white plumage in birds (other than true albino), which is definitely not in the spirit of the word's original meaning. However, since Pennsylvania Birds is a journal primarily for birders, we use the term "leucism" as birders use it, even as it is technically incorrect in the original sense. That said, we do plan to feature a short retrospective on the etymology of the term—as it applies to birds—in a future issue of this journal. Thanks very

much for providing a convenient lead-in to this discussion!]

Photo quiz

After eight years and uncounted hours of time volunteered to the journal, Rick Wiltraut has decided to step down from his duties as Photo Quiz editor. On behalf of the entire PSO membership, I'd like to extend our thanks to Rick for his service. The Photo Quiz, introduced in 2003 with the first issue of *Pennsylvania Birds* that featured a color cover, has long been one of my favorite regular columns, and Rick always managed to keep it interesting and fresh. He certainly did take an unorthodox approach on occasion! Not every quiz required a critical feather-by-feather examination, and I always appreciated the occasional change of pace. So on behalf of PSO, thanks very much, Rick.

I would like to continue with the Photo Quiz on a twice-per-year basis. If you think you might be interested in taking ownership of this department, please let me know.

Oh, and if you were wondering what Quiz Bird #30 was... it's a La Sagra's Flycatcher; a very plain-looking *Myiarchus* (note the hints of rufous in the wings and tail and almost no yellow on the underparts), with Gumbo Limbo leaves in the foreground. Occasionally unorthodox, remember?

Geoff Malosh
Editor-in-Chief

PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS (ISSN 0898-8501) is published four times a year by The Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology. Editorial and business offices are located at 2469 Hammertown Road, Narvon, PA 17555-9730. Subscriptions, all in US\$: One year U.S.A \$28.50, Canada \$40, Foreign \$45. Library rate \$30. Single copies: \$5.50. Checks and money orders in U.S. dollars only should be made payable to PSO. Copyright © 2011 by the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology. **SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NARVON, PA 17555.**
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to **PSO**, 2469 Hammertown Road, Narvon, PA 17555-9726.

Observations from the 2011 Pennsylvania Migration Count (PAMC)

John Fedak and Frank Haas

Our 20th annual Pennsylvania Migration Count occurred on Saturday, 14 May 2011. The weather threatened all day, but birders were able to participate in the count by observing spring migration in Pennsylvania!

Here are the numbers for 2011:

- 930 observers (up 255)
- 2,932.12 field hours (up 694.02)
- 199,120 birds (up 101,162)
- 238 species (up 20)
- 53 counties reporting

Pennsylvania birders really rose to the occasion this year. The 2011 PAMC was the fourth highest count for number of species found. The overall high species count occurred in 2002 with 240 species. Imagine what the numbers could have been if the weather was more favorable, or better yet, if we had participation from the 14 missing counties!

Weather

For most of the commonwealth it was cloudy all day. Intermittent drizzle and rain showers did happen, but in most areas it was dry enough for a good day of birding. The clouds seemed to actually help in spots. Compared to 2010, the weather for 2011 was positively excellent.

In *McKean*, the clouds seemed to keep the warblers in the area for most of the day and the ridges held lots of warblers. It drizzled, but not enough to hamper the birding until later in the day. On the eastern side of the state in *Bucks*, Diane Allison commented: "Count day dawned with a cloudy, cool and misty morning. We had 62 participants that spent a little over 162 hours covering about 357 miles searching Bucks County for birds. The total species count was 144, which was well below our all-time high of 172 species. We had some rain during the day, a few significant areas that were not covered due to last minute issues, and the count was the very latest that it can fall. These things may have contributed to a lower species total. Many of the warblers had already moved through. But all in all it was a good day with some very interesting species being found." In *Luzerne*, David Fisher stated, "Despite the on-and-off rain showers throughout the day and

the cloud cover, which obscured good visibility for many raptors, the count turned out to be very good with a total of 147 species—up 21 from last year's count. Even though the weather was less than perfect, I believe it was much less a factor in this year's count compared to last year."

In *Centre*, Nick Kerlin commented "Count Day was strange! Totally overcast, with rain threatening all day, some light sprinkles. Nearly all 39 participants made similar comments: Birds were not plentiful, there was little singing and missed species that I expected to see. However, when all was said and done it was one of our highest counts with 149 species and 6757 total individual birds."

Overall, the later date may have had more of an effect on the count than the less than perfect weather. In the southern part of the state, some birds had already moved through. However, that may have been made up in the northern part of the state where migration seemed to still be in full swing.

Participation

There were over 250 more birders and almost 700 more field hours logged this year than last year. *Monroe* was the first county out of the gate at 12:30 AM and *Indiana* was the last county out of the field at 10:45 PM. *Allegheny* had the most party hours by foot—an impressive 110! County led the most hours by car with 102.5. *Indiana* headed up the most hours by other with 106.5 and the most hours by parties with 251.5.

Participants really racked up the mileage as well. As expected, with the most hours on foot, *Allegheny* also led with the most miles on foot with 102! *Indiana* recorded a remarkable 828.7 miles by car. *Dauphin* recorded the most other miles with 102.5. Lastly, *Indiana* recorded the most miles of all the counties with 864.85.

An effort was made by the coordinators to keep the count in the forefront of birders' thoughts ever since the end of the 2010 count. The effort did seem to pay off. Personally, I was gratified to see such a large increase in participation from last year. With reports being given and the count staying in the forefront, we are hopeful

the numbers will continue to grow.

The bad news is that there were still 14 counties without any report submitted, most of which are home to very good and passionate birders. With a little more effort and some spreading of the word this year, maybe we will see some participation in every county next year.

Table 1. Top 10 counties by field hours

County	Hours
Indiana	251.50
Franklin	212.25
Bucks	162.55
Berks	161.25
Allegheny	122.50
Westmoreland	121.25
Centre	119.75
Lancaster	110.75
Schuylkill	109.00
Chester	107.40

Table 2. Top 10 counties by participants

County	Participants
Franklin	66
Bucks	62
Indiana	59
Berks	49
Chester	48
Lancaster	41
Philadelphia	39
Centre	39
Greene	37
Juniata	36

Species encountered

PAMC 2011 yielded new high counts (HC) for 15 species, and tied the high count for another five. One new species was found in 2011, **Yellow Rail** (documentation has been sent to PORC). Since 1992, a total of 289 species have been found on the count!

American Wigeon, Red-necked Phalarope, White-winged Scoter, and Hooded and Common Mergansers were all found in record numbers. The high numbers of waterfowl were a bit unexpected considering the lateness of this year's count. **Great Egret, Merlin, Iceland Gull, Willow Flycatcher, Gray Catbird, Blackpoll Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Mourning Warbler, and Fox Sparrow** also set new high counts. **Gadwall, Canvasback, Ring-necked Duck, Peregrine Falcon, and Eurasian Collared-Dove** all tied their existing high counts. Once again, **American Robin** was the most recorded species,

with 16,333 individuals observed. **Gray Catbird** moved up the list past Canada Goose by almost doubling last year's number.

There were no new lows among regularly occurring species in the count this year. However, there seems to be a trend of lower numbers in some species. For example, **Yellow-rumped Warbler** has an average count (all years) of 1784, compared to 410 this year. Other species have shown lower numbers this year compared to the count average: **Blue-winged Warbler**, **Palm Warbler**, **Broad-winged Hawk**, **Red-tailed Hawk**, **Blue-winged Teal**, **Short-billed Dowitcher**, and (surprise) **Evening Grosbeak** all showed lower count numbers this year compared to historical average. This may in part be due to the lateness of the count, but I suspect that there may be environmental factors as well.

Table 3. Most abundant species

Species	Individuals
American Robin	16333
Red-winged Blackbird	11020
European Starling	10983
Common Grackle	9267
Gray Catbird	8526
Canada Goose	6201
Barn Swallow	6120
American Crow	5151
Tree Swallow	4513
Northern Cardinal	4417

Geese through Ducks

Snow Goose remained in the area with 88 counted, including 25 in *Lebanon*. **Canada Geese** were below average for PAMC counts; 6243 were found in 49 of 53 counties, against an average of 7802 for all previous years. A lone **Tundra Swan** was located in *Lancaster*.

Mallards were also down; however, seven species of ducks set either a new or tied high count. **Gadwall** matched the high count while **American Wigeon**, **Canvasback**, **Ring-necked Duck**, **White-winged Scoter**, **Hooded Merganser**, and **Common Merganser** surpassed their high counts. Twenty-nine **Common Mergansers** were located in *Wyoming*, with many other counties not far behind. A total of 84 **Hooded Mergansers** were found with *Juniata* providing 17 of them. A large fallout of **American Wigeon** occurred on count day. *Schuylkill* totaled 68, *Juniata* topped that with 80, but *Cumberland* took top honors with 194. Statewide

there were 450 found. *Centre* had 27 of the 83 **White-winged Scoters**, followed closely by *Dauphin* with 22 and *Montour* with 15. The only **Long-tailed Duck** of the count was found in *Wyoming* and the only **Green-winged Teal** was located in *Cumberland*. *Forest* and *Northampton* each recorded one of the 2 **Canvasbacks** seen on count day.

Fowl through waders

Ruffed Grouse, our state bird, were found more easily than last year, with 104 counted in 32 counties. *Centre* tallied 14 followed by *Schuylkill* with 13 and *Wayne* with 6. Fourteen **Ring-necked Pheasant** of the 87 observed were found in *Indiana*. A nice total of 533 **Wild Turkeys** was found across 44 counties, with *Indiana* and *Wyoming* having 50 each. Ten **Northern Bobwhites** were found, most or all of which are probably released birds.

Clinton and *Dauphin* each had one **Red-throated Loon**. *Dauphin* had 12 **Common Loons** but *Luzerne* doubled that with 24. *Chester* tallied 6 of the 22 **Pied-billed Grebes** reported. Only one **Horned Grebe** was found (*Butler*). After last year's high count, no Great Cormorants were found this year. However, 546 **Double-crested Cormorants** were tallied, 116 of which were in *Lancaster* and 177 in *Bucks*.

Selected highlights for the herons: one **Least Bittern** (*Cumberland*); 2 **American Bitterns** (*Bedford*); one **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** (*Cumberland*); one **Little Blue Heron** (*Bucks*); one **Snowy Egret** (*Bedford*). Top counts of **Black-crowned Night Heron** were 39 (*York*) and 22 (*Cumberland*). A total 104 **Great Egrets** were found with 40 located in *Dauphin*.

Vultures, raptors

A final count of 1687 **Turkey Vultures** were observed in 52 out of 53 counties. **Black Vultures** turned up with high numbers, with a total of 415 located in 25 counties (121 in *Lancaster*). Ninety-one **Osprey** were reported from 26 counties. **Bald Eagles** are continuing to increase, with 135 found in 31 counties, 25 in *Lancaster* alone. Only 2 **Northern Goshawks** were located, one each in *Lehigh* and *Wayne*. **Red-tailed Hawk** numbers were down with only 420 located in 46 counties.

Falcons included 156 **American Kestrels**, 9 **Merlins** (HC) in six counties, with *McKean* providing 3 of them, and 22 **Peregrine Falcons**, 6 in *Clinton*. With Merlins breeding in the state (the latest nest in *Williamsport*) their numbers will likely increase.

Across the state, the skies were cloudy or rainy. This could have been a factor in the lower counts of **Broad-winged**, **Red-shouldered**, **Cooper's**, **Sharp-shinned**, and other hawks. *Lycoming* recorded 11 of the 53 **Broad-winged Hawks** seen statewide.

Rails and shorebirds

This year's rarest bird, a **Yellow Rail**, was located in *Westmoreland* by counter Jim Pemberton. This was a first for the PAMC and the appropriate paperwork has been filed with PORC. Five **Sandhill Cranes** were found with 2 in *Sullivan* and *Butler* and one in *Wyoming*. Once again, *Lawrence* and *Crawford*, where Sandhill Cranes are most likely to be found, did not submit reports. Twelve of the 61 **American Coots** were in *York*; 24 **Virginia Rails** included 4 in *Tioga*; 16 **Sora** were tallied with 4 in *Chester*.

Shorebirds seemed higher in number than last year. Two **Red-necked Phalaropes** were a new HC, with one each in *Cumberland* and *York*. Seven **Black-bellied Plovers** were found, with 6 in *Cumberland*. **Killdeer** (677) were located in 44 of the 53 reporting counties. Top count of 41 **Semipalmated Plovers** was submitted in *Cumberland*, contributing to the total of 137. Only 4 **Upland Sandpipers** were located (*Bedford* and *Butler*). A good total of 895 **Least Sandpipers** was made; triple-digit counties were *Cumberland* (176), *Bucks* (160), and *Chester* (100). Only 3 **Pectoral Sandpipers** were found, and just one **Short-billed Dowitcher** was located (*Lebanon*). Sixteen species of shorebirds were found for the count, again with no report from *Erie*.

Gulls and Terns

A whopping 4115 **Laughing Gulls** were found with 4105 in *Bucks* alone! The other 10 were found in *Philadelphia*. **Ring-billed Gulls** followed a not-so-close second with 729. Forty-one **Bonaparte's Gulls** were found in 11 counties. Two **Iceland Gulls** were found in *Bucks*.

Four tern species were found. Two of the 3 **Caspian Terns** were located

in *Lancaster* and the other in *Butler*. Eight out of 13 **Common Terns** were in *Lancaster*. *Butler* had 17 out of 18 **Forster's Terns**; the other was in *Potter*. The only **Black Tern** was located in *Berks*.

Doves through nightjars

Eurasian Collared-Dove was reported only from *Franklin* where 4 were found. **Mourning Doves** were reported in 50 of the 53 reporting counties, led by *Franklin* with 522. **Cuckoo** numbers rebounded a little this year with 96 **Yellow-billed** and 93 **Black-billed**.

Sixteen **Barn Owls** were reported from 4 counties with 10 in *Juniata*. Five of 6 **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were reported in *McKean*. The total of 83 **Barred Owls** was just three shy of the high count. **Great-horned Owls** were only reported from 23 counties and **Eastern Screech-Owls** were only found in 18 counties. Short-eared and Long-eared Owls were missed.

A lone **Chuck-will's-widow** was reported from *Lebanon*. A nice total of 80 **Whip-poor-wills** were reported, with *Center* leading the way with 18. Just 18 **Common Nighthawks** were tallied statewide.

Swifts through swallows

Indiana reported 222 of the 2783 **Chimney Swifts** counted in 48 counties. *Indiana* also had 75 of the 751 **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** found in 51 of 53 counties.

South-central Pennsylvania had the majority of the 53 **Red-headed Woodpeckers** found this year: *Franklin* reported 12 and *Adams* and *Cumberland* both had 6. *Bucks* led the way with 173 of the 1636 **Red-bellied Woodpeckers**; they were found in 52 of 53 counties reporting. Their range in the state has become widespread over the past 20 years. Birders found 112 **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** including 33 in *McKean*. **Pileated Woodpecker** was recorded in 47 of the 53 counties during the count.

Schuylkill and *Indiana* each reported 2 **Olive-sided Flycatchers**. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was missed entirely. **Eastern Wood-Pewee** was tallied in 47 counties. *McKean* birders found 10 of the 25 **Alder Flycatchers** reported. **Least Flycatchers** were found in 27 counties totaling 154 birds. *Greene* reported a wonderful total of 54 **Acadian Flycatchers** on count day

(357 statewide). **Willow Flycatchers** were found in high numbers; a new high count of 236 individuals was established with 29 in *Chester*. **Eastern Phoebe** was recorded in 49 counties.

Eight of 22 **Philadelphia Vireos** were counted in *Center*. The 561 **Warbling Vireos** was just shy of the high count of 684. *McKean* recorded 61 of the 197 **Blue-headed Vireos** found statewide. *Indiana* had the most **Red-eyed Vireos** with 423; they were recorded in 52 of 53 counties. **Yellow-throated Vireo** was found in 30 counties; **White-eyed Vireo** was found in 26 counties, and **Warbling Vireo** was located in 38 counties.

Fish Crows are now being seen in more areas with 24 counties reporting them; 78 of 382 were reported from *Cumberland*. **Blue Jays** and **American Crows** were recorded in all reporting counties. A total of 150 **Common Ravens** were observed; 22 of these were in *Luzerne*.

Tree Swallows came in at 4608, lower than the count average; they were observed in 50 counties. *Juniata* had the highest number of **Purple Martins** with 196 of 1385. **Barn Swallow** was seen in 51 of 53 counties. *Bucks* had 86 of the 403 **Bank Swallows** observed.

Chickadees through waxwings

Once again the number of "chickadee sp." has risen, to a high this year of 339. Is the hybrid zone expanding, or are observers simply being more careful about making identifications near the hybrid zone? Twelve counties are now reporting hybrids. **Tufted Titmouse** was reported in 52 of 53 counties, 50 counties recorded **White-breasted Nuthatch**, and 17 counties recorded **Red-breasted Nuthatch**. *McKean* recorded 5 of the 35 **Brown Creepers**.

Twenty-eight **Winter Wrens** were located with 8 in *McKean*. *Philadelphia* accounted for 5 out of the 7 **Marsh Wrens** found during the count. The total of 878 **Carolina Wrens** in 43 counties was higher than last year, with 109 in *Juniata*. The count of **House Wrens** was 1129 in 49 counties. That number is lower than the 5 year average, the 10 year average, and the overall average. In *Bucks*, 119 individuals were observed. In other parts of the state where they are usually counted in higher numbers, there were few. Another bird that was

tallied less than average for count was **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**: 18 birds in only 8 counties. Potentially affecting this species' showing was the lateness of the count. *Schuylkill* reported 7 of the 26 **Golden-crowned Kinglets**.

Eastern Bluebird was reported from 51 of 53 counties. One **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was found in each of six counties. **Swainson's Thrush** was below historical averages: 64 were found statewide, with 10 in *Perry*. *McKean* had 33 of the 126 **Hermit Thrushes** for the count. *Berks* led with 273 **Wood Thrushes** of 2811 total. **American Robin** numbers were higher than 2011 with 16,398, only slightly shy of the PAMC high count of 16,848. **American Pipits** were found in nine counties with 82 of the 197 located in *Cumberland*. **Gray Catbird** turned in a new high count of 8526 individuals; 897 were in *Berks*, 704 in *Bucks*, and 610 in *Juniata*.

Warblers

Thirty-five species of warblers were found on the PAMC. Three species set new records. **Blackpoll Warbler** surpassed its old record by 30, with a total of 450 individuals; 69 in *Philadelphia*. **Prothonotary Warbler** bested its high count by 3 with a total of 21. *Lancaster* accounted for 12 of these, more than half the state's total. **Mourning Warbler** had a total of 26, which was six more than the previous high count. Both **Blackpoll** and **Mourning Warblers** are late migrants, so perhaps the late date contributed to higher totals.

Butler held 2 of the 3 **Orange-crowned Warblers** seen. Just 49 **Golden-winged Warblers** were located, with a high of 13 from *Centre*. **Blue-winged Warblers** were tallied in 34 counties with *Greene* finding 26 of the 265. Both "winged-warbler" hybrids were found on count day: 5 **Brewster's Warblers** (one each in *Huntington*, *Indiana*, *Lancaster*, *Lebanon*, and *Schuylkill*), and one **Lawrence's Warbler** (*Dauphin*).

Fifty of the 154 **Tennessee Warblers** came from *Butler*. *Butler* also had 21 of the count's 84 **Nashville Warblers**. The total for **Yellow Warbler** was 2961, in 50 counties. **Yellow-rumped Warbler** seemed low, with only 410 found. Of those, 45 were in *Montour*. *Wayne* counted 83 of the 788 **Chestnut-sided Warblers**, followed closely with 80 from *Centre*. *McKean* led the way with 103 of the

367 **Blackburnian Warblers**, 63 of the 363 **Magnolia Warblers**, 6 of the 41 **Bay-breasted Warblers**, and 78 of the 592 **Black-throated Green Warblers** counted in the state. Healthy Eastern Hemlock forests are probably a reason for high counts. Only 16 **Palm Warblers** were seen. *Greene* tallied 26 of the 118 **Cerulean Warblers** and 9 out of 63 **Kentucky Warblers** for the count. *Westmoreland* accounted for 115 of the 1354 **American Redstarts**. *Indiana* held 94 of the 587 **Hooded Warblers** and 297 of the 2873 **Common Yellowthroats** found. *Schuylkill* had 307 out of the 3166 **Ovenbirds** counted in 48 counties. *Lancaster* had 16 of the 99 **Yellow-breasted Chats** in the count.

The weather actually seemed to help in the warbler count. The temperatures were cool, and the low cloud cover and drizzle/rain helped to keep the warbler flocks low, alleviating some of the “warbler neck” usually associated with the PAMC.

Sparrows through cardinals

Eastern Towhee was located in 51 of 53 counties with *Indiana* reporting 352. Indicative of its status as one of the state’s rarest breeders, just three **Clay-colored Sparrows** were found, one in *Franklin* and 2 in *Clarion*. Nineteen of just 50 **Henslow’s Sparrows** were found in *Clarion*. **Field Sparrow** was recorded in 47 counties. Sixteen of 41 **Vesper Sparrows** were located in *Franklin*. Thirty-seven of 192 **White-crowned Sparrows** were tallied in *Juniata*, and 28 of 166 **White-throated Sparrows** were tallied in *Franklin*. Twelve late **Fox Sparrows** made a new HC. **Song Sparrow** was recorded, as expected, in all counties. **Lincoln’s Sparrow** was seen in 11 counties. Three **Dickcissels** were reported on count day, one each in *Cameron*, *Chester*, and *Lancaster*.

For the first time, a **Summer Tanager** was found on count day (*Bucks*). *Indiana* had 155 of 1463 **Scarlet Tanagers**, along with 117 of 960 **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks**. Six of 23 **Blue Grosbeaks** were found in *Bucks*. **Northern Cardinal** was reported in 52 of 53 counties. **Indigo Bunting** was reported from 50 counties with *Juniata* tallying 237 of the 1943 found.

Blackbirds through finches

A total of 741 **Bobolinks** were

reported, with 105 in *Wyoming*, followed by 74 in *Bucks*. Just 23 **Rusty Blackbirds**, a bird of concern, were reported in four counties. **Red-winged Blackbirds** were seen in 52 counties. **Common Grackles** and **Brown-headed Cowbirds** were reported from 51 counties. **Orchard Orioles** were reported from 35 counties with *Bucks* birders finding 52 of the 464 seen. **Baltimore Orioles** were found in 51 of counties with 3201 reported.

Pine Siskins were reported in 16 counties. A very late **Common Redpoll** was found in *Butler*. Eight **Evening Grosbeaks** were reported, 3 in *Allegheny* and 5 in *Butler*. **House Finches** were reported in 49 counties, **Purple Finches** were seen in 26 counties, and **American Goldfinches** were located in all 53 reporting counties. Both American Goldfinch and Purple Finch numbers remain below the count average. There were 222 Purple Finches seen with 41 in *Indiana*, and 4015 American Goldfinches were seen with 353 in *Franklin*.

The PAMC Future

Thanks to all observers and county compilers! Much effort was made this year to encourage more birders in more counties participate in the count. The Pennsylvania Migration Count is still alive and worthwhile! This year the numbers of participants were up 255 observers. This in turn increased the birding time afield by almost 700 hours. This, in a large part, helped to increase the total number of birds observed by over 101,000 individual birds and up the species number by 21 species! Birders in Pennsylvania responded to the call to take up binoculars and responded with vigor... the effort was outstanding.

Now, about the 14 counties not represented. We can do better. We have done a great job and maybe it is unfair to ask more of the birding community in the state—but I am asking anyway! We improved the number of participating counties in 2011 by 15. Surely we can add those last 14. Our goal as always is to have 100% county participation. All it takes is one or 2 birders to represent the county.

With that being said, 2012 looks to be a year to continue what we restarted. Make no other plans for PAMC weekend; circle May 12th, 2012, on your calendars now! Start to round up birding crews. Let’s start the 3rd

decade of PAMC the right way. Make it what it is: a celebration of migration. Everyone—new and old birders alike—let’s have a stupendous celebration for next year’s PAMC!

Summary

Looking at this report, with 53 of 67 counties reporting and knowing that most of the non-represented counties have a solid birding community, we are still hoping for more participation from birders and bird clubs in the future. It was stated last year: Pennsylvania is one of the few states that have sustained this count, formerly the NAMC, over the years. We have almost two decades of data that can be used to locally map environmental changes in species and in migration. We should make an effort to increase participation.

The information in this write-up is only a summary and interpretation. The complete data can be found at <www.pabirds.org>. Please log on and check it out. There may be something that interests you not covered here.

Thanks go out to all the participants this year that braved a sometimes wet and mostly dreary day to collect data. A very sincere thank you goes out to all of you that participated in the PAMC this year for the first time or once again after an absence. We look forward to seeing all of you collecting more data next year!

Please note that the 2012 count will take place on MAY 12, 2011! Mark your calendars now!

John Fedak
26 Race Street
Bradford, PA 16701
jlfedak@atlanticbb.net

Franklin Haas (data compiler)
2469 Hammertown Road
Narvon, PA 17555
fchaas@pabirds.org

Editor’s Note: Readers are reminded that the complete PAMC 2011 results by species for all counties can be found on the PSO website, <www.pabirds.org>.

Notes on 20 Years of Breeding Bird Surveys in Rothrock State Forest

Greg Grove

Rothrock State Forest (RSF) is comprised of approximately 100,000 acres in central Pennsylvania, with portions in Centre, Huntingdon, and Mifflin counties (Fig 1). In 1992, I established three Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) routes entirely within the bounds of RSF.

BBS routes provide an important means for assessing the status of populations of breeding birds. Over 3000 routes are run each year across the U.S. and Canada, including approximately 100 in Pennsylvania. Routes consist of 50 three-minute stops (i.e., point counts) spaced at 0.5-mile intervals. All birds are recorded; most are detected by ear. Routes begin one-half hour before sunrise and are completed within 4.5 hours. Each route is run once per year in late May or June. Most BBS routes are designed to be *random*, sampling a mixture of agricultural lands, woods, and rural

and suburban residential areas. Large contiguous forests, like State Forests, usually represent a minor portion, if any, of the 50 stops on a given BBS route. *Non-random* routes sample relatively uniform habitats, like those in RSF, which are all on forested public land.

Most of RSF is deciduous but there are substantial stands of eastern hemlock, white pine and Norway spruce. The elevation varies from 1000 to 2400 feet, with a significant portion above 1800 feet, including a number of long ridges and two wide, flat “plateaus” on Thickhead and Broad Mts. There are several deep, cool valleys where streams flow downward through a hemlock-laurel-rhododendron assemblage; these areas, along with the high elevation bog of Bear Meadows Natural Area, impart a northern element to the avifauna of RSF. The various habitats of RSF are

described in detail in *Birds of Central Pennsylvania* (Bolgiano and Grove 2010).

Figure 1 shows the outline of the three BBS routes in RSF. Much of the Tussey Mt. route, the westernmost, is 1200-1500 feet in elevation and is on the south side of the ridge, where ideal growth conditions have produced a rich forest with tall oaks and other trees; this route ranks in the top five in the state for Eastern Wood-Pewee, Acadian Flycatcher, Wood Thrush, Ovenbird, Worm-eating Warbler, Hooded Warbler, American Redstart and Scarlet Tanager. The Rothrock and Broad Mt. routes, in the core of RSF, are at somewhat higher average elevation, with relatively more conifers and narrow, cool valleys, and less mature forest, resulting in a habitat more conducive to the northern species; for example, these two routes rank high for Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green and Canada Warblers (Bolgiano and Grove 2010).

All three routes were originally run by the author. In 2000, Nick Bolgiano took over one route, and in 2007 Deb Grove took a second, so that a different observer now conducts each. David Kyler has been a frequent data-recorder and occasional chain-saw operator—these routes mostly follow remote forest roads, where sometimes an unexpected downed tree is found blocking the way.

Species Notes

On the three routes combined, 94 species have been recorded, with an annual average of 61 and range of 56-67. Thirty-seven species have been recorded every year; seven more were missed only once or twice. Twelve species have been recorded in only one year. The average annual number of individuals from the three combined routes is 1105. More detailed data, including a complete species list for each of the three

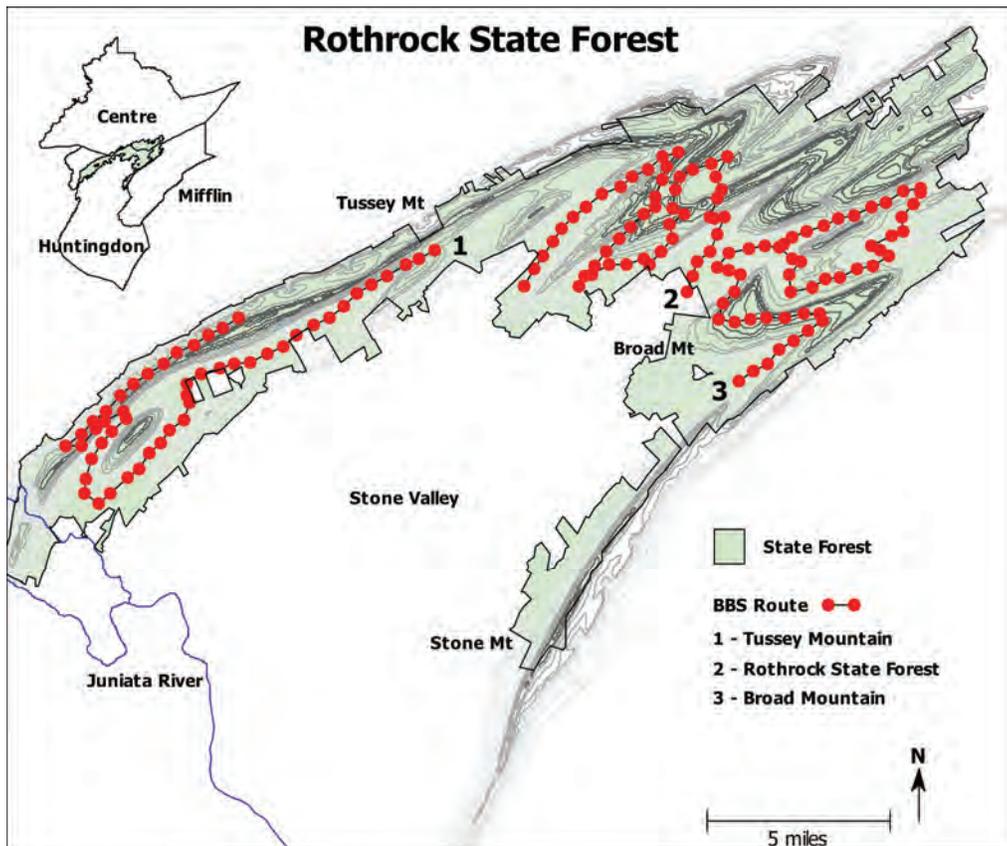


Figure 1. Location of Rothrock State Forest in Centre, Huntingdon and Mifflin counties and outline of three BBS routes. (Adapted from Bolgiano and Grove 2010).

Table 1. Average annual counts over five-year intervals for Rothrock SF BBS routes.

YEAR	92-96	97-01	02-06	07-11
E. Whip-poor-will	2.0	2.6	2.4	3.8
Eastern Phoebe	11.4	13.0	10.8	10.8
Blue-headed Vireo	6.2	10.4	16.4	15.8
Blue Jay	12.4	13.4	14.4	14.8
American Crow	25.2	27.8	17.8	26.6
Common Raven	5.8	5.0	7.0	10.4
White-br. Nuthatch	5.0	10.6	11.6	10.2
Hermit Thrush	9.8	10.0	8.4	9.8
American Robin	9.8	10.4	13.4	21.6
Bl.-and-white Warb.	9.4	6.0	7.0	7.0
Worm-eating Warbler	12.8	6.2	7.8	5.2
Chipping Sparrow	40.4	26.8	30.6	40.8
Dark-eyed Junco	5.4	3.8	3.0	0.6
Rose-br. Grosbeak	5.0	10.0	7.8	4.2
Indigo Bunting	9.4	8.2	5.8	9.6
American Goldfinch	4.8	8.6	9.8	12.4

routes (through 2008), has been published previously (Bolgiano and Grove 2010). Following are comments on relatively common species. Trends for some are graphed in Fig 2; data for others are shown in Table 1, where count averages are calculated for five-year increments. Nick Bolgiano has prepared individual maps for each species showing relative abundance at each stop; these may be viewed at the State College Bird Club website (see references).

Raptors: Although not often detected, five species of diurnal raptors have been recorded. With total numbers from all years in parenthesis, these are: Broad-winged Hawk (20), Red-shouldered Hawk (3), Sharp-shinned Hawk (2), Northern Goshawk (1) and Red-tailed Hawk (1). Owls are occasionally heard on early stops: Barred Owl (11) and Great Horned Owl (7).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo (avg = 15.4) and **Black billed Cuckoo** (avg = 1.1). Yellow-billed Cuckoos vary annually more than any other species, linked of course to caterpillar infestations. The number of Yellow-bills has been as high 75 in 2000 at the peak of a gypsy moth infestation, but three times has been zero, including the past two years, when there has been no caterpillar outbreak in RSF (Fig 2). Black-bills have never been higher than six and had a total of just one during the most recent seven years combined.

Eastern Whip-poor-will (avg = 2.7). The highest numbers of Whip-poor-wills in Pennsylvania occur in center of

the state, especially in Rothrock, Moshannon, and Sproul State Forests. The three RSF routes rank among the top seven in the state for average count. (The state's top route is the nearby Pine Grove Mills route in Huntingdon County, the first few stops of which border on RSF).

Woodpeckers. In decreasing order of average number detected: Pileated (avg = 7.4), Red-bellied (5.4), Northern Flicker (4.2), Downy (3.7) and Hairy (2.9). Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers are probably more abundant than the others, but their calls are comparatively quiet and they are presumably relatively under-counted.

Flycatchers: Eastern Wood Pewee (avg = 36.7), Acadian Flycatcher (avg = 27.0), Eastern Phoebe (avg = 11.5) and Great Crested Flycatcher (avg = 10.7). With its great expanses of tall deciduous trees, RSF supports many Pewees, which rank seventh in abundance on the BBS routes (Table 2). Acadian Flycatchers rank 10th overall; common along hemlock-lined streams, they may be over-sampled because roads often follow streams. Most of the phoebes are found at hunting camps, their favored nesting "habitat". None of these three species exhibit a significant trend, although the 47 Acadian Flycatchers in 2011 was a record high (Fig 2). Perhaps the most puzzling observation over the 20 years has been the downward trend of Great-crested Flycatcher in RSF (Fig 2), a trend not evident in statewide BBS data or from the two Breeding Bird Atlases.

Blue-headed Vireo (avg = 12.2) and **Red-eyed Vireo** (avg = 194). Hemlock-conifer specialists, Blue-headed Vireos have been trending upward (Table 1); however, the count in 2011 was only two, following 7 consecutive years with at least 16 each year. Probably the most abundant forest bird in Pennsylvania, Red-eyed Vireos easily rank first on the RSF BBS routes (Table 2) although their persistent

singing may lead to over-counting. They increased steadily during the 1990s, but numbers have since leveled off (Fig 2). We do not know if that was a real increase over previous levels, or if Red-eyes happened to be at a low point in the early 1990s from which they have rebounded. The increase may reflect increasing maturity of the forest or a positive response to the persistent gypsy moth presence until the early 2000s. An average of 1.3 Red-eyes is recorded per stop, the only species greater than 1.0. Highest numbers occur below 2000 feet.

American Crow (avg = 24.4), **Blue Jay** (avg = 13.8), and **Common Raven** (avg = 7.2). As elsewhere in the state, Raven numbers are climbing in RSF (Table 1). Early in the last century they were nearly extirpated from Pennsylvania; RSF hosted perhaps the last significant population in the state (Todd 1940). The American Crow population has remained steady except for a drop during 2002-2007, possibly related to West Nile Virus, while no trend is evident for Blue Jays (Table 1).

Table 2. Top 15 species by annual average on Rothrock BBS routes, 1992-2011.

