

# PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS



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## Contents

- 189 Editorial
- 190 Sabine's Gull in Crawford County, with notes on its history in Pennsylvania and the region. . . . . Geoff Malosh
- 197 Searching for Nelson's Sparrow in Central Pennsylvania. . . . . Matt Sabatine
- 199 2014 Autumn Raptor Migration Summary: 1.3 million and counting. . . . . Laurie Goodrich
- 206 Pennsylvania Bird Lists report. . . . . Peter Robinson
- 216 Summary of the Season . . . . . Geoff Malosh
- 222 Birds of Note – August to November 2014
- 225 Photographic Highlights
- 230 Local Notes
- 268 Suggestions to Contributors
- In Focus. . . . . Inside Back Cover

**Cover Photo: Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*).** Representing Pennsylvania's 23rd record and fourth of an adult, this amazingly confiding Sabine's Gull frequented the Pymatuning Spillway, Crawford, 5 to 7 September 2014 (here 6 September) to the delight of the hundred or more birders who made the journey to see it. (Photo by Malcolm Harter)

### The uncertain future

It's not exactly breaking new ground to observe that birding is changing, and rapidly. Many of these changes are for the better, or are at least supposed to be: instantaneous communication, a shared worldwide database of bird records, ever-increasing knowledge of bird distribution and identification, to name just a few of the latest advances. Birding has also become ingrained in the world of social media, the natural result these days when a group of smartphone-carrying hobbyists who put a premium on shared information all get together. The result is an ever more real-time experience for birders today than there ever was before. It's not without its drawbacks. I hope not to go come off as *too* curmudgeonly here (I'm still not even 40 years old), but the instantaneous exchange of information available to birders today has utterly changed the hobby of birding, and in some ways not for the better.

One example: it's very easy these days to get started birding with a camera instead of a pair of binoculars, or even with just eyes and ears, and to defer to the wisdom of the (mostly anonymous, or at least mostly unfamiliar) masses for the identification of the birds in those photos. It's true that by posting a request for identification to an online forum, a beginner will almost certainly get a near-instantaneous response with the correct answer. But by doing that, has the new birder really learned anything from their time spent actually in the field? With all this instantaneous information and feedback, it seems that one less than desirable side-effect is a lack of patience, in many respects. Some beginners, it seems, are increasingly reluctant to be patient, to get things wrong, to leave birds unidentified... in other words to take time, make mistakes, *and really learn*. Instead many are content to snap a picture to chat about on facebook later, and move on to the next eBird alert they just received. Others become too confident too fast, without really putting in the time needed to develop new expertise; after all, with all this information out at one's fingertips, there how hard can this stuff really be?

It's not necessarily *wrong* to bird this way, but it certainly comes with a whole new set of pitfalls that were all but

unknown just 10 years ago. I wrote about a lot of this way back in 2008, in my editorial of Volume 22, No. 2. Looking back on that editorial now, I see how I said I much prefer the "new" birding to the old. I suppose I still feel the same way, though perhaps not with the same conviction as I had then. I do wonder, is this new way really a better way of birding than "back in my day" when real birders always walked uphill both ways in five feet of snow just to see a junco? I jest, of course... but in all seriousness, birding may well be better nowadays, or maybe it isn't, I don't really know. I guess I can say for myself, one of the increasingly older timers out there, birding is certainly different these days, both better and worse. But whether it is or it isn't truly "better" really is beside the point—birding has changed, and it isn't changing back, which brings me to the actual point of this editorial.

One thing that hasn't changed in a long time is *Pennsylvania Birds*. There's a simple reason: I and the rest of the editorial staff, and the PSO leadership as a whole, have not sought to change it. We believe *Pennsylvania Birds* plays just as important a role in our knowledge of birds as it ever has—perhaps even more so these days, ironically enough, in this age of eBird and the iPhone. (I have written about that before too. See Volume 21, No. 4.) Still, it's important to continually evaluate and reevaluate what we do and whether we do things the best way we can. This goes how we bird in general, and how we produce a journal like this in particular. I believe *Pennsylvania Birds* is one of the best state-level ornithological journals out there, and that the breadth and depth of information and analysis in these pages is hard to match, and impossible to replace.

But sometimes, it can be hard to really view something objectively when you're very close to it, as I have been to this journal for more than eight years now. Just like I sometimes find myself approaching birding the same way I did "back in the day" (and perhaps not always for the better), I think sometimes we can get stuck the journal the same way we always have, again, perhaps not always for the better. As a birder, for example, I've resisted social media. I won't go into the reasons why here, and

just say there are good things and bad things about this decision of mine. What I *don't* want to do is continue to resist social media just because that's the way I've always done it. I want to evaluate and reevaluate—and I do—and make sure my reasons are still sound. The same goes for the journal. We shouldn't resist changes just for the sake of resisting them. At *Pennsylvania Birds* I don't think we have not changed just for the sake of not changing, but I'm also not sure how objective I can really be about making that judgment. I know *Pennsylvania Birds* is successful at its mission, and is something that all of PSO can be very proud of, but I also know that the birding world around the journal is changing faster than ever before. We have to constantly ask, should the journal be changing too, and if so, how?

So I'd like to ask you, the readers—which includes everyone associated with PSO, everyone from my fellow editors to the county compilers, PSO board members, and the PSO membership at large—what do you think of *Pennsylvania Birds* and where it stands? Are we hitting or missing the mark? What can we do to improve? I've never gotten many letters to the editor in my time, so consider this a formal call for them. I would very much like to hear from anyone willing to share some thoughts on the state of *Pennsylvania Birds*, and I welcome all comments.

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# Sabine's Gull in Crawford County – with notes on its history in Pennsylvania and the region

Geoff Malosh

On 5 September 2014, Mark Vass located an adult Sabine's Gull at the Pymatuning spillway, Linesville, *Crawford*. Over the next three days, this bird's remarkably confiding nature would ensure that it would become the most widely studied and celebrated Sabine's Gull in Pennsylvania history.

Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*) is a summer denizen of the high Arctic, breeding primarily in North America from the Alaskan coast of the Bering Sea, across the northern coast of Alaska and most of northern Canada to Baffin Island, and in small numbers in Greenland. Additionally a large number breed in the eastern Siberian Arctic with a smaller number on the Kamchatka Peninsula. On the wintering grounds they are mainly pelagic, with the bulk of birds wintering off the west coasts of South America and Africa (Olsen and Larsson 2003). It is an odd gull, one of only two gull species in the world with a forked tail, and it exhibits some behaviors that are more similar to other related families than to gulls. For example, like shorebirds, adult Sabine's give distraction displays, and hatchlings leave the nest in a matter of a few days and quickly become highly mobile. However, like terns, male Sabine's court females by feeding whole prey to them rather than regurgitating food, and young Sabine's first take flight long before the chick is fully feathered (Day et al., 2001).

Most birders never get to witness these unique behaviors of the Sabine's Gull, but their striking appearance makes the Sabine's a very highly regarded and sought-after bird, even among birders who don't much like gulls in general. Surely few gulls can match the beauty of the adult Sabine's, with its yellow-tipped bill, subtly dark gray (not black) head, and its remarkable black, white, and gray wing and mantle pattern that bursts to life when the bird takes flight. Juveniles are no less marvelous, substituting the gray mantle and wing coverts and dark gray hood of the adult for a wonderfully scalloped brown that, along with the black primaries and white secondaries, is just as distinctive and beautiful as the adult.

Most Sabine's Gulls migrate at sea, but a small, varying number appear at inland North American sites each year, the vast majority in fall and the vast majority of those juveniles, primarily in September and October, with a clear peak from

mid-September to mid-October. Those Sabine's that migrate though inland North America in the fall are of the most interest to Pennsylvania birders, as all Pennsylvania records have been of fall migrants, and all of those except two between the dates of 5 September and 31 October.

## History in the region

With a large majority of Sabine's Gulls migrating at sea, it is not surprising that the species is a major rarity in Pennsylvania and nearby states. Pennsylvania's first Sabine's Gull was not recorded until 1979, when a moribund juvenile was found at Gull Point, *Erie* in mid-October of that year. Since then there have been 21 additional records accepted by the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee (PORC). Six of those records are from the Lake Erie shore (all at Presque Isle State Park, in fact), and 16 records are of "inland" Sabine's, with the 2014 *Crawford* bird only waiting the final and expected *imprimatur* of PORC before it becomes the 17th record for the state away from Lake Erie, and the state's 23rd overall.

The species' history in New Jersey is very similar to its history in Pennsylvania, despite New Jersey's long Atlantic shoreline. Like Pennsylvania, the first record for New Jersey was also made in 1979, with an additional 17 records since then as of 2011 (Boyle 2011). Interestingly, nearly all records for New Jersey have been made from land and not on the open ocean, though most of those were from sites along the Atlantic coast. The state has only three inland records. The species is even more unusual in Maryland, with just nine accepted records from 1986 to 2012, though a tenth record (4 October 2014) has not yet had a published decision (Maryland/DC Records Committee archives). Delaware has just four records, one in 1986, two in 2006, and a very unusual spring record in 2012 (Delaware Bird Records Committee archives). As one might expect, there are very few records for West Virginia, just three in fact, though again all after 1990: one each in September of 1993, 1997, and 2000 (West Virginia Bird Records Committee archives). *North American Birds* reports include nine records for Tennessee and three records for Kentucky from 2002-2013.

Ohio and New York have significantly longer lists of Sabine's Gulls in their history than Pennsylvania, on the strength of their extensive shorelines along Lake Erie and Lake Ontario, respectively, and in the case of New York, the Niagara Falls area and the Atlantic coast as well. Yet even in Ohio, sightings were almost unknown until the 1970s. Peterjohn (2001) mentions only four Ohio records before 1970 and just three during the 1970s. But they were then seen in 16 out of 20 years in the 1980s and 1990s, again mirroring the pattern in Pennsylvania of a great increase in sightings from about 1990 onward.

Of all nearby states and provinces, Ontario by far has the most records of Sabine's Gulls, and the species is a well-established annual fixture of early fall migration at Van Wagners Beach in Hamilton, on the far western shore of Lake Ontario. Sabine's Gulls have also long been known from the western Great Lakes states of Michigan,



Image 1. Sabine's Gull at the Pymatuning Spillway, *Crawford* 6 September 2014. (Geoff Malosh)

Wisconsin, and Minnesota, with annual (Michigan) or close to annual records for all three states in recent years. The two most famous spots in that region for the species are undoubtedly Whitefish Point on Lake Superior in Michigan's eastern Upper Peninsula, and Miller Beach, Indiana, at the southernmost tip of Lake Michigan. Even in the latter state, there were only about 30 records of Sabine's Gull for Indiana up to 1990, mostly from Miller Beach, but nearly double that number were tallied in the 1990s alone and even more still in the 2000s (Irons and Fix 2008). The Indiana Birds Records Committee reviews Sabine's Gull only when found away from Lake Michigan; it has accepted seven "inland" records from 1993 to 2006 as of 2012 (Indiana Bird Records Committee archives).

### An undeniable increase, but why?

One thing is immediately obvious from these histories of Pennsylvania and its neighboring states and provinces: except in Ontario, Sabine's Gulls were all but unknown away from the shores of the Great Lakes prior to the 1970s, but are now found across the entire mid-Atlantic and Great Lakes regions with much more regularity, and often away from the big lakes themselves. Furthermore, at traditional Great Lakes watch sites, numbers in recent years have been much higher than even just 15 years ago.

The example of Van Wagners Beach (and Ontario in general) is illuminating. *North American Birds* reports for the Ontario region from 2000-2013 are summarized in Table 1.

**Table 1. Sabine's Gull occurrence in Ontario as catalogued in *North American Birds* 2000-2013 (fall season only). Note, for 2000-04, the Van Wagners number represents the high one day count.**

Year	Season total at Van Wagners	Number of Ontario locations recorded
2000	3	4
2001	7	2
2002	1	3
2003	11	3
2004	4	3
2005	48	4
2006	16	2
2007	23	7
2008	12	4
2009	21	3
2010	62	9
2011	47	6
2012	104	5
2013	18	8

Beginning in 2005, observers at Van Wagners began recording unprecedented one-day totals of Sabine's Gulls. In 2005, daily counts of 13 (twice) and 22 on three September dates were one-day records at the time. In 2010, the record was broken when 33 were counted on 17 September. It was broken again in 2011 with 39 on 11 September, and yet again in 2012 with 52 on 1 September. Though the 2014 *North American Birds* accounting is still in press, preliminary indications are that 2014 was yet another record-breaking season at Van Wagners in all respects, with a one-day high of 72 Sabine's on 8 September, which may have included a small number of duplicates, and a season total of at least 118 (Dobos 2015).

Other areas saw abnormal spikes in Sabine's Gull counts in recent years as well. In 2001, a total of 52 birds were recorded in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Iowa combined. In 2010, Sabine's Gulls were recorded in eight Michigan counties, including 30 birds at Whitefish Point from 5 September to 2 November. And although data is not yet fully vetted and published, a perusal of eBird data for the fall of 2014 reveals widespread records in the region: four separate "inland" records for Ohio and four on the Erie lakeshore or on offshore "pelagic" trips on Lake Erie, one record in Maryland, one record in Virginia, one record in

Kentucky, a one-day count of 46 at Miller Beach in Indiana, records in six locations in Ontario and two in New York, and five records in Illinois.

Irons and Fix (2008) addressed the obvious increase in Sabine's sightings in interior North America in the 2000s, but they were not the first to notice. As early as 1983, *American Birds* editors were discussing the curious increase in Sabine's Gulls reports beginning in the 1970s. Lehman (1983) wondered at the 46 inland sightings across North America in 1982 (paltry by today's standards, but quite remarkable at the time) and opined that it was hard to believe that such a striking bird could have been overlooked for so many years. He speculated that it was increased birder coverage at favorable inland sites (reservoirs, large lakes, sewage plants) at the correct time of year, and an increase in the total number of such sites in the latter half of the twentieth century, as combinative factors leading to an increase in Sabine's sightings. In 2008, the opinion was more or less the same. To Lehman's speculation that the increase in the number of reservoirs itself was a factor, Irons and Fix added the idea that existing artificial reservoirs were maturing to the point that they could provide enough food for migrant waterbirds, of which Sabine's Gull is one, to hold those birds in place for more than a few hours.

Irons and Fix surveyed all *North American Birds* regional editors at the time of their article—which itself was written in reference to the fall of 2007 in which many regions reported superlative numbers of Sabine's Gulls—and asked for opinions on what was driving the steadily increasing totals of gulls in the 2000s. Most replied as Lehman had speculated years before, that it was due mostly to increased birder awareness and effort at the correct time of year and in the correct weather conditions. Improved optics was another consideration; Sabine's Gulls, when at inland sites, tend to sit on water as far from land as they can (the 2014 *Crawford* bird a notable exception, as will be discussed). Better modern optics allow for more reliable identifications of distant birds than was possible for most of the past. However these ideas do not fully explain the rapid increases in numbers counted at dedicated watch sites like Van Wagners and Miller Beach. In this author's personal opinion, the idea that Sabine's Gull (or at least a certain population of them) might be developing an entirely new migration strategy over the past few decades cannot be fully discounted.

There is also the curious ratio of juvenile to adult Sabine's Gulls at inland sites. It would not be unreasonable to assert that better than 90% of all Sabine's Gulls found on fall migration at inland sites in North America are juveniles. Certainly totals at the major Great Lakes watch sites support this assertion: for example, the (at the time) record setting 52 Sabine's at Van Wagners Beach 1 September 2012 were comprised of 46 juveniles and 6 adults (Bain 2013), which was in fact an extraordinary number of adults. The 39 on 11 September 2011 came in the form of 38 juveniles and one adult (Bain 2012), a much more typical ratio at the site. Irons and Fix (2008) mentioned that 93% of all Indiana records as of that time (mostly at Miller Beach, of course) were juveniles. So why are all these juvenile birds not repeating their interior migrations as adults? It's a question without a good answer, other than the standard boilerplate that juveniles of most species tend to get "lost" more often than adults. That may well be true, yet the sheer numbers of juvenile Sabine's now occurring in interior North America suggests that something else may be afoot. After all, the Sabine's Gull is already an "aberrant" gull with unique behaviors among its close relatives; perhaps their migration strategy, which is just now coming into clearer focus, is yet another of this species' quirks.

### Pennsylvania's Sabine's Gulls

Whatever the reasons for it, the pattern itself is clear. Most records in our region are of juveniles, including in Pennsylvania:

the 2014 *Crawford* bird was just the fourth confirmed adult for the state against 19 records of one or more juveniles, though there have been reports of two other adults that were not accepted (or not reviewed) by PORC.

Pennsylvania records range from 18 August to 22 December, but 19 of the 23 records (including the 2014 bird, under review) were of birds first spotted between the dates of 5 September and 15 October, right in line with the region-wide timing.

Nine of Pennsylvania's 23 records of Sabine's Gull (39%) were associated with the passage of hurricanes, either on the day of the storm or the day immediately after. There is an interesting footnote to these hurricane birds: each of the past four major hurricanes to pass inland and through Pennsylvania produced Sabine's Gulls on the day *after* the hurricane's passage (two records the day after Hugo 1989, and one each the day after Fran 1997, Isabel 2003, and Sandy 2012), in addition to three of them (all but Hugo) producing birds on the day of the hurricane itself. This could point to one of two possibilities (or both): that the passage of a hurricane tends to knock down Sabine's Gulls that are otherwise just migrating through the area from the north, and these birds are found the day after the fact, or that some Sabine's Gulls become entrained in the storm and are driven inland from the coast, where they tend to linger a bit longer at inland sites than other displaced pelagic species. A good case for the former can be made for the Hugo bird in *Erie* (Kwater 1989), but the answer is less clear for the other four, particularly the adult at Bald Eagle State Park the day after Isabel in 2003.

They have been recorded in 14 counties, with only *Erie* (6), *Lancaster* (4), and *Butler* (2) having multiple records. Six records were on Lake Erie (two of those moribund or deceased), five were on the Susquehanna River, two were on the Delaware River, and one was wrecked along a divided highway. The other nine were at inland reservoirs, all of which are artificial bodies of water, which lends a bit of credence to Lehman's, Irons', and Fix's speculation that the proliferation of artificial reservoirs has led in part to the increase in sightings of Sabine's Gulls in the interior. Of Pennsylvania's nine "reservoir birds", only four of those have appeared without an assist from a hurricane, though three of those four have been since 2008 and also represent three of the five most recent records for the state.

Several of the Sabine's Gulls found in Pennsylvania have been very cooperative. As anyone who has birded in

Pennsylvania during a hurricane knows, conditions during those storms are, to say the least, usually very difficult for observation. Exceptions to this rule among the state's nine "hurricane birds" were the Isabel-driven singles at Yellow Creek State Park on 19 September 2003 and at Bald Eagle State Park on 20 September 2003, which were both seen well by many birders. Three Pennsylvania records refer to wrecked, moribund, or dead birds. Of the remaining 10 records prior to the 2014 bird, several were of birds seen at distance, or only briefly (Malosh 2009 is a typical account of a distant Sabine's). There are some exceptions to this, notably the first live Sabine's for Pennsylvania, a juvenile that remained on the Susquehanna River in *Northumberland* for three days in 1981, which was so cooperative that it even took handouts from birders and fishermen! The state's longest-staying bird, a juvenile at Prince Gallitzin State Park for six days in 1993, occasionally came close to shore. Pennsylvania's only December record, an adult at the channel at Presque Isle State Park on the winter solstice of 2004, was very well seen and photographed, but unfortunately only seen by two birders. A few other Sabine's have been moderately cooperative, but without a doubt, the bird at Pymatuning's spillway in September 2014 was certainly among the best seen, best studied of all Pennsylvania Sabine's Gulls, and the one that drew the widest audience, by far.

### Annotated list of Sabine's Gull records in Pennsylvania

Following are accounts of all records of Sabine's Gull accepted by the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee (PORC) prior to this season's adult at the Pymatuning spillway. There are three records not accepted by the committee and at least two others (both from the lower Susquehanna River in 1993) that were not submitted for committee review. With the *Crawford* bird pending review by PORC, there are currently 22 accepted records for the state. An asterisk indicates a sighting associated with a hurricane.

**15 October 1979 (juv, *Erie*)** – Pennsylvania's first Sabine's Gull was a moribund juvenile discovered by Ann Castele at Gull Point (Hall 1980). The bird was collected and prepared as a study skin for the collection at Edinboro University (McWilliams and Brauning 2000).

**19 to 21 September 1981 (juv, *Northumberland*)** – The first live Sabine's for Pennsylvania was a juvenile found and photographed by Stanley Stahl on the Susquehanna River at Sunbury. Even in the absence of cellular phones and email lists, many birders received the word and were able to see it. Yet it was a different time, and a different kind of birding in those years; for example birders at the lookout at Hawk Mountain on the morning the bird was found received word about the gull over CB radio from Hawk Mountain's secretary who called it up to them, and only two of those birders immediately left to go see it (Frank Haas, pers. comm.), despite its being effectively the first-ever "chaseable" Sabine's Gull for the state!

This bird was probably the most cooperative Sabine's Gull in Pennsylvania history. It spent much time on the riverbank or flying nearby, and was even observed accepting handouts of small minnows and shrimp from fishermen and birders,



Image 2. Sabine's Gull scrumming for bread at the Pymatuning Spillway. (Geoff Malosh)

approaching them to within six feet. It also drew the attention of local teenagers who were observed throwing rocks at it while it was in flight. By the end of its stay it was seen by scores of birders (Stahl, 1982). It was also believed to be the first record of Sabine's Gull for the *American Birds* Hudson-Delaware reporting region away from the Atlantic coast (Boyle, et al. 1982). At the time, the Hudson-Delaware region was defined as southeastern New York, all of New Jersey and Delaware, and Pennsylvania east of the Susquehanna.

**8 October 1987 (juv, Erie)** – A juvenile was observed by Jerry McWilliams flying west and close to shore at Sunset Point, Presque Isle State Park during a lakewatch (McWilliams 1988). 1987 was the first of 27 consecutive years (and counting) of dedicated fall-season waterbird surveys by McWilliams at Sunset Point, and this bird remains the only Sabine's recorded at that location in all that time (Jerry McWilliams, pers. comm.).

**23 September 1989 (juv, Erie)\*** – Hurricane Hugo had weakened to a tropical storm as its center moved north through eastern Ohio in the afternoon of 22 September 1989, reaching the vicinity of the city of Erie just after dusk. Late in the afternoon the next day, Ed Kwater found a juvenile Sabine's in Presque Isle Bay off Leo's Landing among many gulls and terns. Kwater and others at the time credited the sighting not to Hugo directly but to a strong cold front that was ushered into the region on the back side of the storm (Kwater 1989). The next day (24 September), Presque Isle Bay was devoid of birds (McWilliams 1989).

**23 to 24 September, 1989 (juv, Lancaster)\*** – Hugo influenced another Sabine's to reveal itself in Pennsylvania: a juvenile at Washington Boro first located in the morning on the 23rd by Dan and Lori Heathcoate. It was photographed and seen again in the morning on the 24th (Witmer 1989).

**27 September to 2 October 1993 (juv, Cambria)** – The longest-staying Sabine's in Pennsylvania history, this bird was found and photographed at Prince Gallitzin State Park by Gloria Lamer. The photograph was published in *Pennsylvania Birds* 7:151. Another Sabine's found before the widespread introduction of the internet, the bird was nevertheless seen by at least 25 birders, probably more.

**9 September 1995 (juv, Lancaster)** – One juvenile was seen on the Susquehanna River at Washington Boro by Jason Horn (Pulcinella 1996a).

**15 October 1995 (juv, Erie)** – Erie's fourth Sabine's was a juvenile found by Jerry McWilliams among 3000 Bonaparte's Gulls flying west off Gull Point following the passage of a strong cold front (Pulcinella 1997).

**8 September 1996 (juv, Butler)\*** – Hurricane Fran passed more or less directly over Moraine State Park on 7 September 1996, and that day up to 4 Sabine's Gulls (including one adult) were reported at Lake Arthur (Hess 1996). Another juvenile was found at the lake by Ed Kwater late in the afternoon 8 September. Unfortunately, the records committee only received conclusive documentation on Kwater's 8 September juvenile.

**24 September 1998 (juv, Erie)** – A juvenile was found dead on Beach 1 at Presque Isle State Park by Ann DeSarro and was photographed by Jerry McWilliams (McWilliams 1998). It was Erie's fifth Sabine's and second moribund or dead.

**22 September 2002 (juv, Lancaster)** – One juvenile was seen very well by Eric Witmer and Tom Garner, et al. with Ring-billed and Bonaparte's Gulls and few hundred Common and Forster's Terns at the Conejohela Flats. The observers were chumming gulls with bread at the time of the sighting (Sharp and Pulcinella 2005). It was seen well but was present only for an hour or so in the early afternoon (Eric Witmer, pers. comm.).

**6 September 2003 (juv, Mifflin)** – Hurricane Isabel had just been declared a tropical storm in the mid-Atlantic 6 September, still nearly two weeks away from the United States coast, yet the first of several Sabine's of September 2003 was already found: a juvenile wrecked in the middle of US-522 near McVeytown. It was taken to a local rehabber and later to another rehabber in State College where it finally succumbed 11 September (Pulcinella 2006). It was photographed while at State College by Robyn Graboski; the photo was published in *Pennsylvania Birds* 17:297.

An interesting anecdote to this record: while researching Sabine's Gull records for 2014 throughout North America, the author came across an eBird record of a juvenile Sabine's photographed in clear weather on the side of US-285 near Grant, Colorado, at 8600 feet above sea level. See <<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S19870548>>. Is there something to juvenile Sabine's Gulls being attracted to roads?

**19 September 2003 (juv, Indiana)\*** – The first of four reports of Sabine's Gull during the passage of Hurricane Isabel, one juvenile was found in the early afternoon at Yellow Creek State Park by several observers monitoring the lake for storm birds (Pulcinella and Lockyer 2004). Hurricane Isabel was the motivation for Pennsylvania's birders to resurrect a statewide "phone chain" for quickly disseminating information about rare birds to interested parties, now for the first time in the age of cellular phones. Word of this bird spread quickly via the phone chain and the Pennsylvania email listserv immediately after it was found, allowing many birders to try for it. Happily, it remained until the end of the day, and became one of the more



Image 3. Sabine's Gull, underwing detail. Pymatuning Spillway, Crawford. (Geoff Malosh)

celebrated Isabel birds in found western Pennsylvania during the storm.

**19 September 2003 (juvs, Lancaster)\*** – Up to three juveniles were observed by Eric Witmer, Tom Garner, Rick Wiltraut, and Jason Horn on the Susquehanna River at the Conejohela Flats and nearby during the passage of Hurricane Isabel. The birds were seen flying among many gulls and terns and were later seen resting on the water (Pulcinella and Lockyer 2004).

**19 September 2003 (juv, McKean)\*** – While scanning for storm birds at Kinzua Lake, John Fedak was tracking a jaeger when a juvenile Sabine's crossed his field of view (Pulcinella and Lockyer 2004).

**20 September 2003 (adult, Centre)\*** – A Band-rumped Storm-Petrel was reported at Bald Eagle State Park late on 19 September following the passage of Hurricane Isabel. Hopeful birders arrived the next morning and were initially rewarded with an adult Sabine's Gull spotted by Dave Wilton, Peter Robinson and others (Pulcinella and Lockyer 2004). Folks at the lake on the 20th were eventually rewarded with a Band-rumped as well. This would become the first adult Sabine's accepted by PORC on the strength of documentation submitted by Greg Grove and others, despite two previous reports of adults in the state. With this bird the haul of Sabine's Gulls resulting from Isabel reached as many as 6 birds.

**21 to 22 December 2004 (adult, Erie)** – Erie's sixth and most recent Sabine's was significant for a few reasons: it was *Erie's* first adult (and Pennsylvania's second confirmed), and the state's first and still only Sabine's found in the winter season—just one of two found in any month other than September or October, in fact. This bird was nicely photographed at the channel at Presque Isle State Park by Nate Zalik and Craig Kern (McWilliams 2005).

**6 September 2006 (juvs, Delaware)** – Two juveniles were seen by Al Guarente flying south along the Delaware River on a foggy morning (McGovern 2007), three days after the passage of Tropical Storm Ernesto, which dumped many storm birds onto the lower Delaware River 2-3 September, though it is unclear whether these birds so long after the fact were actually related

to the storm. They were seen only briefly and distantly (Al Guarente, pers. comm.).

**12 September 2008 (juv, Butler)** – A juvenile was found at Lake Arthur by Deb Darney during an all-day rain event that affected most of western Pennsylvania. Several birders scrambled to the lake late in the day and came away with some distant but satisfying views of the bird, and one very poor but diagnostic flight photo (Malosh 2009).

**18 August 2009 (adult, Somerset)** – One of the most surprising Sabine's in state history was this adult found by Steve Tucker in clear weather at the small reservoir at Laurel Hill State Park (Pulcinella 2012). Not only are inland adults much more unusual in general than juveniles, this bird on 18 August was quite early by Sabine's standards anywhere south of the Great Lakes. (Post script: the author chased this bird the afternoon of 18 August, unsuccessfully.)

**30 October 2012 (juv, Philadelphia)\*** – The passage of Hurricane Sandy 30 October brought two Sabine's to Pennsylvania, not bad considering the late date of the storm. The first was a juvenile at Pennypack on the Delaware, first seen in Pennsylvania waters early in the day by Marshall Illif, who was observing from the New Jersey side of the river, and subsequently seen by several other observers stationed on the Pennsylvania side (Malosh 2013, McGovern 2013).

**31 October 2012 (juv, Huntingdon)\*** – As with the Bald Eagle State Park bird following Hurricane Isabel in 2003, birders were drawn to Raystown Lake the day after Hurricane Sandy hoping to see a storm-petrel that had been reported at the lake early on the 31st. They were again rewarded with a Sabine's Gull (a juvenile this time), first spotted by Devich Farbotnik (Andy Markel, listserv) and subsequently seen by at least five birders (Grove 2013). The record was accepted by PORC (unpublished reports).

#### The Crawford bird of 2014

The bird at the Pymatuning Spillway 5 to 7 September 2014 was extraordinary in a number of ways. First, as mentioned, it was an adult, just the fourth for the state. But more than that, it was this bird's remarkably confiding nature that burned it into the memories of dozens of happy birders who made the journey to see it. The Pymatuning spillway at Linesville is a well-known tourist attraction, the place everyone knows as "where you go to feed the fish", or alternatively, "where the ducks walk on the fish". Indeed there are hundreds of carp at the spillway, which entertain the hundreds of people who come every day in the warm months to feed bread to them—and to the mallards, geese, and gulls that are also ubiquitous at the site. I will never forget the directions to the place that Scott Kinzey once gave to me. Of course I have been quite familiar with the spillway since I started birding in the early 1980s, but the roadway along that part of the lake is quite long, and the lake is on both sides. Birds that are said to be "at the spillway" often might actually be anywhere along that stretch of the lake, on either side of the road, and there is quite a large area to scan. Anyway, in late August 2009,



Image 4. Sabine's Gull with bread during its last known approach to the spillway. (Geoff Malosh)



Scott found a beautiful juvenile Franklin's Gull at the spillway. When I called him to ask him exactly where he was seeing it, he said, "pretend you're a little kid going to feed the fish—it's right there."

Indeed, the Franklin's Gull was right there, jousting with the local Mallards and Ring-billed Gulls for bread tossed by the little kids at the spillway, and sometimes coming within 15 feet of onlookers. It was a memorable sight, and one that I never dreamed would be duplicated by the highly pelagic Sabine's Gull—an adult no less—just five years later, almost to the day. Very quickly after Mark Vass first spotted it on the 5th, the Sabine's was found to be exhibiting a very predictable routine. It would sit for stretches of time, sometimes no more than ten minutes, sometimes an hour or so, a few hundred yards or more out from the spillway among whatever gathering of resting Ring-billed Gulls were present at the time. But then it would fly in to the spillway itself, like any other gull, and scrum for bread and other bits of food with the Ring-bills and Mallards (Image 2). It was remarkably aggressive despite its being the smallest bird in the crowd. And it was highly successful, picking up bits of bread as it coursed back and forth within a few yards of the spillway's guard rail, eliciting (in between many thousands of camera clicks) gaping astonishment and many heads shaking in disbelief from the considerable number of birders gathered.

So the show went throughout the afternoon of the 5th, all day on the 6th, and well into the afternoon on the 7th. On the 6th, the bird was even spotted sitting in the parking lot at the spillway early in the morning (ph. Nancy Andersen). Given that these three dates were a Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, many birders from all around Pennsylvania and surrounding states were able to make the journey to see it. I myself could not resist this amazing opportunity, and I traveled from Pittsburgh to see and photograph the bird on both the 6th and the 7th, spending at least 11 hours with the bird between the two days. By the end of the weekend, 35 people had entered the Sabine's into eBird, while the total number of birders who actually saw the bird was surely double or even triple that number. Even many non-birders, curious at all the long camera lenses and telescopes that had suddenly descended upon the spillway, took an interest in the fuss, and a good number of them were able to pick out that one unique "seagull" even without optical aid or any birding experience whatsoever.

The bird was last seen around 17:30 on the 7th, shortly after it had just taken a very large chunk of bread (Image 4). It flew off to the west side of the road (opposite the spillway and opposite where it had spent the bulk of the past three days) and did not return (pers. obs.). Most everyone expected it to be back at the spillway the next morning, but it was not seen. There was a third-hand report of the bird near the Espyville Marina and the Pymatuning Causeway on 9 September, but this was not confirmed.

In the end, the hundred or more birders, and a large number of unwitting non-birders, went away with some remarkable memories not easily duplicated outside of the high Arctic: an intimate encounter from dry land with one of the world's most enigmatic and beautiful gulls. I for one will not soon forget it.

### Acknowledgments

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(Photo by Geoff Malosh)

# Searching for Nelson's Sparrows in Central Pennsylvania

Matt Sabatine

Having been an avid birder for close to sixteen years now, I've found it's good to spice things up every once in a while. Whether that's birding in different counties, different habitats, different states, local patches, or birding for specific species, finding a new angle to explore presents an air of freshness and intrigue to this hobby that we all enjoy so dearly. In the past few years, I've found myself enjoying the last in that list—targeting specific species at certain times of the year. I will always enjoy certain phenomena in birding, such as spring and fall migrations of neo-tropical species, hawk watching in fall, waterfowl migration in early spring, and shorebirds moving through from the beginning of spring through the end of fall. The list goes on and on, but having observed these events so many times, I've found that it provides greater excitement when I can couple specific goals with the enjoyment of these seasonal moments. To that end, I have really enjoyed adding in the targeting of specific species to my overall approach to birding.

The fall of 2013 was my first as a student at Penn State University Park, and with the abundance of fantastic bird habitat in the area, I knew it was a great opportunity for me to look for specific uncommon birds in the area, in addition to keeping the beat with my usual birding habits. While discovering the “good” places to go birding around the greater State College area, I noticed a common theme: lots of really good, expansive marsh habitat, particularly cattail marsh, which is essentially nonexistent in my home corner of the state in the Lehigh Valley. I saw this as a fantastic opportunity to search for some marsh specialties, and I knew immediately that in the fall of 2013 would be setting my sights on perhaps one of the most poorly understood, underreported, and yet regularly occurring fall migrants in Pennsylvania: Nelson's Sparrow.

Nelson's Sparrow has long been a species of interest during autumns in Pennsylvania. As a species it presents an interesting complex. It was formerly considered conspecific with the Saltmarsh Sparrow, and together the pair was referred to as the Sharp-tailed Sparrow. In 1995, the AOU accepted the split of the Sharp-tailed Sparrows into the two species recognized today and included the pair as separate species in their seventh edition of the Check-list of North American Birds (1998). Nelson's Sparrow was further subdivided into three distinct populations: *nelsoni*, *alterus*, and *subvirgatus*.

The *subvirgatus* population, also known as the “Atlantic Coast” population, is quite sedentary and rarely leaves the coastal marshes where they reside. The occurrence of *subvirgatus* in Pennsylvania is poorly understood, and there may not be any confirmed or documented sightings of this group in our state. Any possible occurrence would very likely follow the passage of an extreme coastal weather event, such as a hurricane, an abnormally strong nor'easter, or extreme coastal flooding.

*Alterus*, which nests on the shores of the Hudson and James bays, is also poorly understood as it relates to occurrence in Pennsylvania, and in general. This group is considered intermediate between *nelsoni* and *subvirgatus* and shows plumage features in between those two. Furthermore, the variability of specific plumage characters may indicate that some or most *alterus* cannot be separated from the other two subspecies away from the breeding grounds, where the birds' range itself is the identifying feature.

*Nelsoni* is highly migratory, breeding in the high plains of the upper Midwest and central Canada; as a result *nelsoni* is sometimes referred to as the “prairie race” of Nelson's Sparrow. All three populations spend their winters along the Atlantic Coast. With Pennsylvania lying between *nelsoni*'s breeding grounds and wintering grounds, that group is the most relevant to Pennsylvania birders, as they unquestionably travel through the state annually.

*Alterus* could (and probably does) occur as a migrant in our state as well, making separation of the two in Pennsylvania an interesting though very difficult problem. *Nelsoni* is often quite distinctive and can frequently be definitively identified, though both *nelsoni* and especially *alterus* can be highly variable with regard to plumage. Some notes on separating *alterus* from *nelsoni* in the field are as follows. *Nelsoni* is typically a brighter yellow/orange color in the face, chest and back. *Alterus* is more similar to *subvirgatus* than *nelsoni*, in that they are typically much drabber overall, with tones of gray and brown, instead of the warm yellow/orange of *nelsoni*. *Alterus* should also exhibit blurry dark brown/gray streaking from the chest down the sides of the flanks. *Alterus* on average should also lack the crisp, dark rufous-colored streaks on the rear flanks, a character shown in every apparent *nelsoni* (Sibley, 1996).

Since *alterus* is also quite likely to travel through Pennsylvania, some of the Nelson's Sparrows reported annually

may well be of this population. A significant portion of the Nelson's seen in Pennsylvania show intermediate features among the subspecies and probably cannot be identified to subspecies with confidence.

## Searching for Nelson's Sparrow in Central Pennsylvania

I have thought of Nelson's Sparrow as a “fringe” species for some time: rare enough to have been previously on the review list for the state records committee, yet still regular enough to be reported in several different regions in Pennsylvania every fall. I suspected that this odd paradigm for Nelson's Sparrows in Pennsylvania was more a result of the species being underreported and infrequently searched for, rather than actually being rare. Nelson's Sparrow has been recorded in at least 30 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties, with some counties recording them annually, such as Lancaster and Bucks. Though recorded almost exclusively as a fall migrant, they have been noted in the state in the spring months, including a March record, a handful of May records, and one in early June. Their migration window in the fall in Pennsylvania is rather wide, spanning from mid- to late September through early to mid-November. They seem to have a very distinct peak period of occurrence in the middle two weeks in October. In migration, Nelson's Sparrows seek habitat most similar to their breeding habitat—freshwater marshes and wet fields. They seem to prefer cattail marshes or marshes with other native marsh vegetation and grasses, such as sedges and rushes.

Cattail marshes are disappearing throughout Pennsylvania, and their decline can be viewed as a direct cause of the decline of some of the obligate bird species that inhabit them, such as American Bittern, Least Bittern, Virginia Rail, and Sora, among others. These marshes are becoming increasingly sparse in the eastern part of the state. My native county of Northampton contains just one cattail marsh that is even possibly large enough to harbor some of these marsh specialists, and they aren't recorded there annually. I knew going to school at Penn State, where I would be surrounded by expansive and beautiful marshes in Centre County, would provide the chance to bird this habitat I seldom visit in Pennsylvania regularly, and encounter bird species I don't often have the chance to observe. After doing a little research on some of

the more uncommon birds in the region, I was struck to find that Nelson's Sparrow had been recorded in that region of the state only twice since 1982: a bird in the early 2000s at Colyer Lake Recreation Area, and one at the Old Crow Wetland in Huntingdon County in October of 2012. I figured this was due simply to a lack of birder coverage, and after visiting Colyer Lake myself, I decided I would try hard to find a Nelson's Sparrow in the fall of 2013.

It took several attempts from late September through early October, but I did at last observe a Nelson's Sparrow in the cattails around Colyer Lake on 12 October 2013. I spread the word in hopes that others would not only catch up with this individual, but also search for and find more Nelson's Sparrows themselves. They did just that. Several Nelson's Sparrows were seen consistently at Colyer Lake during the following week, with up to 3 individuals at once.

I was happy to see that Colyer Lake was getting the attention it deserves, and felt that local birders did a superb job of surveying the marshes around Colyer Lake during peak fall migration. Yet I also suspected that many other great marshes in the area could be hosting Nelson's Sparrows as well.

And so the fall of 2014 saw my approach to finding Nelson's Sparrows adjust ever so slightly. Not only did I want to see how many I could find in total, I also wanted to visit multiple locations in the area to confirm that, indeed, Nelson's Sparrows are present pretty much wherever substantially-sized cattail or similar marsh habitats are present. My first attempt on 11 October was successful—I observed two Nelson's Sparrows along the perimeter of the Frog Pond at Bald Eagle State Park. It was the first record for the park and represented only the second location for the species ever in Centre County. The same day, I visited the Mill Hall Wetlands, a very impressive complex of large ponds with extensive patches of cattails and other marsh vegetation. Around the time of my first sighting of Nelson's Sparrow at Colyer Lake the year before, Clinton County's first record of Nelson's Sparrow was recorded at these wetlands. I knew (without actually knowing) that this spot hosted many Nelson's Sparrows annually, and that my chances would be pretty good. Indeed, I observed a Nelson's Sparrow here on 11 October. The next day, I returned to the Frog Pond at Bald Eagle State Park and found a different Nelson's Sparrow (based on plumage) from the ones the day before.

My next opportunity to search for Nelson's wasn't until the following weekend, when Ian Gardner and I visited the Old Crow Wetland Complex in

Huntingdon County, another beautiful array of cattail marshes. Success was again had, as I noted a Nelson's Sparrow in the cattails around the perimeter of one of the larger ponds in the complex on 18 October. The next day Ian and I continued our search of Nelson's Sparrows in the area, this time hitting the Curtin Wetland, a large pond lined with cattails to the southwest of Bald Eagle State Park. We again encountered a Nelson's Sparrow, the first record for this location, but unsatisfied with the view it allowed, we then checked the Mill Hall Wetlands in Clinton County, where we were able to obtain fantastic views of a Nelson's Sparrow, with plumage quite different than the bird I saw on 12 October. I really enjoyed birding the Mill Hall Wetlands, most of all for their pure aesthetic beauty, and so the next chance I had to look for Nelson's Sparrows on 21 October again took me back there. Again, I viewed a Nelson's Sparrow that was quite distinctly different from the bird Ian and I had on 19 October, and in an entirely different location within the complex. The Curtin Wetland was, in essence, on the way back to my apartment in State College, and so after visiting the Mill Hall Wetlands, I did a quick sweep at the Curtin Wetland, where I was able to find and photograph two Nelson's Sparrows, again almost certainly different from the one Ian and I saw there on 19 October.

My observations of Nelson's Sparrow in the fall of 2014 spanned 11 to 21 October, three different counties, four different locations, and involved at least nine (and probably ten) different individuals. I saw at least one Nelson's Sparrow on every day I sought them this fall, though due to my class schedule and other obligations, I was only able to look for them on 11, 12, 18, 19 and 21 October, though really had no problem finding at least one on all five of those days. Surely this species is indeed a more common fall migrant in Pennsylvania than traditionally thought.

### Finding Nelson's Sparrows

Aside from a bit of luck, tracking down this somewhat secretive species calls for a bit of effort and specific strategy. Generally in the company of Swamp Sparrows, which should be relatively common in the right marsh habitats, I have found that simply stopping and pishing when Swamp Sparrows are fleeing away or being active and vocal often prompts any Nelson's Sparrows in the area to come into view. Choosing spots within the right habitat is also quite important. My observations showed that marsh vegetation (such as cattails) at the immediate edge of substantially-sized bodies of water (such

as large ponds, lakes, reservoirs, etc.) are preferred. Cattails seem to be the preferred habitat for Nelson's Sparrows migrating through Pennsylvania, though they certainly do occur in other marsh habitats. Additionally, areas lacking in any type of legitimate marsh habitat (not just cattails), still have potential to host Nelson's Sparrows, such as thick grass fields.

It's also important not to rely too much on the history in a county for region to show the species' true status in the area. Just because a particular area may not have many (or any) records of Nelson's Sparrow doesn't mean they don't or can't occur there, and a lack of past records shouldn't discourage birders from searching for them. Quite the contrary: adequate birder awareness and effort put into finding Nelson's Sparrows in the fall will invariably lead to a greater understanding of their natural history in the state of Pennsylvania and beyond, ultimately clarifying their true status, and emphasizing the importance of conserving their fragile and dwindling preferred habitats, which benefits not just the Nelson's Sparrow but the whole host of marsh specialist species in Pennsylvania.

I think more than anything else, what I enjoy most about birding is that I'm constantly learning, and teaching myself about birds and the rest of the natural world, and how everything works together. In those five days I went looking for Nelson's Sparrows in the fall of 2014, I learned a great deal about how and where to find them, and more importantly, the effort provided some much-needed data in the greater understanding of the natural history of this species in Central Pennsylvania. Because of this, those five days of birding are not soon to be forgotten.

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# 2014 Autumn Raptor Migration Summary: 1.3 million and counting

Laurie Goodrich

Pennsylvania birdwatchers are lucky—we do not have to travel too far to find ourselves at a raptor migration hotspot. Long-time Pennsylvania birders may take it for granted, but compared to the Midwest or southeastern United States, it is clear Pennsylvania has something special. Part of the uniqueness is the concentration of raptors we see at many sites and the wonderful close views we usually enjoy. It is the state's terrain and geographic location that work in our favor. Another special aspect comes from the opportunity to view migrant raptors amid many other migrants, including waves of warblers, streams of waterfowl, and parades of blue jays along with many diurnal migrating songbirds. To witness the spectacle of migration—whether standing in Media or on a ridgetop near State College—is a great benefit of living where we do.

In autumn 2014, 114,046 raptors were counted at the 14 watchsites across the state, 12% below the 10-year average of 129,344 hawks (Table 1). Hours of hawk-watching were slightly above-average statewide, 7638 compared to average of 7444. Hawks per hour were below last year's 16.9 per hour, at 14.93 hawks per hour, a result of lower numbers of Broad-winged Hawks at many sites. Rare sightings included a light-morph Swainson's Hawk at Second Mountain on 11 October, a Mississippi Kite at Militia Hill on 18 September, and another Mississippi Kite (adult) at Stone Mountain on 22 September.

Statewide, six species had an above-average showing across Pennsylvania, including Turkey Vulture (8382, up 32%), Bald Eagle (2432, up 32%), Sharp-shinned Hawk (31,622, up 13%), Red-shouldered Hawk (1266, up 4%), and Golden Eagle (1201, up 18%) See Table 1,

which follows at the end of the article. New statewide records were set for the two larger falcons. The Merlin count of 784 was highest in recent years and exceeded the prior high of 755 in 2007. The Peregrine Falcon tally was 480, compared to the record of 409 in 2012.

Lower than average counts were observed for nine raptors: Black Vulture (1237, down 6%), Osprey (2326, down 20%), Northern Harrier (1018, down 15%), Cooper's Hawk (2628, down 23%), Northern Goshawk (126, down 36%), Broad-winged Hawk (44,690, down 29%), Red-tailed Hawk (12,724, down 15%), Rough-legged Hawk (13, down 18%), and American Kestrel (2007, down 2%).

In the past decade, Pennsylvania autumn hawkwatches have recorded 1.3 million sightings of migrating raptors including 626,180 Broad-winged Hawks, 10,182 Golden Eagles, and 18,415 Bald Eagles. Of course, if the previous 70 years of Pennsylvania hawkwatching are added in, the number is much higher... That is a lot of hawks and eagles soaring over Pennsylvania in 10 years and a lot of hours of watching!

In the 2014 summary, we highlight a few of the less numerous but more colorful raptors that migrate through our state: American Kestrel and Red-shouldered Hawk. Notable southbound movements of both species can be observed at on-ridge and off-ridge sites. Some of the lesser known hawkwatches report exceptional numbers of these rarer species. In 2014, American Kestrels showed two pulses of migration in mid-September and again in mid-October. Female and immature kestrels migrate earlier than adult males. However in 2014 a geographic separation was also observed. The peak one-day counts in the southeastern counties occurred primarily

during mid-September. Militia Hill, recorded 34 kestrels on 19 September and Rose Tree Park and Hawk Mountain counted 13 and 49 respectively on 22 September (Table 2). In the central counties, Stone Mountain, Jack's Mountain, Tuscarora Summit, Rocky Ridge and Waggoner's Gap tallied peak numbers in October, with peak counts occurring 5, 9, 18, and 25 October (Table 2). Season totals for kestrels included high counts of 379 at Hawk Mountain, 320 at Waggoner's Gap, and 305 at Militia Hill (Table 1).

Red-shouldered Hawks hit peak migration in late October and mid-November across the state. Highest counts were seen at Kittatinny Ridge sites: Hawk Mountain, 28 on 31 October, and Waggoner's Gap, 35 on 25 October (Table 2). Militia Hill and Rose Tree Park in the southeast also tallied notable counts of Red-shouldered Hawks with peak flights of 19 at Militia Hill on 25 October, and 18 at Rose Tree on 27 and 30 October (Table 2). Top season totals for Red-shouldered Hawk occurred at Waggoner's Gap (245) and Rose Tree Park (226).

**Allegheny Front (Somerset/Bedford)** – Allegheny Front watchers recorded 7672 migrating hawks in 766.1 hours of observation over 103 days, a rate of 10 hawks per hour. A new season record of 85 Black Vultures was set and above-average counts were tallied for Bald Eagle (128), American Kestrel (87), and Peregrine Falcon (36). Migrants recorded in below-average numbers included Osprey (91), Northern Harrier (33), Cooper's Hawk (152), Red-shouldered Hawk (32), and Red-tailed Hawk (927). Only 127 Golden Eagles were tallied for the season, a 12-year low for this key Golden Eagle migration site (Table 1). Bob Stewart, compiler, reported that most Golden Eagles were recorded in two two-day flights, 10-11 November and 7-8 December. The watch 10 November saw 15 goldens followed by 30 the following day. In the December push, 13 and 15 eagles were spotted respectively. A spate of west winds in November may have kept migrants away from the Allegheny Front, which sees its highest counts on easterly winds. The highest one-day count for 2014 came 14 September when 1880 raptors were sighted including 1841 Broad-winged Hawks and 13 Bald Eagles, the season high for both species.

**Bake Oven Knob (Lehigh)** – Watchers at Bake Oven Knob tallied 12,723 hawks in 104 days and 854.3 hours at a rate of 14.9 hawks per hour. Although effort was

**Table 2. Peak one-day migration counts for selected species.**

Site	American Kestrel		Red-shouldered Hawk	
	Count	Date	Count	Date
Allegheny Front	12	8/25	3	10/12, 10/30
Bake Oven Knob	17	9/22	12	10/30
Pipersville (BW)*	1	9/16	-	-
Council Cup*	1	9/16, 9/18	1	several
Hawk Mountain	<b>49</b>	9/22	<b>28</b>	10/31
Jack's Mountain	21	10/9	2	several
Little Gap	10	several	13	11/1
Militia Hill	<b>34</b>	9/19	<b>19</b>	10/25
Rocky Ridge*	14	10/5	-	-
Rose Tree Park	13	9/22	<b>18</b>	10/27, 10/30
Second Mountain	10	10/17	10	11/10
Stone Mountain	<b>27</b>	10/9	5	10/19
Tuscarora Summit	14	10/25	3	11/9
Waggoner's Gap	<b>33</b>	10/18	<b>35</b>	10/25

*Bold counts indicate top four totals by species*

*\*limited coverage*

slightly higher than average, the count was 13% below the 10-year average (Table 1). Above-average counts were recorded for Black Vulture (311), Bald Eagle (312), Sharp-shinned Hawk (3935), Golden Eagle (151), Merlin (118), and Peregrine Falcon (69). October was busy for Bake Oven with more than 3000 Sharpshins for the month including a peak flight of 292 on 18 October and several days exceeding 200 individuals. The total of 3935 sharpshins was 12% above the 10-year average. Other exciting days included 22 September when northwest winds ushered 24 Bald Eagles past the watchsite along with 26 Osprey, 88 Sharp-shinned, and 74 Broad-winged Hawks, along with a one-day peak count for kestrels (17), 10 Merlin and a Peregrine Falcon. Notable non-raptors seen that day included 45 Common Ravens and a Sandhill Crane.

**Broadwing SEPT, Pipersville (Bucks)** – Broadwing SEPT is a project specifically to count Broad-winged Hawks across a transect in Bucks County. Only one site is monitored. In 2014, Diane Allison counted on two days during peak broadwing migration, 15 and 16 September, for 6.5 hours. She recorded 1338 hawks including 1323 broadwings, 5 Osprey, 2 Bald Eagles, 7 Sharp-shinned Hawks and one kestrel. The highest count was on 15 September with 1011 broadwings, 4 Osprey, one Bald Eagle, and one sharpshin. Counts were 32% above-average for this site.

**Council Cup (Luzerne)** – Council Cup is another limited coverage site with good potential that has received greater coverage in the past. Donald Kapral, the compiler and main observer, reported 9 days and 40.8 hours of observation and 1011 hawks. Because coverage used to be higher, no new records were set. However, the 373 Red-tailed Hawks was higher than recent years, and 380 Broad-winged Hawks were above-average (Table 1). Total raptors were also above average: 1011 vs. 927, despite lower hours. Gusting northwest winds on 2 November brought the highest count of redtails (137) along with close sightings of an eye-level Red-shouldered Hawk and four Bald Eagles, three adult and one immature. We encourage Wilkes-Barre birders to put this Susquehanna corridor site on their list to visit for autumn 2014 and to report sightings to the compiler.

**Hawk Mountain (Berks/Schuylkill)** – Hawk Mountain observers counted a below-average 17,423 hawks in 128 days and 1114.5 hours of coverage. Effort was slightly above-average compared to recent years. New records were set for Turkey Vulture at 936 and Peregrine Falcon at 90 (Table 1). Above-average

counts were tallied for four species, including Black Vulture (200), Bald Eagle (418), Golden Eagle (164), and Merlin (189). Low counts were recorded for Osprey (467), Northern Harrier (164), Cooper's Hawk (555), Northern Goshawk (24), Broad-winged Hawk (6369), Red-tailed Hawk (2266), and American Kestrel (379). The highest one-day count occurred on 15 September, when 888 broadwings sailed down ridge along with 32 Osprey, 9 Bald Eagles, and 27 Sharp-shinned Hawks. Daily counts of broadwings never surpassed 1000, leading to lower than average totals for this species. Northwest winds on 22 September brought a peak count of 49 American Kestrels, and 27 Bald Eagles parading past (Table 2). Other migrants included 19 Osprey, 105 Sharp-shinned and 110 Broad-winged Hawks. The following day Rudy Keller and Sue Schmoyer enjoyed one of the best songbird flights for the season including 5 species of vireo and 11 warblers with highest numbers spotted for Black-throated Green Warblers (110) and Blue-headed Vireo (64). In a historic moment, the record-breaking Peregrine Falcon, number 69, shot past the lookout on 17 October, bringing the season total above the previous high of 68 set in 2010. The season record was set at 90 (Table 1).

One of the best eagle flights occurred 26 October with 19 Bald and 22 Golden eagles flying south along with 230 sharpshins and 106 redtails. Light east winds on Halloween brought the second-highest one-day count of Red-shouldered Hawks for the state this season (28), allowing excellent views of these colorful hawks (Table 2). Late November brought two dark-morph Rough-legged Hawks, one each on the 28th and 30th.

**Jack's Mountain (Mifflin)** – Jack's Mountain recorded 4542 hawks in 86 days and 498 hours. Coverage was above-average, and possibly as a result, two new records were set and nine species showed above-average counts. New records were for Turkey Vulture (379) and Peregrine Falcon (34). Above-average or average counts were recorded for all species except Broad-winged Hawk. Counters tallied 1971 broadwings, 19% below the ten-year average (Table 1). Of particular note was the Golden Eagle total of 141, an increase over 200% above the prior ten-year average. Jack's counters recorded the fifth-highest one-day count of American Kestrels for the state 9 October: 21 kestrels along with 41 sharpshins, 2 Osprey, and 3 Cooper's Hawks. The season total of Golden Eagles was boosted substantially by an amazing "treat" of a flight on Halloween afternoon. Darrell Smith and Craig Kochel endured a slow morning at Jack's that day with raw, southeast winds and

heavy overcast. They were rewarded by an adult Golden Eagle sailing past at 12:55. Suddenly a Golden Eagle deluge began. Eleven passed before 14:00, 16 in the next hour, and by day's end 56 had flown past, many flying in pairs. The spectacle included one kettle of eight eagles and set a new one-day record for the site. The only other migrants that day were nine redtails and one harrier.

**Little Gap (Northampton)** – Little Gap recorded 13,339 hawks in 92 days and 629 hours. Counts were below the ten-year average of 14,695, primarily due to a dip in sightings of Broad-winged Hawks. The broadwing number, 5,271, was 25% below-average (Table 1). Above-average counts were tallied for Black Vulture (143), Turkey Vulture (584), Bald Eagle (279), Sharp-shinned Hawk (3742), Red-shouldered Hawk (154), Golden Eagle (104), Merlin (128), and Peregrine Falcon (46). The Golden Eagle count was two birds shy of tying the season record for the site, 106. Species showing lower than average counts were Osprey (226), Cooper's Hawk (298), Northern Goshawk (18, down 28%), and American Kestrel (153, down 20%). The Osprey count was the lowest since 1995.

Little Gap enjoyed their highest one-day count 15 on September as 957 broadwings glided past the lookout along with 10 Osprey, 11 Bald Eagles, 40 sharpshins, 4 kestrels and singleton merlin and peregrine. Strong northwest winds 25 October brought the highest eagle tally for the season including 20 Bald and 18 Golden eagles. Birds began early with the first golden at 8:08. Other migrants included 69 redtails, 124 sharpshins, 10 redshoulders, 4 Black and 5 Turkey Vulture, 4 Cooper's Hawks, and 2 harriers. Morning drizzle cleared by mid-day 1 November and counters tallied 103 redtails, 25 Turkey Vultures, and 13 Red-shouldered Hawks, the one-day peak count for this species.

**Militia Hill (Montgomery)** – Militia Hill counters historically only watch during September and October. In 2014, the site was monitored for 60 days and 456 hours. A below-average total of 8723 hawks were recorded with the largest dip seen for Broad-winged Hawks: 5211 against a ten-year average of 11,131, a 53% drop (Table 1). Counts were above-average for Turkey Vulture (1016), Bald Eagle (110), Red-shouldered Hawk (100), American Kestrel (305), Merlin (47), and Peregrine Falcon (36). The Turkey Vulture and Red-shouldered counts were the second-highest on record for the site. Other below-average counts were tallied for Osprey (248, down 14%), and Cooper's Hawk (120, down 24%).

14 September brought the highest one-day count for the site that included

1238 broadwings, 21 Osprey, 12 Bald Eagles, 4 Northern Harriers, 35 Sharp-shinned and one Cooper's hawk, 2 Red-shouldered Hawks, 22 American Kestrels, and 2 Merlin. On 19 September, observers enjoyed a one-day peak flight of 34 American Kestrels, the second highest one-day count for the state (Table 2). The following day a surge of 1086 broadwings was punctuated by 12 Osprey and 3 Bald Eagles, but by far the rarest bird for the day was a Mississippi Kite. Compiler Andy Fayer reported the kite was the third record for Militia during autumn migration, although they are regularly sighted in spring.

Observers on 25 October spotted 18 Red-shouldered Hawks among 137 migrating raptors, for the third highest one-day count for this species (Table 2). The highest count for Turkey Vulture (305) soared past 29 October, with 30 sharpshins and 10 redtails among the 356 total migrants. Other migrants of note this autumn included 22 Common Raven in a kettle 22 September, a Sandhill Crane 9 October, four Greater White-fronted Geese 31 October, and regular sightings of Common Nighthawk in September.

**Rocky Ridge (York)** – This partial coverage site tallied 1500 raptors in 67 hours on 14 days in September and October. Total raptors were 28% below average, likely due to 40% fewer hours counting (Table 1). This traditional hot spot for Broad-winged Hawks did not disappoint, recording 1334 Broadwings in September with two days exceeding 300 individuals: 380 on 14 September and 365 on 16 September. The 14 September flight included 7 Bald Eagles, 2 Osprey, 2 Northern Harrier, 18 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 2 Cooper's Hawks, and one American Kestrel. October highlights included 14 kestrels on 5 October, and 56 sharpshins along with one Merlin and 2 Peregrine Falcons on 10 October.

**Rose Tree Park (Delaware)** – Rose Tree Park watchers enjoyed 4636 raptors in 545 hours across 85 days. The total count was 37% below the ten-year average, partly due to low numbers of broadwings. Black Vultures were not counted this year due to the proximity of a nearby roost. The Bald Eagle total of 163 was 7% above average and 226 Red-shouldered Hawks were 20% above the norm. Below average numbers were observed for Turkey Vulture (351), Osprey (209), Northern Harrier (46), Sharp-shinned Hawk (1021), Cooper's Hawk (141), Broad-winged Hawk (1909), Red-tailed Hawk (307), and American Kestrel (161).

On 22 September, light north winds ushered 652 broadwings past the site along with 66 sharpshins, 5 Osprey, 7 Bald Eagles, and 13 American Kestrels.

The broadwing and kestrel counts were the highest one-day counts for the site (Table 2). An impending cold front on 21 October brought Rose Tree Park a rarity, an early light morph Rough-legged Hawk. Rose Tree counters tallied 136 migrant raptors 27 October including 41 Turkey Vulture, 34 sharpshins, 25 redtails, and 18 redshoulders, a one-day peak count and third highest for the state. Another 18 redshoulders flew past 30 October, accompanied by 27 redtails. The Red-shouldered Hawk season tally of 226 was one of the highest for the state.

**Second Mountain (Lebanon)** – Second Mountain recorded 8394 hawks in 851 hours on 123 days. Effort and birds were slightly below the ten-year averages of 943 hours and 9804 hawks (Table 1). Above-average counts were observed for four species: Sharp-shinned Hawk (2736), Rough-legged Hawk (4), Merlin (47), and Peregrine Falcon (35). Species showing below-average counts included Black Vulture (236), Osprey (111), Bald Eagle (152), Northern Harrier (94), Northern Goshawk (8), Red-shouldered Hawk (113), Broad-winged Hawk (2959), and Red-tailed Hawk (701). Counters recorded a peak flight of broadwings 20 September as 900 glided past, mostly in the afternoon.

Counters spotted a rarity on the afternoon 11 October, a light morph Swainson's Hawk circling in a kettle with an Osprey, Peregrine Falcon, and sharpshins. This Swainson's was the only one spotted at Pennsylvania watchsites in 2014. South winds 17 October brought the highest count for October with 13 species including 210 sharpshins, 43 Turkey Vultures, 61 Black Vultures, 18 Cooper's Hawks, 10 redtails, 10 American Kestrels (the season peak count), 10 Merlin, 5 Peregrine Falcons, 2 Golden Eagles, and 2 Bald Eagles. On northeast winds 27 October, observers tallied 71 raptors including 23 Red-shouldered Hawks, the season's peak one-day count, and 5 Golden Eagles (Table 2). The season peak Golden Eagle flight occurred 3 November when 8 goldens soared past. Second Mountain counters manned the lookout through 31 December and added another 11 Golden and 18 Bald eagles along with 36 Black and 7 Turkey vultures, 32 redtails, 2 Rough-legged Hawks, 2 redshoulders, and one Northern Goshawk.

**Stone Mountain (Huntingdon)** – Stone Mountain counters tallied 4091 hawks in 428 hours over 74 days, an increase of 23% in observer effort. The site set a new record for Turkey Vulture at 420 (Table 1). Above-average counts were tallied for Bald Eagle (108), Sharp-shinned Hawk (1145), Golden Eagle (145), American Kestrel (128), Merlin (35), and Peregrine

Falcon (29). Lower than average counts were observed for Northern Harrier (39), Cooper's Hawk (130), Red-shouldered Hawk (49), Broad-winged Hawk (1093), and Red-tailed Hawk (653).

22 September was a red-letter day for this central Pennsylvania site with 461 hawks including 378 broadwings, 25 sharpshins, 14 Bald Eagles, 14 Osprey, and one of the rarest birds for the migration, an adult Mississippi Kite at 10:09. Stone recorded the fourth highest daily count for American Kestrel, 27 on 9 October, along with 5 Merlin and 7 Peregrine Falcons among 212 raptors. Stone Mountain recorded two days of 22 Golden Eagles 2 and 12 November, helping to bring the total to 145 Golden.

**Tuscarora Summit (Fulton)** – Tuscarora Summit tallied 4455 hawks in 269 hours over 55 days. The total count was 4% above-average while coverage dipped by 18%. Counters set a new record for Turkey Vulture (541) and Merlin—26 compared to a prior high of 21 in 2012. Above-average counts were recorded for most species including Black Vultures (115), Bald Eagle (76), Cooper's Hawk (101), Red-shouldered Hawk (33), American Kestrel (69), Merlin (26), and Peregrine Falcon (27). Lower than average counts were tallied for Sharp-shinned Hawk (895) and Red-tailed Hawk (244). The highest one-day count was made 21 September when 628 broadwings, 6 Osprey, 3 Northern Harriers, and 7 Sharp-shinned Hawks sailed past. A mid-October Turkey Vulture procession began 12 October with 167 counted along with 8 Black Vultures. Counts for the next week numbered up to 67 Turkey Vultures daily and by month's end counters had added 500 Turkey and 110 Black vultures to the tally. The peak count of 14 American Kestrels flew past 25 October.

**Waggoner's Gap (Cumberland)** – Waggoner's Gap maintains one of the longest seasons, this year logging 1114 hours over 140 days from 1 August to 31 December, and tallying an above-average 24,199 hawks, the highest autumn count of any site. A new record was set for Bald Eagle at 535, just one eagle higher than the 2012 count. Above-average counts were tallied for Turkey Vulture (2018), Sharp-shinned Hawk (9917), Red-tailed Hawk (2927) including two white birds, and Golden Eagle (241). The sharpshin count was the second-highest on record surpassed only by 10,121 in 2010. Below-average counts were observed for Black Vulture (30), Osprey (357), Northern Harrier (185), Cooper's Hawk (531), Northern Goshawk (41), Broad-winged Hawk (6544), Rough-legged Hawk (2), American Kestrel (320), and Peregrine Falcon (55).

The season peak of broadwings was 16 September when 1180 were counted. Also seen were 90 sharpshins, 28 Osprey, 7 Bald Eagles, 10 redtails, 5 Cooper's Hawks, 8 American Kestrel, and 3 Merlin. This count was surpassed 17 October, when an amazing 1692 Sharpshinned Hawks were recorded, along with 262 Turkey Vultures, 17 Bald Eagles and 12 other raptors, summing to 2148 hawks for the day. The following day another 828 sharpshins zipped past along with a season peak count of 33 American Kestrels (Table 2). Light winds 25 October brought 35 Red-shouldered Hawks, the highest one day count of any site (Table 1).

1-3 November were eagle days for Waggoner's Gap. Twenty Golden Eagles and 6 Bald Eagles glided past on the 1st but the highest one-day count was tallied 2 November: 26 Golden Eagles were spotted from 07:49 to 17:09, accompanied by 11 Bald Eagles. On 3 November another 3 Bald and 21 Golden were tallied, for a three-day eagle total of 20 Bald and 67 Golden. Eagle daily counts were lower but steady for the remainder of the month. November's final Golden Eagle count was 141. Another 25 Golden and 52 Bald eagles were added for the month of December (Table 1).

## Conclusion

The 2014 flight added 114,046 raptors to the ever-growing database of migrating raptors passing through Pennsylvania. Highlights included upswings in both larger falcons and continued increases in sightings of eagles. Broad-winged Hawks were below average at many sites, but counts were higher in Great Lakes so some migrants may have been moved west by the steady easterly winds during September's migration. Osprey and Northern Harrier were low at most sites and warrant close monitoring in the future.

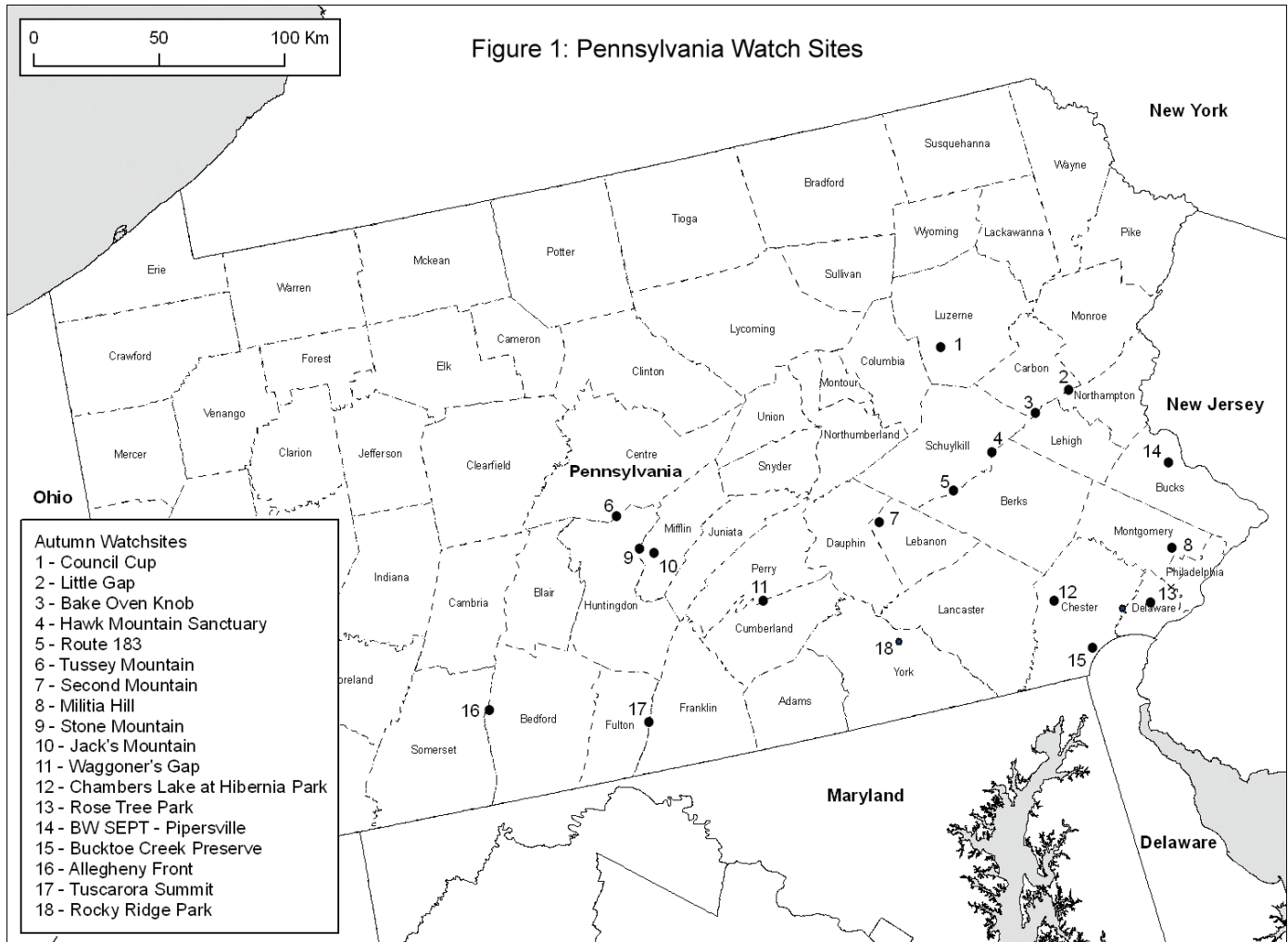
For scientific analyses of migration trends, we can reference the Raptor Population Index (RPI) that now covers at least five Pennsylvania sites. A new analysis was completed in 2013 for any watchsite with at least ten years of hourly data in the HawkCount.org website (see <www.rpi-project.org>). RPI results show American Kestrels remained stable in Pennsylvania during the past decade; however watchsites along the Canadian border showed strong declines, suggesting issues in northern nesting populations. The lack of a rebound in kestrel numbers remains a concern. Red-shouldered Hawks declined

significantly at Hawk Mountain and Waggoner's Gap but remained stable at the other Pennsylvania sites. The RPI project webpage summarizes results by site or in an easy to read map that is viewable by species.

## Acknowledgements

I thank Pennsylvania's hawk counters for their many hours of counting, as well as the site compilers for organizing the data and sharing their results. Data were provided by <www.hawkcount.org> with permission of site compilers, a website maintained by the Hawk Migration Association of North America and managed by Jason Sodergren, database manager. Locations of sites and site totals can be viewed at HMANA site <www.hawkcount.org>. I thank David Barber for the site map. This is Hawk Mountain Sanctuary contribution number 249.

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JACK'S MOUNTAIN (Miffin) - Ron Singer, compiler

Table with columns: Month, Days, Hours, BLVU, TUVU, OSPR, BAEA, NOHA, SSHA, COHA, NOGO, RSHA, BWHA, RTHA, RLHA, GOEA, AMKE, MERL, PEFA, SWHA, Unid, Total. Rows include August through December, Total, and Average last 10 yrs.

LITTLE GAP (Northampton) - Michael Schall, compiler

Table with columns: Month, Days, Hours, BLVU, TUVU, OSPR, BAEA, NOHA, SSHA, COHA, NOGO, RSHA, BWHA, RTHA, RLHA, GOEA, AMKE, MERL, PEFA, SWHA, Unid, Total. Rows include August through December, Total, and Average last 10 yrs.

ROCKY RIDGE (York) - Randy Phillips, compiler

Table with columns: Month, Days, Hours, BLVU, TUVU, OSPR, BAEA, NOHA, SSHA, COHA, NOGO, RSHA, BWHA, RTHA, RLHA, GOEA, AMKE, MERL, PEFA, SWHA, Unid, Total. Rows include September, October, Total, and Average last 10 yrs.

ROSE TREE PARK (Delaware) - Holly Merker and Janet Crawford, co-compilers

Table with columns: Month, Days, Hours, BLVU, TUVU, OSPR, BAEA, NOHA, SSHA, COHA, NOGO, RSHA, BWHA, RTHA, RLHA, GOEA, AMKE, MERL, PEFA, SWHA, Unid, Total. Rows include August through November, Total, and Average last 10 yrs.

SECOND MOUNTAIN (Lebanon) - David Schwenk, compiler

Table with columns: Month, Days, Hours, BLVU, TUVU, OSPR, BAEA, NOHA, SSHA, COHA, NOGO, RSHA, BWHA, RTHA, RLHA, GOEA, AMKE, MERL, PEFA, SWHA, Unid, Total. Rows include August through December, Total, and Average last 10 yrs.



# Pennsylvania Bird Lists Report – 2014

Compiled by Peter Robinson

The following people submitted list information for 2014: Tim Becker, Chuck Berthoud, Gerry Boltz, Brian Byrnes, Bruce Carl, Dick Cleary, Michael David, Michael Defina, Dave DeReamus, Jim Dunn, Gary Edwards, Devich Farbotnik, Mike Fialkovich, Ian Gardner, Carl Garner, Deb Grove, Greg Grove, Al Guarente, Michael Hartshorne, David Hawk, Jonathan Heller, Carol Hildebrand, Marjorie Howard, Chad Hutchinson, Roy Ickes, Bruce Johnson, Chad Kauffman, Jon Kauffman, Bill Keim, Andy Keister, Dave Kyler, Trudy Kyler, Alex Lamoreaux, Wayne Laubscher, Ron Leberman, Sandy Lockerman, Geoff Malosh, Paul Mauss, Mark McConaughy, Flo McGuire, Jerry McWilliams, Bill Oyler, Martin Page, Brian Quindlen, Dan Richards, Peter Robinson, Michael Schall, Allen Schweinsberg, Russ States, Shannon Thompson, Mark Vass, Joseph Verica, Andy Wilson.

There are now 88 birders whose Pennsylvania Life Lists are 300 or more, an increase of two from 2013. Twenty-four have Pennsylvania Life Lists of 350 species or more, and six are at 375 or more. There are nine birders at the 300 mark or more in the Pennsylvania Life List-Unassisted category. This year's high Pennsylvania Annual List was Devich Farbotnik's 262. There were a few County Life List lead changes in 2014. Andy Keister established a new high of 190 for Columbia, 10 more than the previous 180. Flo McGuire's 210 is a new high for Forest, 22 more than the previous high of 188. Michael Schall's 223 is one greater than Phillips Street's former Monroe record. Some new highs were achieved for County Annual Lists. In Centre, Joseph Verica's 241 was two better than his 2011 total. Andy Keister's 165 for Columbia replaced his 2013 high of 147. In Huntingdon, Jon Kauffman's 221 exceeded David Kyler's 218. Tim Becker established a new high of 249 for Lebanon, better than his own 244 for 2013. Andy Keister found 182 species in Montour, well above his 147 high for 2013. In Northampton the 239 by Michael Schall bested his own previous 236, and in Pike his 182 exceeded his previous 166 high.

