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Cover: The 2019 nesting season saw the first confirmed nesting of **Prothonotary Warbler** in *Cumberland* as described by Vern Gauthier in this issue. The Prothonotary on the cover was photographed in *Crawford* on 5/24/2019. (Anthony Bruno)

... from the Editor

Pennsylvania needs Nightjar surveys!

Most readers of Pennsylvania Birds know that our two breeding Nightjar species, **Common Nighthawk** and **Eastern Whip-poor-will**, are declining in number (a third species, Chuck-will's-widow, may be a rare nester). Many of you may live in an area where one or both species were formerly summer residents, but are no longer. Two articles in this issue deal with Nightjars and this message will end with a request to help gather data on these species that, by virtue of their largely nocturnal habits, are not well sampled by the usual daytime birding activities.

Pennsylvania and neighboring New York, Ohio, and Maryland have completed two Breeding Bird Atlas (BBA) projects. In each state, the first and second atlas efforts consisted of projects of at least five years' duration, carried out 20 years apart. In Pennsylvania, the first atlas was conducted 1983–1989 and the second 2004–2009; atlases in the three afore-mentioned neighboring states were conducted in approximately the same time frame, plus/minus a few years.

The goal of a BBA is to map the breeding range of every nesting species in fine detail; the extensive field work carried out largely by volunteers – in the case of Pennsylvania's second BBA, over 2000 volunteers. For both atlases, the state was divided into the exact same grid of 4928 blocks, each of which received many hours of survey coverage. (Each block was about 9.35 sq mi or 24.3 sq km).

As you might guess, nocturnal species (Nightjars, Owls, some marsh birds) are not well covered by surveyors doing BBA fieldwork or annual Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) routes. Nevertheless, the results of the pairs of BBAs from each state tell a clear and consistent story of severe decline of Nightjars – as shown in the accompanying table. In Pennsylvania, the two species rank very near the top of the list of species with the greatest drop in proportion of blocks in which they were detected during the second BBA.

In all four states, Whip-poor-wills were found approximately in only half as many blocks in the second BBA as in the first BBA; in Pennsylvania, this result despite increased hours of effort in the second BBA. Nesting Whip-poor-wills have dwindled or disappeared from many areas of Pennsylvania, but they are still fairly

common in extensively forested areas in central and northeastern Pennsylvania.

The declines in the four states for Common Nighthawk were even more severe, with block detections reduced by about two-thirds from the first to the second atlas. Long established rooftops nesters in urban areas, Nighthawks no longer patrol the night skies in many towns. But some remain in some places. In this issue, **Scott Kinzey** describes the situation for Common Nighthawks in Pittsburgh and surrounding areas where nighthawks are still summer residents.

Understanding the declines is difficult, as they are likely to be the result of a combination of factors – habitat change on nesting and winter ranges, climate change, declining populations of flying insects, and, for Nighthawks, changes in rooftop structure are all on the list of likely and by no means mutually exclusive problems. Reversing these declines will be difficult. Doing so will be aided by better knowledge of population dynamics, locations that still hold Nightjars, and where range contractions are occurring. This data will come largely, almost exclusively, from citizen scientists.

This is where the Nightjar Survey Network (NSN) comes in. Laura Duval, the Program Director of NSN at the Center for Conservation Biology at The College of William and Mary describes the NSN in her article in this issue and how one can participate. It is quite easy, actually, in terms of both data collection and submission – but does involve willingness to go birding after sunset.

Suggested routes in Pennsylvania (most of which are available) are based on starting points of established BBS routes (see map on the website – <http://www.nightjars.org/>). However, these are just suggestions. A route does not need to start at the exact start point of a BBS route, nor use previously established BBS stops. Furthermore, you can design your own route based on your local knowledge. Routes can emphasize habitat for either Whip-poor-wills or Common Nighthawks (targeting both may not be easily done within the space of one route). A route consists of 10 survey stops, at least (but not necessarily exactly) one mile apart, with six minutes of listening and recording at each stop. No audio is used, just passive listening. Routes should be run on a night when the moon is relatively close to full-

moon status and is visible (suggested range are dates are provided). In the first year, you will be asked to collect GPS points and descriptions (e.g. intersection of Smith Rd and Jones Rd) for each stop.

Some of you probably live in areas where our two Nightjars are uncommon, rare, or possibly absent. Nevertheless, routes are needed in such areas to systematically document low numbers or absence; as most citizen scientists already know – negative data is important. eBird gives us some idea of breeding distribution, but eBird checklists rarely represent annual, consistent, systematic coverage of a specific area, and nocturnal checklists are few in any case.

You will probably read this during the cold of mid-winter, with plenty of time to plan a route carefully - while thinking of warm late spring/early summer evenings listening for Nightjars, with the occasional bonus of a calling owl or cuckoo. Please consider doing a Nightjar route, for conservation, science, and fun. If you have questions about Nightjar routes, contact me (gwg2@psu.edu) or Laura Duval at NSN (nightjars@nightjars.org).

Eastern Whip-poor-will

	BBA 1 blocks detected	BBA 2 blocks detected	% change
Pennsylvania	862	496	- 42%
New York	564	241	- 57%
Maryland	423	185	- 56%
Ohio (priority blocks only)	187	78	- 58%

Common Nighthawk

	BBA 1 blocks detected	BBA 2 blocks detected	% change
Pennsylvania	754	219	- 71%
New York	477	138	- 71%
Maryland	134	50	- 63%
Ohio (priority blocks only)	228	75	- 67%

Status of the Common Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*) as a Nesting Species in Pennsylvania with an Emphasis on Western Pennsylvania

Scott Kinsey

The Common Nighthawk has fascinated me since childhood. I would see them flying, calling, and performing their "peent and boom" courtship displays on summer evenings while swimming at my grandmother's house in the 1980's. My grandfather told me that they were nighthawks, and that's all I knew. In this article I will share some of my notes and experiences and try to paint a picture of how the Common Nighthawk is doing as a nesting species in Pennsylvania.



Common Nighthawk State College, Centre, 8/31/2015 (Ron Crandall)

Historically the Common Nighthawk has been considered a common nester across Pennsylvania. B.H. Warren stated "The Nighthawk occurs in Pennsylvania as a common summer resident" in his 1890 book *Report on the Birds of Pennsylvania* (Warren 1890). W.E.C. Todd stated that it is "more or less common as a summer resident." in his 1940 *Birds of Western Pennsylvania* (Todd 1940).

Both Warren and Todd mention nesting in natural settings. Warren wrote that "The favorite breeding places are barren and rocky lands." Todd noted that "It ranges over the mountain and valley country indiscriminately and of course nests throughout; but oddly enough, not many actual instances of breeding have been recorded for our region outside of cities and towns." Natural nest sites have been mentioned in other early records such as in the Poconos (Harlow 1913) and elsewhere (MacReynolds 1937). These early publications also mention nest sites in cities and towns on top of flat gravel rooftops. In the 1869 publication *The Birds of East Pennsylvania and New Jersey* W.P. Turnbull wrote in the account for "Night Hawk" that it is "Often seen high in the air above the streets of Philadelphia and its nest has frequently been found on the roofs of warehouses." (Turnbull 1869).

The nighthawk habit of nesting on flat, gravel rooftops is very familiar to birders in our region and remains the primary habitat where nesting occurs in our state with few exceptions. Nevertheless, there are many records in eBird that indicate that nighthawks are nesting in natural settings, many in north-central Pennsylvania. There are too many to list, but here are some examples. Grassland habitats north of State College at Rusnak Hill, Panther Grassland, and State Game Lands 321 have credible mid-summer reports as well as Morrison Run Trail in McKean County, the Muck Railroad area in Tioga County, a camp in Lycoming County, and a campsite in Beaver County. Perhaps there are scattered birds nesting across the state. The next breeding bird atlas project will be a good time to explore this.

Breeding Bird Atlas data. The first *Atlas of Breeding Birds of Pennsylvania* was published in 1992, summarizing field work done from 1983 to 1989 (Brauning 1992). In the account for Common Nighthawk it is stated that "Fifty years ago the general impression was that Common Nighthawks were abandoning their rural nesting sites and shifting to cities and towns. Gradually they were observed only rarely in the breeding season away from human structures." Brauning goes on to state that "They are now almost totally restricted to man-made structures in Pennsylvania", "Few, if any blocks on the Atlas map represent nesting in "natural" settings" and that "no regional coordinator reported nighthawks away from towns and cities." During that first atlas, nighthawks were recorded in 754 atlas blocks or 15% of the total blocks.

The *Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in Pennsylvania* was published in 2012 and summarizes field work done from 2004 to 2009 (Wilson, Brauning, Mulvihill 2012). Nighthawks were recorded this time in only 219 atlas blocks, a 71% decline from the first atlas. Grove noted in the account for Common Nighthawk that "The results of the second New York and Maryland atlases tell a similar story, with 71 percent and 63 percent declines in blocks occupied since the first atlases in those states (Medler 2008, Ellison 2010)." The field work for the second Atlas came produced a few intriguing records. One was a confirmed ground nest site on a former surface mine in Clinton County. Additionally, probable nesting reports came from former surface mines in Clinton, Centre, and Clearfield Counties and from former coal fields in Schuylkill, Lackawanna, and Luzerne Counties (Grove 2012).

Former Abundance and Reasons for Declines. Nighthawks may have been common at the time of Warren (1890) and Todd (1940), but just what does common mean? Warren mentions natural nest sites but how many confirmed records actually exist? Todd even remarked about the lack of actual natural nest site records as quoted previously. He goes on to state "one wonders whether it [nighthawks] could ever have been as common in prehistoric times, when the whole face of the country was forested." Brauning (1992) made similar remarks such as "Ubiquitous in distribution, the bird nevertheless has particular nest site requirements that must have restricted its breeding distribution in the past." I tend to agree.

The Common Nighthawk is widely thought to be declining as a breeding species and as a migrant in much of its eastern range. Many reasons for this decline have been noted in literature. The modern day materials used to make roofs, which utilize rubberized material or are sloped rather than made flat with gravel, are not suitable for nighthawk nests. Nest predation by crows and other predators whose populations are thriving is another concern. Also, the use of pesticides and their effects on insect prey populations is mentioned. Factors that affect nighthawk populations in their wintering range are not well known. The details of this decline are outside of the scope of this article.

Nighthawk Activity. eBird has been a very useful tool for reviewing the nesting range of the nighthawk (eBird 2019). I have used eBird Species Maps to see where they have been reported and then followed up by going to those locations. My findings go into eBird, sometimes with voice recordings. The birds are easy to find in June and July during the hours of about 9:00 pm to 11:45 pm and again from about 4:15 am to 5:45 am. I find them much more difficult to detect between those two time periods, but it is possible.

Curious to me are references in the early Warren (1890) and Todd (1940) books about them being active during daylight hours. Warren stated "All day long may be seen or heard flying in pursuit of their favorite prey" and "although oftentimes observed flying about during the day time, is particularly active in the afternoon and

in cloudy weather." Todd stated "During warm summer afternoons and evenings the Nighthawk is one of the most conspicuous birds in the air." I have not found that to be the case. I have only observed nighthawks active near dusk and into the night and near dawn. In migration they may sometimes be more active in the middle of the day but very rarely at nesting sites. Were they more active during the day a hundred years ago or maybe those authors were citing references from birds out west or in migration? Have their habits changed? I don't know.

Current Distribution in Pennsylvania. The largest stronghold of nesting nighthawks in Pennsylvania, as evident in eBird Species Maps, appears to be Pittsburgh in Allegheny County, especially the area of the "Golden Triangle" between the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers (Figure 1). This area spills over into fringe areas just outside of Pittsburgh city limits including Sewickley and Tarentum in Allegheny County and Ambridge and Beaver Falls in Beaver County. The density of eBird breeding season records

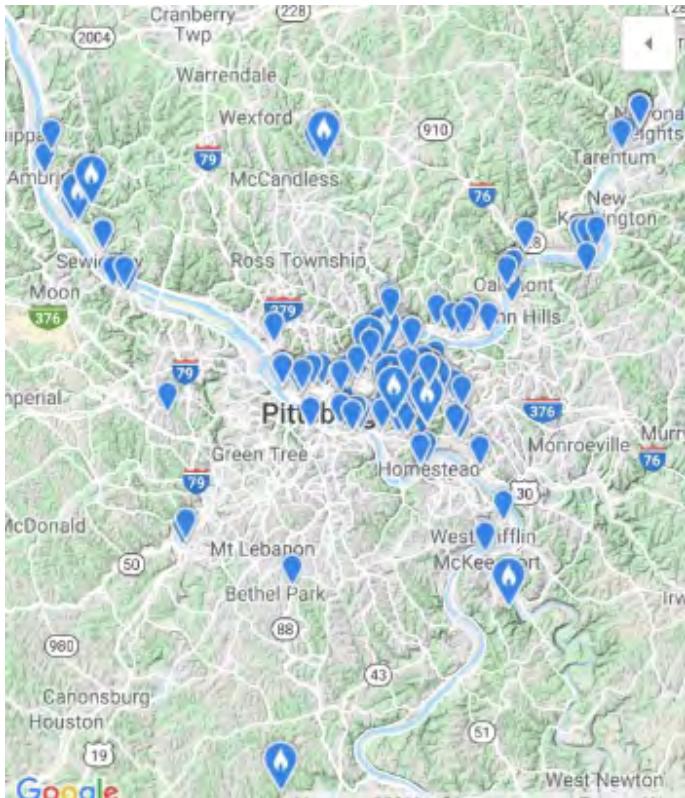


Figure 1 eBird June and July Records from 2015 to 2019, Greater Pittsburgh.

becomes much sparser away from here. In fact, my observations indicate, as is apparent on the eBird maps, that outside of Greater Pittsburgh nesting nighthawks in western Pennsylvania are widely scattered and very local (Figure 2). My findings also suggest that there may be few enough locations that they can almost be tallied in a list as follows: Meadville, Titusville, Franklin, Sharon, Butler, and Ford City are currently occupied in summer by probable breeders. I spoke with Jerry McWilliams, a noted bird expert, about Erie County and he reported that he and multiple observers have not found summering nighthawks in the county in recent years. Certainly I have missed a few sites, but at this time I believe I have identified a large share of the locations in Pennsylvania towns roughly west of Indiana in Indiana County. eBird Species Map data supports this.

Philadelphia, on the southeastern edge of the state, may have a local distribution of summering nighthawks similar to Pittsburgh. However, there aren't currently as many records in eBird there. This may or may not be due to less observer effort when compared with

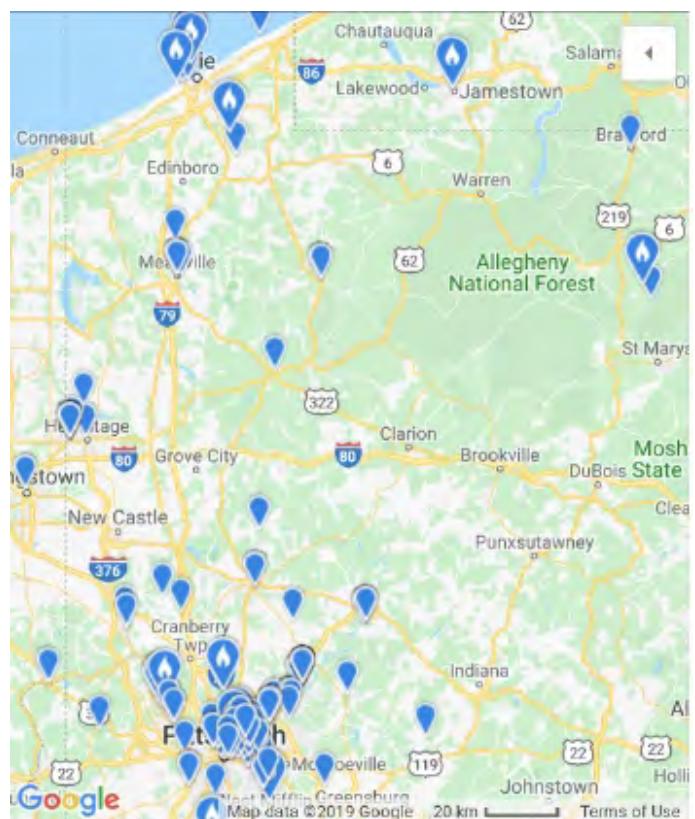


Figure 2 eBird June and July Records from 2015 to 2019, Western Pennsylvania

Pittsburgh.

The Wilkes-Barre and Scranton areas show a smaller cluster of records and may be another one of the few PA strongholds (Figure 3). One observation I made by reviewing eBird records for the summers of 2018-19 was eye-opening. There were no June and July reports for Common Nighthawk in the 200 mile east to west stretch from Ford City in Armstrong County to Frackville in Schuylkill County (Figure 3). This area includes such towns as Indiana, Johnstown, Altoona, State College, Dubois, Williamsport, Harrisburg, and York. Are there no longer nighthawks nesting in this great expanse or were they not recorded in eBird? Future records in eBird and birder reports will tell us.

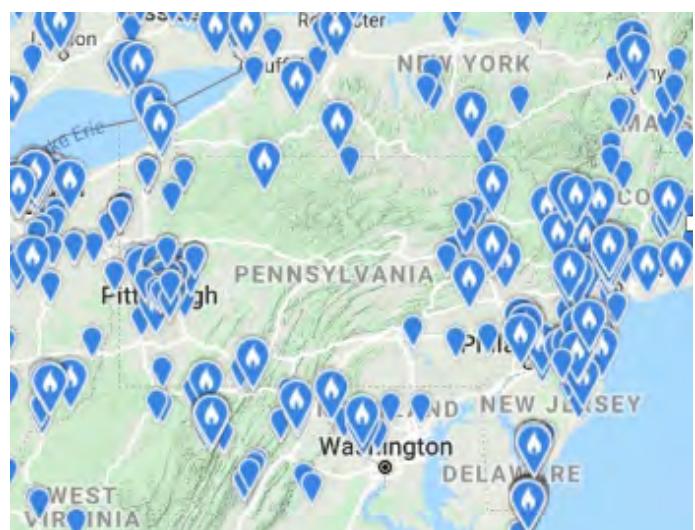


Figure 3 eBird June and July Records from 2018 to 2019, All of Pennsylvania.

Urban Habitat and Finding Summer Nighthawks. My interest in Common Nighthawks has peaked in recent years. I became very curious about where they are currently nesting in my “neck of the woods”, which has amounted to almost all of western Pennsylvania. I have spent many evenings and night time hours driving to towns and cities where I either knew they have been recorded in nesting season or where I thought they could be. This process started in my childhood hometown of Verona in Allegheny County. Branching out from there I searched other river towns on the Allegheny, Monongahela, Ohio, and Beaver Rivers. I started searching other counties and after a while had developed a pretty good feel for finding them. The second Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas prompted me to find them in as many blocks as I could for the project. eBird came along and I have stepped up my efforts to confirm nighthawks nesting in much of western Pennsylvania for this database. It has been a lot of fun and has given me enough knowledge to be inspired to write this article.

The birds that fascinated me as a child that I mentioned in the opening of this article were displaying at The Saint Joseph’s Catholic School and Church on the hilltop in Verona, Pennsylvania. Verona is an Allegheny River town about nine river miles upstream from the head of the Ohio River in Pittsburgh. Verona is typical of the type of city or town in which nighthawks are known to nest



Figure 4 Historical Nesting Location in Verona, Allegheny County, Photo by Scott Kinzey

throughout our region. It has a few simple city blocks and many old 19th and early 20th Century buildings that often have flat roofs. Some of these buildings were banks, oil and gas companies, hotels, newspapers, municipal buildings, etc. I have included photographs as examples of what these towns look like (Figures 4 and 5). It became apparent to me how very similar these towns



Figure 5 Current Nesting Location in McKeesport, Allegheny County (upper right quadrant of photo), Photo by Scott Kinzey

look in general appearance. In fact, it seems like towns that look like that were the only places I confirmed birds in nesting season. I do not know of any nesting at newer strip malls or shopping centers

away from older main street type towns. Other examples of this type of town are Franklin in Venango County, Butler in Butler County, and McKeesport in Allegheny County.

Verona also serves as a good example of what I think demonstrates a typical pattern of the decline of nesting Common Nighthawks in our region. When I was a child in the 1980s there were nighthawks in at least three locations in Verona. They were along the main street as in Figure 4, up the hill a little at the fire hall, and up the same hill a little further at St. Joseph's as mentioned previously. Over the next twenty years they were reduced to only the main street location and have been gone as nesters from Verona altogether since at least 2015. I think that this pattern is what has happened in other towns in Pennsylvania. They are either gone or limited to one location whereas historically there were multiple breeding pairs.

I have made some notes about my experiences in searching for and observing nesting season nighthawks in western Pennsylvania. For one, as already mentioned, I am intrigued at how similar the towns look where they spend the nesting seasons. You drive into a town and head right for the middle of the main street. You'll find the oldest, tallest, “historical” buildings in town. This is usually where the birds are. The second note is that most of the smaller towns have only one site or general area with nighthawks. There may be only one nesting pair but sometimes three or four birds are present, some of which could be unmated or not yet mated. This might be what I am seeing when there are more than two birds or it could be that more than one pair are in close proximity.

Western Pennsylvania towns where these conditions were noted include Meadville and Titusville in Crawford County, Butler in Butler County, and Bridgeville and McKeesport in Allegheny County. It is my belief that these outposts have only one nesting pair, possibly two at most. Sharon in Mercer County, for example, has typically more than two birds and maybe more than one nesting pair. For the most part, however, I only find birds in one general area per town and one calling male. The Greater Pittsburgh area is the only exception to this, but barely. The density of nesting season nighthawks is greater in the Pittsburgh area than the rest of western Pennsylvania. Sometimes enough nighthawks can be found such that each calling bird's territories may touch each other as one drives through sections of Allegheny County such as The Strip District, Lawrenceville, Oakland, Shadyside, Greenfield, The Northside and The Southside.

Nest Sites. In August of 2002 I was lucky to be able to photograph an adult female Common Nighthawk with two young a few times. They were found in the parking lot at the entrance of Neville Chemical Company on Neville Island in Allegheny County (Figures 6, 7, and 8). One of the young was found dead and smashed on the ground not long after these photos were taken, probably run over by a vehicle. Interesting is that the birds were on the ground and the nest had probably been on the ground also. There was a record of a ground nest from Kittanning in Armstrong County for which I could not find the reference. Researchers in New Hampshire have also found ground nests, even sometimes where there are suitable building rooftops. See the website nhaudubon.org/project-nighthawk/ as they have done a lot of interesting work with Common Nighthawks. Nighthawks probably nest on the ground in our region sometimes even when they are in habitats with a lot of flat gravel roofs. I suspect that this occurs more frequently than we know. Urban ground nesting was confirmed in three places during the Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in Pennsylvania project in a parking lot, on gravel adjacent to a building, and along a railroad bed (Grove 2012).

In conclusion, the Common Nighthawk is found as a nesting species across much of Pennsylvania but quite locally and apparently continuing the pattern of decline. If the pattern continues at this rate the bird could one day merit consideration for the state's Threatened Species List. For now, the nighthawk is relatively safe from this fate as there are continuing populations in cities and towns

as reviewed in this article. Even more encouraging are intriguing records of birds in appropriate habitats away from cities and towns. The Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in Pennsylvania project turned up a few more natural type possible nest locations (Grove 2012). Additionally, I have done some searches on eBird (www.ebird.org) that revealed more records than I expected well within nesting season in potentially appropriate habitats away from towns. Future birder and researcher follow-up, the use of eBird for bird records, and the upcoming Third Atlas of Breeding Birds in Pennsylvania project will provide exciting opportunities to learn about natural nest sites and the population as a whole. As for the city and town nesters, these habitats, of course, only became widely available in recent history. They may, in a sense, be largely bonus nesting birds in most of our state. However, as my favorite bird I hope that they continue to have their place with us.



Figure 6 Adult and two chicks, Neville Island, Allegheny County, August 2002. Photo by Scott Kinzey



Figure 7 Adult and juvenile, Neville Island, Allegheny County, August 2002, Photo by Scott Kinzey



Figure 8 Two Juveniles, Neville Island, Allegheny County, August 2002, Photo by Scott Kinzey

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The Nightjar Survey Network: A network of citizen scientists compiling data on declining, cryptic birds

Laura Duval

Program Coordinator

North American nightjars, or goatsuckers, include nine nocturnal (active at night) and crepuscular (more active at dawn and dusk) species. Nightjars migrate from their wintering grounds as far as South America arriving in late March to breed and forage in North American deciduous and pine forests often bordered by shrubby or agriculture fields and bodies of water. These areas offer prime habitat for these aerial insectivores. Males will call incessantly, primarily on moonlit nights, to woo females and protect their territories. Females lay 1-3 eggs in a shallow scrape or more often directly on leaf litter on forest floors and, for some species, in pebbled or sandy, open tracts. Both the male and female share the responsibility of incubating the eggs. The semi-precocial, downy-feathered nestlings are mostly dependent on the adults for food. They are somewhat mobile within days of hatching, but generally remain near the nest. The parents continue to feed their young within their territory for up to a month. Nightjars begin migrating back to their wintering grounds as early as July, though some populations remain in southern states such as Texas, Florida and Arizona throughout the winter.



Distribution of nightjars in the Americas.^a

It is believed that nightjar numbers are rapidly declining due to habitat degradation, human disturbance, and climate change. Unfortunately, relatively little regarding the specifics of their ecology is known due to a paucity of research. Their nocturnal tendencies have made them challenging to study and simply hard to detect by researchers and the millions of citizen scientists that submit observations in volunteer data portals such as eBird. The Center for Conservation Biology at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia established the Nightjar Survey Network in 2007 in an attempt to fill knowledge gaps for these species. Over 3,000 surveys have been conducted nationwide since its inception.

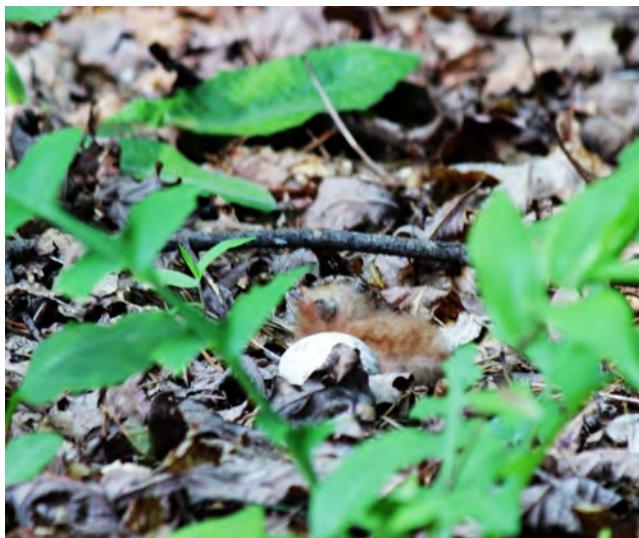


An adult Eastern Whip-poor-will incubates its eggs in a pile of leaf litter. Nightjars have evolved plumage that helps to camouflage them during this vulnerable period of their annual cycle.^b



A clutch of Eastern Whip-poor-will eggs. Most nightjars will not "build" a nest, but instead lay eggs directly on the ground or in a shallow scrape in leaf litter.^b

In Pennsylvania alone, 24 surveyors have conducted 95 surveys along 39 individual routes tallying 625 Eastern whip-poor-wills and 26 Common Nighthawk detections (Figure 1).



A newly hatched Eastern Whip-poor-will chick and one unhatched egg. Chicks are semi-preocial and downy and require food from their parents for the first few days; thereafter, they can venture within feet of the nest to secure some of their own food items, but will remain close to the nest location for several weeks.^b

Several Pennsylvania citizen scientists have contributed multiple years of data for individual routes^c. Five of these survey routes have been run in Pennsylvania for ≥ 3 years (Figure 2). This dedication to the network stands apart as these long-term datasets are the most influential in steering management and research objectives. It is difficult to draw inferences from one or two years of surveys; therefore, we encourage people to dedicate multiple years to the survey if possible.

You can sign up anytime to conduct a route for the 2020 season by visiting <http://www.nightjars.org/>. To create a user account once on the webpage click “Become a participant” at the right top corner of the home page. You will be prompted to create a user name and password. Be sure to enter a valid email

address where you can receive introductory materials and updates over time. From there you can browse the website to view historical nightjar data for each state, study up on your nightjar calls, view dates for past and upcoming survey periods, and choose or create a survey under the “PARTICIPATE” button.

There are plenty of surveys available statewide. Scan through our mapping portal (<http://www.nightjars.org/routes/select>) and select a route in your area of interest by clicking on the red dot for the route. A bubble will appear that will identify whether or not the route is available for adoption. Simply click “Adopt It” to add the route to your account. If there is not a route available near you, or if you would be interested in establishing a route in an area of interest you can do so by following the directions under “Adding a new route” at this link: <http://www.nightjars.org/participate/survey-instructions/>.

Feel free to contact us anytime with your questions concerning signing up, creating routes, or entering data at nightjars@nightjars.org. Follow us on Facebook for nightjar news throughout the year or to post updates, questions, and photo/audio of your nightjar encounters.

Acknowledgements

a. Source: Wikipedia

b. Photos courtesy of user Stefunny Moon

c. A special thank you to Greg Grove for his continued dedication to his routes and the network and for spearheading the conversation to work towards increasing surveyor participation in his state.

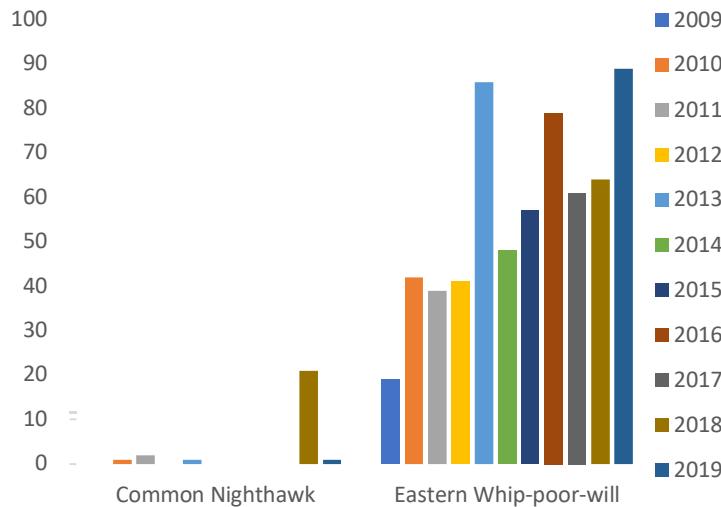
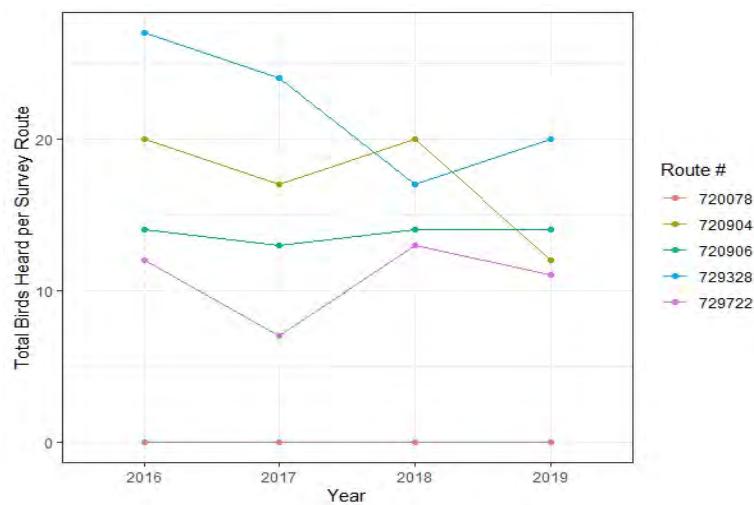


Figure 1. Total number of nightjars detected each year during Pennsylvania survey routes.

Figure 2. Total Whip-poor-wills (most abundant nightjar in PA) detected along dedicated routes (routes that have been run ≥ 3 years). When interpreting these trend lines, please keep in mind this figure does not factor in changes in habitat from year to year along route, disturbance, previous season breeding production, weather events, or other factors that may influence population dynamics.

First Confirmed Nesting of Prothonotary Warbler in Cumberland County

Vern Gauthier

Reporting in *Pennsylvania Birds* on the spring season for Cumberland County in 2002, then-county compiler Deuane Hoffman wrote, "Among the usual warbler migrants this year, migration was punctuated with the appearance of 2 male Prothonotary Warblers...It seems the area gets its share of Prothonotaries every spring, but none are known to stay and nest—maybe one year. Prothonotaries nest within 10 miles of Cumberland, so it is not out of the realm of possibility." (1) Well, that one year was this year, 2019, when that possibility turned into actuality.

On June 8 of 2019 one of 10 Prothonotary Warbler boxes supplied by Zoo America and placed with the cooperation of the Pennsylvania State Game Commission in the propagation ponds area of State Game Land 169 was found with a male singing nearby and a female flushed off a completed nest when the box was opened. It was not determined if eggs were present in the nest. One of the other boxes had the beginnings of a nest with a male singing nearby. This starter nest is probably one of 3 or 4 nests that the male began by putting down a layer of moss in hopes of attracting a female who would choose one of them to complete. The nesting boxes were paid a second visit on June 21 where a male and female were both seen near the nest box with the completed nest. When the box was opened there were now three chicks in the nest. Also found were two boxes with active House Wren nests (House Wrens compete with Prothonotary Warblers for nest boxes) and the same box with the starter nest in it, but with no male singing nearby at this visit. Four of the other boxes were empty and two could not be relocated. In all, four males were found singing in the propagation pond area of SGL 169 with one confirmed nesting pair. The nest boxes were not revisited after this point until the fall.

A Brief History of Prothonotary Warblers in Pennsylvania through 2009

Before the first Breeding Bird Atlas (BBA) Prothonotary Warblers were infrequently reported in southeastern Pennsylvania in the late 1800s, with the first breeding record in southern Lancaster County in 1924. The first confirmed nesting in western Pennsylvania was in Erie County in 1938. In total, there were eight counties where the species had been confirmed breeding by 1960 - Adams, Berks, Crawford, Erie, Lancaster, Montgomery, Union, and York (Fig 1) (2).

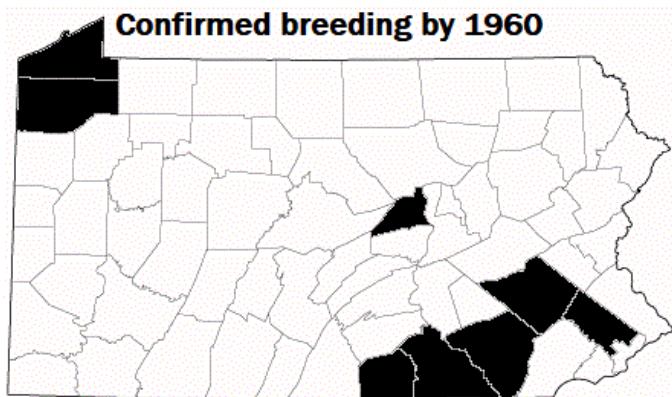


Figure 1

During the first Pennsylvania BBA (1983-1989) Prothonotary Warblers were reported in 43 blocks from 17 counties with breeding "Confirmed" in eight blocks representing five counties - Crawford and Erie in the northwest, Potter in the north-central,

Lancaster in the southeast, and Monroe in the northeast (Fig 2). There were another 14 blocks where the species was "Probable",



Figure 2

and still 21 more where "Possible". Cumberland County was included in the list of those that were "Probable", with one block (most likely being the Huntsdale area) reported as such (3). (Confirmed, Probable, and Possible are formal BBA breeding status codes).

Data from the second BBA (2004-2009) showed that the overall Prothonotary Warbler population had remained relatively stable with 47 blocks reporting the species compared to 43 in the first atlas. However, the number of blocks reporting Confirmed breeding almost doubled, from eight in the first BBA to 15 in the second, representing eight counties - Beaver, Crawford, Erie, and Mercer in the west, Lancaster, and York in the southeast, and Bucks and Northampton in the east. Cumberland had one Probable block (most likely including SGL 169) and one Possible block (again, most likely being the Huntsdale area) (Fig 3). (4)



Figure 3

By my count that makes 14 counties in Pennsylvania through 2009 where Prothonotary Warbler has been confirmed breeding. They include Adams, Beaver, Berks, Bucks, Crawford, Erie, Lancaster, Mercer, Monroe, Montgomery, Northampton, Potter, Union, and York; now added to that list is Cumberland County, making 15 counties in all (Fig 4).

Since 2009 Cumberland County seems to be the only new county added to the list of those where Prothonotary has been confirmed breeding. I checked eBird reports in those Pennsylvania counties where Prothonotary had not been confirmed previously

and invariably what has been reported are lone single males though in one case there were 3 males reported singing in Chester County.

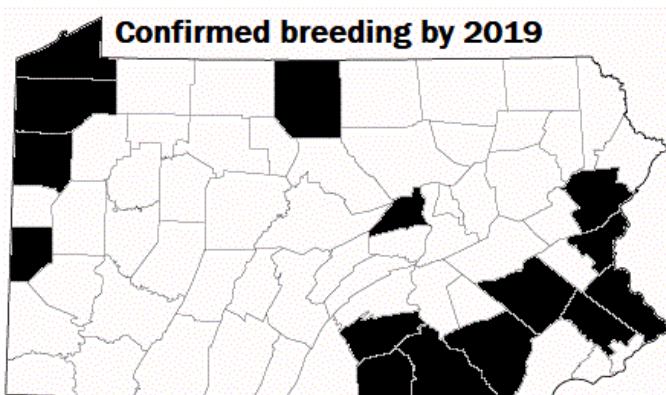


Figure 4

I also sent out an email to PSO County Compilers asking if there were any counties where Prothonotary Warbler had been confirmed for the first time since the second atlas with replies received not indicating any others.

The Natural History of the Prothonotary Warbler

Prothonotary Warblers breed from the Gulf Coast north to Wisconsin and Michigan, west to eastern Texas, Colorado, and Nebraska, and on the east coast north to Pennsylvania and very western New York state, being mostly absent from the Appalachian Mountains.

The species winters in mangrove forests of Central and South America, with the largest part of the population wintering in northern South American, especially Columbia. Most of the population migrates over the Gulf of Mexico, crossing directly between U.S. Gulf Coast (Texas to northwest Florida) and the Gulf Coast of Mexico and Yucatán Peninsula (5).

eBird data over the last ten years shows that Prothonotary Warblers are first reported in Pennsylvania the second week of April, arriving in larger numbers by the end of the month and peaking in mid-May. While the bulk of the population leaves the state by mid-July they are reported in much smaller numbers through mid-September with some stragglers staying until the end of the month (6).

Males arrive in the spring, establishing a territory in swamps, bottomland, and at the edges of wooded ponds, building one or more dummy nests which are no more than a layer of moss lining the bottom of a tree cavity or nesting box. The female will choose from the available nest sites and then build the nest on her own, filling the nest cavity nearly to the entrance hole with moss, dry leaves, twigs and bark; then lines it with rootlets and bark strips usually over or near water (Fig 5). Nest cavities excavated by Downy Woodpeckers are often used and as exemplified by this article, they will use nest boxes, though they are in completion with House Wrens for use of these boxes. The female is the lone incubator of the clutch, which will number anywhere from three to eight eggs. Both adults feed the young. They are susceptible to Brown-headed Cowbird parasitism.

Strongholds for the species in Pennsylvania are in the Conneaut Marsh and Pymatuning Reservoir area of western Crawford County and the wetlands of Mercer County wetlands in the northwest corner of the state, and in the southeast along the lower Susquehanna River where it has apparently increased due to the placing of nest boxes and tubes in suitable habitat (7).

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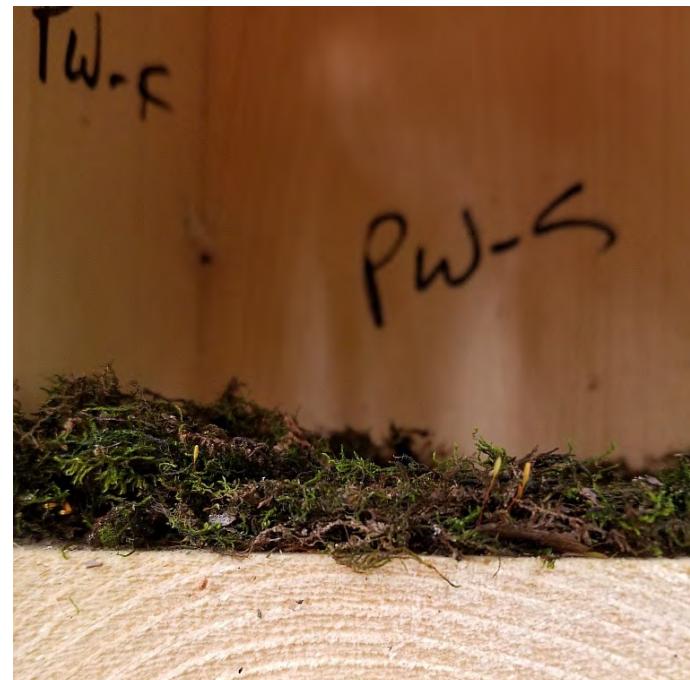


Figure 5 Nest box

BOOK REVIEW

Gene Wilhelm

HOW TO BE AN URBAN BIRDER by David Lindo, foreword by Jamie Oliver, 57 illustrations by Steph Thorpe, 271 color photographs, acknowledgements, and photo credits, 5.87 x 8 2/5 in., 232 pp., by Princeton University Press, NJ and in the U.K. by Princeton University Press, Oxfordshire, 2018, paperback, \$18.95.

