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Cover: **Short-billed Dowitcher** at St. Luke's Hospital Anderson Campus Pond/Walking Trail, Northampton 9 July. (Dave DeReamus)

Peregrine Falcons de-listed ... and the retirement of Art McMorris

In the 1930s, there were 40 or more pairs of Peregrine Falcons in Pennsylvania in at least 21 counties, mostly associated with the Susquehanna and Delaware Rivers and their tributaries. By 1960, there were no known nesting pairs remaining in the state. Indeed, Peregrines disappeared as a breeding species entirely in the eastern United States and were severely reduced in western states. Following passage of the Endangered Species Act by Congress in 1973, Peregrine Falcon was among the early species to be listed. Pennsylvania followed suit at the state level and took part in recovery efforts in the early 1980s.

Results were slow for several years with the falcons surprising us by the choice of urban settings (bridges, tall buildings) for the first nesting attempts. As of 18 years ago, nearly 20 years after restoration began, there were 11 known pairs and a positive outcome still not assured, especially as early attempts by falcons on natural cliff sites were mostly unsuccessful because of predation.

At about that time **Dr. F. Art McMorris** took the position of Peregrine Falcon Coordinator for the PGC. Peregrine numbers grew slowly but surely and some pairs eventually were successful on cliffs, although the majority of nest sites are still urban and/or on unnatural structures, including several cities across the state.

Most readers here will know already that, for now at least, the story has a happy ending, and that Pennsylvania Peregrines were removed from the list of state endangered and threatened species in 2021. It was on this occasion that Art McMorris announced his retirement. His final comments as Coordinator were posted on PABIRDS and Facebook. In that statement Art addressed what is next for Peregrines in Pennsylvania. Obviously they are still protected by state and federal law. In Pennsylvania, monitoring will continue for the next ten years, with limited banding.

Quoting directly from Art's message, addressed in part to his many contacts who voluntarily watched over nests and made reports to him:

Monitoring will continue for 10 years, as mentioned above, but that will be coordinated by others at PGC, not myself. I have passed along your contact information, and you can expect others at PGC to contact you as appropriate. Although I will no longer be with PGC, I will certainly not lose my interest in or affection for peregrines, and I look forward to continuing to hear peregrine information from you informally.

Art also provided some up-to-date statistics: In 2021, there were at least 73

known Peregrine pairs in the state. Over half were successful this season, even allowing for a number of nests where the final outcome, successful fledging or not, was not known. Especially encouraging was that 22 of the 73 pairs were using natural substrates (i.e. cliffs).

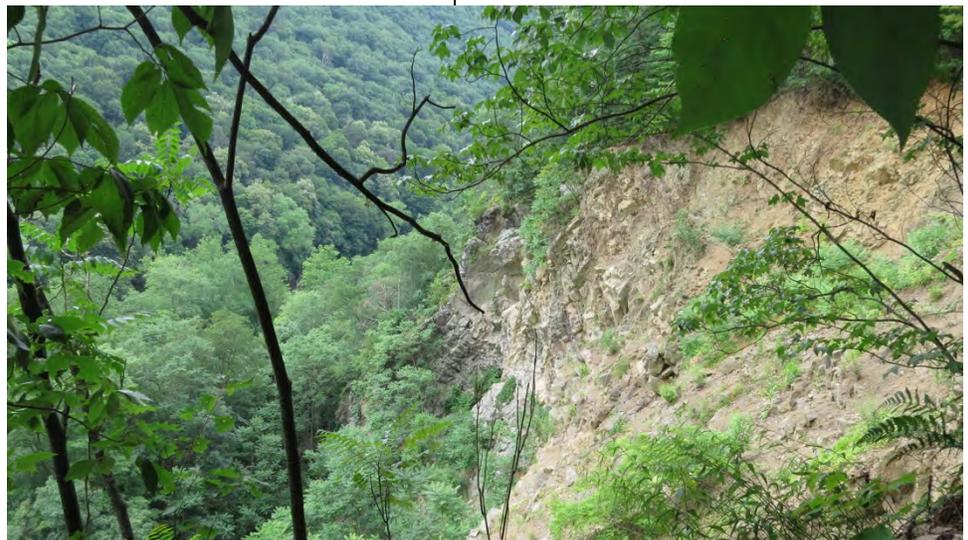
We wish Art well in his retirement and add our thanks and congratulations to Art and Dan Brauning and the many PGC personnel who contributed to the work of bringing the big falcons back to Pennsylvania (not to mention various workers from Penn Dot, building supervisors, and citizen scientists who helped keep watch).

Read more about the history of Peregrines in the state and the restoration efforts on-line:

Brauning, D.W., Barber, P. and McMorris, F.A. 2013. Management and Biology of the Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) in Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania Game Commission.

<https://www.pgc.pa.gov/Wildlife/WildlifeSpecies/PeregrineFalcon/Documents/Peregrine%20Falcon%20Management%20Plan.pdf>

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Long view of cliffside location of *Huntingdon's* first Peregrine Falcon nesting since the 1930s, 3 July 2021. Exact location not disclosed. At least two falcons successfully fledged from the nest. (Deborah Grove)

Compiler news

With this summer 2021 issue, **Tina Alianiello** of Cresson takes over the *Cambria* reporting from long-time compiler **Dave Gobert**. And, pinch-hitting for **Evan Mann** in *Susquehanna* for this season is **Barb Stone**.

The following counties need a compiler: *Bradford, Carbon, McKean, Snyder, and Union*. Contact the editor if interested.

(Philadelphia), **Robert Snyder** (Potter, Tioga), **Dave Rieger** (Schuylkill), **Jeff Payne** (Somerset), **Rob Megraw** (Sullivan), **Evan Mann** (Susquehanna), **Gary Edwards** and **Russ States** (Venango), **Scott Stoleson** (Warren), **Josh Jones** (Wayne), **Tom Kuehl** (Westmoreland), **Joe DeMarco** (Wyoming).

Swainson's Warblers!! Six Reported Sightings in the Spring of 2021

Deborah S. Grove and Greg Grove

On May 12, 2021, a search for a previously reported rarity (for Blair County) failed for the original target but instead produced an even rarer species. Greg and I had hiked down the very birdy Lower (pronounced “lauer”) Trail from the Etna Furnace Trailhead in search of a possible Prothonotary Warbler (later determined to be a Kentucky Warbler, also a good find for *Blair*). Little did we know that we would find an even rarer warbler. About a mile down the trail from the trailhead, movement in the rhododendron turned into a Mourning Warbler, also a very good bird for the county.

But it hardly compared to what we found after another half mile of slow walking! I heard a song and I thought is that a... Swainson's Warbler?! I had the presence of mind for once to record it with my iPhone. With patience, we finally had a decent look and made the following notes: "Body upper parts dark brown. Breast and belly light unmarked. No wing bars. Head had dark eye line and conspicuous light eyebrow. Top of head was slightly reddish brown. Long bill". Eventually we left the bird without a photo but a good recording of the song of a Swainson's Warbler (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*).

We put our list on eBird right away, prompting John Carter to jog down 1.5 miles of trail later in the day, where he found the bird still singing, allowing him to get a good photo that was included in the spring issue of *Pennsylvania Birds*. The next day Sara Busch went to the same location and heard the bird singing, though she did not see it. She then hiked the 1.5 miles back to her car at the Etna Furnace Trailhead where she heard another Swainson's Warbler singing, this time getting a good photo (Image 1). There can be little doubt it was not the same, unless you assume the first bird flew 1.5 miles and stopped right next to the spot where Sara's car was parked.

Thus was established the first and second *Blair* records of Swainson's Warbler (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*), in an area that looked good for this species. The Lower Trail (a Rails-to-Trail project) follows the Frankstown Branch of the Juniata River for miles, the trail separated from the river by a narrow strand of low, dense thicket and trees, perfect for a skulking Swainson's Warbler.

Neither *Blair* bird was re-located. However, that was not the end of the Swainson's Warbler story 2021. Four other Swainson's Warblers were reported in Pennsylvania within the same time frame!



Image 1: Lower Trail, Mt Etna Furnace, *Blair* 13 May 2021 (Sara Busch)

In fact, the *Blair* birds were not the first of the spring. Nearly two weeks earlier, Julia Plummer found a Swainson's Warbler on 30 April at Black Moshannon State Park in *Centre*. She reports that she drove out to the park on that Friday morning to do some scouting for her Shaver's Creek Environmental Center Birding Cup team. Driving slowly along the west side of the lake at the park, she saw a small brown bird fly across the road in front of her car and dive into the rhododendrons on the lakeshore. She immediately stopped and got her binoculars on the bird.

Her first thought upon getting a look at the bird was that it was a Worm-eating Warbler but she knew that something was off. She pointed her microphone (Zoom F1 with SGH-6 shotgun mic) at the bird and almost immediately it sang a brief song that confirmed that she had something more interesting than a Worm-eating Warbler! And then, no more than 10 seconds after capturing its song, a giant construction vehicle pulled up behind her so she had to drive on. She was not able to relocate the bird after she parked. But others found it later that day and she saw it again with her team the next day. Other observers reported seeing it through 2 May. A spectrograph of the song is seen in Image 2 and Image 3 is a photo taken by Pam Illig.

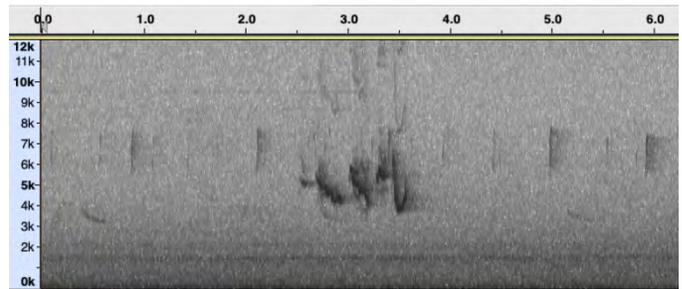


Image 2: Spectrograph, Black Moshannon SP, *Centre* 30 April 2021 (Julia Plummer)



Image 3: Black Moshannon SP, *Centre* 1 May 2021 (Pam Illig)

Vern Gauthier and Bill Oyler have been traveling more this year to under-birded *Fulton*. On 14 May they stopped for a late morning walk at Redbud Natural Area (eBird hotspot Buchanan SF—Kepler Tract/Redbud Valley) south of McConnellsburg and about 10 miles north of the Maryland border. Louisiana Waterthrush nests there so when Vern heard a chip note that sounded fuller and sharper than those of the waterthrushes, he wanted to confirm the identity. He pished for a little bit and the bird popped up in a low shrub. Bill saw it and shouted out, “Swainson's Warbler!” He then excitedly described a bird with a large bill,

rufous crown, pale face with a straight dark eye line, plain brown upper body and creamy underside.

Because it was a life bird for Vern, he was dismayed when it submerged back into the thick underbrush before he saw it. However, with some additional pishing, he coaxed the bird back into view long enough to identify. The bird then vanished in the underbrush and soon went silent. It was not relocated after that. This was at least the second eBird record for the county. (One was reported by Dan Snell in 2009.)

Remarkably, Swainson's Warblers were found in Pittsburgh, *Allegheny* in both 2020 and 2021, and by the same person, Trinidad Regaspi. Both birds were found on her BirdSafe Pittsburgh routes in downtown Pittsburgh. As the name implies, BirdSafe volunteers search for bird window strikes in order to rescue those that hit and collect data on numbers and species. On 14 May 2020 she rescued her first bird, which was successfully released. She didn't know what it was but she posted a photo to the rescue group and it was identified as a Swainson's Warbler. On 16 May 2021, she found another window-strike Swainson's Warbler, identified by Robert Mulvihill (Image 4). This bird was sent to a rehab facility where it was possibly released because it was active with no visible injuries. Given the dates, one year and two days apart, and the rarity of the species, one must wonder if this could have been the same bird.



Image 4: Pittsburgh, *Allegheny* 16 May 2021 (Trinidad Regaspi)

Another remarkable Swainson's Warbler sighting in 2021 was that in *Indiana* by Dennis Lauffer on 13 May on the Conemaugh River Lake--West Penn Trail, at the same site where Dennis found one in 2020 and almost certainly the same individual. As Dennis tells it, the trail is one he walks frequently because of the bird life he finds. On 9 June 2020 he heard a bird with what he describes as an odd Hooded Warbler song. On June 24 he heard it again and this time saw it and identified it as a Swainson's Warbler! He called Marg and Roger Higbee who came and confirmed the sighting. After word got out, over one hundred people made the trip to find the bird, the last reported sighting being 7 August 2020.

In 2021, Dennis started looking for a Swainson's Warbler earlier and he heard one on 13 May near the same site. He finally saw the bird on 4 July and his last sighting was 3 August. At least 35 people reported finding this bird at this site during that time period.

The Audubon field guide site describes the habitat of this bird as: "Swamps and river floodplain forests. Breeds both in swamps and bottomlands of the southern coastal plains and in moist Appalachian forests. In swamps, prefers large tract with dense understory and sparse ground cover. Found especially in canebrakes and dwarf palmetto. In Appalachians, prefers rhododendron-laurel-hemlock associations or yellow poplar, oak and maple with moderate undergrowth. Winters in woodland undergrowth in tropics." <https://www.audubon.org/field-guide/bird/swainsons-warbler>



Image 5: Conemaugh River Lake--West Penn Trail, *Indiana* 4 July 2021 (Amy Henrici)

W. E. Clyde Todd did not mention Swainson's Warbler in his 1940 book *Birds of Western Pennsylvania*. However, Brooks (1939, referenced in Krueger, 1989) documented collection of the first likely breeding specimen in the Appalachians in *Monongalia*, West Virginia in 1924, only five miles from the West Virginia/Pennsylvania border at *Fayette*. The first Swainson's Warbler in southwestern Pennsylvania, a singing male, was found in *Fayette* at Bear Rocks Preserve on 17 May 1975 by George Malosh (referenced in Krueger 1989). Krueger and Mulvihill (1992) asserted in their species account for the first BBA that Swainson's Warbler could easily be overlooked in *Fayette* due to the song similarity to Hooded Warbler and Louisiana Waterthrush. This county has habitat similar to the breeding area in West Virginia, mountainous terrain and mixed mesophytic forest with rhododendron and hemlocks.

Swainson's Warbler occurrence in Pennsylvania

Prior to 2021, the greatest number of reports of Swainson's Warbler in Pennsylvania in any one year appears to have been three (Table 1). The finding of six in 2021 (Table 2) may perhaps be attributed to nothing more than increased birder activity and ever-increasing communication through social media. Alternatively, of course, it may reflect a real "event", even if nothing more than an overflight during optimal conditions for northerly migration. Note that five of the six 2021 birds were discovered during a brief period, 12-16 May. However, there were no remarkable weather events in that time frame that might suggest a possible cause.

Based on eBird reports, there appears to have been no region-wide invasion of Swainson's Warblers in 2021. Bordering Pennsylvania there were a total of only five reports in four states that can be considered as out-of-range birds (Table 2). This does not include reports from West Virginia, where a breeding population exists. Of those five reports, four are essentially coastal (two in New Jersey and one each in Virginia and Delaware.) The other is from northern Ohio, near Cleveland, probably the furthest out of range report of the spring of 2021. Three of those five reports occurred in April, so not obviously linked temporally to the wave discovered in Pennsylvania in mid-May. Further away, Iowa recorded their first ever Swainson's Warbler in 2021 (Ollie and Patterson 2021).

Searches of various sources (especially Birds of Note compilations from *Pennsylvania Birds*, eBird, Birds of Pennsylvania (McWilliams and Brauning 2000) and Krueger (1989)), resulted in identification of at least 48 reports of Swainson's Warbler in Pennsylvania prior to 2021 (Table 1); the

six added in 2021 (Table 2) brings the total to 54. Among these reports, it is likely that a few identification errors may have occurred given that Swainson's Warbler is a species lacking in bold plumage characteristics and notoriously difficult to get good looks at. Nevertheless, a solid majority of reports have reasonably convincing details, and in many cases accompanying photos and/or song recordings. At least seven reports were of birds-in-hand at the banding station at Powdermill Nature Preserve, *Westmoreland*. Two more reports of birds-in-hand were those of the window strike birds in Pittsburgh, *Allegheny*.

The distribution of reports in the state (Figure 1) shows that of 54 total reports, over half (29) come from the southwest, as might be expected given that the nearest breeding population is in West Virginia. In fact, 20 reports are from *Fayette* and *Westmoreland* (where Powdermill is located) - basically extensions of the mountains of West Virginia and a logical path of Swainson's Warblers that fly a bit too far north during migration.

Nine more southwestern reports are from *Allegheny* (6) and *Indiana* (3); of the three reports in *Indiana*, those from 2020 and 2021 probably refer to the same bird described above. Outside of the southwest, reports are widely scattered, but nearly all from the southern half of the state. The only three northerly birds were in *Pike* (1985), *Erie* (1986), and northern *Centre* (2021).

Of the 54 reports, all have occurred since 1975 except one record from 1954 in *Philadelphia*, documented in *Cassinia* (1955). Not surprisingly, most reports are from May or early June, representing presumed migration over-shoots. Figure 2 shows the distribution of dates of first detection, distributed over 10-day intervals, with a sharp rise in early May and a decided peak during the middle ten days of May. West Virginia eBird data shows that birds arrive in number there during the last week of April and especially the first week in May. As expected, fall records in Pennsylvania are few; even in West Virginia, there are only about a half dozen records in September, and none later (eBird).

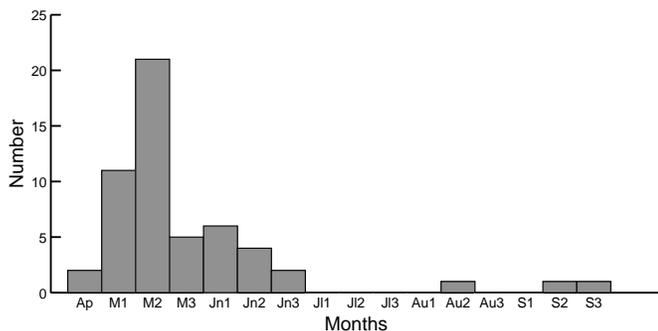


Figure 2: The monthly distribution of reports in the state.

Breeding in Pennsylvania?

The short answer is that there is no strong evidence to indicate a breeding attempt associated with any of the 54 reports in Tables 1 and 2. In just about all reports, and possibly 100%, there was no indication of a mated pair. About eight represent apparently territorial males - birds detected in May or early June that remained at the same location for at least a few weeks, well beyond the expected period of migration.

As noted above, the closest significant established population is in central and southern West Virginia. Perhaps surprisingly, there are no confirmed breeding records in Ohio, not far across the Ohio River from the West Virginia population (M. Shumar, per. comm.). To the southeast of Pennsylvania, there are a few confirmed records of breeding in southeastern Maryland and in Delaware, but those records are decades old and in some cases consist of observations of pairs of birds with no indication that nests were found (Hess et al. 2000, McCann 2010). In any case, breeding there, if any, is rare and represents an isolated and probably imperiled remnant population, well-separated from established populations in West Virginia and far southeastern Virginia.

Paul Hess said that the overall population of this species is tenuous due to threats of habitat loss at both the breeding range in the US and that of its wintering grounds in the Caribbean, Mexico, and Central America. He proposes that coordinated studies could reveal that the species is more frequent in the state than currently known. The challenge is that the area and habitat where the bird may reside is not often visited by experienced observers.

Fifty years of Breeding Bird Survey data suggest the population of Swainson's Warbler in the United States is stable (<https://www.mbr-pwrc.usgs.gov/bbs/spec115.html>). However, analysis by the Audubon Society suggests there is climate-change vulnerability in its nesting range in West Virginia (<https://www.audubon.org/field-guide/bird/swainsons-warbler>). The maps from the Audubon analysis suggest an eventual northward movement of the breeding range into Pennsylvania.

It is certainly reasonable to imagine that Swainson's Warblers may have nested in Pennsylvania, and may even do so now and/or in the future. Anyone wishing to find proof of current nesting would be advised to plan on spending lots of time in difficult terrain in under-birded *Fayette*. And take a camera and recording device!

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Table 1: Swainson's Warbler Occurrences in Pennsylvania from 1954-2020

Date	Location	First Observed by	Comments
15 May 1954	<i>Philadelphia</i>	Bauer (?)	Cassinia 41:83
17 May 1975 to early June	Bear Run Nature Reserve, <i>Fayette</i>	P Weigman, George Malosh et al	Krueger, PB 3:86. Remained several weeks (eBird)
18 May 1977	Waynesburg, <i>Greene</i>	Bartolo, Reeves	Krueger, PB 3:86
14 July 1977	Ohiopyle SP, <i>Fayette</i>	Orndorff	Krueger, PB 3:86
4 June 1978	Kirkridge, <i>Northampton</i>	Wiltraut, Winkelman	Cassinia 61:3
11 September 1982	Baerr Rocks, <i>Lehigh</i>	Grout, Kranick	American Birds (1983) 37:164
21 May 1985	Powdermill, <i>Westmoreland</i>	Leberman, Mulvihill	Krueger, PB 3:86. Banded (eBird)
17 June 1985	Bushkill, <i>Pike</i>	Brown	Cassinia 61:3
16 May 1986	Presque Isle SP, <i>Erie</i>	Leberman, Leberman	Krueger, PB 3:86. Banded
21-22 May 1987	South Park, <i>Allegheny</i>	Darney et al.	Krueger, PB 3:86
9-19 May 1989	Powdermill, <i>Westmoreland</i>	Leberman, Mulvihill et al.	Krueger, PB 3:86. Banded, captured 4 more times, sang daily
19 May 1989	Yellow Creek SP, <i>Indiana</i>	E and N Hall	Krueger, PB 3:86
2 June – 6 August 1989	Bear Run Nature Reserve, <i>Fayette</i>	E and N Hall, Darney, Kwater, m.ob.	Krueger, PB 3:86. Recorded, photos, seen by many (eBird)
22 May – summer 1990	Bear Run Nature Reserve, <i>Fayette</i>	Krueger et al.	In McWilliams & Brauning 2000
12 May – summer 1991	Bear Run Nature Reserve, <i>Fayette</i>	Krueger et al.	Ref. in McWilliams & Brauning 2000. (eBird)
21 May 1997	Volant, <i>Lawrence</i>	Dean et al.	PB 11:97. (eBird)
14 August 1997	Ridley Creek SP, <i>Delaware</i>	Guarente	In McWilliams & Brauning 2000
7-24 May 1998	SGL 211, <i>Dauphin</i>	Randolph et al.	PB 12:70. (eBird)
9 May - June 1998	Loyalhanna Lake/wetlands, <i>Westmoreland</i>	Pearson et al.	PB 12:83. (eBird)
2 June 1998	Linn SP, <i>Westmoreland</i>	Butler	PB 12:83. (eBird)
8-14 May 1999	Loyalhanna Lake/wetlands, <i>Westmoreland</i>	McConaughy et al.	(eBird)
8 May 2000	Gifford Pinchot SP, <i>York</i>	Sabold	PB 14:125.
25 June 2000	Wi-Hi-Tuk Park, <i>Northampton</i>	Brock	PB 14:123.
8-18 May 2001	Bushy Run Battlefield, <i>Westmoreland</i>	McConaughy	PB 15:99. (eBird)
19-20 May 2001	Blue Marsh Lake, <i>Berks</i>	Githens, H. Silagy, J.Silagy	PB 15:103
28 September 2002	Wildwood Lake, <i>Dauphin</i>	Musser	PB 16:175.
8-16 May 2003	Sewickley Heights Park, <i>Allegheny</i>	Knoll, Vass et al.	PB 17:123. (eBird, photo)
10 May 2003	Stone Mt., <i>Mifflin</i>	Byler Sr., Byler Jr.	PB 17:147.
23 April 2004	Oakdale, <i>Allegheny</i>	F. and C. McCullough	PB 18:121
8 May 2004	Camp Shand, <i>Lebanon</i>	Wheeler	PB 18:139.
16 May 2005	Powdermill, <i>Westmoreland</i>	Mulvihill, Lanzone et al.	PB 19:122
11 June 2006	Bolivar, <i>Westmoreland</i>	?	2 nd BBA
18 June 2006	Weiser SF, <i>Dauphin</i>	Johnson	2 nd BBA (eBird)
12 May – June 2007	Settlers Cabin Park, <i>Allegheny</i>	F. and C. McCullough, Malosh	2 nd BBA (eBird, photo)
1 June 2007	Muddy Creek Valley, <i>York</i>	?	2 nd BBA
14 June 2009	Harmon Rd., <i>Fulton</i>	Snell	PB 23:169.
1 May 2010	Powdermill, <i>Westmoreland</i>	Banding station	PB 24:129. Banded, recaptured 4 times.
8 May 2010	Powdermill, <i>Westmoreland</i>	Banding station	PB 24:129. Banded
13 May 2010	Stahlstown, <i>Westmoreland</i>	L Hess, L Hess	PB 24:129.
11 May 2012	Octoraro Lake, <i>Lancaster</i>	Raub	PB 26:121.
22-28 May 2012	Linn Run SP, <i>Westmoreland</i>	Lanzone, B.&J. Jamison	PB 26:135.
12 May 2013	Powdermill, <i>Westmoreland</i>	Behl et al.	(eBird)
8-13 June 2013	SGL 51, <i>Fayette</i>	Coulter, DeStein	PB 27:174.
18-19 May 2014	Bear Swamp, <i>Northampton</i>	Wiltaut, DeReamus, Sieminski	PB 28:137. (eBird)
4 May 2019	Powdermill, <i>Westmoreland</i>	Liadis et al.	PB 33:158. (eBird)
6 June 2019	White Clay Creek Preserve, <i>Chester</i>	Heckscher	(eBird)
14 May 2020	Downtown Pittsburgh, <i>Allegheny</i>	Regaspi	PB 34:99. Window strike (eBird)
24 June – 8 July 2020	Conemaugh River Lake/Dam, <i>Indiana</i>	Lauffer, m.ob.	PB 34:180. Apparently returned 2021 (eBird)

Table 2: Swainson's Warbler Occurrences in Pennsylvania and Neighboring States 2021

Date	Location	First Observed by	Comments
30 April- 2 May 2021	Black Moshannon SP, <i>Centre</i>	Plummer	Photo, recording (eBird)
12-13 May 2021	Mt. Etna, Lower Trail, <i>Blair</i>	D. Grove, G. Grove, Carter, Busch	Photo, recording (eBird)
13 May 2021	Mt. Etna Lower Trail, <i>Blair</i>	Busch	1.5 miles from above bird, photo (eBird)
14 May 2021	Buchanan SF–Kerper Tract, <i>Fulton</i>	Oyler, Gauthier	(eBird)
14 May –8 July 2021	Conemaugh River Lake/Dam, <i>Indiana</i>	Lauffer, m.ob.	Presumably same bird at location as in 2020, photo, recorded (eBird)
16 May 2021	Downtown Pittsburgh, <i>Allegheny</i>	Regaspi	Window strike, status unknown, photo, found by same individual as SWWA window strike here in 2020 (eBird)
Out of range reports from adjacent states, 2021			
15 April-July 2021	Higbee Beach WMA, <i>Cape May, New Jersey</i>	m.ob.	Photo, recording (eBird)
23 April 2021	Sandy Hook, <i>Monmouth, New Jersey</i>	Whitehead	Recording, (eBird)
27 April 2021	Chincoteague NWR, <i>Accomack, Virginia</i>	Teets et al	Recording, (eBird)
10 May 2021	Bombay Hook NWR, <i>Kent, Delaware</i>	Nardell	(eBird)
18-19 May 2021	Cuyahoga Valley NP, <i>Summit, Ohio</i>	m.ob.	Photo, recording (eBird)

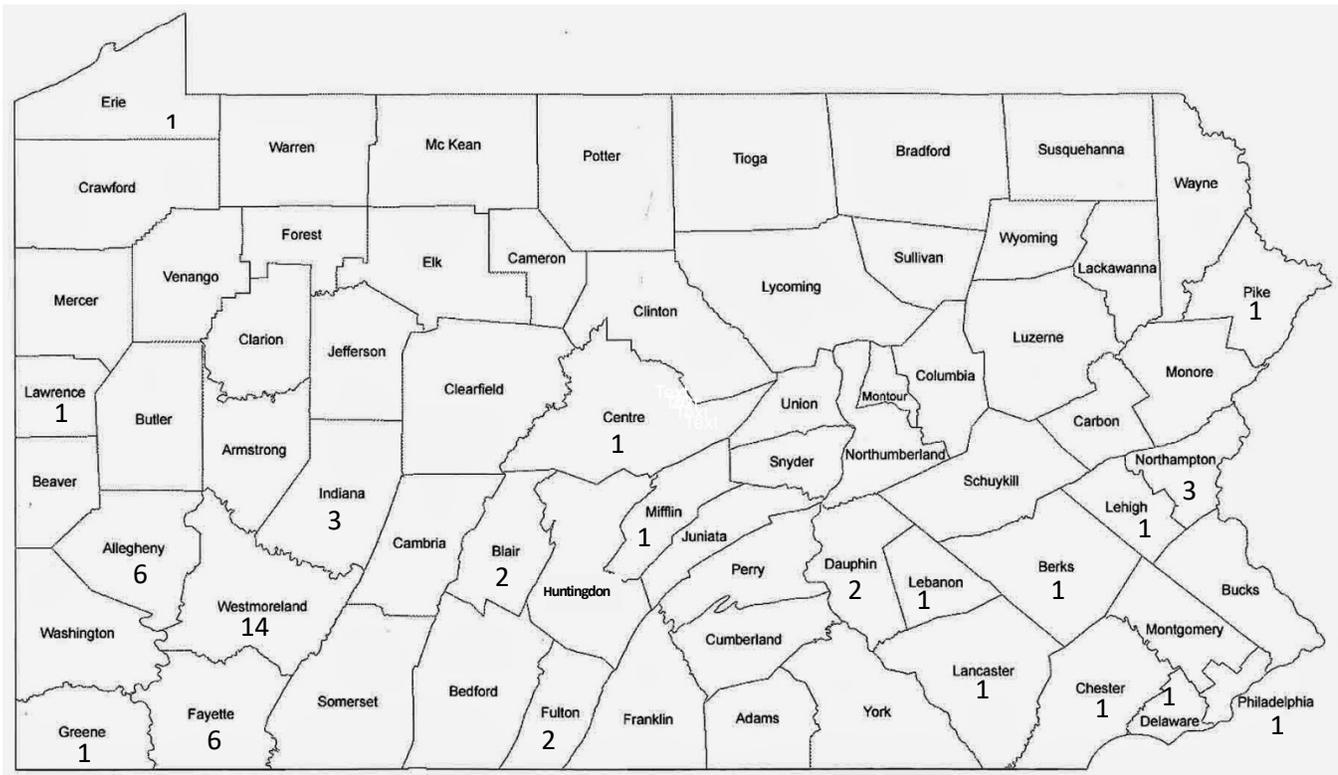


Figure 1: Distribution of Swainson's Warbler reports.

The Breeding Bird Survey in Pennsylvania – History, Importance, and Results

Dan Brauning

Three Billion birds are missing! Red-eyed Vireo is the state's most common bird!! Wood Thrush populations have declined by 1% for 50 years!! Where do these numbers come from? Answer: The Breeding Bird Survey, generally referenced by its acronym, the BBS, is the core bird monitoring program for North America that provides these statistics, and many more.

The BBS is a point count program initiated in 1965 across the US and Canada (1966 in Pennsylvania) that has become the foundation for monitoring breeding bird populations across the continent. It is completed annually by birders, mostly as volunteers – yes, this community – including "skilled amateurs and professional biologists". PSO members complete most of the routes, which number approximately 100 that are run annually out of the 107 established in the state.

Over 150 species of birds have been detected on at least one BBS route in Pennsylvania during its history, of which useful data is provided for about 116 species, or a little more than half the state's breeding species (Table 1). The strength of the BBS now is the long (>50 years), standardized effort with rigorous statistical analysis that provides the most robust population trends for the largest number of North American bird species.

What is the BBS? The survey itself is simple: From random starting points and a cardinal direction, 50 stops were spaced along rural roads at 0.5-mile intervals. At each of those points, a 3-minute point count is conducted once in June, ideally by the same observer each year for as many years as that volunteer is able. These routes are a string of points along about 25 miles of Pennsylvania's roads that total about 5,000 point counts conducted per year!

Annual analyses compute the number of birds per route by species, and from that, the most important result of this survey is the change in those counts over time, reported as an annual index (birds per route), and computed as a percent change per year. These averages are summarized for the state, in smaller units like Bird Conservation Regions, and of course, are rolled up to provide national averages. Statistical analyses (I won't get too technical here) are done at the route level and take into account changes in observers. Results are provided on-line results for public use (<https://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbs/>).

The results have appeared in hundreds of publications, and played prominent roles in both of Pennsylvania's Breeding Bird Atlas results as a complement to the distribution data provided by atlasing (Brauning 1992; Wilson et al. 2012)! Understanding the acknowledged limitations of a roadside route, the BBS continues to provide an incredibly important perspective on bird population status and trends. The analysis that resulted in the computation of 3 Billion lost birds that splashed across the media in 2019 was rooted in BBS numbers.

History

The BBS was the brainchild of Chan Robbins, then a birder and employee of the US Fish and Wildlife Service, who set out to establish a bird-monitoring program for all species, inspired by the Mourning Dove Call Count and the British Common Bird Census. What he established was ground-breaking; a low-budget effort in the spirit of "community-science" (long before this was a term) completed by the birding community with a continental scope. An excellent summary of the genesis of this survey is provided in an article originally published in *Birding* and available on the BBS website (<https://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbs/bbsnews/Pubs/Birding-Article.pdf>).

In the spirit of community science, volunteer state coordinators were established to set up the random starting points within a national grid. Dr. Paul Schwalbe, then at Lock Haven

University, set up the first routes in Pennsylvania to be first run in 1966. Since that time, the BBS expanded to include all of the continental US and Canadian provinces in 1968 and, in recent years, into Mexico.

Over the years, nearly 300 different birders have contributed to the BBS program in Pennsylvania, in the process of completing over 4000 surveys. In recent years, Pennsylvania birders have completed more than 90% of the 107 regular routes currently assigned. (A total of 127 Pennsylvania routes are incorporated into analysis through the history of the survey, many of which have been replaced due to road noise or safety). We are usually in the top 5 jurisdictions in terms of the percentage of available routes completed. As a result, Pennsylvania has a robust BBS data set from which to generate trends.

Among all completed routes, observers conducted their survey for an average of over 8 years. The longevity of service is an important factor in providing useful data. Three-quarters of all routes were completed by someone who continued with the survey for more than 10 years, and half of the surveys were done for 20 or more years. These provide the most robust trend results!

None of the observers completing a route in 1966 are still participating, but Rudy Keller comes closest. He started in 1971, just five years in, and has completed 94 surveys over the past 50 years (through 2019). A few others have completed more routes, by doing more routes each year. As of 2019 Doug Gross completed 163 routes, Ralph Bell completed 91 routes in western PA over 42 years, Bill Reid completed 118 over 40 years in northeastern counties, and Marg Higbee is credited with a mind-blowing 228 routes and counting – many with husband Roger. That represents a lot of June mornings! Thanks, and congratulations to these BBS super-stars. But of course, every observers' contributions are valuable; this survey continues to depend on about 60 observers who complete their routes each year! And new observers are needed, particularly in northern PA routes.

The 3-minute stops randomly placed along road-sides are not particularly effective at detecting rare birds or for monitoring endangered/threatened species. Still, over 200 species have been detected during those 610 thousand minutes of birding completed in the past 50 years (81 rts x 50 stops x 3 min x 50 yrs)! Late migrants in early June or summer vagrants are occasionally detected and recorded on BBS routes. These include, for example, a Lincoln's Sparrow and Little Blue Herons, which clearly are not breeding species. Rare state breeding birds, such as Loggerhead Shrike and Clay-colored Sparrows, have been detected, although not on enough routes or consistently enough to provide useful population data. The true value of this survey is the repeated counting of relatively common species.

So, while the BBS is an incredibly important source of bird information, it is not designed to detect or track uncommon species. There just are not enough emergent wetland habitats, at least ones large enough to support marsh birds in particular, in Pennsylvania to be encountered on many of the 5,100 randomly-placed BBS stops to generate statistics. As a result, less than 10 Virginia Rails have been counted during BBS surveys over 50 years, compared with over 12 thousand Veeries!

Similarly, the state's endangered and threatened species are very rarely detected by the BBS – it just isn't designed to monitor these uncommon birds. Owls obviously are present along BBS routes but are rarely detected except during the first few stops completed shortly after 5 am, at dawn. So, bird behavior also is a critical component in BBS monitoring. This is why the Game Commission has occasionally hosted statewide wetland bird surveys, like the one summarized in a future article of this journal! The BBS is best for monitoring widespread songbirds. The

population trends of widespread species are the most important result of BBS findings. Among these trends, we find red flags of concern for species like the Golden-winged Warbler, which declined from a couple of dozen annual detections in the 1970s to single digits recently.

Trend and abundance results.

Statistical rigor is a critical part of BBS analysis. For the sake of this article, I reference the default analysis provided on the BBS website as summarized in Sauer et al 2020 of trends for the full period of the survey, since 1966. The number of routes in which a species has been detected statewide is the sample size, which determines the "power" of the trend analysis (Tables 1 & 2). The detection of a bird on point counts is affected by a range of biological and social factors, including the species' behavior and structure of the survey as noted above. The trends for many species are not statistically significant or maybe reflect a stable population. I've adopted the 2.5% and 97.5% confidence intervals (CIs) to reflect significance, regardless of sample size. If the CIs span zero, the trend is not significant at a p-value of 0.025. Trend results deemed significant are highlighted in bold font in Tables 1 & 2. Results may vary based on statistical thresholds.

Significant trends for 23 of those species in Pennsylvania show severe declines (-2%/year or worse, $p >= 0.025$) over the full survey period (1966-2019). For many of these species, the declines are evident in our daily birding experience, resulting in range retractions. For example, birds associated with grasslands (e.g., Eastern Meadowlark, Vesper Sparrow), as well as Golden-winged Warbler are declining to a point that significant range reductions are apparent across the state. If you've been birding for any length of time, you know these birds are harder to find.

The value of the BBS is that it quantifies the declines of all species, which helps us to prioritize conservation actions. The Partners in Flight conservation initiative, using BBS trend data, has been highlighting these declines for many years (Partnersinflight.org). In the case of Golden-winged Warbler, populations have declined to the point that not enough individuals are detected on recent BBS routes for it to continue to be an effective monitor of the species – they have dropped off the BBS radar. Conservation for these birds is moving into a 'triage' function characteristic of endangered species.

The group with moderate, but long-term significant declines (-0.2 to -2%/yr.) includes 25 species, notably the Wood Thrush with a decline of -1.1% per year. That doesn't sound like much, but over 50 years, it has resulted in the loss of more than half of the state's Wood Thrush population. Species with such declines have correctly been highlighted by Pennsylvania Wildlife Action Plan (the state's blueprint for conservation) as conservation priorities (WAP 2015). Eastern Towhees, Chimney Swifts, American Kestrel, and many forest birds fall into this category.

Notably, 49 species have experienced an increase of more than 0.2% per year during this same period! Again, some of these increases are obvious in our birding experience: the expansion of resident Canada Geese (the sub-population of which Pennsylvania BBS routes measure) is obvious. Pileated Woodpeckers, Red-bellied Woodpeckers, and Common Ravens are strikingly more common and widespread than they were 50 years ago. More surprising to some is a robust increase of Orchard Oriole and Yellow-throated Vireo during this same period. These are still uncommon, but their population trajectory is favorable.

So the BBS is the best tool for tracking populations of many breeding species over this long period. The data are robust enough to scale these results down in time and geography. For some species, populations have not consistently gone in one direction during those 50 years. The classic example of this is the peaks and declines seen in Carolina Wren populations in response to extreme winter weather. These gyrations are best represented by the graphs provided on the BBS website, which have been incorporated into

the species accounts of each of Pennsylvania's two breeding bird atlases (e.g., Wilson et al. 2012).

Another use of BBS data, particularly in recent years, takes the index counts of relative abundance (birds per route) and extrapolates them into population estimates. This involves a lot of assumptions (probably even more than the annual trends) but articulates results in more relatable numbers that are, as a result, more useful to articulate conservation needs. Partners-in-flight has institutionalized this approach and Andy Wilson incorporated this approach into the BBS Trend results published in the Second Breeding Bird Atlas (Wilson et al 2012). For example, the state's Eastern Meadowlark population declined from about a half-million breeding males in the late 1960s to less than 100-thousand in the 2010s. This is much more understandable than a decline of 4.5% per year! It's this analytical approach that generated the big news that the US has lost 3 Billion birds!

The BBS is now a critical component of bird conservation. Conservation priorities, at least for the more widespread species, often have a BBS component. Part of the point of this article is to thank the many observers, and their assistants, for volunteering their time, often for many years, for accomplishing this survey here and across the continent. Also, new observers are needed as hearing declines or other capacities make surveys less effective by those getting older. Most of Pennsylvania's routes are assigned, but a few come available each year. If you are interested in taking a route, first review the "participate" tab on the BBS website, including the training program, then check to find "Vacant Routes" in Pennsylvania (or neighboring states).

