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In Focus. Inside Back Cover

Cover Photo: Merlin (*Falco columbarius*). First recorded as a nesting species in Pennsylvania just eight years ago during the Second Breeding Bird Atlas project, Merlins have since been found in a remarkable 22 counties during the months of June and July, including several confirmed nests all across the northern tier of the state. This bird was photographed 29 June 2014 at Forty Fort, Luzerne, a known Merlin breeding area for the past several years. (*Jonathan DeBalko*)

PAMC

John Fedak has decided to step down from his post as PAMC statewide coordinator. The PAMC has been supported and coordinated by PSO since its inception in 1992, and we sincerely thank John for his stewardship of the program for the past four years. Over the same years, John also served as PSO Vice President and PSO President. He's been a busy guy, and accomplished quite a lot for our organization. I know I am impressed, and if you are too (and you should be), take a moment to drop him a line and say thanks. I know he'll appreciate it.

And don't forget Frank Haas, the PAMC data compiler. Without his work on the project, the coordinator job would be even more daunting. Frank and John together have done an excellent job keeping PAMC moving forward and at the forefront of birders' minds each May.

John was still aboard to coordinate the 2014 PAMC field season, but this year's report was authored by Vern Gauthier, our county compiler for *Cumberland* and *Perry* and a recent addition to the PSO Board of Directors. Vern graciously stepped in to help John transition off the project while ensuring no delay in the publication schedule, and Vern's 2014 summary appears in this issue. Vern will not be permanently replacing John as the coordinator, however, and the PSO Board is working to find a new coordinator for 2015, as well as considering some possible changes to the PAMC process as a whole. So, stay tuned for news on that, and in the meantime, thanks very much to Vern for coming through with this season's report!

Lastly, I've mentioned this before in this space, but it is worth mentioning again. This year there were 1003 observers who participated in PAMC, the fifth highest total ever for the count. Remarkable! But this number is also more than double the current PSO membership total. I can't help but think there are several—or dozens, or more—potential new PSO members out there participating in PAMC but who have not joined our organization. Those of you who are members and are out birding on PAMC day, I urge you to use PAMC as an opportunity to let people know about

the organization that is sponsoring the event, and all the good things that PSO does that make membership worthwhile. All of us together *are* PSO, and we all play a small part in promoting our organization, the work PSO does, and the things PSO stands for. PAMC is the perfect opportunity to reach out to these hundreds of (probably mostly new) birders and introduce them to PSO.

And since this issue will be arriving at your mailbox in the middle of CBC season, it's an appropriate time to point out that there are a lot of non-PSO members participating in CBC counts as well. Take a few minutes to talk to them about PSO and why you're a member!

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 2014 year-end 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. 2014 was not a particularly noteworthy year for rarities in Pennsylvania (at least as of this late-November writing) but as always there were at least a few opportunities to chase some rare birds that stayed put for a day or two. One that comes immediately to mind is the Presque Isle Snowy Plover in July—a species that has been quite elusive for many listers who did not get an opportunity to see the long staying bird at Presque Isle in 1986. At last this year one stayed in place long enough—and over a holiday no less—to give most everyone who wanted a chance to take a crack at it the ability to do so. It didn't hurt that early July was an amazing time to be at Gull Point this year, with multiple sightings of other headliners like Piping Plover, American Avocet, Willet, and Marbled Godwit! Another “state-class” bird was the adult Sabine's Gull that appeared at Pymatuning State Park for a three-day weekend in early September, quite certainly the most cooperative and confiding of its kind ever to appear in Pennsylvania. There were probably at least a hundred birders from multiple states who stopped by to see this

beautiful visitor that sometimes approached observers to within 15 feet.

And of course also as usual, there were a few unexpected birds that appeared only briefly, it seemed just to tease the twitchers for a bit; this season no bird was as remarkable as the Crested Caracara in the unlikelyst of places in Washington County. Hopeful chasers who made it to the site the next day were tortured by stories told by the local residents of how they had observed “that weird white-headed vulture” just a few hours before, feeding with Turkey Vultures just feet off the roadside. Ouch! Such is the way of birding.

Open Counties

The following counties are still without a compiler: *Butler, Cameron, Columbia, Elk, Lackawanna, McKean, Montour, Northumberland, Potter, Susquehanna, Union, Tioga, and Warren*. Of those, *Elk, Montour, and Northumberland* have never had a compiler at any time during my nearly eight years as editor! If you're interested in reversing that trend for any of those three counties, or compiling for any open county for that matter, please contact me.

*Geoff Malosh
Editor-in-Chief*

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Avian Conservation Plan for the Slippery Rock Creek Watershed

Gene Wilhelm

Each spring, millions of migratory birds follow the Atlantic Flyway from wintering grounds in Central and South America to breeding grounds in the United States and Canada. By protecting the web of life that represents the Americas' richest veins of biodiversity, the National Audubon Society is at once safeguarding this great natural heritage for future generations of birds, preserving human quality of life, and even fostering a healthier environment for all life. The Bartramian Audubon Society's (BAS) mission, geographically serving Butler, Lawrence, Mercer, and Venango Counties in western Pennsylvania, is to preserve native plant and animal communities by monitoring and protecting rare species, implementing conservation efforts across birds' full life cycles, reversing declines in at-risk birds, and keeping common birds common.

In carrying out this mission, BAS examined a conservation process of defining a hierarchy of ever-larger ecosystems. Beginning with local chapter wildlife sanctuaries (inaugurated in 1995) and bird and butterfly sanctuaries (started in 1997), the vision was expanded to include Important Bird Areas (IBAs), ecological landscapes, and riparian corridors within watersheds, all together a critical part of Atlantic Flyway itself. These communities are interconnected and inseparable of each other and function as a dynamic ecological system (Wilhelm 2013).

Slippery Rock Creek Watershed

As early as 1991, the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy (WPC) advocated the idea preserving stream corridors in the Butler County Natural Heritage Inventory. In 2004, BAS expanded that idea to connect riparian corridors to existing IBAs and fill habitat gaps with sanctuaries in the Slippery Rock Creek Watershed (SRCW). This watershed was chosen because of its appropriate size: a 408 square-mile area including 148 stream miles, of which 79 miles are comprised of Slippery Rock Creek (SRC) and Wolf Creek (WC), the most of twelve major tributaries. Already existing were eight IBAs (most of any area served by an Audubon Pennsylvania chapter). Thus, BAS established the Slippery Rock Creek/Wolf Creek/Sandy Creek system and their tributaries as a natural greenway and riparian corridor that connects IBAs of high avian richness and diversity. The IBAs included in this complex are: #79 M.K. Goddard State Park/State Game Lands 270, #77

McConnell's Mill State Park, #12 Moraine State Park and Jennings Environmental Education Center, and #11 "the Glades" (State Game Lands 95). In 2005 and 2006, #10 Pennsy-Black-Celery Swamps (State Game Lands 284 and 151) was added, along with a few unique BAS sanctuaries in the French Creek/Allegheny River corridor (Wilhelm 2008).

Because certain parcels within these riparian corridors harbor species of special concern, these sites were targeted in with the development of the Slippery Rock Creek Watershed Conservation Plan (SRCWCP) between 2006-2011 by Stream Restoration, Inc. (SRI) to provide the general public, municipalities, and government agencies with a concise and accessible repository of the natural, historical, cultural, and recreational resources of the area, while also stressing many opportunities for environmental stewardship within the SRCW. At the request of SRI, BAS graciously included much field research data (SRI 2011).

The plan solidified cooperation between like-minded groups, including state agencies such as the Pennsylvania Game Commission and Bureau of State Parks, private conservation organizations such as WPC and Audubon Pennsylvania, sustainable businesses Scrubgrass Generating Plant and Central Electric Cooperative, and institutions of higher education: Slippery Rock University (SRU) and Grove City College (GCC). Most of these entities are represented among the 169 certified BAS sanctuaries to date (Wilhelm 2008, 2014). Together, the IBAs and sanctuaries constitute 60,000 protected acres in the SRCW that feature a range of diverse habitats: emergent and forested (palustrine) wetlands, stream islands, riparian forests, scrub-shrub wetlands, open water, upland forests, and grasslands. Wetlands in particular are very important and serve an array of functions, such as water storage, sediment and nutrient retention, groundwater recharge, pollution abatement, and crucial habitats for stopover avian migrants (Gross and Haffner 2010). The BAS riparian corridor system likewise complements the Northwestern Butler County Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan (Andrus 2007) and the Butler County Natural Heritage Inventory Update (WPC 2011).

A few examples of collaboration provided by BAS included identifying invasive plants (purple loosestrife and Japanese knotweed) and animals (Japanese beetle and ash borer) in local gamelands, suggesting areas (for

example on state gamelands and in state parks) suitable for planting warm season native grasses important to certain rare breeding birds (Upland Sandpiper and Sedge Wren), and collecting and summarizing important field data about near threatened (Northern Bobwhite and Northern Harrier), threatened (Osprey and Bald Eagle), and endangered birds (American and Least Bittern). Together, the agencies involved updated and incorporated data collected by BAS "citizen scientists" both during and after the Second Breeding Bird Atlas project (2004-09) into land management plans. Likewise, SRU established nine BAS wildlife sanctuaries representing one-fifth of its property that will remain protected from further development.

In late 2013, GCC allowed construction of a Chimney Swift tower and kiosk in campus to replace a nearby school chimney that is scheduled for demolition. This community project involved many different partners. BAS contributed financial aid, the Boy Scouts of America contributed their physical labor, local business donated materials, and the townspeople at large made many contributions of time, energy, and pride. This achievement was also a lesson that can be appreciated by the entire community, in which many agencies came together to help preserve a locally at-risk bird. Indeed, ecology begins at home (Wilhelm 2013).

Avian Conservation Plan

The Avian Conservation Plan (ACP) is a direct result of the recent publication of the Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in Pennsylvania (2012). The atlas documents current distributions and changes in status for nearly 200 breeding species since the first Atlas was conducted twenty years earlier. In order to effectively guide bird conservation action, however, it is critical to understand which species are imperiled, assess the causes for such severe conditions, determine gaps in our current knowledge, and establish clear objectives and goals (Gross et. al 2012). Perhaps even more important for this report are the standardized conservation statuses for birds in the SRCW, especially to differentiate *obligate* aerial, grassland, and wetland breeding specialists from generalists that occupy the same habitats but can also utilize a wider range of habitats for breeding (Brauning 1989).

Distinguishing avian specialists and generalists has important implications for the ACP. Disturbances to wetlands, for example, that change the water

regime may not have a noticeable impact on populations of generalists found in the SRCW but may alter the habitat sufficiently to eliminate wetland specialists. Research has shown that changes in populations of specific wetland specialists are a better indicator of wetland condition than changes in species diversity (Brauning 1989). Although many small emergent wetlands (cattail and skunk cabbage marshes) occur in western Pennsylvania, these are not large enough to support certain endangered species like the American and Least Bittern, King Rail, and Sedge Wren. These species are localized in a few remaining large marshes on state lands in the SRCW (Wilhelm 2013). It should be noted that forested (palustrine) wetlands constitute 45% of all wetlands, which makes them the most widespread yet vulnerable type of wetland in the SRCW and the state (Wilhelm 2008, 2nd

Atlas 2012).

Comparison of the summaries of results from the first and second atlases shows that although the 2nd Atlas rightly stressed species' conservation statuses at large scales (state, regional, continental, and global), spatial data also can be used in conservation work from a local perspective. Therefore, the ACP is targeting a group of 40 *locally Threatened and Endangered* birds, of which 10 obligate species require urgent immediate attention in the SRCW: two aerial insectivores Common Nighthawk and Eastern Whip-poor-will; three farm/grassland specialists Northern Bobwhite, Upland Sandpiper, and Dickcissel; and five emergent wetland specialists Pied-billed Grebe, American and Least Bitterns, King Rail, and Sedge Wren (Table 1).

It is important to note that these descriptors Threatened and Endangered

in the context of the ACP refer to these species' status *specifically within the SRCW* and that they may or may not be considered threatened or endangered on larger scales. Yet some of them are indeed threatened at larger scales, a fact which only underscores the importance of the SRCW and the need for a comprehensive and cooperative management plan for the area. One example is the Upland Sandpiper. The Second Atlas recommended that Upland's status be changed from State Threatened to Endangered, in no small part due to the severely restricted habitat available to the species within the SRCW. Changes in farming and grassland management practices over the past twenty years have substantially reduced the availability of fields suitable for Upland Sandpiper, and indeed a suite of obligate grassland breeders: Northern Bobwhite, Horned Lark, Field, Vesper, Savannah, Grasshopper, and Henslow's sparrows, Dickcissel, Bobolink, and Eastern Meadowlark (Wilhelm 2012).

Practically every case of local "priority species" in need of immediate aid involves a population in rapid decline. The ACP, therefore, added a new *local* status "Critically Endangered" because it fits the species' status in the context of the SRCW. Again it is important to stress that this designator "Critically Endangered" is meant to reflect the species' *local status* within the SRCW. Readers may consult the International Union for Conservation of Nature for the standardized definitions of statuses like "Threatened" and "Critically Endangered" (IUCN 2001), with the understanding that IUCN defines those terms to be applied over a very broad geographical area. But we believe that such statuses can also be useful within a smaller context like the SRCW, with the understanding that the species may not have the same status at larger scales such as state, country, or continent.

Two scenarios are possible for "Critically Endangered" status as defined by IUCN and we apply these generally to species within the SRCW: an 80-90% reduction in population over 10 years or 3 generations where causes are reversible, understood, and cease, and a small range from 10 square km to 100 square km including two of (a) severe fragmentation and/or few localities (1 to 10), (b) continuing decline, and c) extreme fluctuation. The other scenario is a small and declining population of less than 250 individuals to a very small population of 50 individuals and minuscule range capable of species becoming extirpated within a short time. It must be noted that when so few mature individuals no longer breed in nature the species is considered biologically extirpated. The ten critically endangered species in the

Table 1. Breeding Avian Specialists in the Slippery Rock Creek Watershed (SRCW).

Common Name	Breeding Habitat	State Concern	SCRW Status
Northern Bobwhite	FA/GA	PBS – NT	CE
Pied-billed Grebe	EW	PBS – VU	CE
American Bittern	EW	PA – E	CE
Least Bittern	EW	PA – E	CE
Osprey	RT/AS	PA – T	T
Bald Eagle	RT	PA – T	T
Northern Harrier	EW/GA	PBS – NT	E
Red-shouldered Hawk	DF/FW		T
Broad-winged Hawk	DF		T
American Kestrel	FA/GA		T
King Rail	EW	PA – E	CE
Common Gallinule	EW		T
American Coot	EW	PBS – VU	E
Upland Sandpiper	FA/GA	PA – E	CE
Wilson's Snipe	EW	PBS – VU	T
American Woodcock	FW/GA		T
Common Nighthawk	AS		CE
Eastern Whip-poor-will	FW		CE
Chimney Swift	AS		T
Red-headed Woodpecker	RT/FA	PBS – VU	T
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	FW/RT		T
Horned Lark	FA/FI/GA		T
Bank Swallow	SB/SP	PBS – VU	E
Brown Creeper	BF/FW		T
Winter Wren	BF/FW		T
Sedge Wren	EW/GA	PA – E	CE
Marsh Wren	EW	PBS – VU	T
Brown Thrasher	SS		T
Prothonotary Warbler	EW	PBS – VU	E
Northern Waterthrush	FW		T
Yellow-breasted Chat	SS/EW		T
Field Sparrow	FI/GA		T
Vesper Sparrow	FA/FI/GA		E
Savannah Sparrow	FA/FI/GA		T
Grasshopper Sparrow	FA/FI/GA		T
Henslow's Sparrow	FA/FI/GA	PBS – VU	T
Swamp Sparrow	EW		T
Dickcissel	FI/GA	PA – E	CE
Bobolink	FA/FI/GA		T
Eastern Meadowlark	FA/FI/GA		T

Based on Second Atlas Data and 2004-2013 BAS field data only.

Habitats: AS – artificial structures; BF – boreal forest; DF – deciduous forest; EW – emergent wetland; FA – farms; FI – fields; FW – forested wetland; GA – grassland area; RT – riparian trees; SB – stream bank; SP – sand pits; SS – scrub or shrubland. Classifications apply only to SRCW.

State and SCRW Conservation Status: (PA – Pennsylvania Code; PBS – Pennsylvania Biological Survey Code); CE – Critically Endangered; VU – vulnerable; NT – near threatened; T – threatened; E – endangered.

SRCW may be already at that brink within the SRCW. However, one of the many gifts provided by the publication of the 2nd Atlas is that the population, range, and habitat requirements of most species are better understood than ever before. By transforming this knowledge into quick action, perhaps these ten declining species can avoid local extirpation. Priority then can shift to the endangered and threatened species in the SRCW (Table 1).

Meanwhile, the BAS will continue to execute on its objectives. Using 2nd Atlas methods and technologies, it will continue to monitor local sanctuaries and IBAs, as well as properties owned or managed by the state, businesses, and colleges and universities. BAS also continues to work to increase awareness of conservation among local farmers and rural families, stressing the ecological importance of why and how to preserve threatened birds. BAS will also continue to address the public at large about the importance of maintaining healthy populations of common birds, the benefits of which extend far beyond just the wellbeing of the birds.

Lastly, the second Atlas data may elucidate unsolved research questions in the ACP. Which specific wetlands need modification or even amelioration to support the locally endangered wetland obligates? What are the micro-habitat requirements of the Common Gallinule and American Coot and how do they support other obligate wetland species in the same wetland? How can the rapidly declining population and shrinking palustrine wetland habitat of the Red-headed Woodpecker and Yellow-billed Sapsucker be stopped and reversed? What are the requirements for holding together the suite of obligate farm-grassland species named earlier? Which birds are most vulnerable to energy extraction, particularly since much of the ecological landscape in the SRCW is potential territory for Marcellus shale fracking? Which species are the most sensitive to loss of riparian forest habitat or water quality, and which are less affected? Are there specific sites that invasive plants and/or animals threaten priority obligate species and merit immediate mitigation? The second Atlas provides some of the data needed to answer these difficult questions and acts as an up-to-date and valuable tool for developing strategies (2nd Atlas 2012).

In short, the ACP aims to prevent avian extirpations in western Pennsylvania by safeguarding key breeding sites where these species are in imminent danger of disappearing. The ACP will create a front line of defense, thanks to the continuing and splendid collaboration of state agencies, businesses, private conservation

organizations, and the many citizen scientists, all of whom currently work together to eliminate known threats and restore habitats, and to invite and educate the local populace to join this vitally important process. Finally, it is hoped that the ACP of the SRCW will act as a plausible model for the twenty other Pennsylvania Audubon chapters—and the countless other conservation organizations throughout the state—to emulate.

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Observations from the 2014 Pennsylvania Migration Count (PAMC)

Vern Gauthier and Frank Hass

The 23rd annual Pennsylvania Migration Count (PAMC) occurred on Saturday, 10 May 2014. The number of counties participating was the lowest in the past 4 years, as were Party Hours and Party miles, yet the total number of participants was the fifth highest ever for the count. Thanks to all who participated!

Table 1. Participation Summary

	2014	2013	+/-
Counties	53	66	-13
Observers	1003	983	+20
Party Hours	2749	3198	-449
Party Miles	9460	11498	-2038

Table 2. Top Counties by Participants & Hours

Participants		Party Hours	
1. Philadelphia	87	1. Franklin	209
2. Franklin	80	2. Indiana	181
3. Bucks	71	3. Bucks	160
4. Montgomery	66	4. Montgomery	158
5. Indiana	54	5. Berks	132
6. Lancaster	40	6. Lancaster	122
7. Juniata	37	7. Bradford	109
8. Bradford	35	8. Juniata	108
8. Chester	35	9. Cumberland	97
10. W'moreland	34	10. Lebanon	89

Table 3. Most Abundant Species

Species	Individuals
American Robin	11547
Red-winged Blackbird	10717
Gray Catbird	7675
Common Grackle	7359
European Starling	7147
Canada Goose	5684
Blue Jay	5404
American Goldfinch	4482
Tree Swallow	4315
Northern Cardinal	3929

Table 4. Top Counties by Species & Indivs.

# Species	# Individuals
1. Bucks	169
2. Cumberland	165
3. Lancaster	162
4. Juniata	161
4. Lebanon	161
6. Centre	156
7. Berks	155
8. Schuylkill	151
8. N'hampton	151
8. Montgomery	151
1. Bucks	13711
2. Juniata	13304
3. Montgomery	12020
4. Lancaster	11265
5. Indiana	9094
6. Berks	8865
7. Cumberland	7654
8. Franklin	7357
9. Greene	5872
10. Philly	5699

Weather

For the second year running the weather was less than ideal. It was cloudy and cool with very few places reaching a high of 70°F and with lows in the lower 50s. There was rain in many areas, which fortunately was limited to less than a half inch in most areas and with only trace amounts in some. The central region had

the most rain with some locations receiving 1.5 inches. Thunderstorms were scattered throughout the state.

Wind was another factor: most areas saw fairly brisk winds of 10-15 mph and gusts of 20-25 mph. In the west the winds tapered off by midday and in the central and eastern portions of the state the winds built in the afternoon after a relatively calm morning with fog in some places.

Count Highlights

It probably is not surprising with the number of counties that were not represented that totals for species and individual birds were also the lowest in four years. Yet there was still good data collected, including two new species for the count and another 18 species that either tied or exceeded their previous highs.

The two new birds: one **Purple Gallinule** in *Cumberland* and 2 **Least Terns** in *Lancaster*.

The 18 species that tied or topped their previous high counts (HC) were: 2 **Trumpeter Swans** for the second straight year, 2 **Mississippi Kites**, making for its third appearance in the last 10 years, and 5 **Western Sandpipers** making for its third count appearance ever. There were 11 **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** which well exceeded its average of 3, along with four species of warblers which far surpassed their previous highs (shown in parentheses): **American Redstart** 2323 (2008), **Cape May Warbler** 105 (70), **Northern Parula** 1180 (570), and **Wilson's Warbler** 118 (88). The remaining 10 species in this group were **Tundra Swan**, **Greater Scaup**, **Common Merganser**, **Common Tern**, **Fish Crow**, **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**, **Hooded Warbler**, **Prothonotary Warbler**, **Connecticut Warbler**, and **Black-throated Blue Warbler**.

Waterfowl

There were 26 species of waterfowl reported. Among the most notable were 113 **Snow Geese** reported from 6 counties with a HC of 42 from *Elk*. There were 2 **Trumpeter Swans** and 8 **Tundra Swans** found; the Trumpeters were one each in *Centre* and *Erie*, and the Tundras had a HC of 3 in *Lebanon*.

There were 3 each of **Northern Shoveler** and **Northern Pintail** reported with HCs of 2 shovelers from *Lycoming* and 2 pintails from *Berks*. There was one each of **Redhead** and **Canvasback** in *Juniata*, along with a **Surf Scoter** from *Blair* and a **Black Scoter** from *Snyder*, and 2 **Common**

Goldeneyes both in *Luzerne*. Notable by its absence was **Gadwall** which had been reported eight of the previous nine years. Notable by its relative abundance was **Greater Scaup** which set a new HC of 38 (compared to the previous of 14), 35 of which were in *Erie*. Perhaps these were holdovers from the Great Lakes deep freeze and subsequent waterfowl invasion this past winter. **Common Merganser** also set a new HC of 307, with 33 in *Wyoming*. There were 34 **Red-breasted Mergansers** including 14 in *Cambria*.

Fowl through Waders

There were only 62 **Ruffed Grouse** reported, the second-lowest total in the past 10 years and well below its prior 22 year average of 103. This is one more bit of evidence of a disturbing decline for the species. They were reported from 23 counties with a HC of 8 in *Bradford*.

Pied-billed Grebe checked in with a low 10 individuals, half its average number, with a HC of 3 in *Potter*. There were 3 **Red-necked Grebes**, which made its fourth appearance in the 23 years of the count. Probably these also were the leftovers of the banner winter and spring invasion of the species. One each was in *Bucks*, *Juniata*, and *Philadelphia*.

There were 9 **American Bitterns** with a HC of 2 in *Luzerne*. One **Least Bittern** and one **Snowy Egret** were reported from *Berks*. The total of 71 **Black-crowned Night-Herons** was significantly down from 136 reported last year, but was still the third highest total in the past 10 years. *York* led the way with a HC of 37.

Raptors

As a whole this group showed numbers consistent with the past few years. **American Kestrel** was an exception to this rule; the 121 reported was the lowest in the past 10 years and well below the 22 year average of 187. Perhaps the hard winter of 2013-14 had something to do with this. *Juniata's* 12 was tops in reporting this diminutive species of farm and field. Another exception was the **Northern Harrier** of which only 13 were found with a HC of 3 in *Potter*. Again perhaps the harsh winter was at least in part a factor.

Peregrine Falcon numbers remained consistent with a total of 23 reported and a HC of 4 found in *Philadelphia*. Other raptors of note included 2 **Mississippi Kites** in *Montgomery*, 2 **Northern Goshawks** in *McKean*, and 5 **Merlins** with a HC of 2 from *Lebanon*.

Rails and Shorebirds

There were 20 **Virginia Rails** including a HC of 4 in *Cumberland*, and 19 **Soras** with the HC of 5 in both *Cumberland* and *Lebanon*. Both of these numbers were consistent with their 22 year averages.

What was not average was the **Purple Gallinule** discovered in Mount Holly, *Cumberland* on count day, a first for the PAMC. **Common Gallinule**, on the other hand, was not quite as common as it has been on recent past counts. The 2 reported was a steep drop-off from the 13 the prior year and the lowest number in the past four years. Both birds were seen in *Erie*. Seven **Sandhill Cranes** were reported with 2 each from *Bradford*, *Erie*, and *Mercer*.

It was another off year for shorebirds, though there were a few good ones found. There was one **Black-bellied Plover** reported in *Centre* and one **Upland Sandpiper** in *Venango*, along with one **White-rumped Sandpiper** in *Franklin*. **Western Sandpiper** made just its fourth ever count appearance on the strength of with 5 in *Dauphin*. Eight **Short-billed Dowitchers** were sighted, 7 of them in *Centre*.

Gulls and Terns

There was not much with respect to gulls. Just 576 **Laughing Gulls** this year compared to 1656 in the year prior. The HC of 557 was made in *Bucks*. There were 2 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** for the count, both in *Bucks*.

Terns were a different story. **Least Tern** provided a first ever PAMC record when 2 were sighted in *Lancaster*. The 66 **Caspian Terns** were the highest number reported in the last 10 years and well above their 22 year average of 22. The HC 63 in *Erie*, which also reported 254 of the 262 **Common Terns**, a second consecutive strong showing for this species. **Forster's Tern** returned to a normative number of 15 after a new HC of 299 in 2013. The 8 of them reported from *Philadelphia* provided the HC.

Doves through Nighthawks

There were 3 **Eurasian Collared-Doves** reported, 2 in *Franklin* and one in *Cumberland*. **Black-billed Cuckoo** continued its recent decline with only 50 birds seen in the state. This was the second lowest total in the past 10 years and well below the 22 year average of 90 birds. Only 19 counties reported the species with the HC of 9 from *Juniata*.

Whether it was due to the harsh winter or a drop in nocturnal counters or a combination of both, three species of owls dropped sharply in 2014 compared to 2013. See Table 5:

Table 5. Decline in the number of owls

Species	2013	2014
Barn Owl	33	11
Eastern Screech-Owl	66	35
Great Horned Owl	60	37

In comparison, the most diurnal of owls, the **Barred Owl**, had a slightly higher than average 56 reported with the HC of 8 in *Cumberland*. The HC for the other 3 species were as follows: **Barn Owl** 6 *Juniata*, **Eastern Screech-Owl** 4 *Juniata* and *Northampton*, and **Great Horned Owl** 6 *Bucks* and *Berks*. After none were recorded in 2013, there were 2 **Northern Saw-whet Owls** found this year, one each in *McKean* and *Sullivan*.

Common Nighthawk and **Eastern Whip-poor-will** held steady with the previous year's count, with 28 and 87, respectively. The HC for these species were 6 nighthawks from *Montgomery* and 14 whips from *Huntingdon*.

Swifts through Swallows

It was a good year for the **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**; the 679 reported from 50 counties was the third highest total in the past 10 years and well above the 22 year average of 525. *Indiana* led the way with 43. **Belted Kingfisher** saw close to a 50% drop from the previous year with 169 reported from 32 counties topped by 23 in *Juniata*.

Most woodpeckers were consistent with recent counts. One that had a better than usual year was **Red-headed Woodpecker**; the 67 seen was the highest total in the past 10 years, and well above its 22 year average of 48. Both *Franklin* and *Juniata* topped the list of the 21 reporting counties, with 10 each. The ubiquitous **Downy Woodpecker** showed strongly as well, with a total of 1016 the highest in the past 10 years. *Juniata* had the HC of 109. This also proved the fourth year in a row that **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** topped 100 birds. The 135 sapsuckers reported were well above their average total of 85. *McKean* led the way with 20.

Results for flycatchers were mixed. The **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** set a new HC with 11 compared to a yearly average of just three. *Bucks*, *Schuylkill*, *Huntingdon*, and *Westmoreland* all had 2 each. Conversely, the 7 **Alder Flycatchers** was a far cry from the 25 and 35 that were found in 2012 and 2013, and about half of its average. *Westmorland* had the HC with just 2. The 341 **Eastern Wood-Pewees** was a bounce back from the 175 in 2013; 37 of them were in *Lancaster*. In a reversal of fortunes, **Eastern Phoebe** really fell off from the two previous years with only 774 reported, topped by 64 in *Juniata*. The 257 **Acadian Flycatchers** was a good count,

with the HC of 32 coming from *Greene*. There were 3 **Olive-sided Flycatchers** reported, one each from *Bucks*, *Mercer*, and *Westmorland*.

Vireos as a group were consistent with their count averages. An exception was the 773 **Warbling Vireos**, well over its average (457) for the fourth year in a row. *Juniata* reported the most with 131. *Juniata* also had the HC of the 20 **Philadelphia Vireos** with 6.

The only corvid of note was **Fish Crow**. Perhaps bolstered by its continued range expansion, it set a new count record of 535, with 159 in *Cumberland*.

Swallows were down across the board with **Barn Swallows** taking the biggest hit. The 3382 reported was the lowest total in 5 years. Of the 850 **Cliff Swallows**, 230 were found in *Clinton* and of the 244 **Bank Swallows**, 101 were reported from *Bucks*.

Chickadees through Waxwings

Titmice were average in their numbers but the total of 15 **Red-breasted Nuthatches** was reflective of their non-invasion year the prior winter. *Lycoming* provided the HC of 4. It was an average year for **Brown Creeper** with 36 total and 3 each from *Huntingdon*, *Lycoming*, *McKean*, *Schuylkill*, and *Union*.

The 68 **Winter Wrens** topped by 12 in *Westmoreland* was the species' second best showing in the past 10 years. Four of the 7 **Marsh Wrens** were found in *Philadelphia*. Predictably after a harsh winter, the number of **Carolina Wrens** (797) was 45% lower than 2013. *Montgomery* had the HC with 101. That county also held the top count among the 1495 **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** reported statewide (a new high for the species) with 101. Both kinglet species had average counts.

Perhaps still another victim of a harsh winter, the 982 **Eastern Bluebirds** proved a 10 year low for the species and well below its count average of 1821, of which *Franklin* produced the HC of 91. The 17 **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** was a good count for the species with 5 in *Philadelphia*, while the 236 **Swainson's Thrushes** was well above its 22 year average of 104 with the HC of 71 birds in *Indiana*. **Veery**, **Wood Thrush**, and **American Robin** had average counts.

The one notable result among mimic thrushes was the count of 494 **Northern Mockingbird** including 56 in *Franklin*. This was by far the lowest for this species over the last 10 years. As with some other species perhaps the harsh winter was detrimental to this bird.

American Pipits had a great count of 302, double their average. *Cumberland* took the honors with 94. The 895 **Cedar Waxwings** was a bounce back from the

459 in 2013, but it was still below its average count of 1,102. Of these birds, 137 were in *Lebanon*.

Warblers

There were 7 species of warbler that exceeded their previous HC. Table 6 annotates these species and shows the new statewide HC as well as the county that reported the most this year.

Table 6. Warblers with new HCs.

Species	New HC	County	#
Prothonotary	22	Lancaster	13
Hooded	895	Lycoming	73
Am. Redstart	2323	Bucks	176
Cape May	105	Cumberland	21
N. Parula	1180	Bucks	309
B-T Blue	896	Bucks	152
Wilson's	118	Bucks	15

In addition to the above the 3 **Connecticut Warblers** tied its previous HC with one each in *Bucks*, *Fayette*, and *Wyoming*. Most other warbler species had an average or better year with one exception being the 57 **Yellow-breasted Chats**. This was the second lowest total for chat in the past 10 years and well below their count average of 107. *Lancaster* had the most with 12.

Of the less common warblers were the following highlights. There were 30 **Golden-winged Warblers** found with the HC of 10 in both *Huntingdon* and *Juniata*. There were 2 **Orange-crowned Warblers**, one each in *Cumberland* and *Mercer*. The 19 **Mourning Warblers** were topped by 3 in *Mercer*, and the 40 **Kentucky Warblers** had 7 in each of *Fayette*, *Green*, and *Indiana*. There were also 36 **Yellow-throated Warblers** with the 7 in *Westmorland* the HC.

Of the remaining warblers which usually draw special interest there were 276 **Blue-winged Warblers** with a HC of 26 in *Berks*, 127 **Bay-breasted Warblers** with 10 each in *Juniata* and *Luzerne*, 546 **Blackburnian Warblers** with an outstanding 117 in *McKean*, and 132 **Cerulean Warblers** with 16 in *Greene*.

Sparrows through Dickcissels

Many of our most common sparrow species had counts in line with recent years. However, this was not the case for most of the less common sparrows. The 21 **American Tree Sparrows** was a 4 year low with a HC of 15 from *Elk*. The 26 **Vesper Sparrows** was 17 less than 2013 count, with a top number of 8 from *Franklin*. The 114 **Grasshopper Sparrows** was the lowest in 4 years with 14 in *Fayette*. Of the 32 **Henslow's Sparrows**, 23 were from *Clarion*, and of the only 6 **Fox Sparrows**, 3 were in *Bedford*. The 248 **Swamp Sparrows** with 33 reported from *Bucks* was about

25% less than 2013, and the 333 **White-crowned Sparrows** was a big drop from the outstanding number of 557 the year before. This year the HC of 33 was from *Juniata*. A few species bucked this trend. The 214 **Savannah Sparrow** including 27 from *Bucks* represented the fourth year in a row of over 200 for this species, and the 23 **Lincoln's Sparrows** (5 from *Erie*) was its highest total in 10 years. One **Summer Tanager** was found in *Bucks*, and 10 **Blue Grosbeaks** were headed by 4 in *Lancaster*.

Blackbirds and Finches

Blackbirds as a group were comparable to recent PAMCs. Totals of note included the 1142 **Bobolinks** which was the third year in a row of quadruple digits, with a HC of 203 in *Wyoming*. The 474 **Eastern Meadowlarks** the lowest number in the past 4 years, with 38 reported from *Indiana*. The meager count of 7 **Rusty Blackbirds** was almost entirely provided by the HC of 6 in *Schuylkill*.

Not surprisingly in a non-invasion year, there were not many left over wintering finches. This was evident by the total of just 14 **Pine Siskins** with 10 from *Elk*, and the 3 **Evening Grosbeaks** in *Bedford*, along with only 145 **Purple Finches** with a HC of 23 from *Indiana*. Of our resident finches, the 1024 **House Finches** with a HC of 90 from *Indiana* was a 4 year low, and the 4482 **American Goldfinches**, with a HC of 347 from *Indiana*, was pretty much in line with counts from recent years.

Summary

Though the main focus in many birders' minds during PAMC counts are the migrant species, this report can and has told us something about over wintering and breeding birds too. Birds whose presence in Pennsylvania is affected by harsh winters, such as **Northern Harrier, Barn Owl, Eastern Screech-Owl, American Kestrel, Carolina Wren, and Northern Mockingbird** all had lower than usual numbers in 2014 after the harsh winter of 2013-14.

The report also shows, among other things, that 15 of the 20 species that either tied or exceeded their previous high counts were neo-tropical migrants (as defined and recognized by the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act of 2000): **Common Merganser, Mississippi Kite, Purple Gallinule, Western Sandpiper, Least Tern, Common Tern, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Wilson's Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Connecticut Warbler, Hooded Warbler, American Redstart, Cape May Warbler, Northern Parula,**

Black-throated Blue Warbler, and Yellow-breasted Chat. The PAMC by allows us to draw a few conclusions from the results, but PAMC in the larger sense is part of the overall mosaic of information that when put together gives us usable knowledge about the continually changing bird populations.

I believe that one way we could make the data from the PAMC of even more value is to encourage our observers to enter their data into eBird. I hope in future PAMCs we can find ways to encourage and educate more count observers to do so.

With reports from only 53 counties this year, overall county participation was rather low, yet the 1003 observes shows that many of the counties that participated did so in a big way. The key to sustained participation by all counties is to have a committed and enthusiastic PAMC Compiler in place for each county. What would help in this is good two way communication as to what might improve the count for compilers and observers alike. To that end it would be great to hear from both compilers and observers alike, with suggestions on how to promote and encourage participation in future counts.

