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Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*). Recently fledged Northern Harrier at Piney Tract (SGL330) Clarion 19 Jul. Harriers are rare breeders in the state. During the second Breeding Bird Atlas, nesting was confirmed in only 24 blocks scattered in 18 different counties, mostly in the northern half of the state. Clarion is the center of harrier breeding activity, this season confirmed at two locations with pairs present at two more. (Anthony Bruno)

Compiler news

Brian Quindlan is stepping down as compiler for *Delaware*. His excuse has something to do with being busy with grad school and thesis writing. Brian has been writing excellent reports since 2013 and we thank him for his contributions to *Pennsylvania Birds*. I am happy to announce that **Sheryl Johnson** will take over coverage of this small but important county on the lower Delaware River, sharing with *Philadelphia* the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge, one of the state's most important locations for both birds and birders.

At the opposite corner of the state, **Scott Stoleson** will take over in *Warren*, a county which has not been covered in recent years. Scott is a research scientist with U.S. Forest Service – among his projects is work on Cerulean Warblers.

While on the subject of compilers, the following counties have no compiler: *Carbon, Lackawanna, McKean, Montour, Northumberland, Potter, Tioga, and Union*. Please contact me if interested.

Pennsylvania Birdlists

One outcome of the recent survey of PSO membership is that we will bring the Pennsylvania Birdlists feature back into *Pennsylvania Birds*. Recall that this past year the lists were moved to the PSO website. In the recent survey of PSO members, the lists were rated of high importance by many, as they always have been. (And as usual, there are a few opponents of listing). Furthermore, some respondents indicated they never or rarely use a computer, perhaps do not own a computer, and therefore of course will not see the lists (or anything else) on line.

Given these results, the lists will return to the printed journal. The most recent issue of our newsletter, *PSO Pileated*, includes the usual paper form for submitting list updates (through December 2016) and birdlists compiler Peter Robinson (who has been doing this for 17 years) will send his usual announcement by email towards the end of the year.

Photos

This is the second issue for which **Ted Nichols** has served as Photo Editor. Ted has been very enthusiastic about

soliciting photos – and it's worked, almost too well! For the spring issue, for example, he received a couple hundred photos.

From submitted photos, we select one for the front cover and up to six for the inside back cover feature *In Focus* (also in color). An average issue of *Pennsylvania Birds* contains about 5-7 pages with black and white prints. At a maximum of six per page, this means we print around 50 photos as an upper limit. Some quick Math shows we can not use all the photos we receive; in fact, at the current rate of submission, less than half will be printed. Poor quality is rarely the reason a photo is not used - the great majority are excellent. We simply don't have the space. Selection of which photos to use – and more painfully, which not to use – has turned out to be one of the more difficult tasks for the new editors!

All of the above leads to this point: If you submit a photo that is not used, don't give up. Eventually photos of yours will be used. Further, we don't trash unused photos. They are saved, possibly to be used if we need a photo of a particular species in a feature article.

All photos are welcome. Photos of state rarities get top priority, even if of fair or poor quality, as long as they allow identification. Photos of birds providing first or second county records are also of high priority, as are photos documenting new or rare nesting records for the state or a county. Photos showing interesting behavior are always of interest.

Photos should be sent to Ted at the special email address on the inside cover (pabirdsphotos@gmail.com). They can be sent anytime but definitely not later than about one month following the close of any given season.

Photo Correction

In the spring 2016 issue of Volume 30 (No. 2), the photo of the Yellow-crowned Night-Heron on the In Focus page (inside back cover) was taken by Dave Kerr on 16 May on the Conodoguinet Creek in *Cumberland*.

County compilers as of December 2016: **Phil Keener** (Adams, York), **Mike Fialkovich** (Allegheny, Fayette), **Marjorie Van Tassel** (Armstrong), **Geoff Malosh** (Beaver,

Lawrence, Washington), **Tom Dick** (Bedford), **Rudy Keller** and **Matt Wlasniewski** (Berks), **Mark Bonta** (Blair), **Trudy Gerlach** (Bradford), **August Mirabella** (Bucks), **Oscar Miller** (Butler), **Dave Gobert** (Cambria), **Brendyn Baptiste** (Cameron, Elk), **Nan Butkovich** (Centre), **Holly Merker** (Chester), **Carole Winslow** (Clarion), **Diane Bierly** (Clearfield), **Wayne Laubscher** (Clinton), **Doug Gross** (Columbia), **Rob Hodgson** (Crawford), **Vern Gauthier** (Cumberland, Perry), **Annette Mathes** (Dauphin), **Sheryl Johnson** (Delaware), **Jerry McWilliams** (Erie), **Flo McGuire** (Forest), **Bill Oyler** (Franklin), **Amy Evans** (Fulton), **Marjorie Howard** (Greene), **Greg Grove** (Huntingdon), **Margaret Higbee** (Indiana), **Thomas Glover** (Jefferson), **Chad Kauffman** (Juniata), **Pamela Fisher** (Lancaster), **Tim Becker** (Lebanon), **Bill Etter** (Lehigh), **Jonathan DeBalko** (Luzerne), **Dan Brauning** (Lycoming), **Neil Troyer** (Mercer), **Jon Kauffman** (Mifflin), **Brian Hardiman** (Monroe), **Brian Henderson** (Montgomery), **Michael Schall** (Northampton, Pike), **Dave Rieger** (Schuylkill), **Jason Weller** (Snyder), **Jeff Payne** (Somerset), **Rob Megraw** (Sullivan), **Evan Mann** (Susquehanna), **Gary Edwards** and **Russ States** (Venango), **Scott Stoleson** (Warren), **Josh Jones** (Wayne), **Tom Kuehl** (Westmoreland), **Joe DeMarco** (Wyoming).

CORRIGENDA

The Winter Season summary issue Vol. 30, No. 1 highlighted 7 House Wrens on the Southern Bucks CBC. However, that report was entered into the CBC data base in error. No House Wrens were found on that CBC.

A Black-headed Grosbeak was reported in the Winter Season Volume 30, No. 1 in the Birds of Note and Summary of the Season as being in both *Bucks* and *Northampton*, resulting in a first record for *Bucks*. However, examination of maps of the area showed the bird was seen only in *Northampton*, no closer than 100 feet to the *Buckss* line, and therefore should not be considered the first record for *Bucks*.

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First confirmed breeding record of Virginia Rail in Allegheny County

Geoff Malosh

Virginia Rail is a very rare breeder in Pennsylvania. In summer they occur primarily in the marshes of the Glaciated Northwest and Northeast, with very sporadic summer records at wetlands throughout the rest of the state. During the second Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas period, they were found in just 153 blocks out of 4937 total blocks statewide (3.09%), and due to their secretive nature and inaccessible nest sites, they were directly confirmed as breeding in just 31 blocks. Despite this low confirmation rate, Virginia Rails probably do breed in just about every location they are found in summer, and the statewide population may number in the low hundreds of birds (Van Fleet, 2012).

In Allegheny County, Virginia Rails are less than annual spring migrants in the county's few and frequently ephemeral wetlands. Most birds appear in April and do not remain for more than a day or two. However, on two prior occasions I found Virginia Rails staying into very late spring at a particularly fine and healthy wetland at the Imperial Grasslands in the western section of the county. I made the first of these detections during the initial years of the second Breeding Bird Atlas, when I located two adults there as late as 31 May 2004. Unfortunately, I was not able to confirm breeding, but of course it was a strong likelihood that the pair was indeed nesting. Over the course of the next 10 years, I did not revisit the area very frequently, and in some years not at all. However, I did find Virginia Rails in that same marsh again in 2013 and 2014, and in 2014 the birds were still present at least until 12 June. Unfortunately again, direct confirmation of breeding eluded me. This marsh became permanently inaccessible later in 2014. So, it was almost certainly the case that Virginia Rails had indeed bred in Allegheny County at the Imperial Grasslands, but they had never been confirmed, and the most likely place that a confirmation could have been made was suddenly off limits.

On 30 April 2016, two Virginia Rails were found at Wingfield Pines, a property with an extensive abandoned mine drainage passive filtration system managed by the Allegheny Land Trust. Part of the passive filtration system has developed into a lush emergent wetland. Over the course of the next few weeks, many birders visited the marsh and found the rails still present, with counts reaching as many as 5 birds through

mid-May. The birds were using an area of thick reeds where a small boardwalk and causeway crosses through the wetland, and they were frequently seen and heard in this area. After about 14 May, however, things got quiet at the marsh. By this time most of the interested county birders had their 'tick' anyway, and the birds themselves became quiet and reclusive. (At this point any remaining pairs were probably on nest.) Yet the local birders of the county's South Hills who keep Wingfield under frequent surveillance still kept tabs on the rails. On 20 June, Fred Kachmarik found at least four adults at the marsh suddenly visible and calling again, and on 23 June, Al Fleck spotted a small "black rail" crossing the causeway and reported it to Shannon Thompson and Dave Wilton. We all immediately agreed, of course, that Al had actually seen a fledgling Virginia Rail, and if it could be re-sighted and verified, it would finally provide that long-elusive confirmation of breeding in Allegheny County. I visited the spot on the morning of 24 June, and almost immediately a young Virginia Rail ran across the path not 15 feet in front of me. At last!

It turned out to be an absolutely marvelous opportunity to study this typically shy species, as one of the adults and all of the chicks would periodically walk out into the open on the causeway, and sometimes linger for a few moments or minutes. On the morning of 24 June, the adult was very active crossing the trail to fetch prey (mostly earthworms) from a spot on the west side of the marsh and returning to the east side where the high-pitched squeaking of the hatchlings was easily heard. At times the hatchlings came out into the path too, and met the adult halfway for their meals, but mostly they stayed in the reeds on the east side.

I returned again on four different dates through 10 July, and saw at least one juvenile out on the path on each occasion, which made for a rare opportunity to study their development. Those of us who watched the rails in June and July agreed there were four young, and that a second nest was probably deeper in the marsh but much more difficult to see. To my knowledge, although more than two adults were confirmed as present in late June, the young of a second pair (if any) were never seen.

When they first appeared on 24 June, the hatchling rails were little more than small black fluff balls, with just a

tiny indication of the white flank barring they show later in life. They also had entirely black bills with a small pale cream-colored tip. On 26 June and 30 June, they looked more or less the same, only slightly larger, and with more white on the front of the chest and belly. They were also already capable of very short flights by 30 June, basically just able to hop high in the air and "leap by wing" back into the marsh. It was also interesting to note that by this date the foraging adult was much less frequently seen, but had taken to sometimes boldly walking on the boardwalk itself to move quickly to a different area in the marsh. During my last visit 10 July, one juvenile posed for photos in the middle of the path. By this date the bird was fully capable of sustained flight, and had unambiguously started to take on its adult-like appearance. It had the beginnings of reddish-brown markings along the flanks, and reddish-brown coverts. The primary flight feathers were well developed if still growing, as was the tail, and the bird's bill was more proportional and rail-like. The white flank stripes were in full evidence.

My last visit was 10 July, but other birders continued to see juveniles through at least 30 July, and one was heard calling on 24 August. It was very satisfying to have finally confirmed this species as a breeder in my home county, and doubly so that the nest was obviously quite successful. With the quality of the habitat at Wingfield Pines at an all-time high and the facility in good hands, we are certainly optimistic that the birds will return next year, and that the future of Wingfield holds even more surprises for Pittsburgh-area birders.

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Reference:

Van Fleet, K. 2012. Virginia Rail, in *Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in Pennsylvania*, A.M. Wilson, D.W. Brauning, and R.S. Mulvihill, Eds., pp 164-165. The Pennsylvania State University Press, University Park, Pennsylvania.

Website:

Allegheny Land Trust, Wingfield Pines.
<http://www.alleghenylandtrust.org/properties/wingfield/overview/>



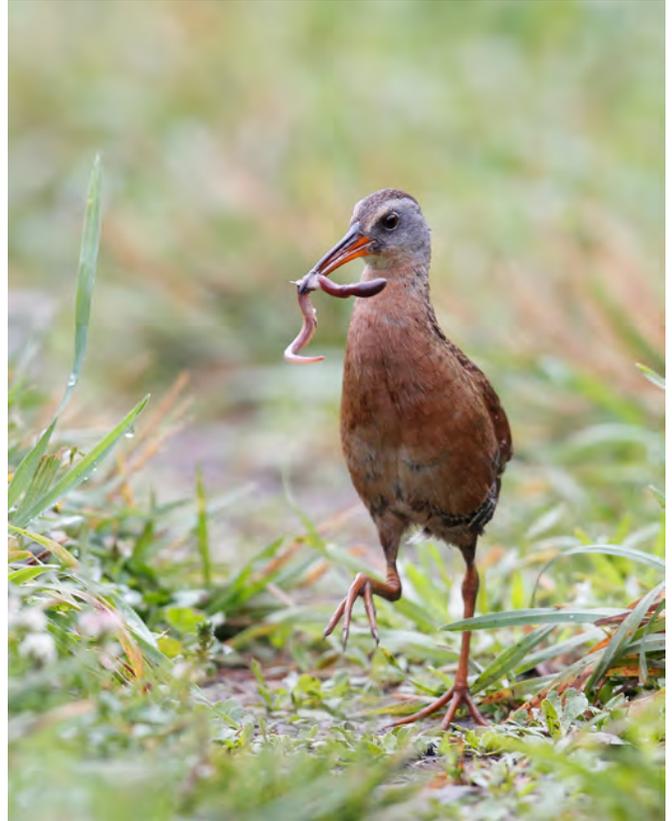
Adult and hatchling, 24 June



Hatchling running, 24 June



Hatchling, 30 June



Adult with prey (earthworm), 24 June



Juvenile, 10 July

Annotated List of Cumberland County Birds

Vern Gauthier

With the advent of eBird some may see this type of effort to be less important than it once was. One can go to eBird and simply look up a bar chart or some other form of data and find a lot of what is contained herein. Yet in some respects, it is because of eBird that this type of effort is important; a simple way to summarize the data that is found there and more importantly data not included in eBird that would most likely be lost without this undertaking.

This Annotated List of the Birds of Cumberland County builds on the work of Cameron Rutt, Ramsay Koury, and Don Henise, who created such a list in 2007 but never published it. Their effort was to compile “some of the more noteworthy species” between the years of 1987 and 2007 although some records dating back to 1979 were included. I also made use of the Cumberland County Reports to be found in the PA Birds Journal since 1987 that was compiled by Deuane Hoffman from 1987 through the fall issue of 2006 followed by Cameron Rutt through the winter issue of 2007/2008 and then myself since the spring issue of 2008. Other folks who were helpful in this effort were Bill Franz, Annette Mathes and Andrew Markel, along with a number of other people who have birded Cumberland County over the last 30 years and who I contacted to check information on sightings. I added a first county fall sighting of Red-breasted Merganser at Opossum Lake by Dave Kerr just the other day so the list is complete through 11/7/2016.

As the County Compiler since 2008, I thought I knew the birds of Cumberland well. Compiling this list opened my eyes to a few things that I thought I knew which weren't quite right and made me aware of a few things of which I had no prior knowledge. I would encourage compilers and others in all of our Pennsylvania to undertake the same as a worthwhile effort. My hope is that this list could be updated every 5 years in the future.

No doubt there will be some information here, especially when it comes to relative abundance, that could be disagreed with and some information that might be omitted or just plain wrong. If so, I would want to receive your input so we can get it right in the next edition.

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KEY to An Annotated List of the Birds of Cumberland County 2016

Seasons

SP = Spring; March – May, SU = Summer; June and July, FA = Fall; August – November, WI = Winter; December – February

Relative Abundance

A = Abundant; annual, found daily, in large to very large numbers.

C = Common; annual, found daily, in moderate to large numbers.

F = Fairly Common; annual, found most days to daily, usually in small to moderate numbers.

U = Uncommon; annual, found more days than not, usually in small numbers.

R = Rare; mostly annual to annual, missed most days, usually in small numbers.

O = Occasional; non-annual, present 50% or less of years, usually in small numbers.

V = Vagrant; non-annual, present 10% or less of years and usually in small numbers.

H = Historical; historical records only, not found in the last 30 years.

= No Confirmed County Record; though reported on eBird there is no firm evidence that these records are not of Dauphin County birds on the Susquehanna River only viewed from Cumberland.

Location Abbreviations

Appalachian Trail (AT), Boiling Springs Children's Pond (BSCP), Big Spring (BS), Cumberland County (CUMB) Conodoguinet Creek (CC), Cumberland County Rail Trail (CVRT), Dauphin County (DAUP), Messiah College (MC), Mountain Road Marsh (MRM), Mud Level Road (MLR), State Game Lands (SGL), Michaux State Forest (MSF), Tuscarora State Forest (TSF), Waggoner's Gap Hawk Watch (WGHW), West Fairview Boat Launch (WFBL)

Source Abbreviations

The Birds of Pennsylvania, McWilliams and Brauning (BOPA), Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas (PABBA)

Other Abbreviations

fide (Trusted Source), High Count (HC), Lane (Ln), Many Observers (m.ob.), Record (rcrd), Report (rprt), Road (Rd), Township (Twp)

Species	SP	SU	FA	WI	Notes
Gr White-fronted Goose	O		V		1 MLR 3/30/96, 1 MLR 3/10/08, 1 Horner's Rd 3/21-4/10/11, 3 BSCP 3/9/14, 1 BS 11/12/15
Snow Goose	U		O	O	Rprtd more in WI than in the FA. Mostly individuals and small flocks. Three eBird rpts flocks over 100
Ross's Goose	V		V		1 MLR 1/4-5/04, 1 CC Pennsboro Twp. 12/15/07, 6 Encks Mill Rd. 3/18-19/11.
Brant			V		1 Shillito's Pond 10/29/89 (Henise), 2 Migrant Flocks WGHW 10/12/07, 11/4/12. WFBL DAUPH Birds
Cackling Goose			O	V	Two reports in 09, one in 12, three in 14, one in 15. Always with Canada Geese.
Canada Goose	A	C	A	A	Migrants mix in with resident birds spring, fall and winter in flocks up to 400 to 500 birds.
Mute Swan	R	R	R	R	Only found consistently at BSCP, have bred there. Many reports are undoubtedly domestic birds.
Trumpeter Swan	V				2 rcrds; 1 SGL 169 4/27/09 (Vern Gauthier, Bill Oylar), 1 BSCP 3/20-21/16 (Dave Kerr, m. ob.)
Tundra Swan	F	V	U	O	Seen in greatest number in the spring, though fall flocks can be 100+, Summer records (BOPA)
Wood Duck	C	C	C	R	Secretive and wary, best seen in July when there are many juvenile birds and adult birds are molting.
Gadwall	U		R	R	Has become almost annual in fall and winter but usually in very small numbers.
Eurasian Wigeon	V				3 rcrds; 1 Huntsdale 2/23-24/91, 1 Kuhn's Pond 3/7-11/11, 1 High Mountain Road Penn Twp. 3/20/11
American Wigeon	F	U	U	U	Winters in greatest numbers at BSCP, can be 60 or more. Uncommon in rest of county during winter.
American Black Duck	F	O	F	U	Occasionally breeds in county.
Mallard	A	A	A	A	Numerous "Domestic Types" mixed in the population.
Blue-winged Teal	F	F	F	V	WI rcrds; 1 Upper Allen Twp. 2/17/07, 1 BS 1/15-20/09, 1 Huntsdale 1/2/12, 1 BSCP 2/10/12
Cinnamon Teal	#				April 2014 eBird records of DAUPH bird viewed on the Susquehanna River from CUMB.
Northern Shoveler	U	U	U	R	Has been reported four of the last six winters since 2011. Seems to have become mostly annual.
Northern Pintail	F	U	U	R	Has been reported the last 7 winters since 2010. Seems to have become annual.
Green-winged Teal	F	V	F	U	One summer rcrd; 1 in flooded field MLR 6/5/2008 (Ramsay Koury)
Canvasback	U			O	Rprtd three of the last four winters in small numbers. Perhaps becoming annual but rare in winter.
Redhead	F		O	O	Reported the last three winters in small numbers. Perhaps becoming annual but rare in winter.
Ring-necked Duck	F		O	O	Has been annually reported the last three years in fall and winter.
Greater Scaup	O		V	O	Has been annually reported the last three years in winter.
Lesser Scaup	F	V	O	O	Two summer records; 1 Kuhn Lake 6/5/89 (D. & R. Henise), 1 Huntsdale 6/17/89 (Jane Earle)
Surf Scoter	V		V		Three records; 1 Laurel Lake 05/13-15/94, 3 Huntsdale 05/1/99, 1 Tichy Ponds Mt. Holly 11/3/12
White-winged Scoter	O		V	V	Only one fall and one winter record ; 1 Brackbill Pond 11/5/89, 1 Laughlin Mill 2/4-27/14 (m. ob.)
Black Scoter			#	#	Two eBird records of DAUPH birds viewed on the Susquehanna River from CUMB.
Long-tailed Duck	O	V	V	V	One fall rcrd; 1 Brackbill Pond, early 9/95. Two WI rcrds, 1 WFBL mouth of CC 12/15/07 and 2/24/15
Bufflehead	R		O	O	Most fall reports are in November. Most winter reports in eastern CUMB towards Susquehanna River.
Common Goldeneye	O	V	V	V	Flocks of up to 39 birds were reported at the quarry Lisburn Road Mechanicsburg the winter of 16.
Hooded Merganser	F	O	R	O	Due to this species secretive nature it probably breeds in the county more frequently than reported.
Common Merganser	F	V	U	F	This species is most commonly found along the CC in each season present in CUMB.
Red-breasted Merganser	O		V	O	Has been reported in winter four of last five years. Three winter records at BSCP; 07, 14, 15.
Ruddy Duck	R		O	V	Has been rare but annual in spring in CUMB since 2011. Formerly Occasional in spring.
Northern Bobwhite	R	R	R	O	Expatriated species. Birds heard or seen are released or escaped from captivity.
Ring-necked Pheasant	U	U	U	R	Expatriated species. Birds heard or seen are released or escaped from captivity.

Species	SP	SU	FA	WI	Notes
Ruffed Grouse	U	R	R	R	Found mostly on ridges; more reports from TSF than MSF where species seems to be in decline.
Wild Turkey	U	R	U	U	Species continues to increase. Secretive nature probably makes it under reported.
Red-throated Loon	V		V		1 Laurel Lake 4/3/89, 1 PAMC 98, 1 WGHW 11/2/12, 2 Quarry on Lisburn Road 3/14-16/15
Common Loon	U	V	U	V	Opossum Lake in spring and WGHW Gap (in flight) in fall are the best places to find this species.
Yellow-billed Loon	#				May 2007 eBird records of DAUPH County bird viewed on the Susquehanna from CUMB.
Pied-billed Grebe	F	O	F	R	Has bred in the county. One continually present on the BS since 11/1/12 - 6/2/16.
Horned Grebe	U	V	V	O	One Summer Record, Two Fall Records, Five winter Records four of which are in the last three years.
Western Grebe				V	One Record; 1 CC off of Route 114 in Mechanicsburg 2/14-21/ (Barry & Jennifer Horton, m. ob.)
Red-necked Grebe	V		V	V	2014 invasion 3/9-5/17; a total of 14 individuals rptd on eBird. The one SU eBird rcd likely DAUP.
Leach's Storm Petrel			#		November 2010 eBird records of DAUPH County birds viewed on the Susquehanna (fide R. Koury)
Double-crested Corm.	U	O	R	V	In Fall most birds reported are migrants at Waggoner's Gap or Opossum Lake. Two winter records.
American Bittern	R		O	V	Two Winter Rords; 1 Huntsdale 1/3/98/ (R. Koury), 1 Trout Run Preserve 12/15/07 (Chris Rebert)
Least Bittern	R	R	R		Found at SGL 169 since 06, confirmed breeding 8/10/06 (A. Markel), other rcd 1 Huntsdale 5/13/15
Great Blue Heron	F	F	F	F	Known rookeries at Shippensburg and Yellow Breeches at Quarry Hill Road
Great Egret	U	R	U	V	2 winter records; 1 BS 12/12/11-1/14/12, Green Spring Fish Hatchery 1/14/15, Same bird?
Snowy Egret	V		O		Two spring records; 1 SGL 169 5/3/91 (D. & R. Henise), 1 MLR 5/5/11 (M. Sabatine, H. Wigel)
Little Blue Heron	V	V	O		Most records late July to early September with the bulk of those in August at SGL 169 or nearby.
Tricolored Heron			V		2 WFBL 8/31/85, other WFBL records are DAUPH (fide R. Koury), 1 SGL 169 8/21-9/6/95 (Henise)
Cattle Egret	O		V		One FA rcd; 1 Williams Grove Ponds 9/8/83 (C. Hoffman), WFBL FA rcds DAUPH birds (fide Koury)
Green Heron	F	F	F	V	Two winter records; Harrisburg CBC 12/14/02, Harrisburg CBC Orr's Bridge Rd. 12/15/07 (D. Ream)
Black-crowned Night-Hrn	R	R	R	V	One WI rcd; 1 Newville CBC 1/2/11 (A. Markel), Best numbers SGL 169 Cabin Road, Not a Breeder
Yellow-crwnrd Night-Heron	R	R	R	V	Very local breeder along CC. Many of the other birds seen at WFBL, breeders from Harrisburg feeding.
White Ibis			V		1-2 SGL 169 8/24/-9/10/95 (Henise), 1 WF 8/29-9/12/07/ (Henning), WF 8/12-28/11 (fide Usseleman)
Glossy Ibis	O	O	V		Only fall record is 2 at Stoughstown Pond 8/21-22/94 (Dan Bogar, Ramsay Koury, Don Henise)
White-faced Ibis	V				1 MLR 3/10/10 (Vern Gauthier m. ob.) First Pennsylvania State Record.
Wood Stork		H			3 west of Carlisle late June 1955 for about a week (BOPA McWilliams & Brauning)
Black Vulture	F	F	F	U	Extremely variable in WI. Hit or miss due to large roosts that can get to 100 plus birds.
Turkey Vulture	C	C	C	F	Somewhat variable in WI due to birds in large roosts.
Osprey	U	R	U	V	Though there are a few SU rcds, not confirmed as breeding in the county.
Golden Eagle	V		O	V	Can be found in good numbers (235 average) at WGHW 10/15 - 12/10.
Mississippi Kite	V		V		2 SP Rcds, 4/1/14 (Ron Freed), 4/13/15 (Vern Gauthier), One FA Rcd, 8/10/04 (Dave Grove)
Swallow-tailed Kite	V				One SP Rcd, SGL 169 4/30/11 (Andrew Markel, Matt Sabatine)
Northern Harrier	U	R	U	U	Irregular and local breeder in western CUMB. WI presence depends on snow amounts.
Sharp-shinned Hawk	U	U	U	U	Can be abundant at times at WGHW 8/15-10/20.
Cooper's Hawk	F	F	F	F	Has increasingly been found in agricultural areas.
Northern Goshawk	O	H	O	O	Seasonal annual average of 50+ birds at WGHW 10/20-12/20. Historic breeder in county.
Bald Eagle	U	U	U	U	Has increased in past few years. Annual breeder in small numbers along the CC.

PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS

Species	SP	SU	FA	WI	Notes
Red-shouldered Hawk	F	F	F	F	Seasonal annual average of 250+ birds at WGHW 10/15-11/10. Historic breeder in county.
Broad-winged Hawk	C	C	C		Can be abundant at times at WGHW 8/25-9/30.
Red-tailed Hawk	C	C	C	C	Winter numbers can depend on severity of winter.
Rough-legged Hawk	R		R	R	Can be uncommon in invasion years.
Yellow Rail	V				One rcd, 1 MC 3/15/07 (Cameron Rutt, Jarrod Derr, Adam Stuckert)
Black Rail	V		V		Two records, 1 SGL 169 10/16/11 (V. Gauthier, M. Sabatine), 1 SGL 169 5/10-16/12 (A. Markel)
King Rail	V		V		1 dead on Route 696 Hopewell 5/13/99 (W. Greenwalt, K. Gabler), 1 at SGL 169 8/1/06 (A. Markel)
Virginia Rail	R	R	R		Reliably found at SGL 169 Mountain Road Marsh. Breeds that location on a regular basis.
Sora	R	O	O		Occasional confirmed breeding in county.
Purple Gallinule	V				One record; 1 at Tichy Park Ponds Mount Holly 5/10-22/14 (Mark Markiewicz, Paul Banks, m. ob.)
Common Gallinule	R		V		Mostly found in migration mid April through mid May.
American Coot	F	O	U	R	Has not been confirmed breeding in county.
Sandhill Crane	R	V	O	V	Most often seen in agricultural fields or fly overs in spring. Also has been seen SGL 169.
American Avocet		V	V		Two SU rcds; One 7/25/07 One 7/22-25/10, Three FA rcds One 8/9/88, One 8/15/95, Two 9/19/08
American Oystercatcher			V		One record; "3 flew up river then west into Cumberland County" 10/30/12 eBird Checklist (A. Markel)
Black-bellied Plover	R		O		Mostly in flooded fields in western CUMB like MLR.
American Golden Plover	O		R		Mostly in flooded fields in western CUMB like MLR. Can be found in flocks of 20 + when present.
Semi-palmated Plover	R	V	R		Flooded fields and pond edges.
Killdeer	C	C	C	U	Numbers in WI depends on severity of WI.
Upland Sandpiper	O	O	O		Rprtd less in recent years. Historically bred in county (1st PA Breeding Bird Atlas)
Whimbrel		V	V		1 MLR 6/5 (Markel), 1 MLR 9/5/12 (Oyler, Banks), eBird rcd WFBL 5/29/07 DAUP birds (fide Koury)
Hudsonian Godwit	V		V		1 Kuhn Lake 1/4-1/88 (Henise), 1 Kuhn Lake 10/26-11/6/92 (Henise), 1 MLR 6/4-5/08/ (R. Koury)
Ruddy Turnstone	O		V		Four spring rcds 2 rprts from WFBL, 2 from MLR, all in May. One fall rcd; 1 to 5 MLR 5/8-21/08
Red Knot			V		One rcd, Flock of 23 WFBL that 10/30/12 that flew from river into CUMB (A. Markel)
Ruff			V		One rcd, One Stoughstown Pond 10/14/06 (Andrew Markel)
Stilt Sandpiper	V	V	O		Two SP rcds, MLR 5/5-6/96 and MLR 5/12-14/08, One SU rcd, Brackbill Pond 7/21/91
Sanderling	V		O		One SP rcd, One at MLR 5/9/08 (A. Markel, V. Gauthier)
Dunlin	R		O		SP rcds are from the last week of March through May.
Baird's Sandpiper			R		Rprtd mid August to 3rd week of September, one late October rcd.
Least Sandpiper	F	U	F	O	SU rcds are late July. One overwintered six consecutive winters with the WI of 2010-2011 the last.
White-rumped Sandpiper	O	V	R		One SU rcd; 2 MLR 6/2/12 (Ramsay Koury), SP rprts in May, FA rprts August through October.
Buff-breasted Sandpiper			O		One rprtd 8/31, all other reports the first week of September.
Pectoral Sandpiper	F	O	F		A few SU rcds, either early June or late July.
Western Sandpiper			O		Three rcds at Stoughstown Pond 1994, 2006, 2007, One rcd at William's Grove Ponds 1991
Short-billed Dowitcher	O		O		Most rprts are from western CUMB.
Long-billed Dowitcher	V				One rcd; Horner's Road 5/11/14 (Michael David)
Wilson's Snipe	F	H	F	R	Has bred in CUMB; nest with eggs found near Boiling Springs circa 1980 (T. Corman)

Species	SP	SU	FA	WI	Notes
American Woodcock	F	F	U	O	SGL 169 best location in CUMB. Large spring time lek near intersection of Gameland & Mountain Rd
Wilson's Phalarope	O	V	H		One SU rcd; 3 Brackbill Pond 7/16/91 (D. Hoffman), One FA rcd; 2 William's Grove (R. Koury)
Red-necked Phalarope	V		V		Three SP rcds; 2 MLR 5/13/08 & 5/23/11, 1 Horner's Rd 5/14/11, FA rcd; 1 Stoughtstown 9/1/09
Red-phalarope			V		One rcd; 5 at farm near SGL 169 10/30/12 (T. Merrit), eBird record from that day was DAUP bird.
Spotted Sandpiper	C	O	C		Occasionally breeds in county.
Solitary Sandpiper	C	F	C		SU rcds are mid to late July.
Greater Yellowlegs	F	O	F		Occasional in late July.
Willet	V				One record; 1 St. Patricks School Carlisle (Paul Banks, Vern Gauthier)
Lesser Yellowlegs	F	O	F		Occasional in late July.
Parasitic Jaeger			V		One rcd; "1 flew west to Cumberland County" 10/30/12 eBird Checklist (Andrew Markel)
Bonaparte's Gull	U		R	O	WI rcds; BSCP, BS, and Opossum Lake.
Black-headed Gull	V				1 MLR 3/20/10, 1 E Pennsboro 2/23/13, WFBL 2008/10 eBird rcds DAUP birds (fide C. Kauffman)
Little Gull	V			V	1 BSCP 1/30/11 (R. Koury), 1 MLR 4/1/11 (V. Gauthier), Seven WFBL rcds considered DAUP rpts.
Laughing Gull	O		V		Five rcds; four SP, one FA, three at MLR, one at Opossum Lake, and one on land at WFBL.
Franklin's Gull	V		V		1 MLR 5/21/11 (A. Markel, B. Oyley, M. Wilson), 1 WFBL 8/27-9/17/88 (R. Koury)
Ring-billed Gull	C	U	C	C	Non-breeding birds present in SU along Susquehanna River. Abundant in WI at landfill
Herring Gull	U	V	U	U	Fairly common in WI at landfill.
Thayer's Gull				V	One Rcd, 1 adult was rprtd at MLR 1/19/12 (Devin Bosler, Justin Bosler).
Iceland Gull	V			O	All rpts from landfill or MLR. Only one SP rpt.
Lesser Black-backed Gull	R			R	Seems to be increasing, going from Occasional to mostly annual but Rare.
Glaucous Gull				V	One at Cumberland County Landfill 12/21/05 (Devin Bosler, Justin Bosler)
Great Black-backed Gull	R		R	R	Many WFBL rcds undoubtedly DAUP birds. Most true CUMB birds likely found landfill and MLR
Caspian Tern	O		O		Many WFBL rcds undoubtedly DAUP birds.
Black Tern	R	V	R		WFBL 5/7/16 eBird record DAUP bird viewed from CUMB (fide Annette Matthes).
Common Tern	O		O		Many WFBL rcds undoubtedly DAUP birds.
Forster's Tern	O		V		Many WFBL rcds undoubtedly DAUP birds.
Rock Pigeon	A	A	A	A	Abundant in agricultural areas, absent from forested ridges.
Eurasian Collared-Dove	V	R	R	V	May be increasing. Small but regular numbers northwest of Newville in agricultural area.
White-winged Dove	V				1 rcd; seen coming to a feeder in a Carlisle back yard 4/22-23/09 (Herb Weigle, Kathy Weigle)
Mourning Dove	A	A	A	A	Found throughout all habitats, though more plentiful in agricultural areas.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	F	F	F		More common during years of large caterpillar infestations.
Black-billed Cuckoo	R	R	R		More common during years of large caterpillar infestations.
Barn Owl	R	R	R	R	Breeds in CUMB. Probably under rprtd due to full nocturnal habit silent nature.
Eastern Screech Owl	F	F	F	U	Can be rare in harsh winters.
Great Horned Owl	F	F	F	F	Actively setting up territory, mating and breeding in WI.
Snowy Owl			V	O	Most rcds from western CUMB in MLR area.
Barred Owl	F	F	F	R	Rprtd more than any other owl species due to diurnal habit.

Species	SP	SU	FA	WI	Notes
Long-eared Owl	R	O	R	R	Has been confirmed breeding in county.
Short-eared Owl	O			R	Rcrds from western CUMB
Northern Saw-whet Owl	R	O	R	R	Few rprts except at King's Gap banding station where common. SU rcrds, but not confirmed breeding.
Common Nighthawk	R		U		Formerly bred in county. Most reliably found August & September at Pine Grove Furnace State Park.
Chuck-will's-widow		V			Doubt about 1991 rprt, probably a York County bird (fide Cameron Rutt), 1 Ridge Rd June 2015 & 16
Eastern Whip-poor-will	F	F	O		Only found on ridges. Only one August rrd. May but present into August but if so, are silent.
Chimney Swift	C	C	C		Common in cities and towns. Less common in rural areas.
Ruby-throated Hmgbrd	U	U	F		Most commonly found in yards with feeders or plantings. Common at peak fall migration 9/25-10/15
Rufous Hummingbird			V	V	1 Lisburn Rd Mechanicsburg 11/10-21/12 & 11/11/12-17/13 eBird Newburg rcrd of Franklin Co bird
Belted Kingfisher	C	C	C	F	Fairly Common even in winter along unfrozen creeks and streams in the valley.
Red-headed Woodpecker	U	U	U	R	Uncommon to Fairly Common western CUMB, Rare in eastern CUMB.
Red-bellied Woodpecker	C	C	C	C	Found over a wide range of wooded habitats; ridge, valley, yards.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	U		U	U	Most leave by the end of April and do not begin to return until mid September.
Downy Woodpecker	C	C	C	C	Found over a wide range of wooded habitats; ridge, valley, yards.
Hairy Woodpecker	F	F	F	F	Fairly Common on wooded ridges, uncommon valley woodlands.
Northern Flicker	C	C	C	C	Found over a wide range of wooded habitats; ridge, valley, yards. Flocks of 10-20 in migration.
Pileated Woodpecker	F	F	F	F	Common on wooded ridges, uncommon to rare in the valley woodlands.
American Kestrel	F	F	F	F	Variable with weather in WI. Most commonly found west of Carlisle and north of I-81. Decreasing.
Merlin	R	R		R	WGHW 2011-2015 averaged 99 Merlins per season. Rest of CUMB bird is Rare.
Peregrine Falcon	R	R		R	WGHW 2011-2015 averaged 63 Peregrines per season. Rest of CUMB bird is Rare.
Prairie Falcon			R	R	1 rprt annually November - February 2008-2013. In 2014 only rprt in February; otherwise a vagrant
Olive-sided Flycatcher	R		R		Mostly found on ridges of MSF and TSF and at SGLs
Eastern Wood Pewee	C	C	C		Found in woods and woodlots throughout the county.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	R		R		Mostly found on ridges of MSF and TSF and at SGLs.
Acadian Flycatcher	F	F	F		Mostly found along wooded streams and runs on ridges.
Alder Flycatcher	O	V	V		Scattered SU rcrds, but no evidence of breeding. Lack of FA rprts likely due to lack of vocalization.
Willow Flycatcher	C	C	C		Mostly found in riparian areas and wet fields with bushes and small trees.
Least Flycatcher	R	V	R		Isolated SU rcrds, but no evidence of breeding.
Pacific Slope Flycatcher				V	One rrd; 1 SGL 230 11/18-25/12 (Ramsay Koury, m. ob.)
Eastern Phoebe	C	C	C	R	Mostly found along ice free riparian areas in WI.
Say's Phoebe	V			V	Two rcrds, same individual, farm on Wildwood Ln Newville WI 97, WI-SP 98 (Henise, Koury, m. ob.)
Ash-throated Flycatcher				V	One rrd; 1 I Newville yard 1/4-5/12 eating Euonymus berries (Elisabeth & Vern Gauthier, m. ob.)
Great-crested Flycatcher	C	C	C		Present the last week of April through September.
Eastern Kingbird	C	C	C		Usually not found after 8/30.
Loggerhead Shrike	V	V			One bird two separate locations SU of 2010 Gobbler Rd and Station Rd (Deb Seifken m. ob.)
Northern Shrike	V			O	WI birds have stayed over to early SP.
White-eyed Vireo	F	F	F	V	2 WI rcrds, Huntsdale 1/4/04 (Koury), 12/30/06 (Newville CBC), Locally Common Breeder

Species	SP	SU	FA	WI	Notes
Yellow-throated Vireo	F	F	F		Mostly along wooded ridges near water.
Blue-headed Vireo	F	U	F		More widespread during migration, local as breeder.
Warbling Vireo	F	F	F		Found along streams and creeks.
Philadelphia Vireo	O		R		SP rcrds are from first half of May, FA rcrds last week of August through September.
Red-eyed Vireo	C	C	C		Can be abundant along wooded ridges.
Blue Jay	C	C	C	C	Can be abundant during migration. Some WI are less common if there is a bad acorn crop.
American Crow	C	C	C	C	Can be abundant at communal roosts and at the county landfill.
Fish Crow	C	C	C	U	Can outnumber American Crows along lakes and creeks in breeding season.
Common Raven	U	U	U	U	Once only found along the ridges, over the last decade this species has increased in the valley.
Horned Lark	C	C	C	C	In WI can be locally abundant on manure spreads.
Purple Martin	C	C	C		Locally common where boxes for colonies are present April through August.
Tree Swallow	C	C	C		Earliest swallow arrival in the spring (March) and latest swallow in the fall (reports into November)
Bank Swallow	R		R		Always seen in small numbers, less than 10.
Barn Swallow	A	A	A		Is present April through October.
Cliff Swallow	R		R		Occasionally seen in large flocks of up to 100+ in the FA over agricultural fields.
Cave Swallow			V		One rcd; 1 Huntsdale 11/19/02 (Dan Snell), eBird rpt 10/31/12 DAUP bird viewed from WFBL
Carolina Chickadee	C	C	C	C	In the valley all birds SP thorough FA are this species with hybrids mixed in.
Black-capped Chickadee	R	R	R	U	Very local on ridges with many hybrids mixed in. WI migrants can be found in the valley.
Tufted Titmouse	C	C	C	C	Found anywhere there are woods.
Red-breasted Nuthatch	R	R	R	R	Occasionally breeds MSF. Irruptive years can be fairly common fall through spring.
White-breasted Nuthatch	C	C	C	C	Quieter and less noticeable in spring and early summer while breeding.
Brown Creeper	U	V	U	U	Was a regular breeder during first PA Breeding Bird Atlas. Only two summer records since 1987.
House Wren	C	C	C	V	Three WI rcrds, 1 BS 1/3/98, 1 BS 1/2/16/, 1 Shagbark Lane Plainfield 1/2/16/
Winter Wren	F		F	F	Most common around creeks, Secretive nature and quite two part chip probably make it under reported.
Sedge Wren			V		2 at Stumpstown Rd 8/6/88 Possibly Bred (Grace Randolph)
Marsh Wren	O	V	R	V	One SU rcd; 1 Big Spring Fish & Game 6/396/ (Hense), One WI rcd; 1 Newville CBC 12/20/2006
Carolina Wren	C	C	C	C	Can be less common during and after harsh winters.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	C	C	C	O	Occasionally found along creeks in winter.
Golden-crowned Kinglet	F	R	F	F	In SU Local to MSF near Pine Grove Furnace State Park and Camp Michaux. Has bred in that area.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	F		F	U	Common at peak SP and FA migration. Found mostly along the Yellow Breeches and BS in WI
Eastern Bluebird	C	C	C	C	Winter flocks can be hit or miss. Field / Woods edge habit near water is best.
Veery	F	U	R		Reported from both MSF and TSF in spring. Rprtd almost exclusively from MSF in summer and fall.
Gray-cheeked Thrush	R		R		Reported in May and mid September through early October.
Swainson's Thrush	R		R		Reported in May and last week of August through September
Hermit Thrush	U	R	U	U	SU is very local in MSF. Has bred in MSF.
Wood Thrush	C	C	U		Reported the third week of April through the end of September. Common May through mid July.