SPECIES	Avg.
1. Red-eyed Vireo	194
2. Ovenbird	148
3. Eastern Towhee	80
4. Scarlet Tanager	71
5. Wood Thrush	47
6. Common Yellowthroat	43
7. Eastern Wood-Pewee	37
8. Chipping Sparrow	35
9. Black-throated Green Warbler	29
10. Acadian Flycatcher	27
10. Hooded Warbler	27
10. American Redstart	27
13. American Crow	24
14. Veery	17
15. Mourning Dove	16

Black-capped Chickadee (avg = 11.6) and **Tufted Titmouse** (avg = 13.0). An interesting situation exists with these "cousin" species. While the Black-capped Chickadee is a long-established resident in central Pennsylvania, the Tufted Titmouse is a relative newcomer from the south (along with Red-bellied Woodpecker, Carolina Wren, Northern Mockingbird and Northern Cardinal). The Titmouse is common in the valleys of central Pennsylvania, but when I started birding here in the 1980s, was essentially absent in RSF except on the low-elevation fringes. They remain uncommon in the forest, but are increasing (Fig 2). Chickadees are

probably holding steady although numbers have slipped a bit in recent years (Fig 2), possibly affected by West Nile Virus. The change in relative abundance of the two is also evident in Christmas Bird Count data from central Pennsylvania (Bolgiano, per comm). Interestingly, Titmouse numbers twice fell sharply in BBS data, in 1994 and again in 2003. Both of those summers followed severe winters, suggesting that the titmouse, non-migratory and of southern origin, is not yet well adapted to the cold of the higher elevations of RSF.

Table 3. Top 16 average annual counts of warbler species on Rothrock SF BBS routes, 1992-2011.

SPECIES	Avg.
1. Ovenbird	148
2. Common Yellowthroat	43
3. Black-throated Green Warbler	29
4. Hooded Warbler	27
4. American Redstart	27
6. Black-throated Blue Warbler	11
7. Chestnut-sided Warbler	8.4
8. Worm-eating Warbler	8.0
9. Black-and-white Warbler	7.4
10. Blackburnian Warbler	5.1
11. Canada Warbler Warbler	4.0
12. Louisiana Waterthrush	2.9
13. Cerulean Warbler	1.4
14. Yellow-rumped Warbler	1.1
15. Yellow-breasted Chat	0.9
16. Magnolia Warbler	0.6

Wood Thrush (avg = 46.5), **Veery** (avg = 17.2), and **Hermit Thrush** (avg = 9.5). The Wood Thrush is the fifth most abundant species on the BBS routes (Table 2). Their trend is slightly downward (Fig 2)—the count of 27 in 2011 was record low, but otherwise recent years have been near the long-term average. Veeries have been increasing since about 2003 (Fig 2). No trend is evident for Hermit Thrush (Table 1). The relative numbers of three thrushes in various areas of RSF are related to elevation. The Wood Thrush occurs almost exclusively below 1500 feet. Veeries are found mostly at mid-elevation (roughly 1200-1800), especially in rhododendron thickets such as in Bear Meadows Natural Area. Hermit Thrushes occur mainly above 2000 feet in ridge-top hemlock stands on north-facing slopes, although a few can be found at low elevation where appropriate cool, conifer habitat occurs.

Warblers. A total of 22 warbler species have been recorded. Of those, 16 average approximately one or more individuals annually (Table 3). Six

others have been recorded fewer than 10 times in 20 years (i.e., less than 0.5 annually): Kentucky Warbler (5), Golden-winged Warbler (2), Northern Parula (1), Yellow Warbler (1), Pine Warbler (1) and Northern Waterthrush (1).

Ovenbird (avg = 148). This species is the most numerous warbler by far and the second most numerous species (Tables 2, 3), averaging just less than 1.0 per stop. Its loud, frequently given song may lead to over-sampling. Has declined somewhat (Fig 2) perhaps related to a decrease in forest understory brought about by over-browsing by deer. Statewide BBS and atlas data show no sign of decrease.

Worm-eating Warbler (avg = 8.4). RSF is at the northern edge of the core of the breeding range; prefers the under-story of dry slopes. No trend (Table 1).

Black-and-White Warbler (avg = 8.0). Black-and-white Warblers are found most often at higher elevations, especially where there are bare snags. No trend (Table 1).

Common Yellowthroat (avg = 43.4). Yellowthroats are the second most numerous warbler and sixth most numerous species (Tables 2, 3), but is trending slightly downward over the 20-year period (Fig 2).

Hooded Warbler (avg = 26.6). Strong upward trend (Fig 2) in agreement with statewide BBS and BBA data as this southern species moves north, presumably related to warming trend of recent years. It ranks fourth among warblers over all years, but in recent years is challenging Common Yellowthroat for second place among warblers (Table 3).

American Redstart (avg = 26.5). Fifth most abundant BBS warbler (Table 3). May be increasing (Fig 2); the count of 45 in 2011 was a record high.

Chestnut-sided Warbler (avg = 8.4). Found mainly at high elevations in RSF, on ridges and in laurel/huckleberry flats of Thickhead and Broad Mts.; also in recently logged areas at lower elevation. Upward trend (Table 1) may be related to expansion of open habitat from logging and loss of canopy to gypsy moth kill.

Black-throated Blue Warbler (avg = 11.4). Found mostly above 1500 feet in laurel/rhododendron thickets. No trend (Fig 1).

Black-throated Green Warbler (avg = 28.9). Found at all elevations, most often in hemlocks but also in deciduous areas. Third most numerous warbler and ninth most abundant species overall (Tables 2, 3). Increased steadily on BBS routes 2000-2005, but numbers have since settled back to average levels.

Scarlet Tanager (avg = 71.3). Ranks fourth in abundance (Table 2); no trend (Fig 2). Possibly responds to gypsy moth peaks, the high count of 91 occurred in 2000, same year as the high count of Yellow-billed Cuckoos and the peak year of gypsy moth infestation.

Eastern Towhee (avg = 80.4). Ranks third in abundance (Table 2). Trend graph is intriguing (Fig 2). After four years of high counts (92-95), with an average of 105, numbers declined but stabilized for over a decade at average of 65, then increased beginning in 2008 and for the last four years, the average has been 100. The recent increase may be related to logging along some sections of the BBS routes.

Chipping Sparrow (avg = 34.7). No trend, ranks 8th in abundance (Tables 1, 2). Counts are relatively high because of preference for roadside habitat.

Dark-eyed Junco (avg = 3.2). Appears to be trending downward (Table 1), although this assertion is based on very small sample size.

Brown-headed Cowbird (avg = 10.3). Not thought of as a deep forest bird, but cowbirds penetrate far into forests in search of nests to parasitize. Numbers were high for several years at the beginning of the surveys but have decreased and stabilized somewhat at a lower level over the last decade (Fig 2).

Other species: Among other relatively common species, there is a strong upward trend for Mourning Dove, American Robin and American Goldfinch. There is no trend is for White-breasted Nuthatch, Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Indigo Bunting (Fig 2, Table 1).

Summary

The character of Rothrock State Forest has not significantly changed since 1992, when the forest was already fairly mature, albeit by post-logging era standards. Logging is ongoing but affects only a small fraction of the total acreage; it has been many decades since most of RSF has been cut. To protect against deer browsing, areas logged in recent years have been fenced, the effect of which is dramatic. Although an ugly process, logging nevertheless mimics in some degree the natural acts of fire, wind-throw and disease, and of course some species are dependant on the resetting of succession to earlier stages. Fortunately, the hemlock stands in RSF have seen limited effects of the woolly adelgid, which is present but seems to be progressing slowly, perhaps slowed by the winter cold at the latitude and elevation of RSF.

As with the forest, the avian fauna of RSF has not changed substantially. BBS numbers for a given species may fluctuate substantially from year-to-year, as expected of a survey done just once annually; obviously, no conclusions can be made from a single high or low count - only trends that continue for several years may be significant. Furthermore, we can have most confidence in validity of apparent trends for species that are relatively abundant and conversely much less for species low in average numbers.

Thus, despite occasional deviations from average, the numbers of most common species have been stable, including Eastern Wood Pewee, Acadian Flycatcher, Scarlet Tanager, and Chipping Sparrow; or show only limited change of as yet uncertain significance, including Wood Thrush, Black-throated Green Warbler, and Common Yellowthroat.

A few species appear to have

undergone a substantial change in number, the most notable being the increase in Hooded Warblers, a trend seen statewide. Other common species that have clearly increased on the RSF routes include Mourning Dove, Red-eyed Vireo, Tufted Titmouse, Veery and American Robin. The most notable long-term decreases are of Ovenbird and Great-crested Flycatcher. Eastern Towhee, the third most abundant species on these surveys, has gone both ways, first decreasing, but later recovering to the level of over a decade earlier.

Population changes may be caused by various factors in combinations that are probably unique to each species. Some factors may be local, for example, forest maturation, logging, disease, caterpillar infestation, and over browsing by deer. Other factors presumably affect a species on a large scale, the two most obvious being the warming climate and habitat

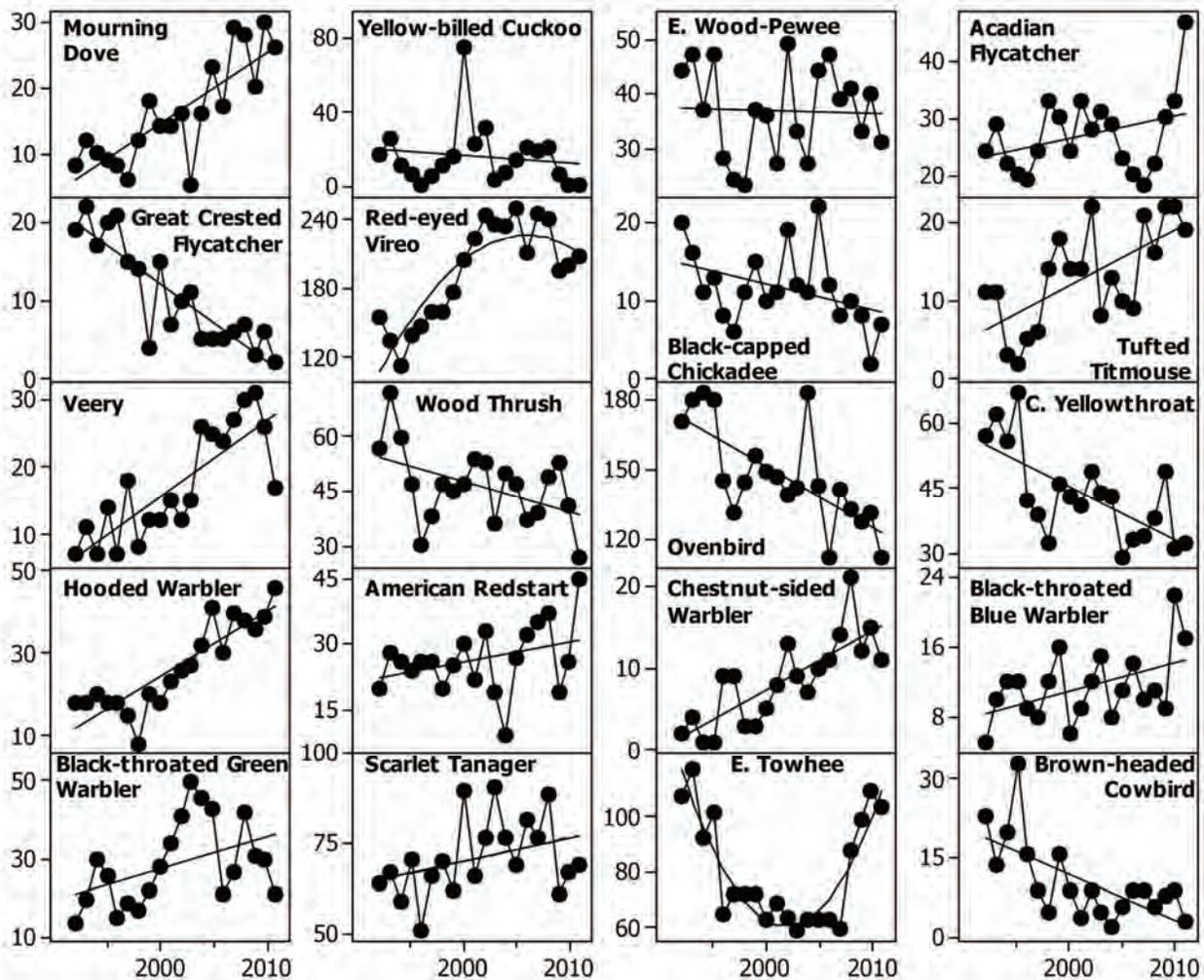


Figure 2. Twenty-year BBS trends for selected species in Rothrock State Forest.

deterioration of the winter range.

The importance of preservation of large, unbroken tracks of forest for the well being of dozens of species of birds in the heavily populated northeastern U.S. cannot be overstated. The State Forests are the most important avian conservation element of the Pennsylvania landscape. Their health and preservation must be a high priority as we deal with the uncertain effects of processes like natural gas extraction, wind turbine placement and

climate change. I thank Nick Bolgiano for helpful suggestion on the text and for the creation of Figures 1 and 2.

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4343 McAleveys Fort Road
Petersburg, Pa. 16669
gwg2@psu.edu

BOOK REVIEW

Gene Wilhelm

THE CROSSLEY ID GUIDE: EASTERN BIRDS by Richard Crossley, including representatives of most avian families on the front inside cover, 16 pages of a quick key to species, 640 color plates of 660 species with composite scenes of real-life birds created from 10,000 of author's own photographs, species accounts, acknowledgments, indices, 7½ x 10 in., 544 pp., published by Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ, 2011, cloth flexibound, \$35.00.

My particular interest in avian field guides is due in large measure to the 35 years of combined teaching field ornithology courses at the university level, with the Audubon Wyoming summer camp, and for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas. In all that time, I could never recommend a single field guide that answered the two basic questions of birding: What kind of bird is it that you are trying to identify, and how do you reduce your options in identifying so many different birds? Indeed, six keys are critical in responding to those questions: birding by eye, ear, behavior, habitat and range, field marks, and ecology. I was extremely cautious, therefore, when fellow reviewers raved about this newest book on the market, but I agree that this guide is truly different from all others.

Immediately upon opening this heavy book's front cover, Crossley uses two pages to cleverly illustrate in color representative species of most bird families which cover the complete range of birds in this guide. What a convenient place to start for the beginning birder, narrowing the many choices of that unidentified species.

Similarly, following the Preface, there is a Quick Key to Species with sixteen color pages (pp. 6-21) featuring all regularly occurring species in the book, and like the birds on the front inside cover, they are carefully measured to size, shape, and color. This is the best place in the whole guide for the beginning birder to make direct size and shape comparisons, and to a lesser degree, color and plumage patterns. More importantly, it reduces options when searching for a specific identification. Included under the image is the species' alpha code or shorthand name (familiar to field ornithologists involved with recent state avian atlases) and its page number. There is an index (p. 518) with a species listing. The species plate, textual account, and range map are found on the image page. The book covers eastern North America, Canada and the USA, and diligently includes all of Texas with its unique avifauna. The large geographical area incorporated in the guide and the colors used are located on the inside back cover. Maps are sized to maximize information and thus in many cases include the West to give a clearer, larger picture of a species distribution.

The Introduction is divided into "How to use This Book" and "How to be a Better Birder". Under the former section, the author states: "The past is important because invariably it shapes who we are and how we think" (p. 22). Crossley grew up in England, started collecting bird eggs at age seven (a common hobby in Europe even today), and was introduced to birding by an early mentor, Mr. Sutton, his school teacher, at age ten. After this introduction, he tried to identify every

bird that he saw and soon became part of the incredibly disciplined British birding culture, which influenced the way he thought about birding and the birds themselves. Crossley's story sounds familiar when recalling how many current and former birding experts in the United States experienced similar educational development.

The author correctly mentions that birding knowledge has evolved greatly over the past four decades but the basic field identification process has remained more or less the same. The digital age, however, has revolutionized and popularized bird photography, which in turn has accelerated the trend for more and better photo-based guides. "But until now," Crossley writes (p. 22), "these guides have essentially followed the same 'static' formula as artwork-illustrated books, that is to say, they concentrate on individual images isolated from the overall context of habitat – and other birds." Indeed, this guide fundamentally changes the organization and approach to avian identification in a much more dynamic and whole way. Investigate, for examples, the recent traditional field guides like *The Sibley Guide to Birds* (2000), *Peterson Field Guide to Birds of North America* (2008), and *Birds of Eastern and Western North America* (2 volumes in 2009), that mostly follow the typical taxonomic sequence of species. As Crossley remarks, such a system—although perhaps more scientific—is subject to frequent changes, making it difficult to keep any guide current. In fact, Sibley experienced this problem with his own 2000 guide by publishing it the same year that the American Ornithologists'

Union changed the arrangement of many families. The author's guide avoids such a publisher's nightmare by splitting species into eight groups based on habitat and physical similarities that can be compared easily: swimming, flying, and walking Waterbirds, and upland gamebirds, raptors, miscellaneous larger landbirds, aerial landbirds, and songbirds under the Landbirds.

The 640 color plates of the Species Accounts section are the "heart and soul" of the book (pp. 38-515) and are overall not just accurate ornithological images portraying shape, plumages, colors, and behavior of birds, but also aesthetically stunning, creating an overall 'scape' that is as lifelike as a printed scene can be. Crossley used this approach, what he calls 'reality birding,' for seeing features that remain constant, regardless of distance. By developing depth in the plates, birders can see how a bird's appearance changes with distance. Likewise, each plate is designed to be interactive by using the captioned birds in the foreground for trying to work out the age and sex of the birds in the background. By taking advantage of these lifelike scenes and keeping at it, eventually "practice makes perfect." Further, as the saying goes, "a picture is worth 1000 words", thus the amount of information in these plates is tremendous, if studied slowly and carefully. Most plumages are shown for each species, thereby giving the user expanded coverage and a better chance for finding a comparable image of the bird under scrutiny. Many behaviors, such as feeding and poses that are typical for given species, are included in the plates. Because we see birds in flight more than in any other pose, there are flight photographs for most species. Likewise, because habitat plays such an important role in bird identification in breeding season, most plates capture a habitat that is typical for the species. It should be remembered, however, that habitat is sometimes a difficult topic because many species use different habitats in non-breeding seasons. Finally, species get proportional representation in the guide with the common and/or more widespread species typically getting full-page coverage vs. rare species that are seldom observed receiving a quarter of a page. Captions, text, and maps complement the plates with other pieces of information, some of which cannot be illustrated visually. Within

the "ID" section, the important field marks of that species are mentioned, starting with size and shape, followed by other features that are found in all plumages with specific details on characteristics that enable recognition of each plumage. "These field marks not only help you identify the bird to species but also age and sex it," says Crossley (p. 25).

The second part of the Introduction, "How to be a Better Birder" (pp. 25-27), is especially noteworthy because of its fundamental guidelines. "The best field birders in the world, at some point in their lives," says the writer, "were made to look at birds closely, a crucial step in their (self-) training" (p. 25). The author also stresses a field technique that I have used for decades: taking detailed field notes that force the learner to look much more critically at every detail of a bird's plumage and behavior. Further, my experience resonates with Crossley when he mentions that in the British birding culture a beginning birder never took a bird guide into the field – only a notebook. "This was the 'law', and, if you wanted to be taken seriously as a birder," he says, "you simply didn't carry a guide." In all my three-day long field ornithology seminars or five-day long workshops, a field guide is only used on the last day after each student presents an oral report on a single species using the identification keys of birding by eye, ear, behavior, habitat, field marks, range, and ecology. "Taking field notes also makes you think for yourself," the writer concludes, "to look at a bird for what it is rather than what someone else tells you it is supposed to be." Because birds are mobile and can fly away quickly, look at the bird carefully for as long as you can, create a mental image of it, then remember it for what it is. Taking field notes are the best way to do this and rewards you with improving field skills, perhaps seeing things for the first time, and gaining self-esteem and satisfaction in birding expertise. Crossley uses the term probability for range in bird identification by asking if the species under investigation usually or always occurs in this location and habitats.

Bothersome, however, are the comments on vocalization in the last paragraph on the right side of p. 27, which should be followed by the last paragraph on the left side of the page. Thus the first, second, and third full paragraphs on the right side of the

page need to become the fourth, fifth, and sixth paragraphs on the left side of the page.

Finally, the quick test suggested by the author for the reader to identify every bird in the photograph at the bottom of p. 27 is embarrassingly partly in error. Although correctly identifying colorful Ruddy Turnstones and Red Knots in the foreground and several Sanderlings in the background, there appears to be a lone juvenile Royal Tern facing at a slight angle to the right between two Sanderlings in the upper left portion of the photograph.

In summary, this guide may prove to be revolutionary because it introduces a new design and organization for field guides. Further, its 640 stunning images and scenes prove that a picture is worth at least a thousand words. Truly lifelike in-focus scenes show species in their usual habitats, from near and far, and in all plumages and behaviors. It is the first guide to accurately portray all the key identification characteristics of birds, what the author calls 'reality birding': size, shape, different plumages, color, behavior, habitat, probability or range, field marks, and vocalization. When put together, these elements present what I call an 'ecological perspective' of a bird. The book is an interactive learning experience, which sharpens and tests field identification skills and helps the amateur understand how to bird like the experts. It should be recalled, however, that still the best, fastest, and most important way to learn birds is from those experts in your home area on a one-to-one basis. My suggestion is to stick to them like glue as often as you can. When pauses occur in such intimate human relationships, it is nice to have the Crossley guide nearby.

Crossley's interactive website <www.crossleybirds.com> includes expanded captions for plate and species updates to help birders. Only the book's weight and large size prevent putting it in one's back pocket or side pack. But if the beginning birder follows the sensible advice in this guide, that shouldn't be a problem anyway, especially after having to put Sibley's guide and others since then, in a backpack. Oh yes, my autumn field seminars and workshops this year will use the ideal field guide at last.

513 Kelly Blvd.

*Slippery Rock, PA 16057-1145
genewilhelm@aol.com*

OFFICIAL LIST OF THE BIRDS OF PENNSYLVANIA

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Nick Pulcinella - Secretary

The Official List of the Birds of Pennsylvania was last published in 2006 (*Pennsylvania Birds* V20:184-189). One of the responsibilities of the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee (P.O.R.C.) is to review the status of all species on the state list and to publish an Official State List every five years. The committee has completed its assignment and the following list is the result of its work.

CLASSIFICATION OF RECORDS

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

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

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

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

STATUS DEFINITION

Regular: Recorded 8, 9, or 10 of the past ten years.

Casual: Recorded 4, 5, 6, or 7 of the past ten years.

Accidental: Recorded 3 or fewer of the past ten years.

Extirpated: A previously regularly occurring species that has not been recorded in 50 or more years.

Extinct: Species which no longer exists.

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

DOCUMENTATION

Bold-faced/Underlined species and any species not already on the list are classified as rarities, and sightings of these species therefore require a specimen, photograph, recording, or one or more written descriptions for consideration of acceptance by P.O.R.C.

NOMENCLATURE

The taxonomic treatment and species sequence follows the 7th edition of the AOU checklist published in 1998 and changes made in subsequent supplements: 47th (*Auk* 2006, V123:926-936), 48th (*Auk* 2007 V124:1109-1115), 49th (*Auk* 2008 V125:758-768), 50th (*Auk* 2009 V126:705-714), 51st (*Auk* 2010 V127:726-744) and 52nd (*Auk* 2011 V128:600-613).

THE PENNSYLVANIA LIST

This fifth edition of the Official List contains 426 species—418 accepted as Class I and 8 on the Provisional List. There

are 11 additions to the Official State List since the publication of the fourth edition in 2006. The additions are given below.

Additions to the Pennsylvania List since 2006

Barnacle Goose – added in 2008 by photographs from 2000

Trumpeter Swan – added in 2007 by photographs from 1996

Yellow-billed Loon – added in 2007 by photograph

Western Grebe – added in 2009 by photograph

White-faced Ibis – added in 2010 by photograph

Prairie Falcon – added in 2010 by photograph

Slaty-backed Gull – added in 2008 by photograph

Long-billed Murrelet – added in 2007 by photograph

Anna's Hummingbird – added in 2010 by photograph

Allen's Hummingbird – added in 2009 by photograph

Scott's Oriole – added in 2007 by photograph



Image 1. Pennsylvania's first Western Grebe, Conodiguinet Creek, Cumberland, 17 February 2009. (Malcolm Harter)

Class I - 418 SPECIES

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*)

Accidental.

Pink-footed Goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*) Casual.

Greater White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*) Regular.

Snow Goose (*Chen caerulescens*) Regular.

Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*) Regular.

Brant (*Branta bernicla*) Regular.

Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*) Casual.

Cackling Goose (*Branta hutchinsii*) Regular.

Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*) Regular.

Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*) Regular.

Trumpeter Swan (*Cygnus buccinator*) Regular.

Tundra Swan (*Cygnus columbianus*) Regular.

Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*) Regular.

Gadwall (*Anas strepera*) Regular.

Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*) Regular.

American Wigeon (*Anas americana*) Regular.

American Black Duck (*Anas rubripes*) Regular.

Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) Regular.

Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*) Regular.
Cinnamon Teal (*Anas cyanoptera*) Accidental.
Northern Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*) Regular.
Northern Pintail (*Anas acuta*) Regular.
Green-winged Teal (*Anas crecca*) Regular.
Canvasback (*Aythya valisineria*) Regular
Redhead (*Aythya americana*) Regular.
Ring-necked Duck (*Aythya collaris*) Regular.
Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*) Accidental.
Greater Scaup (*Aythya marila*) Regular.
Lesser Scaup (*Aythya affinis*) Regular.
King Eider (*Somateria spectabilis*) Accidental.
Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*) Casual.
Surf Scoter (*Melanitta perspicillata*) Regular.
White-winged Scoter (*Melanitta fusca*) Regular.
Black Scoter (*Melanitta nigra*) Regular.
Long-tailed Duck (*Clangula hyemalis*) Regular.
Bufflehead (*Bucephala albeola*) Regular.
Common Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*) Regular.
Barrow's Goldeneye (*Bucephala islandica*) Accidental.
Hooded Merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*) Regular.
Common Merganser (*Mergus merganser*) Regular.
Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*) Regular.
Masked Duck (*Nomonyx dominicus*) Accidental.
Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*) Regular.
Northern Bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*) Regular.
Ring-necked Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*) Regular
Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*) Regular.
Greater Prairie-Chicken (*Tympanuchus cupido*)
Extirpated.
Wild Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*) Regular.
Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*) Regular.
Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*) Accidental.
Common Loon (*Gavia immer*) Regular.
Yellow-billed Loon (*Gavia adamsii*) Accidental.
Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*) Regular.
Horned Grebe (*Podiceps auritus*) Regular.
Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*) Regular.
Eared Grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*) Regular.
Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*) Accidental.
Black-capped Petrel (*Pterodroma hasitata*) Accidental.
Cory's Shearwater (*Calonectris diomedea*) Accidental.
Great Shearwater (*Puffinus gravis*) Accidental.
Leach's Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*)
Accidental.
Band-rumped Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma castro*)
Accidental
White-tailed Tropicbird (*Phaethon lepturus*) Accidental
Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*) Accidental.
Magnificent Frigatebird (*Fregata magnificens*)
Accidental.
Northern Gannet (*Morus bassanus*) Accidental.
Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) Regular.
Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) Regular.
Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*) Accidental.
American White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*)
Regular.
Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) Accidental.
American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*) Regular.
Least Bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*) Regular.
Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) Regular.
Great Egret (*Ardea alba*) Regular.
Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*) Regular.
Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*) Regular.
Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*) Regular.

Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) Regular.
Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*) Regular.
Black-crowned Night-Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)
Regular.
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*)
Regular.
White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*) Casual.
Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) Regular.
White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*) Accidental.
Roseate Spoonbill (*Platalea ajaja*) Accidental.
Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*) Regular.
Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*) Regular.
Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) Regular.
Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*) Casual.
Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) Regular.
Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) Regular.
Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*) Regular.
Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter striatus*) Regular.
Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*) Regular.
Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*) Regular.
Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*) Regular.
Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*) Regular.
Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) Accidental.
Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) Regular.
Rough-legged Hawk (*Buteo lagopus*) Regular.
Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) Regular.
American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*) Regular.
Merlin (*Falco columbarius*) Regular.
Gyr Falcon (*Falco rusticolus*) Accidental.
Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) Regular.
Prairie Falcon (*Falco mexicanus*) Accidental.
Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*) Accidental.
Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis*) Accidental.
Clapper Rail (*Rallus longirostris*) Accidental.
King Rail (*Rallus elegans*) Casual.
Virginia Rail (*Rallus limicola*) Regular.
Sora (*Porzana carolina*) Regular.
Spotted Rail (*Pardirallus maculatus*) Accidental.
Purple Gallinule (*Porphyrio martinica*) Accidental.
Common Gallinule (*Gallinula chloropus*) Regular.
American Coot (*Fulica americana*) Regular.
Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*) Regular.
Black-bellied Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*) Regular.
American Golden-Plover (*Pluvialis dominica*) Regular.
Snowy Plover (*Charadrius nivosus*) Accidental.
Wilson's Plover (*Charadrius wilsonia*) Accidental.
Semipalmated Plover (*Charadrius semipalmatus*) Regular.
Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*) Casual.
Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*) Regular.
American Oystercatcher (*Haematopus palliatus*)
Accidental.
Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*) Casual.
American Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*) Regular.
Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularius*) Regular.
Solitary Sandpiper (*Tringa solitaria*) Regular.
Greater Yellowlegs (*Tringa melanoleuca*) Regular.
Willet (*Tringa semipalmata*) Regular.
Lesser Yellowlegs (*Tringa flavipes*) Regular.
Upland Sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*) Regular.
Eskimo Curlew (*Numenius borealis*) Accidental.
Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*) Regular.
Long-billed Curlew (*Numenius americanus*) Accidental.
Hudsonian Godwit (*Limosa haemastica*) Casual.
Marbled Godwit (*Limosa fedoa*) Casual.

Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*) Regular.
 Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*) Regular.
 Sanderling (*Calidris alba*) Regular.
 Semipalmated Sandpiper (*Calidris pusilla*) Regular.
 Western Sandpiper (*Calidris mauri*) Regular.
 Least Sandpiper (*Calidris minutilla*) Regular.
 White-rumped Sandpiper (*Calidris fuscicollis*) Regular.
 Baird's Sandpiper (*Calidris bairdii*) Regular.
 Pectoral Sandpiper (*Calidris melanotos*) Regular.
 Purple Sandpiper (*Calidris maritima*) Casual.
 Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*) Regular.
Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*) Accidental.
 Stilt Sandpiper (*Calidris himantopus*) Regular.
 Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Tryngites subruficollis*) Regular.
Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*) Accidental.
 Short-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus griseus*) Regular.
 Long-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus scolopaceus*) Regular.
 Wilson's Snipe (*Gallinago delicata*) Regular.
 American Woodcock (*Scolopax minor*) Regular.
 Wilson's Phalarope (*Phalaropus tricolor*) Regular.
 Red-necked Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*) Regular.
Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*) Regular.
Black-Legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*) Accidental.
Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*) Casual.
 Bonaparte's Gull (*Larus philadelphia*) Regular.
Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*) Regular.
 Little Gull (*Larus minutus*) Regular.
Ross's Gull (*Rhodostethia rosea*) Accidental.
 Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*) Regular.
 Franklin's Gull (*Larus pipixcan*) Regular.
Mew Gull (*Larus canus*) Accidental.
 Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*) Regular.
California Gull (*Larus californicus*) Casual.
 Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*) Regular.
Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*) Regular.
 Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucooides*) Regular.
 Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*) Regular.
Slaty-backed Gull (*Larus schistisagus*) Accidental.
 Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*) Regular.
 Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*) Regular.
Sooty Tern (*Onychoprion fuscatus*) Accidental.
 Least Tern (*Sternula antillarum*) Casual.
Gull-billed Tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica*) Casual.
 Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*) Regular.
 Black Tern (*Chlidonias niger*) Regular.
Roseate Tern (*Sterna dougallii*) Accidental.
 Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*) Regular.
Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*) Casual.
 Forster's Tern (*Sterna forsteri*) Regular.
Royal Tern (*Thalasseus maximus*) Casual.
Black Skimmer (*Rynchops niger*) Casual.
Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*) Casual.
Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) Casual.
Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*) Accidental
Dovekie (*Alle alle*) Accidental.
Thick-billed Murre (*Uria lomvia*) Accidental.
Black Guillemot (*Cepphus grylle*) Accidental.
Long-billed Murrelet (*Brachyramphus perdi*) Accidental.
Ancient Murrelet (*Synthliboramphus antiquus*)
 Accidental.
 Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*) Regular.
 Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*) Regular.
White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*) Casual.
 Mourning Dove (*Zenaida macroura*) Regular.

Passenger Pigeon (*Ectopistes migratorius*) Extinct.
Common Ground-Dove (*Columbina passerina*)
 Accidental.
 Carolina Parakeet (*Conuropsis carolinensis*) Extinct.
 Black-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*) Regular.
 Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*) Regular.
 Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) Regular.
 Eastern Screech-Owl (*Megascops asio*) Regular.
 Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*) Regular.
 Snowy Owl (*Bubo scandiacus*) Regular.
Northern Hawk Owl (*Surnia ulula*) Accidental.
 Barred Owl (*Strix varia*) Regular.
Great Gray Owl (*Strix nebulosa*) Accidental.
 Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus*) Regular.
 Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*) Regular.
Boreal Owl (*Aegolius funereus*) Accidental.
 Northern Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*) Regular.
 Common Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*) Regular.
Chuck-will's-widow (*Caprimulgus carolinensis*) Casual.
 Whip-poor-will (*Caprimulgus vociferus*) Regular.
 Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*) Regular.
 Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*)
 Regular.
Anna's Hummingbird (*Calypte anna*) Accidental.
 Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*) Regular.
Allen's Hummingbird (*Selasphorus sasin*) Accidental.
Calliope Hummingbird (*Stellula calliope*) Accidental.
 Belted Kingfisher (*Megaceryle alcyon*) Regular.
 Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*)
 Regular.
 Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Melanerpes carolinus*) Regular.
 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*) Regular.
 Downy Woodpecker (*Picoides pubescens*) Regular.
 Hairy Woodpecker (*Picoides villosus*) Regular.
Black-backed Woodpecker (*Picoides arcticus*) Accidental.
 Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*) Regular.
 Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*) Regular.
 Olive-sided Flycatcher (*Contopus cooperi*) Regular.
 Eastern Wood-Pewee (*Contopus virens*) Regular.
 Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (*Empidonax flaviventris*) Regular.
 Acadian Flycatcher (*Empidonax virescens*) Regular.
 Alder Flycatcher (*Empidonax alnorum*) Regular.
 Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*) Regular.
 Least Flycatcher (*Empidonax minimus*) Regular.
Hammond's Flycatcher (*Empidonax hammondi*)
 Accidental.
Pacific-slope Flycatcher (*Empidonax difficilis*)
 Accidental.
 Eastern Phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*) Regular.
Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*) Accidental.
Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*) Accidental.
Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*)
 Accidental.
 Great Crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus crinitus*) Regular.
Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*) Casual.
 Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*) Regular.
Gray Kingbird (*Tyrannus dominicensis*) Accidental.
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*) Casual.
Fork-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus savana*) Accidental.
Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*) Regular
 Northern Shrike (*Lanius excubitor*) Casual.
 White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus*) Regular.
 Yellow-throated Vireo (*Vireo flavifrons*) Regular.
 Blue-headed Vireo (*Vireo solitarius*) Regular.
 Warbling Vireo (*Vireo gilvus*) Regular.