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**Table 1: Population trends and abundance of birds detected
on 127 Breeding Bird Survey routes in Pennsylvania from 1966-2019**

Species Name	# Routes where found	Trend	2.5%CI	97.5%CI	Relative Abundance (Birds/Rt)
Canada Goose	112	9.3	5.1	13.0	22.0
Wood Duck	94	3.2	1.8	4.6	0.3
Mallard (all forms)	121	0.6	-0.5	1.7	3.9
Northern Bobwhite	90	-9.0	-10.5	-7.5	0.3
Ring-necked Pheasant	116	-7.4	-8.6	-6.3	3.8
Wild Turkey	102	3.7	1.9	5.7	0.3
Ruffed Grouse	65	-1.6	-3.7	-0.1	0.1
Rock Pigeon	124	-2.6	-4.0	-1.6	48.4
Mourning Dove	127	1.2	0.8	1.5	30.0
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	123	0.3	-0.8	1.5	0.9
Black-billed Cuckoo	114	-3.2	-4.6	-1.8	1.4
Chimney Swift	125	-1.0	-1.5	-0.5	10.8
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	119	2.0	1.1	2.9	0.6
Killdeer	125	-0.7	-1.2	-0.1	4.9
Great Blue Heron (all forms)	115	2.0	0.9	3.1	0.7
Green Heron	118	-0.8	-1.6	0.0	0.3
Turkey Vulture	124	3.9	3.0	4.9	1.3
Broad-winged Hawk	98	0.4	-0.5	1.3	0.1
Red-tailed Hawk (all forms)	119	3.1	2.2	3.9	0.6
Great Horned Owl	89	-0.1	-1.6	1.3	0.1
Belted Kingfisher	121	-1.2	-1.9	-0.4	0.4
Red-bellied Woodpecker	118	6.8	5.9	7.7	1.6
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	49	4.4	2.8	6.0	0.6
Hairy Woodpecker	122	0.7	-0.1	1.4	0.5
Northern Flicker (all forms)	127	-2.0	-2.5	-1.6	3.6
Pileated Woodpecker	113	2.9	2.1	3.7	0.7
American Kestrel	117	-1.0	-1.7	-0.2	0.8
Great Crested Flycatcher	126	-1.1	-1.6	-0.6	2.5
Eastern Kingbird	125	-0.3	-0.8	0.2	1.8
Eastern Wood-Pewee	125	-0.8	-1.2	-0.4	4.9
Acadian Flycatcher	102	0.6	0.0	1.2	1.1
Alder & Willow Flycatcher	117	0.5	-0.2	1.2	2.5
Least Flycatcher	98	-1.9	-2.5	-1.4	1.8
Eastern Phoebe	125	0.2	-0.4	0.7	7.5
White-eyed Vireo	64	-0.3	-1.4	0.8	0.2
Yellow-throated Vireo	108	2.4	1.6	3.2	0.6
Blue-headed Vireo	87	4.8	3.5	6.3	1.5
Warbling Vireo	108	2.0	1.1	2.8	0.7
Red-eyed Vireo	125	1.1	0.8	1.3	33.1
Blue Jay	126	0.0	-0.3	0.3	10.1
American Crow	127	-0.4	-0.7	-0.1	59.3
Fish Crow	62	1.7	0.1	3.3	0.5
Common Raven	86	4.9	3.4	6.4	0.2
Horned Lark	96	-2.0	-3.2	-0.7	0.4
Purple Martin	104	-1.0	-2.5	0.8	0.6
Tree Swallow	122	3.3	2.4	4.3	4.5
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	117	1.1	0.1	2.1	1.4
Bank Swallow	58	-3.2	-6.0	-0.3	1.4
Cliff Swallow	82	-0.2	-1.5	1.0	3.1
Barn Swallow	126	-0.9	-1.3	-0.5	34.8

**Table 1: Population trends and abundance of birds detected
on 127 Breeding Bird Survey routes in Pennsylvania from 1966-2019**

Carolina Chickadee	40	4.0	2.8	5.3	0.6
Black-capped Chickadee	113	0.3	-0.3	0.8	7.5
Tufted Titmouse	125	1.1	0.6	1.6	7.1
White-breasted Nuthatch	124	1.4	0.5	2.2	2.5
Brown Creeper	55	-0.4	-2.0	1.3	0.2
House Wren	127	-0.5	-0.9	-0.1	23.1
Winter Wren	43	3.7	1.0	6.8	0.4
Carolina Wren	123	7.0	5.6	8.4	2.8
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	115	0.1	-0.8	1.0	1.1
Eastern Bluebird	124	1.6	0.9	2.4	3.2
Veery	101	0.1	-0.4	0.6	2.5
Hermit Thrush	69	0.6	-0.4	1.7	1.8
Wood Thrush	125	-1.1	-1.4	-0.8	16.9
American Robin	127	-0.2	-0.4	0.0	88.9
Gray Catbird	127	0.6	0.4	0.9	21.9
Brown Thrasher	125	-0.6	-1.1	-0.2	1.1
Northern Mockingbird	111	-0.8	-1.5	-0.2	4.3
European Starling	127	-1.6	-2.0	-1.2	173.3
Cedar Waxwing	124	1.9	1.2	2.7	19.1
House Sparrow	127	-2.1	-2.5	-1.7	60.9
House Finch	121	11.6	9.4	13.8	26.5
Purple Finch	79	0.2	-0.7	1.1	0.5
American Goldfinch	126	-1.0	-1.5	-0.6	11.9
Eastern Towhee	125	-1.4	-1.7	-1.0	7.9
Chipping Sparrow	127	-1.3	-1.6	-1.0	38.3
Field Sparrow	126	-2.6	-3.0	-2.2	11.5
Vesper Sparrow	100	-6.5	-7.5	-5.5	0.8
Savannah Sparrow	103	-3.6	-4.6	-2.7	4.6
Grasshopper Sparrow	118	-5.1	-6.0	-4.2	1.5
Song Sparrow	127	-0.6	-0.8	-0.4	50.8
Swamp Sparrow	63	0.7	-0.6	1.7	0.5
Dark-eyed Junco (all forms)	57	0.7	-0.2	1.6	2.6
Yellow-breasted Chat	97	-6.0	-7.0	-5.1	0.4
Bobolink	93	-0.4	-1.5	0.5	3.8
Eastern Meadowlark	125	-4.5	-5.0	-4.0	6.7
Orchard Oriole	98	2.7	1.7	3.6	0.2
Baltimore Oriole	125	-0.5	-1.0	-0.1	5.0
Red-winged Blackbird	127	-1.0	-1.3	-0.7	78.9
Brown-headed Cowbird	126	-2.2	-2.6	-1.7	8.2
Common Grackle	127	-2.1	-2.5	-1.7	79.5
Ovenbird	122	1.5	1.1	1.9	12.8
Worm-eating Warbler	74	-0.5	-1.6	0.5	0.3
Louisiana Waterthrush	86	0.9	-0.1	1.9	0.3
Golden-winged Warbler	55	-6.8	-8.9	-4.9	0.2
Blue-winged Warbler	94	0.0	-1.4	1.3	0.6

**Table 1: Population trends and abundance of birds detected
on 127 Breeding Bird Survey routes in Pennsylvania from 1966-2019**

Black-and-white Warbler	101	-1.1	-1.8	-0.4	0.8
Mourning Warbler	29	-0.5	-2.3	1.2	0.1
Kentucky Warbler	65	-2.9	-4.1	-1.7	0.3
Common Yellowthroat	125	-0.2	-0.5	0.1	22.1
Hooded Warbler	95	3.3	2.3	4.3	0.9
Cerulean Warbler	69	-2.4	-3.7	-1.2	0.3
Northern Parula	81	1.7	0.6	2.8	0.3
Magnolia Warbler	62	2.2	1.1	3.3	0.4
Blackburnian Warbler	64	0.0	-1.0	1.0	0.9
Yellow Warbler	126	-0.3	-0.8	0.2	13.3
Chestnut-sided Warbler	100	0.8	0.2	1.4	2.4
Black-throated Blue Warbler	61	2.1	0.8	3.5	0.5
Pine Warbler	51	2.4	0.8	4.1	0.1
Yellow-rumped Warbler (all forms)	46	2.0	0.4	3.8	0.2
Prairie Warbler	82	-1.0	-2.0	0.1	0.4
Black-throated Green Warbler	87	1.7	0.7	2.7	1.8
Canada Warbler	51	-1.2	-2.6	0.1	0.1
Scarlet Tanager	123	-0.1	-0.5	0.3	8.6
Northern Cardinal	127	0.6	0.3	0.9	16.0
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	109	0.4	-0.3	1.0	2.7
Indigo Bunting	127	-0.8	-1.1	-0.5	19.6
* significant trends (p=0.025) in bold					
<p>Table 1. Population trends and relative abundance for species of breeding birds with at least 0.10 birds per route relative abundance, during the periods 1966–2019 as documented by the North American Breeding Bird Survey in Pennsylvania, with lower (2.5%) and upper (97.5%) limits of 95% credible intervals. Column Definitions: a. Standard English name. b. Number of routes in which the species was ever recorded. c. Average trend, as percent change per year. d. & e. 2.5% and 97.5% confidence intervals of 95% credible intervals. f. Average relative abundance across all routes, as birds per route.</p>					

Table 2: Population trends of less abundant birds found on BBS routes

Species Name	# Routes where found	Trend	2.5%CI	97.5%CI	Relative Abundance (Birds/Rt)
Mute Swan	6	9.6	2.1	22.1	0.02
Blue-winged Teal	7	-3.4	-8.4	1.7	0.00
American Black Duck	19	-2.8	-6.2	0.5	0.02
Hooded Merganser	16	5.9	3.6	8.1	0.01
Common Merganser	44	7.7	5.0	11.7	0.06
Pied-billed Grebe	8	-0.9	-5.2	1.9	0.01
Common Nighthawk	31	-3.3	-5.8	-1.1	0.05
Eastern Whip-poor-will	37	-1.3	-3.2	0.7	0.06
Virginia Rail	4	0.8	-1.5	5.4	0.00
Sora	6	0.1	-4.9	5.6	0.00
Common Gallinule	3	0.6	-4.7	6.8	0.05
Upland Sandpiper	15	-7.2	-13.1	-2.8	0.01
American Woodcock	32	-1.2	-3.4	0.8	0.02
Wilson's Snipe	3	-2.5	-10.7	1.3	0.06
Spotted Sandpiper	50	-3.5	-4.7	-2.2	0.04
Herring Gull	4	-0.5	-7.2	4.7	0.01
Double-crested Cormorant	25	4.9	-0.8	10.1	0.05
American Bittern	12	-2.1	-6.5	0.8	0.01
Great Egret	9	0.8	-3.8	5.8	0.02
Little Blue Heron	3	-3.5	-13.0	1.7	0.00
Black-crowned Night-Heron	21	0.0	-2.8	3.3	0.06
Black Vulture	42	6.4	3.2	9.8	0.04
Osprey	25	4.5	1.9	7.3	0.01
Northern Harrier	38	0.0	-2.2	2.1	0.03
Sharp-shinned Hawk	88	0.6	-0.4	1.8	0.05
Cooper's Hawk	99	2.5	1.0	4.0	0.06
Northern Goshawk	11	0.0	-2.0	2.1	0.01
Bald Eagle	40	7.2	4.0	10.5	0.01
Red-shouldered Hawk	77	1.0	-0.3	2.5	0.07
Eastern Screech-Owl	45	-0.5	-2.4	1.5	0.02
Barred Owl	62	1.7	0.2	3.3	0.04
Red-headed Woodpecker	59	-0.7	-2.1	0.6	0.06
Olive-sided Flycatcher	4	-1.9	-5.6	1.1	0.00
Red-breasted Nuthatch	43	4.8	1.2	9.3	0.06
Marsh Wren	4	-1.4	-5.2	2.6	0.01
Golden-crowned Kinglet	23	0.8	-2.9	5.2	0.07
Swainson's Thrush	16	1.1	-0.5	3.8	0.05
Pine Siskin	5	-1.2	-17.2	16.1	0.01
Henslow's Sparrow	35	-6.8	-9.9	-4.1	0.03
White-throated Sparrow	25	-1.9	-3.7	-0.2	0.06
Northern Waterthrush	38	-2.0	-3.8	-0.4	0.05
Prothonotary Warbler	4	-0.8	-4.3	2.4	0.01
Nashville Warbler	31	-0.2	-2.4	1.8	0.04
Yellow-throated Warbler	20	3.5	1.5	6.0	0.04
Summer Tanager	3	-0.3	-3.1	2.5	0.01
Blue Grosbeak	21	0.5	-1.3	2.5	0.03
Dickcissel	5	0.8	-3.5	9.4	0.00

Table 2. Population trends, relative abundance and column definitions as in Table 1.

Historical Records of Canada Jay (*Perisoreus canadensis*) in Pennsylvania

Matthew R. Halley

Pennsylvania was “ground zero” for the development of ornithology in the United States during the 18th and 19th centuries, and the bird life of the Commonwealth has been surveyed more completely (and for longer duration) than almost any geographical area in the United States. Nevertheless, some notable records have evidently faded from our collective memory. Here, I draw attention to three specimens of Canada Jay (*Perisoreus canadensis*) taken in Montgomery, Philadelphia, and Lancaster counties, respectively, and at least four independent sightings recorded in other counties. None of the specimens is extant, to my knowledge, but they are all clearly documented in primary and/or secondary sources.

An entry dated October 21, 1836, in the unpublished Accessions Ledger of the Philadelphia (Peale) Museum, now preserved in the Historical Society of Pennsylvania (HSP, coll. 0481), reads [*sic*]: “One Canad Jay, killed in Abington Township, Montgom^y C^y [Pennsylvania] / Pres. by Johnathan Tyson” (Fig. 1). To my knowledge, this record has never before appeared in print. It was evidently a different specimen than the one (or two?) mentioned by Audubon (1842: 124), secured in Pennsylvania during the same month: “Mr. Titian Peale has obtained [the Canada Jay] in the neighborhood of Philadelphia, and I have the body of one procured there by himself in October 1836.” Both these records seem to have been associated with extreme weather events; according to Peirce (1847: 205), October 1836 was an exceptionally cold month with sustained northwestern and easterly winds and the coldest night on record between 1790 and 1846 — 12°F below zero!

A third specimen record was noted by Warren (1890: 201): “Dr. A. C. Treichler, of Elizabethtown, has one [specimen of *P. canadensis*] in his collection which was captured in Lancaster county, February, 1889. This is the only specimen, so far as I can learn, that has been taken in Pennsylvania during the last twenty-five years.” Details of the 1889 record were repeated by Stone (1894: 103). Treichler also observed yet another individual near Elizabethtown in the winter of 1890, according to a retrospective (1923) account written by his son (Beck 1924: 1117): “During the winter of 1890 my father (Dr. A. C. Treichler) with whom I was riding not far from Elizabethtown, stopped his sleigh to show me a ‘whiskey jack’ sitting tamely on the fence a few yards away.”

To my knowledge, no specimens of *P. canadensis* were collected in Pennsylvania during the 20th or 21st centuries, although there were several plausible sight records (reviewed by McWilliams and Brauning 2000: 287): (1) an unpublished letter cited by Todd (1923: 379), from A. R. Hillard to O. E. Jennings, which mentions a “tame” individual observed in February 1923 at Clarrington (Forest Co.); (2) a recurring individual seen at Stony Creek Mills near Reading (Berks Co.), between 21 May–12 July 1960, recorded in an unpublished manuscript by Earl L. Poole; (3) a report from Grove City (Mercer Co.) on 30 December 1960 (AFN 15: 330); and (4) a report near Somerset (Somerset Co.) on 29 December 1961 (Grom 1962). Like the two specimen records from 1836, it is notable that most sightings in the 20th century were clustered during the winters of 1960–61, which may indicate an

association with extreme winter weather. Furthermore, it seems likely that there were occasional sight records in Pennsylvania during the 19th century, because when Turnbull (1869: 54) wrote that *P. canadensis* was “a rare straggler to the northern counties of Pennsylvania” during winter, the only specimens (of which we now have knowledge) had been collected in Philadelphia and Montgomery counties (see Warren 1890: 201).

In summary, at least three specimens of *P. canadensis* have been collected in Pennsylvania, including a previously unknown record documented by a primary source (Fig. 1), in addition to multiple plausible sightings during the 20th century. These various records likely served as the evidentiary basis for including the phrase “accidental in southeastern Pennsylvania (Philadelphia)”, and for including “northwestern Pennsylvania” in the regular wintering range of *P. canadensis*, in the *Check-list of North American birds*, 5th edition (AOU 1957: 367). In my opinion, these records should be more than sufficient to secure a position for this species on the official *Pennsylvania Bird List*, as compiled by the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee (PORC), and on the respective county lists.

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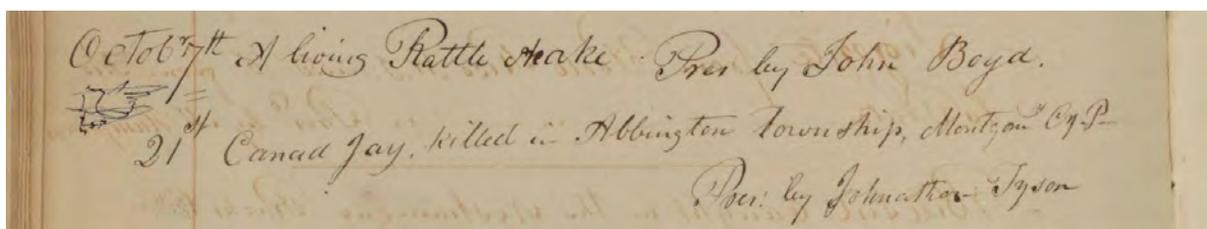
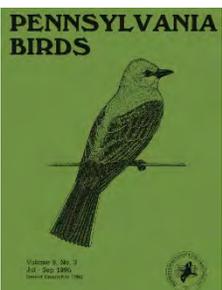


Figure 1. Digital photograph of Philadelphia (Peale) Museum Accessions Ledger, entry dated October 21, 1836 (HSP, coll. 0481), taken by Matthew R. Halley.



Canada Jay Bloomingdale Bog, NY 29 March 2014 (Lewis Grove)

25 Years Ago in *Pennsylvania Birds*



Volume 9, No. 3.

The Official List of Pennsylvania Birds was published and included 358 species (the latest count is 443 and counting!)

Paul Hess reported on how Spruce Budworm outbreaks to our north affect our winter finch irruptions.

Ed Fingerhood presented an essay from 1894 about the extermination of Passenger Pigeons.

Rare birds reported included Sabine's Gull, Western Kingbird, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Violet-green Swallow, and Northern Wheatear.

This issue can be read at pabirds.org.

BOOK REVIEW

Gene Wilhelm

UNDERSTANDING BIRD BEHAVIOR: An Illustrated Guide to What Birds Do and Why by Wenfei Tong with a foreword by Ben C. Sheldon, contents including foreword, introduction, finding food, a social bird, courtship, family life, dealing with danger, coping with climate, selective bibliography, index, acknowledgements including 150 stunning detailed color photographs and illustrations, credits, 9 x 6 ½ in, published by Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ, U.S. and Oxford, England, \$27.95, hardback.

Wenfei Tong is a biologist, conservationist, and nature guide. She also holds a Research Associate position in the Department of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology at Harvard University and is the owner of Big Sky Safaris. Readers of *Pennsylvania Birds* will recall her being author of *Bird Love: The Family Life of Birds*. Refer to that special writing for more impressive biographical details (Book Review by Gene Wilhelm, *Pennsylvania Birds*, Volume 34, No.1, Dec 2019 – Feb 2020, Issued July 2020, pp. 20-21).

This enticing book opens with an ancient repetitious question: why do birds behave the way they do? For example, how does a backwoods Blue Jay know when to “scream” in alarm at a Red-shouldered Hawk flying too close to the jay’s occupied nest? Humans might well wonder how the jays know what to do and when. Apparently most bird behavior is a combination of innate neural hardwiring, constant adjustments, and reprogramming in response to its environment. The European Starling appears repeatedly in the book, partly because the species features much in both art and science and because the bird is so tractable, adaptable, and social that it is beloved by biologists studying everything from language to economic decision-making, to collective animal motion. A young starling, for instance, may be predisposed through generations of natural selection, to emit a certain sound when alarmed. Yet it must learn how to refine the alarm call and when to sound it by observing adults attacking a predator. A young starling has the capacity to produce a perfect rendition of a Red-shouldered Hawk’s alert calls but only if it is exposed to those sounds repeatedly.

Thus, to what extent can humans and birds really identify with each other? This depends rather on the individuals in question. It is true that birds have much to teach us in terms of how other species have evolved to perceive the world. The European Starling often makes more rational (as defined by economic theory) decisions than humans as discussed in Chapter 1 and as a gregarious species it serves as a popular model for how songbirds

and humans learn to communicate vocally (Chapter 2). Readers learn how the starling got its beautiful feathers and virtuosic vocabulary by selecting the most attractive mates (Chapter 3). Chapter 4 deals with raising a family and how female starlings exposed to more predation can “program” their chicks to be better at eluding predators because eggs exposed to higher levels of stress hormone hatch into chicks with better developed flight muscles. This also illustrates one of many ways birds deal with danger in Chapter 5 with exploration of how and why starlings form such massive and coordinated flocks, called murmurations. Chapter 6 on climate change shows how highly flexible birds can be, such as the European Starling, coping easily with a changing environment by expanding its range and often ceasing to migrate by settling down in a city all year round.

Feeding from Head to Tail stresses avian bills as being the bird’s ultimate tools, although the rest of its form, where it is, and how it behaves are additional clues. For example, seed specialists such as finches, have much thicker bills than warblers that hunt insects and spiders. Experienced birders often note bill size and shape to differentiate between confusing birds in the field. Some bird heads evolve faster than others, depending on diet. Seed and nectar feeders are the quickest to evolve different-shaped headgear. In contrast, raptors (eagles, hawks, and owls) change the most slowly. This could be because birds of prey specialize on using their feet as weapons and on hunting strategy. Binocular vision and a powerful ripping beak can afford to remain largely unchanged.

Tails can dramatically change the physics of bird movement which can be important for how birds catch prey. In particular, aquatic birds have to optimize between flying and swimming to discover food. Some unrelated groups of birds that feed underwater have converged on a terminal tailbone (a pygostyle) that is straight and long to act as a rudder and differ further in shape depending whether the birds are plunge divers (gannets), paddlers (puffins), or wing-propelled swimmers (penguins). Birds that fly or run for their food have shorter pygostyles.

One way to explain the evolution and coexistence of diversity is for some individuals to become specialists in a narrow “niche.” Different foods can select for differently shaped bills and bodies among various avian species. In other cases, it is software, such as birds’ behavior that changes more than the hardware. A key question for biologists is how many superficially similar species manage to thrive in proximity to each other? American wood warblers are an elegant example of the

answer: niche diversification. Each warbler species has its own unique way of making a living in its own part of the woods or even in specialized parts of a tree. The ecological end result is the maximum number of organic pests being eradicated for the good of the forest. But warbler species, like all birds, would likely not find exactly the same combination of species occupying the same parts of a tree or woods because birds adapt both as populations and as individuals. The point is that niches are not static but flexible areas for expertise that can adapt to a dynamic feeding economy in which resources, competitors, and the overall climate change constantly.

Some birds take niche differentiation further with variation and specialization minimizing competition between members of the same species. In some cases, bird specialists are divided into variants that look different, sound different, and have different food preferences. Rarely do these divergent food choices lead to the origin of new species. Red crossbills pose a tremendous classification challenge for ornithologists and birders. Factors affecting crossbills and bill size are explained in thorough detail, including colorful illustrations. Trading benefits, cooperation or exploitation, plant power, bird nectar specialists (sunbirds, hummingbirds, honeyeaters, and lorries), smelly food, winter food, feeder foods, economic feeding, handy birds, and island-inspired ingenuity are other fascinating sections to read.

When it comes to bird physical and social intelligence, the corvids are generally acknowledged to be among the smartest. We know from anecdotes and experiments that jays, jackdaws, magpies, crows, nutcrackers, rooks, and ravens do all sorts of clever things, from displacing water to deceiving each other, from playing to mourning their dead (mammals like elephant do this too). There are two explanations, not mutually exclusive, why corvids are so intelligent; these are strikingly similar to human intelligence: the process of finding and storing food selects the ability to remember details of where, when, and what food is stored, and to make tools. It also helps one to plan ahead. Ravens exercise self-control by flexibly changing their feeding behavior in anticipation of a different reward in the future. Another explanation is that social living can sometimes lead to multiple adaptations for dealing with other individuals. Skills include the ability to follow another bird’s gaze, recall where another bird stored food, and deceive potential thieves by anticipating their actions. Ravens live in hierarchical societies where one’s position in the social pecking order depends on a stable, long-term breeding relationship. Power and

position are directly related to wealth in the form of territory and access to food. Dominance ranking in raven society drops with close couples without a breeding territory, then casual couples, and ending with non-bonded individuals. All corvids are social, there is variation, both across and within species, in group size and structure. Colonial corvids, such as Pinyon Jays live in more fluid, fission-fusion societies akin to primates such as chimpanzees.

Bird song is a signal both to mates and competitors. Male Eastern Towhees are highly territorial and can remember their neighbor's songs for years. If biologists play a recording of an old neighbor's song, a male is not too bothered, but he immediately investigates if he hears a recording of an unfamiliar male next door. Similarly, male Black-capped Chickadees also engage in singing contests with neighbors, a behavior known as counter singing. Furthermore, older Silvereye colonies reinvent songs that better match the acoustic properties of environments. Birds in more closed environments such as forests, tend to sing higher-pitched, simpler songs. Part of this song variation is learned, part of it seems to be genetically inherited. In some birds, singing is a social activity involving both sexes in duets or choruses serving to advertise a pair or group territory. Birds do not just use sound to advertise their territorial boundaries; they also use visual signals, and if that fails, may resort to armed combat. The more evenly matched competitors are, the more fights are likely to escalate to determine the winner. Birds likewise produce many sounds beside singing and calling, such as tapping. They have multiple ways to strengthen and affirm a pair bond, including non-vocal attentions. Some birds present tokens of affection, such as eggshells, flower petals, food, leaves, moss, pebbles, and sticks.

Infidelity and divorce occur among birds. Some species that are largely genetically monogamous include Barnacle Goose, Barn Owl, Jackdaw, Eurasian Bullfinch, and Wood Thrush. In fact, Wood Thrush pairs are highly territorial with both sexes staying on their territory to guard it. Divorce rates in birds vary from 98 percent in Greater Flamingos to a mere two percent in Barnacle Geese. Just as in humans, some individuals within a population are more prone to divorce than others. Unlike Barn Owl or Jackdaw societies where infidelity is not done, individual Great Tits with bolder personalities are more prone to infidelity and divorce. It is not clear what causes this variation but the answer is likely to involve a combination of genetically inherited predispositions shaped by individual experience.

Some of the many courtship types are mentioned here. Why do so many male birds sport fancy ornaments while females are discreet brown or grey? If ornamental individuals attract the most mates and have

the most offspring that would be reason enough for costly displays to evolve by sexual selection. Female ducks, for example, have selected for showy males like the Mandarin Duck. Fashion can shape evolution just as much as natural election but often in more arbitrary ways. Male Black Grouse display on special dancing grounds called leks and females gather to judge. Only the top one or two males win most of the scraps while the majority sire no young at all. Birds usually know who to court and mate by imprinting on their caregivers. The tails of Long-tailed Widow-birds are honest signals of quality at the beginning of the breeding season when males with longer tails are in better condition than those with naturally short tails. Likewise, many birds prefer the red color of highest quality. Redder male House Finches are genuinely healthier, attract more females, and sire more offspring.

Birds are the only dinosaur lineage to have survived to the present. Dinosaur fossils from China have revolutionized our view of feather evolution as evidence of ornamental feathers suggests that feathers evolved first for courtship displays and were subsequently co-opted for flight. Regardless of why they exist, the predilections birds have when choosing a mate can be uncannily reminiscent of what would be called an aesthetic sense in humans. Some of the most dazzling displays integrate visual ornaments with dance and music; they can also involve multiple performers and judges. Members of the parrot family seem to have a strong sense of rhythm. Wild Palm Cockatoo males modify sticks and sea pods into musical instruments and drums on hollow branches to attract mates. Sometimes males will accompany the drumming with a few screams or insert a visual element by blushing bright red on their cheek-patches or erecting their crests.

Family life is covered next in the book. The inevitable trade-off between courtship and care can lead to different outcomes across individual lifetimes. Most birds form socially monogamous pair bonds because it takes two adults to rear a brood successfully. Biologists have found across 650 avian species from over 100 families that parental care by the two sexes is most equal when sexual selection is weakest and adult sex ratios are the least skewed. This could create a positive feedback loop whereby since neither sex is in excess there is no asymmetry in mating success. Both sexes compete equally for a reproductive partner. This causes the two sexes to look and behave alike, giving both an equal chance of surviving, which leads back to even adult sex ratios. Family business, signaling with nests, egg evolution, competition, chick appeal, vocal tuning, staying home, flexible family life, and hard lives are noted. The "hard life" hypothesis proposes that when the collective benefits are sufficiently great to outweigh going it alone, individuals will

invariably breed in groups. Cooperative breeding in these areas has evolved to buffer groups from unpredictable periods of drought and starvation. The hypothesis predicts that helpers are more valuable in bad times than in good, leading to more, rather than fewer, helpers in condition with less food. Finally, it is noted that some species of cuckoos are known to be responsible for their own egg and chick killing. Unfortunately, science still does not know the reason for this behavior.

Dealing with Danger is perhaps the most familiar to most active long-time field birders. Living and breeding in close-knit kin has both costs and benefits. On the one hand, individual birds in a coordinated mass can save time and energy being vigilant. On the other hand, a larger group of birds could be more likely to attract predators or transmit diseases. Even in completely uncoordinated flocks there is pure safety in numbers because the flock dilutes chances of any particular individual becoming prey. Many species spend most of their feeding on the ground, making it difficult to keep alert eyes for approaching predators. Some species like the Pied Babbler, has special sentinels who sing a special "watchman's song." Advantages include: 1) it allows a flock to eat more because the flock spends less time looking for predators which means they can forage more efficiently; 2) hearing the "watchman's song" puts them sufficiently at ease to range farther afield thus less likely to be competing for the same prey. Sentinels can even signal their hunger level by calling faster the hungrier they are; they then use this information to coordinate changes in sentry duties.

Certainly most field birders have witnessed another behavioral defense like crows making a racket because an owl was somewhere in the woods, or seeing a hawk flying with much smaller birds in close pursuit, or perhaps an Eastern Kingbird literally riding the tail of a lone American Crow. These are examples of a widespread behavioral defense called mobbing which is most often observed before and during the breeding season when reproductive hormones are high. When birders make squeaking, clicking, or sibilant noises called "pishing," they are trying to mimic the general alarm and recruitment calls of small birds so as to persuade an unidentified bird lurking in brush to show itself. The reason this noise sometimes works is that many birds eavesdrop on the alarms of others. The larger a predatory bird the less able it is to maneuver adroitly in midair to catch a small songbird. Black-capped Chickadees add more "dee" notes to their alarm calls when they encounter the most dangerous predators, those that specialize in hunting small birds. Peregrine Falcons are less threatening as they tend to hunt larger birds in the open and least threatening of all are large, mammal specialists such as Red-tailed Hawks and Great-gray Owls.

Again, many active birders have had the opportunity in witnessing a flock of European Starlings twisting and turning in breathtaking synchrony. How can thousands of individuals coordinate their movements so precisely with no evidence of outside help? Computer simulations show that starlings regulating their responses to their closest neighbors are enough to produce the complex and coordinated flight patterns of a massive flock. Exactly how the responses are perpetuated so fast through an extended network remains something of a mystery. None the less, not all individuals or positions in a flock are identical. In addition to using information on the distance from and direction of their neighbors, starlings use their location in a flock to tune their behavior in a murmuration. The flock projects a shadow onto each bird's retina telling it if it is in the middle or the edge of the flock. A collective behavior of a murmuration flock of starlings entails thousands of individuals following the same simple rules of separation (steer to avoid crowding neighbors); alignment (steer toward the average direction of local flock mates); and cohesion (move toward nearby flock kin). Finally, this chapter ends with the danger from humans and other animals, especially domestic cats that can threaten birds the most. In the lower forty-eight states of America alone, free-ranging cats kill up to four billion birds a year. Birds also take much longer to start using a new feeder if there are free-ranging cats about. In addition to spreading disease, bird feeders can cause some bird species to decline by attracting predators thereby changing an ecosystem's composition. Across many neighborhoods in Columbus, Ohio, supplemental food in the form of bird feeders drew more American Crows – common nest predators. Consequently, neighborhoods rich in bird feeders and crows saw less than one percent of robin nests fledge compared with a fledging success of over one-third in neighborhoods without feeders. Threats to island birds, thieves, and trappers (use of mist nets to

harvest millions of migrating songbirds in Mediterranean countries), pollutions, poisons like neonicotinoids, and habitat loss are common. In 2019 scientists reported a 29 percent decline in the number of North American birds compared to 50 years ago.

Coping with Climate is the final chapter and arguably the largest threat facing not only world birds but also all life, including humanity. Tong states that the serious question is not whether human populations can adapt to environmental uncertainty but if they can respond fast enough and in ways that avoid an ecological trap. Birds that breed in the Arctic such as the Hudsonian Godwit, are especially vulnerable to climate change because of the comparatively narrow time span in which it has to breed and the exceptionally long distance it must travel between Arctic Alaska and southern Chile. The Red Knot population, another long-distance migrant between Northern Canada and southern Argentina, has declined by 15 percent since 1985. Perhaps this could be because the Arctic spring has advanced about two weeks and the birds arrive too late to catch the peak of hatching insects (like black flies and mosquitoes last week in May to first week in June) and their young families are raised on far less food. Changing climates can disrupt courtship and sexual selection by creating a mismatch between sexually selected signals and the quality they originally reflected. It can also alter species range which changes some of the boundaries between closely related species that occasionally interbreed.

Biologists have no idea which adaptations to changing climates are the result of flexible responses triggered by the environment or more fixed behavioral rhythms encoded in the genes of avian species. Migration neatly encapsulates the notion that most adaptations to unpredictable environments involve both nature and nurture. Tong poses three questions about migration: Where to go? When to go? and Whether to go? Readers will appreciate her intriguing answers.

Flight fuel, migration mechanics, and navigation are subjects that complete the chapter.

In sum, birds are uniquely positioned to help humans understand and cope with the impact of a global climate crisis and their vulnerability makes them an excellent environmental early-warning system. Vast spaces linked by the long migratory journeys of many species help us to understand the global scale of climate change. Most birds migrate at night so biologists are using existing weather radar technology to monitor huge flocks of birds. Another radar technique called NEXRAD catches birds as they take off for their migratory flights. This allows biologists to identify important patches of habitat that could be crucial rest stops. Doppler radar data allows scientists to reconstruct past migrations. Findings are rather discouraging, however, documenting declines of four percent in avian migrant biomass every year.

This is a lively book scattered with personal anecdotes and field experiences, mixing classic examples of the latest research findings that continue to expand knowledge of the diversity and richness of bird behavior. Richly illustrated with 150 detailed color illustrations, the book explores the increasing focus on how individual birds differ in personality and how citizen scientists are helping to add what we know about them. "We" here means citizen-science platforms such as eBird and groups like the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Finally, it is uncanny how much of the book's terminology and dialogue have come together from the physical (earth, biology, and physics) and human (anthropology, sociology, and psychology) sciences. This reviewer is predicting that much more scientific knowledge will be uncovered by using this holistic approach in the future.

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Summary of the Season: Summer 2021

Dan Brauning

The summer of 2021 provided lots of birding excitement, particularly in July, which included the first summer season report for three vagrant species, **Harlequin Duck**, **California Gull**, and **Brown Pelican**. In contrast, several historically breeding species were not detected at all, notably **Short-eared Owl** and **Long-eared Owl**. As usual, the species tally is bolstered by a notable list of vagrants including those above, waterfowl that linger into the summer season for various reasons, a wide range of migratory shorebirds seen in both June and July, and post-breeding wading birds found mostly in July. Such is the breeding season summer report!

Notable breeding (or at least territorial) birds included a **Swainson's Warbler**, several **Summer Tanagers**, and a returning **Chuck-will's-widow**. In all, the species count (from all sources) was 258 species, potentially the highest on record for the season (pending a few species reviews). Increased birding activity, demonstrated by a near-record tally of eBird records, is expected to result in more bird observations, which results in an increase in reports of unusual species. While only 55 counties provided local notes this year, birding is alive and well here, as it is nationally.

In addition to greater birding activity, at least 2 species were added to the list as Tropical Storm Elsa passed just off the New Jersey coast on 7/9. Even though this storm approached from the south overland, the Harlequin Duck and a **Brown Booby** were seen that day at the Delaware River in Pennsylvania, but not elsewhere during the season. There were no reports of traditional pelagic species. Aside from Elsa, it was generally not a summer of extreme weather events. This summer was slightly warmer than usual in June and July, with "much above average" precipitation during July statewide (NOAA).

Another well-documented nesting event by **Trumpeter Swan** is helping to establish this recovering species as a breeding bird of Pennsylvania. A pair was closely monitored since May in *Cumberland* on private property. They produced three cygnets, which were observed through the end of the summer season at Kuhn Lake. The growing list of Trumpeter Swan summer observations was scattered across the state, included pairs without breeding evidence. Conservation efforts for this species to our west, including Ohio, are reaping benefits for Pennsylvania, with a beautiful addition added to our state breeding species list in

the past few years. This reflects a significant conservation success.

Among other historically breeding waterfowl, the report is not as encouraging. The sole report included "confirmed breeding evidence" for **Blue-winged Teal** in *Wayne*, accurately referenced as rare. Formerly nesting in wetlands scattered around the state, the lack of breeding reports of this teal reflects a significant decline since the first PA Breeding Bird Atlas in the 1980s. Declines in **Green-winged Teal** are similar. **Common Mergansers**, in contrast, continue to expand southward, with reports from 60 of the state's 67 counties this year. **Wood Ducks** and **Mallards** are statewide, and the **American Black Duck** continues in small numbers scattered across the state.

Typical of previous summer reports, migratory waterfowl often continue into the summer season, sometimes lingering to be seen repeatedly or detected only once. Six species were detected as lone individuals. Most startling among these was the above-referenced female **Harlequin Duck** seen flying north over the Delaware River on 7/9, while Tropical Storm Elsa passed off the New Jersey coast. I don't think anyone would have placed this species on their shortlist of tropical storm events! A **Surf Scoter** seen in *Northumberland* only on 6/9 was among the sizable group of vagrant waterfowl in summer 2021. Seen in *Beaver* and *Erie* this year, **Common Goldeneye** is rarely detected during the summer season.

Eurasian Collared-Dove is holding on here as a breeding bird where it has been established in *Franklin* for at least 20 years, as well as in *Berks*. This summer's observations in *Cumberland* suggest a very gradual expansion of its range along the Great Valley. A **White-winged Dove** was well documented, but an unnatural origin should be considered for this observation.

The **Chuck-will's-widow** is included in this season's Birds of Note based on a reliable observation in the location where documented in recent years. Because the bird was on private property, without much opportunity for birders to observe, the observation by local residents and various birders was not disseminated or included in the local notes and was withheld from eBird until months later. This constitutes the fourth year (at least) that the species summered at this location in *Centre*. Such observations always raise the suggestion of nesting, but no definitive evidence of breeding has been obtained for this species yet anywhere in Pennsylvania, despite almost annual observations at scattered locations across southern Pennsylvania.

So, this species is on a very short list of species awaiting its first confirmation of breeding. That would be a difficult task. Maybe that will happen during the *third* PA Breeding Bird Atlas, planned to begin in 2024!

Among the remarkable observations of summer 2021 was the male **Rufous Hummingbird** well documented to remain the whole season in *Cambria*. This individual was about 3 thousand miles from its closest breeding population in the Rocky Mountain West, a bird clearly confused! Interestingly, a Rufous Hummingbird has appeared in each of the past two summer

The nocturnal recording of a fly-over **Black Rail** was the species' first record for *Montgomery* and suggests several things. One point is that much of the mystery of migration still eludes us. Not just the "how" birds migrate, although that's astonishing enough and still provides puzzles to science. But also, the extent and scale of migration. We sometimes get over-confident in our knowledge of bird distribution. At least I do. The 35-year history of Pennsylvania Bird detailed county notes, millions of bird observations in eBird, and other technologies give us the false sense that we have a pretty good handle on what birds are present, and when. The amazing process in which so many species move vast distances at night, navigating by stars, gravitational forces, polarized light, and who knows what else, largely unobserved, should both humble us and make us ponder what else is passing through our airspace?

Nocturnal movements of long-distance migrants include many species that pass overhead in places they are not usually detected locally. Because of birds' ability to fly hundreds (and sometimes thousands) of miles without resting, they just fly over. That's in part why experienced birders know to go out in bad or changing weather. Those events force migrants down to the earth, where we can detect them by traditional means (eyes and ears!!). The extraordinary documentation of shorebird migration in early June in *Montgomery* (see below) represents this through the birding skills acquired by these observers.

The volume of bird migration and extent of bird movements is astonishing. Weather radar stations reflect the sheer volume of bird migration when migrants rising from evening roosts appear on radar screens. We can sometimes hear the chips of migrant birds flying overhead, including species like

seasons in Pennsylvania! I understand the winter pattern of vagrants, blown off course in migration; but summer? I'm not putting this species on the list of potential breeders though, not yet!

shorebirds and thrushes that are often not seen in the field. Nocturnal chip notes are best detected with recording devices and sonogram analysis – not the forte of most birders. Just as intriguing is the detection of species in mist nets that are otherwise underreported. The late-summer Tennessee Warbler (below) is illustrative of this means of detection. So, various technologies and strategic birding approaches give us a window into migration that hints at more than what we observe through traditional means. This tangent is a reminder that a wide range of species is in fact passing overhead on a regular basis during migration, generally undetectable. Even a Black Rail, which has experienced a severe decline in recent decades and is restricted to a very limited range to our south! What else is passing unseen in the dark!?

The previous comments are a segue into shorebirds, which are among the "unseen" migrants sometimes detected by nocturnal recordings and occasionally brought to earth by weather disturbances. But first, starting with breeding birds, **Piping Plovers** nested for the fifth consecutive year at Gull Point in Presque Isle State Park, *Erie*. Two plover chicks fledged in August following a complicated nesting season that involved four nesting attempts! The nesting male that pioneered the Pennsylvania site in 2017, courted not one, but three different females at overlapping intervals through the season. One of last summer's fledglings contributed to the species' return after many years into Ohio, so Pennsylvania's site is contributing to the expansion of this species through the Great Lakes!

Several other shorebird species, including **Whimbrel** and **Willet**, were documented as part of the shorebird monitoring that focuses on plovers at Presque Isle, supported by the Game Commission. Among the state's breeding shorebirds, **Upland Sandpipers** were documented at well-established grasslands on the Pymatuning Game Lands where they were seen in May and at the Mount Zion site in *Clarion*. Nowhere else. This is an extreme example of the broader declines in grassland-landing birds, which puts Upland Sandpipers on a thin margin of surviving as a breeding species in the state. The only migratory reports of uppies were at the Lancaster Airport on 7/10 and 7/31.

While Lake Erie's shore and the Delaware River tidal waters, on opposite corners of the state, are prime shorebird locations during migration and source to

many key summer records, many northbound spring migrants in June and early southbound detections in July occur at scattered wetland locations statewide. July rains probably flooded muddy shores that sometimes attract shorebirds to small ponds and wetlands statewide. So, this year's wet July probably contributed to a smaller than usual tally of 24 shorebird species, in contrast with record counts of many other groups of species this season.

Stilt Sandpiper and **Baird's Sandpiper** contributed to the shorebird tally with only single locations each during this season. Two presumably independent **Long-billed Dowitcher** reports are notable. The remarkable observations of migratory flocks of **Ruddy Turnstones**, **Red Knots**, and **Dunlins** at various points in *Chester* and *Montgomery*, referenced above, include thousands of individuals seen in their northbound migration from the Atlantic coast en route to the Arctic. These three species were not reported otherwise in the state because they typically over-fly our boundaries. These observations provide a window into the phenomena of migration, which clearly continues, undetected, through the airspace of many other Pennsylvania counties.

The astute observations of Jerry McWilliams at Presque Isle State Park contributed another "first" for both *Erie* and the summer season – a **California Gull**. This second-summer bird was picked out of the crowd and well-documented. While any observation of **Black Tern** is welcome, none of this year's sightings provided nesting evidence for this extirpated nesting species. Two separate reports of **Least Tern** include one that flew by a startled group scoping shorebirds at Green Lane Park, *Montgomery*. This species is holding its own and possibly increasing at some Atlantic Coast breeding colonies, which raises hopes for future vagrants here.

A **Gull-billed Tern** was seen on 6/21 along the Delaware River at Hog Island, where 3 had been seen in 2019. Remarkably, three separate **Royal Tern** observations occurred this summer – including sightings at opposite corners of the state. One was associated with the passage of Tropical Storm Elsa, as part of the very productive observations 7/9 along the Delaware River at Hog Island Road, adjoining the Philadelphia Airport. Another was seen there on 7/25. A breeding plumage **Royal Tern** was spotted on 6/19 during shorebird monitoring at Presque Isle. Along with the regular scattered reports of **Forester's Terns** and nesting attempts by **Common Terns** at Presque Isle, it was a banner summer for terns, tallying 6 species!

Brown Boobies have been seen in each of the past 4 summer seasons. This year's observation on 7/9 was linked to the

(now frequently) mentioned tropical storm Elsa. The following day, and possibly also storm-related, an **Anhinga** reported flying over Sellersville in *Bucks* is under review.

Three counties included **American White Pelican** in their reports, all in the middle of June. Western Lake Erie (in Ohio) reported as many as 75 of these pelicans this summer, so it is not surprising that this hard-to-miss bird was seen at Presque Isle and Pymatuning. Might this be a hint of the future? A **Brown Pelican** flying past the Pennypack on the Delaware, *Montgomery*, on 6/4 appears to be only the second summer report. Brown Pelicans regularly are found nearby, along the Atlantic Coast of New Jersey. Their strong flying ability and large distinctive appearance make the scarcity of sightings in Pennsylvania quite remarkable.

This seasonal report often summarizes various loosely-defined groups of birds to characterize broader patterns, as we have with shorebirds. If we lump together several families of aquatic birds that have long legs and bills, including herons, ibis, and yes – spoonbills, we recognize that it was a remarkable summer for these long-legged waders. **Great Egrets**, **Black-crowned Night-Heron** and **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** nested at their respective regular locations without major changes from previous years. The only area that supports multiple nests of yellow-crowns, a state-endangered species, continued in urban Harrisburg with a count of 11 occupied nests this summer. They also made appearances at Black-crowned Night-Heron nesting colonies in *Lancaster* and *York*. **Cattle Egrets** made a good showing, with observations from both the northwest (*Crawford* and *Erie*) and the more expected John Heinz refuge, *Philadelphia*.

However, the eminently chaseable **White Ibis** and **Roseate Spoonbill** stole the show this year. The earliest observation of spoonbills included as many as 5 birds at Faylor Lake, *Snyder*, seen and photographed on 7/5, with 3 continuing there 7/5-8 and one relocated at nearby Walker Lake on 7/9. The Roseate Spoonbill that briefly visited population Wildwood Lake Park, *Dauphin* added to the excitement. Two spoonbills showed up near Newville, *Cumberland*, 7/10 where one continued through the season. The statement from *Lancaster* nailed it: "this summer was the 3rd irruption of spoonbills in the past 5 years into *Lancaster*, and concluded a wild and fantastic season for waders in the county." This year's reports of spoonbills in 6 counties appear to exceed the sum total of previous records of this species in the state! **White Ibis** lingered in *Cumberland* and *Lancaster*, offering many the opportunity to add this rare species to their state lists. After the spoonbill, the **Tri-colored Heron** is the least-reported of this

group. Sightings came from likely locations, the Conejehola Flats, *Lancaster*, and John Heinz Refuge, *Philadelphia/Delaware*. These combine to total 12 species of long-legged waders this summer.

Continuing the theme of showy southern birds, a **Swallow-tailed Kite** was seen by many in and around the Tyler Arboretum and Ridgely Creek SP at the end of July. This bird may have been drawn here by the emergence of periodic cicadas that appeared in abundance across southeastern Pennsylvania. These insects also were mentioned with observations of **Mississippi Kites** in *Bucks* and *Chester*. Scattered observations of the kites came from 5 southeastern counties, including several continuing from May.

After over 40 years of conservation effort, the **Peregrine Falcon** was removed from the state's endangered/threatened species list, after reaching state recovery goals. In 2021, we tallied over 70 territorial pairs, including 18 on cliff sites (fide, Patti Barber and Art McMorris, PGC). Peregrines disappeared from the Eastern US, primarily due to DDT contamination in the 1950s. Banning of DDT in the US, reintroductions, and decades of protection combined to achieve this historic accomplishment.

The opposite is happening with **Northern Goshawk**, which was added to the state's endangered species list this year. While nesting reports are understandably suppressed due to their sensitivity, goshawks appear now to be reduced to a handful of nest sites which are often unsuccessful for various reasons. Fisher predation is suggested as a reason in *Warren*. This iconic forest raptor is declining throughout our region.

Owl information is typically very scant, so this season's single report of **Northern Saw-whet Owl** probably does not represent the true status of this secretive little bird. As we've learned in the past, concerted efforts are needed to document owls. Similarly, the few **Barn Owl** reports in county notes and a similar short list of records in eBird overlook many sites documented by Game Commission biologists.

Notably absent again, as mentioned above, were **Long-eared Owl** and **Short-eared Owl**. The short-ear was not reported

anywhere in the Eastern United States this summer (based on eBird), and very few summer reports have occurred in Pennsylvania or New York in the past 10 years. Nesting by this species appears limited to Pennsylvania's history books. The Long-eared Owl is more secretive and observations are suppressed to avoid disturbance, but despite spring observations, none were reported during this season. Whether targeted surveys would be effective is unknown – so I guess we should try!

Some species have very specific breeding requirements. Here in Pennsylvania, breeding **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** are largely limited to a shortlist of high-elevation wetlands in a few counties of the Northeast. Despite focused efforts by the most experienced observer, no nesting birds were found this year (Doug Gross, pers com.). The wetlands, particularly in *Wyoming* and *Luzerne*, have been a remote outpost of breeding for this widespread northern breeder of coniferous bogs. Other Yellow-bellied Flycatcher sightings this season reflect spring or fall migrants that happen to fall into this season. **Sedge Wrens** occupy a more widespread wetland habitat type, but it too barely continues as a breeding species in the state.

