Contents

147 Editorial

148 Avian Conservation Plan for the Slippery Creek Watershed... Gene Wilhelm

151 Observations from the 2014 Pennsylvania Migration Count

......................... Vern Gauthier and Frank Haas

154 Book Reviews ......................... Gene Wilhelm

The Unfeathered Bird

Birds of the Lehigh Valley and Vicinity

156 Summary of the Season ..................... Dan Brauning

159 Birds of Note – June to July 2014

162 Photographic Highlights

167 Local Notes

Suggestions to Contributors ....................... Inside Back Cover

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 DeBalco)
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 unlikeliest 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.

*Sends address changes to PSO, 2469 Hammertown Road, Narvon, PA 17555-9730.*
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 the 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 Pennsylvania-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 2000).

Because certain parcels within those 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 generously 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) 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).

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

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.

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 farmland 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.

513 Kelly Blvd.
Slippery Rock, PA 16057-1145
genewilhelm@aol.com

References
Andrus, Doniele et al. 2007. Natural resources. In Northwestern Butler County Multi-municipal Comprehensive Plan, pp. 7-34. Mackin, Pittsburgh, PA.

Mackin, Pittsburgh, PA.

Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program. 1991. Butler County natural heritage inventory. Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, Pittsburgh, PA. (Note: also referenced for Lawrence, Mercer, and Venango counties.)

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 shovlers 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 Cambia.

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 form 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 Bittens 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 McKeen, 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 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 more than twice 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 Nightjars

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barn Owl</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Screech-Owl</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Horned Owl</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In comparison, the most diurnal of owls, the Barred Owl, had a slightly higher than average number of 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 drop off 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. Westmoreland 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 Westmoreland.

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 past 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.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>New HC</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>#</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prothonotary</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>Lancaster</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hooded</td>
<td>865</td>
<td>Lycoming</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Am. Redstart</td>
<td>2323</td>
<td>Bucks</td>
<td>176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cape May</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>Cumberland</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N. Parula</td>
<td>1180</td>
<td>Bucks</td>
<td>309</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-T Blue</td>
<td>896</td>
<td>Bucks</td>
<td>152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilson's</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>Bucks</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 overwintering 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 overwintering 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 29 species that either tied or exceeded their previous high counts were neo-tropical migrants (as defined and recognized by the Nootropical 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 Hass 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!

Vern Gauthier
111 W. Big Spring Ave.
Newville, PA 17241
pabirder@gmail.com

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

PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS 153
2014 – VOLUME 28 NO. 3
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.


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 Paeae 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 Piceae. In fact, various revisions of his work saw Linnaeus repeatedly move bird families to and fro between Piceae 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.

---


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
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>.
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 listerv, 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 1,162 checklists covering 187 species and 73,922 individuals. Among these, 3,454 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 Goose 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 scap, 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 McKeon 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. The survey 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 Willets 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 7/19 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
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 too wily 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 Manager 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 6/28 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.

References

Birds of Note – June through July 2014

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).


Gadwall – Crawford: 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: 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 Conejoehela Flats 7/26 (Mike Epler).


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 Tincum 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 Conejoehela 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 Chillisquaque (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); Laurence: 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, Joan 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 Tincum (m.ob.).

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

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 Dreibleibis); 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).

Northern Goshawk - Montgomery: one at Green Pond 7/12-13 (Michael Schall); Philadelphia: a juvenile at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum 7/31 (George Armistead).

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).

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 Barrett) and Stover’s Dam 7/25-28 (Aln 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 Silag); Cambria: 11 at Prince Gallitzin State Park 7/14 (Renée 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 McWilliam, 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 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-necked Stint – 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 (Riger 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 – Eric: single digit counts from 6/30 (James Flynn) to 7/5 (Shannon Thompson, Michel David) and 2 on 7/26 (Matthieu Sabatine at Presque Isle (all eBird); Lancaster: two first summer birds on the Conejoehela 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 Kinsey) 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 – Eric: 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); Eric: 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 Hibgee, 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 Hibgee, Roger Hibgee, 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 Reyser, 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 Valmont, 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); McKeen: late migrant 6/1 (John Fedak, eBird).

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

Bay-breasted Warbler – McKeen: 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 Hibgee, Roger Hibgee) and 6/15 (Judy 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 Valley 6/7 (Butch Lishman fide Chris Stieber, no doc); Crawford: heard along Freymath Road near Cochran 6/17 (Matthew Sabatine, no doc).


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)

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)

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

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)

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)

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)

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)

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)

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)

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)

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)

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)

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)

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). This remarkably confiding male was part of an equally cooperative family of sapsuckers at State Gamelands 102, Erie 2 July 2014. (Jeff McDonald)

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)

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)
Local Notes – June to July 2014

ABBREVIATIONS

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


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 (DJD), 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 GNMNP, 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 Vireos established breeding, this was the first confirmed breeding record 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 GNMNP 6/20 (JS) suggested breeding. The Second Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas (BBA) indicates a median fledging 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 average with 14 species. GNMNP produced a pair of Blue-winged Warblers 6/9 (DT) and SGL held one 7/24 (PK). Chestnut-sided Warbler was found at GNMNP 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". Warbler and Kentucky Warbler were found at SHNP 6/13 (AH). SHNP also produced three Hooded Warbler sightings 6/8-13 (IC, AW). Always a treat, a Yellow-breasted Chat was at GNMNP 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 GNMNP 7/20 (AH). 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.

Observers: Phil Keener, 198 Jacobs Street, East Berlin, PA 17316, (717) 259-9884, pitche74@yahoo.com, Mike Bertram, Ken Chaissen, Ian Clarke, Eli DoPaulis, Don & Jennifer Gilbert (DJG), Andy Horn, Henry McIn, Peter Morgan, Bonita Portzline, Zachary Poulton, Jack Schultz, Ralph & Deb Siefken (RDS), David Tattoni, Jason Verdier, Andy Wilson, Scott Wood.

