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Cover: Iconic bird of Pennsylvania's marshes, a Red-winged Blackbird proclaims its territory at New Milford, Susquehanna 3 June. (Nancy VanCott)

BBA3

If all goes as planned, by this time next year Pennsylvania birders will be a month into the third state breeding bird atlas - BBA3 for short - searching out pairs of duetting Great Horned Owls on territory and finding yet more Bald Eagle nesting locations. January 2024 marks 20 years after the beginning of BBA2 and 40 years after BBA1 - and so it is time for the biggest and most important Citizen Science project in Pennsylvania to go into Version 3. Although the basic goal of cataloging the state's breeding species remains the same, BBA3 will be very different in other ways from BBA1 where all data collection was done by paper, and even from BBA2 for which most birders entered data online into a very basic but nicely functional database (though some still did paper submission). BBA3 will use eBird for data entry and collection, as other states are already doing for their third atlas (e.g. Maryland).

As we enter the era of PA BBA3, we can look back to data gathered in BBA1 and BBA2 to see issues that will be addressed with BBA3 data. One important and obvious result relates to population trends. In this issue our lead article looks at species that appear to have significantly decreased from the 1980s (BBA1) to the 2000s (BBA2), species that will be of special interest this time around.

Some of those same declining species made a recent list of 70 North American *species at the tipping point*. This list comes from the ninth U.S. State of the Birds Report, compiled through efforts and data from 33 different entities, including Cornell, Audubon, American Bird Conservancy, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife, to name a few. These are species deemed to have lost 50% of their **North American** population over the last 50 years and on track to decrease by another 50% in the next 50 years if nothing changes, *and* which are not protected under the Endangered Species Act. Several of these 70 species currently nest (or have in recent times) in Pennsylvania: *Bobolink*, *Chimney Swift*, *Evening Grosbeak*, *Golden-winged Warbler*, *Henslow's Sparrow*, *King Rail*, and *Prairie Warbler*. All of these showed a decrease in detection between BBA1 and BBA2 in Pennsylvania. Another 15-20 species on that list regularly migrate through and/or winter in the state, among them *Bicknell's Thrush*, *Black Scoter*, *Great Black-backed Gull*, *Lesser Yellowlegs*, *Pectoral Sandpiper*, *Ruddy Turnstone*, *Semipalmated Sandpiper*, and *Short-billed Dowitcher*.

One additional comment on BBA3, or at least related to it - thought is being given to also doing a *winter bird atlas*, something being done in Maine in parallel with their ongoing third breeding bird atlas. If so, it would begin in the winter of 2024-2025. Still tentative, but an appealing idea for birders who want something to draw them out into the cold after CBC season and the initial adrenaline rush of starting the new year list at the beginning of January.

2023 annual meeting will be at State College.

The annual PSO meeting will return to spring for 2023, and to State College, which hosted in 2001. As of this writing, planning is far advanced with details on speakers, field trips, and registration coming soon, in *The Pileated* and at the PSO website: <https://pabirds.org/index.php>

Compiler news

With this issue, we welcome one new compiler. **Barb Stone** will take over in *Susquehanna*. **Evan Mann** has been compiling that county since Volume 30, in 2016. We thank Evan for his seven years of contribution.

Elsewhere - **Andrew Hurst** will shift from doing *Union* to compiling *Snyder*. **Carol Light** will add *McKean* to *Elk* and *Forest* that already she compiles (in addition to serving as copy editor for the journal).

The following counties need a compiler: *Bradford*, *Luzerne*, *Perry*, and *Union*. Contact the editor if interested.

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

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Results from Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas 1 and 2: Species showing likely population declines.

Greg Grove

The purposes of a breeding bird atlas (BBA) are to catalog the *roster* of breeding species in the state and to describe *distribution* of each across the state. Pennsylvania's third breeding bird atlas (BBA3) is planned to begin in 2024. BBA1 and BBA2 were conducted in 1984-89 and 2004-2009, respectively, with an interval of 20 years; and in turn BBA3 will follow BBA2 by 20 years. (Brauning 1992, Wilson et al. 2012).

With two BBAs completed, we can also look for possible *population changes* among species. Here I present comparative results from BBA1 and BBA2 that focus on 24 common or fairly common species that appeared to have declined significantly from the first to the second atlas.

For the atlas projects, Pennsylvania was divided into 4937 blocks, all but less than ten identical in each atlas. Most blocks were approximately 5.25 x 4.6 km, covering 24.3 sq. km. (exceptions being blocks on the state border).

The most basic accounting from atlas results is simple (although not without limitations as described below). For a given species - Was it found in a particular block: **Yes or No?** The analysis in this article is simply comparison of the number of block detections for each species in BBA1 vs. BBA2. A large difference up or down strongly suggests a change in population size.

Important to note is that whether there was just one individual or 100 individuals of a given species found within a single block, the answer relative to *detection* for that block is **Yes** in both cases. Thus, simple block accounting does not provide an estimate of population size or density. (Although beyond the scope of this article, BBA2 did provide, via dedicated point counts, population density results for common species).

There is no absolute demarcation between levels of block detection that represent a real change vs. noise in the data. And in fact, because BBA1 and BBA2 represent just two data points for a given species, any declaration of change may be statistically uncertain. Of the combined 198 species listed in the first two atlas projects, 43 were considered potentially moderately or strongly decreased based on block occupancy (i.e. detection), defined as a block detection decrease of at least 13% from BBA1 to BBA2 (from Table 6.5, page 54 in BBA2 atlas).

Species Comments

Examination of Table 1 shows a wide variety of species with large declines in block detections from BBA1 to BBA2. A few of these are well-publicized: *Ruffed Grouse*, *Eastern Whip-poor-will*, *Barn Owl*, *American Kestrel*, *Golden-winged Warbler*. Less than half of the 24 species are songbirds. Five are nocturnal or crepuscular, which require special effort to detect and which was done rather unevenly across the state during atlasing. At least eight species are associated with grassland or early successional habitat. Seven are raptor species, whether owls or diurnal.

Most of the apparent declines in Pennsylvania are corroborated by results from atlas work in neighboring New York and Maryland (Table 1), each completed a few years ahead of the corresponding first and second projects in Pennsylvania. (McGowan and Corwin 2008, Ellison 2010)

American Black Duck (-63% block detection decline), the only waterfowl species on the list, has declined alarmingly as a breeder in Pennsylvania, which coincides with a decrease in

population estimates for the Atlantic flyway. Principle cited reasons are degradation of wetland quality and hybridization with the closely related, widespread, and more adaptable Mallard. Losses were especially notable in the former Black Duck stronghold in the Pocono wetlands.



American Black Duck Block detection dropped 63% from BBA1 to BBA2. Centre Furnace Pond, Centre 5 January 2016. (Rob Dickerson)

To no one's surprise, *Northern Bobwhite* (-68%) and *Ring-necked Pheasant* (-52%) both fell sharply by the time of BBA2, and these trends have continued since. Both are likely extirpated as self-sustaining breeders in the state. There is little mystery about the declines – substantial changes in agricultural practices beginning especially in the 1970s, including reduction of grassy cover in winter fields and of farmland set-aside programs (Bolgiano 1999, Bolgiano 2000).

Pennsylvania's official State Bird, the **Ruffed Grouse** (-33%) was found in about one-third fewer blocks during BBA2, a decline that has continued and is apparent in state Christmas Bird Count data. Forest maturation probably plays a role, as grouse require ground cover characteristic of a young forest. Losses from BBA1 to BBA2 were especially severe in southeastern and southwestern counties where loss of such habitat was most pronounced. A second



Spotted Sandpiper Block detection dropped 34% from BBA1 to BBA2. Barefoot Rd., Mifflin 11 May 2019. (Rob Dickerson)

important problem is the susceptibility of grouse to West Nile Virus (Stauffer et al. 2017, Nemeth et al. 2017, Bolgiano 2019).

The **Spotted Sandpiper** (-34%) follows Killdeer and American Woodcock in abundance among Pennsylvania's few nesting shorebird species. Spotted Sandpipers were found in 722 blocks in BBA1 (15% of all blocks) but were reduced to 478 blocks during BBA2. Reasons for this loss are not clear; suggestions that water quality plays a role are contraindicated by the general improvement in water quality of rivers and streams over the last half century (although some streams still show effect of acid drainage from old mining operations).

Sharp-shinned Hawk (-20%) and **Broad-winged Hawk** (-16%) have in common the requirement for large regions of contiguous forest. While Pennsylvania has a stable or even increasing amount of this resource, our forests are nevertheless subject to fragmentation from a variety of human activities. The Sharp-shin decline, which is also evident in hawk watch data, might also link to a general population decline following the end (in the 1980s) of a spruce budworm outbreak to our north, resulting in decreases in Sharp-shin prey species, particularly certain warblers (Bolgiano 2005, Oleyar 2021, Bolgiano 2022).

American Kestrel (-13%) and **Northern Harrier** (-43%) are raptors of open country grasslands. The kestrel decline has received much notice, and is especially severe in coastal mid-Atlantic states, extending into eastern Pennsylvania. A variety of reasons are proposed: pesticides, changes in land usage, loss of farmland, West Nile Virus, and predation by Cooper's Hawks. Harriers are of course far less common and widespread as nesters. Their core presence during BBA1 was on former strip mine areas on the Allegheny Plateau, centered in Clarion County. However, natural succession and reforestation along with conversion of hay fields to row crops has diminished the open grassy spaces needed by Harriers (Oleyar 2021).

The **Barn Owl** (-53), a species in steep decline, is likely a victim of changing agricultural practices given its need for grassland habitat for nighttime foraging – more row crops and fewer hay fields. Barn Owls in the eastern United States have also become dependent on human structures for nesting, but availability of suitable barns may become limiting. Evidence suggests rather strongly that **Great Horned Owl** (-28%) is susceptible to West Nile Virus. **Eastern Screech-Owl** (-20%) reduction has no obvious cause, if indeed the 20% decline in block detection is a real indication of population decrease; possibilities include a northward contraction of range and some suggestion of susceptibility to WNV (Bolgiano 2019).

Common Nighthawk (-71%) is one of four species that have in common dependence on aerial insects for feeding, some as large as moths, others the size of mosquitos. Given widespread use of pesticides there is reason for general concern about insects as a food source. However, each of these four species have unique concerns as well. The Nighthawk was reduced in block detection by over two-thirds, from 754 to 219, one of the most drastic losses of any relatively common species. While doing well in western prairies, nighthawks in Pennsylvania are sinking fast as a nesting species. In the eastern United States, most nighthawks build nests on flat rooftops covered in light-reflecting gravel, usually in towns and cities. Unfortunately, roof cover nowadays is often a rubberized surface, too hot for nesting nighthawks to successfully fledge young.

Eastern Whip-poor-wills (-42%) are common or even abundant in some parts of the state. However, their effective range has contracted and in BBA2 the proportion of block detection was nearly halved. Aside from aerial insect concerns, Whip-poor-wills may be affected by forest maturation; they nest and roost in forest

but do much of their nocturnal foraging on the wing over areas without a high canopy, i.e. a relatively young forest, such as clear-cuts. A further complication in deciphering population status of both Whip-poor-wills and Nighthawks is that special effort at night is needed to survey for these two species, a process not carried out



Eastern Whip-poor-will Block detection dropped 42% from BBA1 to BBA2. Haverford College, Delaware 13 May 2022. (Sheryl Johnson)

uniformly over the state during atlas work.

Two swallows, **Purple Martin** (-44%) and **Bank Swallow** (-36%) depend on aerial insects. Both also face challenges in finding suitable nesting sites. For martins, the decline in small family farms may mean fewer martin house colonies and they may also suffer from nest competition by House Sparrows and European Starlings. Bank Swallows depend on accessible banks, often along water ways, but also on mining and quarrying operations where large mounds of sand and related material may be left un-altered for years, a situation Bank Swallows exploit. Such active operations



Bank Swallow Block detection dropped 36% from BBA1 to BBA2. Oakland Twp., Susquehanna 14 June 2022. (Barb Stone)

are now fewer in number, which is bad news for Bank Swallows.

The **Red-headed Woodpecker** (-46%) is another “poster” species for declining avian populations in Pennsylvania. Several problems may contribute to losses. They are cavity nesters, possibly susceptible to nest-site competition from European Starlings and other woodpeckers. Their nests may also fall victim to increasing numbers of raccoons, snakes, and raptors. Finally, Red-heads depend extensively on acorns, a food source that may now be less abundant or reliable in areas where the oak-hickory association is

adversely affected by insect and fungal infestations (for ex. - oak wilt (or blight) and spongy moths (the moth formerly known as gypsy moth)).

Golden-winged Warblers (-61%) were detected in less than half of the number of blocks in BBA2 compared to BBA1, a decline that seems to be continuing. This very substantial level of decrease was also seen in New York and Maryland (Table 1) and a decline is also evident in Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) data (Sauer et al. 2017). A likely problem on nesting grounds, as with other species, is net loss of their required young forest habitat. Habitat loss on wintering grounds and nest parasitism by Brown-headed Cowbirds may also contribute to the decline. And, as with American Black Duck, this species is threatened by genetic swamping, loss of “pure” genetic identity, from inter-breeding with the closely related and more common Blue-winged Warbler.

The **Kentucky Warbler** (-29%) is at the northern edge of its breeding range and nests mainly in southern Pennsylvania, especially in the southwest and to a lesser extent in the southeast. The state BBS trend is negative. This species requires a healthy, well-developed forest understory and thus may be susceptible to forest maturation and deer-browsing, which is intense in its nesting range.

Northern Waterthrush (-31%) and **White-throated Sparrow** (-33%) both nest in northern Pennsylvania, where they are at the southern edge of their breeding range. As such, they might respond to warming climate by contracting north-ward, perhaps beyond Pennsylvania’s northern border; and they may also be contracting within Pennsylvania to higher elevation (see Table 6-7, page 60 of BBA2), a process that can only go so far. Both species require forest understory, thus potentially affected by forest maturation and deer-browsing. For the waterthrush, high quality headwater forests are important, and they may also see a loss of winter range habitat in tropical mangrove forests.

Yellow-breasted Chat (-35%) is a prime example of a species that requires dense shrubland with no forest overstory. This early/mid-successional habitat is a shrinking element in Pennsylvania, especially in the southwest and southeast, where significant chat losses occurred between BBA1 and BBA2, and by no coincidence where land development is most intense.

Vesper Sparrow (-19%) and **Henslow’s Sparrow** (-37%) are part of the group of grassland nesters that collectively are in decline in Pennsylvania. These two species have overlapping, but not identical, habitat requirements. Vesper Sparrows require bare ground for foraging. Henslow’s require more vegetation density



Vesper Sparrow Block detection dropped 19% from BBA1 to BBA2. Kanagy Rd. Mifflin 11 April 2017. (Rob Dickerson)

and even a bit of plant structure beyond grasses, i.e. weed stalks. Vesper Sparrows are fairly widespread, if sparse, in agricultural areas. However, the Henslow’s range is restricted, primarily surface mine lands on the Allegheny plateau, some of which is moving beyond simple grassland status.

Additional declining species

The list of species in Table 1 is by no means inclusive of all declining species in Pennsylvania. In apparent contradiction, several species that had little change in percentage of blocks detected in BBA1 and BBA2 data, show substantial declines in Pennsylvania BBS data (Table 2). These are all common species, including *Barn Swallow*, *European Starling*, *Wood Thrush*, *House Sparrow*, and *Field Sparrow* to name a few (Sauer et al. 2017). The species in Table 2, while probably reduced, are nevertheless abundant and widespread enough to still be present in most blocks in which they were found in BBA1, their population declines not apparent by simply looking at changes in block detection.

Data for very uncommon breeders is quite volatile given the small sample sizes involved. Several such species saw big decreases from BBA1 to BBA2. These species were present in approximately 1-4% of blocks in BBA1 (~50-200 blocks). For some of these species, many BBA1 records were only recorded as Possible or Probable, rather than Confirmed. These include: *Blue-winged Teal* (-68%), *Pied-billed Grebe* (-26%), *American Bittern* (-42%), *Black-crowned Night-Heron* (-49%), *Northern Goshawk* (-28%), *Common Gallinule* (-37%), *Upland Sandpiper* (-57%), *Marsh Wren* (-32%), and *Summer Tanager* (-91%). The bittern, night-heron, goshawk, and Upland Sandpiper are on the Pennsylvania Endangered Species List, with Northern Goshawk, a species possibly on the way to extirpation as a breeder in the state, reaching that status recently. At the current time, Summer Tanager probably no longer nests regularly in the state.

And finally, a few species recorded in BBA1 were entirely missed in BBA2: *American Wigeon* (3 blocks in BBA1), *Northern Shoveler* (7), *Snowy Egret* (1), *Cattle Egret* (31), *Black Rail* (2), *Black-necked Stilt* (1), *Olive-sided Flycatcher* (6), and *Eurasian Jackdaw* (1!). Of these, only Black Rail and Olive-sided Flycatcher had no Confirmed records in BBA1. While most of these were known to be rare breeders at best, Cattle Egrets were part of a large, mixed heronry on the Susquehanna River south of Harrisburg, where several thousand nested into the early 1980s. However, they and other herons deserted the island around 1988, for unknown reasons (McWilliams and Brauning 2000). Will any of these species return for BBA3? The Olive-sided Flycatcher and perhaps the two ducks may be the most likely. We should know by 2029, when BBA3 is on the books.

Table 1. Change in block detections from BBA1 to BBA2 and comparison with results from New York and Maryland.

Species	Block Detections BBA 1	Block Detections BBA 2	% Change in PA	% Change in NY	% Change in Md
American Black Duck	297	111	- 63	-34	-31
Northern Bobwhite	714	231	- 68	-26	-45
Ruffed Grouse	2782	1870	- 33	-18	-32
Ring-necked Pheasant	2196	1057	- 52	-37	-76
Common Nighthawk	754	219	- 71	-71	-62
Eastern Whip-poor-will	862	496	- 42	-57	-57
Spotted Sandpiper	722	478	- 34	-12	+6
Northern Harrier	334	190	- 43	-1	-15
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1051	840	-20	+68	+50
Broad-winged Hawk	2063	1725	-16	+1	-45
Barn Owl	251	117	- 53	-78	-72
Eastern Screech-Owl	1913	1539	-20	+1	-1
Great Horned Owl	2418	1734	-28	-18	+11
Red-headed Woodpecker	698	374	-46	-76	-11
American Kestrel	2938	2558	-13	-14	-33
Purple Martin	935	520	-44	-39	-7
Bank Swallow	521	337	-36	-28	-41
White-throated Sparrow	213	142	-33	-14	None or few
Henslow's Sparrow	364	229	-37	-80	None or few
Vesper Sparrow	1087	878	-19	-49	-39
Yellow-breasted Chat	1242	805	-35	-78	-19
Northern Waterthrush	331	229	-31	+4	None or few
Golden-winged Warbler	615	240	-61	-53	-65
Kentucky Warbler	929	662	-29	-72	-38

Table 2. Species with large Breeding Bird Survey declines not evident in BBA data. Percent change in block detection from BBA1 to BBA2 is in ().

Rock Pigeon (-1%)	Grasshopper Sparrow (+3%)
Chimney Swift (-2%)	Field Sparrow (+2%)
Eastern Wood-Pewee (+1%)	Savannah Sparrow (+26%)
Least Flycatcher (-4%)	Eastern Meadowlark (-11%)
Great Crested Flycatcher (+3%)	Brown-headed Cowbird (+4%)
Barn Swallow (-4%)	Common Grackle (+1%)
European Starling (+3%)	Black-and-White Warbler (+8%)
Wood Thrush (+2%)	Prairie Warbler (+8%)
House Sparrow (-2%)	Cerulean Warbler (-7%)

Acknowledgments – Thanks to Dan Brauning and Nick Bolgiano for comments on early drafts.

Much of the information on the 24 focal species in the text and listed in Table 1 was taken from species accounts in BBA2: John P. Dunn (*American Black Duck*), Scott R. Klinger (*Northern Bobwhite*), Andrew M. Wilson (*Ring-necked Pheasant*, *Vesper Sparrow*, *Henslow's Sparrow*), Ian Gregg (*Ruffed Grouse*), Gene Wilhelm (*Northern Harrier*), Laurie J. Goodrich (*Sharp-shinned Hawk*, *Broad-winged Hawk*), Christopher J. Farmer and Keith Bilstein (*American Kestrel*), Greg Grove (*Spotted Sandpiper*, *Common Nighthawk*), Jamie Flickinger and Danial P. Mummert (*Barn Owl*), Scott Weidensaul (*Eastern Screech-Owl*), Nicholas C. Bolgiano (*Great Horned Owl*, *Eastern Whip-Poor-Will*, *White-throated Sparrow*), James S. Kellam (*Red-headed Woodpecker*), John Tautin (*Purple Martin*), Geoff Malosh (*Bank Swallow*), Douglas A. Gross (*Northern Waterthrush*), Jeffrey Larkin and

Marja Bakermans (*Golden-winged Warbler*), Lewis Grove (*Kentucky Warbler*, *Yellow-breasted Chat*).

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25 Years Ago in *Pennsylvania Birds*

**PENNSYLVANIA
BIRDS**



Volume 10 No. 3

Eric C. Atkinson, Laurie J. Goodrich, and Keith L. Bildstein discussed the temporal pattern of hawk migration at Hawk Mountain.

Nick Pulcinella discussed the bird fallout from Hurricane Fran in September. Black-capped Petrels and Cory's Shearwater were the highlights.

Rare birds reported included Black-capped Petrel, Cory's Shearwater (1st state record), Eurasian Collared-Dove (1st state record – now breeding), Sabine's Gull, American White Pelican, Wood Stork, Swallow-tailed Kite, Black-necked Stilt, and American Avocet.

This issue can be read at pabirds.org.

Summary of the Season: Summer - 2022

Dan Brauning

Many local reports highlighted the hot and dry conditions prevalent this summer. Rainfall was below average for much of Pennsylvania during June and weather summaries noted abnormally dry conditions across the state in July, with repeated “excessive heat” advisories. During this period no tropical storms passed the state and no notable birds were attributed to severe weather conditions. This probably contributed to the lack of notable vagrants, with only one class-6 (accidental) species recorded during this season, the **Gull-billed Tern**. No reports were forthcoming for American White Pelican or Brown Booby, after three or four consecutive years, respectively, for those species, and just a few notable shorebirds were reported. Far out of range was a **Yellow-headed Blackbird**, seen just two days. As usual, a few birds lingered into the season as late migrants (e.g., **Bay-breasted** and **Wilson’s warblers**), but fewer waterfowl species were reported than usual. That said, a variety of notable breeding (or at least territorial) species are included in this year’s reports including multiple **Western Meadowlarks**, **Red Crossbills**, and **Swainson’s Warblers**, resulting in a season with many interesting breeding birds and a reasonable list of Birds of Note.

Fewer waterbirds lingered into or through the summer months than in most recent years, with no reports of several species that had been observed in more than half of the past 10 summer reports: American Wigeon, Northern Pintail, Redhead, and Horned Grebe. Similarly, neither Baird’s Sandpiper nor Red Knot was reported. These absences in 2022 affected the species total for the season, which came in at just 242 species, slightly below the average of the past 10 years. Each summer, 15 to 20 species are reported from only a single county and often more than a dozen species are reported in just a single report or just one eBird checklist! Such accidental sightings are impossible to predict and affect the seasonal species list. *Erie*, of course, provides the majority of those rarities with shorebirds and waterfowl, and had the highest number of species in eBird reports (170), but migrants can be found lingering in any county.

The summer season was well

represented, with 59 county reports submitted, slightly above the average, and the number of eBird records again increased by about 10% over the previous year. This indicates that the birding community continues to grow. And county compilers are relying on eBird observations for their reports, with its easily accessible summary of birding activity. Considering both county reports and eBird observations as sources for the summer season, species have been documented in all 67 counties for well over a decade.

For the fourth consecutive year, **Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks** were found during the summer season, with reports from seven counties. Incredibly, the previous four summers received no reports of the species. The largest group, 10, in *Bucks* was just short of the summer high of 11 reported in 2019 and 1993. **Trumpeter Swan** observations have been increasing over the past three decades in response to releases in Ontario and later Ohio. For the third year, breeding was confirmed at a marsh in *Cumberland*. Careful monitoring again this year documented the survival of two of five cygnets on nearby Kuhn Lake until at least 6 weeks of age. A trumpeter was paired with a **Mute Swan** at Promised Land State Park, *Pike*, producing four cygnets in July with at least three surviving into August. The only other record of such hybridization noted in eBird was also this year, in British Columbia. Mute Swans are known to hybridize with a variety of other swan species in captivity, but this event in the wild provides a notable event for these species which historically did not occur together. It seems that the Mute Swan has discovered new mischief and reasons for our scorn!!

Besides the most widespread nesting waterfowl (**Mallard**, **Wood Duck**, and **Common Merganser**), a range of ducks has a history of nesting in the state. **Blue-winged Teal** was documented breeding fairly widely during the first Breeding Bird Atlas (1980s) when they were documented in 100 atlas “blocks”, or 2% of the total. They declined to a third of that number by the second atlas (2000s) and apparently continued that trajectory in recent years. This summer, **Blue-winged Teal** pairs were noted at John Heinz NWR in Philadelphia (a historic breeding site) and at Wildwood Lake, *Dauphin*, without any additional reference to nesting. Summer observations of **Green-winged Teal**, more restricted in breeding range than the blue-winged, similarly declined in recent years with just one observation of a pair in *Erie* this

year, and no further suggestion of nesting. These declines are counter to the broad increases that waterfowl populations reported in broad-scale monitoring programs over the past 50 years. Another historic rare breeder, the **Ruddy Duck**, was reported in just four counties, half the usual number, and only as single individuals.

Several other waterfowl sightings were typical of summer records; single birds lingered into the season following spring migration or single reports provided without any context. Lone male **Northern Shovelers** were reported in *Dauphin*, *Franklin*, and *Union*, and a solo male **Northern Pintail** was seen in *Allegheny*. Among the lingering spring migrants, the report of a single **Common Goldeneye** in *Indiana* stands out as unusual.

The *Franklin* report summarizes the status of **Eurasian Collared-Dove** in the state; “continuing in their core area ... with a couple of reports expanding slightly outside of those areas.” The distribution of this species in Pennsylvania has remained basically unchanged in the past 20 years. The absence of reports from *Cumberland* this year may simply reflect coverage. The failure of this species to expand across the state is a surprise, after it spread rapidly from the accidental release of captive birds in the Bahamas in the 1970s across the U.S. and Canada, reaching Pennsylvania in 1996. It seemed sure to continue its continental conquest and establish itself as a widespread breeding bird across the state. But that hasn’t happened. This dove continues only in a few locations in the Great Valley region, with most records in *Berks*, *Franklin*, and some in *Cumberland*. Even there, they seem to hold on by a thread. The persistence of a single bird for the second year in *Clarion* illustrates its capacity to survive our winter climate.

A native species potentially expanding from the south, the **Chuck-will’s-widow** has been reported almost annually in one or more location. This season, a single report was provided in the South Mountain forests of *Cumberland*, close to summer reports from recent years. Curiously, it has not been reported south in those mountains in Maryland, despite several recent years of Breeding Bird Atlas surveys there. **Common Nighthawks** were noted in an encouraging 32 counties.

The **American Coot** has never been a common breeding bird and is generally scarce during the summer. Pennsylvania’s first Breeding Bird Atlas reported 11 breeding confirmations over six years, and two were noted during the second atlas project. Few (if any) breeding events have been documented since 2006, so it isn’t surprising that only three summer

county reports included the species in 2022. That makes my oversight in last year's confirmed breeding all the more egregious.

Two adult **American Coots** were seen on **6/18/21** by Janet and Tom Kuehl swimming from the shoreline into Donegal Lake [*Westmoreland*] with one juvenile. Two more juveniles quickly joined to provide for a total of five. Subsequent observations included two juveniles on 7/1/21 by Tammy Arnold of the Pennsylvania Game Commission and again on 7/18/21 by Annie Lindsay of the Powdermill Nature Reserve. (photo)

An impressive mid-summer count of 49 **Sandhill Cranes** was made on July 22 at Shaner Road Marsh, *Lawrence*. Nesting is hard to document, but fledged young were noted in *Butler*, *Crawford*, *Lackawanna*, *Lawrence*, and *Sullivan*.

The role of shorebird species in this summer report has been highlighted frequently, as has the role of Presque Isle State Park, *Erie*, and Gull Point, in particular, as the site of many of those records. Five of the 25 shorebird species reported this season were seen only at Presque Isle, including **Whimbrel**, **Marbled Godwit**, **Dunlin**, **Willet**, and of course, **Piping Plover**. The unique habitat of the Lake Erie shore certainly explains this, supported by intensive monitoring conducted through the summer season that detects species making even brief visits. For example, the single-day visit of this season's only **Marbled Godwit** was documented by several observers on June 4. **Whimbrel** and **Willet**s were seen only twice there this summer and only two **Stilt Sandpipers** were seen in the state this season, one at Presque Isle and another on the Conejohela Flats of the Susquehanna River in *Lancaster*. Seven counties reported the striking **American Avocet**, including a fly-by in *Philadelphia*. Sightings of migrant shorebirds in flight over the Bucktoe Preserve, *Chester*, continued with counts of **Ruddy Turnstones** and **Sanderlings**, but without Red Knots. The most unusual shorebird of the season was a **Red-necked Phalarope** photographed by a local fisherman at Long Pine Run Reservoir, *Adams*.

Of particular interest is the **Piping Plover**, a historic and recovered nester on Lake Erie's shores. Formal shorebird

monitoring at Presque Isle, largely to document the nesting activities of this federally-listed species, is completed with the Pennsylvania Game Commission and the Erie Bird Observatory. These efforts resulted in the documentation of successful nesting by the plovers over the past six consecutive years. In 2022 three pairs of Piping Plovers (comprised of two males with three females) produced nine chicks, five of which fledged in the wild and four fledged from captive rearing after eggs were recovered and artificially incubated (*vide*, Cathy Haffner). This is the first year with successful nests by two separate pairs. Along with the plover, the **Upland Sandpiper** is among the state's rarest breeding birds. The state's only breeding-season reports came from *Clearfield* and *Crawford* this year, down from the nearly dozen counties in which they nested during the second Breeding Bird Atlas.

Many of our regularly-occurring shorebirds that migrate to the Arctic were reported at two or more times the number of summer reports and in substantially more counties than in recent years, including **Semipalmated Plover**, and **White-rumped, Semipalmated, Least, and Solitary Sandpipers** as well as **Lesser and Greater Yellowlegs**. The reference to exposed mudflats in *Berks*, *Butler*, *Dauphin*, and *Tioga* contributed to reports of these migrant shorebirds. The **White-rumped Sandpiper** really stands out, with 10 times the typical number of eBird checklists including the species from 12 counties, where typically they had been reported in three or four counties. Many counties have little or no natural habitat for migrant shorebirds, so variations in seasonal weather and local water draw-downs greatly affect shorebird reports. The hot dry summer probably provided more habitat than usual, resulting in a good season for shorebird counts. *Bucks*, however, reported that "shorebird diversity was low during this period, with only nine species detected." Well, that's *Bucks*, where at least a dozen shorebird species typically are detected during the summer season, many annually and often including rarities.

Another notable event of the summer happened at Gull Point, *Erie* where a pair of **Common Terns** nested and successfully hatched two eggs. One of the two tern chicks survived until day 19, the oldest recorded since at least 1966 when historical nesting was last recorded. No chicks were seen after June 25 this year. Predation pressure there from mammals and gulls is severe, so the success of a pair rearing young to nearly the age of fledging is encouraging. **Black Terns** were seen in three counties this season, with two

birds in mid-June in *Crawford*, but this did not revive hopes of nesting by this historically breeding, state-listed species.

Other notable tern species include the fourth consecutive summer report of **Gull-billed Tern** from *Delaware*, where they have been seen in late June and early July at Fort Mifflin and Hog Island Road. The Delaware River there is tidal, as an extension of the Delaware Bay. It is also a heavily industrialized area, with nearby oil refineries bordering the international airport, but also hosts the urban jewel of the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge. That region provides the only regular summer occurrence of several species associated with the Atlantic coast, such as **Laughing Gull** and **Greater Black-backed Gull**, and contributes multiple species to the Birds of Note. On the opposite side of the state, the season's only reports of **Least Tern** came from (you guessed it), Gull Point, *Erie*. This pair was a long way from any known breeding location and were among the few records for the species from the county, with all previous records being of single birds. **Least Terns** were documented nesting twice in Pennsylvania on dredge spoil island in the Delaware River in 1950 and 1961. The only nesting locality in the state of **Herring Gull** continued along the Allegheny and Ohio rivers of *Allegheny*. Nests were observed on the Highland Park Bridge, where 20 juveniles were counted and at Emsworth Dam where two nests were noted.

A group of four immature **Wood Storks** was found on the evening of July 23 at Octoraro Reservoir, *Lancaster*, and continued in that area into August, including a report from neighboring *Chester*. These provided the state's fourth summer record since 2017, prior to which only a single summer report had been noted.

The **American Bittern** continued as a very rare breeding bird, with reports from potential breeding habitat in only three counties: *Sullivan*, *Susquehanna*, and *Tioga*. The **Least Bittern** historically was less common than its larger cousin, reported in fewer blocks during both Breeding Bird Atlas projects. Reports have been increasing since the 2000s and really jumped after the 2020 wetland survey conducted by the Game Commission (note separately herein). This season, **Least Bitterns** were found in 16 counties with breeding codes describing territorial calls or pairs.

The long-legged waders had an average showing during the 2022 summer season. Only a single **Cattle Egret** was reported one day in *Crawford* and only three counties reported **Snowy Egrets**. No Tri-colored Herons were reported until August this year. The number of **Great Egret** observations decreased, as did the nesting population at Wade Island, *Dauphin*. **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons**, in contrast, seemed to have a productive year. Harrisburg, *Dauphin*, provided the only documented nesting

location, but post-breeding or vagrants were reported in scattered locations across southern Pennsylvania, as usual. **Black-crown Night-Herons** nested in at least three colonies. The colony at the Ephrata Hospital, *Lancaster*, appears to be doing very well, with the high eBird count of 65, "mostly juveniles". The colony at Kiwanis Lake, *York*, is modest, with a high count of five juveniles and three adults. These state-endangered species are holding on in urban colonies!

White Ibis squeaked into this report with two observations from *Dauphin*: an immature at Wildwood Lake Park and another by a self-described non-birder posting a photo to eBird in late July on Clark's Creek. The more common **Glossy Ibis** was spotted in *Dauphin*, *Lancaster*, and *Philadelphia*, but fewer reports than usual.

The only **Swallow-tailed Kite** observation this season came from *Chester*, but without documentation. Is it possible that reports the day after in New Hampshire and two in Massachusetts were somehow related? Four observations of single **Mississippi Kites** came throughout the season, with observations extending for more than a day only from *Monroe*. This kite has been seen during each of the past ten consecutive summer seasons and breeds in neighboring New York and Maryland. It seems more likely each year that a nest will be documented in Pennsylvania.

The state-endangered **Northern Harrier** was seen in 21 counties this year (about average), although confirmed nesting events are rare. Certainly, the rarest of our breeding raptors is now the **Northern Goshawk**, holding on with a small handful of nesting pairs in the extensive forests of the state. Because nest sites are sensitive to disturbance, locations are not disclosed in either eBird or county reports. Following is a summary from Scott Stoleson, who is part of the monitoring team for the species. In *Forest*, two known territories were found to be active, one of which failed during incubation. A feather pile near the nest tree was identified as an adult female. The second *Forest* site (in a white pine) survived incubation. Occasional nest checks showed two healthy chicks beginning to "branch" -- until they suddenly disappeared too early for successful fledging. Two fairly recent fledglings were spotted in July in a historic territory in *McKean*. The only other active nest was found in *Potter*,

where Game Commission personnel monitored the nest through fledging of its two young.

Indicative of the extent to which **Bald Eagles** have recovered, summer reports have come from nearly every county for more than three years. The success of the restored eagle population is extremely gratifying. **Ospreys** similarly are doing well, with nests documented in at least 21 counties this season.

Owls typically get very little attention in the summer season, so a well-documented nest of **Long-eared Owls** is quite notable. The nest at Hills Creek State Park, *Tioga* produced five young but was kept quiet until after the nesting season. The majority of **Barn Owl** nesting reports come from Game Commission monitoring, so without those results it is not surprising that only six county reports included the species. No summer Short-eared Owl records have been noted here in the past five years, and only one summer eBird observation record is seen in any neighboring state this year, suggesting the widespread decline of this former breeding bird. **Northern Saw-whet Owl** is generally presumed to be overlooked, so reports from five counties in the 2022 provides some support for the continued persistence of this diminutive and secretive predator.

A breeding bird of interest is the **Merlin**. Since the state's first nest was found in 2006, this species continues to expand its range. The number of counties reporting the species this season jumped more than 50% in 2022 to 22. Successful nesting extended to *Allegheny* this year, with young produced at Chatham University. Summer observations now occur across much of the state, with the fewest of the southcentral and southeastern counties. Reports of the recently delisted **Peregrine Falcon** expanded to 34 counties, mostly in the east but also including *Allegheny*, *Beaver*, and *Erie* along our western border.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was not detected this season, the first time at least 15 years without at least a territorial bird reported, despite thorough checks in historic nesting habitat. This state-endangered species typically only nests in the forested wetlands of *Wyoming*. **Sedge Wren** is another of the state's rarest nesting birds. Only one bird was reported this season, a singing male well-documented by many observers in *Bucks*. Nesting season activity continued to be documented for **Swainson's Thrush** in the northern forests of the Allegheny National Forest and in *Wyoming*. Several summer reports are from nocturnal flight calls.

Clay-colored Sparrows continue to be found nesting in *Clarion*, with three singing males this year at the traditional Stockdill Rd area of SGL 330 (Piney Tract) where they

have been established for years. A male heard near New Bethlehem suggests that more could be lingering in the reclaimed mines found in this area. No other counties reported the species this year, suggesting that it is barely hanging on in the state. Four of our other sparrow species breeding species (**Grasshopper**, **Savannah**, **Henslow's**, and **Vesper**) are closely linked to grassland and agricultural habitats where bird populations have been well-documented to be experiencing the greatest declines. This year, each of those species was encountered on fewer eBird checklists in 2022 than in past years (again, in context of more checklists overall), and the first three were in fewer counties than last year. Similarly, fewer reports were provided for the still-widespread **Eastern Meadowlark** and **Bobolinks**, which occupy similar habitats.

Red Crossbills continued in *Forest* where they had been documented breeding during the spring season, and in *Elk*. Observations also came from four widely scattered counties, providing as many eBird reports as in the previous 10 years combined. In contrast, only two reports of **Pine Siskin** were noted this summer and both were for just one day!

Two unexpected icterids made an appearance in Pennsylvania last summer. A totally unexpected immature male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** in *Wayne* represents the fourth modern summer record for this western species and provides the easternmost record in North America this summer. One would expect such a distinctive species to be re-observed, but the lack of other reports provides no clue to the source of this observation or where it went. An apparently unmated **Western Meadowlark** was in *Erie*.

The diversity of warblers breeding in Pennsylvania provides a highlight of the summer season for many of us. If we include **Swainson's Warbler**, Pennsylvania hosts 29 breeding warbler species. The "if", of course, is because this species has never been confirmed nesting in the state. During the first and second Atlas projects solitary summering males were documented at locations scattered across the state. Territorial birds were documented in three locations during the 2022 summer season, including the apparent return of a singing male to West Penn Trail, *Indiana*, for the 3rd summer. Two were observed together in *Blair* at the site the species was seen in 2021. Just as notable, two separate males were seen and heard through much of June and July at Bear Run Nature Reserve, *Fayette*, providing at least the fourth county record there. Photos and audio recordings are available for each of these. Three of these males were banded in August. No females were reported at these sites and nesting remains unconfirmed, with the closest nesting population documented in West Virginia over 100 miles away. That's a long way to recruit a population,

although we would anticipate that the species could be overlooked in that area.

