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Cover Photo: Henslow's Sparrow (*Ammodramus henslowii*). One of western Pennsylvania's few "specialties", Henslow's Sparrows continue to be widespread in western counties. This wonderful image of an adult with food was made at Piney Tract, Clarion 24 June 2015. (Josh Jones)

Transitions

With truly mixed emotions, I have decided to step down as editor of *Pennsylvania Birds*. I came to this decision close to a year ago, and have been working with the journal's Editorial Board throughout 2015 to put in place a transition plan to a new editor. Those plans are finalized now. Greg Grove, who has served as Winter Season Editor since 2007 and coordinated the Winter Raptor Survey since its inception, has agreed to be the next Chief Editor of the journal. We're all very happy Greg will be stepping into the role. He's very familiar with the process of producing each issue, of course, and he brings a wealth of expertise on bird records and distribution in Pennsylvania. Most importantly, he recognizes, as I hope we all do, the value that a journal like ours brings to Pennsylvania ornithology, and the importance of keeping it alive and relevant. I have no doubt that Greg will be able to continue in the best traditions of the *Pennsylvania Birds*, as well as bring some new, fresh direction of his own. For my part I will still be closely involved even after I step down. I will continue as the Fall Season Editor, as well as county compiler for the three counties I author at present. I also hope to continue to be a regular author of other feature articles as well.

My last issue as Chief Editor will be the upcoming fall 2015 issue, which is published in early spring next year. Greg will take over with the winter 2015-16 issue, Volume 30 No. 1.

As I said, this decision did not come easy for me. I'm very proud of *Pennsylvania Birds* and of everyone involved in its production. *Pennsylvania Birds* truly is unparalleled in its scope among other state-level ornithological journals, everything from the enormous amount of detail we publish in the county reports and Birds of Note, to the recurring departments, expanded photo highlights, and feature articles—really few other journals on our level come anywhere close. Over the years I've received a great deal of positive feedback from many readers, but I always remind these folks that it takes many more people than just the chief editor to make *Pennsylvania Birds* happen. Everyone—from the dozens of county compilers, to

the department editors, seasonal editors, and everyone else who contributes to these pages—all are integral to the journal's success. I can't thank enough all the people I've worked with over these 8+ years. I hope all readers are as satisfied with and as proud of what the *Pennsylvania Birds* team accomplishes with every issue as I am.

The fact of the matter is that as chief editor, I have been very fortunate, and thankful, to have enjoyed such a high level of quality and continuity in the journal's staff. I think the importance of its continuity especially cannot be understated. A journal like *Pennsylvania Birds* is all about perspective and expertise. In today's increasingly crowd-sourced world, I think we tend to lose sight of the importance of real expertise and the wisdom that comes from it—and that's not limited just to birding. The pages of *Pennsylvania Birds* are filled with this kind of expertise, which itself is a by-product of the literally hundreds of hours many of its staff have devoted to the journal. Among seasonal editors, both Mike Fialkovich and Dan Brauning have been in their positions since before I started as editor, and Greg Grove stepped up as winter editor right around the same time I became chief. Wendy Jo Shemansky, data technician, Laurie Goodrich, hawk watch compiler, Nick Bolgiano, CBC compiler, Peter Robinson, birdlists compiler, and Gene Wilhelm, book review editor have all been in place since before I arrived on the scene. And of course our publication manager and dean of PSO, Frank Haas, is as active and integral to the journal's (and PSO's) success as ever. The journal would not enjoy anything approaching the success it has today without the continuous efforts of all these people.

As for where it goes from here... like all things time will tell. I know the journal is in good hands with Greg at the helm, but it remains to be seen what the journal (and birding in general) may become in the years to come. The truth is, we face a lot of uncertainty these days about the future of birding and bird record keeping—in fact I believe there is more uncertainty than ever. One thing is certain: the revolutionary developments of the past 10 years in the information technology of birding have completely changed the nature of our hobby, and the

work of people like us who care about bird records. Everything from the dawn of eBird, to the ubiquity of Facebook, smartphones, digital cameras, and everything else, all have brought about a new kind of birding, and a new kind of birder. In the face of a sea change like this, we can't expect that *Pennsylvania Birds* itself will never need to change, but we have to be careful about what it changes into. Modern birders often celebrate and even revel in the latest Information Age developments that make birding easier and more accessible than ever, but few talk about the drawbacks of these developments, including (and especially) the ever-increasing reach of eBird. Personally, I don't think everything is as clear-cut "better" now than in the past, and there is no guarantee that the hobby of birding itself will continue to evolve on positive lines indefinitely.

I will dwell on this in more depth in my final editorial for *Pennsylvania Birds*. I don't think many birders are thinking very much about where the hobby of birding is headed, but it's something that should be on everyone's minds.

Compiler News

Just as I begin the process of stepping aside as editor, we now have a compiler for *Elk* for the first time during my tenure! **Brendyn Baptiste** has agreed to compile for this underbirded county, and his first report appears in this issue. Consider helping him out by taking a trip to *Elk* in the coming year! It's a wonderfully birdy place with many great areas to explore and discover. And of course if you do bird in the county, make sure Brendyn gets a copy of your lists.

The counties still without a compiler are *Cameron, Carbon, Clearfield, Columbia, Lackawanna, McKean, Montour, Northumberland, Potter, Union, Tioga, Warren, and Wayne*. If you are interested in contributing to the journal as a compiler for any of these counties, please contact me or the new incoming chief editor, Greg Grove (gwg2@psu.edu).

*Geoff Malosh
Editor-in-Chief*

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Fifty years of shorebirds at Shenango Reservoir, Mercer County, 1965-2015

Geoff Malosh

In 1965, the Shenango River was dammed near Sharpsville in western Mercer County, and Shenango River Reservoir sprang into existence. One of 16 flood control reservoirs in the US Army Corps of Engineers' Pittsburgh District, Shenango River Reservoir (hereafter, simply "Shenango Reservoir") covers roughly 3500 acres of surface area (USACE website). Significant tracts of land around the reservoir are managed by the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) for various wildlife projects, and thus most of the reservoir and the land in the immediate vicinity are open to the public. The PGC also manages a propagation area on the north shore of the lake west of Route 18, which is closed to the public after August 31.

Like any significant body of water, the reservoir quickly proved to be a magnet for birders after its initial flooding and it has been a staple of western Pennsylvania birding ever since. Its potential for shorebirds was recognized as early as 1974. Being a flood control reservoir, the water level is carefully maintained by the USACE, which either holds or releases water in the reservoir throughout the summer and fall seasons in response to rainfall and drought conditions in the region. When the reservoir is held at its full summer pool level there is little shorebird habitat, but in any year when the water is released ahead of late fall, vast areas of mudflats develop in shallow areas, particularly along the eastern arm of the reservoir east of Route 18. In such years, Shenango Reservoir is second only to Gull Point at Presque Isle State Park as the top shorebirding spot in western Pennsylvania, and being just half the distance from Pittsburgh than is Gull Point, the reservoir is sure to receive excellent birder coverage anytime its water levels are low during the fall shorebird migration.

Water Levels at Shenango Reservoir

Following the winter thaw, Shenango Reservoir is held at least at its summer pool level, or even higher, through the spring. As a result shorebirds are generally scarce in the spring and what birds are present at this time are almost always restricted to the PGC propagation area.

The reservoir is usually held at its summer pool level at least through July, but depending on drought conditions or other water requirements, the drawdown to the winter pool level may begin before the end of July. In "normal" years the drawdown does not begin until after mid-September, when the highest peak of shorebird migration is already past, but in years when the drawdown begins early, shorebirds can be plentiful. Since 1975 there have been perhaps 17 very good years for shorebirds: 1975, 1976, 1983, 1986, 1988, 1991*, 1993, 1995, 1997, 1998*, 1999*, 2000, 2001, 2002*, 2009, 2011, and 2012*. Those years indicated by an asterisk were particularly notable for extremely low water levels and dozens of acres of mudflats. At least two of those years (1999 and 2012) were marked by severe drought in the Midwest, which prompted the release of water from reservoirs across the east, including Shenango, in part to keep shipping lanes on the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers passable (see, for instance, Rizzo 2013).

True flood years, when there is literally no shorebird habitat exposed before late September or early October, happen about as frequently as the "good" years, and the balance of all other years might be thought of as "fair"—seasons when a determined birder can still find a fair diversity of shorebirds at the reservoir with a good bit of persistence.

Shorebirding at Shenango Reservoir

The primary areas for shorebirding at Shenango Reservoir are along the eastern arm of the reservoir east of Route 18,

where there are three main access points. From east to west these are the West River Road access, the "Willow Tree" access, and the Golden Run Wildlife area. Since 2009 the author has maintained a Google map that shows driving directions, parking areas, and trail access to each of these areas, as well as some guidance for visiting during shorebird season. That map can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/2vyyap> and readers are referred to this resource for more information about birding Shenango's mudflats at the three primary areas for shorebirds.

The USACE publishes the current water level and three-day predictions for all reservoirs in its Pittsburgh District at <http://www.lrp.usace.army.mil/Missions/WaterManagement/ReservoirForecast.aspx>. These published levels are an excellent resource for birders planning a trip to the reservoir. As the water level is drawn down from summer pool level, flats begin to form at the far eastern end of the reservoir at West River. Generally flats do not appear in this shallowest area of the lake until the published reservoir level dips below 895 feet. If the published level is at or above 895, a visit for shorebirds will probably be a waste of time. As mentioned, in non-drought years the level usually doesn't drop below 895 feet until after mid-September, but even at that relatively late date for shorebirds there can still be quite a lot to see. As the level falls below 893.5, flats become exposed at the Willow Tree area, and as it continues to fall, extensive mud appears at Golden Run, which, incidentally, is the most easily accessed of the three main areas. Years when the water level is low enough to expose flats at Golden Run before the end of August are unusual, but when it happens, western Pennsylvania shorebird enthusiasts are well advised to take advantage!

Species Accounts – Sources

The primary sources of information in the species accounts that follow are the Mercer County Local Notes summaries that have appeared in *Pennsylvania Birds* from 1987 to present and the Area Bird Sightings summaries published in the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania's *Bulletin* from 1965-1986. Additional sightings were provided by the Bartramian Audubon Society (many thanks to Suzanne Butcher). This report also includes sightings gleaned from the PABIRDS listserv archives and from eBird that were not mentioned in other published outlets. Unpublished reports from the author's personal database of sightings are also included.

In these accounts, observers are cited for significant records if the original source material included the observer name, but some observer names could not be determined from sources. Specific references are not cited in any of the accounts, though unless noted otherwise, the source can usually be inferred by the date of the observation (*Bulletin* summaries from 1965-1986 and *Pennsylvania Birds* local notes from 1987-present). This report also includes sightings from the fall of 2015, for which *Pennsylvania Birds* (Volume 29 No. 4) is in press.

Species Accounts

American Avocet – Accidental, three records: one 9/4-16/1993 (M. Fialkovich, W. Shaffer), 2 on 8/26/1998 (W. Shaffer), and one 8/29/2009 (M. Vass).

Black-bellied Plover – Uncommon but regular, recorded in 15 years since the first on 8/17/1975. Normally occurs in small numbers up to 3, but the maximum count was 5 on 9/23/1998 (T. Floyd, P. Hess). Dates range from 8/7 (1999) to 10/24 (2010), with most records in September, but the species has been recorded into October in at least five years.

American Golden-Plover – Uncommon, recorded in 10 different years since the first record of up to 7 birds 8/31-9/28/1991. Most records are of single birds; other years featuring daily counts of multiple birds were 1999 when up to 6 were present, and 2012 when the max count was 4. Dates range from 8/25 (2001) to 10/7 (2015).

Semipalmated Plover – Uncommon to common, regularly recorded in years with low water. The top count is 35 on 8/26/2012 (G. Malosh), followed by 30 in August 1975 (P. Hess). Normally they are present as single birds or in flocks up to about 10. Dates range from 7/1 (1991) to 10/6 (2012).

Killdeer – Local breeder; abundant migrant in fall. In years when the reservoir is drawn down early, numbers of Killdeer on the exposed flats rise into the hundreds throughout August and September. Top counts include 380 on 8/31/1991, 294 on 8/31/2001, and 240 on 9/23/1998. Persists in double digits into December in some years.

Spotted Sandpiper – Local breeder. Not often recorded in high numbers when migrant shorebirds are present, but one or two are normally found on any trip to the mudflats in the fall.

Solitary Sandpiper – Common and regular, but nearly always in very low numbers. At Shenango in fall, the “Solitary” Sandpiper generally lives up to its name; double-digit counts are rarely made even when the available habitat is very extensive. Top counts have included 29 on 8/3/2012 (G. Malosh) and 20 on 8/6/2007 (M. Weible, G. Malosh). Typically an early migrant, dates range from 7/7 (1998, 1999) to 10/10 (2009).

Greater Yellowlegs – Common. Though present in all years when the water level is low, this species nevertheless has not been recorded in large numbers at Shenango. The top count appears to be a mere 10 in August 1983, and another count of 10 was made in the spring of 1999. Fall dates range from 8/4 (2007) to 11/1 (1998). Most records are from September.

Willet – Accidental, two fall records: one 8/21-28/1976 (C. Fitchel, E. Froelich), and 10 on 8/10/1997 (E. Kwater). The latter was at the time among the largest flocks ever recorded in Pennsylvania, though the number has been surpassed several times since 2000. There is one spring record: 4 birds on 5/2/2011 (N. Troyer).

Lesser Yellowlegs – Common to abundant. Found in all years with low water, and considerably more numerous than Greater Yellowlegs. Top counts include 87 on 9/27/2015 (G. Malosh), 74 on 8/30/1991, and 72 on 9/23/1998 (T. Floyd, P. Hess). Most years with low water see at least one day with a double-digit count. Fall dates range from 7/6 (2012) to 11/1 (1998).

Whimbrel – Accidental, two records: one 9/12-13/2001 (M. Higbee, L. Wagner, D. Jacobs), and one 8/3/2012 (G. Malosh).

Ruddy Turnstone – Casual, about seven records, all of single birds except as noted: 9/16/1991 (S. McCarl), 9/9/1993 (S. McCarl, B. Walczak), 8/6/1994 (H. Bauer, L. Weiland), up to 2 from 8/30-9/2/1998 (W. Shaffer, S. Butcher, et al.), 9/10-13/2001 (M. Higbee, L. Wagner, D. Jacobs), and 7/26/2012 (S. Thompson).

Red Knot – Accidental, three records: one 8/30/1999 (R. Stringer, A. Troyer), two 9/13-15/2001 (M. Higbee, et al.), and one 9/20-22/2009 (M. Vass).

Stilt Sandpiper – Uncommon but regular, recorded in at least 19 different years since the first on 8/12/1975 (M. Geibel, P. Hess). Despite the species’ frequency, there are apparently only

five records involving more than three birds at once: 11 on 9/21/2002 (Bartramian Audubon Soc.), 7 on 9/5/1999, 7 on 9/3/2012 (G. Malosh), 7 on 9/27/2015 (G. Malosh), and 4 on 10/2/2009 (M. Vass). Dates range from 7/24 (1991) to 11/5 (2005). The 11/5/2005 sighting (M. Vass) is among the latest records of Stilt Sandpiper in Pennsylvania history.

Sanderling – Uncommon but fairly regular. After the Lake Erie shore and the Pymatuning area, Shenango Reservoir is probably next in line as the location with the most frequent sightings of Sanderling in western Pennsylvania, recorded in at least 12 different years, sometimes in surprising numbers. Top counts include 24 on 8/28/1993, 15 in August 1975 (P. Hess), and 15 in August 1976 (E. Froelich). Most records are of single birds, and double-digit counts have not been achieved since 1993. Adults are normally recorded through about the first week of September, after which they are replaced by juveniles. Dates range from 8/4 (2007) to 9/16 (1991 and 1995).

Dunlin – Fairly common late-season migrant. recorded in 14 years since the first in September 1981. Along with that 1981 record, it has been noted at Shenango before October only one other time: one bird 8/6/1991. Because the species passes through primarily after the middle of October, it is probably underreported at Shenango as birders’ interest in shorebirding traditionally wanes after the end of September in dry years, and is practically non-existent in flood years, despite the fact that the reservoir is often significantly drawn down by the end of October even in years of high water. Top counts include 43 on 10/6/1993, 40 on 11/1/2002, 26 on 11/1/1998, and 26 on 11/5/2005. The latest record is of one bird 11/26/2006 (M. Vass). At least two spring records: 8 at the propagation ponds 5/9-13/2013 and 2 on 5/14/2015.

Baird’s Sandpiper – Uncommon but regular, expected in small numbers in any year that the reservoir level begins to drop at least by the beginning of September. Recorded in 17 different years since the first on 8/25/1974. Notable records include 8 on 8/31/2001 and a very impressive total of 16 on 9/9/2010 (G. Malosh). The latter total was among the highest single-day, single-site totals in Pennsylvania history, and was part of a record flight of the species in the state in 2010 which saw reports of Baird’s in 26 counties across the state (Malosh 2011). Baird’s Sandpipers that appear in Pennsylvania in fall are almost exclusively juveniles; in fact, the only definitive report of an adult at Shenango was one bird among the group of 16 on 9/9/2010. Dates range from 8/11 (2012) to 10/23 (1993), with a clear peak in the first and second weeks of September.

Least Sandpiper – Common, sometimes abundant. Found in all years with low water and sometimes even in flood years along the shoreline of the reservoir. The top count is 153 on 8/17/2012 (G. Malosh), followed by 76 on 9/7/2009, 75 on 9/4/1993 and 55 on 8/22/1976. Fall dates range from 7/1 (2001) to 10/9 (1998) with the highest numbers typically present between mid-August and mid-September. Recorded during spring migration in at least five years.

White-rumped Sandpiper – Uncommon and irregular, recorded (surprisingly) in just 11 different years since the first on 7/30/1981 (D. Freeland). All records are of single birds except 8 on 9/25/1999 and an amazing 38 on 10/7/2015 (G. Malosh). Dates range from 7/21 (2013) to 11/7 (2015).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper – Rare. Recorded in eight years: up to 3 from 8/31-9/17/1991, up to 3 from 8/28-9/11/1993, up to 2 from 8/18-9/13/1999, one 9/7/2000, one 9/10-11/2001, one 9/7/2002, one 8/6/2007 (very early), and up to 3 from 8/28-9/26/2012. This species has appeared only in years of very low water, with the 2007 record the only exception.

Pectoral Sandpiper – Fairly common but variable. The Pectoral Sandpiper has an interesting pattern of occurrence at Shenango, sometimes nearly absent even in years with extensive exposed mud, and sometimes present in very impressive numbers. The species has been recorded in at least 24 different years. The top count appears to be 111 on 8/3/2012 (G. Malosh), the culmination of a steady increase in the flock of Pectorals at the West River section of Shenango that began as early as 7/19 that year. There is also another uncited report of 122 at the reservoir in the fall of 1991. Other notable counts include 70 on 9/4/1993, 50 in August 1983 and on 10/23/1993, 45 on 9/22/2012 (S. Sanford, et al.), and 40 in August 1975 (M. Geibel, F. Lochner). Double digit counts have been achieved in at least 15 years. Fall dates range from 7/6 (1991) to 11/7 (2015).

Semipalmated Sandpiper – Uncommon to very common, regularly recorded in any year with low water. The top count was made in the extraordinary season of 2012, when 61 were present 8/28/2012 (G. Malosh), eleven days after the highest-ever count of Least Sandpiper was made. Other significant totals include 55 in August 1983 (M. Geibel), 33 in August 1991, 35 on 8/31/2001, and 31 on 9/11/2009. Dates range from 8/1 (2011, at the propagation ponds) to 10/10 (2009).

Western Sandpiper – Casual, five records: up to 10 from 9/4-17/1993, 3 on 9/3/1995, one 9/23/1998 (T. Floyd, P. Hess), one 9/5-23/1999, and one 8/17/2012 (G. Malosh). It's possible this species is both overlooked and misidentified at various times.

Short-billed Dowitcher – Uncommon but regular early-season migrant, recorded in at least 17 years. Most often present only in single digits, notable counts have included 50 in August 1975 (M. Geibel, F. Lochner), 30 on 9/16/1993, and 14 in August 1983 (M. Geibel, B. Starr). Dates range from 7/5 (1998) to 9/17 (1991), but the vast majority of sightings are made before the end of August. The subspecies involved is seldom mentioned in the historical record, but all sightings that have included identification to subspecies (at least in recent years) were of the *hendersoni* (prairie) population. There are a handful of spring records mostly from the propagation ponds.

Long-billed Dowitcher – Accidental, three records: one bird 9/23/1998 (T. Floyd, P. Hess), 5 on 9/27/2998 (M. Fialkovich, B. Machesney), and one 9/21/2002 (J. Hoffmann, D. Wilton). This species is certainly rare anywhere in Pennsylvania, but it is probably underreported at Shenango. Like Dunlin, most Long-billed Dowitchers are late-season migrants and pass through after most birders have generally turned their attention away from the mudflats at the reservoir.

Wilson's Snipe – Uncommon but regular, recorded in most years even when water is high. Probably a regular but low-density breeder around the Shenango area, it is occasionally recorded on the flats in fall. Arriving migrants are hard to distinguish from local breeders; birds in fall have lingered well into November and may winter in small numbers around the reservoir in favorable conditions.

American Woodcock – Local breeder in the area of the reservoir. The occurrence of this species is not tied to the water level from year to year

Wilson's Phalarope – Accidental, three records, all of single birds: 8/6-8/2001 (S. Butcher), 8/18/2002 (S. Butcher, K. Goodblood, et al.), and 8/17-19/2012 (G. Malosh).

Red-necked Phalarope – Casual, four records: two 9/16/1986 (T. McGary, N. McGary), one 8/28-29/1993 (M. Fialkovich, W. Shaffer), one 8/22/2010 (M. Vass), and one 8/21/2012 (G. Malosh).

Other Rarities

The following non-shorebird, non-passerine rarities have been recorded at Shenango Reservoir. The list of highlights included here is not necessarily exhaustive of all such "rarities" that have been noted at the reservoir.

Ross's Goose – Accidental, one record: one 11/29/2009 (M. Vass).

Cackling Goose – Accidental, one record: 5 birds were present 1/1/2013 (N. Troyer).

White Ibis – Accidental, one record: one juvenile on the north shore of the lake 9/1/2009 (T. Moeller).

Glossy Ibis – Accidental, one record: one adult in breeding plumage was present at the propagation ponds 5/9/2013 (S. Sanford). One "possible" Glossy was reported at Shenango 9/23/2000 (S. Butcher).

Franklin's Gull – Accidental, two records: one present in the Golden Run area 8/13-17/1999 (R. States, M. Fialkovich), and 5 birds present for a few hours at Golden Run 9/22/2012 (S. Sanford, ph. G. Malosh). Perhaps only coincidentally, it is nonetheless worth noting that both records occurred in years of severe drought in the Midwest and when the draw-down at Shenango began as early as July. These also represent the only two records for Mercer County.

Great Black-backed Gull – Accidental, two records, both in late winter: one 2/24/1991 (M. McKay) and 3 on 3/20/2008 (E. Fowles).

Common Tern – Rare migrant, at least nine records: 8/17/1975, 7/30/1981, 9/4/1993, 8/30/1998, 9/9/2000, 5/15/2001, 8/14-9/1/2001, 10/3/2009, and 9/5-22/2012. Almost all records are of single birds; the maximum count is 6 on 9/15/2012 (G. Malosh).

Black Tern – Accidental, three records: one 8/11/1983, up to 3 from 9/4-5/1993, and up to 6 from 8/26-9/5/1999.

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Observations from the 2015 Pennsylvania Migration Count (PAMC)

Chuck Berthoud

The 24th annual Pennsylvania Migration Count (PAMC) occurred Saturday, 10 May 2015. Participation and numbers of birds were average this year partly because some results were sent only to eBird and were not available for this summary. A total of 176,092 individuals were recorded, down 6.6% from 2014.

Temperatures across the state ranged from the high 50s to the upper 70s. Wind speeds were normal, ranging from 5 to 10 miles per hour and skies were partly cloudy to cloudy with no rain.

Table 1. Participation Summary

	2014	2014	+/-
Counties	55	53	+2
Observers	933	1003	-70
Party Hours	2704	2749	-45
Species	230	236	-6

Table 2. Top Counties by Participants

County	Participants
Franklin	81
Lancaster	66
Bucks	63
Chester	63
Indiana	50
Montgomery	49
Juniata	38
Bradford	34
Centre	32
Bedford	30
Greene	30
Potter	30

Table 3. Most Abundant Species

Species	Individuals
American Robin	11228
Red-winged Blackbird	10790
European Starling	7673
Gray Catbird	7434
Common Grackle	7155
Canada Goose	5407
Red-eyed Vireo	5215
Blue Jay	4916
Ovenbird	4231
Tree Swallow	4152

Table 4. Top Counties by Species & Indivs.

# Species	# Individuals
1. Lancaster 161	1. Juniata 13293
2. Franklin 153	2. Franklin 12133
3. Bucks 152	3. Bucks 11173
4. Centre 150	4. Lancaster 10947
5. Luzerne 145	5. Montgomery 10608
5. Juniata 145	6. Indiana 9749
7. Cumberland 144	7. Schuylkill 6470
8. Schuylkill 143	8. Greene 6448
9. Huntingdon 138	9. Cumberland 6425
10. Indiana 137	10. Huntingdn 6070

Count Highlights

Eleven species had new high counts in 2015 and three species tied previous counts. No new species were recorded this year. Since 1992 a total of 296 species have been recorded. There were nice increases in the new high counts of **Purple Martins** (1894, up 418) and **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** (1672, up 228). **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** (32) and **Iceland Gulls** (11) had the highest percent increases, 357% and 450%, respectively. New high counts were recorded for **Redhead**, **Eurasian Collared-Dove**, **Red-headed Woodpecker**, **Common Raven**, **Hooded Warbler**, and **Pine Siskin**. Ties of high counts were noted for **Canvasback**, **Sandhill Crane**, **Glaucous Gull**, and **Prothonotary Warbler**.

Waterfowl

The 49 **Snow Geese** was a low count, with the high of 28 in *Lancaster*. **Canada Geese** were below average with 5407. Nineteen species of waterfowl were reported, well below last year's 26 species and most were in below-average numbers. Four **Blue-winged Teals** included one each in *Adams*, *Bucks*, *Huntingdon*, and *Lancaster*. Two **Canvasbacks** were found in *Center* and 3 of 4 **Redheads** were in *Center* (the other in *Lycoming*). One **Lesser Scaup** was counted in *Indiana*. Scoters were limited to 2 **White-winged Scoters** in *Indiana*. An above-average number of 17 **Buffleheads** included 6 in *Lycoming*, and 27 **Common Goldeneyes** were found of which 19 were in *Wyoming*. Numbers of merganser were well below average. The 6 **Ruddy Ducks** was the lowest total for them in 20 years.

Fowl through Waders

Eight **Northern Bobwhites** were seen in 5 counties, with 2 each in *Franklin*, *Greene*, and *Lancaster*. Twelve of the 52 **Ringed-necked Pheasants** were in *Lancaster*. Our sate bird, **Ruffed Grouse**, increased by 23 to 85 this year but was still below the 5- and 10-year averages. Grouse were noted in 25 counties with 16 each in *Center* and *Potter*. Of 464 **Wild Turkeys** in 42 counties, *Beaver* had 32, *Bradford* had 41 and *Greene* had 60. *Bedford* had the only report of **Red-throated Loon** with 4. *Washington* and *Philadelphia* had one **Red-necked Grebe** each. This was only the fifth appearance of this species in the history of the PAMC.

American Bittern was seen at

Chester, *Huntingdon*, *Luzerne*, and *Monroe*. All three if the year's **Snowy Egrets** were found in *Bucks*. **Black-crowned Night-Heron** numbered 42 and 73 in *York* and *Lancaster*, respectively. *Dauphin* counted 31 **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** and *Cumberland* counted one.

Vultures and Hawks

Lancaster had high counts for both vultures: 92 out of 360 **Black Vultures** and 160 out of 2311 **Turkey Vultures**. **Osprey** was found in 29 counties, with the statewide count of 94 only about half of the 2012 total. The Pennsylvania Game Commission has tentatively set a goal of 50 nesting pairs in its Osprey Recovery Plan, which seems reasonable from PAMC data. **Bald Eagle** was found in 43 counties and **Northern Harrier** was seen in 10, with the high count of 2 in *Juniata*. **Red-shouldered Hawks** (44), **Sharp-shinned Hawks** (44), and **Cooper's Hawks** (93) were seen in average numbers, but **Broad-winged Hawks** (83) and **Red-tailed Hawks** (570) were in below-average numbers.

Rails and Shorebirds

Chester led the 10 counties reporting **Virginia Rail** with 3, and was one of two counties with **Sora**. The single **Common Gallinule** was found in *Bradford*. *Butler* had 6 of 11 **Sandhill Cranes**.

Fifteen shorebird species were seen, the lowest species total in the past 5 years. Individuals were down across the board except **Killdeer** and **American Woodcock**. The 677 **Killdeer** were up over last year, with 75 from *Franklin*. **Spotted Sandpiper** was seen in 38 counties, with 99 in *Juniata*, which also had 32 of 186 **Solitary Sandpipers**. Both Yellowlegs were seen in 12 counties each. *Bucks* had 4 **Greater Yellowlegs** and 9 **Lesser Yellowlegs**. Of the 6 **Upland Sandpipers**, *Butler* had 5. A **Dunlin** was reported in *Bucks*. Just 4 **Wilson's Snipes** were counted, one each from *Adams*, *Center*, *Schuylkill*, and *Wyoming*. *Indiana* led the count of **American Woodcock**, with 17 of the 86; they were reported in 23 counties. A single **Red-necked Phalarope** was reported from *Lancaster*.

Gulls and Terns

There were 8 gull and one tern species this year. Eleven **Iceland Gulls** were a nice total and it was only the sixth year for that species. Only one **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was found. The one

Glaucous Gull represented only the fourth year for that species. All three of those species were found in *Bucks*. The six **Forster's Terns** were all seen in *Philadelphia*.

Doves through Nightjars

A total of 1659 **Rock Pigeons** were counted in 48 counties. *Franklin* had the only report of **Eurasian Collared-Dove** with 10. **Mourning Dove** was noted in 54 reporting counties with *Montgomery* contributing 382 of the 3450 total. *Schuylkill* had the high counts for both **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**, with 19 out of 164, and **Black-billed Cuckoo**, with 11 out of 113. Both Cuckoo species were above the 5-year average. *Juniata* recorded the only **Barn Owl**. **Eastern Screech-Owl** increased to 45, 10 more than last year's rather low count. **Great Horned Owl** also increased by 8 over last year's count, to 45. **Barred Owl** also increased over last year's count, with 8 of 79 in *Franklin*. Just one **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was noted from *Cameron*.

Numbers of **Common Nighthawk** numbers fell, to 13 from the previous count of 28, with 3 from *Butler*. A returning **Chuck-wills-widow**, first found in June 2010, showed again this year in *Lebanon*. It has been heard consistently each year, although it has been reported during PAMC only once before. **Eastern Whip-poor-will** surged from 87 last year to 188 this year with 19 counties reporting. *Huntingdon* had the high count of 45.

Swifts through Falcons

Montgomery reported 191 of the 1728 **Chimney Swifts** that were found across 47 counties. *Indiana* reported 52 of this year's 601 **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds**. **Belted Kingfisher** continued a decline noted last year, coming in at 134 this year, down from 169 in 2014 and 322 in 2013. *Westmoreland* had 11 of these.

Red-headed Woodpecker reached a new high of 84, with 24 in *Franklin*. **Red-bellied Woodpecker** had its second highest count with 1857 from 52 counties. *Bucks* had the high count with 187. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** topped 100 for the fifth year in a row with 130. *Potter* led this mostly northern tier nesting bird with 39. The 444 **Pileated Woodpeckers** represent the second highest count. Of the 49 counties with sightings, *Indiana* led with 46.

The 116 **American Kestrels** were the lowest total since 1992. Thirty-three counties recorded sightings, led by *Bradford* and *Indiana* with 10 each. Six **Merlins** were consistent with past years. Two each were seen in *Bradford* and *Chester*. **Peregrine Falcon** dropped

almost 50 percent from last year. Seven counties had 12 individuals with *Bucks* and *Lycoming* both reporting 3.

Flycatchers through Swallows

Butler had the only 2 **Olive-sided Flycatchers**. **Eastern Wood-Pewee** was tallied in 36 counties; *Cumberland* and *Franklin* had 31 and 32, respectively. The 288 this year was down from 341 in 2014, compared to 175 in 2013 and 643 in 2012. This species seems to have quite a bit of variability from year to year, probably a result of the fact that they tend to first arrive in good numbers right around the PAMC date each year. In years when the PAMC is well into the second week of May, this species is more likely to be found in numbers than when PAMC is at its earliest *Adams*, *Cambria* and *Greene* each had one **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**. The 256 **Acadian Flycatchers** was a good count, with the high count of 45 coming from *Franklin*. The 11 **Alder Flycatchers** are up from 9 last year. *Butler*, *Center*, and *Wayne* each reported 2. **Willow Flycatcher** was encountered in 21 counties, with the high count of 12 from *Indiana*. The remaining flycatchers were found in numbers consistent with past years.

Vireos had similar totals with previous years. An exception was 5215 **Red-eyed Vireos**, up 1665 over last year with *Huntingdon* producing the high count of 568. **Philadelphia Vireo** was located by observers in 6 counties, with *Cumberland* having 3 of the 9 in total.

Blue Jay was found in all 55 participating counties. A total of 4916 was closer to average compared to the past two exceptionally high years. **American Crow** was found in 54 counties. While the total of 3862 is up 305 over last year, it was still below long-term averages. A total of 336 **Fish Crows** were found in just 25 counties, mostly in the southeast, down 199 from last year. Thirty-three counties had **Common Raven**. The new high count of 240 exceeds the previous high count of 227 set in 2003. *Juniata* had 30 and *Potter* had 39. Twenty-one counties had **Horned Lark**. *Lancaster* had 29 of 128.

Swallows partially rebounded from last year's drop in all species. **Purple Martin** increased by 418 for a new high count, with 679 out of 1894 in *Lancaster*. The 100 **Bank Swallows** was the lowest count since 1992 when only 10 counties participated. *Bradford* produced the high count of 24.

Chickadees through Waxwings

Chickadees and titmice were in average numbers. **Red-breasted Nuthatch** increased by 9, with 5 of 26 in *Forest*. Five of 29 **Brown Creepers** were

in *Potter*. *Westmoreland* had 6 of the 19 **Winter Wrens**. *Philadelphia* had 8 of the 11 **Marsh Wrens**; *Clarion* had 2 and one was in *Bedford*. **Carolina Wrens** (872) suffered the effects of another very cold winter but did manage to exceed last year's low count by 75, with reports from 42 counties. *Montgomery* had the high count of 111 and the top count of 235 of the 1,672 **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** reported statewide, which a new high for the species for the second year in a row. Both kinglets had average counts.

Eastern Bluebird only modestly recovered (up 154 to 1136) from last year's low count. It was suggested in last year's report that the previous winter's cold weather was the cause. *Chester* and *Schuylkill* had **Veery** counts of 34 and 33, respectively, out of a total of 289. Seven **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** were found in five counties, *Dauphin* had the high count of 3. *Westmoreland* had 12 of the 42 **Swainson's Thrushes**. **Wood Thrush** and **American Robin** had average counts.

Mimics had an average year as did **European Starling**. *Juniata* had the high count of 64 of 184 **American Pipits** with just 11 counties reporting. There were 572 **Cedar Waxwings** reported from 38 counties.

Warblers

Thirty-five species of warblers were found. **Hooded Warbler** surpassed its old record set in 2013 with a total of 879. An impressive 116 of these were in *Lycoming*. **Prothonotary Warbler** tied the 2013 record of 27, with 16 in *Lancaster* and 3 across the Susquehanna River in *York*. Most of these sightings were near nest boxes. **Golden-winged Warbler** was found in only six counties. Nine of the 32 found were in *Huntingdon*, followed by 7 in *Center*. **Cerulean Warbler** exceeded the overall average with 166. It was found in 24 counties; the high count of 28 came from *Franklin*. The one **Connecticut Warbler** was in *York*. Four counties reported **Mourning Warbler**: *Center* 10, *Lancaster* one, *Potter* 9 and *Warren* one. Twelve counties found **Cape May Warbler**, with 9 of 32 in *Juniata*. Fourteen **Bay-breasted Warblers** were in 9 counties, with one each in *Cameron*, *Franklin*, *Luzern*, *Mercer*, *Potter*, and *Warren*, 2 each in *Mifflin* and *Juniata*, and 4 in *Lancaster*. Just 9 **Palm Warblers** were found in 7 counties, with 2 each in *Bedford* and *Schuylkill* and one each in *Cambria*, *Indiana*, *Lancaster*, *Luzerne*, and *Warren*.