Allegheny County

Locations: Dashields Dam (DAD), Dead Man’s Hollow (DHM), 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) 6/8 (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, JJ). 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 7/16 (MV). All 3 Bald Eagles were 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 Semipalmented Plover was at DH 6/2 (BB) and an early fall migrant was there 7/20 (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 (KJS), one at Swissvale 6/19 (BMA) and one in Lawrenceville 6/20 (BMA). Two fledging 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, JJ). 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, JJ). Black-and-yellow Warblers are 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 Redstart, 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 (USC).

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 6/14-16 (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).

Observers: Mike Fialkovich, 805 Beulah Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15235, (412) 731-3581, mpetial@verizon.net, Bill Brown, Paul Brown, Jack Chalillet, Michael David, Karyn Delaney, Leslee Ferree, John Flannigan, George Gossler, Malcolm Harter, Paul Hess, Matthew Juskowich, Alyssa Karmen, Ron Kean, Michelle Keinholz, Pat Lynch, Sherron Lynch, Jeff McDonald, Barb Madaus (BMA), Geoff Malosh, Oscar Miller, Kathy St. John (KJS), Aidan Place, Jack Solomon, Sue Solomon, Shannon Thompson, Jim Valimont, Mark Vass, Dave Wiltz.

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

An Osprey visited Mahoning Dam 7/9 (MV). Four Bald Eagles were noted at CC (MV) and one on Creek Rd. 6/14 (JB); one was found along the Roaring Run Trail 6/20 (MV) 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 (MV); 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 (MV) 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 (MV), and at CM 7/26 (MV). A single Black-billed Cuckoo, the only one reported, was listed at PH 6/15 (MV).

A Hen American Wigeon was noted at four locations this summer (m.ob.); Yellow-throated Vireos, at five. Two Warbling Vireos were at PH 6/2 (MV), 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.

Overbird 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 (KSS). The only Blue-winged Warbler was found 6/29 (MVT) at CM. Black-and-white Warblers were listed 6/2 (MVT) at PH; 73, 12 (MVT) at CC; 79 (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 (KSS). The only two reports of single Black-throated Green Warblers were both made 6/5, on the KT BBS (MH, RH) and one at PH (MVT). A Yellow-throated Warbler 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).

Observers: Margaret Higbee, 3119 Creekside Road, Indiana, PA 15701-7934, bcroire@windstream.net, Jessica Botzian, Guy Foulks, Steve Gossier, Roger Higbee, Nicholas Kolesar, David McCart, Francesca Nicolazzo, Theo Rickert, Kate St. John, Marge Van Tassel.

Beaver County

Locations: Raccoon Creek State Park (RCP).

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 (MVT). Southbound shorebirds at Little Blue Lake 7/25 (GM) included one Semipalmated Plover, 2 Solitary Sandpipers, and 2 hendraoni Short-billed Dowitchers. Two together of Ring-billed gull and Herring Gull were at New Brighton 7/27 (MVT). A Barred Owl was at RCP 6/26 (RN). Common Nighthawk was heard pre-dawn at Beaver 6/15 on the first stop of the Beaver/Lawrence BBS route (GM).Common Nighthawks were at Ambridge 6/27 (MVT). Purple Martins persist in the area of Hereford Manor; 2 were seen there 6/7 (MVT). Black-throated Green Warbler summered at RCP 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).

Observers: Geoff Malosh, 450 Amherst Avenue, Moon Township, PA 15108-2654, (412) 735-3128, pomarine@earthlink.net; Karyn Delaney, Todd Hooe, Matthew Juskowich, Richard Nugent, Mark Vass.

Bedford County

No report.

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

Berks County

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

Single Snow Goose, 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 were 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 (JB, 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 were 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 Virgenville 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. Rough-legged Hawks started nesting at Hi’s in Jun, possibly to the surprise of visitors at Berks Hills 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 at 4LO 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 (LeM). 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 BML (EO), one in BML (FG), and the fourth nest is unknown. 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 Pile Twp. 8/24 (RR). 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, MSR, PJW). An American Avocet was briefly seen at the beach at BML 7/14 (BG). 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, PW), 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 (MSU, 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-bellied Cuckoos were heard at SGL 106 on 8/8 (MS) one was at SGL 110 on 7/10 (KG) and one at BML 7/31 (JS). Yellow-billed Cuckoos were widespread. Eight Barn Owls 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, Northhill 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 Dreibleibis farm near Virginiville 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 Bechtelville in southeast Berks 6/2 (JK) may also have been a family, as there are quadrats 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 Marlin 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, BM and Hamburg appeared to flourish. A *Winter Wren*, an intermittent breeder on the Kittatinny Ridge, was on territory at Northhill Gap 4/26 until at least 6/11 (KG). A *Hermits 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 ridge has been reduced by logging in recent years. *Western Kingbird* was observed on the mountain above PLUM (MB). A *Bald Eagle* was also spotted at MR 6/4 (MD). An exciting development was the discovery and monitoring of a breeding pair of Bald Eagles in SGL. According to the person who observed them during the summer, 2 eaglets successfully fledged (fide MB). A *Red-shouldered Hawk* was located 6/1 outside Geeseytown on Rte. 36 (DS).

One or 2 *Spotted Sandpipers* were observed 6/4-7/22 at MR, where up to 4 *Solitary Sandpipers* were seen 7/4-22. Two *Great Yellowlegs* were also present there 6/5 (all MD). Up to 5 *Eastern Whippoor-wills* were heard 6/10-28 at SGL 166 (MD). A *Belted Kingfisher* was at CCSP. *Immature Red-tailed Hawk* was also present there 7/8 (MD). Single birds were also noted 6/22 on Wertz Rd. The last report of this species was 7/8 at MR (all MD).