## BIRD OF THE YEAR – 2014

The winners for the Pennsylvania bird of the year were Snowy Plover and Snowy Owl with 16 points each. In second place with 11 points was Purple Gallinule, and in third with 9 points was Cinnamon Teal. The Crested Caracara would probably have received more votes if anyone besides the person who reported it had gotten to see it. These total scores for the top three were rather low because the votes were spread out over so many candidates. A total of thirty species received votes. Seaside Sparrow got eight points. At seven points were Crested Caracara and Sabine's Gull. Pacific Loon and Long-tailed Jaeger got six points. At four points were Trumpeter Swan and Franklin's Gull. Three points were garnered by Red-necked Grebe, Pink-footed Goose, Yellow-headed Blackbird, and House Sparrow (a first place vote!). At two points were Least Bittern, White Ibis, Glossy Ibis, White-winged Scoter, Piping Plover, and European Starling. Nine species got one point each: Red-throated Loon, American Bittern, Greater White-fronted Goose, Ross's Goose, Eider species, Harlequin Duck, Iceland Gull, Rock Pigeon, and Dickcissel.

## Pennsylvania Life Lists

1	386	Deuane Hoffman	2009	43	328	Bill Etter	2013	88	299	Keith Richards	1982
2	385	Barbara Haas	2013	43	328	Margaret Higbee	2013	89	298	George Malosh	2003
3	384	Devich Farbotnik	2014	45	327	Glenna Schwalbe	1998	89	298	Allen Schweinsberg	2014
4	380	Dave DeReamus	2014	45	327	Steve Santner	1999	91	297	Allan Keith	1998
5	379	Franklin Haas	2010	47	326	Michael David	2014	91	297	Jim Dunn	2014
5	379	Peter Robinson	2014	48	324	Harry Franzen	1996	93	296	Ed Kwater	1996
7	374	Eric Witmer	2013	48	324	Aden Troyer	2013	93	296	Bill Keim	2013
8	371	Jason Horn	2002	48	324	Dick Cleary	2014	93	296	Dan Richards	2014
9	370	Rick Wiltraut	2006	51	323	Chuck Berthoud	2014	96	295	Frank Windfelder	1998
9	370	Al Guarente	2013	52	322	Tom Clauser	2012	96	295	J. Kenneth Gabler	2002
11	369	Tom Garner	2012	52	322	Wayne Laubscher	2014	98	294	James Baxter	1986
11	369	Ken Lebo	2013	54	321	Chad Kauffman	2014	98	294	Terence Schiefer	1999
13	365	Arlene Koch	2012	55	319	John Ginaven	1998	98	294	William Reid	2001
14	364	Randy C. Miller	2012	56	318	Phillips Street	1999	98	294	Gary Edwards	2014
14	364	Jonathan Heller	2013	57	317	Matthew Spence	2013	102	293	John Peplinski	1994
16	363	Geoff Malosh	2013	57	317	Greg Grove	2014	103	291	David Hawk	2014
17	362	Nick Pulcinella	2013	59	316	Timothy Becker	2014	104	290	David Abbott	1998
18	361	Robert Schutsky	2011	59	316	Alex Lamoreaux	2014	104	290	Chuck Tague	1999
18	361	Harold Lebo	2012	59	316	Mark Vass	2014	104	290	Thomas Reeves	2011
20	360	Bernard Morris	2011	62	315	Evelyn Kopf	1995	104	290	Andy Keister	2014
21	358	Steve Farbotnik	2006	62	315	Drew Weber	2011	108	289	Kevin Crilley	1998
21	358	Chuck Chalfant	2013	64	314	Walter Shaffer	1999	109	288	Ross Gallardy	2006
23	354	John Fedak	2006	65	313	Harold Morrin	1996	110	287	Dustin Welch	2011
24	350	Ronald Leberman	2014	65	313	David McNaughton	2013	111	285	Armas Hill	1996
25	349	Fritz Brock	2013	67	312	John Salvetti	2011	111	285	Neal Thorpe	1997
26	347	Michael Schall	2014	67	312	Skip Conant	2013	113	284	James Gray	1983
27	346	Jerry Book	2000	67	312	Trudy Kyler	2013	114	283	Kerry Grim	1998
27	346	Joyce Hoffmann	2004	70	311	Dana Shaffer	1999	114	283	Mike Epler	2012
27	346	Bruce Carl	2014	70	311	Don Henise	2000	116	282	John Billings	1998
30	345	Mike Fialkovich	2014	72	309	Bill Oyler	2014	116	282	Dick Byers	2002
31	343	Shannon Thompson	2014	73	308	Robyn Henise	2000	118	281	Joseph Verica	2014
32	340	Richard Timm	2011	73	308	Mike Weible	2007	119	278	James Baird	1981
33	338	Jan Witmer	1997	73	308	Roger Higbee	2008	119	278	Merrill Wood	1991
33	338	Richard Colyer	2000	76	307	Ernest Schiefer	2000	121	277	Bonnie Baird	1981
33	338	Jerry McWilliams	2014	76	307	Ian Gardner	2014	122	276	Randi Gerrish	2009
36	337	John Miller	1997	78	306	Carl Garner	2013	123	274	Gloria Lamar	1992
37	336	William Stocku	1997	79	305	Gene Wilhelm	1992	123	274	Sarah Gerrish	2009
38	335	Matt Wlasniewski	2012	79	305	Deborah Grove	2014	123	274	Neil Troyer	2013
39	332	William Murphy	2000	81	303	Russ States	2007	126	273	Katrina Knight	1999
40	330	Billy Weber	2011	82	302	Sam Stull	1985	127	272	Scott Kinzey	1999
40	330	David Kyler	2014	82	302	Edward Pederson	1998	127	272	Bob Machesney	2005
42	329	Paul Schwalbe	1998	82	302	Rick Koval	2004	127	272	Pamela Fisher	2009
				85	300	Larry Lewis	1988	127	272	Nathan Fronk	2012
				85	300	Dave Rieger	2012	131	271	James Flynn	1997
				85	300	Mark McConaughy	2014	132	270	Barry Reed	2010





<b>CARBON</b>			229	Walter Fye	1997	168	Timothy Becker	2014
270	David Hawk	2013	210	Deuane Hoffman	2004	165	J. Kenneth Gabler	2002
267	Barry Reed	2010	200	Margaret Buckwalter	1996	154	John Fedak	1998
245	Rick Wiltraut	1998	187	Russ States	2006	152	Devich Farbotnik	2014
227	Jason Horn	2002	181	Gene Wilhelm	1992	144	Jonathan Heller	2010
223	Dustin Welch	2011	163	Bill Reddinger	1999	139	Drew Weber	2011
218	Michael Schall	2014	152	Mark McConaughy	2003	131	Randy C. Miller	2012
208	Bernard Morris	2007	150	Fred Crowley	1995	131	Andy Wilson	2014
205	Deuane Hoffman	1999	113	Margaret Higbee	2013	125	Jim Dunn	2014
202	Robert Frantz	2000	104	Steve Santner	1995	119	Deb Grove	2014
158	Nick Kerlin	2003	<b>CLEARFIELD</b>			117	Al Guarente	2013
128	John Fedak	2005	241	Dan Richards	2014	116	Greg Grove	2014
116	Al Guarente	2013	202	Deuane Hoffman	2009	<b>DAUPHIN</b>		
115	Steve Santner	1995	186	John Fedak	2005	289	Deuane Hoffman	2009
110	Randy C. Miller	2007	154	Eugene Zielinski	2000	243	Scott Bills	2003
105	Devich Farbotnik	2009	126	Jim Dunn	2014	239	Mark McConaughy	2013
104	Rick Koval	2004	122	Nathan Fronk	2012	235	Grace Randolph	1996
<b>CENTRE</b>			114	Paul Schwalbe	1998	234	George Wertz, Jr.	1986
272	Merrill Wood	1991	112	Andy Wilson	2014	219	Steve Santner	1995
268	Jim Dunn	2014	106	Deb Grove	2013	217	Ian Gardner	2014
266	Joseph Verica	2014	100	Steve Santner	1995	213	David McNaughton	2013
263	Harry Henderson	1991	<b>CLINTON</b>			211	Richard Colyer	1999
262	Greg Grove	2014	248	Paul Schwalbe	2004	197	Chuck Berthoud	2014
255	Alex Lamoreaux	2014	228	Wayne Laubscher	2014	194	Drew Weber	2011
249	Deuane Hoffman	2009	200	Deuane Hoffman	2007	192	Timothy Becker	2013
249	Ian Gardner	2014	220	Carol Hildebrand	2014	175	Don Henise	2000
245	Rick Wiltraut	1998	165	Jim Dunn	2014	170	Chad Kauffman	2014
244	Terence Schiefer	1998	161	Greg Grove	2012	156	John Fedak	2002
242	Drew Weber	2011	149	Deborah Grove	2012	154	Sandy Lockerman	2014
237	Nathan Fronk	2012	146	Nathan Fronk	2012	150	Randy C. Miller	2012
232	Eugene Zielinski	2000	130	John Fedak	2000	140	Jonathan Heller	2003
226	Deb Grove	2013	120	Steve Santner	1995	130	Mike Epler	2102
218	Scott Bills	1992	111	Chad Kauffman	2012	128	William Reid	2001
209	Chad Kauffman	2014	108	Margaret Higbee	2013	127	Merrill Wood	1991
203	Jeff Michaels	2005	105	Andy Wilson	2014	126	Jim Dunn	2014
198	Andy Wilson	2014	101	Barbara Haas	1994	124	J. Kenneth Gabler	2002
184	Paul Schwalbe	1998	100	Ian Gardner	2013	119	Greg Grove	2013
184	John Fedak	2005	<b>COLUMBIA</b>			115	Deb Grove	2013
180	Alex Lamoreaux	2010	190	Andy Keister	2014	111	Devich Farbotnik	2013
170	Andy Keister	2014	180	Deuane Hoffman	2006	104	Nick Pulcinella	2012
162	Russ Ruffing	1991	133	John Fedak	2005	102	Michael David	2014
150	Nick Kerlin	2004	115	Richard Koval	1999	102	Andy Wilson	2014
145	Steve Santner	1995	104	Rick Koval	2004	<b>DELAWARE</b>		
145	Kevin Crilley	1998	100	Steve Santner	1995	292	Al Guarente	2013
139	Margaret Higbee	2013	<b>CRAWFORD</b>			289	John Miller	1985
133	Michael David	2014	287	Ronald Leberman	2008	278	Nick Pulcinella	2013
127	Barbara Haas	1999	249	Deuane Hoffman	2007	262	Skip Conant	2010
125	Jonathan Heller	2003	227	Margaret Higbee	2008	256	Barbara Haas	2000
123	Randy C. Miller	2006	219	Marvin Byler	2005	253	Thomas Reeves	2012
<b>CHESTER</b>			218	John Fedak	2005	226	Paul Schwalbe	1998
281	Nick Pulcinella	2013	217	Geoff Malosh	2014	224	John Ginaven	1999
275	Chuck Chalfant	2011	211	Sam Sinderson	2002	219	Deuane Hoffman	2009
269	Al Guarente	2014	211	Roger Higbee	2008	180	Brian Byrnes	2014
268	Larry Lewis	1988	202	Russ States	2007	153	Martin Page	2013
252	Barbara Haas	1996	201	Gene Wilhelm	1992	151	Jason Horn	1995
252	Phillips Street	1996	164	Ed Kwater	1996	146	Brian Quindlen	2014
246	John Ginaven	1998	150	Greg Malosh	1991	130	Steve Santner	1995
246	Kevin Fryberger	2010	148	Marjorie Howard	2007	119	John Fedak	2001
245	Deuane Hoffman	2007	146	Randi Garrish	2003	<b>ELK</b>		
244	Brian Quindlen	2014	146	Sarah Garrish	2003	198	John Fedak	2006
235	Theodore Drozdowski	2005	125	Michael Schall	2010	183	Linda Christenson	1997
231	Joe Meloney	1994	124	George Malosh	1989	165	Deuane Hoffman	2005
229	Brian Raicich	2013	123	James Flynn	1997	105	Steve Santner	1995
229	Michael Defina	2014	117	Randy C. Miller	1998	<b>ERIE</b>		
217	Martin Page	2014	117	Michael David	2013	328	Jerry McWilliams	2014
209	Jason Horn	2002	116	Dick Byers	2003	305	Donald Snyder	2002
206	Devich Farbotnik	2014	112	Steve Santner	1995	291	Sam Stull	1985
202	Brian Byrnes	2014	107	Jonathan Heller	1998	291	Joyce Hoffmann	2002
193	Neal Thorpe	1995	103	Don Henise	2000	290	Deuane Hoffman	2007
188	Pamela Fisher	2009	102	Terence Schiefer	1998	288	Geoff Malosh	2014
174	Brian Henderson	2011	100	Bill Reddinger	1999	277	John Fedak	2005
169	Thomas Reeves	2012	<b>CUMBERLAND</b>			274	Ed Kwater	1996
167	Steve Santner	1995	278	Deuane Hoffman	2009	270	Mike Fialkovich	2014
164	Bill Keim	2014	261	Don Henise	2000	268	James Flynn	1997
150	Bruce Carl	2011	259	Robyn Henise	2000	263	Ronald Leberman	2001
147	Chad Hutchinson	2014	247	Richard Colyer	1999	262	Russ States	2007
137	Drew Weber	2011	228	Bill Oyler	2014	257	Jason Horn	2002
126	Jonathan Heller	2002	225	Carl Garner	2014	253	Linda McWilliams	1992
122	Randy C. Miller	2012	203	Chad Kauffman	2014	253	Margaret Higbee	2004
115	John Fedak	2004	197	Steve Santner	1995	249	Barbara Haas	1996
111	Terence Schiefer	1998	176	George Wertz, Jr.	1986	240	Shannon Thompson	2012
105	Deb Grove	2014	170	Mark McConaughy	2002	237	Roger Higbee	1999
<b>CLARION</b>						236	George Malosh	1989
255	John Fedak	2001						

235 Sam Sinderson 2005  
 234 Dave Rieger 2012  
 233 Gene Wilhelm 1992  
 224 Randy C. Miller 2002  
 223 Bob Machesney 2003  
 221 Richard Colyer 2000  
 217 Greg Malosh 1991  
 208 Steve Santner 1995  
 204 Jonathan Heller 2002  
 197 Terence Schiefer 1998  
 180 Don Henise 2000  
 180 Randi Gerrish 2003  
 179 Sarah Gerrish 2003  
 178 Bernard Morris 1998  
 178 Marjorie Howard 2008  
 178 Devich Farbotnik 2014  
 166 Greg Grove 2014  
 159 Chad Kauffman 2013  
 155 Michael David 2014  
 146 J. Kenneth Gabler 1999  
 144 Steve Graff 2000  
 142 Michael Schall 2010  
 139 Rick Koval 2004  
 135 Deb Grove 2010  
 110 Bill Reddinger 1999  
 100 Ross Gallardy 2004

FAYETTE

170 Mark McConaughy 2004  
 153 Deuane Hoffman 2000  
 126 John Fedak 2005  
 125 Randi Gerrish 2003  
 120 Sarah Gerrish 2003  
 119 Steve Santner 1995  
 111 Ed Kwater 1996

FOREST

210 Flo McGuire 2014  
 188 John Fedak 2005  
 183 Deuane Hoffman 2006  
 141 Ted Grisez 1996  
 108 Steve Santner 1995  
 104 Russ States 2004  
 104 Margaret Higbee 2013

FRANKLIN

275 Carl Garner 2014  
 269 J. Kenneth Gabler 2002  
 263 Bill Oylar 2014  
 216 Deuane Hoffman 2009  
 215 Dale Gearhart 2000  
 213 Jeffrey Walck 1989  
 146 Alex Lamoreaux 2010  
 141 Don Henise 1997  
 130 Steve Santner 1995  
 124 Andy Wilson 2014  
 114 John Fedak 1998  
 110 Chad Kauffman 2014  
 107 Deb Grove 2014  
 106 Rachael Shapiro 2011  
 100 Greg Grove 2013

FULTON

205 J. Kenneth Gabler 2000  
 200 Daniel Snell 2000  
 195 Deuane Hoffman 2007  
 152 Jeffrey Walck 1989  
 148 Carl Garner 2014  
 119 Steve Santner 1995  
 118 Robert Walker 1989  
 115 Dale Gearhart 2000  
 108 John Fedak 2001  
 107 Deb Grove 2014  
 106 Greg Grove 2014  
 101 Andy Wilson 2014

GREENE

196 Marjorie Howard 2014  
 194 Ralph Bell 1993  
 162 Deuane Hoffman 2001  
 134 Roy Ickes 1996  
 113 Margaret Higbee 2013  
 109 Steve Santner 1995  
 109 John Fedak 2001  
 103 Sam Sinderson 2000  
 101 Mark McConaughy 2003

HUNTINGDON

272 David Kyler 2014  
 261 Greg Grove 2014  
 258 Trudy Kyler 2014  
 250 Deb Grove 2014  
 247 Jon Kauffman 2014  
 236 Ian Gardner 2014  
 227 Jim Dunn 2014  
 196 Deuane Hoffman 2006  
 181 Merrill Wood 1991  
 178 John Salvetti 2003  
 172 Andy Wilson 2014  
 171 Lewis Grove 2000  
 168 Joseph Verica 2012  
 155 Eugene Zielinski 1998  
 143 Chad Kauffman 2013  
 127 Drew Weber 2011  
 122 J. Kenneth Gabler 2002  
 117 Nathan Fronk 2012  
 106 John Fedak 1998  
 104 Steve Santner 1995

INDIANA

285 Margaret Higbee 2013  
 262 Roger Higbee 2008  
 233 Gloria Lamer 1992  
 232 Steve Graff 2000  
 212 Deuane Hoffman 2007  
 195 Anne Hedgpath 1986  
 193 Leonard Hess 2003  
 185 Linda Hess 2003  
 184 John Fedak 2001  
 177 Mark McConaughy 2004  
 173 Randi Gerrish 2003  
 173 Sarah Gerrish 2003  
 137 Ross Gallardy 2003  
 118 Steve Santner 1995  
 105 Deb Grove 2014  
 104 Bill Reddinger 1999

JEFFERSON

225 John Fedak 2000  
 172 Deuane Hoffman 1998  
 158 Margaret Higbee 2012  
 105 Bill Reddinger 1999  
 104 Steve Santner 1995

JUNIATA

263 Aden Troyer 2013  
 237 Deuane Hoffman 2007  
 228 Chad Kauffman 2014  
 143 John Fedak 2006  
 143 Jim Dunn 2014  
 140 Greg Grove 2013  
 136 Deb Grove 2013  
 118 Jonathan Heller 2002  
 108 Steve Santner 1995

LACKAWANNA

200 Glenn Zzulada 2007  
 172 Deuane Hoffman 2003  
 169 Rick Koval 2004  
 158 William Reid 2001  
 136 John Fedak 2002  
 103 Steve Santner 1995

LANCASTER

332 Eric Witmer 2013  
 331 Tom Garner 2012  
 327 Randy C. Miller 2012  
 324 Deuane Hoffman 2009  
 324 Robert Schutsky 2011  
 321 Bruce Carl 2014  
 318 Jonathan Heller 2012  
 314 Chuck Chalfant 2013  
 306 Jerry Book 2000  
 300 Barbara Haas 2009  
 292 Jan Witmer 1997  
 291 Harold Morrin 1996  
 288 Jason Horn 2002  
 274 Steve Santner 1995  
 265 Drew Weber 2011  
 264 Mike Epler 2012  
 259 Al Guarente 2013  
 251 Nick Pulcinella 2013  
 243 Pamela Fisher 2009  
 240 Larry Lewis 1988

224 Richard Colyer 2000  
 214 Timothy Becker 2014  
 213 Geoff Malosh 2009  
 212 Jim Mountjoy 2000  
 209 Ernest Schiefer 2000  
 201 George Wertz, Jr. 1986  
 198 Pamela Woodman 1993  
 196 Dennis Weaver 2000  
 192 Chad Kauffman 2014  
 187 Terence Schiefer 2009  
 184 Don Henise 1997  
 172 John Fedak 2006  
 174 Devich Farbotnik 2014  
 168 Michael Schall 2014  
 165 Matt Wlasniewski 2012  
 160 Kevin Crilley 1998  
 155 Bernard Morris 2008  
 150 Theodore Drozdowski 2005  
 149 Chuck Berthoud 2013  
 149 Margaret Higbee 2013  
 148 Jeffrey Wertz 2002  
 147 Douglas Anderson 2003  
 146 Steve Farbotnik 2001  
 141 Brian Byrnes 2014  
 136 Martin Page 2013  
 132 J. Kenneth Gabler 2001  
 129 Mark McConaughy 2001  
 122 Ian Gardner 2013  
 110 Nathan Fronk 2012  
 109 Marjorie Howard 2008  
 108 Roger Higbee 1993  
 107 Deb Grove 2007  
 106 Greg Grove 2009  
 111 Jim Dunn 2014

LAWRENCE

219 Geoff Malosh 2014  
 210 Gene Wilhelm 1992  
 206 Margaret Higbee 2013  
 160 Deuane Hoffman 2006  
 158 John Fedak 2000  
 102 Steve Santner 1995

LEBANON

296 Randy C. Miller 2012  
 280 Timothy Becker 2014  
 267 Jonathan Heller 2014  
 260 David McNaughton 2013  
 259 Deuane Hoffman 2009  
 238 Chuck Chalfant 2012  
 236 Steve Santner 1995  
 234 Chuck Berthoud 2014  
 222 Gerry Boltz 2014  
 220 Bruce Carl 2014  
 208 Stephen Mallanson 1996  
 202 Bruce Weaver 2000  
 201 John Fedak 2006  
 181 Jason Horn 1995  
 174 Mike Epler 2102  
 155 Drew Weber 2011  
 155 Chad Kauffman 2014  
 155 Michael Schall 2014  
 152 George Wertz, Jr. 1986  
 151 Andy Keister 2014  
 144 Al Guarente 2014  
 130 Don Henise 1997  
 130 Pamela Fisher 2009  
 129 Nick Pulcinella 2012  
 122 Barbara Haas 1996  
 115 Jim Dunn 2014  
 113 Brian Byrnes 2013  
 103 Deb Grove 2013  
 102 Ian Gardner 2013

LEHIGH

275 Fritz Brock 2013  
 271 Jason Horn 2002  
 270 Bernard Morris 2011  
 260 Rick Wiltraut 1998  
 243 Billy Weber 2011  
 225 Michael Schall 2014  
 216 Bill Etter 2013  
 210 Dustin Welch 2011  
 208 Deuane Hoffman 2009  
 175 Devich Farbotnik 2014  
 153 Al Guarente 2014  
 136 Robert Frantz 2000



132	John Fedak	2005	223	Neal Thorpe	1997	243	Harry Franzen	1996
115	Bill Keim	2012	216	Devich Farbotnik	2014	241	Barbara Haas	1996
105	Nick Pulcinella	2012	204	Al Guarente	2014	236	Skip Conant	2011
103	Steve Santner	1995	203	Joseph Greco	2008	221	Thomas Reeves	2012
102	Matt Wlasniewski	2011	199	Michael Schall	2012	219	John Ginaven	1998
LUZERNE			184	Steve Farbotnik	2001	214	Deuane Hoffman	2009
280	William Reid	2001	182	Nick Pulcinella	2012	196	Brian Byrnes	2014
265	Rick Koval	2004	172	Brian Henderson	2011	184	Jim McKinney	1992
216	Mark Blauer	1985	170	John Fedak	2005	175	Bill Keim	2014
212	John Fedak	2005	156	Brian Byrnes	2013	167	Jason Horn	1995
194	Deuane Hoffman	1999	152	Bill Keim	2014	167	Gregg Gorton	2001
149	Kevin Crilley	1998	141	Gregg Gorton	2001	163	Stephen Lawrence	1990
143	Jim Ridolfi	2013	137	Steve Santner	1995	155	Steve Farbotnik	2001
121	Glenn Czulada	2003	133	Patrick O'Donnell	2008	154	Steve Santner	1995
115	Bernard Morris	1998	129	Thomas Mason	1999	139	Brian Henderson	2011
111	Chad Kauffman	2014	125	Thomas Reeves	2010	131	Devich Farbotnik	2014
101	Margaret Higbee	2013	120	Martin Page	2014	129	Thomas Mason	1999
LYCOMING			107	Robert Walker	1989	120	Terence Schiefer	1998
230	Paul Schwalbe	1998	105	Rick Koval	2004	113	John Fedak	1998
223	Deuane Hoffman	2009	100	Barbara Haas	1996	113	Martin Page	2012
211	Nathan Fronk	2012	MONTOUR			112	Michael David	2014
181	Andy Keister	2014	236	Deuane Hoffman	2006	107	Kevin Crilley	1998
124	Steve Santner	1995	224	Allen Schweinsberg	2014	101	Randy C. Miller	1998
124	Carol Hildebrand	2008	212	Barbara Haas	1996	100	Ian Gardner	2013
119	John Fedak	1999	201	Andy Keister	2014	PIKE		
115	Jim Dunn	2014	140	John Fedak	1999	201	Joe Strasser	1994
106	Greg Grove	2012	119	Steve Santner	1995	201	Voni Strasser	1994
105	Randy Miller	2012	104	Kevin Crilley	1998	195	Michael Schall	2014
104	Deb Grove	2011	104	Deb Grove	2013	174	Deuane Hoffman	2003
103	Don Henise	2000	NORTHAMPTON			144	Phillips Street	1996
McKEAN			296	Arlene Koch	2013	138	John Fedak	2001
265	John Fedak	2005	291	Dave DeReamus	2014	102	Al Guarente	2013
155	Deuane Hoffman	2005	285	Michael Schall	2014	101	Steve Santner	1995
117	Steve Graff	2000	269	Rick Wiltraut	1998	101	Barbara Haas	2001
103	Steve Santner	1995	264	Billy Weber	2011	POTTER		
103	Ted Grisez	1996	251	Dustin Welch	2011	218	David Hauber	1999
MERCER			248	Jason Horn	2002	190	Chuck Chalfant	2012
255	Neil Troyer	2013	239	Bernard Morris	2009	173	Deuane Hoffman	2004
232	Harvey Troyer	1999	232	Deuane Hoffman	2006	171	John Fedak	2003
231	Jerry Troyer	1999	229	Steve Boyce	1990	106	Drew Weber	2011
216	Eli Troyer	1999	220	Brad Silfies	1990	104	Steve Santner	1995
213	Deuane Hoffman	1998	220	Dennis Miller	1998	104	Paul Schwalbe	1998
211	Gene Wilhelm	1992	219	Adam Miller	2000	SCHUYLKILL		
208	Margaret Higbee	2013	185	Devich Farbotnik	2013	267	Tom Clauser	2012
194	Geoff Malosh	2013	182	Bill Etter	2013	223	Deuane Hoffman	2007
191	John Fedak	2000	130	John Fedak	2005	218	Mike Ward	2010
190	Neal Troyer	1998	125	Thomas Reeves	2011	177	Jason Horn	1995
185	Russ States	2007	119	Al Guarente	2013	177	Dave Rieger	2012
166	Marvin Byler	2002	117	Steve Farbotnik	2003	170	Bruce Carl	2014
124	Steve Santner	1995	106	Steve Santner	1995	168	Matt Wlasniewski	2011
102	Randi Garrish	1999	106	Matt Wlasniewski	2012	155	Drew Weber	2011
MIFFLIN			102	Randy C. Miller	2002	152	Bernard Morris	2007
209	Greg Grove	2013	NORTHUMBERLAND			133	Steve Santner	1995
204	Deuane Hoffman	2005	241	Deuane Hoffman	2004	127	Barbara Haas	2000
167	Jim Dunn	2014	235	Allen Schweinsberg	2014	113	John Fedak	1998
151	Deb Grove	2014	166	Barbara Haas	1993	112	Randy C. Miller	2009
142	Chad Kauffman	2014	161	Andy Keister	2014	109	Nick Pulcinella	2012
127	John Fedak	2006	138	John Fedak	1999	105	Al Guarente	2013
111	Ian Gardner	2013	112	Steve Santner	1995	SNYDER		
108	Steve Santner	1995	106	Drew Weber	2011	215	Deuane Hoffman	2004
MONROE			PERRY			203	Allen Schweinsberg	2014
223	Michael Schall	2014	242	Deuane Hoffman	2009	153	Chad Kauffman	2014
222	Phillips Street	1996	235	Richard Colyer	2000	132	Steve Santner	1995
215	Bruce Johnson	2014	159	Don Henise	2000	127	John Fedak	2006
176	Jason Horn	1995	157	Steve Santner	1995	122	Deb Grove	2013
162	Deuane Hoffman	2003	141	Walter Shelly, Jr.	1992	119	Greg Grove	2014
138	Bernard Morris	2008	141	Chad Kauffman	2013	111	Jim Dunn	2014
111	John Fedak	2001	139	Dallas Dowhower	1992	SOMERSET		
111	Devich Farbotnik	2009	135	Randy C. Miller	2012	254	Jeff Payne	2008
110	Steve Santner	1995	126	John Fedak	1998	251	Retta Payne	2008
106	Jim Dunn	2014	119	Mark McConaughy	2001	238	Scott Bastian	1999
103	Al Guarente	2013	117	Jonathan Heller	2001	231	Christopher Payne	2008
101	Rick Koval	2004	115	Chuck Berthoud	2014	185	Deuane Hoffman	2004
MONTGOMERY			112	Jim Dunn	2014	177	Richard Murphy	1998
275	Jason Horn	2002	111	Deb Grove	2011	170	Ross Gallardy	2003
260	William Murphy	1999	107	Drew Weber	2011	169	Michael David	2014
255	Kevin Crilley	1998	105	Greg Grove	2014	168	Elmer Brenneman	2010
241	Harry Franzen	1996	PHILADELPHIA			149	John Fedak	2000
238	Deuane Hoffman	2009	290	John Miller	1985	126	Steve Santner	1995
232	Bernard Morris	2010	264	Al Guarente	2014	120	Margaret Higbee	2013
			247	Nick Pulcinella	2013	109	Mark McConaughy	2004
			245	Frank Windfelder	1992	108	Randi Gerrish	1999

107 Sarah Gerrish 1999  
 105 Deb Grove 2012  
 103 Greg Grove 2012

**SULLIVAN**

172 Nick Kerlin 2000  
 170 Skip Conant 2010  
 161 Deuane Hoffman 2004  
 129 John Fedak 2005  
 123 Al Guarente 2012  
 121 Thomas Reeves 2010  
 115 Randy Miller 2002  
 104 Steve Santner 1995  
 102 Rick Koval 2004

**SUSQUEHANNA**

212 Jerry Skinner 2007  
 183 William Reid 2001  
 182 Jerry Skinner 1999  
 150 Deuane Hoffman 2000  
 133 John Fedak 2005  
 105 Steve Santner 1995  
 103 Rick Koval 2004

**TIOGA**

223 Larry Brown 1998  
 215 Arlene Brown 1998  
 205 Benjamin Israel 2000  
 198 Deuane Hoffman 2006  
 179 Bruce Carl 2007  
 168 Drew Weber 2011  
 166 Chuck Chalfant 2012  
 153 John Fedak 2002  
 141 Nathan Fronk 2012  
 120 Steve Santner 1995  
 110 Andy Wilson 2014  
 101 Matt Wlasniewski 2011

**UNION**

235 Allen Schweinsberg 2014  
 204 Deuane Hoffman 2007  
 186 Andy Keister 2014  
 132 Barbara Haas 1996  
 117 Steve Santner 1995  
 110 John Fedak 2001  
 105 Jim Dunn 2014  
 101 Deb Grove 2013  
 100 Greg Grove 2014

**VENANGO**

263 Russ States 2006  
 261 Gary Edwards 2014  
 220 John Fedak 2005  
 209 Deuane Hoffman 2006  
 175 Gene Wilhelm 1992  
 158 Flo McGuire 2014  
 153 Nick Kerlin 1997  
 103 Steve Santner 1995

**WARREN**

256 John Fedak 2006  
 227 Harris Johnson 1986  
 227 Ted Grisez 1996  
 153 Deuane Hoffman 2001  
 114 Steve Santner 1995

**WASHINGTON**

235 Geoff Malosh 2014  
 231 Ross Gallardy 2009  
 214 Roy Ickes 2014  
 210 Margaret Higbee 1993  
 209 Roger Higbee 1993  
 161 Russ Ruffing 1991  
 158 Deuane Hoffman 2006  
 141 George Malosh 1989  
 115 Sam Sinderson 2002  
 106 John Fedak 1998  
 100 Steve Santner 1995

**WAYNE**

221 Joe Strasser 1994  
 221 Voni Strasser 1994  
 162 Deuane Hoffman 1998  
 129 John Fedak 1998  
 126 William Reid 1999  
 102 Steve Santner 1995

**WESTMORELAND**

249 Dick Byers 2012  
 233 Mark McConaughy 2014  
 208 Linda Christenson 1996  
 202 Margaret Higbee 2013  
 200 Randi Gerrish 2003  
 193 Sarah Gerrish 2003  
 193 Deuane Hoffman 2006  
 188 Linda Hess 2003  
 186 Roger Higbee 2008  
 185 Leonard Hess 2003  
 161 John Fedak 2006  
 137 Steve Santner 1995  
 129 Richard Murphy 1999  
 123 Sam Sinderson 2005  
 120 James Flynn 1997  
 116 Drew Weber 2011  
 114 Deb Grove 2008  
 112 Greg Grove 2008  
 106 Chad Kauffman 2014

**WYOMING**

251 William Reid 2001  
 191 Rick Koval 2004  
 152 Deuane Hoffman 2000  
 144 Skip Conant 2011  
 118 John Fedak 2000  
 111 Steve Santner 1995  
 102 Thomas Reeves 2010

**YORK**

274 Deuane Hoffman 2009  
 243 Dick Cleary 2013  
 242 Jeffrey Wentz 2002  
 229 Russell Ryan 1993  
 194 Steve Santner 1995  
 185 Ann Pettigrew 1996  
 175 Paul Mauss 2014  
 172 George Wertz, Jr. 1986  
 169 Carl Garner 2007  
 166 Jeff Pheasant 1995  
 161 Chuck Berthoud 2014  
 160 Jason Horn 1995  
 160 J. Kenneth Gabler 2002  
 158 Jonathan Heller 2003  
 154 Don Henise 2000  
 153 Candy Krenzer 1999  
 153 Randy C. Miller 2008  
 140 Drew Weber 2011  
 138 Don Henise 1997  
 123 Nick Pulcinella 2013  
 123 Andy Wilson 2014  
 121 John Fedak 2004  
 113 Pamela Fisher 2009  
 113 Deb Grove 2011  
 111 Barbara Haas 1996  
 111 Greg Grove 2013  
 107 Al Guarente 2013

**County Life Lists Top 50**

1 335 Bucks Devich Farbotnik 2013  
 2 332 Lancaster Eric Witmer 2013  
 3 331 Lancaster Tom Garner 2012  
 4 328 Erie Jerry McWilliams 2014  
 5 327 Lancaster Randy Miller 2012  
 6 324 Lancaster Deuane Hoffman 2009  
 6 324 Lancaster Robert Schutsky 2011  
 8 321 Lancaster Bruce Carl 2014  
 9 318 Lancaster Jonathan Heller 2012  
 10 316 Bucks Steve Farbotnik 2006  
 11 315 Berks Ken Lebo 2013  
 12 314 Lancaster Chuck Chalfant 2013  
 13 312 Berks Mathew Spence 2013  
 14 309 Berks Harold Lebo 2012  
 15 306 Lancaster Jerry Book 2000  
 16 305 Erie Donald Snyder 2002  
 17 301 Bucks Bill Etter 2012  
 17 301 Berks Matt Wlasniewski 2013  
 19 300 Lancaster Barbara Haas 2009  
 20 296 Lebanon Randy Miller 2012  
 20 296 Northampton Arlene Koch 2013  
 22 292 Lancaster Jan Witmer 1997  
 22 292 Delaware Al Guarente 2013  
 24 291 Erie Sam Stull 1985  
 24 291 Lancaster Harold Morrin 1996  
 24 291 Erie Joyce Hoffmann 2002

24 291 Northampton Dave DeReamus 2014  
 28 290 Philadelphia John Miller 1985  
 28 290 Bucks Jason Horn 2002  
 28 290 Erie Deuane Hoffman 2007  
 31 289 Delaware John Miller 1985  
 31 289 Dauphin Deuane Hoffman 2009  
 33 288 Lancaster Jason Horn 2002  
 33 288 Erie Geoff Malosh 2014  
 35 287 Berks Jason Horn 2002  
 35 287 Crawford Ronald Leberman 2008  
 37 285 Indiana Margaret Higbee 2013  
 37 285 Northampton Michael Schall 2014  
 39 281 Chester Nick Pulcinella 2013  
 40 280 Luzerne William Reid 2001  
 40 280 Lebanon Tim Becker 2014  
 41 278 Cumberland Deuane Hoffman 2009  
 41 278 Delaware Nick Pulcinella 2013  
 41 278 Allegheny Geoff Malosh 2014  
 44 277 Erie John Fedak 2005  
 45 276 Berks Deuane Hoffman 2006  
 46 275 Berks Kerry Grim 1998  
 46 275 Montgomery Jason Horn 2002  
 46 275 Chester Chuck Chalfant 2011  
 46 275 Lehigh Fritz Brock 2013  
 46 275 Franklin Carl Garner 2014

**County Annual Lists**

(Top 10 of 100 or more)

**ADAMS**

201 Arthur Kennell 1992  
 157 Andy Wilson 2014  
 144 Deuane Hoffman 2001  
 140 Carl Garner 1991  
 137 Carl Garner 1998  
 126 Carl Garner 1999  
 114 Carl Garner 2006  
 109 Carl Garner 2005  
 105 Deuane Hoffman 1998  
 105 J. Kenneth Gabler 2000  
 101 J. Kenneth Gabler 2001

**ALLEGHENY**

233 Geoff Malosh 2005  
 230 Geoff Malosh 2014  
 227 Geoff Malosh 2004  
 224 Geoff Malosh 2009  
 221 Mark Vass 2005  
 211 Geoff Malosh 2013  
 210 Mark Vass 2004  
 205 Geoff Malosh 2007  
 190 Geoff Malosh 2003  
 190 Mark Vass 2006

**ARMSTRONG**

201 John Fedak 1997  
 177 Scott Bastian 1996  
 152 Margaret Higbee 1993  
 149 Margaret Higbee 2008  
 141 Steve Graff 2000  
 139 Roger Higbee 2008  
 133 Bill Redding 1998  
 116 Bill Redding 1999  
 113 Mark McConaughy 1998  
 113 Mark McConaughy 2004

**BEAVER**

225 Geoff Malosh 2006  
 202 Mark Vass 2005  
 202 Mark Vass 2006  
 192 Geoff Malosh 2007  
 186 Bill Hintze 1999  
 168 Geoff Malosh 2005  
 161 Bill Hintze 2000  
 130 Geoff Malosh 2013  
 126 Geoff Malosh 2014  
 124 John Cruzan 1994

**BEDFORD**

223 Sally Dick 1997  
 221 Tom Dick 1997  
 155 Deuane Hoffman 1998  
 143 Chad Kauffman 2011

**BERKS**

252 Ken Lebo 1995  
 240 Ken Lebo 1999

236	Ken Lebo	1997	211	Brian Quindlen	2012	ELK		
235	Ken Lebo	2011	209	Brian Quindlen	2013	116	John Fedak	1997
234	Ken Lebo	2013	209	Brian Quindlen	2014	113	Deuane Hoffman	1996
231	Matt Wlasniewski	2011	CLARION			ERIE		
229	Ken Lebo	1996	231	John Fedak	1998	264	Sam Stull	1979
222	Matt Wlasniewski	2013	223	John Fedak	2000	256	Jerry McWilliams	1992
219	Ken Lebo	1998	219	John Fedak	1996	252	Jerry McWilliams	1991
218	Matt Wlasniewski	2012	213	John Fedak	1997	251	Jerry McWilliams	1983
BLAIR			208	John Fedak	1999	251	Jerry McWilliams	1988
177	Michael David	2013	188	John Fedak	2001	251	Jerry McWilliams	2004
143	Beryl Sternagle	1995	152	Deuane Hoffman	1998	248	Jerry McWilliams	1989
141	Beryl Sternagle	2000	119	Mark McConaughy	1999	246	Jerry McWilliams	1993
126	Beryl Sternagle	1990	115	Bill Reddinger	1999	245	Jerry McWilliams	1996
121	Beryl Sternagle	1989	CLEARFIELD			244	Jerry McWilliams	1985
108	Michael David	2012	203	Dan Richards	2011	FAYETTE		
BRADFORD			155	John Fedak	1997	145	Mark McConaughy	2000
147	Ronald Young	1993	102	Deuane Hoffman	1997	112	Mark McConaughy	1998
146	Ronald Young	1992	CLINTON			103	Deuane Hoffman	1998
141	William Reid	1999	159	Carol Hildebrand	2008	FOREST		
128	William Reid	2001	157	Carol Hildebrand	2005	144	April Walters	1993
102	Deuane Hoffman	1996	155	Carol Hildebrand	2011	143	Richard Walters	1993
BUCKS			153	Carol Hildebrand	2007	142	Flo McGuire	2005
277	Devich Farbotnik	2002	143	Carol Hildebrand	2004	138	Deuane Hoffman	2005
267	Devich Farbotnik	2011	142	Carol Hildebrand	2006	132	John Fedak	1997
259	Devich Farbotnik	2012	133	Deuane Hoffman	2005	130	Gary Edwards	2014
258	Devich Farbotnik	2007	125	Greg Grove	2005	FRANKLIN		
255	Devich Farbotnik	2013	119	Nathan Fronk	2012	228	Bill Oyler	2013
253	Devich Farbotnik	2001	117	Deuane Hoffman	2000	221	Bill Oyler	2014
253	Devich Farbotnik	2008	COLUMBIA			215	Dale Gearhart	1999
248	Devich Farbotnik	2004	165	Andy Keister	2014	197	Carl Garner	2013
247	Devich Farbotnik	2000	147	Andy Keister	2013	185	Carl Garner	1997
247	Devich Farbotnik	2009	117	Deuane Hoffman	1997	185	Carl Garner	2014
BUTLER			112	John Fedak	1997	182	Carl Garner	2004
245	Gene Wilhelm	1983	111	Deuane Hoffman	1998	180	Carl Garner	1993
229	Gene Wilhelm	1985	CRAWFORD			180	Carl Garner	1994
225	Gene Wilhelm	1982	240	Ronald Leberman	2013	180	Carl Garner	2007
122	Deuane Hoffman	1998	240	Ronald Leberman	2014	FULTON		
CAMBRIA			230	Ronald Leberman	2009	173	Daniel Snell	1997
177	John Salvetti	1992	223	Ronald Leberman	2011	128	Deuane Hoffman	1996
175	John Salvetti	1997	222	Ronald Leberman	2007	120	Deuane Hoffman	2001
174	John Salvetti	1995	222	Ronald Leberman	2008	115	Kenneth Gabler	1988
171	John Salvetti	1999	208	Ronald Leberman	1994	112	Deuane Hoffman	1998
165	John Salvetti	1998	202	Ronald Leberman	1989	108	Kenneth Gabler	2000
161	John Salvetti	2002	201	Gene Wilhelm	1992	GREENE		
124	Michael David	2012	196	Ronald Leberman	2000	137	Ralph Bell	1985
CAMERON			188	Ronald Leberman	2003	134	Ralph Bell	1986
119	Deuane Hoffman	1998	CUMBERLAND			130	Ralph Bell	1990
CARBON			263	Andy Markel	2011	122	Deuane Hoffman	2000
222	David Hawk	2009	244	Andy Markel	2008	115	Marjorie Howard	2007
218	David Hawk	2007	227	Deuane Hoffman	1989	109	Marjorie Howard	2005
217	David Hawk	2010	227	Andy Markel	2007	107	Deuane Hoffman	1998
215	David Hawk	2008	226	Deuane Hoffman	1998	107	Marjorie Howard	2014
208	David Hawk	2011	225	Deuane Hoffman	1992	HUNTINGDON		
208	David Hawk	2014	221	Deuane Hoffman	2000	221	Jon Kauffman	2014
206	David Hawk	2012	219	Deuane Hoffman	1999	218	David Kyler	2011
204	David Hawk	2002	217	Deuane Hoffman	2001	214	Greg Grove	2012
201	David Hawk	2003	210	Deuane Hoffman	2005	213	Ian Gardner	2011
201	David Hawk	2013	DAUPHIN			211	Jon Kauffman	2012
CENTRE			251	Deuane Hoffman	2005	209	Greg Grove	2014
241	Joseph Verica	2014	246	Deuane Hoffman	2003	205	David Kyler	1996
239	Joseph Verica	2011	242	Deuane Hoffman	2006	201	Greg Grove	2003
239	Drew Weber	2011	234	Deuane Hoffman	1997	201	Greg Grove	2013
234	Joseph Verica	2012	231	Deuane Hoffman	1998	195	Greg Grove	2008
227	Joseph Verica	2013	230	Deuane Hoffman	2000	INDIANA		
224	Terence Schiefer	1985	229	Deuane Hoffman	1996	206	Margaret Higbee	1993
221	Molly Heath	2003	226	Deuane Hoffman	2001	203	Margaret Higbee	1991
221	Nathan Fronk	2011	224	Deuane Hoffman	1999	203	Margaret Higbee	2008
214	Terence Schiefer	1986	210	Grace Randolph	1998	195	Steve Graff	1998
212	Drew Weber	2010	DELAWARE			186	Steve Graff	2000
CHESTER			241	John Miller	1969	173	Roger Higbee	2008
232	Kevin Fryberger	2009	211	Al Guarente	1996	131	Deuane Hoffman	1998
227	Holly Merker	2010	209	Al Guarente	1998	115	Mark McConaughy	2003
225	Larry Lewis	1988	206	Al Guarente	1997	114	Mark McConaughy	1998
225	Kevin Fryberger	2010	205	Al Guarente	1995	107	Mark McConaughy	2001
221	Larry Lewis	1983	205	Al Guarente	2014	JEFFERSON		
219	Larry Lewis	1986	203	Al Guarente	2005	198	John Fedak	1997
217	Chuck Chalfant	2006	202	Al Guarente	2012	143	Deuane Hoffman	1996
212	Brian Raicich	2013	200	Sheryl Johnson	1997	121	Deuane Hoffman	1998
			200	Al Guarente	2010			

JUNIATA			217	John Fedak	2004	179	Deuane Hoffman	1999
188	Aden Troyer	1996	151	John Fedak	2001	171	Deuane Hoffman	2001
177	Chad Kauffman	2014	119	Deuane Hoffman	1996	PHILADELPHIA		
176	Aden Troyer	1997	MERCER			225	John Miller	1965
174	Chad Kauffman	2008	222	Neil Troyer	2012	208	Edward Fingerhood	1996
172	Deuane Hoffman	2000	213	Harvey Troyer	1999	162	Al Guarente	1992
170	Deuane Hoffman	1996	212	Jerry Troyer	1999	135	Skip Conant	1999
167	Deuane Hoffman	1998	211	Gene Wilhelm	1992	133	Skip Conant	1998
167	Aden Troyer	2000	210	Neil Troyer	1999	132	Skip Conant	2000
166	Aden Troyer	1995	209	Neil Troyer	2013	127	Deuane Hoffman	1998
166	Aden Troyer	1999	208	Neil Troyer	2011	127	Skip Conant	2007
164	Chad Kauffman	2007	192	Neil Troyer	1997	127	Bill Keim	2012
LACKAWANNA			192	Eli Troyer	1999	123	Skip Conant	2008
169	Glenn Czulada	1996	190	Neil Troyer	2001	PIKE		
161	Glenn Czulada	1995	MIFFLIN			182	Michael Schall	2014
117	Richard Koval	1995	164	Greg Grove	2005	166	Michael Schall	2011
103	Deuane Hoffman	1998	160	Deuane Hoffman	1998	123	Michael Schall	2002
103	William Reid	2001	155	Deuane Hoffman	2000	112	Deuane Hoffman	1999
LANCASTER			139	Greg Grove	2011	109	Deuane Hoffman	2000
277	Deuane Hoffman	2009	128	Greg Grove	2003	POTTER		
270	Chuck Chalfant	2009	127	Jim Dunn	2007	169	Chuck Chalfant	2004
268	Deuane Hoffman	2000	126	Deuane Hoffman	1997	160	David Hauber	1992
268	Deuane Hoffman	2006	114	Greg Grove	2014	160	David Hauber	1995
258	Deuane Hoffman	2005	113	Deuane Hoffman	1996	160	David Hauber	1999
257	Mike Epler	2012	112	Greg Grove	2013	157	David Hauber	1993
255	Robert Schutsky	1992	MONROE			SCHUYLKILL		
249	Jonathan Heller	1992	210	Michael Schall	2013	228	Tom Clauser	2011
249	Chuck Chalfant	2012	194	Bruce Johnson	2014	225	Tom Clauser	2005
242	Deuane Hoffman	2001	181	Billy Weber	2008	220	Tom Clauser	2012
LAWRENCE			160	Michael Schall	2003	217	Tom Clauser	2007
210	Gene Wilhelm	1992	145	Corey Husic	2009	215	Tom Clauser	2004
131	Shannon Thompson	2012	103	Deuane Hoffman	1999	212	Tom Clauser	1999
118	John Fedak	1997	101	Deuane Hoffman	1998	210	Tom Clauser	2001
110	Deuane Hoffman	1996	MONTGOMERY			210	Tom Clauser	2002
LEBANON			194	Steve Kacir	2008	209	Tom Clauser	1996
249	Timothy Becker	2014	167	Joseph Greco	2002	208	Tom Clauser	1997
244	Timothy Becker	2013	153	Michael Schall	2004	SNYDER		
241	David McNaughton	2013	151	Deuane Hoffman	1999	177	Deuane Hoffman	1998
237	Timothy Becker	2012	150	Joseph Greco	2007	175	Deuane Hoffman	1996
222	Randy C. Miller	1999	140	Deuane Hoffman	1998	172	Deuane Hoffman	1997
222	Randy C. Miller	2012	132	Deuane Hoffman	1997	158	Deuane Hoffman	2000
220	Timothy Becker	2011	126	John Fedak	1997	SOMERSET		
215	Randy C. Miller	1993	113	Michael Schall	2002	222	Scott Bastian	1999
213	Randy C. Miller	2002	MONTOUR			219	Jeff Payne	2002
211	Randy C. Miller	2000	182	Andy Keister	2014	218	Jeff Payne	2003
LEHIGH			147	Andy Keister	2013	216	Jeff Payne	1996
227	Billy Weber	2011	143	Deuane Hoffman	2000	216	Retta Payne	1996
200	Bernard Morris	1984	133	Deuane Hoffman	2005	208	Scott Bastian	1994
192	Michael Schall	2009	126	John Fedak	1997	206	Jeff Payne	1999
189	Michael Schall	2006	115	Deuane Hoffman	1997	204	Christopher Payne	2008
132	Deuane Hoffman	1998	112	Deuane Hoffman	1998	202	Jeff Payne	2004
128	Michael Schall	2003	NORTHAMPTON			199	Christopher Payne	2006
119	Deuane Hoffman	1997	239	Michael Schall	2014	SULLIVAN		
110	Michael Schall	2001	236	Michael Schall	2003	140	Nick Kerlin	1999
LUZERNE			231	Michael Schall	2004	130	Nick Kerlin	1995
224	Rick Koval	2001	226	Michael Schall	2008	125	Skip Conant	1995
220	Rick Koval	1996	220	Billy Weber	2004	124	Nick Kerlin	1997
220	Rick Koval	2002	215	Michael Schall	2012	123	Skip Conant	1999
219	Rick Koval	1995	212	Michael Schall	2007	121	Skip Conant	2000
219	Rick Koval	1997	212	Michael Schall	2013	118	Skip Conant	1998
206	Rick Koval	1994	210	Adam Miller	2000	114	Skip Conant	2001
153	William Reid	1999	209	Michael Schall	2006	114	Skip Conant	2002
132	William Reid	2001	209	Michael Schall	2010	114	Skip Conant	2008
121	Deuane Hoffman	1998	NORTHUMBERLAND			SUSQUEHANNA		
102	Jim Ridolfi	2013	227	Deuane Hoffman	2005	173	Jerry Skinner	2007
LYCOMING			224	Deuane Hoffman	2003	170	Jerry Skinner	2003
190	Nathan Fronk	2012	157	Deuane Hoffman	1999	157	Jerry Skinner	2004
178	Nathan Fronk	2011	147	Deuane Hoffman	1998	153	Jerry Skinner	2005
169	Andy Keister	2014	144	Deuane Hoffman	1997	145	Jerry Skinner	1999
158	Deuane Hoffman	2005	137	Andy Keister	2014	109	Deuane Hoffman	1997
126	Deuane Hoffman	2000	128	John Fedak	1997	109	William Reid	2001
120	Deuane Hoffman	1999	103	Andy Keister	2013	107	William Reid	1999
112	Deuane Hoffman	1997	PERRY			105	Deuane Hoffman	1996
103	Deuane Hoffman	1998	202	Richard Colyer	1997	103	John Fedak	1997
100	Don Henise	2000	199	Deuane Hoffman	1995	103	Deuane Hoffman	1998
McKEAN			193	Deuane Hoffman	1996	TIOGA		
222	John Fedak	2003	188	Deuane Hoffman	1998	197	Benjamin Israel	2000
221	John Fedak	2005	185	Deuane Hoffman	2005	174	Larry Brown	1998
219	John Fedak	2002	184	Deuane Hoffman	2000			

167	Larry Brown	1992
163	Benjamin Israel	1999
160	Arlene Brown	1992
142	Arlene Brown	1998
135	Nathan Fronk	2012
122	Deuane Hoffman	1998
110	Drew Weber	2010
108	Nathan Fronk	2011
UNION		
171	Deuane Hoffman	2004
169	Andy Keister	2014
121	Deuane Hoffman	1999
118	Andy Keister	2013
102	Deuane Hoffman	1998
VENANGO		
221	Gary Edwards	2000
207	Gary Edwards	1995
207	Russ States	2000
203	Russ States	2002
195	Russ States	2006
194	Gary Edwards	1991
193	Russ States	2007
192	Russ States	1991
189	Russ States	2005
113	Deuane Hoffman	1998
WARREN		
204	John Fedak	2003
201	John Fedak	2002
165	Ted Grisez	1992
152	Ted Grisez	1985
141	John Fedak	2001
117	John Fedak	1997
WASHINGTON		
192	Ross Gallardy	2006
182	Roy Ickes	2014
135	Shannon Thompson	2012
134	Russ Ruffing	1985
132	Roy Ickes	1984
100	George Malosh	1975
100	Geoff Malosh	1999
WAYNE		
127	Deuane Hoffman	1997
121	John Fedak	1997
112	Deuane Hoffman	1998
WESTMORELAND		
190	Mark McConaughy	1999
179	Mark McConaughy	2000
175	Mark McConaughy	2002
167	Mark McConaughy	2003
163	Mark McConaughy	1998
163	Mark McConaughy	2001
138	Mark McConaughy	2004
WYOMING		
196	William Reid	1999
193	William Reid	1993
188	William Reid	2001
181	William Reid	1994
134	Richard Koval	1994
122	Richard Koval	1999
105	Skip Conant	2000
102	Skip Conant	1998
101	Skip Conant	2001
YORK		
219	Bruce Fortman	1999
214	Deuane Hoffman	1999
203	Dick Cleary	2013
202	Deuane Hoffman	2001
196	Russell Ryan	1992
191	Randy Phillips	1999
190	Deuane Hoffman	2005
189	Deuane Hoffman	2000
182	Deuane Hoffman	1998
178	Russell Ryan	1991
153	Candy Krenzer	1999

## County Annual Lists Top 50

1	277 Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2002
1	277 Lancaster	Deuane Hoffman	2009
3	270 Lancaster	Chuck Chalfant	2009
4	268 Lancaster	Deuane Hoffman	2000
4	268 Lancaster	Deuane Hoffman	2006
6	267 Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2011
7	264 Erie	Sam Stull	1979
8	263 Cumberland	Andy Markel	2011
9	259 Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2012
10	258 Lancaster	Deuane Hoffman	2005
10	258 Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2007
12	257 Lancaster	Mike Epler	2012
13	256 Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1992
14	255 Lancaster	Robert Schutsky	1992
14	255 Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2013
16	253 Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2001
16	253 Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2008
18	252 Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1991
18	252 Berks	Ken Lebo	1995
20	251 Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1983
20	251 Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1988
20	251 Erie	Jerry McWilliams	2004
20	251 Dauphin	Deuane Hoffman	2005
24	249 Lancaster	Jonathan Heller	1992
24	249 Lancaster	Chuck Chalfant	2012
26	248 Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1989
26	248 Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2004
28	247 Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2000
28	247 Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2009
30	246 Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1993
30	246 Dauphin	Deuane Hoffman	2003
30	246 Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2006
33	245 Butler	Gene Wilhelm	1983
33	245 Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1996
33	245 Bucks	Devich Farbotnik	2003
36	244 Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1985
36	244 Cumberland	Andy Markel	2008
36	244 Lebanon	Timothy Becker	2013
39	243 Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1979
39	243 Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1981
41	242 Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1984
41	242 Lancaster	Deuane Hoffman	2001
41	242 Dauphin	Deuane Hoffman	2006
44	241 Delaware	John Miller	1969
44	241 Centre	Joseph Verica	2011
44	241 Lebanon	David McNaughton	2013
44	241 Centre	Joseph Verica	2014
48	240 Erie	Jerry McWilliams	1997
48	240 Berks	Ken Lebo	1999
48	240 Lancaster	Chuck Chalfant	2005
48	240 Crawford	Ronald Leberman	2013

## Birders' Comments

*Birders were invited to submit comments on birding in Pennsylvania in 2014, along with their votes for Bird of the Year (BOTY). Each birder who submitted comments is shown below, with their current PA Life List total, the species they added to their PA Life List in 2014 in parentheses (if less than 10), their top 3 votes for BOTY, and any comments submitted. Birders are listed in no particular order.*

**Michael David, 326.** (Yellow-headed Blackbird, Cinnamon Teal, Purple Gallinule, Mississippi Kite, Snowy Plover, Chuck-Will's-Widow, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Connecticut Warbler, Seaside Sparrow, Barnacle Goose) BOTY: Seaside Sparrow, Snowy Plover, Cinnamon Teal. Chasing the Seaside Sparrow was one of the year's highlights for me. Kayaking out to the Bainbridge Islands for the first time on very short notice was a fun adventure, and we eventually got brief but beautiful looks at this rare visitor.

**Dick Cleary, 324.** (American White Pelican). It's sometimes a little disappointing to read the county reports in Pennsylvania Birds and learn that there were unusual birds found nearby that would have been nice to see, but which weren't

reported at the time they were sighted. I guess this is a plea for birders to share their sightings of unusual birds more freely on either the PABIRDS listserv or on eBird.

**Deb Grove, 305.** BOTY: Purple Gallinule.

**Bruce Johnson, 228.** BOTY: Snowy Owl, Red-necked Grebe, Dickcissel.

**Ron Leberman, 350.** (Black Rail, Sabine's Gull). I made at least 58 bird trips, mostly in Crawford and Erie counties. The two new species were the Sabine's Gull at the Pymatuning spillway, and an adult Black Rail 7/20 at the Conneaut Marsh. I got a good look at the Black Rail. I know what they look like, having birded at the Conneaut Marsh several thousand times since the 1950s. The rail was not an immature of another rail species.

**Geoff Malosh, 363.** BOTY: Sabine's Gull, Least Bittern, Iceland Gull. With the exception of most of 1993-2001 when I was attending school and later living in Michigan, I have been a year-round resident of Pennsylvania for my whole life. 2014 marked the first year since I started keeping a life list (as a kid in 1984) in which I did not record a new state bird for Pennsylvania. I guess I am getting old. However, 2014 did bring the best close encounter of my life with one of my favorite species: the unforgettable adult Sabine's Gull at the Pymatuning spillway in Crawford County. Also memorable was the Least Bittern that Michael David and I found in Allegheny County, the first for my home county since 1924! Rounding out my Bird of the Year voting is Iceland Gull, the emblematic species of the latest gull invasion into downtown Pittsburgh, which occurred in January and February 2014. There is no way of knowing for sure, but sightings of Iceland Gulls were so frequent that there may have been more Iceland Gulls found in Pittsburgh last winter than in all previous winters combined.

**Dave DeReamus, 380.** (Snowy Plover) BOTY: Crested Caracara, Snowy Plover, Snowy Owl.

**Mark McConaughy, 300.** I finally got to see some Cackling Geese. They were a nemesis bird for me.

**Jerry McWilliams, 338.** BOTY: Pacific Loon, Snowy Plover, eider sp.

**Chad Kauffman, 321.** (Cinnamon Teal, Eurasian Wigeon, Willet, Purple Gallinule, Franklins Gull, Iceland Gull) BOTY: Snowy Owl, Cinnamon Teal, Purple Gallinule.

**Alex Lamoreaux, 316.** (Barnacle Goose, Willet) BOTY: Pink-footed Goose, Trumpeter Swan, Franklin's Gull.

**Ian Gardner, 307.** (Iceland Gull, Cinnamon Teal, Willet, Glossy Ibis, Franklin's Gull, Long-billed Dowitcher, Snowy Egret, Seaside Sparrow) BOTY: Franklin's Gull, Seaside Sparrow, Cinnamon Teal.

**Russ States, 303.** BOTY: House Sparrow, European Starling, Rock Pigeon.

**Mike Fialkovich, 345.** (Yellow-headed Blackbird) BOTY: Yellow-headed Blackbird, White-winged Scoter, Red-necked Grebe. For the second year in a row I added a new species to my Erie

County list—Snowy Plover, my second in the state. The first was in my home county of Allegheny of all places, so it was a notable event in my personal birding history to have it in both counties. I even saw it on my birthday and it was associating with a Piping Plover. This was a great example of the benefits of protecting habitat, in this case shorebird habitat at Gull Point at Presque Isle. I also finally had the good fortune to see my first Yellow-headed Blackbird in the state; an adult male in Westmoreland County, just a few miles from the Allegheny border. It also "sang" a few times while I was observing it. To see a rarity is exciting, but hearing it sing, call or engage in typical behavior adds a lot more to the experience. Since it was my first in the state, it was my first choice for bird of the year. My second and third choices for Bird of the Year were two notable species pushed south due to the harsh winter of 2014: White-winged Scoter and Red-necked Grebe. It's rare to see so many adult White-winged Scoters in Pennsylvania, especially just minutes from home on the rivers in Pittsburgh. Red-necked Grebe numbers were also memorable, so it was quite a combination for the season.

**Gary Edwards, 294.** BOTY: Sabine's Gull, Glossy Ibis, Red-throated Loon.

**Andy Wilson, 247.** (Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Purple Gallinule) BOTY: Snowy Owl, Purple Gallinule. The year's highlights included adding two species to my Adams County Life List: Ross's Goose and Great Black-backed Gull.

**Dan Richards, 296.** (Pacific Loon, Cattle Egret) BOTY: Pacific Loon, Trumpeter Swan, Ross's Goose. I should mention that the Pacific Loon

went unreported since my e-mail was unavailable at the time (April 11). I located the bird on a private lake, and the loon was only present the morning I found it. I didn't wish to cause a delayed stir by posting when it would have been too late to chase the loon, plus telling people they wouldn't be able to enter the gated community of Treasure Lake without permission. That would have cast doubt on the veracity of my discovery. Trumpeter Swan was my first for Clearfield and the Ross's Goose found on the CBC was the second ever for Clearfield County.

**Brian Quindlen, 257.** BOTY: Long-tailed Jaeger, Purple Gallinule, Greater-white Fronted Goose. 2014 was my favorite year of birding to date. Between new friends, old favorites, and a healthy addition of Pennsylvania lifers, 2014 provided many moments of shock, awe, and excitement. Of the 221 birds seen this year, a flyover Long-tailed Jaeger at Rushton Farm in Chester County seen alongside some of the finest birding friends was one of the most special birding moments of all time. This year, birding has proven itself time and time again as an unpredictable, exhilarating lifestyle, and I'm forever thankful for both the birds, birders, and the Band of Birders. "Get off my pond..." and remember, "Birds over everything!"

**Michael DeFina, 221.** BOTY: Snowy Owl.

**Bill Oylar, 309.** (Cinnamon Teal, Purple Gallinule, Marsh Wren, Le Conte's Sparrow).

**Chad Hutchinson, 150.** BOTY: Long-tailed Jaeger, White Ibis, American Bittern. The flyover Long-tailed Jaeger at Rushton Farm Preserve was an unbelievable stroke of luck. As a new

birder, I was blessed to be with a few expert birding friends that day and this sighting helped make my first yearly list an interesting one. I listed a Long-tailed Jaeger before Dark-Eyed Junco—crazy! A pair of juvenile White Ibis showed up in a retaining pond behind a local Walmart, another cool rarity for my first list. Some think the American Bittern is making a comeback in Pennsylvania, so to see one at our local haunt, Exton Park, was very heartening. I got to see it a few times, and early in my list-making, so that made it a pretty special sighting for me.

**Andy Keister, 290.** BOTY: Snowy Owl, Snowy Plover, Sabine's Gull.

**Devich Farbotnik, 384.** (Snowy Plover, Seaside Sparrow). BOTY: Snowy Plover, Seaside Sparrow, Crested Caracara. The Snowy Plover at Presque Isle State Park was a new state bird that I had missed two other times.

**Shannon Thompson, 343.** (Seaside Sparrow).

**Chuck Berthoud, 323.** BOTY: Cinnamon Teal.

**Peter Robinson, 379.** (Snowy Plover) BOTY: Crested Caracara, Snowy Plover, Seaside Sparrow. I made an overnight run to Presque Isle and got to see the Snowy Plover on July 4. After we got more distant views, Mike Fialkovich and I got to see it as close as about twenty five feet as it walked along the beach past the end of the fence.

## Summary of the Season

### Geoff Malosh

"Cool" and "dry" were the operative words as the fall of 2014 arrived in Pennsylvania. For most of the state, August averaged from one to 3°F below normal, and many areas saw a rain deficit in late summer, especially during the month of September. October moderated both in terms of average temperature (compared to normal) and in rainfall, but then temperatures took a severe plunge in mid-November, which held on for most of the rest of the month and eventually ushered in the first significant snowfall for much of the Commonwealth 11/26-28. At Pittsburgh, for example, the average temperature for the entire month of November was 4.1°F below normal, including a brutal stretch 11/13-28 when the average temperature was 8.6°F below normal. There was even a stretch of five of six days in a row with a low temperature of 18°F or less—more like a bad week February than November. Departures from normal in November weren't as severe in Philadelphia and throughout most of eastern Pennsylvania, but still dipped 2.4°F below the average for the month in

the City of Brotherly Love. This ugly stretch of cold made for mixed birding toward the end of the season; the harsh weather concentrated waterbirds on open water, but also eliminated much chance for the half-hardy lingerers or western vagrants that are so often found in the eleventh month.

The dry conditions in August and September followed on from a summer that was also on the cooler side. The significant rainfall of June had already begun to subside as July wore on into the fall season. A few compilers commented on promising shorebirding conditions that had developed by the end of July, only to see August and September become *too* dry in many areas. Still, some counties enjoyed a good year on the mudflats, particularly *Somerset* and, of course, *Erie*.

Passerine migration seemed rather unremarkable, and although no compilers gushed over the showing, none mentioned a truly poor season either. The lack of big flights was probably due at least in part to the mild and settled conditions in September; sometimes the

birds are just able to sneak through without being too obvious about it.

Even the season's haul of rarities was basically unremarkable—save for two potential state firsts among raptors—though as always there were some memorable birds and events. Most winter finches were not forecast to make major moves into Pennsylvania, but two species showed quite well by the end of the season nevertheless.

**Greater White-fronted Goose** was noted in 9 counties including 8 birds in both *Armstrong* and *Crawford* in the west. The *Armstrong* sighting preceded *Crawford's* by more than a month, so it's anyone's guess if these were the same birds. **Snow Geese** were found in nine counties away from the southeast, a good showing, including a flock of 140 in *Bedford* 11/19. The only **Ross's Goose** of the season was a bird in *Westmoreland* 11/29, though an immature *Chen sp.* appeared in *Allegheny* in late November. It seemed to show some intermediate characters between Ross's and Snow that gave some observers pause, though it was probably not out of the range of

variation for a young Ross's. **Brant** made their characteristic November flight, noted primarily in eastern Pennsylvania as usual but augmented this year by western birds in *Indiana* and a few good flocks at Stone Mountain, *Huntingdon*. **Cackling Goose** is no longer a fall season "bird of note" to be catalogued in that section of the journal. Their appearance in 17 counties statewide this season was probably their best yet, though their ever-increasing occurrence is likely more a function of birder awareness than anything else. However, identification of Cacklers can still be a complicated matter and it is possible some small white-cheeked geese are too aggressively identified to species. A **Canada x Snow Goose** was located in *Montgomery*.

There were few reports of **Mute Swan**, an encouraging sign considering this introduced species' aggressive nature. Even at Lake Ontelaunee, *Berks* the season high was just 7 following a cull earlier in the year. **Trumpeter Swans** were noted in four counties including *Bucks*, which enjoyed its third record of the species, all since December 2013. One can just about set a clock to the migrations of **Tundra Swans** in March and November; this season a few early birds moved through 10/29 at Hawk Mountain, but the vast majority of reports commenced November's first very strong cold front 11/12. An odd mid-summer Tundra was in *Lehigh* 8/24-29.

Big counts of **Wood Duck** were made from *Crawford*, where an annual Wood Duck count nets the largest number of them just about every year (946 on 9/20 this year), and in *Philadelphia* where up to 400 were at Tincum in October. **Gadwall** had a fine showing in November, primarily on the strength of an 11/6 storm and the major north winds that arrived on and after 11/12. A **Eurasian Wigeon**, much more unusual in fall than spring, was in *Crawford* 10/20-11/15. **American Black Ducks** were widespread this time around, including some nice counts of 70 in *Bucks* and 49 in *Indiana* in November. A few **Blue-winged Teal** arrived early, again in *Bucks* (7/31) and *Indiana* (8/12), and one still in *Dauphin* 11/22 was record late for that county. August **Northern Shovelers** were represented by birds in *Montgomery* 8/24 and *Beaver* 8/31, the latter a flock of 8 that arrived with an overnight storm. *Philadelphia* boasted large counts of **Northern Pintail** (400 in early October) and **Green-winged Teal** (700 in early November) at Tincum. It was a poor showing for **Redhead** and particularly **Canvasback**, but birders in *Indiana* noted 172 of the former 11/26 during the year's first snowfall in western Pennsylvania. Away from *Erie*, **Surf**

**Scoter** was found only in *Adams*, *Centre*, and *Carbon*, and all of those in the second half of October. Again excluding *Erie*, the usual eastern bias in **Black Scoter** observations was in evidence again, with nine eastern counties reporting the species against just two (*Allegheny* and *Bedford*) in the west. Many sightings in the east were associated with cold fronts 11/1-2 and 11/6. **White-winged Scoter** followed a similar pattern, though in smaller numbers as is typical. Fifteen counties reporting **Long-tailed Duck** was a little better than average; earliest was a record in *Crawford* 10/19. Triple-digit counts of **Bufflehead** were tallied in multiple locations around Pennsylvania in early November, especially around the 11/6 frontal system. **Common Goldeneye** also had a better than average late-season flight, appearing in 18 counties by the end of November, with the vast majority appearing with or after the onset of the deep cold in the middle of the month. Notable waterfowl along Presque Isle's lakeshore in *Erie* included an **eider sp.** 11/2 and up to four **Harlequin Ducks** seen periodically 10/24-11/29. There wasn't much happening with the three merganser species, though late November counts of 53 **Hooded Mergansers** in *Allegheny* and 166 in *Armstrong* were notable, as were the 561 **Common Mergansers** in *Crawford* 11/2. Most years there is a November storm that dumps **Ruddy Ducks** all over the state; this year it was the 11/6 front. Notable counts on that day and 11/7 included 150 in *Bedford*, 951 in *Berks*, 181 in *Bucks*, 150 in *Lancaster*, up to 350 in *Montgomery*, 110 in *Pike*, and 500 in *Somerset*. Three Ruddies remained from July to the end of the season in *Franklin*, and the top one-day count by the season's end in *Indiana* approached 2000 birds.

Mentions of both **Northern Bobwhite** and **Ring-necked Pheasant** in county reports these days just about all come with the "escaped" or "released" qualifier. It seems neither species, particularly bobwhite, has much of a self-sustaining population left in Pennsylvania. Reports of **Ruffed Grouse** were encouraging, however, with mentions in 16 counties.

**Red-throated Loon** did not show well despite the big November fronts, which normally drop a few more birds onto Pennsylvania lakes than were seen this year. A great count of 38 red-throateds passed Sunset Point at Presque Isle 11/29, and in *Philadelphia* one was spotted in a tiny reservoir next to a busy road 11/8. *Erie's* second **Pacific Loon** (under review) was photographed off Sunset Point 11/23. **Eared Grebes** were noted in *Erie* and *Northampton* in November. **Red-necked Grebes** were

reported very well with reports in 10 counties including the waterbird count in *Erie*, and six of those counties reported the species in October. One **Great Cormorant** was reported away from the Delaware River counties, a bird flying down the Susquehanna in *Lancaster* 10/29. **American White Pelican** was reported in the fall season five years in a row from 2001-2005, then went entirely absent in this season for the next five years. Now, with one bird this season at the Conejohela Flats in *Lancaster* 9/17-20, the species has been reported in fall three out of the past four years again.

An **American Bittern** in *Allegheny* in late August represented just the second fall record in 16 years for the county, with the only fall records before that from the early 1900s. **Least Bittern** was recorded only in five southeastern counties and in one of those (*Montgomery*) only by way of detection of birds on nocturnal migration. A congregation of 68 **Great Blue Herons** on low water at Plymouth Flats, *Luzerne* was certainly an unusual sight. There is usually something interesting to say about **Great Egret** each fall. This year a tagged bird (reading "12D") was spotted in *Dauphin* 8/31. The bird had been given that tag as a pre-fledged juvenile at Jamaica Bay, New York less than two months earlier on 7/10. The species lingered into November in at least four counties including a surprising bird in *Greene*. **Snowy Egret** had a poor showing, found only in *Lancaster* and *Philadelphia*. **Little Blue Heron** was more typical with records in six southeastern counties and *Luzerne*. **Cattle Egret** is an enigmatic species, some years appearing in several counties in fall, others not at all. This was one of the "good" years with reports from eight counties: *Bedford*, *Bucks*, *Chester*, *Dauphin*, *Juniata*, *Luzerne*, *Mercer*, and *Schuylkill*. Unfortunately documentation was submitted to PORC for just one of these (*Bucks*); perhaps birders are unaware that this species is again on the PORC review list. The *Mercer* record was of 4 roadside birds among a herd of cattle which were seen and photographed by many. A **Green Heron** in *Chester* 11/11 was notably late. **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was found in 12 counties including *Crawford*, *Indiana*, and *Mercer* in the west. Three records of **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** statewide included the very odd scene of two juveniles standing next to a swimming pool in residential Norristown, *Montgomery* 8/22. A **White Ibis** continuing from late July to 8/1 in *Philadelphia* was the only one reported, and a **Glossy Ibis** in *Indiana* represented just the third record for that county and one of just four records for the state this fall.