The color cover of this book, vividly depicting an adult Jackdaw clinging tightly to at least three French-fried potatoes in its beak, sets the delightful tone of this bird guide by vivacious David Lindo. Popularly known as the 'Urban Birder' in the U.K., Lindo is also a naturalist, writer, broadcaster, lecturer, photographer, wildlife tour leader, educator, and humorist. And a young man with a special, urgent, worldwide mission, I might add.

Lindo was born in Park Royal in West London with an inbuilt fascination for natural history. Anything with a pulse and the ability to navigate, caught his attention. However, at the early age of five, he began to focus on birds, and after being repeatedly told that all wildlife was only found in the countryside, and with nobody willing to take him there, he had no choice but to gradually move from being an occasional beginner birdwatcher to a full-fledged urban birder. He quickly learned in the process of birding that wild birds do not turn up in our cities by accident. They are there because of the variety of micro-habitats that are available in our fast-growing metropolitan centers that provide avian havens, albeit often disturbed and temporary ones "that are forever under the omnipresent dark cloud of development" (p. 9). Lindo also learned that birds are not only everywhere in cities but also they are here to stay, an idea that is repeated regularly within the pages of his book. Of course, this natural phenomenon has been an integral part of cityscapes for centuries. At this point Lindo stresses a true and urgent message: "If we can learn about the importance of wildlife conservation in our cities, then we will understand its special connection in the general web of life on this planet, enabling us to reach out and strive to protect the rest of the world's fauna and flora and, ultimately, ourselves" (p. 9). What better natural key is there to introduce this gateway to ecology than birds? This reviewer, however, wonders if humanity has enough time to correct such ignorance with world human population multiplying exponentially and experts estimating that more than three-fourths of that world population will be located in cities.

Nevertheless, Lindo's ambitious goal is to produce this guide as a cutting edge of ornithology by exposing city birding as a

fun, modern, healthy, and productive pastime that can simultaneously contribute to conservation understanding and action. The author stresses that his guide does not follow the route that most other 'how to be a birdwatcher' books take. For example, using scientific names and systematic positioning of species, he believes, are not necessary for beginner birders. Instead, he follows the path that he took as a youth with a passion for birds and other forms of wildlife to becoming an older, wiser person with an even greater, keener passion for our feathered friends. The author cordially invites city folk everywhere to accept his challenge in believing that people really do find birds wherever they may be, even concrete jungles.

After **Foreword**, **What is urban birding?**, and **How to use this book** (pp. 5-19), Lindo states that beginner birders must be able to recognize the various habitats in which wild birds live, such as gardens, public parks, rivers and canals, reservoirs, gravel pits and lakes, woodlands and trees, cemeteries, heaths and grasslands, nature reserves, and coastlines. The author isn't satisfied with only these habitats, however, and adds urban centers, especially if birders imaginably view the tall buildings as cliffs, and their cornices, sills, and overhangs as ledges. Birders will immediately start seeing birds like the Peregrine Falcon feeding on a plentiful supply of feral pigeons and other available but less common avian species. This situation is replicated, as readers know, in American cities like Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Another habitat is urban center rooftops, especially important during spring and autumn avian migrations when diurnal kettles of Common Buzzards and Red Kites are often identified in the U.K. (In the U.S. flat roofs are still utilized by breeding Killdeer and Nighthawks in urban cities). Although sewage farms are mentioned, this noted bird habitat has recently become more of working gravel extractions, landfills, and sludge spreading sites. This wrecking process has sped the dramatic decline of the nationally scarce Tree Sparrow in the U.K. One site, the Beddington Farmlands, boasted one of the largest breeding colonies of the sparrow in the U.K. with over 300 fledglings banded in 2008. In 2007 there were 1,000 birds present; by 2013 only 15 remained. This is the same species, now called the Eurasian Tree Sparrow in the U.S., that was brought to Saint Louis, Missouri in 1870 by German immigrants. The species is still found in the vicinity of its released zone, including next door neighbor's of my home for twenty years. Other urban habitats examined were marshes, brownfield land, and building sites, landfill sites, shopping centre car

parks, and airports, sites that are already familiar to most U.S. readers.

This reviewer especially resonated with Lindo's last habitat: The sky, perhaps the one habitat that many beginner birders tend to forget. People simply do not look up either in their daily lives or when birding. Visible diurnal migration is often apparent in the sky wherever you may be. One recent example, perhaps, will prove the point. Leaving my busy local grocery store, stopping in the vehicle parking lot with both hands grasping full-to-the brim recycle bags, I scanned the clear blue sky as I customarily do, and behold scores of Turkey Vultures were dropping fast out of a kettle into tall black spruce trees a city quarter-block away. I counted the birds as quickly and accurately as I could. Meantime, several folks gathered around me, all asking the same question. "What are you looking for?" One gent even offered to hold my bags. Fortunately, 150 vultures landed in the trees behind my condo unit and spent over-night there; another 2,000 vultures, a record, used many other tall trees and communication towers over-night in Slippery Rock Borough as reported via phone calls.

The next part of the guide asks the question **What is that bird?** Clearly answered by Lindo saying never be afraid of asking such a question because it is not a silly question. The author challenges any beginner birder to examine most field guides and in the introductory pages, drawings are depicting the 'topography' or parts of a bird. Such details usually mean little to a beginner birder. Even many experienced birders often struggle to recall all of the terms used. Instead, beginner birders should write down the general size and colors of the bird. Next, emphasize six parts of the bird: head, back, wings, tail, under-parts, and bare parts such as bill and legs. With plenty of time and patience studying bird(s), the beginner birder can add the behavior of birds in your garden, for example, whether a bird walks or hops. Finally, birds have universal sounds usually divided into songs, call notes, and others that can be learned little by little in time and space.

The birds in your neighborhood and **Urban garden birding** sections cover seasons, migration, weather, roosts, what birds can you look for, attracting birds to your garden with feeders, birdbaths, nest-boxes, threats, diseases, friendly gardens, ponds, and bog gardens, especially short but thoroughly qualified information (pp. 82-160). Likewise, **Tools of the trade** are excitedly up-to-date for beginner birders including recent bird books, magazines, binoculars, telescopes, cameras, how to take a picture, digiscoping, phonescoping, video,

storing your images, sound recording, the internet, smart phones, and apps - everything that is currently on the international market to entice the beginner birder's content (pp. 161-193). **Being an urban birder** is the last section of the book and again includes everything beginner birders need to know from urban birding attire, field craft, safety, finding birds, note taking,* when to go birding, finding local patches, listing and reporting sightings, urban birder or urban twitcher (a U.K. term similar to U.S. hard-core birder particularly interested in counting the greatest number of avian species within one calendar year in the U.S.), hooking up with other birders, urban birding abroad, and just give it a go (pp. 194-229).

*Note taking is both an art and science that has changed tremendously with current technology from using pencil or pen, paper,

and field notebook to using apps such as eBird. The advantage of the latter is that your records are fed into a real-time database that can give an instant picture on a local to global level. Your notes can be kept digitally, allowing you to refer to them whenever you want. Nevertheless, the author (and yours truly) still take field notes and sketches when finding a rare to first record avian species, mostly for verification purposes. In fact, it's always wise to write everything possible about such species. The author concludes: "I may be a little old-fashioned, and although technology and photographs clearly have their place, to my mind nothing beats the visceral quality of hand-written notes and sketches. Looking back to my old notebooks always leaves me with the positive feeling that I did see those birds" (p. 215).

In sum, this reviewer has not experienced a beginner birder's introductory field guide so packed with detailed data as found in *How to be an Urban Birder*. As advertised, it is truly the first guide to the art and science of urban birding and should be used as the model for other cities of the world. Book sketches and photographs are most appealing and David Lindo's humor and stories refreshing. Readers surely have teens in the family who would enjoy this bird guide from beginning to end and at a shocking minimal cost, too. Good luck, David. We here in America will definitely 'Look Up' hence forth.

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Unusually Large Gray Catbird Fault Bar Nick Kerlin

A hatch year (HY) Gray Catbird of unknown sex banded on 10/4/2019 at The Arboretum at Penn State on the main campus of the Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA exhibited what appeared to be an example of a major fault bar across the tail.

Fault bars on feathers are caused by stresses on the bird during early growth, usually by food deprivation. The bar averaged 15 mm in width and was present on all the retrices (tail feathers), except the right R5 which had a white tip and both R6's (outer most) which also had a larger paler area toward their tips.

Unfortunately no other observations were noted, as we were busy processing other birds and training student helpers at the time. I've seen a few fault bars in my 40 plus years of banding, but never one this extensive in size. Review of the photo by banders in the United States and the United Kingdom made similar comments.

Habitat was a fencerow of invasive privet (*Ligustrum*) and oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*) mixed with native goldenrods (*Solidago*) and American pokeweed (*Phytolacca Americana*). The fencerow was bordered by a meadow of mixed goldenrod (*Solidago*), common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) and other native and invasive forbes.

A summary of the fall 2019 banding season at The Arboretum at Penn State can be found at <https://arboretum.psu.edu/programs/education/>

Nick Kerlin, Bander-in-charge
Avian Education Program
The Arboretum at Penn State



Summary of the Season: Summer 2019

Dan Brauning

The summer season, covering just June and July, is the shortest of our reporting calendar. Designed to focus on the breeding season, it targets the time of year in which the least bird movement is expected and as a result, the fewest rarities. The notable exceptions to this are migrant shorebirds in June (heading north) or July (heading south) to or from the brief high Arctic breeding season. As a result, the bulk of the summer *Birds of Note* section typically is comprised of 15 to 20 species of shorebirds, a variety of lingering waterfowl, some rare breeders, as well as a few true vagrants.

I've always felt that my summer *Summary* gives short shrift to the importance of the approximately 150 bird species breeding widely across the state every year. I'm grateful that many compilers incorporate observations of these relatively common breeding birds into their reports, so the core species found across the state during this season are not ignored. This is particularly the case in light of the recently-published 2019 State of the Birds Report <https://www.stateofthebirds.org/2019/> that highlighted the loss of almost 3 billion birds since 1970. Those losses calculated from the annual surveys conducted across the US and Canada, the Breeding Bird Survey, including routes here in state completed by many among the *Pennsylvania Birds* membership. I've included a few references to that report below, but the gradual declines of many species that constitute the bulk of those 3 billion birds is masked by their widespread distribution and relative abundance. For example, Pennsylvania supports many hundred thousand **fewer Red-winged Blackbirds** now than it did in 1970, and yet this species is still statewide and relatively common and highlighted in few Local Notes. But that decline is real, while parallel declines in **Bobolink** and **Grasshopper Sparrows** are very noticeable. How to process all of this is my annual challenge, since time and space require drawing attention to the noteworthy rarities.

This season includes many of the normal cast of characters, as well as several with little previous summer activity. Top on the list of birds in this year's *Birds of Note* had apparently no previous summer records, the **Nelson's Sparrow**. Particularly notable, there were two apparently independent observations (*Bucks* and *Northampton*) this year. Another highlight includes a **Brown Booby**, which like previously state records, was photographed by someone not

connected to the birding community but attentive enough to forward the observation to someone who is! Rounding out the list of accidentals, a **Rufous Hummingbird**, **Anhinga**, and **Painted Bunting** appear to represent the state's second summer records of these species. In 2019, the rarest of the state's established breeding birds, each documented at only one location, are the **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**, **Clay-colored Sparrow** and **Piping Plover**.

After a pause in sightings since 2012, this summer brought record reports of the southern **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** from 7 widely-scattered counties. The spring 2019 issue of *Pennsylvania Birds* noted that the state's first record (during any season) for this duck was 25 years ago! Summer reports in the previous 10 years were restricted to eastern half of the state, so the July observation of 7 in *Allegheny* broke that pattern. The scattered summer sightings seem unrelated, with 4 in *Philadelphia* 2 days after those on the opposite side of the state in *Allegheny*. It's possible they flew across the state in two days, but it seems more likely that several flocks entered the state independently or the first group of 11 in *Berks* subsequently broke up and scattered. Of course, we'll never know.

There was no evidence of breeding this year for the state's newest addition to the list of breeding species, the **Trumpeter Swan**. The pair was found again in *Jefferson* where they nested last year, but no nesting behavior was noted this year. Since that pair is tagged, a brief summary of their recent travels is provided with that report. Other tagged swans (see *Lycoming*) also provide similar highlights of individual movements, something that has fascinated biologists since Audubon put a sliver thread on the leg of a phoebe. Other types of tags, from simple bird bands to high-tech satellite telemetry, are being used to understand details of the movements of a wide range of species. More on this below.

Waterfowl lingering from spring are frequent highlights of Local Notes and traditionally comprise a significant portion of the *Birds of Note* summary. This year is not an exception. The **Common Goldeneye** is the least frequently reported of the group this year, providing just the second summer report in the past 10 years. But the two observations from *Lancaster* provide a riddle: A female was clearly observed and photographed at Muddy Run in June, but a male was observed there for 10 days a month later. This would not be surprising for a nesting pair of rare birds, but for two different individuals of a

species with no history of nesting to be found in the same well-birded location, adds to the intrigue!

Other waterfowl include a lone **Long-tailed Duck**, the only individual statewide this summer. That bird, in *Northampton*, which continued from May and appeared incapable of flight, provided the fourth summer with a sighting of the past 5 years. Other fairly conspicuous waterfowl were observed only one time during this season. The summer's lone **Canvasback** was included on just one July checklist in *Crawford*. And, both **Lesser** and **Greater Scaup** were reported on only one occasion anywhere in the state this past summer. Were they just passing through or somehow overlooked the rest of the season? The dynamics of bird movement and detection continue to make birding interesting year-round.

The 3 Billion Bird decline story indicated that waterfowl and raptors represent a bright light in the story of bird conservation, with many ducks and geese doing well in contrast to the declines in many songbirds. We certainly see that with **Canada Geese**, **Wood Ducks**, and the mergansers. However, the lack of observations of nesting **Blue-winged Teal** and **Green-winged Teal** is counter to the recovery of waterfowl. During the first PA Breeding Bird Atlas (1990s), both were documented nesting in the state, fairly widely for the former. By the time of the second Atlas (2000s), **Blue-wing Teal** nesting observations were down to one-third of the former observations, and since that survey, nesting documentation is really unusual. In contrast, the breeding populations of both **Hooded** and **Common Merganser** continue to expand. The reference to possible breeding in *Lancaster* and mention in *Allegheny* illustrate the extent to which **Common Mergansers** have expanded southward in the last forty years. **Hooded Mergansers** have, of course, adapted to the widespread placement of **Wood Duck** boxes and expanded widely during this same period! This all speaks well to improvements in water quality and the direct conservation efforts directed to wetlands.

The only report of **Red-necked Grebe** during the summer came from a Facebook post, with a clear photo reported from the PPL Wetlands in Salem Twp, *Luzerne* on 6/1. Summer sightings have come from two of the previous 10 years. The **Eurasian Collared-Dove** continues to hold on in state in low numbers, hardly budging from the locations in the Cumberland Valley between *Franklin* to *Berks* over the past decade. The photo of

hatch-year birds in *Berks* demonstrates what is assumed, they're breeding locally. A passing observation on a Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) route in *Lancaster* would represent an expansion, but this dove remains in low numbers and is expanding slowly, if at all.

The drastic decline in **Common Nighthawk** breeding sites across the state in the past 30 years is tempered by reports in small towns and rural areas from more than a dozen counties this year. Documentation of nesting (not an easy thing to accomplish) could be important to clarify the status of these reports. The **Chuck-will's-widow**'s status in the state is also uncertain, but for the opposite reason. This was the 10th consecutive year in which this southern nightjar has been reported. That's pretty good for a species that previously was accidental at best, and suggests it now has a toe-hold on the state. The two reports indicated that birds had returned to locations in *Centre* and *Cumberland*. There is a good chance that this species is more widespread and overlooked, if only because it's nocturnal. A western species that we have come to expect in the fall, the **Rufous Hummingbird**, showed up unexpectedly in July this year. This female was the second of its species found within the Commonwealth during the summer season. Two thousand miles from the nearest established nesting population, one can only wonder what it was doing here.

This summer saw a spike in the number of eBird checklists reporting **Pied-billed Grebes**, with no comparable change in other marsh birds like **Sora** or **Virginia Rail**. The grebes were included in 14 county reports (twice the number as 2018), with evidence of nesting specifically mentioned in *Centre*, *Erie*, *Lancaster*, and *Northampton* counties. **Sandhill Cranes** continue widely, although nesting confirmation remains elusive in most areas.

The frequent reference to a wet summer this year probably had greater implications to the distribution of migrant shorebirds than to any other species group. Typical shorebird reports in 2019 included a range of rare migrants at Presque Isle, *Erie*, and the Conejohela Flats, *Lancaster*. A highlight for the year was 3 **Marbled Godwits** on 7/16 on Gull Point, among more reports than usual for this species. All of the other summer shorebird sightings involve species that are seen annually, although some (like **Western Sandpiper**, in *Chester*) were reported only once during the season.

A notable phenomenon documented again this year was the detection of hundreds of migratory shorebirds at several locations far from the coast or any real notable migratory stopover. Hundreds of **Sanderlings**, **Ruddy Turnstone**, **Dunlin** and additional counts of unidentified birds

are just not historically reported in Pennsylvania. We know that much higher counts of these species are routinely seen staging on the Delaware Bay shores of New Jersey and Delaware, and we have the full expectation that those birds fly over the state on northbound migrations. Strategic monitoring at Green Lane Reservoir and Valley Forge Historic Park, *Montgomery*, and Bucktoe Creek Preserve, *Chester* has documented the spectacle of shorebird migration over southeastern Pennsylvania in early June.

The only location documented to support nesting **Upland Sandpipers** this year was the meadows at Pymatuning, notably the Wilson Road area, *Crawford*. Historic surface mine areas might not have been thoroughly checked this year, although the plight of grassland-associated species is grim. The return of **Piping Plovers** for a 3rd breeding season to Presque Isle, *Erie*, provides solid ground to celebrate the success of our only nesting federally-listed bird. This plover again fledged 4 young with the assistance of conservation efforts organized and funded by the Pennsylvania Game Commission in collaboration with Presque Isle State Park, that included monitoring by staff (primarily Sarah Sargent and Mary Birdsong) of the Erie Bird Observatory. The observations were down-played through the breeding season to reduce affectionate disturbance of this sensitive little bird. The nest was again protected by Cathy Haffner with a federally-approved enclosure (to prevent gull predation) on 6/19 and with sand bags (to protect from rising lake levels). The young hatched on 7/8 and were banded 7/15 by Haffner. A third adult plover was seen on the beach for some of the season. The successful nesting of **Piping Plovers** at Gull Point was matched, again, by failed nesting attempts by **Common Terns**.

Two other tern species deserve mention, both species breeding nearby on the Atlantic coast, and observed along the Delaware River about as close in the state to those colonies as you can get. The observation of 3 **Gull-billed Terns** at Fort Mifflin, *Delaware* was notably only the fourth summer report within the Commonwealth for a species that nests so nearby. The sequence of sightings of 2 **Least Terns** provides an unusual example of tracking a rare bird (just by observations) in the course of its movement through the state. The two were discovered in the morning of 6/15 and observed for several hours at Marsh Creek State Park, *Chester*. On the following day, two (presumably the same) were seen and photographed about 30 air-miles away at John Heinz Refuge, *Philadelphia* at about 9:30 am, and then observed independently at 11:00 a few miles downstream on Delaware River at Marcus Hook, *Delaware*. All within about 24 hours, it

seems reasonable to assume that this sequence of observations involved the same 2 individuals heading to the coast. Of course, their initial journey approximately 100 miles inland (from the closest likely coastal territories) to Marsh Creek (and who knows where else in the first place) went undetected.

Among the more enigmatic of summer observations was, again, that of a **Brown Booby**, this summer in central Pennsylvania. Showing up along the Atlantic coast more frequently in recent years than previously, this is the second July in succession that a photograph of a **Brown Booby** reached the birding community, but the bird was not relocated or further documented. This summer's observation was on 7/6 by someone fishing on the Susquehanna River near the Isle of Que. The photo of a very confiding bird was sent to Chad Kaufmann, who posted the observation to eBird. The only other eBird observation within two weeks of this species anywhere North American was the following week, in Alabama. Clearly, boobies move about undetected most of the time, even while approaching boats for bait! The second-ever summer observation of **Anhinga** was similar and different. Similarly, it was observed only once during the summer season, but in contrast, by an experienced birder (Frank Windfelter) high over *Philadelphia*. This wide-ranging, common southern bird appeared in only one previous summer report, also in *Philadelphia*, and also in mid-June (1993). Very few extra-limital observations of **Anhinga** north of Pennsylvania were reported this year, although it is frequently encountered as far north as coastal Virginia.

There have been very few historic summer records of **American White Pelican**, although this species occurs widely on the western edge of Lake Erie. So, this summer's sightings in 3 counties, including a flock of 20, provides for an outstanding summer for this very conspicuous bird. The 3 seen in *Erie* on 6/2 provided that well-documented area's first June record. The flock of 5 heading south on 6/4 over Haverford College at 8:10 were most certainly the same birds seen about 8 miles due south the next morning at Governor Printz Park, *Delaware*, along the Delaware River and later nearby in New Jersey. It is very possible that these 5 pelicans are part of the 7 seen at Bombay Hook Refuge, *Delaware*, several days before and after this event, but not between 6/3 and 6/8. It would seem they took a brief foray from *Delaware* into Pennsylvania.

American and **Least Bitterns** are a set of related species listed by the state as Endangered. Their nesting is notoriously hard to document, and most of this summer's observations qualify as little more than passing observations. Three

sighting of **American Bitterns**, including 2 on 6/10 at Rassel Marsh, *Elk*, was intriguing. Documentation of these state-listed species during the breeding season can provide protection to the occupied wetland habitats, so closer attention to these reports is warranted.

The annual post-breeding dispersal of wading birds included more counties and higher numbers this year than last, and included a **Tricolored Heron**, among the rarest of this group, but without a documented White Ibis this year. **Little Blue Herons** were reported in 13 eastern counties in July 2019, more than twice the number from 2018 and an unusual June sighting in *Erie*. Similarly, **Snowy Egrets** were found in almost twice as many counties as last year and the number of **Great Egret** eBird observations during the period was 50% above last year. So, it was a very active year of post-breeding dispersal for a variety of waders. *Conspicuously absent* were Roseate Spoonbill and Wood Stork, which had occurred in the previous two summers. Who would have thought I'd ever say that!

Reports of Pennsylvania's nesting waders are best summarized in the spring season reports, so few added nesting details were included in summer local notes, which focused on post-breeding movements. The two night-heron species, also listed as Endangered within the state, are not doing well. But the reports from *Berks* that juvenile **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were found in several places suggests that the colony destroyed in 2014 may have reformed. Further investigations are warranted, since Black-crowns have apparently abandoned the historically large colony on Wade Island, *Dauphin*.

A long steady expansion in the breeding distribution of **Mississippi Kites** continues in the northeastern states, with numerous breeding-season observations north to New Hampshire this year. The quick observations of kites reported this summer in Pennsylvania (as with previous years) do not indicate local breeding, but we should be alert to any individual lingering beyond May. Now very rare any time of year, a single report of a recently fledged young **Northern Goshawk** came from *Elk*. In addition to this, the Game Commission funded surveys in Allegheny National Forest after annual banding visits failed to find active nests. Intensive playback surveys, organized by David Brinker, were conducted at 1,115 sample points around 20 historic territories in four counties in late May and June, and noted here. Those efforts did locate one nest that had been active in *Forest* and another goshawk was detected in *Warren*. Audio recorders were placed in historic territories

elsewhere as part of a master's project at Penn State but results of those detectors were not obtained.

Owls are so overlooked during any season that they hardly ever receive a mention in the summer report. The absence of Short-eared Owl this year does not come as a surprise; it was missed in about half of the past 10 years. But in 2019, no short-ears were reported to eBird anywhere else in the eastern United States this summer! Very similarly, Pennsylvania had no summer Long-eared Owl reports this year, and very few observations anywhere in the eastern US. These species seem to be really suffering! Other owl species are believed to be susceptible to West Nile Virus, even through prey items. Makes you wonder.

Peregrine Falcon monitoring by the Game Commission continued statewide. With the assistance of over 250 volunteers, nesting was confirmed at 57 sites statewide. Many nest visits were conducted in May, but 95 young were documented by the Game Commission to reach fledging age. Nine of those, handled after leaving the nest, were tagged with small transponders. One of those seems to have reached Saskatchewan in July for some inexplicable reason. **Merlins** continue their gradual expansion into small towns scattered across northern Pennsylvania.

Evidence would suggest that our **Tufted Titmouse** population continued to decline as a result of West Nile Virus (WNV), as noted in Nick Bolgiano's excellent paper (Vol 33: 2-11). The wet summers of 2018 and 2019 and resulting surge in WNV index presumably contributed to a decline by almost half between 2017 and 2019, observed in average birds per BBS routes run in Pennsylvania. Of other species suspected of being impacted by WNV, the median decline in these three years was 35%, compared to a decline of 10% for all other species. Another striking decline on BBS routes this year was seen in the **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**, not previously associated with WNV but worth investigating.

Among the rarest of Pennsylvania's breeding birds is the **Sedge Wren**. This year was typical, with a single western location suggesting nesting in *Crawford*, and another singing bird reported to eBird at the Flight 93 National Memorial, *Somerset*, in July. After expanding its breeding population in the state during the 2000s, the **Clay-colored Sparrow** seemed to be on the track to become statewide. This summer's only report, however, indicated local nesting only at the most established location, the Piney Tract, *Clarion*, and suggests that the previous expansion has

reversed for this grassland-associated species.

As mentioned above, the rare-but-regular fall migrant, **Nelson's Sparrow** has been reported a few times during the spring season, but apparently was never previously documented during the summer season in Pennsylvania. So, the 2 apparently independent June sightings are most notable. A **Western Meadowlark** was noted on a *Mifflin* dairy farm for much of the summer. The most recent previous summer observations came from *Franklin* in 2010.

Among Pennsylvania's most treasured nesting denizens, nearly 30 species of wood-warblers are distributed across the state, with species in every wooded habitat. Two of the most celebrated, the **Cerulean Warbler** and **Golden-winged Warbler** are experiencing steady declines that have merited national conservation efforts. These species are generally mentioned in local notes when observed. For comparison, summer eBird reports of **Golden-winged Warblers** came from 11 counties (**Golden-crowned Kinglets**, 19 counties) and **Cerulean Warblers** came from 35 counties. Many other warblers are common residents best described in statistical analyses of the over 100 Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) routes annually conducted by volunteers during June. Annual raw data are generally not available in time for this summer report, and rigorous analyses of annualized trends are definitely delayed by data processing. But, outside the 20-year cycle of breeding bird atlases, the BBS provides the very best assessment of these (and other breeding resident) populations, and over time enables the conservation community to identify the broad-scale declines reported.

While not well documented, the *Erie* report of **Painted Bunting** is not unprecedented with nearly annual observations in recent years, but was only the second summer sighting! Conversely, for the first summer in the past 10, a **Summer Tanager** was not reported.

With no evidence of a western eruption, it is noteworthy that the **Dickcissel** continues in its established area of *Cumberland* but also showed up in scattered locations in the other southeastern counties. Typical of their pattern, they appeared to have returned to fields they were found last year in *Elk* and *Berks*. This is in stark contrast to most other grassland associated species, which continue to decline.

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Birds of Note – June through July 2019

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.

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck* – *Allegheny*: seven appeared at North Park during stormy weather 7/19 (David Prentice); *Berks*: 11 visited a pond at the edge of a residential development near Leesport 7/4 and left the same day (David Robson); *Clinton*: one at the Central Mountain High School wetlands in Mill Hall 7/12 remained until 7/22 (Carol and Charles Hildebrand, m.ob.); *Lancaster*: a pair at Alcoa Marsh 6/17-29 (Larry Bernhardt, m.ob.); *Montgomery*: one stopped in Wissahickon Waterfowl Preserve 7/25-26 (Andrew Albright, m.ob., ph.); *Montour*: one found at Rt54 wetlands continued to 6/16 (m.ob.); *Philadelphia*: four were at the John Heinz NWR impoundment 7/21 (m.ob., eBird).

Trumpeter Swan – *Chester*: a perplexing dark-billed swan that appeared on the pond at Exton Park 6/21 (Michael Hartshorne, Brian Quindlen, m.ob.) gave birders a puzzle, but its species identity remains in limbo between Trumpeter or Tundra Swan; *Crawford*: two seen at Geneva Marsh 6/1 (CG), 6/3 (MW), and a single was there 7/1 (Richard Nugent), and at Custards Marsh, 2 continued 6/2-7 (Ron Leberman) and a single was there 6/26 (Dan Brauning, Sean Murphy); *Cumberland*: seen at SGL 169 Cabin Road 7/27 (Vern Gauthier); *Erie*: one photographed at Presque Isle 6/11 (Judith Davis, eBird); *Jefferson*: the pair that nested last year (Z603, Z675) showed up on the same beaver pond near Richardsville in March 2019, but as of the middle of June they were not observed attempting to nest (Lisa Catarouche); *Lycoming*: the swan tagged T77 was present at a pond near Larryville 6/2-4 (C. Harbach, et al.); *Monroe*: one found at Lynchwood Lake 6/27 (Bruce Johnson), consequently seen by many through end of period.

Gadwall – *Crawford*: one at Pymatuning- Spillway 6/15 and 6/21 (Mark Vass).

American Wigeon – *Centre*: at Pleasant Gap Fish Hatchery 6/6 (Julia Plummer); *Chester*: continued since May at Chambers L. until 6/8 (Rick Robinson, Larry Lewis, Jim Moffett); *Erie*: adult male photographed 7/23 (James Hill III, eBird); *Huntingdon*: female at Greenwood Furnace SP 6/2 (Nick Bolgiano).

Green-winged Teal – *Franklin*: lingering male at Kriner Road Retention Ponds 6/1-15 (Carl Garner, Dave Cooney, Donna Hocker, Bill Oyler); *Montgomery*: drake seen sporadically at Wissahickon Waterfowl Preserve through 6/30 (m.ob., ph.).

Canvasback – *Crawford*: one at Woodcock Lake 7/13 (Bill Wilkinson).

Ring-necked Duck – *Blair*: one continued all summer at Yellow Springs Pond (m.ob.); *Centre*: male spent most of July at Scotia Barrens pond (Jason Collens, Julia Plummer); *Dauphin*: a non-breeding pair continued at Lake Tobias Wildlife Park 6/25 (Scott and Stephanie Bills, eBird); *Montgomery*: male at Green Lane Park 6/2 (Paul Heveran).

Greater Scaup – *Dauphin*: on Susquehanna River Front Street 7/16 (Ian Gardner).

Lesser Scaup – *Carbon*: one at Beltzville SP 6/20 (Barbara Rehrig, Rich Rehrig).

Long-tailed Duck – *Northampton*: one at Dutch Springs Quarry continued from May until 7/28 (Karen DeGeiso), apparently unable to fly.

Common Goldeneye – *Lancaster*: a hen was found at Muddy Run Reservoir 6/8 (Tom Amico), then a drake there 7/9-18 (Tom Amico).

Red-breasted Merganser – *Bedford*: two males were photographed at Shawnee SP 6/7-9 (Patricia and Richard Williams, Kristin Trouton); *Carbon*: a female at Beltzville SP through 6/4 (Barbara Rehrig, Rich Rehrig); *Chester*: one at Marsh Creek SP 6/7 (Larry Lewis); *Tioga*: one at Lake Nessmuck 6/1 (Patricia and Richard Williams) and 6/4 (Lisa Doud).

Red-necked Grebe – *Luzerne*: clear photo obtained 6/1 at PPL Wetlands in Salem Twp (Frank Skokoski, Facebook).

Eurasian Collared-Dove – *Berks*: photo of five on 7/20 (Russ Hoffman) showed that at least one or 2 were hatch year birds; *Dauphin*: spotted along Roundtop Road-Middletown outside of Middletown 7/1 (Ed Bernot); *Franklin*: high count of 18 at Greencastle Reservoir 7/29, which is an occasional gathering place in late summer (Carl Garner); *Lancaster*: heard calling on BBS route near Witmer 6/9 (Daniel Hennesbusch).

Chuck-will's-widow* – *Centre*: returned to the Lower George's Valley, Spring Mills area, noted 6/23 (Eric Zawatski); *Cumberland*: for the fifth consecutive year near the intersection of Ridge and Old Ridge Roads in the Michaux SF, last heard calling 6/28 (Annette Mathews, Kathy Kuchwara, Susan Strassner, audio recording on eBird).

Rufous Hummingbird – *Somerset*: adult female found near Berlin 7/23, was captured, measured, and banded 7/29 by Bob Mulvihill and stayed until 8/1 (John & Elaine Landis).

American Coot – *Berks*: at Lake Ontelaunee 7/23 (Jo Spilde), 2 were there 7/27 (Todd Underwood), and one continued into Aug (m.ob.); *Lebanon*: two at Balmer Farm Ponds 6/1-16 (Jonathan Heller, Bruce Carl).

American Avocet – *Allegheny*: three appeared in stormy weather at North Park 7/19 (David Prentice); *Chester*: one at the Octoraro Reservoir 6/28 (Larry Lewis); *Erie*: frequently reported, mostly at Gull Point 6/28 to end of season, with a high of 9 (*fide* Jerry McWilliams); *Lancaster*: two at Conejohola Flats 7/21 (Bruce Carl, Eric Witmer) and 6 there 7/28 (Eric Witmer); *Tioga*: one at Brown's Pond Ridge Rd (John Corcoran).

Black-bellied Plover – *Cumberland*: at Mud Level Road 7/8 (Andy Markel); *Erie*: one on 6/2 and 7/22 at Gull Point (Mary Birdsong); *Lancaster*: two at Alcoa Marsh 6/17-29

((Larry Bernhardt, m.ob.); *Montgomery*: 250 fly-overs on 6/1 at Green Lane Park (Paul Heveran).

Piping Plover – *Erie*: nesting pair present through the season, with 4 eggs on 6/19, and a second male.

Upland Sandpiper – *Crawford*: found in expected numbers in the Pymatuning-Miller's Pond and Pymatuning-Wilson Road; *Lancaster*: two inside Lancaster Airport as usual 7/24 (m.ob.), and observed flying over farm fields near Ephrata 7/27 (Bruce Carl, m.ob.); *Somerset*: reported but not confirmed at Babcock SF this summer.

Whimbrel – *Erie*: one set down at Gull Point 7/27 (Justin Berkheimer) and seven were photographed there 7/30 (Ruth Swaney, Robert Scribner).

Marbled Godwit – *Erie*: more birds than ever before at Gull Point with singles 7/4, 7/11, and 7/30 (Mary Birdsong, Sarah Sargent), as many as 3 were photographed at Gull Point 7/16 (Robert Scribner).

Ruddy Turnstone – *Allegheny*: one at Roberto Clemente Memorial Park 6/9 (Montgomery Brown, ph); *Chester*: 40 seen 6/2 and 172 counted in mixed flocks 6/4 (Larry Lewis); *Erie*: one 6/1 at Gull Point (Eric Zawatski, Carl Engstrom, eBird), 34 on 6/2 (Sam Jolly, Shannon Thompson, eBird), and one 7/23 (James Hill III, eBird); *Lancaster*: noted 6/2 ((Jason Horn, Chuck Berthoud), and a southbound pair at Susquehanna River Conejohela Flats 7/22 (Chuck Berthoud); *Montgomery*: 1100 were fly-overs at Green Lane Park 6/1 (Paul Heveran) as well as 200 simultaneously at Valley Forge National Historical Park (Steve Grunwald).

Red Knot – *Montgomery*: 30 fly-overs at Green Lane Park 6/1 (Jason Horn) and 150 simultaneously at Valley Forge National Historical Park (Steve Grunwald).

Stilt Sandpiper – *Bucks*: adult at Churchville Park 7/25 (Kris Koch); *Erie*: one adult at Gull Point 7/26, 27, 30 (Mary Birdsong, Ruth Swaney); *Lancaster*: adult dropped in with a mixed flock at Susquehanna River Conejohela Flats 7/8 (Jason Horn).

Sanderling – *Chester*: 630 in flocks of migrants on the wing over Bucktoe Creek Preserve 6/1 (Larry Lewis, Mike Schall.); *Erie*: eBird records from Gull Point include one 6/1-3 (Eric Zawatski and Carl Engstrom, Sam Jolly, and Robert Scribner), then during plover monitoring 7/27, 28, 29 with a high of seven 7/22 (Mary Birdsong and Sarah Sargent).

Dunlin – *Erie*: eBird records from Gull Point include one seen 6/1 (Eric Zawatski, Carl Engstrom), 34 on 6/2 (Sam Jolly, Shannon Thompson); *Montgomery*: 100 spotted flying over Green Lane Park 6/1 (Jason Horn).

White-rumped Sandpiper – *Franklin*: one at Thornwood-Clearfield Road Retention Basin 6/7-8 (Bob Koontz, Bill Oyler); *Lancaster*: single seen 6/2 and 6/8 at Susquehanna River Conejohela Flats (m.ob.).

Western Sandpiper – *Chester*: one on 7/25 at Octoraro Reservoir described and reportedly photographed (Larry Lewis, eBird).

Short-billed Dowitcher – *Allegheny*: one at Imperial 7/13-14 (Mark Vass); *Chester*: one at Octoraro Reservoir 7/18 (Larry Lewis); *Erie*: one at Fairfield Industrial Park 7/7 (Justin Berkheimer) and at Gull Point, Presque Isle from 7/7 (Shannon Thompson) with a high of six 7/30 (Robert Scribner); *Lehigh*: one at Cetronia Rd flooded fields 7/6 (Jason Horn, Mark Gallagher, Edward Komito, eBird); *Lancaster*: at Conejohela Flats, a high of 15 on 7/11 (Jason Horn) and one 7/23 (Jason Horn, Larry Bernhardt); *Northampton*: one at Christian Springs Rd pond 7/8 (Rich Rehrig, Adam Miller, Todd Watkins, eBird).

Wilson's Snipe – *Centre*: present along Tadpole Rd 7/11-28 (Carl Engstrom, et al.); *Erie*: one at Gull Point 7/13 (Mary Birdsong); *Crawford*: at Pymatuning Miller's Ponds 7/5 (Mark Vass).

Wilson's Phalarope – *Cumberland*: at Mud Level Road 6/1 (Andrew Markel, Susan Strassner).

Willet – *Erie*: at Gull Point 6/27-28 (Ruth Swaney), two on 7/16, and four on 7/30 (Robert Scribner).

Laughing Gull – *Bucks*, *Delaware*, and *Philadelphia*: this species is fairly regular along the Delaware River and at landfills in these three counties but was not reported elsewhere across the state.

Bonaparte's Gull – *Butler*: one at Lake Arthur 7/12 (Karyn Delaney) and 7/31 (Martin Carlin).

Least Tern – *Chester*: two dropped into Marsh Creek SP for a few hours 6/15 (m.ob.); *Delaware*: two seen flying downriver at Marcus Hook Municipal Park at 11:00 of 6/16 (Melissa Gallardy, Ross Gallardy); *Philadelphia*: two photographed at John Heinz NWR impoundment at 9:30 am on 6/16 (Patrick McGill, Martin Dellwo, photos, m.ob.).

Gull-billed Tern* – *Delaware*: three on Delaware River at Fort Mifflin 6/16 (Al Guarante, eBird).

Black Tern – *Centre*: one at Scotia Barrens and Pond 7/7 (Jason Collens); *Erie*: two at Gull Point 6/1 (Carl Engstrom, Eric Zawatski) and one there 6/2 (Sam Jolly); *Lancaster*: adult at Susquehanna River Conejohela Flats 7/17 and 7/23 (Jason Horn); *Venango*: one at Two Mile Run Park 6/12 (Ed Atts).

Brown Booby* – *Northumberland*: found and photographed 7/6 on Susquehanna River near Isle of Que (Jeannette Wanner), reported by Chad Kaufmann (eBird).

Anhinga* – *Philadelphia*: one seen flying high over home 6/16 (Frank Windfelder, eBird).

American Bittern – *Centre*: one or two regularly observed 6/3-7/18 at Scotia Barrens and Pond (Brent Bacon, m.ob.), but not confirmed breeding; *Crawford*: two seen flying of Pymatuning SP at Hartstown 6/25 (Michael Williams); *Elk*: seen in Rasselias Marsh 6/10, 7/14, and two 6/12 (Brendyn Baptiste, eBird); *Sullivan*: seen near town of Ricketts 7/7 (Aidan Place, Tessa Rhinehart); *Wayne*: flushed from Prompton Lake in Prompton SP 6/15 (Andy Keister); *Westmoreland*: one at Donegal Lake 7/30 (Patience Fisher).