Only one *Alder Flycatcher* was reported: it was spotted 6/10 in SGL. A *Great Crested Flycatcher* was also reported in the same location 6/28 (all MD), and one was noted 6/28-7/11 on LOWR (JD, MD). An *Eastern Kingbird* was ph. 6/4 at CCSP (LP), and another was spotted there 7/6 (MB). 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 RI (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 6/28-7/11 produced 3 (JD, MD). A *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 MR (MD). As many as 8 *Purple Martins* were spotted 6/7 on T676 southeast of Stonerock 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 *Bank Swallow* was observed 7/20 at MR (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 MR (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 also noted 6/11 at Wertz Rd. The following ten species, an *Acadian Flycatcher* was spotted 6/27 in SGL 147 north-sector (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). A bird survey along Clover Cr. Rd. produced one *Hooded Warbler* 6/7 (DG), and both SGL 166 and 6/10 (all MD) in 2014 and 2015 respectively. A few *Cerulean Warblers* included 2 noted 6/28-7/11 on LOWR (MD, JD). 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 other was reported 7/11 at the latter. *Black-throated Blue* 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-
thoroughed 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 6/10-26 in SGL 166; 2 were identified 6/30 during the Clayburg 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).

Observers: N.J. Butkovich, 550 Toftrees Ave. #248, State College, PA 16803, (814) 234-6086, nbukovich@verizon.net, Marcia Bonta, Michael David, Jim Dunn, Deborah Grove, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Renee Lubert, Laura Palmer, Dawn Stewart, Herbert Weigl Jr.

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 6/22 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 Amysh (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 17/7 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 at Orwell at the Hamill Farm (KS). A Pine Warbler 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).

Observers: Trudy Gerlach, 6907 Wyalusing New Albany Rd, Wyalusing, PA 18853, (570) 746-9270, tgwoods@oepix.net, David Buck, Anita Duval, Terry Duval, Bob Fowles, Lewis Frederick, Brad Goodner, Deborah Grove, Rob Megraw, Betsy Money, Kevin Raymond, Linda Slobodryak, Kimberly Sucey, Annie Vinivo-Hintze, George Vinivo-Hintze, Randy Walker, Marsha Zwierlein.

Bucks County

Locations: Churchill 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 (MO). A female plumage bird was at Upper Makefield 5/25 (WM), Black Eddy 6/9 (CM, 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, JM, 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 6/7 (DF), 4 at Upper Makefield 7/27 (JMI), 5 at Upper Ockinickon, First Curve 7/21 (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.).

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 (RH). 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), Nockamixon State Park (KS), and Camp Ockanickon (DA). Broad-winged Hawk was reported at SGL#157 (DF) for the only report. Only very low single digit counts of 3 shorebird species were reported. Two northward bound Semipalmated Plovers were at BFF 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-June report at Langhorne 6/13-14 (CM, DF). An adult Long-headed Woodpecker was near Penndel 6/6 (RH), and 2 were heard 7/11 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 past reports. From 70 last year, we had 45 (34) pairs this year, and that 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 Chelfont 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#6 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, JM, 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 94 (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 nests breeding 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 gourds a great deal this year that may account for 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 here 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 left for up to 12 years reached 120 (see http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/pubs/medAtlantic/ma.html), 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 6/4 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 Tintic姆 Twp. with minimal damage had one 6/9 (CR, AM), and the regular site at CVP had 4 (HD, AM). A count of 2 on 6/14 was at a former site. Hooded 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 Tinticum 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 fide 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.

**Observers:** August Mirabella, 1443 Wheaton Lane, North Wales, PA, 19454, (215) 368-0594, augustmirabella@aol.com, Kris Ahktquist, Diane Allison, Erin Boenzi, Henry D’Alessandro, Virginia Derbishy, Howard Eskin, Devich Farbotnik, Roni French, Mark Gallagher, Scott Godshall, Jim Hausman, Ray Hendrick (RH), Reed Hennessy (RHn), Bill Hoehne, Mick Jeitner Gail Johnson, Tom Johnson, Bill Keim, Ken Kitson, Jeremy Kleinberg, Butch Lishman, Stan Lupo, Joe Majdan (JMa), Crystal McNeal, Anna Mindel (AMn), Judy Mirabellia (JMi), John Miller (JMi), John Morgan (JMo), Russell Norvell, Kelly Parsons (KP), Dale Plumley, Mark Rauzon, Fred Roe, Hart Rupe, Jewel Rupe, Cameron Rutt, Kurt Schwarz, Diane Smith, Richard Smith, Steve Smith (SS), Vicky Smith, Chris Stieber, Barbara Stollsteimer, Phillip Stollsteimer, Paul Teese, John Tramontano, Bobbie Worster.

**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 alluses 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 **Cambia**. **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.

**Observers:** Dave Gobert, 287 Beech Rd., Patton, PA 16668, (814) 674-8359, djgobert@verizon.net, Beth Garner, Kathy Huber, Renee Russo, John Salvetti.

**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 the 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 penned wild birds or escapees. At least one additional bird was reported from the Wadle 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 6/30 at Osprey (MDA). A few Barn Swallows were also present in Centre. Single birds were noted 6/6 at SCO (CB, m.ob.), 6/20 at BMSM (TM) and 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 was noted 6/26 at Axemann Rd. pond (CE). Single birds were located 7/22 in SC (DO) and 6/24 at BESP (DG). One or 2 Solitary Sandpipers was also reported 6/13 at SCO (BC) and 6/27 at Old Gables Rd. (CE). Only one Least Sandpiper was identified 7/29 at COL (JJ). Three Semipalmated Sandpipers were observed 6/7 on Tappole 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 Gables 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 (EG, m.ob.), 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 hosted 6 between 6/13-24 (MR, JD), and 3 juveniles were observed 6/10 on Gregg Station Rd. (CE, KE). A third was noted 7/29 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. (JDG). Single birds were present 6/25 at Millbrook Marsh Nature Center and 6/29 at Curtin Wetland (both JD). A few Horned Larks 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 4 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 warblers, one on N. Meadows Rd. 6/13 (MR), another on Bear Meadows Rd. 7/2. The third was heard 7/5 at BMSM (DO, BA). A single rare summer Golden-crowned Kinglet was located 7/19 at SCO (MDA).