While a tally of eBird observations cannot easily reveal real population trends, any species showing a smaller number of reports or retraction of range in the context of growing eBird data raises concern. Three of our established breeding warblers were reported in notably fewer counties than in recent years: **Cerulean**, **Mourning**, and **Nashville Warblers**. **Cerulean Warbler** experienced long-term declines on Breeding Bird Survey routes across its range despite habitat efforts designed to benefit the species. The other two nest in less frequently birded

northern habitats in Pennsylvania, so closer examination of their populations would be warranted. Another species experiencing long-term declines, the **Golden-winged Warbler**, “seems ever more scarce” in *Huntingdon*. On a more positive note, the first confirmed nesting of a **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was noted in *Erie*. Another of the state’s rarest nesting species, **Blackpoll Warbler**, was found on the forested wetlands of *Wyoming*, but after careful searches this year, only a single territorial male as detected.

This year, late non-breeding migrants, **Wilson’s** and **Bay-breasted Warblers**, were observed in June. Despite scattered observations of Summer Tanagers during the spring season, none were reported during this

season.

Dickcissels started to appear in late May this year and settled on territory in 9 counties during the summer season, suggesting that this year’s breeding population was not the result of a western irruption, which typically occurs in mid-summer. Birds returned to some of the sites occupied in the more widespread distribution last year, particularly in eastern counties. *Indiana* was the westernmost county reporting the species in 2022.

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American Coots - adults and young. Tom and Janet Kuehl Donegal Lake, *Westmoreland* 6/18/2021.

Birds of Note –June through July 2022

This report summarizes unexpected species reported in Pennsylvania for this period. As a general rule birds must have been recorded in five or fewer counties to qualify for inclusion here, but rare species recorded more frequently, or irregular species exhibiting an unusual seasonal occurrence, are also included. "Listserv" indicates records deemed credible which were gleaned from the PABIRDS listserv for counties with no reporting compiler. "eBird" indicates valid records deemed credible which were entered into the eBird database for counties with no reporting compiler.

An * denotes species on the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee (PORC) Review List. Details or descriptions that are submitted for species on the PORC Review List will be reviewed by the committee. The terms "no doc" and "doc submitted" indicate whether documentation has been submitted on reports of Review List species listed herein; "no doc" indicates that no documentation was known to have been submitted as of the time of writing. The PORC Review List can be found at the PSO web site <<http://www.pabirds.org>>.

Birds in *Italic* typeface are uncommon or rare, but occur during this time period in most years.

Birds in Underlined typeface occur at least 4 to 7 out of 10 years during this time period.

Birds in *Italic and Underlined* typeface occur fewer than 4 to 7 out of 10 years during this time period.

Birds in **Normal** typeface are noteworthy for rarity, but are recorded annually, usually in more than one county.

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck* – *Allegheny*: one at Imperial 6/12-13 (Mark Vass); *Berks*: 2 in flooded field along Cross Keys Rd. 6/3-6 (Jo Spilde, ph.); *Clarion*: one at small farm pond in Limestone where it stayed 6/12-14 (Jeffrey Hall, Eric Schill, Alice Thureau, Carole Winslow); *Delaware*: 10 photographed 6/15 at Governor Printz Park (Rob Fergus, m.ob.); *Lancaster*: one spent time at Lancaster Solid Waste Management Authority landfill 7/21-26 (Brian Shade); *Philadelphia*: 3 at John Heinz NWR 7/30, third report since 2019 (Kathy Tangaroo, m.ob.).

Trumpeter Swan – *Chester*: one at Struble Lake 6/2-3 (Angela Cote, ph.); *Cumberland*: a pair produced 5 cygnets at Creekview Road Marsh, hatching 6/11-13 (Marcus Burkholder, Dave Kerr), then moved to Kuhn Lake 6/14 but 3 cygnets had been lost by 6/17. The remaining 2 adults and 2 cygnets were present through at least 7/26 (Michael Illo); *Franklin*: one continued throughout the period at Letterkenny Reservoir (Bill Oyler, Kevin Shannon, Bob Koontz) since March when 4 were present 3/22-29; *Monroe*: one continued in the Pocono Summit Lake area mated with a Mute Swan to produce 4 hybrid cygnets first week of July (Paul Nale); *Pike*: 2 at Promised Land SP probably continuing from spring through at least 7/22 (Edie Parnum, Andrea Nale, eBird, ph.); *York*: one found at pond along Rt 116 in Spring Grove 7/24-27 (Mary Creager, Robin Smith).

Tundra Swan – *Carbon*: one at Beltsville SP day use area 6/6 (Rich Rehrig).

Blue-winged Teal – *Dauphin*: pair seen 6/16 at Wildwood Lake Park (Kevin Shannon, eBird); *Franklin*: male at Greencastle Reservoir 6/15-24 (Bill Oyler, Dave Ebbitt, Kyle Rambo); *Lawrence*: one at Shaner Road Marsh 7/31 (Mark Vass); *Northampton*: male from 6/30 was seen through season joined by female in July (m.ob., eBird) and a male in eclipse plumage was at Martin's Creek Environmental Preserve 7/1 (Scott Angus, eBird, ph.); *Northumberland*: one male at the Amish Pond 6/2 (Andy Keister); *Philadelphia*: pair at John Heinz NWR 6/25 (Connor Smyth); *Wayne*: male seen 6/1 and 6/9, and female 7/20 at Hankins Pond (Chris Fischer, eBird).

Northern Shoveler – *Dauphin*: male at Wildwood Lake continued from spring seen on multiple dates until 7/3 (Rick and Peggy Price, eBird, ph.); *Franklin*: male at Antrim Commons Ponds 6/7-12 (Kyle Rambo, Bill Oyler); *Union*: one male at SGL 252 on 7/4 and 731 (Matthew Heintzelman, eBird, ph.).

Gadwall – *Erie*: 3 at Gull Point 6/9 (Joshua Heiser, eBird); *Franklin*: male reported at Greencastle Reservoir 6/8 and 6/15 and at Antrim Commons Ponds 6/18 (Kyle Rambo, Bill Oyler); *Montgomery*: male lingered at Green Lane Park to 7/22 (m.ob., ph.), with several sightings of 2 there 7/13-17 (Paul Heveran, m.ob.); *Northampton*: male at Hollo Rd Retention Basin 6/3 (Matthew Sabatine), and male and female at Martin's Creek Environmental Preserve 7/1 (Scott Angus, eBird, ph.).

Northern Pintail – *Allegheny*: male photographed along Allegheny R. at Springdale 6/8 (Dale McGary).

Green-winged Teal – *Allegheny*: female at Wingfield Pines 7/31 (Michelle Kienholz, James Lowther); *Chester*: continuing male seen at Eagleview Pond (Barry Blust, eBird, ph.); *Crawford*: observed at Pymatuning SP-Miller's Ponds 7/27 (Craig Holt, Kata Kochvar) and 7/28 (Eric Hall); *Erie*: one at Gull Point 6/19 (Kari Warner, John Pagacnik) and 2 on 7/21 (Doug Massey).

Ring-necked Duck – *Erie*: male at Presque Isle, Horseshoe Pond 7/22 (Gabby Glinski, Madison Glinski, eBird); *Clinton*: male continued at Kettle Creek until at least 6/12 (Sarah Lindgren); *Chester*: male seen at Coatesville Reservoir 7/8-30 (m.ob., ph.); *Crawford*: one with potentially injured wing at Pymatuning SP- Wilson Boat Launch 7/31 (Chris Lundberg, Mariam Ohanjanyan); *Montgomery*: a drake was present near the Fayette St. Bridge in Conshohocken until 7/27 (Ralph Hall, m.ob., ph.).

Greater Scaup – *Lancaster*: one at Blue Rock Rd Boat Launch 7/5 (Nina Wolf, Warren Wolf, eBird, ph.).

Lesser Scaup – *Erie*: one reported to eBird at Gull Point 6/15, 6/19, and 7/25 (Josh Heiser, KM Andersen), and 7/30 (Andrew M); *Chester*: one at Struble Lake 6/2 (Angela Cote, ph.) remained until 7/21 (Angela Cote, Barry Blust, Frank Haas).

Common Goldeneye – *Indiana*: one spotted along the West Penn Trail 6/3 (Ron Burkert).

Red-breasted Merganser – *Erie*: one at Erie Bluffs SP 6/2 (Don Snyder, eBird) and 3 from Kraus Cottage 7/3 (Theresa Konzal, eBird); *Lancaster*: a hen was viewed on the Susquehanna R. near Falmouth 6/6 (Paul Brubaker, Robert Peda).

Ruddy Duck – *Bucks*: breeding plumage male at Churchville Park 6/12 (Bill Koch ph.); *Crawford*: singles at Woodcock Lake 7/24 (Tomas Nonnenmacher) and Pymatuning SP-Spillway 7/13 (Isaac Field) where more expected; *Lancaster*: one at Middle Creek WMA 6/25 (Mike Epler);

- Northampton*: one at Regency Blvd Retention Ponds 7/28-31 (Kayann Cassidy, Dave DeReamus, Michael Schall, eBird, ph.).
- Eurasian Collared-Dove** – *Berks*: 3 reports during the season of one to 3 perched on utility wires in the middle of Shartlesville where they have been found most often (*fide*, Rudy Keller); *Clarion*: one continued through June in Strattanville where first found last year (Ron and Tracy George-Snyder) and seen just outside of town at another home 6/14 (Larry Towse); *Franklin*: continuing in their core area of Shady Grove-Greencastle-Marion, with a couple reports slightly outside of that area (*fide*, Bill Oyler).
- Chuck-will's-widow*** – *Cumberland*: one at Pine Grove Furnace 7/14 (Jane Webster) within a few miles of the location one was well documented summering in 2015-17 and 2019.
- American Coot** – *Cambria*: one reported from Marina Rd., Prince Gallitzin SP 6/17 (Cameron Farabaugh); *Centre*: spotted 6/21 at Bald Eagle SP (Robert Snyder).
- Black-bellied Plover** – *Berks*: one in flooded field along Evansville Rd. near L. Ontelaunee 6/2 (Rudy Keller, Jo Spilde).
- Piping Plover*** – *Erie*: 3 pairs (2 males, 3 females) produced 9 chicks, of which 5 fledged in the wild and 4 from captive rearing (*fide*, Cathy Haffner).
- Upland Sandpiper** – *Clearfield*: photographed along Sandy Ridge Road 6/3 (John Forcey); *Crawford*: expected numbers and locations were reported in the Pymatuning-Wilson Road area (m.ob.).
- Whimbrel** – *Erie*: 4 touched down at Gull Point 6/9 and one there 7/25 (Mary Birdsong).
- Marbled Godwit*** – *Erie*: a good find at Gull Point 6/4 (Roger Donn).
- Ruddy Turnstone** – *Chester*: about 250 on 6/1 and 65 on 6/5 at Bucktoe Creek Preserve (Larry Lewis, m.ob.) and estimated 300 reported by a backyard birder nearby 6/1 (Chad Hutchinson); *Lancaster*: one at Susquehanna R. Conejohela Flats 7/30-31 (Eric Witmer, Adam Miller, Nicholas Minnich, Steve Ferreri, ph.).
- Stilt Sandpiper** – *Erie*: one on Gull Point 7/15 (Mary Birdsong); *Lancaster*: one at Susquehanna R. Conejohela Flats 7/29 (Mike Epler).
- Sanderling** – *Erie*: seen on multiple occasions throughout season, with 15 on 7/25 (Jerry McWilliams, eBird); *Chester*: 50 flying over Bucktoe Creek Preserve 6/1 (Chad Hutchinson); *Lancaster*: one at Susquehanna R. Conejohela Flats 7/30 (Eric Witmer, m.ob.); *Washington*: adult at Canonsburg Lake 7/22 (John Flannigan, ph.).
- Dunlin** – *Erie*: multiple observations in eBird through season with high of 8 on 6/3 (Doug Graham, Eric Graham, eBird).
- Wilson's Snipe** – *Crawford*: one at Woodcock Lake 7/7 (Ron Leberman), one at Pymatuning SP-Miller's Ponds 7/27 (Craig Holt), and 4 at same location 7/28 (Eric Hall); *Forest*: heard "winnowing" 7/8 at Dawson Run Rd, West Hickory (K Springer); *Susquehanna*: one at wetland on SGL 236 (Chris Fischer); *Wayne*: heard at Hankins Pond 7/20, seen there 7/31 (Chris Fischer, eBird).
- Willet** – *Erie*: one reported to eBird 6/22 (Madison Glinksi, Gabby Glinksi) and 6/26 (Deb Grove, Roana Fuller, Susan Braun).
- Red-necked Phalarope** – *Adams*: photographed at Long Pine Run Reservoir 7/15 (Chad Patterson, ph.).
- Laughing Gull** – *Bucks*: one reported along Delaware R. in Lower Makefield Twp. (Susan Harrison) and present in some numbers during summer at Penn-Warner Tract (Devich Farbotnik); *Delaware*: regular throughout July along Delaware River/Hogg Island with a high estimate of 70 on 7/31 (Damon Orsetti); *Erie*: subadult photographed at Gull Point 7/26 (Mary Birdsong, Doug Graham); *Philadelphia*: common along Delaware R., increasing in July.
- Lesser Black-backed Gull** – *Bucks*: one at Peace Valley Park 7/28 (Edward Dolan); *Erie*: adult was photographed at Gull Point 6/17 (Jim Donn).
- Least Tern*** – *Erie*: 2 adults at Gull Point 6/15 and 6/20 (Joshua Heiser, Mary Birdsong).
- Gull-billed Tern*** – *Delaware*: one at Delaware River/Hog Island Rd 7/3 (Al Guarente, John Zygmunt).
- Black Tern** – *Centre*: one seen flying over Bald Eagle SP 6/7 (Jon Kauffman); *Crawford*: 2 at Pymatuning SP-Miller's Ponds 6/19 and one there 6/28 (Isaac Field); *Huntingdon*: seen at Lake Perez 6/10 (Evan Tracy); *Indiana*: at Yellow Creek SP 7/31 (Jeff Kenney, Angela Romanczuk).
- Common Tern** – *Allegheny*: 2 photographed along Allegheny R. at Springdale 6/8 (Dale McGary); *Butler*: 2 visited Lake Arthur 6/5 and 5 photographed there 6/28 (Martin Carlin); *Dauphin*: one on Susquehanna R. – Liverpool Access 6/13 (Cameala Freed, eBird, ph.); *Erie*: nesting pair produced 2 chicks, with one surviving to day 19 (longest recorded in recent history, *fide* Cathy Haffner); *Lancaster*: one on Susquehanna R., Conejohela Flats 7/29 (Mike Epler, eBird) and 7/31 (Nicholas Minnich, Steve Ferreri, eBird).
- Forster's Tern** – *Berks*: one photographed at Blue Marsh Lake 7/21 (Russ Hoffman); *Delaware*: frequently reported throughout the period at Delaware River/Hog Island Rd (m.ob.); *Indiana*: 2 took refuge at Yellow Creek SP just before impending thunderstorm 7/5 (Marg Higbee, Roger Higbee); *Somerset*: one at Somerset Lake 7/3 (Jeff Payne); *Tioga*: one at Cowanesque Lake 7/25 (Ken Cooper).
- Wood Stork*** – *Chester*: 4 immatures near Octoraro Reservoir 7/24; *Lancaster*: 4 immatures were observed on evening of 7/23 at Octoraro Reservoir-Mt Eden Rd (WW, NW, m.ob.) and continued nearby into August (Zach Millen, m.ob.).
- American Bittern** – *Sullivan*: found at SGL 66 Shuman's Lake 6/11 (Chris DeMarco); *Susquehanna*: heard at SGL 236 Central 6/7 (Chris Fischer), on 6/11 (Gary Stone Barb Stone), and again 6/22 (Chris Fischer); *Tioga*: observed at Muck Game Lands 6/1 (Ken Cooper).
- Snowy Egret** – *Dauphin*: one at Wildwood Lake 6/13 (Doris Brookens, Steve Brookens); *Delaware*: seen at Delaware River/Hog Island Rd 7/11 (Al Guarente) and one at John Heinz NWR 7/30 (Damon Orsetti); *Philadelphia*: seen at John Heinz NWR 7/26 (Mad Evans, eBird) and 7/30 (Robert Karchnyak, Damon Orsetti, eBird).
- Cattle Egret*** – *Crawford*: one at Conneaut Marsh- McMichael Road 6/8 (Nathan Hall).
- Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** – *Cambria*: one immature found at Prince Gallitzin SP 7/4, a county first (Amy Edwards, ph.), continued to 7/6 (Renee Lubert, eBird, ph.); *Chester*: one in Kennett Square 7/9-10 (Christian Scheibe); *Cumberland*: multiple observations at West Fairview Boat Launch, with high of 7 on 6/20 (Scott Brookens), seen through 7/28 (Allison Matlock, eBird, ph.); *Dauphin*: nesting in Harrisburg with a high count of 33 birds 6/19 (Ian Gardner, eBird) with observations through the season; *Franklin*: adult found 6/18 (Debby Hook, Joan Duffield) on the Chambersburg Rail Trail along the Conococheague Creek in Chambersburg, remained feeding and resting through 6/25 (Bill Oyler, m.ob.); *Huntingdon*: an immature hunted crayfish in shallow waters of Standing Stone Creek

at Huntingdon 7/26-30 (Desmond O'Donovan, m.ob.) was fourth county record; *Lancaster*: photographed at Climbers Run Nature Preserve 7/18 (Lauryn Koppes) and an immature was at Noel Dorwart Park 7/31 (Dan Keener, Sammy Keener); *Westmoreland*: photographed by trail cam 7/11 in Cercone Park in Trafford (Julia Ecklar, eBird, ph.).

White Ibis* – *Dauphin*: an immature seen at Wildwood Lake Park 6/14-16 (Kevin Shannon, m.ob., eBird) and one photographed 7/31 on Clark's Creek near Dauphin (Byron Eckardt, ph.).

Glossy Ibis – *Dauphin*: photographed 7/6 at Susquehanna R.-West Fairview (Barb Matthews); *Lancaster*: showed itself at Chestnut Grove Natural Area 6/8 (Meredith Lombard, Jeff Musser); *Philadelphia*: one at impoundments of John Heinz NWR 7/16 (m.ob., eBird, ph.).

Swallow-tailed Kite* – *Chester*: one seen flying over Kennett Square 7/29 (Kelly Loux, no doc.).

Mississippi Kite* – *Bucks*: an adult sailed past Nockamixon SP 6/7 (Paul Heveran, doc.); *Lancaster*: seen in flight near Leola 6/3 (Zach Millen); *Monroe*: spotted in Saylorsburg area, first seen by vendor at weekend flea market on 2 successive days, 6/25-26, consequently relocated 7/21 (Jon Mularczyk); *Northampton*: one in flight 6/1 (Bill Etter, eBird).

Northern Goshawk – *Forest*: 2 active nests failed prior to fledging (*vide*, Scott Stoleson); *Potter*: active nest documented with 2 young near fledging age (David Brinker, *vide* Scott Stoleson); *McKean*: 2 recently fledged young seen within an historic territory (Linda Ordiway, *vide* Scott Stoleson).

Long-eared Owl – *Somerset*: experienced observer staying on Laurel Mountain described a series of classic flat whoop calls he believed was this species, but unfortunately no recordings obtained (*vide*, Jeff Payne); *Sullivan*: heard in the Hoagland Branch Road area 7/15 (Rob Megraw); *Tioga*: documented nesting at Hills Creek SP with 5 young seen 6/25 (Lisa Doud, Ken Cooper, eBird, ph.).

Northern Saw-whet Owl – *Elk*: one at East Branch Clarion R. Lake vicinity 6/8 (Brendyn Baptiste); *Lackawanna*: noted in pre-dawn surveys 6/24 and 7/28 in Pinchot SF (Chris Fischer, eBird) and singing male heard at SGL 312 on 6/10 (Chris Fischer, eBird); *Schuylkill*: responded to playback with loud wailing call 6/20 along Tumbling Run (Dave Kruehl, eBird); *Wayne*: 2 heard calling in suitable high elevation habitat in southern Wayne 7/29 (Chris Fischer, Ryan Johnson); *Wyoming*: one at SGL 57 on 7/5 (Doug Gross).

Sedge Wren – *Bucks*: one singing 7/22 at Pine Run Dam was enjoyed by birders that day and the next (Andrew Albright).

Swainson's Thrush – *Centre*: recorded during nocturnal flight counts 7/27 and 7/30 in Bellefonte (Julia Plummer). At least one was present at Scotia Barrens and Pond 7/30 (Julia Plummer); *Forest*: 2 were at Beaver Meadows Recreation Area 7/3 (Danielle Squire), the same day one was near West Hickory (K Springer); *McKean*: reported in Allegheny Nat. Forest 6/29 (Eric Schill, eBird) and 2 heard singing along North Country Trail 7/23 (Carole Winslow, eBird); *Montgomery*: nocturnal flight calls were recorded in Franconia Twp. on 4 nights, 6/1-6/6 (Scott Godshall, vr.); *Warren*: up to 8 reported on Tanbark Trail of Heart's Content 6/8-7/8 (Carole Winslow, Tom and Janet Kuehl, eBird); *Wyoming*: 2 found along Cider Run Road 6/23 (Joe DeMarco), one 6/28 at SGL57 (Susan Petty and Chris Fischer), and 3-6 birds at SGL 6/16-7/27 includes singing

males and pairs, strong evidence that the species continues to breed there (Doug Gross).

American Pipit – *Bucks*: 3 at Bradford Dam 7/26 (Vinobha Pannerselvam, no doc.).

Red Crossbill – *Elk*: 5 seen and heard in white pines along Glen Hazel Rd, Jones Twp. on 6/4, one 6/13, and 2 nearby at Markert Rd 6/30 (Brendyn Baptiste, eBird); *Forest*: continuing at Beaver Meadows Recreation Area with high of 22 on 6/17 (David Yeany II ph.), 9 on 6/28 (Carole Winslow), and 2 on 7/31 (Jeff Kenney, Angela Romanczuk); *Jefferson*: an immature discovered 7/21 on SGL #31 (Mike Weible); *Monroe*: one heard at Tobyhanna SP 6/13 (Tyler Hodges, eBird); *Somerset*: 2 female-type reported 6/6 at Hidden Valley (Andrew Smith); *Westmoreland*: 2 at Spruce Flats Bog 7/20 (Atlee Wise) and 2 at Waxwing Hill 6/6 (Andrew Smith eBird); *Wyoming*: one Type-1 call heard 7/21 at SGL 57, Somer Brook Headwaters (Doug Gross, eBird).

Pine Siskin – *Clinton*: one was observed in Eastville 6/18 (Mervin Allge); *Somerset*: one at Laurel Summit 7/15 (Gregory Allen).

Clay-colored Sparrow – *Clarion*: continue to hold on in just a few locations including Stockdill Rd at Mt Zion/Piney Tract/SGL 330, where up to 3 singing birds were reported 6/1- 7/16 (Carole Winslow, m.ob.). Another singing male was heard at a site with appropriate habitat outside New Bethlehem 6/22 but was not relocated (Mal Hays).

White-crowned Sparrow – *Centre*: second summer county record 6/15 in Boalsburg (Alan MacEachren).

Yellow-headed Blackbird* – *Wayne*: immature male photographed near Damascus Volunteer Ambulance parking lot 6/16-17 (John Harvey, Chris Fischer, m.ob., ph.).

Western Meadowlark* – *Erie*: audio recording of one on territory 5/24 (Sue Murowski, Tim Lyons) at Howard Eaton Reservoir, was followed up 6/1 and reported to the birding community (Jim Flynn). It apparently never found a mate and was last reported 6/11 (Geoff Malosh, eBird, ph.).

Swainson's Warbler* – *Blair*: returned for second year 7/18, with 2 seen and heard together 7/21 at the Lower Trail-Mount Etna (Tracey Mosebey, Michael Croyle, eBird), one staying until 8/1 (m.ob.); *Fayette*: 2 found at Bear Run Nature Reserve 6/15 (Nick Liadis, David Yeany II), providing at least fourth county record. Both birds were seen or heard through July and were banded on site with color leg bands and determined to be males (David Yeany II); *Indiana*: male remained on territory at West Penn Trail, last year's location, and continued through at least 8/8 (Nicholas Liadis, David Yeany II), when it was banded.

Bay-breasted Warbler – *Beaver*: at Raccoon Creek SP 6/4 (Ian Gardner).

Blackpoll Warbler – *Berks*: one at Boyertown Reservoir 6/1 (Dennis Miranda); *Butler*: one at Burton Road, Moraine SP 6/1 (Deborah Kalbfleisch); *Crawford*: 2 at Conneaut Marsh-McMichael Road 6/28 (Ron Leberman); *Erie*: late migrants at Presque Isle 6/4 (KM Andersen, eBird) and 6/8 (Isabelle Brewer, eBird) and at Erie Ravine 6/1 (KM Andersen, eBird); *Monroe*: one at Austin Blakelee Nature Area (John Connolly, eBird); *Pike*: one at Pecks Pond 6/3 (Andrea Nale, eBird); *Wyoming*: singing male in northern part of Coalbed Swamp 6/22 (Doug Gross) and 7/10 (Eric Zawatski).

Wilson's Warbler – *Pike*: one heard singing 6/7 in dense understory at NE edge SGL 180 (Nickolus Stahlman, eBird).

Big Day for Birds!

Gene Wilhelm

Introduction

By now, this coordinator presumes that members of the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology (PSO) have read the shocking news about the biodiversity loss of the "Decline of the North American Avifauna" that was reported in Science (Rosenberg et al.). The report clearly indicates avian population losses across much of the North American avifauna over 48 years, including once common species and from most biomes. Integration of range-wide population trajectories and size estimates indicates a net loss approaching three billion birds or 29% of 1970 abundance. A continent-wide weather radar network also revealed similarly steep decline in biomass passage of migrating birds over a recent ten year period. This loss of bird abundance signals an urgent need to address threats to avert future bird collapse and associated loss of ecosystem integrity, function, and services. So what can be done to solve the problem?

The Bartramian Audubon Society (BAS) celebrated its 27th consecutive Big Day for Birds (BDB) Saturday 14 May 2022 under extraordinary fair weather conditions for eight consecutive days and nights. The goal of collecting field data is to provide environmental indicators and/or ecological actions that affect bird populations annually in Butler, Lawrence, Mercer, and Venango counties (BLMV). A vivid current environmental example is the senseless clear-cutting of a Slippery Rock Borough hardwood forest in the proximity of green space. The worst time of total forest annihilation, of course, is its fecundity of life in the month of June.

BAS has challenged such negative development with its unique Wildlife Sanctuary Program inaugurated in September 1995, followed by a Bird & Butterfly Sanctuary Program in September 1997. Many landowners were seeking such a program because they lacked the twenty minimum acres required by the Wildlife Sanctuary Program. In 2004 ecological strategy proposed establishing Sandy Creek- Wolf Creek - Slippery Rock Creek and their tributaries as a natural riparian greenway complex and corridor system that would connect five Important Bird Areas (IBAs) of high avian species richness: M. K. Goddard State Park, McConnell's Mill State Park, Moraine State Park, and Jennings Environmental Education Center, considered a state park by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. The corridor preservation idea stems from the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy's (WPC) Natural Heritage Inventories. Because certain parcels within the corridors harbor flora and fauna species of 'special concern,' these sites have been targeted since 2004 to the present to become BAS wildlife sanctuaries. The most current BAS wildlife sanctuary addition is the Slippery Rock Area Parks and Recreation of 65-acres this year (2022) mentioned earlier. BAS summarizes its conservation focus in just two words: bird habitat!

Weather

Weather on the 2022 Big Day for Birds was controlled by an expansive long and wide high meteorological cell for eight consecutive days and nights above Pennsylvania and adjoining Ohio Valley states. Southern to southwestern mild winds allowed birds (and nocturnal bats, too) to migrate nearly continuously day and night. This advantageous atmospheric condition encouraged birds grounded because of frigid winter weather conditions to escape sooner and faster for northern breeding habitats. Avian water groups like geese, swans, and ducks are among the first migrants to leave Atlantic winter grounds and will fly non-stop day and night, if need be, to reach the Great Lakes, for rest, food, and depart again, weather permitting. Cranes, sandpipers, gulls, and terns do the same. The high Arctic, represented by Point Barrow, Alaska, some 500 air-miles south of the North Pole, is void of any

jaegers and sandpipers on the snow-covered tundra at the end of May. Yet, at the very end of the first week of June, green vegetation pierces the snow and in so doing acts as biological signals that now paired jaegers and sandpipers arrive and sense it is the exact time to commence their breeding cycle. Arctic summer has arrived. Meanwhile, avian water species are followed by diurnal birds of prey that skirt the Gulf of Mexico, to night and/or day flocks of tiny hummingbirds that challenge nature crossing 500-miles of gulf water, plus tyrant flycatchers, vireos, thrushes, finches, blackbirds, new world warblers, and other land migrants, follow in a frenzy. Please refer to References for details.

Species comments

Comments on the status of particular BDB species below received scrutiny by this coordinator alone who is fully responsible for its conclusions. Status definition codes are taken from the Official State List which reflects the current distribution of the species and its rarity status.

STATUS DEFINITION

Regular: Recorded 8, 9, or 10 of the past 10 years.

Casual: Recorded 4, 5, 6, or 7 of the past 10 years.

Accidental: Recorded 3 or fewer of the past 10 years.

Extirpated: A previously breeding species that has not been recorded in Pennsylvania 50, or more years.

Extinct: Species which no longer exists.

The total number of the 2022 Big Day for Birds on May 14 was 178 species, the highest record since May 11, 1996 when the count was 172 species, the second highest count since the inauguration of the Pennsylvania Annual Migration Count (PAMC) in 1995. By contrast, the lowest count in the 28 years of the migration count was May 14, 2016 with 112 species.

Ruffed Grouse (Regular) - 1. Species has rapidly declined to the point that most birds have disappeared from favored forests. It is difficult to believe that less than ten years ago an intoxicated female grouse killed herself by eating too many wild cherries then crashing through one of our garage windows in Slippery Rock Borough.

Common Nighthawk (Regular) - 1. *Eastern Whip-poor-will* (Regular) - 1.: Both species of nightjars have been declining with the nighthawk vacating mostly flat roofs of city structures for nesting whereas the whip-poor-will prefers ground habitats. It is suggested that far fewer new city buildings have flat roofs and also are fitted with numerous bright night lights that cause significant disturbance, perhaps even harm for breeding birds. Both nightjars are insectivorous and depend upon such declining food for life.

Virginia Rail (Regular) - 13, *Sora* (Regular) - 10, *Common Gallinule* (Regular) - 6, and *American Coot* (Regular) - 2. SGL 95, SGL 151, and SGL 284 still protect extensive cattail marshes and other emergent wetlands that have enticed these four species breeding there for decades. Numbers of the Virginia Rail, Sora, and Common Gallinule continue to rise slightly with the American Coot holding its own, having the same number as last year.

Sandhill Crane (Regular) - 44. Sandhills nested in Butler 5, (Clarion 2, Crawford 2 as well) Lawrence 3, and Mercer 2 each county adding new nests since last year. A roaming non-breeding "bachelor" flock of 41 cranes (3 new since last year) formed again for the summer and as many as 225 cranes did not stay overwinter but instead migrated to Tennessee in late November 2021. Heavy ice storms covered grain fields for weeks at a time, apparently persuading the cranes to migrate early. Crane families started returning to western Pennsylvania in late March to early April with adult pairs choosing breeding sites and simultaneously forcing two-

year old juveniles out of senior breeding grounds and persuading the youngsters to join bachelor flocks.

Shorebirds Eight consecutive sunny days and clear nights in the mid-May set the stage for avian spring migration at its best. Sandy beaches, mudflats, and wet fields enticed hundreds of shore birds to stop and feed. Eleven shore bird species (all Regular) were tabulated on the Big Day, a record: Black-bellied Plover (2), Semipalmated Plover (1), Killdeer (49) Dunlin (3), Least Sandpiper (22), American Woodcock (1), Wilson's Snipe (2) Spotted Sandpiper (9), Solitary Sandpiper (10), Lesser Yellowlegs (5), Greater Yellowlegs (3). Shorebirds as a whole have lost 37% of their habitat since 1970.

American Bittern (Regular) - 4. This species requires expansive cattail marshes for breeding and has done so for many years in SGL 95, 151, and 284. This year, happy to report, four individual males called their unique sounds for weeks: two in two separate distant locations apart in SGL 151, one in SGL 284, and another in SGL 95. Let us hope that the remarkable increase in bittern offspring this year will continue.

Sparrows and grassland birds. Undoubtedly the quickest disappearing birds in the BAS 'area are the grassland species, experiencing a 53% loss, highest among arid land birds with 17% loss, Arctic tundra birds with 23% loss, and aerial insectivorous species with 31% loss. Losses have occurred in Regular species like Field Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, and Henslow's Sparrow. The Fox Sparrow has the tendency to migrate and over-winter with the White-throated and White-crowned sparrows. On the other hand, the Song Sparrow stays throughout the year, but withdrawing in winter into marshes in family units. The Lincoln's Sparrow is best encountered in our four-county area in the month of May as it seemingly rushes north into Canada. The Swamp Sparrow is well named, occupying marshes and swamps year round. The Dark-eyed Junco breeds occasionally in the BAS county zone, especially in southeastern Butler and central Mercer counties. The Bobolink and Eastern Meadowlark have declined stupendously in all four counties. Unfortunately both species are following the same ecological path of the Upland Sandpiper which is now extirpated in BAS' four counties.

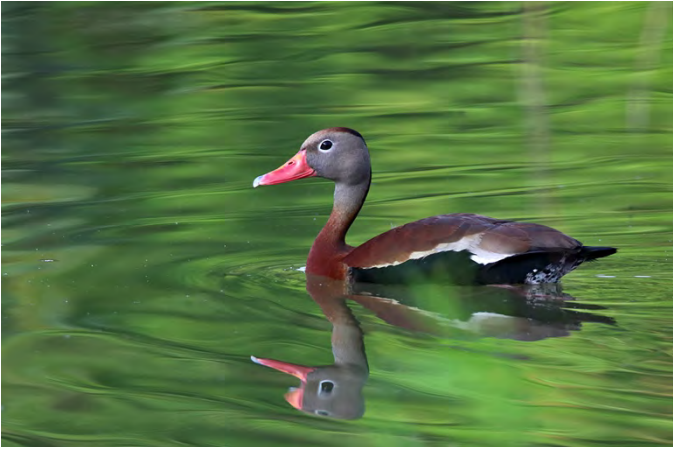
New World Warblers It rarely happens in birding when everything comes together: perfect weather, nocturnal and diurnal avian migrants by the thousands, and fellow birdwatchers who dedicate hours of their precious time to count birds. But it did happen beginning 5:00 a.m. May 14, 2022 when 60 volunteers of the BAS spread throughout its four-county target zone. Result: the ultimate of birding having 33 warbler species everywhere. In fact, the BDB only missed the rare Golden-winged Warbler and the Connecticut Warbler.

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Photographic Highlights



The first record for *Clarion*: **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** at Reidsburg 16 June. (*Jeffrey Hall*)

Color printing

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(More photos inside back cover)



Yellow-billed Cuckoo at Spring Mills, Centre 5 June. (*Debra Rittelmann*)



Black-billed Cuckoo at Spring Mills, Centre 3 June.. (*Debra Rittelmann*)



Ruby-throated Hummingbird at the Varden observation area, Wayne 30 July. (*Marilyn Ogo*)



Killdeer at Murrysville Community Park, Westmoreland 3 June. (*Mark McConaughy*)



Semipalmated Plover at Hollister's Pond, *Susquehanna* 1 June. (Barb Stone)



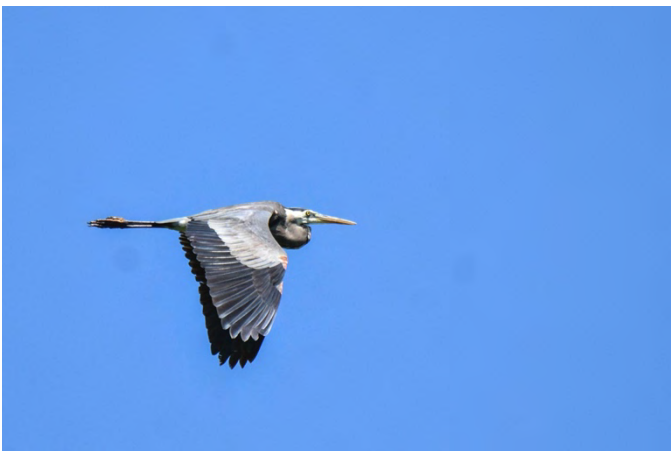
Migrant **White-rumped Sandpipers** are still migrating through Pennsylvania into June, like this bird in East Allen Twp., *Northampton* 14 June. (Dave DeReamus)



One of four immature **Wood Storks** at Octoraro Reservoir, *Lancaster* 23 (here 31) July into Aug; also recorded in *Chester*. (Barry Blust)



Least Bittern at Kahle Lake, *Clarion* 4 July, first county record during the nesting season. (Carole Winslow)



Great Blue Heron flying along the *Westmoreland* Heritage Bike Trail near Saltsburg 6 June. (Tom Kuehl)



Immature **Little Blue Heron** in Palmer Twp, *Northampton* 27 July. (Dave DeReamus)



Barn Owl banding at Rinks, *Montgomery* 12 July. (Grant Stevenson)



Not often seen in *Venango*, this **Red-headed Woodpecker** was at Seneca 26 June. (Meg Kolodick)



Willow Flycatcher at Spring Mills, *Centre* 4 June. (Debra Rittelmann)



Eastern Kingbird at New Milford, *Susquehanna* 7 July. (Nancy VanCott)



Purple Martin at Murrysville Community Park, *Westmoreland* 3 June. (Mark McConaughy)



Barn Swallow on guard at the nest at John Heinz NWR, *Philadelphia* 25 June. (John Drake)



Cedar Waxwing feeding on serviceberries at Howard, Centre 5 June. (Bob Snyder)



Grasshopper Sparrow at the Piney Tract, Clarion 16 June. (Jeffrey Hall)



This **Western Meadowlark** at Howard Eaton Reservoir, Erie 1-11 (here 4) June represents a probable second county record. (Michael David)



Eastern Meadowlark singing from a teasle stand in an overgrown field at Beech Creek, Clinton 9 June. (Bob Snyder)



Mourning Warbler at Seneca, Venango, not far from the northern Pennsylvania breeding range, 28 July. (Meg Kolodick)



Kentucky Warbler in Tuscarora SF, Perry 9 June. (Chad Kauffman)



Hooded Warbler at Hellam Hills Nature Preserve, York 29 June. (Bob Reiter)



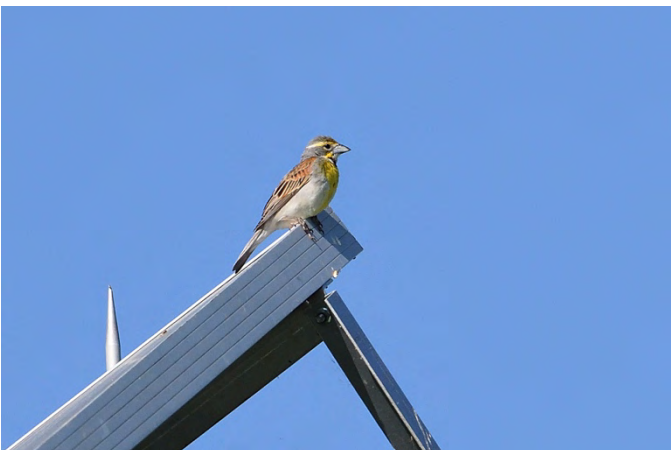
Female **Cerulean Warbler** at Seneca, Venango 31 July. (Meg Kolodick)



Northern Parula in fine detail at Lake Williams, York 27 June. (Bob Reiter)



Blue Grosbeak in Plainfield Twp., Northampton 20 July. (Dave DeReamus)

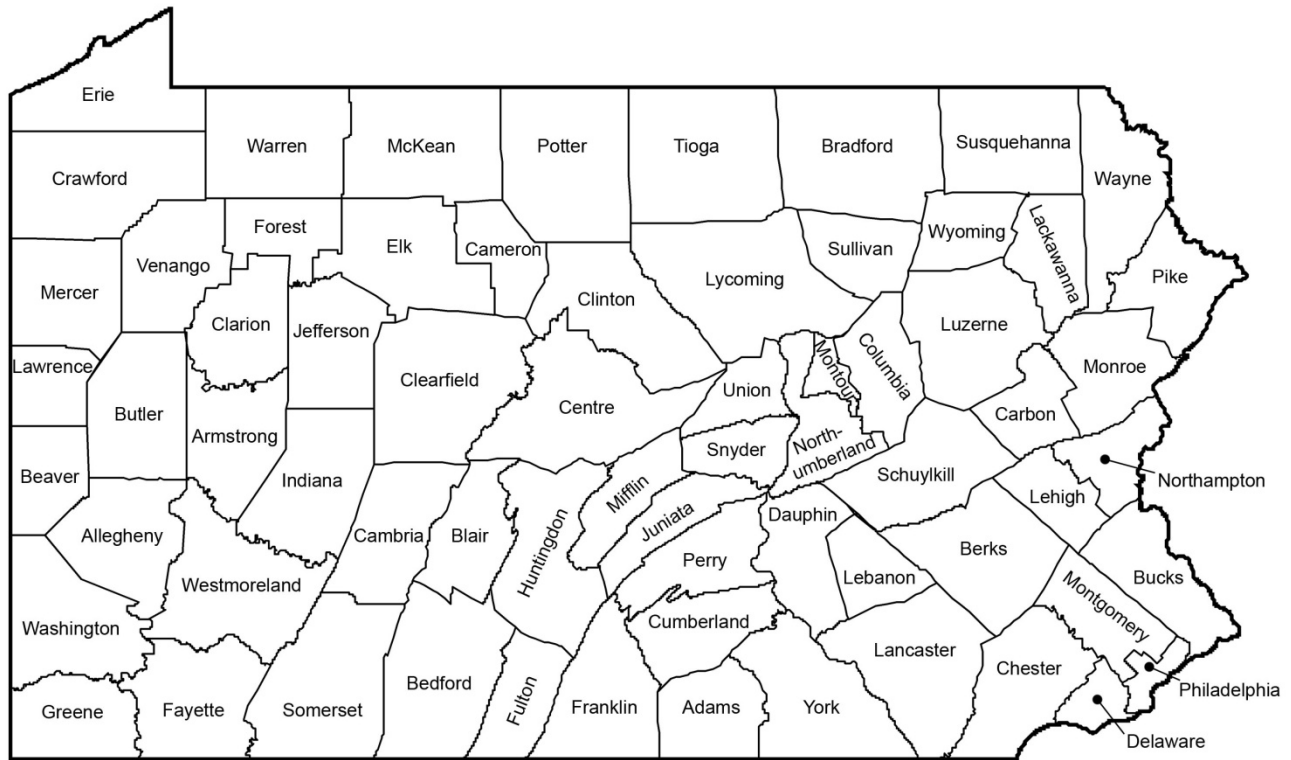


Dickcissel at Honeybrook, Chester, 4-24 (here 6) June. (Barry Blust)



(from the spring season) **Cinnamon Teal** at detention pond, Penn State, Centre 1-22 (here 13) April; first county record. (Debra Rittelman)

Local Notes – June 2022 through July 2022



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, Luzerne, Perry, and Union.