The northern finch super-flight of winter 2020-21 provided a few birds that lingered into the summer, including sightings of **Red Crossbill**, **Pine Siskin**, and a most unlikely **Evening Grosbeak**. The Evening Grosbeak was seen just once at a feeder by an experienced birder in (of all places) *Greene* on 7/26. Summer observations like this are not unheard of, and the species' association with feeders increases our chances of observing such a vagrant. The reports of Red Crossbills from 5 counties follow a pattern of summer observations following winter irruptions. While crossbills remained at the Barrens of *Centre* from March through May, they were not observed there during June or July. A small flock in southern *Centre* was intriguing, although nothing suggested breeding this summer at either location. Similarly, the Pine Siskin reports from scattered counties primarily reflect individuals lingering from the winter irruption.

The state's rarest breeding sparrow, the **Clay-colored Sparrow**, appears to

barely be hanging on in the state. The traditional location in *Clarion*, Mount Zion, supported 2 singing males this summer. The incursion of this species into Pennsylvania and neighboring states several decades ago has not resulted in a major expansion, although it is very possibly overlooked at other sites.

Another species group with record counts are the warblers, including the rare and enigmatic **Swainson's Warbler**, found again in May on territory in *Indiana* where it again spent last summer! It hasn't happened many times previously that this species returned to the same location over repeated years. To my knowledge, breeding has never been confirmed in Pennsylvania (in either the Bird Atlas sense – with a nest or young, or in the documentation sense), despite many summer records. This is much like the Chuck-will's-widow discussed above. These would be notable accomplishments if done with great care not to disturb these species at the edge of their range. Another rare breeding warbler, **Blackpoll Warbler**, was confirmed breeding with a male carrying food to a juvenile at its only known breeding area, Tamarack Swamp, Dutch Mountain wetlands, State Game Lands 57 in *Wyoming* on 6/17 (Doug Gross, pers. com.). Other singing males in the area suggest that these, at least, are holding on where the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher appears not to have.

Several other warbler species that are relatively common in migration lingered into summer, bolstering the seasonal species list to a record 33. Included were a first (in eBird, at least) **Cape May Warbler**, notably detected by a nocturnal flight call recording on 6/5. An early fall **Tennessee Warbler** was captured repeatedly at the Powdermill Banding Station (*Westmoreland*) in July, providing a rare summer report.

A singing **Summer Tanager** lingered from spring through the breeding season at the Goat Hill Barrens in *Chester*, but neither this nor several other July observations provided evidence of nesting. Those July sites would be worth checking next June. A significant irruption of **Dickcissels** occurred again this summer, resulting in eBird observations in 17 counties. This was likely a response to drought in the upper Midwest.

Birds of Note – June through July 2021

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* – *Franklin*: one 7/17 at Antrim Commons Ponds (Michael Saylor).

Trumpeter Swan – *Crawford*: two in the Hartstown area 6/5 and 4 nearby 6/7 (Joshua Heiser); *Cumberland*: nesting pair produced 3 cygnets that hatched in May at Creek Road Marsh and survived the summer, relocating to Kuhn Lake 6/1 (Vern Gauthier) where they remained throughout the period. Another pair was found at the Big Spring Sportsman Club 6/5 (Vern Gauthier, Tim Johnson) and likely that pair was seen 6/9 not far away near SGL169 (Jennifer Moore); *Erie*: adult remained at Howard Eaton Reservoir through at least 7/15 (Jess Clippinger, James Hill III); *Fulton*: one on Boy Scout Rd 6/18 thru August (Tracy Mosebey, Vern Gauthier, ph.); *Lancaster*: two summered in the vicinity of Middle Creek WMA, mostly in *Lebanon* but also in *Lancaster* once or twice (m.ob.), apparently didn't breed successfully; *Lebanon*: two spent the summer at Risser's Pond, at Middle Creek 6/4-7/31 (Steve Ferreri, Jonathan Heller, Rita Stima); *Monroe*: one 6/21 at Lynchwood Lake and one photographed 7/31 at Summit Lake (Bruce Johnson, eBird); *Pike*: one 6/13 at Promised Land SP (Alexis Neenan, eBird) and through season there and nearby by various observers). One 7/24 at Bruce Lake NA (David LaVerne, eBird).

Blue-winged Teal – *Crawford*: one at SGL 214- Hartstown Marsh 6/28 (David Yeany II); *Franklin*: a male at Antrim Commons Pond 7/5-10 (Bob Koontz, m.ob.); *Huntingdon*: a dull-looking male at Old Crow wetland 7/4-12 (Ken Tucker, m.ob.); *Wayne*: two hen-types, one tending a duckling at Hanks Pond 7/23 provides rare evidence of nesting (Rick Keyster, eBird, doc.).

Northern Shoveler – *Monroe*: at Mount Pocono Airport water treatment plant 6/16-7/2 (Bruce Johnson, ph).

Gadwall – *Crawford*: one at Pymatuning SP Spillway 6/11 (Mark Vass, eBird, ph); *Erie*: one at Presque Isle SP – Gull Point 6/20 (Jerry McWilliams, m.ob.).

American Wigeon – *Chester*: male spent season at Exton Park (m.ob.); *Wayne*: one flushed from Hanks Pond 6/6 (Michael Shall, eBird, ph).

Northern Pintail – *Chester*: one 7/6-25 at Octorara Reservoir (Larry Lewis).

Green-winged Teal – *Clinton*: one at Mill Hall Wetlands 6/3 (Brian Schilling, eBird, ph); *Erie*: one at Edinboro Lake 6/1 (Robert Scribner, eBird, ph) and 2 at Presque Isle SP – Gull Point 7/21 (Jerry McWilliams, eBird); *Lebanon*: one at Middle Creek WMA 6/4 (Steve Ferreri, eBird); *Sullivan*: seen in flight over SGL 13 Newel Rd 6/5 (Doug Gross).

Canvasback – *Erie*: a lone male in Presque Isle SP 6/26 (James Flynn, eBird), 7/4 (James Hill III, eBird, ph), and 7/11 (Malcom Kurtz, eBird, ph).

Redhead – *Crawford*: at Pymatuning SP Spillway 6/19 (Joshua Heiser, Tomas Nonnenmacher, Ken Pinnow, ph); *Franklin*: a male continued for several weeks on Muddy Creek Road farm pond from May through 6/4 (Bob Koontz, m.ob.).

Greater Scaup – *Beaver*: female at the mouth of Beaver River 6/17 (Mark Vass) remained to at least 7/18 (Dante Zuccaro).

Lesser Scaup – *Crawford*: one at Pymatuning SP Spillway 6/29 (Ron Leberman).

Harlequin Duck* – *Delaware*: female seen flying upriver 7/9 (Jason Horn, Steve Schmit, no doc).

Surf Scoter* – *Northumberland*: at Adam T. Bower Dam 6/9 (Steve Schmit, ph).

Common Goldeneye – *Beaver*: photographed at New Brighton 6/16 (Brandon Tuscic); *Erie*: one 6/1 (Jerry McWilliams, eBird) and female 6/10 (Shannon Thompson, eBird, ph).

Red-breasted Merganser – *Adams*: female at Lake Meade 6/26 (Alan Bacchiochi); *Crawford*: two at Pymatuning SP, Miller's Ponds area 6/4 (Patience Fisher); *Cumberland*: with an apparent leg injury was reported at Vincent DiFilippo Preserve 6/16 and 6/18 (Barb Mathews, Doris Brookens); *Huntingdon*: female at Whipple Dam SP 6/20 (Jon Kauffman); *Lawrence*: female at Mason Rd on SGL 151 6/5-11 (Martin Carlin).

Horned Grebe – *Chester*: one emerging into breeding plumage at Struble Lake 6/6 (Larry Lewis); *Philadelphia*: adult spent summer along Boathouse Row on Schuylkill River 6/13-7/28 (Cheryl Cook, m.ob.).

Eurasian Collared-Dove – *Berks*: seen in Shartleton through season (m.ob.); *Clarion*: one at Strattanville 6/12 (Ron and Tracy George-Snyder) provided first county record, continued through June, last noted 7/16 (m.ob.); *Cumberland*: seen 7/22 along Running Pump Road near Shippensburg and one to two there 7/23-26 (m.ob.). Another continued through June in downtown Shippensburg (Chris Payne, Rebecca Payne); *Franklin*: continued regularly in southern parts of county where an established breeder. One at Airport Road north of Chambersburg 7/30 (Kyle Rambo).

White-winged Dove* – *Franklin*: one seen 7/14 and photographed near Upper Strasburg (Bill Oyler, Bob Koontz) also seen 7/18 (Gavin Anderson, Bill Oyler) and 7/20 (Bill Oyler, Dave Ebbitt, Carl Garner), but not seen after 7/20.

Chuck-will's-Widow* – *Centre*: heard on ridge from Lower Georges Road 6/9 (Lisa Williams) and 7/3 (Mark Vass).

Rufous Hummingbird* – *Cambria*: adult male documented at feeder in Johnstown since around Memorial Day, continued at least to mid-August (Tina Alianiello, ph).

Black Rail* – *Montgomery*: detected on nocturnal recording on evening 6/10 clearly uttering telltale "kee-kee-kerr" call (Scott Godshall).

American Avocet – *Adams*: three 7/25 at Long Pine Run Reservoir (Ian Clarke, David Clooney, Kris Groelsema);

- Bucks*: two at Penn-Warner Tract 7/1 (Jim Hartley); *Delaware*: seen from Delaware River/Hog Island Rd 7/2 (RF, MM.); *Erie*: at Gull Point 6/19, 20, & 23 and 3 there 7/26 (Mary Birdsong, m.ob.).
- Black-bellied Plover** – *Bedford*: one 6/3 at Shawnee SP (Lorna Wyrick); *Chester*: flock of 15 flew over La Reserve, near Unionville 6/2 (Kelly Nunn, Ellen Nunn); *Lancaster*: three at Blue Rock Rd Boat Launch 6/1 (Austin Loewen, eBird).
- Piping Plover*** – *Erie*: two young fledged from 4 nest attempts at Presque Isle SP (Mary Birdsong, Sarah Sargent, fide Cathy Haffner).
- Upland Sandpiper** – *Clarion*: one at Mount Zion 6/6 (Barbara Drennen, Eileen Luba); *Crawford*: high count of 4 on 6/24 (Roger Higbee, Margaret Higbee) at regular location, Pymatuning – Wilson Road; *Lancaster*: at Lancaster Airport in migration 7/10 followed by 3 on 7/31 (Zach Millen).
- Whimbrel** – *Erie*: four at Gull Point 7/3 (Mary Birdsong).
- Ruddy Turnstone** – *Chester*: 250 counted 6/6 at Bucktoe Creek Preserve (during annual Shorebird and Kite Watch, Larry Lewis); *Montgomery*: 1100 flew over Valley Forge NHP 6/1 (Dave Belford, Paul Bernhardt, Paul Driver, Steve Grunwald) and 1000 seen from Green Lane Park 6/1 and 200 on 6/2 (Scott Godshall, Paul Heveran, Jason Horn, ph.).
- Red Knot** – *Chester*: 30 were counted 6/6 over Bucktoe Creek Preserve (Larry Lewis); *Montgomery*: 50 identified among 2600 unidentified shorebirds flying over Valley Forge NHP 6/1 (Dave Belford, Paul Bernhardt, Paul Driver, Steve Grunwald) and also on 6/1, 3 knots and 1200 unidentified shorebirds seen from Green Lane Park (Scott Godshall, Paul Heveran, Jason Horn, ph.).
- Stilt Sandpiper** – *Chester*: at Glenville Farm Pond, one 7/30 (Rick Robinson, Sara Busch, ph.).
- Sanderling** – *Clarion*: one 7/25 at Kahle Lake (Tammy Arnold, eBird, ph) and 7/26 (Barbara Kiester, ph); *Delaware*: one 6/10 at Delaware River, Hog Island (Sara Busch); *Erie*: multiple observations at Gull Point, with high of 12 on 7/29-30 (Robert Scribner, Jerry McWilliams, eBird), with one seen 7/20 at Presque Isle Beach 8 (Dean Griffith, eBird), and 5 on 7/18 at Beach 10 (Joe Gyekis, eBird, ph.).
- Dunlin** – *Bucks*: migrating shorebird flock west of Quakertown 6/1 contained about 500 Dunlins (Devich Farbotnik).
- White-rumped Sandpiper** – *Franklin*: two at Antrim Commons Ponds 6/3 (Bill Oyler, Dave Ebbitt, Gavin Anderson); *Erie*: three at Gull Point 6/19 (Mary Birdsong) and 6/20 Jerry McWilliams).
- Baird's Sandpiper** – *Crawford*: one at Pymatuning Miller's Ponds 6/1 (Ron Leberman); *Mercer*: one at Shenango Reservoir Propagation Area 7/8-9 (Kim Springer).
- Short-billed Dowitcher** – *Franklin*: two 7/11 at Antrim Commons Ponds (Carl Garner, m.ob.); *Lancaster*: four northbound at Susquehanna River Conejohela Flats 6/1 (Austin Loewen), and a southbound bird 7/18 (m.ob.); *Mercer*: three at Shenango Reservoir Propagation Area 7/8 (Kim Springer).
- Long-billed Dowitcher** – *Chester*: one 7/25 at Glenville Farm Pond (Larry Lewis, m.ob.); *Warren*: one in flooded fields 7/17 at Hatch Patch fields (Travis Suckow, ph.).
- Wilson's Snipe** – *Berks*: one at pond in northern Berks 7/30 (Bob Sprague); *Butler*: one 7/20 at Calico Rd (David Brooke); *Crawford*: singles at Pymatuning 6/30 and 7/7 (Joshua Heiser), at Hartstown-Ball Road 7/10 (Rob Hodgson, m.ob.), and Pymatuning S.P. -Area-J 7/18 (Tomas Nonnenmacher); *Elk*: one at Rasselas Marsh 6/1 (Brendyn Baptiste).
- Willet** – *Butler*: photographed in flight at Lake Arthur 7/1 (Martin Carlin); *Erie*: fairly common at Gull Point, about a dozen records through the season (Jerry McWilliams).
- Laughing Gull** – *Bucks*: regular through season along Delaware River and adjoining waters, with high of 330 on 7/27 (Andrew Harrington); *Crawford*: one 6/17 at Pymatuning Spillway (Joshua Heiser) continued to 6/22 (Chuck Gehringer); *Delaware*: regular through season along Delaware River and adjoining *Philadelphia*.
- California Gull*** – *Erie*: second-summer bird at Gull Point 6/20 (Jennifer Ferrick & Jerry McWilliams, ph).
- Lesser Black-backed Gull** – *Bucks*: one injured adult stayed at Nockamixon SP until at least 7/17 (m.ob. ph.); *Erie*: on 730 at Gull Point (Jerry McWilliams).
- Great Black-backed Gull** – *Bucks*: one at Penn-Warner Tract 7/19 (AH); *Delaware*: regular along Delaware River; *Erie*: regular at Presque Isle through most of season; *Lancaster*: at Susquehanna River, Conejohela Flats 7/24 (Eric Witmer); *Philadelphia*: regular along Delaware River.
- Least Tern** – *Montgomery*: one flew past shorebird watchers at Green Lane Park 6/2 (Scott Godshall, Paul Heveran, Jason Horn Sara Busch, Jason Horn, doc.); *Philadelphia*: one at John Heinz NWR 6/21 (Gregory Mandel, Rich Ziegler).
- Gull-billed Tern*** – *Delaware*: one 6/21 at Delaware River/Hog Island Rd (Sara Busch).
- Black Tern** – *Butler*: one at Moraine SP 6/7 (Martin Carlin); *Cambria*: briefly at Prince Gallitzin SP 7/13 (Dave Gobert); *Chester*: one 6/4 at Struble Lake (m.ob.); *Crawford*: one at Pymatuning SP Spillway 6/23 (Isaac Field, Ron Leberman); *Lancaster*: one on Susquehanna River, Conejohela Flats 6/12 (anon.) and 7/18 (Meredith Lombard, Michael Hartshorne).
- Forster's Tern** – *Butler*: at Moraine SP 6/1, 6/7, 6/15 (Martin Carlin, fide Oscar Miller); *Lancaster*: one at Middle Creek WMA 7/15 (Jonathan Heller); *Philadelphia*: many observations in late-June and July (eBird).
- Royal Tern*** – *Delaware*: one 7/9 from Delaware River/Hog Island Rd following tropical storm (Jason Horn, Steve Schmit, m.ob.) and 7/25 (Al Guarente); *Erie*: breeding-plumage individual with Caspian Terns 6/19 (Mary Birdsong, photo).
- Brown Booby*** – *Delaware*: seen 7/9 at Delaware River/Hog Island Rd 7/9 following tropical storm (Jason Horn, Steve Schmit, m.ob., no doc)
- Anhinga*** – *Bucks*: competent observer described female-type over Sellersville yard 7/10 (Tim Bradley, doc. submitted, fide Bill Etter). PORC review pending.
- American White Pelican** – *Crawford*: one at Pymatuning S.P.-Spillway 6/19 (Joshua Heiser, Tomas Nonnenmacher, Ken Pinnow) and 6/20 (Chuck Gehringer, Michael Williams); *Erie*: seen over Erie 6/20 (Tess Rhinehart), over baseball stadium same day, and through 6/23 at Gull Point (Jerry McWilliams, m.ob.); *Tioga*: two at Hammond Lake 6/12 (Chris Niemczyk).
- Brown Pelican*** – *Philadelphia*: one 6/4 flying by Pennypack on the Delaware (William Buzzard, ph).
- Great White Heron (race of Great Blue Heron)** – *Philadelphia*: one at Manayunk Canal 7/8 through the rest of the month (Rebecca Froggatt, m.ob., ph.)
- Snowy Egret** – *Chester*: one 7/14 at Marsh Creek SP (Barry Blust); *Delaware*: one 6/8 at John Heinz NWR, also reported at Philadelphia (Rich Ziegler); *Lancaster*: two at Susquehanna River Conejohela Flats 6/29 (Paul Nale); *Montgomery*: flyby reported from Red Hill 6/27 (Andrew Curtis).
- Tricolored Heron*** – *Lancaster*: two juv. found 7/12 and 3 on 7/24 at Susquehanna River Conejohela Flats (Meredith Lombard, Eric Witmer, m.ob.); *Philadelphia*: at John Heinz NWR (Brian Quindlen, Ed Edge), continued to 7/28, and flew across county line to *Delaware* on at least 7/21 and 7/25 (m.ob.).
- Cattle Egret*** – *Crawford*: reported landing in pasture along Gravel Run Road in Woodcock area 6/21 (Jessica Prutzman); *Delaware*: two in the impoundment crossing the county line 6/20 (Al Guarente, Debbie Beer); *Erie*: near Edinboro 6/21 (Mark Musanti, fide James Hill III);

Philadelphia: two in breeding plumage spent afternoon of 6/20 at John Heinz NWR impoundment (John Eskate, m.ob.).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron – *Bucks*: immature 7/29 at farm pond in Haycock Twp (Jessica Huff, ph.); *Cumberland*: in addition to Conodoguinet Creek nesting area, an immature was along Yellow Breeches Creek at Lisburn Road 7/19 (Daniel Hinnebusch); *Dauphin*: 11 occupied nests with total of 28 individuals seen during breeding season in Harrisburg (Ian Gardner); *Lancaster*: adult lingered at Ephrata rookery until 6/13 (m.ob.); *Montgomery*: one 7/5-6 at Wissahickon Waterfowl Preserve (Jack McBrearty); *York*: adult and juv. at Lake Williams 6/21 (Janice Botterbuch, eBird).

White Ibis* – *Butler*: one at Cleveland Cliffs (formerly Armco Steel) 7/24 (Melissa Bulfone, ph.); *Cumberland*: five along Yellow Breeches Creek (borders *York*) from McCormick Rd, primarily at Breneman/Lisburn Rd 7/18-23 and then only one seen 7/24-28 (Kay Cribbs, Daniel Hinnebusch, m.ob.); *Lancaster*: juv. stayed at Susquehanna River Conejohela Flats from 7/16 through period (m.ob.); *York*: five along Yellow Breeches Creek.

Glossy Ibis – *Montgomery*: one 6/11 at Wissahickon Waterfowl Preserve (Jack McBrearty, Curt Dunn); *Philadelphia*: one at Army Corp Compound 6/6 (George Armistead, m.ob., eBird), John Heinz NWR 6/8 (Rich Ziegler, Sara Busch, ph.) and one at Pennypack on Delaware 7/4 (Liam Hart, eBird, ph.).

Roseate Spoonbill* – *Chester*: flew into county 7/12 from Mt Eden Rd (Larry Lewis, m.ob.) and later that day seen flying along Rt 452 (Jeff Kenney); *Cumberland*: two took up residence at Laughlin Mill Pond in Newville 7/10 (Erica Miller, m.ob.) and after 7/23 only one was seen; *Dauphin*: one photographed at Wildwood Lake 7/23 (Kevin Shannon, m.ob.); *Franklin*: two reported 7/10 near Wayne Heights (Robert Shibe, ph., Bill Oyler); *Lancaster*: juv. 7/12 at Blue Rock Boat Launch. In morning one flew north up Susquehanna R past Susquehannock SP (Tom Amico), another midday at Octoraro Reservoir (Larry Lewis) that stayed to 7/13 (m.ob.). One seen in the evening 7/12 at Susquehanna River Conejohela Flats (Meredith Lombard). On 7/14, one flew off with Great Egrets near Swartzville (Luke Miller); *Snyder*: reportedly up to 5 seen and photographed starting “over the weekend” before 7/4 at Faylor Lake (*vide*, Chad Kaufman, eBird), with 3 seen by many 7/5-8, and one relocated at nearby Walker Lake 7/9 (Tony DeSantis, Rick Wiltraut, eBird).

Swallow-tailed Kite* – *Bucks*: one over Haycock Twp, yard 6/25 (Dave Long ph); *Delaware*: one photographed 7/30 at Tyler Arboretum (Jenni Tuliszewski) and located later in the morning off Barren Rd (Debbie Beer), subsequently seen and photographed 7/31 by many from Penncrest High School and Ridley Creek SP and into August; *York*: one reported over Airville 7/24 (Melanie Parker).

Mississippi Kite* – *Bucks*: compiler’s thought four different birds seen in county in vicinity of Nockamixon SP in June (Paul Heveran); *Chester*: one at Bucktoe Creek Preserve 6/6 (Larry Lewis), high of 6 near Paoli feeding on cicadas (Lou Jacobs) and one 6/12 and 2 on 6/13 further south near residence (Andrea Martin, ph.), and 7/4 (Ian Stewart); *Lancaster*: one seen at the Middle Creek WMA 6/2 (Barb Hunsberger, m.ob.) and near Wrightsville 6/15 (Sabrena Boekell); *Montgomery*: photographed at Green Lane Park 6/9 and in Douglass Twp. 6/11 (Paul Heveran, ph.); *York*: one photographed over Delta 6/5 (Alex Hafner, Matt Hafner).

Northern Goshawk – *Warren*: sole-known nest in county this year failed early, victim of fisher predation on chicks and adult female (Don Watts, Scott Stoleson).

Northern Saw-whet Owl – *Luzerne*: one 6/16 along SGL 57 Mountain Springs Lake Road (Jonathan Balko, Eric Zawatski, eBird).

Olive-sided Flycatcher – *Allegheny*: one at Frick Park 6/1 (Nathan Hall); *Fayette*: unexpected find at Ohiopyle SP 7/24 (Steve Manns).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher – *Carbon*: one 7/31 at Lark St (Rich Rehig, eBird); *Philadelphia*: late migrant 6/1 at John Heinz NWR (Martina Singer, Tanya Burnett, eBird); *Schuylkill*: one 6/5 on SLG 80, Swope’s Valley Rd (Tom Buehl, Jr., eBird);

Sedge Wren – *Crawford*: one calling from private field 6/1 near Conneautville (Joshua Heiser).

Gray-cheeked Thrush – *Centre*: nocturnal flight recordings in State College documented one to 2 in evening 6/2-4 (Joe Geykis); *Lehigh*: two nocturnal flight calls recorded 7/1 (Jeffrey Vinosky); *Lycoming*: nocturnal flight recordings 6/1 (Bobby Brown, eBird); *Montgomery*: two nocturnal flight calls recorded over Franconia Twp (Scott Godshall).

Red Crossbill – *Centre*: Eight seen and heard, seven identified as “Sitka Spruce or type 10,” were identified at three locations on Pine Swamp Rd. and Millheim Siglerville Pike 6/5 (Joe Geykis); *Cumberland*: flock of 14 at King’s Gap SP 6/1 (Rebecca Payne); *Forest*: seven on 7/7 at Beaver Meadows Recreation Area (Mike Hudson), also 2 there 7/9, 4 on 7/10, and 2 on 7/13 (Andrew Harrington, audio, m.ob.); *Jefferson*: four at Clear Creek SP 7/10 (Joseph Di Liberto, eBird); *McKean*: one flyover 7/27 at Kinzua Bridge SP (Matthew Schenck, eBird);

Pine Siskin – *Cameron*: one at Sterling Run 6/20 (Bill Hendrickson); *Centre*: one at feeder and bird bath 6/1 in State College (Amber Wiewel); *Clarion*: one at feeder 6/26 in Clarion (Eric Schill); *Erie*: continued until 6/1 at feeder in Erie (Carolyn Sturtevant, ebird); *Franklin*: seen sporadically in June at feeders in Green Knolls (Val Barnes, ph.); *Lehigh*: one lingered to 6/1 in Emmaus (Jon Levin, eBird); *Mercer*: lingered after winter irruption, with one found 6/15 in Hermitage (Karen Clapper); *Washington*: one lingered until 6/7 in Amity (Anonymous eBirder).

Evening Grosbeak – *Greene*: surprise visitor made quick stop at feeder in Sycamore 7/26 (Jan Churney).

Clay-colored Sparrow – *Armstrong*: one at Ford City Riverfront Trail 7/25 (Maria Dobransky); *Clarion*: doc. in one location, 2 singing males near Mount Zion 7/5 (Dot Monahan, Bobbie Rochow) continuing until at least 7/12 (Eric Schill).

Lincoln’s Sparrow – *Erie*: one 6/1 at Presque Isle SP (Jerry McWilliams, eBird).

White-crowned Sparrow – *Centre*: one singing 6/4 in State College (Joe Geykis, doc.); *Erie*: one at private residence along Presque Isle bay 7/1 (Julie Leonard).

Swainson’s Warbler* – *Indiana*: territorial male at West Penn Trail continued through season (Dennis Lauffer, m.ob.).

Tennessee Warbler – *Westmoreland*: one captured at Powdermill Banding Station 7/20, 7/22 and 7/30 (Annie Lindsay).

Cape May Warbler – *Centre*: one recorded on nocturnal flight count 6/5 (Joe Geykis).

Bay-breasted Warbler – *Elk*: two in St Marys 6/8 (Joseph Elias).

Wilson’s Warbler – *Indiana*: one 6/1 at Yellow Creek SP (David Keith, Theo Rickert, John Taylor).

Summer Tanager* – *Chester*: one singing 5/22 through at least 7/25 at Goat Hill Serpentine Barrens (m.ob.); *Franklin*: female found 6/30 along Red Rock Road in the southern part of Little Cove (Bill Oyler), re-observed 7/3 and 7/4 (Bob Koontz, Gavin Anderson, ph.); *Lebanon*: one 7/6-11 at Observation Tower of Governor Dick Park (Jim Fiorentino, m.ob.); *York*: pair at Hellam Hills Nature Preserve 7/21-25 (David Arrow, m.ob.).

Photographic Highlights



Three **Trumpeter Swan** cygnets hatched in late May and spent the summer (here 1 June) with parents at Kuhn Lake, Cumberland. (Dave Kerr)



This female **Wood Duck** with an unusual eye ring pattern has been seen for the last three years at Spring Mills, Centre. (Larry Ramsey)



Rare in summer, this female **Common Goldeneye** was at Big Rock Park, Beaver 16 June. (Brandon Tuscic)

Color printing

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A late **Gadwall** at Pymatuning SP, Crawford 11 June. (Mark Vass)



One of several young **Wild Turkeys** in trees along a road in Sproul SF, Clinton 24 July. (Sarah Lindgren)



First *Clarion* record of **Eurasian Collared-Dove**, at Strattanville 12 (here 26) June-16 July. (*Michael David*)



Black-billed Cuckoo at Scotia Barrens, Centre 5 July. (*Kazumi Ohira*)



Spotted Sandpiper at Mammoth Park, Westmoreland 20 July. (*Mark McConaughy*)



First summer record of **California Gull** in *Erie*, present only 20 June at Gull Point, Presque Isle SP. (*Jerry McWilliams*)



This **Royal Tern**, in company of a Caspian Tern, was the first for *Erie*, present only 19 June at Gull Point, Presque Isle SP. (*Mary Birdsong*)



American White Pelican at Presque Isle SP, *Erie*, 20 (here 21) - 23 June. (*Jerry McWilliams*)



This **Swallow-tailed Kite** was first observed 30 July (here 31) and stayed into mid-August at Media, *Delaware*. (Debbie Beer)



Immature **Red-shouldered Hawk** feeding on cicadas emerging from underground in Upper Uwchian Twp., *Chester* 15 July. (Barry Blust)



One of a pair of nesting **Red-headed Woodpeckers** at Mifflinburg, *Union* 29 June. (Andrew Hurst)



Red-headed Woodpecker at Umbletown Rd., *Gap, Lancaster* 23 June. (Pamela Fisher)



Three or four downy **Peregrine Falcon** chicks at undisclosed cliff location in *Huntingdon* 13 June, the first successful nesting in the county since the 1930s; at least two later fledged. (Greg Grove)



Fledgling **Peregrine Falcon** practicing prey-catching with male parent at undisclosed location in *Lancaster* in June. (Meredith Lombard)



Northern Rough-winged Swallow on a rainy day at Industrial Park, Juniata 19 June. (Chad Kauffman)



One of an estimated 100 **Bank Swallows** at a colony near the Susquehanna River in Oakland Twp., Susquehanna 1 June. (Barb Stone)



Eastern Bluebird bringing food to hungry young at the Allegheny Front Hawk Watch, Bedford 5 July. (David Poder)



Partially leucistic **American Robin** seen for a couple weeks (here 26 June) at Franklin, Venango. (Jeffrey Hall)



American Goldfinch at The Arboretum at Penn State, Centre 18 July. (Mary Krupa)



Grasshopper Sparrow at Housenick Park, Northampton 27 July. (Jim Figlar)



Savannah Sparrow at Danville, Montour 17 July. (Mike Anderson)



Bobolink at Danville, Montour 22 July. (Mike Anderson)



First spring male **Orchard Oriole** at SGL 242, York 16 June. (Dean Newhouse)



Common Grackle with a mouthful of mayflies at Seneca, Venango 20 June. (Meg Kolodick)



Southeast of the Allegheny Plateau, **Northern Waterthrush** is a rare and localized nester; this individual was in a known Ridge and Valley summer location at Bear Meadows Natural Area, Centre 17 July. (Debra Rittlemann)



Faylor Lake Picnic Table Effect: Arrival of Roseate Spoonbills in Snyder attracted many birders; a bonus of which was discovery of a second new record for the county, this **Prothonotary Warbler**, found at Faylor Lake 8 July. (Michael David)



Blue-winged Warbler at Pleasant Valley Park, *Westmoreland* 6 June. (Christopher Turbet)



A cooperative, songful **Common Yellowthroat** at Pleasant Valley Park, *Westmoreland* 5 July. (Christopher Turbet)



A busy male **Canada Warbler** delivering food 26 June at Black Moshannon SP, *Centre*, a location with a thriving population of this species of northern affinity. (Bill Fatula)



This **Summer Tanager** was reliably found at Goat Hill Serpentine Barrens, *Chester* 22 May through 25 July, the date of this photo. (Barry Blust)

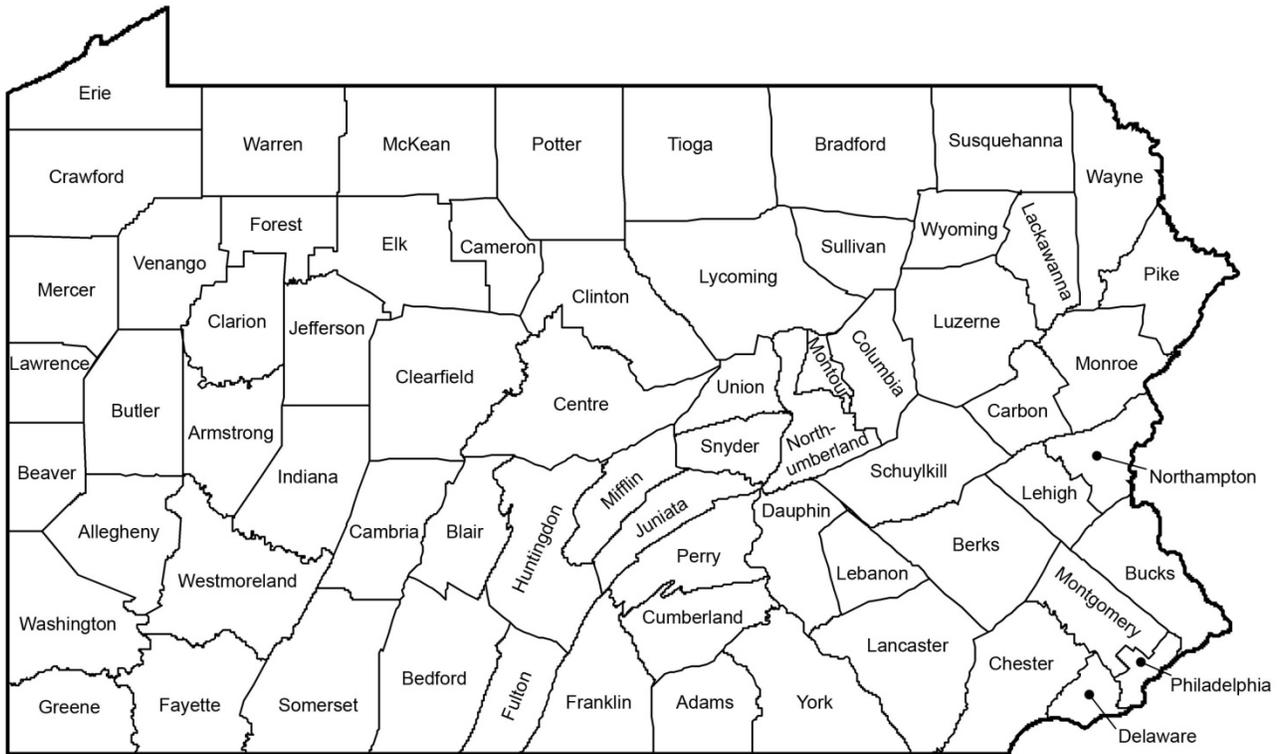


Blue Grosbeaks, including one seen carrying food, were present for the second consecutive year at Imperial, *Allegheny* at a location possibly slated for industrial development; this grosbeak posed 31 July. (David Bennett)



As many as six or more male **Dickcissels** were found in *Clarion*, including this individual at New Bethlehem 28 June. (Jeffrey Hall)

Local Notes – June through July 2021



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).	juvénal [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, McKean, Snyder, and Union.

Adams County

Locations: Gettysburg National Military Park (GNMP), Long Pine Run Reservoir (LPRR).

South-central Pennsylvania experienced 3°F above-average temperatures in June followed by normal July temperatures. Rainfall for the period was approximately 3 inches above normal. Overall species count at 118 and 14 warbler species were a bit on the low side for summer reporting. Better highlights were **American Avocet** visiting LPRR and some strong reporting of grassland species.

Out-of-season waterfowl reports were limited to a male **Ring-necked Duck** at LPRR 6/6-30 (AK, LK, BK, RM, RTGS) and a female **Red-breasted Merganser** at L. Meade 6/26 (AB). **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** continued its strong reporting with 16 sites producing birds. Sometimes missed this period, singles of **Black-billed Cuckoo** were at SGL 249 and GNMP, both 7/29 (ML, NL). The sole **Common Nighthawk**

report was 4 over GNMP 7/24 (BF). Nice to report, an **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was heard at LPRR 7/11 (SP).

A trio of **American Avocets** provided an early morning find at LPRR 7/25 (IC, DC, KG). The birds were adjacent to the boat launch area and seemed to be unaffected by the boating activity. This is the first Jul report for this species for the county. The only other shorebird report of any consequence was a trio of **Semipalmated Plovers** at Gettysburg College 7/9 (TA). A juvenile **Common Loon** summered at LPRR 6/6-7/22 (m.ob.). Five sites reporting **Great Egret** suggested there were more dispersals into the county than normal as there have been no known rookeries in Adams. Three juvenile **Little Blue Herons** were at SGL 249 on 7/20 (DB, BK, PK) and a **Black-crowned Night Heron** was at L. Meade 6/27 (AB).

A nice find was a **Barn Owl** in the Fairfield area 7/13 (TA). However, underreporting occurred for **Great Horned Owl** with one report, and Barred Owl was a conspicuous miss. Nine sites reported **Red-headed Woodpecker** with GNMP producing the high count of 8 birds. A very nice migrant find was an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** at Knoxlyn Rd 6/3 (SW). Vireo reporting was consistent with typical summer periods.

A nice count of 12 **Horned Larks** came from GNMP 6/5-18 (m.ob.). Strong **Purple Martin** counts included up to 90 birds at a Glenville Rd colony 7/20 (PK) and up to 100 birds over Mountain Rd 7/20 (R&DS). A single **Bank Swallow** was at Virginia Mills 7/6 (TA). Michaux SF produced three **Veery** reports 6/15-30 (SB, RJ, DM, AWy).

Grasshopper Sparrow reporting continued in a positive trend with 10 sites producing reports and a 12 count at GNMP 7/24 (BF) with juveniles noted. GNMP was the only site recording **Savannah Sparrow** with up to a pair noted 6/23-7/25 (TA, BF, DT). A good summer find was a pair of **Swamp Sparrows** at GNMP 7/3 (TA). A pair of **Yellow-breasted Chats** at GNMP 6/17-7/4 (MM, EP, TR) was the only report. Five sites reporting **Bobolink** were a positive and included a remarkable 92 count in a mixed flock with **Red-winged Blackbirds** at GNMP 7/23 (BF). Nearly as impressive were eight sites holding **Eastern Meadowlarks** with a 40 count at Freedom Twp IBA 6/6 (CA) and a 7/23 (CA) follow-up visit producing a 30 count.

A **Worm-eating Warbler** was detected at LPRR 6/6 (CH, JK), Michaux SF produced at **Blue-winged Warbler** 6/30 (DM), and a **Prairie Warbler** was found at GNMP 6/15 (CM) and 7/17 (DMh). Four sites reporting **Blue Grosbeak** 6/6-7/23 (m.ob.) continued their positive reporting trend. **Dickcissel** made their presence known, although breeding was not confirmed. Singles were at Possum Hollow Rd 6/16-25 (DA, TA), at Virginia Mills 7/15-25 (TA), and duos were seen along Good Intent Rd 7/1 (SK) and from White Church Rd 6/26-27 (GDM).

Observers: **Phil Keener, 198 Jacobs Street, East Berlin, PA 17316, (717) 259-9984, pittche74@yahoo.com**, Chas Argent, Tony Arnold, David Arrow, Alan Bacchiochi, Mike Bertram, Susan Braun, Dale Brickhouse, Ian Clarke, David Clooney, Jr., Colleen Corballis, Thomas Cramer, Bob Foehring, Bill & Linda Frantz, Kris Groelsema, Callie Hietala, Russell Johnson, Caroline Jones, Stefan Karkuff, Joe Keiper, Aidan Kissner, Emily Kissner, Bob Koontz, Michael Locher, Nancy Locher, Michael McCloy, Alan MacEachren, Linette Mansberger, Dominic Mirachi (DMh), Dennis Miranda, Rob Monaghan, G. Dwight Mueller (GDM), Callan Murphy, Evan Pannkuk, Stephanie Peebles, Tessa Rinehart, Peter Scott, Ralph & Deb Siefken (R&DS), Ron & Tracy-George Snyder (RTGS), Andy Wilson, Scott Wood, April Wyman (AWy), Nathan Zalik.

Allegheny County

Locations: Dashields Dam (DDAM), Frick Park (FP), Harrison Hills Park (HHP), Imperial (IMP).

The summer season was warm and humid with regular thunderstorms. Heavy downpours were nearly weekly with some localized flooding.

The only report of **Common Merganser** was one at Duck Hollow 7/1-4 (LK, m.ob.). A **Northern Bobwhite** was photographed at IMP 6/10 (DB). **Black-billed Cuckoo** was scarce with reports from less than ten locations. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was much more widespread. **Common Nighthawk** reports in eBird were clustered around the city of Pittsburgh and along the Allegheny R. valley. Two outliers included one in Monroeville and one in North Park.

A flock of 61 **Killdeers** was at Hampton Twp. Community Park 7/22 (DN). Single **Solitary Sandpipers** were at IMP 7/24 (JV, SVo) and in Indiana Twp. 7/28-30 (BS). A total of 41 **Herring Gulls** were counted at the Emsworth Dam on the Ohio R. with several occupied nests 6/12 (MV). There was no report for the count of nests on the Highland Park Bridge this season. There were a few late **Common Tern** reports. One was along the Allegheny R. in Oakmont 6/2 (RB), and 2 were at DDAM on the Ohio R. 6/5 (GM). A tern at Dashields 6/4 could not be identified to species (MV). A few early **Great Egrets** were reported including one flying over Deer Lakes Park 7/17 (MF), one at Wingfield Pines 7/18-31 (SM, RH, m.ob.), one just downriver from DDAM 7/23 (MV), and one at IMP 7/24 (AH, CB, m.ob.).

Sadly, there were two reports of dead juvenile **Bald Eagles** in the vicinity of the nest in Crescent Twp., the first nesting location in the county. One was found near the railroad tracks at DDAM 6/25 and

reported to the PGC (MV), and another was reported by Crescent Twp. police that flew into a passing automobile and was killed in the vicinity (*vide* MV).

A **Barred Owl** has been a regular fixture in FP in Pittsburgh the entire season (m.ob.). One was at Hartwood Acres C.P. 6/3 (DN), 2 were in Gibsonia 6/7 and one 7/3 (KP), and one was at Boyce-Mayview Park 7/11 (eBird). It was a good season for this elusive species in the county. **Peregrine Falcons** were quite successful breeding here this year. A local Peregrine watcher summarized the Pittsburgh Area nests on her nature blog entry 7/22 (birdsoutsidemymywindow.org). Successful nesting occurred at the University of Pittsburgh, downtown Pittsburgh, Turtle Creek, McKees Rocks, Sharpsburg, and Tarentum. A nest site on a bridge at Neville Island was not occupied this year due to bridge construction (*vide* KSJ).

A late **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at FP 6/1 (NH). A **Least Flycatcher** was at Barking Slopes 7/17 (OL, SV, SVo). A **Yellow-throated Vireo** sang in FP 7/10 (TF, HF), an unusual location for this species. There have been single birds heard in recent summers in the park in the more remote areas on hillsides, but this one was in a busier section of the park near the nature center.

A leucistic **Blue Jay** that was nearly completely white continued from last season in Hampton Twp. **Common Ravens** continued to be reported regularly during the season. High counts included 5 in Bridgeville 6/13 (ST) and 7 at Hays Woods 7/26 (NL). Two **Fish Crows** continued from the last season in Bridgeville (RT), a rather new location for them. High counts of this species from Oakland included 70 on 7/3, 20 on 7/10, and 30 on 7/24 (KSJ).

Purple Martins have bred at a few locations in the county including HHP, the Natrona Dam in Natrona Heights, and two golf courses in Elizabeth Twp. A new martin house was erected at Janoski's Farm in Findlay Twp. this summer (*vide* MV) and was occupied by a few martins. Two active nests were confirmed 7/29 (BW, *vide* MV).

There were two reports of late migrant **Swainson's Thrushes**. This species was fairly numerous in late May so it was not surprising to have a few that lingered into early Jun. One was at FP 6/1 (NL), and one was in Collier Twp. 6/3 (JS). **Veery** continued to breed in the northern part of the county mainly at North Park and the surrounding area (m.ob.). **Purple Finches** were in Pine Twp. the second half of Jun. A male was there 6/15-23 and a pair 6/24-25 (PL, SL). A male was there 7/1-6 and a female 7/8-13 (PL, SL). This is a regular location for this species in the county. An adult male was observed feeding a juvenile in Tarentum 6/20 (SV).

Savannah Sparrows were reported at IMP during the season (m.ob.) with a high count of five 7/11 (MD). One was also found near Bunola in the southern part of the county 7/10 (JF). Grasslands in this area have recently been preserved by the Allegheny Land Trust, which is good news for declining species that use this type of habitat that is being lost at IMP. **Grasshopper Sparrows** were reported in the IMP area and a few miles to the south near Oakdale during the season (m.ob.). Up to 2 **Henslow's Sparrows** were found at IMP, but this species will likely be extirpated from the area in the near future as habitat is lost to development.

Yellow-breasted Chat is a local breeder here due to limited habitat availability. Birds continue to be found at reliable locations at IMP and Barking Slopes (m.ob.). **Bobolinks** were at the IMP Grasslands in an area that has not yet been developed (m.ob.). The high count was 6 on 6/12 (MF).

Ovenbird remains a local breeder in the county. Up to 4 were at Deer Lakes Park during the season, one of the reliable breeding locations (m.ob.). A bird in FP 6/9 was likely a late migrant (MK). **Worm-eating Warblers** were at a traditional site along the slopes above the Allegheny R. at HHP throughout Jun (m.ob.). Three were heard singing 6/5 (AH, PM), and one was last reported 7/11 (DB). **Black-and-white Warblers** have bred locally in the county and were at HHP in Jun and most of Jul (m.ob.) and just downriver a few miles at Barking Slopes, where one was found 6/21 (RB). **Kentucky Warbler** held on at HHP and was seen and heard in Jun and most of Jul (m.ob.). Breeding was confirmed, and a max of 6 were present 6/20 (DB). They were also at Sewickley Heights Park (eBird), another regular location.