Philadelphia Vireo (*Vireo philadelphicus*) Regular.
 Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*) Regular.
 Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*) Regular.
 American Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) Regular.
 Fish Crow (*Corvus ossifragus*) Regular.
 Common Raven (*Corvus corax*) Regular.
 Horned Lark (*Eremophila alpestris*) Regular.
 Northern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*) Regular.
 Purple Martin (*Progne subis*) Regular.
 Tree Swallow (*Tachycineta bicolor*) Regular.
 Bank Swallow (*Riparia riparia*) Regular.
 Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) Regular.
 Cliff Swallow (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*) Regular.
Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*) Casual
 Carolina Chickadee (*Poecile carolinensis*) Regular
 Black-capped Chickadee (*Poecile atricapillus*) Regular.
Boreal Chickadee (*Poecile hudsonica*) Accidental.
 Tufted Titmouse (*Baeolophus bicolor*) Regular.
 Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*) Regular.
 White-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis*) Regular.
Brown-headed Nuthatch (*Sitta pusilla*) Accidental.
 Brown Creeper (*Certhia americana*) Regular.
 Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*) Regular.
Bewick's Wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*) Accidental.
 House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*) Regular.
 Winter Wren (*Troglodytes hiemalis*) Regular.
 Sedge Wren (*Cistothorus platensis*) Regular.
 Marsh Wren (*Cistothorus palustris*) Regular.
 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila caerulea*) Regular.
 Golden-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus satrapa*) Regular.
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus calendula*) Regular.
Northern Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*) Accidental.
 Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*) Regular.
Mountain Bluebird (*Sialia currucoides*) Accidental.
Townsend's Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*) Casual.
 Veery (*Catharus fuscescens*) Regular.
 Bicknell's Thrush (*Catharus minimus*) Regular.
Bicknell's Thrush (*Catharus bicknelli*) Casual.
 Swainson's Thrush (*Catharus ustulatus*) Regular.
 Hermit Thrush (*Catharus guttatus*) Regular.
 Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*) Regular.
Redwing (*Turdus iliacus*) Accidental.
 American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) Regular.
Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*) Casual.
 Gray Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*) Regular.
 Northern Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*) Regular.
 Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*) Regular.
 European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) Regular.
 American Pipit (*Anthus rubescens*) Regular.
Bohemian Waxwing (*Bombycilla garrulus*) Casual.
 Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) Regular.
 Lapland Longspur (*Calcarius lapponicus*) Regular.
 Snow Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis*) Regular.
 Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapilla*) Regular.
 Worm-eating Warbler (*Helmitheros vermivorum*) Regular.
 Louisiana Waterthrush (*Parkesia motacilla*) Regular.
 Northern Waterthrush (*Parkesia noveboracensis*) Regular.
 Blue-winged Warbler (*Vermivora cyanoptera*) Regular.
 Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*) Regular.
 Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*) Regular.
 Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*) Regular.
Swainson's Warbler (*Limnithlypis swainsonii*) Casual.
 Tennessee Warbler (*Oreothlypis peregrina*) Regular.
 Orange-crowned Warbler (*Oreothlypis celata*) Regular.
 Nashville Warbler (*Oreothlypis ruficapilla*) Regular.
 Connecticut Warbler (*Oporornis agilis*) Regular.
MacGillivray's Warbler (*Geothlypis tolmiei*) Accidental.
 Mourning Warbler (*Geothlypis philadelphia*) Regular.
 Kentucky Warbler (*Geothlypis formosus*) Regular.
 Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*) Regular.
 Hooded Warbler (*Setophaga citrina*) Regular.
 American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*) Regular.
Kirtland's Warbler (*Setophaga kirtlandii*) Accidental.
 Cape May Warbler (*Setophaga tigrina*) Regular.
 Cerulean Warbler (*Setophaga cerulea*) Regular.
 Northern Parula (*Setophaga americana*) Regular.
 Magnolia Warbler (*Setophaga magnolia*) Regular.
 Bay-breasted Warbler (*Setophaga castanea*) Regular.
 Blackburnian Warbler (*Setophaga fusca*) Regular.
 Yellow Warbler (*Setophaga petechia*) Regular.
 Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Setophaga pensylvanica*) Regular.
 Blackpoll Warbler (*Setophaga striata*) Regular.
 Black-throated Blue Warbler (*Setophaga caerulescens*) Regular.
 Palm Warbler (*Setophaga palmarum*) Regular.
 Pine Warbler (*Setophaga pinus*) Regular.
 Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Setophaga coronata*) Regular.
 Yellow-throated Warbler (*Setophaga dominica*) Regular.
 Prairie Warbler (*Setophaga discolor*) Regular.
Black-throated Gray Warbler (*Setophaga nigrescens*) Accidental.
Townsend's Warbler (*Setophaga townsendi*) Accidental.
 Black-throated Green Warbler (*Setophaga virens*) Regular.
 Canada Warbler (*Cardellina canadensis*) Regular.
 Wilson's Warbler (*Cardellina pusilla*) Regular.
 Yellow-breasted Chat (*Icteria virens*) Regular.
Green-tailed Towhee (*Pipilo chlorurus*) Accidental.
Spotted Towhee (*Pipilo maculatus*) Accidental.
 Eastern Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*) Regular.
Bachman's Sparrow (*Aimophila aestivalis*) Extirpated.
 American Tree Sparrow (*Spizella arborea*) Regular.
 Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella passerina*) Regular.
 Clay-colored Sparrow (*Spizella pallida*) Regular.
 Field Sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*) Regular.
 Vesper Sparrow (*Poocetes gramineus*) Regular.
Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*) Casual.
Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*) Accidental.
 Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*) Regular.
 Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*) Regular.
 Henslow's Sparrow (*Ammodramus henslowii*) Regular.
Le Conte's Sparrow (*Ammodramus leconteii*) Casual.
 Nelson's Sparrow (*Ammodramus nelsoni*) Regular.
Saltmarsh Sparrow (*Ammodramus caudacutus*) Accidental.
Seaside Sparrow (*Ammodramus maritimus*) Accidental.
 Fox Sparrow (*Passerella iliaca*) Regular.
 Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*) Regular.
 Lincoln's Sparrow (*Melospiza lincolni*) Regular.
 Swamp Sparrow (*Melospiza georgiana*) Regular.
 White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*) Regular.
Harris's Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*) Casual.
 White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*) Regular.
Golden-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*) Accidental.
 Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis*) Regular.
Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*) Regular.
 Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*) Regular.

Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*) Accidental.
 Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*) Regular.
 Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*) Regular.
Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*)
 Accidental.
 Blue Grosbeak (*Passerina caerulea*) Regular.
Lazuli Bunting (*Passerina amoena*) Accidental.
 Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*) Regular.
Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*) Casual.
 Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*) Regular.
 Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*) Regular.
 Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) Regular.
 Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*) Regular.
Western Meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*) Casual.
 Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*)
 Regular.
 Rusty Blackbird (*Euphagus carolinus*) Regular.
 Brewer's Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*) Regular.
 Common Crackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*) Regular.
 Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) Regular.
 Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*) Regular.
Bullock's Oriole (*Icterus bullockii*) Accidental.
 Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*) Regular.
Scott's Oriole (*Icterus parisorum*) Accidental.
Brambling (*Fringilla montifringilla*) Accidental.
Pine Grosbeak (*Pinicola enucleator*) Accidental.
 Purple Finch (*Carpodacus purpureus*) Regular.
 House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*) Regular.
 Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*) Regular.
 White-winged Crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*) Regular.
 Common Redpoll (*Carduelis flammea*) Regular.
Hoary Redpoll (*Carduelis hornemanni*) Accidental.
 Pine Siskin (*Carduelis pinus*) Regular.
 American Goldfinch (*Carduelis tristis*) Regular.
 Evening Grosbeak (*Coccothraustes vespertinus*) Regular.
 House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) Regular.



Image 2. Pennsylvania's first Long-billed Murrelet, Nockamixon State Park, Bucks, 14 December 2007. (Gerry Dewaghe)

Provisional List

Although no species is accepted on the official Pennsylvania list without documentation by specimen, photograph or tape-recording, the Committee may accept sight records (i.e. for species not on the state list) which are supported by written details alone. Such species are added to this

“Provisional List”. If acceptable documentation in the form of specimen, photograph, or video/audio recording finally becomes available, the species is then moved to the Class I list.

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

TOTAL - 426 SPECIES

Recognizable forms and subspecies

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

(Black) Brant (*Branta bernicla nigricans*).
Green-winged (Eurasian) Teal (*Anas crecca crecca*).
Great Blue Heron (White form) (*Ardea herodias occidentalis*).
Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler (*Setophaga coronata auduboni*).
White-crowned (Gambell's) Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys gambelii*).
Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco (*Junco hyemalis [oreganus group]*).
Dark-eyed (Pink-sided) Junco (*Junco hyemalis mearnsi*).

Acknowledgements

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

REQUESTS FOR CORRECTIONS AND RECORDS

This Official List should not be considered as the final word on Pennsylvania birdlife. It is only our knowledge to the present, and will be outdated soon after it is published. Undoubtedly, there will be errors, typographical or technical, and perhaps omissions. When these are noted or when authentic records are obtained for species that are not listed, that information should be forwarded to the **Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee, Nick Pulcinella, Secretary. 613 Howard Road, West Chester, PA 19380; nickpulcinella@verizon.net.**

List of the Birds of Washington County

Roy A. Ickes

A total of 271 species are known to have occurred in Washington County and have been compiled here into a single list. Historical records were taken from Todd's *Birds of Western Pennsylvania* (1940) and issues of the *Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania Bulletin* from 1968 to 1987 (courtesy Paul Hess). More recent records were taken from *Pennsylvania Birds*, with a great deal of assistance from Geoff Malosh. Additional information concerning occurrence and/or status was obtained from county birders Andy Berchin, Lauren Conkle, Ross Gallardy, Sayre Greenfield, Margaret Higbee, and Chuck Teague.

Species in normal type are observed every year. Those in *italic* type are irregular or occasional and not observed every year. These may include species that are likely present every year but not reported every year. Those underlined are very rare, casual, or accidental, generally with five or fewer known records. **Bolded** species are, presently, probable or confirmed breeders. Species with an asterisk (*) were probable or confirmed breeders during the first Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas but with no definitive breeding evidence since, or which have an historical breeding record. Records of birds not listed, underlined, or breeding but not bolded, should be sent with full details to the *Pennsylvania Birds* Washington County compiler.

Greater White-fronted Goose
Snow Goose
Ross's Goose
Cackling Goose
Canada Goose
Mute Swan
Tundra Swan
Wood Duck
Gadwall
American Wigeon
American Black Duck
Mallard
Blue-winged Teal
Northern Shoveler
Northern Pintail
Green-winged Teal
Canvasback
Redhead
Ring-necked Duck
Greater Scaup
Lesser Scaup
Surf Scoter
White-winged Scoter
Black Scoter
Long-tailed Duck
Bufflehead
Common Goldeneye
Hooded Merganser
Common Merganser
Red-breasted Merganser
Ruddy Duck
Ring-necked Pheasant
Ruffed Grouse
Wild Turkey
Northern Bobwhite
Common Loon
*Pied-billed Grebe**
Horned Grebe
Red-necked Grebe
Brown Pelican
Double-crested Cormorant
American Bittern
Least Bittern*
Great Blue Heron
Great Egret
Little Blue Heron
Green Heron
Black-crowned Night-Heron
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron
Turkey Vulture
Osprey
Bald Eagle
Northern Harrier
Sharp-shinned Hawk
Cooper's Hawk
Northern Goshawk

Red-shouldered Hawk
Broad-winged Hawk
Red-tailed Hawk
Rough-legged Hawk
Golden Eagle
American Kestrel
Merlin
Peregrine Falcon
*Virginia Rail**
Sora
Purple Gallinule
Common Moorhen
American Coot
Sandhill Crane
Black-bellied Plover
American Golden-Plover
Semipalmated Plover
Killdeer
American Avocet
Greater Yellowlegs
Lesser Yellowlegs
Solitary Sandpiper
Willet
Spotted Sandpiper
Upland Sandpiper
Whimbrel
Hudsonian Godwit
Sanderling
Semipalmated Sandpiper
Western Sandpiper
Least Sandpiper
White-rumped Sandpiper
Baird's Sandpiper
Pectoral Sandpiper
Dunlin
Buff-breasted Sandpiper
Short-billed Dowitcher
Long-billed Dowitcher
Wilson's Snipe
American Woodcock
Red-necked Phalarope
Red Phalarope
Bonaparte's Gull
Ring-billed Gull
Herring Gull
Caspian Tern
Common Tern
Forster's Tern
Black Tern
Rock Dove
Mourning Dove
Black-billed Cuckoo
Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Barn Owl*
Eastern Screech-Owl
Great Horned Owl

Snowy Owl
Barred Owl
Long-eared Owl
Short-eared Owl
Northern Saw-whet Owl
Common Nighthawk
Eastern Whip-poor-will
Chimney Swift
Ruby-throated Hummingbird
Rufous Hummingbird
Belted Kingfisher
Red-headed Woodpecker
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Downy Woodpecker
Hairy Woodpecker
Yellow-shafted Flicker
Pileated Woodpecker
Olive-sided Flycatcher
Eastern Wood-Pewee
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher
Acadian Flycatcher
Alder Flycatcher
Willow Flycatcher
Least Flycatcher
Eastern Phoebe
Great Crested Flycatcher
Eastern Kingbird
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher
Northern Shrike
White-eyed Vireo
Yellow-throated Vireo
Blue-headed Vireo
Warbling Vireo
Philadelphia Vireo
Red-eyed Vireo
Blue Jay
American Crow
Common Raven
Horned Lark
Purple Martin
Tree Swallow
N. Rough-winged Swallow
*Bank Swallow**
Cliff Swallow
Barn Swallow
Carolina Chickadee
Black-capped Chickadee
Boreal Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
Red-breasted Nuthatch
White-breasted Nuthatch
Brown Creeper
Carolina Wren
Bewick's Wren*
House Wren

Winter Wren
Sedge Wren
Marsh Wren
Golden-crowned Kinglet
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Eastern Bluebird
Veery
Gray-cheeked Thrush
Swainson's Thrush
Hermit Thrush
Wood Thrush
American Robin
Gray Catbird
Northern Mockingbird
Brown Thrasher
European Starling
American Pipit
Cedar Waxwing
Blue-winged Warbler
*Golden-winged Warbler**
"Brewster's" Warbler
"Lawrence's" Warbler
Tennessee Warbler
Orange-crowned Warbler
Nashville Warbler
Northern Parula
Yellow Warbler
*Chestnut-sided Warbler**
Magnolia Warbler
Cape May Warbler
Black-throated Blue Warbler
Yellow-rumped Warbler
Black-throated Green Warbler
Blackburnian Warbler
Yellow-throated Warbler
Pine Warbler
Prairie Warbler
Palm Warbler
Bay-breasted Warbler
Blackpoll Warbler
Cerulean Warbler
*Black-and-white Warbler**
American Redstart
Prothonotary Warbler
*Worm-eating Warbler**
Ovenbird
Northern Waterthrush
Louisiana Waterthrush
Kentucky Warbler
Connecticut Warbler
Mourning Warbler
Common Yellowthroat
Hooded Warbler
Wilson's Warbler
Canada Warbler

Yellow-breasted Chat
Summer Tanager*
Scarlet Tanager
Eastern Towhee
Bachman's Sparrow*
American Tree Sparrow
Chipping Sparrow
Clay-colored Sparrow
Field Sparrow
Vesper Sparrow
Savannah Sparrow
Grasshopper Sparrow
Henslow's Sparrow

Nelson's Sparrow
Fox Sparrow
Song Sparrow
Lincoln's Sparrow
Swamp Sparrow
White-throated Sparrow
White-crowned Sparrow
Dark-eyed Junco
Lapland Longspur
Snow Bunting
Northern Cardinal
Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Blue Grosbeak

Indigo Bunting
Dickcissel
Bobolink
Red-winged Blackbird
Eastern Meadowlark
Yellow-headed Blackbird
Rusty Blackbird
Brewer's Blackbird
Common Grackle
Brown-headed Cowbird
Orchard Oriole
Baltimore Oriole
Purple Finch

House Finch
Red Crossbill
White-winged Crossbill
Common Redpoll
Pine Siskin
American Goldfinch
Evening Grosbeak
House Sparrow

rickes@staff.washjeff.edu

Summary of the Season

Daniel Brauning

A persistent high-pressure ridge brought above-normal temperatures to the eastern half of the United States, particularly during July. With the hot weather came dry conditions during June and July—an anomaly in the rest of 2011. Hot and dry weather during July resulted in moderate drought conditions in central and western Pennsylvania, as noted in *Beaver*. However, precipitation during the previous six months was plentiful enough that the first half of 2011 was the Pennsylvania's third wettest since 1895 (NOAA summary). At this writing (October), any reference to dry conditions seems particularly strange, but such were the extremes of 2011. A particularly strong line of storms on the 7/29 resulted in the formation of tornados and downbursts in northeastern Pennsylvania. But, with few county reports from the northeast this season, it's unclear if any bird sightings precipitated from that storm.

While the summer season is naturally filled with breeding bird reports, much attention is given in the county reports and the Birds of Note to waterfowl lingering from spring migration, northbound shorebirds in June and southbound shorebirds in July, and post-breeding waders. Birds are on the move year-round.

Reintroductions of **Trumpeter Swans** in Ontario (Canada), Ohio, and other Midwestern states in recent years have resulted in annual sightings of this impressive bird here in Pennsylvania. Two summer reports, in *Clearfield* and *Lancaster*, certainly don't tell the whole story. The scarcity of **Blue-winged Teal** is notable: is this rare breeder declining or simply overlooked? The two summer reports in

Crawford (and those, from eBird), might not even represent breeding birds. So, what was formerly a wide-spread, though rare, nester now goes almost unreported during a whole season. **Green-winged Teal**, formerly more restricted in breeding distribution than the blue-wing, was reported in *Bucks* and *Crawford*. In contrast, **Ring-necked Duck** reports came from six counties, even though it is not considered a breeding species (although one historic nesting event occurred when Pymatuning Lake was formed in the 1930s). Ring-necks typically are seen on open water and may be more easily detected than marsh-nesting ducks, but increasingly frequent summer records of this species would suggest a search for nesting behavior is warranted. The **Red-breasted Mergansers** thought to have summered at Presque Isle, *Erie* also raise the possibility of nesting activity.

With limited wetland habitat within the state, bitterns have always been rare. So, the report of **American Bittern** in suitable habitat in *Huntingdon* was encouraging, although the reports of **Least Bittern** seemed more like wandering individuals than territorial birds. The diversity of wading birds dispersing northward from summer breeding sites to our south was somewhat diminished this season. *Bucks* and *York* provided the only reports of **Snowy Egrets**, whereas **Little Blue Heron** was reported in at least four counties (*Chester*, *Bucks*, *Lancaster*, and *Philadelphia*). The Tricolored Heron went unreported this July. The observation of three juvenile **White Ibis** provided possibly the first instance of multiple individuals found

together in Pennsylvania. **Glossy Ibis** continued to make summer forays into *Chester*, presumably from a breeding site in the state of Delaware.

The pair of **Merlins** in *Erie* and fledged young in *Lycoming* reflect the continuing expansion of nesting by this small falcon reported during the spring season. On a busy suburban street in the Faxon section of Williamsport, the group of three (or more) recently fledged young was noisily moving between some tall spruces and a dead tree on 7/19. The young landed awkwardly in the dead branches of a deciduous tree. Upon closer examination, this group clearly had not been flying long—they had down on their heads and were inexperienced in landing. While the exact nest site wasn't identified, it is likely that one of the tall spruces nearby had been used. Although Merlins had been noticed there earlier in the summer, the word had not gotten around, and this fortuitous encounter demonstrated that notable birds can go largely undetected (or unreported) despite being almost "under your nose". After little more than a week, they were not seen again. The lack of **Merlin** reports this season from previously documented nesting locations in *Bradford*, *McKean*, *Pike*, and *Sullivan* counties is explained only in part by the lack of summer reports from those counties. Do Merlins return to the same areas in years after a nesting event? One other sighting reported on the PABIRDS list of an adult female carrying food outside downtown Somerset on 6/3 suggests a further expansion of the summer population.

The number of shorebird species was reduced compared with previous

years. An **American Avocet**, reported to the PABIRDS list on 7/23 at Harvey's Lake, *Luzerne*, was the only report of the species during this season. Not a Sanderling, a Whimbrel, nor a godwit species were reported this season. Two reports of **Willet** were made, from *Erie* and one from *Lancaster*. *Mercer* pulled its shorebird weight, with early-June (northbound) reports of **Western Sandpiper** and **White-rumped Sandpiper**, and other more common species at flooded field along Tieline Road near Grove City. At the state's more reliable shorebird locations, *Bucks* and *Lancaster* also reported these uncommon summer "peeps" in late July, and *Lancaster* and *Philadelphia* (via eBird) also had **Western Sandpiper**. The **Stilt Sandpiper** on 7/8 at Presque Isle's Gull Point, *Erie*, represents an unusual date: was it already southbound? Two at the end of the month in *Philadelphia* undoubtedly were.

Rails are rarely reported because of their secretive behavior, but the sole county report of **Sora** (*Crawford*) and only four counties listing **Virginia Rail** as either "possible" or "probable" breeding, suggest these species are rarer than we believe. In addition, the PABIRDS list provided reports of both rail species at Pennsy Swamp (*Mercer*). In contrast, the more observable **Common Gallinule** was reported, mostly in July, in at least seven counties, most of which do not expect (and didn't report) nesting activity.

Bonaparte's Gulls in late-July in *Centre* and *Montgomery* were notable. The most common tern reported was, as usual, the **Caspian**, but reports of **Common Tern** in *Centre*, *Indiana*, and *Lancaster* were notable. The most unexpected sighting of the season was an adult or near-adult light-morph **Parasitic Jaeger** found sitting on the water at Lake Arthur, *Butler* at 14:20 on 7/8 (pending documentation). The bird flew at 14:50 when a boat came near, and was last seen flying east.

The only report of **Eurasian Collared-Dove** this season was a single bird south of Annville, *Lebanon* on 7/7. Although this species has expanded dramatically across the southeastern United States, where it is sometimes an agricultural pest, it apparently has failed to establish itself at any particular location in Pennsylvania. One of the state's rarest

nesting birds, the **Short-eared Owl**, was reported only from Yellow Creek State Park, *Indiana*, this season. Usually restricted in summer to reclaimed surface mines of western Pennsylvania, its activity at dusk and dawn make it somewhat more detectable than other owls, but still often overlooked.

A **Western Kingbird** was reported (on PABIRDS) and photographed by a birder while conducting a BBS route on 6/4 in *Tioga*. It was first spotted at about 7:00 that morning, and relocated at 10:30, both times in the corn stalks alongside Round Top Hill Rd near Wellsboro, but could not be relocated the following day. The state's only summer report of **Loggerhead Shrike**, also a state-Endangered species, came from the unlikely locality of *Crawford*. This report, during its nesting season, was apparently of a non-breeding vagrant. The nesting area closest to this sighting would be the diminishing population in Ontario, Canada.

Though many of the birds noted in this report are observations of strictly migratory (or post-breeding) wanderers, territorial behavior in a species with no nesting history in the state occasionally tantalize those interested in the state's breeding bird list. This year, it was **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**, an abundant migrant and common into May. The June observation in *Carbon* of a singing male, while not unprecedented, was certainly intriguing. The closest breeding population is in the Adirondacks of New York, although a few sites in the Catskills were reported by the Second New York Breeding Bird Atlas. Such unlikely summer visitors add intrigue, particularly with field work for the second Pennsylvania breeding bird atlas already completed, with the book due in print in fall 2012. Notably absent this season was Sedge Wren.

This report is not well suited to discuss the vast majority of species too common to be individually mentioned, which make up the bulk of the summer season reports. Many interesting observations are described in county comments, providing local interest or simply celebrating the diversity and grandeur of the state's bird life. For example, local nesting range expansions of **Black-throated Green** and **Magnolia** warblers, discovered during the second Pennsylvania

Breeding Bird Atlas in *Beaver*, were documented again this year, confirmed that the atlas records were not an anomaly. Though **Golden-winged Warblers** were reported by four counties with at least "possible" breeding, only *Centre* listed a particular occurrence of this increasingly rare species. Two nests of **Summer Tanager** found during June in Schenley Park, *Allegheny*, provide the best evidence of attempted breeding in more than a decade, even as the nests presumably failed.

Reported only in the *Clarion* and *Clearfield* county reports, the **Clay-colored Sparrow** was also reported on eBird: one bird in *Montour* and *Monroe*. While this species appears to be expanding its range, like the Merlin, it is unclear if territories are occupied in repeated years away from their stronghold in *Clarion*. The **White-crowned Sparrow** in Hamburg on 6/2, the first June record in *Berks*, seems to be part of growing summer pattern.

Included in the Birds of Note because of its state-Endangered status, the **Dickcissel** was reported in many counties and many locations, particularly in *Adams* and *Lancaster*. A summer PABIRDS report from *Lancaster* that stated, "they're everywhere," may be hyperbole, but reports this year resemble the irruptive behavior observed in this species in the past, possibly in response to dry conditions in the Midwest. *Lancaster* reported that all the hayfields that held **Dickcissels** had some structural variety, where alfalfa was interspersed with taller grasses, chicory, and others, resulting in a meadow habitat with structural and species variety.

The two reports of **Yellow-headed Blackbird** represent the first June dates for this species in the state: one seen on 6/29 outside an apartment in Canton, *Bradford*, and a male coming to a feeder on 6/16 in *Erie*.

1920 Inverness Rd
Montoursville, PA 17754
(570) 433-0309
dan@thebraunings.net

Birds of Note – June through July 2011

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.

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.

Mute Swan – *Berks*: breeding pair at Lake Ontelaunee produced at least one cygnet and shared the lake with as many as 21 non-breeding in July (Rudy Keller); *Lebanon*: one at Risser's Pond, Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area 6/4 was a first June record (Barbara Hunsburger).

Trumpeter Swan – *Clearfield*: one was at Curwensville Lake on 7/27 (George Young); *Lancaster*: one at the Conejohela Flats 6/18 (Bob Schutsky).

Tundra Swan – *Chester*: a single bird at Octorara Reservoir 6/9, continued through at least the third week in July (Larry Lewis, Kathleen Pileggi); *Clearfield*: one at Curwensville Lake on 7/27 (George Young); *Lancaster*: one at Octorara Lake 6/9 (Larry Lewis) was very late.

Blue-winged Teal – *Crawford*: spotted at Miller's Pond, Pymatuning 7/2 (Mark Vass, eBird) and 7/31 (Shawn Collins, eBird).

Northern Shoveler – *Adams*: one at quarry pond adjacent to Gettysburg College campus 6/8-7/11 (Peter Morgan); *Centre*: one at the Duck Pond 7/23 (Drew Weber).

Green-winged Teal – *Bucks*: two at Penn Warner Tract 7/31 (Devich Farbotnik); *Crawford*: one was recorded at Pymatuning Goose Management Area 7/9 and 2 there 7/29 (Mark Vass) and 4 there 7/31 (Shawn Collins).

Canvasback – *Crawford*: a male was present at Pymatuning Spillway 6/11 and 6/25 (Mark Vass); *Lancaster*: one at Conewago 6/5 (Patricia and Richard Williams, eBird) to at least 7/25 (Tim Becker, eBird).

Lesser Scaup – *Cambria*: one at Prince Gallitzin State Park on 6/27 (Dave Gobert); *Lycoming*: one 6/1 on the Susquehanna River at the Williamsport dam (Nate Fronk).

Bufflehead – *Crawford*: a male at Pymatuning Goose Management Area 7/10 (Ronald F. Leberman); *Lycoming*: a male was found near the dam while paddling at Rose Valley Lake (Charlie Schwarz).

Red-breasted Merganser – *Centre*: a female at Bald Eagle State Park 7/23 (Drew Weber); *Erie*: two over Gull Point 7/31 were likely birds that summered somewhere around Presque Isle State Park, or along the nearby lakeshore (Shannon Thompson).

Ruddy Duck – *Berks*: last reported at Lake Ontelaunee 6/5 (Dale Beitzel); *Cambria*: a pair at Prince Gallitzin State Park 6/20 (Rory Bower, John Salvetti); *Indiana*: one on the Urling mine drainage treatment pond near Shelocta 6/13 (Roger Higbee); *Lancaster*: one still at wetland area along the Conewago Trail 7/1 (Tim Becker).

Pied-billed Grebe – *Beaver*: a rare breeding record was

established when 3 adults and 9 young were counted on one of the gravel ponds north of Big Beaver Wetlands 7/10 (Mark Vass); *Bucks*: continued from spring through at least 6/19 at Falls Twp (Devich Farbotnik); *Centre*: three (which appeared to be full grown young) presumably were the results of nesting at PennDOT remediation ponds on Rte. 220 west of Julian 7/10; *Dauphin*: two 6/19 SR at West Fairview (Kathy & Herb Weigle); *Montgomery*: one in the Unami Creek Valley 6/27 (George A. Franchois).

American Bittern – *Huntingdon*: at Old Crow wetland near Huntingdon 6/14 (David Kyler, Trudy Kyler).

Least Bittern – *Adams*: one at SGL 249 on 6/19 (Don and Jennifer Gilbert); *Berks*: first reported 5/22 in Maxatawny Twp. was last reported 6/1 (Robert Essick); *Bucks*: one at Quakertown Swamp 6/7 (Devich Farbotnik); *Juniata*: single bird was sighted in Mifflintown, at Kratzer's Pond (Raymond Swarey, Aden Troyer, Stevie Troyer).

Snowy Egret – *Bucks*: two were first noted 7/17 at Rohm and Haas in Bristol (now Dow Chemical) remained through the period (Devich Farbotnik); *York*: single bird was at Brunner Island 7/20 (Lou Carpenter).

Little Blue Heron – *Chester*: two juv. visited the Church Farm Pond at Exton Park 7/25 (Holly Merker); *Bucks*: an adult at Rohm and Haas near Bristol (now Dow Chemical) 7/27 was unusual, followed by 2 more expected immature birds there 7/30 (Devich Farbotnik), one immature bird was at Giving Pond 7/31 (Diane Allison), and another was near Newtown 7/30-31 (Mark Gallagher); *Lancaster*: 7/28 at Woods Edge Pond near Centerville (Glenn Shaffer), and another the Conejohela Flats 7/15 (Deuane Hoffman); *Philadelphia*: as many as 9 at John Heinz Refuge 7/28-31 (Frank Windfelder, Tim Becker, Al Guarente, eBird).

Cattle Egret – *Bucks*: one near Quakertown 6/1 (Devich Farbotnik), and one at Nockamixon State Park 7/17 (Corey Husic) provided a new fall early date; *Lancaster*: one at Middle Creek WMA 6/1 (Chuck Chalfant, et al.).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron – *Bucks*: two adults and one first summer bird at an undisclosed location 6/4 (Devich Farbotnik); *Delaware*: for fourth consecutive year, one returned to the same location in Chadd's Ford 6/13 (Al Guarente); *York*: an immature was at Brunner Island 7/26-31 (Lou Carpenter, Richard Cleary).

White Ibis* – *Dauphin*: 3 juveniles at the Highspire Boat Association beach 7/26-27 (Mark Shartle, m. ob., *doc submitted*); *Northampton*: a juvenile 7/24 at Green Pond

(Joe and Jeff Greco, *doc submitted*); *Philadelphia*: one juvenile at John Heinz Refuge impoundment 7/13-20 (ph. Chris Hunold, *doc submitted*).

Glossy Ibis – *Chester*: reported from a cattle farm in Landenberg where they have been known to stop and forage historically (*vide* Larry Lewis).

Mississippi Kite* – *Northampton*: a sub-adult near Easton 6/10 (Mike Lanzzone, *no doc*).

Merlin – *Erie*: a pair remained through the period (Joe and Bonnie Klan, Mary Birdsong); *Lycoming*: at least 3 young still with a small amount of down, observed and photographed by Wayne Laubscher along Sheridan Street in Williamsport 7/19-20 and subsequent dates (Dan Brauning, Steve Pinkerton).

American Coot – *Bucks*: one at Five Mile Woods Preserve 6/21 (Bill Keim) and another at Churchville Park 7/2 (Henry D'Alessandro, Mark Gallagher); *Centre*: one at the Duck Pond 7/18- 23 (Drew Weber); *Lawrence*: found 6/24 at Wampum-New Galilee marsh (Mark Vass).

Black-bellied Plover – *Lancaster*: one observed 6/2 at the Conejohela Flats (Eric Witmer, eBird).

Willet – *Erie*: one at Beach 10, Presque Isle State Park 7/2 (Ken Rosenberg), and another at the mouth of Sixmile Creek in Harborcreek 7/16 (Jane Cowell, *vide* Susan Smith); *Lancaster*: one 7/14 at the Conejohela Flats (Deuane Hoffman).

Upland Sandpiper – *Clarion*: present this year, with highest reported numbers 6/9 when 3 birds were present along Morris Rd (Gary Edwards, Mike Leahy); *Crawford*: spotted at Pymatuning Goose Management Area throughout the season (m.ob.), and one near Meadville 7/10 (Ronald F. Leberman); *Lancaster*: at the Lancaster Airport (Bruce Carl), first on 7/31 and through the first two weeks of August.

Western Sandpiper – *Berks*: one at Shartlesville 7/30 (Matt Wlasniewski); *Bucks*: two 7/30 at Penn Warner Tract (Devich Farbotnik); *Mercer*: two 6/1-5 along Tieline Road near Grove City (Mark Vass); *Philadelphia*: at John Heinz Refuge 7/28 (Martin Dellwo) and 2 on 7/30 (Al Guarente, eBird), also Pennypack on the Delaware in July (m.ob.).

White-rumped Sandpiper – *Bucks*: one 7/30 at Falls Twp (Devich Farbotnik); *Lancaster*: two at the Conejohela Flats 6/18 (Bob Schutsky); *Mercer*: five present 6/1-5 along Tieline Road near Grove City (m.ob.).

Dunlin – *Bucks*: 2 at Warminster Community Park 6/2 (Gail Johnson).

Stilt Sandpiper – *Erie*: adult at Gull Point 7/8 (Jerry McWilliams); *Philadelphia*: up to 3 at John Heinz Refuge 7/18-31 (Brian Byrnes, Frank Windfelder).

Short-billed Dowitcher – *Allegheny*: a flock of 11 following a thunderstorm at Imperial 7/18 (Mark Vass); *Crawford*: 4 at Pymatuning Goose Management Area 7/30-31 (Ronald F. Leberman, Shawn Collins); *Erie*: Gull Point 7/8 (Jerry McWilliams); *Lancaster*: 2 at the Conejohela Flats 7/16 (Mike Epler).

Bonaparte's Gull – *Centre*: one at Bald Eagle State Park 7/28 (Joe Verica); *Montgomery*: one at Green Lane Reservoir 7/30 (Steve Grunwald, George A. Franchois).

Laughing Gull – *Cambria*: adult at Prince Gallitzin State Park 6/19 (Dave Gobert).

Lesser Black-backed Gull – *Bucks*: three in the Falls Twp. area 6/19 (Matt Sabatine).

Great Black-backed Gull – *Dauphin*: one at the Harvey Taylor Bridge in Harrisburg 7/11 through the following

week (Larry Usselman); *York*: two at Brunner Island 7/31 (Carolyn Hoffman).

Black Tern – *Crawford*: one at the Pymatuning Spillway 7/10 (Ronald F. Leberman); *Cambria*: one at Prince Gallitzin State Park 6/12 (Dave Gobert).

Common Tern – *Centre*: one at Bald Eagle State Park 6/6 (Clayton Magill, Krissy Magill) and one at Toftrees Pond 6/15 (Chet Gottfried); *Indiana*: one 6/21 at Yellow Creek State Park (Tom Glover, Margaret Higbee); *Lancaster*: two at the Conejohela Flats 7/16 (Mike Epler) ; *Venango*: at Kahle Lake 6/6 (Gary Edwards).

Forster's Tern – *Delaware*: up to 17 on the Delaware River 7/30-31 (Al Guarente, eBird); *Lancaster*: 4 at the Conejohela Flats 7/23 (m.ob.); *Philadelphia*: six at John Heinz NWR 7/28-31 (Al Guarente, eBird); *Venango*: at Kahle Lake 6/6 (Gary Edwards).

Parasitic Jaeger* – *Butler*: possible light-morph, adult resting on Lake Arthur 7/8 (Mark Vass, *no doc*).

Eurasian Collared-Dove* – *Lebanon*: one south of Annville 7/7 (Mike Dale, *no doc*).

Short-eared Owl – *Indiana*: at Yellow Creek State Park on 7/26 (Lee Carnahan, Tom Glover).

Chuck-will's-widow* – *Lebanon*: heard periodically at Fort Indiantown Gap on Tomstown Road throughout the period (m.ob., *doc submitted*).

Western Kingbird* – *Tioga*: one found during a BBS route near Wellsboro 6/4 (ph. Ben Israel, *doc submitted*).

Loggerhead Shrike* – *Crawford*: a single bird in the Geneva Marsh area 6/5 was not relocated (Ronald F. Leberman, *no doc*).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet – *Carbon*: a male singing territorial song was heard 6/8 along the Hatchery Road powerline cut (Dustin Welch).

Gray-cheeked Thrush – *Delaware*: one at Swarthmore College 6/4 (Brian Byrnes).

Lawrence's Warbler – *Armstrong*: near Sherrett 6/4 (Margaret and Roger Higbee) and again 6/6 (Margaret Higbee, Gloria Lamer).

Tennessee Warbler – *Westmoreland*: one captured in July at the Powdermill Nature Reserve banding station.

Nashville Warbler – *Centre*: near Kato 6/5 (Justine Weber, Drew Weber, Nate Fronk) and at Black Moshannon S.P. 6/25 (David McNaughton); *Forest*: noted 6/4 in the Allegheny National Forest near Beaver Meadows (Jim and Flo McGuire); *Indiana*: singing on territory near Sun Cliff 7/18 (Margaret Higbee, Tom Glover, Donna Meyer); *Sullivan*: noted.

Summer Tanager* – *Allegheny*: nesting pair discovered in Schenley Park in Pittsburgh 6/13 (Kate St. John) remained in the area until 6/24 (m.ob.), but the nest presumably failed, after which they were relocated in another area of the park 7/10 (*vide* Lucas Musher) (*doc submitted*).

Clay-colored sparrow – *Clarion*: seen through June at Curllsville, including two 6/12 (Shawn Collins, Mike Leahy, Carole Winslow), and 7 on 7/2, including one adult feeding a fledged young bird (Carole Winslow); *Clearfield*: at Luthersburg 7/12 (Dan Richards).

White-crowned Sparrow – *Berks*: in Hamburg 6/2 (Kerry Grim) provided the first June record in the county.