Least Bittern – *Crawford*: reportedly becoming more common, with a single at Geneva Marsh 6/8 and 6/29 (Chuck Gehringen), and one at Conneaut Marsh- McMichael Road 7/2 (Justin Berkheimer, Jennifer Ferrick) and 7/7 (Shannon Thompson); *Delaware*: two on multiple dates in July (m.ob.); *Montgomery*: one at a Plymouth Meeting wetland 7/27 (Dave Belford) and 2 on 7/31 (Paul Driver); *Washington*: one photographed at Canonsburg Lake 6/4 (Sayre Greenfield).

American White Pelican – *Delaware*: five seen over Haverford College on evening of 6/4 (Kristen Johnson, Sheryl Johnson) and relocated 6/6 on Delaware River (Rob Fergus); *Erie*: three appeared for a single day 6/2 at Gull Point for first county June record (Mary Birdsong); *York*: flock of 20 photographed at Codorus SP 7/4-5 (m.ob.).

Tricolored Heron* – *Chester*: immature at Octorara Reservoir 7/27-30 (Larry Lewis, m.ob.) also seen in *Lancaster*; *Lancaster*: one photographed at Overlook Park 7/20 (David Newcomer, no doc.).

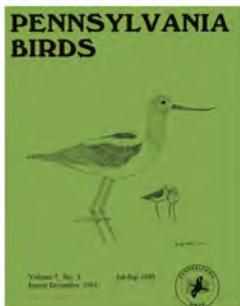
Cattle Egret – *Montgomery*: one flew over Green Lane Park 6/2 (Michael Schall, Jason Horn, Paul Heveran, ph.).

Glossy Ibis – *Centre*: one in flooded fields along Tadpole Rd and nearby Fairbrook wetlands (Bill Chambers); *Delaware*: 32 photographed at Marcus Hook 6/16 (Melissa Gallardy, Ross Gallardy), 20 were at Fort Mifflin 6/17 (Rob Fergus, Jason Horn), and nine at John Heinz NWR 7/22 (Ann Reeves) and two there 7/26 (Damon Orsetti); *Philadelphia*: two 7/26 (same birds as in *Delaware* that date) (eBird).

Mississippi Kite* – *Bucks*: an adult in a Doylestown Twp. yard was being mobbed 6/19 (Karin Isett); *Franklin*: observed with prey on a utility pole on Letterkenny Road near army depot 7/12 (Andy Markel), but not re-located; *Lycoming*: flew over tennis courts in Montoursville 6/28 (Bobby Brown, David Brown).

- Northern Goshawk** – *Elk*: a recently fledged young seen 6/23 at East Branch Lake area (Brendyn Baptist, eBird); *Forest*: playback surveys detected one bird and an active nest 5/27 (Sam Jolly); *Warren*: broadcast surveys detected one bird 5/22 (Bobby Schultz).
- Northern Saw-whet Owl** – *Elk*: heard on several occasions at the East Branch Lake (Brendyn Baptiste); *Fayette*: on 6/5 near Mill Run (Daniel Jonea).
- Olive-sided Flycatcher** – *Delaware*: at Episcopal Academy 6/3 (Win Shafer); *Lebanon*: at Marquette Lake 6/3 (Steve Walthius); *Northampton*: in a snag at the Albert Rd. ponds 6/1 (Scott Angus); *Wyoming*: one observed singing at Coalbed Swamp 6/7 (Doug Gross, Dan and Marcia Brauning, Sean Murphy).
- Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** – *Wyoming*: one heard singing in Coalbed Swamp 6/7 (Doug Gross, Dan and Marcia Brauning, Sean Murphy).
- Philadelphia Vireo** – *Crawford*: in the Pymatuning SP area 6/23 (Ron Leberman).
- Sedge Wren** – *Crawford*: two seen along Thatcher Rd east of Conneautville 6/17 (Adam Erb), 6/24 (Claire Nicolls, Kendall Zook), 6/26 (Claire Nicolls), and 6/28 (Justin Berkheimer, James Flynn); *Somerset*: one singing at Flight 93 Memorial 7/22 (Warren Wicks, eBird).
- Clay-colored Sparrow** – *Clarion*: one at Mt Airy in early June (Steve Gosser) and one at Mt Zion 6/4-11 including one carrying food on 6/11 (m.ob.).
- Nelson's Sparrow*** – *Bucks*: one at Pine Run Dam 6/5 (Jason Horn, ph., Kenneth Rieker); *Northampton*: two in thick sedge grasses and cattails at Minsi Lake 6/1 (Michael Schall).
- Western Meadowlark** – *Mifflin*: found on a dairy farm outside Belleville, first located 6/22 (Eli Peachey) and continued through first week of August (m.ob.).
- Tennessee Warbler** – *Westmoreland*: captured at the Powdermill Banding Station in July.
- Wilson's Warbler** – *Blair*: one at Frosty Hollow 6/2 (Brian Burkett, Lowell Burkett); *Butler*: at Jennings Environmental Education Center 6/20 (staff); *Warren*: one at Riley Pond 6/1 (Travis Suckow).
- Painted Bunting*** – *Erie*: reported at Presque Isle SP (Zach Steinhauer, poor photos).

25 Years Ago in Pennsylvania Birds



Volume 7, No. 3.

The first breeding record of Sandhill Cranes in Pennsylvania was reported (they now breed in multiple counties).

James G. Stull was memorialized.

In the Banding Series, a Cattle Egret banded in Maryland was banded July 1, 1962 and recovered in Pennsylvania June 22, 1979. And a Black-crowned Night-Heron banded in Pennsylvania June 7, 1933 was recovered in Cuba February 20, 1940.

This issue can be read at pabirds.org.

Photographic Highlights



Invading from the south, **Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks** were found in at least seven Pennsylvania counties in 2019; this lone bird at Central Mountain High School wetland, near Mill Hall, Clinton 12-22 (here 14) July provided a first county record. (Eric Zawatski)



Another of the invading **Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks**, this duck was seen by many at Wissahickon Waterfowl Preserve, Montgomery 25-26 (here 26) July. (Ken Reiker)



Red Knots and **Ruddy Turnstones** over Bucktoe Creek Preserve, Chester at 7:43 p.m., 4 June, having departed the Delaware Bay earlier in the evening and on their way to northern Canada. (Barry Blust)

Color Photos

*Sponsored by Bob Snyder
of Howard, Centre County*



Snow Geese that linger into summer in the state usually do so because of injuries; however, this goose, at Shawnee, Monroe, reported only 2 July, did not appear injured. (Nancy Tully)



Common Terns failed to breed successfully again this summer at Presque Isle SP, Erie, but a few were present through the season, such as this bird with, apparently, a tadpole 1 June. (Eric Zawatski)



Forster's Tern at Peace Valley Park, Bucks 31 July; only the third summer record in eBird for the lake created in 1974-75. (August Mirabella)



"We were out fishing and the bird tried to attack us... trying to get our lures and get in the boat" - this **Brown Booby** on the Susquehanna River in Northumberland 6 July provided a first county record (no surprise there!) (see Summary of the Season for more). (Jeanetta Wanner)



Not just big black birds, note the blue and orange of this **Double-crested Cormorant** at Beechdale Road Pond, Lancaster 24 July. (Frank Haas)



One of at least three seen there during the reporting period, this **Snowy Egret** was at Wildwood Lake, Dauphin 17 July. (Dave Kerr)



And with the Snowy Egrets at Wildwood Lake, Dauphin, were at least two immature **Little Blue Herons**, this one photographed on 25 July. (Dean Newhouse)



Glossy Ibis reports were confined to the extreme southeast, excepting this bird in a flooded field along Tadpole Rd., Centre present 21 July (here 31) into August. (Bob Snyder)



Red-headed Woodpeckers are fairly widespread, except in northern tier counties, but quite uncommon and always a treat; this Red-head was at Gap, Lancaster 3 July. (Pamela Fisher)



Great Crested Flycatcher photographed from a kitchen window in New Milford, Susquehanna 19 July. (Nancy VanCott)



One of Pennsylvania's rarest nesters, only two **Sedge Wrens** were reported in eBird for the period; this singing male was on Thatcher Rd. Crawford 11 May – 28 (here 24) June, joined briefly by a second bird, but with no confirmation of nesting. (Kendall Zook)



Cedar Waxwing in Spring Creek Canyon, Centre 29 June. (Kazumi Ohira)



One of the state's most abundant nesters, this **Song Sparrow** was at Gwynedd Wildlife Preserve, Centre 24 June. (Julian Gottfried)



This cooperative, long-staying **Western Meadowlark** was found near Belleville, Mifflin 23 (here 27) June, remaining into August, providing the second county record (first was 2002) and first in Pennsylvania since 2009. (Rob Dickerson)



Blue-winged Warbler in Great Bend Township, Susquehanna 27 June.
(Barb Stone)



The more common of the two named Blue-winged/Golden Winged warbler hybrids (not all hybrids fit one of these classifications), this **Brewster's Warbler** was in Scotia Barrens, Centre 5 June; genetic evidence indicates Blue-wings and Golden-wings are probably the same species, despite the dramatic plumage differences. (Bob Snyder)



Common Yellowthroat at Gwynedd Wildlife Preserve, Montgomery 18 June. (Julian Gottfried)



This male **Blue Grosbeak** in West Manheim Township Park, York 24 July appeared to be one of a mated pair with young. (Dean Newhouse)



Yellow Warbler at Lake Redman, York 15 June. (Bob Reiter)

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Local Notes – June through July 2019



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.).	juvenile [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 need a compiler: Bradford, Fulton, Luzerne, McKean. The following counties had no report submitted: Columbia, Lehigh, Northumberland, Philadelphia, Pike, Snyder, Union

Adams County

Locations: Freedom Township Grasslands (FREE), Gettysburg National Military Park (GNMP), Long Pine Run Reservoir (LPRR), Michaux State Forest (MICH), State Game Lands #249 (SGL),

The period's total of 118 species was on the low side of the current five-year trend while detection of 17 warbler species was on the high side. Overall, this two-month period saw normal precipitation levels and reservoir levels remained at or near capacity. June saw normal temperatures while July averaged 4.5F above normal with 16 days experiencing 90F or higher temperatures.

A **Mallard** x **American Black Duck** was at Lake Kay 7/14 (ML) and a pair of **Hooded Merganser** was at LPRR 6/3 (CM). **Wild Turkey** reporting was down with only 4 reports and high count was limited to 3

birds. In contrast, 16 sites reporting **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was very high. **Black-billed Cuckoo** was only found once, 7/18 (BO) at MICH. A trip on MICH roads produced 3 **Eastern Whip-poor-will** along Milesburn Rd and 3 along Birch Run Rd. 6/3 (CM). A trip in MICH produced 12 birds 6/8 (RDS). These combined reports hopefully suggest a positive picture for this species in MICH. Mason-Dixon Farms has a pond with the vast majority of its surface in Maryland but there is a small portion within Pennsylvania, viewable from Bullfrog Rd. Birders had been seeing **Common Gallinule** in the Maryland portion on a fairly regular basis with breeding confirmed (CM, AW). A 6/5 sighting finally found a bird on PA waters (AW).

Least Sandpiper was detected 7/30 with a trio at Mason-Dixon Farms and a pair at Gettysburg College (AW). An **American Woodcock** was heard along Milesburn Rd 6/3 (CM). A pair of first year **Common Loons** was at LPRR 6/1-2 (RK). Uncommon for the county in this period, a **Double-crested Cormorant** was at LPRR 6/3 (CM) and a pair at Lake Heritage 6/5 (CM). A strong county count of 16 **Great Egrets** was recorded at a FREE pond 7/21 (MS). The strong movement of **Little Blue Heron** into eastern PA this summer brought a juvenile bird to SGL 7/10-

26 (CB, PK, BP, AW).

Osprey singles continue to be found this period with 4 reports, but nesting has never been confirmed in *Adams*. A visit to SGL produced photographs of an adult **Red-tailed Hawk** performing a mid-air transfer of a snake meal to a juvenile bird 7/26 (BP). Discouraging to note, there was only one report of **Belted Kingfisher**, a bird at Saks Covered Bridge 7/12 (PKB). GNMP plus 11 other sites held **Red-headed Woodpecker**. High count was 4 birds at GNMP 6/2 (SC, MG, LL).

Better counts in the flycatcher group included 7 **Eastern Wood Pewees** at Camp Nawakwa 7/16 (SL), 7 **Acadian Flycatchers** at Milesburn Rd 6/1 (RK), the remarkable breeding density of **Willow Flycatchers** at SGL (AW, et al), and 8 **Eastern Kingbirds** at FREE 6/23 (CA). **White-throated**, **Yellow-throated**, and **Warbling Vireos** were all reported 4-5 times. **Blue-headed Vireo** was only found in MICH, but were found all period (DG, GG, SG, RK, BO). High count for **Red-eyed Vireo** was 22 birds in MICH 7/23 (BO).

Gettysburg College Assistant Professor Andy Wilson led a group of undergraduates (Marisa Immordino, Precious Ozoh, Lauren Sherman, and McKenzie Somers) in an intensive spot-mapping study of breeding bird densities on a 265-acre study plot at SGL – Heidelberg sector. The scope involved 10 species with some eye-opening results. (Parenthetical comments are Prof Wilson's)

Species Detected	Territories
Willow Flycatcher (Amazing!)	50
House Wren	40
American Robin	37
Field Sparrow (Also amazing!)	84
Song Sparrow	65
Eastern Towhee	25
Common Yellowthroat	54
Yellow Warbler	57
Northern Cardinal	50
Indigo Bunting	34

The Willow Flycatcher count confirmed this site's ongoing stature as a leading Pennsylvania site for this species.

Singles of **Horned Lark** were at Possum Hollow Rd 6/4 (SK) and GNMP 6/24 (CM). **Carolina Chickadee** and **Tufted Titmouse** reporting continues at depressed levels with reports from 12 and 9 sites, respectively. A wooded tract off Hampden-Hunterstown Rd held a **Veery** 6/29 (AM) and MICH produced a pair 6/1-2 (RK, CM). **Hermit Thrush** continues to be infrequently reported during the first half of June in the county. This year's report was of a single bird at Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve 6/15 (PKB).

Five sites held **Grasshopper Sparrow** with a high of 6 at GNMP 6/24 (CM). A pair of **Savannah Sparrows** was at FREE 6/2 (BP) and GNMP produced up to a 4 count 6/11-15 (HH, HT). A single **Yellow-breasted Chat** was at GNMP 6/1 (DB) and a pair was detected at Camp Nawakwa 7/18-20 (SL). **Bobolink** enjoyed much better than average reporting. GNMP held up to 3 birds 6/2-3 (SC, MG, LL, CM), 4 were at FREE 6/14 (CM), 3 at Orrtanna 6/16 (RSi), and Crooked Creek Road held 4 birds 6/25 (BP). The five sites producing **Eastern Meadowlark** reports were paced by an 8 count at FREE 6/30 (CM). **Orchard Oriole** saw positive reporting with birds reported (m.ob.) at seven sites.

Warbler highlights included a trio of **Blue-winged Warblers** along Mt. Hope Rd 6/19 (IC), pairs of **Kentucky Warblers** along Mt. Hope Rd 6/17 (IC) and Kepner's Knob Lane 7/8 (IC), and a nice 14 count for **Hooded Warbler** in MICH 6/1 (RK). A **Cerulean Warbler** was a nice find along Mt. Hope Rd 6/19 (IC). **Prairie Warbler** reports came from GNMP 6/1-2 (DB, SC, MG, LL), Ridge Rd 6/2 (CM), and Free 6/30 (CA). A pair of **Canada Warbler** was found in MICH 6/1 (RK).

Up to 11 **Scarlet Tanagers** were found on various visits (m.ob.) to MICH during the period. An intriguing report involved suspected **Rose-**

breasted Grosbeak breeding, with a Knoxlyn Rd resident reporting regular visits of male and female birds in this period since 2015. Elevation at this site is ~ 550 feet, quite a bit below PA Breeding Bird Atlas suggested elevation preference of over 820 feet for this species nesting. Local Audubon group members will be monitoring this situation moving forward. A single grosbeak was also at GNMP 6/6 (RSq). A pair of **Blue Grosbeaks** was found along Natural Dam Rd 6/6 (CM) and a single was along Mason-Dixon Rd 7/15 (AW). The sole **Dickcissel** report involved a bird in mixed field of orchard grass, thistle, and milkweed along Bender Rd 6/21 (SK).

Observers: **Phil Keener**, 198 Jacobs Street, East Berlin, PA 17316, (717) 259-9984, pittche74@yahoo.com, Debra Alvarez, Chas Argent, Debbie Beer, Mike Bertram, Chuck Berthoud, Chuck Boyhonf (CBo), Peggy Keating-Butler (PKB), Rhonda Carty, Ian Clarke, Ken Cooper, Sandra Cuadros, Scott Godshall, Mary-Therese Grob, Deb Grove, Greg Grove, Holly Hartstone, Marisa Immordino, Stefan Karkuff, Robert Keener (RKe), Andy Keister, Ramsay Koury, Brent Kruse, Michael Locher, Landsouthung Lotha, Sam Lynch, Linette Mansberger, Annette Mathes, Callan Murphy, Bill Oyler, Precious Ozoh, Bonita Portline, Roger Shaw, Lauren Sherman, Ralph & Deb Siekken (RDS), Roger Simmons (RSi), McKenzie Somers, Robin Squier (RSq), Albert Stock, Henry Tindall, Ella Weiskopf, Andy Wilson.

Allegheny County

We had a few surprises in the county this summer with a new county record and a few rarities along with some late spring migrants that added interest to the season. It was another wet one with regular thunderstorms and heavy rain almost weekly.

A flock of 7 **Black-bellied Whistling Ducks** appeared at North Park during stormy weather 7/19 (DP). A photograph was posted on the Friends of North Park facebook page, however nobody was aware of the sighting until the following day and the birds were gone. This provided a first county record. Two **Common Mergansers** were on the Monongahela River at Duck Hollow 6/3 and 6/24 (LK). Two were also on the Ohio River at Brunots Island 7/25 (MJ).

The pair of **Virginia Rails** that appeared to settle in at Harrison Hills Park in May were last detected 6/27 (DN). As the cattails and other vegetation grew in thick the birds were difficult to see and they became quiet as the summer progressed. It remains unknown if they produced young. The **Common Gallinule** discovered at Chapel Harbor in May lingered until 6/9 (TH).

Amazingly, along with the whistling ducks mentioned above, were 3 **American Avocets**. These birds were also photographed and posted on the same facebook page and they were gone the following day. This furnished the eighth county record. A **Lesser Yellowlegs** was at Imperial 6/15 (JHa). A **Solitary Sandpiper** was at North Park 7/26 and 5 at Imperial 7/28 (MV). Another county rarity, a late migrant **Ruddy Turnstone** was photographed along the shore of the Ohio River in downtown Pittsburgh 6/21! This provided the seventh county record and the first since 2009. Amazingly the 2009 occurrence is from this same general location! The shore of the river is paved and is a heavily used walking and biking trail in the city. A **Short-billed Dowitcher** was at Imperial 7/13-14 (MV, m.ob.).

A visit to the **Herring Gull** colony at the Highland Park Bridge on the Allegheny River 6/23 yielded 47 birds including 11 chicks (MV). After only a single **Caspian Tern** in April and May when they normally pass through, early June brought 2 late migrants. One was at Dashields Dam 6/1 (GM) and one was photographed at Duck Hollow 6/16 (JPu). Unusual in June, a **Great Egret** was at Boyce-Mayview Park 6/16 (ST).

Northern Harrier continues to hang on at Imperial with one there 7/14 (FI, LK). With the continued development at the site their future is tenuous. A **Barred Owl** was heard at Boyce-Mayview Park 6/13 (ST). Single **Red-headed Woodpeckers** visited backyards in Pleasant Hills 6/1 (HF) and Pine Twp. 7/16 (PL, SL). This rarity is always a nice find in the county.

A **Bank Swallow** colony was discovered in a bank along the

Allegheny River at Chapel Harbor in O'hara Twp. 6/7 (TH, AH). The colony was enjoyed by many birders in June with a high count of 12 birds. The only other colony in recent years was found in a quarry in the western part of the county. Three were noted at Dashields Dam 6/16 and 2 on 7/29 (MV). This is near the quarry so that colony may still be active. Unusual for summer, 3 **Cliff Swallows** were observed with a **Barn Swallow** colony at Imperial 7/10 (JF, JP). Cliff Swallow is a rare breeder in the county and recently the only breeding site known was at North Park so these birds bear watching.

A **Brown Thrasher** was discovered at Homewood Cemetery in the east end of Pittsburgh in mid-June through the end of the month (MVV). This species is not known to nest at the cemetery. Only one bird was seen and breeding was never confirmed unfortunately. **Purple Finch** is resident in Pine Twp. in the northern part of the county and is not known to breed at other sites. That changed this year with confirmed breeding at Natrona Heights 6/16 where a juvenile visited a feeder with its parents (DB). This species has been noted in nearby Harrison Hills Park during the summer in past years but was never confirmed breeding. A single bird visited a feeder in Hampton Twp. 6/2 (DN). **Grasshopper, Savannah, and Henslow's Sparrows** were still in the Imperial area this summer as the habitat dwindles.

Worm-eating Warbler was present during the season at the usual location at Harrison Hills County Park (m.ob.) as well as **Black-and-white Warbler** (m.ob.), both local breeders in the county. **Cerulean Warblers** can still be found at Sewickley Heights Park; one was there 6/18 (PB). A somewhat late **Blackpoll Warbler** was at a park in Monroeville 6/2 (SM). Up to 3 **Prairie Warblers** were at Imperial during the season (m.ob.).

Observers: **Mike Fialkovich, mpfial@verizon.net**, Dave Brooke, Montgomery Brown, Paul Brown, Jeff Cohen, Linda Croskey, Holly Ferkett, John Flannigan, Jim Hausman (JHa), Amy Henrici, Todd Hooe, Frank Izaguirre, Matthew Juskowich, Lisa Kauffman, Oliver Lindhiem, Pay Lynch, Sherron Lynch, Geoff Malosh, Scott Kinzey, Steve Manns, Dick Nugent, Joe Papp, David Prentice, James Pumford (JPu), Jack Solomon, Sue Solomon, Shannon Thompson, Jim Valimont, Mark VanderVen (MVV), Mark Vass.

Armstrong County

Locations: Armstrong Trail no. of dam 8 (AT), Crooked Creek Lake (CCL), Cochran Mills Rd. (CMR), Dayton (DT), Ford City (FC), Keystone Lake (KL), Kittanning (KT), Leechburg (LB)Logansport (LP), Mahoning Creek Lake (MCL), Manorville (MV), Mayport (MP), New Bethlehem (NB), Parks Bend Farm (PBF), Stone House Rd. Farm (SHF), Worthington (WT).

Best finds of the season were a lone **Common Nighthawk** in FC 6/3 (SGu) and 6/7 (Abu), an **American Woodcock** at the SHF 6/23 (ABu), 3 **Peregrine Falcons** (see below), and a **Marsh Wren** heard 6/11 at KL (TR), then seen and photographed 7/18 (SGu).

The only **Wood Ducks** were 10 on the AT 7/5 (TR), 6 at CCL 7/25 (TR), and a few were at PBF (MV), but that was low this year. Single **Green Herons** were reported 6/2 from SGL 247 (TR), 6/3 at DT (MH, RH), and 6/16 at PBF (MVT, ph.). A male **Ring-necked Pheasant** was a nice visitor in LB and the only one reported (MV, ph.). Only one **Osprey** was reported, at CCL 7/21 (CR) and 7/23 (MV). The only **Broad-winged Hawk** was in WT 7/4 (LC). A lone **Peregrine Falcon** was spotted on 422 near KT 7/13, but 2 were observed at MV 7/30 (ABr).

Both **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** and **Black-billed Cuckoos** were reported in several locations, and as usual more **Red-eyed Vireos** were noted around the county, but a good number of **Yellow-throated Vireos** were also observed. **Willow Flycatchers** showed up nicely in several locations including one at DT 6/4 (AK, JK), 3 at KT 6/6 (SH, PR), one at River Hill Rd. near KT 6/10 (SJ), and 2 at SHF 6/23 including a singing male (ABu). Single **Great Crested Flycatchers** were observed near NB 6/26 (BR), on the AT 7/5 (TR), and at MCL 7/7 (AK, JK).

Cliff Swallows appeared to nest again at the Hawthorne Bridge where 10 were spotted 7/30 (AK, JK).

A **Vesper Sparrow** was observed 6/26 in MP (BR). A **Worm-eating**

Warbler was a nice find for the county at CMR 6/15 (SGo).

Observers: **Marjorie Van Tassel, 3102 River Road, Vandergrift, PA 15690-6093, 724-845-1050, marvantassel@gmail.com**, John Boback, Anthony Bruno, Alan Buriak, Linda Croskey, Steve Gosser, Sam Gutherie, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Scott Hoskins, Sam Jolly, Avis Keener, John Keener, Craig Remaley, Bill Reddinger, Theo Rickett, Penny Rose.

Beaver County

Locations: Raccoon Creek State Park (RCSP).

The usual mid-summer **Common Merganser** appeared at New Brighton 6/16 (MV). A **Black-billed Cuckoo** continued from late spring throughout June in a Hanover Twp. yard (JM). Single **Common Nighthawks** were seen around Beaver Falls 6/19 (SK) and 7/20 (KJ, TJ). A **Common Loon** appeared unexpectedly on Darlington Lake 6/15 (MV), a rather paltry body of water. A **Black Vulture** was seen again 6/22 (MV) in the same yard near RCSP where 2 were present in the spring. An **Osprey** noted near Big Beaver Wetlands 6/2 was the first ever recorded on the Beaver BBS route (GM) and a new summer location for the species. Evidence of nesting was not seen, however.

A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was found in Two Mile Extension Run Park near Beaver, also a new location for what is otherwise a rare summering species in Beaver. **Black-throated Green Warbler** was noted once again in June in RCSP, this year 6/8 (MV).

Observers: **Geoff Malosh, 7762 Maumee Western Road, Maumee, OH 43537-9334, (412) 735-3128, pomarine@earthlink.net**, Karena Johnson, Timothy Johnson, Scott Kinzey, Jeff Moore, Dan Rubino, Gina Rubino, Mark Vass.

Bedford County

Locations: Jackson Property (Mountain Meadows) near Everett (MM), Aimee Benitez Home (ABH) near Bedford, Blue Knob S.P. (BKSP), Burnt Cabin Road (BCR), Foor Farm (FF), Fox Run Road (FRR), Hyndman Road (HR), L. Gordon (LG), Layton Home (LH), Narrows (N), Shawnee S.P. (SSP), Sweet Root N.A. (SRNA), Teaberry Road (TR), Union Memorial Church (UMC)

A surprising number of our state's most beautiful duck were reported 6/16 at LG: 17 **Wood Ducks** (CB). Two male **Red-breasted Mergansers** were photographed at SSP 6/7-9 (KT, PRW).

A single **Black-billed Cuckoo** was reported at FRR (EB), while **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were heard almost daily throughout the summer at MM (MLJ). Although fairly widespread on forested ridges in the county, just one **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was reported 6/20 near HR (ND). Nightly singing occurred close to 8:30pm on a regular basis during June at MM (MLJ).

Double-crested Cormorant numbers were reduced to one or two 6/7-9 at SSP (KT, PRW), with one laggard seen at LG 6/16 (CB). SSP was a favorite of **Great Blue Herons**, where 3 were sighted 6/8 (KT). One **Great Egret** was seen 7/15 at LG (EH), and one 7/24 at UMC (EB). Two **Black Vultures** were seen at LG 6/16 (CB). Just one **Osprey** was reported, at SSP 6/8,9 (KT). **Bald Eagle** sightings, however, were frequent. Several nests were well documented, but none could be found at the Narrows just east of Bedford, although there were frequent sightings at N (JD et al.). Four juv. **Red-shouldered Hawks** fledged at FF early June (EB, MLJ).

Breeding of **Red-headed Woodpeckers** was confirmed at SSP campground (2 adults, 2 juveniles) 7/23 (CR) and 3 adults were at ABH 6/9 (AB). One **White-eyed Vireo** was seen at LG 7/15 (EH). A **Yellow-throated Vireo** was frequently seen 6/2-7/27 at TR (Anon.) Four **Blue-headed Vireos** were seen 6/9 at BKSP (PRW) and 2 **Warbling Vireos** at SSP 6/7(PRW). Two juv. **Brown Thrashers** were at MM 7/14 (MLJ, ph.). Four **Wood Thrushes** were located at FRR 6/6 (EB) and 4 at SSP

6/7 (PRW).

Two **Grasshopper Sparrows** were seen at FRR 6/2 (EB). The only **Dark-eyed Junco** was spotted 6/9 at BKSP (PRW). Just one **Vesper Sparrow** was found at SSP 7/23 (CR). A **Swamp Sparrow** was found 6/8 at TR (Anon.). Two **Yellow-breasted Chats** were located along BCR 6/16 (MLJ). **Eastern Meadowlarks** were seen infrequently with a high count of 4 at UMC 6/10 (EB). Only one **Orchard Oriole** was reported, 6/8,9 at SSP (KT). **Baltimore Orioles** were more common, with two juvs. seen at MM 7/15 (MLJ).

Fifteen species of warblers were seen, some of them confirmed breeders here. Three **Ovenbirds** were at SRNA 6/22 (KA) and confirmed breeding at MM 7/13 (MLJ). Two **Worm-eating Warblers** were observed at MM 7/12 (MLJ). A **Louisiana Waterthrush** was reported 6/22 at SRNA (KA). Two **Golden-winged Warblers**, one male and one female carrying food, were seen at LH 6/8 (MLJ). A **Blue-winged Warbler** was found at BCR 6/16 (MLJ). Two **Cerulean Warblers** were at MM 7/12 (MLJ) and a **Northern Parula** at LG 6/16 (CB). Just one of numerous sightings for **Scarlet Tanagers** was 7/11 at MM (MLJ). **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were also commonly seen, with 2 juvs. observed at MM 7/26 (MLJ).

Observers: **Mike and Laura Jackson, 8621 Black Valley Road, Everett, PA 15537, (814) 652-9268, jacksonlaura73@gmail.com**, Kyle Aldinger, Aimee Benitez, Anonymous Birder, Caroline Blizzard, Erika Bowman, Julie Davidson, Ned Donaldson, Elaine Hendricks, Cole Robert, Kristin Trouton, Patricia and Richard Williams (PRW).

Berks County

Locations: Blue Marsh L. (BML), French Creek State Park (FCSP), Hamburg Reservoir (HRes), Kittatinny Ridge (KR), Kernsville Dam & Recreation Area, Hamburg (KDRA), L. Ontelaunee (LO), State Game Lands (SGL).

June and July had much higher rainfall than normal and the year ending July 31 was the wettest on record.

A flock of 11 **Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks** visited a pond at the edge of a residential development near Leesport 7/4 and left the same day (DR ph). It is not known if these were the birds (12) seen at nearby E. J. Breneman Quarry in May. Injured **Snow Geese** incapable of migrating are seen annually. This year one was in Perry Twp. 6/18 (KG) and one was near Moselem Springs all summer (RK). That **Common Mergansers** have become firmly established breeders was confirmed by reports of a family of 13 at LO 7/10 (DH), a family of 4 at KDRA 7/26 (KG), and a female with 5 young on the Tulpehocken Cr. at BML 8/16 (JS). A **Pied-billed Grebe** was photographed on Hopewell L., FCSP 6/29 (JD). This species was a prominent breeder at Glen Morgan L. (now long closed to public access) in the 1990's (e.g., 118 adults and chicks counted 7/4/96 by KL), but it is now mostly seen as a migrant and winter resident.

Since the colony of **Eurasian Collared-Doves** at Shartlesville was discovered in 2012, breeding confirmation has been elusive. That changed when photos of a group of 5 taken 7/20 (RH) showed that at least one or 2 were hatch year birds. Six **Whip-poor-wills** were heard 6/11 at SGL 110, Northkill Gap on the KR, their only known breeding area in this century.

Virginia Rails, usually reported as spring migrants if at all, apparently settled in to breed at the small KDRA marsh this year. One or 2 birds (3 on 5/14) were regularly reported starting 4/30 (m.ob.). On 7/18, a bird giving calls typical of an immature was seen walking in the open (KG), providing the first breeding confirmation since 1939. These rails were amazingly tolerant of human proximity. The marsh is bisected by a popular walking/biking trail and was for months disturbed by earthmoving on an adjacent wetland mitigation site. A **Common Gallinule** was seen at the Lowland Rd. pond, Hamburg 7/18 (KG, M-TG). This species bred at LO in 1960 and 1971, and at Glen Morgan L. in the 1990's, but has mostly been recorded as a rare and irregular migrant. An **American Coot** was seen at LO 7/23 (JS), 2 were seen there 7/27 (TU), and one of these continued into Aug (m.ob.). This aquatic chicken bred at LO in 1968

and at Glen Morgan L. in the 1990's, but unlike the gallinule, it has been a fairly common migrant and winter resident.

Due to lack of muddy field pools (mostly overgrown) and pond margins, southbound shorebirds were few. Just 2 **Least Sandpipers** were seen near Topton 7/6, 10 (JH, RK) and Bowers 7/22 (RH). One or 2 **Solitary Sandpipers** were near Robesonia 7/6, 10 (DP) and 2 near Bowers 7/22 (RH). Two **American Woodcocks**, seldom reported after early spring, were bonuses on an evening Whip-poor-will search at SGL 110, Northkill Gap 6/11 (KG). As is expected, a few **Ring-billed Gulls** cruised BML for picnic scraps all summer (JS). A few nonbreeding **Double-crested Cormorants** were reported at several watery venues, most commonly at LO, where 10 (a normal summer number) were counted 7/4 (MSch).

Summer's first **Great Egret** was reported at Leesport 7/4 (DR), quickly followed by 1-4 others on various ponds through the period. An immature **Little Blue Heron** first seen at Lowland Rd. pond, Hamburg 7/13 (KG) stayed well into Aug. This species has visited annually for the last five years. An adult **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was at Shillington Park 6/29 (NW). Though reported in each of the last three years, this species has historically been rare and irregular. **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were reported more than 20 times at BML and LO 6/6-8/16, with high counts of 4 at LO 6/6 (JSp), 4 at BML 7/28 (JS), and 5 at LO 8/16 (JSp). Of greatest interest are reports of juveniles, which give the only indication that breeding has probably continued since the destruction of the last known nesting colony by a hailstorm in 2014. Juveniles were reported on nine dates with high counts of 3 at BML 7/28 (JS) and 2 at LO 8/16 (JSp).

Summering **Ospreys** were occasionally reported at several waterways through the period. Despite assumptions by nonbirders and some casual birders that they must be nesting because they're here, they are not breeders. **Red-shouldered Hawks** fledged young from at least two nests near the Schuylkill R. in southern Berks, where this hawk is most regularly found in summer. Of six Berks nests monitored by Hawk Mt. Sanctuary's **Broad-winged Hawk** Project, five fledged at least one young each (LG). In addition to those, a pair in District Twp. fledged 2 young (CE) and a Pike Twp. pair fledged at least one (RK).

The news about **Barn Owls** is grim. According to Dan Mummert, this was their worst breeding season of the fourteen years he has worked on PA Game Commission's **Barn Owl** recovery project. Only six sites in southeastern PA fledged young, compared to about 20 in a normal year. Of the two Berks sites that produced eggs, none hatched. Three of four sites monitored in Berks by Rich Bonnett were unoccupied due to habitat changes or site problems, and one had infertile eggs.

Red-headed Woodpeckers were not well monitored. Pairs occupied traditional territories on Kauffman Rd., Oley Twp. and Allendale Rd., Perry Twp. and a few singletons were reported elsewhere. Breeding was not confirmed. Reading's **Peregrine Falcons** fledged 4 young, all of which were treated for trichomoniasis, a disease they get from being fed infected pigeons. A female fledgling that grounded itself on a city street was taken to Red Creek Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, where it was found to be uninjured. It was fitted with a Motus nanotag to track its future movements and successfully returned to Reading (*fide* BU).

One of the county's densest populations of **Acadian Flycatchers** persists despite hemlock decline in the cool hemlock/rhododendron ravine along Furnace Cr. above HRes, where 12 singing males were counted 6/6 (KG) and 9 on 7/6 (RK). Just one **Blue-headed Vireo**, which shares this locally uncommon habitat, was heard there this summer, on 6/15 (RK). A few **Horned Larks** were heard singing in the hayfields along Monument Rd. and Mountain Rd. east of Hamburg in June (KG, PH). **Purple Martin** colonies in Centreport and on Mennonite farms in the Great Valley between Fleetwood and Topton were active but uncensused (RK). About 15 **Bank Swallows** were seen entering burrows in the hills of sand 7/4 (P&JWo) at the Haines & Kibblehouse quarry near Birdsboro, their only known nesting site. Forty adult and fledgling **Cliff Swallows** were counted at the State St. bridge colony in Hamburg 6/27 (KG). About 33 **Cliff Swallows** were counted at the two LO colonies 6/17 (RK). The LO colonies have been occupied for 53 consecutive years.

The county's largest population of Veeries is in the extensive Piedmont forest around FCSP, where 21 were heard along Sixpenny Cr. 6/8 (RK). The first **Veery** nest discovered in Berks was found there in 1950, when Veery was considered an uncommon and irregular breeder. **Wood Thrush** has a similar concentration point in the 400-acre Piedmont forest at Monocacy Hill Conservation & Recreation Area in Amity Twp., where 33, most in glorious song, were found 7/14 (RK). Two late migrating thrushes were a **Swainson's Thrush** singing at HRes 6/6 (KG) and a **Hermit Thrush** at Earl L. Poole Preserve in central Berks 6/1 (NW). Breeding **Hermits** were found 6/1 and 6/4 (KG) at two places on top of the KR, the only place they nest in Berks.

There have been several records over the years of **White-throated Sparrows** lingering into June, but a singing male at KDRA 6/27 and 7/4 (KG) was unusually late. The suite of grassland sparrows and icterids was well reported. The seasonal high counts of 7 **Grasshopper Sparrows** 6/24 (KG) and 5 **Vesper Sparrows** 6/23 (KG) were made in the hayfields east of Hamburg before extensive mowing had begun. Up to 5 **Savannah Sparrows**, including fledglings, were found at Rodale Experimental Farm, Maxatawny Twp. by Dickcissel seekers in Jun-Jul (m.ob.). At the largest known **Bobolink** colony, along Grist Mill Rd., Douglass Twp., 17 birds were seen 6/17 and 10 on 6/26 (RK). On both visits, females were seen carrying insects into the grass. Wet weather delayed mowing until early Jul, so some young may have fledged. **Eastern Meadowlarks** are apparently holding on in very small numbers. A few sites reported one to 3 birds in Jun before hay cutting, and the seasonal high count of 5 was made in Albany Twp. 7/11 (DH). There were no reported breeding confirmations.

Birders reported 16 breeding warbler species, mostly in expected numbers at known locations. Five **Worm-eating Warblers** made a good count at SGL 110, Stony Cr. 6/1 (TB). A **Prothonotary Warbler** sang in a swampy backwater along the Schuylkill R. at Union Meadows Park 6/16, 22 (P&JW, P&TN, JA). The habitat is right for breeding, but this was probably a spring overshoot male that soon left, as is most often the case. A **Kentucky Warbler** was at Sixpenny Cr., FCSP 6/8 (RK) and another at SGL 106, Pine Swamp Rd. 6/22 (P&JW). These are the only two locations where it has usually been found in recent years. The only reported **Cerulean Warbler** was at HRes on the KR 6/3 (KG), where it has previously been found. A **Magnolia Warbler** in District Twp. 7/21 (RK) was an early fall migrant and a **Blackpoll Warbler** at Bowers 6/3 (TU) was a late spring migrant. A **Black-throated Blue Warbler**, a rare breeder on the KR, was at HRes 7/13 (JT) and another at SGL 110, Stony Cr. 6/1 (TB). Five **Black-throated Green Warblers** were heard on the KR at SGL 106 and one to 4 at HRes in Jun-Jul (m.ob.), good numbers considering the species' very limited KR range in Berks.

Blue Grosbeaks were reported at six places and were confirmed breeding at Gethsemane Cemetery in Laureldale, where fledged young were seen in Jul (JB). **Dickcissels** returned for the fourth consecutive year to previously occupied territories in the grass pastures at Rodale. Most birders reported one or 2 males that sang tirelessly from utility wires 5/22-7/9. The only evidence of probable breeding was noted 7/3, when a male flew after an adult female accompanied by a plainer bird, probably a fledgling, all 3 of them quickly disappearing into the grass (LI, RK).

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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), State Game Lands #198 (SGL198), Yellow Springs Pond (YSP).

PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS

June saw above average amount rainfall and then in July precipitation lessened and temperatures increased. Information was obtained primarily from eBird data, which indicated that a total of 120 species were reported. There were two surveys conducted, one was a grassland bird survey on SGL 198 near Gallitzin, PA, and the other was an annual Cerulean Warbler count along the Lower Trail.