Cerulean Warbler has only been regular in the Sewickley area. One was at Sewickley Heights Park 6/4 (AZ), and 2 were at Walker Park 6/12 (MF). A late **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was at FP 6/6 (KSJ). **Prairie Warbler** continues its decline in the county due to development at IMP, where this species was regular. One was recorded singing at Preservation Park in Oakdale along a brushy powerline cut 6/4 (JS). Surprisingly one was seen at IMP 7/3 (MV) in degraded habitat that formerly supported a population of this species. It was seen though the month by many observers. Two were at the site 7/9 and 7/18-19 (eBird). This species still breeds in the general area just over the border in Washington so this could have been a bird that drifted over to this site from nearby locations where they have continued to be regular.

Blue Grosbeak returned to IMP for the second year in a row. An immature male was found 6/21 (MV) and again a few days later. An adult male was seen 7/18 (MV), and possibly 2 birds were present later that day; an adult male was photographed carrying food, and another bird was possibly heard chipping (MK). An adult male was seen through the season in the general area (m.ob.). The bird occupied an area that was formerly a plantation of European Larch and deciduous woods. The area was bulldozed a few years ago and became scrub habitat, but appears to be slated for expansion of the industrial park.

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Armstrong County

Locations: Armstrong Trail at Dam 8 (AT8), Crooked Creek Lake (CCL), Karns City (KC), Keystone Lake (KL), Manorville (MV), Robbs Fording Road (RFR).

Wood Duck sightings were lower than usual but 6, including 5 ducklings, were seen 7/16 at KC (TA), one was at CCL 7/4 (DB et al.), 6 at CCL 7/26 (TR), and a high count of 15 at AT8 on 7/30 (TR). **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** reports were a single on Polka Hollow Road 6/6 (MH, RH), one at KT 6/26 (RHa, SM), another at CCL 7/4 (DB), 2 on the AT8 both 7/23 and 7/30 (TR), and one at CCL 7/31 (MC). The only report of **American Woodcock** was one at KC 6/24 (TA, ph.). A noteworthy find of 12 **Great Blue Herons** in and around nests was reported 7/4 from CCL (DB et al.). The only noteworthy sighting of a **Caspian Tern** was a single from KL 6/16 (MH, RH).

Few sightings of **Osprey** included one at Roaring Run Trail 6/16-7/26 (SD), a single on the AT at MV 6/16 (MH, RH), one at CCL 7/16 (SP), and another at Mahoning Creek L. 7/25 (AK, JK). While not unusual for quite a few sightings of **Bald Eagles** to be reported throughout the county, it was nice to see a report that the nest at CCL was successful again with an adult and 2 young reported there 6/16 (ME, LS). **Red-shouldered Hawks** nested successfully again at CCL this year, as 2 fledglings were photographed on branches by the nest and an adult flew in briefly with food 6/25 (MVT). Very few reports came in for **Broad-winged Hawks**, with only a single at KL 6/16 (MH, RH) and 2 on the AT near MV (MH, RH).

A lone **Red-headed Woodpecker** was a nice find on CCRL near South Bend 6/6 (MH, RH). As expected, most flycatchers were reported throughout the county. The only reports of **Willow Flycatcher** were singles at Kittaning 6/1 and Rural Valley 6/16 (MH, RH), near a Putneyville farm 6/3 (DM), and one in Worthington 6/13 (JB). Two **Horned Larks** were reported from Hawthorn 7/19 (BR).

Two **Grasshopper Sparrows** spotted at RFR 6/26 (RHa, SM) and a single **Clay-colored Sparrow** on the Ford City Riverfront Trail 7/25 (MD) were nice finds, along with one **Savannah Sparrow** in Gilpin Twp. 6/6 (MH, RH) and 2 again from RFR 6/26 (RHa, SM). A single **Worm-eating Warbler** was the only report from AT8 on 6/12 (TR), only one

Nashville Warbler was reported from CCL 6/26 (RHa, SM), a **Kentucky Warbler** was on Stone House Road Farm 6/14 (AB), and a **Prairie Warbler** at KL 6/16 (MH, RH).

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Beaver County

Locations: Ambridge Reservoir (AR), Independence Marsh (IND), Raccoon Creek State Park (RCSP), Rocky Bend Nature Preserve (RBNP), Mouth of the Beaver River at Rochester (RCH).

Locations: Independence Marsh (IND), Little Blue Lake area (LBL), Raccoon Creek State Park (RCSP).

A female **Greater Scaup** appeared at the mouth of the Beaver R. 6/17 (MV) and remained to at least 7/18 (DZ), providing a very rare summer record for sw. Pennsylvania. Equally rare for summer here was a female **Common Goldeneye** photographed at New Brighton 6/16 (BT). Following a late spring report, **Common Mergansers** were noted on Raccoon Cr. at IND a few times in the summer, including a count of 32 adults and chicks there 7/2 (DZ), which added yet another confirmed breeding location along Raccoon Cr. **Common Nighthawks** were noted at Beaver Falls 6/18-26 (TJ) and at Hanover Twp. 7/22 (JM). Two **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were back on traditional territory at SGL 285 on 6/5 (GM), and one was still being heard there 7/29 (MM).

A **Least Sandpiper** was at RCSP 7/16-24 (MV, DZ), and a **Solitary Sandpiper** had returned to IND by 7/26 (DZ). Another rare mid-summer sighting came in the form of a **Caspian Tern** at Rochester 7/18 (MV). A single **Great Egret** was seen off and on at IND 7/8-30 (DZ). The county's long-standing pair of **Peregrine Falcons** decided to nest on the underside of the East Rochester-Monaca bridge this year, and 3 fledglings were observed 6/21 (SG *vide* AM).

Blue-headed Vireo has been noted irregularly in summer at RCSP since about 2014; this year one was recorded singing there 7/15 (ON, MK). The grasslands around the former LBL lakebed continued to be productive this season. There were several reports of **Grasshopper Sparrow** 7/12-24 (DZ, et al.), and one **Henslow's Sparrow** was also there 7/24 (DZ). Reports of **Yellow-breasted Chat** included one at SGL 285 on 6/5 (GM), one at LBL 6/19-7/10 (MV), and one at Rocky Bend Nature Preserve 6/26-7/29 (DZ). The LBL grasslands also hosted up to 4 **Bobolinks** 6/19-7/23 (MV, DZ). An **Ovenbird** was enjoyed as it gave its seldom-heard flight song at dusk at SGL 285 on 6/5 (GM). A **Kentucky Warbler** was at Brady's Run C.P. 6/26 (TJ, KJ). **Black-throated Green Warbler** has been a fixture at RCSP in the summer months for over a decade now, and one was heard there again this summer on 7/3 (MV).

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Bedford County

Locations: Belden (BL), Blue Knob State Park (BKSP), Everett (EV), Jackson Property (Mountain Meadows) south of Everett (MM), Raystown Branch of the Juniata River (JR), Ridge Road (RR), Rural Home Site (RS), Shawnee State Park (SSP), Whitetail Wetlands (WW).

The summer of 2021 was distinctive for three reasons. Birds of all sizes – from Black-capped Chickadees to Wild Turkeys – deserted backyard feeders to feast on the Brood X Cicadas. While other areas of

our state experienced flooding and regular downpours, the precipitation in *Bedford* totaled only 5.9 inches, well below the average of 9.7 inches for the past five summers. Many people stopped feeding birds on July 1, since the Pennsylvania Game Commission imposed a moratorium on bird feeding due to the mysterious disease that led to bird mortality throughout the region.

Twenty-three **Wood Ducks** were seen at BL 7/18 (AB). A flock of 19 **Wild Turkeys** was reported at RR 7/16 (RD). Reports of **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were widespread and consistent in the county, with several high counts of 3: at Big Run Road 6/26 and 7/11 (EB), and at MM 6/27 (M&LJ). **Black-billed Cuckoo** was reported at only five locations, all singles, and there was but one report of a lone **Common Nighthawk**, seen in Osterburg 6/18 (EB). Continuing the disturbing downward trend of reports, **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were reported from just five locations, although Tussey Mountain south of EV continues to be good habitat as consistent reports occurred at MM (M&LJ). A high count of 3 was reported at PATC-Dawson Cabin 7/4 (AE, TN).

A high of 20 **Chimney Swifts** was reported at SSP 7/24 (MC). Also at SSP were a single **American Coot** 7/20 (TD) and one **Black-bellied Plover** 6/3 (LW). A high of 22 **Killdeer** was reported at Bedford Memorial Gardens 7/24 (AB). One immature **Common Loon** made its summer home at SSP 6/12-7/12 (T&JK, M&LJ). **Great Egrets** were seen in two locations, with a high of 4 at SSP 7/14 (M&LJ).

Ospreys were seen at SSP and along the JR, with a high of 2 at SSP 7/18 (m.ob.). An imm. **Bald Eagle** chased an Osprey carrying a fish over EV 7/28, but an adult Bald Eagle joined the chase and eventually caught the fish when it was dropped by the Osprey (M&LJ). Bald Eagles were a common sight in the county, especially along lakes and waterways. One Bald Eagle nest along Big Creek Road failed for unknown reasons, but there was confirmed nesting on Tussey Mt. near EV.

Red-shouldered Hawks have nested successfully at Foor Farm for 12 years. The young were not readily visible in the nest for the first eight years, but a new nest was built in 2018, much closer to the landowners' house, so the young could be counted from an upstairs window. Three juv. fledged in 2018, 4 in 2019, 2 in 2020, and 3 fledged around 6/5 in 2021 (EB).

Broad-winged Hawks nested successfully at MM. A pair of adults was routinely seen, and 3 juv. were observed 7/23 (M&LJ). Two **Barred Owls** were observed at PATC-Dawson Cabin 7/4 (AE, TN). A high count of 4 **Red-headed Woodpeckers** was observed at LB 7/3 (AB). There were a few scattered reports of **American Kestrels**, but the most frequent were in Dutch Corner. One was also reported at BL 6/12 (T&JK).

The higher elevation forests in the northern part of the county were the best locations for **Acadian Flycatcher** sightings; a high of 5 was reported 6/5 (NO). A high of 3 **Willow Flycatchers** was reported at WW 6/13 (m.ob.). A high of 8 **Eastern Kingbirds** was reported at SSP 7/18 (Anon.). **Yellow-throated Vireos** were reported at just a few sites, with a high of 2 at SSP 6/21 (TA, TB). **Blue-headed Vireos** were even scarcer, with a high of 3 at Monument Road 6/11 (T&JK). A high of 2 **Warbling Vireos** was observed at BL 7/5 (AB). **Fish Crows** along JR were under reported, but one was noted in EV 6/18 (M&LJ). **Common Raven** sightings increased, with a high of 2 seen at RS 7/20 (B&JC).

Northern Rough-winged Swallows were seen at SSP, and a high of 5 was at Bedford Springs 6/11 (BC). **Purple Martins** suffered a great loss when a new landowner did not fulfil his pledge to put out the nest gourds in EV; only two were found 6/18 (M&LJ). A high of 8 was seen at Down River G.C. just west of EV 6/27 (EB). Three **Bank Swallows** were reported at SSP 7/20 (TD), the only report in the county. **Cliff Swallows** were more widespread, with a high of 30 at Stein Road 6/27 (EB).

One **Veery** was reported at BKSP 6/25 (JC) and a **Hermit Thrush** was at that location 6/6 (NO). Fifty-nine **American Robins** was the high count at Lehman Property 6/22 (AB). **Grasshopper Sparrows** were found at a few locations; a high of 5 was observed at Union Memorial Church 7/23 (EB). **Dark-eyed Juncos** retreated to higher elevations to breed, so were absent from most areas. They were reported at BKSP on a regular basis with a high of 5 on 6/26 (JC). A high count of 8 **Swamp**

Sparrows was reported at WW 6/13 (m.ob.).

There were four reports of **Yellow-breasted Chats**, with 2 from MM 6/16-20 (M&LJ). The stronghold for **Bobolinks** was Dutch Corner, with several sightings and a high of 8 on 6/19 (AB) in an unmowed hay field. **Eastern Meadowlarks** were consistently seen in two county areas: a high of 13 at BL 6/18 (M&LJ) and 8 were at Sollenberger Rd. 7/11 (EB). **Orchard Orioles** were reported at RS, with a high of 3 on 7/21 (B&JC).

Only 21 species of warblers were recorded. A high of two **Worm-eating Warblers** was reported at MM 6/10 (M&LJ). Few **Louisiana Waterthrushes** were found, but 2 were at RR 7/10 (RD). **Golden-winged Warblers** were absent from two sites where found in the past, but one was found at PA19Jackson 6/9 (M&LJ) and another at RS 6/8 (B&JC). The only **Brewster's Warbler** was photographed at PA17Jackson 6/3 (M&LJ), a site that had yielded Golden-winged Warblers in the past. **Kentucky Warblers** were consistently observed at MM in Jun with a high count of 3 on 6/18 (M&LJ). **Cerulean Warblers** were underreported, but one was observed at Mt. Ararat 6/6 (SG). **Northern Parulas** were reported from BP with a high count of 2 on 6/6 (NO). An unexpected sighting of 2 **Canada Warblers** was reported on Monument Road 6/11 (T&JK).

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Berks County

Locations: Appalachian Trail (APT), Blue Marsh Lake (BML), Big Woods Trail (BWT), French Creek State Park (FCSP), Hamburg (HAM), Hamburg Reservoir (HRES), Kittatinny Ridge (KR), Lake Ontelaunee (LO), SGL 110 at Northkill Gap (NKG).

Snow Geese that did not migrate to the arctic occur here annually. This year a family of 5 stayed at Gotwals pond in Oley until early summer when 3 left, leaving 2 in place through the period. A female **Hooded Merganser** trailing 7 ducklings was in a swamp off the Schuylkill R. near Old Morlatton Village in May (LI), and another female with young was on the Manatawny Cr. near Boyertown in Jun (BS). A female **Common Merganser** with 13 young was on the Schuylkill R. near HAM 7/17 (KG). In historical terms, both mergansers are fairly recent breeders, now well established.

Two **Ruffed Grouse** were at NKG 6/25 (LC, LI, P&JW) and one at SGL 106 on 7/6 (DH), both locations on the KR, the last toehold of the species in *Berks*. There was a bit more evidence that the Shartlesville **Eurasian Collared-Dove** colony may be expanding beyond the town. Three were in a residential area to the west 6/19 (MW), and one was in HAM 6/19 (AW). Besides those, one to 5 were reported at the usual Main St. locations through the period (m.obs.).

In summer, birders expected to hear **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** while hoping for **Black-billed Cuckoos**. Two of the latter were reported this season: one at BWT in FCSP 7/4 (JT) and the other near BML 7/24 (BL). Like Ruffed Grouse, **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were found only on the KR, where one to 3 were heard on evening walks at NKG 6/25 and 7/19 (LI, RK, P&JW, MW).

Two Sandhill Cranes flew over Rt. 61 at HAM 7/18 (JSp). The birds' outstretched necks and faster wingbeats compared to Great Blue Heron were noted. Six common species of southbound arctic shorebirds barely squeaked into the period. A flock of 16 **Least Sandpipers**, a **Pectoral Sandpiper**, 2 **Semipalmated Sandpipers**, a **Wilson's Snipe**, a **Solitary Sandpiper**, and 2 **Lesser Yellowlegs** were at a pond in northern *Berks* 7/30-31 (JSp). An **American Woodcock**, seldom reported after spring courtship season, was a bonus on Eastern Whip-poor-will walks at NKG 7/10-19 (LI, RK, P&JW).

About 6 **Ring-billed Gulls** summered at BML watching for picnic scraps. One to 3 non-breeding **Double-crested Cormorants** summered at LO and BML as usual (m.ob.). **Great Egret** was the only non-breeding heron to appear during post-breeding dispersal, with most reported in Jul. Birders reported one to 5 **Black-crowned Night-Herons** at BML and

LO on various dates from 6/3 through the period. Juveniles, indicating possible breeding, were at LO 7/23, 8/3, and 2 on 8/4, and at BML 8/11. This heron has a well-documented breeding history going back to the 19th century, but no rookery has been found since 2014.

A **Black Vulture** with one functional leg was outfitted as an adult with yellow wing tag #210 by Hawk Mountain Sanctuary researchers near Kempton in Jul, 2010. This bird, nicknamed Lefty, became a regular at BML and was seen again this year (JS), having lived at least 12 years with its handicap. Though the tag is gone, the mechanism that attached it to the wing is still visible. A few non-breeding **Ospreys** spent the summer at BML and LO as they usually do. A **Northern Harrier**, rare in summer, hovered in a desilting basin of the Schuylkill R. 7/17 (MWh). A fledgling **Sharp-shinned Hawk** giving food-begging calls was heard at HRES on the KR 7/29 (KG). This very secretive nester has previously been confirmed breeding on the KR. A **Red-shouldered Hawk** pair nested at Union Meadows Park near Birdsboro in May (LI). The large Piedmont forest around FCSP and the adjoining Schuylkill R. floodplain have sustained these hawks for many years. Birds were also heard and intermittently seen at two locations in the forested hills of District Twp. in eastern *Berks* (RK), where breeding was confirmed in a few previous years. **Broad-winged Hawks** again nested on the KR and were also reported in the same large forests in southern and eastern *Berks* as Red-shouldered Hawks.

Four **Barn Owls** fledged from a box in Rehrersburg, a site that has produced many fledglings over the years (RB). Reports of **Barred Owls** from two new locations, Trout Run Res. and the Exeter Scenic R. Trail, gave more evidence that this owl, a prized find as recently as the 1990s, has expanded its range as forests have matured. **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were reported at two well-established locations and at eight other places, sometimes photographed on ash trees killed by emerald ash borers. Woodlots in which ash trees were common are now much more open with many snags, habitat favored by this woodpecker. Reading's **Peregrine Falcons** did not breed after spring's intense territorial battles left 2 females dead (*fide* BU).

Up to 9 **Acadian Flycatchers** were heard in the hemlock/rhododendron ravine at HRES in Jun and Jul (m.ob.). Similar counts were made of the county's other large population in the Piedmont forests in southern *Berks*. Few are found between these groups. **Yellow-throated Vireo** has the same distribution in *Berks*' large forest blocks as this flycatcher. Hemlocks at HRES have continued to host the county's only **Blue-headed Vireos**, one of which sang there this summer (KG). Six **Common Ravens** at Henningsville 6/15-22 (PS) were probably a family group.

Three **Purple Martin** colonies on Mennonite farms in the Great Valley between Fleetwood and Topton contained about 120 adults and fledglings 7/9 (RK). About 800 **Tree Swallows**, perching on utility wires in the same area 7/9 (RK), gave a clear sign that breeding was over and dispersal had begun. The **Cliff Swallow** colony at the LO dam, occupied for 55 consecutive years, had about 30 birds attending nests 6/3 (RK). The colony across the lake at West Shore Bridge had 24 birds 7/6 (DH). A smaller colony at Old Church Rd. in BML had 13 birds 7/8 (EB). There is some evidence that Cliff Swallow colonies have declined over the years. For instance, the colony at Berne Bridge south of HAM on the Schuylkill R. had 26 birds attending nests 6/4/18 (KG). This year, only 6 nests (perhaps not all of them active) and 4 birds were seen (KG). All of the Cliff Swallow colonies need closer monitoring.

A **White-throated Sparrow** heard singing at NKG 7/31 (MWh) may have been a territorial bird. There are several Jul records from the 20th century of this species suspected of nesting. The grassland-sparrow trio was again well reported. **Grasshopper Sparrows** and **Savannah Sparrows** were found mainly in farmland, but both have recently colonized some warm season grasslands planted to attract grassland birds. The largest group of both is at Rodale, where they are pasture nesters. **Vesper Sparrow**, always the least commonly reported of this group, was nevertheless found at four farmland sites. **Swamp Sparrow** has often gone unreported in summer because its few known breeding locations did not get visited by birders. This Jul it was reported at four new sites, one of which is a retention basin at a school complex (BL).

The go-to place to see **Yellow-breasted Chats** continued to be BWT at FCSP, where one to 3 obliged birders this summer. Unlike some of the grassland sparrows, **Bobolinks** and **Eastern Meadowlarks** have not yet colonized mixed grasslands planted for this group. They prefer farmland hayfields, fallow fields, and pastures, where they often lose their nests to early hay cutting. No more than 8 of either species were reported at any of the few locations attractive to them.

The KR attracts more **Worm-eating Warblers** than any other *Berks* location. Eight were at the HRES/Pinnacle trail loop 6/16 (BD) and 8 along the APT 6/13 (SK). Deliberately maintained grassland/scrub habitat at BWT, Green Hills Preserve and SGL 106 have benefited **Blue-winged Warblers** and **Prairie Warblers**. Up to 6 of the latter were at BWT this season (m.obs.). **Kentucky Warbler** remained steadfast at only two known locations: SGL 106 at Pine Swamp Rd. (JT) and FCSP (RK, S&F, TU). **Hooded Warblers** continued to thrive on the KR and at the other end of the county at FCSP, which holds the largest population in southeastern Pennsylvania south of the KR, according to eBird.

Cerulean Warbler was reported in the breeding season only on the KR. This summer one was at HRES 6/7 (KG) and 2 were heard along the APT 6/13 (SK). Lacking newly regenerating clear-cuts for breeding, **Chestnut-sided Warbler** remains scarce, with single birds reported at only two locations this summer. **Black-throated Blue Warbler**, a KR specialty, was found at HRES 7/15 (KG), where it has been regular, and along the APT 6/13 (SK). The other KR specialty is **Black-throated Green Warbler**, which is more common than the former. Up to 6 were reported around HRES in Jun and Jul (m.obs.). **Blue Grosbeaks**, singles and pairs, were reported at five locations.

Dickcissels returned to Rodale's rotationally grazed pastures and grain plots 6/2-7/22. One to 4 males singing from utility wires and fences were most often reported. The seasonal high count of 8 birds 7/7 (JH) probably included birds that moved to Rodale after hay was cut on other farms in late Jun and early Jul. For example, 3 birds were recorded along Monument Rd. near HAM 6/22 (MW) shortly before the last timothy hay fields were cut, but not after. Females were at Rodale 7/2-21 (m.obs.), but breeding was not confirmed. Elsewhere, a male sang in a weedy soybean field that had been treated with herbicide on Seidel Rd. near Windsor Castle 6/26 and 7/1 (RK). All the surrounding hayfields had been cut by then. Three birds were at that farm in 2020. A bird at BML 6/22 (JS) was probably a wanderer.

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Blair County

Locations: Bald Eagle Sportsmen Cooperative Nursery (BESCN), Plummers Hollow (PH), Reese Pond (RP).

The months of June and July saw below-average rainfall. Information was obtained primarily from eBird data, which indicated that a total of 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 by Nick Bolgiano.

A few of the highlights during this period included a single **Great Egret** in Tipton Wetlands 7/2 (JC), and a lone **Yellow-breasted Chat** along the Lower Trail 6/13 (JC). A single **White-eyed Vireo** along with 3 **Brewster's Warbler** at Frosty Hollow 7/31 (LB), and 3 **Bobolinks** reported in the fields near the Bald Eagle intersection 6/9 (MN).

On 7/10 and 7/24, members from the Juniata Valley Audubon Society conducted a grassland bird survey on SGL 198 near Gallitzin for the PGC. This is a reclaimed strip mine planted in native grasses and forbs, and the third straight year for this bird survey. Around 4.5 miles was covered with 8 hours of documented time dedicated primarily in the early morning between 6:30 to 10 a.m. There were 48 species reported with these high counts (SB, JC, LJ, MJ): 14 **Wild Turkeys** including 12 poults, one **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**, 11 **Eastern Bluebirds**, 8 **Cedar Waxwings**, 27 **Tree Swallows**, 19 **Barn Swallows**, 9 **House Wrens**, 11 **American Goldfinches**, 19 **Grasshopper Sparrows**, 4 **Chipping Sparrows**, 27 **Field Sparrows**, 6 **Eastern Meadowlarks**, 5 **Ovenbirds**, 27 **Common Yellowthroats**, one **Hooded Warbler**, 4 **Chestnut-sided Warblers**, 3 **Black-throated Green Warblers**, 20 **Indigo Buntings**, and 2 **Henslow's Sparrows**.

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 miles, 72 singing **Cerulean Warblers** were counted, compared to 67 in 2020, 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's Cerulean Warbler atlas project and covered the northern 11 miles of the trail, and 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. The table shows the 2021 Jun high counts of the common Neotropical migrants found here:

Lower Trail Species	2021 Count
Eastern Wood-Pewee	17
Acadian Flycatcher	28
Yellow-throated Vireo	7
Warbling Vireo	30
Red-eyed Vireo	63
Wood Thrush	23
Orchard Oriole	6
Baltimore Oriole	18
Worm-eating Warbler	10
Louisiana Waterthrush	6
American Redstart	65
Northern Parula	4
Yellow Warbler	5

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Bradford County – no compiler

Bucks County

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

During the month of June, temperatures were a bit warmer than usual (+1.2°F) and precipitation (-1.43 inches) a bit less than typical levels. July featured average temperatures (-0.6°F) but was a bit wetter (+1.98 inches) than usual. The total species count was 137, just below the 5-year average of 139. Historical occurrence data come from Ken Kitson's 1998 *Birds of Bucks County* and from this journal. It was another quiet year for shorebirds, but some rarities provided bits of excitement. **American Avocet**, **Anhinga**, **Least Bittern**, **Swallow-tailed Kite**, **Mississippi Kite**, and **Brown Creeper** were some of the most noteworthy species for the season. Thanks very much to Devich Farbotnik for his continued **American Kestrel** and **Purple Martin** nest monitoring, and to Hart Rufe for helping maintain one of the main martin colonies.

One **Snow Goose** was loosely associating with **Canada Geese** in Doylestown 7/4 (DL). **Mute Swan** reports were low, with only a top count of 3 at a Buckingham Twp. site 7/13 (RS). A few of the semi-frequent summer duck species were observed in the county. Single male **Ring-necked Ducks** were at NSP 6/9 through at least 6/28 (JBH) and at Churchville Park 7/3 (SM, VP, BS). The **Bufflehead** drake that lingered at PVP through the spring was last seen 6/6 (JF). An immature **Hooded Merganser** was spotted at Riegelsville along the Delaware R. 7/23, "in the vicinity of" a Wood Duck family group (EB). The peak count of 6 **Common Mergansers** was at BRD 6/9 (Mike Fournier), although ones and twos were seen at nine other locations, often along the Delaware R. (m.ob.). A crisp male **Ruddy Duck** in breeding colors was seen at PVP

6/3 (BC, AM ph.), possibly a late migrant.

Wild Turkey reports were fairly thin, similar to last summer. The largest report was of 9 at PVP 7/31 (SB). One bird in Plumstead Twp. 7/11 showed leucistic plumage, enough to give the observer pause for a closer look (BH, vt.).

One to 3 **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were reported at 25 locations throughout the county but often near the Delaware R., a typical summer distribution (m.ob.). Three widely spread sites had single **Black-billed Cuckoos**, also fairly typical in recent summers (DA, DD ph., SF, AH). While Virginia Rail went unreported, a **Sora** flushed at Pine Run Dam 7/22 may have been a dispersal/early migrant (KR).

It was another quiet summer for shorebirds, at least through Jul, with nine species total. Two **American Avocets** were among the better finds at PWT 7/1 (JH). A large flock of migrating shorebirds west of Quakertown on the evening of 6/1 contained about 500 **Dunlins** (DF), a fine count for *Bucks*. The top count of 42 **Least Sandpipers** were at BRD 7/24 (AM). Three **Semipalmated Sandpipers** at BRD 7/23 (AM) constituted the only report. As is the case in some summers, an **American Woodcock** flushed from PVP 7/15 (HD). The two **Solitary Sandpipers** that arrived at BRD 7/7 (KR) proved to be the highest report among just a few total. **Lesser Yellowlegs** was only seen at PWT 7/10 (DF), while Greater Yellowlegs was not reported at all.

The highest count of our summer **Laughing Gulls** was 330 at PWT 7/27 (AH). One injured adult **Lesser Black-backed Gull** stayed at NSP until at least 7/17 (m.ob.), while one **Great Black-backed Gull** was at PWT 7/19 (AH). Summer reports of **Ring-billed Gull** and **Herring Gull** were typical (m.ob.). Three late spring **Caspian Terns** were at PWT 6/5 (DD), while an adult at PVP 7/5 (JM) might have been a very early "fall" arrival. No other terns were observed during the period.

One of the rarest birds this season was unknown to most until well after the sighting. A competent observer described a female-type **Anhinga** over his Sellersville yard 7/10 (TB, doc. submitted, *file* BE). PORC review is pending for what would be a third county record and the first since 2008. Unusual for a small patch of habitat in June, a **Least Bittern** was heard calling just south of Quakertown 6/13-21 (DH, vr.). This may be the first summer record outside of QTS in many years, at least according to eBird data. Unfortunately, no report from the PGC was requested regarding **Great Blue Heron** rookery status. One juvenile at NSP 7/7 was seen in the middle of a pond on a hot day. The observer assumed it was cooling off, but when the bird reached shore it became clear that a snapping turtle had left it with a major foot injury. On 7/13, the observer walked right past this bird as it looked to be in subpar condition (PH, ph.). Post-breeding **Great Egrets** were reported from 18 sites, a moderately high number (m.ob.), with a high count of 11 at Rohm & Haas in Bristol 7/11 (DF). An observer watched a young **Little Blue Heron** fly in with 2 Great Egrets to PVP 7/16 for the only report (ED). The highest report of **Black-crowned Night-Herons** was of 4 at Silver Lake Park 7/21 (DD), while a juvenile was at PVP 7/11 for an uncommon park record (SS). An immature **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** at a farm pond in Haycock Twp. 7/29 (JH) was probably a dispersing bird.

It was a summer of kites in *Bucks* this year! A **Swallow-tailed Kite** flew over a Haycock Twp. yard 6/25 (DL ph., no doc.), but was never seen again. The observer managed to get a cellphone photo of this distinctive raptor, the sixth *Bucks* report. The real stars of the show were **Mississippi Kites**.

A very large June hatch of 17-year periodical cicadas in the upper county meant that the stage was set to attract any passerby **Mississippi Kites**. The party began in the beginning of summer, when an adult kite continuing from late May was seen at NSP 6/7 and 6/9 (VM). Things went rather quiet until a high flyover bird at NSP headed northeast 6/21 (PH, doc. submitted). On 6/30, the observer was heading home from a day in the field at NSP and noticed a now-familiar shape above the windshield: another kite! Within minutes, a second kite joined this one, and they both headed towards the NSP marina where they wheeled and dove for flying insects (PH, ph., doc. submitted). Over the next few days, one or both sub-adult kites could be seen feeding and soaring at the park (m.ob., ph.). Eventually it was discovered that one preferred spending the mornings at the nearby

Haycock Twp. building (VP). This show proved even better, with the bird perching and sallying out to catch cicadas from 7/4 until a final sighting on 7/10 (m.ob. ph.). Dozens of birders enjoyed this kite during its stay, and one observer even got a rare audio recording of this vagrant (AH, vr.). These birds furnished *Bucks'* first July record, with almost all previous sightings in May and June. Two had been seen for multiple days feasting on cicadas along the Delaware R. in June 2004, 17 years ago. Based on the behaviors, plumages, and timing of this summer's Mississippi Kites, it is this compiler's opinion that **four** different birds were seen in *Bucks* skies this summer. The previous record for number of sightings in a year was three. One can only wonder if we will have to wait 17 more years for an encore performance!

A new late date for **Northern Harrier** by six days occurred when a female-type was seen in Bedminster Twp. 6/10 (DF). **Broad-winged Hawk** nesting success was monitored again this summer in the upper county, thanks to trainees and a graduate student from Hawk Mountain Sanctuary. A total of 10 young fledged from 6 nests, with no known failures (PH, GL, SA). Besides these, at least 4 other pairs had territories, while upwards of 5 immatures spent the summer catching cicadas.

Just 2 **Barred Owls** in total were reported from two locations (AH, KL). The number of locations for **Red-headed Woodpeckers** was six, two of which were confirmed breeding (m.ob.). By the end of the period, a total of 11 birds (7 adults, 2 juvs., 2 unspecified) were reported, with a couple more chicks on the way (m.ob. ph.). See the table below for this summer's **American Kestrel** breeding report.

American Kestrel Project

YEAR	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
BOXES	92	88	85	77	76	71	71	70
NESTS w/EGGS	73	67	62	62	60	52	44	45
NESTS FAILED	11	9	13	10	8	3	6	8
NESTS FLEDGED	62	58	49	52	52	49	38	37
EGGS LAID	343	316	283	291	274	248	211	208
FLEDGED	239	253	~213	208	208	203	164	169

This year's success was overall good, but Devich Farbotnik described it as "kind of a strange year. New high counts on total eggs, nests with eggs and pairs successfully fledging young, but fewer total fledglings." He noted that overall nest failure, egg failure, and chick mortality were all on the higher side. One box was predated by cats, even with a 2-foot predator guard. In another instance, a tractor hitting the nest pole and an adult female being hit by a car led to 14 eggs being laid in 2 boxes, but only 2 chicks surviving. Even with all of these, the fledgling yield was still the second highest ever. In other falcon news, **Peregrine Falcon** summer reports spanned three widely spaced locations, but all had single birds (HA, RA, JBH, RS). **Common Raven** reports continued aplenty, including confirmed breeding (JBH, m.ob.).

These tables are **Purple Martin** breeding results from two monitored locations:

Purple Martin Colony-E. Rockhill

YEAR	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
GOURDS	144	143	144	144	132	134	124	124
NESTS*	134	102	137	141	126	119	121	119
NESTS w/EGGS	51	64	48	78	73	96	92	74
EGGS LAID**	260	252	209	291	273	459	388	251
EGGS HATCHED	154	129	140	180	112	364	226	N/A
FLEDGED	118	121	128	167	108	346	211	165
FAILED NESTS	14	29	12	25	37	9	25	18

Purple Martin Colony-Penn-Warner Tract

YEAR	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
COMPARTMENTS	64	60	60	60	60
NESTS*	31	34	24	56	38
NESTS w/EGGS	22	22	14	27	29
EGGS LAID**	77	53	71	96	90
EGGS HATCHED	40	44	?	47	41
FLEDGED	40	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.

Unfortunately, the E. Rockhill Twp. colony had its second-worst year in terms of martin chicks fledged. This was despite fairly high numbers of eggs laid and hatched. No detailed summary was given this year as to what may have caused this (DF, HR). The PWT colony was about average in terms of production, even with a few extra gourds this year (DF).

Zero **Bank Swallow** colonies were reported, although a few birds were seen either in late Jun or early Jul that were from unknown colonies (PH, AH). **Cliff Swallow** continues in pockets as a Delaware R. breeder (m.ob.). The top count at PVP was just 20 on 6/7 (KI), while a decent count of 36 at MKF 7/27 (RS) likely represented dispersing birds and early migrants. **Brown Creepers** were historically a breeding species here, but a northward range shift has made them very rare for years now. Our last summer report was in 2016 (EB). Surprisingly, breeding was confirmed in W. Rockhill Twp. 6/6 and 6/8 by good photos of one of the adults and the nest (JDL ph., JaDL ph.).

Only one site had **Grasshopper Sparrow** reported, the typical Van Sant Airport location, however, decent numbers were present with one to 4 birds there 7/16 (m.ob.). It was unclear if other sites did not have any as last year birds were at five sites, or if coverage was low. One lingering **White-throated Sparrow** was at PVP 6/8 (SS), typical of most years. **Savannah Sparrow's** two locations were identical to last year, with fledglings present at one site 7/4 (RS). The **Yellow-breasted Chat** that sang through the spring at NSP was still present 6/21 (PH, m.ob.). **Bobolink** breeding locations were six plus three post-breeding sites, with varying degrees of success (m.ob.). The **Eastern Meadowlark** site count was better than last year's, coming in at seven sites (m.ob.).

Representation was quite low for breeding warblers, with just 12 species detected. We may be losing Hooded Warbler as a breeding species at SGL 157, this being the third year in a row with no reports from this formerly reliable location. Sadly, the only reported **Prothonotary Warbler** male was found dead along the road at Churchville Park 7/10 after singing through the summer with no apparent mate (BG). A surprisingly early **Black-throated Green Warbler** at Churchville Park 7/31 set a new fall early date by six days (SF). **Blue Grosbeak** held steady, with a pair at MKF through the season (RS) and 2 at PWT 7/31 (DD, ph.).

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Butler County

Locations: Glade Run Lake (GRL), Lake Arthur (LA), Moraine State Park (MSP), North Shore Road of Lake Arthur (NS).

After drought conditions through the 2020 summer season, almost three inches of rain was recorded this season. Rain showers brought down some early shorebirds, but the surprises of the season included a **White Ibis** photographed near Cleveland-Cliffs (formerly known as Armco Steel) just south of the City of Butler and a **Willet** photographed at L. Arthur 7/1.

Four species of duck were confirmed successfully breeding in *Butler* this season: **Wood Duck**, **Mallard**, **Hooded Merganser**, and **Common Merganser**. Wood Duck broods were seen in at least six different locations while Mallard was successful in at least four and probably many more unreported. A hen Hooded Merganser with 3 young was noted at the Waterfowl Observation Area 6/20 (KS) and a hen with 7 ducklings was seen at South Shore 6/24 (TC). A hen Common Merganser was seen with 5 young near Lernerville 7/20 (CB).

An **American Black Duck** at L. Oneida was seen once 6/28 but not reported again. Lingering migrants included a "**Scaup Sp.**" at Moraine SP 6/25 (MC) as well as 9 **Ruddy Ducks** at North Shore 6/1 and 3 there 6/8 (DK, MC). A late **Pied-billed Grebe** remained at Glade Run L. until at least 6/2 (DF).

Eighteen reports of **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** outnumbered **Black-billed Cuckoo** reports 9 to 1. Single **Common Nighthawks** were noticed at Jackson Twp. 6/15 (DK) and near Chicora 6/22 (KB), while lone **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were reported from Hooker 6/22-23 (KB, MC) and near Thompson/Swope Road 7/26 (KB). **Virginia Rail**, **Sora**, and **Common Gallinule** were all seen at their usual haunt, SGL 95 (KB, OM), but no confirmation of breeding was reported. **Sandhill Cranes** were enjoyed at three locations: near West Liberty, at SGL 95, and MSP (m.ob.). Successful breeding was again confirmed.

Predictably, shorebirds were not plentiful with 11 species reported: **Killdeer** (resident breeder), **Least Sandpiper**, **Pectoral Sandpiper**, **Semipalmated Sandpiper**, **American Woodcock** (resident breeder), **Wilson's Snipe**, **Spotted Sandpiper** (resident breeder), **Solitary Sandpiper**, **Greater Yellowlegs**, **Willet**, and **Lesser Yellowlegs**. Some were probably late birds flying north such as one **Semipalmated Sandpiper** seen at Brewer Road 6/6 (MD). Most of the other migrant shorebirds arrived during the last 10 days of Jul. Many would agree that these were birds on their way to wintering grounds. However, very unusual was a **Willet** photographed in flight at L. Arthur 7/1 (MC) and a **Least Sandpiper** seen at Brewer Road 7/8 (DB). Were these early-Jul birds coming or going? This question was raised by F. W. Preston and colleagues during his historic studies of birds of *Butler* in the 1950s and has been discussed, but not settled, since then.

Unusual here in summer, a **Bonaparte's Gull** in breeding plumage was photographed at Crescent Bay 7/19 (MC), and one (the same bird?) was seen the next day at NS (MC). Three were photographed near the 528 Bridge 7/29 (MC). Often numbering up to 600 in the winter season, **Ring-billed Gull** numbers increased from very few in spring to 69 at LA by the end of Jul. **Herring Gull** was scarce, only seen a few times at LA. All four tern species that frequent LA dropped in as singles or pairs, most frequently in Jun, all at NS (MC). **Caspian Tern** was at NS 6/29 and 7/15, **Black Tern** 6/7, **Common Tern** 6/17-18 and 7/14, and **Forster's Tern** 6/1, 6/7 and 6/15 (MC).

One **Common Loon** found good fishing at LA and remained until at least 6/8 (KB). Wandering **Great Egrets** graced LA 6/3, 6/25-27, 7/19 (MC, DK). Part of a large movement of southern wading birds into West Virginia, Maryland, Delaware and Pennsylvania was a wandering **White Ibis**. While most reports were from along the coast, a few wandered as far as Harrisburg and Lancaster, so the *Butler* bird was clearly an outlier, along with one bird that reached eastern Ohio (possibly the same bird after comparing photos on eBird). The juvenile bird grazed in a field for several days near Cleveland-Cliffs 7/22 (MB). This is a spectacular first *Butler* record. Several neighbors of the observer saw the bird, but birders searching for several days were disappointed.

Osprey and **Bald Eagles** successfully raised broods at LA and

SGL 95 (m.ob.). Known as a very local breeder in just a few areas in *Butler*, a **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was seen at Pry Road 7/10 (BB). Continuing a trend in recent years, sightings of **Red-headed Woodpeckers** are increasing with reports from nine different locations (m.ob.). **Common Raven** was reported only once in Jun, then seemed to vanish until the last ten days of Jul. Are they like some other species that seem to disappear for a few weeks while tending fledglings? Some observers would like to confirm breeding in *Butler*.

Two **Bank Swallows** were spotted at Stoughton Road ponds 7/10 (MC), and an estimated 20 were seen flying into holes in a quarry bank 7/24 (DG, GG). The **Cliff Swallow** colony on the Rt. 528 Bridge over LA is thriving with 84 nests counted and a conservative estimate of 100 birds 7/10 (RN). Sadly, it seems like an annual event lately that an unfortunate swallow falls victim to discarded fishing line.

A pair of **Dark-eyed Juncos** spotted at Kiester Road 6/8 (BB) might have been late migrants, but the species has confirmed breeding in more remote sections of northern *Butler*. **Yellow-breasted Chat** was reported intermittently through the season, all near or in SGL 95 (m. ob.). Nineteen warbler species were tallied during the season. The most frequently seen warbler species, by a large margin, included **Common Yellowthroat**, **Hooded Warbler**, and **Yellow Warbler**. Warblers only reported once included **Northern Parula** at NS 6/24 (MC), **Blackburnian Warbler** seen at Branchton Road 6/8 (BB), and **Prairie Warbler** near Karns City 6/1 (KB).

Observers: **Oscar Miller**, aoscarmiller3@gmail.com, (412) 855-0483, Brendyn Baptiste, Kimberly Berry, Christina Bossung, Melissa Bulfone, Dave Brooke, Martin Carlin, Thomas Connor, Linda Croskey, Michael David, David Fowler, Deborah Grove, Greg Grove, Deborah Kalbfleisch, Mary Alice Koeneke, Glenn Koppel, Chris Kubiak, Richard Nugent, Kathy Saunders, Mark Vass, Dan Weeks, Gene Wilhelm, Joanne Wilhelm.

Cambria County

Locations: Prince Gallitzin State Park (PG).

Rufous Hummingbird was by far the most impressive sighting this season, visiting a home feeder since around Memorial Day and continuing through July at a private residence in Johnstown (AB, TA). The bird has been photographed and documented by an avian ecologist. According to eBird, this is a first county record.

A single **Black Tern** made a brief appearance at PG 7/13 (DG). The three nest boxes at PG produced 13 young **American Kestrels** (DG). Four **Merlin** fledglings were reported at a private residence in Cambria County 8/2 with photographs included (BP). It was a very good year for **Purple Martin**, but a final number of fledglings has not been determined yet (DG). A high count of 15 **Savannah Sparrows** was reported at Gallitzin SF - Babcock Mine Area 6/19 (JH). A high count of 5 **Prairie Warblers** was reported at SGL 108 near Fallentimber 6/3 (MD).

Observers: **Tina Alianiello 309 Liberty Ave., Cresson, PA 16630**, tina.alianiellogmail.com, Anonymous Birder, Michael David, Dave Gobert, Josh Houck, Brett Probert.

Cameron County

Locations: Cameron (CAM), Driftwood (DR), Mason Hill (MH), Quehanna Wild Area (QWA), Sinnemahoning (SIN), Sinnemahoning State Park (SSP), Sterling Run (SR), Sterling Run Mines (SRM), Wycoff Run (WR).

There were 106 species were found this season. Ten **Mallards** were at SSP 7/31 (TB) and 5 **Hooded Mergansers** were there 6/19 (SM). Twenty-three **Common Mergansers** were at SIN 7/5 (DT). Four **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were seen at MH 7/13 (CA) and 3 **Black-billed Cuckoos** were found there 6/24 (AS). An **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was heard at WR 6/28 (CP). A **Solitary Sandpiper** and a **Double-crested Cormorant** were at SSP 7/31 (TB). An **Osprey** was seen outside Emporium 6/12 (JS).

An **Acadian Flycatcher** was at WR 7/17 (AB). Four **Warbling Vireos** were at MH 7/13 (CA). Six **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were at SSP 7/5 (SS), and 20 **Cliff Swallows** were there 6/20 (AM). One **Golden-crowned Kinglet** and a **Brown Creeper** were at SSP 6/19 (SM, RH). A **Winter Wren** was at QWA 6/18 (MH). Twenty-seven **Cedar Waxwings** were at SSP 6/19 (SM, RH). Three **Purple Finches** were at QWA 7/4 (AM). A single **Pine Siskin** was at SR 6/20 (BH). Eleven **Grasshopper Sparrows**, five **Field Sparrows**, and a **Savannah Sparrow** were at SRM 6/12 and 7/3 (AS, JS). Two **Bobolinks** were there 6/22 (MJ), as were 9 **Eastern Meadowlarks** 7/3 (AS).

Two **Worm-eating Warblers** were at SSP 7/17 (AB). A **Louisiana Waterthrush** was at WR 7/17 (AB). A **Blue-winged Warbler** was at SSP 6/15 (DB), and 3 **Cerulean Warblers** were there 6/19 (SM). Two **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were at QWA 7/4 (AM). A **Prairie Warbler** was at MH 6/20 (AT). Two **Canada Warblers** were at QWA 6/17 (MH).