Species	SP	SU	FA	WI	Notes
American Robin	A	A	A	U	Particularly plentiful on the BS and SGLs mid September through the end of October.
Varied Thrush			V		One rcd; 1 Tanger Rd Boiling Springs 11/4/12 (V. Gauthier, A. Mathes, S. Strassner, K. Kuchwara)
Gray Catbird	A	A	A	R	May through mid September one of the most numerous species found across many habitats.
Brown Thrasher	F	F	F	R	Least likely to be found mid November through January, most likely found late April through mid June
Northern Mockingbird	C	C	C	F	Mostly found in the valley and not so much on the wooded ridges. Variable in winter.
European Starling	A	A	A	A	Found across all habitats though less common on forested ridges.
American Pipit	F		F	R	Spring and fall seen in flocks of up to 200 or more.
Cedar Waxwing	F	C	C	F	Variable December - April. Disappears from many locations. WI flocks are hit or miss.
Lapland Longspur	R		R	U	Best found on farm fields with snow cover and manure. Most often 5 or less found at any one location
Snow Bunting	R		R	U	Best found on farm fields with snow cover and manure. Sometimes in flocks of 20 to 100 plus birds.
Ovenbird	C	C	F		Can be abundant on wooded ridges. Less common in valley woodlands.
Worm-eating Warbler	F	F	U		Breeds on down slopes of wooded ridges only.
Louisiana Waterthrush	F	F	R		Begins arriving late March, rare after end of July. Breeds in streams on or near ridges.
Northern Waterthrush	U		R	V	One winter record; 1 Green Spring Fish Hatcher 1/3/99 (Don & Robyn Henise)
Blue-winged Warbler	F	F	U		Arrives late April becomes very quite and harder to find by the end of June.
Golden-winged Warbler	R	R	R		Occasionally breeds in county.
Black-and-white Warbler	F	F	F	V	Breeds mostly on ridges. Post breeding dispersal into valley. Found along CC WFBL two recent winters.
Prothonotary Warbler	R	R			Rcrds inclusive of May through July. Has bred in the county.
Tennessee Warbler	R		F		Widespread in FA both ridges and valley.
Orange-crowned Warbler	O		R	V	Two WI rcrds; 1 Newville CBC 12/31/94, 1 near Camp Hill 12/20/2003 (D. Hoffman and K. Mengel)
Nashville Warbler	U		F		SP late April through third week of May. FA late August through early October.
Connecticut Warbler			R		Best locations include SGL 169 and power cuts. Last week of August through first week of October.
Mourning Warbler	R		R		SGL 230 and 169 are best locations. First three weeks of May and last week August - September.
Kentucky Warbler	R	R	R		Breeds along both ridges. Highly unusual to find elsewhere. Not found after mid September.
Common Yellowthroat	C	C	C	R	Widespread can border on Abundant in wetland areas.
Hooded Warbler	C	C	C		Mostly confined to the ridges. Most numerous in MSF.
American Redstart	C	C	C		Rprtd most in SU at Camp Michaux MSF, SGL 169, and Elk Hill / Colonel Denning TSF
Cape May Warbler	R		U		Can be Common mid September on Ridge Road MSF.
Cerulean Warbler	F	F	R		Breeds along the ridge of the TSF. Very local in the MSF at Camp Michaux. Hard to find after mid July
Northern Parula	F	F	F		Found along both TSF and MSF ridges. Early in SP (Mid April) In FA can hang on to mid October.
Magnolia Warbler	U		C		Very small window in SP; 2nd week of May where it can be Fairly Common. One November rcd 11/4
Bay-breasted Warbler	R		U		Narrow SP window; most birds rprtd 2nd-3rd week of May. FA window last week August - September
Blackburnian Warbler	F	R	F		Breeds very locally in the TSF. Dependable at Colonel Denning and Elk Hill Road.
Yellow Warbler	C	C	U		Can verge on Abundant at peak of spring migration. Early migrant in the fall.
Chestnut-sided Warbler	U	V	F		"Scattered summer records" (fide Rutt ALBCC)
Blackpoll Warbler	C	O	C		Widespread in migration. Can linger into first week of June and into third week of October.
Black-throated Blue Wblr	F	U	U		Breeds locally MSF. Found both MSF and TSF in SP and FA.

Species	SP	SU	FA	WI	Notes
Palm Warbler	F		F	O	Never very many found together (5 or less) but widespread. Best location is SGL 169 MRM.
Pine Warbler	F	F	F	O	Breeds along ridge of MSF. Local on the TSF ridge.
Yellow-rumped Warbler	C	R	C	F	Can be Abundant at peak of SP and FA migration. SU Very Local to Ridge Rd and AT MSF. Breeds?
Yellow-throated Warbler	R	R	R	V	Found along CC and Yellow Breaches. Confirmed Breeding. Three WI rcrds, two of three at WFBL.
Prairie Warbler	F	F	U		Breeds mostly on ridges in second growth woodlands or young stands of evergreens.
Black-throated Gray Wblir			V		One record; 1 at BS 10/20-25/09 (Vern Gauthier, m. ob.) Only PA rcrd since 2001.
Townsend's Warbler				V	One record; 1 at Carlisle Rd Montesera, 1/18-2/20/12 (Tom Johnson, m. ob.)
Black-thrtd Green Wrblr	F	U	C		Breeds locally in MSF, found less as breeding species in TSF.
Canada Warbler	U	R	U		Breeds very locally in MSF at Milesburn Road. Signing male found 2016 at PGFSP.
Wilson's Warbler	R	V	R	V	One SU rcrd; 6/6/09 (Vern Gauthier), One WI rcrd; 2/25-28/93 (Judy Stine, Don & Robyn Henise)
Yellow-breasted Chat	U	U	O	V	Local breeder on both ridges. Rarely rprtd after mid July. One WI rcrd; 1 on 1/13/12 (A. Green)
Grasshopper Sparrow	F	F	U		Common May through mid July.
Henslow's Sparrow	V	V	V		One SP rcrd, three SU rcrds, one WI rcrd; SP & SU rcrds Hunters Road Newville, WI rcrd SGL 169
Leconte's Sparrow	V				One Record; 1 at Creek Lane Newville 1/24-2/8/14 (Vern Gauthier, m. ob.)
Nelson's Sparrow	V		V		All rprts from SGL 169 MRM; One 4/30/07 and 9/18/07, One 10/16/11 & 5 10/18/11, One 10/2/12/
American Tree Sparrow	F		F	F	Present November through mid April. Variable year to year, Uncommon to Common.
Chipping Sparrow	C	C	C	R	May only be Occasional in WI as some WI rprts are likely American Tree Sparrows.
Clay-colored Sparrow	V		V	V	1 CVRT Oakville 11/1/07 (Gauthier), 1 Newville 2/7-8/10 (Franz), 1 Hunter Rd & 944 5/22/10 (Koury)
Field Sparrow	F	F	F	U	Variable in WI, Locally Common rest of the year in western part of the county.
Lark Sparrow	V				One rcrd, 1 Newville CBC, Peyton Drive Carlisle 1/4-5/15 (Ramsay Koury, Joan Renninger, m. ob.).
Fox Sparrow	U		U	R	Fairly Common months of March and November. Rare to Uncommon other. 7 is HC Newville CBC
Dark-eyed Junco	C	V	C	A	Scattered SU rcrds at MSF. Abundant November through March.
White-crowned Sparrow	F		F	F	Locally common in western part of the county FA and WI.
Harris's Sparrow			V	V	One FA rcrd; CVRT 11/24-25/11 (Gauthier m. ob.) One WI rcrd; 1 BS 1/29-2/19/15 (Gauthier m. ob.)
White-throated Sparrow	A	V	C	A	Abundant October through April. One SU rcrd; 1 at Colonel Denning 6/4/11/ (Maia Paddock)
Vesper Sparrow	U	U	R	V	Very few rprts after mid August. One WI rcrd; 1 Newville CBC
Savannah Sparrow	F	U	F	R	Breeds mostly west of Carlisle. Rprtd Newville CBC about half the time. When rprtd is in single digits.
Song Sparrow	C	C	C	C	Can be Abundant at the peak of FA Sparrow migration in October.
Lincoln's Sparrow	O		U	V	One WI rcrd; 1 SGL 169 12/14/11 (Matt Sabatine)
Swamp Sparrow	F	R	C	U	Confirmed breeder in both 1st and 2nd PABBA.
Eastern Towhee	C	C	C	R	Missed only once on the Newville CBC since 1992; Usually 1 to 3 with a high count of 9.
Summer Tanager	V	V			Two SP rcrds; 1 MC 4/26/92, 1 King's Gap 5/2/92, Two SU rcrds; 1 Elk Hill 7/27/08, 1 SGL230 6/5/09
Scarlet Tanager	C	C	F		Common in forest on both ridges. Uncommon wooded areas in valley.
Northern Cardinal	C	C	C	C	One of most common year round residents.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	U	O	U		Has bred in the county.
Blue Grosbeak	R	R	R		Breeds very locally. Majority of reports north of Turnpike and east of Route 233.
Indigo Bunting	C	C	C		Present last week of April through mid October.

WATERFOWL OF NORTH AMERICA, EUROPE, AND ASIA: An Identification Guide by Sebastien Reeber, 83 waterfowl species, 72 color plates with more than 920 illustrations of plumages and subspecies, 650 color photographs, 85 distribution maps, and illustrations of more than 100 hybrids, 1396 references, hybrids and species indexes, 6.5 x 9 in., 3 lbs., 656 pp, published by the Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ, 2016, cloth, \$45.00.

The switch to high-speed digital cameras two decades or so ago allowed field ornithologists/photographers to review their pictures instantaneously. Currently, photographers can shoot thousands of digital images to obtain that much smaller percentage of photographs that are eventually published in articles or books. One result has been a revolution in bird identification and the favoring of photographic images over painted images in recent bird guides. In fact, most of the newest bird guides, from about 2000 to the present, lack the word “field” in their titles due to their much larger formats and heavier weights. Gone are the days of squeezing a field guide into a back pocket. Moreover, in this ornithological age of more species, subspecies, and hybrid details, guides now concentrate on specific avian groups, families, or tribes, nicely exemplified perhaps by such titles as *Hawks from Every Angle: How to Identify Raptors in Flight* by Jerry Liguori (Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ, 2005); *A Reference Guide to Gulls of the Americas* by Steve N. G. Howell and Jon Dunn (Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, MA, 2007); and *The Warbler Guide* by Tom Stephenson & Scott Whittle (Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ, 2013). This reviewer stated that the latter guide was absolutely at the highest bar of any guide for any group of birds at that time, setting a new standard that future avian guides would have to match or exceed (see *The Warbler Guide* review *Pennsylvania Birds*, Vol. 27 No. 4, April 2014, pp. 197-198).

It was bound to happen that the quality of the warbler guide would be matched sooner or later, but the pleasant surprises were that it not only occurred so quickly (just two years after my review), but that it also produced superbly balanced painting and photographic illustrations plus updated recently discovered scientific data on waterfowl hybridization. Indeed, *Waterfowl of North America, Europe, and Asia: An Identification Guide* exceeds the warbler guide in size (6.5 x 9 in.), weight (3 lbs.), and pages (656 pp.). And if that isn't enough to entice the reader, Sebastien Reeber is a skilled artist in his own right who alone painted 72 color plates with 920 illustrations of waterfowl (pp. 32-175), followed by 650 of mostly his own color photographs supporting species accounts (pp.177-616). Reeber has been monitoring the birds of the National Nature Reserve of the Lake of Grand-Lieu in France for the National Society for Nature Protection (SNPN) since 1994. Currently, he is chairman of the French Rarities Committee and a well-known regular contributor to the French birding magazine *Ornithos*.

The guide opens with HOW TO USE THIS BOOK, a thumb-nail sketch of seven major sections: TAXONOMY & SYSTEMATICS, AVIAN TOPOGRAPHY, MOLT & PLUMAGES, AGING AND SEXING, HYBRIDIZATION, COLOR PLATES, and SPECIES ACCOUNTS. The author's aim is to summarize current knowledge about specific and sub-specific identification, aging, and sexing of the 83 breeding waterfowl species found in North America and Eurasia with plates, texts, photographs, and fine distribution maps. An index is specifically dedicated to hybrids of 100 different crosses that are “more or less regular in the wild” (p. 8). Each hybrid is cross-referenced to each of its parent species with references to the

texts described in the HYBRIDIZATION section or various photographs, and to the plate on which they are illustrated. To facilitate their use, the plates and facing-page texts are organized as a quick identification guide. A second index indicates the pages of text and photographs for each species and the relevant plate of avian illustrations. Under PLATES, each is numbered and every image labeled, and their captions indicate the species, subspecies, sex, age, and plumage. The section on species TEXTS presents more comprehensive information following the same sequence of sections. SPECIES ACCOUNTS, the bulk of the book, present more comprehensive data (pp. 177-616). Within each species account, vernacular and scientific names are given but thereafter only the English name. Alternative English names are occasionally used mainly where they differ in American and European use. The first subsection under Texts is Taxonomy, which provides references to the type used in the description of the species, its date, and author followed by information on the bird's phylogenetic placement and any geographic variation. Reeber makes it clear that there is a lack of consensus among recent authors and different taxonomic committees about some species. “This book does not claim to provide new information concerning the taxonomy of *Anseriformes*, and its aim is not to propose new treatments. A discussion of current treatments is presented, and the most widely accepted view is adopted here, although further work will of course either confirm or refute these decisions” (p. 8). Next, the Identification subsection describes the risks of misidentification either with other species or with hybrids. “Distinguishing characters compared to other species are discussed in detail. Lists of distinguishing features are ranked in order of importance, from diagnostic to informative,” says Reeber (p. 8). Next, the Plumage subsection clarifies the difference between plumage and molt. This later section describes each of the species' plumages for each sex and age group. Brief remarks made about Geographic Variation, Measurements and Mass, Voice, Habitat, Life Cycle, Range and Populations, and Captivity complete this section.

TAXONOMY & SYSTEMATICS is a short two-page section that emphasizes that only three new waterfowl species have been described since the end of the 19th century. Although the Anatidae is the only family represented in the book, it still hosts about half of the Anseriformes order in the world. Recent genetic research suggests that no other order of birds is as close to each other than the Anseriformes and Galliformes. These two orders, grouped as Galloanseres, are now widely placed together by most authors at the beginning of avian sequences. Nevertheless, there is still much conflict and turmoil in this realm of ornithological research, especially related to taxonomic rank, with some researches supporting their ‘splitting’ and others their ‘lumping’ of species. This ornithological argument, of course, has been going on for decades (see review of *Witmer Stone: The Fascination of Nature, Pennsylvania Birds*, Vol. 30, No. 2, p. 24 (2016)). The positions in this book wisely avoid this problem by using current references, online resources, and, where necessary, explanations in the Taxonomy section of Species Accounts.

AVIAN TOPOGRAPHY: The nomenclature used in the guide is identical to that typically found in all identification guides. It covers a few terms frequently used when describing waterfowl, although some already may be known to readers: Grinning patch, Lamellae, Nail, Speculum, Tertials, Neck grooves, Tomium, Bill protuberance, and Femoral coverts. Definitions and comments can be found on pp. 12-13.

MOLT AND PLUMAGES: This section of the book is one of the highlights of the guide because of its short (8 pages) yet thorough introduction to a complicated part of ornithology that

few birders and, yes, field ornithologists understand. Yet, it is impossible to deal precisely with waterfowl species identification, ageing, or sexing without addressing the topic of molt and how to name the various plumages. “But often, simply to address these issues causes at best some reluctance among field ornithologists. While molt undoubtedly remains a complex issue, it is not necessarily difficult to acquire the rudiments useful to interpret what we observe,” says Reeber (p.13). So what is a molt and what are plumages? “A molt is defined by the partial or complete replacement of feathers necessary to keep plumage in good condition. A feather is considered to be molted when the follicle is activated, generating the growth of a new feather. The plumage is simply the set of feathers that results from a given molt, irrespective of its appearance” states Reeber, p. 13. Detailed subsections include Molt in Anseriformes, in which most ducks have two molts of the head and body per year plus a single wing molt in summer. Geese, swans, and whistling-ducks perform a single wing molt followed by a complete body molt. A name for each molt and each plumage, distinguishing plumage and aspect, the revised Humphrey-Parkes terminology, and various molt strategies are described in minute detail (read pp. 15-20).

AGING AND SEXING is the next section. Sex can be determined in many waterfowl species using plumage and/or color of the bare parts - iris, bill, legs - at least from the first winter onwards and is the same for aging. Aging and sexing features are detailed for each species account. The rare cases of gynandromorphs, defined as the juxtaposition of two genetically distinct sets of cells, one male and the other female, is phenotypically manifest by the individual showing characters of both sexes, or sometimes intermediate characters. This rare occurrence is more frequent in hybrids.

HYBRIDIZATION follows with incredibly succinct details that any birder or field ornithologist will appreciate. This section details the frequency of hybridization in nature. For each species, the list of other species with which it has hybridized in the wild or captivity is indicated, followed by the descriptions of the hybrids. “Descriptions are more detailed if the hybrid is likely to be confused with either species, and thus pose identification problems. However, most crosses result in hybrids of rather variable appearance. . . so it is important not to consider the descriptions exhaustive. In most cases, the description applies to definitive basic male plumage, and gives an idea of the known variability of the hybrid,” says Reeber (p. 9). Details within the Hybridization section include: What is a Hybrid?, Sterility and Viability, Hybrids, Intermediates and Introgression, Conservation Problems, Why do Birds

Hybridize?, Detecting Hybrids, and Identification Problems. As Reeber explains earlier (p. 10): “Because waterfowl are among the most popular and widely kept birds in captivity, the question of origin often arises for a bird seen outside its normal range,” as many Pennsylvanian ornithologists know from field experience. In my own case, it was an Egyptian Goose without any identification marks that stayed for days with Canada Geese on Lake Arthur in Moraine State Park years ago. This section also indicates the frequency of each species in captivity, the prices at which the species is usually offered for sale, and the difficulty of maintaining and breeding them. Reeber concludes: “The likelihood of a bird seen in the wild having escaped from captivity is obviously much stronger if that species is frequently kept in captivity, easy to breed, or inexpensive” (p. 10). The Egyptian Goose on Lake Arthur probably was an escape from captivity for it fits the criteria listed above. The author states, however, that historical records exist far beyond the usual range at a time when the bird was rare in captivity, suggesting that the Egyptian goose may occur naturally in Europe and the Middle East (p. 306). What about the United States? See Plate 21 and accompanying map on p. 72.

In conclusion, this is a “big” book, both physically with its numerous pages and balanced exquisite painting and photographic figures, and scientifically for the author’s impressive amount of up-to-date waterfowl data. Reeber should be congratulated for compiling such a deep and broad resource on the subject, making it the ultimate guide for anyone, anywhere who wants to identify the world’s waterfowl. The Princeton University Press also deserves accolades for translating the original French title edition: *Canards, cygnes et oies d’Europe, d’Asie et d’Amerique du Nord*, first published in France in 2015, then into English (but English English), and publishing the guide less than one year later in the United States. Note the press wisely switched the sequence of geographical areas in the original French edition title to North America being listed first instead of last. This reviewer was impressed in the book’s clean text. The only minor ‘frowns’ uncovered in the book were the listing of Aging and Sexing in that order in CONTENTS (p. 5) and (p. 20) but reversed to Sexing and Aging in their discussions (p. 21). Further, the inside and backside covers of the book list 84 waterfowl species when the guide describes 83 species. Nevertheless, this tome is truly the reigning, unrivaled, “must have” reference for any birder who is interested in the world’s waterfowl.

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Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*). Kinzua, Warren 9 July. (Troy Jones)



Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Setophaga pensylvanica*). Male carrying food at North Park, Allegheny 17 June. This pair represented first confirmed breeding in Allegheny since the late 1990s and first record of any summering bird since 2004 (Geoff Malosh)

Weather conditions were fairly typical this season other than a generally dry and hot July, with no notable events mentioned repeatedly by county compilers. The resulting drying pools were credited with providing shorebird habitat in some counties, but otherwise the seasonal conditions seemed not to affect bird activity other than discouraging birders from going out.

Although the summer season is structured to focus on the breeding activity for the majority of birds, attention in the Birds of Note and this Summary is usually drawn to rarities and accidental species that do not nest in the state. That is understandable for the Birds of Note, since inclusion on that list is defined by a low count of counties reporting a species that season. However, in addition to highlighting those notable observations, I will attempt to provide an interpretation of breeding status in the comments below, to give additional attention to breeding birds that reside in Pennsylvania to bring on their next generation. In a few cases, I even bend the rules slightly to include a breeding species in Birds of Note with more than five counties! We have a very solid understanding of breeding species, with many county compilers comparing breeding distributions with results of the Breeding Bird Atlas. Likewise, I contrast this summer's nesting reports with the results of the Second Atlas of Breeding Bird Birds (with fieldwork from 2004-2009; Wilson et al. 2012) and occasionally for a longer view, note changes since its predecessor, published in 1992. Results of both Atlas projects are online at www.pabirdatlas.psu.edu and in print, used or new. Strictly speaking, population trends are best described for the more widespread species by data from Breeding Bird Surveys (BBS), which involves annual point counts statewide. Results of that national survey are online at <http://www.mbrpwrc.usgs.gov/bbs/bbs.html>.

This narrative follows the normal patterns of previous years, with 238 species documented, but no novel breeding species reported and only one species noted for the first time during the summer season, the **Black Scoter**. The lack of rarities this season came despite the continued growth in reports contributed to the eBird system. Also true year-round, the raw number of summer eBird reports (a species at a location) has increased 10-fold during that past ten years. Summer is the

slowest season for eBird, yet for the past few years has incorporated hundreds of reports from every county (and many thousands from most). The annual "Breeding Bird Blitz" has helped bolster those reports during the third weekend in June. This modest contest raised the number of complete checklists by about 25% above the number submitted during the following weekend. The statistics on eBird are staggering: the spring season included 57,000 checklists with nearly a million bird reports during 3 million minutes of survey time by birders in Pennsylvania – by you, and these numbers are growing every year. While not all notable or even interesting bird sightings are captured in eBird, we compilers now have a treasure trove of observations from which to build our understanding of bird activity! eBird appears to provide the majority of observations for county compilers' reports themselves, which raises new questions about the role of these summaries that must be addressed, but I'll save that for another place.

Following the pattern of previous year's summer summaries, waterfowl (broadly defined) and shorebirds collectively are heavily represented in the Birds of Note, making up about half of those entries while comprising less than a quarter of all species documented during summer. Together, shorebirds and waterfowl rule the summer bird highlights, despite the relative lack of species nesting. Only four or five waterfowl species typically remain locally to nest. **Hooded** and **Common Merganser**, **Wood Duck**, **Mallard**, the vastly reduced **American Black Duck**, and of course the established populations of **Canada Goose** comprise our breeding waterfowl. But, another 20 waterfowl species are routinely detected during this season, lingering from spring or showing up as vagrants. Since most of these annually migrate northward in spring through the state in considerable numbers, it is not surprising that a few individuals would linger in our waters into summer. Non-fatal injuries of **Snow Geese** during the spring hunting season could explain a few birds unable to continue northbound migration into summer, mostly in eastern counties, but other miscellaneous waterfowl linger for unknown reasons. Historic nesting by a number of waterfowl species does raise the possibility that some of these could nest. A remarkable variety of waterfowl have nested in response to the burst of productivity associated with newly available impoundments. But, few of the

lingering summering waterfowl species in most 2016 summer reports provided any evidence of an interest in contributing to the next generation, although an historic context is provided for some of these here.

Trumpeter Swan was reintroduced in neighboring Ohio and Ontario and incorporated optimistically into Pennsylvania's Second Atlas of Breeding Birds based on paired behavior that suggested nesting was imminent. While breeding has yet to be confirmed in Pennsylvania, some county compilers are right to be alert to the possibility (note *Schuylkill*). The observations of trumpeters continue in a sporadic manner, not suggesting any established breeding range, but that is worth watching for. The occasional **Tundra Swan** found lingering into summer each year should be checked carefully to distinguish from the similar trumpeter, but the species breeds far to our north and nesting is not imagined. Careful observers noted Tundra Swan in three counties that fall within their normal spring migratory corridor. An established exotic, the **Mute Swan** presents a very different story than the two above-referenced swans. Mute Swans do breed locally, and appear to be increasing even though they are among the very few established exotic birds not protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. In this case, an expanding population would not necessarily be viewed as good news, given their propensity to tear up native aquatic vegetation and their effects on other species. Not mentioned by all county compilers (intentionally?), nesting **Mute Swans** were confirmed in *Berks*, *Lehigh*, *Philadelphia*, *Schuylkill* and with enough eBird reports in *Bucks* to make that likely there too.

The scarcity of summer records of **Blue-winged Teal** reflects a significant change in status from years ago. Blue-wings nested widely (although uncommonly) across the state until the 1980s (first Breeding Bird Atlas), declined to a few scattered nesting locations by the Second Atlas (2000s), and in recent years confirmed nesting is not documented every year. None of the 2016 summer observations of **Blue-winged Teal** suggested nesting. The **Green-winged Teal** has generally been more narrowly distributed as a breeder than the blue-wing, declining to just a single confirmed nest record in the Second Atlas, and is without a nesting record since. Suitable habitat continues in scattered locations across

Pennsylvania for both species of teal. **Ruddy Duck** nested infrequently in response to special conditions, but is reported in scattered locations and even in notable numbers during summers (including this one), suggesting we should be alert to additional nesting events. Although no such evidence appeared this season, summer reports are steady if not increasing. For example, the annual occurrence of Ruddy Ducks (emphasis on the plural) in the Pymatuning complex of *Crawford*, including a count of 14 at Pymatuning Spillway on 6/12, with a comment of “not unusual,” suggests further inquiry.

Even for species that historically nested in response to unique events, like the **Ring-necked Duck** after the creation of the Pymatuning Reservoir, the scattered summer records noted in 2016 reflect typical vagrancy, not breeding records. Ring-necked Ducks and **Buffleheads** are found in multiple counties every summer, but a **Redhead**, spotted on the Duck Pond, *Centre* for the first half of June, is much less frequently encountered here in summer. The **Long-tailed Duck**, noted in *Clearfield*, had even fewer past summer records, and Pennsylvania’s apparent first **Black Scoter** summer report came from *Lycoming*, completing the list of scoters mentioned in summer reports during the past few years! A photo was included, but without fanfare, along with other waterfowl lingering into this season on Rose Valley Lake on 6/4. **Black Scoter** is the least common of the 3 species in migration, even though a few summer along the Atlantic coast annually.

Both bittern species are listed by the state as “Endangered” because of historically small breeding populations associated with limited wetland habitats across the state. As such, they deserve a bit more attention, but being secretive, they may also be overlooked without special efforts. An **American Bittern** was notable at John Heinz Refuge (Tinicum) in *Delaware*, where **Least Bittern** is better established, and vice versa, a **Least Bittern** was noted at Conneaut, *Crawford*, in a historical stronghold for the American. The American Bittern seems to be hanging on as a breeding bird in Pennsylvania, with a scattering of sightings in *Monroe* and a single report from the Muck in *Tioga* 7/5 providing the only observations in potential breeding habitat this year. The most reliable nesting location for Least Bitterns is the above-referenced John Heinz Refuge.

Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were reported in *more* than 5 counties this year, but are included in a rather lengthy listing in “Birds of Note” to draw

attention to local breeding birds. While locations of rare breeding birds typically deserve discretion for most species, Yellow-crowns seem to be very tolerant of human activity, and advertising their nest sites does not place them in jeopardy for disturbance. The only substantive colony in the state is now in tall sycamores along row houses of urban Harrisburg, where 11 active nests were tallied along four streets, plus one at the Governor’s Mansion again this year, as noted in Game Commission surveys. Also notable were 5 nests along the lower Conodoguinet Creek in *Cumberland*, documented through targeted surveys by the Game Commission, but not known at the time the county report was compiled. The tall trees in back yards along the Conodoguinet have provided an historical breeding setting, but these nests apparently go without remark by the homeowners. A nesting attempt in a colony of **Black-crowned Night-Herons** in *Lancaster* would represent an encouraging expansion, and the Yellow-crown reports of a nesting attempt in *Bucks* and presumed local breeding in *Montgomery* provide the first evidence of significant expansion in the breeding distribution of this Threatened species in many years. The Yellow-crown is not as ‘colonial’ as some of its kin, and scattered breeding events are very possible and should be looked for. Black-crowned Night-Herons also are limited to the state’s southeastern counties, with the colony at Wade Island, *Dauphin* long providing the largest colony. Colonial nest tallies were provided in spring.

The annual post-breeding dispersal of long-legged wading birds, primarily in July, provides for seasonal excitement along Pennsylvania’s waterways during what is otherwise a fairly slow season. Easily spotted, even at a distance, **Great Egrets** trickle north during those lazy summer days, resulting in observations from at least 49 counties this season, including for the first time in *Wyoming*! Also striking, immature **Little Blue Herons**, from breeding colonies to our south, move north by late July in sufficient numbers to be considered regular in many counties of southeastern Pennsylvania. A Little Blue was in Lebanon 6/6-11, a very unusual date! A former breeder, **Cattle Egret** was reported only twice, continuing the trend of many years with very few records. The **White Ibis** seen briefly at Presque Isle 7/7 provided this summer’s only record and Presque Isle’s first.

A **Swallow-tailed Kite** sighting 6/6 in *Montgomery* was exceptional and will require PORC review, although it was not Pennsylvania’s first June observation and interestingly, it was

followed the next day by a sighting in Cape May, New Jersey (eBird). The multiple observations of **Mississippi Kite** in eastern counties follow recent patterns, as this raptor has been expanding north into our area for a number of years. Speculation about nesting in Pennsylvania for this species goes back several years!

Bald Eagle and **Osprey** have undergone dramatic recoveries and are now increasingly treated as just a couple more regular breeding raptors. They appropriately get notice in county reports, but are way too common statewide to merit description in any detail. Notably, Osprey nesting has expanded, after multiple reintroduction efforts, which led to a proposed delisting (removing the label of “threatened” under the Game Commission’s regulations, anticipated in 2017) as was done for Bald Eagles in 2014. While also impressive, the **Peregrine Falcon’s** recovery is on a slower trajectory. Annual reports, that document status of each of these species, are available online (<http://www.pgc.pa.gov>), although the Game Commission’s surveys are having a hard time keeping pace with the expanding populations. **Merlins** were first confirmed breeding in 2006 during the Second Atlas of Breeding Birds and pairs quickly scattered across northern counties. Summer reports are now standard in about a half-dozen counties, but confirmation of nesting is not always pursued or may prove elusive, although of interest! After a rapid expansion, Merlin’s summer distribution has stalled to about a dozen locations across those northern tier counties. It may take another breeding bird atlas to document its true distribution. In contrast, the **Northern Goshawk** seems to be in decline, but remains an enigma. The lack of mention in a single county note and even more so in summer eBird checklists is intentional and belies the real status of the species. A nesting goshawk survey in 2016 was able to document nesting in 7 counties this year. Details, of course, will be kept strictly confidential. This doesn’t suggest we really know much about the breeding population of this bird, but it illustrates that information flows differently for different species. Many feel that not reporting goshawk nests in any way is the most prudent action.

Sandhill Cranes continue to nest in scattered wetlands across northern counties, notably the first time in *Wyoming* this year. In *Crawford*, the big cranes “while notable, are now expected though the summer season in the Pymatuning and Conneaut Marsh area”, with a high of 17, with young, were tabulated in the Hartstown area 7/18.

The story of “summer” shorebird species is similar to that of waterfowl, comprising a small subset of breeding species, most occurring as migrants, and comprising a disproportionate contribution to the Birds of Note. Shorebird species really are notable in most of Penn’s Woods! The stringent nesting requirements of most species compels them to complete extreme migrations to far northern longitudes during the Arctic’s brief summer. These well-known movements mean “spring” migration regularly extends into June, while returning adults, sometimes following nesting failures, pass in southbound passage here as early as July. County notes sometimes reference a ‘late’ (spring) record in early June or an ‘early’ observation in July, reflecting how annual observations whittle away the boundaries of normal migratory periods by a day or two here or there. For example, among the infrequent summer shorebirds, a **White-rumped Sandpiper** lingering into *Centre* was considered “late” on 6/5 and a **Least Sandpiper** in York 7/7 this year was “early”! This isn’t conceptually different than how we view other long-distant migrants, but shorebirds seem to take it to the extreme!

The dry and hot July was frequently referenced with shorebird reports, as these conditions presided over much of the state this year, lowering water levels along shorelines where exposed mud or gravel flats sometimes attract shorebirds. It takes a birder in *Montgomery* to find that the “silver lining to a dry summer is that it makes for enticing mudflats at Green Lane Park”! The 11 species of shorebirds there this season provided a nice boost to this “inland” location! Shorebirds contribute significantly to the birding allure of Presque Isle State Park, *Erie*; funneled along the Great Lakes coastline and lured to stop by unique beach habitat, they are documented by the many birders skillfully noting everything that passes those shores. Well, almost everything! Clearly, the 24 shorebird species reported this season at Presque Isle far exceeded (as in most years) any other location and illustrate the unique nature of this location. After the **Piping Plover**, addressed in the context of breeding below, the next rarest sighting this summer was the **Marbled Godwit** there 7/13, reported only twice in the past ten *summer seasons* anywhere in Pennsylvania. The season’s only reports of **Black-bellied Plover**, **Whimbrel**, **Baird’s Sandpiper**, **Wilson’s Phalarope**, and **Willet** at Gull Point, all within two weeks of the godwit, contribute to Presque Isle’s surpassing every other birding ‘hotspot’ in eBird by

25 species. The runner-up shorebird location is at the opposite corner of the state where the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge impoundments in *Philadelphia* also proximate to a ‘coastline’ and host more shorebirds than most locations. This season, 190 **Least Sandpipers** at Heinz exceeded any others, although no shorebird species were unique to Heinz this season.

A further attraction to Presque Isle’s Gull Point is the unique breeding habitat the beaches provide. Constantly changing and at risk from invasive plants, habitat management in recent years has helped clear the sand dunes of vegetation that deterred breeding residents rare in Pennsylvania. One of the two banded male Piping Plovers noted at Gull Point in early May, a first-year male was observed on-and-off through June and until 7/15, displaying various courtship behaviors. Unfortunately, a mate never appeared. This federally-endangered species has been the target of those habitat improvements, along with **Common Terns**. The number of Common Terns nesting there in 2016 was less than last year, but close monitoring (including cameras placed at the nests) suggested that incubation continued to full term and therefore we believe that one nest probably hatched near the end of June, for the first time in 50 years. However, no chicks were seen and predation was suspected on 6/30. Terns were noted in the area through the summer season, but the pairs did not attempt to re-nest.

Sightings of **Black Tern**, another historic breeder, were more widely scattered in 2016 than in recent years and included June sightings close to historic nest sites in *Crawford*; however, the July sightings represent migrants. The extensive habitat at the wetlands in Pymatuning and Conneaut marshes deserve continued scrutiny for terns as well as rails. Gull observations generally are fewest in summer. **Herring Gull**, the state’s only regularly breeding gull, chooses, strangely enough, the Allegheny River in the Pittsburgh area for nesting activity. The colony there is reported to be “alive and well,” with a total of 91 adults and 38 juveniles counted 7/4. **Laughing Gulls** are rare statewide except in the counties adjoining the lower Delaware River, where birds apparently fanning out from coastal breeding grounds appear in considerable numbers, attracted in part to landfills!

The **Eurasian Collared-Dove** is one of just three species confirmed nesting for the first time in Pennsylvania’s history during the Second Atlas of Breeding Birds (2000s). It experienced an explosive national range expansion since an accidental

introduction in Florida in the 1970s, but its expansion northeast into Pennsylvania “stalled”, for unknown reasons. Rare but persistent in our Great Valley for over ten years, it has expanded slowly there, at best, but is far from established. Breeding records in *Berks* and *Franklin* are notable. Some reports of **Common Nighthawk** suggest that nesting may continue in scattered locations after one of the largest range retractions of any species between the two Breeding Bird Atlas projects. While nesting is difficult to confirm, nighthawks formerly nested in many towns and cities statewide, but now seems destined for summer vagrant status. A true rarity, residing primarily to our south, the **Chuck-will’s Widow** had been reliable during the summer at Fort Indiantown Gap, *Lebanon* since 2005, but reports there spanned only three days this summer.

Two flycatchers have been notable during summer in northern wetlands for decades: the **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** nests only in high-elevation bogs, in *Sullivan* and *Wyoming*. An inventory of the best breeding location, in Coalbed Swamp, *Wyoming*, produced three singing males, but none were detected in other traditional locations in either county. Although breeding could occur elsewhere, it has not been ‘confirmed’ in many years outside those two counties. Therefore, a territorial song heard at Algerine Swamp in *Lycoming* 6/21 raised the potential for documenting an outlier. But, despite repeated visits and even *empidonax* recordings that hinted at Yellow-belled from the same location, no definite re-detections of this state-listed bird were documented during the remainder of the season. The other rare flycatcher is the **Olive-sided Flycatcher**, seen and photographed an hour earlier in an open section of Algerine (which has all of the appearances of suitable breeding habitat), but also was not detected again. Unknown to the observer in Algerine, an Olive-sided heard just a mile away in Reynolds Springs, *Tioga* the day before, 6/20, was concurrent with one of the “intermittent” observations in *Carbon*. Olive-sides had nested in Pennsylvania prior to the 1930s, so these tantalizing summer sightings bring hope for a long-shot comeback! The closest known breeding location for Yellow-bellied Flycatcher is probably well over 100 miles to the northeast in the New York Catskills, whereas Olive-sided Flycatchers, experiencing a sustained, long-term decline, nest in New York’s Adirondack Preserve.

A brief mention is warranted to a species not reported this season, the Sedge Wren. While easily overlooked,

potential breeding observations have been limited to a small handful over the past 10 years, and none from the past 3.

Space allows detailed descriptions of only a few of the wonderful diversity of warblers, those 28 winged jewels that please our eyes and provoke our ears during the breeding season. Only a few that remain to nest annually have distributions limited enough to draw the attention of this summary. That's a good thing. This season's reports of **Prothonotary Warbler** stretch those limits as described above, with an encouraging pattern of increased sightings. Ten years ago, summer "Birds of Note" would have listed nesting in just a few counties. While not all of this season's reports reflect nesting attempts, the number of sites that provided reasonable breeding evidence seems to be growing, and many of these sites are listed annually. This suggests that the species is faring well against the onslaught of competition for nest cavities, nest parasitism by cowbirds, and various impacts on wetlands. The use of nest boxes is part of this story – with territorial birds associated with boxes placed to entice them in multiple counties! Boxes placed along the Susquehanna River have helped expand the breeding population in *Lancaster*

and *York*, and singing males in *Dauphin* may have responded to boxes there. Nesting is routine enough in *Crawford* to not even warrant a mention, although two pairs in *Mercer* were noted. The rarest warbler regularly breeding here, also an abundant migrant in spring and fall, is the **Blackpoll Warbler**, first documented breeding in the state as a result of searches in spruce wetlands for Yellow-bellied Flycatchers after the first Breeding Bird Atlas. Although late-migrants are frequent into June, the 15 territorial males found in those *Wyoming* spruce swamps is my focus, as they occur nowhere else like that in Pennsylvania.