A few of the highlights during this period included a **Ring-necked Duck** which summered at the YSP (m.ob.) and an uncommon **White-eyed Vireo** located in FH 7/28 (LB). Ten **Great Egrets** were reported at CC 7/18 (LP) and comments from the park indicated that as many as 21 were observed that same day.

Turkey Vultures continue to be reported across the county in decent numbers. More reports of **Black Vultures** included one at Fort Roberdeau 6/5 (LC), one at YSP 6/26 (CE, EZ), and 2 at PH 7/24 (MB). Other raptors of note include a **Red-shouldered Hawk** near SGL 166 (MBa); and **Broad-winged Hawks** found consistently at PH (MB, SB), a pair observed on the 6 to 10 trail 6/12 (MM), one at SGL 166 6/26 (CE, EZ), and on at SGLN 7/3 (JC, LC).

Single **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were spotted at SGL166 6/26 (CE) and SGLN 7/10 (MN). **Red-bellied, Downy, Hairy, and Pileated Woodpeckers** continue to be widely reported.

There were 19 warbler species documented. A single **Wilson's Warbler** (ph.) was in FH 6/2 (BB, LB) and as many as 5 uncommon **Golden-winged Warblers** were noted in FH 7/28 (LB). Three **Kentucky Warblers** were spotted along with 8 **Worm-eating Warblers**, 7 **Black-and-white Warblers**, 6 **Hooded Warblers**, and 2 **Cerulean Warblers** at PH 6/25 (MB).

On 6/21, 6/29, and 7/5 members from the Juniata Valley Audubon Society conducted a grassland bird survey on SGL 198 near Gallitzin, PA for the PA Game Commission in an area of reclaimed strip mine planted in native grasses and forbs. There has never been a bird survey conducted in this SGL. Around 4.5 miles was covered with nearly 9 hours of documented time primarily between 6:30am - 10am. There were 48 species reported including high counts of 6 **Henslow's Sparrows**, 13 **Grasshopper Sparrows**, 6 **Chipping Sparrows**, 18 **Field Sparrows**, one **American Woodcock** (ph), 13 **Indigo Buntings**, 15 **Cedar Waxwings**, 10 **Wild Turkeys** (9 of them were poult and one hen), 12 **Ovenbirds**, 15 **Common Yellowthroats**, 6 **Chestnut-sided Warblers**, 2 **Black-throated Green Warblers**, 2 **Hooded Warblers**, 4 **House Wrens**, one **Yellow-breasted Chat**, 9 **American Goldfinches**, one **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**, one **Eastern Meadowlark**, and one **Eastern Bluebird**. (SB, JC, LJ, MJ, MN).

On June 1,4,5, 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, 72 singing Cerulean Warblers were counted, compared to 54 in 2018, 61 in 2017, 65 in 2016, and 51 in 2015. The first survey, in 1998, was part of Cornell's Cerulean Warbler atlas project and covered the northern 11 miles of the trail, with 36 Cerulean Warblers documented. As the numbers show, recent counts are as high or higher than in the early years, so numbers are holding steady or even increasing. Other birds encountered during the Lower Trail survey included 35 **Eastern Wood-Pewees**, 60 **Acadian Flycatchers**, 29 **Yellow-throated Vireo**, 55 **Warbling Vireos**, 208 **Red-eyed Vireos**, 30 **Carolina Wrens**, 6 **Worm-eating Warblers**, 16 **Louisiana Waterthrush**, 132 **American Redstarts**, 5 **Northern Parulas**, 3 **Yellow-throated Warblers**, 16 **Orchard Orioles**, and 41 **Baltimore Orioles** (NB).

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Bradford County – no compiler

Bucks County

Locations: Bradford Dam (BRD), Churchville Park (CVP), Maple Knoll Farms in Buckingham Twp. (MKF), Nockamixon State Park (NSP), Peace Valley Park (PVP), Penn-Warner Tract (PWT).

During the month of June, both temperature (+0.5°F) and precipitation (+1.62") were modestly above average. July was significantly warmer (+2.3°F) and wetter (+2.11") than usual. The total species count was 134, somewhat below the 5-year average of 141. As usual, all historical occurrence data come from Ken Kitson's 1998 *Birds of Bucks County*. Although no standout rarities were found, **Sandhill Crane** and **Mississippi Kite** were both fairly rare birds with interesting stories behind the sightings. Once again, a huge round of applause goes to Devich Farbotnik for his tireless **American Kestrel** and **Purple Martin** monitoring. Plenty of credit for **Purple Martins** also goes to Hart Rufe for helping to manage and observe the large colony reported on below. Finally, I must take a moment to thank August Mirabella and commend him for his 18 years of tremendously thorough and informative Bucks reporting! His help was gratefully received in tackling this year's spring report, and he has served as a great birding mentor to me over the years.

An unseasonable **Snow Goose** was seen in a field just west of PVP 6/2 (AH). This was the only notable swan or goose reported during the period. Curiously, a female **American Black Duck** came with **Mallards**, some of them domestic and one with a leg tie, to a feeding station near Pine Run Dam from the beginning of the period through 7/7 (LG, ph.). Multiple photos showed a lack of white on the speculum, full flight ability, and no leg bands on this bird. **Hooded Mergansers** continue to show themselves in summer here as a breeding species, though no breeding was confirmed this year. Five were at Quakertown Swamp 6/27 (AH), while a bird at PVP 7/2 could have been local or a wanderer (AM). A female **Ruddy Duck** at NSP 6/22 furnished the only other lingering duck report (LH, ph.).

Reports of **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were high, with cuckoos detected at 29 sites including multiple locations throughout NSP (m.ob.). The fact that they were only detected at 14 sites during the spring period may suggest a late start for the species this year. In contrast, **Black-billed Cuckoo** reports were extremely low (3) and concentrated in a relatively small area between NSP and the Del. R. (DA, BGh).

One of the rarities of the period was a **Sandhill Crane** seen mostly around a small farm pond in Buckingham from 7/17 through the end of the period (JB et al). Astonishingly, this tame crane was first discovered on a neighbor's porch, pecking on a screen door and a car (JB, ph.)! Although the species is no longer very rare in Bucks, this represents only the second summer record for the county.

Shorebird variety and numbers were low, with only nine species reported. Consistent with the very recent past, water levels were fairly high. Pectoral Sandpiper was a notable miss, and many scarce but possible species were nothing more than a hazy dream. One exception was an adult **Stilt Sandpiper** at CVP 7/24 (KK, ph.). High counts of **Least Sandpipers** were somewhat low, topped by 42 at CVP 7/24 (KK). A late spring migrant **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was at BRD 6/2 (AM, ph.), but the high count for the period was just 7 at CVP 7/29 (KL, ph.). **Solitary Sandpipers** had a modest high of 9 at CVP 7/29-7/30 (KL). Only three sites had **Greater Yellowlegs**, and none with more than 2 individuals (DF, KK). **Lesser Yellowlegs** fared little better, with a high of 7 at PWT (only site reported) 7/21 (DF).

Numbers of **Laughing Gulls** were in the single digits save for 11 at Franklin Cove near Tullytown 6/23 (MG). One was seen at NSP 6/4, an uncommon inland record (JBH). Based on reports from neighboring NJ sites, numbers for this species could easily have been much higher. Three **Caspian Terns** were reported in July, 2 at PVP 7/6 and one at NSP 7/31 (WC, ph., AH). A **Forster's Tern** was also at PVP 7/31 (AM, ph., AH).

Two **Common Loons** were found, one at PVP 6/3 and a breeding plumage adult at Franklin Cove 6/22-6/28 (AM, MG, ph., DD, ph.). Reports of **Great Egret** were high, with 18 sites reporting. High counts were 10 at Core Creek Park 7/27 and 12 at BRD 7/20 (GJ, MG). Although

no Snowy Egrets were reported, 4 **Little Blue Herons** made for a modest seasonal showing. Reports came from PWT 7/21, Hidden Lake in Newtown 7/27, Core Creek Park from 7/27-7/29 (possibly same bird as at Hidden Lake), and BRD 7/29-7/31 (DF, GJ, ph., HD, m.ob.). Only two sites reported **Black-crowned Night-Herons**. One was seen at PVP 7/27 and one to two birds were at Silver Lake Park from 7/13 through the end of the period, barely "leaving the door ajar" as a possible county breeder (LH, BG, DD, MG, ph.). One **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was heard in East Rockhill Twp. 7/1, where the species has been found before (DF).

An exciting moment occurred in a Doylestown Twp. yard when small passerines mobbed an adult **Mississippi Kite** 6/19 (KI). This is the 18th Bucks occurrence and very close to the spring late date of 6/20 and/or 6/23 (both in 2004), when 2 immatures fed on cicadas by the Del.R. and often crossed the state line (m.ob.). Out of 10 **Osprey** nests reported by the PGC, 7 were active (JM). It is not always clear whether nests are on the New Jersey or Pennsylvania side of the Del. R. Seven out of 9 **Bald Eagle** nests were active, with one new nest confirmed (JM, DA). Six sites reported **Broad-winged Hawks**, mostly in the NSP area, where a pair in suitable habitat 6/15 was a solid suggestion of breeding (AH, m.ob.). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was confirmed on a nest in Tinicum Twp. 6/18 (DA).

Similar to last year, a juvenile **Barred Owl** was present at Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve 6/23-7/25 (m.ob., ph.). Continuing a welcome trend as of late, **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were reported at 7 sites during the period (m.ob.). Three locations were known and four were new. While the new locations all had just one bird, the known Buckingham Twp. site had 2 adults feeding young 6/30, with 2 juvs. seen through much of July (DS et al).

The **American Kestrel** nest box monitoring project results are detailed below (see table) (DF).

American Kestrel Project

YEAR	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
BOXES	85	77	76	71	71	70	73
NESTS w/EGGS	62	62	60	52	44	45	34
NESTS FAILED	13	10	8	3	6	8	7
NESTS FLEDGED	49	52	52	49	38	37	27
EGGS LAID	283	291	274	248	211	208	135
FLEDGED	~213	208	208	203	164	169	94

As the table above shows, overall results were similar to the record-breaking year of 2018. Unfortunately, the number of failed nests was also at a record high. The number of fledged juvs. may not be exactly accurate because although 213 chicks hatched, only 206 of these were banded and the boxes were not checked afterwards. It was noted that any further mortality could have been possible but almost certainly very low. As a result, it is likely that American Kestrels had the highest breeding success in the project's history in terms of total birds fledged (DF).

The Upper Bucks **Peregrine Falcon** nest site produced 3 juvenile females. As a side note, the breeding female of the pair is new. Thanks to excellent photographs, the bird's band numbers were read and it was found to have fledged from a clock tower in Massachusetts in 2016. This adds to known records of Peregrines that were raised on man-made structures now breeding on cliff sites (AMM, DB, EN).

It seemed like a big year for local **Common Ravens**. They were reported from 10 locations. While most known spots had limited coverage and only singles were detected, three sites had groups of 5, 5, and 6 in June (WK, MN, AH, ph., m.ob.). Apparently the MKF **Horned Lark** was not seen after 6/4 (RS). However, the Patterson Farm in Lower Makefield Twp. had 2 on 6/15 (DF, DD). Neither location had confirmed breeding. There was no breeding status update from last year's **Bank Swallow** colony at PWT (DF). The PVP **Cliff Swallow** breeding colony had a

reported maximum of about 25 birds during the period (DL). Multiple locations along the Del. R. had small colonies as usual (m.ob.). The species also apparently returned to a small bridge in Tinicum Twp. where they nested historically. Six birds and at least 2 nests were seen 6/12 (DA).

Monitoring of two **Purple Martin** colonies in the county is continuing (HR, DF).

Purple Martin Colony-E. Rockhill

YEAR	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
GOURDS	144	144	132	134	124	124	91
NESTS*	137	141	126	119	121	119	90
NESTS w/EGGS	48	78	73	96	92	74	77
EGGS LAID**	209	291	273	459	388	251	279
EGGS HATCHED	140	180	112	364	226	N/A	N/A
FLEDGED	128	167	108	346	211	165	225
FAILED NESTS	12	25	37	9	25	18	0

Purple Martin Colony-Penn-Warner Tract

YEAR	2019	2018	2017
COMPARTMENTS	60	60	60
NESTS*	24	56	38
NESTS w/EGGS	14	27	29
EGGS LAID**	71	96	90
EGGS HATCHED	?	47	41
FLEDGED	51	34	32
FAILED NESTS	0	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.

The PWT martin colony had interesting results. The number of nests was at a record low, but the number of birds fledged was a record high due to having zero failed nests. **House Sparrows** had a major part in the low martin occupancy per compartment (DF). There was a bit of drama at the E. Rockhill colony as well. Two major factors led to the second-lowest fledging success in the colony's history. The cool and wet start to the spring undoubtedly slowed the martins' feeding efforts. A second serious problem presented itself in the form of a **Great Horned Owl** that killed juvs. and even an adult martin. However, the homeowner showed optimism that a solution had been found. Owl predation seemed to stop after a "dancing wind person", such as might be found at a car dealership, was operated in the colony during the nighttime hours (HR)!

Scarce grassland breeder locations are as follows: **Grasshopper Sparrow** (2), **Savannah Sparrow** (3, one mowed early), **Bobolink** (6, one mowed early), and **Eastern Meadowlark** (7, one mowed early). This is a significant increase from last year's reports, possibly due to increased coverage. A **Nelson's Sparrow** was at Pine Run Dam 6/5 (JH, ph., KR). Although the species is regular at that location in the fall, this appears to be the first spring record in Bucks. No Yellow-breasted Chats were found.

Fourteen species of warblers were detected, identical to last year. **Prothonotary Warbler** status improved a bit. Single males stayed at PVP and Riegelsville until at least 6/4 and 7/1, respectively (EB, HD, AMD, PC). Breeding was confirmed when the long-staying male at Tyler SP was tracked to a cavity 7/6, where it was observed entering a cavity (female present as well) with green caterpillars (MG). **Blue Grosbeak** was reported at only two sites, although not all observations may have been reported (RS, AH, ph.).

ADDENDUM: The Bucks spring scoter trifecta was actually

completed in April with three **Surf Scoters** and two rare-for-spring **Black Scoters** at NSP 4/12 (KR). The report did not come in until after the Spring 2019 summary was submitted.

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Butler County

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

The summer season was rather unspectacular as wet weather limited bird watching as well as bird activity. A lone **Mute Swan** was seen near Zelienople 6/7 (MV). Four of five species of duck noted this season are known breeders in **Butler**: **Wood Duck**, **Mallard**, **Hooded Merganser**, and **Common Merganser**. The exception was 4 **American Black Ducks**, seen at Park Road 7/14 (MC). Confirmed as breeders during the first BBA but not confirmed during the second BBA, Black Ducks breed in nearby Lawrence so perhaps they will resume nesting in Butler as habitat matures. Confirmed as local breeders during the Second Breeding Bird Atlas, **Hooded Merganser** continues to successfully rear young in **Butler**. Several reports of Hooded Merganser included photos of a hen and 12 ducklings at Moraine State Park (MC). Having been confirmed as successfully breeding in Northwestern **Butler**, **Common Merganser** continues to breed along Buffalo Creek in eastern **Butler**, now being seen there regularly. (LC).

Is someone releasing **Northern Bobwhite**? Fourteen half-grown birds were reported near Ridgeview Country Club 6/18 and 27 were photographed there the next day (SB fide KB). Quail were also seen near Fenelton and near Glade Run Lake. The only report of **Ruffed Grouse** was one adult with 3 chicks at Hungarian Road 6/21 (RN). **Wild Turkey** seem to have had a successful breeding season with numerous flocks with young reported (m.ob.). **Pied-billed Grebe** was noted twice at Lake Oneida, one each on 6/28 and 7/13 (KB). One was at GRL 7/20 (DB).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo was widespread (m.ob.) highlighted by 10-15 individuals in Poplar Forest, Slippery Rock 7/4-18 (GW, JW). The only report of **Black-billed Cuckoo** was 2 on a BBS Route 6/8 (MF). There were 3 eBird reports of **Common Nighthawk**: singles over Cabot 6/4 and at Zelienople 6/28 and 2 in downtown Butler 7/14. **Virginia Rail** was heard at SGL 95 and at the Wildlife Observation Area at Moraine SP (m.ob.), but no Sora were reported.

The only shorebirds were **Killdeer**, **Spotted Sandpiper** (m.ob.), and one **Solitary Sandpiper** at GRL 7/17-20 (DB, LC). Rare in summer away from **Erie** and **Crawford**, **Bonaparte's Gull** visited Lake Arthur 7/12 (KD) and 7/31 (MC). **Ring-billed Gull** and **Herring Gull** were in low double digit numbers at LA in June, increasing to 65 Ring-bills at NS by the end of July (MC). Interesting terns included a **Caspian Tern** at NS 7/28 (MC) and a **Forster's Tern** at Porter's Cove 7/6 (OM). **Single Great Egret** were spotted at GRL 7/6 (DF) and 7/31 (DB) and one was seen near Chicora 7/14 (TA).

Osprey and **Bald Eagle** continue to nest successfully at SGL 95 and Lake Arthur. **Sandhill Crane** again reared young. **Red-headed Woodpecker** and **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** were reported from only one location during June and July, in Clay Twp. (BB). Uncommon in **Butler** in summer, **Common Raven** appeared in three locations, with singles on a BBS route 6/9 (GK, MAK), at Pry Road 6/25 (BB) and near Meridean 7/24 (GK, MAK). **Cliff Swallows** have a colony at SGL 95 as well as the well-known large colony at the Route 528 bridge over Lake Arthur which boasts 183 active nests (GW, JW). Nest counts on the 422 Bridge are much less than on 528, probably because of large truck traffic,

but numbers are increasing over the last several years (OM).

Known to breed in the northwest corner of **Butler**, **Winter Wren** was seen at SGL 95 Parker 7/18 (KB). **Savannah Sparrow**, **Grasshopper Sparrow**, and **Henslow's Sparrow** were tallied near Portersville and at Barkeyville Grasslands, all in July (MC et al.). With populations in decline regionally, 2 **Yellow-breasted Chats** treated viewers at SGL 95 Swope Road 6/15 (BB et al.). **Bobolink** reports are on the rise. Fourteen species of warbler were reported, all local breeders except a late **Wilson's Warbler** at Jennings Environmental Education Center 6/20 (staff). The most frequently reported warblers were **Common Yellowthroat**, **Hooded Warbler**, and **Yellow Warbler**.

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Cambria County

Locations: Beaverdale Sportsman's Club (BSC), Dean St. Game lands 108 (DSG), Prince Gallitzin St. Park (PG), St. Joseph's area (STJ).

The **Great Blue Heron** colony near PG had 3 nests with 10 young in early June (DG). Three **American Woodcock** were at PG 6/7 (MH). Four **Caspian Terns** were seen at PG 6/17 (TD). **Northern Harriers** were found on several large tracts of reclaimed strip mines throughout the county. Some pairs were observed, but no breeding was confirmed. Six **Least Flycatchers** were at BSC 6/17 (TK, JK). This is a good number as this bird has been decreasing as a breeding species in our county. **Barn Swallows** seemed to be everywhere this year as many were feeding young as late as early August probably indicating a double brood.

In our fifteenth year of the **American Kestrel** nesting program at PG, 9 young were fledged. We now have fledged over 100 birds with this program (DG).

Several groups of adult and young **Vesper** and **Savannah Sparrows** were at STJ 7/20 (DG, JS). Good numbers of **Grasshopper** and **Henslow's Sparrows** were seen at the reclaimed strip mines that still have areas of grassland. **Louisiana Waterthrush** were seen and heard at several locations. **Hooded**, **Magnolia**, **Blackburnian**, **Black-throated Blue**, and **Canada Warblers** were at DSG 6/4 (TD, DG).

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Cameron County

Locations: Emporium (EM), Golf Course Ponds (GCP), Quehanna Wild Area (QWA), Sinnemahoning (SIN), Sinnemahoning State Park (SSP), Sizerville State Park (SZSP), Sterling Run (SR), West Creek (WC).

Twenty-eight **Wood Ducks** and 2 **Northern Pintails** were found at SSP 3/14 (MJ). A **Canvasback** was at GCP 3/14 (MJ). At SSP were 2 **Lesser Scaup** 4/7 (DB), 4 **Long-tailed Ducks** 4/30 (MD), 84 **Common Mergansers** 3/17 (MJ), and 4 **Red-breasted Mergansers** 4/6 (MJ). Also at SSP there were 3 **Bonaparte's Gulls** 4/5 (MJ), 2 **Ring-billed Gulls** 4/1 (DB), and 10 **Double-crested Cormorants** 5/4 (MJ). A **Golden Eagle** was at SR 3/7 (MJ).

A **Philadelphia Vireo** was at SIN 5/17 (OM) and 7 **Warbling Vireos** at QWA 5/10 (BH). A staging of 315 **Tree Swallows**, 18 **Barn Swallows**, and 35 **Cliff Swallows** were at SSP 4/27 (MJ). A count of 145 **American Robins** was made at SSP 3/21 (MJ). An **American Pipit** was at SSP 4/9 (MJ). Twenty **Pine Siskins** and 30 **American Goldfinches** passed through SZSP 4/28 (LF). Eight **White-crowned Sparrows** were at WC 4/30 (MPB). A single **Rusty Blackbird** was at SSP 4/5 (MJ). Twelve **Northern Parulas** were found at SSP 5/4 (MJ). Three **Black-throated**

Blue Warblers were at EMP 5/18 (TG). Three **Canada Warblers** were seen at QWA 5/16 (BH).

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Carbon County

Locations: Beltzville S.P. (BSP), Penn Forest Res. (PFR), Pine Run Boat Launch (PRBL), Sport Club Rd. (SCR), Weiser S.F. (WSF), Wild Cr. Res. (WCR).

Two moth enthusiasts black-lighting for caterpillars on the mountain west of Little Gap late on 7/4 were surprised to hear, instead of fireworks, the midnight song of a **Yellow-breasted Chat** (JMu, SK). Close to the **Carbon/Northampton** line, the bird was in sufficient breeding habitat, a scrubby clear-cut with mountain-ash and other shrubs, but was not reported again, perhaps for lack of follow-up. This chat appeared (or did whatever the audial equivalent of appearing is) less than a week after a different chat was discovered on territory in the northeast corner of the field along BSP's PRBL entrance road (RR, BR et al.). The PRBL chat was present and relatively vocal 6/28 through the period's end, as it or another had been for most of June 2018, after a 13-year hiatus from the park. A third chat (running in reverse chronological order) was reported from the Yellow Run area of WSF 6/4 (SM), during a **Golden-winged Warbler** monitoring effort—unsuccessful, of course (see inset). Our largest "warbler," now between sparrows and icterids on the checklist, has occupied Yellow Run in years past. Call it a *Carbon* copy.

Chats aside, the summer was slow. Single **Snow Geese** were observed at a retention pond in Palmerton 6/16 (RR, BR) and at BSP 6/28 (RR, BR) and 7/2 (GD). A **Lesser Scaup** at BSP 6/20 (RR, BR) was unseasonal. More run-of-the-mill in the park was a pair of **Buffleheads** 6/5 (RR, BR) and a female **Red-breasted Merganser** through 6/4 (RR, BR), the former species having lingered deep into May and the latter individual continuing from the spring report. The late date for merganser in *Birds of the Lehigh Valley and Vicinity*, 2nd ed. (2014) is 6/1.

Eastern Whip-poor-will, rarely detected away from known breeding haunts, was heard at 0710 and 0825 along SCR in West Bowmans 6/1 (RR). Although the location is at a lower elevation than whips' typical grounds at this latitude, the fine second-growth environs (home to **Prairie Warbler**, the nightjar's neighbor on the other side of the Kittatinny at Lehigh Gap) as well as the June date make one wonder if SCR has simply never been banded nocturnally. **Solitary Sandpiper** arrived in Palmerton 7/17; 2 were seen 7/29 (RR, BR). A **Common Tern** graced BSP 6/16 (BW, JW, WW), while a **Forster's** was unexpected 7/5 (RR). According to published data, the Common represented the fourth summer record for the Lehigh Valley area and the Forster's was only the second. A young **Common Loon** was at Bear Cr. L. 7/9-11 (BF). **Great Egrets** were noted at BSP 6/24 (RR, BR), Lehighton 7/23 (RR, BR), and Parryville 7/29 (RR, BR). Rounding out the non-passerines were 2 **Barred Owls** on Lovitt Rd. west of WCR 7/26 (RR).

An **Alder Flycatcher** on SCR 6/1 (RR) may have been a migrant. Two at BSP 7/31 (JMc, PM) were south of their usual nesting range. Three **Horned Larks** were seen at Dieters Hill Rd. and Nis Hollow Dr. southeast of Lehighton 7/10 (JH), along with a **Grasshopper Sparrow**. Away from colony sites at BSP and Parryville, **Cliff Swallows** were tallied at the PennDOT shed near WSF 6/23 (BW, JW, WW) and on Leininger Dr. in Mahoning Valley 7/7 (BW, JW, WW).

Winter Wren, among the more elusive of the Pocono breeders, was "singing incessantly in a ravine" off Margery's Trail on SGL 129 south of Big Boulder L. 7/2 (PKJ, BJ). **Hermit Thrush** is much easier to find, but a fledgling at WSF 6/23 (BW, JW, WW) was interesting. **Cedar Waxwings** remained abundant throughout the region after their May explosion. Unlike the previous summer, **Purple Finch** was accounted for, at Hickory Run S.P. 6/28 (CK).

Highly local as a nester in the Poconos and the state, **Nashville**

Warbler returned to its traditional scrub-barren/boreal bog interface along the southern edge of the Yellow Run wetland in WSF, with 2 recorded 6/4 (SM) and one 6/23 (BW, JW, WW). Despite occurrences just south of *Carbon* at Lehigh Furnace Gap, neither Kentucky nor Cerulean Warbler deigned to cross the ridge. Hell Hollow Rd. north of PFR proved reliable for **Hooded** and **Black-throated Blue Warblers** as always, this year west to the first stream crossing from the Hatchery Rd. junction. Canadian-zone warblers of SGL 141 on Broad Mt. north of Nesquehoning included **Yellow-rumped** 6/8, **Northern Waterthrush** 6/22, and, appropriately, **Canada** 6/22 (JS, JJ). Broad Mt.'s Hughes Swamp, accessed from Rt. 93, is an underexplored treasure with uncommon to rare insects (Seepage Dancer, Black Dash, Bog Copper) and plants (American Climbing [Hartford] Fern, Massachusetts [Bog] Fern), and deserves more coverage, ornithological and otherwise. If you go, however, be sure to wear small boots, in order to minimize your *Carbon* footprint.

This summer, for the first time since their discovery in 2009, **Blue Grosbeaks** neglected to occupy the *Carbon* side of Lehigh Gap Nature Center. At least eight visits by birders, including one by this writer, failed to produce a flash of navy or a metallic "tink." This was especially disheartening given the grosbeaks' confirmed breeding last year, and the fact that this writer is keeping a county annual list. (In fact, each time this writer does so, the county in question seems to lose a formerly reliable constituent...the aforementioned *Carbon Golden-wingeds* in 2015, the *Northampton Great Cormorants* in 2013...) Without equating the local fizz of a semi-nomadic, expanding species at the northern edge of its range with the tragic region-wide decline of a stunner of a warbler, one can draw an unhappy parallel between these, shall we say, *Carbon* omissions. Fortunately, under the stewardship of nature center staff and volunteers, the north slope of Blue Mt. at Lehigh Gap continues to recover admirably from the Palmerton zinc plant's effects, so perhaps the grosbeaks will be back.

In the 1980s, **Golden-winged Warblers** were established breeders in *Carbon*, especially in the area of PFR. By the 2000s, they had retreated to one power-line cut and barren complex (christened affectionately after the nearby thoroughfare, "Hatchery Rd.") on WSF. This small colony, ultimately diluted by "**Brewster's**" hybrids and threatened by clearing and spraying, disappeared after 2014. Since then, Golden-winged has been eBirded in the county once, as a migrant (although this writer observed an apparent "**Lawrence's**" mutt at BSP in 2015). Whatever the cause—genetic swamping, competition, habitat alteration—the Golden-winged Warbler, which shares its neat yellow crown only with the taxon named after our state, the **Chestnut-sided**, is no longer a dependable part of the Lehigh Valley area fauna. A pilgrimage to Delaware S.F. sites in Monroe is now in order for eastern Pennsylvania seekers.

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Centre County

Locations: Bald Eagle S.P. (BESP), Colyer L. (COL), Governor Tom Ridge Wetland Preserve (GTRWP), Scotia Barrens and Pond (SCO), Toftrees pond and gamelands (TOF)

The flooded fields along Tadpole Rd. and the adjacent Fairbrook wetland were magnets for rare species, with several often being reported at one time. Information for this report was obtained from eBird and the State College Bird Club listserv with background and status now from **Birds of Central Pennsylvania** by Nick Bolgiano and Greg Grove, 2010 (B&G, 2010).

A few rare ducks were reported through parts of the summer, although none were reported to be breeding. A single **Blue-winged Teal**

lingered in the wet fields along Tadpole Rd. 6/2-27 (EZ, et al.), and an **American Widgeon** was spotted 6/6 at the Pleasant Gap Fish Hatchery (JP). Two **American Black Ducks** stopped for the day at the Fairbrook Wetland 7/26 (JoP) and a male **Ring-necked Duck** spent most of July at SCO (JC, et al.). Two **Hooded Mergansers** were noted 6/4 in Unionville (KE), and singles were present 7/7 at the Centre Hills Country Club (CE) and 7/13 in Bellefonte (MaB). Seven **Common Mergansers** were seen 7/2 at Dowdy's Hole on Bald Eagle Cr. (JP), and one was present 7/5 along Tadpole Rd. (MBr). **Pied-billed Grebes** are rare breeders, so a local birder had a rare treat when he observed 3 nestlings and an adult at an undisclosed location in early June (BoS). Two other birders reported an adult with 5 fledglings, as well as 3 slightly older birds, at SCO 7/14 (P&RW). Varying numbers Pied-billed Grebes were reported throughout the summer at SCO (CS, et al.). A single bird was observed 6/25 at COL (AH), and 2 were present 7/18 at BESP (MiB).

Two rail species were noted. Single **Virginia Rails** were present 6/21 at the Julian wetlands (EZ) and at GTRWP 6/22 (RR). A **Sora** was at SCO 7/11-14 (JP, PI, P&RW). Some fresh roadkill on Tadpole Rd. turned out to be another Sora, which "apparently [had] just been hit by a car" 7/24 (RC). A **Sandhill Crane**, often in the company of a **Glossy Ibis**, **Great Egrets**, and **Great Blue Herons**, was frequently observed in the Tadpole Rd. fields and the adjacent Fairbrook wetland 6/11-30 (SP, et al.).

Several sandpiper species are rare at least part of the summer, and those observations are included in this report. A trio of early fall migrating **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were spotted 7/22-28 along Tadpole Rd. (JP, AM), and a **Wilson's Snipe** was there 7/11-28 (CE, et al.). Not normally found in June, a solitary **Solitary Sandpiper**, probably a very late migrant, was at BESP 6/3 (TD). A late migrating **Lesser Yellowlegs** stopped at Tadpole Rd. 6/2 (EZ). Two tern species were reported at BESP – a **Caspian Tern** 6/7 (LP, CA) and a **Common Tern** 6/2 (EZ). One **Black Tern** was spotted at SCO 7/7 (JC).

A rare **Common Loon** was reported occasionally at BESP, with sightings 6/2 (EZ), 6/30, and 7/31 (both BS). One or 2 **Double-crested Cormorants** were also present there 6/2 (EZ) and 7/18-22 (MiB, EZ), and a single cormorant was observed 6/21 at TOF (JG).

One or 2 **American Bitterns** were regularly observed 6/3-7/18 at SCO (BB, et al.). Although there have been reports of breeding in past years, no evidence of breeding behavior was noted this year. Considered to be rare, **Great Egrets** were reported at many locations during the summer. A **Glossy Ibis** was another rarity in the flooded fields along Tadpole Rd. and the adjacent Fairbrook wetland. It wowed area birders 7/21-31 (BC, et al.). Another report, possibly of the same bird, was at Rock Springs 7/28 (TM). Although it is a casual species, there are many reports of Glossy Ibises in Centre, with the most recent one occurring in 1996 at the Penn State Retention Pond (eBird and B&G, 2010).

A continuing **Barn Owl** was observed 7/2 on a farm near Spring Mills 7/2 (EZ, MB). Two, possibly 3, **Merlins** were spotted at two locations in State College 7/12 (CE). Rare **Bank Swallows** were observed at multiple locations, including one at the GTRWP 6/26 (RR) and 5 on the Penn State campus 6/20 (LG). Two were reported 7/22 at the Eagleville Bridge (JP) and 3 at Fairbrook Wetlands 7/25 (DB).

One or 2 **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were observed 6/21-7/10 at the Poe Valley CCC Camp (JG, DR). Another was at BESP 7/31 (Eric Graham). Up to 4 **Henslow's Sparrows** were reported 6/1-7/10 in SGL 100-German Settlement Grasslands (SB, et al.). A **Blackpoll Warbler** was spotted in Lemont 6/14 (JL).

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Chester County

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

The summer season proved to host some unexpected visitors, particularly a few found at the OCTRES, where an engineered draw-down of water levels was underway for strategic maintenance of this lake. After an exceptionally wet spring and summer, this site offered excellent foraging opportunities for wading birds and shorebirds alike, and set the stage for a good rarity showing. Star appearances by an American Avocet, Short-billed Dowitcher, and Tricolored Heron found there added excitement into an otherwise slow time of year for birding. Other seasonal highlights included a Sandhill Crane discovered in Birmingham Twp, a pair of Least Terns who dropped into MCSP for a few hours' layover, and a lone Pine Siskin that visited a Berwyn feeder.

A perplexing dark-billed swan that appeared on the pond at EP (MH, m.ob.) gave birders a puzzle to try and solve, but its species identity remains in limbo between **Trumpeter** or **Tundra Swan**. A lingering **American Wigeon** was an unusual find at Chambers L. 6/6 (RR, LL, JMo), as this species is not typically seen here in spring beyond mid-Apr. This individual remained through 6/8. A single **Hooded Merganser** was found on the pond at EP 6/19 and continued through 6/22 (JD, m.ob.). Rare in summer, a **Red-breasted Merganser** was reported from MCSP 6/7 (LL), and was quite an unexpected find. **Pied-billed Grebes** are not known to nest in *Chester*, but it is within the realm of possibility, so any summer report is intriguing. Reports were from MCSP 6/4 (BB), from EP 6/24-25 (JD), and one at LWG 7/13 (LL).

Black-billed Cuckoos are scarce in summer, and consistent with that status, there was just one encounter, which came from Warwick CP 6/14. **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were present in Jun and early Jul at Goat Hill Preserve, the best-known location in the southeastern part of the state for this once common nightjar. A **Sandhill Crane** standing in a backyard 7/15 near Birmingham was a surprise to the homeowner, who called TriState Bird Rescue to report its presence (*fide* SM). Sandhill Cranes are rare in the county, and irregular at all times of the year, especially summer.

An **American Avocet** found at OCTRES 6/28 (LL) caused quite a stir among county birders, as this species is rarely found in the county, this marking the first known appearance of this striking shorebird since 2012 (during Superstorm Sandy). It made just the one-day appearance, which is typical for drop-in visits by avocets. The BCP Kite Shorebird Watch held May-early Jun documented a large flight of northbound shorebirds on 6/1 and 6/4. The bounty birds for birders observing the spectacle on 6/4 consisted of 172 **Ruddy Turnstones** and 228 **Red Knots** (LL, m.ob.). The first of Jun was **Sanderling** Day, as 630 were identified in flocks of migrants on the wing over BCP (LL, MS). A single **Short-billed Dowitcher** was a nice find at OCTRES, as this chunky shorebird is only irregularly reported from *Chester*. The water levels in the lake were being drawn down for work by the Army Corp of Engineers, thus providing excellent shoreline habitat for drop-in visitors.

The sight of 2 **Least Terns** flying over the lake at MCSP 6/15 thrilled observers, as this species is a rare and irregular occurring species anywhere in the Commonwealth (m.ob.). Previous records of the tiny tern in *Chester* are in summer, and coincidentally, documentation of Least Terns at OCTRES in 2018 was from 6/16, suggesting that mid-June is the optimal window to search for this species. From the world's smallest tern sp., to the largest, a **Caspian Tern** was observed at MCSP 7/11, and is consistent with the timing of their southbound migration. While Caspians are more expected than Least, they are still uncommon, and tend to make a quick pass-through or drop-in to area lakes. **Forster's Terns** are the most expected sterna tern sp., but not seen with regularity, especially in summer. One spotted at MCSP 7/26 provided the only observation (MH, LL).

Common Loons are not expected in summer, but occasionally are found, always in winter plumage. One was captured by camera flying over EP 6/7 (JD), and another was spotted resting on the lake at MCSP 7/8

(LL).

Wading birds benefited from the excellent foraging habitat resulting from the drawdown at OCTRES, and birders hoping to see the less common herons and egrets were not disappointed. A **Snowy Egret** was noted there 7/27-30 (LL, m.ob.). Some years, this species is not recorded in the county, so any observation is noteworthy. **Little Blue Herons** begin their post-nesting dispersal in July, and juvenile wanderers are mostly expected in very small numbers. One was found at the Great Marsh 7/28 (JMo, MC), and another was at a Pocopson wetlands area 7/29 (JA). Another continued at OCTRES during the same period of the last week of Jul (m.ob.). The standout heron of the season was an immature **Tricolored Heron** found at OCTRES 7/27-30 (LL, m.ob.), which excited local birders, especially as it hopped between county lines. This is a rare heron statewide, and especially so in *Chester*, where there have only been three previous records. A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was a surprise visitor to a small pond in Landenberg 6/17 (CK). Night-Herons are not known to nest in the county, but remain mysterious due to their cryptic nesting behaviors, and mostly nocturnal foraging. Less expected, an adult **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was found foraging along a stream near Wilson's Corner in northeast *Chester* 7/31 (TL).

A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was observed in Honey Brook 7/29 (LW) in an area where they have been found in previous years. This species is more frequently encountered west of *Chester*, in Pennsylvania, so any observation is noteworthy. **Peregrine Falcons** are known to be nesting at Cromby Plant near Phoenixville, so birders hoping to see one can improve their chances by putting in time in this region. Reports steadily trickled in through the period (m.ob.). It is presumed the pair has not been successful in nesting, with young not observed there as yet. The same location is host to a nesting pair of **Common Ravens**, a species on the increase in the region (m.ob.). A **Pine Siskin** was observed at a feeder in the Berwyn area 6/30 (MC). This follows a good irruption of these "winter finches", many of whom lingered into late May, so is not entirely surprising.

A **Kentucky Warbler** discovered in spring, and seemingly on territory at Warwick CP put on a good show for area birders who sought him 6/2-25 (m.ob.). This species has become increasingly scarce, and any observation is noteworthy. **Chestnut-sided Warblers** are a low-density nesting warbler, and only known to use the county as nesting grounds in a few locations. SGL43 is one such place, and a male was photographed on territory there 6/9 (JT). **Blackpoll Warblers** were tardy in their movement at the tail end of migration, with several reported in the region the first few days of Jun. One observation came from MCSP 6/1 (LL). A singing **Yellow-throated Warbler** was recorded 6/21 (HM) from Kerr Park in Downingtown, a place this species is known to have been present for the last 9 years. This was the only date the warbler was found, and no other encounters were reported through the season. **Pine Warbler** nesting habitat is isolated to large tracts of coniferous trees, and best found in southwest *Chester* where this habitat is more prevalent. Southern Pine Beetle devastation to hundreds of acres of pines in the Serpentine Barrens likely reduced numbers of this pine forest obligate, and reports came from only Goat Hill Preserve 6/8 (DW) and 6/29 (MH), Nottingham CP 7/9 (JW), and OCTRES 7/12 (PM).

An unusual summer feeder visitor was a pair of **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** that attended a feeder through Jun in Honey Brook (CM). This species typically is found only in the northeast part of the county during this time period, and is considered a scarce breeder. A female **Dickcissel** was seen on a feeder near OCTRES 6/17 (PM). This location is not far from where nesting has previously been suspected to occur. The only other encounter was of a singing bird near Coatesville in an area with suitable habitat, 7/27 (LL). Dickcissels are irregular summer visitors, and suspected nesting attempts are often thought to be disrupted due to early mowing schedules. Efforts to work with land owners and farmers to time a mowing schedule that benefits ground-nesting field birds are underway.

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Clarion County

Locations: Armstrong Trail (AT), Cook Forest (CF), Curllsville (CV), Mt Airy (MA), Mt Zion (SGL330/Piney Tract)(MZ), Redbank Valley Trail (RVT), Rimersburg (RI).

