

# PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS



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## IN FOCUS PART 1



**Green Heron** (and unfortunate frog) at Wingfield Pines, Allegheny County 20 June (Jeff McDonald).



Along with other rare southern waders, four **White Ibis** (more than usual) were found in Pennsylvania this summer – this one along West Lisburn Road, Cumberland County, present 20-23 (here 22) July (Dave Kerr).



Before the discovery of the celebrated individual on the cover, there was this **Roseate Spoonbill**, found 15 July at the Conejohela flats on the Susquehanna River, Lancaster County - apparently gone within 24 hours (and apparently not the same bird as the one at Camp Hill) (Zach Millen).



Another pic of the "bird of the season", the **Roseate Spoonbill** found on the Conodoguinet Creek at Camp Hill, Cumberland County 15 July (here 24 July), staying well into the late summer (Ann Reeves).



The first at John Heinz NWR, Philadelphia County since 1984, this **Purple Gallinule** was photographed 16 June but remained unknown to birders for another week and never re-located (Kurt Hummel).



This juvenile **Bonaparte's Gull** (with a **Ring-billed Gull**) at Peace Valley Park, Bucks County was an early fall migrant, found 29 (here 31) July (August Mirabella).



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Cover Photo: *Following the astounding discovery of one **Roseate Spoonbill** on the Susquehanna River on 15 July, another spoonbill, believed to be a different individual, was found on the Conodoguinet Creek at Camp Hill, Cumberland County. The second bird proved quite cooperative, staying into early fall and allowing birders the chance to view this wanderer from the very deep South, here caught in flight 18 July. The two spoonbills (assuming different birds) appear to represent the third and fourth Pennsylvania records, following a Lancaster County bird from sometime prior to 1869 and one in Erie County from 1968. (Photo by Wes Peterson).*

**Farmland raptors**

As most birders know, grassland species in Pennsylvania are generally declining. This includes raptors that specialize in open country habitat, which in Pennsylvania means mostly farmland across the state, and former strip mine lands primarily in the west. The **American Kestrel** is a prime example of a species losing ground in much of the eastern United States, for reasons not fully understood but which surely include shrinking farmland habitat in developing areas (e.g. southeastern Pennsylvania), and the quality of the remaining habitat; for example, ground cover for prey species and possibility the use of pesticides.

Probably many of you have contributed data on farmland/grassland raptors, whether you realize it or not (via eBird), to Hawk Mountain's **Farmland Raptor Project**. Stated very briefly, the purposes of this project include gathering population and distribution data, and providing information about raptors to the public; in particular, to farmers and other landowners on ways to manage their property for the benefit of raptors, and in turn the benefits resulting from the presence of raptors. The four species on which the project focuses are **American Kestrel, Northern Harrier, Barn Owl, and Short-eared Owl**. All birders can contribute to our knowledge on the population status of these species in Pennsylvania by entering sightings into the project data base. This is done automatically when you enter checklists into eBird. If you do not use eBird, you can enter data directly to the project via a link at the Farmland Raptor Project website:

<http://www.hawkmountain.org/raptorpedia/pennsylvania-farmland-raptor-project/page.aspx?id=3176>

With the above in mind, please take a look at the second table in **August Mirabella's Bucks** report for the summer season. Included there are very impressive results from an American Kestrel nest box project run by **Devich Farbotnik**. Keeping

in mind that pressure on land use and development is intense in *Bucks*, note that this effort, which began in 2010, resulted this year in a very encouraging total of 208 fledglings (all but one banded) from 76 boxes. (Interestingly, two of the banded youngsters were later found at airports, one near New York City and one at Harrisburg, the latter dead unfortunately). For his efforts, Devich has been awarded the Rosalie Edge Conservation Award from the Delaware Valley Ornithological Society.

**Piping Plover success**

Most readers will already be aware of the success of Piping Plover breeding at Presque Isle State Park this past summer. There is a lot to this story, in many ways, with quite a bit of drama attached to this year's efforts. Read the excellent account by Mary Birdsong and Jerry McWilliams in this issue; Mary is the full-time monitor of the nesting activities at Gull Point. For more information about the Piping Plover project and habitat restoration at Gull Point see the article by Haffner, Sargent, and Zimmerman in Volume 28, Issue 1 of *Pennsylvania Birds* (2014).

**Compiler news**

Two long-time reporters will end their runs as county compiler with this issue. **Doris McGovern**, one of our most senior compilers, has been reporting *Philadelphia* since 1999 (Vol. 13), always providing interesting background to her reports. Also going into compiler "retirement" issue is **Neil Troyer** in *Mercer*. An excellent writer, Neil submitted his first report in 2011 (Vol. 25). He will continue to write articles for Amish publications. Doris and Neil have earned their break from compiler duties – we surely thank them for their long-time contributions to *Pennsylvania Birds*. Our county compilers form the solid basis upon which every issue is built. I am happy to say that both counties will have new compilers in place beginning with fall 2017 issue – **Holger Pflike** in *Philadelphia* and **Glenn Koppel** in *Mercer*.

Continuing with compiler news, two new contributors join the line-up beginning with the current issue. **Sandy Lockerman** of Harrisburg, who many of you know through her hummingbird banding work, takes over in *Dauphin* for **Annette Mathes**. Thank you Annette for your work in *Dauphin*. **Jim Ridolfi** of Wilkes-Barre is the new compiler for *Lackawanna*, which has been without a compiler for years.

The following counties have no compiler: *Bradford, Carbon, Luzerne, Potter, and Tioga*. Please contact the editor if interested.

**County compilers:** **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), **John Carter** (Blair), **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), **Any Kiester** (Columbia, Northumberland), **Rob Hodgson** (Crawford), **Vern Gauthier** (Cumberland, Perry), **Sandy Lockerman** (Dauphin), **Sheryl Johnson** (Delaware), **Jerry McWilliams** (Erie), **Flo McGuire** (Forest), **Bill Oyler** (Franklin), **Amy Evans** (Fulton), **Marjorie Howard** (Greene), **Greg Grove** (Huntingdon, Juniata), **Margaret Higbee** (Indiana), **Thomas Glover** (Jefferson), **Chad Kauffman** (Juniata), **Jim Ridolfi** (Lackawanna), **Zack Millen** (Lancaster), **Tim Becker** (Lebanon), **Bill Etter** (Lehigh), **Bobby Brown** (Lycoming), **Gigi Gerben** (McKean), **Neil Troyer** (Mercer), **Jon Kauffman** (Mifflin), **Brian Hardiman** (Monroe), **Brian Henderson** (Montgomery), **Evan Houston** (Montour), **Michael Schall** (Northampton, Pike), **Doris McGovern** (Philadelphia), **Dave Rieger** (Schuylkill), **Jeff Payne** (Somerset), **Rob Megraw** (Sullivan), **Evan Mann** (Susquehanna), **Joe Gyekis** (Snyder, Union), **Gary Edwards** and **Russ States** (Venango), **Scott Stoleson** (Warren), **Josh Jones** (Wayne), **Tom Kuehl** (Westmoreland), **Joe DeMarco** (Wyoming).

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# Piping Plovers Return to Nest at Gull Point after a Half-century

## Mary Birdsong and Jerry McWilliams

A male and female Piping Plover were discovered together on the beach at Gull Point at Presque Isle State Park on May 11, 2017. For the first time in more than 50 years, full-throttled mating activity on the part of Piping Plovers was observed there and it was thrilling to experience.

On that day, the male plover that had been seen at Gull Point the year before and again starting on April 24 of 2017, was chasing off any and all birds in his area and performing an elaborate mating flight of long oval-shaped patterns, with wings rocking side to side. He kept up a persistent courtship whistle.

When he landed, he stood up on a small piece of driftwood and stretched his body upward, which made me curious, as it was not a usual posture. In hopes of verifying that this was the same plover, I tried to see the color band combination on his legs through my scope. I confirmed his bands and then, out from behind the driftwood strolled another plover.

If the second plover had been a male, they would have been fighting. Instead, the bird I knew stayed close to the second and continued to defend it. It was clearly a female. With her present and the possibility of nesting now more than an ardent wish, history was about to be made.

This moment, though thrilling, was prefaced by much hard work on the part of many agencies, groups and individuals, and a history that goes back decades.

As Jerry McWilliams tells me, "Piping Plovers were documented at Presque Isle in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. It wasn't until May 24, 1900 when nesting was first documented from the outer shore of the eastern end of Presque Isle. Nesting continued to be reported periodically through the mid- to late 1950s. However specific dates and number of nests only date to May 31, 1935, and nesting continued to be reported periodically through the mid- to late 1950s."

From the 1960s through 2016, only single birds were recorded sporadically, if at all. Locals like McWilliams and Jim and Jean Stull continued their efforts, even placing Piping Plover (and Common Tern) decoys at Gull Point in hopes of attracting birds that might nest, a method that didn't work.

Everyone continued to watch, however, and in the 1970s, Sam Stull and David Steadman signed on as International Shorebird Survey cooperators for Gull Point and in 1979, McWilliams took over as ISS cooperator.

These ISS reports documented a mass amount of shorebird data, including Piping Plover sightings, but Gull Point still got little notice by state agencies as a place worth protecting for the sake of shorebirds. That changed in 1992 when McWilliams observed a male Piping Plover displaying and nest scraping. He writes "The Presque Isle Audubon Society, the Sierra Club, and other interested

parties thought this would be a good time to ask the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to close off Gull Point to all public activity."

A public hearing on the topic proved contentious, as boaters came out in force to protect what they believed to be their right to use the space. McWilliams was booed off the speakers' platform. The dispute did not end there. In the next few weeks, the air was let out of his tires, then the tires were slashed and finally, a blanket of roofing nails on the ground greeted him as he arrived to walk out to Gull Point.

Eventually things quieted down, closure dates and areas were chosen and signage went up in 1994 to make Gull Point a PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources natural area. To keep the point mostly accessible, an observation platform donated by the local chapter of Ducks Unlimited was placed along the perimeter of the enclosure.

In 2001, in accordance with the federal Endangered Species Act, US Fish and Wildlife Service designated the area from the Presque Isle Lighthouse east around Gull Point to Thompson Bay as critical habitat for the Piping Plover. In 2005, it was decided that dedicated Piping Plover monitors were needed after they were found by the ISS team following a seven-year absence. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers hired McWilliams for the task. Eventually, Kathleen Ryan, an environmental educator for DCNR, continued the monitoring, followed soon after by Pennsylvania Audubon, under the direction of Dr. Sarah Sargent, who instituted a volunteer program to increase community awareness of and involvement with the monitoring. I became a volunteer in that program in 2009.

With the advent of the new monitoring program, however, came disappointment. No plovers were recorded in 2006, 2007 or 2008. During that time, in 2007, a Piping Plover recovery assessment was conducted and a Piping Plover and Common Tern recovery team was convened with members from the Pennsylvania Game Commission, PA DCNR, the USACOE, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy and other stakeholders.

In 2009, a male Piping Plover was seen at the point bringing relief and excitement to the monitoring and recovery teams. In 2012, through a series of grants, work to enhance the habitat occurred including extensive removal and treatment of invasive plant species.

I stepped into the role of full-time monitor in 2013 when Jason Fidorra left mid-season to pursue a career opportunity. After four years of volunteering, it felt like big shoes to fill, but I was eager for the task.

It was thrilling to watch Common Terns attempt nesting at Gull Point in 2015 and 2106, even though they never successfully fledged a chick. And their nesting indicated an increasing

suitability of habitat and the improved health of Gull Point.

On May 8, 2016, while out on a field trip for Presque Isle Audubon's Festival of the Birds, my phone rang. It was McWilliams telling me that a Piping Plover was at Gull Point. The next day, during my regular monitoring, I came across two plovers, both males. One was visibly older and in full breeding plumage. The other appeared to be a first-year bird. For a day or two, they battled for territory, but both eventually disappeared. After a few days though, the younger one reappeared. And for the rest of the 2016 season, I would see this bird. His leg band combination (orange band on the lower left leg, silver band on the upper right leg, and a split band of orange over light blue on the lower right leg) assured me that it was indeed the same plover. In addition, he had a red dot on the orange band. These particular bands are considered "brood" markings. Every chick in his brood would have received the same combination but each would get a different colored dot to tell each apart. A plover banded as an adult would have an orange band with a "flag" projecting off of it.

I last saw him on July 15, 2016. With his regular visits, I had grown fond and nicknamed him "Junior." That he remained in the Gull Point area for the entire summer—even without securing a mate—was a hopeful sign. The Piping Plover Common Tern Recovery Team, which had now solidified into a group meeting twice a year via conference call, was cautiously optimistic. On the March 2017 call, discussion focused on the procedures necessary in case nesting were to occur.



Image 1: Cathy Haffner, PGC biologist, bands one of the two chicks from nest one. *Photo credit: Tracy Graziano/PA Game Commission*

The female that joined Junior in May 2017 was also banded and her combination indicated that she hatched on Wasaga Beach on Lake Huron, in Ontario in 2016, making her a first-year bird and also new to the mating game. A somewhat sentimental recovery team decided that these historic birds needed new names, even though the PGC typically shies away from naming animals they study. Junior became Jerry, in honor of McWilliams, and the female was dubbed Jean, in honor of Jean Stull-Cunningham, a long-time advocate for Gull Point, and other bird and environmental causes.

They actively courted and by May 23 it appeared that the pair was starting to incubate eggs, so a small enclosure was installed over the nest by PA Game Commission biologists Cathy Haffner, and Tim Hoppe, and myself (it was later upgraded to a larger one). Enclosures are made from fencing with holes large enough for the plovers to pass through, but too small for ground predators such as raccoons and coyotes to get in. It is also covered on the top with netting to keep out avian predators.

Once the clutch of three eggs was complete, my job was to observe nesting, record nest exchanges (the pair takes turn incubating) and watch for any signs of disruption during the approximate 28 days until hatch.

I expected my watch to be a bit fretful, but straightforward and relatively serene. An unimaginable development occurred, though, which upped the excitement twofold.

On May 27, a second male Piping Plover made his way to Gull Point and began mating calls and flights (and periodically trying to steal Jean away from Jerry). It appeared that an uncomfortable third-wheel situation was developing, which was resolved when what appeared to be another female plover arrived at the point on June 2. On that day I watched the second male perform three courting flights that lasted more than a half hour each.

In the following week, this new courtship continued. Copulation was observed and by June 13, the second nest of four eggs received its own enclosure. Both this new male and female were first-year birds that hatched in Ontario, one on Wasaga Beach and the other at Darlington Provincial Park on Lake Ontario.

After a 50-year dearth, Gull Point had two active nests. The recovery team was beyond jubilant.

Incubation at both nests continued without incident until the morning of June 25 when Jean and Jerry's eggs were in their "sweet spot" for hatching. Earlier that morning, before I could arrive at the point, a trail cam that had been placed to monitor it, sent pictures of one tiny bundle of plover. When I arrived, I saw one, then two, tiny chicks, no more than the size of cotton balls.

But trouble was brewing. A front brought in very high winds from the southwest that pushed water rapidly up into the inlets of the flat beach profile. I watched as water came dangerously close to both nests. Junior was still brooding what was believed to be the third chick on the nest scrape. I watched as he hustled something farther up beach. I thought I did catch a glimpse of three chicks at one point, but the third hatchling was never seen again.

At the same time nest two was being submerged. Consultation with Haffner ensued, as I watched the water rise, then fall, then rise again. By the time field biologist Hoppe arrived by boat one of the adult birds was frantically racing back and forth at water's edge looking for the eggs that had floated away from its waterlogged nest. Hoppe quickly located and secured them in a padded container. Following

a strict protocol for nest abandonment, he placed egg-like stones in the nest scrape to see if the adults would return to incubate. Unfortunately, they did not.

After double-checking the chicks from nest one for a short time, I accompanied Hoppe on the boat back to Beach 11. I held the box of eggs and knelt down in the boat, using my legs as shock absorbers to cushion the precious cargo against the choppy waves of Thompson Bay. Once ashore, Hoppe headed to purchase an incubator, and other PGC officials were making plans to transport them to the captive-rearing facility in Michigan.



Image 2: The eggs from nest two after being collected on June 25 *Photo credit: Mary Birdsong*

They were handed off to Detroit Zoo personnel the next day and eventually made their way to Michigan. Two of the eggs successfully hatched and those chicks were released at Whitefish Point, Michigan on August 7.

On the morning of July 3, the two chicks from the first nest were banded by the PGC. McWilliams and I got the honor of releasing the chicks after they were banded. To watch them skitter away toward their parents was an immensely satisfying moment.



Image 3: One of the two chicks from nest one re-sighted on the beach near Naples, FL. *Photo Credit: Anne Mauro*

The two would remain at Gull Point until at least August 11, which was the last day of my monitoring season. I was thrilled to watch them practice flying, first in short unsteady hops and later in longer more assured flights. It was a pleasure to see them growing, feeding and practicing the many skills a plover needs to make it as an adult.

As many of you know, the Gull Point trail was closed in the spring of 2017 thanks to severe erosion and high water that washed out portions of the trail and submerged many other parts of it. It was a challenge to reach Gull Point on many occasions. I wore waders early on in the season when wading through cold water on the old part of the trail was the only way to make it out. Later, as the lake water warmed, I donned water shoes and made my way along the shoreline in places, dodging high waves and traversing downed trees. Still, many established parts of the trail, including on the final leg out on the point were inundated with water and many times I engaged in a cautious dance with fish and amphibians that startled all of us, sometimes with hilarious results. On June 25, the day of the hatch and nest washout, I withstood six hours of 40 to 50 mile per hour winds on the viewing platform.

Every single one of those hardships was worth it. Having the privilege of monitoring the first Piping Plover nests in modern history on Gull Point is one that I will wear as a badge of honor forever.

While we wait to see what 2018 holds, reports from the wintering grounds will keep us going. Already, the male from nest two was spotted at Honeymoon State Park on the west coast of Florida, one of the captive-reared birds was seen on Cedar Key in northwest Florida, and one of the two chicks reared at Gull Point was re-sighted on a beach near Naples, Florida. A return to nest again at Gull Point in 2018 will rely on several factors. Winter storms will once again reshape Gull Point as it has in the past. The loss or addition of sand deposits will determine whether there will be suitable habitat in the next season. If conditions are right, and the plovers survive the winter and the long flight north in spring, there is reason to hope that we will have another successful season.

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# Twenty-second Report of the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee Covering 2014 2017

Mike Fialkovich for the Committee

## 2014 Records Mike Fialkovich

The Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee (hereafter “PORC” or “the committee”) evaluates and archives documentation it receives of any species or recognizable form that is on the official Review List for Pennsylvania. In addition, the committee reviews documentation for species or subspecies that were previously unrecorded in the Commonwealth. This report covers submissions for 2014 and covers 39 records of 34 species and one subspecies. The 33 accepted records represent an 85% acceptance rate. Reports were received from 21 counties.

Highlights include the first state record of Crested Caracara, which brings the state total to 436. Other notable records include two records of Brown Pelican, the third state record of White-faced Ibis, Pacific Loon, seventh record of Cinnamon Teal, and a Barrow’s Goldeneye.

PORC encourages observers to document their sightings with photos, video, or audio whenever possible. Even poor photos can be diagnostic and elevate a report from Class III to Class I. However, written documentation is also important, as will be seen in this report where there are several instances in which a photograph was judged to be less than diagnostic, but the report was still accepted as a Class III (sight record) based on the merits of the observer’s written account.

Indeed, the entire birding landscape has changed in the years since the previous PORC report was published, cataloging observations from the year 2011. Smartphone cameras have improved to the point where they can rival digital SLR cameras in certain situations. Many birders use an adapter to combine their smartphone with their binoculars or spotting scope in the technique dubbed “digiscoping.” The modern smartphone is ubiquitous and constantly tagging along in the pockets of most birders. As of 2017, the smartphone has become the ultimate tool for birders, second only to binoculars. They include not just still cameras but also excellent video cameras and sensitive microphones. They also leverage GPS receivers and applications for recording the observers exact location or path traveled anywhere on the planet. And the ultimate feature is the almost ubiquitous direct link to the Internet, delivering unlimited connectivity with the outside world. Birders relish meteorological information and modern weather services present it in ways not only useful but also graphically beautiful, such as Doppler radar and wind maps illustrating wind currents flowing over the surface of the Earth, both live and forecast into the future. Birders can connect to each other and share news, information, and multimedia in real time. The birding community has grown too. The “barriers to entry” have never been lower, and it’s never been easier for new birders to catch up to experienced birders through the democratic access to the kind of information that used to take multiple lifetimes to accrue. Birding and sharing go hand-in-hand.

PORC encourages observers to document their sightings with photographs, videos, or sound recordings whenever possible. The observation of a bird in the field is a fleeting moment and an ephemeral personal experience. While the observer might be 100% convinced of their identification judgement, the purpose of sharing an observation is to convince others that the observer was in fact correct. Unlike a court of

justice, the burden of proof lies with the observer. This problem then falls on the reporter’s abilities as a writer, which may or may not do justice to their experience in the field or their correctness or incorrectness in the identification. Thus the gold standard is physical evidence. Photographs, video clips, or sound recordings do not fade or deteriorate over time, and they can be preserved indefinitely for future reviewers to revisit and see not just with fresh eyes but with the benefit of future ornithological knowledge not yet known. PORC does not want to discourage the writing and submission of reports without physical evidence, and it’s true that physical evidence is hardly useful without any written context. Rather, we encourage birders to obtain physical documentation evidence whenever possible.

Many birders have foregone the paper notebook in favor of directly recording their notes in eBird, the global database of bird observations, which benefits ornithologists and fellow birders alike. The trusty field guide has taken the leap from physical book form to digital, and for essentially the same cost of buying a book, you can now also get a comprehensive library of birds’ sounds as well. And everything is always right there in your pocket.

### Committee News

Committee Membership in 2014 included Andy McGann (Chair), Ian Gardner (non-voting secretary), Dave DeReamus, Devich Farbotnik, Mike Fialkovich, Holly Merker, and Mike Weible.

### Classification of Records

*Class I:* An accepted record based on an existing identifiable specimen, a diagnostic photograph, or a diagnostic recording. Abbreviations are (P) photograph, (R) sound recording, (V) video clip, (S) specimen

*Class II:* An accepted sight record written up independently by two or more observers.

*Class III:* An accepted sight record documented by one observer

*Class IV-A:* A record for which there exists a majority of evidence in support of the observer’s identification: the record is probably correct, but not beyond reasonable doubts.

*Class IV-B:* A record for which there exists insufficient evidence for evaluation

*Class IV-C:* A record for which there exists a majority of evidence in favor of an identification other than what was submitted.

*Class V:* The identification is correct, but the bird represents or may represent an escapee from artificial aviculture or an introduced bird not yet established in Pennsylvania.

## 2014 Accepted Records

### **Pink-footed Goose** (*Anser brachyrhynchus*) (16)

Two at Bald Eagle SP, *Centre*, 21 March 2014. (Matthew Sabatine (p); 108-01-2014; Class I-P). 6/0. Two flew into the location with a flock of Canada Geese. They were observed resting, swimming, and walking on a mudflat. This is the third record in the state of two birds; all other records are of single birds. Photo published in PB V28:N2.

**Barnacle Goose** (*Branta leucopsis*) (36) One at Weir Lake, Brodheads ville, *Monroe* 11 December 2014. (Steven Kloiber, Bruce Johnson, Rick Wiltraut, Mike Schall, Jason Horn, Michael David, Melissa Penta; 115-01-2014; Class III). 5/1.

### **Green-winged (Eurasian) Teal** (*Anas crecca crecca*) (34)

One at Green Lane Park, *Montgomery* 12 March 2014. (August Mirabella; 119a-01-2014; Class I-P). 6/0.

### **Cinnamon Teal** (*Anas cyanoptera*) (7)

One at the West Fairview Boat Launch in Harrisburg, *Dauphin* 20 March 2014. (Steve Dale (p); 132-01-2014; Class I-P). 6/0. A male was at close range associating with a few Blue-winged Teal. The bird was relocated at various nearby points on the river two weeks following the initial discovery.



Image 1. Cinnamon Teal, Susquehanna River at West Fairview, *Dauphin* 20 March 2014. (Photo by Steve Dale)

### **Harlequin Duck** (*Histrionicus histrionicus*) (32+)

Two photographed at Presque Isle SP, *Erie* 15 November 2014. (Jerry McWilliams (p); 149-01-2014; Class I-P). 6/0.

### **Barrow's Goldeneye** (*Bucephala islandica*) (16+)

A female on the Delaware River in Portland, *Northampton* 17 February 2014 (Scott Burnet (p), Rick Wiltraut, Stephen Kloiber, Kathy Sieminski; 155-01-2014; Class I-P). 6/0. Associating with female Common Goldeneyes allowed for a good comparison and photographs of the birds side by side showed the differences in bill color and particularly head shape.

### **Eared Grebe** (*Podiceps nigricollis*) (86)

One at Lake Nockamixon, *Bucks* 6 April 2014. (Paul Cooper (p), Phillip Stollsteimer (p), Devitch Farbotnik, August Mirabella; 009-01-2014; Class I-P). 6/0. Observed at close range and photographed well, including photos with Horned Grebes for direct comparison.

### **White-winged Dove** (*Zenaida asiatica*) (20)

One perched on a wire at a farm in Plumstead, *Bucks* 18 August 2014. (Kelly Parsons (p); 413-01-2014; Class I-P). 6/0. The bird was observed for two days and photographed. Photo published in PB V28:N4.

### **Chuck-wills-widow** (*Caprimulgus carolinensis*) (34+)

One at Fort Indiantown Gap, *Lebanon* 7 June 2014. (Tim Becker, Kathy Becker; 463-01-2014; Class I-R). 5/0. Seen by one of the observers as it

flew over before hearing the bird calling. Eastern Whip-poor-wills were calling at the same time allowing for comparison. The bird was recorded and the vote was based on the audio documentation.

**Purple Gallinule** (*Porphyrio martinica*) (9) An adult at Tichy Park, *Cumberland* 16 May 2014. (Carl Engstrom Delaware River at Portland, (p), Carolyn Mahan, Linda Greble, David McNaughton; 242-01-2014; Class I-P). 6/0. Photo published on cover PB V28:N2.

### **Snowy Plover** (*Charadrius alexandrinus*) (5+)

One at Presque Isle SP, *Erie* 1-4 July 2014. (Shannon Thompson (p), Mike Fialkovich (p), Roger Donn, Jerry McWilliams, Peter Robinson; 257-01-2014; Class I-P). 6/0. Easily viewed as it ran around the beaches at Gull Point. The third record at that location. Photo published in PB V28:N3.

### **Piping Plover** (*Charadrius melodus*) (20+)

One at Presque Isle SP, *Erie* 12 June 2014. (Mary Birdsong (p); 261-01-2014; Class I-P). 6/0. Access restrictions and habitat improvements for shorebirds have attracted this species to its historical nesting site in Pennsylvania. An excellent photograph was submitted.

One at Presque Isle SP, *Erie* 7 July 2014 (Mike Fialkovich, Jerry McWilliams (p), Peter Robinson; 261-02-2014; Class III). 6/0. Present several days, associating with a Snowy Plover (above). Photo published in PB V28:N3.



Image 2. Barrow's Goldeneye, Delaware River at Portland, *Northampton* 17 February 2014. (Photo by Scott Burnet)

### **Black-headed Gull** (*Larus ridibundus*) (59+)

One at Columbus Trash Transfer Station, *Philadelphia* 17 January 2014. (George Armistead (p), Marty Dellwo; 340-01-2014; Class I-P). 6/0. Photo published in PB V28:N1.

### **Sabine's Gull** (*Xema sabini*) (14+)

An adult in full plumage at Pymatuning, *Crawford* 5-7 September 2014. (Emily Smith (p), Mark Vass, Geoff Malosh (p), Mike Fialkovich, Casey Davidson, Carl Engstrom; 361-01-2014; Class I-P). 6/0. A beautiful adult at the heavily visited Pymatuning Lake Spillway where dozens of people visit to feed the abundant carp at this roadside attraction. The regular feedings that the Ring-billed Gulls take advantage of influenced the Sabine's Gull to join in and allowed extremely close views as flew back and forth trying to snatch some bread. Many birders enjoyed the bird and obtain close photographs during its stay. Photo on the cover of PB V28:N4.

**Pacific Loon** (*Gavia pacifica*) (13)

One at Presque Isle SP, *Erie* 23 November 2014. (Jerry McWilliams (p); 002a-01-2014; Class I-P). 6/0. The photos submitted were a bit distant but were supported by a good written description.

**Brown Pelican** (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) (8)

One at Raystown Lake, *Huntington* 19 May 2014. (Joshua Thompson (p), Jim Blair, Ron Pichard (p), Janie Pichard; 067-01-2014; Class I-P). 6/0. Photographs of the bird on the water and on a channel marker were submitted.

One at Clayton Park Recreational area in Lake Ariel, *Wayne* 27 May 2014. (Brandi Weidner; 067-02-2014; Class I-P). 6/0. Photo submitted of the bird resting on the water.



Image 3. Brown Pelican, Lake Ariel, *Wayne*, 27 May 2014. (Photo by Brandi Weidner)

**Cattle Egret** (*Bubulcus ibis*) (132)

Two at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area, *Lancaster* 13 July 2014. (Joshua Butz (p), Stan Stahl; 089-01-2014; Class I-P). 6/0.

One at Giving Pond, Delaware Canal SP, *Bucks* 26 October 2014. (August Mirabella, Judy Mirabella, Devitch Farbotnik; 089-02-2014; Class III). 6/0.



Image 4. White-faced Ibis, Coatsville, *Chester* 27 May 2014. (Photo by Patrick Millar)

**White-faced Ibis** (*Plegadis chihi*) (3)

An adult in breeding plumage at the intersection of Routes 82 and 841 in Coatesville, *Chester* 27 May 2014. (Patrick Millar (p); 086-01-2014; Class I-P). 6/0. A rather fortuitous discovery, this bird was with a flock of Glossy

Ibis feeding in a field. The observer was intent on photographing the flock and later noticed after zooming in that one bird showed the characteristic white border around pinkish-red facial skin. The red eye color was visible in the photo as well.

**Swallow-tailed Kite** (*Elanoides forficatus*) (32)

One found injured at Whitehall, Lehigh 13 March 2014 (Mark Whitemore, Rick Wiltraut; 168-01-2014; Class I-P). 6/0. The bird was taken to the Pocono Wildlife Rehabilitation Center where it recovered. It was later released in South Carolina.

**Mississippi Kite** (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) (104)

One in flight over Norristown Farm Park, *Montgomery* 10 May 2014 (Brian Henderson (p); 171-01-2014; Class I-P). 6/0.

One perched in a tree on Oak Park Road, Hatfield Twp., *Montgomery* 13 June 2014 (Sandy White, August Mirabella (p), Judy Mirabella, Louise Lehman; 171-02-2014; Class I-P). 6/0.

**Crested Caracara** (*Caracara cheriway*) (1)

One observed in flight and perched at Pleasant Valley Road between Claysville and Washington, *Washington*. (Holly McChesney (p); 13 September 2014; 195-01-2014; Class I-P). 6/0. An amazing find by a non-birder, the bird was present for two days and was also seen feeding with Turkey Vultures. Subsequent searches after the report was made public failed in recovering the bird. A first state record documented with good photographs. Photo published in PB V28:N4.



Image 5. Scissor-tailed Flycatcher. Van Wert, *Juniata*, 25 June 2014. (Photo by Richard Williams)

**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** (*Tyrannus forficatus*) (18+)

One near Van Wert, *Juniata* 25 June 2014. (Richard Williams, Patricia Williams; 561-01-2014; Class I-P). 6/0. A beautiful adult male with full retrices and photographed well. Photo published in PB V28:N3.

One in New Milford, *Susquehanna* 12 May 2014. (Bruce McNaught (p), Nancy Wottrich; 561-02-2014; Class I-P). 6/0. An eBird entry discovered after the sighting that included photos. Photo published in PB V28:N2.

One in the Newmanstown area, *Lebanon* 26 October 2014. (Tim Becker, Kathy Becker, Michael Murphy (p), Rebekah Bollinger; 561-03-2014; Class I-P). 6/0. Found in an open pasture area and actively moving between fences, wires, and trees. Appeared to be a female with a relatively short tail. Photo published in PB V28:N4.

**LeConte's Sparrow** (*Ammodramus leconteii*) (22)

One at Newville, *Cumberland* 24 January 2014. (Vern Gauthier, Ramsay Koury, Deuane Hoffman, Bill Oyler; 829-01-2014; Class III). 6/0.

**Seaside Sparrow** (*Ammodramus maritimus*) (9)

One at Bainbridge, *Lancaster* 4 October 2014. (J. Eric Witmer (p), Tom Garner, Bruce Carl, Mike Epler, Meredith Lombard, Devich Farbotnik, Jason Horn, Shannon Thompson; 831-01-2014; Class I-P). 6/0. One photographed on the grassy islands in the Susquehanna River at a reliable location for Nelson's Sparrows. The dark color and yellow lores are easily visible in the photographs submitted. Photo published in PB V28:N4.

**Fox Sparrow (Slate-colored)** (*Passerella iliaca schistacea*) (1)

One visited a feeder at Natrona Heights, *Allegheny* 6 January 2014 (Paul Hess, Deb Hess; 835-01-2014; Class III). 5/1. This subspecies has never been recorded in the state and was supported by an excellent detailed written description.

**Harris's Sparrow** (*Zonotrichia querula*) (35+)

One visiting a feeder in Leighton, *Carbon* 6-7 May 2014. (Richard Rehrig (p) Barbara Rehrig, Dave Hawk; 839-01-2014; Class I-P). 6/0. Photo published in PB V28:N2.

**Brewer's Blackbird** (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*) (87)

One visited a yard in Tionesta Twp., *Forest* 18 November 2014. (Flo McGuire (p), Jim McGuire (p); 861-01-2014; Class III). 5/1.

**Swainson's Warbler** (*Limnithlypis swainsonii*) (24+)

One at Bear Swamp, *Northampton* 18 May 2014. (Rick Wiltraut (p); 756-01-2014; Class I-P). 6/0. Found and photographed in the typical habitat this species favors when found as an overshoot—a Rhododendron thicket.



Image 6. Swainson's Warbler, Bear Swamp, *Northampton* 18 May 2014. (Photo by Rick Wiltraut)

**Summer Tanager** (*Piranga rubra*) (107+)

One in Mill Creek Twp., *Erie* 18 May 2014. (Mike Weible (p), Sarah Rood; 780-01-2014; Class I-P). 5/0 (the submitter is a PORC committee member and abstained from voting on his own record). A first spring male was discovered in the observer's backyard long enough to capture a few photographs.

**RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED, identification not established.**

(Votes are listed as for/against. A vote of 6/1 or 7/0 is required for acceptance).

**King Eider** (*Somateria spectabilis*)

One at Quittapahilla Wetlands, *Lebanon* 4 February 2014. Class IV; 145-01-2014. 0/6. Two or three were observed in a shallow marshy area while

driving past. The committee felt there was not sufficient evidence to eliminate domestic ducks such as Muscovy and the habitat is not typical for King Eiders.

**White-tailed Kite** (*Elanus leucurus*)

One in East Rockhill Twp., *Bucks* 7 August 2014; Class IV; 172-01-2014. 0/6. There was concern among the committee that a number of key marks were not listed in the description including the black shoulders, dark eye patch or the black wrist markings on the underside of the wings. For a first state record, the committee felt it could not accept the record based on the description submitted.

**Long-tailed Jaeger** (*Stercorarius longicaudus*)

One in Malvern, *Chester* 25 August 2014; Class IV-A; 334-01-2014. 0/6. Committee members had no doubt the bird described and photographed was a jaeger but assigning it to species was the difficulty. The photos were too distant to see fine details and the description lacked some details, likely due to the views of a bird flying over.

**Black-headed Gull** (*Larus ridibundus*)

One at Moraine SP, *Butler*, 25 December 2014; Class IV-B; 340-02-2014. 0/6. While this species has occurred at this location several times in the past, a detailed description of the bird was not submitted. This is an example of a missed opportunity to add a bird to the database because a single observer submitted a report while many saw the bird in question.

**Thayer's Gull** (*Larus thayeri*)

One at Lion's Lake Park, *Lebanon* 31 January 2014; Class IV-A; 348-01-2014. 3/3. There was a lot of discussion (and two rounds of voting) regarding this record given the complexity identifying Thayer's type gulls and separating them from Iceland Gulls. While the photographs were very good, none showed the bird in flight (through no fault of the observer of course because the bird rested on the water during the observation) which would allow examination of the primaries and tail to be certain of the identification.

**Townsend's Solitaire** (*Myadestes townsendi*)

One in Summit Twp. *Butler* 29 January 2014; Class IV-A, 650-01-2014. 1/5. Some of the characteristics in the description did not match Townsend's Solitaire.

**Kirtland's Warbler** (*Setophaga kirtlandii*)

One at Scherersville, *Lehigh* 10 May 2014; Class IV-B. 1/5. The description lacked details describing the bird's appearance and separation from other species and most of the information was second hand.

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*Corrigenda:* In Volume 31, Issue 2 (spring 2017), in the PORC report for 2012, the location of the **Loggerhead Shrike** (page 74) was incorrect. It was at Van Sant airport (as listed), which is in Tincum Township in northern (not southern) *Bucks*.

**RAPTORS OF MEXICO AND CENTRAL AMERICA** by William S. Clark and N. John Schmitt, with a foreword by Lloyd Kiff, acknowledgments, covers all 69 raptor species found in Middle America, 32 color plates, 213 color photos, 3 line illustrations, 64 distribution maps, flight silhouettes, glossary, 6 ½ x 10 in., 304 pp., published by Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ, 2017, cloth, \$39.95.

Mexico and Central America, Middle America, is one of the richest regions of the world for diurnal birds of prey. It is home to 69 species of New World vultures, kites, hawks, eagles, and falcons - among the most colorful raptors in the world. The known distribution of neotropical raptors is surprisingly dynamic because of large-scale habitat changes south of the U.S. border and intensified Middle American raptor interest in recent years with the commencement of specialized groups focusing on raptor migration and/or population monitoring. Some of these new regional raptors are species of open country or second-growth habitats while others are forest birds that have expanded their ranges northward ever closer to the U.S. border, or previously unrecorded northern species that have been detected recently by alert hawk watchers. As the effects of global warming intensify, observers can expect even more changes in the status of raptor species in Middle America and the United States (see last paragraph).

One of the privileges this book reviewer had when appointed volunteer Hawk Watch Station Master by the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service at Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge, Alamo, Texas for eleven years (2000-2010), was the joy of working with world renown raptor identification experts. Bill Clark, author of this book, is truly the acknowledged global raptor field authority who helped me refine raptor ID. No other raptor expert has traveled so widely or analyzed in detail the finer points of distribution, taxonomy, and ID characters of diurnal raptor species. He has authored/co-authored five books on raptor ID and published over 100 peer-reviewed publications on raptor taxonomy, ID, and hybridization (see References, p. 301). Simply stated, raptors are Bill Clark's life. Then add N. John Schmitt, world acclaimed birds of prey artist to the book's team and the reader has a stunningly beautiful field guide as well as excellent authorship. Schmitt's superb art expertise starts with the front cover depicting a Bat Falcon, to the back cover of a Harpy Eagle, White-tailed Hawk, and a pair of Laughing Falcons facing each other. Truly the outside covers entice one

to open the book to the 32 color plates that were painted by John Schmitt expressly for this guide. Unlike many other field guide artists, he has spent much field time with almost all of the species portrayed in this book. Earlier in his career Schmitt illustrated *A Field Guide to the Raptors of Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa* and the diurnal raptors in *Birds of Peru*.