Adams County

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

While June temperatures and rainfall were at historical averages, July was slightly warmer and drier than normal. Species count at 118 and 14 warbler species was a repeat of last year's Summer period. Based on the eBird review, the period's results were likely somewhat diminished by having no recorded visits to the Heidlersberg sector of SGL 249, a county hotspot. Overall, it was a rather ordinary reporting period with the exception of a **Red-necked Phalarope** report and confirmed **Dickcissel** nesting success.

Mute Swan sightings were limited to a pair at FREE 6/5-7/27 (TA). Uncommon in this period, a **Common Merganser** was at Ortanna 6/12 (TA) and a pair were at LPRR 7/7 (MBr). Continuing the "uncommon in

this period," a **Pied-billed Grebe** was at LPRR 7/16 (BK). An **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was calling near a Shippensburg Rd home 6/18 (LM).

A **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was at Gettysburg College 7/31 (TA). The **Red-necked Phalarope** was seen by a fisherman at LPRR 7/15 (CP ph.). Unfortunately, the bird did not linger, and no other observations were reported. This species is listed on the PSO County Lists as having visited *Adams* previously with the last time likely being a bird at Gettysburg College 10 to 12 years ago (*vide AW*). Last summer saw a decent level of **Great Egret** dispersals into the county, but this year there was only one report of a bird along Hunterstown Hampton Rd 7/29 (LR). The county continued to produce isolated reports (five and one, respectively) of **Osprey** and **Sharp-shinned Hawk** in this period; however, nesting continues unreported.

Reports from 20 sites suggested it was a strong year for **Red-headed Woodpeckers**, but max count was limited to 4 birds. A **Peregrine Falcon** was seen along Steelman Marker Rd 7/18 (EB). A visit to Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve 7/31 (MB) produced some decent flycatcher counts: 10 **Eastern Wood Pewees** and 5 **Acadian Flycatchers**. All expected *vireo sp* were found, but reporting was rather

limited. **Cliff Swallow** movement was detected 7/16-30 (TA, DB, SB, TC) with a high count of 25 at LPRR 7/16 (DB, SB).

A good summer-period find was a pair of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** at LPRR 7/16 (JS). Single **Veery** were found at LPRR 6/5 (JW) and GNMP 6/21 (DR), and GNMP produced a **Hermit Thrush** 6/8 (DT). **Grasshopper Sparrows** were found at six sites with GNMP producing the high count of 7 birds 7/2 (CM). The lone **Savannah Sparrow** reporting site was GNMP with up to a pair 6/17-28 (m. ob.). The Middle Creek Rd area held a **Yellow-breasted Chat** 7/8 (GDM), and GNMP held a pair 6/26-7/18 (m. ob.). **Bobolinks** were found at three Gettysburg area sites with GNMP yielding an 8 count 7/25 (RG). Eleven sites produced **Eastern Meadowlark** reports with a nine-bird count coming from GNMP 7/14 (AW).

Warbler reporting was pretty typical. Up to 3 **Worm-eating Warblers** were found in Michaux SF 6/5-7/16 (JS, JW). A nice surprise for the observer was a wonderful photo op of a nesting **Black-and-White Warbler** just off the trail at LPRR 6/12 (AA). The ground nest was located under rhododendron branches. Sticking with this species, a nice 8 count was tallied in Michaux SF 6/12 (JS). Continuing recent trends for this period, a single **Prothonotary Warbler** was at GNMP 6/24 (EA).

Singles of **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were found at FREE 6/5 (TA), Knox Rd 6/18 (SK), and GNMP 6/26 (SC). Single **Blue Grosbeaks** were at Virginia Mills 6/10-7/16 (TA) and SGL 249-Gun Club Rd 7/29 (PK), and a pair were at GNMP 6/18-7/18 (m. ob.). A trio of **Dickcissels** were in the Littlestown area 6/15 (SK), and a single was along Basehoar Rd 6/15 (SK). GNMP produced the confirmed dickcissel nesting as birds were present all period. A report found 8 birds with "carrying food" noted and photographed 7/14 (AW).

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Allegheny County

Locations: Imperial (IMP), Indiana Township (INT).

The summer season featured a rarity and a few out-of-season species, some surprises and a few late-spring and early-fall migrants. It was a hot and dry summer, but occasional thunderstorms kept water levels steady.

A **Black-bellied Whistling Duck** was at IMP 6/12-13 (MV, m.ob.) providing a second county record. One was found in 2019, but the birding community was unaware until it was gone. Fortunately, this one stayed for two days, allowing many birders the opportunity to see it. An out-of-season male **Northern Pintail** was photographed along the Allegheny R. in Springdale 6/8 (DM). Out of season, but probably an early migrant, a female **Green-winged Teal** was at Wingfield Pines 7/31 (MK, JL). A female **Common Merganser** with 9 ducklings was at Tarentum 6/5 (AB). This location was the first site of confirmed breeding in the county a few years ago. A hen with 9 grown young were along the Westmoreland Heritage Trail in Monroeville 7/25 (TK, JKu).

Many birders noted almost an absence of **Black-billed Cuckoo** this summer. There were only five eBird reports submitted from scattered locations across the county. Quite unusual was an **Eastern Whip-poor-will** photographed just a few feet off the ground on a window ledge of a business in the Shadyside section of Pittsburgh 6/21 (LCu). There aren't any trees in the immediate area, but more suitable habitat has been available a few miles away in the city parks. Why the bird chose this site is a mystery.

A **Virginia Rail** was discovered at Wingfield Pines 7/10 (SN) followed by two adults and a chick 7/21 (DN, NN). A rare breeder in the county, this species bred at this site in the summer of 2016. A post-breeding gathering of 57 **Killdeer** was at Hampton Twp. Community Park

7/27 (LS). Four slightly late **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were at IMP 6/4 (MV); 2 were still there 6/5 (DB). Two **Short-billed Dowitchers** were at IMP 7/17 (MV). A **Least Sandpiper** was in Findlay Twp. 7/4 (MV), and one was at IMP 7/17 (MV). An out-of-season **Solitary Sandpiper** was at a drainage pond in INT 6/23 (BS).

The **Herring Gull** colony on the Allegheny R. at the Highland Park Bridge was monitored this summer. On 6/9, 69 birds including 13 juvs were tallied (SK); 50 were counted with 6 chicks 6/25-30 (KSJ). At this point they were mobile and walking around the bridge structure. A total of 99 birds including 20 juvs were counted there 7/17 (KSJ). Another colony on the Ohio R. at Emsworth Dam was checked 6/30 (PB). There were 34 birds counted and two nests. Visibility at this site is not as good as the Highland Park Bridge site, so there could have been additional nests out of viewing range.

Two late **Common Terns** were photographed along the Allegheny R. at Springdale 6/8 (DM). A few **Double-crested Cormorants** were along the rivers in the area during the summer. Only singles and pairs were reported.

Black Vulture reports continued to increase. One was in Penn Hills 6/1 (EH), one was in Elizabeth Twp. 6/7 (eBird), one was in Monroeville 7/26 (SM), and two were in West Deer Twp. 7/30 (LC). Two **Osprey** nests at Neville Island on the Ohio R. were successful with two young in one nest and adults at another nest (PB). Another nest nearby in Leestdale was active as well. The nest along the Monongahela R. in Duquesne was also successful this season (eBird).

The pair of **Barred Owls** that have become resident in Frick Park bred for the second year in a row. Last year the family was difficult to locate, but this year they were quite active right next to trails and the parking lot and could be observed at close range as the birds became accustomed to people walking the trails. I believe two chicks fledged this year. Two **Red-headed Woodpeckers** continued from May in Wexford 6/10 (eBird), and one was in Hampton Twp. 6/2 (DNu). Two **Merlins** were seen regularly in Jun at Chatham University in the Squirrel Hill section of Pittsburgh. Regular observation revealed the first confirmed breeding in *Allegheny* when 2 adults were observed with a juv 7/21 (MKu). The family was seen through the end of the season. The high count of **Fish Crow** for the season was 34 in Squirrel Hill 6/2 (MKu).

A **Bank Swallow** was at Dashields Dam the first half of Jun (MV). There was a breeding colony nearby. Another out-of-season report was a **Red-breasted Nuthatch** that was recorded at Jefferson Memorial Cemetery in Baldwin 7/21 (JF). Breeding status was unknown this summer, but this species has bred rarely in the county. **Veery** was reported from the localized breeding area in and around North Park (m.ob). One was at Walker Park in Sewickley 6/4-19 (SMu, LG). A male **Purple Finch** visited a feeder in Pine Twp. through Jul (PL, SL). This is a regular location for this species.

Savannah Sparrows, **Henslow's Sparrows**, and **Grasshopper Sparrows** have been holding on in the remaining grassland at IMP with regular reports during the season (m.ob.). There was a single report in eBird of a **Vesper Sparrow** at the Grasslands 6/5 (RH). **Yellow-breasted Chats** continued to be reliable around the IMP Grasslands but have been declining. **Bobolinks** can only be found at this same grassland as the sparrows. This location has been reliable for the past several years as these grasslands are consumed by industrial park development.

Ovenbird has been an uncommon breeder in the county despite

A male **Orchard Oriole** with unusual plumage was at Churchill Valley Greenway, first discovered in May (DY). Instead of the usual chestnut color, the bird was bright yellow. The black pattern was typical for the species, and the song matched Orchard Oriole. The bird was observed tending young in a nest in Jun. It was captured by ornithologists to collect a DNA sample for study.

what appears to be suitable habitat at several locations, even those a few miles away from reliable sites. SGL 203 in Wexford and Deer Lakes Park continued to be regular locations for this species in summer. **Worm-eating Warbler** has been another sparse breeder and was reported at

Harrison Hills Park this season, a reliable location. Yet another uncommon breeder, **Black-and-white Warbler** was reported at Harrison Hills Park in Jun (SM, JK, MG, DG) and at Dead Man's Hollow 7/3 (JP).

A few warblers not known to breed in the county were found this summer. A **Northern Parula** was in INT 6/12 (BS), and another in heavy molt and without a tail was in West Park 7/27 (BM). A **Chestnut-sided Warbler** in INT 6/2 (BS) could have been a late migrant. This species nested in North Park a few years ago. A **Prairie Warbler** was reported by numerous observers along King Road at IMP in Jun. One was at this same location last year. Prior to development the brushy habitat along this road held a nice population of this hard-to-find species in the county. A **Black-throated Green Warbler** was in Natrona Heights 6/11 (DBr, MG), and another was at Trillium Trail in Fox Chapel 6/14 (DS).

Blue Grosbeaks returned to IMP again this year with one seen 6/2 (AF) and off and on through the season (m.ob.). It never ceases to be surprising as this species, likely the same birds, have returned to less and less habitat as the area is developed.

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Armstrong County

Locations: Keystone Lake (KL), Stone House Road (SHR).

Records from eBird show there were 117 species observed in the county during the June-July period, which is five more than the average over the past 10 years. Only one rare bird species was reported: a **Red-headed Woodpecker** seen at Birdsfoot G.C. 7/26 (JC) in habitat that would be typical for this species. In recent times, this species may be seen at scattered locations at a frequency of one location per year, but these sightings almost never happen during the summer. Only in two years has a Red-headed Woodpecker been reported in June (2021, 2016), and this has never happened until now in July. None of the sightings in the county have occurred at the same location in sequential years, indicating that we do not have a sustained local population.

Unfortunately, that may now also hold true for the **Peregrine Falcon**. From 2016 to 2021, there was at least one individual which would be reliably found on or near the Graff Bridge, spanning the Allegheny R. near Manorville. Some sightings also occurred about 10 km away in an agricultural area near Worthington. The year 2022 seemed to start out the same as before, with three sightings along the Allegheny in Mar (DB, ph.) and Apr (AB). However, no Peregrine Falcon has been spotted in the county since Apr.

Observations of various hawk species seemed to be less this summer than in the past years, though probably not statistically so. Only 2 **Broad-wing Hawks** were reported: one at KL 6/4 (BG, SG), and one at Crooked Creek L. Dam 7/4 (AB). Two **Cooper's Hawks** were reported: the first in New Bethlehem on 6/22 (BR) and the second along Rte. 66 just north of Cowanshannock Cr 7/28 (BB). **Red-shouldered Hawks** were seen in five locations. Sharp-shinned Hawks were not reported.

Armstrong was one of only nine counties in Pennsylvania to host **Herring Gulls** this summer. A nesting pair with at least 2 fledged chicks was monitored at Kittaning Lock & Dam #7 in early June (TR). A single bird was seen a few km north on 6/20 (TR). Previous nests were reported here each year beginning in 2018.

Bobolinks in *Armstrong* have never been common, but this was the first year since 2017 when none were reported in the county during Jun or Jul. The Worm-eating Warbler was also missed this year, marking this

the first time since 2015 when none was reported. One other species scarce this year was the **Black-billed Cuckoo**, with only 2 birds recorded during a single visit to KL 6/29 (MS). In the past 10 years, this species is reported at an average of 2.4 locations throughout the county in Jun or Jul.

The following details are of species that were reported only once or twice during the period, but low numbers are typical at this time of year. A single **American Woodcock** was accidentally flushed from grasslands along Seybertown Road in Karns City 7/29 (TA). A single **Great Egret** was observed at KL 7/21 (MH, RH, ph.). A single **Horned Lark**, 3 **Savannah Sparrows**, and 16 more common species showed up together off Sam Shirley Road in Mayport 6/22 (BR). A **Purple Finch** was detected during a BBS stop at the corner of Main Street and SR1028 in Dayton 6/1 (RH). Both a **Grasshopper Sparrow** and a **Yellow-breasted Chat** were observed at the end of SHR 7/1 (AB). Presumably the same Grasshopper Sparrow and a **Least Flycatcher** were detected at the same location on 6/26. The Grasshopper Sparrow was found in freshly mown hay fields, while the flycatcher was moving back and forth between tree lines of black cherry and black birch over old overgrown pasture (AB). SHR also hosted at least two **Eastern Meadowlarks** during the summer (AB), with just four other locations in the county reporting meadowlarks in the same period. Only one other detection of **Least Flycatcher** was reported, with 2 birds found along Crooked Cr. on T415 in Burrell Twp 7/10 (SD).

This report ends with some cuteness that one can only imagine, since there is no photo to show. On 6/18, at least one adult female **Common Merganser** led a group of 25 fuzzy ducklings on the Allegheny R. near Karns City (TA). Since the clutch size of this species does not normally exceed 17, this feathered flotilla probably contained young from two or more sets of parents. No word on what behavior issues this mamma had to endure while caring for all these youngsters.

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Beaver County

Locations: Independence Marsh (IND), Raccoon Creek State Park (RCSP), Rocky Bend Nature Preserve (RBNP).

Away from New Brighton, summering **Common Mergansers** were once again noted at both IND, where 16 were present 6/28 (DZ), and RBNP, where the top count was 9 throughout the month of Jul (DZ). The increasingly uncommon **Black-billed Cuckoo** was noted at SGL 285 on 7/9 (TJ). **Common Nighthawks** included one at Monaca 7/9 (DZ) and birds at Beaver Falls 7/9 and 7/30 (TJ).

A very slow start to the fall shorebird migration saw only **Least Sandpiper** and **Solitary Sandpiper** among migrant species, the former in early Jul at the Siebel farm in Independence Twp. (MV) and the latter at RCSP beginning 7/20 (JM). A late northbound **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was at the Siebel farm 6/10 (MV). Four **Herring Gulls** were at the Montgomery Locks and Dam 6/5 (MV). The species has been noted rarely there in summer over the past decade, and it seems a likely breeding location given their habits upriver in the Pittsburgh area, but confirmation has still not happened. A **Great Egret** was at Big Beaver Wetlands 7/22-29 (MV), rare in the county in summer.

Quite interesting were reports of one or 2 **Alder Flycatchers** at RBNP 6/6-7/2 (DZ). There are no nesting records of this species for *Beaver* so the situation bears monitoring next summer. Two **Cliff Swallows** were among a flock of **Barn Swallows** near Enon Valley 7/31 (MV), another species with very limited history of breeding in *Beaver*. That same day at Enon Valley held another very rare summer species for the county: at least one and possibly 2 **Marsh Wrens** (MV). Three **Bobolinks** were noted at the former Little Blue L. site 6/5 (MV), and one

was noted on Macves Rd. west of Ambridge Res. 6/18 (SM, RH). A **Yellow-breasted Chat** at the corner of PA-168 and Ashwood Rd. 6/12 was a nice surprise for this summer's run of the Beaver BBS (GM).

Black-throated Green Warbler was once again found several times in Jun and Jul at RCSP (IG, et al.), but much more interesting, these days anyway, at RCSP were reports of **Black-and-white Warbler** 6/4-5 (IG) and **Bay-breasted Warbler** 6/4 (IG). The former species had not been known to breed in the RCSP vicinity for many years, but it has now been reported there each of the past three summers. The latter species, of course, was a very late migrant. What was probably an early returning Black-and-white was noted at RBNP 7/30 (RK), but that date was early enough to at least leave open the possibility that it had summered there. Black-throated Green was also found at SGL 285 on 7/9 (TJ), where they almost certainly occur every summer, even as birders almost certainly do not check the area annually in the summer months.

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Bedford County

Locations: Belden (B), Everett (EV), Evitts Creek Road (ER), Mountain Meadows, Jackson Property south of Everett (MM), Rural Home Site (RS), Shawnee State Park (SSP), Sollenberger Road (SR), Union Memorial Church (UC), White Sulphur Springs (WS).

Fortunately, there were no mysterious avian deaths this summer and no bird feeding moratorium imposed by the Pennsylvania Game Commission over concerns that the avian deaths might be from a communicable disease. That mysterious die-off in 2021 is still perplexing, but it has been noted by researchers that many of the dead birds' stomach contents contained large amounts of cicada exoskeletons. On the other hand, wild birds have been dying this summer from the highly pathogenic avian influenza, which affects raptors, vultures, and corvids. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, **Bald Eagles** in 14 states died after contracting this virus, including one in Pennsylvania. Fortunately, songbirds did not seem to be affected.

Ten **Wood Ducks** were at SSP 6/20 (EB). A flock of 10 **Wild Turkeys** was reported at ER 7/2 (B&JC). Reports of **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were widespread in the county, with a high of 3 at Hewitt Covered Bridge (SP); however, only single **Black-billed Cuckoos** were noted, at just three locations: RS (B&JC), Imler Yard 7/3 (m.ob.), and Mart29 (RH). The only **Common Nighthawk** was at Cragan Road 7/28 (JB). Continuing the disturbing downward trend, **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were at only three locations, two less than last year, although Tussey Mountain south of EV continues to be good habitat as consistent observations occurred at MM 6/2-21 (M&LJ).

The majority of **Chimney Swift** sightings were clustered in a corridor from SSP to EV, with a high of 12 at The Bridge 7/14 (JC). A single **American Woodcock** was flushed at MM 6/17 (M&LJ). Just one **Great Egret** was seen at Fort Bedford Park 6/29 (JR).

Osprey were seen at three sites: one at Bedford Valley Road 6/12 (JS), one at SP on multiple dates (m.ob.), and one near EV (m.ob.). **Bald Eagle** sightings were scattered around the county, with a high of 2 at SSP 6/19 (M&LJ). **Red-shouldered Hawks** were regularly observed at Foor Farm during the summer (EB). A successful **Barn Owl** nest was reported along ER (Anon.). One **Barred Owl** was heard at MM 6/8 and 7/4 (M&LJ).

Although uncommon in the county, sightings are on the increase for **Red-headed Woodpeckers**; a high count of 4 was observed 7/24 at B (AB). There were a few scattered reports of **American Kestrels**, but the most frequent were at UC 6/10-7/29 (EB).

A high count of 2 **Acadian Flycatchers** was at WS 6/25 (PR). **Willow Flycatchers** were at RS in Jun, with a high of 2 on 6/16 (B&JC). **Great Crested Flycatchers** were regularly sighted in Jun at MM (M&LJ).

Eastern Kingbirds were regular at two sites: at SSP with a high of 7 on 7/27 (BF) and at RS with a high of 4 on 7/9 (B&JC). **Yellow-throated Vireos** were at a few sites, with a high of 2 at RS 7/16 (B&JC). **Blue-headed Vireos** were scattered, but one was at Sarah Furnace Road 6/13 (MA). **Warbling Vireos** were observed at SSP 6/5 and 6/10 (m.ob.). **Fish Crows** along the Raystown Branch of the Juniata R. were underreported, but one was noted at Fort Bedford Park 7/24 (JC). A high of 3 **Common Ravens** was reported at RS 7/2 (B&JC) and at MM 7/3 (M&LJ).

A high count of 4 **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** was at SSP 6/20 (EB). Fifteen **Purple Martins** were seen at Down River G.C. just west of EV 7/4 (M&LJ). A new colony of Purple Martins was established at B with 11 reported 7/24 (AB). A high of 25 **Cliff Swallows** was reported at SSP 7/10 (J&SD).

Grasshopper Sparrows were found at a few locations; a high of 3 was observed at SR 6/10 (EB). Just one **Swamp Sparrow** was reported at Whitetail Wetlands 6/20 (EB). There were just 3 reports of **Yellow-breasted Chats**, with a high of 2 at Big Run Road 6/24 (EB). Six **Bobolinks** were along Hillegass Road 6/10 (m.ob.). A high of 5 **Eastern Meadowlarks** was at SR 6/4 (EB). Five **Orchard Orioles** were at SSP 6/20 (EB), with a confirmed nesting at RS (B&JC).

Just 18 species of warblers were reported in the county. A high count of 3 **Worm-eating Warblers** was at SSP 6/20 (EB). Few **Louisiana Waterthrushes** were reported, but 2 were observed at SSP 7/10 (J&SD). One **Golden-winged Warbler** was sighted at RS 6/12-20 (B&JC). **Kentucky Warblers** were consistently heard at MM in Jun (M&LJ). **Cerulean Warblers** were at just three sites, including one at WS (PR). **Northern Parulas** were reported from SSP with a high count of 3 on 6/10 (m.ob.).

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Berks County

Locations: Birdsboro (BRD), Blue Marsh Lake (BML), French Creek State Park (FCSP), Hamburg Reservoir (HR), Hawk Mountain Sanctuary (HMS), Kernsville Dam Recreation Area (KD), Kittatinny Ridge (KR), Lake Ontelaunee (LO), Rodale Experimental Farm, Maxatawny Township (ROD), Schuylkill River (SCH).

July was hotter and drier than normal, with *Berks* placed on a drought watch in mid-summer.

Two **Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks** visited a flooded field along Cross Keys Rd. 6/3-6 (JSp ph.), the fifth record of this species since the first in 2006. Injured **Snow Geese** that can't migrate north are found in most summers. This year one was at Gotwals pond, Oley, all summer (RK). A female **Hooded Merganser** with 4 ducklings was in a wooded swamp near Old Morlatton Village 6/11 (LI), and a female with a larger brood was on the Manatawny Cr. in Jun (RS). Breeding previously occurred at both locations. Singletons were reported at three other places during the period. A flock of 16 **Common Mergansers** that included 13 juvs. was seen at KD 7/28 (BL) on the SR, along which most breeding confirmations have been made. A few others were seen at LO (RK) and at Berks Heritage Center (RH) in Jun and Jul.

Single **Ruffed Grouse** were seen 6/10 (NF) and 7/4 (EK) on the KR, the only place to see them in *Berks*. Last summer, several **Eurasian Collared-Doves** were seen outside of Shartlesville, giving the impression that the colony there might finally have begun expanding. There was no evidence of expansion this summer. There were just three reports of one to 3 doves perched on utility wires in the middle of town, where they have most often been found. **Black-billed Cuckoo** is not predictably found anywhere. This summer 3 were heard, one each at HMS 6/5 (CF), Mohnton 6/15 (RC) and HR 6/17 (JT). **Yellow-billed**

Cuckoo seemed to arrive late at some of its usual haunts, but once singing started, it continued till well into Aug. Common Nighthawk is no longer known to breed in *Berks*, lending interest to summer reports. One was reported near Kutztown 6/13 (GA) and another at Henningsville 7/2 (PS).

Eastern Whip-poor-will still breeds on the KR, where they are most easily found at SGL 110, Northkill Gap. Birders saw or heard 2-5 singing among **Barred Owls** and fireflies on evening walks 7/9, 10 & 14 (KG, RH, LI, RK, P&JW). A **Virginia Rail** was heard at Boyertown Res. 6/1 (DM), where previously unreported. A **Sora** was heard at KD, which has previously attracted rails, 6/8 (AW).

A **Black-bellied Plover** and 5 **Semipalmated Plovers** paused on their northbound migration in a flooded field along Evansville Rd. near LO 6/2 (RK, JSp). Habitat for southbound shorebirds is usually scarce, but Jul's heat and drought reduced a warehouse runoff retention basin at Hamburg Commerce Park to a mudflat that attracted 7 wader species. Up to 21 **Least Sandpipers** and one to 3 **Pectoral Sandpipers**, **Semipalmated Sandpipers**, **Spotted Sandpipers**, **Solitary Sandpipers**, and **Lesser Yellowlegs** could be seen there on almost any day of the month starting 7/4 (m.ob.). A smaller basin in Blandon attracted some of the above plus a **Greater Yellowlegs** 7/28 (AS).

About 6 **Ring-billed Gulls** worked the beach at BML for picnic scraps all summer, and a flock of 13 was at LO 7/9 (LI). The season's only tern was a **Forster's Tern** nicely photographed at BML 7/21 (RH). **Common Loons** that lingered into summer have usually been immature, but this year an adult was at LO 6/4 (BS) and an adult was on the SR at KD 6/28 and 7/26 (KG). About 7 non-breeding **Double-crested Cormorants** summered at LO and about 3 at BML, both in the usual range of numbers. Post-breeding **Great Egrets** appeared as usual in Jul, with the seasonal high of 10 made at LO 7/28 (RK).

Summer's only reported **Little Blue Heron**, an immature in transitional plumage, was at LO 6/28 (SF). Though no **Black-crowned Night-Heron** rookery has been found since 2014, birds have continued to be seen at LO and BML every year. Sightings of juvs. are especially interesting, since their presence may indicate local breeding. This year single juvs. were reported at Sheidy Boat Launch, BML 6/18 (AS), 6/23 (JSp) and 6/30 (TK). A juv. was at the LO spillway 7/28 (RK). If a rookery is found, it will most likely be near BML.

The usual one or 2 summering **Ospreys** were intermittently seen at the reservoirs, in the SR valley and along the Maiden Cr. Breeding has never been recorded in *Berks*, but that might change. This year a pair fledged young from a nest on a communications tower in Palm, *Montgomery*, just south of the *Berks* line. A female **Northern Harrier**, another non-breeder, quartered grass fields in Lower Heidelberg Twp. 6/13 (BL). **Sharp-shinned Hawks**, rare and extremely secretive breeders, were observed taking sticks to a probable nest site at Hay Cr. this spring and last (RH, RK). **Red-shouldered Hawks** with fledglings were seen at Goose Run Park near Pottstown 6/7 (JT) and at Hay Cr. 6/20 (RH). Breeding also probably occurred at Union Meadows Park near BRD and in District Twp. (RK). Singletons were reported at five other locations.

A **Barn Owl** pair at a long-established and productive nest site in Rehrersburg fledged 4 young this year (RB). **Red-headed Woodpecker** breeding was not well monitored. Nestlings or fledglings were reported at just 3 of several known locations. It was encouraging to hear of 5 **American Kestrel** nestbox sites that fledged 2 to 5 young each. Breeding results from a long running HMS study and from a more recent effort by the Pennsylvania Game Commission were not available for this report. The 4 young fledged by Reading's **Peregrine Falcon** pair were seen and photographed downtown through Jul (RH).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** at HMS 6/5 (CF) was migrating north. During the breeding season, **Blue-headed Vireos** are generally found only on the KR, usually near eastern hemlocks. This spring a pair nested at Nolde Forest Environmental Education Center in southern *Berks*, the first breeding confirmation south of the KR and probably the southernmost in southeastern Pennsylvania. The pair nested in an eastern hemlock in one of the mature conifer plantations (mostly composed of Norway spruce) that make up much of the forest at this place. A male Blue-headed Vireo sang for a few weeks in Jun 2017 in

tall eastern white pines planted around BRD Res., also in southern *Berks*, but breeding was not confirmed. The vireo joins Red-breasted Nuthatch, Golden-crowned Kinglet, and Pine Siskin, all conifer-related species that have bred in plantations in *Berks* south of their normal ranges. Blue-headed Vireos were also reported at four KR locations.

Of several known **Purple Martin** colonies in *Berks*, three were visited by birders who made counts. Those did well, with 30 birds at Old Topton Rd. 6/26 (RK), 75 at Short Lane in Fleetwood 7/11 (RK), and 11 at Maple Grove 7/25 (AZ). **Bank Swallow** burrows were seen in spring at the Haines & Kibblehouse quarry near BRD, their only known breeding colony, but it is not known if the birds nested. Dispersal had occurred by Jul, when 10 were seen on utility wires on Mertz Rd. 7/19 (RH) and 10 at the LO spillway 7/28 (RK). As noted in 2021, **Cliff Swallow** colonies may be declining. At LO, where these swallows have nested for 56 years, just 75 birds, the season's high count, were at the two bridges 6/23 (RK). In 2017, 140 birds were seen. Ten birds were at Old Church Rd. bridge at BML 7/22 (RH) and 8 at Berne Bridge 6/4 (MW), but only one pair was feeding young there later in the season (KG). Just one pair was seen at State St. bridge, Hamburg, early in the season, but none later (KG).

There was a small movement of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** through the county in late Jun and Jul, weeks after the last wintering birds had left. Single birds appeared at four places 6/24-7/22, none of them seen more than once (KG, RK, AWu). Of the grassland-sparrow trio, **Grasshopper Sparrows** and **Savannah Sparrows** were seen in many grass pastures and hayfields in healthy numbers. **Vesper Sparrow** was reported only once at SGL 280, Brownsville 6/13 (BL). A **Dark-eyed Junco** at a feeder in Barto 6/5 (LC) and a **White-throated Sparrow** near Pleasantville 6/16 (AS) were late migrants. **Swamp Sparrow** is such a thinly distributed breeder in brushy wetlands that it is seldom reported in summer. A male singing in such a wetland at Wilson School District 6/16-7/30 (BL) was probably breeding.

The Big Woods Trail at FCSP remains the easiest place to see **Yellow-breasted Chats**, 3 of which performed their weirdly wonderful antics there in Jun and Jul (m.ob.). **Bobolinks** and **Eastern Meadowlarks** continued to find a few hayfields to inhabit, returning to some fields year after year even though the hay is cut by mid- to late June. No more than one to 8 **Bobolinks** and one to 5 **Eastern Meadowlarks** were reported at any location, and their breeding outcomes were largely unknown.

Habitat managed for a combination of grassland and edge, as at Green Hills Preserve, Big Woods Trail and SGL 106, have benefited **Blue-winged Warbler** and **Prairie Warbler**, both most readily found at these sites. A **Prothonotary Warbler** seen at Sheidy Boat Ramp, BML 6/30 (TK) had stayed longer than some spring overshoots. **Kentucky Warblers**, sometimes reported at just one place per summer, were at four places this year, three of them in the extensive Piedmont forest centered at FCSP. The other was seen with a fledgling at Boyertown Res. 7/5 (RK), providing a rare breeding confirmation. **Hooded Warbler** tells a wood-warbler success story. It maintains healthy populations at FCSP and on the KR as well as smaller tenacious populations in the larger forest fragments in eastern *Berks*.

Spring's last reported **Blackpoll Warbler** was at Boyertown Res. 6/1 (DM). A **Black-throated Blue Warbler**, rare but regular on the KR, returned to the territory at HR that it held last summer (KG, RK). **Black-throated Green Warbler**, our other KR warbler specialty, was found at four places on the ridge this year and confirmed breeding at one. **Blue Grosbeaks**, mostly singing males, were reported in Jun and Jul at 13 locations, and breeding was confirmed at one. The number of sightings may indicate that its breeding population has significantly increased over what it was during the last BBA, but the upcoming atlas effort starting in 2024 will tell the story.

One to 3 **Dickcissels** were seen at ROD on various dates 5/24-7/29 (m.ob.). As usual, most reports were of one male singing from power lines, but a male and female were photographed perched side by side on a fence 5/29 (RH). **Dickcissels** have returned annually to ROD since 2016, and breeding has been confirmed at least once. A combination of rotationally grazed grass pastures, alfalfa, and grain fields ensures that breeding and feeding habitat are available all season. A male **Dickcissel** sang on Monument Rd., Hamburg 6/4 (AS) and 6/19

(KG), when the last hayfields had been cut. Another small colony was discovered on Heidelberg Rd. near Robesonia, where 2 or 3 birds of both sexes were seen 6/15-25 (BL).

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Blair County

The months of June and July saw drought conditions. Information was obtained primarily from eBird data, which indicated that a total of 130 species were reported, 12 more than last year. There was one survey conducted: the annual Cerulean Warbler along the Lower Trail by Nick Bolgiano.

Highlights during this period included the return for the second straight year of 2 **Swainson's Warblers** on Lower Trail in Mount Etna 7/18 and staying until 8/1 (m.ob.). Three **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were seen overhead at a stop during a BBS route near Martinsburg 6/1 (DG, GG). A single **American Black Duck** was at Watts Farm Pond 7/18 (JC), and a lone **Great Egret** was at SGL 278 North 7/16 (JC).

A pair of **White-eyed Vireos** was along Bellwood Trolley Trail 7/15 (JC, MD), and 3 **Merlins** were reported in the city of Altoona 7/28 (MK). A high count of 20 **Grasshopper Sparrows**, 2 **Henslow's Sparrow**, and a lone **Vesper Sparrow** were located at SGL 198 6/12 (JC, MK). **Chipping Sparrows**, **Song Sparrows**, and **Field Sparrows** were widely reported. There was a **Bobolink** viewed in the fields near the Bald Eagle intersection 6/3 (MN) which has been a recurrence for this location over the last three years. A lone **Yellow-breasted Chat** was at Frosty Hollow 6/19 (LB).

There were 20 warbler species documented. 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*. The below table contains 6/3-5 totals for the more common Neotropical migrant species that have bred along the Lower Trail, covering the 16.2 miles from Alfarata to Flowing Springs: 11.7 miles in *Blair*, 4.5 miles in *Huntingdon*, the annual survey of the whole trail. The Cerulean Warbler number of 55 was somewhat lower than the 67 to 73 counted the previous three years, but within the range of variation previously observed.

The 2022 **Acadian Flycatcher**, **Warbling Vireo**, **Gray Catbird**, **Baltimore Oriole**, and **Yellow Warbler** counts were the highest in the eight years that the 16.2-mile length has been walked (NB).

Species	2022
Eastern Wood-Pewee	28
Acadian Flycatcher	71
Great Crested Flycatcher	9
Yellow-throated Vireo	16
Warbling Vireo	65
Red-eyed Vireo	199
Gray Catbird	83
Wood Thrush	29
Orchard Oriole	13
Baltimore Oriole	56
Worm-eating Warbler	8
Louisiana Waterthrush	13
American Redstart	135

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Bucks County

Locations: Bradford Dam (BRD), Core Creek Park (CCP), Delaware River (DEL), Nockamixon State Park (NSP), Peace Valley Park (PVP), Penn-Warner Tract (PWT).

The month of June was a bit cooler (-1.4°F) and drier (-0.72") than average. July pivoted to hot temperatures (+2.6°F) and very dry conditions (-3.66"), even reaching drought levels. The total species count was 138, right around the five-year average of 139. Historical occurrence data come from Ken Kitson's 1998 *Birds of Bucks County* and from this journal. The summer began quietly for shorebirds, and few rarities showed for the county's birders this period. **Bonaparte's Gull**, **Mississippi Kite**, and **Sedge Wren** were the standout rarities this time. Continued thanks go to Devich Farbotnik for his tireless efforts to monitor **American Kestrels** and **Purple Martins**, and to Hart Rufe for helping maintain one of the main martin colonies. Thanks also to August Mirabella for compiling some seasonal notes.

Out-of-season geese were absent, leaving **Mute Swans** as the only large waterfowl besides **Canada Geese**. One swan spent the summer at L. Towhee C.P. (PT), and one was in Perkasio 6/15 (BG). Single summering **American Black Ducks** were at CCP 6/14 (JS ph.) and at Pine Run Dam 7/28 (AM). A male **Bufflehead** appeared at Morrisville 6/19 (NB, AH, SH). One of our other uncommon summer ducks was a breeding plumage male **Ruddy Duck** at Churchville Park 6/12 (BK). Although Hooded Merganser went unreported this summer, they likely breed in quieter portions of the county, as evidenced by recent past summers.