A **Turkey Vulture** nest with two downy young was found in *Clarion* 8/31, quite late for that stage of nesting. A sight report of a **White-tailed Kite** in *Bucks* 8/7 would add the species to Provisional List of Pennsylvania's birds, if the submitted documentation is accepted by PORC. Both **Mississippi Kite** (once) and **Swainson's Hawk** (twice) were reported at hawk watches this fall but as usual supporting details were not submitted to the records committee. Late **Ospreys** were noted in the second half of November in *Montgomery* and *Philadelphia*. **Bald Eagles** were nestbuilding in *Lebanon* 11/21. Reports of **Northern Goshawks** in nine counties away from hawk watches were far above average. **Northern Harriers** were found in a remarkable 36 counties (including a few that had sightings only at hawk watches), quite a showing in Penn's Woods for this grassland specialist. A late **Broad-winged Hawk** was noted in *Lancaster* 10/17. A distinctive leucistic **Red-tailed Hawk** has been more or less resident in the area of the Pittsburgh International Airport in *Allegheny* for a few years, and it was seen again there 8/3. **Rough-legged Hawks** were scored in 15 counties away from hawk watches, though they seemed to taper off by mid-winter, at least in western Pennsylvania. Early birds were found in *Clearfield* 10/21 and *Crawford* 10/23. It was an outstanding year for **Golden Eagle** away from the ridges, noted in 16 counties not including sightings from ridge-top watches. A few interesting records involved birds with GPS tracking devices. One bird carrying a device migrated past Pleasant Valley, *Bucks* 9/19. This female was trapped as a juvenile in Alabama 2/6/2014 and summered in southern Quebec and New Brunswick before passing back south through *Bucks*. Another Golden that was tagged at Blackwater N.W.R., Maryland in 2013 migrated through *Bucks* and *Montgomery*, spending a night of 11/3-4 in the woods near Green Lane Park before moving on. A third bird wearing a transmitter (origin and destination not reported) passed Allegheny Front 11/11, one of 30 goldens spotted that day. Early birds moved past Waggoner's Gap, *Cumberland* 8/26 and Second Mountain, *Lebanon* 8/28, and one in *Erie* 10/15 provided just the second fall record for that storied county.

**Virginia Rail** was found in seven counties and lingered in to October in four of those; for **Sora** those totals were 11 and six, respectively. No **Common Gallinules** were found outside of their northwestern Pennsylvania strongholds. Top count for **American Coot**, as it often does, came from *Indiana* where 1442 were tallied 11/1. **Sandhill Crane**

continued its apparent expansion in Pennsylvania, recorded this fall in 17 counties. A remarkable report was made in *Philadelphia* of a flock of 24 flying low over the Schuylkill 11/29, remarkable because this was presumably the same flock that was noted at three separate locations in New England states in the days just before, after the flock had departed their summering grounds in Maine on or around 11/20.

A few hotspots enjoyed excellent shorebirding, but for the most part it was not a remarkable season statewide. Excessively dry conditions in August and September—too dry in a number of areas particularly in the east—coupled with benign weather over the same period resulted in relatively few birds. Exceptions to this rule were Gull Point in *Erie* (as always), Somerset Lake in *Somerset* (which is being held at lower than normal water levels due to a damaged dam), and, for the first time since the mid-2000s, Little Blue Lake in *Beaver*. Little Blue Lake holds the somewhat ignominious distinction of being the largest coal ash disposal site in the United States, and it widely despised by the residents of Beaver and Hancock (West Virginia) counties, where the lake resides. Nevertheless, its rise to birding fame was meteoric in the mid-2000s when it was discovered as a shorebird magnet, and it subsequently produced a formidable list of 28 species in a mere three-year period. The site became more or less inaccessible to the public by the end of 2007, however, and not much was heard from the lake in the years that followed. This year it was discovered that good mudflats were again visible from public areas, and by season's end 18 species of shorebirds were found. One can only wonder what amazing birds have stopped at Little Blue over the years that went unnoticed.

**Black-bellied Plover** was noted in eight counties, including 2 birds following a rain event at Little Blue Lake in *Beaver* 8/31. The species is accidental in *Beaver* except at Little Blue, where it was annual in the mid-2000s and where it probably remains annual today—making Little Blue very probably the only such site in western Pennsylvania away from the lakeshore that can make that claim. A late bird was at Somerset Lake 11/5. Reports of **American Golden-Plovers** in just 13 counties, with no sizeable flocks noted, nicely represented the blasé nature of the shorebird flight this season in general. A **Semipalmated Plover** still hanging on at Yellow Creek S.P. in *Indiana* 10/12 was a bit tardy.

**American Avocet** was noted in seven counties, perhaps a little better than average. Among these was a remarkable flock of 17 at Somerset Lake 8/12 during the passage of a weather

front. **Spotted Sandpiper** lingered in *Fayette* and *Indiana* to 10/26, and in the slightly warmer east, the last spotties were noted in *Philadelphia* 11/5 and *Montgomery* 11/6. The sharp cold front 11/6 seemed to drive the last of them out. **Greater Yellowlegs** lingered into November in five western counties and *Lehigh*. A nice total of 55 were in *Center* 8/12 during the same storm that brought 17 avocets to *Somerset*. **Willet** was found only at the three aforementioned shorebird hotspots: Little Blue Lake 8/31, Gull Point 8/12-31, and Somerset Lake 8/14-24 and 9/1. **Lesser Yellowlegs** in *Indiana* 11/1 and *Lancaster* 11/9 were both quite late. **Upland Sandpiper** was found in only four counties and in one of those (*Montgomery*, like Least Bittern) only via an audio recording of nocturnal migrants. **Whimbrel** (8/1-9/2), **Hudsonian Godwit** (9/2), **Marbled Godwit** (8/12-9/22), **Red Knot** (9/7), and **Ruddy Turnstone** (through 9/22) were all recorded only at Gull Point. Amazing numbers of **Stilt Sandpipers** were at Tinicum in *Philadelphia* were daily double-digit counts 10/9-12 maxed out at 24 on 10/12. They were recorded in 14 other counties, with a surge of records in mid-October in many of those as well. **Sanderling** was found in seven counties away from the lakeshore, a typical showing these days. **Dunlin** was spotted in 12 counties, including records in at least three counties associated with the 11/6 cold front that also dropped many waterfowl from the skies. The fall occurrence of **Baird's Sandpiper** has been closely monitored in this space for the past several years. The records in 13 counties this fall represent the "new norm" for this species, and the peak, such as it was in this off year for shorebirds, was in the first two weeks of September, which was right on time. **White-rumped Sandpiper** had one of the better showings among this family, with records in 15 counties including a few in *Montgomery* and *Philadelphia* as late as 10/12, which is a bit late for them. In the fall of 2011, when White-rumped Sandpipers were recorded in a record 21 counties, six counties reported October birds and only two later than 10/12. The **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** flight was low-key, with reports in just four counties away from *Erie*, all in the first half of September. **Pectoral Sandpipers** were widespread but mostly unremarkable in the scope and timing of their passage. **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were found in 23 counties led by at least 91 at Little Blue Lake, *Beaver* during passage of the 8/12 weather front. This total more than doubled the season maxima even at Gull Point and Tinicum—and there were an additional 35 peeps at Little Blue that day that could not be identified that were probably semis—demonstrating the



remarkable potential for shorebirds at *Beaver's* controversial fly-ash basin. The rare (in Pennsylvania) **Western Sandpiper** was found in *Dauphin*, *Lancaster*, *Lebanon*, and *Somerset*. The *Dauphin* bird was nicely documented by photo. **Short-billed Dowitcher** was found in 13 counties, almost all in August as usual, but with a few stragglers to mid-September. Again the highest count for the state was easily the 31 at Little Blue Lake 8/31; the only other site reaching double-digits was Gull Point which maxed out at 15 on 8/10. Obliging **Long-billed Dowitchers** in *Lawrence* 11/5-13 and *Lebanon* 9/27-10/5 were each appreciated by many birders. It was a very poor flight for the entire phalarope clan; **Wilson's** in *Beaver* 8/27-31 and *Crawford* 8/18 and 8/22, **Red-necked** in *Lancaster* 9/15, and **Red** in *Erie* 9/14 (very early) and 11/2 were the only ones reported.

**Parasitic Jaegers** were noted only along the lakeshore in *Erie* in October and early November, as is customary. Observers wishing to add this species to their state or year lists are best advised either to wait for the next once-in-a-decade hurricane, or to put in the hard (but rewarding) hours at Jerry McWilliams' waterbird count at Sunset Point. Very surprising was a flyover **Long-tailed Jaeger** at Rushton Farm, *Chester* 8/25. This odd report follows an equally odd report of one that put down at the Bald Knob pond in *Allegheny* during clear weather 8/31/2012. Both records illustrate the fact that this species, though extremely unlikely, has an apparent habit of surprising birders who are paying attention to the skies in the last week of August, and perhaps with this knowledge birders might find them a bit more frequently in the Commonwealth.

As detailed elsewhere in this issue, an adult **Sabine's Gull** entertained a hundred or more birders (and innocent bystanders) at *Crawford's* Pymatuning Spillway 9/5-7. It represented the 23rd record for the state and just the fourth of an adult. **Little Gull** was again limited to the *Erie* lakeshore this year. Except for birds seen during the passage of Hurricane Sandy in 2012, the last fall season Little Gull away from *Erie* was one in *Lancaster* 11/15/2008. Errant **Laughing Gulls** reached as far west as *Huntingdon* (10/4, third county record) and *Indiana* (10/14, fourth county record). A fallout of 700 **Herring Gulls** in *Berks* 11/30 was notable for any county in the fall away from *Erie* or the Delaware River. A flyover Herring in *Lawrence* 10/10 was also quite rare for that county. Frequently *Bucks* can be counted on for a November **Iceland Gull**, but this season they were seen only in *Lebanon* 11/24 and *Pike* 11/23.

*Nazareth Quarry* in *Northampton* took top honors for **Lesser Black-backed Gull** totals, with a max of 324 on 10/23. "Shrimpy", *Philadelphia's* celebrity Lesser Black-backed, returned to Pleasant Hill Park 10/7 to settle in for its tenth winter at the site. **Great Black-backed Gull** was found in nine counties away from *Erie* and the Delaware River, an excellent showing and something of a harbinger of the winter to come, at least in western Pennsylvania.

Documentation of 2 **Gull-billed Terns** at Tinicum, *Philadelphia* 8/12 was unfortunately not submitted to PORC. Caspian Tern showed quite well in 18 counties including a very late bird 10/7 in *Lancaster*. **Black Tern** was relisted in the Birds of Note beginning in 2012 due to a number of somewhat poor seasons leading up to that year (excluding the fall of 2011 and its Hurricane Irene-assisted tern fallout). This year the species made a case to be taken off the list again by appearing in 14 counties, far outclassing its recent 5- or 6-county flights. At least 12 of the approximately 20 total records of Black Terns, however, could be directly attributable to weather systems 8/12 and 8/31 or their immediate aftermath. This included the most notable totals reported: 24 in *Butler* 8/31, 9 in *Cambria* 8/31, 18-26 in *Indiana* 8/12 and 8 there 8/31, and 50 at *Somerset Lake* 9/1. If not for those two weather systems, Black Tern would likely have had a much more typical flight. **Common Tern** remains decidedly uncommon in Pennsylvania, except at *Erie* where the species is a late-summer fixture around Gull Point. Besides *Erie* they were recorded in five other counties, topped by an extraordinary flock of 40 in *Bucks* 9/21. **Forster's Terns** lingering in *Philadelphia* to early November were by far the latest hangers-on.

Away from their *Franklin* stronghold near Greencastle Res. (where the top count was 80 on 9/9), **Eurasian Collared-Doves** were found in *Bucks* (likely), *Center* and *Lancaster*. This species has not made its much-anticipated widespread expansion into Pennsylvania, and perhaps at this point it never will. A **White-winged Dove** at a residence in Plumstead Twp., *Bucks* 9/18-19 continued that species' tradition of showing up randomly anywhere, anytime, but never for very long, in Pennsylvania. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** lingered into mid-October in *Chester* and *Montgomery*, the latter discovered when it struck a window (and recovered).

**Barn Owl** nested successfully again in *Bucks* and was also located in *Chester* for the first time in a few years. **Snowy Owls** once again made their first appearance before the end of November, but they did not move in the massive numbers of last winter. This season they were located in *Berks*, *Cumberland* and

*Dauphin* (same bird in both, which was injured and taken to a rehabilitator), and *Erie*. **Long-eared Owl** was reported only from its known and dwindling roost in *Bucks*. Given their cyclic movements, 2014 was anticipated to be a better year for **Northern Saw-whet Owls**, and it was certainly better than 2013 even though it fell far short their best showings. Eastern sites continue to far outstrip western sites in total birds. Ninety-six captured in *Chester* included many recaptures; Holly Merker's *Chester* summary is well worth reading for further details. Sites in *Dauphin* and *Schuylkill* had good results this season too. In addition there was the usual smattering of birds not in nets and hands; the most curious of these was the Saw-whet that lit briefly outside Arlene Koch's kitchen door in *Northampton* 11/14.

Concern over the status of **Common Nighthawk** leads birders to pay special attention to their late summer migration each year. They were recorded in 34 counties, just more than half of Pennsylvania's 67 total, and spanning nearly all of the state's counties that host daily birding activity. A dedicated watch in *Delaware* once again turned in the largest numbers, including 1137 on 8/24, 753 on 8/25, and 567 on 9/1. Another nightly watch in *Venango* netted 466 for the season. Notable counts in other areas included 150 in *Allegheny* 8/22 and 200 in *Montgomery* 8/24. Several other counties reported at least one day with a count of 20-30 or more. One nighthawk still in *Montgomery* 10/18 was very late. **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was noted in seven counties with one in *Erie* 9/8 the only bird recorded after 8/31, and two counties found birds on day roosts. Big flocks of roosting **Chimney Swifts** included 1300 in *Philadelphia*, 800 in *Lancaster*, and 455 in *Bucks*.

**Red-headed Woodpecker** had another pretty good fall season, a nice trend for them in recent years. There were no real notable observations but sightings were widespread. **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** seemed off, judging by county reports, though they were counted in at least 23 counties, primarily from late September through October.

**Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** extended their stays into October in five counties and to 11/13 in *Montgomery*. It was not a good year for **Rufous Hummingbird** with just 4 birds banded and one identified from a photo, and two additional *Selasphorus sp.* that got away.

**Merlins** continued their strong presence in the state with reports from 27 counties this fall, and with nine of those netting their first in the month of August. One of these August birds (8/9 in *Monroe*) was observed working the

ground for grasshoppers while getting divebombed by an American Kestrel. Another interesting tableau was the observation of a juvenile **Peregrine Falcon** stooping at shorebirds at Pine Run Dam, *Bucks* 9/26, missing, and somersaulting through the mudflats. It was able to shake the mud off and gather itself before moving on.

Without a doubt, the bird of the season was Pennsylvania's first (and long awaited) **Crested Caracara**, which appeared in odd circumstances in *Washington* 9/12-13. The bird was not encountered in good "caracara habitat", making it an even bigger surprise than it already was. An accounting of this bird's brief but remarkable stay can be found in the *Washington* summary elsewhere in this issue. Like all other records of Caracara in the northeastern United States to date, it was an adult.

**Olive-sided Flycatchers** were reported in at least 23 counties, including five reports in *Centre* where the species is considered rare. An **Eastern Wood-Pewee** was extraordinarily late at the Lancaster Sewer Authority property, *Lancaster* 11/30, which may represent the latest fall record ever for the species in Pennsylvania. There is one other November record, 11/4/1992 in *Cambria*. Also very tardy was a **Great Crested Flycatcher** heard in *Montgomery* 10/28. There is one record of this species in November (11/20/1990 in *Butler*) and one January record. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** is frequently reported in fall, and some may be misidentified, but the 66 caught at Powdermill Nature Reserve this season was testimony to the fact that they do move through Pennsylvania in good numbers in this season. **Eastern Phoebes** lingered into late November in four southeastern counties and *Perry*, and one was still in *Indiana* on 11/11. A late **Eastern Kingbird** was still in *Lancaster* 10/20. A **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** stopped in *Lebanon* for a few days in late October, where it was nicely photographed.

**Northern Shrike** was in ten counties, but there were two different birds shared by two counties, making the actual number for the season 8 birds. One returned to Tinicum on the *Delaware/Philadelphia* line for the fourth consecutive winter.

A late **Red-eyed Vireo** was in *Cumberland* 10/25, and a **Warbling Vireo** in *Montgomery* 10/16 was pushing the envelope, as was a **Blue-headed Vireo** also in *Montgomery* 11/11. **Philadelphia Vireo** was reported in at least 25 counties, but their numbers were thin; for example the season total at Hawk Mountain was just 19.

The fall migration of **Blue Jays** seems to be an underappreciated annual event here in Pennsylvania. On the right

days thousands can be seen moving through. One such example this season was the 1586 seen at Kernsville Dam in a single day among 4754 total birds 9/27-10/10. Hawk Mountain also turned in a total of 5010 for the season. The expansion of **Common Raven** continued unabated and new superlatives to describe it are becoming scarce. There were many reports away from ridges and in areas where they were uncommon not long ago, headed up this season by reports at 14 sites in *Bucks* and 19 sites in *Chester*. Twenty-two were counted on a single day in *Montgomery* 9/23, blasting the previous high count for that county, and 21 were counted at Second Mountain, *Lebanon* 10/24, also a new county high count.

**Tree Swallow** tarried into November in seven or eight counties, including *Centre* (the only county away from the southeast) where one was found 11/20 in the middle of the deep freeze. Huge numbers (over 2000) were noted passing through *Philadelphia* on the Delaware River in late October ahead of strong fronts. The count of **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** at the Northeast Water Pollution Control Plant in *Philadelphia* was 166 at season's end; besides these the latest rough-wings were birds in *Lancaster* and *Montgomery* in the last ten days of October. For the first time since 2009 and just the third time since 2002, no Cave Swallows were reported in the state in the fall season.

Last year's flight of **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was rightfully described in this space as a nadir, one of the deepest lows of their cyclic movements in the past few decades. They rebounded this year with reports in 27 counties, but it still wasn't a "good" fall for them, and they were not being seen in any sort of abundance heading into the winter. In the biggest years they begin to appear in August especially at hawk watches. This year they were first reported in several counties in September but the next big wave in October did not follow.

**Marsh Wren** was noted in 11 counties, with most of those seeing birds stay into at least early October. One bird in *Allegheny* stayed at Wingfield Pines though the season. Wingfield Pines, owned by the Allegheny Land Trust, is a wetland complex designed to filter iron oxides from surrounding mine drainage before returning groundwater to nearby Chartiers Creek. The system was completed in 2009 and the new wetlands at the site, though small, are among the best anywhere in highly urbanized *Allegheny*. **Sedge Wren** was reported in four counties. Notable among them was one at Black Swamp in *Lawrence* 10/10-17 whose discovery was a result of the Patagonia Picnic Table Effect—the observer had shown up to look for

another rare bird (Stilt Sandpiper) that had been reported and heard the Sedge Wren singing. Another observer who arrived later in the day the first one was discovered found as many as 3 Sedge Wrens at the site.

A very late **Blue-gray Gnat-catcher** survived the brutal mid-November cold and was still hanging on at West Fairview, *Cumberland* 11/28. Reports of the spot-breasted thrushes by daylight this fall were better than average, particularly for **Swainson's** and **Gray-cheeked Thrush**. A few Gray-cheeked remained in *Chester* to 10/30, and a Swainson's in *Lebanon* was certainly procrastinating. An enormous nocturnal flight of thrushes and other songbirds was detected and recorded over western *Allegheny* after midnight 9/19. In just the last 64 minutes before civil twilight, a total of 3429 Swainson's calls, 192 Gray-cheeked calls, and hundreds more of other passerines were captured in audio recordings—and that is not even counting the hours before that back to midnight. Other good flights were heard in *Berks* 9/17, in *Centre* 9/25-29, and in *Clarion* 9/28. Several **Gray Catbirds** that were captured at a *Centre* banding station in past years were recaptured there this year; see the *Centre* report for details. A few southeastern counties saw multiple November catbirds this season, as usual. **Brown Thrasher** made it to November in four counties including, unexpectedly, *Forest*. It was a very good flight of **American Pipits**, with many reports of large flocks from every corner of the state. The bulk seemed to pass through from mid-October to mid-November. **Snow Bunting** appeared in 14 counties, all 11/6 or later (coinciding with the first big cold front of November), and **Lapland Longspur** in nine counties, including record-setting early birds for *Dauphin* 10/23-24.

The warbler migration was generally not memorable, but not disappointing either. There were few reports of big mornings in Pennsylvania's woodlots, but warbler diversity was very good and a few counties reported seasons with 30 or more species in total. **Golden-winged Warbler** (and its hybrids) is the only regularly occurring Pennsylvania warbler annotated in the Birds of Note for fall; this season there were eight reports in six counties, a pretty decent showing these days. **Brewster's Warbler** was found in *Allegheny* 9/12 and *Blair* 8/1, and **Lawrence's** in *Northampton* 8/3 and *Pike* 8/4. The *Pike Lawrence's* was very nicely photographed.

Notably late warblers were as follows. An **Ovenbird** stalled in a Philadelphia park until 11/11. A **Northern Parula** in *Dauphin* 11/24 was about two weeks shy of setting a new late

date record for the state. A **Louisiana Waterthrush** in *Huntingdon* 9/13 was well past its normal deadline, as were 2 **Northern Waterthrushes** still in *Lancaster* 11/5. A **Black-and-white Warbler** was noted in *Cumberland* 11/8 and 11/28 at West Fairview. There are December and January records of this species, but this bird was still quite late. **Prothonotary Warbler** is among the first breeders to vacate Pennsylvania in the fall, so one still in *Bucks* 9/9 set a new late date in the county even at that early date in the season. *Montgomery* and *Philadelphia* both hosted **Common Yellowthroats** into the first week of November. An **American Redstart** in *Bucks* 10/18 set a new county late date, and one stayed in *Montgomery* to 10/20 too. A possibly-injured **Magnolia Warbler** was visiting a feeder in *Huntingdon* until 11/23, establishing what appears to be the second-latest departure date for the state. (One was found in *Philadelphia* 12/8/2012.) One bird that did set a new Pennsylvania record was a **Chestnut-sided Warbler** found and photographed in *Dauphin* 11/4, over a week later than the previous known late date (and do see the superb photo of this bird on the inside back cover of this issue). A **Yellow Warbler** in *Bucks* 10/18 was exceptionally late, but missed setting a county record by two days. **Yellow-throated Warblers** in *Allegheny* 10/5 and *Washington* 10/4 were both late. A **Wilson's Warbler** in *Erie* 10/19 set a new late mark for that county by ten days.

Other warbler highlights were few but not absent entirely. Very interesting was the recording of 174 **Ovenbird** calls on nocturnal migration over *Montgomery* 8/18. It was a remarkable season for **Connecticut Warbler**, with reports in 18 counties. Most notable was the occurrence of at least four different birds in a single field of goldenrod in *Lebanon* 9/15-10/10. **Mourning Warbler** had a nice flight too, with sightings in 16 counties including one still hanging around *Westmoreland* 10/2. The "spruce budworm" warblers (**Tennessee, Cape May, and Bay-breasted**) also had another good showing this year, perhaps not as good as last year but still notable. One of these, a **Bay-breasted** in *Bucks* 8/18, set a new *early* date by one day, one of the few warblers to establish an early date in a Pennsylvania county this season. **Orange-crowned Warbler** was recorded in a typical total of 18 counties, though this author still believes orange-crowns are a bit overreported, as there are a few confusion species especially in fall. A nice count of 72 **Blackpoll Warblers** passed Hawk Mountain 9/27. Banders at Powdermill Nature Reserve netted 599 **Yellow-rumped Warblers** in October and 625 for the season.

**Chipping Sparrows** have stayed later and later in the fall in southeastern counties in recent years, and increasingly they are doing this in the west as well. They were seen well into November and even beyond this year in *Allegheny, Armstrong, Clarion, and Venango* in the far west, as well as in *Perry*. An early **Clay-colored Sparrow** was photographed along the Delaware River Trail in *Philadelphia* 8/23, but the only other report was one in an *Allegheny* yard 10/14. **Nelson's Sparrow** is increasingly reported each fall, and do see the separate article on this topic elsewhere in this issue. This fall they were found in eight counties, all between 9/28 and 10/21. The state's sixth **Seaside Sparrow**, a bird at the Bainbridge Islands, *Lancaster* 10/4-6, would probably have earned the honor of the rarest bird of the season if not for the kite and caracara mentioned earlier. Several birders made the trek to see this stray from the coast despite the difficult logistics of getting to these islands out in the middle of the Susquehanna. A **Harris's Sparrow** appeared at the Koch property in *Northampton* 11/17 and stayed deep into the winter, drawing hundreds of birders from around the region who were graciously welcomed by the bird's hosts. A **Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow** was at the same location 11/22-30. Those were the rarities, but otherwise there was not much different happening with the more common sparrows this season.

**Summer Tanager** was noted in *Chester, Montgomery, and Washington*, but unfortunately documentation was not submitted for any of them. Documentation was submitted for a remarkable **Western Tanager** in Grantville, *Lebanon* 9/8. If accepted it would become the ninth for the state. A **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was still in *Lancaster* 10/26. **Blue Grosbeaks** were found in 11 counties after July, all but two of which were in the southeast or around areas where the species summered this year. Those two records were made in *Huntingdon* 9/27 and *Centre* 8/15. A remarkable sighting of 150 **Indigo Buntings** flying out of a single food plot was witnessed at Greencove Wetlands, *Washington* 10/4. There were 160 total Indigos there that day. **Dickcissels** were noted only in three southeastern counties 9/21-25 and 11/15.

The imperiled **Rusty Blackbird** was noted in 27 counties and in some decent numbers in some of those—an encouraging showing, or at least a departure from the past few autumns. A **Brewer's Blackbird** visited a feeder in *Forest* 11/18. For the third year in a row, a **Baltimore Oriole** arrived at a feeder in Middletown, *Bucks* in November, this year 11/22.

There was just one report for each of three winter finches: **Red Crossbill** in *Fulton* 9/23, 15 **White-winged Crossbills** in *Somerset* 11/22, and **Evening Grosbeak** in *Erie* 11/15. **Common Redpoll** was noted in November at Hawk Mountain and in *Erie* and *Luzerne*. None of these species was anticipated to show well and that did indeed come to pass. Two species that were predicted to move in numbers did appear widely across the state: **Purple Finch** and **Pine Siskin**. Though neither species had a historic flight, they were found in 37 and 51 counties respectively. Counters at Hawk Mountain tallied 926 Purple finches for the season with a one-day peak of 135, and the high one-day count for them at Little Gap, *Northampton* was 75. The siskin flight saw some big numbers move through in October and November, but they did not settle in at Pennsylvania feeding stations in huge numbers and stay deep into the winter like they did in 2008. Some notable tidbits from the siskin passage this year were the (surprisingly) first ever September siskins for *Erie*, the season total of 4566 at Hawk Mountain including a one-day peak of 635, a remarkable flock of 503 in *Lebanon* 10/31 away from a hawk watch, and at least 15 counties reporting flocks or single-day totals of 50 or more.

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## Birds of Note – August through November 2014

This listing 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. Undocumented reports of review species are included in this listing but are generally excluded from most analyses of the historical record; for this reason, documentation is highly desirable for these species. The PORC Review List can be found at the PSO web site, <<http://www.pabirds.org>>.

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

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

Birds in *Italic and Underlined* typeface occur fewer than 4 out of 10 years during this time period.

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

**Greater White-fronted Goose** – *Armstrong*: 8 at Crooked Creek SP 10/7-13 (Marge Van Tassel); *Bucks*: first reported at Peace Valley Park 10/10 (ph. Dick Bell, Brandon Swayser, Scott Godshall) with sightings through 10/28, one at Pine Run Dam 10/16 (ph. August Mirabella) may have been the Peace Valley Bird, and 2 at Pine Run Dam 10/17-19 (Anthony Uhrich); *Chester*: one in Exton 11/15 (Brian Quindlen, Mike Defina) and 2 at Coatesville Res. 11/21-28 (Michael Gardner); *Crawford*: up to 8 at the Pymatuning Goose Management Area 11/16-30 (m.ob.); *Lancaster*: one on Spangler Road 11/30 (Steve Walthius); *Lebanon*: one at Spangler Road 11/29-30 (Tom Johnson, Melissa Roach, Ian Gardner, Ted Nichols II); *Lehigh*: one at Quarry St. 10/28 (Frank Dickman, eBird); *Montgomery*: one at Green Lane Park 11/25 (George Franchois); *Northampton*: one at Nazareth Quarry 11/20 (Michael Schall).

**Ross’s Goose** – *Westmoreland*: one at St. Vincent Wetland 11/29 (ph. Matthew Juskowich).

**Chen sp.** – *Allegheny*: one juvenile at North Park 11/22-23 (Dick Nugent, Geoff Malosh) and seen elsewhere in McCandless Twp. 11/24 had intermediate characters that led to some disagreement among observers over whether it was a hybrid or a pure Ross’s.

**Brant** – *Berks*: one at Kernsville Dam Recreation Area 11/3 (Kerry Grim); *Bucks*: one at Lake Towhee Park 10/19-11/3 (Devich Farbotnik, m.ob.), one at Peace Valley Park 11/7 (August Mirabella) and 11/17 (Devich Farbotnik), and possibly the same bird at Pine Run Dam 11/15 (Ken Rieker); *Carbon*: one at Beltzville S.P. 11/5-14 (Rich Rehrig, eBird); *Huntingdon*: flocks at Stone Mountain included 30 on 11/15 and 40 on 11/18 (Nick Bolgiano); *Indiana*: one at Yellow Creek State Park 11/4-11 (Lee Carnahan, Tom Glover; Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Donna Meyer; Richard Nugent); *Lancaster*: one juv. at Beechdale Rd. 10/25 (Frank Haas, Barb Haas) and one on the Susquehanna R. 11/1 (Mike Epler); *Northampton*: a few small flocks over Little Gap Hawk Watch 10/19 (Stephen Kloiber, Michael Schall, Corinne Campbell Schall); *Susquehanna*: 40 over a residence north of Montrose 10/22 (Evan Mann, eBird) and one at Quaker Lake 11/12-15 (Evan Mann, eBird).

**Trumpeter Swan** – *Bucks*: one at Lake Towhee Park 10/19-11/16 (Paul Tesse, Devich Farbotnik) was seen again at Nockamixon State Park 11/20-21; *Butler*: 6 at Moraine State Park 11/23-30 (Patrick Lister, Richard Nugent, m.ob., eBird); *Erie*: one at Presque Isle State Park 8/12 (Shannon Thompson, Alyssa Karmann, eBird); *Lycoming*: a wing-tagged bird (M05) continued from summer at Muncy Boat Launch 8/8-10/3 (David Brown, m.ob.); *Mercer*: a bird

originally tagged in Ohio was apparently shot and injured and eventually rescued by the PGC 11/26 at Shenango River Res.

**Eurasian Wigeon** – *Crawford*: one at the Pymatuning Fish Hatchery 10/20-11/15 (Thomas Clare Nicolls).

**Eider sp.\*** – *Erie*: one flew past Sunset Point, Presque Isle 11/2 (Jerry McWilliams, no doc).

**Harlequin Duck** – *Erie*: up to four at Sunset Point 10/24-11/19 (Jerry McWilliams).

**Pacific Loon\*** – *Erie*: one off Sunset Point 11/23 (ph. Jerry McWilliams, Roger Donn, doc submitted).

**Eared Grebe\*** – *Erie*: one passed Sunset Point 11/21 (Jerry McWilliams); *Northampton*: one at Nazareth Quarry 11/1-4 (Michael Schall, Corinne Campbell Schall).

**Great Cormorant** – *Bucks*: first report for the season was 11/11-13 at Giving Pond near Uhlertown (Paul Cooper, Erich Boenzli); *Delaware*: one at John Heinz NWR 10/5 (Tom Bush) and one on the Delaware River 11/7 (Al Guarente); *Lancaster*: one on the Susquehanna River 10/29 (Tom Raub); *Northampton*: one at Minsi Lake 11/1 (Michael Schall, Corinne Campbell Schall).

**American White Pelican** – *Lancaster*: one at the Conejohela Flats 9/17-20 (Mike Epler, Tim Becker).

**Snowy Egret** – *Lancaster*: one at Muddy Run 8/25 (Tom Raub) and one at Riverfront Park in Marietta 9/1 (Tom Raub); *Philadelphia*: 3 at John Heinz N.W.R. 9/21 (Todd Fellenbaum) and one present there for about two weeks to 10/17 (m.ob.).

**Little Blue Heron** – *Berks*: one immature at Blue Mt. Academy 8/11-26 (Matt Wlasniewski, m.ob.); *Bucks*: one juv. at Upper Makefield Firehouse 8/14 (Mark Gallagher), one at Peace Valley Park 9/21-10/4 (ph. August Mirabella, Judy Mirabella), one at Peace Valley Park 10/19 (Anna Cancian), and one at Nockamixon State Park 10/1-4 (ph. Erich Boenzli); *Chester*: 2 remained at Exton Park from the summer season to the end of Aug (m.ob.); *Dauphin*: 2 imm. at Wildwood Lake 8/8 (Sandy Lockerman, Dave Kerr) remained to 9/11, and one at Three Mile Island 8/18 (Gordon Dimmig); *Lancaster*: one imm. at Middle Creek W.M.A. 8/17-9/10 (Mike Epler, Bruce Carl, m.ob.), one at Falmouth 8/19 (Larry Bernhardt, Ethan Weaver), and one at Muddy Run 8/25 (Tom Raub); *Luzerne*: one juv. at Plymouth Flats continued from July to 8/3 (Bruce Johnson); *Philadelphia*: juvs. at John Heinz N.W.R. 8/14 and 9/2 (Todd Fellenbaum).

**Cattle Egret\*** – *Bedford*: one at Dunnings Creek Wetlands 8/10 (Tom Dick); *Bucks*: one at Giving Pond 10/26 (August Mirabella, Judy Mirabella, doc submitted); *Chester*: one at Laurels Preserve 11/5 (Kevin Fryberger); *Dauphin*: one in a

field off the Pennsylvania Turnpike near mile marker 256 on 8/3 (Ed Bernot); *Juniata*: six near Thompsettown 10/31 (ph. Dick Hart); *Luzerne*: one at the Wyoming Valley Airport 11/1-3 (Kevin Ripka); *Mercer*: 4 in a dairy pasture on Scrubgrass Road east of Mercer 11/7-13 (Mark Vass); *Schuylkill*: one near Pine Grove 8/3 (Lee Wells, Audrey Wells). (No doc for any except Bucks)

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** – *Montgomery*: one juv. at Norristown Dam 8/7-10 (Mike Rosengarten) was joined by an adult 8/8 (Paul Driver), and two juvs. at a residential swimming pool in Norristown 8/22 (ph. Katelyn Ruth); *York*: one at York Haven 8/30 (William Clifton, Keith Richardson).

**White Ibis\*** – *Philadelphia*: one continued at John Heinz N.W.R. from the summer to 8/1 (George Armistead, m.ob., no doc).

**Glossy Ibis** – *Indiana*: one at Yellow Creek State Park 9/11-25 (Lee Carnahan) was the third for the county; *Lancaster*: one at the Chestnut Grove Nature Area 8/7 (Meredith Lombard); *Montgomery*: one over Ft. Washington S.P. 9/8 (Rich Conroy), and one at Green Lane Park 10/6 (W. Brian Henderson) was likely one of 3 Plegadis sp. seen there earlier in the day (George Franchois).

**White-tailed Kite\*** – *Bucks*: one seen briefly at East Rockhill Twp. 8/7 (Hart Rufe, Jewel Rufe, doc submitted) would represent the first state record (added to the provisional list) if accepted by PORC.

**Mississippi Kite\*** – *Huntingdon/Mifflin*: one at Stone Mountain 9/22 (David Kyler, Trudy Kyler, no doc).

**Swainson's Hawk\*** – *Berks*: 2 flying into *Berks* airspace at SGL 117 on 9/12 (Doug Wood, no doc); *Lebanon*: one light morph at Second Mountain 10/11 (Morris Cox, Tom Weber, no doc).

**American Avocet** – *Adams*: one at Long Pine Run Res. 8/19 (Susan and Josh Donaldson); *Allegheny*: one flying over a Pine Twp. yard 8/24 (Pat Lynch, Sherron Lynch) was the fifth for the county; *Centre*: one at Bald Eagle S.P. 8/12 (Michael Dreibelbis) and one there again 9/2 (Rob Dickerson, Bob Snyder, Matthew Sabatine); *Erie*: season total of 9 from 8/20-9/7 at Gull Point (Roger Donn, et al.); *Luzerne*: one at the Forty Fort Rec Fields 8/21 (Rick Koval, Stan Galenty); *Somerset*: 17 at Somerset Lake 8/12 (Jeff Payne) and 2 there 8/13 (Mike Lanzone); *Westmoreland*: one juv. at Ethel Springs Res. 8/13 (ph. Chuck Kuchta); *York*: one at Lake Redman 9/10 (Mary Creager).

**Willet** – *Beaver*: one flyover at Little Blue Lake 8/31 (Geoff Malosh); *Erie*: singles at Gull Point from 8/12-31 (Roger Donn, Drew Mortensen); *Somerset*: several at Somerset Lake 8/14-24 and 9/1 (Andy McGann, Mike Lanzone).

**Upland Sandpiper** – *Erie*: one over Gull Point 8/20 (Shannon Thompson); *Lancaster*: up to 5 at the Lancaster Airport 8/7-17 (Meredith Lombard, Eric Witmer, Bruce Carl) and one along Rte. 472 near Spruce Road 8/16 (Dave Smart); *Montgomery*: 2 recorded (audio) migrating over Elkins Park 8/18 (Paul Driver); *Somerset*: one at Summit Mills 8/27 (Elmer Brenneman).

**Whimbrel** – *Erie*: total of 9 at Gull Point 8/1-9/2 (m.ob.).

**Hudsonian Godwit** – *Erie*: one at Gull Point 9/2 (Diane Kallor, Ruth Swaney).

**Marbled Godwit** – *Erie*: one at Gull Point 8/31 (Roger Donn).

**Ruddy Turnstone** – *Erie*: up to 5 at Gull Point 8/12-9/22.

**Red Knot** – *Erie*: one at Gull Point 9/7 (Dan and Gina Rubino).

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper** – *Centre*: one on Tusseyville Road with 70 Killdeer 9/1-2 (Matthew Rockmore); *Erie*: 3 birds seen from 9/7-9/23 at Gull Point (Dan and Gina Rubino, Roger Donn, Ruth Swaney); *Huntingdon*: up to 3 at Pennsylvania Furnace Road 9/1-6 (Gordon Dimmig, m.ob.); *Lancaster*: one or 2 at a sod farm on Graystone Rd. 9/12-21 (Ted Nichols II, Zachary Millen); *Lebanon*: one at Kreider's Retention Pond 9/5 (Timothy Becker).

**Western Sandpiper** – *Dauphin*: one at Wildwood Lake 9/4-6 (Steve Dale, Paul Banks, Mark Markiewicz, Chris Markiewicz); *Lancaster*: singles at the Conejohela Flats 8/20 and 9/2 (Mike Epler); *Lebanon*: one at the Reistville and Prescott Rd. ponds 9/12-13 (Randy Miller, Gary Robson, Don Billett, Timothy Becker, Bruce Carl); *Somerset*: 2 at Somerset Lake 8/12 (Jeff Payne).

**Long-billed Dowitcher** – *Lawrence*: one juv. at Black Swamp 11/5-13 (Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, m.ob.); *Lebanon*: one at the Reistville and Prescott Rd. ponds 9/27-10/5 (Bruce Carl, Randy Miller, Ted Nichols II, Timothy Becker, Kathy Becker).

**Wilson's Phalarope** – *Beaver*: one juv. at Little Blue Lake 8/27 (Bill Brown, Ryan McDermott) and 8/31 (Geoff Malosh); *Crawford*: one at Tamarack Lake 8/18 (Ken Pinnow) and one at the Pymatuning Goose Management Area 8/22 (Mark Vass, et al.).

**Red-necked Phalarope** – *Lancaster*: one at the Conejohela Flats 9/15 (Charles Mohn).

**Red Phalarope\*** – *Erie*: 2 very early birds flew past Gull Point 9/14 (Dan Richards, Mike Weible), and one passed Sunset Point 11/2 (Jerry McWilliams).

**Parasitic Jaeger\*** – *Erie*: total of 4 juveniles at Sunset Point 10/4-24 and one there 11/18 (Jerry McWilliams, no doc).

**Long-tailed Jaeger\*** – *Chester*: one flyover at Rushton Farm 8/25 (Andrew Leidig, Brian Quindlen, Chad Hutchinson, Mike Defina, doc submitted).

**Sabine's Gull\*** – *Crawford*: one at the Pymatuning Spillway 9/5 (Mark Vass) stayed to 9/7 and was seen by dozens of birders (doc submitted).

**Little Gull** – *Erie*: four adults seen periodically 10/4-11/1 at Sunset Point and the channel (Jerry McWilliams).

**Iceland Gull** – *Lebanon*: one at Lion's Lake 11/24 (Randy Miller); *Pike*: one first cycle bird at Lake Wallenpaupack 11/23 (Michael Schall, Corinne Campbell Schall).

**Gull-billed Tern\*** – *Philadelphia*: 2 at John Heinz N.W.R. 8/12 (Frank Windfelder, no doc).

**Black Tern** – *Allegheny*: singles at Imperial 8/3 and 9/1 (both Mark Vass); *Berks*: 8 at Lake Ontelaunee 8/12 (Dan Altif) and 11 at Blue Marsh Lake 9/4 (Joan Silagy); *Blair*: one at Canoe Creek State Park 8/31-9/1 (Michael David); *Bucks*: 4 at Mud Island 9/6 and one there 9/13 (Devich Farbotnik); *Butler*: 24 at Bear Run on Lake Arthur 8/31 (Mark Vass, ebird); *Cambria*: 9 at Duman's Dam 8/31 (Dave Gobert); *Centre*: 2 at Colyer Lake 8/12 (Michael Dreibelbis, et al.) and up to 7 at Bald Eagle State Park 8/12 and 8/31 (Michael Dreibelbis, et al.); *Chester*: one at Chambers Lake 8/31 (Rick Robinson); *Erie*: one at Gull Point 8/16 (Ruth Swaney); *Franklin*: one at Greencastle Reservoir 8/20 (Carl Garner); *Huntingdon*: one at Lake Perez 8/12 (Jon Kauffman); *Indiana*: at least 18 and possibly 26 at Yellow Creek State Park 8/12 (Lee Carnahan, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee) and 8 there 8/31 (Deb Grove, Greg Grove); *Lebanon*: one at Kreider's Retention Pond 9/2-3 (Timothy Becker, Steve Rannels); *Monroe*: one at Lynchwood Lake 8/23 (ph. Bruce Johnson); *Montour*: 6 at Montour Preserve 8/12 (Andy Keister, eBird); *Somerset*: one at Somerset Lake 8/27 (Andy McGann) and over 50 there 9/1 (Mike Lanzone).

**Common Tern** – *Bucks*: 40 at Peace Valley Park 9/21 (August Mirabella, Judy Mirabella, Devich Farbotnik); *Carbon*: 2 at Beltzville S.P. 9/25 (Rob Bergstresser, Bob Maskey, ph. Rich Rehrig, eBird); *Erie*: up to 75 around Gull Point and the eastern end of Presque Isle 8/1-10/27 (m.ob.); *Lancaster*: one at the Conejohela Flats 8/31 (Eric Witmer), 2 at Peach Bottom 9/10 (Larry Bernhardt), and one at Peach Bottom 9/19 (Mike Epler); *Somerset*: 3 at Somerset Lake 8/12 (Scott Bastian).

**Eurasian Collared-Dove** – *Bucks*: one likely bird at Rushland though 9/29 (Marya Halderman); *Centre*: one 9/6 in Pine Grove Mills (Jon Kauffman); *Franklin*: present 8/5-9/16

near Greencaste Reservoir with a peak of up to 80 on 9/9 (Carl Garner, Dale Gearhart); *Lancaster*: one at a sod farm on Graystone Rd. (Mike Epler).

**White-winged Dove\*** – *Bucks*: one on private property at Plumstead Twp. 9/18-19 (ph. Kelly Parsons, *doc submitted*).

**Snowy Owl** – *Berks* one at Morgantown 11/10-11 (Karin Leisser-Haley, Stephanie Dean); *Cumberland*: one at Camp Hill 11/25 (Deuane Hoffman) was relocated in *Dauphin* 11/30, it was found to be injured and taken to a rehabilitator; *Erie*: one on a house in Erie 11/12 (*fide* Bonnie Ginader) and one at Gull Point 11/15 (Larry Slomsky *fide* Michele Franz).

**Long-eared Owl** – *Bucks*: one at Peace Valley Park 11/30 (Jessica Huff, August Mirabella).

**Rufous Hummingbird** – *Chester*: one juv. female in Landenberg throughout November (Gail Bush) was banded; *Erie*: one adult female at Albion 9/28-10/30 (Mike and Wendy Lipinsky) was banded; *Lancaster*: one juv. male at Akron 11/15-21 (Bruce Carl, Larry Bernhardt, Zachary Millen); *Mercer*: one adult female at North Vernon Rd. from early Oct to 11/19 (Rosie Yoder, Neil Troyer) was banded 11/15; *Montgomery*: one imm. male identified by photo (Scott Weidensaul) at a Montgomeryville residence 9/30-10/28 (Robert and Claudine Kutler).

**Selasphorus sp.** – *Bucks*: one 9/14-28 (ph. Bill Keim); *Northampton*: one at the Koch property 8/24 (Arlene Koch).

**Crested Caracara\*** – *Washington*: one adult on Pleasant Valley Road outside Claysville 9/12-13 (ph. Holly McChesney, *doc submitted*) would represent the first record for Pennsylvania if accepted.

**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher\*** – *Lebanon*: one at N. Fort Zellers Rd. 10/25-26 (Michael Murphy, Timothy Becker, Kathy Becker, Don Billett, Florence Billett, *doc submitted*).

**Northern Shrike** – *Allegheny*: one at Imperial 11/15-16 (Mark Vass); *Bedford*: one at Whitetail Wetlands 11/8 (Chad Kauffman) and at Dunnings Creek Wetlands 11/9 (Tom Dick); *Centre*: one at Bald Eagle S.P. 11/1 (Bob Snyder); *Clarion*: one at Mount Zion 11/23 (Carole Winslow); *Crawford*: one at Woodcock Lake 10/11 and one on McMichael Road 11/2 (both Ronald F. Leberman, Isaac Field); *Delaware*: one at John Heinz NWR 11/4 (Todd Fellenbaum), same bird as in *Philadelphia*; *Lancaster*: one at Middle Creek W.M.A. 11/8 (Mike Epler), same bird as in *Lebanon*; *Lawrence*: one at Black Swamp 11/9 (ph. Theo Rickert) through the season; *Lebanon*: one at Middle Creek W.M.A. 11/8 (Mike Epler), same bird as in *Lancaster*; *Philadelphia*: one at John Heinz N.W.R. beginning 10/30 (Todd Fellenbaum), same bird as in *Delaware*.

**Sedge Wren** – *Chester*: one at Hibernia County Park 10/17-20 (Arthur Steinberger, m.ob.); *Lancaster*: one at Octoraro Res. 10/19 (Tom Raub); *Lawrence*: up to 3 at Black Swamp 10/10-17 (ph. Geoff Malosh, Shannon Thompson); *Mercer*: one at an undisclosed location 9/15-19 (Neil Troyer).

**Golden-winged Warbler** – *Blair*: one at Frosty Hollow 8/1 (Lowell Burket); *Bucks*: one or 2 at Peace Valley Park 8/21 (Elaine Crunkleton, Chuck Crunkleton); *Huntingdon*: one at Red Rose Road 8/28 (Jon Kauffman); *Lancaster*: one at SGL 156 on 9/3 (Bruce Carl, Larry Bernhardt, Jim Fiorentino); *Montgomery*: singles at Evansburg S.P. 8/9 (W. Brian Henderson), Carl Kohler Park 8/15 (Anthony Uhrich), Lorimer Park 8/28 (Linda Widdop), and Plymouth Meeting 9/6 (Paul Bernhardt); *Pike*: one at SGL 180 on 8/4 (ph. Josh Jones).

**Brewster's Warbler** – *Allegheny*: one at Sewickley Park 9/12 (Geoff Malosh et al.); *Blair*: one at Frosty Hollow 8/1 (Lowell Burket).

**Lawrence's Warbler** – *Northampton*: one at the Koch property 8/3 (Arlene Koch); *Pike*: one at SGL 180 on 8/4 (ph. Josh Jones).

**Spotted Towhee\*** – *Chester*: one at Coventry Woods Preserve

10/17 (Patty Werth, *no doc*).

**Clay-colored Sparrow** – *Allegheny*: one in a Pine Twp. yard 10/14 (Pat Lynch, Sherron Lynch); *Philadelphia*: one at the Delaware River Trail 8/23 (ph. George Armistead).

**Le Conte's Sparrow\*** – *Chester*: one at Chambers Lake 10/11 (Rick Robinson, Larry Lewis, *no doc*).

**Nelson's Sparrow** – *Allegheny*: one at Wingfield Pines 10/1 (Shannon Thompson); *Bucks*: one at Bradford Dam 10/11 (Gail Johnson), and single birds at Pine Run Dam 10/16-18 (August Mirabella, Paul Cooper, Devich Farbotnik, ph. Scott Godshall, ph. Anthony Ulrich); *Centre*: three at Bald Eagle State Park 10/11-13 (Matthew Sabatine, et al.), one at Colyer Lake 10/17 (Rob Dickerson), and one or 2 at Curtin Wetland 10/19-21 (Matthew Sabatine, Ian Garder); *Chester*: one at Chambers Lake 9/27 (Bill Keim); *Clinton*: one at Mill Hall Wetlands 10/11, 10/19, and 10/21 (Matthew Sabatine, eBird); *Dauphin*: one at the Hershey IBA #45 on 10/21 (Ed Bernot); *Huntingdon*: one at Old Crow Wetlands 10/18 (Matt Sabatine); *Lancaster*: up to 4 on the Bainbridge Islands 9/28-10/6 (m.ob.) and 7 there 10/11 (Eric Witmer, Mike Epler, Tom Garner, Meredith Lombard).

**Seaside Sparrow\*** – *Lancaster*: one at the Bainbridge Islands 10/4-6 (Bruce Carl, Eric Witmer, *doc submitted*).

**Harris's Sparrow\*** – *Northampton*: one at the Koch property from 11/17 into the winter (Arlene Koch, *doc submitted*).

**Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow\*** – *Northampton*: one at the Koch property 11/22-30 (Arlene Koch, *no doc*).

**Summer Tanager\*** – *Chester*: one at Okehocking Preserve 9/27 (Andrew Leidig, Brian Raicich, *no doc*); *Montgomery*: one first year male at Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust 8/23 (Harris Brown, Frances Ventura, *no doc*); *Washington*: one female at the Washington Elementary School 9/10 (Roy Ickes, *no doc*).

**Western Tanager\*** – *Lebanon*: one at Grantville 9/8 (Timothy Becker, *doc submitted*).

**Painted Bunting\*** – *Berks*: one imm. at Kernsville Dam Recreation Area 9/15 (Kerry Grim, *no doc*).

**Dickcissel** – *Bucks*: one at Maple Knoll Farms, Buckingham Twp. 11/15-16 (Richard Smith, Phillip Stollsteimer); *Dauphin*: one at the Hershey IBA #45 from 9/23-25 (ph. Bob Hench); *Montgomery*: one at Norristown Farm Park 9/18 (W. Brian Henderson) and one at Fort Washington S.P. 9/21 (Andrew Albright, Chris Dooley, Mike Rosengarten).

**Brewer's Blackbird\*** – *Forest*: one at a feeder near Tionesta 11/18 (Flo McGuire, Jim McGuire, *doc submitted*).

**Red Crossbill** – *Fulton*: one female passed Tuscarora Mountain hawkwatch 9/23 (Carl Garner).

**White-winged Crossbill** – *Somerset*: 15 at the Payne property 11/22 (Jeff Payne).

**Evening Grosbeak** – *Erie*: one at a feeder in Harborcreek 11/15 (Michele Franz).

#### ADDENDA:

**Little Blue Heron** – *Juniata*: one adult at Muskrat Springs 7/24-30/2014 (Chad Kauffman, Aden Troyer).

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** – *Juniata*: one juvenile at Muskrat Springs 7/24-30/2014 (Chad Kauffman, Aden Troyer).

#### CORRIGENDA:

In Volume 28, No. 2 (spring 2014), the report of an adult **Little Blue Heron** in *Berks* 4/25 was listed at an incorrect location. The correct location was Turnpike Pond, Morgantown.

In Volume 28, No. 3 (summer 2014), the report of 11 **American Avocets** at Prince Gallitzin S.P., *Cambria* 7/14 should have been credited to Renee and Kathy Lubert.

## Photographic Highlights



**Brant (*Branta bernicla*).** Brant are much more common in eastern Pennsylvania than in the west during fall migration, though even in the east it's still a treat to see one well. This cooperative juvenile was at Lake Towhee Park, Bucks 19 October to 3 November 2014 (here 23 October) and was seen by many. (Bill Keim)



**Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*).** It was not a good showing of Snowy Egrets, which were recorded in just two counties this fall. This bird at Muddy Run, Lancaster 25 August 2014 was one of two in Lancaster this season. (Tom Raub)



**Chen Sp.** This bird at North Park, Allegheny 22 to (here) 23 November 2014 was very likely a juvenile Ross's Goose, but the apparently intermediate structure of the bird's bill raised the (albeit slim) possibility of a hybrid Ross's x Snow, and gave some observers pause before adding it to their lists. (Geoff Malosh)



**Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*).** Little Blue Heron fared better than their Snowy cousins, with records in seven counties. These two juveniles were at Wildwood Lake, Dauphin 8 August (here) to 11 September 2014, a nice long stay that allowed dozens of birders the chance to see them. (Dave Kerr)



**Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*).** Red-necked Grebes appeared in 10 counties and Erie (where annual), a strong showing by fall season standards. This bird was at Middle Creek W.M.A., Lancaster 14 October (here 19 October) to 5 November 2014. (Nick Pulcinella)



**Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*).** A great find for western Pennsylvania was this Glossy Ibis at Yellow Creek State Park, Indiana 11 to 25 September 2014 (here 15 September), which also obliged hopeful birders with a long stay. (Michael David)



**American Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*).** Gull Point in *Erie* has always been the premiere shorebirding spot in Pennsylvania, and in recent years has enjoyed a renaissance following some positive habitat management at the site. This avocet at the point 20 August 2014 was one of nine for the season. (Shannon Thompson)



**Western Sandpiper (*Calidris mauri*).** There are sporadic reports of Western Sandpiper most fall seasons, but few are well documented by photo. That was not the case for this juvenile at Wildwood Lake, *Dauphin* 4 to (here) 6 September 2014, which was photographed quite nicely. (Steve Dale)



**Semipalmated Sandpiper (*Calidris pusilla*).** Little Blue Lake in *Beaver* was briefly famous in the mid-2000s as a shorebird hotspot before it became inaccessible to the public. This season a productive section of the lake was again visible from public areas, and it was quickly found that the lake was still quite attractive to shorebirds. These birds were part of a flock of at least 91 (and perhaps as many as 120) Semis at the lake 31 August 2014, more than doubling the next highest count of this species at any other location in Pennsylvania this season. (Geoff Malosh)



**Long-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus scolopaceus*).** This juvenile at Black Swamp, *Lawrence* 5 to 13 November 2014 (here 12 November) was the last of three star attractions at Black Swamp this season, which drew the attention of birders from around the region. The other two headliners were two very cooperative Stilt Sandpipers and up to three equally cooperative (for most observers, anyway) Sedge Wrens that were present in October. (Jeff McDonald)



**Sanderling (*Calidris alba*).** Sanderlings seem to be found in "inland" counties (away from *Erie*) increasingly often in fall. This juvenile at Bald Eagle State Park 16 September 2014 was one of as many as four at that location this autumn. (Wayne Laubscher)



**Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucooides*).** Just one of two found in the state before the close of the season, this first cycle Kumlien's was an outstanding find for *Pike* at Lake Wallenpaupack 23 November 2014. (Michael Schall)





**Black Tern (*Chlidonias niger*).** There were an impressive 20 records of Black Tern in 12 counties this season, and at least six of those records were associated with the passage of a weather system 31 August 2014. This juvenile was one of an impressive 24 at Lake Arthur, *Butler* during the 31 August event. (*Aiden Place*)



**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (*Empidonax flaviventris*).** Yellow-bellied Flycatcher is oft reported in fall but seldom photographed. This bird at Peck Hill, *Bradford* 1 September 2014 was a nice exception to the rule. (*George Vivino-Hintze*)



**Eastern Whip-poor-will (*Antrostomus vociferous*).** Whips are rarely seen on their day roosts, making this bird at Washington Park, *Washington* 28 August 2014 a special treat for a few lucky birders. (*Cris Hamilton*)



**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*).** For the second autumn in a row a Scissor-tail made an appearance in Pennsylvania. This bird was at N. Fort Zellers Road, *Lebanon* 25 (here) to 26 October 2014. (*Michael Murphy*)



**Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*).** Several Ruby-throats extended their stays well into October this season, perhaps owing to the rather mild weather for much of September and October. This bird was one of 3 at Longwood Gardens, *Chester* 10 October 2014. (*Holly Merker*)



**Philadelphia Vireo (*Vireo philadelphicus*).** Much more common in fall than spring, Philadelphia Vireo is one of the gems of the fall passerine migration in Pennsylvania. This outstanding portrait was made at Downingtown, *Chester* 3 October 2014. (*Holly Merker*)



**Sedge Wren (*Cistothorus platensis*).** Another star at Black Swamp, Lawrence this season was this Sedge Wren, one of up to 3 at the swamp 10 to 17 October 2014 (here 12 October). Normally shy, the birds at Black Swamp this fall were (for the most part) anything but, as demonstrated by this excellent portrait. (Dave Inman)



**Sunspot AR2192, the moon, and American Robins.** With the sun low in the sky during a partial solar eclipse that was visible from Pennsylvania late in the afternoon 23 October 2014, three American Robins passed in front of the solar disk during a photo session of the eclipse. Giant sunspot AR2192 is large the indistinct marking just below center, and the robins are the three silhouettes above and to the right of the sunspot. (Geoff Malosh)



**Marsh Wren (*Cistothorus palustris*).** Normally rare in Allegheny, Marsh Wrens have become frequent fall visitors to the splendid wetlands at Wingfield Pines. Up to 2 were present beginning 19 September 2014 and at least one stayed deep into the winter season. The bird shown here was one of two at the wetlands 29 September. (Geoff Malosh)



**Lawrence's Warbler.** This beautiful Lawrence's Warbler was a great find (and photo) at SGL 180, Pike 4 August 2014. Though Brewster's Warblers are found nearly annually in the fall, Lawrence's is far more unusual, making this image that much more special. (Josh Jones)



**Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*).** Few "half hardy" species were reported following the onset of an abnormally deep freeze in mid-November. One exception was this Brown Thrasher still making a go of it in the snow at Tionesta, Forest through at least 29 November 2014, shown here 20 November. (Flo McGuire)



**Orange-crowned Warbler (*Oreothlypis celata*).** Orange-crowns are perhaps a bit over-reported in Pennsylvania in fall, due to the possibility of confusion with other confusing fall warblers. That was not the case with this cooperative bird, however, at Old Crow Wetland, Huntingdon 20 October 2014. (Gordon Dimmig, gwd-photography.com)



**Connecticut Warbler (*Oporornis agilis*).** It was one of the better seasons in recent memory for Connecticut Warbler, with reports from 18 counties. This image was very nicely captured at Little Gap, *Carbon* 21 September 2014. (*Dustin Welch*)



**Clay-colored Sparrow (*Spizella pallida*).** This clay-colored at the Delaware River Trail, *Philadelphia* 24 August 2014 was quite early for a migrant of this species in the far southeastern corner of the state. (*George Armistead*)



**Black-throated Blue Warbler (*Setophaga caerulescens*).** Portraits of this striking species don't get much better than this remarkable image made at Downingtown, *Chester* 9 October 2014. (*Holly Merker*)



**Seaside Sparrow (*Ammodramus maritimus*).** Pennsylvania's sixth (if accepted) Seaside Sparrow was present on the Bainbridge Islands, *Lancaster*, in the middle of the Susquehanna, 4 to 6 October 2014 (here 5 October). It was seen by several birders who made the trek to the site via canoe, but proved difficult (yet not impossible) to pin down for photos. (*Eric Witmer*)

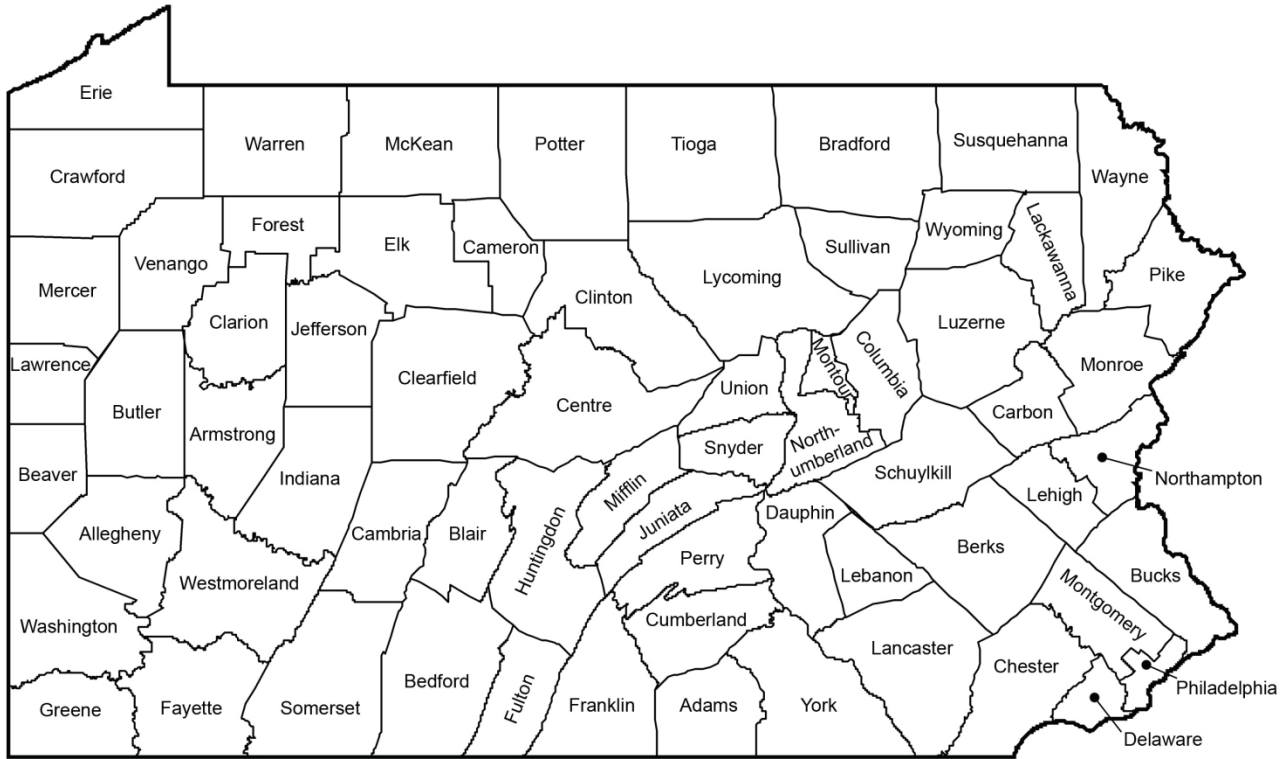


**Palm Warbler (*Setophaga palmarum*).** Dustin Welch, a long-time contributor to this section of *Pennsylvania Birds*, has been demonstrating for some time that Little Gap, *Carbon* is a fine place for warbler photography. This image of a Palm Warbler captured there 21 September 2014 is yet another fine example of his work, and Little Gap's potential. (*Dustin Welch*)



**Purple Finch (*Haemorhous purpureus*).** Purple Finches moved in impressive numbers this fall, with reports in 37 counties by season's end. This male was beautifully photographed at Peace Valley Park, *Bucks* 28 October 2014. (*Nick Pulcinella*)

# Local Notes – August to November 2014



## ABBREVIATIONS

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

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

Citation: eBird. 2012. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance [web application]. eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, New York. Available: <http://www.ebird.org>. (Accessed: 30 November 2013)

## Adams County

Locations: Crooked Creek Wetlands (CCW), Gettysburg National Military Park (GNMP), Lake Meade (LM), Long Arm Reservoir (LAR), Long Pine Run Reservoir (LPRR), Mountain Road (MTN), State Game Lands #249 (SGL),

The 153 species found this period represented a very good fall migration. Waterfowl provided a few highlights. The Crooked Creek Wetlands has been producing reports only in the last year. This season **Wood Duck**, **Northern Shoveler**, **Northern Pintail**, **Green-winged Teal**, and **American Coot** were observed during expected date ranges (ED, PM, AW). A flock of 25 **Gadwall** was at Gettysburg College Quarry 11/20 (AW) and LPRR held 2 **American Black Duck** 10/19 (RGTS). A survey of farm ponds and other water bodies in southern Adams 11/13 (RDS), produced a **Canvasback**, 4 **Bufflehead**, 6 **Ruddy Duck**, and a **Pied-billed Grebe**. LPRR produced the surprise of the period: 2 first year **Surf Scoters** 10/14 (MB, VG, CK, BO, AW).

A bit late were 3 **Double-crested Cormorants** at LM 11/23 (JV). **Great Egrets** were at Devonshire Village 9/4-10/12 (AT) and CCW held one 9/6-18 (ED, RDS). SGL produced the high count of 14 **Green Herons** 8/8 (PK). There were 10 reports of **Bald Eagle** (m.ob.). A juvenile **Golden Eagle** flying over Rte. 15 on 11/14 (AW) was notable.

Notable shorebirds included an **American Avocet** at LPRR 8/19 (SJD), a **Greater Yellowlegs** at LAR 9/8 (HM), a **Semipalmated Sandpiper** at CCW 9/6 (ED), a **Pectoral Sandpiper** at LAR 11/10 (DK, PO), a **Wilson's Snipe** at LAR 9/8 (HM), and an **American Woodcock** at MTN 11/8 (RDS). LPRR held a **Bonaparte's Gull** 10/14 (RGTS) and **Herring Gulls** were at LM 11/9-13 (JV).

**Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were at SGL 8/18 (PK) and 9/1 (DJG). High count for **Common Nighthawk** was just 4 at LM 9/1 (JV). All expected woodpeckers were well reported. Highlights included 4 adult and 3 juvenile **Red-headed Woodpeckers** at SGL 8/8 (PK) and 3 **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** at Ridge Road 10/16 (ED). A **Merlin** was at LPRR 11/24 (AW).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at MTN 9/23 (RDS). The only report of **Yellow-throated Vireo** came from Gordon Road 8/3 (TC). Reports of

**Blue-headed Vireo** (five) were up including a nice count of 4 at SGL 10/13 (VG, CK). Birders continued to detect the range expansion of **Common Raven**. Ten observations spanning the full reporting period covered locations to the west and east limits of the county. **Horned Larks** were limited to 8 birds at Possum Hollow Road 9/6 and 11/28 (PK) and 5 along Ridge Road 11/12 (DN). Four **Black-capped Chickadees** were at Conewago Creek Campground (elevation 875 feet) 8/24 (JV). Two **Red-breasted Nuthatches** at Gettysburg 11/9 (NL) represented the only report. A **Winter Wren** was at Ridge Road 11/24 (ED). Reports of both species of kinglets were confined to 10/2-29, a smaller window than typical for this period. There were five reports of **Golden-crowned Kinglet** and six reports of **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**. Fifty **Eastern Bluebirds** at MTN 9/23 (RDS) must have been a special treat. A pair of **Hermit Thrushes** was at Ridge Road 10/15-21 (ED). Flyovers of **American Pipit** were detected at Gettysburg College 11/3 and 11/25 (both AW).

The 18 species of warbler was about average for recent years. More noteworthy sightings included tardy **Blackburnian Warbler** and **Bay-breasted Warbler** at SGL 10/13 (VG, CK). A **Connecticut Warbler** was a nice find at GNMP 9/30 (CT). Sparrow highlights included a **Chipping Sparrow** lingering to 11/23 at LM (JV), 4 **Savannah Sparrows** at GNMP 10/2 (BG), a **Grasshopper Sparrow** at SGL 9/12 (ED), and a **Fox Sparrow** 11/8-24 (RDS) at MTN. A **Lincoln's Sparrow** and **Swamp Sparrow** were good finds along Zeigler Mill Road 10/13 (VG,CK). Four **Swamp Sparrows** were also at CCW 10/13 (AW). There were nine reports of **White-crowned Sparrow** with the high count of 11 at Plank Road 11/27 (DB).

The only **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was at Gettysburg College 9/26 (AW). There were four reports of **Eastern Meadowlark** 9/6-10/3, with a high of 12 at GNMP 10/2 (BG). An estimated 2500 **Common Grackles** moved through the county 10/2 (AW). A late **Orchard Oriole** was at SGL 9/1 (DJG). **Purple Finches** were numerous with nine reports spanning 10/13-11/23 (m. ob.). Single **Pine Siskins** at Ridge Road (ED) and a trio at Plank Road (DB) 11/27 were the only reports.

Observers: **Phil Keener, 198 Jacobs Street, East Berlin, PA 17316, (717) 259-9984, pittche74@yahoo.com**, John Berkheimer, Mike Bertram, Dan Boritt, Ian Clarke, Thomas Cramer, Eli DePaulis, Susan & Josh Donaldson (SJD), Vern Gauthier, Ron George & Tracy Snyder (RGTS), Don & Jennifer Gilbert (DJG), Bryan Graverholz, Chad Kauffman, David Kidwell, Nancy Locher, Henry McLin, Peter Morgan, Dean Newhouse, Peter Ostenton, Bill Oyler, Jason Pietrzak, Jack Schultz, Ralph & Deb Siefken (RDS), Robin Smith, Mike Stinson, Andrew Taylor, Cheryl Teuton, Jason Verdier, Andy Wilson.

## Allegheny County

Locations: Duck Hollow (DH), Findlay Twp. (FT), Imperial (IMP), Pine Township (PT), Wingfield Pines (WP).

There was much to report during this lengthy season that includes shorebird, passerine, and waterfowl migrations with numerous highlights. A white morph **Snow Goose** was at Hampton Twp. Community Park 11/17 (DN, BSh). An interesting goose was found in North Park 11/22-23 (DN, GM, m.ob.). It was first identified as a Ross's Goose however the bird showed characters that suggested it may have been a **Ross's Goose x Snow Goose**. It was seen and photographed by several observers. It was also seen at a Trader Horn store parking lot in McCandless Twp. 11/24 (DN, KP). As of this writing, the jury was still out on this bird. November brought **Tundra Swans** to the county as usual. A flock was heard after dark flying over Sewickley Heights Park 11/12 (BMu), and the following day a flock was heard flying over Plum Borough (AH, PM). A flock of 145 flew over Shaler Twp. 11/14 (JH), a flock of unknown number flew over PT that day (SL) and one was on the Allegheny River at the Highland Park Bridge 11/22 (MJ).

There were two reports of **Gadwall**: 12 at the Moody Rd. Ponds in Findlay Twp. 11/7 (MV) and 2 on the Allegheny River at Dam #3 in Harmar Twp. 11/22 (MJ). An **American Black Duck** was at WP 10/25-30 (DN, JF, LF). **Blue-winged Teal** numbers peaked 9/21 with 20 in Leetsdale and 15 at IMP (MV). A few **Green-winged Teal** were present all season in various locations. Two **Northern Pintails** were at WP 11/6 through the month (DW, m.ob.). **Ring-necked Ducks** included 5 at the Moody Road Ponds in Findlay Twp. 10/26 (MV), one at DH 11/13 (TM, NM), and 6 at IMP 11/15 (MV). Three were reported there 11/28 (CP, JP, MGr). Single **Lesser Scaup** were at Dashields Dam 11/22 (MV) and Tarentum 11/23 (AH, PM). Two **Black Scoters** were at Dashields Dam 11/22 to at least 11/25 (MV, m.ob.) and a single bird was at DH 11/22-27 (JHa, MK ph., DWe, et al.). These represented the eighth and ninth county records. A **Long-tailed Duck** was at DH 11/27 (JS, SS). **Buffleheads** were present in ones and twos in November. A female **Common Goldeneye** was at McKees Rocks

11/21 (MJ). A great count of 40 **Hooded Mergansers** was made at McKees Rocks 11/21 (MJ) and 53 were there 11/22 (GM). A few **Common Mergansers** remained at DH all season (m.ob.). A flock was at Dashields Dam in September with a max of 14 on 9/16 (MV). A flock of 22 was at McKees Rocks 10/4 (MV). **Ruddy Ducks** were present 10/8-11/22 with a max count of 8 at DH 10/8 (MF).

Reports of **Common Loon** were all from Dashields Dam: a single was there 9/28 (MV) and another was present 11/21-28 (MV, m.ob.). A nice count of 11 **Horned Grebes** were at DH 11/27 (JS, SS). **Double-crested Cormorants** were present most of the season with a max count of 15 at Brunots Island 10/19 (MJ). An **American Bittern** was a nice find at WP 8/27-29 (MJ, et al.). Normally this species is reported only in spring; this represented just the second fall record in the past 16 years. Two other county fall records listed in Todd's *Birds of Western Pennsylvania* are from the early 1900s. **Great Egrets** included single birds at WP 8/1-8 (MJ), Boyce-Mayview Park 8/24 (MJ) and North Park 8/26-9/16 (MS, PL, JG, MJ). Normally reports are of singles so an ebird entry of 3 along the Monongahela River at Elizabeth 8/17 with photographs was noteworthy (GS). A late **Great Egret** was at DH 10/23 (MJ). Tardy **Green Herons** were at North Park (JC) and WP (RM) 10/11.

Last **Osprey** was at DH 10/23 (JS, SS). There were a number of **Red-shouldered Hawks** reported this season. Although resident, this species is local and reports vary greatly during the year. Residents in PT were reported through the season (PL, SL). Former nesters at Harrison Hills Park, three reports during the season at that location were welcomed (PH, TH, JS, SS, TRBC). A resident pair at Beechwood Farms were also seen and heard during the season (m.ob.). One was seen at Sewickley Heights Park 9/27 and 9/30 (GM), one was photographed at WP 10/18 (MGa), one was photographed in Natrona Heights 11/13 (KK), one was in Harmar Twp. 11/14 (JV) and one posed for a photograph in Moon Twp. 11/16 (GM). Two **Broad-winged Hawks** were at Knob Hill Park 8/4 (KD) and 3 were at Harrison Hills Park 8/26 (SG). The leucisitic **Red-tailed Hawk** that has been in the Clinton area was seen at IMP 8/3 (MV).

The wetlands at WP are becoming a regular spot for migrating rails. **Soras** were present 8/24-10/3 (JHa, m.ob.). Two were found 9/3 (DW) and 3 on 10/2 (ST). A flock of **Sandhill Cranes** were heard flying over after dark at Sewickley Heights Park 11/21 (BMu) providing the ninth county record.

An **American Golden-Plover** was at IMP 10/2 (MV). IMP still holds the distinction as the only location in the county this species has been reported; this was the 12th report. A **Semipalmated Plover** remained at DH from late July to 8/2 (JC) and one was at IMP 8/27 (MV). **Killdeer** were present through November. An amazing surprise was a low flying **American Avocet** over PT 8/24 (PL, SL), just the fifth county record. Three **Greater Yellowlegs** were at IMP 8/12-9/1 (GM, MV). One was at WP 10/18 (ST) and four were at Janoski's Farm in Findlay Twp. 11/1 (MV). **Lesser Yellowlegs** reports include 3 at IMP 8/17 (MV) and single birds at IMP 10/6 (JHa) and 10/16 (GM). **Solitary Sandpipers** were at IMP the entire month of August (MV, GM). One was at WP 8/30-31 (AP, TH) and one was at Beechwood Farms 9/14 (MF). Two **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were at IMP 8/12 and 3 were there 8/31 (GM). There was only one **Least Sandpiper** reported this fall, at IMP 9/21 (MV). A **Pectoral Sandpiper** was at IMP 10/9 (MV); the only report this season. A **Dunlin** was at IMP 11/2 (MV). Three **Short-billed Dowitchers** were at IMP 8/11 (GM); the lone report. **Wilson's Snipe** reports were all in October. One was at North Park 10/6 (MJ), one was at Hampton Twp. Community Park 10/10 (DN), one was at IMP 10/31 (MV) and 2 were there 11/9 (MV). An **American Woodcock** was at WP 10/6 (JHa).

**Bonaparte's Gull** is more common in spring but there were several reports this fall. Three were along the Allegheny River at Ohara Twp. 8/11 (PB), 3 were at IMP 10/31 (MV), 8 were at McKees Rocks 11/20 with one lingering 11/21 (MJ) and one was at DH 11/21 (TM, NM). Eight **Caspian Terns** passed by Dashields Dam 9/13 (MV). A **Black Tern** was at IMP briefly during a thunderstorm 8/3 (MV) and another was there 9/1 (MV). A flock of 12 terns were seen in flight over the Allegheny River at Harrison Hills Park, then nearby at Tarentum 9/21 (AH, PM). Due to the height of the flock a conclusive identification was not made although the observers were leaning towards **Common Tern**.