Bill Clark emphatically stresses that the aim of this raptor field guide is to present the latest data on his tried and proven field marks for field identification (ID) of diurnal raptors in Middle America. He noted that the previous published field guides did not cover the diurnal raptors well, especially failing to show accurately the shapes of raptors' wings and tails and lacked field marks to distinguish them. This tome definitely implants that missing information and then some. The Introduction (pp.11-23) under Color Plates states that in all cases, the postures and positions of the birds are chosen to facilitate easy comparison across usually two contenders. For example, adult females or juvenile males are shown in the same posture and position on the layout for each species for direct comparison. Flying figures are shown at least once in a full-soar posture, with the exception of species that do not show this behavior. Other figures show typical gliding and faster-flying profiles where possible. Each plate has on the opposite page a list of figures by species that describe field marks shown on each figure. Treatment of each species begins with title (common and scientific names), a pointer to the Species Account text pages, and then species are numbered from top to bottom on the plates, and figures for each species are lettered, beginning with *a*, from left to right and top to bottom. Each is labeled as to age and sex; some color morphs or subspecies are labeled as well. The reader then follows the traits shown in this figure, sometimes with pointers to similar figures of other species and how they differ (Plates 1-32). Oddly, the pages with these plates are not numbered for some unknown reason, which is confusing because these are immediately followed by other plates of Species Accounts.

Nevertheless, the main text of the guide consists of the Species Accounts (pp. 88-300), one for each species of diurnal raptor that has been recorded in Middle America and written in the following format: species heading of common, scientific, and Spanish names with pointers listing the color plate number(s) for the species; ID summary with a list of field marks or general characters that apply to all individuals of that species with differences in sexes and ages, detailed descriptions of each

regularly occurring plumage variation by age, sex, subspecies, and color morph, including eye, cere, and leg or toe colors; measurements of wingspan, total length, and weight; taxonomy and geographic variation for each polytypic species that occurs in Middle America with range of each; similar species that can be confused in the field with the species in each account listed, along with plate numbers on which each is illustrated, followed by the field marks that separate them; status/distribution that includes the breeding range or the permanent range and the status within that range along with information on migration, dispersal, population declines with reasons, if known; and habitats in which a species regularly occurs. Any behavior that will aid in field ID is described as are predator hunting methods and main prey. Three methods of flight are stressed: how the wing beats appear in powered flight and how the wings are held in soaring and gliding flight; if the species hovers, this too is noted. Some species, like kites, have distinctive flight methods that are described. The molt section is an excellent, detailed description of when and how raptors molt their feathers but too lengthy to insert here. Please consult p. 14 for important details. After a summary paragraph, there follows a detailed discussion of each age class, sex differences, color morphs, and fine points in the form of more detailed ID information and unusual plumages.

Range Maps using six different colors are provided to give the reader a general idea of species distribution but I suggest using two colors other than confusing light and dark green (p. 15) for separating migration and winter & migration. How to Use This Guide and the eleven Helpful Facts for Raptor Field ID should be mandatory readings for all hawk watchers.

Already mentioned, the known status and distribution of several neotropical raptors is a surprisingly dynamic process. As the effects of global warming intensify, hawk watchers can expect even more changes in the status and distribution of several raptor species depicted in this guide that are already pausing at the Mexico-USA political border, best illustrated, perhaps, by the 65-mile wide Lower Rio Grande Valley (LRGV), within which these species apparently do not currently nest. The Black and Turkey Vultures, Osprey and Bald Eagle are poised to shatter the 'political wall' any year now with initial breeding records. The Hook-billed and White-tailed Kites are the most recent LRGV breeders. The former species breeds in far fewer numbers than other raptors because it depends entirely on the white

striped tree snail (*Rabdotus altermatus*) for its food that follows a strict 3-4 year cycle. On the other hand, the White-tailed Kite thrives in the agricultural field habitats of the LRGV. The Swallow-tailed Kite is remaining longer each spring, thus a probable future breeder 'knocking on the front door.' Finally, the Gray and Short-tailed Hawks and Aplomado Falcon have already pierced the wall in the past decade, the latter species helped by a successful hacking program in the Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge area. Of course, some raptor species like Common Black, Gray, and Zone-tailed Hawks have been breeding in the border

area of western Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona for decades. Please consult the distribution maps of these species in the Clark guide for details.

In sum, this spectacular book is an invaluable field guide tool and home research reference because of its extraordinary fecundity of raptor details and stunning art. At the same time, it is also a positive alert that no human-made wall, no matter how high, wide, or long, will stop the inevitable biological drive and determination of neotropical raptors from breeding north of the border. However, the wall is a nauseous, serious challenge for all other life

forms. Therefore, it is the duty and responsibility that every hawk watcher, naturalist, and conservationist oppose any human barrier from being completed along the Mexico-USA border and protect all national wildlife refuges, like Santa Ana, from being destroyed by such a senseless act. Let the *Raptors of Mexico and Central America* be our rallying symbol for protecting all wildlife along our entire Mexico-USA border.

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**Clay-colored Sparrow** on Nelson Road, *Lawrencw* 22 June (Jeff McDonald).



**Grasshopper Sparrow** in Crooked Creek area, *Armstrong* 22 June (Anthony Bruno).

## Summary of the Season: Summer 2017 Dan Brauning

Long-legged wading birds provided the highlights of this summer season, including two **Roseate Spoonbills**, several **White Ibis**, and the typical post-breeding dispersing egrets and herons. The season was also graced with a number of other rarities, including **American White Pelicans** and **White-winged Dove**, and photographs of a **Purple Gallinule** and a

**Wood Stork**. Confirmed breeding of **Piping Plovers** at Presque Isle (see article in this issue) followed years of conservation effort here and across the Great Lakes.

The **Snow Goose** in *Montour* that continued into the summer season probably was injured during the spring hunting season. A typical smattering of non-breeding waterfowl was scattered across the

state again this summer. Exceptional was a **Brant** at Montour Preserve, *Montour* on 6/15 that remained until 6/27 providing, apparently, the state's first summer observation.

Over a dozen species of vagrant ducks are reported in an average summer season, including **Lesser Scaup** ever year for the past 10. The only **Canvasback** this year

was at the Muck – Marsh Creek in *Tioga* on 6/3 and 6/15. Several waterfowl that formerly nested are now reduced to accidental summer status. **American Black Ducks** and **Blue-winged Teal** formerly nested widely, but are now reduced to a very few observations. As such, Blue-winged Teal in *Crawford* and *Tioga* are of particular interest because they may have represented nesting birds. Similarly, the **Green-winged Teal** in *Susquehanna* is notable. The **Northern Shoveler** and **Gadwall** in *Crawford* were in habitat that could support nesting, but these observations don't provide sufficient evidence of nesting activity, and historic nesting events for these species are old and few. Summer records of **Ruddy Duck** are on the increase. Nesting events have been historically scattered across the state, rarely in the same location for many successive years. The most reliable location is now the Pymatuning Reservoir, where multiple individuals are seen annually, but rarely is nesting confirmed. Additional effort would be needed to confirm local nesting by these species.

Outside *Erie*, several species of diving ducks are vagrants somewhere in the state almost every summer, and some linger through the season, but are often reported for brief periods. Like the Lesser Scaup, **Ring-necked Ducks** are encountered nearly every summer, but frequently on only single dates. Several **Bufflehead** found this year lingered through much of June, and in *Adams* two continued into the fall season. The **Red-throated Loon** reported in Chester 6/14-15 should be carefully documented, as it is one of the few summer records in Pennsylvania's history.

Among the summer's remarkable rarities were two reports of **American White Pelican**: one on 6/9 in *Mercer* and the other first found on 7/25 in *York*. The *York* bird moved between Codorus State Park and a neighboring small pond until 8/3. White Pelicans had been seen three times during the past 10 summer seasons; with 2 birds in 2015 in *Erie* and twice in 2007.

Special attention is given here to the bitterns, since both species are listed as endangered in Pennsylvania. Nothing about the *Indiana* or *Northampton* **American Bittern** observations suggest local breeding, but the sightings in both *Luzerne* and *Tioga* (from eBird) appear to have been within habitat that could support this marsh-nesting bird. Easily overlooked, the single-day observations (ironically, both on 6/3) did not provide sufficient evidence for nesting there or anywhere in the state, but more investigation is warranted in the future. In contrast, 2017 was a good year for nesting **Least Bittern** reports. Well-documented with at least two nests in the John Heinz Refuge, *Delaware/Philadelphia*, birds also were seen at historic nesting areas in *Crawford*, *Cumberland*, *Erie*, and *Tioga*,

as well as in *York*. A study this summer at Presque Isle found Least Bitterns scattered across this state park, suggesting a larger population than indicated by the scattered sightings.

Similarly, additional details of night-herons are provided here since the two species also are state-listed as endangered. A long-term decline in the number of **Black-crowned Night-Heron** nests at Wade Island, *Dauphin*, the state's most durable colony, would suggest that this species may be at increased risk, while **Great Egret** counts there remain steady, with 98 nests documented in May this year. Formal Game Commission counts of black-crowns tallied 46 nests at the Ephrata Hospital, *Lancaster*, and 35 at Kiwanis Lake, *York*, this spring. Notably, a pair of **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** nested at the Ephrata Hospital colony for the first time this year, producing 2 young. Yellow-crowns continue, with up to 10 nests this year, in very urban sections of Harrisburg, *Dauphin*, along Second and Third Streets; an unprecedented count of 51 adults and young was made on 6/29. A nest found by the Game Commission at Nockamixon State Park, *Bucks* and suggestions of nesting in *Montgomery* indicate that the **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** is expanding its very limited nesting range across the southeastern counties after many years limited to the Harrisburg area!

The bird of the season was **Roseate Spoonbill**, represented by two different individuals in July. A young spoonbill was observed on the Conejohela Flats, *Lancaster*, on 7/15, being called at that time as the bird of the season. Seen by many, it remained into the afternoon of 7/16 (*vide* Ted Nichols II). Simultaneously on 7/16, another spoonbill was discovered along the Conodoguinet Creek in Camp Hill, *Cumberland*, (Jeff Johnson, m.ob.) and remained into the fall season. Through the next few weeks it moved within a few hundred yards up and down the creek, and although sometimes elusive, it was seen by hundreds, including some during the annual Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology meeting in September! The *Lancaster* bird was a second county record, after one collected prior to 1869; and the two this summer represent the state's third and fourth records, with one also found in *Erie* in 1968. Notably, two Roseate Spoonbills were reported in Virginia 7/16-20, documented in eBird, with one continuing until at least 7/22 clearly overlapping both of Pennsylvania's birds. eBird records on Long Beach Island New Jersey on 7/23 also suggest that this irruption was extensive, and the route taken by Pennsylvania's birds cannot be indicated by the extensive eBird network.

Equally exceptional (although more likely to be overlooked), a white morph of **Great Blue Heron** was found this summer.

The so-called **Great White Heron** was photographed in *Susquehanna* on 7/23, but not relocated subsequently. Historic records of this denizen of the Florida Keys include a few from the Pymatuning area nearly 100 years ago and an unconfirmed observation in July and August 1961 in the same area. Building on these most remarkable southern wading bird observations were more than the usual sightings of **White Ibis** - four counties reported them this summer. A single report of **Tricolored Heron** came from *York* and a healthy number of **Little Blue Herons** reports came, as usual, from the southern and eastern counties. Typical of other long-legged waders in late-summer, most of the little blues were immature and found during July.

Typical reports of **Glossy Ibis** dispersing from colonies to our south and east were noted in *Bucks* and *Philadelphia*, but the flock of 21 in *Dauphin* on 6/8 was earlier than usual and the smaller group in *Union* found on 7/26 was north of their typical wanderings. Perplexing among these reports is a **Wood Stork**, photographed by non-birders on 7/10 in a swampy area in *Potter* between Short Run Rd. and Cherry Springs on a trail approximately 1 to 2 miles from trailhead. More than a week later, the photograph was forwarded, and while definitive, with the date embedded in the photo, there was no direct communication by the observers. This would constitute Pennsylvania's first Wood Stork observation in 21 years and most certainly the first from *Potter*! [*I received a convincing verbal report of a Wood Stork on the Juniata River in Bedford in late May this year, but no photographs were obtained – ed.*]

The most notable raptor observations of the season include two **Swallow-tailed Kites**, one remained 6/1-11 at Nockamixon State Park, *Bucks*, and another in flight over Exton Park, *Chester* 6/8. The annual observations of **Mississippi Kite** continued at the Bucktoe Creek Preserve in *Chester*, with successive sightings on 6/1 and 6/2, rounding out the season's Kite Watch. The consistency of spring and summer observations of Mississippi Kites in recent years is likely supported by the expansion of a breeding population in mid-Atlantic states, although we have yet to confirm nesting here in Pennsylvania. **Northern Goshawk** sightings often are not reported to protect sensitive localities, so the lack of records is expected. A Penn State study of goshawks this year found low reproductive success.

One of the state's rarest breeding birds is the **King Rail** – with years passing between confirmed reports, so regular auditory detections since May in the extensive Geneva Marsh, *Crawford*, drew added attention. Heard or seen by many, one was heard while another was photographed on Geneva Road on 6/25. This species is

probably overlooked much of the time, but past surveys of the area have not detected the species. **Common Gallinules** were seen there, as usual, as well as in *Lawrence* and *Mercer*, but nesting in *Philadelphia* was documented for the first time in 2 decades. A photo on 6/16 of a **Purple Gallinule** at the John Heinz Refuge, *Philadelphia*, would represent one of few historic records, although the bird could not be relocated.

A significant element of the summer report are rare shorebirds presumed to be late in their spring migration in June and early in the southbound trip in July. Of the 35 or so species that migrate through Pennsylvania during this season, about half are found every year. Probably the rarest of those this year was the **Marbled Godwit**, found on 7/7 at Gull Point, *Erie* (Mary Birdsong). Western Sandpiper and Willet, reported in most years, were not seen in 2017. Many of the state's migrant shorebirds were found, as usual, at Gull Point, *Erie*, the Conejohela Flats in *Lancaster*, or the Penn Warner Tract, *Bucks*. Other sites attracted a variety of shorebirds based on water levels, but many of these birds undoubtedly pass unnoticed in migration at night, or during brief visits in ephemeral habitats.

The breeding bird of note this year was a shorebird. Two pairs of **Piping Plover** nested successfully at Gull Point, *Erie*. More details can be found in the article elsewhere in this issue. **Upland Sandpiper** is listed as state endangered for its localized breeding populations, although many of the summer's sightings had nothing to do with breeding. Sightings at historic breeding locations in *Clarion*, *Crawford*, and possibly *Somerset* indicate some continuity of this rare grassland shorebird.

While **Franklin's Gulls** are nearly annual during spring migration, the observation (with no date) at the Pymatuning Spillway, *Crawford*, provides an unusual summer report. **Bonaparte's Gulls** historically were rare in summer, but now are reported nearly annually, so this year's observations in 5 counties suggests a trend. **Laughing Gulls** are regular along the Delaware River, particularly in *Bucks* and *Philadelphia*, but rare elsewhere in the state at any time of year.

**Common Terns** did not nest at Gull Point this year and were only reported a few times there this summer. **Forster's Terns** were seen several times at John Heinz Refuge, *Philadelphia* as usual. **Black Tern** summer sightings are quite rare since 2004, prior to which they nested annually. It has since become a vagrant, which characterizes the 3 summer sightings this year. **Herring Gulls** continue to breed along the Ohio River in *Allegheny*, the only nesting site reported for this species in Pennsylvania.

Besides the ubiquitous native **Mourning Dove** and long-established

**Rock Pigeon**, two other dove species were noted this year. The **Eurasian Collared-Dove** continues as a breeding bird in *Berks* and *Franklin* after spreading into the state more than a decade ago, but the population does not appear to be expanding. The origin of this summer's **White-winged Dove** in *Blair* is unknown, but scattered birds over the past 10 years within the state and across the region could be coming from the growing population in Florida, the Gulf Coast, or the growing Mid-Western populations.

Owls are underreported without targeted surveys, so the listing of **Northern Saw-whet Owls** in only 2 counties is assumed to underrepresent the breeding population. **Barn Owl** reports, most often in farmer's barns, are generated by the Game Commission's annual survey and banding of young. **Short-eared Owl**, as a state-endangered species, now only nests on reclaimed surface mines in Pennsylvania, but has been reported in only about half of recent summer seasons, so the *Clearfield* report is notable. Even less-frequently reported in any season, Long-eared Owls were not reported at all during this summer season. Even taking into consideration the reluctance to report the location of this sought-after species, no nesting location is known in Pennsylvania to dependably support breeding Long-eared Owls.

June observations of **Olive-sided Flycatchers** reflect vagrants, as usual. **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** continued at the most reliable breeding location in the state, Coalbed Swamp, *Wyoming*, and this year a pair was discovered on territory at a new location in *Warren*, far from any other breeding population.

Another rare breeder, **Sedge Wren** was found on territory this year at two locations on opposite ends of the state, *Crawford* and *Montgomery*. Typical of this species, they weren't detected until July. Summer **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** have long been an enigma. Singing for much of June in the planted spruces near Powdermill, *Westmoreland*, this northern boreal bird has never been documented nesting in Pennsylvania, although singing males have suggested several attempts, but without sufficient evidence to include them as an historic breeder.

Pennsylvania is host to a great diversity of eastern wood-warblers, both in migration and as breeding birds. Twenty-five species nest annually, and while these jewels deserve more attention, most are too common to warrant a narrative here. The southern-most breeding site for **Blackpoll Warbler** in the East, Coalbed and Tamarack swamps, *Wyoming*, continued with at least 5 nesting pairs this year. **Prothonotary Warblers** seem to be expanding their range. They were found this summer in a number of locations not historically supporting breeding. The

reference to a singing male not finding a mate in *Berks* and the male wandering the Heinz Refuge in *Philadelphia* fits the pattern of males expanding into new territory. While the Second Breeding Bird Atlas reported only a slight increase in number of blocks hosting Prothonotaries compared to the first Atlas (1980s), the population along the lower Susquehanna River in *York* is part of an expansion and may well be serving as a spring-board for further expansion of this southern beauty.

In contrast, **Golden-winged** and **Cerulean Warbler** populations continue to decline despite considerable habitat restoration efforts made on behalf of these habitat specialists. However, some encouraging results for Cerulean Warbler come from surveys along the Frankstown Branch of the Juniata River in *Blair* and *Huntingdon*, as reported in the *Blair* summary. The Golden-winged Warbler population has declined to the point that it is barely detected on Breeding Bird Survey routes – only a single bird was detected on all of the state's routes in recent years. Game Commission surveys of this species reflect a retracting range. Adding to the established breeding warblers during the summer season, boreal migrants occasionally linger into early summer, such as **Wilson's Warblers** in five widely-scattered counties during the first week of June.

A widespread **Dickcissel** irruption was noted with summer observations from at least 26 counties. Dickcissels began making appearances in mid-May, although some counties did not report birds until July. Nesting was confirmed at some of these sites, with many other counties noting the presence of singing males. The irruption spanned much of the state, from *Crawford* to *Chester*. The male **Summer Tanager** found in *Berks*, which graced the cover of the spring issue, remained until at least 8/4, although no female was observed this year. A **Yellow-headed Blackbird** continued from 5/31 into the summer season in *Centre*, the first summer report since 2011. A **Red Crossbill** continued to 6/3 from a flock that wintered in the Owl Creek area of *Schuylkill*.

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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** – *Montgomery*: one at Green Lane Park 6/25 was not unexpected (George Franchois); *Montour*: one with damaged wing summered at the Greenhouse Ponds (Evan Houston), accompanied by another individual 6/1-6 (Eric Hartshaw).

**Brant** – *Montour*: one at Lake Chillisquaque, Montour Preserve 6/16-27 (Lauri Shaffer, Eric Hartshaw m.ob., eBird), probable first state summer record.

**Mute Swan** – *Berks*: two pairs residing at Lake Ontelaunee produced 2 cygnets (Rudy Keller); *Butler*: two at Zelenople 6/25 (Kaplan Yalcin).

**Trumpeter Swan** – *Lycoming*: briefly seen 6/25 at the Williamsport Dam, believed likely to be this species (Joe Yoder).

**Tundra Swan** – *Centre*: emaciated swan rescued in State College prompted discussion on State College Bird Club listserv, identity confirmed with measurements of toe and bill length as described in Pyle II Guide (Robyn Graboski); *Lancaster*: first noted at Middle Creek WMA 6/24 (Stan Stahl, m.ob.), continued through the period; *Washington*: one that stayed long into spring at Peters Lake and Canonsburg Lake apparently relocated afterwards to Cross Creek County Park, where it was photographed 6/2 (Fred Kachmarik); *Wayne*: late migrant was seen swimming at White Oak Pond 6/25 (John Harvey); *Westmoreland*: a 7/24 report at Lowber Wetland (Lewis Stout) was confirmed, seen again 7/25 (Jim Pemberton).

**Blue-winged Teal** – *Cumberland*: one at Brackbill Pond 7/11 (Stefan Karkuff); *Crawford*: observed at Pymatuning State Park-Fish Hatchery 6/16 (Mark Vass); *Tioga*: one in flight at The Muck-Marsh Creek 6/3 (Deuane Hoffman).

**Northern Shoveler** – *Crawford*: two at Conneaut Marsh-McMichael Rd 6/1 (Michael Schall).

**Gadwall** – *Crawford*: singles at Pymatuning State Park-Fish Hatchery 6/6 (Mark Vass) and 6/8 (Brendyn Baptiste, Mark Vass), and 2 at Conneaut Marsh-McMichael Rd 6/9 (Rich Rehrig).

**American Wigeon** – *Northumberland*: observed at the Amish Pond 6/1 (Evan Houston, Eric Hartshaw); *Montour*: a male at the Greenhouse Ponds 6/6 (Eric Hartshaw).

**Green-winged Teal** – *Lehigh*: adult male was in a flooded field at Haaf Rd 7/26 (Michael Schall, David Neimeyer, eBird); *Susquehanna*: adult male in pond near Lindaville 6/7 (Greg Grove, Deb Grove).

**Canvasback** – *Tioga*: one continued from spring at The Muck-Marsh Creek on 6/3 (Deuane Hoffman, eBird) and 6/15 (Rich Hanlon, eBird).

**Redhead** – *Centre*: a female took up residence at the Duck Pond, reported 6/7-7/17 (Nick Bolgiano, m.ob.); *Erie*: a lingering male was at Gull Point until at least 7/3 (Jerry McWilliams); *Tioga*: a male at Nessmuck Lake continued to 7/31 (Lisa Doud, eBird).

**Ring-necked Duck** – *Butler*: one lingered at Barkley Rd until 6/10 (Mark Vass); *Chester*: a drake was on the lake at Marsh Creek SP 6/28 (Patty Van Landeghem); *Monroe*: a male at Pocono

Summit Lake on 6/22 represents a late date for this species (Bruce Johnson).

**Lesser Scaup** – *Bucks*: one at Rohm and Haas, Bristol 6/18-7/9 (Devich Farbotnik); *Northampton*: one in non-breeding plumage at the Martins Creek Environmental Preserve pond 7/2-23 (Michael Schall); *Philadelphia*: 3 lingered until 6/1 (Frank Windfelder).

**Red-breasted Merganser** – *Erie*: 7 at Presque Isle IBA and 3 at Beach 9 on 6/8 (Rich Rehrig, eBird).

**Bufflehead** – *Adams*: a pair at Long Pine Run Reservoir on 6/4 was relocated 7/9 (Mike Bertram, Callan Murphy, Lauren Shaffer); *Perry*: two at Little Buffalo SP - a male continuing since early spring was last seen 6/3 (Vernon Gauthier) and a female first reported 6/2 (Chad Kauffman) was last seen 6/23 (Vernon Gauthier); *Philadelphia*: one continued from spring at John Heinz NWR impoundment until at least 6/24 (m.ob., eBird).

**Ruddy Duck** – *Bucks*: two at Peace Valley Park 6/10 (Kris Koch, August Mirabella); *Chester*: three among lingering waterfowl at Marsh Creek SP 6/8 (Holly Merker); *Crawford*: present at Pymatuning Spillway until 7/1 when 3 were observed (Michael Schall, Jennifer Ferrick, Mark Vass, eBird); *Erie*: one at Presque Isle 6/8 (Rich Rehrig, eBird) may be same as one later that day at Fairview Industrial Park (Mike Stewart, eBird); *Franklin*: one at Greencastle Reservoir 6/1-5 (Carl Garner); *Lancaster*: a male lingered at Chestnut Grove Natural Area 6/1-4 (Josh Schulz, m.ob.); *Lebanon*: four persisted at Memorial Lake SP 6/8-23 (Mary Coomer, Timothy Becker, Tony Arnold); *Monroe*: pair at Pocono Summit Lake 6/7 lingered for four days (Bruce Johnson, eBird); *Montgomery*: one at Green Lane Park 6/10 (Paul Bernhardt, eBird); *Philadelphia*: present at John Heinz NWR at Tinicum until 6/24 (Debbie Beer).

**Red-throated Loon** – *Chester*: discovered on the lake at Marsh Creek SP 6/14 (Denice Hartmann) and lingered through 6/15 (Patty Van Landeghem).

**Horned Grebe** – *Cumberland*: one at Opossum Lake 6/1 (Scott and Dee Dombach, eBird); *Dauphin*: one seen along River Rd in Middle Paxton 6/6 (Eli DePaulis, eBird, ph); *Lycoming*: one continued from spring at Rose Valley Lake 6/1, 6/10, 6/25 (m.ob., ph).

**American White Pelican** – *Mercer*: one in flight heading northeast at Williams Rd. late on 6/13 provided 4th county record for *Mercer* (Neil Troyer); *York*: one at Codorus SP first reported by a fisherman 7/24 (Steve Scarff) was found there next day (m.ob.), then apparently spent a few days at a nearby pond before returning to Codorus SP; last seen 8/3.

**American Bittern** – *Indiana*: reported flying over Indiana 7/19 (James Pumford, Joseph Pumford), represents only county summer record; *Northampton*: one in Stockertown at the Rod & Gun Club 6/7 (Carolyn Metzgar); *Luzerne*: one in marshy area of Frances Slocum SP 6/3 (Kay Strickland, eBird); *Tioga*: one at The Muck, Marsh Creek 6/3 (Deuane Hoffman, eBird).

**Least Bittern** – *Chester*: a vocal bird detected in late May at Marsh Creek SP continued into early June, not detected again until 7/30, with no evidence of nesting; *Crawford*: one seen at Conneaut Marsh-McMichael Rd 6/18 (Anne Jacobs, Chris Lundberg) and one at Geneva Marsh 6/23 (Josh Lefever); *Cumberland*: two were flushed at propagation ponds at SGL 169 on 7/23 (Andrew Markel); *Delaware*: reliably found at John Heinz NWR where there were 4 reports this season – 6/9 from the spadderdock off the new boardwalk (Jim McConnell), 6/10 (Al Guarente), and on 6/23, 28 (Jim McConnell) (see *Philadelphia*); *Erie*: reported to eBird 6/2-7/4 at various locations (m.ob.); *Northumberland*: at Amish Pond, first heard calling 6/5 (Evan Houston), observed through 6/10 (Lauren Shaffer, m.ob.); *Philadelphia*: sightings of 7 birds of various ages at John Heinz NWR 7/22-23, suggested there were 2 successful clutches and possibly a third pair (Holly Merker, Todd Fellenbaum, George Armistead); *Tioga*: continuing to 6/3 in The Muck, Marsh Creek (Deuane Hoffman, eBird); *York*: heard frequently calling at Brunner Island 6/1-6 (Lou Carpenter, Dick Cleary, m.ob.), a second one was at Lock 12 on 6/8 (Dean Newhouse).

**Great Blue Heron (White form)** – *Susquehanna*: a large, white wading bird spotted and photographed in a wetland east of Great Bend 7/23 (Barb Beavan Stone) was confirmed to be a Great Blue Heron (White Morph), but was not relocated.

**Snowy Egret** – *Dauphin*: one at Wildwood Lake 6/8-9 (Sandy Lockerman); *Erie*: present at Gull Point 6/9-12 (Mary Birdsong); *Philadelphia*: seen from 6/10 through season, with 2 on 6/10 (Harris Brown, eBird), and 4 immatures 7/28 (Tony Arnold, eBird) all at John Heinz NWR.

**Little Blue Heron** – *Berks*: an immature was at School Rd. pond, Fleetwood 7/21 (Rudy Keller); *Bucks*: two at Rohm and Haas 7/16 and one 7/23 (Devich Farbotnik), 3 were at Penn-Warner Tract 7/29 and 4 at Penn Warner 7/30 (Devich Farbotnik); *Lancaster/Lebanon*: an immature spent time in *Lebanon* and *Lancaster* portions of Middle Creek WMA 7/30 (Mike Epler, Timothy Becker, Kathy Becker Lauren Fenstermacher, Steve Ferreri, Ted Nichols II); *Lehigh*: one immature briefly at Haaf Rd 7/27 (Stephen Kloiber, eBird); *Montgomery*: first immature of the summer dispersal period materialized at Green Lane Park 7/31 (Len Hillegass); *Northampton*: an immature spent several days at flooded corn field on S. Oaks Rd. near Moore Elementary School 7/22-24 (Bill Etter); *Philadelphia*: at John Heinz NWR Impoundment from 7/16 when 5 provided high count (Michael Walter, eBird), through end of season.

**Tricolored Heron** – *York*: immature first reported at Lake Redman 7/24 (Dick Cleary, m.ob.), moved between Lake Redman and Lake Williams and continued through the season.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron** – *Berks*: single juveniles. at Lake Ontelaunee 7/23 (Mike Schall) and 8/3 (Rudy Keller), and at Blue Marsh Lake 8/8 and 8/18 (Peter Montgomery); *Blair*: one along Lower Trail at Coverdale Trailhead 6/4 (Joe Verica, Steve Schmit); *Bucks*: individuals at Nockamixon SP 6/21 (Paul Teese), Morrisville Levee 6/28 (Mark Gallagher ph.), and Silver Lake Park 7/21-7/29 (Dawn Denner, Devich Farbotnik); *Delaware*: seen from Marcus Hook 6/1 (Al Guarente) and from an airport hotel 7/8 (Kathy Becker, Tim Becker); *Franklin*: observed near Rt. 11 north of Chambersburg in Siloam Rd. area 6/12 (Bill Oyler); *Lancaster*: nesting at Ephrata rookery comprised at least 91 adults and juvs. on 6/25 (Zachary Millen, m.ob.); *Lebanon*: seen over Lindley Murray Rd 7/4 (Steve Walthius), at Stover's Dam Park 7/17 (Pat and Richard Williams), and 2 were at Mine and Birch Rd pond 7/24 (Pat and Richard Williams); *Wyoming*: a juvenile was on island in the Susquehanna R. just north of Tunkhannock 7/14 (Douglas Sheldon); *York*: census on 6/12 at Kiwanis Lake produced 22 nests and a visit 6/21 produced the high count of 26 birds (Chuck Berthoud).

**Yellow-crowned Night Heron** – *Bucks*: an adult continued from spring at Nockamixon SP until at least 6/5 (Bill Etter, ph.); *Butler*: likely the third county record, an immature Yellow-

crowned Night-Heron was at Glade Run Lake 7/5-7 (Joe Lee, Josh Lefever, Robert Mulvihill, et. al.); *Dauphin*: up to 10 nests in mid-town Harrisburg (Patti Barber) throughout June and July, from Reilly St. north to Seneca St., with several sightings at Susquehanna R. from West Fairview and at Wade Island (m.ob.), a high of 51 adults and young counted 6/29 (Ian Gardner); *Erie*: an immature was perched in a tree on Gull Point Trail 7/2 (Mary Birdsong), the first July record in the county and only the second summer record; *Lancaster*: a pair nested for the first time at the Ephrata rookery, producing 2 offspring (Josh Schulz, Zach Millen); *Montgomery*: believed to nest somewhere in vicinity of Norristown Dam, at least 2 adults and a juvenile were seen there semi-regularly through 7/4 (m.ob., ph.), and another immature was on a creek in Gladwyne 7/26 (Alexander Grimwade, ph.).

**White Ibis\*** – *Cumberland*: one immature in a flooded field at the intersection of Rt. 174 and W. Lisburn Rd. 7/20-23 (Dale Bicksler, m.ob.), the fourth record in the last 30 years; *Montgomery*: single immatures were at Trewellyn Park 7/12-13 (Jeffrey Collins, m.ob., ph.) and Wissahickon Waterfowl Preserve 7/22-27 (Paul Driver, m.ob., ph.); *Philadelphia*: a juvenile was seen sporadically in a distant corner of John Heinz NWR impoundment 7/23-31 (Frank Windfelder, ph.); *York*: found on 7/16 (Craig Beam, ph.) along Conewago Creek near Gifford Pinchot SP.

**Glossy Ibis** – *Bucks*: three immatures at Penn Warner Tract 7/29-30 (Devich Farbotnik); *Dauphin*: flock of 21 flew upriver near Wildwood Lake area 6/8 (Ed Bernot); *Philadelphia*: seen at 4 locations (m.ob.); *Union*: flock of 7 found in flooded field along Stein Lane south of Shamokin Mt. 7/26 (Brent Bacon), 3 continued the morning of 7/27 (Andy Keister), and finally just one bird with a broken leg remained 7/27 (Evan Houston, eBird).

**Roseate Spoonbill** – *Lancaster*: the find of the season was an immature bird at the Susquehanna R. Conejohela Flats early on 7/15 (Mike Epler, Zachary Millen, m.ob.), staying until the following morning (*vide* Ted Nichols II); *Cumberland*: reported by fisherman on Conodoguinet Creek at Camp Hill on morning of 7/15, confirmed at about 1:30 pm (Jeff Johnson, m.ob.), remained into the fall.

**Wood Stork\*** – *Potter*: photographed by non-birders Neal and Beth Feathers on 7/10 in swampy area between Short Run Rd and Cherry Springs on Susquehannock Trail System – a week later, definitive photographs, with date embedded, reached PGC officer, Brandon Pfister, who passed it along to Dan Brauning. [*A late report, with some good description, of a Wood Stork on Juniata R. in Bedford Co. in late May was received from kayakers – ed.*]

**Swallow-tailed Kite** – *Bucks*: one at Nockamixon SP from 6/1 (Barbara Stollsteimer) to 6/11 (Pamela Blackmon); *Chester*: seen in flight over Exton Park 6/8 (John Mercer, m.ob.).

**Mississippi Kite** – *Adams*: adult in flight over SGL 249 on 6/14 (Andy Wilson, m.ob.); *Chester*: Kite Watch at Bucktoe Creek Preserve recorded singles 6/1 and 6/2 (Larry Lewis, m.ob.) adding to their total of 6 this year; *Lancaster*: two immatures reported soaring above an Akron home 6/4 (Bruce Carl).

**King Rail** – *Crawford*: visual and auditory observations at Geneva Marsh continued from 5/18, with reports 6/1-7/1 (m.ob.), including 2 rails there 6/25 (Mary Alice Koeneke, Glenn Koppel, ph.).

**Purple Gallinule\*** – *Philadelphia*: one was found in the John Heinz NWR at Tinicum, in the impoundment 6/16 (Kurt Hummel, ph.), with a photo posted in Flickr, but local birders were not aware of this rarity and it was not re-sighted in the thick vegetation.

**Common Gallinule** – *Crawford*: several observations noted at regular locations (m.ob.); *Erie*: two seen from Presque Isle – Long Pond Trail 6/2 (Carole Winslow) and one near Union City 6/18 (Scott Stoleson); *Huntingdon*: heard and seen in a wetland at Cornpropt Mills three times 6/1-10 (Greg Grove, Deb Grove,

Joe Verica); *Lawrence*: two noted in the same (northern) area of Black Swamp 6/8-28 (Mary Alice Koenke, Glenn Koppel, m.ob.); *Mercer*: two at Pennsy Swamp 6/6 (Shannon Thompson) and one there 6/16 (James Hausman); *Philadelphia*: two pairs bred for the first time in nearly two decades, first seen 6/2 (Jim McConnell), one pair with 5 chicks on 7/8, and subsequently 8 gallinules were seen (m.ob.), with second pair on a nest but success is doubted (Debbie Beer).

**American Coot** – *Bucks*: one at Silver Lake Park 7/3 (Dawn Denner ph.) added to a handful of previous July reports; *Erie*: one seen by kayakers at Long Pong, Presque Isle 6/2 (Carole Winslow, eBird).

**Sandhill Crane** – *Crawford*: continuing, seen widely through the season, with nest discovered on SGL 277 on 6/25 (James Hill III, eBird), and a high count of 28 at Miller's Ponds on 7/22 (Andy Keister, eBird); *Franklin*: one at Orrstown 7/25 (Dale Gearhart); *Lancaster*: one at Middle Creek 6/2 (m.ob., eBird); *Lawrence*: up to 6 including colts seen around Volant Strip Mines and Plain Grove Twp. most of June (m.ob.), and 4 were at the Copper Rd. Marsh 6/3 (Sheree Daugherty); *Mercer*: two at Pennsy Swamp 6/25 (Steve Sanford, eBird); *Sullivan*: nested near Dushore 6/5 (Sharon Richards) with at least one young seen 7/22 (Robert Megraw, eBird); *Wyoming*: a pair with 2 colts seen 7/5 at Sharpe's Lake (Kay Simons).

**American Avocet** – *Clearfield*: two at Bimini Lake 7/7 (Dan Richards); *Erie*: annual at Gull Point in small numbers in recent years, so no surprise to see two 6/23, four 7/2, and two 7/20 (Mary Birdsong); *Lancaster*: two at the Susquehanna R. Conejohela Flats 7/17 (Pete Robinson, Zachary Millen, ph.); *Lycoming*: four at Williamsport Dam 7/14 (David Brown, Maddie Dunlap, m.ob., ph.).

**Black-bellied Plover** – *Erie*: one on 7/24, and 3 on 7/28 at Gull Point (Mary Birdsong, eBird); *Westmoreland*: two on Laughlin Farm Rd. 6/4 (Ken Byerly).

**Piping Plover**\* – *Erie*: two pairs successfully nested for the first time in Pennsylvania since the mid-to late 1950s. The first nest contained 3 eggs with 2 successfully hatching (Mary Birdsong, Cathy Haffner). See article in this issue for more on nesting and history at Presque Isle.

**Upland Sandpiper** – *Centre*: identified from automated nocturnal flight call count as it flew over State College 7/31 (Joe Gyekis); *Clarion*: present at traditional spot at Mt Airy, and a single was along Morris Rd. 6/2-13 (Avis Keener, Steve Sanford); *Clearfield*: up to 4 at Sandy Ridge Rd. 6/1-25 (Joe Verica, m.ob, ebird); *Crawford*: increased observations at the Pymatuning-Miller's Ponds and Pymatuning SP - Wilson Rd. areas were likely due to observers searching for Dickcissels in the area (m.ob.) - high count was 10, 6 of which were observed in the fields off Rt. 285 in the Pymatuning SP area with additional 4, including 2 juveniles., at Pymatuning SP - Wilson Rd. areas 6/20 (Robert Scribner); *Lancaster*: five at Lancaster Airport 7/21 (Jonathan Heller, m.ob.) continued into Aug; *Mifflin*: one observed near a farm lane outside Whitehall 7/11 (Trevor Weaver, Mike Stuck, photographed 7/23 (Jay Zook); *Somerset*: one at Gallitzin SF 6/4 after much searching (Jeff Payne).

**Whimbrel** – *Erie*: singles at Gull Point 6/8 (Mary Birdsong), 6/13-19 (Mary Birdsong), 7/7 (Tim Lenz), and 7/27 (Mary Birdsong, Dan Brauning).