All **Wild Turkey** observations were in the single digits, similar to last summer (m.ob.). One wandering **Pied-billed Grebe** appeared at PVP 7/11 (RH) for an uncommon summer record. The number of sites with 29 **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** versus 4 **Black-billed Cuckoos** were both a bit higher than recent years (m.ob.). Although usually **Common Nighthawks** are now restricted to the migration months in *Bucks*, occasionally early or late migrants will dip into the summer season. Late spring migrants were in Upper Southampton Twp. 6/2 (CM vr.) and West Rockhill Twp. 6/3 (GL). One odd sighting in Warminster Twp. 7/10 (BE) was most likely a very early return migrant.

Two **Virginia Rails** were clearly agitated at the finder's presence at Bradford Dam 7/26 (GJ vr.). The next day, another observer discovered the reason when he found three downy chicks (MGr ph.). It has been rare to be able to prove Virginia Rail breeding here, and these birds ended up attracting a lot of attention from birders. Just two days earlier, an immature **Sora** at Bradford Dam may have been an early migrant (KR ph.).

Shorebird diversity was low, with only nine species detected. Some decent counts were made, though. A **Semipalmated Plover** was at Bradford Dam 6/8, a new spring late date (SM). The high count of 7 was at CCP 7/31, the only other location to host this species (JM). **Least Sandpipers** were common at the drained CCP, with about 100 on 7/31 (JV). The same site held the seasonal high of 9 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** 7/30-31 (KL, AH, JV). A conservative count of 20 **Solitary Sandpipers** at CCP 7/29 was a decent total (MGr).

A rare summer record of **Bonaparte's Gull** was at PVP 7/23, apparently in non-breeding plumage (JF). Although only one eBird report of a single **Laughing Gull** along the DEL in Lower Makefield Twp. was received (SH), the species typically summers in large numbers at PWT. No official numbers were received from that site this summer, though **Laughers** were present in some numbers during the summer (DF). **Herring Gull** also went unreported on eBird, though again the species was present at PWT (DF). A **Lesser Black-backed Gull** at PVP 7/28

(ED) followed the increasingly late-summer arrival pattern of this northern visitor. However, its larger cousin, Great Black-backed Gull, was not reported this season. An adult **Caspian Tern** at NSP 6/23 fell squarely between the county spring departure date of 6/8 and arrival date of 7/5 (PH). Slightly less of a “tweener” record, 3 Caspians were at PVP 7/1 for a new summer arrival early date (SL ph.). No other tern species were seen in what was a slow summer for the Laridae and Sternidae as a whole.

A late migrant **Common Loon** stopped at PVP 6/6 (JBH ph.), while another summered on the DEL in Upper Makefield Twp. from at least mid-July through the end of that month (JMt, PM). No **Great Blue Heron** breeding report was requested from the Pennsylvania Game Commission for the second year in a row, although multiple colonies persist as reported in previous years (m.ob.). Although **Great Egret** was reported from only nine sites, two had good counts. Eighteen were at CCP 7/29 (MGr), and 15 at BRD 7/26 (VP). Juvenile **Little Blue Herons** arrived at PVP 7/13 (KI) and one to 2 were at CCP 7/27 through the end of the period (MGa, RS). At least one **Black-crowned Night-Heron** summered at Silver Lake Park as usual, being reported 6/13 and 7/22 (DD ph.).

It wasn't the same show as last summer, but one **Mississippi Kite** sailed past NSP 6/7, a beautiful adult bird (PH, doc. submitted). A late **Northern Harrier** over a Plumstead Twp. field 6/6 fell four days shy of a new county departure record (AH). It's likely that **Sharp-shinned Hawks** reported in Newtown Twp. 6/9 (JH, BS, PS, WS) and Wrightstown Twp. 7/12 (WS) were not local breeders, based on the heavy urban presence in this part of the county. Continued success was noted for **Broad-winged Hawk** nesting through the efforts of Hawk Mountain Sanctuary (RM, GLe, PH). Seven young fledged from four nests, with no known failures. Multiple additional territories were known as well. Two females were banded at NSP as part of Hawk Mountain's long-term monitoring of this small forest raptor.

The number of sites reporting **Red-headed Woodpeckers** continued to increase, possibly as ash trees continued to die off. Birds were reported from seven sites this summer, three of which were well-known breeding territories (m.ob. ph.).

American Kestrel Project

YEAR	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
BOXES	93	92	88	85	77	76	71	71	70
NESTS w/EGGS	68	73	67	62	62	60	52	44	45
NESTS FAILED	?	11	9	13	10	8	3	6	8
NESTS FLEDGED	60	62	58	49	52	52	49	38	37
EGGS LAID	319	343	316	283	291	274	248	211	208
FLEDGED	273	239	253	~213	208	208	203	164	169

Continued efforts have been paying off for the **American Kestrel** nest box project. This year set a new record for total young fledged, despite fewer eggs laid than last year (DF). The long-running **Peregrine Falcon** cliff nest near Kintnersville successfully fledged 3 chicks this year, bringing the total of fledglings here up to 20 in the past eight years (KRB). An adult flew over NSP 7/23 (KF ph.) and an immature eyed the shorebirds at BRD 7/27 (MGr, VP, GJ ph.).

Flycatchers rarely feature in the summer report outside of late migrants, but **Acadian Flycatcher** deserves a mention this time. Most years a few birds are reported from well-known locations, especially Tyler SP where up to 3 were detected this year (MGr). However, at least 16 Acadians were seen or heard this summer on a DEL kayak trip from Riegelsville to Solebury Twp (DF). The species can be expected along the river, but few breeding season surveys are done to actually count the birds. Breeding **Common Ravens** fledged 3 young at the same Kintnersville site as the Peregrines (KRB). Stories like this are becoming more common across the southeastern counties, and **Bucks** is no

exception.

Purple Martin Colony - E. Rockhill

YEAR	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
COMPARTMENTS	60	64	60	60	60	60	134	124
NESTS*	27	31	34	24	56	38	119	121
NESTS w/EGGS	24	22	22	14	27	29	96	92
EGGS LAID**	78	77	53	71	96	90	459	388
EGGS HATCHED	42	40	44	?	47	41	364	226
FLEDGED	40	40	44	51	34	32	346	211
FAILED NESTS	?	?	9	0	13	15	9	25

Purple Martin Colony – Penn-Warner Tract

YEAR	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
COMPARTMENTS	60	64	60	60	60	60
NESTS*	27	31	34	24	56	38
NESTS w/EGGS	24	22	22	14	27	29
EGGS LAID**	78	77	53	71	96	90
EGGS HATCHED	42	40	44	?	47	41
FLEDGED	40	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, Horned Lark was a grassland breeder that went unreported this summer. **Purple Martin** colony maintenance continued at several sites.

No detailed written account was given from either site, but the E. Rockhill Twp. colony had a significant rise in fledged chicks after three poor years. A low number of failed nests certainly contributed to that, and we had no devastating spring cold snaps as in prior years. The PWT site remained steady after a small decline, with numbers very similar to last year's (HR, DF, KM). Two new sets of gourds were erected at NSP and one at L. Towhee C.P. this summer. The NSP gourds attracted well over a dozen martins and possibly three nests, with several scouts and a nesting attempt at the L. Towhee site (*vide* PH). Look for more on these new sites in future reports.

Migrant or dispersing **Bank Swallows** showed up at numerous sites in small numbers beginning in mid-July, as usual (m.ob.). Earlier summer records included 2 at NSP 6/12 (KJ) and one at Van Sant Airport 7/4 (JM). Another early record implicated somewhat local breeding when an adult fed a vocal juvenile in flight in Tinicum Twp. 6/28 (PH). Small colonies of **Cliff Swallows** persist along the DEL and at several lakes (m.ob.). At the CCP site 7/4, one observer recorded their bizarre song that sounds like two pieces of Styrofoam being rubbed together (BB vr.).

Red-breasted Nuthatches certainly made their presence known early this summer. They have nested sporadically in **Bucks** this century, but typically do not begin moving in an irruption year until later in Jul. A pair foraging together at NSP 6/14 might have possibly indicated breeding, but no fledglings or nest were found (DF, PH). Two separate reports in Bristol Twp. (EG) and at PVP on 6/20 (KI), then one at Silver Lake Park 6/26 (DD) and more reports from NSP in early Jul (AH, ML) indicated that a clear early wandering was underway. The previous county arrival date for migrants was 7/22.

One of the wren oddities of this period was a singing **Winter Wren** recorded at SGL 157 on 6/1 (WS vr.). Their spring departure date in this county is 5/18 and their fall arrival 8/21, with no known breeding. In fact, the species is very rarely reported anywhere south of the edge of their range along the Kittatinny Ridge. It's possible that this little singer was just a late migrant passing through. Even more rare was a singing **Sedge Wren** that was found on 7/22 at Pine Run Dam, identified through GroupMe chat, and enjoyed by birders on that day and the next (AA vr.). Still considered very rare in **Bucks**, almost all of the previous 16 county

records fell in late Aug through Oct. It is worth noting, however, that wandering Sedge Wrens have set up shop before in neighboring counties during the summer months. A third strange passerine sighting occurred at BRD on 7/26 when 3 **American Pipits** were observed (VP). Although historical *Bucks* records exist on 7/31 and 8/3, this entry is just the second pipit report in eBird for the whole state during the summer season.

Grasshopper Sparrows were found at four locations, likely an average total for them (m.ob. ph.). These unobtrusive grassland breeders have to be sought out to be detected. It almost feels like a tradition for someone to find a summering **White-throated Sparrow** in the county. This year's bird was in a Bridgeton Twp. yard 6/15 (anon). Although a **Savannah Sparrow** was seen during the summer season, the bird at BRD 7/26 (GJ ph.) was not in a good location for breeding and was observed feeding. Perhaps this was a post-breeding wanderer or an early migrant? The same can be said for **Bobolink** at some of this summer's locations, but breeding birds were still found in at least seven locations (m.ob.). **Eastern Meadowlark** sites were 10 this year (m.ob.), not a bad total.

Warbler diversity was down to 13 species, but only 12 breeders for the second straight year. Historically recent breeders missed this summer included Prothonotary and Hooded Warblers. An early migrant **Northern Waterthrush** quietly foraged at PVP 7/31 (AM). A sliver of positive warbler news came with 2 **Yellow-throated Warblers** in appropriate habitat: one in Tinicum Twp. 6/3 (DF) and one in Riegelsville 6/7 (EB). Yet again, up to 3 **Blue Grosbeaks** held out at their annual breeding grounds at Maple Knoll Farms in Buckingham Twp. throughout the season (RS).

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Butler County

Locations: Lake Arthur (LA), Lake Oneida (LO).

It was an unusual summer season in that fields and brush dried up and turned brown prematurely, and lake and stream levels fell, but the weather service said we were not officially in a drought. Lake Oneida reached levels not seen in several years which then attracted a variety of early shorebirds. Another highlight of the season was an unexpected visit by a pair of **Blue Grosbeaks** near Slippery Rock.

At least four locations supported concurrent nesting by three species of ducks. **Wood Ducks, Mallards, and Hooded Mergansers** all nested successfully in four locations and most likely nested in several other sites, including wetlands along Slippery Rock Cr. near Kiesters, an area rarely birded because of lack of easy access. Curiously, **Common Mergansers** were not reported with broods for the first time in several years at Wolf Cr. and Buffalo Cr., but that did not rule out successful breeding as both locations were not consistently monitored. **American Black Ducks** were observed at Stoughton Road and LO.

One or 2 **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were spotted each week through the season in widely scattered locations, but **Black-billed Cuckoos** were much scarcer, being reported only four times. **Sandhill Cranes** were enjoyed in the northwestern part of *Butler* and nested in at least three locations (MAK, GK, MC). Shorebird enthusiasts were encouraged by an early influx of birds at LO, where exposed mudflats attracted a

variety of migrants. Following the usual pattern, **Ring-billed Gull** numbers were low at LA in early Jun, increasing to a high of 65 at Crescent Bay by the end of Jul (MC). A few **Herring Gulls** were scattered in the mix. Unusual in Jun, 2 **Common Terns** visited LA 6/5, and 5 were nicely photographed there 6/28 (MC).

A lone **Great Egret** was enjoyed by many at Park Road 6/25 (LC et al), and one stopped at Thorn Res. 7/26 (KB). **Bald Eagles** and **Ospreys** reared young at LA and SGL 95. **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers**, confirmed as breeding in *Butler* in only one location during the second BBA, were seen at Clay Twp. 6/20-7/27 (BB). **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were observed near Callery, at Clay Twp., Fenelton and Muddy Cr. Twp. (vr). Only reported from four townships this season and probably staying put near nests rather than wandering, **Common Ravens** seemed to disappear during Jun after being widely observed in most other months. After courting behavior was observed in the spring, no confirmed nests were found.

Seldom mentioned here but certainly loved and appreciated, **Northern Rough-winged Swallows, Purple Martins, Tree Swallows, Bank Swallows, Barn Swallows, and Cliff Swallows** all had successful breeding seasons. **Bank Swallow** numbers have increased dramatically at LA in recent years, and the **Cliff Swallow** colony at the Rte. 528 bridge over the big lake continued to thrive. **Grasshopper Sparrows, Savannah Sparrows, and Henslow's Sparrows** were observed in the area of Book Road, but unfortunately birders have given up on the Barkeyville Grasslands for Sparrows. The few reports from there have been winter records of Rough-legged Hawk and Northern Shrike. **Yellow-breasted Chats** were observed only at SGL 95 with singletons seen 6/16 (CB) and 7/2 (MAK, GK).

The **Blackpoll Warbler** at Burton Road 6/1 was obviously a late migrant. The least-reported warblers were **Cerulean, Warbler, Northern Parula, and Prairie Warbler**. Those three species showed significant decline between the first and second BBAs, and apparently and unfortunately the decline has continued. The birds of the season were a pair of **Blue Grosbeaks** discovered near Slippery Rock 7/16 (AH). First heard, then located and photographed by several lucky birders, the record is one of very few for the county. The earliest record is one at Todd Sanctuary 06/12/1969, found by this writer's high school biology teacher Reverend Roch Raible.

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Cambria County

The highlight of this report was a **Yellow-Crowned Night Heron** found on 7/4 Prince Galitzen SP, which was a first for *Cambria* (AE). Also at the park, several high counts were reported: 5 **Orchard Orioles** 7/6 (MD), 4 **Hermit Thrushes** 7/15 (JC), and 42 **Purple Martins** 7/16 (JC),

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Cameron County

Locations: Driftwood (DR), Sterling Run (SR), Sterling Run Mines (SRM), Sinnemahoning State Park (SSP), West Creek Trail (WCT).

There were 103 species found this season. Ten **Wood Ducks** were at WCT 6/5 (AS). Twenty **Common Mergansers** were at SSP 7/16 (SS), 5 **Ruffed Grouse** at SR 6/22 (BH), 3 **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** at SRM 6/4 (AS), and a single **Black-billed Cuckoo** at SSP 6/25 (BG). Three **Green Herons** were found at SSP 6/27 (DB). A **Northern Harrier** was seen at Hicks Run 7/21 (CB).

Two **Merlins** were found at SSP 7/16 (MS, SS) with an adult continually seen feeding a juvenile. This is the first documented breeding activity for *Cameron*. An **Alder Flycatcher** was at SRM 6/4, and a **Willow Flycatcher** at WCT 6/5 (AS). A **Yellow-throated Vireo** was found at DR 7/10 (MK).

Four **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were at SSP 7/1 (BG), 35 **Cliff Swallows** at DR 6/17 (MS), a **Brown Creeper** at SSP 7/16 (MS), and a **Winter Wren** and 5 **Grasshopper Sparrows** at SRM 7/6 (GJ). A **Bobolink** was at Emporium 6/1 (AS) and 5 **Eastern Meadowlarks** at SRM 7/6 (ES). A **Worm-eating Warbler** was at Canoe Run 6/1 (AS), and a **Nashville Warbler** at SR 6/1 (GJ).

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Carbon County

Locations: Beltzville State Park (BSP), Hickory Run State Park (HRSP), Mauch Chunk Lake (MCL), Strohl's Valley Road (SVR), Wild Creek Reservoir (WCR).

Birds were in low numbers due to the summer heat or to feeding nestlings and/or fledglings, and possibly due to birders avoiding weather conditions at times in the high-80s and 90s. There were 110 **Canada Geese** at BSP 6/12 (BW), and one **Tundra Swan** there 6/6 (RR). Three **Wood Ducks** were seen at MCL 6/23-30 (JD, JK, PN).

Two **Common Nighthawks** were at MCL at the end of June (JB, JK, PN), and 2 were seen over a backyard in Palmerton 7/22 (RR). A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was at WCR 6/12 (BW), and an **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was noted at Hatchery Road at the power line's right of way 7/30 (PM). Two **Chimney Swifts** were at HRSP 6/25 (KF), 2 at MCL 6/23-30 (JD, JK, PN), and 4 at PIDP 6/1 (PN).

Two **Virginia Rails** (RR) were sighted at SGL 40 on 6/7. A **Semipalmated Plover** was at BSP 6/8 (RR) and 4 **Killdeer** at SVR 6/27 (RR). A **Common Loon** was at BSP 6/7 (NR). Wild Creek Reservoir birds included a **Common Loon** 7/24 (PN) and 24 **Double-crested Cormorants** - wow! - 6/15 (RR). Two **Green Herons** were at MCL 6/23-30 (JD, JK, PN), and 3 were seen on SVR 6/1 (RR). Two **Ospreys** were seen at BSP 7/4 (CG), and one at PIDP 6/20 (PN). Many common birds were reported but have been omitted, however of note no American Kestrels made the list for the summer.

An **Acadian Flycatcher** was at WCR 6/20 (RR). Two **Willow Flycatchers** were at BSP with one there again 7/10 (AW), and one was at SVR 6/20 (RR). An **Eastern Kingbird** was at BSP 7/10, as were a **White-eyed Vireo** and 2 **Warbling Vireos** (AW). Five **Common Ravens** were at HRSP 6/25 (KF).

Swallow reports included 14 **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** at MCL 6/23-30 (JD, JK, PN), 10 **Purple Martins** at BSP 6/12 (BW) and 12 at MCL 6/23-30 (JD, JK, PN), a **Bank Swallow** at BSP 6/10 (RR), 3 **Barn Swallows** at BSP 6/12 (BW) with 8 at MCL 6/23-30 (JD, JK, PN) and 35 at SVR 6/27 (PN), and 3 **Cliff Swallows** at BSP 6/12 (BW). A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was at WCS 6/20 (RR).

A **Northern Mockingbird** was at PIDP 6/20 (PN), but only one **Eastern Bluebird** at BSP 7/10 (AW) was reported for the period. Six **Veeries** were at HRSP 6/25 (KF). Three **Swamp Sparrows** were sighted at SGL 40 on 6/7. Two **Bobolinks** were at BSP 6/10 (RR), and an **Eastern Meadowlark** was there 7/14 (RR). Rounding out birds at SVR were 10 **Brown-headed Cowbirds** and 10 **Common Grackles** 6/27 (PN). A **Northern Parula** was at WCR 6/27 (PN), and 2 **Canada Warblers** were at HRSP 6/20 (MF).

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Centre County

Locations: Bald Eagle State Park (BESP), Black Moshannon State Park (BMSP), Colyer Lake (COL), Dreibelbis Birding Area – formerly known

as Julian Wetlands (JUL), Penn-Roosevelt State Park (PRSP); Scotia Barrens and Pond (SCO), Soaring Eagle Wetland – formerly Gov. Tom Ridge Wildlife Preserve (GTRWP), State College (STCO).

This was the first year of a regional study of **Purple Martins**. In *Centre*, 134 young birds were banded out of an estimated population of 404 at the two colonies included in the study (NK). Information for this report was obtained primarily from eBird and the State College Bird Club listserve with background and status from *Birds of Central Pennsylvania* by Nick Bolgiano and Greg Grove, 2010 (B&G, 2010).

A couple rare duck species were reported. A female **Hooded Merganser** was observed on Sinking Cr. 6/11 (LR), and 2 were spotted at JUL 7/10 (anon.). **Common Mergansers** were also noted, including 2 along Coburn Rd. 6/2 (EG, LS), one at BESP 6/20 (KO) and again 7/17 (JK), and one on Bald Eagle Cr. in Milesburg 7/24 (RL). Up to 4 **Pied-billed Grebes** were intermittently observed at JUL 6/3-7/7 (AM, JM, MN). One was spotted at BMSP 6/26 (JM).

Two rare rails were reported. A **Virginia Rail** was heard at JUL 6/5 (NB); one was also spotted at Fairbrook Wetlands 7/10 (JG). Also at JUL, one **Sora** was heard 6/4 (MN) and 6/10 (NB). An **American Coot** was spotted at BESP 6/21 (RS).

One **Sandhill Crane** was heard at BESP 6/7 (JK). A second was present on Old Gateburg Rd. 6/17 found by the son of an area birder (SD). Four casually occurring adult **White-rumped Sandpipers** were noted at BESP 6/7; they were in breeding plumage (JK).

A **Black Tern** was seen flying over BESP 6/7 (JK). Up to 2 **Common Loons** were present at BESP 6/8 (DH, AM). One or 2 **Double-crested Cormorants** were spotted at COL 6/2 (JK), 6/22 (AH), and 7/18 (anon.). Two rare **Great Egrets** were noted: one at BESP 7/21-26 (RS, MB, JK), and another on Penns Cr. Rd. (DR).

Ospreys were widely reported. Two **Northern Harriers** were seen at Gates to Calvary in Boalsburg 6/3 (CE). **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were observed at BMSP 6/5 (KO) and at BESP 6/21 (TM), one bird from each location. Once again, 2 **Merlins** were reported in the STCO area 7/17 (SM). Unlike last year, however, there was not a confirmed nest.

Golden-crowned Kinglets were observed in several locations. Singles were present at PRSP 6/9 (MH), at COL 6/19 (MNw), and in Pine Grove Mills 6/19 (JPo). Three were spotted in BMSP 7/3 (KK). **Swainson's Thrushes** were recorded during three nocturnal flight counts: On 7/27 and 7/30, up to 2 birds were noted in Bellefonte, and on 7/30, at least one at SCO (all by JP).

A trio of rare sparrows were noted, including a report of a **White-crowned Sparrow** in Boalsburg 6/15 (AM). This was the second summer record; the first was a from a nocturnal flight count in STCO in 2021. A single **White-throated Sparrow** was heard singing at Walnut Springs Park 6/12 (MC). A **Henslow's Sparrow** was noted during a nocturnal flight count in STCO 7/22 (JG).

Two warbler rarities were present: a **Northern Waterthrush** was observed at GTRWP 6/30 (TG), and a **Yellow-throated Warbler** was spotted at BESP 7/6 (S&DS). A **Dickcissel** was heard during a nocturnal flight count in STCO 7/15 (JG). This is a casually occurring species.

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Chester County

Locations: Bucktoe Creek Preserve (BCP), Exton Park (EP), Glenville Farm Pond GFP, Goat Hill Serpentine Barrens (GH), Homestead Road (HR), Marsh Creek State Park (MCSP), Octorara Reservoir (OCT), Struble Lake (SL).

There were no major weather events, just many days of temperatures greater than 90F. Like last summer, birding was dominated by a visiting species from the south. Last year was Roseate Spoonbill; this year was **Wood Stork**. In both cases *Lancaster* generated the preponderance of sightings, leaving *Chester* birders waiting for the birds to stray into *Chester* airspace or over county land borders.

A lone **Trumpeter Swan** was at SL 6/2-3 (AC). Several duck species spent part of the breeding season with a single **American Black Duck** at OCT 7/21 (LL) and a male **Green-winged Teal** at Eagleview Pond and vicinity 6/13-20 (JS, m.ob.). Last summer a male **Ringed-necked Duck** was at OCT; this year a male was at Coatesville Res. 7/8-21 (MN). A male **Lesser Scaup** was at SL 6/2-7/21 (AC), and a female **Bufflehead**, first reported 5/15 (MH, m.ob.), continued at Parkesburg Walmart Retention Pond, through at least 7/26, hanging out with a large **Mallard** flock that one birder counted at 82. A nesting species along several area creeks, 2 **Common Mergansers** were seen in flight 6/4 (VS), during the VFAS Spring Count; a small family group of one female and 5 young was observed from Schuylkill R. Trail 6/20. Not far away, in *Montgomery* as many as 30 were reported on 6/17.

Pied-billed Grebe was noted on two occasions, both in breeding plumage, with one at EP 6/5 (TM) and another at Towpath Park 7/28 (SS). **Black-billed Cuckoo**, more common in the northern part of the state during breeding season, was identified by voice at several different locations during Jun. Three **Common Nighthawk** reports came from mid-Jul, with 2 birds at Longwood Gardens 7/13 (GT), seen overhead during an outdoor concert, and one at MCSP both 7/14 (CK) and 7/15 (DK). The *Chester* stronghold for **Eastern Whip-poor-will**, GH was again the sole location for hearing this rare county breeder. First report was submitted 6/3 (MH, AW) and last 7/25.

Beginning in May, BCP offers the opportunity to witness the wonder of migrating shorebirds leaving Delaware Bay in the evening on their way north. **Ruddy Turnstone** was observed with 250 on 6/1 and 65 on 6/5 (LL, m.ob.); however, flocks overhead can be viewed almost anywhere as reported by a backyard birder 6/1, with 300 "ruddies" estimated (CH). On that same vigil 50 **Sanderlings** were noted in a flock that also contained 200 **Semipalmated Sandpiper** and another 50 unidentifiable sp.

Come Jul, **Least Sandpiper** are on their way back south, with adults preceding the juv birds, reaching peak numbers late in the month and continuing through the fall. Observations were numerous and widespread in suitable habitat. Returning **Pectoral Sandpipers** were reported from GFP with a single on 7/23 (LL) and 7/24 (JK), and 3 there 7/31 (ZB). As many as 8 birds were at OCT 7/23-7/25 (LL). Magnolia Reserve Retention Pond had a single 7/27 (JK). Also here was a single **Semipalmated Sandpiper** on the same day, and this bird stayed for a second day. GFP expectedly held as many as 4 from 7/20-31 (m.ob.). A flock of 60 **Short-billed Dowitchers** was over BCP 6/5 (LL, m.ob.), and a single bird was at OCT 7/25 (LL). While checking in for the area's Whip-poor-will at GH, on two close-together dates of 6/20 and 6/22, **American Woodcock** was observed, once during the PSO Breeding Bird Blitz.

A single **Bonaparte's Gull** was seen flying over MCSP 6/16 (LL). While not as dramatic as spring's Arctic Terns, 3 **Caspian Terns** were at OCT 7/24 (LL).

Even when not birding rare sightings are possible, as demonstrated by two of the three reports of **Least Bitterns**. A bird was flushed while "paddling down the creek" near Great Marsh 6/3 (JN), and another was a soccer-field fly-over at Wilson Farm Park 6/21 (KF), both incidental sightings. On 6/14, at EP a bird was heard (MD, AW, AR). **Little Blue Heron** is now expected at GFP, with first sighting of imm. 7/20 (LL) and continuing through Jul (m.ob.). The only report of **Black-crowned Night-heron** was of an imm. bird nested along the bank of Chambers L. 7/11 (RR). Yet another "Incidental" sighting, the only report of **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was of the bird photographed sitting atop a telephone pole in Kennett Square 7/9 (CS), then seen again the next day flying from a roof in the same area!

And if that's not enough, still another "Incidental" sighting was made 7/29 (KL), again in Kennett Square. This was of a **Swallow-tailed Kite** soaring overhead, seen by a birder as she was returning from a Wood

Stork trip. A dramatic tale was told of a **Red-tailed Hawk** attacking a fledgling **Barred Owl** in MCSP 8/4 (BW); the outcome was not known. Evidence of another successful Barred Owl nesting came from Crows Nest Preserve where 2 adults and 2 fledglings were seen and heard 7/27 (JK).

Four juvenile **Wood Storks** were observed on the evening of 7/23 at OCT-Mt Eden Rd (WW, NW, m.ob.) in *Lancaster*. A day later, the birds were observed in *Chester*, both in flight and on the ground. From time stamps, or lack thereof, of eBird reports, it is not clear who first observed the birds in *Chester*. Regardless, sightings began at least as early as 5:40 a.m. and continued through 7/27. The two different county observations can and were made from the exact same spot, along Mt Eden Rd. When viewed in *Chester* territory the location is identified as Octoraro Reservoir (IBA) (Chester Co.) Several *Chester* sightings were made from a slightly different spot. Unlike the Roseate Spoonbill invasion of last year, the appearance of Wood Stork seemed a somewhat isolated occurrence. It seems likely that these birds were the same 4 that had departed from Calvert Co, Maryland, the morning of 7/23, after a two-day stay there. There was a report of a single bird in southern Virginia 7/30-31 and a handful of single-bird sightings in North Carolina. The only previous *Chester* record goes back to the 1800s, "when a specimen was taken." In Pennsylvania, there are four records since 1960. Wood Stork is listed as accidental in Pennsylvania.

Red-headed Woodpecker reports continued from the Beaver Dam area throughout the reporting period; an adult was near HR 6/17 (LJ), and another was at Opalanie Park 6/18 during an outing (VFAS), an exciting observation for all 8 participants. While checking out the woodpecker at Beaver Dam 6/18 (PW), a birder photographed an adult **Peregrine Falcon**; another falcon was observed soaring over West Chester 7/18 (DS). Last year's nest at Schuylkill R. Trail was reported as "occupied" 6/20 (BB, et.al.). No details on success of nesting.

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was on a typically high, exposed perch 6/25 (VFAS). While nesting is suspected in Pennsylvania, "no nest or confirmed breeding evidence has been found since the 1930s." **Alder Flycatcher**, not known to nest in *Chester*, was at EP 6/8 (JD vr). A single **Bank Swallow** was at GFP 7/25 (RG, MG); this date falls within the expected migration but is early. Also single birds, two reports of **Cliff Swallow** were submitted, one from Pocopson Wetlands 6/19 (RG, MG) and one from Longwood Gardens 6/25 (AG). Given the penchant for this species to nest on manmade structures but not on painted surfaces, county nesting evidence would not be unexpected.

Two **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were at GH 7/26 (RR ph.), an early date for migration. Likely the same birds were seen again 7/31 (MG). There were only a couple audio reports of **Marsh Wrens**, one as expected from ChesLen Preserve 6/21 (MN) and one from EP 7/22 (LW). Hilltop Road, south of Oxford, was identified as a beautiful farm with many grassland species in a 7/1 report (EH), including **Grasshopper Sparrow** and **Savannah Sparrow**, along with **Bobolink** and **Eastern Meadowlark**. HR was also reliable for sought-after grassland sparrows, while Wilson Road Pond was dependable for Bobolink and Eastern Meadowlark. **Yellow-breasted Chat** could consistently be found performing its maniacal song and dance at GH.

Even though the more northern/boreal warbler breeders have left this area, there remained a good number of species. Reports were submitted for 15 warbler species during the period, most common and a few not so much. **Worm-eating Warblers** were reported from several locations in small numbers, with the majority coming from SGL 43, where a max. of 4 was reported 6/25 (LL). Undoubtedly, the most sought after and reported was a **Kentucky Warbler**, found at Ashbridge Preserve 6/4 (BB, m.ob.). This constantly singing male stayed loyal to a relatively small area right up to the last day he was known to be seen, 6/25. Another singing male was at Crows Nest Preserve 6/6 (SS, NF).

Reports of **Hooded Warbler** came primarily from the northern portion of the county, with SGL 43 as the center. A high count of 12 birds was reported 7/10 (LL). On 6/3, a report of a single Hooded Warbler was

made from the south, at Chrome Barrens (KF). Again, in the north, **Chestnut-sided Warblers** were reported from several locations of one to 2 birds from SGL 43, Templin Rd and the Horseshoe Trail. **Pine Warbler**, on the other hand, has preferred the south/southeast portion of the county with reports of one to 2 birds coming from a handful of locations, from GH to Longwood to Waterloo Mills. The annual Kerr Park **Yellow-throated Warbler** continued through 6/25.

Known to nest generally north of Rt 23, many observations of **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** were made at SGL 43 and surrounding area. A male **Dickcissel** was found on HR 6/24 (SS, m.ob.); this guy stayed until last report on 6/24 and spent most of his time singing from the green roof of a yellow barn. It is not known if observer's challenge to determine if he found a mate was ever realized.

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Clarion County

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

The first and most unusual record of the season was the appearance of a **Black-bellied Whistling Duck** at a small farm pond in Limestone where it stayed for a brief visit 6/12-14 (JH, ES, AT, CW). This was a first record for the county and one of just a handful of records typically each summer in Pennsylvania. **Common Mergansers** are less common south of CF, but a female and 3 young were seen near SGL 63 on 7/3 and one bird 7/10 (TS), as well as 2 on the Clarion R. near Piney 6/17 (JD).

The **Eurasian Collared-Dove** first found last year in ST has continued in the same location through June (R&TGS) and also just outside of town at another home 6/14 (LT). There were two reports of **Common Nighthawks**, one seen flying outside of CV at dusk 6/11 (CW), and one calling in CL 7/3 (ES). **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were again calling throughout the season at a known breeding area outside of ST (MH), and excellent numbers were found at MZ this year. Seven birds

were calling at the main site there 6/4 (JK, AR), and 4 were heard 7/9 (SG). At the "bowl" area of MZ, another 4 were also heard calling 6/4 (JK, AR).

A lingering **Bonaparte's Gull** was found well into June at KL, reported there 6/14 (ES). **Caspian Terns** also made a brief showing there, with 3 seen the morning of 7/4, presumably early migrants (CW). **Double-crested Cormorants** continued with a summer presence there as they have for the past several years, with one or 2 seen 6/1-7/10 (TA, CW), and a single bird also reported at NB 6/3 (J&AK).

The best summer record for KL was certainly the presence of a **Least Bittern**, first reported at the end of the spring season and remaining in a large area of phragmites at the east end, calling regularly and observed hunting at the water's edge several times. It was seen 6/1, 6/16, and still present and calling 7/4 (BK, ES, CW). Unfortunately only one bird was ever seen, with no other indication of breeding, but still a positive sign for the habitat available at this location.

Although there was one sighting of an **Osprey** at KL 6/16, there have been no noted nesting attempts reported (ES). Disappointingly there were only 2 **Northern Harriers** this season, a single bird at MZ 6/23 and 7/17 (DB, DM). A **Merlin** was found at the same location as in spring, calling in CL 6/15 (ES).

Alder Flycatchers were found during their late migration through the state, one calling at MZ 6/2 (JM, LM, NM) and one singing at a small alder swamp near CV 6/6-6/15 (CW). **Least Flycatchers** are much less common in southern *Clarion* during breeding season, but this year 2 were in two locations near Leatherwood 6/12 (ES) and 6/30 (BR). **White-eyed Vireos** are only found in summer in limited areas, and there were only 2 this year: one singing at CV strips and one at MA 6/8 (KP). **Yellow-throated Vireos** are found only in scattered sites. Two were near CF 6/13 (KA), 2 at SF 6/3 (CW), and one at AT near Redbank 6/4 (GK, MAK).

Horned Larks are only sparsely noted in western Pennsylvania in eBird, as well as in *Clarion*. Only one bird was found this season, a singing male in an old cut cornfield in CV 6/6 (CW). **Purple Martins** were one at KL 6/16 and 7/24 (ES) and 3 at MZ 6/21 (MS, SS). **Bank Swallows** are rarely reported, and one was seen at KL 7/24 (ES). **Cliff Swallows** nest in scattered locations, but they have a regular site at a Clarion R. bridge near Callensburg where just one was reported 6/6 (JH), but 12 were found 7/5 (S&DS).

Both **Grasshopper Sparrows** and **Henslow's Sparrows** showed average numbers at their typical grassland locations in southern *Clarion* (m.ob.). The **Clay-colored Sparrow** continued to hold on in a few locations with the most notable this year on Stockdill Rd at MZ, where up to 3 singing birds were reported 6/1-7/16 (m.ob.). Another singing male was heard at a site with appropriate habitat outside NB 6/22 but not located after that date (MH).

Worm-eating Warblers were not reported as much this year, likely due more to lack of birder effort as change in population. Three singing birds were found at the AT at SF 6/3 (CW) and 3 were also on the trail at Redbank 6/4 (GK, MAK). **Louisiana Waterthrush** have occupied mostly southern waterways in the county but were along Tom's Run in CF 6/29 (RT). In the south a high count of 5 was at SF 6/3 (CW), one on the AT at Redbank 6/4 (GK, MAK), and a late bird on the RVT 7/25 (CW). **Kentucky Warbler** remains often the least reported breeding warbler, but a few more reports came in this year. One was found late near EB along the river 7/27 (TB), and in two separate locations at MZ, with one at the main site 6/5 (MSt) and one on Stockdill 6/6 (MM, KS).

Cerulean Warblers, like Worm-eating Warblers, were reported less this year, but again birder effort likely has more to do with that than population change. Three birds were singing at SF 6/3 (CW) and 2 were found along the AT at Redbank 6/4 (GK, MAK). **Northern Parula** is typically found in the northern hemlock forests and in the southern waterways, but this year one was heard at an unusual location far from water or typical habitat outside of CV. It was singing from Norway spruce 6/10, then not heard again, most likely an unsuccessful breeder from another location (CW).

There was increased reporting of **Pine Warbler** this season, with likely increased birder effort part of that, as this species nests in isolated areas not visited as much, and possibly confused with other species. Single birds were seen near Leeper 6/5 and in a separate area nearby

6/24 (ES). Further south they were found at MZ 6/6 (MM, KS), and then at SGL 63 on 7/3 (TS) and SGL 72 on 7/7 (CW). At their regular breeding site at CF one was found 7/16 (PM, AW). Of note is **Yellow-rumped Warbler**, a species with widely scattered and sporadic reporting during breeding season. This year a singing bird was found in good habitat near Vowinckel 6/5 (ES), and another singing male was found in an area of white pine later into the season on the Rt 66 trail near Leeper 7/20 (CW).

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Clearfield County

Locations: Curwensville Lake (CL), Sandy Ridge Road (SRR).

Personal communication was supplemented by information from the PABirds listserv and eBird for this report. A **Mute Swan** was seen at CL 7/30 (CL). A **Ruffed Grouse** with recently fledged young was photographed along Stone Run Road 6/22 (JF). A **Ring-Necked Pheasant** was photographed along SRR 6/3 (JF). A **Sora** was seen at the Platt Road Swamp 7/6 (BM).

An **American Avocet** was photographed at CL 7/29 (JF, MM, JS). An **Upland Sandpiper** was photographed along SRR 6/3 (JF). Two **Red-Headed Woodpeckers** were seen at Treasure Lake 7/2 (BM). **Merlins** were seen frequently in the county including sightings at Curwensville 6/20 and 6/29 (JS), the Beaver Meadow Walkway 6/28 (BM), and at Dubois 7/11 (RH). A **Blue Grosbeak** was seen at Karthaus Elk Refuge 6/4-23 (JF, DR).

Observers: **Diane K. Bierly**, 143 W. Lytle Ave., State College, PA 16801, 814-238-8183, dkb246@usa.net, John Forcey, Robert Hansen, Carol Light, Melinda Marconi, Bill Mendat, Dan Richards, Jerod Skebo.

Clinton County

Locations: Loganton (LN), Mill Hall (MH).

Ospreys again successfully nested at both the MH and Beech Creek sites (m.ob.). **American Kestrels** also again successfully nested at Swisssdale during the period (WL). Local anecdotal information strongly suggested that **Merlins** again nested in MH (ELM). The local **Peregrine Falcons** near McElhatten successfully nested as well after making a nearby site change (m.ob.).

There were three noteworthy belated reports from May. The first was a **Sandhill Crane** reported near LN 5/2 (MA). A **Great Egret** was found in MH 5/7 (DR). Last, an **American Bittern** was spotted near LN 5/8 (MA). A **Pine Siskin** was observed in Eastville 6/18 (MA). This sighting falls within the safe dates for a possible breeding record.

Observers: **Wayne Laubscher**, 749 E. Croak Hollow Road, Lock Haven, PA 17745, 570-748-7511, wnlaubscher@comcast.net, Mervin Allgyer, Elisabeth Lynch-McCoy, David Rockey.