**Barred Owl** is resident in the county but reports are few. One was heard in Churchill 10/7 (TSh, JSh), an unusual location. The banding operation of **Northern Saw-whet Owls** at Sewickley Heights Park continued for the second year. As of this writing 15 birds were captured (BMu). High counts of **Common Nighthawks** include 63 at Beechwood Farms 8/19 (BSh), 150 plus flying over Homewood Cemetery 8/22 (JC), 80 at PT 8/29 (PL, SL) and 75 at Cheswick 8/31 (DYe). At least 100 **Chimney Swifts** were counted at WP 10/5 (AP) and McKees Rocks 10/6 (MJ), the max counts for the season. A **Merlin** was at DH 10/31, 11/16 and 11/22 (TM, NM, JS, SS, KSJ, DWe, JHa). One was at Mt. Royal Cemetery in Shaler Twp. 11/16 (JH) and one was at Schenley Park 11/27 (ST).

All reported **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** were 8/30. Single birds were at WP (TJ, KJ), Harrison Hills Park (AH, PM) and Sewickley Heights Park (GM). **Acadian Flycatchers** were at Sewickley Heights Park 8/30-9/12 (GM). The only report of **Willow Flycatcher** was at WP 8/18 (ST) where 3 were tallied. The last **Great Crested Flycatcher** was at Harrison Hills Park 9/27 (TRBC). The only report of **Eastern Kingbird** was 3 birds at Ohara Twp. 8/11 (PB). A **Northern Shrike** was at IMP 11/15 (MV) and relocated 11/16 (JHa, GM).

The first observation of **American Crows** gathering to roost was Turtle Creek 11/11, where 716 were counted heading to the roost in Pittsburgh (DaK). **Common Ravens** were reported in October at various locations and **Fish Crow** reports continued from DH (m.ob.). One was at Beechwood Farms 9/28 (DYE), the first report from that location, and one was in Shadyside 9/29 (AP). Small numbers of **Horned Larks** were at IMP during the season but the max count was 50-75 at Janoski's Farm in Findlay Twp. 11/28 (CP, JP, MGr). Six **Bank Swallows** were at IMP 8/13 (GM) and 3 were there 8/17 (MV). Five **Purple Martins** were at Hartwood Acres 9/2 (DN), a rare fall report. A few **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were present but there was no evidence of a large movement this fall. Single birds were at Boyce-Mayview Park 9/23 and 11/16 (ST), IMP 10/19 (GM) and WP 10/26 (JHa). A **Marsh Wren** was a nice find at Boyce-Mayview Park 9/18 (ST). Two were at nearby WP 9/29 (GM) where at least one continued through the season (m.ob.). Not only is this an uncommon migrant in *Allegheny*, they have not been recorded this late in the season.

Some reported flocks of **Eastern Bluebird** were impressive. Thirteen were at North Park 10/21 (DN) and 21 were in Findlay Twp. 10/26 (MV). Single **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** were at Sewickley Heights Park 9/19 and 9/27 (GM) and at Boyce Park (in Plum) 10/5 (RM). There was a large nocturnal movement of **Swainson's Thrushes** 9/7 detected in Moon Twp. where 150 were counted (GM), but this was dwarfed by an enormous flight the morning of 9/19. In just the one hour and four minutes between the starts of astronomical and civil twilights, a total of 3429 Swainson's Thrush calls, 192 **Gray-cheeked Thrush** calls, and hundreds of warblers and other passerines were recorded (GM), the largest flight at that Moon Twp. site in several years of monitoring. Aside from nocturnal calls, there were only two reports of **Hermit Thrush**: one at Frick Park 10/16 (JS, SS) and one in Plum 10/23 (AH, PM). Two **Brown Thrashers** were at Sewickley Heights Park 9/7 (GM), one was there 9/12 (GM, BVN, SD) and one 9/27 (GM). Two were at Harrison Hills Park 9/21 (AH, PM). Single **American Pipits** were at IMP 10/2 (MV) and 11/16 (JHa, GM). A trip to Janoski's Farm in Findlay Twp. 11/28 yielded **Lapland Longspurs** (a total not reported) and a single **Snow Bunting** (CP, JP, MGr). This location has become the most reliable location in the county for these birds.

A total of 29 species of warblers were tallied this fall. A **Brewster's Warbler** was at Sewickley Heights Park 9/12 (GM, BVN, SD, et al.), the first report since 2010. A **Northern Waterthrush** was well photographed at Harrison Hills Park 9/13 (SG). Rarely reported in fall, September is the expected time period. **Orange-crowned Warblers** were reported at Beechwood Farms 9/12 and 9/29 (BSh), along the Montour Trail in Findlay Twp. 9/22 (ST), Sewickley Heights Park 9/27 (GM), Frick Park 10/11 (JS, SS) and Beechwood Farms 11/2 (Sth, SuT). A **Connecticut Warbler** was seen off and on at Beechwood Farms 9/12-20 (BSh, m.ob.) and was photographed at a water drip 9/20 (MH), and a female was at Sewickley Park 9/19 (GM). A **Mourning Warbler** was at Beechwood Farms 9/13-29 (BVN, SD, et al.). A **Kentucky Warbler** was singing at Beechwood Farms 9/12 (BSh) and one was at Harrison Hills Park 9/13 (SG). **Cape May Warblers** are always a welcome sight. Two were at Sewickley Heights Park 9/7 (GM), 4 were at Beechwood Farms 9/12 (BSh), single birds were found at Knob Hill Park (KD) and Frick Park 9/18 (JS, SS), and Natrona Heights 9/23 (PH, DH). Five were at Natrona Heights 9/28 (PH). Four **Cerulean Warblers** were at Beechwood Farms 9/12 during a fallout of migrants (BSh). **Northern Parulas** were at Beechwood Farms 9/4-12 with a max of 6 on 9/9 (BSh). Single birds were at Frick Park 9/15-19 (JS, SS) and two put on a show there during a TRBC outing 9/20. One was at Harrison Hills Park 9/27 during another TRBC outing. Reports of **Pine Warbler** included single birds at Beechwood Farms 8/25, 9/4, and 9/12 (BSh, DN), Knob Hill Park 9/18 (KD) and 9/21 at Harrison Hills Park (AH, PM). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was a nice find at Homewood Cemetery 8/22 (JC) and a late report came from WP 10/5 (AP). There were only two reports of **Canada Warbler**: single birds at PT 9/2-7 (PL, SL) and Sewickley Heights Park 9/19 (GM). A tally of 7 **Wilson's Warblers** at Beechwood Farms during a heavy migration day 9/12 was likely the highest total at ever reported at one location in the county (BSh). This species is uncommon and normally seen singly. Other reports included one at Sewickley Heights Park 9/12 (BVN, SD) and 2 there 9/19 (GM), one at Harrison Hills Park 9/13 (SG) and single birds at Frick Park 9/15 and 9/18 (JS, SS).

Late **Chipping Sparrows** included 2 at Harmar Twp. 11/17-20 (JV) and one in PT 11/21 (PL, SL). A **Clay-colored Sparrow** visited a yard in PT

10/14 (PL, SL); a rarity here. The grassland sparrows at IMP are still quite visible in August. The trick is detecting them well into the fall, so the last dates are noteworthy. Four **Vesper Sparrows** were there 10/3 (GM), one **Savannah Sparrow** was found 10/3 (GM) and a **Henslow's Sparrow** was there that day (GM). The fourth county record of a **Nelson's Sparrow** was an exciting find at WP 10/1 (ST). Despite follow up searches, the bird was not relocated. **Fox Sparrows** moved through from 10/20-11/22 with reports from eight locations. Reports of **Lincoln's Sparrow** ran from 9/23-10/24 from six locations (m.ob.). Up to 4 **Swamp Sparrows** remained at WP through the season (m.ob.). **White-crowned Sparrows** were reported from 10/8-11/16 from five locations (m.ob.).

There were interesting post breeding concentrations of **Indigo Buntings**. Thirteen were tallied at WP 8/30 (AP) and ten were at Sewickley Heights Park 9/19 (GM). **Red-winged Blackbirds** remained to the end of the season in numbers which is unusual. Highest counts include 350 at WP 10/26 (JHa) and 250 at IMP 11/16 (GM). Smaller numbers remained at WP through the season (ST). **Eastern Meadowlarks** lingered at IMP until 11/9 (GM, MJ, MV, JHa). The max count was 11 on 9/30 (GM). A **Rusty Blackbird** was at WP 10/26 (JHa). One was in Schenley Park in Pittsburgh 10/30 followed by four birds 11/20 (KSJ). Park restoration projects include establishing native plants and habitats to attract wildlife and provide runoff control (even on the park's golf course where areas are allowed to grow wild). Perhaps the appearance of Rusty Blackbirds is a sign of birds responding to these habitat improvements. The only large flock of **Common Grackles** reported were at Schenley Park 9/16 where approximately 1000 were counted (KSJ). Late birds included 40 at Schenley Park 11/20 (KSJ) and one in PT 11/23 (PL, SL).

A pair of **Purple Finches** was in PT the entire season (PL, SL). One was at North Park 10/21 (DN), two visited a feeder in Harmar Twp. 10/26-11/18 (JV), one was in Natrona Heights 11/7 (PH, DH) and one visited a feeder in Plum 11/22 (AH, PM). Surprisingly, **Pine Siskins** moved into the county this fall. A flock of 50 were at South Park 10/20 (JHa), single birds were at WP 10/28 (JL), Gibsonia 10/29 (KP), Shadyside 11/5 (AP) and Penn Hills 11/10 (MH). A flock of 16 were in Jefferson Hills 11/11 (JHa), two were in Moon Twp. 11/16 (GM), one flew over Dashields Dam 11/23 (GM) and two visited a feeder in Squirrel Hill 11/28 (DWE).

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### Armstrong County

Locations: Crooked Creek Park (CC), Keystone Reservoir (KR), Leechburg (LB).

Two flocks of geese at CC provided second county records. Eight **Greater White-fronted Geese** visited CC 10/9 through 10/13 (JH), and 5 **Cackling Geese** were present 11/1 (SG) through 11/4 (MM). **Canada Goose** maxima included 209 at KR 10/27 (MH, RH) and 250 at CC 11/8 (TR). Reports of **Tundra Swan** included an unseen calling flock above the clouds at KR 11/14 (MH, RH) and 4 at CC 11/22 (MVT). **Wood Duck** maxima were 20 at CC 9/16 (DY) and 35 ne. of Orchard Hills 10/10 (GF); last 2 were noted near LB 10/24 (MVT). KR hosted the only reported **Gadwalls**, 7 on 10/27 (MH, RH), 2 on 11/14 (MH, RH), and 12 on 11/30 (LC). Three **American Wigeons** 10/26 (SG) at CC were the only ones recorded. Eight **American Black Ducks** stopped at CC 11/21-22 (MVT) and 4 were at KR 11/30 (LC). Top **Mallard** counts were 50 at KR 11/30 (MH, RH) and 12 each near Elderton 9/8 (MH, RH) and near LB 9/15 (MVT). The only **Blue-winged Teal** was a singleton at CC 9/16 (DY).

A single **Canvasback** visited KR 11/30 (LC). Two **Ring-necked Ducks** were listed 10/27 (MH, RH) and 11/30 (LC) at KR, where 3 **Lesser**

**Scaup** were found 11/14 (MH, RH). KR's **Bufflehead** tallies included 44 on 11/2 (LC) and an even 50 on 11/30 (MH, RH); CC yielded its high of 15 on 11/12 (PL). **Hooded Merganser** reports at KR detailed 10 on 11/2 (LC) and an amazing 166 on 11/30 (LC); 2 were viewed at CC from 11/1-15 (TR). **Common Mergansers** were in good numbers with reports at CC of 70 on 11/15 (TR) and 138 on 11/21 (MVT); at KR 18 were present 11/14 (MH, RH) and 14 on 11/30 (LC). **First Ruddy Ducks** were listed 10/26 (SG) at CC and 10/27 (MH, RH) at KR, where 34 also rested on 11/14 (MH, RH).

Only 2 **Ruffed Grouse** were reported this season, one on 8/19 (MVT) near CC and one 10/22 (MVT) at CC. **Wild Turkey** maxima included 17 on 8/24 (MVT) at Polka Hollow and 18 near KR 9/19 (MH, RH). KR harbored the only **Common Loons** with reports of 2 on 10/27 (MH, RH) and 3 on 11/16 (TR). First **Pied-billed Grebe** was found near LB 10/20 (MVT); KR hosted 16 on 11/14 (MH, RH). The only **Horned Grebes** were at KR with high counts of 30 on 11/14 (MH, RH) and 11 on 11/30 (LC). Among the 13 **Double-crested Cormorant** sightings, all but one involving one or 2 birds, were the first singleton 8/5 (MVT) at CC and the top tally of 9 on 9/16 (DY), also at CC. Last **Green Heron** was sighted at CC 9/16 (DY).

Last **Turkey Vulture** flew over CC 10/9 (GK, MK). Migrating **Osprey** moved through *Armstrong* between 8/16 (SG) and 10/24 (TR) with most reports at CC. Five **Bald Eagles** were noted at CC 11/22 (JB). A single **Northern Harrier** was found south of Worthington 11/25 (WZ). Last **Broad-winged Hawks** were at CC 9/16 (DY) and 9/19 (MVT). **American Coots** were spotted only at KR with counts of 14 on 10/27 (MH, RH) and 61 on 11/14 (MH, RH).

CC held the season's only **Semipalmated Plovers** between 9/16 (DY) and 9/27 (TR, MVT); all counts were of one to 3 birds. CC's high **Killdeer** tally was 38 on 9/27 (TR) and KR's was 12 on both 9/19 and 10/27 (MH, RH). Last **Spotted Sandpiper** and the only **Solitary Sandpiper** lingered at CC 9/16 (DY). KR was the site of the only **Greater Yellowlegs** stopover with reports of one on 10/27 (MH, RH) and 4 on 11/2 (LC). Single **Least Sandpipers** visited CC 9/2 (MVT) through 9/16 (DY). A **White-rumped Sandpiper** was a nice find at CC 9/13 (TR). Four **Pectoral Sandpipers** 9/20 (TR) and 3 on 9/27 (TR) and a **Semipalmated Sandpiper** 9/16 (DY), all at CC, were the only of their species noted. KR provided refuge for 3 **Bonaparte's Gulls** 10/27 (MH, RH) and 5 on 11/2 (LC). One to 3 **Ring-billed Gulls** were found at KR 10/27 (LC) through 11/30 (LC) and 2-3 were noted at CC 11/16 and 11/21 (MVT). Two **Herring Gulls** at CC 11/21 (MVT) were the only ones reported.

**Eastern Screech-Owls** were listed at three locations (m.ob.) and a single **Great Horned Owl** was heard near SGL 247 on 11/19 (TR). Last **Chimney Swifts** were 32 over LB 10/5 (MVT). Last **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** were 2 on 9/2 (MVT) at CC. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** sightings included singletons at CC 10/25 (TR) and 11/2 (MVT). A **Merlin** at CC 10/20 and 11/16 (MVT) was a nice find.

Rock Furnace Trail yielded the last 2 **Eastern Wood-Pewees** and the last **Acadian Flycatcher** 9/14 (KSJ). A **Least Flycatcher** remained at CC 9/2 (MVT). Last **Eastern Phoebes** and last **Eastern Kingbirds** were 2 at CC 10/5 (MVT) and 3 at CC 8/19 (MVT), respectively. Last vireo dates included 10/1 (MVT) for **White-eyed Vireo** and 9/27 (TR) for **Red-eyed Vireo**, both at CC. Two **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** on Creek Road 8/1 (MVT) and 4 **Barn Swallows** at CC 9/16 (DY) last.

A **House Wren** was sighted 9/13 (TR) at CC. A **Winter Wren** appeared at CC 11/8 (SG) and another, at KR 11/16 (TR). Last 3 **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** were found at CC 9/2 (MVT). First **Golden-crowned Kinglets** arrived at CC 10/25 (TR). **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** moved through *Armstrong* between 10/1 (MVT) and 11/1 (SG). A **Swainson's Thrush** stopped at CC 10/25 (MVT). The last reported **Wood Thrush** was at CC 9/20 (TR). CC produced the last **Gray Catbird** 10/17 (MVT) and KR, the last **Brown Thrasher** 10/1 (MVT).

All warbler reports were at CC unless otherwise noted. Last **Ovenbird** noted was a single 10/1 (MVT), and the last date for **Black-and-white Warbler** was 9/21 (MVT). A **Tennessee Warbler** and a **Nashville Warbler** lingered until 10/5 (MVT) and 9/21 (MVT), respectively. **Common Yellowthroats** remained at CC 9/27 (TR, MVT). Last **Hooded Warbler** was listed 9/20 (TR). Two to 5 **Cape May Warblers** were reported between 8/30 (MVT) and 9/13 (TR). A **Northern Parula** stopped 10/1 (MVT). The only **Bay-breasted Warbler** was one 9/20 (TR). Last 2 **Yellow Warblers** were found 8/1 (MVT). CC produced the last **Chestnut-sided Warbler** 9/2 (MVT). Single **Blackpoll Warblers** were listed only on 9/27 (TR, MVT) and 10/1 (MVT). Last **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was observed 9/27 (TR). The lone report of a **Palm Warbler** occurred 10/1 (MVT). Small numbers (up to 8) of **Yellow-rumped Warblers** moved through *Armstrong* between 8/30 (MVT) and 11/8 (SG, TR). CC also hosted the last 5 **Black-throated Green Warblers** 10/1 (MVT).

The last **Eastern Towhee** lingered at CC 10/20 (MVT). First **American Tree Sparrow** arrived at CC 11/23 (MVT) and the last 3 **Chipping Sparrows** and the last 2 **Field Sparrows** lingered there through 11/8 (SG)

and 11/2 (MVT), respectively. **Fox Sparrow** sightings involved single birds at CC 11/1 (SG) and at KR 11/14 (MH, RH). The last **Swamp Sparrow** was at CC 11/1 (SG), which also yielded the first 2 **White-throated Sparrow** 9/27 (TR). **White-crowned Sparrow** sightings included 2 on 10/20 (MVT) and 4 on 11/2 (MVT), all at CC. Single **Scarlet Tanagers** lingered at CC 9/27 (TR, MVT) and the last **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were 3 along the *Armstrong* Trail 9/19 (MH, RH) and one at CC the following day (TR). An **Indigo Bunting** remained at CC 10/1 (MVT). Roughly 100 **Red-winged Blackbirds** gathered at CC 11/15 (TR). Twenty **Pine Siskins** appeared at CC 10/26 (SG) where numbers built to 40 by 11/1 (SG).

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## Beaver County

Locations: Economy Borough (ECON), Independence Marsh (IND), Little Blue Lake (LBL), New Brighton (NB), Raccoon Creek State Park (RCSP), Mouth of the Beaver River at Rochester (RCH), Sahli Nature Park (SNP).

Top count of **Canada Geese** at IND was 125 on 9/22 (GR), a lackluster showing and representative of what was in most respects a lackluster season in general at the marsh. A **Wood Duck** lingered at IND to 10/31 (MV) and 2 were at RCH 11/22 (MV). The only reports of **Gadwall** were 10 at RCH 11/14 (MV) and 2 at RCSP 11/19 (MJ). An **American Wigeon** was at IND 11/7-11 (MV, et al.). Characteristically unpredictable in its occurrence, this season there was just one report of **American Black Duck**: 4 at RCH 11/22 (MV). Top counts of **Mallard** included 61 at IND 11/7 (MV) and 75 at NB 11/28 (TJ). Four **Blue-winged Teal** were seen periodically at IND 9/22-29 (GR). A count of 8 **Northern Shovelers** at LBL 8/31 (GM) was very good for the date. The only other shovelers were 3 at IND 9/1 (CD). A **Northern Pintail** was at LBL 10/18 (GM) and one was at RCH 11/22-23 (MV). **Green-winged Teal** had a mediocre showing at IND, with a peak count of 29 present most days 10/31-11/9 (MV, et al.). The first of the season there were 3 on 9/30 (GM), and one late green-wing was at RCH 11/22 (MV). The only **Lesser Scaup** of the season was one at NB 11/28 (TJ). Greater Scaup was not reported, though that is not unusual for the Aug-Nov period. A **Long-tailed Duck** was on the Ohio R. at Vanport 11/16-17 (DR, GR). The only **Buffleheads** of the season were 5 also at Vanport 11/2 (DR). **Hooded Merganser** was the only merg mentioned, headed by 15 at RCH 11/23 (KSJ).

**Pied-billed Grebe** was thinly reported at RCH in Nov as usual (m.ob.), but 11 at Ambridge Res. 10/18 (GM) was a nice total. Seven **Horned Grebes** appeared at RCH 11/16 (MV) and smaller numbers were seen thereafter through the end of the month. A **Double-crested Cormorant** was at NB 8/24 (MV) and 2 were at RCSP 9/13 (DR, GR), an unusual location for them. Two **Great Egrets** were at the spillway at RCSP 8/9 (AW) and one was at IND 10/8 (GM).

Away from the county's known nests, reports of **Osprey** included one at LBL 8/27 (BB, RM), one at Brady's Run Park 8/31 (DR, GR), and one at RCSP 9/13 (TJ). There were seven sightings of **Bald Eagle** at IND and locations on the Beaver and Ohio rivers (m.ob.), and one was at LBL 8/27 (BB, RM). **Northern Harrier** was seen at LBL 8/27 (BB, RM) and one was in Independence Twp. 11/22 (TJ). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was seen periodically at SNP 8/1-9/15 (GR), and one was at Baden 8/16 (MV). The only report of **Broad-winged Hawk** was 2 at SNP 8/31 (DR, GR).

With one very notable exception, shorebirding has always been a low-key affair in the history of *Beaver* birding. That exception was Little Blue Lake, which rocketed to fame in the mid-2000s and briefly earned recognition as one of the very best shorebirding locations anywhere in Pennsylvania. LBL is the largest coal ash disposal site in the United States, collecting waste from a power plant a few miles upriver at Shippingport. Discovered as a birding destination in 2004, a total of 28 shorebird species had been recorded at the lake by the end of 2007 as well as a number of other notable birds. Access to the lake was easy in the early 2000s, but beginning in 2007, an expansion project was undertaken by the power company effectively eliminating public access, and birders were eventually unable to check the lake at all. Such was the situation for the next six years, but this fall, the expansion was found to have at last led to the development of some shorebird habitat that is viewable from public areas. It was quickly demonstrated that LBL has lost none of its shorebirding mojo: 18 species were found by season's end. The situation will probably be short-lived once again, however, as the power company has been ordered to close the facility by the end of 2016.

All shorebird reports that follow were from LBL unless otherwise noted. Heavy overnight rain grounded many birds at the lake 8/31, including 13 species of shorebird and the aforementioned Northern Shovelers (GM). Two **Black-bellied Plovers** were among the grounded birds 8/31 (GM), the county's first since 2007. An **American Golden-Plover** was on the flats 10/18 (GM). **Semipalmated Plovers** were in good numbers 8/8-31, topped by 17 on 8/31 (GM). **Killdeer** maxed out in 50 on 8/3 (GM), but the top count for the season was 68 at IND 10/13 (GR). Both **Greater** and **Lesser Yellowlegs** were seen in small numbers in Aug; one Greater also hung out at IND 10/31-11/11 (MV, et al.). Two **Solitary Sandpipers** at LBL 8/31 (GM) were the only ones for the season there, and the showing at IND barely registered either. In fact the most interesting report for this species was 4 at the RCSP spillway 9/13 (GR, DR). A flyover **Willet** at LBL 8/31 (GM) was the seventh for *Beaver* and third for LBL. **Sanderling** was an annual fall migrant at LBL in the mid-2000s, and they were present again this year: one adult 8/12 (GM), 2-3 on 8/27 (BB, RM), and one 8/30 (MV). First **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was found at the lake 8/12 (GM). Ten were there 8/27 (BB, RM) and that number ballooned to 91 during the rain 8/31 (GM). There were 35 more unidentified peeps spotted during the 8/31 event, most of which were believed to be Semis (GM). **Least Sandpiper** was seen in smaller numbers; peak was 14 on 8/31 (GM). Three were on the RCSP spillway 8/9 (AW) and smaller numbers were seen there through 9/13. A **White-rumped Sandpiper** was present at LBL 8/30 (MV), and 2 juvenile **Baird's Sandpipers** were there 8/31 (GM). Two **Pectoral Sandpipers** put down 8/3 and at least 20 were with the hordes of shorebirds 8/31 (GM). Five **Pecs** were at IND 9/29 and one was there 10/15 (DR, GR). A molting adult **Stilt Sandpiper** was the first truly notable shorebird of the season at LBL 8/3 (GM). **Short-billed Dowitchers** included 2 on 8/3 (GM), one 8/27 (BB, RM), one 8/30 (MV), and a whopping 31 on 8/31 (GM). A **Wilson's Phalarope** was present 8/27 (BB, RM), representing probably the third county record and second for the lake. It or another was there 8/31 (GM).

A **Bonaparte's Gull** was on the small lake at RCSP 11/2 (DR), possibly a first for the park. One Bonaparte's was also at RCH 11/28 (TJ). A nice count of 400 **Ring-billed Gulls** was tallied at NB 11/28 (TJ). Small numbers of **Herring Gull** were reported variously on the Ohio R. through the season (m.ob.). Also very unusual for RCSP was a well-described **Caspian Tern** on the lake 9/1 (CC); it also probably represented the first known record for the park.

Black-billed Cuckoo was again unreported. This species appears to be in decline in sw. Pennsylvania. Three **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were at RCSP 9/13 (TJ). Three **Common Nighthawks** were over ECON 8/27 (KD) and 30 were over ECON 8/31 (MV). There were five other reports 8/27-9/15. At least 169 **Chimney Swifts** were observed entering a chimney in Ambridge 9/28 (MV). Last **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was at ECON 9/21 (KD). Two **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were found: one at IND 10/15 (RM) and one at Brady's Run Park 10/18 (GR, DR). Up to 5 **American Kestrels** were seen around LBL through Oct (GM, BB, RM), one was at Big Beaver Wetlands 8/16 (DR, GR), and one was at Fombell, an unfortunately underbirded area of the county, 11/20 (DK). A **Merlin** returned to winter again at RCH, first spotted atop the Grace Lutheran Church 11/29 (MV).

In addition to the shorebirds, LBL is a magnet for many other birds as well. Much of the land directly adjacent to the lake is now owned by the power company, and these former farm fields and open spaces have been left fallow and undeveloped for many years, making the LBL area a very "birdy" place from spring through fall. **Willow Flycatcher** was abundant there 8/3 (GM). A **Least Flycatcher** was at RCSP 9/12 (KJ). A somewhat late **Great Crested Flycatcher** was well-described at the RCSP wildflower reserve 9/20 (CD). **Yellow-throated Vireo** had a good season especially at RCSP; last sighting was one at IND 9/26 (GR). That was also the date of the first **Blue-headed Vireo**, at ECON (KD). One Blue-headed was at SNP 10/6 (GR) and one was at Ambridge Res. 10/18 (GM). A murder of 500 **American Crows** was gathered on the LBL flats 10/18 (GM). Four **Horned Larks** were in the LBL area 8/27 (BB, RM), and a **Bank Swallow** was an interesting find there 8/31 (GM).

**Brown Creeper** was at RCSP 9/16 (DC) and SNP 10/6 (GR). **Winter Wren** was also at SNP 10/6 (GR) and LBL 10/18 (GM). **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was very thinly reported 10/10-25 and curiously not thereafter, though they were more or less in usual places by mid-winter. Last **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were 2 at LBL 10/18 (GM). There was just one report each for **Veery**, 9/13 at RCSP (TJ), and **Gray-cheeked Thrush**, 10/6 at SNP (GR). **Swainson's Thrush** was better reported 9/13-26 (m.ob.) especially at ECON (KD). One or two **Hermit Thrushes** were at SNP 9/12 and 10/25 (DR, GR). Two **American Pipits** were at LBL 10/18 (GM) and one was at IND 10/31 (MV). Fifty **Cedar Waxwings** were at LBL 8/31 (GM).

**Ovenbird** persisted at SNP to 10/6 (GR). The only **Blue-winged Warbler** was one at RCSP 9/13 (TJ). This species mostly moves out in Aug before most birders have ramped up for the fall passerine migration, and thus they aren't often reported in this season. Many **Tennessee Warblers**

were at RCSP on a good morning for migrants 9/16 (DC). Singles were also at ECON 9/21 and 9/26 (KD). A **Nashville Warbler** was still hanging around IND 10/18 (GM). A **Connecticut Warbler** at IND 10/4 (DR, GR) was a first for that location; most county records are from RCSP. **American Redstart** was exceptionally well reported 9/13-20 (m.ob.) with RCSP leading the way. **Cape May Warbler** was at RCSP 9/16 (DC). A late **Northern Parula** was at IND 10/10 (GR). **Magnolia Warbler** had a magnificent showing particularly at RCSP, where the max count was 10 on 9/13 (TJ). They were seen through 10/4. **Bay-breasted Warbler** also had a great showing, with at least 20 at RCSP 9/13 (TJ). Many were also at the park 9/21 (KSJ). A **Yellow Warbler** at LBL 8/3 was a presumed migrant (GM) and the last seen in 2014. **Chestnut-sided Warbler** also had a good showing including several at RCSP 9/16 (DC). **Blackpoll Warbler** persisted to 10/6 and peaked with 8 birds at IND 9/26 (GR). Up to 7 **Palm Warblers** were at IND 9/26-10/10 (m.ob.), and a flock of at least 20 moved through at LBL 10/18 (GM). **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were still at Ambridge Res. and IND 10/18 (both GM). **Black-throated Green Warbler** lingered at SNP to 10/6 (GR). They were well reported across southern *Beaver* (where all the birders were) beginning 8/27. A **Canada Warbler** was at the RCSP wildflower reserve 9/18 (KJ) and a **Wilson's Warbler** was at RCSP 9/13 (TJ).

The fallow fields around LBL held many sparrows 10/18 (GM). Among these were 2 **Field Sparrows**, 5 **Savannah Sparrows**, at least 50 **Song Sparrows**, 5 **Lincoln's Sparrows**, 10 **White-throated Sparrows**, 10 **White-crowned Sparrows**, and at least 25 more unidentified sparrows, likely many more (and likely mostly Song). At least 10 **Savannah Sparrows** were at LBL 8/31 (GM), and a **Grasshopper Sparrow** was there 8/3 (GM). Three **Fox Sparrows** were at IND 11/8 (DR, GR) and one or 2 **Lincoln's Sparrows** were occasionally reported there 9/22-10/11 (m.ob.). **Swamp Sparrow** was seen frequently at IND though 11/11 (m.ob.), as were up to 5 **White-crowned Sparrows** 10/11-18 (m.ob.).

Three **Bobolinks** were at LBL 8/31 (GM). The LBL area was a stronghold for this species in the mid-2000s and it will be interesting to revisit the area in the coming years to see if the situation has changed. Reports of **Rusty Blackbirds** included 4-5 at IND 10/24-26 (GR, MV) and 17 at IND 10/31 (MV). A late summer flock of **Common Grackles** at Brady's Run Park reached 300 on 8/31 (DR, GR).

A few **Purple Finches** were found: one or 2 at ECON 10/8-11/20 (KD), 2 at RCSP 11/2 (DR), and one at IND 11/8 (DR, GR). A **Pine Siskin** at a Monaca feeder 11/17 (CC) was a harbinger of the winter to come.

ADDENDUM: At least three of the four **Peregrine Falcon** chicks at the Monaca nest fledged this year on 6/15 (TJ). Two **Worm-eating Warblers** were seen at a wooded area near Ambridge Res. 7/6 (JP), a heretofore unknown breeding area for the species.

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## Bedford County

Locations: Allegheny Front Hawk Watch (AFHW), Allegheny Front (AF), Dunnings Creek Wetland (DCW), Shaffer Mountain (SM), Shawnee State Park (SSP), White-tail Wetlands (WTW), Bedford-at-large (BL).

Interesting birds were **Red-necked Grebe**, **Sandhill Cranes**, **Cackling Goose**, **Northern Shrike**, and **Orange-crowned Warbler**. This year *Bedford* suffered a severe drought with many wetlands dry, but areas supplied by springs and creeks provided adequate waterfowl diversity.

A **Cackling Goose** was at Teal Lake in DCW swimming with 75 **Canada Geese** 11/9-12. This bird could represent the first for *Bedford*. Fifty-three **Tundra Swans** were at SSP 11/12. The following ducks were at DCW 11/3 except as noted: 20 **Wood Ducks**, 3 **Gadwall**, 7 **American Wigeon**, 20 **American Black Duck**, 22 **Mallard**, 4 **Blue-winged Teal**, 5 **Northern Shoveler** (SSP), 2 **Northern Pintail**, and 12 **Green-winged Teal**. The following diving ducks were counted at SSP 11/6: 40 **Ring-necked Duck**, 3 **Greater Scaup**, 3 **Black Scoter**, 2 **Long-tailed Duck**, 22 **Bufflehead**, 4 **Hooded Merganser** (DCW), one **Common Merganser**, 3 **Red-breasted Merganser**, and 150 **Ruddy Ducks**. In general the waterfowl migration was weak and less predictable than 2013.

The gallinaceous birds appeared to be doing well especially **Ring-neck Pheasant**, which is thriving throughout the county in the right habitats. There may be a time in which stocking is not necessary. **Ruffed Grouse** and especially **Wild Turkeys** seem stable, and **Northern Bobwhite** is still holding on in marginal historical locations of *Bedford*.



A **Red-throated Loon** was nicely viewed at SSP 11/18 along with 25 **Common Loons**, 25 **Pied-billed Grebes**, 17 **Horned Grebes**, 23 **Double-crested Cormorants** and one **Red-necked Grebe** seen very well. The following waders were all seen at DCW or WTW: one **American Bittern** 9/3, 7 **Great Blue Heron** 9/15, one **Great Egret**, one **Cattle Egret** 8/10, and a **Black-crowned Night-Heron** 9/5.

Allegheny Front Hawk depends on east winds for its best days; this fall it struggled a season of 95% west winds. The count as of this writing was as follows: **Black Vulture** 81, **Turkey Vulture** 360, **Osprey** 91, **Bald Eagle** 123, **Northern Harrier** 32, **Sharp-shinned Hawk** 1150, **Cooper's Hawk** 151, **Northern Goshawk**, **Red-shouldered Hawk** 31, **Broad-winged Hawks** 4350, **Red-tailed Hawk** 890, **Rough-legged Hawk** 2, **Golden Eagle** 93, **American Kestrel** 87, **Merlin** 23, **Peregrine Falcon** 36, and 75 unidentified. There was evidence of potential nesting of **Northern Goshawk** right along the *Somerset/Bedford* border near Crum Road (JK, TD). A particularly interesting day at the AFHW was 11/11 when 30 very close Golden Eagles flew by, including one carrying a transmitter (probably attached by Mike Lanzone and Andy McGann).

A late **Virginia Rail** was flushed under a small bridge at DCW 10/20 and a **Sora** was seen in Bittern Pool at DCW 8/18. Seven **American Coots** were observed at DCW at Grebe Pool 9/13. On 9/14 two **Sandhill Cranes** were observed from Grebe Pool at DCW. Historically Sandhill Cranes are regular at DCW, they are present mostly in fall, but likely many are missed due to a lack of observers. Sandpipers were easier to see this year due to the drought and exposed mudflats, which in many impoundments were easily 10 to 15 feet from the vegetated banks. The following shorebirds were seen at DCW: one **Black-bellied Plover** 9/14, 4 **Killdeer** 9/14, 2 **Greater Yellowlegs**, 5 **Lesser Yellowlegs**, 2 **Solitary Sandpipers**, 2 **Willetts**, 4 **Spotted Sandpipers**, one **Ruddy Turnstone**, 2 **Western Sandpipers** 9/10, one **Least Sandpiper** 9/20, one **White-rumped Sandpiper** 9/20, one **Baird's Sandpiper** 9/10, and 3 **Dunlin** 9/20. One **Wilson's Snipe** and 2 **American Woodcock** were at WTW 9/10. Four **Bonaparte's Gulls**, 14 **Ringed-billed Gull**, and 2 **Herring Gull** were at SSP 11/6.

A **Eurasian Collared-Dove** was seen at the AFHW 8/22 (TD). They may occasionally be seen on hawk watches but not recognized. WTW had 3 **Barn Owls** 9/9; it's probably the best area in the county to see these owls especially in late evening (CH). **Eastern Screech-Owls** were heard 9/15 along SMR and a **Great Horned Owl** was seen at Lambert Mt. Rd. near the AFHW 10/2. A **Barred Owl** flew over DCW 10/1. Approximately 35 **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were banded at the end of October at the AFHW (DD). Saw-whet numbers were generally low this year at banding stations across the Northeast. A **Common Nighthawk**, that graceful and beautiful flyer, was seen midday at DCW flying and hovering over high grassy fields 9/20. **Red-headed Woodpecker** and **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were seen at AFHW in Aug and Sep with some regularity.

Observers at AFHW 9/10 had many flycatchers including **Olive-sided Flycatcher** and **Eastern Wood-Pewee**, and a variety of flycatchers 10/17 included 2 **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers**. A **Northern Shrike** was found at WTW 11/8 (CK) and relocated 11/9 at DCW (TD). Northern Shrikes have been seen at the wetlands 3 times over the past 15 years. A vireo fallout on the Allegheny Front on Lambert Mt. Rd. 9/28 and consisted of the following: 36 **White-eyed Vireos**, 19 **Yellow-throated Vireos**, 78 **Blue-headed Vireos**, 59 **Warbling Vireos**, 45 **Philadelphia Vireos**, and 62 **Red-eyed Vireos**. Two **Red-breasted Nuthatches** appeared at the AFHW 10/24. The only thrushes seen were 8/25 at the AFHW: one **Swainson's Thrush**, 2 **Hermit Thrush** and 4 **Wood Thrush**. Two **Brown Creepers** were at the AFHW 9/14. Two **Winter Wrens**, 2 **Marsh Wrens**, and one **Carolina Wren** were at WTW and DCW 8/12. Fourteen **Snow Buntings** were seen flying over the AFHW 11/21 (TD).

Many of the warblers were seen on the AF, especially where thickets of invasive plants are abundant such as multiflora rose and autumn olive. There are exceptions such as the AFHW where rare openings and edge habitat are available in a mostly forested landscape. The following warblers with few exceptions were identified by the author in these habitats: **Tennessee Warbler** 9/16, 2 **Nashville Warbler** 9/8, 2 **Northern Parula** 9/8, 2 **Yellow Warbler** 8/12, 5 **Chestnut-sided Warbler** 9/10, 5 **Magnolia Warbler** 9/10, one **Cape May Warbler** 9/8, 2 **Black-throated Green Warbler** 9/12, 2 **Pine Warbler** 9/8, 2 **Prairie Warbler** 9/13, one **Palm Warbler** 8/12, one **Blackpoll Warbler** 10/1 (AFHW), 2 **Black and White Warbler** 9/8, **American Redstart** 8/15, **Worm-eating Warbler** 8/5, **Ovenbird** 8/15, 2 **Kentucky Warbler**, 2 **Common Yellowthroat** 9/13, and 6 **Hooded Warbler** 9/8. The highlight for warblers was an **Orange-crowned Warbler** at the AFHW 10/14 (MH).

Three **Scarlet Tanagers** were at WTW 9/8. Most of the following sparrows were seen at a feeder on Shaffer Mt. Rd.: 23 **Fox Sparrows** 11/12, 5 **Lincoln's Sparrows** 9/10, 6 **Swamp Sparrows** at DCW 10/15, and 36 **White-crowned Sparrows**. Four **Rusty Blackbirds** were seen in a cornfield at WTW 10/15. Two **Orchard Oriole** and one **Baltimore Oriole**

were at WTW 9/15 (CH). The first **Pine Siskins** were 6 at the AFHW 10/10 (TD).

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## Berks County

Locations: Blue Mountain Academy (BMA), Blue Marsh Lake (BML), Brennenman's Quarry (BQ), Green Hills Preserve (GHP), Hawk Mountain Sanctuary (HMS), Kernsville Dam Recreation Area (KDRA), Lake Ontelaunee (LO), Monacacy Hill Recreation Area (MHRA), Shartlesville Farm Pond (SFP), School Road Fleetwood Pond (SRFP), Skyline Drive, Mount Penn (MP). The official counting season at HMS is 8/15-12/15.

The predicted active hurricane season for the Atlantic Basin did not materialize this year, perhaps one reason for the below average rainfall in the county this period. Fall migration along the ridges seemed to start late and then was not as concentrated when it did begin. A late November storm resulted in the greatest number of waterfowl at Lake Ontelaunee and Blue Marsh Lake.

The fall **Snow Goose** migration began with a flock over Hereford Township 10/14 (KC). For the remainder of the period, one or two geese, usually with **Canada Geese**, were found throughout Berks. A total of 528 **Snow Geese** were tallied at HMS. A **Brant** spent the afternoon at KDRA 11/3 (KG). No flocks were reported from HMS where they are most commonly seen. Two **Cackling Geese** appeared at BML 11/21 (JS) and single birds were reported at KDRA 10/14 (KG) and SFP 11/8 (DA, SK). HMS reported a season total of 27,415 **Canada Geese** with the peak of 2677 on 11/21 (LG). Still showing the effects of this summer's culling operation, only 7 **Mute Swan** were at LO 11/30 (RK). Two **Tundra Swan** were reported from LO 10/29 (RK) while HMS tallied 136 for the season with a high daily count of 86.

Waterfowl were recorded in the season's most significant fallout 11/30 (RK). Combined totals from LO and BQ were 500 **Canada Geese**, 31 **American Black Duck**, 400 **Mallard**, 6 **Northern Pintail**, one **Canvasback**, 3 **Redhead**, 4 **Ring-necked Duck**, 22 **Hooded Merganser**, 6 **Common Merganser**. The highest count for **Wood Duck** was 68 at LO 10/11 (RK). Four **Greater Scaup** and 59 **Lesser Scaup** were reported at LO 11/16 (RK). Single **White-winged Scoters** were found at LO and BM 11/1 (RK, KL, MW) and one **Black Scoter** was also at LO 10/22 (RK, MW). The season-high number of 123 **Bufflehead** rested at LO 11/10 (RK). There were two sightings of single **Common Goldeneyes**, BM 11/18 (JW, PW) and LO 11/30 (MS). The two highest counts of **Ruddy Duck** were not at BQ, their usual haunt. There were 353 at LO and 598 at BML 11/6 (RK). Two **American Black Duck x Mallard** hybrids were at LO 11/16 (RK).

Eleven **Ring-necked Pheasant** seen along Hawk Mountain Road, Albany Twp 11/19 (AU) were undoubtedly stocked by the Pennsylvania Game Commission. It is wondered how many will survive for the Hamburg CBC. A single **Red-throated Loon** was at BM 11/1 (KL) and again 11/5 (NP). Due to the mild weather, there were no significant fallouts of **Common Loon**. Single birds were found on LO 10/29, 11/15, and 11/16 (RK). HMS reported a season total of 98 with a one-day high count of 26 on 11/2. LO is the most common site for grebes and this year was no different. These reports were all from LO: 43 **Pied-billed Grebes** 11/10 (RK), 4 **Horned Grebes** 11/30 (RK), one **Red-necked Grebe** 11/9 (MS) and two 11/30 (RK). HMS recorded 1324 **Double-crested Cormorants**, mostly in Oct as usual. The season total of 1115 in 1996 was a previous high count for a single season.

A single **Great Egret** stayed at the pond at Blue Mt. Academy 8/11-9/18 (MW, m.ob.). For comparison, an immature **Little Blue Heron** kept company with the larger egret 8/11-26 (MW, m.ob.). A mixture of adult and immature **Black-crowned Night-Herons** numbering 10-12 were seen in the spillway at LO 8/14-16 (KK, JW, PW). A single immature **Black-crowned Night Heron** at KDRA 9/4 (KH) was a new species for that site's list.

Seasonal totals of 936 **Turkey Vultures** and 88 **Peregrine Falcons** were new records for HMS. **Black Vultures**, **Bald Eagles**, **Sharp-shinned Hawks**, **Golden Eagles**, and **Merlin** were all above the 10-year average (LG). The total count of 17,382 was 6% lower than the 10-year average (LG). The other raptors were either below or at the average for the season. The one-day count of 247 **Turkey Vulture** 10/14 was a new record, as were the 8 **Peregrine Falcons** 9/29. The highest one-day count of 975 raptors 9/15 was on southeast winds that brought a season high 888 **Broad-**

winged Hawk as well as 32 Osprey and 49 American Kestrel (LG). Two juvenile Swainson's Hawks were recorded as they flew southeast into Berks from SGL 117 near Leaser Lake 9/12 (DW). Reports of Bald Eagles were not relegated to LO or BM; birders reported one or two eagles from every corner of Berks. The greatest number of eagles continued at the chicken farms on Cherry Road near Hamburg. Counts there have been as high as 16 of all ages.

The fallout at LO 11/30 included 150 American Coots (RK). A single Sandhill Crane flew over the Blue Marsh Hawk Watch 9/12 (JS).

Mild weather during peak shorebird migration was not conducive for good numbers of birds even at the best sites—the ponds at BMA and SRFP. With the exception of Killdeer, shorebirds were counted in totals less than five. One American Golden-Plover was at SRFP 9/21 (RK) and one Semipalmated Plover was in Exeter Township 9/11 (RK). Killdeer numbers were the highest at SFP with 43 on 8/30 and 40 on 9/3 (MW). On 10/14, 2 Greater Yellowlegs, 2 Lesser Yellowlegs and one Stilt Sandpiper were tallied at BMA (JW, PW, MW). One Pectoral Sandpiper was at BMA 10/1 (MW), and a late Dunlin was at BM 11/5 (NP).

Forty-eight Bonaparte's Gulls were recorded at BM (KL) and a combined total of 51 was reported from LO and BM 11/6 (RK). The 11/30 fallout resulted in 6138 Ring-billed Gulls and 700 Herring Gulls at BM and LO (RK), and 900 Ring-billed Gulls were counted at BM 11/15 (RK). A single Great Black-backed Gull joined the fallout birds at BM 11/30 (RK). The two terns that usually visit Berks were present at the usual dates. From 8/2-9/27, a total of 21 Caspian Terns were reported at LO and BM (KK, MS, JS, RK, KL). Eight Black Terns were seen at LO 8/12 (DA) and eleven at BML 9/04 (JS).

The early report of a Snowy Owl from Morgantown kindled hopes of a repeat of the invasion of last winter. The bird was seen and photographed near the Heatherbrook Subdivision 11/10. It was seen briefly 11/11 but was not relocated after that (KLH, SD). Northern Saw-whet Owls were seen on the northern ridge and in the rolling hills of Blue Marsh. Single birds were seen at BML 10/2 and 10/23 (JS). Three owls responded to a recording at SGL 106 on 10/31 (MW), and a single was at SGL 106 on 11/10 (HP).

Common Nighthawk migration was spread throughout Berks 8/28-9/30. HMS tallied 39 for the season. Eleven birds at BM 9/2 was the high away from the ridge (EB). A single Eastern Whip-poor-will was heard in Boyertown 8/21 (RK). The high count for migrating Chimney Swifts was 185 at KDRA (KG). The last report received of Chimney Swifts was 10/7 in Union Twp. (KKI). HMS tallied 326 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds this season with a high daily count of 35 on 8/26 (LG). Only 6 Red-headed Woodpeckers were counted at HMS this year, fewer than usual (LG). The first reported Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was 9/28 in Boyertown (RK); however, this was not the earliest fall migrant on record. Maurice Broun reported one at HMS on 9/13/1941. For the sixth consecutive year, wintering Merlins returned to BML, first seen 10/7 (JS). On 8/30, a Peregrine Falcon was observed hunting Barn Swallows unsuccessfully at SFP. It resorted to flushing the European Starlings in the barn's eaves (MW).

Single appearances of Olive-sided Flycatchers were reported at HMS on 8/24, 9/7, and 9/23 (LG). The highest daily count of 15 Eastern Wood-Pewees came from Monocacy Hill Recreation Area 8/6 (RK). A late November push of Eastern Phoebes saw single birds reported 11/28 in Hamburg (MW), LO (JW, PW) and Boyertown (KW, RW). Philadelphia Vireos are most easily seen at HMS; this year 19 was the season total with a high count of 14 on 9/23 (LG). The last one was seen 10/9 (RK). Numbers of migrant Blue Jay were surprisingly high at KDRA, where 4745 were tallied 9/27-10/10. The highest one-day count was 1586 (KG). HMS, in comparison, reported 5010 for the season with a high one-day count of 1160. Common Ravens continue to expand their territory away from the ridges. HMS tallied 239 for the season (LG). The birds are usually seen in pairs although their numbers are increasing at KDRA, LO, Lyons' farming area, and the chicken farms on Cherry Road in Shartlesville. There was no Red-breasted Nuthatch invasion this year. HMS reported 31 migrants (LG). Reports away from the ridge were of single birds. A late House Wren was reported at KDRA 10/12 (KG).

At HMS 9/17, the high count of nocturnal flight calls of Gray-cheeked Thrush was 13. Swainson's Thrush nocturnal flight calls numbered 350 and Wood Thrush numbered 150 calls the same morning (RK). The last report of Gray Catbird was at KDRA 10/30 (KG). Fifty-eight American Pipits were reported from Albany Township 10/22 (RK). There were only three reports of Snow Buntings—all from the farmlands in eastern Berks where 36 were found 11/29 (JW, PW). A lone Lapland Longspur was reported in the same area 11/28 (SB).

Birders reported 30 warbler species which flew by in scattered numbers along the ridges and the valleys. Overall, the numbers were lower than in past years with few weather events to push them onto the ridges for cover. Total HMS sightings included: 87 Magnolia Warblers, 244 Cape May Warblers, 149 Black-throated Blue Warblers, 355 Yellow-rumped

Warblers, 586 Black-throated Green Warblers. The unusually high number of Cape May Warblers is 110 more than in 2013 with 44 counted on 9/23 (LG). Off-ridge, these hard-to-see warblers were found: Orange-crowned Warbler at KDRA 9/26 (KG), Connecticut Warbler at Reading 9/8 (MS), SGL 110 on 9/14 (KG), and North Kill Gap 9/19 (DR), and a single Mourning Warbler at BML 10/3 (JS).

Three Fox Sparrows were found at KDRA 11/5 (KG) and 5 were reported at a feeder in Alburts 11/28 (PS). A good number of Song Sparrows, 67, were reported from GHP 11/23 (AZ). During the week of 10/5-10, up to 6 Lincoln's Sparrows were found at SGL 106 (DA, MW). At HMS, a highly melanistic Dark-eyed Junco was observed from ten feet by several birders (AK, RF). A late Blue Grosbeak was seen at BML 10/6 (PM). An immature Painted Bunting was observed at KDRA 9/15 (KG). The bird was visible only for minutes and then moved on. The last reported Painted Bunting in Berks was present from Oct 1971 to 10/12/1972 in Muhlenberg Twp.

Winter finches were limited to Pine Siskins and Purple Finches but in higher number than the past few years. They were mostly found along the ridges and feeders of HMS. The total of Purple Finch at HMS was 926 with a one-day peak of 135. Pine Siskins were more numerous with 4566 tallied for the season and a one-day peak of 635. The first Purple Finch was seen 9/1 and Pine Siskin on 9/23. Five Common Redpolls flew past HMS north lookout on 11/28 (LG).

*CORRIGENDA* In the spring 2014 issue (Volume 28, No. 2), the location listed for the report of a single Little Blue Heron was incorrect; the bird was actually at Turnpike Pond, Morgantown.

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### Blair County

Locations: Canoe Creek State Park (CCSP), Monastery Rd. impoundment (MRI).

Information for this report was obtained primarily from eBird with background and status information from *Birds of Central Pennsylvania* by Nick Bolgiano and Greg Grove, 2010 (*B&G, 2010*). The following uncommon species were reported in at least five locations and will not be discussed further: Bald Eagle, Common Raven, Cliff Swallow, Ovenbird, and Black-and-white Warbler.

Several uncommon duck species were observed, mostly at CCSP. Gadwall were present 11/5-6, with 21 at CCSP, and a high of 63 noted 11/6 due to storm fallout (MD). Two Blue-winged Teal were present 8/24-30 at MRI (MD); a Northern Shoveler was also observed there 11/22 (JD). CCSP hosted a Northern Pintail on 11/6, 2 Redheads 11/21, 3 Greater Scaup 11/6, and up to 5 Lesser Scaup 11/6-7 (all MD).

As many as 9 Horned Grebe were spotted at CCSP 10/28-11/20. A rare Great Egret graced MRI 8/1-9. One to 4 Green Heron were counted 8/3-10/18 at CCSP, and up to 19 were present 8/1-10/12 at MRI (all MD).

Many species of raptor were observed. Black Vultures were noted 8/9-10/17 at Dunning Mtn., with a high of 14 flying by 10/8. Two were spotted at MRI 9/1, and one was present 9/1 and 11/8 in the Williamsburg-Martinsburg Eastern Valley. Single Ospreys were seen 8/19-9/1 at MRI and 8/31-9/26 at CCSP. Two flew past Dunning Mtn. 10/4 (all MD). The only reported Golden Eagle migrated past Plummer's Hollow 11/7 (MB). Two Northern Harriers were observed, one on 10/12 at Dunning Mtn. and the other 11/27 in Sinking Valley. A Red-shouldered Hawk was spotted 9/28 in SGL 166, and other migrated past Dunning Mtn. 10/11 (all MD).

Several species of shorebird were recorded, including a Spotted Sandpiper 10/15 at CCSP (MD). MRI was the shorebird hotspot; up to 3 Spotted Sandpipers were present 8/3-25. Up to 9 Solitary Sandpipers were noted 8/1-9/18, and a single Greater Yellowlegs was seen 9/4. As many as 4 slightly more diminutive Lesser Yellowlegs were identified 8/31-10/4. The same number of Least Sandpipers was observed 8/2-10/4. Up to 3 Wilson's Snipe lingered 10/4-11/23 (all MD).

Three Bonaparte's Gulls were present 11/6 at CCSP, and a rare

**Black Tern** was observed there 8/31-9/1 (all MD). **Common Nighthawks** were present beginning with 3 spotted 8/4-10 in Altoona. However, 9/1 was a red-letter day for them; 19 were observed at MRI, and 9 were seen at Chimney Rocks Park (all MD). **Belted Kingfishers** were present throughout the fall, with a few noted at MRI 8/1-11/23 (MD), and one or 2 more at CCSP 8/10-11/12 (JD, MD). The species was also reported 8/27 on the Lower Trail (MD). **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were seen 9/28 in SGL 166. Single birds were observed 10/12 at Dunning Mtn. and 11/22 at CCSP (all MD). Two migrating falcons flew past Dunning Mtn. A **Merlin** was observed 10/12, and a **Peregrine Falcon** was noted 10/17 (both MD).

Three rare **Olive-sided Flycatchers** were noted: one 8/27 in SGL 166, and 2 at MRI 9/1 (all MD). A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was described at CCSP 9/10 (MD), and single **Acadian Flycatchers** were seen 8/3 at Plummer's Hollow (MB), 8/9-10 at CCSP (MD, JD), and 8/19 at Frosty Hollow (LB). One **Least Flycatcher** was observed 8/28 at CCSP (MD), where a single **Great Crested Flycatcher** was also present 8/10-29 (JD, MD). Another Great Crested Flycatcher was noted 8/29 at Chimney Rocks Park (MD). **Eastern Kingbirds** were also present, with up to 3 spotted at MRI 8/1-19 and 2 at CCSP 8/10-25 (both MD).

**Yellow-throated Vireos** are very early migrants, so finding them during the fall migration is a rare occurrence. Nonetheless, three were reported. One was present at CCSP 8/25-9/10 (MD), another was spotted 9/7 at Frosty Hollow (LB), and the third was seen 9/8 on the Lower Trail (MD). **Warbling Vireos** are also rare fall migrants. One was observed 8/8 at MRI, one or 2 were noted 8/28-9/12 at CCSP, and as many as 3 were present on the Lower Trail 8/31-9/18 (all MD). The last was seen 8/19 in Frosty Hollow (LB). A **Philadelphia Vireo** was observed 8/12-29 at CCSP (MD). A **Bank Swallow** was spotted 8/22 at CCSP (MD).

One **Brown Creeper** crept along the Lower Trail 9/8 (MD), and another was observed 10/24 at Plummer's Hollow (MB). Two were spotted at CCSP 11/22 (MD). Three **Winter Wrens** were seen 10/16 at Plummer's Hollow (MB), and single birds were reported 10/22 at CCSP, 11/22 at SGL 166, and 11/23 at MRI (all MD). A **Marsh Wren** was found in the cattails along the lake edge at CCSP 10/22. At least one **Swainson's Thrush** was observed 9/23 at CCSP. CCSP also had the first **American Pipit** of the season, with 21 seen feeding on the lawn near the beach area. One was spotted 11/22 at the Canoe Cr. Cemetery (all MD).

Thirty warbler species and one hybrid were observed; of these eight were common to abundant. Although eighteen were uncommon, two were reported in five or more locations and will not be individually discussed. Four rare species were also noted. A few **Worm-eating Warblers** were present, with one seen 8/3 at SGL 166 (MD). Another was observed 8/8-18 at Frosty Hollow (LB), and one was seen 9/8 on the Lower Trail (MD). A rare **Northern Waterthrush** was found at MRI 8/1 (MD). Single **Blue-winged Warblers** were noted 9/2 at CCSP (MD) and 9/7 at Frosty Hollow (LB). A male **Golden-winged Warbler** was seen 8/1 at Frosty Hollow, where a male **Brewster's Warbler** was also reported 8/15 (both LB). Up to 4 **Tennessee Warblers** were spotted 8/18-9/29 in Frosty Hollow (LB), and as many as 3 were observed 9/9-10/2 at CCSP (MD). Single birds were also present 9/25 on the Lower Trail and 10/11 at MRI (both MD). Rare, casually occurring **Orange-crowned Warblers** were identified 9/30 and 10/22 at CCSP, and another rarity, **Connecticut Warbler**, was present there 9/24-26 (both MD). A third rarity, a **Mourning Warbler**, was seen 9/7 at Frosty Hollow (LB). A **Hooded Warbler** was present there 8/1-9/19 (LB), and another was noted 8/8 at Plummer's Hollow (MB). Frosty Hollow was the place for **Cerulean Warblers**, with an adult female observed 8/8 and one imm. male and two imm. females 8/19 (all LB). A **Northern Parula** was also reported there 9/19 (LB), and another was seen 9/24-29 at CCSP (MD). One to 3 **Magnolia Warblers** were observed 8/19-9/29 at Frosty Hollow (LB), and up to 4 were spotted 8/29-9/29 at CCSP. As many as 3 were seen 9/8 and 9/19 on the Lower Trail (all MD). A few **Bay-breasted Warblers** were present 8/31-9/29 at CCSP (MD). Single **Blackburnian Warblers** were reported 8/8 at MRI, 8/29-9/29 at CCSP, and 9/8 on the Lower Trail (all MD). Three were spotted 9/16 in Frosty Hollow (LB). **Yellow Warblers** are usually gone by late summer. One was noted 8/2 at Moorhen Marsh (MD). There were two reports of single birds at CCSP, one 8/10 (JD) and one 8/24 (MD). Two migrating **Black-throated Blue Warblers** passed through Plummer's Hollow 9/7-28 (MB). One or 2 were paused at Frosty Hollow 9/7-29 (LB), and one was observed 9/10-10/2 at CCSP (MD). **Palm Warblers** were present 9/29 and 10/16 in Plummer's Hollow (MB), and a single bird was reported 10/18 at MRI. At least one was seen 10/19 in SGL 198 (both MD). A few **Pine Warblers** were reported: one 9/12 at CCSP (MD) and another 9/16 at Frosty Hollow (LB). Two **Prairie Warblers** were seen 8/27 in SGL 166 (MD). A **Canada Warbler** was present 9/16 in Frosty Hollow (LB), and a **Wilson's Warbler** was observed 9/8 on the Lower Trail (MD).

A number of **Savannah Sparrows** were reported 8/10 at CCSP (JD), and up to 8 were present 8/19-10/18 at MRI (MD). **Fox Sparrows** returned in November, with one or 2 observed 11/1-27 at CCSP (MD) and the same

numbers in Plummer's Hollow 11/9-28 (MB). One or 2 **Lincoln's Sparrows** were spotted 8/16-10/4 at CCSP and 10/11-18 at MRI (both MD). **Swamp Sparrows** continued from summer, with one reported 8/27, 9/28 and 11/22 in SGL 166. One or 2 were seen 9/26-11/22 at CCSP, and as many as 3 were noted 10/4-11/8 at MRI. The species was also found 10/19 in SGL 198 (all MD). **White-crowned Sparrows** were identified 9/28 in SGL 166 and up to 5 were observed 10/11-11/8 at MRI (both MD). Two were identified 10/17 in Plummer's Hollow (MB), and one was present 10/19-11/1 at CCSP (MD).

As many as 50 **Bobolink** were observed at MRI 8/3-9/30, with highs of 35 on 8/10 and 50 on 9/1. **Eastern Meadowlarks** were also present there 8/3-10/26. Up to 25 were present in a single flock there 9/30. A single bird was present 11/27 in Sinking Valley (all MD).

A few **Purple Finches** were noted at CCSP 9/19-25, and two more were present 11/8 at MRI (both MD). A female was spotted visiting feeders in Plummer's Hollow 11/20-30 (MB). Five **Pine Siskins** were seen 9/30 at SGL 166, and 30 were observed there 11/22. Up to 50 were reported at CCSP (all MD). A flock of 30 raided the Plummer's Hollow feeder station 11/9 (MB).

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### **Bradford County**

Locations: Browning Pond, Wyalusing (BRP), Edwards Rd, Stevensville (ERS), Flanagan Rd, Leraysville (FLR), SGL219 (east of Windham) G219, Herberts (east of Litchfield) HER, Peck Hill (PEH), Sandor Rd., Stevensville (SAR), Susquehanna River (SUR), Trudy Gerlach farm near New Era (TNE), Wyalusing Creek, Stevensville (WCS).

Other than the usual large amount of **Canada Geese**, there was only one report of waterfowl this fall: **Bufflehead** 11/14 in a large mixed flock of other waterfowl at Lake Wesauking (LF). On 10/11 a **Ring-necked Pheasant** was seen at G219 (GC); and one was at New Era 11/4 (TG). A **Great Egret** was observed on CC Allis Rd. Herrickville 8/1 and one was on WCS 8/4 (both KR). **Green Herons** were reported from two locations. One was at PEH 8/15 (AV, GV), and 5 at TNE 8/28 (TG).

Rarely seen, 2 **Black Vultures** were at ERS on 8/28 and one was there 10/17 (KR). An **Osprey** was at the Guthrie Ponds, Sayre 8/21 (DL). The **Bald Eagle** population continues to grow in the county. There were many sightings throughout the season from, WCS, ERS, Wyalusing Rocks, Tubach or Burke's Pond, the SUR at Echo Beach, TNE, Iron Bridge Rd., the Wyox SUR bridge, County Bridge Rd., and Rte. 706 near Cold Creek Rd. (m.ob.). On 11/12 a male **Northern Harrier** was over the Harkness Restaurant near Towanda (BF). A **Northern Goshawk** was observed at PEH 11/12 (AV, GV). **Red-shouldered Hawks** possibly nesting TNE and were seen and heard often this year and a number of past years. This year birds were seen 8/19-9/10 (TG). An immature was seen at SAR 8/27 (KR). A **Broad-winged Hawk** was at SAR on 8/27 and at ERS on 9/9 (KR).

**Sandhill Cranes** continued to be seen and heard frequently in an area east of New Era. The first sighting of this species since June was made 8/29 (TG); 3-4 were seen periodically through 11/10.

A leucistic **Mourning Dove** was at ERS 8/11 and 9/1 (KR). On 10/5 and 10/11 an **Eastern Screech-Owl** was at PEH (AV, GV). For the first time in some years there were reports of **Common Nighthawks** in the county; 2 were at ERS 8/20 (KR), and one was winging south 8/24 over TNE, the late day sun making its wing bars shine like silver (TG). Wonderfully rare sightings of **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were made twice 8/15 on Rt. 154 between Canton and Lake Nepahwin (LF). Five **American Kestrels** were seen at the intersection of Clapper Hill Rd. and Stevensville Mountain Rd. 8/27 (KR).

Also unusual was a **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** at PEH 8/31 and 9/1 (AV, GV). On 10/16 a **White-eyed Vireo** was at HER (TL). A **Yellow-throated Vireo** was at PEH 8/1 and 8/23 (AV, GV). **Blue-headed Vireos** were seen 9/20 and 9/27 at ERS (KR), and 10/2 at PEH (AV, GV). A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was at SGL 219 on 10/11 (GC). Migrant **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were seen 10/14-16 at PEH (AV, GV); 10/16 at HER (TL); and 10/24, 10/29, and 11/5 at ERS (KR). Infrequently observed, a **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was at PEH 8/18, 8/31, and 9/10 (AV, GV). There was a **Northern Mockingbird** at ERS 11/11 and 11/16 (KR).

Thanks to a combination of excellent observation primarily by four birders, and good habitat, there was a great list of warblers recorded this season. A **Blue-winged Warbler** was at ERS 8/11 and 8/20 (KR), and at PEH 8/23 (AV, GV). **Tennessee Warblers** were observed 8/31, 9/10-11 at PEH (AV, GV); 9/22 at ERS, and 11/17 at BRP (KR). **Nashville Warbler**

was seen periodically at PEH 8/25-9/25 (AV, GV). On 9/28 a **Northern Parula** was at PEH (AV, GV), and one was at SGL 219 on 10/1 (GC). **Magnolia Warbler** observations were made 8/19-10/3 at PEH (AV, GV), and one was at ERS 9/12 (KR). A **Cape May Warbler** was at PEH 9/25 (AV, GV), and at SGL 219 on 10/1 (GC). A **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was seen 10/5 at ERS and 10/12 at FLR (both KR), 10/8-9 and 10/20 at PEH (AV, GV) and 10/11 at SGL 219 (GC). **Blackburnian Warblers** included 2 at ERS 9/8 (KR) and one at PEH 9/25 (AV, GV). A **Pine Warbler** was at ERS 9/12 (KR); and at PEH 10/9 (AV, GV). **Prairie Warblers** were noted 8/1 on CC Allis Rd., Herrickville, 9/12 at ERS (KR), on 8/13-9/15 at PEH (AV, GV); and 8/24 and 9/11 at ERS (KR). A **Palm Warbler** was present ERS 9/11 (KR), one was at PEH 10/9 (AV, GV); and one was at SGL 219 on 10/1 (GC). A **Blackpoll Warbler** was at PEH 9/24 (AV, GV). A **Black-and-white Warbler** was at PEH 8/24 and 8/31 (AV, GV). An **American Redstart** was at PEH 8/3-19 (AV, GV). A **Mourning Warbler** was at PEH 9/15 (AV, GV). Marvelous sightings of a **Wilson's Warbler** 8/24 and 9/10 were made at PEH (AV, GV). A **Canada Warbler** was observed 8/19, 8/23, and 8/25 at PEH (AV, GV).

An **American Tree Sparrow** was at PEH 11/13 and 11/29 (AV, GV). Migrating **Fox Sparrows** at PEH 10/26-11/16 (AV, GV). Up to 6 were at ERS 10/26-11/26 when 12 inches of snow sent them on their way (KR). A **Swamp Sparrow** was at W. Hill Road, Leraysville 10/2 (KR). **White-crowned Sparrows** were at BRP 9/27 (KR), a juv. was at FLR 10/12 (KR), 2 were at HER 10/16 (TL), and at PEH 10/20 and 10/31 (AV, GV).

Encouraging were two sightings of **Rusty Blackbird**: one at a creek at TNE 10/27 (TG) and at ERS 11/27 (KR). **Purple Finches** were seen 9/12, 9/24, and 10/9 at PEH (AV, GV); and 10/27 and 10/31 at ERS (KR). There were only two sightings of **Pine Siskin**: 10/11 and 11/9 at PEH, (AV, GV).

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## Bucks County

Locations: Bradford Dam (BRD), Core Creek Park (CCP), Lake Towhee Park (LTP), Maple Knoll Farms in Buckingham Twp. (MKF), Nockamixon State Park (NSP), Peace Valley Park (PVP), Pine Run Dam (PRN), Penn-Warner Tract (PWT), State Game Land #56 (SGL56), State Game Land #157 (SGL157).

Temperatures were below normal for August (-2.1°F) and November (-3.5°F), but above for September (+1.3°F) and October (+2.7°F). All but November (+0.89 inches) had below normal precipitation totaling -4.9 inches, with September the driest at -3.22 inches. Lows in the teens were first seen 11/18-22, and then snow arrived 11/26 in varying amounts from none in the south to a several inches in the north. Overall, the migration was at recent norms of low single day warbler diversity and numbers. There were no large fallouts reported. Shorebird habitat was good by September, but few of the rarer species were reported and numbers were not exceptional. Reports of northern irruptive species were much better than last year but still modest. The species count for the four month period was 233 plus one identified only to genus. There were four new fall early arrival dates and three fall late departure dates.

As usual, historical references are from *Birds of Bucks County* by Ken Kitson 1998, and subsequent updates recorded in this journal. Weather statistics are from nearby Trenton, New Jersey, with climate normal values based on the recent three decades per the NOAA website.

A **Greater White-fronted Goose** was first reported at PVP 10/10 (phs. DBE, BSw, SG) and reported again 10/12 (VM, KI). The same one or another was there 10/28 (AM ph). The PVP bird was likely also seen at PRN 10/16 (AM), but it is suspected that 2 found there 10/17 (AU) were different birds. The 2 stayed to 10/19 (PC, MG, RM, BK, KR). An adult dark form individual **Snow Goose** at PRN 10/21 (JM, SSm, AM) provided the fall's first report. There were only 7 more individuals reported from five sites starting 11/15 through the end of the month (MG, DS, AM). A **Brant** was a nice find at LTP 10/19-11/3 (DFa, m.ob.). Another **Brant** was at PVP 11/7 (AM) and 11/17 (DFa). Probably the same bird was at PRN 11/15 (KR). Three **Cackling Geese** at PVP starting 10/2 were the first of the season (AM). An interesting swan was reported 10/19 at LTP (PT) and identified later that day as a **Trumpeter Swan** (DFa). It was seen there sporadically through 11/16 (m.ob., AM ph., vr.). When the lake froze it moved to NSP 11/20-21 (PT, SG ph., RS, VS). This provided the third county record, all since Dec 2013. Five **Tundra Swans** were at NSP 11/6 (DFa, PC), 2 were at CVP 11/6 (DFa), and 2 stopped at PVP 11/12 (AM). Two were at Robin Run Dam 11/20

(HD), and possibly the same 2 were only three miles away later that day at Wrightstown Twp. (BK). A strange male **Wood Duck** lingered at PVP from at least 10/21 through the end of the period (AM, m.ob.). It started out in basic plumage when other males were already in alternate. By mid-Nov it was in alternate plumage. It stayed with Mallards and domestic Mallards in abnormal habitat. Other **Wood Duck** entries in eBird ended 11/12 (PS), with the high count 72 at LTP 10/13 (SSm). **Gadwall** seems to be more common in the past few years at central county lakes. An unusual high count of 58 was at PVP 11/6 (AM), and 30 were at PRN 11/8-11/11 (KR, AM). Rare in summer, an **American Black Duck** was early at CCP 8/31 (DFa). Regular fall arrivals started in mid-Sep (m.ob.), and the high count was 70 at LTP 11/16 (SSm). A **Blue-winged Teal** at PVP 7/31 provided a new fall early arrival date and remained there until at least 8/2 (AM). This was over a month earlier than the next reports. On the other end of migration, a late one 11/11-12 at Franklin Cove, Tullytown (DFi, RFe), was a month later than earlier reports. In between, there were reports of mostly low single digit counts from seven sites 9/3 to 10/11 (m.ob.).

Two male **Redheads** at PVP 11/20-21 (AM, MHo) provided the only report. Nine **Greater Scaup** at Churchville Park 11/8 (HD) were noteworthy and were followed by 3 at NSP 11/21 (SG) and 3 at PVP 11/22 (AM, et al.). Three **White-winged Scoters** stopped at NSP 11/6 (PC, DFa), with 2 more there 11/14 (PC). One was at Franklin Cove, Tullytown 11/9-11 (MG, DFi, RFe). A total of 11 **Black Scoters** were tallied at NSP 10/19 (PC), followed by 2 11/1 (PC, KR, DFa), one 11/2 (AM), and one 11/6 (PC). PVP hosted an adult male 11/2 (AM ph.). A **Long-tailed Duck** stopped at NPS 11/2 (AM), one was at PWT 11/16 (MG), and 3 stopped at NSP 11/28 (PC). The high counts for **Bufflehead** were on 11/9, with 110 at PVP (HD) and 72 at NSP (PC). The only **Common Goldeneye** was one at NSP 11/30 (PC). A **Red-breasted Merganser** at PVP 11/2 (AM) provided the only report. The sites with high reports of **Ruddy Duck** were PVP with 181 11/6 (DFa, AM) and Franklin Cove with 147 11/9 (MG).

Single **Red-throated Loons** 11/1 were at PWT (DFa) and NSP (KR). Two **Common Loons** at NSP 10/4 were the first fall arrivals (DFa). All other reports were in the low single digits (m.ob.). A **Pied-billed Grebe** 8/2 at Churchville Park was early if a migrant (TH, JT). The next reports were 9/7 at Robin Run Dam (AMn) and PRN (TF). Thereafter, regular reports came from at least 13 sites starting 9/23 through the end of the period (m.ob.), with the high counts being 9 at NSP 10/11 (DFa) and 6 at PVP 10/15 (AM). After only one report last fall, **Horned Grebes** were regular at NSP and PVP starting 10/8 (m.ob.), with high counts of 5 at both PVP 11/6 (AM) and NSP 11/21 (SG). Five **Red-necked Grebes** at NSP 10/26 (AM, JM) were surprising for the unusually high count for such an early date. **Double-crested Cormorant** reports were modest with highs at PVP in Aug, Sep, and Oct. only 30-38 (HD, RM, AM, SSm). The first fall report for **Great Cormorant** 11/11-13 was from Giving Pond near Uhlerstown, which has hosted them before during migration (PC, EB).

An unusual number of **American Bittern** reports followed the one noted 7/31 in the previous season's summary. One each was at PWT 8/8 (MG), Churchville Park 8/20 (VDe), PRN 9/2 (phs. AM, BK), and PVP 9/13 (JW, et al.). **Great Egret** was reported from 21 sites (m.ob.), with the last report of one 11/11 at Washington Crossing Park (HB, FV). The consistently highest counts of 5 to 11 came from CCP through mid-Oct (m.ob.). The high report at Rohm and Haas, Bristol, was 8 on 8/3 (DFa). All other sites had counts in the low single digits. Snowy Egret went unreported, probably due to fewer visits to their normal sites. A juv. **Little Blue Heron** was at Upper Makefield Firehouse 8/14 (MG), and one was at PVP 9/21-10/4 (ph. AM, JM). Another was well studied at close range at PVP 10/19 (AC). One stopped at NSP 10/1 (EB ph.) and was last reported there 10/4 (MLy). A rarely reported **Cattle Egret** was at Giving Pond 10/26 (AM, JM, doc.). **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was reported at seven sites through 9/23, with a single bird being the normal count (m.ob.). The exceptions were 2 at Rohm and Haas 8/17 (DFa), 3 at PVP 8/28 (RM), 3 at CCP 8/31 (DFa), and 4 at Silver Lake Park 9/6 (DFa). The last report was of one at Silver Lake Park 10/18 (MG) where they are often found in winter.

A brief fly-by view provided an amazing report of **White-tailed Kite** at East Rockhill Twp. 8/7 (HR, JR, doc.) that would be a first state record if accepted by PORC. A second year female **Golden Eagle** that was trapped in northwest Alabama 2/6/2014 and equipped with a GPS tracking device, spent the summer in southern Quebec and New Brunswick, and passed over Pleasant Valley 9/19 (*vide* SSo). An imm. bird flew over Fountainville on 10/26 (MHa). Another GPS tracked bird passed over Riegelsville 11/3 and spent the night east of Green Lane Reservoir in Montgomery Co. This bird had been tagged last winter at Blackwater NWR in Maryland (*vide* DBr). The NSP **Broad-winged Hawk** count effort was 74.5 hours 9/13-22, with a total hawk count of 1434 of 10 species. **Broad-winged Hawk** totaled 1315, with the single day high of 406 on 9/17 (BF, et al.). At Pipersville, a 6.5 hour effort 9/15-16 produced 1332 hawks of five species. The total **Broad-winged Hawk** count was 1323, with 1011 on 9/15 (DA). One **Sora** was reported

from PRN 10/4 (PC), 10/17 (AU), and 10/19 (MG).