Hermitt 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 6/30-7/2 at Red Hill Rd. (LD). A third bird was observed intermittently 6/10-7/17 at Bear Meadows (RF, JD, CE). 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 BMSM and 7/29 at GSG (all BA).

Twenty-six warbler species were reported during this season. Of these, one or two were 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 BMSM (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 6-7 at BESP (MS, m.ob.), and a single bird was observed 6/3 at BMSM (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. 6/25-7/9 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 6/1-7/8 in Unionville (DO), and one or 2 were heard singing 6/9-7 at BESP (MS, MR, CE). This warbler species was also noted at BMSM 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 BESP (MR, m.ob.). Three were also present on N. Meadows Rd. 6/13 (MR). Two were noted 6/21 in the Bear Meadowshan IBA (JD, JD), and one was observed 6/30 at Bear Meadowsh (JD). A late migrating Blackpoll Warbler was heard calling in SC 6/17 (JD), Some Yellow-rumped Warblers were also probably late migrants. Two were noted 6/6 at BMSM (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), one was noted 6/6 at SCO (CB, m.ob.), and 6/7 at BESP (RW).

A few Vesper Sparrows included one noted 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 BMSM 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 eT Data), and a male was seen the same day between Rte. 332 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 BESP (CB, m.ob.), and up to 7 were noted 6/21-28 at the Ruskam Hill reclaimed strip mine (MB, CE). The second observer noted that both sexes were present, and the males were displaying flight displays. A Pine Siskin was heard and recorded singing intermittently between 6/1-27 in SC (CE).

Observers: N. J. Butkovich, 550 Toftrees Ave. #248, State College, PA 16803, (814) 234-6086, nbukovich@verizon.net, Mary Angle, Bryant Alanosico, Justin Baker, Joseph Bellenheurm (JoeB), Chuck Berthoud, Barry Blust (BaB), Nick Bolgiano (NiB), Susan Braun, Margaret Brillingham, Brian Bymes, Bill Chambers, Alysia Church, Marty DeAngelo (MDA), Rob Dickerson, Michael Dreibelbis, Jim Dunn, Darlene Emers, Carl Engstrom, Kurt Engstrom, Robert Fine, Vernon Gauthier, Elora Graham, Susan Grandquist, Carlton Groff, Deborah Grove, Greg Grove, Joe Gyekis, Jason Hill, Jennifer Kagel (JeK), Chad Kaufman, Jon Kaufman, Nick Kerlin, Patrick Koeppl, Cory Koopman, Bill Loucks, Nick Mathews, Trey McCuen, Dan McPline, John Plummer, John Puschock, Jen Reppinger, Matthew Rockmore, Joe Sabastiani, Matthew Schenck, Bob Snyder, Susan Strassner, Joe Verica, Martin Wilson, Russell Winter, Bob Zielsinski.

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 and light rainfall. The climate was more comfortable than some summers in recent years, more birders seemed to head out into the field than typically do.

PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS 173 2014 – VOLUME 28 NO. 3
Ibis 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 the 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 along Brandywine Dr. in the Northbrook area 7/18 (MH). 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.o.b.). Nesting has not been confirmed in Chester, and it 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.o.b.). Successful nesting of **Green Herons** was confirmed in a yard around S. Coatesville when 2 fledglings were spotted in a birder’s yard (JM). Post-breeding display of **Little Blue Heron** (GT) was a second at EP 7/30, and sightings of both continued through the period (CH, m.o.b.).

**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.o.b.). The two stayed through 7/29 and were seen at several locations around the county.

**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.o.b.). 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 (AF). **Pied-billed Grebe** sightings were another raptor not known to nest in Chester, but two reports 6/1 and 7/25 in Unionville (KN), and 6/8 in Cochraville (MG) were of interest.

Se creater 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.o.b.). 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.o.b.), and another 4 were reported in the area of a reclaimed strip mine site, a male and female adult were observed with 13 poults in Coventry Woods Park (KN, HG), and one foraging along the shoreline of the river at Towpath Park (NF, SS). 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 along Brandywine Dr. in the Northbrook area 7/18 (MH). 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.o.b.). Nesting has not been confirmed in Chester, and it 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.o.b.). Successful nesting of **Green Herons** was confirmed in a yard around S. Coatesville when 2 fledglings were spotted in a birder’s yard (JM). Post-breeding display of **Little Blue Heron** (GT) was a second at EP 7/30, and sightings of both continued through the period (CH, m.o.b.).

**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.o.b.). The two stayed through 7/29 and were seen at several locations around the county.

**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.o.b.). 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 (AF). **Pied-billed Grebe** sightings were another raptor not known to nest in Chester, but two reports 6/1 and 7/25 in Unionville (KN), and 6/8 in Cochraville (MG) were of interest.

Se creater 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.o.b.). 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.o.b.), and another 4 were reported in the area of a reclaimed strip mine site, a male and female adult were observed with 13 poults in Coventry Woods Park (KN, HG), 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.o.b.). 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 seen in Chester, but was sometimes found during the appropriate window, which always raises suspicion.

**Western Whip-poor-will** 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.o.b.), and another 4 were reported in the area of a reclaimed strip mine site, a male and female adult were observed with 13 poults in Coventry Woods Park (KN, HG), 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.o.b.). 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 seen in Chester, but was sometimes found during the appropriate window, which always raises suspicion.

