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In the last two summers, an unusual (albeit still very small) number of far-southern waders have ventured north, the most spectacular of which have been Roseate Spoonbills. **Wood Storks** also have been part of this movement. Our cover bird, one of two in Pennsylvania during the summer, was found and the cover photo taken at Wildwood Lake, *Dauphin* 24 June; it remained through 26 June, to be seen by many birders. (*Eric Willet*)

Taxonomy

The latest substantial shuffling of avian taxonomy is not likely news to most active birders. Doves, cuckoos, nightjars, and hummingbirds have been moved up the list, positioned just below waterfowl and grebes. Shorebirds and gulls have leaped ahead of raptors. Finches follow soon after thrushes, and sparrows follow the finches. And warblers? – They’ve been “demoted” to nearly to the bottom of the list, ahead of only cardinals, tanagers, and their kin.

These changes were announced nearly two years ago but I did not ask our county compilers to adopt the new order at that time. Most, if not all, compilers rely on extensively on eBird for preparation of the seasonal reports. However, eBird only recently finalized conversion to the new order. A few compilers had already made the switch, but with their primary guide now reflecting the new taxonomy, just about all compilers have adopted the new order as of this issue.

Is this the final word? Not likely – DNA undoubtedly has still more to reveal of evolutionary history. We are certainly closer to understanding the evolutionary relationships among bird families – but further refinement is likely somewhere down the road.

National recognition for Nick Bolgiano

Long-time readers of *Pennsylvania Birds* readily recognize **Nick Bolgiano** as one of the leading contributors to the journal over the last 20 years. Nick, a good friend of mine since the 1990s, is a resident of State College and long-time member of the State College Bird Club. He is a key figure in both the spring hawk watch at Tussey Mt. and the fall watch at Stone Mt. He was a regional coordinator during the second Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas, has run numerous Breeding Bird Surveys, and participated in many CBCs.

It gives me great pleasure to relay to our membership that in October Nick received the Hawk Migration Association of North America (HMANA) 2018 Appreciation Award “for his long-term-citizen science contributions and dedication to raptor research efforts”. This well-deserved recognition and presentation occurred at the annual national HMANA

meeting, held this year in Detroit, where Nick gave a lecture on raptor population trends.

Nick has been our CBC compiler since 2002 – I feel very confident in saying no one knows more of the history and statistics of Pennsylvania CBCs than Nick. He is also currently the Winter Season editor. He has written nearly a dozen articles for *Pennsylvania Birds* over the years, many of which have focused on population trends and distributional aspects of raptors, including Red-tailed, Red-shouldered, and Rough-legged Hawks; and American Kestrels. His detailed and exhaustive analyses utilize data from hawk watches, CBCs, BBS routes, Winter Raptor Surveys, and banding. Not limited to raptors, he has also written about Black-capped Chickadees, Carolina Wrens, and blackbird flocks. His annual CBC reports always present interesting takes on trends for selected species. I know he has more articles in the pipeline. Again – Congratulations Nick!

Farmland raptor reports wanted

The PA Farmland Raptor Project has requested that Winter Raptor Surveyors who do not use eBird record the GPS location or general address (for example, nearby road intersections) of sightings of **Northern Harrier** and **Short-eared Owl** spotted on WRS routes or at any other times this winter. **American Kestrel** reports are also welcome. The location data will be kept confidential and used to understand distribution within the state. Reports can be shared with Goodrich@hawkmountain.org or in online form at hawkmountain.org.

Please note: If you enter your reports into eBird, then you need not send as requested above. eBird reports are automatically scanned for these species.

For more information:

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

Compiler news

This issue will mark the last report from one of our veteran compilers. **Flo McGuire**

has reported from *Forrest* since 1999, a run of nearly 20 years. A big Thank You to Flo! Two county compilers makes their debut in this issue. **Billy Weber** of Walnutport will take over in *Carbon*, which has had only limited coverage for quite a few years. *Perry* will now be covered by **Dan Hinnebusch** of Lancaster, taking over for Vern Gauthier, who continues as *Cumberland* compiler.

The following counties have no compiler: *Bradford*, *Forest*, *Fulton*, *Luzerne*, and *McKean*. 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), **Mark Johnson** (Cameron), **Billy Weber** (Carbon), **Nan Butkovich** (Centre), **Holly Merker** (Chester), **Carole Winslow** (Clarion), **Diane Bierly** (Clearfield), **Wayne Laubscher** (Clinton), **Andy Keister** (Columbia, Northumberland), **Rob Hodgson** (Crawford), **Vern Gauthier** (Cumberland), **Sandy Lockerman** (Dauphin), **Sheryl Johnson** (Delaware), **Brendyn Baptiste** (Elk), **Jerry McWilliams** (Erie), **Flo McGuire** (Forest), **Bill Oylar** (Franklin), **Marjorie Howard** (Greene), **Greg Grove** (Huntingdon, Juniata), **Margaret Higbee** (Indiana), **Thomas Glover** (Jefferson), **Chad Kauffman** (Juniata), **Ryan Johnson** (Lackawanna), **Zack Millen** (Lancaster), **Tim Becker** (Lebanon), **Bill Etter** (Lehigh), **Bobby Brown** (Lycoming), **Glenn Koppel** (Mercer), **Jon Kauffman** (Mifflin), **Brian Hardiman** (Monroe), **Brian Henderson** (Montgomery), **Evan Houston** (Montour), **Michael Schall** (Northampton, Pike), **Holger Pflücke** (Philadelphia), **Dan Hinnebusch** (Perry), **Robert Snyder** (Potter, Tioga), **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).

**Twenty-third Report of the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee
Covering 2016 Records
October 2018
Mike Fialkovich for the Committee**

**2016 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 2016 that includes 65 records of 41 species. The 57 accepted records represented an 88% acceptance rate. Reports were received from 24 counties.

Highlights include the first documented record of Black Brant, an immature male King Eider, Anhinga, Pacific Loon, fourth record of Clapper Rail, Purple Gallinule, eighth record of Brown Pelican, second record of Anna’s Hummingbird, third record of Black-chinned Hummingbird, Cave Swallow, Townsend’s Solitaire, Arctic Tern, Swainson’s Hawk, second record of Tropical Kingbird, Black-headed Grosbeak, two Painted Buntings in Chester, Lark Sparrow, LeConte’s Sparrow, three Summer Tanagers, and three Western Tanagers.

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 extremely important, as there have been instances where a photograph was not diagnostic, but the report was still accepted as a Class III (sight record) based on the supporting information of the observer’s written account.

Documentation can be submitted to PORC Secretary Ian Gardner at gardnie07@gmail.com or on the PORC section of the PSO Website at this address <<http://jotform.us/form/22068006649151>>.

The Committee

Committee Membership in 2016 included Andy McGann (Chair), Ian Gardner (non-voting secretary), Dave DeReamus, Devich Farbotnik, Mike Fialkovich, Holly Merker, Billy Weber 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.

Format of This Report

The records in each section are arranged taxonomically following the 2017 American Ornithological Society Check-list of North American Birds. The number in parentheses after the species name represents the number of accepted records, including those in this report, since the establishment of PORC in 1989. A (+) after the number signifies accepted historical records prior to the formation of PORC. Each accepted record includes the locality and county and date(s) when known. In many cases, dates are taken from the seasonal reports published in Pennsylvania Birds, and from incidental information gleaned from the PABIRDS email listserv, the Pennsylvania Birders Facebook Group, the PARBA GroupMe text message alert service, and its regional sub-groups, and the eBird database. Enclosed in parentheses following the date are the name(s) of the observer(s) who submitted documentation. Following the list of observers is the PORC record number, the record’s classification and the votes for/against. All photographs, video, and sound recordings are currently being held with the Secretary and archived on the PORC section of the PSO Website.

2016 Accepted Records

Black-bellied Whistling Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*) (11)
One in Ephrata and Martindale, *Lancaster* 25-26 October 2016 (Zachary Millen, Pamela Fisher, et al.; 102-01-2016; Class I-P). 6/0.

One in Walnutport, *Northampton* 3-5 October 2016 (Michael David, Frank Dickman, Pam Pryor; 102-02-2016; Class I-P). 6/0. Photograph published in PB V30:N4.

Neither of these birds showed physical signs of a captive origin; however, the possibility was discussed among the committee as it often does with waterfowl. This species does have a history of vagrancy to Pennsylvania.

Brant (Black) (*Branta bernicla nigricans*) (1)
One at Peace Valley Park, *Bucks* 3 January 2016 (Linda Chowns (p), 114a-01-2016; Class I-P). 7/0. First documented state record of this subspecies that breeds in Alaska and Western Canada, wintering along the West Coast. Photograph published in PB V30:N1. An undocumented sighting occurred at the same location in 1997.

Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*) (37)
Two at Franklin D. Roosevelt Park, Philadelphia, *Philadelphia* (Al Guarante (p), 12-29 February 2016; 115-01-2016; Class I-P). 7/0. Photographs published in PB V30:N1. A first county record and only the fifth record of multiple birds. Reports of this species continue to be restricted to the southeastern part of the state.

King Eider (*Somateria spectabilis*) (9)

An immature male at Rose Valley Lake, *Lycoming* 4 December 2016 (Bobby Brown (p), David Brown (p), Steve Pinkerton, et al.; 145-01-2016; Class I-P). 6/0. Photograph published in PB V31:N1. Certainly a surprising discovery and a first for *Lycoming*. The observers saw it take flight around the lake and were able to secure in-flight photos. This is only the third record away from Lake Erie.

Eared Grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*) (94+)

One at Rose Valley Lake, *Lycoming* 11 September 2016 (Steve Pinkerton (p), David Brown, Bobby Brown, Norwood Frederick; 009-01-2016; Class I-P). 7/0.

One at Montour Preserve, *Montour* 10 September 2016 (Evan Houston (p); 009-02-2016; Class I-P). 7/0.



Image 1. Eared Grebe, Montour Preserve, *Montour* 10 September 2016. Photo by Evan Houston.

White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*) (13)

One at a private residence in York Twp., *York* 12-15 February 2016 (Ann Pettigrew (p); 413-01-2016; Class I-P). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V30:N1. The majority of records are from spring and summer; this is only the second winter record.

Black-chinned Hummingbird (*Archilochus alexandri*) (3)

An adult female at a private residence in Montoursville, *Lycoming* 11-15 November 2016 (Bobby Brown (p), Deb Brown, Bob Brown, David Brown; 489-01-2016; Class III). 6/0. Captured and banded 12 November confirming the identification. Third documented state record. Photo published in PB V30:N4.

Anna's Hummingbird (*Calypte anna*) (2)

One at a private residence, *York* 8 November 2016 (Michael David (p), Michael Schall, Chuck Berthoud, et al.; 490-01-2016; Class I-P). 6/0. Second state record. Photo published in PB V30:N4.

Clapper Rail (*Rallus longirostris*) (4+)

One at Marsh Creek State Park, *Chester* 10 April 2016 (Holly Merker (p), Rob Megraw; 234-01-2016; Class I-P). 6/0. This bird surprised the observers as it just appeared in front of them! Fortunately it was close so photographic documentation was obtained before it flew off. Photograph published in PB V30:N2.

Purple Gallinule (*Porphyrio martinica*) (10+)

An immature at Ambridge Reservoir, *Beaver* 7-10 October 2016 (Mark Vass, Mike Fialkovich (p), John Flannigan (p), Leslie Ferree

(p); 242-01-2016; Class I-P). 6/0. Photograph published in PB V30:N4.

Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*) (16)

One at Green Lane Park, *Montgomery* 2-28 November 2016 (Michael David (p), Thomas Ford-Hutchinson (p), Scott Godshall (p); 268-01-2016; Class I-P). 6/0. Photo published in PB V30:N4.

One at Springton Reservoir, *Delaware*, 29 November 2016 (Nick Pulcinella (p); 268-02-2016; Class I-P). 6/0.

These represent the second and third fall records in the state and the latest fall dates for this species.

Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*) (59)

One at Marsh Creek State Park, *Chester* 21 August 2016 (Chad Hutchinson (p), Holly Merker, Mike Defina; 331-01-2016; Class I-P). 6/0. Apparently put down by a storm, it was only present for a day.

One at Green Lane Park, *Montgomery* 3 September 2016 (Scott Godshall (p); 331-02-2016; Class I-P). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V30:N4.

One at Tullytown, *Bucks* 24 September 2016 (Devich Farbotnik (p); 331-03-2016; Class I-P). 6/0.



Image 2. Red Phalarope, Tullytown, *Bucks* 24 September 2016. Photo by Devich Farbotnik.

Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) (34)

An adult dark morph at Rose Valley Lake, *Lycoming* 5/1/2016 (Bobby Brown, David Brown (p), Deb Brown, Steve Pinkerton, Norwood Frederick; 333-01-2016; Class I-P). 6/0. The photos submitted clearly show the central pointed retrices of an adult. The majority of records of this species are from fall; this is only the second spring record. This was a storm related bird that was discovered at the lake and spent just over 35 minutes at the location following the discovery. Photo published in PB V30:N2.

Black-headed Gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*) (38)

A first winter bird at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge, *Philadelphia* 26 December 2016 (Michael Walter (p), Pamela Barton; 340-01-2016; Class I-P). 6/0.

A first winter bird at Falls Twp. Park, *Bucks* 28 December 2016 (Christopher Lituma (p); 340-02-2016; Class III). 6/0.

Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*) (20)

An adult at Bald Eagle State Park, *Centre* 10 June 2016 (Brian Schmoke (p); 369-01-2016; Class I-P). 6/0. A surprise find and tardy migrant photographed very well showing both the upperside and underside wing pattern.



Image 3 and 4. Arctic Tern, Bald Eagle State Park, *Centre* 10 June 2016. Photos by Brian Schmoke. The clean white upperwing is shown on the left photo and the narrow black trailing edge to the underside of the wing can be seen in the right photo and partially on the left.

Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum*) (25)

One at the Delaware River in Bensalem, *Bucks* 7 May 2016 (Devich Farbotnik; 372-01-2016; Class I-P). 6/0.

Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*) (42)

One flying above Codorus Creek in Hellam Twp., *York* 9 May 2016 (Phil Keener, Randy Phillips; 074-01-2016; Class III). 6/1.

Brown Pelican (*Pelicanus occidentalis*) (8)

A juvenile at Lake Chrisann, *Susquehanna* 21 August 2016 (David Andre, Priscilla Andre, Tom Norville (p), Jerry Ely, Sam Poet, Cindy Poet; 067-01-2016; Class I-P). 6/0. Photograph published in PB V30:N4. Found by non-birders, the bird was resting on a dock and was likely put down by wind and rain. Fortunately the observers knew a local birder and contacted them and the bird was documented with a photograph. It took flight shortly thereafter and was not seen again.

Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) (147)

One in East Allen Twp., *Northampton* 29 May 2016; (Bill Etter (p); 089-01-2016; Class I-P). 7/0.

One in Tullytown, *Bucks* 4 June 2016 (Mark Gallagher (p); 089-02-2016; Class I-P). 7/0.

One at Peace Valley Nature Center, *Bucks* 28 October 2016 (Lynne Falterbauer (p); 089-03-2016; Class I-P). 7/0.

Five at Fabridam Overlook, *Northumberland* 20 October 2016 (Evan Houston (p); 089-04-2016; Class I-P). 7/0.

One at the Conewago Recreation Trail and Wetlands, *Lancaster* 1-14 August 2016 (Pamela Fisher (p); 089-05-2016; Class I-P). 7/0.

Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*) (24)

One at Brush Mountain, *Blair* 27 May 2003 (Marcia Bonta; 168-01-2003; Class III). 6/0.

One passing the Allegheny Front Hawkwatch, *Bedford/Somerset* 6 September 2016 (Jim Rocco, Bob Gorsuch, Nancy Ott; 168-02-2016; Class II). 5/1.

One at Dodsworth Run Preserve, *Montgomery* 6 June 2016 (Carrie Bell; 168-03-2016; Class III). 6/0.

Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) (107)

Two flying over the Koch Property, *Northampton* 4 October 2016 (Arlene Koch; 171-02-2016; Class III). 5/1.

Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) (7+)

One at Militia Hill Hawk Watch, Fort Washington State Park, *Montgomery* 6 November 2016 (Andrew Fayer, Judd Friedman; 186-01-2016; Class III). 6/1.

Gyr Falcon (*Falco rusticolus*) (6+)

A white morph near Tylersburg, *Clarion* 20 February 2016 (Philip Smith (v), Taylor Smith, Laurel Smith; 200-01-2016; Class I). 6/1. A video was submitted of the bird perched on a utility pole and eventually flying off. First documented record since 2001.

Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*) (6+)

One discovered perched on a wire fence bordering a pasture in Ephrata, *Lancaster* 8-9 November 2016 (Michael David (p), Zach Millen, Ted Nichols II, Vince Pantanella, Mike Epler, Fern Bauman; 542-01-2016; Class I). 6/0. Photo published in PB V30:N4.

Myiarchus sp. Flycatcher (*Myiarchus sp*) (1)

One at Tacony Creek Park, *Philadelphia* 9 January 2016 (Peter Burns, Martin Selzer, Robin Irizarry, Phil and Linda Grutzmacher, Peter Carter, Tom de Rivera; 545-01-2016; Class I). 6/0. This was submitted as an Ash-throated Flycatcher, however the photographs and description were not conclusive for that species. After two rounds of voting, the committee decided the bird was certainly in the *Myiarchus* group but could not determine the species based on the information submitted.

Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*) (2)

One at Peach Bottom, *Lancaster* 17-19 November 2016 (Todd Watkins (p), Pamela Fisher (p), Jerald Reb (p), Alan Archambault (v), Todd Archambault; 563-01-2016; Class I-P). 6/0. Observed, recorded and photographed by many observers, this individual proved cooperative during its short stay. The result was a well-documented second state record. Photo published in PB V30:N4.



Image 5. Tropical Kingbird, Peach Bottom, *Lancaster* 19 November 2016. Photo by Todd Watkins.

Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*) (30+)

One hawking insects from a cattle fence at Dixon Meadow Preserve, *Montgomery* 15 September 2016 (Anna Mindel, Brian Henderson (p), Bill Murphy; 557-01-2016; Class I-P). 6/0.

One at Chestnut Grove Natural Area, *Lancaster* 21 October 2016 (Mike Epler (p); 557-02-2016; Class III). 6/0.

Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*) (12)

One at the Williamsport River Walk, Williamsport, *Lycoming* 27 October 2016 (Bobby Brown (p), David Brown, Deb Brown, Bob Brown; 576-01-2016; Class I-P). 6/0. Photograph published in PB V30:N4.



Image 6. Cave Swallow, Williamsport, *Lycoming* 27 October 2016. Photo by Bobby Brown. The pale throat contrasting with the dark cap is shown well in this photo.

Townsend's Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*) (14)

One at Waggoner's Gap Hawkwatch, *Cumberland/Perry* 11 November 2016 (Dave Grove, Paul Fritz, Gene Wagner, Joe Kelly; 650-01-2016; Class III). 6/0. The hawkwatch lies on the border between the two counties and the bird passed over the border as it moved around the site.

LeConte's Sparrow (*Ammospiza leconteii*) (17)

One on the islands in the Susquehanna River at Bainbridge, *Lancaster* 16 October 2016 (Zachary Miller (p), J. Eric Witmer (p), Tom Garner, Bruce Carl, Mike Epler, Ted Nichols II; 829-01-2016; Class I-P). 6/0. Photograph published in PB V30:N4. The grassy islands along this stretch of the Susquehanna River have produced a number of rare migrant sparrows that pass through the state. This species was found at this location in 1993; at that time only the second in the state.



Image 7. LeConte's Sparrow, Bainbridge Islands, *Lancaster* 16 October 2016. Photo by Eric Witmer. One of several photographs submitted for documentation. The gray, chestnut streaked nape, dark triangular post ocular patch, back braces and the orange malar and supercilium are some of the key characteristics visible.

Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*) (22)

One at Chestnut Grove Natural Area, *Lancaster* 22 August 2016 (Meredith Lombard (p), Joseph Yoder; 820-01-2016; Class I-P). 6/0. Photograph published in PB V30:N4.

One at Maple Knoll Farms, Buckingham Twp., *Bucks* 21 August 2016 (August Mirabella, Richard Smith; 820-02-2016; Class III). 6/0.

One at the Southeast Chester County Refuse Authority, *Chester* 31 December 2016; (Kelley Nunn (p), 820-03-2016; Class I-P). 7/0. Found at the site while birding during count week for an upcoming Christmas Bird Count.

Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys gambelii*) (10+)

One at Warrior Run Wetlands, *Northumberland* 11 December 2016 (Evan Houston, 838a-01-2016; Class I-P). 6/0.

Bullock's Oriole (*Icterus bullockii*) (18)

A first year male visiting a feeder in Lititz, *Lancaster* 25 November 2016 (LaVern Yutzky; 874-01-2016; Class I-P). 6/0. This cooperative bird spent the entire winter at the residence, patronizing a feeding station regularly. At one point while the homeowners were out of town their neighbors maintained the feeders to keep the bird fed.



Image 8. Immature male Bullock's Oriole, Lititz, *Lancaster* 25 November 2016. Photo by LaVern Yutzky. At this age the white wingbar, dark eye line and black throat are beginning to develop.

Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*) (41)

A first year male in a backyard in Scranton, *Lackawanna* 7 May 2016 (Patricia Ollendyke (p); 780-01-2016; Class I-P). 6/0.

An adult male visited a suet feeder at a residence in Center Valley, *Lehigh* 7 May 2016 (Maryann Snyder, Alan Snyder (p); 780-02-2016; Class I-P). 6/0. Photograph published in PB V30:N2.

A first year male at the Mill Street Boat Launch in Montoursville, *Lycoming* 11 May 2016 (Deb Brown, Bob Brown (p, r), David Brown, Steve Pinkerton, Eric Hartshaw (p); 780-03-2016; Class I-P). 6/0. The bird was first heard calling which alerted the observers to its presence.

Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*) (14+)

A female visiting a feeding station at a private residence in Cheltenham, *Montgomery* 27 March to 3 April 2016 (Robin Irizarry (p); 782-01-2016; Class I-P). 6/0.

A male visited a feeder in Pittsburgh, *Allegheny* 3 May 2016 (Frank Wells (p); 782-02-2016; Class I-P). 6/0. This was an ebird discovery that included a photograph.

An adult male visited feeders and a birdbath at a private residence in Harleysville, *Montgomery* 22 December 2016 to 27 March 2017 (Mark Radell (p), Jill Erb, Mandy Murakami, Keith Murakami; 782-03-2016; Class I-P). 7/0.



Image 9. Male Western Tanager, Harleysville, *Montgomery* 22 December 2016. Photo by Mark Radell.

Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*) (10+)

A male in Tidioute, *Warren* 10 May 2016 (Stephen Dowlan; 788-01-2016; Class III). 6/0.

A first year male visited a feeder in a yard in Lower Saucon, *Northampton* 21 March 2016 (Bill Etter (p); 788-02-2016; Class I-P). 6/0.



Image 10. Black-headed Grosbeak, Lower Saucon, *Northampton* 21 March 2016. Photo by Bill Etter.

Painting Bunting (*Passerina ciris*) (22)

A male visiting a feeder at a private residence in Phoenixville, *Chester* 22 March 2016 (Chad Hutchinson (p), Al Guarante (p), Brian Quindlen, Brian Henderson, Holly Merker; 794-01-2016; Class I-P). 6/0. Photograph published in PB V30:N2.

A female or immature visiting a feeder at a private residence in Marshallton, *Chester* 27 January 2016 (Holly Merker (p), Ann Williams; 794-02-2016; Class I-P). 6/0.

Obvious plumage differences made it easy to determine there were two individuals in *Chester* during the winter of 2016; the first time two were documented in the state simultaneously.



Image 11. Female or immature Painted Bunting, Marshallton, Chester 27 January 2016. Photo by Holly Merker.

RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED, identification not established.

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

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*)

One at Bald Eagle State Park, Centre 9 April 2016 (002-01-2016; Class IV-C). 0/6. This submission went through two rounds of voting and analysis. The committee thought the photographs showed a bird similar in size to Common Loon (both species were in the photos) and a head shape consistent with Common rather than Pacific Loon.

Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*)

One at the John James Audubon Center, Montgomery 21 June 2016 (John Ruckdeschel, Emily Ruckdeschel; (087-01-2016; Class IV-C). 0/6. There was concern from some members of the committee regarding the time of year for this species to occur and the brief duration of the observation. The record went through two rounds of voting and discussion. In the end, the committee felt more details were warranted given the time of year, the location and the description stating this was a bird in non-breeding plumage.

Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*)

One observed in flight in Dauphin Borough, Dauphin 6 April 2016 (168-01-2016; Class IV-C). 2/5. Some committee members felt the description lacked important details and were concerned the view was from a moving vehicle without the use of binoculars.

Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*)

One at Washington Crossing, Upper Makefield Twp., Bucks 31 May 2016; (171-01-2016; Class IV-C). 2/5. The description was not detailed enough to eliminate other species and some committee members felt the description did not rule out Cooper's Hawk or other accipiters due to the lack of a description of the wing shape.

White-tailed Hawk (*Geranoaetus albicaudatus*)

One in Hershey, Dauphin 1 December 2016 (187-01-2016; Class IV-C). 0/6. The committee felt a photograph and very detailed documentation would be necessary to accept such an unusual and rare species. This species does not have a history of vagrancy (Clark and Wheeler, 2001). In addition the observers admitted they were not experienced birders. One possible explanation could be the bird was a leucistic Red-tailed Hawk.

Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*)

An adult at Nockamixon State Park, Bucks 6 November 2016 (348-01-2016; Class IV-C). 0/6. This species is problematic at best without extremely detailed views and the individual photographed was molting its primaries, further complicating the identification. The documentation did not completely rule out an Iceland or Herring Gull.

Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*)

Two males at Core Creek State Park, Bucks 8 May 2016; (780-04-2016; Class IV-A). 2/4. The description compared this species to Scarlet Tanager but some committee members noted the description did not include the differences in bill color and size or the overall red color of the birds.

The PORC would like to thank all the observers for submitting rare bird documentation to the committee for review.

Reference:

Clark, William S. and Wheeler, Brian K. 2001. Peterson Field Guide Hawks of North America, Second Edition. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, New York.

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Summary of the Season: June and July 2018

Dan Brauning

The 2018 summer season was extraordinary in many ways. Species not reported for at least 10 years during this season were found, including **American Oystercatcher**, **Pomarine Jaeger**, and **Brown Booby**. Others had just one previous summer in the past 10 years, including **Brant**, **Ross' Goose**, **Surf Scoter**, **American Golden-Plover**, **Wood Stork**, and **Long-eared Owl**. This array of species and locations suggest that increased birding effort is contributing more rarities to these reports each year.

The summer of 2018 also was notable for persistent heavy rainfall, particularly during July, which put many central counties on track to beat annual precipitation records. River gauges along the Susquehanna River never really dropped to traditional summer lows, maintaining turbulent waters and shifting shorebirds to wet farm fields. The impacts on birds relying on visual fishing are unknown.

An historic first-ever event happened with little fanfare during the spring quarter and came to light this summer: the state's first documented nesting of **Trumpeter Swan**! A pair of swans was noted in *Jefferson* during 2017 and the subsequent journeys of these birds were journaled by Tom Glover in the Todd Bird Club's newsletter, *The Nuthatch*. Stops of these marked included several sightings in *Schuylkill* and one report each in *Dauphin*, *Adams*, *Lycoming*, *Jefferson*, and *Somerset*. During the winter of 2017-2018 the swans were found on a private pond near Sperryville, Virginia.

This story took a notable turn when the pair was observed by Lisa Catarouche on a beaver pond near Richardsville, *Jefferson*, over the 2018 Memorial Day weekend. She contacted Margaret Higbee with the sighting and indicated that the swan pair had a nest. A closer review of her photo of the pair indicated that a small cygnet was present. A September photo of the swan family showed a grown immature, confirming that the state's first nesting had resulted successful production and raising of one young (see Glover, October *Nuthatch*). This fulfills the prediction in the last sentence of the Trumpeter Swan account in the Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in Pennsylvania: "the day may be near when Trumpeter Swan is confirmed breeding in Pennsylvania" (John Dunn, 2010).

With a small number of waterfowl species breeding in the state, many other species are reported almost annually with no apparent ties to procreation. As suggested above, this summer saw more reports of more species of waterfowl than any in the past 10 years, bolstered by a

Ross' Goose continuing from the spring in *Northampton* (the first summer record of the species since 2000), and unrecorded seasonal observations of **Brant** (*Lancaster*), **Surf Scoter** (*Somerset*), and **Long-tailed Duck** (*Chester*). In a typical summer season, 12 to 15 species of waterfowl are reported, often lone birds, and sometimes only one time. Where they go or why they lingered usually is not clear. The flock of **Brant** seen 6/3 on the Conejohela Flats, *Lancaster*, was on its way somewhere, but was not spotted elsewhere in Pennsylvania. Like the **Long-tailed Duck** seen at Marsh Creek, *Chester* on 6/13, Brant routinely over-summer along the Atlantic Coast of New York and New Jersey, and some are found in the Chesapeake, so a source of such strong flyers is not far from our state.

Green-winged and Blue-winged Teal formerly nested, but now remain during this year only as single birds or wandering strays. This year, single male **Green-wing Teal** were found in such scattered locations as Miller's Ponds, *Crawford* on 7/7 and Churchville Nature Center, *Bucks* on 6/9, but escaped further notice or relocated for the rest of the summer. A drake at Wildwood Lake Park, *Dauphin*, was seen through much of the month of June, but no mate was reported, so nesting is not suggested there.

Most vagrant waterfowl nest to our north, so each summer an assortment of species is reported in scattered locations across the state and documented by intrepid birders scanning the water. Several notable diving ducks remained for extended periods this year, such as **Redhead** in *Lancaster* and *Lycoming*, a **White-winged Scoter** in *Mercer*, and **Greater Scaup** in *Lebanon*. But except for Presque Isle, *Erie*, these vagrant waterfowl don't necessarily appear at the same location year after year. Even the most regular of the visiting summer divers, **Ring-necked Duck**, **Lesser Scaup**, and **Bufflehead** seem to appear randomly. For these three species, only *Erie* reported the species in both 2017 and 2018.

Eurasian Collared-Dove was first confirmed as a breeding bird in Pennsylvania during the Second Breeding Bird Atlas in the 2000s and continues to linger as an apparent rare breeder in *Berks* and *Franklin*. Although details of nesting this year are lacking, reliable sightings in the same general areas for years suggest a small, but persistent resident population. A potential breeder, **Chuck-will's-widow** appeared unexpectedly in *Centre*, although the extent of this visit is unclear.

Shorebirds always receive special notice in this report, as the incredible migration northward and southbound

nearly overlap during these two months. For these habitat specialists, reliable summer locations are well-established, and generally well-known. This summer, 30 species of shorebirds were observed, which like waterfowl, represents the most in the past 10 years. This list was bolstered by what appears to be the first summer report of **American Oystercatcher**. A casual reference in the *Delaware* report included this surprise record. Despite the close coastal proximity to many along the Atlantic Coast, the few previous reports of oystercatcher have been accidental strays in various places during September and October.

Undoubtedly the summer's persistent rains contributed to and affected shorebird counts and locations. At least the wet summer contributed to shorebird records in *Clinton*, where the South Avis Farmland eBird Hotspot, a mixture of sod farm and traditional corn and soybeans, experienced substantial flooding (and resulting financial losses) that attracted a remarkable variety of shorebird species, starting with **Sanderling** and **Short-billed Dowitcher** in late July. This location was previously known to attract shorebirds, but the number and variety grew into an impressive tally by the fall season! Presque Isle (*Erie*) reliably hosts many species not seen elsewhere, and the added monitoring of nesting **Piping Plovers** put eyes on the sand dunes even more intensely than normal. A **Marbled Godwit** and **Red Knot** there in July add to this summer tally. Of course, the presence of breeding-plumage female **Red-necked Phalaropes** in both *Chester* and *Somerset* on 6/1 add a splash of color to this list. **White-rumped Sandpipers** in *Bucks* and *York*, and **Long-billed Dowitcher** in *Crawford* round out an impressive list of shorebirds.

Highlighting a summer of striking rarities, the **Pomarine Jaeger** seen and photographed on 6/24 at the marina of Prince Gallitzin SP, *Cambria* stands out. But as exotic as that sounds, this was not the first. Another summer record ironically was also from *Cambria* on 7/3/1987. Jaegers breed in the Arctic and Pomarines are regularly seen off the New England coast in summer. Still, it was a great find! Rare gulls included **Franklin's** in both *Lancaster* and *Somerset*, as well as a lingering **Lesser Black-backed** at the prominent wintering site (*Bucks*). Lessers from *Bucks* were tracked with telemetry to breeding grounds in Greenland this summer. More will be reported on that in a later edition.

Nesting by **Common Terns** on Gull Point (*Erie*) was again unsuccessful. The reports of summer visits by **Black Terns** are but allusions to their past nesting

behavior in the state's northwestern marshes. A **Red-throated Loon** in *Montour* lingered into the summer season, in a different location than last year, but still just the second such record in 15 years.

The distinctive **Wood Stork** reports this year include a well-documented immature at Wildwood Lake, *Dauphin*, seen by many 6/24-25. Another immature was found on the morning of 7/24 near Connellsville, *Fayette*, and reportedly continued into August but remained somewhat elusive. Another southern species only recently on our radar in the mid-Atlantic states, the **Brown Booby**, comes from tropical waters, apparently wandering north during summers in the past decade. The state's third summer record was photographed 7/23 at the *Philadelphia* airport by a non-birder, and not relocated. Other late-July observations in neighboring states include one on the Chesapeake Bay, Maryland and offshore Long Island 7/30, although clearly different individuals. Unlike the lingering bird last summer, a **Roseate Spoonbill** was seen this year only once, 7/24, on Octoraro Reservoir, *Lancaster*, and summer observations from all surrounding states suggest another broad summer dispersal into our region, although fleeting in Pennsylvania this year.

The persistent rains may have affected the annual summer dispersal of long-legged waders north along our rivers and streams. **Little Blue Herons** made normal forays into scattered southern counties, and **Snowy Egrets** were found in the counties adjoining *Philadelphia*. Outstanding high counts of 22 Little Blue Herons and 32 **Glossy Ibis** came from the Tinicum Refuge in *Philadelphia* and *Delaware*. Nesting **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** continued in Harrisburg, *Dauphin*, and **Black-crowned Night-Herons** in *Dauphin* and *Lancaster*.

A notable southern accidental, the **Chuck-will's-widow**, was again a summer visitor to *Centre* in 2018. Nesting has never been confirmed in the state for this southern denizen, although it has teased us since the first Breeding Bird Atlas in the 1980s, and before. A close relative and often reported to be declining, the **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was reported in 32 counties, like most recent years. **Common Nighthawk**, the state's other caprimulgid, has experienced a dramatic range retraction and is now largely limited in summer to the large cities of Pittsburgh, Allentown, Scranton, and Philadelphia.

A lucky sighting of a **Swallow-tailed Kite** in *Westmoreland* on the last day of the period provided a rare summer sighting. This appears to be the only summer record this year in the Continent north of the Mason-Dixon line (based on eBird). In contrast, **Mississippi Kites** are nearly annual in summer here as the

breeding population expands northward, although the single June fly-over in *Chester* gave no hints of lingering.

Suffice to say that not all **Northern Goshawks** sightings are reported to the birding community. This year's reports from county compilers and even eBird reflect the sparse and scattered nature of this species' current status. Goshawks nest annually in the Allegheny National Forest, at least, where biologists monitor success of several known nest sites, which was reported to be low this year.

Because owls are so under-represented in birding reports, a **Long-eared Owl** heard in the Allegheny National Forest this June is noteworthy. Very few long-ears were reported to eBird in the whole mid-Atlantic region this year and some summers pass without any reports of this species in Pennsylvania. On the other hand, the Second Breeding Bird Atlas would suggest that **Northern Saw-whet Owls** fill the landscapes of some areas and past surveys suggest that they could occur in any forested area, but the general scarcity of reports of owls in general leaves us guessing. So, two county reports indicate that saw-whets continue here. The absence of Short-eared Owl reports anywhere in this summer is notable! They were similarly absent from the Mid-Atlantic states this summer, except the St. Lawrence region of New York!