**Marbled Godwit** – *Erie*: seen at Gull Point only on 7/7 (Mary Birdsong).

**Ruddy Turnstone** – *Erie*: two at Gull Point 7/27-28 (Jerry McWilliams, Mary Birdsong, Dan Brauning, ebird).

**Stilt Sandpiper** – *Bucks*: one at Penn Warner Tract 7/29-30 (Devich Farbotnik); *Somerset*: one at Donegal Lake 7/28 (Josh Lefever, ph.) was only the second county record; *Westmoreland*: one at Donegal Lake 7/28 (Josh Lefever, eBird).

**Sanderling** – *Erie*: multiple sightings included high of 80 on 6/4 (Jerry McWilliams, eBird); *Lancaster*: one on Susquehanna R. at Conejohela Flats 7/29 and 7/31 (Steve Schmit, Josh Schulz,

Meredith Lombard); *Philadelphia*: one at Pennypack on the Delaware 7/27 (Frank Windfelder, eBird).

**Dunlin** – *Erie*: two at Gull Point 6/2 (Mary Birdsong) and 2 on 6/8 (Mary Birdsong); *Montour*: two at Greenhouse Ponds 6/1 (Evan Houston, ebird); *Lancaster*: one on Susquehanna R. at Conejohela Flats 6/2 (Mike Epler, Evan Houston), and 4 seen there 6/11-12 (Bruce Carl, Eric Witmer, m.ob.).

**White-rumped Sandpiper** – *Bucks*: 14 at Penn-Warner Tract 7/30 (Devich Farbotnik); *Crawford*: three at Pymatuning SP - Miller's Ponds 6/2 (Mark Vass), a remarkable 12 there 6/5 (Craig Holt), and one there 6/6 (Bill Drolsbaugh, Steve Sanford); *Erie*: at Gull Point, one on 6/20, 2 on 6/24, and one on 7/10 (Mary Birdsong); *Lancaster*: two near Mt. Joy 6/2 (Jonathan Heller) and one at Middle Creek WMA 6/4 (Jim Fiorentino, Cathleen Wentzel); *Lawrence*: one on 6/3 at Shaner Rd. Marsh (Deb Kalbfleisch); *Mercer*: one at the Shenango Wildlife Area 7/8 was well described (Steve Sanford, Kim Springer, Mimi Hoffmaster); *Monroe*: one at Lynchwood Lake in Mt. Pocono area 7/6 (Bruce Johnson); *Westmoreland*: four reported from Donegal Lake 6/3 (Todd Hooe, ph.) and 6/4 (Andy Mack).

**Short-billed Dowitcher** – *Cumberland*: one at Toigo Organic Farm, Carlisle 7/18 (Dave Kerr); *Lancaster*: two on Susquehanna R. at Conejohela Flats 7/27 (Meredith Lombard, Jeff Musser); *Erie*: seen at Gull Point 7/7, 20, 22 (Jerry McWilliams, ebird); *Lebanon*: one in breeding plumage at Fox and Prescott Rd. Ponds 7/27-29 (Pat and Richard Williams, m.ob.).

**Wilson's Snipe** – *Crawford*: one at Pymatuning Goose Management Area 6/10 (Ron Leberman) and 2 at Pymatuning SP - Wilson Rd. 7/27 (Neil Troyer); *Elk*: a nest occupied by the likely female was found at Rasselas Marsh 7/8 (Brendyn Baptiste); *Jefferson*: discovered on Mahoning Shadow Trail 6/1 (Avis Keener, John Keener).

**Bonaparte's Gull** – *Bucks*: an immature was at Peace Valley Park 7/29-31 (August Mirabella, ph.); *Crawford*: one at Pymatuning SP - Jamestown area 6/27 (Allie Causey); *Erie*: seen from various points on Presque Isle on 7/19, with a high count of 15 that day (Hunter Kline, eBird); *Lancaster*: two at the Susquehanna R. at Conejohela Flats 7/30 (Bruce Carl, Zachary Millen (ph), Michael Schall, Eric Witmer); *Montgomery*: an adult at Green Lane Park 7/31 (George Franchois).

**Laughing Gull** – *Bucks*: hundreds at Penn Warner Tract in late July, as usual (Devich Farbotnik); *Delaware*: four at Fort Mifflin, Delaware R. 7/8 (Al Guarente); *Erie*: one adult and 2 immatures at Gull Point 6/2 (Mary Birdsong), one adult at north pier 6/6 (Jerry McWilliams); *Lancaster*: one at Conejohela Flats 7/30 (Mike Epler, m.ob.); *Philadelphia*: many eBird reports from Delaware R. 6/1-10 and 7/16-31.

**Franklin's Gull** – *Crawford*: one at Pymatuning SP spillway 7/30 (Ron Leberman).

**Herring Gull** – *Allegheny*: among 32 at Emsworth Dam on Ohio R. 7/18 were 2 downy chicks (Paul Brown).

**Greater Black-backed Gull** – *Bucks*: 11 at the Morrisville Levee 6/25 (Andy Pustay, eBird); *Delaware*: 6 at Marcus Hook Municipal Park 6/1 (Al Guarente, eBird); *Erie*: 12 at Presque Isle Beach 11 on 7/7 (Tim Lenz, eBird) and 10 at Gull Point 7/27 (Dan Brauning, eBird); *Philadelphia*: regular on Delaware R. in July (eBird).

**Caspian Tern** – *Centre*: two at Bald Eagle SP 6/2 (Irvin Pitts), and 3 feeding near the Howard Causeway 6/24 (Audrey Chambers, Bill Chambers); *Crawford*: one at Pymatuning SP pillway 7/28 (Mark Vass); *Delaware*: two on a sand spit on Delaware R. at Fort Mifflin 6/19 (Jim McConnell) and another was there 7/14 (Al Guarente) and 7/16 (Michael Walter); *Lancaster*: found at 5 locations 7/25-31 (m.ob.); *Montgomery*: unusual for Green Lane Park in June, one was photographed there 6/19 (Len Hillegass); *York*: one at Codorus SP 7/31 (Deb Kline).

**Black Tern** – *Crawford*: one photographed at Pymatuning SP - Miller's Ponds 6/5 (Mike Hudson); *Lebanon*: one in non-breeding plumage provided a 13th county record at Memorial

Lake SP 6/7 (Mary Coomer); *Somerset*: one at Quemahoning Reservoir 7/29 (Linda Greble).

**Common Tern** - *Erie*: did not nest this year, but seen from Presque Isle Graveyard Pond Trail 6/2 (Carole Winslow) and at Beach 11 on 7/7 (Tim Lenz, eBird).

**Forster's Tern** - *Bucks*: two at Penn-Warner Tract 7/29 (Devich Farbotnik); *Cambria*: one at Prince Gallitzin campground 6/19 (James Kellam, ebird); *Delaware*: one at John Heinz NWR 7/28 along Darby Creek (Jim McConnell); *Indiana*: two at beach of Yellow Creek SP 7/4 (Matthew Juskowich, ebird); *Philadelphia*: many eBird reports 7/26 to end of season, with a high count of 5 (Ann Reeves).

**Eurasian Collared-Dove** - *Berks*: nesting continues in Shartlesville with sightings through June (m.ob.) to 7/11 (Dan Hinnebusch, eBird); *Franklin*: continued at breeding sites in Shady Grove and the Greencastle Reservoir through the season (m.ob., eBird).

**White-winged Dove\*** - *Blair*: first county record, discovered on the Lower Trail at Coverdale Trailhead 6/3 (Nick Bolgiano, ph., m.ob.), stayed 3 days.

**Barn Owl** - *Centre*: 16 owlets in 2 nests west of Coburn were banded 6/29, with 2 adults also visible (Joe Gyekis); *Lycoming*: recorded calling over Montoursville evening of 6/10 (David Brown, recording station); *Mifflin*: following up on vocalizations reported at Wills Rd on 5/28 (Amos Swarey) a female was present in an abandoned silo on Middle Rd 6/3 (Jay Zook, Jon Kauffman), reports of a male and female continued through the season at a private residence outside Milroy 7/10 (Anthony Bruno, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee); *Northumberland*: 3 observed at nest box in barn near Turbotville 6/3 (Kirk Jeffreys, Sean Jeffreys, Roxan Chicalo); *York*: an adult seen 6/15 at Frey farm in Washington Twp., which has long hosted this species (Dick Cleary), 4 nestlings banded there 7/13 (Diane Drobko, Anne Murren, m.ob.).

**Short-eared Owl** - *Clearfield*: one apparently continuing from spring in Morris Twp. 6/29 (Diane Bierly).

**Northern Saw-whet Owl** - *Huntingdon*: one during evenings on Stone Creek Ridge Rd. 7/4-5 (Deb Grove, Greg Grove, eBird); *Snyder*: one at Tractor Rd. Creek 7/22 (Kay Cramer, eBird).

**Olive-sided Flycatcher** - *Berks*: one seen and heard at Lake Ontelaunee 6/7 (Rudy Keller); *Centre*: noted along Steele Hollow Rd. 6/4 (Julia Plummer); *Crawford*: reported at Pymatuning SP spillway 6/28 (Ron Leberman); *Wayne*: one near Tanner Falls 6/7 (Joseph Southerton).

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** - *Crawford*: one at Tamarack Lake 6/2 (Ron Leberman); *Warren*: a pair in Toplovitch Bog (labeled as "Tamarack Swamp") in SGL 197 north of Simmons Rd. (David Yeany); *Westmoreland*: one captured at Powdermill Nature Reserve 6/1 (Josh Lefever) and one banded 7/30 (Josh Lefever); *Wyoming*: three territories were occupied by singing males into July, including one paired in Coalbed Swamp, with a female present 7/17 (Doug Gross, pers. com.), none were found in nearby Tamarack Swamp (Red Brook section) or Eagles Mere Swamp (Sullivan).

**Sedge Wren** - *Crawford*: relocated 7/9 at same location as spring season at Pymatuning SP - Miller's Ponds (Mark Vass), then throughout the month (m.ob.), including 2 on 7/16 (Jeff McDonald, Lauren Nagoda), with the last observation 7/22 (Andy Keister); *Montgomery*: a pair at Gwynedd Wildlife Preserve 7/23 continued through end of period (Matt Jewell, m.ob, ph.).

**Marsh Wren** - *Crawford*: observed in normal numbers and locations (m.ob.); *Huntingdon*: present at Cornpropst Mills wetland 6/1, 6/2, 6/18, and 7/4 (Greg Grove, Deb Grove, Joe Verica); *Lawrence*: heard calling at Black Swamp 6/8 (Mary

Alice Koeneke, Glenn Koppel); *Mercer*: two were at SGL 130 from 6/12-7/8 (Neil Troyer, m.ob.); *Northampton*: one heard at Bear Swamp Park 7/4 (Justin Clarke, eBird); *Tioga*: continuing to 7/21 at The Muck-Marsh Creek (Lisa Doud, eBird).

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet** - *Westmoreland*: one first heard singing in spruces at Powdermill Nature Reserve 6/1 continued through 6/22 (Josh Lefever).

**Gray-cheeked Thrush** - *Erie*: reported on Pine Tree Trail 6/1 (Andy Keister, eBird); *Lancaster*: one heard on 6/1 (Larry Bernhardt, eBird), but not distinguished from Bicknell's; *Lycoming*: migrants detected over Montoursville through 6/7 (David Brown NFC Station); *Schuylkill*: two in Locust Lake SP campgrounds 6/1 (Marcina Trimmell, eBird).

**Prothonotary Warbler** - *Berks*: two males sang at Lake Ontelaunee /Peters Creek 6/3-10, and one continued to be seen and heard till 6/25 (Rudy Keller, m.ob.) but apparently failed to attract mates; *Crawford*: reported in expected numbers and locations in the Conneaut Marsh and Pymatuning areas (m.ob); *Dauphin*: one on unnamed island in the Susquehanna R. 6/17 (Stefan Karkuff); *Lackawanna*: two at Heart Lake 7/11 (Ralph Allen); *Luzerne*: two at Heart Lake 7/11 (Ralph Allen, eBird); *Mercer*: listed as probable nesters at the Golden Run area of Shenango River Res (Neil Troyer); *Montgomery*: at Trewellyn Park 6/5 (Jeffrey Collins, m.ob, ph.); *Philadelphia*: a male at John Heinz NWR continued since April, exploring many parts of the refuge, finally settled into one area that it established as its territory; *York*: found by kayakers near Shank's Mare 6/7 (Ian Gardner), and 3 reported at Brunner Island 6/2-12 (Dave Kerr, Dean and Norma Newhouse, Donald Weidemann) with food being carried to nest box.

**Wilson's Warbler** - *Erie*: two on Sidewalk Trail in Presque Isle SP 6/1 (Andy Keister); *Jefferson*: one on Mahoning Shadow Trail 6/1 (Avis Keener, John Keener); *Lancaster*: one singing at the Stoner Family Farm 6/3 (Derek Stoner, eBird); *Lebanon*: one heard and seen well in Fort Indiantown Gap 6/7 (Ted Nichols II, eBird); *Schuylkill*: heard singing 6/7 at Swatara SP (Barbara Hunsberger, Dave McNaughton).

**Clay-colored Sparrow** - *Butler*: heard 6/9 at SGL 95 (Brendyn Baptiste.); *Clarion*: becoming more difficult to find - singles reported at Curlesville 6/13 (Andy Keister) and 7/27 (Karyn Delaney, Barbara Griffith), at Mt Zion 7/9 (Evan Mann), at Mt Airy 6/4-13 (Todd Hooe, Andy Keister, Steve Sanford), and a singing male continuing from spring through 7/16 at SGL 74 near Strattanville was new this year (Richard Nugent, Michael Schall, Carole Winslow); *Dauphin*: one seen and heard at Fort Indiantown Gap west corridor 6/9 (Jerrod Derr); *Erie*: one singing at beach 10 and 11 (Carole Winslow, eBird); *Lawrence*: one summered at Volant strip mines for second year in a row, last reported 6/30 (Shannon Thompson, m.ob.); *Tioga*: one heard during Arnot BBS at stop 31 (Deuane Hoffman, eBird) and 2 seen near last year's observation on Old Bloss Rd. 6/14 (Ken Cooper, eBird).

**Summer Tanager\*** - *Berks*: a male returned for the third year to a territory on Neversink Mt., Reading, singing almost daily in the same trees as last year 4/28 till about 8/4 (Jay Drasher), but no female detected this year.

**Yellow-headed Blackbird** - *Centre*: one found 5/31 near Spring Mills (Alvin Stoltzfus, *vide* Chad Kaufmann) continued through 6/3 (Joe Verica, m.ob.).

**Red Crossbill** - *Schuylkill*: one continued until 6/3 after the mini-invasion at Owl Creek last winter (Dave Krue).

*Corrigenda*: In Spring issue (Vol. 31, No. 2), one Trumpeter Swan observer listed for Washington Crossing, *Bucks*, on 4/14, was misidentified. It should be Leonard Friedman (not L. Falterbauer).

## Photographic Highlights



This **Brant** at Montour Preserve, *Montour*, apparently representing the first summer record for Pennsylvania, was present 15-27 (here 20) June. (David Brown)



**Common Mergansers** are uncommon nesters in Pennsylvania, but have been expanding their breeding range; this hen with ducklings was on Lake Naomi, *Monroe* 9 June. (Maya Shikhman)



The Great White Heron, a presumed color morph of **Great Blue Heron** found in south Florida, has visited Pennsylvania previously, in 1938 and 1961, at Pymatuning, *Crawford*; joining the southern wader invasion this year was this individual at Great Bend Twp., *Susquehanna* 23-24 (here 23) July (possibly present earlier). (Barb Stone)



Known nesting locations of the secretive **Least Bittern** are few, but likely they go undetected at some locations; at least two nests were confirmed this season in John Heinz NWR, *Philadelphia/Delaware*, where this bittern was photographed 22 July. (Zach Millen)



Another "invading" southern wader, **White Ibis** were found in 4 counties, including this bird at Trewellyn Park, *Montgomery* 12-13 (here 12) July; another (or the same) ibis was at nearby Wissahickon Waterfowl Preserve 22-27 July (August Mirabella).



This **Tricolored Heron** wandered between at least three locations in *York* 24 July – 1 August, seen here at Lake Williams 26 July. (Ted Nichols II)



This **Snowy Egret** was at Wildwood Park, *Dauphin* 8-9 (here 8) June; one was also found in *Erie* and several in *Philadelphia*. (Dave Kerr)



Most **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** are found in eastern Pennsylvania; this bird at Glade Run Lake, *Butler* 5-7 (here 5) July was perhaps the third record for that western county. (Alan Buriak)



Another look at the long-staying **Roseate Spoonbill** on the Conodoguinet Creek near Camp Hill, *Cumberland*, seen here 22 July. (Andy McGann)



**American Kestrel** nest boxes may be of help (for example, see the *Bucks* report) to a species declining in some areas; these kestrel nestlings were in a box in *Swissdale, Clinton* 19 June. (Wayne Laubscher)



**Cooper's Hawk** among **European Starlings** at East Petersburg, *Lancaster* 1 July. (Josh Houck)



This **Willow Flycatcher** was photographed at the soon-to-be inaccessible Brunner Island Wetlands, York 6 June. (Dean Newhouse)



**Acadian Flycatcher** at SGL 305, Cumberland 13 June. (Dave Kerr)



This **Marsh Wren** with wings spread may have been trying to cool-off at John Heinz NWR, Philadelphia 30 July. (Kurt Schwarz)



**Red-eyed Vireo** on nest in Marshall Twp., Allegheny 31 July - the late date is indicative of a replacement clutch or possibly a second-brood. (Janet Heintz)



Rare nesters in the state, **Sedge Wrens** were reported only in Montgomery and at SGL 214, Crawford where at least two were present 9-22 (here 16) July. (Jeff McDonald)



**House Wren** ready to deliver food in Pottstown, *Montgomery* 12 June. (Ginnie Lodge)



**Cedar Waxwing** at Winslow Hill, *Elk* 9 June. (Troy Jones)



An uncommon breeder in *Franklin*, this **Chestnut-sided Warbler** might have been a late migrant on Ft. McCord Road 2 June. (Chris Blazio)



At best a rare breeder in *Lancaster*, this male **Cerulean Warbler** at Middle Creek WMA 17-26 (here 19) June drew many visitors. (Kim Morelock)



An uncommon nester in *Franklin*, this **Northern Parula** was photographed in Bear Valley near the headwaters of the Conodoguinet Creek 17 June. (Chris Blazio)



**Ovenbird** at Rocky Ridge County Park, *York* 22 June. (Dean Newhouse)



**Savannah Sparrow** in the Piney Tract, *Clarion* 6 June; with true grassland continually giving way to development and row crops, the Piney Tract remains a substantial refuge for grassland specialists. (Dave Brooke)



Female **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** at the Imperial Grasslands, *Allegheny* 14 June; this species is an uncommon but widespread breeder in Pennsylvania. (Alan Buriak)



Paired **Dickcissels** were found in four locations in *Lancaster*, totaling at least 16 individuals; this female was on her way to deliver food to young at the Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority landfill (restricted access), *Lancaster* 20 July. (Jeff Musser)



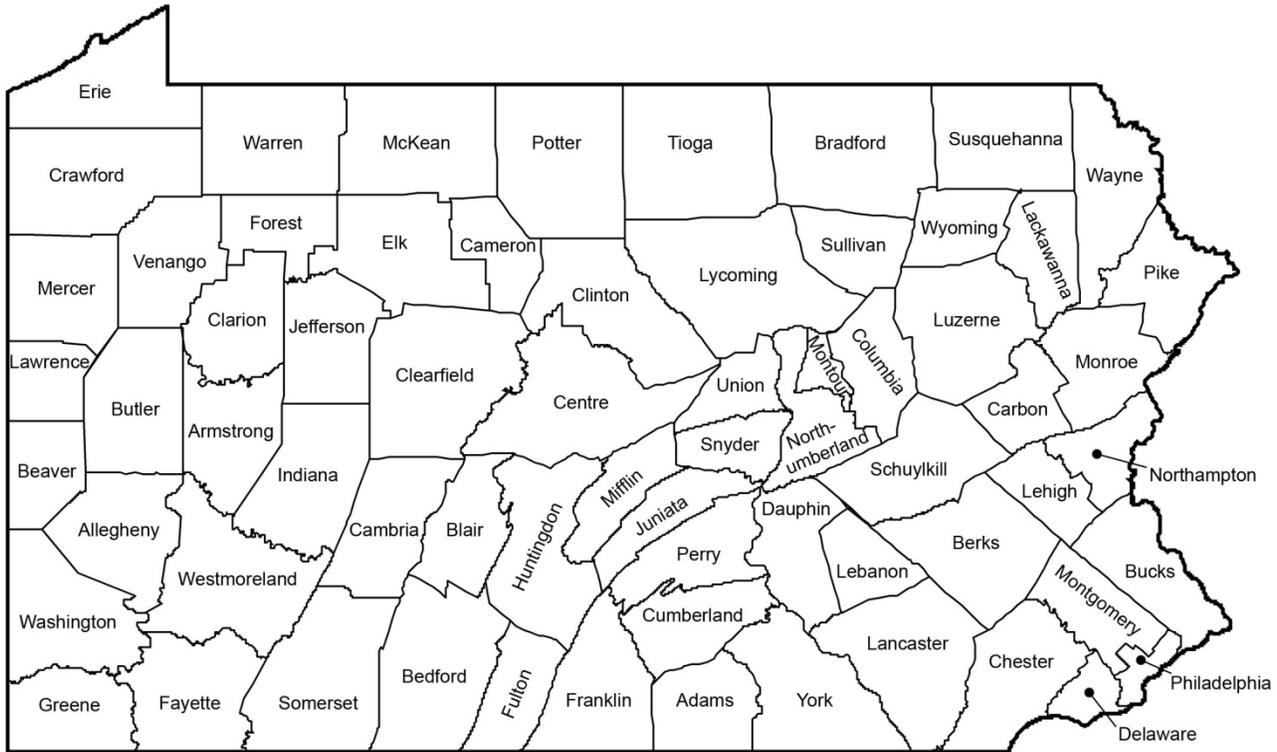
**Dickcissels** invaded from the west, found in at least 26 counties; successful nesting occurred on Fairgrounds Road, Lamar, *Clinton* where this female and fledgling on a mullein stalk were photographed 30 July (see *Clinton* report for details). (Bob Snyder)



Juvenile **Red-winged Blackbird** at Reedsville, *Mifflin* 18 June. (Gordon Parker)



This **Yellow-headed Blackbird** on an Amish farm at Spring Mills, *Centre* was present 31 May – 3 (here 1) June, providing the third county record. (Brian Schmoke)



**ABBREVIATION**

BBS	Breeding Bird Survey	max	maximum	RBA	Rare Bird Alert
C.A.	Conservation Area	min	minimum	Res.	Reservoir
CBC	Christmas Bird Count	m.ob.	many observers	Rte.	Route
C.P.	County Park	Mt. (Mts.)	Mount/Mountain/Mountains	SF	State Forest
Cr.	Creek	NA	Nature Area or Natural Area	SGL	State Game Land
et al.	and others	NF	National Forest	SP	State Park
Ft.	Fort	NM	National Monument	S.T.P.	Sewage Treatment Plant
G.C.	Golf Course	NP	National Park	subad(s).	subadult(s)
G.P.	Game Preserve	NWR	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	WA	Wildlife Area
juv(s).	juvinal [plumage]; juvenile(s)	R.	River	WMA	Wildlife Management Area
L.	Lake	RA	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 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), Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve (SHNP), State Game Lands #249 (SGL)

This reporting period offered notable observations, including a **Mississippi Kite**, a nice **Eastern Whip-poor-will** count, and evidence of a solid breeding year for **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** and some grassland species. Overall species count of 117 and the total of 12 warbler species were lower than recent summers. Average monthly temperatures at Harrisburg were close to normal while July rainfall at 9.5" was 4.9" above normal. The storms responsible for the high rainfall amounts were frequently small but intense cells that were typically localized. This resulted in wide variation of rainfall amounts in the south-central region of the state. BBS refers to a 6/10 survey by Andy Wilson.

The only out-of-season waterfowl was a pair of **Buffleheads** at Long Pine Run Reservoir 6/4–7/9 (MB, CM, LS) and a pair of **Common Mergansers** on Friends Creek 6/6 (JH). A single **Ring-necked Pheasant** was at SHNP 6/13 (CA) and 8 reports (m.ob.) of **Wild Turkey** were paced by up to 7 birds at SHNP 6/13–7/28 (CA, CM, DS).

A recent trend has been summer reporting of **Double-crested Cormorant**, **Great Egret**, and **Osprey**. A pair of cormorants was at Lake Heritage 6/7 (CM) and a single was at Long Pine Run Reservoir 7/9 (MB). Single Great Egrets were at Lake Heritage 6/7 (CM) and FREE 7/13 (BP). Osprey were at SGL 6/4 (DJG) and SHNP 6/13 (CA). None of these species are known to breed in the county. The **Mississippi Kite** was an adult in flight over SGL 6/14 (AW, et al). The same area and date also produced a **Northern Harrier** sighting (DK). Shorebirding was a non-event, but an **American Woodcock** at SGL 6/13 (AW) was a nice find.

Sixteen reports of **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** are remarkably high while Black-billed Cuckoo went unreported. The BBS route produced a **Barred Owl** with fledged young, one of 6 reports of Barreds. Two **Whip-poor-wills** were found in MICH 6/2 (RK) and a 7/1 drive at dusk along Mllesburn and Birch Run Rds produced a count of 16 (RDS). Despite the

rewarding count of "whips", the observer noted that the absence of **Veery** calls was a disappointment. The 16 reports of **Red-headed Woodpecker** indicate they returned in force after an unusual winter when they essentially vacated the county.

A drive through the grasslands along Possum Hollow Rd 7/1 found **American Kestrel** parents monitoring early hunting efforts of 5-6 fledglings (PK). The young perched on fence-posts and made frequent forays to the ground, presumably catching insects. Uncommon in the county in summer, a **Peregrine Falcon** sighting came from SGL 6/18 (DJG). Nice **Acadian Flycatcher** counts included 7 at MICH 6/4 (LS) and 5 at SHNP 7/28 (DS). **Willow Flycatcher** sightings were limited to SGL and GNMP but were reported all period (m.ob.). SGL remains attractive to Willows with various sections reporting conservative counts of up to 7.

Three reports of **White-eyed Vireo** from SGL and GNMP are typical (DJG, JP, AW). Five locales reporting **Yellow-throated Vireo** is above average (CM, RR, AW). A trio of **Blue-headed Vireos** was found in MICH 6/14 (LS) and the BBS produced 2 **Warbling Vireos**. Outside of 2 **Horned Larks** found on the BBS, a sighting along Crooked Creek Rd of a single lark was the only other report 6/28 (RDS). Some impressive counts of **Purple Martin** included 44 at Gettysburg 6/13 (MP) and 50 at Mountain Rd 7/28 (RDS). A single **Cliff Swallow** was found at Waynesboro Res 6/26 (RB) and 7 were at Arendtsville 6/27 (BP). None of the 5 **Veery** reports were later than 6/10, in contrast to most years where **Veeries** are found throughout the period, especially in MICH (RK, CM, RKP, AW).

As noted in the opening paragraph, warbler reporting was rather lackluster. Highlights were breeding evidence of **Kentucky Warbler** at SHNP 7/8 (CM) and indications of two breeding territories of **Yellow-breasted Chat** at SGL 6/1-27 (IC, JDG, DK, PK, AW). A chat was also found at GNMP 6/5 (CM). A drive along various roads in MICH produced a nice count of 15 **Scarlet Tanagers** 7/21 (BO). Single **Savannah Sparrow** were along Pumping Station Rd 6/11 (BP) and Maryland Farm Rd 6/4 (CM). Twelve reports of **Grasshopper Sparrow** are a definite highlight as is the high count of 11 birds along Pumping Station Rd 7/13 (BP). A good summer find for **Adams** was a **Swamp Sparrow** at SGL 7/19 (PK).

FREE and GNMP produced definitive breeding confirmation for **Bobolink** and **Eastern Meadowlark** and probable breeding for **Dickcissel**. Dickcissels were reported 6/4-7/15 (m.ob.) with up to 5 singing males 6/23 (AW) and a high count of 7 birds 6/26 (AW). High counts of Bobolink were 12 at FREE 6/11 (BP) and 11 at GNMP 7/4 (LC). The BBS also produced 2 Bobolinks and SGL held one 6/21 (AW). Meadowlark reports also came from Arendtsville, Buttonwood Rd, and the BBS; high count was 13 at FREE 6/18 (PM). A visit to SGL found a female **Orchard Oriole** with 3 fledglings 7/9 (DJG). Eight reports of Orchard Oriole and 7 of **Baltimore Oriole** were more than usual.

Observers: **Phil Keener, 198 Jacobs Street, East Berlin, PA 17316, (717) 259-9984, pittche74@yahoo.com**, Corey Alleman, Tony Arnold, Mike Bertram, Rebecca Bonebrake, Ian Clarke, Leslie Coleman, Don & Jennifer Gilbert (DJG), Sam & Gabriel Gonzalez, Al Guarente, Judie Hogan, Tim Johnson, Robert Keener, Dave Kerr, Michael Locher, Sam Lynch, Larry Marsh, Peter Morgan, Callan Murphy, Bill Oyler, Mark Pethke, Jason Pietzrak, Bonita Portzline, Richard & Kathleen Prentki (RKP), Trevor Redding, Ruth Richards, Ken Rosenthal, Lauren Shaffer, Brad Shollenberger, Ralph & Deb Siefken (RDS), Mark Sopko, Danny Stoner, Keith Tyler, Andy Wilson (AW), Anne Winters.

#### **Allegheny County**

The summer season was warm with quite a bit of rain. Heavy rains at the end of June swelled area rivers and streams. Heat and humidity increased in July and thunderstorms were regular.

A **Common Merganser** was along the Ohio River near Dashields Dam 7/12 (MV); after last year's first confirmation, nesting was not detected this year. **Northern Bobwhites** seem to appear in various places as birds are released. One visited a yard in Natrona Heights 6/10

(PH, DH) and one was recorded calling in Hays 6/17-20 (LS, eBird). A **Virginia Rail** was seen regularly at Wingfield Pines in June (JM, FK, LN) although no evidence of breeding was observed. This is the location where a pair bred last year.

The first fall shorebird was a **Least Sandpiper** at North Park 7/18 (AB). Among 32 **Herring Gulls** at the Emsworth Dam on the Ohio River were two downy chicks 7/18 (PB). **Common Nighthawk** reports include 4 at Greenfield 6/4 (KSJ), one in Oakland 6/8 (RT), and 2 again in Greenfield 7/12 (KSJ). **Chimney Swift** towers have been erected in Allegheny county parks and other locations in the Pittsburgh area. A tower in Harrison Hills Park was being used in July (DB). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** visited a feeder in a yard in Hampton Twp. 7/1, a first for that location (DN).

The rather new **Purple Martin** colony at Harrison Hills Park had 46 pairs this year (DB). A **Bank Swallow** was near Dashields Dam on the Allegheny River 7/24 (MV). A **Veery** was in Pine Twp. 6/21 (PL, SL), the only known area where they breed. Late **Swainson's Thrushes** were detected by a night call recorder at Moon Twp. 6/1-3 (GM). A leucistic **European Starling** was seen at Shouse Park near Dashields Dam 7/4 (MV). Pine Twp. is the place in the county for summer **Purple Finch** reports. Two visited a feeder there in July (PL, SL).

Observers: **Mike Fialkovich, 805 Beulah Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15235, (412) 731-3581, mpfial@verizon.net**; Dave Brooke, Paul Brown, Alan Buriak, Amy Henrici, Deb Hess, Paul Hess, Fred Kachmarik, Pat Lynch, Sherron Lynch, Jeff McDonald, Geoff Malosh, Pat McShea, Lauren Nagoda, Dick Nugent, Kate St. John, Jack Solomon, Sue Solomon, Leah Szczepanski, Ryan Tomazin, Mark Vass.

#### **Armstrong County**

Locations: Locations: Cochran's Mill (CM), Creek Rd. (CR), Crooked Creek Lake (CCL), Kittanning (KT), Leechburg (LB), Mahoning Creek Lake (MCL), Parks Bend Farm (PBF), SGL 247, Worthington (WT).

First **Wood Duck** report was a female with 4 ducklings at PBF 6/9 (KK, MVT). There were few **Common Mergansers** reported other than 9 at MCL 7/7 (AK, JK). A few **Double-crested Cormorants** visited CCL 6/3 (TR). **Green Herons** nest at PBF - this year 2 adults plus 2 juveniles were spotted 7/5 (JLS, ph.) followed by 2 juvs. alone enjoying the pond later in July (KK, MVT).

A juv. **Coopers Hawk** was observed in a bush by the pond at PBF 6/26 (MVT, ph.). **Red-shouldered Hawks** were seen in and near CCL, where they nested again (JB, MVT), and near WT (FI). Only one **Broad-winged Hawk** was observed, at Government Rd. near MCL 7/12 (MVT). Some **Bald Eagle** nests were successful. A nice find at CCL 7/27 was a **Semipalmated Plover** (JLS). One **Spotted Sandpiper** was at PBF 6/19 (MVT).

Quite a few **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were reported but **Black-billed Cuckoos** were sparse with only 2 reports, one from CCL 6/3 and one at SG 247 on 6/28 (TR). A single **Eastern Screech-Owl** was reported from Endsville (FI) and 2 **Barred Owls** were observed in the evening of 7/29 on the B-F Trail near Freeport (EP). A single **Hermit Thrush** was seen and heard at South Fork Pine Creek 6/9 (MVT) and **Wood Thrushes** were heard and seen throughout the county all season. **Cedar Waxwings** were also reported from quite a few locations including 4 at a farm near Apollo 6/28 (GF) and the high count of 16 at CC 6/11 (MVT)

Three **Worm-eating Warblers** were reported from the AT (TR) and one **Blue-winged Warbler** from CM (MVT). Single **Cerulean Warblers** were observed at CCL (MVT) and near KT (MH). Single **Magnolia Warblers** were at SGL 137 (TR) and CCL (MVT). The only **Yellow-breasted Chat** was at SGL 247 (TR). One **Grasshopper Sparrow** was a nice find near KT (MH). Two **White-throated Sparrows** were photographed at PBF (MVT). Several **Savannah Sparrows** were found in WT (TR). **Scarlet Tanagers** and **Indigo Buntings** were numerous but few **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were reported. A single **Dickcissel** was a good find on Olivet Rd. in June (MH, RH). Few **Bobolinks** were found

but several reports of **Eastern Meadowlarks** included 3 at MCL (AK, JK) and a high of 16 at WT (TR).

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### Beaver County

Locations: Independence Marsh (IND), Montgomery Lock and Dam (MLD), New Brighton (NB), Raccoon Creek State Park (RCSP).

**Common Mergansers** aggregated again at NB in Jun and Jul, with counts of 4 on 6/4, 10 on 6/25, and 17 on 7/20 (MV). There are still no known nests around that area, and there was no report after the spring of the successful nest at the RCSP wildflower area this past May. The only reports of **Ospreys** near a known nest this summer were of the Beaver River birds near NB (MV), but at least a few of the other nests were likely active this year. A **Bald Eagle** was seen at NB 6/4 (MV), and one was near MLD 6/9 (LK), a known nesting site in recent years.

A few late spring migrant shorebirds at IND included **Semipalmated Plover** and 3 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** 6/4 (MV). An adult **Ring-billed Gull** was at the mouth of the Beaver River 7/15 (MV), and a **Herring Gull** was at NB 6/4 (MV). A **Common Nighthawk** was noted at the RCSP campground 7/1 (MW). A **Common Raven** was spotted near Ambridge 6/18 and 7/14 (MV); another was seen at a residence near the far western border of RCSP 6/18 (CD) and possibly the same bird was reported at the RCSP campground 7/2 (MW).

A **Worm-eating Warbler** was noted at MLD 6/4 (MV). MLD is a former breeding area for the species, but were reported very irregularly after about 2005, and the most recent summer record there was in 2011. Worm-eating Warbler was also found on territory in the same area of RCSP as last year, this year on 6/11 (TH). **Black-and-white Warbler**, another irregular breeder at MLD, was found 6/4 (MV), and a **Cerulean Warbler** was also present that day (MV). **Northern Parula** was noted at the RCSP wildflower reserve 6/17 (MV). For about the eighth consecutive summer, **Black-throated Green Warbler** was heard at RCSP, this year on 6/17 (MV), but "confirmed" evidence of nesting has yet to be observed in the park.

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### Bedford County

No report

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### Berks County

Locations: Blue Marsh L. (BML), Hamburg Reservoir (HRes), Kittatinny Ridge (KR), L. Ontelaunee (LO), Rodale Experimental Farm, Maxatawny Twp. (Rodale), State Game Lands (SGL).

Almost 14 inches of rain fell during the period, ending the county's rainfall deficit. Most of the rain fell in July, making it the seventh wettest on record.

As in most recent years, a few **Snow Geese** lingered into the period, including one with a dragging wing that summered near Moselem Springs (RK). One of the 2 pairs of **Mute Swans** residing at LO produced 2 cygnets (RK). In summer, **Common Mergansers** are most often reported along the Schuylkill R. in northern Berks, where 7 were seen at Five

Locks 6/4 (KG). **Hooded Merganser** probably breeds every year, but this is not often confirmed. A female and 5 downy ducklings photographed in a swampy backwater of the Schuylkill R. near Douglassville in early Jun (LI) added another nesting record. **Ruffed Grouse**, resident in most of Berks as recently as the 1990's, are now confined to the KR, where 3 were reported 6/25–7/15 (KG). A **Wild Turkey** hen, apparently a late or re-nester, was seen leading 10 recently hatched chicks at BML 7/12 (JS).

An imm. **Common Loon** stayed at LO till 6/7 (RK) and a late migrating adult was seen at BML 6/29 (JS). A **Pied-billed Grebe** (an irregular breeder) at LO 7/15 (MC) provided this summer's only record. The flock of summering imm. **Double-crested Cormorants** at LO numbered 13-14 from 6/7 till 7/15 (RK). Post-breeding **Great Egrets** began to appear in mid-Jul, with a high count of 6 in Maxatawny Twp. 7/22 (PM). The season's only **Little Blue Heron**, an imm., was at School Rd. pond, Fleetwood 7/21 (RK).

**Black-crowned Night-Heron**, a regular breeder around Reading for decades, was last recorded nesting in 2014, when a severe hailstorm 5/22 largely defoliated the white pines that held the nests, causing abandonment of the colony. Since then, the only breeding evidence has been provided by reports of fledged juveniles at nearby BML and LO in Jul and Aug, and such reports have diminished. This year single juveniles were reported at LO 7/23 (MS) and 8/3 (RK) and at BML 8/8 and 8/18 (PM).

A one-legged **Black Vulture** nicknamed "Lefty" bearing a worn yellow wing tag was seen at BML 7/25 dumpster diving with other **Black Vultures** near a picnic area (JS). Though Lefty has been a fixture at BML for years, the bird was tagged as an adult at Kempton 7/3/10 as part of Hawk Mountain Sanctuary's vulture monitoring project, making it at least 9 years old (DB). One or 2 non-breeding **Ospreys** (probably including some late migrants) were reported at various lakes 6/9-7/31 (m.ob.). Wandering **Northern Harriers** were seen at Virgenville 6/23 (KT) and near Rehrersburg (a brown bird) 6/24 (SW). Secretive **Sharp-shinned Hawks** have intermittently bred at various places in the county, but fledglings have most often been reported on the KR, as this year, when one was seen at SGL 110, Northkill Gap 7/15 (KG). As usual, most reports of **Red-shouldered Hawk** came from the Schuylkill R. valley and Piedmont forest of southern Berks, but a "resident pair" was also reported near BML 6/6 (EH) and a bird was heard at Baldy Hill, District Twp. in Jul (CE, RK). An established pair failed in its April nesting attempt near Douglassville (LI). Due largely to Hawk Mountain Sanctuary's **Broad-winged Hawk** Project (details at [www.hawkmountain.org](http://www.hawkmountain.org)), several Broadwing breeding confirmations were made along the KR and in southern Berks. Of 6 nests monitored, 4 fledged 2 young each and 2 fledged one young each (LG). Besides those, one or 2 pairs in eastern Berks fledged a total of 3 young, which were seen and heard begging in early Aug (RK).