Observers: **Mark Johnson, 72 Mason Grove, Driftwood, Pa 15832, 814-546-2886, luckybirder@gmail.com**, Chris Allebach, Adam Bartles, Dave Brooke, Tom Buehler, Rebecca Hart, Bill Hendrickson, Marsha Hendrickson, Alan MacEachren, Steve Manns, Chris Payne, Susan Schenk, Joe Sebastiani, Andrew Sidelinger, Eric Stafford, Daniele Tate, Anthony Travia.

Carbon County -- no report

Centre County

Locations: Bald Eagle State Park (BESP), Black Moshannon State Park (BMSP), Fairbrook wetland (FAIR), PennDOT remediation ponds on Route 220 west of Julian (JUL), Scotia Barrens and Pond (SCO), State College (STC).

The following species were reported in five or more locations and will not be discussed further in this report: **Common Merganser**, **Great Egret**, **Osprey**, and **Northern Waterthrush**. 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*).

Area birders encountered a few rare summer ducks, including an **American Black Duck** at FAIR 7/30 (KE). Single **Hooded Mergansers** were spotted in the Sinking Cr. area 6/3 (LR) and JUL 7/1 (MN). One **Ruddy Duck** was noted at BESP 6/5 (SB).

A lucky birder found at least 4 fledgling **Virginia Rails** at BMSP 6/7; they were "about half the size of an adult" (RR). One was present at Bear Meadows NA 6/12 (JG), and 3 were observed there 6/23 (BY). Another was spotted at JUL 6/12 (MN). One **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was spotted at FAIR 7/30 (KE). Two birders reported a **Common Tern** along Tadpole Rd. 6/7 (SP, JK).

A "nonbreeding or juvenile" **Common Loon** was found at BESP 6/14 (MC, DR). Up to 5 **Double-crested Cormorants**, probably late migrants, were identified at BESP 6/1-26 (DRy, et al.). Single birds were spotted in Pine Grove Mills 7/17 (JK) and flying at BESP 7/24 (BS). One **Barn Owl** was heard along Rte. 45 near the Penn State Horticulture Research Farm 7/18 (LC). At the known nest site off Paradise Rd., up to 4, some adults, some juv., were spotted on different occasions between 6/14-7/28 (MC, et al.).

Falconers have confirmed the first **Merlin** nest in [Centre] ... Three chicks have hatched." At the request of the property owner, the nest location is not given (NBg). Observations between 2017-2019 suggested the possibility of one or more pairs nesting in the southern part of the county; however, a single bird was also seen in SGL 100 - German Settlement Grasslands in June 2012.

There were four reports of **Golden-crowned Kinglets**. The first report came from the Poe Valley CCC Camp 6/5, where 2 were found (JG). Two more were observed on Treaster Kettle Rd. 6/20 (EZ). One was heard in the Bald Eagle SF at Poe Mtn. Tower-Mountain Church Rd. 7/1 (JG) and one was at Bell's Majestic View in the Bald Eagle SF 7/9 (DH, JM). Two thrush species were observed only through Nocturnal

Flight Counts (NFC) in STC. Counts between 6/2-4 produced one to 2 **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** each evening. **Swainson's Thrushes** were recorded 6/1-13, with up to 14 reported each evening, and during the period 7/21-28 only a single Swainson's Thrush was noted each evening (all JG).

Eight **Red Crossbills**, 7 identified as "Sitka Spruce or type 10," were identified at three locations on a Red-breasted Nuthatch count route on Pine Swamp Rd. and the Millheim Siglerville Pike 6/5 (JG). A single **Pine Siskin** was observed partaking of the feeder and bird bath amenities in a STC yard 6/1 (AW). A **White-crowned Sparrow** was heard singing in a tree in STC 6/4 (JG). The species had not previously been reported during the summer months. One **Henslow's Sparrow** was recorded along Mountain Rd. 6/1 (JP).

Mourning Warbler was spotted at SCO 6/6 (JC). Another was heard at an STC NFC 6/8 (JG), and a third was heard singing along the Bellefonte Central Rail Trail 6/12 (SG, CM). One **Kentucky Warbler** was observed on Bear Meadows Rd. 6/2 (SPi). The first summer report of a **Cape May Warbler** came in STC 6/5, recorded at an NFC (JG).

Observers: **N. Butkovich, njbutkovich@verizon.net**, Sara Becker, Nick Bolgiano (NBg), Martin Carlin, John Carter, Lyle Clark, Kurt Engstrom, Sarang Gopalakrishnan, Joe Gyekis, Deborah Hansen, Jon Kauffman, Jim McConnell, Calista McRae, Mark Nale, Scott Parkhill, Susan Pigott (SPi), Julia Plummer, Larry Ramsey, Debra Rittelman, Ron Rovanseck, Dave Ryan (DRy), Bob Snyder, Amber Wiewel, Beth Young, Eric Zawatski.

Chester County

Locations: Bucktoe Creek Preserve (BCP), ChesLen Preserve (CLP), Exton Park (EP), Glenville Farm Pond (GFP), Goat Hill Serpentine Barrens (GH), Great Marsh (GM), Homestead Road (HR), Marsh Creek State Park (MCSP), Octorara Reservoir (OCTR).

This season's major weather event was Hurricane Elsa that formed unusually early in the season and reached the northeast on July 8-9. The eye of the storm stayed off the New Jersey coast as it passed. Waders dispersed on time, including a Roseate Spoonbill that spent a short time in *Chester*, and shorebirds began to come south.

A single male **American Wigeon** spent the entire season at EP, where it was seen and photographed by many, while a **Northern Pintail** was reported from OCTR 7/6-25 (LL). Another single male duck, a **Ring-necked Duck**, spent some time at OCTR, mostly reported from *Lancaster*, but reported from *Chester* (PM) on several occasions. While reportedly breeding along the Schuylkill R. and Perkiomen Cr., the only report of **Common Merganser** for *Chester* of a family group of 10 came from White Clay Cr. Preserve - Big Elk Cr. 7/16 (MH). After previously being extirpated from the state, the common merganser regained its nesting status in Pennsylvania and *Chester* since the 1950s. Behind **Mallard** and **Wood Duck**, it is the third most widespread breeding duck in the state. An imm. **Ruddy Duck** was a one-day visitor at Chambers L. 7/3 (RR). Similarly, a **Pied-billed Grebe** was at GM 7/19 (JK, DK), and a **Horned Grebe** "just emerging into breeding plumage with yellow-orange ear tufts" was reported from Struble L. 6/6 (LL).

After none in June, several reports of vocalizing **Black-billed Cuckoos** were reported in July. The status of these as breeding birds in *Chester* seems unclear. Several reports of late migrating **Common Nighthawks** were made in early June. **Eastern Whip-poor-will** reports were restricted to the last known breeding location in *Chester*, GH; a max. of 3 were heard calling from this spot 6/2-7/6 (m.ob.). A juv. **Virginia Rail** was photographed at CLP 6/19 (AC), with a subsequent report from the same locale 6/23 (BBr); no reports were submitted from GM this year. Another wetlands bird, **Sora**, was reported as heard also at CLP 6/6 (AL).

A flock of 15 flyover **Black-bellied Plovers** was reported from La Reserve near Unionville 6/2 (KN, EN). This sighting is unusual due to it not being from either BCP or GFP. During the annual Shorebird and Kite Watch at BCP 6/6, 250 **Ruddy Turnstones** and 30 **Red Knots** were observed along with 600 unidentified shorebird species (LL, m.ob.) as they departed from Delaware Bay on their way north. On 7/25, GFP

hosted a good assortment of species: max. of 130 **Least Sandpiper** (m.ob.), max of 9 **Semipalmated Sandpiper** (m.ob.), one **Long-billed Dowitcher** first reported in the morning (BB, m.ob.), and 2 **Greater Yellowlegs** (BB, ZB). Also reported were **Spotted Sandpiper** and **Lesser Yellowlegs**. A single Lesser Yellowlegs was found at MCSP 7/30 (CH). Other good finds at GFP included a **Pectoral Sandpiper** 7/30 (ZB) that stayed for 2 days, and a **Stilt Sandpiper** 7/30 (RR, SB) for one day only.

Three parking lot gulls, also known as **Ring-billed Gulls**, showed up at Exton Wal-mart 7/20 (CB). Staying one day only, a **Black Tern** was reported at Struble L. 6/4 (LL), then seen by several others, and a **Common Tern**, not at all common away from the coast at MCSP 6/13 (LL, AB). A flyover, mildly late, adult **Common Loon** was seen from a home in northern Chester (JW, PW), while an imm. bird spent a week at MCSP 6/1-8, where it was reported by several birders. The majority of summer reports are of immature birds.

The "coo-coo-coo" of **Least Bittern** continued to be heard from CLP, with reports submitted on several dates in June, with the last 7/4. Unlike the bird that was present at EP in 2020, this bird had not been photographed or even seen. A single report came from MCSP 7/14 (AB), where the observation was made from boat. An endangered species in PA, the last documented report of successful nesting in *Chester*, is from 2012, at an undisclosed site. With the completion of nesting season, waders, both adult and their offspring, dispersed throughout the region. **Great Egret** was first reported with a single bird at EP 6/22 (JD); many followed with a max of 8 at MCSP 7/14 and 7/25 (m.ob.). MCSP was also the site of this period's only **Snowy Egret** report 7/14 (BB). The period's first **Little Blue Heron** was reported at 7/12 OCTR (LL), where a max of 4 were reported 7/25 (PM). Wal-mart shoppers were in for a treat when 2 imm. **Little Blue Herons** were found frequenting the Oxford Wal-mart Wetlands, first reported 7/14 (BQ). But the sighting bonanza for "Little Blue" was an eye-opening 10 imm. birds photographed in flight over EP 7/18 (JD). The imbedded photo, when magnified, clearly shows the identification characteristic of very small black tips on the outer primaries. Very cool. At the start of the Valley Forge Audubon Society's Summer Bird Count 6/5, 2 adult **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were seen flying over the trail at French Creek Trail (JW, PW); another 2 adults were photographed at dusk at OCTR 7/16 (JK, AD). Single adult birds were also reported 7/18 and 7/25.

And then there was **Roseate Spoonbill**. On 7/12, late morning, a bird was observed from Mt Eden Rd. (LL, m.ob.) When originally found the bird was in flight to the extent that it had entered *Chester*. Later that afternoon, when the bird left the *Lancaster* spot where it spent most of the day, it was seen in flight along the Rt. 472 causeway (JK), thereby accounting for the two *Chester* sighting of this species. This bird was just one of many Spoonbills that invaded the northern states. During this unprecedented incursion, Roseate Spoonbills were reported from as far north as Coos, New Hampshire, 7/31, and southern Illinois to the west, also 7/31. Only time will tell to where these dazzling, large, pink, spoon-billed waders went, and why they did so.

The Shorebird and Kite Watch at BCP produced the first and its only **Mississippi Kite** report of the period 6/6 (LL, m.ob.); at a location near Paoli, a period high count of 6 birds was reported, wherein the birds were flying high and feeding on cicadas (LJ). A bit further south, on 6/12 and 6/13, one and 2 birds respectively were observed near a residence (AM). The last report was made in the same general area 7/4 (IS). Not far away to the south, in *Cecil*, Maryland, and *New Castle*, Delaware, many birds were being seen with as many as 9 in one report, throughout the month of Jun. The cicada emergence that began in May and was expected to last 4 to 6 weeks, to about the end of Jun, matches very nicely with the number of kite reports.

Back on 4/29, a **Red-headed Woodpecker** was reported from an Avondale residence (KS), calling and eating peanut butter and peanuts. Well, this bird continued into summer, through at least 7/21. On 6/12 a Red-headed Woodpecker was observed along Beaver Dam Rd near Honey Brook (BB). Not far to the north, an adult was seen flying through the trees at Struble L. 7/6 (AB). By July 10, successful nesting was confirmed at Beaver Dam. (m.ob.). **American Kestrel** reports were

widespread. **Peregrine Falcon** successfully nested again this year along the Schuylkill R. Trail, with 2 chicks confirmed. While confirmed independently by others as well, breeding success was highlighted during the PSO Breeding Bird Blitz, conducted 6/18.

Single reports were submitted for **Alder Flycatcher** singing the "beer song": one Reeceville Rd Mudflats 6/2 (AB) at and the other along the French Creek Trail 6/5 (JW, PW). Nice to hear these uncommon empids on their way to more northern breeding grounds. **Common Raven** sightings continue to become more common; a group of 3 was reported at CLP 7/30 (MN). At Okehocking Preserve on 7/4, one **Bank Swallow** and one **Cliff Swallow** were reported (BQ). One to 3 Bank Swallows were also reported from HR, MCSP and GFP during July. Local birders reported known nesting locations. Another Cliff Swallow made an appearance near Chadds Ford 7/14 (RF).

The lone **Purple Finch** reports came from OCTR 6/4 and 6/6, presumably the same bird, which was likely pondering where everybody went! Successful nesting by the grassland birds was documented. A group of 4 **Grasshopper Sparrows**, including 2 young, was along HR 6/15 (AB). Sightings of the species were reported throughout Jun into early Jul from multiple locations with suitable habitat (m.ob.). This same area provided sightings of **Savannah Sparrow**, known to nest here (m.ob.). Unlike the Grasshopper Sparrow, Savannah sparrow is known to nest in alfalfa fields. **Horned Lark** with young was noted as well (m.ob.)

Whether it is his striking plumage, his disjointed flight path, or the odd variety of sounds that he produces, the **Yellow-breasted Chat** is a bird that cannot help but please. Always fun to see, this year many reports came from GH, a location that experienced heavy visitation. Reports of one to 2 **Bobolinks** came from a few places, but the area of Wilson Rd Pond accounted for most, with a max of 25 on 6/1 (LL). Here and adjacent grasslands have also been a good location for **Eastern Meadowlark**, where a max of 7 was reported also on 6/1 (LL, m.ob.).

Worm-eating Warbler was reported from the northern part of the county at SGL 43 and nearby Great Marsh and the southwest part at GH. An early **Northern Waterthrush** was reported from Binky Lee Preserve 7/31 (SB). The single **Kentucky Warbler** report came from SGL 43 on 6/23 (AB). **Hooded Warbler** numbers were impressive from SGL 43 and GM. Also from the northern tier came the lone report of a **Chestnut-sided Warbler** 6/24 (BB). **Yellow-throated Warbler** continued at Kerr Park in Downingtown, where it has been recorded since 2010. All sightings note one bird only. A late **Black-throated Green Warbler** was heard singing 6/13 (ZB).

The male **Summer Tanager**, first found 5/22, continued throughout the summer here (m.ob.). Despite its persistent efforts to entice a mate, observed singing through at least 7/25, this bird apparently spent the nesting season alone. Would you return next year? **Blue Grosbeak** is yet another species that is most reported from GH (m.ob.). **Dickcissel**, or black-throated bunting as it was once known, is rarely seen from *Chester*. This period reports came from two locations. One was Wilson Road Pond, where a bird was found 6/1-4 (LL, m.ob.). On the next day, a report came from Laurel Preserve, slightly to the northeast. The other was HR, where a bird was photographed 6/15 (BB.) and last reported 7/8.

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Clarion County

Locations: Armstrong Trail (AT), Beaver Creek Nature Area (BC), Clarion (CL), Cook Forest (CF), Curllsville (CV), Kahle Lake (KL), Mount Airy (MA), Mount Zion/Piney Tract/SGL 330 (MZ), New Bethlehem (NB), Redbank Valley Trail (RVT), Sarah Furnace (SF).

Ruffed Grouse continue to be reported sparsely and this season was no exception with a single bird seen at MZ 6/18 (ME, LS) and 6/20 (GK, MK) and one found near Snyderburg 7/11 (ES). In Strattanville, a **Eurasian Collared-Dove** was first reported 6/12 (R&TGS), providing the first county record. It was seen throughout June and last noted 7/16 (m.ob.). This location is in town with the bird frequenting a bird feeder and yard area, as well as heard singing in nearby trees and on rooftops. Only a single sighting of **Common Nighthawk** was submitted, a bird heard calling at night near the CL mall area 7/17 (ES). For the first time, no reports of **Upland Sandpiper** were had from MA, their normal stronghold, as land use changes there have decreased the available habitat. The only sighting was a single bird at MZ 6/6 (BD, EL).

Sanderlings are not often reported, so one at KL was worthy of note, already headed south 7/26 (BK). **Spotted Sandpipers** were noted with more frequency at the end of the season, as birds began migration. In the south, one was at NB 7/17 (J&AK), and one nearby at Leatherwood 7/23 (BR). Three were also found along the river at CF and 4 nearby at Gravel Lick 7/25 (ES).

Northern Harriers were noted in just four locations. A male was seen near Callensburg 6/4 (MH), and then one near West Freedom 6/15 (MC). At MZ, a bird was present 6/5 (m.ob.), and then seen on four other occasions 6/15-6/22 (MHi, RH, TR, MS, SS, et al.). A single bird was also seen at MA 6/23 (KD, BG, DK, KS, KSt). **Bald Eagles** are not nearly as unusual as in past years, but a nesting area with no recent reporting was found with 2 adults and one young bird near the nest along the Clarion R. near CF 7/25 (ES).

A **Great Horned Owl** was seen near CV on the morning of 6/20, near where fledgling **Eastern Screech-Owls** had been active at dusk and dawn. Blood and feathers consistent with a young screech-owl were found nearby, and several days later one young owl was seen with a wound to its wing. (CW). **Barred Owls** are present in the county but infrequently reported, and just one sighting was noted, one seen perched near Fryburg 6/5 (ES).

There were two sightings of **Red-headed Woodpeckers**, the least reported woodpecker by far. The first was one seen in a Fryburg yard 6/6 (PC), and the second near Wolfs Corners 6/17 (JHo, SB). **American Kestrels** are present in small numbers but they benefit from assistance with nesting cavities, and a pair near Lickingville took advantage of a new box placed in open farm fields, where 4 eggs were found 6/6 (ES). **Merlins** continued their presence during breeding months but nesting was not confirmed. A pair was seen calling and active in an area of CL with many tall spruce and pine 6/12 and 6/19 (ES), and also reported by another observer in the area on several occasions (TS).

Alder Flycatchers were found in two locations, all likely still migrants on their way north. One was calling near MZ 6/5 (GK, MK) and also found there 6/16 (MS, SS). A bird was also found singing at BC 6/16 (MS, SS). **Least Flycatchers** are present mostly in northern Clarion, but one was at MA 6/5 (DB). Only one **White-eyed Vireo** was reported, singing on the AT near East Brady 7/20 (CW). A **Yellow-throated Vireo**

was found singing at this location on the same date, and one was also at an unusual location near CV, away from water where they are usually found, 6/7 (CW). Two were also reported in their more typical location on the AT near SF 6/12 and 6/18 (CW), and singles 6/23 (KD, BG, DK, KS, KSt) and 7/18 (MD).

Horned Larks are not often reported in summer, but one was found in possible nesting habitat at MA 6/5 (GK, MK). **Purple Martins** were reported nesting at a newer location near Fryburg, with 23 active nests in 36 units, and 110 total eggs counted 6/21 (JR *vide* ES). Two were also seen at BC 6/16 (MS, SS). **Bank Swallows** are not commonly reported, but 4 were present at MZ 6/20 (GK, MK), and 2 at NB along Redbank Cr. 6/25 (EP).

Golden-crowned Kinglets typically only nest in the northern border areas of CF, but one was found near NB along the RVT 7/17 (J&AK) where some breeding habitat is present. **Red-breasted Nuthatches** have also typically nested only around CF, but have occasionally bred in pine plantation areas in the south, where one was calling in this type of habitat at MZ 7/7 (ES). The only summer finch report of note was a single **Pine Siskin** at a feeder in CL 6/26 where there was some nesting habitat present, but was not seen thereafter to confirm any breeding success (ES).

Clay-colored Sparrows have shown definite decline in numbers over the past six years, and they were only documented in one location this year with 2 singing males first found near MZ 7/5 (DM, BRo). Two were found on location and singing 7/11 (DD, CW) and 7/12 (ES). Their preferred habitat of overgrown scrubby fields, most commonly reclaimed strip mines, is still present throughout southern Clarion, but population has been difficult to measure without more birder efforts at locating birds. As succession slowly changes these fields, and increasing human use of this habitat, this might be a possible cause of the decline in reported numbers. In spring there was a concern with decline in **Henslow's Sparrows** but, as the season progressed, numbers at MZ and in other strongholds for this grassland species were typical of most past years, and they continue to appear to have no significant population change at present. This species has been most typically present south of I-80, but this year one was found singing in a reclaimed strip mine area near Snyderburg 6/6 and was present 7/11 (ES).

Yellow-breasted Chats are another habitat specialist that prefer similar areas to Clay-colored Sparrows. They were once again present in their typical stronghold at CV strips with 3 birds found 6/5-6/23 (BG, DK, GK, MK, KS, et al.) and one still there 7/21 (CA, NA, KA). One was also reported at MZ 6/18 (ME, LS), and 2 birds were singing in a new location near CV with similar habitat 6/2-7/6 (CW).

There were just four sightings of **Worm-eating Warbler**, with the first on the RVT 6/10 (CW), and the rest found at SF with 4 present 6/12, one 6/18 (CW), and one there 7/18 (MD). The best report of **Louisiana Waterthrush** was a nest near Miola, something rarely found, with at least 4 very young birds 6/3 (ES). It was located in a large forested area along a run leading to the Clarion R. Other sightings were all in southern riparian areas, with 3 found at SF 6/12 (CW) and 2 there 7/18 (MD). Two were heard on the RVT 6/10 (CW), and one on the RVT Sligo spur late in the season 7/28 (MHi, RH, FM). Only a single **Kentucky Warbler** was reported, a bird found near SF 7/4 (MD). **Cerulean Warblers** were reported from CF for a change, with 3 found 7/4 (JB). One was found in their typical area at RVT 6/10 (CW), and also 3 to 5 birds at SF 6/12, 6/18 (CW), with one remaining 7/4 and 7/18 (MD). **Northern Parulas** continued to be found almost exclusively on the northern and southern borders, with birds reported in three locations just south of CF along the river, 6/3, 6/10, and 7/5 (ES). In the south they were reported on the RVT 6/10 and at SF 6/12 (CW).

Blackburnian Warblers are a species of the cool northern forest, but one was found this season in a remaining patch of appropriate hemlock habitat along Canoe Cr. near Knox 7/10 (DR). **Black-throated Blue Warblers** are another species more typically found north, but one was heard singing in habitat with rhododendron and mountain laurel stands near SF 6/12 (CW). **Pine Warblers** have been confirmed breeding in Clarion before but in very limited numbers and are habitat specific. One was in the pine plantation areas of MZ 6/22 (MHi, RH) and again 7/2 (GV). At CF where they are normally present most years, they

were again found 6/12 (LB), 6/24 (HG, KN), and 2 on 7/4 (JB).

The most unusual occurrence of the season was the movement of **Dickcissels** into the area, last seen in 2017. A singing male was first reported near West Freedom 6/13 (DD, CW), and continued with up to 2 other singing males through 7/4 (m.ob.). Another singing male was found on Rankin Rd near CV 6/17 (DD, CW), and continued along with a second singing male there by 6/26 (MD, JH, T&JK, MM, ES). Both males were last seen with a possible female bird 7/2 (KZ). In another area nearby, a singing male was found at a cut hayfield 6/27 (ST), and a report of 2 singing males was also received from MZ 6/18 (ME, LS). Unfortunately, no further reports were received to confirm any type of nesting activity for this species.

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Clearfield County

Locations: DuBois Reservoir (DBR), Treasure Lake (TL).

Personal communication was supplemented by information from the PABirds listserv and eBird for this report. As many as 3 **Ruffed Grouse** were seen at multiple locations: along the DuBois/Rockton Road 6/8 (DR), near Frenchville 7/8 (JD), and near Rockton 7/3 (PS). A single **Common Nighthawk** was seen and heard at TL 6/4 (DR). An **American Avocet** was photographed at the DBR 6/6 (JS et al.).

Once again, **Osprey** had a successful breeding season with 2 adults and 2 immature birds seen at the nest platform at the Shaggers Inn Shallow Water Impoundment 7/5 (DG). A single Osprey was seen at the DBR 6/6 (SB, JH). An adult **Red-Headed Woodpecker** was seen at TL 7/12 (DR). A vocal group of 5 **Merlins** were seen in Curwensville 7/25 (JS).

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Clinton County

Locations: Beech Creek (BC), Mackeyville (MV), Mill Hall (MH).

Both county **Osprey** nests at BC and MH produced 2 young (BS, C&CH, WL). A recently fledged **Peregrine Falcon**, likely from the local nest site, was observed near McElhatten 7/2 (WM). On 6/7 a **Wilson's Snipe** was flushed from a wooded wet area west of Lock Haven (WL). **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were observed near MV 6/7 (C&CH, MS, SS), in MH 6/11 (JH), near MV 7/1 (C&CH), and in BC 7/24 (KE).

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Columbia County

Location: Rolling Hills Deer Farm (RHDF).

Summer is always a slow season, and in a lightly birded county like *Columbia*, reports were few and far between. Weather this season included average temperatures with above-average rainfall. A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was reported at RHDF 6/17 (KH). This species has been reported at this location in previous years, so it is possible that the farm is a breeding location. Unfortunately, the site has limited access so it has been difficult to bird there.

Observers: **Andy Keister**, 110 Hawk Ridge Road, Bloomsburg, 17815, (570) 337-3802, akeister110@gmail.com, Karen Hardy (KH).

Crawford County

Locations: Conneaut Lake Area (CONL), Conneaut Marsh (CONM); Geneva (GEN), McMichael Road (MMR); Hartstown Area (HAR), Hartstown Marsh (HM), Meadville (MDV), Pymatuning Area (PYMA), Pymatuning State Park (PSP): Ford Island (FOR), Hartstown Project (HP), Miller's Ponds (MP), Spillway (SPL).

Observations of **Trumpeter Swan**, particularly in the summer season, are scarce in *Crawford*, so the reports of 2 birds in HAR 6/5 and 4 also in HAR 6/7 (JH) are especially notable. A rare **Blue-winged Teal** was at SGL 214's HM 6/28 (DY). A late **Godwall** was at SPL 6/11 (MV), and **American Black Ducks**, notable in summer were in PYMA (m.ob.). A single **Redhead** was late at SPL 6/19 (JH, TN, KP), and a **Lesser Scaup** was there 6/29 (RL). Two late **Red-breasted Mergansers** were at MP 6/4 (PF). **Ruddy Duck** counts ranging from one to 10 birds were at SPL (m.ob.).

There were no observations of Ruffed Grouse this season. **Pied-billed Grebes** were as expected with an adult and 8 young at MMR 7/5 (KD, BG). **Black-billed Cuckoos** were seen as usual, though always scarce (m.ob.). **Common Nighthawks** included one at SGL 122 on 6/1 (AL) and another in the MDV area 6/28-29 (KP).

Notably there were no reports of Sora, but they were reported during the spring season and from Aug of this year, so this hopefully represents a missed bird and not an absence from breeding locations. **Virginia Rail** and **Common Gallinule** were as expected (m.ob.) with a high count of 5 Virginia Rails at MMR 6/19 (JH, TN, KP). A high count of 6 Common Gallinules were at SGL 214's HM 6/9 (DY). Rare in summer, single **American Coots** were reported at different locations in PYMA 6/2 and 6/4 (JH), as well as at GEN 6/5 (CN).

Sandhill Cranes were in their (increasingly) expected numbers (m.ob.), as with **Upland Sandpipers** in the Pymatuning area (m.ob.) with a high count of 4 at MP 6/24 (RHi, MHi). A **Baird's Sandpiper** was a rarity at MP 6/1 (RL). A single **Least Sandpiper** was slightly late at MP 6/4 (PF). Early dates for Least Sandpiper included 2 at MP 7/5 (KD, BG) and 6 at HP 7/7 (JH). **Wilson's Snipe** included one in PYMA 6/30 and 7/7 (JH), one at HAR's Ball Road 7/10 (RHo, BM, TN, KP, MW), and one at PSP's Area J 7/18 (TN, KP, MW). Early fall observations included 2 **Solitary Sandpipers** and 4 **Greater Yellowlegs** at HP 7/7 (JH). Three **Solitary Sandpipers** were there 7/10 (RHo, TN, KP, MW).

Unexpected in summer, a **Bonaparte's Gull** was at SPL 6/18 (CN); and a summer rarity, a **Laughing Gull** was there 6/17 (JH), 6/18 (CN), and 6/20 and 6/22 (CG, RL). One **Black Tern** was at SPL 3/23 (IF, RL). **Common Loons** were one at Pymatuning L. 6/3 (JH) and 2 at PSP's Causeway 6/13 (MH). An **American White Pelican** was at SPL 6/19 (JH, TN, KP) and 6/20 (CG, MW).

One **Least Bittern** was at CONM's The Wells 7/18 (BB, CK). **Great Egrets** were as expected (m.ob.). An adult **Little Blue Heron** was in a marsh off I-79 in the Saegertown area 7/5 (KP). One **Cattle Egret** landed in a pasture off Gravel Run Road in the Woodcock area 6/21 (JP). Interestingly, a single **Cattle Egret** was reported that same day 12.5 miles north in *Erie* in the Edinboro L. area. Two **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were at GEN 7/31 (RL).

Ospreys were as expected (m.ob.). A **Northern Harrier** was at

SGL 214's Ball Road 6/13 (MHo), and one was at HM 7/3 (PF). A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was in PYMA 6/24 (JH). **Broad-winged Hawks** were as expected (m.ob.). Notable in *Crawford* were **Red-headed Woodpeckers** (m.ob.) with a good count of 9 at PSP's Jamestown Campground 7/18 (AC). **American Kestrels** were also as expected (m.ob.). Single **Merlins** were seen in MDV 6/6 (KP) and 6/10 (BM). A single **Peregrine Falcon** was in the CONL area 7/22 (RL).

Notable high counts of **Willow Flycatchers** included 13 in PYMA 6/30 (JH) and 10 at SGL 214's Brooks Road 7/18 (JH). One **White-eyed Vireo** was at FOR, and one was observed at Erie NWR's Tsuga Trail 7/14 (JM).

Common Ravens were as expected in the eastern half of *Crawford* (m.ob.). Observations of **Horned Lark** included 2 seen in HAR's Pine Road 6/5 (JH), one in the same location 6/18 (JH), 2 at PSP's Wilson Road 6/13 (MH) and 6/23 (JH), one in the Pymatuning WMA 7/8 (JH), and 2 in the CONL area 7/15 (RL).

Several **Red-breasted Nuthatch** in PYMA included one 6/24, 3 on 7/2, and 3 on 7/9 (JH). Up to 3, including two adults and one juvenile, were at a private location in the Conneautville area all season (KZ).

While **Winter Wrens** were as expected (m.ob.), a **Sedge Wren** was reported calling from a private field in the Conneautville area 6/1 (JH). **Marsh Wrens** were also as expected (m.ob.) with several notable high counts, including 18 in PYMA 6/30 (JH), an estimate of 15 at MMR 7/13 (MW), and 18 at PSP's Area J 7/18 (TN, KP, MW). **Hermit Thrushes** were in the eastern half of the county and **Northern Mockingbirds**, while still scarce, were increasingly observed (m.ob.).

Uncommon here, one **Vesper Sparrow** was in the MDV area 6/1 (RL). Though rare and secretive, **Grasshopper Sparrows** have been increasingly reported in PYMA, HAR and CONM areas (m.ob.). A **White-throated Sparrow** was recording singing in PYMA 7/3 (JH). A single **Yellow-breasted Chat**, rare here, was at FOR 6/5 (RL). **Bobolinks** were as usual in PYMA (m.ob.). A higher-than-average number of **Orchard Orioles** were reported this year, primarily in PYMA (m.ob.) with one seen in the HM area 6/1 (JV).

Louisiana Waterthrushes were as expected (m.ob.). **Northern Waterthrushes**, not reported the prior summer, were in higher-than-average numbers as well as locations (m.ob.). **Prothonotary Warblers** were as expected throughout the *Crawford* marshes (m.ob.), as were **Mourning Warblers** in their locations (m.ob.). A **Kentucky Warbler** was off Hilltop Road in the Springboro area 6/1 (JH), the same location where one was observed last year. Another was seen in PYMA 6/3 (JH). The total numbers of **Cerulean Warblers** increased this season at their expected locations (m.ob.). Five **Black-throated Blue Warblers** were in Thompson's Woods on the eastern side of *Crawford* 6/1 (SF, NR), and a good count of 8 were in the same location 6/10 (NR). A **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was in PYMA 7/2 (JH) with 3 nearby 7/9 (JH). A **Prairie Warbler** was found near Troy Twp in the Titusville area 6/6 (JS). **Canada Warblers** were in their expected numbers and locations (m.ob.).

A rare **Blue Grosbeak** at FOR 6/16 was notable (RL). **Dickcissels** were in multiple locations throughout the summer (m.ob.), including one off Ball Road in HAR 6/9 (JH), 2 in HAR 7/7-8 (JH), one in the MMR area 7/5 (KD, BG) and 7/7 (BM), and another in the CONL area 6/5 (RL).

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Cumberland County

Locations: Creekview Road Marsh (CRM), King's Gap State Park (KG), Kuhn Lake (KL), Mud Level Road (ML), Michaux State Forest (MSF), Pine Grove Furnace State Park (PGF)

Unless otherwise stated, occurrences and the number of prior occurrences of the species listed in this report are according to eBird records and "Annotated List of Cumberland County Birds" (*Pennsylvania Birds* 30:138-147, V. Gauthier, 2016). It should also be noted that there may be current and historical sightings for *Cumberland* listed on eBird from the Susquehanna River that may be possible to list on this report but, without clear documentation otherwise, they are considered to have occurred in *Dauphin* since the county line is the west shoreline of the river.

The **Trumpeter Swan** brood at CRM had better success this year than last. While last year's lone cygnet was lost soon after hatching, all 3 cygnets that hatched this May survived the summer. The swan family relocated about a half mile away to KL 6/1 (VG), perhaps to take advantage of the more reliable water supply at the lake. All 5 swans remained at KL throughout the period. Another Trumpeter Swan pair was also found at the Big Spring Fish & Game club's pond 6/5 (VG, TJ), and likely the same pair was seen not far away near SGL 169 on 6/9 (JM). These apparently non-nesting birds are likely the same pair reported at SGL 169 in late May. A **Red-breasted Merganser** with an apparent leg injury was reported at Vincent DiFilippo Preserve 6/16 and 6/18 (BaM, DB).

Ruffed Grouse, a seldom-found breeding bird, was reported at PGF 6/2 (BB). A pair of **Eurasian Collared-Doves** was reported by a Mennonite birder 7/22 along Running Pump Road near Shippensburg, and one to 2 were found here again 7/23-26 (DB, ScB, StB, VG, DK, BrM). Another dove continued throughout June in downtown Shippensburg (CP, RP). **Black-billed Cuckoo**, an uncommon breeder in *Cumberland*, had an above-average showing this summer with one found along Ponderosa Road 6/2 (DW), and sightings at three separate locations in and around SGL 169 on 6/1 (DW), 6/17 (VG, BO), and 7/5 (JM).

Virginia Rail has been a suspected breeder at CRM in recent summers, so it was nice to get breeding confirmation this summer when an adult with a chick was found here 6/24 and 7/13 (DK). An adult seen in a marshy area near the campground at PGF 7/28 (JC) was the first ever eBird record for the park.

It was a great season for rare wading birds. **Yellow-crowned Night Heron**, normally only found at the eastern end of the Conodoguinet Cr. in *Cumberland*, made a rare appearance along the Yellow Breeches Cr. with an immature at Lisburn Road 7/19 (DH). The real prize at this location was a group of **White Ibises** that split time between *Cumberland* and *York* along the creek. Five ibises were present 7/18-23, and then only one was seen 7/24-28 (KC, m.ob.).

The best birds of the season were the 2 **Roseate Spoonbills** that took up residence at Laughlin Mill Pond in Newville. These spoonbills represented the second record for *Cumberland*, with the first record in 2017. The pair was first found 7/10 (EM, m.ob.) but, starting 7/23 through the end of the season, only one bird was seen. Interestingly, 7/23 was also the date that a single spoonbill arrived 30 miles to the east at Wildwood Lake in *Dauphin*, which may represent the missing bird from the Newville pair. Additionally, the first occurrence of the pair in Newville 7/10 was not reported to eBird and the arrival time is unknown, while a pair was also found 30 miles to the south in *Franklin* 7/10, last seen around 7 PM that day (*vide* BO).

Only recently confirmed as a nesting species in *Cumberland*, **Osprey** had another successful nest this year at the Norfolk Southern railyard in Enola. Two chicks were first noted in the nest 6/10 (BaM). **Northern Harrier** made a couple of appearances with one along Rt. 34 near SGL 230 on 6/1 (PL), and a second-year male along Clouse Road outside Shippensburg 6/19 (CP, JP). Harriers had historically been breeders in *Cumberland* but have rarely been found in recent summers.

A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was found 6/19 along Ridge Road in MSF where they bred last year (VG, AM, BO, TW). Even more interesting

was a flock of 14 **Red Crossbills** at KG 6/1 (RP). These were likely late migrants as opposed to breeders as they were not found again despite daily visits here by the observer.

SGL169 continues to be a hot spot for **Prothonotary Warblers**. A nest box survey at the propagation ponds 6/5 found one nest box that contained 5 young along with two active natural cavity nests (VG, TJ, DK). Up to 2 birds were found near nest boxes at Cabin Road throughout June but breeding here could not be confirmed (DB, ScB, StB). A male was also on territory near a nest box at the main pond at Huntsdale through 6/5, but breeding here was never confirmed (VG, TJ, DK). A male **Kentucky Warbler** was on territory at KG through at least 6/21 (RP et al.), and another was at a traditional location along Rt. 34 near SGL 230 6/1 (PL). **Chestnut-sided Warbler** is rare in summer but was found along ML 6/8 (CP) and along Black Swamp Road in MSF 6/30 (DM).

As usual, all **Dickcissels** for the summer were found in western-most of *Cumberland*. This year one continued at ML 6/1-2 and 6/10 (TA, DB, DK, IG, VG), 2 were at the county landfill along Booz Road 6/8 (CP, TR), one at ML again 6/15 and 6/19 (KJ, TJ, VG, BO), and one along Clover Hill Road 6/12 (BK).

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Dauphin County

Locations: Weiser State Forest-Greenland Tract (WSF-GT), Wildwood Lake (WL)

The only sighting of a **Ruffed Grouse** occurred along the northern side of the Peters Mountain Road - Halifax mountain 6/24 (S&SB). Not as common as its counterpart, a **Black-billed Cuckoo** was seen in WSF-GT 6/26 (m.ob.) and Detweiler Park 6/27 (ZR). Seven **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were heard throughout the summer in WSF-GT (m.ob.). Birders, photographers, and park visitors were treated to close-up observations of a **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** on her nest at WL as she successfully raised 2 young along the Delta Boardwalk during the month of July (LI, m.ob.).

There were 2 sightings of **Virginia Rails**, both in suitable habitat. One was at Highspire Res. 7/4 (BK) and one at WP 7/24 (SS). According to eBird, there had never been a report of **Virginia Rail** in *Dauphin* during this reporting period. Sightings of shorebirds were below average at WL due to the new growth of cattails on the mudflats. **Semipalmated Plovers**, **Least Sandpipers**, **Killdeer**, **Semipalmated Sandpipers**, and **Spotted Sandpipers** were the only species reported and were in very low numbers. Two **American Bitterns** were found at the ponds of SGL 290's Haldeman Island 7/31 (CP).

A survey has been done each year of the **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** along Harrisburg-Hamilton Street. This year 11 occupied nests were counted with a total of 28 individuals seen during the breeding season (IG). A **Roseate Spoonbill** was discovered and photographed at WL 7/23 (KS, m.ob.). This species joins the Wood Stork, Snowy Egret, Little Blue Heron, White Ibis and Glossy Ibis that have all been seen at WL in the past decade.

Ospreys had a very good breeding season in *Dauphin* this year. The pair along the western edge of WL raised 3 young (LI, S&GL). The Ospreys nesting along Rte. 230 between Steelton and Highspire were also successful with 2 and 3 young being raised and fledged at the 2 nests (EC, S&GL). A possible third nest closer into Steelton will be monitored next year. As part of a continuing monitoring project, 47 nestling **American Kestrels** were counted and banded during this reporting period in the Hershey area (TB).

Three grassland species not usually seen in *Dauphin* were reported from SGL 290's Haldeman Island during Jun and Jul: 4 **Bobolinks** (SS),

2 **Blue Grosbeaks** (m.ob.) and 4 **Dickcissels** (m.ob.).

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Delaware County

Locations: Delaware River/Hog Island Rd (DRHIR), John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge (JHNWR), Ridley Creek State Park (RCSP), Tyler Arboretum (TY).

June was about average in terms of precipitation and slightly above for temperatures. The first heat wave of the season was not until June 27-30 with temperatures above 90 and heat indices in the 100s. July temperatures were about normal with precipitation slightly above average.

Tropical storm systems continued to produce rarities along the DRHIR. On 7/9 a female **Harlequin Duck** was seen flying upriver (JH, SS), species number 345 for *Delaware*, but that wasn't the only rarity of the day. **Royal Tern** and **Brown Booby** were also recorded as part of this event (JH, SS, m.ob.). The Brown Booby was also seen by birders on the New Jersey side of the river.

Black-Billed Cuckoo was reported from Chester Park 6/4 (MM) and near the Mansion at RCSP 7/20 (AG), while widely reported **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** experienced another good year. A **Common Nighthawk** was reported from Boothwyn 7/18 (TD). A **Sora** was reported from a Folcroft marsh 6/2 (GW).

A river watch at DRHIR 7/2 produced a brief sighting of an **American Avocet** (RF, MM). Other discoveries at that location included **Semipalmated Plover** 7/25-31 (m.ob.), **Sanderling** 6/10 (SB), **Semipalmated Sandpiper** 7/13, 19, 27, and 29 (RF, m.ob.), **Greater Yellowlegs** 7/10 (AK), and **Lesser Yellowlegs** on four dates in Jul (m.ob.). A high count of 27 **Least Sandpiper** were reported from JHNWR 7/29 (DH). A **Solitary Sandpiper** was in Boothwyn 7/16 (TD), and one visited Crum Creek Res. 7/20 and 7/30 (JZ) and Delaware County Community College 7/21 (BB).

Interesting tern reports from DRHIR include **Gull-billed Tern** 6/21 (SB) and **Common Tern** 7/27 (RF, SB, AG). In addition to the Royal Tern sighting 7/9 (JH, SS), this species was also reported 7/25 (AG). **Forster's Terns** were at JHNWR 6/27 (CH) and at various locations along the river on six dates in Jul (m.ob.).

Least Bittern was reported from JHNWR 7/3 (RZ), 7/22 (AG), 7/23 (RF), and 7/27 (DH). One **Snowy Egret** was there 6/8 (RZ), and **Little Blue Heron** was present 7/22-23 (AG). The **Tricolored Heron** frequenting the *Philadelphia* portion of the refuge, flew across the county line at least a few times and was noted 7/21 and 7/25 (m.ob.) in *Delaware*. Herons and egrets often roost in the area of the tank farm, so 2 **Cattle Egrets** that spent most of their time in the impoundment joined the party crossing the county line 7/20 (AG, DB).

Jenni Tuliszewski was walking at Tyler Arboretum 7/30 when she spotted a bird that she managed to photograph through her bins and post to PA Birders' Facebook group, asking if it was a **Swallow-tailed Kite**. Indeed, it was. The bird was located later in the morning off Barren Rd (DB) and was easily viewed from the sidewalk in front of Penncrest High School as it coursed back and forth in the sky. Thereafter, it was viewed from this location as well as from TY and RCSP and was enjoyed by many. It was seen through the end of the period and into August, last reported from RCSP 8/18 (RM).

American Kestrel reports saw a slight increase, coming from RCSP, Media, Swarthmore, and the usual DRHIR location (m.ob.). **Peregrine Falcon** was reported from Boeing Ridley Park 6/30 (JeH), Commodore Barry bridge/riverfront in Jul (BBa), and from DRHIR 7/9 (JH, RF) and 7/31 (DB, AG). Banding at the **Purple Martin** colony at Glen Mills School 7/14 (DM, m.ob.) resulted in 248 new pieces of jewelry added to nestlings with another 10 to 12 too small for banding, that

number essentially equivalent to last year's total. Lone **Bank Swallows** were reported from JHNWR 7/23 (RF) and 7/31 (DO) as well as several from DRHIR 7/9 (JH, SS) and 7/10 (AK). A **Cliff Swallow** was reported from Chadds Ford along the Brandywine 7/14 (RF) and from Governor Printz Park 6/1 (MM).

Late **White-throated Sparrows** were seen in Swarthmore 6/9 (DE) and at RCSP 6/15 (CS). Although a **Yellow-breasted Chat** spent Jun through 7/19 (m.ob.) at the Bridle Trail at RCSP singing away, no evidence was found for breeding. **Eastern Meadowlark** was reported 7/5 (AG), 7/7 (ZM), and 7/10 (AK), utilizing the grassy areas along runways at Philadelphia Airport.

Thirteen warbler species, most local breeders, were reported during the period. Unusual was **Worm-eating Warbler** at RCSP 6/27 (SP). RCSP also hosted breeding **Blue-winged Warbler**, confirmed when an adult was found feeding young 7/8 (SJ, RM), and **Yellow-throated Warbler**, confirmed for the second year in a row when a juv was seen 7/30 (DH, JMc). Judging from the number of reports throughout the period, **Pine Warbler** was a likely breeder at both TY and RCSP (m.ob.). A **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was heard singing at Chanticleer Garden 7/16 (BE).

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Elk County

Locations: Moshannon State Forest - Beaver Run Impoundment (BEA), Bendigo State Park (BSP), Allegheny National Forest - Buzzard Swamp Recreation Area (BUZ), East Branch Clarion River Lake Vicinity (EBL), Rasselas Marsh (RM).

