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In Focus ... Inside Back Cover

Cover: **Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*)**. Surprising enough in its own right, this Tropical Kingbird, Pennsylvania's first, showed up at the very unexpected date of 20 June 2013 at the Gray's Ferry Crescent Trail, *Philadelphia*. Though present only for a single day, it was enjoyed by many Philadelphia-area birders. (George Armistead)

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Snowy Owls on the move

As I write this in early December (following one of the colder Novembers in recent memory, by the way) news is coming in from across northeastern North America of a major invasion of Snowy Owls. Huge numbers of owls have been recorded in the Great Lakes region and throughout northeastern North America. There was even a remarkable report of a single-day count of 138 Snowy Owls near Cape Race, Newfoundland on 1 December. Here here in Pennsylvania, there have already been sightings at several locations in eastern and central Pennsylvania, and nearly daily sightings, sometimes of multiple birds, on the lakeshore in Erie County. The owls in Erie appear to be changing over from day to day, probably indicative of birds that are actively on the move and migrating along the lakeshore. Pennsylvania birders have been flocking to Gull Point and many other locations to catch a glimpse of these remarkable owls while they have the chance.

By the time you read this it will be late December and perhaps by then, many more Snowies will be found in our state. Be on the lookout! Snowy Owl, especially in a year like this, is the kind of bird that might appear anywhere at any time. Of course open fields, farms, and strip mines with prominent perches (for example, farm buildings and silos) are prime locations to search, but they have been found in even in heavily urban environments—like the one that spent a few days on rooftops on Pittsburgh's North Side in March 2009. There really is no telling where one might show up. If you're an active county lister looking to add a nice species to your home county's list, or are merely enthusiastic about seeing these amazing birds, as we all are, it would be a good idea to keep your eyes open everywhere you go this winter. It remains to be seen just how many Snowy Owls come our way this year, but it already has the

makings of a record-breaking year. With any luck, some (or many!) of them will eventually stop here and successfully winter in Pennsylvania.

PAMC

The results of the 22nd Pennsylvania Migration Count are published in this issue. Established as part of the North American Migration Count in 1992, PSO has supported and facilitated this project in Pennsylvania since its inception, and it is certainly alive and well in the Commonwealth today. There were reports from 66 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties this year, and a total of 983 contributing observers—strong testimony to the ongoing popularity of this project.

PAMC also provides an important opportunity for PSO members who participate in the count. The 983 observers this year far exceeds the current PSO membership total. Next year while you are out in the field on PAMC day, please take the opportunity to tell non-members and new birders about PSO and our sponsorship of the PAMC, and why membership in our organization is a worthwhile thing. We on the PSO Board of Directors are always on the lookout for ways to publicize and promote our organization, and this is something you can help with too. PAMC offers an excellent opportunity to reach out to hundreds of new birders and help them learn about PSO for the first time.

PA Birdlists

It's that time of year again. If you are interested in seeing your Pennsylvania Life List, County Lists, and Annual List totals published in *Pennsylvania Birds*, count up your 2013 numbers now and send them to our Birdlists editor Peter Robinson, pabirder@hotmail.com. The Birdlists remains one of our most popular features, and participation is always impressive. Certainly there were a few chances at rare birds this year, with

the second Pennsylvania records of (very cooperative) Black-chinned Hummingbird and MacGillivray's Warbler both coming within a few days of each other in November, and a totally unexpected mid-summer Tropical Kingbird in June (see page 147 and the cover of this issue). Good birding!

Compiler News

We still have several counties without a compiler. Some details about what it takes to be a successful county compiler were published in this space in the previous issue. If you think you are up to the task, and want to contribute to the very important work of documenting the official ornithological record of the state of Pennsylvania, please contact me.

Counties with no compiler include Cameron, Columbia, Elk (which has never had a compiler during my tenure...), Lawrence, McKean, Montour, Northumberland, Potter, Union, Tioga, and Warren. Most of these counties, at minimum, have several contributing eBirders, and they all have contributing PAMC birders... so there are certainly sightings happening in these places that deserve to be reported in the official record here.

Geoff Malosh
Editor-in-Chief

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Breeding Ruddy Duck and Pied-billed Grebe in Northampton County

Michael Schall

Making a great discovery does not always involve finding a rare bird. Corinne and I were in the midst of an enjoyable Pennsylvania big day on 6 July 2013, working a route that had us check the ponds on Gremar Rd. in Lower Nazareth Twp. We were hoping the Ruddy Ducks and Pied-billed Grebe that had been seen in June had decided not to migrate, since any lingering waterfowl are important additions on a big day. It turned out there was an adult Pied-billed Grebe, and several young juveniles near the far end of the pond! This discovery needed documentation, so I grabbed the camera from the car and cautiously made my way toward the back corner of the pond using the cattails as cover. There was a surprise awaiting me as I peeked over the top of some bushes for a look. Instead of a young grebe, there was a family of Ruddy Ducks in the small cove! Five small chicks swam close to an adult female, with a male a few feet away. I spent the next half hour photographing the family of six and a second adult male that was there. The chicks appeared to be less than a week old. The Pied-billed Grebe family consisted of an adult with 4 small juveniles.

Late that night I learned that Ruddy Ducks are not regular nesters in Pennsylvania. I expected to find a few colored squares in the *Second Atlas of Breeding Birds of Pennsylvania*, but there were none. A search of literature showed that nesting occurred at Glenn Morgan Lake in Berks County in 1997 and 1998 (McWilliams and Brauning 2000), and in 2001, a female with 5 half-grown young were seen near the spillway at the Pymatuning Reservoir, suggesting nesting occurred there prior to the second atlas (Wilson, Brauning, and Mulvihill 2012).

Of note at Gremar Rd. was the fact that these Ruddy Ducks were nesting alongside other rare waterbirds, which provided a great opportunity to monitor the progress of breeding Ruddy Duck and Pied-billed Grebe in Pennsylvania. The Trio Fields development on Gremar Rd. was an ongoing construction site in the summer of 2013, but the commotion of home building near the ponds did not affect nesting. There were also no barriers or fences around the ponds. Despite this, we decided not to publicize our discovery, to keep the disturbance to the birds as minimal as possible.

On 24 May, I had seen two pairs of Ruddy Ducks at Gremar Rd. ponds. The two males were displaying and slapping their chests with their blue bills. This did not necessarily mean the Ruddy Ducks would nest here—migrant waterfowl occasionally display while on migration,

but do eventually continue on to their traditional breeding grounds. There was also one Pied-billed Grebe on the pond that day. The only time that I had seen more than one Pied-billed Grebe was 28 April, when two were present. When I checked the pond again on 7 June, the grebe was absent and there was one female and two male Ruddy Ducks. The big discovery occurred at 13:25 on 6 July, a warm sunny day. When approached, the Ruddy Ducks swam away but did not dive, and they allowed a few good photos. While the Ruddy Ducks stayed close together, the Pied-billed Grebes were spread out and could dive short distances.

Ruddy Ducks have an incubation period of 23-26 days, normally with 6-10 offspring. The precocial young stay on the nest for one day. The female stays close and watches over them for two to four weeks. The male puts forth little parental investment. Independence occurs 50-55 days after hatching.

The incubation period for Pied-billed Grebe is 23-27 days with a clutch of 2-10. In the south, some pairs may raise 2 broods. Both parents incubate the eggs and precocial chicks leave the nest immediately and are able to swim and dive. The young may be fed up to 10 weeks after hatching. Independence from parents is 25-62 days (Gooders and Boyer 1986). Pied-billed Grebe is not a common nester in Pennsylvania. During the second breeding bird atlas there were 26 confirmed records. Nesting has primarily occurred in the northwest and rarely in the southeast (Wilson, et al. 2012).

On 12 July, the 3 adult Ruddy Ducks and their 5 young appeared to be doing well with the chicks close to the female. There were now 7 young Pied-billed Grebes. We observed the adult grebe charge the adult Ruddy Ducks when a juvenile got too close. On 20 July, a Ruddy Duck chick was missing and the second adult male was not seen. The other chicks continued to stay close to the female. The adult Pied-billed Grebe and 7 juvenile grebes were actively diving. There was an obvious size variation amongst the 7 juvenile grebes. We observed one juvenile fly just above the surface about 30m with its feet hanging down the entire distance.

A change occurred on 29 July. The remaining adult male Ruddy Duck was not seen and there were only 5 juvenile grebes. I photographed a young grebe fly across the surface of the pond never gaining any altitude. Perhaps a few of the older grebes left or they may have been hiding in vegetation or have died.

A surprise was waiting on my visit 2 Aug—a second clutch of grebes. I had not seen an adult in 13 days and now there

was an adult with 2 new young. We watched the adult feed a young chick that was a just few days old. The adult female Ruddy Duck and its 4 youngsters would swim away or dive when approached. The juveniles still had a patch of down feathers on their backs.

For the first time I observed two adult Pied-billed Grebes on 4 Aug, along with two young. The second adult was diving for food at the far end of the pond while the young stayed close to the other adult. I saw both adult grebes again 6 Aug, but one of the grebe chicks had perished and the second adult was gone 8 Aug. On 10 Aug; I noticed that two juvenile grebes had flown over to the smaller pond. An individual caught a young bullfrog that still had its tail. After tearing several pieces off the frog, the other grebe took control and ate its share. On 12 Aug, the 5 Ruddy Ducks, adult Pied-billed Grebe with chick and the four juvenile grebes all continued.

The juvenile Ruddy Ducks and juvenile Pied-billed Grebes discovered on 6 July were at least 50 days old by the time I checked the ponds 23 Aug. A grebe on the small pond caught a frog and I observed two juvenile grebes fly short distances across the pond. By this time I could not distinguish the adult female Ruddy Duck from its 4 offspring. There was no attempt at flight by the Ruddy Ducks during my observations.

It will be interesting to see if nesting occurs in 2014. By then the homes under construction will be complete and human activity at the ponds will surely increase.

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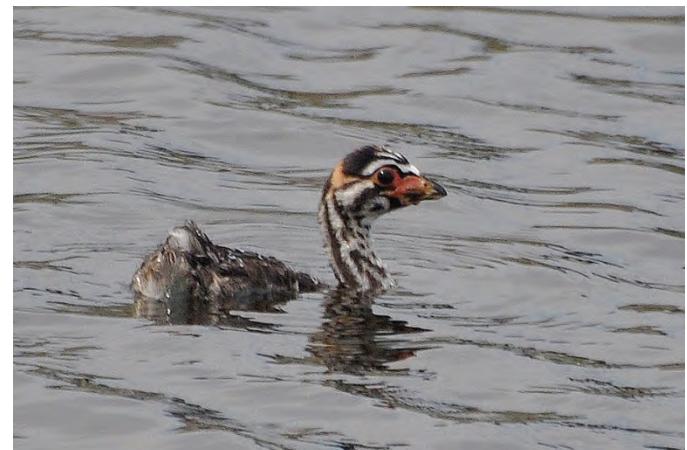
Adult female Ruddy Duck (at right) with five young, 6 July 2013 at Gremar Road, *Northampton*.



Ruddy Duck family portrait, five young led by adult female (at right) and adult male at the rear, 12 July 2013 at Gremar Road, *Northampton*.



Two hatchling Pied-billed Grebes, 7 July 2013 at Gremar Road, *Northampton*.



Hatchling Pied-billed Grebe 2 August 2013, offspring of a second nesting at Gremar Road, *Northampton*.



Five Ruddy Duck young, 12 July 2013 at Gremar Road, *Northampton*.



Juvenile Pied-billed Grebe 12 August 2013, offspring of the first nesting at Gremar Road, *Northampton*.

(All photos by Michael Schall)

Summary of the 2012 Dickcissel Invasion

Kathy Korber

There was nothing inconspicuous about the Dickcissel invasion in Pennsylvania in the summer of 2012. It was very well documented, with a total of 185 observations submitted to eBird, the PABIRDS listerv, and personal reports. Reports of this irruptive species, a state endangered songbird and rare breeder, began in early May as a trickle of sightings, but by mid-June the number of birds being reported was remarkable. They were often first detected by its unmistakable song, a "dick dick ciss ciss cissel" that stands out among the more common Pennsylvania grassland songsters—the familiar backdrop of Field and Grasshopper sparrows, Eastern Kingbirds, Eastern Meadowlarks, and Bobolinks. On territory, male Dickcissels conspicuously sing conspicuously from high vantage points. Birders reported Dickcissels using thistle and other seed heads of tall weeds, prominent shrubs, fence posts, barbwire fencing, power lines, and conifer treetops as singing posts.

The summer of 2012 may have topped the dramatic invasion of 1988, when Dickcissels were recorded in 10 counties across western Pennsylvania. A more recent but less dramatic invasion occurred across nine southern counties in 1996, and another event nearly 70 years earlier, in 1928, which covered eastern states from New Jersey to South Carolina. In 2012, at least 20 of the state's 67 counties recorded Dickcissels: Adams, Allegheny, Berks, Centre, Chester, Clarion, Clearfield, Crawford, Cumberland, Franklin, Fulton, Indiana, Jefferson, Lancaster, Lawrence, Lebanon, Mercer, Montgomery, Northampton, and York. One site in Northampton had a singing male visit a feeder over the course of 11 days in late March and early April.

Several counties hosted small colonies of Dickcissels. As many as eight birds were observed at the Cullsville strips in Clarion. Other areas had high counts as well, with a half dozen birds recorded at multiple sites. Reclaimed surface mines, planted in grasses and forbs, were "hotspots" with the highest numbers of birds. In addition to Cullsville, the Volant strips in Lawrence and the West Lebanon strips in Indiana had four and six singing males, respectively.

The Dickcissel's range expansion north and east this year was likely in response to weather conditions which dictate food availability in the core of its breeding range. In past years, drought in the central Great Plains and Midwest was a major factor for such invasions, and drought was certainly prevalent in the Midwest in 2012 as well.

In Pennsylvania, Dickcissels were

observed at 27 locations within the breeding bird atlas safe dates of 1 June to 31 July, and at six additional locations in May. Male birds were reported singing in all but one of those six locations. They were reported on four State Game Lands: SGL 54 (*Jefferson*), SGL 214 and the Pymatuning Wildlife Management Area (*Crawford*), SGL 284 (*Lawrence*), and SGL 46, Middle Creek W.M.A. (*Lancaster*). Dickcissels were also found in areas near or at the outer fringes of SGL 270 (*Mercer*) and SGL 169 (*Cumberland*).

Erie N.W.R. was another *Crawford* site. Both of these—Pymatuning W.M.A. and Erie N.W.R.—are designated Important Bird Areas. Of the 49 reports in *Lancaster*, 35 were made at Middle Creek W.M.A., also a designated Important Bird Area and a wildlife viewing hotspot in the region. Publicly managed lands such as Middle Creek W.M.A., Pymatuning W.M.A. and Erie N.W.R. are vital refuges for obligate-grassland birds like the Dickcissel, Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark, and Henslow's Sparrow, as well as other birds associated with grassland habitat, such as Sedge Wren, Northern Harrier, Short-eared Owl, and Northern Bobwhite. Nationally, loss of habitat has caused grassland birds to decline at a greater rate than any other group of birds. Quality grassland habitat continues to shrink due to expanding development, conversion of land for other uses, and invasive plants. Even in suitable habitat, overgrazing and early and frequent mowing of hayfields takes a significant toll on nesting birds. Public lands managed for wildlife provide reliable nesting and wintering habitat.

Many birders provided detailed

habitat descriptions and land use information, contributing to a better understanding of Dickcissel habitat preference. They were found in a range of grasslands and farmlands, as well in brushy fields, alfalfa fields, fallow fields, weedy hay fields, pastures with a mix of grass and forbs, reclaimed surface mines in various stages of succession, clearings with forbs, and a scrubby ravine.

Probably the most useful data submitted—information that increased the scientific value of a record—were breeding codes, which were provided by 20 birders. Nesting was confirmed at four sites: Cullsville (*Clarion*), West Lebanon Area (*Indiana*), Middle Creek W.M.A. (*Lancaster*), and an area in northern *Montgomery*. These confirmations very likely do not reflect all breeding activity that took place throughout the state, but rather the challenge of verifying breeding for this species. It often takes time, persistence, and several return visits to confirm breeding. Many reports identified male Dickcissels singing on territory or pairs in close proximity, two behaviors which indicate probable nesting, but few observations were made of a bird carrying nesting material or food, or of fledglings spotted in the vicinity—the truly convincing evidence of breeding. Repeat visits by birders at several locations also revealed habitat alteration by mowing or harvesting of hay, and the Dickcissels were no longer found at the site.

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Singing male Dickcissel at Garrett Road, Mercer, 4 Jun 2012. (Photo by Geoff Malosh)

Pennsylvania's First Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*)

George L. Armistead

On the unlikely date of 20 June 2013, Alexander Zorach was birding the newly developed Gray's Ferry Crescent Trail of Philadelphia when he happened upon a yellow-bellied kingbird. By mid-day he posted several images to the *Facebook Birders* page, writing, "I saw this highly unusual bird at Gray's Ferry Crescent Trail today. Looks a bit like a Western Kingbird, which would be rare enough, but I think this may actually be a Couch's or Tropical Kingbird..." Alex was entirely correct, and his discovery touched off excitement and great wonder among the southeastern Pennsylvania birding community. The kingbird was perhaps the most exciting vagrant to grace Philly in decades, a city that was the cradle of American ornithology.

Any yellow-bellied kingbird in Pennsylvania is noteworthy. All to date had proven to be Western Kingbirds, of which there have been 23 accepted records since 1986. But Alex's photos revealed a distinctly long-billed *Tyrannus*, with rich yellow underparts, a greenish chest, a notched olive-brown tail, and dark cheeks. This bird was clearly not a Western Kingbird. Within a few hours of Alex's posting, Philadelphia birders converged on the site to give study to the bird.

Given the plumage and proportions, it seemed straightforward that this individual was a Couch's or a Tropical Kingbird (South American species were considered too), and owing to its bill structure, almost certainly a Tropical. Couch's and Tropical are often so similar to one another that the only way to separate them is through their distinctive vocalizations. Even before this bird was heard, several experts commented that its structure was not consistent with Couch's but certainly was typical for Tropical. The Philly bird did not vocalize frequently, yet was heard a number of times (three times by the author), giving the typical shrill, rising, twittering calls of Tropical Kingbird. These sounds are actually rather more like Gray Kingbird (Mobley 2004) than the squeaky, nasal or exclamatory "breer" calls offered by Couch's, a species that is also less prone to vagrancy. Alex's kingbird had indeed proved to be Pennsylvania's first Tropical Kingbird.

Anytime such a rare vagrant is encountered the first questions are where did it come from, and how did it get here? The answer to both is: no one knows, of course. Some quickly pointed to Tropical Storm Andrea's passage a week earlier as possibly having influenced this bird. But the species is well known for its ability to stray long distances, with records in Alaska and Quebec (Mlodinow 1998). It's just as likely the bird was not associated

with any particular weather system but was just a fluke. It happens.

Most ABA birders associate Tropical Kingbird with Arizona or Texas, but in fact its breeding range spans from those states and south all the way to central Argentina. Most authorities recognize three subspecies: *T. m. satrapa*, breeding from the U.S. to Colombia and Venezuela; *T. m. despotes*, from northeast Brazil; and *T. m. melancholicus*, the austral migrant and nominate form, ranging over most of tropical South America, breeding south to central Argentina, including the range of *T. m. despotes* (Traylor 1979, Stouffer and Chesser 1998).

Both *T. m. satrapa* and the nominate form are migratory, and migratory populations of birds foster more vagrants than resident populations. Given this, it seems reasonable to presume that vagrant Tropical Kingbirds in the northeast come from one of these two widespread populations, but it is hard to say which.

Students of avian vagrancy often reference the congeneric Fork-tailed Flycatcher. Although there are populations of this species relatively close to the U.S. in Mexico, a majority of records in the ABA Area are of the austral migrant form (*T. s. savana*) from South America (McCaskie and Patton, 1994). With that in mind, it has long been wondered whether the same might be true of Tropical Kingbirds straying to the eastern U.S. and Canada. There are perhaps fewer than 15 records of Tropical Kingbird east of the Mississippi River and north of Florida. Most are detected between late October and December, but the Philly bird was discovered 20 June. This date, combined with the bird's relatively fresh plumage, might indicate it was the nominate form hailing from South America. In June, *T. m. melancholicus* often have completed their molt and vacated breeding areas in Argentina or Paraguay to head north for milder climates in Amazonia and perhaps further north. An overly ambitious migrant might fly right past this region, and perhaps aided by favorable tail-winds continue all the way to Pennsylvania, or even beyond.

Yet *T. m. satrapa* is expanding its range. Once considered a rare breeder in west Texas, it is now resident in south Texas, and it is increasing in fall and winter in southern and central coastal California. Since 2005 the species has greatly increased in winter in south Florida and these are believed to be *T. m. satrapa* (*fide* Jon Greenlaw). One pair even bred in Florida (Sarasota) for the first time in 2013. A June record in Pennsylvania of this subspecies could fit a pattern evident in some Middle American

species that are also expanding their ranges (e.g. Black-bellied Whistling-Duck).

Within its typical range, Tropical Kingbird is well known to even non-birders. They perch prominently, call stridently, and often live in close proximity to humans. In the midst of a very large urban space, the Gray's Ferry Crescent Trail hugs the tree-lined eastern bank of the Schuylkill River, and is bordered on the other side by open park space with a biking trail. Indeed, the Crescent Trail in June is a greenway not dissimilar to the Tropical Kingbird's haunts further south.

The Philly bird was not seen after 20 June, and unfortunately for regional birders was a one-day wonder. Perhaps it kept on going all the way to Labrador. We are left to wonder.

Acknowledgements

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Observations from the 2013 Pennsylvania Migration Count (PAMC)

John Fedak and Frank Haas

The 22nd annual Pennsylvania Migration Count occurred on Saturday, 11 May 2013. The weather did not cooperate, but despite this, many birders were able to participate in the count. Here are the numbers for 2013:

- 983 observers (down 85)
- 3198 field hours (up 41.72)
- 225,105 individuals (up 16146)
- 242 species (up 3)
- 66 reporting counties

Participation was mixed this year. The 2013 PAMC set a new high for number of species found, topping the 2002 total of 240 species. Although the numbers of observers dropped slightly; the number of field hours was up, which made up for the slight drop in the number of bodies in the field.

Weather

The weather throughout the state seemed worse than recent years. Temperatures were cool in most of the state. Wind also varied across the state, but was generally moderate to strong with gusts higher than 20mph. There was rain throughout the state, but for most areas it was intermittent, and skies were generally cloudy. This was a year where perseverance paid off. Participants generally had to work harder to find species that are normally can easily find. In some areas, owling was not possible due to the weather.

Bad weather generally means less participation in the count; however, it seemed that even though fewer participants banded, the ones that did went the extra mile to find birds. Field hours were up by over 41 hours, and 16,146 more birds were found compared to last year. Birders tend to do their best no matter what the weather is the day of the count.

Participation

There were 85 fewer birders yet 41.72 more field hours were logged this year than last. Although there were fewer participants, more of the state was covered, with 66 counties reporting. There was a compiler available for the 67th county, but no birders worked it, perhaps due in part to extra effort out forth in primary counties. Pennsylvania birders continue to mount a wonderful effort in the PAMC, yet in the early 2000s, field hours were higher than this year by almost 400 hours.

Franklin had the most participants with 70 observers. **Bucks** followed with 59

and **Indiana** was close behind with 53. Mileage dropped slightly from last year to 11,498 total miles. This is probably due to the drop in the number of participants.

Once again, a concerted was made by the coordinators to publicize the PAMC throughout the year. Announcements were made on the PABIRDS listserv, the PSO website, the PSO Facebook page, and other online outlets dealing with Pennsylvania birds. The effort paid off. It was good to see so many participate in the inclement weather, and to see reports from 66 counties. This was also good news in the midst of some of the recent environmental news across the state.

Count Highlights

PAMC 2013 yielded new high counts (HC) for 24 species and tied the high count for 7 others. Four new species were found: **Greater White-fronted Goose**, **Pacific Loon**, **American Avocet**, and **Red Phalarope**. Since 1992, a total of 294 species have been found on the count. The four new species were all single birds.

American Restarts topped its former HC by 118, with 2118. **Carolina Wrens** seemed to make a nice comeback this year with a new HC of 1675. **Hooded Warblers** surpassed its old HC by 102 with 828 found. **Pine Siskins** more than doubled their old count with 701 recorded. **Northern Parula**, **Veery**, **Hairy Woodpecker**, **Common Tern**, **Belted Kingfisher**, **Common Merganser**, **Forster's Tern**, **Bald Eagle**, **Cape May Warbler**, **White-winged Crossbill**, **Gray-cheeked Thrush**, **Barn Owl**, **Prothonotary Warbler**, **Upland Sandpiper**, **Fox Sparrow**, **Black Tern**, and **Merlin** all surpassed their high counts. **Peregrine Falcon**, **Greater Scaup**, **Sandhill Crane**, **Summer Tanager**, **Stilt Sandpiper**, **Arctic Tern**, and **Trumpeter Swan** all tied their high counts. It was a pretty good year to observe migrants in the state.

However, 119 species fell below their average count numbers. Waterfowl seemed to have passed through the state by count day so it is not surprising that a number of these species were below average. At the same time, shorebirds and flycatchers were just arriving. Nocturnal species were also low, likely due to the weather the night of the count. **American Kestrels** showed a decline, a species that bears watching. Only 459 **Cedar Waxwings** were recorded in the state, well below their average. It also seemed that some of our grassland species were low as well. Interestingly, **House Finch** and **House Sparrow** were both below their average, and possibly overlooked.

Lancaster had the most species of any county with 171. **Bucks** tallied the highest number of individual birds with 14,379.

Table 1. Top 10 counties by field hours

County	Hours
Franklin	208
Indiana	178
Bucks	170
Lancaster	140
Westmoreland	125
Juniata	110
Allegheny	108
Berks	105
Montgomery	100
Bradford	97

Table 2. Top 10 counties by participants

County	Participants
Franklin	70
Bucks	59
Indiana	53
Chester	45
Westmoreland	39
Juniata	36
Lancaster	36
Bedford	34
Bradford	33
Centre	32

Geese through Ducks

Sixty **Snow Geese** were counted with 22 in **Northampton**. The **Greater White-fronted Goose**, new to the count, was in **Bedford**. **Canada Goose** was just above average at 7747 in 64 counties, compared to an average of 7733. Single **Trumpeter Swans** were found in **Bedford** and **Lancaster**.

Seventeen species of waterfowl were found in below average numbers, including **Mallards**. Only 12 **American Black Ducks** were located, all in **Bucks**. Four **Northern Shovelers** were located in **Erie**. Nine **Gadwall** included 4 in **Somerset**. Only 2 **Northern Pintails** were found, both in **Crawford**. **Canvasback** was not found. Single late **Surf Scoters** were in **Northumberland** and **Carbon**. A total of 94 **Wood Ducks** were found in **Juniata** County, almost 10% of the 974 located in the state.

The exception to the low waterfowl numbers was **Common Merganser**—301 were located in 38 counties, with 23 in **Bucks** leading the way. **Hooded Mergansers** were above average with 80; 20 of which were located in **Crawford**.

Fowl through waders

Ruffed Grouse were found in lower numbers than last year, with 95 in 29 counties. **Centre** and **Indiana** each had 12. Fifteen of 81 **Ring-necked Pheasant**

were in *Franklin*. Four total **Northern Bobwhites** included 2 in *Centre* and 2 in *Bedford*—probably released birds.

Montour produced 57 **Common Loons**, and *Lebanon* reported a **Pacific Loon**, a new count species and just the fifth ever for Pennsylvania, if accepted by PORC. *Bedford* tallied 5 of 26 total **Pied-billed Grebes**. One **Great Cormorant** was found this year, in *Bucks*. A total of 1555 **Double-crested Cormorants** were tallied in 45 counties, with 293 in *Bucks*.

Only 2 **Least Bitterns** were found, both in *Cumberland*, and 6 **American Bitterns** were found in 5 counties. Two **Little Blue Herons** were observed, one each in *Bucks* and *Westmoreland*. *Cumberland* tallied 50 **Black-crowned Night-Herons** of the 136 found on the count. There were 78 **Great Egrets** found, with 14 surprisingly located in the western county of *Butler*. The only **Snowy Egret** was in *Bucks*.

Table 3. Most abundant species

Species	Individuals
American Robin	14679
Red-winged Blackbird	11780
European Starling	11308
Common Grackle	9127
Canada Goose	7747
Gray Catbird	7454
Barn Swallow	7215
Tree Swallow	6780
Blue Jay	6759
American Crow	4906

Table 4. Birds per party hour

County	Total Birds	Birds/Hr.
Lebanon	4645	422
Northumberland	4397	220
Fayette	3162	117
Lawrence	1711	114
Cumberland	10686	114
Schuylkill	7488	109
Columbia	857	107
Philadelphia	3909	106
Blair	2089	104
Venango	2670	99

Vultures, raptors

A total of 2598 **Turkey Vultures** were observed in 65 counties, and 62 **Black Vultures** out of 428 total were found in *Chester*. A nice count of 181 **Ospreys** was reported from 45 counties. **Bald Eagles** are continuing to increase, with a new HC of 262 in 51 counties, 35 in *Crawford* alone. Forty **Northern Harriers** were found with 4 each in *Crawford* and *Monroe*. One **Northern Goshawk** was found in *McKean*. A total of 41 **Red-shouldered Hawks** were found with 7 in *Crawford*. There were 118 **Broad-winged Hawks** in 39 counties, and 46 out of 686 **Red-tailed Hawks** were located in *Juniata*.

Falcons also were well represented again this year, including 189 **American**

Kestrels, but numbers of this species continue to drop. Fifteen **Merlins** set a new HC, with 2 each in *Bradford*, *McKean*, and *Crawford*. Again this year, 25 **Peregrines** tied the HC, with 4 of them in *Clinton*.

Rails and shorebirds

Eleven **Sandhill Cranes** tied the HC with 4 each in *Wyoming* and *Crawford*. Only 20 **American Coots** were seen, in 11 counties. Thirteen **Common Moorhens** were located with 5 in the wetlands of *Crawford*. Likewise, 43 **Virginia Rails** were found with 12 in *Crawford*. A total of 30 **Sora** were tallied with 10 of them in *Cumberland*.

Shorebirds were even fewer than last year, which itself was already an off year, but the number of species observed (19) was higher than last year. Twelve **Pectoral Sandpipers** included 4 in *Bedford*. **Killdeer** were up with 778 located in 60 counties, and 54 **Semipalmated Plover** were found with 20 found in *Lancaster*. Single **Black-bellied Plovers** were observed in *Huntington* and *Indiana*. Eighteen **Upland Sandpipers** constituted a new high count, on the strength of 8 in *Butler*. A nice total of 584 **Least Sandpipers** included 160 in *Lancaster*. The unpredictable **Short-billed Dowitcher** came in with a total of 51, with 37 in *Somerset*. The count of **Spotted Sandpiper** was 717 in 56 counties, with 108 in *Juniata*. Twenty-nine of 292 **Solitary Sandpipers** were found in *Lancaster*. Eight **White-rumped Sandpipers** included 3 in *Bedford*. Yellowlegs appeared in bulk in the high mountains of south-central Pennsylvania; 64 of the 149 **Lesser Yellowlegs** were in *Somerset*, and 25 of 105 **Greater Yellowlegs** were in *Bedford*. Eighteen of just 41 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were in *Cumberland*, and 9 of 24 **Dunlin** were located in *Lawrence*. Two **Stilt Sandpipers**, very rare in Pennsylvania in spring, were located in *Lebanon*. Just 20 **Wilson's Snipe** were found, with 4 in *Somerset*. Nine of the total 63 **American Woodcock** were in *Luzerne*. A **Red Phalarope** was observed in *Franklin* and an **American Avocet** was found in *Lancaster*.

Gulls and terns

With the exception of **Herring Gull** and **Great Black-backed Gull**, gulls were lower this year. The total of 1789 **Ring-billed Gulls** was bolstered by 836 in *Lancaster*, and all but 14 of the 1656 total **Laughing Gulls** were found in *Bucks*. This number was below average but still above last year's count. *Bucks* also had 550 of the 635 **Herring Gulls** reported. Forty-three **Bonaparte's Gulls**

were found in 9 counties, with *Juniata* hosting 14. Two **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were found with *Bucks*, and 92 **Great Black-backed Gulls** included 86 in *Bucks*. A single **Iceland Gull** was also in *Bucks*.

Five tern species were found on the 2013 PAMC. Thirteen of the 24 **Caspian Terns** were located in *Indiana*. A whopping 334 **Common Terns** were found, compared to just 2 last year, with 146 in *Butler*, and 167 out of 299 **Forster's Terns** were in *Somerset*. Surely both of these species were impacted by the foul weather, as both tend to appear in numbers on Pennsylvania lakes and rivers during inclement conditions in spring. An **Arctic Tern** was recorded in *Bucks*, and 16 **Black Terns** included 3 each in *Franklin* and *Somerset*.

Doves through nightjars

A total of 2686 **Rock Pigeon** was reported from 58 counties. Seven **Eurasian Collared-Doves** were reported from *Franklin* again this year. **Mourning Doves** were reported in all 66 reporting counties, with *Franklin* contributing 433 of the 4830 total. This was one of only three species reported in all 66 counties. There were 131 **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** found with 22 in *Cumberland*, which also had 8 of the 70 **Black-billed Cuckoos** observed.

Another new HC for a declining species was established with the 33 **Barn Owls** in 5 counties; 16 were in *Cumberland*. However, most nocturnal species were underreported or not reported at all, due to adverse weather during the nighttime hours. No Northern Saw-whet Owls were reported this year after a high count last year. Sixty-three **Barred Owls** were reported with 15 in *Cumberland*. Just 60 **Great Horned Owls** were reported from 27 counties and 66 **Eastern Screech-Owls** were found in 30 counties. A total of 99 **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were recorded on the count with 25 in *Huntington*. Just 31 **Common Nighthawks** were headed by 7 in *Northumberland*.

Swifts through swallows

Allegheny reported 465 of the 2925 **Chimney Swifts** that were found across 56 counties. *Bedford* reported 45 of this year's 605 **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds**. The new HC of 322 **Belted Kingfishers** were widespread, with the top county (*Juniata*) reporting just 20.

Franklin had 15 of the 64 **Red-headed Woodpeckers** on the 2013 PAMC, and *Bucks* had 165 of the 1778 **Red-bellied Woodpeckers**. A total of 132 **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were reported, with 27 from *McKean*. There

were 436 **Pileated Woodpeckers** in 63 of the 66 counties. Eighty-two **Northern Flickers** were reported in *Indiana* of 1191 observed statewide. Sixty-two of 942 **Downy Woodpeckers** were in *Bucks* and 27 of 341 **Hairy Woodpeckers** (a new HC) were in *Montgomery*.

Lebanon, *Mercer*, and *Monroe* each reported an **Olive-sided Flycatcher**. Four **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were comprised of one each in *Chester*, *Schuylkill*, *Westmoreland*, and *Indiana*. **Eastern Wood-Pewee** was tallied in 39 counties. *Crawford* had 3 of 9 **Alder Flycatchers**, and *Bucks* had 6 of 48 total **Willow Flycatchers**. There were 170 **Least Flycatchers** found with 28 in *Wayne*. Urbanized *Chester* reported 20 of the 119 **Acadian Flycatchers**. A total of 1066 **Eastern Phoebes** were recorded in 63 counties, with 77 in *Juniata*, and 584 **Great Crested Flycatchers** included 67 in *Bucks*. There were 821 **Eastern Kingbirds** with 76 in *Lancaster*. Only 3 species of flycatcher were above their count average: **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**, **Eastern Phoebe**, and **Eastern Kingbird**.

Vireos also seemed to be lagging in their migration by the time PAMC came around. **Warbling Vireos** numbered 775 with 105 in *Montgomery*. *Juniata* tallied 290 out of 3243 of the **Red-eyed Vireos**—well below last year's HC of 5690. Red-eyed Vireos were recorded in 63 counties. A total of 256 **Yellow-throated Vireos** were found in 48 counties with 33 in *Juniata*, and 155 **White-eyed Vireos** were found in 30 counties with 20 in *Chester*. Hard to find in spring, 9 **Philadelphia Vireos** were found, with 2 each from *Juniata* and *Somerset*. *McKean* had 25 of the 239 **Blue-headed Vireos**.

A total of 6759 **Blue Jays** were reported from 65 counties, 4906 **American Crows** were recorded in 65 counties, and 205 Common Ravens were observed, 17 of which were in *Franklin*. There were 271 **Horned Larks** were with 56 in *Lancaster*.

