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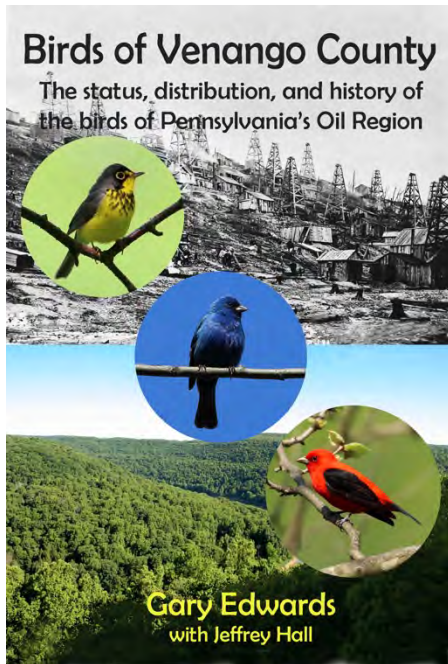
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Cover: Least Bittern nest in SGL 252, Lycoming 25 June. One of Pennsylvania's rarest and least known nesting species, Least Bitterns were confirmed only six times during the six-year second Breeding Bird Atlas. (Dan Brauning, PGC)

In this issue.....

Birds of Venango County – Gary Edwards

Gene Wilhelm's book reviews in *Pennsylvania Birds* have taken us all over the globe. However, in this issue, the subject of Gene's book choice lies entirely in Pennsylvania; in fact, almost in Gene's *Butler* backyard. That book is the newly published *Birds of Venango County* by veteran birder Gary Edwards, a native of *Venango* and active birder there since the early 1980s. Jeffrey Hall added dozens of photos to the effort, including the cover design reproduced below. Gary has served as the *Venango* compiler (and currently co-compiler) for *Pennsylvania Birds* since Volume One, 34 years ago. His long experience in the county comes through clearly in this labor of love, on which he has worked for several years. Read Gene's review beginning on page 151. Information on how to order the book is at the end of Gene's article.



A new species for Pennsylvania? – Very probably, yes, but....

The more-or-less official policy of this journal is to feature photos of first state records on the cover. What was most likely a **Pacific Golden Plover**, which would be a first, was found in *Dauphin* in July. It was not immediately recognized as such - not



First state record of Pacific Golden Plover, is accepted by PORC, at Wildwood Lake, *Dauphin* 15-17 (here 16) July. (Steve Schmidt)

surprising given the resemblance to its close cousin and much more likely American Golden Plover, albeit also not expected in mid-summer, as it is later in the fall season. Why is this photo not on the cover, but instead, on this page? The answer: Because it is not yet quite "official". The identification is not easily straightforward and the report is still under consideration by the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee. Given the small but not quite non-existent possibility that this bird will not make onto the state list of recognized occurrences, the always-cautious editor thought it best not to feature on the cover, only to have to retract at some later date!

In any case, the remarkable photo on the cover of this issue would have been a tough candidate to top. A **Least Bittern** nest with eggs is something most birders will never see in person. Readers here will understand the significance of a find like this – a (presumably) rare, secretive denizen of those mysterious wetlands, and a species that is likely declining, although good data on population trends is limited. Nevertheless, it is encouraging to read Dan Brauning's summer Summary of the Season (page 153) on the results of state-wide wetland surveys in 2020: "... twice the usual number of counties reported **Least Bitterns**, apparently a result of efforts on behalf of the Game Commission's marsh bird survey."

I will also point out that this cover breaks with tradition in another way. Every previous issue of *Pennsylvania Birds*, a total of 133, has featured a *bird* on the cover (whether photos or, in the early years, artwork).

Unless someone can spot a skulking bittern somewhere on this cover of this issue – all we see here are eggs. Ok – arguably, one could still call these birds, bringing us back to the eternal question of which came first – the bittern or the egg?

Compiler News

One new compiler to announce, beginning this summer season - Tim Johnson takes over *Cumberland*, relieving long time compiler Vern Gauthier.

County compilers: Phil Keener (Adams, York), Mike Fialkovich (Allegheny, Fayette), Marjorie Van Tassel (Armstrong), Geoff Malosh (Beaver, Lawrence, Washington), Laura and Mike Jackson (Bedford), Rudy Keller and Matt Wlasniewski (Berks), John Carter (Blair), Paul Heveran (Bucks), Oscar Miller (Butler), Dave Gobert (Cambria), Mark Johnson (Cameron), Billy Weber (Carbon), Nan Butkovich (Centre), Holly Merker (Chester), Carole Winslow (Clarion), Diane Bierly (Clearfield), Wayne Laubscher (Clinton), Andy Keister (Columbia, Northumberland), Rob Hodgson (Crawford), Vern Gauthier (Cumberland), Sandy Lockerman (Dauphin), Sheryl Johnson (Delaware), Carol Light (Elk, Forest), Jerry McWilliams (Erie), Bill Oyler (Franklin), Marjorie Howard (Greene), Greg Grove (Huntingdon, Juniata), Margaret Higbee (Indiana), Dan Richards (Jefferson), Chad Kauffman (Juniata), Ryan Johnson (Lackawanna), Zach Millen (Lancaster), Tim Becker (Lebanon), Bill Etter (Lehigh), Bobby Brown (Lycoming), Glenn Koppel (Mercer), Rob Dickerson (Mifflin), Bruce Johnson (Monroe), Brian Henderson (Montgomery), Evan Houston (Montour), Michael Schall (Northampton, Pike), Holger Pflicker (Philadelphia), Robert Snyder (Potter, Tioga), Dave Rieger (Schuylkill), Jeff Payne (Somerset), Rob Megraw (Sullivan), Evan Mann (Susquehanna), Joe Gyekis (Snyder, Union), Gary Edwards and Russ States (Venango), Scott Stoleson (Warren), Josh Jones (Wayne), Tom Kuehl (Westmoreland), Joe DeMarco (Wyoming).

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Snow Bunting Observations from Montour Preserve

Stan Stahl

October 22, 1978

It was a calm, sunny day with temperatures in the 70s. The flow of air had been from the south for at least a day. It was not the type of day in Pennsylvania on which you would expect to see wintering birds from the far north. A few soft rattling calls alerted me. Searching for the source of the calls, I found Snow Buntings walking among the large boulders at the dam of Lake Chillisquaque at Montour Preserve in Montour County. They were picking up some green stringy plants with their beaks, and picked seeds from widely scattered grasses among the boulders. They also walked along the water's edge, one wading into the shallow water. They continued close to each other. I moved further away from them to set up my spotting scope to watch.

A man and two young girls at the water's edge walked up to the birds. As they approached, they pointed to the birds. Other people came near them but the birds did not take flight.

I decided to see how close I could get to the birds, slowly walking, crouching. I had heard twittering rattle calls and soft single calls while they fed. They started to preen, maybe a bit nervous. They watched me closely. I got to within 20 feet of them and they preened vigorously. Finally, the rattle calls began in earnest and they flew away, landing about 100 feet away on the dam, near the water.



Figure 1 South Avis (*Clinton*), 2/4/2015 (Wayne Laubscher),

October 28

Another sunny calm day in the 60s. I watched 12 Snow Buntings late in the afternoon, feeding, stretching, and bathing, but mostly feeding. They would walk on some of the smaller shale pieces of the dam along the water's edge. They fed on short grasses and herb seeds. One bird began to bathe in the shallow water, dipping its bill into the water, then rapidly fluttering its wings. Soon, two more birds took up the activity. The three were bathing, their white plumage marked with smudges of black and brown, and water-droplets sparkling in the sunlight. Then they preened. Occasionally, a stretched wing showed a white patch. One bird scratched its head, foot reaching over the left wing.

For the most part, they walked close, crouching to the ground, creeping along. When two men walked nearby, they all stood still and watched. Occasionally, one bird would stretch up alertly. Later, one bird stretched up to reach a seed cluster, couldn't quite reach it, then gave up.

As they engaged in their activities, I would hear an occasional soft rattle call. Later, when the sun had set, and deep twilight had settled

in, they would fly for short distances, drop quickly, and resume feeding. Before each flight, their rattles would increase in frequency, and a harsh buzz was inserted with the rattle calls. The buzzes were more frequent in flight, along with the short rattles.

They stayed as a rather close-knit group, the 12 no more than about 50 feet apart and sometimes separated by no more than a foot or two.

October 29

A weak cold front had gone through the previous evening and the day was slightly cooler, with a northwesterly breeze. The weather had been sunny, dry, and mild -- cool nights, mild days. Being Sunday, more people were at the lake. There were 14 buntings. They would fly from spot to spot on the dam and land at a favorite spot near the parking lot, sometimes frightened into flight by people, dogs, and even a couple horses with riders that came by. I decided not to observe them that day because of their nervousness.

October 31

The flock had increased, numbering perhaps 40. When two fishermen walked by, they would take flight, flying in wide circles and then land close together, sometimes only to fly off again.

I watched them through my scope. When someone would approach, their heads would lift as they watched attentively, remaining crouched. Soon, they took flight, giving their soft rattles and buzzes. Buzzes would become harsher when more nervous. Twice, they disappeared from my view when in flight. Once I saw them fly east to a farm field. Within a half hour, they were back at the lake again.

I watched them feeding on weed seeds. They kept heads low, scurrying quickly from cover to cover across open spots. They might have been doing this due to my presence since I was less than 50 feet away. They would often look up, an eye peering at me. I kept moving slowly when approaching them and tried to avoid looking straight at them. I once approached five of them before I heard a rattle and noticed them about 10-15 feet from me, practically at my feet. They fed on grass seeds, both from the plants themselves and from the ground.

They crouched much of the time, their tarsi nearly or touching the ground. They would scurry from cover to cover. However, as they became more used to me, they became more erect and would feed in the open. Some dipped into a shallow mud puddle to drink.

November 1

A cloudless day, temperature in the 50s with a light breeze. There were about 40 birds again. I counted 36 near the lake, but two or three may have been hidden in the grass. When walking fast, their tarsi were slightly off the ground, but when moving slowly or feeding, the tarsi would touch the ground, or nearly so.

They sometimes fed by picking the seeds right off the plants, but many times they would snip off the stem and roll it through the beak or pick seeds from the snipped stems lying on the ground. One time a hairy gray caterpillar, with a thin yellow line running over its back and bluish dots along its side, came by. A bunting walked toward the caterpillar and pecked at it. The caterpillar stopped and contracted slightly.

I watched one bunting jump up to pick seeds from a plant without opening its wings. Several times the birds took flight, and wheeled around when a person walked by. During the afternoon, they left the area for at least an hour.

On one occasion, almost the whole flock bathed in the shallow water at the edge of the lake, followed by vigorous preening, then

feeding again. They would fly over the water, and often chase each other as pairs.
 Three Greater Yellowlegs landed in the grass, one among the buntings. The yellowlegs started to call. In a couple seconds the buntings flew off. Once, one bunting threatened by another bunting opened its beak, lower than the threatening bird, but no contact occurred. In the grass, I found small piles of fecal material about 2 feet apart, about 20-30 feet from shoreline. I thought that these were possible night roosting spots.

November 8

I saw a flock of about 60 buntings. They landed along the water's edge and then flew toward the dam. I walked along the dam and found a pile of Snow Bunting feathers. On a nearby rock I found a few feather stuck to the rock and a couple spots of dried blood. Two large fecal washes were also on the rock.

I watched Snow Bunting behavior often on the farm fields of Montour and Northumberland counties during the 1970's. Once, there was a flock of more than 1000 feeding voraciously on weed seeds on a bitter cold day with a snow cover. Many of the flock landed on a utility wire, looking like plump, white swallows.

An interesting publication on Snow Bunting behavior is "The

Behavior of the Snow Bunting in Spring" by Niko Tinbergen (Transactions of the Linnaean Society of New York, Volume V, October 1939).

Stanley Stahl
 Lancaster, PA



Figure 2 Bald Eagle SP (Centre), 11/9/2013 (Wayne Laubscher)

A Common Nighthawk Nest in Verona, Allegheny, Summer 2020
Scott Kinzey

A Common Nighthawk egg hatched on a rooftop in Verona, Allegheny in very early July, 2020. The discovery of this event and everything that ensued felt exciting and magical, and even serendipitous, compelling me to tell the story.

On the evening of 7 June, 2020 I was driving through my hometown of Verona and was surprised to find Common Nighthawks making their "peernt" calls and "boom" dives in not one, but two historic nesting areas. One area is along Allegheny River Boulevard in the center of the borough featuring older, main street type buildings. The second is not far "up the hill" from there at the Verona Volunteer Fire Department. This 1950's building sits among houses in a residential block. It has the type of flat, gravel roof that nighthawks commonly chose for nest sites. This is where the magic began.

Nighthawks nested in these two areas in the 1980's and maybe the 1990's when I was younger and not yet a birder. My last record from these areas for a bird on territory during nesting season was in May, 2015, but I do not think that they stayed into summer and nested that year. Now - the feeling of excitement was beginning. Birds were calling in suitable habitat during nesting season right here in my hometown and for the first time in years. Next, a little more magic happened.

The Verona fire hall is situated close to a house occupied by a family I have known since about kindergarten. One of my classmates and longtime friend Chris grew up in the house and his mother and brother still live there. I soon realized that the second floor windows of this house might offer a clear view of the fire hall roof and perhaps the nesting nighthawks. I called my friend, made arrangements, and on 14 June we climbed out of the bathroom window onto a roof. There she was. A female nighthawk was sitting on what appeared to be an egg. Photographs were made with my cell phone through a spotting scope. I followed up with visits as

often as I could. Setting up inside the bathroom and viewing through the window was easier than using the slanted roof. Better photographs were made when I purchased a Phonescope and attached my cell phone to my scope.

On the first of July at 4:28pm there was a very small hatched chick sitting barely underneath the female on the roof. The chick had hatched sometime between 7:15pm on 29 June and the first of July. It could be seen gently bobbing and swaying underneath the breast feathers of its parent. I'll never forget these moments in this odd circumstance of watching a newly hatched nighthawk chick through a friend's bathroom window. Sometimes I was joined by his older brother Greg, who has Down's syndrome. He would sit with me on the edge of the bath tub as I waited for something to happen through my spotting scope. He may not have understood the magic in the same way that I did, being quite content sitting there watching me watching out the window. It was a special joy for the both of us.

Yet another element of magic happened when I contacted the fire department about access to the roof. They were accommodating and twice I was able to get on the roof for a quick study and a few photographs with a DSLR. On 29 June, the female posed nicely at eye level as I lay on the gravel. The egg was underneath her and about to hatch. My second and final visit on the rooftop was on 6 July when I found a lone juvenile and the adult female on a lower section of roof towards the back of the building. They had moved quite a distance from the incubation location. The juvenile, only about six days old, apparently walked its way over the main roof and down a two to three-foot ledge to the lower section. This much movement is not uncommon for young nighthawks but it looked like a dangerous fall from my perspective. The adult female moved over twelve feet from the juvenile when I approached. They had caught me by surprise. I had searched the main roof and couldn't

find them, only a broken egg near the incubation site. Worried that they were gone, I was anxious. My last check was the very back of the roof where I found the lower roof and there they were. I quickly photographed each separately and vacated the roof, tempering my enthusiasm for once-in-a-lifetime photographs for my conscious telling me to leave them be.

The juvenile would have been about 13 days old on 13 July when I was back inside of the bathroom with my spotting scope, Phoneskope, and special friend Greg watching from the window. I recorded a lot of video and stills. Some of the videos have the chick moving about but a cell phone snafu ruined my recording of the chick being fed. I had waited until it was almost too dark for video and when the first feeding happened I ran out of phone storage. I was mad at the moment but got over it. My last visit to the bathroom was on 20 July. (Yes, I know that sounds funny). The male was calling above but I did not see the female or juvenile. It was about 20 days old and I hope that they were out of sight and enjoying insects somewhere out there.

The serendipity of all of this is that just before these events I had completed an article about Pennsylvania's nesting nighthawks that was published in a previous issue of this journal. (Kinzey 2019). The Verona locations in this story were mentioned in that previous article. It was as if the birds came back to nest close to my home to thank me for writing about them and their kind. I thank them.

Reference Kinzey, S. 2019. Status of the Common Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*) as a Nesting Species in Pennsylvania with an Emphasis on Western Pennsylvania. *Pennsylvania Birds* 33:162-165.



11 July 2020 (Scott Kinzey)



29 June 2020 (Scott Kinzey)



14 June 2020 (Scott Kinzey)

BOOK REVIEW

Gene Wilhelm

BIRDS OF VENANGO COUNTY: The status, distribution, and history of the birds of Pennsylvania's Oil Region by Gary Edwards with 47 color photographs of birds by Jeffrey Hall, table of contents, about the authors, acknowledgements, foreword, Venango County History locations, physiography, climate, 2 figure maps, 15 recommended birding locations, 12 birders who developed birding history, birding activities, species accounts, seasonal occurrence bar charts, index of species, 6 x 9 in., 264 pp., published by the Mechling Bookbindery & Bookbinders Workshop, Butler, PA 16001, \$20.00, soft cover.

What a succinct book about the avifauna of a mostly rural Pennsylvania county 29 miles long by 25 miles wide, encompassing 432,000 acres approximately midway between Erie and Pittsburgh (Fig. 1, p. 9)!

Edwards is a Venango County native, born and raised in Oil City. After serving eight years in the U.S. Air Force, he attended Clarion University, received both a B.S. degree in Secondary Education and a M.S. degree in Biology there. His professional career has been spent in the environmental consulting field. Edwards has been a serious birder since 1983, birded in all 50 states and 7 Canadian Provinces. In 2011, he received the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology's Earl Poole Award, presented annually to a person who has made significant contributions to Pennsylvania's ornithology.

Jeffrey Hall taught biology and served as President of Washington Crossing Audubon Society in New Jersey for many years before retiring and moving to Franklin, Pennsylvania. Presently he is President of Bartramian Audubon Society that has National Audubon Society geographical jurisdiction over Butler, Lawrence, Mercer, and Venango Counties and is active in Seneca Rocks Audubon Society in Clarion County as well. Hall's excellent photographs and articles have been published in *Living Bird*, *NJ Audubon*, *Pennsylvania Birds*, *Cassinia*, and others. He has given over 50 presentations to nature and photography groups near and far.

Edwards mentions that there were valid reasons why attention to Venango County ornithological study was so slow in coming: the overall little interest, information, and education by the county population was one reason, and birders living in the cities preferred visiting already known birding hotspots such as Pymatuning Lake, Hartstown Swamp, and Presque Isle outside of the county. Further, prior to 1971 there were no lakes in the county to attract waterfowl and shorebird migrations, which would in turn entice birders and field

ornithologists to visit the county. However, after that date waterfowl habitat increased significantly with the construction of Kahle and Justus Lakes plus the addition of the 83-acre Polk Wetlands purchased by the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

Eventually a few other significant events helped to draw some attention to the county. First was the occurrence of the initial Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas (PBBA#1) Project, from 1983 to 1989. In early 1984, Edwards contacted this book reviewer when regional coordinator of several western Pennsylvania counties of the program, expressing an interest in becoming involved in the project. I immediately suggested that he become coordinator for Venango County and had him contact Dan Brauning for instructions. "That summer, while birding up a dirt road, I came across an unusual sight – another person with a pair of binoculars birding down the same road. This meeting with Russ States began a friendship centered on birding that continues after more than 35 years (Edwards, p.7)." Throughout the next six years of the Atlas project, with most hours spent in the field, the two shockingly never met another person actively birding in Venango County. The subsequent 1992 landmark book titled *Atlas of Breeding Birds in Pennsylvania* was edited by Dan Brauning. "It (Atlas) also provided the incentive to document breeding birds in the county and that, in turn, sparked my interest in compiling year-round baseline data to begin filling the ornithological void," writes Edwards (p. 8).

Second, in 1987 Barb and Frank Haas began publishing a quarterly journal called *Pennsylvania Birds* that contained county bird sightings and articles relating to birding in the entire Commonwealth. The journal evolved superbly under their keen leadership into a premier publication that in turn led to the formation of the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology (PSO).

Third was the second PBBA Project, from 2002 to 2008. This ambitious effort with significantly more statewide involvement culminated in the 2012 *Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in Pennsylvania*, edited by Andrew Wilson, Dan Brauning, and Robert Mulvihill. Birds identified in both PBBAs are compared in later Species Accounts (pp. 73-246).

Finally, the development of the internet, GPS, and cell phones makes communication between birders easier and faster, often essentially instantaneous. Quite a contrast to the "old days", when there were county-wide, state-wide, and even country-wide telephone matrices established to pass the word when an unusual bird was found. Of course,

receiving the information quickly depended upon a nearby telephone and the contact remaining unbroken. (While living in St. Louis, yours truly kept a wallet-size printed card of 10 'hot lines' for connecting strategic birding spots in the state of Missouri). Readers may recall the fictitious story titled 'The Big Year' not too long ago when three male amateur birdwatchers competed to become the ultimate North American birder by spotting the greatest number of avian species within a single calendar year – doing so with the aid of telephone conversations that were not of the modern mobile type.

Fifteen birding locations, from Oil Creek State Park to the city of Franklin, are highly recommended by Edwards as proof that the county has many rich and varied avian habitats to entice birders to discover, explore, and enjoy wild birds. Unfortunately, this was not the case in the early history of Venango County birding. There simply was no such source of information. Example: In 1890, Dr. B. H. Warren of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture published a revised *Report of the Birds of Pennsylvania* - but avian data for Venango was sparse to say the least. Even in 1940, W. E. Clyde Todd's *Birds of Western Pennsylvania* had only single references of 50 species in Venango County that were referenced in just 28 of the 295 avian species accounts of 34 counties.

The author mentions 12 individuals who had at least minimal connections to birds in the county, from pioneer missionary David Zeisberger to "Jim" Borland's newspaper column. This list includes Richard "Dick" Krear (1951-2004) who happened to be a part-time student of mine at Slippery Rock University. Dick enrolled in my zoogeography and ecology undergraduate courses. He loved birds and invited me to join him boating and birding on the Allegheny River, another love of his. In turn, I did introduce him to special birding hot spots in Venango County, such as the Barkeyville Area, which until recently was the breeding grounds of the scarce Upland Sandpiper. However, Dick preferred running water and could be found almost daily boating on it. One day he frankly told me: "Doc," I prefer the bigger water birds like Great Blue Heron and Canada Goose to the little brown jobs in the forest." He was rightly designated "river keeper" for the Allegheny River and was in 2012 an inductee into the Isaac Walton League/Venango College of Clarion University "Venango County Conservation Hall of Fame."

Fortunately, avian coverage finally changed from 1984 through 1989 with the PBBA#1 project, resulting in the atlas publication referenced above. Field

personnel in Venango County recorded a total of 951 hours in the field, observed 137 avian species of which 102 species were probable or confirmed nesters, and an average of 64 species in each of the 75 approximately three-mile square blocks. However, twenty years later in the PBBA#2 project, Venango County did even better by averaging 71.1 species per block.

Likewise, in 2001 a state-wide survey was initiated by Greg Grove to document wintering raptors. Participants designed their own 10-100-mile roadside survey route, traveled once each winter, and document all raptors observed. Venango County established an 80-mile south route in 2001 and a 60-mile north route in 2006. Since 2006 the south route has averaged 19.7 raptors and the north route 18.4 raptors. The Red-tailed Hawk accounts for approximately 80% of all raptors on each route.

The bulk of the book is the thoroughly detailed species accounts (pp. 73-246) that include some or all of the following data: common and scientific names according to the *ABA Checklist: Birds of the Continental United States and Canada*, seventh edition, 2008. The taxonomic sequence follows the same source. Nesting is indicated by an

asterisk* following the common name. The frequency of occurrence, abundance and seasonal status are identified. Migration dates for migrant species and summer residents are followed next by BBA safe dates for species known to nest in Pennsylvania. Even data for species unknown to nest in the county are included to assist observers in locating probable new nesters. Lastly, the number of years for which each species was found during the Pleasantville CBC are indicated. The bottom line of all this impressive compilation is a total county bird list of 279 species as of December 31, 2019 (p.77). The list is broken down as: Regular 196, Casual 26, Accidental 52, Hypothetical 2, Extirpated 2, and Extinct 1 (Passenger Pigeon). Seasonal occurrence bar charts (created by Nick Bolgiano) complete the most thorough details of the county's avifauna (pp. 247-258).

In sum, this is an extraordinary book written by an extraordinary person who has deep roots that penetrate the very being of western Pennsylvania: Venango County. Gary Edwards, like many of us, was struck by wild birds and had the driving determination to discover more about them. The rest is the process of history, decades in

fact, proving that one person, admittedly with the aid of a few birding friends (i.e. Russ States, Jerry Stanley, Kathie Goodblood, and Nancy Baker, among others) has become the chief head of the birding community of Venango County. This comprehensive book of ornithological knowledge shows that Edwards deserves to be listed as the thirteenth and ultimate ornithologist in the birding history of Venango County.

The book is further enhanced by the stunning color bird photographs of Jeffrey Hall. Two slight mishaps, however, need to be mentioned: A White-winged Scoter photograph is mislabeled as Surf Scoter and the eight pages of color bird photographs lack numbers. Nevertheless, the book is a model for other Pennsylvania counties to imitate. Be among the first birders to buy a copy today.

513 Kelly Blvd.
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The book is \$20 + \$3.50 postage.
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Blue-headed Vireo at Seneca, Venango 30 July. (Meg Kolodick).



Swamp Sparrow at Two Mile Run County Park, Venango 19 June. (Jeffrey Hall)

Summary of the Season: Summer 2020

Dan Brauning

Two major weather events were noted by the *Delaware* compiler, but with minimal bird observations associated with them: a derecho on 6/3 with wind gusts of 60-90 mph that downed trees and wires in the southeastern counties and then on 7/10 Tropical Storm Fay dumped 2.5-4.5" of rain on the region. However, despite those two events, below-average precipitation prevailed over much of central Pennsylvania in June and July, growing dryer through the summer. Streams and rivers were as low as I've ever seen them. July was also hot, with the average statewide temperature tying the hottest month on record from NOAA records across most of the state.

Such weather notes are not out of the ordinary, but by any other measure, 2020 was like none other. The global SARS Covid-19 pandemic was in full swing in June and July, resulting in reduced travel, social distancing, and very different human patterns of activity through the summer, even though infection rates were temporarily abating. Notably, the USGS Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) was cancelled for the first time in its 45-year history.

With social distancing and gathering places closed, outdoor activities provided a welcome relief from the isolation. Across the country, outdoor recreation, and birding in particular, increased dramatically during the pandemic. The number of summer eBird checklists, which had been growing here by about 15% annually in recent years, jumped by 49% over the 2019 tally. This was bolstered by large increases in birding activity close to home. As a result, big increases were evident in the number of checklists reporting Carolina Chickadee, Northern Flicker, and similar species frequently found during the summer in suburban areas. Notably, **Tufted Titmice** appeared on nearly twice the number of checklists as in 2019. Does this mean that they've begun recovering from declines associated with West Nile Virus? Care must be taken to draw such conclusions. The bias of human behavior has great implications on results without a controlled design and careful analysis.

The end result was a massive increase in birding activity. Counties with lots of birders saw the biggest jump in checklists submitted, such as a 72% spike in lists submitted in *Allegheny*, while *Potter* actually saw a decline of 11%. Statewide, the total number of species reported during the summer 2020 season, 253, is well above the 10-year average. Despite cancellation of the BBS, all of the regular breeding birds were documented, since the BBS doesn't normally detect rarities. Notable shorebird records from Presque Isle State Park, *Erie*, came in the course of **Piping Plover** nest monitoring. And, the Game Commission's marsh bird monitoring spurred many volunteers and agency biologists to survey those isolated wetlands for rare

breeders. So, birding activity increased, generating an impressive summer season. Notable rarities detected this year include **Wilson's Plover** (at Presque Isle), a **Western Kingbird**, and the state's first report of **Pacific Golden-Plover**. The end result is a seasonal report that does not hint at the dramatic social upheaval that happened through the summer and that continued into the end of the year.

Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were found in an impressive five counties during summer 2020 in variable numbers scattered through the whole season. The longest-living birds remained for the first three weeks of July at a private pond in *Erie*. At the other locations, whistling-ducks remained just for a single day. This is a notable compilation of observations for a species that had been detected in just 2 of the past 10 summer seasons.

Notable breeding events were documented for **Trumpeter Swan**. First, in *Cumberland*, one cygnet was seen with an adult pair, confirming nesting activity. However, that bird was not observed following the sixth day from hatching and was presumed to be predated. The adults vacated the area shortly thereafter. Trumpeter Swans had previously nested in *Jefferson* in 2018, making the *Cumberland* nesting the second documented event in Pennsylvania. However, just at the end of the summer reporting period, another Trumpeter Swan pair was found to have nested, apparently successfully, seen in *Pike* 7/27 with two fairly well-grown cygnets in tow, marking the third successful Pennsylvania nesting. Interestingly, the three successful nesting reports so far have been in three widely separated locations in the state - obviously something for which birders should be alert anywhere, as more nesting seems inevitable.

Summer season reports normally document 19 to 28 species of waterfowl, including widespread breeders (**Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Mallard, and Common Merganser**). Uncommon breeders found in 2020 include **Mute Swan, American Black Duck**, and the growing **Hooded Merganser** population. **Blue-winged and Green-winged Teal**, which historically nested regularly, were reported from six and four counties, respectively, this summer; but, as has been the case for several years, none of these suggested breeding behavior and the settings don't suggest nesting.

An assortment of non-breeding species that linger from the spring season somewhere in the state appeared as rare summer visitors. The regular members of that group, also found in 2020, include **Snow Goose, Tundra Swan, Gadwall**, and diving ducks (**Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Red-breasted Merganser, and Ruddy Duck**). The rarest waterfowl in 2020 was a one-day female **Surf Scoter** in *Centre*.

The other two scoter species were listed on Pennsylvania eBird checklists along the lower Delaware River, but although they were seen from Philadelphia, were found only on the New Jersey side of the river! Cross-border reports are not a common problem with Pennsylvania's eBird observations, but artificial boundaries necessitate our making artificial decisions, so Black and White-winged Scoters don't appear in my Pennsylvania Birds of Note list this year!!

Both **Northern Bobwhite** and **Ring-necked Pheasant** historically bred in the state, the pheasant from introduced stock. Records of both species in 2020 were more likely the result of recent releases and don't represent self-sustaining populations. Our state bird, the **Ruffed Grouse**, continues to decline in range and numbers. Innovative research by Game Commission biologist Lisa Williams demonstrated that grouse chicks are particularly susceptible to West Nile Virus infections during wet years, with high mortality (see Nick Bolgiano's article, *Pennsylvania Birds* Vol. 33, pp. 2-11 (2019)). Targeted habitat conservation is being initiated to sustain this keystone species where its prospects are best. Grouse were reported from fewer than half of our counties in summer 2020.

Eurasian Collared-Dove, which expanded so dramatically across the United States over the past 40 years, lingers in *Franklin* and *Berks* in established areas. This year reports provided suggestion of nesting, but only in those two counties. Very likely a breeding bird, a **Chuck-will's-Widow** was again reported at last year's location in *Centre*, although only on one date this year.

We have become accustomed to western hummingbirds appearing in the fall and sometimes winter, but unexpected was a **Rufous Hummingbird** in late July for the second year in a row. This year, a breeding-plumage male remained only 2 days in *Berks*, not seen after it was banded on 7/31 at about 5:30 pm. So how does it happen that three hours later a male Rufous shows up in Iowa (Clayton Will, pers. com.), the only other eBird record of the species east of the Rockies in June or July? That flight is not possible in 3 hours, but the coincidence is striking.

Sandhill Cranes continue to expand, found in 11 counties this summer, many with suspected breeding and confirmed newly breeding in *Beaver*. The number of counties reporting **Virginia Rails** increased by 50% over 2019 and twice the usual number of counties reported **Least Bitterns**, apparently a result of efforts on behalf of the Game Commission's marsh bird survey. Volunteers and agency staff conducted surveys at more than 200 pre-selected wetland locations statewide during June. Those surveys also resulted in several reports of **King Rail** (no details) that will require documentation.

Notable from that effort came a report of **Black Rail** in June from a small private marsh in *Clearfield* on 6/5. It was not relocated, and the report is under review by PORC.

Uncommon shorebird reports always constitute a significant part of the summer season report, and this year is no exception. If confirmed, a **Pacific Golden-Plover** was way out of range on 7/17 when observed and photographed at Wildwood Lake, *Dauphin*. A plover reported there as American Golden-Plover two days prior was probably the same bird. This would constitute the first state record of this long-distant migrant.

Piping Plovers successfully nested for a fourth year on Gull Point, in Presque Isle State Park, *Erie*. The Great Lakes population of this federally endangered bird is recovering slowly, and this pair provides the only nesting birds on Lake Erie. The four young hatched 6/23-24 and were banded on 7/2 by Cathy Haffner of the Game Commission. Two Piping Plover observations in addition to that family group were documented; an adult likely hatched at Presque Isle in a previous year was seen on 6/30 and a juvenile raised in Ontario, Canada this year was seen 7/28 and 31. Restoration and ongoing management of the native sand plain habitat by the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy has promoted this exceptional species and expansion of the sand at Gull Point provides the sparsely vegetated sand and cobble that supports plover nesting. The Erie Bird Observatory was under contract by the DCNR Bureau of State Parks with Game Commission funds to document and monitor the nesting activity, and many notable shorebird reports come from Mary Birdsong and Sarah Sargent as they monitored Piping Plover nesting. The highlight of that monitoring was a **Wilson's Plover** seen and photographed 7/7-8, the third recent record in Pennsylvania.

The incredible shorebird staging sites on the Delaware Bay supporting birds on their annual spring migration to Arctic breeding grounds is well documented in New Jersey. Some of these birds would be expected to migrate over Pennsylvania, but until recently we would not have thought them detectable in the state. Several birders are now reporting thousands of shorebirds overflying Pennsylvania locations during the first few days of June. These notable accounts indicate that it is possible to observe and identify flocks of **Ruddy Turnstones** and **Red Knots** as they migrate over Valley Forge National Historic Park and Green Lane Reservoir in *Montgomery*, and Bucktoe Creek Preserve in *Chester*. **Red Knots** in particular are not otherwise observed in Pennsylvania, except at Presque Isle, *Erie* and historically along the Conejohela Flats in *Lancaster*. With strategic placement and timing, Pennsylvania's airspace has been documented by these intrepid birders to be used by these incredible birds.

Other shorebird highlights include several species seen in only one or two other counties this season. The "increased

coverage" of late of Hog Island Road, *Delaware*, produced three **Black-bellied Plovers** on 6/5, two **Whimbrels** on 7/10, a **Ruddy Turnstone** on 7/31, and a **Sanderling** 7/21 and 31. A **Red-necked Phalarope** continued from May in *Clinton* and **Wilson's Phalaropes** were seen in *Centre* and *Erie* in June, contributing to a respectable 28 species of shorebirds for the season.

Among the rarest of the summer's birds was a **Gull-billed Tern** at the Philadelphia Southwest Water Treatment Plant on 6/29. The **Wood Stork**, also seen as a fly-by on 7/23 is in the same category of rarity, but without details. Joining these two was another observation of **Brown Booby**, again by a self-described "amateur birder" who recognized it as something notable. Like previous reports, the bird was not skittish, but also not relocated, and again was well-photographed. Sightings of Brown Boobies the week before off Cape May, NJ, and the week after on the eastern shore of Maryland may have been related.

The state's only known **Herring Gull** breeding colonies are found along the Ohio and Allegheny rivers in *Allegheny*. Counts at the Emsworth Dam on the Ohio River in June provided high counts of 43 adults and 10 chicks, and at the Highland Park Bridge colony on the Allegheny River 44 adults at 15 chicks. Far out-of-range was a **Red-throated Loon** found and photographed at Aitch Access at Raystown Lake, *Huntingdon* 6/29, just the fourth Pennsylvania summer report in eBird.

Regular nesting of **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** is now only known from a dispersed colony in tall sycamores in urban streets of Harrisburg, *Dauphin*. Recent sightings in *Montgomery* and *Delaware* suggest that further investigation may be useful for this rare state-listed bird. The above-mentioned marsh bird survey resulted in a big jump in reports of **Least Bittern** during June, including a first county record for *Lycoming*, confirmed by a nest with eggs. This single season nearly surpassed the number of breeding records of Least Bittern during the six years of our second Breeding Bird Atlas – a remarkable achievement. In a reversal from previous surveys, **American Bitterns** were not reported as frequently.

Annual observations of **White Ibis** and **Glossy Ibis**, and post-breeding dispersal from the south of various herons again supported the diversity of Pennsylvania's summer species list. White Ibis was seen at only one location and Tri-colored Heron wasn't reported at all this year. Despite low water levels that could draw waders, dispersing **Little Blue Herons** were reported from only 9 counties, 5 fewer than last year.

The elegant **Swallow-tailed Kite** was seen on three occasions in the last two weeks of July, but none relocated. Summer **Mississippi Kite** reports are now annual, as the species' breeding range continues to expand. The first year of Maryland's third Breeding Bird Atlas this summer documented the state's second confirmed breeding event.

Most summer kite sightings have been in the southeastern corner of the state, but birders in our southwest should watch as nesting Mississippi Kites move into Ohio!

With many of the state's birds of prey recovering or stable, the gradual decline of the **Northern Goshawk** is a mystery. Additional monitoring effort, including a recent M.S. project, continue to document a few nests in Pennsylvania's big woods in and around the Allegheny National Forest (ANF). These efforts documented six occupied territories in the ANF this year. Most summer reports, particularly associated with nesting, are understandably not publicized. The goshawk is now a very hard bird to find during any season in Pennsylvania, so any sightings are generalized or kept quiet.

The **Long-eared Owl** is either the state's rarest breeding bird or the least known – or both. None are reported during most summer seasons. This year, nesting was confirmed at two undisclosed locations in *Mercer* and *Montour* counties in May. Nesting by **Barn Owls** was confirmed in *Crawford* for the first time since 1989, on 7/22, when one of four owlets fell out of a nest and was taken to Tamarack Wildlife Center.

Peregrine Falcons and **Merlins** continue to expand their breeding populations. Counted this year were 63 territorial pairs of Peregrines, including a record 19 at cliff nests, nearly half of the historic total. Nearly 100 young peregrines fledged, continuing the slow but decisive restoration of this species. **Merlins** were found in 13 counties, including summer observations in *Allegheny*, *Franklin*, and *Chester* among southern counties.

A **Western Kingbird** photographed on 6/7 in *Lancaster* was a real surprise. Very coincidentally (or – was it?), one was seen in Massachusetts earlier that day. Another rare nesting songbird, **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** continues to be documented by Doug Gross on territory in *Wyoming*. Other reports represent late migrants. But this species continues as a breeding bird on the very thinnest of threads in just a few high-elevation wetlands.

Notable this year were **Sedge Wrens** singing in six counties. Some of this year's observations were in early June, but typical of the species, several didn't show up until late July. Also typical, most of the locations had not previously been occupied. Several of the sites were not posted in eBird, presumably because of the excessive attention that this rare species receives when singing.

Another rare breeding bird, the **Clay-colored Sparrow**, seems to be barely holding on. One was reported at a traditional location in *Clarion*, and territorial males were found in *Franklin* and *Mercer*. But like the Eurasian Collared-Dove, which expanded into the state more than 10 years ago, the population of this sparrow seems to have retracted in *Clarion*, where it had previously occupied a several sites, to just one location. This habitat-specialist would be expected to shift territories in response to habitat succession. The question

is: are we missing new locations or is early successional habitat not available?

Dickcissels annually nest in grasslands of western *Cumberland*, where they were reported again this year, and sporadically nest at random sites across Pennsylvania, like this year in *Clearfield*. They returned for the fifth summer at the Rodale Experimental Farm, *Berks*. One of the most accessible **Swainson's Warblers** in memory was discovered on 6/9 in *Indiana*. The bird, which appears to have been alone, was documented by many with photos and audio recordings and continued singing through the end of the period.