Sparrows

Eastern Towhee exceeded the overall average and was noted in all 55

reporting counties. *Indiana* turned in the high count of 305 out of 3148. After a two-year hiatus, one **Clay-colored Sparrow** was found in *Lycoming*. Except for **Field Sparrow**, most sparrow totals were below average and below last year's count. Just 18 **Vesper Sparrow** were counted in 11 counties with 5 in *Franklin* and 3 in *Montour*. Ten out of 32 **Henslow's Sparrows** were in the reclaimed surface mine grasslands of *Clarion*. **Fox Sparrow** was counted only in *Bedford* (3) and *Franklin* (2). Two **Lincoln's Sparrows** were in *Westmoreland* and *Cameron*, while *Huntingdon*, *Potter*, *Wayne* and *Wyoming* each had one.

Scarlet Tanager and **Northern Cardinal** had average numbers, the former with 260 out of 1970 in *Juniata*, and the latter with 336 out of 4143 in *Montgomery*. **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** declined 305, to 930 in 2015; *Indiana* had a nice count of 102. **Blue Grosbeak** increased to 14, with reports from 6 counties. *Bucks* tied with *Lancaster* for the top count of 5, and singles were found in *Bedford*, *Chester*, *Franklin*, and *Lehigh*. **Indigo Bunting** increased over by 673 to 2205. A single **Dickcissel** in *Lancaster* graced the count for the ninth time.

Blackbirds and Finches

Bobolink declined 43 percent from 2014 to 653. The high count of 169 was from *Bradford*. Four counties reported **Rusty Blackbird**: *Bedford* one, *Bucks* 4, *Juniata* 3, and *Westmoreland* one. **Red-winged Blackbirds** have been steadily over 10,000 since the 2011 count. *Indiana* yielded the high count with 863. **Eastern Meadowlarks** were down by 3 to 471 this year. **Common Grackle** and **Brown-headed Cowbird** numbers were average as were both orioles. **House Finch** decreased by 44, from 1024 to 980, and **Purple Finch** increased 36 from 145 to 181. The later was found in 30 counties, with 47, or 26 percent of the total counted, in *Potter*. It was the second best year for **Pine Siskin**. *Potter* also led in that species with 70 out of a total of 408. *Northumberland* had the only report of **Evening Grosbeak**, with 8.

Summary

In the last week of editing, the eBird data became available. It will take some time to sort through the data but a quick summary shows data from all but three counties. There were 2,134 checklists submitted by 555 observers. From a quick glance of the eBird checklists, the following species can be added to this year's total: **Trumpeter Swan, Greater Scaup, American White Pelican, American Golden-Plover, Caspian Tern, Common Tern, and Swallow-tailed Kite**. An analysis of the eBird results will be made and results of the two data sets merged (if possible) with the intention of writing an addendum article for *PSO Pileated* newsletter.

PAMC coincided this year with the first Global Big Day sponsored by Cornell Lab. Worldwide, 6013 species and 42,920 checklists were entered into eBird by 13,664 people. The network of eBirders on the GBD spanned each of the 7 continents, covering over 130 countries with over 800,000 bird observations. Clearly eBird is becoming the foremost way birders record their sightings into a massive database. Cornell perceives that this first GBD was a great success. They are working on software that can be used to summarize the data better.

What does this all mean to the PAMC? First, the venerable hand written check list is not soon going to be replaced by eBird because not everyone uses eBird. There will always be a need for a county compiler to coordinate obtaining the best area coverage, facilitate

handling data, encourage and mentor local birders to record their sightings and submit them, and, most importantly, vet the data for accuracy.

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Cerulean Warblers were found in above average numbers in the 2015 PAMC. (Geoff Malosh)

Common Tern recolonization attempt at Presque Isle – an update

Mary Birdsong

On 16 June 2015, I reported via email to the multi-agency piping plover-common tern task force, “I can say with confidence that we have 8 nests.” That was a heady moment for all of us, as it was the first time in many decades that Common Terns had attempted a colony that large at Gull Point on Presque Isle State Park.

The task force—which includes representatives from U.S. Fish and Wildlife, the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Pennsylvania Game Commission, the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, the International Shorebird Survey, and Audubon Pennsylvania—was created after a coordinated effort to improve the habitat at Gull Point for Piping Plovers and Common Terns was undertaken from 2011-2013. (Piping Plover is considered state-extirpated and federally endangered, and Common Tern is state-endangered). This group was called into action in June 2014 when two pairs of terns were observed engaging in courtship behavior.

As outlined in McWilliams 2012, Common Terns, once regular nesters at the point in the earlier part of the 20th century, had abandoned Gull Point by the 1960s due primarily to human disturbance. He also reported that the terns had either shown territorial behavior or attempted nesting in 1995 and in 2012, with two nests in the latter year, but both were unsuccessful, probably due to predation.

In 2014, two pairs nested but once again succumbed to predation. The 2014 nests were not established until later in June and were still being incubated on 25 July, per a report made by a volunteer tern monitor. The late start and lack of a large colony exposed the nests to numerous risks such as mammalian and avian predation. It also increased the likelihood of human interference as the boating and fishing season brings more people out onto the water as the weather warms.

During the summer of 2015, Common Terns were being seen at Gull Point and elsewhere on the park as early as the middle of April. By 1 May, one pair was engaged in courtship and others were defending territories. Although the numbers changed daily, in June the highest number of terns seen at Gull Point at one time was approximately 25 to 30 individuals. This large number of terns and their early courtship activity boded well for possible success.

By 19 May, one pair had settled into nesting on the ridge that extends approximately northwest to southeast

across the point and very close to the observation platform. By 28 May, however, that nest presumably had been predated, but nearby three nesting pairs and two courting pairs were observed. It was the first time that the word “colony” seemed appropriate to describe the situation. Unfortunately, between 28 May and 1 June, the second of several powerful storms rolled across the point taking a nest with it. By 4 June, another was lost to a storm surge that reconfigured the sand spit to the northeast. That is how it progressed throughout the early part of June, with nests being started and then lost.

The high count of 8 active nests was made 16 June but they continued to face many challenges. Storms continued to reconfigure the terrain and rising water ballooned what had been two small ponds into much larger ones. A small sand spit forming on the channel side created a third pond that was also encroaching into the colony. While nests were being lost, other pairs were formed and new nests perhaps attempted. The nest count was down to four by 22 June, and by this time predation was most likely taking a toll, but 7 additional tern pairs were still exhibiting courting behavior. The fluctuation in the number of nests continued, with more storm surges taking some and predation taking others. By 29 June, the two older ponds, which had started out as wet depressions, had now merged into one large pond.

At the beginning of July, it was obvious that the colony was still trying very hard to be successful. Pairs would create nests and lose them and start all over again. By mid-July, more high

winds and storm, and predation, had taken all but one nest in the northwest ridge area. On 15 July around noon, all Common Terns left the point; the one remaining nest was apparently abandoned. I visited for the last time 17 July. The eggs in the last nest were gone and three terns were seen loafing on the shoreline.

Although our hopes of seeing a successful nest and fledge were dashed, the presence of a substantially increased population of Common Terns throughout the season and the creation of eight nests at one time was the by far their best showing at Gull Point since the 1960s. These developments represent a positive step in the right direction, and we look forward to what next year brings.

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Reference

McWilliams, J. 2012. Notes on Common Terns and their recent attempt to nest at Presque Isle. *Pennsylvania Birds* 26:138.



Common Tern at nest with egg, Gull Point, Erie 29 June 2015. (Mary Birdsong)

As in previous years, birding activity during the summer season is somewhat reduced compared to spring and fall. Birders, though of course not the birds, may be less active because, in part, migration is at a minimum during this shorter season that is defined to focus on breeding birds. Or, maybe it's just too hot! But of course, the nesting season is the most important season of the year for the birds themselves, and they are very busy. During this brief period bird populations more than double, as the next generation is brought into existence despite all of the forces against them. Bird song is at its peak and distinctive breeding behaviors are displayed only during this season. Indeed, this underrated season is a fine time to be birding, and in the summer months there even is more vagrancy than many may think.

This report addresses bird activity during June and July, including notable changes in breeding distribution as well as unexpected vagrants. During the second Pennsylvania breeding bird atlas (2004-09), about 40 species were found in less than 1% of all blocks, and many were found in only single county or two. These rare breeders are frequently included in the summer season Birds of Note. In addition to these rare or local breeders, gradual advances or retractions range and distribution of more widespread breeders add color to these summer reports. The detailed information available for breeding birds (e.g., bird atlases) provides a base reference for county compilers so that changes from these historical references provide a well-defined baseline for the seasonal summaries that are published in this journal at the county level. Most of these local notes will never achieve the statewide attention deemed worthy of a Bird of Note, but in the Summary of the Season we attempt to highlight these trends that would otherwise be hard to synthesize. Inevitably, the majority of "notable" summer birds are not rare nesters, but rather lingering waterfowl or uncommon migrant shorebirds that appear during the "breeding" season.

Many of North America's diverse waterfowl pass through Pennsylvania during migration, but since we are far from the prairie pothole region so productive for ducks, and without an ocean coast, just a few species are well established as breeders. A few migrant waterfowl lingered, as usual, into this summer season, including reports of single **Northern Shoveler**, **American Wigeon**, and **Gadwall**. Unexpected during this season were the **White-**

winged Scoter in Williamsport, **Lycoming**, and the **Long-tailed Duck** fly-by in **Lancaster**. Probably the most unexpected bird of the season was the well-documented **Pacific Loon** at Lake Nockamixon, **Bucks** 7/21-23, which was enjoyed by many observers. Extremely rare in any season, the summer season seems a particularly unlikely time for a vagrant Pacific Loon in Pennsylvania, although a breeding-plumage Pacific was reported earlier in June in Massachusetts and Maine, quite likely prior sightings of the **Bucks** bird.

Of nesting waterfowl, the aptly named **Wood Duck** is well suited to the Eastern forests and remains widespread since recovering from near annihilation in the late nineteenth century. The **American Black Duck**, on the other hand, continues a steady long-term decline, with regular nesting activity now largely restricted to the Pocono region of northeastern counties, notably in **Pike**. Similarly, it appears that the **Blue-winged Teal**, widespread (although uncommon) as a breeding bird just 25 years ago, remarkably was not reported anywhere in the state this summer. The second atlas had documented drastic declines by the 2000s. In contrast, however, the **Common Merganser** continues a slow, steady expansion southward, this season with a first-time breeding report for **Allegheny**. The persistent observations of **Ruddy Duck** around Pymatuning Reservoir, **Crawford** seem to beg someone to document nesting there.

The appearance of two **American White Pelicans** at Presque Isle provided the first June record for **Erie**, and demonstrated that some birds are still wandering in that month. More expected were the dispersing egrets and herons in July as they wander northward into Pennsylvania from southern colonies. Immature **Little Blue Herons** made a great showing this year, with as many as 4 on the Conejohla Flats, **Lancaster** by mid-July, and 5 at John Heinz Refuge, **Philadelphia** by the end of the period. Although a former nester in the state, **Snowy Egrets** have become difficult to find during summer dispersal, but birders did manage records of the species in four counties this season. Cattle Egret was not reported this season. Slipping in right at the very end of the season, a **Tricolored Heron** appeared at John Heinz NWR, **Philadelphia** and remained into the fall season to the delight of many birders. A cooperative immature **White Ibis** was seen by many at Wildwood Lake, **Dauphin** for most of July.

Among Pennsylvania's rarest

nesting birds are species associated with wetlands, and some of these are designed by the state as endangered or threatened. The two bittern species, both state listed, were targeted by the Game Commission as part of the summer's wetland bird surveys. The larger **American Bittern** was reported in only one scenario that suggested breeding this summer (in **Mercer**), but there were several other enigmatic reports that perhaps suggest transience. The **Least Bittern** has been more widespread than the American for many years; it continued in the John Heinz Refuge of **Philadelphia** and **Delaware**, and at other larger wetlands across the state, including Presque Isle, **Erie**. Despite searches in the expansive Conneaut Marsh of **Crawford**, neither bittern was reported there.

Another two herons are also state-listed, the night-herons. Ironically, the row-homes of urban Harrisburg, **Dauphin** hosted the only known nests of the rarer of the two—**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron**. About 12 nests were present and, like last year, at least some were successful. This species may nest in neighboring **Cumberland**, but documentation in that county was lacking. **Black-crowned Night-Herons** continue to decline, but were found in more counties than warrant a "Bird of Note" reference. For the first time in many years, no black-crowned nests were found in **Berks**, although sightings that seem to indicate yet undiscovered nests continued.

The **Northern Goshawk** is something of an enigma as a breeding bird in Pennsylvania. No county compiler mentioned it and it did not appear on any eBird list this season. Nevertheless, surveys by Allegheny National Forest staff and associates, with David Brinker, documented 7 nesting attempts, although all but one were believed to have failed. Birders are understandably secretive with sightings of this species, which may explain the lack of records. That said, even general (county-level) reports of nesting activity would be helpful. A passing reference to the growing population of **Bald Eagles** seems obligatory, with nests found in **Snyder** and **Washington** for the first time, narrowing to a small list the counties without nesting **Bald Eagles**. **Osprey** similarly increased with nest-building at a power plant in **Snyder**.

The nesting population of **Sandhill Cranes** continues to expand across the state, reaching south to **Fulton** and **Franklin** this year. Although specific locations remain undisclosed to protect vulnerable locations, many traditional

sites continue to be occupied in the years since they were first documented during the first breeding bird atlas.

The short breeding season of the far north means that some Arctic nesters are passing through Pennsylvania on their northward movement during the first month of the summer season, followed other individuals of the same species heading southbound during the second month of this short season. Although Pennsylvania is limited in its habitat for shorebirds, Presque Isle State Park in *Erie*, John Heinz NWR in *Philadelphia* and *Delaware*, the Conejohola Flats in *Lancaster*, and a few other sites attract many notable shorebirds. Unfortunately, the Piping Plover seen at Gull Point, *Erie* in May did not remain into the summer season as they had been in the two previous summers, and no others were seen there until the fall.

The wet weather of June established a robust growing season, but also inundated shallow areas, making some pond and lake shorelines at traditional shorebird sites unsuitable. Despite generally sparse shorebird observations, a typical scattering of **American Avocets** appeared, and an unexpected **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** was reported at Tamarack Lake, *Crawford*. The only other recent summer record for that species was in 2013 in *Erie*. A seasonally extraordinary **American Golden-Plover** was photographed in *Lawrence*.

Among the state's rarest breeding birds is the **Wilson's Snipe**. Never documented nesting in more than a few places in any given year, Pennsylvania is admittedly at the very periphery of their range. This summer, neither of the two July reports suggested nesting, which is a typical summer for this species here. A **Red-necked Phalarope** was another very rare "summer" shorebird, and in an unlikely location—a water treatment plant in *Monroe*. Either Wilson's or Red-necked Phalarope has shown up in random locations around the state in each of the past four summers.

The **Great Black-backed Gull** is an interesting example of a species that is regular enough in a few counties (historically even nesting once on a buoy on the Delaware River, *Delaware*) to not get mentioned by those county compilers, but scarce enough during this season elsewhere to be notable across the rest of the state. In total, birders logged sightings in five counties (few enough to be listed among the Birds of Note), including eBird records. Definitely notable anywhere, anytime, a **Least Tern** was noted at John Heinz NWR on both sides of the *Philadelphia/Delaware* line, providing the fifth record for *Delaware*. The only reports of **Black Tern** in the state these days are vagrants in unlikely places, like the bird this season at

Somerset Lake, *Somerset* 6/16. This is regrettable since the species formerly nested regularly in the state. On a much more positive note, a practical invasion of **Common Terns** descended on Gull Point, *Erie* this summer. A separate brief article in this issue provides details of the best nesting effort of this species at Gull Point in many years, though unfortunately, despite their growing numbers over the past few summers, they still have not had any successful nests yet.

Despite the regular occurrence of **Eurasian Collared-Doves** in south-central counties for 10 years, their population still has not expanded much into other parts of Pennsylvania like it did in southern and mid-western states.

Peregrine Falcons had a record year, with birds present during the nesting season at 60 locations, including a nest newly confirmed on a cliff. **Merlin** nesting reports were somewhat spotty this year, although *Erie* reported several new locations, although it was not found at previous sites in *Lycoming*. *Mercer* hosted its first nest this summer, but the general lack of nesting reports elsewhere may be due to the novelty of such reports wearing off and sites not being checked. This dashing little falcon can be surprisingly evasive.

One of the rarest of Pennsylvania's summer birds is the **Long-eared Owl**, so the lone report in *Crawford* (where it has never been known to nest) only added to the mystery. Another nocturnal bird, the **Chuck-will's-widow**, returned for the sixth year to Fort Indiantown Gap, *Lebanon* and remained into July. Reports in two other counties probably reflected wandering individuals.

The **Olive-sided Flycatcher** has not been confirmed to nest in the state in decades, so the weeklong residency of one at Wild Creek Reservoir, *Carbon* was intriguing. The nearest nesting population is probably the Adirondacks of New York, so restoration of this long-extirpated species is unlikely even though migrants move through in low numbers annually. On the other hand, the **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**, another northern boreal bird, continues to be documented nesting in small numbers of forested wetlands of *Wyoming* and *Sullivan*. Reduced to 2 pairs this year in the state's best location, Coalbed Swamp, they are nevertheless hanging on.

A delightful array of warblers breed across Pennsylvania forests and shrublands. Some have limited nesting ranges, but most are widespread. This summer season report is designed to focus such breeders, although the more widespread species do not generally draw sufficient attention to be mentioned. **Blackpoll Warblers** are among the state's rarest nesting species, although

they occasionally linger into June as migrants. Blackpolls had a great nesting season with at least 17 territories documented, mostly in two *Wyoming* and *Luzerne* locations. The beautiful **Prothonotary Warbler** continued to nest in most of places known during the second atlas. Having southern affinities, it seems well established along the lower Susquehanna River islands of *Lancaster*, the forested wetlands of *Mercer* and *Crawford*, and other scattered counties (*Adams*, *Bucks*). The **Golden-winged Warbler's** range continues to retract.

Another 25 or so delightful warbler species are well established with wide breeding ranges that get little attention in summaries. Of those with decidedly northerly affinities (**Black-throated Blue**, **Black-throated Green**, and **Canada warblers**), nesting season reports in the hills of *Adams* (a decidedly southern county) were evidence that they are holding on even at the fringes of their extensive state breeding ranges.

While sparrows don't have the flashy colors of warblers, they do attract the attention of birders in the summer months anyway. Despite the appearance in the second atlas of range expansion, the **Clay-colored Sparrow** was poorly reported this year, with reports only in *Clarion* (its traditional stronghold). The distinctive **Henslow's Sparrow** continues widely in western counties; it was found in *Bradford* this year, after several years' absence in northeastern counties. A pair of **Summer Tanagers** was apparently on territory in *Berks* all summer, and the species was also reported from two additional disparate counties: *Chester* and *Jefferson*. The **Dickcissel** is state-endangered and regularly found nesting only in southeastern counties, where all sightings were made this season as well.

Following the major irruption this past winter, **Pine Siskins** lingered into the summer months in many counties and established probably first summer records for a few. Breeding was suspected in many of the reporting counties but was confirmed only in *Cambria*, *Chester*, and *Erie*, and in each of those counties by the presence of juvenile birds at feeders.

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This report summarizes unexpected species reported in Pennsylvania for this period. As a general rule birds must have been recorded in five or fewer counties to qualify for inclusion here, but rare species recorded more frequently, or irregular species exhibiting an unusual seasonal occurrence, are also included. “Listserv” indicates records deemed credible which were gleaned from the PABIRDS listserv for counties with no reporting compiler. “eBird” indicates valid records deemed credible which were entered into the eBird database for counties with no reporting compiler.

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

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

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

Birds in *Italic and Underlined* typeface occur fewer than 4 to 7 out of 10 years during this time period.

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

Snow Goose – *Berks*: 7 near Hamburg in June included one injured bird (Matt Wlasniewski); *Delaware*: one on the Delaware River off Hog Island Road 6/28 (Debbie Beer, Sharon West).

Trumpeter Swan – *Juniata*: one at Cocolamus Dam 6/23 (Aden Troyer, Dusty Weidner); *Erie*: one at Presque Isle 6/12 (Mark Vass).

Tundra Swan – *Lancaster*: one at Middle Creek 6/16-7/29 (Ted Keen, Bruce Carl); *Lebanon*: one at Reistville and Prescott Rd. Ponds 6/5 (Timothy Beker, Kathy Becker).

Gadwall – *Erie*: one adult female at Presque Isle State Park 6/12 (Mark Vass, eBird).

American Wigeon – *Philadelphia*: 3 at Tinicum to 6/20 (Todd Watkins, Ann Reeves).

Northern Pintail – *Crawford*: 2 at Tamarack Lake 7/25 (Ron Leberman).

Green-winged Teal – *Crawford*: one at the Miller Ponds 7/24 (m.ob.), and 20 at Tamarack Lake 7/31 (Ron Leberman); *Dauphin*: one at Wildwood Lake 6/24 (Ted Nichols II, Sue Hannon); *Lancaster*: a male on the Conewago Recreation Trail and Wetlands from spring to 6/2 (Tom Johnson).

Canvasback – *Dauphin*: a male on the Susquehanna River at Fort Hunter until 6/5 (Ed Bernot).

Ring-necked Duck – *Chester*: two males continued from the spring on the sewage lagoon at Longwood Gardens (m.ob.); *Indiana*: a male spent much of June at Yellow Creek State Park (m.ob.).

Greater Scaup – *Erie*: one at Gull Point 6/4 (James Hill III, eBird) and 2 adults at Presque Isle 6/12 (Mark Vass, eBird); *Sullivan*: one at LaPorte 6/30 (Rob Megraw, Skip Conant, Dave Kale).

Lesser Scaup – *Bucks*: one male at Peace Valley Park 6/1 (August Mirabella); *Indiana*: a hen at Yellow Creek State Park from spring until 6/2 (Lee Carnahan, Patience Fisher, m.ob.).

White-winged Scoter – *Lycoming*: an adult male on the West Branch of the Susquehanna River, between the Market Street and Maynard Street bridges continued to 6/25-26 (Jean Klotz, Maddi Dunlap, Joe Yoder); *Philadelphia*: an unconfirmed report of one at Pennypack on the Delaware 7/4-31 (*vide* Tom Bailey).

Long-tailed Duck – *Lancaster*: one male at Columbia 6/10 (Mike Epler).

Bufflehead – *Lawrence*: a male at Mason Rd gravel pond from spring to 6/12 (Mark Vass).

Red-breasted Merganser – *Erie*: 2 at Presque Isle State Park 7/8 (David Yeany II, eBird).

Pacific Loon* – *Bucks*: one in breeding plumage at Lake Nockamixon 7/21-23 (ph. Devich Farbotnik, m.ob., *doc submitted*).

Pied-billed Grebe – *Adams*: one at a pond along Herr Ridge

Rd. to 7/15 (Ted Nichols II, Bonita Portzline); *Crawford*: at Geneva Marsh 7/25 (Ron Leberman); *Indiana*: adult at Yellow Creek State Park 7/21 (Margaret and Roger Higbee, Tom Glover); *Lancaster*: one at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area 7/18 (Bruce Carl); *Northampton*: one at Greinar Rd. Ponds all summer (m.ob.).

American White Pelican – *Erie*: 2 at Gull Point 6/8-10 (Jerry McWilliams, Sara Sargent).

American Bittern – *Cameron*: at 4-Mile Rd. 7/27 (Brandon Snavely, eBird); *Carbon*: one at SGL 40 wetlands 7/12 (Rich Rehrig, eBird); *Dauphin*: one at Wildwood Lake 7/9 (Ed Bernot); *Mercer*: calling at Pennsy Swamp 6/11 (Sheree Daugherty); *Philadelphia*: 2 at Tinicum 7/27 (David Allen, Jaclyn Janis).

Least Bittern – *Delaware*: one at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge 6/5, (Damon Orsetti); *Erie*: a pair near the head of Presque Isle Bay 6/11 (Brian Berchtold); *Huntingdon*: one at Marklesburg waterfowl area 6/14-16 (Greg Grove, Deb Grove); *Philadelphia*: up to 7 at John Heinz NWR 6/13-7/30 (Doris McGovern, Paul Bernhardt, m.ob.).

Snowy Egret – *Adams*: one probable bird at Gun Club Road in State Game Lands 249 on 7/10 (Ian Clarke); *Delaware*: one at Little Tinicum Island 6/24 (Deuane Hoffman); *Lancaster*: at the Conejohela Flats 7/15-25 (Meredith Lombard, m.ob.); *Philadelphia*: 2 at Pennypack on the Delaware 6/17 and up to 5 at John Heinz NWR beginning 6/7 (Damon Orsetti).

Tricolored Heron* – *Philadelphia*: one at Tinicum 7/30 (Paul Bernhardt, m.ob., *doc submitted*).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron – *Bucks*: an imm. at Peace Valley Park 7/5 (Henry D'Alessandro); *Cumberland*: 3 at the West Fairview Boat Launch 6/26 (Vernon Gauthier) and 2 at Eastboro Township Park 7/16 (Chandra Kotzatoski); *Dauphin*: nesting in Harrisburg with 12 nests containing young or incubating adults 6/17 (Joe Kosack).

White Ibis* – *Dauphin*: an imm. at Wildwood Lake 7/8-26 (Joseph Bellehumeur, Ian Gardner, Elora Grahame, *no doc*); *Philadelphia*: imm. at John Heinz N.W.R. 7/30-8/1 (David Allen, m.ob., *doc submitted*).

Glossy Ibis – *Bucks*: an imm. at Rohm and Haas, Bristol 7/25-26 (Devich Farbotnik); *Cumberland*: one at the propagation pond area at SGL 169 on 7/11 (Vernon Gauthier).

Mississippi Kite* – *Chester*: one during the first week of June at the annual Bucktoe Creek Preserve watch (Larry Lewis, *no doc*).

American Avocet – *Bucks*: one at Peace Valley Park 7/27 (Ken Rieker); *Franklin*: one at Kriner Holding Pond in Chambersburg 7/12 (David Cooney Jr., Dale Gearhart, Vernon Gauthier, V. Barnes, PABirds list); *Lancaster*: on the Susquehanna River 6/20 (Todd Smith), 8 on Conejohela Flats 7/21 (Meredith Lombard, Jeff Musser) and one there 7/30 (Mike Epler), and one at Middle Creek WMA 7/9

(Randy Miller, Bruce Carl, Ted Nichols II); *Lebanon*: a male near Fox and Prescott Rds. 6/2-5 (Bruce Carl, m.ob.); *Somerset*: 3 over Somerset 7/7 (Mike Lanzone).

Black-bellied Plover – *Erie*: 2 at Gull Point 6/8 (Jerry McWilliams, eBird).

American Golden Plover – *Lawrence*: one on Black Rd. at the Volant Strips 7/19 (ph. Annette Deviney).

Willet – *Bucks*: one at Nockamixon State Park 7/30 (Paul Cooper, Paul Teese); *Crawford*: one at the Miller Ponds 7/25 (Ron Leberman); *Erie*: one at Gull Point 7/9 (Mary Birdsong).

Whimbrel – *Erie*: season total of 11 at Gull Point 6/8-7/26 (Roger Donn, Jerry McWilliams).

Ruddy Turnstone – *Erie*: 4 at Gull Point 6/1 (Mary Birdsong, eBird).

Stilt Sandpiper: *Crawford*: one at the Miller Ponds 7/24 (Deborah Kalbfleisch, Richard Nugent, Mark Vass).

Sanderling – *Crawford*: one at Tamarack Lake 7/25 (Ron Leberman); *Erie*: 13 at Gull Point 7/15 (Mary Birdsong, eBird).

Dunlin – *Erie*: one at Gull Point 6/1 (Mary Birdsong *vide* Jerry McWilliams, eBird).

Baird Sandpiper – *Mercer*: one at the Shenango Wildlife Area 7/31 (Steve Sanford).

White-rumped Sandpiper – *Erie*: one 6/1 (Mary Birdsong) and one 6/23 (Roger Donn) both at Gull Point; *Lancaster*: two at the Conejohela Flats 6/12 (Deuane Hoffman).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper – *Crawford*: one at Tamarack Lake 7/25 (Ron Leberman).

Short-billed Dowitcher – *Crawford*: one at the Miller Ponds 7/5 (Mark Vass) and 7/16 (Isaac Field) and one at the Linesville Fish Hatchery 7/17 (Mark Vass); *Lancaster*: one at Conewago Recreation Trail wetlands 7/10 (Mike Epler) and 2 there 7/23 (Bruce Carl, eBird); *Erie*: up to 3 at Gull Point July (eBird), and a worn adult there 6/30 (Roger Donn).

Wilson's Snipe – *Crawford*: one at the Miller Ponds 7/5 (Mark Vass); *Indiana*: at Yellow Creek State Park 7/28 (m.ob.).

Red-necked Phalarope – *Monroe*: male at the Pocono Water Treatment Plant 7/23 (ph. Bruce Johnson).

Bonaparte's Gull – *Bucks*: one at Nockamixon State Park 7/22 (John Finch); *Crawford*: 8 at Woodcock Lake 7/15 (Ron Leberman) and one at Espyville Marina 7/3 (Mark Vass); *Lancaster*: 2 at the Conejohela Flats 6/4 (Bruce Carl).

Franklin's Gull – *Cambria*: one adult in alternate plumage at Prince Gallitzin S.P. 7/26 (ph. Renee Lubert, eBird)

Great Black-backed Gull – *Bucks*: 12 at Morrisville Levee 7/20 (Mark Gallagher, eBird); *Crawford*: one at the Pymatuning Spillway 7/7 (Ron Leberman); *Delaware*: noted in June along the Delaware R. (Al Guarente, Deuane Hoffman, eBird); *Erie*: present all season, up to 35 at Presque Isle 6/8 (Roger Donn, Jerry McWilliams eBird); *Philadelphia*: frequently reported in June (Al Guarente, Deuane Hoffman, eBird).

Least Tern – *Delaware*: one at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge 6/5 (Damon Orsetti), same bird as in *Philadelphia*; *Philadelphia*: one at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge 6/5-6 (Damon Orsetti, Toby Levin), same bird as in *Delaware*.

Black Tern – *Somerset*: 2 at Somerset Lake 6/16 (Linda Greble).

Common Tern – *Bucks*: one at Peace Valley Park 6/1 (August Mirabella); *Centre*: one at Bald Eagle State Park 6/13 (Kurt Engstrom); *Delaware*: one at Hog Island Rd. 6/12 (Al Guarente, eBird); *Erie*: up to 8 nests at Gull Point (Mary Birdsong, m.ob.) which all failed eventually; *Indiana*: at Yellow Creek State Park 6/2 (Lee Carnahan, Patience Fisher, m.ob.).

Forster's Tern – *Bucks*: one at Nockamixon State Park 7/6 (Devich Farbotnik); *Crawford*: at the Espyville Marina 7/3

(Mark Vass) and at Pymatuning Spillway 7/19 (Mark Vass); *Elk*: one at East Branch Lake 6/11 (Brendyn Baptiste); *Indiana*: one at Yellow Creek 7/26 (ph. Todd Hooe); *Montgomery*: one at Green Lane Park 7/30 (Paul Driver).

Eurasian Collared-Dove – *Berks*: 2 at the Shartlesville colony 6/7 (Peter Montgomery) and in July (Matt Wlasniewski); *Cumberland*: continued north of Newville 6/9 (Deuane Hoffman), and at the intersection of Rte. 997 and Center Road 6/15 (Jon Corcoran); *Franklin*: 4 at the traditional location in Shady Grove 6/20 (Bill Oyler, eBird).

Long-eared Owl – *Crawford*: a single at Pettis Road 6/22 (Ron Leberman).

Chuck-will's-widow* – *Cumberland*: reported on Ridge Rd 6/19-7/5 (Stefan Karkuff, m.ob., recordings, *doc submitted*); *Lancaster*: heard at the Millersville University Biological Preserve 7/13 (Doug Weaver, *no doc*); *Lebanon*: returned for a sixth year to Tomstown Rd. at Fort Indiantown Gap, continued until at least 7/3 (m.ob., *doc previously submitted*).

Olive-sided Flycatcher – *Carbon*: at Wild Creek Res 6/21-28 (ph. Rich Rehing, eBird); *Potter*: one in Susquehannock State Forest 6/10 (Brandon Snavelly, eBird)

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher – *Erie*: on Gull Point Trail 7/25 (ph. Gale VerHague, eBird); *Wyoming*: 2 singing males in Coalbed Swamp and a pair in Tamarack Swamp (Doug Gross, Eric Zawatski, eBird); *Sullivan*: a male on territory at an undisclosed location 6/16-7/3 (Doug Gross).

Gray-cheeked Thrush – *Delaware*: one along the Bridle Trail at Ridley Creek State Park 6/3 (Bill Roache).

Blackpoll Warbler – *Wyoming*: at least 17 territories (an all-time high), 8 in Coalbed Swamp and 9 in Red Brook Swamp, both SGL 57, including a nest (Doug Gross, Eric Zawatski), the state's fourth blackpoll warbler nest found (Eric Zawatski).

Clay-colored Sparrow – *Clarion*: 2 at Curllsville 6/7-7/2 (m.ob.), and up to 2 singing males at Mt. Zion/Piney Tract 6/10-30 (Deuane Hoffman, Tom Johnson, Andy Wilson).

Summer Tanager* – *Berks*: a pair apparently on territory on Neversink Mt., Reading from May into Aug (James Drasher, *no doc*); *Chester*: one near Pottstown 6/10 (ph. Patty Werth, eBird, *no doc.*); *Jefferson*: one described well at Redbank Valley Trail 6/6 (John Keener, *no doc*).

Dickcissel – *Bucks*: territorial bird at the Penn-Warner Tract 7/5-12 (Devich Farbotnik); *Chester*: at the Doe Run area 6/17 (Nick Pulcinella); *Cumberland*: up to 3 near the intersection of Rock Run and Hunter Road north of Newville 6/1-20 (Vern Gauthier, Deuane Hoffman, Ted Nichols II, Anette Mathes); *Lancaster*: up to 2 adults at the Chestnut Grove Natural Area 6/17-7/25 (Stan Stahl, m.ob.), and a begging juvenile at Middle Creek WMA 7/10 (Denice Hardtmann).

ADDENDUM:

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron – *Luzerne*: one at Plymouth Flats 4/17/2015 (Richard Pries) was not reported until well after the end of the spring season and represented just the second record for the county.