Thanks to John Fedak for the number of years he spent coordinating the PAMC and writing the report, and a big thank you is also owed to Frank Haas for his continued diligence in compiling all the data. Of course all compilers and observers deserve a word of thanks as this count would not take place without you!

The 2015 PAMC will be on Saturday, 9 May. We look forward to your participation!

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BOOK REVIEWS

Gene Wilhelm

THE UNFEATHERED BIRD by Katrina van Grouw, 385 stunning drawings depicting 200 avian species, acknowledgments, note about names, introduction, and index, 10 x 12, 287 pp., Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ, 2013, cloth, \$49.95.

Although field ornithologists identify birds by their plumages and field marks, there is more to a bird than simply feathers. Birds may have evolved from flying ancestors, but that doesn't mean that they are structurally the same. This clearly written and sumptuously illustrated book by van Grouw proves it. The author is a former curator of the ornithological collections at London's Natural History Museum. She is also a taxidermist, experienced bird bander, successful fine artist, graduate of the prestigious Royal College of Art, and the author of *Birds*, a historical retrospective of bird art. *The Unfeathered Bird* has been her lifetime's ambition.

The book reminds me of the undergraduate introductory course in ornithology I took at the University of Missouri, in which five avian species' skulls and bones were mixed on a long laboratory table. The goal was for each student to separate the parts and reconstruct them correctly into full skeleton species: Eastern Screech-Owl, Downy Woodpecker, Virginia Rail, Mourning Dove, and Northern Cardinal. The task required painstaking hours to complete but each student learned much about the internal structure of birds.

The author states that her book is not an internal anatomy of birds, but instead a work about the "outside" of birds, that is, how their appearance, posture, and behavior are influenced by their internal structure. The book remarkably combines the usual beauty and attention to detail of the best historical illustrations with up to date knowledge of field ornithology. She illustrates the internal structure of 200 avian species engaged in natural behaviors familiar to field ornithologists and birders. The well-appreciated "A Note about Names" (p. x) by the author stresses that she thought it useful to include a few words about the different groups and how to recognize them: Kingdom, Phylum, Class, Order, Family, Subfamily, Tribe, Genus, Species, and Subspecies/Race. The nomenclature used in *The Unfeathered Bird* is that which is also used in the third edition of the Howard and Moore Complete Checklist of the Birds of the World by Edward C. Dickinson (2003).

Most of the major avian groups of

the world, six in all, are included in the book. The illustrations to speak for themselves when it comes to fine details, and they concentrate on the birds' most obvious adaptations to their particular environment. The author based her unorthodox order of classification on a system that is concerned only with outward structural appearances—the *Systema Naturae* of Linnaeus. Thus the birds are grouped together into Orders according to convergent evolution under their respective chapter headings. Further, avian groups that are superficially similar are placed next to each other, such as storks next to cranes, for ease of comparison. Actual relationships are discussed within the text at some length.

Part One of the book, titled *Generic*, deals with the anatomical features common to all birds (pp. 2-27): The Trunk, The Head and Neck, The Hind Limbs, and The Wings and Tail. Part Two, titled *Specific*, examines bird groups in true Linnaean fashion, and is much longer (pp. 30-283): I ACCIPITRES: Vultures, Birds of Prey, and Owls; II PICAE: Parrots, Turacos and Others, Kingfishers, Hornbills and Allies, Toucans and Barbets, Woodpeckers, Hummingbirds; III ANSERES: Waterfowl and Domestic Waterfowl, Penguins, Loons, Grebes, Albatrosses, Petrels, and Storm Petrels, Tropicbirds and Frigatebirds, Pelicans, Gannets, Cormorants and Darters, Gulls, Terns, Skimmers, and Skuas, Auks; IV GRALLAE: Flamingos, Herons, Shoebill, Storks, Ibises, and Spoonbills, Cranes, Rails, Kagu, Waders; V GALLINAE: Gamebirds and Domestic Fowl, Scramblers, Hoatzin, Ostrich, Kiwis, and Other Ratites, Tinamous, Bustards, Sandgrouse, Dodo and Solitaire; and VI PASSERES: Pigeons/Domestic Pigeons, Nightjars, Swifts, and Passerines.

Especially appealing about these six chapters are the synoptic identification briefs and key statements within the narrative text that separate similar groups, families, and species. Taking the Picae as an example (p. 52): "Bill sharp-edged, convex above; legs short, strong; feet formed for walking, perching, or climbing; body tough, impure; food various filthy substances; nest in trees; the male feeds the female while she is sitting. They live in pairs."

"Tree dweller, hole-nesters, birds that climb and leap, or anything that seemed too large or too unusual for the perching birds were placed in the order Picae. In fact, various revisions of his work saw Linnaeus repeatedly move bird families to and fro between Picae and

Passeres. Regardless of that, this diverse assortment of odds and ends actually correlates rather well with the taxonomy traditionally followed right up until modern times, and many of its groups are still closely related. It is indeed an order of perching birds, but birds whose feet differ in structure from the normal perching foot. Its members have highly specialized lifestyle and a highly specialized structure to match."

Each exquisite drawing is made from an actual specimen and reproduced in gloriously large 10x12-inch format. From the front and back views depicting a Peacock skeleton on the jacket, to the two-page inside cover of a gliding Wandering Albatross skeleton, to an underwater view of the skeleton of a swimming loon, the birds are shown in life-like positions and are engaged in behavior typical of each species. The lively text relates birds' anatomy to their lifestyle and convergent evolution. Truly, *The Unfeathered Bird* is a must for anyone who appreciates birds or avian art. As reviewer of this unusual book, I promise that each reader will never look at any bird the same way again.

BIRDS OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY AND VICINITY (Second Edition) by Peter G. Saenger, Barbara C. Malt, and Kevin F. Crilley, 18 color maps by Richard S. Courtney, species checklist, annotated list and bar graphs of 349 avian species, 120 color bird photographs, 56 natural site guides, acknowledgments, 5 appendices, literature cited, index, 6 x 9 in., 192 pp., published by Lehigh Valley Audubon Society, Emmaus, PA, 2014, spiral binding, \$18.95.

The pastime of birding often starts innocently enough, perhaps with keeping a checklist of the birds observed in one's own backyard, which gradually expands in time and space to include the neighborhood, county, region, and beyond. Sooner or later, however, birding demands more accurate documentation than a mere list. And details are the name of the game in this compendium, the end result of the observations and contributions from 200 birders of ornithological field data over a long period of time. Luckily the three experts who were responsible for the initial synthesis in 2002 (see review of *Birds of the Lehigh Valley and Vicinity* in

Pennsylvania Birds, Vol. 16, No. 3 & 4, pp. 169-171) returned for the Second Edition with important changes and updates.

Notable changes commence with the book's length of 192 pages, 40 more than the first edition, an attractive color photograph of an adult male Chestnut-sided Warbler in peak breeding plumage on the front cover, notes of 56 detailed site guides (50 in 2002), and 120 color photographs of common avian species found in the Lehigh Valley. Photographs of the three authors follow and Contents add a Preface, Documentation in place of Keeping Notes, and in this era of digital camera, 15 pages of good color avian portraits (pp. 74-89) covering some of the more observable birds within the region intended mostly for beginning birders without any field guide. The change to spiral binding was done to make the book more user-friendly and easier to remove or add pages.

But the Second Edition also still adheres to the two main objectives of the first publication: to accurately and systematically document significant avian sighting data from 2002-2013, and to help readers easily locate birds within the region.

The Introduction (pp. 13-21) divides the book into four sections (instead of three in the first edition) by adding the colorful section devoted to the identification of 120-species already mentioned. The area covered by the book is a circle with a 20-mile radius centered on the Lehigh Valley International Airport. Within this circle as detailed by a map on p. 90 are parts of eight counties in Pennsylvania (Lehigh, Northampton, Bucks, Montgomery, Berks, Schuylkill, Monroe, and Carbon) and two counties in New Jersey (Warren and Hunterdon). Four extensions to the circle were added so that all of Lehigh and Northampton counties, Green Lane Park and the Unami Creek Valley in Montgomery County, and Wild Creek and Penn Forest Reservoirs in Carbon and Monroe counties are included in their entirety. The total area covered is approximately 1,340 square miles.

In the 18 years between 1984 and 2002 the area bird checklist expanded by 23 species, but since the 2002 edition, 25 new species have been added to the checklist excluding 18 others placed on a provisional or hypothetical list. These 18 refer to records that were not accepted by or never submitted to the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee (PORC). To ensure quality and value of the book's data, the reporting criteria used by the PORC are followed for all review species (see Appendix A, p. 174). The book documents 349 species, 269 occur regularly, 77 Casual or Accidental, and 3 (Northern Bobwhite, Ring-necked

Pheasant, and Bewick's Wren) Extirpated but formerly bred in the Lehigh Valley. The Species Checklist (pp. 22-24) follows the most recent American Ornithologists' Union 2011 "Fifty-second Supplement to the AOU Check-List of North American Birds", *Auk*, Vol. 128 (3): pp. 600-613 with geese, swans, and ducks listed first and the ubiquitous House Sparrow last. This taxonomic order is followed by Annotated Species List (pp. 26-58) and Bar Graphs (pp. 60-73). The color photographs were donated and submitted through a Lehigh Valley Audubon Society three-year-long photo contest. These images were not intended to replace a necessary field guide but mostly to help beginning birders.

For some reason the Coverage Area Map (p. 90), Quad A-B-C-D Maps (pp. 92-95), and Site Guide Maps lack an indication of north, typically shown by the inclusion of a compass. Further, the coverage area map coordinates have shifted northward as illustrated by the city of Bethlehem (p. 90). However, the compass problem can be solved easily by replacing the map sheets of spiral binding without disrupting the entire book. And while doing that, authors should consider expanding the map legends by including a few of the typical symbols for parking, boat ramps, information centers, and the like, at least in the legend space of the five coverage area and site guide maps

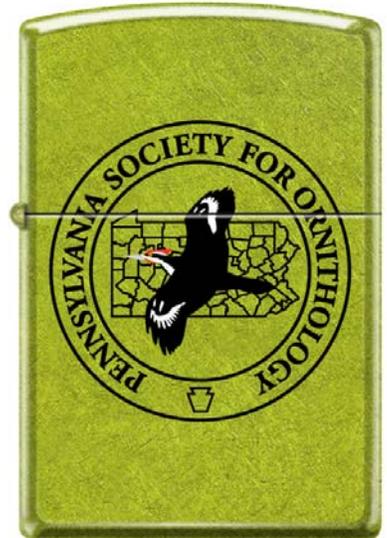
Nevertheless, this minor point is far superseded by the marvelous dedication of a cadre of mostly civilian scientists targeting their area of focus and providing a valuable and important reference for birders now and in the future. Truly, the ornithologists of Pennsylvania would only be so lucky to benefit from more works like this. The book is available for order at <www.lvaudubon.org>.

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Summary of the Season – Summer 2014

Dan Brauning

This report often focuses on changes in bird status based on the Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in Pennsylvania (Wilson et al, 2012; and hereafter referred to as Second Atlas), and it highlights observations that help clarify the distribution of rare breeding species. But the highlights in the Summer Season are not limited to locally nesting species; they also reflect the species involved in the continuous movement of migrants, individuals lingering or arriving early in migration. So, what is the composition of breeding versus non-breeding species in the Summer Season reports?

Over the past 10 years, about 140 species have been referenced in the Summer Season's Birds of Notes, based on the general criteria for inclusion (5 or fewer county reports within that season, or general rarity in Pennsylvania). Of those species, about 25 are lingering waterfowl, 28 are migrant shorebirds, 23 are vagrant gulls, terns, or wading birds, and about 30 are vagrant or lingering migrant songbirds. The remaining group—about 34 species—is made up of uncommon or irregularly breeding birds found in limited distribution or which are infrequently documented nesting in the state. This is the group of my personal expertise, and for which state conservation efforts are typically focused. And though Local Notes describe the full array of breeding birds at a county level, considerable attention in the Summary of the Season and Birds of Note tend to fall on these rarest species.

Coverage was pretty good in 2014. More county compilers (47) provided summer season reports than have been received in a number of years, and eBird submissions have grown substantially. Those two sources provide the vast majority of observations summarized in this report. Audubon Pennsylvania's listserv, special surveys by the Game Commission, and even a few personal communications helped to supplement the county reports with additional information. This year, a special event to document breeding birds triggered additional breeding-season birding activity—the first annual Breeding Bird Blitz. During the Blitz period, eBirders entered 1162 checklists covering 187 species and 73,922 individuals. Among these, 3454 individual reports included breeding codes. This is considerably more eBird activity than the same period of 2013, in which 662 checklists and 30,017 total birds were submitted. Overall, eBird records in 2014 increased by 27% over 2013, and summer-season eBird records have increased 4-fold over the past 10 years. Further reflection on the

role of eBird on this season's reports can be found in a separate article in this issue titled "State of Bird Knowledge".

Compilers from *Chester* to *Erie* described the season as cooler and wetter than usual; "a summer that seemed to mimic the weather of the Pacific Northwest" was one appropriate description. The only tropical storm of note was the first of the season, Hurricane Arthur, which moved north along the Atlantic Coast during the first 5 days of July, touching North Carolina's Outer Banks. Its contribution to shorebirds at Presque Isle during that period is pure speculation, as apparently another storm occurred simultaneously in the upper Midwest.

As usual, the summer reports reflected the typical mix of waterfowl lingering into the summer. These included **Snow Geese** in at least four eastern counties, mostly injured birds unable to complete migration to the tundra. Now among the waterfowl regularly found are three species of swans: **Trumpeter**, **Tundra**, and **Mute**. A few **Tundra Swans** normally linger through the summer each year, but probably not due to spring hunting injuries since they are not hunted in Pennsylvania. Since the majority of the eastern US migrant population passes through our state on its northbound migration, it is not surprising that a few **Tundra Swans** linger. The **Trumpeter Swan** is a more recent addition to the state's avifauna. Through active reintroduction programs in Ontario and Ohio, this heaviest of North American waterfowl has become established as a breeding bird in the region. Sufficient breeding-season activity merited this species a place in our Second Atlas (in *Lawrence*), although successful nesting has never been documented in the state. This season single **Trumpeter Swans** were reported in *Beaver* and *Erie*. The status of **Mute Swan** is quite in contrast. An invasive exotic species, it does not receive the protection of the Migratory Bird Act, and is not a welcome addition to our avifauna. It has been actively culled at Lake Ontelaunee (*Berks*). Yet they persist, although in limited numbers, and nesting was reported this year at Glen Morgan Lake (*Berks*) and Stoyer's Dam (*Schuylkill*).

A group of widespread nesting water birds—**Canada Goose**, **Wood Duck**, **Mallard**, **Common Merganser** and **Hooded Merganser**—all appear to be sustaining healthy populations, and in the case of the **Common Merganser**, expanding its range southward. In a correction from my comments last year

about **Common Merganser**, August Mirabella pointed out that it is not only a regular breeder along the Delaware River in *Bucks*, but that it has nested away from the river there and at Green Lane Park, *Montgomery*.

At the same time, certain waterfowl are fading into history as breeding birds here in Pennsylvania. **American Black Duck**, **Blue-winged Teal**, and **Green-winged Teal** displayed notable retractions in distribution during the Second Atlas, and observations in 2014 did not show any nesting activity. The **American Black Duck** in particular saw a 63% decline in breeding distribution between the first and second atlases, and was reduced to a single sighting in 2014, in *Chester*. The *Bucks* and *Lancaster* observations of **Blue-winged Teal** don't reflect historical nesting locations. A more careful search of the state's most extensive wetlands is needed to determine the status of these declining waterfowl. The pair of **Northern Shovelers** in *Crawford* raised the possibility of nesting for a species that has not nested in the state since at least 1990.

Many other spring migrant waterfowl species often linger into the summer statewide. Quite a few of these nested at one time or another in Pennsylvania's past, but were noted without any nesting evidence this year. The group of dabbling ducks (**American Wigeon**, **Green-winged Teal**, and **Northern Pintail**) found at the Plymouth Flats, *Luzerne*, was notable. The annual inclusion of both species of scaup, the typical summer sightings of **Ring-necked Duck** and **Bufflehead**, and the normal summer sighting of **Red-breasted Merganser** in Lake Erie and on the Susquehanna River (*Lancaster* and *York*) rounded out a respectable list of waterfowl. The most unexpected sighting among this family this season was the **White-winged Scoter** in *Schuylkill*. This species had been reported just once in Pennsylvania during the past 10 summers. Also a surprise was three summer reports of **Red-necked Grebe**, which prior to 2013 had not been reported during any summer season except in the first few days of June. Their unprecedented appearance in 3 counties through the summer was likely the result of their incursion following last winter's freezing of Lake Erie. **Pied-billed Grebe** retained its status as a rare breeder with confirmed nesting in *Erie*, *Northampton*, *Lawrence*, and *Philadelphia*.

The reports of **Northern Bobwhite** most likely represented birds reared in

captivity, or possibly their progeny, and not self-sustaining populations.

Wading birds typically encountered during the summer comprise both common and rare breeders and late-summer visitors. Rare, local, state-listed breeding species include **American** and **Least bitterns**, **Black-crowned** and **Yellow-crowned night-herons**, and **Great Egret**. The bitterns nest very spottily in emergent and scrubby wetlands statewide, while the others are restricted to southcentral Pennsylvania. Even with a statewide wetland survey undertaken by the Game Commission this May and June, bittern reports were scarce. **Least Bittern** was reported in *Crawford*, *Berks*, *Erie*, *Philadelphia*—all counties with historic nesting. **American Bittern** historically had a more restricted nesting distribution and in fact most of this year's observations did not suggest nesting. The late-June report in *Tioga* was probably the only breeding location reported, although a late-May record in an unnamed wetland in *Susquehanna* could have been at a breeding site. The status of **American Bittern** in the state remains tenuous, although the state's largest wetland complex and traditional stronghold of the species, Geneva Marsh, *Crawford*, was not targeted for that PGC survey in 2014.

The only known nest sites for the **Great Egret** are Wade Island, *Dauphin* (reported during the previous season) and the very urbanized Kiwanis Lake Park, *York* with high counts of 29 egrets on 17 nests. The state-endangered **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** nested again in the city of Harrisburg, *Dauphin*. June sightings in *Lancaster* and *Montgomery* were probably non-breeding vagrants, and the single immature July sighting in *Juniata* was typical for post-breeding dispersal, as were the scattered late-July sightings of **Little Blue Heron**. The "siege of herons" reported at John Heinz Refuge, *Philadelphia* and *Delaware* included 3 **Little Blue Herons** and a single **Snowy Egret**, and high counts of 70 **Great Blue Herons** and 87 **Great Egrets** 7/20, and both **Glossy** and **White Ibis** 7/31. Two juvenile **White Ibis** were seen a few days earlier in *Chester*.

Two sightings of adult **Mississippi Kites** continued the nearly annual pattern of June sightings in southeastern counties. **Bald Eagle**, removed from the state-threatened species list last year, was reported in at least 59 counties. **Osprey**, also making a strong recovery, was reported in 43 counties. Now the rarest breeding raptor in the state, **Northern Goshawk** was documented in *McKean* and *Warren*, and Doug Gross reports them in *Sullivan* and *Wyoming*.

A **Black Rail** provided this summer's most surprising discovery,

because the species is so secretive and is declining severely across its limited distribution along the Atlantic Coast. An adult was well-described 7/20 at Conneaut Marsh, *Crawford*. **Sora** was formerly a much more widespread nester, but was found in only 3 counties in June this year. The Game Commission wetland bird survey found two **Soras** in May and a June observation was made in *Washington* (out of 200 surveys). Reports were also made in *Crawford* and *Tioga* where they historically were common. **Virginia Rails** were found at 16 of these surveys sites. The Second Atlas reported a slight expansion of **Soras** compared with the previous Atlas, so the poor showing was unexpected. The **Common Gallinule** traditionally has been limited to just the largest of the state's wetlands, and that's exactly where they were found.

The cool damp weather combined with the recent habitat improvements at Gull Point in Presque Isle State Park, *Erie*, made up for any shortfall in shorebirding elsewhere in the state this season. The habitat improvements there, described by Haffner et al (2014), not only succeeded in again attracting a record number of **Piping Plovers** to Gull Point in 2014, but probably contributed to the diversity of species during this summer. Of course, shorebirds there are subject to weather anomalies, and the increased monitoring by birders also has contributed to the recent shorebirding success in recent years. A **Snowy Plover**, a spectacular rarity, was seen by many at Presque Isle 7/1-4. Just as remarkable, the bird was coincident with two of the **Piping Plovers** seen there 7/3, which were part of the likely 5 different adult **Piping Plovers** at Gull Point 6/12-7/8.

The spectacular **American Avocet** is less likely to be overlooked than most shorebirds; reports this summer came from *Armstrong*, *Berks*, *Cambria*, *Centre*, *Erie*, *Lancaster*, *Somerset*, *Westmoreland* and *York*. The **Upland Sandpiper**, the rarest of the 5 shorebird species that nest in the state, continued at established sites in *Cambria*, *Clarion*, *Crawford*, and *Venango*.

Shorebird surveys conducted as part of the International Shorebird Survey coordinated by Jerry McWilliams, and many days of coverage by that network of volunteers, provided thorough coverage at Gull Point, *Erie* this year. A total of 45 **Willetts** 6/30-7/21, with high count of 23 in one flock on 7/1, was unprecedented. Species generally found in Pennsylvania most frequently at Gull Point, such as **Whimbrel** and **Red Knot** had good showings and appeared later in June than normal. Nine observations of **Marbled Godwit** 7/1-19 at Gull Point were almost as many instances as it had been observed during all years since

1992. The passage of a cold front 7/28 brought a remarkable fallout of shorebirds totaling nearly 640 individuals of 12 species at Gull Point, including **Semipalmated Sandpipers** and 128 **Sanderlings**, a single-day high count of 12 **Whimbrels**, 14 **Red Knots**, 16 **Ruddy Turnstones**, and a **White-rumped Sandpiper**. Not all shorebirds were at Gull Point; the summer's only **Baird's Sandpiper** was at Green Pond, *Northampton* 7/27, as were 2 **Western Sandpipers** on the same date. Green Pond also yielded a **Stilt Sandpiper** 7/21 and 7/27. The only other July **Western Sandpipers** were in *Somerset* and *Lebanon*. A June **Wilson's Phalarope** in *Crawford* was also notable.

The few gulls and terns found in Pennsylvania during summer each have their own requirements. **Ring-billed Gulls** may be found statewide but don't regularly nest. **Herring Gull** nests only in the Pittsburgh region, though they can be found along the Delaware River and along the *Erie* shore through summer. **Great Black-backed Gull** was only documented nesting once in Pennsylvania, and aside from *Erie*, most reports are along the Delaware River. A surprising summer observation of 2 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** in *Erie* provided the only summer record, but the first cycle **Thayer's/Iceland Gull** at the Espyville Marina, *Crawford* 6/8 was a stunning surprise. It was the second ever summer record for this species pair, but unfortunately a definitive description or photo of the extended wing and tail were not made, and these are required for identifying this very confusing pair in first cycle plumage. A **Laughing Gull** lingering 6/9-20 at the same marina in *Crawford*, and 2 adults in *Allegheny*, provided unexpected observations away from the lower Delaware River.

The nesting attempts of 2 pairs of **Common Terns** at Gull Point were also highlights and another affirmation of the work conducted at Presque Isle. Like 2012, 2 nests each containing 3 eggs were observed and monitored, although each failed to produce young despite a full incubation period for one of them. Severe predation pressure by gulls and mammals will make nesting success by beach-nesting birds a real challenge at Gull Point. Conversely, 10 years have passed since the last nesting of **Black Tern** was documented in Pennsylvania. Although reports in six counties this summer represented the most sightings in many years, most were not in breeding habitat.

Eurasian Collared-Dove has become widespread enough to not be listed among the Birds of Note. It was confirmed nesting for the first time in Pennsylvania during the Second Atlas project, and sightings this summer in

Berks, Centre, Cumberland, Franklin, Lebanon, and York suggested continued range expansion.

Reports of calling **Northern Saw-whet Owls** in *Huntingdon, Luzerne, Potter, and Sullivan* suggested that this overlooked species may continue to nest widely, although sparsely, across the state. An unexpected encounter with a **Long-eared Owl** in *Lawrence* only added to the mysterious nature of this state-endangered breeding resident. Previously observed in 7 of 10 summer seasons, Short-eared Owl was apparently missed this season even though a few May observations suggested lingering birds. **Chuck-will's-widow** was heard at Fort Indiantown Gap, *Lebanon* for the fifth year running. This species is potentially overlooked along the Maryland line in central Pennsylvania.

Over the past 10 years, **Merlins** were reported during the summer season in 22 counties—a striking expansion for a bird that first nested in the state in 2006. Notable this year was the first confirmed nest with young in *Erie* and reports from six other counties. Nesting **Peregrine Falcons** compiled by Game Commission surveys was noted in 19 counties.

Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were found on unlikely dates in *Lancaster, Monroe, and Wayne*. Their nesting population was documented through focused surveys by Doug Gross and Eric Zawatski at Coalbed Swamp, *Wyoming*, where 6 pairs were found. One of those pairs was double-brooded, with a second nest confirmed on the late date of 8/14. A male was on territory at an undisclosed location in *Sullivan* 6/16-7/3. An adult **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** visited *Juniata* 6/25-26. Not likely to be at all related to the bird seen in May in *Susquehanna*, the smattering of sightings of the species across the northeastern states during June only complicated the story. One (or both) of the similar birds at Forsythe Refuge in New Jersey 6/6 and in central Virginia 6/14 could have been of the same bird, or not. Though most sightings of Scissor-tails occur in fall, two June reports have been made in the past 10 years.

Most Passerines occur as nesting birds, and few observations among these stood out. A severe decline in distribution of the **Bank Swallow** in the Second Atlas suggested close monitoring of the species. Just 11 counties reported the species, although eBird records of an additional 20 counties presented a more encouraging picture. Counts of 100 or more were reported to eBird along the lake in *Erie* and at Pennypack on the Delaware in *Philadelphia*. Most notable were more than 250 at the mouth of the Swatara Creek, *Dauphin* 7/13.

The complete absence of Sedge Wren this season was not completely

unexpected. Sightings this May might suggest that this secretive bird nested in the state but was simply overlooked in June. **Marsh Wrens** remain in good numbers at traditional locations across the state, including in *Crawford* and at the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge in *Philadelphia* and *Delaware*. The notable counts of singing males reported to eBird raise an interesting question of the actual population in these important wetlands. Several compilers did note the persistence of **Carolina Wrens** after the harsh winter, with relief that they were no worse for the weather, so to speak. **Swainson's Thrushes** were well-reported in their northwestern stronghold, but also well-documented by specific efforts in *Luzerne*, where nesting was confirmed, and it was observed in *Sullivan* and *Wyoming* as well.

The **Northern Waterthrush** has experienced declines, so breeding reports from at least 15 counties, including multiple nests in *Bradford* provided encouragement. Lingering spring migrant warblers included **Tennessee Warbler** in *Franklin, Forest, and McKean*. Less expected was the late **Wilson's Warbler** in *Erie* and the first-year bird of the same species on the most unlikely date of 7/29 in *Snyder*. A singing male Wilson's was also reported in *Bucks* 7/8. A **Bay-breasted Warbler** banded in *McKean* 6/6 was very late. Breeding warblers make up a treasured part of Pennsylvania's summer birds, and at least 23 of these species are widespread. Particular conservation attention is being given to **Golden-winged Warbler**, including concerted efforts to monitor the species by the Game Commission since they have dropped below the threshold of adequate detection on the Breeding Bird Survey. Although some of the surveys were completed during May, **Golden-wings** were detected in *Carbon, Centre, Clinton, Fayette, Huntingdon, Juniata, Pike, and Westmoreland*. County compilers also reported them in *Bradford* and *Lebanon* and eBird added *Clinton, Monroe, and Somerset*. A **Brewster's Warbler** was reported in *Pike* at a well-known Golden-winged area, and via eBird in *Bedford* and *Franklin*. The rarer **Lawrence's Warbler** was in Swatara State Park, *Lebanon*. The brilliant **Prothonotary Warbler** continues to thrive at established sites in *Bucks, Crawford, and York*, and was also seen in *Lancaster* and *Mercer* this year. Another conservation priority, the **Cerulean Warbler**, was reported in 37 counties. The thinly-distributed **Yellow-throated Warbler** was reported in at least 26 counties.

The rare and state-endangered **Blackpoll Warbler** was reported via eBird as a spring migrant in at least 10 counties, and a **Blackpoll** in *Erie* was

heard singing at the unlikely date of 7/2. The state's nesting population was documented through focused surveys at Bolder Run Swamp, *Luzerne*, where a nest was found 7/17, and 8 males were found on territory at Coalbed Swamp, *Wyoming*.

A rare sparrow, the **Clay-colored Sparrow**, experienced dramatic expansion between first and second atlases. It is now reported annually, but this summer it was noted only in *Clarion* on reclaimed strip mines. **Henslow's Sparrows** were also found there, and in at least 11 other counties.

The **Summer Tanager** has a long history of nesting in Pennsylvania, although no longer in *Greene* where it had for a long time been most well-established. Presently it is no longer well-established even across the border in West Virginia. This summer's reports were from single dates on opposite corners of the state: *Bucks* and *Crawford*. Reports from neighboring states would suggest the state's southeastern counties are the most likely sites these days.

Another state-listed species of interest is the **Dickcissel**. This tall-grass prairie sparrow occurs annually and irruptively in response to drought in the Midwest. Reports this summer included traditional sites in *Cumberland*, but they were also noted in five other counties, including *Franklin, Jefferson, Lancaster* and *Lebanon*. An extensive discussion of the return of **Dickcissels** to hayfields in *Berks* illustrates the major challenge this species faces with mowing.

Apparently a lingering spring migrant, a female **Rusty Blackbird**, found at Gull Point, *Erie* 6/8 was likely the first June record for Pennsylvania. The wide swings in populations of **Pine Siskins** were illustrated by the dearth of summer reports this season, after a winter of few reports.

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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 to 7 out of 10 years during this time period.

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

Trumpeter Swan – *Beaver*: one at a gravel pond near Big Beaver Wetlands 6/1 (Mark Vass) was *Beaver's* first since 2006; *Erie*: one at Presque Isle S.P. 6/1-2 (Billy Weber, Jeff McDonald, Shannon Thompson, eBird).

Tundra Swan – *Crawford*: one at Custards 6/8 (Bill Brown, Ryan McDermott, eBird); *Lebanon*: an adult at Reistville and Prescott Rd. ponds 7/28-30 (Tim Becker, Kathy Becker, Randy C. Miller); *Lehigh*: at Germansville Pond 6/1 (Rich Rehrig, eBird).

Gadwall – *Crawford*: male at the Fish Hatchery 6/6-8 (Mark Vass, eBird).

American Wigeon – *Allegheny*: one at Janoski's Farm from last season stayed to 6/1 (Mark Vass); *Crawford*: at Geneva 6/21 (Ronald F. Leberman, Isaac Field); *Luzerne*: two at Plymouth Flats on 6/7 (Jonathan DeBalko); *Somerset*: at Somerset Lake 6/14 (Andy McGann, m.ob.).

American Black Duck – *Chester*: one at White Clay Creek Park 6/19 (W. Brian Henderson).

Blue-winged Teal – *Bucks*: one at Peace Valley Park 7/31 (ph. August Mirabella) was the first known Jul report for the county; *Lancaster*: one at the Conejohela Flats 7/26 (Mike Epler).

Northern Shoveler – *Crawford*: a late pair 6/8 and 6/14 at Pymatuning Spillway (Mark Vass); *Washington*: a male at Timber Lake 6/30 (ph. Matthew Juskowich).

Northern Pintail – *Luzerne*: male spent at least the month of Jul at Plymouth Flats (Jim Hoyson, Jonathan DeBalko, John DeBalko, Rick Koval).

Green-winged Teal – *Adams*: one at Crooked Creek Wetlands 6/16 (Peter Morgan); *Crawford*: a male at Miller's Ponds 7/5 (Mark Vass, eBird); *Luzerne*: one molted into eclipse plumage while spending at least the month of Jul at Plymouth Flats (Jim Hoyson, Jonathan DeBalko, John DeBalko, Rick Koval).

Redhead – *Crawford*: one at the Pymatuning Spillway 7/5 (Mark Vass); *Erie*: at Presque Isle State Park 6/1 (Billy Weber, listserv); *Franklin*: continued from spring to 7/19 Long Lane off Wenger Rd., Chambersburg (Bill Oyler, eBird).

Ring-necked Duck – *Armstrong*: at Parks Industrial Park 7/15-20 (ph. Marge Van Tassel); *Monroe*: at Weir Lake in Brodheadsville 6/14 (Bruce Johnson); *Union*: adult male at SGL 252 (Matthew Heintzelman, eBird).

Lesser Scaup – *Crawford*: one female at the Fish Hatchery 6/8 (Mark Vass); *Erie*: a male and female 6/2 (Matthew Sabatine, eBird) and one male 6/8 (Shannon Thompson, eBird) at Gull Point; *Philadelphia*: 3 males and one female at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum 6/1 (Frank Windfelder); *Somerset*: one female at Lake Somerset 7/24 (Tim Schreckengost, eBird) and again 7/27 (Mike Lanzone, eBird).

White-winged Scoter – *Schuylkill*: a juvenile present all season near New Ringgold (Ken Lebo).

Bufflehead – *Adams*: a male at a pond along Boyle Rd through 7/8 (Ian Clarke, Andy Wilson); *Lancaster*: a female at the Conejohela Flats 7/17 (Mike Epler, Meredith Lombard); *Lebanon*: a male at Reistville and Prescott Rd. ponds 6/27 (Tim Becker, Kathy Becker); *Montour*: male 6/5 on Lake Chillisquaqua (ph. David Brown) continued to 6/10 (Andy Keister, eBird).

Red-breasted Merganser – *Erie*: one at Presque Isle State Park through Jun to 7/9 (Jerry McWilliams, Matthew Sabatine); *Lancaster*: a male on the Susquehanna River 6/8 (Todd Frantz); *York*: male on the Susquehanna River 6/8 (Todd Frantz, eBird) and one at Long Level 6/18 (Carolyn Mathur).

Horned Grebe – *Huntingdon*: one at Irish Flats (Dawn Stewart); *Lawrence*: at gravel ponds on Shaner Road in Plain Grove Twp. 6/21-7/4 (Mark Vass); *Sullivan*: 2 on Eagles Mere Lake 6/16 (Rob Megraw).

Red-necked Grebe – *Adams*: one lingered until 6/13 at Lake Mae (Andy Wilson); *Indiana*: one at Yellow Creek State Park 6/24 (Lee Carnahan, Tom Glover, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee) and another 7/1 (m.ob.) were shown by photos to be two different individuals; *Lycoming*: breeding-plumaged adult on the Susquehanna River in Williamsport 7/11-14 (Maddi Dunlap, Joe Yoder, Jean Klotz, ph.).

Cattle Egret* – *Lancaster*: 2 near Stop #3 at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area 7/13-15 (Stan Stahl, Joshua Butz, *doc submitted*).

American Bittern – *Berks*: at Blue Marsh Lake 7/31 (Joan Silagy); *Bucks*: one at Core Creek Park 7/31 (Henry D'Alessandro); *Chester*: one at Exton Park in late May continued through 6/26 (Brian Quindlen, George D. Tallman, m.ob.); *Luzerne*: continued throughout the month of Jun at the previously confirmed breeding location "The Meadows" (Eric Zawatski, Andy Keister, Jonathan DeBalko); *Philadelphia*: one passed Pennypack on the Delaware 7/27 (Frank Windfelder); *Somerset*: one at Buffalo Creek 6/10 (Jeff Payne, Chris Payne) and another over the Lanzone property (Mike and Tricia Lanzone); *Tioga*: at the Muck, Marsh Creek during a Game Commission survey 6/27 (Lauren Fenstermacher, Steve Ferreri).

Least Bittern – *Berks*: at Blue Marsh Lake 7/30 (Joan Silagy); *Crawford*: at Conneaut Marsh at Watson Run Rd. 6/1 (Billy Weber, listserv) and at SGL 214 during a PGC survey 5/30 (Roger Coup); *Erie*: one calling 6/5 (Greg Lawrence, eBird) and another 7/30 (Matt Sabatine); *Philadelphia*: reported throughout the season at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum (m.ob.).

Snowy Egret – *Erie*: in a habitat restoration area at Presque Isle 6/10 (Brian Berchtold *vide* Shannon Thompson);

Philadelphia: one juvenile at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum 7/23-24 (Frank Windfelder).