Dickcissel – *Adams, Bucks, Cumberland, Dauphin, Lancaster, Lebanon*.

Yellow-headed Blackbird – *Bradford*: one 6/29 outside an apartment in Canton (Jessie Herman); *Erie*: male seen at a feeder 6/16.

PHOTOGRAPHIC HIGHLIGHTS



White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*). It was a great season for this species in southeastern Pennsylvania. This bird at John Heinz N.W.R. 13 (here 14) to 20 July 2011 represented *Philadelphia's* first record in 33 years. (Frank Windfelder)



White Ibis and Sandhill Crane. Lucky birders at Green Pond, *Northampton* were treated to an opportunity to witness the interactions between these rare two birds 24 July 2011. (Dave DeReamus)



White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*). Rare indeed in Pennsylvania are multiple White Ibises in the same location; these three were photographed at Highspire Boat Association beach, *Dauphin* 26 July 2011. (Mark Shartle)



White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*). *Northampton's* third White Ibis appeared at Green Pond 24 July 2011, where it entertained birders along with a Sandhill Crane that was present in the second half of the month (see above right and inside back cover). (Jeff Greco)



Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*). Juvenile at Church Farm Pond, *Chester* 25 July 2011. (Holly Merker)



Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*). This female nestling was banded in Warren 4 June 2011. (Drew Weber)



Semipalmated Plover (*Charadrius semipalmatus*). Adult at Tieline Road, Mercer 3 June 2011. (Geoff Malosh)



Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*). This bird on a nest with eggs was photographed 6 June 2011 in the most unlikely of places: on a table of ready-to-sell plants at a nursery in Valencia, Butler! (Scott Kinzey)



Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*). A rare opportunity to photograph nesting Chimney Swifts presented itself in Swissdale, Clinton 14 July 2011, when a nest became detached and fell to the bottom of the photographer's chimney, but the chicks survived. They were attended to by an unconcerned adult and were photographed through an open cleanout door at the base of the chimney. See also below. (Wayne Laubscher)



Semipalmated Sandpiper (*Calidris pusilla*). As noted on the cover of this issue and in the Mercer report, a flooded field on Tieline Road near Grove City offered observers an outstanding opportunity to view late-migrating shorebirds at close range. This bird was photographed there 3 June 2011. (Geoff Malosh)



Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*). (Wayne Laubscher)



American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*). This true albino was nicely photographed in late May in Wyoming. (Steve Banks)



Gray Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*). A interesting leucistic adult was photographed in late May in a Wyoming yard. (David Billings)



Brewster's Warbler. Weiser State Forest, Carbon continues to be a good place to study the "winged warblers" and hybrids of same. This Brewster's was photographed there 14 June 2011. (Dustin Welch)



Canada Warbler (*Cardellina canadensis*). A fine portrait made at Weiser State Forest, Carbon 14 June 2011. (Dustin Welch)



Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*). A classic image of a classic Pennsylvania breeder, this adult male with food was photographed at Boyce Mayview Park in Allegheny 1 July 2011. (Jeff McDonald)



Vesper Sparrow (*Poecetes gramineus*). This outstanding portrait was made at Bullhead Road, *Lehigh* 13 July 2011. (*Dustin Welch*)



Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis*). This juvenile in fresh plumage was photographed at Coburn, *Centre* 17 July 2011. (*Wayne Laubscher*)

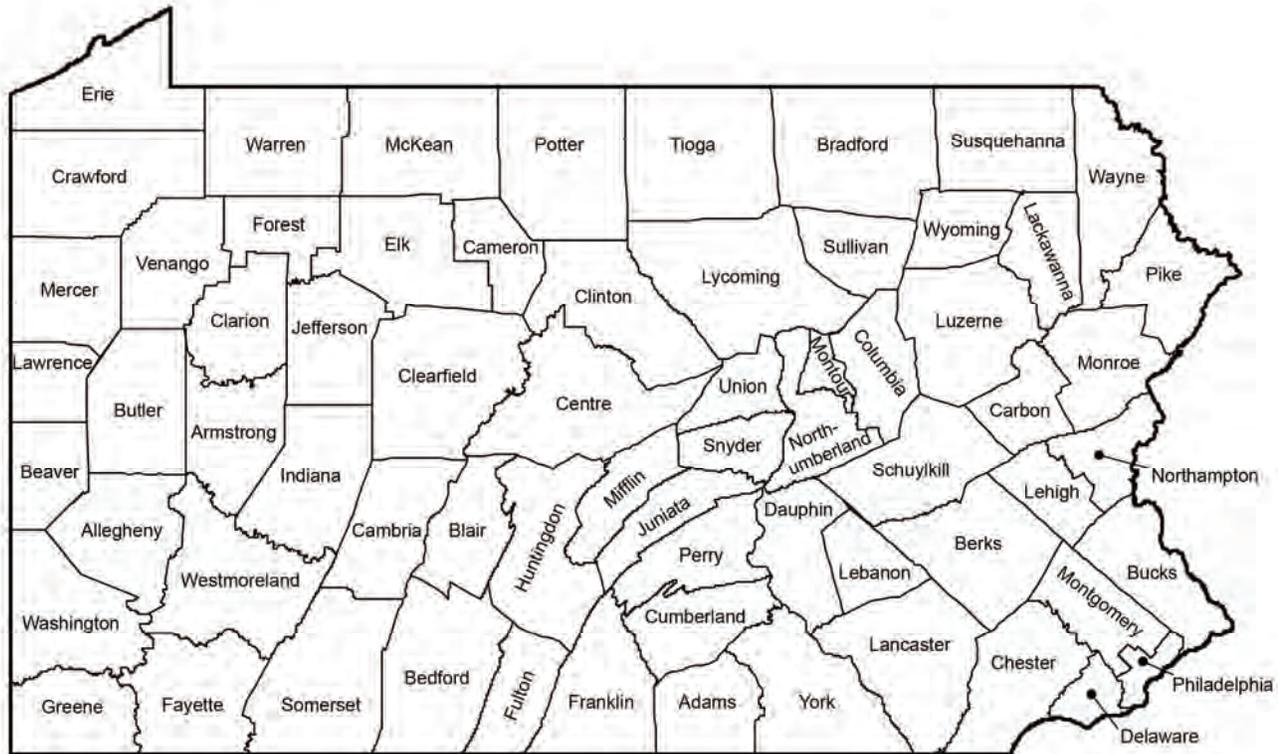


Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*). This juvenile was photographed in an Acadian Flycatcher nest at Downingtown, *Chester* 23 June 2011. An adult was seen tending to the nestling. (*Holly Merker*)



Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*). Despite increasing development in the vicinity, the Imperial area of *Allegheny* continues to support a small population of Bobolinks. This bird was photographed there 15 July 2011. (*Jeff McDonald*)

Local Notes – June to July 2011



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).	juvenal [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: Birch Run Rd. (BIR), Breeding Bird Atlas (BBA), Breeding Bird Survey Rte. 193 (BBS), Gettysburg National Military Park (GNMP), Milesburn Road (MIL), Mountain Rd. (MTN), Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC), State Game Lands #249 (SGL).

With 111 species reported, one is able to obtain one of the better pictures of *Adams* June-July activity in recent years. In addition to the high species count, highlights included some unexpected marsh birds, 15 warbler species, and increased reporting of **Blue Grosbeak** and **Dickcissel**. For this report, all reference to BBS reflect a 6/11 survey by Andy Wilson.

High count for **Wood Duck** was 11 at SGL 7/30 (PK). A quarry pond adjacent to Gettysburg College campus held an unexpected **Northern Shoveler** from 6/8 to at least 7/11 (PM).

Ring-necked Pheasant were reported on the BBS and at SGL 6/19 (DJG). Being absent recently, it was good to receive a report of 2 **Ruffed Grouse** from BIR 6/24 (CB). **Wild Turkeys** were at MTN 6/20 and 6/30 (RDS) and BIR 6/24 (CB). **American Woodcock** was at MTN 7/25 (RDS).

Marsh birds were a definite highlight with a **Least Bittern**, 2

Virginia Rail, and a **Common Gallinule** found at SGL 6/19 (DJG). The wetland where these observations were made (Gun Club Road) underwent PGC remediation last year to address embankment erosion. This work has resulted in a shallower wetland with apparently more favorable conditions for marsh birds and waders. The 6/19 date (Least Bittern and Common Moorhen were also found on 6/26) is within Breeding Bird Atlas safe dates for all three species. *Adams* sightings of these species are rare any time; confirmed breeding would be truly noteworthy. Speaking of breeders, two **Great Blue Heron** nests containing single nestlings were found along Crooked Creek Road 6/14 (RDS). Five Great Blue Herons were at Friend's Creek 6/30 (JH). The sole **Great Egret** report came from SGL 7/30 (PK). The only migrant shorebirds detected were 2 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** 7/19 (PM) at the quarry pond holding the Northern Shoveler.

Now unusual when absent, **Bald Eagle** was not reported. Five **Cooper's Hawks** were present on the BBS. There were three reports of **Broad-winged Hawk** 6/24-7/30 (CB, RDS), all coming from Michaux State Forest locations.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo was at BIR 6/24 (CB) while **Black-billed Cuckoo** went unreported. The abundance of **Red-bellied Woodpecker** was reflected in the BBS with a count of 11. **Pileated Woodpecker** was found at BIR 6/24 (CB) and at Friend's Creek 7/28 (JH). A great count

of 9 **Acadian Flycatchers** came from BIR and MIL 6/24 (CB). There were two reports of **Willow Flycatcher**, 4 on the BBS and one at SGL 6/23 (DJG). There was a **White-eyed Vireo** on the BBS, 5 **Blue-headed Vireos** at BIR and MIL 6/24 (CB), and two reports of **Warbling Vireo** with 4 on the BBS and one at MTN 6/13 (RDS).

A nice count of 4 **Brown Creepers** came from BIR and MIL 6/24 (CB). With a count of 29 **House Wren** on the BBS and the species' notoriety for egg puncturing, one wonders as to the hatching success of other species along this route. Throw in the five Cooper's Hawks previously noted—it's certainly tough going out there!

Veery and **Hermit Thrush** were both found at BIR 6/24 (CB). This same trip, at an elevation of 1500-1600 feet, yielded eleven warbler species: **Northern Parula**, **Black-throated Blue**, **Black-throated Green**, **Blackburnian**, **Pine**, **Black-and-White**, **Worm-eating**, **Ovenbird**, **Louisiana Waterthrush**, **Hooded**, and **Canada Warbler**. A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was found at GNMP, Calvary Road 7/13 (JB, JS).

Sparrow reports were fair at best. A **Vesper Sparrow** was at Granite Station Road 7/3 (JB, JS). **Savannah Sparrow** was detected on the BBS, as were 4 **Grasshopper Sparrows**. Two Grasshopper Sparrows were also at Possum Hollow Road 7/30 (PK).

Blue Grosbeak reports are becoming more frequent. There were single birds at Hilltown Road and the intersection of Rtes. 15 and 30 on 6/9 and 6/10, respectively (both PJR). Low Dutch Road was the third location with a 7/3 sighting (JB, JS). Reporting of **Dickcissels** was impressive. Sightings and numbers: Locust Lane (2) on 6/6 (PJR), Krug Road (one) on 6/8 (PJR), and Granite Station Road with 3 on 6/8 (PJR), one on 6/10 (JW), and one on 7/3 (JB, JS). **Bobolink** were reported from two locations; Cunningham Road 6/12 (JW) and 2 along Crum Road 7/2 (JH). There were four sightings of **Eastern Meadowlark** with a high count of 10 on the BBS. Three **Horned Larks** were also found on the BBS and a single bird at Trailway's Speedway 6/25 (DF). The BBS provided the sole report of **Orchard Oriole** with 4 birds detected.

Observers: **Phil Keener**, 198 Jacobs Street, East Berlin, PA 17316, (717) 259-9984, pittche74@yahoo.com, Chris Blazo, Jim Brighton, Diane Ford, Don and Jennifer Gilbert (DJG), Judie Hogan, Peter Morgan, Peter Robinson (PJR), Jared Satchell, Ralph and Deb Siefken (RDS), Jim Wilkinson, Andy Wilson.

Allegheny County

Locations: Boyce-Mayview Park (BMP), Imperial (IMP), North Park (NP), Schenley Park (SP), Sewickley Heights Park (SHP), Wingfield Pines (WP).

June weather was fairly typical for the beginning of summer. July brought heat and humidity by mid-month.

A **Hooded Merganser** was at IMP 6/10 (MV). A **Semipalmated Plover** lingered at NP 6/1 (DN). Southbound shorebirds began to appear in July with a **Lesser Yellowlegs** 7/7 and 4 **Least Sandpipers** at IMP 7/4 (MV). A flock of 11 **Short-billed Dowitchers** stopped briefly following a thunderstorm at IMP 7/18 (MV). An **American Woodcock** was at WP 6/23 (ST), a species not often detected during the summer.

A **Great Egret** was at WP 6/30 (ST), a late date for this species that migrates through in spring. Seven juvenile **Great Blue Herons** were noted on nests at BMP 7/1 (ST).

An article in a local newspaper stated there was a single chick in the **Bald Eagle** nest in Crescent Twp. 6/17, the first successful nesting for this pair that was discovered last year. The **Osprey** nest reported at Neville Island last season appeared to have been abandoned by early June (PB, RC). Single Ospreys were seen in that area along the Ohio River in June (PB, MV).

A **Barred Owl** was heard at BMP 6/19 (DN). Barred Owls are apparently resident in the county but like all owls their secretive habits belie their presence, so reports are few.

The **Bank Swallow** and **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** colony at a gravel company in Stowe Twp. was still active this season (MV). A partial albino **American Robin** was at SP 6/19 and 7/2 (MF).

Up to six **Prairie Warblers** were at IMP in June (m.ob.). **Cerulean Warblers** were at SHP 6/13 (DN) and Harrison Hills Park 6/18 (DB). Local in the county during the breeding season, an **Ovenbird** was at SHP 6/13 (DN) and 3 were at Knob Hill Park 6/14 (KD). A **Kentucky Warbler** at NP 6/1 (DN) and one at SHP 6/13 (DN) were welcome reports of this declining species. Five **Yellow-breasted Chats** were

tallied at IMP 6/11 (DW, ST) and 4 were at BMP 6/24 (ST).

The surprise of the season was a pair of nesting **Summer Tanagers** discovered in Schenley Park in Pittsburgh 6/13 (KSJ). It's been many years since a territorial pair has occurred in the county. Unfortunately, the nest appeared to have failed. It was built on an oak branch over a fairly busy road and was subject to predation. A new nest was discovered 6/19 a short distance from the first and appeared to be active at least to 6/24 (LM, GM, et al.), however it is unknown whether or not the pair nested successfully. After 6/24 the birds were not seen in the area of the nest, but they were relocated in another area of the park 7/10 (fide LM). No other reports were submitted following that discovery, so whether or not they attempted to nest again is unknown.

Grassland habitat at IMP continues to be lost due to development, but enough currently remains to continue supporting grassland sparrows as well as other grassland species. Five **Vesper Sparrows** were found 6/11 (DW, ST) and 4 were there 7/17 (MV). **Savannah Sparrows** were present through June (DW, ST, JV) as well as **Grasshopper Sparrows** (JV, GM, DW, ST). A nice count of 18 Grasshopper Sparrows were tallied 6/11 (DW, ST). **Henslow's Sparrow** counts include 6 on 6/11 (DW, ST) and 4 on 7/10 (ST, JM). Two **Swamp Sparrows** were present at the marsh along Potato Garden Run Road in the IMP area 7/17 (MV), a reliable location for this species during the breeding season.

A bald female **Northern Cardinal** was in Penn Hills 7/24 (MF). A nice count of 12 **Bobolinks** were at IMP 7/10 (DW, ST). A first year male **Purple Finch** was singing daily from at least 6/23 to the first week of July in Penn Hills (MF).

Observers: **Mike Fialkovich**, 805 Beulah Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15235, (412) 731-3581, mpfial@verizon.net, Douglas Bauman, Paul Brown, Red Combs, Karyn Delaney, Cory DeStein, Gigi Gerben, Amy Henrici, Pat Lynch, Sherron Lynch, Ryan McDermott, Jeff McDonald, Pat McShea, Geoff Malosh, Lucas Musher, Dick Nugent, Rob Protz, Kate St. John, Shannon Thompson, Jim Valimont, Mark Vass, Dave Wilton.

Armstrong County

Locations: Crooked Creek Park (CC), Kittanning (KT), Keystone Reservoir (KR).

A hen **Common Merganser** accompanied by her 8 young was spotted at CC 6/24 (MH, LR, JV).

A flock of 9 **Wild Turkeys** at CC included 7 young 6/24 (MH, LR, JV). A **Common Loon** lingered at KR 7/14 (NB, KB). A **Great Egret** visited CC 7/25 (MVT).

Four **Bald Eagles**, including 2 adults, were sighted at Mahoning 6/18 (PS); 3 were noted at CC 6/26 (MVT) and at KR 7/14 (NB, KB). A **Cooper's Hawk** was listed at CC 7/25 (MVT) and 2 **Broad-winged Hawks** were at CC 6/24 (MH, LR, JV).

Best **Killdeer** count was 19 along Dutch Run 7/2 (MH, RH). Three **Spotted Sandpipers** were found at KR 7/14 (NB, KB), and CC hosted a **Solitary Sandpiper** 7/25 (MVT).

A **Herring Gull** was seen at CC 6/8 (MVT), the lone report. One **Black-billed Cuckoo** and 2 **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were calling on the KT BBS 6/4 (MH, RH). Another Yellow-billed was sighted near Cowansville 6/6 (MH, GL).

A **Barred Owl** was perched along a back road near Sherrett 6/6 (MH, GL). A **Common Nighthawk** circled over KT calling on 6/14 (RH).

Single **White-eyed**, **Yellow-throated**, and **Warbling Vireos** were listed on the KT BBS 6/4 (MH, RH); 3 **Yellow-throated Vireos** were heard at Lenape Golf Course 6/7 (RH). A **Blue-headed Vireo** was heard along Dutch Run 7/2 (MH, RH), the lone report. Two **Common Ravens** were observed at CC 6/8 (MVT).

The **Purple Martin** colony near Elderton (DS) produced more than 200 young. In addition the colony at West Shamokin High School, which yielded only 8 birds last year, fledged 18 young. Several Amish farmers in the Dayton area were also successful in attracting martins this year. **Purple Martins** nested at CC for the first time with 4 nestlings fledging successfully; on 7/25 (MVT) 5 adults were present and the four young were still in the nest.

Thirteen **Ovenbirds** and one **Louisiana Waterthrush** were listed on the KT BBS 6/4 (MH, RH). Single **Blue-winged Warblers** were found 6/4 (MH, RH) on the KT BBS and 6/6 (MH, GL) near Sherrett, where a **Lawrence's** was singing a blue-winged song nearby. The

Lawrence's looked very much like a blue-wing except for its black throat. The KT BBS yielded 2 **Black-and-white Warblers**, one **Kentucky**, 9 **Hooded**, 5 **American Redstarts**, 4 **Chestnut-sided**, and one **Prairie Warbler** 6/4 (MH, RH).

A **Savannah Sparrow** was found on the KT BBS 6/4 (MH, RH). Dutch Run yielded at least 5 **Grasshopper Sparrows** 7/2 (MH, RH). A singing **Henslow's Sparrow** was a good find near Sherrett 6/6 (MH, GL). The KT BBS produced a nice count of 5 **Orchard** and 12 **Baltimore Orioles**.

Observers: **Margaret Higbee, 3119 Creekside Road, Indiana, PA 15701-7934, bcoriole@windstream.net**, Norman Bond, Ken Byerly, Roger Higbee, Gloria Lamer, Lynn Ramage, Patrick Snickles, Duke Snyder, Josie Valasek, Marge Van Tassel.

Beaver County

Locations: Big Beaver Wetlands (BBW), Independence Marsh (IND), Raccoon Creek State Park (RCSP).

Wood Ducks are increasing as a breeder in the IND area; best total this season at the ponds was 34 on 6/26 (MV). **Hooded Mergansers** probably bred again in the BBW area. Four were there 7/10 (MV). A rare *Beaver* breeding record of **Pied-billed Grebe** was established when 3 adults and 9 young were counted on one of the gravel ponds north of BBW 7/10 (MV). Max count of **Green Heron** at IND was 14 on 7/28 (MV).

SG and TJ conducted a survey of all four of the county's known **Osprey** nests 7/18 and found each of them active this year. Two young were at the New Brighton nest, one young at the Midland nest, 2 young at the Aliquippa nest, and 2 young at the Potter Twp. nest. They noted that the Potter juveniles were the most developed; this is also the longest-established nest of the four. An adult **Bald Eagle** was seen briefly at IND 7/16 (TJ, KG). **Peregrine Falcons** were seen throughout the season at Monaca (m.ob.). A **Common Gallinule** was a good find at the gravel ponds north of BBW 7/10 (MV).

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Killdeer numbers at IND swelled to 71 by 7/14 (MV), a good mid-summer count. First southbound shorebirds were all recorded at IND as follows: **Lesser Yellowlegs** 7/27, **Solitary Sandpiper** 6/26, **Least Sandpiper** 7/7, and **Pectoral Sandpiper** 7/23 (all MV). The flock of Solitaires grew to 30 by 7/30 and was still increasing heading into Aug. Drought conditions hit sw. Pennsylvania again this summer and the water levels at IND by the end of Jul were already similar to their lowest point at any time in 2010. Two or 3 **Herring Gulls** were noted in Monaca in mid-Jun (MV), probably post-breeding wanderers from colonies farther upriver in *Allegheny* or *Armstrong*. Two **Caspian Terns** at Monaca 6/19 (MV) were a surprise.

One **Common Nighthawk** was over Beaver in the pre-dawn hours 6/12 (GM), and 3 were counted in Ambridge 6/16 (MV).

A visit to the Pine Run area on the Ohio/Pennsylvania border 6/11 yielded a pair of **Great Crested Flycatchers**, as well as four vireo species, all breeders in the area: **Yellow-throated Vireo**, **Blue-headed Vireo**, **Warbling Vireo**, **Red-eyed Vireo** (GM). A single **Bank Swallow** was seen in the BBW area during the *Beaver/Lawrence* BBS survey 6/12 (GM). A **chickadee** was singing a hybrid-like song in Ellwood City 6/17 (DK), a bit to the north of the typical "hybrid zone". The "highlight" of the *Beaver/Lawrence* BBS 6/12 was the recording of at least one **American Robin** on each of the route's 50 stops (GM), a first for that route.

The Pine Run area in South Beaver Twp., recently discovered as hosting the county's only known summering Black-throated Blue Warblers (as described here in Volume 24 No. 3), yielded a few more surprises this season. On 6/11, a singing **Magnolia Warbler** was noted on the Pennsylvania side (GM); like Black-throated Blue, this is the only known summer location for the species in *Beaver* and quite a notable record for the region in general. Magnolias were also reported on the Pennsylvania side in 2008 by Ohio atlasers. The real news, however, was the confirmation of nesting **Black-throated Green Warblers** at Pine Run, where on 6/11 GM watched a male carrying food into the same tree on three different occasions. It was assumed that it was attending to a female on nest. With mid-summer records of Black-throated Greens at three different locations in the county in recent years (Ambridge Reservoir and RCSP are the others), it is exciting to have a confirmation of breeding on the official record. As noted last summer, **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was present again this year at Pine Run 6/11

(GM), but Black-throated Blue Warbler was not found. **Cerulean Warblers** were found at their county stronghold, RCSP, 7/4 (MF). A **Worm-eating Warbler** at Montgomery Lock and Dam 7/2 (BS, KS, SM – *fide* MV) was a great find. This location has hosted nesting Worm-eating Warblers in the past but not for several years. Three **Kentucky Warblers** were also at Montgomery L&D 7/2 (BS, KS, SM – *fide* MV).

Ten **Scarlet Tanagers** were tallied at RCSP 7/4 (MF). **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were found at Pine Run 6/11 (GM) and Brady's Run Park 6/12 (GM).

Observers: **Geoff Malosh, 450 Amherst Avenue, Moon Township, PA 15108-2654, (412) 735-3128, pomarine@earthlink.net**, Mike Fialkovich, Karena Gregg, Scott Gregg, Timothy Johnson, Deb Kalbfleisch, Peter Keyel, Shirley Mutz, Kathy Saunders, Becky Smith, Shannon Thompson, Mark Vass.

Bedford County

No report

Compiler: **Tom Dick, 123 Hummer Lane, Cairnbrook, PA 15924, (814) 754-5727, thomasd102.d@gmail.com**.

Berks County

Locations: Blue Marsh L. (BML), French Creek State Park (FCSP), L. Ontelaunee (LO), State Game Lands #s 110 & 106 (SGL).

Following a cool and wet spring, summer quickly dried out and heated up to record high temperatures of 108°F and 110°F in mid-July during the driest period. Hello, Phoenix! There was a post-atlas slump in reports of breeding activity, especially of passerines.

A few wounded **Snow Geese** were seen at LO and Shartlesville all summer, as usual (RK, MW). The breeding **Mute Swan** pair at LO produced at least one cygnet and shared the lake with as many as 21 non-breeding Mute Swans in July (RK). Many juv. **Wood Ducks** and **Mallards** were seen at lakes and ponds in another successful breeding year for these common ducks. A pair of **Ring-necked Ducks** (the female had a wound on her breast) lingered at the pond on Old Rt. 22 east of Shartlesville until 7/16 (MW). The last spring **Ruddy Duck** was reported at LO 6/5 (DB).

A few crowing **Ring-necked Pheasant** cocks were heard at widely separated locations during CREP farmland surveys in May and June (RK). A **Northern Bobwhite** heard at BML 6/7 (SF) was in an area where game birds are often released. As in previous recent years, **Wild Turkeys** with poults were widely seen but **Ruffed Grouse** were confined to the Kittatinny Ridge.

Two imm. **Common Loons** summering at LO were still being seen in Aug (m.obs.). Only about three imm. **Double-crested Cormorants** summered at LO this year (RK). The **Least Bittern** first reported 5/22 at the ponds at the intersection of Siegfriedale and Wessner roads in Maxatawny Twp. was last reported 6/1 (RE). A few **Great Egrets** were reported 7/16 through the period (m.ob.). **Green Herons** fledged 2 young at Gotwals pond, Oley, and others were seen at many other ponds and lakes. About 16 **Black-crowned Night-Herons** nested in conifers at the core rookery at Tice Upholstery in Wyomissing Hills. Other pairs dispersed to nest in nearby residential neighborhoods, including about six birds in Colony Park (*fide* BU). If one breeding site is disturbed, as it was this year (see spring report), these herons tenaciously seek out other sites in this suburban area, and have done so for decades.

A traditional **Black Vulture** nest site in FCSP fledged 2 young and a **Turkey Vulture** nest in the park fledged 3 young (RB). Non-breeding **Ospreys** were seen at BML 6/7 (SF) and LO 7/25 (RK). Except for the Marion Twp. nest that produced at least 2 young (RK), **Bald Eagle** productivity is unknown at this writing. A juv. **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was heard giving begging calls in an area rich in hemlocks along the Bartram Trail near Hamburg 7/26 and 8/3 (KG). The District Twp. pair that has nested in Norway spruce for several years moved about a quarter mile away this year and produced at least one fledgling, which was loudly begging in early Aug (RK). The Reading **Peregrine Falcon** pair hatched 2 young, one male and one female, which were banded 5/25 by Art McMorris. He found no sign of the trichomoniasis that killed three of the four nestlings in 2010. This year a second pair of Peregrine Falcons bred in *Berks*, choosing the cliff face of a quarry as their nest

site. The pair produced three female chicks that were banded 5/16 by Art McMorris. Because the pair hatched just 2 chicks, an additional chick from central Pennsylvania was fostered into this nest (*fide* BU).

Two **Semipalmated Plovers** at Shartlesville (MS) and one at LO (DB) 6/2 were northbound. Dry weather in July produced a small amount of pond edge and retention basin habitat for southbound shorebirds. Two **Lesser Yellowlegs** were at Shartlesville 7/23 (MW). **Solitary Sandpiper** was the most widely distributed non-breeder, starting with 2 at BML 7/5 (PM) and continuing in small numbers at other sites through the period. Flocks of 20-25 **Least Sandpipers** were seen at various places starting 7/15 (m.ob.). A **Western Sandpiper** was at Shartlesville 7/30 (MW) and a **Pectoral Sandpiper** at Long Lane near Topton 7/21 (SF). A small summer flock of **Ring-billed Gulls** was at BML as usual (JS). The only reported tern was a **Caspian Tern** at BML 6/14 (JS).

Yellow-billed Cuckoos didn't appear in significant numbers until well into June, but then were heard all summer. They were most common on the Kittatinny Ridge—seven were heard at SGL 110 on 7/4 (KG). A **Barn Owl** box in Rehrersburg fledged four young (RB). Two other boxes contained roosting adult Barn Owls but no young (RB). Two **Eastern Screech-Owls** were photographed at a birdbath during the dry heat of July (*fide* JH). Three **Barred Owls** were heard near Henningsville 6/13 (PS), a fairly new location. Another heard at Green Hills L. 6/15 (KL) was a first record. **Red-headed Woodpeckers** occupied at least three traditional nesting locations, but there were no reports of productivity.

A count of 5 **Acadian Flycatchers** at Hamburg Reservoir 6/5 (KG) was considered good for the Kittatinny. This species is also doing well at FCSP and Hay Creek in southern *Berks*. Territorial **Blue-headed Vireos** were heard at three locations on the Kittatinny (KG) here at the southeastern edge of their range in Pennsylvania. **Fish Crow** seems to have become the corvid most likely to be found at public picnic areas like BML (JS) and at some convenience store parking lots, where the nasal begging calls of the young are incessant in summer. Wandering **Common Ravens** were heard near Bechtelsville 6/6 (JK) and Henningsville 7/27 (PS), both well south of the traditional breeding range on the Kittatinny. **Purple Martin** appears to be doing well in farm country. Large colonies were reported at Shartlesville (75 birds - MW), Topton (~51 active nest gourds - RK), Mohrsville and Centreport (25-35 pairs each - RK). Smaller colonies are scattered through the Great Valley between Fleetwood and Topton (RK). Only two burrows were seen at the only known **Bank Swallow** nesting site at the Haines & Kibblehouse quarry near Birdsboro, and nesting success, if any, is unknown (RK). A wandering **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was at SGL 110 6/26 (KG). **Hermit Thrushes** sang in July along the top of the Kittatinny at SGL 106 and at Hawk Mt. (KG, RK). They do not nest elsewhere in *Berks*.

Warbler nesting reports were scant. **Black-throated Blue Warbler** and **Black-throated Green Warbler**, both confined to the Kittatinny, held several territories each in June and July (KG). Late migrating **Blackburnian Warblers** were at SGL 106 on 6/4 (MK) and at Hamburg Reservoir 6/12 (KG). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was at Hay Creek 6/4 (KL), where the species nested many years ago, and another at Trout Run Reservoir 6/4 and 6/6 (MA). Neither was reported later. Three singing **Cerulean Warblers** were heard along the Bartram Trail near Hamburg 6/23 (KG) and one was again territorial at SGL 106, Pine Swamp Road in June (LS). **Kentucky Warblers** were singing at SGL 106, Pine Swamp Road and on the Turtle Trail at FCSP in June (RK).

Vesper Sparrows were heard in June and July at several places in the Fleetwood - Topton area, in Marion Twp. and in northern *Berks* (KG, RK, MW). A count of 10 **Savannah Sparrows** singing along Mountain Road near Hamburg 7/16 (KG) was considered exceptional. About 10 **Grasshopper Sparrows** were heard on the same route 6/24 and 7/16 (KG). A late migrating **White-crowned Sparrow** in Hamburg 6/2 (KG) provided the first June record in *Berks*. A **Dark-eyed Junco**, exceptional in summer, appeared at a feeder in Bern Twp. ca. 6/20 and stayed about two weeks (*fide* JS). Six **Bobolinks** and 11 **Eastern Meadowlarks** near Hamburg 7/16 (KG) were in one of the few remaining strongholds for these species in *Berks*.

Observers: **Rudy Keller, 71 Lutz Road, Boyertown, PA 19512, (610) 845-7310, rckeller@dejazzd.com**, Mary Ache, Dale Beitzel, Rich Bonnett, Catherine Elwell, Robert Essick, Steve Fordyce, Kerry Grim, Jack Holcomb, Matthew Karns, Dean Kendall, Joanne Kintner, Ken Lebo, Peter Montgomery, Peter Saenger, Joan Silagy, Lee Simpson, Matt Spence, Bill Uhrich, Matt Wlasniewski.

Blair County
No Compiler.

Bradford County

Locations: Susquehanna River (SUR), Trudy Gerlach farm near New Era (TNE).

In terms of birds, or perhaps birdwatchers, we had a quiet summer with a few high points.

A **Northern Bobwhite** was observed during the last week of June at Coyles Corners (TM). Quite infrequently seen during summer, an **Osprey** was flying above the creek near Sugar Run Post Office 7/13 (TG). The **Bald Eagle** pairs near Rummerfield and at Sayre successfully fledged 2 chicks each this summer (RG); on 7/11 an adult eagle, having snared a large fish, was pulled into the SUR, lost the fish, but paddled itself to shore with its wings (LD). The owners of a barn west of Towanda were surprised and delighted to find a pair of **American Kestrels** nesting there as of 6/28. The chicks successfully fledged and left the barn on 7/18-20 (LF, SF).

A pair of **Sandhill Cranes** with a single chick was seen repeatedly during the summer at a farm near Hollenback. The chick hatched considerably later than normal, probably due to the large amounts of rain and resulting high water in nesting sites at the beginning of the season (RW). Another pair was seen flying and sometimes feeding throughout the summer at Coyles Corners (TM). Other crane pairs in the county reportedly did not successfully produce chicks this year. Only one **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was reported this summer, 7/17 at TNE (TG). On 6/26 (and on some following nights for a few weeks) two juvenile **Barred Owls** were heard calling from young woods, with a parent making occasional short "You all" calls in response near TNE (TG).

Undoubtedly nesting, an **Acadian Flycatcher** sang every day at TNE all summer (TG). A **Blue-headed Vireo** was observed 6/7 at Phantom Run near Moxie (TG). During the summer, **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were confirmed breeding near Troy (RY). Six **Bank Swallows** were observed 6/3 at the intersection of Hoblet and Kuhnlee road north of Mt. Pisgah S.P. (NF). On 6/7 a **Magnolia Warbler** was singing on Phantom Run near Moxie (TG). Sightings of **Prairie Warblers** are declining in the county, thus a 6/1 observation at the intersection of Fallbrook and Swamp roads on Armenia Mt. was welcome (NF). The most marvelous observation of the summer was a **Yellow-headed Blackbird** outside an apartment in Canton 6/29 (JH).

Observers: **Trudy Gerlach, 6907 Wyalusing New Albany Rd., Wyalusing, PA 18853, (570) 746-9270, tgswoods@epix.net**, Lance Dunham, Leslie Fisher, Steve Fisher, Bob Fowles, Nate Fronk, Rich Gulyas, Jessie Herman, Tom Mears, Dan Natt, Sharon Richards, Anne Vivino-Hintze, George Vivino-Hintze, Randy Walker, Ron Young.

Bucks County

Locations: Bowman's Hill Preserve (BHP), Maple Knoll Farms at Buckingham Twp. (MKF), Nockamixon State Park (NSP), Peace Valley Park (PVP), Penn Warner Tract (PWT), Rohm and Haas, Bristol/now Dow Chemical (RHS), US Steel at Falls Twp. (USS), Warminster Community Park (WCP).

A total of 119 species was reported on the breeding bird chart submitted with this report. Of these, 83 were confirmed, 27 were tagged as probable, and 9 were indicated as possible. Weather again was extreme, with June 2.5°F above normal and July 5.2°F above. Twenty days had highs above 90°F, with a few over 100°F. Rainfall amounts vary from place to place as always this time of year due to isolated showers. The reference point at nearby Trenton, New Jersey was over three inches below normal for the period, with July enduring most of the deficit. Conditions became very dry in July as a result. No weather impact on nesting was reported. There were very few surprises this season.

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, NJ. The stated normal reference period used on the NOAA web-site varies but is based on recent decades after 1961 or later. All uncredited reports are from

Devich Farbotnik. He is credited where clarification was felt to be necessary. Data from eBird are included in this report.