Tree Swallow tallied at 6780 which was above the count average; *Venango* accounted for 440. *Lancaster* had the highest number of **Purple Martins** with 355 out of 1649. **Barn Swallow**, one of the top ten most numerous species again this year, was seen in 63 counties. *Bedford* had 200 of the 1151 **Cliff Swallows**, *Bucks* had 96 of the 388 **Bank Swallows**, and there were 1877 **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** observed with urbanized *Allegheny* leading with 239.

Chickadees through waxwings

A total of 715 **Carolina Chickadees** were reported in 19 counties, with 133 in *Bucks*, and 1278 **Black-capped Chickadees** were reported in 58 counties with 131 in *Indiana*. There were 64 counties reporting 2249 total **Tufted**

Titmouse. *Potter* recorded 13 of 72 **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, and *Franklin* had 7 of 48 **Brown Creepers**.

Thirty-four **Winter Wrens** were located with 6 in *Luzerne*. Surprisingly, *Philadelphia* accounted for 13 out of the 26 **Marsh Wrens** found during the count. The 1675 **Carolina Wrens** in 63 counties was a high count, with 165 in *Lancaster*, and 1498 **House Wrens** were located in 63 counties, with *Bucks* contributing 153. There were 165 **Ruby-crowned Kinglets**—a big improvement from last year. *Juniata* had 29 of these. *McKean* reported 10 of the 43 **Golden-crowned Kinglets** found on count day. A total of 1387 **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** were recorded with 55 in *Cumberland*. **Eastern Bluebird** was reported from 65 counties with 1602 reported; *Franklin* had 190. **Veery** and **Gray-checked Thrush** saw new high counts mainly on the strength of *Cumberland*'s results, which were 31 of the 35 **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** and 228 out of the 630 **Veeries**. A total of 140 **Swainson's Thrush** also included 46 in *Cumberland*. Twenty-five **Hermit Thrushes** were found in *McKean* of the 183 found statewide, and 226 of 3402 **Wood Thrushes** were in *Cumberland*. **American Robins** were up from 2012 with 14,679, and was one three species found in all 66 counties. A total of 148 **American Pipits** were found in 14 counties, with 36 in *Lebanon*.

Gray Catbird tallied at 7454 individuals, with 712 in *Bucks*. *Franklin* had 108 of 793 **Northern Mockingbirds**. *Franklin* also had 71 of the 547 **Brown Thrashers** seen. The total of 459 **Cedar Waxwings** was far short of the 2795 found last year. They were tallied in only 31 counties with 161 in *Franklin*.

Warblers

Thirty-six species of warbler were found on the 2013 PAMC, and five species set new records. **Hooded Warbler** surpassed its old record with a total of 828 individuals. An impressive 94 of these were in *Fayette*. **Prothonotary Warbler** set a new high count of 27 with 12 in *Lancaster*. The passage migrant **Cape May Warbler** had a count of 94, with 24 in *Cumberland*. The total of 2118 **American Redstarts** included 147 in *Cumberland*. *Bucks* had 79 of the 661 **Northern Parulas**. A fine total of 3743 **Ovenbirds** were found with 359 in *Schuylkill*. *Juniata* had 52 out of 294 **Louisiana Waterthrush** and 25 of 169 **Worm-eating Warbler**. Thirty-three of 147 **Northern Waterthrush** were located in *Cumberland*. Just 50 **Golden-winged Warblers** were located with a high of 13 from *Juniata*. **Blue-winged Warblers**, on the other hand, were tallied in 47 counties with *Venango* leading with 25 of 317.

Twenty-eight of the 132 **Tennessee Warblers** came from *Mercer*. *Centre* birders located 15 of the 123 **Nashville Warblers**. The 847 **Black-and-white Warblers** included 90 in *Schuylkill*. *McKean* held 137 of the 471 **Blackburnian Warblers**. The abundant **Yellow Warbler** was found in 62 counties with a total of 3047 tallied, 241 in *Bucks*. The final count of 401 **Magnolia Warblers** included 55 in *Cumberland*, and 738 **Black-throated Blue Warblers** included an impressive 87 in *Bucks*. There were 1990 **Yellow-rumped Warblers**, with 168 in *Berks*. Nearly as impressive, 1461 **Black-throated Green Warblers** were tallied with 114 in *McKean*. Just 35 **Yellow-throated Warblers** were located, with *Allegheny*'s 10 leading the way. There were 77 **Pine Warblers** with 9 of those in *Centre*. A total of 310 **Prairie Warblers** included 38 in *Bucks*.

Franklin had 9 of the 98 **Palm Warblers** seen, and *Cumberland* had 10 of the 60 **Bay-breasted Warblers**. Only 180 **Blackpoll Warblers** with *Philadelphia* taking top honors with 26. *Greene* tallied 23 of the 148 **Cerulean Warblers**, and 10 of 47 **Kentucky Warblers** were in *Fayette* and *Greene*. The only **Connecticut Warbler** was in *Fayette*.

Bucks held 220 of the 3695 **Common Yellowthroats** found across 65 of 66 counties. Forty **Wilson's Warblers** included 4 in *Westmoreland*. A total of 93 **Canada Warblers** were found with 11 in both *Cumberland* and *Montgomery*. *Lancaster* had 14 of the 75 **Yellow-breasted Chats** found in the count.

Sparrows through cardinals

A total of 3614 **Eastern Towhees** were located in 63 counties, with *Indiana* contributing 303. No **Clay-colored Sparrows** were recorded this year. Eighteen of 56 lingering **American Tree Sparrows** were found in County. The total of 3835 **Chipping Sparrows** included 254 in *Franklin*. Fifteen of 39 **Henslow's Sparrows** were in *Butler*. There were 64 counties reporting 1279 **Field Sparrows**; *Juniata* had 89 of these. Twenty-one of just 43 **Vesper Sparrows** were located in *Northumberland*. Counts of this species continue to drop throughout the state, and this year's total was less than its average of 51. There were 224 **Savannah Sparrows** recorded with 32 in *Northumberland*, and 185 **Grasshopper Sparrows** included 28 in *Franklin*.

A total of 302 **Dark-eyed Juncos** were located, with 62 in *McKean*. Forty-two of 570 **White-crowned Sparrows** were tallied in *Franklin*, and 54 of 1846 **White-throated Sparrows** were in *Cumberland*. Sixteen late-staying **Fox Sparrows** set a count high total, with 5 in

Bedford. The total of 3868 **Song Sparrows** spanned 65 counties. **Lincoln's Sparrow** was seen in seven counties, with *Northumberland* contributing 2 of the state's 8. The 310 **Swamp Sparrows** included 38 in *Philadelphia*. No Dickcissels were reported on count day, although this species tends to turn up in Pennsylvania closer to the beginning of June.

This PAMC yielded 6 **Summer Tanagers**, a species still rare enough to qualify as a PORC review species, all of which from *Snyder*. A total of 132 of the 1646 **Scarlet Tanagers** were found in *Cumberland*, and 102 of 1357 **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were located in *Indiana*. Four of 7 **Blue Grosbeaks** were found in *Lancaster*, which also had 370 of 4767 **Northern Cardinals**. **Indigo Buntings** was reported from 58 counties with *Cumberland* contributing 129 of the 1076 found on the count.

Blackbirds through finches

A total of 1412 **Bobolinks** were reported with 213 in *Cumberland*. Sixteen **Rusty Blackbirds**, a species of concern, were reported in five counties with 8 of them in *Bedford*. There were 11,780 **Red-winged Blackbirds** seen in 65 counties; *Westmoreland* had 1023. There were 9127 **Common Grackles** reported in 64 counties and 2413 **Brown-headed Cowbirds** in 63 counties. A total of 566 **Eastern Meadowlarks** were reported from 54 counties with 48 in *Franklin*.

Orchard Orioles were reported from 46 counties with *Montgomery* holding 50 of the 441 seen. There were 3212 **Baltimore Orioles**, with 279 in *Juniata*.

Pine Siskins were reported in an impressive 38 counties, with *McKean* contributing 106 of 701, a new HC. Three **Common Redpolls** were still lingering in the state on count day, as were 25 **Evening Grosbeaks** (18 in *Potter*). *Franklin* had 121 of 1334 **House Finches**, while 277 **Purple Finches** were seen in 41 counties with 42 in *Potter*. The 4689 **American Goldfinches** were located in all 66 counties, one of only three species to be found in all 66 reporting counties. Thirteen **Red Crossbills** included 11 of them in *McKean*. **White-winged Crossbill** set a new HC with 70 birds, all in *Cumberland*.

The PAMC Future

Pennsylvania birders keep proving each year that the PAMC is alive and worthwhile. This year the number of counties participating was up three from last year and was just one short of 100%. This increased the time afield by almost 42 hours, which in a large part helped to increase the total number of birds observed by over 16,000 over last year. Birders in Pennsylvania responded to the call to take up binoculars and responded outstandingly.

Surely we can add the last county? Our goal is always to have 100% county participation. All it takes is one or 2 birders participating to represent the county. Make plans now to participate on PAMC weekend next year and circle May 10th, 2014 on your calendars now. Ask around and start rounding up birding crews. Make it a contest, a game, a fundraiser for local bird clubs... and just make it out to bird on count day!

This count has really only taken off in Pennsylvania. We have over two decades of data that show a snapshot of bird migration here in the state. Against the backdrop of some of the environmental impacts occurring here in Pennsylvania, PAMC is an important effort and Pennsylvania's birders should make an effort to increase participation. We hope to see all 67 counties finally participating next year. The complete data set for the 2013 PAMC is available at <www.pabirds.org>.

A very sincere thank you goes out to all birders who participated in the PAMC this year, whether for the first time or the twentieth. Please note that the 2014 count will take place on **MAY 10, 2014**. Mark your calendars now!

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Hooded Warbler topped its previous PAMC high count by 102 birds in 2013, with a count total of 828.
(Jacob W. Dingle)

BOOK REVIEW

Gene Wilhelm

THE CROSSLEY ID GUIDE: RAPTORS by Richard Crossley, Jerry Liguori, and Brian Sullivan, 101 color plates, 34 color maps, raptor topography, species accounts, mystery photo images and answers, glossary, acknowledgments, index, 7 ½ x 10 in., 304 pp.; published by Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ, 2013, cloth, \$29.95.

What more could anyone ask for than having three foremost raptor experts, Richard Crossley, Jerry Liguori, and Brian Sullivan, as co-authors of this book. It is the first raptor guide using Crossley's acclaimed and innovative composite images that show raptors as they actually appear in nature from all angles. It has 101 stunning color plates with two- or four-page layouts composed from thousands of raptor photographs, and comparative, multispecies images of "mystery species" that allow readers to test their identification skills. Color images of 34 flying raptors on the inside front cover, 34 color maps plus a color map of North America, and raptor ranges on the inside back cover add extra appeal to the book.

Richard Crossley is the award-winning author of *The Crossley ID Guide* reviewed in *Pennsylvania Birds*, Vol. 25, No. 3, pp. 150-151. Internationally acclaimed birder and photographer Jerry Liguori is author of *Hawks from Every Angle* (2005) and *Hawks at a Distance: Identification of Migrant Raptors* reviewed in *Pennsylvania Birds*, Vol. 25, No. 2, pp. 77-78. Liguori has been studying raptors throughout North America for more than 25 years and has conducted hawk counts at numerous spring and autumn migration sites. Brian Sullivan is the co-author of the forth-coming *Princeton Guide to North American Birds*, eBird project leader, photographic editor of the Birds of North America Online at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and photographic editor of *North American Birds*, the journal of ornithological record published by the American Birding Association.

Admittedly, this special guide is intended for beginning and novice diurnal raptor watchers, more commonly known as "hawk watchers", in North America. However, the beautiful book should appeal to a broad spectrum of readers who want to learn more about identifying this majestic group of birds, including nature-lovers, gardeners, adventurers, and conservationists. As Crossley says in the Preface, "this book is designed to be the next best thing to reality." He suggests studying the plates

carefully and fully, and asking, "What do I see?" Training yourself to see and describe a raptor in detail is the key to becoming a better hawk watcher. Each of the 34 species of North America's diurnal raptors is featured in stunning lifelike scenes, which create a complete view or picture. These color plates illustrate males and females, in a full spectrum of ages and color variants, depicted near and far, in flight and at rest, from all possible angles, and in their typical habitats. Scarce and localized species have two photographic accounts while common or widespread species have four such accounts. The pages begin with descriptions of closer and perched birds but progress to more distant birds and views.

The key to raptor identification, especially in spring and autumn migrations at hawk watches, is mastering the distant sizes, shapes, and patterns presented by each species. After each group of similar-looking raptors is described, "mystery photos" follow for testing the birder's skills. This novel exercise both fun and effective, with answers and full explanations in the back of the guide (pp. 261-283). Jerry Liguori and Brian Sullivan give detailed and succinct accounts, which emphasize the key identification features of each species. Even personalities of species are noted in these accounts which help the hawk watcher understand both where and how a raptor lives. Factual data include overview, flight style, size and structure, plumage, geographic variation, molt, similar species, status and distribution, migration, and vocalizations. Finally, the term *cline* is used throughout the text for those raptors that range from light to dark plumages, as opposed to the commonly-used term *morph*, which is supposed to refer to a distinctive form with no geographical overlap.

The Introduction (pp. 7-8) briefly covers migration, molt, and groupings of raptors in North America, the latter subdivided into Vultures (3 species), Eagles (2 species), Osprey (one species), Buteos (12), Accipiters (3 species), Harriers (one species), Kites (5 species), and Falcons (7 species). Raptor Topography follows (pp. 10-11) with a perched Prairie Falcon and Red-tailed Hawk and Northern Harrier in flight, each marked with lines identifying essential parts of the birds. As correctly stated, learning all the feathers and anatomy of raptors will help the neophyte hawk watcher understand their appearance and behavior. Practicing often with the many images in this guide

reinforce what is learned and encourage beginners to take what they learn into the field. At this point a few field hints should be stressed: First, when observing a migrating hawk, always look at the raptor as long as possible and never at your bird guide while the bird is still visible. Second, be patient by taking as much time as possible and keep repeatedly asking "what raptor can it be?" Third, don't rush to a conclusion; instead gradually eliminate possibilities as you watch the bird. Lastly, identify the bird by the process of elimination. Of course the quickest and easiest way to learning raptors in the field is to attach yourself to an experienced and enthusiastic mentor.

Because this guide is intended for beginning hawk watchers, and since the Princeton University Press has published Liguori's *Hawks from Every Angle* and *Hawks at a Distance*, and now *The Crossley Guide: Raptors*, perhaps it would be feasible to include a few outstanding highlights from Liguori's two books: updated maps of Fig. 8a—Fall Hawk Migration Sites and Fig. 8b—Spring Hawk Migration Sites from *Hawks from Every Angle*, and Shapes from *Hawks at a Distance*. The latter are black and white silhouettes that portray the size and shape of migrating raptors in reality, at a distance, with focus placed only on structure. The addition of these "real" images to a revised Crossley guide, and the result would be the ultimate reference to hawk watch identification.

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Summary of the Season – Summer 2013

Daniel Brauning

June was stormy and wet, with record rainfall in the southeast. Tropical Storm Andrea did a glancing blow off eastern Pennsylvania 6/7-8, dropping heavy rain but otherwise did not create any significant events. A wet, unsettled weather pattern 6/27-30 fell over the Northeastern states, and caused daily torrential downpours with flash flooding in northern Pennsylvania. In addition to flooding, the storms packed golf ball-sized hail and damaging winds, and spawned two EF-1 tornadoes 6/27 in central Pennsylvania. The summer grew hot in early July and dryer, with many days in the mid-90s statewide, including the northern counties. Temperatures significantly moderated in the last weeks of July. The month closed out with a storm, particularly in Philadelphia where record rainfall was recorded 7/28-29. Other than weather, southeastern Pennsylvania experienced the periodic cicadas in a few locations, although large numbers of these fascinating insects seemed to be localized.

This summary highlights, as always, a mix of vagrants lingering from spring migration or early arriving in fall, as well as species on nesting territories. The summer season does not often see a new state record, yet 2013 provided not one, but two such birds: **Tropical Kingbird** and **Shiny Cowbird**. The Local Notes highlight many breeding birds, although the vast majority of breeding species are not localized or rare enough to find a place on the Birds of Note, or gain a reference here. Furthermore, breeding birds are on territory, not moving about in a way that draws attention from birders.

But breeding distributions are constantly changing, affected by a host of factors. The recently published *Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in Pennsylvania* (referred here as “Second Atlas”) demonstrates this, documenting many dramatic changes in breeding ranges over just 20 years. This new benchmark is invaluable for evaluating breeding birds reported during the 2013 summer season. We are fully four years since the completion of fieldwork in the Second Atlas and now a year since its publication, which now allows comparisons between each season’s summary with Second Atlas results. Though most breeding ranges do not change rapidly, except the irruptive **Dickcissel**, gradual changes in breeding range are intriguing, such as the first nesting of **Common Mergansers** in *Montgomery*, or territorial **Blackburnian Warblers** newly in *Cumberland*. These local expansions of common birds create broad patterns of interest, worthy of reference even when the unprecedented

first-state record of Tropical Kingbird in Philadelphia gets top billing.

Eighteen species of waterbirds (including grebes) were listed in this year’s Birds of Note—the identical number to 2012, although certainly a different cast of characters. Each year, non-breeding water birds of many species appear in scattered locations, mostly along the Lake Erie at Presque Isle, or along banks of the great Susquehanna and Delaware rivers. Some have no breeding history here, and most observations do not suggest nesting behavior despite the season. Notable among these was a **Surf Scoter** on the lower Susquehanna in *Lancaster* from 6/15-23 (whereas it was a White-winged Scoter a bit upriver in 2012). This appears to be the first June Surf Scoter for Pennsylvania. The reasons for waterfowl lingering into the summer season vary: some remain because they were injured (as speculated for a **Northern Pintail** in *Lebanon*) and though able to survive, probably are not able to undertake the long migrations typical of their kind. Some simply linger from the previous winter territory, as noted in *Lancaster*, where a **Redhead** lingered well into the summer following record numbers on the Susquehanna in winter and spring. Others are just vagrants, such as **Ring-necked Ducks** in *Chester* and *Philadelphia*. We’re just beginning to understand the patterns of the recently-split **Cackling Goose**, as evidenced by the surprise appearance of one in suburban *Washington*.

A few reports of waterfowl point to expanding breeding ranges. **Trumpeter Swan**’s expanding breeding range was outlined in the Second Atlas and this summer’s summering bird in *Crawford* continued to raise possibilities. Presence of 9 **Blue-winged Teal** chicks at Tamarack Lake, *Crawford* provided an encouraging note for this now-rare breeder. But most of these vagrant waterfowl, even pairs of **Green-winged Teal** and **Gadwall** on Presque Isle in *Erie*, or **Lesser Scaup** on a small creek in *Clinton*, do not suggest nesting in those locations; further evidence would be needed. Presque Isle had a remarkable summer for waterfowl; Mark Vass visited the regular hotspots and recorded 18 species of waterfowl and grebes, including: **Canada Goose**, **Mute Swan**, **Trumpeter Swan**, **Wood Duck**, **Gadwall**, **American Black Duck**, **Mallard**, **Blue-winged Teal**, **Green-winged Teal**, **Canvasback**, **Greater Scaup**, **Lesser Scaup**, **Bufflehead**, **Hooded Merganser**, **Ruddy Duck**, **Horned Grebe**, **Western Grebe**, and **Common Loon**.

The above-referenced **Common**

Merganser with 12 juveniles in tow in *Montgomery* was well south of its historic range and the first confirmed breeding evidence for that county and the southeastern corner of the state. Similarly, young mergansers were found on the Conemaugh River (bordering *Indiana* and *Westmoreland*), extending southward their confirmed breeding range also on the western side of the state. At least two **Hooded Merganser** families were found on Memorial Lake in *Lebanon*, where they had not been confirmed during the Second Atlas.

A remarkable number of summering **Ruddy Ducks** were again reported, too many to be listed in Birds of Note. Most notable was confirmation that a pair nested at the Trio Fields Development ponds in Lower Nazareth Twp, *Northampton* where 5 chicks were next to their parents 7/6. The last known confirmed nesting of this species in the state was at Glenn Morgan Lake, *Berks* in 1998. Summering Ruddies this year in *Crawford*, where more past observations have suggested that birds might be nesting, continued to point to that possibility. As in previous years, summer vagrant Ruddy Ducks appeared in a range of locations, this year including *Somerset*.

Ruffed Grouse were noted in *Fayette*, *Mercer*, and most notably, likely young were seen in *Washington*, where Second Atlas showed severe declines for our state bird. Grouse populations are known to follow cyclical patterns, so it was good to see that they are not completely lost in the state’s southwestern corner. However, the scattered reports of **Northern Bobwhite** are most certainly of released birds.

Two grebe species made headlines this season: a **Western Grebe** off Gull Point, *Erie* 6/21 provided the first confirmed record for *Erie* and the second confirmed record for the state. It was photographed and remained to 6/25. Western Grebes are widespread and common in the West, and highly migratory, so it is surprising that there has not been more of this species or its close cousin, the Clark’s Grebe, found here in Pennsylvania. Two reports of **Red-necked Grebe** were also notable; one unlikely bird was found 6/9 on Sly Lake, *Wayne*, and similarly unexpected was one at the wetlands at Red Rose Commons in *Lancaster* 7/27. The most recent summer record for this species was in 2003.

Despite persecution, the long nesting **Double-crested Cormorants** at Wade Island, *Dauphin* seem poised to expand their breeding range. This persistent bird made nesting attempts in *Bucks*, where a pair was breaking sticks in early July at

Peace Valley Park; a nest was first noticed on 7/22. An immature bird was sitting as if on eggs, with the mate standing guard nearby, but by 8/3 the nest was gone. Nesting attempts by immature birds also occurred there in 1998 and 2005.

An obvious late migrant **American Bittern** was found in *Allegheny* 6/2. At an unlikely nesting area in *Luzerne*, this state-endangered species was discovered during a PSO field trip to Mountain Springs Lake 6/2. **Least Bitterns**, also listed as endangered, was found in suitable nesting situations in *Dauphin*, *Erie*, and *Lancaster*, and in *Philadelphia* a pair on nest with young put on a great show for observers from the safe vantage on a nearby dike road. A well-described fly-over **Snowy Egret** in early June provided an early report in *Chester*, but typical post-breeding dispersal for this species at the end of July was scant, coming only from *Delaware* and again in *Chester*. Similarly, a scattering of southeastern counties reported **Little Blue Heron** in July. Several southeastern counties reported **Glossy Ibis**, where they likely wander from coastal nesting areas. The best count was 27 in *Dauphin* 6/1.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was easily observed around its sole nesting site known in Pennsylvania, in sycamores along a few streets within Harrisburg city limits. At least 12 nests were documented and at least 35 adults and young were counted 6/12, but sightings were reported daily through the summer. Observations at West Fairview and along the lower Conodoguinet Creek in nearby *Cumberland* probably reflect birds from the Harrisburg colony. **Black-crowned Night-Heron** nesting colonies were reported in *Berks*, *Dauphin*, and *Lancaster*, with hints of nesting in *Bucks*, and vagrants in *Chester*, *Lebanon*, and *Mercer*.

Like the **Bald Eagle**, the **Osprey** continues to expand its breeding population following reintroductions of years ago. Ospreys were newly confirmed setting up shop in *Lycoming*, although a stick nest on a cell tower showed no evidence of eggs. Eagles have exceeded 260 nesting pairs on the strength of greater-than 10% population growth.

It may be that the recent state listing of **Northern Harrier** has drawn attention to this species and encouraged more reports than previously. Including eBird, no fewer than 17 counties reported harrier this summer: *Allegheny*, *Beaver*, *Butler*, *Bradford*, *Cambria*, *Centre*, *Chester*, *Clarion*, *Clearfield*, *Crawford*, *Jefferson*, *Lancaster*, *Lawrence*, *Monroe*, *Pike*, *Sullivan*, and *Susquehanna*. Confirmed breeding behavior, however, was rarely reported for this fairly visible species. In contrast, the **Northern Goshawk** is extraordinarily secretive,

and they are apparently reported in even fewer locations because of the sensitive nature of this species. As a result, goshawk is reported in very few counties, which this summer included *Forest* (where several nests are known within the Allegheny National Forest), *McKean* (where an immature was found during summer surveys), *Luzerne*, and *Sullivan*. Many raptors are poorly monitored by routine bird surveys such as the Breeding Bird Survey. As a result, reports of **Red-shouldered Hawk** provide valuable insights into their status, such as from *Montgomery*, where they were "extremely scarce, with just two reports" in an area which, based on the Second Atlas, has lost most of the nesting sites occupied in the 1980s. **Mississippi Kites** continued as expected, so when will Pennsylvania get its first nest for this species?

First identified by voice 5/20 in a small privately owned wetland south of Reading, *Berks*, a **Black Rail** was heard almost every subsequent day until 6/28, and a recording of the rail's voice was made 5/23, although the site was kept confidential. The bird was seen just once very briefly as it ran across an opening in the grass on the morning of 5/24. This provides the first confirmed summer record since 1999, and in fact, nesting has never been confirmed in Pennsylvania's history. Another rare rail, a **Clapper Rail** was found dead in Center City Philadelphia 6/22. Strikingly under-reported, records of **Sora** could be obtained from only 5 counties, including eBird reports. Not a single King Rail was reported this summer. **Sandhill Cranes** have been found in far too many counties to be summarized in the Birds of Note section for quite some time. Besides well-established nesting areas in *Lawrence*, *Mercer*, and *Sullivan*, summer sightings in *Somerset*, *Franklin*, *Lehigh*, and even at Tinicum in *Delaware* demonstrated that cranes could be found statewide during the summer months, and nesting is possible in many counties.

Similar to waterfowl, a diverse cast of shorebird was observed at Presque Isle, *Erie*. Highlights include 3 different **Piping Plovers**: one leg-banded bird 6/8, one unbanded adult 6/8-9, and another unbanded adult 7/26-28. Each of these was associated with unsettled weather, although they also follow the habitat restoration work for this species on the beaches of Gull Point. The variety of shorebirds was good this year, particularly at Presque Isle, but more notable was the unusual timing of these birds. The **Hudsonian Godwit** found on the very unlikely date of 6/29 at Gull Point was probably the first in more than 5 years in June, and an **American Avocet** on Gull Point 6/17 provided *Erie*'s first June record. Similarly, a **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** briefly stopped at Gull Point

7/28, at least three weeks earlier than expected. Without special efforts this year, **Upland Sandpiper** breeding reports dwindled to 3 counties.

Largely due to daily monitoring at Gull Point by Roger Donn, *Erie* reported a "record year" for **Whimbrel**, with 10 birds counted during the month of July. Illustrating Presque Isle's shorebird season, a remarkable 18 species shorebirds were recorded there 7/27, including **Whimbrel**, **Willet**, **Piping Plover**, **Red Knot** and other more regular species. Contributing to this red-letter day were the above-referenced weather patterns. With proposed federal listing, the **Red Knot** is getting more attention along the eastern seaboard. A flock of 30 at Gull Point 6/6 was noteworthy, as was a single bird in *Philadelphia* 7/26. The majority of summer shorebirds are found in *Crawford*, *Erie*, *Lancaster*, and *Philadelphia*. Breaking that pattern were observations of **American Avocet** in *Columbia* 7/27 (also possibly weather-related), in *Allegheny* 7/20, and 2 in *Franklin* 7/6. This dramatic and unique shorebird tends to show up in widely scattered locations, and probably because it is so distinct, is detected every year. Reported in scattered locations across the southeastern counties almost annually since 2004, a single **Black-necked Stilt** was seen and photographed at the pond east of Shartlesville, *Berks* 7/19-21.

The state's only known nesting location for **Herring Gull** continues in *Allegheny*, where piers of the Allegheny and Ohio rivers support nests. The **Black Tern** is now relegated strictly to migrant or vagrant status; no breeding records have been obtained in 10 years. Nonetheless, June observations in *Crawford* are encouraging, although *Berks* and *Franklin* birds are clearly far from nesting sites. Despite sightings 6/1 and a gathering of 5 on 7/23 at Gull Point, nothing suggested that **Common Terns** considered nesting at their only historic breeding location in Pennsylvania this summer.

The expansion of **Eurasian Collared-Dove** nationally has been spectacular, even as confirmed breeding during the Second Atlas was limited to only 2 blocks. This summer's reports fell into familiar territory—some of the counties in which they were observed during the Second Atlas, and they continue most reliably at Shady Grove, *Franklin*.

Among overlooked birds, reports of **Northern Saw-whet Owl** came from just two locations: in *Centre* in July and an eBird report in *McKean*. Without a specific effort to survey for this species, it seems that saw-whets will generally go undetected. The **Chuck-will's-widow** continued for the fourth year in *Lebanon*,

where one was heard again at Fort Indiantown Gap 6/5. The collapse of **Common Nighthawk** in Pennsylvania continued. Both *Allegheny* and *Montgomery* had just one each, although the report of 6 during the breeding season in *Berks* was encouraging. **Eastern Whip-poor-will** continues enigmatic, although the count on 3 surveys of 52 in *Huntingdon* was remarkable.

Among the top highlights of the Second Atlas was documentation of the state's first nesting **Merlins**. This summer, observations came from at least eight counties. These included more southerly locations than previously known. Merlins are moving into new areas each year, like *Erie*, where birds in early May remained in Edinboro into the summer season, providing the first documented county nest. Merlin can be expected sparsely, but nearly statewide. **Peregrine Falcons** continue to nest widely across the state, including at least 40 sites ranging from Erie to Philadelphia, and Scranton to Pittsburgh.

Nesting by **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** is restricted to mountain bogs of *Wyoming* and *Luzerne*. This year, Coalbed Swamp in *Wyoming* supported 8 territories, of which at least 4 were found as pairs. One nest found 7/29 with 3 eggs was probably a second brood, and remained active with young in nest as late as 8/7. A male was also on territory at Red Brook Swamp, *Wyoming* 6/21, but not after. Nesting also was confirmed with a fledged juvenile 7/9 at Boulder Run Swamp, *Luzerne*.

Pending final review, one this season's two first Pennsylvania records was of a **Tropical Kingbird** identified by sight and vocalization at Gray's Ferry Crescent Trail in *Philadelphia* on the morning of 6/20. It was documented with excellent photos. Its tell-tale shrill twittering calls helped to distinguish it from the similar Couch's Kingbird. It was seen by many and then observed flying south over the Schuylkill R. See the more complete write-up on page 147.

Common Ravens have been expanding their range for more than 70 years, as discussed in both the First and Second Atlases. *Delaware* documented the continuation of this pattern, with its (and the southern corner of Pennsylvania's) first confirmed nesting this spring. Five ravens (3 young and the nesting pair) were reported through much of the summer season. In the state's southwestern corner, 3 Common Ravens were noted in *Greene*—so ravens now have the southern corners covered. Among notable changes documented during the Second Atlas, the apparent eastward expansion (and western decline) of **Horned Lark** is most notable. This summer, a number of reports potentially challenge that perception: 9 Horned Larks

were found at 7 locations during a single same day in *Blair*, and confirmed nesting in *Somerset* provided evidence that the species may still be found in suitable habitat statewide, even if more easily in eastern counties.

This year's only report of **Sedge Wren** came from *Mercer*, where it was found in a wet spot in a hay field 6/2 and was last heard there 6/15. Probably overlooked in other areas, this species has tenuously remained a Pennsylvania nester, rarely found in more than a few locations each summer. The state's largest population of **Marsh Wrens** occurs in the large wetlands in *Crawford*. They also continue reliably at John Heinz N.W.R. in *Philadelphia*.

A late migrant **Gray-cheeked Thrush** provided a rare June report in *Lebanon*. **Swainson's Thrush** was listed in *Forest*; eBird data includes counties in which they occur quite frequently, *McKean* and *Warren*. This local nester showed an expansion in the Second Atlas, but remains scarce and overlooked.

Swainson's Warbler was singing in SGL 51, *Fayette* 6/8 and was still there 6/13. This rare southern skulker has never been confirmed breeding, but territorial males show up every few years, usually first in May, and generally do not remain more than a few days. The spectacular **Prothonotary Warbler** can be found in widely scattered sites statewide. Nesting continued at Peace Valley Park, *Bucks* again this year in a vinyl pipe nest box that was used by **Tree Swallows** last year. Territorial birds were noted along McMichael Rd, *Crawford*, along the Shenango River Reservoir, *Mercer*, feeding young at Island Park on the Lehigh River, *Northampton*, and 5 were noted along the Susquehanna River in *Lancaster*, all much like the Second Atlas distribution.

Golden-winged Warbler continues to spiral downward. *Centre* was the only county reporting this species, and *Cumberland* noted its absence. eBird reports and surveys linked with habitat restoration targeted to this species (and other young forest specialists) expand that list a bit to include populations in the Poconos (*Carbon*, *Monroe*, and *Pike*), and the central Ridge-and-Valley province of *Bedford*, *Huntingdon*, and *Clinton*. Non-breeding warbler reports are typically scarce in summer, but this year included a likely early fall migrant **Tennessee Warbler** captured at a banding station near Marienville, *Forest*, on the unusual date of 7/24, and lingering spring migrant **Bay-breasted Warblers** in *Berks* and *Sullivan*.

Among the encouraging results of the Second Atlas was the expansion southward of many of Pennsylvania's northern breeders, which Earl Poole classified as "Canadian". Evidence that this may be continuing included

Blackburnian Warblers at a number of sites in *Cumberland* and **Black-throated Green Warbler** at Raccoon Creek State Park, *Beaver* for the fifth consecutive summer, although not yet confirmed as a breeder there. A **Blue-headed Vireo** in the Hay Creek area, *Berks* off the Kittatinny Mountains, is another such southern expansion. An exception to this is **Northern Waterthrush**, which has retracted its range and become quite rare. **Yellow-throated Warblers** were seen or heard in widely scattered locations outside their stronghold of southwestern Pennsylvania, including Sinnemahoning State Park in *Potter*, and at Lemon Hill in Fairmont Park and near the Art Museum in *Philadelphia*.

The **Clay-colored Sparrow** is thought to be expanding, but the only county report came from the well-established locations in *Clarion*, and only 2 other widely separated eBird reports comprise this summer season. A **Henslow's Sparrow** reported north of Newville, *Cumberland* was quite out of range from the majority of birds on reclaimed surface mines in western counties. **Dickcissels** were found in *Berks*, *Clarion*, *Crawford*, *Cumberland*, and *Lancaster* this year, not nearly as many as during the significant invasion of 2012, which is reviewed on page 146 in this issue. They were noted as absent from *Bucks*, *Chester* (first time in several years), and *Montgomery*. The ups and downs of Dickcissels is fully expected, and apparently driven by conditions in the Midwest, and providing one of the best examples of an irruptive population of any of our songbirds.

The second species newly reported in Pennsylvania this summer was the well-documented **Shiny Cowbird** in *Adams*, first spotted and photographed 6/2 at a backyard feeder. The bird was unfortunately gone before its presence was widely known.

Red Crossbill is another classically irruptive species, although nests documented in Pennsylvania during the Second Atlas appeared not to be associated with notable irruptions. Although reported almost annually in the state, summer reports remain very scarce. Therefore, three widely scattered observations in *Butler*, *Clearfield*, and *Lycoming* stood out this season. None of these suggested nesting, and apparently these birds did not remain long in those locations. The *Clearfield* bird was identified from recorded calls as Type-3.

Birds of Note – June through July 2013

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. "eBird" indicates valid records deemed credible which were entered into the eBird database for counties with no reporting compiler.

An * denotes species on the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee (PORC) Review List. Details or descriptions that are submitted for species on the PORC Review List will be reviewed by the committee. The terms "no doc" and "doc submitted" indicate whether documentation has been submitted on reports of Review List species listed herein; "no doc" indicates that no documentation was known to have been submitted as of the time of writing. The PORC Review List can be found at the PSO web site <<http://www.pabirds.org>>.

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

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

Birds in ***Italic and Underlined*** typeface occur fewer than 4 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.

Cackling Goose – *Washington*: one at the Hahn Road AMD pond 7/28 (Mark Vass) was photographed (Jeff McDonald) remained to at least 8/4 (Geoff Malosh), very likely of the *taverneri* population.

Snow Goose – *Bucks*: 3 imm. continued at Peace Valley Park to at least 6/2 (John Finch, Henry D'Alessandro) with two continuing, injured adult birds; *Chester*: 3 at Guthriesville 6/14 (Jen Harned); *Lehigh*: one injured bird at New Tripoli from the spring was joined by a healthy bird 7/7 (Frank Dickman); *Montgomery*: one injured bird at the Skippack Golf Club 6/16 (Paul Driver); *Philadelphia*: 3 remained at John Heinz N.W.R. at Tinicum to 6/2 (m.ob.).