Little Blue Heron – *Bucks*: an immature at Mud Island 7/27 (Devich Farbotnik) and 2 at Core Creek Park 7/31 (Henry D'Alessandro); *Centre*: 3 immatures at Nittany Farms pond 7/14 (Michael Dreibelbis); *Chester*: up to 2 at Exton Park Church Farm School 7/29-31 (George D. Tallman, m.ob.); *Delaware*: immature at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum 7/27-29 (Damon Orsetti, Al Guarente); *Luzerne*: juvenile at Plymouth Flats 7/19-27 (Jonathan DeBalko); *Philadelphia*: up to 3 at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum 7/23-29 (Frank Windfelder).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron – *Dauphin*: least five were observed on nests in the rookery in midtown Harrisburg 7/5 (Jim Dunn); *Juniata*: an immature at Muskrat Springs River Access 7/24 (Chad Kauffman, Reuben Petersheim, Aden Troyer); *Lancaster*: near Elizabethtown 6/2 (Gordon Dimmig); *Montgomery*: an adult at Norristown Dam 6/29-30 (Mike Rosengarten, m.ob.).

White Ibis* – *Chester*: two juveniles in a wetland pond behind the Exton Walmart 7/27 (Holly Merker, m.ob., *no doc*) stayed through 7/29; *Philadelphia*: a juvenile at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum 7/31-8/1 (ph. George Armistead, m.ob., *no doc*).

Glossy Ibis – *Northampton*: one at Green Pond 7/12-13 (Michael Schall); *Philadelphia*: a juvenile at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum 7/31 (George Armistead).

Mississippi Kite* – *Montgomery*: an adult in a Hatfield yard 6/13 (Sandy White, August Mirabella, *doc submitted*); *Northampton*: adult just west of Bath 6/26 (Bill Etter, *no doc*).

Northern Goshawk – *McKean*: young nestlings at undisclosed location in Allegheny National Forest (Deuane Hoffman, eBird); *Warren*: 3 chicks in nest during PSO field trip in Allegheny National Forest (Chris Fischer, eBird).

Black Rail* – *Crawford*: adult on Mercer Pike near the Beauchannon bridge about one mile east of I-79 on 7/20 (Ronald F. Leberman, *no doc*).

Sora – *Crawford*: up to 3 at McMichaels 6/1-7/26 (Isaac Field, Ronald F. Leberman); *Tioga*: 2 at Marsh Creek, the Muck (Deuane Hoffman, eBird).

Common Gallinule – *Crawford*: up to 4 at Conneaut Marsh 6/1-7/26 (Ronald F. Leberman, Isaac Field); *Lawrence*: one at Wampum-New Galilee Road 7/13 (Mark Vass); *Philadelphia*: one at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum 6/24 (ph. John Collins); *Tioga*: two at southern end of The Muck, Marsh Creek 6/6 (Deuane Hoffman, eBird).

American Coot – *Chester*: on the pond at Exton Park through 6/4 (Brian Qundlen) and another lingered at Chambers Lake though 6/3 (Rick Robinson); *Indiana*: at Yellow Creek S.P. 6/24-7/1 (m.ob.); *Lancaster*: on the Conejohela Flats 6/1 (Eric Witmer, Bruce Carl) and one on the Conewago Recreation Trail and Wetlands 6/6 (Lou Carpenter); *Lebanon*: at Memorial Lake State Park 7/17 (Ed Barrell) and Stover's Dam 7/25-28 (Alan Wells, Randy C. Miller); *York*: at Brunner Island 6/2 (Dave Kerr, Dean Newhouse).

Snowy Plover* – *Erie*: at Gull Point 7/1-4 (Roger Donn, m.ob., *doc submitted*)

Piping Plover* – *Erie*: as many as five different adults at Gull Point 6/12-7/8, with up to 2 present at once (Mary Birdsong, Diane Morton, Roger Donn, m.ob., *doc submitted*)

Black-bellied Plover – *Berks*: 4 near Topton remained from 5/30 to 6/3 (Kim Gruener, Anthony Uhrich, Peter and Jane Wolfe); *Dauphin*: one south of Hummelstown 7/21 (Ed Bernot); *Erie*: three sightings at Gull Point 6/30-7/30 (m.ob, eBird); *Lancaster*: one at the Conejohela Flats 6/1 (Eric Witmer, Bruce Carl); *Northampton*: one at Green Pond 6/12-15 (Michael Schall, Dave DeReamus); *Somerset*: one

over Berlin 7/19 (Jeff Payne);

American Avocet – *Armstrong*: one at Freeport 7/15 (Nicholas Kolesar, Francesca Nicolazzo); *Berks*: one seen briefly at Blue Marsh Lake 7/14 (Paul Michaly, Joan Silagy); *Cambria*: 11 at Prince Gallitzin State Park 7/14 (Renee Russo, Kathy Huber); *Centre*: one at Colyer Lake 7/29 (Rob Dickerson); *Erie*: a total of 21 at Gull Point in July (m.ob.); *Lancaster*: one at the Conejohela Flats 7/17 (Mike Epler, Meredith Lombard, Larry Bernhardt); *Somerset*: 3 at Somerset Lake 7/23 (Bill Cline); *Westmoreland*: 2 at Beaver Run Reservoir 7/25 (Patience Fisher); *York*: 4 at Lake Redman 7/14 (Robin Smith) with one remaining to 7/25.

Willet – *Erie*: an unprecedented 45 from 6/30-7/21 at Gull Point (Jerry McWilliams, m.ob.) with high count of 23 on 7/1 (Roger Donn).

Upland Sandpiper – *Cambria*: seen and heard at Babcock Mine 7/1 (Linda Greble, eBird); *Clarion*: up to 4 birds at Mount Airy 6/9-28 (m.ob.), the only regular breeding area in the county; *Crawford*: up to 6 at Pymatuning Goose Management Area 6/8-29 (m.ob.); *Venango*: up to 3 at the Barkeyville Strips 6/3 (Kevin Parsons) and 7/2 (Jeff McDonald); *York*: at Althouse School Road Landfill 7/26-27 (David Farner).

Whimbrel – *Erie*: one late spring bird at Gull Point 6/8 (Roger Donn, Shannon Thompson) and a total of 27 in July (m.ob.) with a single day high count of 12 on 7/28 (Don Snyder).

Marbled Godwit – *Erie*: 9 recorded 7/1-19 with up to 3 at once (Shannon Thompson, Roger Donn, Mary Birdsong, m.ob.).

Red Knot – *Erie*: a late spring bird at Gull Point 6/7 (Roger Donn), and 14 during a shorebird fallout at Gull Point 7/28 (Don Snyder).

Sanderling – *Erie*: scattered reports at Gull Point through the season (m.ob.) including a high count of 189 during the passage of a cold front 7/28 (Don Snyder).

Ruddy Turnstone – *Erie*: 2 adults at Gull Point 6/2-3 (Matthew Sabatine, Roger Donn, eBird), an adult on 6/30 (Jim Flynn), and 16 were part of large fallout on 7/28 (Don Snyder, eBird).

Western Sandpiper – *Somerset*: at Lake Somerset 7/27 (Mike Lanzone, eBird); *Lebanon*: one at Reistville and Prescott Rd. ponds 7/23-24 (Randy C. Miller, Barry Blust).

White-rumped Sandpiper – *Crawford*: at the Pymatuning Goose Management Area 6/6 (Mark Vass); *Erie*: one 6/12 (Roger Donn), one 7/26 (Roger Donn), and 2 on 7/28 (Don Snyder) at Gull Point; *Huntingdon*: one near Petersburg 6/13 (Jon Kauffman); *Somerset*: one at Lake Somerset 6/3 (Andrew McGann, eBird).

Baird Sandpiper – *Northampton*: at Green Pond 7/27 (Dave DeReamus).

Dunlin – *Lancaster*: 5 at the Conejohela Flats 6/1 (Eric Witmer, Bruce Carl); *Erie*: one or 2 at Presque Isle 6/1-7 (Devich Farbotnik, Roger Donn) and 6/30 (Mary Birdsong, eBird).

Stilt Sandpiper – *Indiana*: one at Yellow Creek S.P. 7/20 (Lee Carnahan); *Northampton*: at Green Pond 7/21 and 7/27 (Dave DeReamus); *Philadelphia*: one fly-by 7/23 at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum (Frank Windfelder, eBird).

Short-billed Dowitcher – *Erie*: one at Gull Point 6/21 (Roger Donn); *Juniata*: at Parsons Pond 7/22 (Chad Kauffman); *Lebanon*: 2 at Reistville and Prescott Rd. ponds 7/15 (Randy C. Miller); *Montgomery*: one at Green Lane Park 7/20 (Paul Bernhardt); *Somerset*: one *hendersoni* adult at Somerset Lake 7/20 (Jeff Payne);

Wilson's Snipe – *Erie*: 2 at Presque Isle S.P. 7/4 (James Flynn, m.ob., eBird); *Crawford*: at Pymatuning Goose Management Area 6/6-7/19 (Mark Vass); *Clearfield*: at Sandy Ridge Rd. 6/21 (m.ob., eBird).

Wilson's Phalarope – *Crawford*: one at Miller's Ponds at Pymatuning 6/6-7 (Mark Vass); *Northampton*: a female at Green Pond 7/12 (Michael Schall).

Bonaparte's Gull – *Erie*: single digit counts from 6/30 (James Flynn) to 7/5 (Shannon Thompson, Michel David) and 2 on 7/26 (Matthew Sabatine) at Presque Isle (all eBird); *Lancaster*: two first summer birds on the Conejohela Flats 6/1 (Bruce Carl, Eric Witmer).

Thayer's/Iceland Gull – *Crawford*: one first cycle bird at the Espyville Marina 6/8 (Glenn Koppel, eBird) and 6/9 (ph. Scott Kinzey) was seen periodically through 6/14 (m.ob.), it was probably a Thayer's but no photos or exact description of the extended wing or tail was made.

Lesser Black-backed Gull – *Erie*: one second-year bird at Gull Point 7/5 (m.ob., eBird).

Black Tern – *Crawford*: an adult at the Pymatuning Spillway 7/20 (Ronald F. Leberman); *Erie*: 3 at a large pond near Waterford 6/10 (James Hill III), and far out on Lake Erie 7/2 (Jim Flynn); *Lebanon*: one at Memorial Lake State Park 6/7 (Tim Becker, Kathy Becker); *Luzerne*: one at Lake Jean in Ricketts Glen State Park 6/18 (Timothy Kita) and again 7/5 (Paul Bernhardt); *Montour*: over Lake Chillisquaque 7/25 (David Brown, eBird, photo); *Pike*: at Promised Land State Park 7/5 (ph. Zack Moyer, eBird).

Long-eared Owl – *Lawrence*: clutching prey at an undisclosed location 6/26 (Margaret Higbee, Linda Wagner, Carol Guba).

Northern Saw-whet Owl – *Huntingdon*: heard at Whipple Dam S.P. 6/10 (Deb Grove); *Luzerne*: heard at Ricketts Glen State Park 6/15 (Timothy Kita); *Potter*: heard at Cherry Springs S.P. 6/28 (Philip Downey, eBird); *Sullivan*: heard twice in Jun on Dutch Mountain (Rob Megraw).

Chuck-will's-widow* – *Lebanon*: returned for a fifth year to Tomstown Rd. at Fort Indiantown Gap 6/7-7/13 (m.ob., *doc previously submitted*).

Olive-sided Flycatcher – *Indiana*: 2 late migrants at Yellow Creek S.P. 6/3 (Lee Carnahan, Tom Glover, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Ken Truitt); *Lancaster*: one singing at Rock Springs Nature Preserve 6/6 (Larry Bernhardt); *Montgomery*: at McKaig Nature Center 6/7 (Barbara Elliot, Edie Parnum); *Potter*: reported 6/6 (Deuane Hoffman, eBird).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher – *Lancaster*: one at Overlook Park 6/21 (Glenn Shaffer) and one at Octoraro Reservoir 7/4 (Carlton Goff); *Monroe*: one was banded at TNC's Thomas Darling Preserve near Blakeslee 6/7 (ph. Darryl Speicher); *Wayne*: migrant near Dillontown 7/22 (Rick Keyser, eBird); *Wyoming*: 6 pairs, including one double brood with second nest fledging 2 young 8/14 in Coalbed Swamp (E Zawatski, Doug Gross, eBird); *Sullivan*: a male on territory at an undisclosed location 6/16-7/3 (Doug Gross, pers. comm.).

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher* – *Juniata*: an adult male along Flint Rd in Van Wert 6/25 (Amos Renno, m.ob., *doc submitted*) was last seen flying northeast 6/26.

Marsh Wren – *Crawford*: as many as 6 at Conneaut Marsh through the period (m.ob.); *Delaware*: an extraordinary count of 55 at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum (Peter Morgan, eBird); *Erie*: at Presque Isle through June (m.ob., eBird), and at Waterford 6/6 (James Hill III, eBird); *Mercer*: one at Pennsy Swamp 6/1 (James Valimont, eBird); *Philadelphia*: as many as 25 at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum 6/14 (Lamar Corlis, m.ob., eBird); *Tioga*: up to 6 at the Muck, Marsh Creek 6/6 (Deuane Hoffman, eBird); *Wyoming*: one at Lake Carey 6/24 (Jacob Cusatis, eBird).

Brewster's Warbler – *Bedford*: along Teaberry Rd on 4 dates in Jun (William Zemaitis, eBird); *Franklin*: one on a BBS route along W. Dry Run Rd 6/7 (Vern Gauthier, eBird); *Pike*: nesting off Highline Rd in early June (Corinne Campbell Schall, Michael Schall).

Lawrence's Warbler – *Crawford*: one near Townville Road 6/7 (Kendall Brubaker); *Lebanon*: a male at Swatara State Park 6/15 (Timothy Becker, Kathy Becker).

Tennessee Warbler – *Franklin*: male near Waynesboro 6/2 (David Leaman, eBird); *Forest*: one at a banding station near Marienville 7/15 was presumed to be an early migrant (Scott Stoleson); *McKean*: late migrant 6/1 (John Fedak, eBird).

Wilson's Warbler – *Bucks*: one in Warwick Twp. 7/8 (John Tramontano); *Erie*: a late migrant 6/1 (ph. Nancy Andersen, eBird); *Snyder*: first year bird at Walker Lake 7/29 (Chad Kauffman, eBird).

Bay-breasted Warbler – *McKean*: late migrant at the University of Pittsburgh, Bradford campus 6/6 (Mark McConaughy, eBird)

Prothonotary Warbler – *Bucks*: three juveniles at Peace Valley Park left the nest 6/14 (Kris Ahlquist) and were seen until 7/6 (Henry D'Alessandro, Jim Hausman), then singles through the end of Jul (m.ob.); *Crawford*: one to 3 at various places around Conneaut Marsh (m.ob.); *Lancaster*: singing at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area 6/4-25 (Barbara Hunsberger, m.ob.); *Mercer*: 2 at Golden Run, Shenango Reservoir 6/1-7 (Jeff Brinker, Steve Sanford). *York*: nesting at Brunner Island 6/2-7 (Dave Kerr, Dean Newhouse, Paul Banks, Jr.).

Clay-colored Sparrow – *Clarion*: up to 3 birds at Mt. Zion throughout June, and up to 3 at a new area at Mount Airy 6/9-11 (m.ob.).

Dickcissel – *Berks*: as many as 7 singing males and a number of females on two farms near Windsor Castle 5/30-7/20 after which all hayfields were cut (m.ob.); *Cumberland*: reported in two areas near Newville 6/4-7/9 (Vern Gauthier, Jim Dunn); *Jefferson*: one on Sandy Ridge Road 6/6 (Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee) and 6/15 (Jud Glover, Tom Glover); *Lancaster*: one at Lakeview Road 7/4-5 (Drew Weber); *Lebanon*: one along Lindley Murray Rd. 6/28 (Timothy Becker);

Summer Tanager* – *Bucks*: at Churchville Park 6/7 (Butch Lishman *vide* Chris Stieber, *no doc*); *Crawford*: heard along Freyemath Road near Cochran 6/17 (Matthew Sabatine, *no doc*).

Rusty Blackbird – *Erie*: a female on Gull Point Trail 6/8 (Shannon Thompson).

Pine Siskin – *Centre*: heard and recorded 6/1-27 in State College (Carl Engstrom).

CORRIGENDUM: In the Birds of Note for Spring 2014 (Volume 28, No. 2), the **Little Blue Heron** listed for *Berks* 4/25 was at Turnpike Pond, not Turalee Pond, and the observers were Barb Haas and Frank Haas.

Photographic Highlights



Northern Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*). Shovelers are quite unusual in Pennsylvania mid-summer, and the species has not been confirmed breeding in the state since 1990. This male was a surprise at Timber Lake, *Washington* 30 June 2014 but no evidence of breeding was noted. (*Matthew Juskowich*)



Black-crowned Night-Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*). Kiwanis Park, *York* remains a Pennsylvania stronghold for nesting Black-crowns, and a favorite location for birders due to its accessibility. This juvenile was photographed there 22 July 2014. (*Alan Wells*)



Redhead (*Aythya americana*). Also unusual during Pennsylvania summers is Redhead. This male in eclipse plumage at the Pymatuning Spillway, *Crawford* 5 July 2014 was one of three Redheads found in the state this summer, likely leftovers from the massive waterfowl invasion this past winter. (*Mark Vass*)



American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*). Despite records in seven counties this season, just one or perhaps two of those were in obvious breeding locations. This bird at Exton Park, *Chester* 10 June 2014 was not in a traditional breeding area but was seen carrying food back into the reeds during its June stay. (*George Tallman*)



Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*). Little Blue Herons were found in six counties by the end of July, two of which were away from the usual southeastern counties. One of those was this juvenile at Plymouth Flats, *Luzerne* 19 July 2014. It was the first for *Luzerne* in at least a decade. (*Jonathan DeBalko*)



White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*). This juvenile was one of two in *Chester* in an unlikely spot: a small wetland behind a Walmart in Exton 27 to (here) 29 July 2014. They were the first White Ibises in *Chester* since 1993. (*George Tallman*)



Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*). Sandhill Cranes are still best known in Pennsylvania from their *Lawrence* stronghold, but they have been established for quite some time in other areas of the state as well. One such location is the Dushore area of *Sullivan* where a few have been breeders for 15 years. This adult and juvenile were photographed there 15 July 2014. (*Holly Merker*)



Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*). Though always few in number, Glossy Ibises are nonetheless occasionally somewhat widespread in the southeastern counties during post-breeding dispersal, but this season they were found in just two counties. This bird was at Green Pond, *Northampton* 12 (here) to 13 July 2014. (*Dustin Welch*)



Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*). Another location where cranes have been found with regularity is the Crane Swamp vicinity, *Bradford*, where these three were photographed 5 July 2014. Incidentally, Crane Swamp may be an appropriate name, but it was originally dubbed with that moniker due to the presence of Great Blue Herons, which were called "cranes" locally. (*Kevin Raymond*)



Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*). This endangered Pennsylvania breeder was nice find 8 June 2014 on an outing to the Jones Twp. area of *Elk* during the PSO annual meeting. (*Wayne Laubscher*)



American Avocets with Marbled Godwit. It was a remarkable season for shorebirding at Gull Point, *Erie*. These six Avocets with a Marbled Godwit were photographed together 1 July 2014 in the presence of another major rarity (next page). (*Michael David*)



Snowy Plover (*Charadrius nivosus*). First seen in Pennsylvania in 1886, Snowy Plover was not seen in the state again until one appeared at Gull Point, *Erie* (perhaps the most likely location in the state for the species) in 1986. Now, following another hiatus of 26 years in the county, it has been seen in *Erie* two of the past three years. The bird shown here was seen by many at Gull Point 1 (here) to 4 July 2014. (*Shannon Thompson*)



Wilson's Phalarope (*Phalaropus tricolor*). This beautiful female (left, foreground), an early fall migrant at Green Pond, *Northampton* 12 July 2014, was one of two Wilson's Phalaropes found in the state by season's end. The other was a late spring migrant in *Crawford* in early June. (*Dustin Welch*)



Snowy Plover and Piping Plover. Even more remarkable than the presence of a Snowy Plover at Gull Point, *Erie* was the opportunity to make an image of the bird in the same frame as a Piping Plover (at right). The feat was achieved 4 July 2014. (*Jerry McWilliams*)



Iceland/Thayer's Gull. "Unexpected" would be the understatement of the season when describing this wayward first cycle bird at the Espyville Marina, *Crawford*. Seen periodically from 8 to 14 June 2014 (here 9 June), it was considered most likely an Iceland Gull, but the extent of bleaching and the fact that definitive photos of the extended wing and tail were apparently never obtained meant that Thayer's Gull could not be absolutely ruled out. (*Scott Kinzey*)



Marbled Godwit (*Limosa fedoa*). Closing out a remarkable first week of July at Gull Point were these three Marbled Godwits 7 July 2014. They were one third of a remarkable 9 total at the point from 1 to 19 July. (*Jeff McDonald*)



Laughing Gull with Iceland/Thayer's Gull and Caspian Tern. This most unlikely trio, made even more so by the date (9 June 2014) and region (western Pennsylvania away from Erie) was serendipitously photographed together at Espyville, *Crawford*. (*Scott Kinzey*)



Laughing Gull (*Leucophaeus atricilla*). Allegheny's fourth record of Laughing Gull was provided by this bird (one of two) at Dashields Dam 12 July 2014. They did not stay long, and were not seen again after a brief afternoon stay on 12 July. (Geoff Malosh)



Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*). A juvenile on the same tree as the adult shown below at State Gamelands 102, Erie 2 July 2014. (Jeff McDonald)



Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*). This remarkably confiding male was part of an equally cooperative family of sapsuckers at State Gamelands 102, Erie 2 July 2014. (Jeff McDonald)



Worm-eating Warbler (*Helmitheros vermivorum*). Often easy to hear but difficult to see, this Worm-eater was nicely photographed near Clearfield, Clearfield 20 June 2014. (Wayne Laubscher)



Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*). One of Pennsylvania's most imperiled breeding species, the Golden-winged Warbler would be a great loss for our state if it does in fact disappear as a nester someday. This wonderful male was photographed at the Scotia Barrens, Centre 6 June 2014. (Wayne Laubscher)



Hooded Warbler (*Setophaga citrina*). The Hooded Warbler's penchant for dense woods makes it another difficult target for photographers in Pennsylvania. This male was nicely captured at Pike Creek Reservoir, Luzerne 25 June 2014. (Jonathan DeBalko)



Brewster's Warbler. Among other threats to Golden-winged Warbler is pressure from interbreeding Blue-winged Warblers. The result is the hybrid Brewster's, such as this one at Masseyburg, Huntingdon 2 June 2014. (Wayne Laubscher)



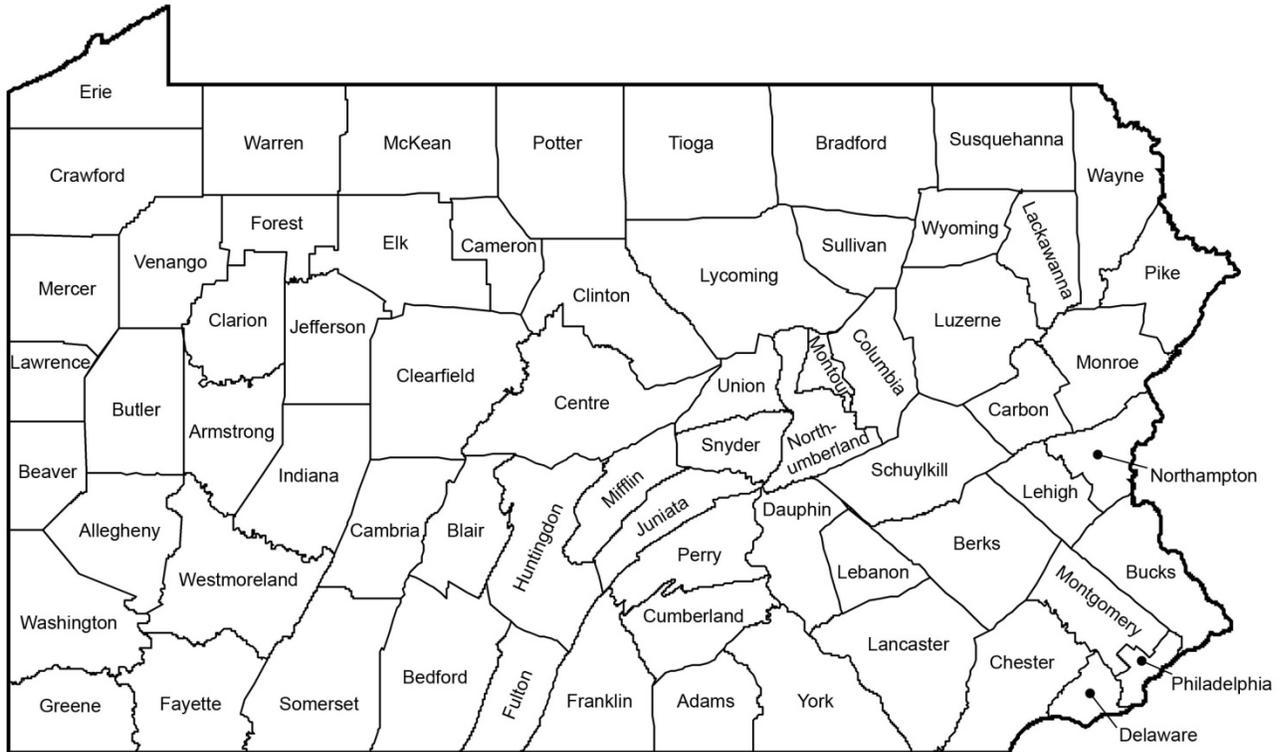
Canada Warbler (*Cardellina canadensis*). This beautiful image of a singing male on breeding grounds was made at Mt. Davis, Somerset 18 June 2014. (Josh Jones)



Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*). This rare breeder remains relatively stable at a few established areas scattered around the state. One such location is Brunner Island, York where this female was photographed at a nest box 7 June 2014. (Dave Kerr)



Henslow's Sparrow (*Ammodramus henslowii*). A sort-of specialty bird of southwestern Pennsylvania (one of the very few), Henslow's Sparrow continues to be a fixture at many reclaimed strip mines in the southwestern counties. This singing male was at one of their strongest of strongholds, Bavington, Washington 15 July 2014. (Jeff McDonald)



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).	juvenal [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: Breeding Bird Survey Route 193 (BBS), Crooked Creek Wetlands (CCW), Gettysburg College (GBC), Gettysburg National Military Park (GNMP), Lake Mae (LMAE), Lake Meade (LM), Long Pine Run Reservoir (LPRR), Mountain Road (MTN), Possum Hollow Road (POSS), State Game Lands #249 (SGL), Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve (SHNP).

For the most part, the observations suggested a fairly typical breeding period, and the 112 species reported was better than average. Lingering waterfowl provided most of the highlights among non-breeders. References to BBS refer to a 6/7 survey (AW).

A **Green-winged Teal** was found at CCW 6/16 (PM). A pond along Boyle Rd. held a male **Bufflehead** through 7/8 (IC, AW). An uncommon breeder for Adams, a female **Hooded Merganser** with 4 juveniles were at CCW 6/23-24 (ED, AW). A pair of first summer **Common Loon** remained at LMAE through 6/2 (BP, AW). They were outdone by a **Red-necked Grebe** at the same location through 6/13 (BP, AW). This bird's length of stay was a

remarkable 86+ days.

Ring-necked Pheasants were at SGL 7/13 (DJG), LM 7/27 (JV), and one was found on the BBS. The six **Wild Turkey** sightings were paced by a hen with 9 poults at MTN 7/15 (RDS). The nostalgia-inducing call of a **Northern Bobwhite** was heard at GNMP 6/9 (DT). Both uncommon in the county during this period, **Great Egret** was at CCW 6/16-24 (ED, PM, AW) with a high count of 4 on 6/16 (PM) and **Osprey** was at LM 6/1 (JV) and GNMP 7/20 (AH). A count of 40 **Black Vultures** outnumbered **Turkey Vultures** four to one during a 6/10 observation along Ridge Rd. (ED). **Bald Eagles** were limited to a single at LM 7/13 (JV) and one over the Baltimore Rd. 6/11 (ED).

Migrant shorebirds were limited to a single **Least Sandpiper** at GBC 7/30 (AW). Black-billed Cuckoo escaped detection but **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was found along Red Rock Rd. 6/4 (AW) and at LPRR 7/9 (MB). Minimal reporting of **Red-headed Woodpecker** during the spring period was concerning but 11 reports this period were back to a more typical mark.

Acadian Flycatcher showed well with eight reports spanning 6/4–7/14 (m.ob.). The eight reports of **Willow Flycatcher** involving 19 individuals was

notable, paced by a 6/4 (AW) multi-stop survey of suitable habitat along the roadways of Freedom Twp. **Least Flycatcher** was reported in a confined nine-day period: 6/4 (AW) at GNMP, 6/10 (ED) along Baltimore Rd., and 6/10-12 (ED) along Ridge Rd. SGL provided the three reports of **White-eyed Vireo** 6/1-7/13 (MB, DJG). One of the four reports of **Yellow-throated Vireo** involved a window strike at MTN 7/20 (RDS). Although the county has Blue-headed Vireo as an established breeder, it went unreported this period. **Warbling Vireo** was found throughout the period (m.ob.) including 6 on the BBS. The abundance of **Red-eyed Vireo** was demonstrated with a count of 14 during a 6/3 visit to SHNP (AW).

The 4 **Common Raven** at GNMP 6/20 (JS) suggested breeding. The Second Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas (BBA) indicates a median fledge date of 6/17. Single **Horned Lark** were along Red Rock Rd. 6/4 (AW) and at POSS 6/15-21 (PK); a pair was found on the BBS, and a trio was along Barlow Rd. 6/11 (AW). GBC's **Purple Martin** colony had a high count of 22 birds 7/14 (AW). The only report of **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** was a single at SGL 6/1 (DJG). "Prolific" was an apt descriptor for the 51 **House Wrens** heard on the BBS. A **Veery** 6/23 was found at 1700 feet elevation along Birch Run Rd. (MB).

Warblers were somewhat above average with 14 species. GNMP produced a pair of **Blue-winged Warblers** 6/9 (DT) and SGL held one 7/24 (PK). **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was found at GNMP 7/20 (AH). The most interesting and noteworthy warbler sighting was a pair of **Yellow-throated Warblers** at LMAE 6/2 (BP). This area produced the only *Adams* record in the second PBBA, which was classified as "probable". **Worm-eating Warbler** and **Kentucky Warbler** were found at SHNP 6/13 (AW). SHNP also produced three **Hooded Warbler** sightings 6/8-13 (IC, AW). Always a treat, a **Yellow-breasted Chat** was at GNMP 6/4 (AW).

Reports of sparrows were typical. A **Vesper Sparrow** along Horner Rd. 6/11 (AW) was a good find. **Savannah Sparrow** reports came from the BBS, Barlow Rd. 6/11 (AW), POSS 7/12 (PK), and GNMP 7/20 (AW). Encouragingly, compared to no summer reports of **Grasshopper Sparrow** in 2013, there were six reports (m.ob.) this year. A seemingly healthy **White-throated Sparrow** was reported at Ridge Rd. through 7/6 (ED).

The county continues to hold summering **Blue Grosbeaks** with singles on the BBS and at MTN 7/21 (RDS) and a pair along Ridge Rd. 6/8-10 (ED). **Bobolinks** were a highlight with six reports. The 6/4 (AW) road survey produced 12 **Bobolinks** and 17 **Eastern Meadowlarks**. There were five additional reports of meadowlark including 12 on the BBS. It was a good period for **Orchard Oriole** with eight reports including 5 on the BBS.

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Allegheny County

Locations: Dashields Dam (DAD), Dead Man's Hollow (DMH), Duck Hollow (DH), Imperial (IMP), Pine Township (PT), Wingfield Pines (WFP).

The **American Wigeon** at Janoski's Farm from last season just made it into the summer season 6/1 (MV). Two **Common Mergansers** were at DAD 6/9 (MV) and 4 were seen during the season at DH (m.ob.). Perhaps nesting will be confirmed in the future.

There were an unusual number of reports of **Northern Bobwhite** in scattered locations, so were probably numerous releases this year. One was along the Ohio River near Pittsburgh at Wood's Run 6/6 (PB), one was actually in the city near the Consol Energy Center (the Pittsburgh Penguins' hockey arena) 6/6 (SG), one was near the Carnegie Science Center 6/15 (*fide* KSJ), and one was in Natrona Heights 6/16 (*fide* PH). A **Ruffed Grouse** was at DMH 6/18 (LF, JF). Two **Double-crested Cormorants** were at DH 7/11 (JC, AP) and one was along the Allegheny River at the Highland Park Bridge 7/31 (MJ). A **Great Egret** was at WFP 7/27-30 (RK, DW, ST).

The **Osprey** nest at Leetsdale contained one chick (MV) and the nest on Neville Island contained 2 chicks 7/6 (MV). All 3 **Bald Eagle** chicks successfully fledged from the nest in Hays; these birds were easily monitored by a camera that streamed live images online. A first-year **Bald Eagle** was spotted flying over WFP 7/25 (ST). Activity at all three nests in Pittsburgh continued during the season.

A late **Semipalmated Plover** was at DH 6/2 (BB) and an early fall migrant was there 7/24 (MJ). Six **Solitary Sandpipers** were at IMP 7/20 (MV), one was at DH 7/24 (MJ), one was at WFP 7/25 (ST) and one was at IMP 7/26 (MV). Two **Least Sandpipers** were at DH 7/11 (JC, AP) and 2 **Pectoral Sandpipers** were at IMP 7/26 (MV). Two adult **Laughing Gulls**

were at DAD 7/12 (MV), perhaps displaced by Hurricane Arthur that moved up the east coast 7/1-5. They provided the fourth county record. **Herring Gulls** continue to breed in the county, first discovered 19 years ago. Two chicks were in a nest at DAD 6/3 and 3 chicks were at Emsworth Dam 6/23 (MV). A total of 77 were counted at the Highland Park Bridge 6/23 including 15 birds on nests (MV).

There were only three reports of **Common Nighthawk** this season: 3 in Greenfield 6/19 (KSJ), one at Swissvale 6/19 (BMA) and one in Lawrenceville 6/20 (BMA). Two fledgling **Barred Owls** were seen at Deer Lakes Park 6/18 (PB). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was a rare find in PT 6/14 (PL, SL).

Willow Flycatchers moved into the recovering hillside near DH this summer (m.ob.), a welcome sight in this former slag dump area that is now regenerating with small trees, shrubs and grasses. The area is now part of Frick Park in Pittsburgh. Although a breeding species in the county, **Great Crested Flycatcher** is not commonly reported in summer, and this season there were only 2: one in PT 6/14 (PL, SL), and one at DMH 6/18 (LF, JF). **Fish Crows** were heard regularly the entire season at DH (m.ob.). A **Common Raven** was at Wood's Run 6/6 (PB).

Veery were singing at North Park 6/6 (MF) and they were present in nearby PT 6/21 (PL, SL). This is the only area in the county where they are known to breed. A pair of **Wood Thrushes** was observed feeding a juvenile **Brown-headed Cowbird** at Knob Hill Park 6/23 (KD).

A **Louisiana Waterthrush** was at DMH 6/18 (LF, JF). **Black-and-white Warbler** is a local breeder in the county. A male was observed carrying food at DMH 6/14 (AK), one was at DAD 6/17 (MV) and several were at Harrison Hills Park 6/28 (PH, MK). **Hooded Warbler**, **American Restart**, **Yellow Warbler** and **Yellow-throated Warblers** were all reported during the season. A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was observed feeding a juvenile **Brown-headed Cowbird** at WFP 7/30 (DW, ST). A **Northern Parula** was an unusual find for the breeding season at Frick Park 6/8-10 (JS, SS).

Savannah and **Grasshopper Sparrows** were in a grassy field near the Greater Pittsburgh International Airport all summer (GM). Both species along with **Henslow's Sparrow** and **Vesper Sparrow** continue to breed at the IMP Grasslands. A **Purple Finch** was in PT 6/1-14 (PL, SL), one was singing in Harmar Twp. 6/5 through the month (JV), one was singing in Penn Hills 6/16-17 (MF), one visited a feeder in Pleasant Hills 6/4 (MH) and 2 females and a male were in PT in July (PL, SL).

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Armstrong County

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

A hen **Wood Duck** with 3 young was noted 7/18 (MVT) at Parks Industrial Park, the same location that hosted a **Ring-necked Duck** 7/15-20 (ph. MVT). Two **Double-crested Cormorants** were photographed 6/14 at CC (MVT); this was *Armstrong's* lone report. A **Great Egret** landed in the Kiskiminetas River near Leechburg 7/5 (MVT).

An **Osprey** visited Mahoning Dam 7/9 (MVT). Four **Bald Eagles** were noted at CC (MVT) and one on Creek Rd. 6/14 (JB); one was found along the Kiski near Leechburg 6/20 (MVT) and another along the Allegheny north of Dam 8 on 6/21 (TR). Three young **Red-shouldered Hawks** were very close to fledging at CC 6/24 (MVT); by 7/5 (SG) they were not too far from the nest site. Single **Broad-winged Hawks** were noted only near KT 7/9 (MH, RH) and south of Rt. 268 on 7/12 (DM).

An **American Avocet** was a great find at Freeport 7/15 (NK, FN). A **Spotted Sandpiper** along the Kiski near Leechburg 7/20 (MVT) was the only one noted.

Yellow-billed Cuckoos were much more numerous than Black-billed this summer. A Yellow-billed was found along the AT 6/21 (TR); another, near Orchard Hills the following day (GF); 2 each were at CC 7/5 (SG), along the Roaring Run Trail 7/24 (MVT), and at CM 7/26 (MVT). A single **Black-billed Cuckoo**, the only one reported, was listed at PH 6/15 (MVT).