On 6/13, a third **Snow Goose** joined the pair at PVP reported through the spring (AM, HE) and vanished in mid-July, leaving the 2 original birds there for the rest of the period. At least one couldn't fly due to injury. All were or became quite tame (AM, et al.). Post breeding counts of **Canada Goose** formerly numbered in the low hundreds at PVP before the county contracted with the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services several years ago to control the geese. This season was amazing as the highest count was 63 on 6/13, with only 5 young due to the oiling of eggs. By July after many were removed, the high count was 29. On many visits, none were seen (AM). Few **American Black Ducks** are reported in summer here. One was not noticed until 7/5 at PVP, and at least 9 well grown young were seen following it for the rest of the month (AM). These were probably hybrids with **Mallard** (AM). This would be the first reported breeding of this species at PVP. It is listed as a rare breeder in the county (KK). Up to two adult **American Black Duck x Mallard** hybrids were also reported there in June and early July (BHi, AM). An **American Black Duck** with an injured leg was at WCP 6/8-7/3, but no breeding was detected (GJ). Two **Green-winged Teal** at PWT 7/31 provided a very rare July report. As in recent years, **Hooded Merganser** continued into June at Quakertown Swamp, suggesting breeding at that location. A **Northern Bobwhite** was heard 6/20 near the same site in Bedminster Twp. where one was heard last year. It is near a site known to have raised and released birds in the past. One was at Markey Park 7/17 (VM).

Pied-billed Grebe continued from spring through at least 6/19 at our only reported breeding site, at USS. A **Least Bittern** at Quakertown Swamp 6/7 was a good local find but was not heard again. A **Great Egret** at PVP 6/15-16 (KA, RH) was either a late migrant or an early post breeding wanderer. One was at Giving Pond near Uhlerstown 7/19 (PC). Numbers at RHS, increased through July to a high of 42 on 7/30. Two **Snowy Egrets** were first noted 7/17 at RHS and remained through the period. An adult **Little Blue Heron** at RHS 7/27 was unusual, followed by 2 more expected immature birds there 7/30. One immature bird was at Giving Pond 7/31 (DA), and another was near Newtown 7/30-31 (MG). While watching for northbound shorebird flocks at dusk near Quakertown 6/1, a flyby **Cattle Egret** provided a new spring late date and the second report this year. A third report came from NSP 7/17 (CH), providing a new fall early date. A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was noted at Churchville Park 6/11 and 6/25 (VD) for the only June report. One or two were reported through July on various dates starting 7/4 from Silver Lake Park (DFa, MG), RHS (DFa), and PVP (AM, et al.). Three **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons**, 2 adult and one first summer, were at an undisclosed location 6/4. Our previous late spring date was 6/3. With single birds seen twice during April/May at the same site, breeding is a possibility. However, it is also possible the reports are unrelated separate migrants or post breeding wanderers. In any case, this many reports in a short time are highly unusual for our area.

Turkey Vulture nested for the fourth year in a row under the same fallen tree near MKF and fledged one young 7/31 (RS). Two **Osprey** fledged from the Mud Island nest (*vide* HD), and 2 young were seen at the Riegelsville nest (AK, CM ph.). All five previous year's confirmed **Bald Eagle** nest sites were believed to be active, with three nests producing 5 young. A fourth nest could not be seen to determine success (JMo). The fifth site was believed to be inactive until a photo taken 4/26 was submitted in late June of a new nest believed to be active near the old nest (ph. CM). Again, limited visibility prevented confirmation of success. There also are other sites where pairs are seen regularly, but nests have not been confirmed. The fledgling at the New Britain Twp. nest was seen flying for the first time 7/2 (RF). Sadly, our small remaining breeding **Broad-winged Hawk** numbers were reduced by one road killed adult near NSP 7/1. **American Kestrel** nest box efforts increased this year (DFa). Of 36 boxes mounted and monitored by Dfa, 12 were occupied by kestrels, with seven boxes fledging 30 young. All of these were banded before fledging. Of the failures, it was believed two females may have perished at two boxes, the eggs failed to hatch in another, one had the eggs vanish, and the fifth was unknown. In addition, two boxes were occupied by **Tree Swallows** and one by **Eastern Bluebirds**. Several had **European Starlings**, which were prevented from successfully fledging young. Steve Benningfield manages 45 boxes of which five were occupied and fledged 12 young. A box managed by Russ Neiger at WCP fledged 5 young. Two boxes were occupied at PVP, as was a box at a nearby farm. There were at least 8 young at these boxes (AM). Time will tell if

this effort to increase local numbers is a success. **Peregrine Falcon** nested successfully at two sites on the Delaware River, with 5 young produced (AMc). **Common Gallinule** continued from spring through at least 7/4 at our only reported breeding site at USS. One **American Coot** at Five Mile Woods Preserve 6/21 (BK) and another at Churchville Park 7/2 (HD, MG) were rare summer reports. A soaring **Sandhill Crane** was circling with **Black Vultures** over Bedminster Twp. 6/27, for a very surprising summer report and the county's eleventh ever sighting.

Small numbers of shorebirds were reported mainly from PWT, RHS, and Core Creek Park. The first southbound migrants of the more common species were reported as follows: 2 **Semipalmated Plovers** at RHS 7/27 (BK); 3 **Solitary Sandpipers** at Churchville Park 7/19 (BK); one **Greater Yellowlegs** at PWT 7/30; 6 **Lesser Yellowlegs** at PWT 7/4; one **Semipalmated Sandpiper** at USS 7/30; and one **Least Sandpiper** at PWT 7/4. **Killdeer** seemed in low numbers and were felt to be missing from some usual breeding sites this season. The high count for a post breeding gathering was 61 at Plumstead Twp. 7/27. **Spotted Sandpiper** was found nesting at a Warminster industrial park (GJ, Dfa) and just south of New Hope 6/20 (AM, JMi). These are sites used before. Two **Western Sandpipers** 7/30 at PWT were the first southbound migrants for a species usually reported in very small numbers. Similarly, one **White-rumped Sandpiper** 7/30 at USS was the first of its kind detected heading south. Double digit counts of **Least Sandpiper** started 7/18 at Core Creek Park, with a high count of 140 7/21 (BK). Two **Pectoral Sandpiper** stopped on their way south at RHS 7/24, and 3 were there 7/30. Two **Dunlin** stopped at WCP 6/2 for the last spring report (GJ). An **American Woodcock** at BHP 6/16 (AM) was the only one reported. Three **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** in the Falls Twp. area 6/19 (MS) were evidence of the usual few that summer in the area.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo was reported from at least eight sites in June and July (m.ob.). **Black-billed Cuckoo** was reported from only five sites, all in July (MD, Dfa, GJ, AM). Barn Owl was not reported. After 30 years of residency near the Neshaminy Creek in Doylestown Twp., an observer recorded his first **Barred Owl** there 7/2 (BG). A single **Red-headed Woodpecker** was discovered in early June in Buckingham Twp. frequenting a dead tree with at least ten holes (ph. DS). It disappeared mid-season. The Tinicum Twp. nest site had adults believed to be feeding young in the hole, but no fledglings were reported later. Two **Pileated Woodpeckers** were present all season at MKF and were seen copulating. Regular occurrence there and breeding is new for this site (RS, VS). After two sightings of a single **Common Raven** this spring in the PWT/USS area, 2 were seen there 6/19, enhancing the probability that a pair has taken up residence. One was at East Rockhill Twp. 6/25 (VM) not far from a quarry where they may nest. One was north of New Hope 7/24. A singing **Horned Lark** was in good habitat in Milford Twp. 6/12. A later visit found the area mowed. There have been no reports of breeding here since the 1970s.

Purple Martin nested at WCP for the first time (RN). There were 3 pairs but only one fledgling. Twenty were at Markey Park 7/17 (VM), where they have staged before after breeding elsewhere. A count of 22 at Lake Towhee Park 7/30 (CR) was unexpected there, as were a group of 15 at PVP 7/22 (KS). The large **Cliff Swallow** nesting colony at PVP has declined and may be fewer than 10 birds (AM). First found there in the first Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas in the 1980s, there were over 40 nests at one time, although they may not have all been occupied. A small colony on the Rt. 202 Delaware River bridge is no longer there (AM, JMi) and apparently has been gone a few years (BHo). A **Carolina Chickadee** nest in a bluebird box is not unusual, but the box was sitting on the ground on pavement next to a two car garage. There were other boxes on poles available. Amazingly, the birds fledged young successfully 6/17 (RH). A single **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was last reported at the end of May at Churchville Park where nesting was confirmed last year. It is assumed nesting did not occur this year (BL). After last year's first confirmed nesting in the county of **Golden-crowned Kinglet** at NSP, no birds were detected this year.

A total of 16 warbler species were reported during the period. All were likely breeding birds. A singing male **Prothonotary Warbler** was found near BHP 6/3 but not later (AM, JMi). The late May nesting pair of Prothonotary Warblers at PVP quickly failed and vanished, last being reported 6/8 (RF). On 6/7 the male was seen at the hole being harassed by 2 Carolina Chickadees, and a subsequent visit saw only chickadees there (AM). A **Kentucky Warbler** at State Game Land #157 continued to at least 6/19 (DFa). A second bird at a different site there was reported in May but omitted from the spring report (PC). Two reported in

the spring were still singing at BHP 6/3 (JMi, AM), with one heard to at least 6/16 (AM). Former breeder **Cerulean Warbler** was completely missed, which is now normal. **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was reported last year after being missed for four years but did not appear on any reports again this year. On 6/2, two singing **Yellow-throated Warblers** at Riegelsville and one at Kintnersville (both AM, JMi), were repeats of birds found last year. The Riegelsville birds were still singing 6/19 (DFa). This species has apparently retreated to the north end of the county, if the lack of reports elsewhere is an indication. At least one **Yellow-breasted Chat** continued to at least 6/19 at USS, one was at NSP 7/10, and one was at BHP 7/30. All were presumed to be breeding.

A **Savannah Sparrow** nest with young was found at MKF 7/10 during crop mowing and was believed to have failed as a result of the exposure (RS). This was an unusual confirmation of breeding here. There were also reports from WCP (GJ) and Bedminster Twp. (DFa) through the period. **Blue Grosbeaks** were found on several dates through the season only at their regular PWT and USS locations. For the fourth known year in a row, **Dickcissel** was on the capped landfill at PWT starting 6/4. There were only 4 birds compared to 14 singing males last year. Not surprising since the area was mowed before nesting was completed. **Bobolinks** were reported in good breeding habitat in Milford Twp. and Tinicum Twp. in June. A group of 10 **Eastern Meadowlarks**, including young, were near MKF 7/1 (RS). This was a welcome sight for a species that has crashed as a local breeder. They were also in Tinicum Twp. in June.

EXOTICS: Two **Whooper Swans** were in Bedminster Twp. 6/21 (DFa), where they survive from earlier releases from a known site nearby. I believe these particular birds have clipped wings. Two that were free flying a few years ago from the same source haven't been reported lately.

Observers: **August Mirabella, 1443 Wheaton Lane, North Wales, PA, 19454, (215) 368-0594, augustmirabella@aol.com**, Kris Ahlquist, Diane Allison, Steve Benningfield, Erich Boenzli, Marlin Corn, Paul Cooper, Henry D'Alessandro, Vince DeAntonii, Martin Dellwo, Howard Eskin, Devich Farbotnik (DFa), Doug Filler (DFi), Kathleen Fitzgibbon, Roy Frock (RF), Mark Gallagher, Bill Graham, Lynn Gulla, Ray Hendrick, Barbara Hiesch (BHi), Bill Hoehne (BHo), Corey Husic, Gail Johnson, Bill Keim, Ken Kitson, Arlene Koch, Butch Lishman, Vicky Mahmoud, Joe Marino (JMa), Harry McGarrity, Art McMorris (AMc), Carole Mebus, Judy Mirabella (JMi), John Morgan (JMo), Russ Neiger, Ed Norman, Cameron Rutt, Matt Sabatine, Kurt Schwarz, Richard Smith, Diane Smith, Vicky Smith.

Butler County

Locations: Birdwatchers Store (BS), Lake Arthur (LA), Lake Oneida (LO), Poplar Forest (PF), Slippery Rock Borough (SRB), Slippery Rock Township (SRT), Tamarack Lake (TL), Todd Sanctuary (TS), Waterfowl Observation Area (WOA).

This season was anything but normal. June was relatively mild (minimum temperature 43°F on 6/3, maximum temperature 88°F on 6/8) and dry with less than 3.5 inches rain for the month, with practically all of that rain coming in three consecutive nights 6/21-23. July was beastly hot (minimum average temperature 70°F and maximum average temperature 88°F). Hottest days were 7/21 and 7/22 when temperatures reached 92°F and 94°F. These readings set maximum temperature records for SRB, while some communities in and around Pittsburgh reached the high 90s. Furthermore, humidity was extremely high during July, making the sensible or comfortable temperature much worse. Precipitation measured 4.5 inches for the month with most falling in violent thunderstorms 7/18 (1.25 inches), 7/22 (1.25 inches), and 7/28 (2 inches).

Perhaps it was the extreme heat or normal vacation time, but avian field reports for the county were fewer this period. Nevertheless, the 94 **Canada Geese** at LO 7/16 indicated that post-breeding time had come with 19 birds still there 7/31 and 49 others at WOA the same date (MV). The 7 **Wood Ducks** at LO 7/16 increased to 18 individuals 7/31 with another 19 counted at WOA the same date (MV). Even the 9 **Mallards** at LO 7/16 increased to an impressive 24 birds 7/31 with another 5 birds tallied at WOA the same date (MV). Apparently the 2-5 **Great Blue Herons** prefer the quieter environment of LO for breeding than LA. Not so for the 3 **Green Herons** at LA 7/31 compared to just one at LO 7/31

(MV) and a breeding pair at the BS 7/20-31 (CS). Tamarack Lake, however, is still the county's stronghold for the heron with 5 birds seen 7/4 (BS).

For the first time, 35-40 **Turkey Vultures** used a telecommunication tower in SRB for a nightly summer roost. It will be interesting to see how long and how many birds will use the tower (GW, JW). The **Osprey** continues to add such towers as nesting sites in the county while a new, active **Bald Eagle** nest at LO resulted in 2 fledglings 7/31 (MV). A pair of **Sharp-shinned Hawk** in PF competed with pairs of **Cooper's, Broad-winged, and Red-tailed Hawks** that made for an interesting active summer (GW, JW). The **American Kestrel** continues its steep breeding decline with just one known nesting site in SRB-SRT this summer (GW). Another surprisingly declining breeder in SRB is the **Killdeer**, most certainly caused by very rapid development expansion obliterating former nesting sites (GW). However, it is a different story for the species in migration with 39 counted at LO 7/16 and 25 birds there 7/31 (MV). Other shore birds on the LO mudflats included 2 **Spotted**, one **Solitary**, and 9 **Least Sandpipers** 7/16 and 6 **Spotted**, 4 **Solitary**, one **Semipalmated**, and 9 **Least Sandpipers** 7/31 the same day that one **Solitary Sandpiper** and 2 **Lesser Yellowlegs** were at WOA (MV). At least 24 **Ring-billed Gulls** and 2 **Caspian Terns** were flying over a possible, light-morph, adult **Parasitic Jaeger** (details requested) resting on LA 7/8 (MV).

The lone **Common Raven** that has been hanging around the SRB-SRT since last autumn has apparently found a mate because a pair was observed repeatedly flying high over the area all summer, always coming from the southwest and returning in that same direction. Perhaps someday, somebody will report where the pair is nesting. Only one breeding pair of **Wood Thrush** nested in the core of PF this year but fortunately is still present in the northwestern woodlands of the property where other forest avian species have retreated with far less possibility, at least for now, of destructive development. It was pleasing, to say the least, receiving important breeding field data about Todd Sanctuary in the southeastern corner of the county as illustrated by these records from Paul Brown: one male **Black-billed Cuckoo**, one male **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**, and one male **Blue-headed Vireo** singing profusely 7/2 and 7/20; one **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** 7/20, 2 singing male **Black-throated Green Warblers** 7/2, one male singing 7/13, and 7/20; 10 **Ovenbirds** 7/2 with one male still singing 7/13, and adult still there 7/20; one adult **Louisiana Waterthrush** carrying food 7/13; 2 singing male **Kentucky Warblers** 7/2, and 5 male singing **Hooded Warblers** 7/2 with still 2 males singing 7/13 and 7/20 (PB).

Observers: **Gene Wilhelm, 513 Kelly Blvd., Slippery Rock, PA 16057, (724) 794-2434, genewilhelom@aol.com**, Marcia Brown, Paul Brown, Cathy Setzer, Brian Slamecka, Mark Vass, Joanne Wilhelm.

Cambria County

Locations: Johnstown (JT), St. Lawrence (STL), Patton (PT), Prince Gallitzin St. Park (PG), Thomas Mills (TM)

Unusual waterfowl sightings at PG were a pair of **Ruddy Ducks** 6/20 (RB, JS), and a lone **Lesser Scaup** 6/27 (DG). A backyard nesting **Broad-winged Hawk** at JT yielded 2 young (JS). Other unusual sightings at PG were a **Black Tern** 6/12, 2 **Caspian Terns** 6/27, and an adult **Laughing Gull** 6/19 (DG). The **Purple Martin** colony at PG fledged 52 young. Unusual for our area, a **Northern Mockingbird** nest was reported 8/10 at PT, containing 4 young. The owner of the yard said this was their second nesting having already fledged 2 young (DG). A **Cerulean Warbler** was heard at STL 6/22 (DG). A **Louisiana Waterthrush** was seen feeding a single young at TM 6/10 (DG). A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was heard at a SGL clearcut near PG (DG, JS). **Orchard** and **Baltimore Orioles** were seen feeding young in an orchard at PG (DG, JS).

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

Cameron County

No Compiler.

Carbon County

No report.

Compiler: **Dustin Welch, 7122 Arrowhead Road, Bath, PA 18014, (484) 538-7486, DWelch5951@aol.com.**

Centre County

Locations: Bald Eagle S.P. (BESP), Black Moshannon S.P. (BMSP), Coburn Rail Trail (CRT), Colyer L. (COL), Governor Tom Ridge Wetland Preserve (GTRWP), PennDOT remediation ponds on Rte. 220 west of Julian (JUL), Moshannon-Allegheny Front Trail (MAFT), Millbrook Marsh Nature Center (MMNC), Scotia Barrens IBA and Scotia Pond (SCO), Toftrees and Toftrees Pond (TOF).

This was a hot, dry summer. June temperatures were fairly close to normal, but only 65% of the normal amount of rain fell, and by the end of July, the brim-full ponds and puddles of spring were dried out husks. July was hot with one day tying the all-time record of 102°F. The average July high is 81°F, but only two days were at or below that mark, and precipitation was about 40% of normal.

On a more pleasant note, the Governor Tom Ridge Wetlands Preserve, a mitigation wetland created as a result of the construction of I-99, was dedicated in June. This 135 acre property consists of a combination of wetlands, riparian habitat along Bald Eagle Creek, and woodlands.

Information for this report were obtained primarily from the State College Bird Club listserv, the State College RBA, and eBird, with background and status information from *Birds of Central Pennsylvania* by Nick Bolgiano and Greg Grove, 2010 (*B&G-2010*). Weather data are from <<http://www.weather.com>>.

In addition to the ubiquitous **Mallards**, *Centre* played host to several unexpected ducks this summer. A **Northern Shoveler** was found at the Duck Pond 7/23 (DW), and a male/female pair of **Ring-necked Ducks** at BESP 6/6 (CM, KM). Another Ring-necked Duck was observed at the Duck Pond 7/12-23 (DW). All three merganser species were reported: 3 **Hooded Mergansers** at Julian 6/18 and a female at JUL 7/23-24 (DW, NB); a **Common Merganser** at BESP 7/19 (DW), and a female **Red-breasted Merganser** at BESP 7/23 (DW). Northern Shoveler and Red-breasted Merganser were previously unreported in the summer.

Not to be outdone, a few other waterfowl species also made unexpected appearances. A rare summer **Common Loon** was sighted at BESP 7/8-25 (DW, BB), and 3 **Pied-billed Grebes** which appeared to be full grown young were spotted at JUL 7/10 (GG); one was noted at the same location 7/12 (DW). Previous reports of nesting Pied-billed Grebes in *Centre* include two reports from JUL in 2007 and 2008 as well as BESP and SCO, both in 2004. A rare summer **Double-crested Cormorant** was seen at Curtin Wetlands 7/23 (DW). There were a few reports of **Green Herons**: at TOF pond 6/14 (DR), a pond on the Julian Pike 7/2 (MB), GTRWP 7/9-12 (DW, GG), at JUL 7/23 (DW), and TOF pond 7/21 and 29 (DW, NK). As many as 4 at once were reported at COL 7/19-30 (GG, JV).

A **Black Vulture** was spotted among a flock of **Turkey Vultures** at the Rockview Penitentiary 7/25 (DeG). Bald Eagle Valley had three rare **Osprey** sightings: 2 at BESP 6/1 (CaH) and 7/27 (BB), and one at Curtin Wetlands 7/23 (DW). **Bald Eagles** were regularly reported at BESP throughout the summer (CaH, BB, DW), not surprising since there is a well-known nesting site there. Other sightings included one at GTRWP 7/12 (DW), and 4 near an undisclosed nest location near Bellefonte 6/15 (AC). The last report was at COL 7/30 (GG, DR). A **Northern Harrier** was spotted 6/13 at BESP (BB). Other summer sightings were in the Snow Shoe area: 6/5 and 7/31 on Rusnak Hill Road (JV), 6/5 at the Rusnak Hill Strip Mine (NF, DW), and at the Panther Strip Mine 6/5 (NF, DW) and 6/20 (DW, JW). Northern Harriers breed in the county on rare occasions. An immature **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was observed at SCO 7/10-16 (NB). Although uncommon, this species does breed in the county. The same applies to **Cooper's Hawks**, which were observed at PSU Arboretum 7/14 (MB), TOF 7/30 (NK), and Rusnak Hill Road 7/31 (JV). **Red-shouldered Hawks** are also uncommon breeders and were reported twice. One was seen at Rusnak Hill Strip Mine 6/5 (DW), and a second was observed 7/9 at SGL 100 7/9 (DW).

A single rare summer **American Coot** was discovered at the Duck Pond 7/18- 23 (DW). In addition to **Killdeer** being reported throughout

the county (BB, et al.), large Killdeer flocks (up to 43 at once) were regularly reported at COL 7/7-30 (DW, GG, JV, NF, DR). A **Semipalmated Plover** was seen at Fairbrook-Tadpole Road 6/4 (JV). COL was the hotspot for sandpipers with varying numbers of **Greater Yellowlegs**, **Lesser Yellowlegs**, **Solitary Sandpipers**, **Spotted Sandpipers**, **Least Sandpipers**, and **Pectoral Sandpipers** reported 7/12-30 (DW, GG, JV, NF, DR). In addition, a Lesser Yellowlegs was present at the PSU Bathgate Retention Pond 7/15-19 (DW) and another at Curtin Wetlands 7/23 (DW). A single Solitary Sandpiper was spotted at GTRWP 7/12 (DW). Spotted Sandpipers were also present at Fairbrook-Tadpole Road 6/4 (JV) and BESP 7/23 (DW), and Fairbrook-Tadpole Road also hosted a **Semipalmated Sandpiper** 6/4 (JV). Least Sandpipers were found at the PSU Bathgate Retention Pond 7/19 (DW).

A very early migrating **Bonaparte's Gull** was spotted at BESP 7/28 (JV), and as many as 16 Ring-billed Gulls were noted at BESP throughout June and July (CaH, BB, DW, JV). Summer observations of this species are unusual. Two rare June sightings of **Common Terns** were made at BESP 6/6 (CM, KM) and TOF 6/15 (CG).

The more uncommon of the two local cuckoos, **Black-billed Cuckoo** was reported once at SCO 6/5 (WS). June also saw two reports of **Barred Owls**, one on McClosky Road 6/14 (DW) and one at BMSP 6/18 (DW). There were several reports of **Common Nighthawks**. One was located in Phillipsburg 6/28 (NF); the same day saw one at Penn State's University Park campus (StB). A third was seen in State College 6/29 (JK). The July sightings were at Rusnak Hill Road near Snow Shoe 7/9 and 7/13 (DW, JV). They breed in *Centre*, although they are uncommon. An **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was identified near Stormstown 6/22 (GL), and 7 were noted at the intersection of Panther Road and State Line Road 6/23 (NF). **Belted Kingfishers** were reported throughout the breeding season at several locations in the county (BB, et al.).

A few **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were reported near Centre Hall; one was reported the end of June on Rimmey Road (RM *vide* MH). It has been at least a decade since one has been reported there, although a pair was sighted in June on Williams Road (MH). At least one additional bird was observed on private property near Centre Hall 6/26 (KE). A single bird was also noted near Milheim 6/13 (JW, DW). Area birders also encountered 2 rare summer **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers**, one at Bear Meadows 6/5 (WS), and the other at BESP 7/23 (BB).

Four *Empidonax* flycatchers breed in the county, although they are uncommon. **Acadian Flycatchers** were reported widely throughout June (JV, et al.), but only one was reported in July at BESP 7/12 (BB). Two **Alder Flycatchers** were noted at Bear Meadows 6/5 (WS), one was on Stony Run Road 6/13 (DW), and in farm fields near Woodward 6/15 (DW). July reports from BMSP 7/14 and BESP 7/23 (DW) probably indicate rare breeding behavior. There were many reports of **Willow Flycatchers**, with most coming from JUL 6/18-7/30 (DW, NB, GG) and BESP 6/1 (CaH) and 7/9-23 (DW). Reports for other locations include several near or in strip mines on the Allegheny Plateau 6/5 (JV, NF, DW). Two were noted on Orviston Mt. Road 6/14 (DW), and one 6/15 in farm fields near Woodward (DW). Two were noted at Curtin wetlands 7/23 (DW). Most of the large number of reports of **Least Flycatcher** (AW, DW, JV, NF) throughout June probably represent breeding birds. Most of these reports are from the Allegheny Plateau, where this species is fairly common. However, there were a few reports from elsewhere, including MMNC 6/4 (NB), Bear Meadows 6/5 (WS), and Harry John Picnic Area 6/13 (DW). Two were observed on Stony Run Road 6/14 (DW), BBA block 63A71 (DW), and BESP 6/28 (LC). **Great Crested Flycatchers** were noted in several locations in June. Early sightings, which were likely late migrants were from Walnut Springs Park 6/3 (JoL), Panther Strip Mine 6/5 (NF, DW, JV), CRT 6/12 (GL, DeG). Later reports, Penn State's central campus 6/20 (JoL), BESP 6/11-28 (BB), SCO 7/4-10 (NB) and Curtin Wetlands 7/23 (DW) are more likely to indicate breeding birds. Most **Eastern Kingbird** sightings were from BESP 6/23-7/23 (BB, DW), JUL 6/18 and 7/24-30 (DW, NB), and TOF 6/14-29 and 7/21 (DW, DR, NK). Two other reports were from Panther Strip Mine 6/5 (AW, NF, JV) and the Penn State Bathgate retention pond 7/19 (DW).

Red-eyed Vireos were common in the county during the summer months; however, **White-eyed Vireos** and **Yellow-throated Vireos** were not. A single White-eyed Vireo was found at BMSP 6/25 (DM). The Yellow-throated Vireo reported in Unionville during the spring migration continued until 6/3 (NF); a second one was located at BMSP 6/6 (JD). *B&G-2010* notes that this species is difficult to find in *Centre*.

B&G-2010 notes that **Fish Crows** are uncommon in the region,

except around State College; all reports this season were within a few miles of State College (GL, MB). The same source also describes **Common Ravens** as being uncommon; however, reports of this species suggest widespread and frequent distribution throughout the county in June and July (DW, et al.)

Centre birders can see six swallow species in the summer; two are common to abundant. **Purple Martins** were reported three times. Two were noted at COL 7/12 (DW), and as many as 64 were counted at BESP 7/18-19 (JV, DW). Three **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were reported at a PennDOT wetlands northeast of Port Matilda 6/18 (DW). They were also seen at COL 7/8-11 and BESP 7/19-23 (DW). Most **Bank Swallow** reports were from COL 7/11-21 (DW, NF). Five birds were noted at BESP 7/19 (DW). As many as 94 **Cliff Swallows** were reported in one day at BESP 6/13-7/23 (BB, DW, JV). **Cliff Swallows** were seen at JUL 7/9-12 (DW, GG) and at COL 7/11 (DW).

Brown Creepers are uncommon at any time of the year. Single birds were noted at the Panther Strip Mine (DW, NF, JV) and Bear Meadows (WS) 6/5. Other sightings were reported on the MAFT 6/19 (DW, JW) and at the Rusnak Hill Strip Mine 7/9 (DW). A single **Winter Wren** was located on Madison Mt. 6/14 (DW), and a **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was found on Stony Run Road 6/13 (DW).

Veeries were reported from several locations. Three were identified at Centre 6/10 (GG) and SGL 60 6/12 (DW). Three were also found on McClosky Road and on Orviston Mt. Road 6/14 (DW). At least 10 were noted at various locations in BMSP 6/18 (DW), while on the same day, one was observed in PA Breeding Bird Atlas block 61B66 (DW). Single birds were reported on the MAFT 6/19 (DW, JW), at the intersection of Panther Road and State Line Road 6/23 (NF), BMSP 6/25 (DM). Four were observed at Bear Meadows 6/26 (IG). The only July report was of five singing and calling at SCO 7/10 (NB). **Hermit Thrush** are common breeding birds on the Allegheny Plateau, so it is no surprise that most of the summer reports are from that area (NF, et al.). However, they are uncommon elsewhere in the area. Two were also located at the Harry John Picnic Area 6/13 and on Boal Gap Road 7/12 (DW).

Twenty-two warbler species reported from around the county. Single **Golden-winged Warblers** were noted on 6/5 at SCO (WS), between Snow Shoe and Panther (DW, NF) and at Kato (JV). A single bird was found at the Panther Strip Mine 7/31 (JV). **Nashville Warblers**, which rarely breed in the county, were identified near Kato 6/5 (JV, DW, NF) and at BMSP 6/25 (DM). **Northern Parulas** were encountered at BMSP 6/4 (JV) and CRT 6/12 (DeG). Although described as uncommon (*B&G-2010*), **Chestnut-sided Warblers** were regularly reported and widely distributed throughout June and July (KH, et al.). **Magnolia Warblers**, on the other hand, were encountered much less often with reports from CRT 6/12 (DeG, GL), Stony Run Rd 6/13 (DW), Madison Mt. 6/14 (DW), BMSP 6/18 (DW), and the MAFT 6/19 (DW, JW). The only July report was on 7/12 at Boal Gap Road (DW).

The sighting of 2 **Black-throated Blue Warblers** around Panther Road and State Line Road 6/23 (NF) as well as reports from BMSP 7/4 of 4 birds (GJ) and 7/14 (DW), probably represent breeding birds. There were only four reports of **Yellow-rumped Warblers** during the breeding season, at Bear Meadows 6/4 (KH), at the Panther Strip Mine 6/5 (JV, AW, NF) and 6/20 (DW, JW), and on Six Mile Run Road 7/14 (DW). July reports of **Blackburnian Warblers** included one from the Rusnak Hill Strip Mine 7/9 (DW), Boal Gap Road 7/12 (DW), and Six Mile Run Road 7/14 (DW).

A rare **Yellow-throated Warbler** reported in Unionville during the spring migration was also observed 6/3 (NF). All reports of **Pine Warblers** were from SCO: one on 6/5 (WS), and 2 on 7/10 and 7/16 (NB). As with several warblers already described, **Prairie Warblers** were reported from a variety of locations on 6/5: at Rusnak Hill Road (JV), at Rusnak Hill Strip Mine (DW, NF), at Kato (DW, NF, JV), and at Panther Strip Mine (JV). Other June sightings of this unusual species included 2 at CRT 6/12 (GL, DeG) and Panther Grassland 6/19 (GG). July reports included 3 at Rusnak Hill Strip Mine 7/9 (DW), one singing at SCO 7/16 (NB), 3 on Rusnak Hill Road 7/31 (JV) and 2 at Panther Strip Mine 7/31 (JV). **Cerulean Warblers** are known to breed in the area, but uncommonly. Summer observations include BMSP 6/4 (JV) and CRT 6/12 (GL, DeG). There were two reports 6/18: Beaver Road (DW) and BBA block 61B66 (DR). Last were 5 birds located on Beaver Road 6/19 (DW, JW). **Black-and-white Warbler** was widely reported throughout the county during June (JV, et al.); however, there were half a dozen sightings in July. These included 7/9, 7/19, and 7/23 observations of as many as 5 birds at BESP (DW), 7/9 and 7/19 sightings at Rusnak Hill Strip Mine (DW). Three, including an agitated

young bird, were seen at SCO 7/10 (NB).

Two other warbler species that are unusual breeders in this area include **Worm-eating Warbler** and **Louisiana Waterthrush**. Worm-eating Warblers were reported at Musser Gap 6/10 (JV) and BESP 7/19 (DW). Louisiana Waterthrush were reported slightly more often, including at Unionville 6/3 (NF), 2 at Bear Meadows 6/5 (WS), 2 at CRT 6/12 (GL, DeG), three at Madison Mt. 6/14 (DW), and on Black Moshannon Road 6/18 (DW). **Hooded Warblers** were reported 6/5 at Scotia and Bear Meadows (WS). They were also observed on Polecat Road and Orviston Mt. Road 6/14 (DW), and Beaver Road 6/18-19 (DW, JW). July sightings included Rusnak Hill Strip Mine 7/9 (DW) and BESP 7/19 (DW). All **Canada Warbler** observations were in June, including BMSP 6/4 (JV), 2 at Bear Meadows 6/5 (WS). They were also noted on Orviston Mt. Road and McClosky Road 6/14 (DW) and on North Run Road and Black Moshannon Road 6/18 (DW). A high for the season of 21 birds were reported on MAFT 6/19 (DW, JW).

Several **Vesper Sparrows** were discovered in SGL 100 along German Settlement Road 7/9. This same location "was thick with **Grasshopper Sparrows**" 7/9, and also held a single **Henslow's Sparrow** that day (DW). Grasshopper Sparrows were also reported on Rte. 144 near Snow Shoe 7/12 (GL) and at the Coaldale Road Strip Mine 7/14 (DW). **Savannah Sparrows** were reported at three locations: BESP 6/1 (CaH), and in fields near Centre Hall and Woodward, both 6/15 (DW). **Grasshopper Sparrows** were regularly reported across the Allegheny Plateau, particularly at old strip mines. As many as two dozen were reported at the Panther Strip Mine 6/5-20 (JV, NF, DW) and 7/31 (JV). One was noted at the Panther grasslands 6/19 (GG). Up to 9 were observed at Rusnak Hill Strip Mine 6/5 (DW, NF), 7/9-19 (DW). Five were identified at Rusnak Hill Road 6/5 (JV). Other strip mines with reported Grasshopper Sparrows included a strip mine on Rte. 504 near Phillipsburg 6/18 (DW), Coaldale Road Strip Mine 7/14 (DW). The one report that was not from the Allegheny Plateau was a single bird observed in Centre Hall 6/15 (DW). Four rare **Henslow's Sparrows** were reported from a strip mine east of Phillipsburg on Rte. 504 6/18 (DW). Other sightings included the Panther Strip Mine 6/14-20 (DW, JW) and Rusnak Hill Strip Mine 7/19 (DW). Singing male **Swamp Sparrows** and the occasional immature bird were encountered in wetlands throughout the county in June and July (WS, et al.). **Dark-eyed Juncos** were reported in several locations, mostly at higher elevations, in June, but there was only one sighting in July. Nearly half the observations were in BMSP 6/4-24 (JV, DW, StB), and 7/14 (DW). One was noted at Bear Meadows 6/5 (WS), Stony Run Road 6/13 (DW), Madison Mt., Polecat Road, and McClosky Rd. 6/14 (DW), and MAFT 6/19 (JW, DW).

Three birds of the blackbird group are uncommon breeders in the area. **Bobolinks** were reported in five locations: 3 were found in fields near Centre Hall and 4 near Woodward 6/15 (DW), PBBA block 61B66 6/18 (DR), and Rusnak Hill Strip Mine and BESP 7/19 (DW). **Eastern Meadowlark** were noted at the Panther Strip Mine 6/5 (JV, NF, DW), Woodward area farm fields 6/15 (DW), Rte. 504 near Phillipsburg 6/21 (DR), SGL 110 7/9 (DW), and BESP 7/23 (DW). There were two sightings of **Orchard Orioles** at BESP 7/1-4 (BB).

There were a few reports of **Purple Finch** during the breeding season, most from the Rusnak Hill Road area 6/5 (JV, DW, NF) and 7/9-31 (DW, JV) and Panther Strip Mine 6/14-20 (DW, JW). They were also sighted at BESP 6/7 and 7/10 (BB).