Trumpeter Swan – *Crawford*: one at Tamarack Lake 6/9 remained all summer (m.ob.); *Erie*: one at head of Presque Isle Bay 6/1 (Mark Vass); *Lancaster*: one injured second year bird at the Conewago Recreation Trail (Tom Johnson).

Gadwall – *Crawford*: 4 at Pymatuning Game Management Area 7/4 (Robert F. Leberman); *Erie*: 2 at Misery Bay 6/1 (Mark Vass, listserv).

American Wigeon – *Dauphin*: a male was at Wildwood Lake 6/2-3 (Lou Carpenter, David McNaughton, Patricia and Richard Williams).

Blue-winged Teal – *Crawford*: at Miller's Pond, Pymatuning 6/1 (Ken Pinnow, eBird) and on four dates in June with one hen and 9 chicks at Tamarack Lake 6/23 (Mark Vass, Ronald F. Leberman); *Erie*: 2 adults at head of Presque Isle Bay 6/14 (Mark Vass).

Northern Pintail – *Lebanon*: male, possibly injured, continued at Kreider Farm Pond on Mt Pleasant Rd through at least 6/17 (David McNaughton, Stan Stahl, Timothy Becker).

Green-winged Teal – *Allegheny*: one at Wingfield Pines from late June to early July (Shannon Thompson, Tim Johnson); *Bucks*: one at Pine Run Dam 7/28 (Ken Rieker); *Erie*: 2 at Gull Point 6/14 (Mark Vass, listserv).

Canvasback – *Erie*: one at Presque Isle 6/1-28 (Mark Vass).

Redhead – *Dauphin*: a female was at Middletown boat launch 7/10 (Erik Barber) through the end of the season.

Ring-necked Duck – *Centre*: one adult male at the Duck pond, Centre Furnace 7/30 (Alex Lamoreaux) has been present for several years; *Chester*: one at Chambers Lake 6/9-26 (Rick Robinson); *Philadelphia*: a pair at John Heinz N.W.R. at Tinicum 7/21 (ph. Adrian Binns, Debbie Beer).

Greater Scaup – *Erie*: a drake in Misery Bay 6/14 (Mark Vass, listserv); *Lancaster*: female at the Conejohela Flats 7/27 (Bob Schutsky, Justin Bosler).

Lesser Scaup – *Allegheny*: a female at Wingfield Pines 6/23 (Shannon Thompson); *Clinton*: pair at Mill Hall 6/11 (Dan Brauning, PA Birds); *Erie*: 17 in Misery Bay 6/1 and 15 on 6/14 (Mark Vass, listserv).

Surf Scoter – *Lancaster*: a first summer female at the Conejohela Flats 6/15-23 (Bob Schutsky).

Bufflehead – *Erie*: 2 in Presque Isle Bay 6/14-28 (Mark Vass, eBird); *Lancaster*: a female near the Conejohela Flats 7/21 (Mike Epler, eBird).

Red-breasted Merganser – *Beaver*: one at New Brighton 6/7 (Mark Vass).

Horned Grebe – *Berks*: one at Lake Ontelaunee 6/23 and 6/30 (Dale Beitzel, Bart Smith, Matt Spence); *Erie*: one off Gull Point 6/1-14 (Mark Vass, listserv).

Red-necked Grebe – *Lancaster*: one at the wetlands at Red Rose Commons 7/27 (Glen Shaffer); *Wayne*: one on Sly Lake on Woods Road between Stockton Turnpike and Creamton Drive 6/9 (Amy Davis).

Western Grebe* – *Erie*: one off Gull Point 6/21-25 (Mark Vass, et al., doc submitted), first record for *Erie*.

American Bittern – *Allegheny*: at Wingfield Pines 6/2 (*fide* Shannon Thompson); *Dauphin*: one at the Milton S. Hershey School campus ponds 6/7 (Nate McKelvie), and one near Cummings Swamp just north of Millersburg 7/27 (Jim Flowers); *Lancaster*: one at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area 6/29 (Robert Slater); *Luzerne*: seen and heard during PSO field trips 6/2 at Mountain Springs Lake and again 6/26 (Doug Gross, m.ob.) and 7/15 (Trudy Gerlach, eBird).

Least Bittern – *Dauphin*: 2 near Cummings Swamp just north of Millersburg 7/27 (Jim Flowers); *Erie*: 2 at the head of Presque Isle Bay 6/15 (Mark Vass); *Lancaster*: one heard at the Conejohela Flats 7/27 (Bob Schutsky, Justin Bosler); *Philadelphia*: many sightings in June and July at John Heinz N.W.R. at Tinicum, including 2 adults with 4 chicks on nest 6/21 (Adrian Binns, m.ob.).

Snowy Egret – *Chester*: one flyover adult in Avondale 6/5 (Callum MacClellan), and one at Exton Park 7/28 (Mike Defina, Brian Raicich, Lisa Miller); *Delaware*: 2 at John Heinz N.W.R. at Tinicum 7/26 (Tom Bush).

Little Blue Heron – *Chester*: one imm. at Exton Park 7/21 (W. Brian Henderson), and presumably the same bird through the period (m.ob.); *Lebanon*: one imm. at Middle Creek 7/14 (Jonathan Heller, Timothy Becker, David McNaughton), and likely the same individual again 7/21 (Brandon Snavely, David McNaughton); *Montgomery*: one imm. at a private pond near Green Lane Park 7/23 (Kevin Crilley); *Philadelphia*: juveniles at John Heinz N.W.R. at Tinicum 7/11-25 (Martin Dellwo, Frank Windfelder, Adrian Binns).

Yellow-crowned Night Heron – *Cumberland*: one adult on the Conodoguinet Creek near West Fairview 6/23 (Shawn DeVito, Mark Markiewicz), and one at West Fairview 7/20 (Steve Collins); *Dauphin*: 12 nests in a colony in Harrisburg 6/2 (Tom Johnson) with a count of 35 adults and nestlings 6/12 (Justin Bosler), 5 nestlings were photographed 6/15 in one nest on Hamilton St. (Barb Elliot).

Glossy Ibis – *Dauphin*: 27 flying up the Susquehanna River 6/1

viewed from Susquehanna Twp. (Ed Bernot); *Delaware*: one flyover at John Heinz N.W.R. at Tinicum 7/6 (Adrian Binns); *Philadelphia*: one at John Heinz N.W.R. at Tinicum 7/6 (Frank Windfelder, Adrian Binns).

Plegadis sp. – *Lancaster*: a small flock of ibises, most likely Glossy, on the Susquehanna River at Long Level 7/26 (Carolyn Mathur).

Mississippi Kite* – *Chester*: one at Bucktoe Creek Preserve during the evening shorebird watch 6/4 (Kelley Nunn, *no doc*), 3 heading south at Nottingham County Park 6/16 (Nick Pulcinella, *no doc*), and one mobbed by Eastern Kingbirds at Longwood Gardens 7/25 (Kelley Nunn, *no doc*); *Northampton*: one imm. near the Martins Creek Environmental Preserve 7/7 (Matt Sabatine, *no doc*).

Northern Goshawk – *Forest*: 2 nests found this season (Dave Brinker); *McKean*: one immature observed in the Allegheny National Forest 6/8 (Ian Gardner, eBird); *Luzerne*: recorded at two locations, including Ricketts Glenn S.P. (Doug Gross, Bruce McNaughton); *Sullivan*: recorded in two locations (Doug Gross).

Black Rail* – *Berks*: first identified by voice 5/20 in a small privately owned wetland south of Reading (Kathy Grim, rec. Ken Lebo, *doc submitted*), heard almost every subsequent day until 6/28.

Clapper Rail* – *Philadelphia*: one found dead at Center City 6/22 was later confirmed at the Academy of Natural Sciences (Keith Russell).

Sora – *Allegheny*: 2 still present at the Imperial Grasslands from April to at least 6/16 (Geoff Malosh); *Chester*: 2 at Exton Park 6/6 (George D. Tallman, et al.); *Crawford*: reported to eBird from numerous locations (m.ob.); *Mercer*: at Pennsy Swamp 6/4 (Neil Troyer); *Tioga*: heard at Hills Creek SP 6/16 (Holly Morris, eBird).

Common Gallinule – *Crawford*: locally common at various wetlands; *Mercer*: at Pennsy Swamp 6/4 (Neil Troyer) and 7/13 (Kevin Parsons, eBird).

Black-bellied Plover – *Lancaster*: one at Conejohela Flats 6/9 (Gordon Dammig).

Piping Plover* – *Erie*: one leg-banded bird at Gull Point 6/8 (Roger Donn, *no doc*), one unbanded adult at Gull Point 6/8-9 (Roger Donn, Mary Birdsong, *doc submitted*), and one unbanded adult 7/26-28 (Roger Donn, *doc submitted*).

Black-necked Stilt* – *Berks*: one at the pond in Shartlesville 7/19-21 (ph. Matt Wlasiewski, m.ob., *doc submitted*)

American Avocet – *Allegheny*: 2 along the shore of the Ohio River at Brunots Island 7/20 (Mark Vass); *Columbia*: in Bloomsburg 7/27 (Jon DeBalko); *Delaware*: one off Little Tinicum Island in the Delaware River 7/20 (AG, et al.); *Erie*: season total of 7 at Gull Point, with one near Beach 6, from 6/17 (first *Erie* June record) to 7/26 (Roger Donn); *Franklin*: 2 at Greencastle Reservoir 7/6 (Carl Garner, Shannon Thompson, eBird).

Willet – *Erie*: a high count of 7 on 7/6 (Tim Lenz, eBird) among a season total of 16 at Gull Point 6/26-7/27 (Roger Donn); *Lancaster*: adult western subspecies on the Conejohela Flats 7/5-6 (Justin Bosler, Bob Schutsky, Dave McNaughton, Shannon Thompson, Dave Wilton).

Upland Sandpiper – *Clarion*: one or possibly 2 at Mount Airy 6/15 (David McNaughton); *Clearfield*: a pair at Magee's Mills (Nancy Butkovich, et al.); *Crawford*: up to 3 at the Pymatuning Goose Management Area 6/4-7/6 (Anthony Bledsoe, et al.), and one at Brown Hill Road 6/23 (Ronald F. Leberman).

Whimbrel – *Erie*: a total of 10 birds 7/7-28 (Roger Donn).

Hudsonian Godwit – *Erie*: one at Gull Point 6/29 (Roger Donn).

Ruddy Turnstone – *Erie*: at least 50 at Gull point 6/6 (Roger Donn) and 9 there 7/27-28 (Shannon Thompson, eBird).

Red Knot – *Erie*: 30 grounded during a storm at Gull Point 6/6 (Roger Donn), and a single at Gull Point 7/28 (Roger Donn);

Philadelphia: one at Pennypack on the Delaware 7/26 (Frank Windfelder).

Sanderling – *Lancaster*: 3 at the Conejohela Flats 7/27 (Bob Schutsky, Justin Bosler).

White-rumped Sandpiper – *Erie*: season total of 21 at Gull Point 6/6-16 was well above the average count for the summer season (Roger Donn); *Mercer*: one at the Shenango Wildlife Area ponds 7/21 (Steve Sanford); *Monroe*: up to 9 in flooded fields near Sliver Springs Blvd 6/15-17 (Corey Husic, eBird).

Dunlin – *Erie*: at Gull Point 6/14 (Mark Vass, Theo Rickert).

Stilt Sandpiper – *Erie*: one at Gull Point 7/19 (Mark Vass, listserv), and 5 at Gull Point 7/20-24 (Drew Mortensen, Roger Donn); *Lebanon*: to 4 at the Reistville and Prescott Road Ponds 7/28 (Frank Haas, Kathy Becker, Timothy Becker, David McNaughton).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper – *Erie*: one briefly at Gull Point 7/28 (Roger Donn) was at three weeks earlier than expected.

Short-billed Dowitcher – *Erie*: multiple birds at Gull Point through July with up to 21 on 7/27 (Shannon Thompson, eBird); *Lancaster*: one adult *hendersoni* at the Conejohela Flats 7/27 (Bob Schutsky, Justin Bosler); *Somerset*: one at Somerset Lake 7/20 (Jeff Payne, Shannon Thompson).

Wilson's Snipe – *Crawford*: one at the Pymatuning Fish Hatchery 7/21 (Robert F. Leberman); *Erie*: one at Presque Isle 6/1 and 28 (Mark Vass).

Wilson's Phalarope – *Erie*: 3 at Gull Point 6/4 (Roger Donn).

Bonaparte's Gull – *Erie*: 2 at Gull Point 6/1 (Mark Vass).

Laughing Gull – *Bucks*: the northernmost reports came from Bristol Marsh in both Jun and Jul, with the high count of 17 on 7/28 (Mark Gallagher); *Delaware*: regular summer bird; *Philadelphia*: regular summer bird.

Lesser Black-backed Gull – *Philadelphia*: one at Pennypack on Delaware 7/28 (Frank Windfelder, eBird).

Least Tern – *Berks*: one at Blue Marsh Lake 6/6 (Joan Silagy); *Philadelphia*: one at John Heinz N.W.R. at Tinicum 6/17 (Frank Windfelder) and 7/4 (Debbie Beer, Adrian Binns).

Caspian Tern – *Bucks*: one at Peace Valley Park 7/28 (John Finch); *Erie*: present at Gull Point for much of the season (eBird); *Lancaster*: 2 adults on the Conejohela Flats 7/22 (Bob Schutsky); *Montgomery*: first arrived at Green Lane Park 7/26 (August Mirabella, Scott Godshall); *Somerset*: one at Somerset Lake 6/30 (Scott Bastian).

Black Tern – *Berks*: one at Blue Marsh Lake 6/7 and another 6/29 (Joan Silagy); *Crawford*: one at the Fish Hatchery 6/30 (Robert F. Leberman); *Franklin*: at the Kriner Road ponds south of Chambersburg 6/14-17 (Bill Oyler, listserv); *Somerset*: at Somerset Lake 7/12 (Andy McGann).

Common Tern – *Butler*: 11 at Moraine S.P. 6/2 (Mark Vass, eBird); *Erie*: one at Presque Isle Bay 6/1 (Mark Vass, eBird) and through July at Gull Point including 5 on 7/23 (Mary Birdsong, et al., eBird).

Eurasian Collared-Dove – *Cumberland*: 4 in Lower Mifflin Twp. 7/13 (Bill Oyler, Vernon Gauthier), and again 7/20 (Steve Collins); *Lebanon*: one at Fort Indiantown Gap 7/31 (David McNaughton); *Franklin*: minimum of 6 at Shady Grove (Shannon Thompson, eBird).

Northern Saw-whet Owl – *Centre*: one at Black Moshannon S.P. 7/17 (Bel Broadley) and one at Bear Meadows 7/30 (Jim Dunn); *McKean*: one reported without comment at Chappel Bay Campground 7/11 (Sam Jolly, eBird).

Chuck-will's-widow* – *Lebanon*: continuing bird at Fort Indiantown Gap 6/5 (David McNaughton, *doc accepted*).

Olive-sided Flycatcher – *Bradford*: one at Sunfish Pond, Barclay Mt. 8/3 (Inga Wells); *Lebanon*: one at Governor Dick Park 7/14 (Sue Hannon).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher – *Bucks*: at Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve 6/2 (Liz Bender, Bill Keim, Joe Palumbo, Patty Rehn); *Luzerne*: nesting confirmed 7/9 with a juvenile at Boulder Run Swamp (Doug Gross); *Wyoming*:

at least four pairs present, and nest found 7/29 in Coalbed Swamp, as well as a male on territory 6/21 in Red Brook Swamp (Doug Gross).

Tropical Kingbird* – *Philadelphia*: one identified by sight and vocalization at Gray's Ferry Crescent Trail on the morning of 6/20 (Alexander Zorach, ph. George Armistead, et al., *doc submitted*), first state record pending review.

Philadelphia Vireo – Allegheny: one at Harrison Hills Park 6/1 (Frank Izaguirre).

Sedge Wren – *Mercer*: one bird in a wet spot in a hay field along E. Zahnizer Rd. 6/2-15 (Neil Troyer, m.ob.).

Gray-cheeked Thrush – *Lebanon*: singing in the Goldmine area of SGL 211 on 6/1 (Timothy Becker).

Swainson's Thrush – *Forest*: one 6/29 in the Allegheny N.F. (Sam Jolly); *McKean* (eBird); *Warren* (eBird).

Swainson's Warbler – *Fayette*: one singing at SGL 51 on 6/8 (Ben Coulter) and 6/13 (Cory DeStein).

Brewster's Warbler – *Centre*: one at Bald Eagle S.P. 6/14 (David McNaughton); *Westmoreland*: one captured at Powdermill Nature Reserve.

Tennessee Warbler – *Forest*: one caught 7/24 at a banding station near Marienville, presumed to be an early migrant.

Bay-breasted Warbler – *Berks*: a late bird at Hamburg Reservoir 6/1 (Kerry Grim); *Sullivan*: heard at Elkmont Lodge in early June (Susan Killeen).

Blackpoll Warbler – *Luzerne*: 2 late migrants at Ricketts Glen 6/2 (Fairfax Hutter, eBird) and 2 territories, including one young being fed at Boulder Run Swamp 7/9 (Doug Gross); *Montgomery*: late migrant 6/1 at Evansburg S.P. (Lynn Roman); *Monroe*: a late migrant on a BBS route 6/9 (Corey Husic, eBird); *Wyoming*: confirmed nesting in Red Brook Swamp, north of Coalbed Swamp 7/24 (Doug Gross).

Clay-colored Sparrow – *Butler*: singing male in Barkeyville Grasslands (Jeff McDonald, eBird); *Clarion*: multiple reports in June and July at Cullsville Strips, Sligo, and Piney Tract (m.ob.); *Tioga*: 2 males singing along River Road Strip Mine (Nate Fronk, eBird).

Dickcissel – *Berks*: up to 4 through 7/21 near Windsor Castle (m.ob.); *Clarion*: returned to Cullsville 6/19 (Mark Moore) with up to 3 remaining throughout the season; *Cumberland*: up to 3 west of Newburg 6/29-7/20 (Vern Gauthier, m.ob.); *Lancaster*: one at Octoraro Res. 6/3 (Carlton Groff), one or 2 on Millport Road 6/20-25 (Stan Stahl, et al.), one on South Weaverton Road 6/30 (Stan Stahl), and one on Kissel Hill Road 7/1 (Stan Stahl);

Shiny Cowbird* – *Adams*: one photographed 6/2 at a backyard feeder (Linette Mansberger, *doc submitted*), first state record pending acceptance by PORC.

Red Crossbill – *Butler*: 5 found during a BBS route, feeding in large spruce at St John's Church, Clearfield Twp. 6/8 (Mike Fialkovich, Paul Hess, listserv); *Clearfield*: flock of 18 feeding in cut area near Lick Run were identified as Type-3 (David Yeany, eBird); *Lycoming*: one seen and heard overhead during BBS route along Okome Rd. 6/18 (Dan Brauning).

Pine Siskin – *Chester*: one heard in a Downingtown area yard 6/4 (Jen Harned); *Erie*: a recently fledged bird visited a thistle feeder in Greene Twp. 7/11 (Bob and Pam Zelenak); *Montgomery*: a winter straggler remained at a feeder in Wayne to 6/16 (Edie Parnum), and one was at a feeder in Glenside 7/13 (Steve Shreiner); *Somerset*: 2 were heard at Payne Property 6/4 (Chris Payne); *Venango*: lingered at Buttermilk Hill Nature Sanctuary through 6/10 (Kathie Goodblood, Jerry Stanley).

ADDENDUM: From the spring 2013 season, a **Clay-colored Sparrow** at Woodburne Forest and Wildlife Preserve 5/27 (Nick Bolgiano) provided a first for *Susquehanna*.

Photographic Highlights



Cackling Goose (*Branta hutchinsii*). This apparent Cackling Goose, probably of the *taverneri* population which breeds in Alaska, was wildly out of place in mid-summer at Hahn Road in suburban Washington 29 July (here) to at least 4 August 2013. For further details, please see the *Washington* report on p. 183. (Jeff McDonald)



American Wigeon (*Anas americana*). It was a good summer for lingering waterfowl across the state, with 18 species recorded including this wigeon at Wildwood Lake, Dauphin 3 June 2013. (Patricia Williams)



Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*). Recorded in the summer season just twice before in Pennsylvania (1994 and 2003), this Red-necked Grebe at Sly Lake, Wayne 9 June 2013 was, amazingly, one of two Red-necked Grebes found in the state this summer. (Jeff Davis)



Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*). Two immature cormorants made a late-season nesting attempt (which failed) at Peace Valley Park, Bucks this summer. One of the pair is shown here on the nest 22 July 2013. Immature cormorants also attempted late-season nestings at Peace Valley in 1998 and 2005. (August Mirabella)



Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*). This bird at John Heinz N.W.R., Philadelphia 11 June 2013 provided an unusual June record for this species. Ever since the last and only known colony of breeding Cattle Egrets in Pennsylvania disappeared in 1988, this species has been rather rare and unpredictable in June in the state. (Todd Fellenbaum)



Great Egret (*Ardea alba*). The long-standing colony of nesting waders was still alive at well this season at Kiwanis Lake Park in the city of York. These two squabbling egrets were wonderfully photographed there 26 June 2013. (Shannon Rose O'Shea)



Virginia Rail (*Rallus limicola*). For the first time since 2004, a pair of Virginia Rails stayed deep into the breeding season at the Imperial Grasslands, Allegheny. Present since mid-April, this bird was photographed there 12 June 2013, but unfortunately, though probable, breeding was not confirmed this year nor in 2004. (Geoff Malosh)



Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*). Also alive and well this season was the colony of Yellow-crowned Night-Herons in Harrisburg, Dauphin. Shown here 28 June 2013, this juvenile was one of 35 adults and young present this summer. (Wayne Laubscher)



Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*). The long-standing population of breeding Sandhill Cranes in Lawrence was successful again this year. This adult with a juvenile was photographed near Volant 17 July 2013. (Jacob W. Dingel)



American Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*). At least 12 records of avocets in five counties across the state this season (seven of which were in Erie) included this bird at Bloomsburg, Columbia 28 July 2013. (Jonathan DeBalko)



Willet (*Tringa semipalmata*). The Willet flight at Gull Point, Erie this season was described as "sensational" by long-time Erie veteran birder Jerry McWilliams, with 16 different birds reported in June and July. These two were photographed there 27 July 2013. (Geoff Malosh)



Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*). Habitat improvements at Gull Point, Erie continued to pay dividends this summer. An outstanding season for shorebirds included three different Piping Plovers. This unbanded bird was present there 10 June 2013. (Mary Birdsong)

Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*). Nine active nests in Berks produced 35 new Barn Owls this summer. This nestling was banded and photographed 11 July 2013. (Meredith Lombard)



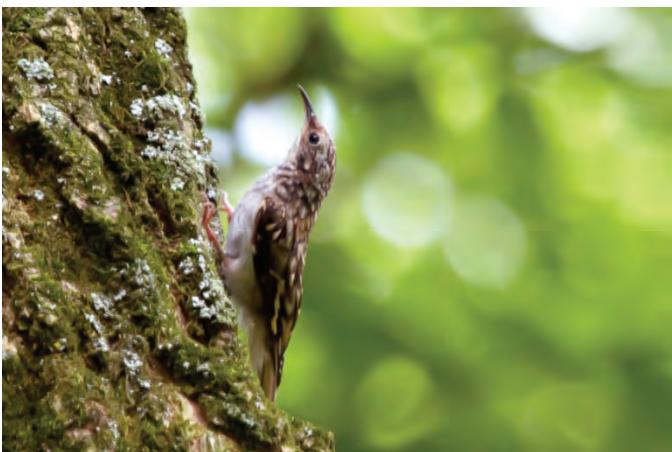
Black-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*). The status of Black-billed Cuckoo in Pennsylvania is something of a mystery. Increasingly often lamented by *Pennsylvania Birds* compilers as becoming more uncommon, the species nevertheless showed a slight increase in occupied blocks during the second breeding bird atlas effort concluded in 2009 compared to the first effort in the 1980s, even as BBS data have shown a more or less steady decline over the same time. This bird was photographed at Kinzua Dam, McKean 10 July 2013. (William Potter)



Marsh Wren (*Cistothorus palustris*). This outstanding image of a juvenile Marsh Wren was captured at John Heinz N.W.R., Philadelphia 27 July 2013. (Sanjib Bhattacharyya)



Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila caerulea*). This charming family portrait was also made at John Heinz N.W.R., Philadelphia 9 June 2013. (John Tancred)



Brown Creeper (*Certhia americana*). The breeding range of Brown Creeper has been slowly contracting to the north over the past few decades, making this mid-summer bird at the Canal Trail, Lancaster 23 June 2013 an increasingly rare occurrence in the southeastern corner of the state. (Gordon Dummig, gwd-photography.com)



Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*). Scotia Barrens in Center is one of the ever fewer remaining strongholds for Golden-winged Warbler in Pennsylvania. This gorgeous male carrying food to a nest was photographed there 9 June 2013. (Frank Izaguirre)



Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*). Prothonotary Warblers nested again this year at Peace Valley Park, Bucks, where this fine image was made 22 June 2013. (Ron Zigler)



Blackburnian Warbler (*Setophaga fusca*). This image of a beautiful singing male Blackburnian Warbler is the first of three photos of breeding warblers presented here that were taken in the Lackawanna State Forest, Luzerne 15 June 2013. (Jim Borden)



Black-throated Green Warbler (*Setophaga virens*). Singing male at Lackawanna State Forest, Luzerne 15 June 2013. (Jim Borden)



Mourning Warbler (*Geothlypis philadelphica*). This singing male was nicely photographed in Cameron 15 June 2013. (Randy Flament)



Canada Warbler (*Cardellina canadensis*). Male at Lackawanna State Forest, Luzerne 15 June 2013. (Jim Borden)



Clay-colored Sparrow (*Spizella pallida*). Clay-coloreds continued this year at their usual Clarion strongholds, though in recent years they seem to have been fewer in number. This bird was photographed at Cullsville 3 July 2013. (Jeff McDonald)



Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*). Dickcissels did not appear this summer in nearly the numbers they did in 2012, but they were found in four counties nonetheless, including this bird at Virginville, Berks 29 June 2013. (Jon Mularczyk)



Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*). This classic depiction of brood parasitism, in this case with the victim a pair Yellow Warblers, was made at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge, Philadelphia 22 June 2013. (John Tancredi)

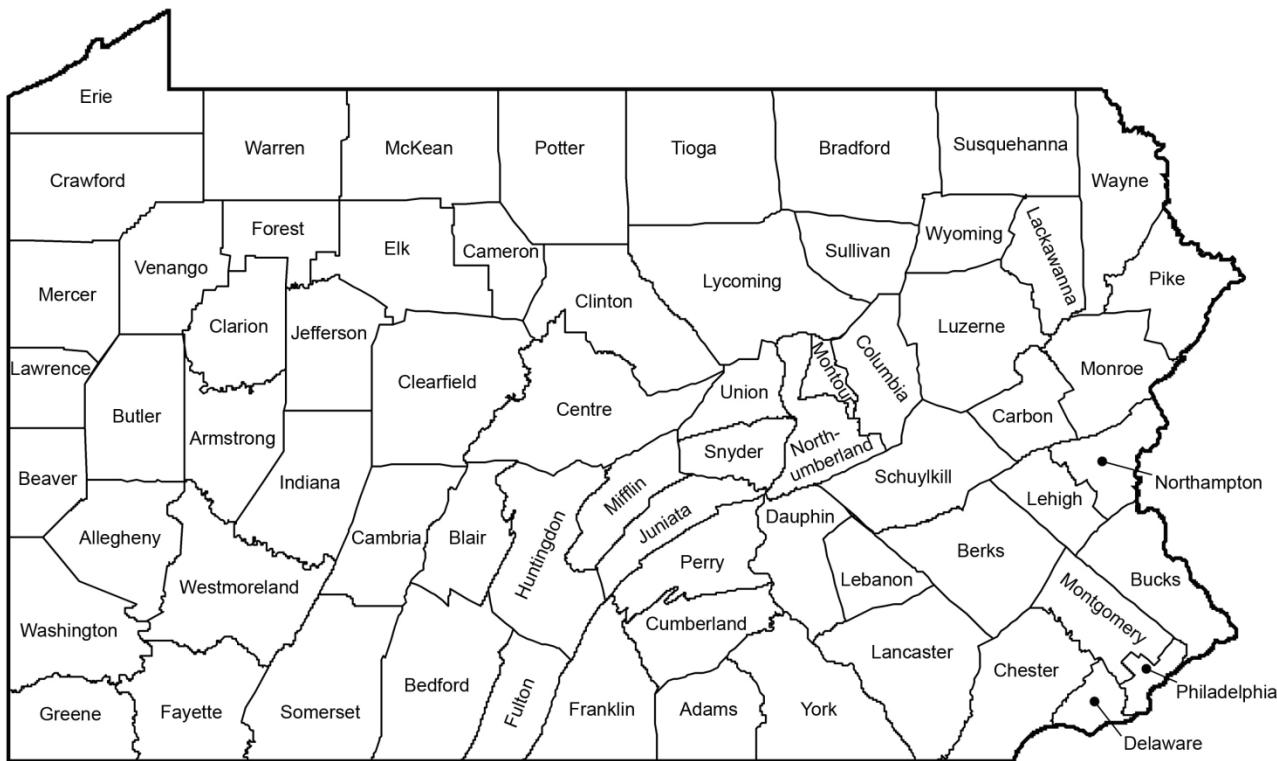


Henslow's Sparrow (*Ammodramus henslowii*). Juvenile Henslow's can be difficult quarry for would-be photographers, making this excellent image of one at the Imperial Grasslands, Allegheny 17 July 2013 that much more memorable. (Jeff McDonald)



Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*). This colorful image was nicely captured at Hibernia Park, Chester 19 June 2013. (Jeff Loomis)

Local Notes – June to July 2013



ABBREVIATIONS

BBS	Breeding Bird Survey	max	maximum	RBA	Rare Bird Alert
C.A.	Conservation Area	min	minimum	Res.	Reservoir
CBC	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).	juvenile [plumage]; juvenile(s)	R.	River	W.M.A.	Wildlife Management Area
L.	Lake	R.A.	Recreational Area	WRS	Winter Raptor Survey

eBird Usage: Data for these reports and throughout this journal include observations collected from the eBird database <<http://www.ebird.org>>.

Citation: eBird. 2012. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance [web application]. eBird, Ithaca, New York. Available: <http://www.ebird.org>. (Accessed: 31 July 2013)

Adams County

Locations: Fairfield (FFLD), Gettysburg National Military Park (GNMP), Long Pine Run Reservoir (LPRR), Michaux State Forest (MICH).

This period's reporting suggested a fairly typical breeding season, and the species count of 97 also fell within historical norms. However, truly extraordinary was Pennsylvania's first documented appearance of a **Shiny Cowbird**, spotted and photographed 6/2 (LM) at a backyard feeder!

There were no reports of unusual waterfowl, but sightings suggested smaller broods of **Wood Duck** at SGL 249 than prior years (DJG, PK). **Ring-necked Pheasant** was at SGL 249 from 6/2-5 (MB, DJG). Of the five reports of **Wild Turkey**, three involved poult counts: 6 at MICH 7/5 (BF), 12 at FFLD 7/27 (JH), and a very young brood of 11 in the FFLD area 7/28 (JH). A **Double-crested Cormorant** at SGL 249 on 6/2 (DJG) was unexpected. Considering the breeding confirmation rate of 2% in the second Pennsylvania breeding bird atlas, the discovery of a **Black Vulture** nest with two nestlings was a nice highlight. A Gettysburg barn hosted the nest, with

nestlings first seen 6/22 (NL). Both fledged in early Aug. An **Osprey** at Lake Meade 6/8 (JV) was uncommon for Adams in this period. The nesting adaptability of **Cooper's Hawk** was in evidence in a very open Midway neighborhood; the nest was in a very small stand of deciduous trees with conifers nearby. The pair produced two fledglings and the adults and juveniles regularly perched on a swimming pool fence throughout the period (PK). **Black-billed Cuckoo** went unreported, and the sole report of **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** came from SGL 249 on 7/28 (PK). An **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was heard at Shippensburg Rd. 7/4 (MB).

Acadian Flycatcher was at SGL 249 on 6/5 (MB) and one was heard along Mountain Rd. 7/28 (R&DS). **Willow Flycatcher** continued to be seen throughout the period at SGL 249 (DJG, PK). A **Least Flycatcher** was late at SGL 249 on 6/2 (DJG). A pair of **Bank Swallows** was at GNMP 7/3 (TC). A small flock of 7 **Cedar Waxwings** at SGL 249 on 6/23 (PK) included one leucistic individual with overall coloration an off-white. Of the 11 warbler species recorded, highlights were a **Pine Warbler** at GNMP 7/3 (TC), a **Prairie Warbler** at LPRR 7/7 (ST), and multiple counts of **Hooded Warbler** with 3 at MICH 7/5 (BF) and 4 at LPRR (ST). A drive from Teaberry Rd. to

Rte. 233 on 7/27 (JF) produced 17 **Scarlet Tanagers**.

Sparrow variety was low. Ten **Chipping Sparrows** at GNMP 7/3 (TC), 11 **Field Sparrows** at SGL 249 on 7/28 (PK), and four reports of duos of **Savannah Sparrows** were the highlights. Conspicuously absent was Grasshopper Sparrow. Uncommon for the lower elevations in summer was a **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** at FFLD 7/20 (JH). A **Blue Grosbeak** was found at GNMP 7/3 (TC). **Eastern Meadowlarks** were down compared to prior breeding seasons.

Pennsylvania's first **Shiny Cowbird** (under review; photo documentation submitted) was a male at a mixed seed tray in a backyard along Turkey Pit Rd. The observer was familiar with the species from participation in nature tours in the species' normal range. Initially seen 6/2, the observer was out of town the next three days and the bird was not there upon return. A demonstration of the unexpectedness of this species' appearance to Pennsylvania birders is gleaned from Pulcinella's "The Next 10 New Species for Pennsylvania" (*Pennsylvania Birds* 17:194-203, February 2004). This entertaining and informative article summarized the predictions of 33 Pennsylvania birders of the next 10 new species that would be found in Pennsylvania at that time. Of the 33 lists submitted, 4 included the Shiny Cowbird. The article's accompanying discussion of Shiny Cowbird was interesting: "This South American blackbird made its first appearance in the U.S. in 1985 in the Florida Keys. During the late '80s and early '90s it seemed to be spreading rapidly north and west, reaching GA, SC, AL, LA, TX, and OK (Mlodinow). It seemed inevitable that the species would be found along the entire Atlantic and Gulf coasts. For some reason the expansion seemed to fizzle out even though a few birds made it to NC and one bird even visited Monhegan Island ME in 1991. The species finally made it to VA in 1998 (Williams 1998). There are no records from adjacent states. A male Shiny Cowbird would not be difficult to identify, but a female would require documentation separating it from female Brown-headed Cowbird and female Brewer's Blackbird. Prediction – August where large flocks of post-breeding cowbirds occur." The comment on the range expansion "fizzling out" still holds true today. Year-to-date eBird data show no other state observations in eastern states north of Florida.

Observers: Phil Keener, 198 Jacobs Street, East Berlin, PA 17316, (717) 259-9984, pittche74@yahoo.com, Mike Bertram, Thomas Collins, Jim Flowers, Bill Franz, Don & Jennifer Gilbert (DJG), Judie Hogan, Nancy Locher, Linette Mansberger, Ralph & Deb Siefken (R&DS), Shannon Thompson, Jason Verdier, Andy Wilson.

Allegheny County

Locations: Imperial (IMP), Wingfield Pines (WP).

Unusual at this time of year a **Green-winged Teal** was at WP from late Jun to early Jul (ST, TJ) and a female **Lesser Scaup** was there 6/23 (ST). Three **Common Mergansers** at Duck Hollow on the Monongahela River in any season is not terribly unusual, but 3 there 6/29 is unusual (JS, SS). **Northern Bobwhites**, certainly released, were in the South Hills of Pittsburgh this season (fide SSN) and at North Park in Jun and Jul (POB). A **Common Loon** lingered at North Park from the spring to at least 6/20 (PL, SL, SK). Small numbers of **Double-crested Cormorants** were present along the Ohio River in Jun (MV). Unusual was an **American Bittern** at WP 6/2 (fide ST) which was quite late. Whether it was a late migrant or a bird on territory is impossible to know because there were no further sightings.

Osprey nests included one in Leetsdale with 2 chicks (GM, MV) and one at Neville Island with 2 chicks (PB). The local news reported 2 young at the **Bald Eagle** nest in Crescent Twp. this season. Two **Peregrine Falcons** continued to be seen at a water tower at Greentree (ST, PLI, TJ).