Common Merganser (*Mergus merganser*). Beaver has an ever-growing list of summertime records of Common Merganser, but there is still no known nest in the county in modern times. However, the species does appear to be expanding in sw. Pennsylvania as a breeder. This bird was at Townsend Dam on the Beaver River 14 June 2015. (Mark Vass)



White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus*). White-eyed Vireos usually make their presence obvious by their frequent and distinctive calls and song, but they can be quite difficult to photograph well. This excellent image was made at Hibernia County Park, Chester 13 July 2015. (Holly Merker)



White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*). White Ibis has been recorded in the state in all but three years since 2000. This bird at Wildwood Lake, Dauphin 8 to 26 July 2015 (here 9 July) was one of two seen in the state this season. (Dave Kerr)



Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*). A denizen of high canopy, Red-eyed Vireo is another species very difficult to photograph well in any situation, let alone on nest. This incubating bird was nicely captured at Hell Hollow Road, Carbon 24 May 2015. (Dustin Welch)



Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*). This wonderful close-up of one of Pennsylvania's most beloved summer residents was made at Upper St. Clair, Allegheny 5 August 2015. (Jeff McDonald)



Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*). The Golden-winged Warbler's range in Pennsylvania continues to contract, and the species is now very rare in summer in sw. Pennsylvania. This bird at Everett, Bedford 27 May 2015 was a nice find. (Wayne Laubscher)



Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*). A pair of Prothonotary Warblers nested again at Peace Valley Park, *Bucks* again this year, and provided many observers with an excellent opportunity for close study. This female carrying food to the nest was photographed there 11 June 2015. (*Lynne Falterbauer*)



Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savaanarum*). One of the friendlier and more approachable grassland sparrows that breed in Pennsylvania, this adult was very nicely photographed at State Gamelands 93, *Somerset* 23 June 2015. (*Josh Jones*)



Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*). Here an adult Prothonotary is shown approaching a begging juvenile at the nest at Peace Valley Park, *Bucks* 14 June 2015. (*Lynne Falterbauer*)



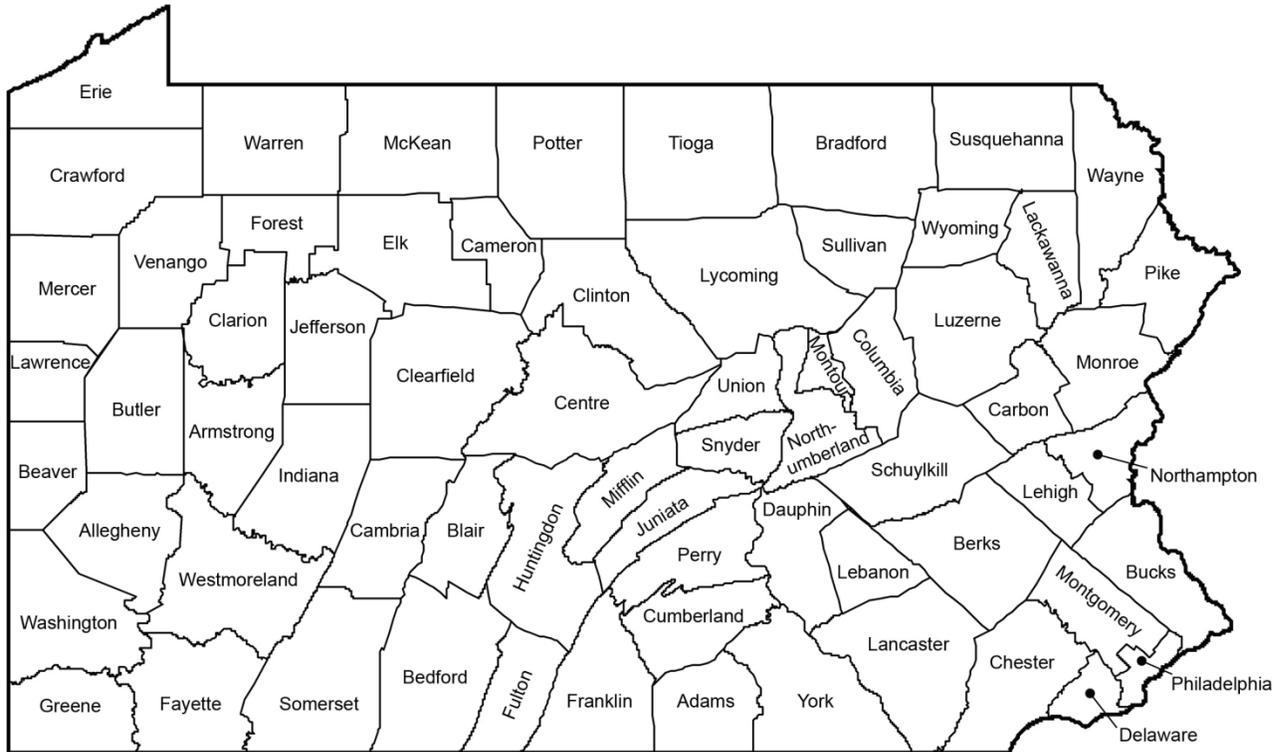
Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*). A pair of Summer Tanagers presumably bred at Neversink Mt. near Reading, *Berks* this season, present from May through Aug. The male is shown here on the day of its arrival, 5 May 2015. The pair represented the first record of a pair holding territory though the summer season in *Berks*. (*Jay Drasher*)



Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*). This scruffy fledgling at Peace Valley Park, *Bucks* is shown here on the day it fledged, 14 June 2015. It was believed to be one of three fledglings from the nest at Peace Valley this year. (*Lynne Falterbauer*)



Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*). Each summer birders are attracted to the Volant Strip Mines in *Lawrence* for their high density of breeding field birds. One of the stars of the show there is Bobolink; this female was photographed there 17 June 2015. (*Jeff McDonald*)



ABBREVIATIONS

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

eBird Usage: Data for these reports and throughout this journal include observations collected from the eBird database <<http://www.ebird.org>>. Citation: eBird. 2012. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance [web application]. eBird, Ithaca, New York. Available: <http://www.ebird.org>. (Accessed: 31 July 2015)

Adams County

Locations: Breeding Bird Survey Route #193 (BBS), Gettysburg National Military Park (GNMP), Long Pine Run Reservoir (LPRR), Michaux State Forest (MICH), Mountain Road (MTN), State Game Lands #249 (SGL).

A total of 135 species, including 17 species of warblers, made for a fine season. The wetland area at SGL off Gun Club Rd. provided a number of highlights 7/10-25, including **Hooded Merganser**, **Ruddy Duck**, a probable **Snowy Egret**, **Little Blue Heron**, **Common Gallinule**, and **Sandhill Crane**. The BBS route referenced in this report was conducted 6/13 (AW).

Mute Swan is now regular in all periods. This season a single was at Devonshire Village all period (AT) and 2 birds were at Lake Heritage 6/6 (KC). **Wood Duck** were in four locations with high counts of 9 at SGL 7/12 (DH) and 7/24 (PK) and 19 at Crooked Creek Wetlands 6/19 (PM). A **Hooded Merganser** hen with 5 young in tow was at SGL 7/12 (DH). A male **Ruddy Duck** was very confiding at SGL 7/10-25 (PK, m.ob.). An immature **Common Loon** was at LPRR 6/1 (AW). A **Pied-billed Grebe** spent some

time at a pond along Herr Ridge Rd. through 7/15 (TN, BP). SGL held **Ring-necked Pheasant** 6/3-7/12 (AW, DH) including 6 (3 male, 3 female) 6/5. **Ruffed Grouse** was at MICH 7/12 (DH). There were six reports of **Wild Turkey**, none exceeding 6 birds. An interesting observation of turkeys jumping to pluck and feed on cherries was made at MTN 6/26 (RDS).

Waders were a highlight of the season. High counts of 13 **Great Blue Herons** and 14 **Green Herons** were made at SGL 7/12 (DH). A juvenile **Little Blue Heron** was at SGL 7/11-25 (BP, m. ob.). A probable **Snowy Egret** was at the same site 7/10 (IC). **Black-crowned Night Heron** is reported in about 15% of summer seasons in Adams, so immature birds at Gettysburg College 7/15-16 (AW) and at Crooked Creek Wetlands 7/30 (PM) were noteworthy. Although all expected raptors were reported, frequency of sightings was low for a few species. Single **Osprey** were in Reading Twp. 6/16 (JB) and at GNMP 7/9 (BP). The only report of **Bald Eagle** was an adult and a fourth year bird over East Berlin 7/7 (PK). **Sharp-shinned Hawk** barely made the report with a 7/30 (BO) sighting at Peach Glen. Three reports of **Red-shouldered Hawk** included birds at SGL 6/5-16 (AW), GNMP 6/25 (DF), and LPRR 7/2 (MB). A pair of **Broad-winged**

Hawks were at MICH 7/12 (DH) and 7/20 (TN).

Rare for the period, up to 3 **Soras** were heard at the Hamiltonban Education Center pond 7/30 (PM, AWa, MO). Breeding was suspected, which would represent a first for *Adams*. A **Common Gallinule** was at SGL 7/10-25 (PK, m.ob.) and 2 were there 7/14 (AW). As this species has been at this location three of the past five years (unreported in 2013 and 2014), this location provides the best chance in south-central Pennsylvania to see this comical-looking yet engaging species. A **Sandhill Crane** at SGL 7/10 (PK) was nicely studied. Heavy rains in June through the first week of July prevented any possibility of good shorebird habitat. Up to 3 **Spotted Sandpipers** were at SGL 7/24-25 (PK, AM, DK).

Black-billed Cuckoo was at SGL 7/12 (DH); one at at MTN 7/11 (RDS) was a new addition to the homeowner's yard list. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was at SGL and MICH throughout the period (m.ob.) and a single was at GNMP 6/22 (KD). Unusual for its absence this season was Great Horned Owl. **Barred Owl** was at MTN 6/16 (RDS) and along Shippensburg Rd 7/12 (MB). **Red-headed Woodpecker** was well reported at 18 sites, with a high count of 4 at SGL 7/15 (DJG) and 7/12 (DH). Nice counts of **Acadian Flycatcher** came from MICH with 5 birds 6/1 (AW), 9 at SGL 7/5 (TN), and 5 along Birch Run Rd 7/20 (TN). **Willow Flycatcher** was reported in numbers as well; the BBS produced 5, SGL at Heidlersburg held 11 birds 6/5 (AW), and the wetland pond area at SGL produced a dozen 7/12 (DH). SGL was the only locale reporting **White-eyed Vireo**, with sightings 6/3-7/12 (DH, IG, TN, AW). **Yellow-throated Vireo** was at SGL 6/3-7/5 (IG, TN, AW), at GNMP 6/20-25 (KD, DF, BL), and LPRR held a trio 7/4 (DZ). **Blue-headed Vireo** was at MICH all period (m.ob.) and GNMP held one 7/31 (JS). A hike at SGL produced 7 **Warbling Vireos** 7/5 (TN).

Common Ravens were found at SGL 6/16 (AW) and 7/25 (DK) and a pair was at LPRR 7/12 (DH). The BBS provided the sole report of **Horned Lark** with 4 birds. Five locations produced **Purple Martins**. High counts included 34 at the established Gettysburg College colony 7/15 (AW). However, 18 birds at the SGL wetland 7/25 (AM) was interesting because there is no known colony in close proximity. **Black-capped Chickadees** were found in higher elevations of MICH including 6 on 7/12 (DH) and a single 7/27 (MB). The same 7/12 (DH) trip produced a **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, 2 **Golden-crowned Kinglet**, 5 **Veery**, and a **Hermit Thrush**. The nuthatch and kinglet were rare for summer. A Veery was also at MICH 6/1 (AW). The aforementioned 7/5 (TN) hike of SGL produced 16 **Wood Thrush** and 59 **Gray Catbirds**.

It was an exceptional season for warblers with 17 species noted. A **Blue-winged Warbler** was at SGL 7/12 (DH), 21 **Yellow Warblers** were at SGL 6/5 (AW), and MICH held a pair of **Chestnut-sided Warblers** 7/12 (DH). **Black-throated Green Warbler**, **Black-throated Blue Warbler**, **Pine Warbler**, and **Black-and-white Warbler** were at MICH 6/1-7/20 (DH, TN, AW, DZ). Some nice high counts included 6 Black-throated Green Warblers 7/20 (TN), 5 Pine Warblers 7/12 (DH), and 4 Black-and-white Warblers 7/20 (TN). Two **Prairie Warblers** were at SGL 7/12 (DH) and a single was at a PGC co-op parcel along Fish & Game Rd. 7/31 (PK). **Worm-eating Warbler** was along Birch Run Rd 7/12 (DH) and Shippensburg Rd 7/29 (MB). **Hooded Warbler** was found all period at MICH. Two **Canada Warblers** were at MICH 7/12 (DH). **Yellow-breasted Chat** was at Peach Glen 6/30 (BO) and SGL 7/12 (DH).

A nice count of 17 **Field Sparrows** was made at GNMP 6/21 (IG). The BBS produced the only **Savannah Sparrow** and one of only three reports of **Grasshopper Sparrow**. The other Grasshopper Sparrows were a single at GNMP 6/20 (BL) and a trio 6/21 (IG). SGL provided the only **Swamp Sparrow** 7/25 (AM).

Blue Grosbeaks were up somewhat with reports from Devonshire Village 6/7 (AT), GNMP 6/22 (KD), the Fairfield area 6/29 (RR), and SGL 7/12 (DH). **Bobolinks** were at GNMP 6/18 (KD) and 6/22 (SY) and at SGL 6/19 (AW). **Eastern Meadowlark** was noted at fewer locations than usual. The BBS produced 3 birds, GNMP had reports of up to 6 from 6/20-25 (KD, DF, IG, BL), and a single was at King Rd. 7/5 (PO). With only three reports, **Orchard Oriole** was less frequent than normal. The BBS produced one and SGL held up to 5 birds 6/3-7/1 (AW), and 3 birds 7/12 (DH). **Baltimore Oriole** was found 11 times on the BBS. In what might be a first for summer here, a **Pine Siskin** was at MTN 6/26 (RDS).

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Allegheny County

Locations: North Park (NP), Pine Township (PT).

The summer began with nearly daily periods of rain that continued through early July. After the first county record of breeding **Common Merganser** at Tarentum, another brood was discovered 6/28 at the same location (RP). A female had at least six small chicks with her on the Allegheny River. A **Northern Bobwhite** was a surprise in a Natrona Heights yard 7/10 (EH, PH). A **Great Egret** at NP 7/24-25 was early (MJ, TH). An **Osprey** nest, the third known in the county, was found in Duquesne along the Monongahela River, which hatched three chicks. The first southbound migrant shorebirds were two **Solitary Sandpipers** at NP 7/22 (DN, OM). A **Least Sandpiper** was at NP 7/30 (DP). **Black-billed Cuckoos** included one in West Deer Twp. 6/14 (DN) and one in Jefferson Hills 7/31 (JHa). **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were reported at various locations during the season. There were scattered **Common Nighthawk** reports for the season. A fledgling **Peregrine Falcon** from the Cathedral of Learning nest at the University of Pittsburgh, previously thought to have developmental problems, was found on a nearby street in June and was taken to a wildlife rehabilitator. Unfortunately, it died in mid-July.

Although **Yellow-throated Vireo** breeds elsewhere in the county, a bird at Frick Park in Pittsburgh 6/17 was unusual (AP, JC). It had not been known to breed in the park. A male was heard singing there 7/4-5 (JS, SS, MF, MVV). Another vireo not known to breed in the county, a **Blue-headed Vireo** was discovered at Dashields Dam 7/26 (MV). The late date could have indicated either a local breeder (unlikely, given the habitat) or an early migrant. Two **Purple Martins** were at Nevillewood Golf Course 6/11 (MJ). The new colony at Harrison Hills Park produced young this year (KK). Three **Common Ravens** over Schenley Park 6/25 (KSJ) provided the only report. The only reports of **Fish Crow** were in Dormont 6/28 and 7/8 (TJ), a new location for them. A **Hermit Thrush** in PT 6/9-11 (PL, SL) was unusual; the species is not known to breed in the county. **Veeries** were detected around Chatham College's Eden Hill Campus in Gibsonia this summer (MW), in addition to NP, where they are expected during the breeding season (DN).

Louisiana Waterthrushes are usually not reported after spring. Two were along Crouse Run in Hampton Twp. 7/5 (KP) and one was at Barking Slopes 7/11 (TH). A **Northern Waterthrush** was found dead at Herr's Island 7/24 (DYE). Although unfortunate because it probably struck a building, it does provide insight into the timing of their fall migration. **Black-and-white Warbler**, a local breeder, was seen at Dashields Dam 6/9 (MV) and 3 were at Harrison Hills Park 6/21 (MF). One was downriver from Harrison Hills at Barking Slopes 6/21 (TH). A **Kentucky Warbler** was heard in Harmar Twp. 6/1 (JV), 2 were at Boyce Park 6/14 (AH, PM) and one was at Barking Slopes 6/21 (TH). Three **Yellow-breasted Chats** were at Barking Slopes 6/21 (TH).

Purple Finches were in PT all season, where they likely bred (PL, SL). Single males were singing in Harmar Twp. and Penn Hills in June (JV, MF). A few **Pine Siskins** remained into the summer season but breeding was never confirmed. One was photographed at a feeder in Gibsonia 6/4 (AB) and two visited a feeder in Pleasant Hills 6/22 (SSn).

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Armstrong County

Locations: Crooked Creek (CC), Keystone Reservoir (KR), Kittanning (KT), Lock & Dam (L&D), Mahoning Dam (MD).

Wood Ducks were sparse this summer with a few at L&D 6/21 (TR) and 7/16 (MH, RH), and a single at KR 6/22 (DH). A **Common Merganser** flying over Brick Church 6/6 (MH, RH) was the only one reported. A **Double-crested Cormorant** stopped at KR 6/22 (DH). Two **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were a great find at KR 6/2 (RB), the first seen here since 2002. One **Bald Eagle** was at CC 7/12 (TR), the county's only report. Three young **Red-shouldered Hawks** were still in the nest at CC 6/16 (MVT). A single **Broad-winged Hawk** was along Nicholson Run 6/11 (MVT). A **Spotted Sandpiper** along Cowanshannock Creek 6/7 (MH, RH) was the only one noted. A **Herring Gull** was sighted n. of L&D 8 on 6/21 (TR). **Yellow-billed**

Cuckoos were at six locations this summer (m.ob.). A single **Black-billed Cuckoo**, the only one reported, was at Polka Hollow 6/13 (MVT). **Peregrine Falcons** were confirmed nesting near KT 6/10 (DF) when a juvenile was photographed; this was a first county breeding record.

Two **Acadian Flycatchers** were photographed on nest at Polka Hollow 6/13 (MVT), and the Roaring Run Trail was the hotspot for Acadians when 11 were counted 7/1 and 7/27 (MH, RH). Three **Willow Flycatchers** were present at SGL 247 on 6/6 and 7/18 (TR). Two **Great Crested Flycatchers** were heard about a mile and a half from each other near Rural Valley 6/7 (MH, RH).

White-eyed Vireos were found at four locations this summer (m.ob.) with the best count of 3 at SGL 247 on 7/18 (TR). **Yellow-throated Vireos** were listed at eight locations. A **Blue-headed Vireo** singing n. of L&D 8 on 7/16 (MH, RH) was the only one reported. **Warbling Vireos** were noted at seven locations (m.ob.). The **Common Raven** nest at CC fledged two young again this year (MVT). Two **Purple Martins** appeared at MD 6/13 (SG), and 17 were counted at the colony at Wood's Pond 7/6 (MH, RH). Four **Cliff Swallows** at KR 6/22 (DH) were the only ones reported. **Veery** reports included one or 2 at SGL 247 between 6/6-7/18 (TR) and one along the river at KT 6/7 (MH, RH).

Ovenbird tallies included 21 on the Margaret BBS 6/6 (MH, RH) and 18 on the KT BBS 6/7 (MH, RH). The only **Worm-eating Warbler** was noted at MD 6/13 (SG). The last reported **Louisiana Waterthrush** was near Spring Church 7/3 (GF). **Blue-winged Warblers** were more widely reported this summer than last; 2 were at SGL 247 on 6/6 (TR), one was seen on the Margaret BBS on the same date (MH, RH), the following day (MH, RH), the KT BBS yielded 2, one was listed at KR 6/22 (DH), and last was spotted along the Roaring Run Trail 7/25 (MVT). Five was a good **Black-and-white Warbler** tally n. of L&D 8 on 6/21 (TR). **Kentucky Warblers** continue to be hard to find, but this season 3 were noted: singletons along Allshouse Rd. 6/6 (MH, RH), along Creek Road 6/13 (MVT), and at KR 6/22 (DH). **Hooded Warblers** were widespread with the high count of 7 on the KT BBS 6/6 (MH, RH). The *Armstrong* section of the Shelocta BBS 6/3 (MH, RH) produced 3 **Cerulean Warblers** and the Margaret BBS 6/6 (MH, RH), one, all in the CC watershed. A **Northern Parula** and a **Magnolia Warbler** at MD 6/13 (SG) comprised the entire report for these species. The KT BBS 6/6 (MH, RH) yielded 4 **Chestnut-sided Warblers**. Single **Yellow-throated Warblers** were found at Cochran's Mill 6/3 (MH, RH) and at MD 6/13 (SG), and a 2.26-mile stretch of the Roaring Run Trail produced 5 singing males on 7/1 (MH, RH). Only two **Prairie Warblers** were listed, one at MD 6/13 (SG) and the other at KR 6/22 (DH).

A **Grasshopper Sparrow** was found along the road to Robb's Forging 6/3 (MH, RH). Only 2

Savannah Sparrows were noted, one 6/3 (MH, RH) near South Bend and one 7/6 (MH, RH) near Elderton. The only **Bobolinks** were 3 along the road to Robb's Forging 6/3 (MH, RH) and 2 just ne. of KT 6/7 (MH, RH). A **Purple Finch** near Leechburg 6/17 (MVT) was surprisingly the only one mentioned.

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Beaver County

Locations: New Brighton (NB), Raccoon Creek State Park (RCSP), Rochester (RCH).

A **Hooded Merganser** and 2 **Common Mergansers** were noted at NB 6/14 (MV), the latter still unconfirmed in the county as a breeder. An **Osprey** was also at NB that day (MV), certainly from the Beaver River nest, and another was photographed at RCSP 7/12 (TH). As mentioned in the spring report, it is not known where the Ospreys seen periodically at RCSP are nesting; they could be from the Aliquippa nest or from a new nest still undiscovered. A **Herring Gull**, another very possible breeder still never confirmed in *Beaver*, was at RCH 6/13 (TJ) and at NB 6/14 (MV). A **Common Nighthawk** was over Beaver Falls 6/12 (TJ), the only report. Nighthawk was missed at the first stop of the *Beaver/Lawrence* BBS route in downtown Beaver 6/7 (GM), where the species is detected about every other year. **American Kestrels** at Little Blue Lake 6/17 (KJ) were likely breeders there, and another was out of place along the Ohio River at Vanport 6/19 (GR). The **Peregrine Falcons** did indeed nest this year on the P&LE rail bridge over the Ohio River, about a mile downstream from the usual location on the East Rochester Bridge. Due to the inaccessibility of the P&LE, there was no banding attempt, though there was at least one fledgling (SG *vide* AM).

A **Great Crested Flycatcher** just outside of Beaver during a BBS run 6/7 (GM) was unusual for the route. Nothing was heard from the **Common Ravens** that attempted to nest on the Rochester-Beaver railroad bridge after mid-Apr, though one or two were seen around Conway, on the eastern side of the Ohio River south of RCH, 6/21 (MV) and 7/26 (CS), suggesting yet another potential nesting area. Another raven was near Little Blue Lake 6/17 (KJ). **Northern Parula** was noted in RCSP 7/4 (TH), as was a **Black-throated Green Warbler** 7/12 (TH). The former is an annual breeder in the park, and the latter almost certainly so, though never confirmed. A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was a nice find near Little Blue Lake 6/17 (KJ). The Little Blue area is probably the most reliable place in the county for **Grasshopper Sparrow** and **Eastern Meadowlark**, which were also both there 6/17 (KJ), though both species and a few other grassland specialists are sporadic breeders throughout the county especially around SGL 285, *Beaver's* other major grassland stronghold. A **Pine Siskin** visited a feeder in Center Twp. 7/1 (CA), quite possibly a bird that nested in the area following this winter's invasion, though again not confirmed.

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Bedford County

No report.

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Berks County

Locations: Blue Marsh Lake (BML), French Cr. State Park (FCSP), Hamburg (HB), Hawk Mt. Sanctuary (HMS), Kemsville Dam in Hamburg (KD), Kittatiny Ridge (KR), L. Ontelaunee (LO), State Game Lands (SGL).

The 7 **Snow Geese** seen in the vicinity of HB in June were most likely a family lingering as a unit because one of the adults was wounded and incapable of migrating (MW). Only 2-3 adult **Mute Swans** were seen at LO this summer and they produced no cygnets. The population has remained low since the culling operation in 2014 reduced numbers from previous year's high counts of 20-30 birds. A female **Common Merganser** with 5 large young was seen at Berne Bridge, HB 6/16 (MW). Breeding is now confirmed annually along that part of the Schuylkill R. The latest reported **Common Loon** still on the move was at LO 6/21 (MSp). Very few nonbreeding **Double-crested Cormorants** summered this year. **Ruffed Grouse** persists at low density only along the KR across northern *Berks*, where one was drumming 6/3 and 6/24 (HM).

Few herons visited *Berks* during post-breeding dispersal. A few **Great Egrets** were reported in the latter half of Jul (m.ob.) and an imm. **Little Blue Heron** was at KD 7/23-31 (KG, PJW, MW). For the first time in many years, no nests of **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were found. The last known colony at Berks Technical Institute in Wyomissing Hills was severely damaged in a May 2014 hailstorm and the birds did not return this year. Requests for information about the herons made on WEEU Radio (JH) and in the Reading Eagle (BU) yielded only a few June reports of up to 3 birds seen perched in or flying over the residential neighborhoods where nesting has occurred in recent years. The only evidence indicating that breeding occurred was the appearance of juveniles at BML and LO in Jul and Aug. The summer's high count of juveniles at BML was 11 (with 3 adults) 8/15 (JS). At LO, 4 adults and 2 imm. were seen 7/12 (MSch), and at least one juvenile was still there 8/29 (RK).

Black Vultures have an affinity for nesting in barns, outbuildings, and abandoned houses. Three such sites produced 2 fledglings each this year (EB, RB, RK). The only reported **Turkey Vulture** nest fledged one young (RB). The 7 active **Bald Eagle** nests in the county fledged at least 10 young (*vide* JM of PGC). As last summer, 2 fledgling **Cooper's Hawks** spent much time loafing on some Aug days in a backyard in Bern Twp. (JS). One of them spent about an hour one afternoon lounging in a shallow ground level birdbath watching the comings and goings of feeder birds, leaving the bath briefly to chase encroaching gray squirrels on foot. **Red-shouldered Hawk** is most often reported in the breeding season in the extensive Piedmont forest around FCSP, where 2 were seen 7/5 (NM). The **Broad-winged Hawk** Project of HMS completed its second season of gathering data on the breeding biology and movements of this forest buteo. Project volunteers monitored 4 nests in *Berks*. Of 2 nests in FCSP, one was lost to predation and the other fledged 2 young. A nest near Morgantown and one near

Shartlesville fledged 2 young each (LG). Besides those, an adult and 2 fledged young were seen in Pike Twp. in Aug (RK).

As noted in the spring report, **Sandhill Crane** sightings have increased in recent years. A gray bird was at the farm pond on Old Rt. 22 east of Shartlesville 6/5-6 (MW). A much browner bird was photographed walking on a lawn near Onyx Cave 6/14 (fide JH). This brown bird was probably the one photographed in a soybean field in Centre Twp. 6/28 (JSA), remaining there or nearby till 7/6 (LG, KG, MW). Migrating shorebirds often furnish many records for this season's report, but this year only 2 **Solitary Sandpipers** (RK, MW) and 5 **Least Sandpipers** (MW) were reported in late Jul. **Ring-billed Gulls** in single digits again summered at BML (JS). Two **Eurasian Collared-Doves** were seen at the Shartlesville colony in Jul (MW), but there was no breeding confirmation or evidence of colony expansion. **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were widespread and were common on the KR, where gypsy moths defoliated the oaks in Jun. According to Dan Mummert of PGC, **Barn Owls** had an exceptionally poor breeding season in *Berks* and statewide. Only 5 active nests were known in *Berks*, which produced 13 chicks that survived to banding age. Of 3 nests monitored to fledging, one nest fledged 3 young and the others fledged one young each (RB). The exact causes of the decline are unknown, but a dip in meadow vole populations and two harsh winters may have been factors. One to 4 **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were heard at SGL 110, Northkill Gap 6/10-7/31 (LC, KG, MW), associated with a regenerating clearcut. Like **Ruffed Grouse**, this species was more widespread in the 20th century but is now restricted to the Kittatinny Ridge in *Berks*. **Red-headed Woodpeckers** had a successful breeding season at several well-known locations. Five adults visited cavities 6/20 at the colony along Bastian Rd. near Bowers (SF). On 8/10, 2 adults and 5 fledglings from this colony visited a nearby feeder (fide PS). A pair was feeding young in the nest 6/24 (RK) at Kauffman Rd. in Oley Twp., a site abandoned for several years but now recolonized. Two adults followed by 2 fledglings were at the colony along School Rd., Marion Twp. 7/31 (RK). There are probably undiscovered pairs and small colonies in other small woodlots, groves and treelines scattered through farmland.

Acadian Flycatchers are most common at opposite ends of the county; one cluster in the large Piedmont forest of southern *Berks* and the other on the KR, where 13 singing males were found at HB Reservoir 6/10 (KG). An apparently territorial **Alder Flycatcher** was seen and heard in a regenerating clearcut on the KR 5/23 and 6/3 (KG). Another Alder sang in similar habitat at SGL 106 on 6/16 (RK). Though *Berks* is south of the species' breeding range in Pennsylvania, males sometimes hold territories for varying lengths of time, but no breeding confirmations have resulted. Colonization by **Common Ravens** continues. Four were at the Hay Creek quarry near Birdsboro 6/6 (JT) and 3 were at Conestoga Landfill, New Morgan 7/11 (FH). Twelve **Bank Swallows** swirled around their only known nesting colony at the Haines & Kibblehouse Quarry at Hay Creek, Birdsboro 7/13 (MW).

Various public trails that allow access to floodplain forest along the Schuylkill R. are getting more visits from birders, resulting in some interesting warbler records. A male **Prothonotary Warbler** and a male **Yellow-throated Warbler**, both rare and both continuing from spring, were seen and heard along the Exeter Scenic River Trail 6/6-7/4 (DA, EH, JT). Other species with floodplain affinities, such as **Yellow-throated Vireo**, **Warbling Vireo**, **American Redstart** and **Northern Parula**, also were found in healthy numbers. It was good to see 8 reports of **Worm-eating Warblers**, most of multiple birds and most from the slopes of the KR or the "Big Woods" of southern *Berks*. A **Cerulean Warbler** was heard at FCSP 7/5 (NM), 2 were found at SGL 80 on the KR 6/11, 14 (DA, IG), and 3 were heard along the Appalachian Trail near Rt. 183 on 7/15 (DH). Regenerating clearcuts at an early successional stage have historically produced the highest counts of breeding **Chestnut-sided Warblers** in *Berks*. In such habitat in the Weiser State Forest on the KR, 15 singing males were counted 6/3 (KG). Two singing **Black-throated Blue Warblers** and 5 singing **Black-throated Green Warblers**, both KR specialties for us, were found at HB Reservoir 6/10 (KG). One to 3 **Yellow-breasted Chats** performed their helicopter display flights from snags above scrub at SGL 106 from 6/16-7/12 (RK, m.ob.).

Vesper Sparrow, **Savannah Sparrow**, and **Grasshopper Sparrow** were found at their usual northern *Berks* farms and also at a new location—Green Hills Preserve in southern *Berks*, a recently preserved farm being converted into native grassland (AZ). **Blue Grosbeak** may slowly be increasing as a breeder. There were 8 reports from various places (KG, RK, NM, AZ), 4 of singing males and 4 of pairs, one of which produced 2 fledglings seen at Conestoga Landfill, New Morgan 7/11 (FH). Dickcissels did not return to the farms near Windsor Castle where they were found in the last three years. Fields inhabited by the Dickcissels at one of the farms were converted to row crops, but the grass hayfields at the other farm remain intact. A few **Bobolinks** and a few **Eastern Meadowlarks** were found in Jun at some of the few farms that still have large grass hayfields

(KG, RK). It is now often easier to find **Horned Larks** in this county than it is to find either of the above species.

S.A.

A pair of **Summer Tanagers** (photographed) held a probable breeding territory on Neversink Mt., Reading from May until Aug. The male, detected by his distinctive call notes, was first seen 5/5 and the inconspicuous female was first seen 6/7 (JD). The male sang frequently from conspicuous perches from May to Jul, and the pair was seen and heard together several times at the forest edge and at a small ornamental pool installed to attract wildlife at a private residence, the only reliable water source for a long distance in this dry forest (JD, et al.). The female was last seen 7/31 and the male was still present 8/28 (JD). Though breeding was not confirmed, this was the first record of a pair holding a territory through the breeding season in *Berks*. The pair's territory was on private property with restricted access. The birds frequented the edge of a powerline right-of-way with scrub vegetation and scattered pines that cuts through dry, stony oak forest with a heath and fern understory.

Summer Tanager has a long history of occurrence in *Berks*, but has never been confirmed breeding. Earl Poole believed that two June specimens taken in *Berks* in the 1880s (Reading Public Museum collection) seemed to indicate that breeding may have occurred here in the 19th century. (Uhrich, *A Century of Bird Life in Berks County, Pennsylvania*). A pair was seen near Bethel in May 1931. Besides that pair, the five other 20th century spring records are of males seen on single days in May. There are 5 September records of birds in female/immature plumage from HMS in the 1930s and 1940s. Even more intriguing in light of the Neversink Mt. pair is the present century's only previous record; an adult female accompanied by a presumed juvenile male engaging in food begging behavior seen in Bern Twp. 8/26/2012, the same year in which breeding Summer Tanagers were confirmed in neighboring *Lebanon*.

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Blair County

Locations: Canoe Creek State Park (CCSP), Ski Gap (SG)

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.

An **Osprey** made an appearance at the ball game at Peoples Natural Gas Field in Altoona 7/20 (DP). A trio of **Cooper's Hawks** was also reported, one each near Martinsburg 6/14 (M&RH), near Tyrone 6/16 (MB), and in the SG area 6/22 (DH). A single rare **American Coot** was observed 6/9 at CCSP (TA). Only one **Belted Kingfisher** was reported, at the Bald Eagle Sportsmen Cooperative Nursery 6/12-19 (MN).

All reported flycatchers are uncommon during the summer. An **Acadian Flycatcher** was spotted 6/22 in the SG area (DH), and the same day, 3 were observed in Plummers Hollow (MB). A few single **Willow Flycatchers** were also documented: one 6/6 on Millerstown Rd. and on Clover Cr. Rd (DG), another 6/13 at CCSP (JD), and the last 6/14 near Martinsburg (M&RH). **Great Crested Flycatchers** were widely observed. Up to 4 **Eastern Kingbirds** were present 6/9 and 7/22 at CCSP (TA), and 2 were spotted 6/22 in the SG area (DH).

A single **Yellow-throated Vireo** was on Millerstown Rd. 6/6 (DG). A **Warbling Vireo** was reported on Clover Cr. Rd. 6/6, and another was present at CCSP 6/9-13 (TA, JD). **Common Ravens** were not common, with only 2 reported: one each 6/16 near Tyrone (MB) and 6/17 near Claysburg (SS). A single **Horned Lark** was seen off Pearson Ln. 6/14 (M&RH). Two **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were at the Bald Eagle Sportsmen Cooperative Nursery 6/5 (MN), one or two were present 6/9 and 7/22 at CCSP (TA), and 2 were on Quarry Rd. 6/14 (M&RH). Two **Purple Martins** were found 6/6 on Orchard Rd. (DG). Two **Bank Swallows** were also noted, one each on the Lower Trail 7/7 and at CCSP 7/22 (both TA).

Also, two **Cliff Swallows** were on Millerstown Rd. 6/6 (DG). The only thrush of note was a single **Veery** on the Lower Trail 6/29-7/7 (TA).

Twelve species of warbler were noted, five of which are common or abundant; the remainder are considered uncommon. Two **Worm-eating Warblers** were near Tyrone 6/16 and another was at Plummers Hollow 6/22 (both MB). One was also observed 7/19 at the Allegheny Portage Railroad NHS (DP). A few **Louisiana Waterthrushes** were also present. One was reported 6/12 at the Bald Eagle Sportsmen Cooperative Nursery (MN) and another 6/22 at the SG area (DH). Two **Black-and-white Warblers** were in Plummers Hollow 6/14, and another was near Tyrone 6/16 (both MB). Yet another bird was in the SG area 6/22 (DH), and 3 found their way to Frosty Hollow 7/25 (LB). **Hooded Warblers** were present in some numbers, including 7 at Plummers Hollow 6/14-22, and 4 were near Tyrone 6/16 (both MB). A few **Cerulean Warblers** also graced the woods of *Blair*, with 2 at Plummers Hollow 6/14-22 and 2 more at another location near Tyrone 6/16 (both MB). One was also present 6/29 on the Lower Trail (TA). Only one **Northern Parula** crossed paths with a birder; that encounter was 6/14 in Plummers Hollow (MB). Solo **Chestnut-sided Warblers** were at the Allegheny Portage Railroad NHS 7/19 (DP) and at Frosty Hollow 7/25 (LB).