Observers: **N.J. Butkovich, 550 Toftrees Ave. #248, State College, PA 16803, (814) 234-6086, njbutkovich@verizon.net**, Barry Bermudez, Steve Brenner (StB), Margaret Brittingham, Kyle Carlsen, Lisa Cass, Alyssia Church, Jim Dunn, Kurt Engstrom, Nate Fronk, Ian Gardner, Chet Gottfried, Greg Grove, Delia Guzman (DeG), Carla Hall (CaH), Molly Heath, Ken Hillsley, Gail Johnson, Jon Kauffman, Nick Kerlin, Gretchen Lasser, Josh Lefever (JoL), Clayton Magill, Krissy Magill, David McNaughton, Richard Morgan, Dave Ryan, Win Shafer, Joe Verica, Drew Weber, Justine Weber, Andy Wilson.

Chester County

Locations: Bucktoe Creek Preserve (BCP), Marsh Creek State Park (MCSP), Octorara Reservoir (OCTRES),

This summer in *Chester* saw little rain and record hot temperatures. Several intense heat waves made conditions for bird watching unappealing, but this did not deter birders from searching for

avian life. Unlike last summer in *Chester*, new breeding records were not established in 2011. Many of the interesting marsh birds, such as American Bittern, Least Bittern, Virginia Rail, and Marsh Wren, were not detected in places they were known or thought to have bred in 2010.

A lingering **Snow Goose** was monitored through 6/9 in the Coatesville area (LL, KP). Also late was a single **Tundra Swan** found in *Chester* waters of OCTRES 6/9, which continued through at least the third week in July (LL, KP). **Wild Turkeys** produced 6 chicks that were seen daily in North Coventry Twp., though it was thought only 4 survived (SK). **Common Loons** are occasionally found during the summer months. This season was no exception, and two locations hosted this species: Struble L. 6/11 (FH, BH), and MCSP 6/16 through the end of the reporting period (LL, KP, JM, RW).

A farm pond near Chapel Road in the Doe Run region has held an active **Great Blue Heron** colony for the past several years. Each year, the colony continues to grow (m.ob.). A small Great Blue Heron colony of three nests was also discovered along Strasburg Rd in Coatesville (LL, KP). Two juv. **Little Blue Herons** visited the Church Farm Pond at Exton Park 7/25 (HM). Nesting **Green Herons** were found and reported from two private properties. One was in West Grove, where the homeowner reports successful nesting three years in a row (*fide* CP). A photographer's delight was another young family discovered in a yard in Coatesville. Six chicks were tended to by 4 adults; confirmed by all 10 birds being seen at once (JM). **Great Egrets** continue their trend of appearances during the summer months in scattered locations. Most reports came from the southern region of the county. Sightings included multiple reports from BCP in early June (m.ob.), Broad Run pond 6/20 (LL, KP), and Glenville Farm Pond 6/24 (MG), and 4 at Chambers L. 7/29 (LL, KP). **Black-crowned Night-Herons** are not always easy to find in *Chester*, especially during summer, so 2 inside *Chester* boundaries at OCTRES 6/22, enchanted their kayaking observers (LL, KP). **Glossy Ibis** were reported from a cattle farm in Landenberg where they have been known to stop and forage historically (*fide* LL). An ibis sp. was also seen briefly in flight over Kurtz's Fish Hatchery 7/27 (RK *fide* LL).

Steady observations of **Osprey** at MCSP throughout the breeding season raises hope again this year that nesting in *Chester* will someday soon occur. Another Osprey report came from Longwood Gardens, where one was spotted during a bird walk 6/29 (m.ob.). **Red-shouldered Hawks** successfully fledged 3 young in Uwchlan Twp. in early June (HM). Another early June report of recently fledged Red-shouldered juveniles came from the Shamona Trail, also in Uwchlan Twp. (VS). An adult **Broad-winged Hawk** was observed flying over the Great Valley area 6/15 (KF); while another seen soaring over the lake at MCSP 6/25, was a welcomed sight for birding kayakers, as this species surely nests nearby, but is often not encountered (JM, TD).

An adult **Common Gallinule** excited a group of kayaking birders in *Chester's* waters at OCTRES 7/31 (LL, KP, JW, et al.). This species has not been confirmed nesting in recent years, and is only irregularly reported during migration. The timing of the observation aroused suspicion that the bird may have bred there.

Confirmation of breeding **Spotted Sandpipers** occurred when a chick was seen with adults at a sewage lagoon in West Whiteland Twp. in June (JL). **Solitary Sandpiper** made its first appearance for the fall migration 7/20, along Brandywine Drive's wetland area (LL, KP). **Greater Yellowlegs** return was first noted in the same location 7/29 (LL, KP). The drought conditions primed Chambers L. with shorebird habitat in late July, just in time for southbound migration. This invited **Lesser Yellowlegs** to make their fall debut 7/29 (LL, KP). **Least Sandpipers** were the earliest of the shorebird migrants, and 9 were first noted along Brandywine Drive 7/17 (LL, KP).

Yellow-billed Cuckoos seemed late to arrive for breeding in decent numbers, but reports picked up in mid June throughout the county (m.ob.). **Black-billed Cuckoos** are elusive and generally unreliable anywhere during the breeding season. There were only two reports: one from Crow's Nest Preserve 6/24 (JT), and another from Cheslen Preserve 6/28 (JM). **Barred Owls** were reported in scattered locations, including Goat Hill Preserve 6/18 (HM, WBH). Birders seeking out the song of **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were not disappointed when visiting Goat Hill Preserve. Multiple reports were made, including a high count of five 6/30 (m.ob.). Two reports of **Red-headed Woodpeckers**, which aren't known to have bred in recent years, came from opposite corners of the northern parts of the county. An adult was seen in the Phoenixville area 6/5 (VS), and a highly vocal adult was an appreciated guest for a few hours in a Honeybrook Twp. yard 6/15 (LW). **Fish Crow** fledglings were seen following adults in the East Goshen area (NP), and

continuous observations of this species in East Caln Twp. in summer hints at nesting nearby (m.ob.).

A singing **Yellow-throated Warbler** delighted a picnicking birder in Kerr Park in Downingtown 6/20 (TD). This is the only site known in the county where nesting seems probable for this species.

Cerulean Warblers are low density breeders in *Chester*, and continued to be reported into the breeding season from locations historical known to hold this species such as the Struble Trail in Downingtown (m.ob.), and the Pickering Trail near Phoenixville (VS). A **Louisiana Waterthrush** was found at BCP 7/18. While this species is known to nest around the county, this closely monitored property does not host them as breeding birds. This observation was thought to be a possible early migrant (LL, et al.). Two late reports of **Northern Waterthrush** were made the first week of June. The first was of one seen at BCP 6/1 (BS, BM), and another was caught and banded at the Rushton Farm Banding Station 6/6 (DM). A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was seen carrying food to young at White Clay Creek (NP). Chats were also in good numbers in the Serpentine Barrens region during June and July. These locations are both in the southern part of the county, where this species is much easier to find.

A **Vesper Sparrow** was reported as heard in the Binky Lee Preserve 7/1, but not relocated thereafter (RW). **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** are irregular breeders in *Chester*, and reported mostly from the northern region of the county. Two juv. begged parents for food in an East Pikeland Twp. yard 6/24 (VS). Black Rock Sanctuary also hosted pairs presumed to be breeding this summer (VS, m.ob.).

In southern *Chester*, you are more likely to find the **Blue Grosbeak**, which breed in small numbers. Nesting was confirmed again this year at BCP, where adults were seen carrying food on multiple occasions (m.ob.). A feeder in Willistown has played host to a Blue Grosbeak in spring, and also in previous summers, and continued this trend with visits noticed 6/8 and 6/13 (MP).

Observers: **Holly Merker, 520 Baintree Run, Downingtown, PA 19335, (610) 733-4392, HCybelle@aol.com**, Ted Drozdowski, Judy Ford, Kevin Fryberger, Mike Gardner, Barb Haas, Frank Haas, W. Brian Henderson, Sue Killeen, Richard Kurtz, Larry Lewis, Jeff Loomis, Doris McGovern, John McNamara, Becky Meister, Martin Page, Carl Peretta, Kathleen Pileggi, Nick Pulcinella, Vince Smith, Bob Strahorn, Jaime Thomas, Laura Wagner, Jeff Wahl, Richard Wolf.

Clarion County

Locations: Cooks Forest SP (CF), Curlsville (CV), Kahle Lake (KL), Mount Airy (MA), Mount Zion (part of Piney Tract IBA/SGL 330) (MZ), Redbank (RB), Sarah Furnace (SF), Strattanville (ST).

Wood Ducks were noted in numbers in at least two areas this year. An adult female was seen with young 6/29 on the ponds along Summerville Rd outside of Rimersburg (CW), and through July, birds of different ages were noted on a small farm pond in CV, with 10 birds present 7/23 (CW). **Double-crested Cormorants** would likely be a new breeding record for the county, and though there is no evidence of that, several birds were seen along the Allegheny River through July, and 3 birds were present at KL 7/23 (CW). Another unusual bird for *Clarion* was a **Common Loon** in non-breeding plumage at KL 7/16 (MV) and still present 7/23 (CW).

Despite the increase in **Bald Eagle** numbers, the only summer report of these birds was an apparent second year bird seen along Redbank Creek 6/30 at RB (CW). **Northern Harriers** continue to be regular breeders at MZ, with several sightings for the season. A pair was seen there 6/9 (GE, ML), and on 7/2 the pair was seen at close range and engaging in direct defense of probable young nearby (SG). On 7/4 the pair was seen in the same area and performing a food exchange, possibly a Killdeer (KSJ). **Broad-winged Hawks** continue to be regularly heard and seen through the summer near ST, with 2 circling and calling 6/30 where more extensive forested habitat is present near the Clarion River (RM).

On MA, there continues to be enough open grassland and agricultural land left to support **Upland Sandpipers** which were seen more regularly than some years. Highest reported numbers were seen on 6/9 when 3 birds were present there on fields along Morris Rd (GE, ML). Two new additions to the species list for CV strips area were noted 7/26 and represent the start of fall migration for these birds: a single **Least Sandpiper** and **Solitary Sandpiper** were seen taking advantage

of some flooded areas on fields there that would normally have been grassland this time of year, but which were mostly bare this year due to changes in land use by the owner (CW). Though **American Woodcocks** are not hard to find in April and May in the county, reports later become scarce, making it even more unusual for a sighting of 5 birds at one time in a rural yard in CV. Five birds were noted together near a wet area along brush and woods, possibly a late nesting family group, and possibly drawn to the area by very dry weather during this period of July (CW). A single bird was seen near a pond in a yard in ST 7/20, and again later in the week (RM).

Eastern Screech-Owls again were successful breeders in CV, with both adults and then fledged young regularly roosting in a barn there (CW). On 6/29 at least 2 young and one adult were seen roosting in pines near open yard and being mobbed by other birds. Three recently fledged young were noted roosting together in the barn during the second week of July. Short-eared Owls were unfortunately notable by their absence this summer. A **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was found on a nest 6/2 in the same tree along a rural road in CV that had held a successful nest last year (CW). This year the nest was predated upon. In the second week of June the nest was partly destroyed and no reattempt was noted in the immediate area.

In the moist hemlock woods along Tom's Run in CF, **Acadian Flycatchers** were present in excellent numbers this year, with 11 birds noted 6/22 along a four mile length and nesting confirmed in two separate areas (CW). Another flycatcher confirmed this year, but not as common in the southern areas, is **Least Flycatcher**. These birds were found calling also in the Tom's Run area of CF 6/22 where they are more expected in forested areas (CW), but were able to be confirmed in a very small woodlot outside of CV near scrub and open grassland areas. These birds were seen and heard regularly through June and 6/28 were observed feeding fledged young (CW).

Though others have noted some possible decline in **Blue-headed Vireo**, these birds appeared to be faring well in the northern areas of *Clarion*, particularly in CF, with 16 birds found along a four mile stretch of trail 6/22 (CW). In the southern reaches of the county, **Yellow-throated Vireos** continue with a small but regular presence in riparian areas. At SF, a singing male was present 6/17 (RN), and a singing male also along Redbank Creek near RB on the Armstrong Trail 6/30 (CW).

Horned Larks are a species that likely breeds in the county but is not well reported, so the few reports this year are a good addition. A singing male was found near Frills Corners in the agricultural farmland areas in the northern part of the county 6/1 (FM), and several singing birds were also found at CV strips area 7/2 on fields that were mostly bare (CW). At this same area 10 birds were also found present and singing 7/26, but no direct confirmation of breeding was obtained (CW). **Tree Swallows** were late nesting this season, possibly as a result of wet cold weather early in the season. An active nest was present near CV with young in the nest still at the end of July (CW). **Brown Creepers** are another species not always reported for *Clarion*; this year a singing bird was found in CF near Tom's Run, and was also noted carrying food 6/22 (CW). Along this same stretch of forested streamside area, **Winter Wrens** were found with 7 birds on territory along several miles of trail on the same date (CW). In the more southern areas of scattered woodlot and more open areas, **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** were found nesting in a new location with a female on the nest 6/2, placed and built around wild grapevines rather than on a tree limb (CW). This same nest was found destroyed after nine days by an unknown predator and the birds were not known to reattempt nesting in the area. **Hermit Thrush** are not the predominant thrush species for the county, but do continue a regular presence in small pockets of appropriate habitat in the southern parts of the county along hemlock woods in ravines and streamside near Piney Creek, where several were singing on territory 7/2. They were also singing on territory in their expected locations in the north at CF 6/22 (CW).

Several warbler species deserve mention for the season. A **Northern Parula** pair continued in white pine and hemlock near the nature center 6/22 (CW), with birds also present in other scattered areas along the various rivers in the southern parts of the county. **Black-throated Blue Warblers** remain regular at scattered areas in northern *Clarion*, particularly along the Fire Tower Road at CF where there is scattered rhododendron and mountain laurel, noted 6/22 (CW). Both **Black-throated Green Warblers** and **Blackburnian Warblers** were present also in the CF area 6/22, where lower-estimate numbers along several miles of trail were 13 for Black-throated Greens and 27 for Blackburnians (CW). In southern *Clarion*, **Cerulean Warblers** continue in riparian areas with steady numbers in the SF area along the

Armstrong Trail 6/10-30 (RN, SS, CW). One bird on territory was also found 6/30 in a new area in RB at the meeting of the Allegheny River and Redbank Creek (CW). **Worm-eating Warblers** were also found in this area on the same date with one territorial male along good habitat here with steep south-facing slopes and rhododendron and mountain laurel (CW). This species was also found in its traditional areas along the Allegheny River at SF with birds seen 6/10 (SS, NT), 6/17 (RN) and four separate territories found along 3/4 mile there 6/13 (CW). One warbler species not frequently reported for *Clarion* is **Northern Waterthrush**; this year a single bird was found in good habitat along Tom's Run in CF 6/22, but no territorial behavior or other evidence of breeding was noted. **Louisiana Waterthrush** is regularly reported but has not frequently been confirmed. This year along the Armstrong Trail at SF, 3 birds were found 6/13 with an adult pair found feeding one fledged young (CW). The birds were not far from a mid-sized fast moving stream emptying into the Allegheny River, but water quality on the stream was apparently poor, with heavy iron deposits on the stream bed, as well as acid mine drainage in the immediate area and a large dump site for old coal waste or "boney" from deep mining in the area. Another southern species, **Kentucky Warbler**, was found in a new area at RB in good habitat, with a singing territorial male present 6/30 (CW). At the CV strips area, with its mix of grassland and increasing shrub cover of mixed locust and honeysuckle, multiflora rose and other species, **Yellow-breasted Chats** appear to be increasing in numbers and territories, with birds seen and heard throughout June (GE, SG, ML, SS, NT). This year 5 birds were found 7/3 with an adult female seen at close range feeding a fledged young (CW). On the same date singing males were found with three separate territories in the area.

Clay-colored sparrows top the reported sparrows and are also the most frequent highlight of this season for visitors to *Clarion*. The CV strips area remains the primary area for these birds in the county, with birds seen through June (SG, SS, NT), including two seen and heard well during a field trip to the site 6/12 (ML, CW, SC). At this site 7/2, a total of seven birds were heard and seen, including one adult feeding a fledged young bird (CW). With many older reclaimed strip mine fields in the southern part of the county that are now rapidly growing over with scrub and scattered pine plantings, these birds may very likely be present in other areas that are not frequently visited. **Vesper Sparrows** were once again reported at MZ in some areas where more bare ground has been present with changes made by the PGC. Birds were noted in June as well as 7/2 and 7/4 (SG, KSJ, ML). These birds continue to be the most difficult grassland bird to find in the county, likely due to landscape changes in the past 20 years as strip mined areas age and change. Both **Grasshopper Sparrows** and **Henslow's Sparrow** were found in their usual strongholds of reclaimed strip mine areas in the southern part of the county, with no significant changes noted in numbers or reports. The MZ area of SGL 330 remains the most frequently monitored and reported area for the county. One specific note this year confirming breeding was of a Grasshopper Sparrow performing a distraction display 7/4 along a roadside there through the main grassland (KSJ).

Lastly, **Purple Finches** usually show up sporadically in summer, and this year a pair was present mid-July in a CV yard with stands of mixed pine and spruce. The male was singing 7/23, but no confirmation of breeding was made (CW). Two singing males were also heard in the CF area in good mixed pine and hemlock habitat 6/22 (CW).

Observers: **Carole Winslow, 159 Moggey Rd, Sligo, PA 16255, (814) 745-3818, cjal@windstream.net**, Shawn Collins, Gary Edwards, Steve Gosser, Mike Leahy, Flo McGuire, Ron Montgomery, Richard Nugent, Steve Sanford, Kate St. John, Neil Troyer, Mark Vass.

Clearfield County

Locations: Curwensville Lake (CL), Burnside area (BRN), La Jose area (LJ), Luthersburg (LU), Westover (WST).

A **Trumpeter Swan** was at CL 7/27 (GY). **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was heard calling at LJ 6/28 (DG). A **Willow** and a **Great Crested Flycatcher** were seen carrying food at a wetland near WST 6/22 (DG). A **Veery** was heard at BRN 6/27 (DG). A male **Blackburnian Warbler** was at BRN 6/27 (DG). Two **Clay-colored Sparrows** were at LU 7/12 (DR). **Vesper**, **Savannah**, and **Grasshopper Sparrows** were all seen with young at LJ 7/20 (DG, JS). On 7/20 at a reclaimed strip site near BRN, there were good numbers of **Henslow's Sparrows** (DG, JS).

There were plenty of **Bobolinks** and **Eastern Meadowlarks** in the hayfields at BRN 6/27 (DG).

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

Clinton County

No report.

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

Columbia County

No report.

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

Crawford County

Locations: Cambridge Springs (CS), Conneaut Lake (CL), Conneaut Marsh (CM), Custards (CUS), Erie National Wildlife Refuge (ENWR), Fish Hatchery (FH), Ford Island (FI), Geneva Marsh (GM), McMichael Road (McM), Meadville (MEAD), Pymatuning Area (PA), Pymatuning Causeway (PC), Pymatuning Goose Management Area (PGMA), Pymatuning Spillway (PS), Shellito's Pond (SP), Springboro (SPR), Tamarrack Lake (TL), Woodcock Lake (WL).

This summer was warmer than usual, and fairly damp and humid. However, most lakes, ponds and marshes were kept high with the exception of WL, which was gradually lowered in mid-July. A few ducks were found that usually nest further north, including a **Common Merganser** at PS 6/25 (MV), a male **Canvasback** at PS 6/11 and 6/25 (MV), and a male **Bufflehead** at PGMA 7/10 (RFL). A nice total of 67 **Wood Ducks** were seen at GM on 6/11 (MV). One **Green-winged Teal** was recorded at PGMA 7/9, 2 were there 7/29 (MV), and 4 were there 7/31 (SC).

Six **Double-crested Cormorants** were found at PA 6/5 and numbers increased to 17 there 7/16 (m.ob.). An adult **Black-crowned night Heron** was sighted at the FH 7/30 (RFL). There were 9 sightings of **Sandhill Crane** in the county from 6/30 to 7/30, with 11 at PGMA 7/29 (MV) the top count. They were also found at CM and CS (RFL, TCN and SC). The lone report of a **Virginia Rail** was one at McM, CM on 6/11 (RFL). A **Sora** was found there 6/10 (TCN). The marshes at GM and CM were well vegetated by this time making it hard to see rails and **Common Gallinules**, although several of the latter were heard (m.ob.).

A group of 25 **Turkey Vultures** were seen near SPR (TCN). A lone **Northern Harrier** was watched along Rte. 285 near CL 7/26 (RFL). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was found at CUS 7/10 (RFL). A **Broad-winged Hawk** was noted at the PC on 6/5 (RFL). The two **Osprey** nests at WL fledged 2 young each, but the nest at PA near the PGC building on the Hartstown Road was not successful. It was removed in early July by the local electric power employees and a painted orange cone placed at the top of the pole so they could not return.

The first **Greater Yellowlegs** was at PGMA 7/22 with 3-5 there 7/30 (RFL). From one to 18 **Lesser Yellowlegs** were noted at WL and PGMA 7/22-31 (MV, CH, SC, TCN, RFL). MV found a **Solitary Sandpiper** at PGMA 7/15, and one or 2 were there 7/29-31 (m.ob.). Reports of **Upland Sandpiper** at PGMA were 6/15 (RFL), 2 on 6/25 (MV), one on 7/5 (RFL) and one on 7/30 (RFL). One bird was a surprise to find near Route 77 Wayland near MEAD 7/10 (RFL). There were 5 **Pectoral Sandpipers** at PGMA 7/22 (RFL), one at PGMA 7/25 (CH), and 3 at PGMA 7/29 (MV). An early **Least Sandpiper** was recorded at PGMA 7/9 (MV), 10 were there 7/30, 10 were at WL (RFL), and 27 were at PGMA 7/29 (MV). Three **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were found at WL 7/30 and 4 at PGMA 7/30 (RFL). SC found 3 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** 7/30 and 7/31 at PGMA. One to 4 **Wilson's Snipe** were noted 7/9 to 7/31 (MV, SC). A pair of **Short-billed Dowitchers** were seen at PGMA 7/30 RFL and 4 were there 7/30 (SC). Two remained 7/31 (SC).

Six **Herring Gulls** 7/22 was the best total for the period at PC and

CL (RFL). **Ring-billed Gulls** ranged from 26 on 6/6 to 381 on 7/26 (m.ob.). A **Black Tern** was seen at PS 7/10 (RFL).

A **Barred Owl** was calling at MEAD 7/22 (RFL). A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was noted at SP 7/31 (SC). **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were seen 6/5 at MCM and 7/5 at GM (RFL), and 3 were at McM 6/22 (TCN). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was seen near PC 7/14, and one was at MEAD 7/16 (RFL).

Flycatchers seemed hard to find and were not very vocal this period. **Purple Martins** and all the usual swallows nested successfully in the area (m.ob.). A single **Loggerhead Shrike** was seen at McM and Rt. 285 on 6/5 but was not found again (RFL). The vireos did well, **White-eyed Vireos** were found 6/11 at PA, and at CL 6/23 and 7/16 (RFL), all single birds. A **Carolina Wren** was recorded at SP 7/31 (SC). Six **Marsh Wrens** were reported at McM 6/5 (RFL). A **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was seen at McM 7/16 (RFL), and 2 were found near SPR 7/20 (TCN). A few **Wood Thrushes** were found at CM, ENWR, Wayland, CL, SPR, PGMA and FI (TCJ, SC, RFL). The top total for **Eastern Bluebird** was 8 at PA 7/10 (RFL).

Prothonotary Warblers were as follows: 2 nesting at CUS 6/11 (MV); one McM 6/15 (RFL); 2 at GM 6/29 (RFL); one at GM 7/10 (RFL); one at GM 6/16 (RFL). The nest boxes at McM were apparently not used this year. **Blue-winged Warblers** were one at SPR 7/23 (TCN) and one at SP 7/31 (SC). A **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was found near SPR 6/23, and one was there 7/3 (TCN). One was found at FI 7/16 (RFL). An **Ovenbird** was noted at Rundelstown 6/21 and one was near SPR 6/26 (TCN). The only report of **Mourning Warbler** was one at Rundelstown 6/21 (TCN). An unusual location for a **Yellow-breasted Chat** was along the road east of MEAD 6/5 (RFL). Single **Hooded Warbler** were seen 6/5 and 7/2 at MEAD (RFL), 6/21 Rundelstown Road and Spring Center 6/26 (TCN), and at one FI 7/31 (SC). A **Canada Warbler** at ENWR 7/10 (RFL) was the only one reported. **American Redstarts** were found at GM 6/5 (RFL), 2 at SPR 7/9 (TCN) and one at FI 7/31 (SC).

Scarlet Tanagers were seen 6/26 SPR, one at Wayland 7/14 and one at FI 7/31 (TCN, RFL, SC). There were 11 reports of **Bobolinks**, mostly from PGMA 6/5-7/30. TCN had the only report of an **Orchard Oriole** on his farm 7/3 at SPR. Two **Purple Finches** were found at McM 6/11, one was at GM 6/18, and one was at MEAD 7/14-16 (RFL). Single **Vesper Sparrows** were seen at WL 6/5, PGMA 6/11, and Brown Hill CM 7/14 (RFL). A **Grasshopper Sparrow** was singing at Brown Hill CM 6/5, one was seen and heard 7/26 at Brooks Road 7/26 PYMPA (RFL), and one was found at PGMA 7/31 (SC). **Swamp Sparrows** were well reported for the period (m.ob.).

Observers: **Ronald F. Leberman, 11508 Pettis Rd., Meadville, PA, 16335, (814) 724-5071**, Shawn Collins, Craig Holt, Robert C. Leberman, Thomas Clare Nicolls, Mark Vass.

Cumberland County

I did not receive many reports from *Cumberland* birders during the summer season and I did not note much in the way of unusual sightings on eBird. There were 2 **Northern Bobwhites** reported at Green Ridge Village 4/26 though the end of the period (CB, CC, VG, AM).

There were also four different locations from which singing **Kentucky Warblers** were reported, including the base of Three-Square and Thompson Hollow, SGL 230, and Camp Michaux, a historic breeding location where they had been absent in recent years.

About a dozen **Dickcissles** were reported in four locations north of Newburg (AM), and up to 4 were north of Newville on Chestnut Road including a pair (VG). A few **Blue Grosbeaks** were also reported during the period but there were none that gave evidence of probable breeding.

Observers: **Vernon Gauthier, 111 W. Big Spring Ave, Newville, PA 17241, (717) 385-9526, pabirder@gmail.com**, Cletus Benjamin, Carol Cash, Andrew Markel.

Dauphin County

Locations: Boyd's Big Tree Preserve (BBTP), Harrisburg (HBG), Hershey Important Bird Area #45 (HIBA), Hummelstown (HUM), Milton S. Hershey School campus (MSH), South Hanover Twp. (SHT), Susquehanna River (SR), SR from Marysville (SRMV), SR from West

Fairview (SRWF), Three Mile Island (TMI), Wildwood Lake (WL), Weiser State Forest (WSF).

While kayaking on the SR below McCormick's Island in HBG, 7 **Ring-necked Ducks** (5 drakes and 2 females) were observed 7/3 (MM). Individual Ring-necked Ducks have occasionally been observed during the summer season but it is quite unusual to see this many in June or July. Six **American Black Ducks** were still present at WL 6/8 (WC) and two **Hooded Mergansers** were found on the Swatara Creek near HUM 6/7 (IG).

Two **Pied-billed Grebes** were observed 6/19 SRWF (K&HW). A single **Common Loon** was found SRMV 6/8 (TB), 2 Common Loons were also reported at SRWF 6/19 (K&HW) and a member of the Highspire Boat Association reported seeing a Common Loon in breeding plumage and hearing its distinctive call on the SR off Highspire in July.

Three juvenile **White Ibises** were photographed at the Highspire Boat Association beach 7/26 (MSh), later that day all 3 were again observed at this location before flying north toward the Pennsylvania Turnpike bridge (P&RW). The 3 were also observed on 7/27 at or near this location (TB, EC, DM). A single juvenile White Ibis was observed flying up the SR from Myo Park, Millersburg 7/30 (CR). **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** continued to be reported at their nesting colony in the Bellevue neighborhood of HBG (m.ob.) with a high count of 9 on 6/22 (CK). A Yellow-crowned Night-Heron and 3 **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were observed among the islands off SRWF 7/31 (RK). A **Common/Purple Gallinule** was observed and photographed at WL 6/6 (LI, et al.).

An **Osprey** was observed flying over the HIBA 6/12 (P&RW) and one was reported over the Swatara Creek at the west end of HUM 7/7 (CB) and 7/8 (IG). With confirmed nesting on and near TMI it is no surprise to find Osprey in southern *Dauphin*. Three young **Peregrine Falcons** fledged from their nest at TMI 6/13. Two of the 3, one male and one female, were banded 6/14, in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Game Commission (MSw, JD). The single fledgling from the Harrisburg nest was still healthy and active as of mid-July (<<http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/falcon>>).

At WL a **Semipalmated Plover** was reported at 7/14 (EB) and a **Solitary Sandpiper** on 7/17 (LC). A **Least Sandpiper** and a **Lesser Yellowlegs** were photographed at Highspire 7/30 (MS) and a single Least Sandpiper was observed on the flats at SRWF 7/31 (RK).

A **Great Black-backed Gull**, the first for the summer season, was sitting on one of the Harvey Taylor Bridge light posts in HBG 7/11 and continued to be observed on or near the bridge through the week (LU).

A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was observed in WSF along White Oak Road 6/8 (IG). There were two successful **Barn Owl** nest sites this season on the MSH campus yielding a total of 9 owlets (NM). While conducting a BBS route north of Carsonville the morning of 6/18, a **Whip-poor-will** was reported (BH). A **Common Nighthawk** was observed flying over downtown Steelton 7/14 (EC). One had been observed near this location by (EC) earlier on 5/30.

A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was reported near Halifax 6/19 (SB), while an adult and one juvenile were observed in Cummings Swamp north of Millersburg 7/17 (EC), providing strong evidence of nesting. This was reconfirmed on 8/4 when an adult Red-headed Woodpecker was observed feeding a juvenile at this location (RK).

An **Alder Flycatcher** and a **Golden-crowned Kinglet** were reported south of Back Road along the south fork of Powell's Creek 7/4 at a location described as "Camp Dauphin" (KM). Both of these species are rare for mid-summer but both were recorded in one or two nearby blocks during the second Bird Breeding Atlas. Two **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were found along Lykens Road 6/15 (RK). **Chestnut-sided Warbler** were reported in WSF twice, first along White Oak Road where 4 were counted 6/8 (IG) and 2 were found on 6/15 along Lykens Road, also 7/3 in WSF (RK). Peter's Mt. continues to be a good location for **Cerulean Warbler**. Three were reported 6/12 (IG), one on 7/9 and 2 on 7/16 (AMt). A walk at BBTP on 7/5 yielded a nice variety of species including **Hooded** and **Chestnut-sided Warbler** and **Yellow-breasted Chat** (EB). Another unusual species for the county was a **Dickcissel** reported along Shoop Road near Enders 6/9 (RK). Along Canal Road in SHT, **Blue Grosbeaks** were not reported after May however, one was observed about a half mile from this location, along Sandbeach Road 6/12 (GK) and a pair was found in another area of the MSH campus south of Hershey 6/13-24 (TB, NM, P&RW), reported again 7/15 (RE). **Vesper Sparrow** was observed on the MSH farm fields between Crest Lane and Rte. 322 south of Hershey 6/13 (TB, NM) and 6/24 (TB,

P&RW).

Observers: **Richard Williams, 3 Parkside Drive, Hummelstown, PA 17036, (717) 566-6562, RWPuffin@aol.com**, Tim Becker, Ed Bernot, Chuck Berthoud, Scott Bills, Mary & Randy Brenner, Lou Carpenter, Ed Chubb, William Clifton, Jason Decoskey, Robert Essick, Ian Gardner, Jan Getgood, Bill Hintze, Jenni & Barry Horton, Larry Imes, Rudy Keller, Gary Kinkley, Chandra Kotzatoski, Ramsay Koury, Mark Markiewicz, Annette Mathes (AMt), Nate McKelvie, Dave McNaughton, Kyle Mongold, Chris Rebert, Mark Shartle (MSh), Mark Sweigart (MSw), Larry Usselman, Kathy & Herb Weigle, Patricia Williams.

Delaware County

Locations: Brandywine Conservancy, Chadds Ford (BC), Delaware County Community College (DCCC), Delaware River (DR), John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum-DelCo portion (TI), Ridley Creek State Park (RCSP), Smedley Park (SP), Swarthmore College (SC).

Another hot summer! June was the ninth-warmest on record for Philadelphia and with one-third the average rainfall for the month. July however broke last year's record heat with every day reaching 86°F or higher and 21 days above 90°F. According to the weather bloggers it didn't seem as hot as last summer and that may be due to less rain and fewer extreme days. Despite the heat two very successful banding parties were held, one for **Purple Martins** and the other for vultures.

For the fourth consecutive year a **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** returned to the same location behind Hank's Restaurant in Chadds Ford BC 6/13 (AG). The bird was first spotted in July of 2008 but since birders started looking for it each season first sighting dates have been consistent: 6/19/2009, 6/14/2010 and 6/13/2011.

In early July *Delaware* birder-extraordinaire Al Guarente and family were searching for rocks at SP in a stream with their three-year-old grandson. They spotted a small cave which the grandson wanted to explore. Sure enough, inside were two **Turkey Vulture** chicks (AG). These chicks and 2 **Black Vulture** chicks from a nest at DCCC were wing-tagged by a team from Hawk Mountain led by Bracken Brown 7/20 (SJ, AG).

A mixed flock of 200 peeps, an even mix of **Semipalmated Sandpipers** and **Least Sandpipers**, at DR 7/28 (AG) were the first reported southbound shorebirds this season. **Caspian Terns** were first reported 7/28 at TI (AG) and 11 individuals were counted 7/30 at DR (AG).

A **Barred Owl** 7/31 at RCSP (GS) continues the increasing frequency of reports of this species in the county. A **Purple Martin** banding party was held at Glen Mills School 7/5 (DM, SJ, LJ). Led by DM, three teams attacked 32 boxes and banded more than 650 nestlings in four hours of work in the summer heat. **Cliff Swallows** presumably nested again at the stables RCSP 6/1 (AG).

A late **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was at SC 6/4 (BB). The uncommon nester **Louisiana Waterthrush** was at RCSP 6/1 (AG) and 6/7 (BB), and at SP 7/17 (DE). Likewise, a welcome sight in nesting season was a **Hooded Warbler** at RCSP 7/7 (BB).

Observers: **Dave Eberly, 112 S. Princeton Ave., Swarthmore, PA 19081 (610) 543-3499, david.eberly@gmail.com**, Brian Byrnes, Al Guarente, Lauren Johnson, Sheryl Johnson, Doris McGovern, Mariana Pesthy, Tom Reeves, Gary Stolz.

Elk County

No Compiler.

Erie County

Locations: Gull Point (GP), Presque Isle State Park (PISP), Roderick Preserve (RP).

Following a cold wet spring, it was a relief to have warm dry weather, though not to the extremes we had through June and July, which featured record high temperatures and very dry conditions with little rainfall. We hoped with the mowing of the vegetation at GP in the spring that re-growth would be slow, but it was not the case. By early July vegetation, including *Phragmites*, was head high and even denser

than before. These conditions limited shorebird habitat to almost none, except for the outer beach and sand spit near the south end of GP. It remains to be seen what habitat will remain into the main shorebird migration period in August and September. Because of erosion and high water, access to GP is very difficult, which has deterred many birders who in the past regularly visited the point.

On a brighter note, the pair of **Merlins** (JBK, MB) and **Peregrine Falcons** (MW) remained through the period, though successful nesting, and nest location of the latter, has yet to be confirmed. The big news this season was the unprecedented reports of **White-eyed Vireos** well into the nesting season with as many as 6 found at RP (JF). White-eyed Vireos have never been confirmed nesting in the county.

The following birds were reported from PISP unless noted otherwise. The 2 **Red-breasted Mergansers** that flew over GP 7/31 were likely birds that summered somewhere around PISP, or along the nearby lakeshore (ST). Single **Great Egrets** tend to linger into the summer months, so the 2 birds that were on the mudflats at the Union City Dam in Waterford Township were not a surprise (JM, DN). A **Willet** made a brief appearance at Beach 10 on 7/2 (KR), and another spent the day at the mouth of Sixmile Creek in Harborcreek 7/16 (JC, fide SS). An adult **Stilt Sandpiper** along with a **Short-billed Dowitcher** flushed from a small pool at the east end of GP 7/8 (JM). A singing **White-eyed Vireo** 6/28 was at the east end of Pine Tree Trail (JF). PISP is known to harbor non-breeding migrants that for some reason never seem to leave the park, so it was not a great surprise to find this vireo. However, the 6 that were found at various sites at RP were very likely breeding and not leftover migrants (JF). The singing **Golden-crowned Kinglet** at the Union City Reservoir in Union Twp 6/13 was likely nesting, since it was in suitable nesting habitat near where they likely nested during the first Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas (JM). A singing **White-throated Sparrow** 6/28 along Pine Tree Trail was suspected of being a holdover from spring migration. The male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** 6/16 coming to a feeder was an unexpected surprise, since it has been several years since this species was last seen in the county.