Last year a pair of **Sora** bred at IMP. This year, both **Sora** and **Virginia Rail** remained at IMP to at least 6/12 (JM, GM). Unfortunately breeding was never confirmed for either. An **American Coot** spent Jun and Jul on the Ohio River at McKees Rocks (MV).

Two **American Avocets** were found along the shore of the Ohio River at Brunots Island 7/20 (MV). Fortunately they moved closer to shore and remained there for hours offering great opportunities for observation and photography. They provided the fourth county record. Six **Solitary Sandpipers** were at IMP 7/24 (GM) and 11 were there 7/26 (MV, GM). Two late migrant **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were at IMP 6/4 (DN).

The only **Common Nighthawk** was one in Squirrel Hill 6/5 (MF). An **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was calling at SGL 203 in Marshall Twp. 6/1 (POB). A Red-headed **Woodpecker** visited a yard in Moon Twp. 6/11 (KF). A late **Philadelphia Vireo** was seen at Harrison Hills Park 6/1 (FI). A **Common Raven** was at Brunots Island 7/28 (MV). **Fish Crows** included one in Squirrel Hill 7/20 (KSJ) and one in North Braddock 7/28 (MF). Unusual in the county in summer, a **Cliff Swallow** was in Jefferson Hills 6/7

(JHa). Summer reports of **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** are unusual. Three were in Collier Twp. 7/5 (KSJ), one was in Pine Twp. 7/7 (PL, SL), one at IMP 7/24-26 (GM), and one in Frick Park 7/27 (MF). A **Veery** was singing in Schenley Park 6/5 (KSJ), which is a late date for that location.

Nine **Hooded Warblers** were counted at Sewickley Heights Park 7/21 (ST, MD, PLI). A **Northern Parula** at Schenley Park 6/3 (KSJ) was unusual and most likely a late migrant. Two **Yellow Warblers** were singing at Frick Park 7/27 (MF). **Yellow-throated Warblers** were regularly seen at WP during the season (ST). **Prairie Warblers** were at IMP all season (m.ob.). Three **Yellow-breasted Chats** were at IMP 6/12 (GM).

Savannah, Grasshopper, and Henslow's Sparrows were all reported during the season at IMP. High counts included 23 **Grasshopper Sparrows** 7/17 (JM) and 7 **Henslow's Sparrows** 7/17 (JM). **Bobolinks** moved into some of the new open areas created near a new industrial park at IMP. Unfortunately, this development will probably ultimately destroy their habitat.

A few **Purple Finches** were present in Pine Twp. in Jun (PL, SL).

Observers: Mike Fialkovich, 805 Beulah Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15235, (412) 731-3581, mpfial@verizon.net; Paul Brown, Michael David, Kristen Fouch, Jim Hausman (JHa), Frank Izaguirre, Tim Johnson, Scott Kinzey, Patrick Lister (PLI), Pat Lynch, Sherron Lynch, Jeff McDonald, Geoff Malosh, Dick Nugent, Philip O'Brien (POB), Kate St. John, Sam Sinderson (SSN), Jack Solomon, Sue Solomon, Shannon Thompson, Mark Vass.

Armstrong County

Locations: Armstrong Trail (AT), Cochran's Mill (CM), Crooked Creek Park (CC), Kittanning (KT), Polka Hollow (PH).

A single **Wood Duck** along the AT 7/21 (TR) was the only one noted. Two **Common Mergansers** were swimming along Cowanshannock Creek 6/3 (MH, RH). CC harbored 2 **Double-crested Cormorants** 7/1 (MVT) and 3 on 7/9 (MO). Three **Bald Eagles** were at CC 6/9 (SG). Single **Spotted Sandpipers** were at CC 6/5, 7/25 (MVT). Two early **Forster's Terns** were spotted at CC 7/1 (MVT). **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were more numerous than usual this summer: 2 each were found on the KT BBS 6/3 (MH, RH), at Nicholson Run South 6/23 (TR), along the AT 7/21 (TR), and at CM 7/25 (MVT). A single **Black-billed Cuckoo** listed along the AT 6/5 (RN) was the only report. A **Barred Owl** at PH 6/12 (MVT) was the only owl reported.

White-eyed Vireos included one at CC 6/22 (MVT) and another at SGL 247 on 6/30 (TR). **Yellow-throated Vireos** included 3 on the KT BBS 6/3 (MH, RH), one on the AT 6/5 (RN), 2 at CC 6/9 (SG), and 2 on the AT 7/21 (TR). A single **Blue-headed Vireo** was listed on the AT 6/5 (RN). The KT BBS yielded 2 singing **Warbling Vireos** 6/3 (MH, RH). A single **Common Raven** was noted at CC on four dates between 6/5 and 7/25 (MVT). Eleven was the high count of **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** along the AT 7/21 (TR). Three **Purple Martins** appeared at CC 6/22 (MVT) and 4 were counted there four days later (MVT). A **Veery** was at SGL 247 on 6/30 (TR) and a **Hermit Thrush** was along the AT 6/5 (RN).

Ovenbird tallies included 12 on the KT BBS 6/3 (MH, RH) and 4 at PH 6/5 and 6/12 (MVT). Single **Worm-eating Warblers** were noted along the AT 6/5 (RN) and on Creek Rd. the same day (MVT). Single **Louisiana Waterthrushes** were found 6/5 along the AT (RN) and at PH (MVT). One **Blue-winged Warbler** was found 6/5 at CM (MVT) and 7/21 on the AT (TR). The KT BBS yielded 2 **Black-and-white Warblers** 6/3 (MH, RH), and 3 were also found on the AT 7/21 (TR). **Hooded Warblers** were widespread with the KT BBS and SGL 247, yielding 6 on 6/3 (MH, RH) and 6/30 (TR), respectively. **Cerulean Warblers** included singletons on the AT 6/5 (RN), on Creek Rd. 6/5 (MVT), and at CC 6/9 (SG); 2 were also at CM 6/5 (MVT). A **Northern Parula** was at CC 7/25 (MVT). Two **Yellow-throated Warblers** continued at CM 6/5 (MVT) and another was at CC 6/9 (SG). A **Yellow-breasted Chat** on the KT BBS 6/3 (MH, RH) was the only one reported.

Five **Bobolinks** were noted 6/3 (MH, RH) on the KT BBS which also produced counts of 3 **Orchard Orioles** and 8 **Baltimore Orioles**.

Observers: Margaret Higbee, 3119 Creekside Rd., Indiana, PA 15701-7934, bcoriole@windstream.net, Steve Gosser, Roger Higbee, Richard Nugent, Melissa Ortz, Theo Rickert, Marge Van Tassel.

Beaver County

Locations: Beaver Falls (BF), New Brighton (NB).

The usual summer congregation of **Mallards** at NB reached 134 birds by 7/27 (MV). Four **Hooded Mergansers** at Independence Marsh 7/4 (MV)

may have indicated local breeding, but no other reports were made of the species there this summer. A male Hooded Merganser at NB 7/27 (MV) was unusual. A female **Common Merganser** was still at BF 6/8 (MV) but, again, confirmation of breeding has yet to be made in Beaver. A **Red-breasted Merganser** at NB 6/7 (MV) provided a very rare summer record for the county. A male **Ruddy Duck** was in the Rochester area 6/6-12 (MV). **Double-crested Cormorants** were at BF 6/8 and NB 7/27 (MV). The roost of **Turkey Vultures** on the utility towers in East Rochester was found to contain 35 birds 7/14 (MV). The new **Osprey** nest at BF was still active 6/8 (MV) and birds were seen along the Beaver R. through the season. A **Bald Eagle** was at Monaca 7/14 (MV). The closest known nest is at Dashields Dam in *Allegheny* and it is possible the bird at Monaca was from that site. A **Northern Harrier** was seen again at Fornell 6/16 (TJ) following a sighting there in May, suggesting breeding was a possibility there this year. Adult **Peregrine Falcons** were around the presumed P&LE bridge nest site 6/10 (BS) but the status of any young and whether they had yet fledged was not known, and no report was made of this nest for the rest of the summer. One Peregrine Falcon, not identified to age, was seen back by the East Rochester Bridge 7/14 (MV). An **American Woodcock** was at SGL 285 on 6/12 (DR), a traditional breeding site for the species. Two post-breeding **Ring-billed Gulls** were at NB 7/27 (MV). A **Common Nighthawk** was at a yard in Economy 6/2 (KD).

A **Least Flycatcher** at SGL 285 on 6/8 (PK) would have represented a new breeding species for that location if it could have been confirmed. Three **Purple Martins** were at Hereford Manor Lake 6/8 (MV); the species bred there in years past before the lake was drained. A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was a bit out of place at NB 6/7 (MV). **Prairie Warblers** were present again at their usual locations at SGL 285 in early Jun (PK, DR). A **Black-throated Green Warbler** was reported at Raccoon Creek S.P. 6/29 (DR), making at least the fifth consecutive summer they have been recorded there, but they are yet to be confirmed as a breeder. They were confirmed breeding in 2011 in suitable habitat in the Pine Run watershed along the Ohio border, which remains the only known breeding confirmation in Beaver history. **Eastern Meadowlark** was present on territory at SGL 285 on 6/8 (PK), one of the few breeding areas used by this species (and several other open field specialists) known in the county. Two or 3 **Purple Finches** frequented a feeder in Economy throughout Jul (KD) and by 7/27 a possible juvenile was reported. This species is a casual breeder in Beaver, an occurrence more likely following a good winter flight, as happened in the winter of 2012-13. The species was confirmed in at least one block in the county during the second breeding bird atlas project as well.

Observers: **Geoff Malosh, 450 Amherst Avenue, Moon Township, PA 15108-2654, (412) 735-3128, pomarine@earthlink.net**, Karyn Delaney, Timothy Johnson, Peter Keyel, Dan Rubino, Becky Smith, 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 (SGL).

A female **Common Merganser** with 7 fully grown young were on the Schuylkill R. near Five Locks 7/20-21 (SF, MW), the area where breeding by this species was first confirmed in 2005. A **Northern Bobwhite** was in Birdsboro 6/6 (RBo), another was near Bally 7/9 (BD), and a single male called at SGL 106, Pine Swamp Rd. 6/22-7/31 (RK, SFe). All were probably escaped or released birds. Single late migrating **Common Loons** were at Kaercher Creek Park, Hamburg (KG) and LO (KL) 6/7. A lingering Common Loon was at BML 6/10-30 (JS). A breeding-plumaged **Horned Grebe** was at LO 6/23 and 6/30 (DB, BS, MS), the first Jun occurrence in Berks. Only about 6 non-breeding **Double-crested Cormorants** summered at LO (RK).

One **Great Egret** at the farm pond on Old Rte. 22 east of Shartlesville 6/20 was joined by 15 others 6/21 (MW), a dramatic beginning to the post-breeding dispersal season in Berks. The only 2013 breeding confirmation of **Black-crowned Night-Herons** since the fragmentation of their Wyomissing Hills colony in 2011 was made at Berks Technical Institute 6/30 (RK). Three adults, one sub-adult, and 4 juveniles (one fledged) were detected in the eastern white pines used for nesting. Half eggshells scattered on the ground under the trees indicated that eight to ten eggs had hatched. Juveniles, difficult to see in the dense trees, gave incessant begging calls. It is

unknown if other nesting pairs were scattered through adjacent residential neighborhoods, as some were in 2012. Up to 11 birds from this colony were seen fishing at BML and LO in Jun and Jul (m.ob.).

Two traditional nest sites of **Black Vultures** at FCSP fledged 2 young each (RBo). Two **Turkey Vulture** nests at FCSP fledged 2 young each, and a third nest fledged one young (RBo). As usual, a few non-breeding **Ospreys** were seen at rivers and lakes during the period (m.ob.). The five known **Bald Eagle** nests in Berks fledged at least 7 young (SFe). A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** at FCSP 6/14 (DH) was in an area where this secretive nester has been found in one or two previous summers. **Red-shouldered Hawks** seen or heard at SGL 52 on 6/23 (MSI), in District Twp. 6/28 and 7/13 (RK), and at FCSP 7/7 (P&JW) were all in areas where breeding has occurred in recent years. A well-studied pair of **Broad-winged Hawks** at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary fledged 2 young in Jul (LG). At Baldy Hill, District Twp., adult Broad-winged Hawks were heard in much of Jun and probable juvenile begging calls were heard 7/26 (CE). Other Broad-winged Hawks were seen at Trout Run Reservoir 6/20 (RK) and at SGL 52 on 6/23 (MSI) and 7/26 (RK). All these birds were in areas of sparse development with extensive forest.

A **Merlin** was at BML 6/10, 6/13, and 6/23 (JS), one year after Berks' first Jun record was made at the same location. Merlin regularly winter at BML and were seen there later this spring than usual. Reading's **Peregrine Falcon** pair produced one male and 3 female young, which were briefly removed as nestlings and successfully treated at Red Creek Wildlife Center in Schuylkill County for trichomoniasis, a parasite probably acquired by eating infected **Rock Pigeons** (AM). One of the females was seen 8/9, about five weeks after fledging, 100 miles from Reading in Lyndhurst, New Jersey, where its bands could be read while the bird perched on a roof (AM). A large female fledged in Reading in 2012 and later caught and released at Hawk Cliff, Ontario (see Fall 2012 seasonal report) was found dead of unknown causes in Indiana 1/18/2013 (AM).

A **Black Rail**, first identified by voice 5/20 in a small privately owned wetland south of Reading, was heard almost every subsequent day till 6/28 (KaG). To avoid inconveniencing residents with many visits from birders, the location was not widely publicized. A recording of the rail's voice was made 5/23 (KL). The bird was seen just once very briefly as it ran across a small opening in the grass, neck outstretched like a chicken, on the morning of 5/24 (MW). About a dozen birders heard the rail during its 40-day stay. Use of playback was discouraged and was unnecessary because the bird frequently vocalized for more than an hour at a time, often in early morning or evening. The wetland used by the rail is only a few acres in size, contains a small, meandering stream, and is dominated by reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), an extremely competitive perennial European fodder grass often planted for cattle grazing and bank stabilization in small agricultural wetlands such as this one. Many small farm wetlands and unforested creek bottoms in Pennsylvania are dominated by this grass. The small wetland in Albany Twp., Berks visited by a Black Rail 5/17-6/2/1999 is largely covered with reed canary grass.

A **Black-necked Stilt** seen and photographed at the pond on Old Rte. 22 east of Shartlesville 7/19-21 (MW, m.ob.) delighted many local birders. The species had been reported twice before in Berks, in 2005 and 1992. A **Lesser Yellowlegs** and a few **Solitary Sandpipers**, **Least Sandpipers** and **Pectoral Sandpipers** were the only other non-breeding shorebirds reported in Jul. Breeding by **Spotted Sandpiper** was confirmed with the observation of two stub-tailed downy chicks bobbing along with an adult on the bank of the retention pond at Arrowhead Business and Industrial Park near Topton 6/12 (P&JW). The flock of summering **Ring-billed Gulls** at BML numbered about 14 in Jul. Two **Caspian Terns** were at BML 6/10 (PMi, JS). A **Least Tern**, always rare here, was at BML 6/6 (JS). The only previous Jun record is of a bird at Kaercher Creek Park, Hamburg 6/1/1977 (KG). A **Black Tern** was at BML 6/7 and another 6/29 (JS).

It was unusual to have multiple reports of both cuckoo species this summer. **Black-billed Cuckoo**, the more uncommon species here, was reported from at least four places in Jun (m.ob.). Higher than normal numbers of **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** on the Kittatinny Ridge, such as 7 at SGL 110 on 6/22 (RK), may have been related to the large emergence of periodical cicadas on the ridge this year. Nine active **Barn Owl** nests produced 35 young (DM fide SFe). The first breeding season report of **Common Nighthawks** in many years was of 6 birds near Shoemakersville 6/24 (P&JW). Another goatsucker rare in the breeding season is **Eastern Whip-poor-will**, which is now confined to the Kittatinny Ridge in Berks. One to 3 Whip-poor-wills were seen or heard at SGL 110, Northkill Gap 6/23-7/23 (JE, RF, PM, MW). At least 5 widely separated **Red-headed Woodpecker** nesting locations were active, with the largest colony in Marion Twp. having 8 birds in residence 6/30 (RK). Breeding confirmations of this late nester started coming in Aug, including a fledgling seen in Kutztown 8/5 and a pair apparently feeding young in the nest near Bowers 8/1 (SF).

Warbling Vireo was abundant in riparian forest along the Maiden Creek during a paddling excursion from Lenhartsville to Moselem 7/5 (SS). A **Blue-headed Vireo** at Hay Creek, Birdsboro 6/15 (JT) was well south of known breeding locations on the Kittatinny Ridge, but a bird was also on territory there in a previous summer. There was no breeding confirmation of **Common Raven** this year, but a bird was seen at SGL 52 near the Lancaster line 6/23 (MSI). **Purple Martin** colonies on Mennonite farms in the Great Valley were active, but productivity in this wet season was not determined. **Winter Wrens** intermittently establish territories at the southeastern fringe of their Pennsylvania breeding range on the Kittatinny Ridge. This year, a male sang through Jul at Hamburg Reservoir (KG) and another male sang at SGL 110, Northkill Gap 6/30-7/12 (KG). **Hermit Thrushes**, also confined as breeders to the Kittatinny in Berks, were heard at a few places on top of the ridge in Jun and Jul (KG, ZM). **Wood Thrushes** were again gratifyingly common in the mature 400-acre forest on Monocacy Hill, where 55 were counted on a three-mile walk 6/21 (RK).

A **Northern Waterthrush** seen and heard in the Pine Swamp at FCSP 6/9 (KL) was a late migrant in a cold spring. Other Jun records are from 6/1/1958 and 6/3/1989. Also late this year was a **Bay-breasted Warbler** at Hamburg Reservoir 6/1 (KG). **Blue-winged Warblers** were most common at SGL 52 in southern Berks, where 10 were counted 6/15 (MSI). A healthy count of 30 **Black-and-white Warblers** was made in earlier successional woodland at SGL 110 on 6/15 (KG). **Kentucky Warblers** were reported from only three widely scattered locations in Jun and Jul (KG, RK). There were no reports of Cerulean Warbler, even from Hay Creek, Birdsboro, a breeding location known since 1949. A few territories each of **Black-throated Green Warblers** and **Black-throated Blue Warblers** were again found on the Kittatinny (KG), their sole breeding location in Berks. Clear-cutting to maintain early successional scrub habitat at SGL 106, Pine Swamp Rd. has benefitted **Common Yellowthroat**, **Prairie Warbler** and **Yellow-breasted Chat**, all of which are resurging there, as are **Field Sparrow** with 31 on 6/22 (RK) and **Indigo Bunting** with 30 on 6/22 (RK).

Vesper Sparrows, **Savannah Sparrows** and **Grasshopper Sparrows**, some accompanied by fledged young, were seen in appropriate farmland habitat in northern Berks in Jun and Jul, often by birders looking for **Dickcissels** (see below). A late **White-throated Sparrow** at a feeder near Bechtelsville 7/3 (JK) may have had a slightly injured wing. A **Blue Grosbeak** sang along Virginville Rd. near Windsor Castle 6/25-7/27 (m.ob.); a female was seen nearby at least once (EB). Another Blue Grosbeak was in Marion Twp. 7/7 (PM). **Dickcissels** returned to grass hayfields and pastures near Windsor Castle where they had been found in Jul 2012. A singing male was found at the intersection of Haas and Leiby roads 6/24 (RF, m.ob.), and a female was seen there 6/25 (RK). It is not known if Dickcissels were present before 6/24. When hayfields there were cut, birds were regularly seen and heard along nearby Virginville Rd., with the high count of 4 (3 males and one female) made 7/21 (RK). No Dickcissels were detected 7/27, when half of the hayfields were found to have been cut, and none on 8/3 (RK), when the remaining hayfields were found to have been cut. As in 2012, breeding was not confirmed. Though Dickcissel has been intermittently recorded in Berks since the nineteenth century, the only known breeding confirmation was made in a CREP field near Fleetwood 6/24/2002, when a bird surveyor saw an agitated female carrying food to a presumed nest hidden in the grass. **Bobolinks** nested successfully in a large Douglass Twp. grass field that remained uncut in Jul. A flock of 23 seen there 7/6 consisted mostly of fledged young (RK). **Eastern Meadowlarks** also nested successfully in that field (RK).

Observers: **Rudy Keller, 71 Lutz Rd., Boyertown, PA 19512, (610) 845-7310, rckeller@dejazzd.com**, Ed Barrell, Dale Beitzel, Rob Blye, Rich Bonnett (RBo), Ben Davies, Jim Eckert, Catherine Elwell, Steve Ferreri (SFe), Ryan Fick, Steve Fordyce, Laurie Goodrich, Kathy Grim (KaG), Kerry Grim, Dan Hinnebusch, Rick Keyser, Joanne Kintner, Ken Lebo, Art McMorris, Paul Michaly (PMi), Peter Montgomery, Zack Moyer, Dan Mummert, Sue Schmoyer, Joan Silagy, Mike Slater (MSI), Bart Smith, Matt Spence, Jaime Thomas, Peter & Jane Wolfe, Matt Wlasniewski.

Blair County

Locations: Canoe Creek State Park (CCSP), Lower Trail (LT), Monastery Road impoundment (MRI).

Information for this report was obtained primarily from eBird with background and status information from *Birds of Central Pennsylvania* by Nick Bolgiano and Greg Grove, 2010 (B&G, 2010).

A rare summer **Great Egret** was flying near I-99 in Duncansville 6/15 (AF), and the MRI hosted a **Green Heron** 7/28-29 (MD). An **Osprey** was spotted 7/4 at CCSP (JD), and **Sharp-shinned Hawks** and **Cooper's**

Hawks were noted throughout the summer in IBA 32 (MB). The latter accipiter was nesting (MB). Three uncommon sandpipers—**Spotted Sandpiper**, **Solitary Sandpiper**, and **Least Sandpiper**—were present in single-digits 7/23-31 at MRI (MD). **Black-billed Cuckoos** are uncommon during the summer; 2 were noted on 7/5, one on the LT (JD), and one heard off Jamestown Pike (MD). Up to 2 **Belted Kingfishers** were observed 7/24-31 at MRI (MD). An excellent view of a **Red-headed Woodpecker** was enjoyed 6/12 on Burkett Rd. (MB, MaB), where one was last year (MB).

Several uncommon flycatchers and vireos were observed. At least 3 **Acadian Flycatchers** were reported throughout the summer in IBA 32 (CE, MB). Single birds were also present 6/29 and 7/4 on the LT (JD), 7/28 in SGL 166, and 7/29 at CCSP; a single **Alder Flycatcher** and one **Willow Flycatcher** were also noted 7/28 in SGL 166 (all MD). **Great Crested Flycatchers** were present with several singing in IBA 32 (MB, CE). One was observed 6/19 off Jamestown Pike (AF), and 7/4 at CCSP (JD). A single **Eastern Kingbird** was spotted 7/23-30 at MRI (MD). Single **Yellow-throated Vireos** and **Warbling Vireos** were observed 7/4 on the LT (JD), and a second Warbling Vireo was observed 6/9 on Clover Cr. Rd. (DeG). An uncommon **Common Raven** was noted 6/9 on Clover Cr. Rd. (DeG), and 2 others were spotted off Jamestown Pike dining on road-killed porcupine (AF). Three were seen 7/15 at CCSP (RL). A single **Horned Lark** was observed 6/9 on Millerstown Rd., and 8 were found at six locations on Clover Cr. Rd. the same day (all DeG). One uncommon **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** was spotted 7/24 at MRI (MD), and 2 **Purple Martins** were seen 6/9 on Henrietta Mt. Rd. (DeG). A **Winter Wren** was reported 6/29-7/4 on the LT (JD), and 2 **Veery** were observed 6/19 off Jamestown Pike (AF). **Wood Thrush** is considered to be a common species in this region (B&G, 2010); however, they were not as numerous as usual and were late in arriving in IBA 32 this summer (MB).

Twelve warbler species were reported during the summer, including five that are common or abundant, the remainder uncommon or rare. Several **Worm-eating Warblers** were heard in IBA 32 throughout the season (MB). **Black-and-white Warblers** were reported widely. A rare **Kentucky Warbler** was noted 7/4 on the LT (JD), and **Hooded Warblers** were heard in IBA 32 (MB). At least 2, possibly 3, **Cerulean Warblers** were noted in IBA 32 throughout the summer (CE, MB), and 3 were identified 7/4 on the LT (JD). Two **Chestnut-sided Warblers** and one **Black-throated Blue Warbler** were observed 6/19 off Jamestown Pike, and 2 more Chestnut-sided Warblers were noted on the same day off Buckhorn Rd. (all AF). A single Black-throated Blue Warbler was heard 6/19 in IBA 32 (MB).

Two **Vesper Sparrows** and 3 **Savannah Sparrows** were reported 6/9 on Clover Cr. Rd. Additionally, 3 Vesper Sparrows and 2 Savannah Sparrows were observed on the same day on Millerstown Rd. (all DeG). Another Savannah Sparrow was encountered 7/4 on the LT (JD). Seven **Bobolinks** were noted 6/9 at four locations on Clover Cr. Rd. (DeG). Up to 2 **Eastern Meadowlarks** were spotted 7/29-31 at the MRI (MD). They were also heard in Sinking Valley prior to the hay fields being mowed (MB). Single **Orchard Orioles** were spotted 7/4 at CCSP (JD) and 7/28 at the Clubhouse Dr. pond (MD).

ADDENDUM: My apologies for inadvertently omitting Carl Engstrom (CE) from the Dec 2012-Feb 2013 observers list (volume 27, number 1).

Observers: **N. J. Butkovich, 550 Toftrees Ave. #248, State College, PA 16803, (814) 234-6086, njbutkovich@verizon.net**, Marcia Bonta, Mark Bonta (MaB), Michael David, Jim Dunn, Carl Engstrom, Anna Fasoli, Deborah Grove (DeG), Renee Lubert.

Bradford County

Locations: Echo Beach Road on the Susquehanna River south of Wysox (EBR), Mt. Pisgah State Park (MPSP), Peck Hill (PEH), State Game Lands (SGL), Trudy Gerlach farm near New Era (TNE), Wyalusing vicinity (WYA).

The summer began with great amounts of rainfall and some periods of major heat and humidity before settling down into something resembling a normal summer.

A **Green Heron** was at EBR 6/26 (DN, KN). An **Osprey** was at Burlington 6/16 (TA). Two immature **Bald Eagles** were at MPSP 6/11-12 (LH), 2 adults were at EBR 6/16 (DN, KN), and on 7/16 an adult was calling and flying about in and above the woods sw. of the Susquehanna R. bridge at Wysox (TG). On 7/19 a non-male **Northern Harrier** was circling above a farm at Woodside (BF). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was calling at TNE 7/2 (TG). A **Broad-winged Hawk** was observed in trees beside Wyalusing New Albany Rd. not far from New Era 7/23 (TG). An **American Kestrel** was observed at PEH 6/30 (AV, GV). During Jul and into Aug, 2 adult and 3 young **Merlins** were seen frequently at Tioga Point Cemetery in Athens (CaH, ChH).

Three **Sandhill Cranes** flew over the observer's house on Edinger Hill in Tuscarora Twp. just outside of Laceyville 7/26 (EW). An adult **American Woodcock** and 4 half-size chicks were standing in a lane at TNE 6/1 (TG), a few of the chicks pumping up and down as adults sometimes do. A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was seen 6/30 on Carr Rd. (DP), one was at PEH 7/6 (AV, GV), and one was singing early in the morning at TNE 7/26 (TG). A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was at TNE 6/2 (TG).

Very unusual, an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at Sunfish Pond, Barclay Mt. 8/3 (IW). A **Willow Flycatcher** was in the WYA 6/9 (RM, SC, BF). A **Yellow-throated Vireo** was singing at TNE 6/3 (TG), 2 were found 6/9 in the WYA (RM, SC, BF), and one was singing at TNE 6/21 (TG). A **Blue-headed Vireo** was on Tip Top Rd. 6/9 (SR) and one was singing along Satterlee Run near Monoeton 6/20 (TG). Five **Bank Swallows** were observed 6/18 at Troy (DW) and a new nesting colony of 25-30 was found 6/9 adjacent to Bowling Alley Rd. near Wyalusing (RM, SC, BF). Infrequently reported in the county, a **Northern Mockingbird** was at Burlington 6/15 (TA) and one was at TNE 7/18 (TG).

A **Louisiana Waterthrush** was seen 6/1 near Hollenback (NB), one was at Bowling Alley Rd. near Wyalusing 6/9 (RM, SC, BF) and 2 were found 6/9 at Tip Top Rd. (SR). The only report this quarter of a **Northern Waterthrush** was one at Taylor Marsh 6/9-13 (LF). A **Blue-winged Warbler** was on Wight Rd. 6/10 (LF) and one was on Rouse Rd. 6/24 (DW). On 6/9 a **Black-and-white Warbler** was at WYA (RM, SC, BF), 2 on Tip Top Rd. 6/9 (SR), and one on 7/18 on CCC Rd. in SGL12 (LF). Three singing **Hooded Warblers** were on Upper Mtn. Rd. on the way up to Lamb's Lookout near Canton 7/15 (LF). Nine **American Redstarts** were in WYA 6/9 (RM, SC, BF). A **Magnolia Warbler** was west of Moxie 6/5 and one was singing 6/20 at Satterlee Run near Monoeton (TG). A **Blackburnian Warbler** was at Sunfish Pond 6/30 (JD). A **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was at Junk's Pond near Overton 6/20 (TG) and many were on Upper Mtn. Rd. on the way up to Lamb's Lookout near Canton 7/15 (LF). On 6/24 a **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was in SGL 172 (DW). A **Prairie Warbler** was seen on Wight Rd. 6/15 (LF), one was singing at Satterlee Run near Monoeton 6/20 (TG), and 3 were on Rouse Rd. 6/24 (DW). A **Canada Warbler** was at Sunfish Pond 6/30 (JD).

Two **Savannah Sparrows**, representing the only sighting this summer, were at LeRoy Mt. Rd. 6/30 (JD). An **Orchard Oriole** was at Berwick Turnpike east of MPSP 6/17 (DW). A male juvenile **Purple Finch** was at PEH 7/8 (AV, GV).

Observers: **Trudy Gerlach, 6907 Wyalusing New Albany Rd., Wyalusing, PA 18853, (570) 746-9270, tgswoods@epix.net**, Tony Arnold, Nancy Baker, Skip Conant, Jim Dunn, Bob Fowles, Lewis Frederick, Liz Hart, Carolyn Harris (CaH), Chet Harris (ChH), Rob Megraw, Dan Natt, Karen Natt, Diana Pita, Sharon Richards, Anne Vivino-Hintze, George Vivino-Hintze, Drew Weber, Inga Wells, Ellen Whipp.

Bucks County

Locations: Bradford Dam (BRD), Churchville Park (CVP, Maple Knoll Farms at Buckingham Twp. (MKF), Nockamixon State Park (NSP), Peace Valley Park (PVP).

Temperatures were above normal, with Jun 1.3°F above and Jul 2.4°F above. Heat waves were limited to a few that lasted only a few days to a week or so. Rainfall amounts vary greatly from place to place as always this time of year. The reference point at nearby Trenton, New Jersey measured 5.75 inches above normal for Jun, with about 0.5 inch above for Jul. Some nesting failure, probably due to heavy rain, resulted particularly in low-lying areas that were flooded. Reports of some of our rarer breeding species were few or completely missing, which may be due to lack of coverage. A total of 118 breeding species were reported this year, with 84 confirmed, 26 probable and 8 possible. As usual, historical references are from *Birds of Bucks County* by Ken Kitson (1998) and subsequent updates recorded in this journal. Weather statistics are from nearby NOAA at Trenton, New Jersey. The stated normal reference period used on the NOAA web-site is based on the recent three decades 1981-2010.

The 3 **Snow Goose** immature birds that had spent months with the 2 continuing injured adults at PVP were last reported 6/2 (JF, HD). The USDA **Canada Goose** control program continues at several parks with lakes. The result is that the former numbers in the hundreds at lakes during summer have been greatly reduced. Four of the control sites had high counts of only 50-65 and likely some of those were removed later (HD, BK, PT, AM). All other eBird reports were of lower numbers. **Wood Duck** high counts were modest this year, with 25 each at Upper Makefield Twp. Firehouse 6/4 (MG) and PVP 7/21 (PB). A rare summer **Green-winged Teal** was at Pine Run Dam 7/28 (KR). A female **Hooded Merganser** exited a nesting box at

Quakertown Swamp 6/2 (SG), and 2 female or immature birds were noted there on one Jun visit (DF). These reports provide more evidence of probable nesting there. A female and 4 juv. **Common Mergansers** were at MKF 7/2 (RS).

One to 2 **Common Loons** lingered at PVP until 6/8 (HD, SG, AM). A **Pied-billed Grebe** was at Tullytown 6/2 (MG), which is not far from our only known recent breeding site. Breeding was not confirmed this year. One at Lake Towhee Park 7/22 (PT) was unexpected there. **Double-crested Cormorant** was reported from 11 sites (m.ob.) in mostly small numbers. The highest counts were consistently from PVP throughout the period with the high of 32 in late Jul (AM). A pair was breaking sticks off a tree in early Jul, and a nest was first noticed 7/22 (AM ph.). An immature bird was sitting as if on eggs, with the mate standing guard nearby. A copulation attempt was noted 7/23 (BK). By 8/3 the nest was completely gone. Along with this year, late nesting attempts in Jul occurred in 1998 and 2005 by immature birds. Presumably the nest in May of 1999 was produced by the 1998 pair returning as adults. If it hadn't been destroyed somehow, the May nest was probably the only serious attempt that could have been carried to completion. **Great Egret** was reported from only five sites and in relatively small numbers (m.ob.) possibly due to high water levels. The highest counts were 4 at CVP 6/1 (HD, MF), 7 at PVP 7/28 (JF), and 8 at Wrightstown Twp. 7/29 (BK). **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was reported from only three sites. One was at CVP 6/8 (fide CS) and 7/13 (FV). One juv. was at PVP starting 7/24 (BW). Continued sightings from winter and spring of up to 2 adult birds at Silver Lake Park through early Jul, and one immature 7/4 (MG, AMn) provide hope of breeding in the area.

Turkey Vulture nested for the sixth year in a row under the same fallen tree near MKF and produced one fledgling (RS, VS). **Osprey** was reported from 12 sites including our three nesting locations. Two were seen regularly at PVP through the period but no nesting was detected (AM). **Red-shouldered Hawk** was at LTP (PT) and Quakertown Swamp, where they are expected (AM, JM). **Broad-winged Hawk** was reported at LTP (PT) and Honey Hollow (ZM) in Jun. They were also at NSP, with a juv. seen there late in the season (DF). In general, high water levels resulted in few shorebird reports. Only seven species were reported. A northward bound **Semipalmated Plover** was at BRD 6/1(AM) and the first and only southbound bird was at Shady Brook Farm 7/27 (DF). Two **Solitary Sandpipers** 7/23 at Upper Makefield Twp. (MG), a **Greater Yellowlegs** at Buckingham Twp. sewage ponds 7/24 (HB, FV), and 2 **Least Sandpipers** at BRD 7/12 (GJ) were the first fall arrivals. An **American Woodcock** was at BRD 6/1 (AM) and one was at Giving Pond 6/11 (EB, EN). They are unexplainably not heard or seen regularly in the summer season months here but are assumed to be present (DF). The northernmost reports for **Laughing Gull** came from Bristol Marsh in Jun and Jul, with the high count of 17 on 7/28 (MG). The first probable southbound **Ring-billed Gull** was noted 6/30 at NSP (PT) and was followed by more likely migrants in single digit counts through the month at multiple sites (m.ob.). A **Caspian Tern** was at PVP 7/28 (JF). Two unidentified **sterna sp.** were at PVP 7/27 (PB).

Cuckoos continued from spring in better numbers than last year. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was reported from 10 sites on more than 24 dates (m.ob.). High counts of up to 4 heard on multiple dates were at PVP (AM), and 3 were at Quakertown Swamp 6/9 (AM, JM). Slightly more visible this year but still rare, **Black-billed Cuckoos** were reported at only four sites on 10 dates, with probably only 4 individuals reported (m.ob.). **Barn Owl** nested for the second year in a row. One of 4 juvs. was found dead below the nest (DF). Two **Barred Owls** at Springfield Twp. 6/19 (AG) provided the only report. **Chimney Swift** was confirmed nesting at MKF after being absent there for a few years (RS, VS). Two juv. **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** were being fed in the nest at CVP 7/27 (HD). A juv. **Belted Kingfisher** was noted as early as 6/11 at PVP, but one was found dead 7/24 (AM).