Several songbirds have historically small, but regular breeding populations in Pennsylvania that have merited them state-endangered status. The **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** is a notable example. These are common in Canada, but they occupy rare or wetland fragile habitats here. Without tramping far back into the forested swamps of *Wyoming*, no breeding reports would be expected in Pennsylvania. But Doug Gross tramped and again found territorial males this summer, although failed to locate any females or detect them in later visits. Yellow-bellies have been clinging to survival in these remote of habitat islands for many years. Similarly, **Sedge Wren** seems never to have occurred at more than a couple locations in Pennsylvania in any year, but generally can be found in western wetlands where they were observed this year in *Mercer*.

A wide variety of breeding songbirds regrettably receive very scant attention in these summer summaries, even though some are declining. Attention to population trend data is one way to distinguish species found in more than 5 counties (and hence, not listed in the Birds of Note) from our many widespread birds. **Golden-winged Warbler**, an icon of the "keep common birds common" mantra, has been declining in range and population for decades. It was reported in only 9 counties during this season. Its long, slow decline continues

despite substantial conservation measures on private and public properties.

The best source of population trend data is the Breeding Bird Survey (BBS). While analysis is not complete for the 100 or so routes completed in 2018, the following is an attempt to highlight a few of these species from long-term trend data. Notably declining is the **Bank Swallow**, reported in 43 counties this summer but down to only one BBS route in 2017. Other declining birds, **Henslow's Sparrow**, in 17 counties, and **Kentucky Warbler**, in 25 counties, also fall below the threshold of formal monitoring. The state bird, **Ruffed Grouse**, was limited this summer to half of the state's counties. Research is finding impacts on this bird from West Nile Virus, which seemed to have a resurgence with the wet weather. A species that has always been rare, the **Clay-colored Sparrow**, seemed to be poised to expand its range since first nesting in the state in the 1980s. This summer's reports, however, suggest it is barely holding on in established territories in *Clarion*.

Although Pennsylvania has had few **Evening Grosbeaks** during any season for a number of years, a remarkable report from *Cambria* this summer is more easily explained when considering that the species' summer range reaches south through New England to Massachusetts. Or this passing observation just foreshadowed the winter incursion that started in November. Pennsylvania lies between populations of **Red Crossbill** in mountains to our north and south, although nesting is not regular here. As in previous years, the fly-overs in early July in *Elk* may reflect a very small local population of this complex species within our state.

A vagrant typically associated with large winter flocks of other blackbird species, about a half-dozen prior summer reports of **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** preceded this July's observation in *Centre*. A much smaller "invasion" of **Dickcissels**, compared with 2017, appeared to be in play in south-central counties this summer. *Franklin* and *Lancaster* mention a duplication of last year, and *Adams* and *York* also report birds on territory, and Dickcissels were found in traditional locations in *Cumberland*. A male **Summer Tanager** returned 5/6 for the fourth consecutive year to its territory on Neversink Mt., *Berks*, singing tirelessly from the same perches as in previous years until about 8/4, although this male has never attracted a mate.

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Birds of Note – June through July 2018

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.

Ross's Goose – *Northampton*: continued with Snow Geese to 6/3 on Seiples Farm pond (Michael Schall).

Brant – *Lancaster*: approximately 40 flying in tight flock at the Conejohela Flats 6/3 (Mike Epler).

Trumpeter Swan – *Blair*: one from 6/9 stayed to 6/16 in I-99 Tipton Wetland (Winnie Illig); *Erie*: one immature plumage at Erie Union City Dam 6/8 (John Campbell, eBird) and 6/11 (Jamie Hill II, eBird); *Lancaster*: a pair at Peach Bottom 6/6 (Bob Schutsky); *Lebanon*: 2 stopped at a flooded area along Mt Pleasant Rd 6/11 (Pat and Richard Williams); *Lycoming*: R45 continued until 6/3 at a private pond near Glen Mawr (Eric Hartshaw); *Jefferson*: pair continued through the summer, nesting successfully with one cygnet raised; *Tioga*: one along Pine Creek Rail Trail at Darling Run 6/7 (Gary Tyson, eBird, ph).

Tundra Swan – *Chester*: one continuing from spring reported across Chambers Lake at Hibernia Park 6/2 (Alex Dilworth, eBird).

Blue-winged Teal – *Fayette*: 2 at Ohiopyle SP 6/15 (Rosanna Lane, William Deegan, eBird); *Mercer*: 4 on at Shenango WMA 7/12 (Steve Sanford, Kim Springer); *Philadelphia*: a male in eclipse plumage at John Heinz impoundments 7/12 (George Armistead, Holly Merker).

Northern Shoveler – *Erie*: one at Fairview Industrial Park 6/4 (Drew Mortensen, eBird); *Lancaster*: 2 males in flooded field at Riverfront Park 6/16 (Bill Libhart, eBird).

Gadwall – *Bucks*: one at Peace Valley Park 7/22-25 (Devich Farbotnik); *Crawford*: 8 noted at Pymatuning – Miller's Ponds 7/20 (Ron Leberman); *Erie*: 2 at Waterford pond 6/16 (Jamie Hill, Suzanne Winterberger, eBird).

American Wigeon – *Cumberland*: one at Big Spring 6/2 (Doris Brookens, Bill Franz, Linda Franz, Vern Gauthier); *Erie*: one at Presque Isle – Gull Pt 7/21 (Shannon Thompson, eBird).

Northern Pintail – *Delaware*: 2 flew over the boardwalk at John Heinz NWR 7/23 (Rob Fergus).

Green-winged Teal – *Bucks*: a male at Churchville Nature Center 6/9 (Mike Lee, Barbara Stollsteimer, eBird, photo) and one at Penn-Warner Tract 6/25-7/12 (Devich Farbotnik); *Crawford*: a male at Pymatuning – Spillway 6/4 (Martin Carlin, Brendyn Baptiste), and a drake at Miller's Ponds 7/7 (Mark Vass); *Dauphin*: an adult male at Wildwood Lake Park through much of June; *Westmoreland*: one at Burrell Lake Park 6/17 (Steve Gosser).

Canvasback – *Lancaster*: an adult male at York Haven Power Plant 7/2 (John Campbell).

Redhead – *Lancaster*: 2 males in Conejohela Flats area 6/7 and through the period (Meredith Lombard); *Lycoming*: a female continued until 6/3 at Rose Valley Lake (Browns).

Ring-necked Duck – *Franklin*: lingering birds reported at Bender's Farm 7/20 (Bill Oyler); *Huntingdon*: 2 males spent the

entire reporting period at Lake Perez (m.ob.); *Lebanon*: an adult male seen diving at Mt. Gretna Lake 6/10 (Patricia and Richard Williams, eBird); *Lycoming*: a male that arrived in May continued at Indian Park through 6/7 (Bobby Brown); *Wayne*: 2 remained on White Oak Pond to at least 6/6 (John Harvey).

Greater Scaup – *Erie*: one at Presque Isle 6/19 (Daria Sockeye, eBird) and 6/20 (Chuck Berthoud, eBird); *Lawrence*: continued from May to 6/2 at Shaner Road Marsh (Mark Vass); *Lebanon*: one lingered at Memorial Lake to 7/1 (Brandon Brown, m.ob.); *Mercer*: one at Tower Rd 6/1-4 (m.ob.).

Lesser Scaup – *Erie*: an adult male at Presque Isle 6/26 (Theo Rickert, eBird) and one 6/28 (Robert Scribner, eBird); *Lancaster*: drake at Conejohela Flats 7/8 (Mike Epler); *Lebanon*: one at Quittipahilla Educational Wetlands 7/28 (Jonathan Heller); *Lycoming*: a male spent the entire summer at Rose Valley Lake (Bobby Brown, m.obs.).

Surf Scoter – *Somerset*: one continued to 6/3 on a small pond at the International Conservation Center (Jeff Payne).

White-winged Scoter – *Mercer*: drake at Tower Rd continued through 7/5 (Mark Vass, m.ob.).

Long-tailed Duck – *Chester*: adult male at Milford Rd access of Marsh Creek SP 6/13 (Larry Lewis).

Bufflehead – *Carbon*: a female on Beltsville Reservoir intermittently 6/21-7/5 (Rich Rehnig); *Lancaster*: a female at Conejohela Flats 6/7 (Meredith Lombard); *Lebanon*: a female at Memorial Lake 6/2 (Brandon Brown, Brian Brown, Cory Clawser, Nate Felty).

Red-breasted Merganser – *Beaver*: a female at Big Rock Park 6/1 (Mark Vass); *Butler*: a male remained at the Moraine SP – McDaniels Rd area in Watts Bay until 6/12 (m.ob.).

Horned Grebe – *Lancaster*: 2 at Conejohela Flats 6/3 (Mike Epler); *Lycoming*: one at Munchy Boat Launch 6/2 (Wes Egli) and one in alternate plumage at Williamsport Dam 6/8 (David Brown, Maddi Dunlap, Jean Dalton) and 7/12 (Joe Yoder).

Eurasian Collared-Dove – *Berks*: one continuing to 7/26 at Shartlesville near the Post Office (M. Grob); *Franklin*: one at Shady Grove through June (Gavin Anderson, eBird) and 5 at Greencastle Reservoir 6/21 (Rebecca Bonebrake, eBird).

Chuck-will's-widow* – *Centre*: initially reported in mid-June and confirmed 7/1 (Joe Gyekis, Carl Engstrom, Kurt Engstrom).

American Coot – *Cumberland*: one at Opossum Lake 7/5 (Vern Gauthier, Andrea Gingerich, eBird); *Crawford*: one at Geneva Marsh 6/25 (Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Rob Hodgson, Ken Pinnow) and 6/26 (Mary Alice Koenek, Glenn Koppel); *Lancaster*: continued at Chestnut Grove Natural Area 6/2 (Patricia & Richard Williams); *Philadelphia*: one at John Heinz NWR impoundments 7/29 (Patrick McGill, eBird); *Susquehanna*: at Hollister's Pond 6/19 (Edmund Burdick).

American Avocet – *Allegheny*: found along Monongahela River near the Southside in Pittsburgh 7/3 (*vide* Claire Staples, Sue

- Solomon); *Armstrong*: one at beach of Crooked Creek SP 7/16 (Marjorie Van Tassel, ph.); *Erie*: singles or small groups seen periodically 6/24-7/26 on Gull Point with a high of 32 there 7/15 (Mary Birdsong); *Montgomery*: 2 flew by Green Lane Reservoir 7/26 (Paul Heveran).
- American Oystercatcher*** – *Delaware*: one at Delaware River - Ft. Mifflin/Hog Island 6/2 (Al Guarente).
- Black-bellied Plover** – *Delaware*: 2 at Ft Mifflin/Hog Island Rds 7/28 (Rob Fergus, Al Guarente); *Erie*: one at Presque Isle – Gull Pt 7/26 (Mary Birdsong, eBird).
- American Golden Plover** – *Erie*: one in breeding plumage feeding in unplanted field near Fairview 6/3 (Tom Hitt).
- Piping Plover** – *Erie*: a pair again successfully nested, seen through the period (Mary Birdsong, m.ob.).
- Upland Sandpiper** – *Crawford*: up to 4 during June at SGL 214, Wilson Rd and Miller's Ponds; *Clearfield*: 2 heard at Sandy Ridge Rd (Doug Graham, eBird); *Lancaster*: up to 4 at Lancaster Airport 7/28-30 (m.ob.).
- Whimbrel*** – *Bucks*: one flyby at Penn-Warner Tract 7/25 (Devich Farbotnik, ph); *Erie*: at Presque Isle Gull Point from 7/3 on-and-off through July, with high of 15 on 7/22 (Mary Birdsong, m.ob.); *Lancaster*: one seen and heard in flight at Middle Creek WMA 7/23 (Bruce Carl).
- Marbled Godwit** – *Erie*: one at Gull Point 7/7 (Mary Birdsong, ph).
- Ruddy Turnstone** – *Delaware*: 2 at Delaware River Ft Mifflin 7/28 (Rob Fergus, Al Guarente); *Erie*: 2 at Presque Isle Gull Point 7/22 and 3 seen 7/26 continued to 7/28 (Mary Birdsong, eBird); *Lancaster*: one adult in breeding plumage 6/3 at Conejohela Flats (Mike Epler).
- Red Knot** – *Erie*: singles or small groups were reported 7/22-27 at Gull Point with a high single day count of 10 on 7/22 (Steve Schmit, Mary Birdsong).
- Dunlin** – *Erie*: single birds on-and-off through the season at Presque Isle (m.ob., eBird) with up to 3 on 6/16 (Shannon Thompson, eBird) and 6/20 (Jerry McWilliams, eBird).
- Baird's Sandpiper** – *Erie*: one at Gull Point 7/14-15 (Mary Birdsong).
- White-rumped Sandpiper** – *Bucks*: one at Penn-Warner Tract 7/21 (Jim Hartley, *fide* Devich Farbotnik); *Somerset*: 3 at Lake Somerset IBA 6/1 and 6/8 (Jeff Payne); *York*: one at Gateway Hanover Retention Ponds 6/4 (Dean Newhouse, Andrew Wolfgang).
- Western Sandpiper** – *Bucks*: 4 at Penn-Warner Tract 7/25 (Devich Farbotnik).
- Long-billed Dowitcher** – *Crawford*: 7 at SLG 214 Miller's Pond 7/22 (Mark Hanneman).
- Wilson's Snipe** – *Adams*: one along Fickes School Rd 6/24 (Don & Jennifer Gilbert); *Crawford*: 2 at SGL 211 Miller's Ponds 7/21 (m.ob.) and again 7/31 (Ron Leberman), and one 7/24 at Tamarack Lake South (Ken Pinnow); *Erie*: 5 at Fairview Industrial Park 6/10 (Drew Mortensen, eBird).
- Red-necked Phalarope** – *Chester*: female at Marsh Creek SP 6/1 (Larry Lewis, eBird); *Juniata*: female at Kanagy Farm 6/1 (Sam Kanagy, *fide* Chad Kaufman); *Somerset*: breeding plumage female at Lake Somerset 6/1 (Jeff Payne, Shannon Thompson).
- Willet** – *Berks*: one at Blue Marsh Lake 7/24 (Russ Hoffman); *Erie*: seen 6/23 and 7/1-21 with 7 on 7/13 (Mary Birdsong, m.ob.); *Huntingdon*: one at Raystown Lake Resort beach 6/27 (Alicia Palmer, Jon Kauffman).
- Pomarine Jaeger*** – *Cambria*: one photographed at marina of Prince Gallitzin SP 6/24 (Renee Lubert).
- Bonaparte's Gull** – *Allegheny*: second-summer bird in heavy molt at Duck Hollow on Monongahela River 7/9 (Nancy Moeller, Tom Moeller) remained to 7/19 (m.ob.); *Crawford*: one at Pymatuning Spillway 7/31 (Ron Leberman); *Erie*: one in alternate plumage 7/28 (Debbie Beer, eBird).
- Franklin's Gull*** – *Lancaster*: adult at Conejohela Flats 7/15 (Mike Epler, Meredith Lombard, Zachary Millen); *Somerset*: one found 6/12 (Jeff Payne) at Lake Somerset IBA continued to 6/19 (Tessa Rinehart).
- Lesser Black-backed Gull** – *Bucks*: 2 at Morrisville Levee 7/31 (August Mirabella) and one sub-adult at Nockamixon SP – Marina 7/23 (Bill Etter).
- Least Tern** – *Bucks*: one at Penn-Warner Tract 7/22 (Devich Farbotnik); *Chester*: 2 at Octoraro Reservoir on border with Lancaster from Rt 472 on 6/16 (Patrick Millar).
- Black Tern** – *Berks*: one in breeding plumage at Blue Marsh Lake 6/1 (Russ Hoffman); *Crawford*: one at Pymatuning Spillway 6/12 (Ron Leberman); *Lancaster*: one in alternate plumage at Conejohela Flats 7/25 (Zachary Millen); *Philadelphia*: one in alternate plumage at John Heinz Refuge 7/24 (Todd Fellenbaum).
- Common Tern** – *Erie*: seen at various locations on Presque Isle through the season with high of 15 at Gull Point on 7/21 (m.ob. eBird), and a pair nested at Gull Point, but was unsuccessful in producing young (Mary Birdsong, m.ob.); *Lancaster*: 4 at Conejohela Flats 6/3 (Mike Epler) and another 7/15 (Mike Epler, Zachary Millen).
- Red-throated Loon** – *Montour*: first seen 5/29 at the Montour Preserve and continued to 6/26 (m.ob.).
- Wood Stork*** – *Dauphin*: one immature found at Wildwood Lake 6/24 (Eric Willet) and relocated 6/25 (m.ob.); *Fayette*: one found on morning of 7/24 near Connellsville and continued elusively into Aug (*fide* Mike Fialkovich).
- Brown Booby*** – *Philadelphia*: one photographed on airport ramp tower for several hours by anonymous observer 7/23.
- American Bittern** – *Crawford*: one seen flying at Geneva Marsh 6/21 (Ron Leberman) and another heard at Erie NWR 6/30 (Ron Leberman); *Junitata*: one seen in flight at Port Royal Speedway 7/28 (Chad Kauffman); *Pike*: one at Peck's Pond 6/11 (Dennis Miranda); *Snyder*: one reported 7/22 along Troxellville Rd reported present for a week (Brandon Weader); *Tioga*: one in Marsh Creek – The Muck 7/3 (Deuane Hoffman, eBird); *Wayne*: one at White Oak Pond 6/6 (John Harvey).
- Cattle Egret*** – *Erie*: at Gull Point 6/12 (Mary Birdsong, eBird).
- Snowy Egret** – *Bucks*: one at Dow Chemical, Bristol 7/28 (Devich Farbotnik); *Chester*: one apparent hatch-year bird discovered at Milltown Res 7/29 in West Chester (John Daniel) continued through 7/31 (m.ob.); *Delaware*: one at Ft Mifflin 7/29 (Al Guarente); *Erie*: at Gull Point 6/15-19 (Mary Birdsong, Roger Donn); *Philadelphia*: 3 on 6/3 and one to 3 from 7/20 to 7/30 at John Heinz Refuge impoundment (m.ob. eBird) with 6 on 7/21 (Mark Greenberry, eBird).
- Tricolored Heron** – *Bucks*: one at Dow Chemical, Bristol 7/28 (Devich Farbotnik).
- Roseate Spoonbill*** – *Lancaster*: juvenile seen briefly on the Octoraro Reservoir 7/14 until spooked by kayakers (Larry Bernhardt).
- Swallow-tailed Kite*** – *Westmoreland*: one seen in flight north of Ligonier 7/31 from Rt 711 (Andy Mack, photo).
- Mississippi Kite*** – *Chester*: one in Downingtown 6/7 (John Daniel).
- Northern Goshawk** – *Elk*: singles in Jones Twp 7/6 (Brendyn Baptiste) and on SGL 311 Winslow Hill Elk Viewing area 7/7 (Brendyn Baptiste, et. al.); *Potter*: one was observed at Odin, Baker Run 6/2 (Marc Hanneman); *Pike*: wails heard on 6/5 but no nest found after a search (Dennis Miranda, eBird).
- Long-eared Owl** – *Warren*: one heard from Heart's Content Campground 6/28 (Rob Hodgson, eBird).
- Northern Saw-whet Owl** – *Elk*: heard singing in Jones Twp 6/7 with 2 young heard there 7/15, 29 (Brendyn Baptiste); *Luzerne*: one agitated at Ricketts Glenn SP IBA 6/17 (John DeBalko, Jonathan DeBalko, eBird, audio).
- Olive-sided Flycatcher** – *Chester*: one at Bucktoe Preserve 6/1 (Larry Lewis, eBird); *Erie*: one at Six Mile Creek Park 6/6 (John Campbell) and another photographed in Erie 6/11 (*fide* Don Snyder); *Jefferson*: one at Clear Creek SP – Beartown Rocks 6/2 (Richard Nugent); *Lancaster*: one at Octoraro Reservoir 6/1 (Carlton Groff); *Union*: one in deer enclosure near Grosses Gap 6/4 (Allen Schweinsberg).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher – *Wyoming*: males sang at 3 different spots at least one morning in June in Coalbed Swamp, but none located in last 2 visits in July (Doug Gross, pers. com.).

Sedge Wren – *Lawrence*: one heard at the Nelson Rd Grassland 7/4 (Clark Trauterman, audio).

Gray-cheeked Thrush – *Centre*: a fly-over at recording station in State College 6/1 (Joe Gyekis, eBird).

Evening Grosbeak – *Cambria*: one stopped at a feeder in Carrolltown for a half-minute 6/19 (Winnie Illig).

Red Crossbill – *Elk*: flyovers making "jip-jip" calls and singing unmistakable calls seen flying over deciduous woods 7/3 and again 7/6. Sounded like a type one (Appalachian type), (Brendyn Baptiste, eBird).

Clay-colored Sparrow – *Clarion*: continuing their decline from the past several years, only a single verified sighting was submitted this year, a singing male found at Mount Zion on

Stockdill Rd 6/22 (Anthony Bruno); *Lawrence*: one at Volant Strips 6/4 (Brendyn Baptiste).

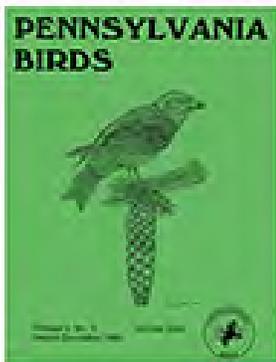
Yellow-headed Blackbird* – *Centre*: one seen at Muddy Paws Marsh 7/7 (Tim Jegla, *vide* Joe Gyekis).

Tennessee Warbler – *Venango*: one at Buttermilk Hill Nature Sanctuary 7/27 (Jerry Stanley, Katie Goodblood).

Blackpoll Warbler – *Sullivan*: 3 males in Tamarack Swamp where one carried food for young (Doug Gross, pers. com.); *Wyoming*: one territorial male in Coalbed Swamp (Doug Gross, pers. com.).

Summer Tanager* – *Berks*: a male returned 5/6 for the fourth consecutive year to its territory on Neversink Mt., Reading, singing tirelessly from the same perches as in previous years until about 8/4 (Jay Drasher), although this male has never attracted a mate (Jay Drasher).

25 Years Ago in *Pennsylvania Birds*



Volume 6, No. 3.

In the second of a series on banding records in Pennsylvania, Frank Haas reported on vireos that had been banded in the state and recovered elsewhere or vice versa. The highlight was that there were only 13 records of vireos that met this criteria!

Gene Wilhelm reported on the growing number of sightings of Sandhill Cranes (*Grus canadensis*) in northwestern Pennsylvania and the potential for nesting.

This issue can be read at pabirds.org.

Mute Swans in Clarion Count



Mute Swan parent and cygnets on Redbank Creek near New Bethlehem, *Clarion* 23 June. (Alan Buriak)

The Mute Swan pair introduced by the people of New Bethlehem, a few years ago has now raised multiple broods of cygnets. However, the adult swans' aggression has caused problems for the users of Redbank Creek in Clarion County. The story of this particular family of swans perfectly encapsulates the ongoing love/hate relationship of people with Mute Swans. They were brought to Redbank Creek a few years ago when the people of New Bethlehem decided to purchase a mated pair of Mute Swans that could not fly. The swans took up residence on the creek behind the VFW (Clarion side of the creek), and quickly captured the hearts of the town, having raised multiple groups of cygnets.

Last winter, late 2017 into 2018, when large ice jams flowed down the creeks and rivers of western Pennsylvania, the adult swans were washed away and for quite some time, one adult was missing. It eventually was found far down-stream on the Allegheny River near Watersonville, from where it was rescued and brought back.

However, as birders know, the beauty of Mute Swans comes with many detriments. It seems the community consensus is that the Mute Swans are now more a problem than a positive attraction (shocker!). Redbank Creek is a moderately large creek; however, apparently not large enough to give the swans sufficient room to avoid territorial problems. Kayakers are routinely chased and even attacked just trying to pass through that area of the creek. It didn't take long for even total non-birders to realize the problem that Mute Swans present. The link below describes some of the problems and indicates that plans were being made to remove them (which may have happened by the time this note is published).

Alan Buriak

For more information on this saga:

http://m.thecourierexpress.com/the_leader_vindicator/news/local/local-residents-express-concern-over-aggressive-swan/article_cd28559c-cd2e-52d5-99c0-d497f78dc498.html

Photographic Highlights



Yellow-billed Cuckoo at Harrison Hills Park, *Allegheny* 9 July. (Dave Brooke)



American Avocet at Crooked Creek Lake 16 July, likely a first for *Armstrong*. (Marge Van Tassel)



One of two **Franklin's Gulls** found during the summer, this bird, present at Lake Clarke, *Lancaster* 15 July is about the 15th ever for the county. (Zachary Millen)

Color printing sponsored by BirdScreen.com.



This **Virginia Rail** was found with another adult and a chick at Marsh Run Swamp along Old York Rd., *York* 17 June. (Dean Newhouse)



Representing a first record for *Huntingdon*, this **Willet** spent 27 June at Raystown Lake. (Greg Grove)



Somerset's second **Franklin's Gull** stayed at Lake Somerset 12-19 (here 15) June. (Michael David)



Another view of our cover subject, the **Wood Stork** at Wildwood Lake, *Dauphin*, seen here 25 June. (*Dave Kerr*)



Another **Wood Stork** made a trip north to our state, found at Richey Rd., *Fayette* 24 July, re-found 28 July, when seen here, and staying until the end of the season. (*Michael David*)



This **Green Heron** at Francis Slocum SP, *Luzerne* 29 July was photographed from a kayak. (*Lauren Shaffer*)



Most **Glossy Ibis** are found in southeastern Pennsylvania; this bird was at Amish Pond, *Northumberland* during severe flooding, seen only 24 July. (*Lauren Shaffer*)



This **Snowy Egret** was found at Milltown Reservoir, *Chester* 29 July and stayed into August, seen here 30 July. (*Barry Blust*)



Barred Owl at Richard Nixon County Park, *York* 6 June. (*Dean Newhouse*)



A rarity in York, this juvenile **Barn Owl** was one of two banded at a Ridge Rd. farm 11 July. (*Dean Newhouse*)



Acadian Flycatchers nest in wet wooded areas, usually near water; this bird was in Sproul SF, Clinton 9 July. (*Lauren Shaffer*)



This **Willow Flycatcher** was identified by voice, the only safe way to separate from Alder Flycatcher in the field, at Warrior Run Wetlands, Northumberland 17 June. (*Karol Pasquinelli*)



Great-crested Flycatcher at West Mannheim Twp. Recreation Park, York 21 June. (*Dean Newhouse*)



Barn Swallow at Canoe Creek SP, Blair 24 June. (*Pam Illig*)



Brown Thrasher on Hickory Lane, Mifflin 4 June. (*Brenda Zook*)



American Goldfinch on Butler-Freeport Trail, *Butler* 12 July. (Dave Brooke)



Cedar Waxwing in *Montour* 4 July. (Lauren Shaffer)



Vesper Sparrow displaying its eye ring and small chestnut shoulder patch; this bird was one of a pair carrying food in shrinking habitat at Imperial Grasslands, *Allegheny* 3 June. (Jeff McDonald)



Juvenile **Henslow's Sparrow** at Hillman SP, *Washington* 24 July. (Jeff McDonald)



Baltimore Oriole at Canoe Creek SP, *Blair* 24 June. (Pam Illig)



This **Prothonotary Warbler** at a parking area at York Haven Dam, *York* 1 June was flying around cars, perhaps challenging his reflection in car windows or mirrors. (Dean Newhouse)



Kentucky Warblers are uncommon Pennsylvania nesters, mainly in southern and southwestern counties; this bird was at Harrison Hills Park, *Allegheny* 30 June. (Dave Brooke)



Hooded Warbler at Harrison Hills Park, *Allegheny* 1 June. (Dave Brooke)



Quite a nice yard bird, this **Mourning Warbler** visited a water feature at a home in Seneca, *Venango* 24 July. (Meg Kolodick)



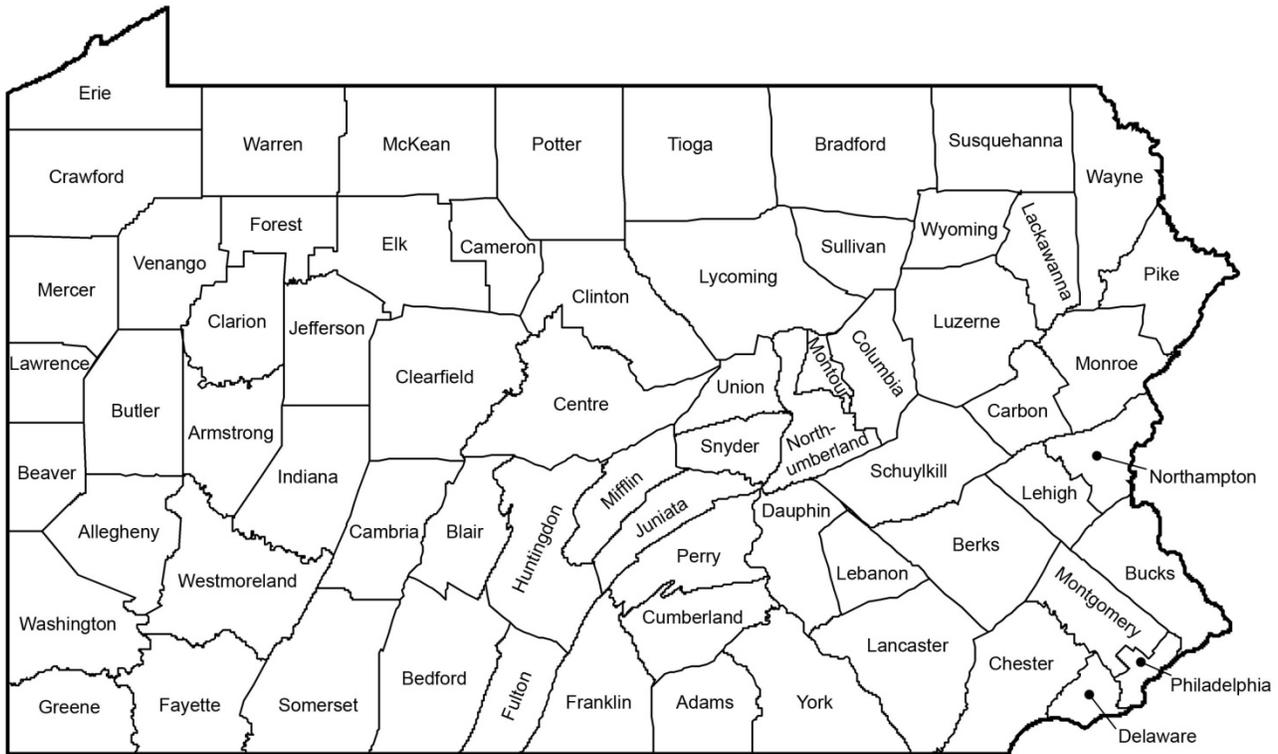
This **Yellow-breasted Chat** was one of two, possibly a mated pair, at Mingo Creek County Park, *Washington* 13 July. (John Flannigan)



Nesting of **Blue Grosbeaks** at Imperial Grasslands, *Allegheny* ended in 1998; remarkably, a possible nesting pair appeared there this summer, one of which was photographed 11 June. (Geoff Malosh)



Indigo Bunting at Harrison Hills Park, *Allegheny* 11 July. (Dave Brooke)



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)

The following counties have no compiler- contact the editor if interested: Bradford, Forest, Fulton, Luzerne, McKean..

Adams County

Locations: Freedom Township (FREE), Gettysburg College (GC), Gettysburg National Military Park (GNMP), Michaux State Forest (MICH), Ridge Rd – Cumberland Twp. (RRCT)

While average temperatures for the period were near normal, a record setting total July rainfall of 12.1" drenched south-central PA. Species count of 121 was about average for the period. There were some nice finds during the period paced by a sighting of a trio of **Sandhill Cranes** and a **Wilson's Snipe**.

Mute Swan remains resident in the Gettysburg area. The only out-of-season waterfowl was a **Ruddy Duck** at GC 6/4 (AW). High count from the **7 Wild Turkey** reports were up to 11 birds at RRCT 7/4-29 (CM). The county continues this period's recent trend of occasional **Double-crested Cormorant**, **Great Egret**, and **Osprey**. A cormorant was found on a pond along Chapel Hill Rd 7/3 (CM) and a pair were at Lake Heritage 7/7 (CM).

Four reports of Great Egret were led by a 4 count at the Buttonwood Rd. pond 7/30 (PK). Single Osprey were at GC 6/4 (AW) and Lake Meade 7/6 (PF). Three reports of **Sharp-shinned Hawk** build on one to 3 observations during this period each of the last five years. First and second BBA results for *Adams* for this species showed only three and one occupancy blocks, respectively. Realizing that the Atlas results were over 5-6 year periods, there appears to be an uptick in the presence of this species in the county during atlas safe dates of June 1–July 31. No reports noted age or possible breeding code so breeding remains unlikely.

The **Sandhill Crane** sighting was an overhead trio at Camp Nawakwa 7/17 (SL). The observer noted their "rattling, noisy, unearthly" call. A great find was a **Wilson's Snipe** along Fickes School Rd. 6/24 (DJG), a likely summer reporting period first for the county. The 14 reports of **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** continue the strong reporting for this species. It's much more elusive cousin, **Black-billed Cuckoo**, was only found once, a single at Waynesboro Res 7/1 (RB). MICH produced 3 **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** at 2100 hours 6/14 (CM). GNMP recorded 17 of the 23 **Red-headed Woodpecker** reports but high count was limited to 3 birds.

The flycatcher and vireo species reporting reflected the typical species and frequency of reporting for this period.

A single **Horned Lark** on the BBS 6/17 (AW) provided the only report. Nice **Purple Martin** counts of 26 and 32 birds came from GC 7/13 (AW) and Lake Heritage 7/7 (CM), respectively. With no summer reports of **Bank Swallow** since 2013, this year's 3 reports were a nice surprise. A trio was found at FREE 6/17 (CA), 4 were along Quaker Church Rd. 6/22 (AC), and a single was at GNMP 7/31 (CM). Three **Cliff Swallows** were at GNMP 6/16 (PL) and one was at McSherrystown 6/27 (MG, DK).

The 3 **Black-capped Chickadee** reports were all at the higher elevations of MICH. A 10-mile, 5-hour hike on MICH trails produced the high count of 18 birds. The same hike produced the only report of **Red-breasted Nuthatch**. Two **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were seen in MICH 6/11 (AR). With no reports of **Veery** after 6/10 last year, MICH held a single 6/14 (CM) followed by a trio 6/21 (BO). The 6/14 (CM) trip produced the only **Hermit Thrush** report.

Better warbler highlights of the 14 species reported were: 4 reports of **Pine Warbler** with a high of 6 at Long Pine Run Reservoir 6/27 (MG, DK), up to 3 **Prairie Warblers** at GNMP 6/15–7/21 (PL, CM, DS), trios of **Kentucky Warblers** at Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve 7/15 (CM), and **Canada Warbler** at MICH 6/27 (DG, MK). **Savannah Sparrow** reporting was confined to the GNMP vicinity with the 5 reports being led by a 3 count at Cunningham Rd 7/8 (BP). High count of the 10 reports of **Grasshopper Sparrow** was 8 birds at GNMP 7/13 (CM). GNMP produced the only **Yellow-breasted Chat** report, a single 6/5 & 22 (CM, MP, DS).

A rare summer period find for the county was a male **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** at RRCT 7/10 (CM). It was a strong reporting period for **Blue Grosbeak** with 2 along Red Rock Rd. 6/1 (BP), 2 at FREE 6/5 (LM), one along Cunningham Rd 6/7 (CM), and one at the Shippensburg Rd./Wenksville Rd. intersection 7/2-22 (IC, BO). GNMP held **Dickcissel** and **Bobolink** 6/6-18 (m.ob.) with high counts of 3 and 4, respectively. A great Bobolink flock count for the county of 24 birds came from Red Rock Rd 6/1 (BP). FREE also produced Bobolink sightings 6/5-17 (CA, LM) of up to 2 birds. **Eastern Meadowlark** observations (m.ob.) were concentrated in and around GNMP but no count exceeded 5 birds. Uncommon during this period, a pair of **Purple Finches** was at FREE 7/14 (MS). Even more uncommon during this period, a **Pine Siskin** was at Mountain Rd. 6/17 (RDS). To this compiler's knowledge, this site produced the only other summer reporting of this species, one in 2015.

Observers: **Phil Keener, 198 Jacobs Street, East Berlin, PA 17316, (717) 259-9984, pittche74@yahoo.com**, Chas Argent, Rebecca Bonebrake, Alicia Cavazos, Ian Clarke, Doug Daniels, Paul Ferguson, Don & Jennifer Gilbert (DJG), Mackenzie Goldthwait, Scott Keyes, Doug Kibbe, P. Lewis, Michael Locher, Nancy Locher, Sam Lynch, Linette Mansberger, Anne Mytych, Callan Murphy, Adit N, Bill Oyler, Bonita Portzline, Michael Pratt, Ari Rice, Michael S, Deb Schroeder, Ralph & Deb Siefken (RDS), Adrian Smith, David Taylor, Patricia & Richard Williams, Andy Wilson.