Conservation efforts on behalf of Golden-winged and Cerulean warblers, in terms of active habitat management funded through the Farm Bill and added surveys, warrant more lengthy narratives than would be suitable for this "Summary." Suffice to say, the **Golden-wing Warbler** was reported in remarkably few 8 counties (including eBird records). **Cerulean Warblers** fared better, reported in at least 4 times the number of counties as Golden-wings!

The scarcity of **Clay-colored Sparrow** sightings challenges what appeared to have been a strong expansion in western Pennsylvania documented in the Second Breeding Bird

Atlas. Is that a thing of the past? Most species of similar shrubby habitat are not expanding! The ephemeral nature of this habitat is illustrated by the abandonment of established sites and colonization of new sites as described in the *Clarion* report. The history of **Summer Tanager** is complex, with seemingly random appearances of birds settling for one or more years onto territories across the southern counties. The birds in *Berks* suggest individual site-fidelity of breeding birds, with a return to last year's location!

Observations of **Dickcissel** this year are concentrated in a few counties along the Great Valley (like the collared-dove), also from *Franklin* northeast through *Berks*, as well as similar grassland habitats in nearby *Adams* and *Lancaster*. These are within the range of the resident breeding population, so there is no indication of an eruption from the Mid-West. Reported during summer in only 3 of the past 10 years, a female/immature Red **Crossbill** photographed in Venango 6/17 actually falls between summer populations in New York state and West Virginia!

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

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

SUBMISSION OF MATERIALS FOR PUBLICATION: We welcome submission of feature articles, artwork, or photographs focusing on any aspect of Pennsylvania birds or birding. We strongly encourage that submissions be sent in electronic format by email but will accept handwritten or typewritten material if necessary.

For articles, the Microsoft Office suite (any version) is preferred; however we will accept any popularly used format, or plain text. Please email written materials in an attached document in its original source format (i.e., no PDF files, please).

Digital photos or scanned image files sent for consideration should be in JPG format and resized down to 600-1200 pixels on the longer axis (if the source file is larger than these dimensions), and compressed to no larger than 250kB. Larger files will be requested by the editor if necessary. Submitted photos may be cropped or adjusted for color, brightness, or contrast as the editor sees fit without notice to the photographer. When submitting by email, all files should be sent as attachments—DO NOT embed pictures or documents within the email body. Photos with copyright or signature text visible in the image will not be accepted. Photographers will be acknowledged in the photo caption.

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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*: a family group (initially 4, before one died) spent the summer at Gotwals Pond, Oley (Rudy Keller); *Chester*: pair continued through summer with a group of resident Canada Geese at a farm in Kennett Square (Kelly Nunn); *Luzerne*: an injured bird continued at Plymouth Flats throughout the season despite low water levels (Jonathan DeBalko).

Trumpeter Swan – *Clearfield*: one at Platt Road Swamp 6/1-2 (Dan Richards); *Huntingdon*: one probably continuing from spring at Old Crow Wetland 6/4 (Rob Dickerson, Alex Bischer); *Schuylkill*: tagged pair (Z603 and Z675) roamed between Swatara State Park, Sweet Arrow Lake, a pond on Oak Grove Road in Pine Grove Twp., and pond in Tremont (Mike Wallace) with no evidence of nesting.

Tundra Swan – *Adams*: one at Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve until 6/2 (Joel Wagner); *Lancaster*: one on the Susquehanna R. at Conejohela Flats 6/11 (Meredith Lombard, Zachary Millen); *Lebanon*: 2 at Fox and Prescott Roads 6/4-16 (Bruce Carl, Stan Stahl).

Gadwall – *Berks*: one at L. Ontelaunee 6/17 (Matt Spence); *Dauphin*: at Wildwood L. 6/10 (Anon. eBirder, ph.); *Erie*: one on pond near Waterford 6/3 (James Hill III) and one at head of Presque Isle Bay 6/10 (Mark Vass, eBird); *Philadelphia*: found on a water department lagoon 7/7 by employee with security access (Denis Mora).

American Wigeon – *Chester*: a drake at Longwood Gardens 6/21-22 (Kelley Nunn); *Indiana*: one at Yellow Creek SP 6/14 (m.ob.).

Blue-winged Teal – *Crawford*: singles in Conneaut Marsh 6/7 (Jack Chaillet) and at West Vernon Road 6/8 (Tomas Nonnenmacher); *Berks*: at pond in Marion Twp. 6/28 (Rudy Keller); *Philadelphia*: one at north end of impoundment of John Heinz NWR until 6/15 (Geoff Veith, eBird).

Northern Pintail – *Warren*: an adult male at Akeley Swamp 6/9 (Steve Dowlan, eBird, ph.).

Green-winged Teal – *Berks*: 2 at Lake Ontelaunee 7/30 (Rudy Keller); *Crawford*: 6 observed at Pymatuning Goose Management Area 7/30 (Isaac Field, Ron Leberman).

Redhead – *Centre*: female continued at the Duck Pond 6/1-16 (Lindera & John Carter, Julia Plummer).

Greater Scaup – *Somerset*: male persisted at Somerset L. through at least 7/3 (Jeff Payne).

Lesser Scaup – *Bucks*: one at Penn-Warner Tract, Franklin Cove 6/26 (Devich Farbotnik); *Crawford*:

one in the Pymatuning area 6/12 (Mark Vass) and a male was there 7/24 (Ron Leberman); a female at Pymatuning-Spillway 7/30 (Isaac Field, Ron Leberman); *Indiana*: one spent much of the season on Dragonfly Pond at Yellow Creek SP and continued into the fall (m.ob.); *Lycoming*: one remained at Rose Valley Lake until at least 6/26 (Bobby Brown, Deb Brown); *York*: York Haven held a lingering adult male to 6/17 (Dean Newhouse, Tony Newhouse).

Black Scoter – *Lycoming*: a female at Rose Valley Lake 6/5 (David Brown, Eric Hartshaw, Bobby Brown, ph.), apparently the first summer record in Pennsylvania!

Long-tailed Duck – *Clearfield*: one continued at Bimini Lake to 6/3 (Dan Richards).

Bufflehead – *Bucks*: male at Morrisville until 6/2 (Jim Parris); *Chester*: a lingering drake at Marsh Creek SP 6/15 (Michael Hartshorne); *Lebanon*: a male and 3 females at Memorial Lake SP 6/1-19 (Timothy Becker, Kathy Becker, Randy Miller), and a male remained there 6/21 (Ted Nichols); *Lycoming*: a female at Rose Valley L. 6/5 (David Brown, Bobby Brown); *Mercer*: one at the Shenango WA 6/1-19 (Bill Winkler, Kim Springer).

Common Goldeneye – *Bucks*: likely the male from spring at Morrisville was detected again starting 7/9 (Barbara Bennett, ph.), continuing through end of the month, molting into eclipse plumage (Jim Parris, Bill Keim ph.).

Red-breasted Merganser – *Allegheny*: one at Dashields Dam 6/5 (Mark Vass); *Indiana*: a one-time sighting at Yellow Creek SP 6/27 (Lee Carnahan); *Lycoming*: a female found near the dam on Susquehanna River West Branch remained through the season (m.ob.).

Horned Grebe – *Elk*: one in the South Fork Bay of East Branch L. 6/4 (Brendyn Baptiste); *Lycoming*: one in non-breeding plumage at Rose Valley Lake 6/5 (Bobby Brown, David Brown, ph.).

American Bittern – *Delaware*: one at John Heinz NWR 7/27 (Paul Bernhardt); *Lehigh*: one in retention ponds of Bimbo Bakery 7/5 (Nathan Lewis, eBird); *Monroe*: one at Long Pond 6/2 and 6/14, at Lynchwood L. 7/27 (Bruce Johnson, eBird, ph.), and at the Birchwood Wetlands 6/19 (Tim Grover, eBird); *Tioga*: heard and observed flying in the Muck IBA 7/5 (Ken Cooper, eBird).

Least Bittern – *Crawford*: one at Custards Marsh 6/18 (Mary Higbee); *Erie*: one at Presque Isle SP 6/25 and 7/5 (Jim Flynn and Steve Dowland), and at Leo's

landing (Don Synder, Jim Flynn); *Lawrence*: at Black Swamp 6/14 (Gene Wilhelm, Joanne Wilhelm); *Philadelphia*: adults with 2 juveniles seen flying at John Heinz NWR 6/23 (Frank Windfelder, m.ob., ph.).

Snowy Egret – *Bucks*: at Rohm and Haas, Bristol from 7/16 through the month, with high of 5 on 7/23-24 (Devich Farbotnik); *Dauphin*: at the Susquehanna R. at Clark's Ferry Bridge 6/8 (Kathy Becker) and one at Susquehanna R. at West Fairview 7/23 (Deuane Hoffman); *Montgomery*: one at Green Lane Park 7/20 through end of period (Michael Lyman, Kenneth Rieker); *Philadelphia*: from 6/9 to end of July at John Heinz NWR, with a high of 7 on 7/31 (Jim McConnell, eBird).

Cattle Egret* – *Bucks*: singles at Penn Warner Tract - Franklin Cove 6/4 (Mark Gallagher ph.) and at Rohm and Haas, Bristol 7/23-24 (Devich Farbotnik); *Lancaster*: a juvenile at Conewago Recreation Trail and Wetlands 7/30-31 (Alex Lamoreaux, m.ob.).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron – *Cumberland*: adults (most of season) and young (in July) on banks of Conodoguinet Cr. near West Fairview Boat Ramp; PGC surveys documented 5 nests (m.ob.); *Bucks*: a pair and nest at Nockamixon SP (unknown observer, ph., *vide* Devich Farbotnik); *Dauphin*: observed throughout period from Second and Calder Streets north to Front and Shamokin Streets, high count was 16 at Front and Reily Streets 7/10 (m.ob.); *Huntingdon*: an imm. was photographed in Juniata R. at Mt. Union 7/18 (Stacia-Fe Gillen); *Lancaster*: one at Ephrata Community Hospital until 6/5, displaying and building a nest in effort to attract a mate (Daniel Hinnebusch); *Montgomery*: presumed family group, at least 2 adults and 2 juveniles, at Norristown Dam through entire period, often observed hunting for crayfish at edges of islands beneath the dam (Paul Bernhardt, m.ob) where local nesting was strongly suspected; *Philadelphia*: feeding at water's edge at John Heinz NWR 7/2-13 (Debbie Beer, Jim McConnell, ph.); *Susquehanna*: near Oakland access, Susquehanna R. south of state line 7/28 (Douglas Sheldon).

White Ibis* – *Erie*: adult found (Rush Swaney) and photographed at Gull Point 7/7 (Mary Birdsong, Jim Flynn) was a county first.

Glossy Ibis – *Bucks*: 6 at Rohm and Haas, Bristol 7/24 (Devich Farbotnik); *Chester*: an adult foraged behind the Walmart in Exton 7/13 (HM, m.ob.); a juvenile dark ibis, presumed to be Glossy, in the same location 7/23 (Holly Merker), seen again 7/24 (Chad Hutchinson, m.ob.); *Dauphin*: one seen from Calver Island near the turnpike bridge in Highspire 7/24 (Josh Auld); *Delaware/Philadelphia*: now a regular summer visitor at John Heinz NWR - 4 were observed flying from *Philadelphia* to a roost in *Delaware* portion of refuge 7/23 (Al Guarente, Jim McConnell, Ann Reeves); seen in *Philadelphia* portion 7/7 (Jim McConnell).

Swallow-tailed Kite* – *Montgomery*: observed soaring over the new Dodsworth Run Preserve in North Wales 6/6 (Carrie Bell, doc.).

Mississippi Kite* – *Delaware*: seen feeding over Haverford 6/1 (Bill Roache); *Lancaster*: at Rohrestown 6/11 (Keith Leidich); *Monroe*: seen briefly at Long Pond 6/25 (Steven Fordyce, eBird); *Northampton*: seen circling over Koch property 6/5 (Arlene Koch).

Common Gallinule – *Bucks*: one seen at Peace Valley Park since 5/13 was last reported 6/2 (Tom Fahey);

Crawford: 2 adults and 6 young at Geneva Marsh 6/29 (Carol Winslow); eBird observations include one at Custards 6/30 (Steve Gosser) and another 6/4 (Mary Alice Koeneke and Glenn Koppel), and from McMichael/Browns Hill Road 6/29 (Anne Jacobs); *Erie*: one at Gull Point 7/23 (Evan Lipton, eBird) and one from Presque Isle Bay 7/5 (James Flynn, eBird); *Huntingdon*: one at Old Crow wetland 7/13-23 (David Kyler, Trudy Kyler, m.ob.); *Lawrence*: 2 at Black Swamp from mid-June through the season (Jeff McDonald, Shannon Thompson, m.ob.).

American Avocet – *Erie*: 15 reports from Gull Point 6/19-7/15 (Bruce Hoover, Mary Birdsong, m.ob.); *Franklin*: one at Greencastle Reservoir 6/30 (Carl Garner, Dale Gearhart); *Huntingdon*: reported at Raystown L. 7/6 without details (*vide* Amos Swarey); *Montgomery*: one at Green Lane Park 7/16 (Jeff Hopkins) and 7/25 (Len Hillegras).

Black-bellied Plover – *Erie*: eBird reports at Presque Isle, Gull Point 7/17 (Alex Lamoreau), 7/19 (Richard Nugent), and 7/25 (Jerry McWilliams).

Piping Plover* – *Erie*: one of 2 banded males at Gull Point on Presque Isle found in May was seen scraping and in display flight 6/9 (Mary Birdsong), continuing until at least 7/15, but never accompanied by female (Mary Birdsong, m.ob.).

Upland Sandpiper – *Berks*: one made a brief migratory stopover in pasture at Rodale 7/16 (Mike Schall); *Clarion*: one at Mount Airy 6/11 (Brendyn Baptiste, Gene Wilhelm); *Crawford*: two adults and a juvenile at Pymatuning-Wilson Road 7/6 (Isaac Field), and a single at Pymatuning Goose Management Area 7/9 (Ron Leberman); *Lancaster*: 6 sightings at Lancaster Airport 7/23-31 (Bruce Carl) and one was in a hayfield on Kissel Hill Road 7/23 (Fern Bauman); *Somerset*: 2 pairs found near Babcock SF in early June (Chris Payne) and 2 seen there 6/9 (Carolyn Payne, Chris Payne).

Whimbrel – *Erie*: 2 on 7/7 (Mary Birdsong, Jerry McWilliams) and one 7/18 (Anthony Bruno, Margaret Higbee) at Gull Point.

Marbled Godwit* – *Erie*: one at Gull Point 7/13 (Dave Amamoto).

Ruddy Turnstone – *Chester*: West Goshen Twp. 6/1 (Nick Pulcinella, eBird); *Erie*: at Presque Isle, Gull Point 7/27 (Brendyn Baptiste, eBird).

Stilt Sandpiper – *Crawford*: one at Miller's Ponds, Pymatuning 6/6 (Ron Leberman); *Erie*: one at Gull Point 7/18 (Robert Scribner, eBird, ph); *Monroe*: one at Mount Pocono Airport 7/27 (Bruce Johnson, eBird, ph.).

Sanderling – *Bucks*: one at Mud Island 7/30 (Devich Farbotnik); *Erie*: at Gull Point 7/3 to end of month (m.ob.), with high of 19 on 7/25 (Jerry McWilliams).

Dunlin – *Crawford*: one at Pymatuning Goose Management Area 6/6 (Ron Leberman); *Erie*: one at Gull Point 6/2, 3 on 6/9 (Jerry McWilliams, eBird), one at Beach 10 on 6/10 (Kenneth Kempfues, eBird).

Baird's Sandpiper – *Erie*: at Gull Point 7/17 (Alex Lamoreaux, eBird) and 7/27 (Brendyn Baptiste, eBird).

White-rumped Sandpiper – *Centre*: a late migrant on Old Gatesburg Rd. 6/5 (Carl Engstrom, Brian Schmoke); *Erie*: at Gull Point 7/1 (Geoff Malosh).

Western Sandpiper – *Allegheny*: one at Imperial for one day 7/14 (m.ob.); *Bucks*: one at Penn-Warner Tract 7/16, a new fall early arrival date (Devich Farbotnik).

Wilson's Snipe – *Butler*: one at Glad Dam 7/15 (Steve Gosser); *Erie*: 2 at Gull Point 6/27-30 (Mary Birdsong, Mark Vass); *Franklin*: one at pond near Lurgan 7/30 (Bill Oyler); *Mercer*: one at Shenango WA Propagation Ponds 7/9 (Steve Sanford) through 7/29 (Geoff Malosh).

Wilson's Phalarope – *Erie*: 2 at Gull Point 7/18 (Anthony Bruno, Margaret Higbee) and one there 7/23 (*vide* Jerry McWilliams).

Willet – *Erie*: reported at Gull Point 7/7 through the period (m.ob.), with 2 on 7/11 (Jerry McWilliams), 7/13 (David Amamoto), and 7/17 (Alex Lamoreaux).

Bonaparte's Gull – *Crawford*: one at Pymatuning-Miller's Ponds 7/9 (CN), 2 at Pymatuning Spillway 7/22 (Mark Vass) and one there 7/30 (Ron Leberman); one at Woodcock Lake- Abandoned Road Trail 7/30 (Brendyn Baptiste).

Laughing Gull – *Crawford*: one at Pymatuning SP 7/24 (Ron Leberman); *Bucks*: the estimate of 1100 at Penn-Warner Tract 7/16 is not unusual (Devich Farbotnik); *Philadelphia*: regular summer visitor (eBird).

Great Black-backed Gull – *Dauphin*: one at West Fairview 7/26 (Dave Kerr, eBird) and 7/28 (Ian Gardner, eBird); *Delaware*: 2 on 6/25 (Michael Hartshorne, Brian Quindlen) and 6 on 7/27 along Delaware R. behind Philadelphia International Airport (Al Guarente); *Erie*: seen through the season, with high of 10 at Gull Point 7/3 (James Flynn, eBird); *Philadelphia*: present through season (eBird).

Black Tern – *Crawford*: one at Pymatuning-Miller's Ponds 6/7 (Tony Bledsoe) and one at Pymatuning Fish Hatchery 6/22 (Ron Leberman); *Franklin*: one transitioning from breeding plumage at Kriner Road Retention Ponds 7/25 (Bill Oyler); *Indiana*: one flew low over the marsh at Yellow Creek SP 6/14; *Lancaster*: 2 on the Susquehanna R. at Peach Bottom 7/24 (Bob Schutsky).

Common Tern – *Erie*: 2 pairs nested, with both incubating through full term - monitoring suggests one nest hatched near the end of Jun, but a day or two later both nests were abandoned; predation suspected and no re-nesting apparent (Mary Birdsong, m.ob.).

Eurasian Collared-Dove – *Berks*: 4 at Shartlesville 7/17 included 2 apparently paired (Rudy Keller); *Franklin*: nested in the Shady Grove/Greencastle Reservoir area (Carl Garner, Dale Gearhart).

Northern Saw-whet Owl – *Armstrong*: one at Buffalo Creek 7/17 (Darren Hood); *Bradford*: "whine" call heard near observer's home (Anne Vivino-Hintze, George Vivino-Hintze), and in the Hollenback vicinity (Betsy Girven); *Lycoming*: 2 heard from Ellenton Ridge Rd. in Loyalsock SF during nocturnal survey 6/7 (Joel Wagner); *Schuylkill*: 2 heard at SGL 106 on 6/22 (M Pruitt).

Chuck-wills-widow* – *Cumberland*: heard on Ridge Road east of Rt. 233 near the intersection with Old Ridge Road 6/7-9 (Vernon Gauthier, Bill Oyler, Dave Kerr, Richard Nugent).

Olive-sided Flycatcher – *Carbon*: one at Wild Creek Reservoir, first found 6/2 (Rich Rehrig) and seen intermittently 6/6, 6/13, 6/20 (Rich Rehring), and 6/22 (John DeBalko); *Chester*: spotted during inventory of a property in Pennsbury Twp. 6/2 (Nick Pulcinella, m.ob.); one at Bucktoe Creek Preserve 6/4 (Larry Lewis, m.ob.); *Delaware*: one at Big Bend Farm in Chadds Ford 6/2 (m.ob.); *Lycoming*: heard at Algerine Swamp 6/21 (David Yeany); *Tioga*:

heard briefly at Reynolds Spring Natural Area 6/20 (Dan Brauning).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher – *Tioga*: male found singing in Algerine Swamp at border of *Lycoming* (David Yeany); was not relocated (Doug Gross, Dan Brauning); *Wyoming*: at least 4 singing males defending territories at Coalbed Swamp in Jun with 3 still vocalizing in early Jul; none detected in Tamarack Swamp, *Wyoming*, or Eagles Mere Swamp, *Sullivan* (Doug Gross, pers. com.).

Blackpoll Warbler – *Wyoming*: 15 active territories in SGL 57 including 7 at Coalbed Swamp, 7 at Tamarack Swamp (Red Brook section), and 1 at Opossum Swamp (Doug Gross, pers. com. with Eric Zawatski).

Clay-colored Sparrow – *Clarion*: not at traditional locations in Curllsville strips and Mt. Zion/Piney, but found at several new locations through season, notably the Volant Strip Grasslands (Margaret Higbee, Ron Montgomery, m.ob.); *Lawrence*: one at Volant Strip Mines 6/9 (Steve Gosser), remained at least through 7/8, with one or 2 more in the same area (Geoff Malosh); *Tioga*: singing on Old Bloss Rd. (Ken Cooper, Rich Hanlon, eBird, ph.).

Summer Tanager* – *Berks*: returned in May to Neversink Mt. near Reading, where 2 males and a female were present, clearly holding territories, but breeding not confirmed.

Red Crossbill – *Venango*: one in Seneca Woodland Heights 6/17 (Meg Kolodick, Nick Kolodick, ph.).

CORRIGENDUM

From the Spring issue, Vol. 30 No.2, a Short-billed Dowitcher report in *Bucks* from Nockamixon SP 5/1 should have been credited to Paul Cooper.



Trumpeter Swan (*Cygnus buccinator*). Now essentially annual, if rare, visitor to *Huntingdon*. This bird lingered from spring through at least 4 June, when photographed here at Old Crow Wetland. Elsewhere, a tagged pair continued from spring in *Schuylkill* and a single was briefly in *Clearfield*. How long before nesting in the state? (Rob Dickerson)



Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*). Mallard duckling at Marsh Creek SP, *Chester* 27 June. (Patricia Verbovsky)



Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*). From breeding colony in Harrisburg, *Dauphin* - this bird was on Front St. 5 July. Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were found breeding also in *Cumberland*; in addition, reported, with no breeding confirmation, from at least 5 other counties. (Ian Gardner)



Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*). Hen and chicks at Mahoning Creek, *Armstrong* 18 June. The trend in Pennsylvania's grouse population is still negative overall, in part probably because of West Nile Virus; however, PGC data suggests grouse bounce back quickly after low years in areas of good habitat, suggesting active management for grouse habitat will be important. (Anna Donato)



Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*). This immature bird was photographed by a kayaker on the Juniata R. at Mt. Union, *Huntingdon* 18 July, but could not be re-located. About the fifth county record. (Stacia Fe-Gillen)



Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*). Close-up at Marsh Creek, Chester 7 July. (Patricia Verbovsky)



Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*). Adult Little Blue Herons at Lake Redman, near Jacobus, York 2 June. An immature was there 22-23 June. (Dean Newhouse)



Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*). Little Blue Herons were found in at least 11 counties. This immature in *Huntingdon* was the only one northwest of *Dauphin*, found 13 July at Old Crow Wetland, staying into August. (Trudy Kyler)



Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*). Adult Piping Plover present at Gull Point, Presque Isle SP, *Erie* for several weeks, here 1 July. This bird was hatched and banded at North Manitou Island, Michigan in 2015. (Geoff Malosh)



Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*). One of 2 at Gull Point, Presque Isle SP, *Erie* 7 July. One was there 18 July. (Mary Birdsong)



Western Sandpiper (*Calidris mauri*). Adult Western Sandpiper at Bald Knob, *Allegheny* 14 July. Sixth record for *Allegheny*, all at Imperial Grasslands. All previous records were 1997-2005; this was the second documented by photo. (Geoff Malosh)



Sandhill Crane (*Grus Canadensis*). Two adults and 2 colts represented possible first confirmed breeding in *Wyoming*, at Sharpe's Lake, Jenningsville, with part of the family seen here 27 June. Outside of usual northwestern locations, cranes were also found in *Schuylkill* and *Montgomery*. (Bob Gallagher)



Barred Owl (*Strix varia*). Adult at Lackawanna State Park, Lackawanna 6 June. (Jack Harrington)



Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*). Rare look at this species on the ground, following a window strike. Note the tail bristles used to perch. Happily, this bird appeared to quickly recover and flew off, at Seneca, Venango 3 June. (Meg Kolodick)



Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*). Young Ruby-throat on nest in Unami Creek Valley, *Montgomery* 30 June. Two fledged, 1 July and 4 July. Ruby-throats usually lay two eggs, sometimes only one. (Kevin F. Crilley)



Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*). Juvenile on transmission tower at York Haven Hydro Facility, York 29 June. Adult falcons had commandeered an Osprey nest. Nesting and fledging were observed late April through mid-August. From 4 eggs hatched, two birds fledged. (Dean Newhouse)



Acadian Flycatcher (*Empidonax virescens*). Female nest building at Walker Park, *Allegheny* 27 May. (Geoff Malosh)



Great-crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus crinitus*). Mahoning Dam, Armstrong 18 June. (Anthony Bruno)



Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*). Core Creek Park, Bucks 3 July. (Dawn Denner)



White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus*). This shot of a singing White-eyed Vireo nicely displays the feature that provides this bird its name, at Great Marsh IBA, Chester 1 June. (Barry E. Blust)



Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*). Summer offers opportunities to see breeding warblers and newly fledged young. This Common Yellowthroat in Bear Creek Twp., Monroe 30 June could barely figure out its new wings as it perched along the roadside, parents keeping a watchful eye nearby (Scott Keys)



Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*). Adult at Canadohta Lake, Union City, Crawford 23 July. (Diane Aiken)



Veery (*Catharus fuscescens*). Heard far more often than seen during nesting, this cooperative Veery was in *Bradford* 2 June. (Kevin Raymond)



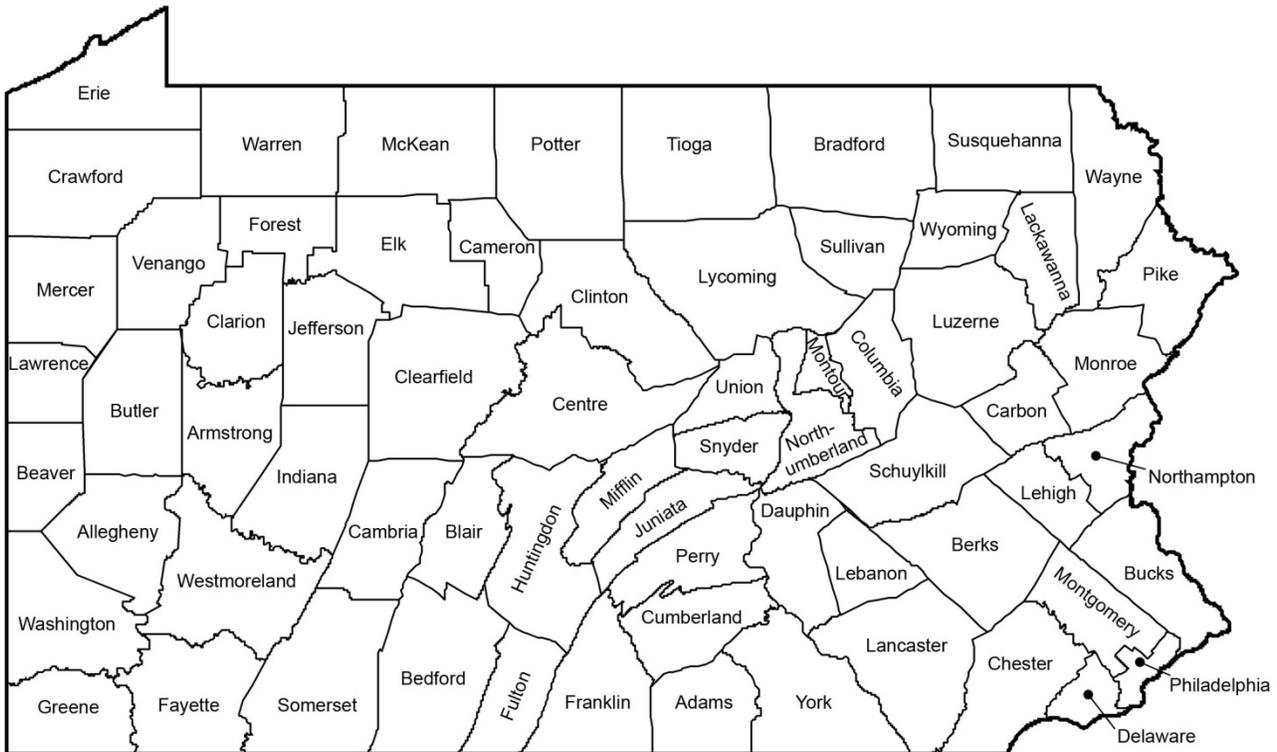
Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*). *Cumberland* is probably the most reliable county for breeding Dickcissels in the state. Multiple singing males were at 2 locations this season, with some successful nesting thanks to a farmer who delayed mowing. Dickcissels were found also in 5 other southeastern counties. This bird was at Hunter's Road, Lower Mifflin Twp. 6 June. (Dave Kerr)



Swamp Sparrow (*Melospiza georgiana*). Another usually uncooperative species, this juvenile Swamp Sparrow was at "The Muck" wetlands IBA, *Tioga* 16 July. (John Good)



Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*). This unusual summer visitor stopped on a sunflower feeder for ten minutes in *Seneca*, *Venango* 17 June. Red Crossbills are rare nesters in Pennsylvania. (Meg Kolodick)



ABBREVIATIONS

B.B.S.	Breeding Bird Survey	max	maximum	R.B.A.	Rare Bird Alert
C.A.	Conservation Area	min	minimum	Res.	Reservoir
C.B.C.	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).	juvinal [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 March 2014)

Adams County

Locations: Breeding Bird Survey Route #193 (BBS), Freedom Township Grasslands (FREE), Gettysburg National Military Park (GNMP), Michaux State Forest (MICH), State Game Lands # 249 (SGL)

Highlights for the period included 18 warbler species and 3 sites with **Dickcissels**. Also noteworthy was a hot July. The average temperature for the month at Harrisburg was 79.4F, 3.5 degrees above normal, the 5th warmest July on record. Fifteen days in July posted 90 plus degrees. The BBS comments refer to a June 13 run of BBS Route #193 in the Bendersville area by Andy Wilson.

Unexpected waterfowl were limited to a **Tundra Swan** at Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve until 6/2 (JW) and a female **American Black Duck** at SGL 6/17 (PK). Of the 4 **Wood Duck** reports (PK, PM, DS), high count was 20 at SGL 7/20 (PK). Recent years have produced limited reports of **Hooded Merganser** breeding in the county, so 3 juveniles at SGL 6/17 (PK) give further credence that "hoodies" can now be considered an isolated but established breeder in *Adams*.

The four reports (BO, DS, RDS) of **Wild Turkey** were all from the western portion of the county. High count was a hen with 7 poults at Mountain Rd 7/9 (RDS). Sometimes missed in this period, **Double-crested Cormorant** singles were at Lake Meade 6/4 (JV) and Crooked Creek Wetland 6/8 (PK). A small **Great Blue Heron** colony was found along Marsh Creek with 6 birds and 3 nests detected (*fide* RDS). The typical period for **Great Egret** dispersals produced observations of single birds at Peach Glen 7/20 (BO) and Littlestown 7/24 (PO). June reports for **Sharp-shinned Hawk** were uncommon, including one at FREE 6/18 (PM) and another at the Rt. 15/Rt. 97 interchange 6/24 (IC).

A nice summer count of 30 **Killdeer** came from GNMP fields 7/7 (DS, JW). Despite the hot July, rainfall was at or above normal levels, so shorebird viewing opportunities were very limited. A trio of **Least Sandpipers** were at the Gettysburg College quarry pond 7/21-27 (AW) while visit to Buttonwood Rd. farm ponds found a **Semipalmated Sandpiper** and three **Pectoral Sandpipers** 7/29 (PK).

A single **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was found at GNMP 6/15 (DV) and 3 were in the Pumping Station Rd. vicinity 6/19 (BP). The 10 reports of **Red-headed Woodpecker** are a bit on the low side. This compiler's casual observations seemed to indicate the eastern portion of the county did not hold as many as prior years. A Mountain Rd. property (RDS) held breeding

American Kestrels with 4 nestlings. The hosts were treated to comical post climbing efforts of the nestlings as they would fall to the ground and then climb the telephone pole woodpecker fashion to get back to the nest box. Of the 4 nestlings, 2 survived to fledge.

Overall flycatcher reporting was at a high level for this period. Most noteworthy were 10 **Eastern Wood-Pewees** on the BBS, 8 locales reporting **Acadian Flycatcher** (m.ob.), and 5 sites reporting **Willow Flycatcher** (m.ob.). **White-eyed Vireos** were at SGL 6/3-26 (DJG, BO) and GNMP 6/13-15 (DV). **Yellow-throated Vireos** were at SGL 6/20 (PK) and Long Pine Run Reservoir 7/10 (BO). Three locales produced **Warbling Vireo** reports (DJG, PK, BO, BP, AW) with a high count of 3 on the BBS. The 4 reports (DHi, AW, JW) of **Common Raven** included one from GNMP of 2 adults and 3 juveniles (AW). The county appeared to fare somewhat better than counties to the east reporting a wet and cold May having a major impact on the success of **Purple Martin** colonies. Although no count exceeded 12 birds there were 11 reports for the period (m.ob.).

The BBS produced the only **Horned Lark** report, with a total of 6. **Black-capped Chickadees** continue at the higher elevations, such as Tree Farm Lane 6/13 (IC) and at Long Pine Run Reservoir 6/27-7/7 (MB). Unusual for summer, a **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was heard 6/14 in MICH (SB). The 4 reports of **Veery** spanned 6/11-7/10 (MB, VB, BO, RDS) and all were at MICH. Long Pine Run Reservoir held a **Hermit Thrush** 7/27 (BO).

As noted in the opening comments, it was another positive summer for warbler reporting. A local rarity, a **Golden-winged Warbler** was at Chestnut Hill Farm 7/31 (JA) along with a **Chestnut-sided Warbler** also found on that visit (JA). A **Blue-winged Warbler** was at Tree Farm Lane 6/13 (IC). The forested higher (+900 feet) elevations produced reports of **Black-and-white Warbler** 6/11-7/27 (VB, DHi, BO, RDS), **Hooded Warbler** 6/13-7/12 (SB, IC, BO, RDS), **Cerulean Warbler** 6/13-15 (IC, JW), **Black-throated Blue Warbler** 6/11 (VB), **Pine Warbler** 6/11 and 7/10 (SB, VB, BO), **Black-throated Green Warbler** 6/11-7/4 (VB, DHi), and **Canada Warbler** 6/14 (RDS). Friends Creek Rd. held a pair of **Northern Parulas** 6/1-7/13 (JH) and a single was at SGL 6/26 (DJG). **Yellow-breasted Chat** was found at SGL 6/3 (BO) and up to 2 were at GNMP 6/15-26 (CB, MB, DV). Worm-eating Warbler was a miss.

A nice count of 10 **Scarlet Tanagers** came from MICH 7/27 (BO). Sparrow reporting was pretty typical for the period. The BBS found 27 **Chipping Sparrows**. **Savannah Sparrow** reports included 2 on the BBS and a single at Possum Hollow Rd. 6/20 and 7/12 (PK). **Grasshopper Sparrow** was found at four locales 6/13-7/31 (m.ob.) with a high of 4 at Possum Hollow Rd 7/9 and 7/12 (PK). **Swamp Sparrows** were at GNMP 7/20 (JM) and Chestnut Hill Farm 7/31 (JA). Single **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were found along the Old Lincoln Highway 6/10 (RN) and in a backyard outside of York Springs 6/6-12 (DJG). The 2 **Blue Grosbeak** reports showed site fidelity carrying over from prior years, one at the Wenksville Rd./Shippensburg Rd. intersection 6/7 (BO) and a single at a Fairfield Rd. property most of the period (RR). Common, and often treated as an afterthought, 28 **Indigo Buntings** were detected on the BBS.

The county was treated to the presence of **Dickcissels** at three sites. The first report came from the FREE area along Cunningham, Bigham, and Pumping Station Rds. 6/18-26 (CB, IC, PM, BP, AW). Up to 4 singing males were detected but no further observations were made to suggest nesting took place. The second report came from Possum Hollow Rd. 6/25-7/31 (CB, PK, JM, BO, DS, JW), where up to 2 males and one female were nest building 7/25. However, a number of subsequent visits produced no evidence that nesting was successful. The final report came from a soybean field near Trailways Speedway off Hoover Rd. 7/15-22 (DF, GS). Four birds were tallied during the 7/15 visit, with a female and juveniles present (DF). This latter report suggests there was a possibility of successful nesting in 2016. This compiler made frequent visits to the Possum Hollow Rd. site and was educated and treated to the singing endurance and use of favored and conspicuous perches when this species is on breeding territory. Six **Bobolinks** were at FREE 6/18 (PM) and a single was along Crum Rd. 7/22 (JH). Six locales held **Eastern Meadowlark** with high counts of 11 at FREE 6/18 (PM), 9 at Possum Hollow Rd. 7/29 (PK), and 7 on the BBS. The 4 reports of **Orchard Oriole** and 9 reports of **Baltimore Oriole** were paced by BBS counts of 7 and 6, respectively.

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Allegheny County

Locations: Dashields Dam (DD), Harrison Hills Park (HHP), North Park (NP).

A late **Red-breasted Merganser** was at DD 6/5 (MV). Present since May, a lingering **Common Loon** was on the Allegheny R. at Sharpsburg 7/20 (JHA). There was an eBird report of a **Black-crowned Night-Heron**, described well, at NP 7/28 (BP). The **Osprey** nest at Neville Island produced 3 chicks this year (PB, MV).

There was exciting rail news this season. **Virginia Rails** were confirmed breeding in the county for the first time this summer. Birds have been present at Imperial during previous breeding seasons and suspected of breeding, but were never confirmed. Several were heard this spring at Wingfield Pines and in June an adult was observed feeding a chick (DW, ST, GM, m.ob.). Wingfield Pines is an Allegheny Land Trust mitigation wetland in Upper St. Clair used to treat acid mine drainage. There are a series of ponds used to capture the iron oxide using a passive treatment system. The lower pond is the cleanest and it is this pond the birds used. Trails weave through the area and it's a popular place for walking dogs, running, and enjoying open space. The birds were often right on one of the trails that bi-sects the marsh feeding the chick earthworms. Later in the season, 2 juveniles were seen repeatedly crossing the trail 7/9 (MF) and at least one was seen through July (FK, et al.). A **Sora** was heard calling at the site well into June but breeding was never confirmed (DW, ST).

Southbound shorebirds began to appear in mid-July. All sightings were from Imperial and include 2 **Lesser Yellowlegs** 7/10 (MV), a **Solitary Sandpiper** 7/14 (GM), a **Sempalmated Sandpiper** 7/15 (GM), and a **Least Sandpiper** 7/10 (MV), 3 on 7/14 (GM) and 2 on 7/16 (MF). A **Western Sandpiper** stopped at Imperial for a day 7/14 providing the sixth county record. All records of this species have been from Imperial. An **American Woodcock** provided a nice summer find at NP 6/12 (DP).

The **Herring Gull** colony is alive and well on the Highland Park Bridge. A total of 91 adults and 38 juveniles were counted 7/4 (SK). A chick was in a nest at DD 6/2 (MV). Two **Forster's Terns** at DD 6/19 were unusual given the late date (MV). The only **Black-billed Cuckoo** was at Churchill 6/6 (HK), but **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were widely reported. **Common Nighthawks** were found at several locations in the Allegheny River Valley in June (SK, MF, STh, SuT), including one in Bridgeville the first week of June (RT).

Willow Flycatchers were still heard calling at Imperial this summer despite continued development (MF). A **Common Raven** was at Imperial 7/14 (GM), but while still in the area it seems I'm receiving fewer reports of ravens recently. The nest at Imperial was not used this year. A **Blue Jay** captured and killed a **House Sparrow** in Monroeville 6/29 (MF). It decapitated the bird, ate part of the head and flew off with it. The headless body was left at the site of the attack.

A **Purple Martin** in Plum 6/4 (PM) was a surprise because they don't nest in that area. Perhaps it was a scout. They do nest fairly close to that area at the Natrona Dam along the Allegheny R. The new colony at HHP did well this year, although a black rat snake took a few young (the colony monitors set up netting to thwart future predation). Ten **Bank Swallows** were observed at a quarry along RT. 51 in Stowe Twp. 6/26 (MV) where they were confirmed breeding during the atlas. This is currently the only known breeding location in the county. Two **Cliff Swallow** chicks were in a nest at NP 7/4 (OM) - the only known breeding site in the county and just discovered a few years ago. One was at Imperial 7/10 (MV).

There were two reports of **Brown Creeper**, indicating possible breeding, or at least birds on territory, which is rare here. One was heard singing at Walker Park in Sewickley 6/25 (GM) and one was in Allison Park 7/27 (fide BMu). The last summer record was in June 2012. A **Bewick's Wren** was reported at Boston 7/15 (JP) but was not seen again, and should be reviewed by PORC. Quite a surprise in Natrona Heights, a **Hermit Thrush** was heard singing at sunset 7/3 (PH).