An adult **Red-headed Woodpecker** continued from late May until 6/19 at E. Rockhill Twp. but apparently did not attract a mate (HR). Another was noted 6/10 in Haycock Twp. just outside LTP (DL ph.). One was detected in mid-Jun and continued through the period at Buckingham Twp. where one was also reported in 2011 (DS). **Pileated Woodpecker** was feeding young at the nest at MKF 7/2 (RS). **American Kestrel** nest box efforts continued and expanded. From 73 boxes, 27 pairs fledged 94 young. An additional seven pairs had eggs but the nests failed. The maximum egg count was 135 at one point. Last year, one of our juv. **Peregrine Falcons** was injured in a fenced-in area with barbed wire but recovered for future release. Unfortunately, the bird died after several months of treatment due to complications from bumblefoot, which is more likely to occur in captive birds (LS). The only report this season was from Falls Twp. where expected close to successful breeding sites along the river (MG).

A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** at Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve 6/2 matched the previous spring late date (LB, BK, JP, PR). The only regular reports of **White-eyed Vireo** came from NSP (PT). Reports of this species

have declined over the years. A **Red-eyed Vireo** was in the early stages of building a nest at PVP 7/24 (AM). A **Common Raven** was noted at New Hope multiple times through the period (BH, DF). The **Purple Martin** colony in East Rockhill Twp. had another amazing year thanks to the efforts of the property owners (HR, JR). The colony has 91 natural gourds, and all had nests. Nesting material included pine straw supplied by the owners. However, only 77 nests had eggs and a total of 279 eggs resulted in 225 fledged young. Several nests had eggs that never hatched, and 3 dead young were found in nests. At least one fledged prematurely and died. One nest had 7 eggs, of which 5 hatched and fledged, and another had 8 eggs, of which 5 also hatched and fledged. In one gourd, **Tree Swallows** started to nest, laid 2 eggs, and then a martin pair took over, laid 5 eggs and all 5 fledged.

Red-breasted Nuthatch went undetected at CVP where they nested in recent years. One was seen and heard at Tinicum Twp. 6/21 in an evergreen stand but there was no follow-up to confirm breeding (AM, JM). **Eastern Bluebird** may have had difficulty due to the cooler and damper spring weather. Dead adults and juvs. were found in some boxes in Blooming Glen (AM). A total of 14 warbler species were reported. A migrant **Louisiana Waterthrush** was at PVP 7/27 (AM, AR). Another migrant was trapped in a glass-surrounded courtyard in Doylestown Borough 7/29 and was rescued thanks to the homeowner being alerted by the interest taken by his indoor cats (RH). Possibly the last for the year was at NSP 7/30 (PT). The **Prothonotary Warblers** at PVP nested again this year (DF). The vinyl pipe nest box from last year was used by Tree Swallows and thus a nearby alternate identical box was used this year. Only one juv. was reported and first noted 6/19 (AM). Reports continued sporadically through the period. Two at LTP 7/31 were a surprise since they were not detected there earlier (PT). A **Hooded Warbler** at SGL 56 on 6/22 (GJ) was the only report away from the normal SGL 157 stronghold (KR). Clear-cutting at the latter site has removed beautiful continuous woodland habitat (in short supply here) along with the associated nest sites for our rare remnant woodland species. **Yellow-breasted Chat** continued at Penn-Warner Tract 6/9 (DF) for the only report.

Preserved beef cattle pasture in Blooming Glen had multiple singing **Savannah Sparrows** 6/6, indicating a likely breeding site (AM) in addition to Warminster Community Park (GJ) and MKF (RS). **Grasshopper Sparrow** continued through the period at Van Sant Airport (PC). The only entries in eBird for **Swamp Sparrow** were at Quakertown Swamp 6/9 (AM, JM) and 7/31 (JC). A **Blue Grosbeak** pair was at MKF (RS) where they have been reported in past years. The only other report was from Falls Twp. 7/4 (MG) where more expected. The presence of Dickcissel could not be determined this year since access to previous nest sites at the Penn-Warner Tract was not possible (DF). **Bobolinks** were at their normal Tinicum Twp. hayfield breeding sites (DA, MG, AM, JM). Juv. **Eastern Meadowlarks** were noted at Van Sant Airport 6/21 (AM, JM) and MKF (RS). Adults were carrying food at BRD 7/25 to young heard in the grass (JM, AM). Unfortunately the county mowing tractor was rapidly approaching the area that day and the outcome is unknown. This was at least the second unnecessary mowing there this year, an annual problem for field-nesting birds. One singing at the pastures in Blooming Glen 6/6 (AM) probably indicates the habitat is attracting them there. Other likely breeding sites were Warminster Community Park (GJ), Pine Run Dam (SG), and other Tinicum Twp. hayfields (AM, JM). The latter two areas are also subject to mowing.

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Butler County

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Cambria County

Locations: St. Lawrence area (SLA), Prince Gallitzin State Park (PG).

A single **Pied-billed Grebe** was at PG during the latter part of July (DG, JS). Two **Green Heron** nests with young were observed at PG (DG). Single **Ospreys** were seen at the Patton area and PG during the period, but

no breeding was observed. The **Bald Eagle** pair at PG successfully raised 3 young. **Northern Harriers** were observed at SLA (DG, JS). A **Spotted Sandpiper** with one young was seen in northern Cambria (DG) at the same place breeding was observed during the atlas. **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were very common, probably due to the abundance of gypsy moth caterpillars. The single **Eastern Whip-poor-will** near SLA continued through the period. **Willow Flycatchers** seemed more common this year. **Purple Martins** continue to expand their sites in northern Cambria. **Yellow-rumped** and **Prairie Warblers** nested again in the same area near SLA (DG, JS). **Blackburnian** and **Canada Warblers** were heard and seen at Dean State Game Lands (DG, JS). **Field, Vesper, Savannah, Grasshopper,** and **Henslow's Sparrows** were found in good numbers at several reclaimed strip areas (DG, JS). Due to the wet weather in June and subsequent delay in hay mowing, **Bobolinks** and **Eastern Meadowlarks** did well. **Orchard Orioles** continued to expand their breeding areas at PG (DG, JS).

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Cameron County

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Centre County

Locations: PSU Arboretum (ARBOR), Bald Eagle S.P. (BESP), Black Moshannon S.P. (BMSP), Colyer L. (COL), PennDOT remediation ponds on Rte. 220 west of Julian (JUL), Scotia Barrens and Pond (SCO).

It was a very quiet summer, with the most unexpected sightings being albinos individuals of two common species. Information for this report was obtained primarily from the State College Bird Club listserv and eBird with background and status information from *Birds of Central Pennsylvania* by Nick Bolgiano and Greg Grove, 2010, Stone Mountain Publishing, State College, PA (B&G, 2010). Two observations were indirectly obtained from Facebook. Several uncommon species were observed at multiple locations in appropriate habitat and will not be discussed further in this report. These species include **Green Heron**, **Cooper's Hawk**, **Black-billed Cuckoo**, **Barred Owl**, **Eastern Whip-poor-will**, **Belted Kingfisher**, **Acadian Flycatcher**, **Willow Flycatcher**, **Least Flycatcher**, **Great Crested Flycatcher**, **Eastern Kingbird**, **Yellow-throated Vireo**, **Common Raven**, **Northern Rough-winged Swallow**, **Veery**, **Eastern Meadowlark**, and **Orchard Oriole**.

Only two rare summer ducks were observed. A single male **Ring-necked Duck** was observed at the Duck Pond 7/30 (AL). This duck has been in residence for several years. A **Common Merganser** was spotted 6/1 in Unionville (DO). One **Pied-billed Grebe** was spotted 7/9 at the Nittany Farms pond (IG). Two late migrating **Double-crested Cormorants** were observed 6/9-15 at BESP (AnK, MSc), and a **Great Egret** was at ARBOR 7/31 (ph. RD). All three of these species are rare in this region during the breeding season.

A few **Black Vultures** continued to stake their claims in Centre. Most of the records were south and east of the Allegheny Front, but a single bird was also spotted 7/17 on the Allegheny Plateau at BMSP (BeB). There were three rare summer sightings of **Ospreys**. One was seen 6/2 in the Spring Cr. Canyon (NiB). The other 2 were reported in mid-Jul, one on 7/14 at BESP (Bald Eagle SP eTT Data) and the other on 7/17 at the Rte. 220/I-99 intersection (CE). **Northern Harrier** is another rare summer species. One was seen 6/26 at the intersection of Nixon Rd. and Whitehall Rd. (JK). Two sightings on 7/11, one at ARBOR and the other on the PSU central campus (RD) may have been of the same bird, since these locations are in close proximity to each other. A male was observed 7/15 on S. Nixon Rd. (RF). An uncommon **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was reported 7/25 on McCloskey Rd. (StB, BSc, MTo). Single **Bald Eagles** were noted 6/2 in Spring Cr. Canyon (NiB) and 6/9 at JUL (JV, CE, MaR). Up to 4 were observed throughout the summer at BESP (RH, AnK, Bald Eagle SP eTT Data, BSc, StB), and 4 were spotted 6/18 at Fisherman's Paradise (BA). A few uncommon **Red-shouldered Hawks** were noted. One was at BESP 6/10 (AnK), and another was observed at the same location 7/12 (BSc, StB). Two were reported 6/16 at Bear Meadows (MSc), and a single bird was seen 6/15-23 in the Black Moshannon IBA (JD, IG). Three were in State College 6/27 (KP).

Up to 3 uncommon **Spotted Sandpipers** were reported 6/14-7/12 at COL (BSc, MSc, CE, StB), and one was spotted 7/20 at BMSP (BSc). Two uncommon gull species were noted. A single **Ring-billed Gull** was spotted at the N. Atherton St. Walmart parking lot 6/15 (SB). There were two sightings at BESP—a single bird 6/22 (BSc) and 2 on 7/12 (BSc, StB).

Northern Saw-whet Owls were reported from two locations, one 7/17

at BMSP (BeB), and another one 7/30 at Bear Meadows (JD). Another uncommon species is **Common Nighthawk**; one was spotted 6/9 in the Panther Grasslands (JV, SB, CE, MaR, MSc), and another was seen 6/12 near Houserville (BA). Single birds were also reported 6/14 in Potter's Mills (RD) and 6/15 at the intersection of W. Pine Grove Rd. and Deibler Rd. (CE). **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were also present during the breeding season, with a single bird noted 6/9 at Ambleside Park (BA). Three were at the intersection of W. Pine Grove Rd. and Deibler Rd. 6/15 (CE). After observing territorial spats for a couple weeks, adults were seen bringing food to two nest holes on Sinking Creek 6/26 (LR, MR). **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** are rare in this region during the summer; however, 2 were spotted 6/21-23 in the Black Moshannon IBA (IG), and one was on the Kato-Orviston Rd. 6/25 (BSc).

Although the **Alder Flycatcher** is considered to be an uncommon to rare breeder (B&G, 2010), this *Empidonax* was widely reported this season. Two **Trail's Flycatchers** were observed 6/25 at BESP (ThS). A trio of **Warbling Vireos** was noted in Jun, with one reported throughout the month in Unionville (DO), and another at BESP 6/4 (RH). The third was at Millbrook Marsh Nature Center 6/14 (JD). **Fish Crows** are common around State College but uncommon elsewhere in Centre. Birders spotted one 6/2-15 at BESP (JV, MSc), and 2 were at Fisherman's Paradise 6/18 (BA). A single bird was at COL 7/18 (RD), and at least one was observed 7/21 in Pine Grove Mills (AC). Two **Horned Larks** lingered into Jun, with one on Tusseyville/Williams Rd. 6/1 (MaR) and another on S. Nixon Rd. 6/16 (JD).

There were only two reports of **Purple Martins**. Two were observed 7/13 at the Penns Cave Airport (IG), and 2 more were seen 7/22 in State College (RD). **Bank Swallow** is another uncommon breeding bird. One was at BESP 6/22 (BSc), and up to 3 were spotted 6/9-23 in the Ambleside Park/Stoney Pt. Dr. area (BA, BSc). Two were at a pond near the previous location on 6/19 and may have been the same of the same birds (BA). An albino **Barn Swallow** was photographed 7/11 on the PSU central campus (JiK fide AL). **Cliff Swallows** were also present, with a single bird at JUL 6/15 (JD), and 2 on Ambleside Park/Stoney Pt. Dr. 6/23 (BSc). Up to 11 were at BESP 6/15-7/15 (MSc, BSc, Bald Eagle SP eTT Data, STB).

Two **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were at Bear Meadows 7/6 (JD). A single albino **White-breasted Nuthatch** was photographed in Axemann 7/23 (CY fide AL). Single **Brown Creepers** were spotted 6/19 on Mountain Rd. (BA) and 6/25 on the Kato Orviston Rd. (BSc). Up to 5 were observed 6/21-25 in the Black Moshannon IBA (IG). Two rare summer **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were on Apple Ridge Rd. 7/13 (IG). **Hermit Thrushes** are uncommon during the summer everywhere in Centre except on the Allegheny Plateau. However, there was a scattering of other reports made elsewhere in the county this season, with most coming from Bear Meadows. The Allegheny Plateau is only part of Centre where **Northern Mockingbirds** are not common and where up to 2 were observed 6/21-25 in the Black Moshannon IBA (IG).

Twenty-three warbler species were reported, of which five are common or abundant. An additional seven species are uncommon but were widely reported: **Worm-eating Warbler**, **Hooded Warbler**, **Cerulean Warbler**, **Blackburnian Warbler**, **Chestnut-sided Warbler**, **Black-throated Blue Warbler**, and **Canada Warbler**. The remaining species were noted in limited numbers. A **Louisiana Waterthrush** was in Unionville 6/25-27 (DO). Three were spotted 7/6, one at Fisherman's Paradise and 2 at Bear Meadows (both JD). A rare summer **Northern Waterthrush** was found the same day at the latter location (JD). As many as 3 **Golden-winged Warblers** were spotted at SCO 6/3-15 (JV, CE, BSc), with another few at BESP 6/4-14 (RH, DM). A single **Brewster's Warbler** was at BESP 6/14 (DM). **Northern Parula** were reported at four locations, with Bear Meadows hosting 4 on 6/15 (MSc) and 2 on 7/18 (RD). One each were spotted off Rte. 144 on 6/21 (MB), in Unionville 6/21-25 (DO), and in the Black Moshannon IBA 6/25 (IG). **Magnolia Warbler** was at the same location 6/23 (IG), and 2 were at BMSP 7/20 (BSc). A handful of **Pine Warblers** were reported, with up to 2 at SCO 6/3-6/27 (JV, MB, JD, MA), and single birds 6/15-21 at BMSP (CE, BA, BrH) and 6/19 on Mountain Rd. (BA). As many as 3 were observed 6/15-7/27 in the Black Moshannon IBA (JD, IG). A few **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were also present. One was at Poe Valley S.P. 7/15 (IG), and 2 were at BESP 7/27 (Bald Eagle SP eTT Data). One was also at the Black Moshannon IBA 7/27 (JD). Late Jun brought two reports of rare **Yellow-throated Warblers**, one 6/21-29 in Unionville (DO) and the other 6/24 at BESP (Bald Eagle SP eTT Data). Most sightings of **Prairie Warbler** were from five locations on the Allegheny Plateau; however, a single bird was at SCO 6/11 (JD). **Yellow-breasted Chats** were reported again this year at BESP 6/26 (ThS). Single chats were at SCO 6/15 (CE) and at Bear Meadows 7/7 (RH).

Three uncommon grassland sparrows—**Vesper Sparrow**, **Savannah Sparrow**, and **Grasshopper Sparrow**—were widely reported in appropriate habitat. A fourth, **Henslow's Sparrow**, is rare in the summer; however, up to 8 were observed in the SGL 100 Germantown Settlement Grasslands

6/9-7/29 (MSc, et al.). Uncommon **Swamp Sparrows** were noted in six locations. An abundance of **Bobolinks** was spotted on Mountain Rd., with as many as 8 reported 6/15-19 (JD, BA), and 36 in two flocks 7/7 (CE). They were also observed 7/17 at BMSP (BeB). A few **Purple Finches** round out this report, with one seen 6/4 and again 6/23 near Stormstown (BA), and a few at the Rusnak Hill reclaimed strip mine 6/9 (JV, SB, CE, MaR). One was also spotted the same day at Pancake (JD), and 2 were at Fisherman's Paradise 6/18 (BA).

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Chester County

Locations: Bucktoe Creek Preserve (BCP), Chambers Lake (CL), Crow's Nest Preserve (CNP), Exton Park (EP), Goat Hill Preserve (GHP), Longwood Gardens (LWG).

Summer of 2013 proved to be the wettest on modern record in the region, with the highest amount of measurable rainfall ever recorded. This kept the lakes and ponds filled to the brim, and reduced the amount of shorebird habitat. Although warm and often humid, there were few days of extreme heat; overall temperatures were about average for a Chester summer. The season saw a new confirmed breeding species: Red-breasted Nuthatch! This exciting find fell on the heels of an excellent winter for northern nuthatch in this region.

A few lingering waterfowl lingered into early summer. Three **Snow Geese** were among a flock of **Canada Geese** in Guthriesville 6/14 (JH). Summer records of this species are uncommon, and often are due to injury or illness, though that was not confirmed in this case. A lone **Ring-necked Duck**, not typically found in Jun in Chester, was observed on CL 6/9-6/26 (RR). Also persisting on CL were 3 **Ruddy Ducks** seen 6/14, 6/18 and 6/26.

Wild Turkey was consistently reported from CNP during the breeding period, and presumed to have bred at this location (SS, NF). Uncommon in summer, a **Double-crested Cormorant** was at CL 6/12 (RR). A good find was a **Great Blue Heron** in a nest at LWG (DK). Though there are some known rookeries in the region, nesting is not known in recent past. **Snowy Egrets** are rare spring and fall migrants in Chester, but were noted twice this season. The first was a well-described flyover adult bird in Avondale 6/5 (CM). The second came from Exton Park, where one was seen and photographed for a single day, as it foraged with other heron and egret species 7/28 (MD, BR, LM). Immature **Little Blue Herons** make annual summer appearances in the county, and Exton Park is always a good place to find one. One imm. bird was a pleasant surprise at the start of a bird walk there 7/21 (WBH), and presumably this same individual continued through the end of the reporting period (m.ob.). A Night-Heron species was seen over BCP 7/17 (JS), but brief glimpses did not allow identification to species. A single **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was seen in flight over Marsh Creek State Park 7/24 (HM), where they are known to roost in the summer. Evidence of breeding has never been found here, unfortunately.

Once again this summer, **Black Vulture** chicks were banded in the Downingtown area 7/3 (DM). The skilled banders place tags on the underwings of these young birds in hopes that they can be monitored. **Broad-winged Hawks** are secretive and low-density breeding raptors in Chester. Reports consistently came from Cassatt Preserve at Upper Main Line YMCA (BR, BQ), CNP (NF, SS), and the Downingtown area (HM, AD). A smattering of observations of **Osprey** came from around the county (m.ob.), but nesting has yet to be discovered anywhere in the county. After several sightings in May, reports of **Mississippi Kite** continued into Jun. BCP has held the most sightings in the county, and one was spotted in flight during the evening shorebird watch 6/4 (KN). Remarkably, 3 Mississippi Kites were seen in flight heading south, as the observer watched from Nottingham County Park 6/16 (NP). This is the highest count of this species seen at once in Chester. A fantastic surprise, and great find for the observer, was an adult Mississippi Kite noticed due to the mobbing **Eastern Kingbirds** at LWG 7/25 (KN). This kite was last seen headed north-northwest away from the Abbondi area. The **Northern Harrier** is a raptor species rarely found in summer, but this year one was reported flying over the Pennsylvania Turnpike 7/22 (DMc).

Virginia Rails were found in early Jun indicating a high probability of breeding. One was heard calling from the wetlands in the Laurels Preserve 6/3 (KF), and another continued on a private wetlands in Downingtown through at least 6/5 (HM). Two **Soras** at EP were a big surprise to birders on a walk there 6/6 (GDT, et al.). Further reports were not received, but the habitat is conducive for breeding.

A nightly watch for northbound shorebirds was held again this year at BCP, and continued through 6/8 (LL, et al.). The night of 6/6 proved to be one of the best of the season, with thousands of shorebirds seen over the site. Unfortunately, due to distance and height they could not be identified to species. Southbound shorebirds started showing up the second week in Jul in multiple locations, including EP (m.ob.). Three **Semipalmated Sandpipers**, uncommon but regular fall migrants, were seen 7/18 at EP (BQ, GDT), and another 2 were seen in Exton the same day (HM). A single bird was found at LWG 7/25 (KN). An **American Woodcock**, which flushed from a wet trail at GHP 6/29, was a big surprise for the observer (WBH) and the only record of this species during the season.

Reports of **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** this year were more numerous than in recent summers. Observations came from many locations around the county, which was encouraging evidence for successful nesting (m.ob.). **Black-billed Cuckoos**, the scarcer of the two cuckoos, were noted in three locations: Stroud Preserve 6/30 (AU, KG), EP 7/11 (GDT) and Laurels Preserve 7/16 (KF). The cuckoo at EP was a juvenile. **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were consistently found at the only known stronghold area for this species, the Serpentine Barrens. These vocal nightjars were heard and seen at dusk at GHP 6/2 (BQ, BR, MD) and 6/29 (MC). An adult **Red-headed Woodpecker** was a terrific find at Wolf's Hollow C.P. 7/19 (MQ, GDT). Nesting of this species has not been confirmed recently, but the presence of an adult in Jul was encouraging.

The season's most outstanding breeding record was the confirmation of the successful breeding of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** in Unionville (KN). This species was a possible breeder in Chester in the first (1984-89) breeding bird atlas project, but was never confirmed. After a winter of many reports of this nuthatch, a pair lingering into Jun raised suspicions of breeding, which were confirmed when 3 juvenile Red-breasted Nuthatches appeared in a yard 6/10. They were last seen 6/20. At least one of them, if not all, was suspected to have been predated upon by an **American Kestrel**. A possible **Marsh Wren** was heard at EP during a bird walk 6/27 (BB tide GDT). This same spot had a few early summer records last year, but nesting was not confirmed.

Again this year, 17 warbler species were suspected to be breeding in the county. **Yellow-throated Warblers** were confirmed breeding when a juvenile was seen begging for food in Kerr Park 7/18 (KN). A single report of **Cerulean Warbler** was notable, on the Struble Trail along the Brandywine Creek 7/4 (LL, KP). This trail has long been the most reliable spot in the county to find this beautiful warbler. This year, the observation was made on the southern end of the trail, an area where they had not been previously found. There were only 3 reports of **Worm-eating Warbler** this season: one from Coventry Woods in northern Chester 6/4 (RK), another along the Struble Trail in Downingtown 6/24 (NF, SS), and a high count of 6 at GHP 6/29 (WBH). A declining and low-density breeder in Chester, **Kentucky Warbler** was only reported once, at Peacedale Preserve 6/28 (WBH). The forested area surrounding Peacedale has historically been known to host this species. A late imm. female **Mourning Warbler** was at BCP 6/8 (JS). This late date was in trend with other late observations of this uncommon migrant in the region.

The decline of suitable habitat for grassland nesting sparrows plays a big part in the dwindled populations of certain species. **Vesper Sparrows** were at one time regular breeders in the county, but recent years have gone without records. This year, one was heard and seen 6/3 in Cochranville, a possible breeder (KF). Another sparrow that requires healthy grasslands for nesting is the **Savannah Sparrow**, which was found in three locations on private properties by the same observer with two records 6/3 and another 6/28 (KF). **Grasshopper Sparrows** are regular nesters in Chester, but can be tough to track down. One heard and recorded singing 7/13 at EP was unanticipated, since this property holds little suitable habitat and the surrounding region is densely populated (AD). Other reports came from more expected areas with vast farmland and thriving meadows (m.ob.).

A bird that is not found in most areas of the county in summer is the **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**. During the breeding season, sightings typically only occur in the northern portion of the county. This year, a pair was discovered incubating a nest at CNP on several occasions in Jun (JT). The only other report came from the Phoenixville area, where a male was seen feeding a juv. at a bird feeder 7/10 (VS). **Blue Grosbeaks** were found mostly at BCP and GHP, both historical breeding sites (m.ob.). A 6/4 report from Downingtown marked the first ever confirmation for that property (KF). This year was the first in several where **Dickcissel** was not reported during the breeding season. The winter of 2013 saw a good showing of irruptive

Pine Siskins, and one was reported lingering into Jun at a Downingtown area yard 6/4 (JH).

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Clarion County

Locations: Cullsville strips (CV), Mount Zion - Piney Tract IBA/SGL 330 (MZ), Sarah Furnace (SF).

Northern Harrier was seen regularly in the usual grassland areas of CV and MZ throughout Jun and Jul. At MZ, three reports were received, a single bird 6/22 (BH), an agitated adult female 7/2 (AF), and a single bird 7/16 (NH). At CV there were eight different sightings 6/11-7/13 (MM, SC, JB, SG, DI, et al.). On 6/12 the sighting was noted as a worn female (JB), and the report from 7/13 was also that of an adult female (JHA).

The Cherry Run area of Rimmersburg continues to produce some interesting records for the county. A new early date for **Solitary Sandpiper** was set there when a single bird was found on Summerville Rd. 7/26 (MM). Sadly this year was not a good one for **Upland Sandpiper** in Clarion. Only a single sighting was reported, one at Mount Airy 6/15, with a possibility of a second bird present but not confirmed (DM). This species continues to be at high risk even at this regular location due to varying land use practices, including the early haying season.

As noted in some other regions of the state, with the increased presence of gypsy moths in some areas this year, cuckoos were seen in increased numbers. At a property near Strattanville, **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were numerous. They were confirmed nesting there in Jun with 2 young found in an active nest. On the same property **Black-billed Cuckoos** were also present, with a single bird found dead from a window strike in early Jun and an adult calling with a likely fledgling present as well 7/11 (RM). At SGL 63 near Shippensburg, Black-billed Cuckoos were present 6/19 and a Yellow-billed Cuckoo was gathering nesting material (MF), and a total of 6 Yellow-billed Cuckoos were seen there 6/22 (CW). This area was heavily infested with gypsy moths this year, while south of I-80 little evidence of the moths were seen and consequently cuckoo numbers were not nearly as high.

On 7/6 at a property near Limestone, a pair of **Red-eyed Vireos** was seen defending their nest and young against a pair of **Baltimore Orioles** (F&JW). This report is of interest for the behavior involved more so than the rarity of the species. It was unclear what prompted the incident.

Warblers of interest were in short supply for the season. **Cerulean Warblers** were only noted in two locations, with one bird reported singing at SF 6/10 (CW), and 2 singing 6/11 on nearby Phillipston Rd. on the hillside above the Allegheny River (CW). A single bird was also noted there 6/14 (MM). **Worm-eating Warblers** continue to be seen at SF, but with fewer reports this year. A single bird was seen 6/10 (CW) and 2 birds were also there 6/22 (BH). No breeding evidence was reported although that may well have been due to lack of observers rather than change in breeding status. **Kentucky Warblers** were noted at only one location, on Phillipston Rd. near East Brady. A single bird was singing 6/11 (CW) and 2 were at this same location counter-singing 6/14 (MM).

The best sighting for the season was the return of **Dickcissels** to the same area they frequented last year at the CV strips site. The first report of the return of these birds was 6/19, with 2 birds present and singing (MM). They continued to be reported regularly through the end of the season with up to 3 birds present, 2 singing males and a female (JM, SC, TN, SG, DI, et al.). They were seen frequently using small trees at the roads edge and further into the fields as singing perches, as well as large forbs. Unfortunately, no breeding confirmation was obtained this year other than the presence of territorial males and a female. This reclaimed strip mine was replanted several years ago with switchgrass and wildflowers has remained unmowed for the past two summers, and has shown improved numbers of all grassland birds, as well as attracting this new species.

Clay-colored Sparrows continue to be regular at two locations in the county, MZ and CV. Each year there are records of a brief appearance of birds at scattered nearby areas with appropriate habitat, but so far they have not expanded to be regular at any other locations. This year there was a report of a singing male 6/15 on McEwen Rd., not far from the MZ site and with similar appropriate habitat (DM). At MZ itself, where they had returned to their former site on Mt. Zion Rd., only one report was had for the season,

that of a single bird 6/15 (BH). They had been present and singing during the spring season so their breeding status for the year remains uncertain. At the CV site, where they have been more numerous for the past five years, numbers were fairly steady at 2 to 4 birds through the season, an apparent decrease that was also noted last year (SG, MM, JB, JFI, SC, et al.). Sightings were from the beginning of the season through the last date of 7/13 but, disappointingly, no breeding evidence was recorded for the year other than the presence of territorial males. **Grasshopper Sparrows** were noted in typical numbers for the season from grassland habitat in the southern part of the county, and **Henslow's Sparrows** were also noted in good numbers for the year, with up to 20 singing males reported at CV (SG, RN, MM, JB, AP, et al.) and up to 16 singing males at MZ (BH, AF, RN, NH, AP, et al.). Henslow's Sparrows continue to be present in many scattered reclaimed strip-mine grasslands throughout the southern part of Clarion, but are mostly missed, with the focus on the well-known areas that are frequented by visiting and local birders alike. As usual, the least common sparrow reported is **Vesper Sparrow**, with only three sightings noted this summer and all at the CV strips site. Two birds were noted 6/23 (SC) and again 6/24 (JFI), with at least one bird reported 6/29 (SI). There is some appropriate habitat at this location but no further sightings were noted after 6/29 and no other breeding evidence was noted for this declining species.

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Clearfield County

Locations: Harmony Area (HAR), Magee's Mills, (MM), Westover (WES).

The **Great Blue Heron** colony near WES continues to do well, with about 15 nests in early Jun (DG). **Northern Harriers** probably bred at the reclaimed strips near La Jose Area. There were mature birds present there all through the period (DG). A **Merlin** carrying food was seen at MM 7/8 (DK, JS). A single **Spotted Sandpiper** was at Curwensville Dam 6/22 (DB, NB). A pair of **Upland Sandpipers** were probable breeders at MM. Both **Black-billed** and **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were fairly common this year. Two **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were heard at the game lands above WES (DG). A **Great Crested Flycatcher** was at WES 7/2 (DG). The hemlock bottom near HAR yielded singing **Magnolia**, **Black-throated Green**, and **Blackburnian Warblers** 7/15 (DG). An agitated pair of **Louisiana Waterthrush** was seen near WES 6/5 (DG). As in Cambria, all of the reclaimed strip areas that were visited had good numbers of **Field**, **Vesper**, **Savannah**, **Grasshopper**, and **Henslow's Sparrows**. Several singing **Dark-eyed Juncos** were heard at HAR on 7/15 (DG). **Bobolinks** and **Eastern Meadowlarks** put up good numbers at the reclaimed sites.

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Clinton County

No report.

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Columbia County

No compiler.

Crawford County

Locations: Conneaut Marsh (CM), Erie National Wildlife Refuge (ENWR), Fish Hatchery (FH), McMichael Road (McM), Pymatuning (PYM), Pymatuning Goose Management Area (PGMA), Tamarack Lake (TL), Towpath Road (TOWP).

A **Trumpeter Swan** was located at TL 6/9 and remained there all summer (SC, IF, RCL, RFL, RE). **Wood Ducks** did well with 64 at CM 6/23 (RFL) and 57 there 7/25 (RFL, IF). Unusual were 4 **Gadwall** at PGMA 7/4 (RFL). **Blue-winged Teal** showed up at PGMA on 4 dates in Jun with one

hen and 9 chicks at TL 6/23 (MV, RFL, IF). Up to 9 **Hooded Mergansers** were at usual locations all period, including young (m.ob.). Six **Ruddy Ducks** were near PYM Spillway 6/1 (TCN), and 2 were there 7/28 (RFL, IF).

The first **Great Egret** was noted at FH 6/30 and up to 5 were there by 7/28 (RFL, IF). Two **Osprey** nests were active at Woodcock Lake (m.ob.). One or 2 **Virginia Rails** were recorded at CM 6/1-7/13 (RFL, IF) and up to 8 (7/13) were all at Geneva 6/9-7/28 (RFL, IF).

Three **Semipalmated Plovers** were at FH 6/1 (RFL). The first returning **Greater Yellowlegs** was noted at PGMA and 2 were at TL 7/13 (RFL). **Lesser Yellowlegs** were seen 6/11-7/28 at PYM and TL (m.ob.). Five **Solitary Sandpipers** were recorded at TL 7/21 (SC). Two **Upland Sandpipers** were at PGMA 6/4 (AB), one was at Brown Hill Rd. CM 6/23 (RFL), 2 were at PGMA 6/5 (RFL), and 2 were there 7/6 (RE). A total of 7 **Least Sandpipers** were recorded 7/21 at TL on 7/21. A lone **Wilson's Snipe** was at FH 7/21 (RFL). **Ring-billed Gull** numbers at PYM went from 18 on 6/1 to 403 by 7/28 (RFL, IF). A **Black Tern** was at FH 6/30 (RFL).

One or 2 **Barred Owls** were at Meadville and ENWR 6/1-7/13 (RFL). A lone **Eastern Screech-Owl** was located 7/21 near Shellito's Pond (RFL). **Great Horned Owls** were noted at CM, Saeger Hill, and PYM 6/15 and 7/21-24 (RFL). Lone **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were found at Conneaut Lake 6/1 (RFL) and at TOWP 6/15 and 7/13 (RFL, IF). Single **Yellow-billed Sapsuckers** were at McM 6/11, 6/23, and 7/13 (TCN, RFL). **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were recorded 6/9, 6/11, 6/15, and 7/6 at McM (TCN, RFL).

One **Common Raven** was well studied at Wayland east of Meadville 7/6 (RFL). The top count for **Marsh Wrens** was 8 at McM 7/13 (RFL, IF). One **Brown Creeper** was at ENWR 6/30 (SC). Single **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** were seen 6/15 at TOWP, and 6/23 and 7/6 at McM (RFL, IF). **Wood Thrush** numbers were about normal with 16 at TL, CM, and PYM 7/13 (RFL, IF). **Hermit Thrushes** were recorded at ENWR, Hartstown Marsh, and near Sugar Lake 6/8-7/28 (RE, IF, RFL). Fifteen **Eastern Bluebird** were seen 7/13 at TL, PYM and CM (RFL, IF).

Single **Prothonotary Warblers** were noted at McM 6/9, 6/15, and 6/23 (RFL). A **Blue-winged Warbler** was seen along TOWP 6/15 (RFL, IF), and 2 were recorded at ENWR 6/30 (SC). Two **Magnolia Warblers** and 6 **Chestnut-sided Warblers** were found at ENWR 6/30 (SC). Single **Blue-throated Green Warbler** were noted 6/15 (RFL, IF) and near ENWR 6/30 (SC). Two **Pine Warblers** were found at TL and one at TOWP 7/13 (RFL, IF). A **Mourning Warbler** was found in Conneaut Lake 6/22 (TCN).

Dark-eyed Juncos were seen on 11 dates between 6/9 and 7/28, with one adult and 2 young at ENWR 7/28, and one nest and an adult carrying food for young 6/29 at ENWR (m.ob.). Up to 12 **Swamp Sparrows** were noted 6/23 and 6/30 at ENWR (RFL, IF). One of the rarest birds in this county was a first-year male **Blue Grosbeak** near Springboro 6/14 (TCN). I am aware of only one other record—one near Sugar Lake in the 1950s. One **Dickcissel** was seen at the PGMA 6/19 (SC). Two **Orchard Orioles** were recorded on nest at ENWR 6/30 (SC) and 2 were seen carrying food to a nest there 6/21 (RE).

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Cumberland County

Locations: Michaux State Forest (MSF), Tuscarora State Forest (TSF).

The **Pied-billed Grebe** present on the Big Spring since Nov 2012 was last seen 7/4 (VG). One adult **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was reported by kayakers on the shoreline of the Conodoguinet not too far upstream from the West Fairview boat ramp 6/23 (SD, MM), and at the boat ramp 7/20 (SCo). There were no reports of Least Bittern from SGL 169.

Four **Eurasian Collared-Doves** were reported at the intersection of Pipeline and Mountain Roads in Lower Mifflin Twp. 7/13 (BO, VG), and another 2 were there 7/20 (SCo). A nearby homeowner indicated that the Collared-Doves had been there since May. There had been a report of one Collared-Dove nearby at the intersection of Mountain and Meadows Roads 4/20. There was no conclusive evidence that the birds have successfully bred at this location. As with the summer of 2012, reports of **Black-billed Cuckoo** continue to be sparse. The only report this year was one on Milesburn Rd., MSF 7/5 (BF, LF, BP). This is most likely due in part to the lack of a caterpillar outbreak in Cumberland the last two years.