Observers: **Jerry McWilliams, 3508 Allegheny Road, Erie, PA 16508-2129, (814) 868-3059, jerrymcw@aol.com**, Mary Birdsong, Jane Cowell, Jim Flynn, Joe and Bonnie Klan (JBK), Don Nixon, Ken Rosenberg, John Skuce, Susan Smith, Shannon Thompson, Mike Weible.

Fayette County

Locations: Bear Run Nature Reserve (BRNR), Quebec Run Wild Area (QRWA).

Coverage was fairly good in the county this season with birders contributing sightings from several locations including less visited sites such as SGL 238. Like other locations in the Laurel Highlands there is a northern component to the avifauna in a good portion of the county, and more widespread species are found in the lower elevations and agricultural areas.

A female **Common Merganser** with 9 young was seen on the Youghiogheny River during a canoe trip from Dawson to Layton 7/17 (TK, JK). A **Ring-necked Pheasant** was in Springfield Twp. 6/4 (GM, KM); probably a released bird. Eight **Wild Turkeys** were found at QRWA 7/6 (CD). A **Broad-winged Hawk** was at Ohiopyle State Park 6/4 (GM, KM). A great count of 9 **Whip-poor-wills** was heard at SGL 51 on 7/13 (ST). Two **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were at SGL 238 on 6/27 (CD) and one was seen at QRWA 7/6 (CD).

A **Least Flycatcher** was in Springfield Twp. 6/4 (GM, KM). **Acadian Flycatchers** were widely reported along the numerous streams and **Eastern Wood-Pewees** were also widely reported. Single **Willow Flycatchers** were in Springfield Twp. 6/4 (GM, KM) and QBWA 7/6 (CD). **Blue-headed Vireos** were found in five locations during the season including a fledgling at SGL 138 on 6/27 (CD). To show how common **Red-eyed Vireos** are in the county, a BBS survey 6/4 recorded this species at 46 out of 50 stops (the entire route is 25 miles in length), totaling 81 individuals (GM, KM). The **Cliff Swallow** and **Barn Swallow** colony on the Rte. 381 bridge at Ohiopyle State Park continues to be a reliable place to see these birds nesting and were observed 6/4 (GM, KM). The **Cliff Swallow** colony found on the side of a barn in Springfield Twp. last year was gone (GM, KM). A **Brown Creeper** was at BRNR 6/30 (DN, ML). Five **Veeries** were at QRWA 6/6

(DN) and 2 were at SGL 139 on 6/27 (CD). A **Hermit Thrush** was at QRWA 6/6 (DN), 4 were at SGL 139 on 6/27 (CD), 3 were at SGL 51 on 7/3 (CD) and 3 were at QRWA 7/6 (CD). Three **Brown Thrashers** were recorded in Springfield Twp. 6/4 (GM, KM).

A good variety of warblers nest in the mountain forests in the county. Highlights include 5 **Northern Parulas** in various locations 6/4 (GM, KM), 3 **Magnolia Warblers** at QRWA 6/6 (DN), one at BRNR 6/30 (DN, ML), 4 at SGL 51 on 7/3 (CD) and 2 at QRWA 7/6 (CD). A **Blackburnian Warbler** at Ohiopyle State Park 6/4 (GM, KM) was the only report which is surprising. Three **Cerulean Warblers** were at Ohiopyle State Park 6/4 (GM, KM), 2 were at QRWA 6/6 (DN) and one was at SGL 51 on 7/3 (CD). A **Worm-eating Warbler** was at SGL 51 on 7/3 (CD). Single **Kentucky Warblers** were found in Springfield Twp. 6/4 (GM, KM), QRWA 6/6 (DN), BRNR 6/30 (DN, ML) and one was heard 7/17 during a canoe trip from Dawson to Layton (TK, JK). More common species reported include **Chestnut-sided Warbler**, **Black-throated Blue Warbler**, **Black-throated Green Warbler**, **Black-and-white Warbler**, **American Redstart**, **Ovenbird**, **Louisiana Waterthrush**, **Common Yellowthroat** and **Hooded Warbler**.

A **Grasshopper Sparrow** was in Springfield Twp. 6/4 (GM, KM). Two **Dark-eyed Juncos** were at BRNR 6/30 (DN, ML) and one was at SGL 51 on 7/3 (CD). Nine **Bobolinks** were in Springfield Twp. and several were recorded near Ohiopyle on Dinnerbell/Ohiopyle Road during a BBS 6/4 (GM, KM). **Eastern Meadowlarks** were also recorded in various locations during the survey.

Observers: **Mike Fialkovich, 805 Beulah Road, Pittsburgh, 15235, (412) 731-3581, mpfial@verizon.net**, Cory DeStein, Janet Kuehl, Tom Kuehl, Melissa Little, Geoff Malosh, Kristin Malosh, Dick Nugent, Shannon Thompson.

Forest County

Locations: Allegheny National Forest (ANF), Beaver Meadows (BM), Buzzard Swamp (BS), Cook Forest (CF), Kellettsville (KL), Marienville (MA), Red Brush (RB), Tionesta (TI), Tionesta Lake (TL).

Thanks to birders who posted to eBird and the PA Birds listserv, both of which were sources of data for this report. We experienced extreme weather this summer, with temperatures near 100°F for about a week in June; from the last week in June until 7/23, there was almost no rain. The species using nest boxes did not fare as well as usual, but most of the forest species are well represented. Singing and territorial **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were a highlight of this report.

The **Osprey** nest on the platform at BS was again active (TR, FM, JM, RN). There were several **Bald Eagle** sightings from various areas of the county; one known active nest continues, and two immature birds were often seen in TI back yards near the river (FM, JM). A female **Northern Harrier** was seen 7/29 flying low over farm fields near TI (FM, JM). A **Broad-winged Hawk** was spotted 7/16 at BS (SG); they were observed throughout June near TI (FM).

A **Spotted Sandpiper** was noted 7/3 near Tom's Run at CF (KC). **Barred Owls** were heard 6/6 and 6/8 near TI, an area where they have not been apparent for a few years (FM, JM).

A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was observed 7/16 at BS (SG) and also 6/21 near TI (FM, JM). A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was reported 7/3 at BM (FD). **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were seen 6/21 near Pigeon (CW), 15 were tallied 6/4 in the ANF near MA, and fledglings were spotted 7/16 near TI (FM, JM).

Acadian Flycatchers were noted 5/30 at CF (TR); 4 were counted in the MA area 6/4 (FM, JM); they were also plentiful 6/21 near Minister and on an ANF road near Pigeon (CW). Territorial **Alder Flycatchers** were found 6/21 along Salmon Creek Road (CW), and an **Alder or Willow** (Traill's) **Flycatcher** was observed 6/23 at BS (RN). A **Willow Flycatcher** was reported 5/29 at BS (TR). Three **Least Flycatchers** were seen 6/21 near Minister (CW); 3 were also tallied 6/4 in the ANF near MA (FM, JM). Three **Blue-headed Vireos** were seen 6/21 near Pigeon (CW); 2 were heard 6/4 in the MA area and one 6/23 at TL (FM, JM). A **Common Raven** was reported 6/23 at BS (RN); they were also observed 5/11 and throughout June in the ANF near TI (FM, JM). The **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** colony continues at the TL Outflow Bridge; the **Cliff Swallow** colony continues at the KL bridge, and several Cliff Swallows were seen 6/23 in the TL area also (FM, JM).

Red-breasted Nuthatches were singing and territorial 6/21 in the ANF near Pigeon (CW). **House Wrens** did not have a good summer in

the TL area; of the 47 nest boxes (erected for Bluebirds), several House Wren nests were built, four eggs were laid, but all nests were abandoned. Weather may have been a factor, as July was extremely dry. Two singing and territorial **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were found 6/21 in the ANF near Pigeon (CW).

In the 47 nest boxes at TL, **Eastern Bluebirds** did not do quite as well as previous years, even though there was less competition from **Tree Swallows**. Twenty-four Eastern Bluebirds successfully fledged over the summer from this Bluebird Trail, while the average from 2003-2009 is 31 (FM, JM). A **Veery** was heard singing 5/29 at BS (TR), also 6/26 in the ANF near TI, and 7/29 along TC (FM); 4 were noted 6/1 in the RB area, and 5 were tallied 6/4 in the ANF near MA (FM, JM). Two **Hermit Thrush** were seen 6/21 in the ANF near MA (CW), and 3 were observed 6/4 near MA (FM, JM). Four **Wood Thrushes** were present 5/29 at BS (TR). **Cedar Waxwing** numbers are good; a late date of a Cedar Waxwing on nest 8/26 near MA is noteworthy (SS, FM, JM).

A singing **Nashville Warbler** was noted 6/4 in the ANF near MA (FM, JM). A **Northern Parula** was found 7/3 at BM (FD); singing males were heard 6/1 in TI (FM, JM). Three **Chestnut-sided Warblers** were reported 6/23 at BS (RN); 12 were counted 6/4 near MA, and 3 on 6/1 in the RB area (FM); an adult and immature were seen 7/23 near TI (FM). Two **Magnolia Warblers** were noted 6/21 in the ANF near Pigeon (CW); one was reported 7/16 at BS (SG). Two more were present 6/4 near Lynch; they were also observed 7/23 and 7/29 near TI (FM). Two **Black-throated Blue Warblers** were heard 6/1 at RB (FM); another 7/3 at CF (KC). A **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was spotted 6/1 at RB (FM); another was noted 6/21 in the ANF near Pigeon (CW). Nine **Black-throated Green Warblers** were recorded 5/30 at CF (TR); 13 were counted 6/4 in the MA area, one 6/1 at RB, and one 7/29 at TC (FM). A **Blackburnian Warbler** was noted 5/30 at CF (TR); one was found 6/1 at RB, 3 were heard 6/4 near Lynch, another was spotted 6/6 at TL, and one 7/23 near TI (FM). They were plentiful 6/21 near Minister (CV). A **Prairie Warbler** was singing 6/4 south of MA, in its traditional territory on an evergreen plantation (FM). Four **American Redstarts** were tallied 6/4 near MA, one 7/23 near TI (FM), and one 7/3 at BM (FD). A pair of **Northern Waterthrush** was found 6/21 in a boggy area near the Minister Creek Recreation Area. The female was apparently defending a nest site from a chipmunk, and the male was heard singing (CW). Three **Hooded Warblers** were reported 5/29 at BS (TR); they were also noted 6/6 at TL, 6/26 at the ANF near TI, and 7/18 at TL (FM, JM).

Sixteen **Scarlet Tanagers** were tallied 6/4 in the ANF near MA, and 9 were observed 6/1 at RB (FM). A Swamp Sparrow was spotted 7/3 at BM (FD), and another was singing near Lynch 6/4 (FM). **Dark-eyed Juncos** were seen feeding fledged young in several areas in the ANF near Pigeon (CW). Three **Bobolinks** were territorial 6/1 at RB (FM). Three **Purple Finches** were singing 6/4 near MA; they were also noted 6/26 and 7/16 near TI (FM).

Observers: **Flo McGuire, 609 Ponderosa Lane, PA 16353, (814) 755-3672, fmcguire1@verizon.net**, Kyle Carlsen, Francois Dewaghe, Steve Gosser, Jim McGuire, Richard Nugent, Theo Rickert, Scott Stoleson, Andrew Weber, Carole Winslow.

Franklin County

No Report.

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

Fulton County

No Report.

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

Greene County

Locations: Claylick (CL), Enlow Fork (EF), East View (EV), Kern Farm (KF), Last Chance Ranch (LCR), Ralph Bell Farm (RBF), Sycamore (SY).

Canada Geese with young were found at many locations. **Mallard** with 7 young were found at EF on 6/3 while conducting IBA point count

(MH). A **Wild Turkey** hen was flushed from fencerow with a small poult 6/24, then 2 hens were seen 8/10 with 9 half-grown young gobbling up grasshoppers in pasture at LCR (MLP). At least 20 **Great Blue Heron** nests were at the rookery behind the bank in Rogersville (JW) and 2 were noted 7/31 flying over the yard at dusk at RBF (RKB). On several occasions during July, 3 **Green Heron** young were noted at Waynesburg Sportsman Club (JH).

Turkey Vultures are also noted by many observers throughout the area, including 34 at CL 7/27 (LA). A late sighting on Memorial Day weekend was an **Osprey** on Pollock Mill Road (D&LB). **Bald Eagles** were reported throughout the period in Center Twp. (LA, R&TB); nesting was reported to this compiler but could not be confirmed at this time. **Red-tailed Hawk** young were seen out of nest exploring their tree at EV 6/11 (m.ob.) and 2 young were out of the nest and heard calling for food at RBF 7/24 (RKB). At Hunting Hills pond 5 **American Kestrel** young were seen 6/25 flying from tree to tree, sometimes appearing a little wobbly (m.ob.).

American Woodcock were sighted at EV through 6/18 (JH). Again this year a **Mourning Dove** nested in an old American Robin nest on a masonry pilaster on a shop building at KF (KK). **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** and **Black-billed Cuckoo** were both heard at EF while conducting IBA point counts (MH).

An **Eastern Screech-Owl** was heard at KF through July on moonlit nights calling softly, probably to its young (KK). Young **Great-horned Owls** were heard calling at RBF (RKB). **Barred Owls** were heard calling several nights during period at LCR (MLP) and 2 were watched on hill at SY (JaC). A **Common Nighthawk** was spotted in Rogersville 6/25 (RA). **Chimney Swifts** were present in the skies over Waynesburg and took advantage of the old tall chimneys on many houses. The feeders at EV provided a nice buffet for the local **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** and their young. So many were buzzing around that counting them was difficult, but a total of 15 was reported at the feeders in early July (MH).

On 6/24 an adult **Red-bellied Woodpecker** was observed taking sunflower seeds from feeder, pecking them open, and feeding them to 2 youngsters at LCR (MLP). **Downy Woodpecker** and **Hairy Woodpecker** were observed feeding young at suet feeder at EV 6/11 (JaC, LA, KK). **Eastern Wood-Pewee** and **Acadian Flycatcher** were present at EF during this season (MH). At CL a family of 6 **Eastern Phoebe** were noted on 7/27 (LA), while at SY were observed leaving the nest on 7/3.

Young **American Crow** were out of the nest and calling for food on 6/7 at RBF (RKB). **Common Raven** was first noted in *Greene* by RKB on 7/2/1984; several pairs now nest throughout the county. This year RBF hosted 21 pairs of **Purple Martin** (RKB); birds began to stage at Rohanna's Golf Course in mid-July. **Tree Swallow** numbers were down this summer with only four pairs nesting at RBF (RKB), but at CL a nest with an egg was found in a purple martin house (LA). **Barn Swallows** were very protective of their young, swooping about with 35 lined up on a power line near the barn at LCR on 7/14 (MLP) while at RBF 30 pair nested with young still in the nest in August. Although **Carolina Wren** numbers are down again this year, probably due to winter weather of last year, 5 young fledged from a flowering plant on the porch at EV (MH). Several **House Wren** nests were found in the back yard at EV (MH).

At LCR **Eastern Bluebirds** were seen feeding young on a power line 6/22, and again 7/14 feeding another family with quick trips in and out of nest box (MLP). At least six pair nested at RBF (RKB). **American Robins** were seen carrying food to nest in hazelnut tree 6/26 at LCR (MLP). A **Northern Mockingbird** serenaded folks at several locations throughout this period. A family of **Cedar Waxwing** were noted 8/2 at SY (JaC).

Blue-winged Warbler, Northern Parula, Yellow Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, American Redstart, Kentucky Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Hooded Warbler, and Yellow-breasted Chat were present during the breeding season at EF (MH). At LCR, 2 **Louisiana Waterthrush** were feeding in small creek near house, one possibly a juvenile (MLP).

A **Song Sparrow** nest was found in the reeds at the edge of duck pond at CL (LA), and 6/19 a juvenile was seen begging for food at LCR (MLP). On 6/30 at LCR in a large patch of thigh-high jewel weed, 3 **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were noted (MLP).

At least two pairs of **Bobolinks** nested at RBF (RKB). **Common Grackle** seemed to be numerous at feeders through the period with 20 reported on CL (LA) and more than 35 at EV (JH). **Orchard Oriole**

fledged 6/25 at SY (JC). Young **House Finches** were being fed at feeder at LCR 6/24 (MLP).

Observers: **Marjorie Howard, 149 Preachers Road, Waynesburg PA 15370, 724-852-3155, birdwatcher108@comcast.net**, Lyn Argent, Ron Argent, Dave & Leah Bell (D&LB), Ralph K. Bell, Roberta & Tom Boyd, Judy Cholak, Jan Churney (JaC), Al Deynzer, Jerry Howard, Kathy Kern, Mary LaPlante, Sally Sisler, Jerry Wolfe.

Huntingdon County

As part of the Pennsylvania (and U.S.) Nightjar Survey, four routes were run in Rothrock S.F. and Stone Valley, with most stops in northern *Huntingdon* and a few in neighboring *Mifflin* and *Centre*. Surveys consist of a listening period at each of ten stops (no recordings). A total of 41 **Whip-poor-wills** were counted on the 40 stops, compared a total of 40 in 2010 (GG, DB).

A visit to Old Crow wetland near Huntingdon produced an **American Bittern** 6/14, unusual in summer and not known to breed there (DK, TK). That same visit also yielded **Willow Flycatcher** and **Swamp Sparrow**, the latter a rare nester in the county. Cuckoos were scarce this season but the Kyler's had a **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** in their yard in Smithfield Twp. 6/18 and then a **Black-billed Cuckoo** 6/26. Two **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were seen on Barr Road near McAlevys Fort 7/10 (C&FZ).

For the 20th year, three BBS routes were conducted within Rothrock S.F., together comprising a total of 150 point counts (GG, DG, NB). Most stops are in *Huntingdon*; some are in *Centre* and *Mifflin*. The five most abundant species are listed with 2011 counts (followed by the 20-year average): **Red-eyed Vireo** 208 (194), **Ovenbird** 112 (148), **Eastern Towhee** 104 (80), **Scarlet Tanager** 69 (71), **Wood Thrush** 27 (47). The Wood Thrush total was lowest ever and the Ovenbird total tied previous low. On the other hand, a few common species set new highs (followed by the 20-year average): **Acadian Flycatcher** 47 (27), **American Robin** 28 (14), **American Redstart** 45 (27), **Hooded Warbler** 46 (27).

Observers: **Greg Grove, 4343 McAlevys Fort Road, Petersburg, PA, 16669, gwg2@psu.edu**, Diane Bierly, Nick Bolgiano, Deb Grove, David Kyler, Trudy Kyler, Cliff and Pat Zeamer (C&FZ).

Indiana County

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

A healthy count of 32 **Wood Ducks** at YC 7/5 (LC, TG, MH, ML, DM, MVT) included many young. The top **Mallard** tally, including young, at YC this summer was 11 on 6/14 (LC, BC, TG, MH, RN). The appearance of a partially grown **Hooded Merganser** at YC once again this summer suggested local breeding 6/21 (TG, MH). A **Ruddy Duck** on the Urling mine drainage treatment pond near SH 6/13 (RH) was unusual. Only 2 **Ruffed Grouse** were noted, one at YC 7/1 (BF, TF, JH, MH) and one at Saylor Park 7/11 (LC).

YC lake hosted a **Double-crested Cormorant** 6/7 (LC, SD, TG, MH, ML), 4 one week later (LC, BC, TG, MH, RN), and 2 on 6/21 (TG, MH). A **Bald Eagle** was sighted at YC 6/30 (BF, TF). The only **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was spotted n. of IN 7/21 (SB), and **Cooper's Hawks** were noted at only two locations (m. ob.). **Broad-winged Hawk** pairs were spotted 7/5 (LC, TG, MH, ML, DM, MVT) at YC and 7/8 (GL) at Nolo.

The water level at YC remained relatively low, which exposed an extensive mudflat in Little Yellow Cove until mid-July. **Killdeer** peaked at 25 on 7/5 (LC, TG, MH, ML, DM, MVT) before the rains raised the water levels. One **Lesser Yellowlegs** was present 7/26 (LC, TG). The first **Solitary Sandpiper** appeared 7/5 (LC, TG, MH, ML, DM, MVT); 3 Solitaries were found at YC 7/18 (LC, TG, MH, DM). **Least Sandpipers** noted at YC included 2 on 7/12 (MH) and 4 on 7/18 (LC, TG, MH, DM). An **American Woodcock** was spotted at SGL 262 on 6/21 (PS), the same day YC hosted a **Common Tern** (TG, MH).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo was noted only along Aultman's Run 7/4 (MH, RH). **Black-billed Cuckoos** were listed near SH between 6/21 (MH, RH) and the end of the season, along Aultman's Run 7/4 (MH, RH), and at YC 7/7 (BF, TF, JH, MH). Nolo yielded a **Great Horned Owl** and 3 **Barred Owls** 6/6 (AB, DB); single Barred Owls were heard

near Plumville 6/28 and 7/5, 9 (MJ) and near SH 7/1 (MH, RH). A **Short-eared Owl** was seen at YC 7/26 (LC, TG). The West Lebanon area yielded 3 **Whip-poor-wills** 6/19 (MH, RH) but only one the following evening (BC, EF, MF, MH, RH).

An **Alder Flycatcher** was singing at YC 6/14 (LC, BC, TG, MH, RN). A **Least Flycatcher** near YC 6/21 (TG, MH) was at a new location. A **Fish Crow** was present on the Indiana University of Pennsylvania campus 7/5-6 (JT). Single **Common Ravens** were present at Nolo 6/2 (GL) and at YC 7/26 (LC, TG). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was present periodically near SH throughout the summer and one was sighted at YC 7/26 (LC, TG).

Louisiana Waterthrush was last noted at YC 7/12 (LC, TG, MH). A **Nashville Warbler** singing on territory near Sun Cliff 7/18 (LC, TG, MH, DM) was unusual as there are few previous breeding records for the county. Two **Northern Parulas** were singing at YC 6/7 (LC, SD, TG, MH, ML) and one was there 7/7 (BF, TF, JH, MH); another was near Brush Valley 6/21 (TG, MH). Single **Magnolia Warblers** were noted at YC 6/7 (LC, SD, TG, MH, ML) and near Sun Cliff 7/18 (LC, TG, MH, DM). **Pine Warblers** were present at YC, both on the north and south shores, throughout the summer (m. ob.). Two **Yellow-rumped Warblers**, a non-breeding species in the county, visited YC 7/26 (LC, TG). **Prairie Warblers** included singletons near Dayton 6/4 (MH, RH) and along Aultman's Run 7/4 (MH, RH); 2 were near SH 7/23 (MH, RH). **Black-throated Green Warblers**, usually a common nesting species, were hard to find at YC this year with all reports of singletons (m. ob.); in addition, the *Indiana* portion of the Patton BBS yielded only one 6/5 (MH, RH); another single bird was at Nolo 6/27 - 7/27 (GL).

A **Vesper Sparrow** was found near SH 7/4 (MH, RH), the lone report. Single **Bobolinks** near Dayton 6/4 (MH, RH) and near Pine Flats 6/5 (MH, RH) were the only ones reported. A pair of **Orchard Orioles** was nesting at YC 6/7 (LC, SD, TG, MH, ML); **Baltimore Orioles** were feeding young 6/21 (TG, MH).

Observers: **Margaret Higbee, 3119 Creekside Road, Indiana, PA 15701-7934, bcoriole@windstream.net**, Alice Beatty, Dave Beatty, Sid Blair, Lee Carnahan, Blaine Carnes, Sue Dickson, Betsy Fetterman, Tom Fetterman, Evelyn Fowles, Mike Fowles, Tom Glover, Jim Haney, Roger Higbee, Marian Johnson, Gloria Lamer, Melissa Little, Donna Meyer, Richard Nugent, Patrick Snickles, John Taylor, Marjorie Van Tassel (MVT).

Jefferson County

No Report.

Compiler: **Thomas N. Glover, 210 Highland Ave., Punxsutawney, PA 15767, tomnglover@comcast.net**.

Juniata County

Locations: Kratzer's Pond (KP), Mifflintown River Access (MRA).

A single **Least Bittern** was sighted at homemade ponds in Mifflintown at KP 6/2 (RS, AT, ST). On 7/29, 2 **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were spotted on the Juniata River MRA (JS). On 7/1, a dark hummingbird was reported at an Amish feeder outside of Oakland Mills. It never chased other hummers, nor was chased by them. They felt it was smaller than a Ruby-throated Hummingbird and had a flat tail, which it did not flick. It would fly directly in, stay for a minute or two at the same feeder, then leave. Attempts by birders to see it and obtain pictures failed. We had 81 species reported on eBird for the county during the breeding season.

Observers: **Chad Kauffman, 91 Kauffman Lane, Mifflintown, PA 17059, (717) 994-6715 cell, (717) 436-8257 home/work, chadkauffman@earthlink.net**, Jim Stoner, Raymond Swarey, Aden Troyer, Stevie Troyer.

Lackawanna County

Locations: Aylesworth Park (AP), Jermyn (JER).

On an early morning walk in AP 7/28, a few notable species were observed. Along with a few **Wood Thrushes** singing in the woods, a

loud **Black-throated Blue Warbler** could be heard. Also heard on the trail was a **Red-eyed Vireo** (JG).

Other species were observed within the town of JER included **Red-tailed Hawk**, **Sharp-shinned Hawk**, **3 Turkey Vulture**, **Northern Flicker**, and more than 20 **Chimney Swifts** (JG, AG).

Observers: **Joe Greco 3116 Township Woods Rd, East Greenville, PA, 18041, (610) 457-1812, joe@grecofamily.org**, Ann Greco.

Lancaster County

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

This summer was highlighted by sightings of **Trumpeter Swan**, **Sandhill Crane**, and numerous **Dickcissels**. Dickcissel is a sporadic visitor in the county, but this year it was present in a number of locations that will be detailed later.

Trumpeter Swan was noted at SRCF 6/18 (BS). This seems like an unusual time of year, but this species has been reported in the past during the month of June. A **Tundra Swan** at Octoraro Lake 6/9 (LL) was unusually late. The wetland area along the Conewago Trail that produced some nice shorebirds this spring also held some lingering waterfowl. **Canvasback** and **Ruddy Duck** appeared in late April and were still there 7/1 (TB). The Canvasback was seen flying, so it did not appear to be injured. Both were still present until at least 7/11 along with an injured **Snow Goose**.

An immature **Little Blue Heron** was found 7/28 at Woods Edge Pond near Centerville (GS) and another was at SRCF 7/15 (DH). A **Cattle Egret** was a nice find at MCWMA 6/1 (CC, et al.). **Great Egrets** started to appear at SRCF in July with 17 on 7/16. **Peregrine Falcons** spent the summer on the Susquehanna River at Columbia/Wrightsville and nested under the Rte. 462 bridge over the Susquehanna River again this summer. Two chicks (both female) were successfully banded at their nest under the Route 462 bridge 7/14 by the Pennsylvania Game Commission falcon coordinator, Art McMorris. At the time they were banded, they were expected to fledge in about two weeks.

A **Sandhill Crane** was a one-day wonder at SRCF 6/18 (BS). Two **White-rumped Sandpipers** were among the last reported northbound migrants at SRCF 6/18 (BS). Southbound migrants started to appear in mid July with the report of a **Willet** 7/14 at SRCF along with **Least**, **Semipalmated** and **Solitary Sandpipers** (DH). Two **Short-billed Dowitchers** were at the same location 7/16 (ME). On 7/23 the Least Sandpiper group had grown to 140 and other species included 3 **Semipalmated Plover**, 2 **Solitary Sandpiper**, 3 **Lesser Yellowlegs**, 16 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** and **Pectoral Sandpiper**. Once again 3 **Upland Sandpipers** were seen in grassy areas at the Lancaster Airport (BC). They were first found 7/31, but were seen through the first two weeks of August. Two **Common Terns** were at bit early at SRCF 7/16 (ME). A group of 4 **Forster's Terns** were also at SRCF 7/23. **Yellow-throated Vireo** was reported from the powerline at the border of Rapho Township and Lebanon County 7/3 (RM). A singing **Hooded Warbler** was at the same location 7/7. **Prothonotary Warblers** were reported nesting at SRCF and remained at least through the middle of July.

Dickcissels were a summer highlight and were reported by a number of birders. SS writes that he saw singing Dickcissels in central and eastern Lancaster in 2007 and 2008 as well as this past summer. This summer a visit to a hayfield along Church Road 6/16 produced 3 or 4 singing birds. Subsequently he found three more spots with singing birds. One was singing near Millers Natural Foods store on Monterey Road. Two or 3 singing birds were along South Weavertown Road just south of Rte. 340, and 3-4 singing birds were along Scenic Road just north of Rte. 772. All the hayfields had plants that varied in height and structure. He observed some birds singing from small shrubs, weeds, fence posts and utility wires. All of the hayfields that held Dickcissels had some structural variety where alfalfa was interspersed with taller grasses, chicory and others, forming a meadow habitat with both structural and species variety. Two singing males and possibly a female were seen through at least 6/18 at the intersection of Williams Run and Smyrna Road between Gap and Christiana (CC). Another 2 males were singing 6/17 in hay fields and sorghum fields at 3004 Old Philadelphia Pike east of Bird-in-Hand and west of Intercourse (LL, CC).

Observers: **Jonathan Heller, 720 Aspen Lane, Lebanon, PA 17042, jonathan.heller@comcast.net**, Tim Becker, Devin Bosler, Bruce Carl,

Chuck Chalfant, Mike Epler, Tom Garner, Deuane Hoffman, Larry Lewis, Randy Miller, Tom Raub, Bob Schutsky, Glenn Shaffer, Stanley Stahl, Drew Weber, Eric Witmer.

Lawrence County

Locations: Black Swamp (BS), McConnell's Mill (MM), Wampum-New Gallilee Road marsh (NG), Northwest Lawrence (NW), Three Rivers gravel pond (TR), Volant Strips area (VS).

Highlights for this short seasonal report are a pair of summering **Ring-necked Ducks**, the expanding **Common Moorhen** population, and a report of **Vesper Sparrow**.

Two **Ring-necked Ducks**, a drake and a hen, were reported from 6/4 through 6/10 at TR, with the hen reported alone at various times until 7/10 (all MV). No further reports were received from TR after 7/10, so it is not known if the bird continued after this date. There is a record of this species nesting in nearby Crawford in the late 1930s. Other waterfowl reports from the area included a good sized family of **Hooded Merganser**, with 14 counted 6/4 at TR, and diminishing counts after that through 7/10 (all MV). **Wood Duck** also had good-sized broods, with reports of 23 on 7/1 at TR, and 27 on 6/24 at NG (all MV).

Common Gallinules have been reported at NG for a while, and only sporadically in other locations in Lawrence. This year, however, one was found in nearby Beaver, and 2 were found 7/1 at TR (both MV). The high count of the resident families at NG was 27 on 7/10, comprised of 6 adults and 21 young (MV). Unusual for this time of year, an **American Coot** was also found 6/24 at NG (MV).

Spotted Sandpipers were reported throughout the season, a high count of 10 made 6/24 at TR (MV). **Killdeer** were also reported throughout, with a high count of 36 on 7/10 at TR (MV). Shorebird migration appeared to start 7/8 with a report of 7 **Least Sandpiper** and 11 **Solitary Sandpiper** at BS (MV), and continued 7/15 with a report of 9 **Least Sandpiper**, 11 **Solitary Sandpiper**, and 5 **Lesser Yellowlegs** at TR that day (MV). **Greater Yellowlegs** were found at 7/22 at BS, along with 4 **Lesser Yellowlegs**, 15 **Solitary Sandpiper**, and 12 **Least Sandpiper** (MV).

A good collection of *Empidonax* reports were made this season, with a nice singing **Alder Flycatcher** report 6/6 at NW, indicated to be at a "traditional" location near the intersection of Johnson Road and Evergreen Road in Pulaski Township (CH). **Willow** and **Acadian Flycatcher** were also reported 6/10 at NW (CH), with an **Acadian** also reported 6/29 at MM (RN), and 7/17 again at MM, seen carrying food (KSJ). A high count of 13 **Eastern Wood-Pewee** was had 6/10 at NW, along with 3 **Great-crested Flycatchers** there that day as well (both CH).

Vireo reports for the season included a **Blue-headed** 6/19 at MM (RN), and one **White-eyed** and 7 **Red-eyed Vireos** 6/10 at NW (CH). **Tree**, **Barn**, **Northern Rough-winged**, and even **Bank Swallows** were reported 6/4 at TR (MV), as well as at various other times throughout the season. A **Winter Wren** was singing by the creek 7/17 at MM (KSJ), and **House** and **Carolina Wrens** were reported 6/10 at NW (CH).

Warbler reports from the summer included a **Black-throated Green** 7/17 at MM (KSJ), a **Blue-winged Warbler** 7/22 at BS (MV), **Hooded Warbler** 6/29 at MM (RN), and a bevy of warblers 6/10 at NW, including one **Blue-winged Warbler**, 15 **Yellow Warblers**, 2 **Cerulean Warblers**, 4 **American Redstart**, **Common Yellowthroat**, and 4 **Hooded Warblers** (CH).

Only one report of the resident **Savannah**, **Henslow's**, and **Grasshopper Sparrows** came in this season, 6/10 at VS, but it also included a nice **Vesper Sparrow** sighting, confirmed by the distinctive white outer tail feathers spotted as it flew away (SD). Aside from a few records entered into the second PBBA data set, the only other recent Vesper Sparrow sighting in Lawrence known was 9/29/2010 at BS (RN).

Observers: **Stephen Tirone, 135 Isolda Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15209, (724) 719-8643, stephen.tirone@gmail.com**, Sheree Daugherty, Craig Holt, Richard Nugent, Kate Saint John (KSJ), Mark Vass.

Lebanon County

Locations: Fort Indiantown Gap (FIG), Marquette Lake (ML), Memorial Lake State Park (MLSP), the old Union Canal along Pine Road EHT (PR), South Lebanon Township (SLT).

A **Mute Swan** at Risser's Pond, Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area 6/4 represented a first June record for the county (BH). Three **Ring-necked Ducks** persisted at ML past the 6/1 "safe date" for breeding. **Great Blue Heron** juveniles were first reported 6/24 at PR (TB, DW, PW). **Black-crowned Night Heron** was frequently seen in the evenings perching on the chain link fence along the MLSP dam spillway (TB). Returning shorebirds were observed early this year at PR. On 7/8, 3 **Solitary Sandpipers** (three days early) and 4 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** also set a new early date (CB).

A single **Eurasian Collared-Dove** was observed south of Annville 7/7 (MD). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was spotted 6/14 at the usual place along Fonderwhite Road, SLT (FH) and four pair were reported at FIG 6/17 (DM). Two **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were spotted at PR a new location for that species (TB, CB, GK). The **Chuck-will's-widow** was heard periodically at FIG on Tomstown Road throughout the period.

Three pair of nesting **Blue Grosbeaks** were confirmed in restricted areas of FIG (DM) this summer. With the additional nesting birds on the *Dauphin* side of FIG, the staff believes Blue Grosbeaks have expanded their territory this year. TB also had Blue Grosbeak 6/24 along Gravel Hill Road, north of Palmyra. A pair of **Dickcissels** was observed at PR 7/9 (DW, PW). One bird was last seen 7/22 (TB).

ADDENDUM: The Pennsylvania Game Commission, **Barn Owl** Conservation Initiative, 2010 results dated 10 March 2011, indicated that the *Lebanon* area is a hot spot for the species with 42 young reported in eight nests. Total Barn Owls including adults for 2010 was 58.

Observers: **Chuck Berthoud, 47 Brookside Avenue, Hershey, PA 17033, (717) 533-7136, cberthoud@verizon.net**, Tim Becker, Morris Cox, Mike Dale, Jarrod Derr, Mike Epler, Fritz Heilman, Barbara Hunsburger, Gary Kinkley, David McNaughton, Randy C. Miller, Dick Williams, Pat Williams.

Lehigh County

No Report.

Compiler: **Bill Etter, 209 E South St., Slatington PA, 18080, (215) 964-3613, billetter01@gmail.com.**

Luzerne County

No Report.

Compiler: **David Fisher, 222 North Mountain Road, Sweet Valley, PA 18656, (570) 477-2846, David.Fisher@prudential.com.**

Lycoming County

Locations: Little Pine Creek (LPC), Susquehanna River (SR), Rose Valley Lake (RVL).