**Northern Harriers** were once again present as likely breeding birds at MZ, with six sightings from 6/11-25 (m.o.b.). Of note was the report 6/29 of a pair at BCP on several times (FM, JM), and a pair seen hunting at EP 7/10 (CH). **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.o.b.). 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 6/21 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 sightings for the season were red morph, including juveniles. The only record 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.
Brady Riedel, Kate St.John, Steve Sanford, Kathy Saunders, Brian Smith, 745-3818, cjnal@windstream.net

Norway spruce where they have nested previously, although this year birds at feeders and a high count of 16 on 7/15 (MM). They were also at Rimmersburg at a location with good habitat and sunflower feeders out.

Yellow-rumped Warblers

There are large areas of habitat in southern Pennsylvania that is now planted pine stands (T&JK). A singing male bird was found in planted pine stands near 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 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 Warblers, Yellow-breasted Chats have been 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, BB, 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&M, 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 report is that this species is regularly under-reported 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 Rimmersburg 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).


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 Gober, 287 Beech Rd., Patton, PA 16668 (814) 674-8359, dgobert@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, wnlauabscher@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 seen 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 7/26 (RFL, IF). 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 Esopusville Marina (on the Pennsylvania end of the causeway) 6/9 (ph. SK), 6/10 (RS, TCN, MV), and 6/14 (RFL). Also at the Esopusville 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 of CM 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,
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, OM, CU, and MCM 6/1-7/26 (SC, RFL, IF; m.ob.). A Lawrence’s Warbler was seen near Towville 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 Cochranot on 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).


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 (BC, AG) and another was a mile away at Elk Hill Road in the Tuscarora State Forest 6/28 (VG, AnMt, 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, pabirdr@gmail.com, Jim Dunn, Deanea Hoffman, Dave Kerr, Annette Mathes, Susan Strassner.

Dauphin County

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

This was a good breeding season for Common Merganser: a female with 6 juveniles was observed while crossing the Millersburg Ferry 7/5 (JB). Another Common Merganser family with 8 nearly grown chicks was at Middleton/Royalton SR 7/18 (P&R&W). 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 Womlesly teach front 7/29 (MI). Another family of Common Mergansers with 9 chicks on the Swatara Creek at HUM 8/3 (PF) had obviously been present in 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 TML 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). A 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&R&W). 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 an appropriate habitat in SGL 211 on 7/1. Two weeks later, on 7/15, two Northern Waterthrushes were observed in an area known as Veey 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&R&P), 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 7/19 (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 above Mount Nittany (JD). A Chestnut-sided Warbler was noted 7/6 at CU (SC). A Blackpoll Warbler was reported in HUM 6/1 (P&R&W). 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 6/22 (SW), and one was observed in SGL 210 on 6/17 (CH). Nesting was confirmed in two blocks in SGL 210 during the 2014 Second Bird Survey (BD 2014-04-09).

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

Observers: Richard Williams, 3 Parkside Dr., Hummelstown, PA 17036, (717) 566-6562, RWPuffin@aol.com, Tim Becker, Ed Bemot, Jason Berry, Scott Bills, Lou Carpenter, Gordan Dimmig, Jim Dunn, Mike Epler, Fred Fox, Sue Hannon, Corey Husic, Marshall Iffl, Tom Johnson, Nancy Klein, Karl Kugle, Paige Morabito, Nate McKelvie, Dave McNaughton, Peggy & Rick Price, Scott Walker, Ethan Weaver, Patricia & Richard Williams.

Delaware County

Locations: Delaware River (DR), John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge (JHNWR), Ridley Creek State Park (RCS). 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 (Ide SL). Wild Turkey appeared in small numbers this Jun with single birds at JHNWR 6/7-6/22 (AE, DO) and 2 seen at RCS 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 (BC, 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. 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 Gamet Valley 7/25-730 (DM). Great Horned Owls were at a private residence in Drexel Hill 7/1 (BR) and 2 were at Newlin Cryst Mill 7/28 (LT). After a recent discovery of breeding Barred Owls on the Bridle Trail at R CSP, 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 R CSP 6/8 (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 R CSP 7/20 (AG).

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


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 Semipalamed 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 Merlins 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 7/14 (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 Willets 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 7/29 (DS). Marbled Godwit made its presence 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 6/28 was also very late (ST).

Observers: Jerry McWilliams, 3508 Allegheny Rd., Erie, PA 16508-2129, jerrymcw@aol.com. Brian Berchta, 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, JY). A Spotted Sandpiper was along the Yougohchey 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-Peewees, 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, JY). 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 Yougohchey 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, JY). 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, JY) 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, PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS 177 2014 – VOLUME 28 NO. 3
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.b.). The records 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 (QJ). 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 Kelletville, 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&J).K.

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).

Franklin County
No report.

Compiler: Dale L. Gearhart, 1872 Burkholder Rd., P.O. Box 155, Shady Grove, PA 15726, (717) 860-5799, dgearhart01@comcast.net.

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 (DJ). A lone Great Egret was found at MGL 7/31 (JF). 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 area 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 Wahls.

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 at 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&A). 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 FK 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 between two cans of oil on a shelf in a barn (MLP).

The last reported Black-bellied Gray Gnatcatcher was at EF 6/2 (MH, JC). Eastern Bluebird raised 2 broods in the nest box located 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 FK 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 was observed feeding young at SY 6/20 (JC).

Observers: Marjorie Howard, 149 Preachers Road, Waynesburg, PA 15370, (724) 852-3155, birdwatcher108@comcast.net, Chuck & Carol Andrew, Lyn Argent, George Blystone, Al Churney, Jan Churney, James Fletcher, Karen Holleran, Jerry Howard, Pat Hutcheson, Kathy Kern, Rosa Lane, Mary LaPlante, Schrae LaPlante.

Huntingdon County
Locations: Mothensbaugh Swamp (MS), Old Crow Wetlands (OC), Roothatch 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 grazed 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 (JF, 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 Rough-winged Swallow was seen near Whipple Dam State Park 6/1 (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 Millfin 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 RSP. 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 Massesbury 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 new (high) new record (GG). Other species 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).