White-eyed Vireos were found at four locations this summer (m.ob.); **Yellow-throated Vireos**, at five. Two **Warbling Vireos** were at PH 6/2 (MVT), and the KT BBS yielded 5 singing males 6/5 (MH, RH). The

Common Raven nest at CC fledged 2 young; all 4 ravens were present 6/9 (MVT) near the beach. Two **Purple Martins** appeared at CC 6/5 (MVT); no others were reported. A **Veery** was at CC 6/9 (MVT), and one visited KT's Riverfront Park 6/21 (TR); 4 were counted along the AT near KT 7/9 (MH, RH). One **Hermit Thrush** along the Roaring Run Trail 7/24 (MVT) was the only one reported.

Ovenbird tallies included 12 on the KT BBS 6/5 (MH, RH) and 6 at PH 6/15 (MVT). The only **Worm-eating Warbler** was noted along the AT north of Dam 8 on 6/21 (TR). The last 2 reported **Louisiana Waterthrushes** were along the Rock Furnace Trail 7/12 (KSJ). The only **Blue-winged Warbler** was found 6/29 (MVT) at CM. **Black-and-white Warblers** were listed 6/2 (MVT) at PH; 7/3, 12 (MVT) at CC; 7/9 (MH, RH) near KT; and 7/26 (MVT) at CM, and the KT BBS yielded 2 on 6/5 (MH, RH). A **Kentucky Warbler** on Creek Rd. 7/21 (MVT) comprised the entire report for this species. **Hooded Warblers** were widespread with the high count of 3 at CC 7/5 (SG). **Cerulean Warbler** reports include singles at CC 6/5, 7/12 (MVT) and on Creek Road 7/13 (MVT). **Northern Parula** sightings included one at CC 6/14 (MVT), one the same day at Creek Road (JB), and one at CM 6/5 and 6/17 (MVT). A **Magnolia Warbler** at CM 7/26 (MVT) was unusual. The **Yellow-throated Warbler** continued at CM 6/29 (MVT) and another was along Rock Furnace Trail 7/12 (KSJ). The only two reports of single **Black-throated Green Warblers** were both made 6/5, one on the KT BBS (MH, RH) and one at PH (MVT). A **Yellow-breasted Chat** at CC 7/12 (MVT) was the only one reported.

A lone **Savannah Sparrow** and 2 **Grasshopper Sparrows** were counted on the KT BBS 6/5 (MH, RH); 2 Grasshopper Sparrows were at Mahoning Dam 7/9 (MVT). Six **Bobolinks** were noted 6/5 (MH, RH) on the KT BBS. **Orchard Orioles** were listed only along the AT north of Dam 8 on 6/21 (TR) and at CC 6/27 (MVT).

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Beaver County

Locations: Raccoon Creek State Park (RCSP).

A **Trumpeter Swan** at a gravel pond near Big Beaver Wetlands 6/1 (MV) was *Beaver's* first since 2006 when 2 were in the same area for several weeks. Six **Hooded Mergansers** were at Independence Marsh 7/4 (MJ). Surprising was a **Common Loon** in full alternate plumage on the Beaver River at New Brighton 6/21 (MV). Southbound shorebirds at Little Blue Lake 7/25 (GM) included one **Semipalmated Plover**, 2 **Solitary Sandpipers**, and 2 *hendersoni* **Short-billed Dowitchers**. Two each of **Ring-billed Gull** and **Herring Gull** were at New Brighton 7/27 (MV). A **Barred Owl** was at RCSP 6/26 (RN). **Common Nighthawk** was heard pre-dawn at Beaver 6/15 on the first stop of the *Beaver/Lawrence* BBS route (GM). Another was at Ambridge 6/27 (MV). **Purple Martins** persist in the area of Hereford Manor; 2 were seen there 6/7 (MV). **Black-throated Green Warbler** summered at RCSP again this year and was heard as late as 7/25 (GM); the species surely breeds in the park but has still not been directly confirmed. A **Savannah Sparrow** was spotted near Little Blue Lake 7/25 (GM). **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** frequented a yard in Economy (KD).

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Bedford County

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Berks County

Locations: Blue Marsh Lake (BML), French Creek State Park (FCSP), Kernsville Dam, Hamburg (KD), Lake Ontelaunee (LO), State Game Lands (SGL).

Single **Snow Geese**, almost certainly wounded birds incapable of long migration, were seen at KD 6/5 (KG), BML 6/8 (JS) and LO all period (RK,

MSP). Only 5 or 6 **Mute Swans** were seen at LO this summer after the culling operation carried out there this spring. In 2013, up to 19 Mute Swans were seen at LO during this period (RK). A pair of Mute Swans with one cygnet was at Glen Morgan L. 6/7 (JT). Two juvenile **Hooded Mergansers** seen in the Tulpehocken Cr. below BML 7/10-11 (JS) confirmed another breeding location for this recent and uncommon breeder. A female **Common Merganser** with a brood of well-grown young in the Maiden Creek below LO 7/20 (DB, BS) provided the long-awaited first breeding confirmation for this species in the LO area. At KD, where breeding has previously been confirmed, a pair of these ducks was seen until 6/8 and 2 females were seen 7/1 (KG).

Ruffed Grouse was reported only from the Kittatinny Ridge at the northern edge of *Berks* (KG). **Wild Turkey** hens and poults were widely seen. A **Northern Bobwhite** heard near Morgantown 6/3 (HH) and a **Chukar** seen near Hamburg 7/16 (KG) were released or escaped birds. The last 2 migrating **Common Loons** of spring were at LO 6/1 (RR, MSP). The only reported **Pied-billed Grebe** was at LO 7/3 (RK). Nonbreeding **Double-crested Cormorants** summering at LO numbered only about 3 this year (RK), and 3 were at Glen Morgan L. 6/7 (JT). An **American Bittern** was seen at BML 7/31 (JS) and a **Least Bittern** was seen at BML 7/30 (JS). Both of these herons are rare in *Berks* in any season. **Great Egrets** were widely seen, especially in Jul, when the seasonal high count of 5 was made at ponds along Virginville Rd. 7/19 (BH, SK). A severe local hailstorm that partly or wholly defoliated trees, totaled cars, and damaged buildings 5/22 may have affected nesting of **Black-crowned Night-Herons** in Wyomissing Hills. On a visit to the heronry at Berks Technical Institute 6/11 (RK), the formerly dense eastern white pines used for nesting were drastically thinned by hail and winter storms. The 6 birds that flushed from the pines included no juveniles. No active or even intact nests were found, but one eggshell found under one tree indicated that at least one chick had previously hatched. It is unknown if any pairs nested in adjacent residential neighborhoods. However, a few juveniles that may have fledged locally were seen at BML and LO from Jun through Aug. High counts of juveniles were of 4 at LO 8/2 (RK), 7 at BML 8/3 (JS) and 9 at BML 8/21 (JS).

A few non-breeding **Ospreys** were reported from rivers and lakes in Jun and Jul as usual. Of the 5 **Bald Eagle** nests known to be active, three fledged 2 young each and the other two fledged young, but no count was available (*vide* JM). A **Cooper's Hawk** pair fledged 2 young from a nest in a row of conifers between houses in a rural residential part of Bern Twp. (JS). The fledglings sometimes lounged on backyard bird feeders and splashed in a ground level birdbath as squirrels and feeder birds ate seeds and suet around them, having learned that the young hawks posed no threat. Local **Blue Jays** quickly and expertly learned to imitate the food begging calls of the hawks (JS). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was seen at BML 6/7, 6/17, and 6/25 (JS), the second summer in which one was found there during the breeding season. Thanks largely to a study of breeding **Broad-winged Hawks** initiated last year at HMS (LG), more is being learned about the breeding cycle of this raptor in Pennsylvania. Of 4 *Berks* nests monitored during this study in 2014, one nest fledged 3 young and the others fledged 2 each (LG). In addition to those reports, two pairs were confirmed nesting in FCSP, one of which fledged 2 young and the other at least one (RK). Broad-winged Hawks were heard giving food begging calls at Baldy Hill in District Twp. in Jul (CE), where these birds are heard every year. An adult Broad-winged Hawk and an apparently dependent fledgling were seen in Pike Twp. 8/24 (RK). Reading's **Peregrine Falcon** pair fledged 3 healthy young after they were successfully treated for trichomoniasis as nestlings (AM). Another pair that nested in an abandoned quarry hatched 2 chicks, but these disappeared as nestlings, the third year in a row with this result, thought to have been caused by Great Horned Owl predation (AM).

Four **Black-bellied Plovers**, first seen 5/30, lingered at a rain pool near Topton until 6/3 (KGru, AU, PJW). Two **Semipalmated Plovers** associated with their big relatives 6/1-3 (RR, MSI, PJW). An **American Avocet** was briefly seen at the beach at BML 7/14 (PM, JS). The last **Greater Yellowlegs** on spring migration was seen near Fleetwood 6/12 (RF). Single **Lesser Yellowlegs** presumably on the return trip from points north were at BML 7/20 and 7/31 (JS). Also at BML were one **Solitary Sandpiper** 7/20 and 3 on 7/23 (JS). Two **Semipalmated Sandpipers** heading north were at the Topton rain pool 6/3 (KL, PJW), and one at BML 7/20 and 5 there 7/23 (JS) were migrating south. One to 4 **Least Sandpipers** were part of the northbound flock at the Topton rain pool 6/1-3 (MSI, AU, PJW). A **Laughing Gull**, an unpredictable visitor, was at BML 7/13 (PM, JS). Summering **Ring-billed Gulls** numbered 12 at BML 7/13 (PM, JS). The only reported tern was a **Common Tern** at BML 6/30 (JS).

Three **Black-billed Cuckoos** were heard at SGL 106 on 6/8 (MS), one was at SGL 110 on 7/10 (KG) and one at BML 7/31 (JS). **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were widespread. Eight **Barn Owl** nests in *Berks* produced 30 nestlings this year (DM of PGC). Two **Great Horned Owl** nests at Oley and Yellow House fledged 2 young each (PJW). An **Eastern Whip-poor-will**

heard in FCSP 6/17 (CH) was the first reported south of the Kittatinny Ridge during the breeding season in many years. Three Eastern Whip-poor-wills were heard on the Kittatinny at SGL 110, Northkill Gap 7/12 and 7/18 (KG, MW), one of which sang its name 97 times without pause. **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were reported at five locations and breeding was confirmed at two of those, including an adult with 2 fledglings at the Dreibelbis farm near Virginville 7/17 (RF) and 2 adults feeding young in the nest at the Adam farm near Windsor Castle 7/20 (RK).

Three pairs of **Eurasian Collared-Doves** were found to be in residence in Shartlesville 7/20 (MW), but no nest has been found. A family of 6 **Common Ravens** (2 adults and 4 fledglings) was seen at KD 6/5 (KG). A flock of 5 ravens near Bechtelsville in southeastern Berks 6/2 (JK) may also have been a family, as there are quarries that might support nesting nearby. Three ravens were soaring together at French Creek State Park 7/17 (RK).

Purple Martin colonies around Topton, in Centreport, Mohrsville and Marion Twp. were busily active, but productivity was not assessed. Berks' only known **Bank Swallow** colony at the Haines and Kibblehouse quarry at Hay Creek, Birdsboro was active, with 8 birds visiting nest holes 6/14 (RH). There were scattered reports of Bank Swallows elsewhere in Jul as birds dispersed after nesting. The large **Cliff Swallow** colonies at LO, BML and Hamburg appeared to flourish. A **Winter Wren**, an intermittent breeder on the Kittatinny Ridge, was on territory at Northkill Gap 4/28 until at least 6/11 (KG). A **Hermit Thrush** singing near the Port Clinton fire tower on top of the Kittatinny 6/23 (KG) was the only one reported. Its breeding habitat on the ridgetop has been reduced by logging in recent years.

Warbler reports were a bit sparse, but mostly showed expected species at their customary breeding locations. A **Magnolia Warbler** at SGL 110 on 6/2 (DW) and a **Blackpoll Warbler** at Hamburg Reservoir 6/2 (KG) were late migrants. A few **Black-throated Blue Warblers** and **Black-throated Green Warblers** held territories only on the Kittatinny Ridge as usual (KG). There were only 2 single sighting reports of **Cerulean Warbler**, one at KD 6/16 (KG) and one at SGL 52 in southern Berks 7/8 (JC). For the third year in a row, no Cerulean Warblers were reported at Hay Creek, a breeding location known since 1949, when Earl Poole first confirmed nesting there. **Kentucky Warbler** was found in Jun at its 3 regular locations of recent years, SGL 106 (HM), FCSP and District Twp. (RK).

The grassland trio of **Vesper Sparrow**, **Savannah Sparrow** and **Grasshopper Sparrow** was well reported and confirmed nesting in northern Berks farmland, mostly by Dickcissel seekers. **Blue Grosbeaks** returned to two locations at which they were found last summer near Hamburg and at Virginville Rd. near Windsor Castle. Though many experienced birders visited the Virginville Rd. site seeking Dickcissels starting in late May, no Blue Grosbeak was detected there until 6/29 (RK), illustrating how late this species can return to breeding areas. An adult male, an adult female and sometimes a first summer male were seen and heard there until at least 8/3, when the adult male was actively courting the adult female (RK). Other Blue Grosbeaks were seen near Hamburg 7/5-19 (KG, BH, SK) and at BML 7/20 (TS).

For the third consecutive summer, **Dickcissels** returned to large fields of cool season grasses and forbs on two farms near Windsor Castle. Dickcissels were first reported 5/30 (PJW), and counts varied through the season as birds moved between the two farms in response to hay cutting. The number of birds reported was unprecedented, with the seasonal high count of 7 singing males (total for both farms) made 6/21 (RK). Females were far more elusive, but one or 2 were seen at each farm on various dates (m.ob.). Courtship was most evident early in the season, with males making display flights over perched females and males pursuing females into the grass (RK). Much of the hay at the Haas/Leiby Rds. farm was not cut until well into Jul, allowing time for some of the birds to fledge young, but, as in the last two years, no breeding confirmation was made. Haying intervals at the Virginville Rd. farm may have been too short to allow the birds to fledge young. However, breeding by all three expected grassland sparrow species was confirmed at this site (RK), though these birds may have initiated nesting earlier than did the Dickcissels. The last reported Dickcissels were 2 singing males at Virginville Rd. 7/20 (RK). After that, all hayfields were cut and no Dickcissels were detected 7/25 or 8/3 (RK). **Bobolinks** again fledged young in a large fallow field in Douglass Twp., where 12 adults and fledglings were seen 7/6 (RK). Four **Eastern Meadowlarks** were also seen there 7/6 (RK), and up to 4 were regularly seen at Virginville Rd. in Jun and Jul (m.ob.). An active **Orchard Oriole** nest was found at Peters Creek near LO 6/15 (MK), and a female accompanied by a begging fledgling was at the Douglass Twp. site 7/6 (RK).

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Blair County

Locations: Canoe Creek State Park (CCSP), Lower Trail (LOWR), Monastery Rd. impoundment (MRI), Plummer's Hollow (PLUM), State Game Land (SGL).

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*). The following uncommon breeding species were reported in 5 or more locations and will not be discussed further in this report: **Acadian Flycatcher**, **Willow Flycatcher**, **Common Raven**, **Horned Lark**, **Savannah Sparrow**, and **Eastern Meadowlark**.

A rare summer juvenile **Double-crested Cormorant** was spotted 6/12 at Reservoir Park in Tyrone (DS). Another rare summer bird, **Great Egret** was found 7/20 at MRI (MD, ph.). Up to 4 **Green Herons** were observed 6/4-7/22 at MRI, and single birds were present 6/10 at SGL 166 and 6/13 at CCSP. Immature **Sharp-shinned Hawks** and **Cooper's Hawks** were observed on the mountain above PLUM (MB). A **Bald Eagle** was also spotted at MRI 6/4 (MD). An exciting development was the discovery and monitoring of a breeding pair of Bald Eagles in SGL 166. According to the person who observed them during the summer, 2 eaglets successfully fledged (*vide* MB). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was located 6/1 outside Geesytown on Rte. 22 (RL).

One or 2 **Spotted Sandpipers** were observed 6/4-7/22 at MRI, where up to 4 **Solitary Sandpipers** were seen 7/4-22. Two **Greater Yellowlegs** were also present there 6/5 (all MD). Up to 5 **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were heard 6/10-28 at SGL 166 (MD). A **Belted Kingfisher** was at CCSP 6/8 (ph. LP), and another was spotted there 7/8 (MD). Single birds were also noted 6/22 on Wertz Rd., 7/1 on LOWR, and 7/20 at MRI (all MD).

Only one **Alder Flycatcher** was reported; it was spotted 6/10 in SGL 166. A **Great Crested Flycatcher** was also reported in the same location 6/28 (all MD), and one was noted 6/28-7/1 on LOWR (JD, MD). An **Eastern Kingbird** was ph. 6/4 at CCSP (LP), and another was spotted there 7/8. They were also observed in Sinking Valley 6/23 (MB). The Martinsburg Wetland Survey 6/30 also produced one. The last report of this species was 7/8 at MRI (all MD). A **Yellow-throated Vireo** was reported 6/28 on LOWR (DG). **Warbling Vireos** were found a little more frequently. One was spotted 6/7 during a bird survey on Clover Cr. Rd. south of Williamsburg (DG), and 2 were observed 6/28 at CCSP (JD). The hike along LOWR 6/28-7/1 produced 3 (JD, MD).

One **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** was noted 6/2 at the Blair Co. Convention Center (HW), and up to 30 were present 6/11-7/20 at MRI (MD). As many as 8 **Purple Martins** were spotted 6/7 on T676 southeast of Stonerook Cemetery (DG) and up to 6 were seen near that cemetery 6/20 (MD). Another bird was observed 6/16 southwest of Martinsburg on a bird survey route (MH, RH). A single **Bank Swallow** was observed 7/20 at MRI (MD). **Cliff Swallows** were reported at three locations. Four were seen 6/2 at the Blair Co. Convention Center (HW), and up to 20 were present 6/4 and 7/20 at MRI (MD). One was spotted 6/16 on Quarry Rd. (MH, RH). Rare summer **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were present in a grove of spruce trees in PLUM (MB). Two **Winter Wrens** were present 6/28 on LOWR (JD).

Sixteen warbler species were reported in this breeding season. Of these five are common to abundant. One uncommon species, **Black-and-white Warbler**, was reported in five or more locations. Of the remaining ten species, a single **Worm-eating Warbler** was located 6/22 in SGL 147-north section (MD). This species was also present in PLUM (MB). Two **Louisiana Waterthrush** were identified, one 6/13 at CCSP (MD), and the other 6/28 on LOWR (JD). A rare summer **Kentucky Warbler** was spotted 6/22-28 in the north section of SGL 147 (MD, JD). A bird survey along Clover Cr. Rd. produced one **Hooded Warbler** 6/7 (DG), and both SGL 166 on 6/10 and SGL 147 North section on 6/22 each yielded a single bird (both MD). A few **Cerulean Warblers** included 2 noted 6/28-7/1 on LOWR (JD, MD). One was found 6/22 on Wertz Rd. and 2 were identified the same day in the north section of SGL 147 (both MD). They were also present in some black walnut trees in PLUM (MB). SGL-north section and LOWR also had **Northern Parula** present. One was spotted 6/28 at the former location (JD); the species was reported 7/1 at the latter (MD). Three **Blackburnian Warblers** were present 6/28 on LOWR (JD), and a single **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was reported 6/10 off Rte. 36 west of Altoona (MD). Two **Black-**

throated Blue Warblers were found 6/28 on LOWR (JD), and one **Yellow-breasted Chat** was identified 6/13 at CCSP (MD).

Vesper Sparrows were identified at two locations on Clover Cr. Rd. south of Williamsburg 6/7 (DG), and 4 **Grasshopper Sparrows** were present 6/10 off Rte. 36 west of Altoona (MD). A few **Swamp Sparrows** were also noted, with up to 2 being found 6/10-28 in SGL 166; 2 were identified 6/30 during the Claysburg Wetland Survey (both MD). Up to 6 **Bobolinks** were seen 6/4-7/20 at MRI, and 3 more were observed 6/10 off Rte. 36 west of Altoona (both MD). Area birders found **Orchard Orioles** at three sites. Bird surveys produced one bird on Millerstown Rd. 6/7 (DG) and another on Cross Cove Rd. 6/16 (MH, RH). A third was spotted 6/22 on Airport Rd. (MD).

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Bradford County

Locations: Browning Family Farm, Spring Hill (BFF), Edwards Rd., Stevensville (ERS), Peck Hill (PEH), Susquehanna River (SUR), Trudy Gerlach farm near New Era (TNE), Wyalusing Breeding Bird Survey, loop route roughly circling Wyalusing, radius approximately 4-5 miles (WBBS).

An immature **Hooded Merganser** was on a beaver pond at TNE 7/3 (TG). A **Ring-necked Pheasant** was observed 6/1 at Gillett (LS), and one was found on the WBBS 6/8 (BF, RM). A new **Great Blue Heron** colony appeared in early May in the New Era vicinity, with young present Jun and Jul (TG). Infrequently seen, 2 **Black Vultures** were at ERS 6/8 (KR). There were a number of **Bald Eagle** sightings: one 6/19 at ERS (KR); 4 on 6/29 between Wysox and Sayre from a boat in the SUR (AD, TD); 4 seen 7/22 from a kayak in the SUR from Wysox to French Asylum (DB); and one 7/26 at BFF (BG). A **Northern Harrier** was at PEH 7/26 (AV, GV). At TNE **Red-shouldered Hawks** were calling 6/5 and 7/31. On 7/17 a juvenile flew up from beaver pond and landed in the trees beside the pond. Red-shouldered Hawks were heard calling frequently, including courtship calls, in the same location earlier in the season, so they were assumed to be nesting in the area (TG). Two 2 **Red-shouldered Hawks** were at BFF 7/26 (BG). A **Broad-winged Hawk** was observed 7/1 and 7/17 at ERS (KR).

On 7/5 two **Sandhill Cranes** were at Wilmot Rd. near Messersmith Rd., and 3 (2 adults and an immature) were in the Crane Swamp vicinity in late June and again 7/5 (RW). A **Spotted Sandpiper** was at BFF 7/26 (BG). A marvelous sighting was a **Red-headed Woodpecker** on both 7/25 and 8/15 at Lake Hill Rd., in the Canton vicinity (LF).

A **Willow Flycatcher** was seen on the WBBS 6/8 (BF, RM). A **Yellow-throated Vireo** was observed 6/8 on the WBBS (BF, RM) and one was calling at TNE 6/20 and 6/25 (TG). A **Blue-headed Vireo** was present at Wood Rd. 7/6 (DG). The only **Winter Wren** was found 7/11 in Orwell at the Home Textile Tool Museum (KS). A **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** was found 6/8 on the WBBS (BF, RM); on 6/27 and 6/30 there were 6 immatures on a power line being fed by one or 2 adults at TNE (TG). Three **Bank Swallows** were observed 6/8 on the WBBS (BF, RM). A **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was seen 7/30 at ERS (KR).

Blue-winged Warblers were observed 6/8 on the WBBS (BF, RM); and 7/26 at BFF (BG). On 6/25 multiple nests of **Northern Waterthrush** were reported at Taylor Rd. Marsh just south of Grover (LF). A delightful sighting, a **Golden-winged Warbler** was reported at PEH 6/11 (AV, GV). Two **Purple Finches** were observed on the WBBS (BF, RM), and a pair was at PEH 7/21 (AV, GV).

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Bucks County

Locations: Churchville Park (CVP), Nockamixon State Park (NSP), Peace Valley Park (PVP), Rohm and Hass, Bristol (RHB), State Game Lands #157 (SGL#157).

Temperatures were about average, with June 0.9°F above and July 0.7°F below normal. Rainfall amounts varied greatly from place to place as

always this time of year. The reference point at nearby Trenton, New Jersey measured 2.17 inches below normal for June, with 0.48 inch above for July. Except for some strong winds accompanying fronts with heavy rain showers, the weather was generally benign. Bird reports were light. The total count of species reported was 138. As usual, historical references are from *Birds of Bucks County* by Ken Kitson (1998) and subsequent updates recorded in this journal. Weather statistics are from NOAA at Trenton. The stated normal reference period used on the NOAA web-site is based on the recent three decades 1981-2010.

A **Blue-winged Teal** at PVP 7/31 (AM, ph.) was our first known Jul report, with our previous fall early date being a more expected 8/8. An unusual but not unprecedented Jul **Ruddy Duck** was at Tullytown 7/19 (MG). An alternate plumaged **Common Loon** was at Upper Black Eddy 6/9 (CR, AM) for the only report. **Double-crested Cormorant** again had the highest counts at PVP, with numbers in the mid-twenties through the period (AM). No nesting attempts were noticed this year. An **American Bittern** at Core Creek Park 7/31 was unexpected and very early if a migrant (HD). The QTS **Great Blue Heron** colony was at a low point with only 11 nests (DA, m.ob.). Five of the nine known active colonies were surveyed this year, with a total of 127 nests (DA, JMo, BK). If the other four colonies were stable compared to last year, the total nest count would be 176, a 15% increase over recent years. Our 2 largest colonies have 42 and 43 nests (JMo). **Great Egret** was reported more frequently compared to last year. Reports came from 14 sites (m.ob.), with the first report 2 at Pine Run Dam 6/7 (KP, ph.). The highest site counts were 7 at RHB 7/19 (DF), 4 at Washington Crossing Park 7/27 (JMI), 5 at Upper Makefield Firehouse 7/31 (MG), and 9 at Core Creek Park 7/31 (HD). An imm. **Little Blue Heron** was at Mud Island 7/27 (DF), and 2 were at Core Creek Park 7/31 (HD). **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was reported from just two sites. Our most dependable site at Silver Lake Park had one 6/7 (MG) and 3 on 7/19 (DF). One juv. was at PVP starting 7/29 (BW, ph.), with an adult also there 7/31 (m.ob., ph.).

Our **Osprey** nest count doubled this year to six. In addition to the Marshall Island nest found in May (DA), new nests were found near RHB 6/11 (TJ, CR) and near the Delaware River Access, Bensalem Twp. in Jun (DF). One other previously existing nest about 0.3 miles away from the latter site was active this year as well. The RHB nest may have replaced a previously unreported nest near Bristol Marsh that was not active this year (MG). These add to the long established nest in Riegelsville (EB) and another of a few years near Mud Island (DF). The Marshall Island nest was unique as the only known nest in a tree instead of man-made structures. However, the whole nest vanished by mid-July (DA). Although the New Jersey side of the Delaware River has had nesting increases in recent years, we may finally be seeing the beginning of a rapid expansion on our side as well. A **Cooper's Hawk** nest in a residential neighborhood of Doylestown Twp. fledged young in late Jun (RHe). The male adult had a leg band. **Bald Eagle** had six known active nest sites this year, but the Prahls Island nest apparently failed to fledge young (JMo). Three nests produced 5 young and results at two others were unknown (JMo). **Red-shouldered Hawk** was reported at known likely breeding sites at Lake Towhee Park (PT), Quakertown Swamp (PT), SGL#157 (DF), NSP (EB, JK), and Camp Ockanickon (DA). **Broad-winged Hawk** was reported at SGL#157 (DF) for the only report.

Only very low single digit counts of 8 shorebird species were reported. Two northward bound **Semipalmated Plovers** were at BRD 6/1 (AM) and 2 southbound birds stopped there 7/25 (AM). A **Solitary Sandpiper** at BRD 7/17, a **Greater Yellowlegs** at PVP 7/16, a **Lesser Yellowlegs** 7/31 at PVP, and 2 **Least Sandpipers** 7/7 at BRD (all AM) were the first reported fall arrivals. Three **Semipalmated Sandpipers** at Mud Island 7/27 (DF) were also the first for fall. **Laughing Gull** was in the Tullytown/Bristol area as usual during the period (MG, TJ, CR). The first probable southbound adult **Ring-billed Gull** was noted 7/3 at NSP (PT). The first juv. was at PVP 7/29-31 (AM).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo was in good supply, with reports from 14 sites on 31 dates (m.ob.). Most reports were of one or 2 birds; high counts were 4 at PVP 7/2 (MR) and 3 at Maple Knoll Farms 7/11 (RS). As usual **Black-billed Cuckoo** was much less obvious, with only five sites reporting one individual on 12 dates (m.ob.). **Barn Owl** nested for the third year in a row but at a different site from last year (DF). A **Common Nighthawk** provided a rare mid-Jun report at Langhorne 6/13-14 (CM, DP). An adult **Red-headed Woodpecker** was near Pennel 6/6 (RHn), and 2 were heard 7/1 at Buckingham Twp. where one had been seen since late Apr (DS). Both sites have had them in recent years. Two were still at SGL#157 on 7/6 (DF) at a site where breeding occurred last year. **American Kestrel** nest box efforts showed an increase in production compared to last year's numbers shown in parenthesis. From 70 (74) boxes, 45 (34) pairs laid eggs. One pair that was the earliest to lay eggs was believed to have nested twice. Eight (7) nests failed but 37 (27) fledged young. A total of 208 (135) eggs were laid

resulting in 169 (94) young believed to have fledged. Almost all were banded including taking feather samples for analysis. One juv. had a defective leg that was straightened by the Red Creek Wildlife Center in Schuylkill Haven and replaced in the original nest in about a week after being taken out. It was believed to have fledged successfully (all DF). The resident pair of **Peregrine Falcons** at Bristol fledged 5 juvs. (HE). For the second year out of three, one was found trapped 6/10 in barbed wire fencing near the nest site (MJ). It was rescued (MJ) and taken to Red Creek Wildlife Center (HE) where it remains. One first-summer bird continued from spring at Bridgeton Twp. through the period (EB, MG, AM, CR).

White-eyed Vireo was reported from only 4 sites (m.ob.). **Yellow-throated Vireo** was reported from only 7 sites (m.ob.). Hopefully both are more common than reports indicate. **Common Raven** possible family groups of 6 at Warrington Twp. near Chalfont 6/18 (RF), 7 at New Hope 7/10 (BH), 4 at Solebury Twp. 7/26 (DF), and 4 at East Rockhill Twp. in early Jun (DA) were all near presumed quarry nesting sites. One near Rushland 7/17 (GJ, BK) was near a quarry previously believed to have nesting birds a few years ago. Two at SGL#56 Lake Warren 6/28 (GJ) were probably from the family near Kintnersville that actually nested on the New Jersey side of the Delaware River this year on a building (AM, JMi, m.ob.). The continuing increase of the species will be interesting to track in coming years. The **Purple Martin** colony at Upper Makefield Twp. has existed for 23 years (JMa). The East Rockhill Twp. colony had another good year thanks to the efforts of the property owners (HR, JR). For comparison, the 2013 numbers are shown in parenthesis. The colony had 124 (91) gourds, with nesting activity in 119 (90). Nests with eggs totaled 74 (77), with 251 (279) eggs resulting in 165 (225) fledged young. A subset of failed nests totaled 18 (0), with 42 (0) eggs or young. The observers said, "We believe the very cold and wet May and early June delayed the birds nesting and probably contributed to the poor production this year, as compared to last year. We also have a Cooper's Hawk that hung around the gourd racks a great deal this year and we suspect that may account for some of the failed nests, as incubating birds may not have survived to hatch or feed young." As of 8/17, 10 birds were still at the colony, with the last one staying to 8/19. The last of the large **Barn Swallow** colony at the same site were last seen 8/17 (HR). The **Purple Martin** roost at PVP peaked at 45 on 7/29-31 (HD, AM), far less than the previous peak of 96 on 7/23/2012. The **Cliff Swallow** colony at PVP that collapsed in the past few years saw a slight improvement this year. The high count reported was 8 in both Jun and Jul (BK, AM), but hopefully more were in the nests.

Red-breasted Nuthatch was not reported again this year at CVP where nesting has occurred in the past. No others were reported. A **Brown Creeper** is rarely found in summer, so one at CVP 6/7 (CS) is noteworthy. If a migrant, it was late. Two **Golden-crowned Kinglets** first noted in late May at NSP were still present 7/6 and presumed to be breeding (DF). This is the second known breeding there for this species but at a different site. Alien invasive water caltrop aka water chestnut (*Trapa natans*) has covered the lake at Bradford Dam for many years. Mechanical removal was attempted a few years ago but apparently no follow up was done. Since seeds last for up to 12 years (see <<http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/pubs/midatlantic/trna.htm>>), it was a wasted effort. The insects and other critters that inhabit the thick mat of vegetation must provide an attractive food source. Numbers of passerines, shorebirds, and herons have been seen feeding on the mat over the years. **Cedar Waxwing** is regular there each year providing the single site high count of 31 on 7/29 (AM).

Seventeen warbler species were reported during the period. The 3 juv. **Prothonotary Warblers** at PVP left the nest 6/14 (KA) and were seen by many over the next few weeks until 7/6 (HD, JH). After that only one bird at a time was reported irregularly through the end of Jul (HD, KS, AM). An agitated **Kentucky Warbler** continued from spring at SGL#157 to 7/12 (SG) for the only report. A **Hooded Warbler** was at their most reliable breeding site at SGL#157 on 6/7 (PT) and 7/6 (DF). One was at Durham Twp. 6/1 in suitable breeding habitat (DF) for the only other report. As in recent years, **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was reported only in the far northern end of the county as a breeder. A Springtown Twp. site had one in Jun and Jul (VD). **Pine Warbler** was not reported at NSP where large areas of pines that provided breeding sites were demolished by Hurricane Sandy. One site in Tinicum Twp. with minimal damage had one 6/9 (CR, AM), and the regular site at CVP had a high count of 2 on 6/14 (HD). Two **Yellow-throated Warblers** were at Tyler State Park 7/23 (AMn) for the only report. Totally unexpected and unprecedented for Jul, a singing male **Wilson's Warbler** was reported in the observer's Warwick Twp. yard 7/8 (JT, no doc.). **Yellow-breasted Chat** was at Tinicum Twp. 6/16 (SS) and Bedminster Twp. 6/18 (RN).

A **White-throated Sparrow** at PVP 6/21 (ph., PS, BS) was unexpected. Still considered accidental here, a **Summer Tanager** was at CVP 6/7 (BL *vide* CS). **Blue Grosbeak** was under-reported with 2 at RHB

6/11 (TJ, CR) and 2 at Maple Knoll Farms 6/11-29 (RS, JH). **Common Grackle** was seen taking food in and fecal sacs out of a box at PVP through at least 6/7 (SL, FR, m.ob.). This species is known to have a diverse nesting strategy including using cavities.

CORRIGENDUM: Volume 28, No. 1 Winter Season 2013-2014: The credit for a Baltimore Oriole in New Hope in the summary and Birds of Note should have been Dee Dee Bowman.

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Cambria County

Locations: Loretto (LO), Patton (PA), Prince Gallitzin St. Park (PG).

Two breeding birds were newly recorded at PG. The first was a female **Hooded Merganser** with 3 young 6/19 (DG). This may have represented the county's first breeding record as well, as both atlases show no records. **Bald Eagles** continue to nest at PG. Eleven **American Avocets** were at PG 7/14 (RR, KH). **Broad-winged Hawks** were seen in more areas this year than in past. Four **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were heard and one was seen 6/18 at St. Lawrence (DG). **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was heard at PA (DG). **Willow Flycatchers** and **Eastern Kingbirds** were common breeders at PG. **Great Crested Flycatchers** were seen at LO and PA (DG, JS). Another first for PG was the sighting of **Warbling Vireos** feeding young 7/20 (DG, BG). These birds had been present since May and again may be a first county record for *Cambria*. **Pine Warblers** were heard and seen at PG (DG, JS). **Vesper Sparrows** were seen at LO 7/11 (DG, JS). A late cutting of hay due to wet conditions in June led above average numbers of successful **Eastern Meadowlarks** and **Bobolinks**.

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Cameron County

No compiler.

Carbon County

No compiler.

Centre County

Locations: Bald Eagle State Park (BESP), Black Moshannon State Park (BMSP), Colyer Lake (COL), Scotia Barrens and Pond (SCO), State College (SC), State Game Land 100 – German Settlement Grasslands (GSG).

The following uncommon species were reported in five or more locations and will not be discussed further in this report: **Green Heron, Cooper's Hawk, Bald Eagle, Black-billed Cuckoo, Eastern Whip-poor-will, Belted Kingfisher, Alder Flycatcher, Willow Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Fish Crow, Common Raven, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Veery, Savannah Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, and Eastern Meadowlark**. Information for this report was obtained primarily from the SC 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*).

Three **Hooded Mergansers** were spotted 6/3 at BMSP (MR). These are rare during breeding season and may have been late migrants. **Northern Bobwhites** have been extirpated in this region, and although there are occasional reports of them, none of these have been proven to be

wild birds. There were two reports of this species in the Fox Hill Gardens area 6/1-6 (CE, JV), and the observers suspect these were either panned birds or escapees. At least one additional bird was reported from the Waddle area 7/27-7/31 (JeK). **Double-crested Cormorants** are rare during the breeding season; however, 3 were spotted 6/9 and a single bird was reported 7/19, all at BESP (CE). Three rare immature **Little Blue Herons** were observed at the Nittany Farms Pond 7/14 (MD).