Shorebirds found scant stopover habitat, with ponds brimming and field pools mostly overgrown or screened by crops. A muddy low spot in a Longswamp Twp. field attracted 6 migrating species 7/29-30, including 2 **Semipalmated Plovers**, 42 **Least Sandpipers**, 13 **Pectoral Sandpipers**, 5 **Semipalmated Sandpipers**, 3 **Solitary Sandpipers**, and 2 **Lesser Yellowlegs** (RK). One Semipalmated Sandpiper on 7/30 bore a green flag with the white letters LCT on its right leg and an aluminum band on its left leg (RK). The only other non-breeding shorebird species was a **Greater Yellowlegs** at Kernsville Dam & Recreation Area 7/22 (KG). The high count of summering **Ring-billed Gulls** was 5 at BML 7/25 (RH).

Four **Eurasian Collared-Doves** were seen in Shartlesville 6/3 (MW). If these birds fledge young, their whereabouts are unknown because the colony has not grown. **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were widespread and often highly vocal in their role as rain crows in this wet summer. A few **Black-billed Cuckoos** reported in Jun were probably still migrating, but 3-4 birds reported in Jul were likely breeders. Two **Great Horned Owlets** were raised in a **Great Blue Heron** nest in a heronry at Oley. On an Apr visit, one of the still somewhat downy owlets was

observed staring wide-eyed up at a towering **Great Blue Heron** rearranging an adjoining nest, paying no attention to the owl. Emerging leaves soon obscured the colony, so the nesting outcome is unknown (RK). As noted in previous reports, **Barred Owl** seems to be increasing, so breeding confirmation was inevitable. A fledgling was photographed at Nolde Forest Environmental Education Center 5/15 (LBae) and another was seen with a parent at HRes 6/8 (KG).

**Whip-poor-wills** breed only on the KR, where 2-3 were heard at SGL 110, Northkill Gap 6/1 (PJW) and 7/15 (KG). A **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** nest containing 2 still sightless young was reported in Wyomissing 6/25 (SH). **Red-headed Woodpeckers**, reported at 5 locations, were confirmed breeding only at Kauffman Rd., Oley Twp., where a pair fledged one young about 8/28 (RK). It is not known if this was a re-nesting after an earlier failure. Reading's **Peregrine Falcon** pair fledged 4 young, which apparently dispersed without reported mishaps (*fide* BU).

A northbound **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was seen and heard at LO 6/7 (RK). Seasonal high counts of **Acadian Flycatchers** were 8 at Hay Creek, Birdsboro in deciduous forest (JT) and 13 at HRes in hemlocks (KG) in Jun. An **Alder Flycatcher** singing in a powerline cut in Hereford Twp. 6/9 (MSch) was a migrant. Five **Yellow-throated Vireos** at HRes 6/8 (KG) was a very good count of this thinly distributed species. Three or 4 **Blue-headed Vireos**, a KR specialty, were heard in the hemlocks at HRes in Jun and Jul (KG, RK, et al.). In some recent years, including this one, Blue-headed Vireos have been reported in Jun from the mature white pine plantation surrounding Birdsboro Reservoir at Hay Creek, well south of the traditional range. It is not known if these are merely out-of-range males acting territorial or if they breed.

Busy **Purple Martin** colonies of about 30 birds near Fleetwood 7/7 (RK), 25 birds near Topton 6/21 (RK), and 50 at Mohrsville 7/9 (PJW) indicate that this species survived the cold spell in May very well. It is not known if **Bank Swallows** successfully nested at the Haines & Kibblehouse quarry at Birdsboro this year. The species had dispersed widely by late Jul, including 15 at School Rd. pond near Fleetwood 7/30 (KL). **Cliff Swallow** colonies continue to thrive, with 26 birds counted at Berne Bridge, Hamburg 6/4 (KG) and about 140 adults and fledglings at the two LO colonies 7/13 (RK). **Cliff Swallows** have nested at the LO bridges for 51 consecutive summers. A **Winter Wren** sang on the KR at SGL 106 on 6/11 (EG) and a **Hermit Thrush** sang at SGL 110 on 7/2 (KG). Both species reach the southeastern edge of their PA ranges on the ridge.

Good counts of **Worm-eating Warblers**, all on steep, rocky hillsides, were of 8 near the Pinnacle 6/28 (AM), 6 on Neversink Mt., Reading 6/17 (JT), and 5 on the Bartram Trail near Hamburg 6/22 (KG). A **Northern Waterthrush** at Trout Run Sports Complex, Exeter Twp. 7/30 (RH) was a fall migrant. Up to 6 **Blue-winged Warblers** and 4 **Prairie Warblers** were found in the early successional scrub and old field habitat at SGL 106, Pine Swamp Rd. in Jun (m.ob.). Two male **Prothonotary Warblers** sang at LO/Peters Creek 6/3-10, and one of them continued to be seen and heard till 6/25 (RK, m.ob.). Their behavior was typical of spring overshoot males that establish territories, but fail to attract mates and presumably move on. **Kentucky Warblers** were heard in Jun at SGL106 (currently their most consistent location), HRes, and Hay Creek (m.ob.). A good count of 14 **American Redstarts** was made along 3 miles of the Bartram Trail above the Schuylkill R. near Hamburg 6/22 (KG). Three **Cerulean Warblers** were reportedly heard on the KR between HRes and the Pinnacle 6/28 (AM). **Chestnut-sided Warbler** can increase dramatically in recently logged areas, then quickly decline as the habitat begins to mature. The count of 13 on 6/16 (EG) was made on a section of SGL 110 a few years after logging. **Black-throated Green Warbler**, another KR specialty, was well reported, with 1-4 found on various sections of the ridge in Jun and Jul (KG, EG, RK, DK). The best area to find **Yellow-breasted Chats** remains SGL 106, Pine Swamp Rd., where 1-3 were reported in Jun (m.ob.). Single birds were also found at BML 6/10 (SF) and Green Hills Preserve 7/26 (AZ).

A **White-throated Sparrow** at SGL 110 on 6/9 (KG) was another of the several tardy spring migrants cited in this report. **Grasshopper, Vesper,** and **Savannah Sparrows** were again reported in healthy

numbers and confirmed breeding in the grass hayfields of northern Berks and the well managed pastures at Rodale (m.ob.). The male **Summer Tanager** featured on the cover of the spring issue of *Pennsylvania Birds* returned for the third year to a territory on Neversink Mt., Reading, singing almost daily in the same trees as last year from 4/28 till about 8/4 (JD). No female was seen and the apparently mated pair present on an adjoining territory in 2016 was not found this year. **Blue Grosbeaks** were found at 8 locations, mostly in farmland, sometimes paired and with one pair feeding young (m.ob.).

**Dickcissels** were again one of the highlights of summer, and breeding was finally confirmed. Two singing males were first reported at Rodale along Kunkel Rd. 5/21 (DA), where several birds had been found in 2016. The number of birds increased through Jun to a high of 5 males and 3 females on 7/8 (RK). On that day, one pair engaged in copulation as the female carried nesting material. Another female disappeared into the grass carrying a large insect and emerged moments later carrying a fecal sac, which she soon dropped. All the birds were concentrated in a small area along Kunkel and Siegfriedale Rds., where they inhabited mainly grass pastures, but also used alfalfa fields and sometimes entered corn and soybean fields. The pastures were grazed in rotation, ensuring that some tall grass habitat was always available to the birds. Activity diminished through Jul, and on 7/30 no Dickcissels were detected (RK). Dickcissels also appeared in fields along Clauss and Hein Rds. near Windsor Castle. Two males sang consistently from utility wires above alfalfa fields 6/1-7/23, and a female was seen 7/6 (KG). Due to wet weather, the alfalfa was not cut till 7/23, possibly allowing time for nesting to be completed, but no breeding evidence was observed. Nearby grass pastures and hayfields that might have served as a refuge for the birds were cut in early to mid-Jul.

Delayed hay cutting due to rainy weather allowed **Bobolinks** time to produce fledglings this year. At the largest known colony along Grist Mill Rd. near Boyertown, about 50 birds, including fledglings following and being fed by adults, were concentrated in the remaining uncut hayfield 7/19 (RK). Smaller colonies of 1-4 birds elsewhere had varying success depending on haying schedules. The largest known concentration of **Eastern Meadowlarks** is in the extensive timothy grass hayfields along Monument and Mountain Rds. in northern Berks, where 6 or more birds were reported, including fledged young in mid-Jun (KG). Elsewhere, only scattered singing males were reported. Conversion of grass hayfields to row crops and alfalfa, more frequent hay cutting, and mowing of fallow land have greatly reduced their numbers from 20th century levels.

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### **Blair County**

Locations: Bald Eagle Sportsmen Cooperative Nursery (BESCN) Canoe Creek S.P. (CC), Frosty Hollow (FH), Lower Trail-Mount Etna (LT), Lower Trail-Coverdale Trailhead (LTC), State Game Lands #278 North (SGLN).

The weather was hot with average rainfall. A total of 122 species was reported. Information was obtained primarily from eBird data.

A very exciting start of June, when a first county record **White-Winged Dove** was discovered on the LTC 6/3 (NB ph., m.ob.); the dove stayed in the area for three days. A first confirmation for the site, at least 4 **Hanslow's Sparrows**, which included singing males, were at SGL 198 on 6/9 (MB).

A single **Hooded Merganser** was along the Frankstown Branch of

the Juniata R. 6/5 (SS), and a lone **Common Merganser** off the LT 6/4 (NB). A **Ring-necked Pheasant** was in a field in Martinsburg 6/12 (MH, RH). Two rare summer **Great Egrets** were together near Tyrone 7/17 (CM), and an uncommon **Black-Crowned Night-Heron** was observed off the path of LTC 6/4 (JV, SS).

The only reported **Black Vulture** was soaring at BESC 6/9 (MN). An **Osprey** was spotted at LT 7/28 (JC, LC). Three **Cooper's Hawks** were in the backyard of an Altoona residence 7/20 (JG). Two **Virginia Rails** were heard at SGLN 6/9 (MN). **American Woodcocks** were abundant at SGL 198 as 6 were found including young 6/9 (MB), and a single was at the Allegheny Portage RR 7/3 (MH, RH). Two **Red-headed Woodpeckers**, uncommon in *Blair*, were at SGLN 7/9 (JC, LC, MN), and one Red-head was discovered at SGL 278 Central 7/11 (MD).

A **White-eyed Vireo** was noted at FH 7/30 (LB). An uncommon **Swainson's Thrush** was heard singing on the LTC 6/5 (JC). Eighteen warbler species were reported. Several **Worm-eating Warblers** were heard around the LT and SGL 118, and a single was at Reservoir Park (NB, JC, LC). **Cerulean Warblers** were reported widely across the LT (see box). A rare **Golden-winged Warbler** was at FH 7/4 (LB). Single **Pine Warblers** were found in SGLN 6/9 (MN), and FH 7/30 (LB). A **Blackpoll Warbler** was heard near the LT 6/2 (JC, LC) and a **Northern Waterthrush** was on the LTC 6/4 (JV).

On June 1,3,4, an annual **Cerulean Warbler** walking survey along the Lower Trail was conducted, adjacent to the Frankstown Branch of the Juniata River in Blair and Huntingdon counties. Over 16.5 miles, 61 singing Cerulean Warblers were counted, compared to 51 in 2015 and 65 in 2016. An additional 47 singing Cerulean Warblers were found during additional June excursions to nearby roads and trails.

Other birds encountered during the Lower Trail survey included **White-winged Dove**, 58 **Acadian Flycatchers**, 20 **Yellow-throated Vireos**, 41 **Warbling Vireos**, 47 **Wood Thrushes**, 17 **Louisiana Waterthrushes**, 126 **American Redstarts**, 7 **Northern Parulas**, 8 **Yellow-throated Warblers**, and 51 **Baltimore Orioles**. (*Nick Bolgiano*)

Nine **Grasshopper Sparrows** were spotted at SGL198 on 6/9 (MB) and single was on Bird Eye Rd. 7/4 (MD). A **Vesper Sparrow** was reported on Fox Run Rd. to Overlook Rd. 6/10 (NB) and a **Savannah Sparrow** was viewed on the same road 6/4 (JV). A pair of **Yellow-breasted Chats** was also found near Fox Run Rd 6/10 and a single on the LTC 6/4 (NB). A **Bobolink** was viewed in the fields near the Bald Eagle intersection 6/29 (MN).

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**Bradford County**  
No compiler

**Bucks County**

Locations: Nockamixon SP (NSP), Penn-Warner Tract (PWT)

The temperature was about 1°F above normal for both months and rainfall totaled about one inch above for the season, but as usual rainfall can vary greatly from spot to spot this time of year. The total count of species reported was 143 for the two-month period. Breeding status for

this year was 81 species confirmed, 20 probable, and 8 possible. Knowledge of breeding status was helped by breeding status code entries in eBird. Three species provided new spring late dates. The standout rarity this season was **Swallow-tailed Kite**. 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.

One out of season waterfowl species was a possibly injured **Lesser Scaup** at Rohm and Haas, Bristol 6/18-7/9 (DF). **Hooded Merganser** nested successfully again at Quakertown Swamp (DF), making it now expected after the first proven nesting in 2015, although nesting was suspected before that. More likely to occur out of season but not reported every year, 2 **Ruddy Ducks** were at Peace Valley Park 6/10 (KK, AM). Also more expected, one alternate plumaged **Common Loon** was at NSP 6/5 (AK), and an imm. bird was at Core Creek Park 7/10-20 (DD, BB, MD), with another at PWT 7/16 (DF). A **Pied-billed Grebe** at Bradford Dam 7/30 (GJ) provided the only report. Breeding has not been reported in a few years.

Some **Great Blue Heron** colonies not reported in the spring report included nest counts as follows: Morgan Creek 33; Three Mile Run 8; and Mill Creek-Warrington 5 (JM). Leaf out may have prevented complete detection of nests. Counts from other known colonies were not reported. Except for **Great Egret**, other post breeding dispersal of egrets/herons was barely noticed. Eight locations hosted Great Egret, with high counts of 3 at Churchville Park 6/10 (KK) and 7/6 (KL), 4 at Bradford Dam 7/24(GJ), and 8 at Core Creek Park 7/29 (DF). Juv. **Little Blue Heron** was limited to the lower county this year in low numbers. Two were at Rohm and Haas 7/16 and one there 7/23 (DF). Three were at PWT 7/29, with 4 there 7/30 (DF). Single **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were at NSP 6/21 (Pte), Morrisville Levee 6/28 (MG ph.), and Silver Lake Park 7/21-7/29 (DD, DF). I keep hoping for proof of breeding after the disappearance of our last known colony over three decades ago. The NSP adult **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** continued from spring until at least 6/5 (BE ph.). It waited for its mate from last year to return, but to my knowledge it never happened. Three juv. **Glossy Ibis** at PWT 7/29-30 provided the only report (DF).

The reported **Osprey** nest count was nine, one up from last year (JM, DF). A **Swallow-tailed Kite** at NSP from 6/1 (BS) to 6/11 (PB) was presumed to be the same bird reported in May at Mechanicsville. This is the first fully documented bird in the county. A **Northern Harrier** at Peace Valley Park 6/4 was well described (JS) and provided a new spring late date. One was also late at Milford Twp. 5/31 (DF). The **Bald Eagle** total active nest count remains at five (JM). Another was built at Franklin Cove, Tullytown, but no activity was seen latter (DF). Two **Virginia Rails** were at LaSalle University-Newtown 6/11 (MG) and 6/12 (AH ph., RS). An **American Coot** at Silver Lake Park 7/3 (DD ph.) added to only a handful of previous Jul reports.

Twelve species of shorebirds were reported despite generally high water levels. All 12 were present at PWT 7/30 and all high counts are from there (DF).

**PWT Shorebird High Counts**

SPECIES	QTY	DATE
Amer. Golden-Plover	1	7/30
Semipalmated Plover	16	7/30
Stilt Sandpiper	1	7/29-30
Least Sandpiper	161	7/9
White-rumped Sandpiper	14	7/30
Pectoral Sandpiper	8	7/30
Semipalmated Sandpiper	~200	7/30
Solitary Sandpiper	3	7/9
Greater Yellowlegs	1	7/23-30
Lesser Yellowlegs	8	7/30

Five gull species were reported. An early juv. **Bonaparte's Gull** was at Peace Valley Park 7/29-31 (AM ph.). Hundreds of **Laughing Gulls**

were at PWT in late Jul as usual (DF). Two **Forster's Terns** were at PWT 7/29 (DF) for the only report. **Black-billed Cuckoo** was almost missed and thus maybe rarer than normal, with one seen multiple times at the same site at NSP 6/2-6/10 (m.ob.) and one at Tyler SP 7/10 (RK). A juv. **Barred Owl** at Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve 6/21 (KJ) confirmed breeding at that site again. Seven **Common Nighthawks** were presumed late migrants 6/6 (BSt), since breeding has not been reported for decades. There have been reports in Jun in eBird only four other times since 2006. The **Red-headed Woodpeckers** at SGL #157 had 2 fledged juvs. 7/23 (PTa, JR, LR, ph.). Another regular site in Buckingham Twp. reported for several years was finally confirmed as a breeding site with a fledged juv. 7/25 (DS).

**American Kestrel** nest box efforts were successful again (see table) (DF).

#### American Kestrel Project

YEAR	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
BOXES	76	71	71	70	73
NESTS w/EGGS	60	52	44	45	34
NESTS FAILED	8	3	6	8	7
NESTS FLEDGED	52	49	38	37	27
EGGS LAID	274	248	211	208	135
FLEDGED	208	203	164	169	94

All nestlings were banded except one with a leg defect taken to rehab where it was fixed and released. Incredibly, two of this year's fledglings banded in the nest had foreign recoveries 7/31 far from Bucks. One banded in Bedminster Twp. 6/11 was recovered at a banding station near John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York City. The other banded 6/21 at Nockamixon Twp. was found dead near Harrisburg International Airport (DF). A **Merlin** at NSP 6/2 established a new spring late date (DF). One of our previously known **Peregrine Falcon** nest sites failed, but the other fledged 3 juvs. (AMc). A new nest site was active, but the outcome is unknown due to lack of monitoring (AMc).

A presumed family group of **Common Ravens** at Kintnersville continued, with a high count of 7 on 6/7 (EB ph.). Buckingham Springs had a high of 3 on 7/3 (BK), and one was at Delaware Valley University 7/4 (BB). The confirmed breeding pair of **Horned Larks** at Maple Knoll Farms was still there 6/4 (RS). One near Richlandtown 6/10 and 2 at Milford 7/23 give additional evidence of some continued breeding attempts in the county.

Following is a summary of the large **Purple Martin** colony in East Rockhill Twp. provided by the land owner (HR). Again, the owner recognized the contribution that DF made in managing the colony. Cool and wet weather early in the season reducing food supply and 2 Cooper's Hawks were considered the probable causes of much lower production this year. Fledging continued later in the season to the last week of Aug, and about 20 birds were still coming in to roost on 8/26, which also was much later than usual.

#### Purple Martin Colony-E. Rockhill

YEAR	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
GOURDS	132	134	124	124	91
NESTS*	126	119	121	119	90
NESTS w/EGGS	73	96	92	74	77
EGGS LAID**	273	459	388	251	279
EGGS HATCHED	112	364	226	N/A	N/A
FLEDGED	108	346	211	165	225
FAILED NESTS	37	9	25	18	0

\*Nests means 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.

Another colony is now being managed by DF at the PWT. House Sparrow was a serious issue for this colony.

#### Purple Martin Colony-Penn-Warner Tract

YEAR	2017
COMPARTMENTS	60
NESTS	38
NESTS w/EGGS	29
EGGS LAID	90
EGGS HATCHED	41
FLEDGED	32
FAILED NESTS	15

The PWT **Bank Swallow** colony was again active with an estimated 100 nests (DF).

The total warbler species count was 15, but with few highlights. No breeding sites were reported for **Chestnut-sided Warbler**, but one was presumed a somewhat late migrant at Churchville Park 6/3 (TM, ML). The spring Yellow-throated Warbler at Riegelsville was not reported in Jun (EB) and no others were reported. A **Black-throated Green Warbler** provided a new late spring date at Churchville Park 6/3 (BB, ML, BSt).

As last year while checking American Kestrel boxes, scarcely reported grassland species were detected (DF). Two **Savannah Sparrows** were heard singing near Dublin 6/10 and one was singing at Blooming Glen 6/18-26 (DF). The only other eBird entry was in Jun to early Jul near Maple Knoll Farms (RS), where up to 4 were noted. Also, four **Grasshopper Sparrow** sites were found (DF). Otherwise, Van Sant Airport was the most reliable site to see the latter species as usual (m.ob.).

The reclassified **Yellow-breasted Chat** was at Dark Hollow Park, Warwick Twp. 6/9-10 (GJ, SG), for the only report. **Blue Grosbeaks** were at PWT through the period as usual (DF), and a pair nested again at Maple Knoll Farms (RS). A presumed breeding pair was discovered at Buckingham 7/21 and continued there (MD). The **Bobolink** breeding site in Tincicum Twp. that is not mowed too early had at least 25 juvs. for another successful year (DA). Tincicum Twp. has other sites in hay fields but no counts were reported. Incredibly, no **Eastern Meadowlarks** were reported in eBird, but a few were noticed while checking the kestrel boxes (DF).

*Corrigenda:* In Volume 31, No. 1 for winter 2016-2017, the table showing Wild Turkey CBC History had 16 in the TOTAL row for 2016. That should have been 40.

In Volume 31, No. 2- in the last paragraph, the sentence "QTS is a major location for Bobolinks, but often not quantified, so a minimum high count of 387 on 4/11 (DFa) was welcome". refers to **Rusty Blackbirds**, not Bobolinks.

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#### Butler County

Locations: State Game Lands 95 (SGL 95), Slippery Rock Township (SRT).

The second half of June saw lots of rain, and lots of bugs to feed the birds. Due to rainy weather through July, lakes were full and streams were high, limiting already scarce shorebird habitat. Accordingly, only one shorebird species was reported besides **Killdeer**, that being **Spotted**

**Sandpiper**, which successfully reared young at State Game Lands 95 (GW, JW). Compared with two species this summer, eight shorebird species were reported last summer. For the second summer season in a row, Upland Sandpiper was not reported.

Two **Mute Swans** were at Zelenople 6/25 (KY). Not unexpectedly, **Wood Ducks** and **Mallards** were the most frequently noted ducks. A **Ring-necked Duck** lingered at Barkley Rd. until 6/10 (MV) and a lone **Hooded Merganser** was at Squaw Valley Woodlands 6/4 (DW). Both **Hooded Mergansers** and **Common Mergansers** successfully bred in the Wolf Creek- Slippery Rock Creek area (GW, JW). An adult female Common Merganser and 11 young was a nice find at Wolf Creek 7/16 (RN).

Two **Great Egret** were at Barkley Rd. 6/10 and were still there 7/1 (MV). Likely the third county record, the surprise of the season was an immature **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** at Glade Run Lake 7/5 (JL, RM, et al). It was last seen on 7/7. The cool wet weather kept spring concentrations of 100 **Turkey Vultures** at Butler and 50 near Slippery Rock Borough until 6/30 (GW, JW). An occupied **Osprey** nest was found at SGL 95 on 6/9 (BB). This location was not revealed during the Osprey survey of 2016 and represents at least the sixth nest site in *Butler*. **Bald Eagle** was reported regularly through the season at Lake Arthur, Lake Oneida, and SGL 95. The only **Northern Harrier** reported was at SGL 95 on 6/3 (BB).

**Virginia Rail** was noted at SGL 95 on 6/3 and 7/12 (BB). Six (4 adult, 2 imm.) **Sandhill Cranes** made the grain fields in Slippery Rock Twp. their favorite feeding grounds to the end of the season (GW, JW). As usual, **Black-billed Cuckoo** reports outnumbered **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** by a five to one margin. Only one report of **Common Nighthawk** was submitted, a lone bird at Hooker Rd. 6/8 (BB). Unfortunately, the historic SRT **Red-headed Woodpecker** colony was devastated by multiple rain/wind storms, felling most of the old, dead, oak trees used for nesting. At least several colonies still exist with breeding confirmed at Clay Twp. 7/11 (BB). Northern *Butler* appears to be at the southern limit of **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** breeding range. Recently fledged young were spotted at CT 7/11 (BB).

At least 6 pairs **American Kestrels** nested in the northern tier of the county, an encouraging comeback from last year's single site (GW, JW). A **Peregrine Falcon** was spotted along Tr. 422 near Butler 6/26 (SV). **Common Raven** was seen in 4 widely separated locations between 6/21 and 7/15 (m.ob). Prior to 2007, raven sightings in *Butler* were very unusual: now they are seen year-round and perhaps will establish a nest site. Two pairs of **Red-breasted Nuthatch** that remained in SRT through the winter and spring bred successfully for the first time since the BBA 11 years ago (GW, JW).

Fifteen species of warblers were reported this season: **Ovenbird**, **Louisiana Waterthrush**, **Blue-winged Warbler**, **Black and White Warbler**, **Kentucky Warbler**, **Common Yellowthroat**, **Hooded Warbler**, **American Redstart**, **Northern Parula**, **Yellow Warbler**, **Chestnut-sided Warbler**, **Yellow-throated warbler**, **Prairie Warbler**, **Black-throated Green Warbler** and **Yellow-breasted Chat**. Recorded in June for only the third time in 10 years, Northern Parula was only seen once, at McDanel Boat Launch 6/9 (MK). Listed as a probable breeder in only two locations in *Butler* (second BBA), the bird was probably a late migrant. Listed as a confirmed breeder in only one location in *Butler*, a Yellow-throated Warbler was heard singing at Butler-Freeport Trail 7/15 (KSJ). Also, seen only once was Yellow-breasted Chat, at SGL 95 on 6/9 (BB). All usual grassland sparrows were noted, mostly in the northern tier areas. Breeding in nearby *Clarion* but not in *Butler*, a **Clay-colored Sparrow** was heard at SGL 95 on 6/9 (BB). Perhaps they will start a colony here.

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Spence, Shannon Thompson, Clark Trauterman, Steve Valasek, Mark Vass, Dan Weeks, Gene Wilhelm, Joanne Wilhelm, Kaplan Yalcin.

### **Cambria County**

Locations: Prince Gallitzin SP (PG), Rt.36 area (R36), St. Lawrence (STL).

For the fourth consecutive year, **Hooded Mergansers** were confirmed breeding in northern *Cambria*. As in previous years all have been hens with young and all sightings have been in different locations. **Wild Turkeys** and **Ruffed Grouse** were hit hard by the wet weather. The most poults I have seen with hen turkeys has been 4. I have not seen any grouse with young. A **Great Egret** was at PG during the second week of June (DG). **Ospreys** continue to be seen at PG throughout the period. It is likely there is a nest, but it has not been found. Four **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were heard at STL in early June (DG).

**Willow Flycatchers** were very common in and around the PG area (TA, DG, JS). For the eighth year in a row, **Purple Martins** have nested at PG. This year, 13 pairs fledged 53 young. A single **Louisiana Waterthrush** was at a small stream near PG 6/7 (DG). A trip to a reclaimed strip site near Rt. 36 on 6/12 yielded **Field Vesper**, **Savannah Grasshopper**, and **Henslow's Sparrows** (DG). While still easy to find breeding **Bobolinks** and **Eastern Meadowlarks**, their preference for hayfields lessens their chances of success.

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### **Carbon County**

No compiler

### **Cameron County**

Locations: Elk SF--Hicks Run (HR), Gibson Twp. (GT), Sinnemahoning SP (SSP), Sterling Run (SR).

The only notable waterfowl reports were of **Common Mergansers** at 3 locations including 7 at SSP 6/16 (DH) and 7/31 (DW), one along PA 120 in GT 6/16 (DH), and 6 at CM 6/24 and one at CM 6/25 (AB). Single **Ruffed Grouse** were noted at SSP and at SR 6/16 (DH). Despite *Cameron* usually boasting a good number of **Bald Eagles** in any given season, only one was reported, from SSP 6/16 (DH). A **Spotted Sandpiper** was at SSP 6/16 (DH). **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were at SSP 6/16 (DH) and at CM 6/25 (AB).

The only **Black-billed Cuckoo** was seen at SR 6/16 (DH). The only owl reported was a single **Barred Owl** at SR 6/16. Two **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were also noted at SR 6/16 (DH). **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were at both SR and SSP on 6/16 (DH). Not a very common bird in this part of the state, an **Acadian Flycatcher** was reported from SSP 6/16, as were other *Empidonax* flycatchers including 2 **Alder Flycatchers**, one **Willow Flycatcher**, and 2 **Least Flycatchers** (DH). Least Flycatchers were also found at HR 6/24 and CM 6/24-25 (AB).

**Yellow-throated Vireos** were reported from SSP and GT 6/16 (DH). A common breeder in *Cameron*, **Blue-headed Vireos** were found at SR and SSP 6/16 (DH). The only **Warbling Vireo** was at SSP 6/16 (DH). **Common Ravens** were found in a variety of locations throughout the county as usual (AB, DH). Small numbers of **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were reported from CM, GT, and SSP, all of which also hosted nesting **Cliff Swallows**, with a nice count of 37 made at SSP (AB, DH). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were found at SR and SSP 6/16. Other northern species like **Brown Creeper**, **Winter Wren**, and **Golden-crowned Kinglet** were also found at SSP 6/16 (DH). Two Golden-crowned Kinglets, possibly the same ones, were seen again at SSP 7/31 (DW). **Veery** was reported from CM and SSP, and its cousin the **Hermit**

**Thrush** was found at SR and SSP 6/16 (DH).

A total of 19 warbler species were recorded, from various locations - some of the more notable breeders being **Louisiana Waterthrush**, **Northern Waterthrush**, **Black-and-white Warbler**, **Mourning Warbler**, **Cerulean Warbler**, **Northern Parula**, **Magnolia Warbler**, **Blackburnian Warbler**, **Black-throated Blue Warbler**, **Pine Warbler**, **Yellow-rumped Warbler**, and **Prairie Warbler** (AB, DH, DW). The strip mines at SR have likely produced the most unusual birds, since open grassland habitat is hard to find in mostly forested *Cameron*. Three **Grasshopper Sparrows** were a good find, but more interesting was the continuation of the **Henslow's Sparrows**, found back in May, with 2 seen 6/16 (DH), perhaps the first time this species has bred in the county. On the more common side, **Dark-eyed Juncos** were found at scattered locations throughout the county (AB, DH). To add to the grassland species at SR, an **Eastern Meadowlark** was also there 6/16 (DH). Two **Purple Finches** were found at both SR and SSP 6/16 (DH), and again at SSP 7/31 (DW).

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### Centre County

Locations: Bald Eagle S.P. (BESP), Governor Tom Ridge Wetland Preserve (GTRWP), Scotia Barrens and Pond (SCO)

Information for this report were obtained primarily from eBird and the State College Bird Club listserv with background and status information from *Birds of Central Pennsylvania* by NiB and Greg Grove, 2010 (B&G, 2010).

An emaciated swan rescued in State College prompted a lively discussion on the State College Bird Club listserv about whether it was a Tundra Swan or an untagged Trumpeter Swan. Although many felt the field marks indicated Trumpeter Swan, measurements of toe and bill length matched those for **Tundra Swan** as described in the Pyle II Guide (RG, et al.).

Three rare summer ducks were found. A female **Redhead**, who appears to have taken up residence at the Duck Pond, was reported 6/7-7/17 (NiB, et al.). Two **Hooded Mergansers** were observed at Dowdy's Hole 7/1 (KE), and another was present along the Allegheny Front Trail/Shingle Mill Trail 7/23 (NiB). A flock of **Common Mergansers** was spotted at various locations between Curtin and BESP. Fourteen flew over Dowdy's Hole 7/22 (KE), 17 were spotted by kayakers on Bald Eagle Cr. Between Curtin and Bullit Run 7/29 (L&JC), and a dozen were at BESP 7/29 (JP).

Although considered to be extirpated, occasional **Northern Bobwhites** are reported. Between 6/27-7/19, there were multiple eBird reports of at least 2 at the Stan Yoder Memorial Preserve. These are almost certainly escapees as someone raises them nearby. (AM, et al.). A rare summer **Common Loon** was spotted at BESP 6/4 (L&JC), and 2 were there 7/22-29 (JP). A **Pied-billed Grebe** was at the Duck Pond 7/17 (JoC).

Up to 4 **Double-crested Cormorants** were noted at BESP 6/4-7/30 (BC, et al.). A few were also present at Colyer L., with as many as 4 noted 6/7-10 (JV, CE, MR) and 2 there 7/31 (NW). Kayaking birders saw 2 along Bald Eagle Cr. between Curtin and Bullit Run 7/29 (L&JC). A rare summer **Great Egret** was "resplendent in the morning sun sharing the top of a pine with a **Great Blue Heron**" at the Fisherman's Paradise fish hatchery 6/20 (DF, JP). It was still there 6/21, this time in the company of 33 Great Blue Herons (JL). Single Great Egrets were also spotted at Colyer L. 7/21-31 (CE, JD, NW) and BESP 7/22-29 (AM, et al.).

Although rare, **Ospreys** were widely reported throughout the summer. A pair of **Northern Harriers** was seen "flying over the fields together" at the Rusnak Hill reclaimed strip-mine 6/9 (JP). Two rare summer rails were reported. A **Virginia Rail** was at the GTRWP 6/3, and one was heard giving "kiddik" calls at Scotia 7/4 (both L&JC). A **Sora** was

doing its whinny call at a wetland on private property near Port Matilda 7/9-11 (PW).

One, possibly 2, late migrating **Semipalmated Plovers** were observed. One was in the fields along S. Nixon Rd. 6/2-3 (JV, JP, CE), and nearby along Tadpole Rd. 6/3 (JV). An **Upland Sandpiper**, a casual species, was recorded calling at night as it flew over State College, part of an automated nocturnal flight call count 7/31 (JG). Up to a dozen **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were present in a muddy pond along S. Nixon Rd. 6/2 (JV, JP), one was at BESP 6/4-11 (BC, AuC), and another, presumably southbound, was also spotted at BESP 7/30 (BC, AuC). A rare **Wilson's Snipe** was observed "fossicking in the ruts of the tire tracks on the very wet road? parallel to the left border of Curtin Wetlands" 6/18 (JD). A single **Lesser Yellowlegs** foraged along the beach at BESP 6/4 (L&JC). Two **Caspian Terns** were spotted at BESP 6/2 (IP), and 3 were seen feeding near the Howard Causeway, also at BESP, 6/24 (BC, AuC).

Sixteen owlets in two **Barn Owl** nests west of Coburn were banded 6/29. Two adults were also visible (JG). This location is the only known nesting site in *Centre*. Single **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were observed on Panther Rd. 6/22 (DB) and along Bald Eagle Cr. northeast of BESP 7/22 (DR). A rare summer **Merlin** was spotted in the top of a tree in Lederer Park 7/30 (CE, ph). This is the second breeding season report of this species; according to eBird, the first was 6/23/2012 in SGL 100. There are no summer records listed in *B&G, 2010*. Another rare falcon was observed along Rte. 322 in SGL 33 7/29 where a **Peregrine Falcon** took "off from the cliff along the road [and] then flew directly overhead" (L&JC).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was noted along Steele Hollow Rd. 6/4 (JP), probably a late spring migrant. Most **Bank Swallow** reports were from BESP, where up to 15 were present 6/2-4 (BC, L&JC). However, one was also noted at the GTRWP 6/3 (L&JC). A rare summer **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was spotted at the Duck Pond 6/26 (L&JC).

Twenty-five warbler species were observed, of which three are considered rare. Two **Northern Waterthrush** were reported along Bear Meadows Rd. 6/3 (JP, SB), and one was present in the Bear Meadows Natural Area 6/8-14 (CE, JP). One was also noted along the Allegheny Front Trail and the Shingle Mill Trail 7/23 (NiB), and an automated nocturnal flight call count in State College also recorded one 7/28 (JG). Two **Mourning Warblers**, presumably late migrants, were reported 6/3, one at the PSU Arboretum (TC) and one in the Scotia Barrens (JB). Up to 3 **Yellow-throated Warblers** were frequently noted in Unionville 6/6-7/17 (DO, SB). Another was present in the Spring Creek Canyon 6/18 (AM).

A single **Henslow's Sparrow** was heard calling in grasslands off Black Moshannon Rd. east of Philipsburg 6/1 (JV). An accidental species in *Centre*, a **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was spotted near Spring Mills 5/31 (AIS *fide* CK). It was seen by several observers and last reported 6/3 (JV, et al.).

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### Chester County

Locations: Bucktoe Creek Preserve (BCP), Exton Park (EP), Marsh Creek State Park (MCSP)

The season's weather was relatively mild, overall. A few expected heat waves and an ample supply of rainstorms reminded one it was summer. Habitat for southbound shorebirds proved to be scarce, due to constant supply of rain. Summer birding can be slow, but birders nonetheless scoured the county in pursuit of breeding birds, irruptive species, and vagrants. The season had a few stand-out birds, but the most significant was a Swallow-tailed Kite spotted over Exton Park during a birdwalk there in June!

Some lingering waterfowl, none with breeding records here, were reported through the season. A drake **Ring-necked Duck** was found on the lake at MCSP 6/28 (PV). A surprise was the finding of a hen **Hooded Merganser** accompanied by 5 ducklings at Great Marsh 6/15 (BB). This encounter seems to confirm breeding for Hooded Merganser in the county. Habitat in this location is ample for this cavity nesting duck, and the ducklings were young enough to suggest that they'd fledged nearby. There are no nesting records in recent history, and this may prove the first, making this the most notable breeding record of the year. A **Common Merganser** hen took up summer residence at MCSP, and was encountered continuously by birders visiting the lake (m.ob.). Three **Ruddy Ducks** added to the array of lingering waterfowl in Jun, found 6/8 at MCSP (HM).

A very late **Red-throated Loon** discovered on the lake at MCSP 6/14 (DH) lingered through 6/15 (PV). This is the only known summer record for this species in *Chester*. Up to 2 **Common Loons** in non-breeding plumage were seen through summer in the same location. Finding a **Pied-billed Grebe** in summer is not expected, so one at MCSP 6/4 was a surprise, and thought to be late in its migration north (MH, LD). Another Pied-bill was at Longwood Gardens 7/30 (JF), possibly an early fall migrant. A single **Double-crested Cormorant**, uncommon in summer, was present Jun and Jul at MCSP (m.ob.). A vocal **Least Bittern** was detected in late May at MCSP, and continued into early Jun. It was not detected again until 7/30, but attempts to confirm nesting were unsuccessful.

Single **Osprey** were detected during the breeding season around area lakes, which is not unusual, but this raptor still maintains its status as a non-breeder here. A **Swallow-tailed Kite** seen in flight over EP 6/8 was the highlight of the season (JMe, et al.)! The kite managed to put on a show as it circled over the park, ultimately heading northwest, providing great looks for all present on the weekly bird-walk. This species has not been documented in the county since 1980. The kite watch at BCP recorded 2 **Mississippi Kites** in early June one each 6/1 and 6/2 (LL, m.ob.), adding to the grand total of 6 seen in 2017.

There were no reports of rails within the county during the summer. While these birds are fairly secretive, summer reports of Virginia Rail and Sora, are not unusual in appropriate habitat. The absence of reports could be that birders did not actively seek them out. Northward shorebird migration ends around the first week in Jun, but southbound migrants start appearing in Jul., as evidenced by a few species being noted, such as 3 **Least Sandpipers** at Exton Park 7/18-20 (HM), and a couple **Solitary Sandpipers** found in late Jul at the Exton Walmart Wetlands, 7/20-23 (CH, MH) and Somerset L. 7/27 (JS).