With the national decline in woodland warblers widely reported, it is encouraging and remarkable to have **Black-throated Green Warblers** expanding at SGL 285 at the

periphery of their range in *Beaver*. However, the decline in **Golden-winged Warbler** range and population continues, with fewer local reports than ever. **Summer Tanagers** are reported almost every year, so males singing in two locations for at least a week in southeastern counties was not a complete surprise. Historically breeding regularly in *Greene*, they have not been reported there in some time.

The gradual expansion of **Blue Grosbeak** continues to the west, solidified with the return and confirmed nesting at Imperial, *Allegheny*, and a single bird in mid-June in *Armstrong*. For a second year in a row, a male **Painted Bunting** showed up in *Erie*, this year a male was seen at two different locations.

Summary of the Season: Spring 2020 Addendum

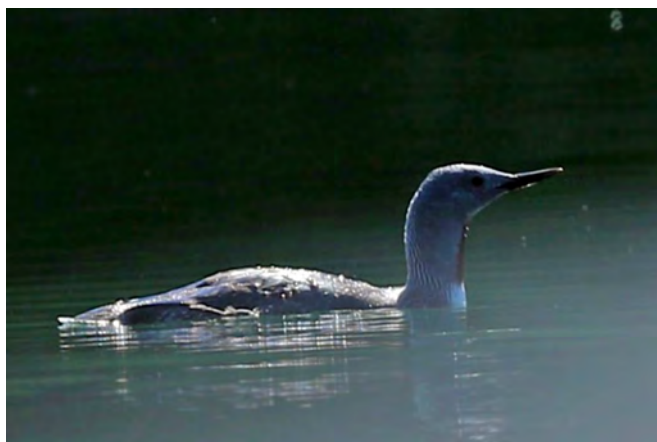
Species from *Somerset* that should have been added to the Spring Summary of the Season and/or tallied in the county totals listed in Summary of the Season include **Ross's Goose, Mute Swan, White-winged Scoter, Upland Sandpiper, Hudsonian Godwit, White-rumped Sandpiper, Western Sandpiper, Willet, Wilson's Phalarope, Black Tern, Glossy Ibis, Golden Eagle, Red-headed Woodpecker, Sedge Wren, Pine Siskin, Henslow's Sparrow, and Golden-winged Warbler.**



The second successful nesting of Trumpeter Swan in the state occurred in *Cumberland* with one parent and cygnet (which was later believed predated) seen here 19 June; a third nesting was confirmed in July in *Monroe*. (Dave Kerr)



Wilson's Plover found 7 July and observed the following day also at Presque Isle SP, *Erie*; about the sixth state record since 1968, although possible earlier records, especially before 1900, are cited in *Birds of Pennsylvania* (2000). (Mary Birdsong)



Less than 10 summer records are known for Red-throated Loon in the state, in contrast to expected summer reports of Common Loons; this Red-throat was a surprise at Raystown Lake, *Huntingdon* in June. (Glenn White)



Brown Booby at the Penn Warner Tract, *Bucks* 13 June was about the sixth state record, all but one occurring on the lower Delaware River and all since 2015. (Steven Throne)

Birds of Note – June through July 2020

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 – *Erie*: four took up residence in a West Springfield pond 6/29 to around 7/22, the first county record (*fide* Richard & Michele Wurst); *Delaware*: four were discovered at John Heinz NWR 6/2 (Rich Ziegler, m.ob.); *Huntingdon*: ten spent 7/30 at the Old Crow Wetland (David Kyler, ph., m.ob.); *Montgomery*: one discovered at Green Lane Park 7/20 by a park employee and shared by Joseph Greco, then seen by many; *Philadelphia*: seven at the retention pond behind the Philadelphia Mills mall 6/24 (Holger Pflücke, m.ob.).

Trumpeter Swan – *Cambria*: one spent most of the period at Prince Gallitzin SP (Tony DeSantis, m.ob.); *Cumberland*: a pair continued and nested at Creekview Road Marsh, one cygnet hatched on or shortly before 6/18 but appears to have succumbed to predation (Tim Johnson, Stefan Karkuff, m.ob.); *Monroe*: two continued from May until 6/5 at Lynchwood Lake (*fide* Bruce Johnson).

Tundra Swan – *Clarion*: present at Kahle Lake 6/10-15 (Eric Schill, Carole Winslow); *Cumberland*: two found throughout the period at Big Spring Sportsman Club (m.ob.); *Lancaster*: continued at the Susquehanna River Conejohela Flats to 6/17 (m.ob.).

Blue-winged Teal – *Allegheny*: male remained 6/1 through 7/11 at Wingfield Pines (Fred Kachmarik); *Berks*: drake at Kernsville Dam & Recreation Area 6/4 (Kerry Grim); *Centre*: molting male observed 7/8-13 at the Centre Furnace Duck Pond (Carl Engstrom, Joe Gyekis); *Crawford*: one at Miller's Pond 6/7 (Mary Alice Koeneke, Glenn Koppel) and 6/8 (Jennifer Neider); *Lebanon*: continued to 6/3 at Middle Creek (Steve Ferreri); *Monroe*: one at Mount Pocono Airport water treatment plant 6/3 (Bruce Johnson).

Gadwall – *Centre*: four at Bald Eagle SP 6/3 and two there 6/5 (Carl Engstrom, m.ob.); *Montgomery*: one at Green Lane Park 7/2-12 (Paul Heveran, m.ob., ph.).

Green-winged Teal – *Cambria*: one in New Bethlehem 7/6 (Avis Keener, John Keener); *Juniata*: one near Mifflintown 6/7 (Keith Leonhard); *Lancaster*: appeared at Susquehanna River Conejohela Flats 7/31 (m.ob.); *Montgomery*: male in breeding plumage at Green Lane Park 7/24 (Paul Heveran, ph.).

Redhead – *Berks*: drake at Shartlesville 6/2-7/9 (Kerry Grim, m.ob.); *Lawrence*: female summered at McConahy Road, Pine Grove Twp. through 7/19 (Mark Vass, m.ob.); *Erie*: one at Edinboro Lake 6/10 (James Hill III, ph., eBird).

Ring-necked Duck – *Cambria*: three still at Prince Gallitzin SP 6/20 (Tony Desantis); *Lebanon*: two at Memorial Lake SP 6/1-7/28 (Tina Offner, m.ob.) and up to three at Middle Creek WMA 6/3-7/29 (Steve Ferreri); *Chester*: one in Honey Brook (restricted area) 6/26 (Larry Lewis, eBird).

Greater Scaup – *Chester*: one at Marsh Creek SP 6/11 (John Daniel, ph, m.ob., eBird).

Lesser Scaup – *Crawford*: one in the Pymatuning SP Spillway area 6/6 (Mark Vass) and up to two in the same area 6/13 and 6/18 (Ron Leberman); *Greene*: one apparently injured remained at Lake Wilma during the period (Steve Bowes); *Lycoming*: male spent entire season at Rose Valley Lake (Bobby Brown, m.ob.); *Mercer*: two at Maurice Goddard SP 6/17 (Julie Jensen, ph); *Erie*: three males and two females on Sturgeon Bay 6/13 (James Flynn, eBird, ph) and one in Misery Bay, Presque Isle 7/11 (K. Springer, eBird).

Surf Scoter – *Centre*: female at Bald Eagle SP 6/3 (Carl Engstrom, m.ob.).

Red-breasted Merganser – *Carbon*: continued at Beltzville SP through 6/4 (Barbara Rehrig, Rich Rehrig); *Centre*: female seen in the company of pair of Common Mergansers at Bald Eagle SP 6/5 (Eric Zawatski); *Delaware*: female on Delaware River at Hog Island Rd. 6/2 (Rob Fergus); *Philadelphia*: female seen 6/7 (George Armistead, eBird).

Horned Grebe – *Butler*: one at the Morraine SP Propagation Area 6/30 (Gene Wilhelm, Joanne Wilhelm, Kevin Wilhelm); *Lancaster*: male in breeding colors at Susquehanna River Conejohela Flats 7/26 (Eric Witmer, ph.).

Eurasian Collared-Dove – *Berks*: at Shartlesville colony, one or two were perched on utility wires along Main St. (m.ob.) and five seen in a side street backyard 7/9 (Eric Zawatski) may have included fledged young; *Cumberland*: one report from intersection of Rt. 641 and Greason Road 6/15 (Tim Johnson); *Franklin*: seen through season at Greencastle Reservoir with a high of 8 on 7/12 (Chris Payne, eBird).

Chuck-will's-Widow* – *Centre*: one heard at last year's location on Woodward Lane on 6/24 (Eric Zawatski, eBird).

Rufous Hummingbird – *Berks*: a glittering adult male took over a feeder at Knauers 7/29 (Mike Slater), last seen 5:30 p.m. 7/31 after banding.

American Coot – *Butler*: at SGL 95 in early June (Gene Wilhelm); *Allegheny*: one at North Park 7/25 (Kelly Pennington, eBird); *Philadelphia*: one at Franklin Delano Roosevelt Park 6/1 and 6/10 during breeding census (Nicole Cesare, eBird) and 6/7 (Robert Karchnyak, eBird).

Black Rail * – *Clearfield*: one seen and heard on 6/5 at 7:27 a.m. during marsh bird playback survey on private property in Winslow Twp. (Stacy Wolbert, doc. submitted).

American Avocet – *Allegheny*: one at Riverfront Park on south side of Pittsburgh 7/24 (Emily Eckel, m.ob.); *Bucks*: one 7/31 at sewage pond in Buckingham Twp. (Richard Smith, ph.); *Montgomery*: one at Green Lane Park 7/23 (Joanne Depietro, ph.);

- Erie*: one circling Gull Point, viewed from the north pier 7/11 (Jerry McWilliams), then one or two at Gull Point 7/3 and 7/18-20, and eight there 7/29 (Mary Birdsong); *Indiana*: two at West Penn Trail 7/24 (m.ob.); *Lancaster*: two at Conejohela Flats 7/28 (Steve Schmidt); *Mercer*: three at Shenango Prop. Area 7/29 (Kim Springer, et al.); *York*: one at Codorus SP 7/9 (Peter Martin, Renae Weidner, ph.).
- Black-bellied Plover** – *Delaware*: three seen 6/5 at Hog Island Rd. (Jason Horn, ph.); *Erie*: 2 on Gull Point 6/1 (Mary Birdsong); *Lancaster*: one seen 6/2 (Jason Horn).
- American/Pacific Golden-Plover*** – Dauphin: observed at Wildwood Lake 7/15 (Scott and Stephanie Bills) and likely same bird there 7/17 (Patricia and Richard Williams, m.ob, ph., doc. submitted).
- Piping Plover** – *Erie*: pair was confirmed nesting again, monitored by PGC camera, with four eggs hatching 6/23-24, chicks banded 7/2 (Cathy Haffner), and all four fledged by 7/16 (Mary Birdsong), plus another banded plover was noted 6/30 and a 2020 fledgling from Ontario was seen 7/28, 31 (Mary Birdsong).
- Wilson's Plover*** – *Erie*: one photographed at Gull Point 7/7 (Mary Birdsong, ph.) and seen again 7/8 (Jason Horn).
- Upland Sandpiper** – *Clarion*: two birds, one calling, found at traditional nesting area of Mount Airy 6/18 (Carole Winslow) and one was there 6/19 (Eric Schill); *Clearfield*: two on Sandy Ridge Rd. 6/16 (Michael David); *Crawford*: a high of four at Pymatuning S.P.- Wilson Rd. area 6/16 (Casey Andersen, KM Andersen, Nancy Andersen); *Lancaster*: up to three moved through Lancaster Airport 7/15-31 (Bruce Carl, m.ob.).
- Whimbrel** – *Delaware*: two seen 7/10 at Hog Island Rd. (Jason Horn, Rob Fergus); *Erie*: flock of 15 cruised by lighthouse 7/11 (Chad Kauffman) and one reported at Gull Point 7/28 (Mary Birdsong).
- Ruddy Turnstone** – *Chester*: a count of 1025 in three flocks observed flying overhead on evening of 6/4 at Bucktoe Creek Preserve (Larry Lewis, eBird) and 354 reported over Downingtown that evening (Zach Baer, ph., eBird); *Delaware*: one on mud flats off Fort Mifflin Roads 7/31 (Debbie Beer, Rob Fergus); *Erie*: one 7/4 at Gull Point (Mary Birdsong); *Lancaster*: two at Susquehanna River Conejohela Flats 6/2 (Jason Horn); *Lawrence*: one continued to 6/1 at Shaner Road Marsh (Karen Delaney); *Lycoming*: one 6/1 at Rose Valley Lake provided third county record (Ray Kozen, Clair Thompson, m.ob.); *Montgomery*: 100 seen overhead at Valley Forge Historic Park 6/2 (Steve Grunwald) and several hundred over Green Lane Preserve among thousands of shorebirds 6/4 (Jason Horn, Kenneth Rieker).
- Red Knot** – *Chester*: total of 113 at about 6:30 p.m. on 6/4 over Bucktoe Creek Preserve among thousands of shorebirds (Larry Lewis, eBird) and 88 seen over Downingtown at same time (Zach Baer, ph. eBird); *Montgomery*: 80 over Valley Forge NHP 6/2 (Steve Grunwald) and 250 over Green Lane Park 6/4 (Jason Horn, Kenneth Rieker).
- Stilt Sandpiper** – *Lancaster*: adult at Octoraro 7/30 (Larry Lewis, Larry Bernhardt); *Chester*: one at Greenville Farm Pond 7/31 (Melissa and Ross Gallardy, eBird).
- Sanderling** – *Delaware*: increased coverage of Delaware River at Hog Island Rd. provided reports of one 7/21 (Rob Fergus, Brian Quindlen) and again 7/31 (Rob Fergus, Debbie Beer, Adrian Binns); *Erie*: one at Gull Point 6/22-23 and a high of 25 on 7/21 among daily observations last week of July (Mary Birdsong), seven at Beach 11 on 7/12 (Jennifer Ferrick, eBird), and two at North Pier 7/20 (Jerry McWilliams, eBird).
- Dunlin** – *Lancaster*: one at Conejohela Flats 6/2 (Jason Horn); *Erie*: four on 6/2 at Gull Point and one 6/11 (Mary Birdsong).
- White-rumped Sandpiper** – *Clinton*: one at South Avis 6/1-2. (Carol Hildebrand, ph, m.ob.); *Lancaster*: one on 7/23 at Conejohela Flats (Jason Horn); *Montgomery*: one at Green Lane Preserve 6/2 (Jason Horn, m.ob., ph.); *Somerset*: one on mud at Somerset Lake (Lucas DeGroot).
- Wilson's Phalarope** – *Centre*: one along Tadpole Rd.- Fairbrook Wetlands 6/1-3 (Joe Verica, m.ob.); *Erie*: one at Gull Point 6/11 (Mary Birdsong).
- Willet** – *Erie*: singles at Gull Point 6/13-15 and 7/8 (Mary Birdsong) and on 7/15 (Sarah Sargent).
- Red-necked Phalarope** – *Clinton*: one at South Avis continued until 6/2 (Carol Hildebrand, m.ob.).
- Laughing Gull** – *Bucks*: high of 38 on 6/8 at Penn-Warner Tract (Andrew Harrington) among many other reports along the Delaware River and an immature was well-described inland at Peace Valley Park 6/10 (August Mirabella); *Centre*: one at Bald Eagle SP 6/16-30 (Eric Zawatski, m.ob.); *Chester*: one seen and photographed (John Daniel) by many 6/11 at Marsh Creek (eBird); *Crawford*: one at Pymatuning SP Espyville Marina 6/6 (Mark Vass), 6/10 (Isaac Field), and 6/13 (Ron Leberman); *Delaware*: numerous reports in July along Delaware River as usual; *Lancaster*: subadult from 7/16 thru season (Jason Horn, m.ob.) and two juveniles 7/20 (Chuck Berthoud, Derek Stoner); *Lycoming*: two found after storm 6/10-11 at Rose Valley Lake (Bobby Brown, Deb Brown, Andy Keister); *Philadelphia*: many records along the Delaware River as usual.
- Lesser Black-backed Gull** – *Bucks*: one to three at Nockamixon SP through much of June (Bill Etter, Paul Heveran, August Mirabella) and one at Penn-Warner Tract 6/8 (Andrew Harrington); *Lancaster*: adult on Conejohela Flats 7/23 (Jason Horn, ph.).
- Least Tern** – *Delaware*: one described 7/21 at Hog Island Rd. (Rob Fergus); *Lancaster*: one distantly photographed at Susquehanna River Conejohela Flats 6/15 (M. Lombard, doc. submitted).
- Gull-billed Tern*** – *Philadelphia*: one at Southwest Water Treatment Plant 6/29 (Patrick McGill, Holger Pflücke, Brian Quindlen, ph., eBird).
- Black Tern** – *Crawford*: two in the Pymatuning Goose Management Area 7/14 (Ron Leberman).
- Common Tern** – *Berks*: two at Blue Marsh Lake 7/13 (Joan Silagy); *Centre*: one at Bald Eagle SP 6/9-18 (Eric Zawatski, Carl Engstrom); *Erie*: one on 6/1 at Edinboro Lake (James R. Hill III, eBird) and nesting attempts reported of a pair 6/8 and 6/20, but without success, among daily observations (Mary Birdsong, Sarah Sargent, Tim Hoppe, Stacy Wolbert, ph.); *Lancaster*: two at Susquehanna River Conejohela Flats 7/23 (Jason Horn).
- Forester's Tern** – *Lancaster*: two on Susquehanna River Lake Clarke 6/15 (Zach Millen, m.ob.), and 5 on Susquehanna River Conejohela Flats 7/31 (Jason Horn).
- Red-throated Loon*** – *Huntingdon*: found and photographed at Aitch Access at Raystown Lake 6/29, fifth summer eBird record for Pennsylvania (Glenn White).
- Wood Stork*** – *Somerset*: one well-described flying low, headed in northerly direction at Seven Springs 7/23 (Andrew Smith, eBird).
- Brown Booby*** – *Bucks*: well-photographed at close range from boat at Penn-Warner Tract 6/13 (Steven Throne, ph., doc.).
- American White Pelican** – *Dauphin*: observed flying above Rachel Carson State Office Building-Harrisburg 6/8 (Ted Nichols III); *Lancaster*: seen at various points on Susquehanna River Lake Clarke 6/6-15 (Daniel Hinesbusch, m.ob.).
- American Bittern** – *Chester*: one in flight over west side of Struble Lake 6/20 (J. Atkins, eBird); *Crawford*: at Tamarack Lake 6/18 (Ron Leberman); *Elk*: heard near Ridgway 6/13 (Colvin Chapman); *Indiana*: one flew over West Penn Trailhead 6/29 (Bill Oyler); *Monroe*: a high flyover was photographed 7/26 at Mount Pocono Airport (Bruce Johnson, ph.); *Pike*: one heard 7/17 (Bradley White, eBird) and two seen 7/18 (Michael Schall, ph, eBird) at Shohola WMA; *Wayne*: one heard 6/8 at 7p.m. at White

Oak Pond (John Harvey, eBird) and one heard 6/12 at Farrell Corners Fen on marsh bird survey (Chris Fischer, eBird); *Westmoreland*: one reported 7/25 at Northmoreland Park (Hope Huntington).

Snowy Egret – *Dauphin*: immature at Wildwood Lake during second week of July continued to be observed and photographed through the end of reporting period (m.ob.), with 2 on 7/24 (Susan Braun, eBird, ph.); *Delaware*: one at John Heinz NWR 7/26 (Rowan Hollins); *Lancaster*: a juvenile stalked the shallows at Susquehanna River Conejohela Flats 7/16-26 (Jason Horn, m.ob.) and 5 were at Octoraro Reservoir 7/29-31 (Larry Lewis, m.ob.); *York*: one found 7/12 at Sheppard-Myers Reservoir (David Arrow).

Cattle Egret – *Clinton*: one near Rote 7/17 (Paul and Stephen Allgyer); *Philadelphia*: one in northwest Philadelphia 6/19 (Judy Stepenaskie, et al.).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron – *Dauphin*: birds continued through the season along Hamilton and Second Streets area in Harrisburg where at least 18 adults seen at 14 active nests 5/31 (Sean Murphy, PGC); *Delaware*: juvenile photographed roosting in tree at John Heinz NWR 7/17 (Rowan Hollins); *Lancaster*: lone male last reported at Ephrata heron colony 7/3 (Mark Gallagher, m.ob.); *Montgomery*: adult located intermittently at Norristown Dam without nesting evidence 6/22-7/30 (Michael Rosengarten, m.ob.).

White Ibis* – *Dauphin*: immature at Wildwood Lake 7/24-25 (Susan Braun, ph., m.ob.).

Glossy Ibis – *Dauphin*: spotted along Susquehanna River at Front Street (Ian Gardner) and at Wade Island 6/5 (Steve Schmit); *Franklin*: four at Bender's Farm 7/30 (Bill Oyler, Carl Garner, Dale Gearhart, m.ob.); *Lehigh*: one at Clover Hollow Rd, Slatington 7/19 believed connected with Hurricane Fay, subsequently captured with injury (Stephen Kloiber, John Birds, ph.); *Philadelphia*: in the John Heinz NWR impoundments 6/2-8, with high of 37 on 6/3 (Jason Horn, eBird), and 7/17-19 with high of 5 on 7/18 (Martin Dellwo, eBird).

Swallow-tailed Kite* – *Bucks*: one appeared in Wrightstown Twp. 7/31 for fifth county record (Jeff Davis, ph., m.ob.); *Jefferson*: one well-described at northern most border of county along the Clarion River in Cook Forest SP south of Cooksburg 7/17 (Jeff Peters, eBird); *Lebanon*: one near Syner and Valley Glen Roads 7/19 (Brian Newhouse), but not relocated (no doc.).

Mississippi Kite* – *Berks*: seen along the Kittatinny Ridge, including immature just over the treetops at SGL 106, Pine Swamp Road 6/14 (Matt Wlasniewski), an unaged bird was seen flying over Kernsville Dam 7/3 (Kerry Grim), and an adult, probably a female, made a leisurely, effortless flight over Shartlesville 7/12 (Rudy Keller); *Bucks*: seen briefly over Southampton yard 6/10 (Chris Mortensen); *Chester*: flew south overhead 6/1 and a young bird high over home in Downingtown 6/5 (Zach Baer, eBird, ph.); *Cumberland*: adult seen circling at Big Spring 6/6 (Doris Brookens, Steve Brookens, Vern Gauthier); *Northampton*: one at Jacobsburg SP 6/1 (Adam Matlock, eBird, ph.); *Philadelphia*: took about 10 minutes to fly the 12 mile stretch between John Heinz NWR and Awbury Arboretum 6/7 (Debbie Beer, Bill Naume, ph.); *Schuylkill*: unverified report near Rauschs 6/7 (Ian Neuroth, Laura Hershel).

Northern Goshawk – *Elk*: one near East Branch Clarion River Lake 7/24 (Brendyn Baptiste); *Warren*: documented on the Allegheny NF (PGC).

Long-eared Owl – *Montour*: nest confirmed at undisclosed location; *Tioga*: one heard giving a single hoot four times 7/4 along Tiadaughton Rd and Rail Trail south to just past mile marker 18 (eBird)

Northern Saw-whet Owl – *Centre*: heard at several points in Moshannon SF 6/5 and again two 6/7 at Underwood Rd (Joe Gyekis); *Elk*: family of five near East Branch Clarion River Lake when two adults and three young were heard 6/30, on same evening nearby one “flew in front of vehicle chasing a moth” (Brendyn Baptiste); *Potter*: one at Cherry Springs SP 7/20 (Sean McLaughin); *Somerset*: one report from Friedens 7/15 (Scott Bastian); *Warren*: distinctive hoot heard at camp site near Jack’s Run, Hearts Content (Kim Garrett, eBird).

Western Kingbird* – *Lancaster*: one photographed at Chestnut Grove NA 6/7 (Drew Brubaker, ph., eBird).

Olive-sided Flycatcher – *Carbon*: seen in prescribed burn area along Hell Hollow Rd 7/21 (Barry Reed), relocated 7/22 (Rich Rehrig); *Centre*: spotted 6/2 on Decker Valley Rd. (Debra Rittelmann); *Erie*: one at SGL 109 on 6/2 (Robert Scribner, eBird, ph); *Tioga*: heard singing, not seen, along Mid-State Trail near Carpenter Rd 6/1 (Lisa Doud, eBird).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher – *Erie*: one along Presque Isle's Pine Tree Trail 6/1 (Kim Pastrick, no details); *Luzerne*: one heard giving persistent 'tu-wee' call near boggy seep area in hemlock grove on Hidden Hemlocks Trail in Ricket's Glen SP 6/5, considered possible late passage migrant (Doug Gross, eBird); *Westmoreland*: one captured, measured, and banded to confirm ID as early migrant 7/21 (Nicholas Liadis, eBird); *Wyoming*: one seen and heard in wet red spruce grove on Cider Run Rd, Noxen 7/12 (Dennis Miranda, eBird), and two males on territory in Coalbed Swamp (Doug Gross, pers com.).

Sedge Wren – *Crawford*: one heard singing in the Pymatuning SP-Wilson Road area 6/4 (Tomas Nonnenmacher, Michael William); *Erie*: at least two pairs took up residency in grassy field at Erie Bluffs SP not far from parking area 7/17 thru season (John Campbell, m.ob.); *Juniata*: found on Flint Rd. near Thompsontown, reported 6/6 (Marvin Troyer, Paul Renno) and stayed until at least 6/20 (m.ob.); *Lancaster*: found briefly singing in sedge and cattail area north of Manheim 7/28-29 (Bruce Carl, m.ob.); *Lebanon*: one singing at WMA 7/27 (Steve Ferreri, Ted Nichols II); *Perry*: one continuing 6/4 (Jonathan DeBalko, eBird) thru at least 6/7 (Bill Oyler, eBird) from roadside near Blain.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet – *Susquehanna*: a surprise at Hollister’s Pond 7/23 (Tom Norville).

Pine Siskin – *Columbia*: one at Jamison City 7/8 (Judith Lynn, eBird); *Greene*: sighted at bird feeder 7/23 in borough of Waynesburg, remained for 3 days (Steve Bowes); *Lycoming*: at feeder in Ralston 7/4 (Norwood Frederick); *Susquehanna*: visited backyard feeder in Montrose 7/21 (Evan Mann).

Clay-colored Sparrow – *Clarion*: reported in only one location at Mount Zion, with one bird 6/6 and 7/19 (Molly Toth); *Franklin*: seen and heard singing at Weaver farm near Orrstown 6/27-7/29 (Miriam Weaver, m.ob., ph.); *Mercer*: found in Transfer 6/4 and subsequently seen by many observers (Steve Sandford, Mimi Hoffmaster, ph.).

White-crowned Sparrow – *Franklin*: reported from a yard in Guilford Hills 6/27 (Josh Donaldson, Susan Donaldson, details); *Clearfield*: a few at Curwensville Dam 6/3 (John Forcey, ebird).

Rusty Blackbird – *Crawford*: one at Conneaut Marsh- McMichael Road 6/8 (Jennifer Neider, no doc.).

Tennessee Warbler – *Blair*: seen and heard 6/1 at St. Game Lands 166 (Carl Engstrom, N. Scott Parkhill); *Sullivan*: one heard at World's End SP 6/5 (Thomas Buehl, Jr., eBird); *Westmoreland*: one at Powermill Nature Reserve 7/28 (Nicholas Liadis).

Lawrence's Warbler – *Allegheny*: male at Deer Lakes Park in May continued into June on territory (Dave Brooke, m.ob.).

Swainson's Warbler – *Indiana*: first heard 6/9 along the West Penn Trail halfway between Bow Ridge and Livermore (Dennis Laffer, m.ob.) remained through the period (doc. submitted).

Bay-breasted Warbler – *Centre*: singing bird heard 6/7 in the Moshannon SF (John Carter, Linder Carter); *Sullivan*: one observed at High Knob Bog 6/5 (Thomas Buehl, Jr, eBird).

Summer Tanager – *Chester*: first-year male seen and recorded 6/13 at Goat Hill Barrens (Patty and John Werth), subsequently seen and photographed 6/21 (Ross Gallardy) and seen 6/24 (Sabrena Boekell, eBird); *Franklin*: male reported on Falling Spring valley property in June, not confirmed; *Lebanon*: a male seen at Swatara SP 7/7-11 (Ted Keen, m.ob., ph.).

Painted Bunting* – *Erie*: male continuing at a feeder to 6/1 (Eric Smylko) and male at feeder in Waterford 6/18 (Jon Fetzner).

Dickcissel – *Adams, Berks, Clearfield, Cumberland, Franklin, Lancaster, Lebanon*.

Birds of Note: Spring 2020 Addendum

Notable species from *Somerset* were inadvertently not listed in the Birds of Note in the previous issue (Volume 34, No. 2). Those omissions are listed below.

Ross's Goose – *Somerset*: one at an Amish farm 3/15-21 (Jeff Payne, m.ob.).

Mute Swan – *Somerset*: one near Jennerstown during the season (Steve Manns).

Glossy Ibis – *Somerset*: one at flooded pasture north of Berlin 4/20-5/2 (Jeff Payne, et al.), second county record.

Upland Sandpiper – *Somerset*: one in Gallitzin SF 5/19 (Jeff Payne, Larry Bart).

Hudsonian Godwit – *Somerset*: one at Somerset Lake 4/25 (Ben Flora, m.ob.), first county record.

White-rumped Sandpiper – *Somerset*: present at Lake Somerset 5/11-30 with a high of four 5/11 (Jeff Payne) and 5/16 (Michael David).

Western Sandpiper – *Somerset*: one at Lake Somerset 4/27 (Jeff Payne, ph., Michael David, ph.) and 4/29 (Shannon Thompson, ph.).

Willet – *Somerset*: one at MacDonaldton 4/27 (Tom Miller, Jeff Payne).

Wilson's Phalarope – *Somerset*: one at Somerset Lake 5/26-29 (Jeff Payne, m.ob.).

Sedge Wren – *Somerset*: one at Payne Property 4/28 (Jeff Payne).

Pine Siskin – *Somerset*: one at Somerset Lake 3/20 (Kayla Hartung).

Henslow's Sparrow – *Somerset*: one near Fairhope 5/26 (Jeff Payne).



American Avocets were reported from at least eight counties, all in July; this lone bird was at Southside Riverfront park, *Allegheny* 24 July. (Mark Vass)



This Ruddy Turnstone at Rose Valley Lake 1 June provided the third record for Lycoming; migrating flocks numbering in the 100s flew north from Delaware Bay over *Chester* and *Montgomery* on evenings of 6/2-4. (Bobby Brown)

Photographic Highlights



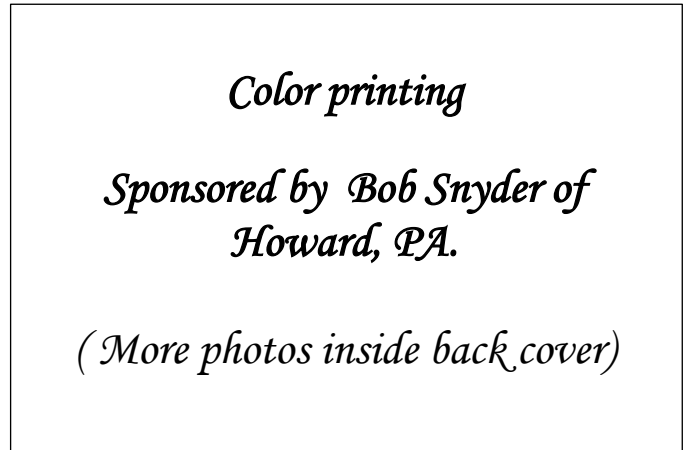
Black-bellied Whistling Ducks are now found in the state with increasing frequency; reports came from five counties this summer, including ten at Old Crow wetland, *Huntingdon*, present only 7/30, and providing a first county record. (*Pam Illig*)



Erie also saw a first county record for **Black-bellied Whistling Duck**; four in West Springfield were photographed 2 July and stayed till 8 July. (*Jerry McWilliams*)



Chimney Swift in its element – the air - staying on the wing all day long; this swift was “captured” in flight at Harrison Hills Park, *Allegheny* 9 June. (*Mike Fialkovich*)



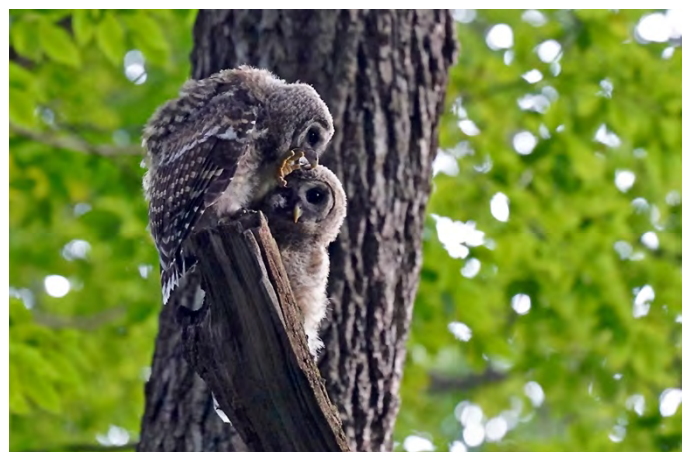
Color printing

*Sponsored by Bob Snyder of
Howard, PA.*

(More photos inside back cover)



Yellow-billed Cuckoos seemed more numerous than usual in *York* this year; this cuckoo was at Gifford Pinchot SP 10 July. (*Dean Newhouse*)



First confirmed nesting of **Barred Owl** in *Philadelphia* occurred at Carpenter's Woods; owlets were photographed 24 June and fledged 1 and 4 July. (*Anne Bekker*)



Female **Belted Kingfisher** at Wilmore Dam, *Cambria* 9 July. (Bruce Walkovich)



One of a pair of **Merlins** at Mill Hall, *Clinton* that provided the first confirmed nesting for the county. (Wayne Laubscher)



Expanding into Allegheny, **Fish Crows** are now described as somewhat regular in Verona, where this crow was photographed 14 June. (Scott Kinzey)



Cedar Waxwing in Great Bend Twp., *Susquehanna* 12 July. (Barb Stone)



Song Sparrow doing an American Dipper imitation at Canoe Creek SP, *Blair* 21 June. (Aimie Benitz)



Eastern Towhee proclaiming its territory in Scotia Barrens (SGL 176), *Centre* 8 June. (Tom Kuehl)



Long-staying **Swainson's Warbler** was a state lifer for many; found 24 (here 25) June and staying into August at West Penn Trail, *Indiana*, for a first county record. (*Michael David*)



Hooded Warbler in Bald Eagle SF, *Centre* 12 June. (*Debra Rittelmann*)



Male **Summer Tanager** not yet in full adult plumage (a second year bird) at Swatara SP, *Lebanon* 8 July. (*Michael David*)



Female **Orchard Oriole** at Beaver Creek Pond in SGL 242, *York* 6 July. (*Dean Newhouse*)

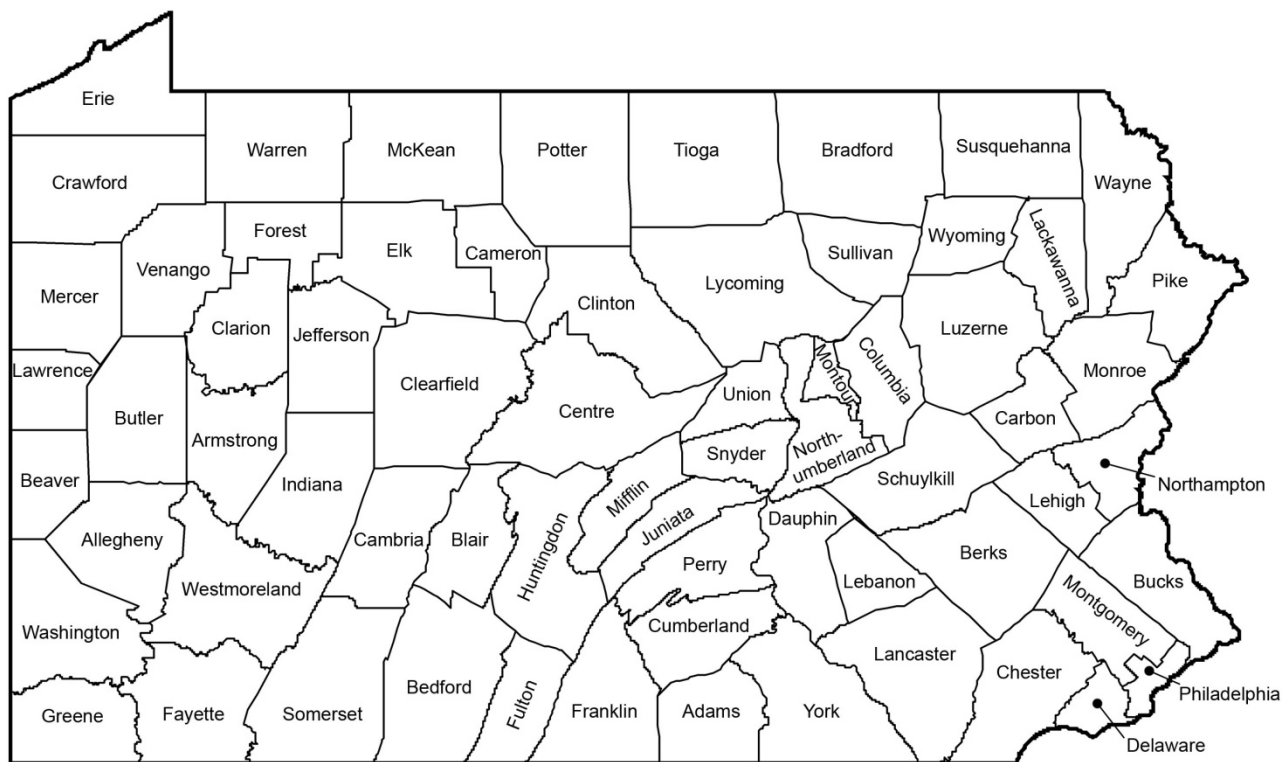


Rare nesters in Philadelphia, this male **Blue Grosbeak** was at the Philadelphia Army Corps of Engineers Compound 27 June. (*George Armistead*)



Male **Indigo Bunting** with a leg band, numbers not readable, at Springfield, *Susquehanna* 21 July. (*Nick Bolgiano*)

Local Notes – June through July 2020



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, Luzerne, McKean. The following counties had no report submitted: Chester, Lehigh, Mifflin, Northampton, Perry, Pike, Snyder, Union, Wayne.

Adams County

Locations: Gettysburg National Military Park (GNMP), Michaux State Forest (MICH).

The period's species total of 110 was on the low side while the 15 warbler species was within the five-year trend for the county. South-central Pennsylvania saw June temperatures 2°F above normal. July was a sweltering 6.3°F above normal with 22 days exceeding a 90°F daily high. The July heat indices reduced birding trips, likely accounting for a portion of the low species count. Rainfall for the period was 3 inches below normal but lake/reservoir levels remained near capacity. Birding highlights included two sites reporting **Common Gallinule** and a 6/20 visit to Michaux SF that provided a nice snapshot of breeding activity in the South Mountain physiographic province.

A **Ruddy Duck** was on a New Oxford private pond 6/13 (CM). The only **Ring-necked Pheasant** report was a bird along Tract Rd 6/8 (JW). Rather unusual, all six reports (m.ob.) of **Wild Turkey** were of single birds. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** reporting in the period continues strong with reports (m.ob.) from 15 sites. Eight **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were detected in MICH 6/6 (CM) between 8:23 to 9:48 p.m. Singles were heard at Shippensburg Rd 6/7 (MB) and along Woodview Rd 7/3 (DS).

A **Common Gallinule** was photographed at Crooked Creek Wetlands 6/23 (BP) and, as in prior years, a single from a family unit on Mason-Dixon Farms pond ventured from the Maryland side to the small Pennsylvania side 6/12-14 (JH, CM). A nice find for this period was an adult **American Woodcock** with 3 chicks at GNMP 6/11 (BM, EP). **Osprey** continued to be found this period with reports from Lake Heritage, Long Pine Run Res., and Waynesboro Res. spanning 6/8-7/16 (MB, IC, RKe). In the same vein, **Sharp-shinned Hawk** continued to see summertime reporting as well with single birds at Shippensburg Rd 6/26 (MB) and Expedition Trail 7/20 (TA). Neither species has produced reports of nesting in the county, but it seems that status will eventually change.