Of the 121 species reported, **Ruffed Grouse** made a nice showing, appearing 5 different days including "at least 2 young seen" at EBL 6/18 (BB) and "1 adult and at least 4 young" near BEA 5/17 (MH). The only 2 **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** reported were at EBL 6/18 (BB) and in Benezette 7/2 (CL). Two **Virginia Rails** were in RM 6/18 (BB).

American Woodcocks continued into summer with 2 at EBL 6/18 (BB), 2 photographed north of St. Marys 7/6 and one at Mosquito Cr. Wetland 7/12 (MHu). A **Wilson's Snipe** was at RM 6/1 (BB), and a **Bonaparte's Gull** at BEA 7/31 (AM, ph.). Five reports of **Green Herons** were at SGL 34 - Mosquito Creek Wetland 6/6 (TH), BSP 6/18 (MS), BEA 7/11 (PS), Johnsonburg 7/16 (TB), and BUZ 7/29 (LCB, SB).

A **Northern Harrier** was at RM 6/1 (BB), and a **Cooper's Hawk** near Loleta 7/27 (LCB, SB). A **Great Horned Owl** was near EBL 7/6 (JDL) and three reports of **Barred Owls** were 2 at EBL 6/3 and again 6/18 (BB), with one at BUZ 7/15 (MHu). An **American Kestrel** was at Ridgway 6/16 (SB, JH) and 6/22 (DH), with 2 at Elk SP 7/24 (BS) and one at Winslow Hill Elk Viewing Area 7/27 (CB, ES).

There were several reports for **Alder Flycatchers**, a **Willow Flycatcher** was at RM 6/18 (BB), and several reports as well for **Least Flycatchers**. A **Yellow-throated Vireo** was near Portland Mills 7/5 (MHu) and at BEA 7/31 (AM). A **Warbling Vireo** was at Ridgway 6/16 (SBu, JH), in Benezette 6/17 (TTB), and at Elk SP 7/24 (BS).

Cliff Swallows were reported five times, with a high of 40 at RM 6/1 (BB). A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was seen twice at BEA the morning of 7/31 (AM, ph.). **Winter Wren** reports continued into summer of single birds mostly near EBL in both months (BB, JDL, TH, ES). **Brown Thrashers** had five reports throughout *Elk* (BB, TTB, RH, SM). **White-throated Sparrows** had three sightings: 2 near EBL and 3 at Rasselas Road 6/1 (BB), and 3 on SGL 25 on 7/6 (JDL).

A **Savannah Sparrow** was at RM 6/1 (BB), and at BUZ 7/27 (LCB, SB). A **Worm-eating Warbler** was near St. Marys at SGL 25 on 7/6, and a **Northern Waterthrush** was at BUZ 7/11 (MHu). A **Nashville Warbler**

was in EBL 6/1 (BB), and a **Mourning Warbler** appeared three times in June in St. Marys (BB, THo) as did 2 **Bay-breasted Warblers** there 6/8 (JE). Two warblers from spring continued into the summer months. A **Pine Warbler** was in EBL 6/1 (BB), and seen three times were **Canada Warblers** - one at BSP 6/6 (MS), one at BEA 7/17 (MH), and two at BEA 7/11 (PS).

Observers: **Carol Light, PO Box 6, Benezette, PA 15821, 814-787-6036, lightpc2@gmail.com**, Brendyn Baptiste, Chelsea Beck, Timothy Becker, Tracy T. Birder, Linda Clark Benedict, Steven Benedict, Sara Busch (SBu), Joseph Di Liberto, Joseph Elias, Rebecca Hart, Marsha Hendrickson, Tyler Hodges, David Hooper, Jason Horn, Mike Hudson (MHu), Alan MacEachren, Steve Manns, Matthew Schenck, Eric Schill, Paul Shaffner, Brandon Swayser.

Erie County

It was a lackluster season in part due to weather conditions. Unseasonably hot dry weather dominated the first part of the season, then the rains came. The heavy downpours brought pond and lake levels above normal levels. Adult shorebirds usually stop over in places like Gull Point on Presque Isle S.P. but the high lake level flooded Gull Point, not only covering any potential mudflats, but it also encouraged plant growth, so we had very little shorebird habitat. The Union City Dam remained flooded through July because of rain and also because of a plugged pipe that would not allow the bulk of French Cr. to flow through, so no mudflats were here either for shorebirds. **Piping Plovers** successfully nested again at Gull Point for the fifth consecutive year. A **California Gull** at Gull Point in June was the first summer record for the county, and the **Royal Tern** that made a brief visit at Gull Point was a first county record. It was also a successful nesting season for **Prothonotary Warblers**, where there were at least three active nests at the entrance bPresque Isle SP. (See article by Jamie Hill).

The following birds of note were recorded from Presque Isle SP unless noted otherwise. An adult **Trumpeter Swan** remained at Howard Eaton Res. through at least 7/15 (JC, JH) I suspect this may have been one of the two that were present at the head of Presque Isle Bay well into May. An **American Avocet** was at Gull Point 6/19, 20, and 23 and there were 3 there 7/26 (MB et al.). The only **Whimbrels** were 4 at Gull Point 7/3 (MB). Up to 3 **White-rumped Sandpipers** were at Gull Point 6/19-20 (MB, JM). **Willetts** were fairly common through the period with a total of about two dozen for the season and, as expected, all were from Gull Point (m.ob.). An adult **Laughing Gull** was seen briefly on one of the breakwaters at Beach 11 on 6/29 (MB). The first summer record of a **California Gull**, believed to be a second summer bird, was at Gull Point 6/20 (JF, JM). Not nearly as unusual was an adult **Lesser Black-backed Gull** at Gull Point 7/30 (JM).

The bird of the season was definitely the breeding plumaged **Royal Tern**, which hung out with nearby **Caspian Terns** at Gull Point 6/19 (MB). Despite efforts by many, it was not seen again. Not unexpected these days was an **American White Pelican** that was seen circling over Erie 6/20 (TR) and was even reported circling over the baseball stadium the same day; on 6/23 it was observed at Gull Point (JM et al.). The **Cattle Egret** seen near Edinboro 6/21 was a rare summer sighting (MM *vide* JH). Not known to nest in the county, a juvenile **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was on Marina Road at Presque Isle SP 7/29 (CE, EZ). The adult **White-crowned Sparrow** at an Erie residence along Presque Isle Bay 7/1 (JL) was only the fourth county summer record.

Observers: **Jerry McWilliams, 3508 Allegheny Rd., Erie, Pa. 16508-2129, jerrymcw@aol.com**, Mary Birdsong, Jess Clippinger, Carl Engstrom, Jennifer Ferrick, Jamie Hill, Julie Leonard, Mark Musanti, Tess Rinehart, Eroc Zawatski.

Fayette County

Locations: Greenlick Run Lake (GRL), Ohiopyle State Park (OSP).

The season was hot and humid with regular thunderstorms. Heavy

downpours were almost a weekly occurrence. A female **Common Merganser** with 10 chicks was at 6/9 (TH), and 2 were seen during a canoe trip on the Youghiogheny R. from Dawson to Layton (T&JK). This species was reported the entire season at Oniopyle and at the Youghiogheny Res. A regular migrant but very unusual for this time of year, a pair of **Ruddy Ducks** was photographed at GRL 6/29 (KB).

A **Northern Bobwhite** was at Fort Necessity 6/28 (NF, SS), certainly a released bird but the first report for many years. There were only three reports of **Black-billed Cuckoo**; singles at Farmington 6/23 (DB) and Connellsville 6/26 (eBird), and 2 at Mill Run Res. 7/29 (EH). **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were widely reported the entire season.

A **Common Loon** lingered at GRL from last season to 6/12 (MF, MA, AM). A late **Double-crested Cormorant** was at GRL 6/3 (MF). Two **Great Egrets** were at the Youghiogheny Res. 7/10 (DB) and one at Mill Run Res. 7/13-19 (EJR, TR). This was very early for migrants in the county. **Black Vulture** reports continued with singles at McClellandtown 6/16 (EJR) and Farmington 6/28 (DBu). An **Osprey** was at Farmington 6/3-5 (DB) and one at OSP 7/1 (TH).

Red-headed Woodpecker reports have become regular, and apparently this species has a small population in the county. A number of reports in eBird are confirmed with photographs. Two were at Farmington 6/14 (DB) and one at SGL 51 on 6/22 (EJR). One was seen at Nemaocolin Woodlands Resort 6/27 (DBu), and 2 were there 7/5 (SM, RH). A **Peregrine Falcon** was spotted flying over Connellsville 7/8 (MA).

An extremely early (or perhaps summering) **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was an unexpected find at OSP 7/24 (SM). **Willow Flycatchers** were reported at Greenlick Run L. 6/5 (MA) and Jacob's Cr. Wetlands 6/12 (AM). Surprisingly there were few reports of **Least Flycatcher**: one was at Chalk Hill Lodge 6/4 (NF, SS), one at Mill Run 6/5 (GM), and one at Spring Valley 7/16 (DB). **Cliff Swallows** nesting mainly on bridges in the county, were reported through the season at Connellsville (DBu), Mill Run Res. (AM, EH), at OSP (m.ob.), Dawson (T&JK), Nemaocolin Woodlands Resort (DBu), and Confluence (NT, TO). A **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was reported at Fort Necessity 6/16-26 (TH, et al.).

Grassland sparrows are difficult to find in the county due to lack of habitat, so regular reports of them have not been received. A **Henslow's Sparrow** and a **Savannah Sparrow** were south of Farmington in Wharton Twp. 7/5 (SM, RH). **Bobolink** is scattered in the county. Three were in the hayfields along Middle Ridge Road just outside the borders of OSP 6/2 (JC). This is a regular location to find this species. Four were counted in Mill Run 6/5 during a BBS 6/5 (GM) and one was near Hopwood 6/19 (EJR).

Unusual was a pair of **Prothonotary Warblers** reported at Youghiogheny L. 6/12 and 7/10 (DB). A **Prairie Warbler** was reported in early June at Fort Necessity (JC, et al.). **Cerulean Warblers** were reported through the season at OSP (m.ob.). It is encouraging to see reports of this declining species.

Observers: **Mike Fialkovich**, mpfial@verizon.net, Mark Alt, Kerry Bell, Dwight Blough, David Burleson (DBu), Jane Clark, Nikki Flood, Eric Hall, Rebecca Hart, Tyler Hodges, Tom & Janet Kuehl, Alan MacEuchren, Geoff Malosh, Steve Manns, Tiffany Ohler, E.J. Regula, Theo Rickert, Scott Stollery, Nathan Tiday, Lucille Voss.

Forest County

L Locations: Allegheny National Forest - Beaver Meadows Recreation Area (BM), Buzzard Swamp Recreation Area (BUZ), Minister Creek Trail (MCT); West Hickory (WH).

Of the 116 species reported in summer on eBird, a **Spotted Sandpiper** was in BUZ 6/5 (MP). One of three sightings, an adult female **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was seen "chasing a White-breasted Nuthatch around a tree numerous times, the nuthatch ducking around the trunk, until the hawk noticed my presence 10 feet away and left, calling loudly." This occurred near Mayburg 6/23 (SS). A **Cooper's Hawk** was near Frog Rock 7/9 (JS), and one at BUZ 7/10 (JB). The only owl report was of a **Barred Owl** at BM 7/13 (AH). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was at BM

7/7 (MHu). An **American Kestrel** was as BUZ 7/29 (JF).

A **Willow Flycatcher** was near WH 6/5 (KS) and one at BUZ 7/10 (JB) was "seen at the edge of small trees/larger bushes along the edge of a big meadow." Four **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were at Mayburg bridge 7/4 (MHu); daily numbers of up to 7 were seen there 7/4-9 (JS). Three **Swainson's Thrushes** were "clearly heard singing" at MCT 6/24 (CP).

Not reported in *Forest* during the winter 2020 through spring 2021 irruption, **Red Crossbills** were in BM with 7 on 7/7 (MHu, vr.), 3 on 7/9 (MHi, RH, FM), 4 on 7/10 (KS, vr.), and 2 on 7/13 (AH, vr.). **Bobolinks** were reported three times: 7 in East Hickory 6/5 (KS, vr.), 4 at BUZ 7/7 (JDL), and 3 at BUZ 7/19 (MHu). As well, **Eastern Meadowlarks** had three reports: one in BUZ 7/10 (JB), one there 7/11 (MHu), and one near Marienville 7/13 (AH, vr.).

Two **Worm-eating Warblers** were in BM 7/1 (AK, SK). A **Louisiana Waterthrush** was seen on Dawson Run Rd 6/5 (KS) and on the Allegheny R. at Pleasantville 7/10 (ES). Pairs of **Blue-winged Warblers** were near WH 6/5 (KS), 7/26, and 7/27 (KV). A **Pine Warbler** was at Tionesta L. 6/2 (JP, AP), and 3 near Cooksburg 6/12 (LB). A **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was in BM 7/1 (SK, AK), a pair 7/7 (MHu) and 7/13 (AH), and one at SGL 24 7/4 (MHu). A trio of **Canada Warblers**, a "breeding pair with fledgling," was photographed at MCT 6/24 (CP), 3 were near there 7/5 (JS), and one at BUZ 7/19 (MHu).

Observers: **Carol Light**, **PO Box 6, Benezette, PA 15821, 814-787-6036**, lightpc2@gmail.com, Lisa Blazure, Jeff Brinker, Joseph Di Liberto, Jason Fidorra, Andrew Harrington, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Mike Hudson (MHu), S Kaye, Ann Kline, Flo McGuire, Anthony Panek, Joanne Panek, Cody Pham, Mary Powell, Jeff Scapura, Eric Schill, K Springer, Scott Stoleson, Karen Vandzura.

Franklin County

Locations: Antrim Commons Ponds (ACP), Fort Loudon Fort Historical Site (FLFHS).

Unexpected birds, distant in a birder's radar, highlighted the summer in *Franklin*. A female **Summer Tanager** was discovered along Red Rock Road in the southern part of Little Cove in far southwest *Franklin* 6/30 (BO). Follow-up observations occurred 7/3 and 7/4 with photo documentation (BK, GA). No male was observed. The only other eBird record of the species in *Franklin* was a first-year male at Creekside Nature Trail in Menno Haven 5/8/2016 (BO).

On 7/17 a nearby Maryland birder, following up on a rare shorebird species report, found a single **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** at ACP (MS). The bird stayed for the remainder of the day (photo documentation), and a number of birders were able to view a species that has increasingly been reported in the Mid-Atlantic in recent years (GA, DC, BO, BK, TJ, m.ob.). The only other eBird record of this species in *Franklin* is a bird along the Falling Spring 8/14/2010 (HB).

A **White-winged Dove** was found and documented with photos near Upper Strasburg. It was first seen 7/14 (BO, BK) with follow-up sightings 7/18 (GA, BO) and 7/20 (BO, DE, CG). Due to the location and difficulty in accessing it, the multiple property owners involved did not wish the bird's location to be publicized. The bird was not seen after the 7/20 sighting despite regular monitoring of the area. This is a *Franklin* first, and there have been less than 20 historical reports on eBird of this species in Pennsylvania.

Other notable waterfowl reports were of some common ducks reported out of normal season. A male **Blue-winged Teal** was at ACP 7/5-10 (BK, BO, DE, CG). Up to 2 **American Black Ducks** were at Long Lane Pond 7/18 (CW, BO). A male **Redhead** continued for several weeks on a Muddy Cr. Road farm pond from May through 6/4 (BK, BO, DE, CG). A **Ring-necked Duck** was at ACP 7/5-11 (BK, BO, DE, CG).

A **Ruffed Grouse**, difficult to find in recent years, was reported from SGL 235 - Upper Horse Valley 6/16 (KM). **Eurasian Collared-Dove** reports continued regularly from southern parts of *Franklin* where they are an established breeder; moreover, there also was a report of one from Airport Road north of Chambersburg 7/30 (KR). The species has

also been reported from *Cumberland* and *Berks* annually, but not in the same numbers. With increased sightings in recent years in *Cumberland* and also now this year west of Hagerstown in Washington County in neighboring Maryland, the Cumberland Valley is the prime location for this species in Pennsylvania. Include the White-winged Dove noted in the opening paragraph of this report, and it was an exceptional three-dove summer for dove species in *Franklin*.

Considering the season, it was a relatively active shorebird period in *Franklin*. Three **American Avocets** spent the day at ACP 7/15 (CG, DE, BK, BO, CP, RP, GA). Reports of the common **Least Sandpiper** dried up by the end of May and, as is normal, picked up again early Jul continuing through the end of the summer period (BK, BO, DE, CG, GA, DC). The annually hoped for, but certainly not expected, **White-rumped Sandpiper** sighting occurred with 2 birds found at ACP 6/3 (BO, DE, GA). **Semipalmated Sandpipers**, with at times mid- to high single-digit numbers, were reported from ACP thru 6/19 (BO, DE, GA, CG, m.ob.), and later a single bird was reported there 7/10-18 (DE, CG, GA).

Two **Short-billed Dowitchers**, a good find here at any time, spent the day at ACP 7/11 (CG, BK, JD, SD). An **American Woodcock** flushed out of a wet area on a trail at FLFHS 6/29 (BO). Absent from reports since May, presumed southbound were a **Solitary Sandpiper** 7/25 at ACP (BO, CP, RP) and **Lesser Yellowlegs** 7/5 at ACP (BK). This timing was pretty typical.

It was a great summer for waders all over the Mid-Atlantic, and *Franklin* experienced a piece of the action. Fisheries ponds near Fort Loudon and Cove Gap attract good numbers of **Great Blue Herons**. Annually from mid-Jul through Aug, large numbers of **Great Egrets** are attracted to these locations after they have disbursed from their nesting locations. Good views of the ponds are limited, and most accurate readings on the birds are when they go up onto the dikes of the ponds or to perches in trees. A high count for Great Egrets was 78 birds in the Mt Parnell Fisheries site near Fort Loudon 7/27 as viewed from trails at FLFHS (BO). Among the many Great Egrets that were hanging out at other fisheries ponds along Mountain Road near Cove Gap were up to 5 juv **Little Blue Herons** from 7/20 through the end of the reporting period and continuing well into Aug (BO, DC, GA). The lone other historical eBird report of this species in *Franklin* was at Bender's Farm 8/17/2016 (BO, CG).

A scope check of the Shippensburg heron rookery in *Franklin* 6/14 revealed one **Black-crowned Night-Heron** in view in the now fully leafed-out trees in the rookery. This is the only known probable nesting location for night-herons in the county. The rookery trees, which are just on the *Franklin* side of Middle Springs Cr., included a large number of Great Blue Heron nests, a **Bald Eagle** nest, and a **Great Horned Owl** nest. Along with the excitement of having multiple Little Blue Herons in the county, the long-legged-wader highlight of the period was the 2 **Roseate Spoonbills** that were seen and photographed 7/10 by a property owner near Wayne Heights in the southeastern part of the county (RS). Unfortunately, nearby birders searched the area the day of report and next day without any success (DE, GA). It is possible that this pair of spoonbills was the same pair that soon after showed up in adjacent *Cumberland* at Laughlin Mill pond on the Big Spring in Newville.

Lingering northern finch species continued to be reported in the summer season. A **Purple Finch** was at Greene Knolls feeders 6/3 (VB), and one was at Caledonia SP feeders 6/8 (BO). A **Pine Siskin** was seen sporadically in Jun at Greene Knolls feeders (VB). Notable warblers reported were up to 2 **Kentucky Warblers** at Buchanan SF's Broad Mtn Eastern Slope Trails, continuing from May, with several reports through the reporting period (RG, TSG, BO, m.ob.), and a **Yellow-throated Warbler** at FLFHS 6/13 (CK, NK) which followed one reported there in May.

Both **Blue Grosbeak** and **Dickcissel** reports were slow to materialize in May, but they did pick up during the summer. Blue Grosbeaks were on Sandy Mount Road 6/2 (BO), on Salem Church Road 6/17 (JS), along Little Cove Road 6/30 (BO), along Upper Strasburg Road 7/5 & 17 (BO), 2 at FLFHS 7/27 (BO), and one on Keefer Road 7/30 (KR). Multiple Dickcissels were reported from Church Road near Pleasant Hall 6/3-4 (BO, DE, CG), a bird 6/14 along Wye Rd. that was probably displaced from Church Rd. after mowing (BO), and up to 2

at Portico Rd. 7/14-26 (BO, DC, GA).

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Fulton County

Locations: Buchanan State Forest – Redbud Natural Area (BSFR), Cowan's Gap State Park (CG), Hustontown (HU), Wells Tannery (WT), Wells Tannery Rd (WTR).

A **Trumpeter Swan** stayed on Boy Scout Rd 6/18 into Aug (TM, VG). A **Pied-billed Grebe** lingered at Meadow Grounds L. 6/4 (VG). **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were widespread but the only **Black-billed Cuckoo** was in SGL 65 on 6/3 (CC). **Bald Eagles** were reported from six locations. Single **Red-shouldered Hawks** were at CG 6/13-14 (CK, NK) and WT 7/18 (TM). **Broad-winged Hawk** reports included one at Burnt Cabins 6/12 (JG), up to 4 at CG 6/11-14 (CK, NK, JG), and at Boy Scout Rd 7/5 (VG).

A lone **Red-headed Woodpecker** was observed on WTR 6/19-7/3 (TM). **American Kestrel** reports were surprisingly few: one at HU 6/3 and up to 4 at WT 6/5-7/18 (all TM). Single **White-eyed Vireos** were at CG 6/13 (CK, NK) and near Warfordsburg 6/21 (JS).

A group of 6 **Carolina Chickadees** were at BSFR 7/10, identified by voice and appearance (DG, GG). This location is in the southeastern part of *Fulton*, where Carolina is most likely to be found in the county. Three **Purple Martins** were at a small colony near New Grenada 7/18 (TM). Ten **Cliff Swallows**, uncommon nesters at best in *Fulton*, were at Wooden Bridge Cr. near HU 7/5 (VG). **Veery** is apparently an uncommon or rare nester in the county; one was at CG 6/13 (CK, NK).

One **Grasshopper Sparrow** was on WTR 6/18 (VG, TM, BO) and 3 at HU 7/5 (VG). A **Vesper Sparrow**, infrequently reported, was near BCT on the same date (VG, BO). Single **Yellow-breasted Chats** were at Buchanan SF – Knobsville Track 6/4 (VG) and BSFR 6/19 (VG, BO, AM, TW). Encouraging were over a dozen **Eastern Meadowlark** reports, many near WT.

Fourteen warbler species were recorded in eBird. Two **Cerulean Warblers** were near Needmore 6/12 (AE), and one was on Tower Rd 6/13 (CK, NK). Other warbler highlights were **Worm-eating Warbler** at six locations; **Northern Parula** at three locations, with up to 5 at CG 6/11-14 (JG, CK, NK); **Blackburnian Warbler** only at CG 6/11-14 (CK, NK); **Yellow Warbler** at five locations; one **Pine Warbler** at CG 7/20 (R&TG); one **Prairie Warbler** at Bark Rd 6/18 (TM, VG, BO) and 2 at Tower Rd 6/19 (GA); and **Black-throated Green Warblers** at three locations. Single **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were at SGL 65 on Bark Rd 6/3 (CC), BSFR 6/18-19 (VG et al.), and on WTR 6/19 (TM).

Observers: **Greg Grove, gwg2@psu.edu**, Gavin Anderson, Cory Chiappone, Amy Evans, Vern Gauthier, Ron and Tracy George-Snyder, Deborah Grove, Joe Gyekis, Chad Kauffman, Noah Kauffman, Annette Mathes, Tracy Mosebey, Bill Oyler, Joel Springer, Tiffany Willow.

Greene County

Locations: East View (EV), Last Chance Ranch (LCR), Morgan Township (MT), Ryerson State Park (RSP), Sycamore (SY).

Wood Duck with 13 fledglings was present at EV 6/17 (MH, JH). Thirty-one **Common Mergansers** were in the creek at EV 7/15 (JH). **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was reported at RSP 7/20 (MHu), and **Black-billed Cuckoo** was heard in MT 7/22 (KK). **American Woodcock** was at EV 7/30 (JH). **Spotted Sandpiper** was found in Richhill Twp. 6/3 (AM).

Red-shouldered Hawk was present at LCR 7/17 (MLP) and **Broad-winged Hawk** at RSP 7/20 (MHu). **Eastern Screech Owl** was heard at EV 6/28 (MH) and **Great-horned Owl** was in Richhill Twp. 6/3

(TD). **Belted Kingfisher** was seen in Monongahela Twp. 6/25 (ZT). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** visited a feeder in Franklin Twp. 7/2 (JS).

Eastern Wood Pewee was in Perry Twp. 6/10 (SW). A **Great-crested Flycatcher** was sighted in SY 6/16 (ER). **Willow Flycatcher**, **Eastern Kingbird**, and **White-eyed Vireo** were found at RSP 6/3 (AM). **Yellow-throated Vireo** was found in Jackson Twp. 6/19 (MH). **Warbling Vireo** was in Richhill Twp. 6/3 (AM). **Common Raven** was heard calling at EV 6/19 (MH).

Northern Rough-winged Swallows nested in a pipe, and young fledged at EV 6/27 (JH, MH). **Cliff Swallow** was observed at RSP 6/3 (AM) and **Barn Swallow** at RSP 7/20 (MHu). **House Wren** young fledged at SY 6/8 (JC). **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was observed in MT 6/16 (BF). **Eastern Bluebird** fledglings were observed at SY 6/6 (JC). **Wood Thrush** and **Brown Thrasher** were sighted in Monongahela Twp. 6/26 (ZT). **Cedar Waxwing** was reported in Jackson Twp. 6/19 (MH).

Evening Grosbeak was a surprise visitor when it made a quick stop at a feeder in SY 7/26 (JC). **Grasshopper Sparrow** was heard in MT 7/6 (KK). **Orchard Oriole** was seen in Jackson Twp. 6/19 (MH). **Ovenbird** was at RSP 6/3 (AM) and **Louisiana Waterthrush** at LCR 7/26 (MLP). **Common Yellowthroat** and a pair of **American Redstarts** were observed at EV 7/24 (MH). **Hooded Warbler** was heard at RSP 6/19 (MH). **Northern Parula** was present at RSP 6/3 (AM). **Yellow Warbler** was in MT 6/16 (BF). **Scarlet Tanager** was sighted at LCR 7/14 (MLP). **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** remained at EV through 7/31 (MH). **Indigo Bunting** was found at RSP 7/20 (MHu).

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Huntingdon County

Locations: Juniata River (JR), Old Crow wetland (OC), Rothrock State Forest (RSF), Stone Mt. (SM), Stone Valley (SV), Trough Creek Valley (TCV).

For the summer of 2021, 136 species were reported in eBird for *Huntingdon*, right on the average of the past five years. For the years 2016 to 2021 in the summer season, a total of 167 species have been reported for the county. Weather conditions were fairly close to normal. June was 2.2F above normal, and 0.9 inch below normal rainfall; July was essentially average.

A dull-looking **Blue-winged Teal** drake was at OC 7/4-12, the first summer eBird report for the county (KT, m.ob.). Top **Common Merganser** count from six reports was 17 on the Little Juniata R. 6/20 (SM). Another summer eBird county first was a female **Red-breasted Merganser** at Whipple Dam SP 6/20 (JK).

Single **Ruffed Grouse** at Shaver's Cr. Environmental Center 6/2 (JP), on Tussey Mt. 7/9 (NB), and at SM 7/23 (NB) constituted the only reports. There were numerous reports of **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** thanks no doubt to the Brood X periodical cicadas, which were prevalent in much of the southern two-thirds of the county, though many Yellow-billeds were reported in the more heavily birded north as well. By contrast, there were only five reports of **Black-billed Cuckoo** (m.ob.). Typical of recent summers, **Common Nighthawk** was not reported.

A total of 52 **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** was tallied on three Nightjar Surveys (30 total stops) in RSF. The 12-year average is 46, 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 in 2020 and run in *Huntingdon*: 21 Whips were recorded on a route in TCV, and 14 on a route in the area of Stone Cr. Ridge and SGL 112.

Early returning migrant shorebirds were one **Least Sandpiper** at OC 7/9 (JC) and one to 3 **Solitary Sandpipers** at OC 7/8-29 (KT, JK, GG). Seven **Spotted Sandpipers** were tallied during a 17-mile paddle on JR 7/25 (SM).

Reports of single **Common Loon**, probably the same bird, came from the Raystown Branch of the JR 7/4 (KT) and at the Raystown L. dam area 6/26 (KE) and 7/29 (AP). Another rare but not unprecedented species was **Double-crested Cormorant**, of which 2 were at the dam 6/7 (AT) and 2 at Aitch Access at Raystown L. 7/8 (KT). A first for the summer season in *Huntingdon*, an **American Bittern** was photographed at OC 6/18 (RL). Although not a known nester here, **Osprey** was reported 11 times.

Peregrine Falcons were confirmed nesting in *Huntingdon* for the first time since the 1930s. The nest site was on a cliff (rather than man-made structure) at an undisclosed location. Three of us visited the suspected site 5/24. We did not find the nest on that date, but both parents flew overhead calling constantly, clearly unhappy. On 6/13 we spotted the nest and photographed downy chicks, at least 3, maybe 4. Finally, we visited again 7/3 and saw 2 fledglings sitting on the cliff-face, each several yards away from the nest. At least one must have flown to reach his perch. Once again, the parents constantly were overhead expressing their displeasure (GG, DG, DK).

Several rare to uncommon nesters were noted. **Alder Flycatcher** was at OC 6/4, 6/6, 7/29 (RF, JK, GG) and in SV 6/6 (DW); the Jun dates could represent migrants for this late-moving species. **Least Flycatcher** was at Lower Trail at Alexandria 6/4 (NB) and on two BBS routes: in RSF 6/8 (DG) and near Waterstreet 6/9 (JP). **White-eyed Vireo** was in Dry Hollow 6/18 (JK). Three **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were in SV 7/7 (LB). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were recorded five times, all in SV, where they all year-round residents. The Waterstreet BBS produced one **Vesper Sparrow**, near Warrior's Mark 6/9 (JP). **Swamp Sparrows** were listed at six locations.

Yellow-breasted Chats, always sparsely spread, were reported from five locations. The best summer **Bobolink** location in the county has been the big hay fields on Longhorn Rd. and Rt. 829 in TCV. The max. count there was 10 on 7/4, but the actual number of birds was likely a few dozens. Each year there has been a question of when mowing will be done. Fortunately, the owners of the property have not mown early and usually leave some portion un-mowed until well into Jul, so it has seemed likely that some birds get their nesting done successfully.

Twenty-two warbler species were recorded. As is usually the case, **Golden-winged Warblers** outnumbered **Blue-winged Warblers**, with five and three reports, respectively. Single **Kentucky Warblers** were found in SGL 322 6/7 (EZ) and 6/25 (JK).

For a report on the extensive survey of Cerulean Warblers on the Lower Trail of Huntingdon and Blair, see the Blair report.

Observers: **Greg Grove**, gwg2@psu.edu. Larissa Babicz, Diane Bierly, Nick Bolgiano, John Carter, Kurt Engstrom, Roana Fuller, Deb Grove, Jon Kauffman, David Kyler, Renee Lubert, Sean McLaughlin, Alicia Palmer, Joshua Potter, Alan Troyer, Ken Tucker, Doug Wentzel, Eric Zawatski.

Indiana County

Locations: Conemaugh Dam (CD), West Penn Trail (WPT), Yellow Creek State Park (YC).

Two immature **Hooded Mergansers** were present at CD 6/7 (CB). Two **Common Mergansers** were found at CD 6/16 (DB) and another 2 along the WPT 6/9 (RB). One **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was heard at West Lebanon 6/9 (MH, RH). A single **American Woodcock** was flushed along a trail at YC 6/5 (MH, RH). First-fall **Solitary Sandpipers** were 5 at YC 7/31 (MO, AO).

YC hosted 6 **Ring-billed Gulls** 7/18 (HR), the only ones noted in the county. A **Caspian Tern** was at YC 6/7 (DK). One **Double-crested Cormorant** at YC 7/13 (ED, MH, RH) comprised the only report for this species. **Great Egret** sightings included singles at the VFW in Indiana 6/19 (MH, RH) and at YC, both 7/13 (ED, MH, RH, DK, KT) and 7/27 (JP), and 2 were noted there 7/31 (MO, AO).

Single **Ospreys** appeared at CD 6/5 (JT) and at YC 7/13 (ED, MH, RH, DK, KT) and 3 were listed at YC 7/18 (HR); one was also sighted

7/24 (JP). No nests could be found near YC. An **Alder Flycatcher** was singing at YC 6/5 (MH, RH) through 7/13 (ED, MH, RH, DK, KT). A pair of **Fish Crows** was observed carrying nesting material into the tree behind the Episcopal Church in Indiana 6/19 (MH, RH); two days later they were still nest building (CG, MH, RH, GL).

YC yielded 20 **Purple Martins** 7/24 (JP); 2 were still present 7/27 (MH, RH, DK, KT). Two **Bank Swallows** appeared at YC 6/8 (PF) and one was observed 7/27 (MH, RH, DK, KT); there are no known colonies in the county. One to 2 **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were present near Shelocta 6/30-7/30 (MH, RH). The lone **Veery** reports were along the WPT 6/26 (MC) and 7/3 (MC, MK). **Hermit Thrushes**, too, were difficult to find with the only report of 2 singing south of SGL 185 on 6/19 (MH, RH).

SGL 262 was the hotspot for 3 **Grasshopper Sparrows** and 5 **Henslow's Sparrows** 6/3 (MH, RH). Two **Vesper Sparrows** continued near Indiana 6/11 (MH, RH), but only one could be located for the B4C (Breeding Bird Blitz for Conservation) 6/21 (CG, MH, RH, GL).

The YC **Golden-winged Warbler** found last quarter continued through 6/6 (DW). The B4C yielded a new location for **Worm-eating Warblers** near Jacksonville 6/21 (CG, MH, RH, GL). The WPT **Swainson's Warbler** continued through the end of summer (DL). A later **Wilson's Warbler** was sighted at YC 6/1 (DK, TR, JT).

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Jefferson County

Locations: Clarrington (CLR), Cook Forest State Park (CFSP), Punxsutawney (PXY), Redbank Trail (RT), Snyder Township (ST).

Summertime sightings included resident nesters and juvenile loiterers. A **Ruffed Grouse** was present at Jakes Farm 7/4 (JK, AK). A **Spotted Sandpiper** was noted along the Clarion R. near CLR 7/5 (ES). An example of the juv. loiterers included 3 young **Double-crested Cormorants** located at Kyle L. 6/4 (DR). A pair of **Green Herons** was discovered along RT 7/31 (DK). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was tallied at SGL 31 on 6/16 (MS). A pair of **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** was in ST 7/22 (EK). An **American Kestrel** was found along Skyline Road 7/28 (JK, AK).

An **Acadian Flycatcher** was noticed at SGL 31 on 6/16 (MS) and a **Willow Flycatcher** called along Daugherty Road 6/2 (DR). A **Blue-headed Vireo** was at SGL 31 on 6/16 (MS), and a **Warbling Vireo** in PXY 6/17 (JD). At least 8 **Purple Martins** were tallied along Paradise Road near PXY 7/15 (MA). A pair of **Golden-crowned Kinglets** and a **Red-breasted Nuthatch** were in ST 7/22 (EK). A **Winter Wren** was spotted in CFSP 7/10 (JB). A **Hermit Thrush** was documented in ST 7/22 (EK).

Finch highlights included a pair of **Purple Finches** on RT 7/17 (JK, AK), and the best sighting of the summer -- 4 well-described **Red Crossbills** at Clear Creek SP 7/10 (JDL).

A **Grasshopper Sparrow** could be heard vocalizing along Woodbury Road 6/16 (DR). One **Dark-eyed Junco** was detected at SGL 31 on 6/16 (MS). A **Vesper Sparrow** was seen foraging along Sandy Ridge Road 7/1 (DR). Three **Savannah Sparrows** were also heard along Woodbury Road 6/16 (DR). A **Swamp Sparrow** was reported in ST 7/22 (EK).

A **Bobolink** was observed in a field near PXY 7/12 (AH), and an **Orchard Oriole** was noted in Ringgold 7/29 (JK, AK). A **Worm-eating Warbler** and a **Louisiana Waterthrush** were both sighted in Clear Creek SF 6/5 (RN). Notable resident warblers included a **Northern Parula** near the Clarion R. in CLR 7/5 (ES), a **Pine Warbler** in CFSP 6/12 (LB), and a **Prairie Warbler** along Mosquito Creek Road 6/19 (DR).

Observers: **Dan Richards, 1151 Treasure Lake, DuBois, PA 15801, (814) 771-2471, drichards7@verizon.net**, Marianne Atkinson, Lisa Blazure, Judy Brunner, Joseph Di Liberto, John DeBalko, Andrew Harrington, John and Avis Keener, Dave Keith, Eric Keith, Richard Nugent, Michael Schenck, Eric Schill.

Juniata County

Locations: Breeding Bird Survey Eastern *Juniata* (BBSEJ), Casner's Crossing - Juniata River (CC), Lewistown Narrows Canal Park (LNCP), McAlisterville (MA), Mifflintown River Access (MRA), Oriental (OR), Thompsontown (TT).

Presumably now nesting in the county, a group of 14 young **Common Mergansers** and one adult female at CC 7/10 was a good mid-summer count (CK, NK). As usual, **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were fairly, if sparsely, widespread; there were only 3 **Black-billed Cuckoos**: one each in SGL 107 on 6/20 (JP), CC 7/10 (NK, CK), and in SGL 107 on 7/10 (RS). Also at SGL 107 on 6/20 was an **American Woodcock** (JP). Two **Spotted Sandpipers** were at TT 6/1 (MN, DS).

Unusual in June, a **Double-crested Cormorant** was at CC 6/4 (CK, NK). Also unusual for the season, single **Ospreys** were at MA 6/2 (TW) and MRA 6/20 (JP). Reports of **Red-shouldered Hawk** and **Broad-winged Hawk** totaled 5 and 4, respectively. A **Merlin** at CC 7/23 represents the first summer eBird report for the county (CK).

A BBS route mostly in *Juniata* starts east of MIF and then continues east, entering *Perry* for the last few stops. The route was run 6/13 this year. Notable for the county were one **Willow Flycatcher**, one **Yellow-throated Vireo**, 2 **Grasshopper Sparrows**, 3 **Eastern Meadowlarks**, 3 **Orchard Orioles**, one **Black-throated Green Warbler**, and one **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** (JPI).

Another first summer report for *Juniata* was a calling **Least Flycatcher** at CC 7/2 (CK). Along with one on the afore-mentioned BBSEJ route, a **Willow Flycatcher** was at LNCP 6/20 (JP). Not often reported in summer, 2 **Horned Larks** were near MA 7/14 (MP). Banding of **Purple Martins** was carried out at two locations where colony count estimates were 70 at Stoufer Rd. 6/26 and 120 near Honey Grove 6/29 (NKe). Single **Yellow-breasted Chats** were recorded near OR 6/10 (KC) and 6/15 and 6/19 (CF).

Twelve species of warblers were reported in eBird. Notable were single **Louisiana Waterthrushes** at Pine Ridge Rd 6/18 (CK, JG), LNCP 6/20 (JP), and at a cabin near Arch Rock 6/17, 7/3, and 7/22 (NB). A **Cerulean Warbler** at Pine Ridge Rd. near Reed's Gap 6/18 was the second summer report for the county in eBird (CK, JG), as was also the case for a **Yellow-throated Warbler** at LNCP 6/20 (JP). In addition to the BBSEJ report, another **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was at CC 7/10 (CK, NK), unusual in summer.

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Lackawanna County

Lackawanna's 2021 breeding season shared several similarities with its 2020 predecessor, and therefore offered a limited list of notable observations. However, one species' occurrence not expected during the summer months has been the **Snow Goose**; a single bird was found among a flock of **Canada Geese** present at Fords L. 7/1 (JR). Following this came the uncommon sight of a **Ring-necked Pheasant**; a hen was reported with 6 chicks beside Rt. 6 near Archbald 7/24 (EJ).

A **Pied-billed Grebe** was reported from an unnamed location in the Mt. Cobb area, with hope this individual was on breeding territory. Also here were 3 **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** 6/23 (EK), which were likely singing from the woodlands that extend beyond the limits of Eales

Preserve. Unfortunately, and for the first time in six years, Common Nighthawk went unreported during *Lackawanna's* breeding season.

An expansive wetland located northeast of Fleetville turned up a county-high 6 **Virginia Rails** 6/7 (CF). **Red-headed Woodpeckers** continue to be absent, or at least severely undetected, throughout northeastern Pennsylvania, therefore giving great value to the encounter of 2 birds at a private residence in S. Abington Twp. 6/5 (CC). **Grasshopper Sparrows** were discovered away from their known breeding location at Archbald Pothole SP with 3 at Meadowsweet Preserve 7/6 (SP). Although remaining in small numbers, **Vesper Sparrow** continued to find its way into breeding-season summaries; one was located along Heart Lake Rd. 7/21 (Ralph Allen). The most notable breeding season wood-warbler highlights included **Hooded Warblers** as 2 were seen - one reported from Pinchot SF 6/18 (KF) followed by a second along Creamery Rd. 6/25 (DS).

Observers: **Ryan Johnson, 140 Hollisterville Hwy, Moscow, PA 18444, (570) 702-9118, natureguy13@gmail.com**, Carolyn Crowley, Chris Fischer, Kevin Fryberger, Eric Jonebring, El Kel, Susan Petty, Jim Ridolfi, David Snyder.

Lancaster County

Locations: Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area (MCWMA), Octoraro Reservoir (OR); Susquehanna River: Conejohela Flats (SRCF), Lake Clarke (SRLC); Susquehanna Water Treatment Plant Washington Boro (SWTPWB), Susquehannock State Park (SSP), Woods Edge Park (WEP).

June was warm, 3 degrees above average and quite dry with about half of the expected precipitation. In fact, multiple daily temp records were set 6/28-7/1. July average temps were normal, and it turned out to be the ninth wettest July on record. Weather information is derived from Harrisburg data from the National Weather Service, which dates back to 1888. There were 154 species recorded during the period, below the prior four-year average of 160 (153, 161, 162, 163 previous).

Two **Trumpeter Swans** summered in the vicinity of MCWMA, mostly on the *Lebanon* side but seen in *Lancaster* once or twice (m.ob.). It was unknown if these birds attempted to breed but, if so, they were seemingly unsuccessful. Single **Northern Pintail** and **Ring-necked Duck** drakes spent most of Jul at OR (LL, RR, m.ob.), and 2 **Buffleheads** were noted around SRCF 6/2-3 (JH, BP). A semi-late drake **Ruddy Duck** was seen at MCWMA 6/5 (JD), and a **Sandhill Crane** was found near Peach Bottom 6/9-14 (TA, BS).

It was an exceptional summer for waders, with 8 species of *Ardeidae* and 2 *Threskiornithidae*. Two **Snowy Egrets** were found at SRCF 6/29 (PN), the photographed bird being an adult. Juveniles are comparatively much more common in late summer, and young **Little Blue Herons** trickled in after 7/12, with 2 each at Speedwell Forge L., SRCF, and MCWMA (SS, ML, RS, m.ob.). Juvenile **Tricolored Herons** showed up practically in droves for this species, with 2 at SRCF after 7/12, and then 3 on 7/24 (ML, EW, m.ob.)! Two more were found elsewhere post-period. The adult **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** lingered at the **Black-crowned Night-Heron** rookery in Ephrata to 6/13 (m.ob.), and a juvenile **White Ibis** stayed at SRCF from 7/16 through the period (anon., m.ob.). Most surprising of all, there were an incredible *three* sightings of juvenile **Roseate Spoonbills** on the magic date of 7/12. In the morning one flew north up the Susquehanna R. past SSP (TA), another was at OR midday (LL), and the third spent the evening at SRCF (ML). This last bird may have been the first seen earlier in flight, but the OR bird stayed overnight to 7/13. On 7/14, another was found accompanying **Great Egrets** near Swartzville (LM). Almost to be expected at this point, another would be found post-period. This summer was the third irruption of spoonbills in the past five years into *Lancaster* and concluded a wild and fantastic season for waders in the county.

Twelve shorebird species were recorded. Three **Black-bellied Plovers** were at SRCF 6/1 (AL). The first **Upland Sandpiper** was seen

in flight at Lancaster Airport 7/10, followed by 3 on 7/31 (ZM). Four northbound **Short-billed Dowitchers** stopped at SRCF 6/1 (AL), and a southbound bird dropped in 7/18 (m.ob.). At SRCF there were single adult **Bonaparte's Gull** and **Great Black-backed Gull** 7/24 (EW), and lone **Black Terns** 6/12 (anon.) and 7/18 (MH, ML). A **Forster's Tern** was noted at MCWMA 7/15 (JH), and a **Common Loon** on the Susquehanna R. near Holtwood was unusual for the date of 7/15 (IG).

Mississippi Kites put on a nice push into the state this year, including birds described at MCWMA 6/2 (m.ob.) and near Wrightsdale 6/15 (SB). **Alder Flycatchers** bred near the Stop #1 pond at MCWMA (m.ob.), where they are typically found. A late **White-throated Sparrow** continued at Noel Dorwart Park 6/4 (DK). A **Bobolink** tagged with a MOTUS tag 5/19/2021 at Buck Run in *Chester* was picked up by the tower at MCWMA 6/26, showing some local area movement. It returned by the next day to its previous location. Of the local breeding warblers, 14 species were found, but Pine Warbler was missed. Two male **Dickcissels** sang around fields near Peach Bottom 7/3-17 (m.ob.), with a female also photographed. Elsewhere, a male was photographed at MCWMA 6/19 (JF, FH, RS), and a flyover was heard near Leola 6/12 (ZM).

Observers: **Zach Millen, 101 Bridle Path, New Holland, PA 17557, (717) 723-1279, zjmillen@gmail.com**, Tom Amico, Sabrena Boekell, Bruce Carl, Jonathan DeBalko, Jim Fiorentino, Ian Gardner, Michael Hartshorne, Frederick Heilman, Jonathan Heller, Dan Keener, Larry Lewis, Austin Loewen, Meredith Lombard, Jeff Musser, Paul Nale, Brandon Pentz, Rick Robinson, Bob Schutsky, Rosemary Spreha, Stanley Stahl, Rita Stima (RSt), Eric Witmer.