A male **Black-and-white Warbler** was seen at HHP 6/22 (MF), a known breeding location in the county. A pair of **Chestnut-sided Warblers** was discovered breeding in NP 6/15 (DP) and later birds were seen carrying food. The last nesting occurred in 2004 (GM). A **Kentucky Warbler** was heard singing at HHP 6/22 (MF) and they were also present at another regular breeding site, Sewickley Heights Park (GM, m.ob.). Two **Yellow-breasted Chats** were singing at NP in June (DP, GM, MF). A large area where **Prairie Warblers** nest at Imperial has been wiped out as construction of industrial parks continues.

Savannah and **Grasshopper Sparrows** continue at Imperial amid the continued development. A juvenile **Purple Finch** was at Pine Twp. 6/13, a

pair was there 6/16, a female 6/19, and a juvenile again 6/22 (PL, SL). This is the only location in the county in recent years that has hosted breeding **Purple Finches**.

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Armstrong County

Locations: Allegheny River (AR), Armstrong Trail (AT), Cochran's Mill (CM), Creek Road (CR), Crooked Creek (CC), Elderton (ELD), Iron Bridge Road (IB), Keystone Reservoir (KR), Kittanning (KT), Leechburg (LB), Lock and Dam (L&D), Mahoning Creek Lake (MCL), Murphy's Bottom (MB), New Bethlehem (NB) Nicholson Run Road (NR), Parks Bend Farm (PBF), Polka Hollow Road (PH), Rearicks Road (RRD), Roaring Run (RR), Robbs Fording Road (RF) Rosston (RT), SGL 137, SGL 247, Worthington (WT).

Not as many **Wood Duck** sightings were reported as usual this season, but a hen and 4 chicks were at MCL 6/20 (AD), 7 including fledglings on the AT 7/11 (MH, RH, FM), and a hen and 6 young in WT 7/17 (MVT). The only **American Black Ducks** were 8 on the Redbank Creek in NB 7/31 (AK, JK). A hen **Common Merganser** and 7 young were at MCL 6/2 (AD) and 5 were observed on the Armstrong Trail 7/6 (MH, RH, FM). Best report of **Ruffed Grouse** was a hen with 7 chicks at MCL 6/3 (AD, ph.). First **Double-crested Cormorant** was reported in NB 6/9 (photo, AK, DK), one was observed on the Cowashannok Creek 6/26 (TR), and 3 were at MCL 6/26 (AD). A **Green Heron** was in NB near the VFW 7/2 (AK, JK), one on Buffalo Creek in WT 7/17 (MVT), and 2 juveniles at PBF pond 7/30 (MVT) where 3 were seen later that day (SG).

Three **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were noted at MCL 6/19 (AD, CG). Three **Bald Eagles** were reported at MCL 6/26 (AD), 4 at Girty on Crooked Creek (2 adults, 2 fledglings) 6/26 (TB), 3 at KR 7/2 (NB, KB), and one fledgling was observed above the nest at CC 7/17 (MVT, ph.). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** fledgling appeared at CC 6/20 (MVT) and one adult was seen there 6/22 (AD). A **Northern Harrier** was near MCL 6/6 (AD).

A **Killdeer** pair with 4 eggs was observed at PBF 6/1 (MVT, ph.) and on 6/16 4 fledglings were seen with 2 adults, and 2 were noted copulating at CC 6/18 (MVT). A nice count of 11 was reported at KR 7/2 (NB, KB). The only **American Woodcock** was on the AT, 7/11 (MH, RH, FM). A **Spotted Sandpiper** was at KT 7/7 (MH), one at MCL 7/30 and one on Redbank Creek in NB (AK, JK). A lone **Lesser Yellowlegs** was on mudflats at CC 7/17 (MVT).

A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was in KT 6/4 (MH, RH), one was heard at MCL 6/18 (MVT), and observed 6/23 (photo, AK, JK), 3 including a pair on the AT 7/11 (MH, RH, FM), and one in WT 7/17 (MVT, ph.). Single **Black-billed Cuckoos** were noted near CM 6/20 (SG), in WT 7/3 (TR), on the AT 7/6 (MH, RH, FM), and at MB 7/27 (BP).

A lone **Eastern Screech Owl** was at Buffalo Creek 7/17 (DH). **Barred Owls** were observed on Woodland Rd. 6/3 (photo, MVT) and from Buffalo Creek 7/17 (DH). A lone **Northern Saw-Whet Owl** was at Buffalo Creek also on 7/17 (DH). Eleven **Chimney Swifts** were in Dayton 6/4 (MH, RH), a high count of 15 was made on the AT 7/17 (TR), and only 3 at CC 7/18 (MD). The only **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were 2 near KT 6/4 (MH, RH). **Peregrine Falcons** fledged 3 young at KT, 3 were photographed near Manorville 7/1 (TB) and 2 there 7/17 (MVT).

High count of 6 **Eastern Wood Pewees** was from the AT 7/11 (MH, RH, FM). An **Acadian Flycatcher** was at CC 6/8 (AB), 4 at CM 6/20 (SG), 3 near KT 6/26 (TR), and 2 at MCL 6/28 (MVT). A **Willow Flycatcher** was near Dayton 6/4 (MH, RH) and one at SGL 247 on 7/10 (TR). A **Least Flycatcher** was at MCL 6/18 and 2 on PH 6/27-7/9 (MVT). A **Great Crested Flycatcher** pair fed young at MCL 6/18 (photo, MVT) and again 6/23 (AK, JK, ph.). One **White-eyed Vireo** was near PH 6/27 (MVT), one on the AT north of Dam 8 on 7/11 (MH, RH, FM), and 3 on the RVT 7/12 (AK, JK). A **Yellow-throated Vireo** was at PH 7/9 (MVT), one on the AT 7/11 (MH, RH, FM), and one near Templeton 7/17 (TR). High counts of **Red-eyed Vireo** included 13 at SGL 247 on 7/10 (TR) and 25 on the AT (MH, RH, FM). Four **Common Ravens** (2 adults, 2 fledglings) were at CC, where they nested in past years, on 6/27 (MVT).

Two **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were in WT 6/19 (TR), one on the AT near KT 7/7 (MH, RH), and 3 at MCL 7/10 (AK, JK). The only

Bank Swallows were 4 on Walker Flats Rd. 6/20 (MVT). At least 8 **Cliff Swallows** were going in and out of mud nests on Walker Flats Rd., feeding young 6/20 (MVT) after discovery of the nest site on an earlier date (AK, JK). The only **Hermit Thrush** was at MCL 7/10 (AK, JK). Numerous **Wood Thrush** reports included a high of 12 on the AT (MH, RH, FM).

Three **Louisiana Waterthrushes** were noted near CM 6/20 (SG), one near a farm in Apollo 7/5 (GF), and one on the AT 7/6 (MH, RH). A **Blue-winged Warbler** was near KT 6/4 (MH, RH), one at CM 6/20 (SG), and one at IB 6/26 (TR). Two **Black-and-white Warblers** were at MCL 6/18 (MVT) where one was noted also 6/23 (AK, JK), 3 appeared at CM 6/20 (SG), a high of 11 were on the AT 7/11 (MH, RH, FM), and one at CC 7/17 (MVT). The only **Cerulean Warblers** were 2 near CM 6/20 (SG) and 2 on the AT Rimer to Redbank Junction 7/1 (MH, RH, FM). One **Northern Parula** was near CM 6/20 (SG), 2 were near KT 6/26 (TR), and 2 were on the AT 7/1 (MH, RH). Only one **Yellow-throated Warbler** was reported, near CM 6/20 (SG). One **Yellow-breasted Chat** was on Rearicks Rd. near PH 6/17 and 2 were there 6/27 (MVT).

Six **Field Sparrows** were at WT 6/19 (TR), 4 at CC 6/20 (MVT), and 5 at MCL 6/23 (AK, JK). The only **Dark-eyed Juncos** were 2 at Dry Ridge, Mt. Tabor Cemetery (AK, JK). A **Savannah Sparrow** was on Robb's Fording Rd. near CC 6/1 (TM) and one was near KT 6/4 (MH, RH). One **Swamp Sparrow** was at PH 7/9 and one on the AT north of Dam 8 on 7/11 (MH, RH, FM). **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were reported from 5 locations (m.ob.). Two **Bobolinks** were on RF 6/1 (TM) and one near KT on 6/4 (MH, RH). Seven **Eastern Meadowlarks** were at MCL 6/13 (AD), one on RF 6/11 (TM), 7 at WT 7/3 and 3 adults and 4 fledglings were observed at MCL 7/8 (AD). One **Orchard Oriole** was near KT 6/4 (MH, RH), one at WT 6/19 (TR), 3 at IB (TR), and one at RF 7/14 (TM). Eleven **Baltimore Orioles** on the AT 7/11 provided the high count (MH, RH, FM).

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Beaver County

Locations: Independence Marsh (IND), New Brighton (NB), Raccoon Creek State Park (RCSP).

Three **Common Mergansers** appeared on the Beaver R. at NB 6/18 and remained to at least 7/24 (MV). They were joined by 4 **Double-crested Cormorants** 7/24 (MV). A survey of **Osprey** nests 7/1 (MV) produced 3 young at both Beaver R. nests (at Beaver Falls and near NB) and at the Midland nest. No report of the Aliquippa nest was made this summer. The long-standing nest on the Ohio R. at Potter Twp. is long gone due to extensive construction and development in the area. Two **Bald Eagles** were near NB through at least 6/5 but no known nesting attempt was made there (TJ). An immature was seen near Montgomery Lock and Dam 6/25 (MV). **Red-shouldered Hawk** was noted in RCSP 6/19 (TH) and 6/25 (GM). **Broad-winged Hawk** also there 6/3 (MW) and 6/19 (TH).

Shorebird conditions at IND were briefly very promising in the second half of July before heavy rains inundated the impoundment. Most notable were record numbers of **Solitary Sandpipers**. Beginning with a count of 29 on 7/17 (MV), numbers steadily increased until there were 64 present 7/29 (GM). This total tied the highest known count in Pennsylvania history and of course also set a *Beaver* record; another count of 64 was made at North Park Lake, *Allegheny* 5/6/2010 when that lake was drawn down for dredging. An estimated count of 66 Solitaries was made at IND 7/31 (AB) with the observer speculating that there may have been as many as 80 present. Unfortunately, this was also the day of heavy rains that more or less ended the shorebird season an IND all too soon. The only other reports of migrant shorebirds at IND were one or 2 **Semipalmated Plovers** 7/30-31 (DP), up to 4 **Lesser Yellowlegs** 7/17-31 (MV, GM, et al.), and up to 7 **Least Sandpipers** 7/17-31 (MV, GM, et al.). Two adult **Ring-billed Gulls** were arrivals at NB 7/23 (MV).

As usual, several reports of **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were made, but none at all of Black-billed Cuckoo. A begging juvenile **Barred Owl** was reported at RCSP 6/3 (MW). Reports of **Common Nighthawk** were limited to one over Ambridge 6/6 and 7/20 (MV) and one at Fombell 7/29 (DK). At least 4 **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were calling at SGL 285 after dusk 6/24 (GM). The **Red-headed Woodpeckers** at the Madden Run Marsh were seen at a nest hole 6/19 (MV), providing a rare confirmation of breeding for

this species in *Beaver*. One was still there 7/3 (TJ). No report of the nesting **Peregrine Falcons** was made this summer other than a sight report of 2 adults on the Monaca high tension towers 6/4 (MV). However, interesting news on a past Monaca hatchling was received; 02/BR Black/Green, a female banded as a chick at Monaca 5/21/2014, nested this year in downtown Lexington, Kentucky (*fide* AM). She was mated with a male that hatched nearby in Kentucky.

A **Purple Martin** was reported at the former Hereford Manor Lake site 6/25 where they formerly nested. Four **Bank Swallows** were noted near Montgomery Dam, outside a now-posted area that hosted a large colony in years past, evidence that the birds still seem to be there. An entire day spent birding RCSP 6/19 was very fruitful (TH). Highlights included a singing **Veery** (rare in the park), **Black-and-white Warbler** (also rare), at least 12 **Ovenbirds**, 8 **American Redstarts**, 3 **Cerulean Warblers**, and 2 **Northern Parulas**. Best of all was a singing **Worm-eating Warbler** documented by audio recording in a seldom-birded section of the park (TH). Worm-eaters have not been detected summering in RCSP since the early 2000s. **Black-throated Green Warbler** summered again, but again was not directly confirmed as a breeder; singles were noted 6/3 (MW) and 6/25 (GM). A **Purple Finch** graced an Economy yard 6/1 (KD).

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Bedford County

No report

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Berks County

Locations: Blue Marsh L. (BML), Lake Ontelaunee (LO), Monument and Mountain Rds., Hamburg (M&M), Rodale Experimental Farm, Maxatawny Twp. (Rodale), State Game Lands 106 and 110, Kittatinny Ridge (SGL).

A family of **Snow Geese** (initially 4, then 3 when one died) spent the summer at Gotwals pond, Oley (RK). Summering by small numbers like this has become expected. A **Mute Swan** pair with 3 cygnets was at LO 7/5 (RK). The swan flock there remains small after culling a few years ago. A **Gadwall** at LO 6/17 (MS) and 2 **Ruddy Ducks** at LO 6/5 (RK) were late migrants. A **Blue-winged Teal** at a pond in Marion Twp. 6/28 (RK) and 2 **Green-winged Teal** at LO 7/30 (RK) were likely non-breeders spending the summer. Both species have summered previously. **Common Mergansers** were seen in June and July on the Schuylkill R. near Hamburg, where nesting has occurred in recent years (KG).

A female **Ruffed Grouse** and 5 small chicks were seen at SGL 110, Northkill Gap 6/22 (KG). The Kittatinny Ridge is the last stronghold of the species in Berks. Two late adult **Common Loons** were at LO 6/5 (RK, MSp), and an immature bird spent July and part of Aug at LO (RK, MSp), a fairly regular occurrence. **Pied-billed Grebes** have bred in *Berks*, but one at Hay Cr. 7/22 (JT) and 2 at LO 7/30 and later (RK) were non-breeders. About 6 immature **Double-crested Cormorants** spent the summer at LO (RK, MSp), as some do every year. There was a fairly strong movement of **Great Egrets** starting in late June. Small numbers visited ponds and streams in July, and up to 10 were seen at a few places, most regularly LO, through the period. A white **Little Blue Heron** was at Lowland Rd. pond, Hamburg 7/15 (PJW) and 2 were at nearby Kernsville Dam 7/18 (KG).

This is the second summer in which no nests of **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were reported. A few adults were seen at LO and BML as usual in June and July, but no birds were reported from Wyomissing Hills, the Reading suburb where the last known nesting colony was located. As last year, the only evidence that they nested was the presence of a few juvenile birds at BML and LO in July and Aug. The highest count of juveniles at BML was 7, fewer than last year, in early Aug (JS).

As in most years, a few non-breeding **Ospreys** were reported in July. A **Red-shouldered Hawk** heard frequently in July at Baldy Hill, District Twp. (CE) and birds seen at Hay Cr. 6/17 and 7/22 (PJW) were in areas where breeding has previously occurred. **Broad-winged Hawks** were reported from at least 7 known or probable breeding locations, an indication that this agricultural county still has enough large forest tracts to support a healthy population.

A late migrating **American Coot** was at Gotwals pond, Oley 6/3-5 (RK). An **Upland Sandpiper**, a former breeder that is now rarely seen, made a brief migratory stopover in a pasture at Rodale 7/16 (MSc), but found the next morning. Muddy pond margins were narrow and intermittently flooded fields were dry, so there was little habitat to attract southbound shorebirds. Only a few **Least Sandpipers** and **Solitary Sandpipers** were reported 7/23-27 (EB, RK, MSc, JT). About a dozen **Ring-billed Gulls**, the usual number, spent the summer at BML (JS), but these gulls are rarely seen anywhere else in the county at this time of year.

Four **Eurasian Collared-Doves**, 2 of them apparently paired, were perched on the wires in Shartlesville 7/17 (RK). The colony still shows no sign of expansion. **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were widespread but especially common on the Kittatinny Ridge, where gypsy moths and native caterpillars defoliated (and killed) many oaks. A few **Black-billed Cuckoos** also were reported, mostly on the ridge. According to the PGC, 19 nestling **Barn Owls** were banded in 6 nests in Berks this year (DM). **Barn Owl** productivity was better statewide than last year, when the lowest number of young were banded since the inception of the project in 2005 (DM). **Barred Owls** were heard in District Twp., Longswamp Twp. and Nolde Forest. They may slowly be expanding their range. The only **Common Nighthawk** was a migrant in southern Berks 6/12 (AZ). Two **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were heard 6/15 (KG) at SGL 110, Northkill Gap, their sole remaining breeding area in Berks.

Red-headed Woodpeckers were found at 6 known breeding locations. At Bastian Rd. near Bowers, 5 adults, some excavating cavities, were seen 7/1 (SF). At Kauffman Rd, Oley Twp., a pair was feeding young 6/25 in the same cavity they used last year (RK). Either this nest failed or the birds produced a second brood because the same pair was feeding a large nestling in another cavity in mid-August (RK). Reading's **Peregrine Falcon** pair fledged 4 young.

The county's largest known population of **Acadian Flycatchers** is in the cool streamside hemlock-rhododendron ravine above Hamburg Reservoir on the Kittatinny Ridge, where 13-14 were heard 6/29-7/16 (KG, RK). The hemlocks are slowly dying from hemlock woolly adelgid feeding, so it is questionable how long this localized habitat will persist. Acadians are thinly distributed in the large deciduous Piedmont forest in southern Berks. Out-of-range **Alder Flycatchers** were singing at Neversink Mt. Trail near Reading 6/3,10 (JT) and, as last year, at SGL 106 on 6/4 (DA). Though these may simply have been late migrants, males sometimes establish territories for varying periods without successfully breeding.

Four **Blue-headed Vireos**, a Kittatinny Ridge specialty here, were heard in the same ravine as the Acadian Flycatchers 7/1 (RK). A family of 2 adult and 2 fledgling **Common Ravens** were seen in District Twp. in June (RK) and both adult and immature ravens were seen in Hamburg all period (KG). A pair has been seen around BML all year (JS). Ravens seem to be consolidating their new range in the county, and have quickly learned to exploit the same dumpster and garbage heap food sources as gulls and crows. **Horned Larks** were reported and sometimes confirmed breeding at the same places as grassland sparrows and **Dickcissels** (see below).

There were no reports of Bank Swallows from the only known *Berks* breeding colony at Hay Cr., perhaps because there were few visits by birders this season. The long established **Cliff Swallow** colonies all were active, with peak counts of 60 birds at LO dam (RK) and 80 at Hamburg (KG) at the height of the season. There was a small flurry of **Red-breasted Nuthatch** reports from 7 scattered locations 6/22-7/12. The species doesn't breed in *Berks*, so these were probably early wanderers from further north. A **Winter Wren** was singing at SGL 110 on 7/2 (ZM) and a **Hermit Thrush** sang there 6/22 (KG). Both are at the southeastern edge of their Pennsylvania range on the northern fringe of Berks.

Warblers requiring early successional scrub were reported at highest density from SGL 106, Pine Swamp Rd. High counts of singing males included 4 **Blue-winged Warblers**, 5 **Prairie Warblers**, 3 **Yellow-breasted Chats**, a few **Chestnut-sided Warblers**, and many **Common Yellowthroats**. Uncommon **Kentucky Warblers** were heard at their two longest occupied locations at SGL 106 and French Creek SP. The Schuylkill R. floodplain had the most **American Redstarts** and **Northern Parulas**. Up to 6 of the former and 4 of the latter were found along the Exeter Scenic River Trail in June. A few **Black-throated Blue Warblers** and **Black-throated Green Warblers** were on the Kittatinny Ridge, to which they are confined in Berks. Up to 4 of the latter were heard in the hemlock-rhododendron ravine at Hamburg Reservoir in July (KG, RK, PJW).

A **White-throated Sparrow** was seen in Hamburg 6/13 (KG), 2 were at Hamburg Reservoir 7/1 (PJW) and one visited a feeder near Bechtelsville 7/12,13 (JK). Such summer stragglers are unusual but not unprecedented. Grassland sparrows, Dickcissels and icterids were attracted in good numbers to large timothy grass hayfields at M&M and to extensive grass pastures at Rodale and neighboring farms in June and July. Both sites were visited by many birders. Because the hayfields were not cut until late June

and July and because the pastures were not overgrazed, most of these species successfully bred. Singing male **Grasshopper Sparrows** numbered 7-8 at M&M and up to 6 at Rodale, with several breeding confirmations. As many as 7 **Savannah Sparrows** were found at M&M and 11 at Rodale, also with breeding confirmations. Counts of 1-3 **Vesper Sparrows** were made at both locations, and these birds, which prefer open ground in their breeding habitat, were also found in the row crop farmland of western Berks. **Blue Grosbeaks** were found at both sites, with breeding confirmed at M&M when 2 adults were seen tending 3 fledglings 7/13 (KG).

In an appearance similar to the one they made near Virginville in 2014, **Dickcissels** colonized Rodale and M&M in June and July. At M&M, 1-3 males were reported singing on various days 6/25-7/8 (KG, m.ob.). The last of the hayfields were being cut on the latter date. At Rodale, the maximum number of birds reported was 5, with up to 3 males and 2 females seen on various days 6/14-7/13, the last date on which a male was heard fitfully singing. These numbers, like those in 2014, were high in the context of the long history of occurrence of Dickcissels in Berks, which goes back to the late 19th Century. Because the Rodale pastures were grazed in rotation, there was always tall grass habitat available for breeding by Dickcissels, but as in 2014, breeding was not confirmed.

Summer Tanagers returned in May to Neversink Mt., Reading, where a pair held a territory last summer (JD). (See PB v29 #3, p162 for a description of the Neversink habitat and the history of the species in Berks.) This year 2 males and a female were present. One of the males sang almost constantly from exposed perches at the edge of the forest along a powerline right-of-way 6/29-7/10 (RK) and was thought to be unmated. A second male on an adjoining territory sang much less often, spending much time feeding from the canopy down to the ground. It was never seen carrying food to a nest or a hidden fledgling. A female, presumably the mate, sometimes interacted with this male and foraged near him. As last summer, these birds were clearly holding territories, but again breeding was not confirmed.

Bobolinks nested successfully at M&M, where the high count was 19 birds 7/4 (RK), and at Rodale, where 13 were seen 7/13 (RK). Both flocks contained immature birds. Bobolinks also had some nesting success at a large fallow field in Douglass Twp., though it was cut in mid-June (RK). **Eastern Meadowlarks** were fewer, with up to 6 at M&M (breeding confirmed), 2 at Rodale and 2 at Douglass Twp. in June and July.

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Blair County

No report

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Bradford County

Locations: Echo Beach Rd. on the south side of the Susquehanna River downriver from Wysox (EBR), Graham Rd., Canton (GRR), Mt. Pisgah State Park (MPSP), Susquehanna River (SUR), Trudy Gerlach farm near New Era (TNE), Wysox Fish & Boat Access (at south end of Craftmaster Rd. south of Wysox) (WFB).

The weather this summer was extremely hot with long dry periods. A **Ring-necked Pheasant** with ten chicks was seen on Fenton Rd. 6/18 (DS). A **Double-crested Cormorant** was on the SUR at Towanda 7/18 (SR). A number of **Great Egrets** were observed along the SUR at Towanda 6/18 and 7/18 (SR), and 6 were on the island across from EBR (DN, KN). On 7/21 a **Green Heron** was at Sayre (DL).

Bald Eagles were reported at Ulster 6/3 (KR) and 6/18 (DS). **Broad-winged Hawk** observations came from east of New Era 7/14-15, where nesting has been long suspected (TG) and on 7/31 one perched on a chimney on Woods Rd. (KC). On 7/6 a **Red-shouldered Hawk** was calling east of TNE where suspected nesting has also occurred for some years (TG). A very unusual sighting for this time of year was a **Golden Eagle** eating dead fish on island off EBR (DN, doc needed).

Sandhill Cranes continue, with a juvenile seen close to farm buildings in the Wilmot-Hollenback area 6/20 (JW, RW), 2 near Burke Rd. 6/22, on SR2009 on 6/22 (BB), and 4 on Higley Rd. near Marsh Rd. 7/16 (DC). An

American Woodcock was displaying quite late in the season at TNE 7/31 (TG). On 7/16 a **Black-billed Cuckoo** was at GRR (LF). A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** "whine" call was heard on Peck Hill, north of Rome 7/15 (AV, GV) and near Hollenback (BG). A single and sometimes a pair of **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were in a backyard in the Athens area 7/29-8/15 (MA). Two separate **Merlins** were found in close proximity: one in the N. Main St., Athens vicinity 6/15 (BH) and a pair in Sayre 6/29 (CaH, ChH).

Two **Alder Flycatchers** were at Carbon Run Rd, Barclay Mt. 6/18 (NF). Seven **Fish Crows** were seen at Tioga Point Cemetery, Athens 6/15 (BH). Seven **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were flying above a field at TNE 6/22 (TG) and one there 6/24 (TG, JS).

A **Cerulean Warbler** was singing at PEH 7/5 (AV, GV). Two **Vesper Sparrows** were seen at Fairview Rd, W. Burlington 7/17 (AM). At the very end of July, 2 **Pine Siskin** were observed on Falsely Hill Rd. Monroeton 7/31 (SR) and one at PEH 7/30-31 (AV, GV).

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Bucks County

Locations: Churchville Park (CVP), Delaware River (Del. R.), Nockamixon State Park (NSP), Peace Valley Park (PVP), Penn-Warner Tract (PWT), Rohm and Haas, Bristol (RHS), State Game Land #157 (SGL157).

The temperature was 1.4°F above normal for June and 2.7°F above for July. Rainfall varied greatly as usual this time of year, with the nearby Trenton, New Jersey measurements being 2.3 inches below normal for June and 2.5 inches above for July. The total count of species reported was 144 plus one hybrid for the two-month period. Breeding status for this year was 84 species confirmed, 22 probable, and 7 possible. Knowledge of breeding status was helped by breeding status code entries in eBird. As usual, historical references are from *Birds of Bucks County* by Ken Kitson 1998 and subsequent updates recorded in this journal. Weather statistics are from NOAA at nearby Trenton, NJ. The stated normal reference period used on the NOAA web site is based on the recent three decades 1981-2010.

Most late migrants or out of season waterfowl are unusual but not unprecedented. This year produced more than usual. A female or juv. **Ring-necked Duck** was at NSP starting 7/10 (MS, ph.) and continued through the month (PT, AM). Another was at PVP 7/24 (KR, *fide* DF). A **Lesser Scaup** was at PWT-Franklin Cove 6/26 (DF). A male **Bufflehead** was late at Morrisville 6/2 (JP). Presumably the same male **Common Goldeneye** that lingered in spring at Morrisville, was detected again starting 7/9 (BB, ph.) and continued through the end of the month molting into eclipse plumage (JP ph., BK ph.). This is our first summer report. There was conjecture that it was injured (DF). Although a regular summer resident, a kayak trip on the Del. R. between Tinicum Park and Lumberville found one female **Common Merganser** with 65 juvs. in tow and another with 30 juvs. (DA, DF). The other parent females must have been off taking a break. A **Hooded Merganser** with 8 juvs. was near Quakertown Swamp 6/24 (DF). This might be the same family reported in the spring at the swamp. One was at Pine Run Dam 7/23 (DF). Breeding was proven for the first time in the county in 2015. One **Ruddy Duck** was at PVP 6/7 (EL), and it or another set a new spring late date at nearby Pine Run Dam 6/14 (BK). **Common Loons** lingered into June at PVP, with one adult and 3 first-year birds last reported 6/4-5 (BV, AM). One in alternate plumage was surprising at PWT-Franklin Cove 7/9 (MG). A **Pied-billed Grebe** at PVP 7/6 (BK ph.) provided the only report.

Some of the **Great Blue Heron** colony nest counts (DA, VD, DF, AM, JM) included: Morgan Cr. 37; NSP 39; Quakertown Swamp 6; Three Mile Run 19; Mill Cr./Holland 6, Mill Cr./Warrington 6. Counts from at least three other known sites were not reported. The single nest at CVP last year was unoccupied this year. **Great Egret** was reported from 12 sites, with 3 in Jun: one bird at Upper Makefield Firehouse 6/6 (MG) and 6/22 (HD), one at CVP 6/11 (VD), and 7 at RHS 6/26 (DF). July had many egrets with the high counts being 14 at Core Creek Park 7/16 (DF), 4 at a Plumstead Twp. pond 7/19 (EK), 5 at NSP 7/24 (DF), 39 at RHS 7/25 (DF), and 5 at Bradford Dam 7/28 (MG, RS). Juv. **Little Blue Herons** made an unusual showing away from the lower county. One **Little Blue Heron** was at PVP 7/8 (HB, FB, RF, EL), and 7/21 (HB, FB). Possibly the same bird was at a nearby pond in

Plumstead Twp. 7/9-26 (EK). PVP had 4 on 7/15 (ph. *fide* AM) and 6 on 7/16 (AR ph.). Two were at RHS 7/16 and stayed through the month (DF), as did 2 at Bradford Dam starting 7/22 (AM, m.ob.), and one at CVP starting 7/23 (HD, m.ob.). One was at Morrisville 7/28 (BK). **Snowy Egret** was at RHS from 7/16 through the month, with the high of 5 on 7/23-24 (DF). A rare **Cattle Egret** at PWT-Franklin Cove 6/4 (MG ph.) provided a new spring late date. One at RHS 7/23-24 (DF) was another surprise. One **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was at Silver Lake Park 7/24 (DF) where the species can be found any time of year but breeding has not been proven. Otherwise, the post breeding dispersal numbers in recent years have been scarce, with only one at PRN 7/15 (KR). An adult **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** at NSP 6/19 (PC) was later than our spring previous late date of 6/3 and earlier than our fall previous early-arrival date of 7/5. It was later learned that a nest of this species was in the park, but it apparently was not successful (NSP staff, unknown observer ph., *fide* DF). This is the first known nesting in the county. Presumably one of those adults was later seen there 7/22 (PC) through 7/29 (RS, DF, AM). The lower county occasionally has multiple **Glossy Ibis**, so 6 at RHS 7/24 added to those records (DF).

Our total active **Osprey** nest count remained at 8 (DF, CM, JM). All are on manmade structures on or near the Del. R. There are more on the New Jersey side of the river. The Prah's Island **Bald Eagle** nest was inactive, but the Lynn Island nest was active, keeping our total nest count at 5, with at least 8 juvs. fledged (CM, JM, DF). Duplicating last year's encouraging reports, **Broad-winged Hawk** was again at PVP 6/14 (JW), NSP 6/24, 7/7, and 7/10 (DA, BE, MS), SGL157 7/3 (PT), and Tincum Twp. 6/12 (PC). Hopefully underreported, a **Red-shouldered Hawk** at Lake Towhee Park 6/11 (PT) provided the only eBird entry.

The **Common Gallinule** reported beginning 5/13 at PVP was last seen 6/2 (TF). Two **American Coots** were out of season at PWT-Franklin Cove 6/26, remaining there through the period (DF). This is the first time this species has been reported here through July. Eleven species of shorebirds were reported. A **Sanderling** at Mud Island 7/30 (DF) and a **Western Sandpiper** at PWT 7/16 (DF), which set a new fall early arrival date, were the most unusual reports. A **Laughing Gull** estimate of 1100 at PWT 7/16 was not unusual there (DF). Two **Forster's Terns** were at PWT 7/29, with 3 more at Mud Island 7/30 (DF).

Black-billed Cuckoo was scarce, with reports from only 5 sites (DA, DF, AM). Two at Revere 7/1 provided the only report with more than one (DF). A juv. **Eastern Screech Owl** was being mobbed by several species at Bowman's Hill 7/11 (AM). **Barred Owl** was confirmed breeding at Bowman's Hill, with 2 juvs. present in early June (*fide* KJ). The **Red-headed Woodpeckers** at SGL157 were at the nest hole 6/15 (CM ph.). One at the regular Buckingham Twp. site for several years was reported to at least 6/10 (DS). The 2 birds reported in spring at Hilltown Twp. were still present 7/17 (DF), providing our fourth known nesting site.

American Kestrel nest box efforts made a large step increase in productivity this year (see table) (DF). The three earliest nest starts resulted in double broods at those sites. A female banded as a nestling in Somerset, NJ in 2015, and 2 banded as nestlings in Northampton County, PA in 2011 and 2014 were on eggs in Bucks County boxes this year (DF). About 75% of the young were banded before fledging. Two PVP boxes and one at a New Britain Twp. farm were occupied (AM), as was one at Maple Knoll Farms (RS). Our 2 **Peregrine Falcon** nest sites fledged 5 young (AMc).

American Kestrel Nest Box Results

YEAR	2016	2015	2014	2013
BOXES	71	71	70	73
NESTS w/EGGS	52	44	45	34
NESTS FAILED	3	6	8	7
NESTS FLEDGED	49	38	37	27
EGGS LAID	248	211	208	135
FLEDGED	203	164	169	94

Amer. Kestrel Project

The kayak trip from Tincum Park to Lumberville produced 7 **Acadian Flycatchers** 6/11 (DA, DF) indicating continued good breeding numbers there along the Del. R. One at PWT 6/26 was the first ever noted there by the observer (DF). A family group of 6 **Common Ravens** was at New Hope 6/22 (BH). This probably was the family that nested there on the NJ side of the Del. R. this year (AH). Two at NSP 7/2 (DM) provided the only other report. At least one of the **Horned Larks** that tried to nest at Maple Knoll Farms was still there 6/1 (RS).

Following is a summary of the large **Purple Martin** colony in East Rockhill Twp. provided by the landowner (HR). Again, the owner recognized the contribution that Devich Farbotnik made in rebuilding the racks and

regularly monitoring the nests. Without him, he feels he could not maintain the colony. The increase in gourds includes eight that were not added until mid-season. The nine failed nests had 37 eggs. A **Cooper's Hawk** was seen capturing birds in mid-air on two occasions and likely caused some of the failed nests. The last nest fledged 3 juvs. on 8/11. The resulting final numbers below are remarkable!

Purple Martin Colony Results

YEAR	2016	2015	2014	2013
GOURDS	134	124	124	91
NESTS*	119	121	119	90
NESTS w/EGGS	96	92	74	77
EGGS LAID**	459	388	251	279
EGGS HATCHED	364	226	N/A	N/A
FLEDGED	346	211	165	225
FAILED NESTS	9	25	18	0

*Nests are gourds where nesting cups with added leaves and/or material were found.

**Eggs Laid reflects a couple of instances where first laying was unsuccessful and a second laying occurred.

Our only known regular **Bank Swallow** colony at PWT had an estimated 100 nests 6/26 (DF). They use dredge material used to cover the landfill daily, and thus nesting success is not assured every year. It was felt the site chosen was safe for this year.

After being absent fall, winter, and spring, a **Red-breasted Nuthatch** at PVP 6/30 (DF) coincided with other presumed extremely early migrant reports in the region. The only other report was at CVP 7/30 (m.ob.). Rarely reported in June here, a **Brown Creeper** was in Riegelsville 6/14 (EB). Another now rarely reported breeding season species, **Marsh Wren** was singing at Neshaminy SP 7/10 (MG).

The total warbler species count was 15. Unfortunately, a **Louisiana Waterthrush** was feeding a **Brown-headed Cowbird** at Bowman's Hill (SA), the fate of so many of our quality species. Certainly rare here for the breeding season, a first year male **Brewster's Warbler (hybrid)** was at SGL157 6/17 (DF ph.). A male **Prothonotary Warbler** was near Point Pleasant on the Del. R. 6/11 (DF). The PVP female **Prothonotary Warbler** was seen only once in late May building a nest with the male, but the nest site was shortly thereafter taken by a **House Wren** (TF). The female was not seen again, but the male continued to sing until the last report 6/28 (RS). A late report of a **Kentucky Warbler** at West Rockhill Twp. Manderfield Preserve was the only spring season report (KR). It apparently did not continue there. For this season, despite searching the last known breeding site and other previously known sites in the county, none were found (DF). However, a male was singing and seen at PVP 6/8 (AM) but not thereafter. It could have been present earlier but more likely was a late migrant or wandering bird in search of a mate. A peculiarly marked **Hooded Warbler** first seen in May at SGL157 was seen again, with a male, 6/17 (DF ph.). It was assumed to be an old female showing partial male characteristics. **Hooded Warbler** was at State Game Land #56-Lake Warren 6/19 (DF), the only other site reported. After no breeding site reports last year for **Chestnut-sided Warbler**, 3 singing males were likely at potential sites this year at Springfield Twp 5/31, SGL157 6/17, and State Game Land 56-Lake Warren 6/19 (DF). **Scarlet Tanager** is believed to be declining at PVP in recent years (AM). A female there was feeding a **Brown-headed Cowbird** 8/5 (JB).

The delayed mowing at Pine Run Dam that I reported in the spring may have encouraged 2 **Savannah Sparrows** reported there 7/9 (RS) that provided our only report. It is unknown if they were present all season. Besides the normal reports at Van Sant Airport, **Grasshopper Sparrow** was detected while checking American Kestrel boxes north of Gardenville in Plumstead Twp. and north of Pipersville in Tincum Twp. 7/3 (DF). Three **Blue Grosbeaks** were at the PWT 6/26 where expected (DF). Also while checking boxes in Bedminster Twp., Blue Grosbeak was detected at 3 sites in July (DF). A nest was found at Maple Knoll Farms in Buckingham Twp., and a second pair was nearby (RS). The **Bobolink** breeding site in Tincum Twp. that is not mowed too early had a conservative count of 30 adults and juvs. 7/2 (DA). Pine Run Dam had at least 2 pairs of **Eastern Meadowlark** (m.ob.), which was only one of three sites reporting them in eBird. A **Pine Siskin** was an unexpected rare summer find at Lower Makefield Twp 7/19 (CF, ph.).

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Butler County

Locations: Clay Twp. (CT), Lake Arthur (LA), Lake Oneida (LO), State Game Lands 95 (SGL95), Thorn Reservoir (TR), Wildlife Observation Area (WOA).

June weather was more typical for *Butler* compared to the very wet June of 2015. The first few days of July were cool but most of the month saw temperatures in the mid-80s. There were no significant weather events that affected birds or birdwatching.

The high counts for **Canada Goose** were 200 at Lake Arthur 7/2 (EdL) and 81 at Thorn Reservoir 7/17 (RN). The only ducks reported were **Mallards** and **Wood Ducks** including young woodies fledged at Todd Nature Reserve 6/6 (AP, JaC) and a hen with 9 ducklings at the Wildlife Observation Area 6/7 (ME). Despite an unusually high number of sightings this past spring, **Ring-necked Pheasant** was only spotted twice: one at State Game Lands 95 on 6/13 (EL) and one there 7/15 (SG). The high count for **Wild Turkey** was 4 adults and 11 poults at Zion Church Rd. 7/21 (KB).

A few **Double-crested Cormorants** summer at Moraine SP but the only report was 5 at LA 6/4 (KP). A nice surprise was a **Great Egret** at L. Oneida 7/5 (KB). **Bald Eagles** continue their year-round presence, with one seen near Boyers 6/11 (BB), one at LO 6/21 (KB), one at LA 7/15 (OM) and 3 at SGL95 on 7/15 (SG). The active nest at LA produced at least one fledgling. Unusual during the summer, a **Northern Harrier** was at Barkeyville Grasslands 6/19 (ST).

Shorebirds made a decent showing, and despite very limited habitat, 8 species were noted. A nice tally of 28 **Killdeer** was made at Squaw Valley Woodlands 7/17 (DW). **Spotted Sandpipers** were seen regularly, including an adult with 3 juveniles at Graham Park, Cranberry Twp. 6/22 (AeB). A nice total of 6 **Solitary Sandpipers** signaled the start of migration at SGL95 on 7/15 (SG). One was at TR 7/17 (RN). Up to 4 were in Cranberry Twp. 7-23-30 (AeB). A single **Lesser Yellowlegs** visited SVW 7/17 (DW). Two **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were at SGL95 7/28 (BB). Not seen in *Butler* every year, single **Least Sandpipers** stopped at SGL95 on 7/15 (SG) and at LO 7/17 (RN). Rare here, **Short-billed Dowitchers** were at SGL95 on 7/15 (SG) and at LO 7/17 (RN). One **Wilson's Snipe** at SGL95 on 7/15 (SG) rounded out the summer season shorebird movement. The only gull reports were of small numbers of **Ring-billed Gulls** at LA including the high of 14 at Sunken Garden Trail 7/17 (MP).

Cuckoos continued making a lot of noise with **Black-billed Cuckoo** appearing in 4 locations including an adult with a fledgling near Callery 6/10 (ANON). **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was reported 18 times from 13 different locations (m.ob.). For both cuckoos, reports were more than double compared to last year's summer season. Four **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were spotted at Long Run 6/11 (BB) and one was at Hull Lake 7/19 (JC). One **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was seen 4 times at CT 6/29-7/9 (BB).

A **Common Raven** was at Cranberry Twp. 7/1 (SJ) and 2 were at the I-80 Bridge over the Allegheny R. 7/14 (BB). A juvenile was at SGL95 7/9 (BB), where they are regular. Uncommon in *Butler*, 8 **Bank Swallows** were at the Bike Trail 7/2 (TR). At Lake Arthur, **Cliff Swallow** nests on the Rt. 528 bridge greatly outnumber nests on the 422 bridge, possibly because of big rig traffic vibrations on the 422 bridge. There is also a small colony at SGL95 that might be in decline due to competition with House Sparrows. **Veerys** were only near Callery and at SGL95 (m.ob.).