Cerulean Warblers were reported at their usual sites with 6 on Elk Hill Rd. TSF 7/5 (VG, AW) and 3 at Camp Michaux MSF 7/4 (VG). Flat Rock Trail, TSF also had one each at Points 3 and 5 on 6/25 (AW). The only 2 **Kentucky Warblers** reported in the period were also at Camp Michaux 7/4 (VG). A single singing **Canada Warbler** was reported at the usual location on Milesburn Rd., MSF 6/8 (BP, BF, LF). Reports of **Blackburnian**

Warblers were of 2 from Elk Hill Rd. 7/5 (VG AnM), and one each from Flat Rock Trail Point 1 on 6/25 (AW) and Colonel Denning State Park Point 2 on 6/25 (AW). There were no Golden-winged Warblers reported at Meadows Rd. TSF or anywhere else in Cumberland.

One **Henslow's Sparrow** was north of Newville on Chestnut Rd. near the intersection with Hunters Rd. 7/16 (AT). This is the same location where 3 were reported in 2012. The field had just been mowed and the bird was not relocated. There were up to 3 **Dickcissels** (2 males and one female) on Shady Rd. just west of Newburg 6/29-7/20 (VG, m.ob.). Reports for **Blue Grosbeaks** were from the Rock Run, Hunters Rd., Center Rd. area north of Newville,—one male at three different locations 6/2 (VG), 6/12 (HW), 6/21 (VG) and 7/11 (SC). The one on 6/21 was singing on a phone wire and then flew down to the road in some kind of territorial display, in which it splayed its wings making the bright chestnut stand out while the bird crouched down and walked like a mechanical windup toy. A pair was reported on Center Rd. 7/13 (VG, BO). There were no reports of Blue Grosbeaks from the area north of Newburg.

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Dauphin County

Locations: west corridor Harrisburg (HBG), Milton S. Hershey School campus (MSH), Susquehanna River (SR), Lower Paxton Township (LPT), SR from West Fairview (SRWF), Wildwood Lake (WL).

Two **Mute Swans** were at WL 6/9 (TA), and 2 continued at the Middletown boat launch and were viewed 6/25 and again 7/1 (PW, RW). There were a few non-nesting waterfowl that lingered into the season. A male **American Wigeon** was at WL 6/2-3 (LC, DM, PW, RW). A **Redhead** female was at Middletown boat launch 7/10 (EBb) and remained through the end of the season. After the record number of **Redheads** this winter and spring along the SR, it is no surprise that one lingered well into the summer season. There was no indication as to any possible injuries. Two **Hooded Mergansers** were reported 7/21 SRWF (RK). A female Hooded Merganser with 8 nearly grown chicks were observed on the Swatara Creek near Hummelstown 8/1 following earlier sightings in Jul (PF). This was an unusual confirmed nesting for this species in the lower third of the county away from the SR.

A single **Common Loon** was reported 6/1 at SRWF (NZ) and 2 were observed there 6/9 (WW), and a very late **Pied-billed Grebe** was at WL 6/15 (MM). An **American Bittern** was at the MSH campus ponds 6/7 (NM), and one was near Cummings Swamp just north of Millersburg, along with 2 **Least Bitterns** 7/27 (JF). There have been no Jul records in more than 30 years for either bittern, including data from both the first and second breeding bird atlas projects. The **Great Blue Heron** colony along Canal Rd. in South Hanover Twp. produced more than 20 young, all of which had fledged by the end of Jul (RW, et al.). **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was reported SRWF and from other locations from HBG north to SR at Fort Hunter on a number of occasions (m.ob.). There were 27 or more **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** at 12 nests, including both adults and nestlings, observed at the colony in mid-town HBG 6/2 (TJ). Ten days later (6/12), 35 adults and nestlings were observed with eight nests containing up to 3 nestlings, and two nests presumably still held eggs, on which adults were sitting (JB). Five nestlings in one nest on Hamilton Street were photographed 6/15 (BE). Reports from this area continued through the season (ST, et al.). A flight of 27 **Glossy Ibis** was reported moving up the SR 6/1 viewed from Susquehanna Twp. (EBt). This was the largest number of Ibis of any species ever reported in the county.

Two adult **Ospreys** were on a power-post nest in the rail production yard along Rt. 230 between Highspire and Steelton 6/23. On 7/4 one adult and 2 ready-to-fledge young were photographed on the nest (KK).

A **Semipalmented Plover** was at a wetlands retention area between the Target parking lot in Colonial Park and the Rte. 283/83 connector 7/21 (JH). A late **Solitary Sandpiper** was observed on the rocks at SR from Marysville 6/3 (DM). An **American Woodcock** was at WL 7/9 (EBt).

There were three successful **Barn Owl** nest sites on the campus of MSH School, with 11 owlets banded over the course of the summer (NM). A **Common Nighthawk** was reported from LPT 6/3 (AM). There were two independent reports of **Red-headed Woodpeckers** at Cumming's Swamp north of Millersburg 7/27 (EC, JF). One of the reports mentioned 3 adults and one juvenile (EC). All 6 HBG **Peregrine Falcons**, 2 adults and 4 fledglings, were observed 6/1 during their fledging week (PM). Later reports from Jul indicated all 4 young birds were honing their flying and hunting

skills. There were 2 **Peregrine Falcon** reports from Hershey; the first was an observation from Zoo America 7/18 (TB) and the second from the MSH Environmental Center 7/31 (NM).

Two **Chestnut-sided Warblers** were present at WL 6/2 (DM). A **Kentucky Warbler** was reported near the intersection of Keiffer and Peffley roads in Derry Twp. 6/2 (TJ), and again 6/5-6 (TB, NM, PW, RW). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was reported near the Swatara Creek at Indian Echo Caverns near Hummelstown 6/27 (MW), and a **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was found along the Appalachian Trail on Peter's Mountain 7/27 (CM, MM).

The MSH farm fields were a good location for **Grasshopper Sparrow** this summer. Four were observed 6/20 along with a single **Savannah Sparrow** (CM, MM), and 5 **Grasshopper Sparrows** were reported 7/6 (CB). At least one singing male **Blue Grosbeak** was reported 7/6 and 7/16 at Fort Indiantown Gap (DM). The only other **Blue Grosbeak** observation was 7/25 when one was heard along Church Rd. in Derry Twp. (EBt).

EXOTICS: A **Budgerigar** was found and photographed along Sandbeach Rd. in East Hanover Township 6/27 (SZ).

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Delaware County

Locations: Delaware River (DR), John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum-DelCo portion (TI).

It was yet another hot summer, and with a lot more rain than usual.

A holdover adult male **Ruddy Duck** at Hoy's Pond TI 7/6-7 (AB, DB) was reported to have been there at least since 6/23. Two locally uncommon **Snowy Egrets** were reported in a group of **Great Egrets** at TI 7/26 (TB). Rare in Delaware at any time, a **Glossy Ibis** was a flyover at TI 7/6 (AB) seen headed toward the DR. There were at least 4 active **Osprey** nests along the DR on the *Delaware* side. Success was documented in at least one nest when at least 2 and perhaps 3 chicks were observed 6/1 (TB).

The bird of the season was a one-day wonder **American Avocet** on the tidal flats off Little Tinicum Island in the DR 7/20 (AG, et al.). There are only four previous county records, the most recent in May 1969. The 4 **Pectoral Sandpipers** among 139 **Semipalmented Sandpipers** TI 7/26 (TB) were an uncommon find.

The county's (and region's) first record of nesting **Common Ravens** was reported in the spring 2013 issue of this journal. The pair that nested in the quarry in Glen Mills fledged 3 chicks 5/8-9. Therefore it was heartening to see a report of 5 Common Ravens spotted just a few miles from the quarry over Lima 7/10 (MS), indicating the family was still together. Likewise a local birder who resides and works at the Glen Mills School near the quarry reported seeing the ravens almost every day (JP). The Glen Mills School also maintains a very active **Purple Martin** colony and 744 nestlings were banded by the group this summer (DM). This was an increase from the 712 birds banded in 2012. Difficult to find in any season, the report of **Blue Grosbeak** 7/26 TI (TB) was noteworthy.

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Elk County

No compiler.

Erie County

Locations: Gull Point, Presque Isle State Park (GP).

Most of the breeding season was cool and wet in northwestern Pennsylvania. Many species of waterfowl remained through Jun and even into Jul including **Green-winged Teal**, **Blue-winged Teal**, **Greater** and **Lesser Scaup**, **Bufflehead**, and **Ruddy Duck**. Despite the waterfowl diversity there was no confirmed nesting outside the regular breeding species: **Mallard**, **Wood Duck**, and **Hooded Merganser**. **Peregrine Falcon** was confirmed nesting in the county. A pair of **Merlin** was also

found with a nest, for a first in Erie. GP was covered by birders more this season than ever before, including coverage by one observer (RD) every single morning during the two month period. Not surprising with the heavy coverage, a nice array of rarities were found including a first confirmed **Western Grebe** for the county, multiple sightings of **American Avocet**, **Willet**, **Whimbrel**, and at least 3 different **Piping Plovers**. It has long been suspected that **Pine Siskins** nest in the county, especially following invasion years. Finally a recently fledged Pine Siskin was seen at a feeder in Jul.

The following unusual birds were recorded from Presque Isle State Park unless noted otherwise. Not expected in the middle of the summer were 3 **Tundra Swans** that appeared 7/19 and remained to at least 7/27 (RD). The first confirmed record for **Western Grebe** in Erie was established 6/21 when one was spotted off GP. It remained to be seen and photographed by many until 6/25. Two **Least Bitterns** were spotted at the head of Presque Isle Bay 6/15 (MV).

It was a good season for **Piping Plovers** at GP. One leg banded bird was there 6/8 (RD), one unbanded adult 6/8-9 (RD, MB), and another unbanded adult 7/26-28 (RD). A season total of 7 **American Avocets** were at GP, with one near Beach 6, from 6/17 (first Erie Jun record) to 7/26 (RD). There was a nice movement of **Ruddy Turnstones** at GP on 6/6 when at least 50 birds was counted (RD). The **Hudsonian Godwit** seen on 6/29 at GP was a good find (RD). It was a sensational summer for **Willets** as well with a season total of 16 counted at GP (RD). It was also an exceptional year for **Whimbrel** with ten birds counted 7/7-28 (RD). A whopping 30 **Red Knots** were observed making landfall during a storm at GP 6/6 (RD). A single knot appeared at GP 7/28 (RD). A season total of 21 **White-rumped Sandpipers** at GP was well above the average count for the summer season with all sightings 6/6-16 (RD). Five **Stilt Sandpipers** were counted at GP 7/20-24 (DM, RD). The **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** briefly at GP 7/28 was at least three weeks earlier than expected (RD, JM). Three stunning female **Wilson's Phalaropes** made a brief stop at GP 6/4 (RD).

A pair of **Merlins** was found in early May in Edinboro (TS, fide SW) and they remained into the summer to nest. The nest was photographed 6/12 (DS), documenting the first nesting of this species in Erie. The first successful nesting of **Peregrine Falcons** in Erie was confirmed 6/24 in the City of Erie when a juvenile bird in a nest was found by workers inside the Ron Jon's Ship Builders building. Workers said they had been nesting there for the past 3 years. The **Peregrines** were reported with photos on the local news stations. **Prairie Warblers** have never been confirmed breeding in Erie, so a singing bird from 5/31-6/1 at Erie Bluffs State Park was encouraging (JM). Another male was singing near the end of Jun in Union City (DP). Confirmed nesting of **Pine Siskin** in Erie occurred when a recently fledged bird visited a thistle feeder in Greene Twp. 7/11 (BPZ).

Observers: Jerry McWilliams, 3508 Allegheny Rd., Erie, PA 16508-2129, jerrymcw@aol.com, Mary Birdsong, Roger Donn, Drew Mortensen, Donna Peters, Terry Smith, Don Snyder, Mark Vass, Suzanne Winterberger, Bob & Pam Zelenak.

Fayette County

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

A female **Common Merganser** with 7 young at OSP 6/15 was enjoyed by the group during a Three Rivers Birding Club outing (MF, TRBC). Five **Ruffed Grouse** and an **American Woodcock** were at OSP 7/11 (ST). An **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was heard near Wharton 6/12 (LD).

Four **Willow Flycatchers** were near Wharton 6/12 (LD) and one was at Deer Lake 6/15 (MF, TRBC). A **Least Flycatcher** was at Quebec Run Natural Area 6/15 (CD). **Cliff Swallows** and **Barn Swallows** were observed at the nesting colony at OSP during a Three Rivers Birding Club outing 6/15. A **Brown Thrasher** was at OSP 6/15 (MF, TRBC). Three **Veeries** were tallied during the Fayette BBS 6/9 (GM) and several were at QRWA 6/15 (CD). A **White-eyed Vireo** and a **Yellow-throated Vireo** were at OSP 6/15 (MF, TRBC). Five **Blue-headed Vireos** were tallied on the BBS that covers Springfield Twp., Stewart Twp. and Ohiopyle 6/9 (GM) and one was at QRWA 6/15 (CD).

Warblers tallied during the BBS 6/9 included 9 **Black-and-white Warblers**, 31 **American Redstarts**, 12 **Chestnut-sided Warblers**, 9 **Black-throated Blue Warblers**, and 14 **Black-throated Green Warblers** (GM). Warblers at QRWA 6/15 included **Ovenbirds**, **Hooded Warblers**, **American Redstarts**, **Cerulean Warblers**, Black-throated Blue Warblers, 2 **Yellow-throated Warblers**, Black-throated Green Warblers and **Canada Warblers** (CD). Warblers at OSP during a Three Rivers Birding Club outing 6/15 included an **Ovenbird**, a **Louisiana Waterthrush**, one **Common Yellowthroat**, 3 **Hooded Warblers**, 4 **American Redstarts**, 2 **Northern Parulas**, a **Yellow Warbler**, 5 **Chestnut-sided Warblers** and 2 **Yellow-**

throated Warblers (MF, TRBC). A **Swainson's Warbler** was singing at SGL 51 on 6/8 (BC) and was still there 6/13 (CD). I only know of two other records for Fayette.

Grasshopper Sparrows were found near Wharton 6/12 (LD) and one was seen in the open fields just outside OSP 6/15 (MF, TRBC). A **Swamp Sparrow** was singing at Deer Lake in Chalkhill 6/15 (MF, TRBC). A total of 29 **Indigo Buntings** were tallied during the BBS 6/9 (GM). Three **Bobolinks** were found during the BBS 6/9 (GM), and 4 were near OSP 6/15 along with 3 **Eastern Meadowlarks** (MF, TRBC).

Observers: Mike Fialkovich, 805 Beulah Road, Pittsburgh, 15235, (412) 731-3581, mpfial@verizon.net, Ben Coulter, Cory DeStein, Larry Durgin, Geoff Malosh, Shannon Thompson, Three Rivers Birding Club members (TRBC).

Forest County

Locations: Allegheny National Forest (ANF), Buzzard Swamp (BS), Salmon Creek (SC).

There were 118 species reported in Forest for the breeding period, primarily from the ANF and BS, which continue to be the county hotspots. All but two of these species are possibly breeding.

Not common in Forest, there were two sightings of **Great Blue Heron** at BS and two at the ANF (m.ob.). The Osprey nest at BS was successful (AK). An existing **Bald Eagle** nest near Tionesta was also successful (FM, JM). Two **Northern Goshawk** nests were found (DB). Four **Caspian Terns**, presumably early migrants, provided an unusual sighting 6/27 at BS (MA). **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** and **Black-billed Cuckoos** again were abundant.

Acadian Flycatchers were well-reported from several locations in the ANF. An **Alder Flycatcher** was noted 6/28 at BS (AK). A **Willow Flycatcher** was spotted 6/18 near SC (SJ). A **Yellow-throated Vireo** 7/4 at Cook Forest was a nice find (JD). **Blue-headed Vireos** were spotted at Cook Forest, ANF and BS (m.ob.). A **Warbling Vireo** 6/17 near SC was a surprise from this under-birded area (SJ).

The only report of **Swainson's Thrush** was 6/29 in the ANF (SJ). A **Northern Mockingbird** was spotted 6/17 near SC (SJ). This falls within the safe dates and could possibly be a breeder. Of the 20 warbler species reported, 19 are possibly breeding in Forest. **Northern Waterthrushes** were reported only once with 2 spotted 7/3 in the ANF (SJ). A **Tennessee Warbler** at a banding station near Marienville 7/24 was presumed to be an early migrant (m.ob.). The only report of **Nashville Warbler** was one which was netted and banded 7/24 at a banding station near Marienville (m.ob.).

Observers: Flo McGuire, 609 Ponderosa Lane, Tionesta, PA 16353, (814) 755-3672, fmcguire1@verizon.net, Michael Autin, Dave Brinker, Jim Dunn, Sam Jolly, Alyssa Karmann, Jim McGuire.

Franklin County

No report.

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Fulton County

A total of 62 species were submitted to eBird for Jun and Jul. Uncommon in the summer, a **Great Egret** was near Needmore 6/8 (AE). Near Big Cove Tannery at the Buchanan State Forest Kerper Tract, a female **American Redstart** was feeding a juvenile 6/9 (AE). The Meadow Grounds Lake area held uncommon breeders: 2 **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** and 4 **Purple Finches** 6/3 (CG).

Observers: Dan Snell, PO Box 653, Shippensburg, PA 17257, (717) 530-8313, dan_snell@hotmail.com, Amy Hill Evans, Cindy Glessner.

Greene County

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

Canada Geese nested at CL with 28 present as of the end of Jul (LA). **Wood Duck** with young was spotted in Morgan Twp. 7/27 (KK, MH). **Wild**

Turkey nested late this year. A hen with 5 young was seen at RBF 7/11 (RKB), 3 hens with 17 pouls were at LCR 7/20 (MLP), and 11 were at CL 7/30 (LA). **Great Blue Heron** rookeries did well with several young at the Rogersville and Whiteley Twp. sites (MH). Ten **Turkey Vultures** were noted in CL 7/31 (LA). A young **Red-tailed Hawk** was heard calling in Jefferson Twp. 7/27 (KK, MH). **American Kestrel** and **Killdeer** were at NVH 6/8 (m.ob.). A young **American Woodcock** was seen at the edge of woodlot during mowing at EV 7/15 (JH). **Yellow-billed** and **Black-billed Cuckoo** were seen at EF 6/24 (PH, JaC). At EV 17 **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** visited a feeder 7/24 (MH) and over 20 were at CL 7/31 (LA). **Belted Kingfisher** was at CL 7/31 (LA). **Red-headed Woodpecker** is not reported often here, but more sightings were made this year. In NVH a pair with 2 young visited the suet feeder throughout the period (C&CA) and one visited feeders in Gray Twp. 6/13 (JuC). **Northern Flicker** and **Pileated Woodpecker** were at EF 6/24 (PH, JaC).

At EF 6/24, **Eastern Wood-Pewee** and **Acadian Flycatcher** were heard (JuC, MH). **Willow Flycatcher** and **Least Flycatcher** were reported at Ryerson S.P. 6/30 (JF). At SY an **Eastern Phoebe** second nesting fledged 7/15 (JaC). **Great Crested Flycatcher** was heard at EF 6/3 (MH). An **Eastern Kingbird** was seen on fence wire at dusk catching insects at LCR 7/19 (MLP). At EF 6/24, while collecting IBA data, **White-eyed Vireo**, **Yellow-throated Vireo**, **Warbling Vireo**, and **Red-eyed Vireo** were seen or heard (MH, PH, JaC, JuC). The month of Jul was quite noisy in EV and CL with the frequent sounds of young **Blue Jays** (MH, LA). Three **Common Ravens** were noted at CL 7/31 (LA). At RBF 21 nest sites for **Purple Martin** were available and soon filled, with many young fledging the first week of Jul (RKB). On 7/15 at LCR, 6 spent the morning circling overhead and seemed to be feeding in top of wild cherry tree (MLP). The last week of Jul they started staging at Rohanna's Golf Course (JH, MH, TD). At LCR 4 young **Tree Swallows** were out on the porch of the Purple Martin house being fed by the adults 6/16 (MLP). More **Barn Swallow** than usual nested at RBF with some leaving the nest 6/8 (RKB).

At SY, 5 young **Carolina Wrens** left the nest 6/15 (JaC) and at LCR, 7-8 young fledged from a leafy nest in an unused nest in a chicken house (MLP). In SY young **House Wren** left the nest 7/17 (JaC). At EV **Eastern Bluebird** raised 2 broods in the nest box in the yard (MH). **Wood Thrush**, **American Robin**, and **Gray Catbird** nested at EF with several seen 6/24 (MH, PH, JaC, JuC). **Brown Thrasher** was seen at NVH 6/8 (m.ob.). **Cedar Waxwing** was sighted at EF 6/24 (PH, JaC).

Ovenbird and **Yellow-breasted Chat** were at EF 6/3 (PH, JaC). **Louisiana Waterthrush**, **Common Yellowthroat**, **Hooded Warbler**, **American Redstart**, **Cerulean Warbler**, **Northern Parula**, and **Yellow Warbler** were all observed throughout the period at EF (PH, MH). In Jackson Twp. 6/16 **Blue-winged Warbler** was heard calling (MH, RL, MM).

Eastern Towhee young were around the feeder at EV during the last week of Jul (MH). **Field Sparrow** was heard 6/3 at EF (PH, JaC). **Scarlet Tanager** was in Gray Twp. 6/18 (JuC). At LCR **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was feeding in a tall jewelweed patch 7/12 (MLP). On 7/31 an **Indigo Bunting** was found at CL (LA). A **Bobolink** was in Jefferson Twp. 7/27 (KK, MH). **Red-winged Blackbird** and **Common Grackle** were constant visitors at EV feeders and several young were noted throughout the period (MH). A young **Orchard Oriole** was in an SY yard 6/15 (JaC). Two **Baltimore Orioles** were noted at CL 7/31 (LA). More than 25 **House Finch** were noted at LCR 7/21; most of them were young begging for food (MLP).

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Huntingdon County

Location: Rothrock State Forest (RSF).

Three nightjar surveys in RSF (GG, DG, DB) yielded 52 **Eastern Whip-poor-wills**, a substantial improvement over the 2010-2012 average of 38. A survey on Harry's Valley Road also included 2 **Barred Owls** (DB). Two **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were observed in Cottage and sightings of one to 2 on Davis and Barr Roads continued from the spring (GG).

Trough Creek Valley had 2 **Bobolinks** 6/3 and again 6/18 (DK), and 2 **Alder Flycatchers** 6/12 (GG). Old Crow wetland had 2 **Willow Flycatchers** 6/24 (DK) and 2 **Great Egrets** 7/11 (DW). **Orchard Oriole** was reported there 6/2 (RL) and 6/21 (TK), with 2 birds 7/31 (DW).

A **Warbling Vireo**, 3 **Eastern Screech-Owls**, and 5 **Bobolinks** were found at the Raystown Branch Boat Launch 7/1 (DK).

Summary of BBS routes in RSF follows. This was the 22nd year for

three BBS routes entirely within RSF (GG, DG, NB). Most stops are **Huntingdon**; some are in **Centre** and **Mifflin**. Among common species, **Red-eyed Vireo** (222), **Eastern Wood Pewee** (40), **Acadian Flycatcher** (34), **Hooded Warbler** (51), and **American Redstart** (40) were more than 10% above their long-term averages. **Common Yellowthroat** (26) was low, at only 62% of average, continuing a trend of recent years. **Wood Thrush** (54), **Ovenbird** (148), **Black-throated Green Warbler** (30), **Eastern Towhee** (75), **Chipping Sparrow** (33), and **Scarlet Tanager** (77) were within 10% of their averages. **Hooded Warblers** continue their strong upward trend in RSF as in much of Pennsylvania, as demonstrated during the second breeding bird atlas. Dividing the 22 years into three segments, the average annual counts have been: 16 in 1992-1998, 27 in 1999-2005, and 40 in 2006-2013.

Perhaps the most exciting find in the county was the singing male **Blue Grosbeak** at Amy Lane at Rte. 45 during a BBS 6/19 (JP). A male and female were seen throughout the summer; on 7/4 they were seen feeding 2 fledglings (KE). The birds were still present as late as 8/6 (MD).

Observers: **Debra Grim, 8844 Boonie Lane, Petersburg, PA 16669, dgrim@intelliqresearch.com**, Diane Bierly, Nick Bolgiano, Mike Dreibelbis, Kurt Engstrom, Deb Grove, Greg Grove, David Kyler, Trudy Kyler, Renee Lubert, Josh Potter, Doug Wentzel.

Indiana County

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

A good count of 37 **Wood Ducks**, including many full-grown young, was made at YC 7/23 (LC, TG, KT). A **Common Loon** lingered at YC through 6/4 (LC, TG). YC hosted 2 **Double-crested Cormorants** 6/4 (LC, TG) and one 6/18 (LC, TG, DM). An **Osprey** was sighted 6/4 (LC, TG) at YC. A **Bald Eagle** was spotted circling over the Ghost Town Trail 6/15 (JH). A **Cooper's Hawk** ate a **Mourning Dove** at a Nolo feeder 7/24 (CL, GL). First 2 **Solitary Sandpipers** were at YC 7/30 (LC, TG, KT). A late **Semipalmented Sandpiper** was at YC 6/4 (LC, TG). Single **Ring-billed Gulls** were reported 7/13 (AF) and 7/23 (LC, TG, KT). An early **Forster's Tern** was spotted at YC 7/23 (LC, TG, KT). A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was found at YC between 6/18 (TG) and 7/13 (AF) and at Nolo between 6/4-18 (CL, GL). **Barred Owl** reports included one at YC 6/11 (LC, TG) and 7/13 (AF), and 2 at Nolo 7/6 (AB, DB).

The **Alder Flycatcher** continued at YC through 7/7 (AF). Five was the high count for **Willow Flycatcher** at YC 6/4 (LC, TG) and 6/18 (LC, TG); one was noted near Dilltown 6/7 (MH, RH). A **White-eyed Vireo** was reported at YC 6/9 (AF) and another near Jacksonville 7/27 (MH, RH). A **Yellow-throated Vireo** along Little Mahoning Creek 6/22 (RS) was the only one reported. A **Blue-headed Vireo** was listed at YC 6/9 (AF), the same day one was singing near SH (MH, RH); SH also yielded one 7/29 (MH, RH). A **Warbling Vireo** was noted along the Ghost Town Trail 6/15 (JH) and another along the Hoodlebug Trail 6/23 (DR). A **Fish Crow** was reported 6/23 (DR) at Blacklick Valley Natural Area, a new area for this species; in addition, YC yielded Fish Crows 6/9, 7/9, and 7/13 (AF). Three **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were noted at YC 7/23 (LC, TG, KT).

Best **Ovenbird** tally was 11 on 6/5 (MH, RH) at the last 12 stops of the Patton BBS, the **Indiana** section. One **Blue-winged Warbler** 7/27 (MH, RH) near Jacksonville and one **Black-and-white Warbler** 7/9 (TG) at YC were the only reports for these species. **Hooded Warblers** were noted at three locations (various observers). Two **Northern Parulas** were sighted both at YC 6/9 (TG) and at Blacklick Valley Natural Area 6/23 (DR), the same day 3 **Chestnut-sided Warblers** were found there (DR). A **Pine Warbler** was still singing 6/9 near SH (MH, RH). A **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was an unusual find along the Hoodlebug Trail 6/23 (DR) as they do not normally breed in the county. Aultman's Run yielded a **Prairie Warbler** 7/27 (MH, RH).

One to 2 **Swamp Sparrows** were listed at YC throughout the summer (m. ob.); Little Mahoning Creek yielded 2 on 6/22 (RS). **Orchard Orioles** were reported only at YC 6/4 (TG) and 7/9 (LC, TG, DM).

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Jefferson County

Locations: Big Run (BR), Clear Creek State Park (CC), Cloe Lake (CL), Filter Plant Road (FP), Hutchins Road (HR), Kramer Road (KR), Mahoning

Shadow Trail (MS), PA Rt 949 (R949), Punxsutawney Municipal Airport (PA), Reed Road (RR), Sandy Ridge Road (SR), State Gamelands #54 (G54).

A high of 7 **Canada Geese** was reported on CL 6/6 (JY), and a female **Common Merganser** was observed on the MS 6/4 (KD). One **Great Blue Heron** was seen on the MS two different dates 6/5 and 6/11 (KD), and the only **Green Heron** for the period was on the MS 7/28 (JD).

One **Northern Harrier** was found on SR 7/28 (JD). The resident pair of **Bald Eagles** of the MS was seen multiple times over the period. Their lone chick fledged by 6/22 and was observed flying within and perched on the nest tree 6/22 (JG, TG). Also a **Bald Eagle** was in CC being harassed by 2 **Eastern Kingbirds** 7/13 (SG). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was seen and heard on the MS 6/22 (TG). **Broad-winged Hawks** were twice spotted: one in BR 6/22 (RS) and one in G54 on 7/30 (TJ). **American Kestrels** were also noted at two locations: 2 on RR 7/20 (JD) and 2 on HR 7/30 (TJ). A rare observation for Jefferson was a **Merlin** (with a mouse in its talons) on SR 7/6 (EF, TF, TG).

A high of 34 **Killdeer** were found at the PA 7/12 (TG). A lone **Spotted Sandpiper** was observed off the MS 7/28 (JD). **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were only found in the southern half of Jefferson, highlighted by 3 on the MS 7/28 (JD). **Black-billed Cuckoos** were found in both ends of Jefferson, in the north in CC 6/15 (DM), and one each in the south on RR 7/20 (JD) and SR 7/28 (JD). **Eastern Screech-Owls** were seen at two different locations: one in CC 6/15 (DM) and 2 on the MS 7/28 (JD). Two **Barred Owls** were noted on KR 6/19 (TS). Two sightings of **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** included one on the MS 6/8 (TG) and one in CC 7/13 (SG).

Flycatchers were numerous. **Eastern Wood-Pewees** were a common find as were **Eastern Phoebe**s and **Eastern Kingbirds**. **Alder Flycatchers** were one on the MS 6/5 (KD) and one in CC 6/15 (DM). Single **Willow Flycatchers** were found on the MS on three dates: 6/5 (KD), 6/18 (TG), and 6/22 (TG). Jefferson's lone **Least Flycatcher** for the period was in CC 6/15 (DM). A single **Yellow-throated Vireo** was on the MS 6/11 (KD), and **Blue-headed Vireos** were noted a total of three times for the period: one on the MS 6/8 (TG), one in CC 7/12 (RN), and one again in CC 7/13 (SG). **Common Ravens** included one on SR 7/12 (TG), 2 also on SR 7/24 (JO, CJ, NJ, TS), and one in G54 on 7/30 (TJ).

Only 2 **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were found on SR 7/6 (EF, TF, TG), but **Tree Swallows** and **Barn Swallows** were common. Of note were two sightings of **Golden-crowned Kinglet**: one in CC 7/13 (SG) and one in G54 on 7/30 (TJ). **Veeries** were observed on four different occasions with the last in G54 on 7/30 (TJ). Of interest were five sightings of **Hermit Thrush**, with the last in CC 7/13 (SG). A lone **Northern Mockingbird** was reported in G54 on 7/30 (TJ).

Warblers were numerous this period. **Ovenbirds** were very common, but only one **Louisiana Waterthrush** was found, in CC 6/15 (DM). The only **Blue-winged Warbler** was on the MS 6/4 (KD). **Black-and-white Warblers** were found on four different occasions, with the last a single in CC 7/12 (RN). **Common Yellowthroats** lived up to their name being the most common warbler sp. found, and **Hooded Warblers** and **American Redstarts** were fairly common. There were three reports of **Cerulean Warblers**: one in CC 6/15 (DM), another in CC 7/13 (SG), and one in G54 on 7/30 (TJ). Three reports of **Northern Parula** were all in CC, one 6/15 (DM), one 7/12 (RN) and one 7/13 (SG). Four different sightings of **Magnolia Warblers** were made in CC, and G54 produced 2 birds 7/30 (TJ). **Blackburnian Warblers** were reported twice, one in CC 7/13 (SG) and one in G54 on 7/30 (TJ). **Black-throated Blue Warblers** were found three times, twice in CC with one 7/12 (RN) and one 7/13 (SG), and one in G54 on 7/30 (TJ). Following a similar pattern were two sightings of **Pine Warblers**, one in CC 6/25 (JF) and one in G54 on 7/30 (TJ). A lone **Yellow-throated Warbler** was in CC 6/25 (JF). The grassland habitats in southeast Jefferson produced **Prairie Warblers** at two locations, one on SR 7/15 (CW) and one on RR 7/20 (JD). **Black-throated Green Warblers** were fairly common. Single **Canada Warblers** were seen twice in CC, 7/12 (RN) and 7/13 (SG).

Only two sightings of **Swamp Sparrows** were made, both at the same location on the MS: one 6/8 (TG) and 2 on 6/22 (TG). **Dark-eyed Juncos** were seen four different times all in northern Jefferson. The grassland habitats associated with reclaimed strip-mines in southeastern Jefferson produced a number of sparrows along with other grassland species. Two sightings of **Vesper Sparrows** included one on RR 7/20 (JD) and one on SR 7/28 (JD), and one **Vesper Sparrow** was noted north of I-80 on R949 at the intersection of O'Donnell Rd. 6/23 (CW). Southeastern Jefferson produced **Savannah Sparrows** at 3 different locations: one on FP 7/12 (TG), one on SR 7/15 (CW), and one on RR 7/20 (JD). **Grasshopper Sparrows** were common in the area with a high of 15 on SR 7/15 (CW). **Henslow's Sparrows** were found on SR throughout the period, highlighted by 4 on 7/6 (EF, TF, TG), 20 on 7/15 (CW), 3 on 7/24 (JO, CJ, NJ, TS), and

a sighting 7/28 (JD). SR is about 3 miles long, with one mile in Jefferson and the balance in **Clearfield**. The season total of **Henslow's Sparrows** in both counties for SR was 88. Also, about two miles north of SR, 6 more **Henslow's Sparrows** were found on RR 7/20 (JD). Other grassland species found on SR for the period included **Bobolinks**, **Eastern Meadowlarks**, and **Red-winged Blackbirds**. There were only two sightings of **Brown-headed Cowbirds** both on KR: one 6/23 (TS) and one 6/24 (TS).

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Juniata County

No report.

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Lackawanna County

No report.

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Lancaster County

Locations: Lancaster County Airport (LCA), Susquehanna River (SR), Susquehanna River, Conejohela Flats (SRCF), Wood's Edge Park (WE).

This summer saw a few reports of unusual migrants, although some did not seem to be migrating. There were several out-of-season sightings, including **Trumpeter Swan**, **Surf Scoter**, **Ibis** sp., a few grebe sp., and **Common Loon**. **Dickcissels** were seen in fair numbers, although not as many as the past few years. There were more **Peregrine Falcons** breeding here, or at least summering. A western **Willet** was a nice highlight.

On 6/3 there was a report of an injured second-year **Trumpeter Swan** at the Conewago Recreation Trail and Wetlands (TJ). It is suspected to have been there since 4/9 (JBo). A nice surprise for this time of year was a first summer female **Surf Scoter** at the SRCF 6/15-23 (BS). A female **Greater Scaup** was seen 7/27 on the SRCF (BS, JBo).

An adult **Common Loon** in breeding plumage was on the SR at "The Rocks" 6/2 (SS). This bird was present up to 6/30, and may have been unable to fly (DC). A second bird, this one a first-summer bird, was on the SR in the Columbia area 7/1 (JBo). Two **Pied-billed Grebes** were seen 7/27 at the SRCF (BS, JBo). A **Red-necked Grebe** was at the wetlands at Red Rose Commons 7/27 (GS).

A few **Great Egrets** were on the SRCF 7/5 (JBo, BS). That number grew to 35 by 7/27 (BS, JBo). A **Green Heron** was at WE 7/12 (GS). An immature **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was at WE 6/24 (GS). The **Black-crowned Night-Heron** rookery in Ephrata held approximately 100 juveniles and 20 sub-adults/adults 6/26 (JBo). A **Least Bittern** was heard at the SRCF 7/27 (BS, JBo). A small flock of **Ibis** were on the Susquehanna River at Long Level 7/26 (CM). They were most likely Glossy Ibis, but there could have been White-faced Ibis in the flock, and were left as **Plegadis** sp. On 6/29 an **American Bittern** was seen at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area (RS). A **Virginia Rail** was reported at WE 6/3 (ML).