Allegheny County

There were a few surprises this summer extending the excitement of spring. Development continues at the Imperial Grasslands. As reported last year, the trees and shrubs in a large area where chopped down and left in place. This area began to regenerate and became a large area of scrub with small trees and herbaceous plants. This rejuvenated the bird life at the site as the habitat became attractive to Yellow-breasted Chats, Orchard Orioles, Indigo Buntings and Prairie Warblers. It was nice to see the Prairie Warblers remaining because it was thought they would find the area undesirable following the clearing of the land. Savannah and Grasshopper Sparrows are holding on to the few areas of grass. A big surprise was the discovery of Blue Grosbeaks at the site. Details follow. How long this will last is unknown.

A **Common Merganser** was at Duck Hollow 6/29 and 7/17 (JS, SS). There was a concerted effort to find **Common Nighthawks** in the county this summer. Observers found them in many locations and noted their

absence in locations that were reliable. They seem to be most numerous in the old towns along the river valleys.

Five **American Avocets** were photographed along the Monongahela River near the Southside in Pittsburgh 7/3 (*fide* CS, JS). This was quite a surprise for this time of year. In the past when avocets have appeared in the county they were usually found later in the summer. The last report of this species was in 2016. A **Semipalmated Plover** was at Imperial 7/20 (MV) and one was at Duck Hollow 7/31 (MJ). A **Least Sandpiper** was also at Duck Hollow 7/31 (MJ). A **Short-billed Dowitcher** was at Imperial 7/20-21 (MV, et al.). A second summer **Bonaparte's Gull** in heavy molt was discovered at Duck Hollow on the Monongahela River 7/9 (TM, NM). It remained to 7/19 (m.ob.) and represented the first summer record in the county. **Herring Gulls** were counted at the Highland Park Bridge breeding colony 6/2 (SK). A total of 68 adults and 20 juveniles were tallied. Two **Caspian Terns** were at Dashields Dam 7/29 (MV).

Great Crested Flycatchers are local breeders in the county and not widely reported so any reports are of interest. Single birds were found in Frick Park in June (STi, DWe, MF). **Veery** is a local breeder and normally only reported from North Park and nearby Pine Twp. so a report from Sewickley Heights Park 7/2 (AP, SA, JC) was notable. Single **Purple Finches** were regularly reported in Pine Twp. during the season. A pair was there 7/14-15 (PL, SL).

A **Swamp Sparrow** was reported from Imperial 7/2 (AP, SA, JC). This is a local breeder and the reclamation wetlands in the Imperial area are a reliable place to find them. An area of the Imperial Grasslands away from the development that was reclaimed following surface mining a few years ago has developed into a nice grassland and this summer **Grasshopper Sparrows**, **Savannah Sparrows**, and **Henslow's Sparrows** could be found in the area (m.ob.).

Yellow-breasted Chats were more numerous at Imperial this year than they have been in recent years due to the habitat changes mentioned above. Other reports include 2 at Hilltop Park in South Fayette Twp. 6/3 (LN), one in Elizabeth Twp. 6/13 (TH), one at Boyce-Mayview Park 6/14 (ST), and one at Dead Man's Hollow 6/26 (JM). A few **Bobolinks** were at Imperial as this species remains in small numbers at this location. This year they could be seen from what locals call the Truck Stop, an area of grassland that has escaped development for now. A **Pine Siskin** was photographed at a feeder in Creighton 7/18 (LE). I asked the observer if there was more than a single bird and if it's been seen regularly but the observer only saw it that day.

An **Ovenbird** was heard in June at Imperial (m.ob.) and one was at Sewickley Heights Park 7/2 (AP, SA, JC). This is another species that is very local in the county during the breeding season although they are quite numerous just over the border of the western and northern parts of the county in *Washington* and *Butler*, respectively. **Worm-eating Warbler** is also a local breeder and 2 were at Harrison Hills Park in June; a regular location in summer. A **Louisiana Waterthrush** was found at Sewickley Heights Park 7/2 (AP, SA, JC). While this species is a regular breeder in the numerous streams in that area, any reports after June are notable as they become quiet at that time of year. A **Black-and-white Warbler** was at Harrison Hills Park 6/15 (DB), another regular location for a local breeding species. **Kentucky Warbler** has declined but a pair was confirmed breeding at Harrison Hills Park (DB). Unusual in summer, a **Black-throated Green Warbler** was heard singing at Harrison Hills Park the entire month of June (DB, m.ob.). This is another species that is not known to breed in the county but does breed just to the north of this location in southern *Butler*.

A pair of **Blue Grosbeaks** was discovered at Imperial 6/10 (JC, SA, TR). Later in the day an immature male was observed there (MD). Two continued to 6/13 (m.ob.). After that date the birds apparently left the site because subsequent searches failed to locate the birds. Observers thought they would breed and would be present all summer but apparently, that was not the case. Interestingly, this species bred at the site from 1994 to 1996. A single bird was there 7/29/2006.

Observers: **Mike Fialkovich, 805 Beulah Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15235, (412) 731-3581, mpfial@verizon.net**, Sameer Apte, Al Borek, Carole Borek, Dave Brook, Jack Chaillet, Michael David, Laura Eiler, Malcolm

Harter, Amy Henrici, Deb Hess, Paul Hess, Todd Hooe, Matthew Juskowich, Scott Kinzey, Oliver Lindhiem, Pat Lynch, Sherron Lynch, Jeff McDonald, Shannon Thompson, Nancy Moeller, Tom Moeller, Lauren Nagoda, Aidan Place, Kate St. John (KSJ), Jack Solomon, Sue Solomon, Claire Staples, Tessa Rhinehart (TRh), Steve Tirone (STI), Ryan Tomazin, Mark VanderVen (MVV), Mark Vass, Dan Weeks (DWe).

Armstrong County

Locations: Locations: Adrian (AD), Armstrong Trail no. of Dam 8 (AT), Crooked Creek Lake (CCL), Manorville (MV), Murphy's Bottom (MB), Northpointe (NP), Quigley/Glacial Sand Rds.(QGS), Parks Bend Farm, Polka Hollow Road (PH), Robbs Fording Road (RF), Rolling Hills Road (RH), SGL 247, Worthington (WT).

Best find of the season was a lone **American Avocet** at the beach of CCL 7/16 (MVT, ph.), which remained throughout the day and evening providing many opportunities for observation and photographs (AB, KK, MD, SGo, SGU, SL, CR, HS, JLS); this is the first ebird record for *Armstrong*. An interesting side note, the **Herring Gull** nest that had been discovered near KT L&D 7 (TR) produced 2 chicks which were photographed on the nest 6/10 (MVT) along with the female while the male perched at the dam. One **Common Nighthawk** was reported from Ford City 6/25 and 6/29 (AB) then again 7/1 (SGU). Another good find was a **Ruffed Grouse** female with 4 juveniles in WT 6/15 (TR). **Green Herons** were observed at many locations and the pair at PBF appear to have had one fledgling (JLS, MVT).

Two **Black Vultures**, rare for this area, were reported from MCL/Milton Loop 6/12 (RS, GE). One **Osprey** was reported from CCL 6/13 (CR, JLS) and again 7/26 (DMc). The **Red-shoulder Hawk** pair produced 2 fledglings again this year, but one appeared injured at one point so was observed for quite some time and eventually believed to have fledged safely with its sibling after one attempt by 2 birders to capture it and take to a rehabber. A lone **Broad-winged Hawk** was spotted at CM 6/3 (MH, RH), one above No. Apollo 7/6 (MVT), and one 7/21 at CCL (SGU). Three **Peregrine Falcons** (one adult and 2 fledglings) from the Graff Bridge nest were observed at MV 6/7 (KSJ, ph.) and again 6/8 (SGU, MVT, ph.).

Yellow-billed Cuckoos were reported from many areas throughout the county but only one **Black-billed Cuckoo** was observed, at CCL 7/21 (SGU) and one at Chicora 7/29 (DMc). **Eastern Screech Owls** were noted 6/12 at CRR (MVT), 6/24 at MB (AB, SGU), and 7/14 and 7/20 (JB). One **Barred Owl** was heard at LT 6/12-7/28 (JB), and 2 immatures were seen on PH 6/13 (MVT, ph.).

Six **Willow Flycatcher** were reported, including birds in a nest on RHR and 6 on Olivet Rd. near Elders Ridge (AB, SGU), and one on Olivet (MH, RH). Two **Bank Swallows** were a nice find at QGS 7/1 (TR). A single **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was reported from CCL 7/10 (JB) but 2 were observed 7/14 (SGU). Only **Veery** reports were one at SGL 247 6/21 (TR) and one at PH 7/17 (MVT).

Only reports of **Worm-eating Warbler** were one near LT 6/13 (JB) and one on the AT 6/29 (TR). Three **Blue-winged Warblers** were reported from QGS 6/2 (TR), 2 at CCL 6/2 (MD), 2 at RH 6/16 (AB, SGU), and one near PH 6/29 (MVT). Only one **Nashville Warbler** was noted, at PH 7/4; one **Kentucky Warbler** was spotted at MB 6/8 and 6/21 at SGL 247 (TR); a lone **Pine Warbler** was reported from CCL 6/3 and RH 6/15 (SGU); one **Yellow-throated Warbler** was near CM 6/3 (MH, RH) and one at CCL 6/16 (JB). A nice count of 5 **Prairie Warblers** at Thomas Rd. near KL 6/9 (AB, SGU), one was at RH 6/15 (SGU), and another 5 at QGS 6/24 (TR).

A **Vesper Sparrow** was a nice find at RH 6/3 (AB, SGU). A lone **Savannah Sparrow** was seen in WT 7/22 (AB) and one at RF 7/30 (MVT). **Grasshopper Sparrows** appeared in a few locations including one at RF 6/3 (MH, RH), 2 at RH 6/3 (AB, SGU), 2 at NP 6/9 (MVT), and 2 at Brush Valley 7/30 (JS). Two **Henslow's Sparrows** were observed 6/3 near AD (AB, SGU) and a singleton was reported from Brush Valley 7/30 (JS). A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was at QGS 6/2 (TR, ph.) and 2 were reported from Sloan Rd. near AD 6/3 (AB, SGU).

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Beaver County

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

There was no report of **Common Mergansers** breeding this year on Raccoon Creek near RCSP, following last year's first-ever such occurrence for the county there. They were seen again throughout the summer, though, on the Beaver R. near NB (MV). Providing a very rare summer record for southwest Pennsylvania, the Common Mergansers at NB were joined by a very late **Red-breasted Merganser** 6/1 (MV). Two **Common Loons** settled in for the summer at Ambridge Res. were noted 6/24 (MV).

The **Osprey** nest at NB was occupied and 4 birds were reported there through 7/14 (MV). Following many spring reports, there was only one mention of Osprey at RCSP in the summer months, that on 7/30 (EL). The only migrant shorebirds seen at the thoroughly degraded habitat at IND before the end of Jul were 4 **Solitary Sandpipers** 7/22 (SM). Rarely found after their spring mating displays cease, an **American Woodcock** was flushed at Hereford Manor Lake 6/21 (BM). The first returning **Ring-billed Gull** was at NB 7/14 (MV).

Black-billed Cuckoo does indeed still occur in *Beaver*; one was at RCSP 7/27 (LN). Two **Common Nighthawks** were over AMB 6/9 (SK), found during a deliberate search for the species in developed areas (with possible rooftop nesting sites) along the Ohio R. **American Kestrels** occurred again in somewhat incongruous summering areas along the Ohio R.: one was at Monaca 6/23 and another was near Industry 6/30 (both MV).

There was no follow-up report to the singing **Worm-eating Warbler** in RCSP this past spring, so it's not known whether they summered there for the third year in a row. But 2 were again on the Montgomery Lock and Dam access road, well-studied there 6/30 (MV). **Northern Parula** was on territory at the RCSP wildflower reserve 6/3 (MV), and **Pine Warbler** was evident in RCSP 7/27 (LN). Now a regular occurrence, **Black-throated Green Warblers** were heard along the park road on the eastern side of RCSP through Jun (MV, et al.), but confirmation of breeding in the park can still only be inferred, and has not been directly observed.

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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), Rodale Experimental Farm, Maxatawny Twp. (Rodale), Schuylkill R. (SchR), State Game Lands (SGL).

Small numbers of **Snow Geese** wounded by hunters and incapable of migrating are seen in most summers. This year, one to 5 such birds were seen at various times at LO, Moselem Springs Golf Club, Christman L., and in Marion Twp. Most breeding confirmations of **Common Merganser** have been made along the SchR, where small groups were seen again this year. A flock of 7 at Kernsville 7/20 (M-TG) was probably

a family. **Ruffed Grouse** now occurs only on the KR, where one was seen at SGL 106 on 6/24 (SR). **Wild Turkey** hens with broods of 5-10 were widely reported. Late migrating **Common Loons** included 2 at LO 6/10 (KL) and one immature at BML 6/15 (RH). About 6 non-breeding **Double-crested Cormorants** summered at LO (RK) and 2 each were seen along the SchR 6/17 (JT), Hopewell L. 6/27 (P&JWe), and BML 7/28 (RH).

A **Least Bittern** was heard calling briefly at Lowland Rd. pond, Hamburg, where the marsh habitat makes breeding a possibility, 5/25 and 7/2 (KG). Least Bittern has not been recorded in summer since Glen Morgan L. was closed to public access many years ago. Post-breeding **Great Egrets** began to appear in mid-Jul, with a high count of 15 at Angelica Park 7/27 (*vide* BU). Since **Black-crowned Night-Herons** abandoned their last known breeding colony in 2014 due to hailstorm damage, reports of fledged juveniles have provided the only evidence of probable breeding. This season, just one fledgling was conclusively identified, a bird at Union Meadows Park near Birdsboro 7/13 (S&F; ph) and 7/29 (JT; ph). One to 3 adults and first summer immatures were seen at the LO spillway and BML on various dates 6/2-7/11, a large decrease in numbers since 2014 and before.

The usual one or 2 non-breeding **Ospreys** were reported at waterways during the period (m.ob.). A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** giving alarm calls in response to mobbing **Blue Jays** (and the observer) was found in deciduous forest near a mature stand of eastern white pines in District Twp. 7/17 (RK). A pair nested for a few years in similar habitat a few miles away (with Norway spruce instead of eastern white pines), adding interest to this record. It is very unusual to find this species away from the KR in the breeding season. **Red-shouldered Hawks** fledged young near Douglassville (LI) and near BML. Hawk Mt. Sanctuary's **Broad-winged Hawk** Project tracked 6 nests in *Berks* this season. Five of the 6 nests fledged 2 young each and the sixth fledged one (LG). Besides those, breeding pairs were again found at Baldy Hill, District Twp. (CE) and in Pike Twp. (RK), indicating that the species continues to do well in extensive mature forest in this populous county.

A **Sora** nest (location withheld) found 5/12 contained 13 eggs 5/18 (TJK, JR, TU). The nesting outcome is unknown. This is the first breeding confirmation of **Sora** since 1957, but many May records in the intervening years suggest that breeding by this elusive species may have occurred more often. Three non-breeding shorebird species were reported, two of them rare. Rain grounded 5 **Sanderlings**, some still in ruddy headed breeding plumage, at BML's swimming beach 7/24 (RH; ph). Another Sanderling (or perhaps a holdover) was found across the lake 7/28 (RH; ph). A **Least Sandpiper** was with the Sanderlings 7/24, 28 (RH, AP). The other gift of the storm was a **Willet** at BML's State Hill boat launch 7/24 (RH; ph). Four **American Woodcocks** flew over a birder listening for **Whip-poor-wills** at SGL 110, Northkill Gap on the evening of 6/19 (KG). **Ring-billed Gull** is seen at BML in all months, even a few in Jun (JS). This year about a dozen adults appeared in Jul, probably dispersing from breeding colonies elsewhere. A **Caspian Tern** at BML 7/28 (RH) was an early fall migrant. A breeding plumaged **Black Tern** at BML 6/1 (RH) was a spring migrant.

A **Eurasian Collared-Dove** was seen at the Shartlesville colony 7/26 (M-TG). The small colony there persists, but visits by birders have tapered off. As usual, the common summer rain crow was **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**; **Black-billed Cuckoo** was regularly reported only at BML (JS). All three **Barn Owl** nests monitored by RB failed to produce young, one due to unintentional disturbance during incubation, another due to weather damage to the nest box. The third site has not been occupied for two years. The only reported **Common Nighthawk** was a migrant at LO 6/6 (MC). **Whip-poor-will** can now be expected in summer only on the KR, where 2 were heard at SGL 110, Northkill Gap 6/9, 25 (KG).

Red-headed Woodpeckers were reported at four locations. Four adults were at Bastian Rd. near Bowers, the oldest known colony, 6/23 (SF). One or 2 were sometimes seen along Allendale Rd. near Rt. 662, and 2 in Marion Twp. Breeding was confirmed when 2 of 4 adults at Kaufmann Rd., Oley Twp. were seen carrying food to a cavity 6/25 (RK). Reading's **Peregrine Falcon** pair produced 4 chicks, all of which fledged after treatment for trichomoniasis (BU) – those city pigeons that are such easy pickings can be toxic. One wonders how many urban **Peregrines**

would fledge without antibiotic treatment by intervening humans. The young falcons were still around at the end of the period.

Ten **Acadian Flycatchers** were heard at HRes 6/8 (KG) and 12 at Hay Creek 7/13 (JT), their two centers of abundance in *Berks*. A **Least Flycatcher** at Lowland Rd., Hamburg 7/25 (KG) was out of its breeding range. Formerly a common breeder in *Berks*, this species was last confirmed nesting in 1986. Two **Blue-headed Vireos**, a KR specialty here, sang in the hemlock/rhododendron ravine at HRes 6/14, 31 (KG, RK). Three families of **Common Ravens** were reported, a group of 6 on the Hamburg Microtel, a favorite perch, 6/2 (KG), another group of 6 on the KR at Rt. 183 on 6/5 (KG), and a third group of 5 at Eastern Industries Kutztown quarry 6/23 (SF). Three large **Purple Martin** colonies in the farmland of the Great Valley between Fleetwood and Topton were active but not censused. **Bank Swallows** were seen entering presumed nest holes in mountains of sand at the Haines & Kibblehouse Quarry near Birdsboro in May, but there were no later reports from that site. There were sightings of 2-3 dispersing birds at various places in late Jul (RK).

A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** at HMS 6/29 (RK) was presumably an early migrant from breeding areas further north. A **Brown Creeper** was at SGL 106 on the KR 6/1 (ZM). This inconspicuous species has been confirmed breeding a few times, but this one may have been a straggler. A **Winter Wren** sang along a forested stream on the KR at SGL 106, Pine Swamp Rd. 6/8 (RK). Winter Wrens have been found singing often on the KR in summer, but breeding confirmations have been few. Birders hiking the Appalachian Trail reported **Hermit Thrushes** at five places 6/5-7/21 (m.ob.). The trail runs through the very limited ridgetop breeding area of this thrush in *Berks*.

Birders reported 14 breeding warbler species, mostly at expected locations in unremarkable numbers. The uncommon **Kentucky Warbler** was heard at two locations, one at Sixpenny Cr., French Creek SP 6/6 (RK) and the other near Eckville 6/29 (RK). Birders found none at the long running go-to location at SGL 106, Pine Swamp Rd. this season. **Cerulean Warbler** was found at HRes 6/8, 18 (KG) and at SGL 110, Stony Cr. 6/7, 14 (KG, SS), both KR locations where the species has previously been seen. A **Black-throated Blue Warbler**, a rare and irregular breeder on the KR, was at HRes 6/8 (KG). It may have been a late migrant. One or 2 **Black-throated Green Warblers** were found at each of three traditional sites on the KR, and 6 were recorded along a seven-mile stretch of the Appalachian Trail by an eBirding hiker 7/2 (MD), suggesting that it may be a bit more common than records from the usual few sites indicate. Four **Yellow-breasted Chats**, 2 adults and 2 fledglings, were at SGL 106, Pine Swamp Rd. 6/30 (RK). A male **Summer Tanager** returned 5/6 for the fourth consecutive year to its territory on Neversink Mt., Reading, singing tirelessly from the same perches as in previous years until about 8/4 (JD). Though an apparently mated pair occupied an adjoining territory in 2016, this male has never attracted a mate.

A late migrating **White-throated Sparrow** was at HRes 6/8 (KG). **Grasshopper, Vesper, and Savannah Sparrows** continue to breed successfully in the grass pastures at Rodale and in hayfields of northern *Berks*. **Blue Grosbeaks**, thinly distributed mostly in farmland, were reported at seven locations, with a pair feeding young at one of them (KG). **Dickcissels** returned for the third consecutive year to the grass pastures at Rodale, where breeding was confirmed in 2017. Reports and photos indicate that 2 pairs were present, though most birders cited one male that conspicuously sang from hilltop utility wires 6/1-7/15 (m.ob.). Breeding was not confirmed. No Dickcissels were detected at Rodale 7/29 (RK), and no birds were reported elsewhere this season. At least 10 **Bobolinks** were at the county's largest known breeding colony on Grist Mill Rd. near Boyertown 6/19, including females carrying insects into the grass (RK). These fields were cut in early Jul and the nesting outcome is unknown. About 4 birds each were at Rodale (m.ob.) and Goose Run Park (JT), where fields were not mowed and nesting success more likely. The seasonal high count of **Eastern Meadowlarks**, a formerly common farmland bird, was only 3 at the extensive Monument Rd. hayfields near Hamburg 6/25 (KG). One or 2 were seen at each of five other sites during the period, but breeding was confirmed nowhere.

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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), Plummers Hollow (PH), Reese Pond (RP), State Game Lands #278 North (SGLN).

June and July saw lots of rain, which caused the streams and rivers to be high, and the lakes were full which contributed to the scarce shorebird habitat, but did produce an abundance of insects for birds to prey on. Information was obtained primarily from eBird data, which indicated that a total of 117 species reported

Highlights during the period include a single **Blue Grosbeak** which was heard singing in a small scrubby field with a few autumn olive bushes and spruces near Wertz Rd. 6/5 (NB). A lone untagged **Trumpeter Swan** was in the Tipton Wetland 6/9 (PI ph.), and stayed until 6/16 (WI).

Waterfowl reports were limited; however, a single **Ruddy Duck** was observed in Frankstown Twp. 6/7 (CM). An **Osprey** was spotted at LT 6/17 (JC, LC, MN). **Broad-winged Hawks** were noted 6/6 at RP (MN), 7/1 Bells Gap Trail, and one at PH 7/18 (SB). A **Black Vulture** was soaring near LTC 6/9 (NB) and one near PH 7/18 (SB). **Turkey Vultures** were noted across the county during this period with high counts of 15 on 6/1 near Dunning Mt (DG).

Two **Ring-necked Pheasants** were in a field in Martinsburg 6/16 (MH, RH), and 2 more near a home in Tyrone 6/3 (DB). Four **American Woodcocks** were noted by an Anonymous eBirder 6/26 near CC. A **Spotted Sandpiper** was viewed at CC 6/12 (RN).

An uptick of warbler species was reported during this summer compared to last year, as 20 species were documented. On 6/9, a suspected **Golden-winged/Chestnut-sided hybrid** warbler was observed in FH, and on 7/1 the same bird was captured and banded by Cornell researcher and undergoing DNA analysis (LB). A rare **Golden-winged Warbler** was noted near Fox Run Rd 7/25 (DD), and one **Prairie Warbler** was found in SGL 147N on 6/8 (JC). Two **Kentucky Warblers** were spotted in the same area as 2 **Yellow-breasted Chats** at SGL 147N on 6/6 (MD). Two **Northern Waterthrushes** were seen on the LT 6/17 (JC, LC, MN).

On June 7,9,12, 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*. Over 16.5 miles, 54 singing Cerulean Warblers were counted, compared to 61 in 2017, 65 in 2016, and 51 in 2015.

Other birds encountered during the Lower Trail survey included 24 **Eastern Wood-Pewees**, 53 **Acadian Flycatchers**, 22 **Yellow-throated Vireos**, 35 **Warbling Vireos**, 148 **Red-eyed Vireos**, 56 **Carolina Wrens**, 9 **Worm-eating Warblers**, 12 **Louisiana Waterthrushes**, 87 **American Redstarts**, 9 **Northern Parulas**, 5 **Yellow-throated Warblers**, 6 **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks**, 9 **Orchard Orioles**, and 29 **Baltimore Orioles** (NB).

A single **Grasshopper Sparrow** was located at FH 6/9 (LB). **Chipping Sparrows**, **Song Sparrows**, and **Field Sparrows** were widely reported. A pair of **Vesper Sparrows** was reported near Tyrone 7/14 (SB). Two **Bobolinks** were viewed in the fields near the Bald Eagle intersection for the second year in a row 6/3 (DR).

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Margret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Pam Illig, Winnie Illig, Andrew Mack, Chris Morgan, Mark Nale, Richard Nugent, David Ryan, Barbara Stubbs

Bucks County

Locations: Peace Valley Park (PVP), Penn-Warner Tract (PWT)

The temperature was 1.3°F and 1.7°F above normal respectively for June and July. Rainfall totaled 1.5 inches above average for the season, but as usual rainfall varied greatly from spot to spot. The total count of species reported was 144 for the two-month period. Breeding status for this year was 82 species confirmed, 24 probable, and 4 possible. Knowledge of breeding was largely from breeding status code entries in eBird. Three species provided new spring late dates. The standout rarities were **Tricolored Heron**, **Whimbrel**, and **Least Tern**. 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.

American Black Duck is rare in this season. One was at PWT 6/25 (DF), and one was at Morrisville Levee 7/24 (MG ph.). I note that if you don't see the complete speculum, it cannot be certain that the bird is not a hybrid. Out of season waterfowl at PWT were one **Gadwall** 7/22-25, one **Green-winged Teal** 6/25-7/12, and one **Ruddy Duck** 6/25-7/7 (DF). A male **Green-winged Teal** was at Churchville Park 6/9 (BS, ML ph.). With no known breeding sites, a **Pied-billed Grebe** was noted at PWT 6/3 (DF), and a presumed non-breeding adult was at NSP 7/30 (AH ph.). The 23 sites reporting **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** (m.ob.) were well above normal (m.ob.), but maybe that is just because of more eBirders. If that is the reason, it didn't result in any increase in **Black-billed Cuckoo**, with only four sites reporting (DA, AH, KI, MN).

Fourteen species of shorebirds were reported despite generally high water levels. A **Semipalmated Plover** provided an unprecedented late Jun date at PWT 6/25 (DF). If that wasn't a southbound migrant, one 7/15 at PWT certainly was and provided a new early fall date. A flyby **Whimbrel** at PWT 7/25 (DF ph.) provided only the ninth known report. A **White-rumped Sandpiper** 7/21 at PWT (JH, *vide* DF) provided a new fall early date. Rarely reported, four **Western Sandpipers** were at PWT 7/25 (DF). Some of the high southbound counts, all at PWT, are shown in the following table (DF)

PWT Shorebird High Counts

SPECIES	QTY	DATE
Semipalmated Plover	4	7/28
Whimbrel	1	7/25
Stilt Sandpiper	28	7/29
Least Sandpiper	~70	7/17
White-rumped Sandpiper	1	7/21
Pectoral Sandpiper	14	7/22
Semipalmated Sandpiper	~80	7/17
Western Sandpiper	4	7/25
Short-billed Dowitcher	16	7/22
Greater Yellowlegs	4	7/15-25
Lesser Yellowlegs	120	7/25

Five gull species were reported mostly from the lower Delaware River sites. **Laughing Gulls** were present in low numbers but increased at the end of Jul. No count was available. The only **Lesser Black-backed Gull** reports in eBird were one at NSP 7/23 (BEt) and 2 at Morrisville Levee 7/31 (AM). A **Least Tern** at PWT 7/22 (DF) was only the sixth county occurrence, if you consider 7 deposited by Hurricane Irene in 2011 as one occurrence. A **Caspian Tern** was at Mud Island 7/15 (DF) for the only report. A **Forster's Tern** was at PWT 7/28 (DF) and 2 were there 7/30 (AM).

Two **Common Loons**, one adult and one imm. lingered at PVP until 6/2 (BEt). **Great Egret** made a good showing in number of sites (13), number of individuals, and continuity at several sites (m.ob.). The highest

site counts were 5 at PVP 7/17 (*fide* JC ph.), 6 at Island View Crossing, Bristol 7/19 (DD ph.), a stand out 19 at Core Creek Park 7/26 (BK), and about 10 at Dow Chemical, Bristol 7/28 (DF). Other sites had one or two. One **Snowy Egret** and one **Little Blue Heron** at Dow Chemical 7/28 provided the only reports for a very poor showing (DF). The county's eighth known report of **Tricolored Heron** was at Dow Chemical, Bristol 7/28 (DF ph.). Two adult **Black-crowned Night-Herons** at Silver Lake Park 7/15 (DF), with 2 adults and one juv. there 7/28 (DF, DD ph.) were the first reports there since one adult and one first summer bird was there 4/23 (DD). The gap in between sightings there suggests the hoped-for breeding did not occur (DF). A juv. was at Morrisville Levee 7/27 (MG ph.) and 2 adults were there 7/29 through the period (AH, RS, AM phs.). Eight presumed **Glossy Ibis** were at PWT 7/21 (JH, *fide* DF), with 5 juvs. still there 7/22 (DF).

The reported confirmed **Osprey** nests increased to eleven (DF, JM). One more was unconfirmed but likely another. All are on or near the Delaware River on man-made structures, including one on the top of a construction crane for the last two years. Three are from Riegelsville south to Upper Black Eddy. The rest are from Quaker Penn Park south to near where Poquessing Creek enters the river. The river supports more nests but they are on the New Jersey side of the border. The **Bald Eagle** total active nest count remains at nine as reported in the spring season. Two juv. **Red-shouldered Hawks** fledged 6/6 at Tinicum Twp. (DA). Two juv. **Barred Owls** were at Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve 6/26 (MN, SA ph.). After believing **Red-headed Woodpecker** was all but gone as breeders several years ago, recent years have proven there are a few successful sites and likely more are not reported. The sites in Hilltown (KB), Buckingham (DS), and Haycock Townships (EB, mob.) were all active this year.

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

Amer. Kestrel Project

YEAR	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
BOXES	77	76	71	71	70	73
NESTS w/EGGS	62	60	52	44	45	34
NESTS FAILED	10	8	3	6	8	7
NESTS FLEDGED	52	52	49	38	37	27
EGGS LAID	291	274	248	211	208	135
FLEDGED	208	208	203	164	169	94

All nestlings and 30 adults were banded. Two young are known to have died after leaving the box, one being found in a swimming pool and one picked up on the ground. One of the female juvs. banded in 2017 at the nest in East Rockhill Twp. was caught 3/20/2018 at Lakehurst Naval Air Station, NJ and relocated to Assunpink Wildlife Management Area, NJ. It returned to nest, with an orange band added, in a box in Buckingham Twp. about one and a third miles away from where it was born. A male born in 2017 near the border of *Bucks* and *Northampton* was found nesting 6/23 about five miles away at a box near Palisades High School. A female nesting near Harrow Jul 2018 had been banded Jun 2015 about 10 miles away as a nestling near Milford, NJ. In Jun of 2016 it nested in Sussex Co., NJ, about 50 miles northwest of its birth place, but its location in 2017 is unknown. Of four **Peregrine Falcon** nest sites, only the Upper Bucks site produced 4 fledglings. The others are in southern Bucks. One site failed and later the female was hit by a car and euthanized. One site had only one bird and the other had 2, but apparently didn't nest (AMc).

Surprisingly, reports of **Common Raven** came from only four sites. Two juvs. at SGL #157 on 7/1 confirmed breeding (AH). For the second year, a **Horned Lark** pair tried to nest at Maple Knoll Farms where a nest was found 6/2 (RS ph.). The last sighting was 6/9 and the nest likely failed since the field is actively farmed. Horned Larks were also seen in Jun in Bedminster Twp., with the high count 4 on 6/24 (DF). Following is a summary of the large **Purple Martin** colony in East Rockhill Twp. provided by the land owner (HR). He indicated both **Cooper's Hawk** and **Great Horned Owl** probably hurt production.

An albino **Tree Swallow** was spotted for the second year at PVP 7/23-6 (BC ph.) and well documented by photos this time. The only reported **Bank Swallow** colony at PWT had a rough guess of 50-75 nests

(DF).

The PWT colony suffered due to House Sparrows again (DF).

Purple Martin Colony-E. Rockhill

YEAR	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
GOURDS	144	132	134	124	124	91
NESTS*	141	126	119	121	119	90
NESTS w/EGGS	78	73	96	92	74	77
EGGS LAID**	291	273	459	388	251	279
EGGS HATCHED	180	112	364	226	N/A	N/A
FLEDGED	167	108	346	211	165	225
FAILED NESTS	25	37	9	25	18	0

Purple Martin Colony-Penn-Warner Tract

YEAR	2018	2017
COMPARTMENTS	60	60
NESTS*	56	38
NESTS w/EGGS	27	29
EGGS LAID**	96	90
EGGS HATCHED	47	41
FLEDGED	34	32
FAILED NESTS	13	15

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

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

A rare bird this year, a **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was south of Doylestown 7/20 (AG). For the first year, thanks to efforts of Tom Price, the Pine Run Dam meadows were completely left uncut by the county until early Aug, and an educational sign will be provided. Time will tell if that compromise is enough to diversify the breeders there. Van Sant Airport is another county site left uncut, but there are several others that could be similarly managed. With the scarcity of grassland habitat that can sustain breeding, it is no wonder so few sites are reported in Jun and July for our rare species. The number of sites are in parenthesis as follows: **Grasshopper Sparrow** (2), **Savannah Sparrow** (1), **Bobolink** (5), and **Eastern Meadowlark** (2) (m.ob.). Certainly, there are more unreported. An out of season **White-throated Sparrow** was heard at PVP 6/26 (DF). A **Yellow-breasted Chat** continued at SGL #157 from spring to at least 6/9 (AH). The total warbler species count was 14, but with few highlights. Kentucky Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, and Chestnut-sided Warbler, former breeding species, were not reported. The last report of **Prothonotary Warbler** at PVP was 7/3 (BK ph.), but there was no sign of successful nesting again this year. There were no other reports. The spring Riegelsville **Yellow-throated Warbler** was last reported 6/16 (AS), with no proof of breeding unfortunately. **Blue Grosbeaks** were reported at five sites (DF, RS).

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Butler County

Locations: Glade Run Lake (GRL), Lake Arthur (LA), Lake Oneida (LO), North Shore (NS)

Very exciting was the discovery of a third breeding site for **Sandhill Crane**, coinciding perfectly with a great article featuring Sandhill Cranes in *Pennsylvania Birds* (MC, GW). Single **Common Loons** have remained at Lake Arthur into June in 2010 and 2014 (MV), but one, possibly a holdout

from the great fallouts in the spring, surprised birders by staying at Lake Arthur until 7/15 (details below). Other surprises included **Black-crowned Night-Heron** at Glade Run Lake and 6 **Sanderlings** visiting LA on their voyage north.

The **Mute Swan** that spent last summer and fall at LA was not seen this year but one was spotted near Zelenople 6/8 (MV). Regular sightings of **Wood Duck** and **Mallard** with young (m.ob.) confirmed successful nesting but **Common Merganser**, confirmed breeding last year, was only observed twice in *Butler* - without young at Moraine State Park 6/26 (m.ob.) and 2 at Butler-Freeport Trail Monroe Rd. 7/28 (DB). One **Red-breasted Merganser** remained at LA until at least 6/12 (m.ob.). Two **Ruffed Grouse** were seen near Nixon 6/15 (BC) and encouraging was a report of a hen with 4 poult crossing Burton R. 6/21 (RM). A very late **Common Loon** was seen along the North Shore 6/12 and 2 were spotted near McDanel Boat Launch 6/14 (MC). A single holdout was seen and photographed along the North Shore 6 times between 6/23 and 7/15 (MC). Occasionally confirmed breeding in *Butler*, a **Pied-billed Grebe** was seen at Branchton Rd. 6/27 (BB) and 5 were at Lake Oneida 7/23 (KB).