Fifteen species of warblers were noted. A singing male **Worm-eating Warbler** in breeding plumage, listed in the second BBA as a "possible" breeder in only 3 locations in *Butler*, was noted in Slippery Rock Borough 7/23 (GW), but it might have been an early migrant. Two **Louisiana Waterthrushes** were at Todd Nature Reserve 6/5 (AH). Known breeders in *Butler*, but consistent with a downward trend in population, only one **Black-and-White Warbler** was found, at Branchton Rd. 7/21 (BB). **Kentucky Warbler** was confirmed breeding with a nest at Jennings Environmental Education Center 6/14 (JG, DW). The only report of **Cerulean Warbler** was of one on a BBS route 6/11 (MF, PH). **Magnolia Warbler** was noted twice, one at WOA 6/7 (ME) and one at Muskrat Cove 6/7 (LS). One **Blackburnian Warbler** was at Moniteau 6/2 (BB).

Grassland sparrow sightings were scarce, reflecting the limited amount of suitable habitat. Single **Savannah Sparrows** were at Barkeyville Grasslands 6/4 (RN), recorded on a BBS route 6/11 (MF, PH), and found between stops on a BBS route 6/12 (GK, MAK). Two **Grasshopper Sparrows** were at CT 6/19 (BB) and 3 were at Adams Twp. Park 7/11 (ANON). One **Henslow's Sparrow** appeared at Barkeyville 6/19 (ST). **Bobolink** was reported from 3 locations, all in June. (m.obs.).

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Cambria County

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

Hooded Mergansers continue to breed in the PG area as recently fledged young were seen on 6/21 (DG). The **Great Blue Heron** colony in northern *Cambria* had 13 active nests as of early June. **Ospreys** were present at PG and PA during the period, but no nesting was observed. **Northern Harriers** were present at several areas of SGL108 with possible breeding. **Sharp-shinned** and **Broad-winged Hawks** were seen carrying food at PA (DG). Three pairs of **American Kestrels** produced 13 young in the nest boxes at PG.

A lone **Spotted Sandpiper** was at PG 6/17 (DG). Five **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were seen and heard at STL during the period (DG, JS). An **Alder Flycatcher** was at LO 7/13 (DG, JS). A **Brown Creeper** seen entering the bottom of the same heron nest at the colony provided an unusual find 7/3. The bird would fly away to different areas but always return to the same spot and enter the nest bottom so a nest there was a possibility.

A lone **Northern Waterthrush** was at Colver Reservoir 6/26 (DG). **Louisiana Waterthrush** was observed at several locations near PA and PG (DG, TA). **Canada Warblers** were at 2 locations at higher elevations. **Vesper Sparrows** continue to use mostly reclaimed strips as nesting spots, but a few birds were observed in corn fields. Good numbers of **Henslow's Sparrows** were seen at the strips at SGL 108 near Blandburg in early July (DG, JS) along with large numbers of **Bobolinks**.

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Cameron County

Locations: Driftwood Branch (DB), George B. Stevenson Dam at Sinnemahoning SP (SGSD).

With the lack of habitat and reports this season, only 4 species of waterfowl were noted, including the expected **Canada Goose** and **Mallard**. A female **Hooded Merganser** and 3 juveniles were reported from DB 6/21 (OM) as were 6 **Common Mergansers** (OM). A **Ruffed Grouse** and 2 **Wild Turkeys** were also at DB on 6/21 (OM). The only shorebird was **Spotted Sandpiper** at SGSD 7/5 (DG, GG).

Three **Belted Kingfishers** were at DB 6/21, the lone report (OM). Still fairly notable in the county, 3 **Red-bellied Woodpeckers** were at DB 6/21 (OM). **Blue-headed Vireo** was reported from SGSD 7/5 (DG, GG). A count of 25 **Cliff Swallows** was made at their nest site under the PA 120 bridge at DB 6/21 (OM). Another Carolinian species with a limited range in the county, the **Tufted Titmouse**, was only at DB 6/21 (OM). One **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was at DB 6/21 (OM).

The lack of warblers reports reflects the scarcity of data; reports included a **Yellow-rumped Warbler**, a **Black-throated Green Warbler**, and a **Canada Warbler** at SGSD 7/5 (DG, GG).

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Carbon County

No compiler.

Centre County

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

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

Most waterfowl species are rare to absent in *Centre* during the breeding season, but highlights include a female **Redhead** that continued at the Duck Pond 6/1-16 (L&JC, JP). **Hooded Mergansers** were also present at BMSP with a single bird spotted 6/2 (AD, PD) and a female and 4 ducklings observed 6/3 (BS). Two **Hooded Mergansers** were seen at JUL 6/7 (MN) and a female was seen at the Taylor Twp. electrical sub-station 7/19 (L&JC). Eleven **Common Mergansers** were present along Bald Eagle Cr. near BESP 7/10 (CE) and a flock of 17 was in BESP 7/24 (SBr).

Although extirpated in central PA, **Northern Bobwhites** that probably have been released or escaped are occasionally reported, but there is no evidence of a breeding population. A single bird was heard calling in BMSP 6/25. The call was recorded and is available in the eBird checklist (AM). A **Common Loon** at BESP appeared to be a first summer bird with very faint neck coloration, so much so that one observer described the darker head markings as looking "like a black cap" 7/8-29 (JG, L&JC, ph.). A few **Great Egrets** moved into the area in Jul, with nearly all reports coming during the last week of the month. Up to 6 were present at Curtin wetland 7/8-16 (L&JC, JG), one was noted at JUL 7/24 (L&JC), and another was present at BESP 7/24-25 (SBr, JP). A couple egrets were also seen 7/24-27 at a wetland along S. Eagle Valley Rd. southwest of Port Matilda (L&JC).

Ospreys and **Northern Harriers** are rarely encountered in the summer, but this year both were present. The single **Ospreys** included many birds not associated with nest sites, including one at Colyer L. 6/7 (JP) and at BMSP 6/10 (MH, RH, AB), and a single bird at BMSP 7/29 (L&JC). However, **Ospreys** did nest at BESP and were seen most of the season (MH, m.ob.), although the success of the nesting attempt is not known. Single **Northern Harriers** were in SGL 100 on 6/4 (GJ) and over the Waddle Rd./I-99 intersection 6/12 (JP).

Virginia Rails breed in *Centre*, albeit rarely, so observations from areas of suitable habitat during the breeding season suggest possible nesting birds. A single Virginia Rail was heard calling at the Curtin wetland 6/9 (BS) and another was reported at JUL 7/9 (L&JC). Both of these locations are regular migration stops for this species, where breeding season reports are extremely rare. A late migrant **Solitary Sandpiper** was at SCO 6/7 (JM) and another was present 7/27 at a retention pond in Port Matilda 7/27 (L&JC). **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was also present there, at a site on Old Gatesburg Rd. 6/5 (CE, BS), and at BESP 7/29 (JP). A casual migrant, a **White-rumped Sandpiper** was on Old Gatesburg Rd. 6/5 (CE, BS).

Although regular much of the year, **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** are rarely encountered in the summer. However, 3 reports include one in the Bear Meadows Natural Area 6/1 (JP), one on Bear Meadows Rd. 6/18 (AK), and one on Sawmill Rd. 6/19 (DB). A **Peregrine Falcon** was spotted flying across the south Rockview fields 7/15 (L&JC). Four area birders heard and saw a **Marsh Wren** at the Taylor Twp electrical sub-station 6/6 (L&JC, m.ob.). Although uncommon during the summer, 2 **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were noted at the Mid-State Airport 6/4 (BS) and singles were present on Eddy Lick Run 6/26 (JD, SL) and in Unionville 7/16 (L&JC, MN).

Twenty-four warbler species were reported. A rare summer observation of a **Northern Waterthrush** was made in the Bear Meadows Natural Area 6/10 (RD) and 3 were noted at BMSP 6/19 (WY). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was heard singing along the creek in Unionville 7/2-3 (CE, JP). Although there was no evidence of breeding in this case, this species is likely a rare breeder in the region. As many as 6 **Henslow's Sparrows** were seen and heard at SGL 100 (German Settlement Grasslands) 6/4-26 (GJ, m.ob.), a reliable site for this rare sparrow. Two **Pine Siskins** visiting feeders in State College 6/3 provided a rare summer observation (JP).

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Joe Gyekis, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Gail Johnson, Andy Keister, Scott Lewis, Alan MacEachren, John Mackin, Gail Nale, Mark Nale, Richard Nugent, Dan Ombalski, Julia Plummer, Matthew Rockmore, Brian Schmoke, William Young.

Chester County

Locations: Bucktoe Creek Preserve (BCP), Chambers Lake (CL), Goat Hill Serpentine Barrens (GHSB), Laurels Preserve (LP), Longwood Gardens (LWG), Marsh Creek State Park (MCSP), Octorara Reservoir (OCTRES).

Average summer conditions prevailed in the region, with moderate amounts of rain, and plenty of heat and humidity to convince all the season was in full-force. There was a lack of noteworthy weather events, or those to impact conditions for the nesting success, or lack thereof, for our avian breeders in *Chester*.

A pair of **Snow Geese** continued through the summer, associating with resident **Canada Geese** at a farm property in Kennett Square (KN). A drake **American Wigeon** was at LWG 6/21-22, and is believed to be the same individual that spent last summer in the area (KN). A similar story could be told of the ever-present drake **Ring-necked Duck** in the ponds in the private area of LWG 6/6-7/21 (KN, JS, LL, KP), which most likely was the same bird that spent summer 2015 in this location. A **Hooded Merganser** was a good find at MCSP 6/15, as this species is not known to breed locally (MH); another was at LWG 6/22 (KN). A lingering **Bufflehead** drake was at MCSP 6/15 (MH).

An adult **Pied-billed Grebe** was consistently detected by birders visiting Welkinweir, 6/4-7/28 (EH, m.ob.), one was at LWG 6/4 (KN), and one at CHLA 7/6 (RR), where they have previously summered but have not been confirmed breeding; the latter was not relocated after 7/6. An immature **Little Blue Heron** was seen in flight at LWG 7/21 (KN). This species is typically found from late Jul into fall in small numbers, and usually always hatch-year birds. A location suspicious for probable breeding, OCTRES yielded both an adult and juv. **Black-crowned Night-Heron**, seen from a kayak 7/18 (PM). An adult **Glossy Ibis** was foraging the muddy edges of the pond behind the Walmart in Exton 7/13 (HM, m.ob.). On 7/23, a juvenile dark ibis, presumed to be Glossy, was found in the same location (HM) and was seen again 7/24 (CH, et al.). Glossy Ibis is an irregular migrant in fall and spring, and not found annually. There were no rails detected during the nesting period, despite active searching.

The BCP Kite and Shorebird Watch continued into the first week of Jun., recording 200 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** migrating over the site 6/1 (LL, m.ob.), and another 800 unidentified, but likely semis, were viewed heading northbound 6/2 (LL, GT). Two **Caspian Terns** flying over CL 6/10 provided the only *Chester* record as of the end of the 2016 summer season (RR). Typically, this species is found most regularly in early fall, so a Jun. record stands out.

After a mild winter, which seemed to boost caterpillar populations, **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were reported in good numbers and were widespread (m.ob.). **Black-billed Cuckoos** are very low-density breeding birds here, and some years quite tough to locate. This summer, a few reports were logged, including one in Malvern (DN), 2 at Welkinweir (EH), and another in Honeybrook (LW). A pair of **Barn Owls** continued in residence on private property, but there has been no confirmation of breeding there (KF). **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were heard at the well-known county stronghold at GHSB; one on 6/3 (BQ, MD), and two 6/18 (WBH).

Up to 3 **Red-headed Woodpeckers**, including a fledgling with parent, were consistently seen throughout the season from the Honey Brook Golf Club in Honeybrook (RR, DL, JS), an excellent nesting confirmation for this irregular breeder in *Chester*. The **American Kestrel** was once easy to find in *Chester*, especially in vast horse country and some Amish farmlands, where this species tends to thrive. However, populations have plummeted in the last decade in the region and so any nesting success is noteworthy. Three known locations had nesting success, all with kestrel nest boxes - Chesen Preserve and Chapel Rd. in the Doe Run area (m.ob.). A natural cavity on the LP played host to a family of kestrels that successfully fledged young (KF).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was spotted as birders gathered to inventory a property in Pennsbury Twp. 6/2 (NP, AG, m.ob.). Another Olive-sided was seen at BCP 6/4, a good place for finding this species (LL, m.ob.). Birders continued to encounter **Common Ravens** around the county during the summer period. Nesting is known in at least two locations, Downingtown's Hanson Quarry (BB) and the Cromby power plant along the Schuylkill R. in Phoenixville (m.ob.). The increase in observations of **Bank**

Swallows in summer, as well as confirmed nesting of this species during late spring at Hanson Quarry in Downingtown (BB), seems to indicate a good breeding season in favorable habitat. A high count of 16 was noted at Exton Park, where adults were seen feeding young 7/17 (HM), not far from the Hanson Quarry, possibly where they nested.

An apparent hotbed for nesting **Worm-eating Warblers** is the GHSB. In this location, up to 7 were noted 6/18 (BH). In general, this species is a low-density breeding bird because its favored habitat is dwindling within the county. During the last two weeks of Jun., singing male **Kentucky Warblers** were discovered in 3 locations where breeding is not known to occur: One on the south side of MCSP 6/20 (HM), another at Waterloo Mills Preserve in Devon 6/26 (KF), and another at Stroud Preserve 6/28 (EF, CF). These may be unpaired males. Kentucky Warbler nesting was confirmed at a new location, when an adult was seen feeding young at the Banffshire Preserve near Avondale 7/11 (WBH). Most records of **Hooded Warbler** during summer came from the northern part of the county, but one was found at GHSB, where 2 were detected 6/18 (WBH).

Grasshopper Sparrow was located in the expected region of Doe Run, where the vast grasslands support this species well. One was found there 6/3 (BQ, MD, MH, CH) and another was detected 6/19 (NP). A report also came from the Stroud Preserve 6/6 (LT). Successful nesting of Grasshopper Sparrow also was confirmed at the LP (KF). **Swamp Sparrows** are scarce in summer, but can be found in areas with extensive wetlands. Only a few were detected, including 3 at Great Marsh 6/1 (BB), 2 at Crow's Nest Preserve 6/6 (GT), and one singing at Cheslen Preserve 7/29 (HM). **Savannah Sparrows** are scarce breeders due to loss of adequate habitat, but were found in the Doe Run region where land has been preserved. The Brandywine Conservancy instituted a meadow restoration project within the LP, restoring 215 contiguous acres of meadow habitat. The enormous success of this project can be measured in the breeding success of several declining grassland species, including Savannah Sparrows, of which three nesting pairs were noted (KF). Other observations of Savannahs were made along Greenlawn Rd. 6/3 (BQ, MD, MH), 6/5 (CH), and 6/19 (NP).

A rare, but regular, breeding bird localized to only the extreme northern areas of *Chester* is the **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**, which seems to reach a southern limit in northern *Chester*. There is only one location where **Dickcissel** is suspected of nesting - a farm in the Doe Run region. While not confirmed as a breeding bird, the location is reliable for encounters, and birders that tried their luck were successful in finding one singing male 6/3-8 (m.ob.). As noted earlier, the meadow restoration project at the LP boasted enormous success in hosting native grassland birds, which in addition to the aforementioned species, included **Bobolinks** and **Eastern Meadowlarks**, both of which benefited from this project (KF). Both species are found only in small populations during the nesting period, hence additional suitable habitat is a winning situation for all. After a somewhat slow spring for **Pine Siskins**, as compared to previous years, a lingering siskin appeared in the yard of an observant birder in Chadds Ford, 6/8 (HD) but there were no additional encounters or other reports received.

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Clarion County

Locations: Curlsville (CV), Mt Airy (MA), Mt Zion/Piney Tract/SGL 330 (MZ), Redbank Valley Trail (RV).

Nesting was confirmed for a second year for **Turkey Vultures** on the wooded hillside in a small natural cave north of the Clarion R. near Clarion. Two chicks were observed 6/25 and continued through the end of the season (DF).

Northern Harriers also had another successful breeding season at several locations. An active pair was very visible at MZ through the entire season, with adults doing food transfers and attending a nest site not far off the main road through this grassland. They remained throughout the season and successfully fledged young (BB, PB, JC, SD, SG, et al.). A pair of harriers was also seen at MA 6/7 (JC, AP), and 6/22 (MF) with no other breeding information known. At one site near CV, a pair continued on grasslands there through 6/7 and while no breeding was confirmed, an adult female was still present and seen 7/21 (CW). Several miles away at another grassland site on Rankin Rd., a pair was seen 6/7 actively hunting and food transfer witnessed to confirm breeding (CW).

Only a single **Upland Sandpiper** was seen at MA 6/11 (BB, GW), which hopefully just denotes a lack of observer effort. Similarly, an adult and 2 young **American Woodcocks** were at MZ 6/11 (BB, GW). **Barred Owls** were calling during daylight hours on the RV near Lawsonham 6/25 (CW). A species less frequently reported, 2 **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were calling and responding to tape playback in a regenerating clear cut near Strattanville 7/19 (GE, MH).

Two reports of late **Alder Flycatchers** were noted - a singing male at MZ 6/18 (SD) and a singing male at an overgrown marshy area near CV, present 6/16-18 (CW). Increased reports of **White-eyed Vireo** suggest it is more prevalent than it seems, particularly in the southern part of *Clarion*. A single bird was reported near Callensburg 6/9 (PB), and a singing male was seen outside of Rimersburg 6/19, where they have been confirmed breeding in the past (SD, CW). Three birds were also reported later in the season, on 7/12, along a spur of the RV near New Bethlehem (J&AK). **Yellow-throated Vireos** occupy usually just the riparian habitat in the county, and this year only 2 birds were reported. A singing male was present at Sarah Furnace near East Brady 6/19 (SD, CW) and a single was at Gravel Lick on the Clarion R. 7/26 (RS).

Finding of 2 **Cliff Swallow** nests along with **Barn Swallows** at a barn near Strattanville 6/4 provides a new site for this localized species (RM). A newly discovered site for breeding **Purple Martins** outside of Callensburg had been present at least one previous season but it was unknown to this reporter. At this colony, 16 birds were reported 6/7, with nests noted with eggs (MM). According to the owner, along with a neighbor with a second active colony, they estimated possibly 200 birds fledged last year and expected maybe 150 this year.

Just a few warblers are worth noting for the breeding season this year. **Worm-eating Warblers** continued at Sarah Furnace with single singing males noted 6/15 and 6/19 (SD, CW), and 3 territories were noted on the RV near Lawsonham 6/25 (CW). There was only a single report of **Kentucky Warbler**, a female seen at a traditional breeding area near Sarah Furnace 6/15 (CW). Only one sighting of **Cerulean Warbler** was received, with 2 singing males present in excellent riparian habitat along the RV near Lawsonham, along with 2 singing male **Northern Parulas** 6/25 (CW). **Pine Warblers** are not common breeders, but do occupy specific habitats present in a few areas. On 6/18, one was reported at the main site at MZ and 3 were noted along Mauthe Rd. in pine stands at the edge of the game lands area (SD). In this same area, a **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was also noted 6/18 (SD). They have been present at this location in some past years but were never confirmed breeding. Up to 2 were also seen at Camp Coffman 6/23 and 6/24, where extensive pine and spruce forest are present (DL). **Yellow-breasted Chats** continue to become more regularly reported in new areas of southern *Clarion*, as strip-mined fields age and provide excellent habitat for this species. A single bird was at MA 6/11 (BB, GW) and a singing male was at a newer location outside of CV 6/16-18 (CW). Up to 2 were at 2 locations at MZ between 6/6-1818 (PB, SD, SG, FM).

Henslow's Sparrow is one of the most sought-after species at grasslands; this year showed typical numbers from the usual locations throughout the season (m.ob.). A confirmation of breeding was obtained with an adult carrying food nicely photographed at MZ 6/18 (FM). **Clay-colored Sparrows** are shifting locations. For the first time in years, no positive reports were received from its two stronghold areas of CV strips and MZ. A single bird was at a location outside of Callensburg 6/9, where they had been present in the past (PB). A new location for the species also was found at a grassland area of SGL 74 outside of Strattanville, where 2 singing males were present 6/22-7/21 (MH, RM). Closer monitoring of these birds might reveal more information on causes of site desertion and also more confirmation of breeding activities at new locations. The **Vesper Sparrow** is the least common grassland sparrow in the county; only a single sighting was received, at MZ 6/9 (PB).

Purple Finches, regular breeders at a site in Rimersburg for the past two years, continued this year with breeding confirmed by fledglings 6/28 (MM). This site has good habitat with large Norway spruce and feeders available year round. Birds were present throughout the season at feeders with a high count of 9 birds. This species also was confirmed at a location with stands of pine and Norway spruce outside of CV. At least one pair was present through the season and 2 fledgling birds noted in early July (CW). A pair of **Pine Siskins** continued at feeders in Rimersburg until 6/6, at the same location with nesting Purple Finches. Unfortunately, breeding could not be confirmed, but certainly was not ruled out, with birds present this late (MM).

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Clearfield County

Locations: Bimini Lake (BL), Platt Road Swamp (PLRS).

A **Trumpeter Swan** was at PLRS 6/1-2 (DR). One **Long-tailed Duck** continued at BL until 6/3 and 2 **Common Loons** were observed there 7/10 (DR). A **Great Egret** with blue wing tags was seen at PLRS 6/16 (DR). A **Semipalmated Plover** was at PLRS 7/31 (DR).

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Clinton County

No report

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Columbia County

No compiler.

Crawford County

Locations: Conneaut Marsh- McMichael Road (CM-MMR); Pymatuning-Fish Hatchery (P-FH); Pymatuning-Miller's Ponds (P-MP); Pymatuning-Spillway (P-SP); Tamarack Lake (TL).

A single late **Blue-winged Teal** was seen at CM-MMR 6/7 (JC) and another from West Vernon Road 6/8 (TN). Six **Green-winged Teal** at Pymatuning Goose Management Area 7/30 likely represented early fall migrants (IF, RL). A single late **Lesser Scaup** was in the Pymatuning area 6/12 (MV). Two individuals, likely early fall migrants, were observed at P-SP: a single male 7/24 (RL) and a single female 7/30 (IF, RL). Observations of **Ruddy Duck**, while often occurring at P-SP in summer, are still notable. Sightings at P-SP this summer included 5 on 6/7 (JC, AP), 5 on 6/18 (MH, RH), 4 on 6/22 (RL), 2 on 7/24 (CN), and one 7/25 (BB). A high count was 14 at 6/12 (MV). Two additional birds were seen in the Pymatuning area 6/12 (MV).

Ruffed Grouse are expected but scarce here. A single bird was seen at CM-MMR 7/6 (IF). A single **Least Bittern** was at Custards Marsh 6/18, a great sighting for *Crawford* during the summer season (MH). A single **Great Egret** at CM-MMR 6/7 (JC, AP) and 6/8 (TN) was earlier than expected for the summer season; more likely a lingering migrant. A single **Little Blue Heron** was seen in the Pymatuning area 6/13 (TB's University of Pittsburgh Ornithology class).

A pair of **Osprey** again nested at Woodcock Lake and produced at least one surviving young (m.ob). **Broad-winged Hawk** observations, notable in *Crawford* during the summer season, included a single individual at TL 7/8 (RL) and one in the Pymatuning area 7/9 (RL).

A good count of 8 **Common Gallinules**, 2 adults and 6 young, was made at Geneva Marsh 6/29 (CW). **Sandhill Crane** observations continue to increase, and while notable are now expected through the summer season in the Pymatuning and Conneaut Marsh areas (m.ob).

Seven early **Greater Yellowlegs** were at the Pymatuning Goose Management Area 7/16 (IF, RL). Early **Lesser Yellowlegs** included 3 at P-MP 7/2 (MHa) and a single individual 7/6 P-MP (IF). Notable observations of **Upland Sandpiper** included 2 adults and a single juvenile at Pymatuning-Wilson Road 7/6 (IF) and a single bird at Pymatuning Goose Management Area 7/9 (RL). Two early **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were at P-MP 7/6 (IF). There were several early observations of **Least Sandpiper** at P-MP: 2 on 7/1 (GM), 11 on 7/2 (MHa), 7 on 7/6 (IF), and 6 on 7/7 (TN, KP). An early **Pectoral Sandpiper** was at P-MP 7/6 (IF). A late **Dunlin** was at the Pymatuning Goose Management Area 6/6 (RL). A **Stilt Sandpiper**, a notable bird for *Crawford* during the summer, was at P-MP 6/6 (RL). Observations of **Short-billed Dowitcher**, also notable during the summer, included a single individual at P-MP 7/16 (CN). **American Woodcock** is an under-reported bird during the summer in *Crawford*, so single reports at Woodcock Lake-Abandoned Road Trail 6/15 (TN, KP), at the Helen B. Katz Natural Area 6/19 (TN), and of 2 in the East Mead Township area 7/30 (BB) hint of their distribution.

Notable summer gulls include a single **Bonaparte's Gull** at P-MP 7/9 (CN), 2 at P-SP 7/22 (MV), one at Woodcock Lake- Abandoned Road Trail 7/30 (BB), and one at P-SP 7/30 (RL). One **Laughing Gull** was at P-SP 7/24 (RL). One **Herring Gull** was at P-SP 7/15 (MV) and 3 at P-SP 7/22 (MV). There were several observations of **Caspian Tern**, all at P-SP: a single seen 6/7 (JC, AP), another single 7/15 (MV), 2 on 7/16 (CN), up to 2 on 7/17 (CN, KP), 2 on 7/24 (CN), and 2 on 7/30 (IF, RL). **Black Tern** observations have decreased in *Crawford* over the years, so singles at P-MP 6/7 (TB and University of Pittsburgh Ornithology class) and at P-FH 6/22 (RL) are especially notable. A **Forster's Tern** was at P-FH 7/15 (MV).

Eastern Screech-Owl are expected but scarce. Observations included one in the Pymatuning area 6/1 (LB) and 3 in the East Meadville area 7/26 (BB). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** seen at Woodcock Lake-Route 198 and Stoltz Rd. Hunting area 6/2 represented a new location for this species (TN).

A **White-eyed Vireo** was at CM-MMR 6/12 and 6/18 (MH) as well as a single bird seen at SGL 213-W. Vernon Road 6/28 (LB). There were several notable observations of **Bank Swallow**, including 12 at P-SP 6/6 (RL), one at CM-MMR 6/7 (JC, AP), 2 at P-MP 7/17 (CN), 1 at Pymatuning-Teakettle Road 7/25 (BB), and 4 at Woodcock Lake 7/29 (BB). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** is unexpected in *Crawford* during the summer, so a singing individual at Erie N.W.R.-Deer Run Trail 6/25 (RH, TN, KP) was especially notable, as was a singing **Winter Wren** at Meadville Greendale Cemetery Ravine 7/23 (KP).

Hermit Thrush observations, good sightings for *Crawford* during the summer, included one at the Meadville Greendale Cemetery Ravine 6/26 (CL), 2 at Erie N.W.R. 7/16 (RL), and 2 at SGL 69-Turkey Track Road/Gamelands Access Path (7/24) (KP). Observations of **Northern Mockingbird**, a notable bird for *Crawford*, included singles in the Cambridge Springs area 7/2 (JA) and at Pymatuning- Hartstown Marsh 7/25 (BB).

Less common breeding warblers include **Blackburnian Warblers** at TL 6/22 (KP), 6/26 (TN, KP) and 7/16 (TN, KP) and up to 2 at Erie N.W.R.-Deer Run Trail 6/25 (RH, TN, KP). **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were at TL on several dates: 4 on 6/22 (KP), one 6/26 (TN, KP), 2 on 7/6 (IF), and 3 on 7/16 (TN, KP). A single **Prairie Warbler** was at a private location on N. Richmond Rd. 6/30 (RS) and a **Yellow-breasted Chat** was at Erie N.W.R. 6/30 (RL).

Notable sparrow observations included a **Grasshopper Sparrow** at P-MP 7/2 (MHa) and another at South Wayland Road 7/24 (BB). **Henslow's Sparrow**, rare in *Crawford*, was observed at Mt. Pleasant Road twice: one on 7/9 (IF) and up to 2 on 7/11 (RH, TN, KP). **Dark-eyed Juncos** were observed throughout the season in several locations that likely represent an increasing number of breeding pairs (m.ob.).

A good count of 12 **Bobolink** was made in the Pymatuning area 6/7 (LB). **Orchard Orioles**, an expected but scarce bird for *Crawford*, included one at SGL 213-W. Vernon Rd. 6/7 (JC, AP), 2 at the Pymatuning area 6/19 (MH), and a single at Erie N.W.R.-Deer Run Trail 6/25 (TN, KP). **Purple Finch** was reported sporadically as expected, including counts of 5 at a private location on N. Richmond Rd. 6/1 and 6/15 (RS). **Pine Siskins** included an adult and one begging youngster at a private residence in Meadville area from 7/23 through the end of the season (SC).

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Cumberland County

Locations: Michaux State Forest (MSF), Tuscarora State Forest (TSF), West Fairview Boat Ramp (WFBL).

June was a little on the dry side and fairly cool, while July was hot and dry. Up to 7 **Yellow-crowned Night Herons** (including 2 juveniles) were reported through the end of the period feeding in or on the banks of the Conodoguinet Cr. near the WFBL. One **Little Blue Heron** was seen on the bank at WFBL on at least 2 occasions, 7/9 and 7/11 (RK, DH).

There were two sightings of one **Common Nighthawk**, one at the WFBL 6/7 (DB, SB) and another at Middlesex 6/9 (RN). Despite its name, this species is not common during the summer. One **Chuck-will's Widow** was reported on Ridge Rd. east of Rt. 233 by about 3.5 miles, near the intersection with Old Ridge Rd. 6/7-9 (VG, BO, DK, RN). This is assumed to be the same bird that was reported at this location in the summer of 2015 as a second county record. The bird was not reported in July despite a few follow up visits to the site.

While **Kentucky Warblers** were not reported at Camp Michaux (MSF) for the first time since the summer of 2011, nor at Meadows Rd. (TSF), one male was heard singing in a new location, at 499 Whiskey Springs Rd., Boiling Springs on 6/4 (PB), providing the only report. There was one **Chestnut-sided Warbler** 6/12 (KM), which is an unusual find for the summer in *Cumberland*. There were no confirmed nesting sites in the county in either the first or second Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlases and in an Annotated List of the Birds of Cumberland County, they are listed as common spring and fall migrants, with only scattered summer records (Koury and Rutt 2007).

One **Canada Warbler** was at the bridge at Tom's Run on Pine Grove Rd. 6/24 (VG), the first for the Clear Spring BBS since it was first run in 1964. The only place that this species has been known to breed on a regular basis in Cumberland is on Milesburn Rd. in MSF. Only 2 **Yellow-breasted Chats** were reported from Meadows Rd. (TSF) 6/14 (VG). As this clear cut area planted with pines continues to mature, chats are no longer as abundant as they were previously and will inevitably abandon this formerly populous location.

Dickcissel successfully bred in the county, in a field at the corner of Hunter's and Rock Run Rds. Two fledglings were identified at the field in very late July (VG). At one point there were 7 singing males in a mile stretch of Hunter's Rd., with 4 singing at the cited field. The successful breeding was possible as the farmer who owned the field did not mow it until after the birds were successfully fledged. Seven Dickcissels were reported also near Newburg, 5 males and 2 females. It is doubtful that breeding was successful as the fields were mowed at end of June through the start of July, after which the birds disappeared (BK). There was also one singing male reported on Ponderosa Rd. 6/26 (VG) and 7/4 (RK, AM), where the field was not mowed.

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Dauphin County

Locations: Fort Indiantown Gap west corridor (FIG), SR from West Fairview (SRWF), Weiser State Forest (WSF).

June temperatures and precipitation were normal, while July temperatures, mostly in the high 80s and 90s, were slightly above normal, with slightly above normal precipitation that kept the grass green in most places.

A lone **Trumpeter Swan** caused a stir 6/13 (AM, IG, TN, DK, DH) when discovered at Italian L. with a pair of **Mute Swans** and 2 pairs of **Black Swans** that were known to have been "rented" for the summer by the area residents. But, closer inspection the next day revealed that its wings were clipped (AL). It had been known that residents added the second pair of Black Swans to the lake in an attempt to stop the Mute Swans from "bullying," but not that a pair of trumpeters had been brought in as reinforcements, with one walking off and being returned to the farm, leaving the single Trumpeter Swan to give birders the impression that it might be a vagrant. A single **Gadwall** at Wildwood L. 6/10 (AE, ph.) represents the first Jun eBird record for *Dauphin* and surrounding counties.

A **Snowy Egret** was observed at the Susquehanna R. at Clark's Ferry Bridge 6/8 (KB) and one was at SRWF 7/23 (DH). A **Little Blue Heron** was

discovered at SRWF 7/9 (RK) and stayed through 7/17 (RK, DK, HW, et al.). A total of 56 **Great Blue Herons** was carefully counted at the rookery at the Swatara Cr. at South Boathouse Rd. 6/2, with a single **Great Egret** standing in a nest among the colony. By 7/11, the majority of the juv. herons apparently had fledged and the remaining juvs. appeared to be using the rookery as a roost (AL, IG).

Midtown Harrisburg's **Yellow-crowned Night Herons** were observed throughout Jun and Jul, from Second and Calder Streets north to Front and Shamokin Streets, with several sightings in the vicinity of the West Fairview boat launch (m.obs.). The high count was 16 at Front and Reily Streets 7/10, when singles and small groups of mostly adults were flying out to the Susquehanna R. to forage, with most going out to the far side of the islands towards West Fairview. One adult had an injured leg (AL). A **Glossy Ibis** was reported from Calver Island near the turnpike bridge in Highspire 7/24 (JA).

July 9 was a big **Bald Eagle** day for four kayakers floating south down the Susquehanna R. Ten birds, comprising 2 adults, 3 juvs., and 5 imms., were counted in a 1.8-mile stretch around Clemson and Bressler Islands; another 14 birds, comprising 2 adults, 4 juvs., and 8 imms., were counted on the next 2-mile stretch to New Buffalo; and another 3 imms. were counted in the next 3-mile stretch to Haldeman Island; for a day's total of 27. While acknowledging that some of the birds may have been counted on more than one checklist, the observers estimated that there were at least 20 different birds, and attribute the congregation to abundant fish in that part of the river, the train-killed animals from the adjacent railroad tracks, and the extensive summering habitat (AL, IG, BV, JW).

At one **Barn Owl** box on the Hershey Trust property, 4 chicks were banded 6/30 (AL, IG, NM) and 5 were banded at a second box (TB). On the same property, 22 **American Kestrel** chicks were banded from 5 nest boxes (TB). Six **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were heard calling constantly the night of 6/21 at FIG, and at least 12 were heard calling at various spots along Lykens Rd. 7/10 (RK, AM). A breeding colony of **Red-headed Woodpeckers** was observed throughout Jun and Jul at FIG in open habitat with several large snags for nesting, with a high count of 8 on 6/2 (IG). Two were observed flycatching over the Swatara Cr. at South Boathouse Rd. 6/2 and 6/7 (AL, IG), and 2 were at Blue Mountain Parkway 7/23 (MB).

Two **White-eyed Vireos** were reported at FIG 6/13-22 (IG, DM) and 2 from SGL 246 on 6/26 (HW). Two **Blue-headed Vireos** were heard calling on Manada Conservancy's Bird the Ridge Walk 6/2 (DM, AM), 3 were reported from WSF 6/4, and the only Jul report was a single in Halifax 7/30 (SH). **Common Raven** was heard calling at the Fulling Mill boat launch at Swatara Cr. 6/12 (AL, IG, ph.), one was reported near PA 147 in Inglenook 7/4 (AL, IG), and one was from Susquehanna Twp. 7/17 (EB).

The only **Cliff Swallows** were 2 observed on a kayak trip down the Susquehanna R. on the Clemson and Bressler Islands stretch and again 2 a few miles downriver towards the Duncannon stretch 7/4 (AL, IG). White Oak Rd. in WSF yielded 2 **Veerys**, a **Hermit Thrush**, and 3 **Wood Thrush** on the morning of 6/4 (NZ), and the 3 species were heard singing simultaneously just a few miles away on Lykens Rd. on the evening of 7/9 (RK, AM).

A **Prothonotary Warbler** was heard singing in the Hershey area between E. Canal Street and the Swatara Cr. 6/1 (HW, ph.). On 6/2, during an evening kayak trip on a small section of the creek from South Boathouse Road to Swatara Cr. Park, 2 singing males were observed near the boathouse, and 2 additional singing males, along with a female, were observed further down the creek at the heron rookery (IG, AL). A pair was at the boathouse and a male sang at the rookery 6/7 (IG, AL). This section of the creek, owned by the Hershey Trust Company, contains a large swamp filled with dead trees, creating excellent habitat for cavity-nesting birds. Last fall, ZooAmerica staff and Milton Hershey School staff and students placed 8 nest boxes, provided by the PA Game Commission, in the swamp. Their use was unknown, but this is the first indication of possible breeding in *Dauphin*. A river otter was seen a few times in this area, including once chasing a family of **Wood Ducks**.

The only report of **Cerulean Warblers** was of a pair at FIG 6/24 (IG). One **Blackburnian Warbler** was reported from SGL 211 on 6/19 (C&SW). Seven **Black-throated Blue Warblers** were reported from Lykens Rd. 7/9 (RK, AM), more than in the past. **Pine Warblers** were at FIG 6/2-7/26, with a high of 8 on 6/13, which is an excellent tally compared to past eBird records.

A high count of 3 **Blue Grosbeaks** came from FIG 7/28 (IG) and one was on Arline Lane in Hershey 6/23 (HW), where one had been observed last year. Two **Bobolinks** were on the Blue Mountain Parkway 6/29 (CW) and 3 migrating birds were reported from SRWF 7/30 (RK).

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Becker, Tim Becker, Ed Bernot, Jim Dunn, Anonymous eBirder, Ian Gardner, Todd Gilbert, Sean Herrmann, Deuane Hoffman, Dave Kerr, Stefan Karkuff, Ramsay Koury, Alex Lamoreaux, Nate McKelvie, Dave McNaughton, Joshua Moritz, Benjamin Vizzachero, Joel Wagner, Carol & Scott Walker, Kayla Warshefski, Howard West, Cathleen Wetzell, Nathan Zalik.

Delaware County

Locations: Big Bend Farm, Delaware County Community College, Delaware River (DR), Hildacy Farm Preserve, John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge (JHNWR), Philadelphia International Airport (PHL), Ridley Creek State Park (RCSP), Swarthmore College (SC).

A quiet breeding season in *Delaware* boasted 112 species, about average compared to previous breeding seasons. Although the species total was standard fare, this year featured some exciting finds including a very active **Prothonotary Warbler** and a season-first **Mississippi Kite**.

One **American Bittern** at JHNWR 7/27 represents the only record of this bird this year in the county (PB). Single **Black-crowned Night-Herons** only were observed, with one flyover at Hildacy Farm Preserve 6/16 (DB) and another on the pond at Delaware County Community College 7/3 (MM). Four **Glossy Ibis** were feeding in nearby *Philadelphia* before flying into *Delaware* to roost that evening at JHNWR 7/23 (AG).

An exceptional find for the season, one **Mississippi Kite** was seen actively feeding over Haverford before drifting north 6/1 (BR). This observation represents the first record of this bird in *Delaware* in the summer season. Irregular and rare in summer, one **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was observed flying over Jack McDonald Field in Upper Darby 7/9 (MM).

Shorebirds totaled 6 different species. One **Pectoral Sandpiper** was feeding in the creek near the red tower at PHL 6/12 (DB). The only reports of **Semipalmated Sandpiper** were of 27, along with 2 **Greater Yellowlegs**, at JHNWR 7/17 (AG).

Four gull species were found, all along DR behind PHL. Highlights included 2 **Great Black-backed Gulls** 6/25 (MiH, BQ) and 6 on 7/27 (AG). Also, 15 **Herring Gulls** were seen 6/25 (MiH, BQ). Six **Caspian Terns** were seen on DR 7/27 (AG). Two **Eastern Screech Owls** and 2 **Great Horned Owls** were heard, reported on a nocturnal birding checklist in Newtown Square 7/27 (BS).

An irregular rare summer resident, one **Common Nighthawk** was heard during a game of basketball at Swarthmore College 6/16 (DO). The only record of **American Kestrel** this season was of one in Broomall 6/14 (MaH). **Peregrine Falcons** were observed only in the southern part of the county with a high of 2 between 6/24-7/13 near the Boeing complex (JH).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at Big Bend Farm in Chadds Ford 6/2 (TB, AG, JM, NP). Four vireo species were noted, including 2 **Yellow-throated Vireos** at RCSP 6/12-25 (DE, MiH, BQ, MW). The only **Common Raven** reported was at the Staybridge Suites Hotel parking lot in Glen Mills near their known breeding location 7/25 (JM). **Bank Swallows** were observed only in Jul with a high total of 3 at JHNWR 7/17-31 (AG, DO).