Columbia County

Summer is always a slow season, and in a lightly birded county like *Columbia*, reports were few and far between. Weather this season was

unusually hot and dry.

The season's only report of **Alder Flycatcher** was a single bird observed at SGL 226 on 6/12 (DG). This species has been rarely reported in the county during breeding season. At least one **White-eyed Vireo** continued at I-80 at Millinville 6/22 (AK). Possibly this species nested in the county this year. One **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was reported in SGL 58 on 7/25 (KC), the only report of this species this season.

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

Crawford County

Locations: Conneaut Marsh at McMichael Road (MMR), Erie National Wildlife Refuge (ENWR), Pymatuning State Park (PSP): Fish Hatchery (FH), Spillway (SPL), Miller's Ponds (MP).

Observations of **American Black Duck**, a notable bird especially during the summer season, included one at MMR 6/7 (TS), one at SPL 6/11 (CM, DM, HM), 2 at the same location 6/21 (GG, MG), and one at SGL 214's Hartstown Marsh 6/18 (JH). An early **Green-winged Teal** was at MP 7/27 (CH, KK) and 7/28 (EH). A **Ring-necked Duck** was observed with a potentially injured wing at PSP's Wilson Boat Launch 7/31 (CL, MO), a very early date for this species. **Ruddy Ducks** are unexpected away from the Pymatuning area, so one at Woodcock L. 7/24 (TN) was notable. One was also at SPL 7/13 (IF), as expected.

Notably there were no observations of Ruffed Grouse. A **Pied-billed Grebe** was at MMR 7/17 (CL, MO). The only observations of **Black-billed Cuckoos** were singles in the Springboro area 6/2 (CN), at ENWR's Seneca District 6/8 (YL), at SGL 214's Hartstown Marsh 6/21 (NP), and in the Saegertown area 7/19 (RK). A **Common Nighthawk** in the Titusville area 6/18 (JH) was the only observation of this species.

Virginia Rails, **Soras**, and **Common Gallinules** were in their expected numbers and locations (m.ob.), as were **Sandhill Cranes** (m.ob.). **Upland Sandpipers** were as expected in the PSP's Wilson Road area (m.ob.). There were several early observations of shorebirds: 3 **Least Sandpipers** at MP 7/6 (EH) and 2 at FH 7/6 (EH); one **Wilson's Snipe** at Woodcock L. 7/7 (RL) with one at MP 7/27 (CH) and 4 at the same location 7/28 (EH); one **Solitary Sandpiper** seen at MMR 7/13 (KD), one at MP 7/16 (RH, TN), one at FH 7/16 (RH, TN), and one at Woodcock L. 7/17 (TN). A **White-rumped Sandpiper** was at MP 6/11 (MH, RHi). The observation of 2 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** at MP 6/11 (MH, RHi) is a notable late spring date. A single **Short-billed Dowitcher** was at MP 7/31 (CH).

A good count of 500 **Ring-billed Gulls** were in the Pymatuning area 7/26 (RL). **Black Terns**, historically present during the summer season in *Crawford*, have been rarely observed recently so 2 at MP 6/19 (IF) and one on 6/28 (IF) was significant.

Least Bittern reports occurred in their expected frequencies and locations (m.ob.), as were **Great Egrets** (m.ob.). Rare heron observations included a single **Cattle Egret** at MMR 6/8 (NH) and a single **Black-crowned Night-Heron** also at MMR 6/18 (RN).

A **Black Vulture**, rare for *Crawford*, was at Conneaut Marsh-Custards 6/18 (RL). **Ospreys** were in their expected numbers and locations (m.ob.). A **Northern Harrier**, uncommon in summer, included one at MP 7/22 (JM). Single **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were notable in the Pymatuning area 6/12 (MH, RHi) and 7/31 (SS).

Red-headed Woodpeckers were in their expected locations and numbers (m.ob.). Observations of **Merlin** this season included one at PSP's East Lake Road 6/12 (MH, RHi), one near PSP's South Lake Road 7/5 and 7/31 (SS), and one in the Meadville area 7/7 (RL). **White-eyed Vireo** observations included reports of a single bird at ENWR's Seneca District 6/3 (YL) and its Deer Run Trail 6/13 (CP). The only report of **Common Raven** was of one at Deer Run Trail 6/23 (GG, MG).

Observations of **Horned Lark**, notable during the summer, included 2 along Porter Road 7/7 (RL). An excellent count of 600 **Purple Martins**

was made at a breeding colony at a private location in the Conneautville area. Included was a 10-year old banded individual, representing the oldest known individual at this site (JHi, AT). **Bank Swallows** were in expected small numbers throughout *Crawford* (m.ob.).

Red-breasted Nuthatch observations included one heard off Kightlinger Road in the Venango area 6/12 (JHi), one at PSP's Fry's Access Road 6/18 (JH), one in the Meadville area 6/20 (KP), and up to 3, including a male and 2 juvs., off North Richmond Road 6/22-6/25 (RS). Observations of **Winter Wren**, included one at SGL 122 on 6/5 (TN, KP) and 6/18 (JH), and one at ENWR's Muddy Creek Holly Trail 7/27 (RK). **Marsh Wrens** were observed in their expected locations and numbers (m.ob.), as were **Hermit Thrushes** primarily in the eastern and northern forested portions (m.ob.). **Northern Mockingbirds** were in the Pymatuning area, including a good count of 4 on 6/18 (JH) and a single bird 7/14 (VH).

Vesper Sparrows included one near South Shenango Twp. 6/13 (VH), one near Venango 6/21 (NP), and one at PSP's Teakettle Road 6/28 (RL). **Grasshopper Sparrows** have been increasingly reported, especially in PSP; a single was at Wilson Road 6/5 (JK, AR) and 6/18 (JH) as well as one at MP 6/21 (NP). A **Henslow's Sparrow** was in a field off Kightlinger Road in the Venango area 6/8-21 (m.ob.). **Bobolinks** were as expected (m.ob.) with a high count of 20 at MP 6/3 (JF).

Northern Waterthrushes, Prothonotary Warblers, Mourning Warblers, and Cerulean Warblers were in their expected locations and numbers (m.ob.). Two **Blackpoll Warblers** at MMR 6/28 (RL) was a notable late date for this species. **Black-throated Blue Warbler** reports included one at SGL 122 on 6/5 (TN, KP) and one at Hemlock Hill Research Station 6/18 (JH), where there were significant observations of **Prairie Warblers** included single birds at the Station 6/10 (JH) and at North Richmond Road near Cambridge Springs 6/13 and 6/18 (JH). Observations of **Canada Warbler** included one at SGL 122 on 6/5 (TN, KP) and one in the Centerville area 6/16 and 6/18 (JH).

Observers: **Rob Hodgson, 709 Alden Street, Meadville, PA 16335, 515-708-0603, robhodgson888@gmail.com**, KM Andersen, Nancy Andersen, Drew Bailey, Sophia Balunek, Kathy Becker, Timothy Becker, Brittany Davis, Jonathan DeBalko, Karen Delaney, Atlee Detweiler, Tracy Engle, Mike Fialkovich, Adrian Fenton, Isaac Field, Patience Fisher, James Flynn, Cole Fredricks, Gabby Glinski, Madison Glinski, Eric Hall, Nathan Hall, Ryan Hamilton (RHa), Joshua Heiser, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee (RH), James R. Hill III (JHi), MiMi Hoffmaster (MH), Veronica Holler, Marianna Horowitz (MHR), Jacki Iones, Deborah Kalbfleisch, Jeff Kenney, Ripley Kindervater, Kata Kochvar, Mary Alice Koeneke, Glenn Koppel, Rick Koval (RKO), Wendy Koval, Kim Kozella (KKz), Yianni Laskaris, Ron Leberman, Cody Limber, Chris Lundberg (CLu), J McGary, Charlotte Medler, David Medler, Harry Medler, Brian Miller, Claire Nicolls, Tomas Nonnenmacher, Richard Nugent, Mariam Ohanjanyan, Bill Oyler, Nickilas Paulson, Ken Pinnow, Cindy Prabst, Lenore Raffle, Nicole Rekich, Angela Romanczuk, Matthew Schenck, Susan Schenck, Robert Scribner, Pam Shaw, Tom Shervinskis, Emily Smith, Shawn Sowers (SSo), Barbara Stewman, Travis Suckow (TSu), Andy Troyer, Bill Wilkinson, Michael Williams, Kendall Zook.

Cumberland County

Locations: Creekview Road Marsh (CM), Pine Grove Furnace (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** pair produced 5 cygnets at CM, hatching 6/11-13 (MB, DK). The family moved to Kuhn L. 6/14 but, by 6/17, 3

cygnets had been lost. The remaining 2 adults and 2 cygnets were present through at least 7/26 (MI).

A report of a hen **Ruffed Grouse** with 6 poults at Elk Hill Road 6/20 was encouraging (DB, SB, StB). This species is a localized breeder in *Cumberland* with this corner of Tuscarora SF remaining their stronghold. One **Pied-billed Grebe** was seen at a private marsh along Pine Road 7/4 and 7/15 (RM). The resident-injured Pied-billed Grebe at Big Spring was also seen 7/23 (VG) and has now been present here for almost 11 years, as it was first found November 2011.

There was one report of a **Chuck-will's-widow** at PGF 7/14 (JW). The report did not include recording but rather a description of the bird's call while present for several minutes. This location is within a few miles of where one was well documented summering 2015-17 and 2019. Two each of **Virginia Rails** 6/11 (TJ) and **Soras** 6/9 (BK) were found at CM for their only reports this summer.

A new **Osprey** nesting location yielding one chick was found this year at Winding Hills Nature Trail (DG et.al.). Previously the only documented nest in *Cumberland* was at the Norfolk Southern railyard in Enola, while this year adults were present, but no chicks were detected during a visit 7/9 (BM). The only **Barn Owls** reported were near Blosserville, with 2 adults and 3 recent fledglings reported 6/19 (CP, JP, RP).

A nest box survey for **Prothonotary Warblers** 6/25 produced 4 singing males at SGL 169 with one recent fledgling, two nest boxes that were likely used for nesting, and two boxes that contained incomplete nests. At Huntsdale there was one box that held a used, empty nest, and another that had a complete nest with 3 unhatched and unattended eggs (all VG, TJ). **Kentucky Warblers** were found in four locations this summer, including King's Gap SP through 7/13 (RP, CP, JP, RJ), up to 2 different males at SGL 230 through 6/20 (PL et.al.), a private location a couple miles east of there 6/8 and 6/25 (PL), and Milesburn Road in Michaux SF 6/18 (AM, PL). A male **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was the rarest reported warbler, seen at PGF 7/3 (EB). **Dickcissel** was found in three locations including up to 2 at Hunters Road 6/15-7/10 (DB, m.ob.), one at Clouse Road 6/18-19 (CP, RP, JP), and up to 2 at Booz Road 6/16-19 (CP et.al.).

Observers: **Tim Johnson, 334 Greason Road, Carlisle, PA 17015, 717-409-4805, tj359@sbcglobal.net**, Erick Beck, Doris Brookens, Scott Brookens, Steve Brookens (StB), Marcus Burkholder, Vern Gauthier, David Gibson, Michael Illo, Ryan Johnson, Dave Kerr, Bob Koontz, Peter Lusardi, Rodney Martinez, Annette Mathes, Barb Matthews, Chris Payne, Jeff Payne, Rebecca Payne, Jane Webster.

Dauphin County

Locations: Wildwood Lake (WL).

Continuing to be detected in the forests of northern *Dauphin*, **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were heard and seen again in Weiser SF's White Oak Road area 6/17 (AB, SS). A female **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was discovered feeding young at her nest at WL 7/30 (LI). A single **Sora** was spotted at WL 6/21 (EB).

Shorebirds were observed on the mudflats at WL. **White-rumped Sandpipers, Semipalmated Sandpipers, Spotted Sandpipers, and Greater Yellowlegs** were seen in mid-Jun (m.ob.); **Least Sandpipers, Solitary Sandpipers, and Lesser Yellowlegs** were seen in early Jul (m.ob.).

Wading birds were a highlight at WL this summer with a **Snowy Egret** 6/13 (DB, SBr) and **Little Blue Heron** during Jun (m.ob.), and a juv **White Ibis** 6/15-16 (m.ob.). Ending the reporting period was possibly the same juv **White Ibis** on Clark's Creek near Dauphin 7/31 (KS ph.). A **Glossy Ibis** was seen at Susquehanna R. at West Fairview 7/6 (BM ph.). **Ospreys** returned again along the western edge of WL where the pair were photographed with 3 young (LI, GL, SL).

Quite the surprise, a lone **Red-headed Woodpecker** was observed at the nature center's feeders at WL 5/9 (KH, GL, SL, PP, RP). In addition, a recently fledged Red-head was seen at Hershey Gardens

6/25 (NF). A **Purple Martin** colony continued in northern *Dauphin*, observed 6/20 (AB, SB). An early **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was heard in northern Harrisburg 6/28 (KS). A **Brown Creeper** was seen at WL 7/31 (BM).

A late **White-throated Sparrow** was still being observed at a Hummelstown home 6/7 (AM). A **Brewster's Warbler** was photographed at Fort Indiantown Gap's west corridor 6/2 (JD, CT). In addition to this hybrid warbler, 20 other warbler species were observed in *Dauphin* (m.ob.). **Bobolinks** and **Blue Grosbeaks** returned to SGL 290 at Haldeman Island, seen 6/7 and 7/9 (SS).

Observers: **Sandy Lockerman, 3830 Lexington Street, Harrisburg, PA 17109, 717-329-8040, sandylockerman@yahoo.com**, Ed Bernot, Scott Bills, Doris Brookens, Steve Brookens (SBr), Andy Brought, Jarrod Derr, Nate Felty, Kayla Harbert, Larry Imes, Gary Lockerman, Annette Mathes, Barb Matthews, Peg Price, Rick Price, Steve Schmit, Kevin Shannon, Cassidy Titus.

Delaware County

Locations: Delaware River/Hog Island Road (HIR), Glen Mills School (GMS), Governor Printz Park (GPZ), Harvey Run Trail (HRT), John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge (JHNWR), Ridley Creek State Park (RCSP), Smedley Tract (ST), Springton Reservoir (SR),

Spotty storms began the summer, though June and July were exceedingly dry, and it was not until July 19 that temperatures soared into the 90s. There were no tropical storm systems to usher in rarities, but unusual birds were still found by perseverant birders.

One of the big surprises was a group of 10 **Black-bellied Whistling Ducks** nicely photographed at GPZ 6/15 (RF et al.). This is only the second county record of this species, a species that has been increasingly noted wandering around the Middle States at the end of the breeding season. Three additional birds found in *Philadelphia* 7/30 apparently flew south into *Delaware* on that date (EK, ZM). A lingering **Snow Goose** was on the DR 6/18 (DB, AB) as was an injured female **Bufflehead** 6/16 (DH) and again 7/3-5 (DB, AB, AG).

Hooded Mergansers once again bred at JHNWR and were observed on multiple dates (m.ob.). **Common Mergansers** were reported from Darby Cr. just upstream from the DR 6/11 (JT) and from SR 6/5 with 6 fledglings, 7/23, and 7/31 (all JZ).

For the third year in a row, **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were widely reported. There was a single **Common Nighthawk** reported from Arlington Cemetery in Drexel Hill 6/5 (MDy), and a lone **Virginia Rail** seen in flight at JHNWR 6/29 (AG). A serendipitous find was a drive-by **Sandhill Crane** seen foraging in a field off Rt 352 in Middletown Twp on the morning of 6/8 (AG).

Semipalmated Plovers showed up HIR 6/11 (RF), 7/26 (RF), and 7/31 (DO, KE, AG). With water levels low due to the dry summer, **Least Sandpipers** frequented SR 7/25-31 (JZ), and JHNWR and HIR 7/9-31 (m.ob.), with a high count of 70 estimated at JHNWR 7/30 (JMc, DH) when there were also an estimated 20 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** (JMc) present. Up to 8 **Pectoral Sandpipers** were at SR 7/23-31 (JZ), and one was at JHNWR 7/16 (JZ) when a single **Greater Yellowlegs** was also seen (JZ). A fly-by flock of 26 **Lesser Yellowlegs** was noted HIR 7/31 (DO, KE, AG). Up to 3 **Solitary Sandpipers** were reported from ST 7/23-31 (JMc, DH) with up to 4 from SR during approximately that same time frame (JZ).

At HIR, a **Bonaparte's Gull** was late 7/9 (JZ, AG, KE, JMc), and **Laughing Gulls** were regular throughout Jul with a high estimate of 70 on 7/31 (DO). **Caspian Terns** and **Forster's Terns** were common throughout the period, while a **Gull-billed Tern** was an unusual find 7/3 (AG, JZ). A **Common Loon** was a periodic sighting 6/7-7/3 (m.ob.), but single loons were also noted at SR 6/2 (JZ) and at GPZ 6/22 (MD).

Least Bittern are generally difficult to spot but are reliable at JHNWR and were reported on six dates during the period (m.ob.). There was a **Snowy Egret** at HIR 7/11 (AG) and one at JHNWR 7/30 along with an immature **Little Blue Heron** (DO). Another of the latter was also

present at Crum Creek Res. 7/18 (RF et al.), 7/23 (JZ), and 7/25 (BS). A **Black-crowned Night Heron** was at Commodore Barry bridge/riverfront 6/14 (RF), heard at GPZ 6/15 (RF, JZ), and a juv was photographed at SR 7/29 (JZ).

Broad-winged Hawks nested at RCSP (m.ob.), a usual location, and in Chadds Ford (AS, LF) where calling birds were heard on multiple occasions, and likely near Smedley Park, where they were observed periodically throughout the period (JD). All three expected owls were reported from multiple locations, with **Eastern Screech-Owl** being the most widely noted. **American Kestrel** reports were few, with two sightings at the usual HIR location 6/18 (DB, AB) and 7/12 (AG), as well as one sighting from nearby Philadelphia Airport 7/3 (JG, TS), and two sightings from Mt. Sharon Cemetery 6/28 and 7/16 (DB, AB). **Peregrine Falcon** was reported from HIR 6/18 (DB, AB) and 6/28, 7/11, and 7/13 (all AG). An **Alder Flycatcher** was reported from HRT 6/7 (BS).

Among the other aerialists, 4 **Bank Swallows** were reported from HIR 7/9 (JMc), 2 from JHNWR 7/16 (JZ), and one from ST 7/23 (JMc).

This marked the 25th year the martin colony at GMS was banded, with rings applied to 268 **Purple Martins** 7/13 (DM, m.ob.), just slightly surpassing last year's 248 total. The actual number of young raised was likely larger because some birds had apparently already fledged. Gourds were preferred over the houses, and clutches in them were also larger. This colony has been continuing its slow growth and rebound and has been seeding a few other smaller ones in the area, including in Centerville, Delaware, where two- and three-year-old birds banded as nestlings at GMS have been found (IS).

In a sign of the upcoming incursion, a **Red-breasted Nuthatch** showed up early at Swarthmore College 6/21 (DE) and in a Concordville neighborhood where birds were heard 6/30 and 7/11 (BB). A lingering **White-throated Sparrow** was seen at RCSP 6/10 (JMc). A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was at HRT 7/9-12 (JZ et al.). **Eastern Meadowlark** was reported only once 7/2 (DB) from HIR, singing from the airport markers. Although this species has been seen here every year, no one has reported juveniles.

Fifteen warbler species were reported during the period. A **Northern Waterthrush** was photographed on Thornbury Twp. Trail 7/31 (JM). **Blue-winged Warblers** were noted at the Bridle Trail 6/11 (JZ) and 6/18 (DB, AB), where a late **Black-and-white Warbler** was seen 7/29 (JZ). **Hooded Warbler** was at or near RCSP 6/2 (MDy), 6/3 (CS), 6/18 (DB, AB), 7/3 (Susan Charles), 7/8 (JMc, DH) and 7/21 (JGo). This species used to breed in this area. Could there have been a pair this year? **Yellow-throated Warbler** also returned to RCSP but was not confirmed as breeding this year. Our breeding warblers seem to be hanging on by a thread, fewer in location and number with each passing year. A similar fate has befallen **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** which no longer nests in *Delaware*, but **Blue Grosbeak** was confirmed breeding at HRT (m.ob.) and was also present at First State National Historic Park 6/1 (AG, BB).

Observers: **Sheryl Johnson, 453 Duck Pond Lane, Haverford, PA 19041, 610-649-4621, sbjohnso@haverford.edu**, Debbie Beer, Adrian Binns, Brian Byrnes, Manny Dominguez, Matt Doyle (MDy), John Drake, David Eberly, Rob Fergus, Linda Fields, Jeff Gerbracht, Jeff Gordon (JGo), Al Guarente, Deborah Hansen, Zelia M., Jim McConnell (JMc), Doris McGovern, John Mercer, Damon Orsetti, Alan Schreck, Tom Schulenberg, Ian Stewart, Cindy Steven, Bob Suter, Jaden Thompson, John Zygmunt.

Elk County

Locations: Beaver Run Impoundment (BEA), Buzzard Swamp Recreation Area (BUZ), Dents Run Elk Viewing Area (DR), East Branch Clarion River Lake Vicinity (EBL), Marion Brooks Natural Area (MB).

There were 124 species reported on eBird for Spring. A **Ruffed**

Grouse hen with seven young were at EBL 7/11 (BB). Two were along the road at DR, "possibly with young based on calls ... heard in the vegetation" 7/13 (MK). There was a female at MB 7/10 (CW), and one at BEA 7/16 (AB). Four **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were near EBL 6/8 (BB), one in a Ridgway backyard 6/10 (MM), and 3 at Dents Run 7/2 (DJ).

Two **Lesser Yellowlegs** were seen, one each at Millstone canoe launch 7/13 (KG) and outside Ridgway 7/25 (ES). Two **Green Herons** were at BUZ 6/9, with one there the next day (MP). There were four sightings near EBL (BB): 2 in Elk SP 6/13 (BB) and 6/28 (CB, MS), one in Bendigo SP 7/4 and 7/9 (MS), and one at BEA 7/16 (AB).

Spring sightings of **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were normal, but summer had only one, in James City 7/25 (ES). There were only three reports for **Cooper's Hawk**: one outside Ridgway 6/30 (MM), one at BEA 7/1 (ECM), and one near Wilcox 7/28 (GM). An **Eastern Screech-owl** was at EBL 7/11 (BB). A nocturnal report for a **Great Horned Owl** was made at EBL 7/11 (BB) within minutes of one reported 20 miles away in Kersey (CB, ES). A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was at EBL 6/8 (BB vr.).

An **Olive-side Flycatcher**, possibly a late migrant, was near Wilcox 6/14 (BB), though it was present in favorable breeding habitat at Swamp Creek marsh. A **Willow Flycatcher** was in Kersey 6/8 (CB), and a **Yellow-throated Vireo** was near BEA 6/11 (BH). A **Warbling Vireo** was at EBL 6/4 (BB), with one in Bendigo SP 6/13 (MS) and one at BUZ 7/6 (ES).

Two **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were near St. Mary's 7/8 (MM). They "were attending a nest made inside a hole in the dam. They could be seen carrying out fecal material when they left." A **Cliff Swallow** was at Elk SP 6/28 (CB, MS); near EBL there was one on 6/14, five on 7/6, two on 7/7 and one on 7/19 (BB). There were three sightings of **Winter Wrens** near Wilcox and EBL, all on 6/14 with a high count of four (BB). **Wood Thrush** reports were one near Johnsonburg 7/31 (RD), one in Penfield 6/12 (CB), 3 in Weedville 6/15 (MMu), and 2 on Quehanna Trail 7/11 (CW). For **Grasshopper Sparrows**, there was one at DR 7/10 (MK), 2 at Winslow Hill Viewing Area 7/10 (MK), 2 there 7/18 (NM), and 2 there 7/21 (CB). The only report of a **Bobolink** was of one on Rasselas Rd 6/14 (BB).

A **Worm-Eating Warbler** was at BEA 6/11 and another shortly afterwards that day at MB (BH). A **Louisiana Waterthrush** was near Ridgway 6/28 (CB, ES). Two **Northern Waterthrushes** were on Quehanna Trail 7/11 (CW); the "first was carrying food, second down the road ways, but both chipping steadily." A **Hooded Warbler** was at DR 7/13 (MK) and one at BEA 7/16 (AB). There was a **Northern Parula** near Wilcox 6/14 (BB), one at Millstone Canoe Launch 6/21 and later one near Ridgway that same afternoon (MS, SS). A **Pine Warbler** was near BEA 6/11, then again later that morning (BH). There were 12 eBird reports for no more than 2 **Canada Warblers** 6/5-7/25, most in the Quehanna Area (BB, BH, ES, CW).

Observers: **Carol Light, PO Box 6, Benezette, PA 15821, 717-964-2324, lightpc2@gmail.com**, Brendyn Baptiste, Andrew Bechdel, Chelsea Beck, Richard Davis, Kaitlyn Griffith, Bill Hendrickson, David Janetski, Michael Kensinger, Melinda Marconi, Gavin McKinnon, Nicholas Minnich, Emily Carter Mitchell, Max Muller (MMu), Mary Prowell, Matthew Schenck, Susan Schenck, Eric Schil, Carole Winslow.

Erie County

Locations: Gull Point (GP)

It was a hot dry season with below average rainfall especially close to Lake Erie. The place to be for unusual birds this summer was at Gull Point on Presque Isle SP. Except for the second county record of a territorial Western Meadowlark at Eaton Reservoir, most reports were from Gull Point. The 2 adult Least Terns that made a brief appearance at Gull Point were interesting. There are only a few records of Least Tern in *Erie* with all previous records being of single birds. Prothonotary Warblers had another successful year of nesting at the west end of Presque Isle Bay where several of the artificial nesting boxes placed by Jamie Hill were occupied. Black-throated Blue Warbler was confirmed nesting, a first for *Erie*.

The following birds of note were recorded from Presque Isle SP unless noted otherwise. A total of 5 **American Avocets** were at GP 7/11-26, with as many as 9 there 7/31 (m.ob). Four **Whimbrels** touched down at GP 6/9 with a single there 7/25 (MB). A **Marbled Godwit** was a good find at GP 6/4 (RD). **White-rumped Sandpipers** made a good showing at GP with 2 on 6/11, 2 on 6/15, 10 the next day, and one 7/2 (RS, RD, MB). One or 2 **Willetts** were at GP periodically 6/22-7/26 (MB). A single **Stilt Sandpiper** was reported from GP 7/15 (MB).

A sub-adult **Laughing Gull** was identified and photographed at GP 7/26 (MB, DGv). An adult **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was photographed at GP 6/17 (JD). Up to 2 adult **Least Terns** were at GP 6/15 and 6/20 (JH, MB). This species has been recorded only 11 times in *Erie* prior to this sighting. An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at GP 6/3 (DG) with a rather late one, making an appearance along Dead Pond Trail 6/13 (KA).

As many as 15 individual **Prothonotary Warblers** were reported in early Jun including young and adults (JHi). This was Year Three of them nesting at the head of Presque Isle Bay with three nesting attempts, and two were successful. Prothonotary Warblers continued to be reported from this area through the period (m.ob.). A pair of **Black-throated Blue Warblers**, with a female carrying food, was reported from SGL 102 mid-Jun (KA) for a first confirmed nesting of this species in the county.

The showstopper of the season was the territorial **Western Meadowlark** first voice recorded May 24 at Howard Eaton Reservoir (SM, TL) but not reported until days later after it was found and positively identified (JF) and reported to the birding community. Apparently, the meadowlark never found a mate and was last reported 6/11 (GM). The only other record for the county was of a territorial male in Elk Twp. in late Jun and early Jul of 1978.

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Fayette County

Locations: Deer Lake (DL), Mill Run (MR), Ohiopyle State Park (OSP).

It was a dry hot summer this year with occasional thunderstorms. A **Ruffed Grouse** was at OSP 6/5 (KB). The only other report is an eBird entry from MR 6/1. A **Black-billed Cuckoo** at OSP 6/22 (EH) was the only report in eBird for this species. Six **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were at the Heritage Scout Reservation near Farmington 7/23 (TB).

Three **Solitary Sandpipers** were at Mill Run Res. 7/17 (KB) and one 7/30 (EJR). An out-of-season **Great Egret** was at Nemaacolin Woodlands Resort 6/19 (MD). A **Black Vulture** was at DL 6/27 (EH), surprisingly the only report. A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was at Tebolt Run Area 6/29 (DY). There is a belated report from May of a **Northern Goshawk** near OSP. A recording of the bird calling is in ebird (DB).

A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was found in MR during a BBS 6/4 (GM), a first for this BBS route. Rare for here, a **Marsh Wren** was heard singing very early in the morning at DL 6/27 (EH). A **Golden-winged Warbler** was at Ft. Necessity National Battlefield 6/4-5 (JC, DB). A **Brewster's Warbler** was also seen there 6/4 (JC).

Two **Swainson's Warblers** were found at Bear Run Nature Reserve 6/15 (NL, DY) providing at least the fourth county record. Both birds were banded on site with color leg bands and determined to be males. No females were captured so it is unknown if the birds were breeding or if, by coincidence, 2 males settled at the same location. The birds were reported through the season. This site has hosted single Swainson's Warblers in 1979 and 1989. For more information on *Fayette* and western Pennsylvania records, see Swainson's Warbler in Western Pennsylvania in *Pennsylvania Birds*, Vol. 3, No. 3 (1989) and Vol 35., No. 3 (2021).

Observers: **Mike Fialkovich**, mpfial@verizon.net, Trip Bondi, Kerry Bell, David Burlison, Jane Clark, Matthew Domer, Eric Hall, Josh Lefever, Nick Liadis, Geoff Malosh, Ryan Mathis, EJ Regula, David Yeany II.

Forest County

Locations: Beaver Meadows Recreation Area (BEA), Buzzard Swamp Recreation Area (BUZ), Lighthouse Island (LI), Tionesta (TIO), West Hickory (WH)

There were 122 species reported to eBird for Summer. The only report of **American Black Duck** was at BUZ 7/3 (AG, DSq). An **American Woodcock** was in BEA 7/3 (JD), and one was photographed in daytime at WH 7/6 (KSp). A **Wilson's Snipe** was seen near WH 7/8 (KSp). Two **Spotted Sandpipers** were at LH 7/10 (DSq) and one was at BEA 7/22 (KD, BG, KS). One was also at BEA 7/31 (JK, AR), the same day one was near TIO (KM). The only report for **Solitary Sandpiper** was one photographed at WH 7/17 (KSp).

The only report for a **Cooper's Hawk** was of one at BEA 7/29 (DK). An **Eastern Screech-Owl** was at WH 7/6 and again 7/15 (JS, KSp). An **American Kestrel** was near TIO 6/10 (ES) and 7/10 (KSp), and at WH 7/18 (KSp).

Single **Alder Flycatchers** were seen at BUZ 6/9-10 (MP ph.) and at WH 7/8 and 7/16 (KSp ph., vr.). With only six reports for **Willow Flycatcher**, the high count of 4 was at LH 7/3 (DSq). **Least Flycatcher** was reported only twice: at Minister Cr. Trail 6/25 (YL) and at BUZ 7/3 (AG, DSq). Three **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were at Kellettsville 6/20 (SB). One **Purple Martin** was heard near TIO 7/10 (KSp). One **Cliff Swallow** was at the Clarion River's Barnett boat launch 6/21 (MS, SS), and at WH 7/18 when it was raining very hard (KSp).

Two **Swainson's Thrushes** were at BEA 7/3 (DSq), the same day one was near WH (KSp). That day, a high count of 24 **Wood Thrushes** were seen at BEA (AG, DSq). A **Purple Finch** was at BUZ 6/10 (MP), and 2 were there 6/21 (MS, SS). There were three reports of **Red Crossbills** at BEA: 22 on 6/17 (DY ph.), 9 on 6/28 (CW vr.), and 2 on 7/31 (JK, AR). A **Grasshopper Sparrow** was sitting on a fencepost near TIO 7/10 (KSp ph., vr.). One **Orchard Oriole** was at LH 7/9 (JS, KSp).

A **Louisiana Waterthrush** was photographed and voice-recorded near WH 7/8 and 7/16 (KSp), as was a **Cerulean Warbler** 7/8 (KSp). Two Ceruleans were "singing near each other" at WH 7/16 (KSp), and one was there 7/17 "singing in the same spot as usual" (KSp). A **Canada Warbler** was at Cook Forest State Park – Cooksburg 6/21 (MS, SS), and 2 were at Minister Cr. Trail 6/25 (YL ph.).

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Franklin County

Locations: Antrim Commons Ponds (ACP), Greencastle Reservoir (GRRE), Letterkenny Reservoir (LERE).

The neat thing about the summer reporting period is the anticipation of what unexpected birds might be found in your home county. Last summer there was a single-person sighting verified by photo of 2 **Roseate Spoonbills** (RS) near Waynesboro 7/10 and 5 juvenile **Little Blue Herons** (BO) that were at the fisheries ponds on Mountain Road near Cove Gap 7/20 and stayed into August. While maybe not as impressive as those findings last summer, the highlight of the reporting period was the adult **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** found 6/18 (DH, JD) during the Conococheague Audubon Field Trip on the Chambersburg

Rail Trail along the Conococheague Cr. in the middle of Chambersburg. The night-heron was seen by a number of local birders and remained feeding and resting at the same location in the creek through 6/25 (BO). The only eBird records of this species in Franklin are single reports August 1972 (CG) and August 2010 (VB), both from the Conococheague Cr. in or near Chambersburg.

Nothing extraordinary, but a few water-related species were reported, some out of season. A single **Trumpeter Swan** continued throughout the period at LERE (BO, KS, BKz), remaining since Mar when 4 birds were present 3/22-29. A male **Blue-winged Teal** was at GRRE occasionally 6/15-24 (BO, DE, KR). A male **Northern Shoveler** was at ACP 6/7-12 (KR, BO). A male **Gadwall** was reported at GRRE 6/8 and 6/15 and at ACP 6/18 (KR, BO). An **American Black Duck** was reported at ACP 6/18 and 7/22 and at GRRE 6/22 & 7/5 (KR). Not too unusual in summer, multiple **Common Mergansers** were occasionally at Mountain L. Fannettsburg and LERE. (BO, KS, BKz). Also, a **Pied-billed Grebe** was present on a farm pond near Upper Strasburg 7/16 (BO).

Regular reports of **Eurasian Collared-Doves** were logged in their core Shady Grove-Greencastle-Marion area for the long-time resident species with a couple reports expanding slightly outside of those areas. This is a long-established colony with the oldest eBird record being from April 2002. Just south of *Franklin* in Washington County, Maryland, there were multiple reports west of Hagerstown in the Clear Spring area for the second consecutive summer. There are no eBird reports from this area prior to June 2021, so this may signal an expansion of *Franklin* nesting birds to the adjacent county south. The other eBird records for the species in this neighboring Maryland county were 2012-2014 east of Hagerstown with no reports since.

The summer reporting period for shorebirds includes the tail end of spring migration and the beginning of early fall migration. Spring migration ended with good amount of activity reported in the first half of Jun. Up to 2 **Semipalmated Plovers** were at ACP 6/7-11 (KR, BO, BKner, JS, BKz) and another was at GRRE 6/8-9 (KR). Very notable were reports of **White-rumped Sandpipers** from three separate locations in the first half of Jun with multiple numbers from one location. Most reports for this species in spring migration here occur from mid-May into early Jun. Following no reports this past May, 2 birds were found at ACP 6/7-11 (BO, BK, JS, DE, KR, BKz), followed by an unusual high count of 7 birds 6/13 (BO) and 3 birds 6/14-16 (BO, KR). Previous to this period's sightings, there had been frequent late-May/early-Jun eBird reports of double-digit counts of this species south of *Franklin* in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. Other late shorebird migrant reports were of **Semipalmated Sandpipers**, another species that primarily migrates through *Franklin* mid-May to early Jun. High counts for the reporting period were of 6 at GRRE 6/7 and 8 at ACP 6/8 (KR). The last presumed spring-northbound migrant Semipalmated Sandpiper was a bird at ACP 6/15 (BO).

First reports of mid-summer-presumed southbound shorebird migrants were **Least Sandpiper** at ACP 7/6 (KR), 2 **Pectoral Sandpipers** at ACP 7/23-26 (KR), Semipalmated Sandpiper at ACP 6/29 (KR), **Short-billed Dowitcher** at ACP 7/28 (BO), **Greater Yellowlegs** at ACP 7/9 (KR), and **Lesser Yellowlegs** at ACP 7/28 (BO). During this period there were 11 species of shorebirds reported in *Franklin*.

There were few raptor reports of note. Unusual in summer here, **Osprey** was reported at ACP 7/9 (BM). Also unusual for *Franklin* in summer, but not unheard of in extensive agricultural areas, **Northern Harriers** were reported at locations in close proximity along Lemar Road 6/15 (SK) and along Brandt's Church Road 6/21 (AW). **Barn Owls** continued again in the Edenville area (BO), and one was observed on Burnt Mill Road at night 7/4 (BKz). The only reports of **Peregrine Falcons**, more unlikely here during this time of year, were in the south end of Chambersburg 6/13 and in downtown Chambersburg 6/28 (DC).

One of the first signs of the end of nesting season in *Franklin* is the gathering of swallows at places like GRRE and Keefer Road farm pond, probably the two most likely locations for these gatherings to occur regularly. The first species that tends to gather is **Tree Swallow** beginning in late Jun, and as Jul progresses other species may be present in smaller numbers. It is possible, though unlikely, for a birder to get the martin-swallows-swift sweep in Jul at one of these locations.

Frequently there are very large numbers of Tree Swallows at GRRE, and the high count this reporting period was an estimated 1300 on 7/5 (KR). Based on the history of this location, large numbers will continue into Sep.

An unusual number of **Red-breasted Nuthatch** reports occurred in the Mid-Atlantic during Jul this year. As for *Franklin*, there were reports from Michaux SF at Milesburn Road 7/8 (DS) and from Stillhouse Hollow Road 7/16 (RG, TGS). Could it foretell a good irruption of this species this coming fall-winter? By the time this is published in *Pennsylvania Birds*, that question will be answered!

Reports of **Kentucky Warbler** were from three locations. There was a singing bird Caledonia SP along the Ramble Trail 6/3 (BO) and one along Stillhouse Hollow Road 6/4 (BK). Continuing from reports in May at Buchanan SF's Broad Mt Eastern Slope Trails, there was report of a one 6/7 (KR) and 2 birds 6/16 (BO). An agitated bird was observed 6/16 on the walk out and again at the same location on the walk back with apparent nesting in thick undergrowth nearby.

On the east coast, **Blue Grosbeak** is mainly a Southeast and Mid-Atlantic breeder, with the northern range primarily being NJ into southeast New York. The frequency of reports here is growing over the years. The species has a distinctive song that carries well and singing continues through the summer period. The increase in reports possibly is partially attributable to more birders birding (and now using eBird) who hear the singing; however, it seems like this species is becoming more common here. In looking at the eBird map of summer reports, *Franklin* and *Cumberland* are clearly the current western limit for frequent reports of this species in Pennsylvania.

Compared to recent years, **Dickcissel** reports were light in 2022. A slow May in the prior reporting period continued as a slow summer period. Reports continued from Mowersville Road with 3 reported 6/23 (SM), and 2 on 6/26 (BO). The only other report was a distant singing bird along Loudon Road 6/24 (KR).

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Fulton County

Locations: Buchanan State Forest (BSF), Cowan's Gap State Park (CGSP).

Fulton had 103 species reported to eBird during the period. The county was part of the second annual Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Blitz for Conservation on 6/17 in the category of "Least Birded Counties." Eighty-six species were reported that day.

One of the species seen on the Bird Blitz was **Purple Martin**, with 7 outside a colony nesting box on Wells Valley Road in Waterfall 6/17 (TM, BO, FP, VG). To my knowledge, this is the only currently active martin colony in the county, supported by the *Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in Pennsylvania* (2ABBP), which showed Purple Martins only present and confirmed in one block, likely coinciding with this location. What is of interest is that the first *Atlas of Breeding Birds in Pennsylvania* (1ABBP) had this species present in 10 blocks and confirmed in seven of them. So there seems to have been a sharp reduction of this species in *Fulton* over the last 40 years.