Seventeen shorebird species were reported for the four-month period. **Semipalmated Plover** was reported from only four sites on nine dates in low single digit counts through 9/21 (m.ob.), with the exception being 12 at PWT 8/2 (DFa). **Lesser Yellowlegs** was the most regular and common non-peeep shorebird, with reports from eight sites through 10/30 (m.ob.). The highest site counts were: 23 at PRN 9/12 (AM), 13 at BRD 9/15 (AM), 9 at CCP 9/20 (MG), and 13 at Churchville Park 10/15 (BK, KKo). Low counts for the available mud, 2 **Stilt Sandpipers** were at PRN 10/1-3 (HD, AM, SG), with one still there 10/4 (PC, MG, RM). Probably a different bird was there 10/8 (AM). Another stopped at Churchville Park 10/8-15 (VDe, NZ, BK). Always rare here, 2 **Sanderlings** at PWT 8/31 provided the only report (DFa). One **Dunlin** at PVP 11/6 was surprisingly the only report (DFa). Also, normally in low numbers, 2 **Baird's Sandpipers** were at PRN 9/1-3 (KR, Dfa, BK ph., AM, SG ph.), and one stopped there 9/20 (AM ph.). Another was at PWT 9/27 (DFa). **Least Sandpiper** was tallied at eight sites. Most counts were in the low single digits or low double digits (m.ob.). The exception was the high count of about 150 at PWT 8/23 (DFa). A late one was at PVP 11/5 (SG ph.). The sometimes more common **White-rumped Sandpiper** was represented by only 2 at CCP 9/20 (DFa). **Pectoral Sandpiper** was again well reported, although mostly in single digit counts from seven sites from 8/31 to 10/7 (m.ob.). **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was reported from only four sites, with a low high count of 19 at PRN 9/19 (SG, AM). Single **Short-billed Dowitchers** were at NSP 8/30-31 (DFa) and BRD 8/31 (AM), for the only reports. Only four sites had reports of single **Wilson's Snipe** from 8/31-11/15 (AM, PC, GJ, MG, JBa). The exception was 10 at BRD 11/11 (AM). **American Woodcock** was reported from BRD 11/2 (GJ) and Solebury Twp. 11/5 (DFa).

Only five gull species were reported. **Bonaparte's Gull** was first noted 10/24 at PVP (AM), with the high report there about 15 11/20 (AM). Seven provided the first report at NSP 10/26 (DFa), with the high count 9 11/9 (PC). The highest count in eBird for **Laughing Gull** was 225 at Falls Twp. Community Park 9/21 (HM, BSu). The last eBird report was 11/18 at PWT (RFe). The first reported **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was at PVP 9/3, with a noteworthy Sep high count there of 94 on 9/24 (AM). Also, all from PVP, the highest monthly reports were 125 on 10/26 (AM, JM) and 77 11/2 (GP). **Caspian Tern** was reported on eight dates from six sites between 8/16 and 9/13, with a total of only 18 individuals (m.ob.). The high count was 6 at Mud Island 9/13 (DFa). Four **Black Terns** were at Mud Island 9/6, with one there 9/13 (all DFa). The only **Common Tern** report came from PVP 9/21, when a surprising 40 spent at least all afternoon there (AM, JM, Dfa). This is the highest single site quantity entered in eBird and possibly the highest at any time for the county, even surpassing known hurricane reports. The repeated passing of the birds in review as they moved from one end of the lake to the other allowed an accurate count and confirmation that no other species were present (*vide* Dfa). One to four **Forster's Terns** were reported on five dates on the lower Delaware River between Mud Island and Bristol between 9/5 and 10/18 (PC, Dfa, MG).

A likely **Eurasian Collared-Dove** has been seen or heard at least three times near Rusland on private property. A very distant photo 9/17 was reasonably convincing, as was the description of a call heard 9/29 from an unseen bird (MHa). A previous documented report from Aug 2006 was not accepted by PORC. The county's second **White-winged Dove** was on private property in Plumstead Twp. 9/18-19 (KP doc, ph.). The first was in Dec 2005. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** had a good year, with reports on 35 dates at 20 sites (m.ob.). The last report was 9/28 at SGL56-Wildcat Lake (PC). **Black-billed Cuckoo** only had reports from six sites on 11 dates, with the last report 9/7 at PVP (RM). **Barn Owl** nested successfully resulting in banding of 5 juvs. 9/2. One of the young was found dead in Oct. and the last one was seen at the site 10/19 (all DFa). A **Barred Owl** was near LTP 9/15 (PT). A **Long-eared Owl** at PVP 11/30 was the only report (JH, AM). A **Short-eared Owl** report from MKF 10/18 was believed to be credible (*vide* RS). A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** at PVP was noted 11/30 for the only report (AM, JH.). **Common Nighthawk** was reported mostly in low single digit counts between 8/24 and 10/5 (m.ob.). The only higher count was an estimated 70 at Ferndale 9/10 (DFa). The high count for a roost of **Chimney Swifts** in Kintnersville was 455 on 9/4 (DFa). The county's thirteenth **Selasphorus hummingbird** 9/14-28 (BK ph.) was probably a Rufous Hummingbird but without banding could not be confirmed (SW). The SGL 157 breeding site for **Red-headed Woodpecker** was again successful. Three adults and one juv. were together 8/24 (PC) and 2 adults and 3 juvs. were reported 8/26 (EB). The last report was one 9/9 (EB, EN). On 9/11 a second likely breeding site was reported to the east of SGL 157 short of a mile away from the other site. At least 3 adults and 3 juvs. were noted (DL). At least 2 were still there 9/22 (DL). Hopefully there are more in similar habitat in the upper county. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** may have been more common this fall, with the high count of 4 at PVP 10/12 (KI, VM), with many reports of one to 3 from 28 sites in eBird (m.ob.). Multiple **Peregrine**

**Falcon** reports were unusual away from the normal southern Delaware River sites. Singles were at PRN 8/7 (HD), Carversville 10/15 (DFa), MKF 11/25, and NSP 11/28 (PC). There were also 4 reported on the 10 day mid-Sep NSP hawk watch (BF, et al.). The rest were during the peak period of migration 9/20-10/8 at PRN and PVP, with a total of seven sightings (AM, JM). They may have all been different birds, but it is likely some were repeats. Both immature and adult birds were seen. They caused chaos at PRN as they flushed shorebirds, ducks, and even geese. A Killdeer was taken 9/21, and a Lesser Yellowlegs barely escaped 10/7. One at PVP 10/3 made several passes at a Turkey Vulture, which did a lot of evasive moves to avoid contact. Score one for the shorebirds though, as one immature falcon missed and somersaulted in a wet muddy area at PRN 9/26. It took several minutes to shake off the mud and water and adjust its disheveled feathers before being able to take off (ph. AM, JM).

**Olive-sided Flycatcher** was reported at SGL157 8/15, 8/17, and 8/30 (AM, JM, PC). One stopped at PVP 8/28 (CC, EC). One **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was at PVP 8/21 (EC, CC), one was well described at Doylestown Twp. 8/26 (LW), and another was at Revere 8/30 (DFa). **Acadian Flycatcher** was at Tyler State Park 8/3 (AMn) and Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve 8/19 (MG). A **Willow Flycatcher** family group feeding young was at BRD through at least 8/31 (BK, AM). **Least Flycatcher** was reported from nine sites on 13 dates between 8/9 and 9/14 (m.ob.). There were 7 **Philadelphia Vireos** reported from five sites (DBe, PC, VDe, Dfa, PT). **Common Raven** was reported from at least 14 sites (m.ob.), with 3 at Rusland 9/11 (SC) and 3 at NSP 9/17 (BF) being the highest site counts. It's hard to believe this species was considered accidental or rare less than 10 years ago. The large **Purple Martin** colony in East Rockhill Twp. was down to 10 birds by 8/17, with the last one 8/19 (HR). However, in the southern part of the county at PWT, 46 were still at a relatively new colony 8/16 (MG). The last report was of 2 at PVP 8/26 (HD). A **Black-capped Chickadee** at NSP 9/27 was the first one the observer could report confidently this year, even though he feels strongly that the species persists in the upper county (PC). On 10/30 one was first seen at PVP (AM) and continued there through the period (PC, KS). One was in Doylestown Twp. starting 11/18 (AG). There were more that were obviously not our normal local **Carolina Chickadees**, but could not be definitively called **Black-capped Chickadee** either, indicating a modest movement of birds from north of us (AM). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** arrived in low numbers, with the first at PVP 9/3 (AM). Steady reports started 9/13, with one in Doylestown Twp. (LW). Through the end of the period, a total of 10 sites provided reports (m.ob.). The high site count was 4 at NSP 9/28 (PC). The fall's first reported **Marsh Wren** was at BRD 9/21 (BHe). One was at LaSalle Pond, Newtown Twp. 10/6 (MG). PRN provides the most reports of this species, with birds present from 9/29 to 11/11 (AM, PC, Dfa). An unusually high 8 were believed to be present there 10/18 (DFa). **Winter Wren** seemed unusually easy to detect this fall, with 11 sites reporting them starting 9/13 (PC, m.ob.).

In general, migrant **Catharus** thrushes were under reported or in short supply. A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** at PVP 9/26 and 9/29 provided the only reports (AM). Less common than last year in Nov, there were 7 **Gray Catbirds** reported at six sites, with all except one in the first half of the month (PC, RHe, GJ, RS, DS). The last was at MKF 11/25-30 (RS). **Brown Thrasher** had moved on by mid-Oct. with only 5 eBird entries in Oct ending 10/9 (MG, SG, GJ, VM, PT). The one exception was at CCP 11/3 (MG). **American Pipit** high reports came from MKF, with counts of 57 10/25 and 39 11/23 (RS). Another high was at PVP with about 40 reported 11/27 (SA). **Cedar Waxwings** found good supplies of wild grapes in Oct and Nov, but counts were on the modest side (m.ob.). The high report was 89 at PVP 11/16 (HD). Rarely detected except on manure covered snow, a **Lapland Longspur** was at PRN 11/8 (KR), and one stopped at MKF on manure without snow 11/22 (RS). The PRN bird provided a new fall early date. **Snow Bunting** was reported at NSP 11/1-21 (m.ob.), with a high count of 5 11/21 (SG). One was at PVP 11/2 (GP), and MKF hosted one 11/27 (RS).

Thirty-four warbler species were reported. Kentucky Warbler and Cerulean Warbler were not reported. One and possibly 2 **Golden-winged Warblers** were at PVP 8/21 (EC, CC) providing the only report. **Prothonotary Warbler** reports continued from PVP 8/21 (EC, CC), 8/22 (RD ph.), 8/26 (BK ph.) and 8/28 (KI, VM). One provided a new late date at Springfield Twp. 9/9 (VDr). An **Orange-crowned Warbler** at Warminster Community Park 10/5 (GJ) provided the only report. Single **Connecticut Warblers** were well described at PVP 9/7 (RM) and Churchville Park 10/18 (SF). Two were detected at PWT 9/27, with one there 9/28 (DFa). There were only 4 **Mourning Warbler** reports between 8/18 and 8/31 (PC, KI, AM, RS). **Hooded Warbler** was reported more this fall with 11 individuals at five sites between 8/10 and 9/18 (m.ob.). An **American Redstart** at Silver Lake Park 10/18 (DFi) surpassed the previous fall late date by two days. Only 4 **Bay-breasted Warblers** were entered in eBird, which was surprisingly low (VM, KI, JL, AM). One 8/18 at PVP (AM) was one day earlier than our previous fall early date. A **Blackburnian Warbler** provided a new fall early

date for the second year in a row at PVP 8/7 (AM). A **Yellow Warbler** at Honey Hollow 10/18 (DS) was almost a month later than other reports this year and was just short of our previous fall late date of 10/20. The only report of **Yellow-throated Warbler** was at Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve 9/29 (MG), seven days later than our previous county fall late date. **Wilson's Warbler** at NSP 8/26 (VM) and PVP 9/6 (AM) were the only reports in eBird. **Yellow-breasted Chat** stopped at MKF 8/21 (RS), and one gave a brief appearance at PVP 9/17 (AM)

After last year's very high **Eastern Towhee** reports, there were only two Nov entries in eBird at Dark Hollow Park 11/5 (GJ) and Honey Hollow 11/13 (PC). One **American Tree Sparrow** at PVP 11/3 (RM) and one at MKF 11/27 (RS) were the only reports. **Vesper Sparrow** was first reported at MKF 10/21 (RS), with the high count of 3 10/25 (RS). PRN had 2 noted 10/26 (DFa), with 2 still there 10/28 (AG, ph. NP, ph. AM). One in Lower Makefield Twp. 11/8 (MG) provided the last report. **Nelson's Sparrow** is now expected annually and was first reported 10/11 at BRD (GJ). PRN is the most dependable site, with reports of single birds from 10/16-18 (AM, PC, DFa, ph. SG, ph. AU). **Fox Sparrow** was reported from 16 sites in mostly low single digit numbers (m.ob.). The high counts were 7 at High Rocks State Park 11/8 (KP), 6 at Honey Hollow 11/15 (DS), and 5 at Silver Lake Park 11/22 (DFI). The hotspot for **Lincoln's Sparrow** was MKF, where multiple birds were reported on at least nine days. The high count there was 5 on 9/23 (RS). Otherwise, it was reported from only five other sites (m.ob.). MKF also had the highest **Swamp Sparrow** counts with the highest being 31 on 10/12 (RS). **White-crowned Sparrow** was again in short supply as evidenced by the two highest reports in eBird being 4 at MKF 10/21 (RS) and 3 at PVP 10/30 (AM). Up to 4 **Blue Grosbeaks**, including juveniles were at MKF in Aug through 9/4 (RS). They were at PWT 8/2 and 8/23 feeding both their own kind and juv. Brown-headed Cowbirds. The last report was there on 9/27 (all DFa). A **Dickcissel** at MKF 11/15-16 (RS, PS) was the only one reported. **Bobolink** was reported from five sites, with high site reports of at least 29 at PRN 9/2 (AM) and 46 at PWT 9/27 (DFa). **Eastern Meadowlark** continues to be barely detected, with only three sites reported in eBird. The high count was 4 near MKF 11/5 (RS). **Rusty Blackbird** was reported from 13 sites (m.ob.), with the first report of one at PRN 10/3 (SG). The highest single site reports were about 45 at LTP 10/20 (AM, JM) and 10 at Quakertown Swamp 10/26 (PC). All other sites had counts in the low single digits. For the third year in a row, **Baltimore Orioles** occurred out of season at the same feeders in Middletown Twp. This year 2 males arrived 11/22, far earlier than the previous years (DP).

**Purple Finch** was first noted at PVP 9/15 (AM) and was reported through the rest of the period from a total of 26 sites (m.ob.). Counts were mostly in the low single digits, with modest high reports of 15 coming from PVP 10/24 (SG, AM) and 11/6 (AM). A group of about 25 were near Rushland 10/28 (MHa). One **Pine Siskin** at NSP 9/28 was the first scout heading south (PC). The next report was of 17 at Fairless Hills 10/13 (CM), and then a modest movement was detected peaking over the next couple of weeks (m.ob.). Reports came from 12 sites, with the high counts being about 90 at LTP 10/20 (AM, JM), 64 at SGL157 10/27 (EB), and 100 plus near Rushland 10/28 (MHa). The last report was of 15 at NSP 11/22 (PC).

**EXOTICS:** A tame **Chukar** was at PVP 8/27-9/1 (GS, TK ph.).

**CORRIGENDUM:** In Vol. 28, No. 2 the Summary of the Season-Spring 2014, it was stated that a first breeding record of **Common Raven** occurred in *Bucks*. In fact breeding has been detected in multiple years starting in 2008 at multiple sites. The reference in the Local Notes applied solely to the site mentioned in East Rockhill Twp.

Observers: **August Mirabella, 1443 Wheaton Lane, North Wales, PA, 19454, (215) 368-0594, augustmirabella@aol.com**, anonymous observer (a.ob.), Diane Allison, Seth Ausubel, John Barton (JBa), Dick Bell (DBe), Erich Boenzli, David Brandes (DBr), Harris Brown, Jean Burch (JBu), Anna Cancian, Sally Conyne, Paul Cooper, Chuck Crunkleton, Elaine Crunkleton, Henry D'Allesandro, Vince DeAntoniis (VDe), Mike DeBonis, Virginia Derbyshire (VDr), Ron Duck, Howard Eskin, Tom Fahie, Devich Farbotnik (DFa), Robert Ferguson (RFa), Doug Filler (DFi), Roy Frock (RFo), Bob Friedemann, Mark Fruman, Sharon Furlong, Mark Gallagher, Scott Godshall, Marya Halderman (MHa), Brian Henderson (BHe), Ray Hendrick (RHe), Robert Hills (RHl), Bill Hoehne (BHo), Mike Homel (MHo), Tony Hoppe, Jessica Huff, Karen Isett, Gail Johnson, Bill Keim, Tena Kellogg, Ken Kitson (KKi), Kris Koch (KKo), John Levin, Mike Line (MLi), Mike Lyman (MLy), Vicky Mahmoud, Robert McGarry, Holly Merker, Anna Mindel (AMn), Judy Mirabella (JM), Christopher Mortensen, Ed Norman, Kelly Parsons, David Pentland, Gareth Perkins, Nick Pulcinella, Ann Rhoads, Ken Rieker, Hart Rufe, Jewel Rufe, Margie Rutbell (MRu), Linda Sauter, Kurt Schwarz, Gale Scotch, Diane Smith, Richard Smith, Steve Smith (SSm), Vicky Smith, Scott Somershoe (SSo), Phillip Stollsteimer, Brian Sullivan (BSu), Brandon Swayser (BSw), Paul Teese, Jesse Tyler, Anthony Urich, Fran Ventura, John Ward, Scott Weidensaul, Lesley Weissman-Cook (LW), Nick Zahn.

## Butler County

No report.

NEW COMPILER: **Oscar Miller, 2406 Marble Lane, Sewickley, PA 15143, (412) 855-0483, aoscarmiller3@gmail.com.**

## Cambria County

Locations: Duman's Dam (DD), Prince Gallitzin St. Park (PG)

Waterfowl Migration at PG was spotty this year. Large areas of the lake are open to hunting which might have contributed to the low numbers. Good numbers of **Redheads** along with average numbers of the usual ducks were seen during November, as were 7 **White-winged Scoters** (DG, JS). Numbers of **Common Loon** were also down.

Very little shoreline habitat at PG kept the shorebird away, with only average numbers of **Spotted Sandpipers** seen. Two **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were at DD 10/2 (DG). Large flocks of **Bonaparte's Gulls** were seen at PG in Nov (DG). Nine **Black Terns** were at PG on 8/31 (DG).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at PG 9/3 (DG, JS). Unusual for our area was a **Yellow-throated Vireo** mixed in with a flock of warblers at PG 9/23 (DG). After last year's brutal winter it seemed numbers of **Carolina Wren** would be down, but several were seen in different locations. Warbler migration was good with above average numbers of **Blue-winged Warbler** and **Palm Warbler** recorded. **Eastern Meadowlarks** persisted well into the fall with a few staying into November.

Observer's **Dave Gobert, 287 Beech Rd., Patton, PA 16668, (814) 674-8359, djgobert@verizon.net**, John Salvetti.

## Cameron County

All sightings listed were from Sinnemahoning SP. **Bald Eagles** were found 8/12 (AB, MS) and 8/26 (ED); a **Northern Harrier** was also there 8/26 providing the only report for the season (ED). A **Cooper's Hawk** was at the park 8/12 (AB, MS). A productive visit 9/29 yielded **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**, **Prairie** and **Palm Warbler**, and **Lincoln's Sparrow** (FB). Five **Bobolinks** represented a good find 8/12, with an **American Woodcock** also located that day (AB, MS).

Report submitted by Greg Grove, *Pennsylvania Birds* winter season editor. No compiler. Observers: Fern Bauman, Anne Bekker, Eli DePaulis, Michael Sonkowsky.

## Carbon County

No compiler.

## Centre County

Locations: PSU Arboretum (ARBOR), Bald Eagle S.P. (BESP), Barrens to Bald Eagle Wildlife Corridor (B2BE), Black Moshannon S.P. (BMSP), Colyer L. (COL), Curtin wetland (CUR), Jo Hayes Vista (JHV), PennDOT remediation ponds on Rte. 220 west of Julian (JUL), Millbrook Marsh Nature Center (MMNC), Scotia Barrens and Pond (SCO), Toftrees pond and gamelands (TOF).

Six shorebird species were observed in a fallout at COL 8/12. The Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission began repairs on the dam and spillway at COL early in Oct. The lake will be refilled in 2016. (See <[http://www.mailermailer.com/x?function=view&c=89308751z-77a5746e\\*1083395b-a100e726](http://www.mailermailer.com/x?function=view&c=89308751z-77a5746e*1083395b-a100e726)>). Unusually large numbers of at least 13 warbler species were at SCO 9/30. Two Big Sit! circles were occupied on 10/11. BESP reported 41 species, while MMNC identified 51. Results are at <[http://www.birdwatchersdigest.com/bwdsite/connect/bigshit/2014/circles.php?sc=hom\\_accordion](http://www.birdwatchersdigest.com/bwdsite/connect/bigshit/2014/circles.php?sc=hom_accordion)>. Optimal conditions at JHV 10/23 produced 550 individual raptors and vultures of 8 reportable species, plus 102 birds of two other species. Information for this report were obtained from the State College Bird Club listserv, eBird, *Birds of Central Pennsylvania* by Nick Bolgiano and Greg Grove, 2010, Stone Mountain Publishing, State College, PA (B&G, 2010), and *Birds of Central Pennsylvania*, 3rd ed. by Merrill Wood, 1983, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA (Wood, 1983).

The following uncommon species were reported in five or more locations and will not be discussed further: **Green Heron**, **Osprey**,

**Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Bald Eagle, Red-shouldered Hawk, Spotted Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Wilson's Snipe, Common Nighthawk, Belted Kingfisher, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Willow Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Warbling Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, Common Raven, Horned Lark, Cliff Swallow, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Veery, American Pipit, Ovenbird, Worm-eating Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Hooded Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Northern Parula, Bay-breasted Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Palm Warbler, Pine Warbler, Canada Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Savannah Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Eastern Meadowlark, Rusty Blackbird, Purple Finch, and Pine Siskin.**

Up to 13 **Gadwalls** were spotted 10/15-11/23 at BESP (BC, et al.), and as many as 8 were present 11/4-30 at the Duck Pond (BV, et al.). Two flew by JHV 11/24 (BC). Single **Blue-winged Teal** were noted 9/5 and 11/15 on Old Gatesburg Rd. (MaS). Up to 7 were observed 9/21-23 at Muddy Paws Marsh (JV, BC), and 3 were seen 10/3 at COL (JV). Single birds were reported 10/29 and 11/15 at BESP (MaS), where 17 **Northern Shovelers** were admired 10/5 (JV). Single Shovelers were observed at the Duck Pond 10/9 (AR) and 11/17 (BV). Four were present 11/20 at the Johnson Rd. pond (BC). Lone **Northern Pintails** were reported at BESP 10/8 (MaS, JW) and 11/5 (BC), at the Rock Hill Pond 11/9 (JV), and at the Duck Pond 11/15-24 (MM, MB). Only two **Greater Scaup** were present: one 11/2 at BESP (MaS), and another 11/18-23 at the Duck Pond (ShS, JD). Up to 22 **Lesser Scaup** were noted at BESP 10/24-11/6 (BC, MaS), and one paddled around the Duck Pond 11/12-24 (JV, et al.). Two **Surf Scoters** were noted 10/23 at BMSP (AR). One each of adult male and adult female **White-winged Scoters** was spotted in a flock of **Ring-necked Ducks** 11/6 at BESP (MaS). One or two **Long-tailed Ducks** were seen there 10/29-11/2 (MaS, JC). Two **Common Goldeneyes** were reported at BESP 11/27 (BC, AuC); up to 8 **Red-breasted Mergansers** were there 11/2-29 (JC, et al.).

A **Northern Bobwhite** was heard 9/9 in SCO, and 2 were seen at the Rusnak Hill reclaimed strip mine 9/28 (both JV). This is an extirpated species, and these were either released or escapees. BESP was the **Horned Grebe** hotspot, with as many as 28 noted 10/21-11/30 (BC, et al.). Up to 5 **Red-necked Grebes** were present there 10/15-26 (MaS, BC, JV), and one was observed 11/4 at an overflow dam near Sayer's Lake Dam (BC). Single rare **Great Egrets** were reported 8/30-31 at CUR (MR, CE); another was seen 9/3 at W. Dowdy Hole Rd. (DD&BB), and one was observed 8/19-9/3 at BESP (BC, RD). Because of these locations and dates are clustered together, these could all have been the same bird. Another was at BESP 9/21 (MaS, CE). One was at the Duck Pond 10/9 (AR).

**Black Vultures** were widely reported se. of the Allegheny Front, but a single bird spotted 9/28 at the Rusnak Hill reclaimed strip mine on the Allegheny Plateau (JV). Counters at JHV reported 238 **Turkey Vultures** 10/23 (CW). **Golden Eagles** migrating along Tussey Mtn. were counted 10/25-11/20 at JHV; the highest one-day total was 4 (JV, et al.). Two were spotted 11/7 at the parking lot at Skytop, and another was observed 11/7 in Port Matilda (both PW). One rare **Northern Goshawk** was observed, a juv. 8/30 at BESP (JD). Part of the excellent fly-bys of migrating raptors at JHV 10/23 included 261 **Red-tailed Hawks** (CW). November brought **Rough-legged Hawks** with single birds noted 11/2 at the Rockview fields-south (MaS) and JHV (JV). Another was also spotted at JHV 11/28 (BC), and one was seen 11/30 at the B2BE (RR).

Three rare **Virginia Rails** were flushed at CUR 8/16; the species was also recorded 10/11 at the MMNC Big Sit! (both JD). Two **American Avocets** wandered into BESP. One was spotted 8/12 (MD), and the other 9/2 (RD, BS, MaS). Avocets are considered accidental in this region. A rare **American Golden-plover** was present 9/1 on Tusseyville Rd. in a flock of **Killdeer** (CE (ph.), et al.). Five were spotted 9/5 in the area of Tusseyville and Whiteman Rds. (MaS, IG). This species is a casual visitor to the region. Two **Semipalmated Plovers** were reported 8/12 at BESP (MD), and another was present there 9/2-21 (RD, et al.). Up to 6 were spotted 9/5-15 at COL (JV, et al.).

Up to 5 **Solitary Sandpipers** were intermittently reported at COL 8/1-9/19 (RD, et al.). A solitary Solitary Sandpiper was spotted 8/4 at BESP (Bald Eagle eTT Data), where several were present 9/4-22 (JV, et al.). A single bird was observed 8/13 at Nittany Farms Pond (MD), and as many as 3 were noted at SCO 8/28-10/16 (JV, et al.). Two **Greater Yellowlegs** were seen 8/12 at Nittany Farms Pond (MD). Up to 7 were observed at COL 8/8-16, 9/2-29, and 10/20 (RD, et al.); the fallout of 8/12 produced a high of 55 seen (SB, et al.). One was reported 8/17 at BESP (CE), where another was present 9/13-15 (MR, JV, BS). One was identified 11/9 at BESP (MaS). Another solo bird was seen 8/19-22 at SCO (JV, BC). **Lesser Yellowlegs** were observed 8/12 (MD), 9/13 (MR, JV), and 10/8 (MaS, JW) at BESP, with 3 reported 8/12. A single bird was spotted 8/18-22 at SCO (MR, JV). Although as many as 20 were noted at COL during the 8/12 fallout, up to 7

were noted there on 8/8-12 (RD, et al.), 9/1-19 (MR, et al.), and 10/13-17 (JC, JV, CE). The last Lesser Yellowlegs spotted was on 10/4 on Old Gatesburg Rd. (CE, JV). Several rare sandpiper species were found; each is casual. As many as 4 **Sanderling** were observed 8/20-9/21 at BESP (JV, et al.). One or two were also present 9/6-7 at COL (JV, BC, SB). One or 2 **Baird's Sandpipers** were noted 9/5-13 at COL (JV, et al.), and two area birders photographed a **Stilt Sandpiper** on Old Gatesburg Rd. 10/4 (CE, JV). Birders found a **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** in a flock of about 70 **Killdeer** on Tusseyville Rd. 9/1-2 (MR, et al.). Two uncommon **Pectoral Sandpipers** were present at COL 8/12 (MD, et al.); as many as 5 were there 9/5-10/16 (BC, et al.). BESP played host to one 9/13 (MaS) and 2 on 10/8 (MaS, JW). **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were reported in very small numbers intermittently 8/11-10/4 at COL (RD, et al.). One was present 8/12-9/21 at BESP (MD, et al.), and another was spotted 9/18 at SCO (JV). A rare **Dunlin** was observed at BESP 11/2-5 (MR, et al.). One or 2 rare **Short-billed Dowitchers** excited birders 8/12 at Colyer (JV, et al.).

Up to 30 **Bonaparte's Gulls** were noted at BESP 10/31-11/30 (MaS, et al.). Between 2 and 9 passed JHV 11/18-24 (BC). Up to 8 **Herring Gulls** were seen 11/15-30 at BESP (JC; et al.), and one flew past JHV 11/24 (BC). Five **Caspian Terns** were spotted 8/4 at BESP (Bald Eagle SP eTT data), and an adult bird was observed there 9/11 (MR). Two rare **Black Terns** were at COL 8/12 (MD, et al.), and up to 7 were reported 8/12 and 8/31 at BESP (MD, et al.). A **Forster's Tern** was spotted 8/12 at Nittany Farms Pond (MD). The same day, 7-9 were reported at COL (MD, et al.). A month later, one was seen 9/12 at BESP (BC).

One **Eurasian Collared Dove** was accompanied by **Mourning Doves** 9/6 in Pine Grove Mills (JK). A **Black-billed Cuckoo** encountered two birders 8/2-30 at BESP (KC, BK). Birders crossed paths with another one 9/17-19 at ARBOR (RD, MB, BC). There were two reports of **Barred Owl**: one at Penn Roosevelt SP 10/12 (PaW), and the other 11/6 at BESP (PL). A single **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was heard 10/11 at the BESP Big Sit! (DB). Another was present in Unionville 11/15 (DO), and one was noted 11/26 at SCO (JD). An **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was flushed 8/10 at SCO. Another bird replied to its calls (KE). Four **Red-headed Woodpeckers**, including juv., were present 8/16 on Main Rd. off Rte. 322 (SH). An imm. bird was spotted 8/29 in Boalsburg, and another individual was found 9/7 at BESP (BC). A **Downy Woodpecker** originally banded at ARBOR 8/11/2011 was recaptured this season on 9/10 (NK).

**Olive-sided Flycatchers** are rare in Centre; however, one or 2 were spotted 8/18-28 at SCO (MR, et al.), and one was present there 9/12 (BC). One was observed 8/28 at ARBOR (RD), and one or 2 were seen feeding 8/31-9/1 at Rock Springs (BC). The species was also present 9/13-15 at BESP (BC, et al.). The first **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** reported was on 8/24 at CURs (BC). Single birds were reported intermittently at SCO 8/26-9/16 (JV, BC, WL) and at ARBOR 9/3-15 (RD, MB), where one was banded 9/15 (NK). Another was spotted 9/9-15 at BESP (MaS, EH). Two **Acadian Flycatchers** were seen 8/20 at Fisherman's Paradise, and one was observed 9/4 at SCO (both BC). A single **Alder Flycatcher** was spotted 8/13 at MMNC (AP), and 2 were noted 8/19 at CUR (BC). One was heard singing at BESP 9/11 (MaS).

A **Northern Shrike** was heard 11/1 at BESP (BS). There were two reports of single **White-eyed Vireos**. One was seen 9/13-21 at BESP (MaS, et al.), and another was noted 9/15 at MMNC (BC). **Yellow-throated Vireos** were also present. One was spotted 8/9 at BESP and another 8/26 at CUR (both BC). Several birders identified one 9/6-17 at SCO (AK, JV, BC), and one was present 9/13 at MMNC (BC). **Fish Crows** clustered around State College. However, single birds were reported 9/1 on Tusseyville/Williams Rd. (JD), 10/1 at BESP (BS), and 10/24 at Muddy Paws Marsh (AR).

Two **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were observed at COL 8/15 (RD), where one was present 9/13 (MaS). They were also seen 9/1 in the Tusseyville/Williams Rd. area (CE). Fifteen **Purple Martins** were counted 8/12-17 at BESP (MD, CE); one was reported there 9/2 (RD). A very late **Tree Swallow** was spotted 11/20 at the Boat Commission hatchery on Axemann Rd. (DO). Up to 5 **Bank Swallows** were observed 8/13-9/1 at COL (BC, MH, MR). Between 8/23-31, 3-4 were identified at Rock Springs (JK, BC). An albino **Barn Swallow** was spotted 8/14-16 at the Pleasant Gap fish hatchery (WL fide CK, JD).

Two common birds banded at ARBOR were recaptured there. A **Black-capped Chickadee** banded 10/15/2013 was recaptured 10/8, and a **Tufted Titmouse** banded 9/20/2012 was recaptured 10/16 (both NK). Four **Winter Wrens** were present in Spring Creek Canyon 11/10 (NiB), and one was singing 11/30 at Fisherman's Paradise (JiC). Muddy Paws Marsh hosted a **Marsh Wren** 10/9 (JV, AuC, BC). Another was present 10/11 at BESP (JV, et al.). The same day at least one was seen at COL (JV, CE, KE). Still another was found 10/19 at CUR (MaS, IG).

A single **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was reported 9/15 in State College. Another was observed there 9/23-24 (CE), and one was banded 9/29 at ARBOR (NK). Flight calls of hundreds of **Gray-cheeked Thrush** and

**Swainson's Thrush** were heard over State College 9/19, and more than 1500 Swainson's Thrush were recorded there 9/25-29 (all JV). Several **Gray Catbirds** captured during banding at ARBOR had also been banded there (NK). The dates are below:

*Gray Catbirds recaptured at ARBOR, fall 2014*

Banding date	Recapture date
8/27/2010	9/18/2014
10/1/2010	9/18/2014
5/2/2012	9/19/2014
9/13/2013	9/15/2014
9/13/2013	9/26/2014
10/14/2012	10/16/2014

Thirty warbler species were reported; nine were common or abundant, and thirteen uncommon species were reported in five or more locations. Two rare **Louisiana Waterthrushes** were observed: one each in Unionville 8/2 (DO) and MMNC 9/7 (JV). A **Blue-winged Warbler** was reported 8/8-28 at SCO (MR, JV), and another 8/19 at MMNC (JS). A third was spotted 9/20 in Halfmoon Valley (MB). Rare **Orange-crowned Warblers** were also reported, including one 9/13 in Toftrees (JD), and another 9/27-29 in SCO (JV, et al.). Single birds were also noted 10/1 at ARBOR (RD) and 10/5 at Yeager Hollow Pond (JD). One or 2 rare **Connecticut Warblers** were spotted at SCO 9/1 (JV) and 9/20-26 (JV, et al.). An adult was reported 9/13 in Port Matilda (PW). Another single bird was seen 9/23 at ARBOR (RD). Another rarity, **Mourning Warbler**, was also present. One was noted 8/25 at Scotia (RoS) and another at BESP 9/15 (EH). ARBOR had the most sightings: one identified 9/3 (RD), 3 were banded 9/18 and one of these was recaptured 9/29 (NK). One **Cerulean Warbler** was observed 9/17 off Paradise Rd. (RD). **Yellow Warblers** are seldom reported during fall migration (B&G, 2010). Most observations were in August, with 2 noted 8/1 in Blanchard (RS). One or 2 were seen 8/1-30 at MMNC (JD, BC, JV). A single bird was present 8/3-16 at BESP (Bald Eagle SP eTT Data, JD, BC); one or 2 were seen there 9/3 (BC, DD&BB). A migrating rarity, a **Yellow-throated Warbler**, was observed and described 9/12 at ARBOR (RD, RR). Birders encountered a few migrating **Prairie Warblers**. Two were spotted 8/18-28 at CUR (BC), and one was present at MMNC 8/31 (JV). One to 3 were observed at SCO 8/6-16 (AK, BC), and a juv. was identified 9/14 at BESP (NB).

S.A.

A rare male **Blue Grosbeak** was identified 8/15 at Colyer; a female may have been present but was not confirmed (RD). Most records for this casually occurring species are from spring (B&G, 2010). There were no reported fall observations 1947-1982 (Wood, 1983). B&G (2010) lists two fall records: one in State College 11/18-19/1961 and another in TOF 9/22/2006. There were no additional records in eBird. B&G (2010) notes "reports have increased since 2000, perhaps due to northward range expansion or increased observer awareness."

Two **Eastern Towhees** banded at ARBOR 4/21/2011 and 4/23/2013 were recaptured there 10/16 (NK). Two **Vesper Sparrows** were spotted 9/6 on S. Nixon Rd. (MR), and one was observed 9/27-30 at MMNC (JD). Another was seen 10/8 at Whitehall Farms (JV), and 3 were noted 10/22 at ARBOR (BV). Two **Grasshopper Sparrows** were present at Rock Springs 8/1 (BC), and another was identified 10/12 at BESP (DW). Three rare **Nelson's Sparrows** were identified at BESP 10/11-13 (MaS, et al.1), and one was spotted 10/17 at COL (RD). At CUR, one was seen 10/19 was probably one of two observed 10/21 (MaS, IG).

A **Northern Cardinal** banded 8/27/2010 at ARBOR was recaptured 9/18 there (NK). Two **Bobolinks** were noted at BESP 8/9 (Bald Eagle SP eTT Data); they were also present 9/14 at COL (AK).

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Shawnee Heckman, Mark Henry, Jason Hill, Chad Kauffman, Jon Kauffman, Andy Keister, Becky Keller, Nick Kerlin, Don Kiel, Nancy Ellen Kiernan (NEK), Wayne Laubscher, Jen Lee, Scott Lewis, Bob Lindsay, Patrick Lister, John Mackin, Mark McConaughy, Adrian Melck (AdM), Craig & Jean Miller (C&JM), Art Music (ArM), Dan Ombalski, Dave Pacchioli, Alexander Patia, Julia Plummer (JuP), Tom Pluto, Randy Poulsen, Matthew Rockmore, Arouet Rousseau, Ron Rovaneck, Matthew Sabatine (MaS), Matthew Schenck, Joe Sebastiani, Shawn Seeley (ShS), Robin Smith, Bob Snyder, Rob Stone (RoS), Matthew Truesdale, Joe Verica, Benjamin Vizzachero, Joel Wagner, Peggy Wagoner, Drew Weber, Patty Werth (PaW), Chuck Widmann.

**Chester County**

Locations: Bucktoe Creek Preserve (BCP), Chambers Lake (CL), Exton Park (EP), Coatesville Reservoir (CORES), Hibernia County Park (HCP), Honey Brook Water Treatment Plant (HBWTP), Longwood Gardens (LWG), Marsh Creek State Park (MCSP), Octorara Reservoir (OCTRES), Rushton Farm Banding Station (RFBS), Upper Uwchlan Township Water Treatment Plant (UUWTP), White Clay Creek Preserve (WCCP).

This was an autumn season without any significant weather events, and bird migration seemed to be what birders would expect in a typical fall season—except for a few extraordinary finds! A jaw-dropping observation on a calm evening in the Newtown Square area was a jaeger that passed leisurely overhead. This was undoubtedly the most fascinating observation of the season. Barn Owls were discovered residing on a farm for the first time in several years, and were a welcomed report. Another noteworthy bird was a Sedge Wren at Hibernia Park in October, which marked the first record of this species in this county in 50 years. Other seasonal highlights were in the sparrow family, and included a report of a Spotted Towhee in North Coventry Twp., and both Le Conte's Sparrow and Nelson's Sparrow were discovered in the grassy areas around Chambers Lake.

An uncommon but typically an annual visitor is the **Greater White-fronted Goose**, which made a few appearances this season. Observant birders scanning a large goose flock found one feeding in agricultural fields in Exton 11/15 among **Canada Geese** (BQ, MD). More vigilant scanning revealed a pair of White-fronts within the large Canada Goose congregation at CORES 11/21 (MG). This pair continued there through 11/28 (m.ob.). The first significant movement of **Snow Geese** was noted 10/12 over OCTRES, with 300 being counted on that occasion (PM). **Cackling Geese** are regular, but still an uncommon winter visitor. These small geese were located in various locations where large numbers of geese gathered, making them a fun challenge to pick out (m.ob.). A group of 31 **Tundra Swans** were first noted for the season 11/6 at CL (RR). A single Tundra Swan surprised the owners of a small pond 11/23 in the Highspire area (GW).

Migrant ducks were found in average numbers this fall. Most of the dabbling ducks were recorded in modest numbers. There was only one report of **Blue-winged Teal** this fall: 3 at CL 10/31 (EH). **Northern Shovelers** seem to appreciate the invertebrate life found in local sewage lagoons, where they can typically be found straining prey through their specialized bills. A high count of 17 was from the Upper Uwchlan Twp. WTP 11/13 (HM). A good fall high count was of 33 **Northern Pintails** seen in flight over Atwater Quarry 11/30 (AL, BQ). A consistent location to find **Green-winged Teal** was EP. The top count for the season was 14 there 10/11 (m.ob.). Not always reported in fall, a single **Canvasback** was a good find at an Exton sewage lagoon 11/23 (AL). A hen **Redhead** at LWG 11/19 was the only of its species reported for fall (KN, HG). Scaup are not found as regularly in fall migration as in spring, but the **Lesser Scaup** was noted in a few locations: 3 at CL 10/31 (EH), one at Somerset L. 11/21 (WBH), 2 at West Vincent Twp. WTP 11/24 (NP, MH), and one at Struble L. 11/25 (BQ, DH). A good find at CL 11/15 was a **White-winged Scoter** floating among the **Ruddy Ducks** (RR). This species is less commonly reported in fall in Chester than the other two scoters. Another scoter surprise was a solo **Black Scoter** at Somerset L. 10/29 (WBH). Two reports of **Long-tailed Ducks** were made 11/9, one at MCSP (HM), and the other at OCTRES 11/9 (PM). A single **Common Goldeneye** was at CL 11/23 (RR) and continued there through 11/30 (m.ob.).

**Common Loons** were reported on just four occasions. One was at MCSP 10/29-30 (DH, AS) and 3 were reported from there 11/21 (MH). Two were flyovers 11/20 at BCP hawk watch (PM). **Pied-billed Grebe** was first reported this fall 9/2 at CL (RR). **Horned Grebe** seen 10/8 at UUWTP was the first report of that species (AS).

After a record of probable breeding in summer, there were only two reports of **American Bittern** in fall. One was photographed in flight at OCTRES 9/22 (PM). Another was discovered at Waterloo Mills Preserve 10/8 (KF, AG). A **Least Bittern** was recorded calling in flight 9/22 during a



Nocturnal Flight Call monitoring in Unionville (KN). Though this species likely breeds annually in the county, it is not often discovered, and a migrant detected overhead was an exciting yard bird. Reports of 2 **Little Blue Herons**, first noted in summer, continued at EP through the end of Aug (m.ob.). A single **Cattle Egret** feeding among Black Angus cattle was a very good find alongside the Laurels Preserve 11/5 (KF). This species once was a regular migrant in *Chester*, but in the past decade reports have been scarce. Historically, this same location sometimes held hundreds of Cattle Egrets as they stopped over and fed among the livestock around the King Ranch. A late **Green Heron** was noted at BCP 11/11 (AU, EB). A few **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were discovered around the county this fall. One was found at EP 8/16 (DH), 2 were seen around the edges of Struble L. 8/18 (HM), and there was a good high count of 8 at OCTRES 9/7 (MG, PM). There were also reports of single birds there 10/12-13 (PM).

This season was probably the best on record for sightings of **Golden Eagles** in *Chester*. The BCP Hawk Watch reported 10 Golden Eagles throughout the fall season (LL). Other sightings included 2 in Unionville 10/26 and 11/3 (KN). One was also reported seen taking off from a probable roosting spot near the OCTRES 11/7 and again 11/18 (PM), and another Golden Eagle flew over the weekly bird walkers at LWG 11/9, giving participants spectacular views (LL, CM, JF, m.ob.). Rare in *Chester* during migration, an adult **Northern Goshawk** was reported 11/27-28 OCTRES (PM). This fall, there were no significant numbers of **Broad-winged Hawks** swirling through in sizeable kettles. The high count was 500 in the Doe Run area 9/17 (KN).

A birder kayaking on OCTRES 10/13 heard a rail call that was thought to be that of a **King Rail**, but unfortunately it was not located for confirmation (PM). There is not much known about the fall migration of this species through Pennsylvania, so this report was quite intriguing. A lone **Sora** was reported from LWG 9/19 (CM, JF).

Shorebirds were in low supply this season due to the lack of suitable habitat. Area lakes were not drawn down as in recent years, and ponds were filled to the brim with freshwater from a rainy year. Notable shorebirds included **Pectoral Sandpipers**, which were found in a few locations. One was at Somerset L. around the sewage lagoons 8/26 (WBH), and lingered there through 8/28 (JS, NP, WBH). Another was at LWG 9/19 (CM, KN, HG). Up to 2 were at EP 9/22, and were reported regularly through 9/25 (m.ob.). **Semipalmated Sandpipers** are uncommon migrants, but this fall a few appeared in the limited shorebird habitat. One was spotted in the Marshallton area 8/12 (TS, KN). Three were a nice find among the **Least Sandpipers** at Somerset L, and were seen through 8/28 (WBH, JS, NP). **American Woodcocks** are elusive, but this fall birders encountered them in scattered locations (m.ob.), including 2 at the Laurels Preserve 10/28 (KF).

The standout bird for the season was certainly what appeared to be a **Long-tailed Jaeger** that flew over a group of astounded birders who were out for a walk on calm summer evening at Rushton Farm 8/25 (AL, BQ, CH, MD). It would represent the first record for *Chester* if accepted by PORC. **Bonaparte's Gulls** are regular but uncommon migrants in fall, and were found in several locations by local birders. A high count was of 6 at MCSP 11/21 (MG). A single **Laughing Gull** was spotted among some Ring-billed Gulls as they flew over BCP 9/1 (LL). Another was seen floating on the lake at MCSP 10/4 (HM). A very early report of a **Great Black-backed Gull** came from Rushton Farm 9/5 (AL, MD). This species is an uncommon but regular winter visitor, and rarely found in fall. **Caspian Tern** was at MCSP 8/10 (DH), 3 were seen over CL 8/25 (HM), and another was at CL 9/25 (AS). An irregularly encountered tern in *Chester* is the **Black Tern**; one seen flying over CL 8/31 was a nice find (RR).

Encounters with **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** occurred mostly in Sept. (m.ob.), except for one late report 10/16 at Linfield Basin (RB). The less commonly detected **Black-billed Cuckoo** was found just three times in fall: 9/4 at Rushton Farm (AL), 9/11 and 9/18 at EP (m.ob.).

For the first time in a few years, **Barn Owls** were discovered residing on a farm in *Chester* (KF). According to the landowner, two Barn Owls have been present on their property for the last several years, but breeding activity is not known. This species has experienced a sharp decline in Pennsylvania, and especially in *Chester* in recent decades, despite the vast favorable open-country landscapes. The Barn Owl is a beneficial animal to have residing on any property due to a diet mostly made up of rodents; a single family of these owls consumes up to 3,000 rodents during a breeding period. Due to the sensitivity of the species, the location was not disclosed. In addition to that report, another exciting record of this species was one recorded by microphone as it flew over a home in Unionville 10/19 (KN).

The RFBS had a moderately good year for their **Northern Saw-whet Owl** banding project. This fall, they captured 101 owls: 5 **Eastern Screech-Owls**, and 96 new Saw-whets. Twenty-one Saw-whets already banded at RFBS were recaptured in their own nets, and 3 were owls banded previously in New York, Canada, and another site in Pennsylvania. Among the more interesting statistics: 83% of RFBS owls caught were hatch year birds, and 73% of the total were females. Only four of the birds were second

year, which is somewhat typical. Especially exciting for the hard working banding crew at RFBS were two recaptures of RFBS Saw-whets at other sites. Both were owls banded in 2012. One was captured at Tuscarora Banding Station in McConnellsburg, Pennsylvania, and the other in Valhalla, Westchester County, New York. In addition to the Saw-whets visiting RFBS, there were two other reports of these tiny owls heard in backyards. One was reported in Exton 11/10 (CK), and another was in the OCTRES area (PM).

**Common Nighthawks** have usually exited the county by the end of the first week of Oct., but this fall the species lingered, with several reports as late as 10/17 (m.ob.). Another species that is trending later in its departure south is the **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**. This fall, reports continued through 10/12 (HD, KN), and 3 were spotted at LWG 10/10 (HM). Until the last few years, it was quite unusual to find a Ruby-throated past the first of Oct. A juv. female **Rufous Hummingbird**, rare but regular in fall, appeared in a Landenberg yard at the beginning of Nov (GB). The bird was banded (NP) and continued through the reporting period (GB). Unlike last fall, when reports were more numerous, there were only a handful of **Red-headed Woodpeckers** this season. One was heard in the West Chester area 8/20 (LW). A juv. visited a feeder in Berwyn 10/20 (JW), and on that same day, another was noted at Laurels Preserve (KF). A **Merlin** made its fall debut at Hibernia Park 8/15 (RR). Reports of a **Peregrine Falcon** seen at the Cromby Trailhead 8/10 continued to raise questions of where this species might be nesting locally (RK).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was discovered at MCSP 8/24 and continued through at least the following day (HM). Another Olive-sided was found at HCP 8/29 (RR). The first **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** of the season was banded at RFBS 8/26, and another was captured there 8/28 (DM). Overall, reports of this species were more plentiful than in most fall seasons. Additional reports came from WCCP 9/4 (TF), Rushton Farm 9/4 (AL, BQ, BR), LWG 9/8 (KN), Honey Brook 9/13 (LW), and BCP 9/14 (MG, LH). **Least Flycatcher** is an uncommon but regular migrant in fall, but only four were encountered: one in London Britain Twp 8/28 (TF), two reports from BCP 9/3 and 9/14 (JS), and another from WCCP 9/16 (TF). The often hard to find **Philadelphia Vireo** was detected in six locations 9/26-10/3 (m.ob.).

There were a remarkable total of 19 reports of **Common Raven** from around the county this fall (m.ob.). This is a species that just a few years ago had never been reported. The increase in sightings is certainly representative of the species expansion in the southeastern region of the state. **Tree Swallows** are among the species trending toward later departures in recent years. The last report this fall was from LWG 11/10, with 2 seen during a birdwalk (DK, CM). The last migrant **Bank Swallow** of season was seen feeding over the pond at EP 9/19 (NP).

**Black-capped Chickadees** did not make a strong irruption southward, but there were still a few reports: 2 in Glenmoore 11/20, one at Nottingham CP 11/29 (PM), and another near French Creek SP 11/30 (SS, NF). It was not a big irruption year for **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, but reports of this conifer loving species began 9/2 (JS) and continued through the reporting period, with the largest numbers at Nottingham CP where the habitat is favorable (m.ob.). An early **Winter Wren** was encountered 8/31 in the Kimberton area (VS). One of the most exciting finds of the season was a **Sedge Wren** at HCP 10/17-20 (AS, m.ob.). Prior to the mid-twentieth century, this species was known to nest in *Chester*, but there have been no confirmed encounters since. Absent were reports of Marsh Wren this season, which was unusual for this regular but uncommon fall migrant.

**Gray-cheeked Thrush** are harder to detect diurnally than they are by nocturnal flight calls during migration, but a few were still noticed. Two were banded at RFBS 9/24 and 10/7. Other records came from: Unionville 10/1 (KN), Harmony Hill Nature Area 10/2 (HM), WCCP 10/9 (WBH), and a late report from Phoenixville 10/30 (RK). A single **Lapland Longspur** was picked out of a flock of Horned Larks in the Honey Brook area 11/22 (AG). Likely the same bird was found among the flocks of larks in this spot through the reporting period (m.ob.). There was a report of 12 **Snow Buntings** seen in flight at SL 11/30 (AS).

Thirty-one species of warbler were recorded around the county this fall, which is the norm. Three **Worm-eating Warblers** were banded at RFBS, one 8/26 and two 8/28 (DM). Two other reports were from WCCP 8/27 (WBH), and another seen at RFBS 8/28 (AL). A lingering **Louisiana Waterthrush** was videoed at WCCP 8/26 (WBH). Typically, this bird is tough to locate after early Aug., so this was a good find. It was a better than usual fall for finding **Orange-crowned Warblers**. Reports were scattered around the county, but the first was exciting for the observers, since it could be counted during the Big Sit at BCP 10/11 (JS, HD, WBH). The high count for **Nashville Warblers** was 3 at HCP 9/26 (RR). RFBS banded 3 **Connecticut Warblers** this fall (DM), all during a five-day window: 9/12, 9/13, and 9/18. The only other report of this elusive but surely present warbler was seen in a yard near Landenberg 9/28 (AM). Only one report of a **Kentucky Warbler** was entered, 9/14 at WCCP (AB, MS). This species has been scarce in recent years. A **Hooded Warbler** was a nice yard bird

8/16-17 in Chadds Ford (HD), as well as a for a yard in Exton 9/19 (CK). Once again this fall, there were many reports of **Cape May Warblers** (m.ob.). A high count was of 3 recorded in Chadds Ford 9/29 (HD). Likewise, there were multiple encounters with **Bay-breasted Warblers**, and a high count was of 2 on 9/18 (AU). Recorded in spring and fall migration, **Wilson's Warblers** aren't commonly found. This fall there were 3 : 9/4 at Rushton Farm (AL), 9/12 at HCP (AS), and 9/14 at HCP (MD).

A few rarely encountered sparrows made appearances. Very intriguing was an eBird report of a **Spotted Towhee** at Coventry Woods Preserve 10/17. The observer, who was on horseback at the time, described the bird in detail, but efforts to relocate it were unsuccessful (PW). **Vesper Sparrows**, uncommon but regular in fall, were discovered in several locations in October (m.ob.). A **Le Conte's Sparrow** was seen briefly at CL during the annual Big Sit 10/11, but attempts to relocate it failed (RR, LL). A good sighting during a walk around the lake's edge 9/27 was a **Nelson's Sparrow** at CL (BK). This is an irregular fall migrant in *Chester*, with few reports in recent years. **Lincoln's Sparrows** are found with some regularity in fall, reported this fall 9/16-10/31 (m.ob.).

A **Summer Tanager**, quite rare in fall in *Pennsylvania*, was seen at Okehocking Preserve 9/27 (AL, BR). **Blue Grosbeaks** were reported through 9/28 from BCP, a known nesting location (m.ob.).

Small movements of **Purple Finch** through the county were evidenced by reports beginning 9/18 and continuing through the end of the period (m.ob.). It was not a heavy irruption year, however. The largest flock was 31 at LWG 10/25 (AG). Numbers dwindled through Nov. There was a moderate showing of **Pine Siskins**, mostly observed as flocks in flight beginning 9/27 (m.ob.). A good place to find them was LWG, where 60 were reported 10/27 (KN).

Observers: **Holly Merker, 520 Baintree Run, Downingtown, PA 19335, (610) 733-4392, HCYbelle@aol.com**, Ellen Bacino, Anne Bekker, Barry Blust, Rob Blye, Gail Bush, Mike Coulter, Alan Crawford, Hank Davis, Mike Defina, Barb Elliot, Devich Farbotnik, Pamela Fisher, Nikki Flood, Judy Ford, Tim Freiday, Kevin Fryberger, Michael Gardner, Vern Gauthier, Hannah Greenberg, Al Guarente, Denice Hardtmann, Eric Hartshaw, Michael Hartshorne, W.Brian Henderson, Chad Hutchinson, Liam Hutchinson, Bill Keim, Dale Kendall, Rick Keyser, Carol Kuniholm, Andrew Leidig, Larry Lewis, Carol Majors, Ron Majors, Andrea Martin, Doris McGovern, John McNamara, Patrick Millar, Kelley Nunn, Nick Pulcinella, Brian Quindlen, Marian Quinn, Brian Raich, Rick Robinson, Taj Schottland, Joe Sebastiani, Michael Sonkowsky, Vince Smith, Kim Steininger, Arthur Steinberger, Tim Sterrett, Scott Stollery, Jaime Thomas, Andy Urquhart, Laura Wagner, Jeff Wahl, Billy Weber, Patty Werth, Ginny Wright.

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### Clarion County

Locations: Curlsville (CV), Kahle Lake (KL), Mount Zion (SGL 330/Piney Tract) (MZ).

This season saw a low number of sightings submitted, including eBird. Waterfowl reports included just one mention of **Tundra Swan**, with flocks totaling around 110 over CV 11/12 (CW). A single **Green-winged Teal** was on Redbank Creek at a relatively late date, 11/28 (MM). Two **Great Egrets** were seen 9/21 on the *Clarion* side of KL (GE). Three raptors were noteworthy. A **Turkey Vulture** with an active nest was found during the week of 8/25 in a remote area on the hillside above the Clarion River, near the town of Clarion. Sounds of young birds had been heard in the area since 8/4. A brief video was made 8/31 of the nest with two downy, white young (DF). This was an unusually late date for this species, and also significant due to the difficulty of finding nesting locations for these birds. A single dark morph **Rough-legged Hawk** was seen at MZ 11/2, possibly a migrant rather than a wintering bird (RN, CW). On this same date, an adult male **Northern Harrier** was seen near Wentlings Corners (RN, CW), a species that is being reported less frequently over the past ten years. The only shorebird sighting was of a **Least Sandpiper** along Redbank Creek 9/1 (MM). **Short-eared Owls** were first reported back in their regular areas along Rankin Rd near CV 11/21, with just one bird hunting over reclaimed grasslands.

An **Eastern Phoebe** was present at the parking area on KL 11/2, providing the second latest record for the county (RN, CW). An adult **Northern Shrike** was spotted 11/23 (CW) at one of its historical areas at NMZ. As in the past, this species regularly utilizes the overgrown reclaimed strip mine areas during the winter months, and the gameland area at MZ provides extensive habitat. **Common Ravens** are continuing their expansion, with 4 birds sighted near CV 9/28, where they had previously been rarely seen (CW). Over a 20 minute period in the pre-dawn hours of 9/28, approximately 150 nocturnal flight calls were heard near CV

(CW). These were predominately **Wood** and **Swainson's Thrush**, with a few **Gray-cheeked Thrush** heard also, along with several other unidentified passerines (CW).

The only warbler of note was a rather early **Cape May Warbler** at a property near CV 8/27 (CW). A single **Chipping Sparrow** stayed late at a feeder in Rimersburg 11/18-24 (MM). **Fox Sparrows** showed up in unusually high numbers. Two birds were seen at a feeder near CV 11/19, with the number increasing to an amazing 8 birds 11/20; 2 birds were last seen 11/28 (CW). This was a high count for this location over a 20-year period of observation.

In a small reclaimed grassland near CV, one **Bobolink** was present 9/28, unusually late for this more northern location in the state (CW). Most of this species has migrated through the area by mid-September. **Purple Finches** continued to be regularly seen at a feeder in Rimersburg through the season, with a high number of 3 birds (MM). They were confirmed breeders at this location in summer. **Pine Siskins** were first noted for the county at a feeder near Knox 11/14 (PC), 2 birds at CV 11/20, and up to 3 birds in Rimersburg through the season (MM).

Observers: **Carole Winslow, 159 Moggey Rd., Sligo, PA 16255, (814) 745-3818, cjnal@windstream.net**, Paulette Colantonio, Gary Edwards, Deb Freed, Ron Montgomery, Mark Moore, Richard Nugent.

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### Clearfield County

Locations: Curwensville Dam (CD), Dubois (DB), Luthersburg (LB), Sandy Ridge RD. (SRR), St. Gamelands 77 (SGL 77), Treasure Lake (TRL), Westover (WST).

Ten **Cackling Geese**, one **Snow Goose** and a **Canvasback** were at TRL 11/24 (DR). **Osprey** and **Northern Harrier** were at CD 10/28 (DG). A very early **Rough-legged Hawk** was at LB 10/21 (DR). A single **Virginia Rail** was present at DB 9/26 (DR). Two **Solitary Sandpipers** were observed at a small wetland near WST on 8/10 (DG). **Bonaparte's Gulls** were seen at TRL 11/24 (DR). A **Short-eared Owl** was at SRR 11/25 (DR). A single **Philadelphia Vireo** was at DB 9/11 (DR). The only **Gray-cheeked Thrush** reported was at SGL 77 on 10/1 (DR). A **Wilson's Warbler** was a good find at DB 9/11 (DR). **Vesper** and **Lincoln's Sparrows** were reported from DB (DR). A small flock of **Pine Siskins** were at DB 10/13 (DR).

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

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### Clinton County

One **Snow Goose** was seen with a flock of **Canada Geese** along Island Road, east of LH 12/3 (LSF). A lone **Tundra Swan** was observed on the Susquehanna River at LH 11/21 (WL). On 11/22, a group of 4 **Sandhill Cranes** was reported in a field near Rosecrans Bog near Loganton (RA). A single **Pine Siskin** was at a feeder in Woolrich 11/3-4 (CCH).

Observers: **Wayne Laubscher, 749 E. Croak Hollow Road, Lock Haven, PA 17745, (570) 748-7511, wnlaubscher@comcast.net**, Raymond Allgyer, Linda and Skip Frye, Carol and Charles Hildebrand.

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### Columbia County

No compiler.

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### Crawford County

Locations: Conneaut Lake (CL), Jamestown State Park (JSP), Conneaut Marsh (CM), Custards (CUS), Fish Hatchery (FH), Ford Island (FI), Geneva (GEN), Hartstown Marsh (HM), McMichael Road (McM), Pymatuning (PYM), Pymatuning Area (PA), Pymatuning Causeway (PC), Pymatuning Goose Management Area (PGMA), Pymatuning Spillway (PS), Shellito's Pond (SP), Springboro (SPR), Sugar Lake (SL), Tamarrack Lake (TL), Towpath Road (TOW), Woodcock Lake (WL).

Water levels at area lakes were too high for the shorebirds for most of the season. In late November PYM was lowered just a bit too late, and the hunting season during migration didn't help matters. The bird of the season was the **Sabine's Gull** at the PS.

Up to 9 **Greater White-fronted Geese** were at PGMA 11/16-30 (TN, MS, SC, RFL, RS, MV). Two **Cackling Geese** were at PGMA on 10/10 and

11/23 (MV, SC). **Tundra Swans** were recorded on 11 dates but in rather low numbers (m.ob.). The top was 85 at PYM (AM, RFL, IF, RE, SC, TCN). The annual fall count of **Wood Ducks** at PYM resulted in 946 birds 9/20 (AM). A good total of 429 **Gadwall** were recorded at PYM 11/12 (AM). A **Eurasian Wigeon** was at the FH 10/20-11/15 (RS, SC, RFL, TCN). The total of 101 **Northern Shoveler** at FH 11/2 was a good number (RFL, IF). Good numbers of **Redhead** were at CL (m.ob.) but no Canvasbacks were reported this season. The only report of **Long-tailed Duck** was 6 at SL 10/19 (RE). A female **White-winged Scoter** was at PGMA 10/19 (RFL), and one male was at JSP 11/23 (RFL, IF). **Common Mergansers** were first noted 10/11 and peaked at 561 at PYM 11/2 (RFL, IF).

A **Ruffed Grouse** was at Harmonsburg 11/1 (RFL). **Common Loon** were found at CL, WL and PYM in smaller than usual numbers, with a max of just 12 twice 10/25-11/29 (RFL, IF, SC, TCN). Two **Red-throated Loons** were on CL 11/30 (RFL). Top count of **Horned Grebe** was 18 on 11/23 (RFL, IF). A sum of 67 **Pied-billed Grebes** was noted 11/23 at CL and PYM (RFL, IF), also top count. Top count for **Double-crested Cormorant** was 1425 at PYM 11/2 (RFL, IF). A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was observed flying west up CM at CUS 9/28 during an annual blackbird count (RFL, IF).

Ninety **Turkey Vultures** roosted on the SPR water tower 10/12 (TCN). Three **Northern Harriers** flew north over CL and one was at PGMA 11/15 (IF, RFL). A **Northern Goshawk** was noted near SL 10/14 (RE) and one was off Rte. 27 near Frenchtown 11/30 (RFL). An early **Rough-legged Hawk** was at TL 10/23 (RFL) and one was near SPR 11/28 (TCN). A good total of 8 **Osprey** were at WL, GEN, and PC 8/9 (RFL, IF). On 9/20, 17 **Bald Eagles** (one adult and 16 immature) were at Meadville and east of CUS, and 3 were at PYM for a total of 20 (RFL, IF).

Good numbers of **Sandhill Cranes** were noted this period at CM, SL, ENWR and PYM (m.ob.). **Virginia Rails** were found at McM to 9/20 (IF) and a **Sora** lingered there to at least 10/11 (RFL, IF). Up to 3 **Common Gallinules** were at CM 8/9-9/14 (RFL, IF).

Up to 5 **American Golden-Plovers** were off Teakettle Rd 9/6-7 (MV, SC, TCN, SD, GM, RFL, BVNk). **Dunlin** was seen 9/14-11/30 (m.ob.). **Pectoral Sandpipers** were seen on 12 dates; 17 at PGMA 10/3 was the top count (MV). A **White-rumped Sandpiper** was at TL 8/18 (SC, KP) and 8/23 ay TL (RFL). A **Baird's Sandpiper** was at FH 9/28 (RFL). Thirty-one **Least Sandpipers** were at PGMA 7/11 (MV). Single **Stilt Sandpipers** were noted 9/6 (RFL) and 10/10 at PGMA (MV). A **Wilson's Phalarope** was recorded at TL 8/18 (SC, KP) 8/22 at PGMA (SC, MV, RFL, IF).

A **Sabine's Gull** showed up at the PS 9/5 (MV) and remained to 9/9. Hundreds of birders were able to see it as it came in close to the spillway to take bread that the tourists at the spillway throw to the fish. **Caspian Terns** were at PYM 8/3-9/20 (m.ob.) including 15 at PS 8/3 (TCN). A **Forster's Tern** was at PS 9/8 (SD, BVN, TCN). A **Black Tern** was at GM 8/13 (SC).

A **Short-eared Owl** was near GEN 11/16 on Hough Road (RFL). An **Eastern Screech-Owl** was at Diamond Park and Walnut Street in Meadville 10/24 (IF). **Great Horned Owl** was found at Meadville 9/5 (RFL), 2 were at SPR 9/9 (TCN), one was at TL 10/4 (RFL), and one was on Barton Road 11/2 (RFL). One **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was at CUS 9/18 (SC). A pair of **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were at McM 8/3 (SC), one was on Towpath 9/6 (RFL), and one was at PGMA 9/8 (SD, BVN). **Merlin** were recorded 8/2 at PGMA, 9/20 on Marsh Rd., near SL, and at FH 9/28 (RFL, IF, RE).

Single **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were counted at Hatch Hill Road west of Meadville 8/30, Towpath Rd. 9/20, and McM 9/28 (RFL). Two **Philadelphia Vireos** were closely observed on McM 9/20 (RFL, IF). Single **Northern Shrike** were noted WL 10/11 and McM 11/2 (RFL, IF). A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was at FI 9/28 (RFL). One **Snow Bunting** was at the PC 11/1 (AJ).

A **Blue-winged Warbler** was at CM 9/20 (RFL, IF). An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was seen at WL 9/14 (SC). One **Tennessee Warbler** was noted at CUS 9/18 (SC). Three were seen on Towpath Road CM 9/20 (RFL, IF). A **Northern Parula** was at Wayland east of Meadville 9/4 (RFL), and one was at Towpath 9/20 (RFL, IF). There was just one report of a **Cape May Warbler**, at FI 8/16 (RFL). One **Black-and-white Warbler** was at CM 9/1 and 2 were at CUS 9/18 (SC). A **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was at GEN 8/9 (RFL). Two **Blackpoll Warblers** were at PGMA 9/8 (SC, SD, BVN) and one was noted at Towpath 9/20 (RFL, IF). A good find was a **Kentucky Warbler** on Towpath Rd. 9/20 (IF).

The last **Savannah Sparrow** was noted at Brown Hill Rd, CM 10/19 (RFL). **Lincoln's Sparrow** were found as follows: near SL 9/21 (RE), 2 at SL 9/24 (RE), one at PYM 10/12 (SC), and one at GEN 11/23 (RFL, IF). Three **Fox Sparrows** were at SPR 11/22 (TCN).

Forty **Bobolinks** at PGMA were likely grouping up before heading south (RS). A total of 7457 **Red-winged Blackbirds** were counted at CM the evening of 9/4 (RFL, IF). The last reported **Baltimore Orioles** were 2 at SP (RFL, IF). There were 12 reports of **Rusty Blackbirds** totaling 100 birds (RFL, IF, SC, TCN). **Pine Siskins** were located at Meadville 11/2 (SC, KP), one was at Shermerville 11/6 (RFL), and 2 were at CUS 11/25 (SC).

Observers: **Ronald F. Leberman, 11508 Pettis Rd., Meadville, PA, 16335, (814) 724-5071**, Shawn Collins, Sheree Daugherty, Richard Eakin, Isaac Field, Bonnie Ginader, Allen Janis, Scott Kinzey, Geoff Malosh, Anthony Marich, Thomas Clare Nicolls, Thomas Nonnenmacher, Ken Pinnow, Matthew Sabatine, Russ States, Randy Stringer, Barb Stull, Sam Stull, Shannon Thompson, Bob VanNewkirk, Mark Vass, Daniel Weeks, Dave Wilton, David Yeany.

### Cumberland County

Locations: Michaux State Forest (MSF), Mountain Road Marsh (MRM), Opossum Lake (OL), Pine Grove Furnace State Park (PGFSP).

Unusual waterfowl included one **Snow Goose** on the Big Spring at the Laughlin Mill Pond 11/27-11/30 (VG, PB, BF, LF) and a **Cackling Goose** at Laughlin Mill 11/28-30 (VG, PB, BF, LF). **Tundra Swan** made an appearance with 2 at OL 11/21-28 (VG, DK). One **American Black Duck** was at OL 11/5, 11/22, and 11/30 (DK, VG), and 4 were at the Laughlin Mill 11/30 (VG). Other waterfowl of interest included the 45 **Ruddy Ducks** at OL 11/6 (DK) and one **Lesser Scaup** 11/11-15 (SK). Ten **Horned Grebes** were at OL 11/6 (DK, VG).

The only **Ruffed Grouse** reported was a single bird at Miller's Gap 10/20 (PB, CM, MM). A light morph **Rough-legged Hawk** was reported perched between exits 44 and 45 of I-81 on 11/30 (VG). **Sandhill Cranes** made a splash with one in a field east of Newville and just east of the intersection of Crossroad School Road and Rte. 641 10/25 (DD, SD) and a flock of 6 a few miles west flying over a Newville residence 11/22 (BF, LF). Up to 4 **American Coots** were reported numerous times from OL in November (DK, VG, PB).

Shorebirds of note included 2 **Black-bellied Plovers** at MLR 9/18 (VG), counts of 4-10 **American Golden-Plovers** at MLR 9/13-15 (VG, PY), one **White-rumped Sandpiper** at Stoughstown Pond 9/13 (VG), and one **Wilson's Snipe** BS 11/27 (VG). There were two reports of **Bonaparte Gulls**: 5 at OL 11/6 (DK) and 15 on MLR 11/19 (VG).

A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was reported at King's Gap 10/24 (PB), and one **Snowy Owl** was at Cedar Crest High School in Camp Hill 11/25 (DH). The bird which was later determined to have suffered a concussion and an eye injury was relocated in Harrisburg on 11/30 and thankfully taken into the care of wildlife rehabilitators. **Merlins** were relatively plentiful with one at SGL 230 on 10/1 (LB, BH, PF) and 10/12 (RK, AnM), one at SGL 169 Cabin Road 10/1 (VG) and 11/10 (VG), another on the Big Spring 10/11 (VG), and one at OL 10/28 (DK). A **Peregrine Falcon** was reported on the Big Spring 10/4 (VG, BF, GM, BP) and another was at the Tower Road overpass of I-81 near Summerdale 11/5 (EB).

One **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at the burn area on Ridge Road MSF 8/30 (VG, AnM, RK, SS). One **Least Flycatcher** was at New Cumberland Borough Park 8/31 (WC, KR). **Philadelphia Vireo** was at Annette's Clear Cut 8/26, Elk Hill Road 8/28 (VG), MSF 9/2 (BF), and SGL 169 on 9/20 (VG, AM, NZ, IG). Two **Bank Swallows** were at SGL 169 MRM 8/15 (VG), and 30 **Cliff Swallows** were west of Newville on Clouse Road 9/11 (VG). One **Marsh Wren** was heard at SGL 169 MRM 10/27 (DH, TN).

One **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was at Climbasium in Kingston 9/24 (IG), another was at Ridge Road MSF 9/27 (RK, TC), still another was at PGFSP 9/28 (RS), and the last was at King's Gap 10/4 (PB). One **Swainson's Thrush** was at SGL 169 on 9/20 (IG, AM), one was at New Cumberland 9/24 (NZ), one was at Camp Tuckahoe 10/18 (ED), 2 were at Ridge Road MSF 9/27 (RK, TC), and 4 were at King's Gap 9/29 (JP). Some late passerines on the woodland trail at West Fairview included a **Red-eyed Vireo** 10/25 (IG, JL), a **Black-and-White Warbler** 11/8 (RK) and 11/28 (AM, VG), and a **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** 11/28 (RK).

A **Connecticut Warbler** was seen on Bridgewater Road SGL 169 on 9/28 (VG) and one **Wilson's Warbler** was at Camp Michaux MSF 8/28 (VG). There was also one **Cerulean Warbler** at Elk Hill Road 8/28 (VG) which is fairly late to be finding these early fall migrants. Mourning Warbler and Orange-crowned Warbler were not reported. Only 3 **Rusty Blackbirds** were seen at Huntsdale 10/27 (DH, TN).

There were a good number of **Purple Finches** and **Pine Siskins** reported ahead of what might be a good invasion year for both species.

Observers: **Vernon Gauthier, 111 W. Big Spring Ave, Newville, PA 17241, (717) 385-9526, pabirder@gmail.com**, Paul Banks, Larry Bernhardt, Ed Bernot, William Clifton, Troy Cormman, Eli DePaulis, Dee Dombach, Scott Dombach, Pam Fisher, Bill Franz, Linda Franz, Ian Gardner, Deuane Hoffman, Barbara Hunsberger, Stefan Karkuff, Dave Kerr, Ramsay Koury, Josh Lefever, Chris, Markiewicz, Mark Markiewicz, Andrew Markel, Annette Mathes (AnM), Gina Meals, Ted Nichols II, Bob Peda, Jason Pietrzak, Keith Richardson, Sue Strassner, Perry Yingling, Nate Zalik.

## Dauphin County

Locations: Boyd's Big Tree Conservation Area (BBT), Harrisburg (HGB), Hershey (HER), Hershey Important Bird Area # 45 (HIBA), Hummelstown (HUM), Lower Paxton Twp. (LPT), Milton Hershey School campus (MHS), Stony Creek Valley (SCV), South Hanover Twp. (SHT), Susquehanna River (SR), SR at Fort Hunter (SRFH), SR at Middletown/Royalton (SRMR), SR from West Fairview (SRWF), Three Mile Island (TMI), Wildwood Lake (WL).

Late summer and early fall were mild and very dry. The SR remained at the 3 to 3.5 foot level with only minor and brief deviations. Much of the south compound at WL reverted to a mudflat, providing habitat for migrating shorebirds. With the arrival in mid-November of the first major cold spell of the winter season, temperatures dropped dramatically to near record lows. Most ponds and lakes froze, albeit temporarily, and there were even patches of surface ice on the SR, unusual for mid-Nov.

The first **Tundra Swans** were 2 on the SRWF 11/10 (LC). A week later, 9 were reported at SRFH (IG) and 10 were at SRWF (EC). Non-esting dabblers began returning to WL in Aug. **American Black Duck** was first reported 8/19, **Green-winged Teal** 8/24, and **Blue-winged Teal** 8/29. Sep brought **Northern Pintail** 9/10, **Northern Shoveler** 9/14, and **American Wigeon** 9/29. **Gadwall** returned 10/10. All but **Blue-winged Teal** were still being reported the last week of Nov (m.ob.). Of special note was the report of three **Blue-winged Teal** 11/22 (IG) which established a new late date for this species. The Highspire Reservoir was another good site for dabblers. Most of the above species were also recorded at this location through the end of Nov. along with **Hooded Merganser** (m.ob.). At nearby Lisa Lake a drake **Canvasback** and six **Ring-necked Ducks** were observed 11/24 (P&RW). Eight **Ring-necked Ducks** were at the Millersburg Ferry 10/23 (BB). On 11/6, 17 **Ruddy Ducks** were reported at WL (IG) and about 30 were observed on the SR from Front St. HBG (EC). On 8/4 a hen **Common Merganser** with a clutch of nine chicks were observed on the Swatara Creek at HUM (PFx). This family group had been observed near this location through the summer season. The season's first report of **Red-breasted Merganser** came from Myo Park, Millersburg 10/31 (JM); another was observed at SRMV 11/29 (AMc).