The only significant waterbird record this summer is a good one for Clarion, as it's not a common one, that of nesting **Hooded Mergansers** at a wooded pond location near Millcreek. Two adult females were found with groups of 7 and 5 young 6/7 (MH). Near Strattanville, a pair of **Common Nighthawks** were found 7/1-16 (MH, LT). Despite efforts made, no other definite evidence of breeding was found, though there are several sites with potential nesting habitat. **American Woodcocks** are often hard to find once the display period is over, but an adult was found roadside near CV, showing some protective behavior possibly indicating young nearby 6/7 (DD, CW).

Black Vultures are expanding slowly, and one was noted near Clarion eating carrion at roadside 7/11 (MM). Despite available habitat along the different waterways, there is currently no nesting record of **Osprey**. This year one was seen along the Allegheny River from the Armstrong Trail near East Brady 6/30 (TB), so hopefully that may be a sign that there is some nesting activity as yet undiscovered. No direct evidence of breeding was reported for **Northern Harrier**, but sightings were submitted from several areas. One male bird was at CV strips 6/8 (DB, RH, ML, SM) and again 6/14 (TR). In their stronghold at MZ, a female was present 6/7 (ME, LS). A single bird was seen along Stockdill Rd (CB) and at the main site (JA, LA, ML) 6/8. A pair was found at another past breeding site near CV along Rankin Rd 6/9 (CW). **Cooper's Hawks** are not an uncommon nester but actual reports of nest sites are uncommon. This year, a pair was found nesting in a small pine planting near a reclaimed strip field near CV, present all season and with 2 young first found fledged and calling near the nest 7/11 (CW).

Eastern Screech-Owls have been found for many years at a barn near CV, but breeding is not confirmed every year. At this site, 2 newly fledged young birds were first seen roosting with the adults in the barn 6/29, and then an additional young bird was seen the following day (DD, CW). The adults were a red female and gray male, the young were 2 red and one gray. These young birds were last seen still roosting with the adults through 7/15, with both adults continuing at the site through the end of the season.

White-eyed Vireo is not often reported - one was found in good habitat at CV strips 6/4 (RN) and 6/10 (SJ). This is a likely spot to watch for signs of breeding in the future. **Yellow-throated Vireos** have limited habitat but continue to have a small presence along the bigger waterways. One was reported along the AT near East Brady 6/28 (TB), and a singing male was present along the RVT 6/2-7/19 (CW). **Warbling Vireos** are typically scattered just along the larger waterways as well, so it was nice to get reports from some other habitat with just smaller ponds in the vicinity. One was found at MZ 6/7 (ME, LS) and a singing male was heard in CV 6/13 and 7/20 (CW). Another singing bird was heard near a pond on the RVT near RI 7/5 (CW).

Golden-crowned Kinglets have a very limited breeding presence, restricted mostly to the larger pine forests in the north around CF. This year good numbers were reported from 5 sites at this area with 11 birds

found 6/25 (RT). **Purple Finches** were noted breeding just at two locations. Birds were present throughout the season at a home in RI, with up to 20 birds reported and 12 fledged young seen (MM). At a home near CV they were present in smaller numbers of up to 5 birds and 2 fledglings, from 6/7 through the end of the season (CW).

Grasshopper Sparrows were generally reported from their typical strongholds, but in looking back over the previous five years, it is noted that total numbers seem to be down. Total numbers at MZ were as high as 17 for previous reports, while the maximum number this year was 4 (m.ob.). Reasons for this are not clear but bears watching for future seasons. It was a better year for sightings of **Clay-colored Sparrows**. One was noted at MA in early June (SG) and one was also seen at MZ 6/4-11 (BG, DK, RN, LS, TS, et al.). One observer reported the bird carrying food 6/11, a good indication for breeding success. **Vesper Sparrow**, as is usual, was only reported at one location, with 2 seen at MZ 6/24 (TBe). **Henslow's Sparrows** reports this year also show a possible decline in numbers but as with Grasshoppers, this data is uncertain as it depends on many factors and information of any substance is only really available for one location. Up to 14 Henslow's were noted on reports from MZ as the main location and birds were present throughout the season (m.ob.). **Yellow-breasted Chat** continues to be a feature at the CV strips site, with large areas of overgrown fields providing excellent habitat. They were reported with numbers as high as 4 birds 6/8-22 (m.ob.).

It was a poor showing for **Worm-eating Warblers** this year but it is very likely that this was simply due to lack of effort and not a population trend. Ample habitat remains along the various southern waterways. A singing bird was reported at AT at Sarah Furnace 6/9 (KD, DF, BG, DK), and also 7/1 (TB). Along the RVT one was also still singing 7/8 (CW). **Blue-winged Warblers** are not uncommon in the county, but nesting is not always confirmed. This year a family of 5 was found rather late in the season with adults still feeding recently fledged young along the RVT in Rimersburg 7/27 (RN, CW). **Kentucky Warbler** is always a desired species to be able to document at this more northern edge of its range. A singing male was found along the RVT between Redbank and Lawsonham 6/2 (CW) and also 6/8 (RH, SM). Another was found singing late in the season along the same trail near Longpoint 7/19(CW). At this same location, **Cerulean Warblers** were heard, with 1-2 singing males 6/2-25 (TR, CW). These numbers are down from last year, as for Worm-eating Warblers, but presumed from less effort also.

Northern Parulas continue to have a presence at both the northern and southern boundaries. They are almost always restricted to forested areas along rivers and large streams. Three singing males were found at various spots in the CF area 6/25 (RT), and a singing male was present along Redbank Creek at Lawsonham 6/2-7/8 (SJ, RH, SM, CW). Nearby at Brady's Bend overlook one was seen 6/9 (KD, DF, BG, DK) and at the AT one was noted 6/28 (TB). An exception to the expected places to locate Parulas in breeding season was a male heard for just a single day singing persistently in a small patch of Norway spruce near CV 6/7 (CW). As this is late for a new territory, possibly it was an unsuccessful male from elsewhere that was still trying to attract a mate. There are scattered pockets along the RVT of pine and hemlock, and in one of these areas a singing male **Magnolia Warbler** was heard, near Climax, on 7/8 and again 7/19 (CW). Records for this species are few and scattered west of the mountains and south of the northern tier forests. Another species that this can be said for is **Blackburnian Warbler**, and so worth noting was a report of 2 along Sarah Furnace Rd near the AT 6/23 (CA, KA, NA). More birds are very typical of the CF area where they are common, although numbers were down this year with only up to 9 reported 6/7-7/1 (SJ, T&JK, RT).

Pine Warblers have just a scattering of areas where there is appropriate habitat. At MZ, with many pine plantings from strip mine reclamation, there are usually records most years, and one was seen there at the main site 6/8 (JA, LA, ML) and also 6/22 (MHo, JM, SS). A single bird was noted singing in the CF area 6/25 (RT) and 7/1 (T&JK). The last warbler of mention is the **Yellow-throated Warbler**, which like some others is almost exclusive to riparian areas along the larger rivers and creeks. The only one noted this year was a singing male present

along the RVT at Lawsonham from the start of the season and continuing to sing through 7/8 (CW). Numbers seem down this year in the eBird dataset, as this sighting is the furthest north this year west of the mountains during the breeding season.

Observers: **Carole Winslow**, 814-745-3818, cjwinslow94@gmail.com, Jim Ackerman, Linda Ackerman, Casey Andersen, KM Andersen, Nancy Andersen, Timothy Becker (TBe), Corey Bellis, Dave Brooke, Todd Burtner, Karyn Delaney, Don DeWolf, Mary Eyman, Donna Foyle, Steve Gosser, Barbara Griffith, Rebecca Hart, Mal Hays, Mimi Hoffmaster (MHo), Sam Jolly, Deborah Kalbfleisch, Tom and Janet Kuehl, Michael Leahy, Steve Manns, Mark Moore, Jim McConnor, Richard Nugent, Theo Rickert, Steve Sanford, Tabassam Shah, Liz Spence, Ryan Tomazin, Larry Towse.

Clearfield County

A **Green Heron** was observed at Beaver Meadow Walkway 6/12, 6/18 (BM). A **Red-Headed Woodpecker** was seen along Greenwood Road 6/20 (BM). An **Alder Flycatcher** was heard vocalizing near DuBois 6/2 (MA).

Observers: **Diane K. Bierly**, 143 W. Lytle Ave., State College, PA 16801. (814) 238-8183, dkb246@usa.net, Marianne Atkinson, Bill Mendat.

Clinton County

Locations: Mill Hall (MH).

A **Clinton** first record **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** appeared at the Central Mountain High School wetlands in MH on 7/12 and remained until 7/22 (CCH, m.ob.).

The nesting **Ospreys** in MH produced 2 young (m.ob.). On 7/23, 2 immature **Merlins** were observed in MH not far from the Osprey nest, suggesting that for the second year in a row, there was probable nesting of this falcon (RS). The local nesting **Peregrine Falcons**, which for the last few years have been evading confirmation, were found to be nesting rather late in the season near Avis. On 6/8 one very young eyass was observed at the nest site. It was predicted to fledge about mid July. This was unconfirmed but behavior of the adults on 7/14 suggested that a fledgling may have been nearby (MG, RS, WL).

At least three nesting sites for **Red-headed Woodpecker** were located in the MH and Mackeyville areas during the period (CCH).

Observers: **Wayne Laubscher**, 749 E. Croak Hollow Road, Lock Haven, PA 17745, 570-748-7511, wlnlauscher@comcast.net, Carol and Charles Hildebrand, Mario Giazzon, Robert Snyder.

Crawford County

Locations: Conneaut Marsh- McMichael Road (CM- MMR); Pymatuning-Fish Hatchery (P S.P.- FH); Pymatuning-Miller's Ponds (P S.P.-MP)

Mute Swan is a rare bird for **Crawford**, so the sighting of 2 near Townville 7/20 (TN, KP) and 7/21 (PatW, RW) is especially notable. There were multiple reports of **Trumpeter Swan**, notable during any time of the year but especially unexpected during summer. Sightings included 2 seen at Geneva Marsh 6/1 (CG) and 6/3 (MW), and one seen there 7/1 (RN). Sightings at Custards Marsh included 2 birds 6/2-67 (RL) and one 6/26 (DB).

Two late **Blue-winged Teal** observations included singles at Erie NWR- Seneca District 6/4 (RS) and P S.P.- FH 6/7 (MV). A single **Gadwall**, notable during summer, was seen at Pymatuning S.P.- Spillway 6/15 and 6/21 (MV). Observations of **American Black Duck**, notable during the summer season, included 2 seen P S.P.- FH 6/7 (MW) and one at Pymatuning S.P.- Spillway 6/21 (MV). A very early **Canvasback** was reported at Woodcock Lake 7/13 (BW). **Ruddy Duck**, an expected

but notable bird in summer, was seen in the expected location at Pymatuning S.P.- Spillway. Observations there included 5 seen 6/2 (DE, EW), one 6/21 (MV), and 2 seen 7/22 (PatW, RW).

The only observation of **Ruffed Grouse** was a single bird at Woodcock Lake-Bossard Trail 6/7 (RL). Observations of **Pied-billed Grebe**, notable during summer season, included singles at Geneva Marsh 6/1 (CG) and at CM- MMR 7/14 (AM). Observations of **Black-billed Cuckoo**, notable and increasingly scarce, included one seen in the Pymatuning S.P. area 6/3 (MW) and 2 near Springboro 6/9 (MG, DK). **Common Nighthawk** observations included up to 3 birds seen in the Meadville area 6/9 (KP, SK) and singles in Titusville 6/10 (SK) and 6/15 (AL).

Virginia Rail, **Sora**, and **Common Gallinule**, all notable breeding birds in **Crawford**, were seen in their expected numbers and locations in the Pymatuning S.P. and Conneaut marsh areas (m.ob.). Notable numbers of 2 adult and 6 juvenile **Common Gallinules** were at Custards Marsh 7/2 (DW). **Sandhill Crane** is increasingly expected, but still notable in the county. Observations this season were in the expected areas and in their expected numbers (m.ob.).

Upland Sandpipers, a notable breeding bird in **Crawford**, were seen in expected numbers in the P S.P.- MP and Pymatuning S.P.- Wilson Road areas (m.ob.). Early observations of **Least Sandpiper** included 3 at P S.P.- FH 7/5 (MV) and 7 there 7/12 (MV). Three early **Pectoral Sandpipers** were observed at P S.P.- MP 7/15 (RL). A **Wilson's Snipe**, rare in summer, was observed at P S.P.- MP 7/5 (MV). An early **Solitary Sandpiper** was at P S.P.- MP 7/12 (MV). Early observations of **Greater Yellowlegs** included singles at P S.P.- FH 7/15 (IF) and at P S.P.- MP 7/12 (MV).

Two **American Bitterns**, a notable bird during summer, were seen flying over Pymatuning S.P.- Hartstown Marsh 6/25 (MW). Observations of **Least Bittern**, a scarce but increasingly observed bird, included singles at Geneva Marsh 6/8 and 6/29 (CG), and at CM- MMR 7/2 (JB, JF) and 7/7 (ST). The only observations of **Great Egret** were of singles at Pymatuning S.P.- Hartstown Marsh 7/12 (RN) and at P S.P.- FH 7/27 (MV) and 7/28 (MHA).

High counts of **Osprey** included 7 at Woodcock Lake 7/4 (BW) and 5 at Woodcock Lake- Causeway 7/21 (PatW, RW). Observations of **Northern Harrier**, uncommon in summer, included singles in the Pymatuning S.P. area 6/3 (MW) and in the Pymatuning Goose Management Area 7/6 (RL). **Sharp-shinned Hawk** observations are relatively rare in summer, so the sighting of one in the Meadville area 7/6 (JF) is notable. **Broad-winged Hawk**, expected but notable during summer, were seen in expected numbers and locations (m.ob.). The only reports of **Great Horned Owl** were of one at Cussewago Bottom 6/28 (JF) and a one heard at CM- MMR 7/27 (AL).

Observations of **Red-headed Woodpecker**, a notable bird for the county, occurred in expected numbers and locations, particularly the Pymatuning area and Conneaut Marsh area (m.ob.). A good count of 4 were at CM- MMR 7/3 (MF). A notable count of 15 **Red-bellied Woodpeckers** were seen at a feeder at a private location on Pettis Road in the Meadville area 7/15 (RL). **American Kestrels**, a notable and expected bird, were observed in expected numbers and locations (m.ob.). Observations of **Merlin** included one in Meadville 6/7 (IF), one in the Pymatuning area 7/6 (RL), and 2 birds on the Allegheny College Campus in Meadville 7/26-28 (CD).

The only observations of **White-eyed Vireo** were of singles at Erie NWR- Shaffer Road 6/8 (KP) and in the Pymatuning S.P. area 6/23 (RL). A late **Philadelphia Vireo** was reported in the Pymatuning S.P. area 6/23 (RL). A **Common Raven**, notable and increasingly expected in the eastern half of **Crawford**, was observed near Townville 6/6 (AL). The only observations of **Horned Lark**, expected but scarce during summer, was of one seen near Sugar Lake Road 6/7 (RL). A great count of 166 pairs of **Purple Martin** were observed breeding in three different colonies in the Rundletown area throughout the summer months (AT). A good count of 80 **Cliff Swallow** were seen at P S.P.- FH 6/4 (JB, JF).

Observations of **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, a notable bird, especially during summer, included one in the Townville area 6/11 and 6/20 (AL), one at a feeder on Rundlettown Road 6/29 (AT) and 3 in the same area 7/1 (AL), and one seen at SGL 200 on 7/17 (AL). Especially notable was

a pair of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** with a young fledgling observed near Thatcher Road, Spring Township 6/26 (AT).

Winter Wren is scarce in summer, so observations of one near Centerville 6/12 (NW), one at SGL 144 on 7/20 (TN, KP), and a great count of 4 at SGL 122 on 7/27 (TN) are especially notable. Up to 2 **Sedge Wrens**, a rare and notable bird for *Crawford*, were seen along Thatcher road east of Conneautville 6/17 (AE), 6/24 (CN, KZ), 6/26 (CN), and 6/28 (JB, JF). **Marsh Wrens**, a notable breeding bird in *Crawford*, were seen in expected locations in the Pymatuning S.P. and Conneaut Marsh areas (m.ob.). There were several **Carolina Wren** observations, occurring throughout the county (m.ob.).

Observations of **Hermit Thrush**, expected but notable in summer, included one near Centerville 6/12 (NW) and a good count of 4 at SGL 122 on 7/27 (TN). Observations of **Northern Mockingbird**, expected but scarce in *Crawford*, included 2 at Erie NWR 6/10 (JD) and one in the Pymatuning S.P. area 6/12 (MH, RHi). **Purple Finch**, expected but notable during summer, were seen in expected numbers and locations (m.ob.). One **Pine Siskin**, an especially notable bird during summer, was in the Townville area 6/11 (AL).

Sightings of **Vesper Sparrow**, a notable bird for *Crawford*, included one heard singing at a private residence near Conneautville 6/29 (KZ), one seen and heard near Wayland Rd 7/6 (RL) and one at Geneva Marsh 7/22 (RL). **Dark-eyed Junco**, notable but expected during summer, were reported in expected numbers and locations (m.ob.). **Bobolink**, a notable and declining bird in *Crawford*, were seen in their expected locations in the Pymatuning S.P. area (m.ob.). A high count of 10 were at P.S.P.- MP 6/9 (RHo, KP). **Orchard Oriole**, expected but notable during summer, were found in expected numbers and locations (m.ob.).

Sightings of **Louisiana Waterthrush**, expected but scarce in *Crawford*, included a single bird seen off of German Road near Meadville 7/16 (BW) and 2 at SGL 122 on 7/27 (TN). Observations of **Northern Waterthrush**, a notable bird during the summer season, included 2 seen at SGL 146 on 6/9 (RHo, KP), and singles at Erie N.W.R.- Deer Run Trail 6/14 (KS), and a private location in the Conneautville area 6/16 (KZ). **Prothonotary Warbler**, a notable breeding bird here, were found in expected numbers and locations in the Pymatuning and Conneaut marsh areas (m.ob.). Observations of **Mourning Warbler**, a notable bird for the summer, included 4 at Cornplanter SF 6/1 (KP) and 3 at SGL 144 on 7/20 (TN, KP). Observations of **Cerulean Warbler**, a notable breeding bird in *Crawford*, included a good count of 8 at SGL 101 on 6/1 (JF), and singles at CM- MMR 6/14 (RL) and SGL 144 on 7/20 (TN, KP). After multiple observations during the previous summer season, there were notably no sightings of Northern Parula, Black-throated Blue Warbler or Canada Warbler this summer. Sightings of **Pine Warbler**, notable during summer, included singles at Pymatuning S.P.- Tuttle Point 6/7 (RL) and in the Pymatuning S.P. area 6/14 (RL).

A **Dickcissel**, rare in *Crawford*, was seen in the Pymatuning Goose Management Area 7/6 (RL).

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Cumberland County

Locations: SGL 169 (State Game Lands 169),

The summer period had about average temperatures but was drier than it had been in the last year, with fields finally drying out. The period was marked with two first confirmed breeding species. 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

One **Trumpeter Swan** was seen at SGL 169 Cabin Road 7/27 (VG, BP). This is the first summer record of the species for the county. It is not known if this is one of the pair that tried unsuccessfully to nest in the county for the first time in the spring. The one **Chuck-will's Widow** that was reported for the fifth consecutive year near the intersection of Ridge and Old Ridge Roads in the MSF beginning on 5/8 was last heard calling 6/28 (AM, KK, SS). A **Black-bellied Plover** was at MLR 7/8 (AnM). To my knowledge this is the first time this species has been reported in *Cumberland* in July. There was also a **Wilson's Phalarope** at MLR 6/1 (AnM, StS). This was the first June record and second summer record for the county with the only other record being 3 birds 7/16/91.

A **Henslow's Sparrow** continued to be reported on Fairview Road through 6/12 (DB, SB). Two birds of this species had been heard at this

There was a first confirmed breeding of **Osprey** in the county. Five birds (2 adults, and 3 young) were first reported on eBird in a nest atop a large light platform at the Enola Train Yard on the west shore of the Susquehanna River 7/10 (BM), then on the 7/13 4 birds (1 adult, 3 young) were reported at the same location (VG) with photo verification. While Osprey had previously been occasionally seen during the summer period in *Cumberland*, there had not been any confirmed nesting activity.

There was also a first confirmed breeding of **Prothonotary Warbler** in *Cumberland*. A female flew from a nest box as a male sung nearby at SGL 169 on 6/8 (VG, BO). On the next visit the box was opened to find 3 young birds on the nest with the male and female adults nearby 6/21 (VG, DK). See more about Prothonotaries in *Cumberland* and Pennsylvania in the article contained in this edition of *Pennsylvania Birds*.

location in spring. One **Dickcissel** from the spring continued at this location through 7/27 (VG, BP), and another was reported at Three-Square Hollow Road 7/12 (SK).

Observers: **Vern Gauthier, 111 W. Big Spring Ave., Newville PA 17241, (717) 385-9526, verngauthier14@gmail.com**, Doris Brookens, Steve Brookens, Stefan Karkuff, Kathy Kuchwara, Dave Kerr, Andrew Markel (AnM), Annette Mathes, Barb Matthews, Bill Oyler, Steve Schmit, Susan Strassner.

Dauphin County

Locations: Appalachian Trail-Peter's Mountain (ATPM), Blue Mountain Parkway (BMP), Hershey Important Birding Area (HIBA), Roundtop Road-Middletown (RRM), State Game Lands 211-Stoney Creek Utility Row (SGL211-SC), State Game Lands 290-Haldeman Island, Susquehanna River Front Street (SRFS), Susquehanna River West Fairview (SRWF), Weiser State Forest-Greenland Tract (WSF-GT), Wildwood Lake (WL).

Seen mainly during spring migration, a **Greater Scaup** was reported from SRFS on 7/16 (IG). Two sightings of **Ruffed Grouse** were made with one along BMP above Harrisburg 6/15 (MB) and one in WSF-GT 7/27 (NF). Last seen in 2011 along the Susquehanna River, a **Eurasian Collared-Dove** was spotted along RRM outside of Middletown 7/1 (EB).

Nine species of plovers and sandpipers were observed on the

mudflats of WL beginning in late July. These included **Semipalmated Plovers**, **Least**, **Pectoral**, **Solitary**, **Spotted**, and **Semipalmated Sandpipers**, **Killdeer**, and **Greater** and **Lesser Yellowlegs** (m.ob.). A **Caspian Tern** was spotted at SRWF 7/13 (RK).

Snowy Egrets and immature **Little Blue Herons** began showing up at WL during the second week of July and continued to be observed and photographed through the end of the period (m.ob.). The highest counts seen so far were 3 Snowy's and 2 Little Blue's. The pair of **Ospreys** just west of WL on Industrial Road attempted again to nest but were not successful (LI, S&GL).

A **Vesper Sparrow** was identified on SGL290HI 7/14 (S&SB). A lone **Pine Siskin** was still being observed near Halifax 6/5 (S&SB) as was a **Bobolink** at HIBA 7/27 (AK). A possible **Blue-winged/Golden-winged Warbler** hybrid was observed along SGL211-SC 6/5 (SG). **Cerulean Warblers** were seen along the ATPM 6/7 (S&RZ) and 6/9 (EC).

Observers: **Sandy Lockerman**, 3830 Lexington Street, Harrisburg, PA 17109, (717) 329-8040, sandylockerman@yahoo.com, Scott and Stephanie Bills, Mary Brenner, Ed Chubb, Nate Feity, Ian Gardner, Susan Guiswite, Larry Imes, Andy Keister, Ramsay Koury, Sandy and Gary Lockerman, Sally and Rich Zaino.

Delaware County

Locations: Bethel Springs Elementary School (BSES), Crum Creek Reservoir (CCR), Delaware River (DR), Episcopal Academy (EA), Fort Mifflin (FM), Glen Mills School (GMS), Governor Printz Park (GPP), Haverford College (HC), Haverford Reserve (HR), Hildacy Farm Preserve (HILD), John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge (JHNWR), Marcus Hook (MH), Memorial Park and Mineral Hill (MPMH), Philadelphia Airport (PHL), Bridle Trail (BT) at Ridley Creek State Park (RCSP), Ridley Township Marina (RTM), Springfield Reservoir (SR).

June was wet, wet, and more wet, with localized severe storms. It seemed as if when it rained, it always poured, but a mile or two could make a huge difference in weather impacts. July precipitation was closer to normal with a couple of heat waves but nothing excessive. Significant storms, however, continued to cause flash flooding in some *Delaware* neighborhoods and widespread wind damage, particularly on July 22.

Notable ducks were a **Bufflehead** 6/5 at GPP (GV, RF) and **Hooded Mergansers** that apparently bred at JHNWR and were seen in the *Delaware* portion of that refuge 6/8-7/5 with at least 7 young reported initially (m.ob.). A pair of **Ruddy Ducks** were at SR 6/20 (RF).

Yellow-Billed Cuckoo was reported from five locations during the period while Black-billed Cuckoo was absent.

Coverage of the DR at FM yielded a few shorebirds: **Semipalmated Plover** 7/15 (RF); a lone **Semipalmated Sandpiper** 6/17 (JH, RF) and 2 on 7/22 (RF); **Least Sandpiper** on five dates (m.ob.); 2 **Greater** and 7 **Lesser Yellowlegs** 7/22 (RF). JHNWR yielded **Semipalmated Plover** 7/26 (DB), 8 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** 7/28 (AG), a high estimate of 65 **Least Sandpipers** 7/26 (DB), 2 **Solitary Sandpipers** 7/28 (AG), and 3 Greater Yellowlegs 7/26 (DB).

June 16 was "Tern Day" in *Delaware* with 2 **Least Terns** flying downriver at MH (MG, RG) and 7 **Caspian Terns** reported at that location (RG) as well. That same day 3 **Gull-billed** and 3 **Caspian Terns** were found on the DR at FM (AG). Although the former were a one-day wonder, the latter species was reported from that location on 16 days during the period with a high count of 5 on 6/18 (JH, RF) and 7/19 (SS). The DR also produced reports of **Forster's Terns** on twelve dates 6/18-7/30 (m.ob.) with an early 2 at GPP 6/7 (RF). There were 4 sightings of Forster's at JHNWR, all within the same week: 7/22 (4, RF), 7/25 (2, MB), 7/26 (3, DB) and 7/28 (5, BB).

Least Bittern reports came from the usual JHNWR with 2 on 7/1 (AG) and one 7/21(RZ), 7/22 (RF), 7/26 (DB), and 7/28 (AG). One **Snowy Egret** at JHNWR 7/26 (DB) and one **Little Blue Heron** 7/24 CCR (RF) were the only reports of these species. On 6/16, 32 **Glossy Ibis** were photographed from MH (MG, RG). The following day, 20 were reported from DR at FM (RF, JH). Nine were seen at JHNWR 7/22 (RF) while 2

were located there 7/26 (DO).

Based on reports from July, **Eastern Screech Owls** must have nested in Swarthmore (DE), Havertown (MM) and Ardmore (KJ, SJ) neighborhoods; the latter where 4 juveniles entertained homeowners for weeks as they practiced their hopping and flying skills. The only **Great Horned Owl** report came from MPMH 6/24 (BQ). A **Barred Owl** was nicely photographed in Ogden 7/21 (JC) and was seen through 7/23. Presumably this species also nested at RCSP again although there was but a single report of 2 calling to each other 6/9 (WK, PS). There were 6 reports of **Peregrine Falcons** with multiple birds at MH and PHL (m.ob.).

A new species was added to the *Delaware* list when 5 **American White Pelicans** were seen over Haverford College on the evening of 6/4 while observers were watching for migrating shorebirds (KJ, SJ). Since it was rather late (8:10 PM), it was surmised that the birds would soon descend on a large body of water. Local birders were alerted to be on the lookout for the pelicans. After consulting Google maps and considering the direction the birds were traveling, the options seemed to be Springfield Reservoir or the Delaware River. The next day Rob Fergus was up early to check Springfield Reservoir but found no pelicans; however, when he reached the river, he was elated to find all 5 White Pelicans. Word got out quickly and several individuals were able to enjoy these creatures as they moved downstream. After a few hours, while at Glen Providence Park, a Bald Eagle spooked them and they took flight, vanishing further downriver.

A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was a surprise visitor at a suet feeder in Newtown Square 6/22 (KG). The only **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was reported from EA 6/3 (WS). **White-eyed Vireo** was found once at TTT 6/7 (JM) and nearby in Glen Mills during a BBS 6/23 (HM); and only once, 6/22, at its usual breeding location RCSP (BR). Likewise, there was a single report of **Yellow-throated Vireo** from RCSP 6/9 (WK, PS). These species were once regular breeders, found yearly at specific locals, but even their previously favored locations are now producing only rare sightings with no confirmation of breeding. The overall impression of this compiler is that the number of breeding **Red-eyed Vireo** and **Wood Thrush** in *Delaware* is drastically reduced from past years. At HC, where I have had multiple pairs of both species every year, this year there was but a single pair of Red-eyed Vireos. By contrast, **Common Raven** sightings have exploded year-round, though it appears that there may still be only one pair nesting in the Glen Mills area. Four were noted over BSES 7/22 (BQ).

The **Purple Martin** colony at the GMS continued its population rebound with 250 nestlings banded on 7/3 (DM). Across *Delaware*, there were 7 reports of **Purple Martins** this period (m.ob.). In what is likely post-breeding dispersal, a **Bank Swallow** was reported from BSES 7/22 (BQ) and from JHNWR 7/26 (DO). A **Marsh Wren** was reported from RTM 6/7 (DB) and GPP 6/23 (MS). Otherwise, in *Delaware* this species is only found at JHNWR where it is a common breeder. The highest summer estimate of 25 came from reports 6/23 and 7/4 (both DB).

Fourteen warbler species were reported but represented few individuals. **Louisiana Waterthrush** were noted at HR 6/2 (WS) and at RCSP 7/1 (EW) which also harbored 2 **Blue-winged Warbler** that same date (EW) and a probable Blue-winged 7/12 (NS). A late **Nashville Warbler** was found at HC 6/17 (SJ). A single **Kentucky Warbler** was at the BT at RCSP 6/6 (RF) where **Hooded Warbler** was reported 6/2 (MG, RG), 6/28 (PT) and 7/15 (SB, SBN, KS). **American Redstart**, **Prairie Warbler**, and **Northern Parula** may be hanging on by a thread as breeders at RCSP with about 6 reports each (m.ob.) during the time period and no definitive evidence for success. Northern Parula might also breed at HILD based on 2 reports 6/24 (KJ, SJ) and 7/3 (DB). A slightly late **Blackpoll Warbler** was in Glen Mills 6/2 (BB) while 2 **Yellow-throated Warblers** were at RCSP that same day (MG, RG). A **Pine Warbler** was observed at MPMH 6/24 (BQ). A half-dozen **Scarlet Tanager** reports came in from RCSP along with 4 additional reports from other *Delaware* locations (m.ob.).

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Elk County

Locations: Buzzard Swamp – Allegheny NF (BS), East Branch Lake (EBL), Highland Twp. (HT), Rasselias Marsh (RM).

Of the 117 species reported on eBird for Elk this period, all but five were observed by one individual (BB). Notably, a female **Ruffed Grouse** was seen near EBL 7/14 with 4 young (BB), as was a **Common Merganser** 7/10 (BB). Possible nesters in RM were 2 **Virginia Rails** and a **Sora** seen 6/12 (BB). **Spotted Sandpipers** were seen regularly at EBL, with a high count of 4 on 6/7 and 6/8 (BB). Four **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were heard near EBL 6/11 and again 6/12 (BB), and the same number below Loleta 6/29 (JP).

Ospreys were again sighted, at Twin Lakes – Allegheny NF 6/29 (CB) and at and near EBL 6/8-7/10, up to 3 on one occasion (BB). A **Northern Harrier** was spotted on two mid-July evenings at RM (BB). A recently fledged **Northern Goshawk** was observed at EBL 6/23 (BB). One **Bald Eagle** was reported at Johnsonburg 7/21 (CB) and at EBL on several occasions (BB: 6/4, 6/8, 7/10).

Three species of owls were heard at and near EBL (BB): 2 **Great Horned Owls** 7/26; a **Barred Owl** 6/11 and 2 on 7/26; a **Northern Saw-whet Owl** on three evenings and one early morning. **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** had 12 reported at EBL 6/22 (BB), including 2 sets of young. **Hairy Woodpeckers** were seen consistently (SJ, BB) with a high count of 10 at EBL 6/23, including recent fledglings.

A **Yellow-throated Vireo** was seen at BS 6/21 (TR), and a **Warbling Vireo** at Loleta 6/14 (GQ). **Blue-headed Vireos** were found at several Elk locations (m.ob.) with a high count of 21 at EBL 6/23 (BB). **Red-eyed Vireos** had a high count of 22 in HT 6/4 (SJ). Two **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were seen near RM 6/10 and again at EBL 7/14 (BB). A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was at EBL 6/22 and 6/29 (BB). Single **Winter Wrens** were seen at four locations: at EBL on several occasions, in Jones Twp. 6/12, on SGL 25 on 7/15 (BB), and near Russell City 6/4 (SJ). **Veery** reports occurred in three areas: 14 on SGL 25 on 6/11 (BB), 2 near Marion Brooks NA 7/13 (StJ), and near EBL twice in June (BB) and twice in July (MH).

Sparrows of note included **Grasshopper Sparrows** in Kersey 6/9 (CB) and at EBL 6/23 and 7/7 (BB), as well as **White-throated Sparrows** near RM on 3 occasions (6/10, 7/12, 7/14 by BB). Grassland birds included several **Bobolinks** with a high count of 6 at RM 7/14 (BB), and an **Eastern Meadowlark** at Kersey 6/12 and near RM 6/10 and 7/14 (BB).

Ovenbirds numbered 60 at EBL 6/23, an Elk high count noted as mostly singing males. Warblers not usually seen in Elk included a **Black-and-white Warbler** in HT 6/4 (SJ) and in Caledonia 6/29 (CB), a **Nashville Warbler** at RM 7/12 and near RM 7/14 (BB), and **Mourning Warblers** at SGL 25 including one 6/11 and 3 on 7/15 (BB). Also seen were a **Northern Parula** in Loleta 6/14 (GQ), and 3 **Pine Warblers** at EBL 6/23 and again 7/7 (BB). **Black-throated Green Warblers** provided another Elk record for high count with 60 seen in HT 6/4 (SJ).

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Erie County

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

A breeding plumaged male **Ruddy Duck** spent the summer at the

North East marina (JC). Two **Ruddy Ducks** appeared on Edinboro Lake 7/30 (JH). Several **Common Loons** were reported from various sites in the county, with some remaining through the period. There were reports of loons with young, but none could be confirmed. All summering loons that could be substantiated were of lone immature birds.

Record high lake levels directly affected Presque Isle S.P., flooding the trails and raising the level of the inland ponds by several inches. In some ways this benefited wetland nesting species. A **Pied-billed Grebe** with 8 young were observed in a flooded powerline cut at Presque Isle S.P. 6/15 (fide RD). Nesting Pied-billed Grebes are rarely reported anywhere in the county. **Piping Plovers** nested successfully at Gull Point on Presque Isle S.P. for the third consecutive year. High lake levels threatened to flood the nest at one point, but the PGC placed sandbags around the nest, which kept the nest protected from the flood waters. Other non-breeding adult plovers were present at times through the period as well (MB). Two pairs of **Prothonotary Warblers** were present at the west end of Presque Isle S.P. with at least one pair nesting for the first time in the county since the mid-1980s (CL). However, the snag that was used for the nest site disappeared, so it was believed that the nest was not successful (JH).

Three **American White Pelicans** appeared for a single day 6/2 at Gull Point for the first county June record (MB). Also on 6/2 at Gull Point was an immature **Little Blue Heron** (SJ). A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was observed at SGL 218 on 15 Jun for a rare summer sighting (JC). Two Black-crowned Night-Herons were photographed on Presque Isle S.P. 7/31 (DZ). A juvenile **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** fed on small frogs in a flooded section of Pine Tree Trail 7/15-17 (JM) and was seen and photographed by many. A pair of **Sandhill Cranes** was reported periodically through the summer in West Springfield (TK).

American Avocets were frequently reported, mostly from Gull Point, with singles and small groups from June 28 through the end of the period and a high count of 9 on 7/11 (MB). An unusual location for an avocet was one along Manchester Beach in Fairview 6/26 (BP). A **Willet** was at Gull Point on 6/27-28 (RSw), 2 were there 7/16, and 4 on 7/30 (RS). A **Whimbrel** set down at Gull Point 7/27 (JB) and 7 were photographed at the point 7/30 (RSw, RS). **Marbled Godwits** were represented by more birds than ever before at Gull Point with singles on 7/4, 7/11, and 7/30 (MB, SS). As many as 3 Marbled Godwits were photographed at Gull Point 7/16 (RS). Single adult **Stilt Sandpipers** were reported from Gull Point 7/26, 27, and 30 (MB, RS).

Two **Black Terns** were observed at Gull Point 6/1 (CE, EZ) and one there the next day (SJ). Attempted nesting by at least one pair of **Common Terns** at Gull Point was again unsuccessful (MB). A **Common Raven** was noted 6/7 in Washington Township (JH), and on 6/13 at the same site confirmation of nesting for the first time in Erie was established when 3 juveniles were seen being attended by 2 adults. (JF).

A single male **Prothonotary Warbler** was heard and seen at SGL 314 on 6/26 (JC). No evidence of nesting was reported at that site. Only 2 **Cerulean Warblers** were reported, with one at SGL 314 and one at Erie Bluffs S.P. A rather late **Prairie Warbler** was heard singing at Eaton Reservoir 6/6 (DS). Even though Prairie Warblers are reported nearly annually somewhere in the county, nesting has not been confirmed.

Grasshopper Sparrows continue to be seen and heard at Erie Bluffs S.P., the only known site in the county at present where they probably nest. A singing **White-throated Sparrow** was unexpected at Hillside Park 6/21 (JC). A male **Painted Bunting** was reported at Presque Isle S.P. by (ZS), a visiting South Carolina birder. However, images of the bird were of such poor quality that it could not be positively identified from the photos. Despite not having identifiable photographs, it seems unlikely that a male **Painted Bunting** could be mistaken for anything else. A single **Pine Siskin**, from the large number of siskins visiting a feeder through the spring, remained in Edinboro until at least 6/3 (JH).

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Jolly, Tom Kerr, Chris Lundberg, Brian Pardini, Sarah Sargent, Robert Scribner, Don Snyder, Zach Steinhauer, Ruth Swaney, Eric Zawatski, Dean Zeller.

Fayette County

Common Merganser is now an expected breeder in the county. Two were found on the Youghiogheny River during a canoe trip from Dawson to Layton 7/20 (TK, JK). Two were entered into ebird from Ohiopyle SP and a good count of 9 were at Confluence 7/3 (ebird). A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was reported at the Heritage Scout Reservation 7/21 (DB). An **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was heard at Jumonville 7/20 (RB). **American Woodcocks** breed in the county but are rarely detected. There were 3 reports including one at Mill Run 6/5 (ebird) and singles at Spring Valley 7/8 and 7/21 (DBI). **Ring-billed Gulls** are normally reported during migration in small numbers so it was a bit unusual to have a summer reports. Singles were at Spring Valley 7/8 (MD) and one was at Mill Run Reservoir 7/14 (DBI).

An **Osprey** was seen at High Pond Nature Reserve 7/28 (DB). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was at SGL 51 on 6/2 (MD). This species was reported the entire month of June in the Farmington Area (ebird). **Broad-winged Hawks** were reported around the Ohiopyle and Farmington areas during the season (ebird). A **Barred Owl** was at Quebec Run Wild Area 7/20 (KB). There was an ebird report of a **Northern Saw-whet Owl** in Mill Run 6/5 but no details were listed.

Cliff Swallows continue to breed at Ohiopyle where 8 were reported 6/27 (DF) and 18 on 7/21 (IG). The high elevation forests in the county are home to species typically found further north. Two **Winter Wrens** were reported at SGL 51 on 6/2 (MD) and singles were reported near Farmington 6/29 (DB) and at Spring Valley 7/30 (DBI). **Veery** was reported at scattered locations from Mill Run south to the Farmington area during the season.

Hermit Thrush was reported at SGL 51 and Farmington.

Grasslands are hard to come by in a county in the middle of the Laurel Mountains, but there are a few locations for grassland birds. **Grasshopper Sparrows** were reported in the Farmington area during June. Two **Henslow's Sparrows** were reported at Camp Riamo, 6/15 and 6/29 (DB). **Bobolinks** were detected during an annual BBS 6/1 with 4 near Mill Run and 2 near Ohiopyle SP (GM). The only **Purple Finch** report came from Spring Valley 7/27 (DBI).