A single **Black-billed Cuckoo** was heard and spotted at BCP 7/16 (IS), marking the only reported of this low-density breeding species in *Chester*. The Goat Hill Serpentine Barrens is the best place to seek the **Eastern Whip-poor-will** in southeast *Pennsylvania*. This summer, the high count recorded there was 6 on 7/15 (SP). The consistent sightings of a pair of **Peregrine Falcons** along the Schuylkill R. in the Cromby region north of Phoenixville is suggestive of possible nesting, however this was not confirmed (RK, m.ob.).

A well-established **Purple Martin** colony at the Kennett Square Senior Center experienced a complete collapse this year (DM). This colony, which typically fledged over 100 martins a year for at least the previous 15 years, reported no returning martins, and was completely inactive in 2017. This year was known to be difficult for martins in the region, with many active colonies reporting attrition, and far fewer fledglings than is typical. The cool, rainy spring is thought to be the biggest contributing factor to the difficulties. On a positive note, the colony of martins at Longwood Gardens did better this year than last. DM

banded 56 young this year, compared to last year's 27.

There were 3 reports of **Worm-eating Warbler**, a low-density nesting species in *Chester*, requiring specific habitat which is becoming more scarce due to changes in land use and deer browsing. The most notable record of this warbler was one wearing a brood patch caught in a mist net at Rushton Farm Banding Station in Jul. The brood patch suggests breeding activity, although that was never confirmed. Another Worm-eater was reported from Goat Hill Serpentine Barrens 6/21 (JA), which is one of the best places in the county to seek them out. Warwick CP held another 6/24 (JW, PW). Coventry Woods hosted at least one **Kentucky Warbler**, 6/28 (JW, PW). A surprise was an adult, and presumed juvenile Kentucky Warbler, noted from Binky Lee Preserve 7/4 (SB, VS). This is another species that has experienced a decline in the region, presumably due to habitat loss, specifically forest fragmentation. Binky Lee is a new location for them. A shocking high count for **Hooded Warblers** came from the Buzzard Trail near French Creek SP where 10 were recorded 7/2 (JW, PW). This species is scarce anywhere else in the county during the nesting period, except the northern-most fringes, near the *Berks* border. Again this season, there were no reports of Cerulean Warbler, marking a several year streak of absence in the county during the nesting period.

**Grasshopper Sparrows**, which flourish in vast grasslands, were found where that habitat abounds, in the Doe Run region, and especially horse pastures (m.ob.). Amish farm lands in Honey Brook also support this species, with several noted 7/13 and 7/30 (LW). **Swamp Sparrows** are another sparrow with specialized needs for breeding habitat, and are typically found only in areas that can support that. The Great Marsh reliably hosts nesting Swamps, and the species was noted from there multiple occasions (BB, BQ). The species was also noted at BCP 6/27 (AU) and Kirkwood Preserve 7/10 (NP). A single **Savannah Sparrow** was noted along Given Rd. in Honey Brook, 7/13 (LW). This species is scarce in summer, and probably only breeds in a handful of locations, mostly due to limited suitable landscapes for nesting.

During the breeding season, **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** are typically only found in the northern edges of the county, which define the limit of their breeding range in SE Pennsylvania and this year was no exception (m.ob.). It was a good year for an incursion of **Dickcissels** into Pennsylvania. Reports began in May and continued into July, suggestive of breeding. A pair first discovered in late May on Scott Rd. continued until 6/10, on which date the pastures along that road were mowed and following which the birds were no longer detected. A single Dickcissel on a private farm in Kennett Square provided a terrific discovery 6/10 (JS) and led to the observer ultimately finding 3 there in late Jun that stayed through 7/3. Despite close observation, no breeding behavior was detected. After 7/3, the species had presumably abandoned the farm, as it was no longer found.

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#### **Clarion County**

Locations: Curlsville (CV), Mt Airy (MA), Mt Zion/Piney Tract/SGL 330

(MZ), Redbank Valley Trail (RVT).

While there wasn't as much specific breeding information obtained this year for **Northern Harriers**, they were observed in four of their traditional locations over the season, indicating at least attempted nesting again. At MZ, one was observed 6/1-6/13 (KSJ, MS, MVT, CW). At MA, both male and female were observed 6/1-7/9 (AIB, TH, EM, MVT). At the CV strips site, 2 birds were seen 6/1-26 (AB, MH, RH, AK, RR), and a single was there again 7/8 (KP). On Rankin Rd near CV, one adult was present 6/26 (AG, MH, RH). At a new nesting site along the Clarion River at the Canoe Ripple Bridge near Callensburg, a juvenile **Bald Eagle** was still at the nest, fully feathered and appearing about ready to fledge 6/4 (CW). This makes at least three currently active, successful nesting sites just in the southern part of the county.

**Upland Sandpipers** again returned to their traditional spot at MA, with one observed along Morris Rd from 6/2-13 (AK, SS). With changing land practices at this site, including increased use of the land for crops instead of pasture or hay field, it will be a challenge for this species to continue. The only reported falcon was a **Merlin** at MZ 6/1 (DF, MVT). With scattered observations from around this area the past several years, it would be rewarding to locate an active nest for this expanding species.

One of the least reported vireos in the county is **White-eyed Vireo**, so a report from 7/15 at SGL 74 is welcome (RN). There is some excellent habitat for the species at this little visited location. Also poorly recorded is **Warbling Vireo**, this year noted continuing from spring at MA 6/13 (AK). One was also noted near Lawsonham on the RVT 6/2 (SS), and 2 along the same trail at New Bethlehem 6/7 (J&AK).

A previously unknown colony of **Purple Martins** was "discovered" at an Amish farm near Fryburg in northern *Clarion* 7/10 (FM). Twenty birds were seen that day, however the homeowner reported 40 known nests and likely over 60 young this season. At this same location, 4 birds were observed 7/15 (DG, GG). The only thrush of note was **Hermit Thrush**, which continues to populate small pockets of remaining hemlock/pine habitat along sections of the Clarion River and its tributaries that remain untouched from the strip mining of past days. This remaining habitat provides a nesting area for this species more typically found north of I-80 and in more mountainous regions. This year they were found at MZ in an area rarely visited by birders. Three singing males remained active at this site from spring, noted on the river side of the main grassland 6/8, where hillside hemlocks meet reclaimed strip mine (CW). They were also found just outside the boundaries of MZ, along Mauthe Rd where it traverses hillside hemlock habitat on its way down to the Clarion River. Two were noted here 6/26 (AB, MH, RH) and one 7/8 (TH).

**Worm-eating Warblers** continue to be worthy of mention in the warbler line-up, as they are so habitat specific and less common west of the central mountains. At Sarah Furnace along the Allegheny River, one singing male was present 6/2 (SS). Along the RVT heading east from Lawsonham, 5 were found along a 3.5 mile stretch 7/11, with one bird seen carrying food to confirm breeding (CW). They continued along the trail late into the season, with a single bird still singing near Redbank 7/20 (CW) and again 7/27 (KD, BG). Breeding **Mourning Warblers** are a rarity for the county, being near the southern edge of their range west of the mountains. A new location was found this year that might provide suitable habitat for a short time. At SGL 24 near Tylersburg, a single bird was located in a regenerating select cut 6/16 (MW). At this same location, a female was observed and a singing male heard 7/10 (CW), and one was still present 7/15 (DG, GG). In contrast, **Kentucky Warblers** are on the northern edge of their range, and continue to be very sparsely reported despite some quality habitat along the southern border. The only sighting was a singing male found unusually late along the RVT near Redbank 7/20 (CW). While **Yellow-rumped Warblers** have expanded their range in recent years, reports during breeding season are still unusual, especially in the southern part of the county. There is suitable habitat in some old strip mine sites planted in pine and larch, and this is where 2 singing males were located at MZ 6/8, across from the main grassland site (CW). A female was also noted at this location 7/8 (TH). **Yellow-throated Warblers** are last in the line up, and like Kentucky Warblers,

are near the northern end of their range in the county. They are almost always found in riparian corridors and this year they continued from spring along the RVT near Lawsonham, with a singing male still there 6/2 (SS).

Both **Grasshopper** and **Henslow's Sparrows** had showings of typical numbers this year throughout their usual grassland habitat, primarily in southern *Clarion*. **Clay-colored Sparrow** is starting to become more difficult to find, likely due to the ephemeral nature of their preferred habitat of shrubby, overgrown fields. As many of the reclaimed strip mine sites become increasingly grown up with woody plants, and have less open area, this species appears to be abandoning sites. At their most reliable location at CV strips, only a single bird was reported, 6/13 (AK), and again 7/27 (KD, BG). At MZ, only one bird was reported, on 7/9 (EM), and at MA, a single singing male was heard and seen from 6/4-13 (TH, AK, SS). A new location for Clay-colored Sparrows starting last year is a grassland and pine area at SGL 74 near Strattanville, where a singing male continued from spring through 7/16 (MH, RN, MS, CW). **Vesper Sparrow** continues to be the grassland sparrow with the fewest sightings - the only one noted was at MA 6/13 (AK).

The biggest news was another incursion of **Dickcissels**, similar to the last ones in 2012 and 2013. This year, they were found in two locations. First, at MA, a singing male was seen 6/11 (RR) and again 6/13 (AK). At a grassland area along Skyline Dr near CV, 2 birds were found 7/1 (AB) and 3 were seen there 7/5, including a female and two singing males (CW). Up to 3 individuals continued to be seen there through 7/11 (MH, TH, EM, KP, CW). At this same location one female and one juvenile bird were found 7/29, confirming breeding (TH).

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#### **Clearfield County**

A **Common Loon** was seen at Curwensville Lake 7/28 (AS). Two **Merlin** chicks were observed at a nest in DuBois 7/10 with evidence that there was at least one more in the nest (DN). Two **American Avocets** were at Bimini Lake 7/7 (DR). A **Short-Eared Owl** continued to be observed in Morris Township 6/29 (DB). Two **Alder Flycatchers** were seen and heard along Wallace Mine Road in the Moshannon State Forest 6/16 (DR). A male **Dickcissel** was seen and heard singing in a locust tree near Luthersburg 6/20 (DN, DR) and 6/22 (DR).

**Observers:** Diane K. Bierly, 143 W. Lytle Ave., State College, PA 16801. (814) 238-8183, [dkb246@usa.net](mailto:dkb246@usa.net), Don Nixon, Dan Richards, Alex Sharp.

#### **Clinton County**

Locations: Mill Hall (MH).

The **American Kestrel** nest at Swisssdale fledged 5 young during the fourth week of June (WL).

In late June, *Clinton* was host to a number of **Dickcissels** at the county fairgrounds entrance near MH, where 2 singing males were found in a weedy field 6/26 (BS). This represents the second county record. Several more, including females, were subsequently found. These birds were part of the irruption into the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic from apparent drought conditions in the Midwestern U.S. Nesting was soon confirmed from two locations and at least one was successful. This represents the first county nesting record for Dickcissel. They were reported frequently throughout the period (m.ob.).

At the same MH location another great county bird was discovered when an immature male **Blue Grosbeak** was reported 7/7 (BS). It was seen through at least 7/12. This is a possible first county record. An earlier 2012 record has raised some accuracy concerns.

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

### **Columbia County**

Locations: Catawissa River Bridge (CRB), Fort McClure Boulevard (FMB), Home Depot (HD), State Game Lands 55 (SGL55).

Summer is always a slow season, and in lightly birded *Columbia*, reports were few and far between. It was a relatively wet two months that produced unusually good shorebird habitat along Fort McClure Boulevard in Bloomsburg.

The season's first returning shorebird was a **Solitary Sandpiper** at FMB 7/23 (AK); a high of 8 were reported 7/30-7/31 (AK). Up to 4 **Lesser Yellowlegs** were at FMB 7/26 (AK). A brightly marked juvenile **Pectoral Sandpiper** was at FMB 7/30-7/31 (AK).

**Cliff Swallows** were reported from the CRB when 6 were found 6/25 (MD). This species typically nests on the downstream side of the river bridge in small numbers each year. **Cerulean Warbler** provided the only notable warbler sighting for the season. An adult was observed carrying food in SGL55 on 6/21 (JL). Nests were observed at this location in the spring, so it appears as though they have been successful fledging young. The undeveloped fields near HD produced 4 **Savannah Sparrows** and one **Grasshopper Sparrow** 7/10 (AK). This is a reliable location for both species.

Observers: **Andy Keister, 110 Hawk Ridge Road, Bloomsburg, 17815, (570) 337-3802, akeister110@gmail.com**, Matthew Danihel, Judith Lynn.

### **Crawford County**

Locations: Pymatuning S.P.-Fish Hatchery (P S.P.-FH); Pymatuning-Miller's Ponds (P S.P.-MP); Pymatuning S.P.-Wilson Rd. (P S.P.-WR).

The summer season was particularly notable for the number of unexpected species observed. Three of these were birds which are unexpected at any time of the year, making them even more notable. Of course the possibility that these birds engaged in breeding activity here adds to the level of excitement. Thankfully, a number of people were able to observe these birds and share in the documenting of their presence.

Late reports of **Gadwall** included a single bird at P S.P.- FH 6/6 (MV), a single at the same location 6/8 (BB, RMD, MV), and 2 at Conneaut Marsh-McMichael Rd. 6/9 (RR). Observations of **American Black Duck** are uncommon in the summer, so sightings including a single bird at P S.P.-FH 6/2 (MV), one in the Pymatuning area 7/19 (HK), 2 at P S.P.-MP 7/19 (SD), and a single at Pymatuning S.P.-Dam 7/19 (EP) are especially notable. A **Blue-winged Teal** observed at P S.P.-FH 6/16 was a late date for this species (MV). Two late **Northern Shovelers** were observed at Conneaut Marsh-McMichael Rd. 6/1 (MS). Observations of **Ruddy Duck**, notable for the summer season, included 2 at Pymatuning S.P.-Spillway 6/1 (MS), 5 at the same location 6/2 (RL), one at P S.P.-FH 6/30 (MV), and 3 in the Pymatuning area 7/1 (JF).

The only report of **Ruffed Grouse** was of one juvenile at SGL 69-Turkey Track Rd. 7/9 (KP, TN). Observations of **Least Bittern**, a great bird for the county, included singles at Conneaut Marsh-McMichael Rd. 6/18 (AJ, CL) and Geneva Marsh 6/23 (JL). Observations of **Great Egret**, a regular but notable bird during the summer, occurred in the expected locations and numbers (m.ob.). A single **Black-crowned Night-Heron**

observed at P S.P.-FH 7/30 (RL) provided the only observation of this notable species.

A very good count, 7 **Ospreys** were at Woodcock Lake 6/28 (RL). Sightings of **Broad-winged Hawk** are notable in summer. Observations included 2 at Woodcock Lake 6/18 (AJ), a single at private residence in the Meadville area throughout July (TN), and a single near Tamarack Lake 7/9 (RL). A **Peregrine Falcon** reported in the Pymatuning area 7/22 (SD) is a great observation for summer. Of exceptional note were continued visual and aural observations of **King Rail**, observed at Geneva Marsh since 5/18 and reported through 7/1 (m.ob.). Of particular note were 2 birds, one of which was photographed at the same location 6/25 (MAK, GK). There were several observations of **Common Gallinule**, an expected but notable breeding bird in the county (m.ob.). **Sandhill Crane**, while still notable, is expected in summer and were observed in expected numbers and locations (m.ob.).

**Solitary Sandpiper** is a rare in summer, so the observation of 3 at Tamarack Lake-North End 7/16 (KP) is especially notable. There was an increase in the number of observations of **Upland Sandpiper** throughout the season in the P S.P.-MP and P S.P.-WR areas, although this was likely due to the increased number of observers because of the presence of **Dickcissels** in the same area (m.ob.). A great count of 10 Upland Sandpipers included 6 observed in the fields off of Route 285 in the Pymatuning S.P. area with an additional 4, 2 of which were juveniles, seen at P S.P.-WR 6/20 (RS). Late observations of **Semipalmated Sandpiper**, all at P S.P.-MP, included a notable count of 19 on 6/1 (MS), 4 on 6/2 (MV), 11 on 6/5 (CH), and 1 on 6/6 (BD, SS). Notable observations of **White-rumped Sandpiper** included 3 at Pymatuning S.P.-Miller's Ponds 6/2 (MV) and one there 6/6 (BD, SS). An incredible count of 12 White-rumps was reported 6/5, also at Pymatuning S.P.-MP (CH). Observations of **Wilson's Snipe**, very notable during summer, included a single at the Pymatuning Goose Management Area 6/10 (RL) and 2 at Pymatuning S.P.-Wilson Rd. 7/27 (NT). The only reports of **American Woodcock** were a single near Oil Creek 7/6 (SSm) and 2 at the Helen B. Katz Natural Area 7/7 (TN).

A **Bonaparte's Gull** observed in the Pymatuning S.P.-Jamestown area 6/27 is notable for the season (AC). **Franklin's Gull** observations are notable any time of the year in *Crawford*, so one seen at the Pymatuning S.P.-Spillway is especially notable (RL). An early **Caspian Tern** was at Pymatuning S.P.-Spillway 7/28 (MV). A **Black Tern**, an excellent bird not usually found in *Crawford* during the summer, was photographed at Pymatuning S.P.-Miller's Ponds 6/5 (MH). **Common Nighthawk** observations have increased during the summer season in the past couple of years, so multiple observations, particularly in the Meadville area (m.ob.), are encouraging. **Red-headed Woodpecker**, expected but notable, were observed in expected locations and numbers (m.ob.).

A late **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was reported at Pymatuning S.P.-Spillway 6/28 (RL). **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** is infrequently reported so a single at Tamarack Lake 6/2 (RL) is notable. **Common Raven** is usually observed in south-eastern *Crawford* so one seen at P S.P.-WR 6/16 was especially notable (JH). Observations of **Horned Lark**, an expected but notable breeding species, included 3 at P S.P.-WR 6/16 (JH), 4 at P S.P.-MP 7/16 (JM, LN), 2 in the Pymatuning area 7/21 (JF), and 2 in the Pymatuning Goose Management Area 7/30 (RL). Good counts of **Tree Swallow** included 240 at P S.P.-MP 7/17 (RH) and 350 at the same location 7/22 (AK). Excellent counts of 100 **Bank Swallows** were made at P S.P.-MP 7/16 (MS) and 7/22 (AK).

Observations of **Carolina Wren** were above average in terms of numbers and variety of locations, with several reports occurring throughout the county (m.ob.). **Winter Wren** observations are especially notable during the summer season and included singles near Gravel Run Rd. 6/6 (CP), at Erie N.W.R.-Muddy Creek Holly Trail 6/7 (KA; NA), at Erie N.W.R. 7/2 (SW), and at Greendale Cemetery 7/23 (KP). A singing **Sedge Wren**, an excellent bird for the county, was found at P S.P.-MP, the same location where one was observed in spring. It was first observed 7/9 (MV) and seen throughout the month (m.ob.) with the last observation 7/22 (AK). Two were reported at the same location 7/16 (JM, LN). **Marsh**

**Wren**, a notable but expected bird, was observed in normal numbers and locations (m.ob.).

A good count of 11 **Veeries** were at Erie N.W.R. 6/28 (RL). The only reports of **Hermit Thrush**, expected but scarce in summer, included 2 at Erie N.W.R. 6/28 (RL) and one at SGL 69-Turkey Track Trail 7/9 (TN, KP). Observations of **Northern Mockingbird**, scarce in *Crawford*, included one seen at P S.P.-Wilson Rd. 6/16 (JH), 2 in the fields off of Yankee Hill Rd. 6/16 (RS), one at Geneva-Bailey Trail West End 6/17 (RL), and one near the Meadville airport 7/15 (IF, FL).

**Prothonotary Warbler**, a notable bird for *Crawford*, was reported in expected numbers and locations in the Conneaut Marsh and Pymatuning areas (m.ob.). Notable observations of **Mourning Warbler** included a single seen off of Price Rd. 6/22 (CP), 2 at Erie N.W.R. 6/28 (RL), and one in the Hemlock Hill area 7/17 (TN). A **Cerulean Warbler** at the Ernst Bike Trail 7/3 (TN) presents a great observation for *Crawford*. Observations of **Northern Parula** are scarce during summer, so one at Erie N.W.R. 6/28 (RL) is especially notable. The only report of **Blackburnian Warbler** was of 2 at SGL 69-Turkey Track Rd. 7/9 (TN, KP). A good count of 3 **Pine Warblers** came from Gravel Run Rd. 6/21 (CP). **Yellow-rumped Warblers** are infrequently sighted during summer, so observations of a singing bird at Pymatuning S.P.- Laboratory of Ecology 6/22 (JH) and a single at Woodcock Lake-Colonel Crawford Park 7/16 (TN) are especially notable. A juvenile **Canada Warbler** seen in the Hemlock Hill Area 7/28 (RH, KP) is notable for summer. A **Yellow-breasted Chat**, an excellent bird for *Crawford*, was at Erie N.W.R. 6/28 (RL).

A **Vesper Sparrow** seen at P S.P.-FH 7/30 (RL) is notable for the season. Observations of **Grasshopper Sparrow**, infrequently reported, included 2 at P S.P.-WR 6/16 (JH) and one at P S.P.-MP 7/22 (AK). **Dark-eyed Junco**, notable but expected during summer, was reported in expected numbers and locations (m.ob.). A minor irruption of **Dickcissels** occurred, the first of which was a single at P S.P.-MP 6/2 (JM). A good count of 5, including 3 at P S.P.-MP and 2 at P S.P.-WR, was made 6/12 (MHi, RHi). Observations of 1-4 Dickcissels continued through June and July (m.ob.), with the last report being 2 seen at P S.P.-WR 7/16 (MS). A signing male was also observed off of Middle Rd. near Meadville 6/28 (SC). **Orchard Orioles**, normally scarce in *Crawford*, were found in better numbers and more locations than usual (m.ob). High counts of **Purple Finch** included 4 at Conneaut March-McMichael Rd. 6/20 (AJ) and 4 in the Meadville area 7/26 (BB).

Observers: **Rob Hodgson, 709 Alden Street, Meadville, PA 16335, (515) 708-0603, robhodgson888@gmail.com**, Katie Andersen, Nancy Andersen, Brendyn Baptiste, Anthony Bledsoe, Dan Brauning, Margaret Brittingham, Bill Brown, Allie Causey, Cory Chiappone, Shawn Collins, Steve D, Michael David, Sheree Daugherty, Sean DeFazio, Karen Delaney, Bill Drolsbaugh, Rich Eakin, Carl Engstrom, John Fedak, Jennifer Ferrick, Isaac Field, James Flynn, Ryan Ford, Cole Fredricks, Mark Hanneman, Amy Henrici, Mary Higbee, Roger Higbee, James R. Hill III, Todd Hooe, Craig Holt, Mike Hudson, Anne Jacobs, Deborah Kalbfleisch, Andy Keister, Hunter Kline, Mary Alice Koenke, Glenn Koppel, Ron Leberman, Josh Lefever, Chris Lundberg, Andrew M, Jackson Martini, Ryan McDermott, Jeff McDonald, Florence McGuire, Holly Merker, Lukas Musher, Lauren Nagoda, Claire Nicolls, Tomas Nonnenmacher, Richard Nugent, Ken Pinnow, Carl Pohlman, Elizabeth Prager, James Pumford, Rich Rehrig, Steve Sanford, Michael Schall, Steve Schmit, Robert Scribner, Emily Smith, Scott Smith, Jesse Sockman, Kate StJohn, Ryan Tomazin, Neil Troyer, Steve Valasek, Robert VanNewkirk, Brett Vath, Mark Vass, Suzanne Winterberger, Kendall Zook.

### **Cumberland County**

Locations: State Game Lands 169 (SGL169)

The summer period had about normal temperatures with above average precipitation. Please note that unless otherwise stated

occurrences and the number of prior occurrences of the species listed in this report are according to eBird records and *An Annotated List of the Birds of Cumberland PA Birds 2016 Volume 30 NO. 3 (Gauthier)*. It should also be noted that there may be current and historical sightings for *Cumberland* listed on eBird from the Susquehanna River that may be possible to list on this report, but without clear documentation otherwise they are considered *Dauphin* birds as the county line is on the west shore of the river.

There were two waterfowl species of note. One **Blue-winged Teal**, which is an unusual summer species, was reported at Brackbill Pond 7/11 (SK) and a female **Common Merganser** with 5 young were on the Conodoguinet Creek 6/26 (RF). While this species is present in small numbers in the summer it is not often verified as having bred; it was not confirmed as a breeder in either of the Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlases.

A **Roseate Spoonbill** (featured on the cover) found on the Conodoguinet Creek at Camp Hill 7/15 continued into the fall season (JJ, m.ob.). A spectacular find for Pennsylvania, this bird was a first county record and probably the fourth state record with single spoonbills sometime prior to 1869, in 1968, and this year in *Lancaster*. [See the *Lancaster report for details of a likely different Roseate Spoonbill this summer - ed.*]

Two **Least Bitterns** were flushed at the propagation ponds at SGL169 7/23 (AM). This rare Pennsylvania breeder is found most summers and has been confirmed breeding on two different occasions. In all likelihood it often breeds but because of its secretive nature is rarely confirmed. One immature **White Ibis** was seen in a flooded field at the intersection of Route 174 and W. Lisburn Rd. 7/20-23 (DB, m.ob.). This is only the fourth record of the species in the last thirty years. There was also an imm. **Little Blue Heron** posted on the PA Birds Listserve at the spoonbill location 7/29 (LL). In following up, the bird was said to have been "very distant." The species is a summer vagrant so it is possible, though no one else who went to see the spoonbill reported the heron.

One **Purple Gallinule** was seen at Creekview Rd., Newville 7/25 (AM), representing the second *Cumberland* record, with the first reported 5/2014. A non-birder had described the bird to (AM) on 7/23. Despite four later attempts, it was not re-found, which is not surprising considering the thickness of the marsh at that location. A **Short-billed Dowitcher** was found at the Toigo Organic Farm, Carlisle 7/18 (DK), a first summer record for the county. It is occasional in the spring and fall.

Finally, numerous **Dickcissels** were found in the usual locations north of Newville near Hunter Rd. and north of Newburg near Hilltop Rd. Nineteen were found around the Hilltop Rd. area 6/29 (AM, VG).

Observers: **Vernon Gauthier, 111 W. Big Spring Ave, Newville, PA 17241, 717-385-9526, pabirder@gmail.com**, Dale Bicksler, Dan Brauning (DaB), Ron Freed, Jeff Johnson, Stefan Karkuff, Dave Kerr, Larry Lewis, Andrew Markel (AM).

### **Dauphin County**

Locations: Appalachian Trail (AT), Clark's Ferry Bridge (CFB), Detweiler Park (DP), Fort Indiantown Gap west corridor (FIG), Lake Tobias Wildlife Park (LT), Lykens Valley Golf Course (LVGC), Ned Smith Center (NSC), State Game Lands 210 (SGL210), State Game Lands 211 (SGL211), Susquehanna R. from West Fairview (SRWF), Susquehanna R. at Wade Island, (SRWI), Three Mile Island (TMI), Wade Bridge of I-81 (WB), Wildwood Lake (WL).

Although seen regularly on the Susquehanna R., a female **Common Merganser** was observed and photographed with a crèche of 30 young on the Wiconisco Creek at NSC in Millersburg 6/5 (JB). Two **Ruffed Grouse** were encountered in northern *Dauphin*, on the AT 7/9 and in FIG 7/10 (IG). SRWI had 98 nests of **Great Egrets** documented (PB) and a high of 52 were seen 7/18 (IG); there were numerous sightings at WL (m.ob.). A lone **Snowy Egret** was at WL 6/8-9 (SL). The **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** in mid-town Harrisburg were observed

throughout June and July from Reilly St. north to Seneca St. with several sightings at SRWF and SRWI (m.ob.). Ten nests were documented (PB) and a high of 51 adults and young were counted 6/29 (IG). A flock of 21 **Glossy Ibis** was observed flying upriver between WL and the Susquehanna R. 6/8 (EB).

Two **Osprey** nests were observed in the Steelton area along the Susquehanna R. during June and July. One nest failed, with an adult found deceased in the nest. The second nest contained 2 young 7/1 (SH). There were 6 active **Bald Eagle** nests in the county (PB). **Eastern Whip-poor-will** sightings were all from northern *Dauphin* - 7 were heard in SGL210 on 7/8 (S&SB) and 5 in the same area 7/20 (SBu). Two each were also heard in FIG 7/12 (DM) and 7/19 (IG).

The **Peregrine Falcons** on the RCSOB in Harrisburg successfully fledged 3 young, which were seen regularly until mid-July (AMc). The pair on the Susquehanna R. at the CFB above the town of Dauphin were monitored, with 3 fledging from there (AMc, EC, S&SB, SL). An adult was still being seen on 7/30. (AMc, EC). A possibly fledged young bird was at TMI (AM). Multiple sightings of peregrines 6/6 and 7/20 were made at or near WB in Harrisburg by canoeists (EC, AMc, JW) and raised the question as to whether a nesting attempt was made in this location.

**Red-headed Woodpeckers** were seen in 3 locations. The earliest observation was during a BBS in northern *Dauphin* where 2 were found 6/8 (CH). Additional reports were 7/1-2 at LT (JM, MR) and an observation of 2 adults and one young at LVGC 7/1 (S&SB). An **Alder Flycatcher** was at the SGL211 barn 6/1 (S&SB), confirmed by vocalization. A colony of **Purple Martins** was noted in northern *Dauphin* 6/6 (S&SB).

Twenty species of warblers were recorded. Of these, least-often seen were a single **Prothonotary Warbler** on an unnamed island in the Susquehanna R. 6/17 (SK) and a single **Kentucky Warbler** on the AT on Peter's Mountain Rd. 7/8 (JH). Seven **Black-throated Blue Warblers** were reported again from Lykens Rd. (RK, AM). **Grasshopper Sparrows** were discovered at the new *Dauphin* park (DP) on the south slope of Peter's Mountain during surveys in June (ED). One **Clay-colored Sparrow** was seen and heard at FIG 6/9 (JD). For the sixth consecutive year, **Blue Grosbeaks** were observed at FIG, noted 7/13 and 7/17, with a high count of 2 (IG).

Observers: **Sandy Lockerman, 3830 Lexington Street, Harrisburg, PA 17109, (717) 329-8040, sandylockerman@yahoo.com**, Patti Barber, Ed Bernot, Scott and Stephanie Bills, John Booth, Steve Butterworth, Ed Chubb, Eli DePaulis, Jerrod Derr, Ian Gardner, Sue Hannon, John Harris, Corey Husic, Stefan Karkuff, Ramsay Koury, Annette Mathes, Art McMorris (AMc), Dave McNaughton, Joshua Moritz, Matt Rogosky, Jane Webster.

### **Delaware County**

Locations: Big Bend Farm (BBF), Concord Trail (CT), Delaware River (DR), Fort Mifflin (FM), Haverford College (HC), John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge (JHNWR), Marcus Hook (MH), Bridle Trail (BT) at Ridley Creek State Park (RCSP), Wawa Preserve (WP), The Willows (WILL).

June and July trended cooler than normal with average temperatures of about 75F for June and 79F for July. Rain was intermittent throughout the period with totals of 2-5" per month depending on specific location.

In *Delaware*, **Least Bittern** can only be reliably found at JHNWR. There were 4 reports this season, all from that location: 6/9 from the spadderdock off the new boardwalk (JMc), 6/10 (AG), and 6/23 and 6/28 (both JMc). **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was reported from Marcus Hook 6/1 (AG) and by a couple from an airport hotel 7/8 (KB, TB). Although *Delaware* reportedly has about 5 known **Osprey** and 2 **Bald Eagle** nests, it is unclear what the results of the nesting season were. Birders who know the locations of these nests and make observations are encouraged to report their success or failure. Known nests of **Cooper's Hawks** were reported from Concord Woods (BB), with one or

2 juveniles; Swarthmore, where at least 2 juveniles fledged (DE); and HC, which produced 3 juveniles (SJ).

A productive canoe trip along Darby Creek at JHNWR 7/28 produced the only **Semipalmated Plover** report as well as a high count of 69 **Least Sandpipers**, 13 **Semipalmated Sandpipers**, a **Greater Yellowlegs**, and 5 **Lesser Yellowlegs** (JMc). Least Sandpipers were reported from JHNWR on four other occasions and also from DR at FM 7/8 (AG). A Lesser Yellowlegs was also noted flying into *Delaware* airspace from the JHNWR impoundments 7/27 (JMc). A nightly watch from HC paid off 6/4 when approximately 900 shorebirds were seen headed north between 6:45 and 7:45 PM. Unfortunately, due to their distance, they could not be identified to species (SJ, KJ). Two **Caspian Terns** on a sand spit on the DR at FM 6/19 (JMc) were the first of the season to be reported. Single birds were also noted at the same river location 7/14 (AG) and 7/16 (MW). A single **Forster's Tern** was noted at JHNWR 7/28 on the aforementioned canoe trip (JMc).

The only reports of cuckoos, up to 3 **Yellow-billed Cuckoos**, were 6/30-7/5 from the BT (JMc, JM). The same location produced the only **Barred Owl** this season 7/5 (JM). There was also only a single report of **Eastern Screech-Owl**, from a Bryn Mawr location 6/14 (SP). On 6/5, a **Red-headed Woodpecker** put in an appearance at a feeder in White Horse Village, Newtown Square, only to be supplanted by a **Hairy Woodpecker** two minutes later, which in turn was displaced by a **Pileated Woodpecker** in the next minute (Dick Eales). Not a bad trifecta to have!

**Yellow-throated Vireo** appeared on seven checklists from RCSP and one each from WP 7/20 (LL) and Martin Park 6/26 (DS). *Delaware's* largest **Purple Martin** colony at the Glen Mills School, though still not nearly its former size, rebounded somewhat this year with 185 nestlings banded 7/13 (DMc). A single **Bank Swallow** was at JHNWR 7/11(JMc), and one pleasantly surprised a poolside birder at Glenolden Swim Club 7/30 (DO). A single **Cliff Swallow** was reported from RCSP 7/4 (BB).

RCSP is the best local warbler location. **Blue-winged, Hooded, and Prairie Warblers** were each reported a few times during the period (m.ob.). At the same location were a singing **Kentucky Warbler** 6/2 (JZ, EW) and 7/5 (JMc), and a **Pine Warbler** 6/30 (JMc) and 7/5 (JM); however, no nesting of any of these species was confirmed. Three **Northern Parula** reports all came from the first week of June (m.ob.). A single report of **Blue Grosbeak** came from BBF 7/12 (AG).

Observers: **Sheryl Johnson, 453 Duck Pond Lane, Haverford, PA 19041, (610) 649-4621, sbjohnso@haverford.edu**, Kathy Becker, Tim Becker, Brian Byrnes, Mike Defina, David Eberly, Al Guarente, Kristen Johnson, Sheryl Johnson, Larry Lewis, Jim McConnell, Doris McGovern, Jeffrey Mollenhauer, Damon Orsetti, Shannon Ploppa, Nick Pulcinella, Brian Quindlen, Derek Stoner, Michael Walter, Eric Weislogel, Jamie Zigarelli.

### **Elk County**

Locations: Allegheny NF—Buzzard Swamp (BS), Allegheny NF—Experimental Forest Rd (EFR), East Branch Lake (EBL), Grant Hill Rd (GH), Highland Twp (HT), Jones Twp (JT), Russelas Marsh (RM), SGL 311—Porcupine Hollow (PH), SGL 311—Winslow Hill (WH).

**Common Mergansers** were reported from EBL and the Little Toby Creek Trail (BB, SG) with the high count being 12 at EBL 7/29 (BB). A hard-to-find bird in heavily-forested *Elk*, the **Ring-necked Pheasant**, was found at Saint Marys 7/29 (DW). **Ruffed Grouse** were found in 4 locations in the northeastern portion of the county, while **Wild Turkeys** were found at 6 locations throughout the county (m.ob.). For the fourth year in a row, a **Common Loon** was present at EBL in June, this year, an adult in breeding plumage was 6/15, but not relocated after that date (BB). A **Double-crested Cormorant** made its appearance at EBL beginning 7/29 (BB). **Green Heron**, an interestingly difficult bird to locate in the county, was reported only once, from Saint Marys 7/3 (DW).

The **Ospreys** once again returned to nest atop an old

communications tower behind the Elk SP office. Only one young bird was detected from the road, but there could have been another there (BB). An Osprey was also at HT 6/4 (AS, NW) and 5 were at BS 7/3 (FM). Exciting news was that the **Northern Harriers** at RM fledged 2 young, noticed on 7/15 (BB). One was seen in plain sight perched on an alder shrub in a wet field, and another was suspected to be in the hayfield adjacent to the marsh when the female dropped into the grass with a rodent. It is possible that there is another breeding pair in a field just to the southwest of the RM site, where a female was seen cruising the field 7/4 (BB). A family of **Sharp-shinned Hawks** was first noted at JT 7/22 when 3 were seen. Five individuals of this family (2 adult, 3 young) were seen on 7/31, with the female observed bringing in a rodent to the young when the young clasped with the female to retrieve the rodent (BB). **Bald Eagles** were present at EBL during July (BB, SG). One first-year **Bald Eagle** was at EBL with its father 7/10 with the young begging consistently (BB).

The only known breeding location in *Elk* for many wetland specialists is RM, which definitely was productive this summer. In addition to the aforementioned Northern Harriers, 4 **Virginia Rails** were heard calling, with one being seen, on 7/8 (BB). A **Sora** was heard calling at RM as well 7/8 (BB). Even more exciting was the detection of a **Wilson's Snipe** nest with the likely female seen sitting occupying the nest at RM 7/8 (BB). This species was not found nesting in the county during either BBA, yet this location appears to be good habitat for this species, so it is not surprising to find it breeding at RM. Other more common breeding shorebirds included **American Woodcock** at JT 7/15 and 7/31, and up to 5 **Spotted Sandpipers** at their regular breeding location of EBL (BB).

In the way of migrant shorebirds, one **Semipalmated Plover** was feeding with a couple **Spotted Sandpipers** at EBL 7/28, a **Solitary Sandpiper** was at EBL 7/29, and 2 **Lesser Yellowlegs** were first seen at RM 7/8 (BB) and likely the same pair was at EBL 7/14 (SG). **Ring-billed Gulls** were at EBL beginning 7/29 (BB). A nice find was a **Common Tern** at EBL 7/21-23 (BB).

Both species of cuckoos were detected in decent numbers, probably because of a caterpillar infestation of Black Cherry trees in parts of western *Elk* (m.ob). A **Great Horned Owl** was at GH 7/6 (JA) and one was seen during the day at SGL 25 along Glen Hazel Rd. 7/20 (BB). Two **Barred Owls** were heard calling at night at JT 6/11 (BB). One of the best reports was of 2 **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** calling at dusk at WH 7/20 (DW). This location has been a historical stronghold for the species, so it is satisfying that these birds are still present there. The only report of **Red-bellied Woodpecker** was of one at GH 7/6 (JA). **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**, on the other hand, was found at many locations across the county (m.ob).

**American Kestrels** were at 4 locations including Mefferts Run Rd. 6/3, PH 6/12 (BB), RM 7/4 and 7/8 (BB), and Saint Marys 7/28 (DW). A report of a **Merlin** near Kersey 6/29 is interesting in that this species was a possible nester in this area during the second BBA (AR). The only **Acadian Flycatcher** report was from GH 7/7 (JA). In contrast, **Alder Flycatcher** was found in good numbers at its stronghold of RM and at EBL (BB). The only **Willow Flycatcher** was at RM 7/4 (BB). Once again, a report of **White-eyed Vireo** was received from GH 7/7 (JA), a species not found as a breeder in the county during either atlas. The **Yellow-throated Vireo**, the other Carolinian vireo, was also at GH 7/6-7 (JA) and was at Horton Twp. 6/16 (AV). The only **Warbling Vireo** was one at RM 7/8 (BB). **Common Raven** continues to do well in the county with 7 sites hosting the species this summer (m.ob).