Red-headed Woodpecker was reported (m.ob.) at 15 sites with a high of 7 at GNMP 7/11 (JO). A visit to recently mowed hay fields along Possum Hollow Rd found significant **American Kestrel** activity 7/15 (PK). Nine very energetic birds (possibly more) were perched on wires, fence posts, the ground, rooftops, silos, and even farmhouse windowsills when not in flight. Wheeler's *Raptors of Eastern North America* notes: "After becoming independent, juveniles and adults may form groups of up to 20 individuals derived from local nesting populations in mid- to late summer."

A 5.5-mile stretch of Michaux S.F.'s Milesburn Rd and Birch Run Rd, traveled by Ramsay Koury 6/20, gave good insight into breeding activity at the higher (1200 to 1400 feet) elevations of the county. Some of the more notable counts were as follows: 6 **Acadian Flycatcher**, 10 **Blue-headed Vireo**, 49 **Red-eyed Vireo**, 4 **Veery**, 31 **Ovenbird**, 7 **Black and White Warbler**, 16 **Hooded Warbler**, 3 **Black-throated Blue Warbler**, 2 **Pine Warbler**, and 7 **Black-throated Green Warbler**.

Singles of **White-eyed Vireo** were found 6/9-7/21 (MB, DJG, SL, CM) at four sites and three sites held **Yellow-throated Vireo** 6/7-7/11 (MB, PE, CM, PM, JO). Up to 2 **Horned Larks** were at GNMP 6/9-7/12 (CM). Positive to report, eight sites held **Grasshopper Sparrow** with a high count of 13 birds at GNMP 6/9 (CM). Singles of **Savannah Sparrow** were found at four sites 6/12-7/30 (PK, CM, BP, DT, AW). The sole report of **Yellow-breasted Chat** was a bird at GNMP 6/5-7/11 (m.ob.). **Bobolink** pairs were found at Pumping Station Rd 6/7 (BP), at GNMP 6/16 and 7/18 (TA, DP), and along Byers Lane 7/29 (SK). In a question of whether the glass is half-full or half-empty, **Eastern Meadowlark** was reported (m.ob.) rather frequently from eight locales but high count was limited to 4 birds at GNMP 6/9 and 6/15 (CM, DP).

Worm-eating Warbler singles were at Sachs Covered Bridge 6/24 (PKB) and MICH 6/20 (RK). A late moving male **Blackpoll Warbler** was at Ridge Rd in Cumberland Twp. 6/5 (CM). A nice 5 count of **Pine Warbler** came from MICH 6/7 (JS). Five sites reporting **Prairie Warbler** were a positive with a high count of 3 at GNMP 7/19 (DW). MICH produced a singing **Canada Warbler** 6/19 (DP). Single **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were at Mountain Rd 6/3-18 (RDS) and Oak Ridge Trail 6/18 (RM). **Blue Grosbeak** singles were spotted at Mountain Rd 6/1-2 and 7/10-12 (RDS), at GNMP 6/7 (PE), and Mason-Dixon Rd 6/26 (AW). A singing **Dickcissel** was on the edge of orchard grass, clover, and alfalfa fields along Basehoar Rd 6/9 (SK).

Observers: **Phil Keener, 198 Jacobs Street, East Berlin, PA 17316, (717) 259-9984, pittche74@yahoo.com**, Tony Arnold, Mike Bertram, Peggy Keating-Butler, Ian Clarke, Colleen Corballis, Carol Culvyhouse, Peggy Eppig, Kelsey Gentry, Don & Jennifer Gilbert, Ron George & Tracy Snyder, Sue Greer, Joe Hanfman, Elaine Hendricks, Jenny Hook, Caroline Jones, Stefan Karkuff, Robert Keefer (RKe), Ramsay Koury, Sam Lynch, Dean Mahlstedt, Brett Matlock, Rob Monaghan, Peter Morgan, Callan Murphy, Tia Offner, Jacob Owings, T Peterson, Bonita Portzline, Callum Poulin, David Provencher, Em Purinton, Annemarie Sciarra, Ralph & Deb Siefken, Tamzen Sonntag, Danny Stoner, Jan Szerkes, David Taylor, Ryan Trenkamp, Douglas White, Andy Wilson, Andrew Wolfgang (AWg), Jenny Wood.

Allegheny County

There were a few surprises this summer with out of season birds raising the hopes for a rare breeding. No evidence was found, but it added interest to the season.

A male **Blue-winged Teal** was at Wingfield Pines 6/12 to at least 7/11 (FK, m.ob.). It has been years since this species bred in the county. It was a rare breeder at Imperial. This male was not observed with a mate, so it was most likely a lone male lingering in the area. Two late **Ruddy Ducks** were photographed at Duck Hollow 6/2 (NL). A **Common Nighthawk** nest was observed and monitored in Verona in June (SK). Gaining a vantage point on the roof of a building, the incubating female was observed and photographed along with a single chick. Not many have the opportunity to see a young nighthawk or a nest. There were

numerous **Northern Bobwhite** reports. The question is who is releasing them? Most were eBird reports that included singles in Monroeville 6/12, Pittsburgh 6/13, and Wexford 6/15; one was in Harmar Twp. 7/22 (JV).

An **American Avocet** was a great find at Riverfront Park on the South Side of Pittsburgh 7/24 (EE, m.ob.). Many people were able to enjoy this elegant wader before it was observed flying off near dusk, in typical avocet form. It was at a busy city park with bikers, walkers, boaters, and other activities going on. It seemed unconcerned while on the small mudflat it found. This provided the 10th county record. Birders surveyed two **Herring Gull** breeding colonies in the county. Several counts were made at the Emsworth Dam on the Ohio R. in June (PB, MV), where the high count included 43 adults and 10 chicks. The maximum at the Highland Park Bridge colony on the Allegheny R. was 44 adults and 15 chicks 6/21 (MV).

Osprey were at Emsworth Dam and on nearby Neville Island (PB, MV). Two nests are in the area and were active again this year. One was seen along the Allegheny R. in Harmar Twp. 7/26 (AH). A **Barred Owl** was at North Park 7/17 (LS). This species is a local resident in the county with few reliable locations. They may be under-reported due to their secretive behavior like other owls. A **Merlin** was an unexpected find at Hays Woods 7/3 (MK). Could this species be found breeding here someday?

An **Alder Flycatcher** was discovered in a brushy field in North Park 6/15 (NH). This is a rare migrant in the county and not known to breed here, although they do breed just to the north. The bird was present for about a week singing regularly, but not heard after that. For the second year in a row, a **Bank Swallow** nesting colony was active at Chapel Harbor in Ohara Twp. (JVs, MD, AH). There were fewer birds this year with a high count of only 7 for the season. This is a rare breeding species in the county, and this colony may be lost with plans for alteration of the bank where they nest.

A male **Purple Finch** was in Indiana Twp. in June (DY). A male was in Pine Twp. 7/1 and a juvenile was there 7/20-23 (PL, SL). This continues to be the sole location in the county where they are reported breeding. **Henslow's Sparrows**, **Savannah Sparrows** and **Grasshopper Sparrows** were all noted at Imperial in June and July (m.ob.). There is one area of grassland adjacent to a new industrial park that is now providing habitat for these declining species in the county. **Bobolinks** were also at the same area this summer. Three **Yellow-breasted Chats** were at Hilltop Park in Cecil Twp. 6/10 (LN).

Ovenbird is a local breeding species in the county. Deer Lakes Park is the location where they are regular every summer. Two at Sewickley Heights Park 6/7 were notable (JC), as was one in June at Harrison Hills Park (DB) where they are not known to breed despite close proximity to Deer Lakes. A **Worm-eating Warbler** was at Harrison Hills Park 6/9 (MF) where they are known to breed. The male **Lawrence's Warbler** discovered at Deer Lakes Park in May continued into June and set up a territory (DB, m.ob.). It was observed squabbling with a neighboring **Blue-winged Warbler** (DY). A **Black-and-white Warbler** was an unusual June find at Frick Park 6/8 (MT). It could have been a late migrant. Black-and-white Warbler is a local breeder in the county with two known locations.

A male **Prothonotary Warbler** was present in late May at Boyce-Mayview Park and last reported 6/12 (m.ob.). The bird's presence raised hopes of a potential first breeding record for the county. The habitat is perfect for this species, and snags and bird boxes at the park provided nesting cavities, but it apparently moved on. A **Kentucky Warbler** was at Frick Park 6/6 (BM), notable because this species was formerly a common breeder in the county and so it could have been a male on territory. Kentucky Warblers continue to breed at Harrison Hills Park and Deer Lakes Park in the northeastern part of the county. A **Cerulean Warbler** was noted at Frick Park 6/5 and 6/28 (ZV, eBird). A recording was made of the bird singing. Ceruleans were present in the Sewickley Heights Park area where they regularly breed.

A late **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was at Boyce-Mayview Park 6/1 (JF) and 2 were at Hartwood Acres 6/6 (MKu). This is a rare breeder in the county. A late **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was in Schenley Park 6/3 (KSJ). There is one other summer record of this species the first few days of June from Riverview Park many years ago. Up to 4 **Prairie**

Warblers were still at Imperial in July (OL, JVs, LK, MK, RT) despite the near total destruction of their former habitat. A **Black-throated Green Warbler** was at Harrison Hills Park 6/28 (DB), noted also at this location last year but not confirmed breeding. They are not known to breed in *Allegheny* but do at a site in southern *Butler* (Todd Nature Reserve) just north of Harrison Hills Park.

Blue Grosbeaks returned to Imperial again this year with a male and female tending a juvenile 7/26 (MV, JF, RB). The birds were observed through the end of July. They were in the same area as June 2018 when they were last recorded there. The habitat is further degraded compared to two years ago due to development at the site. Despite the destruction, these birds returned (presuming they are the same individual pair).

Observers: **Mike Fialkovich**, mpfial@verizon.net, Michael Barney, Dave Brooke, Paul Brown, Ron Burkert, Jack Chaillet, Michael David, Emily Eckel, John Flannigan, Nathan Hall, Amy Henrici, Deb Hess, Paul Hess, Fred Kachmarik, Lisa Kaufmann, Michelle Kienholz, Scott Kinzey, Malcolm Kurtz (MKu), Nick Liadis, Oliver Lindhiem, Pat Lynch, Sherron Lynch, Bob Mulvihill, Lauren Nagoda, Mariam Ohanjanyan, Kate St. John, Liz Spence, Ryan Tomazin, Molly Toth, Jim Valimont, Mark Vass, John Vassallo (JVs), Zach Vaughan, David Yeany (DY).

Armstrong County

Locations: Armstrong Trail at Dam 8 (AT8), Keystone Lake (KL), Mahoning Creek Lake (MCL), Stone House Road (SHR).

The most noteworthy sighting of the breeding season was a single **Blue Grosbeak** at a feeder several days in Sugarcreek Township 6/17-6/20 until a bear repeatedly knocked the feeder down; homeowners (KMc, PMc) were able to produce and send two photos to Margaret Higbee. This is the first and only county record of this species. Homeowners stated they also had a **Redheaded Woodpecker** several times.

Wood Ducks were represented fairly well although not in great numbers; 14 were observed at Murphy's Bottom 6/14 (AB), one at MCL 6/26 (J&AK), and 7 at New Bethlehem 7/6 (J&AK). Sixteen, including young, were reported 7/11 at KL (MH, RH), and 12 on the AT8. A single **Green-winged Teal** was seen in New Bethlehem, *Armstrong* side 7/6 (J&AK).

The only **Common Loon** report came in from KL 7/26 (MM), and a single **Double-crested Cormorant** was the only report at Crooked Creek L. 6/14 (T&JK, MMc). Two **Green Herons** were sighted at the AT8 on 6/19 (MH, RH, FMc), one at Adrian 7/3 (TR), and a single at KL 7/11 (MH, RH) and again on 7/26 (MM).

Surprisingly the only report of **American Kestrel** was one in Slate Lick 6/7 (GMc). The **Peregrine Falcons** nested again this year at the Graff Bridge in Kittanning. One was spotted 6/18 (MH, RH), and a lone individual seen again in Manorville 6/20 (FMc). An **Alder Flycatcher** was a nice find at SGL 105 on 6/20 (AB, SG). The other flycatchers were reported at various locations in decent numbers, as were vireos, except for **Blue-headed Vireo**, of which the only 2 were at MCL 6/15 (J&AK).

A good-sized colony of **Purple Martins** was successful this year at Crooked Creek Lake, where they have nested before, but this is the best year according to Ken Kostka, who monitors them. He stated: "There are at least 14 nesting pairs with nestlings so far, and quite a few singles. It was definitely the breakout year."

Notable were 2 **Vesper Sparrows** in Worthington 7/1 (LC). A few **Yellow-breasted Chat** reports were a good sign as one at SHR was heard first 6/8, then seen and photographed 7/6 (AB), another was observed in Worthington 6/26 (TR) and also in Adrian 7/3 (TR). Three **Bobolinks** was best of a few reports of the species on State Rte. 1025 on 6/5 (TA), with 2 on Robb's Fording Road 6/7 (MVT) and a single at SHR 7/5 (TR). **Eastern Meadowlark** was well reported throughout the county.

A lone **Worm-eating Warbler** was reported from the AT8 on 6/19 and observed feeding recently fledged **Brown-headed Cowbirds** (MH, RH, FMc), then seen again on 7/9 carrying food (TR). The only report of

Kentucky Warbler was at the AT8 on 6/19 (MH, RH, FMc), as with 2 **Blackburnian Warblers** from MCL 6/15 (J&AK) and a single **Prairie Warbler** on State Rte. 1025 on 6/5 (TA).

Observers: **Marjorie Van Tassel**, 3102 River Road, Vandergrift, PA 15690, 724-845-1050, marvantassel@gmail.com, Tony Arnold, Alan Buriak, Linda Croskey, Sam Gutherie, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, John & Avis Keener, Tom & Janet Kuehl, Michelle Mannella, Mark McConaughy, Gregory McDermott, Flo McGuire, Kevin McQuistian, Pam McQuistian, Theo Rickert.

Beaver County

Locations: Raccoon Creek State Park (RCSP).

A hen with 4 young **Common Mergansers** in tow were noted at the RCSP wildflower reserve 6/29 (DZ), a known breeding location. Up to 7 were at New Brighton 7/5-25 (MV, et al.). One or 2 **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were noted at traditional locations on SGL 285 on 7/5 (TJ) and 7/15 (AJ). One **Virginia Rail** continued from the spring season at Madden Run Road to 6/9 (*fide* TJ). The most notable record of the season was confirmation of the county's first breeding pair of **Sandhill Cranes**. The undisclosed location was monitored by the Pennsylvania Game Commission, and one colt was observed, but it was not seen after about mid-July and was presumed lost to predation (*fide* LW). The adults continued in the area through the summer, and according to a local land owner, this was the second year in a row they were present.

A **Least Sandpiper** was back at RCSP 7/17 (JM), and both **Lesser Yellowlegs** and **Solitary Sandpiper** were back at Siebel Farm in Independence Twp. 7/31 (DZ). An immature **Common Loon** at Ambridge Res. 6/13 (MV) provided a rare summer record for the county. A **Great Egret** stayed on the Beaver River at the 10th Street Dam 7/12-19 (MV). Two eaglets fledged from the **Bald Eagle** nest at New Brighton, but both perished after fledging, having run into various mishaps (*fide* MV).

A **Grasshopper Sparrow** was noted at SGL 285 on 7/5 (TJ). About a decade ago, parts of SGL 285 were found to be productive for grassland specialists, particularly Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrow, but the area did not see much coverage in the 2010s. It's good to know at least one of the two grassland sparrows is still there. A **Yellow-breasted Chat**, another species hard to find in the county, was noted at Big Beaver Wetlands 7/17 (KS).

A **Worm-eating Warbler** was noted on the west side (and rarely birded side) of RCSP 6/21 (MU). A trip to SGL 285 on 6/27 netted the following significant warblers: 2 **Black-and-white Warblers**, one **Kentucky Warbler**, one **Cerulean Warbler**, and 3 **Black-throated Green Warblers** (TJ). All of these species except Black-throated Green were confirmed breeding on the gamelands during the second breeding bird atlas in the mid-2000s (GM), while Black-throated Green was noted only once, and that in early June. In the years since the conclusion of BBA field work, Black-throated Greens have expanded as a summering species in *Beaver*, so it's not much of a surprise that they are present at SGL 285 in higher numbers now. **Cerulean Warbler** was also found at Ambridge Res. 6/8 (DZ), where they are not annually reported in summer.

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Bedford County

Locations: Bedford Springs (BSP), Buck Run II (BR II), Dutch Corner (DC), Fort Bedford Park (FBP), Foor Farm (FF), Hyndman Road (HR), Jackson Property (Mountain Meadows) near Everett (MM), New Life Bible Camp (NLBC), Shawnee State Park (SSP), Teaberry Road (TR).

Precipitation tended to be very spotty in the county during this period, so streams and rivers were low. The total of 113 species during this period was the highest in the last five years, with 2017 being the

lowest (99 species). A total of 19 warbler species were reported, an increase of four over last year.

Four **American Black Ducks** were seen at FBP 7/8 (ND). Just one **Ruffed Grouse** was reported, at BR11 6/6 (anon). **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were reported frequently during this period, especially in July. The high count of 3 was at MM 7/2 (MLJ). A single **Black-billed Cuckoo** was heard at BR11 7/6 (Anon). **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were reported at just three locations with a high of 3 at DC 7/2 (AB). **Chimney Swifts** were spotted regularly in Bedford and Everett, with a high of 6 just east of Schellsburg 7/17 (TB). Fifteen **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** were reported at HR 7/22 (NDO).

Surprisingly, **American Woodcock** were seen at two locations: one at Teaberry Road on three occasions 6/13-7/2 (anon) and another one at MM 7/21 (MLJ). Two **Great Egrets** were seen at FBP 7/22 (MLJ), and one at a pond along Front Range Road Farm 7/18 (MLJ). A **Black Vulture** feeding on a domestic pig carcass at MM 6/7 sported a red tag on each wing with M63 clearly marked in white. A report was sent to the USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center Bird Banding Lab, but no reply was received as of 8/29 (MLJ).

Two summering **Ospreys** were spotted at FBP 7/8 (ND), while **Bald Eagle** reports were scattered across *Bedford*, but surprisingly no reports from SSP. **Red-shouldered Hawks** nested at the same spot as in 2019, producing two young at FF 7/8 (EB). Nesting **Broad-winged Hawks** were confirmed at MM 7/7 (MLJ). One **Screech Owl** was reported at FF 7/20 (EB). The only **Great-horned Owl** was at White Sulphur Springs 6/29 and 7/18 (HR). **Barred Owls** were more commonly heard in the county, with consistent reports at MM late June to July (MLJ). **Red-headed Woodpeckers** continued to be elusive, but 4 were seen 6/17 and 6/26 at the Aimee Benitez Home (AB). Other species of woodpeckers were commonly reported, except for Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, which are not believed to nest in the county.

Seven **Acadian Flycatchers** were counted at NLBC 7/6 (BM), while a single **Willow Flycatcher** was reported from just two locations: at Teaberry Road 6/4-7/2 (anon) and at Arnold Development Loop 7/23 (AB). One **Least Flycatcher** was seen at FF 7/18 (AB). Three **Eastern Kingbirds** were seen at SSP 7/18 (anon).

Reports of **Yellow-throated Vireos** were scattered across the county, but one was consistently seen at HR from mid-June through late July (NDO). **Blue-headed Vireos** were reported just twice: one at Clearville 7/12 (SVH), and one at SSP 6/26 (Anon). Four **Warbling Vireos** were also recorded at SSP 7/18 (Anon). **Fish Crows** are often heard in Bedford Square and Everett. Two were reported from Bedford Square 6/26 (CP). **Common Ravens** are usually present, with a high of 2 at SSP 7/16 (TO).

A high count of 6 **Grasshopper Sparrows** was reported at DC 7/4 (AB), the only observation for these uncommon grassland birds. A late **White-throated Sparrow** was reported 6/6-7 at HR (NDO). The only **Savannah Sparrow** was at HR 7/12 (AB). Single **Swamp Sparrows** were reported at Beaverdam Road Marsh 6/27 (DB), and HR 7/12 (AB). A high of 3 **Eastern Meadowlarks** was recorded at DC 7/4 (AB), as were 4 **Orchard Orioles** also at DC 7/4 (AB). **Baltimore Orioles** are more common in the county with 4 reported at both Sugar Hollow Road 6/8 (NDO) and MM 6/21 (MLJ).

Just one **Worm-eating Warbler** was reported, at MM 7/15 (MLJ). Three **Louisiana Waterthrush** were at BSP 7/6 (anon), and 3 **Northern Waterthrush** at White Sulphur Springs 6/28 (HR). **Golden-winged Warblers** were confirmed breeders near Everett 6/13 (MLJ), with a **Blue-winged Warbler** also spotted in the same area 6/13 (MLJ). Three **Kentucky Warblers** were at Growden Road 6/21 (RM). **Cerulean Warblers** were reported from four locations, with a high of 2 at BSP 7/15 (DS) and NLBC 7/6 (BM). Four **Northern Parula** were recorded at NLBC 7/6 (BM). **Blackburnian Warblers** were found at only one site, with 2 at NLBC 7/6 (BM).

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks occurred throughout forested areas, with a high of 4 at the Aimee Benitez home 6/17 (AB).

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Thomas Buehl Jr., Nathan DeSousa, Ned Donaldson, Benjamin McGrew, Rob Mulligan, Tiffany Ohler, Chris Payne, Hank Rouland, Diana Steele, Stewart Van Horn.

Berks County

Locations: Blue Marsh Lake (BML), French Creek State Park (FCSP), Hamburg Reservoir (HRES), Kernsville Dam & Recreation Area, Hamburg (KDRC), Kittatinny Ridge (KR), Lake Ontelane (LO).

Except perhaps during breeding-bird-atlas years, the headline bird of the breeding season is more likely to be a migrant, dispersing bird or stray than a local nester. That proved to be the case this year when a glittering adult male **Rufous Hummingbird**, the earliest **Rufous** yet recorded in Pennsylvania, according to Scott Weidensaul, took over a feeder at Knauers 7/29 (MS). The show was brief, as the bird left at 5:30 p.m. on 7/31 immediately after it was banded by Sandy Lockerman, like a rock star blowing town after a gig.

A few **Snow Geese**, probably wounded birds unable to return to the Arctic, were seen at two ponds in June, and a **Blue-winged Teal** drake at KDRC 6/4 (KG) was a late migrant. A **Redhead** drake at Shartlesville 6/2-7/9 (KG, et al.) lingered for unknown reasons. This *Aythya* is very rare after May. **Common Mergansers**, now well-established breeders, trailing broods of ducklings (four in each case) were reported in June and early July along the Schuylkill Rd in northern *Berks* (KG), at BML (SC), and at FCSP (MR), the latter a new breeding location.

Single **Ring-necked Pheasants**, probably birds that survived the winter after release for hunting last fall, were seen or heard at three locations. Hens with chicks have not been reported for many years. A **Ruffed Grouse** was at SGL 110, Northkill Gap on the KR 6/1 (KG), where the species holds on due to favorable habitat management. **Wild Turkey** hens with broods were reported at four locations across the county. A non-breeding **Pied-billed Grebe** was at Kaercher Creek Park, Hamburg 7/20 (EB) and 7/30 (SM). This species was a common breeder at Glen Morgan L. IBA in the 1990s, now closed to the public.

Most reports of **Eurasian Collared-Doves** at the Shartlesville colony were of one or 2 birds perched on utility wires along Main St. (m.ob.), but 5 doves seen in a side-street backyard 7/9 (EZ) may have included fledged young. If this was the case, it is unknown where they disperse because the colony has not grown. Our default breeding-season cuckoo is **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**, but a few **Black-billed Cuckoos** may be found, especially where hairy caterpillars are abundant. Numerous fall webworms on black walnuts probably accounted for reports of **Black-billed Cuckoos** at BML during July (JS). The only reported **Common Nighthawks** were 2 northbound migrants over District Twp. 6/10 (RK). Up to 4 **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were heard at SGL 110, Northkill Gap on the KR, their only current breeding location, in June and July (m.ob.).

Virginia Rails returned for the second summer to the small wetland at KDRC, where one or 2 were heard in June to mid-July (KG, RK). There was no breeding confirmation. Single **Sandhill Cranes** were flyovers at a home in Bern Twp. 6/7 (EB) and at a farm in Albany Twp. 6/11 (BB). Since their population has increased, these cranes might be seen in any season, whether flying overhead or on stopover. The only reported southbound shorebirds were 2 **Least Sandpipers** at Gotwals pond, Oley 7/24 (RK), another at PetSmart warehouse near Bethel 7/30 (TKe), a **Pectoral Sandpiper** at PetSmart 7/31 (TKe), and a **Solitary Sandpiper** at Gotwals 7/27 (RK). Migrant shorebird diversity increased dramatically in August. **American Woodcocks** breed, but effectively vanish from detection after spring courtship. Singletons were seen or heard as flyovers at two KR sites 6/16 and 6/29 (KG). The only reported terns were 2 **Common Terns** at BML 7/13 (JS).

Non-breeding **Double-crested Cormorants**, here annually in summer, were at FCSP, LO and E.J. Breneman Quarry, where the seasonal high count of 9 was made 6/2 (NW). Post-breeding **Great Egrets** were first reported 7/7, then appeared at several places for the rest of the period. Adult **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were regularly reported, as usual, at the LO dam spillway and at BML, where the seasonal high count of 8 was made from a kayak 7/21 (EB). The only evidence that this heron may still breed in Berks comes from sightings of

fledged juveniles in summer. This year one was seen at BML 7/21 and 8/14 (EB), and 2 at BML 8/7 (PJW).

Following years of absence, **Mississippi Kites** reappeared in Berks, with four sightings made along the KR from May to July. An adult was seen flying southeast along the ridge 5/17 (DB). A well-described immature was seen just over the treetops at SGL 106, Pine Swamp Rd 6/14 (MW). An unaged bird was seen flying over KDRC 7/3 (KG), and an adult, probably a female, made a leisurely, effortless flight over Shartlesville 7/12 (RK). All cited observers are experienced hawk counters.

Non-breeding **Ospreys** were reported from various fishy places all period, as during every summer. A **Northern Harrier** at SGL 280, BML (DM) provided a rare summer record. That there is a breeding population of **Red-shouldered Hawks** along the Schuylkill Rd in southern Berks and in the large remnant Piedmont forest (the "Big Woods") around FCSP has been confirmed by nesting reports over many years. Summer reports of birds around BML in recent years indicate a breeding population there as well, but it has yet to be confirmed. Hawk Mt. Sanctuary's **Broad-winged Hawk** Project monitored six nests in Berks this year. Four of those nests produced a total of 9 young. Two nests were thought to have failed due to predation by **Common Ravens** (LG). A pair in District Twp. not monitored by the project also fledged young (RK).

Even though not all their known breeding locations were visited by birders this summer, **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were reported at seven locations. Currently the largest known colony is located along Allendale Rd near Shoemakersville, where 4 adults and one fledgling were seen 6/29 (SM). These woodpeckers often nest late, with breeding not confirmed by the presence of fledglings until July or August, as this year. Fledged young were not seen until August at the colonies on Kauffman Rd, Oley Twp. and Bastian Rd near Bowers (RK). **Acadian Flycatchers** were again found in their two strongholds in different habitats at opposite ends of the county, with few between. Nine singing males were heard in the cool hemlock/rhododendron ravine at HRES on the KR 6/8 (KG), and 6 were tallied in the deciduous Piedmont forest at Hay Creek in southern Berks 6/12 (JT). One **Blue-headed Vireo** was reported singing in the hemlocks at HRES 6/8-7/6 (m.ob.); this is presently the species' sole breeding location here.

The prairie subspecies of **Horned Lark** was "frequently heard under conditions that suggest nesting" by Earl Poole in the farmland of the Great Valley in the 1930's and persists there to this day, having adapted to the intensive industrial agriculture of the 21st century. Recently fledged young in sparrow-like juvenile plumage were seen near Fleetwood in mid-August (RK). The May polar vortex was apparently not a swallow killer. **Purple Martin** colonies on Mennonite farms in the Great Valley between Fleetwood and Topton appeared to thrive, with 70 birds at one colony alone in early June (RK). At the county's only known **Bank Swallow** colony at the Haines & Kibblehouse quarry near Birdsboro, 25 birds were visiting nest holes in hills of quarried sand 6/25 (PJW). There are four known **Cliff Swallow** colonies on bridges in Berks. The two largest colonies at LO had a total of about 60 birds in June (RK).

There were 16 adults and fledglings at the Church Rd bridge, BML 7/21 (EB), and 11 birds at Berne Bridge 6/25 (KG). Without Dickcissels to attract birders to farmland, grassland sparrows would be less reported than they have been in recent years. All three species were noted at Dickcissel sites, with **Grasshopper Sparrow** the most common (up to 7 at Monument Rd, Hamburg, and 6 at Rodale Experimental Farm in Maxatawny Twp.) and **Vesper Sparrow** the least common (one at Monument Rd and a few scattered elsewhere). There were several breeding confirmations of Grasshopper Sparrows and **Savannah Sparrows** at these sites. Four late migrating **White-throated Sparrows** were seen at three sites 6/10-12 (KG, JSp, TW), part of a larger regional movement of stragglers that showed up on eBird. Two **Swamp Sparrows** seen at Green Hills Preserve 7/3 (AZ) may indicate that this site is a new nesting location for this highly localized and uncommon breeder.

Weird and wonderful **Yellow-breasted Chats** were found in June at SGL 110, Northkill Gap (KG), Daniel Boone Homestead (SF), and along the new Big Woods Trail, FCSP (m.ob.). In most years, just one go-to location is known and gets all the birder visits. Fields at the largest known **Bobolink** colony along Grist Mill Rd, Douglass Twp. were cut in early

May, a month earlier than usual, eliminating any possibility of nesting. Bobolinks persisted in smaller groups elsewhere, such as 7 birds at Rodale and up to 13 at Monument Rd in June and July (m.ob.). **Eastern Meadowlarks** were found in lower numbers at most of the same places as Bobolinks. Timing of haying means everything to the nesting success of these icterids.

Blue-winged Warblers and **Prairie Warblers**, both of which breed in early successional edge and brush habitat, have been quick to colonize farmland converted to warm season grassland and edge at Green Hills Preserve and, more recently, the Big Woods Trail, FCSP, where a few pairs of each were found this season. Both species also thrive at SGL 106, Pine Swamp Rd, where shrubland is razed every few years to maintain early successional habitat. A territorial **Kentucky Warbler** was reported at only one location, Sixpenny Creek, FCSP (RK, TU) this year. **Hooded Warbler** was common at opposite ends of the county, one population on the KR and the other at FCSP, especially in an area that burned a few years ago, resulting in regrowth of dense understory. Spring's last reported **Blackpoll Warbler** was in District Twp. 6/1 (RK). **Black-throated Blue Warbler** and **Black-throated Green Warbler**, both common further north, reach the southeastern limits of their Pennsylvania breeding ranges on the KR on the northern edge of Berks, where they are uncommon but stable. As many as 5 of the former sang in the rhododendron understory at HRES as 2 or 3 of the latter sang in the hemlocks overhead in June and July (m.ob.).

Blue Grosbeaks were reported at eight places, mostly in farmland, a typical number of locations for this species, which does not always return to places it occupied in the previous year. **Dickcissels** returned for the fifth consecutive summer to Rodale, where grass pastures grazed in rotation ensure continuous cover for grassland birds. Most reports were of 2 males singing 6/15-7/19 from the same utility wires and fence posts they used in previous years (m.ob.). Four reports noted the presence of females, but breeding was not confirmed. Two other sites attracted Dickcissels. At Monument Rd, Hamburg (where Dickcissels had been found in a previous year), one to 3 singing males were reported 6/27-7/15, but there were no reports of females. Habitat there is a patchwork of corn, soybeans, and small grains alternating with strips of alfalfa and grass and clover hay. The last of the hay had been cut by early July, leaving no standing habitat for grassland birds. It is possible that one or 2 of the Monument Rd birds moved to a nearby site close to Windsor Castle, where one or 2 males sang 7/7-8/9, and a female was sometimes seen vocalizing in response to one of the males while perched near him (RK). Breeding was not confirmed. Habitat there is similar to that at Monument Rd, with the addition of permanent stream-bottom pasture. Dickcissel had not previously been reported there.

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Blair County

The months of June and July saw well below-average rainfall. Information was obtained primarily from eBird data, for which 118 species were reported. There were two surveys conducted: one was a grassland bird survey on SGL 198 near Gallitzin, and the other was an annual Cerulean Warbler survey along the Lower Trail rail-trail by Nick Bolgiano.

A few highlights during this period included a single **Alder Flycatcher** at Reservoir Park 6/19 (JC). An uncommon **Swainson's Thrush** was singing in Plummer's Hollow 6/5 (MB), and a single **Bobolink** was reported in the fields near Bald Eagle's intersection 6/20 (MN).

Members from the Juniata Valley Audubon Society conducted a grassland bird survey on SGL 198 near Gallitzin for the Pennsylvania Game Commission on 6/24, 7/4, and 7/25. This is in an area that is reclaimed strip mine that was planted in native grasses and forbs. This

was the second straight year for this bird survey conducted in this SGL. Around 4.5 miles were covered with nearly 9 hours of documented time dedicated primarily in the early morning between 6:30 and 10 a.m. There were 65 species reported, 17 more than the previous survey, with high counts of 13 **Henslow's Sparrows**, 23 **Grasshopper Sparrows**, 12 **Chipping Sparrows**, 45 **Field Sparrows**, 7 **Savannah Sparrows**, 22 **Indigo Buntings**, 10 **Cedar Waxwings**, 4 **Wild Turkeys**, 17 **Ovenbirds**, 24 **Common Yellowthroats**, 5 **Chestnut-sided Warblers**, 3 **Black-throated Green Warblers**, a **Hooded Warbler**, 5 **House Wrens**, 6 **Goldfinches**, 30 **Tree Swallows**, 9 **Yellow-billed Cuckoos**, 5 **Eastern Meadowlarks**, 1 **Ruffed Grouse**, and an impressive 22 **Eastern Bluebirds** (SB, JC, M&LJ).

An annual **Cerulean Warbler** walking survey along the Lower Trail was conducted (NB) adjacent to the Frankstown Branch of the Juniata R. in *Blair* and *Huntingdon*. Over 16.5 miles, 67 singing **Cerulean Warblers** were counted, compared to 72 in 2019, 54 in 2018, 61 in 2017, 65 in 2016, and 51 in 2015. The first survey, in 1998, was part of Cornell University's Cerulean Warbler atlas project and covered the northern 11 miles of the trail, when 36 Cerulean Warblers were documented. The highest concentrations of Cerulean Warblers along the Lower Trail are usually along the four miles of trail south of Mt. Etna, where the riparian forest is more extensive between Tussey Mt. and the smaller ridge west of the river. This table shows the 2020 early June counts of the common neotropical migrants found here:

Species Lower Trail	2020 Count
Eastern Wood-Pewee	37
Acadian Flycatcher	45
Yellow-throated Vireo	15
Warbling Vireo	51
Red-eyed Vireo	185
Wood Thrush	46
Orchard Oriole	14
Baltimore Oriole	37
Worm-eating Warbler	16
Louisiana Waterthrush	16
American Redstart	106
Northern Parula	8
Yellow-throated Warbler	6

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Bradford County – no compiler

Bucks County

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

Broad-winged Hawk nesting success was monitored by a Hawk Mountain Sanctuary graduate student and this author as part of a graduate thesis and a summer traineeship (GL, PH). Although the species is known to have bred in *Bucks*, very few, if any, nests have been reported over the years. This year, three nests were found at NSP and nearby SGL157. In addition to this, another observer reported nest-building earlier in the spring (PC), and the monitoring team was aware of at least six other probable territories. All three nests were successful, fledging 2, 2, and one chicks (GL, PH). It was tremendously rewarding to observe their growth, feedings, and all sorts of other behaviors. Many photos should be available on eBird (PH).

During the month of June, both temperature (+1.4°F) and precipitation (-0.08") were fairly close to typical levels. July was a scorcher (+3.9°F) but not wetter (-0.06") than usual. The total species count was 134, below the 5-year average of 140 and identical to last summer's total. According to the eBird database and other notes, breeding status for species was 52 possible, 45 probable, and 26 confirmed. As usual, all historical occurrence data come from Ken Kitson's 1998 *Birds of Bucks County*. It was a very quiet year for shorebirds, but some rarities provided bits of excitement. **Brown Booby**, **Swallow-tailed Kite**, **Mississippi Kite**, **Sandhill Crane**, **Common Gallinule**, **Bonaparte's Gull**, and **Dickcissel** were most noteworthy. Much thanks goes to Devich Farbotnik for his continued **American Kestrel** and **Purple Martin** monitoring. Gratitude for **Purple Martin** work also goes to Hart Rufe for hosting the large colony reported below. Thanks to August Mirabella for notes and additional information as usual.

Zero unusual geese were observed here in the summer season. In fact, the waterfowl scene as a whole was extremely quiet. The high report of **Mute Swans** was only 2, reached at four sites on various dates (RD, DG, AH, MT). Out of our less common summer ducks, 2 male **American Black Ducks** were reported at PWT 6/8 (AH). A **Bufflehead** was at PWT 6/29 (AH), this site often hosting summering ducks. Not one Hooded Merganser was reported, although sites like Quakertown Swamp often have poor summer coverage and breeders were confirmed earlier this spring.

Wild Turkey is not often grouped with the following species and, though reports were not rare, numbers were somewhat low with counts of 7 at NSP 6/1 (PH) and at Robin Run L. 7/24 (RS). Identical to last summer, **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** reported sites were 29 this year, with several at a time at a few sites (m.ob.). Like last year, **Black-billed Cuckoos** were few and far between, with just four sites reporting (m.ob.). **Common Gallinule** is certainly rare in summer. A pair stayed at PWT "well into June" (DF), with one of them photographed there 6/15 (KL). Breeding was possible but not confirmed. An interesting trend is developing with **Sandhill Crane** here in summer. Previously accidental during these months, one stayed for a while last summer, and there were two sightings in June. One flew over PVP 6/12 (AMi vr.), and one did the same at MKF 6/21 (RS). Given their reasonable proximity in location and date, this may have been the same bird.

Shorebird variety was very low, consisting of only eight species. Habitat was slow to develop in some locations, which is now becoming expected for July. By far the best shorebird was an **American Avocet** at a sewage pond in Buckingham Twp. 7/31 (RS ph.). A low high count of 29 **Least Sandpipers** were in Buckingham Twp. 7/31 as well (VP). **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was only represented by a spring lingerer at Pine Run Reservoir 6/4 (KR ph.) and 2 in Buckingham Twp. 7/31 (MGa, IB). **Solitary Sandpipers** trickled through, with a high of 6 at a New Britain Twp. catch-basin 7/31 (AMi). The high of 2 **Greater Yellowlegs** were at PWT 6/8 (AH), with only three other sites reporting singles (DF, KR, VP). **Lesser Yellowlegs** individuals totaled a shockingly low 2, including one at Bradford Dam 7/6 (KR) and at Core Creek Park 7/30 (MGa).

Bonaparte's Gulls had a very surprising June showing in the county. Only one previous record existed, but late migrants this year consisted of 3 at NSP and 5 at PVP 6/5 (IB), as well as one at PWT 6/8 (AH). The high count of **Laughing Gulls** on the Delaware R. was 38 at PWT 6/8 (AH), while an inland immature was well described at PVP 6/10 (AMi). **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** are becoming sporadic summer residents in *Bucks*. One to 3 were at NSP through much of June (BE, PH, AMi), and one was at PWT 6/8 (AH). **Caspian Tern** was the only tern noted, including the first known June record at PVP 6/9 (AMi) and 2 over PWT 7/10 (MGa ph.).