Last year it was a juvenile Yellow-crowned Night-Heron that visited Glade Run Lake but this year a juvenile **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was discovered and photographed there 6/21 (DF) and 7/3 (RE). The bird remained, seen 7/7 (AH) and 7/23 (RE). Glade Run Lake had been drained because of issues with the dam, but local citizens banded together to have the lake restored. While the lake was empty, young willows, bushes and shrubs grew up in the lake bed. Now that it has been re-filled the lake provides a lot of habitat attractive to many types of birds as well as other fauna. Definitely worth a visit, birding is best done by small boat, canoe or kayak because emergent vegetation and the young willows restrict vision toward the swampy back part of the lake.

Soras were seen twice: one at GRL 6/4 (TR) and one at SGL 95 on 7/7 (JC). **Sandhill Crane** added a third confirmed county breeding site in Slippery Rock Twp. with a single fledged offspring with parents 7/8 (MC, GW) and 3 were photographed at Miller Nature Tract 7/28 (MC). See article in *Pennsylvania Birds* Volume 32, No. 1 issued July 2018. Shorebirds were scarce with only 5 species reported: resident breeding **Killdeer** and **Spotted Sandpiper**, as well as migrant **Solitary Sandpiper**, **Sanderling**, and **Least Sandpiper** (m.ob.). Probably the fourth or fifth county record, 6 **Sanderlings** were first seen at NS 7/25 with 2 remaining until 7/27 (MC). A single Sanderling was photographed at LO 7/27 (KB). Sanderlings seem to move through Ohio more than through western Pennsylvania and there is only one eBird reference revealing a single bird at LA 11/10/2002, and two references from the list serve; one at LO 9/6/2008 (DD *fide* MV) and one at MSP 9/28/2008 (MV).

Ring-billed Gulls and **Herring Gulls** are regularly seen at LA and only **Forster's Tern** showed up at there this season 7/25-29 (MC). Perhaps next season a rarity will visit. As usual, **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** reports outnumbered **Black-billed Cuckoo** by a two to one ratio. Sad that only one report came in for **Common Nighthawk**, which was spotted in downtown Butler 6/23 (GK, MAK) but scarcity of suitable nesting sites is probably a factor. **Red-headed Woodpecker** was a treat for birders in four different locations but several traditional sites were not included (m.ob.). **Common Raven** continues to be seen in various locations but breeding has not been confirmed...yet. Encouraging was a group of 4 seen at Butler-Freeport trail 6/28 (DB) but because of the rather late date and location next to the county line, successful nesting in *Butler* is not proven.

Fourteen warbler species, all local breeders except one, were seen including **Ovenbird**, **Louisiana Waterthrush**, **Northern Waterthrush**, **Blue-winged Warbler**, **Black and White Warbler**, **Kentucky Warbler**, **Common Yellowthroat**, **Hooded Warbler**, **American Redstart**, **Cerulean Warbler**, **Yellow Warbler**, **Chestnut-sided Warbler** and **Black-throated Green Warbler** (m.ob.). Not confirmed as breeding in *Butler*, a late **Northern Parula** was noted at the Butler-Freeport Trail 6/8 (JV). **Savannah Sparrow**, **Grasshopper Sparrow**, **Henslow's Sparrow**, and **Bobolink** were all seen at Barkeyville Grasslands (m.ob.) in the northern tier of *Butler*, the best area for grassland species. A lone immature **Pine Siskin** was in Slippery Rock Borough 6/14 (GW). Could they have nested in *Butler*? A lone Pine Siskin was photographed at a feeder 7/12 near Portersville (MC).

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Cambria County

Locations: Blandburg Game lands 108 (BLG), Carrolltown (CA), Driscoll Hollow (DH), Prince Gallitzin St. Park (PG).

Record setting rain during June and July kept breeding success at a minimum. The numbers were very low for most species. The usually reliable **Canada Geese** and **Mallards** at PG even showed sharp declines with more pairs without young than those with. The colony of **Great Blue Herons** near PG was reduced to just 2 nests from a high of 13 a year ago. The cause is unknown. Two **Stilt Sandpipers** were seen at PG 7/12 (DG). Three **Spotted Sandpipers** were together at PG 7/1 (RL). This was probably the result of nesting as birds were observed all during the period.

A **Pomarine Jaeger** was seen and photographed at PG 6/24 (RL). The bird apparently stayed for only the day as it could not be found again. Three **Forster's Terns** were at PG 7/12 (DG). Five **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were heard at DH 6/24 (DG). Cavity nesting **Tree Swallows** and **Purple Martins** did much better with nesting. The **Purple Martins** fledged 76 young out of 18 nests.

Two **Yellow-breasted Chats** were found at DH 6/24 (DG). On two visits to BLG, good numbers of **Grasshopper**, **Savannah**, and **Henslow's Sparrows** along with **Bobolinks** were seen (JC,LC, MN). A rare sighting for our area was a male **Evening Grosbeak** that stopped at a feeder at CA, seen very briefly only 6/19 (WI).

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Cameron County

Locations: Sterling Run (SR), Driftwood (DR), Hoover Farm(HF).

Sixty-four species were reported from *Cameron* in June and July through eBird. A late **Osprey** was seen 6/20 at SR (MJ). At DR, 13 **Rough-winged Swallows** were found 6/17 (PRW). A single **Canada Warbler** was seen at HF 6/3 (BH).

Observers: **Mark Johnson, 72 Mason Grove, Driftwood, Pa 15832, 814-546-2886, luckybirder@gmail.com**, Bill Hendrickson, Pat and Richard Williams.

Carbon County

Locations: Beltzville S.P. (BSP), Lehigh Gap N.C. (LGNC), Mauch Chunk L. (MCL).

The period's highlight was a juv. **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** photographed on top of a vehicle and in the lawn of the *Times News* parking lot in Mahoning Twp. on 7/25 (BF, MG). The bird was not relocated and has not been submitted to eBird, but represents an apparent first *Carbon* record.

Among 122 species that were reported to eBird, the usual summer waterbirds were augmented by **Mute Swan** (irregular in *Carbon*) at MCL 6/19-20 (DS) and a female **Bufflehead** at BSP 6/21-7/5 (RR). The same storm that produced the Mahoning night-heron deposited some interesting migrants at BSP 7/24: a **Sanderling** (perhaps the second county record since Hurricane Sandy in 2012), 3 **Semipalmated Sandpipers**, and a **Caspian Tern** (RR).

Observers noted **Least Flycatcher** but no rails or bitterns at a wetland complex on SGL 40 south of I-80 that had hosted those species in past breeding seasons (RR, TS). An aberrant-plumaged **Eastern Towhee** first recorded singing a Spotted-type song at BSP 6/25 (RR) was studied and recorded thereafter and was determined to be, indeed, an Eastern. A singing male **White-throated Sparrow** at BSP 6/20 (RR) was farther south than expected. Excellent for *Carbon* was a **Yellow-breasted Chat** at BSP's Pine Run Boat Launch 6/4-30 (RR et al.). Annual at the location but confirmed breeding this year, **Blue Grosbeak** entertained visitors to LGNC's Bobolink Trail through 6/13 (m.ob.). Some known Canadian-zone nesters (e.g., **Purple Finch**) were not reported during the period, evincing a lack of coverage of the county's northern tier.

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Centre County

Locations: Bald Eagle S.P. (BESP), PennDOT remediation ponds on Rte. 220 west of Julian (JUL)

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

Most ducks are, generally, not present during the summer, but 3 rare species were reported. An **American Black Duck** was at Poe Valley S.P. 7/8 (JY). One **Hooded Merganser**, another summer rarity, was noted along Bald Eagle Cr. between Davidson Rd. bridge and Bullit Run 6/2 (JoC, LC, MN). Also on 6/2 and again on 6/27, one was in Sinking Cr. (LR). Two were in the JUL 6/14 (CE, KE), and one flew over Rte. 45 near Pine Grove Mills 6/26 (CE). **Common Mergansers** were found at five locations 6/2-7/21 (JoC, et al.).

An accidental species, **Chuck-will's-widow** was confirmed singing on private property in eastern *Centre*. The initial observation was in mid-June and confirmed 7/1 (JG, CE, KE). A **Virginia Rail** was heard calling in the JUL 6/14 (CE, KE). This species breeds here on rare occasions. A casually occurring **Common Gallinule** was visually identified and its call recorded 6/12-16 at the JUL (NK, et al.). Single **Sandhill Cranes** were observed at the PSU Arboretum (AnM, PeS) and in Centre Hall (Anon. *vide* DK) on the same day, 7/6. According to eBird and *B&G, 2010*, these are the first Sandhill Cranes reported in *Centre* during the breeding season.

A trio of rare shorebird species were also present. Up to 3 **Sanderlings** were at BESP 7/22-24, molting out of their breeding plumage (JP, et al.). As many as 4 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were also present at BESP 7/21-24 (JP, AK), and a **Solitary Sandpiper** was observed "calling and walking [the] muddy shoreline in[a] new retention pond" at the University Park Airport 7/21 (CE). A **Double-crested Cormorant** was at Toftrees 6/8 (MM), 2 flew over the Penn State central campus 6/14 (CE), and one was at BESP 6/30 (JP).

Observant visitors to BESP had an opportunity to watch a pair of **Ospreys** successfully raise 2 nestlings atop a cell tower 6/9-7/27 (BSn, et al.). The 2 youngsters were spotted wingsizing 7/22, and two birders at a marsh near Rte. 150 at Howard Divide Rd. on 7/28 noted the two had successfully fledged. This is the first confirmed successful clutch from this nest site after several years of unsuccessful attempts or unconfirmed success (BSn, BaS). Two **Barn Owls** were spotted as they flew "into [the] silo closest to [the] barn at a farm near Spring Mills 7/10 (NV). A rare **Merlin** was observed perching on top of a building on the PSU central campus 7/31 (JD).

Bank Swallows were reported at several locations, including one along Bald Eagle Cr. between the Davison Rd. bridge and Bullit Run 6/2 (MN, JoC, LC). Ten were noted 6/12 at a limestone quarry near State College (MaB), and one or two were present 6/24 and 7/9 at the Millbrook Marsh Nature Center (AM, JoC). Also on 7/9, one was observed at Colyer L. (AM). A singing **Yellow-breasted Chat** was heard 6/2-7 in SGL 333 (JP,

CE), and another was reported 6/15-20 at BESP (PT, JoC, LC). Three were heard singing, 2 of which were visually confirmed, at Scotia 6/28 (P&RW).

An accidentally occurring **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was identified at the Muddy Paws Marsh 7/7 (TJ *vide* JG). This is the second year in a row that this species has been identified in Penns Valley. There were 3 warbler species of note. **Mourning Warblers** were reported 6/17, one at BESP (TFJ, SK) and one at McCoy's access on Spring Cr. (SK). A **Kentucky Warbler** was heard 6/3 at BESP (LC, JoC). One **Yellow-throated Warbler** was observed 6/7 in the German Settlement Grasslands – SGL 100 (JP). Singles were also noted 7/22 at BESP (JP) and 7/26 in The Thickhead Wild Area – Rothrock SF (NiB).

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Chester County

Locations: Bucktoe Creek Preserve (BCP), ChesLen Preserve (CP), Exton Park (EP), Great Marsh (GM), Marsh Creek State Park (MCSP), Octorara Reservoir (OCTRES)

A single adult **Snow Goose** was out of place when found on an open field in Downingtown 6/28, (JMo, DS). This species is occasionally found in summer, birds presumed to be injured or ill, or otherwise unable to make the long journey to the Arctic, where they would normally spend summer. An adult male **Long-tailed Duck** in full breeding plumage, was certainly a surprising find at MCSP 6/13 (LL). This species is a regular, but uncommon, migrant in the county during winter and early spring, and always feature the bird sporting non-breeding plumage, so this sharply dressed male was a treat. Summer records of this species are very rare, with this being the only one known for the county. Accompanying this out-of-range Long-tailed was a drake **Ruddy Duck**, also looking very dapper in his breeding feathers. While this duck is often found in May, sometimes later than most migrant duck species, summer records are unusual for *Chester*.

There was an uptick in summer discoveries of **Black-billed Cuckoo**. This species is typically found annually in summer, but sometimes with only a single report. This season, there were multiple reports, including one at MCSP 6/13 (HM), another there 6/15 (LL), 2 at SGL 43, on 6/17 (LL), and one at Springlawn Trail 7/1 (JE, KP). Some birders speculate the surge of observations to be a result of a noticeable population boon of tent caterpillars and bagworms, as caterpillars are favored prey of this less-common species.

There were a couple of encounters with **Virginia Rail**, a species thought to nest in the county in areas that support their required wetland habitat. Three were reported at CP 6/4, a good spot for finding most expected marsh birds (LL). The county's largest wetland is the private GM, which holds extensive wetland habitats that border the Pennsylvania Turnpike. One Virginia Rail was detected there during a survey 6/9 (SS, NF). A heard-only Virginia Rail was unexpected at EP 6/26, though habitat suggests the species could successfully nest (HM).

A fantastic find was an adult female **Red-necked Phalarope** at MCSP 6/1 (LL). This species is irregularly reported during migration in *Chester*, and this discovery marks the first in several years, delighting local birders (m.ob.). Other expected shorebird species appeared on time with their southbound summer visits in late July, when habitat to support them was still to be found. Heavy rains impeded their stopovers in the region, as local habitats flooded, and lakes and ponds filled to the brim.

Shocking was a report of a possible **Sooty Tern** that flew over the lake at MCSP 7/22 (LL). This species has never been recorded in *Pennsylvania* except during a tropical storm. Attempts to relocate this bird after its fast flyby were unsuccessful. It was thought that the bird may have

been assisted by the strong southerly winds that persisted across the eastern seaboard for nearly a week. Two adult **Least Terns** were photographed at OCTRES, in the *Chester* region, representing a terrific discovery 6/16 (PM). This species is rarely found in *Chester*, with only one other report in the last decade. **Common Loons** occasionally appear during summer, and this year there were 2 reports, both from MCSP with one there 6/1 (DH) and another 7/10 (DH).

A **Snowy Egret** that made an appearance at Milltown Res. in West Chester excited local birders. This apparent hatch-year bird was discovered 7/29 (JH), and continued through 7/31 (m.ob.). This species is irregular during any season, so a nice record. The last week of July tends to be one of the best weeks of the year to search for, and get lucky finding, post-breeding dispersed **Little Blue Herons**. This year, the first reports came 7/24, from EP, and continued through 7/28 (m.ob.). Another was found 7/25 behind the Exton Walmart (MH), and was presumed to be the same individual visiting EP. One other was reported from OCTRES 7/29 (PM). **Black-crowned Night-Herons** are most frequently found at OCTRES, a spot where they are presumed to nest; first detected there 6/24, with observations continuing through the season. The high count was 3 on 7/1 (PM).

An immature **Mississippi Kite** was photographed on the wing in the Downingtown area 6/7 (JD). This species is rarely detected away from BCP, where a late spring vigil is held in hopes of spotting this southern raptor species. **Red-headed Woodpeckers** are uncommon and not regularly found. One spot in the county where they have been found for the last two seasons is a parcel of *Chester* land owned by French Creek SP. Birders encountered the flashy woodpecker there 6/10-24 (JW, PW, SS, NF). A single report came from Landenberg, 6/8 (SC).

American Kestrels have become scarce nesting birds in *Chester*, therefore, all nests are noteworthy. A successful nesting attempt was confirmed when a young kestrel was noted popping its head out of a nest box on a farm in Charlestown (VS). Another location where nesting was thought to have taken place was within a box at Struble Lake (m.ob.). Reports within the county during the nesting season were typically of just one bird, and it is possible that nesting is undetected in some areas, especially on private properties.

An **Alder Flycatcher**, an empidonax species not known to nest in *Chester*, was found at EP 7/27 (JD), and continued there through 7/28 (LL, SS, NF, GT). This was a nice find, and thought to be a post-breeding, wanderer or an early migrant. This species is hard to detect, unless singing or calling, because it is difficult to separate from its cousin **Willow Flycatcher** when silent. This likely under-represents the migratory distribution in the region. A late **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at BCP 6/1 (LL).

A **Purple Martin** house erected 9 years ago at Willistown Conservation Trust finally had martin tenants this summer (DM). This species has been experiencing a gradual decline, so always a bonus when their nesting can be supported and documented. It's been almost two decades since the **Cliff Swallow** was known to have nesting sites in the county, so encounters during the season are unexpected. This made 2 Cliff Swallows reported from EP 7/9 a nice surprise (JD), and another unexpected encounter was a single bird at Gotwals Pond 7/29 (SS). An unexpected **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was heard in West Grove 6/24 (TO). After a few seasons where this irruptive species was not detected, a June report was very unusual, but coincided with other reports of this species in the region. These reports were thought to be a harbinger of a strong irruption for the coming season.

The vast grasslands area of Doe Run south of Coatesville host species that can be tough to find elsewhere in the county. This is true of **Grasshopper Sparrows**, which can be heard singing here, with some effort by birders (m.ob.). **Savannah Sparrows**, who also enjoy these habitats, were less regularly reported, making 3 reports noteworthy: 6/1 from BCP (LL), 6/11 in Honey Brook (SS, NF), and one in Doe Run 6/15 (LL).

With the decimation of the pines from the infestation of Southern Pine Beetles at Nottingham CP in recent months, then subsequent logging there, most all trails have been closed to the public. This location was once a hotbed for **Yellow-breasted Chat**, being the most reliable location to find multiple individuals within a contiguous property. Reports from here in the

future are questionable, as it remains to be seen what landscape and habitat features will be present going forward. Chats were found by birders in multiple locations, but mostly at BCP 6/1-6 m.ob.), SGL 43 on 6/23 (SS, NF), White Clay Creek Preserve 6/9-29 (SC, DK, MG), Longwood Gardens 6/23-24 (m.ob.), and Goat Hill Preserve (m.ob.).

Like other grassland nesting species, the **Eastern Meadowlark** has been greatly affected by lack of nesting habitat in the eastern *United States*. *Chester* is no exception to this drastic decline, and it is worth noting that there was only one location away from Wilson Rd. in Doe Run where this species was found during summer. This encounter was 7/11 at Springton Manor Farm, a location where they are not known to nest, but the habitat holds potential (SS, NF).

Warbler breeding season seems to hold consistent trends, with little variation noticed from year to year. Birders seek out low-density species in known locations, and generally are not disappointed. **Worm-eating Warblers** are hard to find away from known nesting sites, and birders encountered this species a few times in spots where they traditionally have been found: Goat Hill Preserve (MJ), Coventry Woods (JW, PW), and SGL 43 (LL, NF, SS), plus Harmony Hill Nature Area (SC). Another location that brings special interest is Rushton Farm, where an adult female was netted by banders 7/3, and found to have a brood patch, supporting evidence of local breeding (DM). This location has previously been found to host this species, discovered by bird banders there. **Kentucky Warblers** are tough to locate, and known nesting sites have diminished in the recent decades. One was found at Warwick CP 6/13 (MH), and another at Banffshire Preserve 6/23 (WBH, KH), a spot where breeding had been confirmed in 2016 (WBH). It is possible that other known nesting spots were not explored during the nesting period, explaining the lack of further reports. French Creek SP's Bear Hill area continues to be the hotbed for **Hooded Warblers** in *Chester*. Here, the species, which is otherwise rare to scarce throughout most of the county, is common. A high count of 11 exceeded last years' 10, was reported 7/9 (JW, PW). All other reports were from the northern part of the county, which is always the most productive region for finding this handsome warbler during the nesting season (m.ob.). Prairie Warblers are not common, and are specific to certain regions, particularly the Serpentine Barrens region. Noticeable was a lack of reports from Nottingham CP, where trails were closed due to the Southern Pine Beetle infestation. This species previously was common in that landscape. Prairie Warbler was also noted this year at Okehocking Preserve 6/5 (JM, FranceDeMillion).

Northeastern *Chester* is where one is most likely to find **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** during the nesting season. This is a low-density nesting bird here, as we are in the southern-most part of its breeding range. Reports away from the northeast during summer are not frequent, and therefore noteworthy. One in East Fallowfield 6/16 was unusual (MN), as was another spotted at EP 6/26 (JD). Both of those were solo female-plumaged individuals. The southern half of the county is best for finding **Blue Grosbeak**, the other expected grosbeak in *Chester*. While some reports came from a little north of the median line through the county, most encounters take place in areas where more abundant overgrown field habitat with defined edges is more prevalent in the landscapes (m.ob.). A noteworthy observation in an area where the species is not expected in summer was Willistown Conservation Trust headquarters in Willistown Twp. 7/13, where an adult female was spotted. Coupled with that sighting, a young male was seen there 7/26, raising curiosity about nearby nesting (DM).

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Pileggi, Nick Pulcinella, Sharon Pulcinella, Brian Quindlen, Brian Raicich, Rick Robinson, Joe Sebastiani, Brian Shade, Win Shafer, Vince Smith, Dando Speers, Arthur Steinberger, Tim Sterrett, Ian Stewart, George Tallman, Jaime Thomas, Gerry Tieg, Andy Urquhart, Patricia Verbosky, Laura Wagner, Jeff Wahl, John Werth, Patty Werth, Ann Williams.

Clarion County

Locations: Cook Forest SP (CF), Curllsville (CV), Kahle Lake (KL), Mt Airy (MA), Mt Zion/Piney Tract/SGL 330 (MZ), Redbank Valley Trail (RVT), Rimersburg (RI), Sarah Furnace (SF).

There was only one interesting waterfowl record for the season, that being a late male **Ruddy Duck** found lingering on the pond at CV strips 6/6 (TR). While cuckoos are not uncommon in the county, it is unusual to find the nest of one of these secretive birds. The nest of a **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was found in an overgrown clearcut area near Strattanville in late June, after the bird was observed over several days in the same location (MH). The nest was found in a thick stand of maple and birch, placed towards the end of a branch about 5 feet off the ground, with 3 eggs.

A very promising sighting was that of at least 2 **Sandhill Cranes** calling at MA 6/7 (PF, KSJ). With their documented increase in breeding areas in the state, it would be entirely possible to have them nesting locally as there is ample habitat at this location and much of it is rarely visited by birders. **Northern Harriers** were once again at MZ through the season, with a pair observed performing food transfers and repeatedly visiting the same likely nesting location 6/5 (MH). A single bird was also seen at CV strips 6/6 (TR) and at MA 6/11-12 (KD, DK, KP, DP, RS).

At SGL 24 near Tylersburg, **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were found in abundance 6/16 with at least 12 seen (MH, CW) and 5 also there 6/26 (RN). A female was observed feeding young in a nest site at the top of a snag at this location 6/16. This location is a regenerating logged area that is a shelterwood, with surrounding mature forest. This provides good habitat for **Red-headed Woodpeckers**, which were also found there 6/16, with 2 birds seen, possibly a pair, though no direct breeding activity was observed (MH, CW). This provides one of the few records of possible nesting for this declining species and this location will be worth continued observation. Another excellent sighting for the county was that of a female **Merlin** in the town of Clarion in the third week of July. It was then seen again calling and flying about in an area of spruce and pines 7/23 (TS). A confirmation of breeding activity would allow the welcome addition of this expanding species to the list of breeding birds for Clarion.

Acadian Flycatchers continue to be reported in their strongholds at opposite ends of the county. At the northern border in the deeper pine and hemlock woods of CF, up to 4 were reported 6/21-7/18 (CB, RN, RT). On the southern border of the county, in the ravines and thick woods along the Allegheny and Clarion Rivers, a single bird was reported on the Armstrong Trail near East Brady 6/6 (TR), and up to 5 were reported along the RVT throughout the season (MH, RH, FM, RN, CW). Only a single **Alder Flycatcher** was found, within their typical migration period, at CV strips 6/6 (TR). Always one of the least commonly reported vireos, only a single **White-eyed Vireo** was noted, also at CV strips 6/7 (PF, KSJ). **Yellow-throated Vireos** are usually present but in limited areas and numbers. One was singing at SF 6/6 and also one on the Armstrong Trail near East Brady on the same date (TR). Along the RVT a singing male was present from 6/12 and still found singing as late as 7/24 (CW). **Warbling Vireo** was recorded in only one location, with 2 found at SF 6/6 (TR).

Brown Creepers are found in only limited areas of the county, and this year a new location was added with a bird reported on SF Rd. 6/11 (KD, DK, RS). Two singing males were also found at SGL 74 near Fisher 6/6 (CW). At CF, these birds are regular breeders and 4 were noted there 6/21 (RT). Another species is **Winter Wren**, found in mostly limited areas in northern Clarion. This year, a singing male was found at SGL 24 near Tylersburg 6/16 (CW) and again 6/26 (RN). At CF, where they are regular and there is abundant habitat, up to 3 were recorded 6/21-7/21 (CB, BM, EM, RN, RT). This is likely only a fraction of the true number of birds at that location. At CF, there is also one of the few regular populations of breeding **Golden-crowned Kinglets**, and there were 5 birds noted in two areas of

the park 6/21 (RT).

A singing male **Purple Finch** was noted again at property near CV where they are regular nesters. It was heard singing 6/2-29 (CW). One was also reported from Leeper 6/21 (BB). At a property in RI they continue as regular nesters, with up to 11 birds, including 7 fledglings, present 6/8-7/24 (MM). Only one report of **Pine Siskin** was noted, at this same property, with a single seen at feeders there 6/8 (MM). At this late date breeding would be suspected but no direct evidence was seen.

Both **Grasshopper Sparrows** and **Henslows's Sparrows** were reported from their strongholds in southern grasslands throughout the season and without any changes noted in typical numbers, the highest counts being from MZ and MA (m.ob.). **Clay-colored Sparrows** continue their decline from the past several years, and only a single verified sighting was submitted this year, a singing male found at MZ on Stockdill Rd. 6/22 (AB). **Yellow-breasted Chats** were also only noted at one location, with a report of one at CV strips 6/6 (RN) and 2 there 6/7 (PF, KSJ).

It was a good year for warbler activity, with several interesting and noteworthy findings. **Worm-eating Warblers** continue to show a steady presence along the southern waterways in their preferred hillside habitat. One was at SF 6/6-6/28 (KD, DK, TR, RS, CW). Up to 6 singing males were on territory along the RVT from Redbank to Climax 6/6-7/10 (MH, RH, FM, RN, CW). The most surprising warbler report of the season came from the Sligo Spur of the RVT, outside of RI, where a singing male **Nashville Warbler** was found 7/12 (CW). This bird was singing at various points in an old pine plantation, with areas of undergrowth and boggy moss below, scattered birch and aspen, and nearby ponds with pine stands. It was heard singing persistently for at least 45 minutes. Despite appropriate habitat here, this is late in the season and breeding status is questionable. The bird could not be relocated several days later. This area certainly warrants further monitoring in the spring. Another excellent warbler sighting came from the very northern tip of the county at SGL 24 near Tylersburg. As found there last year, **Mourning Warblers** were present this year again, with 3 singing males located in this shelterwood area 6/16 (MH, CW) and one still singing 6/26 (RN). **Kentucky Warblers**, in contrast, are another southern specialty found usually only in small numbers. This year 2 were reported at Redbank on the RVT, where they were noted first in May (CW). One bird was a female that was rather agitated and a singing male also nearby, so hopefully this indicated a successful nesting attempt.

In what was a promising year for **Cerulean Warblers**, they were found this year to be regular along the RVT from Lawsonham to Climax, where more frequent visits provided more accurate information on their numbers. Along just a two mile stretch up to 5 singing males were seen and heard 6/1- 7/24, with singing more sporadic but continuing through the last reported date (MH, RN, CW). One singing male was also reported not far away along the Armstrong Trail near Redbank 6/6 (TR). This was encouraging to find considering the declining population of this species. **Northern Parulas** have the distinction of being found in small numbers but most years in both the northern and southern hotspots of the county, most typically near water. In the south, one was found at SF 6/6 (TR), and up to 2 singing males were along the RVT 6/1-7/6 (CW). In the north one was reported at CF 6/21 (RT). **Pine Warblers** are now regularly reported from CF, and this year 2 were noted there in the fire tower area 6/21 (RT). In what to this writer is only the second known breeding confirmation, a pair was reported at SGL 74- (Terwilliger Rd) near Strattanville, in a large pine planting there 6/22 (MH). Both birds were seen entering the same area, one carrying food. This game lands has great habitat for this species as do other county game lands but breeding information for this species has always been difficult to obtain.

At SGL 24 near Tylersburg, a singing male **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was heard in a large white pine stand 6/16, another species that is present but only in limited numbers and locations (MH, CW). The final warbler for the season is the **Yellow-throated Warbler**, again a bird usually restricted by habitat needs to riparian areas. With increased birder access to waterways in the south, it has been reported more regularly in the past several years. This year it was reported on the RVT, with 1-2 males found there singing regularly 6/1-7/11 (RN, CW). In a newly reported location, a singing male was also heard along the Clarion River north of Mill Creek 7/9 (CW).

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Clearfield County

One adult **Ring-Neck Pheasant** was seen with 5 young near Frenchville 6/24 (PK). A **Virginia Rail** was heard calling at a retention pond near DuBois 6/25 (DR). **Upland Sandpipers** continue to be observed along Sandy Ridge Rd. with 2 heard on 6/1 (DG). A **Great Egret** was observed at the Platt Rd. Swamp 6/25 (DR) and 7/27 (BM). The incidence of **Merlins** continues to increase with one observed at the Juniata Elementary School in DuBois 6/25 (DR) and a family of 2 adults and 2 juveniles observed at a nest site in Curwensville 7/22 (JS). Two **Dickcissels** were photographed near Karthaus 6/24 (TA).

Observers: **Diane K. Bierly, 143 W. Lytle Ave., State College, PA 16801. (814) 238-8183, dkb246@usa.net**, Tina Alianiello, Doug Graham, Patrick Kline, Dan Richards, Bill Mendat, Jerod Skebo,

Clinton County

Location: South Avis (SA).

In late summer, the season's wet weather brought good numbers of migrating shorebirds to flooded sod fields at SA 7/23. The group included **Spotted, Pectoral, and Least Sandpipers** as well as **Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs** (AK, BB). A **Short-billed Dowitcher** was observed at SA 7/25 (m.ob.) The county's first **Osprey** nest, in Mill Hall, successfully produced at least 2 nestlings (m.ob.). The annually nesting **American Kestrels** in Swisssdale fledged 4 young 6/30 (WL).

Observers: **Wayne Laubscher, 749 E. Croak Hollow Road, Lock Haven, PA 17745, 570-748-7511, wnlaubscher@comcast.net**. Bobby Brown, Andy Keister.

Columbia County

Locations: Bloomsburg Church of Christ Pond (BCCP), Home Depot (HD), Laubach Road (LR), Madison Township (MADT), Montour Twp (MONT), Scenic Avenue (SA), State Game Lands 58 (SGL58), State Game Lands 226 (SGL226), Weiser State Forest (WSF)

Summer is always a slow season, and in a lightly birded county like *Columbia*, reports are few and far between. This season was warm and rainfall levels were normal until late July when it began to get very wet.

The most unusual report for the season was a single **Common Loon** that found its way to the BCCP, which is an extremely small pond surrounded by trees. The bird was first observed on the morning of 6/8 (AK) and stayed through the day on 6/9 (AK). It was gone the following morning.

Black Vultures are common in spring and fall but unusual during the summer. This season's lone report was a single individual soaring with a group of **Turkey Vultures** over MONT 7/4 (AK). A single **Red-shouldered Hawk** was reported from SA 7/10 (JM). This is exciting because the location is a north sloping hillside along the Susquehanna River, like locations where they have nested in other nearby counties. A single **Broad-winged Hawk** was reported from WSF 6/6 (KP) where they most likely nest.

Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers are uncommon summer birds here. This season, 2 were reported at SGL226 (JL) and a single bird along LR 6/30 (JL). **Yellow-throated Vireos** were reported twice. A singing male was reported from SGL58 on 6/24 (AK) and another singing male on private property in MADT 7/4 (AK). The fields adjacent to the HD site in Hemlock

Twp. have always been a reliable location for **Grasshopper Sparrows**. This season, up to 2 singing males were reported 6/2–7/17 (AK). Unfortunately, this site will soon be developed, so this might be the last breeding season at this location.

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

Crawford County

Locations: Geneva Marsh (GM); Pymatuning-Miller's Ponds (P S.P.-MP)

There were a couple things of note for the *Crawford* summer season. As detailed later in the report, sightings of **Least Bittern** were demonstrably up from past seasons. Whether this is due to previously unreported birds now being observed or a true increase in the local summer population is unknown, but it will be interesting to see if it occurs in the upcoming summer seasons. Secondly, many birds were discovered in new locations this season, due in large part to the effort of a local birder (TN) to visit each of the county's state game lands during the breeding season.

Notable observations of **Gadwall**, a rare bird during the summer season, included 8 at P S.P.- MP 7/20 (RL). A good count of 9 **American Black Ducks**, a notable bird during the summer, was made at Pymatuning S.P.- Spillway 7/23 (DE). A single **Green-winged Teal**, presumed to be a late spring migrant, was at Pymatuning S.P.- Spillway 6/4 (BB, MC). Another bird was found at P S.P.- MP 7/7 (MV) and 5 were seen at the same location 7/15 (RL), very unexpected dates for this species. **Ruddy Duck** is an occasional, but notable bird during the summer season. Three were observed at Pymatuning S.P.- Spillway 6/4 (BB, MC) and 7/20 (RL).

The only report of **Ruffed Grouse** was of one at Erie N.W.R. 6/6 (Anon. eBird). Observations of **Common Nighthawk** were especially low during the 2018 spring season, so sightings of a single bird in the Titusville area 6/20 (CB), 3 birds in the Meadville area 7/11 (TN, KP), one at Woodcock Lake 7/12 (RL), and a good count of 6 also in the Meadville area 7/18 (TN) are especially notable.

Virginia Rail, Sora, and Common Gallinule, expected and notable breeding birds in *Crawford*, were seen in expected numbers and locations (m.ob.). A good count of 6 **Common Gallinule** were observed at GM 7/4 (TN, KP). **American Coot** is rarely observed during the summer. Notable observations included the sighting of a single 6/25 (MHi, RHi, RHo, KP) and 6/26 (MAK, GK). **Sandhill Crane** is an increasingly expected, but still notable, bird in the county. Observations were all in the Pymatuning, Conneaut Marsh and GM areas and in expected numbers (m.ob.). A good count for the summer of 33 were at Pymatuning S.P.- Wilson Road 7/22 (MHa).

Early observations of **Semipalmated Plover** included one at Woodcock Lake- Schultz Causeway 7/16 (TN). **Upland Sandpipers**, expected but notable, were observed in their usual locations in the P S.P.- MP and Pymatuning S.P.- Wilson Rd. areas (m.ob.). A high count of 4 were at Pymatuning S.P.- Wilson Rd. 7/4 (KA, NA) and 7/8 (KP). Observations of **Short-billed Dowitcher**, a notable bird, included 3 at P S.P.- MP 7/21 (SA, JC, TR, MV), up to 6 at the same location 7/23 (JM, TN, KP), and one at Tamarack Lake 7/24 (KP). An excellent observation, 7 **Long-billed Dowitchers** were at P S.P.-MP 7/22 (MHa). **Wilson's Snipe** is uncommon in the summer season, so the sightings of 2 at P S.P.- MP 7/21 (SA, JC, TR, MV), a single at Tamarack Lake 7/24 (KP), and a single at P S.P.- MP 7/31 (RL) are especially notable. Early observations of **Solitary Sandpiper** included 5 at Tamarack Lake- South End 7/13 (KP) and 3 at the same location 7/14 and 7/17 (KP). An early **Greater Yellowlegs** was at P S.P.- MP 7/7 (MV).

An early **Bonaparte's Gull** was at Pymatuning S.P.-Causeway 7/31 (RL). A good count of 7 **Caspian Tern** were at Conneaut Marsh-McMichael Road 6/24 (AH). A **Black Tern** seen at Pymatuning S.P.- Spillway 6/12 (RL) is notable. **Common Loon** is very rare for the summer season, so observations of a single at Pymatuning S.P.- Causeway 7/8 (IF, RL) and 7/25 (AB, MHi, RHi) are especially notable.

Observations of **American Bittern**, a notable bird for *Crawford*,

included one seen flying at GM 6/21 (RL) and another heard at Erie N.W.R. 6/30 (RL). There were a surprising number of observations of **Least Bittern**, a rare bird for *Crawford* but likely underreported. Observations included a single at Conneaut Marsh- McMichael Road 6/17-7/21 (m.ob.), 2 seen at this same location 7/15 (JF) and 7/28 (PW, RW), a single at GM 6/14-6/18 (TN, KP, RS, PW, RW) and 2 birds at this same location 6/25 (RHo, KP). Up to 2 **Great Egrets**, expected but notable during July, were at Pymatuning S.P.- Fish Hatchery 7/5-7/29 (m.ob.).