Savannah Sparrows are considered uncommon, yet there were widespread observations of the species during the summer. Six **Grasshopper Sparrows** were noted at four locations on Millerstown Rd. 6/6 (DG). A single **Eastern Meadowlark** was on Clover Cr. Rd. 6/6 (DG), and another was on South Eagle Valley Rd. 6/9 (MN). One was also noted in the SG area 6/22 (DH). **Orchard Orioles** were also observed, with one identified 6/6 on Clover Cr. Rd. and another the same day along Millerstown Rd. (both DG). Two were at CCSP 6/9 (TA).

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Bradford County

Locations: Browning Pond, Wyalusing (BRP), Edwards Rd, Stevensville (ERS), Long Valley Road, SGL 36 (LVR), Barclay Mt. (BM), Peck Hill (PEH), Riverfront Park, Towanda (RFP), State Game Lands 12, western Barclay Mt. (SGL12), State Game Lands 36 eastern Barclay Mt. (SGL36), Trudy Gerlach farm near New Era (TNE), Wyalusing Breeding Bird Survey (WBBS), Woods Rd. (WRD).

This report is dedicated to Skip Conant, a wonderful birder and friend who passed away on July 13. I regret so much that this will be the last time his name appears in this report; on 6/7 he joined his nephew Rob Megraw, and Bob Fowles, on the Wyalusing Breeding Bird Survey.

After an exceedingly wet spring, June and July settled down into much dry weather with some hot and very humid days. Birding seemed more or less normal.

A female **Wood Duck** with chicks was at a beaver pond at TNE (DA). A **Great Blue Heron** colony was active for the second year in New Era, again with 6 nests. Although two fell during the winter, two were rebuilt in slightly different locations. On 6/28 there were 14-16 chicks in the nests, all fledged by 8/17 (DA, TG). A **Green Heron** was at WRD 6/17-18 (CM).

Bald Eagle was noted at and near ERS 6/3-7/21 (KR). A male **Northern Harrier** flew across Rt. 220 just south of Athens 7/20 (IW). **Broad-winged Hawks** included one on Carbon Run Rd, SGL12 on 6/9(LF), one above Wyalusing New Albany Rd. south of New Era 7/9, and a along Wyalusing New Albany Rd. 7/20 (TG).

Two adult **Sandhill Cranes** were seen with 2 colts 7/9. For the first time more than one was in the Crane Swamp vicinity (KR, RW), 2 adults were off Burke Rd 7/10 (KR), and 4 were observed on 7/29-31 at Elwell (DS). Five **American Woodcocks** (probably a family group) were at TNE 6/24, and one determined woodcock very reluctantly yielded to a car on the lane at TNE 7/15 (TG). A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was calling at TNE on 6/30 and 7/2 (TG). A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was noted four times through 7/2 (m.ob.). Quite unusual, a **Red-headed Woodpecker** was at the Wyalusing Rocks 6/14 (DG). An **American Kestrel** chick fledged from a nest in a barn on Pine Valley Rd. 6/23 (LF, SF). A **Merlin** was at PEH 6/3 (AV, GV).

An **Acadian Flycatcher** was still singing near the house at TNE 6/18, where it had been singing much of the spring (TG); one was at PEH 7/2-3 (AV, GV). A **Willow Flycatcher** was seen on the WBBS 6/7 (SC, BF, RM) and 2 were at BRP 6/12 (KR). A **Yellow-throated Vireo** was at RFP 6/2 (LF), one was on the WBBS 6/7 (SC, BF, RM), one was singing at TNE 6/22 (TG), and one was on Bowling Alley Rd., Wyalusing 7/20 (KR).

Normally not seen elsewhere in the county, five **Fish Crows** were at

Tioga Point Cemetery, Athens 7/14 (BH). A **Bank Swallow** was observed on the WBBS 6/7 (SC, BF, RM) and 29 were on Bowling Alley Rd, Wyalusing 7/3 (KR). Three **Cliff Swallows** were at RFP 6/2 (LF). Three **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were at Lamb's Lookout Ln. 6/24 (LF).

A **Golden-winged Warbler** was singing at PEH 6/10 (AV). A **Blue-winged Warbler** was seen on the WBBS 6/7 (SC, BF, RM) and at DRS 7/20 (KR). A **Black-and-white Warbler** was at the Wyalusing Rocks 6/14 (DG), one was at SGL12 on 7/24 (SR), and one was at ERS 7/24 (KR). On 7/14 an out-of-season **Tennessee Warbler** was at PEH (AV, GV), presumably a very early migrant. Two **Magnolia Warblers** were at Lamb's Lookout Ln. 6/24 (LF) and one was at SGL12 on 7/24 (SR). Three **Blackburnian Warblers** were at Lamb's Lookout Ln. 6/24 (LF). A **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was on Lower Mt. Rd. Canton 6/6 (LF), one was on Barclay Mt. 7/5 (KR), and one was in SGL12 on 7/24 (SR). A **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was near the intersection of Iron Bridge and Lone Mary Rds. 7/9 (TG). A **Prairie Warbler** was at LVR 6/9 (LF) and one was at PEH on 6/9, 6/22, and 7/10; a juvenile was there 7/23 (AV, GV). A **Canada Warbler** was at SGL36 and LVR 6/9 (LF), one was at SGL12 on 7/24 (SR), and a female was at PEH 7/30 (AV, GV).

Two **Savannah Sparrows** were at SGL36 and LVR 6/9 (LF). A **Grasshopper Sparrow** was at SGL36 and LVR 6/9 (LF), and on Barclay Mt. 7/5 (KR). Most unusual, a **Henslow's Sparrow** was singing in Wysox Twp. 7/13 (LF). On 6/12 a first-year male and female **Orchard Oriole** were at BRP; 2 were noted 7/17 and one 7/25 at ERS (KR). Up to 3 **Purple Finches** were at ERS 6/7-23 (KR), and one or 2 were at PEH 7/11-14 (AV, GV). Summer observations of **Pine Siskins** included 2 in Towanda 6/6 (SR); one 6/9-10, a pair 6/11, and one 6/13 all at PEH, (AV, GV), and a juvenile at ERS 7/12-13 (KR).

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Bucks County

Locations: Delaware River (Del. R.), Nockamixon State Park (NSP), Peace Valley Park (PVP), Rohm and Haas, Bristol (RHS).

Temperatures were about a degree above average each month. Rainfall varied greatly as usual this time of year, with the nearby Trenton, New Jersey measurements being 1.9 inches above normal for June and 1.8 inches below for July. Reports were light. The only general comment is one of continuing concern due to the many species that were seen raising Brown-headed Cowbirds. Of course this has been a long-time concern, but it just seems to be worse than ever. The total count of species reported was 137 for the two month period. At least 109 species were confirmed or probable breeders this year and 5 more were possible. As usual, historical references are from *Birds of Bucks County* by Ken Kitson (1998) and subsequent updates recorded in this journal. Thanks to Hart Rufe and Devich Farbotnik for details on their efforts with Purple Martins and American Kestrels. Weather statistics are from NOAA at nearby Trenton, New Jersey. The stated normal reference period used on the NOAA website is based on the recent three decades 1981-2010.

The only out of season report was a male **Lesser Scaup** at PVP 6/1 (AM). The star attraction of the season was a totally unexpected alternate plumaged **Pacific Loon** at NSP 7/21-23 (DFa, ph.). There have been three other previous documented reports in the county, but none were accepted by the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee (PORC). This well documented bird therefore left no doubt about the species' place on the county list. An alternate plumaged **Common Loon** was also at NSP 7/22 through the end of the month for the only report (m.ob.). Wetlands on the former US Steel property in Falls Twp. provided our only known breeding site in recent years for Pied-billed Grebe and Common Gallinule, but the land is now part of the Tullytown landfill complex and was filled (DFa). The mitigation wetlands made to replace it, like so many such sites, do not come close to providing a replacement habitat (DFa). The Quakertown Swamp **Great Blue Heron** colony continued to decline, with only 6 to 8 nests reported (DFa, JMo). A new site with a single nest was at Churchville Park (HD, JMo). Five surveyed colonies had a total of 97 nests, but five more colonies were not surveyed (JMo). In general it was believed the colonies had fewer nests this year, but sites that were surveyed had leaves that may have prevented accurate counts (JMo). A movement of 35 birds heading up the Del. R. at Mud Island 7/12, with 18 in one flock, was a surprise (DFa). **Great Egret** was reported from 15 sites, with most counts of just one

(m.ob.). The high counts were 6 at Mud Island 7/12, 32 at RHS 7/30, 5 at Core Creek Park 7/30 (all DFa), and 4 at Levittown 7/20 (DFi). Single imm. **Little Blue Herons** were at Penn-Warner Tract, Falls Twp. 7/19 and RHS 7/26 (DFa). **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was at PVP, RHS, and Silver Lake Park on a few dates between 6/20 and 7/31 (DFa, CCo, RC, AM), with the high count of 2 adults and one juv. at RHS 7/4 (DFa). An imm. **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was at PVP 7/5, which was two days earlier than previous post breeding dispersal arrivals (HD). An imm. **Glossy Ibis** was at RHS 7/25-26 (DFa).

Our active **Osprey** nest count increased by two this year to a total of eight, with at least 9 juvs. visible in seven of those nests (JMo, EB, DFa, CM). All were on manmade structures. Two new nests were at Croydon and another south of Upper Black Eddy. The nest in a tree at Marshall Island that fell down last summer was not rebuilt this year (DA). The long established Riegelsville nest had apparently been blown away but was rebuilt (JMo). A new nest platform was erected at NSP with hopes of nesting next year (DFa). Of the seven known **Bald Eagle** nest sites in recent years, the Marshall Island and Lynn Island nests were inactive (JMo, CM, EB). The other five nests produced at least 9 juvs. (JMo, DFa). **Broad-winged Hawk** was reported 6/7 at SGL 157 (DFa), 6/23 at NSP (EB), and 6/24 at Tinicum Twp. (PC), which hopefully indicates at least a small continuing number of breeders in the upper county. One at PVP 6/10 (RH) was unexpected, but one there 7/26 (PTa ph.) may have been an early migrant. One was reported 7/22-30 at NSP (m.ob.). **Red-shouldered Hawk** was under reported and one wonders if they suffered losses due to the severe winter. On 6/10, one was at NSP (BK), and another was in Tinicum Twp. (DA).

Eleven species of shorebirds were reported. An **American Avocet** at PVP 7/27 (KR) was the 12th occurrence for the county and the fourth for PVP. A **Willet** at NSP 7/30 (PC, PTe) was only the fifth known county occurrence. The last reported spring northbound shorebird was a **Semipalmated Sandpiper** at PVP 6/1 (AM ph.). Rarely noted after early spring, an **American Woodcock** was at Quakertown Swamp 6/3 (MG) providing the only report. Six gull species were reported. A **Bonaparte's Gull** at NSP was spotted on the early but not unprecedented date of 7/22 (JF). **Laughing Gull** was in the lower Del. R. area as usual in large numbers (MG, DFa). One can only guess that they come a great distance from breeding areas to take advantage of the landfill buffet. A **Caspian Tern** was a presumed early southbound migrant at Mud Island on the early date of 7/5 (DFa). Two were at PVP 7/27 (m.ob.). A **Common Tern** was at PVP 6/1 for the only report (AM). A **Forster's Tern** at NSP 7/6 was unprecedented for that early in Jul (DFa).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo was reported at 14 sites, but **Black-billed Cuckoo** from only four (m.ob.). A juv. **Black-billed Cuckoo** was photographed at PVP 7/5 (RZ). The summer resident **Red-headed Woodpeckers** at Buckingham Twp. (DS) and SGL 157 continued (EB), with the latter site having at least one juv. on 7/17 (KR). **American Kestrel** nest box efforts were successful again (DFa).

American Kestrel Project

Year	2015	2014	2013
Boxes	71	70	73
Nests with eggs	44	45	34
Nests failed	6	8	7
Nests fledged	38	37	27
Eggs laid	211	208	135
Fledged	164	169	94

The increase in fledglings since 2013 is believed to be partially due to improved placement of boxes resulting from experience showing what habitat is likely to succeed. Two of this year's local parent females originated from 2 miles south of Flemington, Hunterdon County, New Jersey, where they were banded as juvs. in the nest from the same box but in two consecutive years: Jun 2012 (Band #1783-22287) and Jun 2013 (Band #1783-21775). A juv. banded in a box near Plumsteadville on 6/7/2014 was a parent this year in a box near Martin's Creek, *Northampton* (all DFa). Four other nest boxes, two at PVP, one at a New Britain Twp. farm, and one at Blooming Glen, were occupied, but it is unknown how many young were fledged (AM).

The 3 offspring of the new resident pair of **Peregrine Falcons** at the Turnpike Bridge were banded 6/2 and were assumed to fledge successfully. One of the adult birds had a band but the number could not be read. The new *Bucks* cliff site of a resident pair had two nestlings banded 6/30, and they both were flying by 7/23. The adult male at the site was banded as a nestling 6/10/2013 at Martin's Creek power plant in *Northampton* (all AMC).

Reports of **Common Raven** were surprisingly low; a family group of at least 5 was near Kintnersville (CM, AM, JMi). Ravens were seen sporadically near a known nest site in Nockamixon Twp. through the period,

with 4 young fledged, although one was found dead later (*fide* DFa).

The following is a summary with comments on the large **Purple Martin** colony in East Rockhill Twp. provided by the land owners (HR, JR). The owner asked that recognition be given as follows: "Devich (Farbotnik) has assisted me with this colony this entire year and has been absolutely invaluable in building and maintaining racks, setting up the gourds, and has helped with every nest check all summer. I want to publicly acknowledge what an outstanding birder he has become and how valuable his assistance has been to me with this colony."

Purple Martin Colony

Year	2015	2014	2013
Gourds	124	124	91
Nests*	121	119	90
Nests with eggs	92	74	77
Eggs laid**	388	251	279
Eggs hatched	226	n/a	n/a
Fledged	211	165	225
Failed Nests	25	18	0

*Nests – gourds where nesting cups containing added leaves and/or other material.

**Eggs Laid – the additional number, compared with prior years, is partially due to the fact that there were 92 nests with eggs, compared with a previous high of 77 in 2013. The higher number of failed nests contributed as well, as new eggs were laid in the same gourds.

The landowners continued, "The disturbing factor is the increased number of failed nests. Certainly, the Cooper's Hawk was around more this year than we were aware in the past years. Undoubtedly, even though the martins get up and mob it whenever it comes by, some get picked off, and I suspect that accounts for some of the failed nests. We also had more first-year birds nesting than in previous years, and I suspect they are not as successful as the more experienced older birds. The two weeks of cold, rainy weather in May probably also contributed to some of the failed nests. The last date for birds at the colony was 8/21, with 6 present (HR)."

The formerly large **Cliff Swallow** colony at PVP may be very slowly increasing after its collapse with estimates of 10 to 15 adults present (BK, AM). At least one nest was believed to be active at NSP in July (DFa). A colony was discovered at Council Rock High School South (BS), and at least four nests were reported (HD). A photo showing mud nest outlines suggested this small colony was present before this year, but the nests had probably been removed by maintenance staff (BS). The colonies on the Del. R. were not reported in a way to judge status.

The two adult **Prothonotary Warblers** at PVP were first noted feeding young in the nest on 6/3 (HE). An estimated 3 juv. left the nest 6/14 (LF, ph.) exactly one year to the day of last year's presumed fledge date. The last report for the period was 7/10 (AM). The only reported territorial **Kentucky Warbler** continued from spring at SGL 157 on 6/26 (PT). Our only reported **Chestnut-sided Warbler** summer site in recent years at Springtown Twp. had none this year (VD). The observer reported that the power line right of way was sprayed in the fall and was a wasteland this spring. The lack of birds and butterflies was upsetting to say the least. She indicated her requests not to spray had been honored for over 50 years, but she was told that would no longer be the case. The **Yellow-throated Warbler** reported in spring at Washington Crossing Park continued to sing through 7/16 (MN, SA). To my knowledge no one reported a female or proof of breeding. No others were reported this season. The only **Yellow-breasted Chats** were at NSP through 6/19 (KI, VM, PTe), where a pair were believed to be present. NSP was a stronghold for the species with several pairs until the park and game commission "improved" the habitat for hunting many years ago.

Blue Grosbeak was at the usual lower *Bucks* sites (DFa). A pair at Maple Knoll Farms in Buckingham Twp. was confirmed breeding, with the family group seen on multiple days in mid-Jul. The high count was 6 there 7/14 (RS). Another bird 7/2-3 at a nearby farm 0.7 miles away showed agitation, which was presumed to be evidence of likely breeding there (RS). A territorial **Dickcissel** was at Penn-Warner Tract 7/5-12 (DFa). This site has provided the only breeding season reports starting in 2008 (DFa). A breeding site in Tinicum Twp. that is not mowed too early, thanks to a cooperative farmer and the efforts of the observer, had at least 28 **Bobolinks** 7/21 (DA). **Eastern Meadowlark** was reported from only five sites (m.ob.). A high count of 7 at Pine Run Dam 7/24 indicated successful nesting despite continued mowing four times a year (AM). After several years of neglect, a new effort to convince the county to change their mowing schedules has been initiated by a determined and skilled leader (TP).

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Butler County

Locations: Barkeyville Grasslands (BG), Clay Township (CT), 528 Boat Launch (528BL), Jennings (JE), Lake Oneida (LO), McDaniel's Boat Launch (MCD), Moraine State Park (MSP), North Shore (NS), South Shore (SS), State Game Lands 95 (SGL95), Succop Nature Reserve (SNR), Sunken Garden Trail (SGT), Todd Nature Reserve (TNR), Wildlife Observation Area (WOA). Note: MCD, 528 BL, NS, SS, SGT, WOA are all located in Moraine State Park.

Rain was frequent in June. Due to well above average rainfall, Lake Arthur rose well above its normal level and by the end of June the boat ramp and part of the parking lot near the WOA were under water. LO was full, with water rushing over the raceway and minimal sand and mud exposed at the upper end of the lake. As a result, shorebird reports were few, but Canada Geese and Wood Ducks were very successful at producing young. Highlights of the season included two Eastern Whip-poor-wills in CT, a Red-headed Woodpecker, and successful Osprey fledglings at Lake Arthur.

High counts for **Canada Goose** were 70 at LO 6/22 (OM) and 160 at SS 7/17 (TR). A pair of **Mute Swans** was seen on a pond near Zelenople 6/27 (MV). **Wood Ducks** were widely reported with young from many locations (m.ob.). After being confirmed breeding in *Butler* in May, only one **Common Merganser** was reported this season from SGL 95 on 6/2 (BBa). The only Gallinaceous birds included small numbers of **Wild Turkey** scattered through the county with fledglings on a BBS route 6/21 (GK MAK) and 10 at Clay Twp. 6/28 (BBa). Two **Double-crested Cormorant** were at SGL95 on 6/2 (BBa) and one or 2 were at SS 7/2 (OM) and 7/19 (TR).

Ospreys were reported from various areas of MSP through the season (m.ob.). Breeding was successful with fledglings observed at MCD, the nest on a radio tower along Rte. 528, and the WOA. Two **Bald Eagles** were at SGL95 on 6/2 (BBa) and 2 were at MCD 6/19 (GK MAK). One **Spotted Sandpiper** was at LO 6/22 (OM) and 2 were there 7/31 along with a single **Solitary Sandpiper** (OM). The only **Upland Sandpiper** was one at BG 6/22 (DeH). **Ring-billed Gulls** appeared in small numbers at Lake Arthur in July (m.ob.) with a high count of 28 at SS 7/19 (TR).

Cuckoos were well reported, probably in response to increased tent worm infestation. A single **Black-billed Cuckoo** was recorded during a BBS route 6/2 (PH, MF) and one was at JE 6/24 (RN). **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was reported from eight locations (m.ob) with 3 at MSP 7/3 (KP). The only owls were 5 **Eastern Screech-Owls** at CT 6/9 (BBa) and one **Barred Owl** at TNR 6/5 (GH). Two **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were heard at CT 6/9 (BBa). A single **Red-headed Woodpecker** was at JE 6/25 (GK, MAK). **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was at CT 6/9 and 7/1 (BBa).

Ten **Eastern Wood-Pewees** and 6 **Acadian Flycatchers** were reported from JE 6/29 (BBa). Two **Alder Flycatchers** were seen carrying nesting material at SGL95 on 6/2 (BBa), one was singing at JE 6/25 (RN), and 2 were at JE 6/25 (GK MAK). **Willow Flycatchers** were seen at five locations, all in June (BBa, MF, DH, PH). **Least Flycatchers** were at SGL95 on 6/2 and at CT 7/20 (BBa). Fledgling **Eastern Phoebe**s were at MCD 6/19 (GK, MAK). **Great Crested Flycatcher** was at SS and JE through Jun (m.ob.). **Eastern Kingbird** was at four locations, all in Jun, including 2 adults feeding young (m.ob.). Three **White-eyed Vireo**s were reported from SGL95 on 6/2 (BBa) and single birds were seen at MCD 6/19 (GK, MAK), at SS 7/19 (TR) and at SGT 7/25 (TH). Four **Yellow-throated Vireo**s were reported from a BBS in eastern *Butler* 6/2 (MF, PH) and 4 were at CT 6/9 (BBa). One was reported from a BBS route near Mars 6/21 (GK, MAK). Singles were recorded from near Harrisville 6/22 (DeH), at CT 6/28 (BBa) and at JE 6/24 (RN) and 7/11 (JH). **Purple Martins** were seen at BG 6/18 (TN) and 6/22 (DeH). The only confirmed breeding reported was at MCD 6/19 (GK, MAK) but it is believed that this is not the only breeding site in *Butler*. The **Cliff Swallow** colony at the 528 BL continues to be the place to see these beautiful birds with at least 60 active nests (OM). They also nest on the structure on the dam at SGL95 (GK, MAK). One **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was reported from SGL95 on 6/2 (BBa); it is not known if this was a breeding bird or a late migrant. These charming little birds were only confirmed breeding at one location in *Butler* during the second breeding bird atlas, in the far northwestern corner of the county. **Veery** was seen near LO

6/11 (DH), one was reported from a BBS route in eastern *Butler* 6/2 (MF, PH) and one was at Burton Road 7/8 (RN). Unfortunately, 110 **European Starlings** were seen on a BBS route near Mars 6/21 (GK, MAK).

Thirteen warbler species were recorded through the season. **Ovenbird, Blue-winged Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Hooded Warbler, American Redstart, Yellow Warbler, and Chestnut-sided Warbler** were widely reported through the county (m.ob.). Single **Black-and-white Warblers** were at JE 6/29 (BBa) and at Glade Run Lake 7/15 (AB). Usually hard to find, a nice number of 5 **Kentucky Warblers** were seen at JE 6/29 (BBa) and one was at TNR 7/12 (DP). One **Cerulean Warbler** was reported on a BBS route in eastern *Butler* 6/2 (MF PH) and 2 were at NS 6/19 (GK, MAK). A singing male was at JE 6/24 (RN) and another was seen at JE 6/29 (BBa). One **Magnolia Warbler** was reported from BG 6/18 (TN), which could have been a breeder or a late migrant. During the breeding bird atlas, *Magnolia Warbler* was listed only as a probable breeder in extreme northeastern *Butler*. Four **Black-throated Green Warblers** were reported at TNR 6/5 (GH), 2 were there 7/12 (DP), one was seen at LO 6/11 (DH), 4 were at JE 6/29 (BBa), and 2 were reported from SGT 7/19 (TR). Only one **Yellow-breasted Chat** was reported near Harrisville 6/22 (DeH).

BG in northern *Butler* is host to a nice variety of sparrows. Two **Vesper Sparrows** were present 6/22 (DeH), and **Savannah Sparrows** were reported there 6/18 (TN) and 3 on 6/22 (DeH). *Savannahs* were also reported from the eastern *Butler* BBS route 6/2 (MF, PH) and the Mars BBS route 6/21 (GK, MAK). **Grasshopper Sparrows** were seen at BG 6/18 (TN) and 6/22 (DeH). **Henslow's Sparrow** rounded out the field with 2 there 6/18 (TN) and 6 on 6/22 (DeH). **Swamp Sparrow** was reported from JE, MSP, and SGL95 (m.ob.). **Bobolink** is an added feature at BG with 3 there 6/18 (TN) and 11 on 6/22 (DeH). Two *Bobolink* were reported during the Mars BBS route 6/21 (GK, MAK) and one was near Kildoo Rd. 6/22 (RN). **Purple Finch** was reported from four locations including a nest at SNR 6/10 (BS).

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Cambria County

Locations: Blandburgh State Gamelands 108 (SGL108), Patton area (PA), Prince Gallitzin St. Park (PG), St Lawrence area (STL).

Two female **Hooded Mergansers** with young were at the gamelands adjacent to PG in early June (DG). A first for our area and probably *Cambria* was the sighting of a hen **Common Merganser** with 7 young along Chest Creek at PA 6/17 (DG). **Ruffed Grouse** and **Wild Turkey** broods were at STL 6/8 (DG). The pair of **Bald Eagles** at PG raised two young. Two adult **Northern Harriers** were at SGL 108 on 7/2 (DG, JS). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was at Eckenrode Mills 6/22 (DG). An **American Woodcock** performing a distraction display was at SGL 108 on 6/24 (DG). Two **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were heard at STL 6/9 (DG). **Least Flycatcher** and **Great Crested Flycatcher** were at Bradley Junction 7/14 (DG). Singing male **Warbling Vireo**s were heard at PG during the period (BG). A **Black-throated Green Warbler** was nest building at STL 6/2 (DG, JS). **Louisiana Waterthrushes** were seen at two locations (DG). **Grasshopper** and **Henslow's Sparrows** were in good numbers at SGL 108 on 7/16 (DK, TK, JS). A singing male **Blue Grosbeak** was at SGL 108 on 7/16 (DK, TK). Another wet June helped the **Bobolinks** and **Eastern Meadowlarks** as hay cutting was delayed. A probable first for the county was were sightings of **Pine Siskins** with young at feeders at Ebensburg and Patton (DG, JS).

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Cameron County

Records of the following uncommon species were obtained from eBird: a **Kentucky Warbler** was along the Caledonia Pike 6/12 (DR), 6 **Bobolinks** were at the Hicks Run viewing area 7/6 (RD), and an **Orchard Oriole** was at Sinnemahoning SP 6/1 (FM, JD).

Observers: Rob Dickerson, Jennifer Dwyer, Frank Marengi, Dan Richards.

Centre County

Locations: Bald Eagle S.P. (BESP), Black Moshannon S.P. (BMSP), Colyer L. (COL), Poe Valley SP (PVSP), Scotia Barrens and Pond (SCO), State College (SC), Toftrees pond and gamelands (TOF)

Data for this report were obtained primarily from the State College Bird Club listserv and eBird with background and status information from *Birds of Central Pennsylvania* by Nick Bolgiano and Greg Grove, 2010, Stone Mountain Publishing, State College, PA.

The following uncommon species were reported from at least five locations and will not be discussed in this report: **Green Heron, Cooper's Hawk, Eastern Whip-poor-will, Belted Kingfisher, Acadian Flycatcher, Alder Flycatcher, Willow Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Great Crested Flycatcher, Yellow-throated Vireo, Common Raven, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Veery, Hermit Thrush, Worm-eating Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, Black-and-white Warbler, Hooded Warbler, Northern Parula, Blackburnian Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Pine Warbler, Canada Warbler, Grasshopper Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark, and Orchard Oriole.**

A **Hooded Merganser** was in Unionville 7/4 (CE), and 2 **Common Mergansers** were at BESP 6/6 (BC, AuC). A rare summering **Common Loon** was at BESP 7/4-19 (CE, et al.). Up to 13 **Double-crested Cormorants** were at BESP 6/5-19 (BC, AuC, JV) and 2 were there 7/10 (DH). **Black Vultures** were widely reported, including a single report from the Allegheny Plateau at BMSP 6/20 (WV). Single **Ospreys** were noted 6/1 at SGL100 (JeD, FM), at PVSP 7/10 (PaW), and in Spring Cr. canyon (NiB) 7/27, but most reports came from BESP. Between 6/5-7/26 one or 2 were observed (BC, et al.). A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was spotted on the PSU campus 6/6 (NK). **Bald Eagles** were encountered regularly during the breeding season, although only the pair at Fisherman's Paradise appears to have nested. That nest produced two eaglets. One eaglet apparently fledged and when last seen, the second was branching. Unfortunately, wet weather during early summer apparently took its toll; sometime between 7/6 and 7/7, the nest collapsed. The observer did not know if the second eaglet was able to fledge (DF).

A few **Spotted Sandpipers** were noted: one at COL 6/1-2 (BrS, MR) and another at BMSP 6/4 (SE). A few **Ring-billed Gulls** were also observed. One was at BESP 6/6 (BC, AuC), and 6 were found there 6/28 (BC). Another bird was seen flying overhead in SC (CE). One **Common Tern** was present at BESP 6/13 (KE).

Single **Black-billed Cuckoos** were on Pine Cr. Hollow Rd. 6/20 (DeH), at Fisherman's Paradise 6/21 (JD), and at TOF 6/30 (JD). A **Barred Owl** was noted on Greens Valley Rd. 6/2 (AW), and 2 were heard at Bell Hollow fields 6/7 (L&JC). Three agitated **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were seen and a fourth was heard 6/29 on the Blue Course Mtn. Bike Trail (JoB). One **Common Nighthawk** was at Musser Gap 6/24 (JV). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was observed on Penns Cr. between Spring Mills and Coburn 6/6 and 6/15 (JoD). Another single bird was at Fisherman's Paradise 7/29 (BC). **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were also present: one in SC 6/7 (SB) and 4 were on Rock Run Trail 6/24 (NiB).

Eastern Kingbirds at BESP 7/19 appeared to be upset by the influx of **Cliff Swallows**, and were harassing swallows that ventured into their territories. Many Cliff Swallows had been displaced from their nest sites due to high water levels in the lake (MR). Two **Warbling Vireos** were at SGL 333 on 6/10 (RD), and 2 others were at BMSP 7/21 (TT). **Fish Crows** are common around SC; however, a single bird was present 7/31 at COL (RD). Reports of up to 5 birds at BESP occurred 6/14-7/5 (JV, et al.). One or 2 were present 7/21-25 at BMSP (TT, JuP). Single **Horned Larks** were on Tusseyville/Williams Rd. 6/2 (MR), near Pine Grove Mills 6/14 (JD), and N. Nixon Rd. 6/18 (BC), and 2 were at Woodward Gap 6/20 (DeH).

Purple Martins were regular at BESP, where up to 17 were seen 6/13-7/27 at BESP (KE, et al.), 2 were also nearby in Howard 6/29 (CE, KE), one was noted 7/10 at PVSP (PaW), and another was in Pine Grove Mills 7/12 (JaB). Four **Bank Swallows** were at the Oak Hall Quarry 6/21-30 (CE, KE), and 3 were seen nearby in Oak Hall 7/26 (AIM). There were two sightings at BMSP; one bird was 6/29 (TA) and 4 present 7/21 (TT). Eight were at PVSP 7/10 (PaW). The hotspot for **Cliff Swallows** was BESP, where as many as 25 were observed 6/5-7/26 (BC, et al.). Unfortunately, high water at the lake 7/19 had a deleterious effect on the colony at Lower Greens Run in BESP. Some of those birds appear to have relocated to the park marina, where newly constructed mud nests were visible (MR). Cliff Swallows also were at BMSP 6/20 (TA) and at COL 7/19 (JD).

A few **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were noted, including at Pine Cr. Hollow Rd. and Cherry Run Rd. 6/20 (DeH), and another was present nearly every day 6/25-7/21 in SC (CE). A **Brown Creeper** was at BMSP 7/8 (TA), and 2 **Winter Wrens** were located 6/20, one on Pine Cr. Hollow Rd. and the other on Cherry Run Rd. A **Golden-crowned Kinglet** also was spotted the same day on Pine Cr. Hollow Rd. (DeH).

A rare **Northern Waterthrush** was at BMSP 6/4 (SE). Two **Blue-winged Warblers** were observed 6/20, one at Woodward Gap (DeH) and the other at SCO (CE, KE). **Golden-winged Warblers** were spotted more frequently; two or 3 were at BESP 6/5-7 (BC, AuC), and up to 3 were at SCO 6/20-7/24 (CE, et al.). One or 2 were also noted on W. Gatesburg Rd. 6/3-7/12 (BC). Two hybrids were spotted. One seen at BESP 6/1 was described as looking like a Golden Winged Warbler, except for faint yellowish wash on upper breast on its right side only. It also had a few yellowish feathers on its back, hardly noticeable except in photos. It responded to both Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warbler songs (JeD, FM). The second was the continuing **Brewster's Warbler** at SCO, which was seen 7/21 (BC). A **Nashville Warbler** was at BMSP 6/20 (AC). **Magnolia Warblers** were reported at several locations, including 9 on the Allegheny Front Trail and Shingle Mill Trail 6/6 (NiB). One was on Cherry Run Rd. 6/20 (DeH) and 2 were seen the same day at BMSP (TA). One was present 7/31 at Walnut Springs Park (JD). A **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was at BMSP 6/4 (SE). The species was also present 6/13 on N. Meadows Rd. (JuB) and another was on Rock Run Trail 6/24 (NiB). A single **Prairie Warbler** was at SGL 333 on 6/13 (NiB), and one **Yellow-breasted Chat** continued at SCO 6/20-7/10 (CE, et al.).

Vesper Sparrows and **Savannah Sparrows** are uncommon during breeding season. One or 2 of each species were identified 6/2-12 on Tusseyville and Williams Rds. (MR, BrS). Two **Vesper Sparrows** also were spotted 6/24 in SGL 100 (EH). Another was on Garbick Ln. 7/16 (CE). A single **Savannah Sparrow** was present 6/30 in TOF (JD). Up to 5 rare **Henslow's Sparrows** were found in SGL 100 from 6/1-7/23 (JeD, et al.).

A few **Purple Finches** were found on the Allegheny Plateau. Two were identified 6/4 at BMSP (SE), and one was at a salvage cut on Julian Pike 6/26 (NiB). One other was at the Rusnak Hill strip-mine 7/4 (CE, KE). A few rare summering **Pine Siskins** lingered at feeders. One was in SC 6/11 (DB), and another fed on sunflower chips and nyger in Boalsburg 7/17 (AIP). Another also dined at a different Boalsburg feeder 7/23 (AIM).

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Chester County

Locations: Bucktoe Creek Preserve (BCP), Octorara Reservoir (OctRes).

This summer's weather was typical for southeastern Pennsylvania, with some heat waves, followed by milder but still warm weather. Precipitation was about average and helped maintain the high water levels in the lakes and ponds around the county.

There were some significant findings, including a Summer Tanager in June, which represented the first summer documentation for *Chester*. There was an increase in sightings of both Red-headed Woodpeckers and Black-crowned Night-Herons over previous summers. Both species are irregularly reported during the breeding window. Pine Siskins, which proved to be breeding in late May, continued through late June before disappearing.

A lingering duo of male **Ring-necked Ducks** from the spring continued into the breeding season on a sewage lagoon at Longwood Gardens (m.ob.). **Wild Turkeys** are locally common in northern *Chester* but otherwise are scarce. One at a feeder in the Valley Forge region in June seemed out of place (MEH).

The difficult-to-find **Black-crowned Night-Heron** is annually reported from the OctRes in July, so records from there are expected. Up to 3 individuals were counted in *Chester's* sliver of the waters 7/19 (PM). Observations away from this site during June and early July are unusual, so a report of an adult seen along the edge of Chambers Lake 6/8 was

intriguing (RR), as was a report of an adult and an immature discovered in the willows surrounding Struble Lake 7/13 (JA). Breeding has not been documented in the county recently. Reports of **Little Blue Heron** are on the upswing. All reports this season were of juvenile birds. Three discovered foraging together 7/18 at the Exton Walmart wetlands were a surprise, since usually just a solo bird, or a pair, are found (HM). Other Little Blues found included a single at a farm pond in Goshen 7/19 (NP), another at OctRes 7/22-23 (PM), and 2 at EP 7/26 (MD, CH, MH).