A **Brown Booby** was well-photographed at close range from a boat at PWT 6/13 (ST ph., doc. submitted). This is just the second *Bucks* record, although state records seem to be on the rise along the Delaware R. in recent years. **Great Blue Heron** rookeries were doing quite well this year, with 7 colonies containing a total of 170 nests as per PGC estimates (JM). **Great Egrets** were reported from a modest eight sites, with a possible late spring migrant at Giving Pond 6/3 (GL, KM) and a high of 8 at Core Creek Park 7/12 (MGa ph.). An immature **Little Blue Heron** at

Bradford Dam 7/6 (KR ph.) was a harbinger of a good summer for the species, although other reports began at the end of the month. These included 2 at PVP 7/30 (LH ph.), one at Morrisville Levee 7/30 (TM), and one at Churchville Park 7/31 (BK, KK ph.). Two adult **Black-crowned Night-Herons** at Silver Lake Park 7/21 was a typical number for the species at this location (DD ph.).

Osprey nests appeared to be holding steady at nine, while the tally of 11 active **Bald Eagle** nests (including one not monitored by PGC) is an increase from last year's seven (JM, NG). Our fifth known **Swallow-tailed Kite** appeared in Wrightstown Twp. 7/31, thankfully staying well into the next reporting period for many to enjoy (JD, m.ob.). It is rare to have both species of kites to report in the same period, but a **Mississippi Kite** was described as it flew over a Southampton yard on 6/10 (CM), quite a good yard addition.

Barred Owls were reported from a few normal summer locations (PC, BF, JBH). Two owls were photographed at Delaware Canal SP 7/3, at least one of which may have been a juv., judging by the observer's comments and distant photo (WK ph.). A small drop-off from last summer, five locations hosted **Red-headed Woodpeckers**, and two of those five were known and active nests (m.ob.).

American Kestrel Project

YEAR	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
BOXES	88	85	77	76	71	71	70	73
NESTS w/EGGS	67	62	62	60	52	44	45	34
NESTS FAILED	9	13	10	8	3	6	8	7
NESTS FLEDGED	58	49	52	52	49	38	37	27
EGGS LAID	316	283	291	274	248	211	208	135
FLEDGED	253	~213	208	208	203	164	169	94

The results (see Table) from the 2020 annual **American Kestrel** nestbox monitoring were record-breaking for the second year in a row (DF). Especially encouraging were the total of 253 fledged young, 40 more than last year's record. All of these fledglings were banded, hopefully resulting in some future recoveries. No official reports were received on **Peregrine Falcon** nesting success. This was due to banding operations cancelled during the coronavirus pandemic (AM). However, two juvs. were photographed at the Kintnersville site on 6/22 (AH ph.).

Alder Flycatcher made a surprise appearance during this period. The previous known spring late date here was 5/30, but one was at NSP 6/2 (PH vr.) and Giving Pond 6/4 (JBH ph.). **Common Raven** continued as a now-established breeder in the upper two-thirds of the county, with plenty of reports and a few family groups reported (m.ob.). The eBird sightings map for both **Carolina Chickadee** and **Tufted Titmouse** was filled out more this summer than last, although the visual difference wasn't striking. It was the opinion of this writer that both species were more visible, vocal, and with more family groups than previously (PH). After a confirmed brood of **Horned Larks** fledged this spring at MKF, none were reported during the summer season.

Bank Swallow nests at PWT some years and, while no breeding was confirmed, 6 birds were present in early July (AH ph.). Two were reported near small stream bank cavities in a Doylestown Twp. park 6/7, possibly fledged juveniles (BB). **Cliff Swallows** may have declined at PVP, where the summer high count was only 15 on 6/28 and 7/6 (DL ph., IB). Four locations on the Delaware R. had birds as usual, in addition to single digit counts at Core Creek Park and a pair at NSP (m.ob.).

The **Purple Martin** breeding report follows (DF, HR):

Purple Martin Colony-E. Rockhill

YEAR	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
GOURDS	143	144	144	132	134	124	124	91
NESTS*	102	137	141	126	119	121	119	90
NESTS w/EGGS	64	48	78	73	96	92	74	77
EGGS LAID**	252	209	291	273	459	388	251	279
EGGS HATCHED	129	140	180	112	364	226	N/A	N/A
FLEDGED	121	128	167	108	346	211	165	225
FAILED NESTS	29	12	25	37	9	25	18	0

Purple Martin Colony-Penn-Warner Tract

YEAR	2020	2019	2018	2017
COMPARTMENTS	60	60	60	60
NESTS*	34	24	56	38
NESTS w/EGGS	22	14	27	29
EGGS LAID**	53	71	96	90
EGGS HATCHED	44	?	47	41
FLEDGED	44	51	34	32
FAILED NESTS	9	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.

This was, unfortunately, the second-worst year for overall martin nesting success in the project's history. At the East Rockhill Twp. colony, it was noted that there were more dead martins than ever in the boxes. The owner stated he thought the cause of death might have been starvation due to another cool and wet spring. A **Cooper's Hawk** was a near-daily presence at the colony, but only two dead chicks were found in gourds, making this possibly a more minor threat than the weather (DF, HR).

Numbers of sites reporting our uncommon grassland breeders are as follows: 5 **Grasshopper Sparrows** (higher than normal), 2 **Savannah Sparrows**, 5 **Bobolinks** (with 2 additional likely early/late migrant reports), and 5 **Eastern Meadowlarks**. This is a slight overall decrease from last year, though observer coverage may have been lighter given the pandemic (m.ob.). **White-throated Sparrow** has lingered into the summer in some years; a bright individual was photographed at close range in Neshaminy SP 6/28 (KL ph.). The breeding status of **Swamp Sparrow** in *Bucks* is not well known. Quakertown Swamp has been the best location for this wetland sparrow, which may breed incognito in most years. After a seven-year summer reporting drought, one was singing there on 7/24 (AH).

Thirteen warbler species were reported this summer, one fewer than in the past two years. **Prothonotary Warbler** reports were down a bit, with a male at PVP only on 6/3 (AMi vr.) and one or two males at Tyler SP until 6/11 (MG, anonymous eBirder). The high count for **Blue Grosbeaks** at MKF was 4 on 7/19, indicating probable breeding (RS). One or two were also in Hilltown Twp. (DF). Although **Dickcissel** has bred at PWT at some point, a bird there 7/20 could easily be a fall migrant (JH).

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Mortensen, Vinobha Pannerselvam, Hart Rufe, Richard Smith, Steven Throne, Marguerite Turley.

Butler County

Following two successive very wet summers, the summer season was largely uneventful except that dry conditions in July foretold a drought that would affect songbirds later in the summer by suppressing insect availability. Cold weather in May affected breeding in June. For the first time since 1997, the **Bobolink** and **Eastern Meadowlark** failed to nest in several northern parts of *Butler*. The May 9th extreme winter-like weather conditions were certainly responsible (GW). The surprise of the season was an immature **Black-crowned Night-Heron** appearing at L. Arthur 7/12 (FaceBook, *fide* MV, GK). This wandering bird was probably the seventh *Butler* record with four of the seven records occurring in June.

The only report of **Mute Swan** was of one at Zelenople 6/3 (MV). Four species of duck known to nest in *Butler* were reported with **Wood Duck** and **Mallard** seen with young in widely scattered locations. Both successful nesters in *Butler*, **Hooded Merganser** and **Common Merganser** were noted in both June and July but not confirmed as successfully breeding this season, although confirmation will probably occur in August. **American Black Duck** was noted three times in July, all at L. Oneida (KB). A Mallard/Black Duck hybrid was reported at L. Oneida 7/12 (KB). A female **Ruddy Duck** lingered at Moraine SP until at least 6/30 (GW, KW). Was it perhaps a wounded or injured duck that could not migrate?

Among gallinaceous birds, the **Wild Turkey** population continues to thrive but only one **Ruffed Grouse** was reported, seen at SGL 95, Parker 6/17 (BB). A very late **Horned Grebe** was found at the Moraine SP Propagation Area 6/30 (GW, JW, KW). Illustrating how cuckoo numbers fluctuate, following very few reports in summer seasons of 2017 and 2018 and no reports in summer 2019, **Black-billed Cuckoo** was reported in nine locations this season (m.ob.). As usual, reports of **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** outnumbered Black-billed Cuckoo reports two to one. **Virginia Rail**, **Sora**, **Common Gallinule**, and **American Coot** returned to SGL 95 for breeding in early June (GW).

Shorebird migration kicked in early as **Solitary Sandpiper** and **Least Sandpiper** were seen regularly from the beginning of July through the end of the month. Overall only seven species were seen: **Killdeer**, **Greater Yellowlegs**, **Spotted Sandpiper**, **Solitary Sandpiper**, **Least Sandpiper**, **Wilson's Snipe**, and **American Woodcock**. Seen in the summer season in *Butler* in only five of the last ten years, Least Sandpiper reports have increased in the last few years with three reports in 2018, none in 2019 and at least seven reports this summer (DB, KB, LC). The increased sightings might be part of normal variations but may be due to increased coverage by birders at L. Oneida and Thorn Res., two great birding hot spots which were under-birded for years. Unusual high counts of **Solitary Sandpiper** included 13 at Glade Run L. 7/24 (DB) and 12 at Thorn Res. 7/31 (KB).

Ring-billed Gull was reported from L. Arthur in single digit numbers until mid-July, when counts increased to 65 seen at the Moraine SP Boat Rental 7/25 (MC). Only three reports came in for **Herring Gull**. Usually visiting in August, **Caspian Tern**, seen in breeding season only in 2011 through 2014, returned to L. Arthur last summer season, and 2 were seen there 7/1-2 (MC). Often remaining into May at L. Arthur, but highly unusual in June, one **Common Loon** was at L. Oneida 6/2-9 (KB). Seven **Osprey** and 5 **Bald Eagle** active nests within a 15-mile radius of Slippery Rock Borough is a record this year with the eagles learning to nest in proximity to ospreys, paying off with more "free fishes" (GW).

Not previously known to frequent this location, 2 **Sandhill Cranes** foraged at Waterfowl Observation Area 7/19-27 (m.ob.). Two were seen near Prospect 7/25 (MC). Sandhill Crane continues to expand breeding sites in *Butler* to two in SGL 95 and two in proximity to McConnell's Mill SP (GW).

In addition to successful nesting the last few years at Claytonia Road (BB) a different **Red-headed Woodpecker** pair was photographed with 3 juveniles at Clay Twp. 7/26. One of the young had a deformed bill. **Common Raven** was seen across the northern tier of *Butler* through the

season with an encouraging high count of 5 at North Country Trail 6/18 (KB, GK, MAK).

Grassland sparrows taking advantage of reclaimed strip mine areas seem to be on the increase with **Vesper Sparrow**, **Savannah Sparrow**, **Grasshopper Sparrow**, and **Henslow's Sparrow** seen at Barkeyville Grasslands and areas near western Moraine SP and McConnell's Mill SP (m.ob.). Not confirmed as breeding in *Butler* during the second Breeding Bird Atlas, and described as expanding their range regionally, **Dark-eyed Junco** was seen with young at SGL 95 Parker 6/17 (BB). Not-often-seen **Yellow-breasted Chat** attracted attention with multiple reports coming from SGL 95, practically the only location in *Butler* where they have been seen in the last five years (m.ob.).

Eighteen species of warbler were reported with 16 being known breeders in *Butler*. Detected once and not known to nest in *Butler* was **Worm-eating Warbler**, seen at Wolf Creek Narrows 6/5 (LC). Not confirmed as a breeder in either Breeding Bird Atlas and listed as "probable" in only one *Butler* location in the second BBA, **Black-throated Blue Warbler** prefers large areas of contiguous forest with dense understory, rare in this area due to deer, farms and development. A late Black-throated Blue Warbler was noted at SGL 95 Parker 6/17 (BB), one of the few areas that might have favorable habitat. Known breeders in nearby *Venango* and *Clarion*, perhaps these beautiful birds will be discovered nesting as more forest areas mature, particularly in the far northeastern corner of *Butler*. The most frequently reported warbler species (in descending order) were **Common Yellowthroat**, **Yellow Warbler**, **Hooded Warbler**, **Ovenbird** and **Chestnut-sided Warbler**. The least often reported warblers included **Northern Waterthrush**, **Cerulean Warbler**, **Blackburnian Warbler** and **Prairie Warbler**.

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Cambria County

Locations: Patton (PA), Prince Gallitzin State Park (PG), St Joseph Church, Johnstown (STJ), South Fork (SF), Vintondale (VT).

The breeding season was affected by colder weather at the start and by hot dry conditions toward the end. Many early nesters lost broods or had lower than normal success rates. There seemed to be less second nesting this year. A lone **Trumpeter Swan** spent most of the period at PG. Three late **Ring-necked Ducks** were still at PG 6/20 (TD). **Hooded Mergansers** produced a brood of 7 young in a wetland adjacent to PG. This has become a regular breeding spot for this species. A **Ruddy Duck** was seen at PG 6/5 (TD).

For the first time in many years birding, this observer saw no **Ruffed Grouse** or **Wild Turkey** broods during the period. There was one report on eBird of a turkey with young. **Spotted Sandpipers** were seen at different locations; no breeding was observed. A pair of **Red-shouldered Hawks** fledged 2 young at PA (DG). The nest boxes at PG produced 9 young **American Kestrels**.

Eastern Wood-Pewees seemed more common this year. A single **White-eyed Vireo** was at PG 7/18 (TD). Rare in our area during the breeding season was a **Yellow-throated Vireo** at SF 6/10 (SB). A **Fish Crow** at PG 6/24 (DGr, GG) was our only report. After a rough start due to bad weather, the **Purple Martin** colony at PG fledged 48 young.

A group of 10 adult and young **Savannah Sparrows** at STJ 6/10 (DG) included a leucistic bird. Two groups of mixed adult and young **Orchard Orioles** were at STJ 7/24 (DG). A **Kentucky Warbler** at VT 6/13 (MH) was one of a very few sightings we have on record of this bird during the breeding period. A single **Cerulean Warbler** was at PG 6/24 (DGr, GG).

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Cameron County

Locations: Sinnemahoning State Park (SSP).

A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was found at Lower Ridge Road 6/16 (DB), and a **Black-billed Cuckoo** was at Hick's Run 7/11 (ABu). At Quehanna Wild Area, 2 **Ospreys** were seen 6/20 (SY), a **Red-shouldered Hawk** was there 6/9 (BH), and 2 **Barred Owls** were seen 7/30 (RL).

Two **Alder Flycatchers** were at SSP 7/26 (AB). Two hundred **Cliff Swallows** were found at Driftwood 7/18 (AB). Two **Winter Wrens** were at Lower Ridge Road 6/16 (DB). A **Purple Finch** was found at Bryan Hill 7/12 (NK). A **Worm-eating Warbler** was seen at Wykoff Run 7/18 (AB). Two **Hooded Warblers** were at Sizerville SP 6/8 (P&RW). A **Cerulean Warbler** was at Brooks Run 6/13 (MJ). A **Pine Warbler** was found at SSP 7/26 (AB). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was seen at SSP 7/19 and a second at Wykoff Run 7/25 (AB). Two **Canada Warblers** were at Sterling Run 7/25 (MJ).

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Carbon County

Locations: Beltzville State Park (BSP), Hell Hollow Road (HHR), Lehigh Gap Nature Center (LGNC), Mauch Chunk Lake (MCL).

The summer yielded an intriguing mix of lingerers and uncommon potential breeders. A **Bufflehead** appeared at Phifer Ice Dam near Lehighon 6/3 (RR, BRh), while a **Red-breasted Merganser** continued at BSP through 6/4 (RR, BRh). **Pied-billed Grebe** was reported from Hickory Run near its confluence with the Lehigh R. 6/13 (BW). SGL 40 east of White Haven produced 3 **Virginia Rails** and an **American Woodcock** 6/30 (AM); neither species is unexpected there, but both are nice mid-summer finds. The Eastern Pennsylvania bird-line included a **Common Gallinule** from MCL 7/20 but the report, gleaned from eBird (DD, personal comment), does not appear to have been accepted, since there are no records from *Carbon* in the publicly accessible database.

An early **Olive-sided Flycatcher** photographed in a prescribed burn area along HHR 7/21 (BR) was relocated 7/22 (RR). **Alder Flycatcher**, perhaps not present every summer south of the Pocono Plateau, was singing at a model airplane field on Penn Forest Rd. in BSP 6/19 (JH). Five **Grasshopper Sparrows** constituted a respectable count on Stagecoach Rd. in the southeastern corner of the county 7/12 (CH, DH). A **Yellow-breasted Chat**, indeed chatty, returned for its second summer to an area of gray birch and mountain ash trees adjacent to a deer enclosure atop Blue Mt., west of Little Gap. First reported 6/17 (AM), it remained until at least 7/3 (JM).

HHR hosted the spring's final **Blackpoll Warbler** 6/4 (RR, BRh). **Blue Grosbeak**, missing last year, was heard calling on the *Carbon* side of LGNC 7/17 (CH). Canada-zone nesters included **Golden-crowned Kinglet**, **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, **Brown Creeper**, **Purple Finch**, **Dark-eyed Junco**, **Northern Waterthrush**, **Nashville Warbler**, **Yellow-rumped Warbler**, and **Canada Warbler**.

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Centre County

Locations: Bald Eagle State Park (BESP), Black Moshannon State Park (BMSP), Colyer Lake (COL), Muddy Paws Marsh (MPM), Scotia Barrens and Pond (SCO).

The Governor Tom Ridge Wetland Preserve has been renamed the Soaring Eagle Wetland (NK). The following rare species were reported in

five or more locations and will not be discussed further: **Common Merganser**, **Osprey**, **Peregrine Falcon**, and **Bank Swallow**. Information for this report was obtained primarily from eBird and the State College Bird Club listserv with background and status from *Birds of Central Pennsylvania* by Nick Bolgiano and Greg Grove, 2010 (*B&G*, 2010).

A molting male **Blue-winged Teal** was observed 7/8-13 at the Duck (Centre Furnace) Pond (CE, JG). Although there have been at least five other summer reports, including confirmed breeding observations, this is the first for July (eBird, *B&G*, 2010).

Up to 4 **Gadwalls** were noted 6/3-5 at BESP (CE, et al.). On 7/21, an **American Black Duck** was observed flying along the stream at the Sober Bridge near Millheim (JG). A female **Surf Scoter** was spotted 6/3 at BESP (CE, et al.). A possible pair of **Buffleheads** was observed 6/3-7/6 at various locations in BESP. Both were observed 6/3. Later, the male continued around the dam (BS, CE), while the female was spotted at Bullit Run (MN, PN). Two **Hooded Mergansers** were noted 6/1 at BMSP (MN, LC), and one 6/3 at BESP (KE). Another was present 6/17 at Talleyrand Park (EK). A female **Red-breasted Merganser** was seen in the company of a pair of **Common Mergansers** at BESP 6/5 (EZ).

Breeding **Pied-billed Grebes**, including at least 3 chicks, were noted at SCO 6/26-7/25 (RH, et al.). Single birds were spotted at Toftrees 7/2 (DRy) and 7/17-18 at BESP (JP, KD, JDi). Two **Virginia Rails** were feeding in the mud at SCO 7/19 (KO). A **Common Gallinule** was paddling around the SCO pond 7/1-20 (DRy, AM, CS). Several rare plovers and sandpipers were late spring or early fall migrants. Two species were found on Tadpole Rd., where a **Semipalmated Plover** was identified 6/2-4 (CE, et al.), and a **Pectoral Sandpiper** was noted 6/3-4 (BK, et al.). A **Wilson's Snipe** was located at MPM 7/10 (JG).

Lucky birders spotted a late migrating **Wilson's Phalarope** along Tadpole Rd.-Fairbrook Wetlands 6/1-3 (JV, et al.). This was the sixth county record for the species and the first during the breeding season. Prior spring records from 1997 and 2010 exist for this casually occurring species, while fall migrants were observed in 1992, 1997, and 2000 (eBird, *B&G* 2010).

Solitary Sandpipers were also present, with up to 3 reported at SCO 7/13-30 (RH, et al.). Two were observed at BESP 7/22-25 (BS), and one was at MPM 7/29 (JG). One **Lesser Yellowlegs** was noted at BESP 7/20 (BS).

Up to 2 immature **Bonaparte's Gulls** were noted at BESP 6/1-16 (EZ, et al.) and 7/29 (D&KP). **Laughing Gulls** are casually occurring visitors, with most observations occurring during migration; however, one was present at BESP 6/16-30 (EZ, et al.). The only other summer report was in June 1986 (eBird, *B&G*, 2010). A Laughing Gull was also reported in Howard 6/17 (RF, JD); however, this is probably the same bird that was reported at BESP. Birders at BESP also reported one or 2 **Caspian Terns** 6/3-13 (KE, et al.) and one **Common Tern** 6/9-18 (EZ, CE).

A late migrating **Common Loon** in breeding plumage was observed at BESP 6/1 (MN, LC), and may be the same one that lingered there 6/5-22 (EZ, CE). An immature bird was present at COL 7/5-8 (DR, JG, AM). Up to 5 **Double-crested Cormorants** summered at BESP 6/1-7/24 (EZ, et al.). Single birds were spotted at COL 6/16 (TG) and 7/29 (AM).

A **Least Bittern**, spotted 6/16 at COL (TG), was the twelfth observation of this species. The sighting was unique in that it was the first summer report. Prior spring records exist from 1990, 2007, 2010, 2016, 2019, and 2020, while fall observations occurred in 1971, 1977, 2018, and 2019. This is the second time that two observations were made in the same year. In 2019, a spring migrant was reported at SCO, and a fall migrant was observed in Bellefonte. The 2020 spring sighting was noted at MPM (eBird, *B&G*, 2010).

A **Northern Harrier** was reported "flying low over the field" at the Penn State research facility near Ramblewood 6/3 (JK). Single birds were also observed at the Mid-State Airport 6/19 (DF) and at BMSP 7/25 (JG).

Eight **Barn Owls** - "at least 5 young from this year and 3 adults" - were seen at a continuing location near Milheim 6/13-7/8 (CE, et al.).

Two **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were spotted in Moshannon SF 6/28 (KO) and a single was at BMSF 7/13 (RS). A rare **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was spotted on Decker Valley Rd. 6/2 (DR). In SGL 33, a **White-throated Sparrow** was observed 6/30. It appeared to have a wing injury which hindered flying; however, the bird "otherwise appeared quite healthy and alert" (EZ). One or 2 **Henslow Sparrows** were present at SGL 100-German Settlement Grasslands 6/7-7/14 (JP, et al.).

A singing **Bay-breasted Warbler** was heard in the Moshannon SF 6/7 (JC, LC) and 2 **Blackpoll Warblers** were observed: one on Steele Hollow Rd. 6/1 (LC, MN) and another at Sunset Park 6/5 (JG). A **Blue Grosbeak** described as a "lone male feeding along wood line" was near Moshannon 6/15 (DK). This is the fourth breeding-season report and the eleventh report in any month for this species. Previous breeding-season reports were from Yost Ridge and Pancake in June 2009 and the Rusnak Hill Stripmine in June-July 2009 (eBird, B&G, 2010).

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Clarion County

Locations: Cook Forest State Park (CF), Kahle Lake (KL), Lucinda (LU), Mount Airy (MA), Mount Zion Road - State Game Land 330/Piney Tract (MZ), Redbank Valley Trail (RVT), Rimersburg (RI).

Two waterfowl reports are of note, the first a **Tundra Swan** present at KL 6/10-15 (ES, CW). A **Hooded Merganser**, an unusual breeding species still, was on a pond at SGL 72 6/22 (DD, CW). There were just two reports of **Common Nighthawk**: the first was one heard near Curlsville 6/2 (CW), and one also seen near LU 6/15 (ES). Another nightjar that is usually low in numbers reported, **Eastern Whip-poor-will**, was only noted once, a bird calling on the RVT near RI 7/19 (KK).

The most notable report for the season was that of a **Virginia Rail** at SGL 72 near Shipperville, first found 6/19 (MW). An adult bird was seen possibly with a fledgling. An adult was also found with a downy black young bird walking next to it in the same location 6/20 (DD, CW). The fledgling was seen again 6/22 (CW) and 6/24 (MH, RM), but no adult was found on either date. The area was checked for activity 7/1, and no adult or young was found (CW). This game-lands area has scattered small ponds next to a mix of wooded and scrubby fields, and this particular pond currently has excellent habitat that may last for several more years. It is possible that the area may hold more species that are missed by lack of attention from birders.

Upland Sandpiper must always be noted, as it remains a rare breeder for Pennsylvania. Two birds, one calling, were found at their traditional nesting area of MA 6/18 (CW) and a single bird 6/19 (ES). Another shorebird with scattered reporting over the years, **Spotted Sandpiper**, was found in two areas this year. One was found at KL 6/1 (ES), and another bird late in season at New Bethlehem along Redbank Creek 7/26 (J&AK). A single **Bonaparte's Gull** was likely a late spring migrant at KL, along with an adult **Common Loon** at the same location 6/1 (ES). A **Double-crested Cormorant** was also found at KL 6/1-15 (ES, CW). Another cormorant was also reported on the Allegheny R. near Parker 6/3 (ES).

Northern Harriers showed some decrease in numbers surprisingly, although this may be a function of less birder effort. At the Curlsville strips one was reported 6/4 and 6/14 (KA, AL, EN, KN). One was also reported at a new location further north near LU 6/22 (ES). At MZ where there has been breeding evidence for the last several years, one was seen 6/5 (MS), 6/12-13 (JH, NH), and then a pair reported 6/14 (KA, T&JK, AL,

MM, AS). At one of their known nesting areas, **Bald Eagles** continued to be seen into summer with 2 adults and 2 young still present at the site 6/3 (MiH). A juvenile was seen there also 6/12 (JH) and 2 remained 6/29 (ES).

A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was again seen at SGL 24 near Tylersburg 6/4 (ES). There has been good open forest habitat at this location, and they were seen there previously in the past two years. Another uncommon species that continued into safe date range this year is **Alder Flycatcher**. One was found singing in good habitat near LU 6/22 (ES). Four were found singing at Beaver Creek Nature Area 6/10 in migration time frame, and 2 were still present and singing 6/24 (ES). There has been suitable habitat at this location for potential breeding. There was increased reporting this year for **White-eyed Vireos** with 2 at MZ 6/28-7/20 (CB, BC, ES, TSu). They were also found singing at two locations on MA 6/18-19 (CW) and one still there 7/2 (DK). The other less common vireo is **Yellow-throated Vireo**, with just singles heard on the RVT near Redbank 6/12 (MH, RH, FM), on 6/15 (ES) and 6/20 (CW). The last vireo of note was a **Warbling Vireo** heard singing at MA 6/18-19 (ES, CW).

Purple Martins are not always regularly reported so it has been encouraging to hear of another active colony near Fryburg, where 25 were counted 6/4 (ES). Up to 4 were at KL 6/10 and 6/24, and one also at KL that same date (ES). **Bank Swallow** is the least reported swallow - a single bird was found along the Allegheny near Foxburg 6/3 (ES).

The next three species are reported for their relative scarcity in the county at large, though they are more regular in their traditional breeding areas of old growth pine and hemlock at CF where they are reported in small numbers annually. The first species is **Golden-crowned Kinglet**, with up to 5 singing birds found in four separate areas of CF 6/22-7/6 (BM, JP, RT). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were also found in four areas 6/6-7/13 (m.ob.). The last of this northern trio is **Brown Creeper** with 2 found singing on Tom's Run Rd 6/9 (ES), and then singles reported from two locations 6/22 (RT) and 7/5 (JP). Significant numbers of **Purple Finches** continued their presence at a regular breeding site in RI, where they are year-round, and this season reported 6/8-7/17 where there was a high count of 12 birds including juveniles.

Both **Grasshopper Sparrows** and **Henslow's Sparrows** continued in their traditional nesting locations primarily in the southern strip mine areas, with numbers that appeared mostly unchanged this year. Worth mentioning by its absence is **Vesper Sparrow**, which has only been reported once a season or so, but this year no sightings were noted.

Clay-colored Sparrow was reported in only one location at MZ, with one bird 6/6 and 7/19 (MT). This species has had a steep decline in the last five years and, while possibly still present in areas that have not been checked by birders, it should no longer be considered a regular breeder as in past years. While there are likely multiple causes, one of the more obvious conclusions would be the aging and overgrowth of reclaimed strip-mine fields where they once were found.

Worm-eating Warblers continued to be regularly reported along the south-facing riparian woods along the Allegheny R. and Redbank Cr. On the Armstrong Trail at Sarah Furnace, one was seen 6/4 (EN, KN). Up to 5 singing males were found along the RVT between Redbank and Lawsonham 6/3-20 (MH, RH, FM, ES, CW). A new area was reported for this species, along the Allegheny R. near West Monterey, where 2 birds were found 6/3 (ES). Also found along the RVT near Redbank were 2 **Kentucky Warblers** 6/14-15 (KA, AL, ES). The only other location for this species was near RI where a singing male was found 6/5-7 (ES, CW) and still present 6/29 (CB, ES). The third warbler species found along the same RVT area is **Cerulean Warbler**. This year they were present with up to 6 singing males found between 6/5-20 (KA, AL, ES, CW). Birds are usually found singing in sycamore, elm, and oak trees. **Pine Warblers** were not reported as frequently this year, with one at CF 6/22 (RT) and one at MZ 6/14 (KA, AL). Only one area reported **Yellow-throated Warbler**, a singing male at Lawsonham on the RVT 6/7-7/26 (CB, ES, CW).

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Clearfield County

Personal communication was supplemented by information from the PABirds listserv and eBird for this report. A **Common Gallinule** was seen in a Philipsburg area swamp 7/17 (JF). Two **Upland Sandpipers** were seen on Sandy Ridge Road 6/16 (MD). A **Great Egret** was photographed at Curwensville Lake 7/23 (BM). Two **Black Vultures**, rare in the high plateau region, were observed near Shawville 6/1 (DR, LW). **Osprey** continue to nest in *Clearfield* with one nestling and two adults seen at the Shaggers Inn Shallow Water Impoundment 7/3 (JF). **Northern Mockingbirds** continue to be more common with one seen near Bilger's Rocks 7/16 (BM) and one seen at the Rt. 153 and I-80 interchange 7/20 (CM). Two **Dickcissels** were seen near Karthaus 6/4-13 (m.ob.)

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Clinton County

Locations: Mackeyville (MV), Mill Hall (MH), South Avis (SA).

A late arrival or a straggler, a lone male **Bufflehead** was found at a boat launch in MH 7/3 (DK). All three falcon species were confirmed as having nested in the county this period. **Peregrine Falcons** nested near Avis and produced one young (WL). **American Kestrels** nested in MV and Swissdale (C&CH, WL). Suspected nesters since at least 2018, **Merlins** were confirmed as nesting in MH (ELM).

Very rare for Clinton and apparently only the second county record, a **Cattle Egret** was reported near Rote 7/17 (P&SA). It was a classic one-day wonder as it was not found after that.

Possibly the same individual from late May, a **White-rumped Sandpiper** was observed at SA 6/1-2 (m.ob.). A lingering **Red-necked Phalarope** at SA also from late May was reported 6/1-2 (m.ob.). **Red-headed Woodpeckers** had been observed near MV during the period. One nest site was confirmed with a possible second site nearby (C&CH). A road-killed Red-head was seen between MH and Beech Cr. 6/15 (WL).

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Columbia County

Locations: Catawissa (CATA), Millville (MVIL), Weiser State Forest (WSF).

Summer is always a slow season and, in a lightly birded county like Columbia, reports were few and far between. Weather this season featured average rainfall and above-average temperatures.

The only report of **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was a pair of birds calling at the top of the mountain in WSF 6/13 (AK). This is the first report of this species at this location. A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was reported at

SGL 55 north of Berwick 6/15 (EH). This is a notable sighting because the species is seldom reported in the county within the summer and may indicate a potential breeding location.

Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers are uncommon summer birds in the county. Most are reported in the Benton area. This season, a single probable breeding bird was located at SGL 55 6/15 (EH) and 6/19 (EHa). This observation is one of the southernmost summer records in eastern Pennsylvania. **Red-headed Woodpecker** populations have been exploding in the area over the past several years. This season a single adult was reported in MVIL 6/9 (AK), and a pair were seen near CATA 6/13 (HF). Both areas are new locations for this species. The only reports of **Cerulean Warbler** were from SGL 55 6/15 (EH) and 6/19 (EHa). This appears to be the only active breeding location for this species within the county.

Observers: **Andy Keister**, 110 Hawk Ridge Road, Bloomsburg, 17815, (570) 337-3802, akeister110@gmail.com, Hans Fisher, Eric Hartshaw (EHa), Evan Houston (EH).

Crawford County

Locations: Conneaut Marsh (CM), Conneaut Marsh - McMichael Rd (MMR), Pymatuning State Park (PSP), Pymatuning State Park - Miller's Ponds (MP).

A good count of 1157 **Canada Geese** was observed in the Pymatuning area 7/24 (RL). A single late **Blue-winged Teal** was observed at MP 6/7 (GK, MAK) and 6/8 (JN). A good count of 8 **American Black Ducks**, a notable bird during the summer season, was observed at MMR 6/9 (CA, KA, NA). A single late **Lesser Scaup** was seen in the PSP-Spillway area 6/6 (MV), and up to 2 were seen in the same area 6/13 (RL, PW) and 6/18 (RL). Observations of 3 **Ruddy Ducks** at PSP-Spillway 6/6 (MV) and one at the same location 6/26 (RL) are notable.

Observation of **Ruffed Grouse** included a singles in the Cochran area 6/18 (RL), at CM-Custards 7/14 (RL), at Tamarack L. 7/18 (RL). **Pied-billed Grebe** was observed in expected numbers and locations (m.ob.). **Black-billed Cuckoos** were seen in their expected locations (m.ob.). Up to 2 **Common Nighthawks** were observed over Meadville 6/9 (IF), and one in the same area 7/3 (RHo, KP), 7/4 and 7/8 (KP), and 7/25 (TN).

Virginia Rail, **Sora**, and **Common Gallinule** were reported as usual (m.ob.) with a high count of 9 adult and juvenile Common Gallinules seen at MMR 7/8 (JH). **Sandhill Crane** observations this season were as expected (m.ob.).

Observations of **Upland Sandpiper** occurred in the Pymatuning area (m.ob.). A high count of 4 were at PSP-Wilson Rd area 6/16 (CA, KA, NA). **Least Sandpiper** included an early bird at MP 7/5 (MH) and 3 there 7/6 (TN). **Wilson's Snipe** included one at MMR 6/7 (GK, MAK). Early **Solitary Sandpipers** included one at CM-Geneva 7/8 (JH) and 2 at MP 7/12 (RHo, TN, KP). Up to 10 **Greater Yellowlegs** at PSP- MP 7/12 (MH, RHo, TN, KP) were seen at a somewhat early date. A **Laughing Gull** was at PSP-Esperville Marina 6/6 (MV), 6/10 (IF) and 6/13 (RL). A **Caspian Tern** at PSP-Spillway 7/6 (MF, KP, JV) was slightly early. Two **Black Terns** in the Pymatuning Goose Management Area 7/14 (RL) were especially notable.

An **American Bittern** was at Tamarack L. 6/18 (RL). **Least Bittern** is increasingly seen during the summer season. Sightings this year included one at MMR 6/18 (MH, RH) and 6/19 (JN), one in the Conneaut L. area 6/20 (JN), one in the Pymatuning area 6/26 (RL), and one at CM-Custards 7/13 (RN). **Great Egret** reports were one at PSP- MP 7/20 (TN) and 2 in the Pymatuning area 7/31 (GS). A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was notable in the Pymatuning area 7/1 and 7/18 (RL).

A high count of 8 **Ospreys** was observed at Woodcock L. Causeway 6/3 (BW). Observations of **Northern Harrier** included one at Lincoln Avenue Park along French Cr. in the Meadville area 6/9 (BW). **Sharp-shinned Hawk** reports included one at PSP- MP 6/28 (CG) and one in the same area 7/24 (RL). **Broad-winged Hawk** was seen in expected numbers and locations (m.ob.)

The most notable discovery of the season was of **Barn Owl**, a

nesting pair along with 4 juveniles, in northwestern *Crawford* 7/22. This was when one of the owlets fell out of the nest and was taken to Tamarack Wildlife Rehabilitation Center. According to the PGC, it is the first confirmed nesting pair of Barn Owl in the county since 1989. **Red-headed Woodpecker** had a notable count of 4 adults and 2 juveniles at PSP-Jamestown Campground 7/14 (BS). **American Kestrel** was as expected (m.ob.). The only **Merlin** was at Tamarack L. 7/18 (RL).

White-eyed Vireo included singles at Erie NWR-Trolley Line Trail 6/5 (TN), in the Pymatuning area 6/25 (RL), and at CM- Shafer Rd 7/13 (RN). Two **Common Ravens** were reported at a private location in the Townville area 7/27 (AL). **Bank Swallow** reports included 2 at MMR 6/6 (AM), one at PSP- MP 7/8 (JH), one at CM-Geneva 7/8 (JH), 4 birds at the same location 7/11 (JGy, CK, NK), and 2 at MP 7/21 (CG).

Notable **Winter Wren** reports included one at Complanter SF-Strawbridge Rd 6/1 (TN) and one at SGL 69 (TN). A **Sedge Wren** was heard singing in the PSP-Wilson Rd area 6/4 (TN, MW). **Marsh Wren**, a breeding bird in *Crawford* marshes, were as expected (m.ob.) with a high of 12 at CM-Geneva 7/11 (CK, NK). Observations of **Hermit Thrush** included one at SGL 69 on 6/8 (TN) and 7/4 (TN, KP), one at SGL 122 on 7/3 (RHo), and 2 near Carpenter Rd in the Guys Mills area 7/22 (TN). **Northern Mockingbird** reports indicated 2 birds at SGL 214-Brooks Rd 6/13 (TN) and 6/15 (TN, KP), one in the PSP area 7/17 (MS), one off of Pettis Rd in the Meadville area 7/51 (RL), and one at CM-Custards 7/30 (EE). Observations of **Purple Finch** occurred in expected numbers and locations (m.ob.)

A **Vesper Sparrow** at Tamarack L. 7/1 (RL) was notable. Observations of **Grasshopper Sparrow** occurred at PSP-Wilson Rd 6/1-26 (m.ob.) with a high of 3 on 6/20 (TN). **Dark-eyed Junco** reports were as expected (m.ob.). **Bobolink** observations were made as usual in the Pymatuning area (m.ob.). An **Orchard Oriole** was in the Harstown Marsh area 6/1 (JV). A late **Rusty Blackbird** was at MMR 6/8 (JN).

Sightings of **Louisiana Waterthrush** included one at Greendale Cemetery 6/4 (RHo), 2 off Nickle Plate Rd in the Spring Twp. area 6/18 (RL), one off of Black Rd in the Meadville area 7/4 (JG), and one at SGL 146 on 7/15 (TN). There were no Northern Waterthrush seen, notable after several years of increasing observations. The **Golden-winged Warbler** observation of 2 birds in the Cochran area 6/18 (RL) is especially notable. **Prothonotary Warbler** reports occurred as expected (m.ob.). The only **Nashville Warbler** report was of 4 birds in the Cochran area 6/18 (RL). **Mourning Warbler** reports occurred in their expected numbers and locations (m.ob.), and one was observed at Woodcock Creek Park's Dam (KP), a new location for this species. A notable high count of 8 birds was from SGL 144 6/17 (RH, TN, KP). A **Kentucky Warbler** was seen off Hilltop Rd in the Springboro area 7/1-12 (AE, RHo, TN, KP, KZ).

Cerulean Warbler observations are summarized here:

Number	Location	Date	Observer(s)
2	PSP-Hartstown	6/2	TN
2	PSP-Dam	6/5	MW
1	PSP-Hartstown	6/7	TN, KP
1	Springboro area	6/9	CN
1	SGL 144	6/14	TN, KP
2	SGL 144	6/17	RHo, TN, KP

The only **Northern Parula** report was of a single in the Cochran area 6/18 (RL). **Black-throated Blue Warbler** reports were of singles at SGL 144 on 6/17 (RHo, TN, KP), at Erie NWR-New Rd 7/1 (RL), and off Keyes Rd in the Titusville area 7/28 (CS). A **Prairie Warbler** was observed singing at SGL 144 on 6/14 (TN, KP). Notably, there were no observations of Canada Warbler this season.