Black Vultures continued in the area, with some expansion continuing onto the Allegheny Plateau, where one was spotted kettling with **Turkey Vultures** 6/28 on Tennessee Rd. (CE). A single was observed 7/29 at COL (MR), and another was spotted 7/29 at the PennDOT remediation ponds on Rte. 220 west of Julian (RD). The nesting attempt by **Osprey** at BESP apparently failed early in June (BZ *fide* BS), most likely because the tower they tried to nest on didn't have a platform. One or 2 Ospreys continued to be intermittently reported at BESP 6/7-7/16 (EG, m.ob.). A single bird was also spotted 7/30 at Fisherman's Paradise (BC). A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was observed 7/4 in Unionville (DO), and another was seen 7/17 in SC (EG). A few **Red-shouldered Hawks** were also present in *Centre*. Single birds were noted 6/6 at SCO (CB, m.ob.), 6/20 at BMSP (TM), 6/29 at the Mid-State Airport, and 7/29 at GSG (both BA).

An **American Avocet** in breeding plumage accidentally made its way to COL 7/29, where it was greatly admired (RD, m.ob., ph.). As many as 3 **Spotted Sandpipers** were reported at COL 6/4-7/30 (EG, m.ob.), and a pair were noted 6/26 at Axemann Rd. pond (CE). Single birds were located 7/22 in SC (DO) and 7/27 at BESP (CG). One or 2 **Solitary Sandpipers** were also noted at COL 7/24-29 (MD, m.ob.), and one was present 7/28 on Old Gagesburg Rd. (CE). Only one **Least Sandpiper** was identified 7/29 at COL (JV). Three **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were observed 6/6 on Tadpole Rd. (BB). This species was not seen again until late Jul, when 2 were spotted 7/24 at COL (RD) and one was identified 7/28 on Old Gagesburg Rd. (CE). The few gulls reported during the breeding season were all at BESP. Up to 4 **Ring-billed Gulls** were present 6/4-9 (MW, JD, CE), and 2 were spotted 7/19 (CE). One or 2 **Herring Gulls** made an appearance 7/25-27 (BC, CG).

The intermittent sightings of **Eurasian Collared-Doves** in the area between SC and Pine Grove Mills continued, with one bird 6/13 in Pine Grove Mills (ph. AC), and another 7/28 on Whitehall Rd. (ph. CE). A few **Barred Owls** were also present. One was noted 6/14 on Treaster Kettle Rd. (GG, DG). Single birds were also present 7/7 at BMSP (DP) and 7/24 at SCO (DE). Only one **Common Nighthawk** was spotted during the breeding season 6/20 in Philipsburg (TM). There were a few scattered reports of **Red-headed Woodpeckers**, including one 6/5 in Unionville (DO) and another 6/10 on Gregg Station Rd. (CE, KE). A third was noted 7/27 on Williams Rd. (MR).

One **Acadian Flycatcher** was spotted 6/2 in Unionville (DO), and another was present 6/6-7/24 in SCO (CB, m.ob.). Two were identified 6/22 on a *Centre* Breeding Bird Route near Pine Grove Mills (JD), and 2 were also noted 6/30-7/2 at Bear Meadows (JD, JP). Only one **White-eyed Vireo** was observed. It was spotted 7/24 at SCO (DE). A **Yellow-throated Vireo** was also noted at SCO 6/6 (BB, BaB). The species was also identified 6/29 at the Yeager Hollow Pond (JD). Four locations hosted single **Warbling Vireos**. One was present intermittently in Unionville 6/1-7/11 (DO), and another was spotted 6/7 on Kline Rd. (JG). Single birds were present 6/25 at Millbrook Marsh Nature Center and 6/29 at Curtin Wetland (both JD). A few **Horned Lark** lingered into Jun, with 4 observed 6/13 on Tusseyville/Williams Rd. (MR) and 6 on S. Nixon Rd. 6/20 (JK). Two were counted 6/22 on a *Centre* BBS route near Pine Grove Mills (JD).

A female **Purple Martin** was spotted 6/28 on Tennessee Rd. and 8 were counted 7/19 at BESP (CE). A single **Bank Swallow** was present 7/29-31 at COL (MR, RD). An unusual **House Wren** was heard singing "a hybrid song that mixes Carolina Wren riffs in with the House Wren song" 6/11 in SC. A recording was sent to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Experts there believe "it's a case of mimicry or a learned song" (NK). Area birders found three **Winter Wrens**, one on N. Meadows Rd. 6/13 (MR), another on Bear Meadows Rd. 7/2. The third was heard 7/5 at BMSP (DO, BA). A single rare summer **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was located 7/19 at SCO (MDA).

Hermit Thrush is an uncommon breeder through most of *Centre*, and that pattern held this year with most observations from the Allegheny Plateau. Sightings elsewhere included one 6/2 at BESP (MS), and another 7/24 on Little Sugar Valley Rd. (VG). A third bird was observed intermittently 6/10-7/17 at Bear Meadows (RF, JD, SB). **Northern Mockingbirds** are uncommon on the Allegheny Plateau, where three reports originated. Two were spotted 6/29 at the Mid-State Airport, and single birds were observed 7/6 at BMSP and 7/29 at GSG (all BA).

Twenty-six warbler species were reported during this season. Of these, five were common to abundant breeders, and nine were uncommon but reported in five or more locations in *Centre*. This latter group included: **Worm-eating Warbler**, **Black-and-white Warbler**, **Hooded Warbler**,

Blackburnian Warbler, **Chestnut-sided Warbler**, **Black-throated Blue Warbler**, **Pine Warbler**, **Prairie Warbler**, and **Canada Warbler**. These will not be discussed further.

Although considered to be an uncommon breeding species in this region, only 2 **Louisiana Waterthrushes** were observed. One was noted 6/1 in Spring Cr. Canyon (NiB), and the other was spotted 7/14-21 in Unionville (DO). **Northern Waterthrush** is rare during the breeding season; 2 were spotted 6/20 at BMSP (TM). Up to 3 **Blue-winged Warblers** were noted 6/1-8 at SCO (EG, m.ob.), and 3 were observed 6/2 at BESP (MS). One or 2 **Golden-winged Warblers** were spotted 6/2-7 at BESP (MS, m.ob.), and a single bird was observed 6/3 at BMSP (MR). Most observers spotted at least one, and sometimes 2, at SCO 6/6 (CB, m.ob.) and 7/2 (JP). Two male **Kentucky Warblers** were ph. 6/29-7/9 on Steele Hollow Rd. (BA, CE). They were singing, and one observer indicated 2 additional birds may also have been present. This is a rare species in *Centre* during the breeding season. A few **Cerulean Warblers** were also observed. One was spotted 6/8 on the Orviston-Kato Rd. (RW), while 3 were noted 6/10 at Bear Meadows (RF). Three were also heard singing on N. Meadows Rd. 6/13 (MR), and one was present 6/20-22 on Steele Hollow Rd. (TM, AC). A **Northern Parula** was regularly noted 6/1-7/28 in Unionville (DO), and one or 2 were heard singing 6/2-9 at BESP (MS, MR, CE). This warbler species was also noted at BMSP 6/6 (CB, CK, SS, JR) and one was spotted 6/8 on the Orviston-Kato Rd. (RW). Up to 3 **Magnolia Warblers** were observed 6/3-7/19 at BMSP (MR, m.ob.). Three were also present on N. Meadows Rd. 6/13 (MR). Two were noted 6/21 in the Black Moshannon IBA (JD), and one was identified 6/30 at Bear Meadows (JD). A late migrating **Blackpoll Warbler** was heard calling in SC 6/2 (JV). Some **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were also probably late migrants. Two were noted 6/6 at BMSP (CB, m.ob.), and one was spotted 6/21 on Rattlesnake Pike (TM). A rare **Yellow-throated Warbler** was observed 6/19-7/17 in Unionville (DO), while single **Yellow-breasted Chats** were spotted 6/5 in SGL 333 north of Spring Cr. (NiB), 6/6 at SCO (CB, m.ob.), and 6/7 at BESP (RW).

A few **Vesper Sparrows** included one heard 6/28 at GSG (CE), another 7/27 at BESP (CG), and one at COL 7/29 (JD). Three or 4 rare **Henslow's Sparrows** were noted 6/20 and 7/29-30 at GSG (RD, BA, CE). A few **Dark-eyed Juncos** were reported in the higher elevations. One was observed 6/13 on N. Bear Meadows Rd. (MR), and another was spotted 6/30-7/2 at Bear Meadows (JD, JP). The latter observer also noted one 7/2 on Bear Meadows Rd. On the other side of the county, up to 3 were present at BMSP 6/20-7/19 (TM, m.ob.).

A few **Bobolinks** were present during the breeding season. One was recorded 6/6 at BESP (Bald Eagle SP eTT Data), and a male was seen the same day between Rte. 322 and COL (BB). The Tusseyville-Williams Rd. area hosted 6 between 6/13-24 (MR, JD), and 3 juveniles were observed 7/29 at GSG (BA). On 6/2 and again 7/19 an **Orchard Oriole** was spotted at BESP (MS, CE). The 7/19 sighting was of a male carrying food and calling (CE). Two were seen 6/12 in Spring Cr. canyon (NiB), and one was noted 7/23 in the Yoder Preserve (JD). A few **Purple Finches** were observed 6/6-20 at BMSP (CB, m.ob.), and up to 7 were noted 6/21-28 at the Rusnak Hill reclaimed strip mine (MB, CE). The second observer noted that both sexes were present, and the males were doing display flights. A **Pine Siskin** was heard and recorded singing intermittently between 6/1-27 in SC (CE).

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Chester County

Locations: Bucktoe Creek Preserve (BCP), Crow's Nest Preserve (CNP), Exton Park (EP).

A season that seemed to mimic the weather of the Pacific Northwest, the summer of 2014 in southeastern Pennsylvania boasted mild temperatures, low humidity, cool evenings, and ample rainfall. As the climate was more comfortable than some summers in recent years, more birders seemed to head out into the field than typically do.

Ibises seem to be the standout species in *Chester* as of late. A good photo of what appeared to be a **White-faced Ibis** discovered in Doe Run was made in May. This season 2 juvenile **White Ibis** found in summer stole the show. Unlike some recent years, it was a good summer for finding both cuckoo species, which pleased area birders.

Waterfowl diversity is limited during the summer months in *Chester*, so an **American Black Duck** discovered at White Clay Creek Park 6/19 was an unexpected and nice find (WBH). **Wild Turkeys** are regular throughout the county, but low-density breeding birds, and typically found in the forested landscapes of the northern townships. A few family groups were noted this season, including a family of 8 in East Coventry Twp. 6/24 (RB), and a hen with 6 poults in Coventry Woods Park (PW). A lingering **Pied-billed Grebe** was seen regularly at Chambers Lake through 6/17 (RR). This species is not known to breed in *Chester*, but is sometimes found during the appropriate window, which always raises suspicion.

A very surprising find was an **American Bittern** at EP in late May, which continued through 6/26 (BQ, GT, m.ob.). Nesting has not been confirmed in *Chester*, and it was has been found only one other time in Jun in recent years. Though no conclusive evidence of breeding was detected, it was suspected when a bittern was seen snatching a small fish from the pond's edge and carrying it back into the reeds (MH, HM, AW). **Great Egrets** often make scattered appearances during Jun, and this year reports came in of a solo bird, mostly at BCP, Longwood Gardens, and EP (m.ob.). Successful nesting of **Green Herons** was confirmed in a yard around S. Coatesville when 4 fledglings were spotted in a birder's yard (JM). Post-breeding dispersal of **Little Blue Heron** brought a juv. to EP 7/29 (GT); a second was present at EP 7/30, and sightings of both continued through the period (CH, m.ob.).

White Ibis had not been documented in *Chester* since 1993, so when 2 juveniles were found feeding in a wetland pond behind a Walmart 7/27 it was an unexpected surprise (HM, m.ob.). The two stayed through 7/29 and were seen well by many.

Osprey has not been known to nest in *Chester* in recent years, but each summer tends to hold a few isolated reports of this raptor around the county (m.ob.). A report of 3 from Struble Lake was a good find 7/12 (SS, NF). **Northern Harriers** are rarely observed in the breeding period, so any summer report is notable. One report of a soaring harrier came from French Creek 7/21 (RK). **Sharp-shinned Hawks** are another raptor not known to nest in *Chester*, but two reports 6/1 and 7/25 in Unionville (KN), and 6/8 in Cochranville (MG) were of interest.

Secretive marsh birds such as **Virginia Rail** are likely go undetected in summer, but efforts were made to locate this species through a PGC Marsh Bird Survey. A survey 6/5 yielded 4 Virginia Rail in a wetlands at ChesLen Preserve (HM, JM). Another Virginia Rail was noted at EP 6/10 during the weekly bird walk (GT, m.ob.). An **American Coot** was spotted on the pond at EP through 6/4 (BQ), and another lingered up through at least 6/3 at Chambers Lake (RR).

A "spotty" nesting species in *Chester*, the **Spotted Sandpiper** requires a secured ground-nesting location near water. One Spotted Sandpiper was found repeatedly at EP along the pond's edge (m.ob.), and another 4 were reported from Okehocking Preserve 7/19 (CH, m.ob.). A kayak trip down the Schuylkill R. yielded the observation of a family group of 2 adults and 2 juv., and one foraging along the shoreline of the river at Towpath Park (NF, SS). The first southbound migrant **Solitary Sandpiper** was seen at EP 7/10 (GT, m.ob.). A report of a **Lesser Yellowlegs** along Wilson Rd. in Doe Run 7/19 marked the first record (KN, HG). Three **Least Sandpipers** were seen along Brandywine Dr. in the Northbrook area 7/18 (KN, HG), while numbers built to 18 at Shaw's Bridge Park by 7/24 (JM). A lone **Ring-billed Gull** was reported from EP 7/10. This is early for this species, which is not typically found in *Chester* during summer (GT, m.ob.). A **Caspian Tern** was seen flying over the lake at Struble Lake 7/31 (AF).

This season was a good one for finding both cuckoo species in the region. Some years can lack observations of **Black-billed Cuckoos** in summer months, but this year, there were several reported: Laurels Preserve 6/2 (KF), Wilson Rd. 6/2 (NP), Goat Hill Preserve 6/22 (MD, BR, CH), CNP 6/30 (NP), and BCP 7/29 (MG, PF). Numerous reports of **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** continued through the reporting season (m.ob.). The county stronghold for **Eastern Whip-poor-will** is the Serpentine Barrens, especially Goat Hill Preserve. Multiple reports came from this preserve into Jul (m.ob.). **American Kestrels** are known to be declining regionally, so nesting of this species is always positive news. A pair at BCP successfully fledged young from a nest box again this year (HD, m.ob.). Another pair took up residence in a box installed by the Brandywine Conservancy in the Doe Run area (KF).

Common Raven was not reported historically in the county until 2011, and nesting was first confirmed in a Downingtown quarry in 2014. Two observations reported this summer: a flyover in Unionville 7/29 (KN), and another in the Great Valley region 7/22 (AS).

Often difficult to find, **Worm-eating Warblers** are known to nest at

Harmony Hill Nature Area; a singing bird was found there 6/23 (HM). Even scarcer throughout *Chester* in recent years are **Kentucky Warblers**. One found at Peacedale Preserve 6/17 marked the only report for spring or summer in the county (WBH). A lone report of a **Cerulean Warbler** came from the Pickering Trail, 7/6 (LT, MH). This species has also gotten increasingly difficult to locate in the county, and there are no known strongholds for breeding known as of the last year. **Yellow-throated Warblers** are presumed to have bred at Kerr Park in Downingtown again this year, as the birds continued territorial behavior into the breeding window. One was seen there 6/23 (BQ).

Savannah Sparrows are irregular breeding sparrows in *Chester* but, when found, are typically located in areas of vast farmlands or horse farms. One was present again this year along Given Rd. in the Honey Brook area 7/20 (LW). **Swamp Sparrows** are not prolific breeders here, but were found on territory and with fledged young at ChesLen Preserve 6/5 (HM, JM), and CNP 7/25 (NF, SS).

Colorful **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** are only found breeding in isolated areas of *Chester*, particularly the northern portion. A good find was one at CNP 6/30 (NP). Again this year, an adult male was observed feeding fledglings in a yard in East Pikeland, 7/6 (VS).

Observers: **Holly Merker, 520 Baintree Run, Downingtown, PA 19335, 610-733-4392, Hcybelle@aol.com**, Erik Barber, Rob Blye, Kelly Colgan-Azar, Mike Coulter, Alan Crawford, Hank Davis, Mike Defina, Tyler DiAndrea, Barb Elliot, Pamela Fisher, Nikki Flood, Amber Foote, Kevin Fryberger, Michael Gardner, Hannah Greenberg, Al Guarente, Denise Hartmann, Mike Harvell, Mary Ellen Heisey, W. Brian Henderson, Mike Hudson, Chad Hutchinson, Bill Keim, Rick Keyser, Carol Kuniholm, Andrew Leidig, Larry Lewis, Carol Majors, Ron Majors, Doris McGovern, John McNamara, Patrick Millar, Kelley Nunn, Nick Pulcinella, Leslie Peed, Brian Quindlen, Marian Quinn, Brian Raicich, Rick Robinson, Joe Sebastiani, Win Schaefer, Nathaniel Sharp, Vince Smith, Kim Steininger, Arthur Steinberger, Scott Stollery, George D. Tallman, Jaime Thomas, Lisa Tull, Laura Wagner, Jeff Wahl, Patty Werth, Alec Wyatt.

Clarion County

Locations: Cook Forest (CF), Curllsville (CV), Mount Airy (MA), Mount Zion (SGL 330/Piney Tract) (MZ), Sarah Furnace (SF).

One of the more unusual sightings for the summer season is the report of an apparent successful nesting attempt by **Ring-necked Pheasants** at the CV strips site. This species is commonly raised and released at times in the county, but successful breeding is seldom noted. At the CV strips site, a reclaimed strip mine site, a male and female adult were observed with 13 young 6/28 (BR, MM, PL, ST, ph.). Five birds were also reported 6/19, but no details on whether these birds were adults or young (BS, CD).

Northern Harriers were once again present as likely breeding birds at MZ, with six sightings from 6/11-/25 (m.ob.). Of note was the report 6/29 of a pair seen in food transfer several times (F&JM), and a pair seen hunting 7/25 (BC). **Red-shouldered Hawks** were reported throughout the season, with likely nesting activity from the Fisher area, where more extensive forests and access to different waterways make this species much more common than in the southern part of the county (RM).

Despite challenges to this species with early haying and changing land management, **Upland Sandpipers** continue to show a presence at MA, the only regular breeding area in *Clarion*. From 6/9-28, up to 4 birds were reported perched on fence posts and actively calling at this mix of agricultural and hay fields alongside pasture areas (m.ob.). An observation was also made at the CV strips site, which has had sporadic sightings over the past several years, but still no evidence of breeding. Four birds were there 6/9 calling while in flight (SS, NT, STR).

The summer season again yielded no evidence of any breeding activity for Short-eared Owls, making it over 10 years without any sign of nesting. **Eastern Screech-Owls** continue to be present at an area near CV, using a barn as a regular roosting area. Two birds, one adult and one juvenile, were seen perched together on a loft door 7/14, and 2 adults were seen perched together at the same spot 7/26 (CW). All birds for the season were red morph, including juveniles. The only report of **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was from the Fisher area, with a bird calling there late evening 6/25 (RS). At MZ, which borders the Clarion River with ample forested areas, **Common Ravens** have been more steadily sighted in recent years. For the season, up to 6 birds were reported 6/6-7/13 (BC, CD, BS).

Red-breasted Nuthatch was present during the first week in Jun at a property near CV with a large number of pine and Norway spruce plantings. Unusual for this location, a calling male was heard several times in the first week of Jun, but not heard after that and no breeding activity confirmed

(CW). With the very cold and snowy winter last year, it was surprising to see the number of **Carolina Wren** reports, with up to 3 birds seen near CV, as well as regular sightings of single birds near Rimersburg, CF and SF throughout the season (JH, MM, CW). A single report of a **Swainson's Thrush** along Forest Dr. in CF 7/5 was possibly nesting. No confirmed breeding activity has been reported for the area during this compiler's tenure, and reports of any activity from this location have been rare and irregular. It appears that **Wood Thrush** numbers have shown some decline in the past two years. Though they are still reported from many areas and certainly not unusual, it will be interesting to see the future numbers for this species in *Clarion*. Continued habitat fragmentation with increased access roads for drilling and poor timbering practices on privately owned woodlots may be part of the problem, along with various other issues that impact this species.

Five warbler species deserve mention. **Worm-eating Warbler** is now a regularly reported species from the wooded hillsides bordering the Allegheny River. From 6/9-29 along the Armstrong Trail at SF, up to 2 adults were reported and one juvenile bird 6/29 (PL, MM, KP, SS, ST, m.ob.). In this same area, **Cerulean Warbler** was noted as well, with a singing male 6/22-29 (MM, KP, BR, ST, CW). Still uncommon breeders, **Pine Warblers** were sighted in two locations. Two birds were found along Forest Dr. in CF 7/5 where they have been seen in breeding season previously in large planted pine stands (T&JK). A singing male bird was found in planted pine stands at MZ as well 6/15 (KSJ, CW), but have never been confirmed nesting there. In the same location at CF as the Pine Warbler, 2 male **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were heard counter-singing 7/5 (T&JK). **Yellow-breasted Chat** has become a regular feature attraction at the CV strips site. With its increasingly overgrown field areas full of locust, this location provides perfect habitat for these birds, and they have become increasingly common. Reports were received from 6/4-28 of at least one bird present, although there were likely more present in the less-covered areas (RC, PL, MM, BR, ST).

Clay-colored Sparrows are a yearly attraction at the CV strips site and remained so this year, although numbers appear to be declining for unknown reasons. Reports of no more than 2 birds spanned just the month of Jun (m.ob.). At the MZ grasslands site, up to 3 birds were reported throughout Jun, an increase after they had resumed their residence here several years ago (AK, F&JM, SS, NT, STR). They were also found at a new area at MA, with up to 3 birds reported 6/9-15 (AK, SS, KSJ, NT, STR). Some mowing took place around the latter site not long after, so it will remain to be seen if enough habitat survived and the birds return next year. There are large areas of habitat in southern *Clarion* with the overgrowth of the older strip mine sites, but most of these areas get little to no coverage most years.

Numbers for other expected grassland sparrows in *Clarion* seem unchanged this year. **Grasshopper Sparrows** were reported throughout the season from CV strips site and private fields near CV, MA and MZ (m.ob.). A high count of 10 came from MZ 6/19 (CD, BS). **Henslow's Sparrows** were also reported throughout the season from the same grassland sites (m.ob.), with a high count of 15 at MZ 6/19 (CD, BS). A personal observation of this reporter is that this species is regularly undercounted by observers, especially those not as familiar with their calls and behavior. Only a single report of **Vesper Sparrow** was received, one bird at MZ 6/21 (SC, KD, GP, KS).

Orchard Orioles are no longer uncommon in the southern part of the county, so a high count of 7 at a location near CV 7/3 was noteworthy. Two juveniles were feeding in overgrown fields on one side of the property, both an adult male and a first-year male were feeding in a honeysuckle next to each other on the other side of the road, and nearby a female fed 2 fledged young birds. In this area, late Jun and early Jul is typically the best time of year to confirm breeding for this species, often easy to see feeding low in shrubs and in overgrown fields with high weeds and thistles.

Purple Finches had a good showing for breeding season in Rimersburg at a location with good habitat and sunflower feeders out through the summer. Four nesting pairs were reported, with up to 7 young birds at feeders and a high count of 16 on 7/15 (MM). They were also singing through Jun at a property near CV with many planted pine and Norway spruce where they have nested previously, although this year breeding was not confirmed (CW).

Observers: **Carole Winslow, 159 Moggey Rd, Sligo, PA 16255, (814) 745-3818, cjnal@windstream.net**, Bill Chambers, Rick Collins, Shawn Collins, Karyn Delaney, Cory DeStein, James Hausman III, Andy Keister, Tom and Janet Kuehl, Wayne Laubscher, Patrick Lister, Flo and Jim McGuire, Ron Montgomery, Mark Moore, Kevin Parsons, GERALYN PUNDZAK, Brady Riedel, Kate St.John, Steve Sanford, Kathy Saunders, Brian Smith, Ron Smith, Shannon Thompson, Neil Troyer, Samuel Troyer (STR).

Clearfield County

Locations: La Jose (LAJ), Sandy Ridge RCS (SRR).

Great Blue Herons nested again in the Westover area. The colony was smaller than last year with only six active nests (DG). **Merlins** were present at SRR 7/15 and nested at an unnamed location in northern *Clearfield* (DG, DR). **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were seen and heard at LAJ during the period (DG). Up to 8 **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were heard in various areas of SGL 120 (DG). Grassland sparrows were found in good numbers at both LAJ and SRR with very good numbers of **Henslow's Sparrows** at SRR (DG). **Bobolinks** and **Eastern Meadowlarks** were especially plentiful at SRR (DG). **Orchard Orioles** were at LAJ 6/20 (DG).

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

Clinton County

The only noteworthy bird for the period was a lone **Great Egret** at the Central Mountain High School wetlands in Mill Hall from 6/23 to at least 7/4 (m.ob.).

Observers: **Wayne Laubscher, 749 E. Croak Hollow Road, Lock Haven, PA 17745, 570-748-7511, wnlaubscher@comcast.net**.

Columbia County

No compiler.

Crawford County

Locations: Conneaut Lake (CL), Conneaut Marsh (CM, Custards (CU), Erie National Wildlife Refuge (ENWR), Ford Island (FI), Geneva Marsh (GM), McMichael Road (MCM), Meadville (ME), Pymatuning Causeway (PC), Pymatuning Fish Hatchery (FH), Pymatuning Goose Management Area, Miller Pond (PGMA), Pymatuning Spillway (PS), Tamarack Lake (TL), Woodcock Lake (WL).

A late **American Wigeon** was at GM 6/21 (RFL, IF). A late pair of **Northern Shovelers** was seen 6/8 and 6/14 at PS (MV). The top count of **Wood Duck** was 35 at CM (RFL, IF) 7/26. A **Redhead** 7/5 at PS (MV) was a nice find. One **Lesser Scaup** was at FH 6/8 (MV). Up to 5 **Ruddy Ducks** remained in the area 6/7-29, possibly breeding, at FH, PGMA, PC, and PS (m.ob.). A **Common Loon** was at the FH area 6/4 (RFL) and 6/6 (MV). A **Least Bittern** was at CM 7/8 (SC). Up to 5 **Great Egrets** were at FH, PGMA, and ENWA 7/20-27 (m.ob.). Single **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were at FH 6/7 and 6/12 (RFL).

The highlight of the season was a **Black Rail** at CM 7/20 (RFL). It was located early in the morning along the Mercer Pike near the Beauchannon bridge about a mile east of I-79 and Rt. 19. It was a small sparrow sized bird not more than 15 feet away. It was small, but not a chick of any rail. It had black feet and small slim bill, not fuzzy as other rail species, grebes or Gallinule. Its body was roundish with a short tail and bill and black feet. It did not fly but ran across the road from a grassy swampy area on the east to and under the guard rail and disappeared on the west side into the reeds and cattails.

Ten **Sandhill Cranes** were seen PGMA 7/26 (RFL, IF). At least 5 **Virginia Rails** were at MCM and CU 6/1-7/27 (m.ob.) and up to 3 **Sora** were noted MCM 6/1-7/26 (IF, RFL, SC). Up to 4 **Common Gallinules** were at CU and GM 6/1-7/26 (RFL, IF, SC).

Five **Upland Sandpipers** were at PGMA 6/20 (MV); one was last seen there 6/29 (RFL). **Least Sandpipers** were found most of the period with the top count of 31 at PGMA 7/11 (MV). A late spring **White-rumped Sandpiper** was at PGMA 6/6 (MV). Up to 7 **Short-billed Dowitchers** were at TL and PGMA 6/7-7/27 (m.ob.). Three **Wilson's Snipe** were at PGMA 7/19 (MV). A **Wilson's Phalarope** was at PGMA 6/6 (MV).

A very odd and exceptionally late probable first cycle **Iceland Gull** was at the Espyville Marina (on the Pennsylvania end of the causeway) 6/9 (ph. SK), 6/10 (RS, TCN, MV), and 6/14 (RFL). Also at the Espyville Marina, an adult **Laughing Gull** was found 6/9 (ph. SK) and stayed to 6/20 (RFL, IF, MV, RS). A good number of **Caspian Terns** were noted at PS, with up to 4 seen 6/8-7/27 (m.ob.). A pair of **Caspian Terns** was noted at PS 6/8 (MV). Encouragingly, a **Black Tern** was seen off MCM 6/1 (SC) and an immature at FH 6/9 (SC). An adult **Black Tern** was noted at PS 7/20 (RFL).

One or 2 **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were at MCM 6/1-29 (SC, RFL,

IF). A **Merlin** was at PGMA 7/12 (RFL) and one was near ME 7/15 (SC).

Over 500 **Cliff Swallows** were at FH 6/21 (IF). Two **Carolina Wrens** were at Towpath Road 6/7 (RFL). Up to 6 **Marsh Wrens** were at GM and MCM all season (m.ob.). A **Common Raven** was at ENWR 6/27 (RFL). A **Northern Mockingbird** was at Towpath Road 6/14 (RFL). Up to 3 **Prothonotary Warblers** were at CM, GM, CU, and MCM 6/1-7/26 (SC, RFL, IF, m.ob.). A **Lawrence's Warbler** was seen near Townville Road 6/7 (KB). A pair of **Black-throated Blue Warblers** were located on Fires Road, PGMA 6/21 (RFL, IF). Several **Cerulean Warblers** were recorded: one at MCM 6/1 (SC), one 6/29 at CU (SC), and one at Towpath Road 7/6 (RFL). Five **Chestnut-sided Warblers** were noted 7/6 at CU (SC). Two **Blackburnian Warblers** were seen at Towpath Road 6/7 (RFL). A **Kentucky Warbler** was singing 6/29 at ENWR (RFL). **Mourning Warbler** reports included 2 at CU 6/7 (SC) and one near ENWR all summer 6/16 (MS).

One **Summer Tanager** was reported near Cochran at Freymath Road 6/17 (MS). **Bobolinks** were reported on five dates in Jun at PGMA but in smaller numbers than usual (RFL). A **Vesper Sparrow** was singing southeast of TL 6/21 (RFL). A lone **Grasshopper Sparrows** was found at TL 6/21 and 7/26 (RFL). A **Dark-eyed Junco** was at TL 7/26 (RFL), and 2 or 4 attended a ME feeder all summer (RFL).

Observers: **Ronald F. Leberman, 11508 Pettis Rd., Meadville, PA, 16335, (814) 724-5071**, Kendell Brubaker, Shawn Collins, Isaac Field, Thomas Clare Nicolls, Matthew Sabatine, Randy Stringer, Mark Vass.

Cumberland County

There was no exceptional weather during the period. Temperatures were a bit below average and precipitation was normal. Much like the weather, there was not much exceptional about the birding either.

One **Ruddy Duck** was reported at Opossum Lake 6/9 (DK). The **Pied-billed Grebe** that has been making the Big Spring home since Nov 2012 was reported 6/27 (VG). **Eurasian Collared-Doves** remained at the intersection of Rte. 997 and Center Road; 2 were there 7/9 (VG). One **Black-billed Cuckoo** was at the Mountain Road Marsh of SGL 169, first 6/1 (JD) and again 6/27 (VG). One **Barn Owl** was reported at the barn of SGL 169 on 6/29 (VG). This is one of the usual breeding locations for this species in *Cumberland*. There was one **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** at Colonel Denning State Park 6/4 (DH) and another was a mile away at Elk Hill Road in the Tuscarora State Forest 6/28 (VG, AnM, SS). The latter was a signing male, the date of suggesting it was on territory. This species is not a usual breeder in *Cumberland*. One **Dickcissel** was reported north of Newville off Rte. 997 at Short Lane 6/4, and 2 singing males were reported through 7/9 at Center Road about a half-mile south of the intersection with Rte. 997 (VG, JD). The latter location had good potential for breeding as the fields were not mowed as of the end of the period, and there was at least one female reported with the males toward the end of May.

Observers: **Vernon Gauthier, 111 W. Big Spring Ave, Newville, PA 17241, (717) 385-9526, pabirder@gmail.com**, Jim Dunn, Deuane Hoffman, Dave Kerr, Annette Mathes, Susan Strassner.

Dauphin County

Locations: Hummelstown (HUM), Susquehanna River (SR), Wildwood Lake (WL).

This was a good breeding season for **Common Merganser**: a female with 6 juveniles were observed while crossing the Millersburg Ferry 7/5 (JB). Another Common Merganser family with 8 nearly grown chicks was at Middletown/Royalton SR 7/18 (P&RW). This could have been the surviving members of the family with 13 chicks that was there in May. Five female type Common Mergansers were observed in the SR from West Fairview and a single female **Hooded Merganser** was reported on the SR along the Wormleysburg waterfront 7/29 (MI). Another family of **Common Mergansers** with 9 chicks on the Swatara Creek at HUM 8/3 (PF) had obviously been present near this location through the breeding season.

An impressive count of 54 **Great Blue Herons** was tallied just below the dam at the southern tip of TMI 6/4 (GD). At least 5 **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** were observed, several on nests, in the rookery in midtown Harrisburg 7/5 (JD). Two **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were reported during an early evening ferry crossing at Millersburg 7/5 (JB), and one was found at SR at Fort Hunter 7/20 (EB).

There were numerous reports of **Black Vulture** south of Blue Mountain, especially in the HUM and Hershey area (m.ob.). Along with 2

Black Vultures, 5 **Osprey** were noted on a late afternoon raptor count along Hillsdale Rd. southeast of Middletown 7/26 (ME). A **Northern Harrier** was observed flying over the Milton S. Hershey School campus farm fields 6/12 (TB) and another was reported just west of Hershey 7/23 (EW).

The early fall shorebird migration got off to a good start with the report of a **Black-bellied Plover** in the farm fields along Waltonville Rd. south of HUM 7/21 (EB). Both **Least Sandpiper** and **Semipalmated Sandpiper** were observed on the mud flats in the south compound at WL 7/22 (EB).

The **Barn Owl** restoration project on the Milton S. Hershey School campus resulted in 18 young owlets banded in Jul, five at two locations and 4 at two others (NM). Six **Peregrine Falcons** were observed in downtown Harrisburg, two adults were present while two young females and two young males made their first flights 6/1 (PM).

More than 250 **Bank Swallows** were counted as they sat on the wires across the mouth of the Swatara Creek at Middletown 7/13 (P&RW). In recent years this has been a major staging area for Bank Swallows from mid-Jul through Aug with counts sometimes exceeding 1000. In Stony Valley, near the *Dauphin/Lebanon* line, a **Winter Wren** was heard singing in appropriate habitat in SGL 211 on 7/1. Two weeks later, on 7/15, two **Northern Waterthrushes** were observed in an area known as Veery Bog on the Comprehensive Management Plan for SGL 211 (SB). Both of these species nesting possibilities are limited to the northeastern portion of the county.

A **Blue-winged Warbler** was among the species found on a walk through WL 7/18 (P&RP), and both it and **Hooded Warbler** were noted at SGL 246 7/23 (SH). A big surprise for early Jul was the report of a **Nashville Warbler** at WL 7/9 (LC). This was the first breeding-season record for this species in the county since the first Bird Breeding Atlas project in the mid-1980s when it was recorded in five blocks, mostly in or near the Weiser State Forest in northeastern *Dauphin*. **Cerulean Warbler** was found at the crest of the Blue Mountain Parkway 6/4 (TJ), and along the Appalachian Trail atop Peter's Mt. 7/6 (JB). Both are probable nesting locations for this species. A **Blackpoll Warbler** was reported in HUM 6/1 (P&RW). It is not unusual for this non-nesting species to linger into early Jun. There were two reports of **Yellow-rumped Warbler** during the season, the first from Boyd's Big Tree Preserve where 2 were noted 6/2 (SW), and one was observed in SGL 210 on 6/17 (CH). Nesting was confirmed in two blocks in SGL 210 during the Second Bird Breeding Atlas (2004-09).

A singing male **Blue Grosbeak** was observed 6/30 at Fort Indiantown Gap west corridor (DM), an area where they have bred in recent years.

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Delaware County

Locations: Delaware River (DR), John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge (JHNWR), Ridley Creek State Park (RCSP).

The summer of 2014 in *Delaware* produced 113 species.

Unusual at this season, 2 adult **Snow Geese** were photographed on the shores of DR in Tinicum Twp. 6/11 (TJ, CR, ph.). Two female **Ruddy Duck** were observed on Darby Creek at JHNWR 6/27 (PM). An unexpected find, one **Northern Bobwhite** was observed at a private residence in Chichester 6/3 (BC, AG) and another was observed at Tyler Arboretum in Jun (*vide* SL). **Wild Turkey** appeared in small numbers this Jun with single birds at JHNWR 6/7-6/22 (AE, DO) and 2 seen at RCSP 6/25 (BR). An unusual find in Jul, one **Pied-billed Grebe** was observed in Darby Creek at JHNWR 7/12 (AG). One immature **Little Blue Heron** was observed at JHNWR 7/27-29 (AG, DO).