Observers: Debra Grim, 8844 Boonie Lane, Petersburg, PA 16669, dgrim@intelligreerquest.com, Diane Bierly, Nick Bolgiano, Bill Chambers, Deb Grove (2011, High N) (DG, GG). Other reports are given through the year. Additional reports are given throughout the season. Best BBS count was 3 at YC 6/6 (GC, MH, RH), 2 in CF 7/4 (RN), and 2 on MS 6/15 (KD). Bobolinks were at OC 6/23 (RL). The season’s only Kentucky Warbler was observed near RM 6/1 (TS). Hooded Warblers were noted at 10 locations (m.ob.) with the best counts of 4 at MS 6/3 (LG, MH, RH, CT) 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 Warblers 6/17 (m.ob.) and 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 Dittlow. 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, CT) 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 Warblers 6/17 (m.ob.) and 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 Dittlow. The season’s only Kentucky Warbler was observed near RM 6/17 (m.ob.). Hooded Warblers were noted at 10 locations (m.ob.) with the best counts of 4 at MS 6/3 (LG, MH, RH, CT) 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 Warblers 6/17 (m.ob.) and 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 Dittlow. The season’s only Kentucky Warbler was observed near RM 6/17 (TS); this was the first Jun
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-rumped 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 strapline strips 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 the possible immature 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).

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).

**Lancaster County**

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

The first annual Breeding Bird Blitz bolstered birder coverage this season. Forty-eight Canadian Geese, including some fledglings, were at MCWMA 6/4 (PF). A Blue-winged Teal was on SRFC 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 Conestoga Recreation Trail (JG).

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). The 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 fledging 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 that was released 6/2 (ME).

Three Eastern Wood-Peewees 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 having singing at MCWMA (BH). Three Willow Flycatchers were at MCWMA 6/4 (BH). An Old-souled Flycatcher was singing at MCWMA 7/26 (BH). A male Black-throated Green 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 (BH). 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 Merona. A White-eyed Vireo was at MCWMA 6/27 (BH). Two Yellow-throated Vireos were singing at MCWMA 6/27 (BH). Three were at MCWMA 6/4 (BH). Six were singing at the visitor’s center parking lot. At Five-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 Brown-headed Cowbirds were at MCWMA 6/4 (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 agaited 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 Prescourt 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). 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 Chimney Swifts 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 6/27 (BH). Two Indigo Buntings were counted at MCWMA 6/27 (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 M CWMA 6/4 (BH), and one was doing an aerial display 6/27 (BH). One Orchard Oriole was at M CWMA 6/27 (BH). Two Baltimore Orioles were at M CWMA 6/4 (BH). Three were at M CWMA 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).

Observers: Pamela D. Fisher 761 Willow Lane, Gap, Pa 17527, goldeagle_60@yahoo.com, Tom Amico, Larry Bernhardt, Bruce Carl, Lou Carpenter, Gordon Dimmig, Mike Epler, Todd Frantz, Carlton Groff, Barbara Hunsberger, Meredith Lombard, Ted Nichols, Glenn Shaffer, John Shenk, Dave Smart, Stan Stahl, Drew Weber, Alan Wells, Eric Witmer.

Lawrence County

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

Eleven Hooded Mergansers were at the gravel ponds on Shanner Road in PG T 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 Shanner 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 PG T 6/21 (MV), one with 2 young and the other with one, for a total of 7 birds. A Long-eared Owl cluching 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).

Observers: Geoff Malosh, 450 Amherst Avenue, Moon Township, PA 15108-2654, (412) 735-3128, pomarine@earthlink.net, Carol Guba, Margaret Higbee, Thomas Johnson, Andy McGann, Richard Nugent, Jim Valinmont, Mark Vass, Linda Wagner.

Lebanon County

Locations: Fort Indiantown Gap (FIG), Memorial Lake State Park (MLSP), Reistville and Prescott Rd. Ponds (RP P), 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, TJ). One or 2 Black-crowned Night-Herons were occasional at the Mine and Birch Rd. Pond 6/17-23 (FH, TB, KB). Two American Coots were 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 Semipalated Sandpiper was being bombed by swallows at Keider’s Retention Pond 6/14-15 (RCM, TB, KB). They were also at RPP 7/19-26 (TB, RC, 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 dates, 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 Barred Owl chicks were banded from a nest box at the Greater Lebanon Refuge 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 Keider’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&S). A Blue Grosbeak was found during the butterfly tour at FIG 7/12 (CH). A Dickcissel was singing along Lindley Murray Rd. 6/28 (BP).


Lehigh County

No report.

Compiler: Bill Ettet, 407 S. Cigar Rd, Northampton, PA 18067, (215) 964-3613, billette01@gmail.com.

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 a find 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 (Jd, Ck, BC, RK, JH). Black-crowned Night-Heron, once annually in the county, has not been as easy to find in recent years. One was found at Nescopeck State Park 6/28 (JD) and 2 were observed flying over Lake Nauaugola 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 county. 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 exhibiting nesting behavior (RK). Another Northern Harrier was found 7/18 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 raptor noted was a Virginia Rail at Lee Swamp 6/20 (RK).

The last spring migrant of the year was a Semipalmated 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). Semipalmated 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 Semipalmated Sandpipers (JY).

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- wheet. One was found in the Hunlock Creek Boat Launch area, which had only one singing male this year. The pair was singing through the end of the month and many birders had the opportunity to observe them.

Our Whet Owl 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 nesting in the White Haven area (MF) and another was heard at nearby Nescopeck State Park 6/28 (JD). Red-headed Woodpeckers, though not confirmed nesting 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 prurces (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 (6/17). A total of 22 species of warblers were observed.

The first migrant warbler of the fall, a Northern Waterthrush was at Lake Nauaugola 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-rumped Warblers at the Glen Lyon (Wanamie) claimed 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 claimed strip mines, hosts the highest numbers of this species in the county.