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Foyle, John Garrett, Chuck Gehringer, Joe Gyekis (JGy), Mark Hanneman, Rebecca Hart, Eric Hartshaw, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Jason Horn, Deborah Kalbfleisch, Chad Kauffman, Noah Kauffman, Andy Keister, David Keith, Mary Alice Koenke, Glenn Koppel, Ron Leberman, Alejandra Lewandowski, Steve Manns, Jennifer Neider, Elizabeth Nicholson, Ken Nicholson, Claire Nicolls, Tomas Nonnenmacher, Richard Nugent, Ken Pinnow, Ramona Sahni, Kathy Saunders, Steve Schmit, Brian Sedgewick, Marty Seltman, Pam Shaw, Shawn Sowers, Carolyn Sturtevant, Gavin Svenson, James Valimont, Mark Vass, Herman van Werkhoven, Bill Wilkinson, Michael Williams, Pam Williams, Sam Zhang, Kendall Zook.

Cumberland County

Locations: Creekview Road Marsh (CRM), Michaux State Forest (MSF), Pine Grove Furnace (PGF).

The summer period was drier and hotter than average, with this July being the hottest on record. Reported during this period were 145 species with 84 that showed signs of probable or confirmed breeding during this period. An additional 31 species showed possible signs of breeding. 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, Number 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 might be possible to list on this report but, without clear documentation otherwise, they are considered *Dauphin* birds as the county line is the west shoreline of the river

The following three species provided first known summer records for *Cumberland*. A female **Bufflehead** was reported at Brackbill Pond in Mechanicsburg 6/25 (SK). An adult **Mississippi Kite** was seen circling at Big Spring 6/6 (DB, StB, VG). This bird was the second record for Big Spring (previous record 4/13/2015), and only the fourth ever for the county. A singing male **Magnolia Warbler** was found at the Vitro glass factory in Mt. Holly Springs 6/2 (TJ). This bird was deemed a late migrant and not an attempted breeder due to lack of proper habitat and its absence on following days. This species is typically very hard to find in *Cumberland* after 5/20 in spring, but this year was found unusually frequently after the 20th, possibly indicating a widespread delay in their migration.

The big news for this period was the confirmed nesting of **Trumpeter Swan** at Creekview Road Marsh. A Trumpeter Swan pair, likely the same pair as this year, did attempt to breed nearby at Big Spring Sportsman Club in spring of 2019, but were unsuccessful. This year's nest received frequent monitoring by many birders as well as the family that owns the marsh. Nest building was first noticed 5/10 (TN). Incubation began around 5/20 (MB). One cygnet hatched on or shortly before 6/18 when it was first seen (TJ, SK). Starting at least 6/20, the adults were noted leaving the cygnet by itself for hours at a time as they left the marsh in the morning, perhaps to forage nearby, while the cygnet would hide in the dense vegetation. The adults would return to the nest site in the evening, calling for the cygnet to rejoin them. Unfortunately, it appears that the cygnet succumbed to predation during this time, perhaps by one of the snapping turtles that inhabit this marsh, as the last known sighting of it was 6/23 (MB). The last known sighting of the adults was 6/24 (MB)

Aside from the nesting pair, there was an additional Trumpeter Swan and 2 **Tundra Swans** throughout the period at Big Spring Sportsman Club (m.ob.). The Tundra Swans were not observed nesting. The Trumpeter Swan was shot at some point and taken to a rehab facility 6/12. After testing it was found to be a male that suffered from a broken wing, lead poisoning, and West Nile Virus. As of this writing, the swan has been doing well, destined for the Oklahoma City Zoo (per DK).

There was one report of **Eurasian Collared-Dove** from the intersection of Rte. 641 and Geason Road 6/15 (TJ). A pair was discovered in Plainfield in March, and one individual was observed off and on throughout the spring, but nesting was never confirmed.

A couple marsh bird species were detected during surveys

conducted for the Pennsylvania Game Commission. A single **Virginia Rail** was found at a marsh along Clemson Drive in Middlesex Twp. 6/7 (DB, StB, PL). One **Sora** was heard at CRM 6/9 (TJ). Both species were on territory since at least May, and nesting was assumed but not confirmed.

A nesting survey for **Prothonotary Warbler** at the Cabin Road and propagation ponds areas of SGL 169 was carried out 6/20 (VG, TJ). This species provided the first confirmed breeding record for *Cumberland* last summer at SGL 169. This year, out of four nest boxes at Cabin Road, one was in active use by a Prothonotary Warbler pair. At the propagation area, out of nine nest boxes, there were five that either held starter nests or completed nests with no active eggs or birds, and one that held an empty but completed nest that showed signs of recent use. A single singing male was heard in the vicinity of one of the boxes, while 3 males were found around a cluster of three boxes, with 2 of them showing territorial behavior. In addition, one male was seen repeatedly bringing food to a dead tree which was presumed to hold a natural nesting hole. In total, there were 8 Prothonotary Warblers found during the survey, 7 males and 1 female, and signs of at least three different used nests.

A nice surprise during the Prothonotary Warbler nesting survey was a calling **Least Bittern** at the propagation area of SGL 169. This species, which was confirmed breeding at SGL169 in 2006 and found a few summers since, was not found during later visits to the area. Also found at the propagation area during this survey was a singing **Swamp Sparrow**. This species was confirmed as a breeder in the first two Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlases but are rarely reported in *Cumberland* in summer. This individual was not found in later visits.

As usual, MSF and PGF housed a number of summering birds that have been unusual or very localized in South Central Pennsylvania. **Golden-crowned Kinglet** and **Red-breasted Nuthatch** were found in MSF on multiple occasions, including fledglings of both species seen at Ridge Road 7/25 (VG, AM). The same visit also yielded the lone **Black-billed Cuckoo** record of the season with a singing bird. There was one record of a single **Brown Creeper** at PGF 6/20 (DP), a location where they had been found the last two summers. One **Hermit Thrush** was found in a traditional area along Ridge Road 6/20 (RK). Notably absent this summer was **Veery**, which was not found in summer for the first time in at least 10 years despite several visits to their traditional territory in MSF.

One search for Kentucky Warbler at SGL 230 yielded a surprising male **White-throated Sparrow** that was singing 6/12 (TJ). This species is rarely found in *Cumberland* in the summer, though as recently as 2017 there were summer records at three different locations. A single singing **Henslow's Sparrow** was found along Ponderosa Road in Lower Frankford Twp. 7/30 (VG).

Yellow-rumped Warbler were reported throughout the season during multiple visits to Ridge Road (VG, TJ, RK, AM). Two singing male **Chestnut-sided Warblers** were noted on one visit to Ridge Road 6/7 (SM). This species is rare in *Cumberland* in summer but has been recorded multiple times in the nearby *Adams* and *Franklin* sections of MSF in past summers. A singing male **Kentucky Warbler** was present at SGL 230 through at least the end of June (m.ob.). Another was repeatedly found a couple miles east of SGL 230 at a location that has been consistent for this species in recent years (PL).

A single **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was reported along Pine Road near Hays Grove 6/12 (RM). This species is found some summers in *Cumberland*, but always in low numbers. Up to 3 **Dickcissels** were at Mud Level Road through the first week of June (m.ob.), and one was singing along Clover Hill Road near Newburg 6/17 (BK).

Observers: **Tim Johnson, 334 Greason Road, Carlisle, PA 17015, (717) 409-4805, tj359@sbcglobal.net**, Doris Brookens, Scott Brookens (ScB), Steve Brookens (StB), Marcus Burkholder, Jonathan DeBalko, Michael David, Vern Gauthier, Stefan Karkuff, Dave Kerr, Bob Koontz, Ramsay Koury, Pete Lusardi, Rodney Martinez, Annette Mathes, Sean McLaughlin, Jennifer Moore, Ted Nichols II, Chris Payne, Rebecca Perucci, David Provencher.

Dauphin County

Locations: Susquehanna River (SR), Susquehanna River Front Street (SRFS), Susquehanna River at Wade Island (SRWI), Susquehanna River West Fairview (SRWF), Swatara Creek-Boathouse Road (SCBR), Weiser State Forest-Greenland Tract (WSF-GT), Wildwood Lake (WL)

Record-breaking high temperatures marked July with temperatures about 6 degrees above average. Despite the high temperatures, 140 species were entered into eBird, with that being the average for *Dauphin's* breeding season.

At least 6 **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were heard throughout July in their usual summer locations in WSF-GT (m.ob.). Absent from reporting though were any sightings of **Ruffed Grouse** in these forested tracts.

Sightings were slim along SRFS and SRWF, but once again the place to observe shorebirds were the mudflats of WL. Ten species of plovers and sandpipers were observed beginning in early July. An **American Golden-Plover** seen at WL 7/15 (S&SB) might turn out to be a **Pacific Golden-Plover** based on other birders' opinions (m.ob.). It is hoped and encouraged that reports and photos be submitted by observers to PORC for a final decision. If it is this rare species, this would be a *Dauphin* first record.

An **American White Pelican** was observed flying above the Rachel Carson State Office Building in Harrisburg 6/8 (TN). There is one record in eBird of 3 spotted in 2013 at SGL 290 - Haldeman Island (SB). This bird may have been the same one observed that same week just below the county line along the SR. An immature **Snowy Egret** and **Little Blue Heron** showed up at WL during the second week of July and continued to be observed and photographed through the end of this reporting period (m.ob.). To add to the mudflat bonanza, an immature **White Ibis** joined the mix at WL during July (m.ob.). A **Glossy Ibis** was spotted along the SRFS 6/5 (IG) and at SRWI on the same day (SS).

The third year was the charm as the pair of **Ospreys** along the western edge of WL on Industrial Road were successful in nesting this year by raising 2 young (LI, S&GL). The **Ospreys** nesting along Pennsylvania Rte. 230 between Steelton and Highspire were also successful with 2 young being raised and fledged during this breeding season (EC, S&GL).

The **Bald Eagles** nesting on SCBR were a first-year success with 3 nestlings taking their first flights 6/12 and 6/13 (BH). The Clark Ferry Bridge **Peregrine Falcons** were also successful with 2 young fledging 6/4 and the last one flying between 6/5-6 (S&SB, S&GL). Confirmation was made of one fledgling on the new nest reported in the last issue on a river cliff north of Millersburg (AM, SS). The Rachel Carson State Office Building **Peregrine Falcons** successfully fledged 3 young in June with a little help from wildlife rehabilitators (AM).

A **Winter Wren** was observed along Stoney Valley Rail Trail 6/20 (IG). This species had not been reported on eBird in *Dauphin* since 2012. A **Bobolink** was spotted just north of Hershey 6/1 (IG). Nineteen species of warblers were reported during this breeding period, which is below average. **Cerulean Warblers** were seen again along the Appalachian Trail - Peter's Mt. 6/12 (AR) and again 6/25 (S&SB).

Observers: **Sandy Lockerman, 3830 Lexington Street, Harrisburg, PA 17109, (717) 329-8040, sandylockerman@yahoo.com**, Steve Bernardi, Scott and Stephanie Bills, Ed Chubb, Ian Gardner, Bob Hench, Larry Imes, Sandy and Gary Lockerman, Art McMorris, Ted Nichols II, Anne Randall, Steve Schmit.

Delaware County

Locations: Barrett's Meadow (BM), Commodore Barry bridge/riverfront (CB), Locations: Crum Creek Reservoir (CCR), Chadds Ford Marsh (CFM), Delaware River (DR), First State National Historic Park (FSNHP), Fort Mifflin (FM), John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge (JHNWR), Ridley Creek State Park (RCSP).

June 3 ushered in a derecho with wind gusts of 60 to 90 m.p.h. that downed trees and wires throughout the county. Precipitation for the

month was about an inch below average, but that evened out when July's precipitation measured about an inch above average. Temperatures were above average for both months, with July being one of the warmest on record. On July 10, Tropical Storm Fay dumped 2.5" to 4.5" of rain across *Delaware* in an event that lasted all day and caused local flooding but rewarded river-watchers for their diligence.

A new species was added to the *Delaware* list when 4 **Black-bellied Whistling Ducks** were discovered at JHNWR 6/2 (RZ, m.ob.). Although they were present for only a day, many birders were able to see them, plus their location at the county line was advantageous for listers. **Hooded Merganser** was in the *Delaware* portion of that refuge 6/26 (RZ) and 6/30 (HM, MTG). Immature birds were also noted at CFM 6/19 (RF) and CCR 6/3 (RF) and 6/4 (DB, AB). A female **Common Merganser** turned up at JHNWR 6/12 (DO), while a female **Red-breasted Merganser** was in the DR at Hog Is. Rd.6/2 (RF). A lingering **Common Loon** was on the DR at Hog Is. Rd.6/3 (MS, JH), and one was a surprise find at JHNWR 7/30 (JMc).

Wild Turkey reports came from three locations in the Chadds Ford area with up to 3 birds in a yard 6/21 (LF, AS), including one with an interesting smokey-gray coloration. **Yellow-Billed Cuckoo** was reported from many locations during the period, not just from its stronghold at RCSP. Unusual was a report of 3 **Common Nighthawks** from Wayne 6/12 (DL). Could there potentially be a breeding location here, or were these late migrants?

Increased coverage of the DR at Hog Is. Rd. continued to generate an impressive shorebird list for the county. Summer included these finds: 3 **Black-bellied Plover** 6/5 (JH); **Semipalmated Plover** 7/30 (RF) and as many as 15 on 7/31 (DB, AB, RF); 2 **Whimbrels** 7/10 (JH, RF); **Ruddy Turnstone** 7/31 (RF, DB); **Sanderling** 7/21 (RF, BQ) and again 7/31 (RF, DB, AB); **Short-billed Dowitcher** 7/31 (RF, DB, AB); **Greater Yellowlegs** 7/21 (RF) and **Lesser Yellowlegs** 7/31 (RF, DB, AB). A Greater Yellowlegs was also at JHNWR 7/12 (DB). Among the more usual species, **Least Sandpiper** was present from mid-July (m.ob.), **Semipalmated Sandpiper** from about the third week of July (m.ob.), and **Pectoral Sandpiper** showed up 7/28 (RF, AB). A **Solitary Sandpiper** was photographed at CCR 7/19 (JZ).

In addition to finding shorebirds, river-watchers provided gull and tern reports. A **Bonaparte's Gull** made an unusual summer appearance 6/4 (RF). **Least Tern** was seen 7/21 (RF). Continuing a trend in recent years of increasing reports, **Caspian Terns** were seen on more days than they were missed (m.ob.) with a maximum count of 10 on 7/30 and 7/31 (RF), surpassing the high count of 9 **Forster's Terns** 7/25 (AG). In addition, though Caspian was seen multiple times in June, Forster's did not appear until 7/6 (RF, JHu).

Least Bittern was reported from JHNWR only twice this season, 6/12 (DO) and 6/24 (SN), but lucky timing and patience are always required for detecting this species. One **Snowy Egret** at JHNWR 7/26 (RH) was the only report, amusingly on the exact date as the single report last year. An adult and an immature **Little Blue Heron** at JHNWR 7/30 (JMc, DH) were observed on both sides of the county line; only the adult was seen in *Delaware* 7/31 (AG). A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was at JHNWR 6/8 (BR, KR) and 7/24 (EE, EWa). There was also a sighting from nearby in Tinicum Twp. 6/23 (RF) and reports from CFM 6/1 (JC) and 6/11 (RF). The latter report also noted calls from **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron**. Otherwise, the only report of Yellow-crowned was of a juvenile photographed roosting in a tree at JHNWR 7/17 (RH).

Although **Broad-winged Hawk** nested at RCSP, there were no reports at that location from eBird until 7/26 (MG, RG). An individual was also over a Middletown Twp. home 7/1 (AG). Eight locations reported **Eastern Screech-Owls** while four mentioned **Great Horned Owls**, both an improvement over the usual few reports. The only **Barred Owl** report came from along Chester Creek in Aston 7/9 (DW), although informants have reported that the pair at RCSP continued into August, just closer to the mansion than in previous years. **American Kestrel** was reported from Newtown Meadow Preserve 6/13 (SB) and from the DR at Hog Is. Rd. area on seven dates (RF, DB). **Peregrine Falcons** were also seen in that area 6/2 (DB) and 7/2 (RF), as well as at Commodore Barry bridge/riverfront 6/10 (DE) and Chadds Ford 6/16 (LF, AS).

White-eyed Vireo was found at FSNHP 6/1 (BB), CFM 6/10 (SB),

and at multiple locations in RCSP, its usual haunt, on many days (m.ob.). **Yellow-throated Vireo** was in the Chadds Ford area 6/11 (BS) and at FSNHP 6/24 (JMc). **Purple Martin** reports were few. Banding of the colony at the Glen Mills School took place 7/8 despite COVID-19 restrictions; 222 young were banded, but 240 were counted (DM), about equaling last year's total, so at least the colony is stable. Three **Bank Swallows** in Swarthmore 7/4 (JMc, DH) were a surprise. Other reports were from the DR at Hog Is. Rd. area, mostly from mid-July onwards with a high count of 16 moving along with Tropical Storm Fay 7/10 (JH). There were multiple reports of **Cliff Swallow**, all from the Chadds Ford area along the Brandywine (m.ob.), including one bird seen carrying food 6/20 (DB). Nesting under a bridge on Creek Rd at the county line was suspected. **Swainson's Thrush** was still passing over through 6/4 as evidenced by night flight calls from Wallingford (RF).

There were a couple of lingering **White-throated Sparrows**. One was reported in Swarthmore 6/11 (JMc), and one was at the Bridle Trail at RCSP 7/5 (DB, AB). **Yellow-breasted Chat** was found at FSNHP 6/1 (BB), 6/20 (JMc), 6/21 (SN), and 6/24 (JMc) when there were 2. Perhaps this new area will be able to support breeding birds. **Eastern Meadowlark** was reported regularly from the DR at Hog Is. Rd. and the grassy areas along runways at the Philadelphia International Airport (RF, AG, SB).

Sixteen warbler species during the period represented a mixture of late migrants and local breeders. **Louisiana Waterthrush**, **Blue-winged Warbler**, **American Redstart** and **Northern Parula** might have bred at RCSP, although there was no direct evidence reported other than singing. An exciting discovery was of a juvenile **Yellow-throated Warbler** following adults in the mansion area 7/30 (DB, AB) after finding an adult 7/26 (MG, RG). Historical records indicate nesting in the sycamores along the creek, but none have been confirmed in recent years. In addition, while looking for the previous species, a begging juvenile **Pine Warbler** was seen following parents 7/30 (DB, AB). **Prairie Warbler** was reported in the park throughout the period (RM, CS, BS), as well as in June in the Chadds Ford area (LF, AS) including at FSNHP (BB, HuM, JMc), all locations where there is suitable habitat for breeding.

A single **Hooded Warbler** was reported from RCSP 6/1 (NH). A **Mourning Warbler** night flight call was recorded over Wallingford 6/4 (RF). A singing **Northern Parula** was along the Brandywine Creek in Chadds Ford 7/3 (DB). Once an uncommon breeder, a **Chestnut-sided Warbler** lingered in Chadds Ford through 6/10 (LF, AS), and a late **Blackpoll Warbler** was reported from the DR at Hog Is. Rd.6/5 (JH). **Blue Grosbeak** was reported from the DR at Hog Is. Rd.6/2 (RF) and was a regular visitor to a Chadds Ford yard 6/22-28 (HuM).

Observers: **Sheryl Johnson, 453 Duck Pond Lane, Haverford, PA 19041, (610) 649-4621, sbjohnso@haverford.edu**, Debbie Beer, Adrian Binns, Sarah Boucas-Neto, Sara Busch, Brian Byrnes, Justin Clarke, David Eberly, Ed Edge, Rob Fergus, Linda Fields, Melissa Gallardy, Ross Gallardy, Kate Garchinsky, Mary-Therese Grob, Al Guarente, Deborah Hansen, Neil Heinekamp, Rowan Hollins, Jason Horn, Jason Hudnut (JHu), Beth Kurtz, Daniel Long, Jim McConnell (JMc), Patrick McGill, Doris McGovern, Roberta Menapace, John Mercer, Holly Merker, Zach Millen, Hudson Moore (HuM), Sam Neat, Damon Orsetti, Brian Quindlen, Bill Reaume, Ken Rieker, Matt Sabatine, Alan Schreck, Alan Simon, Cindy Steven, Brian Storey, Elizabeth Walshe (EWa), David Walton, Erynn Wilcox, Rich Ziegler, John Zygumt.

Elk County

Locations: East Branch Clarion River Lake (EBL), State Game Land 311 – Porcupine Hollow (PH).

This summer brought several species through *Elk* that are not usually seen, with a total of 127 species reported to eBird. **Chimney Swifts** continued to be observed in all areas 6/17-7/28 (BB, m.ob.). A **Least Sandpiper** was observed at EBL 7/30 (MAK, GK). A **Solitary Sandpiper** was at EBL 7/24 (BB) and 2 on 7/30, the same day a **Greater Yellowlegs** was observed (MAK, GK). Four **Forster's Terns** were seen there 6/21 (BB). An **American Bittern** was heard near Ridgway 6/13

(CC). A **Green Heron** was reported near Wilcox 6/1 and 7/21 (BB), and near Ridgway 6/29 (CB).

Seen near EBL were a **Sharp-shinned Hawk** 7/5, a **Cooper's Hawk** 6/9, and a **Northern Goshawk** 7/24 (BB). Only the third summer report for eBird, an **Eastern Screech-Owl** was near Benezette 6/29 (JA). A family of 5 **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were near EBL when 2 adults and 3 young were heard 6/30 then, on the same evening in another area near EBL, one "flew in front of vehicle chasing a moth" (BB).

An **Acadian Flycatcher** was near Ridgway 6/17 (ES). **Alder Flycatchers** had sightings in several locations, including 4 near Rasselas Marsh 6/30 (BB) and 4 at PH 6/13 (RH, SM). A **Willow Flycatcher** was at SGL 311 - Winslow Hill Elk Viewing 6/10 (SD) and at Rasselas Marsh 6/30 (BB). A **Great Crested Flycatcher** was near Benezette 6/29 (JA). A **Yellow-throated Vireo** was in Loletta 6/13 (SM), and a **Warbling Vireo** in Rasselas Marsh 6/30 (BB).

A **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** was at the West Creek Wetlands Learning Center in St. Mary's 6/7 (MM), and another was seen in Jones Twp. 7/10 (BB). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were near EBL on three occasions, including 4 on 7/2 (BB). **Blue-grey Gnatcatchers** were observed three times: 2 in PH 6/13 (RH, SM), one near Benezette 6/29 (JA), and 2 on Rasselas Rd. 6/30 (BB). A **Northern Mockingbird** was in Ridgway 7/16 (EH), and one was at EBL 7/22 (BB). A **Grasshopper Sparrow** was in PH 6/10 (SD), and up to 4 **Savannah Sparrows** were near EBL 6/30-7/12 (BB).

Two **Worm-eating Warblers** were in Benezette Twp. 6/28, and one on 6/29 (JA). A **Nashville Warbler** was near Rasselas Rd 6/12, and it or another was recorded near EBL on the same date (BB). A **Mourning Warbler** near St. Mary's was recorded as well 6/11 (BB). **Hooded Warblers** were noted several times 6/1-6/29 (JA, BB, RH, DK, SM), including 5 near St. Mary's 6/1 (BB). Two **Cerulean Warblers** were near Loleta 6/13 (RH, SM). Singles **Northern Parulas** were seen at four locations 6/13-30 (JA, RH, SM). A high count of 37 **Chestnut-sided Warblers**, "mostly singing males," were near St. Mary's 6/1 (BB). Two **Pine Warblers** were in Moshannon SF - Marion Brooks NA 7/1 (EM). A **Canada Warbler** was near EBL 6/17 (BH).

Observers: **Carol Light, PO Box 6, Benezette, PA 15821, 814-787-6036, lightpc2@gmail.com**, Josh Auld, Brendyn Baptiste, Adam Bartles, Nick Bayly, Chelsea Beck, Colvin Chapman, Steve D, Alex Dragon, Camila Gómez Montes, Rebecca Hart, Eric Hartshaw, Bill Hendrickson, David Keith, Matt Kello, Mary Alice Koeneke, Glenn Koppel, Steve Manns, Melinda Marconi, Eric Myskowski, Eric Schill.

Erie County

The summer season can be rather slow, but this season brought a few interesting species. A new county record was made when 4 **Black-bellied Whistling Ducks** appeared at a private pond. Their extended stay allowed many observers to add them to their county lists. Perhaps two different male **Painted Buntings** made brief visits to Erie and Waterford. A **Wilson's Plover** was a very rare two-day visitor at Gull Point NA. Territorial **Sedge Wrens** were found at Erie Bluffs SP, where there were at least 2 pairs in the grassy fields near the parking area. The following birds of note were recorded from Presque Isle SP unless noted otherwise. Four **Black-bellied Whistling Ducks** were a surprise to a duck hunter and his wife when they took up residence in their West Springfield pond from 6/29-7/22. The first county-record ducks were there nearly every day, and in the evening they would walk into the woods to roost for the night (R&MW). The couple graciously welcomed birders to see the ducks. A very rare **Wilson's Plover** was photographed at Gull Point 7/7 (MB) and seen again 7/8 (*Jason Horn*).

A pair of **Piping Plovers** nested again at Gull Point for the fourth year in a row (PGC). A **Willet** was present at Gull Point from 6/13-15, and singles were also present 7/8 (MB) and again 7/15 (SS). Five **American Avocets** were seen circling Gull Point, viewed from the north pier 7/11 (JM). One or two avocets were present at Gull Point 7/18-20, and 8 were there 7/29 (MB). A flock of 15 **Whimbrels** cruised by the Presque Isle Lighthouse 7/11 (CK) - a good sighting since Whimbrel are extremely rare away from Gull Point. There was also one reported at Gull Point 7/28

(MB). A **Wilson's Phalarope** was noted at Gull Point 6/11 (MB).

Gull Point has a history of being one of the best and most reliable resting sites for shorebirds during migration in the tri-state area. Since the late 1970s, important shorebird data has been contributed by birders, especially a small team of dedicated shorebird experts, to the International Shorebird Survey. This data has provided a wealth of information showing the status and distribution of migrant shorebirds as well as the ecological changes that have occurred at Gull Point over the last several decades. Denying access to Gull Point brought this research to an abrupt end. It is unfortunate that the birding community lost access to one of the best shorebirding sites during critical migration time in the tri-state area.

This year access to Gull Point was denied to the entire birding community by two government agencies with the only exception being two Erie Bird Observatory Piping Plover monitors. To prevent any other birders from going out to the observation platform, the plover monitors were encouraged not to report their rare bird findings until after the birds had left. Birders have been delighted that **Piping Plovers** have finally nested at Gull Point, and they hope the best for their future nesting success. Plovers successfully nested and reared young in 2017, 2018, and at least 2019, even when birders were permitted access to the observation platform. However, it was not until this year the two agencies decided that the birding community was a threat to the plovers' nesting success, and access to the observation platform by birders would no longer be permitted. Most birders respect and support the efforts by these agencies to protect Piping Plovers. It is important to remember that it was the birding community that was responsible for the closure of Gull Point back in the early 1990s to protect shorebirds.

Birders are the best stewards in making sure that the general public, specifically boaters, hikers, dog walkers, etc., stay outside the protected zone, since patrolling Gull Point is not a high law enforcement priority. This is understandable, because of the limited number of officers and often the logistics in accessing the point in a timely manner. Having birders there making sure the public follow the guidelines set forth by the two agencies is a win for both the plovers and the birding community. Having said this, we hope to be able to negotiate with the agencies before the next nesting season so that birders can again have access to this premiere shorebird hotspot without interfering with the plovers' nesting success.

Apparently, a juvenile **Barn Owl** young was picked up on the ground in Girard Twp. and was taken to a rehab facility in mid-Jul (*fide* SS). Always exciting was the continuing male **Painted Bunting** that remained at a feeder to 6/1 (ES). Understandably because of the pandemic, the owners opted not to allow access to their property to see the bird. However, the same or perhaps a different male **Painted Bunting** made a one-day appearance at a feeder in Waterford 6/18 (JF). Both birds were photographed by the property owners. At least 2 pairs of **Sedge Wrens** took up residency in a grassy field at Erie Bluffs SP, not far from the parking area (JC, et al.). The pair of **Prothonotary Warblers** continued nesting, raising 5 young in a nest box near the entrance of Presque Isle SP. A couple other males were also seen in the vicinity, but apparently not finding a mate (JH).

Observers: **Jerry McWilliams, 3508 Allegheny Rd., Erie, Pa. 16508-2129, jerrymcw@aol.com**, Mary Birdsong, John Campbell, Pennsylvania Game Commission, Jon Fetzner, Jamie Hill, Chad Kauffman, Sarah Sargent, Eric Smylko, Richard & Michele Wurst.

Fayette County

Locations: Quebec Run Wild Area (QRWA).

Common Merganser was notable in past years but has become an expected breeder in the county; a nice addition. There were regular reports throughout the season at Ohioypyle SP and Confluence.

An **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was heard during the first half of June near Brownfield (EJR), and there was an eBird report of one near

Farmington 6/30 where they have been seen regularly for many years. A **Lesser Yellowlegs** was at Mill Run Res. 7/29 (MS). Three **American Woodcocks** were at Spring Valley 7/18 (DBI). A **Great Egret** was at Mill Run Res. 7/29 (MS).

Two **Black Vultures** were in the Farmington area in June and early July (DBu, DBI). This species has appeared to be resident in small numbers. An **Osprey** was at Youghiogheny River L. 7/1 (DBI). **Red-headed Woodpecker** is another species that has appeared to be established. One was at Heritage Scout Reservation 6/19 (DBI), and up to 6 were present in the Farmington area the entire season (m.ob.).

The high elevations in the county offer a northern component to the avifauna of the area. A **Brown Creeper** and a **Winter Wren** were found at Laurel Ridge SP 6/6 (SM). A **Veery** was also found there that day. Other Veery reports include 2 at QRWA 6/21 (DY, CY) and one there 7/2 (GG). **Hermit Thrush** reports include one at Beaver Cr. 6/7 (DBu), 2 at QRWA 6/21 (DY, CY) and one there 7/2 (GG).

Purple Finches were present in Farmington the entire season (DBu, DBI). Two **Henslow's Sparrows** were in a field south of Farmington 7/4 (DBu). A **Worm-eating Warbler** was in Farmington 6/2 (EJR) and one was at Ohiopyle SP 6/12 (JB). **Cerulean Warbler**, **Blackburnian Warbler**, **Black-throated Blue Warbler**, and **Black-throated Green Warbler** were reported regularly at Bear Run Nature Reserve, Ohiopyle SP and QRWA (m.ob.). Five **Canada Warblers** were tallied at QRWA 6/21 (DY, CY); two were there 7/2 (GG).

Observers: **Mike Fialkovich**, mpfial@verizon.net, Dwight Blough (DBI), John Boback, David Bureson (DBu), Ian Gardner, Gigi Gerben, Nick Liadis, Steve Manns, EJ Regula, Mike Smith, Colleen Yeany, David Yeany II.

Forest County

Locations: Allegheny National Forest - Hall Barn Wildlife Area (HB), Allegheny National Forest - Buzzard Swamp (BS), Kellettsville (KEL), Mayburg (MAY), Tionesta (TIO).

Social distancing, necessary with COVID-19, continued for birders during summer months as 114 species were reported to eBird for *Forest*. An **American Woodcock** was at Lynch 6/2 (SS), in BS 6/30 (RT), and in MAY 7/6-8 (JS). Two **Spotted Sandpipers** were near the Tionesta State Fish Hatchery 7/24 (KS). An **Eastern Screech-Owl** was near KEL 7/9 (JS) and in TIO 7/25 (FM). Two **Barred Owls** were in TIO 6/5 (KG) and one in BS 6/30 (RT). An **American Kestrel** was near Golinza 6/24 (FM) and 2 near MAY 7/7 (JS).

Single **Alder Flycatchers** were reported at eight locations 6/2-7/18 (m.ob.). A **Willow Flycatcher** was at the HB 6/14 (KS) and again that day near KEL (JSp, KS), and 2 were at BS 7/18 (JSp, KS). Two **Purple Martins** were at TIO's Lighthouse Island 7/16 (EH), and again at BS 7/18 (JSp, KS). **Bank Swallows** were seen in the MAY area 7/3-13, with a high count of 17 (JS). **Cliff Swallows** were noted on several occasions: 2 at Tionesta L. Dam 6/2 (FM), one at Lynch 6/29 (SS) and 3 near there 6/29 (JE), one at HB 7/14 (TN), and one in BS (JSp, KS).

A **Swainson's Thrush** was heard below KEL 6/14 (JSp, KS), and near there 7/19 (KS). A high count of **Song Sparrows** reached 29 at MAY Bridge 7/13 (JS). A **Vesper Sparrow** was at the HB 6/14 (KS). An **Eastern Meadowlark** was observed near West Hickory 6/1 (T&JK), 2 near Marienville 6/20 (BB), and one in BS 6/30 (RT).

A **Louisiana Waterthrush** was at the Tank Hill Rd Wetlands 6/12 (KS), again 6/13 (JSp, KS), and at Allegheny NF - Minister Creek Trail 6/26 (JD). **Blue-winged Warbler** sightings started with a high of 4 at Tank Hill Rd Wetlands 6/12 (KS), with others also seen on the western side of *Forest* 6/12-23 (KS, SS). A **Mourning Warbler** was first noted in the KEL area 6/14 (JSp, KS), then 6/16 (FM), 3 near there 7/2 with one again 7/4 and 7/8 (JS).

A **Cerulean Warbler** was at Mt. Collins Cemetery 6/15 (KS), and observed numerous times near West Hickory 6/11-7/24 with a high count of 3 on 7/17 (JSp, KS). Two **Yellow-rumped Warblers**, both singing males, were in Beaver Meadows RA 6/30 (RT). A **Canada Warbler**, also a singing male, was in BS 6/30 (RT).

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Franklin County

Locations: Antrim Commons Ponds (ACP).

The clear highlight of the summer reporting season was a well-documented long-staying **Clay-colored Sparrow** at the Weaver farm near Orrstown 6/27-7/29. A birder member of the family began noticing a buzzy insect-like sound and, after hearing it daily for about two weeks, began suspecting that it was a bird singing. The bird was located flying in and out of a rye field with frequent consistent perching in a willow that was adjacent to the field. Other local birders were notified, and it was confirmed visually and by photo (MW, BO, BKO, DC, m.ob). In spending time viewing the bird and its routines, it moved to multiple locations in the vicinity of the rye field and willow including a row of evergreen trees, a maple tree, wires, and the end of a fence row with vines. The bird sang often and regularly during the entire period of reports. It was suggested that this was a first-year male trying to attract a mate. This is the first confirmed eBird record in *Franklin* for this species. There were two previous reports based on voice. One of them turned out to be a **Chipping Sparrow** singing a Clay-colored Sparrow song, and visual details of the other bird were not certain so there is doubt based on song alone (as per the field-trip leader).

Early June is the tail-end of shorebird northern migration, followed soon after by the beginning of early shorebird migration south for those that did not successfully nest. The first report for **Least Sandpiper** was of 4 at ACP 7/4 (DE, BO). A very early **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was at Kriner Rd Retention Ponds 6/30 (BO). **Short-billed Dowitchers** were reported from two locations 7/9-10. From one up to 3 birds were reported from ACP 7/9-10 (CG, DE, GA, m.ob), and a single was reported at Keefer Rd Farm Pond 7/9-10 (BO, BKO, CG). In checking eBird reports, there were no earlier reports in July in Pennsylvania. There was a report from L. Erie in Ohio at this same time. Possibly the reason these birds put down here on 7/9 had to do with Tropical Storm Fay off the East Coast the same day. Other firsts for southbound shorebirds were **Solitary Sandpiper** at Keefer Rd Farm Pond 7/21 (BO), **Greater Yellowlegs** at ACP 7/23 (BO), and **Lesser Yellowlegs** at ACP 7/6 (DE, BO).

A mid-summer first-year **Common Loon** was out of place at Greencastle Res. 6/22-7/1 (CG, BO). This is the first and only eBird record in *Franklin* for the summer reporting period. **Glossy Ibis** were at Bender's Farm with 4 found 7/30 (BO, CG, DG, m.ob), and same birds less one 8/1 (BO, GA, MW). The only previous eBird reports of Glossy Ibis in *Franklin* are from April 2005 and May 2011. Individual **Barn Owl** reports were from West Creek Rd 7/18 (BKO), from Mercersburg Rd 7/29 (SK), and from Wayne Rd 7/31 (NB). An unusual mid-summer **Merlin** was seen being harassed in mid-air by swallows 7/7 along Burkett Rd (BO). **Peregrine Falcon** reports were from Greencastle Res. 7/26 (BO) and Olde Scotland Rd 7/31 (JS).

Alder Flycatcher is not often reported in *Franklin*. Identifiable from Willow Flycatcher pretty much only by song and call, they have usually moved through here the last part of May. This year there were summer reports which were the first eBird reports past May. Birds were reported at a Fort McCord Rd marsh 6/2 (BO) and along Keefer Rd 7/17 and 7/22 (DC, BO). An unusual summer report of **White-crowned Sparrow** was from a yard in Guilford Hills 6/27 (JD, SD), so unusual that it is the first accepted eBird report in *Franklin* ever during the summer period. **Golden-winged Warbler** and **Brewster's Warbler** were reported 6/3 from SGL 235 - Upper Horse Valley Rd (MD). Reports of both species continued from other birders' reports in May. Also continuing from May was a report of **Kentucky Warbler** from Buchanan SF - Eastern Slope Trails 6/6 (BO). The species was also reported from Heisey Rd Old Orchard 6/23 (BK).

Summer Tanager normal range is well south of Pennsylvania, and

summer reports are rare except for southeastern Pennsylvania. Owners of a large property in the Falling Spring valley believed they saw a male in trees and bushes near their house several times in June. The property is extensive, and the bird was not observed on a regular basis. Numerous visits were made with no success in being able to confirm the report (BO). **Blue Grosbeak** reports were numerous and widespread. This species is probably one which has been previously under-reported in *Franklin*. With more birders out and about in summer and reporting to eBird, we are probably beginning to see a better picture of the extent of this species in the county. Reports from Portico Rd were single birds 7/4, 7/20, 7/21, and 3 birds 7/28 (BO, KS, EH). Reports from Bender's Farm were made 7/8, 7/18, 7/21, 7/27, and 7/28 (BO). Other reports were from Weaver Rd 7/13 and 7/27 (AM, BKO) and Burkett Rd 7/17 (DC). Reports of **Dickcissel** in the summer reporting period did not match up to the last several years. There were reports of these birds continuing from May at Portico Rd 6/2-27 (BO, RM, DE, RM, ES) and at Church Rd near Pleasant Hall (BO, MD). Mowing of these fields by mid- to late June probably impacted nesting success and decreased reported sightings.

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Fulton County

Locations: Buchanan State Forest (BSF), Cowan's Gap State Park (CG), Harrisonville (HAR), McConnellsburg (McC), Warfordsburg (WAR), Wells Tannery (WT).

The dry summer of 2020 in *Fulton* saw 94 species entered into eBird. There were two first and three second summer-season records entered into eBird.

As usual, **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** out-numbered **Black-billed Cuckoo**; there were six reports of the former and just one of Black-billed, near WAR 6/20 (JS). **Eastern Whip-poor-will** reports included 10 on Tower Rd. in BSF 6/3 (SK) and one at CG 6/26 (ES, RM); this species is fairly common and widespread in the excellent habitat in the county.

The only accipiter report was of a **Cooper's Hawk** near HAR 7/17 (TB). **Bald Eagles** were reported twice from the area of WT and once at CG. An **Eastern Screech-Owl** was near WAR 7/28 (JS) and a **Great Horned Owl** near McC 7/19 (anon.) - each reported only once; there were no reports of Barred Owl. A **Belted Kingfisher** was at CG 6/27 and 7/8 (BP, ES, RM), and a **Red-headed Woodpecker** there 7/8 (BP).