Worm-eating Warbler is local in this part of the state but the numerous slopes provide the habitat this species requires. One was found along Braddock Road just south of Farmington 6/29 (DB). One was at High Pond Nature Reserve 7/28 (DB) and one was reported in the Spring Valley area (DBI). This species may be more widespread than we think with many inaccessible valleys throughout the county. The Golden-winged Warbler monitoring project includes Fayette, where this species was fairly widespread many years ago. A male **Golden-winged Warbler** was found during one of the group's surveys in Wharton Twp. (TC). It was exhibiting agitated behavior at the time of observation. **Cerulean Warblers** can still be found here, which was welcome news for this declining species. One was located on the Great Allegheny Passage Bike Trail near Ohiopyle SP 6/12 (DF), 2 at the campground area of Ohiopyle SP 7/19-21 (IG) and one at Bear Run 7/26 (NL). Two **Blackburnian Warblers** were found near Farmington 6/30 (DB). A migrant **Blackpoll Warbler** made it into the summer report with a bird in Spring Valley 6/2 (MD). A **Kentucky Warbler** was noted at Ohiopyle SP during the BBS mentioned above 6/1 (GM).

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Forest County

Locations: Buzzard Swamp – Allegheny NF (BS), Kellettsville (KE), Lighthouse Island (LI), Marienville (MAR), Tionesta State Fish Hatchery (TSFH).

The species count for Forest during June and July 2019 was 109. A female **Common Merganser** was seen with 15-20 babies at LI 6/8 (KS); 4 Common Mergansers had been seen near KE 6/4 (EN,KN), then 10 at Mayburg 7/3 and 11 on 7/12 (JS). Only 2 **Ruffed Grouse** were reported, one at Whig Hill 6/14 (RH) and one in MAR 6/25 (SR). Numerous **Great Blue Heron** sightings were reported (m.ob.), including one bird that struggled with a snake, captured in a series of photographs on LI 6/8 (KS).

A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was observed at BS 6/21 (TR) and again near KE 7/8 and 7/9 (JS). A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was noticed near Tionesta 7/10 and 7/24 (FM). An **American Woodcock** was seen near KE 6/22 (ST) and also near Mayburg 7/8 (JS). Three **Spotted Sandpipers** were found near KE 6/4 (EN,KN) and one in MA 7/9 (MH). One **Green Heron** was seen, in BS 6/21 (TR).

Ospreys were observed, and one of the 2 was seen fishing, at BS 6/9 (TK, JK). **Bald Eagles** were reported several times at three locations: 2 near KE 6/4 (EN,KN) and one there 7/4 (JS); one near Mayburg 7/8 and again 7/11 (JS); and one reported twice near West Hickory 7/28 (KS). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** and an **American Kestrel** showed up near Tionesta 6/8 (KS). A Red-shoulder was also seen in Mayburg 7/10 (JS).

Eastern Kingbirds were seen several times, with 2 in KE 6/4 (EN,KN), then in Mayburg with 4 on 7/10, 2 on 7/11, and one on 7/12 (JS). Several **Warbling Vireos** sightings included 2 on LI 6/8 (KS) and 2 also on LI 7/1 and 7/21 (FM). Another was seen near KE 7/11 (ND), then 4 were reported near TSFH, when one was heard singing while a second fed 2 others 7/15 (KS).

Two **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were in KE 6/4 (EN,KN), and one was in Mayburg 6/7 (TK, JK). The only **Bank Swallow** reported was seen over Tionesta Lake Dam 7/11 (ND). **Cliff Swallows** were reported 4 times: 7 near KE 6/4 (EN,KN); one on LI 6/8 (KS) and 2 there 7/1 (FM); 7 were also seen near West Hickory 7/15 (KS).

There were 2 sightings of single **Golden-crowned Kinglets**, both in Jenks Twp., first 6/5, then 6/14 (SJ). Two **Brown Creepers** were heard singing in Norway spruce stands east of MAR 6/5 and 2 again in Norway spruce stands north of MAR 6/14 (SJ). A record high count of 45 **Grey Catbirds** for Forest was reported at Mayburg 7/3 (JS). A **Swainson's Thrush**'s song was heard at Fool's Knob above Yellow Hammer 7/15 (KS)

A record high count for Forest of **Song Sparrows** was set when 27 were seen on LI 7/27 (KS). Two **Savannah Sparrows** and 9 **Bobolinks** were seen near Tionesta 6/8 (KS); an **Eastern Meadowlark** was there as well 6/8 (KS) and another Meadowlark was seen near MAR 6/24 (BB).

The singing of a **Louisiana Waterthrush** was recorded at the Tank Hill Road wetlands 6/7, where one was heard again 6/10, and then "singing as before" 7/13 (KS). **Black-and-White Warblers** were seen at several locations on four dates in June; in mid-July one was seen near Yellow Hammer 7/12 and 2 were seen near KE 7/12 (ND), then 2 near the TSFH 7/15 when one was feeding another (KS). Over 2 dozen sightings of **American Redstarts** throughout Forest included a record high count of 10 at Mission Creek Trail in Allegheny NF 6/15 (AL). A **Cerulean Warbler** was observed at this trail on the same date (AL). Earlier in June, a Cerulean Warbler was seen in Tionesta 6/7 (KS) and then in the West Hickory area, once 6/9 and twice 6/10 (KS). With almost 2 dozen sightings of **Blackburnian Warblers**, mostly in the northern half of Forest, 2 were heard singing and were photographed on Queen Road 6/10 (KS).

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Franklin County

Locations: Antrim Commons Ponds (ACP), Bender's Farm (BEFA), Greencastle Reservoir (GRRE), Keefer Road Pond (KERP), Kriner Road

Retention Ponds (KRRRP), Mountain Book Road Pond (MBRP), Thornwood-Clearfield Road Retention Basin (TCRRB).

Good shorebird possibilities continued through the summer season, helped by the ample rain that left places like Thornwood-Clearfield Road Retention Basin continually wet. Also this year, the number of reports of **Dickcissel** were down from the last couple of years as apparently fewer moved into our county compared to recent years.

Unusual for summer, a **Snow Goose** was at KERP 7/10-24 (VB, BO). Also unusual were reports of at least 2 and maybe 3 different **Tundra Swans**. One was reported from MBRP 6/2 (BO), one long-staying at KERP 7/14-31 (VB, BO, CG), and one long-staying at BEFA 7/9-31 (BO). A lingering male **Green-winged Teal** was at KRRRP 6/1-15 (CG, DC, DH, BO). A **Ruffed Grouse** was flushed on a hike on the Tuscarora Trail in SGL 124 Little Cove 6/22 (BO). A high count of 18 **Eurasian-collared Doves** was from GRRE 7/29, which is an occasional gathering place in late summer (CG).

The continuing good shorebird habitat at TCRRB yielded a late spring **Semipalmated Plover** 6/4-8 (BKtz, BO) and a **White-rumped Sandpiper** 6/7-8 (BKtz, BO). A late spring **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was reported at KRRRP 6/1-4 (CG, DC). Reverse direction migration began, as it normally does, in July. The first date for Semipalmated Plover was a single bird at ACP 7/29 (BO). Also, the following returning species were reported from TCRRB (BKtz, BO): **Least Sandpipers** 7/14, Semipalmated Sandpipers 7/22, **Solitary Sandpipers** 7/16, **Greater Yellowlegs** 7/22, and **Lesser Yellowlegs** 7/24.

Great Egrets began showing up at normal times in July with reports from multiple locations beginning 7/19 and continuing (BO, DB, CG, VB). A **Mississippi Kite** was observed with prey on a utility pole on Letterkenny Road near the army depot 7/12 (AM), but it was not located again. A **Barn Owl** was reported from the Doylesburg area of Path Valley 6/7 (MW). **Cliff Swallows** continued their annual nesting at the bridge over Wilson Run on Wenger Road (BO). Unrelated to the nesting site, 42 Cliff Swallows were counted on the utility wires at KERP 7/29 (CG).

Brown Creepers (2) were reported from Caledonia SP 6/15 (SG). **Hermit Thrushes** were reported 7/17 from a Greene Knolls yard (VB) and 7/21 on a Gunter Valley hike in Tuscarora SF (BO). Up to 3 **Pine Siskins** were seen at feeders in a Greene Knolls yard 6/20-7/26 (VB). **Bobolink** reports were 2 from Wenger Road 6/2 (DC), one from Burkett Road 6/2 (DC), 2 from Church Road near Upper Strasburg 6/9 (BO), and up to 5 from the Roxbury area 6/18-19 (JS). A **Yellow-Throated Warbler** was singing on Red Rock Road along Licking Creek in the south end of Little Cove 6/22 (BO).

Blue Grosbeaks were reported from various locations which included 2 from Miller Road near Marion 6/10-15 (SK, BO), one from SGL 124 in Little Cove 6/22, one from Wenger Road 7/14 (BO), and one from BEFA 7/30 (BO). **Dickcissel** reports were one at Portico Road 6/6 (CG), one from Church Road 6/9 (BO), and 3 from Portico Road 6/26 (DC).

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Fulton County

Locations: Cowan's Gap SP (CG), McConnellsburg (McC), Warfordsburg (WAR).

Eighty-six species were recorded in summer 2019 in lightly-birded **Fulton**. An injured **Tundra Swan** was at a farm pond near Waterfall 6/26 (David Yeany II). Unusual in mid-summer, a **Common Loon** was at CG 6/17-18, as was an **Osprey** 6/18 (JC). Single **Red-shouldered Hawks** were seen along I-70 south of Breezewood 6/10 (SJ) and near WAR 7/1 (MW). **Barred Owls** were in Buchanan SF 6/7 (PW, RW) and near WAR 6/30 (MW).

Three **Red-headed Woodpeckers** near McC 7/5 provided the only 2019 report of that species in the county as of the end of July (Andrew

Markel). A **Common Raven** was noted along I-70 south of Breezewood 6/10 (SJ). Single **Grasshopper Sparrows** were found at Pleasant Ridge Cemetery 6/7 and at Ft. Littleton 6/11 (PW, RW). Ten warbler species were recorded, all expected summer residents. Two **Worm-eating Warblers** were near CG 6/17 (JC) and one at Valley-Hi Lake 7/6 (Randy Kimmitt). Single **Northern Parulas** were at CG 6/10 (Matt Hunter) and 6/18 (JC) and single **Blackburnian Warblers** there 6/7 (PW, RW) and 7/9 (Elaine Hendricks). **Pine Warblers** are widespread in the many expansive stands of pine in **Fulton**; singles were at CG 6/7 (PW, RW) and 6/17 (JC).

Fulton needs a compiler – contact the editor if interested.

Observers: **Greg Grove, gwg2@psu.edu**, Jady Conroy, Scott Johnson, Marion Weidermann, Patricia Williams, Richard Williams.

Greene County

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

Wood Ducks, including 11 fledglings, were present at EV 6/7 (MH, JH). **Common Merganser** was at SGL 223 in Whiteley Twp. 7/26 (KK, KR). **Wild Turkey** with 11 young was seen in EV 6/7 (MH). **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was reported at RSP 6/1 (GM) and **Black-billed Cuckoo** in EV 7/4 (MH). **Common Nighthawk** was sighted at CL 7/9 (RA, LA). **Spotted Sandpiper** was reported from RSP 6/1 (GM). A pair of **Green Herons** was reported from RSP 6/17 (m.ob.).

A **Broad-winged Hawk** was observed at RSP 6/1 (GM). **Eastern Screech Owl** was in JT 6/16 (RL). An **Eastern Wood-Pewee** was at RSP 6/1 (GM), an **Acadian Flycatcher** at GRT in MT 7/15 (m.ob.), and an **Eastern Kingbird** fledgling was reported in SY 6/29 (JC, AC). **White-eyed Vireo**, **Yellow-throated Vireo**, **Warbling Vireo**, and **Red-eyed Vireo** were reported at RSP 6/1 (GM).

Purple Martin was reported from Bell Farm in MT 7/15 (m.ob.). **House Wren** fledged 4 young at SY 7/22 (AC). **Gray Catbird** and **Wood Thrush** were reported on Bell Farm 7/15 (m.ob.). **Ovenbird**, **Kentucky Warbler**, **Cerulean Warbler**, and **Northern Parula** were reported from RSP 6/1 (GM). **Louisiana Waterthrush**, **Hooded Warbler**, and **Chestnut-sided Warbler** were reported from MT 7/26 (KK, KR). **Northern Waterthrush** was observed in JT 6/21 (RL, WD). **Black-and-white Warbler** was seen at GRT in MT 7/15 (m. ob.). **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was observed last in EV 7/30 (JH, MH).

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Huntingdon County

Locations: Alan Seeger Natural Area (AS), Cornpropst Mills (CM), Ennisville (ENN), Greenwood Furnace SP (GF), Juniata River (JR), Lake Perez (LP), Lower Trail at Alexandria (LT), McAlevys Fort (MF), Mill Creek town (MC), Old Crow wetland (OC), Pennsylvania Furnace Rd (PF), Petersburg (PET), Raystown Branch of JR (RBJR), Rothrock SF (RSF), Seven Points Rec Area at Raystown Lake (SP), SGL 112/Mill Creek (SGL 112), SGL 322 at Petersburg Pike (SGL 322), Shaver's Creek Environmental Center (SCEC), Smithfield (SF), Stone Creek Ridge (SCR), Stone Mt (SM), Stone Valley (SV), Trough Creek Valley (TCV), Tussey Mt. (TM), Whipple Dam SP (WD).

For the summer season in Huntingdon, 136 species were entered into eBird, about average for the last 4 years. June temperatures were right at average and July was +3F, but with no prolonged heat waves. In

contrast to last summer, this year was somewhat dry – at Huntingdon (town) there was a deficit of 2.2 inches compared to the norm for June and July combined, with July turning especially dry.

Providing a probable first county summer record, a **Snow Goose** was photographed with **Canada Geese** at LP 6/15 (Patricia and Richard Williams). A late female **American Wigeon** was at GF 6/2 (NB). The only **Hooded Merganser** report was of a hen with 4 young at CM 6/27 (GG). Five reports of **Common Merganser** were highlighted by 18 on RBJR 7/17 (AS).

Five reports of **Ruffed Grouse** were all of singles: on TM 6/3 (NB), in SV 6/5 (DW), in SGL 112 on 6/6 (CE, EZ, Michael Barney), near Mt. Union 6/29 (Peg Mason), and in RSF 7/6 (NB). A late **Pied-billed Grebe** was at GF 6/2 (NB) and 6/7 (RF).

A total of 46 **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were tallied on 3 Nightjar Surveys (30 stops) in RSF. The 10-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 was not reported. There were a few dozen reports of **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** but only 4 of **Black-billed Cuckoo**; while Yellow-bills always outnumber Black-bills, the ratio for this reporting season was far more in favor of Yellow-bills than usual.

Low numbers of **Killdeer** continued from the spring; there were only 6 eBird reports, all of singles except a report of 3 at OC 6/30 (Zach Millen). Single **American Woodcocks** were at Mt. Union 6/29 (Peg Mason), in SV 7/3 (CE), and SGL 112 on 7/30 (MB). Single **Spotted Sandpipers**, presumably nesters here, were at WD 6/7 (RF) and GF 7/3 and 7/8 (NB). A few migrant shorebirds arrived in late July: single **Solitary Sandpipers** were at OC 7/23 (KT), at GF 7/28 (LP), and RBJR 7/30 (AS); and one each **Greater** and **Lessor Yellowlegs** at Grazier's Mill pond 7/25 (MN).

Common Loons are found occasionally in summer; 2 were on the JR at MC 6/3 (KT), and one remained, seen 7/9 (DK, TK), 7/15 (CM), and 7/27 (NW). Single **Great Egrets** were at Ft. Anderson pond near PET 6/27-7/2 (m.ob.), at a wetland north of PET 7/8 (CE), and at CM 7/31 (TK, DK).

Summer reports of **Osprey** are expected but no nesting is known in the county. Reports came from SV 6/7 (EZ, MB, CB); WD 6/8 (DW); PF 6/24 (MB, CB); and LP 6/12, 6/14, 7/27, 731 (DW, Joris Pinske). As usual, the accipiters were infrequently reported: single **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were at SCEC 6/11 (DW, Sean McLaughlin) and in SF 7/11 (DK, TK); and single **Cooper's Hawks** at SP 6/11 (KT) and in TCV 7/15 (Nathan White). By contrast, 2 forest buteos, **Red-shouldered Hawk** and **Broad-winged Hawk**, were reported in ebird 18 and 21 times, respectively. Most observations were in the northern part of *Huntingdon*, especially well-covered SV and in SGL 112 where a field crew doing Wood Thrush work was active.

Owl reports were routine, with 4 eBird reports of **Eastern Screech-Owl**, 2 of **Great Horned Owl**, and 9 of **Barred Owl**, the latter more often detected thanks to its tendency to call during daylight hours. **Red-headed Woodpeckers**, always a favorite, were found in TCV 6/1 (GG), in ENN 4 times 6/9-7/11 (DW), and around MF 6/7 (JK) and 6/26 (SB). There were 15 eBird reports of **American Kestrel**.

Among less often reported flycatchers, **Willow Flycatcher** was found in 7 locations, including 3 in the extensive thickets of TCV 6/2 (GG). Occasionally Alder Flycatcher is heard in summer in the wet alder sections, but there were no unequivocal reports this year. **Eastern Kingbirds** were limited, noted only 7 times in 6 locations. By contrast, a species that seems to be increasing here, including more often found now in the northern part of the county, is **Yellow-throated Vireo**, with over two dozen eBird reports. White-eyed Vireo, an uncommon but possibly increasing nester, was not reported.

Horned Larks are uncommon nesters in *Huntingdon*; the only report was of one near MF 6/7 (JK). Four **Bank Swallows** were counted 7/4 at quarry off RT 453 where they likely nest (JD, Scott Lewis). **Golden-crowned Kinglets**, regular but scarce in summer, were recorded 9 times at SCEC 6/17-7/25 (DW, CE, CB), mostly singles; and one was at AS 7/13 (MBo). After a good irruption winter, **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were seen frequently at SCEC throughout the period (m.ob.), 2 were near MF 6/7 (JK), 2 at AS 6/22 (JG), and one at SGL 112 on 7/25 (MB, MK).

Brown Creepers were reported 7 times, mostly in the forested area of SCEC and RSF (m.ob.). Another uncommon nester, 4 **Winter Wren** reports were all of singles and all in RSF 6/6-22 (NB, GG, DG, JG).

A late **Swainson's Thrush** was near SCEC 6/3 (JK). **Veery** and **Hermit Thrush** were reported from numerous locations in RSF in northeastern *Huntingdon*, their nesting strongholds here; although there were no reports this year from elsewhere in the county, there are likely a few other, scattered nesting locations. **Grasshopper Sparrows**, all singles, were found on SCR 6/16 and 6/19 (DG), and 6/29 (EZ); and in TCV 7/7 (GG). Another uncommon nester mostly (not entirely) confined to the higher elevations of RSF, there were 10 eBird reports of **Dark-eyed Junco** (m.ob.). Hard-to-find **Vesper Sparrows** were near MF 6/7 (JK) and in TCV 7/7 (GG), both singles; those same 2 trips also provided the only 2 **Savannah Sparrows**. **Swamp Sparrows** included 2 at Mothersbaugh Swamp in SV 6/12 (DW), one at SCEC 6/14 (Karl and Chris Hackenbrack), and 2 in TCV 7/7 (GG).

The spring report described a great location for **Yellow-breasted Chats** on SM in SGL 112. Sightings continued strong there until at least 7/10. A high of 8 Chats was made 6/9 (KT), several other counts of 3-5 were listed (KT, CB, CE, EZ, DG, FR, SP, LP). Elsewhere, singles Chats were in SGL 121 on 6/2 (AW) and on SCR 7/6 (DG, GG). Both known summer locations for **Bobolinks** held birds again. At Longhorn Rd in TCV, 5 were counted 6/2 and 3 on 7/7 (GG), but earlier mowing of part of this area probably caused some nest loss. Three Bobolinks were at Nelson's Rd neat PET 6/21 (CE, EZ, CB). **Eastern Meadowlark** reports were disturbingly few. Trips to TCV 6/2 and 7/7 produced as many as 3 in various locations (GG), with another reported there 6/16 (Michelle Smithbauer); elsewhere the only report was of a single near PET 6/24 (EZ). There were 11 eBird reports of **Orchard Oriole**, with a high of 4 at OC 6/30 (Zach Millen).

Twenty-two warbler species were recorded, same as last year. RSF is the hotspot for nesting warbler diversity. Following are comments on the less common summer warblers in *Huntingdon*. Four reports of **Golden-winged Warbler** were topped by 4 in SGL 112 on 6/5 (DG, RF, LP). **Blue-winged Warbler** was reported only at SCEC 6/5 (DW) and, surprisingly, deep in RSF where there is a small opening in the forest canopy 6/6 (DG), both reports of singles. A **Kentucky Warbler** was in SGL 112 on 6/5 (DG, LP); there were 5 reports from an established location in SGL 322, with counts of 1-2 between 6/7-7/16 (CE, CB, MB, EZ, JK). An annual **Cerulean Warbler** survey on the *Huntingdon* portion of LT netted 21 birds 6/1 (NB); elsewhere there were 5 reports from SGL 322 and 2 from RSF. A rare county nester, probably confined to RSF, is **Magnolia Warbler**; singles were at AS 6/12 (RF) and 6/22 (JG). Similarly, **Yellow-rumped Warblers** nest sparsely in RSF, usually at the highest elevations (2300-2400 feet); the only report this year was at a BBS stop on top of Broad Mt. in RSF (DG, GG). Five reports of **Prairie Warbler** from SGL 112 were topped by a count of 7 on 6/5 (DG, RF, LP); a good count of 4 came from SGL 322 on 7/10 (DG, GG). All **Canada Warbler** reports were from RSF, as usual: 2 on 6/8 (JK), 3 on 6/12 (RF), one 6/19 (NB), and one 7/13 (MBo).

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Indiana County

Locations: Indiana (IN), Lewisville (LV), Shelocta (SH), West Lebanon (WL), Yellow Creek State Park (YC).

A **Wood Duck** with 4 young was spotted on the pond at BVNA 6/4 (HH). A **Ruffed Grouse** at Gipsy 7/13 (JK, TK) was the lone grouse report. Away from Nolo, only 4 **Wild Turkey** reports were received – all singeltons (m.ob.); 6 pouls accompanied by 2 hens were observed at Nolo 7/28 (CL, GL). **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were noted much more

frequently than **Black-billed Cuckoos**. Three Black-billed were having a territorial dispute near SH 6/1 (MH, RH). A **Common Nighthawk** was observed over Virginia Farms 6/1 (DL). A single **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was calling near WL 6/2 (TB), 6/3 (MH, RH), and again 6/9 (DL); no other was reported.

Three **Least Sandpipers** arrived at YC 7/16 (LC, BF, MH, RH) while first southbound **Pectoral Sandpiper** was observed there 7/30 (LC, BF). Three **American Woodcocks** were still peenting near WL 6/3 (MH, RH). **Spotted Sandpipers**, found only at YC, included 2 on 7/16 (LC, BF, MH, RH) and one on 7/23 (TaB, LC, TG, MH, RH); 2 **Solitary Sandpipers** appeared at YC 7/28 (LC). A single **Ring-billed Gull**, found 7/16 (LC et al) and 7/23 (TaB et al) at YC, comprised the entire report for this species. An early **Forster's Tern** appeared at YC 6/25 (TG, DK), the same day (TG, DK) the summer's only **Double-crested Cormorant** was observed. A **Great Egret** was a nice find 7/2 (LC, RC, TaB, TB, TG, DK), but by 7/30 (BF) 2 were present at YC.

As **Black Vultures** continue to expand their northward range, 2 flew over a yard near LV 6/26 (MC). The presence of a late **Osprey** at YC 6/11 (DBI, TBI, EB, JB, LC, BF, TG, DK, TR) and again 7/2 (LC, RC, TaB, TB, TG, DK) suggested a possible local nesting. A **Merlin** was photographed in a yard in IN 6/10 (JaP, JP). The nest in Oakland Cemetery fledged 3 young 7/4 (DL); this is the second year that Merlins have been confirmed nesting in IN; on 7/24 (DL) 3 Merlins were observed in the cemetery.

A **Fish Crow** nest containing at least 2 young was found in Oakland Cemetery 7/14 (DL). Two **Hermit Thrushes** at Hemlock Lake 6/24 (AK, JK) and 2 near Gipsy 7/13 (JaK, TK) were the only ones reported. A single **Pine Siskin** visited a yard near LV 7/16 (MC). A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was spotted at YC 6/1 (LG), the lone report. The only **Bobolinks** reported were 3 found 6/4 (MH, RH) near Dry Knob.

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Jefferson County

Locations: Bottle Road (BT), Brookville (BR), Clear Creek State Park (CC), Clear Creek Road (CR), Five Bridges Trail (FB), Fordham Lake (FL), Kyle Lake (KL), McFadden Road (McR), Martin Road (MR), Mahoning Shadow Trail (MS), Redbank Valley Trail (RB), Ringgold (RG), Richardsville (RV), Skyline Road (SK), Sandy Ridge Road (SR), PA State Rt. 949 (Rte949), Valier (VA).

Highlights for the period include an update on the **Trumpeter Swan** family noted in an article from the April 2019 issue of *Pennsylvania Birds*. Swans Z603, Z675, and their immature adult offspring of 2018 wintered on a pond in Blair County. The swans departed that pond in late February 2019 and showed up on the same beaver pond they nested on last year the first week of March 2019. As of the middle of June this year, the pair of adult swans have not been observed attempting to nest RV 6/9 (LC).

Highlights include a rare sighting for this time of the year of a **Ruddy Duck** off SK 7/22 (AK, JK). We almost had a first for the county for a **Black Vulture** observed in BR 7/31 (KP), but the sighting was not confirmed. Sightings for this species have been confirmed for the counties surrounding Jefferson. We are still waiting for that first confirmation for the county. A **Red-headed Woodpecker** found in VA 6/15 (ReH, SM) rounds out the highlights for the period.

A high count for the period of 22 **Canada Geese** was noted on FL 6/7 (JG, TG), along with a high count of only 4 **Wood Ducks** on the FB 7/28 (JG, TG), and a high of 18 **Common Mergansers** found on CR 7/18 (RoK). A lone **Ruffed Grouse** was the only one found on FB 7/19 (MH,

RH, FL, JM). One **Spotted Sandpiper** seen on KL 6/15 (ReH, SM), and one **Solitary Sandpiper** located on the FB 7/19 (MH, RH, FM, JM) proved to be the only shorebirds noted.

One **Coopers Hawk** was the only period's observation on the RB 6/23 (JG, TG). The resident MS pair of **Bald Eagles** was noted several times over the period and fledged 2 chicks around 6/16. A **Barred Owl** recorded in RG 7/26 (AK, JK) was the only owl species found.

Flycatchers were represented by one **Acadian Flycatcher** on the MS 6/21 (JG, TG), and another in CC 7/14 (AS). One **Alder Flycatcher** was found on the RB 6/9 (JG, TG), and another one late for the period was heard on the FB 7/28 (JG, TG). **Willow Flycatchers** were represented by one on RT949 6/15 (ReH, SM) and another on MR 7/5 (EK). And not to be left out, one **Least Flycatcher** was noted on McR 7/3 (EK).

A number of single observations were noted for the period. A **Yellow-throated Vireo** was on CR 6/15 (ReH, SM), and a **Warbling Vireo** at MR 7/9 (EK). Others included one **Purple Martin** on BT 9/9 (RS), one **Cliff Swallow** on FB 7/19 (MH, RH, FM, JM), and one **Golden-crowned Kinglet** in CC 7/14 (AS). Also listed were one **Winter Wren** in CC 7/14 (AS), one **Northern Mockingbird** in RG 6/15 (AK, JK), and 2 **Henslow's Sparrows** on SR 6/15 (JG, TG). A **Cerulean Warbler** was in CC 6/15 (ReH).

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Juniata County

Locations: BBS E. *Juniata* (BBS), Casner's Crossing - Juniata River (CC), East Waterford (EW), Juniata River (JR), McAlistererville (MA), Mifflintown (MIF), Muskrat Springs (MS), Thompsonstown (TT).

The highlight of the season was a long-staying and quite cooperative **Sandhill Crane** that took up residence at a home along Rt. 35 a few miles west of Mifflin beginning in late June; last reported in eBird 7/18 (m.o.b.). At least one second-hand report suggested a second crane present, but all eBird reports were of just one bird.

Eight **Common Mergansers** on the JR east of TT 6/8 represented a good summer count for *Juniata* (KE). One **Ruffed Grouse** at EW 6/24 provided the only report (Martin Wilson). There were 6 reports of **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**, but none of Black-billed. Two **Spotted Sandpipers** were at CC 7/26 (DH, CK) and one at MS 7/25 (JH). Not often reported, 2 **Double-crested Cormorants** were on the JR near TT 6/8 (KE) and 2 on the river near MIF 6/22 (JP). Single **Great Egrets** were on the JR near MIF 7/13 (DB), at MS 7/25 (JH), and at CC 7/26 (DH).

There were a half dozen **Bald Eagle** reports, including 3 at CC during July (CK). Single **Red-shouldered Hawks** were noted during the BBS 6/2 (DG, JPI) and at CC 7/26 (CK). **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were at established locations near MA, where 3 were recorded 7/18 (Mark Nale, Darla Shank), and singles 6/29 and 7/27 (JP), and 7/9 (RH). Single **Willow Flycatchers** were found during the BBS 6/2 (DG, JPI) and at MS 7/25 (JH).

The only eBird report of **Eastern Meadowlark** was of one at EW 6/22 (Ted Nichols II, Mike Epler); presumably many go unreported in the extensive Amish farmlands here. The only **Orchard Oriole** was on the JR in the Lewistown Narrows 7/1 (Elaine Hendricks). A **Savannah Sparrow** was recorded on the BBS near East Salem 6/2 (JPI, DG). Nine warbler species were recorded, all expected summer residences. Notable were a **Louisiana Waterthrush** near Arch Rock 6/22 (Nick Bolgiano), single **Northern Parulas** at 2 stops during the BBS 6/2 (DG, JPI), and a **Chestnut-sided Warbler** on the BBS 6/2 (JPI, DG).

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Robert Hosler, Henry Petersheim, Jason Petersheim, Toby A. Petersheim (TAP), Toby H. Petersheim (THP), Julia Plummer (JPI), Abram Troyer (AbT), Aden Troyer, David Troyer, Marvin Troyer, Steven Troyer.

Lackawanna County

Locations: Archbald Pothole SP (ASP), Pinchot SF (PSF).

Black-billed Cuckoo sightings were limited to just 2; one was located along Heart Lake Rd. in Scotts Twp. 6/7 (RA) followed by a second within Eales Preserve on Moosic Mt. 7/3 (BM). **Common Nighthawks** are not common in the region during breeding season, so one observed in Scranton 6/26 (FI) is significant. Also noteworthy were reports of **Black-crowned Night-Herons**; one was reported from Greenfield Rd. in Scotts Twp. 6/20, followed by a second report of 3 individuals at the same location 7/9 (RA). Perhaps there is a small rookery here that has gone unnoticed until this season. Although **Black Vulture** populations are increasing, this species still remains an uncommon inhabitant at the northern edge of its range. Therefore, the observation of 2 birds along the rails-to-trails near Simpson 6/17 (MM) is significant.

Empidonax flycatcher sightings were surprisingly low for the period. **Acadian Flycatcher** was located twice; one was seen along Greenfield Rd. 6/12 (RA) and a second individual was discovered at Merli-Sarnoski County Park 6/19 (MM). **Alder Flycatchers** were also limited to just two appearances; one at ASP 7/5 (BM) and a second at PSF 7/14 (JP). Lackawanna's only **Willow Flycatcher** was located southeast of Fleetville 6/15 (SP).

Small numbers of **Bank Swallows** were recorded at various locations across the county (m.ob.). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** are difficult to locate in the northeast, especially during the summer months, thus a single bird observed in Clarks Green 7/7 (AE) was a great find. Lackawanna had a relatively good season for grassland birds with ASP as the best location to find such species. A period high of 5 **Grasshopper Sparrows** were located here 7/5 (BM). **Dark-eyed Juncos** on breeding territory were reported from suitable forest habitat countywide (m.ob.). Two **Vesper Sparrows** were observed; one along Heart Lake Rd. 6/5–7/18, and a second individual from Snyder Rd. 7/25 (RA). A single **Savannah Sparrow** was also found along Heart Lake Rd. 6/15 (RA); this would remain the only sighting of this species for the season.

A new county high of **Bobolink** was tallied with 39 at ASP 7/26 (DL, DT). Following this was a seasonal high of 3 **Eastern Meadowlarks** at the same location 6/11 (TD). The rainy 2018 summer, followed by this year's wet spring, seemed to have aided these species, among others, in its delay of annual hay field mowing. Sixteen wood warblers were reported. A **Nashville Warbler** was a great find at PSF 7/14 (JP). Perhaps the best passerine observation of the season was a **Yellow-rumped Warbler** at Lake Scranton 7/17 (ED). PSF is currently the best location in Lackawanna to find **Canada Warblers**; at least 6 were discovered here during the season (m.ob.).

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Lancaster County

Locations: Alcoa Marsh (AM), Beechdale Rd Farm Pond (BRFP), Brenner Quarry (BQ), Chestnut Grove Natural Area (CGNA), Chickie's Rock County Park (CRCP), Conestoga River Park (CRP), Conewago Recreation Trail & Wetlands (CRTW), Greenfield Ponds (GP), Lancaster Airport (LA), Lancaster County Central Park (LCCP), Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area (MCWMA), Millport Conservancy (MC), Muddy Run Reservoir (MRR), Noel Dorwart Park (NDP), Octoraro Reservoir (OR), Overlook Park (OP), Prescott Rd (PR), Riverfront Park (RFP), Rock Springs Nature Preserve (RSNP), Safe Harbor Dam (SHD),

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 (SRLL), Susquehanna River Peach Bottom (SRPB), Susquehannock SP (SSP), SGL 52, SGL 156, SGL 220, Susquehanna W.T.P Washington Boro (SWTPWB), Wood's Edge Park (WEP).

Any distribution notes (were more abundant, less common, etc.) are compared to that species' 5-year eBird data trend. 162 species were recorded during the period.

The best find of the season was a pair of **Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks** at AM 6/17-29 (LB, m.ob.), providing the 4th county record. An immature **Tundra Swan** was located at CRTW 7/2 (LB). A drake **Blue-winged Teal** was on SRCF 6/2 (JHr), and a female-type 6/16 (ME, TN). **American Black Duck** reports were at SRCF 6/2 (JHr) and OR 6/17 (JHr). A drake **Bufflehead** was on SRCF 6/8 (ME). A hen **Common Goldeneye** was found at MRR 6/8 (TA), then a drake there 7/9-18 (TA). Two female-type **Common Mergansers** were at SFL 6/20 (BC), possibly indicating breeding as in prior years.

Two families of **Pied-billed Grebes** were discovered: 5 birds on the Conestoga R near Lancaster city (CMT), and 4 at MCWMA 6/22 (JM, PM). A **Eurasian Collared-Dove** was heard calling on BBS near Witmer 6/9 (DH). A **Common Nighthawk** was seen near Paradise 6/8 (DW). A **Sora** was still around a marshy area in fields near Penry 6/4 (BC).

All shorebirds reports were made from SRCF unless otherwise noted. A pair of **American Avocets** graced the flats 7/21 (BC, EW), and another 6 on 7/28 (TG, EW). A north-bound **Black-bellied Plover** was viewed 6/2 (JHr). Up to 4 **Upland Sandpipers** were counted inside LA as usual from 7/24 (m.ob.), and an-in flight individual was observed over farm fields near Ephrata 7/27 (BC, m.ob.). A **Ruddy Turnstone** was noted 6/2 (JHr, CB), and a southbound pair 7/22 (CB). An adult **Stilt Sandpiper** dropped in with a mixed flock 7/8 (JHr). Lone **White-rumped Sandpipers** were seen 6/2 and 6/8 (m.ob.). At least 7 **Short-billed Dowitchers** dropped in during a rainstorm 7/11 (JHr).

Adult **Black Terns** were seen at SRCF 7/17 and 7/23 (JHr). Trios of **Common Tern** and **Forster's Tern** were at SRCF 7/23 (JHr). A **Common Loon** lingered on SRLC 6/15 (CMT). Two juv **Snowy Egrets** were found, one at MRR 7/18-19 (TA) and one at OR 7/18 to Aug (MG, m.ob.). Juvenile **Little Blue Heron** reports were numerous: one at SFL 7/17 (BC), up to 2 at OR 7/18 to Aug (LL, m.ob.), one at BRFP 7/19-23 (BH, FH). Shockingly, two juv **Tricolored Herons** were found. One was photographed at OP 7/20 (DN, no doc.), and another at OR 7/27-30 (LL, m.ob.). The adult male **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** hung around the Ephrata rookery to 6/29 (PF), and single young birds were at WEP 7/26 (MC) and SFL 7/29 (BC).

An adult **Barn Owl** roosted in a box at a Mount Joy farm where a pair raised several young in prior years, but apparently no chicks were produced this year (JHe). **Alder Flycatchers** sang from two locations at MCWMA throughout the season. **Common Raven** numbers continue to increase slowly, with up to 4 reported at once in southern Lancaster along the Susquehanna R (DH, m.ob.). **Cliff Swallows** bred in at least 2 historical locations along the Susquehanna R. **Vesper Sparrows** were found sporadically in suitable habitat per usual, noted at 3 locations (m.ob.).

Black-and-white Warblers bred in good numbers in the forested ridge in the northern end of the county. **Chestnut-sided Warblers** were similarly distributed, but in lower numbers with at least 8 found (LF, JHu, ZM). **Prothonotary Warblers** resided in excellent numbers in their usual locations along the Susquehanna R. Further, a pair was seen near recent next box installations at MCWMA 6/1, and the male was reported at least through 7/14 (BC, m.ob.). Not known as breeders here, a singing male **Cerulean Warbler** was found on Breeding Bird Survey in MCWMA 6/15 (ZM, m.ob.). Two **Pine Warblers** were noted in the southern serpentine barrens (CG, JHr, ZM). **Yellow-throated Warblers** breed in good numbers along the Susquehanna R., but reports came from only CRP 7/6-7 (ME, TN, SS). **Prairie Warblers** were known from 4 locations in the

southern end. A pair of **Dickcissels** was discovered in overgrown Peach Bottom fields 6/19, and stuck around through the period (JHr, ZM, m.ob.). Another was turned up in Churchtown fields 6/23-7/1 (SS, m.ob.).

Observers: **Zach Millen, 101 Bridle Path, New Holland, PA 17557, (717) 723-1279, zjmillen@gmail.com**, Tom Amico, Larry Bernhardt, Chuck Berthoud, Sabrena Boekell, Jerry Book, Bruce Carl, Mary Creager, Michael David, Paul Dennehy, Mike Epler, Robert Ferguson, Lauren Ferreri, Pam Fisher, Frank Galaskewicz, Michael Gardner, Carlton Groff, Barb Haas, Frank Haas, Jonathan Heller (JHe), Daniel Hinesbusch, Jason Horn (JHr), Josh Houck (JHu), Rudy Keller, Dave Kubitsky, Larry Lewis, Bill Libhart, Meredith Lombard, Craig Martin (CMr), Ervin Martin, Carolyn Mathur (CMt), Seth McComsey, Joe McGill, Patrick McGill, Brent Musser, David Newcomer, Ted Nichols II, Bob Schutsky, Stan Stahl, Andy Stepniewski, Drew Weber, Eric Witmer.

Lawrence County

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

Two **Blue-winged Teal** were at SR 7/24 (GK, MAK), indicating possible breeding in the area. Top count of **Common Gallinule** at the Wampum-New Galilee Road Marsh this summer was just 2 on 6/2 (MV). Up to 4 **Sandhill Cranes** were seen around PG a few times during the season but no indication was made as to their age makeup (m.ob.). A remarkable total of 84 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were late spring migrants at SR 6/1 (MC), and the first returning **Greater Yellowlegs** was there 7/28 (MC). Two **Great Egrets** were at Vosler Road 7/27, rare in summer in Lawrence. Eleven **Purple Martins** were at VSM 7/24 (GK, MAK), a species that seems like it should be more common in the county than it apparently is.

Observers: **Geoff Malosh, 7762 Maumee Western Road, Maumee, OH 43537-9334, (412) 735-3128, pomarine@earthlink.net**, Martin Carlin, Mary Alice Koenike (MAK), Glenn Koppel, Mark Vass.

Lebanon County

Locations: Balmer Farm Ponds (BFP), Fort Indiantown Gap (FIG), Fox and Prescott Roads (FXP), Lion's Lake (LL), Marquette Lake (ML), Memorial Lake State Park (MLSP), Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area (MC), Quittapahilla Educational Wetlands (QEWS), SGL 145, Shuey Lake (SL), South Hills Park (SHP), Stover's Dam Park (SDP), Swatara State Park (SSP).

A **Mute Swan** continued from the spring at BFP through 6/3 (TB, JH, P&RW). A **Tundra Swan** was fairly late at LL 6/13 (JE). A male **Bufflehead** provided a new county late date at FXP 6/8-7/4 (TB, JH, BC, SS, P&RW). Accidental for Lebanon in June and July were up to 2 **Ruddy Ducks** at FXP 6/30-7/25 (JH, P&RW).