Sharp-shinned Hawk was seen twice this summer, one at JHNWR 7/25 (TB) and one adult male at Villanova University 6/26 (PB). **Red-shouldered Hawk** were observed this season with 2 in a yard in Glen Mills 6/28 (LT), one at Hildacy Farm 7/18 (DB), and one at Bethel Springs Elementary School 7/28 (BQ, m.ob.). **Broad-winged Hawk** was observed only once this season, one high-flying bird passed over the Penn State Brandywine Campus in Media 6/15 (TB).

Six species of shorebirds were represented in *Delaware*. One **Semipalmated Plover** was photographed at JHNWR 7/27 (DO). **Killdeer** were reported twice this season with 2 at the FedEx Parking Lot in Tinicum Twp. 6/24 (TB) and one at Springfield Country Club 7/7 (BR). One **Greater Yellowlegs** was observed at JHNWR 7/27-29 (AG, DO). **Least Sandpipers** were observed in the southern section of *Delaware* throughout the month of

Jul with a high total of 53 at JHNWR 7/29 (AG). Also observed in Jul were **Semipalmated Sandpiper** at JHNWR with a high count of 42 on 7/25 (DO).

Three **Laughing Gulls** were along DR 7/19 (NS). **Herring Gulls** were observed along DR 6/22-24 with a high of 6 (TB). One **Great Black-backed Gull** was observed along DR 7/12 (AG). Three **Caspian Terns** were observed at low tide on the DR 7/12 (AG), and one **Forster's Tern** was at JHNWR 7/29 (AG).

A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was at JHNWR 6/22 (AE) and another was observed in early Jul at Tyler Arboretum (*fide* SL). *Delaware* boasted three species of owl this season. **Eastern Screech-Owl** was heard at two private residences in Garnet Valley 7/25-7/30 (DM). **Great Horned Owls** were at a private residence in Drexel Hill 7/1 (BR) and 2 were at Newlin Grist Mill 7/28 (LT). After a recent discovery of breeding **Barred Owls** on the Bridle Trail at RCSP, sightings of multiple birds continued with 2 fledglings 6/17 (AG) and 2 immature birds with one adult 6/29 (EW).

Seven species of flycatcher were present throughout *Delaware* this season. The highlight was one **Alder Flycatcher** singing on the Bridle Trail at RCSP 6/6 (DO). Four **Bank Swallows** were near the Renaissance Hotel at the Philadelphia International Airport 6/3 (BS). Two **Cliff Swallows** were observed on the Bridle Trail at RCSP 7/20 (AG).

Eleven species of warbler were observed. Single **Louisiana Waterthrush** were present at RCSP 6/8 (BH, LT) and 7/25 (AM). **Blue-winged Warblers** were observed throughout RCSP 6/8-7/5 (m.ob.) with a high of 3 on 6/17 (AG). **Northern Parula** were present in early Jun with 3 at RCSP 6/8 (BH, LT) and 2 in Villanova area 6/14 (BR). One **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was observed along the Bridle Trail at RCSP 7/5 (BR). A high count of 2 **Prairie Warblers** were observed singing throughout RCSP 6/17-30 (m.ob.).

Observers: **Brian Quindlen, 5 Winding Way, Malvern, PA 19355 (484) 356-8435, brian.quindlen@gmail.com**, Debbie Beer, Paul Bernhardt, Tom Bush, Bruce Childs, Andrew Evans, Al Guarente, Beth Hopkins, Tom Johnson, Sue Lucas, David McCarrick, Anna Mindel, Peter Morgan, Damon Orsetti, Bill Roache, Cameron Rutt, Bart Scott, Nathaniel Sharp, Luke Templin, Lisa Tull, Eric Weislogel.

Elk County

No Compiler.

Erie County

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

It was a cold wet summer, which made ideal conditions for shorebirds at GP, with a delayed spring migration and an early return of adults. There were an unprecedented number of large shorebirds that began appearing in early Jul. These arrivals may have been influenced by severe stormy conditions in the Midwest. A fallout of shorebirds occurred during the passage of a cold front 7/28 when nearly 640 shorebirds of 12 species made landfall at GP. The shorebird flocks were composed of mostly **Semipalmated Sandpipers** and **Sanderlings**. **Common Terns** attempted to nest at GP but were unsuccessful. Two nests each containing three eggs failed to produce young even though the eggs went full term. Predation was believed to be the cause of nest failure. Nesting **Merlin** with young was found in Jul, the first confirmed nesting success for the county. The following unusual birds were recorded from Presque Isle S.P. unless noted otherwise.

A **Red-breasted Merganser** lingered through Jun to 7/1 (JM). A **Pied-billed Grebe** with several young was on a pond at SGL 191 on 6/25, a rare county breeding record (MW). Two reports of **Least Bittern** this season were one calling bird 6/5 (GL, eBird) and another 7/30 (MS). The now annual **Snowy Egret** was observed in a habitat restoration area at Presque Isle 6/10 (BB, *fide* ST).

A very rare **Snowy Plover** was present at GP 7/1-4 (RD) and was seen and photographed on one occasion with a banded **Piping Plover** (JM). It was believed that perhaps as many as 5 different adult Piping Plovers were at GP from 6/12-7/8, with up to 2 present one day (MB, DM, RD), most of which had been banded at Sleeping Bear Dunes in Michigan (MB). The Jul total of 21 **American Avocets** was unusually high (m.ob.). An unprecedented total of 45 **Willetts** 6/30-7/21 was the most recorded in such a short span of time in *Erie* (m.ob.). Twenty-three of those were in one flock 7/1 (RD). The **Whimbrel** at GP 6/8 was a late spring record (RD, ST). A total of 27 **Whimbrel** was reported for the month of Jul (m.ob.) with a single day high count of 12 on 7/28 (DS). **Marbled Godwit** made an excellent showing in Jul with an unprecedented total of 9 from 7/1 to 7/19 (RD, MB, RS). It was hard to determine whether the 2 **Ruddy Turnstones** at GP 6/30 were late or early (JF). A rather late **Red Knot** was at GP 6/7 (RD) and the

14 southbound adult knots during the shorebird fallout 7/28 was a good number (DS). Single **White-rumped Sandpipers** were noted 6/12 (RD) and 7/9 (MS). Two more white-rumps were reported 7/28 (DS). An early **Short-billed Dowitcher** was at GP 6/21 (RD). The 3 **Black Terns** flying around a large pond near Waterford 6/10 was a rare inland sighting (JH). A single Black Tern was seen flying far out on Lake Erie 7/2 (JF). A pair of **Common Terns** started incubating eggs around 6/21 (MB) at GP and another pair started incubating eggs around 6/30 (RD). The 6/21 nest failed 7/9 and the 6/30 nest failed 7/26 (RD). A **Merlin** with 2 nearly fledged young was found on a nest 7/4 in east Erie (MB). This was the first confirmed nest with young in the county. The young Merlin successfully fledged 7/9 (MB).

A singing **White-eyed Vireo** was still present at SGL 314 on 7/21 (JM). Even though this species has been reported annually in recent years in late spring and early summer, nesting has never been confirmed in the county. Quite late was a singing **Blackpoll Warbler** at Thompson Circle from late Jun to 7/2 (JM, ST). A female **Rusty Blackbird** at GP 6/8 was also very late (ST).

Observers: **Jerry McWilliams, 3508 Allegheny Rd., Erie, PA 16508-2129, jerrymcw@aol.com**, Brian Berchtold, Mary Birdsong, Roger Donn, Jim Flynn, James Hill III, Greg Lawrence, Diane Morton, Matt Sabatine, Don Snyder, Ruth Swaney, Shannon Thompson, Mike Weible.

Fayette County

Locations: Breeding Bird Survey (BBS), Ohioople State Park (OSP).

A **Broad-winged Hawk** was over OSP 7/6 (MF, JV). A **Spotted Sandpiper** was along the Youghiogheny River during a canoe trip from Dawson to Layton 6/29 (TK, JK). A **Common Tern** was flying around Greenlick Run Lake 7/27 (TA). A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was in Springfield Twp. during a BBS 6/14 (GM, KM).

Flycatchers seen during a canoe trip from Dawson to Layton 6/29 included 3 **Eastern Wood-Pewees**, 5 **Acadian Flycatchers**, and 6 **Eastern Kingbirds** (TK, JK). A **Least Flycatcher** was at OSP 6/14 (GM, KM). Vireos found during the above-mentioned canoe trip included 3 **Yellow-throated Vireos** and 10 **Warbling Vireos**. Two **Blue-headed Vireos** were counted at during a BBS 6/14 (GM, KM). Single **Common Ravens** were at OSP and Springfield Twp. 6/14 (GM, KM). The **Cliff Swallow** colony at OSP was active 7/6 with juveniles flying around with their parents. At least 20 nests were counted on the Rte. 381 bridge (MF, JV). Two **Veery** were heard near OSP 6/14 (GM, KM). Single **Brown Thrashers** were at OSP and Springfield Twp. 6/14 (GM, KM).

A **Louisiana Waterthrush** was near OSP 6/14 (GM, KM) and 5 were heard along the Youghiogheny River from Dawson to Layton 6/29 (TK, JK). Eight **Black-and-white Warblers** were tallied during the BBS 6/14 (GM, KM), 20 were counted during the canoe trip 6/29 (TK, JK) and several were at OSP including a male feeding a juvenile 7/6 (MF, JV). The only **Kentucky Warbler** reported was one in Springfield Twp. 6/14 (GM, KM). The BBS tallied 24 **Hooded Warblers**, 17 **American Redstarts**, 26 **Chestnut-sided Warblers**, 8 **Black-throated Blue Warblers** and 13 **Black-throated Green Warblers**. Other warbler highlights include a **Cerulean Warbler** singing in Layton 6/29 (TK, JK), 2 **Northern Parulas** in Stewart Twp. 6/14 (GM, KM) and one at OSP 7/6 (MF, JV) and a **Blackburnian Warbler** at OSP 6/14 (GM, KM).

Two **Savannah Sparrows** and 2 **Grasshopper Sparrows** were in Springfield Twp. 6/14 (GM, KM). A **Grasshopper Sparrow** was found in Dawson 6/28 (AT). A total of 14 **Scarlet Tanagers** and 25 **Indigo Buntings** were counted during the BBS 6/14 (GM, KM). A **Purple Finch** was at OSP 6/14 (GM, KM).

Observers: **Mike Fialkovich, 805 Beulah Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15235, (412) 731-3581, mpfial@verizon.net**, Tim Andersen, Janet Kuehl, Tom Kuehl, Geoff Malosh, Kristin Malosh, Amy Taracido, Jim Valimont.

Forest County

Locations: Beaver Meadows (BM) Buzzard Swamp (BS).

There were 107 species reported in *Forest* this period, with the most popular locations Buzzard Swamp and Mayburg. The extremely wet summer was probably not helpful for breeding birds, and 107 species reported was a little below the average of 111. Most of our regular breeders were well represented, and some of the species noted below may be harbingers of new breeders.

A single **Double-crested Cormorant** was seen 6/6 at BS (DG, GG,

TK). This falls within the safe dates for this species, which is a new, uncommon breeder in Pennsylvania. This situation should be monitored in the future. There were no reports of any owls this summer.

Acadian Flycatchers were nest building at Minister Creek 6/6 (CW). **Alder Flycatchers** were noted 6/6 at BS (DG, GG, TK) and 6/19 at BM (SH). **Willow Flycatchers** were reported several times from different locations (m.ob.) The gourds put up years ago at Tionesta Lake by the Army Corps of Engineers were finally successful: 2 pairs of **Purple Martins** nested there this summer (JQ). A **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** was reported 6/28 at East Hickory (ST), and the established colony at the Tionesta Outflow was again active (FM, JM). **Cliff Swallows** were reported only at Kellettsville, where they nest under the bridge (FM, JM).

A single report of **Blue-winged Warbler** was interesting; it was netted and banded 7/31 near Mayburg (CD, FM, JM). Two singing **Nashville Warblers** at BM 6/6 were a good sign for this uncommon species (T&JK). A **Tennessee Warbler** 7/15 at a Banding Station near Marienville was presumed to be an early migrant (SS). A **Pine Warbler** at Complanter S.F. 6/19 was within the safe dates and in excellent habitat (JFt), also good news for a species that is very uncommon in *Forest*. There were two reports of **Yellow-rumped Warbler**: 6/19 at BM (SH) and 6/6 at BS (DG, GG, TK). **Orchard Oriole** has been pretty much absent from *Forest*, but one was noted at BS 6/27 (AK).

Observers: **Flo McGuire, 609 Ponderosa Lane, Tionesta, PA 16353, (814) 755-3672, fmcguire1@verizon.net**, Brendyn Baptiste, Linda & Steven Benedict, Bill Chambers, Clayton Delancy, James Fletcher (JFt), James Flynn (JFy), Deborah Grove, Greg Grove, Scott Huge, Alyssa Karmann, Chad Kauffman, Tom & Janet Kuehl, Trudy Kyler, Sarah MacLellan, Annette Mathes, Jim McGuire, Jason Quinn, Jeff Scepura, Scott Stoleson, Shannon Thompson, Nathan Weyandt, Carole Winslow.

Franklin County

No report.

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Fulton County

Locations: East Hill Road, Needmore (HR).

Waterbirds were scarce. A possible family of 3 **Green Herons** graced the Haines-Seville Wetlands Restoration Area waterways 7/31 (JD). A lone **Great Egret** was found at MGL 7/31 (JD). A group of 5 **Killdeer** was a nice find at a local HR farm 6/14 (AE).

A nice bonus during a hike was a hen **Ruffed Grouse** with one chick 6/14 (ND). The highlight for the season was the breeding **Red-headed Woodpeckers** at a HR family farm (AE). On 6/29, a pair was nesting in the same tree as a pair of **Northern Flickers**. On 7/27 an adult and a possible juvenile **Red-headed Woodpecker** were observed at or near the same tree with an active nest. This striking species is not reported nesting in *Fulton* annually.

High counts of common farmland species at the same HR family farm included 35 **Barn Swallows** 6/29, 5 **Chipping Sparrows** 6/29, 15 **Red-winged Blackbirds** 6/14, and 12 **American Goldfinches** 7/27 (AE).

Observers: **Dan Snell, PO Box 653, Shippensburg, PA 17257, (717) 530-8313, dan_snell@hotmail.com**, Nikki DeBraccio, Jim Dunn, Amy Evans, Claire Kluskens, Michael Wahl.

Greene County

Locations: Claylick (CL), East View (EV), Enlow Fork (EF), Jackson Twp. (JT), Kern Farm (KF), Last Chance Ranch (LCR), Sycamore (SY).

A **Wild Turkey** hen with 8-10 young was at LCR 6/18 (MLP) and 11 young were at EV 7/21 (MH, JH). **Great Blue Heron** was present throughout the period at CL (LA). Two immature **Green Herons** were seen at SY 6/25-28 (AC, JC), and one was at EV 7/23 (JH). A **Bald Eagle** was sighted in JT 6/11 (RL). Three **Cooper's Hawks** were spotted at CL 7/31 (LA). An **American Woodcock** was the first sighting of an early morning walk at LCR 6/14 (MLP). As many as 22 **Mourning Doves** were reported daily at CL (LA). A **Great Horned Owl** was in Morris Twp. 7/20 (KK). **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** 6/24 and **Black-billed Cuckoo** 6/2 were heard calling at EF (PH, JC, MH). **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** seemed to be

fewer in many areas this year: at CL there were only 6 where at least twice that many were last year. At EV last summer 17 visited the feeder but this year only 3 were seen (MH). For the second year in a row **Red-headed Woodpecker** nested in Morris Twp.; this year 3 young were seen at the suet feeder 7/30 (C&CA). **Red-bellied Woodpecker**, **Downy Woodpecker**, **Hairy Woodpecker**, and **Pileated Woodpecker** all nested at EV (MH).

The **Eastern Wood Pewee** was reported until 6/23 at EF (MH, PH). At EV on a morning walk 7/24 **Acadian Flycatcher** was heard (MH). **Willow Flycatcher** and **Great Crested Flycatcher** were reported at Ryerson S.P. 6/1 (JF). A **Least Flycatcher** was reported in JT 6/21 (RL). An **Eastern Kingbird** was in Franklin Twp. 7/30 (KH). The last report of **White-eyed Vireo** was 7/25 at EV (MH). **Yellow-throated Vireo** was last reported 6/23 at EF (PH, MH). **Warbling Vireo** young were practicing singing at KF 7/11 (KK). **Red-eyed Vireo** was heard 7/24 at EV (MH). Jul was quite noisy in EV and CL with the sound of young **Blue Jays** (MH, LA). On 7/13, 3 **Common Raven** were heard as they flew over CL (LA).

After trying the past few years to get **Purple Martin** to nest at LCR, 4 were seen 7/21 soaring over the pasture. Six were present 7/22 but were not seen after 7/24 (MLP). A few martins remained at the houses in Franklin Twp. as of the end of Jul (GB). **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** visited the pond at CL daily during the month of Jun (LA). **Carolina Chickadee**, **Tufted Titmouse**, and **White-breasted Nuthatch** all were present throughout the period at EF (MH, JC, PH). At LCR 7/8, **Carolina Wren** fed young in a nest between two cans of oil on a shelf in a barn (MLP).

The last reported **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was at EF 6/2 (MH, JC). **Eastern Bluebird** raised 2 broods in the nest box in the yard at EV (MH) and were seen checking out a nest box at CL 6/30 (LA). **Wood Thrush**, **American Robin**, and **Gray Catbird** nested at EF (MH, PH). **Brown Thrasher** young were being fed 6/3 at EV (MH). A **Cedar Waxwing** was sighted in FT 6/11 (KH).

Worm-eating Warbler and **Black-throated Blue Warbler** were at Ryerson Station S.P. 6/1 (JF). On 7/19, a **Louisiana Waterthrush** was at LCR. At the same location **Yellow Warbler** was seen among the tall dill weed 7/20 (MLP). Two **Black-and-white Warblers** were heard and seen at CL 6/23 (LA). A **Blue-winged Warbler** was in JT 7/25 and **American Redstart** was at the same location 7/22 (RL). **Black-and-white Warbler**, **Kentucky Warbler**, **Cerulean Warbler**, and **Northern Parula** were all observed throughout the period at EF (JC, PH, MH).

Eastern Towhee young were seen around the feeder at EV 7/24 (MH). **Chipping Sparrow** young were noted at KF 7/30 (KK). **Swamp Sparrow** was observed in JT 6/11 (RL). **Scarlet Tanager** was last reported 6/23 at EF (MH, PH). **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was last observed at EV 7/24 (MH). An **Indigo Bunting** was found at EF 6/23 (MH, PH). **Red-winged Blackbird** and **Common Grackle** were constant visitors at EV feeders and several young were noted throughout the period (MH). An **Orchard Oriole** was seen at EF 6/23 (MH, PH). **Baltimore Oriole** was last reported in JT 6/8 (RL). **House Finch** were observed feeding young at SY 6/20 (JC).

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Huntingdon County

Locations: Mothersbaugh Swamp (MS), Old Crow Wetlands (OC), Rothrock State Forest (RSF), Trough Creek Valley (TCV).

A **Horned Grebe** was observed at Irish Flats 6/23 (DS) and a **Double-crested Cormorant** was at Raystown Dam 6/26 (CM), both unusual summertime visitors. Seven **Green Herons** were counted at OC on 7/7 (GG). Two **Great Egrets** were at Lake Perez 6/24, which is refilling after last winter's repairs of the dam (JM). One **Osprey** was in TCV 6/15 (GG).

Greater Yellowlegs graced the shore of Lake Perez 7/24 (JK). **Solitary Sandpiper** was at OC 7/12 (DG, GG) and near Huntingdon 7/13 (GG), also at Lake Perez 7/24 (JK, BC) and 7/29 (DW); each sighting was of one individual. A flooded field on Allison Rd. between the towns of Petersburg and Alexandria had a **White-rumped Sandpiper** 6/13 (JK). A **Common Tern** was at Seven Points Marina, Lake Raystown 6/5 (DK, TK).

Eleven **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were reported on three BBS routes in RSF, the highest count since 2008 (GG). There was a modest presence of gypsy moth this year, although no serious defoliation was noted. A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was heard near Whipple Dam State Park 6/10 (DG). A total of 33 **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were counted on three Nightjar Surveys (30 stops) in RSF, with most stops in northern *Huntingdon* and a

few in *Mifflin* and *Centre* (DB, DG, GG); five-year average count is 40.

One **Alder Flycatcher** was at MS 6/1 (JK) and 2 were in TCV 6/14 (DG, GG). A **White-eyed Vireo** was noted at MS 6/4 (GG). **Red-eyed Vireos** were the most numerous birds reported on 3 BBS surveys conducted in RSF: 221 compared to the 22-year average of 195 (NB, DG, GG). Two **Bank Swallows** were at OC 6/23 (RL).

Golden-winged Warblers, a species of particular concern, were observed in several locations: near Cold Springs Road 6/1 (DG), near Masseyburg 6/1 (DG), MS 6/4 (DG, GG), and in TCV 6/14 (DG, GG) and 6/15 (GG); in each case only one individual was reported. One **Blue-winged Warbler** was also observed at MS 6/1 (JK) and one was in TCV 6/15 (GG). BBS counts totaling 196 **Ovenbirds** (vs. 22-year average of 149) set a record high (NB, DG, GG). Other species with very high counts on BBS routes compared to 22-year averages (shown in parentheses) included 21 **Chestnut-sided warblers** (9), 25 **Black-and-White Warblers** (9), and 58 **Hooded Warblers** (30, a continuing long-term increase) (NB, DG, GG). Two **Yellow-breasted Chats** were reported in TCV 6/14, 6/29, and 7/13 (DG, GG). The birds were still singing on the latter date, past the time when these birds usually become quiet.

Indigo Buntings also presented an unusually high BBS count of 15 compared to the 22-year average of 8 sightings (NB, DG, GG). Ten **Bobolinks** were observed in TCV 6/29 (GG).

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Indiana County

Locations: Rochester Mills (RM), Waterworks Conservation Area (WCA), Yellow Creek State Park (YC).

Hemlock Lake County Park yielded a pair of **Wood Ducks** with 10 young 6/21 (m.ob.). A count of 50 **Wood Ducks**, including many young, was obtained at YC 7/30 (TS), and according to the observer was likely an undercount. A hen **Common Merganser** with 4 young on her back floated along Blacklick Creek and a pair was found on Two Lick Creek at the WCA, all 6/9 (GC, MH, RH).

A **Common Loon** lingered at YC through 6/3 (LC, TG, MH, RH, KT). Unusual was a **Red-necked Grebe** at YC 6/24 (LC, TG, MH, RH) and another 7/1 (LC, TG, MH, RH, KT). Photos taken on both days showed that these were two different individuals. YC hosted 2 **Double-crested Cormorants** 6/3 (LC, TG, MH, RH, KT), the only report. An **Osprey** was sighted 6/17 (m.ob.) at YC. Two adult **Bald Eagles** were spotted at YC 6/3 (LC, TG, MH, RH, KT); their nearby nest apparently failed this year. Two immature eagles were present at YC 6/7 (KT).

A **Virginia Rail** was among the cattails at the WCA 6/16 (SD) calling noisily and apparently agitated; one was seen again 7/9 and 7/10 (SD). On 7/15 (LC, SD, TG, DM) 2 adults and one older juvenile were spotted. By 7/22 (LC, SD, TG, LM, DS) the adult pair was seen with 4 black, fuzzy chicks. This was the first confirmed nesting for *Indiana*. Not usually found in the county during the breeding season, an **American Coot** appeared at YC 6/24 (LC, TG, MH, RH) and was present through 7/1 (LC, TG, MH, RH, KT).

First 2 **Semipalmated Plovers** arrived at YC 7/24 (TS). By 7/22 (LC, SD, TG, LM, DS) 27 **Killdeer** had already congregated at YC. An adult female **Spotted Sandpiper** with 3 very small young was found at the WCA 6/9 (GC, MH, RH). Two **Solitary Sandpipers** and a **Lesser Yellowlegs** were noted at YC 7/15 (LC, SD, TG, DM) and again 7/24 (TS). First 2 **Least Sandpipers** arrived at YC 7/8 (LC, TG, RH); best count was 5 on 7/15 (LC, SD, TG, DM). A **Stilt Sandpiper** in alternate plumage was found at YC 7/20 (LC).

Ring-billed Gull sightings at YC were limited to one 6/3 (LC, TG, MH, RH, KT) and 2 on 7/24 (TS). An early **Caspian Tern** was feeding near the YC beach 7/29 (LC, SD, TG). A **Common Tern** was an unusual find at YC 7/1 (LC, TG, MH, RH, KT). Three adult **Forster's Terns** were spotted at YC 6/24 (LC, TG, MH, RH).

The only **Eastern Screech-Owl** reported was found near RM 6/2 (TS). **Barred Owl** was noted only at Nolo 6/6 (AB, DB). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was a great find near RM 6/18 (TS); this was the first Jun record since two pairs deserted their nest sites near Homer City in 1998 (LC) when the nest trees fell; they had nested at that location from 1995 through 1997.

Two migrant **Olive-sided Flycatchers** were found at YC 6/3 (LC, TG, MH, RH, KT). An **Alder Flycatcher** was singing near YC 6/9 (GC, MH, RH) and continued at least through 7/22 (LC, SD, TG, LM, DS). YC hosted only two nesting pairs of **Willow Flycatchers** this year (m.ob.). A **White-eyed**

Vireo was reported at YC 6/17 (LC, TG, MH, RH) through the end of the season. Single **Yellow-throated Vireos** were listed at Smicksburg Park 6/5 (MH, RH) and near Shelocta 6/23 (MH). **Blue-headed Vireos** were listed at only four locations this summer; all reports were of single birds. **Warbling Vireos** were noted only near YC and at YC 6/3 (LC, TG, MH, RH, KT) through 6/24 (LC, TG, MH, RH). Three **Fish Crows** at were SGL 262 on 7/26 (TS), a new location for this species. Single **Common Ravens** at Nolo 6/1 and 6/2 (CL, GL) and on the Virginia BBS 6/14 (MH, RH) were remarkably the only ones reported.

Three **Purple Martins** at YC 6/17 (m.ob.) were unusual as there are no known nearby colonies. Last **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were 3 at YC 7/15 (LC, SD, TG, DM). A **Bank Swallow** stopped at YC 7/30 (TS). The season's lone **Cliff Swallow** was spotted at Hemlock Lake 6/21 (m.ob.). **Hermit Thrush** reports included 2 on the *Indiana* section of the Patton BBS 6/13 (MH, RH) and one at SGL 262 on 7/26 (TS).

Best **Ovenbird** tally was 10 on 6/13 (MH, RH) at the last 12 stops of the Patton BBS, the *Indiana* section. Last **Louisiana Waterthrush** was noted 6/17 (LC, TG, MH, RH) at YC. Top **Black-and-white Warbler** tallies were 3 at the South Sixth Street SGL 6/9 (GC, MH, RH) and 9 along the Ghost Town Trail between Stiles Run and Dilltown. The season's only **Kentucky Warbler** was observed near RM 7/22 (TS). **Hooded Warblers** were noted at 10 locations (m.ob.) with the best counts of 4 at YC 6/3 (LC, TG, MH, RH, KT) and 7 at Pine Ridge County Park 6/28 (m.ob.). **American Redstarts** were widely reported across the county (m.ob.). Two **Northern Parulas** were singing on territory at YC on various dates between 6/3-24 (m.ob.). A **Magnolia Warbler** was singing near YC 6/9 (GC, MH, RH). A **Blackburnian Warbler** was found at YC 6/17 (m.ob.). YC produced as many as 3 **Chestnut-sided Warbler** 6/17 (m.ob.) and Hemlock Lake County Park yielded one 6/21 (m.ob.). One **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was a nice find near RM 7/22 (TS). **Pine Warbler** was listed only near Shelocta through 7/11 (MH, RH) and at YC until 7/13 (JD). The Conemaugh wetlands hosted *Indiana's* only **Yellow-throated Warbler** 6/24 (MM). The South Sixth Street SGL yielded 2 **Prairie Warblers** 6/9 (GC, MH, RH); the only other report was one on the Patton BBS 6/13 (MH, RH). High **Black-throated Green Warbler** count was 7 at SGL 262 on 7/26 (TS).

Savannah Sparrows are becoming much more difficult to find in the county with the increased planting of corn where hayfields once existed; the only ones noted were singles 6/5 (MH, RH) southwest of Dayton, 6/9 (GC, MH, RH) south of YC, and 7/1 (MH, RH) north of YC. Six **Bobolinks** were seen southwest of Dayton 6/5 (MH, RH).

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Jefferson County

Locations: Clear Creek State Park (CC), Clear Creek State Forest (CF), Mahoning Shadow Trail (MS), Sandy Ridge Road (SR).

A family of 5 **Wood Ducks**, one female and 4 juveniles, was seen on MS 6/15 (KD). A flock of 10 **Common Mergansers** was noted at CC 7/5 (RHe). The only **Great Blue Heron** for the period was on MS 7/13 (JD). A three-year-old **Bald Eagle** was over Punxsutawney 7/9 (TG) being harassed by 2 **American Crows**. One **Broad-winged Hawk** was located on MS 6/15 (KD), and one juvenile was on Kramer Road 7/28 (TS, ph.). The only **Killdeer** for the period were 4 on Kramer Road 7/6 (TS). Reports of **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were one on MS 6/5 (KD), one in CF 7/4 (RN), and one more also on MS 7/13 (JD), but the only **Black-billed Cuckoo** was on Filter Plant Road 6/27 (TG). Four **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were found in CF 7/4 (RN), one on nest. Two **American Kestrels** were in Worthville 7/20 (JK).

Eastern Wood-Pewees, Eastern Phoebe, and Eastern Kingbirds were commonly found. **Acadian Flycatchers** were noted twice, one on Burkett Road 6/5 (JF), and 2 on MS 6/15 (KD). **Alder Flycatchers** were also noted twice, one on Pleasant Hill Road 6/5 (TS) and one on SR 6/21 (m.ob.). One **Willow Flycatcher** was heard on Harvey's Run Road 7/13 (JG, TG), and one **Least Flycatcher** was in CF 7/4 (RN). **Great Crested Flycatchers** were one on SR 6/11 (CE) and 2 on MS 6/15 (KD).

As expected, **Red-eyed Vireos** were common. The only **White-eyed Vireo** was at Beartown Rocks 7/2 (JG, TG). **Blue-headed Vireos** were found twice, one at CC 6/27 (RS) and 2 in CF 7/4 (RN). A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was at CC 6/27 (RS) and a **Brown Creeper** was on Burkett Road

6/5 (JF). A very interesting report was a **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** heard at Williams Run on MS over several weeks up to 6/15 (KD). A high count of 4 **Veery** was made in CF 7/4 (RN). **Hermit Thrushes** were found in the northern forests of the county, one in CF 6/5 (JF), and another a month later also in CF 7/4 (RN).

Fifteen species of warbler were reported. **Ovenbirds**, **Common Yellowthroats**, **Yellow Warblers**, and **Black-throated Green Warblers** were common. Uncommon warblers included a high of 4 **Hooded Warblers** in CF 7/4 (RN), 3 **American Redstarts** on MS 6/15 (KD), and 2 **Chestnut-sided Warblers** in CF 7/4 (RN). Others of note were one **Cerulean Warbler** in CF 6/5 (JF), 3 **Northern Parula** in CC 6/27 (RS), 2 **Magnolia Warblers** in CC 6/27 (RS), 2 **Blackburnian Warblers** in CC 6/27 (RS), **Pine Warblers** on SR 6/11 (CE) and in CC 6/27 (RS), a **Prairie Warbler** on SR 6/11 (CE), and one **Canada Warbler** in CF 7/4 (RN).

The county's reclaimed strip mines produced the only grassland sparrows. A **Savannah Sparrow** was reported on SR 6/15, 6/27, and 7/17 (JG, TG). A high of 5 **Grasshopper Sparrows** was also noted on SR 6/27 (JG, TG). **Henslow's Sparrows** were common on SR, with a high of 5 on 6/27 (JG, TG). SR continues into *Clearfield* for two more miles; on the same date of 6/27, 20 more were counted on the *Clearfield* side (JG, TG).

The highlight for the period and county was a **Dickcissel** observed on SR on two different occasions, heard 6/6 (MH, RH), and heard and briefly glanced 6/15 (JG, TG). **Dark-eyed Juncos** were found only in the forested northern parts of the county, with a high of 3 at Double Diamond Deer Ranch 6/28 (AK). The only **Bobolink** was on SR 6/21 (m.ob.). **Eastern Meadowlarks** were found on county grasslands including at SR where 2 were found 6/6 (MH, RH) and 6/27 (JG, TG).

Observers: **Thomas Glover, 210 Highland Ave., Punxsutawney, PA 15767, tomnglover@comcast.net**, Kathy Dinsmore, Jim Dunn, Carl Engstrom, James Fletcher, Jud Glover, Rick Hershberger (RHe), Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Alyssa Karmann, John Keener, Wendy Leuenberger, Donna Meyer, Flo McGuire, Richard Nugent, Tim Schreckengost, Ron Smith, Penny Warren.

Juniata County

There were 102 species reported on eBird this season, which brought the total for 2014 to 177 species.

Beginning 6/28 an immature **Common Loon** was at Mifflintown River Access (CK, AT). An immature **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** (and a possible immature **Little Blue Heron**) was at Muskrat Springs River Access 7/24. It was documented and photographed a few days later (CK, RP, AT, m.ob.). **Short-billed Dowitcher** was at Parsons Pond 7/22 (CK).

On 6/25 an adult male **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** was found at Van Wert on an Amish farm, property of Amos Renno. It was first seen and heard in the early morning and was publically reported shortly after that. Many birders were able to enjoy this first record for the county. The next morning many people came to see it throughout the day, but except for a fleeting glimpse of the bird flying northeast in the early morning, it wasn't seen again.

Observers: **Chad Kauffman, 91 Kauffman Lane, Mifflintown, PA 17059, (717) 994-6715, chadkauffman@earthlink.net**, Vern Gauthier, Reuben Petersheim, Amos Renno, Aden Troyer, Dick Williams.

Lackawanna County

No compiler.

Lancaster County

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

The first annual Breeding Bird Blitz bolstered birder coverage this season. Forty-eight **Canada Geese** including some fledglings were at MCWMA 6/4 (PF). A **Blue-winged Teal** was on SRCF 7/26 (ME). A female **Bufflehead** was on SRCF 7/17 (ME, ML). A male **Red-breasted Merganser** was still on SR 6/8 (TF). Two female **Common Mergansers** were at Muddy Run 6/8 (TA).

Two pairs of **Ring-necked Pheasants** were at MCWMA 6/4 (BH). A **Common Loon** was on SR 7/15 (JS). A single **Great Egret** was at MCWMA 6/4 (BH), one previously reported with the blue wing tag and 2 others were at Woods Edge 6/9 (SS), and on 6/25, the wing-tagged bird and 4 others were at Woods Edge (SS). An immature **Yellow-crowned Night-**

Heron was at a home in Elizabethtown 6/2 (GD). Three **Green Herons** were at MCWMA 6/4 (BH), one carrying sticks for nest-building. An immature was at MCWMA 7/15 (AW). Two **Cattle Egrets** were feeding in a field near Stop #3 at MCWMA 7/15 (SS). A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was at the dam at MCWMA 6/27 (BH), and one was there again 7/14 (AW). An **American Coot** was on SRCF 6/1 (EW, BC) and another was on the Conewago Recreation Trail and Wetlands 6/6 (LC).

A **Semipalmated Plover** lingered at Beechdale Road Pond 6/9 (SS). A single **Black-bellied Plover** was at SRCF 6/1 (EW, BC). An **American Avocet** was on SRCF 7/17 (ME, ML, LB). A **Spotted Sandpiper** was feeding at a small pond 5/4 at MCWMA. Five **Dunlins** were on SRCF 6/1 (EW, BC). Two first summer **Bonaparte's Gulls** were on SRCF 6/1 (EW, BC). Two **Forster's Terns** were on SRCF 6/20 (ME) and 2 **Caspian Terns** were at MCWMA 6/23 (TN).

Two **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were at SGL 156 on 6/30 (BH). Three **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** were at SGL 156 on 6/30 (BH). Four **Red-bellied Woodpeckers**, one a fledgling following its parent, were at MCWMA 6/27 (BH). A fledgling **Downy Woodpecker** was at MCWMA 6/27 (BH). A **Hairy Woodpecker** with 2 young in tow was at SGL 156 on 6/30. A nesting female **Peregrine Falcon** was being aggressive to a **Turkey Vulture** that had gotten too near her nest 6/3 (ML). The 3 nestlings were very active. Two of the young birds were rescued from SR 6/23 and put on an island to dry out (ML). One of the young birds was again rescued from SR 6/12 (ML). This time it was taken to a rehabilitator due to exhaustion. On 6/13 the third youngster was flying, but one of the other ones was missing. The one in rehab was released 6/20 (ME).