All observations of shorebirds were on the SRCF. Twenty **Killdeer** were seen 6/23, the most seen for several weeks (BS). By 7/27 around 90 were present (BS, JBo). One **Semipalmented Plover** and one **Semipalmented Sandpiper** were found 6/15 (BS). Two Semipalmented Plovers were seen 6/23 (BS), and 5 were there 7/27 (BS, JBo). Around 40 Semipalmented Sandpipers were tallied 7/27 (BS, JBo). Two **Spotted Sandpipers** were seen mating 6/15 (BS), and about 25 were seen 7/5 (JBo, BS), followed by 33 (including several juveniles) were seen 7/6 (JBo, BS). A **Greater Yellowlegs** was heard 6/23 (BS) and 2 or 3 were seen 7/27 (BS, JBo). A **Lesser Yellowlegs** was seen 7/5 (JBo, BS) and on 7/22 a flock of 8 was seen (BS). An adult western **Willet** was present 7/5 (JBo, BS, DM, ST, DW) and 7/6 (ME, JBo, BS). Eight **Least Sandpipers** were seen 7/5 (JBo, BS); this number grew to about 140 by 7/27 (BS, JBo). A **Pectoral Sandpiper** was recorded 7/22 (BS), and 3 **Sanderlings** were found 7/27 (BS, JBo). A worn, alternate plumaged adult **Short-billed Dowitcher** of the prairie population (*hendersoni*) was present 7/27 (BS, JBo).

A juvenile **Herring Gull** was on the SRCF 7/27 (BS, JBo). Three **Forster's Terns**, all in full breeding plumage, were on the SRCF 6/23 (BS), and 2 adult **Caspian Terns** were there 7/22 (BS).

Both **Black-billed** and **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were heard in the vicinity of the swimming pool at Lancaster County Park 7/20 (TM). A Yellow-billed Cuckoo was at Noel Dorwart Park 7/25 (GS). A pair of **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** was seen copulating at a home in Manheim 7/29 (JG). Four **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were at South Muddy Creek Road near Fivepointville 6/20 (GH).

It was reported 6/3 that the pair of **Peregrine Falcons** nesting under the Rte. 462 Bridge had produced 2 offspring this year. The female was identified as a three-year-old banded on the James River Bridge in Virginia. The male's band could not be read (ML). The young were banded 5/30 (FAM). On 6/17 one of the fledglings took her first flight (ME), but unfortunately, following severe thunderstorms 6/18, no sign of either fledgling was found despite an intensive search (ML). Although the pair in downtown Lancaster was seen courting and copulating, as of 6/7 it seemed that they did not nest this year (ML). On 7/16 a group went out to the Norman Wood Bridge to determine if the Peregrine Falcon pair there had successfully nested. They saw one adult, which was not acting territorial, and found one abandoned unhatched egg (FAM *fide* BH). One was perched on the Bank of America building 7/29 (ZM).

An **Eastern Kingbird** was seen 7/11 at the LCA (ML, ME, SM), and on 7/27 a fledgling was being fed by its parents on Umbletown Road in Gap (PF). Two **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were at Overlook Park 7/28 (GS). Two **White-eyed Vireos** were observed 6/21 feeding a fledgling **Brown-headed Cowbird** at Safe Harbor (ML). An estimated 500 **Bank Swallows** were at the SRCF 7/27 (BS, JBo). Some **Horned Larks** were singing on Millport Road 6/20 (SS). A **Hermit Thrush** was heard calling on Woodridge Boulevard 6/19 (BH, PH). Five **Prothonotary Warblers** were on the SRCF 6/15 (BS), and a **Louisiana Waterthrush** was near Speedwell Forge Reservoir 7/26 (GS).

Blue Grosbeaks were numerous. A pair was at Overlook Park 6/9 (GS), one was singing on Umbletown Road 6/25 (PF), 2 adult males were at the LCA 7/11 (ML, ME, SM), one was at Noel Dorwart Park 7/25 (GS), and one was heard in the area of the SRCF 7/27 (BS, JBo). Reports of **Dickcissel** included: one at Octoraro Reservoir 6/3 (CG), one singing on Millport Road 6/20 (SS), 2 there 6/24 (JBo *fide* GD), and one was still singing there 6/25 (GD), one heard on South Weavertown Road 6/30 (SS), and one singing on Kissel Hill Road 7/1 on the eastern edge of the airport (SS). On 6/23, there was a report of Brown-headed Cowbird young being fed by **Song Sparrows** and **Red-eyed Vireos** earlier in the week. A **Grasshopper Sparrow** was heard at the LCA 7/11 (ML, ME, SM). Five **Savannah Sparrows** were at Noel Dorwart Park 7/25 (GS).

ADENDUM: A pair of **Brown Creepers** was observed on the Millport Conservancy 4/27-5/15. This pair was seen carrying food into an opening in some loose bark (DK, BC), and may have nested there.

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Lawrence County

No compiler.

Lebanon County

Locations: Fort Indiantown Gap (FIG), Governor Dick Park (GDP), Kreider Farm Pond on Mt Pleasant Rd. (KP), Memorial Lake State Park (MLSP), Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area (MC), Pine Rd. (PR), Reistville and Prescott Road Ponds (RPP), Second Mountain Hawkwatch (2MTN), Shuey Lake (SL).

A **Mute Swan** was found in the pond along Chapel Rd. at MC 7/14-15 (JH, DM, RCM). On 7/14 it was in the company of 2 **Tundra Swans**, representing a first Jul record for the Tundra Swan (JH, DM). An seasonally accidental male **Northern Pintail**, possibly injured, continued at KP through at least 6/17 (DM, SS, TB). A **Northern Bobwhite** continued from the spring at East Strack Dr. near Myerstown 6/12 (DM). A **Common Loon**, also accidental in summer, was at MLSP 7/10 (MN). A **Pied-billed Grebe** provided a first Jun record at SL 6/20 (DM). A juvenile **Little Blue Heron** was a good find at MC on a new early date 7/14 (JH, TB, DM). What was

likely the same individual was sighted again at MC 7/21 (BS, DM). A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was at RPP 7/21 (TB).

Both **Bald Eagle** chicks successfully fledged from the nest along PR, with the first venturing forth on 6/19 (SH). The 2 juvenile eagles were perched together in a snag near the nest 6/25 (TB). The nesting Bald Eagles provided up-close viewing and photography opportunities for many visitors.

A **Virginia Rail** was at FIG 6/3 (JD, DM). Two **Semipalmated Plovers** lingered at KP 6/3 (TB, SS). Three southbound Semipalmated Plovers were found on a new early date at RPP 7/28 (FHa, KB, TB, DM). Uncommon in Jul were a **Greater Yellowlegs** at KP 7/14 (TB) and 2 at RPP 7/28 (KB, TB). Six **Lesser Yellowlegs** were also at RPP 7/28 (KB, TB). Two **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were at KP 6/3 (TB, SS). The first southbound **Least Sandpiper** was noted at Quittapahilla Educational Wetlands Preserve 7/15 (TB). Seventy-five Least Sandpipers were at KP 7/17 (CB). Ten **Pectoral Sandpipers** were in the flooded fields at RPP 7/28 (FHa, KB, TB, DM). Up to 4 **Stilt Sandpipers** were found on a new early date at RPP 7/28 (FHa, KB, TB, DM). An **American Woodcock** seemed out of place in the thick hemlocks of the Goldmine area at SGL 211 on 6/1 (TB).

A **Eurasian Collared-Dove** was at FIG 7/31 (DM). **Barred Owls** were reported from several locations. One was found at MLSP 6/16 (EB), and 2 were being mobbed by crows at PR 6/18 (SH). A Barred Owl was heard at FIG on the evening of 6/5, along with the continuing **Chuck-will's-widow** and 5 **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** at Tomstown Rd. (DM, m.ob.). Also at Tomstown Rd. in FIG were 4 Whip-poor-wills 6/21 (GD) and 6 on 7/5 (ST).

Red-headed Woodpeckers were found at FIG on a number of occasions, including a pair carrying food along Tomstown Rd. 6/21 (GD). Four were at FIG 7/5 (DM, RS). It was encouraging to have Red-headed Woodpeckers reported from five different locations in southeastern Lebanon. One was seen along Fox Rd. in South Lebanon Twp. 6/4 (TB). In Jackson Twp. one was along Krall Rd. 6/8 (GB) and on Hergelrode Dr. 7/10 (FH). Three were at the Lebanon Valley Golf Course north of Myerstown 7/9 (ZA). South of Newmanstown and one was found on Millbach Rd. 7/11 (JF).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at GDP 7/14 for a first Jul record and new early date (SH). An **Alder Flycatcher** was heard during the butterfly tour at FIG 7/12 (DM). Fifteen **Purple Martins** were at MC 7/14 (JH), and 30 were flocking in the area of RPP 7/28 (DM). A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was singing on a new late date in the Goldmine area of SGL 211 on 6/1 (TB).

A **Cerulean Warbler**, difficult to find in the county, was at 2MTN 6/25 (JD, DM). A nesting female **Kentucky Warbler** was a nice find at GDP 6/8 (JH). Six **Yellow-breasted Chats** provided a new county high count in the area of 2MTN 6/25 (JD, DM).

Seven **Grasshopper Sparrows** were found during a grassland bird tour at FIG 6/14 (DM, m.ob.). An accidental **White-throated Sparrow** was singing in the hemlocks at SGL 211 on 6/1 (TB). A **Blue Grosbeak** was found just north of SL 6/20 (DM). A Blue Grosbeak pair continued in the training area of FIG 6/12-7/9 (JD, DM, m.ob.). A Blue Grosbeak and 8 **Bobolinks** were at MC 7/14 (JH). Nine Bobolinks were at MLSP 6/16 (EB).

Observers: **Timothy Becker, 10283 Jonestown Rd., Grantville, PA 17028, tbecker81@aol.com**, Zach Adams, Kathy Becker, Ed Bernot, Chuck Berthoud, Gerry Boltz, Jarrod Derr, Gordon Dimming, Jim Fiorentino, Frank Haas (FHa), Sue Hannon, Jonathan Heller, Fritz Heilman, David McNaughton, Michael Nolan, Robert Slater, Brandon Snavely, Stan Stahl, Shannon Thompson.

Lehigh County

Reports during the breeding were a bit sparse in **Lehigh** this year, as is typical. June was quite wet, with ponds full and the Lehigh River running high due to nearly seven inches of rain for the month (over two and a half inches more than the 30-year norm). Mean temperatures for June and July were 1.8° and 3.6° F degrees higher, respectively, than the 30-year norm. The early June emergence of periodic 17 Year Cicadas (Brood II) along much of the Blue Mountain made birding by ear on the mountain a real challenge if not a total impossibility; the low din of cicadas could be heard from over a mile away at times. A total of 116 species was reported this season in **Lehigh**. There were 222 checklists submitted to eBird in June and July, consisting of 112 species.

A few of last winter's **Snow Geese** lingered into late spring and summer, presumably due to injury. One injured bird present daily at New Tripoli into July was joined by a second, presumably healthy Snow Goose 7/7 (FD). An **American Black Duck** at Leaser Lake 6/16 may have indicated breeding at the location (CHn). Two **Common Merganser** hens along the Little Lehigh were tending to a nice total of 26 ducklings 7/10 (CHn). The max count for **Double-crested Cormorant** was three 7/4 on the Lehigh River at Walking Purchase Park (ES). The only report of **Great Egret**

was two at Leaser Lake 7/31 (FD). The small **Great Blue Heron** rookery in North Whitehall appeared to be active into the beginning of the period (BE), but the number of pairs is unknown.

The **Osprey** pair that nests along the Lehigh River north of Coplay, *Lehigh* (and/or Northampton, *Northampton*) remains unconcerned with county fidelity, to say nothing of arbitrary geographic delineations. They chose a nest site well within *Northampton* this year, but were reported from either side of the river through the season. Elsewhere, reports of Osprey came from New Tripoli 6/28 and Walking Purchase Park 7/26 (FD, ES). There were six reports of **Bald Eagle**: 6/1 at Trexler Nature Preserve, 6/10 over Blue Mountain, 6/3 and 6/29 at North Whitehall (adults), and 6/14 and 7/31 at Walking Purchase Park (CHn, JH, BE, ES).

A **Sandhill Crane** at Upper Macungie provided some midsummer birding excitement. First spotted 7/27 near Trexlertown (GD), it was sporadically re-found and photographed by many well into autumn. Sandhill Cranes have been reported fairly regularly in *Lehigh* over the past few years, but this individual was one of very few that have been well-documented, and the first obliging enough to local birders to be at least semi-chaseable. **Common Nighthawk** was once again fairly elusive. There was a report 6/8 at Lehigh Gap Nature Center (DG), and some were heard 6/22 very near the county line in downtown Bethlehem, where it is hoped they may nest (BCM). A Lehigh Gap Nature Center hike the evening of 6/8 produced six **Eastern Whip-Poor-Wills** along Translator Road (CHc, DG).

The most notable event of the season was the confirmation of **Barn Owls** breeding in *Lehigh*. In June, three young owls were discovered in a nest box that had been placed five years prior (RW). This is the first confirmed nesting since the early 1980s, and is an exciting win for both the fledglings as well as for the folks who invested untold time and effort into attracting this species back to the area, so often a thankless and frustrating endeavor. An interesting note from the foot of Blue Mountain 6/16 was a daytime-flying **Eastern Screech-Owl**. It was thought this bird may have been taking advantage of a once-in-seventeen-year opportunity to hunt the abundant periodic cicadas (JH). Three of the four banded **Peregrine Falcon** chicks at Allentown's 8th Street bridge were noted standing on the ledge of their nest platform 6/5 (TW). Both parents were calling and coaxing from nearby. The bander's estimated fledge date was noted to be early June for these chicks (AM)—apparently quite accurate.

An **Alder Flycatcher** was present at State Game Land 205, singing along a brushy field edge 6/5 (CHc). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was included on the same eBird checklist, very good for late spring anywhere away from Allentown, where it has been a probable breeder for several years. This summer, however, Red-breasted Nuthatch was only noted in Allentown 7/26 following a noted absence from the observer's neighborhood of about two months (BCM). **White-eyed Vireo** was reported four times 6/4 to 6/23 (CHn, CHc). **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was a late migrant at Trexler Nature Preserve 6/1 (CHn). Of the less common breeding warblers, **Hooded Warbler**, **Cerulean Warbler**, and **Chestnut-sided Warbler** were all found on territories along Blue Mountain this season (m.ob.). **Kentucky Warbler** was missed. A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was a very nice find 6/16 to at least 6/18 at Walking Purchase Park (ES, DG).

Observers: Bill Etter, 407 S. Cigar Rd, Northampton, PA 18067, billetter01@gmail.com, Gary Davis, Frank Dickman, Dennis Glew, Jeff Hopkins, Chris Hugosson, Corey Husic, Barbara Malt, Art McMorris, Bernie and Pauline Morris, Ed Sinkler, Todd Watkins.

Luzerne County

No report.

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Lycoming County

Locations: Loyalsock State Forest (LSF), Market Street Bridge, MSB), McIntyre Wild Area of LSF (MWA), Old Lycoming Township (OLT), Susquehanna River, West Branch (SR), Williamsport (WPT).

The summer season was punctuated by several notable events. Chief among these was the broad community response to **Peregrine Falcons** nesting on the Market Street Bridge, followed closely by discovery of a family group of recently-fledged **Merlins**, also in WPT, and added attention to the "Clarence Moore Tracks" of LSF. A fuller description of each of these appears, in their proper place, below.

Canada Geese continue to be common throughout the county, with a count of greater than 100 along the SR 7/14 (DBn). Typical of most

summers, several **Common Loons** were observed, including one at SGL 114 6/30 (NF) and one on the SR 7/28 (WE).

The summer "Falcon Watch," kicked off in late-June ran through much of July, drawing considerable attention to the SR at Market Street in WPT. The nearly continuous monitoring along the riverbank helped document in greater detail many birds typically observed, including the nearly daily passage in July of small groups of **Double-crested Cormorants** and daily passage of single, adult-plumage **Ring-billed Gulls**, with occasional larger groups (e.g., up to 8 on 7/14, SBr, eBird) moving up and down the river on a daily basis. The gulls were potentially moving between large landfills in Clinton and *Lycoming* counties where they may be found regularly.

Continuing from the spring, an **Osprey** was perched on a cell tower behind the Ruby Tuesdays 6/1, visible from Riverfront Park where a nest while was found during an outing with a group of young birders on an introductory tour (RH, FS). The Osprey nest is a first for *Lycoming*, although this highlight was usurped by the falcons. Though the birds were seen at the nest on-and-off through Jun, there never was any indication of incubation. At least 3 **Bald Eagle** nests were newly reported this year. A nest of uncertain outcome was reported late in the season south of Hughesville (MG) and a successful nest near Rose Valley Lake (BB) both probably had been active in previous years, but undetected. A new eagle nest very close to the I-180 beltway was confirmed with young, bringing the total to 6 active Bald Eagle nests in the county, including those along Pine Creek.

Peregrine Falcon observations in WPT go back for years, including reintroductions in the 1990s that helped restore a nesting pair to the Montgomery cliffs beginning around 2001. But confirmed nesting this year, 20 years since the reintroductions, brought the *Lycoming* Audubon community into prominence again. Evidence that a pair of peregrines was resident actually goes back to photographs taken in 2012, although it was not widely reported. So, it was with excitement that local birders heard that a pair of Peregrine Falcons were present and had settled down to nest on the MSB. Two chicks were noted 6/1 (JY). Under careful scrutiny through the summer, the lives (and a death) of these birds was observed by many. Following the banding of the 2 young (a male and female) 6/18 (DB), the "Watch" was organized by 6/26 with the hope that the youngsters could be rescued before they were washed downstream, on the chance they fledged into the SR. The watch consisted of a team of observers stationed on the SR levy with a view into the nest, with a boat either in the water or on shore ready for a rescue. JY and ML anchored the watch with nearly dawn-to-dusk surveillance, joined by many *Lycoming* Audubon members and a growing fan club of interested helpers, local joggers, and even the South Williamsport Borough staff. Many took a turn, drawing help from as far as State College, Danville and of course Lancaster. They not only watched the nest but educated the innumerable passersby who developed an attachment to these birds thanks to front-page newspaper articles. In short, the first flights of both young were observed; the male's fledging was photographed 7/8 (WL), and the female's first flight observed 7/10 (JY, JK). Unfortunately, the juvenile female was observed being electrocuted on a nearby power pole just 8 days later (JK). The juvenile male remained with the adults through the summer. A single young peregrine raised on the bridge in Muncy also fledged and was photographed on a nearby tower 7/21 (LS) and 7/28 (WE).

S.A.

The following excerpt from Jean Klotz's *Lycoming* Audubon newsletter article provides a flavor of our "summer of peregrines".

The South Williamsport side of the river walk was full of activity this June and July with the discovery of nesting Peregrine Falcons on a pier of the Market Street bridge. Much of my summer has been spent observing and learning about these amazing birds of prey, nearly extinct at one time. My mornings started with a walk to the bridge to check on the whereabouts of the birds and their two chicks. Patience awarded me with personally seeing the first flights of both the young birds. Each day produced nail-biting moments, some full of joy, but a deep sadness when the young female was electrocuted. The saga continues as the young male matures; he will soon fly away to start his own life adventure. Still each morning and evening is spent checking on the falcons' progress and hoping to hear their eerie call. Chimney swifts, aptly nicknamed the flying cigar from their shape, appear daily to catch their fill of insects.

A few sightings in the spring season suggested that **Merlin** might linger again this summer, but no reports in June (and attention to Peregrines) lowered expectations of locally-nesting Merlins. A single fly-over of E. Third Street 7/13 (JY) was a hint of things to come. On 7/17, a report of a 'Killdeer'

along Lincoln Av., in WPT was made. Following a hunch, the observer checking the report instead discovered a **Merlin** family group, including at least 3 young in the parking lot of the Armory building at Grove and Woodland Streets, with activity centered on a dying white pine (DF). These fledged young, still with downy feathers indicating that they were recently out of the nest, were seen by many, photographed well 7/21-22 (WL), and then remained in the general area for several weeks to great acclaim. With regular sightings of **American Kestrel** near the Raystown complex, WPT had 3 species falcons nesting within her boundaries.

American Woodcock are scarcely reported in summer and probably more widespread, so one seen at the confluence of Loyalsock Creek 6/28 (NF) suggests another nesting location. The only **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was one heard in the Williamsport Water Authority 6/28 (LF). Several **Acadian Flycatchers** 7/26 along Rail Trail of Pine Creek (JH) provided the only reports of this species, where they are regular but scattered in suitable riparian headwaters, often with eastern hemlock. Similarly, **Alder Flycatcher** was sparsely reported, with just one on Beaver Run Rd, Hughesville area 6/21 (NF) and a family group heard at the headwaters of Miners Run in MWA 7/6 (DG). The above-mentioned young birders fieldtrip to Canfield Island also detected **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** and local breeders such as **Tree Swallow** and **Fish Crow** 6/1 (RH, FS).

Part of a major theme for this report, **Warbling Vireo** was heard consistently along the south levy of the SR in South Williamsport during the July Peregrine Watch (NF, m.ob.), also along Lycoming Ck (m.ob.), and on BBS routes along Pine Creek at Jersey Mills 6/3 (DB). Similarly, the only report of **Yellow-throated Vireos** was of several along Rail Trail of Pine Creek 7/26 (JH). The **Purple Martin** colony at the County Extension offices along Warrensville Rd continued, with 6 pairs. These produced 30 eggs, which fledged 12 young, but unfortunately, that was just half the young of 2012 (FS). This is the only colony in north-central Pennsylvania, and it's holding on by a thread.

Scarce or at least overlooked locally, **Worm-eating Warbler** was found 6/19 at "Limbaugh T4-150" (SB, eBird). Four **Louisiana Waterthrushes** were seen at confluence of Loyalsock Ck 6/28 (NF). A **Prairie Warbler** was found 7/16 along Berriman Hollow Road (LS). Added attention to LSF included several visits by local and visiting birders. Sightings include **Winter Wren** 6/24 (LW, HK). A good list of warblers was found 6/28 including 4 **Ovenbirds**, 2 **Black-and-white**, 25 **Common Yellowthroat**, 5 **American Redstarts**, one **Magnolia**, 4 **Blackburnian**, 10 **Chestnut-sided**, 2 **Black-throated Blue**, 4 **Black-throated Green**, and at least 10 **Canada** in bogs and riparian zones in the headwater of Miners Run (DB). A female **Mourning Warbler** found window-killed at Lycoming College 6/3 (EZ) had been dead more than a day was clearly a migrant. A great diversity of warblers, including **Ovenbird**, **Magnolia**, **Black-throated Blue**, **Blackburnian**, and **Hooded** were in Algerine Swamp 6/26 (WE).

While broadly expanding its range, **Orchard Oriole** was reported this year in Buchanan Meadows of OLT 6/7 (LWz), at several spots in Saladasburg, 6/22 (NF), and outside Montoursville 6/26 (EH). A very scarce bird here, a single **Vesper Sparrow** was found 6/30 at the Caldwell Rd farm fields (MT, SB). The wetland character of MWA was demonstrated by large number of **Swamp Sparrows** found in bogs in the headwater of Miners Run early July (DG, AS). Five **Bobolink** were at Caldwell Rd 6/7 (NF).

Either declining or underreported, only one report of **Purple Finch** was made, at Elbow Fish and Game Club and SGL 75 on 6/24 (NF). A great surprise was a single **Red Crossbill** flyover during a BBS stop along Okome Road 6/18 (DB).

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McKean County

No compiler.

Mercer County

Locations: E. Zahnizer Rd. (EZR), Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC), Shenango R. Res. (SRR), Shenango Wildlife Area (SWA), Williamson Rd. (WR).

Two **Ruffed Grouse** were at SGL 130 on 6/8 (NT). The grouse population increased somewhat from recent years at these game lands

where the PGC has clear-cut large areas that in time have created dense areas of new-growth habitat, not only for grouse but other species as well. Several **Double-crested Cormorant** were found at SRR through the period and 4 **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were at the SWA ponds 7/26 (NT).

A **Broad-winged Hawk** was at SGL 130 on 6/8 where they have been listed as probable breeders in past years (NT). **Sora**, **Virginia Rail**, and **Common Gallinule** were found at Pennsy Swamp 6/4 (NT) and 2 adult and 2 juvenile **Sandhill Cranes** were seen at Forrester Road 7/7 (NT).

Persistent wet periods with heavy rain starting in late Jun and continuing through Jul held the water levels at SRR, Mercer's shorebird magnet, well above summer pool, which limited the sandpiper sightings to the SWA ponds, where small areas of mud flats were exposed. A **Semipalmated Plover** was found 7/26 (NT) and 2 were there 7/28 (SS). Single **Greater Yellowlegs** were found 7/21-28 (SS) and 2 **Lesser Yellowlegs** were there 7/28 (SS). A **Solitary Sandpiper** was found in a wet area along WR 7/12 (NT) and 2 were at SWA 7/28 (SS). A lingering **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was seen through 6/13 (NT) and 2 **Least Sandpiper** were found 7/26-28 (NT, SS). The best bird of the period was a well-studied **White-rumped Sandpiper** 7/21 (SS).

Red-headed Woodpecker was confirmed breeding at EZR and listed as probable at Buhl Park. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was again confirmed breeding at SGL 130 on 6/21. Very unusual was an adult female **Merlin** seen for several days harassing a colony of **Purple Martins** at WR 7/18-20. This represents the first summer record for Mercer and may possibly indicate they are breeding somewhere within the county (NT).

A **Least Flycatcher** was heard at WR 7/14. **Blue-headed Vireos** were found at SGL 130 on 6/21 and 7/6 (NT). Mercer's second sighting of **Common Raven** came from SGL 130 where 4 could be seen and heard at the area around the PGC deer dump 6/8-21 (SS, NT). **Brown Creeper** was found 6/8 and again 7/6, and a **Winter Wren** was heard singing 6/8, both at SGL 130 (NT). Up to 5 **Marsh Wren** were counted at Pennsy Swamp 6/4 (NT), and a **Sedge Wren** was found in a wet spot in a hay field along EZR 6/2 and was last heard there 6/15 (NT, m.ob.). A **Hermit Thrush** was heard singing at SGL 130 on 7/6 in the area where they have been confirmed breeding in the past years.

Eighteen species of warbler were reported for the period. Lower numbers of **Cerulean Warbler** were at SRR than in past years (SB). **Prothonotary Warbler** were again confirmed nesting at SRR and could be found through the end of the period. Both **Louisiana** and **Northern Waterthrush**, as well as **Mourning** and **Kentucky Warbler**, were all at SGL 130 on 6/8. Two **Yellow-breasted Chats** were at SGL 130 from 6/8 through the period (NT, SS).

A **Vesper Sparrow** was heard 6/6 at Vosler Road (SS), and **Grasshopper** and **Henslow's Sparrow** were found 6/3 at Spring Road (SS) and at Limber Road 6/8 (NT). **Dark-eyed Juncos** were heard singing at SGL 130 on 7/6 (NT). A female **Purple Finch** was coming to a feeder at WR through the end of Jul (NT).

Observers: **Neil Troyer, 876 Williamson Road, Mercer, PA 16137, Suzanne Butcher, Steve Sanford.**

Mifflin County

Locations: Rothrock SF (RSF), Treatser Valley in Bald Eagle S.P. (TRV).

Barred Owls were found in TRV 7/10 and 7/13 (IG, RD). Two **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were heard in the Cooper's Gap area of RSF 7/12 (RH). Two **American Kestrels** fledged on the Zook farm at Belleville 6/15 (JZ). **Least Flycatchers** are rare breeders at best in **Mifflin**. Two were recorded on a BBS route in RSF 6/5 (DG, GG) and one was in TRV 7/10 (IG). Two **Cerulean Warblers** were found along Ertley Rd. 6/1 (RH). Unusual in **Mifflin** in summer, a **Magnolia Warbler** was in TRV 7/28 (RD). **Canada Warblers** were also in TRV, with 6 on 7/10 (IG) and 2 there 7/13 (RD).

Observers: **Greg Grove, 9524 Stone Creek Ridge Road, Huntingdon, PA 16652, gwg2@psu.edu**, Rob Dickerson, Ian Gardner, Deb Grove, Robert Hosler, 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@ptd.net.**

Montgomery County

Locations: Evansburg State Park (ESP), Green Lane Park (GLP), Norristown Dam (ND), Norristown Farm Park (NFP), Souderton/Harleysville Gun Club (SHGC), Unami Creek Valley (UCV), Upper Skippack Mennonite Cemetery (USMC), Valley Forge National Historical Park (VFNHP).

The summer of 2013 was one of the rainiest on record in *Montgomery*, with over 13 inches of precipitation during the reporting period. There were 119 species observed in the county, including one exotic. Ninety-six of those species were noted during the 28th annual Valley Forge Audubon Spring Bird Count 6/1, which was 4 species above average. The total of 11,819 birds tallied was a new record for the count and 4000 above average. The count circle also includes portions of *Chester* and *Delaware*.

A **Snow Goose**, stranded in *Montgomery* by a broken wing, was found at Skippack Golf Club adjacent ESP 6/16 (PD). A hen **Common Merganser** with 12 juveniles in tow was at ND 6/1 (WBH). All other reports of the species came from GLP, where a high count of 8 was noted 7/29 and 7/31 (both GF). A **Northern Bobwhite** was heard at Pennypack Farm in Horsham 7/15 (AnM). Though the likelihood of this location hosting a breeding population of Bobwhite is slim, this scarce species was also found here in 2011. **Ring-necked Pheasant** was observed in Palm three times, with 2 birds noted 6/20 (GF) and 7/6 (PD). **Wild Turkey** was seen at Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust and other expected spots (m.ob.). Somewhat unusual were 2 turkeys at NFP 7/7 (PK). This species is not normally found at this location.

Double-crested Cormorant were present in small numbers throughout the season, with high counts of 8 at the John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove 7/13 (VS) and ND 7/21 (WBH), both on or near the Schuylkill River. A surprisingly high count of 8 **Great Blue Herons** was tallied at the Willow Grove Mall 7/16 (BE). With the mall herons were 3 **Great Egrets** (BE). Six Great Egrets were seen at GLP 7/28 (GF) and ND the following morning (WBH). Though there's no evidence to support it, it's possible that these were the same birds, observed at two points on their southbound journey. An immature **Little Blue Heron** was found at a private pond by GLP 7/23 (KC). **Green Herons** seemed to have a good breeding season, with birds noted at over 18 sites throughout *Montgomery*. A high count of 8 was reported at NFP 7/21 (PB).

The seasonal high count of **Black Vultures**, 45, was made at NFP 6/1 (BH). An **Osprey** was seen at ND 6/1 (WBH). Another was at ESP that same day (LR). There were scattered reports of single Osprey at GLP (AM, GF). Although GLP's **Bald Eagles** did not nest this year, they were present at that location throughout the period (m.ob.). Eagles were noted on a six occasions in southern *Montgomery*, mostly in the first half of Jun (m.ob.). **Red-shouldered Hawks** were extremely scarce, with just two reports, both of single birds at an unspecified location northwest of ESP 6/1 (TR) and USMC, also northwest of ESP 6/15 (WBH). A **Broad-winged Hawk**, an even scarcer breeder in *Montgomery*, was observed almost daily from Jun through mid-Jul at GLP (KC). It was seen being mobbed by **American Crows** and **Purple Martins** 7/23 (PD).

The wet summer proved poor for shorebird habitat, with consistently high water levels at GLP. Only five species of shorebird were noted and none in bulk. **Killdeer** maxed at 28 at GLP 7/25 (GF). Breeding **Spotted Sandpipers** were confirmed at a pond near USMC 6/22 (PD). A **Solitary Sandpiper** 7/21 (SGo) and 3 **Lesser Yellowlegs** 7/26 (AM), both at GLP, were the only reports of their species. Very small quantities of **Least Sandpiper** were observed at GLP in late Jul (SGo, GF).

Ring-billed Gull returned to the area 7/13, when 3 were seen at John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove (VS). Only two other reports of single Ring-bills were filed, both at ND (WBH). The first **Caspian Terns** arrived at GLP 7/26 (AM, SGo), where they remained until the end of the period. One **Forster's Tern** was noted at GLP 7/31 (GF).

It seemed to be a decent season for **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**, with 11 reports through the month of Jun (m.ob.). Only one was spotted in Jul, at GLP 7/21 (GF). A pair of **Black-billed Cuckoos**, one carrying food, was a great Spring Count find in Worcester 6/1 (DB). One of the pair was spotted again 6/2 (MR), but attempts by others to track down these secretive birds came up empty. Another Black-billed Cuckoo was reported at GLP 6/14 (AU). **Eastern Screech-Owl** proved to be tough to find in their "quiet period," with just three reports for the entire season, two of them 6/1 in the Norristown area (WBH, BH). **Barred Owl** was heard on three occasions in Jun, near ESP (SF). A Barred Owl at Saunders Woods Preserve, initially spotted in April, was found again 6/23 (FFD) and 7/13 (FFD, GG, RBi). It holds the distinction of being the first of its species recorded in the Lower Merion District since 1997. The only **Common Nighthawk** for the period was noted in Souderton 6/3 (ZM). **Pileated Woodpeckers** seem to be on the rise, with reports from at least nine locations. KC's Sumneytown neighborhood had a resident Pileated pair for the first time in 15 years.

American Kestrels made good use of a new nestbox at Gwenedd Wildlife Preserve, in which 4 juveniles were photographed, using some clever and minimally intrusive nest-monitoring techniques, during Jun (RZ). Kestrels were noted at 11 other locations through the period as well. A sighting of a **Peregrine Falcon** in Plymouth Meeting 6/21 (DBe) added further support to the notion that they are breeding somewhere in the area.

Acadian Flycatchers, an uncommon breeder in *Montgomery*, were reported from five locations, including ESP and VFNHP (m.ob.). **Willow Flycatcher** was most commonly seen at NFP, where 10 were noted 6/30 (BH). **White-eyed Vireo** was observed exclusively at ESP (m.ob.), with a high count of 3 on 7/26 (WBH). Breeding was confirmed there. **Yellow-throated Vireo**, only slightly less scarce during the summer, was confined primarily to UCV and GLP (GF, PD, WBH). A high of 6 was reported in UCV 6/29 (PD). A Yellow-throated Vireo was also heard singing in Elkins Park 6/17 (PS). **Warbling Vireo** numbers seemed strong, with a high of 15 reported from SHGC 6/8 (ZM). A late-season high of 12 was tallied on the Schuylkill River Trail at Oaks 7/31 (WBH).

Reports of **Fish Crow** were fairly light, with a high of only 12 noted in the Oaks Expo Center parking lot 7/31 (WBH). A singing **Horned Lark** was a surprise at NFP 6/20 (PD). The **Purple Martin** colony at the Ruth farm near Harleysville had at least 30 birds 7/11 (GF) and 7/17 (PB). Numbers were slightly higher at GLP 7/28, with a count of 38 (GF). Martins were seen at this location nearly every day from Jun through mid-Jul (KC). The first **Bank Swallow** of the season was noted at GLP 7/26 (GF). Three were seen at GLP 7/31 (GF). A **Cliff Swallow** at GLP 6/23 (SGo) was something of a puzzle, but it was later explained when a nest was discovered from a kayak 7/7 (PG). Two **Cliff Swallows** were seen on that day (KR). One of the more unusual birds noted for the season was a **Brown Creeper**, singing from the same spot at ESP 6/5 and 7/26 (WBH). No confirmation of breeding was achieved, unfortunately.

Seventeen **Eastern Bluebirds** were counted at GLP 7/12 (GF). There were no reports of **Veery** in the county. Hopefully this was due to a lack of observers rather than a lack of birds. A high count of 20 **Wood Thrush** was recorded in UCV 6/29 (PD). The largest accumulation of **Cedar Waxwings** for the period was at SHGC 6/8, where 47 birds were observed (ZM).

A remarkable 50 **Ovenbirds** were observed in UCV 6/29 (PD). UCV is also the only known spot in *Montgomery* for breeding **Worm-eating Warblers**. One or 2 were noted on three occasions in Jun (GF, PD, WBH). **Louisiana Waterthrush** was recorded at four locations (m.ob.), with a high count of 5 at ESP 6/9 (CHi). There was just one sighting of this species during the month of Jul, 2 at Gwenedd Wildlife Preserve 7/24 (WBH). **Blue-winged Warbler**, another breeding species of concern in *Montgomery*, was sighted just twice: 5 birds at ESP 6/1 (LR) and a single Blue-wing at GLP 7/12 (GF). **American Redstart** was seen at five locations in early Jun (m.ob.), with a high of 3 at SHGC (ZM). **Northern Parula** was spotted even less frequently, with one at Upper Schuylkill Valley Park 6/1 (MC) and one at ESP 7/26 (WBH). **Yellow Warbler**, on the other hand, was fairly abundant, with a high of 17 reported at NFP 6/1 (BH). A late **Blackpoll Warbler** was noted at ESP 6/1 (LR). **Pine Warblers** were found at VFNHP 6/1 (EP), UCV 6/4 (GF) and ESP 6/5 (WBH). A singing **Yellow-throated Warbler** was observed at GLP 7/23 (PD), potentially the same one noted at this location during the spring season. There were roughly 20 reports of **Prairie Warbler**, all from ESP, GLP or UCV. A high of 6 Prairies was tallied 6/1 at ESP (LR). ESP also boasted **Yellow-breasted Chat**, a species that has become a rare breeder in *Montgomery*. A Chat was found during a bird walk on 6/8 (WBH, et al.). Two Chats were confirmed at this location 6/17 (AM). Another Chat was reported northwest of ESP 6/1 (TR).