A high count of 5 **Osprey** were observed at Woodcock Lake-Causeway 7/11 (TN), 7/12 (TN), 7/15 (TN, KP), and 7/16 (TN). Observations of **Northern Harrier**, uncommon in the summer season, included singles in the Pymatuning area 6/30 (RL), at Pymatuning S.P.-Wilson Road 7/22 (MHa), and at P S.P.- MP 7/27 (BG, KSJ). **Sharp-shinned Hawk** observations are relatively rare in summer, so sightings of singles in the Titusville area 6/14 (TN, RHo), in the Saegertown area 6/16 (ST), in the Conneaut Lake area 7/20 (RL), and at Pymatuning S.P.-Teakettle Road 7/22 (MHa) are notable. Observations of **Broad-winged Hawk** are increasingly common in the county, and occurred this season in expected numbers and locations (m.ob.). The only report of **Great Horned Owl** included 2 seen during a BBS in the Pymatuning area 6/17 (MHi, RHi).

Red-headed Woodpecker, notable here, occurred in expected numbers and locations, particularly the Pymatuning area and Conneaut Marsh area (m.ob.). A good count of 4 occurred at Conneaut Marsh-McMichael Road 6/4 (BB, MC). The only observation of **Merlin** was of one at Greendale Cemetery in Meadville 6/2 (RL). A **Peregrine Falcon**, a notable sighting, especially during the summer season, was at Woodcock Lake 7/5 (RL).

The only observations of **White-eyed Vireo**, an uncommon bird for *Crawford*, included a one at SGL 214-Brooks Road, a new location for the species, on 6/10 (TN) and 6/28 (TN, KP). An excellent observation, 3 **Common Ravens**, including 2 calling fledglings, were heard at SGL 144, a new location for the species, on 6/8 (TN). Observations of **Horned Lark**, a notable bird during the summer, included 4 at P S.P.-MP 6/4 (MC, BB), one at the same location 6/14 (TR) and 6/15 (PW, RW), and 2 at Pymatuning S.P.-Wilson Road 7/9 (RS). An excellent count of 175 **Cliﬀ Swallow** were observed at Pymatuning S.P.- Fish Hatchery 7/26 (RL).

Winter Wren observations, especially notable during the summer, included a single at SGL 146, a new location for this species, 6/17 (TN, KP) and 2 seen at SGL 122, another new location, 6/30 (TN, KP). **Marsh Wrens**, a notable but expected species, were observed in their normal numbers and locations (m.ob.). Good counts of 10 birds were seen at Conneaut Marsh- McMichael Road 7/11 (TN, KP), 7/21 (SA, JC, TR), and 7/28 (PR, RW). There were many **Carolina Wren** observations this, with several reports occurring throughout the county (m.ob.).

A great count of 20 **Veeries** were observed at SGL 152 on 6/17 (TN). Observations of **Hermit Thrush**, expected but notable in summer, included a single seen at SGL 199, a new location for this species, on 6/12 (TN); a single at SGL 122, another new location for this species, on 6/30 (TN, KP); 2 seen at SGL 69- Gamelands Access Path 7/15 (TN, KP); and at Tamarack Lake-South End 7/24 (KP). Reports of **Northern Mockingbird**, rare in *Crawford*, included singles on Pymatuning Lake- Big Glen Island 6/18 (PLE Ornithology group), on Pymatuning Lake- Harris Lake 6/18 (PLE Ornithology group and in the Pymatuning area 6/21 (RL). Two juvenile **Pine Siskins**, an excellent bird in summer, were reported at a feeder at a private residence near Meadville 6/15 (SC) and 6/16 (SC, ST). Two additional siskins were reported at the same location 6/28 (SC).

A single **Vesper Sparrow**, uncommon for *Crawford*, was seen in the Cochran area 7/15 (RL). **Grasshopper Sparrow** is rarely observed, so the sighting of one in the GM area 7/26 (RL) is especially notable. **Dark-eyed Junco**, notable but expected during summer, was reported in expected numbers and locations (m.ob.). Notable observations of **Yellow-breasted Chat** included one at Hartstown Marsh 6/7 (RL) and another at Erie N.W.R. 6/30 (RL). **Orchard Oriole** is expected but notable in summer. Observations occurred in the expected areas and numbers throughout the county. (m.ob.)

A **Golden-winged Warbler**, an excellent bird for *Crawford*, was seen at GM 7/15 (RL). Observations of **Prothonotary Warbler**, notable for *Crawford*, were reported in the expected numbers and locations in the Conneaut Marsh areas (m.ob.). A single **Nashville Warbler**, rare for

Crawford during the summer, was seen at SGL 122, a new location for this species, on 6/14 (RHo, TN). Observations of **Mourning Warbler**, notable for the summer season, included 4 at SGL 144, a new location for this species, on 6/8 (TN) and 6/19 (TN, KP); 3 seen along Pettis Rd. near Meadville 7/8 (RL); and 2 seen at Complanter SF, another new location for this species, on 7/14 (TN) and 7/15 (TN, KP), with a single seen at the same location 7/19 (TN).

Cerulean Warbler is expected, but increasingly rare, during summer. Notable observations included one along Fries Rd. in the Pymatuning area 6/2 (RL); one at SGL 85- Johnstown Rd., a new location for this species, on 6/17 (TN); and excellent counts of 6 at SGL 101, another new location for this species, on 6/16 (TN), with 6 at the same location 6/25 (RHo, KP). Observations of **Northern Parula** are infrequent during the summer season, so sightings of 2 at SGL 101, a new location for this species, on 6/16 (TN); a single at the same location 6/25 (RHo, KP); and a single bird on West Vernon Rd. 6/25 (MAK, RHi) are especially notable. **Black-throated Blue Warbler** is relatively rare in summer, so the observations of 2 birds at SGL 122, a new location for the species, on 6/14 (RHo, TN); and 3 at the same location on 6/30 (TN, KP) are notable. **Pine Warbler** is infrequently observed during the summer so the observation of a one at Erie N.W.R.- Seneca Division 6/27 (RS) is notable. **Prairie Warbler** is very rare in summer, so the observation of a male in the Hemlock Hill area for the entire month of June is especially notable (RM). Of special note was the the bird repeatedly singing and attempting to breed with 2 female **Hooded Warblers** in a small power line cut area. Observations of **Canada Warbler**, uncommon but expected, included a single seen at SGL 200, a new location for this species, on 6/6 (TN); and 2 at SGL 146, another new location, on 6/17 (TN, KP).

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Cumberland County

Locations: LMBS (Laughlin Millpond on the Big Spring), MSF (Michaux Sate Forest) PSQ (Pennsy Supply Quarry on the Carlisle Pike in Mechanicsburg), SGL 169 (State Game Lands 169), SGL 230 (State Game Lands 230), South Middleton Township Park (SMTP).

The summer period was wet and warm. There was not much remarkable about the period, though there were a few birds of note. Please know 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 County Birds as the county line is the west shoreline of the river. This report uses the 58th Supplement of the 7th Edition of the AOU Check-list of North American Birds. This is of note as there were many taxonomic changes made.

One **American Wigeon** was seen on the Big Spring 6/2-5 (VG, BF, LF, DB). This is the first summer record for *Cumberland* on eBird and I can find no other summer record for this species otherwise. It did not seem like a released bird as it was very wary. It was seen in a flock of 10 to 12 **Mallards** on each occasion.

Two imm. **Little Blue Herons** were observed in a flooded field east of

Newville 7/28 through the end of the period (VG, m.ob.) This species is a summer vagrant in *Cumberland* and this report was the first in the county since one seen near Carlisle 7/29/08 (HW). A rare summer **Merlin** was seen at the same location as the egrets, unsuccessfully attacking a flock of about 30 yellowlegs in the field 7/28 (DB, StB, SB). A **Peregrine Falcon** was reported at a quarry near Camp Hill 7/15 (AG); most likely one of the breeding birds from nearby Harrisburg in *Dauphin*.

Observers: **Vern Gauthier, 111 W. Big Spring Ave., Newville PA 17241, (717) 385-9526, verngauthier14@gmail.com**, Aaron Graham, Doris Brookens, Scott Brookens, Steve Brookens, Bill Franz, Linda Franz, Herbert Weigl.

Dauphin County

Locations: Appalachian Trail-Peter's Mountain (ATPM), Clark's Ferry Bridge (CFB), Fort Indiantown Gap west corridor (FIG), Lake Tobias Wildlife Park (LT), Rachel Carson State Office Building (RCSOB), State Game Lands 210 (SGL210), Susquehanna River at Wade Island, (SRWI), Three Mile Island (TMI), Wade Bridge of I-81 (WB), Wildwood Lake (WL).

A species only reported in summer in *Dauphin* once in the past 5 years, a **Green-winged Teal** was spotted in WL during of June (m.ob.). One **Ruffed Grouse** was reported, along the ATPM 6/1 (AW).

The highlight of the summer for birders in *Dauphin* was a **Wood Stork**, found and photographed 6/24 in WL (EW) and seen often (m.ob.) during its two-day stay. SRWI had 92 nests of **Great Egrets** (PB). There were numerous sightings of them in the shallow waters at WL (m.ob.) with a high count of 25 on 6/25 (P&RW, MC). The **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** in mid-town Harrisburg, located from Reilly Street north to Seneca Street, were counted this summer - documented were 17 nests, up from 10 from last year (PB).

In June, a pair of **Ospreys** attempted but failed at building their first nest just west of WL near the Middle Parking Lot (LI). The nest can be seen high on a cell tower. Two pairs of adults built nests along the Susquehanna River in the Steelton area during June and July. Two chicks were fledged from each nest (SH). Twelve **Bald Eagles** nests were counted for *Dauphin* (PB). As part of a nestbox project, 5 **Barn Owls** were banded 7/31 in the Hershey area (NMc).

Eastern Whip-poor-wills were heard north of Harrisburg; 2 near Picketown in June (P&DA), 3 at FIG 6/18 (PD, IG), and 2 at SGL210 on 7/18 (S&SB). A juvenile **Virginia Rail** was spotted 7/27 in the south lobe of WL despite of the high waters (R&PP). A nighttime survey done in WL in July resulted in one heard near the North Boardwalk (JW). **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were seen in FIG in June and July with a high count of 7 on 6/14 (IG) and one was at Lake Tobias 7/16 (ZT).

An **American Kestrel** nestbox project resulted in the banding of 44 nestlings in *Dauphin* during the summer (NMc). The **Peregrine Falcons** on the RCSOB in Harrisburg had a successful nesting with 4 banded and fledged, and were seen regularly until mid-July (AMc). The pair on the Susquehanna River at the CFB above the town of Dauphin was monitored, with 3 fledged but not banded (AMc, EC, S&SB, S&GL). Three fledged young were observed at TMI but one perished in the river (AMc). No sightings were made of the possible nesting under the WB on the river (AMc).

A lone **Horned Lark** was observed near Hummelstown 6/1 (AM). The colony of **Purple Martins** was confirmed as continuing this year in northern *Dauphin* 7/6 (S&SB). Nineteen species of warblers were reported during June and July. A **Northern Waterthrush** was banded at WL 7/4 (S&GL). Missed in the Spring 2018 Report was a single **Prothonotary Warbler** banded at WL 5/11 (S&GL) and on the same day 2 **Bay-breasted Warblers**, one **Blackpoll Warbler**, and one **Magnolia Warbler** were seen near the WL nature center (R&PP, m.ob.).

A **Vesper Sparrow** was identified in northern *Dauphin* 6/22 (CB) and a **Swamp Sparrow** was found at WL 6/25 (AK). A **Blue Grosbeak** was observed again at FIG 7/6 (IG).

Observers: **Sandy Lockerman, 3830 Lexington Street, Harrisburg, PA**

17109, (717) 329-8040, sandylockerman@yahoo.com, Phil and Diane Allen, Patti Barber, Chuck Berthoud, Scott and Stephanie Bills, Ed Chubb, Mary Coomer, Ian Gardner, Sue Hannon, Larry Imes, Andy Keister, Sandy and Gary Lockerman, Annette Mathes, Nate McKelvie, Art McMorris (AMc), Rick and Peg Price, Zachary Tonzetich, Jane Webster, Pat and Richard Williams, Amber Wingert, Eric Willet.

Delaware County

Locations: Barrett's Meadow (BM), Crum Woods (CW), Delaware River (DR), Episcopal Academy (EA), Fort Mifflin (FM), Glen Mills School (GMS), Haverford College (HC), Hildacy Farm Preserve (HILD), John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge (JHNWR), Montgomery Park (MP), Philadelphia Airport (PHL), Bridle Trail (BT) at Ridley Creek State Park (RCSP), Tyler Arboretum (TY), White Horse Village (WH)

Weather during this period was mostly uneventful. The average temperatures for June and July were near normal. Precipitation in July was highly localized such that some spots were slightly below normal while others were a couple of inches above.

Notable ducks in *Delaware* during the period were a flyover pair of **Northern Pintails** at the new boardwalk at JHNWR 7/23 (RF) and a **Common Merganser** flyover at Nether Providence Elementary School 7/25 (DO). **Yellow-Billed Cuckoo** was reported from RCSP with multiple individuals 6/21 and 6/29 (JMc) and a single bird 7/30 (KC) as well as from BM 6/29 (JM) and Chadd's Ford 7/26 (EW). **Black-billed Cuckoo** was reported only at TY 7/20 (AL).

Shorebird reports in *Delaware* are few, but the DR at FM is clearly the best location. An **American Oystercatcher** was found on the spit there 6/2 (AG). The single best day, 7/28, produced 2 **Black-bellied Plovers** (AG, RF), 2 **Ruddy Turnstones** (AG, RF), 2 **Sanderlings** (RF), and one **Short-billed Dowitcher** (AG, RF). Two Short-billed Dowitchers were flying upstream 7/23 (RF); 3 on 7/27 (RF) were flushed by an eagle from the spit, and 3 were also observed 7/30 (RF, AB, DB). **Least Sandpipers** were reported on four dates in July (m.ob.) as well as at JHNWR four days during the month (m.ob.). **Lesser Yellowlegs** 7/27 (RF), **Greater Yellowlegs** 7/30 (RF, AB, DB), 4 **Pectoral Sandpipers** 7/27 (RF) and one 7/30 (RF, AB, DB), and 5 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** 7/23 (RF) round out the shorebird reports from the DR at FM. A single **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was also reported from JHNWR 7/19 when a **Solitary Sandpiper** was found there as well (JMc).

Looking for terns in *Delaware*? Try the aforementioned hotspot, the DR at FM. Both **Caspian** and **Forster's Terns** can be seen here and more rarely at the portion of JHNWR in the county. Thirteen days in June and July produced Caspian (m.ob.) and eight days produced Forster's (m.ob.)

One **Snowy Egret** at DR at FM 7/29 (AG) was the only report of this species. **Little Blue Heron** proved more common. An immature decided to cross the county line from *Philadelphia* into *Delaware* at JHNWR 7/22 (JMc). One imm. was on Darby Creek at MP 7/25 (RF). The next day one adult showed up at DR at FM (RF) as well as 2 at JHNWR (AG). An imm. at DR at FM 7/29 (AG) and 4 the same day at JHNWR (AG) were a bonanza, not to mention the **Yellow-crowned Night Heron** seen at the latter location the same day (AG). Ten **Glossy Ibis** were seen flying over the airport grounds south of the UPS building 7/23 (AG, RF).

Obviously more common than reports indicate, there were 4 **Eastern Screech Owls** (m.ob.) reports. There were only 2 **Great Horned Owl** reports; one from Glen Mills 6/24 (AJ), and 2 juveniles hanging out at HC for about a week beginning 6/16 (SJ), much to the dislike of the local crowd contingent. **American Kestrel** was reported 7/3 (RH) and 7/7 and 7/24 from behind PHL (AG) as well as from Boothwyn 6/23 (JI). A **Peregrine Falcon** flew over a Swarthmore neighborhood 6/14 (DE) and the nearby CW 7/22 (CN). One was also reported from PHL 6/18 (BN) and the nearby DR at FM 7/23 (RF, AG).

As usual, the only reports of **Yellow-throated Vireo** came from RCSP 6/15 (JMc) and 7/10 (AG). **White-eyed Vireo** also had a handful of reports from the same location (m.ob.), as well as one sighting at Martin Park 6/1 (BB). Two **Common Ravens** endured harassment by crows near the Acme in Concordville 7/4 (JMc), and 4 were vocal and noisy behind the Springfield

Mall 7/23 (NC).

Across *Delaware*, there were 4 reports of **Purple Martins** (m.ob.), but 208 were banded in July at the county's largest colony at the GMS (DMc). This continues the gradual rebound after the devastating 2015 year. In addition, an out-of-state band recovery from Delaware this June was of a martin banded in 2013 at the Glen Mills colony. **Bank Swallows** were found 7/19-31 at JHNWR (m.ob.) with up to 10 photographed 7/23 amidst a large mixed swallow flock (RF). Two Bank Swallows were also among other swallows foraging in the sewer treatment area of WH in Newtown Square 7/13 (JMc). A single **Cliff Swallow** showed up in a photograph taken 7/29 at JHNWR (DE).

A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** in Havertown 7/26 (SB) was a harbinger of more to come. Lingering species include a **Bobolink** in the fields near EA 6/11 (SBN), a late **Magnolia Warbler** at RCSP 6/6 (DS), and a **Black-throated Blue Warbler** on Ivy Mills Rd in Glen Mills 6/9 (BB). **Pine Warbler** reports from RCSP 6/1 (BB) and Media 6/7 (BQ) could indicate breeders, especially the latter report of 2 birds, but no further reports were received. A **Worm-eating Warbler** at RCSP 6/5 (SB) is also interesting, especially given that every year at the not-too-distant Rushton Farm (*Chester*) a couple are banded during breeding months. **Northern Parula**, another uncommon breeder, was reported 6/5 from HILD (DB) and 6/15 from RCSP (JMc). A male **Blue Grosbeak** singing from the edge of the tree line along Stoney Creek in Morgan 7/16 (SA) also might represent a potential breeder.

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Elk County

Locations: Allegheny NF-Twin Lakes Recreation Area (TL), Allegheny NF-Experimental Forest Rd (EFR), East Branch Lake (EBL), Elk SF-Elk Country Visitor Center (ECVC), Highland Twp (HT), Jones Twp (JT), Quehanna Wild Area (QWA), Rasselas Marsh (RM), State Game Lands 25 (SGL 25), State Game Lands 311-Porcupine Hollow (PH), State Game Lands 311-Winslow Hill (WH).

Two **Common Mergansers** were at QWA 6/9 (BH), and a female was seen along the East Branch Clarion River at SGL 25 on 6/16 (BB). **Ruffed Grouse** were found at ECVC, HT, JT, and SGL 25 (m.ob). The high count included a family group of 9 at JT 7/29 (BB). A total of 4 **Double-crested Cormorants** were at EBL 6/17 (BB). The pair of **Osprey** once again nested behind the ranger's station at EBL, which fledged 2 young seen in the nest with the adults 7/14 (BB). Another **Osprey** was at TL 6/4 (SJ). The **Northern Harriers** at RM had one fledged young 7/8 (BB). Juvenile **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were at JT 7/29 in the same area where seen last year (BB). **Bald Eagles** were at EBL, RM, and TL throughout the season (BB, SJ). An exciting find was a **Northern Goshawk** flying right in front of the observer 7/6 in a coniferous forest (BB). Another goshawk was seen by multiple observers at WH 7/7 as it was flying out of the woods (BB). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was found carrying a frog to its nest 7/6 where a young bird was heard calling (BB).

Likely the only nesting location for **Virginia Rail** and **Sora** is RM, where the two were found 6/8. **American Woodcocks** were found at JT throughout the season. **Spotted Sandpipers** were once again found nesting in healthy number at EBL, while a slightly early **Solitary Sandpiper** was also at EBL 7/15. **Ring-billed Gull** is notable at any time of the year in *Elk*, so a flock of 10 at EBL 7/27 represent a good number, especially for summer. **Forster's Tern** continue to make their annual appearance at EBL during the summer, with 2 seen 6/17 and 7/28, and one 7/29 (BB).

Hairy caterpillars appeared in higher numbers this summer; consequently, more cuckoos could be found this season compared to previous years. **Black-billed Cuckoo** was even more common than

Yellow-billed Cuckoo for the first time in the past few years – Black-bills used to be more common years back. A single **Great Horned Owl** was heard hooting 7/15, and one was seen flying in the early morning hours 7/29. **Barred Owl** continues to be the most common owl in *Elk*, with pairs and individuals present at multiple locations at JT, RM (BB), and TL (SJ) throughout the season. Two juveniles were also heard hissing at dusk 7/16 at JT. One of the more exciting finds of the season was of a pair of **Northern Saw-whet Owls** nesting next to a swamp in a hemlock dominated forest. The pair was seen and heard multiple times throughout the summer, and 2 juveniles were heard with the adults 7/29. This species is likely a lot more common in the county than is reported, but due to the species reclusive habits, is rarely reported. The only report of **Common Nighthawk** was of one flying during the day at RM 6/8 (BB). A singing **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was reported near Benezette multiple times during the period (CL). **American Kestrels** were found at JT, Wilcox (BB), and WH (m.ob.).

Red-breasted Nuthatches were found at a total of 4 locations, including JT, Mefferts Run Rd, RM (BB), and near Benezette (JS). **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were found at 5 locations scattered widely throughout the county (m.ob.). Up to 4 **Swainson's Thrushes** were at TL (BB), and another nearby in HT (SJ). Unusual for *Elk*, single **Northern Mockingbirds** were found at WH 6/4 (DS) and 7/7 (m.ob.), and one was near Kersey 6/16 (BB).

Among the less common warblers in *Elk*, **Nashville Warblers** were found at Fritz Rd, JT, and RM; the one at JT was a male carrying food. **Mourning Warblers** were found at HT 6/6 (SJ), SGL 25 on 6/16, and Mefferts Run Rd 6/28 (BB). Two **Cerulean Warblers** were at QWA 7/14 (StJ), while 3 late **Blackpoll Warblers** were at WH 6/4 (DS). **Pine Warblers** were found at their usual location of JT (BB), in addition to 2 at Dents Run in SGL 311 (PWi, RW). The only **Canada Warbler** was at TL 7/8 (BB).

Grasshopper Sparrows could be found in good numbers at their stronghold of WH (m.ob.), but they were also found in some reclaimed strip mines in northeastern *Elk* as well (BB). The only **Henslow's Sparrow** was at JT 7/11, at its usual location on a reclaimed strip mine. Up to 12 singing **White-throated Sparrows** could be found in the hemlock swamp complex that stretches through JT and RM (BB). The recurring **Dickcissels** were present at the WH area this summer, with a pair seen 6/29 and 7/5 (MJ, WP).

A couple interesting finches were found this summer following a winter with exceptional cone crops on hemlock and spruce. The first was a pair of **Red Crossbills** heard singing while flying over JT 7/3, and a single heard again 7/6. The birds were not seen after this, so they were likely just migrants or else found a different location nearby. The other notable finch was a single **Pine Siskin** flying over a spruce-woods at JT 7/6. This bird was also not seen again, but was present in the same area where a pair was found in late May, so there is the possibility it was a nester (BB).

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Erie County

The pair of **Piping Plovers** that nested here last year returned to nest again at Gull Point on Presque Isle S.P. The pair successfully fledged 4 chicks that were captured, banded, and released by the Pennsylvania Game Commission (MB). A pair of **Common Terns** nested at Gull Point, but were unsuccessful in producing young. **Ring-billed Gulls** and **Herring Gulls** continue to use rooftops for nesting sites in Erie. A very large colony of perhaps 100 or more nests of **Ring-billed Gulls** were on the rooftop of the Lake Erie Warehouse & Distribution Center in Erie in June (JM). A pair of **Peregrine Falcons** fledged one bird from the nest site in the Jon Don ship repair building in Erie. **Grasshopper Sparrows** rarely nest in *Erie*, so the presence of several pairs in the recently reclaimed grasslands at Erie Bluffs S.P., was notable (m.ob.).

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

A **Snowy Egret** was at Gull Point 6/15-19 (MB, RD) and a **Cattle Egret** made an appearance there 6/12 (MB). An adult **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was a rare find by a non-birder photographer who captured a nice image of the bird perched on the top of a tall broken off tree on Long Pond (BB). A pair of **Sandhill Cranes** was spotted from time to time in a large field in West Springfield from 6/22 to at least 6/27 (NT). No evidence of breeding by the pair was noted.

An **American Golden Plover** in breeding attire was a rare spring find in a field near Fairview 6/3 (TH). Single or small groups of **American Avocets** were seen periodically 6/24-7/26 on Gull Point with a high of 32 there on 7/15 (MB, et al.). Single or small groups of **Willetts** were reported periodically at Gull Point from 6/23 through the end of the period (MB, et al.). **Whimbrels** were also reported during the period at Gull Point between 7/3 through the end of July in small groups (m.ob.), with a high of 15 on 7/22 (MB). Always an exciting find, a **Marbled Godwit** landed at Gull Point 7/7 (MB). Single or small groups of **Red Knots** were reported 7/22-7/27 at Gull Point with a high single day count of 10 (SS, MB). One or 2 **Stilt Sandpipers** were at Gull Point 7/21-7/26 (TR, SS).

A late **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at Six Mile Creek Park 6/6 (JC) and a record county late bird was photographed in Erie 6/11 (*fide* DS)

Observers: **Jerry McWilliams, 3508 Allegheny Rd., Erie, Pa. 16508-2129, jerrymcw@aol.com**, Brian Berchtold, Mary Birdsong, John Campbell, Roger Donn, Tom Hitt, Tessa Rhinhart, Steve Schmit, Don Snyder, Nancy Taylor.

Fayette County

A few **Common Mergansers** were reported along the Youghiogheny River; the high was 8 in the Ohiopyle Area 6/17 (IG). A **Northern Bobwhite** was heard calling near Ohiopyle SP 6/16 (KK).

An immature **Wood Stork** was discovered near Connellsville 7/24, relocated 7/28 (MD, MV, ST), and remained through the end of the season. This provided the first county record. The bird frequented a small wet area along a drainage ditch next to RT. 119 and often remained hidden. In addition, a construction project dealing with the drainage was in progress at the time so the bird was not present during a major part of the day. The surrounding area was searched but the bird was not located at any other site.

Four **Bald Eagles**, including an active nest, were observed along the Youghiogheny River during a canoe trip from Dawson to Layton 7/16 (TK, JK). **Red-headed Woodpecker** reports were of 3 at Nemacolin Woodlands Resort in Wharton Twp. 7/8 (DB) and 4 at Mystic Rock Golf Course in Farmington 7/24 (SG). Two **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were found near Ohiopyle during a BBS 6/8 (GM), a first for the route, and one was at Bear Run Nature Reserve 7/14 (TH).

Yellow-breasted Chats were reported on ebird from several locations near Farmington during the season. **Prairie Warbler** reports include one at Fort Necessity Battlefield 6/4 (MA), one at Hidden Lakes 7/6 (DB), and 2 at Mystic Rock Golf Course in Farmington 7/24 (SG).

Observers: **Mike Fialkovich, 805 Beulah Road, Pittsburgh, PA, 15235, (412) 731-3581, mpfial@verizon.net**, Mark Alt, David Burlison, Michael David, Ian Gardner, Sam Guthrie, Todd Hooe, Fred Kachmarik, Alyssa Karmann, Kyle Klotz, Janet Kuehl, Tom Kuehl, Geoff Malosh, Shannon Thompson, Mark Vass.

Forest County

Locations: Allegheny National Forest (ANF), Beaver Meadows (BM), Buzzard Swamp (BS), Kelleetville Campground (KC), Tionesta (TI), West Hickory (WH).

There were 119 species noted during the breeding period. Highlights include confirmed breeding for Hooded Mergansers, and presence of

Spotted Sandpiper, White-eyed Vireo, Grasshopper Sparrow, and Henslow's Sparrow.

Hooded Mergansers were confirmed as breeding 6/11 when a female and 7 young were found on the Allegheny River near WH (KS). This is believed to be the first breeding record for *Forest*. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** reports were abundant, while **Black-billed Cuckoo** numbers were modest, and the latter was shown to decline here between the first and second Pennsylvania BBA. More monitoring is needed to determine if these changes are cyclical or significant. There was a single record of **Eastern Whip-poor-will**, near Lynch 7/15 (SJ). This species is in serious decline, so this sighting is encouraging. They were also observed in late May at a different location, where they presumably stayed to breed.

The **Spotted Sandpiper** appears to be slowly declining as a breeder in Pennsylvania. Its population shows a definite downturn in *Forest* between the two Atlases, and there is a scarcity of historical summer records here. It is very heartening to report sightings of one to 3 birds 7-14, 7-16, and 7-20 on the Allegheny River near Tionesta, one 7/15 at the KC, and an adult and immature 7/23 at BM (KS). **Double-crested Cormorants** were found 6/10-11 near WH (KS) and 6/17 near KC (SJ). This species is very uncommon in *Forest* in summer. These individuals are not assumed to be breeding, but their presence indicates an interest in the habitat.

Osprey again successfully nested at BS (the nest is in our eastern *Elk*). They were spotted 7/27 at BS (MP), and 6/9 on the western side of the county at McArthur Run Wetlands (KS). **Bald Eagle** sightings were abundant along the Allegheny River where there is one known nest. Other observations were 6/1 (FM, JM), 7/6 (JS), and 7/15 (KS) at KC; and several in July near Mayburg (JS). **Eastern Screech-owl** is seldom heard here in June and July, so its presence 6/12 on Church Hill Rd. is good news (RH).

Alder Flycatcher tallies were good, and some new locations are worth mention. One was found 6/9 at McArthur Run Wetlands, one 6/12 at Neilltown Fields, and one 7/22 near West Hickory (KS); one or 2 7/18 and 7/19 at KC (JK); 2 at Mayburg 7/31 (AS). **White-eyed Vireos** have been almost absent from *Forest* and most of the northern tier, so 2 sightings are cheering: one 7/19 at KC (JK) and one 7/22 near WH (KS). They appear to be expanding northward in the commonwealth where shrubby habitat is available at lower elevations. **Warbling Vireos**, which declined significantly in *Forest* between the two Atlases, were well-reported, with 4 seen 6/7 (FM), one 6/9 (CA), and 3 7/14 (KS) at LI; one 7/14 and 7/20 near the Tionesta Fish Hatchery; one 7/14 and one 7/21 near WH (KS); one 6/15 (KS) and 7/15 (SJ) at KC; and one 6/1 at Mayburg (FM, JM). Another positive note is the presence of 6 **Bank Swallows** 6/24 near KC (ST). These showed a significant decline in the county as well as the commonwealth between the two Atlases.

Swainson's Thrush, a locally common breeder, was spotted twice on the ANF: 2 males countersinging 6/1 on Forest Rd. 249 (SS), and 3 heard 6/11 on Forest Rd. 210 (KS, FM). Two **Pine Siskins** were observed 6/7 and 6 were seen 6/8 near TI (FM, JM), possibly indicating breeding for this nomadic species. A **Grasshopper Sparrow** 6/12 at Neilltown Fields (KS) is great news for this scarce breeder whose population has been in steep decline throughout its range. **Henslow's Sparrow**, not noted in the county during either Atlas, was also seen 6/12 at Neilltown Fields (KS). This species is listed as a species of High Concern, so this a promising indicator for its future.

Cerulean Warbler sightings increased significantly compared to previous years, notably several observations of one or 2 in June and July at WH (KS); 2 on Jamison Run Rd. 6/21 (CB); 2 on Tank Hill Rd. 6/22 (KS); and one 6/1 (FM, JM) and one 6/15 (SJ) near Mayburg. A single **Pine Warbler** 7/23 at BM is worthy of mention, as there are only a handful of records of this species in *Forest* from previous years. The **Yellow-rumped Warbler** is indicated to be spreading westward across the state. There were 2 reports: one 6/15 near Marienville (RN), and one 7/4 at BS (T&JK). Our high elevations and conifers comprise the proper habitat for this range expansion.

Observers: **Flo McGuire, 609 Ponderosa Lane, Tionesta, PA 16353, (814) 755-3672, fmcguire1@verizon.net**, Cody Allen, Chuck Berthoud, Rob Hodgson, Sam Jolly, John Kolar, Tom and Janet Kuehl, Jim McGuire, Richard Nugent, Mike Pingleton, Joseph Pumford, Jeff Scepora, Alex Sharp, Kim Springer, Scott Stoleson, Shannon Thompson.

Franklin County

Locations: Bender's Farm (BEFA), Greencastle Reservoir (GRRE)

June – July is normally a pretty quiet period of birding time, and for the second consecutive year **Dickcissel** reports are the highlight of this season. Reports which began 5/19 in the prior season continued throughout June and into mid-July. There were reports from Church Rd. (VB, NM, BO) and Mowersville Rd. (SK) north of Chambersburg; Wenger Rd. (VB, BO, DC), Portico Rd. (DC, CG, BO), and Fort McCord Rd. (SK) northwest of Chambersburg; and Windmill Rd. (LN, BO) and Welsh Run Rd. (SK) southwest of Chambersburg.

Lingering birds reported were **Ring-necked Duck** at BEFA 7/20 (BO) and **Pied-billed Grebe** at BEFA 6/22 (BO). The only **Ruffed Grouse** was found along the Tuscarora Trail in Little Cove 6/23 (JS). Returning southward shorebirds were **Semipalmated Sandpiper** 7/17 and **Solitary Sandpiper** 7/20 at Two Turn Rd. (BO), and **Lesser Yellowlegs** 7/30 at GRRE (CG). A summer **Northern Harrier** was reported at BEFA 6/22 (BO). **Barn Owls** (2) were seen flying to a silo 6/20 near Mercersburg at a known nesting location (LN, BO).

Nesting **Cliff Swallows** continued at the Wenger Rd. bridge over Wilson Run (VB, BO, DC). **Chestnut-sided Warblers** (2), including a scraggly looking bird that appeared to be a fledgling, were found in Michaux SF along Middle Ridge Rd. 6/23 (VG, BO) and along Milesburn Rd. 6/24 (RK, AM). A **Kentucky Warbler** was observed and heard singing on a hike on the Tuscarora Trail in Little Cove 7/1 (BO). **Bobolinks** continued from May along Burkett Rd. 6/7 (VB, BO) and Portico Rd. 6/15 (CG). **Blue Grosbeak** sightings were 2 birds at Church Rd. 6/1 (VB, NM), at Mowersville Rd. 6/10 (BO), at Iron Bridge Rd. 6/14 (CG), and 2 in Little Cove 7/1 (BO).

Observers: **Bill Oyler**, 1216 Wilson Ave, Chambersburg, Pa 17201 (717-360-5191), oylerbill@gmail.com, Val Barnes, Dave Cooney, Carl Garner, Vern Gauthier, Stefan Karkuff, Ramsay Koury, Nancy Magnusson, Annette Mathes, Lori Nichols, Joel Springer.

Fulton County

Locations: Cowan's Gap SP (CG), Haines-Seville wetland (HS), Harrisonville (HAR), Warfordsburg (WAR).

A **Hooded Merganser** was at HAR 6/14, only the 2nd summer record in eBird for *Fulton* (MD). Four **Whip-poor-wills** were heard at WAR 6/9 (JS) and 8 at CG 6/17 (KM). A **Willow Flycatcher** was at HS 6/14 (MD).

Two **Grasshopper Sparrows** were photographed along Rt. 522 in northeast *Fulton* 6/24 (RW, PW). A **Swamp Sparrow** was at Red Lily Ponds near HS 6/24, the second county record in eBird (RW, PW). **Eastern Meadowlark** was at 3 locations, with a high of 3 at WAR (JS). A female **Blue Grosbeak** was nicely photographed along Rt. 522 in northeast *Fulton* 6/24 (PW, RW); all 5 previous ebird records are from southern *Fulton*, with 4 of those occurring during the 2nd BBA (Andy Wilson).

Fulton needs a compiler – contact the editor if interested.

Observers: **Greg Grove**, gwg2@psu.edu, Michael David, Kevin Mock, Joel Springer, Richard Williams, Patricia Williams.

Greene County

Locations: Claylick (CL), East View (EV), Greene River Trail (GRT), Jackson Twp. (JT), Morgan Twp. (MT), Ryerson State Park (RSP).