The only **Common Loon** was found on the Dehart Reservoir 11/29 (SBI). The first report of **Horned Grebe** was 11/6 when about 20 were viewed on the SR from Front St. HBG (EC). An **American Bittern** was found along the east side of the Towpath Trail, WL 10/23 (SL). **Great Egrets** are a common sight at WL in Aug and Sep. Finding one with a large yellow tag (12D) is not so common. Reported and photographed 8/31 (SD), this bird turned out to be a tagged pre-fledged young on 7/10 at Elder's Marsh in Jamaica Bay, New York. The last report of **Great Egret** came 10/26 with a single bird flying over the Rt. 83 bridge at HBG (M&PW). A **Cattle Egret** was reported in a farm field near mile marker 256 along the PA Turnpike 8/3 (EB). Two immature **Little Blue Herons** were observed at WL 8/8 (SL, DK, et al.). One or two were then reported almost daily through 9/11 (m.ob.). Another **Little Blue Heron** was found on the dam at the southern tip of TMI 8/18 (GD). On a bio-diversity canoe trip from SRFH 8/13, four **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were observed near their Wade Island nest site (SBr). Another **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was reported 8/29 along Swatara Creek Rd. near Middletown (IG).

Two **Golden Eagles** were reported from along Tower Rd. in Middle Paxton Twp. 10/30 (IG). A **Northern Goshawk** was reported near Manada Gap Rd. just off Rte. 81 on 11/13 (JD).

A **Virginia Rail** was observed along the edge of an island at SRWF 10/25 (JL). This was a good season for **American Coot** at WL. The first report was 10/12 with one observed (PD). Numbers continued to increase through the remainder of Oct. and Nov. (m.ob.) peaking with a high count of 62 on 11/10 (SL). Even after the mid-Nov freeze, 22 were still present 11/22 (IG). A raft of about 80 **American Coots** was observed on the SR 11/10 and could be viewed from along the Wormleysburg waterfront (RW) and from City Island (IG, AL). Coots were still being reported at both locations at the start of the winter season. A single **Sandhill Crane** was observed flying over Swatara Twp. 11/30 (S&BB).

The south compound at WL held good mudflats for much of the season, providing suitable habitat for migrating shorebirds. Following are the first and last dates for each of regularly reported species: **Greater Yellowlegs** 8/18-10/28, **Lesser Yellowlegs** 8/18-10/28, **Solitary Sandpiper** 8/11-10/11, **Least Sandpiper** 8/10-10/7, **Semipalmated Sandpiper** 8/11-9/25, and **Pectoral Sandpiper** 8/10-9/29 (m.ob.). Among the rarer species reported were **Western Sandpiper** 9/4-6 (SD, PB, MM, CM), **Stilt Sandpiper** 9/5, and **White-rumped Sandpiper** 9/25 (EB). **Greater** and **Lesser Yellowlegs**, **Least**, and **Pectoral Sandpipers** were also observed along the dam at the southern tip of TMI 8/18 (GD).

Single **Bonaparte's Gulls** occurred 9/28 at WL (A&BC) and 11/18 at SRFH (EB). Both **Herring Gull** and **Great Black-backed Gull** were

reported along the SR from mid-Aug. through the end of the season (m.ob.). A **Caspian Tern** was observed at SRMR 8/29 (LC), another showed up at SRWF 8/30 (IG), and 3 were reported there 9/4 (VG). The only **Forster's Tern** was along N. Front St. in HBG 9/10 (EB).

Two **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were reported along Hemlock Rd. near Carsonville 10/19 (CM) and one along White Oak Rd. 10/25 (IG). The Small Valley banding station, operating for the past 15 years, banded 81 saw-whets during its Oct-Nov season (SL). This was below the average of about 150 and well below the highest count of 284 in 2007. **Common Nighthawk** was reported 8/30-9/29 with the earliest and latest sightings coming from Lower Paxton Twp. (LKK). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was among the species recorded 8/19 at FIG (TB), and another was reported along Clarks Valley Rd. 9/7 (RK, AMa). A **Merlin** was among the species reported off the southern tip of TMI 8/18 (GD). Later reports of this species included one 11/14 at the Kokomo boat launch in HUM (DH) and another on 11/16 along Rt. 322 in HER (CK).

A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was observed along the Greenbelt Trail on the former State Hospital grounds in HBG 10/6 (LB, PFI, BHb). A **Least Flycatcher** was reported at WL 8/28 (IG) and again 9/4 (LC). One was also observed at SGL 246 on 9/16 (DH, IG). **Philadelphia Vireo** reports included one at WL 9/5 (EB), one found along the Hummel Nature Trail in HUM 9/12 (DH); and, another along Hahn Rd. in SCV 9/12 (IG). A new late date was established for **Red-eyed Vireo** with the report of one at Hershey Gardens 10/18 (JSb). Two **Tree Swallows** were observed at the Middle Paxton Community Park near Dauphin 11/10 (IG, AL). This was the latest record since a sighting along the SR at Dauphin 11/30/2006.

A lone **American Pipit** was observed along the Dehart Reservoir shoreline 11/29 (SBI). For much of November the only report of **Gray Catbird** came from a SHT yard beginning 11/5 to the end of the month (P&RW). On 11/30 two additional **Gray Catbirds** were reported, one from WL (TR), a popular spot for wintering catbirds, and the other from a Steelton yard (JSz). A **Lapland Longspur** was among the species found in the MHS agricultural fields southeast of Hershey 10/23 (IG). Viewed by others 10/24 (PFI, BHb & LB). This is a new early date for this species and the first records for Oct in *Dauphin*.

A **Connecticut Warbler** was among the species reported 9/23 FIG (DM). A rather early season **Mourning Warbler** was observed in SHT 8/29 (TJ). This was only the second county Aug record for this species. A **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was photographed in SHT 11/4 (JG, ph. TJ), setting a new late date for *Dauphin* by more than two weeks and for Pennsylvania by eight days. Another late date was established with the discovery of a **Northern Parula** at Highspire Reservoir 11/24 (KA). This made the third consecutive year that an unexpected warbler was found at this location during late fall.

A nice sparrow tally was made in the HIBA 10/21. Among the nine species were 4 **Savannah**, 2 **Lincoln's**, 11 **Swamp** and 16 **White-crowned Sparrows** (IG). On the same day a **Nelson's Sparrow** was found in a small marsh along Swatara Rd. in the HIBA 10/21 (EB). The first **Fox Sparrow** of the season was recorded 11/3 BBT (IG).

Two **Dickcissels** were found and photographed 9/23 and 9/25 in the HIBA (BHe). An **Eastern Meadowlark** was reported near Elizabethville 11/10 (IG, AL). It is not uncommon for this species to linger into the winter.

The first report of **Purple Finch** this season came from Hahn Rd. in SCV where one was observed 9/26 (IG). The first **Pine Siskin** report came from LPT 10/17 where 2 were observed visiting yard feeders (LKK). A flock of about 50 were observed in Clarks Valley 11/21 (EC).

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## Delaware County

Locations: Barrett's Meadow, Brinton Lake (BL), Crum, Creek Reservoir, Delaware River (DR), Governor Printz Park (GPP), Haverford College, John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge (JHNWR), Philadelphia International Airport, Ridley Creek State Park (RCSP), Rose Tree Park Hawk Watch (RTP),

Springton Reservoir (SR), Taylor Memorial Arboretum (TMA), Thornbury Township Trail.

*Delaware's* 2014 fall migration season boasted an impressive 185 species. Although birds of prey were down overall, exceptional birds of this family were found, such as **Golden Eagle**, **Northern Goshawk**, and **Rough-legged Hawk**. Other less common birds such as **Northern Shrike**, **Least Bittern**, and **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** also made appearances this season. Thanks to the hard work and excellent observation skills of the Rose Tree Park Hawk Watch, the Nighthawk Watch at Haverford College, and resident *Delaware* birders, another spectacular migration season is in the books.

A remarkably early **Snow Goose** was associating with **Canada Geese** at Haverford College 8/7-8/19 (KJ, SJ). Other early Snow Geese included a one at GPP 9/25 (AG), and a flyover flock at a private residence 9/24 (SC). **Cackling Geese** were only observed twice this season, in late Nov: 3 at BL 11/20 (BQ) and one at SR 11/24 (AG). Seven **Tundra Swans** at Market Square Memorial Park on the DR 10/13 (TB) represented an early record for *Delaware*. Two birds seen at RTPHW 11/19 (HM) were more expected.

*Delaware* boasted 14 species of duck this season. Most notably, a high count of 76 **American Wigeon** were at JHNWR 10/5 (TB). **Blue-winged Teal**, a regular but uncommon migrant, appeared only at JHNWR with 6 on 9/12 (AB, DB) and 3 on 10/14 (BS). **Northern Shovelers** were observed at SR with 2 on 10/17 (BB) and 3 on 11/6 (AG). Twenty-five **Northern Pintail** were at JHNWR 11/7 (TB). One **Greater Scaup** was on SR 11/6 (AG). An irregular rare to uncommon migrant in *Delaware*, one **Long-tailed Duck** was along the DR 11/9 (AG).

A rare resident in *Delaware*, one **Northern Bobwhite** was photographed at a private residence in Bethel Twp. 8/28 (SL). One **Wild Turkey** was at Hildacy Preserve 11/9 (MM).

**Common Loons** were only observed as flyovers in *Delaware* this season, with all observations from RTP between 11/12-20, including a high total of 8 on 11/20 (DE, HM). One **Pied-billed Grebe** was at JHNWR 10/14 (BS) and another was on Crum Creek Reservoir 10/17 (TB). **Horned Grebe** appeared only in early Nov with 6 on SR 11/6 and 3 on DR 11/9 (AG). A regular rare winter resident, **Great Cormorant** made two appearances in the county: one at JHNWR 10/5 (TB) and 2 on DR 11/7 (AG).

A sensitive and elusive species, **American Bittern** was seen by a lucky observer as the bird flew from *Chester* into *Delaware* at Waterloo Mills Preserve 10/8 (AG). **Least Bittern** are often observed in *Philadelphia* at JHNWR, but one was photographed on the *Delaware* side 8/5 (DO), the second record of this bird in *Delaware* in the past ten years.

Although the total number of individuals was lower than most previous years, the Rose Tree Park Hawk Watch produced fifteen species of birds of prey this season. One reason for a lower individual count was the second lowest season of **Broad-winged Hawks** since 2001 with only 1901 birds. Some exceptional species were recorded. One sub-adult **Golden Eagle** passed over 11/12 (HM). An irregular rare migrant to *Delaware*, one **Northern Goshawk** was observed 11/14 (AG). One **Rough-legged Hawk** was observed over RTP 10/21 (TB).

**American Coots** included 4 at SR 11/6 (AG) and 2 at JHNWR 11/23 (DO). Nine species of shorebirds were found this season. Most notably, 4 **Stilt Sandpipers** were observed at JHNWR, along with one **Dunlin** flying with **Lesser Yellowlegs** 10/19 (AG). Two **Solitary Sandpipers** were at SR 9/19 and 10/1 (BB). **Greater Yellowlegs** were observed in southern *Delaware* with 2 at JHNWR 8/8 (AG) and 2 along DR 8/30 (GA). **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were at JHNWR 8/2-4 with a high count of 10 (TB, AG). **Least Sandpipers** enjoyed a two-week stay at JHNWR 8/2-16 with a high total of 60 in one day (TB, AG).

Gulls were observed primarily along the DR area. Notable highlights included 10 **Bonaparte's Gulls** at Philadelphia International Airport 11/9 (GN) and one under the Commodore Barry Bridge 11/7 (AG). **Laughing Gulls** were consistently present on the DR throughout the season with a notable high total of 223 on 10/26 (AG). An accidental bird in fall, one **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was observed along DR 11/9 (AG). **Caspian Tern** maintained a strong presence along DR throughout Aug and early Sep with the highest total of 145 seen between 8/30-9/5 (GA, m.ob.)

After a successful year of breeding, only one **Barred Owl** was seen on the Bridle Trail at RCSP 9/4 (AG). The **Common Nighthawk** Watch at Haverford College saw another successful year. Large nightly totals included 1137 on 8/24 (KJ, LJ, SJ), 753 on 8/25 (SJ, CP, NP), and 567 on 9/1 (SJ).

Most notable of the eight species of flycatcher recorded this season were one **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** at RCSP 8/29 (AG) and one **Least Flycatcher** at TMA 9/5 (DO). As in previous years, one **Northern Shrike** was observed on the *Delaware* side of JHNWR 11/4 (TF). A **Yellow-throated Vireo** was at the Thornbury Township Trail 8/29 (JM). **Philadelphia Vireo** was seen only once this fall season: 2 at JHNWR 10/5

(TB). **Common Raven** sightings continued in *Delaware* this season with one bird flying over Springfield 9/22 (BR), and another was possibly heard at Martin Park in Glen Mills 10/11 (TB). A fairly common migrant in *Delaware*, **Bank Swallow** was observed only once, 2 at JHNWR 8/5 (DO).

One **Black-capped Chickadee** was observed at a private residence in Middletown Township 11/20 (AG). A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was at RTP 10/30 (TB, AG). A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** flyover was observed during the Big Sit at RTP 10/12 (AG, et al.). **American Pipits** are sporadic and difficult to find in *Delaware*, but one reliable location this fall was a cornfield in RCSP 10/13-24 (AG). Three American Pipits were flew over RTP 11/12 (HM).

*Delaware* was host to 26 different species of warbler this season. One **Worm-eating Warbler** was near the mansion at RCSP 8/28 (JW). A regular rare migrant in *Delaware*, one **Tennessee Warbler** was photographed at a private residence in Springfield (DB, AB). The only sighting of **Nashville Warbler** was at a private residence 9/20. A late **Kentucky Warbler** was at TMA 9/4 (DO). A heavily streaked **Cape May Warbler** was on the Bridle Trail at RCSP 9/29 (AG). **Bay-breasted Warbler** was observed only once, at TMA 9/3 (DO). **Blackburnian Warblers** were observed at DT 8/19 (TB, AG) and at RCSP 8/28-30 (AG). One **Wilson's Warbler** was photographed at a private residence in Springfield 9/6 (DB, AB) and another private residence 9/20 (SC). One slightly late Wilson's Warbler was observed at the Bridle Trail of RCSP 9/29 (AG).

Ten species of sparrow were recorded. A regular but rare migrant, 4 **Vesper Sparrows** were in a cornfield at RCSP 10/24 (AG). **Savannah Sparrows** were present throughout the county in Oct but the highest season total of 16 was made at RCSP 10/16 (AG). **Lincoln's Sparrows** were present throughout the county in Oct. A high total of 2 were seen at the Willows 10/1-30 (KG, DO, AU) in addition to 2 at TMA 10/23 (DO) and one seen at Barrett's Meadow 10/5 (AG).

A high count for *Delaware*, an estimated 600 **Bobolink** were observed at JHNWR in large, mixed flocks of other blackbirds 9/12 (DB, AB). Another **Bobolink** was seen at JHNWR on 8/22 (AG). Formerly a common resident, one **Eastern Meadowlark** was at the cornfield at RCSP 10/13 (AG).

One early **Purple Finch** was observed at a private residence 9/20 (SC). Purple Finches were frequently seen in *Delaware* throughout Oct and Nov, but the highest total came from RTP as small groups flew over the count area 10/25 (SJ). On the same day, the highest total of **Pine Siskins** this season was flying over RTP (SJ).

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**Elk County**  
No compiler.

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**Erie County**

Locations: Presque Isle State Park (PISP), Sunset Point waterbird count (WC).

There was another fine showing of shorebirds this season with many notable species recorded. There was no repeat of the big Snowy Owl invasion of last year, but two were reported again by the end of the season with more in the early winter as well. A few Pine Siskins, a single redpoll, and an Evening Grosbeak were the only northern finches reported. The following unusual birds were recorded from Presque Isle State Park (PISP) unless noted otherwise.

A white morph **Snow Goose** landed on a large pond in Waterford 10/9 (JH) and four were seen on 11/30 flying over Fairview (DM). A female **elder sp.** flew past the waterbird count (WC) 11/2 (JM). A total of four **Harlequin Ducks** including one female, a pair, and then an immature male, were at the WC from 10/24 periodically through 11/19 (JM). The one day total of 38 **Red-throated Loons** flying past the WC was a very high count (JM). Only the second confirmed sighting of **Pacific Loon** was documented with a photo 11/23 when a bird in basic plumage was spotted on the water off Sunset Point during the WC (JM, RD). A season total of 17 **Red-necked Grebes** was tallied during the WC 10/18-11/29 (JM). An **Eared Grebe** flew past the WC on 11/21 (JM). The immature **Golden Eagle** seen flying over Rt. 97 among several **Turkey Vultures** as they were leaving the Lake View Landfill 10/15 (JM) represented just the second fall record in the county (JM).

A total of 16 **American Golden-Plovers** were tallied 8/22-9/23, mostly from Gull Point (RD). A total of nine **American Avocets** were counted 8/20-9/7 (RD). Single **Willetts** were reported at Gull Point 8/12-31 (RD, DM). **Upland Sandpiper** has been an increasingly rare site in the county in recent years, so one observed over Gull Point 8/20 was a nice find (ST). A grand total of 9 **Whimbrels** were counted from 8/1-9/2 at Gull Point (m.ob.). The **Hudsonian Godwit** spotted 9/2 at Gull Point 9/2 was a rare find (DK, RS). A **Marbled Godwit** was identified at Gull Point 8/31 (RD). The only **Red Knot** of the season was one at Gull Point on 9/7 (DGR). Six **White-rumped Sandpipers** 8/31-10/5 was the final season total (m.ob.). A total of seven **Stilt Sandpipers** were reported from Gull Point 8/12-9/7 (ST, RD). The three **Buff-breasted Sandpipers** 9/7-9/23 at Gull Point was about an average total for the season (DGR, RD, RS). Two exceptionally early **Red Phalaropes** were observed flying past the tip of Gull Point 9/14, providing just the second September sighting of this rare bird in *Erie* (DR, MW). Another **Red Phalarope** buzzed past the WC after setting down briefly on the water 11/2 (JM).

Four adult **Little Gulls** were seen periodically 10/4-11/1 at the WC and at the channel (JM). The only **Lesser Black-backed Gull** reported was one at Gull Point 8/20 (ST). A season total of four immature **Parasitic Jaegers** were spotted flying past Sunset Point during the WC 10/4-24 (JM). Later in the season a single was there 11/18 (JM). The immature **Black Tern** at Gull Point 8/16 was the only one reported (RS).

A **Snowy Owl** was photographed as it sat on a house roof top in *Erie* 11/12 (fide BG). Another was photographed at Gull Point 11/15 (LS fide MF). A total of three **Short-eared Owls** were present from 10/28-11/11 (m.ob.). An adult female **Rufous Hummingbird** came to a feeder in Albion from at least 9/28 through 10/30 (MWL) and was banded 10/9 (BM). This was the second **Rufous Hummingbird** that appeared at this feeding station in the past several years.

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was perched in a tree top at SGL 155 on 8/19 (MW). **Common Ravens** continue to be reported in the county, this season represented by one at SGL 157 on 10/5 (MW) and one south of Union City 10/11 (DP). The only **Connecticut Warbler** found was at SGL 191 on 9/9 (MW). A female **Wilson's Warbler** on 10/19 at Siegel marsh, was record late in the county by about ten days (MW). A **Common Redpoll** was among several **Pine Siskins** at the PISP ranger's station feeder 11/25 (BGU). A high count of 16 **Pine Siskins** was unexpected on the early date of 9/28 on the Erie bay side (MW). This was the first September record of siskins for the county. A female **Evening Grosbeak** was a pleasant surprise at a feeding station in Harborcreek on 11/15 (MF).

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### Fayette County

Locations: Greenlick Run Lake (GRL), Jacob's Creek Wetlands (JCW).

Two **Tundra Swans** arrived at GRL 10/23 (TA). A small flock of 16 were there 11/6 (MF) during a rainy day. **Wood Ducks** were noted along the Youghiogheny River during two canoe trips from Dawson to Layton 8/24 and 8/30, when 5 and 6 were tallied respectively (TK, JK). Eleven **Gadwall** were at GRL 11/6 (MF) and 13 were there 11/9 (LY). The only **American Black Duck** was one at Dunlap Creek Park 11/5 (DH). Two **Northern Shovelers** were at GRL 11/9 (LY). The only **Green-winged Teal** was one at Dunlap Creek Park 11/5 (DH). Surprisingly there was just one **Ring-necked Duck** also at Dunlap Creek Park 11/5 (DH). Three **scaup sp.** were at GRL 11/6 (MF). A raft of 15 **Bufflehead** were at GRL 11/2 (DY, LY) and 7 were there 11/6 (MF). A single **Hooded Merganser** was at GRL 10/31 (MF) and 12 were there 11/9 (LY). One **Common Merganser** was at the lake 11/6 (MF). **Ruddy Duck** reports at the lake included 9 on 10/23 (TA), 12 on 10/31 (MF) and 45 on 11/6 (MF).

A male **Ring-necked Pheasant** was flushed at JCW 10/24 (MF). **Pied-billed Grebe** were represented by one at GRL 11/2 (DY, LY) and 2 at Dunlap Creek Park 11/5 (DH). Six **Horned Grebes** were at GRL 10/23 (TA), 2 were at Dunlap Creek Park 11/5 (DH) and 3 were at GRL 11/6 (MF). Two **Double-crested Cormorants** were at GRL 11/9 (LY). A **Great Egret** was along the Youghiogheny River during a canoe trip from Dawson to Layton 8/30 (TK, JK). One late bird was at GRL 10/23 (TA). There were quite a few reports of **Green Heron** in this county which normally sees few reports of waders. One was along the Youghiogheny River between Dawson and Layton 8/30 (TK, JK). Single birds were at GRL 9/1 (MF), Mill Run Reservoir 9/15 (MF) and Jacob's Creek Wetlands 10/24 (MF).

An **Osprey** was at Ohiopyle State Park 8/26 (GG, LG). One was seen regularly at GRL 10/23-11/9 (TA, MF, DY, LY). A **Bald Eagle** was seen along the Youghiogheny River during a canoe trip from Dawson to Layton 8/30 (TK, JK). An adult was at Mill Run Reservoir 9/15 (MF). A **Northern Goshawk** eBird observation was entered for 9/18 (PC) from just north of SGL 138. It was described as calling and agitated. It could have been the same bird that was reported in the past at SGL 51.

An **American Coot** was at Dunlop Creek Park 11/5-6 (DH) and 5 were at GRL 11/6 (MF). A group of 8 **Killdeer** were at GRL 10/31 (MF) and two remained 11/2 (DY, LY). A **Spotted Sandpiper** was along the Youghiogheny River during the previously mentioned canoe trip 8/24 (TK, JK). One was at GRL 9/12 (MF) and a late bird was photographed there 10/26 (DY). Also rather late, two **Pectoral Sandpipers** were photographed at the lake 11/2 (DY, LY). A **Bonaparte's Gull** was at GRL 10/23 (DY). The max count of **Chimney Swift** for the season was tallied during the canoe trip 8/30 when 150 were counted (TK, JK). Two **Peregrine Falcons** were found near Bridgeport Reservoir 9/13 (TA).

A **House Wren** and two **Gray Catbirds** were at JCW 10/3 (MF). **Cedar Waxwings** were counted on two canoe trips from Dawson to Layton with 75 on 8/24 and approximately 100 on 8/30 (TK, JK). A flock of 85 were at GRL 10/23 (TA) and 80 were there 11/2 (DY, LY).

There were few reports of warblers. A **Common Yellowthroat** was at JCW 10/3 (MF) and **Hooded Warblers** were at Mill Run Reservoir and Ohiopyle State Park 9/15 (MF). **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were numerous at Jacob's Creek Wetlands 10/23 (DY) and 10/24 (MF). Last dates for warblers listed in eBird included **Tennessee** 9/30, **Nashville** 10/13, **Blackburnian** 10/3 and **Black-throated Green** 9/28.

A **Field Sparrow**, a **Lincoln's Sparrow** and at least 8 **Swamp Sparrows** were at JCW 10/3 (MF). Two **White-throated Sparrows** and two **Dark-eyed Juncos** were at GRL 10/23 (TA) and a **White-crowned Sparrow** was at JCW 10/24 (MF). A **White-crowned Sparrow** was at GRL 10/23 (DY). Lastly a **Vesper Sparrow** was in Georges Twp. 10/13 (PC).

Two **Rusty Blackbirds** were a nice find in Luzerne Twp. 11/5 (DH) and **Red-winged Blackbirds** were in the same area 11/6 (DH).

There were two reports for **Pine Siskin**. One visited a feeder just south of Uniontown in Georges Twp. 10/13 (PC) and at least two were with a flock of **American Goldfinches** just southwest of Brownsville in Luzerne Twp. 11/5 (DH).

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### Forest County

Locations: Allegheny National Forest (ANF), Buzzard Swamp (BS), Cook Forest (CF), Kellettsville (KE), Marienville (MA), Mayburg (MB), Tionesta (TI).

Unusual sightings this season in *Forest* included a **Brown Thrasher** that lingered until 11/29 and a possible **Brewer's Blackbird**.

The only report of **Tundra Swan** was a flock heard over TI 11/12 (FM, JM). Three **Green-winged Teal**, 2 **Redhead**, 3 **Pied-billed Grebes** and an **American Coot** were at BS 10/19 (AK). A **Great Blue Heron** and a **Great Egret** were on the Allegheny River near TI 10/3. An **Eastern Screech-Owl** was reported near TI 9/4 (FM, JM); two others were noted 9/25 in the Mayburg area (JS). The last **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was noted near TI 9/29 (FM, JM).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** perched in a treetop was a nice find near Minister 9/5 (SS, et al.). A **Brown Thrasher** lingered until 11/29 feeding in brush piles in a yard near TI (FM, JM). This species is not often observed this far north in November. A variety of warblers were noted 9/12 at a banding station near Marienville: **Blue-winged Warbler**, **Black-and-white Warbler**, **Tennessee Warbler**, **Nashville Warbler**, **Cape May Warbler**, **Magnolia Warbler**, **Bay-breasted Warbler**, **Chestnut-sided Warbler**, **Black-throated Blue Warbler**, and **Canada Warbler** (JB et al.).

**American Tree Sparrows** were abundant at BS, where 100 were tallied 11/29 (AK). Two **Lincoln's Sparrows** and 9 **Swamp Sparrows** were at BS 10/19 (AK). A **Brewer's Blackbird** was observed for a few minutes 11/18 in a yard near TI (FM, JM). Pending PORC approval, this would represent the first record for *Forest*. The only **Purple Finch** reported was near TI 11/8 (FM).

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## Franklin County

Locations: Greencastle Reservoir (GR), Kriner Rd. Holding Pond (KR), Long Lane Pond, (LL), Mt. Brook Pond (MB), Caledonia State Park (CP), Zullinger Feeder (ZF), Shady Grove Area (SG), Bender's Pond (BP), Fayetteville Area (FA).

**Canada Geese** continued to dominate the ponds this fall with only a few **Snow Geese** reported in the county. Two **Tundra Swans** were seen at MB 11/6 (CG). **Wood Ducks** were seen briefly on GR several times during Oct (DG). A pair of **Gadwall** were along Keefer Rd. 11/6 (CG) and also on a small pond south of Greencastle 11/15-18 (DG). Five **Ruddy Ducks** and a **Bufflehead** remained at GR from July until 11/30, an unusual length of time for them to stay (CG, DG). Three **Common Goldeneyes** were on the Fannetsburg Lake 11/28 (CG).

Large numbers of **Wild Turkey** (80 to 100) were observed 10/1-11/1 feeding in field west of Greencastle along the Conococheague Creek (DG). **Pied-billed Grebe** and **Horned Grebe** were on BP 11/9 (BO), GR 11/6 (CG), MB 11/7 (DG), and LL 11/6 (CG). There were many sightings of **Bald Eagles** at various locations in the county. Two nesting sites were successful again this year. A **Golden Eagle** flew over BP 11/1 (BO).

A good variety of shorebirds were reported but numbers seemed to be down. **American Golden-Plover**, **Killdeer**, **Greater** and **Lesser Yellowlegs**, **Spotted Sandpiper**, **Least Sandpiper**, **White-rumped Sandpiper** were found near Chambersburg 8/9 (BO). **Baird's Sandpiper** was at KR 9/1 (CG), 10 **Pectoral Sandpiper** were on a small farm pond north of Chambersburg 10/7 (BO), **Stilt Sandpiper** was at GR 8/25 (CG), and **Wilson Snipe** was at GR 11/11 (CG, DG). An **American Woodcock** was along the Creekside Trail at Menno Haven 8/21 (BO). **Bonaparte's Gulls** were observed at GR 11/16 (CG) and 11/17 (DG). A **Black Tern** at GR 8/20 (CG) was the only one reported this fall.

Fifty **Common Nighthawks** were seen in FA 9/19 (VB). There were good numbers of nighthawks around this same date at other locations in the county. At least 80 **Eurasian Collared-Doves** were at GR 9/9 (CG, DG) and many were present at various times 8/5-9/9. This gathering of the doves has been annual around this time of year for the past several years. A **Peregrine Falcon** was seen near KR (DC) and GR (CG) 9/14.

Many **Eastern Wood-Pewees** and **Red-eyed Vireos** were observed in CP 8/21 (BO). A **Yellow-throated Vireo**, **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**, **Veery**, **Great-crested Flycatcher**, and **Eastern Kingbird** were also there that day (BO). A **Winter Wren** was in a yard in Chambersburg 10/28 (BO). A **Swainson's Thrush** was at CP 11/1 (BO). A **Hermit Thrush** was in CP 11/7 (VB). **American Pipits** visited GR at various times 10/31-11/26 (CG, DG).

A variety of warbler species were reported but again the numbers for each were rather low. **Tennessee Warbler**, **Nashville Warbler**, **Yellow Warbler**, **Chestnut-sided Warbler**, **Magnolia Warbler**, **Black-throated Blue Warbler**, **Black-throated Green Warbler**, **Pine Warbler**, **Black-and-white Warbler**, and **Worm-eating Warbler** were reported 8/9-10/1 and all in the normal migration time for *Franklin*. A late **Blue-winged Warbler** was in CP 10/1 (VB).

**American Tree Sparrows** were near Letterkenny Depot 11/9 (VB). A **Fox Sparrow** in CP 11/9 and **Swamp Sparrows** near Chambersburg 10/1 (VB) were good sightings.

At least 20-30 **Pine Siskins** were observed in Horse Valley 10/25 (BO, AM).

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## Fulton County

Locations: Cowan's Gap State Park (CGSP), E. Hill Rd, Needmore (HR), Haines-Seville Wetlands Restoration Area (HSWRA), Tuscarora Mountain (TM), "The Pulpit" Hawkwatch.

This season's highlights were all at the Pulpit: a possible **Mississippi Kite**, a flyover **Red Crossbill**, **Snow Buntings**, and strong movements of vultures and falcons.

The bulk of the waterfowl were found during facebook-inspired PSO get together for a weekend at the Pulpit. A 10/19 PSO excursion to MGL netted a fine assortment of dabbling ducks: 40 **Mallards**, 3 **Gadwalls**, 3 **American Wigeons**, and 2 **American Black Ducks** (CK). CGSP hosted modest numbers in Nov: 21 **Bufflehead** 11/09 (TN, SD, JD), 2 **Ruddy Ducks** 11/22 (BO), and 2 **Red-breasted Mergansers** 11/8 (BO). Waterbird

flyovers at TM 10/19 included 100 **Double-crested Cormorants** and 12 **Common Loons** (CK).

It was an excellent vulture migration at TM. The count on 10/12 saw the second-best day **Turkey Vultures** since 2003, with 167 tallied (R&MC). The fall **Black Vulture** flight finished at a historical seasonal high of 115, topped by 30 on 10/8 (J&JC) and 23 on 10/26 (R&MC). These were two of the three best daily counts since 2003. This was the first fall season with over 100 **Black Vultures** at TM. Fish eating raptors were seen in good numbers at TM. Season highs included 10 **Ospreys** 9/15 (DG, KL) and 10 **Bald Eagles** 9/22 (DG, KL). Last recorded **Osprey** passed by 10/19 (DG). **Accipiter** counts were excellent. Good **Sharp-shinned Hawk** flights on back-to-back days netted 106 on 10/8 (DJ, KL) and 107 on 10/9 (DG, RB). The third-highest daily count of 12 **Cooper's Hawk** since 2003 occurred 10/4 (EB, RB). The only **Northern Goshawk** of the season at TM flew past early 9/24 (J&JC).

**Broad-winged Hawks** filled the skies 9/14 with the fall's high of 628 individuals (EB, M&RC). TM's one **Rough-legged Hawk** for the season passed by 10/25 (EB). **Red-tailed Hawk** numbers were at a decade low. Based on trending analysis, the hawkcount.org and rpi-project.org projects have classified the decline in **Red-tailed Hawk** as "significant" for this location. All other regularly occurring TM raptors are classified as "not significant" or "near significant". Counts of 4 **Golden Eagles** 10/30 (DG) and 10/31 (RB) were the season's peak.

At TM, a possible **Mississippi Kite** was observed flying south 10/4 between 13:00 and 14:00 (EB, RNB *vide* DG). The description and flight pattern was typical for the species but the wind was very strong and bird's height made it difficult for the counters to be absolutely positive (*vide* DG). This record would represent only the second for TM. The first was witnessed by Charlie Brightbill in the 1980s.

Numbers of falcons at TM were stellar some afternoons. Season totals for **American Kestrel** and **Merlin** were the best in over a decade. Fourteen **American Kestrels** 10/25 (EB) and 9 **Merlins** (over double the previous daily high) 10/6 (DJ, KL) were the best counts since 2003, the latter over double the previous daily high. Above average numbers of **Peregrine Falcon** were detected, topped by 7 on 10/9 (DG, RB) and 5 on 10/05 (M&RC), two of the three best daily counts since 2003.

The last reported **Tree Swallow** of the season passed the TM hawkwatch 10/18 (CK). Less than two hours of birding at CGSP 11/9 yielded impressive counts of of year-round residents: 17 **Red-bellied Woodpeckers**, 5 **Downy Woodpeckers**, 14 **White-breasted Nuthatches**, and 24 **Black-capped Chickadees** (TN). TM hawkwatchers tallied at least 100 **Blue Jays** 10/19 (CK). A count of 25 **Chipping Sparrows** was made at CGSP 9/14 (CK). Two **Snow Buntings** hung out for a brief time at the TM hang-glider ramp 9/23 (CG).

Several winter finches were found. A lone **Purple Finch** appeared at a feeder at HR 10/19 (AE). A female **Red Crossbill** was observed at TM 9/23, calling as it flew southbound at low altitude (CG). Flocks of **Pine Siskins** were detected at TM: 50 on 10/18 (CK) and 15 on 10/19 (CK). Fifty **American Goldfinches** were noted with the 10/18 siskin flock (CK).

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## Greene County

Locations: Claylick (CL), East View (EV), Franklin Twp. (FT), Jackson Twp. (JT), Last Chance Ranch (LCR), Morgan Twp. (MT), Sycamore (SY).

**Wood Duck** was last reported at EV 11/8 (MH). **American Wigeon** at a private pond in Monongahela Twp. 10/4 (SS). A female **Green-winged Teal** was at a pond in FT 9/21 (MJ). In Whitley Twp. **Ring-necked Pheasant** was heard 10/24 (MH, JC) and at CL, 15 **Wild Turkey** were seen 10/3 (LA). A lone **Pied-billed Grebe** was at CL in Perry Twp. 10/24 (JC, MH). **Great Blue Heron** was last reported at CL 9/22 (LA). **Great Egret** visited a pond in Jefferson Twp. 11/5 (JV).

At least 60 **Turkey Vultures** were circling over CL 9/27 (LA). **Bald Eagle** was reported in Morris Twp. 10/24 (LC, TS) and in FT 11/19 (JK). A **Northern Harrier** was over EV 10/30 (JH). On 11/11 **Sharp-shinned Hawk** and 3 **Red-tailed Hawk** were at CL, and at the same location a **Cooper's Hawk** was seen 11/28 (LA).

Last **Killdeer** were in EV 10/29 (MH). **Greater Yellowlegs** was at FT 10/22 (MH). Three **Solitary Sandpipers** were at a private pond in FT 9/21 (MJ). **American Woodcock** was seen just before dark at SY 11/10 (JC).

**Barred Owl** was heard 11/22 and **Great Horned Owl** 11/12 at CL (LA). Hundreds of **Chimney Swift** was seen around Waynesburg 9/16 (KK, EK). At CL **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was last reported 10/11 (MLP). **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was first seen at LCR 10/15 (MLP). **American Kestrel** was in Cumberland Twp. 11/25 (MH).

An **Eastern Wood-Pewee** at SY 8/17 was last (JC). The last sighting of **Eastern Phoebe** was 10/14 at LCR (MLP). On 8/14 **Eastern Kingbird** was seen in Center Twp. (JF). The last report of **White-eyed Vireo** was 9/16 and **Blue-headed Vireo** 9/28, both in Jackson Twp. (RL). A **Philadelphia Vireo** was at EV 9/21; at the same location the last **Red-eyed Vireo** was noted 8/9 (MH). **Common Raven** was at CL 11/22 (LA).

**Carolina Wren** young fledged from hanging basket on porch at EV 8/27 (MH). The last reported **House Wren** was in JT 9/16 (RL). Several **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were seen in Center Twp. 11/19 (AD) and **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was reported in Whiteley Twp. 9/23 (DH). **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was last observed at EV 8/16 (MH). **Swainson's Thrush** was in Whiteley Twp. 9/23 (DH). A large flock of **American Robins**—too many to count—were observed at CL 11/22 (LA). The last report of **Gray Catbird** was 11/8 in EV (JH). The last reported **Brown Thrasher** was found 8/2 in JT (RL).

**Tennessee Warbler** was last noted in JT 9/23 (JB). **Common Yellowthroat**, **American Redstart**, **Magnolia Warbler**, and **Blackpoll Warbler** were all found in Whiteley Twp. 9/23 (DH). **Hooded Warbler**, **Chestnut-sided Warbler**, and **Black-throated Green Warbler** were found in JT 9/16 (RL). **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was reported in Wayne Twp. 10/24 (JC, MH).

The last **Eastern Towhee** was at EV 10/29 (MH), and the first **American Tree Sparrow** was noted 11/16 at SY (JC). **Fox Sparrow** appeared at SY 11/18 (JC). The last **Chipping Sparrow** was at EV 10/20, and at the same location a **Lincoln's Sparrow** was found 10/17 (MH). In Monongahela Twp. the first **White-throated Sparrow** was seen 11/7 (SS). **White-crowned Sparrow** showed up at a feeder in EV 10/17 (MH).

The first **Dark-eyed Junco** was at CL 10/7 (LA). **Scarlet Tanager** was last noted 8/4 in JT (RL). Whiteley Twp. was the site of the last **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** and **Indigo Bunting** 9/23 (DH). **Red-winged Blackbird** was last reported 11/29 at CL, and the last **Common Grackle** was also there 11/12 (LA). A **Brown-headed Cowbird** was spotted 11/28 and **Baltimore Oriole** was last seen 8/17 at SY (JC). The first report of **Purple Finch** was at EV 11/17 (MH).

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### Huntingdon County

Locations: Lake Perez (LP), Lake Raystown (LR), Old Crow Wetlands (OC), Pennsylvania Furnace Road (PF), Stone Mountain Hawk Watch (SM).

Lake Perez was steadily refilling and again attracting waterfowl. Other visitors there were headlined by a **Laughing Gull** and a **Black Tern**. However, most large flocks of waterfowl were observed from hawk watches. Stone Mountain Hawk Watch had its best season ever for **Golden Eagles**, and totals for **Sharp-shinned Hawks**, **Bald Eagles**, **American Kestrels**, **Merlins** and **Peregrine Falcons** were above the long-term average, although numbers for **Northern Harriers** and **Red-tailed Hawks** were well below average. The best shorebird action this season occurred along Pennsylvania Furnace Road near the eastern edge of the county, highlighted by **American Golden-Plovers** and **Buff-breasted Sandpipers**.

Waterfowl flyovers at SM included 34 **Snow Geese** 11/19 (GG, DK, TK), 30 **Brant** 11/15 and 40 on 11/18 (NB), and 70 **Tundra Swans** 11/12 (GG). There were also 96 **Tundra Swans** reported at LR Dam 11/6 (JK) and a flight of 76 over Huntingdon 11/14 (TK). Four **Blue-winged Teal** were at LP 10/4 (CE) and 2 **Green-winged Teal** were at OC 10/14 (GG). There were several observations of **Horned Grebe**: 3 were at LP and one was at Whipple Dam 10/18 (JD), and one was at LR Seven Points 11/8 (GD). Several flocks of **Double-crested Cormorants** were seen at SM 9/18-11/14, the largest composed of 44 birds 10/18 (NB).

One **Mississippi Kite** was reported at SM 9/22 (DK, TK) but apparently was in *Mifflin* airspace only. At 73, the **Osprey** count at SM was better than recent years, but still below average for the seventh consecutive year. A total of 108 **Bald Eagles** were recorded at SM, third highest count ever, with 14 seen 9/22. A hunting **Northern Harrier** on Claar Road 11/22 (DG, GG) and one at Pauls Road 11/26 (JK) were the only fall reports aside

from hawk watches; just 39 **Northern Harriers** were counted at SM, which was still more than 2013's record low of 23. Sightings of **Northern Goshawk** occurred at SM on 9/26, 10/16, 10/24 and 11/3 (JK, TK, NB, BC respectively) and on 11/14 at Tussey Mountain Hawk Watch (JK). The count of **Red-tailed Hawks** at SM was down at 653, compared to an average of 1099. No Rough-legged Hawks were reported. A record 145 **Golden Eagles** were seen at TM, with daily highs of 22 on 11/2 and 11/12 (NB). Falcon sightings were also above average at TM, with 128 **American Kestrels**, 35 **Merlins** and 29 **Peregrine Falcons**.

One **Sora** was found at OC on two different occasions, 8/30 (GD) and 10/18 (IG, MS). One **Black-bellied Plover** was observed over SM 9/26 (JK). Up to 6 **American Golden-Plovers** were seen on PF 8/31-9/6 (JK, m.ob.), and one more 10/3 (JK). Up to 3 **Buff-breasted Sandpipers** and up to 4 **Pectoral Sandpipers** frequented PF 9/1-6 (GD, m.ob.), and a **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was spotted there 9/6 (GD). A **Laughing Gull** at LP 10/4 (JK, CE) represented the third county record. One **Black Tern** was at LP 8/12 (JK). A total of 116 **Common Nighthawks** were counted over Huntingdon 9/1 (DW).

One **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was seen in SGL 322 near Huntingdon 8/24 (GG, LG) and 8/30 (GD), and one was reported at Mothersbaugh Swamp 8/25 (JK). Three **Purple Martins** were observed at LP 8/15 (GG). One or 2 **Marsh Wrens** were at OC 10/8, 10/10, and 10/15 (CY, GG). One or 2 **American Pipits** were observed at OC 8/3-8/30 (GG, DG, GD), one at Juniata College 9/3 (GD) and one at LP 11/3 (MR). One **Lapland Longspur** was on PR 11/23 (JK).

A late **Louisiana Waterthrush** was found at Little Juniata River, Teaberry Hollow 9/13 (GD). A **Golden-winged Warbler** was observed at Red Rose Road 8/28 (JK). One **Orange-crowned Warbler** was photographed at OC 10/20 (GD) and one **Mourning Warbler** was photographed at Peace Chapel, Huntingdon, 9/3 (GD). One very late, possibly injured **Magnolia Warbler** visited a feeding station in Huntingdon 11/23 (TK, DK). Three **Cape May Warblers** were encountered at Big Flat Natural Area 9/19 (GG). One **Yellow-throated Warbler** was seen at Peace Chapel 9/12 (GD).

One **Nelson's Sparrow** was searched out in OC 10/18 (MS). One female **Blue Grosbeak** was reported at Shaver's Creek Environmental Center 9/27 (AC). Up to 3 **Bobolinks** were observed at PF 9/2, 9/9, and 10/1 (JK). Three **Eastern Meadowlarks** were at OC 10/25 (GG) and 3 were at Harper Hill Road 11/22 (DG, GG). One **Rusty Blackbird** was at OC 10/19 (JK) and two were observed there 10/29 (DW). Nine **Rusty Blackbirds** were reported at SM 10/24 (NB).

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### Indiana County

Locations: Blue Spruce County Park (BS), Blacklick Valley Natural Area (BVNA), Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP), Shelocta (SH), Yellow Creek State Park (YC).

A blue morph **Snow Goose** was found in a flock of **Tundra Swans** at YC 11/23 (LC). A **Brant**, the eighth county record, first sighted 11/4 (LC, TG, MH, RH, DM, RN) remained at YC through 11/11 (LC, MH, RH, DK, DM, JW). A **Cackling Goose**, the third county record, found 11/5 (MK, GK) was still present 11/11 (LC, MH, RH, DK, DM, JW). The first 3 **Tundra Swans** arrived at YC 11/1 (TG, MH, RH, TH, OL); high counts were 290 over SH 11/12 (MH, RH) and 126 on 11/23 (LC) at YC.

All reports of ducks were at YC unless otherwise noted. The high **Wood Duck** count of 73 was at YC 9/16 (LC, SD, TG, MH, RH, DM); one still lingered there 11/5 (DJM). First 3 **Gadwalls** arrived 10/21 (LC, MH, RH); best tallies included 124 on 11/7 (LC) and 70 on 11/9 (DJM). Arrival date for **American Wigeon** was 9/27 (ST); numbers peaked at 49 on 11/7 (LC). First **American Black Duck** was sighted 10/8 (LC, TG, MH, RH, GL) and the top count of 28 was obtained 11/25 (TG). The maximum **Mallard** tally was 141 on 11/7 (LC). First **Blue-winged Teal** arrived 8/12 (LC, MH, RH); numbers built to 97 by 9/11 (AB, DB, LC, MH, RH, GL, MS); last observed were 24 on 10/18 (LC, SD, MH, RH, GL, J&JS). The arrival of the first **Northern Shoveler** was 9/27 (ST); high count of 30 was noted 11/9 (DJM). A single **Northern Pintail** appeared 9/27 (ST); best tally was 77 on 11/30 (LC). YC hosted the first 20 **Green-winged Teal** 9/2 (LC, TG); 48 was the high on 11/7 (LC).

Two **Canvasback** 11/23 (LC, MH, RH) were first; 4 counted 11/25 (MH, RH, GL, DM, EY) was the high. First **Redhead** was spotted 10/26 (LC)



but the best tallies were exactly 100 on 11/25 (MH, RH, GL, DM, EY) and 172 the next day (LC). Although these numbers are not unprecedented in the spring, these were the highest fall counts on record for Redhead; the previous high of 26 was established 11/28/2013 (LC). An early **Ring-necked Duck** arrived 9/27 (ST); maximum was a low 30 on 11/5 (DJM). A single **Greater Scaup** 11/11 (LC, MH, RH, DK, DM, JW) was first and the high count of 4 was noted 11/23 (MH, RH). Five **Lesser Scaup** arrived 10/21 (LC, MH, RH) with peak count of 75 on 11/6 (MH, RH). A **White-winged Scoter** 11/25 (TG, MH, RH, DM) was the only one reported. Seven **Buffleheads** were listed 11/1 (LC, TG, MH, RH, TH, OL); peak number of 454 was achieved 11/7 (LC). **Hooded Merganser** high of 10 occurred 11/9 (LC). Eight **Red-breasted Mergansers** 11/23 (LC) were amazingly the only ones noted. Two to 8 **Common Mergansers** were reported 10/7-11/25 (m.ob.). First 67 **Ruddy Ducks** arrived 10/7 (LC, TG, MH, RH, GL); on 11/26 (LC) numbers peaked at roughly 2000.

Only three reports of **Ruffed Grouse** were received: one at Jacksonville 9/29 (DL), one along the GTT 10/11 (TG, MH, RH), and four at YC 11/16 (TR). **Wild Turkey** high was 35 at Camerons Bottom 9/13 (CL, FGS).

Single **Common Loons** appeared at YC between 10/25 (JK) and 11/11 (LC, MH, RH, DK, DM, JW). YC's **Pied-billed Grebe** numbers spiked to 89 on 10/7 (LC, TG, MH, RH, GL); 2 still lingered 11/30 (LC). YC harbored the first **Horned Grebe** 11/1 (LC, TG, MH, RH, TH, OL); high YC count was 12 on 11/25 (TG, MH, RH, GL, DM, EY). Up to 6 **Double-crested Cormorants** visited YC between 8/11 (LC) and 11/16 (LC). First **Great Egret** was at the McLaughlin farm pond 8/16 (MM); single Great Egrets were found at YC on 13 dates between 8/7 (MVT) and 10/18 (LC, SD, MH, RH, GL, J&JS). Last **Green Heron** was at YC 10/12 (MJ). A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was a great find at the Kovalchick Center Pond 10/30 (JT). A **Glossy Ibis** was a third county record at YC 9/11 (LC) where it was seen by a multitude of observers through 9/25 (JB).

Last **Turkey Vultures** included 2 at YC 10/28 (LC, SD, TG, MH, RH, DS, MVT) and one over IUP 10/30 (JT). Migrating **Osprey** included up to 4 birds at YC between 8/26 (LC, SD, TG, MH, RH) and 10/7 (LC, TG, MH, RH, GL); last sighted in the county was one flying overhead near SH 10/16 (MH, RH). One to 3 **Bald Eagles** were listed at YC (m.ob.) on eight dates between 9/9 (LC, SD, TG, MH, RH, GL, ML, DM, MSy) and 11/26 (TG, MH, RH, GL, DM, EY) with sightings of both adult and immature birds; on 10/16 (RS) an adult was observed flying over Plumville; 3 adults were seen migrating over SH 10/26 (MH, RH). A single **Northern Harrier** visited YC 11/1 (LC, TG, MH, RH, TH, OL); this was the only report in the county. **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were noted at six locations this quarter and **Cooper's Hawks** at eight (m.ob.). Last **Broad-winged Hawk** was listed 9/16 (LC, SD, TG, MH, RH, DM) at YC.

The first 3 **American Coots** arrived at YC 9/18 (PF); top count was 1442 on 11/1 (LC, TG, MH, RH, TH, OL).

All shorebird reports were at YC. The season's first 4 **Semipalmated Plovers** appeared 8/10 (LC); high count of 5 occurred 8/12 (LC, MH, RH); last noted was a singleton 10/12 (MJ) in Little Yellow Cove. **Killdeer** maxima included an amazing 102 on 9/5 (LC) and 39 on 11/11 (LC, MH, RH, DK, DM, JW). Last **Spotted Sandpiper** and **Solitary Sandpiper** were found 10/26 (LC) and 10/21 (LC, MH, RH), respectively. Up to 7 **Greater Yellowlegs** were listed on 14 dates from 8/11 (LC) to 11/16 (TR). One **Lesser Yellowlegs** was first seen 8/15 (LC) and the last 2 birds were noted 11/1 (LC, TG, MH, RH, TH, OL). A **Stilt Sandpiper** was sighted at YC 9/13 (LC, GL). Inadvertently omitted from the summer report was a report of an adult in breeding plumage 7/20/2014 (LC) also in Little Yellow Cove. Three **Dunlin** arrived 10/18 (LC, SD, MH, RH, GL, J&JS); last was a single bird 11/7 (LC). Four **Least Sandpipers** visited YC 8/8 (LC); 5 was the high tally 9/2 (MH, RH), and last seen were 2 on 10/7 (LC, TG, MH, RH, GL). A **White-rumped Sandpiper** was a nice find 8/31 (LC, DG, GG). One to 3 **Pectoral Sandpipers** were sighted on six dates between 8/19 (LC, SD, TG, MH, RH) and 10/7 (LC, TG, MH, RH, GL). Reports of **Semipalmated Sandpiper** included first 2 on 8/12 (LC, MH, RH), high of 4 on 8/31 (DG, GG), and last one 10/7 (LC, TG, MH, RH, GL). Two **Wilson's Snipe** were found 10/11 (KA), and singletons were found 9/30 (LC, TG, MH, RH, DM) and 11/4 (LC, TG, MH, RH, DM, RN). Single **American Woodcocks**, the only ones reported, were found at IUP 9/24 (JT) and along the Hoodiebug Trail 10/20 (DL).

First **Bonaparte's Gull** arrived 10/21 (LC, MH, RH) at YC; the only other reports were one 11/9 (LC) and 2 on 11/23 (LC). Establishing a fourth county record, a **Laughing Gull** was sighted at YC 10/14 (MH, RH, GL) where it was photographed (MH, RH). **Ring-billed Gulls** were reported at YC on just seven dates with 11/7 (GL) yielding the best tally of 64. **Black Terns** appeared in good numbers at YC this season with at least 18, and possibly 26, on 8/12 (LC, MH, RH); the previous high count at YC was 14 on 8/30/2005. YC also harbored 8 on 8/31 (DG, GG). A single **Forster's Tern** at YC 8/11 (LC) was the only one noted.

**Eastern Screech-Owl** was noted only near SH 8/17 (MH, RH). **Great Horned Owl** reports included one at IUP 9/21 (JT), one heard at Nolo 9/28 (AB, DB), one at the IUP Coop. Park 9/30 (EP), one seen at Penn Run 11/16 (DB), and another at Nolo 11/25 (GL). One to 2 **Barred Owls** were heard at Nolo between 8/7 (AB, DB) and 9/30 (AB); another was calling 11/12 (MH, RH) near SH. A single **Common Nighthawk** was sighted at IUP 9/17 (JT). Last **Chimney Swift** was circling west of Indiana 10/6 (MH). Last **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** included one near SH 9/19 (MH, RH) and one n. of Indiana the same day (SB). The first migrant **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** sighting was at YC 9/25 (LG); last was one at YC 11/4 (LC). A congregation of 14 **Northern Flickers** in a Nolo yard was surprising for the observer 9/25 and 10/2 (GL). A **Merlin** was seen at YC on five dates from 8/12 (LC, MH, RH) to 11/5 (GK, MK, DJM). A **Peregrine Falcon** flew over a yard near SH 9/28 (MH, RH); another visited YC 10/4 (LC, TG, MH, RH, JT, RW) and 10/7 (LC, TG, MH, RH, GL).

WCA yielded the last **Eastern Wood-Pewee** 9/20 (SD, ED, TG, MH, RH, DM, RW, JT, EY). BS produced the season's last calling **Acadian Flycatcher** 9/12 (MH, RH). A **Willow Flycatcher** was last observed at YC 8/12 (LC, MH, RH). A silent **Trail's Flycatcher** was briefly noted at YC 9/19 (LC, SD, TG, MH, RH). YC produced the last **Least Flycatcher** 8/26 (LC, SD, TG, MH, RH). YC hosted the last and rather late **Eastern Phoebe** 11/11 (LC, MH, RH, DK, DM, JW) and the last **Eastern Kingbirds** 8/23 (LC, LyC, MH, RH, MVT). Last dates for vireos included 8/26 (LC, SD, TG, MH, RH) at YC for **White-eyed Vireo**, 9/12 (MH, RH) at BS for **Yellow-throated Vireo**, 10/21 (LC, MH, RH) at YC for **Blue-headed Vireo**, 8/12 (LC, MH, RH) at YC for **Warbling Vireo**, and 10/11 (TG, MH, RH) along the GTT for **Red-eyed Vireo**. There was just one sighting of **Philadelphia Vireo**—one at BS 9/12 (MH, RH). **Fish Crows** continued in Indiana through 11/23 (DJM). Thirty was the **Horned Lark** count near YC 11/26 (LC). Last swallow dates at YC were 9/16 (LC, TG, MH, RH, DM) for 2 **Tree Swallows**, 9/3 (LC, MH, DM) and 9/30 (LC, TG, MH, RH, DM) for one **Barn Swallow**.

A single **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was noted sporadically near SH 9/12 through 11/22 (MH, RH); another stopped at Lewisville 10/16 (MC). Last **House Wrens** were found 10/7 (LC, TG, MH, RH, GL) at YC and 11/13 (GL) at Nolo. **Winter Wren** reports included singletons at Getty Heights Park 9/30 (DL), at BS 10/10 (MH, RH), at YC 10/15 (LC), and at Josephine 11/16 (DL). Last **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** remained at YC to 9/9 (LC, SD, TG, MH, RH, GL, ML, DM, MSy). First migrant **Golden-crowned Kinglet** arrived near Lewisville 10/11 (MC). A yard near SH yielded the first **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** 9/28 (MH, RH); the last was at YC 11/16 (TR). **Swainson's Thrushes** moved through the county between 9/22 (MH, RH, JT) and 10/11 (KA), when 2 were sighted at YC. One **Hermit Thrush** spotted at YC 11/15 (GK, MK) comprised the entire report for this species. **Wood Thrush** lingered at IUP through 9/23 (JT). **Gray Catbirds** remained at BS 10/10 (MH, RH) and the last **Brown Thrasher** was listed at IUP 9/17 (JT). **American Pipits** visited YC between 9/30 (LC, TG, MH, RH, DM) when 3 were spotted, and 11/8 (MH, RH) when 6 were counted; top count was 25 on 10/28 (LC, SD, TG, MH, RH, DS, MVT).

The GTT yielded the last **Ovenbird** 9/22 (MH, RH). A late **Louisiana Waterthrush** was sighted at IUP 8/1 (JT). The SH area produced the last **Blue-winged Warbler** 9/24 (MH). The last date for **Black-and-white Warbler** was 9/12 (MH, RH) at BS. **Tennessee Warblers** made a good appearance in the county between 9/4 (MH, RH) and 10/11 (MH, RH); high tally of 11 was achieved at BS 9/12 (MH, RH). Two **Orange-crowned Warblers** were found at BS 10/10 (MH, RH). Single **Nashville Warblers** were listed between 8/26 (LC, SD, TG, MH, RH) and 10/11 (MH, RH). Last 4 **Common Yellowthroats** were noted at YC 9/30 (LC, TG, MH, RH, DM), but one remained near Lewisville 10/11 (MC). One **Hooded Warbler** and an **American Redstart** lingered through 9/22 (MH, RH) along the GTT and 9/23 (LC, TG, MH, RH) at YC, respectively. Totally absent from the county in the spring, **Cape May Warblers** put in a strong appearance this fall with reports of 4 on 8/26 (LC, SD, TG, MH, RH) and continuing through 9/28 (MH, RH) when 2 were noted near SH. A **Magnolia Warbler** was last seen at BS 10/10 (MH, RH). **Bay-breasted Warblers** stopped in *Indiana* between 9/6 (LC, MH, RH, DM, JT, RW) and 9/23 (LC, TG, MH, RH). The GTT yielded the last 2 **Blackburnian Warblers** 9/22 (MH, RH) and the last **Yellow Warbler** was found at the Ferrence Farm 9/20 (RH). A **Chestnut-sided Warbler** lingered at YC 9/16 (LC, SD, TG, MH, RH, DM). **Blackpoll Warblers** migrated through *Indiana* between YC 9/16 (LC, SD, TG, MH, RH, DM) and 10/10 (MH, RH). A late adult male **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was at BS 10/10 (MH, RH). IUP was the hotspot for **Palm Warblers** with reports of one or 2 on six dates 9/7-10/13 (JT); 2 were also at YC 9/27 (ST). YC yielded the last **Pine Warbler** 9/27 (LC, TG, MH, RH, DM). First **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was sighted at YC 9/23 (LC, TG, MH, RH); numbers peaked 10/7 (TG) at YC when 7 were tallied and 10/17 (MH) near SH where the count was 8; at least one still lingered near SH 11/23 (MH). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was a nice find at YC 8/26 (LC, SD, TG, MH, RH). The last 3 **Black-throated Green Warblers** appeared at YC

10/11 (KA). **Canada Warblers** appeared at YC 8/26 (LC, SD, TG, MH, RH) and at BS the next day (MH, RH) and 9/4 (MH, RH). The only **Wilson's Warblers** reported were 2 on 9/16 (JT) and one 9/18 (JT), all at IUP.

The last **Eastern Towhee** was listed near SH 10/29 (MH). An early **American Tree Sparrow** was found along Observatory Trail 10/21 (LC, MH, RH) at YC. Last **Chipping Sparrow** was near SH 10/25 (MH). **Fox Sparrows** were more prevalent this fall than last with first 2 along the GTT 10/11 (TG, MH, RH); on 11/19 (MH, RH) numbers peaked at a feeder near SH at 9; last seen were individuals near SH 11/24 (MH, RH) and at YC 11/25 (TG, MH, RH, GL, DM, EY). A **Lincoln's Sparrow** was a nice find at YC 10/25 (TG, MH, RH, GL). At least one **Swamp Sparrow** stayed at YC through 11/25 (TG, MH, RH, GL, DM, EY). **White-throated Sparrows** arrived at YC 9/30 (LC, TG, MH, RH, DM) and the first **White-crowned Sparrow** was sighted near Tunnelton 10/3 (NM); last 2 were at IUP 11/21 (JT). **Dark-eyed Juncos** first appeared at BS south of their breeding range 10/10 (MH, RH).

YC (LC, TG, MH, RH) and a yard near SH (MH, RH) yielded the last **Scarlet Tanagers** 9/23. The last **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** lingered near SH 9/26 (MH); **Indigo Bunting**, at YC 9/30 (LC, TG, MH, RH, DM). The last 2 **Red-winged Blackbirds** were at YC 11/5 (GK, MK). **Rusty Blackbirds** moved through *Indiana* between 10/12 (MJ) and 11/1 (LC, TG, MH, RH, TH, OL) with the best count a mere 20 on the latter date; IUP yielded 2 on 10/17 (JT). A flock of roughly 100 **Common Grackles** flew over a yard near SH 10/24 (MH, RH); last spotted were 2 at IUP 11/2 (JT). **Brown-headed Cowbirds** were unreported after 8/18 (MH, RH) when 15 were listed along the West Penn Trail nw. of Blairsville. Last **Baltimore Oriole** was noted at YC 8/31 (DG, GG). A Nolo fielder attracted 5 **Purple Finches** 10/30-11/1 (AB, DB). The first 15 **Pine Siskins** arrived 10/11 (KA) at YC where the count ten days later (LC, MH, RH) reached 64; a feeder at Nolo hosted 54 on 10/31 (GL); n. of IN 72 was the count 11/16 (SB); siskins continued in numbers through the end of the period.

ADDENDUM: A report of a **Stilt Sandpiper** in breeding plumage at YC 7/20/2014 (LC) was inadvertently omitted from the summer 2014 report.

Observers: **Margaret Higbee, 3119 Creekside Road, Indiana, PA 15701-7934, (724) 354-3493, bcoriole@windstream.net**, Kirby Adams, James Baginski, Alice Beatty, Dave Beatty, Sidney Blair, Lee Carnahan, Lynn Chapman (LyC), Dan Cunkelman, Marcy Cunkelman, Sue Dickson, Ed Donley, Ann Fasioli, Patience Fisher, Ingrid Gehle, Tom Glover, Steve Gosser, Deb Grove, Greg Grove, Roger Higbee, Daniel Hinnebusch, Todd Hooe, Matthew Hunt (MHu), Matthew Juskowich, Debbie Kalbfleisch, Mary Alice Koeneke, Glenn Koppel, Clayton Lamer, Gloria Lamer, Dennis Lauffer, Oliver Lindhiem, Melissa Little, Moire McLaughlin, DJ McNeil (DJM), Donna Meyer, Nancy Murphy, David Narins, Richard Nugent, Morgan Pfeiffer, Theo Rickert, Father George Saletrik (FGS), Mike Shaffer, Dennis Smeltzer, Randy Stear, Jean & Jim Stratton (J&JS), Mark Syverton (MSY), John Taylor, Shannon Thompson, Ken Truitt, Marge Van Tassel, Ray Winstead, Jan Woodard, Ellen Yergler, Three Rivers Birding Club (3RBC), Todd Bird Club (TBC).

### Jefferson County

Locations: Clear Creek SP (CC), Cook Forest SP (CF), Fordham Lake (FL), I80 -Ext 81 (I80-81), Mosquito Creek Rd (MC), Mahoning Shadow Trail (MS), Punxsutawney (PX), Ringgold (RG), State Game Land #44 (SGL44), State Game Land #54 (SGL54), Sigel (SG), Stevenson Hill Rd (SH).

A count of 35 **Canada Geese** was made on the MS 10/25 (LC, RD, TG, MH, RH, DM, NM), and 16 **Common Mergansers** were in CF 9/23 (TO). A high of 6 **Ring-neck Pheasants** were in RG 11/23 (JK), and a **Ruffed Grouse** was seen at CC 9/27 (DP, MN). One **Great Blue Heron** was foraging on FL 10/25 (LC, TG, MH, RH). The last **Turkey Vulture** was seen off I-80 on 10/13 (JL). A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was on the MS 10/25 (LC, RD, TG, MH, RH, DM, NM). A lone **Killdeer** was on the mud at FL 10/25 (LC, MH, RH).

Two **Eastern Screech-Owls** were in RG 10/8 (JK). **Barred Owls** were noted at two different locations : one on SH 9/15 (DR) and one in CF 9/23 (TO). The only **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** reported was in RG 8/25 (JK), and the only **Belted Kingfisher** was in CC 9/12 (TF). One **American Kestrel** was seen in SG 9/12 (TF). A **Merlin** was a nice find in SGL 54 on 10/22 (TJ).

The last **Eastern Phoebe** was in CC 9/27 (DP, MN). **Blue-headed Vireos** were found on two different dates: one in CC 9/12 (TF) and one in SGL54 on 10/22 (TJ). The last **Red-eyed Vireo** was found in CC 9/27 (DP, MN). A **Fish Crow** in CF 9/23 (TO) was interesting. One **Common Raven** was heard on the MS 10/25 (LC, RD, TG, MH, RM, DM, NM).

Four **Barn Swallows** were in SG 9/12 (TF). The pleasant song of the

**Carolina Wren** was heard (and the bird seen) on the MS 11/29 (EF, TF, TG). Four **Golden-crowned Kinglets** in CC 9/12 (TF) were the first for the period, and 3 **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were found in SGL 54 on 10/22 (TJ). A **Hermit Thrush** was a nice find in the CC 9/27 (DP, MN). The last reported **Gray Catbird** was also noted in CC 9/27 (DP, MN). A late **Northern Mockingbird** was in RG 11/23 (JK).

There were five different species of warblers reported. One **Blackburnian Warbler** was in CC 9/12 (TF). Two **Yellow Warblers** were noted in RG 8/2 (JK), and a **Pine Warbler** was in CC 9/12 (TF). **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were found a number of times up to the last 8 seen on the MS 10/25 (LC, DP, TG, MH, RH, DM, NM). Lastly, one **Prairie Warbler** was a welcome find in CC 9/12 (TF).

Last **Eastern Towhee** was on the MS 10/25, as was the last **Chipping Sparrow** (LC, DP, TG, MH, RH, DM, NM). Last **Field Sparrows** were 10 in CF 9/23 (TO). **Fox Sparrows**, always welcomed finds, were noted on two dates: 2 on the MS 10/25 (LC, DP, TG, MH, RH, DM, NM), and 2 in RG 11/23 (JK). A **Lincoln's Sparrow** was a surprise on MC 10/1 (DR, DRe). Two late **Swamp Sparrows** were heard and seen on the MS 11/29 (EF, TF, TG). The first **White-throated Sparrows** were in CC 9/27 (DP, MN), and the first **White crowned Sparrows** were on MC 10/1 (DR, DRe). **Dark-eyed Juncos** are found throughout the year in the northern forested sections of *Jefferson*, but in southern *Jefferson* they disappear during the warmer months. The first found in the south were 4 in PX 10/16 (TG).

The season's last **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was in RG 8/31 (JK). Eight **Purple Finches** were also found in RG 10/5 (JK). **Pine Siskins** were noted twice, one on MC 10/1 (DR, DRe), and 20 in SGL 44 on 10/23 (TJ).

Observers: **Thomas Glover, 210 Highland Ave., Punxsutawney, PA 15767-2416, tomnglover@comcast.net**, Lee Carnahan, Ron Depine, Tom Forwood, Elyse Fuller, Tom Fuller, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Tom Jiamachello, John Keener, Josh Lefever, Donna Meyer, Nancy Murphy, Maranda Nemeth, Dan Paul, Thomas Olsos, Dan Richards, Dick Rehman (DRe).

### Juniata County

A total 87 species were reported to eBird for fall migration and 186 species for the year. A young Amish birder found 2 waders in the small stream that runs into the Juniata River near Muskrat Springs: an immature **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** and an adult **Little Blue Heron** present 7/24-30. Word got out and the night-heron was photographed (CK, AT). Six **Cattle Egrets** were photographed near Thompsontown 10/31 (DH). They turned out to be a one-day wonder.

Observers: **Chad Kauffman, 91 Kauffman Lane, Mifflintown, PA 17059, chadkauffman@earthlink.net, (717) 994-6715; Aden Troyer, 610 Oakland Rd., Mifflintown, PA 17059, (717) 463-3117, Dick Hart.**

### Lackawanna County

No compiler.

### Lancaster County

Locations: Conewago Recreation Trail and Wetlands (CRTW), Lancaster Area Sewer Authority (LASA), Lancaster County Central Park (LCCP), Middle Creek WMA (MCWMA), Muddy Run (MR), Octoraro Reservoir (OR), Speedwell Forge County Park (SFCP), Susquehanna River (SR), Susquehanna River, Conejohela Flats (SRCF), Susquehanna River Peach Bottom (SRPB), Woods Edge (WE).

Hundreds of dead birds found in July were determined to have been the victims of microbursts associated with a 7/27 storm.

Highlights this season were plentiful. A **Red-necked Grebe** was at MCWMA and an **American White Pelican** stayed on the SR for a few days and caused quite a stir. A **Great Cormorant** flew downriver along the SR above the Safe Harbor Dam. **Little Blue Heron** was at MCWMA for several weeks and at two other locations. A **Sandhill Crane** was in the Fivepointville area. Two **Buff-breasted Sandpipers** and a **Eurasian Collared-Dove** appeared at a sod farm in Lancaster. **Northern Shrike** was seen on Puseyville Road. Lastly, a **Seaside Sparrow** was found and seen by several birders on the Bainbridge Islands in the SR. If accepted, it would represent the second for *Lancaster*.

A few birders were privileged to participate in the Bio Blitz held at Climber's Run Nature Preserve, totaling 55 species 9/20-21. The Big Sit at MCWMA was held 10/12 and totaled 73 species.

Five **Snow Geese** were at MCWMA during the Big Sit 10/12 (BC). Two **Cackling Geese** were at MCWMA 10/22 (BC). Three were present 10/26 (ME) and one remained 10/27-11/1 (IG, BC). A Richardson's was at MCWMA 11/29-30 (ZM, ZA, IG). A juvenile **Brant** was on Beechdale Road 10/25 (FH, BHa) and one was on the SR 11/1 (ME). A **Greater White-fronted Goose** was along Spangler Road 11/30 (SW).

Three **Tundra Swans** were at MCWMA 11/1 (BC). Seven **Wood Ducks** were at SRCF on 8/20 (ME), and 24 were at MCWMA during the Big Sit 10/12 (BC). Last were 2 were at Perelman Park 11/14 (BC). A **Gadwall** was at MCWMA 10/20 (RM) and 17 were there 11/6 (BC). Seven **American Black Ducks** were at MCWMA during the Big Sit 10/12 (BC). Eight **Northern Shovelers** were on the SRCF 9/7 (EW, BC, ME, & TG). 2 were at MCWMA during the Big Sit 10/12 (BC), and 7 were there 11/6 (BC). An early **Northern Pintail** was on the SRCF 9/7 (EW, BC, ME, TG). Four were at MCWMA during the Big Sit 10/12 (BC). One **Green-winged Teal** was on the SRCF 8/20 (ME), 12 were on the SRCF 9/7 (EW, BC, ME, & TG), and 8 were at OR 11/12 (BH, m.ob.). Eight **Blue-winged Teal** were on the SRCF 9/7 (EW, BC, ME, TG) and 4 were at Riverfront Park 10/7 (PF, LB). Four early **American Wigeons** were on the SRCF 9/7 (EW, BC, ME, TG). A nice count of 14 was made at the CRTW 9/12 (ME). One **Ring-necked Duck** was at MCWMA 10/20 (RM) and 12 were there 11/5 (BH, m.ob.). Around 40-50 **Buffleheads** were at MCWMA 11/2-6 (SS, BC) and 54 were there 11/9 (SS). A single female **Black Scoter** was on the SR 10/29 (ME), and 3 were at MCWMA 11/1 (BC, DKr). Five early **Common Mergansers** were on the SR 10/11 (ME, ML), and another early bird was at MCWMA 10/20 (ZM). Two **Red-breasted Mergansers** were at OR 11/16 (TR). One **Hooded Merganser** was at MCWMA during the Big Sit 10/12 (BC), and 11 were on the main lake 11/3 (GR). One **Ruddy Duck** was at WE 10/4 (TM). At MCMWA, 4 were found during the Big Sit 10/12 (BC), 36 were present 11/5 (BH, m.ob.), and 115 were there 11/6 (BC).

A single **Ring-necked Pheasant** was at SGL 220 on 10/8 (BH, m.ob.), and another was at MCWMA during the Big Sit 10/12 (BC).

A **Common Loon** was at MCWMA 11/20 (SS). A **Pied-billed Grebe** was at Noel Dorwart Park 10/8 (BCo, m.ob.), 7 were on the SR 10/29 (ME), and one was at MCWMA 11/6 (BC). Seven **Horned Grebes** were at MCWMA 11/6 (BC) and one remained 11/23 (SS). An early **Red-necked Grebe** was at MCWMA 10/14-11/5 (TB, BC, m.ob.). A second bird joined the first 11/2-3 (TNII, SS, GR). Yet another was at Wissler Run Park 10/26 (TRa). An **American White Pelican** was on the SRCF 9/17-20 (ME, TB, m.ob.). A flock of 125 **Double-crested Cormorants** was on the SRPB 10/2 (BS). Four were lingering at MCWMA 11/5 (BH, m.ob.). An adult **Great Cormorant** flew downriver along the SR 11/29 (TR).

A wing-tagged **Great Egret** present at WE since 5/25 was found to have been banded in July 2013 on an island near Collingwood, Ontario. This bird continued at WE 8/13-10/3 (ML, SS). Another wing-tagged egret was among 19 others at Alcoa Marsh 9/1 (DHi). One late bird was at the Alcoa Marsh 11/14 (DHi). A **Snowy Egret** was at MR 8/25 (TR) and one was at Riverfront Park in Marietta 9/1 (TR). One immature **Little Blue Heron** was at MCWMA 8/17-9/10 (ME, BC, m.ob.), one was at Falmouth 8/19 (LB, EWe), and a third was at MR 8/25 (TR). Three **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were at CRTW 8/12 (IG), one was on the dam at MCWMA 8/31 (BC), and a single bird was at Alcoa Marsh 10/16-22 (DHi). A late **Green Heron** was on the SR 10/11 (ME, ML), and an even later bird was at MCWMA 10/26 (ME, JF). A **Glossy Ibis** was at the Chestnut Grove Nature Area 8/7 (ML). Reports of **American Bittern** included one at WE 8/14 (GS), one at Alcoa Marsh 9/1 (DHi), and one at Riverfront Park 10/15 (LB). A **Least Bittern** was on the SR at Bainbridge 10/4 (BC, ME.).

Forty-six **Bald Eagles** were at Esbenshade's Turkey Farm 11/8 (TR). Mixed in with them was one immature **Golden Eagle** (TR). On 11/27 there were 78 **Bald Eagles** in the Paradise area (TR). An October **Osprey** was at Riverfront Park 10/7 being chased by four adult **Bald Eagles** (PF, LB), and another was at MCMWA 10/20 (RM). A **Northern Harrier** was recorded at MCWMA 8/31-10/20 (BC, RM, SS). An adult male and one immature were in Caemarvon Twp. 11/28 (FH). A juvenile **Red-shouldered Hawk** was at MCWMA 9/7 (MR, m.ob.), one was at Riverfront Park 9/24 (BH, m.ob.), and one was at Noel Dorwart Park 10/1 (TM). A juvenile **Broad-winged Hawk** was at MCWMA 8/2 (SS) and a late bird was at Octoraro Res. 10/17 (CG). **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was reported from five locations through 11/12.

One **American Coot** was at MCWMA 10/22 (MR, m.ob.), 46 were on the SR 10/29 (ME), and 65 were there 11/6 (BC). A **Sandhill Crane** was in Fivepointville 9/13-15 (LG, AH).