Lawrence County

Locations: Shaner Road Marsh (SR), Volant Strip Mines (VSM).

A female **Red-breasted Merganser** hung around at Mason Road on SGL 151 from 6/5-11 (MC). The only report of **Common Gallinule** was from SR 7/31 (MK), an area where they have not been known to breed as of yet. The top count of **Sandhill Cranes** was 24 at VSM 7/17 (MD), an impressive total for the summer months. Four **Least Sandpipers** were at Vosler Road 7/31 (MV), and a **Solitary Sandpiper** at SR 7/1-5 (TP) booked the other side of Jul shorebird arrivals.

Red-headed Woodpeckers continued to be plentiful. One continued in New Castle to at least 7/18 (PS), one was at SGL 178 on 6/5 (MC), and one was at SGL 151 on 7/12 (RN). As well, one at the Rte. 168 crossing of the Beaver R. near West Pittsburg 6/5 (GM) provided a first ever for the Beaver BBS route, which runs from the city of Beaver in *Beaver* to just north of West Pittsburg in *Lawrence*. A **Blue-headed Vireo** was noted at McConnell's Mill SP 7/23 (RT). A single **Cliff Swallow** at VSM 7/15 (MH, RH, LW) provided a rare summer record for this species.

A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was found at SGL 151 on 6/5 (MC), and the pair of **Prothonotary Warblers** was still at SGL 178 on 6/5 (MC) but not reported thereafter. A late **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was noted at VSM 6/4 (TR). Lastly, one or 2 **Dickcissels** were found along Jackson School Road, VSM 7/10-24 (MC, SG, MD, m.ob.).

Observers: **Geoff Malosh, 7762 Maumee Western Road, Maumee, OH 43537-9334, (412) 735-3128, pomarine@earthlink.net**, Martin Carlin, Michael David, Steve Gosser, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Michelle Kienholz, Richard Nugent, Pan Shaw, Tom Pinter, Tessa Rhinehart, Ryan Tomazin, Mark Vass, Linda Wagner.

Lebanon County

Locations: Fort Indiantown Gap (FIG), Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area (MC).

A pair of **Trumpeter Swans** spent the summer at Risser's Pond, at MC 6/4-7/31 (SF, JH, RS). Two **Virginia Rails** were found at FIG 6/4 (JD, CT). Two **Little Blue Herons** were at MC 7/14-20 (JH, RS, TB, KB,

RA, JL). A pair of **Barred Owls** were heard at SGL 211 on 6/6 (JK, AD).

A nesting pair of **Red-headed Woodpeckers** was photographed at FIG throughout the summer (BHc). They successfully fledged young. Away from FIG, Red-headed Woodpeckers were seen at Bordersville near Fort Swatara Rd 6/5 (RS), and at MC 6/20 (JH). **Peregrine Falcons** were found near Harpers 6/20 (TB), near Lickdale 7/8 (JP), and at MC 7/25 (GR).

An **Alder Flycatcher** persisted from the spring at MC 6/5-20 (KS, JH, JDe). A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was found at H.M. Levitz Memorial Park 7/10 (BB, SB). A **Summer Tanager** put on a show, for those willing to hike to the Observation Tower at Governor Dick Park 7/6-11 (JF, JH, RS, FH, PB, IG). Two **Blue Grosbeaks** were at MC 6/2-7/25 (BH, PF, JH, BHu, RS, GR) and 2 were also at SGL 145 on 6/4 (RP, PB). A **Dickcissel** was at FIG 6/4-6 (JD, CT, SW).

Observers: Timothy Becker, 10283 Jonestown Rd, Grantville, Pa 17028, tjbecker81@aol.com, Robert Astleford, Kathy Becker, Brandon Brown, Stefani Brown, Paul Brubaker, Jonathan DeBalko (JDe), Jarrod Derr, Angela Detweiler, Steve Ferreri, Jim Fiorentino, Pamela Fisher, Ian Gardner, Brittna Heffner, Fritz Heilman, Jonathan Heller, Bob Hench (BHc), Barbara Hunsberger (BHU), Jeff Kenny, John Leskosky, Robert Peda, Jason Pietrzak, Mark Rauzon, Glen Riegel, Kevin Shannon, Rita Stima, Cassidy Titus, Steve Walthus.

Lehigh County -- no report

Lycoming County

Locations: Rose Valley Lake (RVL), Williamsport Dam (WD)

A total of 142 species were reported. A male **Bufflehead** was still at WD 6/2 (DB, JD), and a group of 5 still at RVL as late as 6/10 (BB, DeB, BoB). A group of 19 **Ruddy Ducks** were at RVL 6/3 (BB, DB), and 2 were still there 6/5 (BB). A **Pied-billed Grebe** was at SGL 252 on 6/6 (BB, DB, RB, AK), and the species likely nested there; 2 were also at RVL 7/21 (BB). An **American Coot** was at RVL 7/1 (BB); this species is rare in *Lycoming* during summer, and it was interesting that a summer record would occur in a year with only a single spring-season report.

Two **Least Sandpipers** were at Mill Street 7/28 (BB). An imm. **Herring Gull** was at WD 7/18 (BB). A **Common Loon** was seen at WD up through 6/9 (BB, DB, RB). **Great Egrets** started to turn up along the West Branch Susquehanna River during mid-Jul. A juv. **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was reported at a small pond in Hughesville 7/17 (GM).

A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was seen near Clarkstown 7/23 (JH). Three of the young from the **Peregrine Falcon** nest on the Market St. Bridge in Williamsport appeared to survive the somewhat dangerous post-fledging conditions at that location. Two **Alder Flycatchers** were at SGL 252 on 6/6 (BB, DB, RB, AK), one was at RVL 6/10 (BB, DeB, BoB), and one sang at Robert Porter Allen NA 7/18 (BB).

A **White-eyed Vireo** continued on private land near Williamsport as late as 6/7 (DF). A **Yellow-throated Vireo** was at SGL 252 on 6/6 (BB, DB, RB, AK). A **Horned Lark** was seen in Cogan House Twp. 7/11 (BB, DeB, BoB, RB). Two **Purple Finches** were at RVL 7/8 and 7/20 (BB). A **Vesper Sparrow** was seen near Elimsport 7/17 (BB, DeB, BoB, RB), which is *Lycoming's* first known Jul report of this species.

Observers: Bobby Brown, bobbybrown1011@gmail.com, Dan Brauning, Bob Brown (BoB), David Brown (DvB), Deb Brown (DeB), Rebecca Brown, Jean Dalton, Maddi Dunlap, Wes Egli, Dave Ferry, Eric Hartshaw, Jim Hoffman, Andy Keister, Gary Metzger.

Mercer County

Locations: Shenango Reservoir Propagation Area (PR).

This was a very uneventful summer season in *Mercer*. Rainfall was heavier in June yet July was warmer than normal. A brief flurry of shorebirds near the beginning of July was the only event of interest.

Common Nighthawks are a normal breeding bird in several locations in the county. Highest count was 4 in Sharon 7/4 (MH). A single **Sora** was noted at PR 7/10 (MC). A few shorebirds showed at PR in early Jul. One **Baird's Sandpiper** was seen 7/8 (KS). **Least Sandpipers** were noted through the first two weeks of Jul with 3 at PR 7/3 (KS) and one there 7/17 (MD). One **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was also at PR on 7/3 (KS). A nice group of 3 **Short-billed Dowitchers** were there 7/8 along with 2 **Solitary Sandpipers** (KS).

Normally *Mercer* is a good location for wading birds. Two **Great Egrets** were at PR 7/9 (PW), and one **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was found in Transfer on the same day (J&KS). Buhl Park continues to be a reliable spot to find **Red-headed Woodpeckers**. Two were noted 7/3 (KS) and seen throughout the period. A surprising find was a **Merlin** at Greenville 6/1 (MW). **Pine Siskin** lingered after the irruption this past winter; one late bird was found in Hermitage 6/15 (KC).

Observers: Glenn Koppel 122 Linsdale Dr. Butler, PA. 16001 macatilly@gmail.com, Karen Clapper, Kim Springer, Jim & Kim Springer, Martin Carlin, Michael David, Mimi Hoffmaster, Michael Williams, Pam Williams.

Mifflin County -- no report

Monroe County

Locations: Broadhead Creek Recreation Area (BC), Mount Pocono Airport (MPA).

The summer's weather can be categorized on par with other summers, but with a slight difference as to having above-average thunderstorms and rainfall totals for the period. The word 'draught' was not in anyone's vocabulary this summer. Highlight birds were **Merlins**, **Red-headed Woodpeckers**, and **Fish Crows**.

The **Trumpeter Swans** continuing in the Pocono Summit area are now down to one, seen on 6/21 and 7/31. My questions to anyone are these: Where did the other go? Did it die naturally or was it killed? Was one ready to breed and the other one wasn't? Unfortunately, this question will never be answered, unless it or another shows up again. The missing swan was last seen in February!

A great June record for **Northern Shoveler** continued at the MPA water treatment plant 6/16-7/2 (BJ). At the same location were also 2-6 immature **Hooded Mergansers** that continued 6/16 through the period. A family of Hoodies were photographed at Weir L. 7/9 (PN) as well. They are known breeders in this county.

Great Egrets were observed on multiple occasions and locations, albeit in small numbers this year. One was at Gouldsboro L. 7/13 (RH) to kick off the summer migration. Another continued in the Sciota area for a couple of weeks from 7/15 (JM), and another landed at the MPA 7/29 (BJ).

A couple of **Merlins** made their appearances as usual this July. MPA produced a juvenile 7/17 (BJ), and BC racked up a Merlin 7/21 (JS). On a personal note, I have observed more **Fish Crows** at more locations than ever before. Inundated would not be too strong a word.

Multiple observers reported a very good number of **Red-headed Woodpeckers**. All observations are at new locations and cover a large area of the county, many in the higher elevations and many in areas that were logged off in the past. None were observed around the golf links this summer. Successful breeding took place at the Cherry Valley NWR's Moreton Farm with juveniles observed (BJ). Two adults were found at two different locations in the Delaware SF 6/25 (AM) and 7/11 (JS). Another was found on in Long Pond IBA just off the Pocono escarpment 7/9 (BW), and the last was recorded in the Sawcreek development around Bushkill (MS).

Observers: Bruce Johnson, brucejohnson207@yahoo.com, Tim Grover, Rebecca Hart, Rick Koval, Adam Miller, Jon Mularczyk, Paul Nale, June Smith, Mike Szczepanski, Billy Weber, Jeff Wilkins.

Montgomery County

Locations: Dixon Meadow Preserve (DMP), Evansburg State Park (ESP), Franconia Township (FT), Green Lane Park (GLP), Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust (PERT), Pottstown Riverfront Park (PRP), Rolling Hill Park (RHP), Shortridge Memorial Park (SMP), Unami Creek Valley (UCV), Valley Forge National Historical Park (VFNHP), Wissahickon Waterfowl Preserve (WWP).

The *Montgomery* bird species haul for this summer season was our highest since at least 2013. The total, 140 species plus one *maybe* species, was not just slightly higher than average either. It was significantly above average. Between 2013 and 2020, the mean seasonal species total was just north of 124, with a couple summers not even breaking 120. In addition to significant combined birder effort, good luck and the presence of delicious Brood X cicadas, the nocturnal flight call (NFC) recording system in FT (SG) played a big part in allowing 140 species to happen. The NFCs showed a surprising amount of bird movement during a period we normally consider rather stagnant. With the NFC mic, several seasonal-presence/late-date records were documented and 8 species exclusive to it were captured (SG), including a new, unexpected bird for the county list, *Montgomery's* first **Black Rail**. Other non-NFC birds of particular note included **Least Tern**, **Great White Heron**, and **Mississippi Kites**.

The **Snow Goose** on Manatawny Creek in Pottstown continued there through at least 7/20 (JT). A **Mallard x American Black Duck** hybrid hung at SMP until 6/6 (JW, DM). A drake **Ring-necked Duck** appeared for a few days at WWP 6/14-17 (DB, m.ob.). **Hooded Mergansers** were seen in quantities of up to 3 at GLP 6/6-7/16 (m.ob.) and in FT 6/1-4 (SG). A group of 8 Hooded Mergansers at VFNHP 6/13 included juveniles (CF). Juvenile **Common Mergansers** were noted at several locations (m.ob.). Solitary male **Ruddy Ducks** were at WWP 6/5-6 (JM, m.ob.) and GLP 7/15 (PH), the first summer Ruddies encountered in the county since 2017.

A **Pied-billed Grebe** was found at GLP 7/10 (LH). Two **Black-billed Cuckoos** were observed at VFNHP 7/24 (AM), the only members of their species to be seen this season. Many more were heard. Presumed flyover Black-billed Cuckoos were audio-recorded in FT on nine nights throughout the period (SG, vr.).

All of the season's rail records were documented via NFC in FT, and all were assumed to be flyover since there are no wetlands near the site of the recording device. **Virginia Rails** were recorded 5 times 6/1-7/22 (SG, vr.). A **Sora** was recorded 7/15 (SG, vr.). The third rail species was a real shocker. Picked up by mic on the evening of 6/10 was a **Black Rail** clearly uttering its telltale "kee-kee-kerr" call (SG, vr., doc. submitted). It was suggested that this bird may have been a failed breeder elsewhere, perhaps flooded out of its original territory. This recording is the first documented proof of this elusive, declining species in *Montgomery*.

Evidence of shorebird migration on the ground at GLP and elsewhere was mostly unremarkable. Most of the more noteworthy shorebirds were observed as flyover migrants. A **Semipalmated Plover** was recorded over FT 6/1 (SG, vr.). Big shorebird numbers were tallied by groups watching the skies at GLP and VFNHP during the first couple days of Jun. On 6/1, 1100 **Ruddy Turnstones**, 50 **Red Knots**, and 2600 other unidentified shorebirds flew over VFNHP (DB, PB, PD, SGr). The same night, 1000 turnstones, 3 knots, and 1200 unidentified shorebirds were seen from GLP (SG, PH, JH, ph.). Two hundred turnstones also went over GLP 6/2 (SG, et al.). A **Pectoral Sandpiper** was at GLP 7/28-29 (KC, WS, m.ob.). **Semipalmated Sandpiper** NFCs were logged four times in FT during the first week of Jun, and then again 6/18 (all SG, vr.). The 6/18 flyover represented a new record county late date by more than a week. Semipalmated Sandpipers were also seen on the ground at GLP 7/23 and 7/30 (both PH). Potentially breeding **American Woodcocks** were noted twice at PERT. On 6/24, just a single bird was observed (MG, AMi), and 3 woodcocks were reported 6/29 (MG).

A **Least Tern** rocketed past the group of shorebird watchers at GLP 6/2 (SG, KR, JH, SB, JHa, doc. submitted). This unexpected sighting represented only the fourth Least Tern on record in *Montgomery*, and the first since 1999. Another, less-glamorous tern record was also set this period, by a **Caspian Tern** at GLP 6/3 (PD, JHa, ph.). This was, surprisingly, only the third Caspian in the record books for the month of Jun, per eBird. Caspians were also present at GLP on a few days in late Jul (PH, DB).

Double-crested Cormorants were more numerous than usual at GLP, including a group of 16 present there 7/10-31 (LH, PH). Setting another Jun first record, calling **Least Bitterns** were NFC-recorded over FT 6/1, 6/7 and 6/13 (SG, vr.).

Depending on who you ask, **Great White Heron** is either a distinct species, a subspecies of Great Blue Heron, or just a color morph of Great Blue. Regardless, a long staying, heavily chased Great White present in Manayunk, *Philadelphia*, since 7/8 probably crossed the Schuylkill R. numerous times during its stay but was not officially confirmed on the *Montgomery* side of the river until 7/24 (DE, LT, ph., doc. submitted via eBird). The only prior county record of this quasi-species was at GLP in 2002. Five **Great Egrets** at GLP 6/27 (CB) represent a new Jun county high count. A flyby **Snowy Egret** was reported from Red Hill 6/27 (AC). An immature **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was at WWP 7/5 (JM, m.ob.). None were noted in the Norristown area this period. WWP also hosted a **Glossy Ibis** briefly 6/11 (CD, JM), the first of its kind to be seen in the county in Jun.

The **Osprey** nest in Palm was destroyed in late May, possibly by storms 5/26. The pair attempted to rebuild, as documented on a 7/29 eBird checklist (LH, ph.). **Mississippi Kites** were photographed at GLP 6/9 and in Douglass Twp. 6/11 (both PH, ph., doc. submitted via eBird), likely visiting the area to enjoy the bounty of Brood X, the cicada brood that emerged from their 17-year slumber this spring/summer. A group of 4 immature **Broad-winged Hawks** at GLP 6/9 (PH) may have been after similar meals. Single Broad-wings were also noted from four other locations 6/2-23 (m.ob.), some of which have seen nesting activity in previous years.

An **Alder Flycatcher** was recorded as an NFC over FT 6/1 (SG, vr.). Away from regular breeding sites at ESP and the Linfield tract of SGL 234, **White-eyed Vireos** were located in the UCV 6/5-24 (DB, m.ob.), at Pennlyn 6/22 (MR, vr.) and at VFNHP 6/27 (CF). **Common Ravens** were spotted at 17 locations in counts of one to 3 (m.ob.). Single **Horned Larks** were observed on Fell Rd. in FT 6/2 and 6/12 (both SG). This area of preserved farmland is a likely nesting site for this species. Solo **Cliff Swallows** were spotted on Fell Rd. 7/21 (SG) and at GLP 7/30 (PH). A **Brown Creeper**, a rare breeder in *Montgomery*, was spied at ESP 6/25 (PH). ESP has hosted summer creepers in a few other recent years as well.

Veery is a very range-restricted breeding species in the county. The riparian woodlands of the Gladwyne area hosts our most concentrated population of the species. Sixteen were tallied during a long hike at Gladwyne's RHP 6/13 (PD), representing a new seasonal high count. Two **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** were recorded over FT 6/1 (SG, vr.), the first time this species has been confirmed in-county during the summer season. **Swainson's Thrush** had just one prior summer record in eBird. Several more were added to the list in summer 2021: one was at SMP 6/1 (JW, vr.), and NFCs were detected over FT on six nights 6/1-18 (SG, vr.). The 6/18 Swainson's represented a record late date by a wide margin.

Grasshopper Sparrows, another range-restricted breeding species, were found most consistently along Fruitville Rd. in Upper Hanover Twp. As many as 3 were present there through the entire period (m.ob.). Two were also seen in the grassland area by Graterford Prison 6/20 (SS), and single Grasshoppers turned up on Fell Rd. 7/21 (WBH) and at DMP 7/27 (TB). Grasshopper Sparrow NFCs were noted in FT on four nights 6/1-18, then again 7/23 (SG, vr.), indicating that they're doing a fair amount of moving around during the breeding season. A **White-throated Sparrow** lingered to 6/1 in Maple Glen (AA).

The **Yellow-breasted Chat** pair at Heuser Park continued to at least 6/27 (m.ob.). A singing chat was at SGL 234 Linfield 6/26-7/24 (JT, m.ob., vr.). GLP's summer blackbird roost included high counts of 800 **Red-winged Winged Blackbirds** and 2500 **Common Grackles** 7/23 (PH).

The tiny **Worm-eating Warbler** breeding population soldiered on at known sites in the UCV and Mill Hill Preservation Area (m.ob.). A **Kentucky Warbler** in the UCV, first noticed 5/16, remained on territory to 6/15 or later (m.ob.). It is unknown if it ever found a mate. A **Hooded Warbler** found at Willow L. Farm in Ambler 6/11 (MR, KM, vr.) represented a first county summer record since 2003, and the first to be documented with an audio recording. Based on the unsuitable Hooded Warbler nesting habitat at the location where it was found, this warbler was presumed to be passing through. As many as 6 **American Redstarts** were found in their primary *Montgomery* breeding stronghold of RHP through 7/4 (m.ob.). Another pocket population appears to occur at PRP, where up to 4 redstarts were

counted 6/14-26 (TD, PH, LM, vr.). Single singing **Northern Parulas** were at Lorimer Park 6/9 (MG, vr.), at RHP 6/12-7/4 (SJ, m.ob., vr.), at PRP 6/15-26 (LM, PH), at FT 6/18 (SG), and at Four Mills Nature Reserve to 6/22 (RB, vr.). A **Chestnut-sided Warbler** at GLP 7/19 (PH) represented a first summer record since 2005. The late date offers no local breeding implications. They have not nested in the county for many decades. **Pine Warblers** were at ESP to 7/5 (PH), at SMP 6/16-17 (JW), at Jenkintown 6/26 (MI) and at VFNHP 6/27-7/9 (LHa, DB).

Single **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were seen in Douglass Twp. 6/11 (PH) and PERT 6/16 (MG). It was a decent season for **Blue Grosbeaks**, with one to 2 individuals noted in Salford Twp. 6/5 (WBH, vr.), VFNHP 6/9-10 (PD, m.ob., vt.), at DMP for almost the entire period (JF, m.ob.), at PERT 7/5 onward (MG, m.ob.), and at GLP 7/25 (JT). **Dickcissel** NFCs were recorded in FT 6/7-8 (SG, vr.).

Observers: **W. Brian Henderson, Salford Twp., PA, wbhenderson@gmail.com**, Andrew Albright, Dave Belford, Carrie Bell, Paul Bernhardt, Redmond Brubaker, Sara Busch, Troy Bynum, Kayann Cassidy, Andrew Curtis, Paul Driver, Ted Drozdowski, Dan Efrogmson, Jason Fehon, Camille Fieseher, Scott Godshall, Mike Grubb, Steve Grunwald (SGr), Jason Hall (JHa), Liam Hart (LHa), Paul Heveran, Len Hillegass, Jason Horn, Marshall Iliff, Sheryl Johnson, Jack McBrearty, Adrian Melck, Lisa Miller, Anna Mindel (AMi), Kristy Morley, David Moyer, Margaret Rohde, Sam Stuart, Wendy Sykora, Jaime Thomas, Linda Timlin, Jason Weckstein.

Montour County

The good habitat along Shady Hill Road produced at least 3 **Grasshopper Sparrows** (m.ob.) and a county high count of 75 **Bobolinks** 7/30 (AK). This season's highlight was the discovery of a group of **Dickcissels** on Shady Hill Rd. 7/8-24 (AK, m.ob.). A max count of 3 singing males and 2 females were observed; it is not clear if there was successful breeding.

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

Northampton County -- no report

Northumberland County

The summer season was slow with few reports due to decreased birder effort. Summer weather included seasonable temperatures with above-average rainfall. A late **Surf Scoter** was reported at the Adam T. Bower Dam 6/9 (SS), most likely put down by stormy weather. A **Ruffed Grouse** was observed along State Rte. 125 at the Anthracite Outdoor Adventure Area 6/14 (KP). Fortunately, our state bird still holds on at higher elevations within the county, even in areas that have been heavily damaged by strip mining. An early returning **Least Sandpiper** was reported from the Amish Pond 7/8 (EH). Other than locally breeding species, this was the only shorebird reported in the county during the summer.

Observers: **Andy Keister, 110 Hawk Ridge Road, Bloomsburg, 17815, (570) 337-3802, akeister110@gmail.com**, Eric Hartshaw, Karol Pasquinelli, Steve Schmit.

Philadelphia County

Locations: Delaware River (DELR), John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge (JHNWR), Pennypack on the Delaware (POD), Southwest Water Treatment Plant (SWTP).

A family of 18 **Common Mergansers** on the Schuylkill R. in the Manayunk neighborhood 6/26 was the first confirmed eBird breeding record (CS). Another surprise was found further downstream between the Girard and Spring Garden Bridges. First discovered by boat, a beautiful adult **Horned Grebe** spent its summer mainly along Boathouse Row 6/13-7/28 (CC et al.). This apparently injured bird was the first summer record for the city. Two families of **Common Gallinules** with 2 and 3 chicks at JHNWR

were the first breeding records there in four years (m.ob.). At least 2 pairs were successful at SWTP (DB, VS). Remains of a **Ruddy Turnstone** were found at the **Peregrine Falcon** nest in the Manayunk neighborhood 6/3 (EL).

About every other year, one or 2 **Least Terns** find their way up the DELR to *Philadelphia* with one briefly visiting JHNWR 6/21 (GM, RZ). After the first-ever record in April, another **Brown Pelican** flew by POD 6/4 (WB). A pair of **Least Bitterns** was at SWTP 7/23 (DB), and one was regularly seen at JHNWR (m.ob.) where they likely bred on the *Delaware* side of the refuge. A **Tricolored Heron** at JHNWR 7/21-28 was the first observation since 2015 (EE et al.). Two **Cattle Egrets** in gorgeous breeding plumage spent the afternoon at JHNWR 6/20 (JE et al.).

Likely the best bird this summer was a **Great White Heron**, a subspecies of the Great Blue Heron that exclusively breeds in south Florida and the Florida Keys. This rare vagrant with observations as far north as Maine and Michigan is presumably only the fifth record for the state. It was first discovered at the Manayunk Canal 7/8 and happily fed on bluegills there for the rest of the month (RF et al.). More attention is needed for our nominate **Great Blue Heron** subspecies at JHNWR where this year's successful breeding attempt largely went unnoticed by the vast majority of observers. Two nests at the south end of Eagle Island, certainly only visible to the most dedicated observers who decide to make the full 3.5-mile trek around the impoundment, each held at least two hatchlings. This species has not been a common breeder in *Philadelphia*, and the use of eBird breeding codes and additional observation details are most strongly encouraged.

Ospreys successfully raised young at five different locations, excluding JHNWR and Glen Foerd where nests are technically outside the city limits. A new **Bald Eagle** nest at Fort Mifflin produced one fledgling in addition to 3 and 2 at the known locations at JHNWR and POD, respectively. At least 3 young were raised by an **American Kestrel** pair in the Fishtown neighborhood (JC).

After nearly 70 years, breeding of **Horned Larks** was confirmed again when 2 juveniles were photographed at Army Corps of Engineers 7/25 (GA, et al.). The only *Philadelphia* **Bank Swallow** colony at the same site was bustling with activity in Jun, but numbers were already dwindling by the end of Jul. A first summer record in many years, a **Grasshopper Sparrow** was singing in appropriate habitat at POD 6/23-24 (WB et al.). **White-throated Sparrows** at JHNWR and Penn Treaty Park felt somewhat out of place, but oddly enough summer records are nothing unusual in the city (DH, DS, MT, TY).

After long-overdue summer observations in 2020, a food-carrying female confirmed breeding **Eastern Meadowlarks** at the Northeast Airport 7/11 (PM). Two pairs with singing males were reported. A singing bird was also heard at the Philadelphia International Airport 7/7 (ZM), a site from which breeding-season records have also been scarce in the last decades, but maybe folks just were not looking. Similarly, scarce have been reports of breeding **Louisiana Waterthrushes** in the Wissahickon Valley Park, the only location left were one might hope to find a pair. Overall, not a surprising development in an urban environment. It was therefore nice to see parents attending hatchlings in a nest 6/24, with at least one fledgling out and about 7/5 (MD, MG).

Blue Grosbeaks were in appropriate breeding habitat in four locations along the northern stretch of the DELR. An additional singing male seemed to favor the proximity of one of the regions plentiful Wawa locations in south *Philadelphia* 7/10 (GA, LH). Astounding numbers of up to two dozen singing **Indigo Buntings** were seen and heard at a private industrial property along the DELR 6/1-29 (EE, BF et al.).

Observers: **Holger Pflücke, Philadelphia, PA 19148, pflücke.holger@gmail.com**, George Armistead, Debbie Beer, William Buzzard, Jordan Chazin, Cheryl Cook, Martin Dellwo, Ed Edge, John Eskate, Ben Filreis, Rebecca Froggatt, Mike Grubb, Deborah Hansen, Liam Hart, Ed Lam, Gregory Mandel, Patrick McGill, Zach Millen, Chad Seigneur, Victoria Sindlinger, Daniel Singer, Meredith Tamminga, Ted Young, Rich Ziegler.

Pike County -- no report

Potter County

Locations: Allegheny Campground (ALCA), Andrews Settlement Road,

Ellisburg (AS-ELB), Austin (AUS), Cherry Springs SP (CSSP), Coudersport (COU), Galeton Lake (GLA), Joerg Road (JOR), Lyman Run State Park (LRSP), Ole Bull State Park (OBSP), Sinnemahoning SP-Potter (SISP), Susquehannock SF (SSF): Hammersley Wild Area (HWA), Lyman Run Road (LRR), Splash Dam Trail (SDT), Hiking trail near Stony Lick Run (SLR).

Reports were taken from eBird for the spring season totaling 119 species for the county. Data for notable sightings were obtained from 37 locations, submitted by 31 observers and listed after checking the overview data page, bar charts and the species maps from eBird. **Wood Ducks** were reported from Beaver Swamp in OBSP with 2 on 6/18, one 7/1, and 4 on 7/12 (SL). Single **Hooded Mergansers** were reported from SDT 6/12, from Old Shovel Road near COU 6/19, and GLA 6/3 (CP, RP, SM). **Common Mergansers** were reported as single birds from LRSP and MIN, with a high count of 24 at GLA 7/31 (JM). Ten single-bird sightings each of **Ruffed Grouse** and **Wild Turkey** were reported throughout the county south of Rte 6.

Single **Black-billed Cuckoos** were reported from six locations: SSF's Baker Run in Odin 6/19, South Hollow in Homer Twp. 6/20, MIN 6/20, JOR 6/24, SSF's Sunken Branch Road 6/29, and AUS 7/3 (MH, SM, SL, CP, LW). There were only two reports of **Eastern Whip-poor-will**: one at JOR 6/3 and one at Slate Quarry 6/13 (SL, LW). **Chimney Swifts** were seen in low numbers of one to 5 birds at AS-ELB 6/19, at COU 6/1 and 6/19, GLA 6/3, Roulette 6/19, and Sizerville 7/31 (SS, SM, RH, CP, TB). **American Woodcock** was reported from just three locations including 2 at JOR 6/27, one at Patterson SP 7/4, and one at the Cabin at Fegley Hollow 7/4 (SL, DF, DD).

Three **Black Vultures** were seen at CSSP 7/12 (RB), only the third eBird report in *Potter*. **Ospreys** were reported from five locations, mostly as singles: SDT 6/12, SISP 6/12-15, COU 6/25, GLA 7/31, and 2 at JOR 7/20 (CD, BG, CP, RP, JM, SL). A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was at OBSP 7/31 (EZ) and there were five single-bird reports of **Cooper's Hawks**. Single **Bald Eagles** were seen at six locations as single birds, and 2 each were reported from SISP 6/15 and AUS 6/26 (CD, DL). Single **Red-shouldered Hawks** were reported from LRSP 6/12, SSF's LRR 6/17, SLR 6/23, and JOR 6/24 and 7/28 (CP, MS, SL). **Broad-winged Hawks** were well represented as one to 2 birds per observation in 14 reports from various locations. **Red-tailed Hawks** were seen mostly as single-bird sightings in 14 reports.

Single **Barred Owls** were reported from just three locations: Patterson SP 6/4 (DF), CSSP 6/9 (EB), and Portage Road southeast of AUS 7/1 (LW, ph.). No other owl species were reported. Also of note, American Kestrel and Merlin were not reported.

An **Acadian Flycatcher** was observed at SISP 7/31 (TB), and there were 18 reports of one to 2 **Alder Flycatchers**. Three reports of single **Willow Flycatchers** came from Beaver Swamp in OBSP 6/3 (SL), SSF's Billy Lewis Road 6/17 (MS), and Hemlock Campground at Wharton 7/1 (LW). Only one **Great Crested Flycatcher** was reported, at SSF's East Fork Road 6/15 (CP). Two **White-eyed Vireos**, rare here, were at CSSP 6/13 (LC, BG). **Warbling Vireo** was noted in 10 reports. A single **Horned Lark** was at Genesee 6/18 (SS). Two-counts of **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** were reported from CSSP 6/7 (P&ND), at GLA 6/18, and at SISP 7/31 (SS, MH, P&ND, THJ). High counts of 4 **Winter Wrens** and 12 **Hermit Thrushes** were reported from a hiking trail in SLR 6/23 (CP). One **Purple Finch** was reported from COU 6/22 and one from PASP 6/30 (CP).

A **Vesper Sparrow** was reported from Genesee 6/18 (SS). A check on the eBird species graph, over all available years of data, yielded only six other observations for VESP. Single **Savannah Sparrows** were reported from five locations: Railroad Avenue near ALCA 6/20 (SM), Dividing Ridge Road in COU 6/20, 6/22 (RH, SM, CP), Vader Hill Road in COU 6/20 (RH, SM), Mitchell Hollow Rd in Sweden 6/5 (DW), and Beaver Swamp at OBSP 7/12 (SL). **Bobolinks** were reported from two locations: one at SGL 204 on 6/4 (CP) and Railroad Ave near ALCA with 4 on 6/19 and 3 on 6/20 (RH, SM). Between 2006 and 2020, a total of 20 observations were made for Bobolinks ranging from one to 11 individuals, with a high count of 35 on 6/11/2018 at Sheldon Hollow and West Hebron Road (SG).

A high count of 35 **Ovenbirds** was reported from a hiking trail along SLR 6/23 (CP). A **Worm-eating Warbler** was reported from SSF's Cherry Springs Road 6/9 (CP). Single-bird sightings of **Louisiana Waterthrush** were reported from SSF's HWA 6/9 (BM), OBSP 6/16 (SH), Bailey Run at

Ridge, and Crooked Cr. Roads 7/31 and Sizerville SP 7/31 (TB).

One **Blue-winged Warbler** was spotted at Phoenix Run Road 7/11(JD). Single **Nashville Warblers** were seen at SSF's LRR 6/2 and SDT 6/10 (CP). Eighteen reports were submitted for **Mourning Warblers** including 3 with photographs, 4 at SDT 6/10, and 2 at Portage Road AUS 7/1 (LW). There were five reports of **Cerulean Warbler**: one each at First Fork Rd and Nestor Hollow (FFNH), at Big Moores Run Road and Little Moores Run Road (BMLM), 2 at Read Road and Back Road (RRBR) 6/20 (RH, SM), and 2 at LRSP 7/6 (AD, JK). **Northern Parula** was reported from three locations: one at SSF's HWA 6/7 and 6/9 (BM), 2 at SISP 6/15, one there 6/16, 4 on 6/17 (CD), and one at JOR 6/23 (SL). The high count for **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was 12 at LRSP 6/12 (CP). A **Prairie Warbler** was at AS-ELB 6/19 (SS).

Observers: **Robert Snyder, P.O. Box 603, Howard, PA 16841, (814) 753-2629, birdphotoginpa@gmail.com**, Emily Broich, Thomas Buehl Jr., RaeAnn Butler, Lisa Chapman, Michael David, Christina Davidowski, Jonathan DeBalko, Angela Detweiler, Douglas Delinger, Pat and Nora Devlin, David Ferry, Barbara Gee, Sam Greene, Marc Hanneman, Rebecca Hart, Matt Hunter, Jeff Kenney, Bill Libhart, Sarah Lindgren, Debra Lombardo, Steve Manns, Bill Mendat, Jennifer Moore, Chris Payne, Rebecca Payne, Matthew Schenk, Steve Schmit, Drew Weber, Linda Widdop, Elizabeth Zbegner.

Schuylkill County

Reliably found in the Frackville neighborhood, a pair of **Common Nighthawks** was seen 6/6 (TB). A late migrating **Semipalmated Plover** was spotted at Landingville Dam and Marsh 6/2 (TB). These plovers were unusually common during the spring migration this year. **Least Sandpipers** were present at this same location since 7/11 (TB, KH, DR). Also there, **Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs** were found in mid-Jul (TB, KH). A possible **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was spotted flying over the Acopian Center at Hawk Mtn. 6/16 (JM).

A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was seen 7/5 along Coal Mtn. Road (LG). A possible second bird was seen near Orwigsburg 6/8 (JT). The county now has two possible **Peregrine Falcon** nests: one is along Fair Road where 3 birds were seen 6/8 (SM), and a second is in the St. Clair area where a bird was seen and photographed 6/14 (RR).

A **Grasshopper Sparrow** was seen and photographed along Burma Road 6/24 (DR, RR). Three others were seen at the Kelayres reclaimed minelands 7/16 (JaD). A **Savannah Sparrow** and a **Vesper Sparrow** were seen in the Pitman area 6/25 (TB). A **Bobolink** was found at Tuscarora SP 7/15 (JS).

Observers: **Dave Rieger, 401 Stony Mountain Road, Auburn, PA 17922, d.m.rieger@gmail.com**. Mark Boyd, Dan Brennan, Thomas Buehl, Jr., John DeBalko, Jonathan DeBalko (JaD), Denise Donmoyer, Nate Felty, Laurie Goodrich, Karen Hardy, Dan Hinnebusch, Tonia Jordan, Dave Krueel, Kim Loftus, Jacob Miranda, Sean Murphy, Karol Pasquinelli, Rich Rieger, Barb Ritzheimer, Beverly Rockovich (BRo), John Stetson, James Trusky.

Somerset County

Locations: Confluence Area (CA), Flight 93 National Memorial (FLT93), Youghiogheny River (YR).

A fairly sedate period of reporting with no earth-shaking discoveries found Somerset Lake IBA drawn down and weedy with no shorebird habitat. The end of this period was hot and dry, and observer effort may have been low.

Canada Geese, Mallards, and Wood Ducks were breeding as expected along with the now anticipated **Common Mergansers** such as 5 at YR 7/27 (NT). Encouraging was a female **Ruffed Grouse** with 4 young in CA 6/3 (JE). There were seven eBird records of one to 5 **Wild Turkey** and some anecdotal reports of larger broods on the east side of Allegheny Mtn., where the cicada hatch was largest. There were about 17 records for **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** all period, but only four records of **Black-billed Cuckoo**, all in Jun. The only report of **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was 6 calling birds on the

Allegheny Front near Dividing Ridge 6/8 (JP). Probably the least expected sighting was 3 **Sandhill Cranes** flying over FLT93 7/24 (EK).

An **Upland Sandpiper** pair was reportedly still hanging on near Gallitzin SF in Jun. The only seasonal report of **American Woodcock** was one near Windber 6/30 (JH), but they have bred thinly around the county. **Spotted Sandpipers** were reported widely at such sites as FLT93, Kooser SP, YR, and Deer Valley YMCA.

Two **Great Egrets** were found: one at FLT93 7/14 (SW) and one at Deer Valley 7/18-21 (DB). **Green Heron** was only reported in CA 6/13 (BO, TO). **Northern Harrier** was found at FLT93 on 6/10 (AM) where they appeared to be breeding. **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were seen near Meyersdale 6/12 (TO) and at Gallitzin SF 6/13 (T & JK). **Cooper's Hawks** were seen in at least five locations. The only **Red-shouldered Hawk** was at Laurel Hill SP 7/28 (NO), but **Broad-winged Hawks** were mentioned at least 10 times.

Barred Owl was the only owl species with 4 reports. **Belted Kingfishers** were noted on 10 reports in six locales. Of the less common woodpeckers, **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** garnered 14 reports, all at higher elevations, while **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were only noted three times, all in Jun. **American Kestrels** in singles or pairs were reported six times, all in Jun.

Acadian Flycatcher was the most reported species with 10 reports of up to 4 birds. **Alder Flycatcher** was only found at Glenmoor 6/10 (LG). **Willow Flycatcher** was found six times at four locations, and **Least Flycatcher** only garnered three Jun reports. **Yellow-throated Vireos** were found in four spots. **Blue-headed Vireos** and **Red-eyed Vireos** were widespread, but **Warbling Vireo** was only found once at Seven Springs 7/13 (MS).

The only reports of **Horned Lark** were from Markleton 6/7-7/3 (TO). All expected swallows were present with **Purple Martins** restricted to the Springs area and only one **Bank Swallow** at FLT93 (KP). A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** from the winter influx remained at Kooser SP 6/10 (AM). The only **Brown Creeper** report was of 2 at Laurel Hill SP 7/29-30 (JM). **Winter Wrens** were found at five higher-elevation areas. **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** were reported at Salisbury where a pair was found 6/19 (AC). **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were found four times in Deer Valley area and were at Payne Property on Allegheny Mountain.

All breeding thrushes were well accounted for with **Veery** and **Hermit Thrush** records mostly from ridge tops. **Northern Mockingbirds** apparently survived the winter fairly well and were found seven times in five locations. **Purple Finches** breed at the higher elevations and were in five spots.

Grasshopper Sparrows had an encouraging 10 reports with most at Gallitzin SF grassland and FLT93; the one outlier was at Bluebird Hill Farm near Quemahoning Res. (PL). **Dark-eyed Juncos** were up high, and **Vesper Sparrows** were at FLT93 7/7 and 7/24 (KP, EK). **Savannah Sparrows** were scattered with nine reports but only three locales. **Henslow's Sparrows** were also only found at Gallitzin SP and FLT93. **Bobolinks** were only reported at three locations and have seemed to be less common.

Twenty species of warblers were found during nesting season with a couple more probably present. Less common warblers included **Worm-eating Warbler** at Blue Hole, CA and SGL 111, 2 **Golden-winged Warblers** near Hooversville 6/20 (PL, PhL), **Prothonotary Warbler** at YR 6/26 (DB), **Kentucky Warbler** at SGL 111 on 6/14 (LV), and 3 reports of **Cerulean Warbler** and 2 reports of **Yellow-rumped Warbler** at Mt. Davis 6/13 (JH) and 6/27 (HM). Not reported but probably present were Northern Waterthrush, Blue-winged Warbler and Blackburnian Warbler.

Observers: **Jeff Payne, 9755 Glades Pike, Berlin, PA 15530, 814-267-5718, paynemt@gmail.com.**

David Blockstein, David Burleson (DBu), Andrew Claudy, Joseph Elias, Linda Greble, John Hanley, Joshua Heiser (JHe), Tom & Janet Kuehl, Ethan Kibbey, Paul Lehman, Phil Lehman (PhL), Alan MacEachron, James Muller, Heather Moser, Nancy O'Bryan, Becky Ohler, Tiffany Ohler, Chris and Rebecca Payne, Karen Pinckard, Mike Smith, Nathan Tiday, Jennifer Weber, Lucille Voss.

Sullivan County

Locations: Lambert Hill Rd (LH), State Game Land 13's Newel Rd (SNR).

This narrative is derived entirely from eBird reports. There are some very good birds for the county that include potential uncommon nesters. A **Green-winged Teal** was seen in flight at SNR 6/5 (DG). This species has been a confirmed nester in previous years. A **Common Nighthawk** was observed at LH 6/9 (CS). An immature **Common Loon** was found multiple times on Eagles Mere Lake; it was last seen 6/21 (MW). A **Double-crested Cormorant** flew over the LH area 6/9 (CS).

American Bittern was observed singing in wetlands at SNR 6/5 and 6/22 (DG). This is also a previously confirmed nester in the county. **Northern Harriers** were found in separate locations on different dates. A pair was observed at SNR 6/5 (DG). The birds were interacting and showing agitated behavior. A lone individual was at Ricketts Glen SP's Hayfields 7/27 (RS). **White-eyed Vireo** was a good find at World's End SP 6/23 (RD). Another good find for the county was a **Cerulean Warbler** reported in Estella 6/12 (TR).

Observers: **Rob Megraw, 131 Butternut Dr, Pottstown, PA 19464 610-858-6361 robert.r.megraw@gmail.com**, Skip Conant, Ronald Doverspike, Wes Egli, Doug Gross, Thomas Roth, Cindy Steven, Rhiannon Summers, Matthew White.

Susquehanna County

Locations: East Great Bend Swamp (EGBS), Great Bend (GB), New Milford (NM), Oakland (OAK), Susquehanna River (SUSR), William's Pond (WP).

A species rarely found in *Susquehanna* is the **Northern Bobwhite**. One was heard on private property outside of Montrose 6/28 and 7/3 (BM). Compared to last year, cuckoos were in short supply. There were only 3 **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** spotted as compared to 16 last year: one on Mill Road 6/7 (JM, EM, BS), another on private property next to Woodbourne Preserve 6/13 (JS), and one near WP 7/3 (BM). **Black-billed Cuckoos** did slightly better with 4 seen or heard as compared with 9 last year. A single bird was found near NM 6/6 (NV), one was at Camp Susquehannock 6/23 (WS), another near WP 6/28 (BM), and one was present near GB 6/29 (GS, BS). A species that has generated quite bit of local interest in recent years is the **Common Nighthawk**. There is no evidence that the species nests here, but many migrate through *Susquehanna*. This year's spring migration continued along the SUSR with 15 birds seen 6/1, 7 on 6/2 and 2 on 6/4 (BS, GS); and one over Quaker L. 6/6 (NL).

No Sora were seen or heard, but our wetlands beckoned other species that are now becoming regular visitors. **Virginia Rails** nested again this year in a private wetland, and a delightful video captured an adult and juvenile scurrying between cattails near NM 7/10 (NV). A **Common Gallinule** and 2 **Sandhill Cranes** were at Broadhead Pond/Wetland 7/17 (JS). Local birders are hopeful that Sandhill Cranes will successfully nest here in the future. **Double-crested Cormorants** made a showing at three separate locations: Woodbourne Road 6/12 (JS), near Hop Bottom 7/9 and 7/15 (KJ), and on the SUSR 6/18 (NV, BS).

The post-breeding season dispersal of **Great Egrets** has regularly sent these beautiful white birds in our direction. Multiple sightings occurred in Jul with a high count of 5 near Herrick Center 7/15 (SS). One of the highlights for our Breeding Bird Blitz for Conservation team was photographing 4 **Green Heron** fledglings in the EGBS 6/18 (NV, BS). In the last three years, 12 young have successfully fledged from this location.