Though a high count of 23 **Field Sparrows** at ESP 6/5 (WBH) was nice, reports of the species elsewhere in the county were meager. **Grasshopper Sparrow** was regular at USMC through the period, with 8 noted 6/22 (PD). A single Grasshopper Sparrow was also seen in Palm 6/18 (AM). The oddest sparrow of the season was a one-day-wonder **White-throated Sparrow**, photographed in Hatboro 7/3 (JB).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak was hard to find, with only three reports: one at Mont Clare 6/1 (MC), 4 at SHGC 6/8 (ZM) and 2 at Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust 7/14 (AnM). In contrast with the 2012 "invasion" breeding season, no **Dickcissels** were found in *Montgomery* in 2013, and the only **Blue Grosbeak** was an unexpected yard bird in Pennsbury 7/22 (GF). **Bobolinks** were observed in small numbers, mostly at USMC (m.ob.), where the expansion of the Graterford Prison threatens to reduce one of the better patches of grassland habitat in the county. The high count of Bobolink from USMC was 7 on 7/23 (BS). The same number was reported from Fruitville Rd. in northern *Montgomery* 6/12 (GF). Eight **Eastern Meadowlarks** were found at VFNHP 6/1 (EP). Smaller numbers were noted at USMC, VFNHP, GLP and Fruitville Rd. (m.ob.). The high counts for both Oriole species both came from SHGC 6/8, with 8 **Orchard Orioles** and 23 **Baltimore Orioles** reported (ZM).

A straggler from the 2012-3 winter finch invasion, a **Pine Siskin**

remained a regular visitor to a feeder in Wayne until 6/16 (EP). Another appeared, for a few minutes only, at a feeder in Glenside 7/13 (SSh).

EXOTICS: An **Egyptian Goose** (or, perhaps, multiple geese) resided at GLP from mid-Jul through the end of the period (m.ob.).

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Montour County

No compiler.

Northampton County

Three **Snow Geese** were found at Echo Lake 6/13 and could be seen there the entire period (MSa). A much larger group of up to 15 Snow Geese (mostly adult) summered at a pond on Blossom Hill Rd. in Lower Nazareth Twp. (DW, et al.). A pair of **Ruddy Ducks** nested at the Trio Fields Development ponds on Gremar Rd. in Lower Nazareth Twp. (MS, CCS). On 7/6, 5 **Ruddy Duck** chicks were observed swimming next to their parents. By the end of the period, 4 juveniles had reached adult size. The last known confirmed nesting of Ruddy Duck in Pennsylvania was at Glenn Morgan Lake, Berks in 1998. In addition to the breeding Ruddy Ducks, a pair of **Pied-billed Grebes** also nested at the Gremar Rd. ponds and produced 9 young with clutches of 7 and 2 (MS, CCS). By Aug, 3 juvenile and one adult grebe left and one chick perished. The recent Pennsylvania breeding bird atlas shows that Pied-billed Grebe was a possible nester in the northeastern section of the county. This may be the first confirmed record of nesting in Northampton. On 6/14, a breeding plumage **Common Loon** flew over fields in East Allen Twp. (DW).

A juvenile **Mississippi Kite** was seen flying east towards the Delaware R. near the Martins Creek Environmental Preserve 7/7 (MSa). A probable pair of nesting **Broad-winged Hawks** was in the Rosetto area 7/9-18 (MSa). The county had a few southbound shorebirds in late Jul with **Semipalmated**, **Least** and **Pectoral Sandpiper** and **Semipalmated Plover** at Minsi Lake (MSa, BW) and an early **Lesser Yellowlegs** at Green Pond 7/15 (BW). Both **Yellow-billed** and **Black-billed Cuckoo** were heard near Jamesville 6/30 (MS, CCS). There were 3 **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** at Little Gap 6/21 (MS, CCS). On 7/20, a **Merlin** was seen flying southwest over the Koch property in Williams Twp. (AK). There was an adult **Peregrine Falcon** at an area in Plainfield Twp. on Pen Argyl Rd. 7/24 where there had been sightings in the past (DZ).

At least 2 adult **Purple Martins** were flying back and forth to a martin house on Driftwood Rd., East Allen Twp. 7/6 (MS, CCS) suggesting young inside. The staff at Jacobsburg S.P. located a pair of **Prothonotary Warblers** feeding a juvenile at Island Park on the Lehigh R. in late Jul. A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was heard on National Park Rd. near the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area 6/12 (MS, CCS). It was not heard or seen on a follow-up visit. There were 2 **Blue Grosbeaks** at Grand Central Landfill 7/1 where they have successfully nested in recent years (MSa).

Observers: **Michael Schall, 126 N Chestnut St, Bath, 610-737-5275, mdtjschall@yahoo.com**, Arlene Koch, Matt Sabatine (MSa), Corinne Campbell Schall, Billy Weber, Dustin Welch, Dan Zmoda.

Northumberland County

No compiler.

Perry County

No report.

New compiler beginning Fall 2013: **Vern Gauthier, 111 W. Big Spring Ave., Newville, PA 17241, (717) 385-9526, pabirder@gmail.com**.

Philadelphia County

Locations: John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum-Philadelphia (TI),

Pennypack on the Delaware (POD), Schuylkill River (SR).

A **Tyrannus** kingbird identified as **Tropical Kingbird** by sight, excellent photos, and vocalization (GA, AZ) will provide a first state record pending acceptance by PORC. The lemon-yellow kingbird was found at the Gray's Ferry Crescent Trail on the morning of 6/20 (AZ). He instantly knew it was special and he posted photos on the web which brought birders to the site. It was last seen at 20:23. Both Tropical Kingbird and Couch's Kingbird were considered as possibilities until later in the day when an observer (GA) familiar with both species heard the bird call and took diagnostic photos.

This hot, rainy summer was uncomfortable for birders, but may not have been so bad for breeding birds. First clutches that failed during the intense rains were probably replaced by second attempts.

The 3 **Snow Geese** reported in spring were present at TI until 6/2. A male **Common Merganser** was on the SR at Gray's Ferry Crescent Trail 6/22 as birders searched in vain for the Tropical Kingbird (DMcN), and another was at the West River Drive Trail 7/28 (CM). Sightings of these divers are uncommon on the SR in summer, however, a pair of **Ring-necked Duck** at TI 7/21 was totally unexpected (ABi, DB, ph.). Another diver, a male **Ruddy Duck** in breeding plumage, resided at TI 6/23-7/30 (CM, ABe, ABi, ph.). A **Pied-billed Grebe** also rested at TI 7/6-10 (m.ob.).

Ring-necked Pheasant at Bartram's Garden 7/7-8/3 seemed to have bred successfully when a hen and at least 4 pouls were flushed (AZ). **Least Bittern** were very cooperative at TI, allowing many sightings in Jun and Jul from the dike road, along with fabulous views of 2 adults and photos of a nest with 4 chicks 6/21 (ABi, DB, m.ob.). Juvenile **Little Blue Heron** were at TI 7/11-25 (MD, FW, ABi). **Snowy Egret**, following last year's poor showing, was unexpectedly not reported at all. A **Glossy Ibis** allowed a brief view at TI 7/6 (FW, ABi). Two **Bald Eagle** nests were successful. A **Clapper Rail** was found dead in Center City 6/22 and was later studied and confirmed at the Academy of Natural Sciences (KR). It is known that Clapper Rail pass through the county, but live birds are very rarely reported.

At POD 2 **Semipalmated Plover** and 2 **Pectoral Sandpiper** were expected 7/2, but a **Red Knot** on 7/26 was a rare find (FW). High counts of 15 **Semipalmated Sandpiper** 7/16 at POD and 75 **Least Sandpiper** at TI 7/21 were unusually low (FW). Still rare, but becoming more frequent, a **Least Tern** was found early 6/17 (FW) and was seen later (ph. ABi, DB, TF). A second Least Tern was also at TI 7/4 (DB, ABi).

Possibly the same **Black-billed Cuckoo** was found at TI 6/17 (DB) and 6/23 (FW). Philly's elusive **Barred Owl** "was heard calling in its old haunts around Upsal St. and Lincoln Dr. in Mt Airy" 6/6 (KR). No subsequent reports were received. In addition to several known urban breeding sites for **American Kestrel**, two potential sites were identified at Wissahickon and Chelton Ave. and at Wissahickon and Hunting Park Ave. where this species was seen in Jun (KR). Six pair of **Peregrine Falcon** successfully bred including a pair that fledged 4 of five chicks. Along with the success of Bald Eagles here, Philly is certainly doing its part for two recovering species.

An **Alder Flycatcher** was identified by call 6/8 (KR, FW). This flycatcher was looked for 6/19, but not found. It appears to have been a late transient. An **Acadian Flycatcher** nested for the second time at TI. No word if it raised **Brown-headed Cowbird** as it did in its first attempt in 2012. Two **Purple Martins** of both sexes were seen near Glen Foerd Mansion 6/24 which strongly suggested that they could be nesting in the area (FW). Martin houses erected in the past, which are no longer accessible (due to post-9/11 security), could be hosting a small colony.

A **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was a pleasing find at TI 7/6 (AG). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** sang at Lemon Hill in Fairmount Park (LW) and subsequently was independently identified less than a tenth of a mile away near the Art Museum 7/11 (SL). Yellow-breasted Chat again went unreported. A somewhat late **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was at Houston Meadow 6/24 (KR) where for the third consecutive summer a male **Blue Grosbeak** was also reported but which has never been confirmed (KR). An singing immature male Blue Grosbeak was also at POD 7/9-19 (FW).

Observers: **Doris McGovern, 209 Dogwood Rd., Media, PA 19063, (610) 565-8484, mcgovern100@comcast.net**, George Armistead, Debbie Beer, Anne Bekker (ABe), Adrian Birns (ABi), Martin Dellwo, Al Guarante Scott Loss, Christine Murray, David McNaughton (DMcN), Keith Russell, Linda Widdop, Frank Windfelder, Alexander Zorach.

Pike County

No report.

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Potter County
No compiler.

Schuylkill County

Locations: Jeff's Swamp (JS), Locust Lake State Park (LLSP), Swatara State Park (SSP), Sweet Arrow Lake (SAL).

The temperatures were cool through most of Jun. Most of Jul was warmer until 7/22, with 11 days above 90°F. Rainfall was above normal in both months. Birders registered a total of 119 species consisting primarily of upland passersines, which had a high likelihood of breeding locally.

The county's usual summer waterfowl assemblage is limited to **Wood Duck** and **Mallard**. Occasionally **Mute Swan** is found, such as the resident pair at Stoyer's Dam in Schuylkill Haven which produced young this year. **Common Merganser** may be moving into the area; one was at SSP 6/12 (BR). This species was seen with young a year ago in this same area.

Osprey were found in the western portion of the county with a pair at JS 6/8 (DK, DR) and at SAL 7/18 (ME). A single Osprey was seen 6/6 at SSP (BR). The county had at least two **Bald Eagle** nests this year and possibly a third. The one at SAL blew down at the end of May but was successfully rebuilt (DD). **Broad-winged Hawk** numbers seem to be decreasing with only a handful of sightings this year in the southern portion of the county. The 4 sightings this year were 6/8 at JS (DK), 6/23 at SSP (BR), 7/15 at Landingsville (TD) and also 7/15 in Pottsville (BR).

The only owl reported was **Eastern Screech-Owl**, in numerous locations. There are historically a few areas in the county where **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** breed, primarily in the north-central *Schuylkill* around St. Clair and Frackville, and in the southern part of the county. This year there was only a single report of the species within the safe dates, in Weiser S.F. 6/4 (KG). A second sighting was prior to the safe date, 5/11 at Black Creek (DK). The low number is probably to a lack of coverage.

For the second consecutive year, **Red-headed Woodpeckers** nested in the county. Two pairs were reported: one was on the north slope of Blue Mountain 6/15 where a pair was confirmed (KG). Young were observed 8/25. The second was near Landingsville 6/7 (BJ) but no nest was found.

The general consensus on breeding *Empids* is that Acadian, Willow, Alder and Least Flycatcher are probably here in low numbers, but are not recorded every year. Most are found in the southwestern corner near the border with *Lebanon*. **Acadian Flycatcher** is the most common, found at two locations this season: 6/8 at JS (DK, DR), and 5/26 and 6/14 at LLSP (DK). **Alder Flycatcher** was at SSP 6/16 (BR). **Willow Flycatcher** also was at SSP 7/12 (DM). Numbers of **Blue-headed Vireo** seem to be dropping to the point that it was only found in two locations this summer. In its most dependable location, only one was located, 6/8 at JS (DK, DR), and another was found 7/27 at SGL 106 (DB). **Yellow-throated Vireo** is another species that breeds in low numbers but can be found most years. It was found at three locations this year: SSP 7/12 (DM) and 7/16 (BR), the Appalachian Trail 6/21 (BR), and LLSP 6/14 (DK). Pitman, in the northwestern corner of the county, is one of the more extensive agricultural areas in *Schuylkill* and a very dependable place to find **Horned Lark**. Several were found there 6/30 (DK). A very unusual breeder for the county is **Winter Wren**. There were two sightings within the safe dates; one heard 5/18 at SGL 222 (DK, DR) and another 6/8 at JS (DK, DR).

A total of 20 warbler species were found. **Louisiana Waterthrush**, **Black-throated Blue Warbler**, **Blackburnian Warbler**, **Canada Warbler**, and a surprising **Nashville Warbler** were on territory at JS 6/8 (DK, DR). Another Black-throated Blue was at Owl Creek Reservoir 6/4 (DK). Notably, a **Kentucky Warbler** was found 6/2 and again 6/27 at SSP (BR). **Yellow-breasted Chat** is another warbler that only breeds in the county in small numbers and can be hard to find some years. Two were reported this year: one 6/2-7/9 at SSP (BR), and another in a clear-cut area in SGL 110 (KG).

The only **Vesper Sparrow** was near Pitman 6/30 (DK). A single **Savannah Sparrow** was near Kehler, not far from Pitman, also 6/30 (DK). **Swamp Sparrows** were heard at JS 6/8 (DK, DR).

Observers: **Dave Rieger, 401 Stoney Mountain Road, Auburn, PA 17922, d.m.rieger@gmail.com**, Dave Belford, Todd Deininger, Denise Donmoyer, Matt Erdosy, Kerry Grim, Barb Jucker, Dave Kruel, David McNaughton.

Snyder County
No report.

Compiler: **Richard Williams, 3 Parkside Dr., Hummelstown, PA, 17036, (717) 566-6562, RWPUFFIN@aol.com**.

Somerset County

Locations: Payne Property (PP), Somerset Lake (SL), Summit Mills (SM), Quemahoning Reservoir (QR).

There were not a lot of observations reported this breeding season. It was generally wet and somewhat cool. During one period from late Jun to Jul, it rained for 20 days in a row.

Great Blue Herons are much more common in the breeding season, with several known small colonies. Seven birds at SL 7/12 (BC) was the high reported. Unseasonal were 2 **Great Egrets** at SL 6/16 (ML). **Green Herons** are local, erratic breeders in the county so 2 at SL 7/12 were not unexpected. Two late **Ruddy Ducks** were at Indian Lake 6/1 (CL, JP). Up to 3 **Common Loons** were reported summering on QR through 7/29 (LG). One bird had an apparent injury to a leg. Somerset Lake is on a permanent drawdown until funds can be found to replace the dam. The resulting 5-6 feet of increased shoreline has a heavy growth of smartweed, which provides nesting habitat for **Mallards**. On the unlucky side were the **Ospreys** that had nested there for at least 20 years. The drawdown left their pole on dry land and a joint effort to straighten it up and install a predator guard orchestrated by the Somerset County Conservancy, Somerset Rural Electric Co-op, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, and Pennsylvania Game Commission was apparently all for naught when helicopter water rescue practices scared the birds away. **Bald Eagles**, both adult and immatures, were frequent visitors to both SL and QR through the period including one of each at SL 6/30 (BC, SB).

Several broods of **Ring-neck Pheasants** were observed at Kimberly Run Natural Area in late Jul (HN). These birds are PGC-released birds and not from Wild Pheasant Recovery Project. The single **Sandhill Crane** remained at Buffalo Creek during the season (JP).

Shorebirds were occasionally present at SL when mud was exposed, but frequent rains kept the lake level mostly up into the weeds. A **Semipalmed Sandpiper**, 3 **Least Sandpipers**, a **Solitary Sandpiper**, and a **Short-billed Dowitcher** were at SL 7/20 (JP, ST). A **Lesser Yellowlegs** and a **Pectoral Sandpiper** were also at SL 7/26 (AP, JP). Very unusual dates for **Caspian Tern** 6/30 (SB) and **Black Tern** 7/12 (AMcG) were recorded at SL.

A **Belted Kingfisher** nest was found in an ash pile near SM 6/14 (EB). The 4 young fledged by 6/26. An adult and young **Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker** were found near Laurel Village 7/9 (SB). A **Horned Lark** nest with three eggs was in SM 5/15 (EB). Also in SM were 26 **Cliff Swallow** nests hatching young from 6/8-9. One second brood was observed (EB). A late brood of **Barn Swallows** was at PP through early Aug.

An **Orchard Oriole** in SM fledged 3 young 6/20 (EB), but it was not known if any survived. The **Purple Finches** at PP fledged many sunflower-seed-loving young (JP). Two **Pine Siskins** were heard at PP 6/4 (CP).

Observers: **Jeff Payne, 9755 Glades Pike, Berlin, PA 15530, (814) 267-5718**, Scott Bastian, Elmer Brenneman, Bill Cline, Linda Greble, Carolyn LaBute, Mike Lanzone, Anthony Marich, Andy McGann (AMcG), Harold Nicholson, Chris Payne, Alan Peterson, Shannon Thompson.

Sullivan County

Locations: Ricketts Glen State Park (RGSP).

This author made only three trips to *Sullivan* this season, but several other observers contributed to this report via eBird. The annual PSO meeting was held in reasonable proximity to the county. Several parties ventured onto North Mountain and explored the Hayfields section of RGSP. Expected species such as **Tree** and **Barn Swallow**, **Eastern Bluebird**, **Cedar Waxwing**, **Common Yellowthroat**, **Yellow Warbler**, **Eastern Towhee**, **Field Sparrow** and **Red-winged Blackbird** were present 6/2. More noteworthy sightings included **Alder Flycatcher**, **Prairie Warbler** and **White-throated Sparrow**. A male **Northern Harrier** was observed coursing low over the fields, a possible breeding location (KR, JD, RB, MH). The harrier was seen again later in Jun (RM) and another was at McCarron's corner on Dutch Mt. during Jun (RM).

Dutch Mt. Splashdam Pond was visited 6/26 in an effort to search for American Bittern. Bitterns were not found but **Canada Goose**, **Wood Duck**, **Mallard**, **Common Raven**, **Tree Swallow**, **Eastern Towhee**, **Swamp Sparrow**, **White-throated Sparrow**, and **Red-winged Blackbird** were all confirmed as nesters. **Hooded Merganser** was visiting a probable nest site. A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** and 4 **Alder Flycatchers** were good finds. Three species of woodpecker, two species of vireo and ten species of warbler were observed. All are summer residents but no evidence of breeding was observed (DG).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Alder Flycatcher and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher were the best finds on a stop at Frost Hollow North 6/1 (KL).

Green Heron and **Spotted Sandpiper** were observed in World's End S.P. (AK). A flock of 15 **Double-crested Cormorants** was flying in formation over Elkmont Lodge in early Jun (SK). A **Bay-breasted Warbler** was heard at Elkmont Lodge on the same day (SK). **Mourning Warbler** was found on separate occasions in the High Knob Area of Loyalsock S.F. (SK, SC, DK, RM). A **Common Loon** was found on Hunter's Lake 6/1, along with **Bald Eagle** and **Louisiana Waterthrush** (SK).

Loyalsock S. F. has many areas of outstanding and diverse habitat. The area was explored 7/6 and many of the expected forest birds were found engaged in probable breeding activity. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**, **Blue-headed Vireo** and **Red-eyed Vireo**, **Ovenbird**, and **Eastern Towhee** were all in abundance. Good numbers of **Eastern Wood-Pewee**, **Black-capped Chickadee**, **White-breasted Nuthatch**, **Veery**, **Hermit Thrush**, **Wood Thrush**, **American Redstart**, **Common Yellowthroat**, **Chestnut-sided Warbler**, **Black-throated Blue Warbler**, **Green Warbler**, and **Scarlet Tanager** were all singing in good habitat with several species in the same location for more than a week. By far the best bird in this area was a **Yellow-throated Warbler** along Ogdonia Rd. during a BBS route (DG).

Sandhill Cranes once again nested in Cherry Twp. Two adults were observed with a single chick on multiple dates (m.ob.). **Barred Owl** was heard calling on my Dutch Mt. property on two separate occasions and a single **Black-billed Cuckoo** was heard at the same location on several occasions. A lone **Fish Crow** was heard in downtown Dushore in Jun, an uncommon bird for the county (RM).

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Susquehanna County

Location: Laurel Lake (LL).

A total of 115 species was reported this period. Among the relatively few reports of waterfowl was a lone **Hooded Merganser** at Great Bend 6/2 (DW). The county was a northeastern Pennsylvania stronghold for this species during the second breeding bird atlas, and was likely underreported this season. **Susquehanna** hosted a good variety of potentially breeding raptors, including a pair of **Northern Harriers** at SGL 236, where an adult male and a female/immature-type were observed on several occasions 7/4-15 (KS). Single **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were found near LL 6/16 (EM) and at SGL 236 on 7/14 and 7/15 (KS), and a **Cooper's Hawk** was near LL 7/4 (EM). **Red-shouldered Hawks** turned up in Brackney, where there were 2 on 6/8 (WS), and Jackson, where there was one 7/13 (KS). Shorebirds were among the first migrants noted in the county: a **Spotted Sandpiper** was at Willis L. 7/13 (KS), and the dump pond south of Montrose hosted 2 **Solitary Sandpipers** and 2 **Least Sandpipers** 7/21 (JS).

An **Acadian Flycatcher** was a noteworthy potential breeder near Hallstead 6/2 (EM). A **Fish Crow** continued at the Hallstead-Great Bend bridge, where it was heard on several occasions between 6/3 and 7/12 (EM, KS). Two **Bank Swallows** were at River Rd. in Hallstead 6/2 (DW). A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** at LL 7/12-13 (EM) was the only one reported during established safe dates. Fifteen reported warbler species included a **Mourning Warbler** at Brackney 6/10 (WS). The closure of a road into SGL 35 prevented access to rarer warblers reported there in May. **Grasshopper Sparrows** have lost ground in the county, and the only reports of the species came from a farm near LL 7/18 and 7/24 (EM, JM). **White-throated Sparrows** were observed at SGL 236 on 7/4-15 (KS) and Florence Shelley Preserve 7/12 (KS). At least one **Orchard Oriole** continued at a farm in Dimock Twp. 7/27 (NB) where the species likely bred last year.

ADDENDUM: Susquehanna's first **Clay-colored Sparrow** was heard singing at Woodbourne Forest and Wildlife Preserve 5/27 (NB).

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Tioga County

No compiler.

Union County

No compiler.

Venango County

Location: Buttermilk Hill Nature Sanctuary (BHNS).

It was another slow period with one flycatcher and one vireo noticeably unreported. Despite the additional input from nine eBird participants, the species total for the season was just 116 compared to 126 last year and 133 two years ago.

The last **Double-crested Cormorant** was observed on the Allegheny R. between Oil City and Franklin 6/7 (GE, JW). The **Great Blue Heron** rookery on Rte. 8 south of Franklin had a productive year with about 40 successful nests including one nest occupied by a **Great Horned Owl**, which fledged at least one owlet (GE, RS, et al.). The **Bald Eagle** population continued to increase with numerous sightings reported throughout the county (m.ob.). There also were a few more **Broad-winged Hawk** reports than in the last few years (m.ob.). Whether this marks the beginning of a trend or is merely an isolated observation remains to be seen. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** reports remained high through mid-Jun and then tapered off through the end of the season (DH, DI, RN, RS). **Black-billed Cuckoo** reports followed the same trend (KG, JS) but the last report was earlier, 7/7 (NB). **Common Nighthawks** at least held their own this year in Franklin (NB, JH, TN) and Oil City (RS). A singing **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was reported at BHNS 7/30 (KG, JS). The seasonal highlight was a pair of **Red-headed Woodpeckers** nesting at a residence on Pecan Hill south of Franklin 7/12 (DE).

Acadian Flycatchers were reported from SGL 45 on 6/3 (BB), Fisherman's Cove 6/4 (GE, JW), Oil Creek S.P. 6/29 (RN), and Sandy Creek 7/6 (DI). For only the second year in the last 25, there were no reports of **Alder Flycatcher**. The only **Least Flycatcher** was at Oil Creek S.P. 6/19 (RS). **Great Crested Flycatchers** were recorded daily at BHNS through 7/16 (KG, JS). For the first time in 25 years, there were no reports of **White-eyed Vireo**, an uncommon but regular nester. A **Common Raven** was seen along Rte. 322 near Van 7/12 (ML). The County Line Rd. **Purple Martin** colony continued to prosper this year (JM, RN, RS) but no additional colonies have been located. **Cliff Swallow** nests were counted at three locations: 25 at the Eighth Street Bridge in Franklin, the lowest number in many years; 14 at the Oil City Parking Garage; and 11 at the Rte. 8 bridge over Oil Creek at the entrance to Oil Creek S.P. 6/17 (all RS). A **Winter Wren** was seen in the Kennerdell Area 6/19 (DH). **Pine Siskins** lingered at BHNS through 6/10 (KG, JS).

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Warren County

No compiler.

Washington County

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

Totally unexpected especially at this season, a **Cackling Goose** was found at AMD 7/29 (MV), very likely of the *taverneri* population, which breeds on the north slope of Alaska. It was later photographed very closely (JM). The photos were shared with several experts in western North America, including Steve Mlodinow and Bruce Deuel, both leading experts on the "white-cheeked goose" complex, and both endorsed the *taverneri* identification. There was some discussion that the bird may have been of the *parvipes* population, which is still considered a subspecies of Canada Goose (a.k.a., the "Lesser" Canada Goose). *Parvipes* itself is a tundra breeder in Alaska, Yukon, and Nunavut, and so is also quite unexpected at this place and time. The bird was last reported 8/4 (GM) but it may still have been there as of this writing, since observers at AMD are confined to nearby Hahn Road from which the entire complex is not visible. Of course, an open question is how a goose that should have been in Alaska came to be in suburban Washington in the month of Jul, and moreover, some far northern populations of *taverneri* and *parvipes* birds are considered uncertain as to subspecies, possibly due to interbreeding. The record was submitted to PORC for review.

A female **Hooded Merganser** with 7 ducklings was reported at GCW 5/8; all 8 birds were still together 6/8 (ST). Eight **Ring-necked Pheasants**

were at GCW the same day (ST), certainly stocked birds. Six **Ruffed Grouse**, including probable young, were seen at BAV 6/8 (JM). The area around Bavington, Burgettstown, and Hillman S.P. remains the best area in Washington to find this species. Three **Double-crested Cormorants** continued from late May at Boone Res. to 6/3 (MV), and one was at CL 6/3-10 (MV, RR). **Red-shouldered Hawk** was at Avella 6/2 (JB), where they bred for the past few years, but a report on nesting this year was not made. The probably-injured **American Coot** present at Timber Lake since mid-Jan was still there 7/8 (MV). Both **Eastern Screech-Owl** and **Barred Owl** were at Avella 6/2 (JB).

A **Common Raven** was seen in yet another new location, Peterswood Park (in Peters Twp.), on 6/24 (GG). An adult **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was seen feeding a juvenile at Washington Cemetery 6/22 (MV), the second time breeding has been confirmed at the cemetery since 2011, and they probably bred in 2012 as well. **Grasshopper** and **Henslow's Sparrows** were very common at a traditional location at BAV throughout this summer (JM). Six **Swamp Sparrows** were at GCW 6/8 (ST), a known breeding location.

Observers: **Geoff Malosh, 450 Amherst Avenue, Moon Township, PA 15108-2654, (412) 735-3128, pomarine@earthlink.net**, John Boback, Gigi Gerben, Jeff McDonald, Russ Ruffing, Shannon Thompson, Mark Vass.

Wayne County

Few reports were received for the summer season. A late **Red-necked Grebe** was found on Sly Lake on Woods Road between Stockton Turnpike and Creamton Drive 6/9 (AD), a very late spring record for Pennsylvania.

Observers: **Chris Fischer, c/o Bugaj/Fischer, PC, P.O. Box 390, Honesdale, PA 18431, (570) 446-9597, cfischer17@gmail.com**, Amy Davis.

Westmoreland County

Locations: Kuehl Property (KP), New Stanton (NS).

Reports of **Common Mergansers** and **Blue Grosbeak** were the highlights of the season. On a kayak expedition in the Packsaddle Gap section of the Conemaugh River (bordering with Indiana) 6/10, a female **Common Merganser** with young was found (TV). A **Common Merganser** family was also reported on Loyalhanna Creek in Ligonier (*fide* TV). Both **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** and **Black-billed Cuckoo** were heard throughout the season at the KP (TK, JK). Three **Barred Owls**, likely originating from a nearby nest, were observed at dawn at the KP 7/10 (TK). A Barred Owl was heard during the day in the Wolf Rocks area of Laurel Ridge 6/23 (KD). Three **Common Nighthawks** were observed in Mt. Pleasant 7/1 (LH).

Three **Willow Flycatchers** were heard throughout the season in NS (MF). One **Alder Flycatcher** was reported at Donegal Lake 6/18 (LH). **Common Raven** continues to be reported in the lower elevations of the county, specifically in the NS area throughout the season this year (MF). Five **Purple Martins** were observed at flying over Maiolie Rd. in the Municipality of Murrysville not far from the KP. Purple Martins nested around one mile away at the Murrysville Community Park in 2011; there were no reports of observations at that location during the 2013 breeding season. Not reported every year, two **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were in the Wolf Rocks area 6/23 (KD).

Expected breeding warblers were widely reported in the higher elevation areas of *Westmoreland* during the season. Unusual captures at Powdermill Nature Reserve during the season were **Brewster's**, **Golden-winged**, **Cerulean**, and **Worm-eating Warblers**. **Grasshopper Sparrows** and **Savannah Sparrows** were observed in NS throughout the season (MF). A **Blue Grosbeak** was observed at the Rostraver Airport 6/29 (JP), and a single male was near the sewage treatment plant on Meadowbrook Road in the Murrysville-Level Green area 7/2 (PF).

Observers: **Tom Kuehl, 3615 Hilty Rd., Export, PA 15632, (724)-325-1918, tjkuehl@comcast.net**, Karen Delaney, Mike Fialkovich, Patience Fisher, Laura Hahn, Janet Kuehl, Jim Pemberton, 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 Rd Landfill (ALT), Breeding Bird Atlas (BBA), Brunner Island (BI), Codorus State Park (CSP), Gifford Pinchot State Park (GPSP), High Point Scenic Vista and Recreation Area (HIGH), Kiwanis Lake (KL), Lake Redman (LR), Lake Williams (LW), Spring Grove (SG), Spring Valley County Park (SVCP).

This season's 99 species was lower than recent summers. There were no lingering waterfowl this year. **Double-crested Cormorants** were typically singles at CSP, GPSP, LR, and SG and spanned the period (m. ob.). The spring report suggested signs of an expanding **Great Egret** colony at the KL rookery and a count of 31 birds 7/5 (ST) certainly bears that out. As is typical, dispersals began late in the period and the egrets continue to favor LR during this dispersal period, with 8-10 present 7/24-26 (KG, BT). The same 7/5 visit to KL produced a count of 42 **Black-crowned Night Herons**—7 adults and 35 juveniles. York continues as a **Bald Eagle** nesting stronghold and is now experiencing a nice increase in nesting **Osprey** as well. There was a nest at York Haven, three at BI, and one at CSP with a second pair of birds apparently seeking a suitable nest site at that location.

Shorebirds were limited. A nice summer count of 42 **Killdeer** were at mowed fields on the SG School District campus 7/15 (PK). A lingering **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was at LR 6/5 (DC). The only southbound shorebirds were 3 **Least Sandpipers** at LW 7/25-30 (CK). In contrast to **Black-billed Cuckoos**, which were absent, the eight reports of **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** were higher than normal and spanned the period (m. ob.). A 6/1 (DC) sighting of an adult **Barn Owl** in the Franklin town area was further rewarded with the observer being present 7/10 to observe the banding of 4 young birds. Sightings of **Red-headed Woodpeckers** and reports of confirmed nesting indicated that this species remains stable in York. There were three reports of **Acadian Flycatcher**, but there were no reports of Willow Flycatcher. The latter was fairly common during the second breeding bird atlas, however, with only two reports for this period in 2012 and none this year, there may be a decline of this species underway in this county. The only report of **Least Flycatcher** came from GPSP 7/27 (AWo).

There were six reports of **White-eyed Vireo**, including counts of 5 from CSP 7/3 (TR) and GPSP 7/30 (DN). Reports of **Yellow-throated Vireo** were of single birds at BI 7/16 (DW) and GPSP 7/30 (DN). There were three reports of **Warbling Vireo**. A Mt. Wolf observer was treated to the aerial antics of 5 **Common Ravens** over his neighborhood 6/4 (DWi). This was a likely a family from a nearby quarry nest. It was a good reporting period for **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** and a high count of 20 was made at LW 6/14 (CK). **Bank Swallow** reports came from SG 7/4 (PK), Long Level Rd. 7/14 (CM), and BI 7/25 (DN). However, the only confirmed York colony is a very small one at SG. CSP's **Cliff Swallow** colony yielded 3 birds 6/20 (CT), and 2 birds were at LW 6/4 (DWi). Up to 16 **Carolina Wrens** at LW 7/30 (CK) were notable. **Veeries** were reported at three locations: 2 birds at CSP 6/19 (DN), a single at LR 6/12 (RS), and one at SVCP 6/1-5 (DC).

The ten warbler species reported was normal for this period. However, four sites—BI, CSP, GPSP, and LW—held **Northern Parula**, a definite increase over prior years. In addition, a high count of 5 came from CSP 7/5 (TR). Two **Pine Warblers** were at LW 6/21-25 (CK). Pairs of **Prairie Warbler** were found at GPSP 6/19 (DN) and BI 7/16 (DW). **Prothonotary Warblers** appear to be stable and are possibly expanding here. Reports came from the established nesting sites at BI and the lower Susquehanna River, with a high count of 3 at BI 7/25 (DN) and one in the vicinity of Otter Creek campground 7/10 (DS). A single bird at Marsh Run 7/2 (DN) was a new location for this species, and a pair of birds at LR/LW 6/17-27 (SC, BT) followed a 2011 sighting in the area. With safe dates of 5/25-7/15, breeding at the LR/LW site, at least, appeared to be a possibility. **Worm-eating Warbler** was at LW 6/21 and 7/25 (CK), and a **Hooded Warbler** was found at Camp Tuckahoe in higher elevations (~1200 feet) 6/17 (EB).

One can hope sparrow observations this season were a reflection of limited birding. There was only one report of **Savannah Sparrow**, a single at ALT 7/9 (RS), and the two reports of **Grasshopper Sparrow** came from HIGH with 2 birds 7/11 (DN) and 6 birds 7/30 (AE). **Blue Grosbeak** was found at BI 7/16 (DW), a typically reliable spot for this species. **Eastern Meadowlarks** were reported at three sites: 9 at ALT 7/19 (RS), 5 at HIGH 7/11 (DN), and 2 at Native Lands Heritage Trail 7/11 (DN). Three locations reported **Orchard Oriole**, with a pair at BI 7/16 (DW).

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IN FOCUS



Western Grebe, Presque Isle State Park, Erie County. See p. 173.
(Photo by Mike Fialkovich)



American Avocet, Pittsburgh, Allegheny County. See p. 165. (Photo by Jeff McDonald)



Least Bitterns, John Heinz N.W.R., Philadelphia County. See p. 181.
(Photo by Sanjib Bhattacharyya)



Black-necked Stilt, Shartlesville, Berks County. See p. 166. (Photo by Matt Wlasiewski)



Shiny Cowbird, Reading Twp., Adams County. See p. 164. (Photo by Linette Mansberger)