Eleven species of warblers were observed. Highlights included 2 **Blue-winged Warblers** at RCSP 6/10-22 (DB, CS, EW). A **Prothonotary Warbler** that was observed in the spring continued in RCSP, seen 6/12-7/14 (m.ob.) Single **Hooded Warblers** were seen throughout at RCSP 6/12-7/1 (PT, EW). A high total of 3 **Prairie Warblers** was made at RCSP 6/18-26 (DB, AG), where they are regular uncommon summer residents. A late **Canada Warbler** was heard on a walk at Big Bend Farm 6/2 (TB, AG, JM, NP). The only **Yellow-breasted Chat** was at RCSP 6/4 (KS).

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Elk County

Locations: Allegheny NF—Buzzard Swamp (BS), Allegheny NF—Twin Lakes Recreation Area (TL), Benezette Township (BT), East Branch Lake (EBL), Elk Country Visitor Center (ECVC), Grant Hill (GH), Jones Township (JT), Rasselas Marsh (RM), SGL 311—Porcupine Hollow (PH), SGL 311—Winslow Hill (WH).

Compared to the summer of 2015, this summer was definitely drier and warmer. Insufficient rain caused many streams to run dry and for EBL to run empty quicker than usual. Nevertheless, most bird species did not seem to be affected by the weather. Berry crops did well this year, leaving the birds plenty of food.

A **Hooded Merganser** at GH in BT 6/4 was likely a breeder (JA). Likely under-reported, the only sighting of **Common Merganser** was of 2 at SGL 25 on 6/5 (BB). **Ruffed Grouse** was present at its traditional site in JT throughout the season, with one also seen at SGL 25 on 6/5 (BB). While not unheard of in summer, 2 **Common Loons** provided a notable find at EBL 6/14 (BB). A rarer find was a **Horned Grebe** in the South Fork Bay of EBL 6/4 (BB). A pretty rare bird here, a **Great Egret** was reported from BS 7/26 (RN), where also seen in previous summers. **Green Herons** were reported from regular locations of BS 7/4 and 7/26, and one was also at SGL 25 on 6/5 (TR, RN, BB).

The **Ospreys** behind the US Army Corps' offices at EBL fledged 2 young (BB). Three Ospreys also were reported from BS 7/4 and 7/26 (TR, RN). The **Northern Harriers** were present at their regular breeding location of RM (BB). Single **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were at JT 7/6 and at WH 7/20 (BB, CE). Unusual for *Elk*, there were more reports of **Cooper's Hawk** than Sharp-shinnings with Cooper's reported from SGL 25 on 6/10, St. Marys 6/14, and GH 7/4 (ES, BB, JA). **Bald Eagles** continued at EBL throughout the summer, and singles were also at GH 6/4 and 7/4 (BB, JA).

Spotted Sandpiper continues to be seen in good numbers at EBL with the high count being 10, including 5 adults and 5 juveniles (BB). A slightly early **Solitary Sandpiper** was at EBL 7/19 (BB). An adult **Ring-billed Gull** was at EBL 6/4, and a juvenile was there 7/12 (BB). Three early **Forster's Terns** were at EBL 7/5 (BB).

Both cuckoo species were present in better numbers this year compared to last year. **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were at JT throughout July and one was at GH 6/4 (BB, JA). **Black-billed Cuckoos** also were reported during July at BT, JT, and RM (BB, SJ). Owl sightings were in short supply with only 2 species reported. Single **Great Horned Owls** were at GH 6/4, 7/4, and 7/6 and at Mill Dam in Johnsonburg 6/26 (JA, MK). **Barred Owls** were at JT 6/15 and GH 7/4 (BB, JA). After only one sighting during this past spring, there was yet again only one report of **Common Nighthawk** this summer, at JT 7/15 (BB). This species could possibly breed at this location given the many of the flat-topped boulders that the species could use.

Uncommon in *Elk*, **Red-bellied Woodpeckers** were seen at their stronghold in the southeast corner of the county with singles at GH 6/4 and WH 7/20 (JA, CE). **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were seen at various locations across the northern third of the county (BB, AW, JW). **American Kestrels** were at their usual breeding location of RM during July, and 2 were also at Johnsonburg 7/22 (BB). A nice surprise was a **Merlin** flying over EBL 7/19 (BB), possibly a breeder in *Elk*. Even more unusual was a **Peregrine Falcon** at GH 7/4 (JA).

Three **Alder Flycatchers** were at TL 7/4, and 4 at RM 7/23 (BB). Another rare southern species, a **White-eyed Vireo** was at GH 7/5 (JA). This species was not recorded as a breeder during either breeding bird atlas. **Yellow-throated Vireos** were at GH during early July, and one was at ECVC 7/2 (JA, BB). **Blue-headed Vireos** were reported from various location across the county, with a high count of 14 at JT 6/17 (BB). The only **Warbling Vireos** were at RM 7/23, where 2 harassed a **Blue Jay** that could have been trying to invade the vireo's nest (BB). **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** was reported only once, at JT 7/13 (BB). One **Bank Swallow** was at JT 6/17 and 4 were at RM 7/23 (BB).

All **Tufted Titmouse** reports came from the southeast corner of the county including BT, ECVC, and GH (SJ, BB, JA). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** bred at JT this year with a juvenile seen 6/18 (BB). One Red-breasted Nuthatch was at ECVC 7/5 as well (JA). **Brown Creepers** were at JT, PH, and SGL 25 (BB). This was yet another year with lower than average **Winter Wren** numbers, with birds seen at SGL 25 on 6/5, GH 7/3, and TL 7/4 (BB, JA). The newly resident **Carolina Wrens** at JT were seen periodically throughout the season with one young noted with the parents 7/17 (BB).

The resident **Golden-crowned Kinglets** at JT fledged 6 young, making the high count 12 individuals 6/16 (BB). Four Golden-crowned Kinglets were at SGL 25 6/5 (BB). **Veery** reports came from Bear Hollow in Elk SF 6/26 and from GH 7/4-6 (BS, JA). Recorded as a possible breeder in the block during the second Breeding Bird Atlas, a **Swainson's Thrush** was heard singing at TL 7/4 (BB). **Hermit Thrushes** were at various locations across the county (m.ob.), and the high count came from JT with 16 birds 6/17 (BB).

A rare breeder in the county, **Worm-eating Warbler** was found at GH 7/5, and a **Northern Waterthrush** was found there as well 7/3 (JA). The only **Blue-winged Warbler** was at ECVC 7/5 (JA). **Black-and-white**

Warblers were reported only from GH (JA). Single **Mourning Warblers** were at Allegheny National Forest 6/29 and at JT 7/5 (AW, JW, BB). The only **Northern Parula** was at GH 7/4 (JA). Many of the more northern warblers are common to abundant in *Elk*. These include **Magnolia, Blackburnian, Black-throated Blue, and Black-throated Green Warblers** (m.ob.). Two locations hosted **Pine Warbler** this season. One location was on an old strip mine field where there are Jack, Red, and White Pines planted, with 2 singing males and one female present through June and early July (BB). The other report was of a single bird at GH 6/4 and 7/3-4 (JA). **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were at JT through June and one was at RM 7/4 and 7/23 (BB). A **Prairie Warbler** was at GH 7/5, the only one for the season (JA).

Grasshopper Sparrow was reported from ECVC, JT, and PH (JA, BB). Up to 6 **White-throated Sparrows** were at their traditional breeding location of RM (BB), which provides superb habitat for this species as well as many other boreal species at the beginning of Swamp Cr. This location contains many eastern hemlocks and eastern white pines in a bog-like habitat. **Savannah Sparrow** was at ECVC and PH 7/2 (BB). **Swamp Sparrows** were at 4 locations throughout the county (BB, RN), and the high count was of 5 at RM 7/23 (BB).

The only report of **Bobolink** was of one at BS 7/26 (RN). Due to most of the county being forested, **House Finch** can be a hard bird to find; only 2 sightings were made, with 2 at St Marys 7/2 and one at JT 7/3 (BB). BB was surprised to see this species at JT flying over deep woods. Up to 4 **Purple Finches** were at JT through the period, and one was at GH as well 7/3 (BB, JA).

Observers: **Brendyn Baptiste, 255 Clayton Rd Butler, PA 16001, brendynbaptiste@yahoo.com, (724) 496-4856**, Josh Auld, Henggang Cui, Carl Engstrom, Steven Johnson, Mark Kneidel, Patricia McKelvey, Richard Nugent, Theo Rickert, Ed Scimm, Bob Stein, Andrew Wiegardt, Jane Wong.

Erie County

Locations: Presque Isle State Park (PISP).

Common Tern nesting attempts failed again this year when at least 2 pairs incubated eggs through full term, but disappeared for unknown reasons, though predation was suspected. More successful were **Osprey** and **Merlin**. At least 2 active **Osprey** nests produced a combined total of 7 young (JH). A family group of 5 **Merlins** was found in Fairview Twp. (DS) and a pair with 2 young were in a nest in Edinboro (*vide* JH). A banded male **Piping Plover** remained at Gull Point PISP through most of the reporting period though a mate never appeared. Failed **Bluebird** nestings were reported from at least two sites. Adults were reported to have abandoned the dependent young.

The following birds of note were recorded from PISP unless noted otherwise.

A very high count of 65 **Common Mergansers** at Gull Point 7/31 was an unprecedented number for summer in *Erie* (TL). A single male **Ruddy Duck** was present at Gull Point 7/31 (DY). Single **Least Bitterns** were reported from Leo's landing through the period (DS, JF). Quite a surprise was the adult **White Ibis** found and photographed at Gull Point 7/7 (RSw, MB, JF), a first for *Erie*.

The seasonal total of 15 **American Avocets** at Gull Point was 15, from 6/19 to 7/15 (BH, MB, et al.). A total of 6 **Willetts** were reported at Gull Point from 7/7 through the period (m.ob.). Two **Whimbrels** were at Gull Point 7/7 (MB) and a single was there 7/18 (AB, MH). A **Marbled Godwit** represented a rare find at Gull Point 7/13 (DA). An adult **White-rumped Sandpiper** was spotted by at Gull Point 7/1 (GM), providing an exceptionally early record for this rare migrant. The only **Stilt Sandpiper** was one photographed at Gull Point 7/18 (RS). The 2 **Wilson's Snipe** at Gull Point from 6/27 to 6/30 were unusual for early summer (MB & MV). The always exciting **Wilson's Phalarope** was a good find at Gull Point 7/18 (AB, MH).

A single **Pine Siskin** was at a feeder in Edinboro 7/23 (SW).

Observers: **Jerry McWilliams, 3508 Allegheny Rd., Erie, Pa. 16508-2129, jerrymcw@aol.com.**, Dave Amamoto, Mary Birdsong, Anthony Bruno, Jim Flynn, Margaret Higbee, Jamie Hill, Bruce Hoover, Tim Lenz, Geoff Malosh, Robert Scribner, Don Snyder, Ruth Swaney (RSw), Mark Vass, Dave Yeany, Suzanne Winterberger.

Fayette County

A **Ruffed Grouse** was at Chalk Hill Bog 6/2 (DY). After a few years on the decline, hopefully this species will be reported more often. **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** breed in the county but I don't often receive reports. One was at Ohiopyle State Park 6/1 (MA) and one at Chalk Hill Bog 6/2 (DY).

A **Hermit Thrush** was at Chalk Hill Bog 6/2 (DY). This bog is in SGL 51 and has a northern feel to it, reflected in some of the birdlife. Hermit Thrush are often found among the few mountain bogs in this region. **Magnolia Warblers** were at Ohiopyle SP 6/1 (MA) and Chalk Hill Bog 6/2 (DY). A **Canada Warbler** was at Ohiopyle SP 6/1 (MA). Neither are widespread but do occur in the higher elevations.

Grasslands in Wharton Twp. produced sparrows including 12 **Grasshopper Sparrows** and 11 **Henslow's Sparrows** (LD), great counts. A **Purple Finch** was at Ohiopyle SP 6/1 (MA).

Observers: **Mike Fialkovich, 805 Beulah Road, Pittsburgh, 15235, (412) 731-3581, mpfial@verizon.net**, Mark Alt, David Burleson, Larry Durgin, David Yeany.

Forest County

Locations: Allegheny National Forest (ANF), Buzzard Swamp (BS), Lighthouse Island (LI), Mayburg (MB), Red Brush (RB).

A **Pied-billed Grebe** was noted 6/15, 6/29, and 6/30 at LI (FM, JM), without further breeding evidence. **Ospreys** were noted only at BS, where 2 adults were seen, as well as at least one juvenile in the nest (AK), which is actually in neighboring *Elk*. **Bald Eagles** were reported a number of times near MB (JS). **American Kestrel**, absent from *Forest* during Pennsylvania's Second BBA, appears to be increasing. A kestrel was observed at RB 6/16 (FM, JM), 2 were at German Hill 6/20 (FM, JM), and one near MB 7/5 (JS).

Red-headed Woodpeckers were confirmed nesting for the second year in northern *Forest*, where a pair was seen several times at a nest cavity in June and July (FM, JM). Four **White-eyed Vireos** were noted at BS 6/25 (AK). This is a rare summer record for a species found predominantly at lower elevations (below 1300'); the elevation at BS ranges from 1620' to 1740'. **Bank Swallow** appears to be declining in Pennsylvania, so observations of 2 near MB 6/2, 6/5, and 6/7 are encouraging (JS).

Golden-crowned Kinglet, a breeder on the increase, was reported only near MA 6/30 (CW). Breeding was confirmed with 2 singing males and at least one fledged young one. **Swainson's Thrush** was reported 6/30 (CW), 6/25, 7/2, and 7/4 (FM, JM), from 4 different locations in the ANF. This is the state's rarest nesting thrush, on the southern edge of its breeding range.

Pine Warbler, an increasing, but still very uncommon breeder in *Forest*, was noted near Cooksburg 6/17 (SD) and near MA 6/30 (CW). The only **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was near Cooksburg 6/17 (SD). **Prairie Warbler**, rarely seen in summer, was noted only near Redclyffe 6/3, found in a small spruce plantation where it has been somewhat regular for a number of years (FM). **Orchard Oriole**, a species seldom reported here in summer, was confirmed breeding at LI when an adult male was seen feeding 2 young 6/30. Orchard Orioles are reportedly expanding northward in PA along the river valleys and this sighting was indeed near the Allegheny R..

Observers: **Flo McGuire, 609 Ponderosa Lane, Tionesta, PA 16353, (814) 755-3672, fmcguire1@verizon.net**, Brendyn Baptiste, Steve Dowlan, Robert Hodgson, Alyssa Karmann, Florinus Kooyman, Jim McGuire, Richard Nugent, David Poortinga, Theo Rickert, Jeff Scepora, Carole Winslow.

Franklin County

Locations: Bender's Farm (BEFA), Greencastle Reservoir (GRRE), Michaux State Forest (MSF).

Out of season birds included a **Ruddy Duck** at GRRE 6/19-28 (CG), a **Northern Harrier** near Pleasant Hall 7/9 (BO), and a **Brown Creeper** in MSF 7/31 (BO, RV).

Great Egrets appeared as expected in July with reports near Roxbury 7/16 (BO) and Keefer Rd. 7/17 (BO), and continuing with large numbers (12-14) at various ponds in the Pleasant Hall-Upper Strasburg area beginning

7/22, with birds remaining for over a week (BO).

Just a single report of an **American Avocet** at GRRE 6/30 (CG, DG) followed an exceptional spring when counts of 34 and 50 were reported four days apart and in different locations during the first week of May. Evidence of southbound migration followed with first reports of **Lesser Yellowlegs** 7/6 and **Least Sandpiper** 7/7 at GRRE (CG). Two **Solitary Sandpipers** 7/9 and a **Semipalmated Sandpiper** 7/23 were at a pond near Roxbury (BO). An unexpected find was a **Wilson's Snipe** at a pond near Lurgan 7/30 (BO). Another good bird was a **Black Tern** beginning to transition from breeding plumage at Kriner Rd. Retention ponds 7/25 (BO, JB).

A **Bald Eagle** was observed eating a groundhog along Wenger Rd. 6/26 (CG). An **Osprey** was observed being chased by a Bald Eagle at BEFA 7/23 (BO) and a **Peregrine Falcon** was observed chasing a **Killdeer** at BEFA 7/30 (BO).

Cliff Swallows again nested under the bridge over Wilson Run on Wenger Rd. west of Chambersburg (BO, CG); and in the same area, **Barn Owls** again nested as well (BO, CG). **Eurasian Collared-Doves** again nested in the Shady Grove/Greencastle Reservoir area (CG, DG). **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** counts during night checks of MSF included 3 heard in MSF south of Route 30 on 6/9 (BO, VB, LN) and 5 in MSF north of Route 30 on 6/20 (BO, VB).

Dickcissels were first reported from Wenger Rd. 6/6 (CG, BO), then 6/25-26 and 6/30 along Portico Rd/ (BK, TK, VB, CG), and also along Burkett and Boundary Rds. 7/3, 7/8-9 (BO, VB, NM). **Blue Grosbeaks**, after a couple reports from May, were found 7/3 (male) and 7/9 (female) along Burkett Rd. (BO). All known sightings during the period were west of Chambersburg and north of Route 30.

A bird along Stillhouse Hollow Rd. that at first thought was a Clay-colored Sparrow because it was singing that song often, turned out to be a **Chipping Sparrow** which was actually singing the song of both species (BK, CG, BO). Between one and 8 **Pine Siskins** continued at the feeders at a home near Caledonia, with begging behavior observed several times in early June (VB).

Observers: **Bill Oyler, 1216 Wilson Ave, Chambersburg, Pa 17201, (717-360-5191, oylerbill@gmail.com**, Val Barnes, Joan Bowen, Carl Garner, Dale Gearhart, Bob Keener, Bob Kochert, Terri Kochert, Nancy Magnusson, Lori Nichols, Rodney Varner.

Fulton County

No report

Compiler: **Amy Evans, 403 Walnut St, Columbia, PA 17512, needmore.pa@gmail.com**,

Greene County

Locations: East View (EV), Jackson Twp. (JT), State Game Lands 223 (SGL 223), Sycamore (SY).

Greene, and some neighboring counties, had 17-year cicadas which seemed to have made a difference in sightings for the period. It was very difficult to hear birds even when you could see them singing. An apple tree with rotting apples in the yard at SY seemed to be one of the best spots to view a large assortment of birds every day until all the apples were gone. Among the birds seen were: **Blue Jays, Gray Catbird, Tufted Titmouse, American Crow, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Downy Woodpecker, American Robin, Cedar Waxwing, Northern Cardinal, Common Yellowthroat, Baltimore Oriole, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak.**

In EV, up to 11 **Wood Ducks** visited the feeder area almost daily to eat corn (JH, MH). Approximately 15 young **Wild Turkeys** were seen at SY 6/28 (JC). At the rookery in Center Twp., 38 **Great Blue Herons** were counted 6/16 (CK, MH). **Green Heron** was found in Whiteley Twp. 7/30 (KH, JD).

Bald Eagle sightings are becoming more frequent, the last reported was in Morgan Twp. 7/31 (JD, KH). **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was at SGL 223 on 6/16 (CK, MH). At EV, a **Cooper's Hawk** made daily visits to the feeder area for about 2 weeks (MH). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was seen flying over Center Twp. 6/16 (CK). A pair of **Broad-winged Hawks** was sighted in Dunkard Twp. 6/18 (TB).

Spotted Sandpiper was sighted in a small mudflat in what was once Duke Lake at Ryerson SP (it was drained in 2005) 6/16 (CK, MH). **American Woodcock** was in Whiteley Twp. 6/16 (CK, MH). **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were reported into early July at EV (MH) as were **Black-billed**

Cuckoos in SY (JC). A **Great-horned Owl** was heard calling throughout the period at CL (RA, LA). **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was not seen much this period causing many folks to question where have they gone and should they take their feeders down.

For the fourth year, **Red-headed Woodpeckers** nested in Morris Twp. with young visiting the suet feeder throughout the period (CA). Two immature **Northern Flickers** were in SY 7/2 (JC). An **American Kestrel** pair was seen almost every day through the period in a yard in Cumberland Twp. and were very agitated when the homeowner was in the yard (LD). **Common Raven** was reported at Ryerson SP 6/16 (CK, MH).

In Cumberland Twp., 20 **Purple Martins** were counted 6/19 (KK, MH). At SY, 5 young **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were seen 6/19 (JC). **Carolina Wren** young fledged from the hanging flower 6/29 at EV (MH). **House Wren** young left the nest at SY 6/28 (JC).

In Dunkard Twp., **Ovenbird** was found 6/20 (LD, MH). Three young **Louisiana Waterthrush** were playing in a mud puddle in Monongahela Twp. 6/20 (LD, MH). **Kentucky Warbler** was calling in Whiteley Twp. 6/20 (LD, MH). **Cerulean Warbler** was last noted in Morgan Twp. 6/19 (MH, KK). **Northern Parula** wasn't reported after 6/20 in Monongahela Twp. (MH, LD). In Perry Twp. **Yellow-throated Warbler** was last reported 6/20 (LD, MH). **Yellow-breasted Chat** was last reported in Whiteley Twp. 6/19 (KK, MH).

Field Sparrow was heard in Whiteley Twp. 6/20 (LD, MH). **Savannah Sparrow** was found in Cumberland Twp. 6/19 (MH, KK). **Grasshopper Sparrow** was heard in Center Twp. 6/18 (MH, KK). **Scarlet Tanager** was last reported in JT 7/27 (RL, WD).

Red-winged Blackbird recently fledged young were noted in SGL 223 on 7/31 (KH, JD). In Dunkard Twp., the last **Eastern Meadowlark** was reported 6/20 (MH, LD). At EV, **Orchard Oriole** was last noted 7/11 and **Baltimore Oriole** last reported at same location 7/5 (MH).

Observers: **Marjorie Howard, 149 Preachers Road, Waynesburg, PA 15370, (724) 852-3155, rkbirdclub@yahoo.com**, Carol Andrew, Lyn Argent, Ron Argent, Terry Bronson, Jan Churney, William Deegan, Lucille DeFrank, Joseph Daigneau, Karen Holleran, Jerry Howard, Chad Kaufman, Kathy Kern, Rosanna Lane, Mary LaPlante.

Huntingdon County

Locations: Cornpropst Mills (CM), Ennisville (ENN), Greenwood Furnace SP (GF), Huntingdon (HU), Juniata River (JR), Lake Perez (LP), Old Crow wetland (OC), Petersburg (PET), Raystown Lake, Shaver's Creek Environmental Center (SCEC), Trough Creek Valley (TCV).

The most notable weather feature of the summer was the lack of rain, following a winter and spring that were also abnormally dry. Combined June and July rainfall at Huntingdon was roughly 50% of normal. Temperatures were above normal, particularly during the second half of July.

July, some years lacking in surprises, provided the "best" birds of the season this year. Two rare herons were found, each representing only about the fifth *Huntingdon* record for their respective species. An immature **Little Blue Heron** was at OC 7/13 (GG, m.ob., ph.) and was quite cooperative for many birders, staying until at least early Aug, mostly at OC but occasionally in the nearby JR. A kayaker got a nice photo of an equally rare imm. **Yellow-crowned Night Heron**, found standing on an exposed rock during low flow in the JR at Mt. Union 7/18 (SFG). Unfortunately, it was not seen again.

A **Trumpeter Swan**, probably continuing from spring, was at OC 6/4 (RD, AB). A hen **Hooded Merganser** and 8 young were in a wetland near CM 6/6 (GG). **Osprey** is not a confirmed breeder here, but summer records occur annually. This year, birds were reported from LP 6/4 (BS) and 6/26 (MB), TCV 6/26 (GG), and near Mt. Union 7/3 (SG). Very unusual in summer and not likely nesting, a **Northern Harrier** was noted over a wheat field at ENN 6/13 (GG, DG).

Almost as rare in the county as the 2 herons already noted, a **Common Gallinule** was at OC 7/13-23 (DK, TK, m.ob.); one or 2 were present for a few weeks during May at two sites, including OC. Unusual, but not unprecedented, in summer, an **American Coot** was at OC 7/18 (CE, KE). An **American Avocet** was reported at RL 7/6 (*vide* AS) but no details were provided. Somewhat late and providing a good count for *Huntingdon* anytime, 12 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were found near PET 6/3 (JK). The first returning **Solitary Sandpiper** was at OC 7/13 (GG, DK, TK).

A record high count of 61 **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** was made on 3 Nightjar Surveys (30 stops) in Rothrock S.F., compared to the 7-year average of 43; the previous high was 52 in 2013. Most stops are in northern *Huntingdon*, with a few are in *Mifflin* and *Centre* (GG, DG, DB). Two **Common Nighthawks** were over HU 6/14 (JV), where nesting formerly occurred.

A **Prothonotary Warbler**, originally found along the JR 5/13, remained through at least 6/7 (GG, CE). When first found, it was observed gathering nest material, but no mate was seen nor was any additional breeding evidence obtained. **Yellow-throated Warblers** are regular along some sections of the JR but are seldom seen elsewhere; one was reported at SCEC 6/26 (MB). In early June, 16 miles of the Lower Trail, which parallels the JR from Alexandria to Williamsburg, *Blair*, were surveyed by canoe and foot, producing 65 **Cerulean Warblers**, compared to 51 in 2015. Also tallied were 48 **Acadian Flycatchers**, 52, **Warbling Vireos**, 42 **Wood Thrushes**, 19 **Louisiana Waterthrushes**, 100 **American Redstarts**, and 7 **Yellow-throated Warblers** (NB).

Bobolinks, uncommon nesters, were in the usual location in the big fields in the Longhorn Rd. area of northern TCV 6/4 and 6/26 (RD, GG). Following a spring in which **Pine Siskins** lingered long at feeders, with some probably nesting, one was at GF 6/15 (NB).

For the 25th year, three Breeding Bird Surveys were conducted entirely within Rothrock S.F.; a total of 150 point counts (GG, DG, NB). Most stops are in *Huntingdon*, some are in *Centre* and *Mifflin*. The top 5 species, which were same as last year (with 25-year average in parenthesis): **Ovenbird** 238 (153), **Red-eyed Vireo** 196 (196), **Eastern Towhee** 104 (82), **Scarlet Tanager** 64 (71), and **Wood Thrush** 47 (46). The Ovenbird count was highest ever.

Observers: **Greg Grove**, 9524 Stone Creek Ridge Road, Huntingdon, PA 16652, gwg2@psu.edu. Alex Bischer, Diane Bierly, Mat Brenner, Nick Bolgiano, Rob Dickerson, Carl Engstrom, Kurt Engstrom, Stacia-Fe Gillen, Deb Grove, Sandra Gardner, Jon Kauffman, David Kyler, Trudy Kyler, Amos Swarey, Ben Steines, Justin Vreeland, Doug Wentzel.

Indiana County

Locations: Yellow Creek State Park (YC).

It was a strange summer for waterfowl. An **American Wigeon**, viewed from the Wetland Walkway at the edge of the marsh at YC 6/14 (LC, TG, MH, RH, DK, DM, KT) represented an unusual find. Two summering buddies, a drake **Ring-necked Duck** and a **Lesser Scaup** spent a good portion of the season on Dragonfly Pond at YC. The former was last seen 7/17 (TH), but the scaup continued into the fall. These are our first June records for all three species. In addition, a one-time sighting of a **Red-breasted Merganser** occurred at YC 6/27 (LC).

Single **Double-crested Cormorants** were present at YC 6/3 (RS), 6/14 (LC *et al*), and 7/26 (PF, TG). **Black Vultures** continue to expand into *Indiana* with reports of one near Fulton Run 6/7 (JA), 2 at Dilltown 6/11 (RL), and one over a yard near Lewisville 7/12 (MC). Sightings of **Osprey** at YC 6/2 (RS), 6/25 (LM, KT), and 6/28 (LC, SD, TG, MH, RH, KT) caused us to question whether we had a nesting pair, but that was not yet confirmed.

YC hosted 2-3 **Least Sandpipers** between 7/5 (LC, TG, MH, RH, DK, DM) and 7/26 (PF, TG). A **Short-billed Dowitcher**, found 7/16 (GS), was still present the following day (TH). An **American Woodcock** was photographed near the YC boat rental 6/3 (RS). First **Solitary Sandpiper** arrived at YC 7/16 (GS); 3 was the high count 7/19 (TG, MH, RH, DK, SM, DM). A single **Ring-billed Gull** at YC 6/2 (RS) was the only one reported. One **Black Tern** flying low over the marsh at YC was a surprise 6/14 (LC, TG, MH, RH, DK, DM, KT). Although unusual, the June date is not unprecedented as a singleton spent 6/1-20/1989 at YC (GL) and 2 were noted on 6/3/2003 (MH, LW). Two **Forster's Terns** stopped at YC 7/22 (DP). An **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was calling for about 20 minutes after sundown near West Lebanon 6/19 (SG).

Becoming more difficult to find in *Indiana* during the breeding season, a single **Least Flycatcher** was noted northeast of Smicksburg 6/6 (MH, RH). A **Bank Swallow** at YC 7/15 (MD) and 2 there 7/23 (JP) were noteworthy. A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** appeared near Shelocla 6/22 (MH) and was sighted on six dates thereafter (MH, RH). A **Hermit Thrush** was found at YC 6/3 (RS).

Worm-eating Warbler was confirmed nesting at Charles F. Lewis NA when a fledgling was spotted and photographed 6/18 (DP). Last **Louisiana Waterthrush** was found at YC 7/19 (TG *et al*). **Kentucky Warblers** were noted only northeast of Smicksburg 6/6 (MH, RH) and on the north shore of YC 6/14, 28 (MH, RH). Conemaugh Dam yielded 3 singing **Cerulean Warblers** 6/20 (MH, RH, JT); another was listed along the Ghost Town Trail near Red Mill 7/9 (MH, RH). YC harbored 3 **Northern Parulas** 6/21 (DK); single birds were found at YC 6/28 (LC, SD, TG, MH, RH, KT) and 7/5 (LC, TG, MH, RH, DK, DM). **Pine Warbler** continued at YC between 6/7 (MH, RH) and 7/2 (JP). A single **Yellow-throated Warbler** was observed at

Conemaugh Dam 6/17 (MH, JT) and 6/20 (MH, RH, JT). The Clarksburg area yielded 6 singing male **Prairie Warblers** 6/17 (MH, JT). One **Yellow-breasted Chat** near West Lebanon 6/17 (MH, JT) was the only one reported.

Four **Grasshopper Sparrows** and one **Henslow's Sparrow** at West Lebanon 6/19 (SG) comprised the entire report for these species. Unusual was a **Dark-eyed Junco** at Blacklick 6/28 (DL); although juncos nest in the northernmost part of the county, Blacklick is much farther south.

Observers: **Margaret Higbee**, 3119 Creekside Road, Indiana, PA 15701-7934, (724-354-3493), bcoriole@windstream.net. Josh Auld, Lee Carnahan, Marcy Cunkelman, Michael David, Sue Dickson, Patience Fisher, Tom Glover, Steve Gosser, Roger Higbee, Todd Hooe, Debbie Kalbfleisch, Gloria Lamer, Dennis Laufer, Renee Lubert, Sue Mayer, Lisa Meadows, Donna Meyer, David Portinga, Joseph Pumphord, Gina Sheridan, Robin Smith, John Taylor, Ken Truitt, Linda Wagner.

Jefferson County

Locations: Beartown Rocks (BR), Brookville (BV), Clear Creek State Park (CC), Clear Creek State Forest (CF), Fordham Lake (FL), Highland Park Rd (HP), Mahoning Shadow Trail (MS), Pine Creek (PC), Perry TWP Sportsman Club (PS), Redbank Valley Trail (RB), Reynoldsville (RY), Ringgold (RG), Sandy Ridge Rd (SR), Stone House Rd (SH), Summerville (SM), Sugar Camp Rd (SC).

A high count of 81 **Canada Geese** was reported on FL 6/19 (JD, TG). Eleven **Common Mergansers** were in SM 7/23 (AK, JK). The MS resident pair of **Bald Eagles** produced 2 chicks, seen on the nest tree flapping their wings 7/19, and by 7/24 the nest and tree were empty. **Broad-winged Hawks** were noted twice, one in CF 6/14 (RN), and one in SM 7/23 (RS). One **Solitary Sandpiper** was in SM 7/23 (RS).

Yellow-billed Cuckoos were noted 4 times, one in CF 6/14 (RN), one in RG 7/10 (AK, JK), one on the MS 7/17 (AK, JK), and one on the RB 7/19 (AK, JK). **Black-billed Cuckoos** were noted twice, one on the MS 6/19 (JG, TG), and one in RY 7/30 (KW). **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were found at only 2 locations, on the same date by the same observer, one in CF and one at BR 6/14 (RN). The only **American Kestrel** was on the MS 6/24 (JG, TG).

Alder Flycatchers were noted twice, one on SR 6/19 (JG, TG) and one on HP 7/17 (JG, TG). The only **Eastern Kingbird** was on SR 7/16 (GS). Only one **White-eyed Vireo** was reported - on RB 7/19 (AK, JK). A high count of 3 **Blue-headed Vireos** was made at BR 6/1 (JM). **Common Ravens** were noted twice, with one in CF 6/14 (RN), and one in BV 7/4 (TR).

The last 3 **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** for the period were reported on the RB 6/29 (AK, JK), and the only **Cliff Swallow** was on the RB 7/19 (AK, JK). The only reported **Golden-crowned Kinglet** discovered for the period was found in CF 7/4 (JP). A high count of 7 **Veerys** came from BR 6/1 (JM). **Hermit Thrushes** were an interesting find on 4 occasions: at BR 6/1 (JM), possibly the same bird also at BR 6/14 (RN), one at PC 6/16 (ZR), and one in CC 6/29 (AK, JK).

Fifteen species of warblers were reported. **Ovenbirds**, **Common Yellowthroats**, **Yellow Warblers**, **Chestnut-sided Warblers**, and **Black-throated Green Warblers** were common occurrences for the county. Four **Black-and-white Warblers** were counted at BR 6/1 (JM). A high of 4 **Hooded Warblers** was at BR 6/14 (RN) and 4 **American Redstarts** also provided a high count for the season at BR 6/14 (RN). The only **Northern Parula** was on the RB 7/19 (AK, JK) and the high count of 4 **Magnolia Warblers** was made at BR 6/1 (JM). **Blackburnian Warblers** were discovered on 2 occasions, with 2 at BR 6/1 (JM) and 1 in CF 6/14 (RN). Eight **Black-throated Blue Warblers**, the high count, were at BR 6/1 (JM). The only **Yellow-throated Warbler** was found in CC 6/29 (AK, JK) and the only **Prairie Warbler** was on SC 6/6 (MH, RH). **Canada Warblers** were discovered at BR, with 6 on 6/1 (JM), and one on 6/14 (RN).

A count of 2 **Savannah Sparrows** was reported on SC 6/6 (MH, RH) and 3 more were on SR 7/16 (GS). Two **Grasshopper Sparrows** were on SC 6/6 (MH, RH). A high count of 8 **Grasshopper Sparrows** was reported on SR 7/16 (GS), along with a high count of 10 **Henslow's Sparrows**, also found on SR 7/16 (GS) (note the two previous observation probably included counts from SR in *Clearfield*). Four **Swamp Sparrows**, providing the high count, were on the MS 7/17 (AK, JK). **Dark-eyed Juncos** were found in the forested northern parts of the county, with a high of 6 in the CC 7/19 (AK, JK). A high count of 2 **Bobolinks** was noted on SC 6/6 (MH, RH).

Observers: **Thomas Glover, 210 Highland Ave., Punxsutawney, PA 15767, tomnglover@comcast.net.** Jud Glover, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Avis Keener, John Keener, Jeff McDonald, Richard Nugent, Joseph Pumford, Theo Rickert, Zane Roskoph, Gena Sheridan, Ron Smith, Kelly Williams.

Juniata County

Another **Bald Eagle** nest was found on Lost Cr. off Cuba Mills Rd. by Amish kids fishing on their holiday vacation 7/4. A singing **Blue Grosbeak** was seen 7/4 and heard by Marvin Troyer at his home on Flint Road. northeast of Van Wert off and on for several weeks. A partial albino **Common Grackle** was photographed in Oakland Mills 6/20 (AT). **Pine Siskins** continued on a feeder in Licking Cr. to 6/7, where they had been seen all winter and spring (DB).

Observers: **Chad Kauffman, 91 Kauffman Lane, Mifflintown, PA 17059, chadkauffman@earthlink.net, cell 717-994-6715, home/work 717-436-8257, Aden Troyer, 610 Oakland Rd, Mifflintown, PA 17059, phone 717-463-3117, Deb Brackbill.**

Lackawanna County

No compiler.

Lancaster County

Locations: Chestnut Grove Natural Area (CGNA), Conewago Recreation Trail and Wetlands (CRTW), Middle Conewago Recreation Trail and wetlands (CRTW), Creek Wildlife Management Area (MCWMA), Octoraro Reservoir (OR), Rock Springs Nature Preserve (RSNP), Safe Harbor Park (SH), Speedwell Forge Lake (SFL), Susquehanna River Conejohela Flats (SRCF), Susquehanna River Peach Bottom (SRPB), Welsh Mountain Nature Preserve (WMNP).

One **Tundra Swan** was on the SRCF 6/11 (ZM, ML). Four **American Black Ducks** were at the SRCF 7/16 (ME) and one was at MCWMA 7/31 (ZM). One adult male **Ruddy Duck** was at MCWMA 7/19 (BC). Seven **Common Mergansers**, 6 young and one adult, were at SFL 7/5 (ME) and 7 were there 7/11 (LB).

A pair of **Green Herons** was gathering nesting material in Gap 6/19 (PF). A **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was at the Ephrata Community Hospital 6/5 (DHI), present since 4/18, displaying and building a nest in an effort to attract a mate. There were 2 juvenile **Little Blue Herons** on the SRCF 7/16 (ME) and 2 were at SFL 7/30 (PF). A juvenile **Cattle Egret** was at the CRTW 7/30-31 (AL, IG, m.ob.). An **American Coot** was at MCWMA 6/1-4 (BC, ME, TNII) and one on the SRCF 7/16 (ME).

A **Mississippi Kite** was at the Stauffer's of Kissel in Rohrestown 6/11 (KL). There was a report of an active **Osprey** nest on a tower on the Bainbridge Island, as well as one on the tower just north of Bainbridge Elementary School 6/29 (AC), and an adult was feeding 2 young at Falmouth 7/11 (ME). This pair had nested on a tower at the York Haven Dam until they were displaced by a pair of **Peregrine Falcons**. A pair of **Cooper's Hawks** was confirmed breeding in Gap 6/19, when a chick was observed in the nest (PF), with 4 visible 7/6 (PF).

Two **Short-billed Dowitchers** were on the SRCF 7/16 (ME). Three **Greater Yellowlegs** were on the SRCF 7/16 (ME). Seven **Lesser Yellowlegs** were on the SRCF 7/16 (ME) and one was at the Beechdale Road pond 7/31 (FH). An impressive total 190 **Least Sandpipers** was made on the SRCF 7/16 (ME). Six were at the Beechdale Road pond 7/31 (FH). Eighteen **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were on the SRCF 7/16 (ME). One **Solitary Sandpiper** was at the Beechdale Road pond 7/31 (FH). A high count of 6 **Upland Sandpipers** came from the Lancaster Airport, with daily sightings 7/23-31 (BC, m.ob.). One was in a hayfield on Kissel Hill Road 7/23 (FB). A **Caspian Tern** was on the SRCF 7/9 (ME) and 2 were there 7/16 (ME). Three **Forster's Terns** were on the SRCF 7/16 (ME) and 2 on the SRPB 7/24 (BS). Two **Black Terns** were on the SRPB 7/24 (BS).

Two **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were at MCWMA 6/1 (BH, WBG) and one in Pequea 7/13 (MS). The Pennsylvania Game Commission banded 5 young **Barn Owls** at the Kauffman Fruit Farms 6/16. Clair Kauffman, the manager of the farm, and Dan Mummert of the PGC led the event. Five young owls were banded, weighed, measured, and had DNA taken for research. There were many people there, but all got great looks at these

adorable babies. A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was in a tree line off of Lime Rock Rd. 6/18 (ME, PF) and one was in Gap 6/26 (PF).

An **Acadian Flycatcher** was at MCWMA 6/1 (BH, WBG). An **Alder Flycatcher**, which was originally reported 5/17, continued at MCWMA 6/1-7/29 (BC, m.ob.). Five **Willow Flycatchers** were at MCWMA 6/1 (BH, WBG). Five **Eastern Wood-Pewees** were at WMNP 7/5 (PF). On 7/27, Bruce Carl received a thrill when an **Eastern Phoebe** landed on his head, and sat there for a bit!

Two **Warbling Vireos** were at MCWMA 6/1 (BH, WBG). Fourteen **Red-eyed Vireos** were counted at the WMNP 7/5 (PF). Two **White-eyed Vireos** were at RSNP 7/15 (PF). A pair of **Horned Larks** was feeding three young ones in a nest on Lime Rock Rd. 6/18 (ME, PF) and one was in Gap 7/18 (PF).

Five **Purple Martins** were at RSNP 7/15 (PF). Three were in Gap 7/22 (PF). A **Cliff Swallow** was at CGNA 6/8 (DHI) and 15 at SHP 6/11, with at least 7 active nests and one or 2 more under construction (ZM, ML). Twenty-five **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were at the Conoy Rail Trail in Bainbridge 7/20 (PF, FB). Thirteen **Bank Swallows** were at the Conoy Rail Trail in Bainbridge 7/20 (PF, FB).