A **Pied-billed Grebe** was at FXP 7/4-25 (TN, JH, EC, P&RW). Up to 2 **Soras** continued from the spring at SL through at least 7/4 (JH). Single Soras were also found at BFP 7/27 (AK) and nearby FXP 7/31 (P&RW). Two **American Coots** were at BFP 6/1-16 (JH, BC). A **Sandhill Crane** flew over the intersection of Blacks Bridge and Crooked Roads, landing by a concealed pond on 7/8 (TB, NM).

A **White-rumped Sandpiper** provided a new county late date at BFP 6/12 (JH, P&RW). A juvenile **Snowy Egret** was at QEWS 7/27-30 (JH, TN, TK, SB) and one was at BFP 7/31 (TB, KB). Four **Little Blue Herons** were at MC 7/27-28 (JF, JH) and 2 at BFP 7/29 (JH). Three **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were at BFP 6/16-20 (JH, P&RW), with up to 5 there 7/25-30 (JH, AK). One was at MLSP 7/31 (TK).

Red-headed Woodpecker sightings seem to be increasing in Lebanon, with reports from 8 different locations. Two were seen at FIG 6/1 (JH, RS) and singles were found at FXP 6/1-8 (JH, BC), N. Kaubach Rd 6/3 (TB), Lebanon Valley Golf Course 6/6 (CS), Pine Meadows Golf Course 6/9 (NB), SDP 6/11 (TBu), BFP 6/12 (JH), and SHP 6/18 (TN).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was a nice June find at ML 6/3 (SW). An **Alder Flycatcher** persisted at MC 6/1-15 (JH, ME).

Two **Vesper Sparrows** were at Krumstown Rd 6/1-16 (JH), with one there again 7/13 (JH). A **Kentucky Warbler** was at SGL 145 on 6/2 (JHo). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was found at the Lickdale KOA 6/11 (L&MB). **Blue Grosbeaks** were reported from five locations. Up to 4 were at MC 6/15-7/27 (ME, JH) and singles were at Sher's Church Rd 6/1-2 (JH, SW), Krumstown Rd 6/1 (JH), SL 7/4 (JH), and FIG 7/12-13 (IG, JD, TB).

Observers: **Timothy Becker, 10283 Jonestown Rd, Grantville, Pa 17028, tbecker81@aol.com**, Leo and Melissa Bachard (L&MB), Kathy Becker, Susan Braun, Thomas Buehl Jr (TBu), Nathan Butler, Bruce Carl, Ed Chubb, Jarrod Derr, Mike Epler, Jared Evans, Jim Fiorentino, Ian Gardner, Jonathan Heller, Josh Houck (JHo), Ted Keen, Andy Keister, Nate McKelvie, Ted Nichols, Corey Smith, Rosemary Spreha, Stan Stahl, Steve Walther, Pat and Richard Williams (P&RW).

Lehigh County - late spring 2019 report

The total species reported from Lehigh this season was 211. In addition to some personal correspondence, this report benefits greatly from data posted to eBird, so many thanks to all who take the time to use this wonderful tool to share their findings! Information gathered from various listservs and social media platforms has also been considered, particularly the Facebook page of the Lehigh Valley Audubon Society.

Large numbers of **Snow Geese** were found in the county, especially around the Macungie / Alburtis area. Max counts from this particular area (up to 75,000) were estimated 3/2 (JaH). **Ross's Goose** was found 3/1 at New Tripoli (MB), and at Alburtis 3/2 (JaH). Two **Greater White-fronted Geese** and 2 **Cackling Geese** were also near Alburtis 3/2 (JaH); it was definitely a good day for geese at Alburtis. Up to 6 **Tundra Swans** were at Leaser Lake 3/1-3 (MB, FD). Two **Blue-winged Teal** were reported almost daily 3/16-4/6 from Haafsville and Cetronia Road (DN, m.ob.). Two **Northern Shovelers** were at Haafsville daily 3/15-26 (DN), and a late pair was found nearby at Nestle Way 5/4 (JaH). There were some good totals reported for **Green-winged Teal** with max count (45) at Haafsville 4/3 and 4/10 (DN), and 32 at Cetronia 3/2 (CH). A **Redhead** was at Dorney Pond 3/1-9 (m.ob.). Rounding out the duck category, 2 **Red-breasted Mergansers** stayed at Leaser Lake most of March (3/1-24, m.ob.).

Up to 6 **Horned Grebes** were at Leaser Lake 4/13-17. **Common Nighthawk** was reported a bit more often than in recent years, with 8 eBird records 5/4-29, a nice bit of news. A **Virginia Rail** was a good find 5/11 at Ontelaunee Park near New Tripoli (FD). There were a few **Sandhill Cranes** in the county, but all were flyovers. The first report was 3/4 at Catasauqua Lake near Allentown (MC), and another passed over SGL217on 3/17 (JeH).

The season wasn't great for shorebirds due to wet weather and general lack of habitat. The sole highlight was **Dunlin** at Cetronia Road 4/13-5/15 (m.ob.). **Bonaparte's Gulls** were at Leaser Lake 4/6 (4), and 4/22 (FD, KG, EK). Another was found at a less expected spot along the Lehigh River at Cementon 5/7 (MC). **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were NOT seen in good numbers, yet again. Despite good numbers in surrounding counties to the east and south, the seasonal max for Lehigh was just 3 birds. As in recent years, they were present almost daily. The late date for 2019 was 5/5 at Cetronia Road (JeH). **Caspian Terns** were at Leaser Lake 4/6 (FD) and 5/5 (3) (JeH). The first **Common Loon** showed up at Leaser Lake 3/25 (FD, LB). Loons were present daily at Leaser 4/6-5/14 with max count (15) 5/10 (JaH). Away from Leaser Lake, four passed over the DeSales campus in Upper Saucon 4/18 (PH). An **American Bittern** was a great "yard bird" at Slatington 4/8 (AP ph). Another was at Leaser Lake for at least two days beginning 5/2 (FD, JaH). An adult **Little Blue Heron** spent a week or so at Haafsville 5/1-8 (DN, mo.b.). This seems to be the ninth county record since 1994 and the third for this spot along Haaf Rd since 2011. This may also be the first known adult for Lehigh.

A **Golden Eagle** passed over Leaser Lake 3/16 (FD), and another over Lehigh Furnace Gap 4/18 (JH). **Barred Owl** is not expected at Pool

Wildlife Sanctuary near Emmaus, but there is a history of the species' occurrence in this area. One was found 5/10 (JF). Breeding seems unlikely but should be looked for. **Red-headed Woodpeckers** continued to be seen this season at two spots where they have bred recently. The pair at Church Road near Slatington were active through the season, though the landowners continue to be bizarrely hostile toward birders looking at their pasture. Adult birds were also active at Trexler Nature Preserve's North Range area (m.ob.). Adults were photographed at Leaser Lake 4/28 (HE), and 3 were reported near Bake Oven Knob 5/25 (AR). **Peregrine Falcons** were noted around the county. There were 4 eBird records from Fogelsville Quarry 3/3-4/30, providing a clue to a possible breeding territory. Breeding activity was noted at Allentown's Eighth Street Bridge again this year, and will be further detailed in the next issue of this journal.

Three **Olive-sided Flycatchers** reports all came from various points along Blue Mountain 5/8-11. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was at Leaser Lake 5/23 (TU) and at New Tripoli 5/29 (JH). Ten **White-eyed Vireo** records for the county were more than usual, 4/28 to the end of the quarter. **Common Ravens** continue to expand throughout the county and region; there were over 60 records reported to eBird this quarter with a good portion away from Blue Mountain. The **Purple Martin** colony at Leaser Lake continues to thrive, with over 30 pairs reported...great to see them doing well! Colonies at Slatedale and Slatington were also active.

Red-breasted Nuthatch was reported very sporadically 3/2-4/6, then daily in small numbers for over three weeks beginning 4/14 until 5/8. An outlier was at Emmaus 5/16 (BS). Similarly, **Purple Finch** had just 2 reports in March, followed by daily sightings 4/7-5/11. The max count (47) was at Leaser Lake 5/3 (JH), and a decent sized flock of up to 35 was at Alburtis 4/30-5/6 (JV). A lone **Common Redpoll** was at Burkhardt Preserve near Emmaus 3/4 (JH). **Pine Siskin** was found mostly in low numbers 3/8-5/15. Max counts were 20 at Alburtis 4/30 (JV) and 30 at Emmaus 5/9 (JL).

It feels strange to write about the warblers *after* the winter finches, but the State of our Taxonomy is new. And weird. Thirty-two warbler species were found in *Lehigh* this spring, with a couple highlights. **Golden-winged Warbler** is not found annually but was reported this year from Leaser Lake 5/5 (JHop) and from Blue Mountain 5/9 (FD). **Yellow-throated Warbler** continues to be a mystery here, missing from our list of breeding birds. Reports this spring came from New Tripoli 4/29 (FD), and from Emmaus 5/11 (LH). Finally, **Blue Grosbeak** has bred at Leaser Lake in recent years and was reported there this year 5/4-9 (m.ob.). The max count was 3 on 5/4 (EK). It's surprising that there were no further reports after 5/9, despite decent coverage by local birders.

Observers: Bill Etter, 407 S. Cigar Rd, Northampton, PA 18067, billetter01@gmail.com, Fritz Brock, Gary Davis, Frank Dickman, Kevin Dougherty, Linda Freedman, Dennis Glew, John Good, John Higgins (JHi), Jeff Hopkins, Jason Horn (JHo), Chris Hugesson, Ed Komito, Jon Levin, Barbara Malt (BCM), Arthur McMorris (AMc), Adam Miller, Dave Neimeyer, Eric Neubauer, Carolyn Rubinfeld, Adam Smith, Billy Weber, Doug Yochum.

Luzerne County – no compiler

Lycoming County

Locations: Bodines Road (BR), Montoursville (MTV), Rose Valley Lake (RVL), Williamsport Dam (WD).

The summer provided no terribly surprising weather patterns. Most of the birding was pretty much as expected, but there were a few nice finds. In total, 131 species were reported.

A **Trumpeter Swan** tagged T77 was present at a pond near Larryville 6/2-4 (CH, et al.). That individual had previously been present at the Rte. 54 Wetlands in *Montour*. Three **Forster's Terns** were at WD 6/20 (MD, BB, DB, DeB, BoB), which provided the first known summer record of any tern species in *Lycoming*. A **Common Loon** was at RVL 6/7 (BB, DB, DeB, BoB). A **Mississippi Kite** flew over the tennis courts

in MTV 6/28 (BB, DB), which provided the third report of the species in *Lycoming*.

A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was seen in Elimsport 6/8 (YH, EH, JB). There were several **Merlin** sightings in MTV, but no nest location was evident. The species was also seen in South Williamsport 7/7 (BB, DB). A young **Peregrine Falcon** was discovered at the Market St. bridge in Williamsport 6/9 (JY), the first successful nesting at the site since 2013. Unfortunately, the young falcon had to be taken to rehab. It was released out of the area after recovering.

An **Alder Flycatcher** was reported at SGL 252 on 6/22 (DanB). A **White-eyed Vireo** was found along BR 6/22-23 (AB, DBe, et al.) A **White-throated Sparrow** was at BR 6/8 (BB, DeB, BoB). **Mourning Warblers** seemed to successfully nest along BR (m.ob.). **Yellow-throated Warblers** were present at their normal breeding location at Trout Run Park during June.

Observers: **Bobby Brown**, bobbybrown1011@gmail.com, Debbie Beer (DBe), Joseph Beiler, Adrian Binns, Dan Brauning (DanB), Bob Brown (BoB), David Brown, Deb Brown (DeB), Jean Dalton, Maddi Dunlap, C. Harbach, Eric Hartshaw, Yvonne Hartshaw, Joe Yoder.

McKean County – no compiler

Mercer County

Locations: Artman Road (AT), Beaver Pond Road (BPR), Buhl Park (BP), Greenville (GN), Hadley (HD), Hermitage (HE), Jamestown (JA), Pennsy Swamp (PS), Shenango Propagation Area (PR), SGL 130 (S130), Sharon (SH), Sharpsville (SV), Spring Road (SP), Triple Link (TL), West Lake Road (WL).

Generally speaking, it was a pretty uneventful summer this year. June was warm and wet with rain causing high water levels throughout the area while July turned warmer and drier.

Only notable waterfowl was a **Ruddy Duck** at PR 7/3 (SS, MHO). A **Ruffed Grouse** was found at TL 6/8 (GK, MAK). One had been seen here in the spring season also. Hopefully we can document breeding. Cuckoos were scarce, which goes along with the low number of caterpillars noted. A single **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was at TL 7/13 (GK, MAK, MJ). **Common Nighthawks** were seen throughout the period in SH with a max of 2 sighted 6/11 and 7/1 (SK, MHO).

Virginia Rails were in multiple locations, TL and PS were specifically noted. Up to 2 were at PS 6/6 (EW). There has been concern noted this year about the numbers of rails being seen, that it may be the result of more tape playing to lure the birds in for photographs. **Sandhill Cranes** continue to be found in small numbers, mostly around PS, which is close to their strong hold of the Volant strips. Two were seen there 6/12 (MW).

Shorebirds were scarce which is expected with all the high water this year at the reservoirs. The few reports received were from 7/18 when 2 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were at WL (JM), and a single **Solitary Sandpiper** and **Greater Yellowlegs** were at PR (BW). **Double-crested Cormorants** were seen throughout the area with max of 7 on 6/21 at PR (BW) and 7 at BPR on 7/12 (MHO). Wading birds were in low numbers. Aside from **Great Blue Herons**, a single **Great Egret** was at PR 7/3 (SS, MHO).

Red-headed Woodpeckers continue at BP with up to 3 found throughout the period (SS, MHO). An intriguing report came of a nesting **Merlin** in GN 6/14 (ZM, BW). This follows a report from the summer of 2015 when nesting Merlins were confirmed here (per. corm. NT). **Common Ravens** are always a good find in *Mercer*. This season, though, only produced one sighting - in HD 6/4 (MW). They are normally found in S130 at the Deer Dump although it appears that the Game Commission has cleaned up this area.

Good numbers of **Cliff Swallows** were noted, mostly on structures where the nests are easy to count. At PR on 6/4 were 49 (MW), and 60 were noted at WL 7/26 (MH, RH). **Winter Wrens** are known breeders in *Mercer* and again, 2 were at TL 7/13 (GK, MAK, MJ). Thrushes, other

than **Wood Thrush**, are always a good find. A **Swainson's Thrush** at S130 on 6/4 (MW) may have been a late migrant. Single **Hermit Thrushes** were found at TL 7/8 (MW) and 7/13 (GK, MAK, MJ).

The county has a lot of open grassland so it was surprising that the only grassland sparrow reported was **Grasshopper Sparrow**, which was seen throughout the period. Highest count was 3 at SP on 6/27 (KS). Ten **Bobolinks** were also at SP on 6/27 (KS). A fair number of warblers were seen during the period but again, no Kentucky or Mourning. Both **Louisiana** and **Northern Waterthrushes** were at S130 on 6/4 with 2 Louisiana's and 4 Northern's (MW). Also there on 6/4 were 3 **Blue-winged Warblers**. A single **Magnolia Warbler** was found again at TL where they are known to nest. (GK, MAK, MJ). A **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was at SV 7/26 (MH, RH) and a single **Black-throated Green Warbler** was at TL 7/13 (GK, MAK, MJ)

Observers: **Glenn Koppel**, macatilly@gmail.com, Marg Higbee (MH), Roger Higbee (RH), Mimi Hoffmaster (MHO), Matt Juskowich (MJ), Scott Kinzey (SK), Mary Alice Koeneke (MAK), Jim McConnor (JMC), Jim Mondok (JM), Zack Morgan (ZM), Steve Sanford (SS), Kim Springer (KS), Neil Troyer (NT), Elaine Wagner (EW), Michael Williams (MW), Bill Winkler (BW).

Mifflin County

Locations: State Game Lands 107-Woodcock Management Area (SGL 107)

The summer season ended with 119 species overall, which is seven more than the 2018 summer. The year to date total as of the end of July was 197, which is six more than 2018.

Highlight of the season was a very cooperative **Western Meadowlark** on a dairy farm outside Belleville that was first located 6/22 (EP) and continued through the first week of August (m.ob.). This marks the second county record with the first occurring in 2002.

The **Tundra Swan** that was present on Bunker Hill Pond during the spring continued through 6/2 (CE). One **White-eyed Vireo** was reported at SGL 107 on 6/25 (KR, JH). **Bobolink** is not often reported beyond the spring. One individual was noted at a private residence outside Milroy 6/2 (JK) and outside Belleville 6/29 (AM).

This year marked the first that Shaver's Creek Environmental Center provided a live Barn Owl feed for the public to observe a nesting **Barn Owl** pair at an undisclosed location. The female was observed sitting on 7 eggs through 4/24 (JK) with 6 nestlings confirmed to leave the nest over a 10-day period beginning with the first four fledges occurring 6/29 and 6/30, and the last 7/7 (JK, CM, LS). Other reports elsewhere in the county included 3 individuals 7/18 (RD, CY) and one on 7/11 (JZ), both at undisclosed locations outside Belleville

Observers: **Jon Kauffman**, **3400 Discovery Road, Petersburg, PA 16669**, jvk5019@gmail.com, Carl Engstrom, Rob Dickerson, Jason Horn, Andy McGann, Carolyn Muse, Eli Peachey, Kenneth Rieker, Lou Saporito, Christopher Yoder, Jay Zook.

Monroe County

Locations: Lynchwood Lake (LL), Shawnee(SH), Swiftwater Lake (SL)

The summer season resulted in very favorable weather for birders and birding. Temperatures hovered around average with normal amounts of humidity. As a result, some good if not great species were found. On 6/27, a **Trumpeter Swan** was found at LL (BJ) and consequently seen by many. The swan ultimately stayed to the end of the period. On 7/10, an immature **Little Blue Heron** was observed for the last hour of the evening at LL, flying off around dusk, not to return (BJ). A **Snow Goose** was reported and photographed at SH 7/2 (NT).

SL remained a hot spot due to the on-going drainage problems of the lake, a benefit to birds and birders alike. A tally of 18 **Great Blue**

Heros 7/27 and 3 **Great Egrets** 7/31 were the highs for the period (TG).

Observers: **Bruce Johnson**, brucejohnson207@yahoo.com, Tim Grover, Nancy Tull

Montgomery County

Locations: Dixon Meadow Preserve (DMP), Green Lane Park (GLP), Norristown Dam (ND), Norristown Farm Park (NFP), Valley Forge National Historical Park (VFNHP), Wissahickon Waterfowl Preserve (WWP).

Despite receiving nearly double the amount of rainfall as a typical summer, **Montgomery** birders were able to find 128 bird species this period, an above average count compared to recent years. Several new seasonal records were set as well, and a brand new species was added to the county list. Note that all mention of county records is based on eBird data. While it's not a complete record of all birds that have ever been witnessed by human eyes, we've got a pretty solid data set for **Montgomery** in eBird, going back a few decades.

The standout bird for the period was also its first, taxonomically. A **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** dropped by WWP 7/25-26 (AA, m.ob., ph.), one of several that wandered north during the same time period. It was the first of its kind to ever be recorded in the county. A lingering pair of **American Black Ducks** were at GLP 6/16-24 (PH, ph.). Representing a first summer record since 2004, a **Green-winged Teal** drake was seen sporadically at WWP through 6/30 (m.ob., ph.). A male **Ring-necked Duck** was at GLP 6/2 (PH, ph.), besting the previous county late date of 5/22 by more than a week. There are no prior Jun records of this species in **Montgomery**.

Hooded Merganser, a relatively recent addition to the county's complement of breeding species, was detected in small numbers at ND, Franconia Twp. and GLP, where they have been observed in previous late springs/summers (m.ob., ph.). A Hooded Merganser was also seen at a new location: a female was reported on one of the ponds at DMP 6/11 (KR, MaR). **Common Mergansers** were more widely seen, mostly in low numbers (m.ob.). A group of 17-20 was noted at Branchwood Park in Franconia Twp. 6/17-7/17 (SG, WBH, vt.). No other Common Merganser reports made it to double-digits. A **Pied-billed Grebe**, unusual in summer, was present with the Black-bellied Whistling-Duck at WWP 7/25-26 (AA, m.ob., ph.).

Wet summers mean that there is little mud attracting southbound shorebirds at GLP and elsewhere. Most of the notable shorebird species for the period came from one evening, 6/1, when two parties held simultaneous shorebird-watches, searching for flyover birds heading north from Delaware Bay. These included 250 **Black-bellied Plovers** (PH), 1100 **Ruddy Turnstones** (JH), 30 **Red Knots** (JH), 100 **Dunlins** (JH), and at least 1250 additional shorebirds (PH) at GLP. At VFNHP, basically simultaneously, 200 Ruddy Turnstones and 150 Red Knots, along with 5000 unidentified shorebirds, were counted (all SGr). On the ground, a **Semipalmated Plover** was at GLP 6/7-8 (PH, ML, ph.). This observation furnished a new county late date for Semipalmated Plover, and one of only a small number of Jun sightings, historically. An **American Woodcock** was an unexpected find at Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust 7/29 (MG), though the observer also heard one calling at this location in late May. Combined, these two observations may imply attempted breeding.

An adult **Ring-billed Gull** was at GLP 6/24 (PH, ph.). The season's only terns, both at GLP, were a single **Caspian Tern** 7/24 (PH) and a **Forster's Tern** 6/6 (JH, SGr). Both the Ring-billed Gull and the Forster's Tern turned out to represent just the second Jun record of their species.

A **Least Bittern** was spotted at a Plymouth Meeting wetland 7/27 (DB). At least 2 bitterns were confirmed at this location 7/31 (PD, vt.). It's been more than a decade (NFP in 2006) since Least Bitterns have been recorded at the same location for multiple days. A flyover **Cattle Egret** at GLP 6/2 was also notable (MS, JH, PH, ph.). Though no Little Blue Herons or Snowy Egrets were confirmed this period, 4 smaller white egrets/herons were observed in flight with a **Great Egret** at GLP 7/16

(PH). Continuing from the spring, an adult **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was at ND through at least 6/29 (m.ob., ph.), and probably the entire period.

A **Broad-winged Hawk** was seen at ESP 6/5 (SG, et al.), and a couple also made appearances at GLP 6/23-29 (PH, ML). Broad-wings most likely nest at both locations. **Peregrine Falcons** reportedly nested beneath a bridge at VFNHP this season. Three were seen at the bridge 6/21 (EL, ph.). Two adults and 2 juveniles were also there 7/23 (CH, MD, JG, ph.).

White-eyed Vireos, one of our scarcer breeding species, were at ESP 6/5 (SG, et al., vr.) and the Linfield section of SGL 234 on 6/22 (PD). **Common Ravens** were noted at at least a dozen locations (m.ob.). Family groups of 4 and 5 were noted at GLP (PH) and VFNHP (CD, JM), respectively, both 6/25. A singing **Horned Lark** was seen doing display flights over a farm field in Franconia Twp. 6/13 (SG, vr.). Another was singing from NFP 6/18 (PD, vr.).

Knight Lake at GLP hosted an unusually dense concentration of **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** 7/11: a minimum count of 45 was tallied there (WBH). Several **Bank Swallows** lingered into Jun at GLP, with the final sighting occurring 6/7 (PH). Banks were also seen at Swedeland Park in Upper Merion Twp., likely part of a breeding colony given the dates and quantities. Three were counted there 6/30, and 9 on 7/7 (both SG).

Another summer first for *Montgomery* was a **Swainson's Thrush**, singing at Shortridge Memorial Park in Lower Merion Twp. 6/2 (GG, vr.). **Grasshopper Sparrows** were detected on territory from three farm roads in the northwestern corner of the county, east of East Greenville, 6/1-7/9 (m.o.b., ph.). Another was heard singing in similar habitat near Gilbertsville 6/14 (WBH, vt.). As has been the case for the past several summers (and possibly more, before the phenomenon was noticed), GLP again hosted a large roosting flock of blackbirds. This included a high count of 3100 **Common Grackles** 7/21 (PH). A juvenile grackle with large leucistic patches on its wings was photographed in Upper Gwynedd Twp. 7/31 (AM).

The sole **Worm-eating Warbler** report came from Fulshaw Craeg Preserve 6/8 (WBH). A **Blue-winged Warbler**, another warbler species barely hanging on as a breeder in *Montgomery*, was at Swamp Creek Park in New Hanover Twp. 6/7-14 (DMi, WBH, vr.). More unusual - they are not known to breed in the immediate vicinity - a pair of Blue-wings was seen at GLP 7/8-9 (PH, ph.). The most unusual warbler find for the season, undoubtedly, goes to a **Nashville Warbler** observed bouncing between *Montgomery* and *Delaware* at Haverford College 6/17 (SJ, et al., ph., vr.). This bird provided the county's first summer record. Ignoring the usual first-week-of-Jun wanderers, the bulk of our **American Redstart** reports came from Rolling Hill Park in Gladwyne (m.o.b.), where as many as 6 were noted 6/23 (SJ, et al., ph.). Four redstarts were also reported from Sweetbriar Park in King of Prussia 6/27-7/7, implying local breeding there as well (SG). A small handful of **Northern Parula** observations included birds at Rolling Hill Park 6/8 (JW, vr.), Schwenksville 6/24 (MRa), in the Unami Creek Valley 6/26 (PH, vr.), and Sweetbriar Park 6/27-7/7 (SG). A singing **Pine Warbler** continued (from 5/25) at Shortridge Memorial Park through 6/5 (JW, DM, GG). Another was located at NFP 6/1 (SG), which has hosted breeding Pines for a few years now. The second-weirdest warbler for the period was a very late **Black-throated Green Warbler** in Gilbertsville 6/14 (WBH, ph.), representing county first Jun record, and only the second for the summer season overall.

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks appeared at five locations in low single digits, most appearing to just be passing through (m.o.b., ph.). While no local breeding was confirmed, at least one, the only one with repeat visits, implied it. As many as 3 were seen inconsistently in Palm through 7/3 (KF). A pair, or maybe a couple of pairs, of **Blue Grosbeaks** were at VFNHP for the bulk of the period (DL, m.o.b., ph.). There were also several reports of single Blue Grosbeaks at DMP from 6/8 onward (PD, m.o.b., vt.), including a male carrying food 7/31 (PD). Another Blue Grosbeak was heard singing in Franconia Twp. 7/12 (WBH, KH, vr.).

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Defina, Paul Driver, Curt Dunn, Kelli Flok, Scott Godshall, Gregg Gorton, Josh Graham, Mike Grubb, Steve Grunwald (SGr), Katie Henderson, Paul Heveran, Jason Horn, Chad Hutchinson, Sheryl Johnson, David Lee, Eric Long, Michael Lyman, Jack McBrearty, August Mirabella, Dennis Miranda (DMi), David Moyer, Madelyne Ray (MaR), Marc Radell (MRa), Kenneth Rieker, Michael Schall, Jason Weckstein.

Montour County

Locations:, Montour Preserve (MP), Route 54 Wetlands near Arrowhead Rd (R54W).

There were few reports of interest this season in the smallest county in the state. The main highlight was a **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** (m.o.b.) at R54W that persisted until 6/16; a state high count of 37 had been found 5/18, but only one stayed for more than a day. Continuing an area-wide trend in recent years, a Snow Goose tried to over-summer at R54W. It made it to 7/5, when it was eaten by a snapping turtle (AK). The MP was not nearly as exciting as it is in spring and fall migration, but it did host a late Pied-billed Grebe 6/6 (AK) and a flock of 5 **Great Egrets** after a rainstorm 7/22 (EH).

Observers: Evan Houston, evanghouston@gmail.com, Andy Keister

Northampton County

Locations: Green Pond (GP).

The county had a rare summering **Long-tailed Duck** at Dutch Springs Quarry. The bird showed up in May and was still there on 7/28 (KD). Close observations revealed it was unable to fly due to a possible aspergillus infection. An eBird check shows no other July records for Long-tailed Duck in PA. **Pied-billed Grebes** nested at the Christian Springs Rd. pond in Nazareth with 5 juveniles observed 7/7 (MS, CCS). I believe 3 young birds fledged based on later observations. At Minsi Lake, **Virginia Rail** and **Sora** were probable breeding species. Two Virginia Rails (MS) and a Sora (BS) were there 6/1.

A very early south-bound **Short-billed Dowitcher** was at Christian Springs Rd. pond 7/8 (AM). A **Herring Gull** was at GP 7/9 (AM). The flooded fields by GP stayed full of water thanks to an above average year for precipitation. **Great Egrets** took a liking to GP and double digit numbers were seen daily beginning 7/17; a high of 23 were there 7/31 (AM). An adult **Snowy Egret** was at GP 6/16-20 (RW). An immature Snowy Egret was reported at GP 7/31 (MS). A juvenile **Little Blue Heron** showed up at GP 7/30 and continued into August (DL).

Two **Red-shouldered Hawk** nests were located. A bird was on a nest that may failed at Minsi Lake 6/1 (MS). The other nest was at Bethlehem Municipal Park, where 2 chicks were observed (MS, CCS). **Red-headed Woodpeckers** nested along Best Rd. in Moore Twp. A homeowner said this was the third year at this location. An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was perched in a snag at the Albert Rd. ponds 6/1 (SA).

Two migrant **Nelson's Sparrows** were observed in the thick sedge grasses and cattails at Minsi Lake 6/1 (MS), the first county record for the species. Dam repair work is scheduled to be completed later this year and the lake refilled. A **Kentucky Warbler** was reported at Ballas Park 6/3 (CM). **Blue Grosbeak** returned to the Grand Central Landfill grasslands 6/1 (JM); they have nested here for several consecutive years. A singing male **Dickcissel** was also found at the landfill 6/1 (JM), but later searches of the grasslands failed to relocate any nesting birds.

Observers; Michael Schall, 126 N Chestnut St, Bath, 610-737-5275, mdtjschall@yahoo.com, Scott Angus, Karen DeGeiso, Dave Leibert, Carolyn Metzgar, Adam Miller, Jon Mularczyk, Corinne Campbell Schall, Brandon Swayser, Rick Wiltraut.

Perry County

Locations: Tuscarora State Forest – Bryner Road (TSF-BR),

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TSF – Hemlocks Natural Area (TSF-HNA)

Golden-winged Warblers and **Kentucky Warblers** were observed several times in June in Tuscarora SF. Single Golden-wings were reported 6/1 (KK, AM), 6/17 (PP, RP), and 6/22 (TN, ME) at TSF-BR, and also 6/22 at TSF-HNA (RK). A Kentucky Warbler was present 6/1 (KK, AM) and 2 on 6/22 at TSF-BR (TN, ME).

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Potter County

Locations: Ansley Hollow (ANH), Cherry Springs State Park (CSSP), Cross Fork (CRF), Coudersport (CO), Galeton (GA), Galeton Lake (GAL), Inez (INZ), Kettle Creek (KC), Lyman's Run Road Wetlands (LRRW), Lyman Run State Park (LRSP), Ole Bull Road (OBRd), Ole Bull State Park (OBSP), Oswayo (OSW), PA Bureau of Forestry (PaBF), Patterson State Park (PSP), Shinglehouse (SHH), State Game Land 204 (SGL 204), Wharton (WHR).

A late **Bufflehead** was seen on GAL 6/2 (PRW), and 8 **Hooded Mergansers** (adult with recently fledged young) were at the LRRW 6/2 (DH). One **Ruffed Grouse** was reported at the site of PaBF building on Rte.6 6/17 (YH). Eight **Wild Turkeys** were seen at CSSP 7/6 (BG). One **Eastern Whip-poor-will** (vr.) was heard from a small clearing on Joerg Road, 0.5 mile from OBRd 7/3 (CB). Five **Chimney Swifts** were seen at the Hemlock Campgrounds at Potter Stream, 3.0 miles north of WHR 6/22 (LW).

A **Common Loon** was at LRSP 6/2 (PRW). One **Green Heron** was at Kettle Creek in the vicinity of Joerg Road and OBRd 7/6 (SL). One **Osprey** was at the Allegheny River near CO 6/20 (KC) and a **Bald Eagle** was observed from Rte. 6 at Pine Creek, near ANH 7/14 (CM). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was seen at a cabin near T306, south of INZ 7/2 (BM). One **Broad-winged Hawk** was seen at a residence near Kettle Creek at the intersection of Joerg Road and OBRd 7/23 (SL). An **Eastern Screech Owl**, 2 **Great Horned Owls**, and 2 **Barred Owls** were reported from PSP 6/2 (DH); a third Barred Owl was reported from Beaver Swamp at OBSP 6/4 (CB). One **American Kestrel** and one **Merlin** were reported from SHH 7/5 (KE).

An **Acadian Flycatcher** was on Phoenix Road, 2.5 miles north of Rte. 6 east of GA 7/4 (CB) and an **Alder Flycatcher** was reported at OBSP 6/3 (DH). One **Yellow-throated Vireo** was seen at OBSP 6/29 (AK). Three **Warbling Vireos** were reported from Hemlock Hollow Road, one mile northeast of OSW 6/3 (DH). Four **Swainson's Thrushes** were reported at LRSP 6/29 (SB).

Two **Grasshopper Sparrows** and 2 **Savannah Sparrows** were seen at Lehman Hollow Rd near UL 7/14 (CM). One **Louisiana Waterthrush** and one **Northern Waterthrush** were reported from OBSP 6/3 (DH). A **Blue-winged Warbler** was found at SGL 204 6/19 (KE). One **Mourning Warbler** was reported at Old Cross Fork Road, approximately 0.5 miles north of Rte.144 at CRF 7/4 (CB). A **Cerulean Warbler** was observed on Crippen Run Road GA 7/8 (AB). One **Northern Parula** was reported at a residence near the intersection of Joerg Road and OBRd 6/12 (SL), a **Pine Warbler** was at OBSP 6/3 (DH), and a **Canada Warbler** at Cross Fork Road, one mile north of CRF 7/4 (CB).

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Schuylkill County

Locations: Air Products Wildlife Sanctuary (APWS), Bartram Trail – Stony Creek Section (BT-SC), Deer Lake (DL), Landingville Dam and Marsh (LVD), Lebanon Reservoir (LR), Locust Lake State Park (LLSP), Owl Creek (OC),

Swatara State Park (SSP), 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 passernines and is consistent with previous years.

After being considered rare in the past, the presence of a **Common Merganser** or 2 during breeding season is now fairly common. In particular, this species was reported for the third year in a row on the Little Schuylkill River where a pair was seen near New Ringgold 6/25 (RK). **Great Egrets** appeared in eastern *Schuylkill* in July. At LVD, a pair was seen 7/11 (DH), 3 on 7/20 (TB), and one 7/27 (TB). A single was also at DL 7/23 (JSp) and a pair observed near Hometown 7/21 (BRO).

Black Vultures used a corn crib on a farm in Summit Station for nesting, raising 2 young (SS, fide RR). A pair of **Red-headed Woodpeckers** exhibited breeding behavior in late May in a timbered area in South Manheim Township. One of the birds was seen exiting and entering a suspected nesting cavity. Another lone bird was seen in an adjacent timbered area at the same time but no cavity was located. A subsequent visit in late June to the area where the first birds were located found a single bird foraging (DR). The area where the second bird was found was not revisited.

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. **Acadian Flycatcher**, the most common empid in the county, was found at several locations across the county (TB, RK, P&RW). The most dependable location for **Alder Flycatcher** is SSP where one was found 6/8 (TB); others were found on the BT-SC 6/1 (TB); near Barnesville 6/6, 6/24, and 7/4 (JoD); and at TSP 6/1 and 6/12 (JoD). **Willow Flycatchers** were at four locations: near Lavelle 6/29 (P&RW); in the Hegins Valley 7/26 (DB); TSP 6/9 (CH); and LVD 6/1 (TB), 7/11 (DH), and 7/20 (TB). A **Least Flycatcher** was reported for the fourth year in a row during breeding season after not being reported for several years - a single was at LLSP 6/2 (TJ).

White-eyed Vireos generally populate the southern edge of the county during breeding season. This year 2 were at SSP throughout June and into mid-July (BR, TB, P&RW). **Yellow-throated Vireo**, a species considered unusual and that historically breeds in the southern portion of the county, was reported at five locations including more northern areas. Reports came from LVD 6/1 (TB); TSP 6/2 and 6/22 (TB); Pottsville 6/8 (DK); LLSP 6/9 (MT) and 7/13 (TB); and LR 7/13 (P&RW). **Blue-headed Vireo** breeding numbers seemed to be dropping in the county over the last decade or so but for a fourth year in a row they were reported numerous times, clustered in the center of the county. Reports came from TSP 6/9 (CH, JoD) and 6/22 (TB); OC 6/30 (CH); LLSP 7/12 (TB); and LVD 7/20 (TB).

A number of birds that are considered occasional or uncommon and are either missed or seen in low numbers were reported this season. Ever since a nesting colony of **Cliff Swallows** collapsed near South Tamaqua a few years ago, these birds have been hard to locate in the county. This year, a pair was seen mixed with the more common swallows at LVD 6/1 (TB). A single **Pine Siskin**, rare in the summer, was found in St Clair 6/5 (TJ). Two **Grasshopper Sparrows**, another hard-to-find species, was reported at the Burma Road mine lands 6/16 (TB), the second consecutive year found there. A **Savannah Sparrow** was reported at the unlikely location of Hawk Mountain North Overlook 7/13 (JS).

A **Bobolink** was at APWS 7/1 (JoD) and an **Eastern Meadowlark** was found near the same area 6/6 and 6/9 (JoD). An **Orchard Oriole** was reported along the Burma Road 6/23 (EH). After 18 warbler species were reported in the county last summer, 16 were found this year. **Blackburnian Warblers** were at LLSP 6/2 (TJ), TSP 6/9 (CH), and OC 6/23 (JoD). **Pine Warblers** were also found at OC 6/8 (JL) and along the Rhodes Nature Trail near Lavelle 6/23 (TJ).

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Somerset County

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

The cool, wet weather continued well into the breeding season and high water at SL until near the end of the season precluded shorebird habitat. Nevertheless, some notable sightings including a very early **Rufous Hummingbird** and the numerous nesting birds made the season enjoyable.

Waterfowl reports were of strictly breeding species with many **Mallards** and **Canada Geese**, 4 **Wood Duck** reports from SL (P & RW) and YR (DB), a few **Mute Swans** on private ponds, and 3 **Common Mergansers** at LHSP (P & RW) and one at Hooversville on Stonycreek (D & AC). One lonely **Ruffed Grouse** near Boswell 6/23 (SI) and a report from LHSP (MM) were the only reports.

Yellow-billed Cuckoos were reported 6/2 at Callimont (PM), 6/10 at both LHSP & Rockwood (P & RW), and they were present through the period at PP (JP). **Black-billed Cuckoo** was at Garrett 6/12 (GK, MK) and also PP through the period (JP). **Eastern Whip-poor-will** along Allegheny Mountain included 2 birds calling at Imgrund Mountain Road 6/1 (JP) and through the period near Berlin (J & EL).

Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were widespread and abundant, especially near feeders. The bird of the season was an adult female **Rufous Hummingbird** which showed up exceptionally early on 7/23 near Berlin; was captured, measured and banded 7/29 by Bob Mulvihill and stayed until 8/1 (J & EL).

This year's Selasphorus hummer was the fourth bird to visit feeders at J & EL's home located on Allegheny Mountain at an elevation of 2700 feet. Previous birds which were not banded came in 2018, 2016 & 2013. Remarkably, another 3 Selasphorus (of which 2 were captured and identified as **Rufous** in 2012, 2009 and one not banded in 1996) were at PP which is less than 2 miles away at the same elevation. All but this year's bird arrived at a more normal late September to October time frame and stayed as late as 12/11. Both properties maintain several feeders into Fall, but this seems like a large concentration of occurrences for an erratically occurring species, especially not being at a migratory pinch point. Is this phenomenon occurring at other areas in the State?

A nice find was a **Virginia Rail** at BHF 6/5 (PL). There were only a few shorebird reports with **Killdeer** breeding widely and a post-breeding gathering of 26 at SL 7/30 (JP). There were tentative reports that one or two pairs of **Upland Sandpipers** may still be present in Babcock SF, but they eluded the compiler on 2 visits. The first returning migrants were not found at SL until 7/30 due to high water. Two **Least Sandpipers** and one **Semi-palmated Sandpiper** were the vanguards of things to come as draining of the lake started for dam repairs. An **American Woodcock** at PP 7/2 was doing distraction displays and may have had young (JP). **Spotted Sandpipers** were at Flt 93 6/27 (MH) and around SL through period with 3 viewed 7/31 (JP).

Double-crested Cormorants were at SL sporadically including 3 on 6/9 and 2 on 6/10 (P & RW). **Great Blue Herons** nest in small colonies in several spots and 5 were stalking SL 7/30 (JP). Post-breeding dispersal of **Great Egrets** yielded birds at BA 7/10 (JP), Jennerstown 7/14 (RL), and BHF 7/24 (PL). **Green Herons** were widely scattered with 4 reports of 1-2 on eBird.