Ospreys are not known to nest in the county but are found in most summers. Three at Struble Lake 7/13 was unusual (JA), and 2 were there 7/15 (MH) and 7/23 (LW). There was one observation of **Mississippi Kite** from the annual BCP Kite and Shorebird Watch during the first week of Jun (LL). This is the best location in *Pennsylvania* for Mississippi Kite when birds pass through in late spring and into the first week of Jun. It's reasonable to believe that **Broad-winged Hawks** nest in the northern half of the county in small numbers due to the frequency of encounters and territorial behavior (HM, PW, VS, BB), although a nest has not been confirmed. Though not common as a breeder, the population of **Red-shouldered Hawks** is more evident due to their less covert behavior and tendency to be highly vocal. There were two family groups noted, one at a neighborhood in Uwchlan where up to 5 were seen together (HM), and a group of 3 juveniles were plucking invertebrates from an Upper Uwchlan lawn (BB).

A **Virginia Rail** was heard at the Great Marsh 6/7 (SS, NF), a location where breeding is presumed. An especially tardy **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was an unexpected find along the edges of the Exton Walmart 6/13 (MD, CH, NP). A returning fall migrant Semipalmated was among a group of nearly two-dozen **Least Sandpipers** at Somers Lake 7/25 (KN).

There was only one report of **Black-billed Cuckoo**, which is fairly typical for this low-density breeding bird. This season's report came from the Great Marsh, where the bird was heard calling repeatedly 6/20 (SS, NF). The preceding spring saw more encounters with both cuckoo species, but these did not continue into the summer. A **Barn Owl** pair was on private property in an undisclosed location, but no evidence of nesting was noted (KF). An extirpated breeder in *Chester*, a **Common Nighthawk** over BCP 6/7 was thought to be a late migrant (JS). Birders seeking **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** know to go to Goat Hill in the Nottingham area to hear and see them during summer. One was heard there the evening of 6/7 (AL, BQ, CH, MD). An uptick of **Red-headed Woodpeckers** in Jun this season led to suspicions of possible breeding in a few areas. Repeated sightings of an adult frequenting a feeder near St. Peter's in North Coventry into the first week of Jun (PW) were especially exciting. Another adult was at a feeder in Malvern 6/7 (TW). A striking adult seen in flight in the New London area 6/17 was a pleasant surprise (SM). Despite these reports, solid evidence of nesting was not discovered.

Sadly, reports of **American Kestrels** continued their decline, despite the county offering suitable breeding habitat in some locations. The only nesting pair known during this time was at BCP (m.ob.). There was a single report of an adult **Peregrine Falcon** in West Grove 6/21 (TO). Peregrines do not breed in *Chester*, but are nesting in nearby New Castle, Delaware, and *Lancaster*. This observation could have been associated with one of those breeding pairs.

Multiple observations of **Common Ravens** continued from Hanson Quarry and nearby in Downingtown, where nesting has been successful the past two years (m.ob.). Some of the more noteworthy warblers included some low-density nesters, such as **Worm-eating Warbler**, of which 3 were detected this season: one along Forge Rd. in OctRes 6/8 (MG), one at known breeding location Harmony Hill 6/20 (HM), and one from Camp Horseshoe 7/6 (DC). A **Kentucky Warbler** was heard multiple days at Waterloo Mills Preserve, including 6/10, which was well within their breeding window (KF). Further evidence of breeding was not discovered. The only location in the county where Kentucky Warbler continues to breed annually is Peacedale Preserve. Audio of a singing Kentucky was recorded here 6/10 (WBH). The best place to look for **Hooded Warbler** is Coventry Woods, or the extreme northern region of the county in upland forests. Coventry Woods held the majority of encounters by a few lucky birders, and reports were made in both Jun and Jul (PW, VS, KR, JT).

The most remarkable bird of the season was an immature, red-and-green **Summer Tanager** photographed in a yard near St. Peter's in North Coventry Twp 6/10. This tanager was a shock to the observer, and represented the first documented occurrence of this species in summer for the county. **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** are typically only found in the ne. corner of the county during the nesting season, and this remained true for this season, including one in Pickering Creek 6/6 (VS), and another at Linfield Basin 7/21 (RB).

A singing **Dickcissel** was heard around the Doe Run area 6/17, lending further credence to probable nesting on this property (NP). Grassland species such as the **Eastern Meadowlark** and **Bobolink** breed in the Doe Run area, and were found consistently there (m.ob.).

As noted in the spring summary, **Pine Siskins** had breeding success in at least one location in *Chester* after a good irruption in the region. An observation of 7 individuals in a yard in Wayne 6/1 was highly suggestive of breeding, but was also the last report of the season from this location (BE). Reports from Uwchlan Twp., where fledglings were documented in May, continued through the end of Jun, but then stopped abruptly (HM, JH).

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Clarion County

Locations: Curlsville (CV), Mount Airy (MA), Mt. Zion/Piney Tract/SGL 330 (MZ), Redbank Trail at Redbank (RB), Sarah Furnace (Armstrong Trail) (SF).

One of the best finds this summer was certainly the confirmed breeding of **Northern Harriers**, which are not uncommon in the county during nesting season but are not often confirmed to have successfully fledged young. At MZ, a pair had been observed regularly throughout the season (m.ob.), and on 7/17 a pair was observed for the first time with 2 fledglings (GE, RM). On 7/24, still at the main grassland site, the pair remained present along with 3 fledgling birds (MM, CW). The pair was observed watching over the young birds while one adult hunted. The young birds were taking solo flights and starting to practice hunting skills, and a food exchange between adult female and one young fledgling was also observed. The family continued at this location through the remainder of the season at this wonderful site that will continue to be valuable for grassland species since it has become a protected a state game land. This species was also seen regularly at the CV strips, with at least a single bird seen there 6/5-7/21 (m.ob.).

Upland Sandpipers remained on their usual territory at MA through much of June, with one 6/6 (CW), and 2 there 6/20 (BB, AJ, LS). At a property near CV, **Eastern Screech-Owls** continued to use a barn for roosting after young fledged, as they have for many years. On 6/12 and 6/18, up to 3 newly fledged young were found roosting in a stand of pines at the site (CW). In the barn on the property, 6 total birds were found 7/7, roosting up high in the interior, with one gray adult present and 5 young birds, a mix of red and gray morph (MM, CW). Through 7/26, the young birds continued to share this roosting area with the adults, with the gray adult of the pair in the barn with two young birds, and the red adult parent roosting nearby in the pines (CW). A **Merlin** was at MZ during the last week of July (DR). With the extensive pine stands and open areas here, it led to speculation on the nesting status of this species that is currently undergoing range expansion.

At a large marsh area outside of Rimersburg on Cherry Run Rd, an **Alder Flycatcher** was singing 6/19 during a breeding bird survey (CW). This would be well into safe dates for breeding for this species and is possibly a late record for them in the county. The habitat is appropriate, since it contains extensive cattail areas as well as dogwood and alder and many snags.

Worm-eating Warblers were present again along the southern edges of the county on riparian hillsides along the Allegheny River and Redbank Creek. They were reported at SF 6/4-7/2 (NA, MM, RN, ST). A pair was seen with one adult carrying food 6/6 (CW) and 6/7 (KA, SC). Six individuals were seen at RB 6/13 (MM, CW) and one 6/17 (RN). Two birds were also seen on the Armstrong Trail between East Brady and RB 6/28 (TR). **Louisiana Waterthrush** is found in this same habitat along streams running into the river, with 2 at SF 6/4 (CW) and one still present 7/2 (MM, ST). Three were found along the trail at RB 6/13 (MM, CW). This part of the county also remains one of the most consistent spots to find **Kentucky Warbler**, with a singing male found along Rider Rd. near SF 6/6 (CW) and 6/17 (RN). Two birds were also reported on Sarah Furnace Rd 6/12 (RH, TN, KP). **Cerulean Warblers** continue to be reported here but in smaller

numbers, and are often harder to find in Jun when singing diminishes. Three singing males were along the trail at RB 6/13 (MM, CW), and one male was still singing in that area 6/17 (RN). For possibly the first time, **Pine Warblers** were confirmed breeding successfully in the county. At a Scotch pine plantation along Breezemont Dr. near Cook Forest, five birds were seen 6/29, including an adult male still singing, and feeding at least three fledged young (MM, CW). They were also recorded once again in the pine plantings around the main site at MZ, with a single bird noted 6/7-30, but no breeding was confirmed (TJ, DH, BB, AJ, LS, et al.). A single **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was reported 7/4 along the Redbank Valley Trail near Climax (JK), another sign of this expanding species utilizing appropriate habitat. This species was also seen at MZ 6/21, with two birds reported (DH). They have been seen in past years during breeding season at this site, with extensive stands of various pines and larch. **Yellow-breasted Chat** is a species that is becoming much more regular throughout the southern part of *Clarion*, with shrubby fields becoming more prevalent as reclaimed strip mining grasslands are now 30-40 years past their initial reclamation. Single birds were reported at CV strips 6/7-7/2 (KA, SC, RN, KP, TN, et al.), and also at MA 6/22 (CE), and MZ 6/20-6/22 (DH, BB, AJ, LS).

Grassland sparrows continued to show healthy numbers during the breeding season in southern *Clarion*. **Grasshopper Sparrows** were reported from the three major sites of CV, MA, and MZ throughout the season (m.ob.), with a high of 17 present at MZ 6/10 (AW). **Henslow's Sparrows** also were recorded throughout June and July at all three of the same areas (m.ob.). At CV, a high number of 14 were seen 6/14 (RH, TN, KP). At MZ, excellent numbers were obtained on two separate days, when more thorough surveys were conducted. Forty-three were reported 6/10 (AW) and an incredible 58 individuals were recorded 6/20 (BB, AJ, LS). At the CV strips site, which has been the strong-hold for **Clay-colored Sparrows** in the county for at least the last five years, numbers appear to be declining slowly. Reasons for this are uncertain, but it is possibly due to habitat changes as the site matures. This year the highest number of individual birds recorded was 2, with sightings only from 6/7-7/2 (KA, SC, RN, ST, CW). At MZ, they were present again this year but only reported sporadically from 6/10-30 with a high of just 2 singing adults (DH, TJ, AW). **Vesper Sparrows** as always are the least reported, with three sightings this year, all from MZ. A single bird was found 6/9 and 6/20 (BB, AJ, LS, AW), and 2 were found 6/21 (DH).

The only finches of note were the **Purple Finches** that continued now year-round at a site in Rimersburg. They were present throughout the entire breeding season with a high of 7, including one fledgling bird at feeders 7/27 (MM).

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Clearfield County

No compiler.

Clinton County

On 6/9, two **Peregrine Falcon** chicks were banded by the PGC with the assistance of PennDOT at one of the Susquehanna River bridges near McElhatten. The young birds, one male and one female, were found to be in good condition (MG, WL). In late June it was reported that they had apparently fledged (CCH).

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Columbia County

No compiler.

Crawford County

Locations: Conneaut Marsh-McMichael Road (CM-MMR), Erie National Wildlife Refuge (ENWR), Pymatuning-Espsville Marina (P-EM),

Pymatuning-Fish Hatchery (P-FH), Pymatuning-Miller Ponds (P-MP), Pymatuning-Spillway (P-SP), Tamarack Lake (TL).

Two **Northern Pintail**, an especially rare bird in *Crawford* during the summer season, were found at TL 7/25 (RL). A single **Green-winged Teal**, also an unusual bird in summer, was at P-MP 7/24 (m.ob.) and a good count of 20 was made at TL 7/31 (RL). A few **Ruddy Ducks**, a relatively rare bird in *Crawford* during summer, were found in the Pymatuning area, including a single at P-SP 6/6 (RL) and at P-SP 7/2 (RL), and 2 at P-SP 7/25 (RL). **Common Loons** included a single in the Pymatuning area 7/4 (IF) and 2 there 7/31 (IF, RL). A single **Pied-billed Grebe** was at Geneva Marsh 7/25 (RL).

A good count of 15 **Great Blue Herons** were at TL 7/25 (RL). **Great Egrets** were observed at P-FH, including a single 7/5 (MV) and 7/16 (IF), and 3 on 7/19 (MV). Also notable were 2 **Black-crowned Night-Herons** in the heart of Conneaut Marsh 6/10 (DB) and 2 at P-FH 7/25 (RL). **Common Gallinules** are known to breed in *Crawford* but are nevertheless not often observed, so 10 birds (2 adults and 8 juveniles) was made for a nice observation at Geneva Marsh 7/18 (RL).

Shorebirds showed well in Jul. An early **Solitary Sandpiper** was at the Pymatuning Goose Management Area 7/12 (MV). A **Greater Yellowlegs** at P-MP 7/4 was early (IF). A single **Willet**, a great bird for the county, was at P-MP 7/25 (RL). Sightings of a single **Upland Sandpiper**, an expected but notable breeder in the county, were made throughout the summer season in the Pymatuning area (m.ob.). A very early **Sanderling**, infrequently found in *Crawford*, was at TL 7/25 (RL). Several early observations of **Least Sandpipers** included 5 at TL 6/7 (IF, RL), 6 at P-MP 6/7 (IF, RL), and a single at P-MP 7/5 (MV). A **Stilt Sandpiper** was discovered at P-MP 7/24 (DK, RN, MV). A very rare **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** was observed at TL 7/25 (RL). Reports of **Short-billed Dowitcher** included one early bird at P-MP 7/5 (MV), one at P-MP 7/16 (IF), and one at P-FH 7/17 (MV). A **Wilson's Snipe** at P-MP 7/5 was early (MV).

Eight **Bonaparte's Gulls** at Woodcock Lake 7/15 (RL) was a good summer count; others included one at Pymatuning Lake 6/15 (TB) and one at P-EM 7/3 (MV). A lone **Laughing Gull**, quite rare in western Pennsylvania, was at P-SP 6/6 (RL). A single **Great Black-backed Gull** at P-SP 7/7 was an especially great find for *Crawford* during the summer season (RL). Observations of **Caspian Tern** included one at P-EM 6/28 (MV), one at P-FH 7/3 (JF, JMW) and one at P-FH 7/16 (IF). **Forster's Tern** was noted at P-EM 7/3 (MV) and at P-SP 7/19 (MV).

A **Long-eared Owl** at Pettis Road 6/22 (RL) was notable. **Common Nighthawks** have become rare during the summer season, so observations of 2 in downtown Meadville 6/13 (RH, KP) and a single in downtown Meadville 6/22 (RH) were nice. **Red-headed Woodpeckers** included one at CM-MMR 6/18 (RH, MH) and 7/11 (AJ). A **Merlin** was at P-MP 7/18 (RL).

Excellent for *Crawford* were 2 **Common Ravens** at SGL 69 6/17 (TN, KP), evidence of their continued range expansion. **Horned Larks** included 4 at P-MP 6/6 (RL) and one at Conneaut Lake (6/6) (RL). **Hermit Thrush** is infrequently seen in summer, so 2 on 6/24 and one 7/12 at SGL 69 (RH, TN, KP) and one at ENWR 7/11 (RL) were all notable.

A **Worm-eating Warbler** observed on multiple occasions at Bousson Environmental Research Reserve was notable, with sightings on 6/3 (BH, LL, JP), 6/6 (BH, LL, JP), 6/15 (BH, JP) and 6/26 (BH, RH, KP, JP). **Louisiana Waterthrush** is also notable here; one was at Woodcock Lake 6/12 (RL) and 2 were at Greendale Cemetery 6/20 (IF). **Northern Waterthrush** was observed at SGL-69, a new location for this species, with 2 on 6/18 (RH, TN, KP) and one 6/24 (RH, TN, KP). Two **Prothonotary Warblers** were observed at Pymatuning-Manning Boat Launch, an unexpected location for this species, 7/31 (RL). Two **Cerulean Warblers** were at Shafer and Towpath Roads, Conneaut Marsh 6/22 (MH, HM). A single **Blackpoll Warbler** was still passing through at Pymatuning-Nature Center 6/2 (KP). Two **Pine Warblers**, uncommon in summer, were at Poplar Grove Park 7/18 (RL). Very surprising was an **Audubon's Yellow-rumped warbler** at a private residence near Springboro 6/11 (AE). A single **Canada Warbler** was at ENWR 7/11 (RL). A lone **Yellow-breasted Chat** was at CM-MMR 6/6 (RL).

A single **Vesper Sparrow** was near Townline Rd. 7/18 (RL). A single **Grasshopper Sparrow** was found east of Meadville 6/12 (RL). Especially notable at this date was an observation of a lone juvenile **Lincoln's Sparrow** at Pymatuning-Teakettle Road 7/16 (IF). Two **Orchard Orioles** were observed in the Pymatuning area 7/18 (RL). There was speculation after the winter influx of **Pine Siskins** that a few individuals might remain and breed in *Crawford*. Though there were no confirmed breeding reports, there were multiple sightings, including one at a residence near Rundeltown 6/18 and 6/19 (AT) and one at a residence in Meadville 6/22 (TN).

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Cumberland County

Locations: Conodoguinet Creek(CC), Michaux State Forest (MSF)

June was wetter than normal but July was hot and dry. The bird of the season was an unexpected Chuck-will's-widow.

Two notable waterfowl species were reported from Brackbill Pond in Mechanicsburg: 2 **American Black Ducks** 6/29 (SK) and one 7/19, and 2 **Ruddy Ducks** 6/21, 6/29 and 7/19 (SK).

There were 7 **Ruffed Grouse** (one adult and 6 juveniles) on Elk Hill Road 7/3 (VG, AM, KK). **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** were reported on the west shore of the Susquehanna River, no doubt from the colony that breeds in Harrisburg. Three were at the West Fairview Boat Launch flying from the mouth of the CC towards Harrisburg 6/26 (VG) and 2 were a little further up the creek at Eastboro Township Park 7/16 (CK). A **Glossy Ibis** was reported at the very east end of the SGL 169 propagation pond area 7/11 (VG). An unusual summer **Osprey** was on the CC between Carlisle Country Club and Bernheisel Bridge 6/7 (BFo).

Eurasian Collared-Doves continued to be reported north of Newville: one on Rock Run Road 6/9 (DH) and one at the intersection of Rte. 997 and Center Road 6/15 (JC). A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was reported from the MSF 6/7 (BF, LF). A **Chuck-will's Widow** was found on Ridge Road about 3.5 miles east of Rte. 233 near the intersection with Old Ridge Road. The bird was reported between 6/19 and 7/5 (SK, m.ob., v.r.), providing the first verified record for the county.

Kentucky Warblers were reported from the MSF with 2 singing males on Ridge Road just east of Milesburn Road 6/20 (BF, LF) and two other singing males at Camp Michaux 6/21 (VG TN). As usual, there was a **Canada Warbler** on Milesburn Road 6/21 (BO). The only **Dickcissels** of the period were the one to 3 near the intersection of Rock Run and Hunter Road north of Newville 6/1-20 (VG, DH, TN, AM). It is doubtful that they bred successfully due to the cutting of the fields. **Blue Grosbeaks** were also reported in this area, a pair 6/9 (DH) and 3 on 7/22 (BO).

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Dauphin County

Locations: Fort Indiantown Gap (FIG), Wildwood Lake (WL), Susquehanna River at Fort Hunter (SRFH), Susquehanna River at West Fairview (SRWF), Boyd Big Tree Conservation Area (BBT), Lykens Glen, Harrisburg (HBG), Steelton (STL), Meadowood (MDW), Stony Creek Utility Row (SC), Weiser State Forest (WSF).

A **Green-winged Teal** was seen at WL 6/24 (TN, SH). A male **Canvasback** continued on the SRFH to 6/5 (EB). An immature male **Common Merganser** was reported at SRWF 7/8 (EG).

An **American Bittern** was at WL 7/9 (EB). An immature **Little Blue Heron** frequented WL 7/10-8/3 (JF, m.ob.) and another appeared there 7/25 (MS, AG). A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was at WL 7/15 (CB), likely from the nearby Wade Island colony. The **Yellow-crowned Night Heron** colony in midtown Harrisburg was productive again. Two adults and 4 juveniles in nests were reported 7/5 (LS) and continued to be seen through the end of Jul (m.ob.), and one was reported perched in a tree several blocks away on Front Street 7/26 (LL). An immature **White Ibis** was seen at WL 7/8 (JB, IG, EG) and continued through 7/26 (m.ob.), providing excellent opportunities for many regional birders to see this unusual visitor.

A pair of **Osprey** nested on top of a utility pole in an industrial yard off Rte. 230 in Steelton for the third consecutive year. Two young were photographed in the nest 6/13 (SH) and fledging was reported 7/27 (SH). Osprey were also reported at WL 7/10 (JF), 7/11 (JBt), and 7/19 (JS), and at Dauphin Boro 7/12 (GL). A female **Northern Harrier** was at FIG 6/23 (IG). A **Least Sandpiper** was at WL 6/3 (EB).

A **Barn Owl** nest at Lykens Glen received a banding visit from the PGC, which found one adult, four nestlings, and one egg unhatched 6/9 (CH). A **Common Nighthawk** was in HBG 6/22 (DH) and one was in STL

7/9 (SH). Six **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were at Lake Tobias Wildlife Park in northern *Dauphin* 6/8 (DN) and 4 were there 7/17 (KJ). Additional sightings of between one and 4 were made at FIG 6/1-7/16 (IG, TB). HBG's resident **Peregrine Falcon** pair fledged 3 female juveniles during the week of 6/1 (SH, TN). One fledgling died in a window collision during the first week of flight, but the other two were observed in the downtown area throughout Jun and Jul (KM, KrM, HP). An adult Peregrine was observed in STL near the Osprey nest 7/15 (SH, TN).

An **Alder Flycatcher** was at WL 6/3 (EB) and one was in the *Dauphin* portion of FIG Training Corridor 6/8 (DM). Two **Cliff Swallows** were at WL 7/14 (JF). A late **Blackpoll Warbler** was seen at Meadowood, near Hummelstown 6/3 (TJ). A **Kentucky Warbler** was singing at Stony Creek Utility Row 6/19 (PP, RP). Two **Chestnut-sided Warblers** were at WSF 6/13 (SW, HW). **Grasshopper Sparrows** were reported at various locations: 3 at FIG 6/1 (IG), 2 on 6/4 (IG), and 2 on 6/23 (IG), 2 at Lykens Glen 6/9 (CH), and one at WL 7/5 (EB). Two **Vesper Sparrows** were at Lykens Glen 6/9 (CH), and 2 were on Locust Rd, Elizabethville 6/13 (IG). One **Savannah Sparrow** was near Lykens 6/20 (HW). The *Dauphin* portion of FIG yielded numerous **Blue Grosbeaks** in Jun and July First reported 6/8 (IG, DM), sightings continued through 7/14 (IG). Two **Blue Grosbeaks** were on Shetland Drive near Hershey 7/23 (DH).

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Delaware County

Locations: Chadds Ford Marsh (CFM), Concord Woods (CW), Delaware River (DR), John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge (JHNWR), Hildacy Farm Preserve (HFP), Little Tincum Island (LTI), Ridley Creek State Park (RCSP), Thornbury Township Trail (TTT).

A total of 115 species were reported. This summer was loaded with great birds such as **Alder Flycatcher** and **Gray-cheeked Thrush**, but the most notable find was the **Least Tern** at JHNWR.

A late **Snow Goose** was photographed among Canada Geese along the DR off of Hog Island Road 6/28 (DB, SW). Two **Wild Turkeys** were heard on the Bridle Trail at RCSP 7/24 (BB). A **Common Loon** was on DR along Hog Island Road 6/1 (AG). Breeding in nearby *Philadelphia*, one **Least Bittern** was observed on the *Delaware* side of JHNWR 6/5 (DO). Although a fairly common bird in summer, one **Snowy Egret** on Little Tincum Island in DR 6/24 (DH) was the only one found this season. **Black-crowned Heron** were seen twice this season, one in Tincum Township 6/2 (CS) and 2 at Lake Lester in Tincum Township 7/19 (AG). An irregular summer resident, **Red-shouldered Hawks** were observed twice: one heard at Hildacy Farm Preserve 6/10 (DB) and another at TTT 6/21 (JM).

Four shorebird species were noted, all at JHNWR. **Killdeer** were observed at JHNWR and along DR 6/1-24 (AG, DH). Single **Spotted Sandpipers** were at SR 6/07 (DB) and flying down Darby Creek at JHNWR 7/12 (DO). A migrant **Lesser Yellowlegs** was at JHNWR 7/26 (AG). A high count of 8 **Least Sandpipers** were at JHNWR 7/16-7/26 (TB, AG, SJ, NP).

Most gulls were observed in the vicinity of DR this season. **Laughing Gulls** were observed throughout the summer with a high count of 3 on DR 6/21 (AG). **Herring Gulls** were observed only in early Jun, with one along DR off Hog Island Road 6/1 (AG) and 2 in Tincum Township 6/2 (CS).

Delaware's fifth **Least Tern** was photographed flying from nearby *Philadelphia* at JHNWR 6/5 (DO). Records of Least Tern date back to breeding records in 1950 and 1961. Annual in summer, 2 **Caspian Terns** were along DR 6/1 (AG).

A regular rare summer resident, one **Black-billed Cuckoo** was along the Bridle Trail at RCSP 6/1 (NS). A **Great Horned Owl** was at CFM along Creek Road 6/25 (HM, KS). **Barred Owl** had another successful breeding season on the Bridle Trail at RCSP with sightings 6/3-5 (DB, AB, BR).

An **Alder Flycatcher** was on the Bridle Trail at RCSP 6/3 (BR), as was a **Yellow-throated Vireo** 6/1 (MH). **Marsh Wrens** were only present in

Tinicum Township this summer with the highest count at JHNWR 7/16 (TB, AG, SJ, NP). A late **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was heard along the Bridle Trail at RCSP 6/3 (BR). Thirteen species of warbler were observed. **Blue-winged Warblers** were frequently observed at RCSP in early Jun with a high count of 3 on 6/11 (DE, AG). An irregular summer resident, a **Black-and-white Warbler** was at a private residence in Lansdowne 6/10 (CB). **Kentucky Warbler** was observed only once this season, on the Bridle Trail at RCSP 6/1 (MH). Single **Northern Parulas** were observed 6/9-6/11 at Hildacy Farm Preserve (DB) and at CW 6/10 (BB). One **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was an unexpected find at a private residence in Bryn Mawr (LN). **Yellow-breasted Chat** continued to sing in the Chat Field at RCSP 6/1 (MH), and another was observed at Sleighton Farm School in Glen Mills 6/16 (AG). A **Savannah Sparrow** was observed at JHNWR 6/13 (SR).

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Elk County

Locations: Beaver Creek Impoundment (BCI), East Branch Lake (EBL), Buzzard Swamp-Elk County (BZSW), Elk Country Visitor's Center (ECVC), Elk State Forest – Straight Creek Area (ESFSC), Jones Township (JT), Rasselas Marsh (RM), Winslow Hill Elk Viewing Area (WH).

With the abundant rainfall in June, many nesting birds seemed to be a bit delayed. Spring migration seemed to last longer this year with a **Common Loon** and **Forster's Tern** seen into mid-June.

As is expected in summer, there was not much to report for waterfowl. A **Common Merganser** was at EBL 6/12 (BB). A **Common Loon** molting into breeding plumage was at EBL 6/12 (BB). **Common Loons** are numerous on the lake in May and occasionally into June, but have never been noted nesting. An adult and 3 juvenile **Ruffed Grouse** were at JT 7/19 (BB). A family of **Wild Turkeys** including 11 juveniles was observed at JT 7/6 (BB). As with other locations throughout Pennsylvania, it seems that Wild Turkeys are becoming more common while Ruffed Grouse are going downhill.

Two **Double-crested Cormorants** were at EBL 6/11-12 (BB). A single **Great Blue Heron** was heard croaking at night over EBL 7/24 (BB). **Green Herons** were at BZSW 6/10 (BB) and 6/19 (FM). The family of **Ospreys** at EBL was present again all season with one young (BB). A female **Northern Harrier** was getting attacked by **Red-winged Blackbirds** at RM 7/3 (BB). Harriers are known to nest at this location. Another **Northern Harrier** was over an old strip mine field at JT 7/7 (BB), also being attacked by blackbirds. A **Cooper's Hawk** was at WH 7/6 (RD). Only one **Bald Eagle** was present this season, at EBL 6/6 (BB), a stark contrast to 2014 when many were seen throughout the season. **Broad-winged Hawks** were seen throughout the period at JT (BB) including a family 7/25-26.

The rocky habitat around EBL is excellent for **Spotted Sandpipers**, which were numerous at the lake this season with as many as 8 present (BB). **Ring-billed Gulls** at EBL (BB) included 10 on 7/18 and one 7/26. A late **Forster's Tern** was on the buoys near the dam at EBL 6/11 (BB).

An **Eastern Screech-Owl** was spotted on Glen Hazel Rd in SGL 25 on 7/23 (BB). One juvenile and one adult **Barred Owl** were seen by day at JT 7/6 (BB). **Belted Kingfishers** were at EBL throughout July (BB), and **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were reported throughout the county all season (m.ob.). One adult and 2 juvenile **American Kestrels** were at RM 7/7.

Alder Flycatchers were at EBL and RM throughout the season (BB), but only one **Willow Flycatcher** was seen at BZSW 6/10 (BB). The only **Yellow-throated Vireo** was at BZSW 6/10 (BB). Many **Blue-headed Vireos** were seen throughout the county. The only **Warbling Vireo** was at BZSW 6/19 (FM). With a growing population, especially here in the region, **Common Ravens** were seen throughout *Elk* during the season. **Northern Rough-winged, Tree, Barn, and Cliff Swallows** were reported across *Elk* during the season (m.ob.). After a small irruption of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** during the winter, only one was at WH (RD). **Brown Creepers** were at ESFSC 6/15 and along State Rd. in Jones Twp. 7/3 (BB). **Winter Wrens** seemed to be less common the year with one at JT 6/11-13 and again 7/24 (BB). Others were at Twin Lakes Recreation Area in the Allegheny National Forest and State Rd., both 7/3 (BB). After a severe winter, only one **Carolina Wren** was at ECVC 6/15 (BB). Two **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** were at WH 7/4 (BB). One **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was observed in mixed coniferous-deciduous woods at JT 7/3 (BB). They have bred here in the past (BB). **Hermit Thrushes**, which are common breeders

at JT, were present all period with as many 15 on 6/13 (BB). The only **Blue-winged Warbler** was reported at BZSW 6/10 (BB). Singing male and female **Mourning Warblers** were observed at JT 7/24 (BB). A **Northern Parula** was singing at JT 7/8 (BB). In addition to some of the common warblers that breed statewide, several of the northern warblers are common throughout *Elk* in summer including **Magnolia, Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, Black-throated Blue, Yellow-rumped, and Black-throated Green Warblers** (m.ob.). A **Pine Warbler** was also at BRI 7/6 (RD).

Grasshopper Sparrows included 2 at JT 6/15 and one at WH 7/4 (both BB). Three **Henslow's Sparrows**, a species in decline, were at JT 6/13 (BB) on a reclaimed strip mine where they have bred in previous years. **Dark-eyed Juncos** were reported in various locations through the season (m.ob.). A single **White-throated Sparrow** was singing at RM 7/7 (BB) where they are known to breed. A single **Savannah Sparrow** was at RM 7/3 and at WH 7/4 (BB). **Swamp Sparrows** were at RM 7/3 and 7/7 (BB), BRI 7/6 (RD), and JT 7/24 (BB). **Bobolinks** were heard and seen 7/3 at RM (BB) and 7/4 at WH (BB).

The only report of **House Finch**, an uncommon species in *Elk*, was of 2 at WH 7/4 (BB). **Purple Finches** were reported at JT 6/15-7/13 (BB), ECVC 6/15 (BB), and WH 7/4 (BB). A surprising **Pine Siskin** was seen 7/5 (BB) flying northeast over EBL. After the irruption this past winter this individual could have been breeding in the surrounding conifer woods, but confirmation could not be made.

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Erie County

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

It was a cool wet season until mid-July when temperatures rose and it the skies dried out. The water level of Lake Erie was above normal, flooding all inland ponds and covering shorebird habitat. Even GP had little shorebird habitat. **Common Terns** nested again at Gull Point with as many eight active nests at one time during the summer. Unfortunately, all nests failed from the results of predation and high water. **Herring and Ring-billed Gulls** nested again on factory rooftops in east Erie. Both species successfully reared young. **Merlins** nested at two sites in Erie with one pair raising at least two young.

The following birds of note were recorded from PISP unless noted otherwise: The only **Least Bitterns** was a pair near the head of Presque Isle Bay 6/11 (BB). An immature **Black-crowned Night-heron** was near Vista 1 on 7/14 (BPZ). A real surprise was the 2 **American White Pelicans** that soared in and landed at the east end of GP on 6/8, representing the first *Erie Jun* record for this species (JM, SS). The pelican was reported by park interns until 6/10. Three **Sandhill Cranes** were reported northeast of Waterford 6/14 (*fide* JH). A **Willet** was at GP 7/9 (MB). Rarely reported in the county in recent years was an **Upland Sandpiper** flying over the fields at Erie Bluffs SP 7/8 (RD). **Whimbrels** were well represented at GP with a season total of 11 birds 6/8-7/26 (RD). A **White-rumped Sandpiper** was identified at GP on 6/1 (MB) and on 6/23 (RD).

A singing **White-throated Sparrow** was a rare find on Pine Tree Trail on 7/2 (JF). They are not known to nest in *Erie*. **Pine Siskins** were reported from feeding stations at many sites in the Erie area throughout the period. Downy young were seen in Fairview 6/27 (DM).

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Fayette County

Locations: Ohiopyle (OH), Bear Run Nature Reserve (BRNR)

Six **Common Mergansers** were at Confluence 6/19 (DH). A nice count of 28 was tallied during a canoe trip on the Youghiogheny River from Dawson to Layton 7/19 (TK, JK). **Broad-winged Hawks** were found at Evergreen Memorial Park Cemetery near Point Marion 6/19 (TB) and at Fallingwater 7/25 (MF). A **Barred Owl** was at BRNR 6/19 (DH).

A **Willow Flycatcher** was at Jacob's Creek Wetlands along with 2 **Eastern Kingbirds** 6/27 (MF). Two **Least Flycatchers** were found near OH during a BBS route 6/5 (GM). **Cliff and Barn Swallows** continue to nest on the bridge at OH (MF). The bridge over Mill Run Reservoir north of OH has finally been replaced. A small Cliff Swallow colony was on the old bridge

and obviously destroyed during the construction project. Hopefully birds will find the new bridge suitable for nesting and re-establish a colony.

Fayette provides habitat for high elevation species of thrushes and warblers. A **Veery** was found during a BBS 6/5 near OH (GM), 4 were at Quebec Run Wild Area 7/5 (DP) and a **Hermit Thrush** was at BRNR 7/5 (TH). Two **Brown Thrashers** were at Friendship Hill National Historical Site 6/19 (TB) and 2 were found during the BBS 6/5: one in Springfield Twp. and one in Stewart Twp. (GM).

A trip to BRNR yielded the following warbler highlights: 2 **Northern Parula**, 6 **Black-and-white**, a **Magnolia**, 2 **Blackburnian**, 27 **Black-throated Blue**, 2 **Pine**, and 19 **Black-throated Green** (TH). The **Pine Warblers** are of interest because they are not known to nest in the county. Highlights from a trip to Quebec Run Wild Area in the southern part of the county 7/5 included: 4 **Black-and-white**, one **Blackburnian**, 7 **Black-throated Blue**, a **Black-throated Green** and a **Canada Warbler** (DP).

BBS warbler highlights included a **Blackburnian Warbler** near OH, 18 **Ovenbirds**, 3 **Northern Parulas**, 11 **Black-throated Blue Warblers** and 19 **Black-throated Green Warblers**. A **Cerulean Warbler** was found near OH and a **Yellow-breasted Chat** was found in Stewart Twp., a first for the Breeding Bird Survey route (GM).

A few fields attract **Bobolinks**: during the BBS 6/5; 5 were found in Springfield Twp. and 3 were near OH (GM). At least 4 were at a farm near Star Junction 7/5 (AT). A **Pine Siskin** was photographed at a feeder in Juniata 7/16 (AJ). This location hosted a few siskins all winter and spring.

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Forest County

Locations: Allegheny National Forest (ANF), Buzzard Swamp (BS)

There were 106 species reported in *Forest* during the breeding period.

Ospreys were noted at BS 6/13 (AK) and 6/19 and 7/17 (FM, JM). **Bald Eagles** were seen at several locations during the summer (m.ob.) and at least one active nest is known in the county. There was a single report of **Black-billed Cuckoo** at the ANF near Marienville 6/4 (DY). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was observed 6/26 in northern *Forest*, and on 7/4 two adults were seen feeding young at a nest cavity (FM, JM), most likely a new breeding record for *Forest*. The habitat is a dry ridgetop, which has recently been logged, leaving a few trees and an abundance of tall snags. This is good news for a species which has been declining in Pennsylvania.