Another species found on the Bird Blitz was **Chestnut-sided Warbler** with 2 on the Cliff Trail 6/17, off BSF's Bark Rd. on the Upper Portion (TM, BO, FP, VG), an eBird hot spot where the birds were heard singing. On a subsequent visit, 3 males were heard singing, and one was photographed 6/25 (EB, TM). Of particular interest about these birds is that I was unable to find evidence that this species has ever been confirmed as a breeder in the county. In 1ABBP, it is only listed in one block as a possible breeder. In 2ABBP, it is listed as possible in two blocks. On eBird there are only three other summer records outside of

the *Atlas* reports, all in 2015 with 3 being seen at BSF's Knobsville Tract 6/19/2015 (DH), 2 at SGL 65's Bark Rd. 6/20 (VG, TN), and one at BSF's Bark Rd. on the Lower Portion 6/20 (VG, TN). Additionally, I found no mention of them as *Fulton* breeders in back issues of *Pennsylvania Birds*. Perhaps Bark Road is a location to try to confirm this species as a breeder in future years.

Another warbler of interest during the period was one **Kentucky Warbler** heard singing on the Cameron Trail at CGSP 6/22 (BO, KS). This was the first summer eBird record for the species in *Fulton*. However, in the 1ABBP it was listed as probable in four blocks, and in the 2ABBP it was listed as possible or probable in 15 blocks, with the greatest concentration in the southern third of the county. A third warbler of interest was the one **Black-throated Blue Warbler** seen at CGSP 6/8 (MZ). This was the second summer eBird record for *Fulton*, and the species was not mentioned as being present during the 1PBBA and only in two blocks as possible in the 2ABBP.

A regular but uncommon breeder in the county, there was only one report of a **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** at BSF's Big Mountain Overlook/Tower Rd. 6/25 (CK), and one reported location of a **Blue Grosbeak** as well at Union Church on Rte. 522 south of McConnellsburg 6/17-20, (EB, VG, TM, BO). There was a lack of reports for this well-established breeding species in the southern half of the *Fulton* with 13 blocks in 1ABBP and 18 blocks in 2ABBP, which could be due to lack of effort more than anything else.

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Greene County

Locations: East View (EV), Ryerson State Park (RSP), Sycamore (SY).

A **Wood Duck** with 3 ducklings was seen at EV 7/10 (MH, JH). **Chimney Swift** was seen in Jackson Twp. 7/5 (RL). **American Woodcock** was flushed at EV 7/5 (MH). Five **Wild Turkeys** with 11 poultts were seen in Washington Twp. 7/4 (DC). **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was reported in Jackson Twp. 7/15 (RL) and **Black-billed Cuckoo** at EV 6/28 (MH).

Belted Kingfisher, **Killdeer**, **Osprey**, and **Red-shouldered Hawk** were seen at RSP 6/18 (SM). **Broad-winged Hawk** was found in Whiteley Twp. 7/28 (KS). **Eastern Wood-Pewee** 7/26 and **Acadian Flycatcher** 7/9 were present at EV (MH). **Willow Flycatcher** was found at RSP 6/4 (LY). **Eastern Phoebe** was found at RSP 6/18 (SM). **White-eyed Vireo** and **Yellow-throated Vireo** were found in Morris Twp. 6/18 (SM). **Warbling Vireo** was found at SGL 223 6/9 (ST). **Red-eyed Vireo** was heard in EV 7/26 (MH).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow was at RSP 6/18 (SM). **Tree Swallow** was observed in Gray Twp. 6/18 (SM). Four **Barn Swallows** fledged at SY 7/1 (JC). **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was found RSP 6/18 (SM). **House Wrens** fledged 4 young at SY 6/11 (JC). **Gray Catbird** was at EV 7/23, and at the same location 2 **Brown Thrashers** were taking a dust bath 6/30 and **Wood Thrush** was last reported 7/9 (MH). **Cedar Waxwing** was heard at EV 7/28 (MH). **Chipping Sparrow** was at EV 7/18 and **Field Sparrow** was at the same location 6/28 (MH). **Orchard Oriole** 7/19 and **Baltimore Oriole** 7/5 were last reported at EV (MH).

Ovenbird and **Louisiana Waterthrush** were seen at RSP 6/4 (LY). **Kentucky Warbler**, **Cerulean Warbler**, **Northern Parula**, **Yellow Warbler** and **Yellow-throated Warbler** were found at RSP 6/18 (SM). **Common Yellowthroat** and **American Redstart** were at EV 6/28 (MH). **Hooded Warbler** was found at SGL 223 6/9 (ST). **Prairie Warbler** was found in Morgan Twp. 6/18 (SM).

Scarlet Tanager was at EV 6/30, and at the same location **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** remained throughout the period and **Indigo Bunting** was last seen 7/5 (MH).

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Huntingdon County

ocations: Alan Seeger Natural Area (AS), Cornpropst Mills (CM), Huntingdon (HU-town), Juniata River (JR), Lake Perez (LP), Lower Trail at Alexandria (LT), Murray Run Road (MRR), Old Crow wetland (OC), Pennsylvania Furnace Rd (PF), Raystown Lake (RL), Rothrock State Forest (RSF), Shaver's Creek Environmental Center (SCEC), Stone Mt. (SM), Stone Valley (SV), Trough Creek Valley (TCV), Tussey Mt. (TM).

For the summer in *Huntingdon*, 137 species were entered into eBird. Most notable were a second county record for **American Avocet** and fourth record for **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron**. The summer season was warm and dry. In nearby State College, June and July were 1.2 and 2.4 degrees F above normal, respectively. Both months were over an inch short of normal rainfall.

Top counts of **Common Merganser** were 16 in Standing Stone Creek at HU 6/20 (CM) and 15 there 7/28 (TK, DK). There were four reports of **Ruffed Grouse**, with the most significant being a hen and 5 young on TM 7/28 (JA). There were dozens of reports of **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** and seven of **Black-billed Cuckoo**, both of these more than usual for the summer season. Peak count of **Chimney Swift** was 75 in Riverside Park 7/24 (TK, DK).

Fifty-six **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were tallied on three long-running Nightjar Surveys (13 years, 30 total stops) in RSF. The 13-year average is 47 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* – 22 Whips were recorded on a route in TCV (also in RSF) and 11 on a route in the area of Stone Creek Ridge and SGL 112.

Two **American Avocets** were photographed at Raystown Resort 7/26 (PI, WI, et al.); the second record for *Huntingdon*, following one in 2009. A **Black Tern** was seen at LP 6/10 (ET). Four **Great Egrets**, most often seen as singles, were together at SCEC 7/16 (SM). An immature **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** hunted crayfish in shallow waters of Standing Stone Creek at HU 7/26-30 (DO, m.ob.); the fourth county record.

There were at least 10 reports of **Osprey**, a non-breeding species here to our knowledge, from the JR at HU, LP, and RL (m.ob.). There were numerous reports of **Red-shouldered Hawk**, mostly in the SV area. Likewise, reports of **Broad-shouldered Hawk** were mostly from SV and RSF in the northern part of the county. The pair of **Peregrine Falcons**, which last year nested successfully for the first time for the species in *Huntingdon* since the 1930s, was present again this year, but apparently nesting was not successful. Two Peregrines were seen at HU 7/26 (DO), possibly the same pair, relocating from the presumably failed nest location to town, with its abundance of **Rock Pigeons**.

Red-headed Woodpecker reports came from at least a half-dozen locations, all of 1-2 birds, including one photo of an adult feeding a young bird near Warrior's Mark. Two **Alder Flycatchers** were found 6/5 in appropriate habitat during a Golden-winged Warbler survey in SGL 112 (DG, GG); a very uncommon summer species here, these birds could have been late migrants for this late-arriving species. An Alder Flycatcher was heard calling 7/26-31 at OC, where one was also found on several occasions during summer in 2021 (SM, TK, DK, BO). **Willow Flycatcher** is fairly common and widespread in summer here, but was reported this year only at OC.

An uncommon summer resident, single **White-eyed Vireos** were found near Ardenheim 7/12 (GG, DG) and on LT 7/19 and 7/23 (JK). **Horned Larks** were present at PF through June, with a high of 6 on 6/20 (JK, SM, NEK). **Hermit Thrush** are increasingly uncommon summer residents, mainly in the high elevations of RSF; singles were at Big Flat

NA 6/11 (DWi) and 6/15 (JA) and 2 were in the Owl's Gap area of RSF 6/25 (NB).

Grassland sparrow reports were few. **Grasshopper Sparrow** was reported from seven widely scattered locations. A trip to PF 6/26 produced one **Vesper Sparrow** and 2 **Savannah Sparrows**, the only reports of these species (SM). **Yellow-breasted Chat** was reported from its stronghold on the old clear-cut area of SM in SGL 112: one each 6/3 (DW) and 6/5 (GG, DG) and 2 there 7/17 (SM). Elsewhere, one was recorded on a BBS route along Cold Spring Rd 6/10 (JK).

Longhorn Rd in TCV is the best location by far in the county for summering **Bobolink**. After a very conservative count of over 20 in May, only 2 were found 7/4 – it appeared the fields had been cut earlier than usual this year (GG, DG). Five scattered reports of **Eastern Meadowlark** were topped by a high of 6 in TCV 7/4 (GG, DG).

Twenty-three warbler species were recorded, a typical result for the summer season. A **Nashville Warbler** in RSF 6/5 was likely a late migrant (MM). **Kentucky Warbler** is a scarce breeder here; singles were at two separate locations in SGL 112 on 6/5 (DG, GG) and one was on MRR 6/10 (DG, GG). Another scarce breeder, probably only in RSF, is **Magnolia Warbler**; one was in AS, where known to summer 6/17 (Anon.) but one in SGL 322 on 7/31, an area not known to have summering birds nor appropriate habitat, was probably an early dispersing individual. Also confined largely or entirely to RSF as a summer resident, **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were reported four times, with a high of 2 at Big Flat NA 6/11 (DWi), and one was found there also 6/15 (JA). Continued annual surveys of **Cerulean Warbler** by NB documented dozens on the LT along the JR in both *Huntingdon* and *Blair*; this work will be the subject of an article in a future issue of *Pennsylvania Birds*.

Golden-winged Warblers seem ever more scarce. PGC surveys found one in SGL 112 along with one Golden/Blue-wing hybrid 6/5 (DG, GG); 2 Golden-wings were detected there 6/3 (DW). Two **Brewster's** hybrids were found during a PGC survey in a section of SGL 322 on 6/8 (HP). During PGC surveys in May, 3 Golden-wings had been recorded in a different section of SGL 322, along with 2 Brewster's there, and 2 Golden-wings in SGL 121 (DG, GG). Elsewhere, one Golden-wing was found along Red-Rose Rd 6/9, 10, 15 (SM, RH, SMA).

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Indiana County

Locations: West Lebanon (WL), West Penn Trail (WPT), Yellow Creek State Park (YC),

A late **Common Goldeneye** was spotted along the WPT 6/3 (RB); this is the only summer record for the county. The Ghost Town Trail near Dilltown yielded 3 **Common Mergansers** on 6/10 (GT); a hen with 6 young was sighted on Little Mahoning Creek 6/18 (CG, MH, RH, GL), while 2 hens were at Musser's Pond the same day (CG, MH, RH, GL). The only **Ruffed Grouse** reported were 2 near Vintondale 6/24 (GT). An **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was still calling at SGL 332 on 7/1 (MH, RH).

Six **American Avocets** landed at YC 6/12 (ED, MH, RH, DK) and were subsequently seen by many observers; a singleton flew over YC Lake 7/31 (JeK, AR) and was relocated at the western end of the lake where it was again photographed (JeK, AR); these were the sixth and seventh county records for avocets but only the second June-July record with the previous being 7/17/98 (GC, BF, JF, TF, EF, GL, DL). The first

2 **Least Sandpipers** (HR) and 2 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** (MW) appeared at YC 7/15, which also hosted a single **Short-billed Dowitcher** 7/19 (LC, SD, ED, MH, RH, DK, TR). An **American Woodcock** was still calling near Jacksonville 7/15 (MD). The first **Solitary Sandpiper** was found at YC 7/15 (MW). Two **Lesser Yellowlegs** arrived at YC 7/31 (JeK, AR).

Four **Caspian Terns** appeared at YC 7/12 (ED, MH, RH, DK); one week later a single Caspian arrived (LC, ED, MH, RH, DK, TR). A **Black Tern** appeared at YC 7/31 (JeK, AR). Two **Forster's Terns** took refuge at YC just before an impending thunderstorm on 7/5 (MH, RH). One to 2 **Double-crested Cormorants** stopped at YC on two additional dates between 6/7 (ED, MH, RH) and 7/5 (MH, RH). The first **Great Egret** arrival occurred at YC 7/31 (JeK, AR).

As **Black Vulture** sightings continue to become more common in *Indiana*, the first confirmed nesting was documented along the Ghost Town Trail near Dilltown on 7/23 (GT) when 2 fledglings, still partly downy, stood at the opening to a cave while an adult perched nearby.

White-eyed Vireos have become much more difficult to find in the county with single birds noted at only two locations, YC 6/7 (LC, ED, MH, RH, KT) and 7/5 (MH, RH) and near Clarksburg 6/17 (CG, MH, RH, GL), and no confirmed nesting. **Yellow-throated** and **Blue-headed Vireos** were much more widely distributed with reports from 17 and 18 locations (m.ob.), respectively. **Warbling Vireos** appeared along various streams in the county and were noted in eBird at 11 sites.

Fish Crows, previously reported mostly in the downtown Indiana area, were found 6/21 (MS) at SGL 276. Only one **Horned Lark** was reported, north of Smicksburg 6/19 (CG, MH, RH, GL). Largely due to the Penn Run **Purple Martin's** colony successful fledging of more than 230 martins this year, martins have begun to show up both at YC and at BS where martin housing has remained unused. The high count at YC was 15 on 7/19 (ED, MH, RH, TR) and at Blue Spruce County Park, 5 on 6/23 (MH, RH), giving us hope for nesting martins next year. Two **Bank Swallows** at YC 7/31 (JeK, AR) were the only ones noted.

A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** visited a yard near Shelocla on 7/18 (MH, RH), the first sighting since early May. Unusual for *Indiana* were the reports of a **Winter Wren** near Vintondale 6/24, 6/30 and 7/29 (GT); the presence of 3 on 7/9 (GT) suggested possible breeding.

Grasshopper Sparrows were found at three locations this summer: near Strangford 6/8 (BW), near Brush Valley 6/18 (CG, MH, RH, GL), and at WL 6/29 (MS). The only **Vesper Sparrow** noted was a singleton 6/4 (RK, WK) at WL. **Savannah Sparrow** reports included 2 near McDowell Cemetery on 6/4 (MH, RH), 2 near Smicksburg 6/19 (CG, MH, RH, GL), and 2 at WL 7/31 (CH). **Henslow's Sparrows** noted were singles near Brush Valley 6/13 (MH, RH) and 6/17 (CG, MH, RH, GL), one near Glen Campbell 6/18 (CG, MH, RH, GL), one at the Gypsy strips 6/20 (CG, MH, RH, GL), and one at WL 7/4 (RH, SM).

Yellow-breasted Chats were listed at only two locations: one near Jacksonville 6/17, 6/19 (CG, MH, RH, GL) and 7/1 (MH, RH) and another at SGL 273 on 6/18 (MS). Twenty-three warbler species were reported in eBird this summer. A **Northern Waterthrush** was an unexpected find near North Point 6/20 (CG, MH, RH, GL). Only 4 **Kentucky Warblers** were noted; 2 were observed at SGL 276 on 6/21 (MS), one along the WPT 6/22 (, TK), and one in the Conemaugh River basin at another WPT location 7/8 (KD, DF, DK, JS).

The returning male **Swainson's Warbler** remained on territory along the WPT through at least 8/8 (NL, DY). On 8/8, it was color-banded by Western PA Conservancy and BirdLab staff with appropriate permits and permissions. Comprehensive measurements were taken, and the bird was aged as ASY (a bird hatched before last year). It is presumed to be the same bird that has returned to the WPT site since 2020. Therefore, the warbler is also at least four years old. No female Swainson's have been observed along the WPT.

During the Breeding Bird Blitz for Conservation 6/17 (CG, MH, RH, GL) a **Dickcissel** was found at WL; the following day one was observed near Glen Campbell (CG, MH, RH, GL), and the latter was still present 6/19 (CG, MH, RH, GL).

Observers: **Margaret Higbee, 3119 Creekside Rd, Indiana, PA 15701-7934, (724)354-3493, bcoriole@windstream.net**, Ron Burkert, Lee

Carnahan, Greg Cook, Michael David, Karyn Delaney, Sue Dickson, Ed Donley, Betsy Fetterman, Jed Fetterman, Tom Fetterman, Evelyn Fowles, Donna Foyle, Carol Guba, Court Harding, Rebecca Hart (RH), Roger Higbee, Debbie Kalbfleisch, Jeff Kenney (JeK), Rick Koval, Wendy Koval, Janet Kuehl, Tom Kuehl, Gloria Lamer, Dennis Lauffer, Nicholas Liadis, Steve Manns, Theo Rickert, Angela Romanczuk, Henry Rummel, Judy Schryer, Mark Strittmatter, Gregory Tomb, Ken Truitt, Mike Weible, Brian Wulker, David Yeany.

Jefferson County

Locations: Brockport (BP), Catholic Church Road (CCR), Clarion-Little Toby Trail (CLTT), Jakes Farm (JF), Little Toby Rails to Trail (LTRT), Redbank Valley Trail (RVT), Ringgold (RG), State Game Lands 31 (SGL 31), State Game Lands 195 (SGL 195), Worthville Cemetery (WVC),.

Summertime provided the expected resident nesters and a few unusual sightings. Highlights for June and July included a **Ruffed Grouse** drumming at SGL 195 on 6/20 (DR), an early **Least Sandpiper** along LTRT 7/9 (CK), a **Bald Eagle** soaring over the CLTT 7/31 (DR), and an **Eastern Screech-Owl** in RG 7/23 (JAK).

Red-Headed Woodpeckers are a rare find in west-central PA; however, a nesting pair was photographed along CCR 7/2 (PC). A half-dozen **Acadian Flycatchers** and 3 **Blue-headed Vireos** were tallied at SGL 195 on 6/20 (DR). The best bird of the season was an immature **Red Crossbill** discovered at SGL 31 on 7/21 (MW).

Other regional sightings included a **Dark-eyed Junco** at CLTT 7/31 (DR), a pair of **Henslow's Sparrows** at JF 7/27 (JAK), and an **Orchard Oriole** at RG 7/7 (JAK). Warbler notables rounded out the summer with a **Yellow-rumped Warbler** at WVC 6/30 (JAK), a **Prairie Warbler** at BP 6/12 (CB), and a **Canada Warbler** at RVT 6/23 (JAK).

Observers: **Dan Richards, 1151 Treasure Lake, DuBois, PA 15801, (814) 771-2471, drichards7@verizon.net**, Chelsea Beck, Patricia Conway, John and Avis Keener, Colin Keith, Mike Weible,.

Juniata County

Locations: Arch Rock (AR), Casner's Crossing - Juniata River (CC), Licking Creek Valley (LCV), McAlisterville (MA), Metz Rd (MR), Thompsettown (TT).

For the season, 105 species were entered into eBird for the county, close to the average of the previous five summers. An **Osprey**, not a nesting species, was seen 7/29-30 at CC (CK, NK). Single **Broad-winged Hawks** were at CC 6/3-4 (CK), near AR 6/6 (NB), and at SGL 107 on 6/24 (SS).

Single **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were at CC 6/3 (CK) and MA 6/4 (MP, JP). An impressive assemblage of 40 **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** was at CC 7/31 (CK, NK).

Banding of **Purple Martins** was conducted by Nick Kerlin, who has compiled a list of at least 35 colonies in *Juniata*. At the Dan Renno farm, Nick estimated at least 450 adult and young martins 6/27. At the Tobias Swarey home, Nick banded 337 young Martins 6/24. Also at the Renno farm, Nick counted approximately 215 **Cliff Swallow** nests, of which at least 200 were occupied, and estimated at least 1000 Cliff Swallows present on this farm where structures have been built to encourage nesting of Cliff Swallows.

Despite lots of farmland in the county, there were few reports of grassland sparrows. A **Grasshopper Sparrow** was recorded near VM during a BBS route 6/5 (JPI) and a **Savannah Sparrow** was on MR 6/3 (JP); the only reports of these two species. The only **Eastern Meadowlarks** were 2 at MR 6/3 (JPI) and 4 at TT 7/21 (MM). Three **Orchard Orioles** were recorded on the BBS route 6/5 (JPI).

Fourteen species of warblers were recorded, all known or likely nesters. Among less common were a **Cerulean Warbler** in LCV 6/7 (MP) and a **Black-throated Blue Warbler** in SGL 107 on 6/24 (SS); for both these species there were only two previous summer records for the county in eBird.

Observers: **Greg Grove, gwg2@psu.edu, Chad Kauffman, 91 Kauffman Lane, Mifflintown, PA 17059, chadkauffman@earthlink.net, cell 717-994-6715.** Nick Bolgiano, Noah Kauffman, Nick Kerlin (NKe), Mindy Marker, Jason Petersheim, Michael Petersheim, Julia Plummer (JPI), Steve Schmit.

Lackawanna County

Locations: Covington Park (CP), Eagle Lake Community (ELC), Eales Preserve (EP), Highland Park Blvd. (HPB), Henry Drinker Rd. (HD), Lackawanna SP (LSP), Lake Scranton (LS), Lehigh Rd. (LR), Pinchot SF (PSF).

Much of the northeast region experienced a dry and humid summer with very little rainfall. The most notable dry spells were those that began in early July and persisted into August. Due to such weather patterns, birding was best done in the early mornings before the heat of summer pushed passerines back into the shaded woodlands and out of view.

There were no noteworthy encounters of breeding waterfowl except for 3 **Hooded Mergansers** at Aylesworth Park 7/10 (BH). Noteworthy Galliformes sightings were limited to PSF where 4 **Ruffed Grouse** found birders 7/30 (JM, PM). It was a promising season for nightjars with reports of **Common Nighthawks** occurring at three locations: one from I-84 southwest of Mt. Cobb 6/4 (JK), 2 at the Montage Mtn. Shopping Centers near Moosic 6/6 (RK, WK), and one along HPB near Archbald 6/15 (CF). **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were found in PSF producing counts of 3 on 6/24 and 4 on 7/28 (CF) with each count coming from different tracts of the forest. At least three additional Whip-poor-wills were at EP 6/25 (SP).

Virginia Rail was also reported in above average numbers with a minimum of 8 encountered on various dates in wetlands throughout the county (CF). Well-documented occurrences of **Sandhill Cranes** breeding within northeastern Pennsylvania continue; 2 adults were seen beside 2 juvs. at Sickler Pond Rd 6/30 (BC).

Red-headed Woodpeckers remain a rarity in the northeast making the bird photographed at a feeder in Moscow 6/1 of interest (NS). **Purple Martins** share a similar status; no sightings occurred during the season. **Cliff Swallows** are in better shape than martins but are localized and infrequently seen, especially away from the Delaware River Valley. The only *Lackawanna* report was of 3 at LS 7/24 (DL). Six **Bank Swallows** were tallied with 3 birds at All Saints Cemetery west of Hollisterville 6/12 (StP) and at HPB near Archbald 6/15 (CF).

Breeding populations of **Golden-crowned Kinglets** are most reliably present within the coniferous forests of *Pike*; elsewhere they are local and in limited numbers. This period saw reports of five with at least 4 at PSF 6/24 followed by one at LS 7/26 (CF). **White-throated Sparrows** were limited to PSF with a period high-count of 8 on 6/4 (JD).

Lackawanna's claim to fame regarding wood-warbler concentrations and diversities are those that reside within the Pinchot SF. The chart below highlights wood-warbler numbers that were tallied within PSF by eBirders throughout the 2022 breeding season. Notable sightings of warblers beyond the limits of PSF were also regularly experienced and are mentioned in the following sentences.

An impressive breeding season tally of 8 **Worm-eating Warblers** came from Lower Narrows Rd 6/16 (CF). **Northern Waterthrushes** were located three times with 3 at CP 6/8 (CF), followed by single birds within the private ELC in Covington Twp. 6/12 (DC) and at HD near Madisonville 6/20 (RJ). A **Nashville Warbler** was a great find within ELC 6/11 (KH). Also of note were single counts of **Hooded Warblers** found at Ziegler Preserve 6/19 and LSP 7/15 (SP). A single **Magnolia Warbler** was at LSP 6/2 (SP) followed by two at SGL 312 on 6/10 (CF). **Northern Parula** occurrences were limited to just one with a single bird at LSP 6/19 (DL, DT). **Blackburnian Warblers** were more abundant with sightings of 3 at both

LR and SGL 312 on 6/10 (CF) as well as singles at HD 7/3 (RJ) and CP 6/8 (CF).

Pine Warblers are relatively infrequent within *Lackawanna* thus making the single tallies made near Thornhurst 6/4 (JD) and at SGL 312 on 6/10 (CF) of interest. On the contrary, *Lackawanna* **Prairie Warbler** populations appear stable with a period minimum count of 26 birds reported from eight separate locations by 12 observers. This tally does not include the birds reported from PSF listed in the chart below. The period high count was of 11 reported from EP 6/29 (BM). A lone **Canada Warbler** at LR 6/10 (CF) was also of note.

Notable 2022 Breeding Season Wood-warbler Minimum Tallies for Pinchot SF		
Species	Min. Number Reported	Number of Observers
Northern Waterthrush	8	3
Nashville Warbler	6	2
Hooded Warbler	1	2
Magnolia Warbler	14	6
Blackburnian Warbler	25	6
Prairie Warbler	6	5
Canada Warbler	25	4

Observers: **Ryan Johnson, 140 Hollisterville Hwy, Moscow, PA 18444, (570) 702-9118, natureguy13@gmail.com,** Bro Co., David Cooney Jr., Jonathan DeBalko, Chris Fischer, Kate Hemenway, Brian Hess, J. Kleinsasser, Rick Koval, Wendy Koval., David LaVerne, Daniel Lebbin, Brian Marra, Joe McGill, Patrick McGill, Steve Patterson (StP), Susan Petty, Nicole Sohns, David Trently.

Lancaster County

Locations: Chestnut Grove Natural Area (CGNA), Climbers Run Nature Preserve (CRNP), Lancaster Airport (LA), Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority (LCSWMA), Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area (MCWMA), Red Rose Commons Stormwater Basin (RRCBS), Noel Dorwart Park (NDP), Octoraro Reservoir (OR), Shenk's Ferry Wildflower Preserve (SFWP), Susquehanna River Conejohela Flats (SRCF).

The weather in June was decidedly average on all fronts, but July trended slightly warmer and drier than normal. Weather information is derived from Harrisburg data from the National Weather Service. Just 150 species were recorded during the period, below the 5-year average of 159 (154, 153, 161, 162, 163 previous). The total summer species list since 2017 is 206. A flock of Wood Storks in the southern end was notable.

A lone **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** spent time at the LCSWMA landfill 7/21-26 (BS, m.ob.), and a late hen **Red-breasted Merganser** was viewed on the Susquehanna R. near Falmouth 6/6 (PB, RP). It was a nice day at the SRCF 7/29 with both an **American Avocet** and a **Stilt Sandpiper** (ME, m.ob.). The next day both a **Ruddy Turnstone** and a

The biggest news of the summer was a quartet of juvenile **Wood Storks** which arrived at OR in the afternoon of 7/23 (NW, WW, m.ob.). Interestingly, these birds were photographed near Chesapeake Beach, MD on the evening of 7/22, but circled high and disappeared the following morning. Fortunately for Pennsylvania birders, OR became their haunt into Aug before the group eventually broke apart. These represent the second modern record, out of five total, for *Lancaster*, and if the past few years of increased southern wader records is any indication, there will be more.

Sanderling were seen there (EW, m.ob.). A northbound **White-rumped Sandpiper** was reported at RRCSB 6/4 (FB). There were **Short-billed Dowitcher** sightings at MCWMA 7/19 (MP) and 7/21 (SF, NM), and another at OR 7/25 (JH, m.ob.). Surprisingly, Upland Sandpiper was missed at LA where they have traditionally been an annual occurrence.

Little Blue Herons showed up in bunches 7/21, with 1-2 at OR (RR, m.ob.), and 4-5 at MCWMA (SF, NM, TN). An adult **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was photographed at CRNP 7/18 (LK), and a juv at NDP 7/31 (DK, SK). A **Glossy Ibis** showed itself at CGNA 6/8 (ML, JM). A **Mississippi Kite** was described in flight near Leola 6/3 (ZM), probably returning south following a cold front.

Alder Flycatchers were reported sporadically in early Jun near MCWMA, the only spot in the county where they are known to breed. An oddball **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was seen and sound-recorded near Mastersonville 7/4 (BraB, BriB). This sighting was in line with a late Jun through Jul movement of these birds down into the tristate area, which according to eBird data appear to have outnumbered all summer records over the last five years combined. A **White-throated Sparrow** was recorded singing at NDP 6/28 (DK), and another photographed near Landisville 7/29 (HM). Sixteen breeding warbler species were documented, including a **Cerulean Warbler** at SFWP 6/8 (DS).

Observers: **Zach Millen, 101 Bridle Path, New Holland, PA 17557, (717) 723-1279, zjmillen@gmail.com**, Fern Bauman, Brandon Brown (BraB), Brian Brown (BriB), Paul Brubaker, Mike Epler, Steve Ferreri, Jason Horn, Dan Keener, Sammy Keener, Meredith Lombard, Lauryn Koppes, Nicholas Minnich, Jeff Musser, Herb Myers, Ted Nichols II, Robert Peda, Malise Prieto, Rick Robinson, Brian Shade, Derek Stoner, Eric Witmer, Nina Wolf, Warren Wolf.

Lawrence County

Locations: Black Swamp (BS), McConnell's Mill State Park (MMSP), Shaner Road Marsh (SR), Volant Strip Mines (VSM), Vosler Road (VR).

As reported in the previous issue, SR is now more or less off-limits to any sort of birding other than a quick check while remaining in one's car. One such check found a **Blue-winged Teal** already back (or perhaps at the end of a successful nesting) by 7/31 (MV). Twelve **Hooded Mergansers** were noted on Martin Road in Plain Grove Twp. 6/18 (MV). Three **Common Mergansers** were at SGL 178 from 6/5-6 (MK), and one was at BS 7/21 (JP).

Reports of **Black-billed Cuckoo** included one at MMSP 7/29 (RT) and one at BS 7/30 (JB). **Virginia Rails** surely bred at BS this year, evidenced by a number of reports 6/8-7/21 (m.ob.), and **Common Gallinules** were at their usual location on Wampum-New Galilee Road all summer (MV, et al.). An impressive mid-summer count of 49 **Sandhill Cranes** was made at SR 7/22 (MV), and 22 were seen elsewhere at the VSM 7/30 (MC).

Early returning shorebirds included a **Semipalmated Plover** at SR 7/31 (MV), **Least Sandpiper** at VR beginning 7/3 (MV), and a **Pectoral Sandpiper** at Mason Road, SGL 151 on 7/10 (MC). Both **Greater** and **Lesser Yellowlegs** were at SR by mid-Jul as well (MV). A lingering northbound **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was at VR 6/4 (MV).

The increasingly common **Red-headed Woodpecker** was found at four different locations (m.ob.). Two **Yellow-breasted Chats** were found on the North Country Trail near West Pittsburgh 6/29 (JP). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** found along PA-168 near the US-422 interchange on the west side of New Castle 6/4 (GM) was the first ever recorded on the Beaver BBS, which spans portions of both *Beaver* and *Lawrence*. A **Prothonotary Warbler** along the Shenango River north of New Castle 6/6 (DA) was another very nice bird for *Lawrence*. **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was found at MMSP 7/9 (SM, RH), and **Black-throated Green Warbler** was frequently listed there as well most of Jun and early Jul (m.ob.).

Observers: **Geoff Malosh, 7762 Maumee Western Road, Maumee, OH 43537-9334, (412) 735-3128, pomarine@earthlink.net**, David Arrow,

Josh Bruening, Martin Carlin, Rebecca Hart, Michelle Kienholz, Steve Manns, Joel Postema, Ryan Tomazin, Mark Vass.

Lebanon County

Locations: Fort Indiantown Gap Military Reservation (FIG), Fox and Prescott Rd (FXP), Greater Lebanon Refuse Authority (GLRA), Lebanon Valley College (LVC), Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area (MC), SGL 211, South Hills Park (SHP).

A **Ruffed Grouse** was found in the Cold Springs area of SGL 211 on 6/3-4 (NF, JS). A **White-rumped Sandpiper** was at FXP 6/1 (RSt). Up to 5 juvenile **Little Blue Herons** were at MC 7/14-31 (JH, NM, JD, MS, TN, JFi, m.ob.). A **Black-crowned Night-heron** was at the GLRA 7/28 (RSt).

Barred Owls were found in the Cold Springs area of SGL 211 from 6/3-25 (NF, JH). **Red-headed Woodpecker** sightings are increasingly common in *Lebanon*, and this will likely be the last quarter for which I report them. In their traditional stronghold at FIG, up to 4 were seen 6/25-7/2 (JH, KS). They were reported from five other locations, including Campbelltown 6/10 (RM); MC 6/12 (JH); Obie Rd 6/17 (RP, JFi, RS); two at Yordy's Bridge Rd 6/21-7/31 (RSt); and two at SHP 6/25-7/2 (P&RW, TL, BB, BBr, JF). An **Alder Flycatcher** was at FIG 6/1-3 (JD, CT). One also continued from 5/22 of the spring quarter until 6/9 at MC (TB, TN).

Red-breasted Nuthatches are rare breeders in *Lebanon*. They were found at SGL 211 on 6/19 (JH) and 7/15 (NF). **Winter Wrens** are uncommon breeders in northern *Lebanon*. One was found at SGL 211 on 6/3 (NF). A **Prothonotary Warbler** was vocal at MC 6/3-9 (RSt, SD, JW, JFi, MC, TN, m.ob.). **Blue Grosbeaks** have been reliable at MC in recent summers. They were reported there 6/12-7/17 (JH) and at LVC 7/2 (RSt).

Observers: **Timothy Becker, tjbecker81@aol.com**, Kathy Becker, Brandon Brown, Brian Brown (BBr), Mary Coomer, Jarrod Derr, Sue Dibble, Justin Felty, Nate Felty, Jim Fiorentino (JFi), Jonathan Heller, Tait Lapham, Nicholas Minnich, Roscoe van Muylwyk, Ted Nichols, Robert Peda, Kevin Shannon, Mike Shull, Rosemary Spreha, Rita Stima (RSt), Jen Szekeres, Cassidy Titus, Pat and Richard Williams (P&RW), Joe Wolf.

Lehigh County

No report submitted

Lycoming County

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

A total of 133 species were reported during the summer. A male **Bufflehead** was at WD 6/5 (BB, DeB, BoB). A flyover **Herring Gull** was in Montoursville 6/23 (BB). A **Caspian Tern** was at WD 7/9 (DB, MG), providing *Lycoming's* first July record of that species.

Red-headed Woodpeckers were present throughout the summer near SGL 252, and likely nested (*vide* BB). A singing **White-eyed Vireo** was at the Williamsport Water Authority 6/17 (JG), and was re-found 6/18 (BB, DeB). A **Purple Finch** was at RVL 6/18 (BB). A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was reported at SGL 252 on 6/18 (JG).

Observers: **Bobby Brown, bobbybrown1011@gmail.com**, Bob Brown (BoB), David Brown, Deb Brown (DeB), Michelle Gianvecchio, James Goetz.

Mercer County

Locations: Barry Road (BR), Buhl Park (BP), Clark (CLR), Chestnut Run (CR), Golden Run (GR), Grove City (GC), Jamestown (JA), Maurice Goddard SP (MG), Shenango Res. Propagation Area (PR), Sharon (SH).

Overall it was a very quiet summer season. The season was warm and dry, so bird and birding activity were low. **Common Nighthawks** were regularly seen in SH throughout the season with a maximum of two observed (MH). Shorebirds were seldom noticed with surprisingly even less seen than in surrounding counties. Only five species were noted this season. A single **Least Sandpiper** was at PR 7/3 (MH). For the first time at this location, 2 **Solitary Sandpipers** were noted at BP 7/23 (JS, KS), and one was in JA 7/14 (MW) the same day there was also a lone **Lesser Yellowlegs** there (MW).

Caspian Terns had a good showing with 13 at CR 6/23 (KS). A single **Common Loon** at MG 7/6 (MS, SSc) was a nice find. **Red-headed Woodpeckers** continued at BP throughout the period with 5 noted 7/23 (JS, KS).

Common Ravens are still a good find in Mercer; one was at GC 6/1 (MC). The summer was good for swallows, thanks to a more normal spring without an extended cold snap. At BR on 7/16, 185 **Bank Swallows** were counted (BW) and at CLR 67 **Cliff Swallows** were found 6/24 (KS). Very few warblers were noted. Three **Prothonotary Warblers** were at GR on 6/20 (MH, SS). A lone **Mourning Warbler** was at BR 6/5 (SS).

Observers: **Glenn Koppel 122 Linsdale Dr. Butler, PA. 16001, macatilly@gmail.com**, Martin Carlin, Mimi Hoffmaster, Steve Sanford, Matthew Schenck, Susan Schenck (SSc), Jim Springer, Kim Springer, Michael Williams, Bill Winkler.

Mifflin County

Locations: Bald Eagle SF (BESF), Belleville (BE), Big Valley (BV), Juniata River (JR), Lingle Valley Rd (LV), Rothrock SF (RSF), Victory Park in Lewistown (VP), Zook farm near Belleville in Big Valley (ZO).

An annual nightjar route in RSF in the area of Cooper's Gap includes three stops in *Mifflin*. At these three stops, a total of 7 **Whip-poor-wills** were recorded 6/13 (GG, DG). Three Whip-poor-wills were heard on LV 7/20 (LF). Also at LV, a **Red-shouldered Hawk** was heard each day 7/21-23 and an **Eastern Screech-Owl** 7/20, the only owl report for the season (LF). **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were reported from four locations in BV, where they are long-established.

Several uncommon flycatchers and vireos were entered into eBird. A **Willow Flycatcher** was at Burnham 7/5 (RD). Three **Least Flycatchers** were recorded on a 6/4 BBS route in RSF in northern *Mifflin*, at elevation approx. 1500 feet (DG, GG); this species is at most a very uncommon summer resident in RSF and possibly BESF. The only **Yellow-throated Vireo** was on Conklin Rd in RSF 6/2 (JK); most of the few summer records of this species are in the state forests, but it seems likely it should be found at locations on the JR. All reports of **Blue-headed Vireo** came from northern forest regions in RSF and New Lancaster Valley, as is generally the case for nearly all summer reports of this species. **Warbling Vireo** is another species not reported often in summer, but which should be present at locations along the JR, where access to private land is likely an issue. The only reports this year were one at VP 6/5 (MN, DS) and one near Milroy 6/17 (DG, GG).

Four reports of **Horned Lark** came from the wide-open farm-land of BV, as is often the case; the high was 6 on 6/12 (JK). A **Purple Martin** project (NK) has identified at least 34 colonies in *Mifflin*, most on Amish farms and many in BV; 40 martins were counted on appropriately named Purple Martin Lane in BV 6/28 (NK).

All reports of the following four grassland species were from BV. Three reports of **Grasshopper Sparrow** included 2 on Kanagy Rd 6/2 (JK) and singles on Waynesburg Rd 6/12 and at ZO 7/5 (JZ). The only **Vesper Sparrows** were 2 near BE 6/2 and one on Kanagy Rd. 6/15 (JK). Seven reports of **Savannah Sparrow** from BV had a max. of 3. Similarly, five reports of **Eastern Meadowlark** also had a max. of 3. While BV is probably the best area of *Mifflin* for grassland species, the preponderance of reports there, and lack thereof elsewhere, may be due in part to greater birder activity in BV.

The only **Orchard Oriole** report was on Kanagy Rd in BV 6/12 (JK).