A high count of 16 **Semipalmated Plovers** were on the SRCF 8/20 and again 9/4 (ME). A high count of 74 **Killdeer** was at the sod farm on Junction Road 9/3 (ME). An **American Golden-Plover** was at the sod farm on Junction Road 9/3 (ME), and 3 were at the sod farm along Graystone Road 9/12 with one remaining to 9/16 (SS). A **Black-bellied Plover** was on the SRCF 9/17 (ME). A late **Spotted Sandpiper** was at MCWMA 10/15 (BC). A **Solitary Sandpiper** was at Masonic Village 10/3-4 (JS). Five

**Greater Yellowlegs** were on the SRCF 8/20 (ME); last was one at MCWMA 10/29 (BC). Four **Lesser Yellowlegs** were on the SRCF 8/20 (ME). Late Lessers included one at CRTW 11/5 (IG) and 2 at the SRCF 11/9 (ME, BC). A **Sanderling** was on the SRCF 9/4 (ME) and four were there 9/7 (EW, BC, ME, & TG); a late bird was on the SR at Bainbridge 10/6 (IG). A **White-rumped Sandpiper** was at Riverfront Park 9/1 (TR) and one was on the SRCF 9/17 (ME). **Baird's Sandpipers** at SRCF were one 9/4 (ME, JM), 2 on 9/7 (BC, ME, EW, TG), and 2 on 9/17 (ME). One **Pectoral Sandpiper** was on the SRCF 9/4 (ME) and rather late birds were on the SRCF 11/1 and 11/22 (ME). A count of 45 **Least Sandpipers** was made on the SRCF 8/20 (ME). Last were 2 on the SR at Bainbridge 10/4 (BC, m.ob.). Eighteen **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were on the SRCF 8/20 (ME) and 4 were on the CRTW 8/29 (IG). A **Western Sandpiper** was on the SRCF 8/20 and 9/2 (ME). Up to five **Upland Sandpipers** were at the Lancaster Airport 8/7-17 (ML, EW, BC, m.ob.) and 2 were in a field along Rte. 472 between Mt. Eden Road and Spruce Road 8/16 (DS). Two **Buff-breasted Sandpipers** were at the sod farm along Graystone Road 9/12-19 (TNII, ZM, m.ob.) with one remaining 9/21 (ME). A **Wilson's Snipe** was on the SR at Bainbridge 10/6 (IG). A **Red-necked Phalarope** was at the SRCF 9/15 (CM).

A **Great Black-backed Gull** was on the SRCF 9/7 (JM). Up to 3 **Bonaparte's Gulls** were on the SRCF 9/13-17 and 3 were at MCWMA 11/6 (BC). A **Common Tern** was on the SRCF 8/31 (EW), 2 were on SRPB 9/10 (PF, LB, m.ob.), and one was there 9/19 (GD, ME). A **Forster's Tern** was on the SRPB 9/10 (BH). Two **Caspian Terns** were on the SR 10/7 (PF, LB).

A **Eurasian Collared-Dove** was at the sod farm 9/21 (ME). A juvenile **Mourning Dove** was at a Peach Bottom home 11/19 suggesting very late breeding. A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was at LCCP 8/23-27 (JS, RP). An **Eastern Screech-Owl** was heard in the visitors' center parking lot at MCWMA 8/31 (BC), and 2 were at MCWMA for the Big Sit 10/12. Two **Barred Owls** were calling at LCCP 10/29 (BH, m.ob.). Nine **Common Nighthawks** were flying over Akron 8/19 (BC) and 19 were in Lancaster City 9/2 (LS). A **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was at the SRCF 8/20 (ME). At least 3 were at a feeder in Peach Bottom 10/1-5 (BS), and an adult female was also there 10/17 (BS). An immature male **Rufous Hummingbird** was at a home in Akron 11/15-21 (BC, LB, ZM, m.ob.). There were 405 **Chimney Swifts** at Lancaster Catholic High School 9/20 and 800 were there 10/8 (LS), the highest number in 11 years. Approximately 200 were at the SR 10/6 (IG). A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was at Masonic Village 10/3-4 (JS), one was at MCWMA 11/5 (BH, m.ob.), and one was at OR 11/12 (BH, m.ob.). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was on Pleasant Valley Road 11/28 (AH). **Merlins** seem to be more common each year. Six reports this season were as follows: one at the SRCF 8/17 (BC), 2 females at MCWMA 8/30 (RM), one in Penn Township 9/15 putting up **Horned Larks** and **Killdeer** (SS), one at Riverfront Park 9/24 (BH, m.ob.), one at MCWMA during the Big Sit 10/12 (BC), and one in the New Holland area 11/29 (SS). **Peregrine Falcons** were recorded at five locations 8/31-11/20 (m.ob.).

Two **Olive-sided Flycatchers** were at LCCP 8/23-27 (JS, RP), and one was at SGL 156 on 8/25 (BC). A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was at SGL 156 (BC, LB, JF). A **Great Crested Flycatcher** was at LCCP 8/23 (JS) and one was at SGL 156 on 9/6 (BC, m.ob.). A late **Eastern Wood-Pewee** was at Strickler Run Woods 10/11 (SM) and another much later bird was at the LASA 11/30 (EW). November **Eastern Phoebe**s were 2 at Perelman Park 11/14 (BC), one at OR 11/21 (CG), and one at a Lancaster home 11/26 (LB). A late **Eastern Kingbird** was at Wood's House 10/20 (EH). A **Northern Shrike** was Puseyville Road 9/19 (JW) and a first winter bird was at MCWMA in the parking lot of the Willow Point Trail 11/8 (ME). A late **White-eyed Vireo** was at Strickler's Woods 10/10 (SM). One **Blue-headed Vireo** was at SFCP 9/3 (BH, m.ob.), one was at Riverfront Park 9/24 (BH, m.ob.), and 2 were at a home near Strasburg 10/27 (AW, TW). A late **Red-eyed Vireo** was at Strickler Run Woods 10/11 (SM). Two **Philadelphia Vireos** were at SGL 156 on 9/6 (BC, m.ob.), and a late **Warbling Vireo** was at MCWMA 10/4 (ZA, ZM).

Around Lancaster, the **Common Raven** is starting to live up to its name. Reports this season included 2 at SGL 220 on 10/5 (BC, m.ob.), 2 on the SR 10/5 (MD, ST), 2 at MCWMA during the Big Sit 10/12 (BC), 2 at Strickler Run Road 10/24 (SM), one in Elizabethtown 11/3 being mobbed by **European Starlings** (MJ), one on Preston Road 11/20 (DHi), 2 at the Masonic Village 11/27 (GD), and one in Elizabethtown feeding on a carcass 11/28 (GD).

Forty **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were at the SR 10/6 (IG) and 2 late birds were still on the river 10/24 (GD). Over 500 **Tree Swallows** were at the SR 10/11 (EW, ME, TG, ML) and 15 were at MCWMA 11/2 (TNII). Two **Barn Swallows** were at MCWMA during the Big Sit 10/12 (BC). As many as 100 **Bank Swallows** were at East Donegal Park 8/10 (AE) and approximately 250 were at Bainbridge 8/16 (PF). Two late birds were still on the SR 10/11 (EW, ME, TG, ML).

A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was at SGL 156 on 9/1 (ME) and one was in a Peach Bottom yard 10/1 (BS). **Brown Creeper** was reported in a few locations 10/17-11/14 including one pecking at a window screen in E. Hempfield Twp. 10/22 (PH). A late **House Wren** was at MCWMA 10/20 (BC). A **Marsh Wren** was on the SR on the Bainbridge Islands 9/28 (BC, EW), 2 were there 10/11 (EW, ME, TG, ML), and just one was at Riverfront Park 10/12 (ME). A **Sedge Wren** was at OR 10/19 (TR). A **Winter Wren** was at Noel Dorwart Park 10/8 (BCo, m.ob.) and one was at MCWMA 10/29-11/1 (BC). A late **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was at Strickler Run Woods 10/1 (SM). Three **Golden-crowned Kinglets** at MCWMA 10/12 during the Big Sit (BC) were first. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was on SGL 156 on 9/1 (ME), and last were 4 at CRTW 10/29 (BCo, m.ob.).

A **Veery** was along Pumping Station Road 9/3 (BH, m.ob.) and 2 flew over SGL 156 on 9/6 (BC, m.ob.). A **Wood Thrush** was at MCWMA 10/7 (GSh) and a late one was at Woods House 10/18 (EH). One **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was at SGL 156 on 9/6 (BC, m.ob.). Two **Swainson's Thrushes** were at MCWMA 10/12 during the Big Sit (BC). Two **Hermit Thrushes** were at MCWMA 11/1 (BC). Late **Gray Catbirds** were at Overlook Park 11/8 (DHi), Strickler Run Woods 11/13 (SM), and Elizabethtown 11/26 (MJ). An **American Pipit** was at OR 11/12 (BH, m. obs.). Two **Cedar Waxwings** were at MCWMA 8/31 (BC). Notable counts of **Cedar Waxwing** at MCWMA were 140 on 11/1 (BC) and 60 on 11/5 (BH, m.ob.).

Two late **Ovenbirds** were at MCWMA 10/7 (GSh) and another late bird was at Strickler Run Woods 10/11 (SM). Two very late **Northern Waterthrushes** were at MCWMA 11/5 (BH, m.ob.). One **Blue-winged Warbler** was along Pumping Station Road 9/3 (BH, m.ob.) and one was at SGL 156 on 9/6 (BC, m.ob.). A **Golden-winged Warbler** was at SGL 156 on 9/3 (BC, LB, JF). Three **Tennessee Warblers** were at SGL 156 on 9/6 (BC, m.ob.). One was there again on 9/17 (BH, m.ob.) and one was at Riverfront Park 9/24 (BH, m.ob.). A **Cerulean Warbler** was at LCCP 8/23 (JS). A **Bay-breasted Warbler** was at the Holtwood Pinnacle 10/6 (TR). Reports of **Orange-crowned Warbler** included one at Peach Bottom 9/24 (BS), one at a home in Akron 10/10 (BC), one at MCWMA 10/12 during the Big Sit (BC), one at Chestnut Grove Nature Area 10/23 (BSh), and one at MCWMA 10/26-29 (ME, JF, BC). A **Common Yellowthroat** was MCWMA 10/26 (ME, JF). One **Northern Parula** was along Pumping Station Road 9/3 (BH, m.ob.). One **Yellow Warbler** was at MCWMA 8/31 (BC). One **Blackburnian Warbler** was at SFCP 9/3 (BH, m.ob.), one was on SGL 156 on 9/6 (BC, m.ob.), and one was also there 9/17 (BH, m.ob.). Three **Palm Warblers** were at MCWMA 10/12 during the Big Sit (BC); two of which were of the western form. Three were still at MCWMA 11/1 (BC). A **Black-throated Green Warbler** was at Noel Dorwart Park 10/8 (BCo, m.ob.). Four **Canada Warblers** were along Pumping Station Road 9/3 (BH, m.ob.) and 3 were at SGL 156 on 9/6 (BC, m.ob.). Two **Wilson's Warblers** were along Pumping Station Road 9/3 (BH, m.ob.). A first year female **Hooded Warbler** visited a bird bath in Peach Bottom 10/1-2 (BS). A **Mourning Warbler** was on the Enola Low Grade Rail Trail near Mt. Pleasant Road 9/20 (TR). One **Yellow-breasted Chat** was at MCMWA 8/31 (BC), and one was still there 10/22 (MR, m.ob.).

Two late **Chipping Sparrows** were at Strickler Run Woods 11/8 (SM). Another late bird was at Masonic Village 11/26 (GD), and on the same day one was at the Stoner Family Farm (DSt). There was one at MCWMA 11/18 (BC). A **Vesper Sparrow** was at OR 11/16 (TR). Reports of **Lincoln's Sparrow** included one at Riverfront Park 9/24 (BH, m.ob.), one at Noel Dorwart Park 10/1 (TM), one at SGL 220 on 10/5 (BC), and 4 at OR on Liberty Lane 10/13 (TR). Six **Savannah Sparrows** were at Riverfront Park 10/7 (PF, LB). The Bainbridge Islands on the SR are a hotspot for **Nelson's Sparrow**. One was there 9/28-10/4 (EW, BC) with 4 on 10/1 (BC, ME, ML) and 2 from 10/5-6 (MD, ST, IG). An amazing 7 were there 10/11 (EW, ME, TG, ML). A **Seaside Sparrow** was on the Bainbridge Islands 10/4-6 (BC, EW, m.ob.), *Lancaster's* second. Three **Fox Sparrows** were at MCWMA 11/1 (BC) and 2 were there 11/5 (BH, m.ob.). Two were at OR 11/12 (BH, m. obs.). There were at least 15 **Swamp Sparrows** on the SR at Bainbridge 10/11 (EW, ME, TG, ML), and 2 were at OR 11/12 (BH, m.ob.). A **White-throated Sparrow** was at SGL 156 on 9/17 (BH, m. obs.). A great count of 120 was made at OR 11/12 (BH, m.ob.). A **White-crowned Sparrow** was at SGL 220 on 10/8 (BH, m.ob.) and one was at MCWMA 10/22 (MR).

A late **Scarlet Tanager** was at SGL 220 on 10/8 (LB, PF, m.ob.). Two late **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were at MCWMA 10/26 (ME, JF). A **Blue Grosbeak** was at LCCP 8/23 (JS). Two **Indigo Buntings**; one adult, one immature, were at the SRCF 8/20 (ME). Three were still at MCWMA for the Big Sit 10/12 (BC). A single **Rusty Blackbird** was at the OR 11/12 (BH, m.ob.) and 5 were at Perelman Park 11/14 (BC). Seventeen **Eastern Meadowlarks** were at OR 11/16 (TR).

A **Purple Finch** was at SGL 220 from 10/5-8 (BC, BH, m.ob.), 3 were at LCCP 10/29 (BH, m.ob.), and 8 were at MCWMA 11/1 (BC). **Pine Siskins** reports consisted of 10 at MCWMA for the Big Sit 10/12 (BC), 135 at MCWMA 10/29 (BC), and 40 at MCWMA 11/1 (BC).

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## Lawrence County

Locations: Black Swamp (BS), New Wilmington area (NW), Volant Strip Mines (VSM), Wampum-New Galilee Road Marsh (WNGM).

Much of the birding in the county this season resulted from the discovery of three rarities at Black Swamp that stayed several days (10/7-18 and 11/5-13) and drew many birders to the area.

Migrant **Tundra Swans** were noted over BS in early Nov: 25 on 11/9 (RN), 50 on 11/10 (RN, DK), and up to 35 on 11/12 (JM, SG). A flock of 34 were grounded 11/13 at the Glacial Sand gravel pond on PA-108 just off the I-79 exit (ST). One continued there to 11/25 (m.ob.). At least 22 **Blue-winged Teal** were at BS 10/7-11 (ST, et al.). Two **Northern Shovelers** were at BS 10/10-17 (GM, et al.). Five **Green-winged Teal** were at BS 10/7 (ST) and 45 were there 10/10 (GM). A flock of 12 was at WNGM 10/12 (MV). Four **Buffleheads** were at BS 11/12 (SG). Two **Ruddy Ducks** were at BS 10/10 (GM) and 16 were at VSM 11/23 (GK, MAK).

Up to four **Ring-necked Pheasants** were found at BS by rarity-chasing birders 10/10-11/13 (m.ob.). Two **Great Egrets** were at BS 8/20 (ST, DW) and one was there 9/23 (ST). **Ospreys** were at BS 8/20 (ST, DW) and 8/30 (SG). One or two **Bald Eagles** were seen at BS 10/17-11/12 (m.ob.), and 2 were at the Glacial Sands pond 11/25 (RN, DK). **Northern Harrier** was frequently reported throughout the season at BS, VSM, and other usual areas. A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was at VSM 11/22 (DI), and a **Rough-legged Hawk** was seen outside of Enon Valley 11/29 (TJ).

Seven **Common Gallinules** were at WNGM 8/23 and one was still there 10/12 (MV). **Sandhill Cranes** were fixtures on most checklists throughout the season, as is often the case (m.ob.). The max count from the BS/Plain Grove Twp. area was 35 on 11/23. A flock of 4 were at the Copper Road marsh 8/10 (MV).

A juvenile **Stilt Sandpiper** at BS 10/7 (ST) was what really kicked off the rarity festivities at BS this season. An attempt to recover that bird 10/10 led to the discovery of a second juvenile Stilt Sandpiper when the second bird "photobombed" the first (ph. GM). (That same afternoon a Sedge Wren was also found, see below). At least one Stilt Sandpiper remained to 10/18. Then a juvenile **Long-billed Dowitcher** was found at BS 11/5 (MH, RH). It was relocated 11/8 (ST, DW) and subsequently drew another dozen or more birders back to the area until its last sighting 11/13. Most of the other shorebirds and gulls for the season were found at BS while these two rare shorebirds (and the Sedge Wren) were present. **Greater** and **Lesser Yellowlegs** were in evidence at BS in late Aug and again in Oct. **Greater Yellowlegs** was also reported there in the 11/9-12 window (m.ob.). Top count of Lesser Yellowlegs was 9 on 10/10 (GM). One Lesser Yellowlegs was at the Glacial Sands pond 10/19 (MV). Two **Solitary Sandpipers** were at BS 8/30 (SG). Two **Least Sandpipers** were at BS 10/11-18 (ST, et al.). A **Pectoral Sandpiper** at BS 10/10-18 (GM, et al.) was joined by 4 more 10/15 (JM). A **Dunlin** was at the Glacial Sands pond 10/26 (MJ) and another was at BS 11/5-13 (MH, RH, et al.). **Wilson's Snipe** was at BS 10/7-12 (ST, m.ob.) and 3 were at the Glacial Sands pond 10/26 (MJ).

A **Bonaparte's Gull** was at the Glacial Sands pond 10/19 (MV) and up to 5 were at BS 11/9-13 (DI, et al.). Seven **Ring-billed Gulls** at BS 10/18 (AP) were the only ones reported for the season. A **Herring Gull** overflowed BS 10/10 (GM), very rare for Lawrence. A **Great Horned Owl** was at BS 11/8-9 (ST, DW). **American Kestrels** were well reported throughout particularly around Enon Valley 11/29 (TJ).

An **Eastern Phoebe** lingered at BS 10/10 (GM). A **Northern Shrike** was found and photographed in the vicinity of BS 11/9 (TR) and was seen occasionally through the season (m.ob.). Large flocks of **Horned Larks** included 75 at VSM 11/8 (GK, MAK), 200 at NW 11/22 (DI), and 80 at VSM 11/22 (DI). A **Brown Creeper** was at BS 11/5 (MH, RH).

As mentioned, the Stilt Sandpiper at BS spurred a visit to the marsh 10/10, when an occasionally-singing **Sedge Wren** also revealed itself (ph. GM). That evening, at least 2 and possibly 3 Sedge Wrens were confirmed

(ST), and one or two were seen by many through 10/17. Seven **American Pipits** were found in New Beaver 10/12 (MV) and 8 were at VSM 11/22 (DI). Ten each of **Snow Bunting** and **Lapland Longspur** were at NW with the large flock of Horned Larks 11/22 (DI).

Warblers are never well-reported in *Lawrence* due to a significant lack of coverage during migration. This season "highlights" included one **Bay-breasted Warbler**, one **Blackpoll Warbler**, and 2 **Palm Warblers** at BS 9/23 (RN), 4 **Palm Warblers** at BS 10/11 (ST) through 10/17, and **Yellow-rumped Warbler** at BS 10/12 (DI).

An **Eastern Towhee** was still at a feeder in NW 11/22 (RW). A **Vesper Sparrow** was a nice find at BS 9/23 (RN). Up to 4 **Savannah Sparrows** were at BS 10/10-12 (GM). The rarities at BS even led to the discovery of **Fox Sparrows**: one was present 10/16 (SG) and again 11/8-12 (ST, et al.). One was also at a feeder in NW 11/22 (RW). One **Lincoln's Sparrow** was at BS 10/10 (GM) and one was at WNGM 10/12 (RM). Up to 3 **White-crowned Sparrows** were at BS 10/12-17 (DI, et al.).

At least 1000 **Red-winged Blackbirds** were around BS 10/10 (GM); similar numbers were reported by others over the next few weeks. At least 800 **Common Grackles** were there 10/7 (ST), the highest count for the season, but triple digits were occasionally reported again by rarity-chasers in the weeks that followed.

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## Lebanon County

Locations: Camp Shand Powerline (CSP), Fort Indiantown Gap (FIG), Governor Dick Park (GDP), Kreider's Retention Pond (KP), Lebanon Valley Rail Trail (LVRT), Lion's Lake (LL), Marquette Lake (ML), Memorial Lake State Park (MLSP), Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area (MC), Mt Gretna (MtG), Mt Pleasant Rd (MPR), Quittapahilla Wetlands Preserve (QW), Reistville and Prescott Rd Ponds (RPP), Second Mountain Hawkwatch (2Mtn), SGL 145, SGL 211, Spring Hill Acres (SHA), Swatara State Park (SSP).

An adult Greenland race **Greater White-fronted Goose** was a nice find at the Spangler Rd Pond, on a new county late date 11/29-30 (TJ, MR, IG, TN). A **Cackling Goose** appeared fairly early, at KP 10/27 (IG). Other **Cackling Goose** reports included one at MLSP 11/6 (TB), one at LL 11/10 (AIW), and two at LL 11/24 (RCM). A **Tundra Swan**, possibly injured, was sporadically visible at RPP, providing a first September record 8/12-9/8 (TB, TN, RCM, MF, DB, m.ob.). Two **Blue-winged Teal** were at MC 8/27 (RCM), and 7 were there 9/25 (RCM). A **Blue-winged Teal** was at RPP 9/3 (RCM), and three were at MLSP 9/4 (TK). Seventeen **Northern Shovelers** provided a good count at QW 11/3 (RCM). Two female **Common Goldeneyes** were a nice find at ML 11/21 (TN, JD). Five **Ruddy Ducks** were found at MLSP 9/25 (TB, JD, TN), a new county early date.

Two **Pied-billed Grebes** were at MLSP 9/22-25 (DM, TB, TN, HP). Four **Great Egrets** were at QW 9/24-25 (TN, TB, JD). Rare in October was a **Great Egret** at RPP 10/4 (RCM, DB). Accidental in November was a **Great Egret** at QW 11/10 (TN). Single **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were found at the Mine & Birch Rd. Pond 8/5 (FH), at ML 8/22 (TB), and at MLSP 8/26 (TK). An adult and a juvenile **Black-crowned Night-Heron** were at the Mine & Birch Rd Pond 8/16 (TB).

A pair of **Bald Eagles** was observed nest building at FIG 11/21 (JD, TN). If successful, they would represent a third nesting pair for *Lebanon*. Three **Northern Goshawks** were seen at 2Mtn 10/31 (SC, m.ob.). A total of 900 **Broad-winged Hawks** provided a nice count at 2Mtn 9/20 (DS, m.ob.). A light morph **Swainson's Hawk** was a great find at 2Mtn 10/11 (MC, TW). Two **Rough-legged Hawks**, a dark and a light morph, were reported at 2Mtn 10/31 (SC, m.ob.). A dark morph **Rough-legged Hawk** was seen at SGL 145 on 11/14 (SH, RCM, GT, m.ob.). Rare in August was a **Golden Eagle** at 2Mtn 8/28 (MC).

A **Sandhill Crane** flew over Grantville 8/19 (KB).

An **American Golden Plover** was at RPP 9/13 (BC, TN, RCM, JD, m.ob.) and 9/25 (BC). An **American Golden Plover** was found at KP 9/18 (TB). **Semipalmated Plovers** were well reported at RPP, beginning with four on 8/26 (RCM). One or two **Semipalmated Plovers** were reported on occasion at RPP 9/3-25 (TB, RCM, JD, BC, m.ob.). A **Semipalmated Plover** was noted at KP 10/5 (TB) and 10/8 (IG). A juvenile **Sanderling** provided a ninth county record at KP 9/23-26 (TB). Between 4 and 7 **Semipalmated Sandpipers**, accidental in October, were at RPP 10/1-3

(RCM, DB, m.ob.). A **Western Sandpiper** was a nice find at RPP 9/12-13 (RCM, GR, DB, TB, BC). A **White-rumped Sandpiper** was enjoyed by many at RPP 9/13-16 (BC, TN, TB, JD, m.ob.). A **Baird's Sandpiper** was at KP 9/5-10 (TB, DD), and at RPP 9/12-13 (TB, RCM, BC). A late **Baird's Sandpiper** was at KP 10/8 (IG). A juvenile **Stilt Sandpiper** was seen at KP 9/11 (TB). A **Stilt Sandpiper** was found again at KP 10/8 (IG). A **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** at KP 9/5 (TB) provided a third county record. A **Short-billed Dowitcher** was found at RPP 8/25-26 (RCM, DB), and at KP 9/11-13 (TB, TN, IG). A juvenile **Long-billed Dowitcher** provided a ninth county record and close viewing for many birders at RPP 9/27-10/5 (BC, RCM, TN, TB, KB, m.ob.). A **Wilson's Snipe** was seen along Milbach Rd 11/29 (ZA, ZM). An **American Woodcock** flushed during a walk at SGL 145 on 11/21 (SH, RCM, GT, m.ob.).

Three **Bonaparte's Gulls** were at MLSP 11/6 (TB), and six were there 11/13 (JDU). A juvenile **Iceland Gull** and 12 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were at LL 11/24 (RCM). Up to two **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were at LL 11/27-28 (TB, DY, TJ). At MLSP a **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was seen 11/14 (TB, TN), and three were there 11/17 (TB, MCo, TN). A **Black Tern** provided the 12th county record at KP 9/2-3 (TB, SR).

A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was fairly late at 2Mtn 9/28 (MC, EC). Five **Common Nighthawks** flew over Grantville 9/10 (TB). A **Common Nighthawk** flew by 2Mtn on 9/1 (MC, RP, SW) and 9/11 (FW, DS, RS). Two **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were heard along Tomstown Rd at FIG 8/2 (TN). Three **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were at FIG 8/19 (JE, AH, TB). Six **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** provided a good count at SSP 9/30 (R&PP). Three **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** and seven **Pileated Woodpeckers** were at SGL 145 on 11/21 (SH, RCM, GT, m.ob.).

Ten **Merlins** provided a notable count at 2Mtn 10/17 (SC, m.ob.). Away from 2Mtn **Merlins** were found in five county locations. Single **Merlins** were seen at SGL 145 on 8/22 (SH, RCM, m.ob.), at SHA 9/13 (JH), and at SSP 10/8 (IG). Two **Merlins** were found at SGL 145 on 8/29 (SH, RCM, m.ob.), at MC 8/30 (RCM, WF), and at QW 11/3 (RCM). A **Peregrine Falcon** was perched atop a silo near KP 8/27 (TB), and diving at shorebirds over KP 9/12 (TB). A **Peregrine** was seen at RPP 9/25 (BC), and a juvenile at KP 9/23 (TB). An adult tundra **Peregrine** was being attacked by a **Sharp-shinned Hawk** at SGL 145 on 11/7 (SH, RC, m.ob.). A **Peregrine** was fairly late at 2Mtn 11/20 (FW).

Two **Olive-sided Flycatchers** were found during a walk at SGL 145 on 8/22 (SH, RCM, m.ob.). An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was seen at 2Mtn 9/27 (DS, AF, RS), and 10/3 (SC, m.ob.). A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was a nice find at SGL 211 on 9/16 (SR). A **Least Flycatcher** tied the county late date at QW 9/25 (JD, TB) and then the record was broken by two singles at SGL 145 on 9/26 (SH, RCM, m.ob.) and at the CSP 9/29 (TB). A **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** provided a third county record along N. Fort Zellers Rd 10/25-26 (MM, TB, KB, DB, FB).

A juvenile **Northern Shrike** flushed from a perch in *Lancaster*, and departed over *Lebanon* air space on a new county early date at MC 11/8 (ME). A **Yellow-throated Vireo** was at SSP 8/28 (TB) and along Obie Rd 9/6 (JF). Single **Philadelphia Vireos** were seen at GDP 9/3 (TB), at FIG 9/15 (DM), and at SGL 211 on 9/16 (SR). Two **Philadelphia Vireos** were at SSP 9/26 (TB).

**Common Ravens** were regular finds at 2Mtn, beginning with two found 8/15 (RCM, JD, m.ob.) and five on 8/22 (SC, m.ob.). Twenty-one were reported at 2Mtn, providing a new county high count on 10/24 (SC, m.ob.). Fifteen Ravens were tallied at 2Mtn 10/17 (SC, m.ob.). Away from 2Mtn, ravens were good finds at RPP 8/26 (RCM), and at MC 8/30 (RCM). Four **Purple Martins** were found fairly late at SGL 145 on 9/12 (SH, RCM, m.ob.). At MPR, 2000 swallows, mostly **Tree** and **Barn Swallows**, were counted 8/22 (RCM). At KP, along MPR, 3000 **Tree Swallows** were seen 9/13 (TB, TN, IG). Rare in late October were 300 **Tree Swallows** at Reistville 10/30 (SS). Three **Bank Swallows** were along MPR 8/22 (RCM), and ten at KP 9/13 (TN, IG). Five **Cliff Swallows** were along MPR 8/22 (RCM), and three at RPP 9/2 (TB, SR).

**Red-breasted Nuthatches** made an appearance at four locations through Sep, beginning with one at SSP 9/7 (BR). Two were at 2Mtn 9/8 (JD, m.ob.), and one at SGL 145 on 9/19 (SH, RCM, m.ob.). Up to seven were in the pines at SGL 211 between 9/8-27 (TB, SR, TN). Single **Winter Wrens** were reported at several locations, including SGL 145 on 9/12 (SH, RCM, m.ob.), at SSP 9/26 (TB) and 10/4 (AK), and at SHA 10/11 (JH).

A **Swainson's Thrush** was in the company of a **Hermit Thrush** on a new county late date at MTG 11/7 (SH). Three **Brown Thrashers** were a nice mid-September find at SGL 145 on 9/19 (SH, RCM, m.ob.). Some good counts of **Cedar Waxwing** were made at SGL 145 headed by 122 on 8/22 (SH, RCM, m.ob.) and 271 on 9/12 (SH, RCM, m.ob.).

Up to four **Tennessee Warblers** were at SHA 9/6-7 (JH). An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was seen in a field of thick goldenrod at SSP 10/8-10 (IG, TB). Another **Orange-crowned** popped out of a cattail patch at SGL 145 on 10/14 (TB). **Nashville Warblers** were observed at 2Mtn 8/29 (SC, MC) and

SGL 145 on 10/11 (JH). Three **Cape May Warblers** were found at SGL 211 on 9/2 (TB, SR), and six were there 9/15 (TB). Four **Cape May Warblers** were seen at 2Mtn 9/8 (JD, m.ob.). Five **Black-throated Green Warblers** were seen during a walk at SGL 145 on 10/3 (SH, RCM, m.ob.). Rare in late August were two **Prairie Warblers** at 2Mtn 8/23 (MC). Fifteen **Palm Warblers** were seen at SSP 10/7 (TB). Seventeen **Palm Warblers** provided a new county high count at SSP 10/8 (IG). A **Bay-breasted Warbler** provided a new county early date at ML 8/22 (TB). A **Bay-breasted Warbler** was seen at SHA 9/6-7 (JH), and two were at SGL 211 on 9/15 (TB). A **Blackpoll Warbler** was at SGL 211 on 9/2 (TB, SR). A **Worm-eating Warbler** was seen on a new county late date at SSP 9/30 (R&PP). A **Wilson's Warbler** was found at SSP 8/28 (TB), and 9/19 (TB, JD, SR).

#### S.A.

A thick field of goldenrod, pokeberries, blackberries, and shrubs provided habitat for an unusual number of **Connecticut Warblers** over a period of several weeks. At least four different individuals were observed, including adult males, adult females, and first-fall birds with varying amounts of hooding. Listening for their squeaky chip call at first light was a useful tactic for locating the birds. The initial sighting was of a first-fall bird 9/15 (TB), in a tree line bordering the field. Two **Connecticut Warblers** were seen on both 9/19 (TB, JD, SR) and 10/1 (TB), providing new county high counts. Adult females seen on 10/7 (TB) and 10/10 (TB) established successive county late dates. A first-fall **Mourning Warbler** was also in the same field at SSP 10/1 (TB).

A **Chipping Sparrow** was a nice late October find in MtG 10/31 (SH, RCM). November **Chipping Sparrows** included 8 perched in a tree at 2Mtn 11/4 (TB, SR), 2 at MLSP 11/14 (TB), and one in breeding plumage at SGL 145 on 11/28 (SH, RCM, m.ob.). **Fox Sparrow** sightings included one at 2Mtn 11/5 (EC, m.ob.) and MtG 11/7 (SH, RCM, m.ob.); three at MLSP 11/8 (HP); and three at SGL 145 on 11/28 (SH, RCM, m.ob.). Two **Lincoln's Sparrows** were seen 9/15, a new county early date, at both FIG (JD, DM) and SSP (TB). Multiple **Lincoln's Sparrows** were found in a thick goldenrod field at SSP 9/26-10/10 (TB, HP, IG). Nine seen there on 10/8 were just one shy of tying the county high count (IG). Single **Lincoln's Sparrows** were observed at SGL 145 on 10/11 (JH) and 10/14 (TB); at QW 9/25 (TB, JD); and at CSP 9/29 (TB). Two were at MLSP 10/15 (TB). A **White-throated Sparrow** was a good early September find at the LVRT 9/16 (GR). A juvenile **White-crowned Sparrow** was at SGL 145 on a new county early date 9/29 (TB). Two **White-crowned Sparrows** were also fairly early at SSP 10/1 (TB), and five juveniles were there 10/8 (IG).

A **Western Tanager** put in a brief appearance in Grantville 9/8 (TB), providing a second county record. Accidental in September was a **Blue Grosbeak** along Obie Rd 9/6 (JF). Three **Bobolinks** were a nice late August find at MC 8/30 (RCM).

**Purple Finches** made a strong showing at multiple locations, beginning with a single sighting at 2Mtn 9/8 (JD, m.ob.). Some better counts were of six seen at SSP 10/4 (AK) and 10/7 (TB); and 13 at SGL 145 on 10/11 (JH). Thirty **Purple Finches** were at a feeder in MtG 10/22 (SH), with two more at a feeder in nearby GDP (AW), for a combined total that day of 32. **Pine Siskins** were plentiful in a number of county locations, beginning with two at SSP 10/4 (AK). Some good counts were of 30 **Pine Siskins** at GDP 10/23 (AW, LW, RCM); 22 at Fredricksburg 10/27 (SA); and 50 at 2Mtn 11/3 (RP, LC, m.ob.). Eighty-one were counted in five groups at SGL 145 on 11/14 (SH, RCM, m.ob.). On 10/31 there were 503 **Pine Siskins** counted on a walk in MtG (SH, RCM, m.ob.) and 154 seen at nearby SGL 145 (RCM), for a combined total of 657.

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#### Lehigh County

No report.

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#### Luzerne County

Locations: Beech Mountain Lakes (BML), Forty Fort Rec Fields (FFRF), Frances Slocum State Park (FSSP), Harveys Lake (HL), Nescopeck State Park (NSP), Plymouth Flats (PF), Ricketts Glen State Park (RGSP), Susquehanna River (SR), Wilkes-Barre (WB).

The fall season in *Luzerne* commenced much like the summer season ended, with little rain and low water levels, which ushered waves of shorebirds and waders to exposed mud flats along the SR. By mid-Sep, conditions were so dry that most mud dried, cracked, and became unusable by migrants, marking an early end to shorebird migration. The expected cast of flycatchers, vireos, and warblers passed through largely in Sep with few unexpected species. Oct was dominated by sparrows and by Nov, large groups of waterfowl were appearing on the county's larger lakes such as HL and BML.

The most significant concentrations of waterfowl during migration are often found during or immediately after rainstorms. That was the case at BML with 17 **Gadwall** and 8 **American Wigeons** present 11/6 after a passing storm (JD). Three **Northern Shovelers** were slightly out of place associating with diving ducks and coots at HL 11/20 (JD). Both a **Northern Pintail** and a **Green-winged Teal** that were found in Jul, representing unusual summer records, continued at PF into Aug. The teal was only present 8/2 (JD) but the pintail was observed throughout the month (JD, JhD, JG). Most species of diving ducks migrate through *Luzerne* with great regularity, so only high counts or unusual reports are discussed. **Redheads** are uncommon but annual in small numbers at HL. Up to 5 were present near the boat launch 11/19-29 (JD, JH, TG). A high count of 86 **Ring-necked Ducks** was reported at HL 11/19 (JD). Both scaup species were observed throughout Nov at HL and BML. **Lesser Scaup** is far more common in the county with a high count of 15 from BML 11/6 (JD) compared to a high count of only 2 **Greater Scaup** from HL 11/23 (TG). The most unusual waterfowl species was a **Black Scoter** that put down during a downpour at BML 10/23 (JD, JhD). This bird was the only scoter reported in *Luzerne* for the year. Several tightly packed rafts of **Buffleheads** added up to 68 birds at HL 11/19 and the only **Common Goldeneye** of the fall was also at HL 11/19 (JD). More high counts included 25 **Hooded Mergansers** from Huntsville Dam 11/23 (CG), 48 **Common Mergansers** from FSSP 11/28 (JH), and 47 **Ruddy Ducks** at BML 11/17 (JD).

**Common Loons** are expected fall migrants in *Luzerne*, but an individual 8/23 at HL was earlier than usual (JH). Loons continued sporadically throughout the fall at HL, but were not reported anywhere else in the county. Also regular migrants, **Horned Grebes** were reported several times in Oct and Nov from both HL and BML (JD). A juvenile **Red-necked Grebe** observed 10/23-11/21 at BML was significantly less expected (JD, JhD, JL). A high count of 27 **Double-crested Cormorants** came from HL, 10/27 (JD).

Wading birds were a highlight of the summer season in *Luzerne*, and this trend continued into the fall. The heron show at PF that started in Jul with the appearance of the juvenile **Little Blue Heron** persisted into Aug as water levels continued to drop. **Great Blue Heron** numbers peaked 8/3 with an astounding 68 birds observed (BJ) and 17 **Green Herons** 8/9 represented a high count for the season (JD, JhD). **Great Egrets** began to arrive at PF in the beginning of Aug and peaked 8/31 at 33 birds (JD, JG). The aforementioned **Little Blue Heron** continued into the fall season, with the last report coming 8/3 (BJ). Perhaps the most improbable bird of the fall was a **Cattle Egret** found at the Wyoming Valley Airport in Forty Fort 11/1 (KR). The bird was re-found 11/3 (JD, JH) but then not seen again. This observation represented only the fourth record for the county, with the third coming from PF earlier in the year.

Over the past few years **Black Vultures** have slowly moved north in the county. Five birds were observed flying north over Memorial Highway in Shavertown 11/20 (JD). For the most part, raptor migration was unremarkable, with the exception of a **Golden Eagle** flying over North River Street in WB 11/13 (RK). **Bald Eagles** are fairly common along the SR in *Luzerne*, but a count of 11 from PF 8/9 was unusually high (JD, JhD).

Shorebirds along the SR are often a hallmark of fall migration in *Luzerne*, and this year was no different. Although PF hosted the majority of shorebirds, two of the more exciting finds came from FFRF. An **American Avocet** was at this location 8/21 (RK, SG) and an **American Golden-Plover** was found 9/1 (JD, JhD). Both birds were observed only briefly and

then disappeared, likely continuing their southbound migration. Ten species of shorebirds were recorded at PF during Aug and Sep, the highlight being a **Short-billed Dowitcher** 8/31-9/7 (JD, JG). Other species included up to 4 **Semipalmated Plovers**, many **Least Sandpipers**, **Semipalmated Sandpiper**, and the only **Pectoral Sandpiper** of the season 9/7 (JD).

For the most part, gulls and terns are scarce in *Luzerne* despite the presence of the SR and several large lakes. **Bonaparte's Gulls** are more regularly observed in the spring, so one at HL 11/20-29 was unexpected (JD, JH). Two **Caspian Terns** at PF 8/23 (JD) were the only terns of the fall and represented the first eBird record of this species since 2010.

A **Red-headed Woodpecker** first detected in Jul continued at BML into the beginning of Sep (JD) and an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was seen 9/6 at nearby NSP, a reliable fall location for this species (DK). Both of these species occur annually but in small numbers. Another species with similar occurrence is **Philadelphia Vireo**, which occurred at two locations in Sep. Two were observed at NSP 9/15 (JD) and one was recorded 9/16 at FSSP (EZ). Also present at FSSP on this date was the only **Swainson's Thrush** for the fall (EZ). Over two months later 5 **Snow Buntings**, which are one of the last fall migrants were found at PF (JD).

Warbler migration passed without any remarkable records or unusual species. **Worm-eating Warblers** are often detected on their breeding grounds by their dry insect-like trill, but this uncommon migrant is not as easy to spot during the fall. One was seen on a bird walk at Kirby Park 8/24 (RW). **Cape May Warblers** are fairly common fall migrants, but a count of 6 from a residence in Wyoming 9/7 was unusually high (BT). Two **Wilson's Warblers** from NSP 9/11 represented the only report of this species.

Just as warbler migration began to slow, sparrow migration picked up. Small groups of **Savannah Sparrows**, **White-crowned Sparrows**, and **Lincoln's Sparrows** joined the ubiquitous **Song Sparrows** at FFRF and other nearby locations during Oct. Less common than the other species, 2 **Vesper Sparrows** were found working the grassy areas at FFRF with a flock of **American Pipits** 10/20-11/3 (JD).

**Rusty Blackbird** is a species under close surveillance because of its rapidly falling numbers. A small group was reported from RGSP 11/12 (RK), and 2 were seen at PF 11/20 (JD). **Common Redpolls** staged a very small irruption south from Canada starting in Nov. Five at Pickering Street in WB 11/11 (JS) were some of the only birds observed in the state by the end of the period. **Pine Siskins** irrupted on a much larger scale, and flocks numbering 20 to 30 began appearing in the end of Oct.

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### Lycoming County

Locations: Indian Park-Montoursville (IPM), Lycoming County Conservation area (LCC), Mill Hill Road (MHR), Mill Street (MS), Muncy Boat Launch (MBL), Pine Creek valley (PC), Rider Park (RP), Rose Valley Lake (RVL), Susquehanna River West Branch (SR), Susquehanna River Walk at Williamsport (SRW), White Deer Hawk Watch (WDHW), Williamsport (WPT), Williamsport Water Company (WWC).

The wing-tagged **Trumpeter Swan** (M05) that appeared in Montour Preserve during the summer was relocated at the MBL 8/8 (DvB) and seen by many until 10/3. A single **Tundra Swan** was at RVL 11/13 (DvB) and a pair with a juvenile 11/23-24 were on the SR (DBr, NBJ).

Highlights among waterfowl included 2 **American Black Ducks** at IPM 11/16 (DvB), a male and female **Northern Shoveler** at SRW 11/30 (JK), and a female **Redhead** that provided nice views at IPM 11/16 (m.ob.). A careful examination of photographs confirmed the identification of a pair of **Lesser Scaup** that lingered at RVL until at least 10/25 (DvB). A **White-winged Scoter** was at RVL 10/22 (AK) to 11/2 (EH). The brief appearance of 9 **Black Scoters** at RVL 11/1 (DBr, BB, DbB, DvB) provided the county's only record of the species this year, despite all the great waterbirds last winter. A winter plumage **Long-tailed Duck** was seen with 115 **Ruddy Ducks** 10/31 (DBr). Good waterfowl counts 11/9 at RVL included 75+ **Buffleheads**, 50+ **Ruddy Ducks**, a **Red-necked Grebe**, a **Red-breasted Merganser**, a **Hooded Merganser** at RVL (DvB, JY). Not very uncommon in fall, a female **Red-breasted Merganser** lingered for a photo at the SRW until 8/18 (DvB). Present most of the fall, 3 **Pied-billed Grebes** were at the SRW 10/6 (MD) and 10 were there 10/7 (DvB).

The only report of **Great Egret** was of one at RVL 10/16 (NF). A few scattered sightings of **Black Vulture** around the county included 4 at the NWDHW 10/24 (DvB).

Without a summer resident **Osprey** this year, scattered sightings along the SR and from the WDHW in Sep (DvB), and one on the Loyalsock Ck. 10/4 (KF) were welcome. A highlight of the season was one **Golden Eagle** seen and photographed 10/24 on the WDHW, and another there 11/1 (DvB, BB, DbB). A nice mix of seven raptor species was documented in three hours at the WDHW 9/26, including multiple **Osprey**, **Sharp-shinned Hawks**, and **American Kestrels** (DvB). Scattered sightings of **Broad-winged Hawks** through the season included one flock of 28 near Ralston 9/21 (NoF, eBird). **Rough-legged Hawks** returned to MHR from summer arctic territories by 10/27 (SP), where they proved fairly reliable until the end of the year.

The last **Solitary Sandpipers** were found 9/27 in the treatment ponds of the WWC (DBr) and at IP (PG). Two **Least Sandpipers** and 12 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were documented by photos at the MS gravel bar 8/12. Scattered **Bonaparte's Gulls** included 3 at RVL 10/13 and 5 there 11/21 (DvB). After becoming scarce since spring, flocks of **Ring-bills Gulls** were visible at RVL (DvB) and Montoursville 11/21 (DBr).

A report of **Short-eared Owl** 11/21 (DF) was at most reliable location in the county, MHR. The bird rewarded a few quick responders (DBr, EH), but was not relocated a few days later. Since **Common Nighthawks** no long nest locally, migrants moving south through the Williamsport valley provide the most reliable source for this species during late Aug and early Sept, where they were regularly seen from the SRW. Migrant **Merlins** were observed at the WDHW 10/10 (DvB) and in SGL 252 on 9/16 (DBr, EH).

The only fall report of **Olive-sided Flycatcher** came from Slate Run 9/15 (TFJ, eBird). The first **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was found at the WWC 10/8 (DvB). Seven **Swainson's Thrush** nocturnal flight calls were noted before dawn 9/25 in Montoursville (DvB), and one Swainson's was seen at the WWA 10/3 (DvB). An **American Pipit** was at MBL 11/20 (DvB) and 5 were there 11/21 (EH). **Snow Bunting** flocks were reported twice: one group on fields above RVL 11/8 and another at Cladwell Rd. 11/9 (SP).

Five species of warblers included 2 **Orange-crowned Warblers** at Algerine Swamp 9/17 (TFJ). An apparent vagrant **Kentucky Warbler** showed up at the LCC 8/18 (EH) but could not be relocated. A good movement of migrant warblers 9/11 included **Cape May** at RVL (DvB, DBr) and **Wilson's Warbler** at Trout Run (NoF).

Two **Fox Sparrows** were found at the RVL 10/31 (DBr); the species remained only until 11/13 (DBr). A large number of **Song Sparrows** were present at various locations along the SR 9/24 (DBr). The first **American Tree Sparrows** were noted 11/11 (DvB). Great success with **Lincoln's Sparrows** started with the year's first 9/22 at Cl. This was followed 3 in a field near Lime Bluff 10/3 (DBr) and one at RVL 10/15 (DvB). A large number of **White-throated Sparrows** appeared at the WWC 9/27 (DvB) and in Montoursville (DvB). Single **White-crowned Sparrows** were noted from 10/14 (DBr) through Oct at various locations (BB, DvB).

A fairly late observation of **Eastern Meadowlark** was made 11/27 at the County Farm (DvB). Two **Pine Siskins** at RVL 10/9 and a flock of 51 at RVL 10/16 (NF) kicked off a fall of regular reports.

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### McKean County

No compiler.

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### Mercer County

Locations: East Zahnizer RD (EZR), Lake Wilhelm (LW), Pennsy Swamp (PS), Sandy Lake (SL), Shenango River Res. (SRR), Shenango Wildlife Area (SWA), Williamson Rd (WR).

A **Snow Goose** was at WR 11/25 with a flock of **Canada Geese**, keeping the tradition of one or two being reported in the Lake Latonka area every fall. The only report of **Cackling Goose** was one at WR 10/19 with a small flock of **Canada Geese** (NT). A **Trumpeter Swan**, banded by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, was apparently shot and injured by waterfowl hunters and rescued by the PGC 11/26 at the Parkers landing area of SRR. **Tundra Swans** moved through the county 11/5-28 (m.ob.). A high of 100 **Gadwall** was tallied at the Golden Run area of SRR 11/16 (SS). Five **Blue-winged Teal** were at the SWA 8/13 (SS).

**Common Loons** were scarce but they were still found 10/30-11/30 at LW and SL. The highest one day total was 7 at SL and LW 11/26 (NT). Both

**Pied-billed** and **Horned Grebes** were at SL 11/26 (NT). **Double-crested Cormorants** were found at LW throughout the period (NT). Four **Cattle Egrets** were found along Scrubgrass Road in a pasture 11/7 (MV). They were last seen 11/13 at the beginning of a cold period that persisted for several days. They represented the second sighting for *Mercer*. A single **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was at the SWA 8/15 (SS).

The last reports of **Turkey Vulture** were 11/5 with one at WR and one at LW (SS). A dark morph **Rough-legged Hawk** was at EZR 11/15 (SS). Very unexpected was a **Golden Eagle** over WR on the same date (NT). This possibly represented the first confirmed record for the county.

Up to 7 **Sandhill Cranes** could be found at Rattlesnake Swamp through Oct and Nov (JT), and 14 were seen circling at PS 10/19, possibly the same birds that were frequented Black Swamp in *Lawrence* (SS).

Shorebirds were below average, with most at the SWA due to high water levels at SRR which did not reach normal summer pool until mid-Oct. **Semipalmated Plovers** were found 8/4-25 with a high of 3 on 8/14 (SS). **Solitary Sandpiper** numbers were down from previous years; only 3 were reported at EZR 8/10 (NT) and one was at SWA 8/24-29 (SS). Two **Greater Yellowlegs** were reported, one at the SWA 8/6 (SS) and one at the EZR 10/7 (NT). Two **Pectoral Sandpipers** were with a group of **Killdeer** at EZR 10/9 (NT). A single **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was at the SWA 8/6-14 (SS), and 3 were at EZR 8/10 (NT). Up to 4 **Least Sandpipers** were present at the SWA until 8/31 (SS). A lone **Short-billed Dowitcher** was at the SWA 8/28 (SS). A **Wilson's Snipe** was flushed from a small wetlands along WR 10/23 (NT), and an **American Woodcock**, scarce in the fall, was seen in flight at WR 9/14 (NT).

**Bonaparte's Gulls** were found in good numbers with 10 at LW 11/12 (NT) and 25 at the Golden Run area at SRR 11/16 (SS). Three **Caspian Terns** were present 8/11-14 at the SWA (SS).

**Eastern Screech-Owls** were reported at Mahaney 10/1 and at Chestnut Run on the same date (SS). A **Short-eared Owl** was hunted the fields along WR at dawn 10/28 (RT). **Common Nighthawks** moved through the county 8/30-9/25 at WR with the highest count of 3 on 9/25 (NT). A **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** lingered until 10/5 at WR (HT). An adult female **Rufous Hummingbird**, coming to a feeder at North Vernon Road from early October to 11/19 represented the second record for *Mercer*. The bird was banded 11/15 (RY, NT, m.ob.). Two reports of **Merlin** included one at LL 9/6 (ST) and one at WR 10/10 (NT).

Single **Olive-sided Flycatchers** at WR 9/16 and SGL 130 on 9/17, where they can be expected during migration (NT). A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was seen at the Mahaney area at SRR 9/4 (SS). Somewhat unexpected was a **Great Crested Flycatcher** calling at SGL 130 on 9/17 (NT). A **White-eyed Vireo** was heard at SGL 130 on 9/17 (NT) and **Philadelphia Vireos** were found 9/15-29 with a high of 3 on 9/18 (NT). The only report of **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was of one at EZR 10/3 (NT). A **Marsh Wren** persisted at PS until 10/17 (NT). A **Sedge Wren** was found in a small wetland at the edge of a hayfield 9/15-19 near the same area where one was found last year (NT).

All five species of spot-breasted thrushes were reported. **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** were only found in singles 9/19-22 which was somewhat unusual (NT). **Wood Thrush** remained until 10/7 at Skunk Run Road (NT). **American Pipits** were reported in good numbers with up to 50 in a field north of Fredonia 10/30. They first appeared 10/3 at EZR and remained until 11/16 (NT). The first **Snow Bunting** was reported 11/7 at EZR and continued until the end of the period (ST).

Twenty-two species of warblers were found. Single **Northern Parulas** were reported 9/19 and 9/29 at WR (NT). Single **Mourning Warblers** were at WR 9/16 and SGL 130 on 9/17 (NT). **Cape May Warblers** were found 9/12-10/2, with a high of 3 on 9/12 at the Mahaney area at SRR (SS). **Bay-breasted Warblers** moved through the county 9/13-19 (SS, NT). Unexpected was an immature **Yellow Warbler** at WR 9/7 (NT).

An **Eastern Towhee** lingered until 11/8 at WR (NT). Three **Fox Sparrows** were reported: one 11/13 at Poole Road (NT), one at EZR 11/16 (NT) and one at East Lake Road (MM). A **Lincoln's Sparrow** persisted until 11/8 at EZR (NT), and a **Bobolink** was still in the same area 9/20 (ST).

**Rusty Blackbirds** were present 10/19-11/13; the highest number found was 18 at Poole Road 11/13 (NT). This was encouraging since this many haven't been seen in the county for several years. **Baltimore Oriole** was last seen 9/7 at WR (NT). **Purple Finches** were at WR 10/2-13 (NT) and 2 were found at the Golden Run area at SRR 10/13 (SS). **Pine Siskins** were seen 10/2-25 at WR (NT) and 15 were reported from the Mahaney area at SRR 10/23 (SS).

Observers: **Neil Troyer, 876 Williamson Road, Mercer, PA 16137**, Marty McKay, Steve Sanford, Harvey Troyer, Jerry Troyer, Ruth Troyer, Samuel Troyer, Rosie Yoder.

## Mifflin County

Locations: Big Valley (BV), Jack's Mt. Hawk Watch (JMHW), Reedsville (RV), Stone Mt. Hawk Watch (SM), Zook farm near Belleville (ZO).

A first county record was provided by a **Mississippi Kite** that passed SM on the *Mifflin* side of the ridge 9/22 (DK). Another notable event occurred 10/31, when 56 **Golden Eagles** were counted at JMHW on gentle se. winds, the best conditions for the site (DS). Even aside from that day, the Golden Eagle passage was excellent and a new seasonal record was set with a total of 129. Otherwise counts of raptor were mostly average or better. The total **Broad-winged Hawk** count was 1971, with a high of 718 on 9/15. **American Kestrels** peaked at 21 on 10/9, **Sharp-shinned Hawks** at 102 on 10/11, and **Red-tailed Hawks** at 123 on 11/1 (RS, et al.).

Fall shorebirds are tough to find in *Mifflin*. A **Solitary Sandpiper** was at ZO 9/7 (JZ). A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was noted at JMHW 9/18 (JK). A **Barred Owl** was heard near RV 9/14 (RD). A very early **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was reported in BV 8/16 (RD). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** flew by JMHW 9/17 (DS). **Olive-sided Flycatchers** were observed at JMHW 9/4 (JK) and on the *Mifflin* side at SM 9/7 (GG). Not often reported here, a **Lincoln's Sparrow** was found at RV 9/18 (RD).

Observers: **Greg Grove, 9524 Stone Creek Ridge Road, Huntingdon, Pa. 16652, gwg2@psu.edu**. Rob Dickerson, Jon Kauffman, David Kyler, Ron Singer, Darrell Smith, Jay Zook.

## Monroe County

Locations: Lynchwood Lake (LL), Monroe County Environmental Education Center (MCEEC).

The period was marked by near record-low rainfall in September. A special thanks to observer BJ for his consistency in reporting sightings and documentation.

Noteworthy was a high count of 52 **Ruddy Ducks** at Pocono Summit Lake 11/11 (BJ). Some outstanding shorebirds at LL in the Mt. Pocono area included 2 **Semipalmated Plovers** 8/4, a high count of 76 **Greater Yellowlegs** 8/12, a single **Sanderling** 8/23, and a high count of 16 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** 8/4 (BJ). Another **Sanderling** was found 9/30 at Mt. Airy Casino's lake (BJ). LL also produced 2 **Stilt Sandpipers** and a high count of 8 **Pectoral Sandpipers** 8/12 (BJ). Most of these sightings were documented by photo (BJ). A **Black Tern** was a nice find at LL 8/23 (ph. BJ).

A high count of 60 **Common Nighthawks** was reported along the Brodhead Creek 8/19 (MP), and a single one over MCEEC 9/28 was on the late side (SK). In the Mt. Pocono area 8/9, a **Merlin** entertained the observer as he watched it run on the ground after grasshoppers while getting harassed at times by an **American Kestrel** and **Killdeer** (BJ). This **Merlin** could have been an early migrant or possibly a local breeder. Nesting of this species in the Poconos has been documented in recent years.

Always a nice find, a migrant **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was in a Saylorburg yard 9/6 (RW). A flock of 16 **Snow Buntings** was found at the Mt. Pocono Airport 11/16 (BJ), a dependable location for this species at this time of year.

Observers: **Brian Hardiman, Monroe County Environmental Education Center, 8050 Running Valley Rd, Stroudsburg, PA 18360, (570) 629-3061, bhmcdd@ptd.net**, Bruce Johnson, Steve Kloiber, Melissa Penta, Rick Wiltraut.

## Montgomery County

Locations: Ashbourne Country Club (ACC), East Norriton (ENO), Elkins Park (ELP), Evansburg S.P. (ESP), Fort Washington S.P. (FWSP), Green Lane Park (GLP), Haverford College (HC), Norristown Dam (ND), Norristown Farm Park (NFP), Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust (PERT), Unami Creek Valley (UCV).

At least 212 species were recorded in *Montgomery* during fall 2014.

A **Greater White-fronted Goose** was spotted at GLP 11/25 (GF). Several early **Snow Geese** were noted, including a fairly long-staying one at HC 8/7-19 (SJ), a pair at GLP 8/26 (MDS, GF) and what may've been the same pair again at GLP 9/15 (WBH). Snow Geese were not noted in high numbers, with a meager 55 flyovers at FWSP 11/28 (AA) the maximum for the period. Single **Cackling Geese** were picked out of goose-flocks at GLP 11/4 (AM), Dixon Meadow Preserve 11/11 and 11/26 (both MS), Loch Alsh



Reservoir 11/14 (AA) and GLP 11/25 (GF). A **Snow x Canada Goose hybrid** was identified at GLP 11/26 (KC). Five **Tundra Swans** at GLP 11/22 (GF) represented the sole report of that species.

Good numbers of ducks were at GLP in the latter half of the season, including 47 **Wood Ducks** 11/29 (KK) and a record-setting 109 **Gadwall** 11/30 (KC). An early pair of Gadwall was at GLP 9/13-15 (PD). An **American Black Duck** at GLP 9/3 (ML) was another early arrival. Almost early, and at an unusual location, a **Blue-winged Teal** was identified at ND 8/21 (PB). An early **Northern Shoveler** at GLP 8/24 (GF) was the first of many at GLP. The GLP Shoveler count topped out at 72 on 11/24 (GF). A drake **Redhead** was noted associating with a good-sized pack of **Ring-necked Ducks** at the UCV's Skymount Lake 11/21-25 (SGo). A **Black Scoter** made a one-day appearance at GLP 11/1 (KR). **Bufflehead** numbers were high at GLP in mid-Nov, including counts of 110 on 11/19 and 94 on 11/10 (both GF). A single Bufflehead appeared on a farm pond at the edge of PERT 11/29 (AnM), not a typical location for them. A **Common Goldeneye** was observed at GLP 11/29 (GF). Fifty-nine **Common Mergansers** were at GLP 8/24 (GF), a surprisingly high number for so early into waterfowl season. One female-type **Red-breasted Merganser** was seen at GLP 11/29 (KC). An 11/6 storm dumped a pile of **Ruddy Ducks** onto the reservoir at GLP: amounts ranged from 287-350 (KC, PD).

A **Northern Bobwhite** was observed at a farm in Horsham 9/2 (AnM), almost certainly an escapee/release. The species has been noted at this location previously. All of the **Ring-necked Pheasants** reported, including 8 at Palm 11/12 (GF), were also probably released. **Wild Turkeys** are at least legitimately wild in *Montgomery*, though they're not especially common away from PERT. A group of 6 Turkeys was at GLP 11/23 (MAC), atypical for this location. There were over 20 reports from PERT (m.ob.). ESP is the home of a smaller, or perhaps just less visible, turkey population: one was seen there 8/16 (MEH) and 10 on 9/23 (WBH).

The only mention of **Common Loon** was a pair of flyovers at FWSP 10/18 (SJ). An unusual bird for the campus, a **Pied-billed Grebe** appeared on HC's duck pond 10/12 and remained through the end of the season (SJ). Nine **Horned Grebes** were reported at GLP 10/26 (GF, SS).

Single **Least Bittern** flyovers were recorded during the nights of 8/7, 8/18, and 9/12 from ELP (PD). Seven **Great Egrets** converged on a tiny office park pond in Blue Bell. Though first detected by birder-eyes 9/7 (BHi), an employee from an adjacent building said they'd been there for "a while" (*vide* WBH). Three of these egrets lingered until 9/20 (PB). A late **Green Heron** was photographed at the defunct ACC 10/14 (JS). A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was at ND 8/7-8 (MR) and another was at GLP 9/30 (PB). An immature **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** appeared at ND 8/7 (MR), and was joined by an adult the following day (PD). The immature bird stayed at the dam through 8/10 (WBH). One of the most bizarre finds of the period was a pair of immature Yellow-crowned Night-Herons photographed sitting on the edge of a swimming pool in a Norristown residential area 8/22 (KRu). An unidentified night-heron was observed 9/7 at the same Blue Bell pond hosting the egret convention (PB). A **Glossy Ibis** flew over FWSP 9/8 (RC). Another was at GLP 10/6 (WBH), likely one of 3 flyby Plegadis noted at the same location earlier that day (GF).

One hundred **Black Vultures** were observed at the Elmwood Park Zoo vulture roost site 8/30 (BS). There were several large **Turkey Vulture** migration days in late Oct at FWSP's Militia Hill hawk watch, including a reported 305 on 10/29 (CD) and 174 on 10/20 (RC, HBa). Militia Hill's season high count of **Osprey** was on 10/3, when 23 were tallied (MM, RC). A late Osprey was spotted at GLP 11/20 (KC, VM, KI). An even later one was at PERT 11/22 (PD). Single **Golden Eagles** were counted from FWSP 10/18 (SG) and 10/25 (RC). A Golden Eagle with a satellite tracking device attached at Blackwater N.W.R., Maryland in 2013 spent the night in woods east of GLP 11/3-4 (DB). The following were some of Militia Hill Hawk Watch's high counts for the fall 2014 season (Sep-Oct): 8 **Northern Harriers** 10/12 (RC), 78 **Sharp-shinned Hawks** 10/18 (SJ, SG), 10 **Cooper's Hawks** 10/25 (SG, RC), 12 **Bald Eagles** 9/14 (AF, AB), 19 **Red-shouldered Hawks** 10/25 (SG, RC), 68 **Red-tailed Hawks** 10/30 (HaB, AS), and 1238 **Broad-winged Hawks** 9/14 (AF, AB). This Broad-wing high was a mere 7% of the previous year's record-shattering count of 18,055.

A **Sora** was observed at SGL 234 from 9/27-10/5 (KR). Another, thought to be a different bird, was present at the same spot 10/11-12 (KR). Unusual for the location, a Sora was reported at GLP 10/6 (MA). Fifty-eight **American Coots** were at GLP 11/6 (PD).

After a promising start in the summer, shorebirding fizzled out in Aug as productive areas dried. At the same time, GLP water levels were still too high to attract many migrants. By late Sep, however, beautiful mudflats had emerged at GLP, just in time for the arrival of some late-season shorebirds. One or 2 **Semipalmated Plovers** were at the rapidly draining Wissahickon Waterfowl Preserve 8/1 (KR) and 8/14 (AU). Another was at GLP 10/5 (AM). A **Spotted Sandpiper** was observed at GLP as late as 11/6 (PD). **Lesser Yellowlegs** were common on the exposed GLP mudflats, with highs of 25

recorded 10/3 (GF) and 10/13 (KC). Two migrating **Upland Sandpipers** were recorded over ELP 8/18 (PD). A single **Dunlin** showed up at GLP 10/16 (GF, PB). A **Baird's Sandpiper** was noted at GLP 8/31 on a tiny spot of exposed mud (SS). As many as two **White-rumped Sandpipers** hit GLP at a more opportune time, 10/1-5, when mud was plenty and the eating was good (ML, m.ob). Another pair of White-rumps were at GLP 10/12 (KC, KR, ML). **Pectoral Sandpipers** were another species that benefited from the late mud at GLP. Two noted there 9/15 were just a preview of things to come (AA). Multiple Pectorals were consistently present at GLP 9/26-10/19 (m.ob), with a high of 6 on 10/3 (ML). A flock of what were probably 16 Pectoral Sandpipers flew past the hawk watchers at FWSP 10/11 (RC, AF). **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were also noted regularly at GLP between 9/19-10/17 (m.ob), with as many as 9 recorded 10/2 (KC). One Semisand was also present at this location 8/31-9/3 (SS, ML, GF). Singles were also reported from the near-dry Wissahickon Waterfowl Preserve 8/3 (PB) and 8/9 (AU, KG). **American Woodcock** reports were few, and limited to PERT. Three were flushed there 10/21 (HB, FV).

There were sporadic sightings of small numbers of **Bonaparte's Gulls** at GLP, including 7 on 11/6 (KC). The first **Lesser Black-backed Gull** of the season returned to GLP 10/5 (KC, AM, PD). Their GLP numbers rose to 33 on 11/2 (GF). An immature **Great Black-backed Gull** was seen at GLP 11/21 (GF). **Caspian Terns** were hit-and-miss at GLP 8/8-8/28 (m.ob), with a high of 15 on 8/10 (GF). Another pair of Caspians showed up at GLP on the nearly-late date of 9/17 (GF). No other tern species were noted.

Three hundred **Mourning Doves** were observed in Gilbertsville farm country 11/30 (MA, PA), a good count for *Montgomery*. A late **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** struck a window in Collegeville 10/13 (JD). Thankfully, it recovered, and flew off thirty minutes later. **Black-billed Cuckoo** nocturnal flight calls were recorded from ELP 8/7 and 8/19 (PD).

A presumed migrating **Barn Owl** was reported from Horsham 10/3 (GP). **Barred Owl** was noted at ESP, and nearby Collegeville, 5 times during the period (m.ob.). Another was spotted in the UCV 9/13 (JG), where they are even scarcer. Single **Short-eared Owls** were found in the GLP area 10/25 (KC) and at PERT 10/26 (PD). Two hundred **Common Nighthawks** were observed at FWSP 8/24 (KR). A count of 40 Nighthawks at PERT would be unusual at almost any time. On the late date of 10/1, it was unprecedented (LW). The species seemed to linger at PERT, with as many as 8 still being reported 10/18 (AnM). This represents a new record late date for *Montgomery*, at least in *Montgomery's* eBird data.

A **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** hung around HC well past its expected departure date to 11/13 (SJ). Fall 2014's western hummingbird season was much subdued when compared to the previous two years. Only one was detected: a **Rufous Hummingbird**, identified from photos (SW) as an immature male, at a home in Montgomeryville 9/30-10/28.

Immature **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were at NFP 9/18 (WBH) and in Gilbertsville 11/24 (MA, PA). There were many reports of **Pileated Woodpecker** (m.ob), including a pair at HC 8/21 (SJ), where they are unusual (for now).

Falcon high-counts from Militia Hill Hawk Watch at FWSP: 34 **American Kestrels** 9/19 (MM, AB), 4 **Merlins** 10/18 (SG) and 4 **Peregrine Falcons** 10/15 (JSt, PBu). A slightly early Merlin was at GLP 8/15 (GF).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** made a typically brief appearance at GLP 9/5 (JT), and a **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was at NFP 9/3 (WBH). **Least Flycatchers** were a little more common, with birds at ESP 8/9 (WBH) and High School Park 9/28 (GA) bookending 5 reports (m.ob.). A mildly late **Eastern Phoebe** was noted at Palm 11/12 (GF). A **Great Crested Flycatcher** was heard in the UCV on the extremely late date of 10/28 (KC). Late vireos included a **White-eyed Vireo** at ACC 10/16 (PD), a **Blue-headed Vireo** in the UCV 11/11 (KC) and a **Red-eyed Vireo** at Valley Forge National Historical Park 10/14 (MEH, et al). Several **Philadelphia Vireos** were noted (m.ob).

**Blue Jay** migration was heavy this season, with 100 counted over FWSP 10/12 (AA), 98 over NFP 9/26 (WBH) and more than twenty additional reports of 20+ birds in the same timeframe (m.ob.). A count of 245 **American Crows** were observed heading to a roost site in Lansdale 8/27 (KR). The observer noted it was the first time he'd seen such numbers since the West Nile virus outbreak began more than a decade ago. By contrast, there were no large flocks of **Fish Crows** reported, with the largest just 11 birds at NFP 9/24 (WBH, PB). **Common Raven** was a frequently observed species, particularly at PERT and FWSP (m.ob.). Perhaps an omen of their impending invasion of southeastern Pennsylvania, a conspiracy of 22 ravens was photographed over FWSP 9/23 (MR, EP), easily setting a new county record. **Horned Larks** appeared in a few places in Nov (m.ob.), including flocks of 30 at Limerick 11/3 (KR) and the Butter Valley Golf Course 11/26 (JG). Seventeen late **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were seen at Baederwood Park 10/21 (AZ). Three more were at PERT 10/25 (AnM). A pair of late **Barn Swallows** were at GLP 9/27-10/6 (WBH, m.ob.).

A pair of **Black-capped Chickadees**, the first of an apparent light irruption, were noted at GLP 11/4 (AM). A few other reports of this species were made from the Gilbertsville area in late Nov (MA, PA). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** irruption activity was somewhat heavier, with at least 17 reports during the period. Curiously, one of these, a heard-bird in ENO 9/3 (WBH), was three weeks earlier than the rest. A **Winter Wren** arrived early at ACC 9/15 (PD). The only **Marsh Wren** of the season was also detected at this location 9/27 (PD).

A pair of late **Wood Thrushes** was at ACC 10/10 (PD). Another was noted the same day at Briar Bush Nature Center (JS, MF). An estimated 7500 **American Robins** were seen flying out of their PERT roost site during a 25-minute period on the morning of 10/26 (PD). A late **Brown Thrasher** was observed at Trewellyn Park 11/13 (AA). NFP during crop harvest proved to be a popular spot for **American Pipits** again, with at least 30 present 10/20 and 25 on 10/25 (both WBH). A fairly regular group of 5-12 pipits stationed themselves on the GLP mudflats 9/24-10/6 (LM, m.ob). Higher counts of **Cedar Waxwings** included 75 at SGL 234 9/28 (WBH) and 68 in Jenkintown 11/6 (AZ).

Fall 2014 brought at least 31 species of warbler through *Montgomery*, two fewer than the spring season. Heavy **Ovenbird** movement occurred during the night of 8/18, with a total of 174 calls tallied (PD). The first **Northern Waterthrush** to push through did so a bit early in ENO, 8/4-5 (WBH). Four different **Golden-winged Warblers** were detected this season, well above par for the county in recent years: ESP 8/9 (WBH), Carl Kohler Park 8/15 (AU), Lorimer Park 8/28 (LW) and Plymouth Meeting 9/6 (PB). Single **Orange-crowned Warblers** were found at PERT 10/14 (WK), ENO 10/24 (WBH) and PERT again 11/8 (AnM). A mildly late **Nashville Warbler** was noted in Huntingdon Valley 10/30 (CA). The only **Connecticut Warbler** reported was at NFP 9/24 (WBH). **Mourning Warblers** were a bit more common, albeit concentrated at the eastern edge of the county (though that may be because PD is a whiz at finding them). Two or three Mournings were noted at ACC 8/15-18 to start the season, and a rather late one at the same location 9/24 closed things out (all PD). Seven Mourning Warblers were also recorded over four nights migrating past ELP 8/8-19 (PD). A late **Common Yellowthroat** was observed at HC 11/8 (SJ). There were five reports of **Hooded Warbler** during the very short window of 8/15-19 (PD, JoG, WBH). A tardy **American Redstart** was a surprise at NFP 10/20 (WBH). There were at least 11 reports of **Cape May Warbler** (m.ob.), with the largest group among these containing 3 individuals, noted at Baederwood Park 9/26 (AZ). **Bay-breasted Warbler** was also reported 11 times (m.ob.). A **Blackburnian Warbler** was at ESP on the fairly early date of 8/9 (WBH). A **Yellow Warbler** was at HC on the fairly late date of 9/21 (SJ). Sixty-two flight calls representing an estimated 55 **Chestnut-sided Warblers** were recorded 8/18 (PD). A pair of **Pine Warblers**, either early or lingering breeders, were at ESP 8/9-11 (WBH). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was observed at GLP 9/15, not far from an area where the species attempted to breed earlier in the year (WBH). Early **Canada Warblers** were reported in Bryn Mawr 8/7 (MP) and ELP 8/8 (PD), with the latter bird identified from a nocturnal flight call. **Wilson's Warblers** were a bit thin on the ground, with single birds noted on only 3 dates in Sep (WBH, SJ, LWa).

Early **American Tree Sparrows** at NFP 10/28 (PB) and GLP 11/3 (AA) were the start of a seemingly good season for this species. Twenty-five of them were reported at PERT 11/27 (GS). At least five solo **Chipping Sparrows** lingered into late Nov (m.ob), but, unlike in some previous years, no large groups of late Chipping Sparrows were found. Forty **Field Sparrows** were noted at PERT 10/30 (HB, FV). Single **Vesper Sparrows** were spotted at NFP 10/20 (WBH), NFP 10/28 (PB) and Erdenheim Farm 11/28 (PD). A pair of Vespers was at PERT 11/3 (PD). **Lincoln's Sparrow** was noted in many locations (m.ob.), including at least 4 birds at SGL 234 on 9/28 (WBH) and 3 at ACC 10/9 (PD). Palm, one of the better locations for **White-crowned Sparrow** in the county, delivered 23 on 11/12 (GF).

A first year male **Summer Tanager** was reported from PERT 8/23 (HB, FV, no doc.). Single **Blue Grosbeaks** were noted at PERT 10/4 (AnM) and 10/12 (PD). Single **Dickcissels** were located at NFP 9/18 (WBH) and FWSP 9/21 (AA, CD, MR). A nice count of 65 **Bobolinks** was tallied at GLP 9/3 (GF). There were only scattered reports of the rapidly declining **Rusty Blackbird** (m.ob), with a paltry 6 at GLP 10/12 (WBH, KR) representing the high for the period.

Right in line with Ron Pittaway's Winter Finch Forecast, fall 2014 saw good pushes of two species through the area. **Purple Finches** started showing up 9/23, at ACC (PD) and Pottstown (JT). Their numbers peaked in late Oct, with 10/26 counts of 31 at HC (SJ) and 26 at PERT (PD). By mid-Nov, the push was over, though a few still hung around through the end of the period (m.ob). The first **Pine Siskin** appeared 10/12 at HC (SJ). They followed a similar pattern to Purple Finches: 66 were noted at HC 10/26 (SJ) and 65 at NFP 10/20 (WBH), but by the end of Nov, they were tough to find. Also in line with the Winter Finch Forecast, there were no confirmed reports of Crossbills or any other coveted winter finches.

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### Montour County

No compiler.

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### Northampton County

Locations: Jacobsburg State Park (JSP), Koch Property (KP), Little Gap Hawk Watch (LG), Martins Creek Environmental Preserve (MCEP), Minsi Lake (ML), Nazareth Quarry (NQ).

An adult **Greater White-fronted Goose**, 2 **Cackling Geese**, 40 **Snow Geese** and an estimated 10000 **Canada Geese** were at NQ 11/20 (MS). A few small flocks of **Brant** were flying south at LG 10/19 (SK, MS, CCS). Light rain and fog 11/1 were ideal conditions for a good mix of birds at NQ that included 4 **Redhead**, 4 female **Black Scoters** and 15 **Ruddy Ducks** (MS, CCS). There were 4 **White-winged Scoters** at NQ 10/22 (MS).

A **Ring-necked Pheasant** was reported at the KP in Williams Twp. 11/23 (EB, BH). In Kreidersville, a **Northern Bobwhite** was observed 11/19 (BE). Bobwhite is likely an escaped or released bird in the county. **Ruffed Grouse** was flushed along the trail at LG on multiple dates during the fall hawk count; first sighting was 8/24 (MS, et al.). Encounters were typically with one or 2 grouse.