Only one **Purple Martin** was noted, at PH 6/12 (BB). Two **Bank Swallows** were found amongst a congregation of **Tree, Barn, and Cliff Swallows** at RM 7/8 (BB), and one Bank Swallow was also at EBL 7/15 (SG). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were found at 3 locations including JT, RM (BB), and SGL 311--Dents Run (DW). The high count was of a family group at JT 7/15 (BB). A **Carolina Wren** at HT 6/4 provided the only sighting (AS, NW). **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were found at their usual locations of EFR, JT, and SGL 25 (BB).

**Veerys** were at SGL 25 on 6/13 (BB), BRI 6/20 (PW), and GH 7/6-8 (JA). A rare nester in the state, **Swainson's Thrush** was found along EFR 7/4 (BB) when at least 5 males were heard singing in an area of dense hemlocks and where a tornado possibly went through this past spring.

**Hermit Thrush**, Swainson's much more abundant cousin, was found at 14 locations (m.ob.), with the high count being 31 at JT 7/15 (BB).

Located in the northern hardwood forests, *Elk* has an assortment of warblers with a more northern affinity that would be considered rare breeders in the southern parts of the state. These northern warblers include **Magnolia Warbler**, **Blackburnian Warbler**, **Chestnut-sided Warbler**, **Black-throated Blue Warbler**, **Yellow-rumped Warbler**, and **Black-throated Green Warbler**. These species were found in various locations across the county and are too numerous to mention individually (m.ob). Among the less common warblers, **Worm-eating Warbler** was at GH 7/6-8 (JA). **Nashville Warbler** was found at GH 7/7 (JA) and at JT 7/14 (SG). **Mourning Warbler** was at HT 6/4 (AS, NW), EFR 7/4 (BB), and JT 7/14 (SG). **Cerulean Warblers** were at GH 7/7 (JA) and JT 7/14 (SG), providing the first reports in many years. A **Northern Parula** was at HT 6/4 (AS, NW). **Pine Warblers** returned to nest at JT, but another male was heard singing at a new site at JT (BB). **Prairie Warbler** was found at GH 7/6-7 (JA). **Canada Warbler** is becoming increasingly difficult to find during the breeding season, with only 2 sites hosting this species; noted The at GH 7/7 (JA) and JT 7/14 (SG).

**Grasshopper Sparrows**, often found among reclaimed strip mines, were reported from the usual locations of JT, PH, and WH (BB, DW). A nice count of 7 Grasshopper Sparrows was made at JT 6/12 (BB). **Dark-eyed Juncos** were found in a variety of locations across the county, but the other northern sparrow, the **White-throated Sparrow**, was found at its regular locations along the beginning of Swamp Creek at JT and RM (BB). Another outlying White-throat was at Dents Run 7/22 (DW), a new summer location for this species. Next to the Henslow's Sparrow, the **Vesper Sparrow** is *Elk's* second rarest breeding sparrow - only one was heard singing at PH 6/12 (BB). **Savannah Sparrow** was found at 4 locations including JT, RM, PH, and WH (BB, WP). One of the most notable sightings of the season was of a total of 5 **Dickcissels** at PH 7/16, 3 of which were males and 2 females (WP). **Bobolinks** were found in their regular locations of BS, PH, and WH (BB, FM). **Purple Finches** were common in various locations in the county with the high count being 8 at JT 6/16 (BB). A possibly nesting **Pine Siskin** was reported from Horton Twp. 6/16 (AV) following a winter and spring with very few sightings.

Observers: **Brendyn Baptiste, 255 Claytonia Rd Butler, PA 16001, (724) 496-4856, brendynbaptiste@yahoo.com**, Josh Auld, Steve Gaffey, Flo McGuire, William Potter, Amanda Ryden, Austin Swanson, Antionette Verne, Nathan Weyandt, Devin Weis.

## **Erie County**

June was wet and cool followed by a very dry July with only 0.75 of inch of rain for the entire month of July along the Lake Erie shore. Despite the dry conditions, Lake Erie was over 30" above normal. Waders made most of the birding news this season, especially **Piping Plover**. There were two pair of Piping Plovers that successfully nested for the first time in Pennsylvania since the mid-to late 1950s. It seemed only a matter of time before they would return to Presque Isle S.P. to nest again since the Great Lakes Piping Plover population has increased over the past several years, and lingering males have been annual in spring at Gull Point since 2011 (JM). Thanks to Mary Birdsong's efforts in monitoring the birds and locating the nests, the Pennsylvania Game Commission could place protective cages over the nest to help prevent predation. The first nest contained three eggs with two eggs successfully hatching. Both chicks were captured, banded, and released on July 3 (CH et al.). The second nest was flooded by high water, but the three eggs in this nest were rescued and sent to the University of Michigan to be incubated where two hatched and were successfully reared. See article for more on the nesting Piping Plovers as well as the history of Piping Plovers at Presque Isle.

The following birds of note were recorded from Presque Isle SP unless noted otherwise.

A male **Redhead** lingered at Gull Point until at least 7/3 (JM). A **Snowy Egret** was present at Gull Point 6/9-12 (MB). An immature

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was an exceptional find when one was spotted perched in a tree on Gull Point Trail 7/2 (MB). This is a first July record in the county and only the second summer record.

**American Avocets** have become annual at Gull Point in small numbers in recent years, so it wasn't a surprise to see 2 on 6/23, 4 on 7/2, and 2 on 7/20 (MB). Single **Whimbrels** were reported from Gull Point 6/8 (MB), 6/13-19 (MB), 7/7 (TL), and 7/27 (DB). A **Marbled Godwit** was a one-day wonder at Gull Point 7/7 (MB). One **White-rumped Sandpiper** was identified at Gull Point 6/20, 2 were there 6/24, and another single 7/10 (MB). One adult and two immature **Laughing Gulls** were at Gull Point 6/2 (MB) and a single adult was at the north pier 6/6 (JM). **Merlins** successfully nested in the Erie area from at least three sites; (MB, JH, DS). At least one **Peregrine Falcon** chick fledged late June in Erie (MB).

Observers: **Jerry McWilliams, 3508 Allegheny Rd., Erie, Pa. 16508-2129, jerrymcw@aol.com.**, Mary Birdsong, Dan Brauning, Cathy Haffner, Jamie Hill, Tim Lenz, Don Snyder.

### **Fayette County**

It was a warm and wet season. Most of June was very rainy with thunderstorms and flooding and those conditions continued into July.

A **Broad-winged Hawk** was at Ohiopyle SP 6/24 (MF). A **Bald Eagle** was at Lake Lynn 6/1 (TB). A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was at Lake Lynn 6/1 (TB) and one was feeding a juvenile at Ohiopyle SP 6/24 (TRBC). A **Yellow-throated Vireo** was at Friendship Hill National Historic Site 6/1 (TB) and a **Blue-headed Vireo** was at SGL 51 on 6/10 (DN). **Cliff** and **Barn Swallows** continue to nest on the RT. 381 Bridge at Ohiopyle SP.

A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was entered into eBird at Bear Run Nature Reserve 6/17. This is a potential breeding location with a good stand of white pines and high elevation. A **Winter Wren** was at SGL 51 on 6/10 (DN). This site provides habitat for high elevation/northern species. A **Golden-winged Warbler** was a great find at SGL 51 on 6/10 (DN). This is one of the last regularly visited locations in the area to host this declining species. Other breeding warblers at SGL 51 include 7 **Ovenbirds** 6/24, and 4 **Hooded Warblers** and 2 **Black-throated Green Warblers**, both 6/10 (DN). Breeding Warblers at Ohiopyle SP 6/24 include one **Black-and-White Warbler**, 2 **Hooded Warblers**, 2 **American Redstarts**, 2 **Northern Parula**, one **Chestnut-sided Warbler**, one **Yellow-throated Warbler**, and one **Black-throated Green Warbler** (TRBC).

*Fayette* got in on the **Dickcissel** invasion when one was heard singing near the Uniontown Mall 7/19 (DR). A **Purple Finch** was singing at Ohiopyle SP 6/24 (MF).

Observers: **Mike Fialkovich, 805 Beulah Road, Pittsburgh, 15235, (412) 731-3581, mpfial@verizon.net**, Terry Bronson, Dick Nugent, Dan Richards, Three Rivers Birding Club Members (TRBC).

### **Forest County**

Locations: Allegheny National Forest (ANF), Beaver Meadows (BM), Buzzard Swamp (BS), Tionesta (TI).

There were 117 species reported in *Forest* during the breeding period. Highlights include a Merlin sighting, possible nesting Bank Swallows, and confirmed breeding of Red-headed Woodpecker and Golden-crowned Kinglet.

**Ruffed Grouse**, declining statewide, were reported from only four locations during June and July (m.ob.). A non-breeding **Double-Crested Cormorant** spent part of its summer on the Allegheny River near TI. First noted 7/1 (T&JK), it was spotted again 7/18 and 8/7 (FM, JM).

**Osprey**, a still rare but recovering species in the Commonwealth, were reported near Yellowhammer 7/5 (JS), and at BS 7/3; 3 young and 2 adults were seen 7/3 at the nest at BS in adjacent *Elk* (FM, JM). **Sharp-**

**shinned Hawk**, a species that has been declining here on the Allegheny Plateau, were observed only twice: 6/28 near TI (FM, JM) and 7/30 at BM (TH). The more adaptable **Cooper's Hawk**, also declining here, was sighted twice: on ANF Forest Road 449 on 7/4, (FM, JM), and near Mayburg 7/8 (JS). **Bald Eagles** were noted at several locations along Tionesta Creek and the Allegheny River, with one known successful nesting location near TI (m.ob.).

**Red-headed Woodpeckers** were confirmed breeding for the third year at the same location near Yellowhammer, where 2 adults and an immature were seen 7/17 (MH, KS, FM, JM). Another sighting, on 7/5 several miles away, might indicate another breeding location (JS). This is encouraging news for a species that is in decline and was not detected in *Forest* during the Second BBA.

The **Merlin** is a very rare breeder in the state, as northern Pennsylvania represents the southern limit of its breeding range. It is exciting to report that one was seen and photographed with prey at BS 7/29 (TH). Although increasing state-wide, **Willow Flycatchers** are rather scarce in *Forest*, so a report of one at BS 6/7 is notable (CJ).

**Warbling Vireos**, although increasing state-wide, declined here significantly between the two atlas periods. Several encouraging sightings of 2 or 3 birds during June at Lighthouse Island indicate probable breeding (FM, JM). There were 2 sightings of **Bank Swallows**, on 7/5 and 7/8 near Tionesta Creek, the same area where noted last year (JS). This species declined in *Forest* and state-wide between the two atlas periods, but this creek has significant habitat not easily monitored.

There were 4 reports of **Red-breasted Nuthatch** – most notably 4 seen at BM 7/30, indicating probable breeding (TH). **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were confirmed nesting at BM 7/30 when a recently fledged bird was seen with an adult (TH). A **Swainson's Thrush** was heard repeatedly on ANF Forest Road 209 on 7/17 (MH, KS, FM, JM), providing the only summer record although the songster is a known breeder at several locations on the ANF.

A report of **Northern Waterthrush** from Minister Creek Trail 6/14 is good news for this warbler, scarce and declining in the Commonwealth (CW). **Mourning Warblers**, expanding in the state, especially in the northern tier, were located on 7 occasions in the ANF (m.ob.). **Cerulean Warbler**, which has experienced long-term declines across its range, was confirming breeding on the ANF and in West Hickory areas, where multiple breeding pairs were found; one was also noted at SGL 24 (SS, EH, AH, DW, FM, JM). **Pine Warblers**, although increasing in much of the state, remain scarce in *Forest*, so a report at BM 7/30 is notable (TH). **Yellow-rumped Warblers** are also scant summer birds in *Forest*; reports of 2 near Redclyffe 6/26 (ID) and 5 at BM 7/30 (TH) are encouraging and indicative of probable breeding.

The **Eastern Meadowlark**, which is experiencing serious declines, is a species of Conservation Concern in Pennsylvania. It is heartening that multiple birds were noted at four different locations during the breeding season (KS, FM, JM).

*Forest* has a variety of habitats providing nesting areas to a diversity of species, including some that are not easy to find elsewhere in the state.

Observers: **Flo McGuire, 609 Ponderosa Lane, Tionesta, PA 16353, (814) 755-3672, fmcguire1@verizon.net**, Ian Davies, Elyse Henshaw, MiMi Hoffmaster, Todd Hoee, Chuck Jones, Tom and Janet Kuehl, Jim McGuire, Jeff Scepura, Alex Shipherd, Kim Springer, Scott Stoleson, Don Watts, Carole Winslow.

### **Franklin County**

Locations: Greencastle Reservoir (GRRE), Kriner Rd. Retention Ponds (KRRP).

The standout bird of the reporting period, likely same as in some other Pennsylvania counties this summer, was **Dickcissel**. The reports began 5/18 in prior season and continued from numerous locations west and north of Chambersburg during June and July. A significant factor in the numbers found here was drought in the Upper Midwest. Frequent

reports were from Rockdale and Windmill Rds. near Williamson, Church and Sandy Mount Rds. near Upper Strasburg, and from Lurgan Twp. There were additional reports from Loudon Rd., Portico Rd., Fort McCord Rd., Burkett Rd., Wenger Rd., Blue Spring Rd., and Doyleburg. Highest reported numbers were at Rockdale and Windmill Rds. (5), Fort McCord Rd. (7), Blue Spring Rd. (4), and Lurgan Twp. (7) (VB, JB, JD, SD, CG, DH, DH, SK, NM, LN, BO, RG, TSG, MW).

An out-of-season **Ruddy Duck** was at GRRE 6/1-5 (CG). A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was observed near Route 11 north of Chambersburg in the Siloam Rd. area 6/12 (BO). A **Northern Harrier** was reported in the Upper Strasburg area 7/11 (NM, VB, BO). A **Sora** was at a Hamilton Twp. farm pond 6/5 (BO), and a **Sandhill Crane** near Orrstown 7/25. (DD). Late spring migrant shore birds were **Least** and **Semipalmated Sandpiper** at GRRE 6/3 (CG). On the flip side, early fall migrant shorebirds were Least Sandpiper at GRRE 7/16 (ST), **Solitary Sandpiper** at GRRE 7/17 (CG), **Greater Yellowlegs** at GRRE 7/18 (CG), and **Pectoral Sandpiper** at KRRP 7/23 (CG, BO). Swallows began to move and feed together resulting in all species except Cliff Swallow at GRRE 7/16 (CG). Finally, of note were **Blue Grosbeak** sightings along Iron Bridge Rd. 7/11 (NM,VB), 7/22 (BO), and 7/25 (CG, DG).

Observers: **Bill Oyler, 1216 Wilson Ave, Chambersburg, Pa 17201 (717-360-5191), oylerbill@gmail.com**, Val Barnes, Joan Bowen, Dwayne DelGrande, Josh Donaldson, Susan Donaldson, Carl Garner, Dale Gearhart, Ron George, Tracy Snyder-George, Donna Hocker, Deuane Hoffman, Stefan Karkuff, Nancy Magnusson, Lori Nichols, Shannon Thompson, Martin Wilson.

#### **Fulton County**

No report, new compiler to be announced

#### **Greene County**

Locations: Claylick (CL), East View (EV), Jackson Twp. (JT), Ryerson SP (RSP), Sycamore (SY).

At RSP, a **Wood Duck** with 3 fledglings was found 6/12 as well as a **Mallard** with 2 fledglings (TB). Forty **Wild Turkeys** visited the feeder area at CL 7/17 (LA, RA). A **Bald Eagle** was seen flying over at Bell Farm in Morgan Twp. 6/10 (m.ob.). A **Spotted Sandpiper** was sighted along the creek in Morgan Twp. 6/10 (m.ob.). An **American Woodcock** was flushed in EV 6/1 (MH). During a rain storm (this was our annual Rain Day celebration in Waynesburg) at CL, 22 **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** were counted with the help of a camera (there were so many birds it was difficult to count them) 7/29 (LA, RA).

Again this year, an **American Kestrel** pair was seen almost every day in a yard in Cumberland Twp. and this year the homeowner spotted fledglings (LD). A **Great Crested Flycatcher** was reported at RSP 6/12 (TB). **Eastern Kingbird** was found in CL 7/17 (RA, LA). The last sighting of **White-eyed Vireo** was at EV 7/30 (MH). **Carolina Wren** young fledged from a hanging flower on the porch at EV 7/10 (MH). At SY, **House Wren** young left the nest 7/31 (JC). **Eastern Bluebird** young left a nest in SY 7/10 (JC). **Wood Thrush** and **Brown Thrasher** were last reported in EV 7/25 (MH). Ten **Cedar Waxwings** were at SGL 223 on 7/7 (JL).

**Blue-winged Warbler** was reported in JT 6/10 (WD, RL). **Yellow Warbler** was last heard at EV 7/30 (MH). A **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was in Morgan Twp. 6/11 (DG, GG). **Northern Cardinals** with young were reported from several locations. **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was observed last in EV 7/30 (JH) and **Indigo Bunting** was last seen at CL 7/17 (LA, RA). **Red-winged Blackbirds** seemed to have a good breeding season with a high of 52 counted visiting feeders at CL 7/17 (LA, RA). At EV, 57 **Common Grackles** were counted eating discarded corn 7/24 (MH). Also at EV 7/12, **Orchard Oriole** parents made quite a fuss calling for a fledgling that had trouble flying high enough to get over a retaining wall, but after about 45 minutes, it finally succeeded (MH).

Observers: **Marjorie Howard, 149 Preachers Road, Waynesburg, PA**  
**PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS**

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#### **Huntingdon County**

Locations: Cornpropst Mills (CM), Ennisville (ENN), Huntingdon (HU), (town of) Mill Creek MC), Old Crow wetland (OC), Raystown Lake (RL), Rothrock SF (RSF), Stone Creek Ridge (SCR), Trough Creek Valley (TCV).

The summer weather was fairly normal. June and July both averaged one degree Fahrenheit above normal and there were no extended periods of extreme heat; at Huntingdon, the official highs reached 90F only twice, once in each month. June rainfall was near normal; July was a bit wet, with one inch above normal rainfall. The most unusual birds were immature Peregrine Falcons and a Common Gallinule and a Marsh Wren both found on repeated visits to a wetland at CM.

A **Common Gallinule**, rare in the county, was heard and seen in a wetland at CM three times 6/1-10 (GG, DG, JV). A gallinule was also present at that location in May 2016 and at OC in July 2016. There are no nesting records in *Huntingdon*. That wetland at CM (which also hosted a Marsh Wren – see below) was created on private land three years ago as part of a conservation plan for a portion of the Mierley farm. As a preview of coming attractions, multiple Least Bitterns were found at that same location in early Aug, including juveniles.

As usual, **Ospreys** were seen during mid-summer, though none are known to nest. One was at RL 6/17 (JK) and one at a pond in Germany Valley 7/9 (Sandra Gardner); the latter location also had an Osprey last summer, on 7/3/2016. Few **Yellow-billed** and **Black-billed Cuckoos** were reported - there was little in the way of caterpillar infestations this season. Two young **Barred Owls** were seen along Sugar Grove Rd. near MC 6/19 (LG, DG, GG). A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was heard on SCR on 2 evenings 7/4-5 (GG, DG).

A total of 54 **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were tallied on three Nightjar Surveys (30 stops) in RSF; the 8-year average is 45 and the previous high was 61, in 2016. Most stops are in northern *Huntingdon*, with a few in *Mifflin* and *Centre* (GG, DG, DB). The only **Common Nighthawk** reports were of one 6/2 (Dale and Barb Plumley) and 2 on 7/16 (CM), both over HU.

**Peregrine Falcons** are not known to nest in *Huntingdon* (or adjacent counties), so it was surprising single immature Peregrines were reported twice, separated by at least 10 miles, thereby suggesting different individuals. One bird, which acted rather tame, was on Sugar Grove Rd., near MC 7/22 (GG) and one near Petersburg 7/31 (DK). There are very few **Purple Martin** colonies in *Huntingdon*; a colony previously not known to birders (though probably well-established) came to light in Shade Valley, northeast of Shade Gap (GG, DG). A **Cliff Swallow** colony, with at least a couple dozen nests, has long existed on the Ardenheim bridge (Rt. 829) over the Juniata R. A newly found colony of least a dozen nests was noted at a bridge along Aughwick Mills Rd., just off Rt. 522 south of Mt. Union on 7/1 (GG, DG). With their apparent expansion in recent years, there are probably many more Cliff Swallow colonies to be discovered in the county.

**Marsh Wrens**, rare but nearly annual in spring and fall migration, do not nest here. Very surprising therefore was a singing Marsh Wren at the afore-mentioned CM wetland, discovered 6/1 and detected also 6/2, 6/18, and 7/4 (GG, DG, JV). On 6/18, it was observed pulling at a strip of dead cattail leaf, but no more than one bird was ever observed and no good evidence of nesting was noted. Surprisingly, breeding of Marsh Wren was confirmed in *Huntingdon* near RL during the first BBA (in the 1980s), some 20 miles from the location of this year's report.

Three BBS routes in RSF (150 stops), run for 26 years, reported near-record high numbers of **Ovenbirds**, with 221 recorded compared to

the average of 156, and second only to the record of 238 set in 2016 (GG, DG, NB). Over the course of the 26 years on these routes, **Hooded Warblers** have increased dramatically. Through the 1990s, the average was less than 20 for the three routes combined. During most years since about 2005, the count has been usually at least double the average from the 90s. A record high of 58 were counted in 2014; this year's total was 44, fourth highest ever (GG, DG, NB). **Golden-winged Warblers** were reported only 3 times, fewer than normal, but summer coverage of widely scattered Golden-wing locations is often limited (GG, DG, DW, ID). **Bobolinks** were at their usual summer location along Longhorn Rd. in TCV where at least 7 were counted 6/1 (GG, DG); in most years they are probably able to get their young fledged before mowing, which is often not done until early July.

Observers: **Greg Grove, 9524 Stone Creek Ridge Road, Huntingdon, PA 16652, gwg2@psu.edu**, Diane Bierly, Nick Bolgiano, Ian Davies, Deb Grove, Lewis Grove, Jon Kauffman, David Kyler, Crystal McNeal, Joe Verica, Doug Wentzel.

### Indiana County

**Location:** Yellow Creek SP (YC).

YC's top **Wood Duck** tally of 23 on 7/25 (LC, RC, TG, DK) included 12 young. An **American Bittern** was reported flying over Indiana 7/19 (JaP, JP); this is the only summer report on record. A **Great Egret** was present at Hemlock Lake 7/13, 19, 25 (AK, JK), only the second July sighting since 2000. An **Osprey**, which has never been a confirmed breeder at YC, was sighted 6/10 (MH, RH) through 6/27 (LC, DC, EC, TG, MH, RH, DK); after several weeks' absence, one reappeared at YC 7/25 (LC, RC, TG, DK).

A **Sora** was a nice find in Little Yellow Cove at YC 7/25 (LC, RC, TG, DK); this is also the only summer sighting on record. An **American Woodcock** was still displaying at the West Lebanon strips 6/9 (MH, RH). Two **Forster's Terns** visited YC 7/4 (MJ). A **Common Nighthawk** near Lewisville 6/25 was unusual as it is the first June sighting away from downtown Indiana and also the first June sighting since 2010 (MC).

A Purple Martin house has been in place at YC for years but has never been used by martins till this year. A Todd Bird Club member (LC) refurbished it and was instrumental in having it moved to the north shore. Two first-year **Purple Martins** showed up at YC at the martin house 6/5 (LC), had built a nest by 6/8 (LC), laid 6 eggs by 6/17 (LC), and incubated the eggs through 7/8 (LC, TG, LS) when they were six days overdue. Unfortunately, the eggs did not hatch. Five first-year martins were present near the martin house 7/8 (LC). We also learned that a man near Brush Valley who has been trying to attract martins for eight years was finally successful this year. Four pairs fledged a total of 16 young.

**Red-breasted Nuthatches** continued near Shelocta throughout the summer; two fledglings were observed with an adult 6/28 (MH, RH); 2 were also present near IN 6/29 (SG). A **Worm-eating Warbler** was heard singing along Redding Run Road near Creekside 6/6 (MH, RH); this is a new location for this species. A **Northern Waterthrush** photographed foraging on a tire near Lewisville 7/29 is our first summer record (MC). Two singing male **Dickcissels**, found near West Lebanon 6/17 (TB), were still present 6/19 (MH, RH). Shortly thereafter, the field was mowed.

Observers: **Margaret Higbee, 3119 Creekside Road, Indiana, PA 15701-7934, bcoriole@windstream.net**, Tony Bruno, Lee Carnahan, Richard Chirichiello, Derek Clawson, Emily Clawson, Marcy Cunkelman, Tom Glover, Steve Graff, Roger Higbee, Matthew Juskowich, Debbie Kalbfleisch, Avis Keener, John Keener, Gloria Lamer, James Pumford (JaP), Joseph Pumford,

### Jefferson County

Locations: Big Run (BR), Clear Creek State Park (CC), Five Bridges Trail

(FB), Fordham Lake (FL), Mahoning Shadow Trail (MS), Redbank Valley Trail (RB), Ringgold (RG), Sandy Ridge Road (SR), State Game Land 31 (SGL 31), State Game Land 185 (SGL 185), Winslow Pond (WP).

Highlights for the period included only the second summer observation ever of **Warbling Vireo**, with 2 found on the RB 6/5 (AK, JK). Two **Purple Martins** in BR 6/24 (RS) represented only the second record ever for the county in any season. One **Dickcissel**, recorded on SR 7/22 (JG, TG) and 7/25 (AK, JK), was only the second sighting for *Jefferson*.

A high count for the period of 101 **Canada Geese** were on FL 6/27 (AK, JK). Twenty-two **Common Mergansers** on the MS 7/22 was only the summer record (JG, TG). A number of other observations proved to be the only sightings for the period for various species, including 3 **Ruffed Grouse** at FB 6/15 (MH, RM, FM, JM), one **Sharp-shinned Hawk** at SR 7/25 (AK, JK), one **Cooper's Hawk** at RB 6/3 (AK, JK), and one **Broad-winged Hawk** at SR 6/2 (NV). The resident pair of **Bald Eagles** on the MS fledged 2 chicks sometime around 6/27 (AK, JK).

Eight **Spotted Sandpipers** at WP 6/2 (NV) provided the high count for the period. Additional one-time observations: One **Acadian Flycatcher** at SR 6/2 (NV), 2 **Alder Flycatchers** at FB 6/15 (MH, RM, FM, JM), 3 **Cliff Swallows** at RB 7/9 (AK, JK), and one **Winter Wren** at SGL 185 on 6/18 (JP).

A count of 6 **Hermit Thrushes** at SGL 31 on 7/25 is the highest ever recorded for the county (AS). Continuing with single observations, 2 **Northern Mockingbirds** were at RG 7/13 (AK, JK), one **Louisiana Waterthrush** at BR 6/24 (RS), and 2 **Prairie Warblers** at FB 6/15 (MH, RH, FM, JM). A **Wilson's Warbler** on the MS 6/1 proved to be the first summer record (AK, JK). A count of 26 **Grasshopper Sparrows** on SR 7/26 is the highest count ever for *Jefferson* (AS). Numerous sightings of **Henslow's Sparrows** on SR were topped by a high of 12 on 7/23 (AS). Always of interest, 3 **Dark-eyed Juncos** were at CC 6/2 (Anon.) and one was in the forest of SGL 31 on 7/25 (AS).

Observers: **Thomas Glover, 210 Highland Ave., Punxsutawney, PA 15767, tomnglover@comcast.net**, Jud Glover, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Avis Keener, John Keener, Florence McGuire, Jim McGuire, Julia Plummer, Alex Sharp, Russ Smiley, Nick Voris.

### Juniata County

Single **Spotted Sandpipers** were at Mifflintown 6/10 (CK) and in the Lewistown Narrows on the Juniata R. 7/20 (Mark Nale, John Carter). Three **Barn Owls** were observed at a known nesting location (private) at Van Wert 7/16 (CK, BB). Also on 7/16, 3 **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were at their established location near McAlisterville 7/16 (CK, BB).

**Least Flycatchers** are near the southern edge of their breeding range in *Juniata*, so one on Shade Mountain north of McAlisterville 7/16 was of interest (CK). The high count of **Purple Martins** was 12, at Metz Rd. 7/16 (CK, BB). A max. of 6 **Grasshopper Sparrows** and 3 **Savannah Sparrows** were at Flint Rd. 6/18-20 (CK, RD, SH, BS). The same two grassland species were at Metz Rd. 7/16, with 3 Grasshopper and 2 Savannah Sparrows (CK, BB). *Juniata* shared in the **Dickcissel** incursion with one discovered at the Renno farm, Flint Rd.; it stayed a few days and was photographed 6/19 (Paul Renno, Abram Troyer, SH, BS, ph.).

Observers: **Greg Grove, 9524 Stone Creek Ridge Road, Huntingdon, PA 16652, gwg2@psu.edu**, Chad Kauffman, 91 Kauffman Lane, Mifflintown, PA 17059, chadkauffman@earthlin.net, cell 717-994-6715, home/work 717-436-8257. Brian Byrnes, Rob Dickerson, Sean Herrmann, Brian Schmoke.

### Lackawanna County

Locations: Archbald Pothole State Park (APSP), Merli-Sarnoski County Park (MS), Spruce Swamp Natural Area (SS).

Summer temperatures were near average, but 2017 July rainfall set a new record. Water levels were noticeably high in rivers and streams; lakes and ponds were full to overflowing. The result was lush vegetation, though gypsy moth caterpillars left many oaks noticeably bare. The tornado that hit the area on February 25, 2017 caused PA American Water to close access to the Lake Scranton Birding Hotspot until partially reopening it on July 12.

Approximately 300 checklists were filed in eBird for *Lackawanna* for the season, with 110 species reported. Six were new for 2017 including a **Willow Flycatcher** at SS 6/3 (PMc), **Acadian Flycatcher** at MS 6/16 (NB), 2 **Black Vultures** on the Powdermill Section of the Lackawanna Heritage Trail 6/30 (BM), 2 **Cliff Swallows** on Greenridge Rd. 6/30 (RA), 2 **Grasshopper Sparrows** at APSP 7/4 (BM), and a **Peregrine Falcon** flying around Scranton 7/7 (NF). Two **Prothonotary Warblers** were reported at Heart Lake 7/11 (RA).

Observers: **Jim Ridolfi, Wilkes Barre, 570-280-6673, aston10@verizon.net**, Ralph Allen, Nadia Barkawi, Nate Fronk, Brian Marra, Patrick McGill.

### Lancaster County

Locations: Chestnut Grove Natural Area (CGNA), Columbia River Park (CRP), Conewago Recreation Trail and Wetlands (CRTW), Lancaster Airport (LA), Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area (MCWMA), Observation Site Rd (OSR), Riverfront Park (RFP), Speedwell Forge Lake (SFL), Susquehanna River Conejohela Flats (SRCF).

Average temperatures in Jun and Jul were 73°F and 77°F (normal 70°F and 75°F), and precipitation totals were 3.18" and 3.84" (normal 3.94" and 4.49"). Any distribution notes (were more abundant, less common, etc.) are compared to that species' 5-year eBird data trend. The total species count during the period was 153.

A **Tundra Swan** first noted at MCWMA 6/24 (SSt, m.ob.) continued through the period. Three late **American Black Ducks** were reported from the SRCF 6/11 (BC, EW). **Hooded Merganser** was a confirmed breeder at RFP, with a hen and 4 chicks 6/5-15 (BL), and an additional 2 birds were at the SRCF 7/28-29 (ME, SSc). Summering **Common Mergansers** were seen at 6 locations throughout county, including a hen with 9 chicks at SFL 7/9 (EW) that may be a returning breeding female from last year. A male **Ruddy Duck** lingered at CGNA 6/1-4 (JS, m.ob.). A first of fall **Pied-billed Grebe** hung around the CRTW 7/25-29 (DH, ME).

**Great Egret** numbers were up a bit over recent years at SRCF, with 101 notable on 7/30 (MS, CS). A juv. **Little Blue Heron** was discovered at MCWMA 7/30 (SF, LF, ME, TN). Nesting **Black-crowned Night-Herons** at an Ephrata rookery comprised at least 91 adults and juveniles on 6/25 (ZM, m.ob.). For the first time at this location, a pair of **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** nested, producing 2 offspring. This species has been a sporadic breeder in past decades, often along the Conestoga River.

The mega find of the season was a young **Roseate Spoonbill** at the SRCF early on 7/15 (ME, ZM, m.ob.). It will be the third state record, and while this would be a first record in every other county but *Erie*, the first state record was shot somewhere in *Lancaster* before 1869, and the specimen remains at the North Museum today. This year's spoonbill stayed less than 24 hours, but enthralled quite many birders and passersby from shore throughout the day during its brief tenure. This being the first "chaseable" Roseate Spoonbill in Pennsylvania, many were enthused to add it to their state lists, and some to their life lists.

Two immature **Mississippi Kites** were reported soaring above an Akron home 6/4 (BC). **Northern Harrier** is scarce during the summer months, so one near Ephrata 7/29 was notable (ZA, ZM ph.). **Broad-winged Hawk** summers in very low numbers, with 3 reports from 2 locations (m.ob). A **Sandhill Crane** made a brief appearance at MCWMA 6/2 (m.ob. ph.).

Two **American Avocets** dropped in to the SRCF 7/17 (PR, ZM ph.);

avocets are nearly annual along the Susquehanna R. Five **Upland Sandpipers** appeared at LA 7/21 (JH, m.ob.) and continued into Aug. Single **Sanderlings** were reported from the SRCF 7/29 and 7/31 (SSc, JS, ML). One **Dunlin** fed at the SRCF 6/2 (ME, EH), and then 4 on 6/11-12 (BC, EW, m.ob.). A pair of **White-rumped Sandpipers** was found near Mt. Joy 6/2 (JH) and one at MCWMA 6/4 (JF, CW). Two **Short-billed Dowitchers** were on the SRCF 7/27 (ML, JM). A pair of **Bonaparte's Gulls** wandered in to the SRCF 7/30 (BC, ZM ph., MS, EW), and an adult **Laughing Gull** was there 7/25 and 7/30 (ME, m.ob. ph.). **Caspian Terns** were found at 5 locations 7/25-31 (m.ob.).

A **Black-billed Cuckoo** lingered at MCWMA 6/4-6 (WD, BC, ZM), and 3 possible breeders were heard calling together at OSR 7/4 (ML). Four **Red-headed Woodpecker** reports were made, and Red-heads were confirmed to breed for at least the third season at a location near Denver (m.ob.). **Peregrine Falcons** nest at 6 locations, primarily along the Susquehanna R., and 3 of these nests fledged a total of 7 young. The other 3 nests were deemed to be failures. Single singing **Alder Flycatchers** were reported throughout the season at MCWMA, representing at least 2 individuals (m.ob.). **Common Raven** was regularly reported near the Susquehanna R. (m.ob.). Small flocks of **Cliff Swallows** were observed at two known breeding locations, with up to 7 individuals at CRP (m.ob.).

Fourteen species of breeding warblers were recorded. A singing male **Cerulean Warbler** was discovered at MCWMA 6/17-26 (SSt, m.ob.). **Prothonotary Warblers** breed at several locations along the Susquehanna R. in man-made nest tubes, and a high count of 12 was taken at the SRCF 6/2 (ME, m.ob.). A late **Wilson's Warbler** was at the Stoner Farm 6/3 (Derek Stoner). An area of farmland near Ephrata was the only location to report **Vesper Sparrow**, with 5 counted 6/25 (ZM, m.ob.). *Lancaster* received its share of irrupting **Dickcissels**. Four locations, all hosting at least one pair, collectively totaled at least 10 males and 6 females.

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### Lawrence County

Locations: Black Swamp (BS), Shaner Rd. Marsh (SR), Volant Strip Mines (VSM).

Continuing their nomadic, almost random habits as breeders in the county, a **Hooded Merganser** with 10 young was photographed at SR 6/7 (ph. JF, LF). An adult **Common Loon** was at the Mason Rd. Gravel Pond 6/9-23 (MV), providing a rare summer record of an adult in this region. A **Virginia Rail** was noted at BS 6/24 (JM, LN), and a **Sora** was there 6/30 (RT). Two **Common Gallinules** were found in the same (northern) area of BS 6/8-28 (GK, MAK, et al.). Up to 6 **Sandhill Cranes**, including colts, were seen around VSM and Plain Grove Twp. most of Jun (GK, MAK, TH, DK, RR, et al.), and 4 were at the Copper Rd. Marsh 6/3 (SD).

Late spring shorebirds at SR included 3 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** and a **White-rumped Sandpiper** 6/3 (DK), the latter possibly continuing from late May, and a **Semipalmated Plover** 6/6 (ph. JF). **Lesser Yellowlegs**, **Solitary Sandpiper**, **Semipalmated Sandpiper**, **Least Sandpiper**, and **Pectoral Sandpiper** all returned to SR or mudflats at BS by 7/21 or a few days thereafter (MV).

A **Cliff Swallow** was noted at SR 6/1 and 7/23 (JF, LF). **Marsh Wren** was calling at BS 6/8 (GK, MAK). For the second year in a row a **Clay-colored Sparrow** summered at VSM, last reported 6/30 (ST, et al.), but this year there were no reports of more than one bird. Top count of **Henslow's Sparrow** at VSM this year was 17 on 6/30 (RT). An excellent

find in this invasion summer was a singing **Dickcissel** at VSM 7/17 (DW, BD). **Bobolinks** were plentiful at VSM, with top daily counts in the range of 16-20 birds in Jun (m.ob.).

Observers: **Geoff Malosh, 450 Amherst Avenue, Moon Township, PA 15108-2654, (412) 735-3128, pomarine@earthlink.net**, Sheree Daugherty, Brittany Dobrzynski, Leslie Ferree, John Flannigan, Amy Henrici, Todd Hooe, Deb Kalbfleisch, Mary Alice Koeneke (MAK), Glenn Koppel, Jeff McDonald, Lauren Nagoda, Rich Rehrig, Shannon Thompson, Ryan Tomazin, Mark Vass, Dustin Welch.

### **Lebanon County**

Locations: Fort Indiantown Gap (FIG), Fox and Prescott Rd Ponds (FXP), Greater Lebanon Refuse Authority (GLRA), Memorial Lake State Park (MLSP), Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area (MC), SGL 211, Stover's Dam Park (SD), Swatara State Park (SSP)

Up to 4 **Ruddy Ducks** persisted at MLSP 6/8-23 (MC, TB, TA). A long-staying **Common Loon**, in breeding plumage, provided a new county late date at MLSP 6/2-25 (JH, CK, TB, KB, MC, SW). A juvenile **Little Blue Heron** spent some time in both *Lebanon* and *Lancaster* portions of MC 7/30 (ME, TN, TB, KB). A **Black-crowned Night-heron** was seen flying over Lindley Murray Rd. 7/4 (SW) and at SD 7/17 (P&RW). Two were at the Mine and Birch Rd. pond 7/24 (P&RW).

Up to 7 **Greater Yellowlegs** were at FXP during the county accidental period 7/27-29 (BC, RCM, DB). Also accidental was a **Short-billed Dowitcher** in breeding plumage at FXP 7/27-29 (P&RW, BC, TN, TB, KB, SS). A **Black Tern** in non-breeding plumage provided a 13th county record at MLSP 6/7 (MC). **Barred Owls** were heard at SGL 211 on 6/3 (JH), at SGL 156 on 6/15 (P&RW), and at FIG 6/18 (IG, PD). **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were seen at the GLRA 6/2 (P&RW), and at FIG 6/3 (AK, JH) and 6/21 (IG).