Fifteen warbler species were recorded, all presumed summer nesters. For most of the species, the great majority of reports came from RSF and BESF and adjacent woodlands, largely from BBS data (DG, GG). Perhaps the least common is **Canada Warbler**, with 2 on Conklin Rd in RSF 6/2 (JK) and one at LV 6/8 (JZ). The latter date and location provided the only report this summer for another uncommon nester, **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** (JZ).

Observers: **Rob Dickerson, 44 Oak Ridge Rd, Lewistown, PA 17044, radickerson@gmail.com, Greg Grove, 16652, gwg2@psu.edu**. Lisa Filipy, Deb Grove, Jon Kauffman, Nick Kerlin, Mark Nale, Darla Shank, Jay Zook.

Monroe County

Locations: Lynchwood Lake (LL), Mount Pocono Airport (MPA), Silver Valley Natural Area (SV)

The **Trumpeter Swan** continuing in the Pocono Summit area mated with a **Mute Swan** to produce 4 hybrid cygnets the first week of July (PN). The nest, which rested atop a beaver lodge on Pocono summit Lake, was mostly attended to by the Trumpeter, with the Mute always close by.

Shorebirds were all seen in very small numbers. A high of 4 **Solitary Sandpipers** were seen at LL 7/22 (BJ). A late **Greater Yellowlegs** was found 6/8 close to the Delaware River (JM, Stollery and Flood). A very early Greater Yellowlegs was at the MPA 7/9 (BJ). A **Double-crested Cormorant** was found on Hallowed Lake 6/1 (William Seigart), in transit at Mt. Airy Lake on 6/5 (BJ), and others were reported during Jul from the Delaware River (JM) and Witmer's Lake (PN).

The bird of the season has to go to a **Mississippi Kite** that was spotted in the Saylorburg area. It was first seen by a vendor at the weekend flea market on two successive days, 6/25-26, and was re-found 7/21 during a drive through the area (JM).

A juvenile **Peregrine Falcon** was observed swooping after 30 ducks at a retention pond at MPA 7/20 (BJ). None of the waterfowl seemed too concerned with his antics; all stayed put in the pond and just plopped underwater whenever he made a pass. Both parties seemed to be rather amused with the whole scenario. A very nice find, with wonderful photos, was a **White-eyed Vireo** at SV on 7/17 (PN).

Observers: **Bruce Johnson, brucejohnson207@yahoo.com**, Paul Nale, Jon Mularczyk.

Montgomery County

Locations: Bethayres Swamp (BS), Dixon Meadow Preserve (DMP), Evansburg S.P. (ESP), Franconia Twp. (FT), Green Lane Park (GLP), Norristown/Bridgeport Dam (ND), Palm/Hosensack Farmland (PHF), Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust, Unami Creek Valley (UCV), Valley Forge National Historical Park (VFNHP), Wissahickon Waterfowl Preserve (WWP).

The 132 species found during summer 2022 was well above our 10 year average, 126.6, but well behind the 140 recorded in summer 2021.

Single **Snow Geese** continued to 6/1 at Hoy Park, at the south end of ESP (LT, ph.), and GLP 6/2 (AD, ED, JH, ph.). Another Snow was found on the Schuylkill in Conshohocken 7/17 (CDa, ph.). What was likely the same goose was seen a few days later, 7/21, not terribly far upriver, at ND (SGr). A male **Gadwall** lingered at GLP to 7/22 (m.ob., ph.). His long stay represented a first Jun record for the county. There were several sightings of 2 Gadwall at GLP 7/13-17 (PH, m.ob.). While this was most likely the original male plus a newly-arrived friend, it's not impossible that both were around for the full duration. A drake **Ring-necked Duck** was present near the Fayette St. Bridge in Conshohocken to 7/27 (RH, m.ob., ph.). This species is rarely observed in summer, with just 3 prior Jun records. **Hooded Mergansers** were present at 4 locations throughout the period (m.ob.), primarily in one's and two's,

however a family group of 8, including 6 juveniles, was recorded at VFNHP 6/15 (CF).

A **Pied-billed Grebe**, another very rare find for early summer, turned up at WWP 6/18 (RB, JM, ph.). Per eBird, this represented a second county record for Jun. Another early Pied-billed Grebe was at GLP 7/26 to the end of the period (LH, KC, m.ob., ph.). **Black-billed Cuckoo** was picked up by nocturnal flight call (NFC) mic in FT 6/1 and 6/6 (SG, vr.). There were no daytime sightings of the species in the county this summer. **Virginia Rail** was also recorded as a NFC over FT 6/1, 6/3 and 6/11 (SG, vr.). Another Virginia Rail, found at DMP 7/22 and reported via Facebook (JP, HC, ph.), was heavily-chased through 7/30, ultimately luring in 49 eBirders plus an unknown amount of others.

Calls from a flyover **Semipalmated Plover** were captured at FT 6/3 (SG, vr.). Additionally, single Semipalmated Plovers were found at DMP 6/4 (KJ, ph.), and on the record late date of 6/9 at WWP (CD, JM, m.ob., ph.). A **Pectoral Sandpiper** was at GLP on the rather early date of 7/13 (ED, ph.), and a pair of Pectorals were also seen at this site 7/17 (JG, JeG). A **Semipalmated Sandpiper**, first sighted 5/28, remained at WWP through at least 6/1 (JM), though it's plausible that it found at this location 6/7 (RB, m.ob., ph.) was the same bird. There were no WWP reports between those two dates. Semipalmated Sandpipers NFC were recorded over FT on three nights 6/3-6/6 (SG, vr.). Another FT NFC, a **Short-billed Dowitcher** on 6/1, represented a new Jun record for *Montgomery* (SG, vr.). A Short-billed Dowitcher was also seen at GLP 7/25 (KC, ED, ph.). Following a quasi-trend for the period, a **Lesser Yellowlegs** at WWP 6/9-11 (CD, JM, m.ob., ph.) represented another record county late date, this one by 8 days.

An early-returning **Ring-billed Gull** was reported at GLP 6/28 (RHi), and solitary early **Caspian Terns** were seen at GLP 6/25 (ED, m.ob., ph.) and 7/3 (EDe, ph.). The former Caspian sighting represented only the fourth county Jun record of this species, though two mystery terns at GLP 6/1 (DB, ED, SG) were likely to have been Caspians as well. If that was indeed the case, the 6/28 tern would represent the fifth county Jun record.

An unprecedented high quantity of **Double-crested Cormorants** were at GLP in the first week of Jun, with as many as 109 counted on both 6/1 (RHi) and 6/3 (LH, ph.), and several other counts in the 40-90 range (m.ob.). Prior to this year, our Jun high count of the species was only 33. Up to 3 **Least Bitterns** were at Lorimer Park/BS 6/4-5 (MD, m.ob., ph.), probably continuing from earlier sightings in May. Least Bittern NFC was logged at FT 6/4, 6/6 and 6/14 (SG, vr.). An adult **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was seen flushing from the side of a pond in FT 6/8 (KH).

A count of 189 **Black Vultures** were tallied at their Souderton rendering plant hang-out site 6/23 (AM). Two **Osprey** chicks were documented at the Palm cell tower nest 6/24 (LH, ph.). **Broad-winged Hawks** were seen at GLP, ESP, Fischer's Park and in the UCV (m.ob.), with nests confirmed at two of these locations (PH).

A pair of likely-nesting **Red-headed Woodpeckers** continued in the UCV to at least 7/7 (m.ob., vr.). In confirmed successful nesting news, a recently fledged **Peregrine Falcon** was photographed at ND 6/14-15 (MR, ph.).

Away from their ESP stronghold, where they were noted regularly (m.ob.), **White-eyed Vireos** were found in the UCV 6/12 (KC), at VFNHP 6/15-27 (CF, ph.) and Gwynedd Wildlife Preserve (DL). **Common Ravens** were recorded from 22 locations (m.ob.). To put that into range-expansion perspective, it's nearly three times the number of raven sightings from summer 2018, four years ago. Ten years ago, summer, 2012, there were no summer sightings. **Horned Larks** were observed in PHF 6/3-7/11 (JH, PH) and in FT 6/16 (WBH, vr.). The 7/11 PHF report was of a group of 5 (PH).

Bank Swallows were noted at a few Schuylkill River sites 6/14-26 in quantities of 2-5 (m.ob.). They started appearing at GLP 6/27 (PH). A **Cliff Swallow** was an unexpected visitor at GLP 6/30 (PH). Rumbles of a potentially big fall **Red-breasted Nuthatch** irruption were first sensed when one of these more northerly nuthatches appeared at PERT 7/12 (MG). They were noted at PERT fairly regularly after that, through the end of the period (m.ob.). Red-breasted Nuthatches were also found at Cuddy Park in Lower Frederick Twp. 7/15 (SG) and another at VFNHP

7/26 (KA, TM). **Swainson's Thrush** NFCs were recorded in FT on four nights 6/1-6/6 (SG, vr.). Most of our summer records of this species have come in the form of NFCs.

Grasshopper Sparrows were found at Fruitville Rd. and three other sites in Upper Hanover Twp. through the entire period (m.ob.), plus a pair at VFNHP continued until 6/26 (m.ob.), a pair were heard counter-singing in the field across the street from Upper Schuylkill Valley Park (EH, SS) and one revealed itself at DMP 7/28 (TC, DB, SB). Grasshopper Sparrow NFCs were captured at FT 6/2 and 6/4 (SG, vr.). A **Dark-eyed Junco** with an injured leg in North Wales remained through 6/3 (ML). A **White-throated Sparrow** was in a PERT-adjacent yard 6/10 (RC, ph.), and a second showed up in Salford Twp. 6/22-25 (WBH, ph.).

A pair of **Yellow-breasted Chats**, present since late Apr, continued at Heuser Park to at least 6/12 (m.ob., ph.). Another one was located at Pottstown Landfill 6/5-13 (JT, ph.). All pre-dispersal reports of **Bobolink** came from 2 locations, assorted fields in Upper Hanover Twp. and from VFNHP. The 5 Bobolinks observed at VFNHP 6/12-26, represented the first confirmed Jun records for the park (KS, MM, m.ob., ph.). An estimated 3000 **Common Grackles** were at the GLP summer roost site 7/13 (PH).

There were a handful of reports of **Worm-eating Warbler** to 7/4, all from the UCV, as per usual (m.ob.). An early **Northern Waterthrush** was located at DMP 7/31-8/2 (DM, RB, m.ob., ph.). A **Blue-winged Warbler** recorded singing at BS 6/5 (AA, vr.) represented the sole summer report of this mostly-extirpated breeder. A **Prothonotary Warbler** was an unexpected find at BS 7/29 (MG, m.ob., ph.). A **Kentucky Warbler** was singing at ESP 6/5 (DS, vr.).

An **American Redstart** showed up in the UCV 6/22 (ED, vr.), an unusual location for this species. Up to 8 birds were found at Rolling Hill Park, the most reliable site in the county for finding redstarts in the breeding season (m.ob.). Fairly scarce breeder **Northern Parula** was detected at ESP to 6/25 (DB, m.ob., ph.), Rolling Hill Park to 7/5 (m.ob., ph.), PERT 6/10 (RC) and, strangely, WWP on 7/1 (CD, JM). The weirdest warbler find of the period was a **Magnolia Warbler** in Wyndmoor 6/11 (JF, vr.). There is just one prior accepted summer period record of this species in *Montgomery*, from 1983. **Pine Warblers** were found at a remarkable eight sites (m.ob.), nearly two times the locations of the next highest-quantity breeding season from the last decade, 2020, when they were recorded at 5 locations. In the majority of recent years, Pines were found at only 1-2 sites.

A **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was recorded singing in Salford Twp. 6/18 (WBH, vr.). **Blue Grosbeaks** continued at VFNHP and DMP to the end of the period (m.ob., ph.), though there was a sizable gap between sightings (5/18 to 6/4) at DMP. Another was found in Upper Hanover Twp. 7/14 (PH).

EXOTICS: An escaped **Cockatiel** was sighted at ND 7/19 (RB, ph.).

Observers: **W. Brian Henderson, Salford Twp., PA, wbhenderson@gmail.com**, Andrew Albright, Kate Atkins, Dave Belford, Sean Bradley, Redmond Brubaker, Helen Chelf, Robin Cooper, Kevin Crilley, Tony Croasdale, Carol Dailey (CDa), Elizabeth Deecher (EDe), Andrew Dolan, Edward Dolan, Marietta Dooley, Curt Dunn, Jason Fehon, Camille Fieseher, Scott Godshall, Jeffrey Greco (JeG), Joe Greco, Mike Grubb, Steve Grunwald (SGr), Ralph Hall, Katie Henderson, Paul Heveran, Robert Hickie (RHi), Len Hillegass, Jason Horn, Eric Hughes, Ken Januski, Dan Lanzo, Michael Lawlor, Thomas Magarian, Jack McBrearty, Megan McCulloch, Darrin Menzo, August Mirabella, Joe Patitucci, Michael Rosengarten, Daniel Sloan, Kiehl Smith, Sam Stuart, Jaime Thomas, Linda Tomeo.

Montour County

Locations: Montour Preserve (MP).

The big highlight this season was a singing **Blue Grosbeak** on Strick Rd. 7/29 (AK). There are no recent records of this species in the county, although there may be a historic record. This bird may have been a post-breeding disperser since this spot was monitored earlier in the

summer without detections. Interestingly, a probable Blue Grosbeak was heard singing here almost exactly one year ago, 7/28/21.

There are only a few additional notables for this smallest county in the state. Two pairs of **Snow Geese** over-summered (m.ob.): one pair at the Fry Wetlands on Rte. 54, and another pair a few miles away at the MP. At least one bird in each pair was likely injured, leading to bonded pairs sticking around. Also at the MP, 2 **Caspian Terns** were photographed 7/9 (KP).

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

Northampton County

No report submitted

Northumberland County

Locations: Adam T. Bower Dam (ATBD), Watsontown (WATS)

The summer season was slow in the county with few reports due to decreased birder effort. Summer weather was unusually hot and dry. **Black-crowned Night-herons** are found annually at the ATBD in July through September. This year, as many as two were reported beginning on 6/30 and continuing through 7/30 (m.ob.). It's unclear if they show up this early every year, or if this is the first time anyone has searched for them in June. This year, **Barn Owls** nested in a barn near WATS. The PGC held a banding event and a total of seven birds were reported on 7/25 (TM).

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

Philadelphia County

Locations: Army Corps of Engineers (ACE), Fort Mifflin (FM), John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge (JHNWR), Pennypack on the Delaware (POD), Schuylkill River (SR), Southwest Water Treatment Plant (SWTP).

After a brief hiatus the previous year, a group of **Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks** was again found at JHNWR 7/30, the third time since 2019 (KT *et al.*). A pair of **Blue-winged Teal** at JHNWR 6/25 (CS) was highly unusual. **Hooded Mergansers** successfully raised offspring again at Hoy's Pond in the *Delaware* section of JHNWR with 9 young there 6/4, a number that dwindled to 7 by 7/9. (m.ob.). The most urban county in the Commonwealth appeared to be hosting the most **Common Gallinules**, with a pair at JHNWR (m.ob.) and five pairs at SWTP (DB, HP).

A pair of **American Avocets** flew into Pennsylvania waters at FM from New Jersey 7/28 (DC). The last time this species was spotted with both feet on the ground in Philadelphia was in 1969. Photographed among a nice mix of shorebirds in surprisingly great habitat at JHNWR was a **Short-billed Dowitcher** 7/21 (PH, PM, RZ). An immature/non-breeding **Common Loon** briefly visited JHNWR 7/1 (DK). Up to six **Least Bitterns** were observed and breeding was confirmed at SWTP in July (DB, HP). There was no record of successful breeding at JHNWR. The **Great Blue Heron** rookery at JHNWR established in 2020 appeared to be growing with young birds in at least 11 nests (m.ob.). Starting in the second half of July, numbers of **Little Blue Herons** at JHNWR were consistently in the double digits, a first since 2018 (m.ob.).

Ospreys raised young at eight locations within the city limits (excluding nests at Glen Foerd and JHNWR) including a new one along the SR south of Bartram's Garden (m.ob.). The city's fourth and newest **Bald Eagle** pair set up residence in East Fairmount Park and successfully raised one chick (CS). Youngsters also fledged from nests at FM, JHNWR, and POD. Three breeding sites were confirmed for **American Kestrels** including one in the Fairmount neighborhood. There, a fledgling male was found in a Whole Foods Market underground garage 6/1 (LR). As documented in eBird, the bird eventually hitched a

ride to freedom on the hood of a customer's car.

The resident **Horned Lark** pair at ACE was successful again this year with one juvenile photographed 6/18 (HP). Up to two **Purple Martins** continued to be regularly seen at JHNWR (m.ob.). One pair was observed feeding a young bird in flight over Pleasant Hill Park 7/24 (HP). These birds likely originated from the small colony at Laurel Run Park in New Jersey, four miles away. There was diminished activity at the **Bank Swallow** colony at ACE with less than ten birds recorded. Just over 20 burrows were counted though some might have been inactive (m.ob.). The most exciting news of the summer came from the SR. At the Columbia Bridge north of Boathouse Row, a small nesting colony of **Cliff Swallows** was discovered 7/13 (Peter Wynnyk). While this might not mean much to the casual reader from other Pennsylvania counties, it should be noted that the last record of a colony (in the Chestnut Hill neighborhood) stems from notes taken during a meeting of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club - in 1902!! Four nesting pairs were confirmed with additional adults seen at the location. We can only speculate about the age of this colony as the location is not regularly visited by birders, especially in summer. It took a birder from Virginia to find them! This is another great example of how local birders should look beyond the familiar hotspots.

A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** at Awbury Arboretum 6/28 (BR) was only the second eBird record in Jun/Jul and the first in 15 years. All alone was a **Yellow-breasted Chat** at the Navy Yard 6/24-7/15 (MD, HP). Pairs of **Blue Grosbeaks** returned to the four known breeding locations at the Philadelphia Port, Tacony Boat Launch, POD, and the former Island Green Golf Course (m.ob.).

Observers: **Holger Pflücke, Philadelphia, PA 19148, pflücke.holger@gmail.com**, Debbie Beer, Danny Ceravolo, Manny Dominguez, Peter Hamner, Dave Kommel, Patrick McGill, Bill Reaume, Lynn Roman, Connor Smyth, Kathy Tangaroo, Rich Ziegler.

Pike County

No report submitted

Potter County

Locations: Andrew Settlement Road (ASRD), Austin (AUST), Coudersport (COUD), Elevenmile Road, at South Woods Branch (EMRD), Galeton (GALE), Galeton Lake (GALA), Hebron (HEBR), Junction Road Campsite (JRCA), Lanninger Creek Road at Brown Hollow (LACR), Last Chance Lodge (LCLO), Lyman Run SP (LRSP), Mina Road (MINARD), North Fork Dam (NOFD), Old Crossfork Creek and Hungry Hollow Roads (OCFCR), Ole Bull State Park (OBSP), Ole Bull State Park-Beaver Swamp (OBSP-BS), Odin (ODIN), Dividing Ridge and Heith Roads, Odin (DHRO), Old Shovel and Olmstead Roads (OSOR), Roulette (ROUL), Large Farm at Railroad Avenue, Roulette (LF-ROUL), Route T-325 at Earl Hollow (EH-T325), Slate Quarry, Nelson Run Road (SQ-NRR), State Game Lands 64, SGL 64 near Phoenix Rd (SGL 64-PR), State Game Lands 204, Sinnemahoning SP-Potter (SISP-P), South Hollow residence, Homer Twp (SH-HTwp), Susquehannock SSF—Baker Run, Odin (SSF-BRO), Susquehannock SSF-Lyman Run Campground (SSF-LRC), Ulysses (ULYS), Wild Boy Road (WIBR).

Reports for the summer season, totaling 116 species for the county, were taken from eBird. Data for notable sightings reported below were obtained from 32 locations, submitted by 27 observers. Several reports were from a BBS conducted on 6/8 (RH, SM).

Waterfowl numbers reported from *Potter* are usually low, though three reports of **Wood Ducks** came from the area encompassed by COUD, ODIN, HEBR., and ROUL, with a high of 7 at SGL 204 on 6/26 (RRD). The second BBA shows confirmed and probable American Black Duck nesting in the area mentioned above, though none were reported during Jun and Jul. Only two observations of single **Hooded Mergansers**, were noted from GALA 6/18 (RG) and Creek View Rd, AUST 6/14 (DK) though there were two confirmed sightings during the

second BBS in the NW and NE parts of the county and one possible nesting at GALA.

Low numbers of **Wild Turkeys** were observed at only three locations: SGL 64-PR 6/19, Odin Road, AUST 7/2, and LACR 7/7 (MaH, NS, RH, SM). **Ruffed Grouse** fared better with five reports and a high count of 6 birds at LCLC 6/13 (DaK, CG, NS, MHA).

A spongy moth (*Lymantria dispar dispar*) outbreak in the Sizerville SP area in the spring of 2022 was sprayed by DCNR. An increase in sightings of both species of cuckoos had occurred in southern Potter since 2019, possibly in response to a gradual increase in spongy moth numbers over those years. During summer 2022, there were twenty reports of **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** county-wide with a high-count of five from OBSP-BS 6/19 (EZ). **Black-billed Cuckoos** were reported from five locations 6/8-29 (RH, SM, SS, SSc, SL).

Just one **American Woodcock** was reported, 7/4 at SH-HTwp (MHA). There were two reports of **Spotted Sandpipers** including one in a marshy meadow off Northern Potter Rd, ULYS 6/30, and one at GALA 7/9 (SD, DoK, MG). A lone **Double-crested Cormorant** was seen at LRSP 6/7 (RH, SM). During the summer months cormorants had been reported just twice before (eBird): one at SSF-LRC 6/15/2015 (BrS) and 2 at GALA 6/5/2020 (KC).

Raptors were mostly reported as single birds with four reports of **Osprey** from GALA 6/18 (RG) and 7/23 (MJ) and COUD 6/18-19 (NS, TyH). **Cooper's Hawk** were at ASRD 6/15 (SSc), COUD 6/19 (NS) and a logging road near AUST 7/2 (LW). **Bald Eagle** was reported more than six times. **Red-shouldered Hawk** was at Elevenmile Rd COUD 6/8 (MH) and SSF-BRO 7/3 (RH, SM, MHA) and **Broad-winged Hawk** were noted at five locations. There was one report of a single **Eastern Screech Owl** at OCFRCR 7/8 (BL), three reports of single **Great Horned Owls** at SGL 64-PR 6/19, SH-HTwp 7/4 (MHA) and South Hollow, ODIN 7/5 (MHA, NS) and just three reports of single **Barred Owls**; JRCA 6/5 (DF), SGL 204 6/26 (RRD) and SH-HTwp 7/3 (MHA). Only two **American Kestrels** were reported: at SGL 64-PR 6/19 (MH), while no **Merlins** were observed.

Acadian Flycatcher can be found scattered throughout *Potter*, but most eBird reports appear to be concentrated in the SE corner of the county. Three reports of ACFL were noted: one at GALE 6/4 (AK), 2 at SGL 64 on 6/19 (CF) and one at OBSP-BS 6/19 (EZ). An unspecified number of **Willow Flycatchers** were reported from WIBR 6/5 (DF). Single **Alder Flycatchers** (nine reports) and **Least Flycatchers** (1-3 birds in 14 reports) were well-represented.

Yellow-throated Vireo is not often reported, but one was observed at Slider Road south of GALE 9/16 (JG). **Warbling Vireo** is not as abundant as Red-eyed and Blue-headed Vireos, but was found in five locations with a high count of 3 at OBSP-BS 6/19 (EZ), 2 at MINARD 6/8, one at EH-T325 on 6/8 (both RH, SM), one at GALA 6/4 (AK) and one at Creek View Road, AUST 6/14 (DK).

Rarely reported (just three historical accounts for all years from eBird and two possible sightings from the second BBA) in *Potter*, a **Northern Mockingbird** was seen at a private camp near ULYS 7/30 (SD). Perhaps due to limited coverage by birders, only one **Savannah Sparrow** was reported for the county at Germania Road, GALE 6/4 (AK).

Bobolinks were reported from four locations during a BBS conducted 6/8: 4 at OSOR, 3 at LF-ROUL, and one at LACR (all RH, SM). Bobolinks appear to be reported mostly from the west and the northern tier in the county, areas perhaps where birders are few, or rarely travel. Though **Eastern Meadowlarks** are known to breed primarily in the west and north where there is more open land than in the forested southeastern part of the county, there were few reports in eBird: 2 at NOFD 7/9 (KC), 3 at DHRO 6/8, 2 at LF-ROUL 6/8 (RH, SM). There were three reports of **Orchard Oriole** for the county: one at Creek View Road, AUST 6/14 (DaK), 2 at NOFD 7/9 (KC) and 3 at a camp near ULYS 7/30 (SD).

Wood warbler sightings of interest included **Louisiana Waterthrush**; singles were observed at West Branch Fishing Creek, ROUL 6/20 (NP) and at Little Kettle Creek, Pine Hill Road, GALE 6/4 (AK). One **Northern Waterthrush** was seen at OBSP-BS 6/4 (AK). One **Blue-winged Warbler** was observed at SGL 204 on 6/26 (RRD).

One rare and in decline (PA) **Kentucky Warbler** was seen at Crandall

Road, SGL 204 on 6/20 (NS); no description or photos were submitted to eBird. After checking eBird for all years for Kentucky Warbler, just one other sighting had been reported: one at OBSP 7/29/2012 (JD). Pennsylvania is at the northern extent of the Kentucky Warbler breeding range and the warbler was not reported from *Potter* during the second BBA (2004-2008), but was observed in the SE quadrant of *Potter* during the first BBA (1983-1989).

Two **Northern Parulas** were reported from SGL 64-PR 6/19 (NS), though 5 were seen at SISP-P 6/24 (CD). Most historical reports of **Pine Warblers** have been confined to western and southern areas of the county. This summer, single bird reports were from SGL 204 on 6/20 (NP), LCLC 6/13 (DaK) and ASRD 6/15 (SSc). **Canada Warblers** were reported from the east side of SGL 64 on 6/19-20 (CF, NS) and at Pine Hill Road, GALE 6/4 (AK). Canada Warblers are found in wooded bogs at elevations above 1,000 ft (300m) and are distributed throughout the county according to the second BBA; however, they are not reported frequently.

Observers: **Robert Snyder, P.O. Box 603, Howard, PA 16841, (814) 753-2629, birdphotoginpa@gmail.com**, Ken Cooper, Christina Davidowski, Reece Redeye-Desposito (RRD), Jim Dunn, Sue Dibble, Dave Ferry, Cameron Fiss, Cassie Gehenio, Mackenzie Goldthwait, James Grove, Russ Grove, Marc Hanneman (MHA), Rebecca Hart, Tyler Hodges (TyH), Matt Hunter (MaH), Matthew Janson, Andy Keister, Darlene Kershner (DaK), Doug Kibbe (DoK), Bill Libhart, Sarah Lindgren, Steve Manns, Matthew Schenck, Susan Schenck, Steve Schmit (SSc), Brandon Snavelly (BrS), Nickolus Stahlman, Linda Widdop, Elizabeth Zbegner.

Schuylkill County

Locations: Landingville Dam and Marsh (LVD).

Once quite common, but now not so much, **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were found in three locations this summer. A pair was found at the West Deerview Dr. timber plot 6/13 (RR), another heard near Roedersville 6/9 (RR, TJ), and another individual was heard at Tumbling Run 6/20 (DK). There were several shorebirds that stopped at LVD: a **Semipalmated Plover** was spotted 7/16 (TB), one to 3 **White-rumped Sandpipers** were found 6/11-12 (DK, JoD, JD, TB, TJ), and a couple of **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were reported 6/2 (KH), 6/12 (TB), and 6/16 (TJ).

A very unusual sighting of a **Barn Owl** was reported along Pheasant Run Rd 6/11 (CF). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was seen 6/11 along Coal Mountain Road and returned 7/7 with two immatures (LG). Another pair spent the summer near Barnsville where they were seen almost daily (JoD, JD, TB). **Bank Swallows** were once again at LVD where they were seen between 6/5 and 7/23 with a high count of 13 (TB, TJ). Not normally seen in the county, a **Blue Grosbeak** was spotted at Hawk Mountain's Acopian Center 7/25 (VS, RS) and again 7/30 (CF).

Observers: **Dave Rieger, 401 Stony Mountain Road, Auburn, PA 17922, d.m.rieger@gmail.com**. Thomas Buehl, Jr., John DeBalko (JoD), Jonathan DeBalko (JD), Caroline Fegley, Karen Hardy, Laurie Goodrich, Tonia Jordan, Dave Krueel, Rich Rieger, Ruben Stoll, Victor Stoll.

Snyder County

There were two records of **Ruffed Grouse**; one seen along Mitchell Trail on Shade Mt. 6/5 (KB) and the other photographed by a game camera on Shade Mt. 6/26 (AH). **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were frequently heard on Jacks Mt. along Rt. 235 and along Hunter Rd. The highest count was 4 on 6/23 (AH). Three or 4 **Great Egrets** showed up at Faylor Lake at the beginning of Jun and continued through the end of the period.

Two **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were reported from Shamokin Dam Trail 6/30 (DK), and a pair was seen several times along Troup Rd 6/5-7/24 (AH). Not as usual for summer, 10 **Horned Larks** were noted flying over Troup Rd 7/31 (AH). **Winter Wrens** were reported three times from the northern edge of the county. The first report was from Jacks Mt. 6/17 (DG). Both other reports came from Snyder- Middleswarth Park 7/4 (GT) and 7/10 (KC).

The majority of the warbler reports for this period came from the higher elevation areas of the county. These included **Nashville Warbler**, **Chestnut-sided Warbler**, and, fairly frequently, **Blackburnian Warblers**. A **Cerulean Warbler** was consistently heard singing on Shade Mt. throughout Jun, likely indicating a local nesting site (AH).

Observers: **Andrew Hurst**, andrewnerika@daystar.io, cell 717-580-3642, Kimberly Burkholder, Ken Cooper, Deb Grove, Dawn Kleinsasser, Gerald Troisi.

Somerset County

Locations: Babcock State Forest (BSF), Berlin Area (BA), Confluence Area (CA), Flight 93 National Memorial (FLT 93), Laurel Hill State Park (LHSP), Laurel Summit State Park (LSSP), Quemahoning Reservoir (QR), Somerset Lake IBA (SL), Stoney Creek Lake (SCL).

Canada Geese, **Mallards**, and **Wood Ducks** all bred as expected, but there were no reported cygnets from the **Mute Swans** which reside in the county. **Hooded Mergansers** probably bred at the drawn-down SL with 2 young birds present 7/26 (BM). Single, holdover **Ring-necked Pheasants** were reported at FLT 93 on 6/10 (BL) and 7/3 (RH, SM). The only **Ruffed Grouse** report came from Mt. Davis 6/20 (GK, MK). **Wild Turkeys** were widely reported including nice-sized broods. Very intriguing were reports all summer of 2 **Pied-billed Grebes** at SL, including 6/10 (RH, SM) and 7/11 (JP) with birds calling back and forth in the dense cattail bed growing on the lake bottom. Breeding seemed probable, but no young were seen.

Yellow-billed Cuckoos were widely reported, but **Black-billed Cuckoos** were only found twice; 6/17 in BA (JP) and 7/3 at FLT 93 (PhL). **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was heard 6/20 above Garrett (MK, GK). Two **Virginia Rails** were heard in the above-mentioned thick cattails at SL 7/26 (BM). The first returning shorebirds reported were a **Least Sandpiper** and 2 **Short-billed Dowitchers** 7/18 at QR (BF) and 3 **Solitary Sandpipers** 7/16 at Kooser SP (AS) and 4 at QR 7/30 (AC). Very unseasonal was a lone **Forster's Tern** at SL (7/3) (JP). A couple wandering **Double-crested Cormorants** were found at SL 7/3 (JP) and SCL 7/30 (AH). A very nice find was a **Black-crowned Night Heron** at SL 6/6 (AS).

Black Vultures are still not common in *Somerset*; the only sightings this season were 2 at FLT 93 on 6/21 (AE) and one seen along the turnpike 7/16 (BY). **Ospreys** are much less common locally, with only two reports 6/26 in CA (KG) and 7/10 at LHSP (LR), than the now often-reported **Bald Eagles** which had at least 5-6 nesting pairs established. A single **Northern Harrier** was at FLT 93 on 7/29 (R&KS).

Sharp-shinned Hawks are secretive in summer, so one carrying food 7/11 near Fairhope was notable (JP). There were sporadic **Cooper's Hawks** reports, many **Broad-winged Hawks**, and only one **Red-shouldered Hawk**, 6/8 near LHSP (AS). Owls were scarce with only one **Eastern Screech-Owl** in CA 6/13 (JC), a **Great Horned Owl** nearby 7/11 (BP), and several **Barred Owls**. Intriguing, however, was an experienced Canadian observer staying on Laurel Mt. who described a series of classic flat whoop calls he believed was a **Long-eared Owl**; unfortunately no recordings were obtained.

Belted Kingfishers were widely reported as singles and pairs. **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** seemed plentiful at higher elevations. Encouraging were at least seven different **Red-headed Woodpecker** reports including an adult delivering food to a nest hole and a nearby brown-headed juvenile at QR (JP). **American Kestrels** were mentioned about six times with no definitive nesting reports. All expected flycatchers received multiple reports except **Alder Flycatcher** which was only found 6/1 at BSF (LG). Although many **Red-eyed** and **Blue-headed Vireos** were reported, of the locally less common species, only one **Warbling Vireo** was tallied 6/18 at SL (GG, MG).

Horned Larks had a smattering of reports. **Purple Martins** seemed to be on a positive trajectory after being lost as a *Somerset* breeder a decade ago. Birds were attending houses in at least four locations with the colony at Springs having 60 pairs and an estimated 300 total birds 7/16 (PL). One **Bank Swallow** was at SL 7/26 (BM) while the other four species were widely reported. A single **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was reported from LSSP 7/31 (JK, AR) with a **Brown Creeper** there the same day and one other at Mt. Davis 6/10 (CF). **Winter Wrens** were found three times including at Deer

Valley L, where also the only **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was reported 6/8 (PM).

Northern Mockingbirds are sparse in this higher elevation county with about four birds reported this season. Breeding **Purple Finches** were found, with seven locations reporting. Interesting was the 6/6 report of 2 female-type **Red Crossbills** at Hidden Valley (AS). Also nice was a single **Pine Siskin** at Laurel Summit 7/15 (GA).

Nine sparrows plus **Eastern Towhees** breed in the county. The grassland sparrows are becoming harder to find. With old strip mines undergoing succession, many of the reports are now coming from FLT 93, BSF, and near SGL 82. If we are to see these birds persist into the future, it will be imperative that these government-owned sites are managed for grasslands, and it appears that this is not being done. Tree planting seems to be the predominant management plan. (If there are any questions or rebuttals to this, the compiler would be glad to hear them!)

Like the sparrows, **Bobolinks** and **Eastern Meadowlarks** are still being found but not as frequently as 10-20 years ago. Areas that still have grasslands can have decent counts as witnessed by the 52 Bobolinks at BSF 7/9 (CP, RP) and 12 Eastern Meadowlarks at FLT 93 on 6/15 (JP). **Orchard Oriole** is the scarcest Icterid in the county and had three period reports.

In a season with no large-scale breeding bird surveys, a total of 21 warbler species were found. Among the least common were: **Worm-eating Warbler** reported near Fairhope 6/1 (MD) and at Seven Springs 6/30 (GD); **Golden-winged Warbler** near QR and east of Laurel Summit where a **Blue-winged Warbler** song was also heard (ST); a new **Kentucky Warbler** spot in the extreme SE portion of county where several were singing (BF); **Cerulean Warbler** near CA plus one on Will's Creek 6/1 (MD); and an intriguing report of the locally hard-to-find **Prairie Warbler**, with three reported 6/6 on the PGC surveys on the east slope of Laurel Mt. (ST).

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Sullivan County

Locations: Ganoga Lake (GL), Hoagland Branch Rd (HBR), Kinsley's Corner (KC), Litzelman Rd (LZR), SGL 13 Newel Rd (SNR), SGL 13 Painter Run Rd (PRR), SGL 66 Shuman's Lake (SNL), World's End State Park (WESP).

The month of June seemed a bit cooler than normal with morning temperatures often in the low 40's F. The period was progressively drier as it went along. Ponds and streams were well below normal levels heading into August. The number of eBird reports was relatively light which is typical for the summer season. Observations are by the author except where noted.

Both **Canada Goose** and **Wood Duck** were confirmed nesters with multiple broods observed (m.ob.). **Sandhill Crane** again nested in the county. Two young birds were observed in May, but only one was seen with 2 adults 7/10 at LZR. Three **American Woodcocks** were feeding along the access road to SNL on 7/10. A lone **Spotted Sandpiper** was seen at GL 6/2 (EE). One **American Bittern** was found at SNL on 6/11 (CD). Later visits did not relocate the bird. A pair of **Northern Harriers** was observed together at SNR 7/3 (SS). A **Long-eared Owl** was heard in the HBR area 7/15.

Warbling Vireo has become consistent in the county but not common. One was observed at KC 6/1. Even less common was the **Yellow-throated Vireo** found at WESP 6/23 (SC). Twenty-one species of warbler were observed. The highlights included **Worm-eating** at Deer Lake 6/6 (SM) where this species has been found several years in a row, a **Mourning Warbler** at PRR 6/8 (KF), and a **Pine Warbler** at Airport Rd in Dushore on 6/24 (BW) and 2 in Benton 6/4 (EE).

Observers: **Rob Megraw** 131 Butternut Dr, Pottstown, PA 19464 610-858-6361 robert.r.megraw@gmail.com, Sean Carroll, Chris DeMarco, Ed

Susquehanna County

Virginia Rails were seen or heard multiple times at four separate locations. This makes us wonder if they are expanding their presence or had they just been missed in previous years? **Semipalmated Plovers** have only been reported twice in the last ten years, so it was a pleasant surprise when two were located at Hollister's Pond on 6/1 (TN, NV, BS) and remained through 6/3. Meanwhile, in the southeastern section of the county, a wetland on SGL 236 Central was surveyed for the first time and multiple species uncommon in *Susquehanna* were documented there including a single **Wilson's Snipe** 6/22 (CF). An **American Bittern** was also heard there 6/7 (CF) and was then heard and recorded 6/11 (GS, BS) and again 6/22 (CF), this being the first of this species to be documented as a probable breeder in *Susquehanna*. The same wetland held one more surprise when a **Least Bittern** was recorded 7/7 (CF) and again 7/23 (CF). This is the first time this species has been documented in *Susquehanna*!

A **Northern Harrier** caused excitement within the PSO Breeding Bird Blitz team as they watched it flying north over fields adjacent to William's Pond Rd 6/17 (NV, GS, BS). Although *Susquehanna* is within this species' breeding range, it is very unusual to see one during this season. Closing out the month, a **Red-shouldered Hawk** was reported near Hop Bottom 7/30 (KF), and a **Peregrine Falcon** was photographed 7/31 (TN) near Montrose.

Every year, local birders are very grateful to be granted a one-hour access in a tightly restricted commercial aggregate quarry near Susquehanna Depot to survey a large **Bank Swallow** colony. The colony continues to thrive; an estimated one hundred birds were viewed flying about and going in or out of their nesting cavities 6/14 (CF, BS, GS, NV).

The only location to boast **Marsh Wrens** was the previously-mentioned wetland on SGL 236 Central. First recorded 6/7 (CF), the birds continued to be seen and heard throughout the period (m.ob) with a high count of ten 7/7 (CF). Always the crowd favorite, warblers were plentiful with 19 different species reported. The only exception to the usual was a late male **Northern Parula** heard singing on private property near New Milford 6/11 (NV).

In closing, we want to say thank you very much to Evan Mann, who for so many seasons did an excellent job writing the *Susquehanna* report. We will miss not only the experience and knowledge of birds that he brought to this task, but also his flair for writing about the birds he loves so much.