Willow Flycatcher was at CG 7/7-8 (BP). South and east of their principle range, **Least Flycatchers** were at Valley Hi 6/13 (JG, HW) and on North Mountain Top Rd. near McC 7/20 (EH); these represent only the second and third summer records for the county in eBird. Similarly, though not quite so unusual, a **Blue-headed Vireo** was also a bit outside its usual area, found at Valley Hi 6/13 (JG, HW). Given how little summer birding occurs in *Fulton*, the true status of species such as Least Flycatcher and Blue-headed Vireo is not well understood.

Two **Horned Larks** were in a field south of Fort Littleton 6/13 (GG, DG). Two **Bank Swallows** were at a location near WAR with large sand/dirt mounds 6/13 (GG, DG), and one was reported on Tower Rd. in BSF 6/3 (SK); these are the first two summer eBird reports for *Fulton*. A **Dark-eyed Junco** on Tower Rd. in BSF 6/3 (SK) may have been a lingering bird, as there is only one previous summer eBird record for the county, and there are no substantial summer populations in nearby counties.

Providing another summer season eBird first for *Fulton*, a **Bobolink** was near WT 7/23 (TM); with no known local nesting, this was perhaps an early migrant. A dozen reports of **Eastern Meadowlark**, mostly from the WT area, were encouraging for this grassland jewel that, like other grassland species, is declining in Pennsylvania.

Twelve warbler species were reported. An impressive 8 **Worm-eating Warblers** were tallied near CG 6/27 (ES, RM). Up to 4 **Louisiana**

Waterthrush were at CG, with four reports from there 6/17-7/8 (R&TGS, BP, ES, RM); and one was at Valley-Hi 6/13 (JG, HW). A **Hooded Warbler** was at CG 6/17 (R&TGS), and 2 were there 6/26-27 (ES, RM). Four **Northern Parulas** were near McC 6/28 (ES, RM), the highest count of four reports. Two **Pine Warblers** were at Valley Hi 6/13 (JG, HW) and 2 near WRA 6/20 (JS). Two **Prairie Warblers** were at Tower Rd. in BSF 6/3 (SK).

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Greene County

Locations: Claylick (CL), Last Chance Ranch (LCR), Morgan Township (MT), Sycamore (SY).

Wood Duck with 7 fledglings and **Mallard** with 5 young were present at East View 6/19 (MH, JH). **Lesser Scaup**, apparently injured, remained at L. Wilma during this period (SB). **Common Merganser** nested in at least four areas of the county with a group of more than 35 seen in MT (KB). **Wild Turkey** with 4 poults was seen at LCR 6/26 (MLP). **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was reported in Jackson Twp. 6/11 (RL, WD) and in MT 7/17 (KK).

A **Broad-winged Hawk** was observed in Jackson Twp. 6/11 (RL). **Eastern Screech Owl** was heard at LCR 6/26 (MLP). **Belted Kingfisher** family was seen in Center Twp. 7/25 (SB, SC). **Red-headed Woodpecker** visited feeders in CL and at SY 6/27 (RA, JC).

Reported in MT were **Least Flycatcher** and **Great Flycatcher** 6/13 (SB), **Willow Flycatcher** 7/18 (SB), **Eastern Kingbird** 7/17 (KK), and **White-eyed Vireo** 7/17 (KK). **Purple Martin** was reported in Franklin Twp. 6/12 (KF). Seven **Tree Swallows** were observed in MT 7/22 (KK). **Barn Swallow** fledged 6 young at CL 6/5 (RA) and 29 were seen sitting in a row on a power line at LCR 7/30 (MLP).

House Wren fledged 4 young at SY 6/11 (JC). **Eastern Bluebird** with 3 fledglings was sighted in MT 6/27 (SB). **Gray Catbird** along with a **Downy Woodpecker** was seen eating grape jelly at feeder at LCR 7/2 (MLP). **Cedar Waxwing** was reported in Franklin Twp. 7/18 (BO). **House Finch** fledged 3 young at SY 6/13 (JC). A **Pine Siskin** sighted at a bird feeder in Waynesburg Borough remained for three days 7/23 (SB). **Song Sparrow** fledgling was sighted in MT 6/13 (MH, BG). **Orchard Oriole** fledgling was seen in Whiteley Twp. 6/18 (SB). **Baltimore Oriole** fledgling was observed at a feeder in Waynesburg Borough 7/28 (SB, SC).

Louisiana Waterthrush was seen at LCR 7/22 (MLP). **Kentucky Warbler** and **Hooded Warbler** were found in MT 6/27, and at same location a pair of **American Redstart** was noted 6/13 (SB). **Black-and-white Warbler** was found in MT 7/18 (SB).

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Huntingdon County

Locations: Borough of Huntingdon (HU), Juniata River (JR), Lake Perez (LP), Lower Trail at Alexandria (LT), Marklesburg waterfowl area - State Game Land 420 (MAR), McAlevys Fort (MF), Old Crow wetland (OC), Pennsylvania Furnace Road (PF), Raystown Lake (RL), Rothrock State Forest (RSF), Shaver's Creek Environmental Center (SCEC), Stone Creek Ridge (SCR), Stone Mountain (SM), Stone Valley (SV), Trough Creek Valley (TCV), Whipple Dam State Park (WD).

For the summer season in *Huntingdon*, 137 species were entered into eBird, about average for the last four years. During this hot dry

summer, June was 2.5 degrees F. above normal and July 5.0 degrees above. Total rainfall was 2 inches below normal.

The season's highlight comes right from the beginning of the current taxonomic order. Providing a new county record, 10 handsome **Black-bellied Whistling Ducks** spent a day at OC. Found early in the morning 7/30 (DK), they remained all day, to be seen by many local birders, but had departed by the next morning – the classic one-day wonder.

A male **Bufflehead** lingered from spring through at least 7/3 at LP (m.ob.). Among six reports of **Common Merganser** were several good counts: 19 at Ennisville 6/8 (SM), 30 on the JR at HU 7/11 (SB), and 27 on JR below RL dam 7/30 (MD).

Similar to the last two summers, there were six reports of **Ruffed Grouse**, with 3 from TM, 2 from SM, and one from SCEC, all of one to 3 birds (NB, JK, JP). **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** reports numbered a few dozen. Only one **Black-billed Cuckoo** was reported, and it came at night during a Nightjar Survey on TM 6/13 (DB).

A total of 47 **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were tallied on three Nightjar Surveys (30 total stops) in RSF. The 11-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). In addition, two new nightjar routes were created and run in the county: 19 Whip-poor-wills were recorded on a route in TCV and 16 on a route in the area of SCR and SGL 112 (GG, DG). Typical of recent summers, Common Nighthawk was not reported.

Pennsylvania Game Commission wetland bird surveys turned up single **Virginia Rails** in TCV 6/7 and at MAR 6/9; the latter bird vocalized as soon as the survey spot was approached and before broadcasting of calls, and remained agitated throughout the survey period, twice flying from one location to another. Little is known of nesting status of rails in the county, presumably uncommon at best. **Spotted Sandpipers** included 3 on JR at HU 7/11 (SB), one at Alexandria 7/19 (KE), and one at WD 7/30 (SM). **Solitary Sandpipers** returned in late July, with singles at WD 7/26 (SM), LP 7/26 (KO), and OC 7/31 (S&MS).

Unexpected was a mid-summer **Red-throated Loon**, found and photographed at Aitch Access at Raystown L. 6/29 (GW). There are occasional Common Loons on the lake in summer (none this year). There are only four other Pennsylvania summer reports of Red-throats in eBird. The only post-dispersal **Great Egret** was at Ennisville 7/19 (DW). Records of non-breeding **Osprey** occur each summer: singles were at SCEC 6/10 (DW), RL 6/24 (JR), and near HU 6/28 (TK, DK).

Red-headed Woodpeckers, all singles, were in the MF area 6/3, 6/5 and 6/16 (DW, SM), near Spruce Creek 6/8 (JK), and near Airydale 7/30 (P&RW). **Alder Flycatcher** is an uncommon summer resident: four reports of one to 2 came from SV 6/2-10; one spent the entire season at OC, where not previously known to be a summer resident; and 2 were recorded in TCV 6/7 (m.ob.). Another uncommon nester, a **White-eyed Vireo**, was in SV 6/2 (EZ) and 2 were at MAR 6/9, an established summer location (DG, GG). Yet another uncommon nester, **Horned Lark** was found only at PF on six occasions 6/3-7/14, with a max of 9 on 6/10 (m.ob.).

A single **Bank Swallow** was recorded at a quarry off Rte .453 in northwest *Huntingdon* 6/11 (CE), a likely breeding location, one of few in the county. Eleven **Cliff Swallow** reports were topped by 30 at RL 6/11 (AP) and 25 at Mt. Union 7/1 (SD). **Golden-crowned Kinglets** are uncommon summer residents; eight reports, all of singles, were made from the area of SCEC 6/16-7/3 (JP, DW, DG). Another uncommon summer resident, one that varies in number considerably from one year to the next, is **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, found primarily in SV; at least 10 reports came this season in contrast to the general paucity reported elsewhere. Nine reports of **Winter Wren**, another uncommon nester, all came from RSF in northeast *Huntingdon*.

As usual, all reports of **Veery**, **Hermit Thrush**, and **Dark-eyed Junco** also came only from the northeast, in or near RSF. **Grasshopper Sparrows** were reported seven times from scattered locations (m.ob.). Counts of one to 2 **Savannah Sparrows** came from PF 6/3 and 7/14, MF 6/15 and 6/17 (all SM), and OC 6/18 (MK). The only location for **Vesper Sparrow** was PF, where one to 2 were observed five times 6/3-13

(m.ob.). TCV is the top spot for summer **Swamp Sparrows** in the county, with five counts of one to 3 birds at four different locations; singles were also at MAR 6/9 and OC 7/30 (GG, DG).

Yellow-breasted Chats were reported at least 12 times, from six locations, with a high of 4 at SGL 112 on 6/4 and 6/8 (m.ob.). **Bobolinks** were checked at their two established breeding locations: 15 were at Longhorn Rd. in TCV 6/21 (DW, GG, DG), and 3 at Nelson Rd. 6/11 (EZ).

Twenty-two warbler species were recorded, a typical number for the summer. With a dozen reports, **Golden-winged Warblers** outnumbered **Blue-winged Warblers** at least two to one, as commented on also in the Spring 2020 report. Hybrids of these two closely related (probably conspecific) species were observed five times. At least 2 territorial **Kentucky Warblers**, rare nesters here, continued from spring in SGL 322 (EZ, CE, MK, SL, RF).

An annual **Cerulean Warbler** survey is conducted on the LT along the JR (NB). On a 5.1-mile section that falls within *Huntingdon*, counts of Ceruleans were 17 on 6/8 and 14 on 6/24. **Yellow-rumped Warbler** is a rare nester in the county. A three-mile loop hike on Broad Mt. at high elevation produced 5 Yellow-rumps 7/1 (GG, DG); singles were on the ridge of SM 7/13 (NB) and at Greenwood Furnace SP 6/5 (SM), both of these locations not far from afore-mentioned Broad Mt. site. **Yellow-throated Warblers** were found at their usual location on LT, reported six times with a max of 4 on 6/8 (NB, DW, RF).

Addendum: A **Sandhill Crane** was found on the farm of Dan Hawthorne near the town of Spruce Creek 5/25 (*fide* JK).

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Indiana County

Two **American Avocets** were photographed along the West Penn Trail on the morning of 7/24 (MB, CE, MK, EZ); they were still present that evening (RH, SM). This is the seventh county record but only the third summer report. An **American Bittern** flew over the West Penn Trailhead 6/29 (BO); this is only the second summer record for this species in the county.

As they continue to expand their range into *Indiana*, only two reports of **Black Vulture** were received: 2 were sighted at Blairsville 6/7 (MH, RH) and one at Homer City 6/27 (JD). An **Alder Flycatcher** singing at SGL 262 on 6/1 (MH, RH) was found again in the same area 7/1 (AS).

The Oakland Cemetery **Fish Crows** fledged at least 2 young again this year; the adults were seen carrying food into a conifer where the young were hidden by branches 6/4 (MH, RH). Unusual was the continuing reports of a **Red-headed Woodpecker** near Jacksonville 6/13 and 6/20 (BM, KM) at the same location one had been observed 5/13 (MH, RH). Another appeared in a yard near Two Lick Res. 6/14 (CG).

A **Merlin** nesting at an undisclosed area of the county had fledged 2 young by 6/13 (DL). Previously common on reclaimed strip mines, the 2 singing **Grasshopper Sparrows** counted at SGL 262 on 6/24 (MH, RH) and 5 at SGL 276 on 6/29 (MH, RH) were good finds. Four **Henslow's Sparrows**, including a pair on nest, were observed at SGL 262 on 6/24 (MH, RH).

The summer report of a **Worm-eating Warbler** near Saltsburg 7/17 (PW, RW) in good breeding habitat was the first in years. A **Swainson's Warbler** was first heard along the West Penn Trail halfway between Bow Ridge and Livermore 6/9 (DL); the bird was still present through the end of the period. This was a second county record with the first seen at Yellow Cr. SP on 5/19/1989 (EH, NH). A late **Blackpoll Warbler** lingered at Yellow Cr. SP 6/2 (LC, PF, BF, MH, RH).

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Jefferson County

The best bird of the summer season was undoubtedly a well-described **Swallow-tailed Kite** at the northern-most border of the county along the Clarion River in Cook Forest SP south of Cooksbur. 7/17 (JP). This represents the second unconfirmed observation in the county. A similarly described sighting occurred over SGL 244 in June of 2014.

An **American Woodcock** was tallied along Galusha Road near Brockway 7/17 (DK). An adult and a juvenile **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** were reported at Clear Creek SP 7/1 (RT). Six **Acadian Flycatchers** were heard vocalizing at SGL 195 on 7/12 (DR). An **Alder Flycatcher** was located along Sugar Hill Road near Brockway 6/14 (P&RW). A **Warbling Vireo** was observed along Mahoning Shadow Trail 7/29 (MH, RH). Four individual **Blue-headed Vireos** were singing at SGL 195 on 7/12 (DR).

Several coniferous specialties were identified at Clear Cr. SP including a **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, a **Brown Creeper**, a **Winter Wren**, and a pair of **Golden-crowned Kinglets** 7/1 (RT). A breeding pair of **Grasshopper Sparrows** was photographed along Richardsville Road 6/17 (TS). Two **Dark-eyed Juncos** were observed along the Clarion-Little Toby Trail 6/29 (DR). Six **Bobolinks** were located along Laurel Fields Road 6/23 (PC), and a trio of **Orchard Orioles** were tallied near Ringgold 7/12 (J&AK)

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Juniata County

Locations: Casner's Crossing - Juniata River (CC), Licking Creek Valley (LCV), McAlisterville (MA), Mifflintown (MIF), Mifflintown River Access (MRA), Thompsontown (TT).

For the summer season, 117 species were entered into eBird for *Juniata*; the highlight was the second county eBird record of Sedge Wren.

A good count of 39 **Wood Ducks** was made at MRA 6/3 (JP). A late **Green-winged Teal** was near MIF 6/7 (KL). **Common Mergansers** continue to increase; among several counts, tops were 31 at CC 7/31 (CK, NK) and 20 at MRA 6/7 (CK, NK, JG).

Yellow-billed Cuckoos were numerous, but the only **Black-billed Cuckoo** was at MA 6/7 (JP). Four **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were on Shade Mt. 6/20 (JP) and one in LCV 6/10 (DB). Single **Spotted Sandpipers** were at MRA 6/3 and 7/26 (JP), and at Muskrat Springs 7/19 (CC). Single **Double-crested Cormorants** were at MRA 6/7 (CK, NK, JG) and CC 7/16 (CK, NK). The first post-breeding **Great Egret** was at MRA 7/23 (CS).

Not known to nest in the county, summer **Osprey**, all singles, were at MA 6/15 and MIF 7/26 (JP) and at CC 7/18, 7/25, and 7/31 (CK, NK). **Cooper's Hawks** were reported six times, as were **Bald Eagles** frequently throughout the period, with at least eight successful nests in the county (*fide* DW). Single **Red-shouldered Hawks** were near Arch Rock 7/12 (NB) and at CC 7/25 (CK). The only **Broad-winged Hawk** report was of one at CC 6/13 (CK, NK). A **Barn Owl** was found at an undisclosed location 7/27. Of the three regular owls, **Eastern Screech-Owl** and **Great Horned Owl** were reported four times each; the only **Barred Owl** was on Shade Mt. 6/20 (JP).

Up to 7 **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were counted at the established MA location (m.ob.); additional reports came from four other locations. A **Peregrine Falcon** was photographed during one of three sightings at CC in July (JG, NK, CK). Relatively uncommon among flycatchers, single **Willow Flycatchers** were at TT 6/25 (MN, DS) and MIF 7/26 (JP). Scarce in summer in *Juniata*, single **Horned Larks** were at MA 6/2 and 6/5 (JP) and at Flint Rd. 6/7 (AK).

Nine **Bank Swallows** were reported on the Juniata R. at TT 6/25 (MN, DS) and, a couple miles upstream on the river, 15 were at Mexico

6/26 (AW). The question is whether these were from nesting colonies, which would be notable for this declining species, or already dispersing from colonies elsewhere.

The bird of the season was a **Sedge Wren**, found on Flint Rd. northeast of TT 6/6 (MT, PR, m.ob.). This cooperative bird, the second county record in eBird, stayed until at least 6/20, seen and heard by many; a second wren was thought to be present. A bonus of the Sedge Wren chases was a string of reports of both **Grasshopper** and **Savannah Sparrows** from the same area, as well as one **Vesper Sparrow** 6/7 (AK).

Single **Yellow-breasted Chats** were at SGL 88 on 6/13 (JP) and near Port Royal 7/13 (CC). Unusual in the county in summer was a single **Bobolink**, also at the Sedge Wren site on Flint Rd. 6/27 (ZM, JH, RG). Continuing on the theme, **Eastern Meadowlark** was recorded at only two locations – at the Sedge Wren location, max of 2, all in June (m.ob.); and at MA 6/5-7/25, max of 2 (JP).

Fifteen warbler species were reported; following are notes on less common species. Single **Hooded Warblers** were at MA 6/7 and SGL 107 on 7/5 (JP). A **Blackburnian Warbler** was at SGL 88 on 6/13 and 2 at Lost Creek Falls on Shade Mt. 6/28 (JP). Two **Chestnut-sided Warblers** were at SGL 88 on 6/13. One to 2 **Yellow-throated Warblers** were recorded at Lewistown Narrows Canal Park 7/15-31 (m.ob.), and 2 **Prairie Warblers** were at SGL 88 on 6/13 (JP).

Noted infrequently in summer, **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were recorded six times, all 6/1-16 (m.ob.).

Observers: **Greg Grove**, gwg2@psu.edu, **Chad Kauffman**, 91 Kauffman Lane, Mifflintown, PA 17059, chadkauffman@earthlink.net, cell 717-994-6715, Nick Bolgiano, Deb Brackbill, Caitlin Conn, Ross Gallardy, Joe Gyekis, Jason Horn, Noah Kauffman, Andy Keister, Keith Leonhard, Zach Millen, Mark Nale, Jason Petersheim, Julia Plummer (JPI), Paul Renno, Darla Shank, Carrington Stephenson, Marvin Troyer, Dusty Weidner, Austin Willi.

Lackawanna County

Locations: Archbald Pothole State Park (ASP), Lackawanna State Park (LSP), Pinchot State Forest (PSF).

Lack of suitable habitat combined with snowy winters, busy roadways, and an abundance of mammalian predators keep Northeastern Pennsylvania's Ring-necked Pheasants scarce. There are currently no known self-sustaining populations within the region; the birds that are found here are those that were stocked for the fall hunting season and have outlasted the odds to become residents. If conditions are right, pheasants will produce and raise young that help maintain the presence of the species within the northeast. The mild 2019 winter had undoubtedly helped *Lackawanna's* **Ring-necked Pheasants**, allowing two to be located for the period: one at LSP 6/10 (DT, JT), followed by a rooster photographed at the same location 7/7 (MM).

Despite the continuing struggles of nightjars, *Lackawanna's* trend is encouraging. Five **Common Nighthawks** were reported, 4 more than 2019's breeding total, including one photographed on a nest in SGL 300 7/11 (JG). The remaining reports were of pairs seen in Montdale 6/19 (MM) and along Creamery Rd. 7/10 (DS). **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** are much rarer in *Lackawanna*; a minimum of 2 were heard singing at Eales Preserve 6/5 (DL, DT).

Although **Ospreys** appeared in good numbers last period, only 3 were discovered this season (m.ob.). A **Northern Harrier** was seen foraging over the fields near Dalton 7/1 (MBG). Owls are infrequently reported, but an **Eastern Screech-Owl** was found at Corby Swamp 6/6 (TD) followed by a **Great Horned Owl** vocalizing at LSP 6/9 (MM). Only 3 **American Kestrels** were reported for the period (m.ob.), but offsetting this was the first county eBird breeding account of **Merlin** with 5, including juvs., photographed in Dunmore 7/5 (JHa). Sadly, the period fell shy of a Falconidae sweep with no Peregrine Falcon reports.

Empidonax flycatchers saw a slight improvement in sightings over the 2019 season. An **Acadian Flycatcher** was at Chapman L. 7/31 (MM) preceded by 4 **Alder Flycatchers** at LSP: 2 on 6/4 (SP) and 6/10 (DT, JT), each report coming from a different section of the park. Three **Willow Flycatcher** were seen; singles were at Fords Pond Rd. 6/6 (TD), southeast of Ransom 6/4 (Michael Barney), and at ASP 6/13 (MM).

Blue-headed Vireos are doing well; a county high of 10 were found 7/3 LSP (SP). **Purple Martins** are in serious decline across the region; no sightings occurred in any of the northeast counties. Also low are 3 **Bank Swallows**: one on Jermyn Farm Rd. 7/4 (RA) and 2 at LSP 6/21 (DH, JH). **Cliff Swallow** was also absent. Although still lower than historically, woodland thrush numbers appear stable, a significant feature for a county hosting several large urban communities.

A minimum of 46 **Veerys** were found in 15 locations (m.ob.); the high count was 10 at PSF 6/13 (AY, BY), and at least 41 **Wood Thrush** were observed countywide (m.ob.). ASP remains a reliable location for **Grasshopper Sparrows** producing 2 on 6/7 (BH, KH). Breeding **White-throated Sparrows** were limited to PSF with 3 on 7/26 (JD).

It was not a good showing for grassland species this season. A single **Vesper Sparrow** was at Jermyn Farm Rd. 6/27 (RA) preceded by 3 **Savannah Sparrow** along White Rd. 6/6 (TD). **Bobolink** was also low with a countywide tally of 10 (m.ob.). The 6 **Eastern Meadowlarks** reported this period were on par with recent breeding seasons (m.ob.).

No major changes were noticed among warbler populations except for the sparsity of **Northern Waterthrush**; only one was located at Fords L. 7/31 (JR). One birder was treated to the sight of 2 **Yellow-rumped Warblers** 6/4 (SP), a rare breeder outside of the White Pine forests of *Pike*. **Prairie Warblers** were reported in good numbers producing 21 individuals from nine locations (m.ob.). The count of 3 **Canada Warblers** discovered at their known PSF breeding location 6/12 (AY, BY) was slightly lower than expected.

Observers: **Ryan Johnson, 140 Hollisterville Hwy, Moscow, PA 18444, (570) 702-9118, natureguy13@gmail.com**, Ralph Allen, Jonathon DeBalko, Tony DeSantis, Mary Belle Gilroy, Joe Greco, Deborah Hailey, Jim Hailey, Jack Harrington (JHa), Brian Henderson, Katie Henderson, David LaVerne, M. Mack, Susan Petty, Jim Ridolfi, David Snyder, Jon Thomas, David Trently, Alan Yuscavage, Bonnie Yuscavage.

Lancaster County

Locations: Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area (MCWMA), Susquehanna River - Conejohela Flats (SRCF), Susquehanna River - Lake Clarke (SRLC).

Average temps in Jun were normal, but precipitation at 2.2" was half of what we usually see. Jul was exceptionally hot with an average high of 91° F. (6° F. above average), but precipitation at 4.8" was normal. Any distribution notes (more abundant, less common, etc.) are compared to that species' five-year eBird data trend. There were 163 species recorded during the period, above the three-year average of 159 (162,161,153 previous).

The likely unwell **Tundra Swan** continued late around SRCF to 6/17 (m.ob.), and an injured **American Black Duck** was photographed there 6/8 (JHr). The first returning **Green-winged Teal** appeared at SRCF 7/31 (m.ob.). A drake **Bufflehead** was at SRCF 7/16-17 (JHr, PN), and a hen there 7/26 (EW). Strangely, a juvenile **Hooded Merganser** was seen at Chestnut Grove NA being tended to by a hen **Mallard** 6/22 (RN). **Common Mergansers** were, well, common along the Susquehanna R. Four **Ruddy Ducks** were seen at SRCF 6/2 (JHr), and 2 more at MCWMA 6/3 (JF). In reverse news, a **Pied-billed Grebe** was at MCWMA 7/18 (PF, JL), and another at SRCF 7/19 (ML). A **Horned Grebe** in breeding colors was found at SRCF 7/26 (EW). **Virginia Rails** bred in several locations, notably at MCWMA where a pair raised at least 7(!) chicks at once.

Unless otherwise noted, the following shorebird observations were made at SRCF: Two southbound **American Avocets** were photographed 7/28 (SSc). A northbound **Black-bellied Plover** was seen

6/2 (JHr). Up to 3 **Upland Sandpipers** moved through Lancaster Airport 7/15-31 (BC, m.ob.). Two **Ruddy Turnstones** were photographed 6/2 (JHr). A rare adult **Stilt Sandpiper** was seen at Octoraro Res. 7/30 (LL, LB); juveniles have been more common later in fall. The last northbound **Dunlin** was reported 6/2 (JHr), and an early **White-rumped Sandpiper** was noted 7/23 (JHr). Two **Short-billed Dowitchers** showed up at MCWMA 7/31 (BC, AB), and a **Wilson's Snipe** was early at MCWMA 7/31 (BC).

Two **Bonaparte's Gulls** were seen at SRCF 7/31 (JHr, P&RW), a juv and an adult. A sub-adult **Laughing Gull** showed up after 7/16 (JHr, m.ob.), and 2 juvs after 7/20 (CB, DS). An adult **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was highly unusual for the early date of 7/23 (JHr). One of the better finds of the season was a **Least Tern**, distantly photographed at SRCF 6/15 (ML). Two **Common Terns** were present at SRCF 7/23 (JHr). Two **Forster's Terns** were on SRLC 6/15 (ZM, m.ob.), and 5 on SRCF 7/31 (JHr). Two tardy **Common Loons** were seen on SRLC 6/8 (ZM, RM). An **American White Pelican** was discovered on SRLC 6/6-15 (DHi, m.ob.), a very nice find for the season and possibly continuing from spring.

Regularly starting in Jul are small white waders at their usual locations in the county: A juv **Snowy Egret** stalked the shallows at SRCF 7/16-26 (JHr, m.ob.), and at least 5 showed up at Octoraro Res. 7/29-31 (LL, m.ob.). A juv **Little Blue Heron** lingered at MCWMA 7/13-21 (m.ob.), one at SRCF 7/23 (JHr) and one at Octoraro Res. 7/30 (LL). The **Black-crowned Night-Herons** at the Ephrata Community Hospital had a successful breeding season, and the highest count of immatures was 60 on 6/29. The male **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron**, once again unlucky in love, was last reported with them 7/3.

At least two locations fledged young **Peregrine Falcons** this season. Four young came from a cliff eyrie near Safe Harbor Dam, and 3 more from beneath the Rte. 462 bridge near Columbia. Unfortunately, one of these was killed by a car along the bridge, which sadly seems to happen nearly every year. At a quarry location, adults were seen but fledglings unconfirmed. Several **Alder Flycatchers** once again bred at MCWMA.

A pair of **Common Ravens** bred on the same cliff as the Peregrines near Safe Harbor Dam, the only known nesters in the county. **Cliff Swallows** bred as always at Muddy Run Res., but were not confirmed at any other traditional locations along the river. A **Sedge Wren** was found briefly singing in a sedge and cattail area north of Manheim 7/28-29 (BC, m.ob.), but did not continue after the period. Five **Vesper Sparrow** reports were made in likely breeding locations.

Sixteen breeder warbler species were recorded. Among the rarer ones were **Prothonotary Warblers** which bred at their usual spots along the Susquehanna R., and a male sang at MCWMA through at least 6/15 (m.ob.). A **Pine Warbler** was found twice at Rock Springs Nature Preserve where they breed in the serpentine barrens (m.ob.). A single male **Dickcissel** remained at the location near Peach Bottom where numerous birds were found prior to the period before the farmer mowed the fields. Another male was photographed at MCWMA 7/8 (JW).

The best bird of the season was a **Western Kingbird** photographed at Chestnut Grove Natural Area 6/7 (DB), the sixth county record and remarkably the third site record! Readers will remember the kingbird which had been enjoyed here by many in the fall of 2019.

Observers: **Zach Millen, 101 Bridle Path, New Holland, PA 17557, (717) 723-1279, zjmillen@gmail.com**, Tom Amico, Adam Bartles, Larry Bernhardt, Chuck Berthoud, Paul Blank, Sabrena Boekell, Jerry Book, Emily Broich, Drew Brubaker, Bruce Carl, Mike Epler, Amy Evans, Justin Felty, Lauren Ferreri, Steve Ferreri, Pamela Fisher, Melissa Gallardy, Ross Gallardy, Loretta Gehman, Carlton Groff, Dennis Harnly, Eric Hartshaw, Jonathan Heller, Daniel Hinesbusch (DHi), Jason Horn (JHr), Josh Houck, Barbara Hunsberger, Chad Kauffman, Laura Kemmick, John Lahr, Larry Lewis, Bill Libhart, Meredith Lombard, Ervin Martin, Annette Mathes, Brett Matlock, Maddie Matthew, Seth McComsey, Rebecca Millen, Paul Nale, Ted Nichols II, Brian Quindlen, Jack Reese, Matt Sabatine, Steve Schmit (SSc), Josh Schulz, Bob Schutsky, Derek

Stoner, Stan Stahl, Dennis Weaver, Patricia & Richard Williams, Eric Witmer, Joe Wolf, Mike & Megan Zettlemoyer.

Lawrence County

Locations: Shaner Road Marsh (SR), Vosler Road (VR).

A female **Redhead** summered at McConahy Road, Plain Grove Twp., seen through 7/19 at least (MV, et al.). **Black-billed Cuckoo** is rare in *Lawrence*, but was noted at Black Swamp 6/13-7/17 (MK, et al.). Two **Common Gallinules** were at the traditional breeding location on Wampum-New Galilee Road 6/13 (MV).

Once again shorebirds at SR were the stars of the season, and this summer, the farm pond on VR also produced some good birds. A lingering **Semipalmated Plover** was still at SR 6/2 (MC), and a **Ruddy Turnstone** also continued there (from 5/31) to 6/1 (KD). Thirteen **Least Sandpipers** were also still at SR 6/1 (KD); as noted in last season's report, this was a significant count for the species this late in the spring. The 34 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** at SR 6/2 (MC) were more expected for early June. Two **Pectoral Sandpipers** were back at SR 7/18 (GK, MAK), 2 **Short-billed Dowitchers** were at SR 7/23-28 (MV) and one at VR 7/24-31 (MV). First **Lesser Yellowlegs** was already at SR by 7/12 (MV), and 2 **Greater Yellowlegs** were there by 7/11 (MC). Quite notable was a very late **Greater Yellowlegs** at VR 6/6 (MV).

Six **Caspian Terns** were noted on the Beaver River at the Rte. 168 overpass 6/5 (MV), a nice summer count for *Lawrence*. One **Great Egret** was at SR 7/24 (MV). **Northern Harrier** was noted a few times at Volant Strip Mines in June and July (MC, MV).

One **Red-headed Woodpecker** attended a yard near New Castle 6/25-7/20 (PS), and one continued at SGL 151 through the season (RN, et al.). Also notable at SGL 151 was a **Veery** 7/6 (DK). A **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was in Mahoning Twp. 6/4 (CH), and 2 **Yellow-throated Warblers**, rare for the county, were along the Mahoning River near Hillsville 7/24 (DA). A **Prairie Warbler** along Mason Road 7/27 (MV) was also unusual. A great count of 5 **Black-throated Green Warblers** was made at McConnell's Mill SP 6/11 (DG, TJ). They were noted in smaller numbers at the park through at least 7/10 (m.ob.).

Observers: **Geoff Malosh, 7762 Maumee Western Road, Maumee, OH 43537-9334, (412) 735-3128, pomarine@earthlink.net**, David Arrow, Martin Carlin, Karen Delaney, Mike Fialkovich, Doug Gochfeld, Craig Holt, Tom Johnson, Deb Kalbfleisch, Michelle Kienholz, Mary Alice Koenke (MAK), Glenn Koppel, Richard Nugent, Pam Shaw, Mark Vass.

Lebanon County

Locations: Memorial Lake State Park (MLSP), Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area (MC).

A **Blue-winged Teal** provided a new late date at MC 6/3 (SF). Up to 2 **Ring-necked Ducks** at MLSP 6/1-7/28 (TO, MB, TK, NM, m.ob.), and up to 3 at MC 6/3-7/29 (SF) crushed the previous county late date of 6/14. A **Bufflehead** was somewhat late at MLSP 6/14 (NM). Up to 4 **Ruddy Ducks** provided a new county late date at MLSP 6/1-9 (TO, T&KB, RE). Accidental in mid-summer were single **Ruddy Ducks** at Kreider's Pond 6/20-7/25 (JH, P&RW, T&KB) and at MLSP 6/20-7/26 (JH, P&RW, AB).

Accidental in July was a **Pied-billed Grebe** at MLSP 7/14-28 (AB, RP, MB). Two **Virginia Rails** were calling near Shuey L. 6/1 (TB). A good early count was provided by 108 **Least Sandpipers** at MC 7/25 (SF, TN). A **Semipalmated Sandpiper** tied the county early date at Kreider's Pond 7/20 (JH). A **Short-billed Dowitcher** was fairly early at Quittapahilla Educational Wetlands 7/18-19 (JH, P&RW, JD, MC, AK, SW).

Barred Owls were heard at SGL 211 from 6/13-7/8 (SB, BB, JH), at Harpers 6/13 (JH), and along Cold Springs Road 7/4 (SW). **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were reported in their stronghold at Fort Indiantown Gap, and in five other county locations, between 6/3-7/19 (JS, JHn, JF, JH, DH, MC, LR, m.ob.).

An **Alder Flycatcher** was at Quittapahilla Educational Wetlands 6/2 (TK) and MC 6/10 (JH). Up to 20 **Bank Swallows** provided a good count at Kreider's Pond 7/21-25 (JH, P&RW). A **Winter Wren**, an uncommon breeder in northern *Lebanon*, was at SGL 211 on 7/12 (JH). A **Sedge Wren** was singing at MC 7/27 (SF, TN). A **White-throated Sparrow**, found to be missing a leg, provided a first July record at Swatara SP 7/9-12 (MD, JH, JF, NF, JD, EH, m.ob.).

A **Kentucky Warbler**, a rare county breeder, continued from spring at Swatara SP 6/1-7/17 (TK, R&PP, P&RW, JS, DK). A **Cerulean Warbler**, also an uncommon breeder, continued from spring at SGL 211 along Cold Springs Road 6/2-7/5 (JS, NF, SW, JH, TO). A **Summer Tanager** provided a sixth county record at Swatara SP 7/7-11 (MD, TK, P&RW, SG, EH). A **Blue Grosbeak** was at MC 6/10-7/23 (SW, JH, TK), and at Fort Indiantown Gap near Shuey L. 7/16 (JDr). A **Dickcissel** was also at Fort Indiantown Gap near Shuey L. 7/15-16 (TN, SW, JH, JDr, CT).

Observers: **Timothy Becker, 10283 Jonestown Rd, Grantville Pa 17028, tjbecker81@aol.com**, Kathy Becker, Amy Beres, Mary Brenner, Brandon Brown, Brian Brown (BBr), Stefani Brown, Mary Coomer, Michael David, Jonathan DeBalko, Jarrod Derr (JDr), Richard Evans, Justin Felty, Nate Felty, Steve Ferreri, Jim Fiorentino (JFi), Scott Godshall, Jonathan Heller, Elaine Hendricks, Jacob Henry (JHn), David Hooper, Ted Keen, Andy Keister, Darlene Kershner, Nate McKelvie, Brian Newhouse, Tina Offner, Robert Peda, Rick and Peggy Price (R&PP), Laura Richards, Jen Szekeres, Scott Thomas, Cassidy Titus, Steve Walthius, Patricia and Richard Williams.

Luzerne County – no compiler

Lycoming County

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

Overall, it was a very dry summer with only a couple rain events. In total, 145 species were reported during the summer. A male **Lesser Scaup** spent the entire summer season at RVL (BB, et al.). **Black-billed Cuckoo** numbers seemed unusually low. At least 2 **Common Nighthawks** were flying over Montoursville 6/4 (BB, DB), but the species was not noted otherwise.

A **Virginia Rail** was heard in suitable breeding habitat at SGL 252 on 6/25 (BB, AK, DaB). A **Ruddy Turnstone** was at RVL 6/1 (RK, CT, et al.), providing the third *Lycoming* record of that species. A **Pectoral Sandpiper** was reported from the Muncy Boat Launch area 7/25 (DaB). A **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was reported at Little Pine SP 7/20 (RW).

A **Bonaparte's Gull** was at RVL 7/12 (BB). Two **Laughing Gulls** turned up at RVL after a storm 6/10 (BB, DeB, BoB, et al.), providing the second *Lycoming* record of that species. The birds continued 6/11 (BB, AK). A **Caspian Tern** flew over MS 6/3 (BB), and one was also at RVL in storm 6/27 (BB, DeB, BoB). There are no known previous summer records of that species in *Lycoming*. A **Common Loon** was at RVL 6/10-11 (BB, DeB, BoB, et al.), and one was seen off and on near Williamsport Dam all summer.

A **Least Bittern** was discovered in potential breeding habitat at SGL 252 on 6/3 (DaB), providing the first known *Lycoming* record of that species. A follow-up survey 6/25 confirmed that a pair was present and had a nest with eggs (DaB, BB, AK).

An **Osprey** was at RVL 6/17 (BB) and 6/27 (BB, DeB, BoB), and there were reports along Pine Cr. in the second half of July (MS, JH). **Merlins** were present in decent numbers during the summer, with activity in at least four different areas in the county.

A singing **Alder Flycatcher** was present at RVL for several weeks in Jun (BB), but it was in an inaccessible area, and nesting activity was not confirmed. A singing **White-eyed Vireo** was reported in Old *Lycoming* Twp. 7/7 (DF). **Yellow-throated Vireo** reports were limited to Bodines Rd. 6/28 (EH) and along the Pine Cr. Rail Trail 7/21 (MS, SS).

Two **Purple Finches** were at RVL 6/21 (BB). A **Pine Siskin** was at a feeder in Ralston 7/4 (NF). A singing **White-throated Sparrow** was heard at RVL 6/1 (BB, DB, DeB), and another singing bird was seen at the same location 7/12 (BB).

Observers: **Bobby Brown**, bobbybrown1011@gmail.com, Dan Brauning (DaB), Bob Brown (BoB), David Brown, Deb Brown (DeB), Jean Dalton, Maddi Dunlap, Dave Ferry, Norwood Frederick, Eric Hartshaw, Jared Hollick, Andy Keister, Ray Kozen, Steve Pinkerton, Matthew Schenck, Susan Schenck, Clair Thompson, Ron Wagner.

Mercer County

This summer was pretty quiet compared to the spring. Weather was warmer and dryer than usual. The first notable push of shorebirds was July 18 but very few came through.