Owls were rather quiet during this period. **Barred Owls** were present at the following locations: near GB 6/2 (BS), in North Jackson 6/25 (MH), outside of NM 7/6 (NV), and near Friendsville 7/7 (JKD). There were only two reports of **Great Horned Owls** with one in the Meshoppen area 7/4 (AK) and the other near GB 7/10 (GS). The only **Eastern Screech-Owl** was also heard near GB 6/26 (BS). The season's most exciting bird of prey was a **Merlin** that was spotted flying over the EGBS 7/23 (BS). This species had been seen at this location before, but not during the summer months. In fact, there have only been two documented during the period in the last 10 years in *Susquehanna*.

Five local birders visited a sand and gravel pit along the SUSR near OAK to survey this known site for **Bank Swallows** 6/1 (EM, GS, LN, JM, BS). Excitement ran high as there were over 100 holes in the sandy wall and just

as many birds flying back and forth. More than one was still “slinging gravel” out of the entrance of a new nesting cavity. Just eight miles downstream a small colony of **Cliff Swallows** continued on a bridge over the river near GB with six active nests (m.ob.). Although *Susquehanna* is well within the breeding range of **Purple Martins**, these birds continue to ignore our area; however, one was reported over the river in OAK 6/6 (CF).

The varied repertoire of the **Northern Mockingbird** was heard in seven different locations (m.ob.) as opposed to last year when there were no reports. Six of the seven reports were scattered across the southern half of *Susquehanna*. Warblers were plentiful with 21 different species reported. One particularly friendly **Canada Warbler** could not resist approaching passing birders and singing enthusiastically so as not to be missed in SGL 35 (m.ob.). As a result, he may have been the most photographed **Canada Warbler** in Pennsylvania.

Observers: **Barb Stone, 32250 SR 171, Susquehanna, PA 18847, (570)879-2421, barbstn@yahoo.com.** Chris Fischer, Megan Hausler, Kathie Jones, Andy Keister, Jacob Kramer-Duffield, Nate Levy, Evan Mann, Julia Mann, Bruce McNaught, Laura Nichols, Sherry Sparks, Gary Stone, Joyce Stone, Nancy Van Cott.

Union County – no report

Tioga County

Locations: Colton Point State Park (CPSP), Covington (COV), Cowanesque Lake (COWL), Leetonia (LEE), Leonard Harrison State Park (LHSP), Mansfield (MAN), Marsh Creek - IBA/The Muck (MCM); Morris (MOR), Pine Creek Gorge - IBA (PCG), Pine Creek Rail Trail (PCRT), Pine Creek Rail Trail at Webster Road (WEB), Rexford (REXF), Roseville (ROSE), Tioga-Hammond Lakes (THLA); Tioga-Hammond Lakes: Ives Run Recreation Area (IRRA), Lambs Creek Recreation Area (LCRA); Wellsboro (WEL), West Hill and Hilfiger Roads (WHHR).

A total of 131 species were reported on eBird during the summer. Species data from 44 locations and 53 observers were obtained from eBird using bar charts and the species map features. **Hooded Mergansers** were reported from three locations: 2 at a residence near ASP 7/24 (JC), 4 at Woodland Park in WEL 6/2 (SM), and at the “Osprey Wetlands” along Rte. 287 near THLA 7/25 (MS). There were 12 reports of **Common Merganser** of one to 13; the highest counts were 37 in LEE 7/24 (LD), 33 at Tioga SF’s Owassee Rd 7/31 (AL), 17 on Painter Run Rd in WEL 6/20 (KR), and 16 in LEE 7/22 (LS). **Ruffed Grouse** were mostly singles from just five locations: Right Asaph Rd in Westfield 6/19 (KB), Goodall Fire Tower in Ansonia 6/6 (LD), Marsh Cr. Rd in WEL 6/28 (NSP), Rattler Road in MOR 7/25 (D&KP), and Hurley Hill Rd in MOR 7/5 (NY).

One **Common Nighthawk** was at Painter Run Rd in WEL 6/2 (KR). Two **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were at PCRT in Blackwell 7/17 (CC). There were 27 reports of **Chimney Swifts**, with a high count of 46 in WEL 6/2 (KB). **Virginia Rails** were reported 22 times from five locations including WEB, PCRT at Clymer, and Sheer Road Swamp (LD, KC, m.ob.) with a high of 5 at MCM 7/24 (MY). One **Sora** was at MCM 6/7 (LSt).

Single **American Woodcocks** were listed in only seven reports from two locations: a residence near ASP 7/24 (JC), and Hills Creek L. Road 7/6-24 (LD). A single **Spotted Sandpiper** for the entire county was observed along the Tioga R. 7/24 (LD). There were 10 reports of **Ring-billed Gulls**, usually of one to 2 birds, with a high of 9 from COWL 7/20 (D&KP). **Double-crested Cormorants** had six reports from IRRA and COWL with a high of 6 at COWL 6/12 (D&KP). Two **American White Pelicans** were at Hammond L. 6/12 (CN, ph.). Single **American Bitterns** were at MCM 7/15 (DM) and LCRA 7/1 (KC). Single **Great Egrets** were observed at Rte. 6 in WEL (SM, KR), at Ikes Rd in WEL 7/16 (KC), and in TIOG 7/31 (KB).

Single **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were at WHHR 6/28 (KC) and ROSE 7/2 (BSi). **Cooper’s Hawks**, one to 2 per report, were seen at Hills Creek SP 7/29, at WHHR 6/28 (KC), at Liberty 7/11 (GT), at MOR 6/22 (B&TC), and at Dean Hill Road 7/3 (D&KP). There were 39 reports of **Bald Eagles** with two high counts: 5 at COWL 6/12 (D&KP), and 5 at the Tioga R. 7/24 (LD). Single **Red-shouldered Hawks** were reported at Barney Hill Rd in TIOG 7/22 (JK), at Tioga SF’s Landrus Rd Blind 7/11 and at Landrus Rd in MOR 6/4 (KC).

Single **Broad-winged Hawks** were reported 19 times, though four reports had two-bird sightings: at LEE 6/27 (LSt), at CPSP 6/18 (MH), at WEL 6/25 (KR), and at COV 7/4 (BC). Two **Barred Owls** were at LHSP 6/5 (MZ, MiZ), and one at Arnot Rd in Blossburg 7/16 (KC). Single **American Kestrels** were at five locations including PA-660 in WEL 7/11, (JD), the intersection of Cobb Rd and Hills Cr. Road 7/3 (KC, CCo), 2068 Shaw Rd in MAN at various dates (JT, BM), at ROSE 6/11 (BSi), and at Liberty 6/5 (BW).

An **Acadian Flycatcher** was in the CRS area at COWL 7/10 (KC). **Alder Flycatchers** were at 39 locations, with one to 2 birds per report. **Willow Flycatcher** were noted as one to 3 birds in 26 reports, with a high of 5 from MCM 7/19 (JJ, KJ). **Least Flycatchers** were reported 35 times as singles across the county. **Great Crested Flycatchers** were observed at only four locations: one at a cabin in a wooded area at COWL 7/3 (DW), 2 at IRRA 6/9 (MSi), one at Ives Run Rail Trail THLA 6/9 (LD), one at Lambs Cr. Rd in MAN 6/19 (LD), and one at Painter Run Rd in WEL 6/10 (KR). Single **Yellow-throated Vireos** were reported from seven locations: the Railroad grade trail at THLA 6/9, 6/16, 6/29 and 7/23 (LD, GTy, MS), at Old Rte. 287 to Ives campground from Hills Cr. Road 7/25 (LD), at WEB 7/2 (LD), at Rattler Rd in MOR 7/25 (D&KP), and at Old Possessions Rd in COV (BC).

Fish Crows were one at Knoxville 7/10 (LS), one at WEL 6/24 (KB), and 2 at COV 6/8 (KC). Eleven reports of one to 3 **Northern Rough-winged Swallows**; high counts of 4 were at PCG 7/24 (KBU) and the campground at IRRA 7/24 (MS). Two single-bird observations of **Red-breasted Nuthatch** were reported from Hesselgessel Rd in WEL 6/23 (RM, SM) and Kelsy St. in WEL (CCo). **Brown Creepers** were reported as singles from Hesselgessel Rd in WEL 6/23 (RM, SM), at LHSP 7/15 (DM), at IRRA 7/17 (KC), and at Blossburg 7/23 (DY).

Winter Wrens were reported in low numbers of one to 2 birds from Painter Run Rd and Lick Run in REXF 6/13 (KR), at LEE 6/28 and 7/6 (LS), at Copp Hollow Rd in WEL 7/11 (JD), at PCG 7/24 (KBU), and on PCRT at Darling Run 7/26 (KB). **Marsh Wrens** were reported from PCRT’s Cavanaugh Access 6/17 (GTy), on PCRT at Clymer and WEB 7/2 (LD), at MCM 6/9, 7/18, and 7/28 (JuJ, LD), with a high of 4 in Muck Railyard 6/9 (JuJ).

Grasshopper Sparrows were one at the railroad grade trail in THLA 6/9 (LD) and 3 at Strip Mine Grasslands at 620 Rattler Road 6/4, one on 6/20, and one on 6/24 (KC, BS, B&TC). **Savannah Sparrows** were reported from six locations: 2 at Airport Rd in WEL 6/3 (CP), one at Lambs Cr. and Ore Bed Roads 6/4 (LD), 3 at LCRA 6/19 (LD), one at Gee Rd in TIOG 6/29 (KR), one at PCRT’s Cavanaugh Access 7/4 (LD), and one at KB Lodge in Knoxville 7/8 (LS). A single **Henslow’s Sparrow** was on the Strip Mine Grasslands at 620 Rattler Road 6/4 (KC).

An **Orchard Oriole** was at IRRA 6/9 and 2 on 6/21 (MS), as well as one at Nessmuck L. 6/20-21 (BS, KC). A **Worm-eating Warbler** was found along Kendrick Rd in COV 6/1 (KC). Single **Louisiana Waterthrushes**, were at Painter Run Rd in WEL and in REXF 6/1 and 6/13, at Lick Run in REXF 6/13 (KR), and at a residence near ASP 7/31 (JC). Single **Northern Waterthrushes** were reported from Sheer Road Swamp 6/23 (KC) and at PCRT’s Butler Rd access 7/16 (GTy).

One **Golden-winged Warbler** was along Lambs Cr. Rd in MAN 6/19 (LD). Single **Blue-winged Warblers** were reported from four locations: at Hills Creek L. Road 6/1 and 6/3, at Ives Run railroad grade trail in THLA 6/9, at Smith Gully in MAN 6/14 (LD), and at Rte. 660 in WEL 6/16 (KR). All **Northern Parula** reports came from the southwest corner of the county, were low in numbers at one to 3 birds, and were confined to the month of Jun: at LEE, at Clay Mine Road in MOR, at CPSP, at LHSP, at REXF and at WEL (LS, D&KP, KR). There were 13 reports of **Pine Warblers**: one was at Hills Creek SP 6/20 and 2 there 7/1 (LD, RF, RB); one at CPSP 6/10 and 2 on 7/4

One **Yellow-throated Warbler** was reported from MAN 6/1 (EW). Historically, for all years in the eBird database, reports of YTWA have been few: one at ROSE 6/22/2012 and 6/20/2016 (BSi), 2 at Kendrick Rd in COV 7/15/2020 (AM), one at PCRT’s north trailhead, 6/16/2015 (RM, SM), one at IRRA 6/2/2017 (AR), and one at WEL 1, 7/18/2020 (MM). According to the 2nd Bird Breeding Atlas, Yellow-throated Warbler has been re-entering its former range in Pennsylvania since the mid-1970s. During the 2nd Bird Breeding Atlas, one probable and one confirmed sighting were made in Tioga. The atlas also states that Yellow-throated Warbler, given that it “increased block occupancy in

(CPC, BC); one at LHSP 6/15, 7/4, and 7/11 (ZA, JD, DM); one at COWL 7/4 (DW), at ROSE 6/5 (BSi), at LEE 6/6 and at PCG 6/6 (LSt).

Single **Prairie Warblers** were at Nessmuck L. 6/22 (LD), at Lake Rd and Ore Bed Rd in MAN 6/4, at Reese Hill Rd in WEL 6/7, and at LCRA 6/16 and 7/9 (LD); 2 were at Old State Rd in COV 7/4 (BC). It is interesting that only one report was submitted for **Canada Warbler** at CPSP 7/25 (AT, GTy). Note that historically Canada Warblers had been observed 53 times during Jun and Jul over the past 10 years.

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Venango County

Locations: Barkeyville Fields (BF), Buttermilk Hill Nature Sanctuary (BHNS), Franklin (FR), Oil City (OC), Oil Creek State Park (OCSP), Two Mile Run Park (TMRP).

It was a typically slow season, though with a few surprises. Unlike the last few years, June was relatively dry. Five **Mute Swan** showed up at TMRP 6/3-4 (JS, RS); though suspected as releases, they could fly. They were seen again flying over OC 6/24 (RS), then 2 were back on the lake at TMRP 7/18 (JH). There was one report of **Wood Duck**, at TMRP 6/10 (RS), and of **Hooded Merganser** at TMRP 6/6 (RS); both are breeders in *Venango*.

Both **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** and **Black-billed Cuckoos**, though not abundant this year, had multiple sightings through the season. The only **Eastern Whip-poor-will** reports were at Van, one of 2 individuals 6/12 (JH), and the other 6/15 (RS). A **Double-crested Cormorant** was observed flying on Allegheny R. near OC 6/7 (RS). A **Great Egret** was found at OC Marina 7/3 (JH), relocated at the Marina 7/4, and later sighted upriver.

A late **Osprey** was sighted on Allegheny R. 6/17 (RS). A **Barred Owl** was observed or heard throughout the period at BHNS (JS, KG). **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**, uncommon for the season, was observed at BHNS 7/4 (JS, KG). The only **American Kestrel** reports were near Kahle L. 7/4-27 (RS).

Just one **Eastern Wood-Pewee** report was received, at TMRP for 6/13 (RS). An **Alder Flycatcher** was singing at OCSP 6/6 (RS). There were very few **Great Crested Flycatcher** sightings, at TMRP 6/6 and 6/13, and at OCSP 7/4 (RS). **Yellow-throated Vireo** was seen on OCSP 6/13 (RS). **Purple Martin**, always scarce and always near the county line, were at Venus 2/27 (RS) and at BF 7/19 and 7/24 (RS). **Bank Swallows**, increasingly uncommon, were found near FR 6/13 (JH) and again 6/17 (RS). **Cliff Swallows** remained in their previous locations at OCSP and FR, but numbers have been decreasing.

Wood Thrushes was reported throughout the season, **Hermit Thrush** only once, on 7/4 at OCSP (RS), and Veery not at all. A leucistic **American Robin** was photographed in a park in FR 6/26 (JH). At least 3 **Northern Mockingbirds** were at BF 7/24 (RS). Sparrows included **Field Sparrow** 6/10 and 6/13 at TMRP (RS), **Swamp Sparrow** at TMRP 6/20 (RS), and **Dark-eyed Junco** at OCSP 7/18 (RS). A **Baltimore Oriole** was at BHNS 7/4 (JS, KG).

Warbler highlights were few: **Blue-winged Warbler** at OCSP 6/6 and 6/13 (RS), **Kentucky Warbler** at SGL 39 on 6/13 (RS), **Pine Warbler** at the Wolfkiel area of OCSP 6/7 (JH), and **Hooded Warbler** at OCSP 7/4 (RS). **Scarlet Tanager** reports included sightings at OCSP 6/10 and 6/13 (RS). **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were at BHNS 7/4 (JS, KG) and **Indigo Buntings** were reported through the period.

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Warren County

Locations: Akeley Swamp (AS), Allegheny National Forest, Forest Road 119 (A119), City of Warren (CW), Kinzua Point (KP), Sugar Grove (SG), Tuttle Run (TR).

Again this summer we experienced what has become our new "normal": alternating periods of unseasonable warmth and dryness followed by brief rainy and cool weather. And the weather wasn't the only oddity - perhaps the most noticeable was a disturbing scarcity of swallows. Normally by mid-July, power lines hold multiple families of Barn and other swallows, often in the hundreds. This summer we were lucky to see 3 or 4 at a time. A recent study by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology reported a loss of 3 billion birds from North America in the past 50 years, disproportionately affecting aerial insectivores and grassland species. Some of those losses have become depressingly apparent even at the county scale.

Wood Ducks tend to be widespread but uncommon during the breeding season, so a high count of 27 seen at AS 6/16 (BC, TS) was notable. Like last year, **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were widespread beyond their usual bottomland areas, with reports of single birds or pairs from across *Warren* (m.ob.); the widespread infestation of gypsy moths was likely a major factor for their increase. **Common Nighthawks** are another aerial insectivore whose numbers have plummeted over the past few decades; it was encouraging to have a pair apparently nesting in downtown CW 7/3 (TS). Up to 3 **Virginia Rails** were heard at AS 6/16 (BC, TS).

A county first was a **Long-billed Dowitcher** seen foraging in flooded fields at Hatch Patch fields 7/17 in the company of 2 **Solitary Sandpipers** (TS) and, if there were 2, are they really solitary? A single **Greater Yellowlegs** was photographed at AS 7/18 (TS). A couple of locally rare herons showed up in *Warren* this summer. A **Great Egret** made a brief appearance at the Tidouete Boat Launch 6/3 (EN, JN, KN), and a **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was seen and heard flying over CW 6/30 (TS). Two **Ospreys** sitting on a new nest at TR 7/6-9 may be the first documented breeding of this species in *Warren* (TS), although they're relatively common in neighboring *McKean* and in *Chautauqua*, New York.

The sole remaining known **Northern Goshawk** nest in *Warren* failed early, the victim of fisher predation on chicks and the adult female. Goshawks are disappearing rapidly from Pennsylvania and neighboring states, prompting the Pennsylvania Game Commission to vote unanimously in August this year to list them as endangered in this state (DW). At least two active **Merlin** nests produced young in CW this summer; 2 young were seen sitting with parents in the top of spruce 7/20 (TS). Merlins can be remarkably cryptic despite living in urban areas and being *extremely* noisy.

A high count of 4 **Acadian Flycatchers** were noted at SGL 86 on 7/4 (TS); this far north this species is restricted to dense riparian hemlock areas. **Alder Flycatchers** usually greatly outnumber **Willow Flycatchers** locally, but for some reason Willows were unusually common this summer, with a high of 7 at AS 7/23 (TS). **Eastern Kingbirds** are another aerial insectivore suffering from severe population declines; kingbirds were scarce this summer except in a few of their usual local strongholds, such as the 4 seen at AS 7/23 (TS). With a high count of 15, **Purple Martins** were spotted around a gourd complex on an Amish farm on a BBS route stop in SG 6/8 (SS).

A total of 4 **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were reported from Hearts Content NA 7/6 (EN, KN). **Winter Wrens** are common in *Warren*, but 8 seen on Tanbark Trail north of Sandstone Springs 7/23 was an exceptional number for such a skulky species (CW). Two **Marsh Wrens** seen at AS 6/3 were noteworthy (MS). **Swainson's Thrushes**, though a common breeder locally in hemlock ravines, tend to be rather quiet and hard to see, so 7 reported from Tom Run Trail 6/26 was impressive (JK, TK, CW). **Swamp Sparrows** tend to be quite common in the few wetlands across *Warren*; up to 6 were reported consistently from AS on multiple dates (m.ob.), although it was likely a gross undercount.

One of the many grassland birds declining everywhere is the **Bobolink**; they seemed rather sparse this summer, with the highest reported count of 3 on the SG BBS route 6/8 (SS). Similarly, **Eastern Meadowlarks** have lately been few and far between; 2 were reported from Martin Road 6/3 (MS). But it's not all bad news, birdwise. One species that has increased locally in recent years is the **Orchard Oriole**, with 2 reported at AS 6/16 (BC, TS) and one on the SG BBS route outside SG 6/8 (SS).

An exciting rarity for *Warren*, especially away from the Allegheny R. corridor, was a **Worm-eating Warbler** spotted at A119 on 7/2 (MH, RH, FM). Although they have bred here sporadically, most years worm-eaters go unreported. **Blue-winged Warblers** seem to have become quite rare in *Warren*, so a pair seen at AS 6/16 (SB, JH) was encouraging. Locally, **Black-and-white Warblers** tend to be found on steep oaky slopes; 3 were spotted at such sites at KP 6/11 (TR, SS) and at SGL 86 on 7/5 (TS). **Cerulean Warblers** tend to concentrate in similar oaky areas, such as the 7 seen and heard at KP 6/11 (TR, SS). In this area, **Blackburnian Warblers** also can be common in oak forests, such as the 5 seen on SGL 86 on 7/5 (TS), but they reach their highest densities in mature/old-growth hemlocks, for example, the 21 seen along the TR 6/26 (JK, TK, CW). The 2nd BBA showed *Warren* had the highest densities of Blackburnians in Pennsylvania! Skulky **Canada Warblers** showed up throughout the forested parts of the area, with a high count of 2 seen on at Farnsworth Cr. (SS).

Scarlet Tanagers have tended to be very common in the forested parts of *Warren* but seemed unusually sparse this year. A high count of just 6 was reported from the North Country Trail north of Mayburg 7/10 (CW).

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Washington County

Location: Canonsburg Lake (CL).

Black-billed Cuckoos, surprisingly, were found in no less than six locations this season, a much better showing than recent summers. Three **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were still in song at Hillman SP 7/31 (RT), following a handful of reports there through the summer. Two **Solitary Sandpipers** were at CL 7/27 (FK). After a dismal showing of **Great Egrets** at CL in the spring, at a typically good location for them, the summer season saw the trend continue with only one noted, that on 7/22 (JF).

On 6/7, the adult female of the pair of CL **Bald Eagles** was struck by a car as it scavenged some roadkill. The eagle was stunned but eventually flew off an apparently recovered on its own in full, because it was seen back at the nest as usual a day later (LC). The nest fledged 2 young this season, one 6/23 and the other 6/28 (LC). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was seen on Sundust Road west of Mingo Creek CP 7/3 (FK). Up to 4 **Henslow's Sparrows** were fixtures at Ciaffoni Road through 7/20 (FK). Two **Yellow-breasted Chats** at SGL 151 from 6/15-7/18 (FK, et al.) were among reports of the species from three different locations this summer. Top count of **Bobolink** at Ciaffoni Road was 18 on 6/1, the first day of the season (FK). A number of smaller double-digit counts were made there through the season.

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Wayne County – no report

Westmoreland County

Locations: Beaver Run Reservoir at the Route 380 Overlook (BRR-380), Conemaugh River Lake, including the West Penn Trail (CRL), Donegal Lake (DL), Kuehl Property - Murrysville (KP), Latrobe Airport Grassland Area (LAGA), Laughlin Farm Road Area (LFR), Linn Run State Park (LRSP), Mammoth Park (MP), Murrysville Community Park (MCP), Northmoreland Park (NP), Powdermill Nature Reserve (PNR), Spruce Flats Bog (SFB), Twin

Lakes Park (TLP), Westmoreland Heritage Trail (WHT): Delmont to Trees Mill (WHT-D), Sarah Steel Trailhead to Saltsburg (WHT-SST).

A confirmed breeding observation during effort for the PSO Breeding Bird Blitz provided an uncommon find in what was otherwise a very common breeding season in *Westmoreland*. **Wood Ducks** were widely reported for the season, including an eBird checklist with a photo of a hen with 9 ducklings at TLP 6/19 (PC). Two **Common Mergansers** were on Loyalhanna Cr. near the intersection of Rtes 30 and 381 on 6/18 (JLK, TK), and 26 were at Legion Keener Park in Latrobe 7/20 (LM, SM).

It was good to have a report of **Ruffed Grouse** at an unexpected location, crossing a residential area of Monastery Road in Latrobe 6/3 (DM); more encouraging was an indication of breeding success for Ruffed Grouse in the Laurel Highlands with a capture of a half-grown chick at PNR and Bird Banding Station 7/22. As expected, **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were widely reported, while there were just a few scattered reports of **Black-billed Cuckoos** including 2 at SFB 6/18 (JLK, TK) and 2 at Pleasant Valley Park 7/13 (PF). One **Common Nighthawk** was on Zubal Road south of Apollo 6/25 and 6/28 (MC).

Several reports for **Spotted Sandpiper** included one at MP 7/20 (MM), and the only **Solitary Sandpiper** of the season was at Hamilton Road Ponds 7/20 (MM). It was a bit unusual to see four eBird reports of one **Ring-billed Gull** at TLP with the first 6/15 (LM/SM) and the last 7/19 (LM/SM). There were 2 fly-over **Ring-billed Gulls** seen from Zubal Road 6/2 (MC). One **Herring Gull** was at NP 6/1 (MVT) and one at TLP 6/7 (LM/SM). **Great Egrets** were at two locations during the season. One Great Egret was on MAWC's Beaver Run property 6/23 (KB). Hard to speculate it was the same Great Egret, as another report of one was not until 7/23 (PC). One Great Egret was at MP 7/20 (MM).

Two **Black Vultures** were at LFR 6/5 (MD), and one was in that area again 6/12 (MM), but there were no reports from the Ligonier Valley. There was another Black Vulture near Kecksburg 7/4 (TMD). An **Osprey** was seen at the Bush RA of Loyalhanna L. 6/14 (AL) and 6/16 (PC), but no confirmation was received that they nested in this area. Osprey breeding was confirmed at DL with three chicks and one adult on the nest 6/18 (JLK, TK). Surprisingly there were just a few reports for **Bald Eagles**, although interesting was a photo in an eBird checklist showing an adult attacking a perched juvenile at CRL 6/21 (SW). **Red-shouldered Hawks** were at the KP 6/1-7/31 (JLK, TK), with a sighting of a fly-over juvenile 7/12 (TK). **Broad-winged Hawks** for the season included a fly-over at the KP 6/15 (TK), and an eBird checklist with one photographed at MCP 7/27 (MM).

Accipiter identification, the bane of hawk watchers, came into play with respect to a 6/18 trail cam video clip from the Murrysville area provided by Bill Powers. Given the decline of Northern Goshawks in Pennsylvania it would have been rewarding to be able to provide researchers with evidence of one present during the breeding season in *Westmoreland*. In this video this apparently adult accipiter (which failed to capture a Mourning Dove) was showing visual characteristics, such as the appearance of a white supercilium and the lack red marking on the chest and belly, of a Goshawk, but lacked the bulkiness, and provided the more slender and lanky appearance that one would associate with a Cooper's Hawk. Comments from experts included this from Bob Mulvihill: "I certainly do see the superficial resemblance, but I don't think it is a Northern Goshawk. I am going primarily on the proportions of the head and body--NOGO has such a big body that its head looks proportionately much smaller than this bird. Also, the eyeline of a NOGO really should flare at the back. I am inclined to think that there is something in the foreground that is giving the impression of the eyeline, and that this actually is a Cooper's Hawk." This comment was from Kim VanFleet: "Although most of the characteristics say Cooper's there are a couple of plumage traits I'm seeing that are more commonly associated with Goshawk." There were no further reports during the season of this bird.

One **Eastern Screech-Owl** was at NP 7/6 (MVT). Two **Great-horned Owls** were heard from both sides of the lake at MP 6/23 (RC). **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were all in the Laurel Highlands. The PSO Breeding Bird Blitz effort 6/18 (JLK/TK) provided for reports of one at LRSP and two at both Wolf Rocks Trail and SFB.

There were no definitive reports for Alder Flycatcher for the season, although a report of a Traill's Flycatcher at DL 7/24 (AL) could possibly have been an Alder Flycatcher. Little reporting for **Least Flycatcher** had the most productive location being the CRL with five eBird checklist submissions, where one was first reported 6/1 (RC) and a final report was of 2 on 7/6 (SW). There were just a few reports for **Great Crested Flycatcher**, although of note is that one was heard at the KP 6/6 and 6/9, then seen 7/12 (TK). With significant reporting of many of the vireo species and a few for the hard-to-see **White-eyed Vireo**, one was at Loyalhanna L. 6/14 (AL). As is now the norm, **Common Ravens** were widely reported at both low and at higher elevations in *Westmoreland*. Another indication on how productive this grassland area is for birding, one **Horned Lark** was reported at LFR 6/14 (RC), and one was there again 6/24 (SW).

Purple Martins were at nest boxes maintained at MCP and at BRR-380 (m.ob.). One **Bank Swallow** was at DL 7/24 (AL). For **Cliff Swallows**, most were at BRR-380 where they were reported only 5 days with an early one 6/10 (PF) and a final report of 2 on 7/6 (RH/SM). At Laurel Ridge locations that are appropriate nesting habitat for **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, one was at SFB 6/11 (AM) and one 7/8 (DC). There were 2 **Brown Creepers** at Duff Park 6/11 (PF), and reports of them at CRL with one 6/15 (PF/DK) and one 6/26 (MC). A reliable location for this species, 2 **Winter Wrens** were at LRSP 6/18 (JLK/TK).

Early migrants (??) were a **Swainson's Thrush** 7/22 and 7/28, and 2 on 7/30. **Hermit Thrushes** were found only on Laurel Ridge during the season with SFB being the most productive location with reports on 6 days; the earliest was one 6/5 (SM), and the last was of 4 on 7/10 (AH). An eBird checklist of 2 **Purple Finches** at SFB 7/9 provided a breeding code indicating a pair in suitable habitat (AD, JK).

There were five eBird checklists with **Grasshopper Sparrows** for LFR, with the earliest of one 6/5 (MD) and the latest again of one 6/21 (PF); reports of 2 both made on 6/14 included photos (RC, AB). Two Grasshopper Sparrows were at LAGA 7/10 (RC), with one there 7/12 (RC). One Grasshopper Sparrow was near Kecksburg 7/4 (TMD). **Savannah Sparrows** were at several locations in the valley west of Chestnut Ridge; from north to south, there was one at LFR 6/5 (MD, MM), one near St. Vincent College 6/24 (AM), 3 at the LAGA 7/10 (RC) and 5 there 7/12 (RC). **Swamp Sparrows** were at several locations including DL, where there was one reported 6/18 (JLK, TK), one 7/18 (AL), and 3 on 7/24 (AL). Winnie Palmer Nature Reserve hosted one Swamp Sparrow on 10 days beginning 6/4 and continuing through 7/22 (PCu).

Reports of **Bobolinks** included 4 at LRF 6/12 (MM). A new location for this species, 6 were at Shield's Farm in Delmont 6/15 (KB) and 2 at the Allen Road/Rt. 381 Farm Area near PNR 6/18 (JLK, TK). Four **Eastern Meadowlarks** were at Shield's Farm on 6/15 (KB). Eastern Meadowlarks were at LFA, although no more than 2 on 6/16 (PF). The season high count of Eastern Meadowlark was of 8 near Pleasant Unity 6/26 (AS), and one was at a new location on Italy Road 7/7 (TK). Limited reporting for **Orchard Oriole** indicated one at WHT-SST 7/11 (KB) and 2 on 7/24 (PC).

Notable warbler captures at the PNR and Bird Banding Station included one **Worm-eating Warbler** and 2 **Blue-winged Warblers** in Jun. LRSP and Laurel Ridge specialty warbler species were reported during the season, which included **Black-and-White Warbler**. A **Tennessee Warbler** was at the PNR and Bird Banding Station 7/20, 7/22, and 7/30. **Cerulean Warblers** were reported at CLR during the season (m.ob.) beginning with 2 on 6/4 (SM) until one 7/5 (MD). Perhaps due to lack of effort, however, **Northern Parula** was reported at just two locations with one at TLP 6/5 and 6/15 (LM, SM) and one at CLR 7/3 (PC). Reported only on Laurel Ridge, the season high count was of 4 **Magnolia Warblers** at Wolf Rocks Trail 6/18 (JLK, TK). Much the same for **Blackburnian Warblers**, they were reported on only three days and only at SFB with the first report of one 6/6 (AH), concluding again with a report of just one 7/3 (HC). LRSP and Laurel Ridge had very limited effort, but also included **Chestnut-sided Warbler** and **Black-throated Blue Warbler**. The CRL area was the most productive location for **Yellow-throated Warbler** with 10 reports on 10 days beginning with one 6/5 (MM) and continuing with one 7/6 (SW). One **Prairie Warbler** was reported at a Golden-winged Warbler Monitoring Project location near Jones Mill 6/15 (ST), and one was at WHT-SST 6/20 (KB). LRSP and Laurel Ridge additionally reported **Black-throated Green Warbler** and **Canada Warbler**. PNR and Bird Banding Station reported one **Wilson Warbler** in Jun.

In appropriate habitat, one **Dickcissel** was seen at WHT-SST 6/20 (KB).

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Wyoming County

Locations: Sordoni's Farm (SF), Tunkhannock (TUN).

This summer season, eBird contributors recorded 128 species in *Wyoming*, more than the number reported in any one of the previous June-July periods since 2010 and a larger number than the average of the previous five years - or of the previous ten years. Of those 128 species, 118 have previously been recorded as Confirmed or Probable breeders, either during the last Breeding Bird Atlas (BBA) or in subsequent records.

The only species that reached newly elevated breeding status during this summer season is **Mute Swan**. Several birders recorded Mute Swans at SF at various dates during the period. Additionally, a bird was recorded on the nest at SF 6/20 (JDB), and a pair was recorded on that nest 7/11 (RH, SM). Although we've had records of Mute Swan many times over the years, this is the first I'm aware of that confirms breeding behavior. The 2nd BBA did not. This is the only new or newly elevated breeding status that I'm aware of that was conclusive during this season. However, here are some other breeding notes that I find interesting.

Ruffed Grouse has become a less common sight in *Wyoming*, but an adult with a chick was observed in Forkston Twp. 6/18 (ES). We know the species breeds in the county, and it's heartening to learn of continued evidence, meager as it may be. It's also heartening to learn of the record of a singing **Eastern Whip-poor-will**, a possible breeder, observed in the Creveling lakes area of SGL 57 on 6/16 (JDB, EZ). Eastern Whip-poor-will was identified as a Probable *Wyoming* breeding species in the BBS but it, too, is less widely reported these days.

Another species whose presence is less common than in the past is **Chimney Swift**. This season they were reported by several birders at several locations in the county, usually just one or 2 at a time. However, 8 were observed 7/15 entering a chimney in downtown TUN and leaving after just few minutes (JE). Were they investigating nesting sites? That would confirm breeding for a species listed as Probable in the *Breeding Bird Atlas*. Two **Sandhill Cranes** were seen foraging and preening in the vegetation on one of the many islands on the marshy lake at Sharpe's L. 7/19 (JD). This is where two adults and two colts were seen in the spring. We've had evidence of breeding at Sharpe's on and off for several years, and it has been great to see it continuing.

Black Vulture was not listed for *Wyoming* during the BBA, however, the species has been nesting in a barn south of TUN for the past two years. Two chicks fledged in 2020. This year the landowner reported 4 birds at the barn this summer, including one found dead on the barn floor. She was unsure whether the survivors are one adult and two young or two adults and one young. In any case, we believe that two young were produced. A single **Osprey** was recorded twice, 6/26 (EZ) and 6/20 (SM), both or possibly the same bird at the Creveling Pond at SGL 57. Osprey was noted as a Probable breeder during the BBA, and we see them regularly, but we have made no observations that confirm breeding in *Wyoming*. A single male **Northern Harrier**, a Possible breeder in the BBA, was recorded at SF 6/29 (BE). Besides its presence during safe dates, no other breeding behavior was reported.

Three nestling **Peregrine Falcons** were observed at the *Wyoming* nest site 6/1 (JD). Unfortunately, I missed their fledging. Finally, **Henslow's Sparrows**, Possible breeders from the BBA, were reported singing 6/19-30 at SF by six different birders, within safe dates, and in suitable habitat. Does that elevate the species to Probable breeder?

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York County

Locations: Codorus State Park (CSP), Gifford Pinchot State Park (GPSP), Hellam Hills Nature Preserve (HHNP), Hopewell Township Park (HTP), Lake Redman (LR), Lake Williams (LW), Long Arm Res. (LAR), Nixon County Park (NCP)..

This summer's 142 species far eclipsed the previous high of 126. Warbler variety was excellent with 18 species. A number of uncommon species helped the species count with the most noteworthy being **American Avocet**, probable **Bonaparte's Gull**, **White Ibis**, **Swallow-tailed Kite**, **Mississippi Kite**, and **Summer Tanager**. York eBirders also produced reports from a newly established conservation area, Hellam Hills Nature Preserve, that yielded some nice finds.

Mute Swans were not reported from the typical Spring Grove site, but a pair was at Kline's Run Park 7/27 (NS). Good finds, a single **American Black Duck** was at GPSP 6/2 (DN), and a trio was at LR 7/27 (CK). A male **Bufflehead** from the spring remained at LR throughout this period (m.ob.). Confirmed breeding of **Hooded Merganser** was noted at Sunnyside Rd 6/13 (CB). Two reports of **Common Merganser** females with young on the Yellow Breeches Cr. is particularly noteworthy. The compiler is not aware of prior county breeding of this species with the possible exception of suggested breeding along the Susquehanna R. The Yellow Breeches Cr. is the dividing line for *Cumberland/York*, and both reports found the birds on the water. A 10-mile kayak trip noted two broods totaling 25 birds 6/24 (BH), while another sighting noted a group of 20 birds with juveniles identified 7/24 (KA). Add in at least three other Common Merganser reports, and it appears that this species has been continuing its southward range expansion with accompanying breeding activity.

A **Pied-billed Grebe** was found at York Haven 7/5 (JDu, JG). Intriguing, a **Northern Bobwhite** at LAR 7/15 (DN) exhibited skittish and cover-seeking behavior beyond what would be expected for a released/escaped bird. A horseback ride through tall grass adjacent to a tree line in the Lewisberry area flushed 7 **Ruffed Grouse** 7/3 (JC). One would have to go back many decades to find a higher county count.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo reporting (m.ob.) was widespread, and four sites reporting **Black-billed Cuckoos** 6/6-7/29 (DA, DiA, DN, RSi) was a positive as well. Single **Common Nighthawks** were noted at Loganville 7/14 (BR) and along the Rail Trail 7/18 (ES), and a pair was seen at Kline's Run Park 7/27 (NS). A **Virginia Rail** was at LR 7/9-10 (BR). LR also held a pair of **American Avocets** 7/25 (m.ob.), and one was at CSP 6/25 (JaD, EV). Having an avocet report is rare enough so two reports of likely different birds is possibly a first for the county. Southern movement of 9 **Least Sandpipers** was detected at Shepperd Myers Res. 7/25-28 (DA, CB, EV). A good summer find at SGL 242 was an **American Woodcock** 6/19 (RK).

A pair of **Bonaparte's Gulls** was reported at LAR 7/31 (JO), apparently only seen in flight with the eBird entry noting black smudge marks behind eyes and white underwings while being smaller than a nearby **Ring-billed Gull**. This represents the first sighting for this period for York. A **Caspian Tern** was at LR 7/24 (KC, MCr). A visit to the Kiwanis L.'s mixed rookery produced counts of 43 **Great Egrets** and 27 **Black-crowned Night Herons** 7/8 (BGf, KS). Although no **Yellow-crowned Night Herons** were found at the rookery, an adult and juvenile were seen at LW 6/21 (JB). *Cumberland/York* shared a remarkable 5-count **White Ibis** flock in and along the Yellow Breeches Cr. at Lisburn Rd. Their extended stay 7/19-28 (m.ob.)

and relatively easy access afforded a multitude of birders the opportunity to see and photograph the flock.

A **Black Vulture** flock totaling 123 birds at CSP 7/21 (RS) was noteworthy. The **Swallow-tailed Kite** sighting was over Airville 7/24 (MP), and the eBird report included a short description (no doc. submitted). The **Mississippi Kite** was photographed over Delta 6/5 (AH, MH) soaring with a black vulture. The bird's plumage suggested it was entering its second year. **Osprey** reporting indicated at least three nesting sites; Brunner Island, CSP, and LR/LW. Always elusive in this period, one **Broad-winged Hawk** in the Slate Hill area 6/10 (JCh) was the only report.

Summertime **Sharp-shinned Hawk** reporting continues to reflect a growing trend. As the PA BBA safe dates are June 1 to July 31, all five sightings this period (MC, BG, RP, BR, MW) raised the possibility of a breeding presence. One report in particular from Susquehanna Memorial Gardens 7/4 (RP) raises the breeding possibility. This report is a repeat of a 2020 sighting with identical date and site. Further monitoring of the area in spring of 2022 will be done to see if nesting activity can be detected. To date, "sharpies" have not been a confirmed breeder in the county.

The four reports (DC, BR, AS, ES) of **Eastern Screech-Owls** included a photo capturing one of the species' known predators, a **Barred Owl**, eating a screech-owl at NCP 6/10 (BR). The five reports of Barred Owl were led by a 3-count at NCP 6/9-28 (MCr, BP, BR). Thirteen sites holding **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were paced by a 4-count at HTP. A **Peregrine Falcon** was at Goldsboro 6/16 (BS), and a pair were at York Haven 7/10-19 (DC). Flycatcher and vireo sp reporting was strong across the board for all expected species. A highlight from the vireo group were 5-bird counts of **White-eyed Vireo** from Lock 12 on 6/14 (AS) and GPSP 7/16 (DN).

Horned Larks were found at five sites throughout the period (DA, BB, DN, RP) with fledged young noted along Taylor Hill Rd 7/4-15 (RP). Five sites and dates reporting **Bank Swallows** gave no real indication of a colony presence. The five sites producing **Cliff Swallow** reports suggested the CSP colony remains the only documented nesting site in the county. However, reports for LR 6/6-7/11 (BR, RS) of up to 4 may suggest a second colony. There are three bridges that cross LR, and it has seemed plausible that the understructure/support is suitable for nesting. GPSP produced reports of a single **Veery** 6/1-7/3 (JMC, DN), and visits to CSP detected 3 birds 6/12 (SMAS) and 7/5 (KH).

Grasshopper Sparrows were found at five sites (m.ob.). Nice counts of 5 birds came from Highpoint Scenic Vista Area 7/30 (BB), up to 7 were along Dairy Rd 6/8-12 (DA, DN, AS), and an impressive 18-count was made at HTP 7/23 (KC, MCr). A singing **White-throated Sparrow** was at Dover Twp 6/12 (DC). **Savannah Sparrow** sightings were limited to a pair at HTP 6/10-7/23 (m.ob.) and a pair at LAR 7/17-18 (CB, EV). NCP produced the only **Swamp Sparrow** report of one 6/13 (D&NN). Seven sites recording **Yellow-breasted Chats** were nice to see, and Spring Valley C.P. racked up an impressive 6 birds 7/7 (DA). Up to 5 **Bobolinks** were along Dairy Rd 6/8-12 (DA, DN, AS). Four sites produced **Eastern Meadowlark** reports, and HTP held them all period (m.ob.) with a high of 24 birds. Oriole sp. reporting was strong with 15 and 25 sites recording **Orchard Oriole** and **Baltimore Oriole**, respectively.

Warbler variety was a plus as noted in the opening paragraph. Nice counts of 9 **Ovenbirds** and 4 **Louisiana Waterthrushes** came from GPSP 6/2 and 6/7 (D&NN), respectively. GPSP produced up to 3 **Blue-winged Warblers** 6/16-26 (JDB, SW), and HHNP held a single 7/31 (DA). **Black-and-white Warbler** singles were found at Otter Cr. 6/15 (DA) and Delta 7/20 (KB). Singles of **Prothonotary Warblers** were found at Indian Steps 6/5 (DA), Gut Rd 7/3 (CE), and Brunner Island 7/8-9 (BR). Strong reporting at five sites of **Kentucky Warblers** was paced by a 5-count at GPSP 6/7 (D&NN). **Hooded Warbler** counts of up to 5 birds at HHNP 7/31 (DA) and GPSP 7/16 (DN) were noteworthy.

Good summer-period finds were a single **Cerulean Warbler** at Apollo C.P. 6/15 (DN) and a 7/2 (DA) pair at Lock 12, a tardy **Blackpoll Warbler** at Hillcrest Rd 6/1 (DA), a **Yellow-throated Warbler** at York Furnace Boat Ramp 6/5 (DA), and a pair of **Black-throated Green Warblers** at HHNP 7/24 (AMa). Nice **Prairie Warbler** counts were 10 birds at Apollo C.P. 6/8 (RSi) and 7 at GPSP 6/12 (SW).

A pair of **Summer Tanagers** was a great find at HHNP 7/21-25 (DA, et al). The male was well photographed and audio-recorded, while the second bird was noted as a female/immature. The late date of this sighting (within

BBA safe dates) seems to preclude a spring-migration overshoot situation raising the possibility of a nesting attempt. Five sites reporting **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** included a male and female at a Fairview Twp feeder 6/19 (JC). This species is an isolated and uncommon breeder in the northern part of the county. **Blue Grosbeak** presence remains consistent with five sites producing reports 6/10-7/30 (m.ob.). Up to 3 **Dickcissels** were at LAR 7/13-29 (m.ob.), and a single was at HTP 6/21 (DF).

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

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

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

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IN FOCUS – Summer 2021 - Summer Waders



This **Great Blue (White) Heron**, a subspecies of Great Blue was found 8 (here 26) July at Manayunk Canal, *Philadelphia* where it spent the rest of the month feeding on bluegills; about the fifth state record. (*George Armistead*)



Uncommon but regular in summer in *Centre*, this **Great Egret** spent most of July (here 21 July) at Bald Eagle SP. (*Bob Snyder*)



Up to five **Little Blue Herons** were found through most of the season (here 18 July) at Lake Redman, *York*. (*Bob Reiter*)



These four recently fledged **Green Herons** were found at East Great Bend Swamp *Susquehanna* 18 June during the Breeding Bird Blitz; over the last three years, 12 Green Herons have fledged at this location. (*Barb Stone*)



One of two **Roseate Spoonbills** at Laughlin Mill Pond, *Cumberland* beginning 10 (here 13) July; one left the area 23 July, the same date on which a Spoonbill was first seen at Wildwood Park, *Dauphin*. (*Dave Kerr*)



Providing a first county record, three of what may have been as many as five **Roseate Spoonbills** at Faylor Lake, *Snyder* 5-8 (here 5) July; one spoonbill was seen 9 July only at nearby Walker Lake. (*Debra Rittelmann*)