A **Hooded Merganser** with 6 young was observed from Lake Wilma in Wayne Twp. 6/18 (LA, RA). A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was reported from JT 6/30 (RL, WD) and a **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** in JT 6/7 (RL). **Chimney Swift** was at GRT 6/21 (JF). A **Spotted Sandpiper** was reported from Mon River 7/17 (SM). A **Bald Eagle** was reported from RSP 6/20 (m.ob.). A **Broad-winged Hawk** was observed at RSP 6/5 (JK).

Red-bellied, Downy, and Hairy Woodpeckers were reported from CL and FT feeding young during mid-June (LA, RA). An **Eastern Wood-Pewee** was observed in JT 6/7 (RL). **Acadian and Willow Flycatchers** were reported at RSP 6/5 (JK). **Eastern Kingbird** was reported in MT 7/27 (KK). **White-eyed, Yellow-throated, Warbling, and Red-eyed Vireos** were at RSP 6/5 (JK). **Purple Martin** was reported from Bell Farm in MT 6/14 (m.ob.) and **Tree Swallow** from CL 6/17 (LA).

Brown Creeper was reported from CL 6/15 (RA, LA). **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was at Bell Farm 6/14 (m.ob.). **Wood Thrush** was reported on Bell Farm 6/14 (m.ob.). **Brown Thrasher** was at JT 6/16 (RL, WD). **Cedar Waxwing** was reported from RSP 6/20 (m.ob.). **Swamp Sparrow** was observed from RSP 6/5 (JK). **Orchard Oriole** was reported from JT 7/13 (RL) and **Baltimore Oriole** at Bell Farm 6/14 (m.ob.).

Ovenbird, Kentucky Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, and Yellow Warbler were reported from RSP 6/5 (JK). **Worm-eating Warbler** was reported from GRT 6/30 (JF, LF). **Louisiana Waterthrush** was reported from LCR 7/28 (MLP). **Golden-winged Warbler** was at MT 7/1 (DB) and **Blue-winged Warbler** at JT 6/16 (WD, RL). **Black-and-white Warbler** was observed in Franklin Twp. 7/10 (JH, MH). **Hooded Warbler** was reported from GRT 6/30 (JF, LF). **American Redstart** and **Magnolia Warbler** were in JT 6/7 (RL, WD). **Cerulean Warbler** and **Northern Parula** were reported from Bell Farm 6/14 (m.ob.) and **Yellow-throated Warbler** from GRT 6/30 (JF, LF).

Yellow-breasted Chat was at GRT 6/29 (JF, LF). **Scarlet Tanager** was reported at LCR 7/6 (MLP). **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was observed last in EV 7/30 (JH). **Indigo Bunting** was reported from MT 7/27 (KK). A **Dark-eyed Junco** was at EV 7/15 (MH).

Observers: **Marjorie Howard**, 149 Preachers Road, Waynesburg, PA 15370, (724) 852-3155, rkbirdclub@yahoo.com, Sameer Apte, Lyn Argent, Ron Argent, David Bell, Jack Chaillet, Jan Churney, William Deegan, Leslie Ferree, John Flannigan, Jerry Howard, Jo Hoy, John Kachmarik, Kathy Kern, Rosanna Lane, Mary LaPlante, Andy Lariviere, Steve Manns, Aidan Place, Tessa Rhinehart, Shannon Thompson.

Huntingdon County

Locations: Alan Seeger Natural Area (AS), Greenwood Furnace SP (GF), Juniata River (JR), Lake Perez (LP), Lower Trail at Alexandria (LT), Marklesburg waterfowl area-SGL 420 (MAR), Raystown Lake (RL), Rothrock SF (RSF), SGL 112/Mill Creek (SGL 112), SGL 322 at Petersburg Pike (SGL322), Shaver's Creek Environmental Center (SCEC), Stone Creek Ridge (SCR), Stone Valley (SV), Trough Creek Valley (TCV).

A **Willet** in late June provided the season's highlight, apparently a first record for *Huntingdon*. Temperatures at Huntingdon (town) in both June and July were right at the average. June rainfall was average, but July saw a big excess of 4.6 inches.

It is not unusual for non-breeding duck species to linger into early summer. This year, however, 2 male **Ring-necked Ducks** spent the entire reporting period at LP (m.ob.). **Ruffed Grouse** remains sparse. There were only 5 reports, from 4 locations, each of just one bird, except one report of 2. DCNR is creating large scale habitat cuts in RSF aimed at providing habitat for early successional species, with grouse, hopefully, as a primary beneficiary.

A total of 51 **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were tallied on 3 Nightjar Surveys (30 stops) in RSF. The 9-year average is 45 and the annual count has varied between a low of 33 in 2014 and a high of 61 in 2016. Most stops are in northern *Huntingdon*, with a few in *Mifflin* and *Centre* (GG, DG, DB). Common Nighthawk went unreported, and probably no longer nests in *Huntingdon*. **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were widely reported, as usual; **Black-billed Cuckoos** less so, also as usual, with reports from about a half dozen locations.

A **Willet** was found by Ranger Alicia Palmer in a restricted area at the Lake Raystown Resort 6/27 (AP, JK, GG, DG, ph.), apparently the first for the county. Thanks go to staff at the resort for accommodating birders not registered as guests. **Spotted Sandpiper** is presumably a breeder here, but few are reported in summer. They were noted at 4 locations, mostly in

July, probably post-nesting dispersing birds. First **Solitary Sandpiper** was at CM 7/13 (GG). A few **Double-crested Cormorants** are usually present in summer – the only one reported this year was at LP 7/23-27 (DW, et al.). **Black-crowned Night-Herons** are not known to nest but occasionally are seen in summer. An immature was at OC 6/6-8 (LF) and a flyover was heard at LP 6/11 (NW).

Osprey was reported at least 7 times at various locations at RL and once at GF (m.ob.). Two reports were from early June, probably late migrants or non-breeders; the remainder of reports were 6/28 through July, likely dispersing birds beginning their southward movement. **Broad-winged Hawks** were reported at least 10 times from a variety of locations (m.ob.). The 3 expected owls – **Northern Screech**, **Great Horned**, and **Barred Owl** - were reported, but no Northern Saw-whets, although some nest here. Of note was a second-hand report of **Barn Owl**, seldom reported in *Huntingdon* nowadays (*fide* JK).

Birders are paying attention to **American Kestrels**, aware of their declining numbers. This summer, kestrels were reported from 10 locations, including 2 family groups in TCV 7/15 (JK, GG, m.ob.). The Shavers Creek Environmental Center staff, with help from Steve Eisenhauer, is starting a nest box program (JK, JB). Single **White-eyed Vireos** were at MAR 6/4 (LF) and along Murray Run Rd. 6/26 (GG, DG). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** nest in the plentiful pine stands in *Huntingdon*, even after non-invasion winters. They were found on SCR 5 times between 6/1-7/14 (DG, GG), at GF 6/11 (NB), and SCEC 6/5 (DW, Rob Brant). The only **Winter Wren**, a rare breeder, was found along the Standing Stone Trail in RSF 7/6 (NB).

Uncommon nesters in RSF, **Dark-eyed Juncos** were found at 3 locations there, 6/26, 6/29, and 7/29 (NB); and at SCEC 7/27 (Thadius Sales, Larissa Bernecker). Another rare nester is **Swamp Sparrow**, found this year at 2 locations in TCV 6/17 (GG) and on Stone Creek Rd. near AS 6/7 (JK). **Yellow-breasted Chats** were at LR 6/6-8 (LF, AP, CY, JK, SB), and at a powerline cut in SGL 112 during 7/9-11(RD, NW, Nick Voris, Chelsea Beck). **Bobolinks** are rare nesters, probably racing the mowing machines to bring off young each year – singles were found at Longhorn Rd. in TCV 7/15 (GG), and in SV 6/3 (JK) and 6/12 (Richard Nugent). **Eastern Meadowlarks** were recorded in 9 locations in 4 different valleys (m.ob.).

Twenty-two warbler species, all breeders, were recorded. Single **Golden-winged Warblers** were at LP 6/3 (LF) and SGL 112 on 6/5 (NW). The only **Kentucky Warbler** was in RSF 6/7 (GG, DG). Most notable among several **Cerulean Warbler** reports were the 14 at LT 6/7, an area noted for good numbers (NB). **Magnolia Warblers** are rare nesters in RSF – one was recorded 6/9 (JK, AP). Common breeders, but only in the unbroken tracts of RSF in northeastern *Huntingdon*, **Blackburnian Warblers** and **Black-throated Blue Warblers** were listed at several BBS stops in June (GG, DG). **Chestnut-sided Warblers** are uncommon breeders in RSF, where found in several locations; elsewhere, in lower elevations away from RSF, they were at MAR 6/4 (LF) and SGL 322 on 6/14 (GG, DG). Another rare breeder, mostly at high elevations in RSF is **Yellow-rumped Warbler**. Six were tallied on Broad Mt. at 2400 feet 6/8 (GG, DG). Summer Yellow-rumps are occasionally found in low elevations, this year recorded in SV 6/16 (JV) and at LP 7/7 (Joe Gyekis). **Canada Warblers** are also restricted to RSF – one was recorded 6/9 (JK, AP), 2 on 6/14 (NW), and one 7/29 (NB). In contrast to many of *Huntingdon's* breeding warblers, **Yellow-throated Warblers** nest only at low elevations, along the two branches of the JR. They were found, as usual, at LT 6/7 (NB), 7/1 (DW, JP, David Scott), and 7/21 (Margaret and Roger Higbee); and on the Raystown Branch 7/3 (NW).

Observers: **Greg Grove, 9524 Stone Creek Ridge Road, Huntingdon, PA 16652, gwg2@psu.edu**. Jason Beale, Diane Bierly, Susan Braun, Nick Bolgiano, Rob Dickerson, Luke Fultz, Deb Grove, Jon Kauffman, Alicia Palmer, Josh Potter, Justin Vreeland, Doug Wentzel, Nathan Weyandt, Chuck Yohn.

Indiana County

Locations: Conemaugh Dam (CD), Hemlock Lake Co. Park (HL), Indiana (IN), Lewisville (LV), Pine Ridge Co. Park (PR), Shelocta (SH), Yellow

Creek State Park (YC).

An **American Black Duck** at Hemlock Lake 7/5 (EF, TG) was an unusual summer occurrence. Little Yellow Cove at YC provided mud intermittently for a few southward-bound migrant shorebirds. First **Semipalmated Plover** arrived at YC 7/24 (LC, MH, RH, DK). Two **Least Sandpipers** arrived 7/10; high count was 11 on 7/17 (MH, RH, DK). High count of **Spotted Sandpipers** was 5 at HL 7/27 (AK, JK). First **Solitary Sandpiper** and the season's lone **Lesser Yellowlegs** were noted at YC 7/10 (LC, PF, TG, MH, RH, DK). A single **Osprey** noted at YC on four dates bracketed by 6/5 (LC, TG, MH, RH, DK) and 7/24 (LC, MH, RH, DK) suggested nearby nesting, which has not been confirmed in the county.

Merlin nesting was confirmed by the finding of 2 adults and one fledgling at Indiana University 7/22 (JT). An **Alder Flycatcher** was listed at YC 6/24 (SR). Fourteen was the count of **Purple Martins**, both southwest of Smicksburg 6/2 (MH, RH) and near Penn Run 6/5 (JA, RA, LC, TG, MH, DK). The young Purple Martins that attempted an unsuccessful nesting at YC last year did not return; however, 8 young birds were counted at YC 7/24 (LC, MH, RH, DK) and 3 on 7/31 (LC, TG, MH, RH, DK, GL). Rare as breeders in our county, 3 **Cliff Swallows** appeared at YC 6/5 (LC, TG, MH, RH, DK); 2 were seen again after a downpour at YC 7/17 (MH, RH, DK), then 3 were found a week later (LC, MH, RH, DK).

Two **Red-breasted Nuthatches** visited feeders near SH 7/5, 8 (MH, RH); they were not seen again until 7/28, 29 (MH, RH); one appeared near LV 7/28 (MC), but by 7/30 (MC), 3 were present. Single **Pine Siskins** showed up near LV 6/15, 24 (MC) and near SH 7/8, 9 (MH, RH). The only **Savannah Sparrow** was found near Dayton 6/2 (MH, RH). The Clarksburg area was the hotspot for **Yellow-breasted Chats** with reports of 2 on 6/7 (MH, RH) and 6/20 (MH, RH, JT). Two **Bobolinks** near Dayton 6/2 (MH, RH) comprised the entire report for this species.

Louisiana Waterthrushes were reported only near LV 6/21, 22 (MC) and at YC 6/30 (SR) and 7/21 (LC, TG, MH, RH, DK, GL). Now scarce in our county, **Kentucky Warbler** was found only at Conemaugh Dam 6/7 (MH, RH) and 6/18 (MH, RH, JT). The only **Cerulean Warblers** were 3 at CD 6/7 (MH, RH) and one there 6/18 (MH, RH, JT). **Northern Parulas** were found at YC between 6/5 (LC, TG, MH, RH, DK) and 7/3 (LC, MH, RH, DK, DM), and at C. F. Lewis NA 6/20 (MH, RH, JT). At least one **Pine Warbler** remained at YC through 7/31 (LC, TG, MH, RH, DK, GL). CD hosted a **Yellow-throated Warbler** 6/18 (MH, RH, JT).

Observers: **Margaret Higbee, 3119 Creekside Road, Indiana, PA 15701-7934, 724-354-3493, bcoriole@windstream.net**, Jordan Alsop, Ron Alsop, Lee Carnahan, Marcy Cunkelman, Patience Fisher, Elyse Fuller, Tom Glover, Roger Higbee, Debbie Kalbfleisch, Avis Keener, John Keener, Gloria Lamer, Donna Meyer, Scott Reynolds, John Taylor.

Jefferson County

Locations: Clear Creek State Park (CC), Five Bridges Trail (FB), Galusha Road (GR), Gateway Lodge (GL), Mahoning Shadow Trail (MS), Martini Road (MR), Paradise Road (PR), Pike Road (PK), Punxsutawney Airport (PA), Sandy Ridge Road (SR), State Game Lands 54 (SGL 54).

Data from eBird used to help create report. Highlights for the period include 4 **Green Herons** found on the FB 7/8 (JG, TG), which proved to be the highest count record for the county. An **Eastern Whip-poor-will** in CC 7/11 (RK) was the second ever recorded in eBird. An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** in CC 6/2 (RN) was an interesting find. Four **Willow Flycatchers** seen and heard on FB 6/16 (JG, TG) was the highest ever recorded, and 6 **Blue-headed Vireo** in CC 7/14 (AS) was also a highest count. Two **Purple Martin** sightings at martin house complexes were a welcome addition to the list, with 15 on PK 7/29 (JG, TG), and 9 on PR 7/29 (JG, TG).

Wild Turkeys were a common sighting during the period with a flock of 7 adults and 14 poult, seen at the PA 7/29 (JG, TG) taking first place for the highest count. The only **Osprey** was noted in CC 7/12 (RM). The resident pair of MS **Bald Eagles** fledged 2 chicks. One **Eastern Screech Owl** at CC 7/7 (RK) and one **Great Horned Owl** also found in CC 7/7 (RK)

were the only owls reported.

Several species were represented by only one observation for the period: one **Cliff Swallow** at GL 7/9 (SJ), one **Red-breasted Nuthatch** at CC 6/2 (RN), and one **Winter Wren** at CC 6/2 (RN). Included on that list were a number of warblers: one **Louisiana Waterthrush** at MS 6/10 (JD), one **Mourning Warbler** at CC 6/2 (RN), one **Cerulean Warbler** at CC 6/2 (RN), one **Norther Parula** at CC 7/14 (AS), one **Pine Warbler** at SGL 54 on 7/23 (TJ), **Yellow-rumped Warblers** at MS 6/16 (JD), and one **Canada Warbler** at CC 6/2 (RN). Other species that made the "only list" included one **Grasshopper Sparrow** at SR 7/7 (CL, GL), one **Savannah Sparrow** at SR 6/9 (JG, TG), 2 **Orchard Orioles** at MR 7/7 (EK, RK), and one **Purple Finch** at GR 7/4 (EK). Other observations include **Henslow's Sparrow**, frequent finds on SR, including the section of SR in *Clearfield*. **Dark-eyed Juncos** were found only in heavily wood areas of northern *Jefferson*.

Observers: **Thomas Glover, 210 Highland Ave., Punxsutawney, PA 15767, tomnglover@comcast.net**, Jim Dunn, Jud Glover, Tom Jiamachello, Sam Jolly, Eric Keith, Rob Keith, Carol Lemmon, Gary Lemmon, Rachel McKinney, Richard Nugent, Alex Sharp.

Juniata County

Locations: Casner's Crossing - Juniata River (CC), Thompsontown (TT).

The highlight of the summer season was a female **Red-necked Phalarope** seen initially 5/31 at the Kanagy farm near TT and which stayed one day into June to be nicely photographed, and make the reports of 2 seasons (RW, PW). Rare in *Juniata*, a **Caspian Tern** was seen at CC 7/21 (CK, ph). That same day, location, and observer produced a **Double-crested Cormorant**. Birding and auto racing aren't often mentioned in the same sentence – thus quite unusual was a well-described **American Bittern** flyover at the Port Royal Speedway 7/28 (CK).

Grasshopper Sparrows were noted at 4 locations north of TT in June (CK, DG, JP). One **Savannah Sparrow** was found at the phalarope location 6/1 (RW, PW) and 2 on 6/2 (CK). Two were at Metz Rd. 6/1 (RW, PW), one at the Henry Kanagy farm 6/19 (CK), and one at Honey Grove 7/21 (EB). A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was at the Henry Kanagy farm 6/19 (CK). A **Blue Grosbeak** was reported at the Renno farm for several days in mid-July. This is the third straight year present, with breeding confirmed in 2017 (DR, AT).

Eleven warbler species were reported. A **Blue-winged Warbler** was along Meiser Rd. 6/17 for the only report (DG, JP); no Golden-wings were recorded. A **Worm-eating Warbler** nest was found and photographed off Andy Stoup Rd. 6/23 (CF); among the nestlings was one **Brown-headed Cowbird**.

Observers: **Greg Grove, gwg2@psu.edu; Chad Kauffman, 91 Kauffman Lane, Mifflintown, PA 17059, chadkauffman@earthlink.net, cell 717-994-6715**. Ed Bernot, Cameala Freed, Deb Grove, Julia Plummer, Dan Renno, Aden Troyer, David Troyer, Patricia Williams, Richard Williams.

Lackawanna County

Locations: Big Bass Lake (BBL), Spruce Swamp Natural Area (SNA).

Most the period was hot, dry, and humid, a feature that kept birding activity at a minimum. Despite this, there were several noteworthy sightings. The first was of a **Semipalmated Sandpiper** at the lake near Hillside Park west of Clarks Summit 7/23 (KD). This observation marks the very first *Lackawanna* ebird report for this species. **Acadian Flycatchers** are not as rare as the Semipalmated Sandpiper, but are still uncommon county residents. Therefore, one seen at BBL 6/24 (SS) and a second within the SNA 7/14 (AK) are important.

The **Purple Martin** is another infrequent *Lackawanna* breeder likely due to competition from starlings and House Sparrows. A county high of 12 was recorded at BBL 6/24 (SS). Regarding breeding warblers, only 2 significant species were reported. A single **Worm-eating Warbler** was near

Rush Brook on Greenfield Rd. 7/14 (RA). This was just the fifth county sighting of this wood warbler.

Most of northeastern Pennsylvania's **Hooded Warblers** appear to reside in *Pike* and *Monroe* within the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. Elsewhere in the region, they are not nearly as common as one may think. However, 3 were reported in *Lackawanna* throughout the duration of this two-month period. One was seen at Lackawanna SP 6/8 (NF) followed by 2 on 6/18 (TD) at the same location. One additional bird was in the SNA 7/14 (AK). **Orchard Orioles** have also been frequenting the county recently. One was photographed at Archbald Pothole SP 6/20 (MM). Another was observed along Winola Rd. in South Abington Twp. 6/8 (KD).

Observers: **Ryan Johnson, 140 Hollisterville Hwy, Moscow, PA 18444, (570) 702-9118, natureguy13@gmail.com**, Ralph Allen, Tony DeSantis, Kathy Detweiler, Nate Fronk, Andy Keister, M. Mack, S. Hunter Spencely.

Lancaster County

Locations: Alcoa Marsh (AM), Chestnut Grove Natural Area (CGNA), Chickie's Rock County Park (CRCP), Conewago Recreation Trail & Wetlands (CRTW), Greenfield Ponds (GP), Lancaster Airport (LA), Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area (MCWMA), Muddy Run Reservoir (MRR), Noel Dorwart Park (NDP), Octoraro Reservoir (OR), Prescott Rd (PR), Riverfront Park (RFP), Speedwell Forge County Park (SFCP), Speedwell Forge Lake (SFL), Shenk's Ferry Wildflower Preserve (SFWP), Sporting Valley Turf Farm (SVTF), Susquehanna River Bainbridge Islands (SRBI), Susquehanna River Conejohela Flats (SRCF), Susquehanna River Lake Clarke (SRLC), Susquehanna River Long Level (SRL), Susquehanna SP (SSP), SGL 156, Susquehanna W.T.P Washington Boro (SWTPWB), Wood's Edge Park (WEP).

Average low and high temperatures were 57/76°F in Jun (60/81°F historical average), and 64/86°F in Jul (64/85°F). Any distribution notes (were more abundant, less common, etc.) are compared to that species' 5-year eBird data trend. 161 species were recorded during the period.

A pair of **Trumpeter Swans** floated on the Susquehanna R. at Peach Bottom 6/6 (BS). A flock of roughly 40 **Brants** passed the SRCF on migration 6/3 (ME). Two male **Northern Shovelers** were in a flooded field at RFP 6/16 (Bill Libhart, eBird). A drake **Canvasback** was seen 7/2 on the Susquehanna R. at York Haven (JC). Two drake **Redheads** summered around the SRCF from 6/7 through the period (ML, m.ob.). A drake **Lesser Scaup** was photographed on the SRCF 7/8 (ME). A late hen **Bufflehead** was viewed at SRCF 6/7 (ML), and a hen **Common Merganser** was photographed at CRP 6/9 (JH). Two lingering **Horned Grebes** were discovered at SRCF 6/3 (ME). An **Eared Grebe** was discovered at MCWMA 3/30 (BC, doc submitted).

Single **Sora** were found 6/5 at MCWMA (BC) and 6/12 in East Drumore Township (CG). An **American Coot** continued at CGNA 6/2 (R&PP). Two **Sandhill Cranes** flew south at RFP 6/6 (ML, JM), and one mixed with geese at MCWMA 6/27-28 (BC, MR).

Up to 4 **Upland Sandpipers** were first noted at LA 7/28 (ME, JH, m.ob.). A southbound **Whimbrel** was heard and seen in flight at MCWMA 7/23 (BC). A **Ruddy Turnstone** foraged on the SRCF 6/3 (ME). One **Sanderling** was at MCWMA 7/22 (ME) and 3 at SRCF 7/25 (GD, ZM). **Short-billed Dowitchers** at SRCF were 5 on 7/15 (ME, ZM) and one 7/21 (BC, EW). Following several days of consistent SE winds an adult **Laughing Gull** was seen at the SRCF 7/24-25 (JB, GD, ZM). An adult **Franklin's Gull** found on the SRCF on 7/15 was about the 15h county record (ME, ML, ZM *doc submitted*). Two **Least Terns** were photographed at OR 6/16 (PM). A mid-season **Caspian Tern** was at MCWMA 6/16 (JS), and an early migrant **Black Tern** at the SRCF 7/25 (GD, ZM). Four **Common Terns** were at SRCF 6/3 (ME), and another 7/15 (ME, ZM). Single **Forster's Terns** were found at OR 7/14 (PF) and SRCF 7/15 (ME).

A **Least Bittern** was described at Four Seasons Golf Course 7/31 (AA). During the spring season a male **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** began mating with a female **Black-crowned Night-Heron** at the Ephrata Hospital. This bird was last reported 6/16 (m.ob.), and the mismatched

couple was not successful in producing young. A juv **Glossy Ibis** continued at MCWMA 7/6-19 (JF, m.ob.), after which it moved to the *Lebanon* side of this WMA. The most staggering find of the season was an imm **Roseate Spoonbill** at OR 7/14 (LB, *doc submitted*). This marks the second summer in a row this species was found in *Lancaster!* This submission is pending as the 3rd county record and ~5th state. More observations at separate locations would come during the fall season, which may represent the same individual.

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was seen at OR 6/1 (CG). At least 2 singing **Alder Flycatchers** were heard at MCWMA through the period at separate locations. Three colonies of **Cliff Swallows** were confirmed along the Susquehanna R, containing a total of 30 adults (m.ob.). Single **Vesper Sparrows** occurred in 3 locations through the period (m.ob.). **Chestnut-sided Warbler** is an uncommon breeder in the county; 2 singing males were at MCWMA 6/6 (BC) and one at SGL 156 on 6/16 (ZM, JS). At least 9 singing male **Dickcissels** repeated their 2017 invasion (including May reports), re-establishing previous breeding areas and colonizing "new" ones, which may simply have been overlooked prior. However, unlike that season I am unaware of any reports of females. The 2017 irruption contained at least 10 males and 6 females, so I am interested to discover if any birds are found in 2019. This period's reports include one in Ephrata farmland 6/2 and 7/4 (PF, ZM), 3 at LA through 6/14 (JHe, JHo, m.ob.) at which point the field was mowed, one at a Kirkwood farm 6/17 (DW, JW), and 2 at OR from 7/14 (ME, m.ob.).

Observers: **Zachary Millen, 101 Bridle Path, New Holland, PA 17557, (717) 723-1279, zjmillen@gmail.com**, Andrew Albright, Larry Bernhardt, Jerry Book, John Campbell, Bruce Carl, Mike Epler, Jim Fiorentino, Pamela Fisher, Tom Garner, Carlton Groff, Jonathan Heller (JHe), Josh Houck (JHo), Meredith Lombard, Patrick Millar, Jeff Musser, Rick & Peggy Price, Mike Ranck, Josh Schulz, Bob Schutsky, Stan Stahl, Drew Weber, Justine Weber, Patricia & Richard Williams, Eric Witmer.

Lawrence County

Locations: Plain Grove Twp. (PG), Shaner Road Marsh (SR), Volant Strip Mines (VSM).

Providing a very rare summer record, a **Greater Scaup** continued from 5/26 to at least 6/2 at SR (MV). An adult female **Common Merganser** was found at McConnell's Mill SP 6/13 (P&RW), adding yet another possible new breeding location for this species to keep an eye on in western Pennsylvania. A **Common Loon** remained at a pond in PGT through 7/28 (MC, DK). Almost certainly a non-breeder or early returner, a **Pied-billed Grebe** appeared at the Wampum-New Galilee Road marsh 7/22 (MV).

A **Great Egret** hung around SR 6/17-24 (ph. MC). **Northern Harrier** was in appropriate breeding habitat at VSM 7/23 (BB). Two **Common Gallinules** were photographed at the Mason Rd. pond in PG 7/15 (MC), a new location for them, and they certainly had a successful breeding season once again at Wampum-New Galilee Road, where 3 adults and 16 juveniles were counted 7/22 (MV). Up to 12 **Sandhill Cranes** flocked together here and there throughout PG this summer, a high count for this time of year (KD, MC, m.ob.). At least 2 pairs bred again. A few early returning shorebirds at SR included one **Semipalmated Plover** 7/8 (MC), a **Greater Yellowlegs** 7/11-5 (RN), a **Lesser Yellowlegs** 7/7 (MV), a **Solitary Sandpiper** 7/8 (MC), and small numbers of **Least Sandpipers** beginning 7/7 (MV). Ten **Semipalmated Sandpipers** there 6/8 (MV) were late spring migrants.

A **Sedge Wren** was clearly heard and recorded singing off-and-on from a wetter spot in a grassland meadow along Nelson Rd (Clark Trauterman). The **Clay-colored Sparrow** at VSM found at the end of May was noted only one other time thereafter, on 6/4 (BB). Many **Henslow's Sparrows** nested at VSM as usual, with at least 7 tallied 6/22 (RT). Likewise, **Bobolinks** were as thick as ever there, with as many as 19 counted 6/22 (RT).

Observers: **Geoff Malosh, 450 Amherst Avenue, Moon Township, PA 15108-2654, (412) 735-3128, pomarine@earthlink.net**, Brendyn

Baptiste, Martin Carlin, Karyn Delaney, Deb Kalbfleisch, Richard Nugent, Ryan Tomazin, Mark Vass, Patricia and Richard Williams (P&RW).

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), Mt Pleasant Rd (MPR), Quittapahilla Educational Wetlands (QEW), SGL 211, Shuey Lake (SL), Snitz Creek Park (SCP), Swatara State Park (SSP)

Two **Trumpeter Swans** stopped at a flooded area along MPR 6/11 (P&RW). A **Greater Scaup**, possibly injured, lingered at MLSP 6/2-7/1 (BB, BBr, NF, CC, MC, m.ob.). A **Lesser Scaup** was at QEW 7/28 (JH). A **Bufflehead** was at MLSP 6/2 (BB, BBr, NF, CC). Unusual in summer were 2 **Hooded Mergansers** at MLSP 7/1 (MC). Three **Ruddy Ducks** were at MLSP 6/2 (BB, BBr, NF, CC).

Single **Black-crowned Night-herons** were seen at the GLRA 6/30 (JH), and the Mine & Birch Rd Pond 7/31 (P&RW). A juvenile **Glossy Ibis** was in the *Lebanon* portion of MC 7/19-25 (SS, P&RW, JH). A **Sandhill Crane** flew over Annville 6/9 (BBr). A **Semipalmated Plover** was at MC 7/19-23 (SS, P&RW, JH). Three **Stilt Sandpipers** were in the flooded soccer fields at SCP 7/24 (P&RW, JH). A **Short-billed Dowitcher** was there 7/23-25 (P&RW, JH) and 2 were at MC 7/23 (SS).

Fort Indiantown Gap is a stronghold for **Red-headed Woodpeckers** in *Lebanon*. Two were along Cold Springs Rd at FIG 7/4 (JH), with 4 at FIG 7/31 (IG). A Red-headed Woodpecker was a South Hills Park 7/4 (JE). An **Alder Flycatcher** was heard at MC 6/6 (DK), with 2 there 6/12 (TK). Twenty **Bank Swallows** provided a good count at FXP 7/27 (JH). Ten were at MC 7/28 (JH).

At least two **Cerulean Warblers** were singing at SGL 211 from 6/5-9 (TB, JH, AK). A **Kentucky Warbler** continued from spring at SSP 6/6 (JH). Up to 3 pairs of **Blue Grosbeaks** were on territory in the *Lebanon* portion of MC 6/30-7/28 (JH, PF). Two Blue Grosbeaks were also found at SGL 145 on 6/3 (JF), with one heard at SL 7/4 (JH).

Observers: **Timothy Becker, 10283 Jonestown, Grantville, Pa 17028, tjbecker81@aol.com**, Kathy Becker, Brandon Brown, Brian Brown (BBr), Cory Clawser, Mary Coomer, Jared Evans, Nate Felty, Jim Fiorentino, Pamela Fisher, Ian Gardner, Jonathan Heller, Ted Keen, Andy Keister, Darlene Kershner, Stan Stahl, Pat and Richard Williams (P&RW), Dennis Wingle.

Lehigh County

No Report

Compiler: **Bill Etter, billetter01@gmail.com**.

Lycoming County

Locations: Mill Street (MS), Rose Valley Lake (RVL)

There were many interesting components to the weather during the summer. June started off cool, then warmed up to normal by mid-month. There was a heat wave to start July, and towards the end of the month, scattered heavy rain fell for several days, leading to minor flooding in many parts of the county. Most of the notable records from the summer came from out-of-season waterfowl and some early-migrant shorebirds. In total, 140 species were reported.

A **Snow Goose** was present at Indian Park all summer. That bird first arrived in late March. **Trumpeter Swan** R45 "Georgette" continued at a private pond near Glen Mawr 6/1 (BB, DeB, BoB) and 6/3 (EH). Prior to her arrival 5/31, the previous sighting of this individual was in Toronto during May 2017. She hatched in 2016. Interestingly, M78 "Harvey," who briefly stopped by RVL 3/27/17, is her older brother (hatched in 2013 to the same parents). Continuing from May, a female **Redhead** was at RVL 6/3 (BB, DeB, BoB). A male **Ring-necked Duck** that first arrived in May continued

at Indian Park through 6/7 (BB, DeB, BoB). A male **Lesser Scaup** spent the entire summer at RVL. A male **Ruddy Duck** was at RVL 6/3 and 6/9 (BB, DeB, BoB). A **Horned Grebe** was at Muncy Boat Launch 6/2 (WE), and the species was also seen at the Williamsport Dam 6/8 (DB, MD, JD) and 7/12 (JY).

Four **Semipalmated Plovers** along with 2 **Least Sandpipers** were in a puddle near Canfield Island 7/30 (BB, DeB, BoB). **Lesser Yellowlegs** were seen at MS 7/15 and 7/22 (BB). A **Common Loon** was at RVL 6/3 (BB, DeB, BoB), 6/4 (EH), and 6/9 (BB, DeB, BoB). A juv. **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was found at a roadside pond along Rte. 287 in northern *Lycoming* 7/11 (RH, et al.), and was reported for several days. The sighting provided the second known *Lycoming* record of the species.

Three **Black Vultures** were seen over Montoursville 6/7 (BB), and one was mixed in a group of **Turkey Vultures** at Montgomery Boat Launch 7/15 (BB, DeB, BoB). **Osprey** were at RVL 6/4 and 7/30 (EH), along with one along Pine Cr. near Jersey Mills 6/6 (Browns). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was seen at SGL 75 on 6/29 (DanB).

Two adult **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were present in Slate Run 6/6 (Browns). That location has been a suspected nest site for a few years, with summer sightings since 2016. An **Acadian Flycatcher** was present at MS 6/17 at the same spot where one summered last year (BB). Two **Alder Flycatchers** were reported from SGL 75 on 6/29 (DanB). **Yellow-throated Vireos** were seen a few times in potential breeding habitat along Bodines Rd. during early June.

A **Pine Siskin** was reported in Ralston 6/14 (EH), possibly continuing from May. **Grasshopper Sparrows** were again observed regularly at MS, the most reliable spot in the county for the species. There were scattered reports of **Dark-eyed Juncos** in higher elevation areas in the northern half of the county, where they likely nest in decent numbers. **Savannah Sparrow** reports were scarce over the summer. **Swamp Sparrow** reports were limited to RVL. **Mourning Warblers** were found along Bodines Rd. 6/4 (EH). Two **Yellow-throated Warblers** were at Trout Run Park 6/2 (BB, DB, DeB), which is an annual nesting location. **Canada Warbler** reports were limited to the western part of the county, particularly near Pine Cr.

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, Tom Forwood Jr., Rich Hanlon, Eric Hartshaw, Shannon Knodel, Sean Minnick, Joe Yoder.

Mercer County

Locations: Barry Road (BR), Buhl Park (BP), Clover BBS (CL), Golden Run (GR), Lamar Road (LR), Montgomery Dam Road (MD), Oakwood Cemetery (OC), Old Fredonia Road (OF), Otter Creek (OTC), Pennsy Swamp (PS), Shenango Propagation Area (PR), Reed's Furnace Road (RF), SGL 130 (S130), SGL 151 (S151), Sharon (SH), Shenango Reservoir (SR), Spring Road (SP), Tower Road (TR), Triple Link (TL), Trout Island (TI), West Lake Road (WL) Williamson Road (WR).

Note that this report follows ABA checklist version 8.0.1.

The highlight of the season was the continuing drake **White-winged Scoter** outside of Grove City and the first e-bird report of **Least Bittern**. Note that this report follows ABA checklist version 8.0.1

Four **Blue-winged Teal** at PR 7/12 (SS, KS) were the only ones reported. **Greater Scaup** was noted at TR 6/1-4 (m.ob.) As mentioned above, the drake **White-winged Scoter** remained at TR from 6/1-7/5 (MV, m.ob.) This is the only summer record of White-winged Scoter for *Mercer*. **Ruffed Grouse** reports are getting to be unusual; a single report of one at RF 6/6 (KS, SS, MHO) was noteworthy. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was infrequently reported but seen at SP 6/8 and continuing after that (NT, m.ob.) **Common Nighthawks** were reported 6/8-7/19 from areas around SH and WR, highest count was 4 on 6/23 (SS, m.ob.).