Three **Eastern Wood-Pewees** were at MCWMA 6/4 (BH) and 2 were singing there 6/27 (BH). Three were at SGL 156 on 6/30 (BH). One **Eastern Phoebe** was singing at MCWMA 6/27 (BH). Five were at SGL 156 on 6/30 (BH). Two **Acadian Flycatchers** were singing at MCWMA 6/4 (BH). Three **Willow Flycatchers** were at MCWMA 6/4 (BH). An **Alder Flycatcher** was singing near Stop #1 at MCWMA 7/28-29 (BC, LB). A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was at Overlook Park 6/21 (GS) and one was at Octoraro Reservoir 7/4 (CG). An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was singing at Rock Springs Nature Preserve 6/6 (LB). Four **Great Crested Flycatchers** were singing at MCWMA 6/4 (BH) and 4 were there 6/27 (BH). One was at SGL 156 on 6/30 (BH). Two **Eastern Kingbirds** were at MCWMA 6/4 (BH) and 5 were at MCWMA 6/27. A singing **White-eyed Vireo** was at MCWMA 6/27. Two **Yellow-throated Vireos** were singing at MCWMA 6/27 (BH). Three were at MCWMA 6/4 (BH). Thirteen **Red-eyed Vireos** were counted at MCWMA 6/27 (BH). There were 25 at SGL 156 on 6/30 (BH).

Fifty-two **Tree Swallows**, mostly first year birds, were at MCWMA 6/27 (BH). Two **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were patrolling Sunfish Pond 6/4-27 (BH). Two **Cliff Swallows** were at Wissler Run Park 6/13 (SS). Three **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** were at MCWMA 6/4 (BH). A number were on Pumping Station Road 6/22 (SS), and 3, of which two were a pair, were at MCWMA 6/27 (BH). Sixteen **Eastern Bluebirds**, including fledglings, were at MCWMA 6/27 (BH). Five **Veeries** were at MCWMA 6/4-27 (BH), and one **Wood Thrush** was there 6/4 (BH). A total of 21 were at SGL 156 on 6/30 (BH). Four **Gray Catbirds** were at MCWMA 6/4 (BH). Twenty-seven were at MCWMA 6/27 (BH). Four **Cedar Waxwings** were at MCWMA 6/4 (BH). Six were at MCWMA 6/27 (BH). One was sitting on a nest at the visitor's center parking lot.

Three **Chestnut-sided Warblers** were singing at MCWMA 6/27 (BH). One **Black-and-white Warbler** was singing at MCWMA 6/4 (BH), one was singing at MCWMA 6/27 (BH), and 5 were at SGL 156 on 6/30 (BH). Four **Ovenbirds** were at MCWMA 6/4 (BH) and 30 were at SGL 156 on 6/30 (BH), including an agitated pair. One **Blue-winged Warbler** was singing at MCWMA on the Conservation Trail 6/4 (BH). One **Prothonotary Warbler** was singing at MCWMA 6/4 (BH) and one was singing near Prescott Road 6/25 (SS). Five **Worm-eating Warblers** were at SGL 156 on 6/30 (BH), including 2 males counter-singing. Five **American Redstarts** were singing at MCWMA 6/4 (BH). One **Northern Parula** was singing at MCWMA 6/4 (BH). A **Cerulean Warbler** was singing along Hammer Creek Pumping Station Road 6/22 (SS), and one **Yellow-breasted Chat** was singing on Conservation Trail 6/4-27 (BH).

Three **Scarlet Tanagers**, one of which was sitting on a nest, were at MCWMA 6/4 (BH). Three were singing at MCWMA 6/27 (BH). Twelve, including one feeding a **Brown-headed Cowbird** fledgling, were at SGL 156 on 6/30 (BH). Ten **Chipping Sparrows** were at MCWMA 6/27 (BH), one carrying food. Thirteen **Field Sparrows**, including a fledgling, were at MCWMA 6/27 (BH). Two **Grasshopper Sparrows** were singing at MCWMA 6/4 (BH) and 3 there 6/27 (BH). Three **Swamp Sparrows** were at MCWMA 6/4 (BH). One **Blue Grosbeak** was singing at MCWMA 6/4 (BH), and 2 were there 6/27 (BH). Twelve **Indigo Buntings** were counted at MCWMA 6/27 (BH). Twenty-six were at SGL 156 on 6/30 (BH). Several pairs were highly agitated, and one adult had several fledglings in tow. A **Dickcissel** was at Lakeview Road and Farm Lane 7/4-5 (DW).

Seven **Bobolinks** were at MCWMA 6/4 (BH), and one was doing an aerial display 6/27 (BH). One **Orchard Oriole** was at MCWMA 6/27 (BH). Two **Baltimore Orioles** were at MCWMA 6/4 (BH). Three were at MCWMA 6/27 (BH). Five, some with young, were at SGL 156 on 6/30 (BH).

At least 2 **White-winged Crossbills** were in Strasburg at White Oak Campground 7/27 (DS).

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Lawrence County

Locations: Plain Grove Twp. (PGT), Volant Strip Mines (VSM).

Eleven **Hooded Mergansers** were at the gravel ponds on Shaner Road in PGT 6/21-7/4 (MV). Also notable at this location was a very rare summering **Horned Grebe** over the same dates (MV). Four juvenile **Pied-billed Grebes** were at Wampum-New Galilee Road 7/13 (MV). An **Osprey** was noted at VSM 6/1 (JV) and at Shaner Road 6/21 (MV). A **Bald Eagle** was a bit out of place at VSM 6/26 (MH). **Red-shouldered Hawk** was found at SGL 150 on 7/21 (RN). A **Common Gallinule** was heard at Wampum-New Galilee Road 7/13 (MV), a traditional breeding location. Two separate families of **Sandhill Cranes** were tallied in PGT 6/21 (MV), one with 2 young and the other with one, for a total of 7 birds. A **Long-eared Owl** clutching prey was found 6/26 at a location that will not be disclosed (MH, LW, CG). Though evidence of breeding was not directly observed, this mid-summer sighting strongly suggested it. The only report of **Horned Lark** was one at VSM 6/1 (JV). Fifteen **Purple Martins** were around nesting grounds in the New Wilmington area 7/21 (RN). Top count of **Henslow's Sparrow** at VSM was 6 on 7/5 (TJ, AM).

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Lebanon County

Locations: Fort Indiantown Gap (FIG), Memorial Lake State Park (MLSP), Reistville and Prescott Rd. Ponds (RPP), State Game Lands (SGL).

An adult **Tundra Swan** was unexpected in Jul at RPP 7/28-30 (TB, KB, RCM). A male **Bufflehead** provided a new county late date at RPP 6/27 (TB, KB). Accidental in Jun at MLSP were 4 **Hooded Mergansers** 6/13 (TB) and a male **Ruddy Duck** 6/11-13 (TB, KB).

A **Ruffed Grouse** was a nice find along Tomstown Rd. at FIG 7/1 (TJ). A **Northern Bobwhite** was calling along Cold Springs Rd. at FIG on the evening of 6/4 (KB, TB). One or 2 **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were occasional at the Mine and Birch Rd. Pond 6/17-7/23 (FH, TB, KB). Two **American Coots** established a new county early date at MLSP 7/17 (EB); the species was also at Stover's Dam 7/25-28 (AW, RCM). A **Sandhill Crane** made a brief appearance south of Campbelltown 7/29 (AH).

A **Greater Yellowlegs** with 2 **Lesser Yellowlegs** were at RPP 7/14 (RCM). Rare in early Jul was a **Lesser Yellowlegs** at RPP 7/9 (TB, KB). A **Solitary Sandpiper** was at RPP 7/16 (RCM, DB). A **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was being bombed by swallows at Kreider's Retention Pond 6/14-15 (RCM, TB, KB). They were also at RPP 7/19-26 (RCM, TB, BB, m.ob.) and were joined by a **Western Sandpiper** 7/23-24 (RCM, BB). Rare in early Jul were 4 **Least Sandpipers** at RPP 7/12 (RCM, GR). Two **Short-billed Dowitchers** in breeding plumage were a nice find, on a new county early date, at RPP 7/15 (RCM). A **Black Tern** provided the eleventh county record at MLSP 6/7 (TB, KB).

A **Eurasian Collared-Dove** was perched on a wire in Fontana 6/14 (RCM). This was the only sighting for the year in an area where they were regularly found in the past. Three **Barn Owl** chicks were banded from a nest box at the Greater Lebanon Refuse Authority 7/9 (RL, DMu, GB, m.ob.). A **Barred Owl** was heard along Tomstown Rd. at FIG 6/30-7/1 (TJ). A **Chuck-will's-widow** returned for a fifth year to Tomstown Rd. at FIG 6/7-7/13 (TB, KB, JD, JH, TN, m.ob.). Up to 3 **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were found during the butterfly tours at FIG 7/4-12 (m.ob.) and were also seen at Marquette Lake 7/3 (TN), and at the Royal Oaks Golf Course 7/6 (GB). An adult **Peregrine Falcon** was down on some prey along Reistville Rd. 7/20 (TB, KB).

Acadian Flycatchers were found in appropriate habitat at several locations, with a good count of 4 at SGL 211 on 7/6 (BH). An **Alder Flycatcher** continued singing from the spring at the Camp Shand Powerline 6/2 (RCM) and was reported at SGL 145 General Biddle Rd. parking area 6/17 (MM). Twenty-four **Red-eyed Vireos** were counted at SGL 225 on 7/7 (RCM). Two occupied **Cliff Swallow** nests were found on a building at FIG 6/11-27 (DM, JD). A **Winter Wren** was recorded singing, and a nice count of 16 **Veeries** was made at SGL 211 on 7/6 (BH).

A male **Lawrence's Warbler** was a welcome find at Swatara State Park 6/15 (TB, KB). A **Golden-winged Warbler** continued from the spring quarter at FIG 6/25 (DM, TB). A **Magnolia Warbler** was found at SGL 211 on 7/6 (BH). Two **Cerulean Warblers** were singing on territory near Box Car Rocks at SGL 211 on 6/1 (JH). A visit to SGL 211 produced good counts of 29 **Ovenbirds** and 4 **Louisiana Waterthrush** 7/6 (BH). A **Louisiana Waterthrush** was found at the Camp Shand Powerline 6/2 (RCM). Two singing **Kentucky Warblers** continued from the spring at SGL 80 on 6/10 (TB), with one also continuing at FIG 6/25 (DM, TB, JD). Ten **Hooded Warblers** made a nice count at SGL 211 on 6/1 (JH). A **Canada Warbler** was a good find at SGL 211 on 7/6 (BH). Three **Yellow-breasted Chats** were at SGL 80 on 6/10 (TB).

A **Savannah Sparrow** was found at Kreider's Retention Pond 7/6 (TJ). Five **Grasshopper Sparrows** made a nice count at FIG 7/12 (CH). A pair of **Blue Grosbeaks** was seen at the Greater Lebanon Refuse Authority 7/9 (TB, JD, S&SR). A **Blue Grosbeak** was found during the butterfly tour at FIG 7/12 (CH). A **Dickcissel** was singing along Lindley Murray Rd. 6/28 (TB).

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Lehigh County

No report.

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Luzerne County

Locations: Forty Fort Rec Fields (FFRF), Plymouth Flats (PF), Ricketts Glen State Park (RGSP), State Game Lands (SGL), Susquehanna River (SR).

The summer season is generally the slowest time of the year for birders, but it often can be a very interesting time to be in the field. Early Jun held a few lingering spring migrants, and by the middle of the month the breeding season was in full swing. In Jul, many species that do not breed in *Luzerne* dispersed into the county prior to fall migration, resulting in some of the more unusual and exciting records of the birding year. By the end of Jul, southbound migrant shorebirds were already showing up in good numbers along the SR and at PF. This may be due in part to low water levels in the river after less precipitation than normal during the months of Jun and Jul.

During the summer months, waterfowl diversity is low in *Luzerne* with only five species of ducks and geese breeding in the county. Therefore any other species encountered during the time period is notable, including 2 late migrant **American Wigeons** at PF 6/7 (JD). Though no breeding evidence was detected for either species, a male **Northern Pintail** and a male **Green-winged Teal** both molted into eclipse plumage while spending at least the month of Jul at PF (JH, JD, JhD, RK). **Hooded Merganser** is a species that does breed in the county but in small numbers. A hen was observed with 12 ducklings 6/6 from "The Meadows" of SGL 57 on Mountain Springs Lake Road (EZ). **Pied-billed Grebe** summer records are much less common, so a single bird observed at PF from 7/28-30 was significant (BC, RK).

Wading birds had a good summer with six species observed. An **American Bittern**, which was first seen in Apr, continued throughout the month of Jun at the previously confirmed breeding location "The Meadows" (EZ, AK, JD). Higher than usual numbers of **Great Blue Heron** started to gather at PF towards the end of Jul with a high count of 37 on 7/28 (BC). Waders were drawn to this location because of rapidly falling water levels that stranded many carp and several other species of fish in shallow water. Adult **Great Egrets** begin to show up at the end of Jul. Two individuals

arrived a bit early 7/19 at Coxton Rd. in Duryea (AE). The highlight of the summer season was a juvenile **Little Blue Heron** at PF 7/19 (JD), which represented the first *Luzerne* record in at least a decade. The bird stayed through the end of the month and many birders had the opportunity to observe it (JhD, CK, BC, RK, JH). **Black-crowned Night-Heron**, once annually observed in the county, has not been as easy to find in recent years. One bird flew over Nescopeck State Park 6/28 (JD) and 2 were observed flying over Lake Nuangola 7/19 (RK).

Discovering the nest or territory of any raptor species is exciting, but it is particularly thrilling when the species is uncommon in the area. **Northern Harriers** were confirmed breeding in a swampy area along the border of RGSP and SGL 57. They were observed throughout the month of Jul often exhibiting agitated behavior (RK). Another Northern Harrier was observed flying over Frances Slocum State Park 7/10 (SaG). **Bald Eagles** nest along the SR in several locations in the county. One known nest successfully fledged 2 birds this year. A single juvenile was observed in the nest 6/7 (JD) and 2 juveniles were observed out of the nest 7/19 (JH, JD). The only rail noted was a **Virginia Rail** at Lee Swamp 6/20 (RK).

The last spring migrant of the year was a **Sempalmated Sandpiper** at PF 6/7 (JD). Less than a month and a half later, the first fall migrants were spotted also at PF. On 7/19, one **Solitary Sandpiper**, 2 **Greater Yellowlegs**, and 15 **Least Sandpipers** were present (JD). **Sempalmated Plovers** were present at FFRF from 7/24-26 (JD, JhD) and at PF from 7/26-30 (RK, CK). Seven species of shorebird at FFRF 7/24 was a high total, especially for Jul, and included 2 **Pectoral Sandpipers** and 2 **Sempalmated Sandpipers** (JD).

Another highlight of the summer season was a **Black Tern** at Lake Jean in RGSP. It was first found 6/18 (TK) and then was relocated 7/5 (PB). Unheard of during the summer season, the bird was not likely a breeder.

RGSP is an important breeding ground for many birds that are difficult to find elsewhere in the county. One such species is the **Northern Saw-whet Owl**, which was heard in the park 6/15 (TK). **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** is another bird that is not usually found throughout the county. Though not as localized as some species, they are generally confined to northern *Luzerne*, outside of the river valley. This summer, a pair was confirmed breeding in the White Haven area (MF) and another was heard at nearby Nescopeck State Park 6/28 (JD). **Red-headed Woodpeckers**, though not confirmed breeding in the county this summer, were observed at two locations. One was at a private residence in Beech Mountain Lakes from 7/23-25 (JD) and the other was seen 7/29 near a private farm in Wapwallopen (CK).

Early in the spring, a pair of **Merlins** returned to their territory in Forty Fort. They were observed copulating at that time, but no confirmation of successful breeding was made through the end of May. Two adults were encountered 6/29 vociferously defending their patch of spruces (JD). It took only a short while to discover 2 fledged young in a nearby tree, where they have successfully bred for several years.

Swainson's Thrushes breed only at high elevations in RGSP and vicinity; 8 were found 6/21 on the Mountain Springs Lake Trail in RGSP, including several singing males (EZ), and an adult was observed feeding young there 7/25 (EZ). At least 22 species of breeding warblers were noted. Likely the first migrant warbler of the fall, a **Northern Waterthrush** was at Lake Nuangola 7/22-30 (SS). Another migrant was a **Yellow Warbler** along the SR by the FFRF 7/24 (JD). **Hooded Warblers** are usually dependable in the river valley, especially south of Wilkes-Barre. This summer, however, they were seen and heard all over the county from the forests of RGSP to a small woodlot adjacent to a private residence in the Back Mountain. While Hooded Warblers are expanding their range, **Cerulean Warblers** seem to be contracting theirs. The single stronghold for this species in the county is the Hunlock Creek Boat Launch area, which had only one singing male this summer, encountered several times in the month of Jun (RK, JD, JH). One of the most exciting breeding events of the season was the discovery of 4 singing **Yellow-breasted Chats** at the Glen Lyon (Wanamie) reclaimed strip mines (JS). This species had previously bred in the county several years ago at the power line cut in Harding, but all undergrowth was cleared at that location and the chats left with it. Although breeding was not confirmed at Glen Lyon, it was highly likely. One chat was still singing 7/16 (JD) as were at least 2 **Grasshopper Sparrows**. This location, along with other nearby reclaimed strip mines, hosts the highest numbers of this species in the county.

Observers: **Jonathan DeBalko, 235 Buck Ridge Drive, Drums, PA 18222, (570) 956-1849, jonathan.debalko@wilkes.edu**, Paul Bernhardt, Bill Chambers, John DeBalko (JhD), Andrew Evans, Megan Fedor, Sandy Goodwin (SaG), Jim Hoyson, Andy Keister, Timothy Kita, Chad Kauffman, Rick Koval, Scott Somershoe, Jeff Stratford, Eric Zawatski.

Lycoming County

Locations: Field Station Rd. at Lycoming Creek (FS), Pine Creek valley (PC), Rose Valley Lake (RVL), Susquehanna River West Branch (SR), Susquehanna River Walk at Williamsport (SRW).

A pair of **Mute Swans** was seen in a farm pond east of Elimsport 6/12 but was not there the next day (DnB). A **Hooded Merganser** was seen from the SRW 6/21 (JY, MD, DvB). **Common Mergansers** are common here, so a count of 38 including a crèche of young upstream of the Muncy Boat Launch was not shocking 6/28 (DMB).

Like a flashback from this past winter, a breeding-plumage **Red-necked Grebe** was found at the SRW 7/11-14 (MD, JK, JY, ph.). **Common Loons** were seen on-and-off through the season, including at RVL 7/4 (DvB) and one in breeding plumage upstream of Muncy Boat Launch 7/28 (DnB). **Double-crested Cormorant** was seen 6/13 and late Jul on SR and RVL. **Great Egret** 7/29 along SR at Market Street, Williamsport (JY, MD) kicked off the (as yet) sluggish post-breeding wader dispersal.

Black Vulture just made it into the summer season with a single bird reported 6/1 at Rider Park (DvB), but probably went unreported at other known nesting areas in the county. Raptors, except **Bald Eagle** and **Red-tailed Hawks**, were poorly documented. **Red-shouldered Hawk** was reported only once, at FS 6/6 (NoF, EH), although they likely breed in several parts of the county. The absence of Ospreys during this year's season was notable since nesting was attempted last year.

Shorebirds have become coveted quarry for those pursuing county lists. Late spring and early fall migrants are sometimes found in these months, but only three species were detected this season: **Killdeer**, **Spotted Sandpiper**, and **American Woodcock**, and these all breeders. Seen fairly reliably along the SR, 6 **Spotted Sandpipers** were counted 6/28 on a float trip from Montoursville to Muncy (DMB). Quite unexpected was the basic plumaged **Bonaparte's Gull** seen below the dam on the SR 7/3 (JY). Otherwise, gulls were very scarce this period.

An owl roundup 6/19 in the White Deer Valley found **Barred Owl** and **Great Horned Owl** at SGL 252 and an **Eastern Screech-Owl** in Cove Road; attempts for saw-whet owl failed (DvB, DnB). At least 4 juvenile **Barn Owls** were banded a farm near Elimsport 6/13 (MG). **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were reported from both Ralston and Warrensville 6/8 (DvB).

A second-year **Merlin** was found dead at the base of a window at Lycoming College 7/13. This provided the only summer report for this species, raising doubts that they nested successfully this year. The pair of **Peregrine Falcons** at Market Street, Williamsport, including the new second-year female, continued through the season without nesting, but the pair on the Rte. 405 bridge in Muncy produced 2 young hatched 6/27 and banded 7/18 (MG). Repeated observations of a pair of Peregrines at the Montgomery cliff never resulted in nesting this summer (MG).

Acadian Flycatchers were reported along Little Bear Creek 6/24 (EH), in the Williamsport Water Company 6/15 (DvB), and at Glacial Pools Preserve 7/5 (ML). **Alder Flycatchers** was found along Mill Street 6/18 (DvB) and along PC 6/17 (DvB), while **Willow Flycatchers** were found in several locations, notably along the shore of RVL 6/15 (NoF, DnB). **Yellow-throated Vireo** was singing at FS 7/30 (DnB) during an end-of-season mop-up. At least 10 **Purple Martins** were at the Lycoming County Conservation Area colony 6/1 (DvB). Six nesting pairs produced 24 eggs, of which 13 hatched, and 10 fledged by 7/22—not a good percentage.

Although scarce last winter, **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were found at suitable conifer groves such as the one at Masten 7/30 (DnB). **Carolina Wrens** seemed to have survived the cold winter in this area, with frequent reports throughout the county. No Swainson's Thrushes were reported despite coverage of historic locations.

At least 20 species of warblers may be found nesting in the county, although a few weren't found this year. Infrequently reported breeding species found this year included **Worm-eating Warbler** at FS 6/6 (EH) and also along PC 6/29 (GH). **Blue-winged Warblers** continued from May at Glacial Pools Preserve to 6/1 (DvB). **Pine Warbler** was found at 6/28 at Little Pine State Park (GH) and 2 **Cerulean Warblers** were at FS 6/5-6 (DB, EH), **Yellow-throated Warbler** was along PC (near Merrifield Camp) 7/17 (MS), and at Trout Run Park 7/30 (DnB) where previously reported during spring (DH). A **Mourning Warbler** was found along Bodines Rd. 7/4 (JD), but proved hard to find elsewhere. Warblers that had been documented nesting during the Second Atlas but were conspicuously missing this summer included Golden-winged Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, and, very strangely, Yellow-rumped Warbler.

Vesper's Sparrow was not found at all during the season, but **Grasshopper Sparrows** did make an appearance at the Stoltz Cemetery 6/17 (EH), and 2 were at Williamsport Airport 6/18 (DvB).

Orchard Orioles were reported three times: one along SRW 6/2 was probably a migrant (AK), but one singing on territory 6/6 near Hughesville

and one 6/28 near Warrentonville (DnB) were breeders. The number of reports seems low given this species has been expanding its range.

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McKean County

No compiler.

Mercer County

Locations: Williamson Road (WR).

A **Ruffed Grouse** was found along Barry Road 6/4 (SS), away from the usual location at SGL130. Two **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were at the Shenango Wildlife Area 7/16-22, where they can be expected annually (SS). With record high rainfall in Jun and Jul and Shenango River Reservoir well above summer pool, mudflats at Shenango Wildlife Area were almost nonexistent, limiting shorebird activity to the following species: **Solitary Sandpiper** 7/18, **Lesser Yellowlegs** 7/24, **Least Sandpiper** 7/18-28, and **Semipalmated Sandpiper** 7/24-28 (SS). Both **Yellow-billed** and **Black-billed Cuckoos** were reported in higher numbers at WR than last year during the same period (NT). A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was found along Poole Road 6/15 and up to 5 were at SGL130 on 6/21 (SS, NT).

An **Alder Flycatcher** was heard at WR 6/15 and a **Least Flycatcher** was at the same location until the end of Jul (NT). **White-eyed Vireo** can be found in most areas at SGL130 and a total of 4 were heard there along Reed's Furnace Road 6/21 (SS, NT). Two **Horned Lark** were at White Chapel Road 6/10 (SS) and a single bird was at East Zahnizer Road 7/20 (NT). **Blue-winged Warblers** seem to be moving out of certain areas, but can still be found in good numbers at the clearcut areas at SGL130. These same areas have also created excellent habitat for **Mourning Warbler** and **Yellow-breasted Chat**, both which were found there 6/21 (SS, NT). A **Black-and-white Warbler** was seen at WR 6/15, which was away from usual location at SGL130. Two **Prothonotary Warblers** were at the Golden Run area at Shenango River Reservoir 6/1-7 where they possibly bred (JB, SS). A lingering **Blackpoll Warbler** was heard 6/1 at WR (NT). Three **Grasshopper Sparrows** were at Spring Road 6/29 and a single **Henslow's Sparrow** was heard there 7/10 (SS). A **Purple Finch** was at a feeder at WR 6/29 (NT) and one was heard along Maysville Road 7/2 (SS).

Observers: **Neil Troyer, 876 Williamson Road, Mercer, PA 16137**, Jeff Brinker, Steve Sanford.

Mifflin County

A rare nester here, **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was found near Reedsville 7/4 (RD). Some uncommon nesting species were tallied during a BBS in Rothrock State Forest 6/4 including **Least Flycatcher**, **Winter Wren**, and 2 **Canada Warblers** (DG, GG). Also in Rothrock State Forest was a **Cerulean Warbler** 6/28 (RD). Three **Vesper Sparrows** were on Kanagy Rd. in Big Valley 7/5 (RD). In late May, 2 **Blue Grosbeaks** were found in Big Valley, providing a first record for *Mifflin*; they were observed through at least 6/14 but nothing is known of possible nesting (CK, RH, IB).

Observers: **Greg Grove, 9524 Stone Creek Ridge Road, Huntingdon, PA 16652, gwg2@psu.edu**. Ivan Byler, Rob Dickerson, Deb Grove, Robert Hosler, Chad Kauffman.

Monroe County

Locations: Mt. Pocono (MP).

The period saw average rainfall and slightly lower than average temperatures. A nice collection of shorebirds was observed and photographed in the MP area (BJ).

A late **Ring-necked Duck** was at Weir Lake in Brodheadsville 6/14 (BJ). A water treatment plant and adjacent lake near MP attracted a high count of 11 **Killdeer** 7/30, one **Greater Yellowlegs** 7/22, 4 **Lesser**

Yellowlegs 7/30, and a high count of 18 **Spotted Sandpipers** 7/17 (all BJ). Three **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were at this same MP location along with 8 **Least Sandpipers** and 2 **Pectoral Sandpipers** 7/30 (BJ).

A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was banded 6/7 at The Nature Conservancy's Thomas Darling Preserve near Blakeslee (ph. DS). Likely a migrant, the bird was not relocated on subsequent visits. **Yellow-throated Warblers** were found again in breeding habitat along the Brodhead Creek near Canadensis 6/6 (CH, SK, BJ), and a **Yellow-breasted Chat** returned for a second year in a row to Kunkletown 6/2 (CH, BJ).

Observers: **Brian Hardiman, Monroe County Environmental Education Center, 8050 Running Valley Rd., Stroudsburg, PA 18360, (570) 629-3061, bhmccd@ptd.net**, Corey Husic, Bruce Johnson, Steve Kloiber, Darryl Speicher.

Montgomery County

Locations: Evansburg State Park (ESP), Green Lane Park (GLP), Norristown Dam (ND), Unami Creek Valley (UCV), Wissahickon Waterfowl Preserve (WWP).

The summer of 2014 was mild overall with no particularly noteworthy weather events. Reports were light, and resulted in 122 species.

A **Snow Goose** with a broken wing was at Gwynedd Wildlife Preserve 6/4 (PD). **Common Mergansers** were observed through the season at GLP and multiple locations along the Schuylkill River (m.ob.), including a hen with 15 ducklings at GLP 6/23 (GF).

An early **Pied-billed Grebe** was at Norristown Riverfront Park 7/16 (WBH). Non-breeding **Double-crested Cormorants** were present in small quantities through the summer at GLP, ND and elsewhere (m.ob.). A single flyover **Great Egret** was reported in Lower Moreland 6/20 (CA). In the more expected dispersal window, 4 egrets flew over Pennsburg 7/21 and a single was present at GLP 7/31 (GF). **Green Herons** were quick to discover the easy buffet at WWP, as a construction crew slowly drained the reservoir. A high count of 12 herons was noted there 7/25 (AA). An adult **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was spotted in Pottstown 7/25 (KR). More unusual for *Montgomery*, an adult **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was present at ND 6/29-30 (MR, m.ob.).

Forty-three **Black Vultures** roosted at Norristown Riverfront Park 7/31 (WBH). There were only 2 reports of **Osprey**: one at GLP 6/8 (GF) and another at Worcester 6/10 (PK). The best raptor of the season was an adult **Mississippi Kite** perched in a Hatfield yard 6/13 (SW, AM). It had been forced down by a rainstorm, and lingered only long enough to dry out after the precipitation ended. **Bald Eagles** nesting on private property near GLP successfully fledged 2 young (KC). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was observed at Four Mills Nature Reserve 7/14 (PB), and at a nest site in Pennsburg 7/21 through the end of the period (JG). Successful **Broad-winged Hawk** nesting was likely in 2 *Montgomery* locations. They were noted through the period at ESP, where at least 3 were observed 7/29 (WBH). Similarly, Broad-wings were seen almost daily at GLP, with a high of 3 on 7/9 (KC). The highly leucistic **Red-tailed Hawk** in Hatfield was noted again 7/10 (KR).

Two **Virginia Rails** were at Gwynedd Wildlife Preserve 6/4 (PD).

As has been the case since 2011, the high summer water level at GLP left only mediocre shorebird habitat. A drained reservoir at WWP, on the other hand, was a surprise boon to both shorebirds and shorebirders. One of those WWP guests was a **Semipalmated Plover**, present 7/24-26 (WBH, AA, KR). Two **Lesser Yellowlegs** were at GLP 7/11 (GF, AA). Single Lesser Yellowlegs appeared at WWP 7/24 (WBH) and GLP 7/27 (PD, CH). WWP supported good numbers of **Least Sandpipers**, with at least 100 present between 7/13 and 7/20 (m.ob.). A high count of 132 was tallied 7/13 (KR). By way of comparison, the GLP Least Sandpiper high count was only 8, on 7/11 (AA). Two **Semipalmated Sandpipers** joined the Least Sandpipers at WWP 7/17-18 (PD, AU, KG). A **Short-billed Dowitcher** made a pit stop at GLP 7/20 (PB).

Montgomery's first-of-season **Ring-billed Gull** was at ND 7/12 (MR). It and 3 at Loch Aish Reservoir 7/15 (AA) represented the only gull reports for the season. The only terns were 2 **Caspian Terns** at GLP 6/4 (GF).

Black-billed Cuckoo was noted at GLP on a few occasions in Jun, including a pair 6/1 (GF). **Barred Owls** were heard calling at ESP on three occasions (SF). A **Common Nighthawk** was seen on the Skippack Trail near Collegeville 6/14 (PD). The **Peregrine Falcons** at ND abandoned their nest in early Jun. They remained in the area, however, through the end of the period (m.ob.). A Peregrine sighting in King of Prussia 6/25 may have also been one of the Norristown birds (JC). Another at the Cynwyd Heritage Trail, across from Manayunk, 6/7 was probably a different individual (MW).

A late **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was a nice find at McKaig Nature Center 6/7 (BE, EP). **Acadian Flycatchers** were recorded in at least 14

locations, mostly along the Main Line, at ESP, and in the UCV. **White-eyed Vireos** were in traditional ESP breeding sites (m.ob.), but were also noted at a few more unusual spots. Two were seen at Rolling Hill Park 6/20, where they continued through at least 7/23 (JA). A singing **White-eyed Vireo** was noted at Elmwood Park 6/7 (WBH, CHi), and again 6/27 (SK), and at least one was at Willow Hill School in Willow Grove for the entire period (DS). There were several reports of **Yellow-throated Vireo** from their usual stronghold area of GLP and UCV (m.ob.). Another was noted at Gladwyne 7/12 (SS). A **Yellow-throated Vireo** was reported singing at Valley Forge National Historical Park 6/22-24 (MEH, m.ob.). The only **Common Raven** observation came from the quarry area in Montgomeryville where they are suspected to breed. Only one bird was noted, however, 6/18 (HD).

A pair of **Bank Swallows** at King of Prussia's Heuser Park 6/7 was unexpected, and may indicate local breeding in the vicinity (WBH). The first dispersing Bank Swallows, 20 of them, appeared at GLP 7/11 (GF). A **Brown Creeper** was recorded singing at ESP 6/14 (WBH), very unusual for *Montgomery* in summer months. ESP also hosted a summering creeper in 2013, although it had laid claim to a different area of the park.

Two **Worm-eating Warblers** were discovered at Schuylkill Canal Park (Lock 60) 6/7 (MC), but there were no reports of the species from their normal UCV breeding grounds, though this is not a heavily-birded area at any time, let alone during the summer. Two **Blue-winged Warblers**, another of *Montgomery's* low-density breeding warblers, were heard singing at ESP 6/6 and 6/14 (WBH). Another was reported at Congo Road Open Space in Gilbertsville (MA). A third blue-wing, noted 7/20 at GLP, was more likely to have been an early migrant than a local breeder (PB). Single **Black-and-white Warblers** were spotted at Haverford College 6/20 (SJ) and GLP 7/20 (PB). Rolling Hill Park is the summer home to a decent number of **American Redstarts** (m.ob.). As many as 5 were observed there 6/29 (WBH). The first migrant redstart of the fall was at Norristown Farm Park 6/30 (WBH). **Northern Parula** were observed singing at Elmwood Park 6/7 (WBH, CHi) and ESP 6/14 (KR). A **Pine Warbler** was viewed carrying food at Elmwood Park 6/7 (WBH, CHi), was heard singing at ESP 6/14 and 6/25 (WBH), and another at GLP 7/20 (PB). As a rare *Montgomery* breeding species, it came as something of a surprise that **Yellow-throated Warblers** were found in a second location in addition to GLP, where they had been discovered during the spring (PD). A singing Yellow-throated Warbler was heard at Mont Clare 6/5 (SaS). A few days later, 2 were noted counter-singing at the same spot (RK). At GLP, the pair was observed feeding a juvenile 6/20 (PD), although it's possible this was a **Brown-headed Cowbird**. Counts of 6 **Prairie Warblers** were tallied at ESP 6/14 (WBH, m.ob.) and UCV 6/29 (SG). A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was singing from a Palm hedgerow 6/1 (WBH, SG) and again at the same location 6/21 (SG).

Though maimed by construction of a new wing at Graterford Prison, the fields beyond Upper Skippack Mennonite Cemetery were still productive for *Montgomery's* beleaguered grassland breeders. One to 2 **Savannah Sparrows** were observed there through nearly the entirety of Jun (AM, m.ob.). It also hosted as many as 4 **Grasshopper Sparrows** during the same timeframe (m.ob.). Four **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were reported at 6/21 (HB, FV), the high count for this species, and one of only three reports.

Four **Bobolink** were at Fruitville Rd., near East Greenville, 6/1 (SG, WBH). Five or more were present at Upper Skippack Mennonite Cemetery during Jun (m.ob.). The high count for **Eastern Meadowlark** was 8, at Valley Forge National Historical Park 7/8 (WBH). Meadowlarks were also located at four other sites.

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Montour County

No compiler.

Northampton County

Locations: Green Pond (GP).

For several years in a row, **Snow Geese** were found at a private pond on Blossom Hill Rd., Bath during the summer months. The numbers vary

yearly and in 2014 there were 7. A female **Ruddy Duck** was at GP's flooded field 6/5-14 (MS). After it disappeared, a female Ruddy Duck showed up at Gremer Road Ponds 6/19-7/31 (MS). It was joined by a second ruddy 6/29 that stuck around for several days (MS). Last year, Gremer Road Ponds hosted nesting **Pied-billed Grebes**. On 6/4, an adult Pied-billed Grebe with 3 chicks that appeared to be only a day or two old were present (MS). Part of the nest was visible just inside the cattails and 2 of the chicks were observed climbing onto the back of the adult. The number of young increased from 3 to 5 by 6/16. Unfortunately, 2 juveniles disappeared by Aug.

The focus of the summer report is on breeding birds, yet spring migration isn't quite over in Jun and fall migration starts in Jul. A **Glossy Ibis** showed up at GP 7/12-13 (MS). This bird, like many of the herons and egrets, occurs in our region as a post-breeding wanderer. An adult **Mississippi Kite** circled over a birder's home just west of Bath in Moore Twp. 6/26 (BE).

Two **Black-bellied Plovers** at GP 6/12-15 (MS, DD) were late spring migrants. Eight **Least Sandpipers** at GP 7/9 (MS) probably represented fall migrants. Conditions at GP's flooded field in Jul were just right for early fall shorebirds and several good birds showed up. A colorful female **Wilson's Phalarope** and a few **Lesser Yellowlegs** were found 7/12 (MS). A **Stilt Sandpiper** was there 7/21 (DD). **Pectoral Sandpiper** and **Semipalmated Plover** were added to the species list 7/23. Then, 7/27, a **Baird's Sandpiper**, **Stilt Sandpiper**, **Pectoral Sandpiper**, 20 **Solitary Sandpipers**, 59 **Least Sandpipers**, **Semipalmated Sandpiper**, **Killdeer**, and 2 **Lesser Yellowlegs** were found at GP (DD). Unfortunately, the hot, dry weather was relentless and the flooded field was nearly dried up at month's end. And even worse, GP which has recently been accepted as an IBA may be lost to housing by a new developer.