There was an early **Common Loon** at ML 8/11-23 (SA). For the third year in a row there was an **Eared Grebe** at NQ, this year 11/1-4 (MS, CCS). The **Eared Grebe** seen last year was on 10/31. **Horned and Pied-billed Grebe** were also at NQ 11/1. The last check on the nesting **Pied-billed Grebes** at Gremer Rd. ponds was 8/17 and 3 juveniles and 2 adults continued (MS). At ML, there were 7 **Pied-billed Grebes** 10/11 (MS, CCS). At LG, 105 **Double-crested Cormorants** were flying south 10/19 (MS, CCS). An imm. **Great Cormorant** was at ML 11/1 (MS, CCS). **Great Egret** was reported from multiple locations and the easiest spot to see this species was ML with sightings 8/10-10/1. There was a high of 6 **Great Egrets** at ML 8/12 (SA). A late **Great Egret** was at Silvercrest Rd., Bath 10/12-22 (MS).

There were 13,339 raptors and vultures counted at LG. Notable totals included 279 **Bald Eagles** and 104 **Golden Eagles**. An impressive day occurred 10/26 when 20 **Bald Eagles** and 18 **Golden Eagles** passed the lookout. Other daily high counts included 19 **Northern Harriers** 10/20, 364 **Sharp-shinned Hawks** 10/17, and 14 **Merlin** and 7 **Peregrine Falcons** 10/17. A dark morph **Rough-legged Hawk** was noted 11/28 (RW). In Allen Twp., there was a light morph **Rough-legged Hawk** 11/30 (DW).

A **Sora** was seen at the w. shore boat launch of ML 8/14 (SA). Shorebird numbers at Green Pond were down this period compared to July as the wetlands dried up. There was a **Semipalmated Plover** at Green Pond 8/14 (AU, KG). A new retention pond on Van Buren Rd. near Tatamy was more productive with 8 **Least Sandpipers**, one **Pectoral Sandpiper**, 2 **Solitary Sandpipers** and a **Lesser Yellowlegs** 8/12 (MS). On 9/1, this area had 3 **Sanderlings**, a **Baird's Sandpiper** and a **Semipalmated Sandpiper** (MS, CCS). A **Pectoral Sandpiper** was observed at Silvercrest Rd. 8/6 and at ML 9/16 (SA).

Significant numbers of **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** (mostly adults) began showing up at NQ in mid-Oct. On 10/15, there were 67 (MS) and 10/22 saw 105 (MS). The high count occurred 10/23 when 324 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were counted (MS, CCS). Good numbers continued with 205 on 11/1 (MS, CCS), 105 on 11/4 (MS, CCS) and 141 on 11/28 (MSa). There were 2 **Great Black-backed Gulls** at NQ 11/4 and 2 **Bonaparte's Gulls** at MCEP 11/23 (MS, CCS).

An unexpected visitor just outside a kitchen door was a **Northern Saw-whet Owl** that was content to perch on a cedar post at the KP 11/14 (AK). Two **Common Nighthawks** were observed in Easton 9/3 (KZ). After having several western hummingbirds in the county the last few years, there

was only one seen this year and only for a few minutes. A **Selasphorous sp.** made a brief visit to some flowers at KP 8/24 (AK). The bird had a large red throat patch and lots of rufous under its wings and flanks. In Bethlehem, the **Peregrine Falcons** at the Sands Casino have been a star attraction and many birders reported seeing them during the season.

**Olive-sided Flycatcher** was reported from Northampton 8/20 (BE), Bangor on 9/1 (SA), the KP 8/29 (AK) and at LG 9/1 (MS, CCS). There was a **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** at LG 8/26 and 9/4 (MS). A late **Great Crested Flycatcher** was at Cigar Rd., Northampton 10/1 (BE). **Philadelphia Vireo** was at JSP 9/8 (RW), Monacacy Nature Center 9/7 (JF) and at LG on multiple dates from 9/3-18 (MS, CCS). An early **Blue-headed Vireo** was seen at JSP 8/26 (RW). **Common Raven** is regular along the Blue Mountain but an impressive 20 together at LG 9/14 (MS) was notable. Last year zero **Red-breasted Nuthatches** flew past the lookout at LG, but this fall there were a few with a high of 3 on 9/1 (MS). Away from the ridge, a **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was at Graver's Arboretum 10/16 (PS). On 10/19 there were 2 **Winter Wrens** at LG (MS). In Northampton there was a **Winter Wren** at Cigar Rd. 10/26 (BE). Two **Swainson's Thrushes** were seen on SGL 168 off Timberline Dr., Danielsville 10/14 (BS). A **Brown Thrasher** was reported from the KP 11/22 (MO). **American Pipit** was seen along Arrowhead Rd., Bath 11/30 (DW). Birders searching the fields along Van Buren Rd. found 3 **Lapland Longspurs**, 250 **Horned Larks** and 40 **Snow Buntings** 11/30 (L&KW). Another **Lapland Longspur** was at Graver's Hill 11/30 (JF). On 11/28-29 there were about 25 **Snow Buntings** on Arrowhead Rd. (DL, DW).

JSP had a lingering **Louisiana Waterthrush** 8/30 (RW). A migrant **Lawrence's Warbler** was observed at the KP 8/3 (AK). Warbler movement along the Blue Mountain at LG was excellent on 8/29 with **Ovenbird**, **Tennessee**, **American Redstart**, **Cape May**, **Northern Parula**, **Magnolia**, **Blackburnian**, **Black-throated Blue**, **Prairie**, **Black-throated Green** and **Canada Warbler** (MS). Another good warbler day at LG was 9/4 with 12 species that included **Bay-breasted** and **Blackpoll Warbler** (MS). An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was found at the KP 9/28 (AK). Some late warblers include a **Nashville Warbler** 10/24 at Monacacy Nature Center (DG), a **Northern Parula** 10/19 at JSP (JM) and a **Palm Warbler** 11/12 at KP (AK). There were two reports of **Connecticut Warbler** at LG 9/5 and 9/18 (AM, MS, CCS). Overall, there were 26 species of warbler seen in the county.

The highlight of the season was a first winter **Harris's Sparrow** at the KP 11/17 (AK) that continued into the winter period, to the delight of many birders. The season's first **White-throated Sparrow** was at LG 9/21 (MS). A male **Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow** was at the KP feeders 11/22-30 (AK, m.ob.). There were 3 late **Vesper Sparrows** on Hilltop Rd. near Seemsville 11/4 (BE).

Three **Rusty Blackbirds** were at ML 11/13 (SA). **Purple Finch** began showing up in late Sept. and **Pine Siskin** began showing up in mid-Oct. **Purple Finch** showed up at a few feeders, but **Pine Siskin** was seen primarily in migrating flocks along Blue Mountain. At LG, 130 **Pine Siskin** passed the lookout 10/24 and 240 flew past 10/26 (MS, CCS). The high count for **Purple Finch** at LG was 75 on 10/28 (MS, CCS).

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#### Northumberland County

No compiler.

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#### Perry County

Locations: Little Buffalo State Park (LBSP), State Gamelands 170 (SGL170).

Overall it was a good period for waterfowl with 12 species reported. A flock of 12 **Tundra Swans** were seen in flight at Waggoner's Gap Hawk Watch 11/7 (KS, JC, HM), and one **Mute Swan** was reported at Millerstown Community Park 11/29 (TR). The following were reported at LBSP: up to 10 **Ruddy Ducks** 11/22-29 (GG, TN, VG, DK), 4 **American Black Ducks** 11/29 (DK), and up to 6 **Gadwall** 11/20-29 (GG, TN, VG). The most unusual sighting was a male and female **Long-tailed Duck** at LBSP 11/29 (VG). Other water birds of note included up to 6 **Pied-billed Grebes** 11/20-29 (GG, TN, VG, DK), 5 **Horned Grebes** at LBSP 10/15 (SJ), and up to 7

**American Coots** 11/20-29 (GG, TN, VG, DK). The only **Ruffed Grouse** was at Miller's Gap 10/31 (PB, CM, MM).

The only **Red-headed Woodpecker** was at Millerstown 8/30 (BS). There were two November sightings of **Eastern Phoebe**, one on Reward Road in Greenwood Twp. 11/20 (CB) and at LBSP 11/29 (VG). One **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was reported at Waggoner's Gap 10/17 (RS), another at Miller's Gap 10/25 (RK), and 4 at LBSP 11/29 (TN).

A **Chipping Sparrow** was at Sherman's View Road, Carroll Twp. 11/26-28 (TP), and one **Swamp Sparrow** was at LBSP 11/29 (VG). A **Fox Sparrow** was at Waggoner's Gap 10/26 (JH), 2 were found at Miller's Gap 10/31 (PB, CM, MM) and again 11/2 (RK), and one was at LBSP 11/24 (TN). There were 2 **Rusty Blackbirds** at Waggoner's Gap 10/20 (MW), another at Miller's Gap 10/26 (RK, AM) and 4 at SGL 170 near Duncannon 10/29 (VG). There were a number of reports for **Purple Finch** and **Pine Siskin** to kick off what was shaping up to be an invasion year for both species.

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#### Philadelphia County

Locations: Bartram's Garden (BG), Benjamin Rush State Park (BRSP), Carpenter's Woods (CW), Delaware River (DR), Delaware River Trail (DRT), Fairmount Park (FP), Franklin D. Roosevelt Park (FDR), Glenn Foerd Mansion (GF), John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum (TI), Morris Arboretum (MA), Naval Business Center aka Navy Yard (NBC), Northeast Water Pollution Control Plant (NEWPCP), Pennypack Environmental Center (PEC), Pennypack on the Delaware Park (POD), Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education (SCEE), Schuylkill River (SR), Southampton Woods Rd. (SHW), Wissahickon Creek (WC).

Birds and birders enjoyed an autumn with no extremes of temperature or rainfall nor any super storms or hurricanes. Highlights include 2 **Gull-billed Terns**, a juvenile **White Ibis**, and 24 **Sandhill Cranes** whose migration from their Maine breeding ground was observed by birders—not remote sensors but human eyes—as the cranes crossed five states and Philadelphia. The Big Sit team at TI 10/12 (led by DB) was attended by 200 birders and visitors. They tallied 88 species and earned the distinction of being the #1 team in Pennsylvania and in the Top 10 Big Sit teams in the United States.

At TI waterfowl arrived and departed in waves leaving a population of 1000 *Anatidae* on most days. On 10/10, 400 **Wood Ducks** and 40 **Blue-winged Teals** refueled, as did 400 **Northern Pintails** 10/5 (ABin, DB). Knowing that **American Black Duck** is declining still did not prepare us for a high count of just 39 of them 10/31 at TI (GJ). **Green-winged Teal** reached 700 birds 11/9 (ABin, DB). **Ring-necked Duck** and **Bufflehead** arrived 11/8 (FW).

A **Red-throated Loon** was unexpected on tiny Belmont Reservoir adjacent to a busy highway 11/18 (KR). From 8/24-10/21 flocks of **Double-crested Cormorant** totaling more than 2500 followed the DR south (GA, MDeI). Two **Least Bittern** were last reported 8/16 (MDeI) and a photo of a juvenile from 8/2 confirmed breeding at TI (AM). **American Bittern** was at TI 10/27-31 (FW, GA). In recent years sightings of **Snowy Egret** have decreased, so multiple sightings this season were a pleasant change. These included a group of 3 at TI 9/21 (TF) and a bird that lingered for two weeks until 10/17 (m.ob.). At the south end of the TI impoundment, 140 **Great Egrets** fed on fish in shallow water 9/14 (DO). Juvenile **Little Blue Herons** are regular post breeding migrants at TI and were sighted this year on 8/14 and 9/2 (TF). The **White Ibis** from the summer season at TI was last seen 8/1 (GA, m.ob.).

A late **Osprey** circled over Valley Green in the WC 11/10-27 (KJ). Two **Red-shouldered Hawks** returned to TI again this fall. Perhaps at some point they will stay to nest.

A **Sora** calling at TI 8/16 (MDeI) might have been the first of the 5 Soras seen daily in an accessible public areas through 10/21 (DA). Photos confirmed three adults and two juveniles. Careful counts of the **American Coots** at TI yielded 202 on 11/13 (DO, DB). As mentioned above, a flock of 24 **Sandhill Cranes** were noted 11/29 flying low along the Schuylkill River (MH). This flock presumably began its flight south from the vicinity of Norridgewock, Maine 11/20, and was noted three times between Maine and Philly in the days between (in New Hampshire 11/27, at Newbury, Massachusetts early 11/28, and New Haven, Connecticut late 11/28).

Shorebirds were not abundant at TI, but expected species were present along the DR, at POD, and on the tidal flats at BG. **American Golden-Plover** was a great find at TI 10/6-10 (AU, KG, ph.), the first for the county since 9/14/2011 at POD. Fifteen **Semipalmated Plover** was a disappointing high count 9/20 (TF). A **Spotted Sandpiper** at TI 11/5 was late (FW). Several **Solitary Sandpipers** were present 8/10-9/21. **White-rumped Sandpiper**, noted about every other year, was reported 10/8-12 (TF, FW, m.ob) and 10/21 (DA). More abundant species were **Greater Yellowlegs** (high of 20), 120 **Lesser Yellowlegs** 10/8 (TF, AG), and 23 **Stilt Sandpiper** 10/12 among numerous birds seen daily 9/23-11/14 (ABin, m.ob.).

"Shrimpy" the **Lesser Black-backed Gull** returned to Pleasant Hill Park 10/7 for the 10th winter (FW). Two **Gull-billed Terns** flew past TI's observation platform 8/12 giving "mind-blowing views" (FW). They represented the first record since the late John Miller reported one 8/14/1992. Black Tern has now not been recorded since 2013 and **Forster's Terns** were fewer than normal, but nevertheless showed an almost daily through early Nov.

Migrating **Common Nighthawks** included 162 over Mt. Airy 8/19 (ABek) and one that posed for photos while roosting at TI 9/20 (ABin). **Chimney Swifts** roosted in their favored chimneys at the Dobson School in Manayunk, where 1300 came in at dusk 9/12 (JS), and the Shawmont School in Roxborough where 1200 swifts roosted 9/15 (JS). A flock described as "monstrous" entered a chimney at 16th and Callowhill Street 10/9 (MDal). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was at TI 9/10 (RB). A strong cold front of 9/23 brought 9 **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** and at least 11 **Eastern Phoebes** to a few trees at the FP Horticultural Center (GJ).

In FP at Lemon Hill, 12 **Eastern Phoebes** arrived with the same front 9/23 (LW). Two **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were at WC 8/28 (LG), at NBC 8/31 (ph. GA), and at the FP Horticultural Center 9/7 (GA). Fifteen reports of **Least Flycatcher** at seven locations 8/14-9/23 included two birds at SHW 9/15 and 3 there 9/22 (FW).

Returning for the fourth winter, a **Northern Shrike** was at TI 10/30 (TF). Cold fronts in Oct brought 2650 **Tree Swallow** to the NBC 10/21 and 2400 passed TI 10/27 (GA). Lingering **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** totaled 166 at the NEWPCP 11/29 (FW). Birders did not report the rare warblers; nevertheless warbler migration was robust, if unremarkable. A common late warbler in Philly is **Ovenbird** which again lingered in Red Square (a Center City park) Red Square until 11/11 along with a **Common Yellowthroat** that stayed to 11/5 (JW).

**American Tree Sparrows** arrived slightly early at TI 11/13 (TF) and at BG 11/14 (DA, JJ), suggesting the possibility of a good winter for them to come. An unusually early **Clay-colored Sparrow** was at DRT 8/23 (ph. GA). **Vesper Sparrows** were at BRSP 10/10 (FW) and at DRT 10/26-11/2 (FW, MD). **Savannah Sparrows** are common in fall along the DR, but 32 at BRSP 11/8 (GA) was an exceptional number.

Two **Blue Grosbeaks** stopped briefly at NBC 8/31 (GA). **Rusty Blackbirds** arrived on the Temple University campus 9/26 (LG). Large numbers of **Pine Siskins** were moving in late Oct. Twelve were at WC 10/20 (KJ) and 80 flew over a residence in Northeast Philly 10/22 (FW).

**CORREGENDUM:** The **American Bittern** reported at Germantown Academy 4/29/2014 and 4/29/2013 was in *Montgomery*.

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## Pike County

Locations: Lake Wallenpaupack (LW), Pocono Environmental Education Center (PEEC).

There were 2 **Common Goldeneye**, a **Horned Grebe** and 8 **American Coots** at LW 11/6 (MS, CCS), and Twin Lakes had 110 **Ruddy Ducks** also on 11/6 (MS, CCS). There were 3 **Horned Grebes**, 4 **American Black Ducks** and 4 **Bufflehead** at LW 11/23 (MS, CCS). A **Great Egret** was at Shohola Lake 8/16 (MS, CCS) and at Pecks Pond 8/26 (RK). A single **Lesser Yellowlegs** was feeding at the beach area by the visitor center at LW 8/31 (MS). Another **Lesser Yellowlegs** and 19 **Killdeer** were at LW 10/11 (MS, CCS). An impressive number of gulls appeared at LW this autumn. An estimated 500 **Ring-billed Gulls**, 39 **Herring Gulls**, 12

**Bonaparte's Gulls** and a rare first winter **Iceland Gull** were all there 11/23 (MS, CCS). A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was found on SGL 180 near Shohola Lake 8/4 (JJ). Two **Barred Owls** were reported at Palm Acres 8/3 (JJ) and a **Common Nighthawk** flew over the same area 8/6 (JJ). An adult **Red-headed Woodpecker** was at PEEC 10/11 (MS). A **Merlin** was hunting the fields at the Old Heller Farm, part of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, 10/11 (MS, CCS).

A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was seen along an access road at Shohola Lake 8/31 (MS, CCS). Two **Snow Buntings** were searching for food along the wall at LW 11/23 (MS, CCS). A **Golden-winged Warbler** and a **Lawrence's Warbler** were nicely photographed at SGL 180 on 8/4 (JJ). Late warblers at PEEC 10/11 included **Cape May Warbler** and **Pine Warbler** (MS, CCS). A walk along the fields of the Old Heller Farm 10/11 produced **Eastern Meadowlark**, 2 **Lincoln's Sparrows**, **White-crowned Sparrow**, and **Common Yellowthroat** (MS, CCS). There were 2 **Fox Sparrows** and a **White-crowned Sparrow** at PEEC 11/3 (DC). A visit to PEEC 10/29 produced **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, **Winter Wren**, **Brown Creeper**, 13 **Purple Finches**, and 30 **Pine Siskins** (MS).

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## Potter County

No compiler.

## Schuylkill County

Locations: Air Products Wildlife Sanctuary (APWS), Deer Lake (DL), Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, North Lookout (HMS), Kelayres Reclaimed Minelands (KRM), Landingville Dam (LVD), Lebanon Reservoir (LR), Locust Lake State Park (LLSP), Sweet Arrow Lake (SAL), Swatara State Park (SSP), Tuscarora State Park (TSP), West Deerview Drive (WDD).

eBird data contributed heavily to this report, and everyone who posted *Schuylkill* to eBird is included in the observers list, which was expanded this season by the many visitors to Hawk Mountain Sanctuary. Since North Lookout is in *Schuylkill*, data obtained at this location were used in compiling the narrative, including sightings of non-raptors. Sightings not attributable to a single individual are listed as Hawk Mountain Counters (HMC).

It is apparent that *Schuylkill* continues to have excellent birder coverage along its southern border. Regular monitoring of SSP (BR, DM), LVD (BJ), SAL (DD, BR), WDD (DR), and HMS (HMC, m.ob.) provide a gauntlet that is difficult for birds to pass without being observed. Combined with regular postings from other sites such as APWS, TSP, KRM (JoD, JD) and LLSP (TB) to the north and various sites between (DK, SW), the data are fairly extensive. The non-raptor data generated by the many observers at HMS, led predominately by Rudy Keller, provides insight into the migration through *Schuylkill* of many songbirds.

With some exceptions, waterfowl are generally limited in *Schuylkill*. Only two **Snow Geese** were reported, both at HMS 10/19 (HMC) and 11/28 (JC). Larger numbers began to appear in December (DR). Twenty-two **Tundra Swans** were at SAL 11/13 (BR). A small group of **American Black Ducks** spent most of Nov at APWS (JoD); others were at SAL 11/23 (DK), LDV 10/19 (DH), and DL 11/16 (DR). Two **Green-winged Teals** spent the last week of Sep and the first week of Oct at APWS (JoD). Others were present at KRM 9/10 (JD) and at SAL 11/6 (BR). **Buffleheads** were seen at many locations 11/7-11/24 (BR, DD, DK, JoD, JD, TB). **Hooded Mergansers** were at three locations in late Nov: LLSP 11/21 (TB), 11/21-30 at SAL (DK, BR), and near Stillwater Reservoir 11/22-24 (JoD). An early **Common Merganser** was spotted at HMS 9/14 (HM). They didn't visit the county lakes, however, until Nov (BR, DK, DR, JoD). Two reports of **Ruddy Ducks** were of a single bird at LLSP 10/10 (TB) and 18 near Stillwater Reservoir 11/24 (JoD).

**Common Loons**, normally spotted on the local reservoirs, were absent this season except at HMS where they were seen 10/24-11/15 (m.ob.). A late arriving bird was seen 12/7 at LVD (DR). Just three reports of single **Pied-billed Grebes** were made at SAL 11/13 and 11/21 (BR) and LVD 10/19 (DH). A **Great Egret**, uncommon here, spent 8/31 at LVD (DR), and at least two others were at APWS between 8/6-25 (JoD). The most unusual bird of the season was an immature **Cattle Egret** in a small farm field near Pine Grove 8/3 (LW, AW). It represented the first record of this species in *Schuylkill* for at least 30 years and was rather early for anywhere in Pennsylvania.

Since HMS raptor data are published elsewhere in this journal, they will not be discussed here except to mention a the few and increasingly rare

sightings of **Rough-legged Hawk**, which was counted there 11/28 and 11/29 (HMC).

Shorebirds are another group that is not abundant in the county. **Solitary Sandpipers** were seen on two occasions at APWS: 8/8 (JD) and 8/13 (JoD). They were also spotted twice at LVD: 8/15 and 8/21 (DR). Two **Greater Yellowlegs** were at LVD 8/20 (DR). **Lesser Yellowlegs** were also seen at LVD on four occasions; 8/15, 8/20 and 8/31 (DR) and 10/19 (DH). They were also at KRM 8/21 (JD). **Least Sandpipers**, the only "peep" typically seen during migration, was noted at both KRM 8/21 (JD) and LVD 8/15, 8/20, and 8/31 (DR).

There are no reliable locations to see gulls in *Schuylkill* which made the number of sightings this fall unusual. **Ringed-billed Gulls** were spotted in five locations all in the month of November. Most notably, a high count of 70 birds was reported 11/21 at SAL (BR). **Herring Gulls** were at two locations also in November: one was seen 11/2 at HMS (BB, DB, DaB) and another single bird was near Tamaqua High School 11/19 (FD). Very unusual for the county, 5 **Great Black-backed Gulls** were seen at HMS 11/2 (JM).

Although no free-flying **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were reported, some were seen in the hand. This was the 17th year in an ongoing research project headed by Scott Weidensaul examining the saw-whet movement through Pennsylvania. This year's survey included one site in *Schuylkill* at Hidden Valley near Freidensburg. Saw-whet migration is cyclical from year to year and although expectations were high this year, the count was lower than predicted. The 104 Saw-whets banded this year in the county were still greater than the 65 banded in *Schuylkill* last year but far lower than the 327 at the same location in 2012 (SW). Away from the Kittatinny Ridge, **Merlins** were seen at three locations: on mining permit land 8/20 (DK), on WDD 9/10 (DR), and at TSP 10/3 and again 10/27 (JoD). **Peregrine Falcons** were spotted twice at SSP, 9/9 (BR) and 10/12 (BR, DM).

A few notable late dates were recorded for flycatchers. A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was at HMS 9/19 (HMC) and an **Eastern Phoebe** stayed around until 11/29 (BC). **White-eyed Vireos** were reported at both SSP until 9/15 (BR) and WDD until 9/16 (DR). **Philadelphia Vireo** were seen at LLSP 9/5 (TB), TSP 9/16 (JoD), and WDD 9/16 (DR). The full extent of their migration through the county was better gauged at HMS, however, where they were seen on several days between 9/15 and 10/9 (m.ob.). A high count of 14 were seen 9/23 (RK), one of the better showings of the fall. **American Pipits** are rarely reported in *Schuylkill* but were seen twice this year. Five were at HMS 10/26 (RK) and two were at LR 11/29 (BC). **Snow Buntings**, a bird seen in low numbers most years, were spotted this year 11/30 near Pine Grove (DK).

Twenty nine species of warblers were reported, including both breeders and migrants, which was one more than last year. Notable and reported for the third consecutive year was **Orange-crowned Warbler**, this year at SGL 227 on 10/2 (JoD). Another rarely seen migrant was a **Connecticut Warbler** near Frackville 9/7 (TB). Other migrant warblers seen in fairly good numbers this year were **Tennessee Warbler**, **Nashville Warbler**, **Cape May Warbler**, **Bay-breasted Warbler**, and **Blackpoll Warbler**. The counters and visitors at HMS provided very good data on the range dates these species moved through. **Tennessee Warblers** were only seen in the southern part of the county, moving past the north lookout at HMS 8/29-9/30 (m.ob.) with a high count of 10 on 9/17 (RK). Two other birds were seen 9/28 in Pottsville (DK). **Nashville Warblers** had a wider distribution and moved past HMS between 8/29-10/14 (m.ob.) although the bulk of the migration was done by 9/23 when a high count of 6 occurred (RK). They were also seen 9/20 and 10/10 at WDD (DR) and at KRM 10/17 (JD). One on the more dependable locations to see **Cape May Warblers** in *Schuylkill* is HMS. This year, there was a big movement of this species 8/16-9/27 and additional intermittent sightings until 10/9 (m.ob.). There were a number of big count days at HMS including 33 on 9/15, 44 on 9/23 and 31 on 9/27 (RK). Other **Cape May Warblers** were seen near Frackville 9/9 (TB), in Pottsville 9/28 (DK), and at KRM 10/10 (JD). A number of **Bay-breasted Warblers** came through HMS 9/1-27 (m.ob.). They were also spotted at LLSP 9/5 (TB) and WDD 9/16 (DR). **Blackpoll Warblers** migrated past HMS 9/15-10/9 (m.ob.) with a big day of 72 on 9/27 (RK). They were also found at LLSP, KRM, Frackville, and mining land along I-81 (DK, TB, JD).

After many years of no sightings, **Bobolinks** were seen seven times 8/19-9/16 at HMS (RK, SaW, MM). **Purple Finches** arrived 8/28 at HMS (HMC) in fairly large numbers. A high count for the species was 135 on 10/28 (RK). Absent last year, **Pine Siskins** appeared in the county 9/23 at HMS (RK). They provided impressive numbers past the lookout until 11/11 (m.ob.). The highest count day was 10/21 when an amazing 635 were seen (RK).

Observers: **Dave Rieger**, 401 Stoney Mountain Road, Auburn, PA 17922, d.m.rieger@gmail.com, Barb Bassett, Seth Benz, Liam Berigan,

Bob Brown, David Brown (DaB), Deb Brown, Bob Bryant, Thomas Buehl, Bruce Carl, Liz Cates, Jack Chaillet, Stan Chapman, Jeff Dale, John DeBalko (JoD), Jonathan DeBalko, Frank Dickman, Paul Dietrich, Denise Donmoyer, Gretchen Dowling, Gabrielle Evans, Ryan Fick, Howie Fischer, Michael Gardner, Dennis Glew, Laurie Goodrich, Kerry Grim, Kim Gruener (KIG), Hawk Mountain Counters, Nathaniel Hernandez, Daniel Hinnebusch, Eric Houser, Derek Hudgins, Kye Jenkins, Mary Jenkins, Barb Jucker, Ted Keen, Rudy Keller, Stephen Kloiber, Arlene Koch, Dave Krueel, Nancy Krueel, Ken Lebo, Matt Lopez, Margeaux Maerz, Sharyn Magee, Kaitlin McCullough, Kristina McCullough, John McElroy, Robert McGarry, Steve McInnis, David McNaughton, Holly Merker, Kelly Parsons, Kevin Parsons, Jen Ottinger, Rich Rieger, Barb Ritzheimer, Gina Sheridan, Nathan T, Anthony Uhrich, Michael Weaver, Scott Weidensaul, Lee Wells, Audrey Wells, Rebecca Wilson, Sam Wilson (SaW), Jane Wolfe, Peter Wolfe, Maureen Wolter, Paul Wolter, Bill Ypsilantis, Art Zdancewic.

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### Snyder County

Locations: Walker Lake (WL).

Eight **Red-breasted Mergansers** were observed on WL 10/30 (JD). One juv. and 2 adult **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were found in the wetland area of the Adam T. Bower Memorial Dam 8/25 (JW). One juv. and the adult were still there 9/4 (AK). A **Bald Eagle** was noted along Rte. 11 and 15 just south of Selinsgrove 11/27 (EH).

Observers: **Jason Weller**, fishingdude20@hotmail.com, Jim Dunn, Eric Hartshaw, Andy Keister.

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### Somerset County

Locations: Berlin Area (BA), Lanzone Property (LP), Payne Property (PP), Somerset Lake (SL), Summit Mills (SM), Quemahoning Reservoir (QR).

The season saw a spectacular shorebird migration at the mudflats on Somerset Lake. It was an event that was easily viewed, varied, prolonged, and provided good numbers of birds including a flock of 17 **American Avocets**. This continued a period of excellent shorebirding at Somerset Lake since drawdowns started in 2012. It is hoped that with birder support, the lake can be managed for shorebirds after the dam is repaired. It was also a good year for migrant fallouts along Allegheny Mountain.

A flock of **Snow Geese** was heard migrating 11/1 (AMc) and later 3 miles south at LP (ML). **Cackling Goose** singles were reported at QR 11/3 (LG) and at SL 11/14 (ML). Over 200 **Tundra Swans** were over SM 11/13 (EB) and a large flock was at SL 11/14 (ML). **Wood Ducks** bred in good numbers at SL (m.ob.). **Gadwalls** were reported in decent numbers at SL 10/29-11/18, with a max of 43 (AL, KH). Max numbers of some other species of waterfowl were: 23 **American Wigeon** 10/11 (AL, KH), 19 **American Black Ducks** in Wills Area to 11/21, 3 **Blue-winged Teal** 9/20 (KH, AL), 4 **Northern Shoveler** at SL 10/7 (AM), 13 **Northern Pintail** at SL 11/5 (ML), and 14 **Green-winged Teal** at SL 11/1 (AM). Divers included highs of 16 **Ring-necked Duck** at SL 11/13 (AMc), 9 **Greater Scaup** at SL 9/14 (ML), 63 **Lesser Scaup** at SL 11/18 (ML), 53 **Bufflehead** at SL 11/14 (ML), 2 **Common Goldeneye** at QR 11/22 (LG) and at SL 11/14 (ML), and 36 **Redhead** at SL 11/14 (ML). **Hooded Merganser** was not as common as in some years; 24 were at QR 11/21 (AMc) and 4 reports at SL included a high of 11 on 11/9 and 11/14 (ML). Three **Red-breasted Mergansers** were at SL 11/14 (ML), and **Common Mergansers** were at QR 11/4 and 11/30. **Ruddy Ducks** were seen 10/11-11/30 at SL and QR with max of 500 at SL 11/6 (KH, AL).

**Ruffed Grouse** was at PP 11/22 (AP). Two **Red-throated Loons** were at SL 10/21 (CaP, JP). **Common Loons** were at QR 11/3 (LG) and at SL 10/21 (AM). A nice count of 22 **Pied-billed Grebes** was at SL 10/26 and six **Horned Grebes** were tallied 11/3 (AM). A single **Red-necked Grebe** was at SL 11/14 (ML). **Double-crested Cormorants** were found through the period and included 16 at SL 10/18 (AM). **Great Egret** was spotted at SL 8/31 (ST) and 9/1 (ML).

**Bald Eagles** were at SL 8/8 (BC) and 8/12 (SC). Two were migrants at PP 10/12 (CP, JP). Interesting was watching one adult and two immature **Sharp-shinned Hawks** being harassed by and dive-bombing a group of 15 **Blue Jays** for over two hours at PP 9/21 (JP). An adult **Northern Goshawk** slowly circled above PP 10/11 (CP, JP). **Broad-winged Hawks** migrated past PP 9/22 and 9/24 (JP). A dark morph **Rough-legged Hawk** was in BA 11/25 (JP). **Golden Eagle** was seen at PP 11/7 but many passed the Allegheny Front Hawk Watch just over the line in Bedford.

A **Virginia Rail** was at SL 8/30 (ML) and **Sora** was reported there 8/27

(AMc) and 8/30 (ML). Becoming annual are the reports of **Sora** while mowing hayfields in SM; a juvenile was reported there 8/25 (EB). Over 250 **American Coots** were at QR 11/3 (LG) and 71 remained 11/27 (AM).

All of the following shorebird reports were from SL unless otherwise noted. **Black-bellied Plover** was found 11/5 (ML). An **American Golden-Plover** was found 8/17 (API) and 2 were present the following day (ML). **Semipalmated Plovers** were seen frequently, including reports 8/27 (MD), 6 on 8/12 (JP) and 2 on 9/14 (AM). The 26 **Killdeer** 9/30 (AM) was the high number. An outstanding 17 **American Avocets** set down 8/12 (JP); 2 remained 8/13 (ML). **Greater Yellowlegs** were found nearly every day 8/3-9/11 (m.ob.) with a max of 12 on 8/20 (ML). Several later records of single birds occurred between 10/29-11/14 with max of 3 on 11/5 (ML). Several **Willetts** were noted 8/14-24 (ML, AMc) and 9/1 (ML). **Lesser Yellowlegs** were present nearly every day 8/3-9/27 (m.ob.) with max of 13 on 8/28; several were at QR throughout period as well (LG, AMc). **Solitary Sandpipers** were found nearly every day 8/3-9/28 (m.ob.) with a max of 4 on 8/12 (JP); one was at QR 8/16-17 (LG). An **Upland Sandpiper** was heard in flight at SM 8/27 (EB), representing the only record this year. A single **White-rumped Sandpiper** was at SL 8/5 (AMc). Two **Sanderlings** were found 8/13 (ML), and a different one showed up 8/14-16 (ML, AMc). Two **Western Sandpipers** were there 8/12 (JP) and **Least Sandpipers** were usually there from 8/7 (MD) to 9/24 (BC). It was a good year for **Baird's Sandpiper**, first found 8/12 (JP), 8/13 (KK) and then from 8/28-9/3 (m.ob.) including an impressive 6 on 9/1 (ML). **Pectoral Sandpiper** was reported until 9/30 with a high of 6 on 9/13 (AM). A **Dunlin** was spotted 9/14 (AM). **Stilt Sandpipers** put in a good showing from 8/19 (ML) to 8/30 (JH). Four **Short-billed Dowitchers** were present 8/18 (ML). Seven **Wilson's Snipe** were counted 11/5 (ML), **American Woodcock** were present at PP from 9/23 (JP) to 11/5 (AP). With the variety of shorebirds present from April to November, it is apparent that with a little help with long-term management, Somerset Lake could remain a premiere shorebirding spot for Pennsylvania.

Two **Bonaparte's Gulls** were at SL 11/5 (JP, AP). **Caspian Terns** were frequently present at SL including 4 on 8/12 (SB), one 8/23 (JP), one 8/24 (ML), and 5 on 8/31 (ST). Three **Common Terns** were found 8/12 (SB) and **Forster's Terns** were present 9/1 (ML). The first **Black Tern** was found at SL 8/27 (AMc) but quite unprecedented and impressive were the over 50 at the lake 8/31 (ML).

**Great Horned Owls** and **Barred Owls** were having a hooting duel behind SB's house 10/4. **Common Nighthawk** was over QR 8/16 (LG) where not commonly reported. Fifteen **Chimney Swifts** were still roosting in Berlin 10/9 (JP, CaP). The last **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** vacated PP 9/19 (JP). A nice migration of 82 raptors observed in two hours at PP 10/12 included **Merlin** and **American Kestrel** (CP, JP). Two **Peregrine Falcons** flew past PP 10/9 (JP) and one was at SM 10/6 (EB).

**Eastern Wood-Pewees** were common migrants at PP to 9/21. A **Least Flycatcher** was at PP 9/16. **Blue-headed Vireos** were abundant migrants and **Philadelphia Vireo** was found 9/9 and 9/17 at PP. **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was at PP 9/12 to early Nov. Both **Ruby-crowned Kinglets**, starting 9/23, and **Golden-crowned Kinglets**, starting slightly later, were abundant migrants at PP. Decent mornings for flight calls of all thrushes, including **Gray-cheeked**, were heard in Sep through mid-Oct at PP. **Gray Catbirds** were ubiquitous and **Brown Thrashers** were in low numbers.

It was a good autumn for fallouts of warblers at PP. Good days were had 9/9, 9/15, 9/16, 9/19 and 9/27. Following are reports from PP unless otherwise noted. **Blue-winged warbler** 9/9, **Tennessee Warbler** 9/6 to mid-October with over 30 seen 9/9; **Orange-crowned Warbler** a little early 9/7, **Nashville Warbler** from 9/9 (5) to 9/27 (10), **Chestnut-sided Warbler** 9/9-27, **Magnolia Warbler** 9/9 (3), 9/9 (6), to 9/27 (3), **Cape May Warbler** (5) 9/6 to (4) 9/27, **Black-throated Blue Warbler** 9/15-27, **Yellow-rumped Warbler** 9/19-11/5, **Black-throated Green Warbler** (12) 9/6, (15) 9/27 to mid-Oct, **Blackburnian Warbler** 9/6-26, one **Pine Warbler** 9/16, **Palm Warbler** 9/23-10/10, **Bay-breasted Warbler** 9/6-26, **Blackpoll Warbler** 9/23-27, **Black-and-white Warbler** 9/16, **American Redstart** 9/16, **Ovenbird** 9/22, **Mourning Warbler** at SL 8/30 (ML), **Connecticut Warbler** at LP 9/20 (ML), **Common Yellowthroat** (15) 9/6, (20) 9/9 to 10/10, and **Wilson's Warbler** 9/21.

Up to 9 **Lincoln's Sparrows** were at PP 9/9-10/10 (JP). **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were abundant at PP until at least 9/27 when the last 3 were seen. A small group of **Rusty Blackbirds** moved through PP 11/7 (AP). Exceptional was a flock of approximately 15 **White-winged Crossbills** which briefly perched before heading south on a stiff wind at PP 11/22 (JP). **Pine Siskins** were in modest numbers including 2 at PP 10/12 (CP, JP) and several in SM 11/8 (EB).

Observers: **Jeff Payne 9755 Glades Pike, Berlin, PA 15530, (814) 267-5718**. Many observers (m.obs), Scott Bastian (SB), Elmer Brenneman (EB),

Bill Cline (BC), Sandy Cline (SC), Michael David (MD), Linda Greble (LG), James Hausman III (JH), Kala Harding (KH), Kyle Klotz (KK), Mike Lanzone (ML), Andrew Lenhart (AL), Loyalsock Marich (AM), Andy McGann (AMc), Trish Miller (TM), Chris Payne (CP), Carolyn Payne (CaP), Aidan Place (API) Alan Peterson (AP), Shannon Thompson (ST).

## Sullivan County

Locations: Dutch Mountain (DM), Cherry Township (CT), Eagles Mere Lake (EML), Hunter's Lake (HL), Loyalsock State Forest (LSF), Ricketts Glen State Park (RGSP), Shady Nook (SN), Splashdam Pond (SDP), Worlds End State Park (WESP).

The opening weekend for the fall reporting period actually did feel more like fall than summer. Temperatures in *Sullivan* 8/2 started in the 50s and barely made the 70s. This seemed to be the theme on most outings in the county through the season. The temperature even dipped all the way to 10°F the night of 11/21. All sightings were by the author unless otherwise noted.

**Wood Ducks** were found 8/1 (DG) and 8/2 (JD) at SDP, with a high of 10 on 8/2. A flock of 32 **Bufflehead** was on HL 11/8. A female **Common Goldeneye** was seen on the propagation pond along Mountain Springs Lake Road 11/9. It should be noted that the pond is actually in *Wyoming*; however, it was the first goldeneye I have ever observed anywhere on North Mountain. **Hooded Merganser** was on HL 11/30 (WE), and a female **Common Goldeneye** was there 11/8.

**Ring-necked Pheasant** continued at the SN Old Home Place on SGL 66. These are assuredly stocked birds. A dead hen was there 11/9. A **Ruffed Grouse** was at SDP 8/1 (DG). Five **Ruffed Grouse** were flushed at DM 11/8. Ten **Wild Turkeys** including several poults were observed on DM 9/6-7. A **Common Loon** and a **Horned Grebe** were on HL 11/8. A **Double-crested Cormorant** was observed on Shady Nook Lake 9/20.

An adult **Bald Eagle** was present at HL 11/8. Sep seems to be the best month for raptors in the county. **Osprey**, **Northern Harrier**, **Sharp-shinned**, **Cooper's**, **Red-shouldered**, **Broad-winged**, and **Red-tailed Hawk** were all counted 9/6-21. The highlights included an adult female and an immature **Northern Harrier** along the Loyalsock Creek adjacent to SGL 66. **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was 9-6-7, 9/12-14, and 9/19-21.

Two adult and one young **Sandhill Crane** were observed 8/17 in the area of CT where this species has nested for over a decade (WE). Three cranes were in the same area 11/8-9. These birds were most likely the same family unit being comprised of two adults and a single immature. The immature bird was topped by a brown cap but otherwise resembled the adults in all other manner. **Killdeer** were found in the large agricultural area along Litzelman Rd. in CT with a high of 20 on 9/14. Six **American Woodcocks** were seen in the area around Dushore 10/25 (ZM).

A single **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was present at SDP 8/2 (JD). **Black-billed Cuckoo** and **Barred Owl** were both heard on DM during the first weekend in Aug. Two immature **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were at WESP 8/10 (BP).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was observed at the Old Home Place at SN 9/13. **Eastern Wood-Pewee** was present at the Dry Run Rd portion of LSF 8/2 (JD). **Eastern Phoebe** was still present in the Dushore area 10/25 (ZM). Four **Fish Crows** were reported from WESP 8/10 (BP). Both **Tree** and **Barn Swallow** were last reported in early Sep. **Red-breasted Nuthatch** were observed periodically in Nordmont at a feeder (R&PP *vide* WE). A **Carolina Wren** was found in the area around Dushore 10/25 (ZM). **House Wren** was last reported 9/20. One **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** passed through 9/19-21. Two **Hermit Thrushes** were still present in the area around Dushore 10/25 (ZM). A single **Gray Catbird** was at HL 9/28. Two **Northern Mockingbirds** were notable at WESP 8/10 (BP). Three **Brown Thrashers** were at SDP 8/1 (DG).

Warblers reported this period were mostly typical local nesters. One **Mourning Warbler** was found in the Dry Run Road area of LSF 8/2 (JD). A lone **Bay-breasted Warbler** was noted 9/6-8. The **Blackpoll Warbler** 9/14 could have been a local breeder. Two **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were still in the Dushore area 10/25 (ZM). **Lincoln's Sparrow** was at the SN Old Home Place 9/12. A second was seen at the same location a week later. Two adult **Dark-eyed Juncos** were accompanied by two juvs. and two fledglings at WESP 8/10. The adults were still feeding the fledglings 8/10 but had stopped by 8/16. A lone **Pine Siskin** was found near a feeding station on DM 11/23. **Pine Siskins** were also periodically observed in Nordmont at a feeder (R&PP *vide* WE).

One other note from the field is worth mentioning here. I walked at Shady Nook Lake 9/21 and came across the carcass of a dead bird. It was in three pieces, quite flat and unidentifiable. It was not seen there a week earlier so it had not been dead for that long. It had bands on both legs,

which I examined, and then searched online for information. The USGS Bird Banding Lab website clearly indicated not to contact them with this sighting based on the band numbers, because the bird turned out to be a homing pigeon. I was able to trace the bird to two different flying clubs, both in New England. There was no way to know how the bird met its demise but certainly it can be assumed that it was lost.

Observers: **Rob Megraw, 131 Butternut Drive, Pottstown, PA 19464, (610) 323-0119, robert.r.megraw@xo.com**, Skip Conant, Jim Dunn, Wes Egli, Doug Gross, Zack Moyer, Roy & Penny Peterman, Bonita Portzline.

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#### **Susquehanna County**

No compiler.

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#### **Tioga County**

No compiler.

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#### **Union County**

No compiler.

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#### **Venango County**

Locations: Buttermilk Hill Nature Sanctuary (BHNS), Kahle Lake (KL).

Approximately 150 species were observed for the season. Waterfowl movement was light. Of 28 species of swans, geese, and ducks recorded in this period over the years, only 15 were observed this year. Earliest date for **Tundra Swan** was 11/12 at BHNS (JS, KG). All records of the following waterfowl were made at KL unless otherwise noted, and most involved just one to 3 birds: **Gadwall** 11/2-14, **American Wigeon** 10/31, **American Black Duck** 11/18-22, **Canvasback** 11/24, **Redhead** 11/24-29, **Ring-necked Duck** 11/9-28, and **Greater Scaup** 11/29. No Lesser Scaup were found. A **White-winged Scoter** was discovered 11/1 and a **Long-tailed Duck** 11/9. Even **Ruddy Duck** had few records; normally they can be found throughout the most of the period.

**Ruffed Grouse** numbers picked up slightly after the lows of the past few years. **Common Loons** were mostly singles at KL 11/1-11. **Pied-billed Grebe** was present from 9/30 through end of period. **Horned Grebe** was noted 9/22-11/1. **Double-crested Cormorants** were noted only 11/9 and 11/29. Up to 2 **Great Egrets** 8/9-10/4 were unusual for *Venango* due to the fact that multiple individuals stayed for so long. Most sightings of egrets are for only a day or two. Raptor highlights included **Osprey** 8/28-9/15, **Northern Harrier** 11/13 at KL, **Broad-winged Hawk** through 8/23, and the first **Rough-legged Hawk** 11/25-27 in Cranberry.

An **American Coot** was at KL from 11/27-29. As usual there were very few sightings of shorebirds, and any shorebird in *Venango* is a bird of note these days. **Spotted Sandpiper** was last seen 8/30, **Solitary Sandpiper** was noted 9/9 and 9/27, and a **Wilson's Snipe** was at KL 11/17. **Bonaparte Gull** was noted 11/1 and 11/12, **Herring Gull** 9/22 at KL and 11/2 at BHNS, and **Ring-billed Gull** 10/31-11/21 at various locations.

The **Common Nighthawk** watch at the Oil City Marina was conducted 8/11-9/14 with nighthawks tallied in the last two hours of daylight each day. Total birds this year was 446, with the peak count of 90 on 8/24. An alarming trend may be in evidence for **Chimney Swift**. During a count on the second weekend of Sep 2013, over 1800 were observed entering a chimney in Emlenton. The same weekend this year produced fewer than 20 swifts, none of which entered the chimney. One **Merlin** was at BHNS 9/21 (JS, KG) and one **Peregrine Falcon** chased a **Rock Pigeon** over Oil City 10/6 (RS).

Flycatchers included **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** at BHNS 9/8 and 9/23 (JS), **Acadian Flycatcher** at BHNS 8/14 (JS, KG), **Least Flycatcher** in the Franklin area 8/9-9/9 (NB), last **Eastern Kingbird** 8/5, and **Great Crested Flycatcher** in the Franklin area 8/22-9/9 (NB). **Vireos** were in lower than usual numbers. **Yellow-throated Vireo** was at BHNS 9/15-29, **Blue-headed Vireo** was reported through 10/13, **Philadelphia Vireo** was at BHNS 9/7-27, and the last **Red-eyed Vireo** was 9/28. The only sightings of **Horned Lark** were at KL 11/18 and 11/20. **Tree Swallow** was seen through 10/4 and **Bank Swallow** thru 9/11. First **American Pipits** were more than 50 at KL 10/26; sightings continued through the end of the period.

Highlights among warblers were as follows: **Brewster's Warbler** 9/17 (JS), **Tennessee Warbler** in Seneca 9/7 and 10/1-12 (MK), **Orange-crowned Warbler** at BHNS 9/27 (JS, KG), **Connecticut Warbler** in Seneca 9/17 (ph. MK), **Mourning Warbler** 8/25, **Cape May Warbler** 9/2-25, **Bay-breasted Warbler** at BHNS 8/25-9/11, **Blackburnian Warbler** 9/7-

10/5, **Palm Warbler** 9/21-10/10, **Yellow-rumped Warbler** 9/21 (RS) through the end of period, **Canada Warbler** 9/4-5, and **Wilson's Warbler** at BHNS 9/7-20 (JS, KG).

The first **American Tree Sparrow** showed up 11/9, and a **Chipping Sparrow** was found in Seneca 11/21 (ph. MK) and remained to end of period and beyond. **Fox Sparrows** were in decent supply 10/30-11/30. The first **White-throated Sparrow** appeared 9/29, and **White-crowned Sparrows** were present 10/2-30. **Rusty Blackbird** was noted 10/27-11/29 in various locations. Small numbers of **Pine Siskin** were seen 10/9 thru the end of the period in various locations.

Observers: **Gary Edwards, 224 Meadow Rd, Apt 9, Seneca, PA 16346, (814) 676-3011, gedwards@csonline.net**; **Russ States, 111 E. 4th St., Oil City, PA 16301, (814) 676-6320, pabirder@verizon.net**, Daisy Asmus, Nancy Baker, Nathan Goldberg, Kathie Goodblood, Jeff Hall, Mary Alice Koeneke, Meg Kolodick, Nick Kolodick, Glenn Kopel, Michael Leahy, Josh LeFever, Patrick Lister, James Muller, Richard Nugent, April Sperflage, Jerry Stanley, Matthew Valencic, Jim Wilson.

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#### **Warren County**

No compiler.

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#### **Washington County**

Locations: AMD pond on Hahn Road (AMD), Buffalo Creek IBA (BC), Canonsburg Lake (CL), Cross Creek County Park (CC), Greencove Wetlands (GCW), City of Washington (WASH), Washington Park (WP), Washington Park School (WPS), Washington Park School Pond (WPS), Washington Reservoir #4 (R4).

Sixty **Tundra Swans** flew over Monongahela 11/13 (GG), the only report. A **Wood Duck** lingered at R4 to 11/19 (GG). Two reports of **Gadwall** consisted of 2 at CC 11/13 (RI) and one at AMD 11/20 (MV). Five **Northern Shovelers** were in the Bentleyville area 9/7 (MJ) and 2 were at AMD 11/19 (CB). The only report of **Redhead** was 4 at R4 on 11/19 (GG). **Buffleheads** were surprisingly well reported in a season that was otherwise poor for waterfowl, found in four locations 11/2-21 (m.ob.). **Ruddy Duck** similarly appeared in four locations 10/12-11/14 (m.ob.).

S.A.

*Washington* has a growing catalog of truly oddball rarities. Recent craziness in the county has included the hybrid Cinnamon x Blue-winged Teal at Canonsburg Lake in Apr 2008, the Brown Pelican at suburban Boone Res. in Apr 2011, the Pacific Loon near Bentleyville in Nov 2012, and the apparent *taverneri* Cackling Goose in mid-summer 2013 at Hahn Rd. Now another can be added to the list: Pennsylvania's first **Crested Caracara**. Though perhaps overdue for the state, the circumstances surrounding the sighting were nevertheless interesting and memorable, to say the least. The bird was first spotted along Pleasant Valley Road (about halfway between the city of Washington and Claysville) on the afternoon of 9/12 (HM). The observer found it again the next morning 9/13 in the same location and took some excellent photos of the bird, confirming it as an adult, just like most (all?) of the other recent caracaras in the northeastern United States. She got the word out that morning and by the end of the day about 20 birders had spent some or all of the afternoon searching. Unfortunately, it was not seen again, despite the search continuing well into the next day.

The location was not classic "caracara habitat" in any sense: a wooded valley with small open fields for horses. However there was a large dairy farm nearby on a hillside above the spot, and just as much time was spent searching that farm as at the original sighting area. It was not to be. But those hopeful birders who showed up to look were further tortured by the stories they heard from some of the local residents who stopped by the vigil to see what the fuss was all about. Upon hearing of the caracara, some of the locals went on to tell the waiting birders, "that must have been that weird white-headed vulture we saw here this morning!" They went on to point out the groundhog carcass they saw it feeding on... just 15 feet off the roadside. Ouch.

**Ring-necked Pheasant** (released birds) were tallied at GCW 10/12 (AP) and Robinson Twp. 11/22 (TJ). A **Ruffed Grouse** was a nice find at CC 11/13 (RI). **Northern Bobwhites** were found in odd places: Boone Res. 8/8 and in WASH 8/9 (*vide* LC). **Pied-billed Grebe** was at CL 10/6 (GG) and

CC 11/2-13 (MJ, RI). **Double-crested Cormorants** were found at eight locations, an excellent showing that included unusual sites like Timber Lake 8/16-9/16 (GG) and Cherry Valley Reservoir 9/19 (CB). **Great Egret** was at CL 8/3-23 (MJ, et al.) and Timber Lake 10/7 (GG).

Three reports of **Osprey** included one at Lake Joann 9/16-18, one at CL 10/6, and one at Boone Res. 10/22 (all GG). Not to be outdone, **Bald Eagle** was spotted four times: 8/12 at Burgettstown (CB), 9/14 at Taylorstown (ST), 10/22 at Timber Lake (GG), and 11/13 at CC (RI). The county still awaits its first nest of either species in recent times, though there was an unsubstantiated report of a Bald Eagle nest in the southwestern part of the county last summer that will be investigated in 2015. **Northern Harrier** was at Hillman S.P. 10/30 (RI) and Robinson Twp. 11/22 (TJ). **Broad-winged Hawks** were found at six locations 8/4-9/29, including five high-flying migrants over Claysville 9/14 (GM).

**Sora** was at GCW as usual: one 9/27 (MJ), 3 on 10/4 (AP, ST) and one 10/12 (AP). The only report of **American Coot** was 7 at R4 on 11/19 (GG). Shorebirds were close to absent. A **Lesser Yellowlegs** at CL 10/12 (GG) and single **Solitary Sandpipers** at five locations 8/1-10/11 comprised the entire report of migrants.

Black-billed Cuckoo was unreported. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was at Peters Twp. 8/1 (GG) and WPS 9/23 (LC). A **Barred Owl** at Mingo Creek County Park was a nice find 10/27 (AK). Single **Common Nighthawks** were noted at WASH five times 8/5-9/18 (LC), and 4 were at Burgettstown 9/1 (CB). However, these were far outclassed by the 9/3 count of 105 over Peters Twp. and 19 over CL (both ST). A roosting **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was found at WP 8/28 and nicely photographed (LC, ph. CH). At least 400 **Chimney Swifts** were seen with the migrant nighthawks over Peters Twp. 9/3 (ST). Last swift was one at CL 10/6 (GG). Seven sightings of up to 3 **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** spanned five locations 9/25-10/29. Best numbers were at WP (LC).

A late **Eastern Wood-Pewee** was at GCW 10/4 (AP). A **Warbling Vireo** was spotted near Claysville during the caracara stakeout 9/14 (GM), and **Blue-headed Vireo** was seen at four locations in a tight window 9/27-10/1 (m.ob.). **Philadelphia Vireo** was found at BC 9/19 (RI) and WASH 9/25 (LC). Two late **Red-eyed Vireos** were still at WP 10/10 (LC). A nice count of 53 **Blue Jays** was made at WPSP 9/28 (LC). **Common Ravens** were at GCW 10/4 (AP) and at Coal Center 10/17 (AT), the latter a new location for the species. **Winter Wren** was at WP and WPS 9/23-10/12 (LC, RI) and at BC 10/29 (RI). **Marsh Wrens** are annual at GCW but not anywhere else in the county; this season they were spotted at GCW 9/27 (MJ) and 10/4 (AP). A **Veery** was found near Claysville during the caracara vigil 9/13 (AM). The only **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was at WP 9/30 (LC). **Swainson's Thrush** was much better reported, particularly at WP, WPS, and WPSP 9/8-10/12 (LC, et al.). A **Hermit Thrush** was at BC 10/29 (RI). Reports of **American Pipit** at CC included 9 on 10/1 (RI, SG) and 3 at CC 11/2 (MJ). One more was at Robinson Twp. 10/8 (GM).

A **Blue-winged Warbler** at WPSP 9/8 (LC) was the only one reported. **Tennessee Warblers** were at WP 9/17-10/1 (LC) and one was in East Findlay Twp. 9/28 (PH). An **Orange-crowned Warbler** at Peters Twp. 9/24 (ST) was a nice find. A late **Nashville Warbler** was at GCW 10/12 (AP). Rare for the season was a **Kentucky Warbler** at WPSP 8/30 (LC). Single **Cape May Warblers** were at WP and WPSP (LC) and BC (RI) 8/30-10/10. Last **Northern Parula** was at WASH 9/27 (RI). **Magnolia Warbler** had a great season with frequent sightings 9/9-30 (m.ob.), though there were never more than 4 found at once. **Bay-breasted Warblers** included 3 at GCW 9/9 (RI), one at WPSP and WP 9/9-18 (LC, RI), and 3 at BC 9/19 (RI). **Blackburnian Warbler** was found at WP frequently throughout Sep (LC, et al.). Last **Blackpoll Warbler** was at WP 10/1 (LC), and a lingering **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was at WP 10/10 (LC). **Palm Warblers** were reported only at CC 10/11 (LC) and GCW 10/12 (AP). Late **Yellow-throated Warblers** were at BC 9/19 (RI) and GCW 10/4 (ST, DY). **Black-throated Green Warbler** also had a good season including 2 still at WP 10/10 (LC). There were about five sightings of **Wilson's Warbler** made at WPSP 8/30-9/19 (LC) and one was at WASH 9/10 (RI).

If not for the caracara, the bird of the season would have been the well-described female **Summer Tanager** at Washington Elementary School 9/10 (RI). It was the first Summer Tanager for *Washington* in several years, though it was a breeder in the county into the early 1990s before the species contracted its summer range almost completely out of Pennsylvania. A **Savannah Sparrow** was a nice find at R4 on 11/14 (RI). The only **Fox Sparrow** was at East Findlay Twp. 11/23 (PH). A somewhat early **Lincoln's Sparrow** was found near Claysville 9/14 by a caracara searcher (ph. GM). Other reports were only at GCW 10/4-12 (ST, DY, AP). A nice count of 22 **Swamp Sparrows** was made at GCW 10/4 (ST, DY). **White-crowned Sparrows** were at GCW 10/12 (AP).

A remarkable 160 **Indigo Buntings** were counted at GCW 10/4 (ST, DY), 150 of which were seen flying out of a single food plot. Three **Bobolinks** were still at GCW 10/4 (ST, DY, AP). Reports of **Rusty**

**Blackbird** were 10/12 at GCW (AP), one at CC 11/2 (ph. MJ), and 2 at R4 on 11/3 (RI). A **Pine Siskin** was reported at CC 11/1 (RT).

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#### Wayne County

No report.

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#### Westmoreland County

Locations: Beaver Run Reservoir (BRR), Donegal Lake (DL), Ethel Springs Reservoir (ESR, also known as Derry Lake), Kuehl Property – Murrysville (KP), Keystone State Park (KSP), Latrobe Reservoir (LR – also known as Trout Run Reservoir), Mammoth Park Lake (MPL), New Stanton (NS), PNR (Powdermill Nature Reserve), Spruce Flats Bog (SFB), Seipler Property (SP), St. Vincent Wetland (SVW), Westmoreland Heritage Trail (WHT).

Rare birds sighted this season included **American Avocet** and **Ross's Goose**, the latter the first for *Westmoreland* in eight years. The Westmoreland Bird & Nature Club conducted a seventh annual Big Sit 10/11 at Keystone State Park. The total count of 728 birds shattered the previous record of 373 in 2011, and the species count of 75 bested the prior year record of 72. Although not out of the ordinary for the Big Sit, 2 **Ospreys** and 2 **Bald Eagles** were tallied that day. Also of note were one **Lincoln's Sparrow** and 7 **Pine Siskins**.

Several reports of **Tundra Swan** included high counts of 52 at DL 11/6 (DM) and 50 in NS 11/13 (MF). Two **Cackling Geese** and a **Ross's Goose** were on the lake at SVW 11/29 (ph. MJ); both were still present 11/30 along with 4 blue **Snow Geese** (TV). The highest count for **Northern Pintail** was 9 and for **Gadwall 5**, both at LR 11/30 (BDDDB). There were 4 **American Wigeon** at ESR 10/22 (KB). High season counts for the two teal were 9 **Blue-winged Teal** at LR 11/30 (BDDDB) and 6 **Green-winged Teal** at SVW 11/1 (MJ). There were 8 **American Black Ducks** at BRR 11/27 (KB). It was not a good season for diving ducks. The only **Canvasback** was a single at MPL 11/20 (DY) and the only **Redhead** was one at SVW 11/12 (DY). Of the several reports of **Ring-necked Duck**, the high was just 4 at LR 11/30 (BDDDB). The only scaup were 2 **Greater Scaup** at ESR 10/22 (KB). There were no reports of Long-tailed Duck. Several reports for **Bufflehead** included 10 at MLP 11/12 (DY). Likely nesters in the area, 7 **Common Mergansers** were photographed on the bank of the Youghiogheny River near West Newton 9/7 (TV), and more were photographed on the Loyalhanna Creek in Latrobe later in the season: 28 birds 10/23 and 6 on 10/27. There was a high count of 90 **Common Mergansers** at BRR 11/3 (KB). The 57 **Ruddy Ducks** at ESR 10/22 (KB) were top for that species.

There were no reports for the now rarely observed Ruffed Grouse. Appropriate for Thanksgiving week, 20 **Wild Turkeys** stopped traffic as the flock crossed Ridge Road north of Jeannette 11/25 (TK). **Pied-billed Grebes** were widely reported. There were two reports of **Horned Grebe**, both at BRR: one 8/26 (KB) and 2 on 11/3 (PF). Never more than just one **Double-Crested Cormorant** was reported at once; the earliest was a bird at BRR 8/18 (KB).

A kettle of around 50 **Turkey Vultures** lifting off near the Valley Landfill on Pleasant Valley Road were noted by an observer on the Pennsylvania Turnpike 10/18 (TV). At least 2 and perhaps 3 **Ospreys** were reported on the Youghiogheny River near West Newton 9/7 (TV). Two **Ospreys** were observed hovering and diving at KSP 10/11 (KJS). There were reports of **Northern Harrier** 11/13 at Brinker's Farm outside of Delmont, and an adult male in Delmont 11/29 (KB). The latter may have been the same bird observed just two miles to the west on Kemmerer Hollow Road in Murrysville 11/28 (JK, TK). There were reports of **Bald Eagle** at BRR and WHT (KB, JK, TK), and one was chased from Packsaddle Gap by 3 **Common Ravens** 10/19. Known to nest in the area in the past, there were 2 **Red-shouldered Hawks** at Trees Mill 8/7 (KB).

**Wilson Snipe** was reported at the Powdermill Banding Station 9/12 and 9/14 (AC). The most delightful bird for the season was a juv. **American Avocet** was at ESR 8/13 (ph. CK). Late **Greater Yellowlegs** were at BRR 11/7 and 11/14 (KB).

Two **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were at the Livermore section of the



West Penn Trail 8/18 (MH, RH). One **Black-billed Cuckoo** was reported in the Sylvan Run area 9/9 (PF). Reports of owls included 2 **Great Horned Owls** in Murrsville 11/17 (MJS), one **Northern Saw-whet Owl** in Laurelville (LY) and 7 captures at the PNR Banding Station for the season, and **Barred Owl** heard at the KP 8/28 and 11/3 (TK, JK). **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was a surprising find on three occasions 8/18, 8/25, and 8/31 at a residence in Murrsville (MJS). Two **Common Nighthawks** were reported from the WHT 9/3 (PF). The season-high flight of 7 **Common Nighthawks** over a regular watch in Delmont came the evening of 8/20 (KB). The season-high report for **Chimney Swifts** was 30 in Delmont (KB). One **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was on the KP in Murrsville 11/15 (JK). One **Peregrine Falcon** flew over the WHT near Delmont 10/29 (KB).

One **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was reported at Bushy Run Battlefield State Park 8/26 (MM). There were no reports of **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** beyond the 66 captured at PNR for the season. Of several sightings, the highest count of **Philadelphia Vireos** was 2 on 9/8 in Delmont (KB). Lower elevation observations of **Common Raven** have become the norm; reports during the season were from BR Reservoir, Delmont (KB) and one was at the Harrison City Giant Eagle 9/19 (TK). At KSP a **Cooper's Hawk** dove at 2 vocal **Common Ravens**, only to then be attacked by an **American Crow** 10/11 (KSJ). One **Horned Lark** was in the Crabtree farm area 11/18 (KB). The only report for **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was 2 above the Loyalhanna Gorge on Chestnut Ridge 11/29 (TV). Two **Brown Creepers** were reported at SFB 10/13 (AM). One **Winter Wren** was at KSP 10/11 (KSJ) and at BRR 10/23 and 11/13 (KB). Four **Marsh Wrens** were captured at the PNR banding station. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was reported several times. One **Hermit Thrush** was at SFB 10/13 (AM), a nesting area for the species. A high count of 150 **Cedar Waxwings** was tallied on Hamilton Road 11/12 (KB).

Twenty-four warbler species were detected during nearly daily searches in the Delmont/Trees' Mills area and BRR (KB). Highlights were one **Connecticut Warbler** 9/24 and one **Mourning Warbler** 10/2, along with sightings of one **Wilson Warbler** 9/16 and 9/18. Two **Palm Warblers** were at Northmoreland Park 9/26 (MVT) and 3 were at KSP 10/11 (KSJ). Notable at PNR was the capture of 599 **Yellow-rumped Warblers** for the month of Oct; total capture for the season was 625.

The first report of **Fox Sparrow** was of 2 in Delmont 10/20 (KB); another was at the KP feeders 11/18 (JK). One **Lincoln's Sparrow** was in Delmont 10/20 (KB). Common to the farmland area outside of Crabtree, 10 **White-crowned Sparrows** were there 11/18 (KB). The first report for **American Tree Sparrow** was from high atop Chestnut Ridge above the Loyalhanna Gorge 11/23 (DB,TV). Six late **Red-winged Blackbirds** visited feeders in Murrsville 11/18 (MJS); 2 **Rusty Blackbirds** were photographed the same day at that location (MJS). An **Eastern Meadowlark** was in NS 10/1 (MF). Reports of **Purple Finch** included 3 in WHT 10/9 (KB), one at the SP 10/24 (MJS), and one male at the KP 11/17 (JK). Two **Pine Siskins** were observed at feeders at the SP 10/24 (MJS). Captures of **Pine Siskin** were significant at PNR, with 117 in Oct and 44 in Nov.

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### Wyoming County

Locations: Brown Hill (BH), Game Land 57 (GL57), Jayne's Bend (JB), Lake Carey (LC), Oxbow Lake (OL), Phelps Swamp (PS), Sharpe's Lake (SL), Sordoni's Farm (SF).

Seventeen species of passage migrants were reported during the period. All have made previous appearances in *Wyoming* over the years, although some are recorded very infrequently.

**Gadwall** at LC included 16 on 11/21 (JD), 13 on 11/22 (MC), and 14 on 11/29 (JD). **Gadwall** has appeared every fall for the past three years. **Lesser Scaup** has been a familiar visitor on larger lakes lately, though this year there was only one record, 11/23 at OL (SG). Similarly, there was only one record of the also regular **Northern Shoveler**, 11/29 at LC (JD). Two **Green-winged Teal** were present at PS 10/21 (JD), 19 were at PS 11/1 (JD), and 2 were found 11/23 at both LC and OL (both SG).

Two rare to uncommon species of grebes were reported, in addition to the usual **Pied-billed**. **Horned Grebe** was present at LC from late Oct into the winter period. Three were there 10/31 (JD, MC), and 2 were recorded 11/2 (JD). A single **Red-necked Grebe** appeared at LC 10/31 (JD, MC), the

first of its kind recorded at LC since 2003. Single **Great Egrets** appeared 7/27 on the Susquehanna River near Falls (JT), and 8/3 alongside a small pond at BH (JD).

Two **Black Vultures**, rare in *Wyoming*, were near Lovelton 10/11 (ZM). The county sees few **Ospreys** each year, and most are in spring; this season 2 were near Lovelton 10/11 (ZM). A deer carcass near Meshoppen attracted a **Golden Eagle** 11/26 (JB). There was an earlier report of a Golden Eagle just across the line in *Susquehanna*, also feeding on a carcass. Neither bird was observed again.

Two **American Coots** were at LC 11/22 (MC), an uncommon species here. **Sandhill Cranes**, on the other hand, are recorded in the county every spring through fall, although there is still no reliable evidence of the species breeding locally. A single bird flew at low level over Tunkhannock 11/1 (JD), and 3 were photographed in their usual place 11/15 at SL (ph. ST). Two **Bonaparte's Gulls** appeared at LC 11/21-22 (JD). They were among a flock of **Ring-billed Gulls** and were not seen after 11/22. There was a record of Bonaparte's in May of this year, but no reliable records before that since 2000 and very few before then as well.

Birders recorded **Horned Lark**, a regular although uncommon visitor in late fall and winter, at two locations. One was just outside of Meshoppen 11/27 (JB). The other location was BH, where late season tallies were 8 on 11/29 (SG) and 30 on 11/30 (JD). A single **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was at SGL 57 on 9/26 (EZ). Other records includes one in Fairmount Township 10/2 (DPB) and 2 in Lovelton 10/11 (ZM). Fifty **American Pipits** were at JB 11/19 (JS) and 3 were at SF 11/28 (JH).

**Pine Siskin** appeared in *Wyoming* though not in the very large numbers of a few years ago. Sightings included a flock of 20 near Lovelton 10/11 (ZM), one near the Shadowbrook Golf Course 10/25 (ST), and several at SL 11/25 (JD).

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### York County

Locations: Althouse School Rd (ALT), Codorus State Park (CSP), Gifford Pinchot State Park (GPSP), Long Arm Reservoir (LAR), Lake Redman (LR), Rocky Ridge County Park (RRCP), Sunnyside Rd (SUNN).

This period's 187 reported species was above average. There were no significant weather events nor were there a high number of "lingerers" or early winter arrivals. A **Cackling Goose** was well photographed at LAR 11/22 (HM) with a single **Tundra Swan** in the same frame. A trio of **Lesser Scaup** was at CSP 11/10 (DK, PO). **Horned Grebes** were at LAR 11/10 (DK, PO), and GPSP 11/20-22 (DN).

Some of the better counts of waterfowl included 19 **Wood Ducks** at GPSP 9/30 (TC), 67 **Bufflehead** at CSP 11/10 (DK, PO), 17 **Ruddy Ducks** at LAR 11/22 (DK, PO), and 7 **Pied-billed Grebes** at GPSP 11/1 (VG).

The game lands at SUNN provided sightings of 4 **Ring-necked Pheasants** 11/16 (CB) and 3 **Wild Turkey** 10/8 (CB). **Great Egrets** were more widespread than normal. LR continues to be the favored location in fall and provided a high count of 20 birds 9/17 (RS). Attesting to the attractiveness of this site, 2 birds were still present 10/30 (DN) and one lingered until 11/12 (RS). In contrast, **Black-crowned Night Heron** appeared to vacate earlier than normal with a bird at LR 9/11 (RS) the latest. A **Yellow-crowned Night Heron** was at York Haven 8/30 (WC, KR).

Coverage at the RRCP hawk watch was limited to a few days in Sep and Oct. Highest **Broad-winged Hawk** counts were 380 on 9/14 and 269 on 9/16 (both RP). Rare visitors were 2 **Sandhill Cranes** at Delta 8/20 (PE), feeding in a wet swale.

Water levels not low enough to produce any significant shorebird habitat. An **American Avocet** at LR 9/10 (MC), 3 **Semipalmated Sandpiper** at GPSP 8/29 (DN), a **Baird's Sandpiper** at ALT 8/17 (DF), and four reports of **Pectoral Sandpiper** were the shorebird highlights. **Caspian Terns** were limited to 2 birds at LR 8/25-26 (CK).

Six **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** all involved single birds, and a sighting at the White Rose Motorcycle Club grounds 10/3 (IS) was later than normal. All five reports of **Common Nighthawk** 8/25-9/23 were also singles (m.ob.). Woodpeckers showed well again. Six **Red-headed Woodpeckers** at ALT 8/25 (RS) was the high count from the seven locations that produced reports. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**, **Hairy Woodpecker**, and **Pileated Woodpecker** were recorded 17, 19, and 15 times, respectively.

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** heard at GPSP 8/19 (DN). A pair of **Acadian Flycatchers** was at LW 8/28 (DN) and a single was at Apollo

County Park 9/1 (AM). The only **Willow Flycatcher** was at SUNN 8/25 (CB). All expected vireos were reported. There were two reports of **Yellow-throated Vireo**, 9/1 (AM) at Apollo County Park and 9/29 (DN) at CSP. The four reports of **Philadelphia Vireo** spanned 8/24-10/9 (JK, DN) with four locales involved: GPSP, Lake Williams, Mill Creek Preserve, and RRCP.

**Horned Larks** were limited to ALT where 12 was the high count 10/27 (DWe). **Bank Swallow** movement was detected until 9/1. Stewartstown produced 3 **Cliff Swallows** 8/18 (BJ). The northern limits of the county held **Black-capped Chickadee** 10/18-11/22 (DN). **Brown Creeper**, **Winter Wren**, **Golden-crowned Kinglet**, and **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** were all present in the expected numbers and dates. A **Veery** was at RRCP 9/15 (DWe). The same day RRCP also produced a **Swainson's Thrush** (LC) and a pair was found 9/27 (DWe) at that location. Of the six reports of **Hermits Thrush**, the high count of 4 birds appeared at GPSP 11/29-30 (DG). A **Brown Thrasher** at CSP 11/8 (HM) was a bit late. Single **American Pipits** were at LAR 11/10 (DK, PO) and SUNN 11/24 (CB), and corn stubble outside Spring Grove held 30 birds 11/12 (PK). **Cedar Waxwing** high count was 70 at GPSP 11/1 (VG).

The 27 warbler species represented a fair showing. Highlights included a **Blue-winged Warbler** at RRCP 9/15 (LC), a tardy **Yellow-throated Warbler** at GPSP 9/26 (DN), a **Prairie Warbler** at ALT 8/17 (BS), and a **Wilson's Warbler** at Mill Creek Preserve 10/13 (DH). Interesting considering the small window were were the four reports of **Canada Warbler** from four different sites 8/20-31 (DN, EP, RP, CR).

Multiple reports of **Savannah Sparrow**, **Fox Sparrow**, and **Swamp Sparrow**, and at least 5 **Lincoln's Sparrows** at SUNN 10/8 (CB), were all noteworthy. ALT hosted Savannahs all period including a high count of 8 on 11/28 (DF). A pair of **Grasshopper Sparrows** was at ALT 8/12-17 (m. ob.). The five reports of Fox Sparrow spanned 11/8-28 (m. ob.) and the three reports of Swamp Sparrow covered 9/25-11/6 (CB,TC,NZ). Just three reports of **White-crowned Sparrow** were somewhat below average.

The abandoned Hawk Lake Golf Course held a pair of **Blue Grosbeak** 8/3 (BS) and a male was nicely photographed 8/27 (LC). **Eastern Meadowlarks** were at ALT all period (m.ob.); high count was 17 on 8/18

(RS). LAR held a single meadowlark 11/10 (DK, PO). A strong movement of 4000+ **Common Grackles** was noted at RRCP 10/14 (CB). Nine reports of **Purple Finch** were above normal; high count was 4 at ALT 10/20 (DWe). The limited movement of **Pine Siskins** produced five reports 11/20-29 (CK, DK, PO, PJR, BS) but none of more than 3 birds.

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

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

**SUBMISSION OF MATERIALS FOR PUBLICATION:** We welcome submission of feature articles, artwork, or photographs focusing on any aspect of Pennsylvania birds or birding. We strongly encourage that submissions be sent in electronic format by email but will accept handwritten or typewritten material if necessary.

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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.

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## IN FOCUS



*American White Pelican, Conejohela Flats, Lancaster County. See p. 252. (Photo by Mike Epler)*



*White-winged Dove, Plumstead Twp., Bucks County. See p. 238. (Photo by Kelly Parsons)*



*Cattle Egret, near Mercer, Mercer County. See p. 257. (Photo by Dave Inman)*



*Crested Caracara, near Claysville, Washington County. See p. 265. (Photo by Holly McChesney)*



*Stilt Sandpiper, Black Swamp, Lawrence County. See p. 254. (Photo by Geoff Malosh)*



*Chestnut-sided Warbler, Hummelstown, Dauphin County. See p. 246. (Photo by Tom Johnson)*