The following are highlights of birds observed in *Lycoming*, derived from eBird, the Audubon chapter county bird list reports, and BBS routes.

An interesting array of waterfowl was reported during the summer season. Not likely to nest in the county, a **Ring-necked Duck** was a good find 6/10 at RVL (NF). The **Lesser Scaup** 6/1 on the SR at the Williamsport dam was truly out of season (NF). While paddling around RVL, a male **Bufflehead** was found near the dam (CS). Expected to be nesting in the county, **Hooded Merganser** was seen 6/12 at SGL 252 (NF). A **Great Egret** 6/12 at SGL 252 as unusual (NF).

On 6/23, WE observed **Black Vulture** in Picture Rocks, after receiving previous reports. In the cove north of the causeway on RVL, a 2nd year **Bald Eagle** was really unafraid as it perched in a dead tree top and let CS paddle right up to the shore beneath its perch. A great surprise was the family group of **Merlins**, including at least 3 young, flying about but still displaying a small amount of down on their heads, along Sheridan Street in Williamsport 7/19 (DB). They were photographed and seen for about a week (ph. WL, SP, m.ob.). The **Peregrine Falcon** 7/23 SR Williamsport Dam could have come from anywhere, not necessarily one of the *Lycoming* breeding birds (NF). WE was awakened at 05:00 by **Great Horned Owls** calling 6/24.

Among birds observed on local BBS routes in June, the most

common woodpecker heard in the northern part of the county is **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**, but the **Red-bellied Woodpecker** continues to move up the Little Pine Creek and Pine Creek river valleys. Noted was a **Brown Creeper** singing at dawn near Salladasburg 6/3. During a 6/20 BBS through the mountains of the county: the most common flycatcher was the **Least**, with the **Eastern Phoebe** a close second where there are cabins, bridges or other human structures; a **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was heard near Haneyville in the planted pines; warblers noted included **Northern Parula** along LPC at Carsontown, **Yellow-rumped** (Myrtle) in Little Pine State Park, **Black-throated Blue** along Okome and Schoolhouse roads and elsewhere, and the regular species (DB). A **Purple Finch** was seen singing with a female (WE).

Observers: **Dan Brauning, 1920 Inverness Rd, Montoursville, PA 17754, (570) 433-0309, dan@thebraunings.net**, Wes Egli, Dave Ferry, Nate Fronk, Wayne Laubscher, Steve Pinkerton, Charlie Schwarz.

McKean County

No report.

Compiler: **John Fedak, 26 Race Street, Bradford, PA 16701, (814) 362-1052, (814) 366-2500, jfedak@atlanticbb.net.**

Mercer County

Locations: Shenango River Reservoir (SRR), State Game Lands 130 (SGL130).

A total of 118 species were recorded for this period. Above normal rainfall continuing through late May created flooded fields that produced late spring shorebirds, including several first spring records for *Mercer*. Rainfall decreased dramatically through June and by mid-July water levels had created habitat for returning shorebird migrants at the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) propagation area at SRR.

Shorebirds of significance found by RS at a flooded field along Tieline Road near Grove City included 15 **Semipalmated Plover** 6/1-6, 6 **Semipalmated Sandpiper** 6/11-15, 2 **Western Sandpiper** (first spring record for *Mercer*) 6/1-5, and 5 **White-rumped Sandpiper** (first spring record for *Mercer*) 6/1-6 (RS, m.ob.). MV reported the first returning **Least Sandpiper** 7/2 at the PGC headquarters building on West Lake Road (SRR); up to 5 were present there 7/23. Three **Solitary Sandpipers** were also there on 7/23.

SS observed **Common Nighthawks** in flight over Sharon through 6/20, raising the possibility that they may be breeding in the area. Up to 10 **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were seen and heard at SGL130 on 6/4, indicating a good breeding population (JH, NT, ST). Several **Alder Flycatchers** were heard along Poole Road 6/5 and a **Least Flycatcher** heard along East Zchnizer Road, also 6/5, indicated possible breeding as both were within the PBBA safe dates (NT).

As many as 6 singing **Blue-headed Vireos** were noted at SGL130 on 6/4, and 2 **Brown Creeper** were also heard there on the same date (JH, NT, ST). Fourteen species of warblers were observed at SGL130 on 6/4 including **Magnolia**, **Black-throated Green**, **Black-and-white**, and **Kentucky Warbler**, and **Northern** and **Louisiana Waterthrush** (JH, NT, ST). **Cerulean** and **Prothonotary Warbler** were both noted at SRR 6/23 (NT).

Grasshopper and **Henslow's Sparrow** were observed at Limber Road 6/27, and several **Dark-eyed Juncos** were heard singing at SGL130 on 6/4 and 7/9 (SS, NT). MM reported an **American Robin** successfully raised two broods in a nest on a drain pipe under the eaves of her house, with an **Eastern Phoebe** also successfully raising two broods on another drainpipe four feet away from the Robin's nest. Then in mid-July a **Mourning Dove** acquired the Robin's nest, added a bit of straw, and raised her brood there.

Observers: **Neil Troyer, 876 Williamson Rd., Mercer, PA 16137**, Joseph Hockstetler, Marty McKay, Randy Stringer, Harvey Troyer, Jerry Troyer, Ruth Troyer, Samuel Troyer, Mark Vass.

Mifflin County

A **Barn Owl** was found in an unused silo in Big Valley in June (IBJ). A pasture near Belleville contained **Savannah Sparrows** and

Eastern Meadowlarks in June. Also of note there in early June was a **Bobolink**, a probable rare nester in Big Valley, but this individual may have been a late migrant as it was not re-located (JZ).

Observers: **Greg Grove, 4343 McAlevys Fort Road, Petersburg, PA 16669, 814 667-2305, gwg2@psu.edu**, Ivan Byler, Jr. (IBJ), Jay Zook.

Monroe County

No report.

Compiler: **Brian Hardiman, Monroe County Environmental Education Center, 8050 Running Valley Rd, Stroudsburg, PA, 18360, (570) 629-3061, bhmccd@pzd.net**.

Montgomery County

Locations: Bridgeport, Douglas Twp. (BDP), East Norriton Twp. (ENT), Evansburg State Park (ESP), Green Lane Reservoir (GLR), Norristown Farm Park (NFP), Pennypack Trust (PT), Prophecy Creek Park (PCP), Unami Creek Valley (UCV), Upper Gwynedd Twp. (UGT), Upper Hanover Twp. (UHT), Upper Perkiomen Valley Park (UPVP).

The summer season brought above average temperatures and below average precipitation. Rainfall at Green Lane totaled 4.57 inches, well below our long-term average of 9.71.

Waterfowl reports included only **Mallard, Wood Duck**, and **Common Merganser**, all of which breed in the county. A **Pied-billed Grebe** in the UCV 6/27 was a surprise (GAF). The ever-increasing **Double-crested Cormorant** was noted in BDP, at VFNP, and at GLR (m.ob.). **Green Herons** were observed at GLR, UPVP, BDP and NFP, with high counts of 4 at UPVP 7/7 (GAF), and at BDP 7/31 (WBH). **Great Egrets** were seen in late spring 6/2 at UPVP (GAF), and early fall 7/29 at GLR (KC). A season high of 8 was tallied at BDP 7/31 (WBH).

GLR's **Bald Eagle** pair fledged one youngster in mid-June. This marks the eighth consecutive year of nesting success there. Away from GLR, Bald Eagles were noted at ESP and PT (WBH), and NFP (BH). A **Northern Harrier** was noted at NFP 6/1 (BH) and 6/4 (WBH). **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was found at ESP, NFP (WBH), and Plymouth Meeting (BH). **Broad-winged Hawk** continued its elusive ways in western *Montgomery*. Sadly, this former breeding species has been in serious decline in the county for the past 15 years. One was seen or heard intermittently 6/19-7/28 (KC), and one was spotted in the UCV 6/27 (GAF).

Shorebirds included a late spring **Semipalmated Plover** at GLR 6/5 (GAF). Near-drought conditions in June and July resulted in extensive mudflats at Church Road, GLR. Early fall migrants and high counts included a high count of 40 **Killdeer** 7/23 (WBH), a high of 2 **Greater Yellowlegs** 7/14 (GAF), 10 **Lesser Yellowlegs** 7/25 (KC), 9 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** 7/24 (JC), and 77 **Least Sandpipers** 7/29 (KC). Single **Spotted** and **Solitary Sandpipers** were also noted on several dates (m.ob.). Away from GLR, BDP held Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper and Least Sandpiper, and NFP hosted a Solitary Sandpiper (all WBH). An **American Woodcock** at NFP was a nice find 6/13 (BH).

A **Bonaparte's Gull** was at Walt Road, GLR 7/30 (SG, GAF), and a high of 9 **Ring-billed Gulls** were at BDP 7/31 (WBH). Two **Caspian Terns** were at Church Road, GLR 7/29 (KC).

Yellow-billed Cuckoos were reported from ESP (WBH), PT (BH), and NFP (BH). A **Barred Owl** at ESP 6/15 was yet another nice find (WBH). A **Common Nighthawk** was seen in ENT 6/1 (WBH).

Acadian Flycatcher reports were received from ENT, ESP, NFP (all WBH), and UCV (GAF). **Willow Flycatchers** nested in their traditional haunts in GLR, NFP, and PCP (m.ob.). **White-eyed Vireos** were reported from ESP 6/28+, and NFP 6/4+ (WBH).

Late spring **Purple Martins** were at Walt Road, GLR (GAF). Fall migrants began arriving at UPVP 6/29 (GAF), and were seen or heard there daily until 7/27 (KC). A season high of 28 was tallied at UPVP 7/23 (WBH). Martins were also noted passing through NFP 7/26 (BH). More surprising were 4 **Cliff Swallows** at BDP 7/28 (BH).

Veery reports were scattered, and included ESP (WBH), and PT (BH). **Brown Thrashers** were located at GLR (GAF), NFP (BH), ESP and PT (both WBH).

Noteworthy warblers (all sightings WBH, except as noted) included **American Redstart** and **Northern Parula** at NFP, **Black-and-white Warbler** at ENT, **Northern Parula** and **Louisiana Waterthrush** at

ESP, and **Prothonotary Warbler** at NFP 7/3 (BH). UCV hosted **Northern Parula**, **Worm-eating Warbler**, and **Louisiana Waterthrush** (GAF). UPVP also held a **Louisiana Waterthrush** (GAF).

Eastern Towhee reports were numerous and widespread, including ESP, GLP, PT, and Prophecy Creek (WBH, m.ob.). A **Grasshopper Sparrow** was a nice find at Briar Hill Preserve 6/7 (BH). Perhaps more surprising were summer observations of **White-throated Sparrow** from NFP 6/2 (BH) and UGT 7/20+ (A&JM). **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were found in Upper Hanover Twp. (JG) and ESP (WBH). A **Blue Grosbeak** was reported with fledglings at NFP 7/13 (BH).

Our only **Eastern Meadowlark** report was received from Douglas Twp. 6/25 (JG). **Orchard Orioles** were reported from ESP, NFP, PT, PCP, and UPVP (m.ob.).

Observers: **Kevin Crilley, P.O. Box 100, Sumneytown, PA 18084, (215) 234-6867, kcrilley@mail.montcopa.org**, George A. Franchois, Joe Greco, Steve Grunwald, W.B. Henderson, Barbara Hiebsch, August & Judy Mirabella (A&JM).

Montour County

No compiler.

Northampton County

Locations: Green Pond (GP).

A **Snow Goose** at a farm pond on Blossom Hill Road outside of Bath lingered the entire summer (MS). The goose appeared healthy and uninjured. Two **American Black Ducks** were at GP 7/1 (DD). A female **Hooded Merganser** and an adult **Black-crowned Night-Heron** were at a retention pond on Meyer Lane, Bethlehem Twp. 7/31 (DW). In East Allen Twp. at a private pond, 4 **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were reported 7/25.

On 7/15, a **Sandhill Crane** was observed foraging in a mowed hay field next to the AAA building on Hecktown Road (BW). This Sandhill Crane may have been the same individual seen previously in the Fogelsville area of *Lehigh* the week before. The crane continued into August spending much of its time at GP. On a 7/24 visit to GP, two birders lucked into a great find, a juvenile **White Ibis** (J&JG), which provided the third county record. The most interesting aspect of this rare find were the interactions of the ibis and crane. Observers noted that the Sandhill Crane was chasing the White Ibis around the flooded field, but later was seen feeding side-by-side with the ibis (DW, DD, MaS).

Mississippi Kite has become almost an annual sighting in *Northampton*. A sub-adult was seen flying over Interstate 78 near the Easton exit 6/10 (ML). This is a species overdue for being photographed. Two **Common Nighthawks** were seen flying in Wilson 6/24 (BE).

Black-billed Cuckoo was reported from Bath 6/18 (MS, CCS) and the Koch Farm, Williams Twp. 7/5 (AK, JP). Two vocal **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were heard along National Park Drive in late June (MaS). Another Black-billed Cuckoo and an **Alder Flycatcher** were found in Mt. Bethel 6/26 (MaS). Probably under-reported are **Carolina Chickadees**. In Bath, a Carolina Chickadee was visiting a feeder sporadically through 7/8 (MS). This county seems to fall into the hybrid zone and observers find it easier to call some chickadees hybrids than to identify the bird as Carolina Chickadee. At Sand Island, Bethlehem, a **Yellow-throated Warbler** was seen 6/25 (SB). A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was found in Mt. Bethel 6/26 (MaS). Fields near the Valleyview Baptist Church, Rte. 248, Bath held a juvenile and 2 adult **Grasshopper Sparrows** 7/9 (MS, CCS).

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks appear to be doing well in the Williams Twp. area. On 7/8, 4 young and 3 adult male Rose-breasted Grosbeaks visited the feeders at the Koch Farm (AK). Next day, 8 adult males, an adult female, and a juvenile grosbeak were at the feeders. At Grand Central Landfill, Pen Argyl on 7/13 a **Blue Grosbeak** was observed. This site hosted nesting Blue Grosbeaks last year.

Observers: **Michael Schall, 126 N Chestnut St, Bath, (610) 737-5275, mdtjschall@yahoo.com**, Sara Blauman, Dave DeReamus, Bill Etter, Joe and Jeff Greco, Arlene Koch, Mike Lanzone, John Puschock, Matt Sabatine (MaS), Corinne Campbell Schall, Billy Weber, Dustin Welch.

Northumberland County
No Compiler.

Perry County
No report.

Compiler: **Ramsay Koury, 123 Old Ford Drive, Camp Hill, PA 17011, (717) 761-1871, rkoury123@aol.com.**

Philadelphia County

Locations: Benjamin Rush State Park (BRSP), Carpenter's Woods (CW), Delaware River (DR), Fairmount Park (FP), Franklin D. Roosevelt Park (FDR), Glen Foerd Mansion (GF), John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum (TI), Morris Arboretum (MA), Pennypack Environmental Center (PEC), Pennypack on the Delaware (POD), Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education (SCEE), Schuylkill River (SR), Wissahickon Creek (WC).

The 2011 Summer Breeding Chart lists 98 species of which 80 were confirmed breeders and 8 were probable breeders. **Yellow-breasted Chat**, **Blue Grosbeak**, and **Bobolink** returned to the list following habitat restorations at Houston Meadow and Manatawna Farm as mentioned in the spring report (more details below). Summer censuses were held 6/11 at SCEE with 54 species observed (GR) and at PEC with 90 species (BS). Only expected breeders were found, but both locations, close to rivers, attracted many other species, such as gulls, herons and **Osprey**, increasing the totals.

The highlight of summer was the drawdown of the impoundment at TI which attracted numbers of waders including the first **White Ibis** seen in *Philadelphia* in 33 years. The immature bird was found by Chris Hunold 7/13, who quietly posted photos on the Friends of Heinz Refuge at Tinicum Facebook page. Birders were alerted the following day and those who took a short walk on the dike got within 50 feet of the ibis as it fed in the same location for three days. It did eventually get restless and move about, and the last sighting was 7/20. Other photographed birds of note at TI were 3 **Least Terns** seen from afar diving and feeding 6/13 (AB). **Least Terns**, which once nested in the county, are casual visitors annually. Most records are of single birds in August, making this mid-June group all the more unusual.

By the end of July **Wood Duck** numbers at TI topped 75, far out numbering the once more numerous **Mallard**. Shallow water with lots of stranded fish attracted more than 75 **Great Blue Heron** and 100 **Great Egret**. **Little Blue Heron**, usually immatures in summer, are seen yearly, and FW photographed a group of eight 7/29. **Glossy Ibis**, now seen yearly, checked out TI to see what all the fuss was about 7/23 (m.ob.).

Again this summer, **Osprey** seen over MA 6/13 and later (KJ) raise the question of where these birds nest? Or are these "unattached" birds coming from the SR perennially celibate? Even the second PBBA didn't clear up this question, as far as I know.

In addition to breeding **Killdeer** and **Spotted Sandpiper** at TI and POD, waders were again found at MA. Birders in the northwest section of the city were rewarded for checking out MA, where 2 **Solitary Sandpiper**, 3 **Least Sandpiper** and 2 **Green Heron** were at the new wetland area 7/31 (KJ). Though small numbers of common sandpiper were noted throughout June, by mid-July **Semipalmated Plover** and **Solitary Sandpiper** were at POD 7/20-8/15. Up to 1200 **Semipalmated Sandpiper** and 500 **Least Sandpiper** used the mud flats at TI. Six sightings of **Western Sandpiper**, including ten birds in alternate plumage, were made at TI and POD. Up to 3 **Stilt Sandpiper** were reported 7/18-31 (BB, FW).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo has not been documented nesting at TI since their breeding census was discontinued, but a bird was found 7/17 (SD). The resident CW **Eastern Screech Owl** pair fledged four young rather late in June (KR). **Common Nighthawk** were heard and seen over South Philly at 12th and Dickinson and at 19th and Snyder in June (TC). A lost **Acadian Flycatcher** spent June singing his heart out at TI.

Regarding the improvements at Houston Meadow, KR wrote, "...at Houston Meadow [I] found a singing first year male **Blue Grosbeak!** ... in the south meadow and later ... in the north meadow. Also saw a bird that looked like a female in the south meadow. Additional birds included 2 **White-eyed Vireos** and 3 **Yellow-breasted Chats** in view simultaneously. Birds present in the area yesterday and today included

Field Sparrow, both orioles, **Eastern Bluebird**, **Common Yellowthroat**, **Eastern Towhee**, **American Redstart**, **Willow Flycatcher**, **Blue-gray gnatcatcher**, **Tree, Barn and Rough-winged swallow**, **Eastern Peewee**, **Eastern Kingbird**, **Chipping Sparrow**, **House and Carolina Wren**, **Warbling Vireo**, **Great Crested Flycatcher**, **American Goldfinch**, **Cedar Waxwing** and **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**. 22 good species! Also yesterday Frank (FW) and I had 3 **Pine Warblers** at Hermit Lane in the Wissahickon, and **Louisiana Waterthrush**, **Northern Parula**, **Pileated Woodpecker**, **Scarlet Tanager**, **Veery** and **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** along the creek at Bells Mill Road, but no **Bobolinks** at Spring Lane.

Observers: **Doris McGovern, 209 Dogwood Rd., Media, PA 19063, (610) 565-8484, mcgovern100@comcast.net**, Debbie Beer, Adrian Binns, Denis Brennan, Brian Byrnes, , Tony Croasdale, Martin Dellwo, Steve DuPont, Todd Fellenbaum, Chris Hunold, Ken Januski, Pete Kurtz, Chuck Lyman, Gin Ranly, Keith Russell, Brian Schultz, Frank Windfelder.

Pike County
No report.

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

Potter County
No report.

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

Schuylkill County
No report.

Compiler: **Mike Ward, 86 Sherwood Road, Pottsville, PA 17901, (570) 628-5571, Pm5Le@aol.com.**

Snyder County

Locations: Faylor Lake (FL), Walker Lake (WL), McKee's Half Falls (MKHF), Tall Timber State Park (TT), Troxelville (TXV), Jack's Mountain (JM), Paxtonville (PV)

Two **Bald Eagles** were observed at WL 6/3 (P&RW). A Bald Eagle was also reported at FL 6/2, 6/3, and 6/7, and 2 were seen 7/12 (P&RW). Three Bald Eagles were spotted at MKHF 6/19 (KC).

A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was found in TT 6/30 (JW) and one was seen near TXV 7/12 (P&RW). A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was seen west of Freeburg 7/1 (AW). An **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was found at JM Trailhead parking lot on Rte. 235 on 6/2 (P&RW). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was seen 6/29 at Shade Mountain G.C. It was on a tree at the 12th green and flew into a large oak tree with insects in its mouth, though no cavity was easily seen (JW).

A **Blue-headed Vireo** was found at TT and another one was found along Hunter Road east of TT 6/13 (AW). A **Least Flycatcher** was reported in TT 6/13 (AW); additionally 4 were observed 6/19 and 3 on 6/30 (JW). A **Warbling Vireo** was seen south of PV 6/4 (GG). A single **Winter Wren** was found along Swift Run Trail at TT 6/19. Additionally 2 Winter Wrens were observed and 3 others were heard singing at different locations along Swift Run Trail in TT 6/30 (JW). TT also produced a **Worm-eating Warbler** 6/13 (AW). A **Blackburnian Warbler** was seen outside of PV 6/4 (GG), 2 were spotted 6/13 on Hunter Road and at TT (AW), and 3 were observed 6/30 also at TT (JW). A single **Canada Warbler** was found in TT 6/13 (AW), and the Swift Run Trail in TT produced 9 and 8 Canada Warblers 6/19 and 6/30 respectively (JW).

An abandoned farm west of Selinsgrove held 2 **Vesper Sparrows** 7/6 (JW). A **Grasshopper Sparrow** was spotted south of PV 6/4 (GG). An **Eastern Meadowlark** was seen sitting on the power lines west of the Kreamer Auction Barn 6/19 (JW). Another was observed west of Freeburg 7/1 (AW).

Observers: **Richard Williams, 3 Parkside Dr., Hummelstown, PA, 17036, (717) 566-6562, RWPuffin@aol.com**, Kay Cramer, Greg Grove, Andrew Weber, Jason Weller, Patricia and Richard Williams.

Somerset County

No report.

Compiler: **Jeff Payne, 9755 Glades Pike, Berlin, PA, 15530, (814) 267-5718.**

Sullivan County

Locations: Dushore (DSH), Dutch Mountain (DM).

There are very few reports from the county for the summer season of 2011. I only managed to get to the county for three separate weekends and one week of vacation between mid-June and the end of August. One of those weekends was oppressively hot and another was washed out by steady rains. I have one other report from a separate source. A total of 83 species were observed during the period. All of the birds recorded would be considered resident birds. Most birds seen numbered less than five individuals per observation and many were counted fewer than five times for the entire summer.

Notable but not unusual records included two separate female **Common Mergansers** found in the Loysock Creek below Forksville, and a single adult **Bald Eagle** at Shady Nook Lake both in June. An A first year male or female **Orchard Oriole** was seen 6/26 in Shrewsbury Township (WE). **Barred Owl** was heard calling in the DM vicinity on 8/20 (MM). **Chimney Swifts** continued in DSH through the end of August. An **Alder Flycatcher** was heard calling as late as 7/20 at Shady Nook Lake. Twenty-six **Tree Swallows** were counted on the last weekend of June. **Veery** and **Wood Thrush** went unobserved after June.

Larger groups and mixed flocks were the norm for the week of 8/20. Seven **Killdeer** were found in an agricultural field near DSH. Each morning found good numbers of **Blue Jay** and **Northern Flicker** in the DM area. Several mixed flocks were found throughout the week moving through the trees. The most common species seen were **Red-eyed Vireo**, **Chestnut-sided Warbler**, and **Black-throated Green Warbler**. Other warblers included **Nashville**, **Blackburnian**, and **Yellow-rumped**. Other species observed within mixed flocks included both **Red-** and **White-breasted Nuthatch**, **Brown Creeper** and **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**.

The highlight of the summer was a visit from a Ph.D. candidate representing the International Crane Foundation. The intent was to capture newly hatched chicks, tag them and take blood samples to better understand the origins of the recently established eastern populations. I was finally able to locate a **Sandhill Crane** chick on the morning of 6/25. This is about a full month after we have normally found chicks of the same size. The banding crew was some four hours west of DSH but made the trip anyway and, with help of my uncle (SC), found and banded the chick. The bird was a four week old female. Unfortunately, the chick was seen again. The adults were seen late in the evening of 7/23 but the chick did not appear to be present. There was plenty of tall vegetation where it could have hidden, however.

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

Susquehanna County

No compiler.

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), County Line Road (CLR), Gibson Hill Road (GHR) Kahle Lake (KL), Oil City (OC), Oil Creek State Park (OCSP), Pittsville-Emlenton Road (PER), Two-Mile Run County Park (TMRCP)

It certainly wasn't a banner year for summer birding. Weather and individual schedules combined to limit field time.

Waterfowl highlights were the lovesick **Snow Goose** that remained with a **Canada Goose** through 6/7 at KL (GE) and a summering **Common Loon**, also at KL through 7/16 (MV). Additional sighting of interest included the following. A **Virginia Rail** was at TWRCP 7/27 (RS). This was our only documented rail. **Solitary Sandpiper** and **Lesser Yellowlegs** (KG, RS, JS) were at KL 7/20. **Upland Sandpiper** returned to its traditional haunts along CLR and two were observed 6/7 (GE). **Common Tern** and **Forster's Tern** made appearances at KL 6/6 (GE). **Eastern Whip-poor-Wills** were vocalizing at SGL 45 on 6/6 (GE, RS). **Alder Flycatcher** was seen at OCSP 6/30 (GE, RS), and SS and NT found **Least Flycatcher** vocalizing there 6/27. An uncommon **White-eyed Vireo** was seen several times along GHR (GE, RS, JW) through 6/15. A singing **Worm-eating Warbler** was seen 6/12 along PER (GE). RS found a **Northern Waterthrush** at a backwater pond in OCSP on 7/24. A **Mourning Warbler** was reported at the corner of White City Road and Russells Corners Road 6/28 (SS, NT).

Last year KL showed promise for increased shorebird activity, but it was maintained a level too high for exposed mudflats this year and returned to its mediocre level of production.

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, Meg Kolodick, Richard Nugent, Steve Sanford, Jerry Stanley, Neil Troyer, Mark Vass.

Warren County

No compiler.

Washington County

Locations: AMD Pond on Hahn Road (AMD).

There were very few reports this season. Even a browsing of eBird did not add much to the discussion. Maximum **Canada Goose** count at AMD was 32 on 6/13 (MV), a low total even for early summer. **Mallards** peaked at 138 on 7/30 at AMD (MV), a little closer to normal. There were no reports of "the" American Coot at AMD this season. The first returning **Solitary Sandpipers** were noted in Robinson Twp. 7/24 (MV).

Both **Black-billed** and **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were found at Greencove Wetlands 7/4 (ST), with 5 of the latter species tallied. A **Willow Flycatcher** was reported at the Robinson Run Cemetery in Cecil Twp. 6/19 (ST), a previously unknown location for the species. A trip to the pines near Bavington 7/4 was highlighted by a **Red-breasted Nuthatch** feeding a juvenile (MF); the species is a rare breeder in the county, and anywhere else in sw. Pennsylvania for that matter. Other highlights at Bavington that day included **Brown Thrasher**, **Prairie Warbler**, **Ovenbird** (many), and **Hooded Warbler**. A **Kentucky Warbler** was seen on the *Washington* side of the Bald Knob area in Robinson Twp. 7/4 (MF). A nice total of 8 **Yellow-breasted Chats** was counted at Greencove Wetlands 7/4 (ST). **Savannah Sparrow** was also noted at the Robinson Run Cemetery 6/19 (ST). At least 7 **Swamp Sparrows** were tallied at Greencove Wetlands 7/4 (ST).

Observers: **Geoff Malosh, 450 Amherst Avenue, Moon Township, PA 15108-2654, (412) 735-3128, pomarine@earthlink.net**, Mike Fialkovich, Shannon Thompson, Mark Vass.

Wayne County

No Report.

Compiler: **Chris Fischer, Attn: Chris Fischer, Bugaj/Fischer, PC, P.O. Box 390, Honesdale, PA 18431, (570) 446-9597, cfischer17@gmail.com.**

Westmoreland County

Locations: Beaver Run Reservoir (BRR), Donegal Lake (DL), Hunter's Lane (HL), Kuehl Property (KP), Linn Run State Park (LRSP), Loyalhanna Lake (LL) Mammoth Park (MP), Murrysville Community Park (MCP), New Stanton (NS), Powdermill Nature Reserve (PNR).

Two adult **Osprey** with 2 chicks were on the nest at DL 6/10 (DM), and the same numbers were reported at LL 7/3 (TV). After a one year break, **Broad-winged Hawks** again nested at the KP, as circling adults were seen and begging fledgling heard beginning 7/5 (JK). Recently fledged **American Kestrels** were observed at the MCP on 7/13 (TK). A **Spotted Sandpiper** was observed at MP 7/13 (MM). **Barred Owl** fledglings were observed at dawn and dusk at the KP daily 6/1-12, and were again heard 7/17 and 7/18 (TK and JK).

Some of the better birds that nest in the higher elevation in the eastern part of the county were observed at various dates during the report period. **Alder Flycatcher** and **Swamp Sparrow** were reported at HL 6/11 (RN). **Ruffed Grouse**, **Brown Creeper**, **Magnolia Warbler**, **Yellow-throated Warbler**, and **Purple Finch** observations were recorded at PNR on various dates (BC). **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**, **Blue-headed Vireo**, and **Winter Wren** were reported 6/25 at LRSP and at Roaring Run 7/15 (RN).

Purple Martins that bred at the MCP in 2010 were observed at the same location 7/13 (TK). Three **Cliff Swallows** were reported at BRR 7/16 (MM). Of note was a July capture of a **Tennessee Warbler** at the PNR banding station. A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was heard in NS 7/6 (MF). A first year **Rusty Blackbird** made an unusual visit to KB's feeders in Delmont 7/31.

Total species recorded on the Breeding Table for 2011 was 120. The 2010 total was 118. A special note of thanks goes to Ken Byerly, who submitted a full record of his breeding observations.

Observers: Tom Kuehl, 3615 Hilty Road, Export, PA 15632, (724)-325-1918, tjkuehl@comcast.net, Ken Byerly, Blaine Carnes, Mike Fialkovich, Janet Kuehl, Mark McConaughy, Donna Mohney, Richard Nugent, Tim Vechter.

Wyoming County

No report.

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

York County

Locations: Althouse School Road Landfill (ALT), Brunner Island (BI), Codorus State Park (CSP), Gifford Pinchot State Park (GPSP), Kiwanis Lake (KI), Lake Redman (LR), Lake Williams (LW), Spring Grove (SPGR), State Game Lands at Sunnyside Road (SUNN).

The reports received suggested a fairly typical breeding season for York. **Wood Duck** were at multiple locations with a high of 18 at SPGR 7/31 (PK). A **Hooded Merganser**, a known breeder at BI, was found 6/7 (RK). Sub-adult **Common Loons** continue their annual summertime presence at CSP with 8 individuals up until the 6/24-26 "Codorus Blast" (thousands of people, plus fireworks), with 4 continuing thereafter through the end of the period (KL). Two birds were noted to have nearly full adult plumage.

The sole **Ring-necked Pheasant** found was in the northern part of the county, along Rte. 194 on 7/16 (PK). There were three reports of **Wild Turkey** with a high count of 8 (3 adults, 5 poults) from Painter's Mill Road 7/8 (RP). A pair of **Northern Bobwhite** was heard at GPSP on 7/16 (BM). **Double-crested Cormorants** were at three locations with a high of 8 at BI 7/16 (PB, MM). **Great Blue Heron** reports were widespread, and the 30+ nest colony at SPGR remained intact despite an episode of high winds in the immediate vicinity. **Great Egrets** were at six locations with a high of 10 at LR 7/25-27 (RS). A single **Snowy Egret** was at BI 7/20 (LC). High count for **Green Heron** was 12 at LR 7/31 (RP). **Black-crowned Night-Heron** were at five locations and, expectedly, the high count of 16 came from the KI rookery 6/6 (AD). An immature **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was at BI from 7/26-31 (LC, RC).

Although **Osprey** nesting, egg-laying, and hatching took place at

CSP there was not a successful fledge. The nest was apparently abandoned, likely due to either human activity in the area or predation. Despite the efforts of staff and volunteers, the posted "no entrance" perimeter was compromised by kayakers and boaters from time to time. In contrast, the two nest sites at BI were believed to be successful. York saw gains in the **Bald Eagle's** recovery with ten nests documented by the Pennsylvania Game Commission. The "Harley eagles" further cemented their celebrity status when they were acknowledged as the reason for delaying a PennDOT Rte. 30 project until the nestlings fledged. A **Northern Harrier** report, rare for this period, came from LW 7/18 (CK).

Seven shorebird species were reported, with most from the LR boardwalk. Of note: 4 **Lesser Yellowlegs** 7/19 (RP) at LR, 9 **Semipalmated Sandpiper** at BI 7/31 (CH), a straggling **Least Sandpiper** 6/7 (RC) at LR, and 25 **Least Sandpiper** and a **Pectoral Sandpiper** at LR 7/19 (RC). There were 2 **Great Black-backed Gulls** at BI 7/31 (CH) and 2 **Caspian Terns** at CSP 7/26 (RC).

It was a good period for **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** with reports from five locations. Three **Barred Owls** were found at GPSP 7/11 (RS).

The spring period saw some good **Acadian Flycatcher** numbers from the Lock 12 area, and these continued with a count of 7 on 7/12 (CS). **Vireo** reports were somewhat above average: **White-eyed** at two locations, **Yellow-throated** at four locations, and **Warbling** at two locations with 6 found at BI 6/7 (RK). A nice count of 40 **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** came from BI 7/16 (PB, MM). A trio of **Bank Swallows** were at BI 7/4 (CH) and SPGR had a colony in a lime mud bank resulting from a lime kiln operation. The peak count was likely around 20 birds the week of 6/13 (PK) and had dropped off to 8 on 7/10 (PK, RP). This journal's records show the last reported York colony was in a flyash bank at BI in the late 1990s. That site disappeared due to environmental regulations and the SPGR colony site faces an uncertain future for the same reason.

A **Veery** was at GPSP 6/27 (DN). There were 11 warbler species reported. **Northern Parula** was at four locations. A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was at McCormick's Mill 6/14 (CR). A **Pine Warbler** was found at LW 6/4 (RP). The lower Susquehanna River has gained a reputation for good **Prothonotary Warbler** habitat, and they were found at BI and Gut Road. The BI site had 4 birds 6/7 (RK) and 3 on 7/4 (RK), and one was at Gut Road on the same day. Away from the river, a single bird was seen at LR 7/14 (RS). A **Hooded Warbler** was at SUNN 7/5 (RP). **Yellow-breasted Chat** were at BI 7/4 (RK), LW 6/4 (RP), and again found at LW with 2 birds 6/20-7/6 (MM).

The expected sparrow species were found, although not frequently reported. A single **Vesper Sparrow** was at ALT 6/4 (RP). ALT also provided the **Savannah Sparrow** sightings with a high count of 4 6/5 (RP). Four **Grasshopper Sparrow** were at ALT 6/5 (RP) and 7/15 (RC).

A **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was found along Gut Road 7/4 (RK). **Blue Grosbeak** were found at Kopp Road 6/12 (PJR) and 2 were at BI 7/18 (RC). **Eastern Meadowlark** reports were all from ALT with a high count of 5 on 7/15 (RC). **Orchard Orioles** were found at four locations, also with a high count of 5 at BI 6/7 (RK). A nice count of 6 **Baltimore Orioles** came from Lock 15 on 6/13 (TA).

Observers: Phil Keener, 198 Jacob Street, East Berlin, PA 17316, (717) 259-9984, pittche74@yahoo.com, Tom Amico, Paul Banks Jr., Tim Becker, Lou Carpenter, Richard Cleary, Art Drauglis, Carolyn Hoffman, Chuck Kling, Ramsay Koury, Karen Lippy, Mark Markiewicz, Terry Miller, Bob Moul, Dean Newhouse, Randy Phillips, Chris Rebert, Peter Robinson (PJR), Christian Schwarz, Robin Smith.

IN FOCUS



Merlin juveniles, Lycoming County. See p. 182. (Photo by Wayne Laubscher)



Summer Tanager male, Allegheny County. See p. 167. (Photo by Geoff Malosh)



White Ibis and Sandhill Crane, Northampton County. See p. 183. (Photo by Dustin Welch)



Summer Tanager female, Allegheny County. See p. 167. (Photo by Geoff Malosh)

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

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