Common Gallinule is a normal breeder but reported only sporadically. Two were at S151 on 7/18 (MC) and up to 4 at PS 7/18-20 (m.ob.). Shorebirds were scarce, high water levels at Shenango Reservoir the most likely reason. There was a brief flurry of activity 7/18-28 with the

following reported: **Least Sandpiper**, 4 at PR (JM); **Short-billed Dowitcher**, one at PR 7/19 (SS); **Solitary Sandpiper**, one at WR 7/30 (NT); **Lesser Yellowlegs**, 3 at PR 7/19 (SS); and **Greater Yellowlegs** also at PR, one 7/18 (SS, KS, MHO).

A **Common Loon** at PR 7/18 (MC) was the only one reported. One of the better finds this season were 2 **Least Bitterns** heard calling at the swamp on TL 6/9 (GK, NT). This is the only e-bird report for this species in *Mercer*. That same day, an immature **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was observed in the same area (GK, NT). The only other reports of this species are from the Shenango Lake region, this appears to be a new breeding location for them.

Owls are not normally noted in the summer so the report of a **Great Horned Owl** from SR 7/15 was nice (SB). **Red-headed Woodpecker** is being reported from several locations in the county now. The highest count was 3 at OC 7/2 and 7/4 (SS, MHO). Other locations include BP and LR. **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were at WR during the period (NT). **Common Raven** appears regularly at S130; the highest count was 5 at the Deer Dump area 6/9 (GK, NT).

Swallow numbers were very good. Highest count of **Bank Swallows** was 300 at WL 7/28 (PW, RW). **Cliff Swallows** nested on the Game Commission building at PR; the count built up to 176 by 7/8 (BW). **Brown Creeper** continues as a breeding bird, especially at S130 (NT). **Purple Finch** is not often reported in the summer although they are known to breed in the county. Only one was reported, 7/31 at OF (KS). Another good spot for grassland sparrows is Spring Rd..Up to 5 **Henslow's Sparrows** were there 6/4 (MC, BB) although none were reported after 6/15.

Mercer continues to be a good location for breeding warblers. Some of the highlights were 2 **Louisiana Waterthrush** at BR 6/21 (SS), one **Northern Waterthrush** at TI 6/18 (BW) and 2-3 at S130 on 6/9 (GK, NT), a good find of a **Magnolia Warbler** nest with 4 eggs at S130 on 7/7 (GK, MAK, NT), and single **Blue-winged Warblers** at CL 6/12 (GK, MAK) and TI 6/18 (BW). Two **Prothonotary Warblers** were found at GR 6/17 (MH). **Mourning Warblers** were at S130 and RF, with up to 3 at RF 7/1 (AH). A maximum of 2 **Cerulean Warblers** were at BR 6/21 (SS). A **Northern Parula** was at @130 7/7 (ST) and **Pine Warblers** were found on MD 6/9 (GK, NT).

Observers: **Glenn Koppel, 122 Linsdale Drive, Butler, PA. 16001, 703-203-3362, macatilly@gmail.com**, Brendyn Baptiste, Sheri Barholomew, Chuck Berthoud, Martin Carlin, Bill Drosblaugh, Leslie Feree, John Flannigan, Amy Henrici, Sue Ann Herald, Magre Higbee (MH), Mimi Hoffmaster (MHO), Debbie Kalbfleisch, Scott Kinzey, Mary Alice Koeneke, Jim McConnor, Richard Nugent, Steve Sanford, Kim Springer, Neil Troyer, Samuel Troyer, Mark Vass, Patricia Williams, Richard Williams, Bill Winkler.

Mifflin County

The summer season ended with 112 species overall, two less than in 2017. The year to date total as of the end of July was 191, which is three less than 2017.

Great Egret are uncommon during the breeding season, but when reported, sightings are mid to late July. One was observed at Victory Park 7/15-7/26 (RB, JG, NW). A **Northern Harrier** was observed at a private residence near Waynesburg Rd. 7/4 (JK). **Barn Owls** are known to nest in the Milroy area but are occasionally seen in other areas of Big Valley throughout the year. In 2017, one female was reported in a silo at a private residence off Middle Rd. on 6/3. An individual was reported at the same location this year 6/12 (JK). A pair was at a private residence in Big Valley in an abandoned silo 6/20 (IB, JK, AP, CY, JZ).

One **Red-headed Woodpecker** nest was confirmed in a dead standing tree when an adult was observed feeding nestlings 6/20 ((IB, JK, AP, CY, JZ). A **Peregrine Falcon** was observed flying overhead at the property of Jay Zook 6/20 (JK, AP).

Single **Yellow-breasted Chats** were recorded 6/15 and 6/19 at Tuscarora SF (JZ). Eighteen species of warblers were reported. Highlights included one **Golden-winged Warbler** 6/9 on Cooper's Gap Rd. (RD), 2 **Cerulean Warblers** in Tuscarora SF6/15 (JZ), and one **Canada**

Warbler in Rothrock SF 6/6 (DG) and one there 6/14 (NV). Amish residents of Dryhouse Rd. reported a **Dickcissel**, confirmed 6/13 (JZ). Another singing male was reported at a private residence off Waynesburg Rd. 6/25 (JY).

Observers: **Jon Kauffman, 3400 Discovery Road, Petersburg, PA 16669, jvk5019@gmail.com**, Ivan Byler, Rob Dickerson, Deb Grove, Joe Gyekis, Alicia Palmer, Nick Voris, Nathan Weyandt, Christopher Yoder, Jacob Yoder, Jay Zook.

Monroe County

Locations: Lynchwood Lake (LL), Pocono Mountain Airport (PMA).

The season was marked by above average rainfall, especially in July. A possible local breeder was the **Merlin** found at PMA 7/8, which continued there until 7/29 (BJ). In 2007, the first Merlin breeding record for this region was established when a pair nested in Promised Land SP, less than 20 miles from PMA.

LL continues to draw a nice assortment of shorebirds, with excellent coverage from BJ. A single **Greater Yellowlegs** was the first of the season 7/15, followed by 5 **Lesser Yellowlegs** 7/20. **Solitary Sandpiper** numbers topped out at 5 on 7/20 and **Spotted Sandpipers** at 9 on 7/17. The first **Least Sandpiper** was 7/20. The 2 **Stilt Sandpipers** 7/18 and single **Short-billed Dowitcher** 7/20 were excellent finds representing uncommon county birds (all BJ).

A **Red-headed Woodpecker** first seen in a Saylorsburg yard this past spring remained to the end of June (RW).

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

Montgomery County

Locations: Green Lane Park (GLP), Norristown Dam (ND), Norristown Farm Park (NFP), Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust (PERT), Unami Creek Valley (UCV), Valley Forge National Historical Park (VFNHP), Wissahickon Waterfowl Preserve (WWP).

The copious rainfall trend of spring 2018 was maintained through Jun and Jul, a summer that featured roughly fifty percent more precipitation than the historical average. Even with a rain-related dearth of mud putting a damper on Jul shorebirding and inclement weather potentially reducing birding effort overall, the total species count for the period was 122, a value greater than or equal to summer species tallies from three of the past five years, but significantly below 2017's 130 species.

As many as 3 **Hooded Mergansers** were observed at GLP's Knight Lake sporadically through the period (WBH, PH), some of them likely to have been full-sized versions of the fluffy juveniles documented at the lake in prior months. Three adolescent Hooded Mergansers continued on the East Branch Perkiomen Creek in Franconia Twp. 6/13 (SG). An adult male Hooded Merg at ND, also present there in the spring, was seen 3 additional times through 6/14 (MR).

Wild Turkey was most commonly sighted in Lederach, with 20 summer reports, including a 5-member group that included displaying males 7/2 (LC). A rafter of 12 turkeys was viewed at PERT 6/18 (FB, HB), the highest count among 14 reports from that location (m.ob.). Singles in Salford Twp. (WBH, ZR) and Sassamansville (MA) were the only other turkeys noted. A heard-only **Black-billed Cuckoo** was reported in King of Prussia 7/11 (SGr), the sole mention of its kind. **Virginia Rail**, rarely found in summer in *Montgomery* in recent years, was heard calling from a wetland area in Plymouth Meeting 7/4 and 7/28 (PD). A pair of Virginia Rails was recorded sounding off in Lower Moreland Twp. 7/29 as well (PD, vr.).

In a season of minimal mud, shorebird highlights were few, and several of the birds seen were noted as flybys only, unable to find a suitable place to land. Two **American Avocets** were encountered at GLP in just

such a manner 7/26 (PH, ph.), looping around the reservoir, futilely looking for shallows that weren't there. Similarly, a **Pectoral Sandpiper** flew over GLP without landing 7/25 (PH), the season's only report of this species. With foraging habitat in such short supply, **Least Sandpiper** numbers were low. A flyby flock of 12 at GLP 7/24 (PH) and 11 at WWP 7/23 (JM) represented the only double-digit counts. A **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was found at GLP 7/15 (PH, ph.), at the tail end of a rain-free spell that briefly revealed a sliver of mud. Small numbers of Semis were present at WWP from 7/22 through the end of the period (m.ob.). An unusually large group, 21 Semipalmated Sandpipers were tallied at WWP 7/25 (PD, vt.). A dowitcher flew past GLP 7/23, and did not have the courtesy to vocalize as it did so (PH). Though more likely to be a Short-billed than Long-billed, either one was a possibility for the date. In potential breeding shorebird news, an **American Woodcock** was flushed at VFNHP 6/15 (PB). Over the past decade, this species has been encountered in *Montgomery* a handful of times during summer months, but there has been no conclusive evidence of reproduction. The only **Solitary Sandpiper** was at GLP 7/11-16 (WBH), slightly early. **Yellowlegs** of both **Greater** and **Lesser** flavors weren't spied in quantities larger than 2, and there were few sightings of both overall (m.ob.).

Sparse reports of returning **Ring-billed Gulls** began 7/7, with one at ND (MR), and included a high of 4 at GLP 7/26 (PH). Four **Caspian Terns** were at GLP 7/20 (VM), and 2 were also present there 7/25-26 (m.ob.).

Great Egret is not known to nest in *Montgomery* and typically abandon the county during Jun. This summer, one bucked the trend and stayed at GLP through the entire month (m.ob.). Another Great Egret was seen on a pond in Lansdale 6/23 (ML). An immature **Little Blue Heron** was at WWP 7/28 (PD, vt.), and a second-year **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was in Plymouth Meeting 7/28 (PD, vt.). The strong likelihood of **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** breeding near ND came one step closer to confirmation when an adult was seen carrying sticks 6/29 (MR). The species was present at ND for the entire period (m.ob., ph.), with as many as 3 seen simultaneously 7/10 (DS, JS) and 7/14 (MR). All birds observed were adults.

The other particularly noteworthy breeding species at ND is **Peregrine Falcon**. An adult was seen bringing food to a juvenile 6/3 (MR). A **Blue-headed Vireo** at NFP 6/2 (SGr, ph.) was one of the more exceptional finds of the season, representing a county late date and first summer record in eBird. A 45-member murder (school?) of **Fish Crows** was noted in Pottstown 6/5 (BD), an unusually large summer congregation of this species. **Common Ravens**, recently confirmed as *Montgomery* breeders, were reported from 8 locations, including groups of 3 at a shopping center in Montgomeryville 6/16 and 6/21 (AH) and VFNHP 7/8 (MEH). The former location is near a quarry where they are suspected to nest, and the latter the location of a nest found earlier this year. The Ruth Rd. **Purple Martin** colony near Harleysville, likely to be the largest colony in the county, contained at least 30 individuals this breeding season (m.ob.). Single early **Bank Swallows** put in appearances at GLP 7/2 and 7/6 (PH). A **Cliff Swallow** was at GLP 7/26 (PH).

A pair of **Grasshopper Sparrows** was observed by many in East Greenville, an annual location for the species, from Jun through 7/9 (m.ob.). Less expected was a Grasshopper Sparrow singing in Franconia Twp. 6/14-20 (WBH, m.ob., vr.). The most unusual sparrow observation of the spring period turned more unusual in summer, when it became clear that the continuing **White-throated Sparrow** in Upper Gwynedd Twp. was actually 2 White-throated Sparrows! The pair remained, singing, through 7/2 (AM, vr.). A Jul White-throated Sparrow observation had not been recorded in-county since 2011.

Worm-eating Warblers were not noted outside of their core UCV breeding range, but there were a reasonable number of reports from within it, including a high of 3 singing birds at Fulshaw Craeg Preserve 6/9 (AA, WBH). After the initial few days of Jun, often a final wandering period for the species, **American Redstarts** were observed only in their limited breeding range along the Schuylkill. Seven redstarts were encountered at Rolling Hill Park in Gladwyne 6/6 (EF), a location that boasts probably the highest redstart concentration in the county. Three **Northern Parulas** were found at Rolling Hill Park 6/7 (EF, vr.), and another was at NFP 6/2-16 (PB, SGr). A pair of parulas was observed feeding a juvenile in the Summeytown end of the UCV 6/26 (WBH, vr.). Unfortunately, the juvenile was a **Brown-**

headed Cowbird. Parulas have not been noted in the UCV during the breeding season since 2011. A male **Black-throated Blue Warbler** remained at Lorimer Park until 6/9 (MG, AnM), representing a first Jun record of the species (in eBird, at least). A **Pine Warbler** was heard singing in Elkins Park 6/7 (PD). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was an unexpected find at NFP 6/2 (PB, SGr, ph.). The Yellow-throat found in Gladwyne in May was heard again 6/6 (EF).

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks have become very scarce breeders in *Montgomery*. A pair (or more) was encountered at feeders in Schwenksville through 6/26 (MC), and in Palm from 6/21 to the end of the period (KF). A single Rose-breasted Grosbeak appeared at a residence adjacent to Evansburg S.P. 7/4 (EF). **Blue Grosbeaks** were noted by more birders than Rose-breasted, particularly a pair present at VFNHP 6/12-7/15 (MEH, m.ob., ph.). A pair was also at Lorimer Park 6/2 (MG, PD, vt.), but evidently didn't stick there. A singing male found at Dixon Meadow Preserve 7/18 remained there to the end of the period (AB, m.ob., ph.). Another singing Blue Grosbeak was at Conshohocken 7/23 (DB).

ADDENDUM: A **Sora** was heard calling in Plymouth Meeting 5/28, an intriguingly late observation, but was not heard again during follow-up summer visits (PD).

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Montour County

Locations: Montour Preserve (MP)

Like last year, a **Snow Goose** with a damaged wing over-summered, first seen at the MP 5/31 and continued the entire summer period (m.ob.). More surprisingly, a **Red-throated Loon** spent part of the season at the MP. It was first seen 5/29, and continued to 6/26 (m.ob.). There are only 3 other summer season records of this species in Pennsylvania in eBird.

Observers: **Evan Houston, 21 Peachtree Ln, Danville, PA 17821, evanghouston@gmail.com**

Northampton County

The long staying **Ross's Goose** at Seiple's Farm Pond was last reported 6/3 (MS). A **Snow Goose** that appeared to have an injured wing was last seen 7/20 at Seiple's (BE). A female **Ruddy Duck** was at Martins Creek Environmental Preserve 6/3-30 (MS). An out-of-season **Pied-billed Grebe** spent a couple days at the St. Luke's Anderson pond 7/11-15 (AK). An early south bound **Solitary Sandpiper** was at Minsi Lake 7/25 (BS).

The rarest bird observed during the period was a **Great White Heron** at Seiple's Farm Pond 6/28-7/4 (BE). After disappearing for several days, the heron was refound at the Albert Rd. Ponds 7/12-13 (RW). Great White Heron is the white form of **Great Blue Heron** and has been seen in PA only a few previous times. An immature **Black-crowned Night-heron** was at Green Pond 6/27-30 (BE).

Two **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were located on East Best Rd. in Moore Twp. 6/24 (BE), where nesting was later confirmed. A singing **White-throated Sparrow** at the Woodland Hill Preserve 6/17 was unusual (AS). This sparrow is not known to nest in the county. Unusual was a **Mourning Warbler** in Williams Twp. 7/17 (AK). This warbler does not nest in the county and may have wandered south in search of food after nesting. The date seems early for migration. **Blue Grosbeak** nested at the Grand Central Landfill grasslands. The species was first reported 6/3 (AM).

Observers: **Michael Schall, 126 N Chestnut St, Bath, 610-737-5275,**

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Northumberland County

Locations: Amish Pond (AP), Boyce Road (BR), Logan Run Road (LRR), Redman Acres Road (RAR), Weiser State Forest (WSF).

The summer season was slow with few reports due to decreased birder effort. The season started out rather warm with normal rainfall until late July when it got very wet.

A juvenile **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was photographed at RAR 7/29 (KP). The wetlands and ponds on this site are excellent habitat may host this species every year during post-breeding dispersal. One of the highlights of the season was a **Glossy Ibis** at the inundated fields near the AP (LS). This appears to be the first county record for this species. Unfortunately, it only stayed for one day. A single **Osprey** was observed at RAR 6/3 (KP) and again 7/8 (KP). No evidence of nesting was documented.

The season's lone report of **Yellow-throated Vireo** was of a single individual observed along LRR 6/18 (PW, RW). **Bank Swallows** returned to breed at RAR. A maximum of 130 individuals were reported between 6/3-7/29 (KP). The only report of **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was of a single individual heard calling from pine trees in WSF 6/17 (AK).

Worm-eating Warblers are uncommon in the county, but this season 5 were reported from Riverside along BR 6/18 (PD). In yet another exciting report from RAR, a **Prothonotary Warbler** was photographed 6/7 (MC). Subsequent searches failed to relocate the bird. Given the wetland habitat including old canal beds and ponds, along with its proximity to the Susquehanna River, breeding seems possible at this site.

Observers: **Andy Keister, 110 Hawk Ridge Road, Bloomsburg, 17815, (570) 337-3802, akeister110@gmail.com**, Mark Catalano, John Dennehy, Karol Pasquinnelli, Lauren Shaffer, Patricia Williams, Richard Williams.

Perry County

Location: Little Buffalo State Park (LBSP)

As many as 6 female **Common Mergansers** were reported at LBSP as late as 6/19 (SS), with one continuing through at least 7/24 (MN, DS, SS). A single **Hooded Merganser** was also present 6/19 (SS). Additionally, a **Lawrence's Warbler** was photographed at LBSP 7/28 (MM). **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were observed on opposite ends of the county, in the meadows near Rte. 17 on 6/4 (SK) and 7/29 (SS), and along Three Springs Rd. south of Blain 7/29 (SS).

Several notable sightings were clustered around the Appalachian Trail, including a singing immature male **Blue Grosbeak** where the trail crosses Millers Gap Rd. 7/1 (RK). A juvenile **Peregrine Falcon** was seen at the same location 7/2 (SS). Another Peregrine Falcon was seen 6/28 flying with a pair of **Common Ravens** near the Lion's Club campground in Duncannon (MD). Two **Brown Creepers** were observed at SGL 170 near Duncannon 6/15 (AW).

Observers: **Daniel Hinnebusch, 1021 Preston Rd, Lancaster, PA 17601, 717-856-1565, daniel.hinnebusch@yahoo.com**, Matthew Daw, Stefan Karkuff, Ramsay Koury, Mindy Marker, Mark Nale, Steve Schmit, Darla Shank, Amber Wingert.

Philadelphia County

Locations: Cumberland Street on the Delaware (CS), Delaware River (DR), East Park Reservoir (EPR), Island Green Country Club and Golf Course-abandoned (IGCC), John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum-Philadelphia (TI), Lardner's Point Park (LP), Navy Yard (NY), Manayunk Canal (MC), Pennypack Park (PP), Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education (SCEE), Wissahickon Valley Park (WVP).

The seasonal highlight that nobody got to see was a juvenile **Brown Booby** that hung out at an airport tower in the *Philadelphia* portion of PHL 7/22-23. This is Pennsylvania's second record, which likely got displaced by the weather systems affecting our area during that time.

A male **Blue-winged Teal** was out of the ordinary 7/12 at TI (GA, HM). Over-summering **Hooded Mergansers** are generally not seen in *Philadelphia*, but an adult male was at MC 6/3-7/18 (KJ). A female-type bird was recorded at TI 7/12-16 (GA, HM). A male **Common Merganser** was seen at TI 6/9 (KW).

Mourning Doves were again numerous at IGCC with 180 birds counted 7/15 (HP). Four **Common Nighthawks** were a great sight at EPR 7/10 (m.ob.). Once this report will be published, Audubon's new Discovery Center will have opened its doors at this site. Come check it out! Not usually seen during the summer months, a **Virginia Rail** was observed at TI 7/16-31 (m.ob.). **Common Gallinules** did not breed at TI this year, but one adult was seen 7/26-30 (JM, et al.).

Peep numbers were low in July, due to high water levels at TI caused by frequent rain. A **Stilt Sandpiper** on 7/22 (GA, et al.) and up to 2 **Short-billed Dowitchers** 7/22-23 (FW, GA, GV) were a nice change at the site. A **Black Tern** at TI 7/24 was unusual for July (TF, et al.). An adult **Common Loon** flyby at NY 7/6 was a rare sight (GA). Another individual was found trapped on Philadelphia Water Department property at LP 6/10 (DM). Due to heavy rain the field may have had some standing water, which the bird probably mistook for a good spot to land. Eventually, the bird was caught and released on the DR by the local Game Warden. At the same location and even more unusual for the month, a basic plumage **Red-throated Loon** was observed on the river 6/15 (JJ).

After a good breeding season at TI in 2017, observations of **Least Bitterns** were scarce. The water there was shallow enough to draw in a good variety of herons and egrets starting in the last week of July including an outstanding number of up to 22 **Little Blue Herons** (m.ob.). All were immature individuals except for one adult. Up to 2 immature **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** were observed at TI throughout July (m.ob.). A pair of adult **Black-crowned Night-Herons** was spotted at Morgan's Pier on the DR 6/22 (NT). Thirty-two **Glossy Ibis** at TI 7/22 were an exceptional sight and a new high count for *Philadelphia* (MD).

Ospreys successfully raised offspring at 5 different locations this year including one new site each along the Delaware and Schuylkill Rivers and again on the USS El Paso at the NY. Five pairs of **Peregrine Falcons** nested within the city limits and all were successful, fledging a total of 15, for a productivity of 3.0 fledged young per pair (AM).

Like last year, high numbers of up to 32 **Bank Swallows** at TI might indicate a breeding colony nearby. A **Brown Creeper** was certainly out of place at TI 7/14 (EP). A late migrant **Hooded Warbler** was recorded singing at SECC 6/9 (AB, MS). Never seen before in the summer months was a **Black-throated Green Warbler** at the north end of WWP 6/1 and 6/21 (DE). Singing **Northern Parulas** and **Pine Warblers** were observed at WWP and PP throughout June during this year's *Philadelphia* breeding bird census. A singing **Louisiana Waterthrush** at the north end of PP 6/27 was unusual (CSA). A **Prothonotary Warbler** was singing in the Mt. Airy neighborhood 7/22 (DD).

The **Blue Grosbeak** rivaled the **Brown Booby's** "Highlight" status this season with the discovery of a breeding pair at IGCC 7/15 and a fledgling 7/28 (HP). The last report of breeding pairs in *Philadelphia* stems from the early 1990's after which the species became scarce. Habitat restoration in the northwestern part of the county around 2010 increased summer observations in the following years, but no breeding evidence has been obtained since. **Indigo Buntings** were numerous at CS 6/17 with 18 counted during *Philadelphia's* breeding bird census including 4 definite pairs (AR). This is a new high count for the county at a single site.

Observers: **Holger Pflücke, Philadelphia, PA 19148, pflucke.holger@gmail.com**, Cindy & Scott Ahern, George Armistead, Anne Bekker, Martin Dellwo, Desmond O'Donovan, Dan Efrogmson, Todd Fellenbaum, John Jensen, Ken Januski, Jim McConnell, Art McMorris, Holly Merker, Denis Mora, Elizabeth Porter, Ann Reeves, Michael Sonkowsky, Nick Tepper, Geoff Veith, Ken Wat, Frank Windfelder,

Pike County

There were 134 species reported in *Pike* during the period. An **American Bittern** was found at Pecks Pond 6/11 (DM). A **Northern Harrier** cruised over a Delaware SF clear cut on Flat Ridge Rd. 6/7 (DY). A **Virginia Rail** called at a marsh in Twin Lake 7/26 (DV). Two **American Woodcocks** were heard peenting on the McDade Trail in the Delaware Water Gap NRA 6/21 (DV). **Red-headed Woodpecker** was seen in Bushkill 6/14 (RS) and the Tamiment section of the Delaware SF 7/4 (ML). **Dark-eyed Junco** was confirmed nesting at Promised Land SP 7/8 (MS, CCS). Several fledglings were located.

Pike has many nesting warblers. There were 23 species reported in ebird, many considered threatened or at risk. Warblers of interest reported include **Northern Waterthrush, Golden-winged Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, and Canada Warbler**. Each was seen in multiple locations.

Observers: **Michael Schall, 126 N Chestnut St, Bath, 610-737-5275, mdtjschall@yahoo.com**, Michael Lyman, Dennis Miranda, Corinne Campbell Schall, Rob Steiano, David Vonderheide, Douglas Yochum.

Potter County

Locations: Billy Lewis Road (BLR); Cherry Springs State Park (CSSP), Crandall Hill Community Building (CH), Coudersport (CO), Denton Hill State Park (DHSP), Galeton (GA), Lyman Run State Park (LRSP), Nelson Run Road (NRR), PA Game Lands 64(SGL 64), PA Game Lands 204 (SGL 204), Penn-York Camp; Ulysses (PYCUL), Rock Ridge Road clearcut (RRR), Sinnemahoning State Park (SSP), Slate Quarry, Nelson Run Road (SQN), Susquehannock State Forest (SSF), Nelson Run Road (NRR), North Fork Road Dam (NFRD), South Hollow; Homer Township (SH), Ulysses (UL), and Whitney Valley (WV).

Data were obtained from eBird reports submitted for twenty locations by thirteen observers. Some observations were cross-referenced using the Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in Pennsylvania (SBBA).

It is interesting that a single **Red-headed Woodpecker** was reported. According to the SBBA, this is the rarest woodpecker in the state. Given that *Potter* is mostly forested, with scattered farmlands in river and stream valleys above Route 6 and given that Red-headed Woodpeckers were recorded from *Potter* during the 2004-09 BBA, makes this a noteworthy sighting of a species with decreasing range within Pennsylvania. Also of note is a single report of **Swainson's Thrush**, in the forest south of Rte 6 between Denton Hill SP and Sweden Valley. Swainson's Thrush, according to the SBBA is the rarest nesting thrush in Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania is the southern edge of the thrush's breeding range in Eastern North America. Preferred habitat is "cool and moist conifer dominated woods.... at elevations above 1700 ft , and is strongly associated with hemlock". It is also important to note that one **Cerulean Warbler**, was photographed and reported from SGL 204, located northwest of CO. This warbler was given "possible" breeding status in *Potter* during the SBBA.

Just two species of ducks were reported. A **Wood Duck** was at LRSP 6/15 (MiH), and 2 **Common Mergansers** at SSP 6/29 (DE). A **Ruffed Grouse** was reported from a logging road off NRR 7/5 (LW). One **Pied-billed Grebe** was reported from 3 West Street, GA 7/31 (JM). Two **Green Herons** were reported; one at SQN 7/4 (LW) and another at PYC 7/3 (SaG).

A single **Black Vulture**, a more southerly vulture, was observed at SQN 7/4 (LW). Two **Ospreys** were at LRSP 6/25 (NW). One **Bald Eagle** was seen from Pine Street, GA 7/19 (TS). A **Northern Harrier** was at PYCUL 6/25 (SeG). One **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was seen at Baker Run, SSF 7/29 (MaH). A **Northern Goshawk** was observed at Odin, Baker Run, SSF 6/2 (MaH). Two **Red-shouldered Hawks** were reported: one at DHSP 6/19 (NV) and one from Baker Run, SSF 7/29 (MaH). Single **Broad-winged Hawks** were at SQN 7/4 (LW) and in the East Unit of SGL 64 on 7/8 (KC).

An **American Woodcock** was reported from CH 6/8 (SaG). A **Yellow-**

billed Cuckoo was found in the East Unit of SGL 64 on 7/8 (KC). One **Great Horned Owl** was reported (nocturnal) from CH 6/21 (SaG). Two **Barred Owls** were photographed on a logging road off NRR 7/5 (LW). A single **Common Nighthawk** was observed at NFRD 6/2 (KR). Two **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** were seen at Baker Run, SSF 6/29 (MaH). One **Red-headed Woodpecker** was found at DHSP 6/19 (NW); no photograph was obtained but this description was accepted by eBird: "Full red head on woodpecker. Wings are black with white flashing when flew". Five **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were reported from Baker Run SSF 7/29 (MaH). An **American Kestrel** was at DHSP 6/18 (NW) and 2 **Merlins** were reported from 513 East 2nd Street, CO 6/25 (NW).

Two **Eastern Wood-Pewees** were reported from Baker Run SSF 7/29 (MaH). An **Alder Flycatcher** was observed at NFRD 6/1 (KR) and a **Willow Flycatcher** was at CSSP 7/14 (PD). One **Least Flycatcher** was at NFRD 6/1 (KR) and a second at Baker Run SSF 7/29 (MaH). A **Great Crested Flycatcher** was reported from DHSP 6/19 (NV) and an **Eastern Kingbird** at SSP 7/29 (DE).

Two **Horned Larks** were at UL 7/6 (SeG), and one **Winter Wren** was reported from SH in Homer Twp. 6/3 (MaH). A **Purple Martin** was seen at CSSP 6/14 (CW). Notable is the sighting of 23 **Cliff Swallows** at SSP 7/29 (DE). A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was seen at CH 6/11 (SaG), and a **Brown Creeper** was reported from RRR, Summit Twp., 6/20 (NW). A **Swainson's Thrush** was reported near a clear cut along BLR 6/19 (NV).

One **Worm-eating Warbler** and a single **Blue-winged Warbler** were reported from Baker Run, Odin, SSF 6/2 (MaH). Two **Mourning Warblers** (excellent photographs) were reported from a logging road off NRR 7/4 (LW). A **Hooded Warbler** was seen at DHSP 6/18 (NW). An **American Redstart** was reported from Baker Run SSF 7/29 (MaH). A **Cerulean Warbler** (photographs obtained) was reported from SGL 204 on 6/12 (SaG). One **Magnolia Warbler**, one **Blackburnian Warbler**, 2 **Chestnut-sided Warblers**, 3 **Black-throated Blue Warblers**, and 4 **Black-throated Green Warblers** were reported from Baker Run, SSF 7/29 (MaH).

Eight **Savannah Sparrows** were in the fields of WV 6/11 (SaG), and a single Savannah was at PYCUL 6/26 (SeG). One **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was at Baker Run, SSF 7/29 (MaH). Four **Bobolinks** were reported from SGL 204 on 6/12 (SaG). An **Eastern Meadowlark** and a **Purple Finch** were observed in a field along Whitney Creek in WV 6/11 (SaG). A single **Pine Siskin** was reported from CH 6/8 (SaG).

Observers: **Robert Snyder, P.O. Box 603, [158 Black Street], Howard, PA 16841, (814) 753-2629, birdphotoginpa@gmail.com**, Kyle Clark (KC), Dave Ebbitt (DE), Sam G. (SaG), Seth G. (SeG), Marc Hanheman (MaH), Michael Harshorne (MiH), Jennifer Moore (JM), Ken Reichman (KR), Thadius Sales (TS), Nick Voris (NV), Nathan Weyandt (NW), Linda Widdop (LW) and Clyde Witt (CW).

Schuylkill County

Locations: Bartram Trail – Stony Creek Section (BT), Landingville Dam and Marsh (LVD), Locust Lake State Park (LLSP), Owl Creek (OC), Swatara State Park (SSP), Sweet Arrow Lake (SAL), Tumbling Run (TR), Tuscarora State Park (TSP).

The county registered a total of 119 species that had 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.

After being considered rare in the past, the presence of a **Common Merganser** or 2 during breeding season is now common. In particular, this species has been reported the last few years on the Little Schuylkill River where a pair was seen near New Ringgold 6/15 (RK) and where I observed a single female floating by on the river as I ate breakfast with my wife on the deck at the 3C's. Another pair was seen further north at TSP 6/16 (AK). **Eastern Whip-poor-will** is a species that was common but has decreased over time. The only report was from the McAdoo area 6/15 (BM). A bird that has no breeding season records over the last seven years I've been compiling, a **Sora** was heard winnowing at LVD 6/20 (JoD). Not reported in breeding season since I've been compiling, **Double-crested Cormorants** were reported twice. One was spotted 6/7 and again 6/12 near West

Mahanoy (JS), while another was seen at Still Creek Reservoir 6/11 (JoD).

Bald Eagles were common throughout the county this summer, primarily near the larger lakes. There have been 3 documented nests in the county but I received only one report of successful breeding. This was at SAL where a single fledgling was seen (DD). Only 3 owl species were reported during the summer breeding months in *Schuylkill*. Although none of these species are considered scarce, summer reports have been few. **Great Horned Owl** was only reported to the north where one was heard at Air Products Wildlife Sanctuary 7/7 (JoD) and another near McAdoo 7/30 (BM). Only one report was received for **Barred Owl**, from LLSP 6/11 (JS). The only reports of **Eastern Screech Owl** were of ones heard several times in the latter part of July at my home in South Manheim Twp. (DR). A pair of **Red-headed Woodpeckers** was seen exhibiting nesting behavior in late May in South Manheim Twp. and one was there 6/18 (TW).

The general belief amongst some of the county birders concerning the presence of breeding empid flycatchers is that Acadian, Willow, and Alder are here most years in low numbers but Least is absent most years. Interestingly, this summer all 4 species were seen at LLSP. **Acadian Flycatcher** is the most common empid and it was found at several locations this season across the county including TR 6/16 (JS), LLSP 6/2-30 (AK, JoD, JS, TB), TSP 6/16 (AK), Little Schuylkill River 6/1 (RK), eastern *Schuylkill* 6/19 (ZM), SGL 106 7/12 (DH), and BT 6/14 (KG). Although the most dependable location for **Alder Flycatcher** is SSP, only 2 reports were made this year; one at LLSP 6/1 (JS) and another near Orwigsburg 6/16 (TB). **Willow Flycatcher** was found near Tower City 6/9 (AK), at LLSP 6/2 (TB), and at TSP 6/16 (AK). **Least Flycatchers** were reported for the third year in a row during breeding season after not being reported for several years; singles were found at LLSP 6/2, 6/9 (TB) and 6/16 (JS).

White-eyed Vireos generally populate the southern edge of the county during breeding season, seen this year at SSP 6/3 (TB) and 6/14 (BR), and on the BT 6/14 (KG) and 6/20 (P&JW). **Yellow-throated Vireo**, a species considered unusual in the county and that historically breeds in the southern portion of the county, was reported 3 times. Reports came in from throughout the county including LLSP (JS, TB, AK, JoD), along the Little Schuylkill River 6/15 (RK), and TSP 7/4 (TB). **Blue-headed Vireo** breeding numbers seemed to be dropping in the county but for a third year in a row they were reported numerous times, clustered in central *Schuylkill*. Reports came from Burma Rd. (TJ), LLSP (AK, TB), TSP (AR, DH, SF, TB, TK), and OC (DH, DK, P&RW). Hard to find during breeding season, a **Brown Creeper** was at OC 6/17 (DK). **Grasshopper Sparrow**, another hard to find species, was reported at the Burma Rd. mine lands 6/2 (TB) and 6/4 (TJ).

A total of 18 warbler species were found, including a few that are not consistent county breeders. For the third time since 2008, a **Magnolia Warbler** made it into the possible breeding list for the county; one was found 6/9 at TSP (SF) and another 6/17 at OC (DK). **Blackburnian Warblers** were found at OC where 9 were reported 6/17 (DK) and another 6/26 (P&RW). A **Canada Warbler** was at OC 6/17 (DK).

Observers: **Dave Rieger, 401 Stony Mountain Road, Auburn, PA 17922, d.m.rieger@gmail.com**. Jesse Amesbury, Thomas Buehl, Jr., Michael David, Matthew Daw, John DeBalko (JoD), Jonathan DeBalko (JD), Denise Donmoyer, Traci Fetterman, Steph Fullmer, Ian Gardner, Kerry Grim, Deborah Grove, Joe Gyekis, Elaine Hendricks, Dan Hinnebusch, Tonia Jordan, Jon Kauffman, Ted Keen, Andy Keister, Rudy Keller, Dave Krueel, Bob McGarry, Zach Moyer, Nina Rach, Ari Rice, Barb Ritzheimer, Lynn Roman, Patricia Santos, Joseph Scholtes, Chad Schwartz, Muzi Sibiya, John Stetson, Marcina Trimmell, Patricia and Richard Williams, Peter and Jane Wolfe, Tanya Woomert, Perry Yingling.