Observers: Jonathan DeBalco, 235 Buck Ridge Drive, Drums, PA 18222, (570) 956-1849, jonathan.debalco@wilkes.edu, Paul Bernhardt, Bill Chambers, John DeBalco (JdB), Andrew Evans, Megan Fedor, Sandy Goodwin (SaG), Jim Hoyson, Andy Keister, Timothy Klin, 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 (RLV), Susquehanna River West Branch (SR), Susquehanna River Walk at Williamsport (SRW).

A pair of Mute Swans was seen in a farm pond east of Emlisport 6/12 but was not there the next day (DnB). A Hooded Merganser was seen from the SRW 6/21 (JY, MD, DnB). 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 last 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 (DnB) 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. Jul was quiet, with 1 heard 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 on Cove Road; attempts for saw-whet owl failed (DnB, DnB). At least 4 juvenile Barn Owls were banded near Emlisport 6/15 (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 were found along Mill Street 6/18 (DvB) and along PC 6/17 (DvB), while Willow Flycatchers were found in several locations. A pair of Ralston and Warrensville 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 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 included the eastern Meadowlark 6/8 (DH) 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 Membreld Camp) 7/17 (MS), and at Trout Run Park 7/30 (DnB) where previously reported during spring (DH). A Mourning Warbler was found along Bodine Rd. 7/4 (JD), but on 13 heard and failed 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 (BER), 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 Warrensville (DnB) were breeders. The number of reports seems low given this species has been expanding its range.

Observers: Dan Brauning, 1920 Inverness Rd., Montoursville, PA 17754, (570) 567-4511, dan@thebraunings.com (DnB), Marcia (with Dan) Brauning (CMB), David Brown (DvB), Maddi Dunlap, Jim Dunn, Wes Eglit, Dave Ferry, Norwood Frederick (NoF), Nate Fronek, Mario Glazzon, Garth Harwood, Deouane Hoffman, Eric Hartsaw, Andy Keister, Jean Klotz, Wayne Laubscher, Meredith Lombard, Gary and Joan Metzger, Matthew Schenck, Fred Stiner, Larry Waltz, Joe Yoder.

---

**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-billed 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 Larks were at White Chapel Road 6/10 (SS) and a single bird was at East Zathriner 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 6/26 (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.

---

**Montgomery County**

Locations: Evansburg State Park (ESP), Green Lane Park (GLP), Norristown Dam (ND), Umami 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 and Red-breasted Mergansers were observed through the season at GLP and multiple locations along the Schuylkill River (m.ob.). In the more expected dispersal window, 4 egrets flew over Pennsylvania 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 at Pittstown 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 Pennsylvania 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-winged 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 Gwynnedd Wildlife Preserve 5/4 (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 7/11 (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 Alsh Reservoir 7/15 (AA) represented the only gull reports for the season. The only terns were 2 Caspian Terns at GLP 6/4 (GF).

A Snow-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 been another 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 Maiaa 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.o.b.), 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.o.b.). 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.o.b.). 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 (KH).

A pair of Bank Swallows at King of Prussia's Heusser Park 6/7 was unexpected, and may indicate local breeding in the vicinity (WBH). Another 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 summersong 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.o.b.). As many as 5 were observed there 6/29 (WBH). The first reported migrant of the fall was at Norristown Farm Park 6/30 (WBH). Northern Parula were reported singing at Elmwood Park 6/7 (WBH), Cocky Hill 6/10 (WBH), and at ESP 6/14 (KR). A Pine Warbler was viewing cached feeding 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.o.b.) 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 only 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 (m.o.b.). It also hosted as many as 4 Grasshopper Sparrows during the same timeframe (m.o.b.). 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.o.b.). 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.

Observers: W. Brian Henderson, 2408 Swede Rd., Norristown, PA 19401, (610) 505-5571, wbhenderson@gmail.com, Mary Ache, Cindy Ahern, Andrew Albright, Jeremy Arnold, Paul Bernhardt, Harris Brown, Joshua Clapper, Mike Coulter, Kevin Crilley, Henry D'Alessandro, Paul Driver, Barbara Elliot, George Franchois, Scott Fraser, Scott Godshall, Jeff Greco, Kim Gruener, Mary Ellen Helsey, Cliff Hirst (CHI), Chris Hugosson, Sheryl Johnson, Karla Kaczor, Rick Keyser, Paul Krepto, August Mirabella, Edie Parnum, Kenneth Rieker, Mike Rosengarten, Diane Sembello, Steve Strawbridge, Sam Stuart (SaS), Anthony Uhrich, Frances Ventura, Marshall Walthew, Sandy White.

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 6/17-7/31 (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 4 Western Kingbirds 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 hatching 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 was seen 6/30 near the Little Gap hawk banding station (MS). There were 3 successful Peregrine Falcon nests.

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 birds 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.

Philadelphia County


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.

Observers: Vernon Gauthier, 111 W. Big Spring Ave, Newville, PA 17241, (717) 385-9526, pabirder@gmail.com.

Pennsylvania Birds 2014 — Volume 28 No. 3
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 (AS) 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 thedrawdown 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).

Contributors: Doris McGovern, 209 Dogwood Rd., Media, PA 19063; (610) 565-8484, mcgovern100@comcast.net. David Allen (DA); George Armisted, Debbie Beer; Anne Bekker (ABek); Annie Bird (ABir); Adrian Binns (ABin); John Collins, Tony Crosdale, Martin Dellwo; Todd Fellenbaum, Al Guarente, Ken Januski, Gary Jarvis, Art McMorriss (AMc); Adrian Melk (AME); Peter Morgan, Christine Murray; Lynn Roman, Mike Rosengarten, Keith Russell, Jerene Shroeder, Anthony Uhrich, Linda Widdop, Frank Windfelder.

**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 3 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, Matthew Daw, Zach Moyer, Edie Parnum, Corrine Campbell Schall, Susan Schmoyer, Adam Smith, Brandon Swayer, Peter & Jane Wolfe (P&JW).