In Easton, 2 **Common Nighthawks** were seen 7/12 (PP). Two **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were heard 6/23 near the Little Gap hawk banding station (MS). There were 3 successful **Peregrine Falcon** nests. In Bethlehem by the Sands Casino, 3 chicks were observed 6/11 (DL). At Martins Creek Environmental Preserve, 2 chicks were banded (The Morning Call) at the PPL nest site. The third nest was at the county line in the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area where a **Peregrine Falcon** pair used an old raven's nest to produce one young (BH). This hatchling had a broken wing and was taken to a rehabilitation facility. This was the first year this pair has been successful since their first attempt in 2003.

Red-breasted Nuthatch is far from a regular nester in the county. An adult Red-breasted Nuthatch with a fledgling seen in Bethlehem 6/28-7/1 was a great find. On a visit to Bear Swamp 6/24, a **Northern Waterthrush** carrying food provided confirmation of nesting of another uncommon county bird (RW). A **Blue Grosbeak** pair was seen at the Grand Central Landfill, Pen Argyl 7/9 (MS). Another was seen at Martins Creek Environmental Preserve 7/16 and 2 others were reported in Hellertown 7/12 (RW).

Observers, **Michael Schall, 126 N Chestnut St., Bath, (610) 737-5275, mdtsjchall@yahoo.com**, Dave DeReamus, Bill Etter, Brian Hardiman, Dave Leibert, Paul Pisano, Rick Wiltraut.

Northumberland County

No Compiler.

Perry County

There was no exceptional weather during the period. Temperatures may have been a little cooler than normal and there was average precipitation. Like the weather there was not much exceptional about the birding either, with no rarities or vagrants to report. *Perry* remains a lightly birded county with only 86 species reported on eBird for the period tallied from 30 checklists—20 in Jun and 10 in Jul.

Observers: **Vernon 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).

Breeding records were scarce, even when compared with pre-eBird era when summer reports were truly few and far between. Furthermore this was not a hot or oppressive summer; rather it was the coolest in memory with only three days at or above 95°F and normal rainfall.

The best bird of the season was a juvenile **White Ibis** at TI 7/31-8/1 (GA, ph., m.ob.). Three **Lesser Scaup** at the TI impoundment 6/1 were a good find (FW). The photo of a juvenile **Pied-billed Grebe** at TI 6/24 was interesting (JC). With no previous sighting of an adult grebe—much less a breeding pair—at the heavily birded refuge during Jun, where did this bird come from? Across the *Delaware* border of the refuge, a Pied-billed Grebe without juvenile characteristics was reported 7/12 (AG) and a grebe was in the Philly portion of TI 7/22 (FW). Amazingly, a **Common Gallinule** was also photographed 6/24 (JC) but never seen again.

An **American Bittern** was observed flying south on the Delaware River at POD 7/27 (FW). **Least Bittern** were reported throughout the season at TI (m.ob., ph.), but no nest or juvenile was noted. Even without the drawdown of the impoundment at TI, 70 **Great Blue Herons** and 87 **Great Egrets** were counted 7/20 (AMe). With that siege of herons on 7/24, a **Snowy Egret** was also present along with 3 **Little Blue Heron** (FW). Only 2 **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were reported 7/20 at TI and still no breeding locations are known. A juvenile **Glossy Ibis** was seen briefly in the presence of the **White Ibis** before leaving the TI impoundment 7/31 (GA).

Four pair of **Peregrine Falcons** raised 11 chicks but a fifth clutch of four eggs failed to hatch (AMc). There were no reports of **Virginia Rail** that could confirm suspected breeding after 2 lingered at TI in May. Small numbers of the most common and expected sandpipers were at TI and POD when the tide allowed.

The **Acadian Flycatcher** returned to breed at TI for the third season (m.ob.). Numerous Jul sightings totaling less than 10 **Purple Martins** at POD suggested that a new colony must have formed in the vicinity, perhaps in Philly or New Jersey (FW, GA, TF). The same was true for **Bank Swallow** with 40 at POD (FW, TF). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** sang from 7/6-9 at The Boxer's Trail in Fairmount Park where it was recorded (PM, GJ, CM, ph.). This location is north of the 7/7-11 sighting in 2013. Breeding **Orchard Orioles** have increased in number so finding 13 females at Naval Business Center, aka the Navy Yard, 7/29 was not surprising (GA).

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Pike County

Locations: Delaware State Forest (DSF).

A nest with 3 **Red-shouldered Hawk** chicks was found at Pocono Environmental Education Center 6/7 (MS). An adult **American Woodcock** with 2 young strolled through a campsite at Promised Land SP 6/28 (DB), and another was sitting on a nest off Highline Rd. in DSF 6/1 (CCS, MS). There were 15 **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** and 2 **Barred Owls** counted during a nightjar survey 6/7 in DSF (SS). On 6/21 along Flat Ridge Rd., DSF during predawn hours, 12 Eastern Whip-poor-wills and 2 Barred Owls were heard (CCS, MS). An Eastern Whip-poor-will was photographed on a nest along Flat Ridge Rd. 7/6 (CCS, MS). Shortly after, 2 fuzzy chicks hatched.

A **Purple Martin** was at Lake Wallenpaupack 6/15 (BS). There were 3 male **Brown Creepers** singing at Pocono Environmental Education Center 6/7 (MS). **Winter Wren** was found at Promised Land S.P. 6/15 (AS), Toms Creek Picnic Area 6/18 (MD), Lake Paupac Club 7/5 (ZM), and at Dingman's Ferry 7/21 (P&JW). There were 23 species of warblers listed. A **Mourning Warbler** was along Kleinhan's Trail, DSF 6/3 (EP) and a **Brewster's Warbler** was found nesting off Highline Rd. in early Jun along with nesting **Blue-winged Warbler** and **Golden-winged Warbler** (CCS, MS).

Observers: **Michael Schall, 126 N. Chestnut St., Bath, PA, 610-737-5275, mdtjschall@yahoo.com**, Dave Belford, Mathew Daw, Zach Moyer, Edie Parnum, Corinne Campbell Schall, Susan Schmoyer, Adam Smith, Brandon Swayer, Peter & Jane Wolfe (P&JW).

Potter County

No compiler.

Schuylkill County

Locations: Jeff's Swamp (JS).

Temperatures remained cool through most of the period with above average rainfall. The county registered a total of 113 species, consisting primarily of upland passerines, which had a high likelihood of breeding locally.

The county's summer breeding waterfowl assemblage has generally been limited to **Canada Goose**, **Wood Duck**, and **Mallard**. However, **Mute Swans** have now established themselves as breeding residents; the pair at Stoyer's Dam in Schuylkill Haven produced young this year (DR). **Common Merganser** also appears to be extending its breeding range into the county: an adult with 9 juveniles were seen on the Little Schuylkill River near New Ringgold 6/4 (RK). Other individual adults were seen 6/17 at Sweet Arrow Lake (DD) and 6/28 at LR (DK). Very unusual for the county, a juvenile **White-winged Scoter** spent the summer near New Ringgold (KL).

The county had at least 2 **Bald Eagle** nests this year and possibly a third. Young were confirmed at Sweet Arrow Lake (DD). **Broad-winged Hawk** numbers seem to be decreasing but a nest was identified in West Penn Twp. (LG).

Three owl species were reported at single locations. Unlike previous years however, when numerous reports were issued, **Eastern Screech-Owl** was only reported once: 7/3 at Locust Lake State Park (TB). **Great Horned Owl** was also limited to a single report: 6/25 at SGL 227 (TB). **Barred Owl** were heard 6/28 (DK) and again 7/5 (RR) at JS. There are historically a few areas in the county where Eastern Whip-poor-wills breed, primarily in the north-central part of the county around St. Clair and Frackville, and in the southern part of the county. This year there were no reports of the species within the safe dates. The lack of reports is probably a result of a lack of coverage. For the third consecutive summer, **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were reported in *Schuylkill*. This year, a single adult was reported 7/29 on North Slope (KG). This is the same location where a pair was confirmed nesting the last 2 years (KG). **American Kestrels** numbers were down with only a single report this season: 7/4 in Wayne Twp. (RR).

The general belief among some of the county's birders concerning the presence of breeding *Empidonax* flycatchers is that Acadian, Willow, Alder and Least are probably here in low numbers but are not recorded every year. The most common location for these flycatchers is in the south-western corner of the county near the *Lebanon* border. **Acadian Flycatcher** is the most common *Empid* in the county and it was found at four locations this season: 6/25 and 7/5 at JS (DK, DR, RR), several dates at Locust Lake State Park (TB), 6/28 on the Bartram Trail (KG), and 7/5 on Rattling Run in Port Clinton (RK). Just to be contrary, in addition to a sighting near Pine Grove (VG), **Alder Flycatcher** was found in the northern part of the county this year at Tuscarora State Park, where they were reported six separate times between 6/3 and 6/13 (JoD). **Willow Flycatcher** was only found at Swatara State Park 6/1 (BR).

Numbers of breeding **Blue-headed Vireo** seem to be dropping; it was only found at JS 6/25 (DK) this season. **Yellow-throated Vireo** is another species that historically breeds in low numbers but was reported eight times in seven locations this year. **Horned Larks** were reported in two locations in the county, both north: Tuscarora State Park had two reports on different dates in mid-Jul (JoD), and Kelayres Reclaimed Minelands (JD) where it was confirmed breeding. A total of 18 warbler species were found, of which eight were confirmed breeders. The most notable of the bunch was a **Blackburnian Warbler** carrying food at JS 6/25 (DK). **Swamp Sparrows** were heard 6/25 (DK) and again 7/5 (DR, RR) at JS. A single **Bobolink** was reported in southeastern *Schuylkill* 6/15 by the Kittatinny Ridge Monitoring Project. An **Orchard Oriole** was feeding young 7/6 at Swatara State Park (BR).

Observers: **Dave Rieger, 401 Stoney Mountain Road, Auburn, PA 17922, d.m.rieger@gmail.com**, Thomas Buehl, Jr., Erin Cookson, John DeBalko (JoD), Jonathan DeBalko (JD), Todd Deininger, Denise Donmoyer, Vernon Gauthier, Kevin Graff (KevG), Laurie Goodrich, Kerry Grim, Brian Henderson, John Hintermister, Barb Jucker, Andy Keister, Rudy Keller, Dave Krueel, Ken Lebo, David McNaughton, Rich Rieger, Barb Ritzheimer, Dan Schwartz, Beverly Shick, John Stetson, Mike Ward.

Snyder County

No report.

Compiler: **Jason Weller, fishingdude20@hotmail.com**.

Somerset County

Locations: Buffalo Creek (BC), Kimberly Run Natural Area (KRNA), Somerset Lake (SL).

The season was generally cool with above average rainfall. The only breeding bird work was done at KRNA where surveys are being performed in the predominately hemlock forest which has had recent woolly adelgid infestation. SL remains drawn down about six feet exposing moderate mud flats. This season demonstrates yet again SL's potential as a premium stopover site for migrant shorebirds, if long-term management plans are adopted to expose mud at the right seasons.

A group of about 3 **Mute Swans** continued to inhabit Stoughton Lake. A few attentive local hunters do not allow them to spread beyond this private residential lake. Many **Mallards** and **Wood Ducks** bred at SL this season with the **Mallards** using the many acres of smartweed and other thick vegetation growing on the exposed lake bottom. An **American Wigeon** was seen at SL 6/14 during Lakefest celebration (AMc, m.ob.). Only a few **Ring-necked Pheasants** remain in the Wild Pheasant Recovery Area. A **Common Loon** was at Quemahoning Reservoir 7/15 (LG) where they have summered the past few years.

An **American Bittern** was at BC 6/10 (JP, CP) an intriguing date in a wet year; the area has about 60-80 acres of wetlands. Another was reported flying over the Lanzone property (ML, TM). Two **Black-crowned Night Herons** also flew over the Lanzone property 6/1 (TM). A **Black Vulture** flew past the Payne property 6/6 (JP), this bird is still uncommon in the county. **Ospreys** did not nest at SL again this year after being disturbed last year. **Bald Eagle** adults and juveniles were frequently reported at SL and Quemahoning Reservoir. The **Sandhill Cranes** did not return to BC this year.

Southbound shorebirds were first detected 7/10 at SL when **Lesser Yellowlegs**, **Least Sandpiper**, and **Solitary Sandpiper** were present (MD). A **Black-bellied Plover** flew over Berlin Area 7/19 (JP). SL's third occurrence of **American Avocet** was established by 3 individuals that put down 7/23 (BC). **Greater Yellowlegs** and a nice alternate plumaged, *hendersoni* **Short-billed Dowitcher** were at SL 7/20 (JP).

A pair of **Belted Kingfishers** bred in a road cut bank near Summit Mills and were observed feeding young (EB); 4 young fledged in early Aug. A pair of **Red-headed Woodpeckers** was near Shanksville 6/15 (JP, CP, CL). Others were seen west of Somerset through season (JM, MM). **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** bred on Allegheny Mountain at the Payne property for the first time. They were first found breeding in county on Laurel Mountain for the second Breeding Bird Atlas. **Cliff Swallows** are more commonly breeding on barns (usually unpainted) in county and many were observed by in Summit Mills (EB). A few had second clutches.

Several pairs of **Brown Creepers** and **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were found at KRNA during breeding bird surveys (CP). Both are uncommon county nesters. A few **Carolina Wrens** and **Northern Mockingbirds** either survived the winter or moved back into the county from lower elevations (AMc, JP). Four or 5 pairs of **Northern Waterthrush** bred at KRNA (CP). **Henslow's Sparrows** could be found in several old fields on the east side of Allegheny Front (CP, AP, JP). They are more commonly found in old strip mines. A pair of **Orchard Orioles** was also found on Brush Creek east of the Front (CP, JP).

Observers: **Jeff Payne 9755 Glades Pike, Berlin, PA 15530, (814) 267-5718**, Scott Bastian, Elmer Brenneman, Bill Cline, Sandy Cline, Michael David, Linda Greble, Carolyn LaBute, Mike Lanzone, Anthony Marich, Andy McGann (AMc), Jim Moses, Meg Moses, Chris Payne, Alan Peterson.

Sullivan County

Locations: Dutch Mountain (DM), Ricketts Glen State Park hayfields (RGSPHF), SGL 13 Splashdam Pond (SDP), SGL 13 Glass Creek Pond (GCP).

The majority of the summer reports for *Sullivan* come from the eastern and southern areas along or near the Rte. 487 corridor. SDP, RGSPHF and Jamison City Road were visited on multiple occasions. There were several trips to the DM area. **Canada Goose** was confirmed as a nester at several locations. A hen **Wood Duck** led 8 ducklings along the edge of Kosta Pond in Dushore 6/7. Young **Hooded Merganser** were present at SPD 6/14 (EZ) and 7/6 (DG). A male **Common Merganser** was seen on the Loyalsock Creek below Forksville in early Jun.

A **Common Loon** was observed on Eagles Mere Lake 6/15. Also at Eagles Mere, a male and female Red-necked Grebe were reported to eBird 6/15 but the sighting could not be confirmed. Two **Horned Grebes** were

located at Eagles Mere 6/16 (RM). One bird was in mostly breeding plumage while the other still had a good amount of winter plumage.

A single **Green Heron** was seen on two separate occasions in a small wetland near Litzelman Rd. in Cherry Twp. in Jun. A **Black Vulture** soared alone 6/7 above World's End State Park. **Bald Eagle** was seen the same day in the same general area. **Northern Harrier** was found on three separate occasions at RGSPHF. A male was seen and heard calling 6/29 (EZ) and seen 7/1 (DG). A male and female were present 7/3 (EZ) and both were described as agitated and giving alarm calls. The area has good habitat for a nesting harrier. **Red-shouldered Hawk** is reported from GCP 6/30 (DG). There were multiple reports for **Red-tailed Hawk**, **Broad-winged Hawk** and **American Kestrel**.

The nesting pair of **Sandhill Cranes** in the Litzelman Rd. area of Cherry Twp. was observed several times throughout the summer. A chick was half the size of the adults when seen in early Jun and grew rapidly. All 3 birds were seen together again in both late Jun and 7/24 (DeG, GG). **Killdeer** was reported from multiple locations. Two **American Woodcock** were present at SDP 6/14 (BFD, PD). An adult American Woodcock with three young crossed Bellasylva Rd. on DM 6/21 (RM). The adult's entire body was pumping up and down as the group moved along.

Both cuckoo species were heard more than once. **Black-billed Cuckoo** was reported at RGSPHF 6/29 (EZ), along Hunsinger Rd. in Cherry Twp. 7/15 (HM, JC) and from DM the week of 7/20. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was heard at Shady Nook Lake over the 7/4 holiday and again from DM the week of 7/20. **Barred Owl** was recorded at GCP 6/30 (DG) and heard from DM the week of 7/20. **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was heard twice during the month of Jun on DM. **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was observed at different points in the area of SDP on several Jun dates and for the last time 7/2 (DB).

Acadian Flycatcher was seen carrying food along Sullivan Falls Rd. 7/23 (JL). **Alder Flycatcher** was a confirmed nester at RGSPHF 7/1 (DG). As many as 11 Alder Flycatchers were observed in the area that day. A large group of at least 5 **Eastern Kingbirds** near Dushore was present the week of 7/20. Both **Red-eyed** and **Blue-headed Vireos** were reported holding territory on multiple locations throughout the county. Fledged young **American Crows** were seen at RGSPHF 7/3 (EZ). Young **Common Ravens** were reported from the same location 7/1 (DG). Several other species were confirmed nesters on multiple locations and include **Tree Swallow**, **Black-capped Chickadee**, **House Wren**, **Winter Wren**, **Eastern Bluebird**, **American Robin** and **Gray Catbird**. **Swainson's Thrush** was observed 6/30 at GCP (DG) where the observer has had this species since 1983. A **Northern Mockingbird** in Cherry Twp. 6/22 was noteworthy as this is still an uncommon species in the county.

There were reports for 15 species of warbler during the summer period. **Common Yellowthroat** and **Blackburnian Warblers** were both confirmed during Jun and Jul in multiple locations. A family group of **Black-and-white Warblers** were seen on DM over the 7/4 weekend. Fledged young of **Louisiana Waterthrush** were at SDM 7/6 (DG). An **American Redstart** was carrying food in the Jamison City Road area 6/28 (JL). **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was seen carrying nesting material in the same area on the same date (JL). A **Mourning Warbler** was singing along Rte. 487 in a logged area of SDP 6/14 (EZ).

Young of **Eastern Towhee** was observed at RGSPHF 7/1 (DG). **Chipping Sparrow**, **Field Sparrow** and **White-throated Sparrow** were all confirmed nesters on DM during Jul with observations of young. A **Grasshopper Sparrow** was found along Hunsinger Road in Cherry Twp. 7/15 (JC, HM). Two separate **Eastern Meadowlark** were seen carrying food in the same location on the same day by the same observers. **Purple Finch** was seen carrying nesting material 6/16 on DM.

Observers: **Rob Megraw, 131 Butternut Drive, Pottstown, PA 19464, (610) 323-0119, robert.r.megraw@xo.com**, David Brown, Skip Conant, Janet Crawford, Brenda Fischer-Dennehy, Paul Dennehy, Doug Gross (DG), Deb Grove (DeG), Greg Grove, Judith Lynn, Holly Merker, Chloe Tremper, Eric Zawatski.

Susquehanna County

No compiler.

Tioga County

No compiler.

Union County

No compiler.

Venango County

Locations: Barkeyville Strips (BS).

The bywords for the season were rain, rain, and more rain. For the fourth consecutive year, our species count for the summer season dropped. In 2011, observers reported 133 species, followed by 126 in 2012, 116 last year, and 113 this year. On a more positive note, eBird participants increased from nine to 12.

A few **Ruddy Ducks** lingered at Kahle Lake until 6/13 (GE). There were four reports of **Green Heron** (GE, RS), about the norm for the past few years but down historically. **Upland Sandpipers** again were located at BS, their historical location, 6/3 (KP) and 7/2 (JM). **Bald Eagles** were numerous and at least the nest along Rte. 8 near Reno was successful. Other raptor sightings, except for **Red-tailed Hawk** and **American Kestrel**, were few and far between. A **Northern Harrier** was reported at BS 7/2 (JM); a **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was seen at Buttermilk Hill Nature Sanctuary 7/16 and 7/30 (KG, JS); one **Cooper's Hawk** was reported at Kahle Lake 6/29 (RS); 2 **Red-shouldered Hawks** were reported 6/5 (KP) and 6/29 (RS); and there were 3 **Broad-winged Hawk** sightings 6/22 (GE), 6/24 and 6/30 (KG, JS). Reports of both **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** and **Black-billed Cuckoo** were substantially lower than last year. An **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was heard at SGL 45 near Van, 6/26 (RS). Low numbers of **Common Nighthawk** returned to Franklin (JH) and Oil City (RS).

The only **Alder Flycatcher** was reported at Oil Creek State Park 7/1 (RS). The only **White-eyed Vireo** was seen at Buttermilk Hill Nature Sanctuary, 7/18 (KG, JS). Our one known active **Purple Martin** colony, at the BS, continued to do well (PL, JM, RN, BR). The annual **Cliff Swallow** nest survey results were: Eighth Street Bridge at Franklin, 31; Oil City Parking Garage, 14; Rte. 8 Bridge at the entrance to Oil Creek State Park, 5. The overall total was the same as last year with an increase of six at Franklin, a decrease of six at Rte. 8, and the Oil City Parking Garage remaining the same, 6/21 (RS). A **Mourning Warbler** was reported at Faller Farm near Venus 6/7 (KM). The BS were visited often and provided the only reports of **Northern Mockingbird** 6/5-7/2 (KP, PL, BR, JM) and **Grasshopper Sparrow** 7/2 (JM).

Observers: **Gary Edwards, 224 Meadow Rd, Apt 9, Seneca, PA 16346, (814) 676-3011, gedwards@csonline.net, Russ States, 11 E. 4th St., Oil City, PA 16301, (814) 676-6320, pabirder@verizon.net**, Nancy Baker, Carl Engstrom, James Fletcher, Kathie Goodblood, Caleb Gordon, Jeff Hall, Patrick Lister, Meg Kolodick, Nick Kolodick, Alex Lamareau, Jeff McDonald, Kent McFarland, Richard Nugent, Kevin Parsons, B. Riedel, Steve Sanford, Jerry Stanley, Neil Troyer, Jim Wilson, Alexander Zorach.

Warren County

No compiler.

Wayne County

No report.

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

Washington County

Locations: Bavington (BAV).

A rare mid-summer **Northern Shoveler** drake was at Timber Lake 6/30 (ph. MJ). The first and only migrant shorebird was a **Solitary Sandpiper** at Canonsburg Lake 7/27 (ST). After a poor spring for the species, **Black-billed Cuckoo** was reported from five locations in Jun and Jul (m.ob.). Also rare in summer but a periodic breeder, a **Blue-headed Vireo** was at BAV 6/23 (BB). This season's new location for **Common Raven** was perhaps the strangest yet—suburban Peters Twp., where 2 were noted 7/16 (GG). Another rare breeder in the southwest corner of the state is **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, but the species is nonetheless annual in summer at Washington Cemetery. Four were there 6/29 (MV) including one young bird being fed. A **Vesper Sparrow** at BAV 6/23 (BB) was a nice find. **Henslow's** and **Grasshopper Sparrows** were plentiful at BAV as usual (m.ob.). **Bobolinks** were found in a few places including 2 at Atlasburg 6/21 (CB).

Observers: **Geoff Malosh, 450 Amherst Avenue, Moon Township, PA 15108-2654, (412) 735-3128, pomarine@earthlink.net**, Bill Brown, Cathy

Brown, Lauren Conkle, Gigi Gerben, Matthew Juskowich, Shannon Thompson, Mark Vass.

Westmoreland County

Locations: Kuehl Property in Murrysville (KP), Linn Run State Park (LRSP), New Stanton (NS).

A sighting of a single **Great Egret** near NS 7/29 (GG) from the Pennsylvania Turnpike, and 2 **American Avocets** at Beaver Run Reservoir 7/25 (PF), both post-breeding wanderers, accounted for the unusual species accounts for the season.

Two **Black Vultures**, often reported on CBCs but not known to breed in the area, were sighted in Ligonier Valley 6/6 (JK) and a single was seen 7/6 (JB). There were several reports of adult and nestling **Osprey** on the longtime Donegal Lake nest. Both adult and juvenile **Broad-winged Hawks** were seen and heard on several occasions at the KP (JK, TK). Not often seen during the breeding season, a **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was observed at Laurel Summit Bog 7/12 (AP). One **Spotted Sandpiper** and 2 **Solitary Sandpipers** were at Athena Road Wetland 7/31 (PF). Both **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** and **Black-billed Cuckoo** were heard throughout the season at the KP (TK, JK).

A **Willow Flycatcher** was heard in NS 7/2 (MF). **Great Crested Flycatcher** was seen or heard several times at the KP (JK, TK). One **White-eyed Vireo** was reported in NS 7/2 (MF) and a **Yellow-throated Vireo** was at LRSP 6/2 (ML). **Common Raven** continued to be reported in lower elevations of the county; one was observed just north of Delmont at the intersection of Rte. 66 and Silvis Road 7/1 (TK). A high count of 15 **Bank Swallows** was reported at Donegal Lake 6/27 (DM). Among several reports at this location a high count of 5 **Purple Martins** were observed at Beaver Run Reservoir 7/26 (AP). A **Purple Martin** colony was found during a BBS on a route near Ruffs Dale. A nesting site in 2011, only one Purple Martin was reported at Murrysville Community Park 6/21 (JK, TK).

Reported as a breeder in the area during the Second Breeding Bird Atlas, a single **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was reported at LRSP 6/2 (ML). A **Louisiana Waterthrush** was along Linn Run and a **Kentucky Warbler** was also in LRSP that day, 6/2 (ML). An unidentified waterthrush was reported along the stagnant pools on West Penn Trail at Livermore 7/26 (MC); the location has been a longtime spot for observing Northern Waterthrush. Unusual at lower elevations, an **American Redstart** was singing and seen on numerous occasions during the season at the KP. One **Cerulean Warbler** was heard singing at Loyalhanna Dam during the running of a BBS route 6/22 (JK, TK). The Three Rivers Birding Club outing covered Laurel Bog and Wolf Run Trail 6/21 and the Westmoreland Bird and Nature Club hiked Fish Run Trail in Linn Run State Park 6/22. County high-elevation specialty species reported on these outings in the adjacent area along Laurel Ridge included **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**, **Least Flycatcher**, **Acadian Flycatcher**, **Blue-headed Vireo**, **Winter Wren**, **Veery**, **Hermit Thrush**, **American Redstart**, **Cerulean Warbler**, **Blackburnian Warbler**, **Chestnut-sided Warbler**, **Black-throated Blue Warbler**, **Black-throated Green Warbler**, and **Dark-eyed Junco**. Notably, **Canada Warbler** was reported by both parties, and by several other observers during the season.

A productive day of grassland birding 6/7 at Leon's Farm near Mt. Pleasant found 7 **Prairie Warblers**, 2 **Yellow-breasted Chats**, 9 **Grasshopper Sparrows** and 4 **Henlow's Sparrows** (MS).

Close to home the local **Carolina Wren** population played second fiddle to several pairs of **House Wrens** that dominated the roosts and nesting boxing at the KP during the season.

Observers: **Tom Kuehl, 3615 Hilty Road, Export, PA 15632, (724) 325-1918, tjuehl@comcast.net**, John Barton, Marcy Cunkleman Mike Fialkovich, Patience Fisher, Gigi Gerben, Janet Kuehl, Mike Lanzone, Donna Mohney, Aidan Place, and Matt Sarver.

Wyoming County

Locations: Iroquois Trail, Tunkhannock (IT), State Game Lands 57 (SGL), Vosburg Neck (VN).

For the first time, this report will include information gathered from several eBird observers whose data has not been included in past reports. The most notable and exciting event of the season occurred 7/28 when a nestling **Merlin** was returned to its nest at Lake Winola. This was the first confirmation of Merlin breeding in *Wyoming*. The nestling had been discovered on the ground by a resident who "rescued" it and delivered it to Rebecca Lesko, Director of the Endless Mountains Nature Center in

Tunkhannock. Rebecca returned the bird to the location of its discovery and reunited it with its parents. Volunteers confirmed nesting in 6 blocks during the second atlas, but not in *Wyoming*.

Acadian Flycatcher, uncommon for *Wyoming*, was recorded 6/18 (TK) in SGL and 6/30 (JD), also in SGL, both within safe dates. **Blue-headed Vireo** and **Warbling Vireo**, both listed as "probable" nesting for *Wyoming* in the second Breeding Bird Atlas, were recorded at multiple locations throughout the period. There was one report of **Swainson's Thrush** at SGL 7/8 (EZ), identifying it as a possible breeder for *Wyoming*, no change from the status in the second Atlas.

There were several records of **Worm-eating Warbler**, including 7/8 at VN (TB), 7/7 and 7/10 at IT (JD), all within safe dates. Similarly a male and female **Nashville Warbler** were recorded 7/24 at Coalbed Swamp (EZ), indicating probable breeders. **Hooded Warbler** was seen several times at IT through the period 6/3-7/17 and at VN several times through the period 6/7-6/28 (JD). To our delight, **Cerulean Warbler**, a species of High Level Concern, was recorded at several locations: 2 singing males 6/7 at VN (JD) and a single bird 7/5 on Windy Valley Road (DGG). A singing male was at IT in late May, as well. However, no Ceruleans were found on any later visits (JD), so the species remains merely a possible breeder for *Wyoming*.

Several **Orchard Orioles** were reported, usually single birds. The most notable was 6/24 at Little Rocky Glen (JD) when a male and female were observed together, indicating a probable breeding pair.

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York County

Locations: Althouse School Road Landfill (ALT), Brunner Island (BI), Codorus State Park (CSP), Gifford Pinchot State Park (GPSP), Lake Redman (LR), Rocky Ridge County Park (RRCP).

The season's 127 was a very good count, bolstered by Breeding Bird Blitz efforts that provided some great documentation of breeding activity in the county. Of particular note were 78 species at GPSP 6/28 (EB). The results also showcased one of the county's best birding areas, not only in this season but all seasons.

Some nice counts of **Wood Duck** included 18 at GPSP 6/28 (EB) and 35 at CSP 7/12 (DH). Two separate **Hooded Merganser** clutches were seen at the State Game Lands at Sunnyside Road 6/24-29 (CB), with females accompanied by 5 and 2 juveniles. The waters along the Long Level shoreline of the Susquehanna River held both a **Common Merganser** and **Red-breasted Merganser** 6/18 (CM). A **Common Loon** was at GPSP 6/10 (BT) and GPSP also held a **Pied-billed Grebe** 6/28 (EB). BI produced an **American Coot** 6/2 (DK, DN). The only **Ring-necked Pheasant** was at Fawn Grove 6/23 (MJ). **Wild Turkey** sightings were typical: four reports of single birds. A 6/1 nesting survey at Kiwanis Lake produced high counts for **Great Egret** and **Black-crowned Night-Heron** of 29 and 33, respectively (PK). The dispersal period continued to show LR as the favored location for the egrets, while the herons were more random in their dispersal. **Osprey** nesting took place at both BI and CSP while **Bald Eagle** nesting was best observed at CSP and Lake Williams. A 6/15 (DW) **Northern Harrier** sighting at LR was interesting. It was one of three south-central Pennsylvania eBird reports during the 6/5-12 period with no other reports outside that period.

One of the shorebird highlights was 4 **American Avocets** at LR 7/14 (RS) with a single bird lingering to 7/25 (m.ob.). Gateway Hanover Shopping Center Retention Ponds produced the only **Greater Yellowlegs** 7/21 and on the same date a **Solitary Sandpiper** was at CSP (AW). ALT held an **Upland Sandpiper** 7/26-27 (DF). Five sightings of **Least Sandpiper** spanned 7/21-25 with CSP yielding the high count of 10 birds 7/21 (AW). The identification of 3 **Pectoral Sandpiper** at Spring Grove 7/25 (PK) was aided by size comparisons to also-present **Killdeer** and **Least Sandpiper**. **Caspian Tern** was at CSP 7/12-19 (BB, DH).

A pair of **Eurasian Collared-Doves** was spotted 7/11 (KG) on a wire along Springwood Rd. Typically missed in this period, a **Black-billed Cuckoo** was a welcome sighting at Mellinger Rd. 7/1 (DC). Ten reports of **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** included four reports of 2 birds. **Red-headed Woodpecker** showed at ALT all period with 5 adults and 2 juvs. 7/29 (RS). The only other location for this species was Lake Williams 7/22 (CK).

There were 18 reports of **Acadian Flycatcher** with the southeastern portion of the county showing particularly well. The week of 6/2 (DC) produced good numbers at Spring Valley County Park, 4 were present at

Muddy Creek Forks 6/12 (CB, CKa), and 8 were at GPSP 6/28 (EB). The prior two years saw minimal reporting of **Willow Flycatcher** but this year returned to a more normal 11 reports (m.ob.). **Least Flycatchers** were at Hawk Lake Golf Course 6/3 (BT) and Fairview Township 7/28-29 (DN). There were 7 reports of **White-eyed Vireo**, with GPSP providing the high count of 6 birds 6/28 (EB). The five **Yellow-throated Vireo** reports were a highlight with observations from Alum Rock Rd. 6/1 (CB), at Spring Valley County Park week of 6/2 (DC), at Lock 12 on 6/14 (NP) and at GPSP 6/20-28 (DN, EB). GPSP provided the sole report of **Blue-headed Vireo** 7/30 (WC). There were 7 reports of **Warbling Vireo** with the high count of 4 at BI 6/2 (DN). The trails at GPSP 6/28 (EB) and 7/30 (TM) produced **Red-eyed Vireo** counts of 25 and 20 respectively. Reports of single **Horned Larks** were made at Brogue 6/1 (CB) and Windsor Twp. 6/12 (CB, CKa). The majority of reports for **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** and all the reports of **Bank Swallow** were of late Jul migrants. The **Cliff Swallow** colony at CSP produced a 25 bird high count 6/17 (PM) and 7/12 (DH). Reports of **Veery** came from Nixon County Park 6/12 (CB), New Freedom 6/12 (DWa), and GPSP 6/28-7/15 (EB, WR). The 6/28 (EB) GPSP visit produced 6 **Veery** and 16 **Wood Thrush**.

The 17 species of warbler were a dramatic increase over the 10, 10, and 11 species reported the prior three years. A **Blue-winged Warbler** was at RRCP 6/8 (TF). Nine locations produced **Northern Parula** with six of them holding multiple birds. A **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was a likely straggler at LR 6/5 (DW). The lower Susquehanna River provides the county's best opportunity for finding **Yellow-throated Warbler** and that was realized at Lock 12 on 6/14 (NP). **Pine Warbler** was found at GPSP 6/28-7/15 (EB, WR). Good habitat held 14 **Prairie Warbler** at GPSP 6/28 (EB) and singles were at BI 6/2 (DN), CSP 6/4 (PB), Fairview Township 6/18 (DN), and LR 7/25-30 (DN, DW). The eight reports of **American Redstart** were more than normal, but just one locale for **Prothonotary Warbler** was lower than prior years. That spot was BI which continues as a summer home to the species; food was seen being carried to a nest box 6/2-7 (DK, DN, PB). There were four reports of **Worm-eating Warbler** 6/4-20 (CB, CK, CKa, DN). The 6/28 (EB) GPSP effort produced 26 **Ovenbird**; there were 5 at RRCP 6/8 (TF). The five **Louisiana Waterthrush** reports favored the southern half of the county but the five **Kentucky Warbler** reports were countywide. **Yellow-breasted Chat** may have bred at RRCP with reports through the period (DC, LC, TF); two were found on 6/8. CSP also produced a chat 7/3 (TR).

Sparrows were lackluster. ALT was the only location for **Savannah Sparrow** but they were there all period, as were **Grasshopper Sparrow**. Grasshopper Sparrow was also at GPSP 6/28 (EB) and 2 were at High Point Scenic Vista and Recreational Area 7/26 (AM). Observers found **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** at the less-expected low elevation of 560 feet at LR 7/13 (MC) and the more-expected higher elevation of 850 feet at RRCP 6/8 (TF). Good breeding habitat was occupied by 2 **Blue Grosbeak** at GPSP 6/28 (EB). Alum Rock Rd. produced the other Blue Grosbeak 6/12 (CB, CKa). The county's top grassland habitat, ALT, provided the only **Bobolinks**, with 6 birds 7/27 (DF) and the high count of more than 15 **Eastern Meadowlark**. High Point Scenic Vista and Recreational Area produced the other report of 2 meadowlarks 7/26 (AM). **Orchard Oriole** was very well documented with 13 reports from 11 locations. Lock 12 had 4 birds 6/14 (NP) and State Game Lands at Sunnyside Road held 3 birds 6/29 (CB).

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IN FOCUS



*Little Blue Heron, Exton Park, Chester County. See p. 173.
(George Tallman)*



*Common Tern, Gull Point, Erie County. See p. 177.
(Jeff McDonald)*



*Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Van Wert, Juniata County. See p. 180.
(Richard Williams)*

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

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

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