**Alder Flycatchers** were found at MLSP 6/3 (AK), at MC 6/9-10 (RCM, P&RW), and at FIG 6/12 (IG). **Common Ravens** are increasingly common away from the mountains of northern *Lebanon* - one was found at the GLRA 7/19 (P&RW). An albino **Tree Swallow** was an interesting sight at Forney Rd. 7/29 (MD). Also on 7/29, two **Bank Swallows** were at FXP (BC) and 5 were at MC (JH). A **Winter Wren** was a nice find at SGL 211 on 6/3 (JH). A **Kentucky Warbler** was at SSP 6/3 (AK). Five **Yellow-breasted Chats** provided a good count at FIG 6/12 (IG). A **Blue Grosbeak** was at FIG 6/7 (IG) and a male was photographed with a beak full of insects at MC 7/18 (SSt). Blue Grosbeaks were found at various locations within MC 7/18-29 (SSt, ME, TB, KB, JH, SW).

Observers: **Timothy Becker, 10283 Jonestown Rd, Grantville, Pa 17028, tjbecker81@aol.com**, Tony Arnold, Kathy Becker, Don Billett, Bruce Carl, Mary Coomer, Mike Dale, Paul Dennehy, Mike Epler, Ian Gardner, Jonathan Heller, Chad Kauffman, Andy Keister, Randy Miller (RCM), Steve Schmit, Stan Stahl (SSt), Steve Walthius, Pat and Richard Williams (P&RW).

### **Lehigh County**

No report

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### **Luzerne County**

No compiler

### **Lycoming County**

Locations: Canfield Island (CI), Mill Street (MS), Montoursville (MTV),

Rose Valley Lake (RVL), West Branch Susquehanna River (SR), Williamsport Dam (WD)

The summer season was not terribly exciting in *Lycoming*, either in terms of birds or weather. With very few notable reports, the season's biggest highlight was easily the first county record of American Avocet. Four seasons in a row, and five of the last six, have had a first county record. Most other "rarities" came from relatively common migrants that stuck around into June. In total, 133 species were reported.

The only notable waterfowl report was a swan sp., briefly seen at WD 6/25, which was likely a Trumpeter Swan (JY). A **Common Loon** was at RVL 6/1 (BB, DeB, BoB) and 6/10 (BB, DeB). One in breeding plumage was also observed along SR in mid-June, including 6/13 and 6/17 at MS (BB, DeB, BoB). A different bird, in first-summer plumage, was at WD 6/19 (DB, MD). A **Horned Grebe** spent most of June at RVL (BB, et al.).

**Double-crested Cormorants** were regularly seen along SR throughout the summer, with most the sightings coming from WD (DB, et al.). The only **Great Egret** was photographed on Lycoming Cr. by a non-birder 7/27 (*vide* SP).

**Black Vultures** were observed with some regularity, continuing the trend of increasing presence in *Lycoming*. There were a few **Osprey** sightings, but no evidence of nesting. Several **Northern Harriers** were seen in Cogan House Twp. and Jackson Twp. 6/24 (Browns), including a male and female seen near each other, suggesting that nesting was possible. **Sharp-shinned Hawk** reports were limited to the area around Pine Cr. **Red-shouldered Hawks** were reported in a few areas where they may be nesting. **Virginia Rails** were detected by nocturnal flight call over MTV 6/23 and 7/5 (DB NFC Station).

Shorebird sightings in July seemed a little more frequent than normal. The best observation of the season was 4 **American Avocets** at WD 7/14 (DB, MD, et al., ph.), a first *Lycoming* record. A **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was found at a small wetland in Muncy 7/23 (BB, DeB, BoB), possibly the first time the species has been recorded in *Lycoming* during a summer. **Solitary Sandpipers** were also observed, especially towards the end of July. There were scattered sightings of **Ring-billed Gulls**, but no other gull species and no terns were reported.

A **Barn Owl** was recorded calling over MTV the evening of 6/10 (DB NFC Station). The only **Common Nighthawk** was over MTV 6/6 (BB). **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were present in the Slate Run area again this year, although nesting was not confirmed. Another bird passed through Eldred Twp. 6/16 (JD).

All three expected falcon species were confirmed nesting. A confirmed **Merlin** nest in Loyalsock successfully fledged 3 young, and another nest was suspected west of Williamsport. At least one of the young **Peregrine Falcons** at the new nest site near Montgomery Boat Launch fledged. The nest at the Market St. Bridge was unsuccessful again this year.

The **Acadian Flycatcher** that was first found at MS in mid-May stayed the entire summer. There was no evidence of a second bird for nesting, but the bird was favoring a small tree line tucked in between a farm field, soccer field, and a small meadow area, which is not typical nesting habitat for the species. There were also sightings of the species in more expected locations. **Purple Martins** were confirmed at a martin house in the southern part of the county 6/25 (Browns), but no info is known about the success of nesting there. There were only two reports of **Bank Swallows**, with 3 seen in the Picture Rocks area 7/4 (BB, DeB, BoB) and one at MS 7/12 (BB, DeB). **Cliff Swallows** were seen regularly at several nest sites.

There were scattered reports of **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, but probably fewer than expected, considering the elevated numbers during previous winter and entire spring. The only **Winter Wren** observation was in the Slate Run area 6/11 (Browns). Migrant **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** continued to be detected over MTV through 6/7 (DB NFC Station). **Swainson's Thrushes** were detected as late as 6/29 (DB NFC Station).

There were few surprises with warblers. Twenty species were reported, all of which likely nest yearly in *Lycoming*, including **Worm-eating Warbler, Mourning Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Pine Warbler,**

### **Yellow-rumped Warbler, and Prairie Warbler.**

**Grasshopper Sparrows** were observed at MS throughout the season, and a few were found in Cogan House Twp. 7/3 (Browns). **Field Sparrows** were reported in many areas, and were particularly numerous at SGL 252. **Dark-eyed Juncos** were found in high-elevation areas in both the northern and southern part of the county.

Despite the state-wide irruption during the summer, *Lycoming* did not record a **Dickcissel** on the ground, but the species was detected by nocturnal flight call over MTV 6/5, 6/12, 6/16, and 6/29 (DB NFC Station). **Bobolinks** were quite numerous in Cogan House Twp. and Jackson Twp., where they nest annually. Likewise, **Eastern Meadowlarks** were found in their normal areas, with MS continuing to be a reliable site. There were scattered reports of **Orchard Orioles**, but a nest site at CI observed in May and early June appeared to have been abandoned suddenly.

Observers: **Bobby Brown, 1304 Pearl Blvd., Montoursville, PA 17754, 570-772-9211, bobbybrown1011@gmail.com**, Dan Brauning (DanB), Bob Brown (BoB), David Brown, Deb Brown (DeB), Jean Dalton, Maddi Dunlap, Wes Egli, Dave Ferry, C. Harbach, Eric Hartshaw, Jared Hollick, Andy Keister, Steve Pinkerton, David Rothrock, Joe Yoder.

### **McKean County**

Allegheny NF Timberdoodle Flats (TF), Allegheny NF North Country National Scenic Trail (NC), Sugar Bay (SB), Kinzua Bridge SP (KB), Minard Run Rd. (MR), Richard E. McDowell Community Trail (RM), U of Pittsburgh-Bradford (UP), Crook Farm Trail (CF), Columbia Hill Rd. (CH), Allegheny NF Tracy Ridge (TR), Bradford (BR), Bon Air Ave. (BA), Willows Stream (WS), Rte. 59 (RF), Kinzua Creek (KC), Cyclone Ridge Rd., Woodland Hollow (WH) South Forks Rd. (SF).

A **Hooded Merganser** reported near Bradford 7/20 (CB) provided only the second summer report for the county in the past ten years. With the reported decline of **Ruffed Grouse**, it was good to see reports in several locations: TF 6/05 (MM), NC 7/8 (JF), and a high count of 9 birds at NC 6/18 (JF). There was little species diversity among raptors observed, but it was good to see numerous reports of **Northern Harrier** in various locations (TL, SD, CB, AR, JR, KB). **Ospreys** also were reported in numerous locations (CB, JR, AR, KB, JF, TR, EP).

The only **Sora** was at BR 7/20 (CB). **Virginia Rail** was reported four times, with one sighting each in four separate areas, RF (HK, JR); CR (TL); MR (AR); CF (KB). Single **American Woodcocks** were reported at CH 6/20 (TR) and UP 6/29 (SG).

Cuckoo reports were also sparse, with sightings of **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** 6/9 at TR (JK) and 6/31 at KC (RB). **Black-billed Cuckoos** were reported on four occasions: one at KC (BB), 2 in BR (DW), one at TR 7/2 (JF), and one at NC 6/18 (JF). **Barred Owls** were sighted 7/27 at WH (TL) and 6/10 at SF (SS, JK).

**Fish Crows** are rare in the county but singles were reported 6/26 and 7/13 near Bradford (JF). There have been no other reports of this species in the county in the past ten years. A lone **Northern Waterthrush** was at RF 6/21 (JF), the only report for the season. **Louisiana Waterthrush** were sighted twice - 2 at NC 6/18 (JF) and one at WS 7/19 (JR). Encouraging for the breeding season, a good diversity of warbler species was reported throughout the county.

Observers: **Gigi Gerben, PO Box 62262, Pittsburgh PA 15241, (412) 206-1310, birdersx5@gmail.com**, Kierra Barber (KB), Benjamin Boon (BB), Chrissy Brunecz (CB), Ron Burkett (RB), Sean DeFazio (SD), John Fedak (JF), Steve Gaffey (SG) Jon Kauffman (JK), Hunter Kline (HK) Elizabeth Prager (EP), Jess Race (JR) Tessa Rinehart (TR) Amanda Ryen (AR), Devin Weis (DW).

### **Mercer County**

Locations: Pennsy Swamp (PS), Shenango R Res (SRR), Shenango  
**PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS**

Wildlife Area (SWA), Williamson Rd (WR).

A total of 131 species were reported for the period. Though not first county records, several rarities were found and the highest number of probable breeding warbler species ever found in June was also reported. A total of 9.25" of rain was recorded at Williamson Rd for June, preventing farmers from cutting their hayfields until early July when most grassland birds were done nesting. Even though only 2.25" of rain was recorded in July, SRR was still almost 0.50 feet above summer pool at the end of the period.

A **Ruffed Grouse** was seen at SGL 130 on 6/14 (SS, NT). Somewhat uncommon in the summer, 2 **Double-crested Cormorants** were at the SWA 7/27 (NT). An **American White Pelican**, seen in flight at WR late evening 6/13 was heading northeast ahead of a warm front moving up the Ohio Valley. This represented the fourth record for *Mercer* (NT). The only report of a **Great Egret** was one at the SWA 7/25 (SS).

Not often reported in summer, several reports of **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were noteworthy. One was found in the Amish area north of New Wilmington on the Clover BBS 6/8 (GK, MAK), and one was at SGL 130 on 6/29 (GK, MAK, NT). Several **Broad-winged Hawks** were found at SGL 130 through the period and were probably nesting there (GK, MAK, SS, NT).

Nine species of shorebirds were reported and unless otherwise noted all sightings were at the SWA. A **Semipalmated Plover** was seen 7/27 (NT) and **Solitary Sandpiper** was reported 7/25-27 (SS, NT). A **Greater Yellowlegs** was heard in flight at WR 7/27 (NT, ST). A **Least Sandpiper** was reported 7/8-27 (SS, NT) and 2 **Pectoral Sandpipers** were observed 7/27 (NT). The best shorebird sighting of the season was a well described **White-rumped Sandpiper** 7/8 (SS, KS, MH).

An **Eastern Screech-Owl** was heard at WR 7/21 (NT) and a pair of **Barred Owl** was also heard at that location through the period (NT). Up to 5 **Common Nighthawks** were reported in downtown Sharon to 6/2 (BD), either late migrants or possible breeders. A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was at Slater Rd. 6/18 (GK, MAK), and one at Poole Rd. 6/29 (GK, MAK, NT). **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were reported at various locations through the period (NT, SS).

Both **White-eyed** and **Blue-headed Vireos** were found at SGL 130 from 6/12 to 7/8 (GK, MAK, NT). **Common Ravens** are becoming more common. One was seen on the Clover BBS 6/8 north of New Wilmington (GK, MAK) and 2 reported at the Reed's Furnace area at SGL 130 from 6/12-29 (NT, m.ob.). Several **Horned Larks** were seen along Mercer-New Castle Rd 7/6 (NT). An uncommon breeder at SGL 130, a **Winter Wren** there 6/29 was noteworthy (NT, MAK). Also at SGL 130 were 2 **Marsh Wrens** 6/12-7/8 (NT, m.ob.).

Nineteen species of warblers were reported. Both **Louisiana** and **Northern Waterthrushes** were at SGL 130 from 6/12 to 7/8 (NT, GK, MAK), and the following species were also found at the same location and at the same time: **Black-and-White**, **Mourning**, **Kentucky**, **Magnolia**, **Blackburnian**, and **Black-throated Green Warblers**. Three **Blue-winged Warblers** were heard during the Clover BBS near New Hamburg 6/8 (GK, MAK) and one was at Skunk Run Rd 6/1 (NT). A **Magnolia Warbler** was also seen along the Shenango Trail 6/21 (NT), a new possible nesting location. **Prothonotary Warblers** were listed as probable nesters at the Golden Run area of SRR (NT) and up to 6 **Cerulean Warblers** were heard along the Shenango Trail 6/21 (NT). A **Pine Warbler** sang along Creek Rd. 6/14 (NT), and a **Yellow-throated Warbler** was heard at North River Rd. along the Shenango River 6/9 (NT). After an absence of several years, a **Yellow-breasted Chat** heard at Spring Rd. 6/9-11 was a nice find (NT, SS).

Both **Henslow's** and **Grasshopper Sparrows** were heard at the Spring Rd grasslands 6/9-25 (NT, SS), and 2 **Grasshopper Sparrows** were at Holmes Rd 6/17 (SS). Though probably not breeding there, **Dark-eyed Junco** found at SGL 130 on 7/8 was noteworthy (GK, MAK, NT). A **Dickcissel** found at Slater Rd 6/16 (NT) and last reported there 6/19 represents the fourth record for the county. A **Purple Finch** was heard at WR to 6/25 (NT).

Observers: **Neil Troyer, 876 Williamson Road, Mercer, PA 16137**. Bill

Drolsbough, Mimi Hoffmaster, Mary Alice Koeneke, Glenn Koppel, Steve Sanford, Kim Springer, Samuel Troyer.

### Mifflin County

All reports are from Big Valley in northwest *Mifflin*.

An **Upland Sandpiper** was briefly observed near Whitehall 7/11 by Trevor Weaver and Mike Stuck, who provided photo documentation 7/23 (*fide* JZ). Two **Least Sandpipers** were reported on Cemetery Rd 7/29 (RD). Amos Swarey reported **Barn Owl** vocalizations at Wills Rd 5/28. A follow-up visit to a private residence on Middle Rd 6/3 found one female **Barn Owl** in an abandoned silo (JZ, JK). Reports of a male and female 7/10 continued through the season at a private residence outside Milroy (AB, MH, RH).

Aaron Peachey reported a **Blue Grosbeak** on Middle Road 7/27, confirmed by several birders into Aug. A **Dickcissel** pair was reported at a private residence on Sunrise Lane, date unknown. Residents observed a singing male and both male and female seen carrying nesting material; audio documentation was obtained 7/11 (JZ).

Observers: **Jon Kauffman, 3400 Discovery Road, Petersburg, PA 16669, jvk5019@gmail.com**, Anthony Bruno, Rob Dickerson, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Jay Zook.

### Monroe County

Overall the period was on the cooler and wetter side, highlighted by late waterfowl and several **Red-headed Woodpecker** sightings. The male **Ring-necked Duck** at Pocono Summit Lake 6/22 represents a late date for this species (BJ). Also late was the **Ruddy Duck** pair at Pocono Summit Lake 6/7 that lingered for four days (BJ). The following shorebirds reports were recorded by BJ at Lynchwood Lake in the Mt. Pocono area 7/6, unless otherwise noted, and represent high counts: 4 **Semipalmated Plovers** 6/3, 12 **Killdeer**, one **Lesser Yellowlegs**, 2 **Solitary Sandpipers**, 8 **Spotted Sandpipers**, 14 **Least Sandpipers**, one **White-rumped Sandpiper**, and one **Pectoral Sandpiper** 7/31.

A single **Red-headed Woodpecker**, an uncommon county species, was reported via eBird at Pocono Manor golf course 6/18 (RR) followed by a pair seen at the same location 6/21 at a tree cavity (RJ). Another Red-headed Woodpecker was seen in a Saylorburg yard 6/21 (RW), and unconfirmed reports came from the Smithfield Village area near East Stroudsburg in June (WL).

Observers: **Brian Hardiman, Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center, 8050 Running Valley Road, Stroudsburg, PA 18360, (570) 629-3061, bhmccd@ptd.net**. Bruce Johnson, Ryan Johnson, Wendy Lichty, Rich Rehrig, Rick Wiltraut.

### Montgomery County

Locations: Evansburg S.P. (ESP), Green Lane Park (GLP), Gwynedd Wildlife Preserve (GWP), John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove (MG), Norristown Dam (ND), Norristown Farm Park (NFP), Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust (PERT), Trewellyn Park (TP), Valley Forge National Historical Park (VFNHP), Wissahickon Waterfowl Preserve (WWP).

At least 130 species of birds, plus one exotic, were spotted during breeding season 2017, a surprisingly high number given shorebirds were in short supply on the back half.

Less than two years after *Montgomery's* first **White Ibis** since the '70s, single immature ibis appeared, and were chased by many birders, at both TP 7/12-13 (JC, m.ob, ph., doc. submitted) and WWP 7/22-27 (PD, m.ob, ph.). Given that these locations were only 2.7 miles apart, as the ibis flies, and the date ranges did not overlap, there was speculation

that the same bird simply relocated from TP to WWP. This was only speculation, of course: we could have easily hosted two.

The next best birds for the period, also heavy chase-targets, were 2 **Sedge Wrens** that showed up at GWP 7/23 and continued through the end of the period (MJ, m.ob, ph.). These wrens, known for creative choices in late summer second breeding attempts, were observed singing on apparent territory and showing other behavioral signals indicating interest in nesting.

A lingering summer **Snow Goose** is not atypical at GLP, and, sure enough, one was spotted there 6/25 (GF). Juvenile **Hooded Mergansers**, new/unusual for the county mid-year, continued at GLP from the spring season: 5 merglings were seen with their mother 6/6 and 6/16 (LH). After that, the ducks were large enough that it was more difficult to tell immature from adult. Five other reports of the species were recorded at GLP (m.ob). Elsewhere in the county, only adults (or, at least, adult-sized) Hooded Mergansers were seen. These sightings included multiple viewings at ND 6/3-12 (PB, WBH, KH, MR), and a Hoodie photographed at MG 7/9 (JJ). Although breeding was not confirmed away from GLP, their mere presence on the Schuylkill during breeding season may hint that more was afoot. Juvenile **Common Mergansers** were detected at GLP and ND (m.ob). A late **Ruddy Duck** was at GLP 6/10 (PB).

Another GLP straggler was a **Common Loon**, observed by boat 6/18 (PD). A **Pied-billed Grebe** showed up early, present at WWP from 7/17 to the end of the period (PBu, m.ob). **Great Egrets** are normally absent from the county during the month of Jun. Several were seen this Jun, however: one at PERT 6/2 (MG), another at GLP 6/4-10 (m.ob), and a third (or continuing second) at GLP 6/19 (LH). The first immature **Little Blue Heron** of the late summer dispersal period materialized at GLP 7/31 (LH). **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons**, believed to nest somewhere in the vicinity of ND, were seen there semi-regularly through 7/4 (m.ob, ph.). Observed were at least two adults and a juvenile. Another immature Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was seen on a creek in Gladwyne 7/26 (AG, ph.).

Unusual for summer, a **Northern Harrier** was well-described at TP 7/23 (MJ). Single **Broad-winged Hawks** were reported at ESP 6/25 (MEH, VS, et al.) and GLP 7/12 (DH), both locations where they probably breed in minuscule numbers. Another unusual breeding season report was of a pair of **Virginia Rails** at a wetland in heavily-developed Lower Moreland Twp. 7/16 (PD, vr.).

Regular rains in Jul meant that water levels at GLP were too high to present inviting mudflats to southbound shorebird migrants. Shorebird-watching was somewhat better at WWP, where as many as 3 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were seen 7/22 through the end of the period (PD, m.ob). The most bizarre shorebird record for the period, however, was an **American Woodcock** that strolled around a yard in Fairview Village 6/24 (PN, ph.). The species is not known to nest anywhere nearby. An adult **Bonaparte's Gull** was at GLP 7/31 (GF). A **Caspian Tern**, very strange for GLP in Jun, was photographed there 6/19 (LH).

**Black-billed Cuckoos**, always tougher to find in *Montgomery* than their **Yellow-billed** cousins, were noted at ESP 6/3 (LR) and at GWP on both 6/7 and 7/1 (both MJ). Two active **Barred Owl** nests were found at ESP in Jun (SF). Roughly 105 **Chimney Swifts** were seen pouring into an East Norriton chimney 6/3 (AU, KG). Scarcely seen in summer in recent decades, an adult **Red-headed Woodpecker** visited a Schwenksville feeder 7/9-10 (TR).

The juvenile **Peregrine Falcons** at ND either dispersed quickly after fledging in Jun or met untimely ends. We're hoping for the former. One juvenile was seen with its parents there 6/20 (MR). Three juveniles had been noted at ND in May (MR, RZ). Away from the river, a Peregrine made an unexpected appearance in Salford Twp. 7/26, calling and circling around a residence for several minutes (WBH).

**Common Raven** breeding in *Montgomery* came one agonizing step closer to being confirmed this season. Obvious juveniles, 2 each, visited yards in Fairview Village 6/1 (PN, ph.) and Lederach 6/24-26 (LC, ph., vr.). The latter location is relatively close to a rock quarry: LC's husband saw a raven flying toward that quarry 7/26. While the smoking gun still

eludes us, this is the closest we've gotten to confirming the species as a county breeder. A raven was also at MG 7/9 (JJ, ph.). Three **Horned Larks**, nearly extirpated from the county as a breeding species as farmland has made way for housing developments, were seen on a field along Fell Rd. in Franconia Twp. 6/4-11 (SG, m.ob).

Warblers of note included a **Prothonotary Warbler** at TP 6/5 (JC, m.ob, ph.) and **Pine Warblers** at NFP 6/3 (WBH) and VFNHP 6/24-25 (SF). A **Cerulean Warbler**, first found 5/6 (PD), continued singing on territory in the Unami Creek Valley through at least 6/25 (TR, SG, vr.). Though we don't know if this lonesome male ever found the companionship it so clearly desired, it's a step in the right direction. Cerulean Warblers have not been a regular breeding species in the county for a couple of decades. A late **Canada Warbler** at NFP 6/3 (WBH, ph.) represented a first June record in eBird.

A **Grasshopper Sparrow** was noted at Fruitville Rd. in East Greenville 7/23 (WBH, KH). While Grasshopper Sparrow is an extremely localized breeder, that this was the sole report of the species for the period was abnormal. Hopefully, this paucity of sightings was only the result of a lack of effort. A **White-throated Sparrow** remained in North Wales until 6/7 (AM). A female **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was at PERT 6/27-28 (FB). **Blue Grosbeaks** made a push into the area, with single males at Fell Rd. 6/9 (PD) and Skymount Park 6/18 (SG). Another singing male, first detected at VFNHP 6/27, was joined by a female 7/8-23 (MEH, m.ob). **Dickcissels**, another cardinalid on the move, were found at Fell Rd. 6/1-4 (SG, m.ob) and VFNHP 6/22-7/5 (MR, m.ob).

**EXOTICS:** The Cheltenham **Mandarin Duck** was spotted on Tookany Creek on at least 4 occasions in Apr and May (RI).

Observers: **W. Brian Henderson, 114 Morwood Rd., Telford, PA 18969, (610) 505-5571, wbhenderson@gmail.com**, Paul Bernhardt, Frances Brown, Peter Burns (PBu), Jeffrey Collins, Paul Driver, George Franchois, Scott Fraser, Scott Godshall, Alexander Grimwade, Mike Grubb, Kim Gruener, Mary Ellen Heisey, Katie Henderson, Len Hillegass, Daniel Hinnebusch, Matt Jewell, August Mirabella, Pat Nastase, Trevor Redding, Lynn Roman, Michael Rosengarten, Vincent Smith, Anthony Uhrich, Ron Zigler.

### Montour County

Locations: Greenhouse Ponds (GP), Montour Preserve (MP)

The most surprising bird this season was a **Brant** at the MP 6/15-27 (WS, m.ob) – there are no other records on eBird for the entire state in any summer season. This bird may have been a very late, wayward, spring migrant. A **Snow Goose** with a damaged wing summered at the GP (EH) and was accompanied by another individual 6/1-6 (ErH). A late male **American Wigeon** was also there 6/6 (ErH). A **Great Egret** at the MP 7/17 during a rainstorm was the first of the season. Two **Dunlins** and 4 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** at the GP 6/1 (EH) were late spring migrants, while a Semipalmated Sandpiper at the same spot 7/17 was an early fall migrant.

Sightings of adult **Red-headed Woodpeckers** in June at Mill Rd. 6/1 (ErH) and at Arrowhead Rd. 6/1 (EH) suggest this species may be breeding in the northern part of the county. The **Peregrine Falcon** nest at the Montour Power Plant produced 4 eyasses in early June (EH, ErH). A report of a **White-eyed Vireo** at the MP 6/30 suggests that the individual reported this spring also spent much of the summer there (RN).

Observers: **Evan Houston, 136 Ridgeview, Danville, PA 17821, evanhouston@gmail.com**, Eric Hartshaw (ErH), Richard Nugent, Wayne Stahl.

### Northampton County

A **Lesser Scaup** in non-breeding plumage was at the Martins Creek Environmental Preserve pond 7/2-23 (MS). An **American Bittern** was

found at the Rod & Gun Club in Stockertown, 6/7 (CM). An imm. **Little Blue Heron** spent several days at a flooded corn field on S. Oaks Rd. near Moore Elementary School 7/22-24 (BE). An adult **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was at Green Pond 8/19-22 (BE).

**Blue-headed Vireo, Brown Creeper, and Northern Waterthrush** are rare county nesters and each was observed at Bear Swamp. The Blue-headed Vireo was seen and heard singing 6/14-7/4 (JC), the Brown Creeper was found 7/8 (AM), and multiple **Northern Waterthrushes** were observed 6/25-7/31 (JC, MS). A bit south of its summer range, a **White-throated Sparrow** was at Monacacy Nature Center Park 7/22 (DG). **Blue Grosbeak** and **Dickcissel** were probable nesters at Grand Central Landfill. A male and female Blue Grosbeak could be seen at Evergreen Cemetery that borders the grasslands 6/25-7/31 (AM, m.ob.). As many as 4 Dickcissels were at the grasslands in June/July, found during scheduled public walking tours in secured areas at the landfill (RW).

Observers: Michael Schall, 126 N Chestnut St, Bath, 610-737-5275, **mdtjschall@yahoo.com**, Justin Clarke, Bill Etter, Dennis Glew, Carolyn Metzgar, Adam Miller, Rick Wiltraut.

### Northumberland County

Locations: Amish Pond (AP), Pond Road (PR), Redman Acres Road (RAR), Turbotville (TV).

The summer season started off busy but reports tapered off quickly in July. Overall, the weather was wetter than normal and following on the heels of a wet spring, shorebird habitat remained good at the Amish Ponds.

A rather late **American Wigeon** was observed at the AP 6/1 (EvH, EH). This represents a late spring date for the county. A **Pied-billed Grebe** was at the AP 6/5 (AK), representing the only June record in eBird and a late spring date.

By far, the best bird of the season was a **Least Bittern** at the AP, first heard calling 6/5 (EvH) and observed through 6/10 (LS, MH, AK, DB, EH, YH). This represents the first eBird record for the county, however I'm sure they've been present at the now inaccessible Montandon Marsh in the past. **Virginia Rails** were observed at the AP between 6/1-10 (AK, EvH, EH, YH), most likely staying from the spring. Shorebirds lingered at the AP into early summer. A **Semipalmated Plover** was present 6/5 (EvH, AK, LS, MH). **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were seen 6/1 (EvH, EH) and 6/10 (EH, YH).

Three **Barn Owls**, irregular nesters in the county, were observed at a nest box in a barn near TV 6/3 (KJ, SJ, RC). Exact locations are being withheld to protect the sensitivity of the species and the private landowner. **Horned Larks** are typically underreported in the summer season but fledglings were observed on PR 7/1 (KP). A sand and gravel quarry on RAR was home to a large colony of **Bank Swallows** this year, where as many as 300 were observed between 6/25-7/23 (KP, MK, SF).

Observers: **Andy Keister, 110 Hawk Ridge Road, Bloomsburg, 17815, (570) 337-3802, akeister110@gmail.com**, David Brown, Roxan Chicalo, Steph Fullmer, Eric Hartshaw, Yvonne Hartshaw, Matthew Heintzelman, Evan Houston (EvH), Kirk Jeffreys, Sean Jeffreys, Matthew Karns, Karol Pasquinelli, Lauren Shaffer.

### Perry County

Weather conditions were a little wetter and cooler than average. Unusual summer sightings included 2 **Buffleheads** at Little Buffalo SP. A male that had been present since early spring was last seen 6/3 (VG) and a female that was first reported 6/2 (CK) was last seen 6/23 (VG). This is the first summer eBird record for Perry. A **Spotted Sandpiper** was on the shore of the Juniata River at Millerstown Community Park 6/13 (DH). This species is only occasional in June.

Two **Cliff Swallows** were seen at Millerstown Community Park 6/13 (DH), only the second summer eBird report for the species; they were reported in numerous blocks in the first BBA of Pennsylvania, but only one block in the second BBA of Pennsylvania. A male **Blue Grosbeak** was observed singing on Fowlers Hollow Rd. just east of Mount Pleasant Rd. 7/22 (VG). This was the first eBird record for the species, which had only been listed as possible in three blocks during the second BBA of Pennsylvania. It would be interesting to confirm the species in the future.

Observers: **Vernon Gauthier, 111 W. Big Spring Ave, Newville, PA 17241, 717-385-9526, pabirder@gmail.com**, Deuane Hoffman, Chad Kauffman.

### **Philadelphia County**

Locations: Bartram's Garden (BG), Benjamin Rush State Park (BRSP), Carpenter's Woods (CW), Delaware River (DR), Delaware River Trail (DRT), Fairmount Park (FP), Franklin D. Roosevelt Park (FDR), Glenn Foerd Mansion (GF), John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum-Philadelphia (TI), Island Green Country Club and Golf Course-abandoned (IGCC), 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).

This was a summer of mostly moderate to occasionally high temperatures, not too much rain and with surprise visits from **Purple Gallinule, Common Gallinule, White Ibis**, and **Prothonotary Warbler**. Species totaled 131, which is equal to or slightly above recent summer totals.

Usually a few diving ducks remain after others hurry northward to breeding grounds, but 3 **Lesser Scaup** were unusually late lingering until 6/1 (FW) and a trio of divers: **Bufflehead** (TN), **Hooded Merganser** (MS), and **Ruddy Duck** (DB) were found as late as 6/24. Unusual for July was an adult **Pied-billed Grebe** 7/22 (FW).

**Least Bittern**, endangered in the Commonwealth, had an unusually good breeding season judged by sightings of 7-8 birds of various ages 7/22-23 (HM, TF, GA). More than 2 adult bitterns and fledglings in disparate locations suggested there were 2 successful clutches and possibly a third pair. Up to 15 **Glossy Ibis** were seen at four locations (m.ob.). A **White Ibis** in juvenile plumage was a great find and was spotted sporadically in a distant corner of the TI impoundment 7/23-31 (FW, ph.). This was the fifth county record since 2011 suggesting an expansion of range is underway.

Six species of breeding falconiformes could become seven if the pair of **Red-shouldered Hawks** summering again at IGCC is confirmed in the near future (AR). They will hopefully join **Osprey, Bald Eagle, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel**, and **Peregrine Falcon** as breeders. Though habitat at IGCC is ideal for Red-shoulders, restricted access may limit reports that might lead to confirmation. It appears that only one of our 2 **Bald Eagle** nests was successful.

For the first time since 1984 a **Purple Gallinule** was seen in the TI impoundment 6/16 (KH, ph.). The documenting photo was only posted in Flickr so local birders were not aware of this rarity and it was not resighted in the thick vegetation. Two pairs of **Common Gallinule** bred for the first time in nearly two decades. A single bird was first seen 6/2 (JM), but it wasn't until 7/8 that one pair with 5 chicks was reported. Subsequently, eight gallinules were seen and finally a second pair built a nest whose success is doubted (DB). A fascinating "chick pecking" incident was videoed showing an adult repeatedly and harshly pecking a chick for many minutes 7/16 (AR), a common behavior in gallinules. This chick appears to have survived, but the exact cause of such harsh treatment is debated. Sibling pecking, which was not observed, is much more common in many species and sibling cannibalism occurs in several species, but I only found one instance of a male Purple Gallinule cannibalizing a chick. Brief appearances by **Virginia Rail** 7/16 (FW) and **Sora** 7/20-25 (m.ob., ph.) complete the rail sightings.

There were no interesting records for either gulls or shorebirds. Seeing 110 **Mourning Doves** gathered as early as 7/9 was unexpected but IGCC provides extensive acreage suitable for doves to gather and feed. **American Kestrel** is a sparse breeder in the more urban areas of the county, using cavities provided by buildings, light standards, etc. I know of no pair in a natural setting. **Peregrine Falcons** continue to thrive and produce a high percentage of the state's eyasses. Philly hosted 6 pairs (12% of the state total); 4 bred successfully fledging 14 young (13% of the state total; 2.33 young per pair) (AMc). Years ago, **Bank Swallow** had a breeding colony at the Army Corps property until excavations destroyed the colony, so a flock of Bank Swallows increasing from 20 on 7/29 (DE) to 45 on 8/1 (GA) might indicate they are breeding nearby.

Six of 12 *parulidae* reported were migrants. Slightly late departing were a **Black-and-White Warbler** 6/29 (PV) and 2 **Blackpoll Warblers** found on the PSO field trip to TI 6/3 (m.ob.). Extirpated as a breeder, a **Kentucky Warbler** enjoyed a relatively long and late stay 6/3-11 (m.ob., av.). A **Northern Waterthrush** was an early arrival 7/31 (JM). Presumably the bright male **Prothonotary Warbler** at TI since April, exploring many parts of the refuge, finally settled into one area that it established as its territory. Almost yearly, one to inspect the **Tree Swallow** nest boxes. Rarely, however, does an unattached male exhibit such strong territorial behavior as this male did. He sang incessantly and aggressively defended a box that was occupied by a swallow pair. So aggressive was the male's behavior that the swallows were driven off and at one point a video was made of the warbler knocking two swallows into the water and "wrestling" with them.

Beginning with fall, *Philadelphia* will have a new compiler - Holger Pflücke will write these summaries using his extensive birding knowledge and wide experience. He is an avid birder and will bring a fresh perspective to these reports. Contact Holger to report bird sightings at [pflicke.holger@gmail.com](mailto:pflicke.holger@gmail.com).

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### **Pike County**

No report

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### **Potter County**

No compiler

### **Schuylkill County**

Locations: Jeff's Swamp (JS), Locust Lake (LLSP), Owl Creek (OC), Swatara (SSP), Sweet Arrow Lake (SAL), Tumbling Run (TR), Tuscarora (TSP)

The county registered a total of 117 species that have some level of likelihood of breeding here. These consisted primarily of upland passerines and is consistent with previous years give or take one or two.

*Schuylkill* has at least two active **Bald Eagle** nests; one at SAL where the young failed to fledge this year (DD) and another at Lebanon Reservoir where there was no report. A nest that had been active near New Ringgold was also not reported this year and a rumored new nest near Hegins cannot be confirmed. Thanks to on-going research at Hawk

Mountain Sanctuary, three **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).

Only two owl species were reported. Although not considered scarce, only a single report was received for an **Eastern Screech Owl** that was heard several times in the latter part of July at my home in South Manheim Twp. (DR). **Barred Owl**, also not scarce, was reported only twice - one was heard at JS 6/17 (DK, DR) and a recently fledged bird was found dead at OC 6/15 with neck wounds (DMi).

The general belief among some county birders concerning the presence of breeding Empid Flycatchers is that Acadian, Willow, and Alder are here in low numbers. **Acadian Flycatcher**, the most common Empid, was found at several locations across the county (m.ob.). Although the most dependable location for **Alder Flycatcher** is SSP, only one report was made this year at nearby JS 6/17 (DK, DR), the second year in a row found at this location. **Willow Flycatcher** was at SSP 6/17 (BH, DM), on Middle Rd. near Heginns 6/1 (DR), and at LVD 6/9 (JS). **Least Flycatchers** were reported for the second year in a row during breeding season after not being reported for several years. Single birds were found at LLSP 6/4 (DK) and 6/10 (TB), and at OC 6/15 (DMi).

**White-eyed Vireos** generally populate the southern edge of the county during breeding season. This year, however, they only made it across the county line at SSP where several birders reported them throughout June (BH, BR, DM, DR, MG, MR, RR). **Blue-headed Vireo** breeding numbers seemed to be dropping the last few years in the county but for a second year in a row they were reported numerous times throughout the county. Reports came in from JS (DK, DR), LLSP (DK, TB), OC (JG, DK, DMi, TS, DR, RR), SGL 106 (KG), SGL 227 (TB), and TSP (SP). **Yellow-throated Vireo**, a species considered unusual in the county and that historically breeds in the southern portion of the county, was also reported numerous times, with reports from throughout the county including LLSP (JS, TB, DK), SSP (BR, BH, DM, MR, MG), OC (EH), TR (JS), the Bartram Trail (KG), and along the Little Schuylkill River (RK). **Warbling Vireo** is not dependable every year but this year they were reported at SSP (BR), near Orwigsburg (TB), and along the Little Schuylkill (RK).

After finding numerous **Red-breasted Nuthatches** this past winter, at least a few remained for the breeding season, found at OC (m.ob.) and at TR (DK). Hard to find during breeding season, 2 **Brown Creepers** were reported at OC (DK, DMi). A couple of other hard to find species were **Winter Wren**, heard at JS (DK, DR), and **Golden-crowned Kinglet**. The Kinglets were found at TR 6/10 (DK) and on several days at OC (DK, DMi, TS). A sighting on 6/11 at the latter location included young (DK).

A total of 19 warbler species were found including a few that are not consistent county breeders. **Cerulean Warbler** was reported 6/1 at SGL 132 (DR), an historic breeding area for this bird. For the second time since 2008, a **Magnolia Warbler** made it into the possible breeding list for the county; 2 were found at OC 6/15 (DMi). What has become a dependable location for **Canada Warbler**, one was heard at JS 6/17 (DK, DR); another was at TR 6/10 (JS). Two **Blackburnian Warblers** showed up at TR 6/10 (DK) and up to 8 were at OC throughout June (JG, DK, DMi, TS, EH). Not found during breeding season most years, a **Wilson's Warbler** was heard singing 6/7 at SSP (BH, DM).

There are a handful of grassland/scrubland birds that are found consistently but in very low numbers and are very localized. A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was found during the latter part of June in SSP (BR, MR, MG). **Swamp Sparrows** were heard singing at JS 6/17 (DK, DR). **Orchard Orioles** were seen a couple of times at SSP (BH, DM, BR), near Heginns 7/10 (DB), and near Ashland 6/24 (PR). Five **Bobolinks** were located just east of Gordon 6/24 (PR). After a mini-invasion of **Red Crossbills** at OC last winter, a single bird was found 6/3 (DK).