The only waterfowl of note were 2 **Lesser Scaup** at Maurice Goddard SP 6/17 (JJ). Game birds were also hardly noted, as the only reported **Ring-necked Pheasants** for the period were 2 on 7/7 at Holmes Road (KS, JS). Cuckoos were more widely reported but still in small numbers. Two each of **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** and **Black-billed Cuckoo** were at Triple Link 6/9 (GK, MAK, NT). Of particular note, **Common Nighthawks** were observed throughout the period in Sharon. Highest number was 5 on 6/28 (BW). With the numbers reported during the entire period, this points to a successful breeding season.

The most exciting find this period was 3 **American Avocets** at Shenango Propagation Area 7/29 (KS, m.ob.). One continued through 7/31. The push noted at Shenango Propagation Area 7/18 included 12 **Least Sandpipers**, 3 **Pectoral Sandpipers**, 2 **Short-billed Dowitchers**, 4 **Solitary Sandpipers**, and one **Lesser Yellowlegs** (MV). A single **Wilson's Snipe** was at Greenville 7/21 (MW). A single **Peregrine Falcon** was noted at Limber Road 6/6 (KS). Habitat here has been good for raptors as noted by winter hawks, so this was not too surprising.

Cliff Swallows were noted at several locations - the high count of 354 was made at Shenango Res. - West Lake Road 6/29 (KS). One **Clay-colored Sparrow** was found in Transfer 6/4 (KS) and subsequently seen by many observers. Several photos were taken of this bird as it was very cooperative. A few warblers were noted. Two **Prothonotary Warblers** were at Shenango Res. 7/31 (KS). One **Kentucky Warbler** was found at Triple Link 6/9 (GK, MAK, NT). A **Cerulean Warbler** was at Creek Road 6/13 (GK, MAK). A **Blackpoll Warbler** at Greenville 6/3 (MW), was most likely a late migrant. A probable new location was found for **Prairie Warbler**; one found on Spring Road 6/1 (MH, SS) may have been a migrant as it was not re-located.

Observers: **Glenn Koppel**, 122 Linsdale Drive, Butler, PA 16001, 703-203-3362, macatilly@gmail.com, Martin Carlin, Patience Fisher, Mimi Hoffmaster, Julie Jansen, Mary Alice Koeneke, Jim McConnor, Jennifer Neider, Richard Nugent, Steve Sanford, Jim Springer, Kim Springer, Neil Troyer, Mark Vass, Michael Williams, Bill Winkler.

Monroe County

Locations: Mount Pocono Airport (MPA).

The summer season resulted in very favorable weather for birders and birding. Temperatures hovered around average with normal amounts of humidity. A **Blue-winged Teal** was found lingering at the water treatment plant at the MPA 6/3 (BJ). Two **Trumpeter Swans** continued to come and go all spring but 6/5 was the last date they were seen at Lynchwood L. (BJ) – but see note below.

July brought a high count for **Mourning Doves** of at least 140 after hydro-seeding was completed at the Corporate Center adjacent to MPA 7/25 (BJ). This may have been only half of the real number. A high flyover **American Bittern** was photographed and a high of 52 **Killdeer** were counted staging at the MPA runways 7/26 (BJ). The only transient shorebird of note was an early **Lesser Yellowlegs** found at Swiftwater L. 7/15 (TG).

On 7/27, I was surprised to see a pair of **Trumpeter Swans** with two nicely grown cygnets on a private lake in *Monroe*. My wife was showing me her mom's cabin in a private community, and when we walked down to the lake I could see swans on the other side that did not appear to be Mute Swans. We took a paddle boat out and the swan family swam literally right up to us, circling our boat before hauling up on shore. (I have video if anyone's interested.) I discovered afterward that several observers had eBirded two Trumpeters at a location in *Pike* in September 2019. These appear to be only the third and fourth Trumpeter cygnets ever recorded in Pennsylvania. The other two breeding records, from *Jefferson* in 2018 and *Cumberland* 2020, each produced a single offspring – *Billy Weber*.

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

Montgomery County

Locations: Dixon Meadow Preserve (DMP), Fort Washington State Park (FWSP), Green Lane Park (GLP), Valley Forge National Historical Park (VFNHP), Wissahickon Waterfowl Preserve (WWP).

The confirmed species total this season was 130, which was slightly higher than most recent years.

A **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** was discovered at GLP 7/20 by one of the park employees. Word got out to the *Montgomery* birding community by late afternoon thanks to Joseph Greco and others, and several birders were able to see it (m.ob., ph.). This duck was the first of its species to be observed at GLP, a long overdue addition to the park's impressive species list. It also represents what is only the second overall county record of Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, with the sighting of the first occurring almost precisely one year prior. Notably early or late dabbling ducks included a **Gadwall** at GLP 7/2-12 (PH, m.ob., ph.) and a male **Green-winged Teal** at GLP 7/24 (PH, ph.), still holding onto much of its breeding plumage. **Hooded Merganser**, formerly as unexpected as those dabblers in the summer months, was noted sporadically in low single digits at GLP and three other locations 6/1-7/12 (m.ob., ph.).

Black-billed Cuckoo, an infrequent breeding species, was encountered in Franconia Twp. 6/2 (SG), at McKaig Nature Education Center 6/6 (GG, et al.) and Mont Clare 6/7 (SS). An **American Avocet** was photographed at GLP 7/23 (JD). It did not stay long. As many as 5 **Semipalmated Plovers** remained at GLP through 6/4 (m.ob., ph.). Another Semipalmated Plover was detected at WWP 7/31 (KR).

A handful of dedicated individuals again watched for flyover shorebirds during evenings in early Jun, hoping to catch a glimpse of flocks streaming northward after the birds had spent their day gorging on horseshoe crab eggs at the periphery of Delaware Bay. Reported highlights included 100 **Ruddy Turnstones** and 80 **Red Knots** over VFNHP 6/2 (SGr), then several hundred turnstones, 250 Red Knots, 1200 **Semipalmated Sandpipers**, and 3000 unidentified shorebirds over GLP 6/4 (JH, KR). The push of 6/4 also brought 4200 mystery shorebirds past Pennsburg 6/4 (PH) and 2000 by Arcola (SGr). The 6/4 Semipalmated Sandpiper movement established a new county high count for this species; on the ground, they were noted at GLP and WWP 6/2-3 and 7/22-31 in quantities of 2 and 3 (m.ob.). A **White-rumped Sandpiper** was at GLP 6/2 (JH, et al., ph.). A **Short-billed Dowitcher** poked around a retention pond at King of Prussia Town Center 7/21-23 (SGr, m.ob., ph.). **Solitary Sandpipers** were attracted to a fairly new wetland mitigation area in Ambler, around the block from WWP, peaking at a high of 11 on 7/29 (JM, m.ob.).

A flock of 27 **Ring-billed Gulls** was seen at GLP 6/4 (JH, KR). While this would be no great shakes most seasons, for the summer period, 27 represents a new period high count for *Montgomery*. Pairs of **Caspian Terns** were seen at GLP 7/21 (KR) and 7/31 (m.ob.). A **Common Loon** spent a portion of its summer on the Schuylkill River at Flat Rock Park 6/27-7/7 (MW, m.ob.). Odds are decent that it was same individual seen here 5/24-30 (MW, m.ob., ph.).

An immature **Little Blue Heron** was spotted at a wetland in Upper

Merion Twp. 7/13 (SB, ph.). A ludicrous 22 **Green Herons** were noted at the south end of GLP 7/30 (KR), representing a new county high count by a wide margin. Single immature **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were seen in flight at GLP 6/2 (m.ob.) and sneaking around WWP 7/27 to the period's end (RB, m.ob., ph.). An adult **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was located intermittently at Norristown Dam 6/22-7/30 (MR, m.ob.). Regrettably, there was no indication of nesting success this year as no juveniles ever showed.

In better breeding news, what was potentially *Montgomery's* first successful **Osprey** nesting was observed in Palm. Nest high up on a cell tower, Osprey dutifully attended to their offspring from at least 7/15 through the end of this period (LH, m.ob., ph.). A **Broad-winged Hawk** nest, which delivered 2 chicks, was found at GLP 5/28, working in association with Hawk Mountain Sanctuary (PH, GL). The juvenile Broad-wings ultimately left the nest on or near 7/17 (PH, ph.). Broad-winged Hawks were also sighted in the Unami Creek Valley and Evansburg SP (m.ob., ph.). The leucistic **Red-tailed Hawk** once again nested in Hatfield (KR).

Solo **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were seen at Gilbertsville's Hickory Valley Golf Club 6/21 (MWi, ph.) and in a Harleysville yard from 6/26-7/31 (JR, BR, ph.). A highly localized breeder, **White-eyed Vireo** was spotted at a couple regular sites (m.ob.), plus at Haverford College 6/3 (SJ, vr.) and in Marlborough Twp. 6/22 (JG).

Of reports from the Ruth Rd. **Purple Martin** colony in Salford Twp., the highest count was 30 on 6/24 (BM). An unprecedented 200 **Tree Swallows** were estimated at GLP 7/2 (PH), a quantity representing a new *Montgomery* summer high count. Dwarfing this swallow congregation, however, and quintupling a previous county overall high count record, was a massive flock of approximately 1500 **Barn Swallows** at a Pennsburg pond on the evenings of 6/25 and 6/29 (PH). **Bank Swallows** were regularly at GLP in the latter half of Jul, beginning with 13 on 7/9 (PH). A **Cliff Swallow** was noted at WWP 7/26 (DB).

The establishment of another county high count came about due to a nest box check at FWSP; including juveniles, 34 **House Wrens** were counted 6/15 (PB). A **Marsh Wren** was found at DMP 7/25 (PD, vt.). A **Grasshopper Sparrow** discovered at Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust 5/29 (AM) continued at the park until 6/6 (m.ob., ph.). The species was also present in regular breeding territory along Fruitville Rd. near GLP through at least 7/2 (m.ob., ph.). A pair of Grasshopper Sparrows showed up at DMP 7/28-31 (DB, m.ob., vr.). This represents at least the second summer record of the species at DMP in recent years. The only other notable sparrow for the period was a mysterious single-day **White-throated Sparrow** in Franconia Twp. 6/16 (SG).

A **Yellow-breasted Chat** made its presence known at King of Prussia's Heuser Park 6/17-20 (SGr, m.ob., ph.). The summertime blackbird roost at the north end of GLP included a minimum of 4500 **Common Grackles** 7/21 and, on 7/2, 4200 grackles and 350 **Brown-headed Cowbirds** (PH).

Of *Montgomery's* declining warbler species, all three **Worm-eating Warbler** reports came from the Unami Creek Valley (m.ob.). There was just one heard-only **Blue-winged Warbler** at FWSP 6/3 (KI, VM), a location where they are not known to breed. It was presumed to be a late migrant. More established sites delivered no Blue-wings. At least 4 **American Redstarts** were at Rolling Hill Park in Gladwyne (m.ob.), really the only site where Redstarts can be dependably found in *Montgomery* during summer. A random Redstart also turned up at Temple University Arboretum 6/17 (AA, vr.). There were a dozen reports of **Blackpoll Warblers** 6/1-4 (m.ob.). **Pine Warblers** were spied at five locations (m.ob.), including a potential Jun park-record-setting individual at FWSP 6/28 (DB).

Seven **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were observed at assorted locations 6/1-19 (m.ob.), some for multiple day stretches, but with no obvious breeding behaviors noted. **Blue Grosbeaks** were a bit more clear in their intentions, with a pair continuing from 5/29 (BM) through the end of the summer period at DMP (m.ob., ph.), an infrequently sighted pair or pairs at VFNHP through at least 7/12 (DeB, m.ob., ph.), and 2 separate singing males on Franconia Twp. farmland 6/14 (WBH, KH, vr.) and 7/6 (WBH, vr.).

Observers: **W. Brian Henderson, Salford Twp., PA, wbhenderson@gmail.com**, Andrew Albright, Debbie Beer (DeB), Dave Belford, Redmond Brubaker, Peter Burns, Sara Busch, Joanne Depietro, Paul Driver, Scott Godshall, Gregg Gorton, Jeffrey Greco, Joseph Greco (JoG), Steve Grunwald (SGr), Katie Henderson, Paul Heveran, Len Hillegass, Jason Horn, Karin Isett, Sheryl Johnson, Gabrielle Lent, Vicky Mahmoud, Jack McBrearty, Brandon McCracken, Anna Mindel, Beth Reach, Joe Reach, Kenneth Rieker, Michael Rosengarten, Sam Stuart, Marshall Walthew, Matthew Wibberley (MWi).

Montour County

Locations: Montour Preserve (MP)

Birder coverage was extremely light in this smallest county in the state, and there were no eye-raising highlights. **Red-headed Woodpeckers** are increasing their hold in the northern part of the county, and they likely made breeding attempts at a minimum of three locations (AK, RM, SM). A singing **Grasshopper Sparrow** on Tower Drive 7/20 was an interesting date for this sometimes late-nesting species (EH, ph., vr.). It did not seem to be present a week later.

Observers: **Evan Houston, evanhouston@gmail.com**, Andy Keister, Robin Minnick, Sean Minnick.

Northumberland County

The summer season was slow with few reports due to decreased birder effort. Following a cold and wet spring season, summer was seasonal with average rainfall and above-average temperatures.

An **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was reported in the area of Big Mountain Road Shamokin 6/11-7/7 (AM, HM). This species has been rarely reported within the county; however, they most likely have bred in some of the more mountainous and remote areas in the southern portion of the county. The only report of **Sora** was of a single, incessantly calling bird at the Amish Pond near Turbotville 6/3-5 (EH, AK, KP, WE). **Sora** were notably absent from the Warrior Run Wetlands this season.

A **Blue-winged Warbler** was photographed at Weiser SF 7/5 (KD). This species has possibly begun nesting in the area following recent clear-cutting. Singing **Cerulean Warblers** were photographed in two different areas of SGL 84, first 6/1 (EH) and then 6/11 (KP). This could be a new breeding location for the species.

Observers: **Andy Keister, 110 Hawk Ridge Road, Bloomsburg, PA 17815, (570) 337-3802, akeister110@gmail.com**, Kayley Dillon, Wesley Egli, Evan Houston, Andy Makal, Heather Makal, Karol Pasquinelli, ogert, Steph Fullmer, Karol Pasquinelli, Lauren Shaffer, Bill Snyder.

Perry County – no report

Philadelphia County

Locations: Army Corps of Engineers' Fort Mifflin (ACE), Franklin Delano Roosevelt Park (FDR), Island Green Country Club and Golf Course - abandoned (IGCC), John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge (JHNWR), Southwest Water Treatment Plant (SWTP).

Amazingly 12.7%!!! This was the portion of Pennsylvania's **Peregrine Falcon** pairs breeding in the most urban county covering 0.3% of the Commonwealth. An all-time high of eight pairs (out of 63 state-wide) called *Philadelphia* home this summer. This included two new nests at Temple University in the city's north and St. Cyprian Church close to Cobbs Creek Park. Five pairs were successful, raising a total of 16 young (AM).

Another piece of evidence that northeast *Philadelphia*, other than spots along the Delaware R., deserves more attention from the local birding community was the discovery of 7 **Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks** at the retention pond behind the Philadelphia Mills mall 6/24 (HP et al.). This little water body should be checked regularly, especially after

storms and in winter when geese congregate there. Two **Pied-billed Grebes** were at JHNWR 7/19-23 (BB, MD, RZ). Apart from several observations during 2019, when they bred at FDR, summer records have been scarce with the last one stemming from July 2014.

A pair of **Common Gallinules** again successfully raised offspring in their usual spot at Meadow Lake at FDR (RK et al.). Three adults were seen at SWTP 6/29 (PM, HP, BQ). One bird, possibly the same individual overwintering, was seen last at JHNWR 6/7 (m.ob.). A **Sandhill Crane** soared over South Philadelphia as seen from the Walt Whitman Bridge 7/26 (SB).

An unusual summer **American Woodcock** was flushed at Andorra Meadow 7/18-19 (AB). The last confirmation of successful breeding heralds from 2007, when the late John C. Miller found 2 young at JHNWR on 6/3. Similarly, **Spotted Sandpipers** were last confirmed breeding 19 years ago when a nest was found at ACE 6/2 (KR). During this year's Philadelphia Breeding Bird Census, a team once again gained access to this site and discovered an adult with 3 recently fledged young among the total of 14 individuals 6/27 (GA, PM, HP). Not seen since 2015, a **Gull-billed Tern** was a rare find at SWTP 6/29 (PM, HP, BQ). **Least Bitterns** were seen at JHNWR and SWTP, but no breeding was confirmed (m.ob.). A **Cattle Egret** was a nice surprise in some agricultural fields in northwest Philadelphia 6/19 (JS et al.).

Ospreys successfully raised young at a minimum of six locations within the city limits, including two previously unknown locations at ACE and the Navy Yard. At the latter site, the traditional nest on the USS El Paso appeared to have been abandoned in early summer, and birds moved to the nearby USNS Hayes. With some headwind, a **Mississippi Kite** needed about 10 minutes to fly the 12-mile stretch between JHNWR and Awbury Arboretum 6/7 (DB, BR).

We have not usually heard much about breeding **Cooper's Hawks** even though they appear to be around all the time. Aside from successful pairs at Woodland Cemetery and Poquessing Creek Park, 5 hatchlings were rescued from a fallen nest at the Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education after a storm 6/2 and brought to a nearby wildlife clinic (ED).

The first-ever **Barred Owl** offspring in the city did well throughout summer. As with Cooper's Hawks, **American Kestrels** are present throughout the year, but breeding records have been hard to come by. Surprisingly, one family was discovered in the Walnut Hill and Queen Village neighborhoods in late June (BBr, AZ).

Summer observations of **White-eyed Vireos** are few and far between nowadays, so it was nice to hear singing birds at JHNWR and Pennypack Park in July (JM, HP). Apart from a nesting attempt at JHNWR in May, no breeding evidence was recorded. Ninety **Bank Swallow** burrows were counted at ACE 6/27 (GA, PM, HP). This would explain the number of birds seen at JHNWR over the last couple of years. The last colony was found at ACE in 2001 (KR).

Field Sparrows enjoyed their last breeding season at IGCC, with 20 birds counted on 6/7 (PM, MW). This abandoned golf course was the hotspot for the species in the city, but warehouse plans are being finalized. While there might have been a first breeding record for **Yellow-breasted Chats** at Palmyra Cove across the DR in New Jersey, single birds at Houston Meadow and JHNWR 6/14 (KJ, DB) were not re-found. The first summer observations of a couple of **Eastern Meadowlarks** at the Northeast Airport in a long time indicated a possible breeding attempt (LH et al.).

A **Prothonotary Warbler** at Wissahickon Valley Park 6/22 appeared to be the first eBird summer record there (CH). Breeding of **Pine Warblers** was confirmed, likely for the first time, at Verree Meadow in Pennypack Park on 6/14 when an adult was seen feeding a fledgling (HP). Pairs of **Blue Grosbeaks** were at ACE and IGCC, keeping hopes alive that this rare breeder will be successful the third year in a row (GA, PM, HP).

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Eduardo Duenas, Liam Hart, Clifford Hence, Ken Januski, Robert Karchnyak, Jim McConnel, Patrick McGill, Art McMorris, Brian Quindlen, Bill Reaume, Keith Russell, Judy Stepenaskie, Michael Walter, Adam Zahn, Rich Ziegler.

Potter County

Locations: Cherry Springs State Park (CSSP), Galeton Lake (GL), Lyman Run State Park (LRSP), Sinnemahoning State Park (SISP), Susquehannock State Forest's Baker Run near Odin (SSF-BR), Susquehannock State Forest's Hoxy Trail in Odin (SSF-HT).

Reports were taken from eBird for the summer season tallying 106 species for the county. Data for notable sightings were obtained from 25 locations and submitted by 22 observers. Waterfowl highlights included 7 **Wood Ducks** near Cherry Springs Rd, Coudersport 7/20 (ML), two sightings of **Hooded Mergansers** reported from GL with 3 observed 6/7 and 2 on 6/21 (PRW and KC). **Common Mergansers** were reported five times at GL, with a high of 13 on 7/14 (EH, KC, PRW); 3 were observed at SISP 6/11 (KEn).

Three **Ruffed Grouse** fledglings were seen at SSF-BR 6/20 (MH) and sightings of single birds were reported from SSF-HT 6/21 (MH), Slate Quarry 7/3 (LW), and South Mitchel Road in Coudersport 7/4 (DD). Eight **Wild Turkeys** were reported at Austin 7/23 (NM), 2 were seen at Mina Road 6/6 (TC), and one was observed at CSSP 7/31 (MK). Seven reports of **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** were noted from various locations south of Rte.6, with 2 reported from CSSP 7/31 (MK). Reports of **Black-billed Cuckoo** are usually low in number, with just 10 birds reported to eBird between 2010 and 2019 for June through July. This summer, one bird was reported from CSSP 7/20 (SM) and another at Ole Bull SP 7/20 (LD). Just four reports of **Eastern Whip-poor-will** have been entered into eBird since 2000; one bird was reported from the intersection of Lodge Road and Mina Road 6/5 (TC).

Five reports of single **Spotted Sandpipers** included two from LRSP 6/6 and 6/9 (JC) and three reports from GL 7/14, 7/21 and 7/28 (EH, KC). Early migrants, 2 **Solitary Sandpipers** were seen at a large pond off Rte. 44 south of Sweden Valley 7/28 (KC).

A single **Osprey** was at GL 7/14 (EH). Single-bird sightings of **Bald Eagle** were reported from LRSP 6/11 (JC), SISP 6/11 (KEn), Ole Bull SP 6/28 (PW), GL 7/3 (KC), Joerg Road residence 7/21 (SLi), and Austin 7/23 (NM). A report of a **Red-shouldered Hawk** came from Sizerville SP 6/12 (JP). **Broad-winged Hawk** and **Red-tailed Hawk** were widely reported as expected (m.ob.).

Barred Owl reports included 2 at Mina Road 6/6 (TC), one at LRSP 6/8 (JC), one at South Hollow on Rte. 287 on 6/20 (MH), and three single-bird sightings from CSSP 6/12, 7/20, and 7/31 (JH, SM, MK). The only report of **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was of one at CSSP 7/20 (SM). **American Kestrel** has been reported just 13 times between 2003 and 2019 and there were only two reports during the summer of 2020 - one at Coudersport 7/14 (EH) and one at South Hollow on Rte. 287 on 6/22 (MH). Notably, reports of **Merlin** from the Shinglehouse or Coudersport areas were missing.

Three reports of single **Alder Flycatchers** included the following locations: Roulette 6/8 (PRW), SISP 6/11 (KEn), and SSF-HT 6/21 (MH). **Least Flycatchers** were reported from five areas including CSSP 6/9 (PRW) and 6/12 (JH), Ayers Hill 6/9 (PRW), Shinglehouse 6/15 (KE), and SSF-BR 6/20 (MH). Though there were abundant reports of **Great Crested Flycatcher** between 2010 and 2019, this year just one report was found, at SISP 6/11 (KEn). Six **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were reported from GL on two dates, 6/7 (PRW) and 7/14 (EH).

A **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was observed at CSSP 7/28 (KC) and a **Red-breasted Nuthatch** at CCSP 6/12 (JH). Single-bird reports of **Winter Wren** were submitted from 3 locations: CSSP 6/12 (JH), SSF-BR 6/20, and SSF-HT 6/21 (MH). One **Purple Finch** was reported from CSSP 6/12 (JH), another was at Sizerville SP 6/12 (vr. JP), and a third near Sweden Valley 6/22 (JL).

There were many reports of **Chipping Sparrows** with a high count of 20 at CSSP 6/12 (JH). Sightings of **Savannah Sparrows** between 2010 and 2019 ranged from 4 years with no sightings, between one to 10

birds when present, to a high of 14 birds in 2018. During the 2020 summer season, there were two reports listed: one bird at Crowley Hill Road 6/8 (PRW), and 2 birds at CSSP 7/28 (KC). A high of 22 **Eastern Towhees** were reported from SSF-BR 6/20 (MH).

Ovenbird was represented by many reports south of Rte. 6 (m.ob.) as expected, with two reports giving the highest counts of birds from trails: 21 counted in the SSF-BR 6/20 and 18 birds recorded from the SSF-HT 6/21 (MH). **Bobolinks** were reported from five locations including 5 birds in the hayfields along Fry Road 6/5 (CG), 3 birds each at Sweden Hill 6/7 and the high meadow on Crowley Hill Road 6/8 and then 2 birds at Ayers Hill 6/9 (PRW), and one bird at CSSP 6/12 (JH). Single **Baltimore Orioles** were reported at Brookland at Rte 449 on 6/7 and at SISP 6/11 (KEn).

Wood warblers were well represented by many reports scattered over the county. Noteworthy though was one report of a single **Nashville Warbler** (description given in eBird) that was found in a mixed flock of warblers at Last Chance Lodge 6/1 (DK). Checking for the period between 1980 and 2020, eBird revealed just two historical records for Nashville Warbler: one bird was observed at a stream near Austin 6/13/2010 (LW), and one bird was seen at Ole Bull SP 7/29/2012 (JD).

There have been 11 reports of single **Canada Warblers** since the year 2000, and the most recent two reports were of one bird at SSF-HT 6/21 (MH) and one bird at Nelson Run (logging) Road 6/28 (LW). **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was documented in 8 observations, with a high count of 7 birds noted at SSF-HT 6/21 (MH).

Observers: **Robert Snyder, P.O. Box 603, Howard, PA 16841, (814) 753-2629, birdphotoginpa@gmail.com**, Jamie Capelli, Travis Clemens, Ken Cooper, Douglas Dellinger, Lisa Doud, Jim Dunn, Kathy Ebeling Kurt Engstrom (KEn), Cassie Gehenio, Marc Hanneman, Eric Hartshaw, Joshua Heiser, Matt Hunter (MHu), Megan Kenny, Darlene Kershner, Sarah Lindgren, Michele Lucas, Nate McKelvie, Sean McLaughlin, Julia Plummer, Patricia Weaver, Linda Widdop, Patricia and Richard Williams.

Snyder County— no report

Schuylkill County

Locations: Air Products Wildlife Sanctuary (APWS), Landingville Dam and Marsh (LVD).

Other than **Canada Geese, Mallards, Wood Ducks, and Mute Swans**, the county typically lacks waterfowl during the breeding season. This summer a few odd birds were found in the county which made them notable. An **American Black Duck** was found at Owl Cr. 7/19 (MB). A **Bufflehead** was found on a farm pond off Coal Mountain Road 6/9 and again 6/15 (LG). **Hooded Mergansers** showed up in several locations: a pair outside of Hegins 6/16 (DB), a pair at APWS 6/11 (JD), and one at LVD 6/14 (TB). After being considered rare in the past, the presence of a **Common Merganser** or 2 during breeding season is now fairly common. This year a pair was reported at Lebanon Res. 6/13 (DK, TB, TJ).

An early migrating **Semipalmated Plover** was spotted at LVD 7/31 among several other migrating shorebirds, including **Least Sandpipers**, a **Semipalmated Sandpiper**, and **Solitary Sandpipers** (DR). Least Sandpipers had been present at this location since 7/21 (DR). Solitary Sandpipers had been seen at LVD since 7/29 (DR) and also at APWS since 7/18 (JD). A flock of 10 **Greater Yellowlegs** was also found at LVD 7/23 (DR, RR). **Great Egrets** were seen at Tumbling Run 6/20 (TB) and APWS 7/31 (JD).

After many anecdotal reports of **Bald Eagle** nesting at LVD, a nest was finally located this season. There were no reports of young, however, but adults were spotted throughout the summer (m.ob.). Three young eaglets were reported at the nest at Sweet Arrow Lake (DD). **Black Vultures** used a corn crib on a farm in Summit Station for nesting, raising two young birds (RR). An unverified report of a **Mississippi Kite** near Rauschs was made 6/7 (IN, LH). There were two additional sightings of

this species across the county border in *Berks* about a month later which adds some credibility to this report. A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was seen 6/26 in the same timbered area in South Manheim Twp. where a nest was found last year (DR). The bird was spotted again 7/23 (DR, RR).

A number of birds considered occasional or uncommon and 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 new colony was located on West Schmaltzdahl Road with confirmed breeding (TB). **Grasshopper Sparrows** were reported at the Burma Road mine lands 6/6 and 6/14 (TB) as well as Kelayres Reclaimed Minelands (JaD, JD) and West Schmaltzdahl Road (TB). Three **Bobolinks** were found in Andreas 6/5 (EW). Rare in the summer, a **Blue Grosbeak** was seen near Rauschs 6/7 (IN, LH).

Observers: **Dave Rieger, 401 Stony Mountain Road, Auburn, PA 17922, d.m.rieger@gmail.com**, Michael Allen, Mark Boyd, Dan Brennan, Thomas Buehl, Jr., John DeBalko, Jonathan DeBalko (JaD), Denise Donmoyer, Nate Felty, Ian Gardner, Laurie Goodrich, Laura Hershel, Dan Hinnebusch, Chris Hugosson, Tonia Jordan, Dave Krueel, Ian Nauroth, Rich Rieger, Barb Ritzheimer, John Stetson, James Trusky, Erin Wolf, Patricia and Richard Williams, Erin Wolf.

Somerset County

Locations: Flight 93 National Memorial (FLT 93), Gallitzin State Forest (GSF), Laurel Hill State Park (LHSP), Payne Property (PP), Quemahoning Reservoir (QR).

Lacking a breeding bird survey, observer effort was decreased during the breeding season. Another factor in depleted bird numbers was the lack of a reliable shorebird-attracting site. The bird of the season was a well-described fly-by **Wood Stork**, unfortunately seen by only one observer.

The expected breeding waterfowl were present with widespread **Canada Geese** and **Mallards**. Just a couple **Mute Swans** were reported from a private lake. **Wood Ducks** appeared to have a good brood production demonstrated by groups such as the 15 in the Berlin area 7/18 (CP, JP). **Hooded Mergansers** are an uncommon breeder, so the 10 at Youghiogheny L. 6/12 (DB) were significant. **Common Mergansers** are well established, even on smaller creeks, but sightings on the Youghiogheny R., such as the 8 on 7/19 (JMa), are most often recorded.

Ring-necked Pheasant reports are mostly overwintering stocked birds such as the QR report 6/6 (LG), but the Berlin area birds 6/21 (CP, JP) and 7/18 (JP) may be stragglers from the discontinued **Wild Pheasant** introduction program. Encouraging were a couple **Ruffed Grouse** reports including 3 at LHSP 7/5 (MR) and one 7/9 at Deer Valley L. (PM). **Wild Turkey** reports were numerous with apparent good brood production.

Yellow-billed Cuckoos were more widespread, including higher counts of 4 on Laurel Summit 6/7 (LD) and 3 at PP 7/30 (CP, JP), than the mere two reports of **Black-billed Cuckoos** at PP 6/11 and 7/30 (JP) and one in Shade area 6/8 (TC). **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** included a locally good count of 8 near Fairhope 6/6 (JP) and one on a managed early-succession site on GSF 6/8 (LG). **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** were widely enjoyed, and several reports of very active feeders were featured in the local newspaper.

Regretfully, the last of the great shorebird reports may be coming to a close as the drained Somerset L. Important Bird Area grows up in vegetation. There was still some mud to catch the tail end of the northbound birds including one **Semipalmated Plover** 6/1 (LG) and four on 6/5 (JP), and a **Least Sandpiper, White-rumped Sandpiper** and **Semipalmated Sandpiper** on 6/1 (LG). Other shorebird reports included up to 16 **Killdeer** at QR, a smattering of **American Woodcock** including three at PP 6/8 (JP) and a **Wilson's Snipe** flushed from a bog on Laurel Summit 6/23 (LG). **Spotted Sandpipers** were often reported at FLT 93 and the first returning **Solitary Sandpiper** was at PP 7/28 (JP).

The only gull report was of a lonely **Ring-billed Gull** on Yough R. 7/26 (EB, JO). One **Double-crested Cormorant** was at QR 6/5 (JP).

Great Blue Herons were widely reported with up to 4 at LHSP 7/9 (ZB); five reports of **Green Heron** were from Buffalo Cr., QR & FLT 93. The most exciting report of the season was of a low-flying **Wood Stork** 7/23 headed in a northerly direction at Seven Springs seen by only one observer (AS). This is a county record, following a longer staying Wood Stork in nearby *Fayette* in 2018.

Black Vulture remains uncommon in the county with five single reports this season. Overall, low observer effort is possibly responsible for no Osprey, Sharp-shinned Hawk, or Red-shouldered Hawk reports. There were 5 **Cooper's Hawks** reports, 8 **Bald Eagle**, 10 **Broad-winged Hawk**, and numerous **Red-tailed Hawks**. **Eastern Screech Owl** was detected only once, in Markleton 7/25 (EM). There were 2 juvenile and one adult **Great Horned Owls** at Glenmoor 7/24-28 (LG). **Barred Owl** was the most common owl with 7 reports, as well as a nice report of **Northern Saw-whet Owl** from Friedens 7/15 (SB). Singles and pairs of **Belted Kingfishers** were found on seven occasions.

Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers continued their establishment as breeders at high elevations with 13 reports, including a high count of 5 on Mt. Davis 7/5 (JH). **Red-headed Woodpeckers** are still scarce but were found in five locations. Encouraging were 16 **American Kestrel** reports, including a high of 5 at Babcock Division GSF 7/5 (CP, RP).

The most commonly reported flycatchers were **Eastern Wood-Pee-wee**, **Acadian Flycatcher**, **Willow Flycatcher**, and **Eastern Phoebe**. Less common were **Alder Flycatcher** at FLT 93 on 7/5 (CP, RP), Shanksville 7/8 (CP, JP), and PP 7/30 (CP); three reports of **Least Flycatcher** on Laurel Mt.; only seven reports of **Great-crested Flycatcher**, and four of single **Eastern Kingbirds**. **Blue-headed Vireos** and **Red-eyed Vireos** were numerous, but **Yellow-Throated Vireo** only had two reports: at QR 6/1 (LG) and at Mt. Davis 7/5 (JH). **Warbling Vireo** was reported just once at Seven Springs 6/20 (MS).

Common Ravens seemed to be reported almost as much as **American Crows**. **Horned Larks** were only found in Markleton (BO, TO); 13 in the Berlin area included juveniles 7/8 (CP, JP). All swallow species were present with 5 **Purple Martins** at LHSP 7/8 (ZV) being a new location away from the Springs Colony. The other uncommon swallow was **Bank Swallow**, reported only once in Confluence 7/26 (EB, JO); but, there were 42 birds. Intriguing was the single **Red-breasted Nuthatch** at Hidden Valley 6/29 (ZM) after virtually none in spring. Of the 3 reports for **Brown Creeper**, an amazing high of 6 were found at LHSP 7/4 (TR). **Winter Wren** garnered a respectable seven reports with a high of 4 at LHSP (MR).

Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were only mentioned 4 times, as singles. **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were at Rockwood (MS), 3 at PP 7/30 (CP, JP), and a nice high of 5 at Hidden Valley (ZM). **Veeries** are common on Laurel Mt., as evidenced by 10 on 6/28 (ZM). Six **Hermit Thrushes** were also found on Laurel Mt. 6/27 (ZH). Six **Brown Thrashers** at PP feeders were a happy family 6/27 (CP, JP, RP). The local rather uncommon **Northern Mockingbird** had six reports of one to 2 birds. **Cedar Waxwings** were widely reported with 35 at Hidden Valley 6/29 (ZM), the highest seasonal total. **Purple Finches** were widespread, mostly at higher elevations with one to 3 birds per report.

A nice total of 13 **Grasshopper Sparrows** were at Babcock GSF 7/5, with the other eight records being one to 4 birds. **Chipping Sparrows** are common, but 35 at Hidden Valley 6/27 (JMa) was notable. **Vesper Sparrows** were only found at Babcock 7/5 (CP, RP) and Markleton 6/3 and 7/23 (TO). **Savannah Sparrows** had six reports and **Henslow's Sparrows** eight, mostly at FLT 93. **Swamp Sparrows** were widely distributed in appropriate habitat with 10 at Buffalo Cr. 6/30 (JP) being high. **Eastern Towhees** were also common, including in the mountain laurel atop Mr. Davis where 26 were found 7/5 (JH). **Bobolinks** and **Eastern Meadowlarks** were widely but thinly distributed. No Orchard Oriole reports were submitted; **Baltimore Orioles** had many mentions.

Twenty warbler species were reported this breeding season. The less common included one **Golden-winged Warbler** at QR 6/5 (JP), one **Blue-winged Warbler** and 2 **Cerulean Warblers** in Confluence 6/21 (JP), one **Pine Warbler** on Great Allegheny Passage near Maryland 6/24 (LG), and single **Yellow-throated Warblers** at both QR 6/5 (LG) and Seven Springs 6/20 (MS). Of the more common warblers, notable were 23 **Black-throated Blue Warblers** on an 11-km loop at Mt. David 7/5

(JH). **Scarlet Tanagers**, **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks**, and **Indigo Buntings** were all widespread.

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Sullivan County

The weather for the period was drier than normal with no major events. There were no extraordinarily rare reports for the period. Only a small number of reports contained breeding notes. The bulk of the reports are derived from eBird. Reports not specifically noted to an observer were made by the author. There are certainly some noteworthy reports for the period, however, the lack of rarities and breeding information will make this a short report by most standards.

Both **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** and **Black-billed Cuckoo**, were reported multiple times (m.ob.). The **Sandhill Crane** family of 2 adults and 2 young were observed on multiple occasions (m.ob.) at Lietzelman Road – Dushore, where they have now been nesting for two decades. **Spotted Sandpiper** was observed in pairs at two different locations 6/24. One pair was at World's End State Park (JV) and the other at Splashdam Pond in SGL 13 (EH).

A **Common Loon** was present on a lake at the top of Briskey Mtn 6/20. The bird was in non-breeding plumage and had been observed at this location at least twice earlier in the year. Still uncommon in the county, a **Black Vulture** was in the Deer L. area 6/12 (SM). An **Osprey** at Ganoga L. 6/13 seemed late for a migrant (JH). Young **Barred Owls** were seen in Loyalsock SF 6/19 (AK).

Yellow-throated Vireo was present at Deer L. 6/30 (WE). The species had been observed at this location for at least a month prior to that date. **Fish Crow** is another species not well established in the county. A small flock of 3 was flying over Dushore and calling on 7/11. **Bank Swallow** was a good find at L. Makoma 6/28 (MB). **Grasshopper Sparrow** is a county nester but always a good find. One was present in the Lietzelman Road - Dushore area 7/5 (AK). **Worm-eating Warbler** was found near Deer L. 6/20 (AK). **Hooded Warbler** is another good find in the county and was observed along Ogdonia Road 6/13. Last and perhaps the best find of the season were 2 **Yellow-breasted Chats** seen and heard well at Ricketts Glen SP - Hayfields 6/7 (BW).

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Susquehanna County

Our regular summer waterfowl breeders had a successful season. For this inland county, that short list includes **Canada Geese**, **Wood Ducks**, **Mallards**, **Hooded Mergansers**, and **Common Mergansers**. Young families of each species were present in good numbers. The only outlier was a late **Bufflehead** which was present on Page L. 6/29 (DB, JB, AD). The county's only pair of **Mute Swans** posed serenely for photographs at Marcho Florist's pond 6/8 (BS, GS) as they have done for several years.

A **Ring-necked Pheasant** was heard vocalizing near Herrick Twp. 7/6 (CF). In addition to the continuing presence of *Susquehanna's* celebrity **Ruffed Grouse**, whose photo has been featured in both *Pennsylvania Birds* and the ABA's *Birding*, there were other grouse seen and heard. Singles were at SGL 35 on 6/14 (BS, GS) and 6/21 (ON), at the D&H Rail Trail 7/4 (CF), and at Salt Springs SP 7/5 (EM). **Wild Turkeys** continue their growing presence and breeding success. There were fourteen reports representing 39 individuals in June and six reports of 12 total individuals in July.

Caterpillar nests were more apparent than recent years, and both **Black-billed Cuckoos** and **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were observed in good numbers. **Virginia Rails** successfully bred on a New Milford Twp. wetland for the second consecutive year with five observations of adults and fledglings made by the landowner over the course of Jul (NVC). In contrast, a single sighting of a **Sora** occurred on another private wetland in New Milford Twp. 6/25 (BM).