Acadian Flycatchers were found at several different locations during their safe dates (m.ob.). Four **Willow Flycatchers** were noted 6/13 at BS (AK). There were two reports of **Red-breasted Nuthatch** during their safe dates, both from BS (FM, TR). **Swainson's Thrush** was at the ANF near Endeavor 7/2 (FM, JM). A male **Blue-winged Warbler** was seen 7/2 at the ANF, on Forest Road 449 (FM, JM), and another 7/8 at Kellettsville (DO). There were several reports of **Mourning Warbler**, all in northern *Forest*, including a pair 7/14 (JS). **Northern Parulas** were reported from four different locations during their safe dates (m.ob.). **Pine Warbler** was noted 7/7 at Tionesta and 7/8 at Kellettsville (DO). There was a single report of **Canada Warbler**, at the ANF near Marienville 6/4 (DY).

There were two sightings of **Savannah Sparrow**: 6/10 at Redbrush (FM), and 6/16 near Marienville. This was significant in a county with very little appropriate habitat.

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Franklin County

No report.

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Fulton County

Locations: Buchanan State Forest (BSF), German Lane (GL), Haines

Seville Wetlands Restoration Area (HSWRA), Meadow Grounds Lake (MGL), Nero Mountain Road (NMR), Oregon Road (OR).

Concentrated efforts during the Breeding Bird Blitz weekend 6/19-20 contributed to the 102 species reported this season. Highlights included increased reports of **Northern Parula** and **Chestnut-sided Warbler**, confirmed **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** nesting, and **Red-headed Woodpecker** and **Veery** in southern *Fulton*.

A dustbathing **Ruffed Grouse** was observed 6/20 along OR (VG, TN). Two **Northern Bobwhites** crossed NMR into brushy fields 6/19 (DH). This was the second time in three years that Bobwhites were observed in that area, although they are most certainly released birds. A flock of 11 **Wild Turkeys** was noted near Licking Creek 6/27 (BO). The period's only **Bald Eagle** was at GL 6/30 (MW).

An early evening outing near Needmore 7/18 had 2 **Barred Owls** as well as an unseasonal flock of 62 **American Robins** (AE). Woodpeckers were well represented during the Blitz, with the highlight an adult **Red-headed Woodpecker** along Cobalt Rd 6/20 (TN, VG).

The best spot for uncommon swallows was GL where 6 **Purple Martins** were observed 7/13 (MW) and a **Cliff Swallow** on 7/23 (MW).

In the wet fallow fields at HSWRA, 2 **Willow Flycatcher** were expected 6/20 (VG, TN), but more unusual were 2 singing **Grasshopper Sparrows** 6/5 (VG).

A Breeding Blitz visit to MGL 6/19 netted 54 species including county goodies: **Hermit Thrush**, **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, **Black-billed Cuckoo**, **Blue-headed Vireo**, **Northern Parula**, and **Blue-winged**, **Cerulean**, and **Black-throated Green Warblers** (DH). An afternoon bushwacking in Knoxville Tract of BSF 6/19 netted 51 species including 2 **Willow Flycatchers**, 2 **White-eyed Vireos**, 4 **Brown Thrashers**, one **Blue-winged**, 3 **Chestnut-sided**, and 2 **Prairie Warblers**, and a calling **Yellow-breasted Chat** (DH). The mountainous clear cut area of Bark Rd. in BSF, had the following noteworthy warblers 6/20: 2 **Yellow-breasted Chats**, one **Cerulean**, 2 **Chestnut-sided**, 5 **Prairie**, and 2 **Black-throated Green Warblers** (VG, TN). A survey of Aughwick Rd. south of Cowan's Gap saw a heavy dose of 26 **Red-eyed Vireos** and 14 **Ovenbirds**, as well as a highlight **Blue-headed Vireo** 6/5 (VG). Along the southwestern border at NMR, uncommon species noted 6/19 included **Veery** and 2 **Blue-winged**, 2 **Kentucky** and 2 **Chestnut-sided Warblers** (DH). The mountainous Flickerville Rd. just west of Dott had the following interesting discoveries 6/20: 32 **Red-eyed Vireos**, 10 **Eastern Wood Pewees**, 3 **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks**, 3 **Black-and-white Warbler**, one **Prairie Warbler** and one **Chestnut-sided Warbler** (VG, TN). One of the grosbeaks notably was carrying food. During the second Breeding Bird Atlas Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were not confirmed breeding in the southern portion of the county.

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Greene County

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

Up to 7 **Wood Ducks** visited the feeder area in EV almost daily eating corn (JH, MH). A lone **Ring-necked Pheasant** was in Franklin Twp. 6/19 (JC, MH, KK). A **Wild Turkey** hen with 9 young was at LCR 6/25 (MLP). At the rookery in Center Twp., 29 **Great Blue Herons** were counted 6/19 (KK, JC, MH). **Bald Eagles** were sighted occasionally throughout the period. In Whiteley Twp. **Red-shouldered Hawk**, **Broad-winged Hawk**, and **Red-tailed Hawk** were spotted 7/14 (DH). **Cooper's Hawk** was a frequent visitor to yard at Kern Farm (KK).

A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was last reported 7/25 at EV (MH) and **Black-billed Cuckoo** was last reported 7/29 in JT (RL, WD). A **Great Horned Owl** was heard at EV 6/17 (JH, MH). On 6/28 a **Barred Owl** was heard in JT (RL, WD). As many as 10 **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** were seen at Kern Farm (KK). At Claylick a strange looking hummingbird caused a lot of excitement but it turned out that it had apparently gotten into pollen, causing it to appear golden (LA, RA). For the third year in a row **Red-headed Woodpecker** has nested in Morris Twp. with young visiting the suet feeder throughout this period (CA). **Red-bellied Woodpecker**, **Downy Woodpecker**, **Hairy Woodpecker**, and **Pileated Woodpecker** all nested in or around the yard and most brought young into the suet feeder at EV throughout the period (JH, MH). During the period, an **American Kestrel** pair was seen near nesting box in Franklin Twp. (KK).

A **Willow Flycatcher** in Richhill Twp. 7/4 was last report of this species

(MH, KK). A **Least Flycatcher** was in JT 7/4 (RL, WD). **White-eyed Vireo**, **Yellow-throated Vireo**, and **Red-eyed Vireo** were reported throughout the period at many locations. **Warbling Vireo** was in Greene Twp. 6/22 (KK, MH). **Common Raven** was reported in JT 7/30 (DH). **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** was flying around the creek at EV 7/2 (MH). At a very well-tended **Purple Martin** colony in Franklin Twp., approximately 400 young fledged (CH *vide* CN). As of 6/20 at LCR **Tree Swallow** all young had fledged and not seen since (MLP). **Carolina Wren** young fledged at SY 6/29 (JC). **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** pair was seen nest building at SY 6/18 (JC). In Cumberland Twp., **Eastern Bluebird** young hatched 6/1 (LD). At LCR 6/20 **Gray Catbird** nest with 3 eggs was found in shrub near porch, and 2 young fledged 7/15 (MLP).

Three **Ovenbirds** were found in Greene Twp. 6/22 (KK, MH). **Worm-eating Warbler** was in JT 6/19 (MH, KK, JC). A **Louisiana Waterthrush** was along the creek at EF 6/15 (PH, JC, MH). A **Blue-winged Warbler** was in Wayne Twp. 6/19 (MH, JC, KK). A **Black-and-white Warbler** was sighted in JT 7/4 (RL, WD) and in the same area a **Kentucky Warbler** was found 6/19 (KK, MH, JC). An early migrant **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was in JT 7/29 (RL, WD). Two **Yellow-throated Warblers** were at SY 7/31 (JC). A **Prairie Warbler** was heard in Wayne Twp. 6/19 (JC, KK, MH). **Yellow-breasted Chat** was last reported 6/22 in Whiteley Twp. (KK, MH).

A recently fledged **Eastern Towhee** was in Jackson Twp. 7/30 (DH). **Grasshopper Sparrow** was heard multiple times in the hayfield throughout the period at Kern Farm (KK). **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was observed daily at the feeders in EV. **Red-winged Blackbird** fledglings were noted in JT 7/30 (DH). As many as 13 **Common Grackles** with young were constant visitors at feeders at KF throughout the period (KK). **Orchard Orioles** were feeding young in a nest at LCR 6/14, which fledged 6/25 (MLP).

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Huntingdon County

Locations: Alan Seeger Natural Area (AS), Lake Perez (LP), Compropst Mills (CM), Lower Trail at Alexandria (LT), Marklesburg waterfowl area (MAR), McAlevys Fort (MF), Old Crow wetland (OC), Petersburg (PET), Seven Points Rec. Area (SP), Stone Valley (SV), Trough Creek Valley (TCV), Tussey Mt. (TM).

The most unusual bird of the season was a **Least Bittern** that responded to a recording at MAR 6/14 (GG, DG). Beginning about five minutes after the recording, the bird called four times during a two-minute period. It was seen the following day (DK) and responded again during a wetland survey 6/16 (CY). The dates were well within the atlas safe dates, but no evidence of breeding was noted. During the first breeding bird atlas in the 1980s there was a confirmed breeding record in *Huntingdon*, but not during the second atlas in the 2000s.

A rare breeding species, up to 3 **Hooded Mergansers** were at LP in through at least 6/14 (JK, DW). Unusual in Jun was a **Double-crested Cormorant** at LP throughout most of the month (m.ob.). **Osprey** is not a confirmed breeder here, but summer records in recent years suggest the possibility. One was over the LT along the Juniata R. 6/14 (NB) and one was one at SP 7/9 (TK, DK). Two recently fledged **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were attended by an adult on the Jackson Trail on TM 7/23 (NB).

A wet field near CM attracted some early migrant shorebirds, including a **Lesser Yellowlegs** 7/22, a **Least Sandpiper** 7/26, and a dozen or more **Killdeer**. A shorebird pretender there 7/26 was a **Louisiana Waterthrush** mixed right in with the "real" shorebirds (GG). **Solitary Sandpipers** are usually the first migrant shorebirds seen here in summer—first this year were 3 at CM 7/21 and one at OC on the same date (GG).

A total of 42 **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were counted on three nightjar surveys (30 stops) in Rothrock SF, compared to the 5-year average of 39. Most stops are in northern *Huntingdon*; a few in *Mifflin* and *Centre* (GG, DG, DB). A **Common Nighthawk** was at OC 7/27 (RL). Nighthawks were summer residents in the town of *Huntingdon* until around 2010, but are no longer routinely reported except during spring and fall migrations. **Red-headed Woodpeckers** are rare nesters. One was at the usual location near MF 6/5 (JK, DW, BC) and one was near Trough Creek SP 6/15 (WL), not a known nesting location; however in lightly-birded southern *Huntingdon*, colonies may exist unknown to the birding community.

Another rare summer resident, **Alder Flycatchers** apparently nest in the extensive alder wetlands in TCV (largely private and inaccessible),

where at least 2 were singing 6/13-14 (DW, GG, DG). Summering **White-eyed Vireos**, while regular, are sparse summer residents—2 were singing at MAR 6/10 and 6/14 (CY, GG, DG).

Huntingdon continues to be a relative stronghold for **Golden-winged Warblers**. They were found in some of the usual locations in SV and TCV through Jun (m.ob.). **Magnolia Warblers** appear to be regular summer residents at AS, detected there 6/14 (JB), 7/3 (DG, GG), and 7/17 (RD) this season. A late **Blackpoll Warbler** was heard during a BBS 6/7 (DG). **Yellow-breasted Chats** continued in certain reliable locations—2 or more were in TCV 6/13-14 (DW, GG, DG), 4 were at MAR 6/10 (CY), and one was at Masseyburg 6/28 (JB).

S.A.

The Lower Trail along the Frankstown Branch of the Juniata R., a rails-to-trails project, is flanked by a steep wooded hillside. Many **Cerulean Warblers** nest along a ten-mile section of the trail between Water Street in *Huntingdon* and Williamsburg in *Blair*. This area has been surveyed for singing Ceruleans several times, including the last four years (NB). The count this year was the highest recorded. Counts for each year (number of cerulean in parentheses) were as follows: 1998 (36), 2001 (43), 2012 (24), 2013 (22), 2014 (25), 2015 (44).

Bobolinks are uncommon nesters despite plentiful good habitat. This year they were present again in large fields in TCV and near PET, locations where mowing usually does not occur until July (GG, DG). Three **Pine Siskins** were at Greenwood Furnace S.P. 6/13 (DW).

For the 24th year, three Breeding Bird Surveys were conducted entirely within Rothrock SF; a total of 150 point counts (GG, DG, NB). Most stops are in *Huntingdon*; some are in *Centre* and *Mifflin*. Interestingly, in 24 years, we have never recorded a European Starling or House Sparrow on these routes, a fact surely appreciated by anyone who ever run a BBS route in Pennsylvania. Listed are totals for some of the most abundant species followed by the 24-year average: **Red-eyed Vireo** 226 (avg. 196), **Ovenbird** 172 (150), **Eastern Towhee** 96 (81), **Scarlet Tanager** 77 (72), **Wood Thrush** 44 (46), **Common Yellowthroat** 30 (41), **Eastern Wood-Pewee** 39 (37), **Hooded Warbler** 42 (30), **American Redstart** 47 (29), **Black-throated Green Warbler** 36 (29), **Acadian Flycatcher** 42 (29).

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Indiana County

Locations: Ghost Town Trail (GTT), Lewisville (LV), Patton (PT), Red Mill (RM), Shelocta (SH), Waterworks Conservation Area (WCA), Yellow Creek State Park (YC).

The top **Wood Duck** tally at YC was 37 on 7/14 (TG), including many young. An **American Black Duck** associating with a female Mallard continued at YC through 6/2 (LC, PF, TG, MH, RH, DM, EY). A drake **Ring-necked Duck** spent much of June at YC with sightings 6/16 (LC, MH, RH), 6/23 (LC, TG, MH, RH), and 6/30 (LC, SD, TG, MH, RH). A hen **Lesser Scaup** lingered into the summer season at YC through 6/2 (LC, PF, et al.). A female **Hooded Merganser** was at North Point 6/13 (MH, RH). A hen **Common Merganser** on Curry Run 6/20 (MH, RH) was unexpected.

Six young **Ruffed Grouse** were a nice find along the GTT near Dilltown 6/20 (MH, RH). Two **Common Loons**, one in basic and the other in alternate plumage, lingered at YC through 6/2 (LC, TG); the basic plumaged bird was still present 6/9 (LC, TG, MH, RH). YC hosted 14 **Double-crested Cormorants** 6/2 (LC, PF, et al.) and a **Great Egret** was near West Lebanon 7/14 (ph. MVT).

An **Osprey**, which has never been a confirmed breeder at YC, was sighted 6/14 (LC) and 6/23 (LC, TG, RH); it was seen again throughout July to 7/28 (WA, LC, TG, MH, RH, DK). Only one **Bald Eagle** was found this season at YC, an immature 6/2 (LC, PF, et al.); another was along Rte. 954 on 7/24 (JT). Single **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were spotted 7/22 (MH) near SH, 7/29-30 (CL, GL) at Nolo, and 7/30 (MC) near LV. **Cooper's Hawk** reports included one along the GTT 6/20 (MH, RH), 2 at IUP 6/23 (JT), one near LV 6/23 (MC), and one at IUP again on 7/20 (JT). A pair of **Red-shouldered Hawks** was noted at YC 6/23 (LC, TG, MH, RH); one was listed there again 7/14 (WA, LC, et al.). **Broad-winged Hawks** had 2 young in the nest at Forest Manor 6/26 (SD).

A **Semipalmated Plover** lingered at YC through 6/2 (LC, PF, et al.); the first southbound individual arrived at YC 7/26 (TH) where it remained through the end of the month (LC). Fourteen was the highest tally of **Killdeer** at YC 7/31 (LC). One to 3 **Spotted Sandpipers** were at YC on nine dates (m.ob.). First **Solitary Sandpiper** arrived at YC 7/23 (MH, RH); 4 was the best count three days later (TH). **Greater Yellowlegs** (LC), **Lesser Yellowlegs** (TH), and **Least Sandpiper** (LC, TH) all arrived at YC 7/26. Seven **Semipalmated Sandpipers** at YC were late on 6/9 (LC, TG, MH, RH), but 2 amazingly were still lingering 6/14 (LC). A **Wilson's Snipe** was present 7/28 (WA, LC, TG, MH, RH, DK).

A lone **Ring-billed Gull** at YC 7/14 (WA, LC, et al.) was the only one reported. Five **Caspian Terns** resting on the mud in Little Yellow Cove were a nice surprise 7/30 (LC). A **Common Tern** was an unusual find at YC 6/2 (LC, PF, et al.). One **Forster's Tern** was at YC 7/26 (ph. TH).

Yellow-billed Cuckoos were noted on three dates at YC (m.ob.) and on 17 dates near LV (MC). **Black-billed Cuckoos** reports numbered just three, one at Nolo 6/2 (CL, GL), one at IUP 6/30 (JT), and one at YC 7/14 (WA, LC, et al.). The only **Eastern Screech-Owls** reported were heard near LV 7/8 (MC) and at Nolo 7/21 (AB). An injured immature **Great Horned Owl** was retrieved by the PGC near SH 6/28 (MH, RH), taken to a rehabber, and subsequently released in the same area (*vide* PS). Two **Barred Owls** were noted consistently only at Nolo throughout the summer (AB, DB); another was spotted near Heilwood 6/15 (DB). A pair of nesting **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** at Nolo was last seen 6/17 (CL, GL); an adult with 2 young were seen just down the hill at YC 7/21 (WA, LC, SDa, TG, DK). A **Merlin** flew by the YC group 7/7 (LC, TG, MH, RH, DK, DM), affording good views.

A species that usually nests at YC, **Alder Flycatcher** was singing at YC 6/16 (MH, RH) but was not heard after that. YC hosted at least two nesting pairs of **Willow Flycatchers** this year (m.ob.). At least 3 singing **White-eyed Vireos** were present at YC 6/2 (LC, PF, et al.), and 2 remained through the end of the season (m.ob.). Two **Yellow-throated Vireos** were still singing at Blue Spruce County Park 7/31 (MH, RH). **Blue-headed Vireos** were listed at only five locations this summer: the *Indiana* section of the PT BBS yielded 2 on 6/9 (MH, RH), 3 were at RM 6/22 (DH), one was at YC 6/16 (MH, RH) and 6/30 (LC, SD, TG, MH, RH), and one was near SH 6/5-7/29 (MH, RH). **Warbling Vireos** were noted only on the *Indiana* sections of the SH BBS 6/3 (MH, RH) and the Parkwood BBS 6/4 (MH, RH), as well as near SH 6/12 (MH, RH).

Fish Crows continued in Indiana with sightings 6/24-7/31 at IUP (JT) and 2 on 7/4 (MH, RH) at Oakland Cemetery. Only 2 **Purple Martins** were reported, one at Blue Spruce 6/5 (JP) and one near the Pleasant Valley Golf Course on the Virginia BBS 6/10 (MH, RH). Four **Bank Swallows** and 2 **Cliff Swallows** stopped at YC 6/2 (LC, PF, et al.); 2 Cliff Swallows were present 6/22 (DH).

Single **Red-breasted Nuthatches** turned up near LV 7/18 (MC) and near SH 7/24 and 7/27 (MH, RH). Though they had nested near SH for years until 2014, again this year they were absent except for these two sightings. A **Winter Wren** near LV 7/11 (MC) was unusual. **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were again present during the breeding season in the mature spruce at YC 7/23 (MH, RH) and 7/26 (TH). Reports of **Hermit Thrush** included 2 at one stop on the *Indiana* section of the PT BBS 6/9 (MH, RH), 3 at RM 6/22 (DH), and 3 near Gipsy 7/29 (MH, RH).

Best **Ovenbird** tally was 15 on 6/4 (MH, RH) on the Parkwood BBS. Last **Louisiana Waterthrush** was noted 7/13 (MH, RH) feeding in an irony mine discharge near Heshbon on the GTT. A **Lawrence's Warbler** was found near Whiskey Run 7/6 (ph. MVT) and relocated the following day (SG). The season's only reported **Black-and-white Warbler** was at Forest Manor 6/13 (SD). Likewise the only **Kentucky Warbler** was at North Point also 6/13 (MH, RH). **Hooded Warblers** were noted at 13 locations (m.ob.) with the best counts of 5 at YC 6/2 (LC, PF, et al.) and 4 along the Wehrum section of the GTT 6/24 (MH, RH). **American Redstarts** were widely reported across the county (m.ob.). One to 2 **Northern Parulas** were singing on territory at YC on various dates between 6/9-7/7 (m.ob.); another was along the GTT near Dilltown 6/20 (MH, RH). A **Magnolia Warbler** on the PT BBS 6/9 (MH, RH) was the only report. Single **Blackburnian Warblers** were at YC and RM 6/22 (DH). A very late **Blackpoll Warbler** was sighted at YC 6/2 (LC, PF, et al.) and again 6/16 (LC, MH, RH) when it was both heard and seen; the previous late date was 6/11/2007 (MH) when one was found at Pine Grove Cemetery near Rochester Mills. One **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was a nice find at the last stop on the PT BBS 6/9 (MH, RH). **Pine Warbler** was listed near SH only on 6/23 and 7/16 (MH, RH) where it was unusual to not see or hear it more frequently. The YC Pine was seen or heard 6/9, 6/16, 6/22; and 7/7 (m.ob.). The West Penn Trail hosted *Indiana's* only reported **Yellow-throated Warbler** 7/4 (MH, RH). A single **Prairie Warbler** 7/6 (MH, RH) near SH comprised the entire report for this species. High **Black-throated Green Warbler** count was 3 both at RM 6/22 (DH) and at YC 7/21 (TG). The Parkwood BBS yielded a **Yellow-breasted Chat** at two stops 6/4 (MH, RH).

A **Grasshopper Sparrow** in Buffington Twp. 6/22 (DH) and 3 **Henslow's Sparrows** w. of North Point 6/13 (MH, RH) were the only ones noted. **Savannah Sparrows** continue to be difficult to find with the only reports this season of one w. of Smicksburg 6/7 (MH, RH), 2 se. of Smicksburg 6/13 (MH, RH), and 2 in Buffington Twp. 6/22 (DH).

Three **Bobolinks** seen w. of Smicksburg 6/7 (MH, RH) and 6 in Buffington Twp. 6/22 (DH) were the only ones mentioned. Three **Orchard Orioles** at YC were last noted 6/23 (LC, TG, MH, RH). **Pine Siskins**, spotted only near LV, included 2 on 6/1 (MC) and singles 6/12 and 7/28-29 (MC).

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Jefferson County

Locations: Clear Creek State Park (CC), Clear Creek State Forest (CF), Drummond Rd (DM), Fairview Rd (FV), Fordham Lake (FL), Hometown Rd (HT), Interstate 80 east of Corsica (I80C), Kyle Lake (KL), Laurel Fields (LF), Mahoning Shadow Trail (MS), Punxsutawney (PX), Redbank Valley Trail (RB), Ringgold (RG), Sandy Ridge Road (SR), Sigel (SG), Sugar Camp Rd (SC).

Four **Wood Ducks** were on KL 6/21 (DH), and a high count of 7 **Common Mergansers** was noted on the MS 6/15 (KD). The only **Great Blue Heron** for the period was at KL 6/21 (DH). **Bald Eagles** were noted four times: one at RB 6/27 (JK), one at CC 7/5 (RKH), one immature over PX 7/23 (TG), and one at RG 7/31 (JK). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was near I80C 7/1 (TL). **Broad-winger Hawks** were noted on four occasions with the last on SR 7/29 (MH, RH). One **Semipalmated Plover** was on the mud at FL 6/2 (TG). **Killdeer** were reported twice for the period: 2 at KL 6/21 (DH) and 2 on HT 6/21 (DH). Three **American Woodcocks** were discovered in the CF 6/2 (DK, RN). The only **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was on the MS 6/15 (KD). A welcome discovery was a **Great Horned Owl** in the CF 6/2 (DK, RN). Seven **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were also found in the CF 6/2 (DK, RN), and 4 more were reported in LF 6/10 (NA). **American Kinglets** were reported twice, one at HT 6/21 (DH) and one near I80C 7/6 (TL).

Eastern Wood-Pewees, Eastern Phoebes, and Eastern Kingbirds were common. **Acadian Flycatchers** were noted twice: 2 on the MS 6/9 (KD) and one also on the MS 6/21 (KD). **Alder Flycatchers** also were noted twice: one on the MS 6/9 (KD) and one at KL 6/21 (DH). **Willow Flycatchers** were located three times: one on the MS 6/15 (KD), possibly the same bird on MS 6/18 (SS), and one at KL 6/21 (DH). A **Least Flycatcher** was in the CC 6/19 (MM).

The only **White-eyed Vireo** was reported on MS 6/18 (SS). One **Yellow-throated Vireo** was a nice find on the DR 6/13 (MH). A high count of 5 **Blue-headed Vireos** was made at CF 6/2 (DK, RN). **Common Ravens** included 3 in CC 6/19 (MM) and 2 on the RB 7/3 (MH, RH, FM). The last three **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were on the RB 7/5 (JK), and the last 6 **Cliff Swallows** were also found on the RB 6/26 (JK). Two **Hermit Thrush** were an interesting find on the RB 6/29 (MH, RH, FM).

Seventeen species of warblers were reported for the county over the period. **Ovenbirds, Common Yellowthroats, Yellow Warblers, and Black-throated Green Warblers** were common occurrences for the county. Two **Louisiana Waterthrushes** were noted on the MS 6/18 (SS). One **Blue-winged Warbler** was found at KL 6/21 (DH), and one **Black-and-white Warbler** was on the RB 6/26 (JK). A high of 8 **Hooded Warblers** was on the RB 6/29 (MH, RH, FM). Three **American Redstarts** were in CC 6/19 (MM). **Cerulean Warblers** were found twice: one in the LF 6/9 (NA) and 2 in the CF 6/19 (SS). The last **Northern Parula** was on SC 6/25 (MV). A high count of 4 **Chestnut-sided Warblers** were in the LF 6/10 (NA), and a high count of 10 **Black-throated Blue Warblers** was made in CF 6/1 (DK, RN). Two **Pine Warblers** were noted in CC 6/19 (MM). Only 6 **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were reported for the period, all in CF 6/2 (DK, RN).

One **Vesper Sparrow** was found in SG 6/20 (CW), and 2 more were noted on HT 6/21 (DH). A count of 4 **Savannah Sparrows** was on FV 6/13 (MH), and 3 were on HT 6/21 (DH). Three **Grasshopper Sparrows** were on FV 6/13 (MH) and one was on HT 6/21 (DH). Two **Henslow's Sparrows** were also on HT 6/21 (DH). The only report for the period of **Swamp Sparrow** was one at KL 6/21 (DH).

Dark-eyed Juncos were found in the northern forested section of the county, with a high of 3 in the CF 7/5 (JK). A high count of 12 **Bobolinks**

was noted twice first on HT 6/21 (DH) and second on SC 6/25 (MV). The highlight for the period was a **Summer Tanager** on the RB 6/6 (JK).

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Juniata County

A single **Trumpeter Swan** was found at the Cocolamus Dam 6/23 and stayed for a few days. A nesting pair of **Mute Swans** kept the Trumpeter busy chasing it around and keeping it from their young. (AT, DW). A single **Caspian Tern** flew up the Juniata River 7/12 (CK).

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Lackawanna County

No compiler.

Lancaster County

Locations: Chestnut Grove Natural Area (CGNA), Conestoga Greenway Trail (CGT), Conewago Recreation Trail and Wetlands (CRTW), Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area (MCWMA), Muddy Run (MR), Susquehanna River (SR), Susquehanna River, Conejohela Flats (SRCF), Susquehanna River, Peach Bottom (SRPB).

This summer was rather exciting with a number of lingerers, early and late migrants, and possible breeders that are not expected. Highlights were **Tundra Swan**, **Green-winged Teal**, **Long-tailed Duck**, **Common Merganser**, **Sandhill Crane**, **American Avocet**, **Short-billed Dowitcher**, **Bonaparte's Gulls**, **Chuck-will's-widow**, **Alder Flycatcher**, and **Dickcissel**. There were also several pairs of **Peregrine Falcons** that attempted to breed this year.

A **Tundra Swan** was at MCWMA 6/16-7/29 (TK, BC). A male **Green-winged Teal** continued on the CRTW 6/2 (TJ). A very late **Long-tailed Duck** flew upriver on the SR 6/10 (ME). A female **Common Merganser** was on the CGT 6/20 (BM).

A **Northern Bobwhite** was at Mascot Park 6/13 (WD) and one was calling at CGNA 6/24 (ME). A **Pied-billed Grebe** was at MCWMA 7/18 (BC). A **Snowy Egret** was on the SRCF 7/15-25 (ML, m. obs.). A **Little Blue Heron** was on the SRCF 7/16 (ME), 4 were there 7/18 (ZM), one was at MCWMA 7/18-24 (BC, ME), one was at CGNA 7/18 (BS, NS), and one was on the CRWT 7/30 (ME). A **Sandhill Crane** continued from the prior season at MCWMA 6/1 (TB, SS). An **Osprey** was at MCWMA 6/6 (JC). A **Northern Harrier** was hunting in the Ephrata farmlands 6/10 (BC).

Four **Semipalmated Plovers** were on the SRCF 6/12 (DH). Several reports of **American Avocet** included one on the SR 6/20 (TS), one at MCWMA 7/9 (RM, TNII, BC), 8 on the SRCF 7/21 (ML, JM), and one on the SRCF 7/30 (ME). Four **Least Sandpipers** were on the SRCF 6/12 (DH) and 2 were at the CRTW 7/10 (ME). Two late **White-rumped Sandpipers** were on the SRCF 6/12 (DH). One **Lesser Yellowlegs** was at MCWMA 6/3 (AH, LB, BH). One **Greater Yellowlegs** was on the CRWT 6/14 (LC) and another was at MCWMA 6/21 (JF). Two **Upland Sandpipers** were at the Lancaster Airport 7/31 (ME). A **Short-billed Dowitcher** was at the CRTW 7/10 (ME). Two **Bonaparte's Gulls** at the SRCF 6/4 (BC) were unusual (BC). One or 2 **Ring-billed Gulls** were on the SRPB 7/3 (BS).

A **Chuck-will's-widow** was singing at the Millersville University Biological Preserve in Lancaster 7/13 (DW). This year there was a new **Peregrine Falcon** pair in Lancaster at the Shocks Mill Bridge, one banded but the other not. The Safe Harbor pair did not appear to nest this year. Two chicks were banded in late May at the Columbia-Wrightsville Bridge, and a single chick was banded at the Norman Wood Bridge, the first successful hatching at the latter location since 2009. A fledgling fell into the waters of the SR 6/12, but was quickly rescued by a fledge watcher (ML). The young bird which had fallen into the river was rescued three more times, but unfortunately, the last time was its undoing. The young female was hit by a car, and eventually had to be euthanized. However a second female successfully fledged and was seen flying in the area 6/25 (ML). The pair which stayed in Lancaster was not seen since late early March. Away from

breeding areas, one was at MCWMA 6/6 (JC). Young **American Kestrels** were heard begging in a nest box at CGNA 6/24 (SS).

An **Alder Flycatcher** was at MCWMA 7/23-27 (TK), and 3 were in the wet thicket behind the museum pond 7/28 (BC). Many **Willow Flycatchers** were at MCWMA 6/6 (JC), and **White-eyed Vireos** were at MCWMA 6/6 (JC). A few **Yellow-throated Vireos** were at MCWMA 6/6 (JC). Two **Common Ravens** being chased by **American Crows** flew over Bucky Dr. in Lititz 6/1 (EW), and one was chased by a **Blue Jay** at SRPB 7/13 (BS).

A **Hooded Warbler** was singing at Rock Springs Nature Preserve 6/10 (BH). An unexpected **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was calling on Pilgrims Pathway 6/28 (CG). Sightings at MCMWA 6/6 included a few **Blue-winged Warblers**, a **Northern Parula**, a **Chestnut-sided Warbler**, an **American Redstart**, a **Louisiana Waterthrush**, and a **Yellow-breasted Chat** (JC).

A **Vesper Sparrow** was singing in the fields between Lime Rock Road and Wissler Roads 6/10 (BC). A **Dickcissel** was singing at the CGNA 6/17-7/25 (SS, m. obs.) and 2 were singing there 6/28 (TNII, SS). Breeding was confirmed at MCWMA 7/10 (DHa) when a young bird was observed begging for food. Several **Grasshopper Sparrows** were at MCWMA 6/6. A fledgling was on the cul-de-sac road at MCWMA 7/8 (SS). A **Blue Grosbeak** was at MCWMA 6/1-6 (SS, JC), and one was singing at CGNA 6/17 (SS). A pair of **Eastern Meadowlarks** with two fledglings was observed at CGNA 6/26 (SS). Several **Bobolinks** were at MCWMA 6/6 (JC). Two **Purple Finches** were at MR 6/29 (CG).

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Lawrence County

Locations: Black Swamp (BS), Plain Grove Twp. (PGT), Volant Strip Mines (VSM), Wampum-New Galilee Road marsh (WNGM).

A count of 53 **Wood Ducks**—13 adults and 40 ducklings—was tallied at WNGM 6/7 (GM). A male **Bufflehead** remained at the Mason Road gravel pond to 6/12 (MV). **Hooded Mergansers** bred at a few areas in the marshes and gravel ponds of nw. Lawrence (m.ob.). Somewhat surprising was a **Double-crested Cormorant** on the north side of BS 7/26 (AH). Rare for the location, a calling **Virginia Rail** was noted at WNGM 6/7 (GM). **Common Gallinule** was noted through the summer at BS (AH, et al.); they are not detected annually at that location. An **American Coot** was at WNGM 6/7 (MV, GM). Pairs of **Sandhill Cranes** with young continued to be seen around PGT and VSM through June (MV, et al.), and four adults were together in PGT 6/5 (MV). The shock of the season was a very early **American Golden-Plover** photographed at VSM 7/19 (ph. AD), certainly the first summer record of this species for Lawrence and very early for anywhere in Pennsylvania. **Marsh Wren** was at BS 7/4 (SG). Very interesting was a **Chestnut-sided Warbler** at BS 7/3 (JM, JF), a new breeding location for them. Field birds, such as **Horned Lark**, **Henslow's** and **Grasshopper Sparrow**, and **Bobolink** were common around VSM (m.ob.), as usual.

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Lebanon County

Locations: Fort Indiantown Gap (FIG), Kreider's Retention Pond (KP), Memorial Lake State Park (MLSP), Quittapahilla Wetlands Preserve (QW), Reistville and Prescott Rd. Ponds (RPP), Shuey Lake (SL), SGL 145, SGL 211, Swatara State Park (SSP).

A **Tundra Swan** was unexpected at RPP 6/5 (TB, KB). The **Bald Eagle** nest along Pine Rd. produced two young during its third season (TB, MC). This nest sustained storm damage after the young were fledged. The nest at Governor Dick Park was unproductive this year (*fide* RCM). A single **Bald Eagle** fledged from a third county nest at Marquette Lake during its first season (TN). A fourth **Lebanon Bald Eagle** nest, near Jonestown, reportedly fledged two young this year around 7/4 (*fide* DB). A **Northern**

Harrier was a nice summer find at SGL 145 on 6/5 (RCM, SH, m.ob.). Two **Virginia Rails** were at found FIG 6/5 (IG).

The highlight of the summer was a male **American Avocet** in breeding plumage, *Lebanon's* third, along Fox Rd. at RPP 6/2-5 (BC, TN, RCM, DH, GR, m.ob.). Five **Solitary Sandpipers** and 27 **Least Sandpipers** were good mid-July finds at QW 7/16 (TN).

A **Chuck-will's-widow** continued from the spring until at least 7/3, along Tomstown Rd at FIG (TB, KB, TN, SW, AG, m.ob.). Up to six **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were also heard there through 7/3 (TN, SHa, EH, TB, AG, m.ob.). Two **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were at FIG 6/22-7/20 (IG, DM). A **Peregrine Falcon** was near Fontana 7/15 (DHi), a new early date.

Four **Common Ravens** were at MLSP 7/7 (RCM). A **Bank Swallow** was at KP 6/1 (TJ). Up to 10 **Cliff Swallows** were at a nest site at FIG 6/3-7/20 (IG, JD, TN). Twenty-seven **Veeries** were counted along a one-mile stretch of railroad bed in the Goldmine area of SGL 211 on 6/27 (TN).