Black Vultures are still very uncommon in Somerset and the only reports were one near Davidsville 6/9 (P & RW) and 4 near Meyersdale 7/1 (JB). **Turkey Vultures** are much more common but seemed not as numerous this season as previous years. Raptor reports were a bit thin with diurnal species being represented by: **Osprey** 6/1 at QR (DC) and 7/14 at Deer Valley YMCA (DB); **Northern Harrier** probably bred at Flt 93 with reports of a pair 6/9, 6/27 & 6/29 (P & RW, JP, MH); a **Sharp-shinned Hawk** at Davidsville 6/3 (LG) and one at PP in July (JP); several **Cooper's Hawk** reports; numerous **Bald Eagle** reports at SL, Meyersdale, High Point Lake, Yough Reservoir, and QR; several **Broad-winged Hawk** report; and numerous **Red-tailed Hawk** reports. Records for owls included a female and 5 young **Barn Owls** banded by PAGC (per Outdoor News), only one **Eastern**

Screech Owl at SGL228 (SD), and 2 **Great Horned Owls** in Confluence 7/2 (BO) and one at QR 7/3 (LG).

Belted Kingfisher reports were of 5 single birds widely spread out. **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** had numerous reports of 1-2 birds mostly from higher elevations of Laurel Mountain and Mount Davis. **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were better represented than in most recent years with 5 reports from 4 locales. **American Kestrel** only had 4 reports, all of singles on eBird. **Alder Flycatcher** had one report near KRNA 6/4 (JP). **Acadian** and **Willow Flycatchers** were widespread. Only one **Least Flycatcher** was reported, from Garrett 6/12 (GK, MK). **White-eyed Vireos** were represented by up to 2 from 6/1-5 near Callimont (PM) and a **Warbling Vireo** was also there 6/1 (PM). **Red-eyed** and **Blue-headed Vireos** are widespread and common. One **Horned Lark** was near Garrett 6/12 (GK, MK) and they bred in BA (JP).

Northern Rough-winged Swallows were reported from five locations with up to 6 birds. **Purple Martins** were extirpated as breeders from the county for about a decade until a concerted effort to attract birds near Springs was made (CF). The first successful nest there was in about 2015 and this year the colony had grown to 38 active nests and produced 88 young by 7/2 with 20 eggs still being incubated. There are a couple other single nests at nearby Amish farms and the hope is that they will continue spreading. Good job! A single post-breeding **Bank Swallow** was at Flt 93 on 7/29 (JP). **Cliff Swallows** nest in widely scattered locations; 22 were near Garrett 6/12 (GK, MK). Two **Winter Wrens** were singing along Laurel Highlands Trail 6/22 (JP).

Veery and **Hermit Thrush** each had about 8 reports. **Northern Mockingbird** was only reported five times. A few **Purple Finches** bred at PP (JP) and near Bakersville (SC). **Grasshopper Sparrows** were at Flt 93 and Gallitzin SF. Multiple records of **Dark-eyed Junco** came from higher elevations of Laurel Mountain, Mt. Davis, and Allegheny Mountain. A single **Vesper Sparrow** was at QR 6/17 (LG) and a couple were at Gallitzin in early June (JP). Multiple observers reported **Savannah Sparrows** at Flt 93. Five **Henslow's Sparrows** were singing at Gallitzin FL 6/1 (JP), 2 were in an old field near Fairhope 6/4 (JP), and multiple reports came from Flt 93.

Yellow-breasted Chat reports came from Callimont 6/3 (PM) and HAF 7/11 (SD). **Bobolinks** were near Garrett in June (JP), 6 were at BHF 6/22 (PL), several near Bakersville had their nests mowed in early July (MM), and multiple reports came from Flight 93. Flt 93 had many **Eastern Meadowlarks** with others widely scattered. **Orchard Orioles** were near Callimont 6/1 (PM) and near Fairhope 6/4 (CaP, JP).

Just 17 species of warblers were reported with at least five other species probably breeding but not searched out. More notable includes **Northern Waterthrush** carrying food at KRNA 6/7 (JP), **Kentucky Warbler** singing near Berlin 6/4 (JP), **Cerulean Warbler** also near Berlin 6/4 (JP), **Pine Warbler** 6/10 at SL (P & RW), and multiple reports of **Hooded**, **Northern Parula**, **Magnolia**, **Chestnut-sided**, **Black-throated Blue**, **Black-throated Green**, and **Cerulean Warblers**. An excellent Somerset report of one male and 2 female plumaged **Blue Grosbeaks** came from Flt 93 on 7/29 (LB).

Observers: Jeff Payne 9755 Glades Pike Berlin, PA 15530 814-267-5718 paynemt@gmail.com Lester Block; David Blockstein (DBL); Jim Brown; David Burleson; Dan Carbaugh; Dwight & Ann Chasar (D & AC); Sally Dick; Cephas Fisher; Linda Greble; Michelle Hanko; Sally Ingraham; Mary Koeneke; Glenn Koppel; Christine Lamanna; John & Elaine Landis (J&EL); Paul Lehman; Renee Lubert; Pat McKenzie; Meg Moses; Becky Ohler; Carolyn Payne (CaP); Chris Payne (CP); Sue Pulsipher; Peter Steward; Patricia & Richard Williams.

Sullivan County

Dutch Mtn (DM), Conklin Run Wilderness Area - Lake Makoma (CR), Eagles Mere Lake (EML), Forksville (FV), Ganoga Lake (GL), The Haystacks (HY), High Knob (HK), Hillsgrove Covered Bridge (HCB), Lietzelman Road – Dushore (LR), Ricketts Glen State Park – Hayfields (RGSPH), Splashdam Pond – SGL 13 (SP), Sullivan Falls Road (SFR), Town of Ricketts (TR), World's End State Park (WE).

The weather for the period was normal. Cool mornings and warm afternoons were typical throughout with no major events. The bulk of the reports for this narrative are derived from eBird. Reports not specifically noted

to an observer were made by the author. Please see the stand alone box for a report of one unusual occurrence from late July.

Both **Hooded** and **Common Merganser** were reported from WE 6/1

I stepped out onto my deck on the afternoon of 7/28 and looking west saw a large whitish bird in the distance that appeared to be riding a thermal. The bird appeared too large for a gull. The distance required that I step back in the house to retrieve my binoculars. There were 2 birds when I stepped back on the deck and once they were in the binoculars I could clearly see that they were **Great Egrets**. This is a rare bird for *Sullivan* and my first in the 30 years I have birded the county. I wanted a better look so I walked up to my driveway to able to see past the large spruce trees next to the house. What I found seemed astounding as there were not 2 but 10 Great Egrets. They all rode a thermal upward before jumping off into a glide toward the east in the direction of the Susquehanna River.

(JM, AL, KD). Both cuckoo species were reported from RGSPH. **Black-billed Cuckoo** was found 7/24 (DG) and **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** 7/29 (DG, SS). **Chimney Swift**, a county nester found in towns, was reported from FV 6/1 (JM, AL, KD). **Sandhill Crane** once again nested at the LR location. Two adults with 2 fairly young chicks were found 7/13. Nesting seemed to occur fairly late this year.

Four **Spotted Sandpipers** were observed at EML 7/31 (DJ). A **Ring-billed Gull** was an unusual summer find at HL 7/11 (CS). An **American Bittern** was seen near TR 7/7 (JC, AP, TR). **Green Heron** was reported from HCB 6/1 (JM, AL, KD).

There were several reports of **Northern Harrier** including 2 from DM, multiple reports from RGSPH, and one from SD 7/24 (AL). A Northern Harrier at RGSPH interacted briefly with a **Bald Eagle** 7/24 (m.ob.).

There are numerous reports of breeding success this period. Fledged young of **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** were found at CR 7/27 (SM). **Eastern Wood-Pewee** was carrying nesting material near HCB 6/1 (JM, AL, KD). **Alder Flycatcher** was confirmed with young at RGSPH 7/24 (DG, m.ob.). A **Willow Flycatcher** was observed at the RGSPH location 6/8 (SG, SF). A **Blue-headed Vireo** nest was located along SFR 6/28 (JL). **Tree Swallow** was confirmed nesting at RGSPH 6/22 (K&JD). **Northern Rough-winged** and **Cliff Swallow** were both observed near HCB 6/1 (JM, AL, KD). **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was a good find at the HY 6/22 (AK).

Eastern Bluebird fledged young were seen 6/22 at RGSPH (K&JD). A **Veery** nest with young was found along SFR 6/9 (JL). Fledged young of **Eastern Towhee** and **White-throated Sparrow** were observed at RGSPH 7/24 (DG, m.ob.). **Swamp Sparrow** young were seen at SDP 7/24 (AL). An **Orchard Oriole** was a good find 6/8 at RGSPH (SG, SF). **Louisiana Waterthrush** was confirmed as a nester 6/12 when a nest with young was found along SFR (JL). **Hooded Warbler** was a probable nester with a singing male heard in the same location along SFR more than seven days apart (JL). A **Mourning Warbler** was a good find at GL 6/7 (SG, RS). Young **Common Yellowthroats** were observed at SDP 7/24 (AL).

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Susquehanna County

Breeding Season 2019 had above average precipitation and temperatures resulting in a robust growing season for the flora on which resident bird species depend for food and shelter. A total of 132 species were reported to eBird compared to 119 in 2018 and a previous five-year average of 119.2. Granted the total number of hours spent birding has increased with a growing number of active birders. This certainly accounts for some of the increase in species seen. But there were also many interesting shared anecdotes of various species successfully fledging young, suggesting that this year's conditions were right for raising a healthy family.

A **Northern Bobwhite** made its presence known in Silver Lake Twp.

loudly and emphatically singing its name throughout the days it was present 7/24-28 (EM, BS, GS). Attempts to reintroduce the species to the region by PGC and private landowners have failed when the birds are unable to survive winter conditions. This visitor was roaming in the vicinity of a gun club, suggesting it may have been released there. Another game bird was photographed for the only 2019 record of a **Ring-necked Pheasant** 6/10 (MH). Rain crows offered their meteorological predictions through the warm weather with good numbers of both **Black-billed Cuckoos** and **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** reported across the county. After May's multiple reports of **Common Nighthawks** seen along the river, they were absent during Jun-Jul save for two reports. Three were seen over Susquehanna Depot 6/4 (JB) and one over New Milford Twp. 6/1 (NV).

Until the last two years **Virginia Rails** were only found sporadically during spring at various wetlands. This year was the second in which nesting was confirmed in the county. Two adults and 3 fledglings were seen and photographed 6/29 (NV). The family continued to be viewed through the month of July. An additional adult was spotted with the pair and their 3 young 7/13 (LN, NV). At the same New Milford Twp. wetland was a vocalizing **Sora**, heard 6/1-19 (DA, EM, BS, V&RS, NV). A very early **Least Sandpiper** was discovered foraging at Hollister's Pond 7/27 (JSt). Members of the *Larus* genus are typically absent from the county in summer. So imagine the surprise when 17 **Ring-billed Gulls** were seen fighting over pancakes in a diner parking lot in Great Bend 7/20 (BS, GS). A single **Double-crested Cormorant** spent some time on the river in Hallstead 7/24-31 (SB, BS) for the season's only report.

The post-breeding dispersal of **Great Egrets** proved to be a pleasant diversion from the summer birding doldrums. Egrets were seen at seven different locations across the county, including the first ever recorded at Woodbourne Forest and Wildlife Preserve 7/19 (JSt). A high count of 7 were seen at one time in East Great Bend Wetland 7/19 (BS). This same location became the scene of a tragic melodrama. After a pair of **Green Herons** successfully raised 3 fledglings in late June, they built a second nest on the other side of the original bush. Five eggs were confirmed in this second brood and at 3 three chicks hatched. But on the morning of 7/24 the nest had been toppled and the young were gone. Otters were discovered in the swamp 7/30 and are presumed to have been the nest predators. Both adults, nests, eggs, and nestlings were unobtrusively photographed (with a long lens) as these events played out. So the family photo album is complete yet disconsolate.

Osprey continue to be difficult summer finds. Two sightings were made of single birds at Page Lake 7/4 (DB) and in New Milford 6/21 (SF, NV). The county's only, lonely **Fish Crow** continued his contrarian ways on the "Hallstead Flats" (m.ob.), never agreeing with anything and not shy about vocalizing his disapproval. **Bank Swallows** apparently had a good nesting season with 25 reported 7/3 (WS) near their known colony location. Another nesting success was assumed for our most visited **Cliff Swallow** colony. While the birds have moved most of their mud nests to the west side of the bridge, improved numbers of individuals were reported during the period. Eight birds were present at the Great Bend/Hallstead bridge 6/26 (BS, GS).

Marsh Wrens are seldom seen in *Susquehanna*. So thanks to a gracious host it was a special treat for many members of the birding community to see and hear them on a private wetland in New Milford Twp. The wrens made their presence known 6/1-7/29 (DA, EM, LN, V&RS, BS, NV). Given our warming summers, local birders are on watch for **Northern Mockingbirds** to live up to their name and move north into our county. Historical records for the species are few and far between. This year singles were seen at two locations, one bird in Great Bend Twp. 6/4-19 (EM, V&RS, BS, GS, NV) and another in Springville Twp. 7/9 (NB).

Singing **White-throated Sparrows** were heard twice near Ararat, 7/3 (EM, BS, GS) and 7/27 (BS, GS), suggesting that the higher elevations (2000+ft) of the county may provide the necessary climate for these northern nesters. Local tradition says that the species has nested successfully at the Florence Shelley Wetland Preserve which is a short distance away. A possible nesting **Worm-eating Warbler** was an exceptional find along a steep, rocky roadside on Camps Rd 6/7 (WS). An unexpected **Nashville Warbler** was well seen near Thompson 7/3 (EM, BS, GS). A **Mourning Warbler** was singing on territory at Friends of Salt Springs Park 6/7 (JM).

The summer of 2019 will be remembered by backyard bird feeders as the year of the **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**. The numbers of birds reported

around the county were unprecedented with as many as 6 individuals waiting their turn at a feeder in Silver Lake Twp. 7/6 (EM). While grosbeaks can be expected to visit feeders on their return in the spring, this year they continued delighting viewers throughout the summer season.

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Tioga County

Locations: Hill Creek Estates (HCE), Hill Creek Lake Road (HCLR), Hill Creek State Park (HCSP), Kelsey Creek Lake (KCL), Leonard Harrison SP (LHSP), Liberty (LIB), Marsh Creek (MC), Mansfield (MAN), Middle Ridge Swamp at SR 660 (MRS), Nessmuck Lake (NL), Pine Creek Rail Trail (PCRT), Sheer Road Swamp SRS), The Muck in Niles Valley (MNV), Tioga (TIO), Tioga-Hammond Lakes (THL), Wellsboro (WEL).

Two Hooded Mergansers were seen south of Wellsboro from Rte. 3007 at KCL 7/22 (LD) and one Red-breasted Merganser was seen at NL 6/4 (LD). A Ruffed Grouse was reported from HCSP 7/31 (JM). Four Pied-billed Grebes were observed from local road T-451 on MC 6/1 (JB). A Black-billed Cuckoo was at Hills Creek Rd, TIO 7/9 (LD). A Sora was reported from Marsh Creek at the MNV 6/12 (PJW) and an American Avocet was at Brown's Pond, Ridge Rd, TIO 7/21(JC). An American Woodcock was observed at MRS 7/14 (KC). A late Common Loon was at NL 6/3 (PRW).

Ospreys were reported from two locations: one at NL 6/3 (PRW) and 6/4 (LD) and 5 at HCSP 6/12 (LD). Owls included one Eastern Screech Owl from Marsh Creek at the MNV 6/1 (KR) and one Great Horned Owl at Hoffman Campground, PCT 7/7 (GT). An American Kestrel was seen along Cobb Rd, south of HCSP 7/28 (JB).

Merlins flying together in groups of 4 and 3 individuals in late July, confirmed nesting (2 adults with 2 fledglings) near the campus in MAN 7/27 (JF), and indicated probable nesting, as 3 birds (possible 2 adults with a fledgling) were observed flying together over the center of WEL 7/29 (RH).

A Peregrine Falcon was reported from the Overlook at THL 7/21 (GT). An Acadian Flycatcher was seen at Darling Run, PCRT 7/9 (EM), and an Alder Flycatcher at NL 6/3 (PRW). A Yellow-throated Vireo was reported from Webster Road, PCRT 6/27 (KC). A single Purple Martin was seen from Rte. 15 near LIB 7/11 (MN), and 2 Bank Swallows were seen from Gee Road, between North Road to Ridge Road, west of TIO 7/10 (LD). A Red-breasted Nuthatch was seen at HCSP 7/19 (SM). Three Marsh Wrens were reported from Marsh Creek at the MNV 7/13 (CM), and one late Pine Siskin was seen at HCE 6/6 (GT).

Two Grasshopper Sparrows were seen from Fish Hill Road, TIO 7/11 (RH), one Vesper Sparrow along the Ives Run Rail Trail at THL 7/13 (LD), and 3 Bobolinks along HCLR 7/11 (LD). Warblers reported included one Louisiana Waterthrush, seen at Darling Run, PCRT 7/9 (EM), one Northern Waterthrush at SRS 6/6 (RH), 2 Mourning Warblers at Darling Run, PCRT 7/9 (EM), one Pine Warbler at LHS 7/3 (KEH), 2 Prairie Warblers at NL 6/28 (LD), and 2 Canada Warblers along the PCRT 7/12 (RH).

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Venango County

Locations: Barkeyville Fields (BF), Buttermilk Hill Nature Sanctuary (BHNS), Franklin area (FA), Franklin (FR), Kahle Lake (KL), Oil City area (OCA), Oil Creek SP (OSCP), Two Mile Run Park (TMRP), Wallaceville (WAL).

PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS

There were 113 species reported for the season. After a wet spring & June, July came through with more summer-like weather.

Although Common Merganser breeds here, there are not usually many reports during this season. This year was no exception, with only a couple reports 6/1-7/1 and none after that. Ruffed Grouse has been very uncommon, and with only one report, 7/24 (GE), for the season, seems to remain so. A scarce sighting for the season, a Common Loon was observed at KL 6/6 (JS, KG). Another unusual summer bird, the Double-crested Cormorant had 2 reports, one 6/2 (NK, MK) and one 7/4 (RS), both at TMRP. The Great Blue Heron rookery on Rt. 8 south of FR was active again this year. Looks like the colony remains at about 40 nests (these are actually hard to count until the leaves are off the trees). A Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, our 4th county record, was discovered in a backyard near WAL 6/1, remaining until 6/12 (MR, MV).

Shorebirds were once again little noted, and with little habitat this is not really unexpected. Spotted Sandpiper had 2 July records (RS) and Solitary Sandpiper was observed 7/17-31 (RS, NK, MK), both species at TMRP. TMRP also hosted a Black Tern 6/12 (EA).

Cuckoos were in low numbers this year. Yellow-billed Cuckoo had 8 records 7/8-31, and Black-billed Cuckoo had just one record, 7/12 at BHNS (JS, KG). Flycatcher reports were as follows: Alder Flycatcher 6/6 BHNS (JS), Willow Flycatcher 6/6 BHNS (JS, KG), Great Crested Flycatcher 7/31 at TMRP (RS). Yellow-throated Vireo was seen 7/17 and 7/20 at TMRP (RS). Only one Blue-headed Vireo was reported (GE).

A single Horned Lark was observed near KL 7/12 (NK, MK). There are now 2 active Purple Martin colonies in the county, down from 3 last year. One is near KL and one at BF near County Line Rd.; the third, near Venus, was not active this year. The bridge at FR was down to 11 active Cliff Swallow nests this year, and the colony at OCSP had 10 nests. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, not often reported in summer, was observed only 7/21. Veery reports are 6/1 at OCA (NK, MK) and 7/20 at TMRP (RS), Swainson's Thrush 6/1 OCA (NK, MK), and Hermit Thrush 6/21 (NK, MK) and 7/26 (GE).

Many warblers had few reports for the season. Highlights: Louisiana Waterthrush 6/18 (NK, MK); Nashville Warbler 7/25 at FA (NB); Cerulean Warbler 6/18 at OCA (NK, MK); Yellow-throated Warbler, which is not often observed during this season, 7/28 at FA (NB); Prairie Warbler 7/10 (NK, MK); and Canada Warbler in its usual place in OCSP through 6/25. A White-crowned Sparrow was singing in a FR backyard through 6/13 (JH). Savannah Sparrow had only 2 records - 6/11 (NK, MK) and 7/5 (GE), both at KL. There were no Bobolink reports. Purple Finch was at feeders all season in FA (NB).

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Warren County

Locations: Akeley Swamp (AS), Economite Road (ER), Hillside Acres (HA), Ice Cream banding site (IC), MJ Lane (MJ), Riley Pond (RP), Rimrock Trail (RR), Stillwater Road (ST), Tidioute (TI).

Eight inches of rain fell this past June, making for few birding days and extra dense vegetation in July, so noteworthy observations are few. A Spotted Sandpiper spotted in TI 7/14 likely represents a breeding pair, rare in this heavily forested county (EN). Extremely rare this far north was a reliable report of 3 Black-crowned Night-Herons at AS 7/14 (MH). Broad-winged Hawks were numerous and widespread, including "Patty", a female satellite-tagged by Hawk Mountain Sanctuary in 2016, who returned from Peru to fledge 2 young yet again (DW, SS).

Purple Martins tend to be scarce in Warren; of note was a thriving colony of at least 16 birds occupying a gourd assembly on an Amish farm on ST 6/15 (SS). Four Bank Swallows were spotted at LH 6/5 (DK, EW). Brown

Creepers seemed sparse this summer; of note were 3 at HM 6/12 (SJ). Maximum counts of 3 **Purple Finches** were seen at HA 7/9 (EN) and at ER 6/26-27 (CW). A **Pine Siskin** was spotted at HA 7/6 and 7/9, perhaps a breeder (EN).

Our very wet June delayed haying across *Warren*, which was good news for **Bobolinks**, with up to 7 seen at ER 6/11 (CW) and at MJ 6/6 (EN, KN). A single **Nashville Warbler** spotted at RR 6/6 (RW) may have been a late migrant or a local breeder. At least 14 singing **Cerulean Warblers** at LH 6/2 is the norm for this popular hotspot (BB, SS). **Prairie Warblers** are mere vagrants to *Warren*, so a young bird mist-netted and banded at IC 7/29 was noteworthy (DR). A late-migrating **Wilson's Warbler** was spotted at RP 6/1 (TS).

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Washington County

Locations: Canonsburg Lake (CL), Hillman State Park (HSP).

A **Ruffed Grouse** at HSP 7/2 (JM) was a nice find. **Black-billed Cuckoos** were seen throughout the season at HSP and Mingo Creek County Park (m.ob.), as well as in a Washington yard 7/2-4 (RI). Up to 7 **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** continued from the spring at HSP through 6/22 to the delight of many birders (JF, LF, et al.). Early-returning shorebirds included **Least Sandpiper** at CL 7/22 and **Pectoral Sandpiper** at Boone Reservoir 7/26 (both MJ), and **Solitary Sandpiper** at CL 7/14 (JF).

By far the best bird of the season was a **Least Bittern** photographed at CL 6/4 (SG), the first for the county since 2006. Subsequent searches failed to recover the bird. After complete absence in May and June, as many as 4 **Great Egrets** appeared at CL beginning 7/8 (JF, JP). Both eaglets at CL successfully fledged, one 7/9 and the other 7/11 (LC).

At first one or 2 and then eventually as many as 4 **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were repeatedly photographed at a feeder in Washington 6/17-7/29 (JPo). **Blue-headed Vireo** was present in the summer months again at HSP (RT). Top counts of **Common Raven** were 5 at Mingo Creek County Park 6/4 (JP, AK) and a flock of 6 over the Meadowlands area north of Washington 7/30 (MV). Continuing their spectacular showing from spring, **Yellow-breasted Chat** was noted through the summer at 9 locations. A great count of 30 **Bobolinks** was made on Glass Hill Road outside of Muse 7/17 (FK), the same location where excellent numbers appeared in spring as early as 4/30.

Observers: Geoff Malosh, 7762 Maumee Western Road, Maumee, OH 43537-9334, (412) 735-3128, pomarine@earthlink.net, Lauren Conkle, Leslie Ferree, John Flannigan, Sayre Greenfield, Roy Ickes, Matthew Juskowich, Fred Kachmarik, Alyssa Karmann, Jeff McDonald, Jo Papp, Jo Popma (JPo), Ryan Tomazin, Mark Vass.

Wayne County

Locations: Prompton State Park (PSP).

Four **Blue-winged Teal** near Bethany 7/7 (JH) represented the first county summer season record of the species in eBird. An **American Bittern** was flushed from Prompton Lake in PSP 6/15 (AK). Twenty warbler species were tallied. A **Mourning Warbler** was found near SGL 70 during a BBS 6/15 (EM). This game lands has been a reliable breeding territory for the species in recent years. **Hooded Warblers** were reported at two locations in SGL 159 on 7/26 and 7/28 (CD, MS). A **Cerulean Warbler**, not often recorded in Wayne, was found near Bethany 6/23 (JH).

Observers: Josh Jones, unclechu76@gmail.com, Christopher Daly, John Harvey, Andy Keister, Evan Mann, Michael Szczepanski.

Westmoreland County

Locations: Beaver Run Reservoir (BRR-380), Donegal Lake (DL), Hunters Lane (HL), Kuehl Property – Murrysville (KP), Northmoreland Park (NP), Powdermill Nature Reserve (PNR), Spruce Flats Bog (SFB), Twin Lakes Park (TLP), Westmoreland Heritage Trail locations: MAWC Beaver Run property (WHT - BRR), Delmont (WHT-D) and Sarah Steel Trailhead to Saltsburg (WHT-SST), Wolf Rocks Trail (WRT).

A good day was had for seeing **Wood Ducks**, with 6 on the WHT-BR section, and then 9 more on the WHT-SS section 7/28 (KB). Although expected nesting on *Westmoreland* waterways, there was just one report for **Common Merganser**, a 6/11 eBird checklist of 2 on Loyalhanna Creek along Rt. 381 near Laughlintown (Dwight and Ann Chasar). Unfortunate, but not totally unexpected that there were no reports of Ruffed Grouse for the season. Not necessarily an indication of nesting; however, there was one **Pied-billed Grebe** at TLP 6/23 (PC). There were many scattered reports for **Yellow-billed Cuckoos**, but just one **Black-billed Cuckoo** - at PNR 6/21 (SI).

There were very few reports, and those reports in low numbers for these species: 2 **Spotted Sandpipers** and one **Solitary Sandpiper** at DL 7/28 (AH), 2 **Ring-billed Gulls** at BRR-380 on 6/16 (KB), one **Common Loon** and 2 **Double-crested Cormorants** at NP 6/2 and 6/5 (MVT); and, unusual, an **American Bittern** at DL 7/30 (PF).

On 7/8, 2 young **Ospreys** on the nest on Loyalhanna Lake were flapping their wings, getting ready to fledge in the next week (Tim Vechter). Perhaps too much a regular to warrant reporting; however, just one report was submitted for **Bald Eagle**, that being of one on the WHT-SST 6/23 (KB). A busy day for accipiters at Cloverleaf Golf Course in Delmont 7/25 when first the less often seen **Sharp-shinned Hawk** flew over with snappy wingbeats (TK/MM), followed by a rather smallish **Cooper's Hawk** with a small bird in its talons being escorted out of the territory of a local **Eastern Kingbird** (TK), and then lastly a larger **Cooper's Hawk** (TK) that was seen at a distance and disappeared over the maintenance building in the east parking lot. Two **Red-shouldered Hawks** interacted with one **Broad-winged Hawk** at HL 6/15 (3RBC).

One **Eastern Screech-Owl** was reported at Kunkle Park 7/27 (MM). **Barred Owls** were first heard 6/2 at the KP and on many occasions through 7/25; most often responding to daytime fire sirens. Like the 2 reported on a 7/28 hike of WRT (AH), all reports of **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were from the Laurel Highlands. Only reported at this long-reliable location, a **Red-headed Woodpecker** was observed on the private grounds of the Rolling Rock Club 7/11 (GK).

Unusual in *Westmoreland* other than the generally reliable Hunters Lane location (2 reported there 6/15 by 3RBC), an **Alder Flycatcher** was reported on the WHT-SST 7/4 (KB). Given that **Least Flycatcher** are common breeders in the Laurel Highlands, it was unusual that the only report was of one on the WHT-BRR 6/10 (KB). Other less common, but expected species observed during the season, but included in just a few reports, included **Great Crested Flycatcher**, **Blue-headed** and **Warbling Vireo**, and **Common Raven**.

Purple Martins were first reported at BRR-380 on 6/1, and on many other days through 7/24 (RH, SM, MM) and with the high-count of 45 coming on 7/3 (SM). **Bank Swallows** counts were 2 on 7/24 and 4 on 7/29 (MM) and for **Cliff Swallows** 2 on 6/16 (KB) were reported at BRR-380. Becoming reliable at this location, the high count on several reports at SFB was of 2 **Red-breasted Nuthatches** 6/15 (MK). Laurel Highland thrush specialties were observed, with SFB being a prime location for **Veery** (11) and **Hermit Thrush** (2), with such tallies being the high-count of the season reported 6/21 (Deb Kalbfleisch et al). Not expected in *Westmoreland* during the breeding season, so unusual were the captures of single **Swainson's Thrushes** in both June and July at the PNR Banding Station. Another Laurel Highland specialty, single **Purple Finches** were heard at SFB 6/15 (MK, JK, TK) and one 7/13 (MK). Unlike a breeder, one ragged **Pine Siskin** visited feeders near Ligonier 6/21 (LS).

An eBird 6/26 checklist for Hoffman Road near Smithton 6/26 included reports of one **Grasshopper Sparrow**, one **Henslow's Sparrow**, and 2 **Yellow-breasted Chats** (Luke Fultz). A 7/6 eBird Checklist by a visiting birder included 2 Yellow-breasted Chats and an **Orchard Oriole** near the Rostraver

Township Municipal Building (John Puschock). **Bobolinks** were observed at a reliable farm location on Rt. 381 near PNR on the 6/15 3RBC Outing.

A good sighting, 2 **Worm-eating Warblers**, likely a pair, were seen on the WHT-BRR 6/26 (KB). One adult male **Golden-winged Warbler** was well seen at HL by several observers on the 3RBC outing 6/15 as it sang the 2-part Blue-winged Warbler song, and 3 **Blue-winged Warblers** were also tallied by the group that day. Unusual but not unprecedented for SFB was a **Nashville Warbler** 6/21 (Deb Kalbfleisch et al.); and expected Laurel Highland specialty-warbler species also tallied that day by the group were: one **Black-and-White Warbler**, one **Magnolia Warbler**, 2 **Chestnut-sided Warblers**, 4 **Black-throated Blue Warblers**, 2 **Black-throated Green Warblers** and 6 **Canada Warblers**; and two **Blackburnian Warblers** were observed at the SFB location 6/15 (JK, TK, MK). Presumably not a breeding bird, a **Tennessee Warbler** was captured at the PNR Banding Station in July.

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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).

It was a typical summer season in *Wyoming*. Birders reported 108 species, within 2 of the average of the previous five years. Nearly all species reported are confirmed breeders in *Wyoming*. Little new knowledge of breeding status was recorded. However... I'll lead this report with the highlight of the season.

At the request of Dr. Art McMorris, the Peregrine Falcon Coordinator for the Pennsylvania Game Commission, I paid a number of visits to a potential nesting site just outside of Laceyville, PA, to establish whether or not **Peregrine Falcon** was nesting on the ledges there. Over the several week period that I visited, I observed 2 falcons and their various activities along the ledges. And on 6/11, I was fortunate enough to see a young one hopping about and testing its wings. I also observed an adult feeding that young one, confirming the species' nesting/breeding. Peregrine Falcon was not identified as a breeder here in the second BBA.

Three **Double-crested Cormorants** were recorded on the Susquehanna River near Laceyville 6/14 and again 6/20 (JD). This is within safe dates for the species, but no additional data was gathered for the birds. The species was not listed for *Wyoming* in the BBA.

A single **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was reported at Coalbed Swamp (SGL) 6/7 (DB), a rare record for Wyoming. They were not reported in the second BBA for *Wyoming*. However, the bird was heard singing throughout the morning, and this is just three days short of safe dates. So perhaps the record is an indication of possible breeding. A single **Acadian Flycatcher** was reported 6/7 at SGL (MG, SG), clearly within safe dates for the species. Again, no other data was reported, beyond the bird's presence. It had been listed as a possible breeder -PO - in the BBA.

Nashville Warbler was identified in the BBA as a possible breeder -PO- in Wyoming. Four individuals were reported 6/7 from Coalbed Swamp (SGL) (DB) and one at the same location 6/8. (MG, RG). **Hooded Warbler** is listed in the BBA as a probable breeder. Several records from the spring (including 5/16 at EMNC (RL), 5/18 at IT (JD), 5/21 at DC (JD), 5/18 at RH (RL), and 5/25 at IT again (JD), all single birds) are outside safe dates; however, I believe it likely that the species breeds in *Wyoming*, and that we just haven't seen clear evidence yet.

Observers: Joe DeMarco, 15 West Tioga Street, Tunkhannock, PA, 18657, (570) 836-1468 (JD), Dan Brauning (DB), Mark Catalano (MC), Justin

Clark (JC), John Faber (JF), Melissa Gallardy (MG), Ross Gallardy (RG), Sandy Goodwin (SG), Deborah Grove (DG), Timothy Grover (TG), Susan Gruber (SG), Sam Jolly (SJ), Rebecca Lesko (RL), Anthony Panek (AP), Joanne Panek (JP), Ty Peterson (TP), Susan Petty (SP), Aidan Place (AP), Tessa Rhinehart (TR), Steve Schmit (SS), Kay Simons (KS), James Sosa (JS), Brian Tavernia (BT), Alan Thatcher (AT), Patricia and Richard Williams (PRW), Eric Zawatski (EZ).

York County

Locations: Codorus State Park (CSP), Gifford Pinchot State Park (GPSP), Hopewell Township Park (HTP), Lake Williams (LW), Rocky Ridge County Park (RRCP).

Nestbox competition between **Tree Swallow** and **Eastern Bluebird** is well documented but a group or swallows took it to the fullest extreme. An Airville homeowner posted a 6/9 backyard episode where a group of swallows successfully eliminated a male bluebird in competition for a bluebird occupied nestbox (JH). The scene started with swallows strafing the bluebird perched atop the nestbox with the bluebird then taking to the air to fight the marauders. The swallows were able to knock the bluebird into the water and one swallow held the bird down while others continued strafing action. The homeowners realized the drastic downturn of events, drove the swallows away, and recovered the bluebird from the water but it did not recover, assumed to have drowned.

The summer's 124 species were a typical count for the period. Major highlights included a flock of 20 **American White Pelicans** at CSP and confirmed successful **Sora** nesting at Marsh Run.

High count of the nine locales holding **Wood Duck** was 26 at GPSP 7/13 (DN). Single **American Black Ducks** were found at GPSP 6/11 (DN) and LW 7/16 (CK). A visit to Lock 12 detected a flight of 10 **Common Mergansers** 7/30 (ML). A Monaghan Twp homeowner was treated to **Northern Bobwhite** calls 6/7-9 (JD). Almost assuredly released bird(s), hearing their call triggers reminiscences of their regular presence in the county decades ago. While on the subject of reminiscing common species of the past, the only report of **Ring-necked Pheasant** was a single at CSP 6/14 (HM). Nine sites reported **Wild Turkey** but high count was limited to 2 birds.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo was widespread with 20 sites holding birds. High count was 4 at GPSP 6/26 (TD). A pair of **Black-billed Cuckoos** were found 6/7 (JS) at Lock 12 and one was in North Codorus Twp 7/25 (CB). Good coverage of Marsh Run continued to produce some nice finds. Up to 3 **Virginia Rails** were present 6/4-7/18 (DNN) and 2 adult and 5 juvenile Soras were found in the same period (CB, RK, DNN). The first Breeding Bird Atlas confirmed breeding at this location and Brunner Island while the second BBA did not detect Sora in the county.

A tardy **Least Sandpiper** was at CSP 6/12 (HM). Even with no or limited mudflats due to the ongoing rainfall amounts, it seems strange to not report at least one southbound shorebird species in July. However, that is the case. A **Caspian Tern** was at CSP 7/27 (RS). An adult **Common Loon** was at GPSP 6/5-7 (DNN) and an immature bird was at CSP 7/5-6 (AK, DNN, AW). A flock of 20 **American White Pelicans** was nicely photographed at CSP 7/4-5 (CBr, KL, CMY, AM, RS). This is the second July record for the county, preceded by a single bird in 2017, also at CSP. A visit to the Kiwanis Lake rookery found 35 **Great Egret** and 11 **Black-crowned Night Heron** 6/9 (KW). Likely an all-time county high, 5 **Little Blue Herons** were at LW 7/25 (BR).

The raptor group reflected normal reporting. With three reports 6/24-7/1 (EB, CK, AP), the county continues to experience isolated reporting of **Sharp-shinned Hawk** in this period. It seems to be a matter of time until "sharpie" nesting is confirmed in the county. **Eastern Screech Owl** and **Barred Owl** were both at their typically limited reporting for the period while Great Horned Owl was a miss. The Adams narrative noted only one report of **Belted Kingfisher** so York's 11 sites reporting birds was a welcomed change. Interestingly, 20 sites reported **Red-headed Woodpecker** - a clear highlight - but a typical stronghold for the species, GPSP, reported none. Better counts of 10 birds at HTP 7/15 (DN) and 5 birds at Young's Woods 7/24 (HM) included fledged birds. A report of 4 **Hairy Woodpeckers** at Glen Rock 7/4

(EK) and 5 **Pileated Woodpeckers** at LW 7/25 (BR) also noted juvenile birds. This year saw better reporting of **American Kestrel** with nine reports vs four and three the prior two years. The sole **Peregrine Falcon** was at Wrightsville 6/16-21 (DK, BR).

Flycatcher reporting was routine while the vireo group showed increased reporting for **White-eyed** and **Warbling Vireo**. **Bank Swallows** were found at five locales 6/14–7/24 (CB, MH, DN, RMR, DW) with none mentioning a colony site. High count was 5 birds at Saginaw 7/21 (DW). Eighteen **Cliff Swallows** were at Lake Redman 6/9 (KC) and a survey using extrapolated nest counts at all CSP bridge understructures suggested the colony could approach upwards of 275 birds.

Carolina Chickadee and **Tufted Titmouse** did not see the same extent for reduced reporting as *Adams* but it was reduced. Unusual for the period, a **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was found at RRCP 7/5 (KC, MC). Along the same vein of being unusual for the period, single **Brown Creepers** were at Lake Redman 6/9 (KC) and Glen Rock 7/7 (EK). A round of golf sometimes brings the accompanying benefit of being in good birding habitat and 20 **Eastern Bluebirds** at the Country Club of York 7/16 (JF) was a nice “birdie opportunity”. A **Veery** was found along the Rail Trail 6/11 (CK) and up to a pair were detected at GPSP 6/7–7/13 (DA, DNN).

Native Lands Heritage Trail held 4 **Grasshopper Sparrows** 6/6 (DN) and HTP produced up to a 13 count 6/4–7/31 (m.ob.). HTP provided the only **Savannah Sparrow** reports with up to 5 birds 6/9–7/31 (m.ob.). A nice 12 count of **Eastern Towhees** came from RRCP 6/16 (DN). **Yellow-breasted Chat** reporting remains encouraging during this period with reports from four sites. Spring Valley County Park produced a 6 count 6/3 (CB, DW), a pair were at Native Lands Heritage Trail 6/6 (DN), and singles were at Nixon County Park 6/6 (BR) and Gut Rd 7/13 (JCa). **Eastern Meadowlark** was only reported at HTP 6/4–7/31 (m. ob.) with a high of 10 birds 6/30 (DF). Eleven sites reporting **Orchard Oriole** was a positive.

Sixteen species of warblers is typical for this period. A **Blue-winged**

Warbler was at Spring Valley County Park 6/3 (CB, DW). An “off-river” site, GPSP, held a **Prothonotary Warbler** 6/23 (TN) while Lock 12 visits 6/7–7/30 (m.ob.) found up to 3 birds with nesting confirmed. Good reporting of **Kentucky Warbler** included a single at GPSP 6/5 (DN), a pair at Apollo County Park 6/8 (JC), Lock 12 singles 6/12 and 7/13 (TA, DN), and one along Chain Saw Rd 6/18 (MB). Four reports of **Hooded Warbler** were also a highlight vs. the typical one or two reports. Singles were at RRCP 6/3 (CrM), Old Mountain Rd 6/14 (JC), Lock 12 6/18 (MH), and GPSP 6/26 (TD). A pair of **Yellow-throated Warblers** found Lock 12 to their liking 6/12 (DN) and Airville produced a pair 6/16 (CF). Four sites held **Prairie Warbler** 6/4–26 (JC, TD, CK) but all sightings were limited to single birds. A very good county find during this period was a 6/14 (BM) **Black-throated Green Warbler** at Lock 12. **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** pairs were found 6/7 (JS) at Lock 12 and Fishing Creek Rd 6/7 (JC). **Blue Grosbeak** reports included a single at Shrewsbury 6/15 (Anon), a pair at West Manheim Twp Park 7/24 (DN), and a pair at HTP 7/31 (CB).

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

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

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

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

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