A pair of **Killdeer** successfully brooded and fledged 4 youngsters in the midst of a golf course adjacent to L. Montrose 6/9 (TN). No eggs were mistaken for errant golf balls by nearsighted players, and no balls were accidentally brooded. The only **Least Sandpiper** of the season was also observed at L. Montrose 7/6 (TN, JS). **American Woodcock** quieted down for the summer resulting in only four observations. A single bird flushed on a property near Springville 6/1 (NB), one bird in New Milford Twp. 6/26 (NVC), one near Springville 7/9 (KJ), and one 7/19 (NB). **Spotted Sandpipers** restricted their presence to the area around Page L., one 7/9 (DB) and one at nearby Stump Pond 7/14 (DB). A summer **Herring Gull** drew a crowd at L. Montrose 6/9 (EM, TN, BS, GS), and another was present on Page L. 7/31 (DB). Where have all the cormorants gone, long time passing? In the past several years they have become expected summer visitors. This season the only sighting was of a single **Double-crested Cormorant** on Page L. 7/17 (DB).

Great Egret post-breeding dispersal was a noteworthy event in *Susquehanna* last year with sightings at seven locations. This summer a single flyover bird was our lone sojourner, spotted in Great Bend Twp. 7/19 (GS). **Great Blue Herons** find our many glacial lakes and farm ponds to be good summer fishing holes. A number of rookeries are known to be present, but birders carefully limit their reports to daytime foraging of single birds. **Green Heron** numbers are also on the rise. A pair once again successfully nested in the East Great Bend Swamp, and 3 juvenile herons fledged. Their nest containing eggs was discovered 6/10, 3 nestlings were present 6/21, and fledglings were photographed 7/9. **Belted Kingfishers** rattled up and down local streams, their numbers are growing, and they are more readily detected and enjoyed by the birding public.

Setting aside for the moment comments about exceptionally abundant or sadly infrequent species, over-all our summer suite of birds is doing quite well. Summarizing by avian family names, many expected summer residents were present in good numbers and were reported to have successfully fledged young including three owl species (Strigidae), six woodpecker species (Picidae), seven flycatcher species (Tyrannidae), four vireo species (Vireonidae), and five swallow species (Hirundinidae). A good example of the last on this list is the **Bank Swallow**. Our only known colony has grown substantially. Nest entrances grew from 30 in 2019 to 100 this season with many birds seen leaving and entering the cavities 6/1 (EM, JM, BS, NVC). "Though the holes were rather small, we had to count them all..."

A late departure date resulted in 3 **Golden-crowned Kinglets** showing outside a kitchen window near Potter Hill 6/2 (DS). An out-of-season **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was a surprise at Hollister's Pond 7/23 (TN). A **Marsh Wren** was present at Mack Rd Wetland 6/6 (BH, KH). It has been the pattern with our 3 common *Catharus* thrushes that, while all 3 are present each year, one dominates one year and another is more common the next. This summer **Veery**, **Hermit Thrushes**, and **Wood Thrushes** were each well represented from spring arrival and into the summer months. The consequence was an ensemble of glorious song in many a woodlot and some serious competition for the **Red-eye Vireos**.

With new interest in backyard birding prompted by the coronavirus quarantine, it was the perfect year for **Purple Finches** to put on a colorful show at feeders. That they did in spades with a greater county presence than could be remembered. A **Pine Siskin** made a surprise visit to a backyard feeder and posed nicely for documentation 7/21 (EM). Summer **White-throated Sparrows** have appeared to limit themselves to high elevations in the county. One was found at an elevation of 1803 ft on 6/7 (AL, DT), one at 2054 ft on 6/17 (BS, GS), and one at 1824 ft on 7/20 (EM).

It has historically been the case that to see an **Orchard Oriole** requires you go to them; they don't come to you. A single location on Troy Rd in Springville Twp. has been the place to see one. This year a

new family spent the summer in a yard adjacent to L. Montrose, providing a number of folks a chance to observe their first county Orchard Oriole (TN, SN, WS, JS). Hints of a third cluster came from a sighting on the eastern edge of *Susquehanna* near Starrucca 7/18 (CF). Eighteen members of the wood warbler family (Parulidae) were reported in Jul, suggesting that our northern forests are ideal locations for reproduction.

Pennsylvania Game Commission's forest-management practices continue to produce "forest disturbance" pockets that attract **Mourning Warblers**. Three birds, including recently fledged young, were seen in SGL 70 in just such a spot 7/19 (CF). Another great find was a singing **Hooded Warbler** in SGL 35 on 7/30 (BB, DB). **Pine Warblers** are typically only reported during early spring migration. Four observations of the species occurred during breeding season this year at various locations (DL, EM, WS, DT). A **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was present at Camp Susquehannock 6/30 and 7/18 (WS).

A season-long show of beautiful plumage and song by **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** occurred at feeders across the county this season in robust numbers. Not only were the reports profuse, but the birds did not just utilize proffered sunflower seeds initially upon return and then disappear into the woods. This year they were daily visitors to backyard feeders throughout the season, bringing joy to many folks spending more time than usual in their homes.

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Tioga County

Locations: Hills Creek State Park (HCSP), Middlebury Center (MIDC), Pine Creek Gorge (PCG), Pine Creek Rail Trail (PCRT), Borough of Tioga (TIOG), Tiadaghton State Forest (TIASF), Tioga-Hammond Lakes - Ives Run Recreation Area (THL-IRRA).

A total of 133 species were reported on eBird during the summer season. Species data reported from twenty-nine locations by 18 observers were from eBird. One report of 14 **Wood Ducks** came from Webster Rd access to the PCRT 7/20 (KC). **Hooded Mergansers** were low in number and were reported just seven times across the county. **Common Mergansers** were reported 13 times with a high of 12 at PCG, an Important Birding Area, 7/4 (BC). Single-bird reports of **Ruffed Grouse** were spread over 11 locations. Multi-bird sightings of **Wild Turkeys** were reported from 10 locations across the county, with a high of 10 birds at THL-IRRA 7/23 (MS, SS).

One **Pied-billed Grebe** was reported from the Webster Rd access to the PCRT 7/20 (KC). There were reports of one to 3 **Virginia Rails** from a section of Marsh Cr. from Wellsboro to Darlington Run at PCRT. **American Woodcocks** were observed with 2 at Hesselgessel Rd Swamp Area 6/16 (KC), 1 HER 6/18 (D&KP), one Hills Creek L. Rd 7/2 (LD), and 3 at SPT 6/10 (KS, BO). Single **Spotted Sandpipers** were reported at Darling Run on PCRT 6/7, 6/14 (P&RW, JG), Owassie Rd in Tioga SF 6/8, (KS, BO), TIOG 7/27 (JL), and 2 at Nessmuck L. 7/28 (CR). **Green Heron** was reported 22 times with the high of 8 on 7/15 at Roseville (BS).

Black Vulture sightings of one to 3 birds each were found in seven reports from five locations. **Ospreys** were observed at 34 locations, with highs of 4 at HCSP 7/13 and 5 from Wellsboro 7/24 (D&KP). Single-bird reports of **Northern Harrier** were from Lee Hill Rd 6/24 and Lamb's Creek Rd, TIOG 6/18 (TS), Roaring Branch 7/3 (EM), and Liberty 7/3 (KE). **Cooper's Hawk** reports of single birds came from five locations. **Bald Eagle** was reported 23 times with highs of 4 each from the PCRT at Blackwell 6/29 (NV) and Tioga L. 7/9 (D&KP). Reports of **Red-shouldered Hawk**, **Broad-winged Hawk**, and **Red-tailed Hawk** were abundant across the county.

Single-bird reports of **Great Horned Owl** included: a residence along Marsh Creek at Asaph 6/16 and 6/23 (JC), Old Rte. 287 to THL-IRRA 7/15 (LD), and Leetonie 6/21 (LS). Single-bird reports of **Barred Owl** included Blair Creek Rd and PA-249, Westfield 6/6 (AK), Hills Creek L. Rd 6/3 (LD), Wellsboro 6/8 (GT), PCG 7/1 (BC), and the Bradley Wales picnic area at PCG 7/11(JS). **American Kestrel** was reported from 8 locations in 11 reports, with numbers of one to 3 individuals per location. There was just one report of **Merlin** - one at Balsam Rd., Wellsboro 6/2 (SM).

Acadian Flycatcher was reported five times from two locations, most single bird reports while traveling the Scotch Pine Hollow Trail 6/10 (KS, BO) with 5 reported from Spoor Hollow Rd., MIDC 7/2 (BC). **Yellow-throated Vireo** (one or two birds per site) was reported from 9 locations (m.ob.). **Fish Crows** were reported from five locations: PCG 6/9 (KS, BO), Nessmuck L. 6/17 (KC, EW), HCSP 6/19 (D&KP, CR), Wellsboro 6/21 (LD), and TIOGA 6/25 (KC). There were four reports of **Bank Swallows** including a high of 9 at Jenkins Rd in Mansfield 6/5 (PH), 5 at Wellsboro 7/5 (D&KP), 2 at Tioga L. 7/9 (D&KP), and one at THL-IRRA 7/23 (KC).

Golden-crowned Kinglet was reported from two locations: Algerine Swamp NA in TIASF, one bird 6/3 (DF) and 4 birds 6/6 (KC, RH); one at HCSP 6/23 (KC); and 2 birds HCSP 6/28 (KC, AW). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was reported from three locations: 2 at Algerine Swamp NA 6/3 (DF) and 4 on 6/6 (KC, RH), one bird each in Morris 6/5 (RH) and PCG 7/1 (BC). **Brown Creeper** was found at two locations, one at the Algerine Swamp NA 6/6 (KC, RH) and 2 at the Scotch Pine Hollow Trail 6/10 (KS, BO). **Winter Wren** was widely observed over the county in 12 reports (m.ob.). **Marsh Wren** was mostly observed at Marsh Cr./The Muck, an Important Birding Area, in 9 reports of one to 4 birds each, one bird at Wellsboro 6/30 (RB) and at the Webster Rd access to PCRT, 2 birds 6/10 and 3 birds 7/13 (LD).

Bobolinks were widely reported with high counts of 10 in Mansfield 6/10 (LD) and two reports of 10 from Stowell Rd 6/9-10 (D&KP, SM). **Orchard Oriole** was reported from three locations: one at Knapp 6/1 (D&KP), 2 near MIDC (BC), and one at Tioga L. 7/9 (D&KP). Historically this species has been reported just 20 times since the first sighting was recorded on eBird in 2007. Not a common bird of the northern tier counties, just two confirmed, one probable, and three possible sightings were reported for *Tioga* in the second BBA.

Grasshopper Sparrow was reported 7 times to eBird (mostly singles) since 2010. During 2020, two reports came from Wellsboro including one bird 6/6 (SM) and 2 birds 7/4 (BC) with two additional reports from MIDC of 2 birds 7/2 and 3 birds 7/5 (BC). This bird must not be widely sought or known as during the 2nd BBA just 3 confirmed, 5 probable, and 20 possible sightings were made. **Henslow's Sparrow**, a rare grassland bird for the county, was reported three times: Rattler Rd 6/4, and Wellsboro of one bird 6/5-7 and 2 birds 7/4 (RH, SM, BC). Historical sightings over the last 20 years include 2 birds in Morris 6/15/07 (DW) and one bird at Welsh Rd/Sheer Rd 6/7/11 (NF). During the second BBA, one confirmed and one possible sighting were recorded.

The only report of **Yellow-breasted Chat** was of one from MIDC 7/5 (BC). This bird was not listed as a breeding bird for the county during the 2nd BBA. Three historical records were found on eBird, the oldest was of one bird seen on 6/19/1984, TIL (JGi). Warblers of note include one **Blue-winged Warbler** at THL-IRRA 6/23 and 6/29 (RH, LD) and one at Hills Creek L. Rd on five dates in June (LD). **Nashville Warbler**, according to eBird has been reported only 8 times since 1980. There were two reports for 2020 of 3 and 4 birds respectively at Algerine Swamp NA on 6/6 (RH, KC). **Cerulean Warbler** has been reported just 9 times since 1980 with two recent reports this year - one at Hesselgessel Rd Swamp Area 6/16 (KC) and one at Tioga L. 7/9 (D&KP). Only 5 reports of **Yellow-throated Warbler** were found since 1980 by searching eBird; the most recent reports include 2 birds in Covington 7/15 (AM) and one at Wellsboro 7/18 (MM).

Wood warblers were well represented by many reports scattered over the county. Noteworthy though was one report of a single **Nashville Warbler** (description given in eBird) that was found in a mixed flock of warblers at Last Chance Lodge 6/1 (DK). Checking for the period between 1980 and 2020, eBird revealed just two historical records for

Nashville Warbler: one bird was observed at a stream near Austin 6/13/2010 (LW), and one bird was seen at Ole Bull SP 7/29/2012 (JD).

A single **Blue Grosbeak** had been reported in the county during the spring at Rte. 287 and Dean Hill 5/22 (D&KP). A summer report of one bird came from Croft Hollow Rd, MIDC 7/5 (BC), making this the second county report for 2020 and the third observation since 2018, when the bird was first reported 5/25/2018 at Lamb's Creek RA in Mansfield (KC). This may be the same bird that was reported in spring of 2020. Note that Blue Grosbeak apparently is not on the *Tioga* species list.

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Union County – no report

Venango County

Locations: Two Mile Run Park (TMRP).

Even though the weather was very summer-like this year, it was a fairly slow birding season. There were 91 species recorded for *Venango* this season. Ducks and geese observed were the usual **Canada Geese**, **Mallards**, and **Common Mergansers**. Both **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** and **Black-billed Cuckoos** were recorded, though both had only a few records. A couple shorebirds were recorded: **Spotted Sandpiper**, which has bred in the county, and **Solitary Sandpiper**, which have been migrants.

A couple **Osprey** sightings were good, with both sightings at TMRP though at the beginning and end of the season, 6/2 (MK, NK) and 7/25 (RS), and both probably migrants as there has not yet been a recorded nest. A **Sharp-shinned Hawk**, a hard-to-find species, was sighted near Seneca (NK, MK) and at Oil Creek SP 6/7 (LC, HL). **Broad-winged Hawk**, another species often difficult to locate during this season, was observed through most of the season in the Franklin area (NB).

Most flycatchers were missed during the summer season, with exceptions being **Eastern Phoebe** and **Eastern Wood-Pewee**, both observed all season, **Great Crested Flycatcher** in the Franklin area 6/28 (NB) and 7/9 at TMRP (RS), and **Eastern Kingbird** in Oil Creek SP 6/25 (TN) with a couple of additional reports (KL). There were not many records of vireo, though most were in good numbers earlier: a **Yellow-throated Vireo** near Van 6/21 (CW), **Blue-headed Vireo** near Van 6/21 (CW) through the end of the season, and **Warbling Vireo** near Seneca 6/14 and 7/21 (MK, NK).

Cliff Swallow nests were way down in the Franklin area this year, with only 4 or 5 nests on the Eighth Street Bridge. This may have been caused by construction work on the bridge for all last season, though the numbers have been declining in recent years. A **Purple Martin** colony has been established near Kahle L.; the one at Barkeyville Fields is still active; the one near Venus was not used this year. Just a curious note here: all of these Martin colonies have been within a stone's throw from the county line.

Fourteen **Dark-eyed Junco** were recorded on the Van bike trail 6/21 (CW). **Swamp Sparrow** were observed at TMRP 6/2 and 6/26 (NK, MK). Warblers of interest were **Louisiana Waterthrush** from 6/21-7/12, **Northern Parula** near Van 6/21 (CW), **Magnolia Warbler** near Van 6/21 (CW), **Blackburnian Warbler** near Seneca 7/21 (MK, NK), and **Black-throated Blue Warbler** near Van 6/21 (CW).

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Washington County

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

Twelve **Common Mergansers** were noted near Marianna 7/28 (SB). Six **Semipalmated Sandpipers** lingered at CL to 6/5 (JF), and **Solitary Sandpiper**, **Lesser Yellowlegs**, and **Greater Yellowlegs** were all back at CL by mid-July (JF, RT).

A very interesting report of 2 juvenile **Barred Owls** hunting crayfish by daylight at Mingo Creek C.P. was made 7/20 (LC). One of the two caught and consumed a crayfish by standing on a rock near the edge of the creek, and afterwards, it *walked* into the woods nearby, and was later seen clinging to the trunk of a tree just a few feet off the ground. Certainly unusual behavior to see from an owl. A social media post of a Barn Owl recorded by a trail camera was made by a Washington resident 7/26, but it was unclear whether the camera itself was also somewhere in Washington (*fide* JM, LC).

Henslow's Sparrows were noted at traditional locations in Robinson Twp. 7/11 (MF), but also along Ciaffoni Road near Muse 7/11, along with a **Bobolink** (MF). **Yellow-breasted Chat** was found in an impressive nine locations (m.ob.). A **Cerulean Warbler** was at HSP 6/29 (RT) and a **Pine Warbler** also noted there 6/1 (RT), but not thereafter.

Observers: **Geoff Malosh**, 7762 Maumee Western Road, Maumee, OH 43537-9334, (412) 735-3128, pomarine@earthlink.net, Steve Bowes, Lauren Conkle, Mike Fialkovich, John Flannigan, Jeff McDonald, Ryan Tomazin.

Wayne County

Locations: Hankins Pond (HP).

There was a nice variety of marsh birds. **Virginia Rail** was reported county-wide (m.ob.). **Sora** was heard calling at HP 6/7-21 (m.ob.). A **Common Gallinule** and an **American Bittern** were heard vocalizing from a wetland near SGL 70 on 6/12 (CF). **Wilson's Snipe** and **Least Bittern** were audio recorded at HP 6/11 (CF), with Least Bittern being recorded again 7/9 (CF, JJ).

Golden-crowned Kinglet has been a better-documented breeder being noted at three locations, one of which was Belmont Lake where the species was recorded calling 7/4 (CF). A **Yellow-breasted Chat** sighting in early successional forest habitat at SGL 310 on 6/17 represented the first eBird record in Wayne (CF), though this species was also recorded in the *Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in Pennsylvania*.

Twenty-five warbler species were counted. **Mourning Warbler** breeding sites increased throughout the county's northern half partly due to recent logging at state game lands resulting in expanded habitat. One such location was the Upper Woods Pond area of SGL 159, where as many as 8 individuals were reported during multiple sightings throughout the season (CF, JJ, ML, SS). The first eBird record of **Kentucky Warbler** occurred along the Delaware R. near the intersection of River and Maccubbins Rds. 6/13 (CF). **Hooded Warbler** is rarely reported during breeding season, but one was heard singing at a private location on Fairmont Rd. 6/24 (SM). **Cerulean Warblers** were noted at two separate spots along the Delaware R., one at the Upper Delaware SRR Stalker Area 6/28 and another near the Narrowsburg Access 7/3 (CF).

Observers: **Josh Jones**, unclechu76@gmail.com, Chris Fischer, Michael Lyman, Sean McCandless, Scott Singer.

Westmoreland County

Locations: Beaver Run Reservoir Rte. 380 Overlook (BRR), Donegal Lake (DL), Kuehl Property – Murrysville (KP), Linn Run State Park

(LRSP), Spruce Flats Bog (SFB), Westmoreland Heritage Trail locations: MAWC Beaver Run property (WHT-BRR), Saunders Station (WHT-SS) and (WHT-SST), Wolf Rocks Trail (WRT).

Wood Duck was widely reported, including a report of 3 hens with young that provided the season-high of 17 at Northmoreland Park 6/16 (KH). A **Pied-billed Grebe** observation slipped into the season with one at BRR 7/31 (PF). As expected, there were many reports for **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** while just a few reports for **Black-billed Cuckoo**, which were all in the Laurel Highlands: 2 at Hunters Lane 6/1 (JP), and reports of one at DL 6/4 (RH), LRSP 6/17 (JLK, TK, MM), and Love Hollow Rd near Ligonier 7/4 (AM). One of two reports for **Common Nighthawk** included one in New Alexandria 7/14 (JP). A **Virginia Rail** was at the Youngwood Swamp 6/3 (JK) and at Powdermill Nature Reserve 6/9 (KCT). Again there were no reports of Ruffed Grouse for the season.

One of the several reports for this species that has been elusive during the breeding season included an observation of an **American Woodcock** at SFB 6/15 (M&RH). An eBird checklist provided photos of 2 **Spotted Sandpipers** and 3 **Solitary Sandpipers** at St. Vincent L. 7/28 (RC). A Spotted Sandpiper was seen on the *Westmoreland* side of the Kiskiminetas R. downstream from Vandergrift 7/18, and 4 were on the *Westmoreland* side of the Conemaugh R. just upstream from the Conemaugh Dam 7/26 (JLK, TK).

One **Ring-billed Gull** was at BRR 6/6 (MM) and two gulls (likely Ring-bills) were seen not far from the southern end of Beaver Run Res. as they flew over the Delmont Veterinary Hospital on Rte. 66 on 7/1 (JLK, TK). Rare during the breeding season, photographs of one **Common Loon**, likely a first-year bird, were included in an eBird checklist for BRR 7/22 and 7/25 (MM), and a photograph of one **Double-crested Cormorant** was also in the 7/22 checklist. An **American Bittern** was reported at Northmoreland Park 7/25 (HH). A **Great Egret** was reported at DL 7/21 (AM), likely the same bird at DL 7/22 (SW).

It was speculated that a single **Black Vulture** which flew directly into forested canopy habitat could have been coming to a nest to feed young at Love Hollow Rd near Ligonier 7/24 (AM). **Osprey** were reported at the long-time DL nest 6/4 (RH), and reports continued through 7/21 (AM), including a report and photograph of one adult and 3 young 6/17 (JLK, TK, MM). There were no reports to indicate if Osprey were still nesting at Loyalhanna L., however one was spotted in the area along Rte. 22 near New Alexandria 6/25 (JLK, TK). A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was reported at St. Vincent L. 6/6 (JK). Two juv **Cooper's Hawks** were photographed at Winnie Palmer Nature Reserve 6/13 (RC). The few reports for **Bald Eagle** included two for LRSP, one on 7/10 and 2 on 7/26; and a photograph of a second-year bird at BRR 7/18 (MM). **Red-shouldered Hawk** was widely reported, and at the KP they were first heard calling 6/1, heard and seen many times through 7/26. One **Broad-winged Hawk** was seen at the KP 7/2, and one that circled above the pond area at Winnie Palmer Nature Reserve 7/12 appeared to be carrying a small snake (JLK, TK).

Two **Great-horned Owls** were reported at Powdermill Nature Reserve 6/16 (AL) and one was at Murrysville Community Park 6/19 (SM). **Barred Owls** were widely reported; first heard at the KP 6/3, they continued to be heard on many days through 7/31 (JLK, TK). In the same area of Murrysville, one was photographed sitting along Italy Road 6/29 (SM). Two juv Barred Owls were observed on Grove Run Trail in LRSP 6/17 (JLK, TK, MM, ph.), and 3 (2 adults and one juv) were found on the WHT-SS 7/6 (DM). Seen from the WHT-SS a **Belted Kingfisher** stabbed a fish from Turtle Creek and flew off with it 6/25 (JLK, TK). **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were only found in the Laurel Highlands, with the highest volume of reports coming from the SFB/WRT area.

Suspecting it would be an early migrant, one **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was banded at Powdermill Nature Reserve 7/21. Not a rare species, for this observer **Acadian Flycatchers** seemed to be prolific as they were recorded in substantial numbers at both high and low elevations during the season. Not unusual was just one report for **Alder Flycatcher**, with one at the reliable Hunters Lane location 6/1 (JP). Suspected to be common, there were few reports for both **Least Flycatcher** and **Great Crested Flycatcher**. Reports included one Least Flycatcher WHT-Livermore 6/27 (RN) and one at Powdermill Nature

Reserve 7/21 (NL). A number of reports for Great Crested Flycatcher in the Laurel Highlands included one at DL 6/4 (RH) and one at WRT 6/7 (MK), and at lower elevations there was just one report of one heard and seen at the KP 6/15 (TK). Unusual in a wooded location, 2 **Eastern Kingbirds**, in hot pursuit of what was likely a **Cooper's Hawk**, were seen at the KP 7/30 and recorded as a new yard bird (TK). **Common Ravens** were found in lower elevations, including one at the Cloverleaf Golf Course 6/8 (MM), and in the Laurel Highlands a report of 3 was made for a hike in LRSP 6/17 (JLK, TK, MM) which included a sighting of a nest on Quarry Road that appeared to have been used this season.

Purple Martins were reported at two maintained nest house sites: at BRR where the high count of 41 was tallied 6/24 (RH, SM), and at Murrysville Community Park (SM) with the high count reported 7/18 (HH). For the only report of the season, 5 **Banks Swallows** were found at Twin Lakes Park 7/5 (PC). One was first reported 6/6, then 6 more reports were made for **Cliff Swallow** during the season at BRR, with the high count of 12 made 7/23 and a final tally of 4 on 7/30 (MM). Good finds during the breeding season were made by a group of St. Vincent College students with 2 **Golden-crowned Kinglets** and 2 **Brown Creepers** found at Duff Park in Murrysville 7/11. One Golden-crowned Kinglet was reported at WRT 7/18 (AP). Good to see that a reliable location provided for reports for **Red-breasted Nuthatch** with one at SFB 6/8 (JK) and one again 6/20 (AH). Reliable on the Grove Run Trail in LRSP, 4 **Winter Wrens** were reported there 6/17 (JLK, TK, MM).

Rarely reported in *Westmoreland* during the breeding season, a **Swainson's Thrush** was heard at WRT on 6/8 (KD). Observations 6/6-7/30 provided for continuing documentation that SFB remained a reliable site for **Hermit Thrush** during the breeding season. Also, a documented breeder in the Laurel Highlands, however in very limited numbers, one **Purple Finch** was reported at SFB 6/6 (AM) and one at WRT 7/18 (AP).

A now often-visited location for grassland species, the earliest of several reports of **Grasshopper Sparrow** at Laughlin Farm Road was of 2 on 6/10 (JLK, TK, MM), and fewer reports at that location for **Savannah Sparrow**, with the earliest report 6/5 (PF). In the same area south of Blairsville, a report for Derry Lane provided the season-high count of 3 **Bobolinks** 6/10 (JLK, TK, MM). The Laughlin Farm Road area was also the most productive location for **Eastern Meadowlark**. There were no reports for Henlow's Sparrow or Vesper Sparrow, nor for Yellow-breasted Chat.

Providing the only report, a **Worm-eating Warbler** was banded at Powdermill Nature Reserve 6/30 (AL). Winged warblers found at Hunters Lane included **Blue-winged Warblers**, 2 both 6/1 (JP) and 6/7 (MK); and for **Golden-winged Warbler**, just the possibility of one outside of Ligonier as Game Commission Researcher Tammy Colt was not afforded visual confirmation of a singing bird. Primarily high-elevation specialists, the following expected Laurel Highland specs were all reported, although in modest numbers and occurrences: **Kentucky Warbler**, **Northern Parula**, **Blackburnian Warbler**, **Magnolia Warbler**, **Black-throated Blue Warbler**, **Black-throated Green Warbler**, and **Canada Warbler**. There were numerous reports on the WHT-CR for **Cerulean Warbler** 6/25-7/7. Three Cerulean Warblers were tallied on the Sarah Steel Trailhead to Saltsburg Trail section 6/12 (JLK, TK). A **Yellow Warbler** was observed building a nest in a dogwood tree in New Stanton 6/6 (MF). One **Pine Warbler** was reported at SFB 7/30 (EG, TP). Rather late for this species, one **Yellow-throated Warbler** was still singing on the WHT-SS 6/25 (JLK, TK). Reports for **Prairie Warbler** included 2 at KSP 6/1 (SW), one on Hamilton Road 6/11 (MM) and one on Stahl Road in the Laughlin Farm Road area 6/20 (JLK, TK, MM).

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Wyoming County

This season, eBird contributors recorded 122 species, more than the number reported in any one of the previous June-July periods since 2012 and a larger number than the average of the previous five years of 108, or of the previous 10 years of 96. Of those 122 species, 117 had been recorded as at least possible breeders during the *Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in Pennsylvania, 2012* (BBA). A record sheet maintained by this county's compiler is available via e-mail.

In total, BBA identified some level of the breeding behavior of 150 species for *Wyoming*. Since the BBA, *Wyoming* birders have added information to the five-year atlas effort. Five of this season's 117 recorded species were not listed among *Wyoming* breeders during the BBA: Sandhill Crane, Solitary Sandpiper, Double-crested Cormorant, Merlin, and Peregrine Falcon. Of those five, breeding has been confirmed for two species since the BBA: Sandhill Crane and Peregrine Falcon. For several others, since the BBA, observers have reported higher level breeding behavior than that observed during the atlas survey: Common Gallinule, Barred Owl, Swainson's Thrush, Orchard Oriole, and Mourning Warbler. Some specifics for each of these species follow.

Common Gallinule was classified as Possible during the BBA survey and upgraded to Confirmed in July 2018, when 2 adults with young were recorded at Davis Crossing (JD); it was not recorded at all in *Wyoming* this year. Breeding of **Sandhill Crane** was confirmed at Sharpe's L. in both 2017 and 2018 with presence of adults with colts in both seasons (JD). This year, however, there has been no confirmation of breeding beyond their presence during safe dates.

There were two records of **Solitary Sandpiper** during the period of single birds, both in SGL 57 on 7/15 (EH) and 7/31 (JDe). Neither of these records included any breeding behavior and none had been expected since it has normally been a transient through-migrator. As has been the case in other years, **Double-crested Cormorant** was recorded during safe dates of single birds on the river at Laceyville 6/9 (JD) and at L. Carey 7/23 (MC). As usual, beyond the presence of those single birds, there was no record of breeding behavior.

Barred Owl was listed as Possible in the BBA but, due to recent records, this species has been considered as Probable. A pair was recorded in suitable habitat 6/9-13 on SGL 57 - Cider Run Rd (DM, PM). In Apr, a pair was also recorded in suitable habitat at Vosburg Neck (RL). A single **Merlin**, not a BBA breeder in *Wyoming*, was recorded near Meshoppen 7/26 (RL), the only record for the period, and no breeding behavior beyond this single bird's presence was recorded. A pair of **Peregrine Falcons** fledged at least one offspring last year from a cliff site near Laceyville. It is not known whether either of this year's adults was from last year's breeding pair.

The status of **Swainson's Thrush** could be raised from Probable in the BBA to Confirmed. The species was observed several times in July at several locations in SGL 57: 8 birds 7/7 (EZ), a single bird 7/16 (JDe), and up to 11 birds 7/14-30 (DG). Importantly, this year 2 young were fledged from a different but nearby ledge, and fledging was confirmed 6/12 (JD). Recently fledged young were observed at Somer Brook headwaters in SGL 57 on 7/30 (DG).

Orchard Oriole was classified as Probable in the BBA and upgraded to Confirmed in 2018, when adults carrying food and adults with young were recorded at VN (JD). This year, it was recorded three times: 2 near Falls 6/7 (SP) and singles at Vosburg Neck 6/11 (MC) and near Noxen 6/12 (RK). No breeding behavior was recorded. **Mourning Warbler** was classified as a Possible breeder during the BBA survey and likely could be upgraded to Probable after this season. Birders recorded multiple singing males along Cider Run Rd in SGL 57 from 6/9-7/12 (DM, EZ).

There were no records this season of another 25 species that were listed as at least possible breeders during the BBA.

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Goodwin, Joseph Elias, Moed Gerverni, Doug Gross, Matthew Halley, Evan Houston, Cat Hawn, Brenda Jordan, Rick Koval, Rebecca Lesko, John Miller, Dennis Miranda, Pedro Miranda, Susan Petty, James Trusky, Lindsey Warren, Alan Welby, Alan and Bonnie Yuscavage, Eric Zawatski.

York County

Locations: Codorus State Park (CSP), Gifford Pinchot State Park (GPSP), Hopewell Township Park (HTP), Lake Redman (LR), Lake Williams (LW), Spring Valley County Park (SVCP).

This period's 126 total species and 18 warbler species were on the high side of the current five-year trend. Highlights included short visits by **American Avocet**, **Snowy Egret**, and **Little Blue Heron**; **Virginia Rail** breeding and/or colony confirmation at two sites; a **Least Bittern**, good warbler variety; and a nice uptick in reporting of **Blue Grosbeak**.

Hooded Merganser singles were found at LR 6/1- 7/5 (m.ob.), along Gut Rd river frontage 6/2 (CE), and at LW 6/11-15 (CE). Uncommon for the period, a **Common Merganser** was at Long Arm Res. 6/22 (HM). Reporting for **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** (m.ob.) continues to increase with over 25 sites holding birds. A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was found at Raab C.P. 6/30 (EP), and one was at GPSP 7/2-3 (DAI). **Virginia Rail** successful nesting was confirmed at Marsh Run with 4 adults and 2 juveniles detected 6/16 (DN). A follow-up visit 7/30 (DN) found at least 2 adults and a juvenile bird. A visit to a SGL 242 wetland pond 6/27 (DN) suggested evidence of a colony as a minimum of 5 birds were calling from different directions and distances.

Two lucky birders enjoyed the stopover of an **American Avocet** at CSP 7/9 (PM, RW). The last *York* summer report of this species was July 2014. Minimal southward shorebird migration was detected, limited to single or very small numbers of **Least Sandpiper** 7/7-23 (MB, CK, DN), **Solitary Sandpiper** 7/5-15 (CE, NH, DM, DN), and **Lesser Yellowlegs** 7/15 (DN). A great summer find for the county was a **Least Bittern** at GPSP 6/20 (EB). The more common waders, **Great Blue Heron** and **Great Egret**, produced high counts of 27 birds at LR 7/14 (BR) and 50 birds at the Kiwanis L. egret rookery 6/29 (JW, KW), respectively. Sheppard-Myers Res. produced a rare county occurrence of a **Snowy Egret** and **Little Blue Heron** together 7/12 (DA). The Little Blue Heron at LR 7/6-7 (m.ob.) may have been the same bird. Surprisingly, **Black-crowned Night Heron** high count did not come from the Kiwanis L. rookery but with 11 birds from LW 7/2 (JB).

A strong **Black Vulture** count of 72 birds came from Lock 12 on 7/23 (TA). Infrequently found this period, a **Northern Harrier** was over fields along Grove Rd 6/30 (DA). The trend for summer reporting of **Sharp-shinned Hawk** continued with four reports from four sites 6/6-7/15 (PB, AM, RP, RS). Sixteen sites produced **Red-headed Woodpecker** reports with a high of five at HTP 7/1 (BR). A **Peregrine Falcon** at Hanover 7/27 (SK) was being harassed by **Chimney Swifts**.

Flycatcher reporting saw the typical species found with high counts of 27 **Eastern Wood-Pewees** and 10 **Great Crested Flycatchers** at GPSP 6/20 (EB). Vireo reporting was a positive as well, and there were an impressive 11 sites producing **Yellow-throated Vireo** reports (m.ob.). High count was 5 birds at GPSP 7/9 (DN). **Horned Lark** pairs were reported along Ridge Meadow Rd 6/9 (JK), at Stewartstown 6/30 (DA), and up to 12 were detected along Potosi Rd 6/23-7/21 (DA, CB). Of 12 sites reporting **Purple Martin**, a nice count of 70 birds came from the Kildoy Acres Farm colony 6/1 (DN). **Bank Swallow** reporting was limited to a single bird at Mt. Wolf 7/1 (DN) and 3 at York Haven 7/16 (DN). **Cliff Swallow** reporting (m.ob.) was confined to the long-term colony at CSP bridges with a very low 10 birds for the high count.

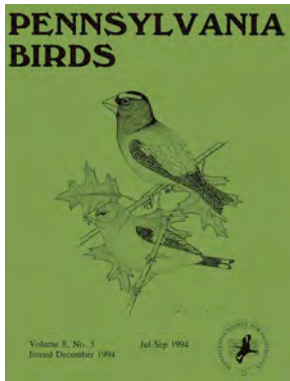
Grasshopper Sparrow was found at four locales with HTP producing the high count of 5 birds. A nice 30 count of **Chipping Sparrows** came from GPSP 6/20 (EB). A **Savannah Sparrow** was found at Highpoint Scenic Vista 7/10 (NH, BP) and up to 4 birds at HTP 6/13-14 (AM, DN, RS). As high as 5 **Swamp Sparrows** were detected at Marsh Run 6/16-7/30 (DN), and one was found at SVCP 6/4 (DA). Nice to report (m.ob.) that eight sites held **Yellow-breasted Chat**, and SVCP

produced a 6-bird high count 6/4 (DA). **Eastern Meadowlark** was found at Franklin Park 6/4 (NM, RSt), Highpoint Scenic Vista 7/10 (NH, BP), Lewisberry 7/18 (JC), and up to 6 at HTP all period (m.ob.).

As noted earlier, warbler variety was a positive. Ten sites reporting **Worm-eating Warbler** was remarkably high with a 4-bird high count on the Mason-Dixon Trail 7/23 (EO). Singles of **Blue-winged Warbler** were at SVCP 6/4 and 6/23 (DA) and Warrington Twp. Park 6/4 and 7/4 (DN, NN). Two Susquehanna R. sites produced **Prothonotary Warbler**: a pair at Lock 12 on 6/1 (DN), and a pair at Codorus Furnace 6/17 (CG). Additionally, two inland sites held singles: LW 6/5 (CK) and GPSP 7/2 (RK). A visit to Lock 12 on 6/16 (MH) produced a **Cerulean Warbler**. Ceruleans can be a tough find for *York* in the spring period, and even more so in the summer. Muddy Creek Forks registered a nice **Northern Parula** 9-count 6/22 (DN, NN). **Chestnut-sided Warbler** is a typical miss this period so a single at LR 6/1 (EH) and a pair at GPSP 6/10 (SM) is noteworthy. Also good finds this period were a **Black-throated Blue Warbler** at SGL 242 on 6/14 (DN, NN) and a **Yellow-throated Warbler** at Muddy Creek Forks 6/1-22 (DN, NN, J&WH). **Prairie Warbler** was reported at six locales with a count of up to 10 birds at Apollo C.P. 6/14-21 (DK, J&WH). Reports of single **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** came from GPSP 6/20 (EB) and Ski Roundtop 7/25 (CH). Nine sites reporting (m.ob.) **Blue Grosbeak** is impressive. Seven of the reports originated in the southeast quadrant of the county while the remaining two were in the eastern-central portion.

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25 Years Ago in *Pennsylvania Birds*



Volume 8, No. 3.

Doug Gross described finding the first Blackpoll Warbler nest in Pennsylvania (Wyoming County). Further searching since then has revealed a few more nests nearby, although the numbers have changed from year to year.

Skip Conant described finding the first Evening Grosbeak nest in Pennsylvania (also in Wyoming County).

Gene Wilhelm reported on the second breeding of Sandhill Crane in Pennsylvania. They now nest annually in multiple counties.

Rare birds reported included Brown Pelican, Magnificent Frigatebird, and Gull-billed Tern

This issue can be read at pabirds.org.

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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IN FOCUS – Grassland Specialists



Two pairs of **Sedge Wrens** established territories at Erie Bluffs SP, *Erie* from 17 July (here 21) through the end of the season. (*Jerry McWilliams*)



Uncommon in *Venango*, with scarcity of good habitat, this **Grasshopper Sparrow** was at Barkeyville Strips 5 July. (*Jeffrey Hall*)



Providing the first well-documented record for *Franklin*, this **Clay-colored Sparrow** sang persistently during its stay at the Weaver Farm at Orrstown 27 June through 29 (here 21) July, but apparently never attracted a mate. (*Dave Kerr*)



Savannah Sparrow at Rhodes Farm at Kahle Lake, *Venango* 20 June. (*Meg Kolodick*)



Bobolink at former strip mine, now premier grassland, at the Piney Tract, *Clarion* 14 June. (*Mark McConaughy*)



Female **Red-winged Blackbird** in West Norriton Twp., *Montgomery* 1 June. (*Bill Moses*)