**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 Moorhen 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: 7/13 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 southwestern 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 at 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 6/19 (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 Stone Mountain Road, Auburn, PA 17922, d.m.rieger@gmail.com; Thomas Buell, Jr., Erin Cookson, John DeBalko (JoD); Jonathan DeBalko (JD); Todd Deininger, Denise Dommoyer, Vernon Gauthier, Kevin Graff (KevG), Laurie Goodrich, Kerry Grim, Brian Henderson, John Hintermister, Barb Jucker, Andy Keister, Rudy Keller, Dave Kruehl, Ken Lebo, David McNaughton, Rich Riegler, Barb Ritzheimer, Dan Schwartz, Beverly Shick, John Stetson, Mike Ward.

**Snyder County**

No report.

Compiler: Jason Weller, fishingdude20@hotmail.com.

PENNYSYLVANIA BIRDS 185 2014 – VOLUME 28 NO. 3
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 wooly 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 Stouglton 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 Lanzon property (ML, TM). Two Black-crowned Night Herons also flew over the Lanzon property 6/1 (TM). A Black Vulture flew past the Payne property 6/5 (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, hensdorni 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, (614) 267-5718, Scott Bastian, Elmer Brenneman, Bill Cline, Sandy Cline, Michael David, Linda Greble, Carolyn LaBute, Mike Lanzono, 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 Kosts 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 before 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 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. 6/12 (EZ). 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 Short-billed 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 Marker, 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 Buttimill 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 Buttimill 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. JM). 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 (GO). 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 Juskovich, 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-billed 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-billed 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 box at the KP during the season.

Observers: Tom Kuehl, 3615 Hilly Road, Export, PA 15632, (724) 325-1918, tkuehl@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 heron, a nesting Osprey was returned to its nest at Lake Winola. This was the first confirmed nesting record 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 **Mourning 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 Windsy 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.

**Observers:** Joe DeMarco, 15 West Tioga Street, Tunkhannock, PA 18657, (570) 836-1468, Tom Boyle, Mark Catalano, Jacob Cusatis, Jonathan DeBalko, Timothy Kla, Sandy Goodwin, Debora and Greg Grove (DGG), Rebecca Lesko, Holly Merker, Kimberly Sacy, Alan Thatcher, Jon Thomas, Janet Veltri, Eric Zawatski.

---

**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** were reported at Spring Valley Country Park 6/23 (NL). **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 6/15-12 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 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. 7/11 (TD). 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 juveniles, 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). **GPSP** at 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. **CS** also produced a chat 7/3 (TR).

Sparrrows were lackluster. ALT was the only location for **Savannah Sparrow** but they were 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, DN). 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).

**Observers:** Phil Keener, 198 Jacobs Street, East Berlin, PA 17316, (717) 259-9984, pitche74@yahoo.com, Paul Banks, Jr., Barry Bermudez, Ed Bernot, Chuck Berthoud, Lou Carpenter, Dick Cleary, William Clifton, Ken Cooper, Keith Eric Costley, Mary Creager, Mark Duigon, David Farner, Todd Frantz, Kevin Graff, Daniel Hinnebusch, Mark Johnson, Chad Kauffman (CKa), Dave Kerr, Chuck Kling, Jim Leckrone, Andy McGann, Carolyn Mathur, Tim Miller, Peter Morgan, Dean Newhouse, Nick Pulcinella, Timothy Reichard, Warren Rife, Brian Shade, Robin Smith, Barbara Taylor, Dan Watkins (DWa), Don Weidemann, Andy Wilson.
IN FOCUS

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

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

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Sightings due to Compilers by…</th>
<th>Articles due to Editor by…</th>
<th>Publication Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec-Feb (Vol. 1)</td>
<td>31 March</td>
<td>1 May</td>
<td>July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar-May (Vol. 2)</td>
<td>30 June</td>
<td>1 August</td>
<td>October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun-Jul (Vol. 3)</td>
<td>31 August</td>
<td>1 October</td>
<td>December</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug-Nov (Vol. 4)</td>
<td>31 December</td>
<td>1 February</td>
<td>April</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SUBMISSION OF MATERIALS FOR PUBLICATION: We welcome submission of feature articles, artwork, or photographs focusing on any aspect of Pennsylvania birds or birding. We strongly encourage that submissions be sent in electronic format by email but will accept handwritten or typewritten material if necessary. For articles, the Microsoft Office suite (any version) is preferred; however, we will accept any popularly used format, or plain text. Please email written materials in an attached document in its original source format (i.e., no PDF files). Digital photos or scanned image files sent for consideration should be in JPG format and resized down to 600-1200 pixels on the longer axis (if the source file is larger than these dimensions), and compressed to no larger than 250kB. Larger files will be requested by the editor if necessary. Submitted photos may be cropped or adjusted for color, brightness, or contrast as the editor sees fit without notice to the photographer. When submitting by email, all files should be sent as attachments—DO NOT embed pictures or documents within the email body. Photos with copyright or signature text visible in the image will not be accepted. Photographers will be acknowledged in the photo caption.

Hard copies of any material must be accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope if the author desires to have the material returned. PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS assumes no liability or responsibility for any unsolicited materials.

REPRINTS: Request reprints of articles from: PSO, 2469 Hammertown Rd., Narvon, PA 17555, or fchaas@pabirds.org.

ADVERTISING: Current rates for classified ads are $0.75 per word with a minimum of 20 words. A copy-ready block of approximately 2” by 2” would be $50.00 per issue. Rates for other sizes or types of advertising are negotiable. Copy deadline is as noted above. Payment should be sent with copy. PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS and PSO are not responsible for the quality of goods or services advertised herein.

Send all materials (articles, artwork, advertising, etc.) to: Geoff Malosh, 450 Amherst Avenue, Moon Township, PA 15108-2654, pomarine@earthlink.net. Send previews of digital images for consideration to photos@pabirds.org.