A **Cerulean Warbler** was found at FIG 6/4 (IG). A **Northern Waterthrush** was a good find at a home along Oak St, south of Annville 7/8 (MD). A **Kentucky Warbler**, continuing from the spring, was singing at SSP 6/20-22 (TB, SW). Eight **Yellow-breasted Chats** provided a good count at FIG 6/25 (IG). A **Yellow-breasted Chat** with two fledglings was along Cold Springs Rd. at FIG 6/27 (TN).

A **Vesper Sparrow** continued from the spring at Light's Church Rd 6/5 (TB, KB). Five **Grasshopper Sparrows** were found near SL at FIG 6/10 (TN, SHa). A **Blue Grosbeak** was reported from MLSP 6/10 (LC) and 2 were found at FIG 6/24-7/3 (IG, AG).

Observers: **Timothy Becker, 10283 Jonestown Rd, Grantville, PA 17028, tjbecker81@aol.com**, Kathy Becker, Don Billett, Gerry Boltz, Bruce Carl, Lou Carpenter, Mary Coomer, Mike Dale, Jarrod Derr, Jim Fiorentino, Ian Gardner, Al Guarente, Sue Hannon (SHa), Eric Heisey, Jonathan Heller, Daniel Hinnebusch (DHi), Deaune Hoffman, Sid Hostetter, Tom Johnson, Oliver Lindheim, Dave McNaughton, Randy Miller (RCM), Ted Nichols II, Gary Robson, Rosemary Spreha, Stan Stahl, Steve Walthius, David Yeany II.

Lehigh County

No report.

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Luzerne County

Locations: Beech Mountain Lakes (BML), Forty Fort (FF), Frances Slocum State Park (FSSP), Kirby Park (KP), Nescopeck State Park (NSP), Plymouth Flats (PF), Ricketts Glen State Park (RGSP), State Game Lands 57 (SGL 57), State Game Lands 119 (SGL 119), Susquehanna River (SR).

The summer in *Luzerne* progressed as expected with the exception of a few surprising species that livened up the season. Some lingering migrant shorebirds hung on in the beginning of Jun while the breeding season kicked into full force. In Jul, waders arrived in earnest accompanied by some of the first southbound migrant shorebirds.

The birds of Pennsylvania include a diverse mix of high elevation northern species found on the Appalachian peaks and low elevation southern species found in the many river valleys of the state. Nowhere is this avian diversity more on display than in *Luzerne* during the breeding season. On any given Jun or Jul day in *Luzerne*, a birder can start the morning at 2300 feet elevation scouring the picturesque red spruce/hemlock forests and boreal bogs of SGL 57 and RGSP for such northern specialties as **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**, **Alder Flycatcher**, **Winter Wren**, **Swainson's Thrush**, **Northern Waterthrush**, and **Blackpoll Warbler**. Just a brief 45-minute drive will put you at 500 feet elevation on the banks of the SR with its towering sycamores and interspersed farmlands and hedgerows. Here there are Mid-Atlantic specialties, but the birds begin to have a distinct southern feel. **Yellow-throated Vireos** and **Cerulean Warblers** sing from the treetops while **Hooded Warblers** burst into song from the dense undergrowth. Along the hedgerows, deep chestnut **Orchard Orioles** fly from tree to tree, and the "fitz-bew" of **Willow Flycatchers** emanates from the bushes. A drive through Mocanaqua and up Lee Road along Turtle Creek should uncover denizens of the southern forest such as **Acadian Flycatcher**, **Louisiana Waterthrush**, and **Worm-eating Warbler**. Finally, end the day at a rolling grassland nestled into the side of the Penobscot Ridge near Glen Lyon. As **Prairie Warblers**, **Yellow-breasted Chats**, and **Grasshopper Sparrows** sing, it's difficult to remember that decades ago, this beautiful landscape was an active strip mine. If one is lucky a **Blue**

Grosbeak may be encountered, one of the highlights of this past summer season and a true southern specialty.

PF is the foremost location for waders in the county, with a high count of 23 **Great Blue Herons** 7/15 (JD). **Great Egrets** began to show up in the first half of Jul, which is a bit earlier than normal with a high count of 7 on 7/26 (JD). The large concentration of birds feasting on fish in the quickly vanishing PF pond often attracts a rarity or two. For the second straight Jul, a juvenile **Little Blue Heron** was found blending in with egrets 7/22-30 (RK).

Ospreys have historically bred near the *Carbon* border. On 7/5, one was observed flying over Hollenback Rd. outside of White Haven (JD) and another was seen 7/22 from nearby Francis Walter Dam, a traditional breeding site (RK). A more intriguing observation came 7/5 from FSSP, which is not known as a breeding location for this species, but certainly has appropriate habitat (JR). The PF **Bald Eagle** nest once again successfully fledged at least one bird, as a juvenile was observed flying to the nest and accepting food from an adult 7/15 (JD).

The only rail of the period was a **Sora** in Wyoming, 7/14 (RK). The Kelayres reclaimed stripmines are almost entirely in *Schuylkill*, but a very small portion, consisting of a field and a seasonal mud puddle, is in southern *Luzerne*. This puddle hosted late spring migrants—one **Semipalmated Plover** and 2 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** 6/3—and then only a month and a half later a single **Semipalmated Sandpiper** and up to 9 **Least Sandpipers** were among the earliest migrants of the fall season 7/21-24 (JD). A few days later, the first **Semipalmated Plover** was at FF 7/27 (JD).

The forests of *Luzerne*, particularly those composed predominantly of oaks, were decimated by the invasive gypsy moth this summer. While many of the county's trees were left leafless, birds did not seem to be negatively affected; in fact the excess of caterpillars was a boon for species such as cuckoos. **Black-billed Cuckoos** were far more prevalent in the county thanks to the abundant food supply. A species that has been on the decline in recent years is **Common Nighthawk**. Very few were seen or heard in the county throughout much of the period until an uptick in sightings in the end of Jul, likely representing the start of dispersal and migration. One observer noted that at one time nighthawks were nearly as common as **Chimney Swifts** in the Wyoming Valley (JSh).

A male **Red-headed Woodpecker** continuing from the spring stayed throughout the period at BML (JD). **Peregrine Falcons** can be found year round near Wilkes-Barre. The observation of an adult with a fledgling at KP 6/28 (RW) was significant.

Two juvenile **Horned Larks** were seen in a farm field near Sally Purcell's Inn in Sugarloaf 6/11 (JD) and 3 **Swainson's Thrushes** were heard singing from the Mountain Springs Lake Trail of RGSP 7/18 (DG), a traditional breeding location.

Golden-winged Warbler populations have been steadily falling throughout the Northeast. While **Golden-winged Warblers** have been found breeding in remote swamps of SGL 119 near Arbutus Peak outside of Mountaintop, an exciting discovery was two singing males in the scrub barrens of a different area of Arbutus Peak 6/11 (JD, JhD). Also encouraging was the appearance of what seems to be a new breeding site for **Cerulean Warblers** in *Luzerne*. Up to five birds were observed at NSP 6/13-29 (MM,KM). SGL 57 is a known breeding location for **Blackpoll Warbler** in *Luzerne* and adjacent *Wyoming*. An adult male observed at "The Meadows" 6/17 was likely part of this breeding population (JD). For at least the third straight breeding season **Yellow-breasted Chats** were present at the Glen Lyon reclaimed minelands along the Penobscot Ridge Mountain Bike Trail. This year a grassland survey detected as many as 7 in Jun (JSt).

A highlight of the season was the presence of at least 2 **Blue Grosbeaks** 6/18-7/19 (JD,JhD, JH, RK, JSt, PC) alongside the chats at Glen Lyon. Initially, only a single adult male was found, but an immature male was also spotted singing a little over a week later. Though no females were reported and no signs of breeding were observed, attempted breeding is certainly possible given the size of appropriate breeding habitat. This location also hosted **Blue Grosbeaks** in 2004, which was the last report of this species in the county. A Dupont yard hosted a holdover from the winter and spring seasons as 3 **Pine Siskins** were observed through at least 6/13 (PC). Nesting was not confirmed, but given the duration of the birds' stay and the observation of activity in the spruce and hemlock trees on the property, it seems at the very least possible.

ADDENDUM: A Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was observed and photographed at PF, 4/17 (RP). This sighting came to light during casual conversation at the flats and represents only the second known record of this species for *Luzerne*.

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Lycoming County

Locations: Canfield Island (CI), County Conservation District (CCD), Indian Park-Montoursville (IPM), Market Street Bridge (MSB), Mill Street (MS), Pine Creek (PC), State Game Lands 252 (SGL 252), Stoltz Cemetery, Hepburn Township (SC), Susquehanna River West Branch (SR), Susquehanna River Walk at Williamsport (SRW), White Deer Hawk Watch (WDHW), Williamsport (WPT), Williamsport Water Company (WWC).

The first for summer here, a **White-winged Scoter** was seen on the SR from the SRW 6/25 by experienced observers (MD, JK) and continued to 6/28 (JY). More expected, a first summer **Common Loon** was on the SR under the MSB 6/24 (MD, JK) and an adult was seen from SRW 7/16 (BB, ML). The only report of **Northern Harrier** at the SC 6/3 (DvB) suggested they did not nest locally. An **American Coot** in SGL 252 was found 6/3, 6/7, and 6/19 (DvB). A **Solitary Sandpiper** at MS 7/25 (BB, DvB) provided the only shorebird sightings this season, except the locally-nesting **Spotted Sandpiper** along the SR and numerous **Killdeers**. A **Ring-billed Gull** was at the SRW 7/11 (BB) through July.

Barred Owl is expected over much of the county, but one responding to imitations of its call at a Ryder Park picnic 7/22 was a treat (DvB, DBr). An **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was picked up on a BBS route near Salladasburg 6/5 (DvB), where they most certainly nest. The female **Peregrine Falcon** remained on territory on the MSB through the season but without a male and (obviously) no nesting. The absence of reports of Merlin this summer was disappointing.

A single **Purple Martin** was seen at the traditional CCD site only on 6/9 (NF) and no nesting was documented this year. An **Alder Flycatcher** was at SGL252 on 6/3 (DvB). Two **Cerulean Warblers** were detected 6/24 and 6 **Worm-eating Warblers** 5/29 during standardized point counts along Button Rd. west of Waterville (DY). A cerulean was also seen along PC 6/19 (MB). Likely nesting, **Blue-winged Warbler** continued at WWC 6/1 (DvB).

Grassland species are limited to a few locations in the county, but the SC proved reliable for **Savannah Sparrow**, **Grasshopper Sparrow** and **Bobolink** (DvB). A pair of **Bobolinks** was also in Cogan House Twp 6/16 (ML). **Pine Siskins** dispersed from the area after being common all winter, with just a single report 6/4 at Brushy Ridge for the summer season (EH).

ADDENDUM: A White-eyed Vireo was detected along Pleasant Stream Road during a point count coordinated by Penn State 5/27 (KS)

Observers: **Dan Brauning, 1920 Inverness Rd, Montoursville, PA 17754, (570) 567-4511, dan@thebraunings.com** (DvB), Mark Bonta, David Brown (DvB), Bobby Brown, Deb Brown (DvB), Maddi Dunlap, Wes Egli, Dave Ferry, Norwood Frederick (NoF), Mario Giazzon, Eric Hartshaw, Andy Keister, Jean Klotz, Mark Lengel, Meredith Lombard, Kim Serno, David Yeany II, Joe Yoder.

McKean County

No compiler.

Mercer County

Locations: East Zahnizer RD (EZR), Lake Latonka (LL), Pennsy Swamp (PS), Spring Road (SR), Shenango Wildlife Area (SWA), Williamson Rd (WR).

June was an exceptionally wet month with a total of 8.7 inches of rainfall recorded at WR. Since there was some rainfall in 25 of the 30 days in June, the farmers were unable to mow their hayfields until early July, which benefited the nesting grassland species. The rainfall in July was 3.3 inches with the most recorded early in the month. By the end of July there were some mud flats exposed at the SWA, though Shenango R. Res. was still almost one foot above summer pool. A total of 123 species were reported for the period.

After several years without any confirmed breeding records, a hen **Ruffed Grouse** with 9 chicks was seen crossing Reed's Furnace Rd. at SGL 130 on 6/13 (SS). Several **Double-crested Cormorants** were found at both Lake Wilhelm and Shenango R. Res. During the period and one was seen in flight at N. Forrester Rd. 7/5 (NT). Unexpected was an **American Bittern** heard calling at PS 6/11, in appropriate habitat and within the bird atlas safe dates (SD). Both **Cooper's Hawk** and **Red-shouldered Hawk** were confirmed breeding at WR (NT).

A **Virginia Rail** with 2 chicks was at PS 6/11 (SD), and a single was heard at the same location 6/2 (SS). Single **Sora** were heard at PS 6/2 (SS) and 6/11 (SD), and a **Common Gallinule** was there 6/13, one of the few summer records for this species in the past several years from this location

(DI). A group of up to 5 **Sandhill Cranes** could be found around Rattlesnake Swamp most days in June and July. A pair was probably breeding somewhere within the swamp again this year (JT, HT, m.ob.).

Spotted Sandpipers were found at the SWA ponds through the period (SS). At these same ponds in mid-late July the exposed mudflats were visited by the following shorebirds: 4 **Solitary Sandpipers** 7/31, 3 **Lesser Yellowlegs** 7/31, one **Baird's Sandpiper** 7/31, 3 **Least Sandpipers** 7/16 and one **Semipalmated Sandpiper** 7/16 and 7 on 7/31 (SS). A **Least Sandpiper** was also found at a farm pond along EZR 7/12 (NT). After no confirmed sightings within the county since the mid-1990s, 2 **Upland Sandpipers** at Woodland/Meadow Rd. 6/13 was especially noteworthy (DI), but they could not be relocated at any time after this date. A **Caspian Tern** was at the SWA ponds 7/21 (SS).

Both **Yellow-billed** and **Black-billed Cuckoos** were heard at SGL 130 6/3 (SS, NT, ST). **Great Horned Owls** were confirmed breeding at an undisclosed location near LL and could be heard up to mid-June at the same area. A **Barred Owl** was heard at PS 6/11 (SD), and an **Eastern Screech-Owl** was heard from 5/16 through the end of the period at WR (NT, ST). **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were again confirmed breeding at EZR (NT) and at Buhl Park (SS). Up to 4 **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were heard at SGL 130 on 6/3 and 7/11 (NT, ST).

Merlins were confirmed breeding at an undisclosed location near Greenville 7/25 (GM). The adults were regularly returning to favored perches and interacting with each other. They were also very vocal and were seen chasing **American Crows** from the area. This record represented the first confirmed breeding record for *Mercer*.

Alder Flycatchers were confirmed breeding at the Reeds Furnace area of SGL 130 on 7/11 (NT). **Least Flycatchers** were heard at WR until mid-July and single birds were calling at Grant Rd. 6/6 and at SGL 130 on 6/13 (SS). Both **White-eyed** and **Blue-headed Vireo** were at SGL 130 on 7/11 (NT), and a **Common Raven** was heard at that same location also on 7/11 (NT). A **Marsh Wren** was singing at PS 6/2 (SS). **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** bred again at SGL 130. Several birds were heard there 6/3 and 7/11 (NT). A **Veery** was singing at EZR until late June (NT).

A total of 15 species of warblers were reported with the bulk of the sightings coming from SGL 130 on 6/3 and 7/11. The highlights from that area included: **Northern Waterthrush**, **Blue-winged Warbler**, **Black-and-white Warbler**, **Magnolia Warbler**, **Chestnut-sided Warbler**, and **Black-throated Green Warbler** (SS, NT, ST). A **Cerulean Warbler** was singing at Bary Rd. 6/4 and 3 were heard at N. River Rd. 6/9 (SS). A **Prairie Warbler** was heard at SR 6/15 (NT) and 6/24 (SS).

One **Grasshopper Sparrow** and 3 **Henslow's Sparrow** were singing along SR 6/13 (NT). The number of breeding **Dark-eyed Junco** was higher at SGL 130 this summer, with 3 singing males encountered there 7/11 (NT).

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Mifflin County

Locations: Maple Grove Road (MGR)

A **White-eyed Vireo** was observed on MGR 3/8 (DH). Some uncommon warblers were tallied during a BBS in Rothrock State Forest 6/12 including **Cerulean Warbler** and Canada Warbler (DG, GG). Two **Grasshopper Sparrows** was reported this season MGR 6/11 (DH). **Vesper Sparrows** were observed in multiple locations: Maple Grove Road 6/11 (DH), Green Lane 6/11 (DH), and a high count of 5 on Kanagy Rd. in Big Valley 7/3 (RD). Other grassland species included 6 **Bobolinks** on Maple Grove Rd. 6/11 (DH) and 2 Bobolinks on Kanagy Rd. 7/3 (RD).

Observers: **Jon Kauffman, 3400 Discovery Road, Petersburg, PA 16669, jvk5019@gmail.com**, Rob Dickerson, Deb Grove, Greg Grove, Deuane Hoffman.

Monroe County

Locations: Delaware Water Gap (DWG), Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (DWGNRA), Lynchwood Lake (LL), Mt. Pocono, Water Treatment Plant (WTP).

The season saw above average rainfall after a very dry May. Shorebirds dominated reports, highlighted by a **Red-necked Phalarope**. An immature **Double-crested Cormorant** at LL 7/11 (BJ) and an adult on the Delaware River 7/21 in DWGNRA near Bushkill (BH) might have been signs

of future breeding of this species in the county. A hen **Hooded Merganser** with 5 young was a nice find 6/6 at a DWGNRA swamp that is a known nesting location of this uncommon breeder (JT).

In the Mt. Pocono area, the following shorebirds were reported: a single **Semipalmated Plover** at LL 6/6, a high count of 52 **Killdeer** on the airport runway 7/27, single **Greater Yellowlegs** at LL 6/11 and 7/13, and 2 **Lesser Yellowlegs** at LL 6/6 with another there 7/20; a high count of 7 **Spotted Sandpipers** at the WTP 7/23, and a single **Semipalmated Sandpiper** at LL 6/10, with a high count of 14 **Least Sandpipers** tallied between LL and the nearby WTP 7/27 (all BJ).

The highlight of the season was the male **Red-necked Phalarope** at the WTP 7/23 (ph. BJ). The observer noted how the nearby **Spotted Sandpipers** took advantage of the phalarope's feeding behavior by feeding along the water's edge where it was stirred up by the phalarope.

A singing **Alder Flycatcher** was found in a brushy detention basin 6/15 at the DWG welcome center, directly adjacent to a very busy I-80 (RW). The bird continued through the month at this somewhat surprising and possible nesting location (BH). Another possible breeder was the **Grasshopper Sparrow** at the Mt. Pocono airport 6/10 (BJ).

Observers: **Brian Hardiman, Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center, 8050 Running Valley Rd, Stroudsburg, PA 18360, (570) 629-3061, bhmccd@ptd.net.** Bruce Johnson, Jim Thomson, Rick Wiltraut.

Montgomery County

Locations: Dixon Meadow Preserve (DMP), Evansburg S.P. (ESP), Green Lane Park (GLP), Norristown Farm Park (NFP), Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust (PERT), Valley Forge National Historical Park (VFNHP).

Summer is always the slow season for *Montgomery* birding, and this season was no different. A total of 118 species were observed, about average for the past few years. This number includes one exotic duck and two fowl of dubious origin. Shorebird habitat was in short supply through much of the early portion of their southbound migration, thanks to a wet Jun. Fortunately, by the tail end of Jul nice mudflats began to appear at GLP.

There were many reports of **Common Merganser** along the Schuylkill River and at GLP, several of them including the presence of juveniles (m.ob.). An adult merg was seen shepherding 15 youngsters at GLP 6/19 (GF). A single **Ruddy Duck** lingered at GLP until at least 6/21 (GF).

A **Northern Bobwhite** was calling at ESP 7/11 (PB). A **Ring-necked Pheasant** was seen in a Plymouth Meeting neighborhood 7/6 (DB), and another was heard at Gwynedd Wildlife Preserve 6/13 (ML). According to the preserve manager (TK), a male pheasant had been noted at this location through the spring, certainly released birds. **Wild Turkeys** are a legitimate wild, breeding bird, however. Away from PERT, where they were reported regularly (m.ob.), single turkeys were noted at GLP 6/6 (AD) and ESP 6/20 (JD). ESP has a known breeding population, but turkeys in the vicinity of GLP are rather unusual at present.

A late **Common Loon** was at GLP 6/6 (GF). A few **Double-crested Cormorants** were in small quantities through the summer at expected locations, like GLP and several Schuylkill River sites (m.ob.). The season's high count for **Great Egret** came from an unexpected location: 12 were at a small pond next to a housing development in East Norriton 7/25 (AD).

Black Vultures continued to congregate in large numbers around Norristown. A seasonal high count of 120 was tallied at Norristown's Elmwood Park Zoo 7/5 (TG). More than 50 were also noted at Norristown Riverfront Park 6/6 (KG, AU) and 7/23 (WBH). An **Osprey** was hunting the Schuylkill at Norristown 7/18 (WBH). All other reports of this species during the period came from GLP (m.ob.). There was just one report of a **Red-shouldered Hawk**, an immature at ESP 6/6 (SF). The leucistic **Red-tailed Hawk** at Hatfield was noted 7/3 (KR).

An **American Coot** was photographed at Skymount Park in the Unami Creek Valley on the very late date of 6/19 (PB). A pair of **Semipalmated Plovers** was observed at DMP 6/2 (PD). A **Solitary Sandpiper** was at Heuser Park in King of Prussia 6/6 (WBH). This represents the first county Jun eBird record of the species. A returning **Greater Yellowlegs** was reported at ESP 7/25 (SF), an unexpected location. The first southbound **Least Sandpiper** was spotted at GLP 7/11 (PB). Two **Pectoral Sandpipers** were at GLP 7/30-31 on the blossoming mudflats (PD).

A **Forster's Tern** was recorded at GLP 7/30 (PD). No other gull or tern species were noted during the period, not even Ring-billed Gull.

A juvenile **Black-billed Cuckoo** was observed at ESP 7/10-11 (WBH). That it was found in roughly the same area where adults were seen in May implied local breeding. Noteworthy **Common Nighthawk** reports bookended the period, with a late bird spotted in Lansdale 6/15 (RW) and an early individual seen at Fort Washington SP 7/30 (PT). Eighty **Chimney**

Swifts were feeding over Norristown Dam 7/15 (WBH).

A family of four **Peregrine Falcons** was reported in Manayunk, *Philadelphia* and seen from the *Montgomery* side of the river 6/14 (GG). One of these falcons, a young female, color-banded "55/BR", turned up at DMP 7/17. According to PGC Peregrine Falcon coordinator (FAM), this was the first time that individual had been spotted a good distance away from the Manayunk area.

An **Alder Flycatcher** was singing at GLP on the fairly late date of 6/6 (GF). Reports of **Willow Flycatcher** were widespread (m.ob.), including a high of 9 at NFP 6/5 (WBH). Thirteen **Eastern Kingbirds** were counted during a birdwalk at VFNHP 6/23 (MEH, et al.). Potentially-nesting **White-eyed Vireos** were discovered at a previously unknown location: Longford Park on the Schuylkill River 6/6 (PK, JH, DS). After several reports of singing **Yellow-throated Vireos** at VFNHP (MEH, et al.), the species was confirmed breeding when one was observed singing from a nest near Washington Chapel 6/24 (WBH).

The season's high count of 30 **Purple Martins** came from their colony site in north Harleysville 7/5 (KR). Single martins at ESP 6/26 and a nearby open space site 6/30 (both WBH) could have been evidence of another martin colony existing somewhere in the vicinity, though both reports were late enough to perhaps have been dispersing birds. Six **Bank Swallows** at GLP 6/3 (GF) were probably late migrants. Seven Banks at Heuser Park 6/6 (WBH), the same spot where the species was detected in summer 2014, may be indicative of local nesting. A single Bank Swallow was also seen at Heuser Park 7/16 (WBH).

All reports of **Worm-eating Warbler** came from the Unami Creek Valley (m.ob.), one of their last toeholds in the county. A **Kentucky Warbler** was a surprise at ESP 6/3 (AU). Although formerly a regular breeder in *Montgomery*, there had been no summer reports of this species in almost a decade. Given that this individual was singing at the exact spot where one had been observed 5/24 (WBH), it would appear that it was at least trying to woo a mate. Whether it succeeded was never determined. **American Redstarts** were detected in small numbers through the period, primarily in the southeastern corner of the county (m.ob.). Single **Northern Parulas** were singing at East Norriton 6/4 (WBH) and NFP 6/6 (WBH, CH). Several **Blackpoll Warblers** straggled well into Jun, including an extremely late bird at Horsham 6/18 (AZ). A singing **Pine Warbler** was noted at ESP through Jun (m.ob.). **Prairie Warbler** was regularly reported from ESP and GLP, but nowhere else (m.ob.). A **Yellow-breasted Chat** found on territory near Longford Park in May (MT) was heard vocalizing 6/30, though at a much-reduced level (WBH).

A **Grasshopper Sparrow** was singing at DMP 7/17 (WBH). Though the species was not known to breed at this location, the habitat seems favorable, and further investigation is needed. **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** is a fairly scarce breeding species in *Montgomery*. PERT seems to have a small population, with reports of a pair 6/20 (JG) and a solo bird 7/5 (MC). A male was noted at Gilbertsville 7/4 (MA). What had been a pretty good spring for **Blue Grosbeak** turned into a pretty good summer too. A singing Blue Grosbeak was heard at VFNHP 6/4 (WBH). A male bird was at Heuser Park 6/6 (WBH). This latter grosbeak evidently found a mate and set up shop at Heuser. A pair was seen there carrying food 7/16 and 7/19 (WBH).

Two **Pine Siskins**, the last remnants of a winter irruption, were in Wayne 6/2 (EP). Another siskin was photographed in West Norriton 6/27-28 (PN, TN), so late that it might have been a breeder.

EXOTICS: A drake **Mandarin Duck** was observed on the Tookany Creek in Cheltenham on several dates in Jun (RI).

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Montour County

No compiler.

Northampton County

Locations: Martins Creek Environmental Preserve (MCEP).

There were 2 **American Black Ducks** at MCEP 7/18 (MS, CCS). Two female **Common Mergansers** at the MCEP boat launch had a total of 27

young between them 6/1 (MS, CCS). There was one **Pied-billed Grebe** at Gremar Rd. Ponds all summer, but nesting was not observed following 2 successful breeding seasons. **Great Egret** was found at several locations beginning 7/7 at the Indian Creek Farms fishing pond in Danielsville, where 10 were gathered (MS, CCS). **Great Egret** was also seen in Bethlehem Twp. 7/9 (BE), Silvercrest Rd., Bath 7/11 (MS), Minsi Lake 7/18 (MS, CCS) and at Green Pond 7/16-30 (BE, AM, KZ). A **Solitary Sandpiper** at the Van Buren Rd. retention pond 6/7 was a somewhat late date (MS, CCS). In the Roseto area, a pair of Broad-winged Hawks was seen 6/5-7/28, suggesting nesting (MSa). A birder reported seeing 3 fledgling **Peregrine Falcons** at the Sands Casino area in Bethlehem 6/24 (DG). This was the fourth year that **Peregrine Falcon** nested at this location.

A fledgling **Willow Flycatcher** with 2 adults was at MCEP 7/18 (MS, CCS). A **Common Raven** nest with 5 eggs was photographed at the Keystone Cement Plant in Bath during the period (BS). **Purple Martin** juveniles (3-4) and adults (2) were at Minsi Lake 7/18-19 (MS, CCS, MSa). They may have come from the small martin house on nearby Totts Gap Rd. where several adults were seen in May. **Purple Martin** (4) and **Bank Swallow** (2) were at the Bethlehem Boat Club 7/6 (TF). About 30 **Bank Swallows** were feeding over the Delaware R. at MCEP 6/1 (MS, CCS).

White-eyed Vireo and **Louisiana Waterthrush** were reported from Jacobsburg SP 6/11-30 (AM, DH, MS, CCS). **Louisiana Waterthrush** was also seen at Bear Swamp 6/25 (BE). **Golden-winged Warblers** (2) were found in Upper Mt. Bethel Twp. 6/5 (MSa). In good habitat, this could have represented possible nesting, which would be a first for the county. **Yellow-throated Warbler** was observed at the Bethlehem Boat Club 6/19 (TK). There was a singing **Cerulean Warbler** at Kirkridge 6/14 (MS). A **White-throated Sparrow** was singing near the Bear Swamp boardwalk 6/25 (BE). **White-throated Sparrow** is not known to breed south of the Blue Ridge but the habitat along the boardwalk and a singing male could have been evidence of nesting.

Observers: **Michael Schall, 126 N Chestnut St., Bath, (610) 737-5275, mdtjschall@yahoo.com**, Bill Etter, Timothy Freiday, Dennis Glew, Deuane Hoffman, Tim Kita, Adam Matlock, Matt Sabatine (MSa), Corinne Campbell Schall, Brad Silfies, Kurt Zimmerman.

Northumberland County

No compiler.

Perry County

June was wetter than normal but July was hot and dry. One immature **Black-crowned Night Heron** reported at Millerstown Community Park 7/26 (DH) and a **Virginia Rail** was heard at Muddy Run Marsh east of Loysville.

Up to 4 **Golden-winged Warblers** were seen west of Blain on Bryner Rd. including one female carrying food 6/13-22 (IG, VG, DH, AM, TN). Also probable breeders at the same location were the 5 **Yellow-breasted Chats** reported 6/13-22 (IG, VG, DH, AM, TN). The only other reported was at Little Buffalo State Park near the power lines at western end of park 6/28 (AW). A pair of **Kentucky Warblers** displaying agitated behavior were reported on Laurel Run Road 6/19 (VG, AM), and one was later reported in the same vicinity 7/3 (VG, TN). There were also 4 **Chestnut-sided Warblers** in the Kansas Valley area north of New Germantown and Blain 6/13 (DH). A **Canada Warbler** was in the same area on the same date (DH).

Six **Bobolinks** were at Muddy Run Marsh 6/13 (DH) and two reports of single **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** included one at Elk Hill Road 6/6 (VG) and the other at the Big Knob area of Kansas Valley 6/13 (DH).

Observers: **Vernon Gauthier, 111 W. Big Spring Ave, Newville, PA 17241, (717) 385-9526, pabirder@gmail.com**, Ian Gardner, Deuane Hoffman, Annette Mathes, Ted Nichols II, Andrew Wicks.

Philadelphia County

Locations: Bartram's Garden (BG), Benjamin Rush State Park (BRSP), Carpenter's Woods (CW), Delaware River (DR), Fairmount Park (FP), Franklin D. Roosevelt Park (FDR), Glenn Foerd Mansion (GF), John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum-Philadelphia (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 (POD), Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education (SCEE), Schuylkill River (SR), Wissahickon Creek (WC).

Summer was cooler than normal with only 13 days above 91°F. Average rainfall in June dwindled through July which turned out to be the beginning of a protracted dry spell. The best bird was the Philly's third **White Ibis** since 2011, a well photographed juvenile at TI 7/30-8/1 (DA, m.ob). There had been a 31-year gap prior to the 2011 Ibis.

Six broods of **Wood Duck** were on the WC in Jun (SM) with a similar number reported from PEC (PK). By 7/3, 55 Wood Ducks were feeding at TI indicating a successful spring for this once declining species. **Mallard** is our only other breeding duck. Several straggling ducks were worth mention. Three **American Wigeon** were at TI until 6/20 (TW, AR, ph.). A **Northern Shoveler** was found there 6/21 (PV). In the DR near POD a New Jersey birder reported a molting **White-winged Scoter** 7/4-31 (TB). Less impressive were 2 **Ruddy Duck** still on the TI impoundment 6/1 (DA). A breeding plumaged **Common Loon** rested in the harbor at NBC 7/5 (GA). In spite of the restricted access on weekends and a few areas marked No Entry, NBC provides great views of the DR and sheltered harbors where 58 **Double-crested Cormorant** gathered 6/11 (GA).

Two **American Bitterns** circled the TI impoundment twice without stopping 7/27 (DA, JJ). Surveys using the PGC marsh bird protocol produced 4 **Least Bitterns** calling 6/13 (DM). A Least Bittern nest is often located at TI, but not this summer, but presumably two pair nested since 7 were seen 7/30, a group of five birds and two at separate locations (PB). At TI, the lack of rain resulted in shallow pools full of trapped fish that were attractive to egrets and herons. Sightings that follow were at TI unless otherwise noted. By early June, 2 **Snowy Egrets**, scarce in recent summers, arrived at POD 6/17 and at TI 6/7 (DO) where their number increased to 5 by early August. Much more common in late July, the first of 5 **Little Blue Herons** arrived around then at TI. Estimates of 100-200 **Great Blue Heron** and **Great Egret** were made at TI. At season's end a **Tricolored Heron** arrived 7/30 (PB, m.ob., ph.).

A **Northern Harrier** over the SR at the Waterworks 7/18 (LG) was the only non-breeding raptor reported. **Cooper's Hawk** continues to thrive. One nest successfully fledged four young (AR). The less-than-annual **Sora** arrived 7/30 at the TI boardwalk, two weeks earlier than in 2014 (BH, TF). Shorebirds were scarce, reported only from TI, the Frankford Arsenal DR boat ramp area, and BG. Of the six common species, reports included **Semipalmated Plover**, breeding **Spotted Sandpiper**, a **Greater Yellowlegs** 6/21, and **Lesser Yellowlegs**. Only 14 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** and 28 **Least Sandpipers** were noted from 7/19-27. Providing the fourth summer record since 2012, a **Least Tern** was photographed over the TI impoundment 6/5-6 (DO, ph., TL).

Sixty **Chimney Swifts** hunted at TI 7/30 (GA). **Peregrine Falcon** nests were active at the usual locations producing many young and accounting for numerous sightings throughout the season.

An **Acadian Flycatcher** was observed in the WC feeding a **Brown-headed Cowbird** (SM). At TI 14 **Willow Flycatcher** were tallied 6/7 (DO). A **Louisiana Waterthrush** was at BG 6/27 (DA). **Worm-eating Warbler** was an unexpected visitor to a Center City roof top 7/14 (GA, ph.). A late visitor to the Independence Historical Park 6/6 was a **Blackpoll Warbler** (GA). **Pine Warblers** were confirmed nesting at the Hermit Lane pines (SM). There are records of **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** breeding on the WC near Wise's Mill Rd., but with no recent confirmations. In May, a female was observed building a nest in a Japanese angelica-tree (*Aralia elata*), but this nest failed. The male grosbeak remained in the area, singing on 6/10 and 7/24, suggesting there might have been a second nest attempt (SM). Recently dispersed **Blue Grosbeaks** were at both POD and the Frankford Arsenal boat ramp 7/15-17 (FW, AR).

ADDENDUM: The **Northern Shrike** wintering at TI for the fourth year was last reported 3/15 (AM).

Observers: **Doris McGovern, 209 Dogwood Rd., Media, PA 19063, (610) 565-8484 mcgovern100@comcast.net**. David Allen, George Armistead, Tom Bailey, Debbie Beer, Paul Bernhardt, Tony Croasdale, Martin Dellwo, Todd Fellenbaum, Linda Goschke, Kim Gruener, Al Guarente, Matt Halley, Brian Henderson, Chuck Hetzel, Jaclyn Janis, Ken Januski, Pete Kurtz, Toby Levin, Scott McConnell, Anna Mindel, Kelly Nunn, Damon Orsetti, Ann Reeves, Mike Rosengarten, Tim Schreckengost, Jerome Schroeder, Belynda Stewart, Anthony Uhrich, Peter Volkmar, Todd Watkins, Frank Windfelder.

Pike County

Locations: Delaware State Forest (DSF), Promised Land State Park (PLSP).

There were 4 **American Black Ducks** at Pecks Pond 7/3 (MS, CCS). A **Common Loon** in non-breeding plumage at PLSP 7/3 was an unexpected find (MS, CCS). There were 4 **Broad-winged Hawk** nests

found in DSF as part of a project conducted by researchers through Hawk Mountain Sanctuary. Five Broad-winged Hawk young fledged. **Red-shouldered Hawk** was observed on Highline Dr., DSF 6/1 (EP), at PLSP 6/26 (BM) and at Pocono Environmental Education Center 7/31 (JL). During a survey at the Shohola WMA 6/25, **Virginia Rail** and **Sora** were found in the marsh (BM).