An adult and recently fledged **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** were at at RSNP 7/15 (PF). Three **Veeries** were at MCWMA 6/1 (BH, WBG) and 6 at the WMNP 7/5 (PF). A nice count of 10 **Wood Thrushes** was made at the WMNP 7/5 (PF).

One **Blue-winged Warbler** was at MCWMA 6/1 (BH, WBG). A **Northern Parula** was at MCWMA 6/1 (BH, WBG). One **Yellow-breasted Chat** was at MCWMA 6/1 (BH, WBG) and 3 were at RSNP 7/15 (PF). Eleven **Ovenbirds**, some recently fledged, were counted at the WMNP 7/5 (PF). Two **Worm-eating Warblers** were at the WMNP 7/5 (PF). A **Prairie Warbler** was at RSNP 7/15 (PF).

Two **Grasshopper Sparrows** were at MCWMA 6/1 (BH, WBG). One was in Gap 7/19 (PF). Four **Field Sparrows** were at MCWMA 6/1 (BH, WBG). A late **White-throated Sparrow** was at MCWMA 6/1 (FB) and one in a Denver yard 6/18-20. A **Vesper Sparrow** was at OR 7/10-18 (TA), one at RSNP 7/16 (CG), and another in the Ephrata Farmlands 7/17 (BC). A **Savannah Sparrow** was in Gap 7/22 (PF). A **Dickcissel** was in a field on Wissler Rd. in the Ephrata farmlands 6/17 (BC).

A **Blue Grosbeak** sang at MCWMA 7/9 (SS) and one was in Fulton Twp. 7/15 (PF). Two **Orchard Orioles** were at MCWMA 6/1 (BH, WBG) and one was singing in Peach Bottom 7/24 (BS). Three **Baltimore Orioles** were at MCWMA 6/1 (BH, WBG) and an adult and an immature were in Gap 6/28 (PF, JL).

Observers: **Pamela D. Fisher 761 Willow Lane, Gap, Pa 17527, goldeagle_60@yahoo.com,** Tom Amico, Fern Bauman, Larry Bernhardt, Bruce Carl, Ad Crable, Mike Epler, Ian Gardner, Loretta Gehman, Carlton Gross, Frank Haas, Elaine Hendricks, Daniel Hinnebusch, Barbara Hunsberger, John Lahr, Alex Lamoreaux, Keith Leidich, Meredith Lombard, Zachary Millen, Jeff Musser, Ted Nichols II, Bob Schutsky, Stan Stahl, Marvin Stauffer, Wednesday Birding Group.

Lawrence County

Locations: Black Swamp (BS), Volant Strip Mines (VSM).

Two **Hooded Mergansers** were at VSM 6/1 (MD), a regular but almost nomadic breeder in *Lawrence*, rarely seen at the same site two years in a row. Very interesting for mid-summer were 11 **Double-crested Cormorants** over BS 6/14 (GW, JW). A very nice find for *Lawrence* was a **Least Bittern** at BS 6/14 (GW, JW), a species that is probably regular in the county, but detected far less than annually. That same day at BS, 5 **Virginia Rails** and 3 **Soras** were detected (GW, JW). Sora was still present 7/8 (BB, GW). Up to 2 **Common Gallinules** were present at BS from mid-June (ST, JM, m.ob.) through the season.

A **Bald Eagle** was noted at Shaner Rd. 6/11 (AB). Reports of **Sandhill Cranes** around VSM and Plain Grove Twp. began with 2 families, each with 2 chicks 6/8 (ST). Cranes last reported 7/8 (BB, GW). A **Black-billed Cuckoo** at BS 6/15 (JM) represented a nice find. Uncommonly reported passerines in Mahoning Twp. 6/19 included **Blue-headed Vireo** and **Veery** (CH). A **Cliff Swallow** was at BS 7/4 (MD).

A **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was very unusual at BS 7/8 (BB, GW). Top honors for the season went to the singing **Clay-colored Sparrow** at VSM 6/9 (SG). It remained through at least 7/8 and the many birders who went to look for it eventually turned up one or 2 more Clay-colored Sparrows in the same area. Hopefully this will prove to be a new, durable colony in years to come. Top count of **Bobolink** at VSM was 36 on 6/19 (ST).

Observers: **Geoff Malosh, 450 Amherst Avenue, Moon Township, PA 15108-2654, (412) 735-3128, pomarine@earthlink.net**, Brendyn Baptiste, Alan Buriak, Michael David, Steve Gosser, Craig Holt, Jeff McDonald, Shannon Thompson, Gene Wilhelm, Joanne Wilhelm.

Lebanon County

Locations: Fort Indiantown Gap (FIG), Fox and Prescott Roads (FXP), Greater Lebanon Refuse Authority (GLRA), Memorial Lake State Park (MLSP), Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area (MC), SGL 145, SGL 211, Shuey Lake (SL).

Continuing from the spring quarter, and providing a new late date, were 2 **Tundra Swans** at FXP 6/4-16 (BC, SS). Unusual in June were a male and three female **Buffleheads** at MLSP 6/1-19 (TB, KB, RCM). A single male remained there 6/21 (TN). A **Ruddy Duck** was at MLSP 6/1 (TB), with 3 there 6/6 (RCM) and perhaps one of them 7/6-10 (FH, JF, JE, m.ob.). A **Ruffed Grouse** was at FIG 6/9 (JD). A **Northern Bobwhite** was found near Kleinfeltersville 7/4 (RCM). A **Common Loon** was at MLSP 6/5 (TB, KB).

An immature **Little Blue Heron** provided a new late spring date at GLRA 6/6-11 (DM, KB, TN, RCM, TB, m.ob.), then another was seen there 7/16 (DM). A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** flew over the tour road at MC 6/18 (SW). A **Virginia Rail** was found at FIG 7/14 (IG).

Continuing from the spring quarter was a **Semipalmated Plover** at FXP 6/2 (DB, RCM, BC). Two Semipalmated Plovers were at MC with a large flock of peeps 7/31 (SS). A **Greater Yellowlegs** was at FXP 6/4-8 (SS, DB) and again on a new late spring date 6/25-26 (SS). A **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was at FXP 6/2 (DB, RCM). A **Short-billed Dowitcher** was at MC 7/23-24 (TN, SW).

A **Barn Owl** flew from a silo near GLRA 6/17 (TB). Two **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were at FIG for the Butterfly Tours 7/8-9 (TB, SS, DM, m.ob.). Away from FIG, single Red-headed Woodpeckers were found along Lincoln School Rd near Ono 6/29 (DM, JC) and at FXP 7/10 (SS). An **Alder Flycatcher** was singing at MC 6/10 (SW, TB, KB) and again 7/4 (RCM); another was vocal at SL 6/21 (IG).

Nashville Warblers are rare breeders in northern *Lebanon*. One was singing at the Box Car Rocks area of SGL 211 on 6/3 (TB) and 6/23 (RCM). A **Blackburnian Warbler** was in the same general area 6/23 (RCM). An immature male **Mourning Warbler** was photographed at SGL 145, for a new county early fall migration date 7/24 (MC). An immature Mourning Warbler was banded in *Lebanon* 7/25 (SC).

Although they are rare breeders in northern *Lebanon*, a **Dark-eyed Junco** was out of place in late June along Quartermaster Rd at FIG 6/29 (DM). Two **Blue Grosbeaks** were at FIG 6/7 (JD) and during the Butterfly Tours at FIG 7/1-9 (IG, AL, CK, SS, DM, m.ob.). A pair of **Blue Grosbeaks**, with the female carrying nesting material, was at SGL 145 on 6/10-13 (SH, PB, RCM, SW, m.ob.).

Observers: **Timothy Becker, 10283 Jonestown Rd, Grantville, Pa 17028, tjbecker81@aol.com**, Kathy Becker, Don Billett, Paul Brubaker, Bruce Carl, Mary Coomer, Steve Cottrell, Jake Cramer, Jarrod Derr, Jarod Evans, Jim Fiorentino, Ian Gardner, Eric Hartshaw, Fritz Heilman, Bob Hench, Sid Hostetter, Chad Kauffman, Alex Lamoreaux, Dave McNaughton, Randy Miller (RCM), Ted Nichols, Stan Stahl, George Tallman, Steve Walthius, Pat and Richard Williams.

Lehigh County

No report

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Luzerne County

Locations: Beech Mountain Lakes (BML), Forty Fort Rec Fields (FFRF), Locations: Forty Fort Rec Fields (FFRF), Plymouth Flats (PF), Ricketts Glen State Park (RGSP), State Game Lands 57 (SGL 57), Susquehanna River (SR).

An unusually hot and dry season made hotspots like PF and FFRF inhospitable to early shorebird migration and post-breeding dispersal, and uncomfortable weather for much of Jun and Jul deterred many birders from exploring their favored patches, making bird reports sparse throughout the period.

Despite lower than expected water levels, the injured **Snow Goose**, first sighted in Mar had little choice but to remain at PF throughout the season (JD). An eBird report of **American Black Duck** with 6 young, from SGL 57 along Mountain Springs Lake Road 7/8, was in traditional habitat but provided no details regarding identification of this rare county breeder (DM). Another eBird report of 2 **American Black Ducks** from RGSP 7/18 (JLPG) included identification details.

Great Egrets began to appear in the county earlier than expected with 2 observed 6/28 at Forty Fort (JS), 15 was a high count for the season at PF 7/15 (JD). Because of the dry conditions, a lower count of this species was made than in recent years. **Great Blue Heron** and **Green Heron** numbers were also down, and no unusual species of waders were observed. A scarce species in the county, a **Sora** was at SGL 57 on 6/12, the only rail recorded for the summer (DM).

For the second straight breeding season, **Black-billed Cuckoos** occurred in higher than average numbers throughout *Luzerne* in response to the continuing presence of large numbers of gypsy moths. Spraying efforts early this season seemed to curtail the infestation before it reached the levels seen last year. While not noteworthy on the surface, the occurrence of at least three singing **Alder Flycatchers** throughout Jun at the Glen Lyon reclaimed minelands (JD, JhD) seems to indicate a new colonization of this area and a potential expansion in the range of this species in the county. A **Horned Lark** was heard singing its display song near dusk at the Hazleton Municipal Airport 6/17, representing a previously unknown location for this species (JD). One of the county's most range-limited breeders, **Swainson's Thrush** was detected from a known breeding location in RGSP 7/4 (DG).

Golden-winged Warbler is a rapidly declining county breeder and one of the rarer warblers in *Luzerne*. For the second straight year, a singing male was found in remote scrub oak barrens near Arbutus Peak outside of Mountaintop 6/19 (JD, JhD). Another scarce breeder, confined mostly to the highest elevations, is **Nashville Warbler**, which was encountered on a few occasions along Mountain Springs Lake Rd. near RGSP 6/12-23 (DM, EZ). For several consecutive years **Yellow-breasted Chats** have inhabited the regenerating hillside of the Glen Lyon reclaimed minelands along the Penobscot Ridge Mountain Bike Trail. This is the only reliable location for this species, with 4 singing males present 6/29 (JD).

Observers: **Jonathan DeBalko, 235 Buck Ridge Drive, Drums, PA 18222, (570) 956-1849, jonathan.debalko@wilkes.edu**, John DeBalko (JhD), Doug Gross, Dennis Miranda, John & Linda Prentice/Gindler, Jim Shoemaker, Eric Zawatski.

Lycoming County

Locations: County Conservation District (CCD), Canfield Island (CI), Market Street Bridge (MSB), Mill Street (MS), Pine Creek (PC), Rose Valley Lake (RVL), Susquehanna River West Branch (SR), Susquehanna River Walk at Williamsport (SRW), Williamsport (WPT), Williamsport Water Company (WWC).

A variety of waterfowl lingered at RVL until 6/5, including a female **Black Scoter**, **Bufflehead**, **scaup sp.**, a male **Ring-necked Duck**, and 2 **Ruddy Ducks** (DB, BB, EH). Another male **Ring-necked Duck** remained at the dam on the SR to at least 6/13 (DvB). A female **Red-breasted Merganser** found near the dam on the SR remained through the season. A **Lesser Scaup** seemed to remain at RVL until at least 6/26 (BB, DdB). A **Hooded Merganser** along the SR at Muncy probably reflects post-breeding dispersal from nearby (BB, DB). A non-breeding plumage **Horned Grebe** at RVL 6/5 (BB, DvB, ph) was unexpected.

The season's only **Northern Harrier** sighting came 6/5 (DvB) at Mill Hill, but the area probably wasn't checked again. Shorebird detection came slowly this year. **Solitary Sandpipers** were noted with a **Spotted Sandpiper** 7/24 at MS and again 7/25 at the Muncy boat launch (BB). The annual post-breeding dispersal of wading birds had begun by 7/16 when a **Great Egret** flew by the SRW (BB).

The only **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was at Ellenton Ridge Rd. in Loyalsock S.F. during a nocturnal survey when, 2 were heard calling 6/7 (JW). A notable breeding record of **Red-headed Woodpeckers** was at the unlikely location of a timbered area near Slate Run 6/12 (TF, m.ob.), on the

slopes of the expansive S.F. These spectacular birds became celebrities, drawing birders from across the county to its nesting hole.

Merlin have been elusive in recent years, seen sporadically but without providing breeding evidence. A peaceful dinner at Dolly's Diner was interrupted 7/22, when one flew by the window carrying a small passerine; it landed on a telephone pole for a few minutes, plucking its prey, and then moved on (DB). Nesting was not confirmed for any of the **Peregrine Falcons** in the county, although pairs were present on the MBS (JY) and Rt. 405 outside Muncy (VE). A **Bank Swallow** colony was discovered at a quarry in Wolf Twp., with at least 75 swallows present 6/26 (BB, SP); this site had not been previously known or reported during the Second Breeding Bird Atlas.

Two flycatchers found in Algerine Swamp piqued our interest and motivated increased attention to this marvelous boreal bog. During standardized surveys of peatlands by Western Pennsylvania Conservancy staff 6/21, an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was observed and photographed and a **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was also heard (DY), the two within an hour of each other. The Olive-sided was in an open area of the western end of the swamp, in what appeared to be classic breeding habitat, and the Yellow-bellied likewise was in good habitat, right on the *Tioga* line at the center of the wetland. The Olive-sided sighting came independent of one heard the previous day in nearby Reynolds Springs Swamp in *Tioga* (DB), but was not relocated at either location. The Yellow-bellied Flycatcher proved elusive as well, despite considerable effort. The additional attention to this area yielded a territorial **Nashville Warbler** 6/30, as well as multiple **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, **Alder Flycatcher**, and other northern species (DB).

A **Lawrence's Warbler** singing the Blue-winged Warbler song was found at the WWC 6/15 (DvB) and 6/16 (EH). An uncommon summer resident, a single male **Yellow-breasted Chat** was found 6/1 (BB) along the Loyalsock Ck. at MS and continued in the Japanese Knotweed until 6/10 (BB, HB). **Pine Siskins** became scarce in the summer season, with no confirmation of breeding.

Observers: **Dan Brauning, 1920 Inverness Rd, Montoursville, PA 17754, (570) 567-4511, dan@thebraunings.com** (DBr), Haley Benshaw, David Brown (DvB), Bobby Brown, Deb Brown (DbB), Jean Dalton, Maddi Dunlap, Wes Egli, Tom Forwood, Jr, Eric Hartshaw, Dave Ferry, Andy Keister, Norwood Frederick (NoF), Eric Hartshaw, Steve Pinkerton, Joel Wagner, David Yeany, Joe Yoder

McKean County

No compiler.

Mercer County

Locations: East Zahnizer RD (EZR), Lake Wilhelm (LW), Pennsy Swamp Locations: Pennsy Swamp (PS), Shenango R. Res (SRR), Shenango Wildlife Area (SWA), Williamson Rd (WR).

Noteworthy waterfowl species included a **Bufflehead** at the SWA 6/1, rarely found after mid-May. A **Hooded Merganser** was at SGL130 on 6/20, where they were confirmed nesting (NT). Though no breeding activity was noted, 2 **Ruffed Grouse** were seen at SGL130 on 6/22 (NT). Small numbers of **Double-crested Cormorants** were present at both SRR and Lake Wilhelm through the period (NT). A **Great Egret** was found at the SWA 7/3 (SS) and one was at West R. Rd 7/19 (NT).

Red-shouldered Hawk successfully fledged young at WR. The immature was seen through the period. **Broad-winged Hawks** also were confirmed nest at SGL130, along Griffin Road 6/22, where several immature birds were heard calling (KS, NT). After being absent from the area for a number of years, both **Virginia Rail** and **Sora** were heard calling at SGL130 on 7/2 (SS). Three **Virginia Rails** were also reported from PS 7/8 (BB). **Sandhill Cranes** were present at PS 6/7 (NT) and 7/8 (BB).

The water level at SRR was well below normal summer pool by mid-July and 11 species of shorebirds were found at several areas at the lake. The last **Semipalmated Sandpiper** from spring migration was at the SWA 6/6 (SS). The following species were also reported from the SWA: **Semipalmated Plover** 7/28, **Solitary Sandpiper** 7/26, **Lesser Yellowlegs** 7/16, **Least Sandpiper** 7/9, **Pectoral Sandpiper** 7/9, **Short-billed Dowitcher** 7/16, and **Wilson's Snipe** 7/9 (SS). **Spotted Sandpipers** were present there thought the entire period and possibly nested (SS, NT). A high of 14 **Solitary Sandpipers** and 5 **Lesser Yellowlegs** were found at West River Rd. 7/19 (NT) and 3 **Semipalmated Plovers** were at PS 7/8 (BB). An

American Woodcock was found in a wet grassy area along Butler Pike near Mercer 6/7 (NT) and 3 were in a yard at WR 6/12 (ST).

Both **Yellow-billed** and **Black-billed Cuckoos** were reported at SRR, through the period, though in lower numbers than in the past several years (SS). An **Alder Flycatcher** was at SRR 6/2 (SS) and one was heard at SGL130 on 6/20 (NT). **Least Flycatchers** were present 6/1 at WR and 6/20 at SGL130 (NT). Up to 5 **White-eyed Vireos** were present at SGL130 on 6/20 and 2 **Blue-headed Vireos** were heard there 6/20 and 7/2 (NT, MAK, GK).

A somewhat unexpected find was 2 **Brown Creepers** at SGL130 on 7/2 (MAK, GK, NT), and 3 **Winter Wrens** were also present at the same location 6/20 and 7/2 (MAK, GK, NT). Twelve **Marsh Wrens** were counted at PS 7/8 (BB).

Eighteen species of warblers were found, the highest count ever reported for the summer period. Two pair of **Prothonotary Warblers** continue to nest at SRR (NT, SS) and a **Cerulean Warbler** was heard along N. River Rd. 6/1. The **Pine Warbler** found in the last period was still singing at Creek Rd. 6/1 (NT). The following warblers, which are all possibly nesters, were found at SGL130 on 6/20: **Northern** and **Louisiana Waterthrush**, **Black-and-white Warbler**, **Mourning Warbler**, **Kentucky Warbler**, **Blackburnian Warbler**, **Chestnut-sided Warbler**, and **Black-throated Green Warbler** (NT).

Grasshopper and **Henslow's Sparrows** were present at Spring Rd. 6/1 (NT). A nice count of 5 **Dark-eyed Juncos** was made at SGL130 on 6/20 and 7/2 (NT, MAK, GK). A **Purple Finch** was at Spring Rd. 6/1 (NT).

Observers: **Neil Troyer, 876 Williamson Road, Mercer, PA 16137.** Brendyn Baptist, Mary Alice Koeneke, Glenn Koppel, Steve Sanford, Kim Springer, Samuel Troyer.

Mifflin County

A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was observed on Kanagy Rd 6/3 (RD) and Old 3 Cent Ln 7/3 (JS). A **Winter Wren** was observed at Swarey Orchard on 6/11 (AS).

A **Grasshopper Sparrow** was at Locke Mills 7/11 and 2 at SGL 107 Woodcock Management Area 6/25 (JD). **Vesper Sparrows** were reported from three different locations – 2 on KR 6/3 (DG), one at the intersection of East Back Mountain Rd. and KR 6/16 (DG) and 2 at SGL 107 Woodcock Management Area 6/25 (JD). One **Savannah Sparrow** was also noted at SGL 107 on 6/25 (JD).

Observers: **Jon Kauffman, 3400 Discovery Road, Petersburg, PA 16669, jvk5019@gmail.com,** Rob Dickerson, Jim Dunn, Deb Grove, Jeff Scheffer, Amos Swarey.

Monroe County

Locations: Lynchwood Lake (LL).

The nesting season was marked by below average rainfall and above average temperatures. The few reports that crossed this compiler's desk all came from Bruce Johnson. Uncommon breeders locally and statewide, the 2 **Hooded Merganser** young photographed at LL 7/27 provided a nice find. An **American Bittern**, a known but rarely encountered breeder, was not only observed but nicely photographed at LL 7/27.

The first **Solitary Sandpiper** sighting was at LL 7/27. The high count, 15 **Spotted Sandpipers** were at the same location 7/29. The 2 **Least Sandpipers** at the Mt. Airy mudflats were a bit on the early side 7/9. A **Stilt Sandpiper**, an uncommon migrant, was in the Mt. Pocono area 7/27-29.

Observers: **Brian Hardiman, Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center, 8050 Running Valley Road, Stroudsburg, PA 18360, (570)629-3061, bhmcdd@ptd.net,** Bruce Johnson.

Montgomery County

Locations: Evansburg S.P. (ESP), Green Lane Park (GLP), Norristown Dam (ND), Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust (PERT), Unami Cr. Valley (UCV), Valley Forge National Historical Park (VFNHP).

The silver lining to a dry summer is that it makes for enticing mudflats at GLP. This was the case for summer 2016, and the mud/shallow water resulted in several interesting sightings. Buoyed by the good fortune at GLP, a total of 128 species were noted in *Montgomery*, a few more than have been spotted in recent summers.

GLP played host to a few unexpected summer waterfowl species. An **American Black Duck** was noted there 6/4 (ML). A male/female pair of **Hooded Mergansers**, continuing from the spring, were at GLP through the entire period (m.ob.). Apart from their presence at an odd time of year, there were no signs indicating breeding. In contrast, **Common Merganser** reproduction was confirmed easily when juveniles were reported from both GLP and ND (m.ob.) and a couple of family groups, adding up to 22 individuals, were noted at GLP 7/6 (GF). Two lingering **Ruddy Ducks** were at GLP 6/1 (AM). A single Ruddy was reported at GLP 7/1 (AA), representing a new Jul record for the county (in eBird, at least). It dropped off the radar again, and then between 7/16-21 there were a slew of reports of a single Ruddy Ducks at GLP (m.ob.).

The season's high count of **Wild Turkey** came from an atypical location: a farm road between Harleysville and Souderton where 28 were counted (ZM). A **Pied-billed Grebe** was at GLP 7/31 (LH).

Unknown circumstances at GLP during the evening of 7/21 led to an unprecedented number of **Great Egrets** appearing there early the following morning, 7/22 (m.ob.). A group of at least 59 egrets was counted (LH), a number that easily became the new high count for *Montgomery*, the previous high count being 24, set in 1985 (GF). Those lofty heights were unrivaled during the period - there were no other Great Egret numbers even in the same ballpark - but reports of 11-23 were common from 7/16 onward, still above average (m.ob.). A **Snowy Egret** was at GLP 7/20 through the end of the period (ML, KR, m.ob.). The day of the big Great Egret push, 7/22, also brought a second Snowy Egret (LH, m.ob.). The first juvenile **Little Blue Heron** of the season appeared at GLP 7/17 (SG, ML, m.ob.). By 7/22, the number had risen to 4 Little Blues (JH). At least 3 were present at GLP 7/23 until season's end (m.ob.). A single juvenile **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was noted at ND 7/28 (MR). The big wader draw of ND was, however, a presumed family group of **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons**, consisting of at least 2 adults and 2 youngsters. These herons were present at ND through the entire period, and often were observed hunting for crayfish at the edges of the islands beneath the dam (PB, m.ob.). Local nesting is strongly suspected.

A well-described **Swallow-tailed Kite** was observed soaring over the new Dodsworth Run Preserve in North Wales in the company of 2 **Turkey Vultures** 6/6 (CB, doc.). **Broad-winged Hawks** probably bred at ESP again; one was viewed at the park 6/4 (LR, FR), and an adult and 2 juveniles were near the same spot 7/30 (WBH). Single Broad-winged Hawks were also present at GLP 6/15 (MAC) and 7/28 (AM).

Sandhill Cranes are very scarce in southeastern PA during the summer months. A crane at GLP 6/12 was, therefore, a real surprise (JF, ph.), and represents a first summer record of its kind for *Montgomery*. It was not observed again.

Another particularly noteworthy find was an **American Avocet** at GLP 7/16 (JH, m.ob, ph.), the first in the county since 2000. It was a one-day wonder. Funnily enough, despite the 16-year previous gap between sightings, there was not even a 16 day gap between the 7/16 avocet and its successor: another was found at GLP 7/25 (LH, m.ob, ph.). With the GLP mudflats looking good in Jul, it stands to reason that there were many good counts of more typical shorebirds this season. High GLP numbers included: 9 **Semipalmated Plovers** 7/29 (RK) and 7/31 (BS), 57 **Killdeer** 7/22 (SG), 28 **Lesser Yellowlegs** 7/23 (SG), 170 **Least Sandpipers** 7/28 (RK) and 17 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** 7/29 (RK). One or 2 **Pectoral Sandpipers** were present at GLP 7/16 through the end of the period (m.ob.). A pair of Pecs was also found at Wissahickon Waterfowl Preserve in Ambler 7/25 (AA, ph.). Two **Short-billed Dowitchers** were at GLP 7/5 (MH).

GLP's mudflats appealed to more than just shorebirds and waders. **Caspian Terns** also appreciated the location for lounging purposes; the first 3 appeared 7/22 (LH, SG), a bit earlier than is typical.

A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was heard singing in Schwenksville 7/26 (MC). **Barred Owls** were noted from four widespread locations, including Evansburg SP (EF, CF, LR, FR), Collegeville (MAC), the UCV (DM) and Pottstown (JT). Curiously, there were actually more reports of Barred Owl than either of its more common brethren, **Great Horned Owl** and **Eastern Screech Owl**.

An early **Common Nighthawk** flew over the hawk watch platform at Fort Washington S.P. 7/29 (RC). Reports of **Pileated Woodpecker** were fairly plentiful, and included a family group of 5 at the John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove 7/16 (DS, et al.) and a nest cavity with young at ESP 6/1 (WBH).

American Kestrels were seen at a dozen or more sites, with fledges spotted at least a couple of them (m.ob.). Though the **Norristown Peregrines Falcon** pair were unsuccessful in raising offspring again this year (m.ob.), the adults were still seen semi-regularly (m.ob.). The Manayunk peregrines had better results, successfully nesting on the *Philadelphina* side of the river - a group of 4 were observed from *Montgomery* 7/4 (PD). Away from the Schuylkill R., single Peregrines were noted at Gwynedd Wildlife Preserve 6/25 (PK) and at GLP 7/21 (PB, DM).

An **Alder Flycatcher** was present at GLP throughout the period, though most reports came from Jun, when it was still singing and easier to locate (m.ob.). It was only positively identified three times in Jul (m.ob.). Whether it managed to find a mate is not known. **White-eyed Vireo** was reported from a few spots where not been previously found in the breeding season: one was along a farm road just west of GLP 6/1 (AM), another was heard singing at Armentrout Preserve 6/21 (MR), and 1-3 individuals were present at SGL 234 Linnfield 7/3-15 (PD, m.ob.). The only **Yellow-throated Vireos** found away from their UCV/GLP stronghold were singles at Royersford 6/4 (MH) and Palm 6/20 (GF).

A pair of **Common Ravens** was observed in Worcester 7/11 (PK). A single raven was noted at a quarry site in Bridgeport 7/20 (SG). Thirty-five **Purple Martins** were at their colony on Ruth Rd. in Harleysville 6/1 (AM). At least 12 **Bank Swallows** were seen at GLP 7/16 (WBH, HM). **Barn Swallows** were present in above average numbers in the latter half of the period, with estimates of 150 made on 4 days in late Jul. (m.ob.). Scattered reports of a single **Cliff Swallow** under a bridge at the north end of GLP continued through the period (m.ob.). Mud-gathering was observed, but breeding was not confirmed. A pair of Cliff Swallows was noted at GLP 7/25, away from the potential nest site (SG). There were several **Red-breasted Nuthatch** sightings, including singles in Pennsburg 6/18 and 6/27 (GF), King of Prussia 7/4 (SG), and a pair at PERT 7/29 (AMi, MG). Will these early sightings be a portent of things to come?

Worm-eating Warbler was observed twice in the UCV (DM, TR), essentially the only location in the county where they can be found with any regularity during the breeding season. Quite unusual was a silent Worm-eater at PERT 6/28 (AMi). As PERT has no history of breeding activity by this species, the odds favor it having been a wandering failed breeder from elsewhere, but that's just a guess. Another warbler found in an unusual location was a **Blue-winged Warbler** at VFNHP 6/19 (PK). Though VFNHP seems like fine habitat for this species, it is rarely reported there during summer. **Northern Parula** was heard singing at Mont Clare 6/4 (MH) and 6/19 (CH), and at Pottstown Riverfront Park 6/19 (SS). A **Pine Warbler** sang on territory at the edge of NFP 6/2-4 (WBH, CH). The **Yellow-throated Warbler** that had attached itself to a Skippack residence through the winter and spring was not detected during the summer season (GB), nor were there any summer reports at GLP. A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was at ESP 6/1-4 (WBH, m.ob.), and another was found in a powerline cut along the Schuylkill between Royersford and Mont Clare 6/4 (MH).

A **Grasshopper Sparrow** was photographed at VFNHP 6/4 (AMe), abnormal for that location. All other Grasshopper reports came from Fruitville Rd. in East Greenville, including 4 carrying food and counter-singing 7/16 (WBH, HM, ML) and a presumed family group of 5 on 7/30 (PD). Sadly, for the first time in several years, there were no reports of the species from the Graterford Prison grasslands. The oddest sparrow find of the period was a **Swamp Sparrow** at GLP 7/21 (PB, DM). This species is not a known local breeder, and this may have been the first summertime sighting of the species in *Montgomery* in decades. It is presumed to have been a failed breeder from elsewhere.

Single **Blue Grosbeaks** were singing at VFNHP 6/6 (RiK) and SGL 234 Linnfield 7/3 (PD). Fourteen **Eastern Meadowlarks** were tallied at VFNHP 7/23 (PK), a rather high breeding season number in modern times. Seemingly unprecedented for the season, near-wintertime-level blackbird numbers were noted coming to/from a roost site at GLP in mid-Jul, including 1300 **Common Grackles** with 500 **Red-winged Blackbirds** 7/11 (PH), and 960 grackles 7/16 (WBH, HM).

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Montour County

No compiler.

Northampton County

Two **Snow Geese** spent the summer in the county. The first was at a pond on Blossom Hill Rd. in Nazareth (MS) and the other on Pond Rd. in E. Allen Twp. (MS, CCS). The latter had a noticeably injured wing. Male and female **Ring-necked Ducks**, one each, were seen at Minsi Lake 7/24 (MS, CCS). A **Ruddy Duck** was seen on 6/11 (BE) at the Gremar Rd. ponds, where this species nested in 2013.

An adult **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was observed by the Kreidersville covered bridge 6/24 (DI). This bird was presumably a late migrant as there are no current records of this species nesting in the county. A **Mississippi Kite** was circling with vultures at the Koch property 6/5 (AK). A **Lesser Yellowlegs** seen at the Van Buren Rd. retention pond was an early fall migrant 7/13 (MS, CCS).

On 7/16, a juvenile **Red-headed Woodpecker** was seen at an undisclosed location in Upper Mt. Bethel Twp. previously reported to this journal, which is a likely indication that the adult pair successfully nested (MS, CCS). Further observation is necessary to confirm this. A male **Prothonotary Warbler** found in late May at Bear Swamp was still singing 6/19 (MS, CCS). A male **Yellow-breasted Chat** reported at Martins Creek Environmental Preserve in May continued on 7/16 (MS, CCS). Evidence of nesting for these uncommon warblers was not confirmed. **White-throated Sparrow** is not known to nest in the county, which makes a singing bird on Country Chase Dr. in Bushkill Twp. on 7/2 notable (AS).

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Northumberland County

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Perry County

Locations: Little Buffalo State Park (LBSP), Tuscarora State Forest (TSF).

Hot and dry are the two words that sum up this period. Unusual summer sightings included 2 immature **Pied-billed Grebes** reported at LBSP 7/17 (JD), one **Osprey** at Millerstown Spring Street access 7/1 (KC), and one **Least Flycatcher** Germantown Road TSG 7/15 (GS). Least Flycatcher has been reported as a possible breeder in a few blocks in Perry in both Breeding Bird Atlases of Pennsylvania.

Notable were 2 **Yellow-throated Warblers**, one fledgling and one adult, at Warm Springs Rd. 7/4 (VG, BO). This species was reported during the first Breeding Bird Atlas as a possible breeder but has not been reported from Perry for many years. One **Golden-winged Warbler** fledgling found on Kansas Valley Rd., TSF 6/18 (VG) was of note because of the precipitous decline of this species in Pennsylvania and throughout most of its range.

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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), Pennypack Environmental Center (PEC), Pennypack on the Delaware (POD), Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education (SCEE), Schuylkill River (SR), Wissahickon Creek (WC).

Three **Snow Geese**, slightly mottled in color and undergoing flight feather molt, appeared at TI 6/25-7/7 (FW, SB). One goose immediately

departed or was taken by a predator. A **Gadwall** was found on a Water Department lagoon 7/7 by an employee with security access (DMo). After the last **Blue-winged Teal** departed 6/15 (GV), only **Wood Duck** and **Mallard** remained to breed. **Wild Turkey** continue to thrive at TI and BG.

During the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology (PSO) field trip to TI, a young **Common Loon** flew by the 11 participants. Underparts were white, white head, thin bill, dark at the base of the wings (m.ob.). An adult Common Loon feeding in the company of a River Otter in the SR below the Waterworks 7/6-10 (SS, ph.) was thought to be "lethargic" and possibly sick, although it appears to have flown away under its own power.

Least Bittern adults with 2 juveniles were seen flying at TI 6/23 (FW, m.ob., ph.). Up to 3 **Little Blue Herons**, present 7/5-23, joined over 80 **Great Egrets** 7/16 (AM) and 65 **Great Blue Herons** as the heat and lack of rain lowered standing water and stranded fish. The most notable visitor was a young **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** feeding at water's edge 7/2-13 (DB, JM, ph.). The night-heron was joined by a **Glossy Ibis**, now a regular summer visitor, on 7/7 (JM) and 4 more arrived 7/23 (JM, AR).

Osprey nests along the DR come and go due to natural causes, but sometimes nests on marine markers obstruct ship safety and are removed. One of this year's nests was on a buoy and survived. Another Osprey nest was in the NBC harbor. The abandoned and overgrown Island Green Country Club golf course had 2 **Red-shouldered Hawks** 6/26-7/2, a species that is expanding its range but is not yet known to breed here (AR, ph.). A late **Broad-winged Hawk** flew over CW 6/4 as a group of birders (AB, MS) was surveying for a breeding bird census coordinated by MH and TC to document in detail the number and location of breeding birds during the month of June. A migrating or dispersing **Sora** stopped briefly at TI 6/25 (SB) as did a **Virginia Rail** 7/26 (MD). Another **Sora** that arrived 7/24 (FW) was joined by a second bird 7/31 (RI); hopefully this species will remain through Oct as it did in 2015.

Except for breeding **Killdeer** and **Spotted Sandpiper**, migrant shorebird activity was just a trickle from mid-July until tides and water levels accommodated 7 **Solitary Sandpipers** 7/26 (EH), 100 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** 7/31 (AR), and 183 **Least Sandpipers** 7/28 (AG). Once a breeder, **American Woodcock** is rarely seen in summer, so the report from MA 6/22 was welcome (AB). **Caspian Tern** had a small presence from 7/5 (JM), increasing to 18 on 7/31 (FW). Although **Forster's Tern** has had a major summer presence, usually with adults feeding noisy begging juveniles in June, not a single report was received until 9 arrived at TI 7/26 (EH).

After finding a **Black-billed Cuckoo** in the Andorra Natural Area 6/5 (MD), 2 birds--an adult and a fledgling--were seen and recorded just south of Andorra in Houston Meadow 6/6 (MD). This is an exceptional breeding record for the county. Another **Black-billed Cuckoo** was being harassed by an **Eastern Kingbird** at NBC (GA). Efforts to attract **Purple Martin** to breed again have failed, so sightings were limited to 2 females feeding at TI in late July. A good count of 22 **Marsh Wrens** around the TI impoundment came from the PSO field trip 6/5.

A **Worm-eating Warbler** in the Kitchen's Lane section of CW provided one of only a handful of summer records. **Blue-winged Warbler**, not known as a breeder, was found in Andorra Meadow 6/4 (TC). Late **Black-and-White Warblers** were at TI 6/13 (LR) and in the Haddington Woods section of Cobbs Cr. 6/15 (MH). A singing **Kentucky Warbler** in Houston Meadow 6/15 was reminiscent of the time when they nested here (KR). **Pine Warblers** singing at Hermit Lane in the WC 6/11 were not reported again (KRu), but a singing male was found in a stand of 100-year old pines in Cresheim woods 6/28 (MH). A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was at NBC 6/13 (JM) and a day later at TI (BS).

Sparrow activity in summer is never exciting unless you find a **White-throated Sparrow** singing 6/12-16 at TI (DO, JZ, KRa). NBC has a small piece of accessible habitat where a singing male **Blue Grosbeak** lingered 6/11-14, but was not found afterward (GA, AR, FW, ph.). The habitat is similar to areas along the DR where Blue Grosbeak bred over a decade ago. Equally-suitable habitat exists at NBC in areas that are not accessible and have not been surveyed. An **Eastern Meadowlark**, presumably the one seen in May, was heard singing in the overgrown fields of the abandoned Island Green golf course in the Northeast 7/2 (CSA).

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Pike County

Pike County is under birded, one of those Pennsylvania hot spots that people miss out on. Waterfowl do not get reported much, likely because no one is looking. It is actually hard to get **Snow Goose** in *Pike* – but 400 were seen flying over Greentown, south of Lake Tanglwood 3/10 (RL, SL). Snow Geese do migrate over *Pike* but apparently don't like to use its lakes as a resting stop.

A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** flew over Pine Flats Rd., which is in Delaware State Forest 5/13 (MS, CCS). A male **Northern Harrier** was seen along Rt. 209 by the Old Heller Farm (within the Delaware Water Gap NRA) 3/21 (SD). At Beaver Run Pond, 2 **Soras** were heard calling 5/24 (CCS). Migrant shorebirds are difficult to find, so a **Lesser Yellowlegs** at Promised Land SP 5/27 is noteworthy (RJ).

There was a good push of **Common Nighthawks** migrating over the Delaware Water Gap NRA 5/14 with 10 seen at the Dingmans Ferry Bridge and 27 seen at the Flying Hawks Airfield (MS, CCS). Five Common Nighthawks were seen at the Pocono Environmental Education Center 5/21 (DT). **Eastern Whip-poor-will** is a nesting species doing well in *Pike*. Several nocturnal bird trips in Delaware State Forest were quite successful, producing 16 Whip-poor-wills along Hobday Rd. 5/10 (RJ) and 6 on High-Line Rd. 5/13 (MS, CCS).

Philadelphia Vireo is scarce anywhere in Pennsylvania in spring so a bird seen 5/20 in Greentown represented a good find (RL, SL). Two **Brown Creepers** and 2 **Winter Wrens** were found in a large stand of mature pines next to the Old Heller Farm 4/20 (BS, TM). Perhaps these species will nest here.

Pike Birders observed 26 species of warbler for the season. Birders travel to *Pike* to look for **Golden-winged Warblers**, which are fairly easy to find in May and Jun. The timber harvests along Flat Ridge Rd. and Snow Hill Rd. are two popular areas for finding Golden-wings - on 5/14, birders had 11 on Flat Ridge Rd. (MS, CCS) and on 5/21, 13 Golden-wings and a Brewster's Warbler were tallied on Snow Hill Rd. (MS, CCS).

A **Lincoln's Sparrow** was located on the Two Ponds Trail at the Pocono Environmental Education Center 5/14 (MS, CCS). Four **Pine Siskins** were at a feeder in Paupac 4/18 (PT).

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Potter County

No compiler.

Schuylkill County

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

The county registered a total of 121 species that had some level of likelihood of breeding here, a total number six more than last year and a five-year high.

The county's summer breeding waterfowl assemblage has generally been limited to **Canada Goose**, **Wood Duck** and **Mallard**. However, **Mute Swan** is now established as a breeding resident and was reported at three locations this year. One pair spent the summer at LLSP but no reports were received to confirm breeding (GG, DG, EB, LR, MF). Other birds were reported at SAL (DD) and Bubeck Park in Schuylkill Haven (DR) where they were introduced to repel Canada Geese. A pair of tagged **Trumpeter Swans** (Z603 and Z675) that appeared this spring and were discussed in the spring narrative have continued roaming around between SSP, SAL, a small pond on Oak Grove Rd. in Pine Grove Twp. and a pond in Tremont (MW fide AL, DD). However, there is no indication of nesting.