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John DeBalko (JoD), Jonathan DeBalko (JD), Denise Donmoyer, Carl Engstrom, Kerry Grim, John Good, Laurie Goodrich, Mary-Terese Grob, Timothy Grover, Elaine Hendricks, Dan Hinnebusch, Barbara Hunsberger, Tonia Jordan, Andy Keister, Rudy Keller, Edward Komito, Dave Kruel, Peter Martin, Andy McGann, Dave McNaughton (DM), Dennis Miranda (DMi), Sarah Polekoff, Pete Rattigan, Madelyne Ray, Rich Rieger, Barb Ritzheimer, Lynn Roman, Steve Schmit, Chad Schwartz, Ty Sharrow, John Stetson, Marcina Trimmell, Scott Weidensaul, Patricia and Richard Williams.

#### **Snyder County**

No report, new compiler to be announced

#### **Somerset County**

Locations: Berlin Area (BA), Confluence Area (CA), Gallitzin State Forest Babcock Division (GSP), Hidden Acres Farm (HAF), Laurel Hill SP (LHSP), Payne Property (PP), Somerset Lake (SL), Summit Mills (SM), Quemahoning Reservoir (QR).

The breeding season was overall cool and very wet with few periods longer than 3 to 4 days without significant rainfall. There were few great surprises but with grassland spots decreasing, it was nice to see most expected species persisting at GSP.

A hen **Common Merganser** with about 6 young lined up on a log on Laurel Hill Creek 6/11 was a nice sight of this relatively new county breeder. **Great Blue Herons** are more common in summer than in past while **Green Herons** seem more sporadic. A pair of **Northern Harriers** was interacting at GSP 6/4 and were thought to be breeding (JP). **Bald Eagles** are more common summer residents with nests near Meyersdale and Confluence and adults and second summer birds visiting SL daily.

At least 3 pairs of **Spotted Sandpipers** bred at the north end of SL. The lake will be drained by next spring for dam repairs. Five **Solitary Sandpipers** were at SL 7/23 (ST, JP, J&MM). A single **Upland Sandpiper** was seen at GSF 6/4 after much searching (JP). Up until 10 years ago, several pairs were found breeding in the county. A single **Pectoral Sandpiper** was present at SL 7/23 along with 2 **Least Sandpipers** (ST, JP, J&MM). A **Black Tern** was found at QR 7/29 (LG).

**Yellow-billed Cuckoos** seemed very scarce. **Black-billed Cuckoos** were a little more common with a breeding pair at PP (JP). An Eastern **Whip-Poor-Will** was calling at HAF 7/2 (SD). **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** were especially common at PP this season with up to 8 present at one time (JP, CaP). It was good to hear of **Red-headed Woodpeckers** being found in 4 spots, including BA (RC), near LHSP (J&MM), SL area (*fide* JP), and SM (EB); young birds were noted at the last two spots. A great count of 5 **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** was at LHSP 7/3 (JJ). **American Kestrel** numbers are decreasing and it is hoped that a nest box program started this year with Somerset Rural Electric and the Somerset County Conservancy may attract some nesters.

**White-eyed Vireo** is an uncommon breeder, usually found in CA as on 6/11 (JP). **Warbling Vireo** is also uncommon, so a singing prospecting bird at PP 6/13 was welcome (JP). The **Purple Martin** colony in Springs had more than 10 birds 7/4 (JP, CaP) and birds were reported in Summit Mills (EB). **Cliff Swallows** are becoming more common and found in barns as well as under bridges. Several **Brown Creepers** were singing at Kimberly Run NA in June. Two rather tame pairs of **Brown Thrashers** nested at PP this year which was great until they ate all the blueberries (JP).

Both **Golden-Winged** and **Blue-winged Warblers** were found on a 6/11 CA trip (JP). Five **Hooded Warblers** and **Cerulean Warblers** were also in CA 6/11. Two singing male **Northern Parulas** were at PP through the period and at least one female was present (JP). A late **Blackpoll Warbler** was at HAF 6/5 (SD). Two **Yellow-rumped Warblers** at HPL 6/10 may represent breeding (ME). Two male **Yellow-throated Warblers** and a **Yellow-breasted Chat** were in CA 6/11 in expected spots (JP).

GSF had the following Sparrows 6/4: 20+ **Field Sparrows**, 3 **Vesper Sparrows**, 4 **Savannah Sparrows**, 10+ **Grasshopper Sparrows**, and 8 **Henslow's Sparrows** (JP). Three Henslow's Sparrows were heard singing in an overgrown field near Fairhope on several occasions (JP).

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### **Sullivan County**

Locations: Cherry Township (CT), Dutch Mtn (DM), Eagles Mere (EM), High Knob (HK), Hunter's Lake (HL), Jamison City Rd (JCR), Kinsley's Corner(KC), Lake Jean (LJ), Lake Makoma (LM), Lietzelman Road – Dushore (LR), Loyalsock State Forest (LSF), SGL 13 Splashdam Pond (SDP), Sullivan Falls Road (SFR), SGL 66, Shady Nook Lake (SNL).

June and July were very typical in terms of weather. The temperatures were normal and no extreme events occurred. No extreme rarities were reported during the period. The bulk of the reports for this narrative are derived from eBird. Reports not specifically noted to an observer were made by the author.

**Canada Goose** and **Wood Duck** were both confirmed nesters with multiple observations of fledged young. Six young **Ruffed Grouse** were with an adult who charged the observers as the young birds scurried away at Lake Makoma 6/8 (R&SM). **Wild Turkey** poults were also seen on multiple occasions. Once again, **Sandhill Crane** nested at LR. Two adults were observed with a single chick multiple times (m.ob.). A single **Double-crested Cormorant** seemed to be a late migrant at SNL 6/3. **Northern Harriers** were observed in the KC area on four separate occasions over the first three days of June. Both sexes were seen but only one bird was observed at any one time. A pair of **Red-shouldered Hawks** was seen in the same vicinity 6/2.

An **Eastern Wood-Pewee** and 6 **Acadian Flycatchers**, including males singing on territory, were along SFR 6/18 (JL). A **Willow Flycatcher** was at HL 6/9 (NF). **Eastern Phoebe** again nested on my DM property, choosing to build the nest inside the garage which is kept closed and locked when we are not there. There are window panes missing allowing the birds entry. We were present when fledging occurred and the last I saw of them was a fledgling that had gotten outside fluttering against a window trying to evade an immature **Sharp-shinned Hawk**. I never saw how the encounter ended. Two male **Blue-headed Vireos** were singing on territory along JCR 6/18 (JL). A **Warbling Vireo** was present at LM 6/27 (MB). **Red-eyed Vireo** was confirmed as a nester when a nest with young was observed at LM 7/21 (R&SM). Four **Fish Crows** were at EM 6/11 (JW) and a lone Fish Crow was at LM 6/27 (MB).

A **Tufted Titmouse** carrying food on DM was a good find for a higher elevation area 6/17 (JD & JS). Two **Veeries** were seen in an agitated state repeatedly calling and diving at a dog along SFR 6/18 (JL). A **Hermit Thrush** was gathering nesting material in SGL13 6/8 (D&GG). A high of 7 **Ovenbirds** were in LSF 6/8 (R&SM). A recently fledged **Common Yellowthroat** was observed at LJ 7/25 (BE). A male **Hooded Warbler** was singing on territory along SFR 6/18 (JL). **Mourning Warblers** were locally common in the HK area with 5 seen 7/23 (R&SM) and 2 males photographed 6/18 (JH). **Field Sparrows** were singing on territory on DM in early June. **Savannah Sparrows** were found at KC multiple times in June. A **Grasshopper Sparrow** was on territory along Airport Rd. in CT 6/2.

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### **Susquehanna County**

Our expected waterfowl breeders were reported in good numbers: **Canada Goose**, **Wood Duck**, **Mallard**, and **Common Merganser**. Two additional species made appearances this year. A distant **Green-winged Teal** was scoped at Lindaville Road Wetland 6/7 (DG, GG). Three **Hooded Mergansers** were reported at this same location, on the same date, and by the same observers. A female was also photographed at a location south of New Milford 6/5 (NVC). A late **Common Loon** was present on Tripp Lake 6/9 (WS). Three game bird species, **Ring-necked Pheasant**, **Ruffed Grouse**, and **Wild Turkey**, were well reported as they tended to "family affairs" (m.ob.).

If you are unable to travel south to bird the Florida Everglades, wait long enough and the Florida Everglades will come to you. Or so it seemed for two exciting days in July! A large, white wading bird was spotted and photographed as it stood in a wetland just east of Great Bend 7/23 (BBS). That evening the photos were posted to the local birding Facebook page. The following morning, seven lucky locals joined Barb at the spot. All got to see and enjoy good views of this long-distance vagrant, a **Great Blue Heron** (White Morph) 7/24 (BBS, DA, CD, EM, JM, JS, JSt, NVC). As quickly as the bird appeared, it disappeared, and all subsequent attempts to relocate it in the following days proved futile.

With a healthy population of **Bald Eagles** having laid claim to the best fishing spots, **Ospreys** are not often present in the summer months. So it was newsworthy that one was circling overhead at Page Lake 7/18 (JB) and another was observed at Lord Pond 6/14 and 24 (KJ). **Bald Eagles** successfully fledged young at two known nests. The "Red Rock" nest overlooking the Susquehanna River was home to proud parents of a single youngster 7/10 (BBS). A newly confirmed nest adjacent to Little Elk Lake was the nursery for two new eagle young 6/8 (JS).

Despite all the wet weather for "rain crows" to presage, this was a season of unusually few reports of either **Black-billed** or **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** species (or the presence of their typical food sources). A **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** nest was located on a property in Great Bend Twp., and the process of the parents tending to their eggs and young was enjoyed by the landowner (BBS). Apparently, all the rain had a negative effect on **Eastern Bluebird** nesting success, as several nest box owners reported a disheartening number of nestling fatalities. A **Brown Thrasher** made daily visits to the ground under a feeder where it competed assertively for fallen sunflower seeds, even intimidating several surly Blue Jays (EM). It was a year in which **Cedar Waxwings** showed their beautiful colors in strong numbers across the county.

Nineteen species of warblers were present and accounted for during the period. While these jewels of our woodlands become quiet and more difficult to locate in summer, we were fortunate to be reminded that they were still present. Our local graduate student has completed his third year studying the territory selection process of **Canada Warblers**, **Hooded Warblers**, and **Black-and-White Warblers**. Hearing accounts of his field work and viewing his eBird checklists, local warbler lovers were encouraged to know our region hosts a strong population of these exceptional summer guests.

Backyard bird hobbyists were not left out of the action. **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** and **Purple Finches** visited feeders in unusually high numbers. With a plethora of grosbeak call notes, many a backyard sounded like a JV basketball tournament. And one of the joys of bird feeding during this season is watching newly fledged youngsters receiving lessons in "table manners" from Mom and Dad at the feeders. An overall successful nesting season made for many such scenes.

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### **Tioga County**

No compiler

### Union County

A flock of 7 **Glossy Ibis** was found at a small flooded field along Stein Lane south of Shamokin Mountain 7/26, discovered as a consolation prize to lift the spirits at the end of a long trip that dipped on spoonbills (BB). The full flock was seen by several others that night. The next morning the group had dwindled to 3 and finally by that evening 7/27 just one bird with a broken leg remained. The sighting provides the second available record in the county (Schweinsburg's Birds of the Central Susquehanna Valley notes one sighting from April 1977).

The **Swainson's Thrush** reported along Bear Run Rd. 6/1 was unusual for the season (LG). A **Cerulean Warbler** was found and photographed near Hartleton 6/2 (BO).

Observers: **Joe Gyekis, 720 N. Allen St., State College, PA 16803, j99@psu.edu.** Brent Bacon, Linda Greble, Bonnie Ott..

### Venango County

Locations: Allegheny River (AR), Barkeyville Fields (BF), Buttermilk Hill Nature Sanctuary (BHNS), Kahle Lake (KL), Oil City (OC), Oil Creek State Park (OCSP), Two Mile Run Park (TMRP).

The summer months gave us 114 species of birds, lots of rain, and generally mild temperatures. Highlights of the season: A **Double-crested Cormorant**, unusual in summer, was observed 6/19. Our latest **American Woodcock** of this season was found at BHNS 7/23 (JS, KG). Southward migration started with **Solitary Sandpiper** 7/25.

Both **Yellow-billed** and **Black-billed Cuckoos** were observed all summer, though not in large numbers. **American Kestrels**, which were uncommon this spring, were present in good numbers by the end of the season. **Acadian Flycatcher** was seen in several locations from 6/5 (RS) to 7/3 (JS, KG). **Willow Flycatcher** was found 6/3-7/16 (GE). **Least Flycatcher** was seen only 6/11-17. **Great Crested Flycatcher** was observed through 7/2.

The only **Yellow-throated Vireo** was on 6/12 (RS) and **Blue-headed Vireo** was observed only 7/17 and 7/25 (MK, NK). The only **Warbling Vireo** was on 6/12. Our **Purple Martin** colonies at the southern edge of the county on County Line Rd. were thriving. The only **Bank Swallow** record was 7/18 (RS). **Cliff Swallow** records spanned 6/5-7/4, but the colonies are decreasing in numbers. One structure they had been using was demolished, and the 8th Street Bridge in Franklin has had fewer nests for the last several years. **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**, often hard to find in summer, was seen on 6/17 and 7/21.

The only **Veery** recorded was 6/16 (MK, NK) and the only **Swainson's Thrush** also 6/16 (GE). **Hermit Thrush** was found 6/14-7/20. **Northern Mockingbirds**, uncommon in *Venango*, were seen 6/28-7/16, with most records at BF. The only **Worm-eating Warbler** was near Hunter Station 6/8 (GE). **Northern Parula** was seen through 6/17, **Blackburnian Warbler** to 7/22, and **Yellow Warbler** through 7/25. **Yellow-throated Warbler** was found on OCSP 6/16 (MK, NK). The only record of **Canada Warbler** was at OCSP 6/12 (RS). After several searches, a **Grasshopper Sparrow** was found at BF 6/5 (GE, RS). **Henslow's Sparrow** was not recorded this season. **Bobolinks** were at BF through 7/23. An **Orchard Oriole**, uncommon in *Venango*, was observed 7/16 (GE).

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### Warren County

No report

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### Washington County

Locations: Canonsburg Lake (CL), Green Cove Wetlands (GCW), Hillman State Park (HSP).

The **Tundra Swan** that stayed deep into the spring at Peters Lake and CL apparently relocated afterwards to Cross Creek County Park, where it was photographed 6/2 (FK). **Ruffed Grouse** is rarely reported in *Washington* so one at HSP 7/2 (RT) was notable. **Northern Bobwhite** was noted along the Montour Trail in Cecil Twp. 6/21 and 6/24 (FK). The only report of **Great Egret** was made at CL 7/20 (JF). That same day an **Osprey** flew over Rte. 19 near McMurray (RT).

The CL **Bald Eagle** nesting attempt did not end well (LC). By 7/3, both eaglets were full grown but still at the nest site, but on 7/11 only one remained in the nest tree, while an injured immature eagle was found on the ground nearby. This bird was captured and taken to a rehabilitator, but the Pennsylvania Game Commission identified it as a second-year bird and concluded it could not have been the now-missing first CL eaglet. The second eaglet fledged 7/16 but was found dead two days later, a victim of electrocution at nearby power lines. The fate of the first eaglet that disappeared by 7/11 was never determined, assuming it was in fact not the injured bird that was taken to rehabilitation. The power company that operates the transmission lines that killed the second eaglet stated that it would make modifications to the lines before next spring to make the area safer for large birds.

**Virginia Rail** and **Sora** were both heard at GCW 7/1 (JM, LN). A **Greater Yellowlegs** was early to return to CL 7/14 (JL), and **Solitary Sandpiper** was back by 7/20 (JF). **Black-billed Cuckoo** was reported only from HSP 7/2-19 (RT). A **Barred Owl** with an injured eye was spotted along the Montour Trail near McMurray 7/23 (GG).

**Blue-headed Vireo** summered again at HSP, reported 6/2 (AP) through at least 7/4. The Mingo Creek **Common Ravens** were last reported 6/27 (FK), and birds in Cecil Twp. near the newly discovered nest near McDonald were reported 7/10 and 7/19 (FK). Another was seen along the Montour Trail near McMurray 6/6 (FK). A **Purple Martin** was noted at HSP 6/2 (AP), following one near there late last summer, suggesting an as-yet unknown colony somewhere close by.

Up to 7 **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were reported from HSP this summer (m.ob.). **Northern Parula** was also there 6/2 (AP) and 7/2 (RT), and **Pine Warbler** apparently bred there again this summer as well, with a handful of reports 6/2-29 (AP, FK, JM). Both **Grasshopper Sparrow** and **Henslow's Sparrow** were reported in three separate locations along the Panhandle Trail between McDonald, Midway, and Bulger 6/20-7/21 (FK), new locations for these species. **Bobolinks** were also reported from the same three sites, including 16 at the spot closest to McDonald and 10 near Midway (FK). A handful were at the Robinson Twp. grasslands as usual too, and one was at the HSP grasslands 7/5 (BH).

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### Wayne County

Locations: White Oak Pond (WOP).

A late migrant **Tundra Swan** was seen swimming at WOP 6/25 (JohnH). One rarely-reported **Northern Bobwhite** was heard repeatedly calling along Mohn Rd. 6/10 (AC). The bird's provenance is unknown. A **Common Loon** photographed at Lake Henry 7/30 was noted to have

been present at this location most of the season (JoeH). **Virginia Rail** and **Sora** were heard calling simultaneously at the wetlands along Upper Woods Rd. 6/3 (CF, JJ). Both species were also reported at a few other marshy locations county-wide (m.ob.). Two **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were recorded near Poyntelle 6/2 (DH).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was spotted near Tanner Falls 6/7 (JS). This species has not been reported in *Wayne* since 2014. Twenty-two warbler species were tallied during the period. A BBS included 2 reports of **Mourning Warbler** in SGL 70 on 6/11 (EM). A high density of **Canada Warblers** was discovered at Lake Constance, with 18 seen and heard 6/13 (CF, JohnH).

Observers: **Josh Jones**, [unclechu76@gmail.com](mailto:unclechu76@gmail.com), Anthony Ciancimino, Chris Fischer, Joe Haemmerle, John Harvey, Deuane Hoffman, Evan Mann, Joseph Southerton.

### **Westmoreland County**

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

The drained Donegal Lake provided for above normal reporting of shorebirds for the season, including a second county record for a sandpiper species. *Westmoreland* participated in the Dickcissel mini-invasion of 2017, with the pursuit of that species providing for better reporting of grassland sparrows for the season. And, one out-of-the-ordinary bird got its 15 minutes of fame.

A 7/24 report of one **Tundra Swan** at Lowber Wetland by Lewis Stout was confirmed with another sighting on 7/25 (JP). Reported at several locations, the **Wood Duck** high-count, which included 2 hens with broods, was 15 at DL 7/23 (AM). There were 3 reports for **Hooded Merganser** on Loyalhanna Creek along Rt. 381; with 2 on 6/2 (JL), 2 again 6/3 (JP), and one on 7/17 (JL). Often lacking any observations, good to report that 4 **Ruffed Grouse** were at PNR 6/26 (JL).

Two **Black Vultures** were seen near Derry 7/31 (JL). All but one of the reports for **Osprey** were of observations at the long-time Donegal Lake nest location, with 4 noted 7/8 - one adult and 3 chicks on the nest (JL). One **Osprey** at Lowber Wetlands 7/25 (JP). One adult female **Northern Harrier** was seen on Laughlin Farm Road near Blairsville 6/2 (DK). One juvenile **Bald Eagle** continued at a nest site near Ligonier 6/5 (AM). A nesting species in the area, one juvenile **Red-shouldered Hawk** was captured at the PNR banding station 7/1 (JL). Three Red-shouldered Hawks 7/4 and 2 **Broad-winged Hawks** 7/18 were at the western end of the Beaver Run Reservoir accessed on Thorn Run Road (SM). One **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was reported on the WHT-BRR 6/28 (KB).

Photographs were included in the ebird report of 6 **Semipalmated Plovers** at DL 6/4 (JF). Two **Black-bellied Plovers** were reported on Laughlin Farm Rd 6/4 (KB). Shore birds reported at DL 7/23 were 7 **Killdeer**, one **Least Sandpiper**, 2 **Pectoral Sandpipers**, 3 **Spotted Sandpipers**, 4 **Solitary Sandpipers**, and one **Lesser Yellowlegs** (AM). An ebird report that provided a photograph and detailed description of a **Stilt Sandpiper** at DL 7/28 (JL) was only the second county record of this species (*vide* Bob Lerberman); other significant shorebirds there as well were 4 **Least Sandpipers** and 3 **Semipalmated Sandpipers**. Following a report of 4 **White-rumped Sandpipers** at DL 6/3 (TH), 4 were found again 6/4 (AM). The ebird checklist from 6/3 included photographs of the White-rumped Sandpipers, including one with many of the 16 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** also reported.

Among the many reports for **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was 6 at PNR 7/4 (JL). There were no reports for Black-billed Cuckoo. Beginning 5/4 and then often until 6/27, up to 2 **Barred Owls** were heard at the KP (JK/TK). Presumed migrants, one **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was captured at PNR early in the season (6/1) and one late in the season 7/30 (JL). Reliable at the location, one **Alder Flycatcher** was reported at

Hunters Lane 6/19 (JL); another was at WHT-BRR 6/26 (KB). Four **White-eyed Vireos** were at Hunters Lane on 6/9 (JM) and one was heard from the KP 6/21. Two **Warbling Vireos** were at KSP 6/10 (MW).

David Palmieri reported 15 **Purple Martins** at the MCP house. A reliable location, 12 Purple Martins were at BRR-380 7/15 (KB). Two **Bank Swallows** were reported on Laughlin Farm Road 6/4 (DY) and one at DL 7/23 (AM). The high count of several reports of **Cliff Swallow** at DL during the season was of 8 on 7/23 (AM). There was one Cliff Swallow at BRR-380 on 7/15 (KB). An ebird checklist for Wolf Rocks Trail 6/3 provided a report of one **Red-breasted Nuthatch** (TH), and one was at LR on 6/26 (JL). The 6/3 Wolf Rocks Trail ebird checklist also included 2 **Brown Creepers** (TH), and 2 were again at that location 6/27 (JL). The report of 9 **Winter Wrens** along Powdermill Run 7/6 confirms the abundance of this species at PNR (JL). Quite possibly, **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was a nester, as reports of one first heard singing in spruces at PNR 6/1 continued through 6/22 (JL).

Hikes of the Westmoreland Heritage Trail provided a report for one **Kentucky Warbler** at WHT-BRR on both 7/16 and 7/28 (KB). The high-count of several reports of **Cerulean Warbler** at PNR during the season was of 3 on 6/29 (JL). The only report of **Worm-eating Warbler** was of one captured at the PNR Banding Station 7/9. **Golden-winged Warbler** was a notable miss from several ebird checklists for the Hunters Lane location, however some comfort was provided with a report of one at PNR 6/14 (HE), including photographs, and with the 6/17 re-capture of an adult male Golden-winged Warbler that had previously been banded in July 2014 at the PNR banding station. An early returning species that often goes unreported during the breeding season, there was just a single report of one **Yellow-throated Warbler** at Ice Pond/Lady-of-the-Lake B&B near Ligonier 6/5 (AM). A report of 2 **Yellow-rumped Warblers** at KSP 6/10 (MW) could be debated as sightings of late migrants or of possible breeders. The only report of **Prairie Warbler** was one near Blairsville 6/21 (SV).

In a productive visit to the Laughlin Farm Road area near Blairsville in pursuit of the **Dickcissels** that had been reported 6/6 (AM) also recorded were 3 **Grasshopper Sparrows**, one **Henslow Sparrow**, 2 **Savannah Sparrows**, 3 singing male **Dickcissels**, and 6 **Bobolinks**. On 7/2, 8 Dickcissels (4 males and 4 females) were still in the area (JL). Not completely satisfied with the looks in poor-lighting bird, one observer reported a possible **Blue Grosbeak** at WHT-BRR 6/15 (KB).

Not mentioned above, Laurel Highland specialties reported included **Blue-headed Vireo**, **Northern Parula**, **Magnolia Warbler**, **Blackburnian Warbler**, **Chestnut-sided Warbler**, **Black-throated Blue Warbler**, **Black-throated Green Warbler**, and **Canada Warbler**.

Observers: **Tom Kuehl**, 3615 Hilty Road, Export, PA 15632, (724)-325-1918, [tjkuehl@comcast.net](mailto:tjkuehl@comcast.net), Ken Byerly, Herb Elliot, John Flannigan, Todd Hooe, Janet Kuehl, Jeff McDonald, Andy Mack, Steve Manns, Josh Lefever, David Palmieri, Jim Pemberton, Steve Valasek, Matt Webb, David Yeany.

### **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 (LP), Little Rocky Glen (LRG), Mulligan's Pond (MP), Nesbitt Road (NR), 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 BBA (2004-2009), breeding activity was recorded for 148 species, of which 108 were listed as Confirmed (CO), 21 as Probable (PR), and 18 as Possible (PO). As in past years since the BBA, I've been particularly interested in records that might raise the breeding probability of the 39 PR/PO species, and, of course, in local reports of species not recorded in the BBA.

Since the atlas, however, birders have reported breeding behavior of only two species of the 39. First, a pair of **Orchard Orioles** was

observed together during safe dates at EMNC in 2014, moving that species from PO to PR. And, a pair of adult **Sandhill Cranes** and two colts were seen during breeding dates in 2016 and again 7/5 this year, all at SL (KaS). Cranes were not listed in the BBA for Wyoming, so these data represent an apparent expansion of the cranes' breeding range in the state.

During this summer, county birders also reported observations of 19 of the 39 species listed as PR/PO in the BBA. And, although there were records of each during safe dates, there was no evidence reported to move any of those species from their status during BBA. So, I will not include all those sightings.

However, in closing, I want to mention one record, that of a juvenile **Black-crowned Night-Heron** on an island in the Susquehanna just north of Tunkhannock 7/14 (DS). To my knowledge, this is the first record of BCNH in *Wyoming* since the summer of 2005. It was recorded during the BBA as a possible breeder here.

Observers: **Joe DeMarco, 15 West Tioga Street, Tunkhannock, PA, 18657, (570) 836-1468, (JD)**, Robert Blye (RB), Teddy Burke (TB), Mark Catalano (MC), Matthew Danihel (MD), Laura Dickson, Carl Engstrom (CE), Sandy Goodwin (SG), Deborah Grove (DG), Susan Gruver (SG), Deuane Hoffman (DH), Andy Keister (AK), Rebecca Lesko (RL), Dennis Miranda (DM), Pedro Miranda (PM), Douglas Sheldon (DS), (Kay Simons (KSa), Jerry Skinner, David Trently (DT), and Eric Zawatski (EZ).

### York County

Locations: Brunner Island (BI), Codorus State Park (CSP), GiffoRd. Pinchot State Park (GPSP), Hopewell Township Park (HTP), Lake Redman (LR), Lake Williams (LW), Rocky Ridge County Park (RRCP)

This compiler would not have expected the number of summer rarities that visited *York* this year. An **American White Pelican**, two sites reporting **Least Bittern**, a **Tri-colored Heron**, and a **White Ibis** were all found. The pelican, heron, and ibis were all July records in contrast to all previously known county records having occurred in either August or early September. **Dickcissel** breeding was confirmed, a rare occurrence as well. The overall species count of 124, including 15 warblers, was consistent with recent years.

Six locales reporting **Wood Duck** suggest a productive nesting season. Higher counts were 25 at GPSP 6/27 (EB), 24 at BI 6/17 (BB), and 15 at CSP 7/29 (CMu). BI held a pair of **Hooded Mergansers** 6/3 (AK) and a **Common Merganser** 6/4 (JL). A **Pied-billed Grebe** was a nice find at GPSP 6/27 (EB). **Ring-necked Pheasant** singles were along Gut Rd. 6/4 (JL) and Lake Rd. 7/25 (PK). Of the 9 **Wild Turkey** reports, the high was 8 along Indian Rock Rd. 7/30 (RS). The **American White Pelican** at CSP was first reported by a fisherman 7/24 (SS). It was found the next day at that locale but then apparently spent a few days at a nearby pond before returning to CSP, where it was last seen 8/3 (m.ob.).

The **Least Bittern** reports involved an individual at BI 6/1-6 (DC, LC, m.ob.) and a second at Lock 12 on 6/8 (DN). In both cases, the birds stayed true to their secretive nature – never showing but frequently calling. A nesting census at Kiwanis Lake found 15 **Great Egret** nests and 40 individuals 6/12 (AP, PK). The simultaneous **Black-crowned Night-Heron** census produced 22 nests and a 6/21 (CB) visit produced the high count of 26 birds. The egret section of the rookery is experiencing an arboreal disease, "Blue Spruce Decline", while the cedar trees are unaffected. An arborist and Audubon rep were on site to assess the situation. Despite the complete absence of needles on some of the blue spruces, the egrets continued to nest in them. Dispersals from the rookery continue to reflect LR as the favored egret spot to congregate. The herons rarely, if ever, seem to gather in numbers away from the rookery.

An immature **Tri-colored Heron** (doc. submitted) was first reported at LR 7/24 (DC, m.ob.) and may have been there earlier based on comments from nature photographers at the site. The bird moved between LR and LW and was last seen at those locales 8/1. Fortunately,

the bird then relocated to CSP giving more great viewing opportunities of this very cooperative bird. As with the pelican, observant fishermen were responsible for the juvenile **White Ibis** (doc. submitted) sighting. A 7/16 (CrB, et al.) float trip on the Conewago Creek near GPSP resulted in the observation. Although the observers were not sure of identification, a reasonable photo was obtained and identification was confirmed. It is highly probable that this is the same bird reported along Lisburn Rd. in *Cumberland* 7/20-23. Distance between the two sightings is 13-14 miles.

**Osprey** sightings and successful nesting continue to increase and **Bald Eagle** nesting remains strong. Lingering shorebirds included a **Semipalmated Plover** at LR 6/8 (DN) and up to 3 **Least Sandpipers** at a Hellam Twp. retention pond 6/2-12 (AD). Southbound shorebird detection started with 10-12 **Least**s at LR and CSP on 7/19 (m.ob.), followed by a **Lesser** and **Greater Yellowlegs** at LR 7/26 (CE, DW), a **Solitary Sandpiper** at LW 7/25 (m.ob.), and a **Semipalmated Plover** and **Semipalmated Sandpiper** at CSP 7/31 (PM). **Caspian Tern** just made this report with a 7/31 (DKI) sighting at CSP.

**Black-billed Cuckoo** was found at LR 6/10 (KC), at LW 7/27 (MS), and GPSP 6/1 (FL) and 7/20 (RN). **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was found at 8 sites with a high count of 4 at GPSP 7/20 (RN). The Frey farm in Washington Twp. perennially hosts nesting **Barn Owl**. An adult was seen 6/15 (DC) and the banding of 4 nestlings was witnessed 7/13 (DD, AM, RS, et al). **Barred Owl** reports were limited to singles at GPSP 7/13 (KS) and CSP 7/31 (PM). Seven locales held **Red-headed Woodpecker** with a high count of 8 at HTP 7/15 (DF).

**American Kestrel** reporting was limited to 3 locales but one of those produced nesting records with 6 birds at HTP 6/28 (DF). With only 3 reports, this compiler is of the hopeful opinion that there is some underreporting. The species has a propensity for perching on utility wires - observations of that behavior during casual, non-birding car trips is likely infrequently reported under those conditions (i.e. an eBird "incidental" observation). As this species is now listed as a "Regional Species of Greatest Conservation Need (RSGCN)", the birding community can assist the monitoring effort by entering these sometimes-dismissed incidental observations of this endearing species. **Peregrine Falcons** were reported at BI 6/2 (EH) and Goldsboro 6/11 (BS).

**Acadian** and **Willow Flycatcher** reports (m.ob.) came from 10 and 6 sites, respectively. **Vireo** sp. reporting was at typical levels. **Common Raven** reports came from RRCP 6/22 (DN) and Hellam Twp 6/28 (AD). HTP was the only site holding **Horned Lark**, with up to 4 birds 6/28-7/30 (DF). **Purple Martins** rebounded from a sub-par 2016 summer season with reports from 12 locales and some nice colony counts (m.ob.), including 24 at Peach Bottom 6/13 (CB), 38 at Schoolhouse Rd. 6/24 (DS), and 48 at the Frey farm 7/13 (DD). **Bank Swallow** singles were found at HTP 7/26 (CK) and LW 7/29 (AH). **Cliff Swallows** continue to nest under the bridges at CSP with a high of 15 on 6/27 (CB). LR also held a pair 6/1 (AP) and a single was at BI 6/9 (CH).

**Veery** was found along the Rail Trail 6/10-7/13 (CK) and up to 5 were detected at GPSP 6/6-7/30 (EB, DNN, MB). A somewhat tardy **Swainson's Thrush** was at Shrewsbury 6/4 (JF). Highly noteworthy were reports of **Hermit Thrush** at Shrewsbury 6/8 (JF), at LR 6/10 (KC), and in Fairview Twp. 6/13 (WC); a single report of this species is rare for *York* in this period. A Breeding Bird Blitz at GPSP 6/27 (EB) produced a count of 25 **Wood Thrush**.

Warbler highlights included 11 locations reporting **Northern Parula**, with a high of 4 at Lock 12 on 6/8 (DN). A nice count of 8 **Yellow Warblers** came from BI 6/4-5 (JL, DN). Lock 12 produced the sole **Yellow-throated Warbler** report 6/15 (JM). Four **Prairie Warblers** were at GPSP 6/7 (DN). A kayaking trip out of Shank's Mare produced at **Prothonotary Warbler** 6/7 (IG). BI continues to hold breeding Prothonotarys, with up to 3 seen 6/2-12 (DK, DNN, DW) and food being carried to the nest box. **Kentucky Warbler** was found along Hake Rd. 7/11 (CB, DN, DW) and at LW 7/26 (ME, ML, ZM, TN). Good finds were **Hooded Warbler** at RRCP 6/12 (DN) and at GPSP 6/27 (EB). Prior years brought various levels of breeding codes for **Yellow-breasted Chat** from RRCP and Lock 12 but there were no reports from those locales this year. However, a pair was found at Native Lands Heritage Trail 6/15-7/7 (DN) and a single was along the Rail Trail 7/1 (DW).

HTP held up to 5 **Savannah Sparrows** and 13 **Grasshopper Sparrows** 6/3–7/31 (m.ob.). Single Grasshopper Sparrows were also found at SGL 243 6/1 (ED), Highpoint Scenic Vista Area 6/13 (DN), and Native Lands Heritage Trail 7/7 (DNN). A **Swamp Sparrow** at BI 6/3 (AK) was a good find. Rather uncommon for the period, **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** singles were at LR 6/10 (KC) and GPSP 6/27 (EB). Up to 2 **Blue Grosbeaks** were at HTP 6/16–7/31 (DF, CM). As noted above, **Dickcissel** breeding was confirmed at HTP 6/15–7/31 (m.ob.), with a high of 7 individuals seen 7/22 (DF). Initial evidence of nesting was a sighting of nest material being carried 6/24 (DH). Breeding code progressed to observed “food carrying” 7/22 (DF). HTP continues as an **Eastern Meadowlark** stronghold with up to 16 birds 6/3–7/31 (m.ob.). LAR held up to 7 meadowlarks 6/6–7/31 (HM) and a single was at Highpoint Scenic Vista Area 6/15 (DN). Seven locales reported **Orchard Oriole**, paced by a sighting at Sunnyside Rd. involving a female with 5 young 7/8 (CB, DW).

Observers: **Phil Keener, 198 Jacobs Street, East Berlin, PA 17316, (717) 259-9984, pittche74@yahoo.com**, Tom Amico, Craig Beam (CrB), Ed Bernot, Chuck Berthoud, Mike Bertram, Lou Carpenter, Dick Cleary, William Clifton, Ken Cooper, Mary Creager, Alisa DeGeorge, Eli DePaulis, Diane Drobko, Mike Epler, Chad Erhart, David Farner, John Freese, Ian Gardner, Dan Heathcote (DH), Amy Henrici, Daniel Hinnebusch, Carolyn Hoffman, Todd Hooe, Evan Houston, Frode Jacobsen, Kevin Kane, Ted Keen, Andy Keister, Dave Kerr, Deb Kline (DKI), Chuck Kling, Peter Koper (PKo), Josh Lefever, Frank Lenik, Karen Lippy, Meredith Lombard, Henry McLin, Peter Martin, Carolyn Mathur, Zach Millen, Callan Murphy (CMu), Anne Murren, Jeff Musser, Dean Newhouse, Dean and Norma Newhouse (DNN), Ted Nichols II, RichaRd. Nugent, Anne Pettigrew, Mark Scarff, Steve Scarff, Michael Schall, Steve Schmidt, Brian Shade, Paul Smith, Robin Smith, Kris Snover, Dan Stambaugh, Joe Verica, Eric Walther, Donald Weidemann, Dave Wildasin (DWI), Patricia and RichaRd. Williams (PRW), Andrew Wolf.

**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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## IN FOCUS PART 2



**Barn Owls** in Mifflin County 15 July (Anthony Bruno).



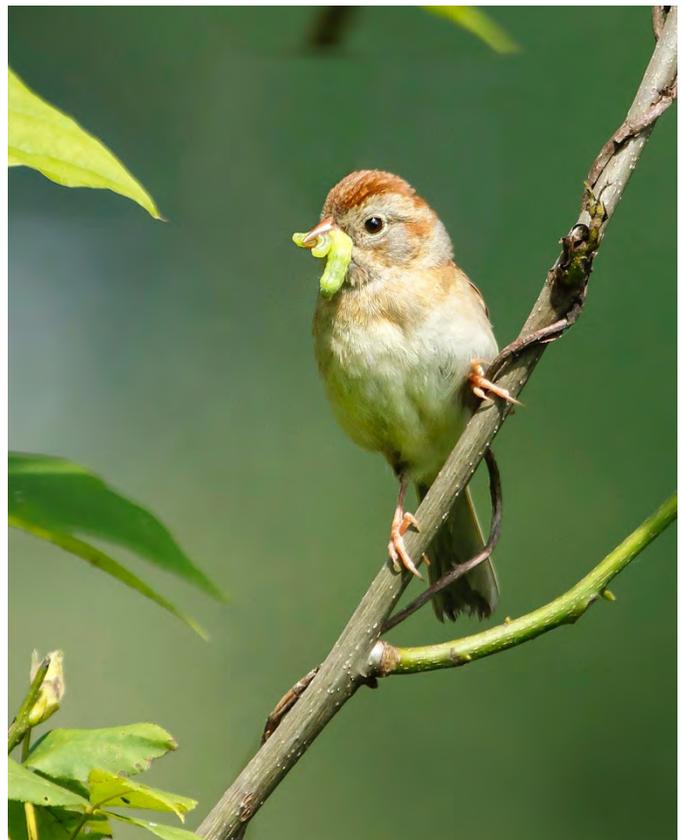
**Marsh Wrens** nest at John Heinz NWR, Philadelphia County – this wren was photographed 27 July (Frances Brown).



This **Henslow's Sparrow**, photographed 2 June, is likely one of many that nest at Piney Tract, Clarion County (Anthony Bruno).



**Dickcissels** invaded Pennsylvania this summer, found in at least 26 counties, well above the norm - this one was at Skyline Road, Clarion County 1 July (Anthony Bruno).



**Field Sparrow** ready to deliver food in Marshall Twp., Allegheny County 25 June (Janet Heintz).