Yellow-billed and **Black-billed Cuckoos** were observed at PLSP 7/3 (MS, CCS) and a **Barred Owl** was at PLSP 6/6 (MS, CCS). Three **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were heard along Flat Ridge Rd. in DSF 7/3 (MS, CCS), and they were also at Palm Acres 7/18 (JJ) and at Canadensis 6/7 (CH). The habitat at PLSP is ideal for **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** and 10 birds were observed in just a few hours 7/3 (MS, CCS). There were 5 Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers at the Bear Wallow area of DSF 6/6 (MS, CCS).

Three **Alder Flycatchers** were another highlight at PLSP 7/3. The nearby Bear Wallow area had 2 **Alder Flycatchers** 6/6 (MS, CCS). **Willow Flycatcher** was seen on the Old Heller Farm at the Delaware Water Gap NRA 7/3 (MS, CCS). A single **Purple Martin** was flying around at Milford Beach 6/4 (BB). **Cliff Swallows** were observed going to nests at the Lake Wallenpaupack dam 7/3 (MS, CCS). At the Zane Grey Boat Launch on the Delaware R. there were 12 **Cliff Swallows** 6/3 (JG).

There 22 species of warbler reported. **Northern Waterthrush** was found at Bear Wallow 6/6 (MS, CCS) and Pecks Pond 6/8 (DH). There were 4 **Golden-winged Warblers** on Snow Hill Rd. in the DSF 6/8 (DH) and 3 **Golden-winged Warblers** at SGL 180 on 7/19 (JJ). Two **Cerulean Warblers** were at the Bushkill Access boat launch 6/9 (SS, NF). On 6/6, 13 species of warbler at Bear Wallow included **Magnolia Warbler**, 2 **Canada Warbler**, 5 **Black-throated Blue Warbler**, and an **American Redstart** building a nest (MS, CCS). Displaying **Bobolink** (uncommon nesters in *Pike*) was found along Lake Paupack Rd. 6/6 (MS, CCS). On 6/16, **Orchard Oriole** was confirmed nesting at Pocono Environmental Education Center (SS, NF).

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Potter County

No compiler.

Schuylkill County

Locations: Jeff's Swamp (JS), Kelayres Reclaimed Minelands (KRM), Locust Lake State Park (LLSP), Swatara State Park (SSP), Sweet Arrow Lake (SAL), Tuscarora State Park (TSP)

The temperatures through the June were cool and wet but much warmer and dryer weather moved into the area in July. The county registered a total of 114 species which had some level of likelihood of breeding here, consisting primarily of upland passerines. The total number is one more than last year and on the lower end of the five year range.

The county's summer breeding waterfowl assemblage is generally limited to **Canada Goose**, **Wood Duck**, and **Mallard**. However, **Mute Swan** is now established as a breeding resident, although only two reports were made this season—two in Deturksville 7/6 (SH, TN) and one in Lewistown Valley 7/11 (AG). Neither report included a breeding code. **Common Merganser** also appears to be extending their breeding range into the county. Two were near Ringtown 6/8 (JS) but once again no breeding code was provided.

The county had at least two active **Bald Eagle** nests this year and possibly two others. Three young fledged at SAL (DD) and two from a second nest in the southeastern portion of the county (AW). A nest that has been active near New Ringgold was not reported this year, and a rumored new nest near Heginns could not be confirmed. Thanks to on-going research at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, three **Broad-winged Hawk** nests were identified in the southeastern corner (LG). Sightings of single **Ospreys** occurred four times in the county within the safe dates although no breeding activity was noted. The birds were seen 6/4 at LVD (PR), 6/13 near Ringtown (JS), 7/6 in Wayne Twp. (DG), and 7/11 at SAL (AG).

Three owl species were reported. Unlike previous years, however, **Eastern Screech-Owl** was only reported once 7/10 in Wayne Township (DG). There was also one calling several evenings in South Manheim Township (DR). **Great Horned Owl** was also limited to a single report 6/25 at a home near McAdoo (JoD). **Barred Owl** were heard 6/20 at JS (DK, DR). There are historically a few areas in the county where **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** breed, primarily in the north central county around St. Clair and

Frackville and in the southern part of the county. This year there were no reports of the species within the safe dates, probably a result of a lack of observer effort.

For the fourth consecutive year, **Red-headed Woodpecker** was reported in the county. This year two reports of individual birds were made in May; one on North Slope (KG) and one near Pine Grove (BR). The North Slope location was where a pair was confirmed nesting the last two years (KG) although an attempt to relocate the bird there this year within the breeding period was unsuccessful (KG).

Although overall numbers of **American Kestrels** have been decreasing, several nests were confirmed in the southeastern corner (LG).

Acadian, Willow, and Alder Flycatchers probably breed here is low numbers but are not recorded every year. **Acadian Flycatcher** is the most common *Empidonax* here, found at three locations this season: 7 at JS 6/20 (DK, DR), two 6/12 (TB) and 7/6 (SH, TN) at LLSP, and one at TSP 7/6 (SH, TN). **Alder Flycatcher** was at SSP 6/1 and 6/29 (BR), at TSP 6/2 (AG) and 7/11 (JoD), and in Wayne Twp. 7/6 (DG). All reports of this species were singles. **Willow Flycatcher** was found at SSP 6/1 and 7/12 (BR), 7/11 at SAL (AG), and 7/15 at LVD (DH). **Least Flycatcher** is reported frequently in May and August but no reports have been made for the past ten years within the safe dates.

White-eyed Vireos were reported in the southern county including numerous sightings at SSP (BR). Numbers of breeding **Blue-headed Vireo** seem to have been dropping for a number of years. Attempts to locate one at JS, usually a dependable location, failed this year (DK, DR) but one was reported in Wayne Twp. 7/6 (DG). **Yellow-throated Vireo**, a species that breeds primarily in the southern portion of the county, was reported three times this year including a pair of birds found further north at LLSP 6/12 (TB). **Horned Larks** were reported throughout the period at KRM (JD, JoD) where it was confirmed breeding last year.

A total of 18 warbler species were found, of which four were confirmed breeders: **Ovenbird**, **Common Yellowthroat**, **Yellow Warbler**, and **Black-throated Green Warbler**.

Pitman, in the northwest, is an extensive agricultural area and a very dependable place to find Savannah, Grasshopper and Vesper Sparrows. This area was not surveyed this summer so the status of those birds is unknown, but two Grasshopper Sparrows were seen singing in there in May. **Grasshopper Sparrows** were reported all summer at KRM including 5 singing males 6/10 (JD, JoD). **Swamp Sparrows** were singing at JS 6/20 (DK, DR). An **Orchard Oriole** was at SSP 6/10 (IG).

Observers: **Dave Rieger, 401 Stony Mountain Road, Auburn, PA 17922, d.m.rieger@gmail.com**, Steven Albert, Tony Arnold, Thomas Buehl, Jr., John Collins, John DeBalko (JoD), Jonathan DeBalko (JD), Frank Dickman, Paul Dietrich IV, Denise Donmoyer, Ian Gardner, David Gersten, Dan Gillespie, Laurie Goodrich, Kerry Grim, Al Guarente, Sue Hannon, Deuane Hoffman, Jeff Hopkins, Kerek Hudgins, Chris Hugosson, Barb Jucker, Nick Kiehl, Barry Kinzie, Dave Krueel, Jon Levin, Emilie Luttmann, Ted Nichols II, Pete Rattigan, Barb Ritzheimer, Kate Schafer, John Stetson, Audry Wells, Zachary Williamson.

Snyder County

No report.

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

Somerset County

Locations: Berlin Area (BA), Buffalo Creek (BC), Kimberly Run Natural Area (KRNA), Lanzzone Property (LP), Payne Property (PP), Somerset Lake (SL), Summit Mills (SM), Quemahoning Reservoir (QR).

The season started out very cool and wet with the end of a six-week period of nearly daily rain finally ending in mid-June. SL was still in a six foot draw down while awaiting funding to replace the dam. Southbound shorebird migration was well underway by early July and although the diversity of birds was not as high as the spring migration, there were good counts. If there is to be a project to create long-term shorebird habitat at the lake there will need to be widespread birder support.

In addition to nesting **Canada Geese**, **Wood Ducks**, and **Mallards** at SL, 2 female **Hooded Mergansers** were seen 6/2 but no breeding evidence was observed (JP). A female **Ruddy Duck** was at SL 6/8 (AM). A single **Double-crested Cormorant** was still at SL 6/2 (JP). **Great Blue Herons** breed in the county and seem to be increasing in the summer season. **Great Egret** was seen at SL several times in July including 7/9-21 (m.ob.).

Two **Black Vultures** were in the extreme southeastern portion of the

county 6/9, along with a single **Red-shouldered Hawk** (JP). Adult **Bald Eagles** were seen throughout the period around SL (BC, AMc, JP, et al). A **Northern Harrier** over LP 6/12 may have been breeding locally (TM).

Four **Semipalmated Plovers** and 40 **Killdeer** were at SL 7/30 (JP). Three **American Avocets** were flyovers at LP 7/7 (ML), a great yard bird. The last northbound **Greater Yellowlegs** was at SL 6/2 and 5 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were still lingering there 6/5 (JP). Seven **Spotted Sandpipers** congregated at SL 7/21 (JP). The first returning **Solitary Sandpiper** was spotted in Milford Township 7/18 (AM). Four **Solitary Sandpipers**, one **Semipalmated Sandpiper**, and 8 **Least Sandpipers** were on the mud at SL 7/30 (JP). Two **Caspian Terns** were at SL 6/8 (AM, JP) and 2 surely different individuals were there 7/30 (JP). Two **Black Terns** were at SL on the intriguing date of 6/16 (LG).

Two **Common Nighthawks** over Central City 7/6 (SD) may have been elusive local breeders. Common as recently as the 1990s in Somerset Borough, they are rarely found in breeding season these days. **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** seemed to be numerous this summer with one time counts of 10 at PP and 13 near Fairhope (JP). **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were scattered with one in northern part of county 7/8 (LG) and one to 3 south of Somerset Borough (JM, MM, JP) through end of period. Very exciting were reports of **Purple Martins** breeding at some carefully maintained houses just north of Salisbury. These were confirmed 6/28 (JP) with at least 3 birds present, and at least 5 birds 7/31. This represented the first confirmed nesting of multiple pairs in over 10 years.

Brown Creepers are widely scattered breeders in *Somerset* and were reported at Shaffer Run 6/18 (OD). Likewise, **Winter Wrens** nest in several areas of county and were reported at Laurel Hill State Park 6/21 (DP). *Somerset* has had 25 warbler species and Yellow-breasted Chat nesting in the recent past. Among the less common is **Yellow-rumped Warbler** which was seen at Hidden Acres Farm 7/9 (SD). Four singing **Cerulean Warblers**, one **Golden-winged Warbler**, and one **Worm-eating Warbler** were in the seldom explored southeast 6/9 (JP). Also found that day was **Yellow-breasted Chat**, another sporadic county breeder (AMc).

Grasshopper Sparrow and **Henslow's Sparrow** are most commonly found on old strip mines on the plateau or in old fields east of the Allegheny Front. A Grasshopper was in the far southeast 6/9 (JP) and the **Henslow's Sparrow** was at the Flight 93 Memorial 6/5 (SS). That location had the biggest colony in the county prior to changes in habitat that came with the new memorial in the mid-2000s. A few **Pine Siskins** were at PP 6/12 but breeding was not determined (JP).

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

Sullivan County

Locations: Dutch Mtn. (DM), Hillsgrove (HG), Hunter's Lake (HL), Kinsley's Corner, Dutch Mtn. Rd (KC), Kost's Pond, Dushore (KP), Lietzelman Road, Dushore (LR), Loyalsock State Forest (LSF), Ricketts Glen State Park (RGSP), Ricketts Glen State Park hayfields (RGSPHF), Rosenberry Hill (RH), SGL 13 Splashdam Pond (SDP), Sullivan Falls Road (SFR), SGL 66, Shanersburg Bog (SB), Slab Run Swamp (SRS).

The months of June and July were unseasonably cool, and certainly drier than the spring, but rain was frequent nevertheless. All sightings that follow were by the author unless otherwise noted.

A hen **Wood Duck** with young was seen on KP 6/21. A lone female **Greater Scaup** was found on a small pond in LaPorte on 6/30 (RM, SC, DK) during a driving rain that had continued from the previous night. **Ring-necked Pheasant** continued in the LR area. **Wild Turkey** was observed with poults on multiple occasions. A **Common Loon** in breeding plumage was on HL 6/6 (RM, SC).

A **Great Blue Heron** rookery with six visible nests and a total of 10 birds was observed near HG on 6/3 (AF). **Green Heron** was spotted along Jacks Road near HG 6/13. **Black Vulture** was reported near KC 6/20 (DeG, GG), still a good find for this county. Male **Northern Harriers** were at SDP 6/6 (PD), SGL 66 on 7/22, and SGL 66 Shumans Lake 7/29 (EZ). **Red-shouldered Hawk** was present at SRS 7/18 (DB). **Broad-winged** and **Red-tailed Hawk** were widely reported.

Once again, **Sandhill Crane** was a confirmed nester along LR. One chick was observed with two adults multiple times (RM, SC). Lake Jean in RGSP was drained in the spring in order for repairs to the dam and spillway. This brought a number of shorebirds in May but only **Killdeer** was seen in June and July. **American Woodcock** was at SDP 6/29 (JF).

A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was on DM 6/13. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was reported at SDP 6/6 (PD). **Barred Owl** was observed at multiple locations. Three **Eastern Whip-poor-will** were at SDP 6/6 (PD). A **Chimney Swift** was far away from the usual haunt of downtown Dushore at RGSPHF 6/29 (JF). **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was at SRS 7/18 (DB) and at feeders on DM throughout the period. A **Belted Kingfisher** was seen in good breeding habitat along SFR 6/19 (JL). **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**, **Downy** and **Hairy Woodpecker**, and **Northern Flicker** are all common breeders and were widely reported. The only **Pileated Woodpecker** was near High Knob 6/19 (DeG, GG).

Eastern Wood-Pewee, **Alder** and **Least Flycatcher**, **Eastern Phoebe**, and **Eastern Kingbird** were present throughout the county. **Acadian Flycatcher** was well represented in good habitat along Ogdonia Road 6/6 (RM) and 6/19 (DeG, GG) as well as along SFR 6/19 (JL). Three individuals were found in each case. One **Willow Flycatcher** was near KC 6/20 (DeG, GG) and one was at RH 7/1 (RM). **Blue-headed Vireo** were abundant at SRS 7/18 (DB) with 8 individuals counted. The high count for **Red-eyed Vireo** was an eye popping 30 in LSF along Dry Run Rd 7/5 (DG). A single **Fish Crow**, still uncommon here, was observed near HG 6/3 (AF).

At least two **Cliff Swallows**, less than annual in *Sullivan*, were at a small pond near KC 7/25 (RM). Three **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were counted on DM during the week of 6/28. **Winter Wren** was found in Davidson Twp. along SFR 6/19 (JL) and above Elk Grove in SGL 13 on 6/14 (RM). Two birds were found in LSF along Dry Run Rd, 7/5 (DG). A **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was seen at close range at RGSP 7/25. The common nesting thrushes were well observed and included **Eastern Bluebird**, **Veery**, **Hermit Thrush**, **Wood Thrush**, and **American Robin**. **Brown Thrasher** was recorded twice on DM in early and late June.

Reports for eighteen species of warbler were made during the period. Confirmed nesters included **Common Yellowthroat**, **American Redstart**, **Chestnut-sided Warbler**, and **Black-throated Blue Warbler**, all of which were observed carrying food along SFR 6/19 (JL). **Yellow Warbler** was at SDP on multiple occasions and seen feeding young there 7/8 (EZ). High single day counts of 16 **Ovenbirds** and 15 **Black-throated Green Warblers** were from LSF along Dry Run Rd 7/5 (DG) and LSF High Knob Road 6/19 (DeG, GG) respectively. **Black-and-white**, **Magnolia**, and **Blackburnian Warblers** were all abundant across the county. Multiple records were made for **Nashville**, **Yellow-rumped**, **Prairie**, and **Canada Warbler**. **Louisiana Waterthrush** was found in typical breeding habitat along SFR 6/19 (JL) and along Ogdonia Rd 6/6. A **Northern Waterthrush** was heard in SB 6/13. This was the first record here in three or four years. **Nashville Warbler** was observed in SGL 66 on at least two different dates (EZ, RM). **Northern Parula** was heard near the ranger station in LSF on Dry Run Rd 6/6. The highlight for this family was the 3 **Cerulean Warblers** at LSF Dry Run Road 6/12 (DeG, GG). There are very few records for this bird in the county.

Grasshopper Sparrow was at KC beginning 6/29 (RM, SC). **Eastern Towhee**, **Chipping**, **Field**, **Savannah**, **Song**, and **Swamp Sparrow** as well as **Dark-eyed Junco**, **Scarlet Tanager**, **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** and **Indigo Bunting** all appeared frequently. **Bobolinks** were very common in the KC area, as were **Red-winged Blackbirds** and **Eastern Meadowlarks**. A large flock of mostly **Common Grackles** was seen along LR 7/25. **Purple Finches** were reported only from DM.

Sadly, I report that the mountain lost a good friend when Roger 'Skip' Conant passed away on 7/13. Skip first came to Sullivan County in 1936 as a boy of only six years old and spent the rest of his life coming back. He was an avid birder and kept records from the county over the last 30+ years of his life. He worked many blocks during both breeding atlases and recorded reptiles and amphibians as well. Skip was a good friend and mentor to me. He was also my uncle. I often joked that Skip would tell people that he taught me everything I know and that I let him believe it. But there really is truth to the statement, as he kindly took me under his wing and was not only a good teacher but also introduced me to many wonderful folks who shared their knowledge too. Skip was one of a kind, and will be missed.

Observers: **Rob Megraw 131 Butternut Dr, Pottstown, PA 19464 610.858.6361, robert.r.megraw@gmail.com**. Dan Brauning, Skip Conant, Paul Dennehy, Jason Forbes, Amber Foote, Doug Gross (DG), Deb Grove (DeG), Greg Grove, Dave Kale, Judith Lynn, Eric Zawatski,

Susquehanna County

Locations: Lord Pond (LP), Woodbourne Forest and Wildlife Preserve (WF), State Game Land 35 (SGL35), VanCott Farm (VCF).

A total of 117 species were reported from *Susquehanna* during the period, 80% of the 146 species reported to eBird for summer from 1900-

2015. Early summer was wet and cool, but yielded to seasonal heat and precipitation later in the period.

Canada Goose, Mallard and Wood Duck were reported widely and were the only waterfowl observed. Eight species of raptor including **Red-shouldered Hawk** were reported. **Great Blue Heron** and **Green Heron** were the only waders evident. Shorebird sightings were unremarkable with only four species reported. Both **cuckoos** were observed. **Barred** and **Great Horned Owl** were the only owls noted. Flycatchers were represented by eight species including four *Empidonax*: **Acadian, Alder, Willow** and **Least**, all of which are apparent breeders in *Susquehanna*.

Twenty species of warbler were reported including several of note. An amazing 40 **Ovenbirds** along with **Worm-eating, Cerulean** and **Mourning Warblers** were among 12 species at SGL35 on 6/29 (EM, JM), and 37 **Ovenbird, Magnolia Warbler**, and **Black-throated Blue Warbler** were among eight species at WF 6/20 (NB). A single **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was noted at WF 6/20 (NB).

Pine Siskins continued in *Susquehanna* through the second week of July at LP (KJ), and a single was at VKF 6/18 (NVC).

Observers: **Rob Blye, 300 Sanatoga Road, Pottstown, PA 19465, (610) 327-2010, rwbllye@comcast.net**, Dave Andres, Nick Bolgiano, Jim Borden, Edmund Burdick, Rich Fritsky, Evan Mann, Justin Mann, Kathie Jones, Allan Kresock, Bruce McNaught, Tom Norville, Win Schaeffer, Jerry Skinner, Joyce Stone (JST), Nancy VanCott, Nancy Wottrich,.

Tioga County

No compiler.

Union County

No compiler.

Venango County

No report.

Compilers: **Gary Edwards, 224 Meadow Rd., Apt. 9, Seneca, PA 16346, (814) 676-3011, gedwards@csonline.net; Russ States, 11 E. 4th St., Oil City, PA 16301, (814) 676-6320, pabirder@verizon.net.**

Warren County

No compiler.

Washington County

Locations: Bavington (BAV), Hillman State Park (HSP), Mingo Creek County Park (MC).

A **Ruffed Grouse** with one chick at BAV 7/6 (RT) was a welcome find. Three **Double-crested Cormorants** at R4 on 7/29 (RI) were a bit of a surprise. A **Bald Eagle** was over MC 7/24 (GG). **Broad-winged Hawks** were noted at HSP, MC, and Houston in July (FK).

Early migrants at CL were an **American Coot** 7/29 and a **Solitary Sandpiper** 7/6 (both MJ). Multiple reports of **Black-billed Cuckoo** at MC (FK, GG) and HSP (FK, AK, TH, OL) were encouraging. Single **Common Nighthawk** were over Washington 7/9 (LC) and 7/13 (RI). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** at Claysville 6/15 (LC, RI) was a nice find. Two **Great Crested Flycatchers** at Peters Twp. 7/22 (GG) were probably early migrants. There were several sightings of **Blue-headed Vireo** and **Red-breasted Nuthatch** at HSP in July (TH, m.ob.). A **Kentucky Warbler** was on a territory at BAV 7/6 (RT) for the fifth year in a row. A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was near CC 6/22 (JT). Two **Bobolinks** at MC 6/10 and after were unusual for the location (GG), as was a **Prairie Warbler** on 6/10 (*vide* GG).

Observers: **Geoff Malosh, 450 Amherst Avenue, Moon Township, PA 15108-2654, (412) 735-3128, pomarine@earthlink.net**, Lauren Conkle, Gigi Gerben, Todd Hooe, Roy Ickes, Matthew Juskowich, Fred Kachmarik, Alyssa Karmann, Oliver Lindhiem, José Taracido, Ryan Tomazin.

Wayne County

No compiler.

Westmoreland County

Locations: BRR (Beaver Run Reservoir), Bushy Run Battlefield Park, (BRB), Donegal Lake (DL), Kuehl Property in Murrysville (KP), Jeannette Breeding Bird Survey route (J-BBS), Murrysville Community Park (MCP), Linn Run State Park (LRSP), New Stanton (NS), PNR (Powdermill Nature Reserve), WHT (Westmoreland Heritage Trail).

Two adult **Wild Turkeys** were photographed with a nice cache of poults in Murrysville 6/2 (MJS). One **Wood Duck** was on Loyalhanna Creek from the WHT 7/12 (KB), and a **Common Merganser** was at LD 7/5 (DK).

Three **Ospreys** including one fledgling were at the long-time nest at DL (DM). Another was seen from the bridge on Freeport Road into New Kensington 7/23 (AH). A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was noted in Delmont 7/20 (KB). Seen often enough over the past few years to be known as the "Delmont Coop", one **Cooper's Hawk** flew over Rte. 66 at Delmont's main intersection 6/22 (TK). Breeding in the area in past years, but only seen once this season, a **Broad-winged Hawk** was harassed by 3 **Blue Jays** 6/21 at the KP. A **Red-Shouldered Hawk** was in the PNR area 6/16 (AP).

One of the 2 **Killdeer** at the MCP 6/21 was on a gravel nest (JK, TK). An **Upland Sandpiper** was heard from Willow Road (South of Blairsville) during conducting the J-BBS route 6/4 (MRH). In the same area, a **Black Vulture** was perched on a fence post while 8 **Turkey Vultures** feasted on a road-killed deer on Laughlin Farm Road (MRH).

Both **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** and **Black-billed Cuckoo** were heard regularly at the KP. **Barred Owls** called at night at the KP 7/13, and then responded to a fire siren late in the afternoon of 7/30. One **Great Horned Owl** was at PNR 6/4 (BT) and one was heard along the WHT 6/12 (KB). A family group of 4 **American Kestrels** were active at the farm buildings at J-BBS stop 49 near Scottdale (JK, TK), and 3, including at least one juvenile, were loud and active at the WCP 6/20 (JK, TK).

Notable species singing during the season at the KP were **Acadian Flycatcher, White-eyed Vireo, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Wood Thrush, Hooded Warbler** and **Scarlet Tanager. Willow Flycatcher**, which was present during the season in New Stanton, was still singing there during the last week of the season (MF). Two reports for **Great Crested Flycatcher** came from the J-BBS route 6/20, one near Arona and another near Waltz's Mill. **Common Raven** continued to be reported in the lower elevations of *Westmoreland*; one was observed at the KP 7/27 (JK, TK) and one was heard in New Stanton 7/20 and 7/31 (MF).

Four **Purple Martins** were at the longtime nesting site at the Westmoreland Municipality Building at the BRR Rte. 380 Overlook 7/5 (DK) Five were the near the nesting house at MCP 6/21 (JK, TK). Two **Bank Swallows** and 2 **Winter Wrens** were at Northmoreland Park 6/24 (MVT).

The better birds included on a 6/16 eBird report for PNR included **Least Flycatcher, Purple Martin (3), Brown Creeper, Kentucky Warbler, Northern Parula** and a **Purple Finch** (AP). Laurel Ridge specialties, with high counts for several of the species, were reported on Wolf Run Trail 6/24; 2 **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers**, one **Blue-headed Vireo**, 8 **Veery**, 7 **Hermit Thrush**, 3 **Blackburnian Warblers**, 11 **Black-throated Blue Warblers**, 6 **Black-throated Green Warblers**, and 4 **Canada Warblers** (JM). Captures of interest at PNR were one **Mourning Warbler** in June, and in July one **Tennessee Warbler** and one **Swainson's Thrush**. There were several reports for Hunter's Lane, a generally reliable location for breeding Golden-winged Warbler, however while no reports came from it, a **Blue-winged Warbler** was observed singing the Golden-winged Warbler song 7/5 (AH).

Searching the grassland area of Derry Township, which is just south of Blairsville where the Upland Sandpiper was heard 6/4, 3 **Grasshopper Sparrows**, one **Savannah Sparrow**, and 6 **Eastern Meadowlarks** were observed 6/7 (MM), and 3 **Eastern Kingbirds**, one **Horned Lark**, 5 **Brown Thrashers**, 8 **Savannah Sparrows**, 10 **Grasshopper Sparrows**, 6 **Eastern Meadowlarks** and 2 **Orchard Orioles** were detected 6/10 (KB). There were 5 **Swamp Sparrows** at Hunter's Lane 6/16 (AP). Two **Purple Finches**, a male and a female, were at the BRB 6/23 (MM).

Observers: **Tom Kuehl, 3615 Hilty Road, Export, PA 15632, (724) 325-1918, tjkuehl@comcast.net**, Ken Byerly, Mike Fialkovich, Amy Henrici, Margaret & Roger Higbee, Dave Kerr, Janet Kuehl, Mark McConaughy, Donna Mohney, Aidan Place, Brian Trevelline, Mary Jane Seipler, Marge Van Tassel.

Wyoming County

Locations: Beaumont (BM), Davis Crossing (DC), Endless Mountains Nature Center, including Vosburg Neck (EMNC), Iroquois Trail, Tunkhannock (IT), Lake Carey (LC), Lazybrook Park (LB), Little Rocky Glen (LRG), Mulligan's Pond (MP), Oxbow Lake (OL), Phelps's Swamp (PS),

Russell Hill (RH), Scottsville Road (SR), Sharpe's Lake (SL), State Gamelands 57 (SGL).

During the second breeding bird atlas (2004-2009), breeding activity was recorded for 149 species in *Wyoming*, of which 108 were confirmed. This report includes notes for those identified as either probable (Pr) or possible (Po) in the atlas, with the hope of elevating the status of those species. This summer, county birders reported 13 of the 41 species listed as possible or probable in the 2004-2009 atlas.

Turkey Vulture was recorded as Pr at many locations during the period. **Red-shouldered Hawk** (Pr) was recorded at SGL 7/11 (EZ). This was well inside safe dates for the species, but, nothing beyond its presence was reported.

Residents near Sharpe's Lake reported hearing and seeing **Sandhill Cranes** at various times during the spring and summer as they have in recent years, and the habitat seems suitable for species. Still, observers have not observed breeding behavior. It has been confirmed as breeding in nearby *Bradford*, so it's surely possible here in *Wyoming*. The only record of **Spotted Sandpiper** (Pr) was a pair at EMNC 7/11 (JD) foraging along the Susquehanna River, outside safe dates.

Barred Owl (Po) was recorded in two locations: a bird being mobbed by a variety of songbirds at SGL 7/11 (EZ), and a calling owl on several dates in August at EMNC (RL). **Chimney Swifts** (Pr) were observed in small groups at several locations throughout the period, but confirmation is difficult for this species.

Blue-headed Vireo (Pr) was recorded on five separate dates: 7/2, 7/11, and 7/13 all at SGL (all EZ), and 6/16 and 7/2 at IT (both JD). Single **Warbling Vireos** (Pr) were recorded at EMNC 6/6, at IT 6/9, at LB 6/20, and 3 singing birds were at LRG 6/25, (all JD). **Northern Mockingbird** (Pr) was noted throughout July at BM (SG), usually single birds, but occasionally two.

Nineteen warblers were reported of the twenty-six listed in the atlas, nine of which were probable or possible. Of those nine, three were seen this summer. **Nashville Warbler** (Pr) was recorded 7/2, 7/11, and 7/13 at SGL (EZ). The 7/11 bird reinforced the Pr designation, as it had been singing in that location for more than days. Two **Hooded Warblers** (Pr) were at EMNC 7/1 (JD), each in a separate location, and one of which was an agitated female. **Prairie Warbler** (Pr) was at EMNC 7/1 but was not confirmed breeding (JD).

As during last summer, **Orchard Oriole** (Po in the atlas, Pr last summer) was observed during safe dates: one at EMNC 6/6, one at LRG 6/25, and 2 at EMNC 7/1 (JD). It's highly probable the species bred at EMNC in a shrubby area in the Howland Preserve.

No breeding behavior was recorded for **Pine Siskin** during the most recent atlas, although a pair was observed at a feeder in Tunkhannock 6/25 (JD), within safe dates for the species.

Observers: **Joe DeMarco, 15 West Tioga Street, Tunkhannock, PA, 18657, (570) 836-1468**, Mark Catalano, Sandy Goodwin, Rebecca Lesko, Bruce McNaught, Drew Weber, and Eric Zawatski.

York County

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

The 115 species reported were squarely on the average for this period over the past five years. Warblers were well reported with 16 species noted.

Wood Duck was reported at 10 sites with a high count of 23 at SGL 242 on 7/29 (PK). Rare for this period, **American Black Duck** was reported from two locations. Fishing Creek in the Valley Green area held 7 birds 6/24 (RM), and a group of 8 was at LR 6/19 (CB). The latter location also provided the most recent prior summer period sighting 7/9/2009 (CK). Ducklings were not evident for either of this year's sightings. Unlike other years where multiple immature **Common Loons** were at CSP, a mere single was found 6/3-26 (DN, RS) this year. Sighting of **Ring-necked Pheasant** were limited to 6/3-22 (ED, DK) singles at SGL 243 and at Sunnyside Rd. 6/20 (CB), but were probably released birds. None of four reports of **Wild Turkey** exceeded 2 birds.

The **Great Egret** and **Black-crowned Night-Heron** rookery at Kiwanis Lake thrived. Census was taken 6/19-28 (CB, IG, SH, TN, PK, RR) and produced high counts of 53 birds for each species. A 6/14 eBird entry suggested a nesting pair of **Yellow-crowned Night Heron** with 3 young but this could not be confirmed during the census period. A very large kettle of 60 **Black Vultures** was over BI 7/16 (DN). **Osprey** was widely reported with a high count of 5 birds at Lock 12 on 7/10 (DW). **Bald Eagle** also continued to be well reported, but a confrontation between a juvenile eagle and a

Peregrine Falcon turned out badly for the eagle. The conflict was witnessed at BI 7/15 with the falcon apparently stoop diving and striking the eagle. The eagle fell to the ground and the witness got the bird to veterinarian Ann Pettigrew. Upon x-raying, the bird was found to have a proximal fracture of the left humerus and a shoulder luxation. Upon consulting with a rehabber and the PGC, the injuries resulted in the bird being euthanized.

Killdeer were at ALT all period (m.ob.) with 21 birds 7/26 (DF) the high count. Heavy June rains carrying into early July resulted in very limited mudflats at LR and none at all at CSP, the traditional top shore-birding spots in the county. As a result, shorebird reports were sparse. A **Lesser Yellowlegs** was at LR 7/23-24 (LC, DN) with a 7/23 (DN) high count of 7 birds. There were four reports of **Spotted Sandpiper** and **Semipalmated Sandpiper** included a northbound lingerer at Lake Williams 6/3 (CK) and then 7 southbound birds at the same location 7/16-28 (CK).

The 11 reports of **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was definitely on the high side with high count of 3 at Spring Valley County Park 6/22 (CB). Despite the frequency of Yellow-bills, there were no reports of Black-billed Cuckoo.

There were eight reports each of **Acadian Flycatcher** and **Willow Flycatcher**. **White-eyed Vireo**, **Yellow-throated Vireo**, and **Warbling Vireo** were all well-reported. Up to 4 **Horned Larks** were at ALT 6/19-21 (DF, IG). High count for **Purple Martin** was 20 at the CSP marina colony 6/26 (RS). Sixteen reports of **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** were paced by a nice count of 30 at Lake Williams 6/30 (CK). Reports of likely migrant singles of **Bank Swallow** came from Saginaw 7/18 (DW) and Goldsboro 7/30 (DN). The CSP **Cliff Swallow** colony remained active. Observations from 6/3-20 (CB, MC, DN, BT) resulted in a high count of 17 birds 6/20 (CB) at a minimum of 23 nests under two bridges. The northern part of the county provided a report of a pair of **Black-capped Chickadees** 6/1 (MS). A **Veery** was at CSP 6/3 (DN, BT). **Cedar Waxwing** was frequently reported with a nice summer count of 36 at LR 6/20 (IG).

Highlights among warblers included a rare summer observation of **Black-throated Green Warbler** at Gifford Pinchot State Park 7/22 (DN) and a **Cerulean Warbler** and a **Prothonotary Warbler** along Gut Rd, 6/4 (DN). Prothonotary Warblers continues to nest at BI with 4 birds spotted 6/19 (CB, DC). Following last year's strong showing of **Yellow-breasted Chat** at RRCP, the same locale and two others held chats this year. Lock 12 produced sightings 6/3-7/10 (RF, DW) with a high count of 4 birds 6/3 (RF). Sunnyside Rd held a single bird 6/3 (CB) and that increased to 3 birds as of 6/22 (CB). Reports for RRCP noted up to 2 birds 6/10-7/24 (LC, RH, DN).

Sparrows were very limited. ALT held **Savannah Sparrow** and **Grasshopper Sparrow** all period (m.ob.) with a high of 6 Savannahs on various dates (DF) and 16 Grasshopper Sparrows 7/15 (DN, TNe). High Point Scenic Vista and Recreation Area was the only other site reporting these species, with a 6/4 (DN) visit producing a single Savannah Sparrow and 12 Grasshopper Sparrows.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak was reported from Fairview Twp 6/3 (DN) and Lock 12 and Otter Creek 7/10 (DW). **Blue Grosbeak** singles were found at four locations: along Grave Run Rd. 6/7 (TC, RJ), at RRCP 6/20 (AW), at ALT 7/11 (DF), and at Saginaw 7/18 (DW). **Bobolinks** were limited to a single bird at ALT 6/21 (IG). **Eastern Meadowlarks** were at ALT all period (m.ob.) with a high of 22 on 7/19 (DF). Two were at High Point 6/4 (DN). **Orchard Oriole** continued strong with 15 reports from 11 locations, and a high count of 6 birds at BI 6/19 (WC) and 7/20 (DN).

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IN FOCUS



*Pacific Loon, Lake Nockamixon, Bucks County. See p. 163.
(Devich Farbotnik)*



*American Avocet, Peace Valley Park, Bucks County. See p. 163.
(Bill Keim)*



*American White Pelican, Gull Point, Erie County. See p. 170.
(Jerry McWilliams)*



*American Golden-Plover, Volant Strips, Lawrence County. See p. 174.
(Annette Devinney)*

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

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

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