The county had at least 2 active **Bald Eagle** nests this year; one at SAL where 2 young fledged (DD) and another at Lebanon Reservoir. A nest that has been active near New Ringgold was not reported this year and a rumored new nest near Hegins cannot be confirmed. Thanks to on-going research at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, 3 **Broad-winged Hawk** nests were identified in the southeastern corner of the county (LG). Although overall **American Kestrels** numbers have been decreasing, several nests were confirmed in the southeastern corner of the county (LG). A very rare

sighting, a **Sandhill Crane** was spotted flying over Lewistown Valley near Heisler's Dairy 6/6 (TD).

Four owl species were reported; although none of the 4 are considered scarce, only a single report was received for each. An **Eastern Screech Owl** was heard several times in the latter part of July at my home in South Manheim Twp. (DR). A **Great-horned Owl** was reported at TSP 6/17 (TD). **Barred Owls** were heard at JS 6/18 (DK, DR) and 2 **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were heard at SGL 106 on 6/22 (MP). These are the first Saw-whets found during breeding season since at least 2008. Historically, **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** have bred in a couple areas, primarily in north central *Schuylkill*, around St Clair and Frackville and in the southern part of the county. This year, reports were received 6/11-20 from the Tamaqua area (TD).

The general belief amongst some county birders concerning the presence of breeding *empid* Flycatchers is that Acadian, Willow, and Alder are probably here in low numbers but are not recorded every year. **Acadian Flycatcher** is the most common *empid* and it was found at 8 locations this season (TB, TD, RD, DK, MP, LR, DR). A fairly dependable location for **Alder Flycatcher** is SSP, where it was again reported this year, on 6/13 (BR) and 6/15 (TD). It was also reported at APWS 6/5 (JoD), and 2 males were seen singing at JS 6/18 (DK, DR). **Willow Flycatcher** was found only at SSP 6/12 (PF, TN, DM) and 6/15 (TD). **Least Flycatcher** was reported for the first time in the county during breeding season since 2008 - one at LLSP 6/20 (JS).

White-eyed Vireos were reported along the southern edge of the county including numerous times at SSP (BR, TD). **Blue-headed Vireo** breeding numbers seem to be dropping the last few years. This year, however, they were reported numerous times throughout the county, including from JS (DK, DR), LLSP (JS, TB), APWS (JoD), McAdoo (JD), OC (TD), and TSP (JD, TD). **Yellow-throated Vireo**, a species that historically breeds primarily in southern *Schuylkill*, was also reported numerous times, from the eastern half of the county including LLSP (JS, TB), TSP (AB, MS), McAdoo (JD), New Ringgold (RK), and Hawk Mountain Sanctuary (HW, MW). **Warbling Vireo** is not dependable every year but this year was at LLSP 6/20 (JS) and SSP on numerous occasions (TN, TD, BR). For the third year in a row, **Horned Larks** were found breeding at KRM (JD, JoD). A bird that is becoming established in southern *Schuylkill* is **Carolina Chickadee**. Reports of the species, as opposed to Carolina/Blackcap hybrids, are becoming more frequent, this summer reported at SSP (TD, ET).

A total of 20 warbler species were found, including a few that are not consistent county breeders. **Cerulean Warbler** was at SGL 132 on 6/6 (DR), an historic breeding area for this species. Another Cerulean was found in late May along a powerline at Tumbling Run (DK) but no follow up visit was made to see if it stayed into the breeding period. For the first time since 2008, a **Magnolia Warbler** made it into the possible breeding list; one was found 6/14 at OC (TD). **Canada Warbler** and **Blackburnian Warbler** were found at JS 6/18 (DK, DR), now dependable location for both species, the only one for Canadas. Another Blackburnian showed up at OC 6/6-7 (JoD) and 6/14 (TD). There were 2 reports of **Yellow-breasted Chat**, a bird that has not breed consistently over the last several years. One was found along a power line near Orwigsburg 6/2 (DR) and another in South Manheim Twp. 6/17 (AW, TW, DR).

A handful of grassland species are found here consistently but in very low numbers and very localized, including **Grasshopper Sparrows** that once again were reported at KRM in both June and July (JD, JoD, TD). **Dark-eyed Juncos** can be found breeding on mine lands in the northern part of the county but access is usually difficult. Two were found 6/6 and 6/8 near Tamaqua (TD). **Swamp Sparrows** were heard singing at JS 6/18 (DK, DR). **Orchard Orioles** were seen 6/12 (JB) and 6/15 (TD) at SSP.

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Snyder County

No report

Compiler: Jason Weller

Somerset County

Locations: Hidden Acres Farm (HA); Kimberly Run Natural area (KRNA); Payne Property (PP); Somerset Lake (SL).

This was a quiet season overall, with no great rarities found. Lingered ducks, about 10 shorebird species, 22 breeding warblers including chat and a pair of **Barn Owls** were noteworthy. Rainfall was down but the county did not experience drought conditions like some areas.

A male **Greater Scaup** persisted at SL at least through 7/3 (JP). Likewise, a male **Ring-necked Duck** was present the entire season at SL (JP). Both birds were perhaps injured spring migrants but could fly at least short distances. Somewhat unexpected were 2 immature **Hooded Mergansers** that showed up at PP 6/10 (CP), with one staying until 6/21 (JP). A **Common Loon** at SL 6/28 was heard yodeling (JM, MM), an unusual summer occurrence.

A **Great Egret** was first seen in BA 7/28 (JP). **Black Vultures** are still not common, so 2 birds on a silo in Davidsville area were noteworthy (LG). **Osprey** were reported just twice, with a bird at Laurel Hill SP 7/26 (JM, MM) and on 6/18 one at Cranberry Glade Lake where they bred until recently (TK, JK). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was at PP 6/30 (CP).

Somerset Lake is still drawn down but the former mud flats are mostly vegetated. Efforts to date to plan for long-term shorebird management when the lake and dam are refurbished have been unsuccessful. Shorebird numbers were much lower due to loss of feeding habitat but included: One **Semipalmated Plover** 7/27; up to 45 **Killdeer** 7/25; up to 5 **Spotted Sandpipers** 7/27; a high of 15 **Solitary Sandpipers** 7/27; only 1 **Lesser Yellowlegs** 7/27; 2 **Least Sandpipers** 7/24; a high of 5 **Pectoral Sandpipers** 7/27; and a high of 3 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** 7/27 (all JP) and on 7/25 (DP). Encouraging news was of 2 pairs of **Upland Sandpipers** found near Babcock SF in early June (CP et al.) with 2 observed 6/9 (CaP, CP). **American Woodcock** were seen sporadically at PP in June (JP).

Cuckoos were found throughout the period with **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** at PP 7/30 (CP, JP) and **Black-billed Cuckoo** at Confluence 6/3 and at PP starting 7/24 (CP, JP). Intriguing was an eBird report of 2 **Barn Owls** in the Windber area 7/13 (JG). SB had 3 **Barred Owls** in concert in Friedens area 7/15. An **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was calling at HA 7/17 (SD).

Red-headed Woodpeckers are getting scarce, but singles were reported near SL 7/4 (JP, CaP), near Laurel Hill State Park 7/21 (JM, MM), and at Bluebird Hill Farm 7/23 (PL). A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was on Laurel Ridge 7/1 (AmyH), where they are known to breed. **Acadian Flycatchers** are fairly widespread, especially near Confluence where they were found 6/3 (CP, JP). An **Alder Flycatcher**, the rarest breeding *empid*, was calling at KRNA 6/3 (CP, JP). **Willow Flycatchers** are widespread in suitable shrub/scrub swamp. **Least Flycatchers** are on the drier hillsides such as Laurel Hill 6/4 (TM).

White-eyed Vireos are uncommon breeders, usually found in lower elevations such as the Confluence bird singing 6/3 (CP, JP). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** started to appear early with birds at Kooser SP 6/20 (DP) and at PP 7/30 (AP, CP). **Brown Creepers** were at KRNA 6/13 (CP) and in Salisbury 6/1 (DY). A **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was on Laurel Hill 6/19 (API). **Northern Mockingbird** is a scarce resident with perhaps 3 reported, including one in Confluence 6/3 (CP, JP).

There were 22 warbler species reported, among the less common: **Worm-eating Warbler** 6/12 Allegheny Mountain (JP), **Golden-winged Warbler** 6/3 Confluence (CP, JP), **Brewster's hybrid** Confluence (CP, JP), **Blue-winged Warbler** at Confluence – this bird heard but not confirmed by sight, **Kentucky Warbler** on Allegheny Mountain 6/12 (JP), **Cerulean Warblers** at Confluence 6/3 (CP, JP) and Central City 7/6 (SD), **Northern Parula** 6/30 on Phillippi Rd. (AL), **Magnolia Warbler** in Somerset Twp. (AH), **Blackburnian Warbler** near Laurel Hill SP 6/14 (JP), **Black-throated Blue Warbler** at PP 7/30 (AP), **Pine Warbler** near Central City 7/6 (SD), **Yellow-throated Warbler** 6/3 at Confluence (CP, JP), **Canada Warbler** at PP 7/30 (AP), and the honorary **Yellow-breasted Chat** at Confluence 6/3 (CP, JP).

Five **Vesper Sparrows** were at Flight 93 Memorial 7/11 (DP). Eight sparrow species including **Chipping**, **Field**, **Vesper**, **Savannah**, **Grasshopper**, **Henslow's**, **Song** and **Swamp** were near Babcock SF in early June. **Orchard Orioles** were reported in Confluence 6/3 (CP, JP) and Somerset Twp. 6/4 (AH). **Purple Finches** were common breeders at PP but no Pine Siskins were reported.

Observers: **Jeff Payne**, 9755 Glades Pike, Berlin, PA 15553 814-267-5718 paynemt@gmail.com Scott Bastian, Sally Dick, John Geiser, Amy Henrici (AmyH), Amanda Hersch, Janet Kuehl, Tom Kuehl, Phil Lehman, Andrew Lenhart, Tom Miller, Jim Moses, Meg Moses, Carolyn Payne (CaP) Chris Payne, Alan Peterson, Aidan Place (API) and David Yeany.

Sullivan County

Locations: Cherry Township (CT), Dutch Mtn (DM), Kinsley's Corner (KC), Lake Makoma (LM), Lietzelman Road – Dushore (LR), Loyalsock State Forest (LSF), Ricketts Glen State Park – Hayfields (RGSP- HF), SGL 13 Splashdam Pond (SDP), Sullivan Falls Road (SFR), SGL 66, Shady Nook Lake (SNL), Shanersburg Bog (SB).

The month of June seemed wetter than average and to be unseasonably cooler with some morning temperatures lower than 40 F. The hot humid days of summer did not arrive until the solstice had passed. There were no reports of any nesting failures or issues due to weather conditions. No extreme rarities were reported. The bulk of the reports for this narrative are derived from eBird.

Very few waterfowl reports were received. **Canada Geese** were observed with young in several locations. A female **Wood Duck** with at least 8 young in tow was at SNL in early June. **Wild Turkeys** were seen with poults in multiple locations. A **Common Loon** in non-breeding plumage was observed 7/24 (MC) and 7/30. Three **Great Blue Herons** were at LM 7/11 (SM).

Raptor observations were also light. A **Bald Eagle** seen at SNL in early June on the ground, appeared to possibly be eating or attempting to raid blackbird nests as 3 **Red-winged Blackbirds** repeatedly dove at and harassed the eagle. A pair of **Northern Harriers** was presumed nesting at SGL 66 6/17 (EZ). One **Red-shouldered Hawk** was found in LSF 7/2 (DG). **Sandhill Crane** was once again a confirmed nester at LR, where the pair produced 2 chicks.

Hairy Woodpecker was found as a breeder in LSF 6/19 when a nest with young was discovered (DG). A high of 14 **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were counted in LSF 7/2 (DG). **Merlin** was reported in Eagles Mere in July, where they had apparently been throughout the summer and nesting was suspected. Nine **Alder Flycatchers** provided a high count at SDP 6/12 (DG). On 6/18 a total of 6 **Acadian Flycatchers** were observed along SFR (JL). A **Warbling Vireo** represented a good find near Mildred 6/11 (DM). Twenty-one **Red-eyed Vireos** were counted in LSF 6/19 (DG).

The only **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was seen 6/17 at SGL 66 (EZ). A **Hermit Thrush** was seen carrying food at RGSP-HF 6/14 (JL). Nineteen species of warblers were recorded. High counts included 21 **Ovenbirds** in LSF 6/19 (DG) 20 **Black-throated Green Warblers** in the SB area 7/2 (DG). A **Pine Warbler** near Dushore over the July fourth weekend was a very good find. Among species normally found at lower elevations, **Louisiana Waterthrush**, **Hooded Warbler** and **Northern Parula** were present along SFR 6/18 (JL). A **Mourning Warbler** was at RGSP- HF 6/14 (JL).

A **Savannah** and a **Grasshopper sparrow** were present along Airport Rd near Dushore 6/25. **Bobolinks** were plentiful in open areas with a high of 20 in a field near Mildred 6/11 (DM).

Observers: **Rob Megraw** 131 Butternut Dr, Pottstown, PA 19464 610.858.6361 robert.r.megraw@gmail.com, Mark Catalano, Skip Conant, Wes Egli, Doug Gross (DG), Judith Lynn, Sean Minnick, Dennis Miranda, Eric Zawatski.

Susquehanna County

Locations: Susquehanna River (SR).

In June and July the frenetic pace of spring birding subsides. The awe-inspiring spectacle of millions of birds moving to their breeding grounds and the obsessive chase to see everyone have slackened. Summer birding engenders a different kind of satisfaction when the birds that find our "homes" suitable for their homes remain. This is the stuff of nest box trails, bird atlases, and breeding bird survey routes. Finding a yellowthroat nest at your ankles or a vireo nest high in the canopy engenders a special, and very satisfying, kind of joy in the birder's heart. Such is summer birding in this northeastern county.

The only waterfowl reported were **Canada Goose**, **Mallard**, **Wood Duck**, and **Common Merganser**. These four species stay with us in good numbers, busying themselves making babies and raising the next generation. Single **Double-crested Cormorants** were reported in Jul at two different locations - one on Lord Pond 7/10 (KJ) and another on Page Lake 7/30 (DB). Once an uncommon species, they are becoming regular visitors to our waters. Another bird found more frequently in late Jul is the **Great Egret**. Our first of the year arrived at Dump Pond 7/20 (JS) and another at the same location 7/30 (m.ob.) But the real heron excitement occurred when

a **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was spotted from a kayak on the SR just south of the state line 7/28 (DS). Multiple attempts to relocate the bird proved futile, leading to a conspiracy theory that it may have been hijacked and released north of the border by New York birders.

Singing males of four *empidonax* flycatcher species, **Least, Willow, Alder, and Acadian Flycatchers** were found in good numbers, in suitable habitat, and within "safe dates." The same was true of our regular vireonidae: **Red-eye, Warbling, Blue-headed, and Yellow-throated Vireos**. A comment often heard during the summer months is how frequently red-eyes can be heard singing well into the heat of the day. Two observations from this period suggest we are hearing a veritable choir of songsters. Late-nesting surveys using playback found remarkable numbers of the species: 37 Red-eyed Vireos in SGL 35 on 7/3 (JM) and 28 at Salt Springs Park 7/5 (JM).

A number of years ago a steel trestle bridge across the SR between Hallstead and Great Bend was replaced with a concrete pier bridge. Shortly thereafter, **Cliff Swallows** began nesting on the more suitable substrate under the roadway. Each year since, a number of nests have been built in the first half of May. This year no activity was noted at the location until mid-June when birds were observed constructing mud nests (m.ob.). This late date may suggest that the original colony members were gone, and these birds may have relocated here from a failed nesting attempt elsewhere. Our only known **Bank Swallow** colony was down to three active burrow entrances (DA). The unusually hot temperatures this season may have taken a toll on nest box inhabitants with some reports of high nestling mortality among **Eastern Bluebirds** (BM).

After the northbound migrants had passed through, 18 warbler species remained and presumably nested. SGL 35 continued to be the focus of birder's warbler quests as these 7,700 forested acres have been revealing previously unknown populations in recent years. Most exciting was the continuing presence of **Cerulean Warblers** proximate to post-timber harvest acres 6/20 (JM) and 7/3 (EM). Another species benefiting from this Game Commission activity and found in good numbers at this location was **Mourning Warbler** found 6/20 (JM) and 7/20 (WS). A total of 5 **Hooded Warblers** were identified during a 1.75 mile point count survey at SGL 35 on 6/20 (JM).

Summer 2016 was a great one for those who limit their birding to backyard bird feeding. **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** visited feeders in stronger numbers and for a more extended period of time than typical. **Baltimore Orioles** were present in good numbers and availed themselves of nectar and jelly feeders through the nesting season. One local property hosted 4 to 6 orioles regularly during June and July (NVC). An **Orchard Oriole** was seen and photographed (thanks to an editor of this periodical) on private property 6/21 (DA, EM, JS). **Purple Finch** were present in good numbers allowing hobbyists to hone their skills at distinguishing them from the local **House Finches**. For their nesting period, most **Dark-eyed Juncos** retreat into the woods, but one pair skipped the trip to the woods and nested in a hanging basket on a porch near New Milford and were photographed 6/12 and 7/19 (NVC).

Observers: **Evan Mann, 8313 Laurel Lake Road, Montrose, PA 18801, (570) 663-2621, evanm@frontier.com**, Dave Andre, Edmund Burdick, Deborah Busby, Charlie Denkenberger, Kathie Jones, Justin Mann, Bruce McNaught, Tom Norville, Win Shafer, Douglas Sheldon, Jerry Skinner, Joyce Stone, Nancy VanCott, Nancy Wottrich.

Tioga County

No compiler.

Union County

No compiler.

Venango County

Locations: Allegheny River (AR), Barkeyville Fields (BF), Kahle Lake (KL), Two Mile Run Park (TMRP).

A lone **Common Loon** was on TMRP Lake 7/31 (RS, GE). The only **Osprey** was observed on the AR 6/7 (GE, JW). Increasingly unusual for *Venango* were 5 species of shorebirds in a plowed, overgrown field near KL (GE, RS), including 25+ **Killdeer**, 2 **Semipalmated Plovers**, one **Semipalmated Sandpiper**, one **Spotted Sandpiper**, and one **Least Sandpiper**. An **American Woodcock** was seen on 7/2 (GE).

Black-billed Cuckoo were observed through the period until 7/15, but no Yellow-billed Cuckoos were reported. The only **Common Nighthawk** was observed 7/6 (JS, KG). **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were present to the end of the season. A **Merlin** was photographed taking an albino **Tree Swallow** 7/18 (GE).

Flycatchers reported include **Acadian Flycatcher** through 6/30, **Alder Flycatcher** 6/3 (KG, JS), **Willow Flycatcher** 7/25 (RS), **Least Flycatcher** 7/23 (GE), and **Great Crested Flycatcher** through 7/2. **Common Ravens**, which continue to increase, were seen most of the season. **Purple Martin** continue at BF. **Northern Mockingbirds**, always uncommon in *Venango*, were observed 7/18 and 7/25 at BF (RS).

Warbler highlights are as follows, possibly some beginning their southward migration: **Louisiana Waterthrush** 7/26, **Blue-winged Warbler** 7/21 (NB), **Black-and-White Warbler** 7/11, **Nashville Warbler** 6/10 Flatiron Rd (FM, JM), **Kentucky Warbler** SGL39 6/21 (RS, GE), **Cerulean Warbler** 6/28 (JS, KG), **Magnolia Warbler** 7/21 (NB), **Blackburnian Warbler** 7/6 (MK, NK), **Chestnut-sided Warbler** 7/15, **Yellow-rumped Warbler** 6/13 (NB) and 7/26 (MK), and **Canada Warbler** through 6/18. A **Purple Finch** was found 7/8 (NB), and a **Red Crossbill** was photographed at Seneca 6/17 (MK, NK).

Observers: **Russ States, 111 E. 4th St., Oil City, PA 16301, (814) 676-6320, pabirder@verizon.net**, Gary Edwards, 224 Meadow Rd, Apt 9, Seneca, PA 16346, (814) 676-3011, gedwards@csonline.net; Ed Atts, Nancy Baker, Kathie Goodblood, Meg Kolodick, Nick Kolodick, Flo McGuire, Jim McGuire, Jerry Stanley, Jim Wilson.

Warren County

No compiler.

Washington County

Locations: Canonsburg Lake (CL), Hillman State Park (HSP), Mingo Creek County Park (MC), Robinson Twp. (RBT).

A pair of (released) **Northern Bobwhite** was at RBT 6/18 (FK). A **Great Egret** was at Greencove Wetlands 7/17 (CK *vide* MV), and another at CL beginning 7/25 (JF). The **Bald Eagles** at CL were noted near their nest 6/4 (LC) but not thereafter; this nest probably failed. An adult Bald Eagle was soaring over the area 6/10 (RT). **Broad-winged Hawk** was frequently noted at MC and HSP through the season (m.ob.). Single **Solitary Sandpipers** were at CL 7/10 (RR) and 7/25 (JF).

The 17-year cicada hatch affected several areas in *Washington* and both species of cuckoos were beneficiaries, especially at MC and HSP. Many more reports of **Black-billed Cuckoos** were received from these two locations than typical, including a very nice count of 5 at HSP 7/28 (RT). **Black-billed** was also noted at Washington Park 6/7 (PB). One or 2 **Common Nighthawks** were over Washington 7/13-28 (LC). An **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was heard north of Burgettstown after dusk 6/18 (KP).

Up to 4 **Blue-headed Vireos** were nicely documented throughout the summer at HSP (FK). Quite notable and noticeable at MC were the nesting **Common Ravens**, with up to 6 (including the fledglings) seen through 7/14 (AK, FK, et al.). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was a fixture at HSP as usual, but the count of 7 on 7/28 (FK) was notable even for there.

Kentucky Warblers were found at MC 6/10 (DP) and Washington Park 6/14 (PB), and 2 **Cerulean Warblers** were at MC 6/14 (AK, FK). **Pine Warblers** were noted at HSP through the season (RT, AK, FK, et al.). A very intriguing find was a **Black-throated Green Warbler** at HSP 7/28 (RT), where it had not been seen earlier in the season despite good coverage by several observers. Perhaps it was a very early migrant or a wandering non-breeder, and worth keeping tabs on next summer. **Grasshopper Sparrow** and **Henslow's Sparrow** were holding strong at RBT (MF, FK) and HSP (FK, AK, TH). A **Henslow's** was also photographed on Glass Hill Rd. near Muse 7/28 (ph. FK), a new location. Up to 4 **Bobolinks** were noted at RBT 6/18-7/4 (FK, m.ob.).

Observers: **Geoff Malosh, 450 Amherst Avenue, Moon Township, PA 15108-2654, (412) 735-3128, pomarine@earthlink.net**, Paul Brown, Lauren Conkle, Mike Fialkovich, John Flannigan, Gigi Gerben, Todd Hoee, Roy Ickes, Fred Kachmarik, Alyssa Karmann, Chris Knoll, Kelly Parsons, David Poortinga, Russ Ruffing, Ryan Tomazin, Mark Vass.

Wayne County

Locations: Prompton State Park (PSP), White Oak Pond (WOP).

Canada Geese, **Wood Ducks**, and **Mallards** commonly breed and were reported at multiple locations (m.ob.). A lone female **Hooded Merganser** was at Perkins Pond 6/11 (CF) and 9 at PSP 6/12 (JH). **Common Mergansers** were recorded throughout the season on the Delaware R. in Buckingham Twp. (CF, RK), with the high count being a group of 12 females 7/23 (RK). **Great Egret** is not often reported in Wayne, but 2 were seen at a pond near Bethany 7/17 (JH) and one was nicely photographed at PSP 7/21 (CF, JH).

Broad-winged Hawks were located countywide (m.ob.), including one near SGL 70 during a BBS route 6/9 (EM). **Virginia Rails** were found at PSP 6/1 (JH) and 7/21 (CF, JH), and at the wetland area along Mohn Rd. 7/3 (CF). Migrant shorebird highlights include a late **Semipalmated Plover** at WOP 6/2 (CF) and one **Solitary Sandpiper** foraging in a wooded swamp along Stockport Cr. 7/24 (RK).

One **Marsh Wren**, a rarity in Wayne, was seen at the wetland area along Mohn Rd. 6/26 (AC) and was heard singing at the same location 7/3 (CF). Twenty-two species of warbler were recorded. A single **Worm-eating Warbler** was spotted along Plank Rd. near Atco 6/26 (AC). **Mourning Warbler** reports were limited to the northern quarter of the county, including a sighting of one during the BBS 6/9 (EM). Buckingham Twp. hosted the only **Cerulean Warblers** recorded, with a total of 3 - 2 at different locations near the Delaware R. 6/16 (RK) and one near Factory Cr. 6/30 (CF).

Bobolink and **Eastern Meadowlark** are fairly common breeders in Wayne and were seen county-wide (m.ob.). Good high counts of 12 Bobolinks and 5 Eastern Meadowlarks were recorded during an outing along Buckingham Rd. east of Wayne Park 6/11 (CF).

Observers: **Josh Jones**, unclechu76@gmail.com, Anthony Ciancimino, Chris Fischer, John Harvey, Rick Keyser, Evan Mann.

Westmoreland County

Locations: Section of the Westmoreland Heritage Trail that passes through the Beaver Run Reservoir (WHT-BRR), Donegal Lake (DL), Kuehl Property in Murrysville (KP), Murrysville Community Park (MCP), Latrobe Reservoir, also known as Trout Run Reservoir (LR), Linn Run State Park (LRSP), Powdermill Nature Reserve (PNR).

Twenty **Wood Ducks** were counted in the wetland area along the Westmoreland Heritage Trail section that passes through the Municipal Authority's Beaver Run Reservoir 7/29 (KB). One **Hooded Merganser** was at DL 6/15 (AP). Now sparsely reported, one **Ruffed Grouse** was at PNR 6/21 (BV). One **Double-crested Cormorant** was recorded at LR 6/1 (AM). Two **Great Blue Herons** and 2 **Green Herons** were at WHT-BRR 7/11 (KB).

There were several reports during the season of **Osprey** at the long-time DL nest site, including 2 adults and 2 chicks 6/18 (JK/TK). One **Bald Eagle** was reported at LR 6/1 (AM). Suggesting nesting in the area, there were multiple reports for **Red-shouldered Hawk** at PNR during the season (BV). Cackling calls of a **Cooper's Hawk** were heard sporadically throughout the season at the KP; and at that location on 7/5 an adult Cooper's chased a **Red-tailed Hawk** behind the house.

A **Sora** with young were at Little Sewickley Cr. Wetlands outside of Herminie on 7/5 (JP), the first record of confirmed breeding of this species in Westmoreland. Sora was likely also breeding at the at the small wetlands at the Murrysville Community Park; one was photographed 6/12 and on 6/13 the distinctive whinny calls were heard (SM). One **Spotted Sandpiper** was reported at DL 7/27 (BV). Two **Solitary Sandpipers** were at WHT-BRR 7/21 (KB).

Among the many **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** reported were 2 at WHT-BRR 7/11 (KB), and they were heard regularly at KP. Alternatively, there were just a few reports for **Black-billed Cuckoo**, and except one heard at the KP 6/4, all reports were east of Chestnut Ridge, including a single juvenile at DL 6/17 (AM). Hissing calls of at least 2 juvenile **Barred Owls** were heard and then birds seen later in the evening at the KP 6/15, and subsequently photographed on frequent visits to the yard through 7/25. An **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was heard on Laurel Ridge near Waterford 7/26 (TV). All of many reports for **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were from the Linn Run State Park/Spruce Flat Bog/Wolf Rocks Trail area.

The only of **Alder Flycatcher** was at Hunters Lane 6/15, a reliable location for this species (AP). A hike of Wolf Rocks Trails on 6/10 provided a

report of 2 **Least Flycatchers** and one **Great Crested Flycatcher** (SG). Three **White-eyed Vireos** and one **Warbling Vireo** were included in an eBird Checklist for Northmoreland Park 6/21 (SG). A White-eyed Vireo was heard at the KP 7/14 and on several other days at the KP. Two **Yellow-throated Vireos** were at the Lindsay home near Ligonier 7/2 and 7/3 (AC), and 2 were reported at the WHT-BRR 7/11 (KB). Providing the high-count for the season, 3 **Common Ravens** were reported on the hike of the Wolf Rocks Trail 6/10 (SG).

Successful nesting of **Purple Martins** was documented at the MCP house 7/3, with 7 active nests and 28 nestlings (SM). A reliable location for this species is BRR-380, which provided a count of 12 martins 7/29 (KB). An eBird checklist for Wolf Rocks Trail 7/19 provided the only report of **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, and this reliable location for this Laurel Highland specialty also included a count of 2 juvenile and 4 adult **Hermit Thrush** (GS).

A hike of the Westmoreland Heritage Trail provided a report of one **Kentucky Warbler** at WHT-BRR 7/28 (KB). A canopy species, so not routinely captured at the PNR Banding Station, one **Cerulean Warbler** was captured in July. The high count for Ceruleans was 3, on Old River Rd., along the Conemaugh R. near New Florence 6/6 (AM). Another significant capture during the season at PNR was that of one **Worm-eating Warbler** in June. A likely late migrant, one **Blackpoll Warbler** was well seen in LRSP 6/20 (PF, GS). Laurel Highland specialties reported for the season included **Blue-headed Vireo**, **Winter Wren**, **Northern Parula**, **Magnolia Warbler**, **Blackburnian Warbler**, **Chestnut-sided Warbler**, **Black-throated Blue Warbler**, **Black-throated Green Warbler** and **Canada Warbler**. The only **Yellow-breasted Chat** was reported near Blairsville 7/16 (MH, RH).

The only reports of the season for two grassland species, 2 **Grasshopper Sparrows** and 3 **Henslow's Sparrows** came from near the intersection of Laughlin Farm and Willow Run Rds. near Blairsville 7/16 (MH, RH). Also at that location, 5 **Bobolinks** (which included recently fledged young) provided the high count for the season. Although a confirmed nester in the Laurel Highlands from the 2004-2009 Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas, **Purple Finch** is rarely reported, but 2 were captured at PNR in July.

Observers: **Tom Kuehl**, 3615 Hilty Road, Export, PA 15632, (724)-325-1918, tjkuehl@comcast.net. Ken Byerly, Annie Crary, Mike Fialkovich, Patience Fisher, Steve Gosser, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Janet Kuehl, Andy Mack, Susan Miller, Aidan Place, Georgia Shalek, Gina Sheridan, Brian Vizzacchero.

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

During the Second Breeding Bird Atlas (BBA), 149 species were recorded in Wyoming, of which 108 were listed as Confirmed (CO), 22 as Probable (PR), and 19 as Possible (PO). Since the BBA, I've been particularly interested in records of the 41 PO/PR species that might confirm their breeding, if possible and of course, adding other species that might not have been recorded in the BBA, and which might demonstrate breeding behavior here.

Since the atlas, birder reports accounted for the elevation of only one species of the 41, when a pair of **Orchard Orioles** was observed together during safe dates at EMNC in 2014. That record moved OROR from PO to PR.

During this summer, birders reported observations of only 13 of the 41 species listed as PR/PO in the 2004-2009 BBA. Although there were records of each of the 13 species during safe dates, there was no evidence reported to move any of those species from where they were reported previously. So, I will not include all those records.

Two other species of special note are included here: A highlight of the season was the appearance of **Great Egret** at RP 7/22 and continuing throughout the month (JD, et al.). From one to 3 birds were present almost continuously, foraging along the weeded shoreline of the Susquehanna or "resting" on the shore itself. This is not a Wyoming breeder, but has been observed "post-breeding wandering" occasionally over the years. I suspect it wanders here more often, but that I only learn about the presence of the species occasionally.

Finally, what appears to be a first for Wyoming is the record of the breeding of **Sandhill Cranes**. Two adults with 2 colts were found at SL 6/23 and 7/2 (KS, RG). These appeared to be recently fledged colts, finally confirmed breeding by the species in the county. Although no breeding behavior was recorded in *Wyoming* in the BBA, cranes have been reported here and elsewhere in the region on and off over the years, and the species was confirmed in nearby *Bradford*. Residents near Sharpe's Lake have been reporting the species regularly there in recent years (and frequently since March this year), and we've been expecting confirmation.

Observers: **Joe DeMarco, 15 West Tioga Street, Tunkhannock, PA, 18657, (570) 836-1468, (JD)**, Mark Catalano (MC), Trudy Cook (TC), Laura and Jim Dickson (LJD), Nate Fronk (NF), Robert Gallagher (RG), Sandy Goodwin (SG), Rebecca Lesko (RL), Kay Nace (KN), Jack and Shirley Patton (JSP), Win Shafer (WS), Kay Simons (KS), Bob Wasilewski (BW), Craig Yarrish (CY), Neal Yerabeck (NY), and Eric Zawatski (EZ).

York County

Locations: Brunner Island (BI), Codorus State Park (CSP), Gifford Pinchot State Park (GPSP), Highpoint Scenic Vista and Recreation Area (HIGH), Hopewell Township Park (HTP), Lake Redman (LR), Lake Williams (LW).

Total species count of 122 and 16 warbler species continue the positive reporting trend for this period. Weather wise it was a very hot July. With normal or above rainfalls in the period, shorebird habitat remained very limited.

High counts from the eight locales reporting **Wood Duck** were 32 at GPSP 7/29 (JB), 20 at Messiah College 7/18 (KR), and 18 at the game lands at Sunnyside Rd. 6/22 (CB). York Haven held a lingering adult male **Lesser Scaup** up to 6/17 (DN, TN). A single **Hooded Merganser** was at Long Level 6/12 (CM) and a juvenile pair were at York Haven 6/10-15 (DN, TN). A few immature **Common Loons** usually spend some of this period at CSP, but this year the only report was of a single bird early in the period 6/6 (RK). The only "away from the river" site holding **Double-crested Cormorant** was LW with up to 4 birds 6/7-7/19 (LC, CK). The Kiwanis Lake **Great Egret** colony had a high count of 40 on 6/18 (RQ). Reports suggest dispersals were over a broader range than prior years as nine locales reported birds. However, the historic favored dispersal spot, LR, remained so with 34 birds 7/18 (CK). Nice June finds at LR were 2 adult **Little Blue Herons** 6/2 (DN) and an immature 6/22-23 (CK, CM, RS). The **Black-crowned Night Heron** portion of the Kiwanis Lake mixed rookery produced a high count of 36 birds 6/17-18 (AC, PK).

With the PGC's focus on documentation of **Osprey** nesting this year, a strong effort was made to identify nest sites (CB). The results showed 2 nests at BI, 2 at CSP, and 2 below Holtwood Dam on the Susquehanna R.. Detailed nesting results were not available from all sites but the 2 CSP nests noted a total of 6 eggs with a gratifying success rate of 5 fledges. Unusual for the period were **Northern Harrier** reports from HTP. A sub-adult male was seen 7/10 and 7/23 (DF) and a female was there 7/28 (CB). June reports of **Sharp-shinned Hawk** are rare. One was reported along Sheaffer's Church Rd. (RP) and another was at LR 6/9 (DN). Also typically elusive this period, a single **Broad-winged Hawk** was at GPSP 7/12 (DN).

A nice count of 23 **Killdeer** came from HTP 7/2 (DF). Due to the scarcity of reports, any shorebird observation was a highlight. A **Greater Yellowlegs** was at LR 7/7-20 (DN, RS). LR also held a **Solitary Sandpiper** 7/18-28 (CK, CM) and **Spotted Sandpipers** were there all period (m.ob.). LW produced the **Spotted Sandpiper** high count with 11 birds 7/5 (CK). A **Least Sandpiper** was very early at LR 7/7 (DN) and Briarwood Golf Course held a single 7/29 (PK).

A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was at Indian Steps 6/15-19 (RDS). An outbreak (but I wouldn't call it a major one) of tent caterpillars likely accounts for 11 locales reporting (m.ob.) **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**. High count was 4 birds at GPSP 7/16 (PE). Observers were treated to banding of 5 **Barn Owl** nestlings at a Ridge Rd. farm 7/7 (CM, RS). A single **Barred Owl** was at Spring Valley County Park 7/8 (DC). The most reliable site for "barreds" is GPSP, which produced reports 7/16-31 (JB, JSD, RS). A report at 0100 hours noted 4 birds, 2 were calling and 2 were caterwauling 7/28 (JB). A 7/31 report report involved 3 juveniles making begging calls (JSD). Five locales reported **Red-headed Woodpecker** (m.ob.); high count was 7 at HTP 6/30 (DN) and 7/31 (DF).

The **Peregrine Falcon** nesting story was monitored all period (DN, TN) and was certainly interesting. First, I had reported nesting at York

Haven in the spring report but it turns out that nest site was in *Lancaster*. That nesting effort produced 4 nestlings, 2 of which survived to fledge. The second nest site, BI in *York*, was only visible to employees working inside the power plant and has been an active nest every year since 2010. The following was received 6/15 (AM to DN) concerning that nest site:

"Yes, there is a peregrine pair at the Brunner Island power plant. You cannot see the nest: it is behind a steel fascia wall on top of one of the coal silos. The peregrine fly in and out through a small hole in the wall - almost like cavity nesters. The plant workers can see into the nest through a hole in an inside wall, but the power plant people have denied me permission to go up there.

Four eggs were laid, and at least some of them hatched, and at least one fledged, prematurely, on Monday, and is now in rehab until his feathering matures."

The final nesting results indicate 3 fledged, 2 had to be rescued and of those 2 rescued birds one required the rehabilitation noted above as it become grounded soon after fledging. Finally, one of the adult peregrines from the York Haven nest regularly took exception to its reflection in the glass panes of an office building. For some interesting photos of this behavior refer to eBird checklist #S30413072 from 6/26 (DN). Fortunately, the encounters with the reflection apparently resulted in no injuries.

Acadian and Willow Flycatchers enjoyed good reporting with high counts of 5 Acadians at GPSP 6/14 (DN) and 5 along the Susquehanna Trail 7/6 (EW). The game lands at Sunnyside Rd. held 7 Willow Flycatchers 6/22 (CB). Up to 5 **White-eyed Vireos** were at GPSP 6/28-7/2 (DN). Single **Yellow-throated Vireos** were found at GPSP 6/21-28 (DG, DN), at Spring Valley County Park 7/18 (DC), at LR 7/10 (DH), and at Lock 12 on 7/10-15 (SC, NP). Always limited in summer, a single report of **Blue-headed Vireo** came from GPSP 6/20 (DG). Four **Common Ravens** were over Hellam 6/4 (ML, JM). The total of 3 reports of **Horned Lark** is on the high side for summer. A trio was found at HIGH 6/11 (DN, TN), a single was at HTP 6/17 (DF), and 2 were along Blooming Grove Rd. 7/9 (SG).

Six reports of **Purple Martin** are a little on the low side and likely reflect the nesting success challenges posed by the cold, wet spells in May. As a group, the five reports of **Bank Swallow** were unusual, from five sites, all were of single birds, and observations spanned the period (m.ob.), whereas typically reports in this period note multiple bird counts during their migration period beginning mid-July. A 6/29 survey of the understructure of three bridges at CSP produced a **Cliff Swallow** colony count as high as 175 birds (CB).

Worm-eating Warbler and **Kentucky Warbler** were well reported, with 5 each. As typical, **Prothonotary Warbler** sightings came from the lower Susquehanna R. shores. Two were found in the Hellam area 6/4 (ML, JM), one was at BI 6/15 (DN), another was at Mud Run Cr. 6/15 (RDS) and a final report came from the Lock 12 area 7/15 (SC). A **Hooded Warbler** was at CSP 6/29 (CB). A **Cerulean Warbler** was at Lock 12 during the period 6/25-7/10 (NP, DW). Sixteen reports of **Northern Parula** were paced by the Lock 12 locale holding 8 birds 6/25 (DW). **Yellow-throated Warbler** was found at Otter Cr. 7/15 (DW). **Yellow-breasted Chat** was found at HTP 6/4 (DF), GPSP 7/16 (PE), and 6/25 (NP) and 7/10 (DW) at Lock 12. The 6/25 sighting at Lock 12 produced a breeding record of food carrying.

Singles of **Savannah Sparrow** and **Grasshopper Sparrow** were along the Rail Trail 7/19 (RS). HTP held Savannah and Grasshopper Sparrows all period (DF, DN, RS). High counts were 6 Savannahs 7/26 (DF) and 10 Grasshopper Sparrows 6/30 (DN). The latter was also found at HIGH and Native Lands Park 6/11 (DN, TN) and Royal Manchester Golf Course 7/3 (AA). A **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** lingered at LR 6/3 (m.ob.). **Blue Grosbeak** singles were found 6/5 and 7/7 at Lock 12 (TA), at HIGH 6/11 (DN, TN); and HTP held at least one bird all period with a pair spotted 7/23 (DF). **Bobolink** reporting was limited to one at HTP 6/5 (DF). **Eastern Meadowlarks** were at HTP all period (CB, DF, KK, DN, RS) with a high count of 20 birds 7/12 (DF). A single was at HIGH 6/11 (DN, TN) and a quartet was at Royal Manchester Golf Course 7/3 (AA).

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IN FOCUS



Barn Swallow, Marsh Creek, Chester county. (photo by Patricia Verbovzsky)



Blackburnian Warbler, Clear Creek State Park, Jefferson county, (photo by Anthony Bruno)



Yellow-throated Warbler, Lower Trail, Huntingdon county, (photo by Rob Dickerson)



Chestnut-sided Warbler, Clear Creek State Park, Jefferson county, (photo by Anthony Bruno)



Mourning Warbler, Slate Run, Lycoming County, (photo by Rick Carlson)



Dickcissel, Rodale Experimental Farm, Berks county, (photo by Scott Keys)