Snyder County

An **American Bittern** hung out for about a week up to 7/22 on a pond along Troxelville Rd (BW). The rest of the birds of summer, including so many splendid nesters in breeding plumage, they're too numerous to reiterate at length. If you want to see the details, check eBird, or, better yet, wait until next summer, grab a pair of binoculars, and view them in real time.

Observers: **Joe Gyekis, 720 N. Allen St., State College, PA, gyekis9@gmail.com**, Brandon Weader.

Somerset County

Locations Berlin Area (BA), Confluence Area (CA), Flight 93 National Memorial (Flt 93), Hidden Acres Farm (HAF), Kimberly Run Natural Area (KRNA), Laurel Hill State Park (LHSP), Payne Property (PP), Somerset Lake (SL), Quemahoning Reservoir (QR).

It was an extremely rainy nesting season with no breeding bird work being done. The muddy areas at SL were often flooded which limited shorebird habitat but did inhibit excess weed growth. Despite this a few shorebirds bracketed the season. The bird of the season was probably the **Franklin's Gull**.

Mute Swans were reported near LHSP 7/10 (BB). Very unprecedented for a small pond below the Allegheny Front was a female plumaged **Surf Scoter**, lingering to at least 6/3 at the International Conservation Center (JP). There had been 4 Surf Scoters and a **Greater Scaup** at the same site mid-May. A **Ring-necked Pheasant** was at Flt 93 on 7/15 (PL), a probable survivor from nearby Gameland stocking last fall. Two **Virginia Rails** were detected at SL 7/27 (AH) where breeding may have occurred in the dense vegetation of the partially drained lake bed.

Late spring shorebird migrants at SL include **Semi-palmated Plover** to 6/8, 2 **Least Sandpipers** until 6/1, 3 **White-rumped Sandpipers** 6/8, and 1 **Semi-palmated Sandpiper** 6/8 (JP). Vying for best season bird was a nice female breeding plumaged **Red-necked Phalarope** at SL 6/1 (JP, ST et al.). Returning vanguards headed south at SL were a Least Sandpiper and **Greater Yellowlegs** 7/6 (JP). Other reports include 16 Least Sandpipers and 2 Semi-palmated Sandpipers 7/26 (ST).

Quite out of range especially for the date was a **Franklin's Gull** at SL found 6/12 (JP) and persisting until at least 6/19 (TR) with details submitted to PORC. A late **Common Loon** in basic plumage was at SL at least until 6/19 (TR) and one was heard near Stoneycreek R. 7/1 (LG). A **Broad-winged Hawk** was near Meyersdale 6/24 (CN), not uncommon but hard to detect during nesting. A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was at HAF 6/30 (CD); they seem to be expanding their breeding range.

Yellow-throated Vireos are uncommon so a report from Fairhope 6/24 was welcome (CN). Both **Veery** and **Hermit Thrush** were reported from LHSP 7/31 (JC, TR). **Grassland Sparrows** were reported from Flt 93 where suitable habitat is fast disappearing. Records included 2 Grasshopper Sparrows, 3 **Savannah Sparrows**, and 3 **Henslow's Sparrows** 7/15 (PL); and 7 Grasshoppers 6/23 (RS). Hopefully a couple hundred acres of this 1500+ acre site can be managed as grasslands? Two **Dark-eyed Juncos** were at Gallitzin SF 7/10 (TK). **Warbler** reports included 3 **Hooded Warblers** at LHSP 7/31 (JC, TR), a **Magnolia** and 14 singing **Black-throated Green Warblers** at KRNA 6/1, A **Northern Waterthrush** at KRN 6/2, and a **Worm-eating Warbler** on Imgrund Mt. Rd. 6/2 (JP). A **Yellow-rumped Warbler** at HAF 6/6 was notable for this uncommon county nester.

Observers: **Jeff Payne 9755 Glades Pike, Berlin, PA 15530, 814-267-5718 paynemt@gmail.com**. Brad Barth (BB); Jack Chaillet (JC), Chris Dick (CD); Sally Dick (SD); Linda Greble (LG); Audra Hixson (AH); Ted Keen (TK); Phil Lehman (PL); Claire Nemes (CN); Tessa Rinehart (TR); Rachel Sullivan (RS); and Shannon Thompson.

Sullivan County

Locations: Dutch Mtn (DM), High Knob (HK), Jamison City Rd (JCR), Kast Pond (KP), Kinsley's Corner (KC), Lake Makoma (LM), Lietzelman Road – Dushore (LR), Loyalsock State Forest (LSF), Ricketts Glen State Park – Hayfields (RGSPH), Sullivan Falls Road (SFR)

June weather seemed typical but July saw periods of heavy rain that resulted in flooding in some places of the county. No extreme rarities were reported. The bulk of the reports were derived from eBird. Reports not

specifically noted to an observer were made by the author.

There were no significant waterfowl reports. **Wood Duck** is an established breeder, and fledged young were observed at KP 7/7 (P&RW). **Wild Turkey** were seen with young 6/28 at LM (MB). A **Whip-poor-will** was calling on DM 6/8. **Sandhill Crane** once again nested in the LR area this year. Two young were reported there in the company of 2 adults 6/10 (D&GG). Young **Killdeer** were at RGSPH 6/6 (DG). Fledged young of **Hairy Woodpecker** were found in LSF 7/7 (P&RW).

Eastern Wood-Pewee and **Acadian Flycatcher** were both singers along JCR 6/16 (JL). No fewer than 13 **Alder Flycatchers** were found at RGSPH 6/6 (DG). A **Yellow-throated Vireo** was a good find for the county at LM 6/29 (MB). A juvenile **Field Sparrow** was photographed at RGSPH 6/16 (MK&SF). **Mourning Warbler** was reported at HK 6/9 (DB). A **Hooded Warbler** was along SFR 6/17 (JL). Seven **Prairie Warblers** were at RGSPH including a pair in suitable habitat 6/6 (DG).

Observers: **Rob Megraw 131 Butternut Dr, Pottstown, PA 19464 610.858.6361 robert.r.megraw@gmail.com**, David Brown, Matthew Burden, Skip Conant, Doug Gross, Steph Fullmer, Deb & Greg Grove, Matt Karns, Judith Lynn, Patricia & Richard Williams.

Susquehanna County

A female **Hooded Merganser** with 9 youngsters in tow was present on a private wetland in New Milford Twp. 6/1, and the family was observed again 6/11 (NV). Another young female was photographed in the company of a flock of geese in New Milford Borough 7/23 (BS). Both sightings were excellent finds as this is not a species commonly found in summer. The same can be said for a single **Pied-billed Grebe** spotted on Bear Swamp 7/7 (JF). Cuckoos made a nice showing around the county. Woodbourne Forest hosted both species, **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** 6/10 (JS) and **Black-billed Cuckoo** 6/20 (JS). Marsh birds were unusually hard to come by. A single report of a heard **Virginia Rail** came from Noble Wetland 6/6 (DA, EM). Two **American Coots** were unexpected visitors to Hollister's Pond 6/19 (EB).

Susquehanna birders have been anticipating the discovery of **Black Vultures** during the breeding season for quite a few years. Range maps have shown the species tantalizingly close to our south and east, they have been expanding their range, and increasing their numbers. This season that anticipation was satisfied when two birds were seen together near downtown Montrose. They were most often sighted perching on the roof or in the empty window frames of an abandoned building - perfect housing for a (unconfirmed) nesting pair. Reported by many birders and non-birders alike, the vultures were seen in the area throughout Jun and Jul.

Typically, having been chased out of town prior to the nesting season by our resident **Bald Eagles**, two local lakes had **Ospreys** present during the reporting period. There were 3 sightings of a single bird during the first half of Jun at Lords Pond (KJ). Another 5 reports from Page Lake included four dates in Jul (DB, AD). The bird on Page Lake was viewed fishing and flying away with its prey (to a nest?). The number of documented, active **Bald Eagle** nests in the county continues to grow. The Red Rock pair on Harmony Road successfully fledged 2 youngsters 7/3 (BS). Except for **Red-tailed Hawks**, other diurnal birds of prey, as well as owl species, were underreported this year. The only **Red-shouldered Hawk** appeared at Page Lake 6/10 (DB). The only report of a **Great Horned Owl** was at Little Rhiney Creek Wetland 6/3 (JM, EM). The owl was out in daylight, in the middle of the road, consuming a sandpiper while being mobbed by 7 **Red-winged Blackbirds**. Not a typical owl report! Not wanting to be far from parking lot French fries, our solo **Fish Crow** spent the summer adjacent to the fast food joints between Hallstead and Great Bend, having been reported 7/13 (BS) and 7/16 (EM).

Bank Swallows nested in their only known colony in the county. This restricted access sand and gravel business adjacent to the river means that birders cannot visit at will. The two opportunities to check on the birds demonstrated how early and quickly the species completes its nesting duties. An estimated 30 birds were busy tending burrows 6/7 (NV, BS). By 7/16 the nests were inactive and a meagre 4 swallows were spotted on the property (DA, EM, JM, BS). A second **Cliff Swallow** colony was discovered on a church just north of Harford 7/2 (NV). Twelve birds were present 7/4 (NV) and 10 on 7/22 (BS). Our river bridge colony, whose population ebbs and flows

from year to year, was down to a handful of nests and a high count of 8 swallows 6/26 (EB).

Blue-grey Gnatcatchers successfully fledged young at 2 nest sites on private property in Great Bend Twp. A total of 23 eBird checklists (some with photos) chronicled their story 6/3-7/31 (BS). After several years of disappointing success for local nest box "landlords," this season's multiple reports of fledgling **Eastern Bluebirds** were encouraging.

Of the 27 species of wood warblers discovered during the spring migration season, 19 remained in the county after their respective safe dates. The nearly 7800 acres of SGL #35 near Hallstead has earned the reputation as the wood warbler nursery of *Susquehanna*. It has been the site of two county firsts in the last few years, **Kentucky Warbler** 5/25/2013 and **Cerulean Warbler** 5/23/2015. It has been the study site for a doctoral candidate from Binghamton University, the campus of which is just to our north (JTM). The table below describes the numbers of warblers by species that he identified this year while doing ten-minute point count surveys at 22 points on the property. There were more surveys done in May than in June, which is the reason for looking at abundance on a per man-hour (MH) basis. The right-hand column is the number of individuals per MH identified at each survey point after safe dates as a percentage of the number of individuals per MH present at the same spots during May.

	OBSERVED PRIOR TO SAFE DATES	OBSERVED PER MANHOUR	OBSERVED POST SAFE DATES	OBSERVED PER MANHOUR	BREEDING/MIGRATION PER MH
OVEN	107	6.83	42	4.17	61.1%
BAWW	27	1.72	25	2.48	144.1%
MOWA	2	0.13	1	0.10	77.8%
COYE	17	1.08	7	0.70	64.1%
HOWA	39	2.49	16	1.59	63.8%
AMRE	84	5.36	47	4.67	87.1%
CERW	3	0.19	1	0.10	51.9%
MAWA	7	0.45	4	0.40	88.9%
BLBW	29	1.85	11	1.09	59.0%
CSWA	63	4.02	27	2.68	66.7%
BTBW	65	4.15	29	2.88	69.4%
BTNW	36	2.30	14	1.39	60.5%
CAWA	15	0.96	10	0.99	103.7%

Observers: **Evan Mann, 8313 Laurel Lake Road, Montrose, PA 18801, (570) 663-2621, 7evanmann@gmail.com**, Dave Andre, Edmund Burdick, Deborah Busby, Allison Deshane, James Feuerstein, Kathie Jones, Julia Mann, Justin Mann (JTM), Jerry Skinner, Barb Stone, Nancy VanCott.

Union County

Most of the birds of summer were expected species. However, 2 interesting boreal bog birds were found in early June. An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** enthusiastically ordering a brewed beverage at a deer enclosure near Grosses Gap 6/4 (AS) and a **Northern Waterthrush** just doing normal waterthrush things at R. B. Winter State Park 6/2 (DI).

Observers: **Joe Gyekis, 720 N. Allen St., State College, PA, gyekis9@gmail.com**, Deepak Iyer, Allen Schweinsberg.

Venango County

Locations: Allegheny River southern portion (ARS), Barkeyville Fields (BF), Buttermilk Hill Nature Sanctuary (BHNS), Franklin (FR), Kahle Lake (KL), Oil City area (OCS), Waitz Road (WR).

We recorded 113 species for the quarter. Waterfowl highlights included a **Blue-winged Teal** 7/19. The only **Osprey** was on 6/23. Our only southbound shorebird for the season was a **Solitary Sandpiper** at TMRP 7/30. Both cuckoos were observed, with **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** 6/19 (RN) and **Black-billed Cuckoo** 7/5-7/30 at BHNS (JS, KG). The only **Whip-poor-will** was at Van Gamelands 6/14 (RS).

Flycatcher sighting included **Acadian Flycatcher** at ARS 6/14 (CW) and 7/30 at BHNS (JS, KG), **Willow Flycatcher** on 6/11 at BF (RS), and **Least Flycatcher** on WR 6/13 (RS). Swallow highlights were **Bank Swallow** 6/10 (GE) and **Cliff Swallow** 6/5-20. The Cliff Swallows lost a nesting site in *Venango* when a parking garage in Oil City was demolished. And the colony on the 8th Street Bridge in Franklin is slowly dwindling, with only 13 nests this year. **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was at a feeder 7/13-14 OCA (MK). **Brown Creeper**, **Winter Wren** and **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** all were at ARS 6/14 (CW).

There were 2 summer **Veery** reports - 6/18 (GE) and 7/31 (NK, MK). **Hermit Thrush** were at ARS 6/14 (CW) and 6/21 (NK, MK). Warblers include **Louisiana Waterthrush** on 6/14 at ARS (CW) and 7/2 (NK, MK), **Tennessee Warbler** at BHNS 7/27 (JS, KG), **Mourning Warbler** at OCA 7/24 (MK), **Cerulean Warbler** at ARS 6/14 (CW), **Northern Parula** 6/1 (NK, MK) and 6/19 at OCSP (RN), a **Yellow-throated Warbler** 6/14 at ARS (CW), and **Canada Warbler** 6/19 at OCSP (RN). A **Purple Finch** was observed the whole season at a feeder in the Franklin area (NB).

Observers: Observers: **Russ States, 111 E. 4th St., Oil City, PA 16301, (814) 676-6320, pelagics202@gmail.com**, **Gary Edwards, 224 Meadow Rd, Apt 9, Seneca, PA 16346, (814) 676-3011, gedwards@csonline.net**; Nancy Baker, Kathie Goodblood, Diane Hall, Jeff Hall, Kathie Goodblood, Meg Kolodick, Nick Kolodick, Richard Nugent, Jerry Stanley, Jim Wilson, Carol Winslow.

Warren County

No Report
 Compiler: **Scott Stoleson, stoleson@aol.com**.

Washington County

Locations: Canonsburg Lake (CL), Cross Creek County Park (CC), Green Cove Wetlands (GCW), Hillman State Park (HSP), Washington Reservoir #4 (R4).

A **Common Loon** was seen periodically at CC 6/20-7/17 (JF), following the sighting of one there 5/9. A **Great Egret** hung around CL from 6/14 through the season (JF). The pair of **Bald Eagles** at CL successfully fledged their single chick this year, and all 3 were present through at least 7/17 (JF). Three **Virginia Rails**, an adult and 2 begging juveniles, were noted at GCW 7/13 (JM). They probably breed there most years but are not often directly confirmed. Returning shorebirds at CL included **Greater Yellowlegs** 7/25 (JF, MM), **Lesser Yellowlegs** 7/29 (JF), and **Solitary Sandpiper** 7/7 (MJ). Water was drawn down at R4 throughout the summer, which attracted some shorebirds to the small areas of exposed mud that weren't overrun by vegetation after the spring. First **Semipalmated Sandpiper** appeared at R4 on 7/22 (RG) which was joined by at least 4 more by month's end (RI), and very nice for *Washington* were 3 **Short-billed Dowitchers** there 7/22 (RG).

Common Nighthawk was reported from Washington and three locations in the nw. portion of the county in Jul (m.ob.). An **Eastern Whip-poor-will** that flew across the road at HSP in front of the observer before dawn 7/24 was a nice surprise (JM). **Blue-headed Vireo** summered yet again at HSP (JM, LN, RT), now an annual occurrence there. A house with 15 **Purple Martins** was seen in passing near Bealsville 7/4 (RT). Following

a poor spring for them, **Red-breasted Nuthatches** finally revealed themselves in their usual numbers at HSP in the summer months, with up to 5 there in Jul (JM).

Pine Warblers bred at HSP again this year as well (FK, et al.). Two very unusual summertime warblers were noted in the county this year. First was a singing **Black-and-white Warbler** on Old Ridge Road outside of CC 6/20 (JF) and the second was not one but 2 singing **Black-throated Green Warblers** at HSP 7/7 (JM, LN). Black-and-white Warbler was formerly more common in the summer in *Washington* than it is today (though always highly local), so this year's record is notable but not nearly unprecedented. But Black-throated Green has almost no historical summer occurrence here, yet this sighting is right in line with a recent small increase of summer records of this species into far sw. Pennsylvania, and HSP is only a few miles from Raccoon Creek SP in *Beaver*, where Black-throated Greens have summered for several years now.

Observers: **Geoff Malosh, 450 Amherst Avenue, Moon Township, PA 15108-2654, (412) 735-3128, pomarine@earthlink.net**, Sameer Apte, Lauren Conkle, Leslie Ferree, Mike Fialkovich, John Flannigan, Ross Gallardy, Roy Ickes, Matthew Juskowich, Fred Kachmarik, Michele Mannella, Jeff McDonald, Lauren Nagoda, Ryan Tomazin.

Wayne County

Locations: White Oak Pond (WOP).

Two late migrant **Ring-necked Ducks**, 3 **Virginia Rails**, and an **American Bittern** were reported during an outing at WOP 6/6 (JH). **Orchard Oriole** is not often recorded in *Wayne*, but one was spotted near the northern-end of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River N.P. 6/29 (JC, MM, JS). Eighteen warbler species were tallied, including 2 **Mourning Warblers** counted during a BBS 6/10 (EM, WS). The BBS also yielded the first and only report of county-breeder **Prairie Warbler** this year.

Observers: **Josh Jones, unclchu76@gmail.com**, Justin Clarke, John Harvey, Evan Mann, Matt Marshall, Joe Schell, Win Shafer.

Westmoreland County

Locations: Donegal Lake (DL), Hunters Lane (HL), Kuehl Property in Murrysville (KP), Latrobe Reservoir – also known as Trout Run (LR), Laughlin Farm Road near Blairsville (LFR), Linn Run State Park (LRSP), Mammoth Lake Park (MLP), Murrysville Community Park (MCP), Northmoreland Park (NMP), Powdermill Nature Reserve (PNR), Twin Lakes Park (TLP), Wolf Rocks Trail on Laurel Ridge (WRT).

A second-county species record was the highlight of the season.

Two female **Wood Ducks** were seen with 13 ducklings at NMP 7/7 (MVT). Following a Facebook alert of the previous day, one **Green-winged Teal** was conformed at Burrell Lake Park on 6/17 (SG). One **Hooded Merganser** was seen at Mirror Lake (a campground on Rt. 711 north of Ligonier) 7/24 (AM).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo was widely reported during the season, however there were no reports for Black-billed Cuckoo. Ebird checklists for the Morosini Reserve by Steve Manns documented Yellow-billed Cuckoo at that location 6/9-7/22, including a report of 2 on 6/23, so very likely nesting at that location. One **Semipalmated Plover** was seen at close-range at DL 7/29 (LS). One **Killdeer** was on a nest and one **Spotted Sandpiper** was at NMP 7/7 (MVT). Shorebirds found at DL on 7/29 were 9 Killdeer, 2 **Least Sandpipers**, 5 Spotted Sandpipers, and one **Solitary Sandpiper** (AP). An unusual find on a woodland trail in LRSP was of one **American Woodcock** 7/7 (ST). Two **Greater Yellowlegs** were at DL 7/21 (AM) and one **Lesser Yellowlegs** was found the same day at MLP (MM).

Seen for several days prior as well, one **Common Loon** remained at Tubmill Reservoir 6/24 (JM). Unusual for the breeding season, one **Double-crested Cormorant** was reported at LR on both 6/9 (AM) and 6/16 (RH, JP). Another good find because of a 6/16 Big Day effort was of one **Great**

Egret at DL (RH, JP). One fly-over **Green Heron** and one hunting **Great Blue Heron** were seen during an evening of 9 holes of golf 7/24 at Cloverleaf Golf Course in Delmont (TK).

Unusual outside of the Ligonier area, one **Black Vulture** was seen with 3 **Turkey Vultures** eating roadkill on Laughlin Farm Rd. near Blairsville (on the 6/16 Big Day for RH and JB) and one Black Vulture was spotted in Delmont 7/8 (KB). **Osprey**, beginning on 6/1 (one by ST) were recorded several times at DL (a longtime nesting site for this species) with a high-count of 3 occurring 7/21 (AM), and a final report for the season of 2, made 7/22 (JK/TK). During the early afternoon of 7/31, a **Swallow-tailed Kite** was spotted by an observer driving south on Rt. 711 near the Game Commission Office north of Ligonier (AM). Andy was able to stop, turn around, and get confirming photos that were added to his eBird Checklist, which was just the second record for this species in *Westmoreland*. Perhaps for lack of reporting effort, there was just one record for **Bald Eagle**, a single at TLP 6/30 (AM). At PNR, a reliable location, a **Red-shouldered Hawk** was reported on both 6/25 and 7/3 (MW). A 6/9 Three Rivers Birding Club Outing provided for another report of one Red-shouldered Hawk, at HL; and for a report of one **Broad-winged Hawk** (WRT). **Barred Owls** were first heard during the season at the KP 6/18 when a call was heard in response to a daytime fire siren; and were heard on several other occasions and for the last time for the season 6/28 (JK) - again calling in response to a daytime fire siren.

All reports for **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** were in the Laurel Highlands, with a notable report of 7 in LRSP 7/7 (ST). Another species often only recorded at higher elevations, several low elevation reports for **Least Flycatcher** were made at spots along the Westmoreland Heritage Trail in July, with a high-count of 4 on 6/14 on the West Penn Trail (KB). There were few reports for **Great Crested Flycatcher**, however, 3 were at PNR 6/25 (MW). They are expected to be breeding in the Laurel Highlands area of *Westmoreland*. Reported at several high and low elevations locations, reports by Steve Manns of one **White-eyed Vireo** on both 6/8 and on 7/13 provided for a good case for that species nesting at the MR. One **Fish Crow** was reported at PNR 6/16 (MH, JP). **Common Raven** continues to be reported in the lower elevations of the county; one was heard from the KP in Murrysville 7/23 (TK). Several reports, including one of 5 **Purple Martins** 6/15 (JK/TK) confirm that they continue to nest at MCP. Also, Purple Martins continue at the nest house at the Beaver Run Reservoir office of the Municipal Authority on Rt. 380; there were 5 reported there 7/21 (MM).

Two **Brown Creepers** and one **Hermit Thrush** were tallied on WRT on the 3 Rivers Bird Club outing 6/9. The only report for the season, one **Winter Wren** was at LRSP 7/7 (ST). A hard-to-find breeder, one **Purple Finch** was at PNR 6/25 (MW). Grassland habitat along LFR provided for a good find on a 6/16 Big Day effort; one **Grasshopper Sparrow** (RH, JM). The only reports of the season for these grassland specialists, one **Savannah Sparrow** and one **Henslow's Sparrow** were found on Wineland Rd. near Wilpen 7/1 (AM). **Swamp Sparrows** were found at HL, with 3 reported by several observers 6/29 and 2 on 7/13 (TK). An observation that included young birds being fed provided for a high-count of 8 **Orchard Orioles** at MR 7/4 (SM).

One **Worm-eating Warbler** was reported at PNR 6/16 (RH/JP) and one was at the Tubmill Reservoir 6/9 (AM). Two **Louisiana Waterthrush** and 4 **Northern Waterthrush** were recorded at the WPT 6/6 (KB). Not seen, however, the song of a **Golden-winged Warbler** was heard, and 2 **Blue-winged Warblers** were also reported at HL (a long-time reliable location for the very rare **Golden-winged Warbler**) 6/16 (RH, JP). One **Kentucky Warbler** was reported there as well that day. Several observers reported 2 Blue-winged Warblers (one described as well seen) at HL 6/29. One **Cerulean Warbler** was at Tubmill Reservoir 6/24 (JM). Unusual at low-elevations, a **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was first reported on 6/12 at the KP; and seen at least once and heard on several occasions through 7/8; however, no confirmation of breeding was obtained. Two **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were reported at PNR 6/25 (MW). The opening of the Duff Park to Trafford section of the Westmoreland Heritage Trail is adding to the reporting for **Yellow-throated Warblers** that nest in the sycamore trees that line Turtle Creek. The latest of several reports along the trail were of 2 on 7/18 (SM).

Observers: **Tom Kuehl, 3615 Hilty Road, Export, PA 15632, (724)-325-1918, tjkuehl@comcast.net.** Ken Byerly, Steve Grosser, Rebecca Hart, Janet Kuehl, Andy Mack, Mark McConaughy, John McArthur, Jim Pemberton, Aiden Place, Lauren Schneider, Shannon Thompson, Marge VanTassel, Matt Webb.

Wyoming County

Locations: Beaumont (BM), Brown's Farm (BF), Davis Crossing (DC), Endless Mountains Nature Center/Vosburg Neck (EMNC), Grist Flats (GF), Iroquois Trail (IT), Lake Carey (LC), Lake Winola (LW), Lazybrook Park (LP), Little Rocky Glen (LG), Mary Robbin's Pond (MRP), Mulligan's Pond (MP), Oxbow Lake (OL), Russell Hill (RH), Scavazzo's Pond (SCP), Scottsville Road (SR), Sharpe's Lake (SL), Sordoni's Farm (SF), State Gamelands 57 (SGL).

The second BBA identified 153 species present in *Wyoming* as either PO (17), PR (26), or Co (112) at the time. Records for this year's summer season include 103 of those 153 species. For the most part, reporting birders did not include breeding codes for their observations, and, therefore, for most of them no additional breeding information was added to our knowledge. However, a few records deserve further note.

Sandhill Crane was not recorded in the Atlas for *Wyoming*. However, since then, the species has become a regular visitor and records of breeding behavior have raised the code for Sandhill Crane from not observed to confirmed. This season provided the strongest evidence to date: 2 cranes with one colt were observed at SL 7/31 (KS) shortly after the owner of the property had reported a nest with 2 eggs at the site. A **Double-crested Cormorant** was at LC 6/12 (MC). This is an uncommon, but annual visitor to *Wyoming*, but we have no record of breeding behavior. Usually, we see only one or 2 and outside of safe dates. This species has been expanding its range, and is found during safe dates in some adjacent counties.

Marsh Wren was recorded as a probable breeder (PR) during the second BBA at a site near the *Wyoming/Bradford* county line (Phelps Swamp, perhaps?) and had been reported there, on occasion, prior to the time of the atlas. Since then, I have only 2 records of the species in *Wyoming*. One was in June 2014, and the other is this summer, 6/30 at DC (JD), when a male was heard singing. Both dates are within safe dates for the species. Return visits this year were unsuccessful in moving the bird beyond possible. A pair of **Orchard Orioles** was recorded at EMNC 6/19, the female carrying food (JD). A few weeks later, 7/8, two recently fledged young and at least one adult were recorded at the same spot (PRW). Orchard Oriole had been identified a possible breeder in *Wyoming* during the second Atlas. These 2 records confirm it as a breeder.

Observers: **Joe DeMarco, 15 West Tioga Street, Tunkhannock, PA, 18657, (570) 836-1468** (JD), Carol Blye (CB), Robert Blye (RB), Mark Catalano (MC), Carl Engstrom (CE), Sandy Goodwin (SG), Deborah Grove (DG), Susan Gruver (SG), Rebecca Lesko (RL), Sharon Lynn (SL), Steve Schmit (SS), Kay Simons (KS), Alan Thatcher (AT), and Patricia and Richard Williams (PRW).

York County

Locations: Apollo County Park (APO), Gifford Pinchot State Park (GPSP), High Point Scenic Vista & Recreation Area (HIGH), Hopewell Twp Park (HTP), Lake Williams (LW).

The period's total of 126 species falls toward the high end of the summer species count for the past five years. Unlike last summer, there were no exceptional rarities to speak of nor were there any out-of-season waterfowl.

High count of the 8 **Wild Turkey** reports was 9 birds along Cabin Creek Rd. 7/15 (DK). A 6/17 (DB) visit to the Kiwanis Lake rookery produced 34 **Great Egrets** but only 2 **Black-crowned Night-Herons**. Top dispersal count for the egrets was 18 birds at LW 7/25 (CK) and up to 5

night-herons at the same site 7/16-19 (CK, DNN, AWG). As is typical in this period, Lock 12 produced the top counts for **Osprey** and **Bald Eagle** 6/4 (TA) with 5 and 8 counts, respectively. As mentioned in the *Adams* report, **Sharp-shinned Hawk** observations can now likely be considered "isolated, but expected" in both counties during this period. This year's 3 reports of single birds spanned 6/13-7/1 (CB, DK, MR).

Marsh Run produced some nice finds. Up to 2 adult and 1 juvenile **Virginia Rails** were found 6/17-7/21 (DNN, PRW) and a **Sora** was found 7/4 (DNN). Both species were found at this location during the first BBA but not the second. Were it not for the intentional drawdown of LW for pending dam repairs, shorebird observations would have been a non-event due to the July rains. Better birds from the 9 shorebird species reported were up to 4 **Semi-palmated Sandpipers** at LW 7/19-24 (DN, AWG), a suspected **White-rumped Sandpiper** at Gateway Hanover retention ponds, and a **Pectoral Sandpiper** 7/19-27 (DN, AWG) at LW. An **American Woodcock** at Warrington Twp. Park 6/1 (CH) was a good find. A single immature **Herring Gull** provided a good id challenge at GPSP 6/1 (AWG).

Eighteen sites producing **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** reports was exceptionally strong reporting (m.ob.). **Black-billed Cuckoo** were found at Native Lands Heritage Trail 6/28 (DN) and GPSP 7/19 (MM). **Barn Owl** banding at a Ridge Rd. farm was witnessed and photographed 7/11 (DNN). Saginaw provided the only **Common Nighthawk** report, a single bird 7/8 (DW). **Red-headed Woodpecker** enjoyed strong reporting as birds were found at 16 sites. High count was 6 at HTP 7/7 (KC). **American Kestrel** numbers remain a bit concerning during this period with only 4 locales reporting birds. Single **Peregrine Falcons** were at Goldsboro 7/7 (BS) and HIGH 7/26 (DNN).

As with neighboring *Adams*, flycatcher and vireo reporting captured historical expected species, counts, and frequencies. A pair of **Horned Larks** were at HIGH 6/30 (AWG) for the only report. A visit to Long Arm Reservoir was rewarded with counts of 150+ **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** and 66 **Cliff Swallows** 6/30 (HM). Cliff Swallows were also found at Shorr's Mill Rd. 6/27 (MG, DKi), at LW 7/9 (DN), and at the established Codorus SP bridges' colonies all period (m.ob.). Up to 5 **Bank Swallows** were seen at York Haven 6/28-7/30 (DN), up to 6 at Longstown 6/27-7/7 (LV), and 2 at John Rudy County Park 7/26 (AWG).

A good find this period was a pair of **Brown Creepers** at Airville 6/12 (CF). Its northward contraction noted between the first and second BBAs has resulted in this species being a summer rarity in the county. **Veerys** were found 6/14 and 6/27 along the Rail Trail (CK), at GPSP 6/1-7/6 (m.ob.), and along Pinetown Rd. 6/23 (MiC). Unlike last year, when 3 reports of lingering Hermit Thrush carried over from the prior period, none were reported this year.

A single **Blue-winged Warbler** was at GPSP 6/1-5 (DG, DN, AWG). Four sites holding **Prairie Warbler** were paced by 9 birds at APO 6/12-7/7 (DNN, AWG). The only **Prothonotary Warbler** report was of a bird in the Brunner Island area 6/16 (DN). Six sites holding **Worm-eating Warbler** were led by a high count of up to 10 at APO 7/3-10 (DNN, AWG). The same locale produced the only **Kentucky Warbler** reports, noting up to 3 birds 7/3-7 (DNN, AWG). A **Hooded Warbler** was found at Rocky Ridge County Park 6/26 (DN). When found in this period they are typically confined to places like Rocky Ridge, i.e., the higher elevations of the county.

Five sites reporting **Savannah Sparrow** and 7 holding **Grasshopper Sparrow** is encouraging for these grassland species. High count was up to 7 Savannahs at HTP 6/6 (CM) and 7/15 (DF) and up to 13 Grasshopper Sparrows at HIGH 7/26 (DNN). A good summer find was a trio of **Swamp Sparrows** at Marsh Run 7/21 (PRW). The most intriguing report for the period was a PA Birds List-serve post involving an adult and fledging **White-throated Sparrow** in East Hopewell Twp. 7/9 (JH). The observation and description suggested strong breeding confirmation. Considering the most southern confirmed breeding record from the previous atlas' work was in *Mifflin*, there is certainly an inclination to question the report. The observer's post seemed to indicate a good familiarity with the species but efforts to gain further details of the experience were unsuccessful.

With a record high 7 sites reporting **Yellow-breasted Chat**, perhaps this species realized it's taxonomic change and shed some of it's secretive warbler traits during this breeding season. Birds were spotted 6/6-7/11 (TA, DN, DNN, AWG) with high counts of 3 at both Rocky Ridge County Park and APO. Apparent lingerers from the spring, 3 **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**

reports stretched to 6/10 (RK, RiS, NZ) with a trio at Green Lane Farms on that date. The positive **Blue Grosbeak** reporting for *Adams* was shared by York. Four reports, all single birds, came from West Manheim Twp. Park 6/9 (BaS), HIGH 6/30 (AWg), York Haven 7/21 (DN), and HTP 7/22 (RK). A single **Dickcissel** was at HTP 6/1-10 (MC, DF, BoR, AWg). Five sites held **Eastern Meadowlark** with counts up to 9 at Long Arm Reservoir 6/4-27 (HM, DN, BR) and up to 14 at HTP throughout the period (m.ob.).

Observers: **Phil Keener, 198 Jacobs Street, East Berlin, PA 17316, (717) 259-9984, pittche74@yahoo.com**, Andrew Albright, Tom Amico, Daniel Baron, Chuck Berthoud, Matthew Burden, John Campbell, Keith Eric Costley, Michael Cox (MiC), Mary Creager, Alisa DeGeorge, Richard Edden, Chad Ehrhart, David Farner, Craig Franciscus, John Freese, David Gibson, Andrea Gingerich, Mackenzie Goldthwat, Dan Heathcote, Jim Hill, Carolyn Hoffman, Matt Hunter, Kye Jenkins, Tim & Karena Johnson (TKJ), Kevin Kane, Doug Kibbe (DKi), Chuck Kling, Duane Kornbau, Ramsay Koury, Henry McLin, Carolyn Mathur, Mark Mummert, Dean Newhouse, Dean & Norma Newhouse (DNN), Tabitha Olsen, Bob Reiter (BoR), Mike Resch, Brian Rolfinke, Sarah Romero, Bob Schutsky (BoS), Barb Schwartz (BaS), Brian Shade, Lauren Shaffer, Richard Shepler (RiS), Robin Smith, Linda Vegh, Brain Walker, Mike Walsh, Donald Weidemann, Patricia & Richard Williams (PRW), Andrew Wolfgang (AWg), William Young, Nathan Zalik.

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

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

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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).

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IN FOCUS—The Nesting Season



A new **Great Blue Heron** rookery on Marshall's Creek, *Monroe* 7 July. (Nancy Tully)



Pileated Woodpecker ready to fledge at Gifford Pinchot SP, *York* 6 June. (Lauren Shaffer)



With **American Kestrels** in decline, results of a *Bucks* nest-box program run by D. Farbotnik are both impressive and encouraging; these nestlings were ready for banding at Pine Run Dam 11 July – see *Bucks* report for more details. (August Mirabella)



Eastern Phoebe nestlings at *Swissdale, Clinton* 1 July, as so often the case, in a nest built on a man-made structure. (Wayne Laubscher)



Red-eyed Vireo nestlings at *Swissdale, Clinton* 9 July. (Wayne Laubscher)



Yellow-rumped Warbler fledgling in *Pike* 8 July. (Josh Jones)