Observers: **Barb Stone, PO Box 935, Hallstead, PA 18822, 570-879-2421, barbstn@yahoo.com**, Kelly Finan, Chris Fischer, Tom Norville, Gary Stone, Nancy VanCott.

Tioga County

Locations: Coolidge Hollow (CLDG), Colton Point State Park (CPSP), Cowanesque Lake (COWL), Hills Creek Lake Road (HCL), Hills Creek State Park (HCSP), Kendrick Road (KEN), Left Asaph Road (LAR), Leonard Harrison State Park (LHSP), Letonia (LTNA), Marsh Creek Straight Run Area (MCSRA), State Game Lands 313 "The Muck" (MSGL), Nessmuk Lake (NELA), Tioga-Hammond Lakes (THLA): Ives Run Rec. Area (IRRA), West Boat Launch (WBL); Webster Road at Pine Creek Rail Trail (WEB).

The summer season turned out to be quite dry. As rainstorms became infrequent, it became apparent that this was a drought year. Observers spent time at the various hot spots mostly located near Wellsboro, local lakes, or The Muck, and at locations in all parts of the county. Mudflats formed in Tioga-Hammond Lake at Ives Run providing opportunities to observe some shorebird species as they began migrating. Fortunately, Tauschers Pond retained water throughout the season after beavers repaired the hole in the dam. The usual breeding birds were present in the county. Additionally, observations of young birds confirmed that two marsh species are breeding in the county. Red squirrels sometimes added their chirps to the soundscape, occasionally, briefly confusing an observer and prompting mutterings about "squirrel birds." There were 144 species reported on eBird during the summer season. Data used in this report were obtained using eBird bar charts and

the species' map features.

As migration finished, the number of duck species present in the county decreased. **Wood Ducks** have been common here. Early Jun into late Jul brought reports of juv. or imm. birds at HCSP, MCSRA, MSGL, Muck Railyard Area, WEB, THLA, and Tauschers Pond (m.ob.). **Hooded Mergansers** were at MCSRA (JC) and NELA (RC) 6/15. Both were single birds. Another single was recorded at Brion Hill Rd 6/17 (BN); 2 pairs were present with 6 ducklings each. **Common Mergansers** with young were at Darling Run at Pine Creek Rail Trail 6/4 (LS), Tioga SF's Owasssee Road 6/17 (LD) and 7/3 (KC), and Lambs Creek RA 6/18 (MS). Breeding activity at Lambs Creek RA has been encouraging because the Tioga R. is an acid-impaired stream. Reclamation efforts have occurred upstream on the river. Several unimpaired small streams flow into the river in this area, helping to reduce acid levels in the river.

Wild Turkeys were reported throughout the county. Reports of adults with young began with a flock of 20 in Hills Creek Estates 7/16 (GT) and again 7/25 (GT) with 16 birds. Another flock of 27 was spotted on Sportsmens Club Road 7/24 (LD). A final flock near HCL 7/30 (LD) contained 3 adults and 10 young birds. **Ruffed Grouse** were at four locations, notably at Mt. Tom 7/26 (AB) and Ridge Road in Tioga 7/29 (SMi) with 4 and 6 birds, respectively; neither record mentions fledglings or juvs.

The influx of cuckoos continued through Jun when **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** and **Black-billed Cuckoos** were reported throughout the county (m.ob.). An **Eastern Whip-poor-will** called faintly from a stand of pines on West Hill/Hillfiger Roads 7/28 (KC). **Chimney Swifts** were recorded in towns and in outlying areas (m.ob.), including CPSP 6/7 (RH, SM). **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** were seen from near Gains south to Blackwell, east to Roseville, and north to Ives Run (m.ob.).

It turned out to be a fun year for seeing breeding marsh birds. Somewhat surprisingly, most were located at the wetlands near Webster Road rather than at The Muck. **Virginia Rails** were spotted at MSGL through Jun and Jul, last 7/24 (KC). Two adults with 2 chicks were at WEB 6/7 (LD); 3 imm. birds were here 7/12 (CM, D&KP). **Soras** were reported at MSGL 6/9 and WEB 7/16 (both SMi). A **Common Gallinule** pair and 5 juveniles were at WEB 7/2-31 (LD, m.ob.).

Migrating shorebirds took advantage of the mud-flats forming at the west end of Hammond L. in late Jul. A **Pectoral Sandpiper** was at WBL 7/31 (JC). Three **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were also here 7/31 (JC). **American Woodcocks** were at MCSRA 6/4 (JC), KEN 6/5 (KC), HCL 6/29 (LD) and Tioga Hammond Lakes' Railroad Grade Trail 7/6 (LD). American Woodcocks have been seen at HCL for several summers, suspecting breeding, but there have never been any young birds seen to confirm this (LD). **Spotted Sandpipers** were at HCSP 7/12 (KJ), WBL 7/15 (MS) and IRRA 7/25 (KC). **Solitary Sandpipers** were reported at WBL 7/25 (LD) and 7/31 (JC). A **Greater Yellowlegs** was at WBL 7/26 (KC). A **Lesser Yellowlegs** was first at IRRA 7/25 (KC).

An immature **Bonaparte's Gull** was reported at IRRA 7/26 (KC) and WBL 7/31 (JC). A **Forster's Tern** was located at COWL 7/25 (KC). A juv. or non-breeding **Common Loon** was spotted at NELA 6/2-10 (m.ob.). Another bird in breeding plumage was reported at IRRA 6/5 (D&KP). One or sometimes 2 **Double-crested Cormorants** were at HCSP, THLA, and COWL in Jun and Jul (m.ob.). An **American Bittern** was observed at MSGL 6/1 (KC). No others were reported during the season. One **Great Egret** was at Rexford 7/25 (KR).

Surprising this observer, a lone **Black Vulture** was seen at Shumway Hill Road 7/31 (LD). **Northern Harriers** were seen at MSGL 6/9 (KR), Hutchison Road 7/5 (CA), and NELA 7/22 (MJ). A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was at Miller Mt. 6/22 (LD). **Cooper's Hawks** were reported at a handful of locations in mid- to late Jul (m.ob.). **Bald Eagles** have become common and were seen nesting throughout the county (m.ob.).

An **Eastern Screech-Owl** was observed at LHSP 7/23 (MJ). **Barred Owls** were reported at HCSP or nearby 6/2 (LD), 6/27 (PP) and in Brookfield Twp 7/3 (MG). Six **Long Eared Owls** including fully feathered and flying young birds were seen 6/25 (LD, KC). **American Kestrels** were observed throughout the county during the breeding season. Multiple observations were reported at HCL 6/8-7/5 (LD), where a breeding pair was suspected but not confirmed.

Flycatchers were well represented during the breeding season. Of note, **Acadian Flycatchers** were at LAR 6/1 (KR), CPSP 6/7 (RH, SM) and Copp

Hollow Road 6/7 (RH, SM). **Fish Crows** were observed at MSGL 6/15 (RC), REX 7/2 (KR) and Island Park 7/14 (KC). **Common Ravens** have indeed been common and were observed across the county (m.ob.).

Swallow species were found throughout the county. Less common, **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were reported from Woodland Park 6/7 to COWL 7/24 (both KR). The only **Purple Martin** was observed at MSGL 6/1 (KC). Just one **Bank Swallow** was at IRRA 7/26 (KC).

Golden-crowned Kinglets were seen from LTNA 6/14-7/31 (LS) to HCSP 6/15 (MSc). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were observed at many locations in the county (m.ob.). **Brown Creepers** also proved quite common throughout the county (m.ob.). As expected, **Marsh Wrens** were at MSGL 6/1 (KC, KR) and WEB beginning 6/7 (LD). The last records were MSGL 7/24 (KC) and WEB 7/19 (LS). **Northern Mockingbirds** were reported six times from CLDG 6/11 (EH) to West Hill/Hillfiger Roads 7/29 (KC).

Common sparrow species are present in the county in good numbers. No Grasshopper Sparrows were observed during the breeding season this year; that may simply mean that no observers were at the field where they have been previously reported at the right time to see them. One **Vesper Sparrow** was at KEN 6/1 (KC). **Savannah Sparrows** were reported at five locations from Brown Rd in Wellsport 6/11 to CLDG 6/11 (both EH). The remaining records are also from 6/11 (EH). Once again, the lack of observations probably reflects the activities of observers spending time in other habitats as much as it does the population of the species.

A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was located at KEN 6/5 (KC). **Bobolinks** were observed at a number of points across the county on 6/11 (EH), reflecting the activities of a single observer. They were also seen at LHSP 6/12 (RE) and at KEN 6/1-7/19 (KC). This is another species that may be under-reported because observers are not visiting the habitat. Four **Orchard Orioles** were at Marsh Cr. Area near Asaph 6/9 (KR), Rough Cut Lodge 6/13 (RC), WEB 7/3 (KC), and COWL 7/26 (KR).

A good variety of warblers have been present in the county during the breeding season. Some are late migrants and just passing through; some stay to breed. **Worm-eating Warblers** were observed at LTNA 6/2-3 (LS) and LHSP 6/2 (D&KP). **Louisiana Waterthrushes** were reported six times from LAR 6/1 (KR) to LHSP 7/23 (MJ) and as far south as Tioga SF's Letonia Road 6/29 (MSc, SS). **Northern Waterthrushes** were observed with one at MSGL 6/1 (KC) and one at Clymer Auto Repair's wetland 7/31 (LD). **Northern Parula** were at LTNA 6/14 (LS) and Tioga SF's Rattlesnake Rock 6/29 (MSc, SS). **Pine Warblers** were observed from CPSP 6/7 (RH, SMi) in the west to Roseville 6/6 (BS) in the east. A **Yellow-throated Warbler** entranced observers at WEB 7/22-31 (m.ob.).

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Union County

No report submitted

Venango County

Locations: Allegheny River Trail (ART), Barkeyville Fields (BF), Buttermilk Hill Nature Sanctuary (BHNS), Cranberry Twp (CT), Emlenton (EML), Franklin area (FA), Fisherman's Cove (FC), Franklin (FR), Kahle Lake (KL), Oil City area (OCA), Oil Creek State Park (OCSP), President (PRES), Raymilton Rd (RAY), Seneca area (SA), Samuel Justus Trail (SJT), Two Mile Run Park (TMRP).

Summer was, as usual, a slow season with decent weather, but a lack of birds and birders.

The only noteworthy waterfowl was a **Hooded Merganser** 7/3 at OCSP (RS). **Wild Turkey** remained scarce this season with only a few July reports. Once again there were no Ruffed Grouse. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was

reported 7/5 at TMRP (RS), 7/6 at BHNS (JS, KG), and 7/17 at OCA (RS). One **Black-billed Cuckoo** was at BHNS 7/31 (JS, KG).

Common Nighthawk was sighted a couple of times in Jul in Franklin (S&SS, JH) and in OCA 7/22 (RS). The only **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was at Van 7/5 (RS). A **Spotted Sandpiper** was at FC 7/9 (MC).

Bald Eagle sightings continue to increase. I received a call on 7/20 about a bunch of them in a field. I went out to look and there were 8 eagles of varying ages from immature to adult hanging around in a small field near Utica, feeding on a deer carcass. **Red-shouldered Hawk** was seen in FA on several days in Jun and on 7/28 (NB). The only **Broad-winged Hawk** sightings were 6/27 and 7/12 at FA (NB). The only owl reports were a **Barred Owl** 6/6 at CT (SA) and another at BHNS 7/2 (KG, JS).

Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were reported 6/20, 6/26 and 7/26 at FA (NB). **American Kestrel** was spotted at RAY 7/26 (KK). **Eastern Wood-Pewee** was observed all of Jun as well as 7/1, 7/16, and 7/17 at TMRP and FA (RS, NB). **Acadian Flycatcher** was observed 6/19 at FC and RAY (RS, TCN). A **Least Flycatcher** was reported from OCSP 6/23 (MG). **Great Crested Flycatchers** were at FA 6/2 (MB, NB), at TMRP 6/4 (RS), and at ART 6/26 (JH).

Yellow-throated Vireo seemed fairly common, with numerous sightings in Jun, mostly at OCSP and 7/3 on WR (RS). The only **Blue-headed Vireo** reports were 6/19 at FC (RS, TCN), 6/20 at FA (NB), and 7/3 at EML (ES). One **Common Raven** was reported 6/13 at FA (NB).

Purple Martins, never numerous in the county, were observed 6/5 in Venus (RS) and 6/19 at BF (RS, TCN). The only **Bank Swallow** report was 6/19 at FA (RS, TCN). The area **Cliff Swallow** colonies seem to be in decline, with fewer nests every year. Reports were 6/12-7/3 at FR and OCSP (RS). The only two **Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher** sightings for the season were 6/19 at OCSP (RS, TCN) and 7/30 at FA (NB). A **Winter Wren** was recorded at PRES 7/8 (SS).

Brown Thrashers were observed 6/5 at FA (NB) and 6/19 at BF (RS, TCN). The only **Northern Mockingbird** report was from BF 6/19 (RS, TCN). A **Veery** was at TMRP 7/1 (MC). **Hermit Thrush** was sighted at PRES 6/16 (GC). **Wood Thrush** was spotted at OCSP 6/2 (RS) and 6/19 (RS, TCN).

Purple Finch was observed 6/1 at FA (NB). **Field Sparrow** reports include 6/19 at BF (RS, TCN) and 7/10 at TMRP (MC). **Dark-eyed Juncos**, which do breed in the county, were observed 6/2-19 at OCSP (RS). **Savannah Sparrow** was reported 6/14 at KL (RS). Once again, there were no reports of Grasshopper or Henslow's Sparrow. **Swamp Sparrow** was at TMRP 6/2 (RS) and 7/10 (MC), and at OCSP 6/19 (RS, TCN).

Bobolink were spotted at BF 6/19 (RS, TCN) where the only **Eastern Meadowlark** sighting also was that day (RS, TCN). **Brown-headed Cowbirds**, certainly not everyone's favorite, were only reported on 6/19 at OCSP (RS, TCN). I had 500+ **Common Grackles** and 1000+ **European Starlings** come in to roost in my yard on 6/23 (I live right in the City of Oil City), and smaller numbers a few days prior to this.

Warbler highlights included **Louisiana Waterthrush** at SJT 6/22 (JH) and **Blue-winged Warbler** at OCSP 6/19 (RS, TCN) and 7/3 (RS) as well as 7/21-22 at FA (NB). A **Lawrence's Warbler** was reported on Stewart Run Rd. 6/6 (JSc). **Black & White Warbler** was at ART 6/26 (JH) and OCSP 7/3 (RS). **Hooded Warbler** was at OCSP 7/3 and 7/17 (RS). Multiple **Cerulean Warblers** were noted at ART 6/19, 6/24, and 6/26 (JH). One observer said he thought the numbers were good this year (JH). **Northern Parula** was also at ART 6/26 (JH). **Blackburnian Warbler** was noted 6/10 at PRES (ES) and **Black-throated Blue Warbler**, 7/8 at OCSP (MC). **Yellow-rumped Warbler**, always a good summer bird, was reported at TMRP 7/10 (MC). **Yellow-throated Warbler**, also a good summer bird, as they are much easier to find in the spring, was reported 6/26 at ART (JH) and 7/3 at OCSP (RS). **Black-throated Green Warbler** was observed all Jun in FA (NB), but no sightings were reported for Jul. **Canada Warbler** was spotted 6/10 at PRES (ES).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak had several sightings in Jun and was observed all of Jul (m.ob.). **Indigo Bunting** was only reported 6/14 at FA (NB).

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Warren County

Locations: Akeley Swamp (AS), Allegheny National Forest, Forest Rd 555 (A5), Allegheny River at Irvine (ARI), City of Warren (CW), Clarendon (CL), Economite Rd (ER), Hearts Content Natural Area (HC), Hector Falls (HF), Jackson Run Road (JR), Kinzua Dam (KD), Longhouse Drive (LH), Mix Run (MR), Sugar Grove (SG), Tidioute (TI), Tidioute Trail (TT), Watson Township (WT).

This summer in *Warren* was one of the driest and warmest in recent memory, with less than half of our normal rainfall for the period, but the birds didn't seem to mind! **Wood Ducks** appear to be doing well locally; a summer high of nine were seen along TT 6/15 (RC). Eight **American Black Ducks** were spotted at KD 7/15 (MS); rarely does anyone see more than a pair in *Warren*. The dry weather may have been responsible for it being a banner summer for **Wild Turkey** reproduction: hens with poults were seen all over, with a high of 24 reported from CL 7/9 (TS).

After last year's major influx of **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** in response to a spongy moth outbreak, this year was a bit disappointing with only a few birds seen at lower elevations (m.ob.). **Eastern Whip-poor-will** populations have declined drastically across the continent, so any reports from heavily forested *Warren* are noteworthy. It's encouraging to see multiple reports this summer with an amazing high of 5 from HF 7/14 (RP). **Chimney Swifts** are one of the many aerial insectivores experiencing declines in recent decades, so a large flock of 14 observed from a brew pub in CW 7/19 may be a good sign (ES).

One of the few places for breeding **Virginia Rail** in *Warren* is AS, where a high of 3 were reported on 6/26 (TS). Also seen at AS was a single **Sandhill Crane** 6/21 (NP); the species has bred here in the past but there's no evidence they did so this year (too dry?). A single report of **Spotted Sandpiper** from TI 6/16 (RC) suggests possible breeding, something to remember when the third Breeding Bird Atlas begins in the next two years. Another great find from AS was an apparent breeding pair of **Least Bitterns** reported several times in Jun (JF, NP). It seemed a particularly good year for **Green Herons**, with scattered individuals all over the county and a high of nine seen at AS 6/21 (NP).

Very unusual for *Warren* was a **Northern Harrier** hunting over JR 7/5 (TS); perhaps it was an early migrating non-breeder, as appropriate breeding habitat is almost nonexistent here. Accipiter hawks are notoriously cryptic (except around feeders!), so a **Cooper's Hawk** nest along a major road in WT that eventually fledged young was a nice find (DW). **Red-shouldered Hawks** are much more obvious and used to be abundant in *Warren*, but seemed to have suffered major declines in recent years. One possible cause is suggested by a nest in WT monitored by DL that was depredated by a fisher just before the young fledged on 7/3. Though (relatively) quiet during the breeding season, **Barred Owls** can be seen or heard throughout the summer; 3 seen around a bog in CL 7/8 was a good find (TS).

Locally, **Willow Flycatchers** tend to be greatly outnumbered by **Alders**, so a report of 5 at AS 6/21 was impressive, as was the count of 4 **Great Crested Flycatchers** there on the same day (NP). A high count of 4 **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** came from ARI 6/17 (JD). **Bank Swallows** returned to their quarry colony in SG with at least 22 active nests as of 6/15 (TS). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** are not uncommon in extensive conifer areas, such as HC, where up to 3 were reported 7/16 (DY) and MR held four 7/8 (TS). **Brown Creepers** abound in such areas as well, with up to 4 reported from HC 7/16 (DY).

A **Northern Mockingbird** showed up at TI 6/14 (RC); they're considered accidental in *Warren*. A large concentration of 10 **Bobolinks** were spotted at ER 6/7 (CW); they have become increasingly sparse in *Warren*. Another grassland bird that has become tough to find locally is **Eastern Meadowlark**; 4 seen in SG 7/9 was encouraging (DK, MG).

Populations of many warblers seemed sparse this year in *Warren*. Of note was an apparent breeding **Nashville Warbler** in WT 6/17 (JD). Though widespread here, **Mourning Warblers** occur at low densities due to large territories and even then are difficult to detect, so 4 reported from A5 7/2 was

impressive (CW). **Cerulean Warblers** seemed disturbingly sparse, even in their usual hotspots. The high count reported was a paltry 2 from LH 6/17 (SD, SHS); this area has had as many as 27 pairs in some prior years. Perhaps bucking the "poor warbler year" trend, birders found many **Magnolia Warblers** with a high count of 17 reported from HC 6/17 (DY). *Warren* lies near the southern end of the huge breeding range of **Yellow-rumped Warblers**; a high of 3 was seen at ER 6/7 (CW).

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Washington County

Locations: Canonsburg Lake (CL), Cross Creek County Park (CC), Hillman State Park (HSP).

It was a very slow summer in *Washington*. Despite what appeared to be below-average birder coverage, sightings of **Black-billed Cuckoo** in at least seven locations were encouraging (m.ob.). **Common Nighthawk** was reported in the City of Washington 6/4 and 6/10 (LC), and **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was at HSP 7/16 (RT), where they are common and annual in summer. A late **Semipalmated Plover** was at CL 6/3 (TB). The best bird of the season was an adult **Sanderling** at CL 7/22 (ph. JF), the tenth for the county.

Great Egret was at Greencove Wetlands 7/8 (MM) and at CC beginning 7/22 (FK). The **Bald Eagle** nest at CL produced one fledgling this year, which was seen flying around the area 7/24 (JF). A **Blue-headed Vireo** at HSP 7/28 (FK) was the only one reported there this summer. Interesting was a **Cliff Swallow** on Ciaffoni Road 7/26 (FK). At CC, a **Yellow-breasted Chat** 7/23 (DC) and a **Black-and-white Warbler** 6/27 (FK, AN) were both nice finds.

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Wayne County

Locations: Hankins Pond (HP).

Hankins Pond hosted a variety of annual wetland breeders. At least one **Pied-billed Grebe** was heard calling 6/1-26. **Virginia Rail**, **Sora**, and **Common Gallinule** were reported there throughout the season. **Least Bittern** was not recorded at HP this season but was reported at White Oak Pond 7/25 (CF). **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were heard calling in suitable high elevation habitat in southern *Wayne* 7/29 (CF, RJ). One adult feeding two juvenile **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were seen near the Caffrey Recreation Area 7/19 (PR).

Acadian Flycatcher is uncommon in the county, but one was reported along Stockport Creek 6/29 (CF). An immature **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was photographed near the Damascus Volunteer Ambulance parking lot 6/16-17 (m.ob.). Twenty-two warbler species were counted. **Mourning Warblers** returned to breeding grounds at the SGL 159 Upper Woods Pond area, where 4 individuals were spotted 6/7 (TF). **Hooded Warbler** is rarely reported during the season, but one was recorded singing along Welcome Lake Rd. 6/27 (CF).

Observers: **Josh Jones, unclchu76@gmail.com**, Todd Fellenbaum, Chris Fischer, Ryan Johnson, Pamela Reeser.

Westmoreland County

Locations: Allen Road/Route 381 Farm Area near Powdermill Nature Reserve (ARFA), Beaver Run Reservoir at the Route 380 Overlook (BRR), Donegal Lake (DL), Ice Pond at the Lady of the Lake Bed & Breakfast (IP), Laughlin Farm Road Area (LFR), Linn Run State Park (LRSP), Mammoth Park (MP), Murrysville Community Park (MCP), Powdermill Nature Reserve and Bird Banding Station (PNR), Spruce Flats Bog (SFB), St. Vincent Lake and Wetlands (SV), SV Ridge, a Richard Chirichiello location along Route 130 near the Impact Life Church and southeast to the intersection of Heinmann Road and Shady Lane (SVR), Westmoreland Heritage Trail (WHT): MAWC Beaver Run Property from Trees Mill to Route 286 (WHT-BR), and Sarah Steel Trailhead to Saltsburg (WHT-SST).

No particularly rare species were recorded for the season, however extensive effort provided for a few irregular species, some notably early records for migrant species, and for solid reporting of expected breeders.

Wood Ducks were widely reported for the season, including 15 Wood Ducks with a photo of a hen with ducklings at Twin Lakes Park 6/6 (PC), and a hen with 4 ducklings at the Colonial Inn Pond west of Ligonier 6/18 (JLK, TK). One report of **Common Mergansers** indicated one being hunted by a **Bald Eagle** on Loyalhanna Cr. along WHT-SST 7/3 (KB).

It was good to have two reports of **Ruffed Grouse** for the season: one at PNR 3/30 (GD, SW) and one at SVR 7/4 (RC). As expected, **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were widely reported. It was impressive to have four reports for **Black-billed Cuckoo** including one at CLR 6/3 (RB), at SFB 6/11 (AL), at Love Hollow, the Andy Mack location near Ligonier, 7/9 (AM), and at Winnie Palmer Nature Reserve 7/10 (SMi). One **Virginia Rail** was first reported at the MCP wetland 6/3 (JLK, TK, MM), continued there 6/6 (PF), and was heard then seen being chased by a mink 6/7 (SMi).

It was unusual to have several reports of migrant shorebird species for the season, with many of the reports at MP (all SW): 2 **Least Sandpipers** 7/26, 4 **White-rumped Sandpipers** 6/10, 2 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** 7/13, and 2 **Lesser Yellowlegs** 7/26. One **American Woodcock** was seen at DL in the early morning of 7/4 (EH). Expected breeders, **Spotted Sandpipers** were at several locations including one at CLR 6/3 (RB), one at SV 6/3 (RC) and one on the Conemaugh R. between the Dam and Saltsburg (JLK, TK). The only report of the season of **Solitary Sandpiper** was of one at WHT-BR 7/21 (KB), and the same for **Greater Yellowlegs** with one at WHT-BR 7/31 (KB).

There were several scattered reports of single **Double-crested Cormorants** for the season: at CLR 6/1 (MSc, SS) and 6/3 (RB), at KSP 7/30 (MA) and at SV 7/31 (JKn, AR). A trail cam captured a photo of a **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** that was uploaded to a 7/11 eBird checklist for Cercone Park in Trafford (JE).

Excepting a report of one 7/31 from a passerby on the Pennsylvania Turnpike, the only report for **Black Vulture** was of one on Derry Lane at LFR 6/17 (JLK, TK, MM). In addition to several scattered reports of **Osprey**, there were nesting reports made of 2 on the Loyalhanna L. nesting platform 7/4 (MC), and at DL 4 including young 7/4 (EH) and 4 again 7/17 (AL). One **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was seen in Delmont 6/21 (KB), and one was reported at PNR 7/14 (IP). There were several scattered reports for **Bald Eagles**, including a report of 2 at the IP nest with a juv. on the nest and an adult perched close-by 6/5 (JLK, TK). Mainly in the Laurel Highlands were a few reports of **Broad-winged Hawks** for the season, including one at PNR 6/14 (PC). **Red-shouldered Hawks** were active around the Kuehl property, Murrysville, with many observations of one and occasionally 2 birds heard and/or seen 6/4-7/26.

As expected, there was little to no owling effort, however, there were at least a few reports for each of **Eastern Screech-Owl**, **Great Horned Owl**, and **Barred Owl**. Reports of **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were all in the Laurel Highlands and included a report of one during PSO Breeding Bird Blitz effort at LRSP 6/18 (JLK, TK). The only report of **Red-headed Woodpecker** was of 2 at Penquin Court in Laughlinton 6/18 (JLK, TK). At least two **Peregrine Falcon** chicks, and perhaps a third chick, were seen in and/or at the Tarentum Bridge nest box 6/8 (JLK, TK).

There were no reports for Alder Flycatcher for the season and three reports for one **Least Flycatcher** on WHT from Delmont to Trees Mill 6/9 (KB), at SV 6/24 (RC), and on WHT-BR 7/4 (KB). There were just a few

reports for **Great Crested Flycatchers**, with the only counts of more than one being 2 photographed at SVR 6/1 and 6/2 (both RC). Just a few reports of **White-eyed Vireos** included one at HL during the Breeding Bird Blitz 6/18 (JLK, TK). Unusual for *Westmoreland*, 2 **Fish Crows** were in the Ft. Allen development near Greensburg 6/16 (JK). As has become the norm, **Common Ravens** were widely reported at both low and higher elevation locations. Horned Lark was not reported this season.

There were multiple reports of **Purple Martins** at nest boxes maintained at MCP and at BRR, including the high count of 51 that included young 7/4 (RH, SM). The only report of **Bank Swallow** was of 4 near Lynch Field in Greensburg (PC). **Cliff Swallow** were reported at just two locations: at MP, which included the high count of the season, with 10 on 6/10 (SW), and 2 at BRR 7/4 (RH, SM).

The only report of **Golden-crowned Kinglets** for the season, which perhaps were early migrants, were of 2 in the Laurel Summit area (JKn, AR); that report included 3 **Red-breasted Nuthatches**. The only other report for Red-breasted Nuthatch was of one in the same area – at SFB 6/5 (PC). There were several Laurel Highland reports of **Brown Creepers**, including 2 on a 6/10 hike of Fish Run Trail (KD, PF, DF, BG, DK), with such hike also reporting one **Winter Wren**. At a reliable location for **Winter Wrens** on the Grove Run Trail in LRSP, 2 were reported 6/18 (JLK, TK).

The Laurel Summit Area, specifically SFB, has been the most reliable location for finding **Hermit Thrush** during breeding season; the highest count from reports for SFB 6/5-7/31 was of 6 on 7/24 (AH). A few reports of **Purple Finches** included one at SV 6/2, 7/6 and again 7/13 (all RC). Unusual but not totally unexpected, 2 **Red Crossbills** were at SFB 7/20 (AW).

Grasshopper Sparrows were at several productive grassland locations, including numerous reports in the SVR area with one 6/6-7/27 (RC) and one 7/12 (LM, MS), one on Derry Lane in the LFR 6/17 (JLK, TK, MM), and at Latrobe Airport Grassland Area for the Breeding Bird Blitz, when there were 3 **Grasshopper Sparrows** and one **Savannah Sparrow** (JLK, TK). Six **Savannah Sparrows** were reported in the SVR area 7/12 (LM, MS). **Swamp Sparrows** were found at several locations, including 4 at DL 7/4 (EH) and 3 on 7/17 (AL). **Yellow-breasted Chat** reports for the season included one at SVR 6/13 (RC) and one on Creek Road near Scottsdale 6/23 (JK).

Several reports of **Bobolinks** included one at MP 6/1 (SW), one Derry Lane in the LFR (JLK, TK, MM), just one at the reliable ARFA 6/18 (JLK, TK), and later in the season one at SVR 7/5 and 7/25 (RC). Much was the same with **Eastern Meadowlarks** with reports of one at LFR 6/8 (PF) and at ARFA 6/18 (JLK, TK); a higher count of 4 was tallied at Shield's Farm north of Delmont 7/4 (KB). As expected, there were many reports for **Baltimore Orioles** and limited reporting for **Orchard Orioles**, which included 3 at WHT-SST 6/3 (JLK, TK, MM).

Two reports of **Northern Waterthrush** for the season had one at CLR 6/4 (JKn, AR) and one at WHT-ST 6/19 (KB). No Worm-eating Warblers were reported, and for **Golden-winged Warbler** only a song was heard during PGC survey work near Donegal (SM). Several reports of **Blue-winged Warblers** included one on WHT's Athena Drive area up to Slickville 6/4 (PCo), one on a Jeannette BBS route location on Whigham Road near Arona 6/23 (JK) and at SVR 7/13 (RC). Several reports of **Kentucky Warblers** included one at Pleasant Valley Park 6/1 (PF) and one at SFB 7/3 (AH). **Cerulean Warblers** were reported at CLR during the season (m.ob.) beginning with 3 on 6/1 (MSc, SS) and continuing with one on 7/2 (AH); two were reported at WHT-ST 6/3 (JLK, TK, MM). Four reports for **Northern Parula** during the season were of one at WHT-ST 6/1 (JLK, TK), near PNR 6/22 (MK), in the Laurel Summit area 6/22 (MK), and finally of 2 along the Conemaugh R. on a canoeing trip from the Dam to Saltsburg 7/10 (JLK, TK).

In the only report of the season, one **Pine Warbler** posed nicely for photographs at SVR 6/13 (RC). Sycamore tree habitat at the CLR provided for several reports of one **Yellow-throated Warbler** beginning 6/1 (MSc, SS) and continuing through 7/17 (JP); the same habitat along Loyalhanna Cr. provided 2 at WHT-SST 6/3 (JLK, TK, MM). **Prairie Warbler** reports were of one made at PNR 6/22 (EC, GP) and one on Skyview Road near Donegal 6/13 (ST). LRSP and Laurel Ridge specialty warbler species, which included **Black-and-white Warbler**, **Magnolia Warbler**, **Blackburnian Warbler**, **Chestnut-sided Warbler**, **Black-throated Blue Warbler**, **Black-throated Green Warbler** and **Canada Warbler**, were all reported during the season.

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Wyoming County

Locations: Davis Crossing (DC), Hoppy Road (HR), Sordoni's Farm (SF), State Gamelands 57 (SGL), Vosburg Neck (including Camp Lackawanna, the Howland Preserve, and the former Endless Mountains Nature Center) (VN),

This summer season, eBird contributors recorded 139 species in *Wyoming*, more than the number reported in any one of the previous June-July periods and exceeding the previous high of 128, recorded in 2021. Of those 139 species, 131 have previously been recorded as confirmed or probable breeders, either during the last Breeding Bird Atlas or in subsequent records. So far as I know, no species was increased in status during this summer period. The following are some highlights from this season's results.

Blue-winged Teal, reported as probable in earlier reporting, was not recorded during this summer. **Northern Bobwhite**, also listed as a probable breeder, was recorded only once, when a single bird was heard 6/2 at SF (RK). **Ruffed Grouse**, a confirmed breeder, was recorded several times in SGL, including 6/28 when 2 recently fledged young were photographed (SP, CF), and 7/10 when a hen and at least 3 young were recorded (EZ). It's great to learn that Grouse are still breeding here, as sightings of both these species have become far less common over the years.

Chimney Swift is a species seen and heard in fewer numbers compared to years past. There were days when the species was, in fact, common, and would often be seen in large flocks over Tunkhannock, for example, and roosting in chimneys. This summer, no large flocks were reported, and records listed only small numbers. Those records include 3 birds 6/2 at SF (RK), a single bird 6/2 at Noxen (JD), a single bird 6/12 at HR (SP), 5 birds 7/14 at Falls (LJ), and single birds 7/24 at LRG (KS, BBO) and 7/31 at DC (SP).

Black Vulture bred in the county once again, in the same barn south of Tunkhannock as they have for the past few years. This year 2 fledglings hung around the barn and the house for the period. **Turkey Vulture** was identified as a probable breeder during the atlas, but I've seen no data yet to support a rating to confirmed. Only a single **Osprey** was reported via eBird, 7/4 near Mehoopany (ES). Northern Goshawk was not recorded this summer.

Barred Owl was recorded twice: a single bird 6/16 at SGL (JD) and a pair calling 6/22 at Coalbed Swamp in SGL (suitable habitat) (DG). A single **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was recorded 7/5 at SGL (DG). Saw-whets are rarely recorded in *Wyoming*, although I suspect they are present in more numbers than we birders record.

Another species recorded as probable during the atlas but rarely recorded since, is Red-headed Woodpecker. It was not recorded during this period, but was reported during the previous three Januarys, though only single birds for very short periods.

I've recorded **Peregrine Falcon** at what has become a regular breeding location near Laceyville for the past few years. Again, this year, it appears that a pair used that site. Although no one confirmed breeding by observing fledglings, other signs suggested breeding: the presence of 2 adults, one adult carrying food, poop-decorated ledges, and that's not the only good news about PEFA breeding in *Wyoming*. From 6/4-7/9, observers recorded the continued presence of the species at HR, a site where the bird had been seen earlier in the year. One adult and one juvenile were recorded 6/4 at the site (SP), a presence confirmed by others, as well (CF, LJ).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was not reported this period. A pair of **Alder**

Flycatchers were observed 6/22 in SGL (JDe), the only record of the species this summer of which I am aware. **Willow Flycatcher** appeared on several birders' checklists: 3 on 6/2 at SF (JDe), one at the same location on the same day (RK), and 2 at VN 6/9 (JD). And, finally, **Least Flycatcher** appeared a few times, as well. Birds were recorded 6/1 at HR (SP), five 6/2 at SGL (JDe), four 6/23 in the same location by the same person, and a single bird 7/14 just south of Nicholson (CF). Cliff Swallow was not reported. Marsh Wren, probable in the atlas, was also not reported; records in *Wyoming* are very rare indeed.

There were several reports of **Swainson's Thrush**, all from SGL. Two were found along Cider Run Road 6/23 (JDe), one at SGL 6/28 (SP, CF), and 3-6 at SGL 6/16-7/27 (DG), including singing males and pairs, strong evidence that the species continues to breed there.

There were only three reports of **Grasshopper Sparrow** each of a single bird: 6/2 and 6/3 at SF (JDe and RK), and 6/16 near Falls (CF). **Savannah Sparrow** appeared on only one checklist this summer with two birds 6/26 along Mislevy Road (SP). Several of us got a great look at a singing **Yellow-breasted Chat**, the first documented look in *Wyoming* in two years, 6/22-28 at VN (SP, CF, MC, JDe). Chat was noted as a possible breeder in the atlas.

Twenty-five species of warblers were documented in *Wyoming* this season. Eighteen of these were listed as confirmed in the atlas, five as probable, and two as possible. Of those confirmed and probable, only Golden-winged Warbler was not found this summer. **Mourning Warbler**, possible, was recorded three times: two at SGL 6/2 (JDe), a single bird there 6/23 (JDe), and a single bird at VN 7/2 (JC, MP). A **Cerulean Warbler** was found 6/2 at SGL (JDe). Finally, a single **Yellow-throated Warbler** was found 6/2 (JDe) and 6/3 (RK) along Stull Road near Noxen. All four of these warbler species are rare finds in *Wyoming*.

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York County

Locations: Codorus State Park (CSP), Gifford Pinchot State Park (GPSP), Hellam Hills Nature Preserve (HH), Hopewell Township Park (HTP), Lake Redman (LR), Long Arm Reservoir (LAR).

This summer's species count of 136 and 17 warbler species were on the high side versus the most recent five-year period. Better highlights included **Trumpeter Swan** and **Mourning Warbler**, and **Blue Grosbeak** were reported at a very high level.

The **Trumpeter Swan** was found at the pond along Rt 116 in Spring Grove 7/24-27 (MC, RSm). Photos provided the opportunity for positive identification. Interestingly, this pond had been reliable for Mute Swan year-round for many years. For whatever reason, they have gone unreported at this locale since last summer's reporting period. A visit to GPSP found multiple **Wood Duck** broods totaling 61 birds 6/17 (EB). Up to 3 **Hooded Mergansers** were found at Brunner Island 6/4-10 (DA, CE). A pair of **Common Mergansers** were along Gut Rd 6/10 (EBr), and a family of 8 were on the Yellow Breeches Cr 7/30 (KB). Based on recent years' summer reporting of this species, it appears that *York* summer status has been changing. Instead of "casual," to perhaps something like "limited but regular."

A **Northern Bobwhite** was calling along Rippling Run Rd 7/11 (MH). Last summer's strong **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** reporting was repeated this year. However, **Black-billed Cuckoo** was limited to one report: a bird at Nixon CP 7/26 (CK). A **Common Nighthawk** was at Mt. Wolf 6/8 (FW), and a pair were seen at Memorial Hospital grounds 6/19 (TW). Up to 4 **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were heard at Camp Tuckahoe 6/29-30 (WB, MWv).

The most interesting takeaway from the shorebird group was that **Semipalmated Plover**, **Least Sandpiper**, and **Semipalmated Sandpiper** were all reported on their northbound migration 6/2-12 (BR, CK, PN) and their southbound migration 7/10-31 (m.ob.) in this two-month span. A **White-rumped Sandpiper** was at LR 6/9 (PN), and a **Short-billed Dowitcher** was at LR 7/25-28 (m.ob.).

A pair of **Common Loons** hung around CSP 6/8-15 (m.ob.). This has been a regular early-summer occurrence. A **Least Bittern** was seen along the northern sector of the Rail Trail 7/20 (NB). High counts for **Great Egret** and **Black-crowned Night Heron** at the Kiwanis L. rookery were 19 egrets 6/17 (AS) and 8 herons 6/12 (MO). Uncommon this period, a **Northern Harrier** was in the Lewisberry area 6/9 (BG). Inexplicably, there was only one report of **Great Horned Owl** versus the typical half-dozen or more. As with *Adams*, *York* enjoyed a good **Red-headed Woodpecker** season with 18 sites (m.ob.). A **Peregrine Falcon** was seen along Gut Rd 7/29 (CE).

A strong **Acadian Flycatcher** count of 12 birds came from Muddy Cr 6/29 (DA). The expected *vireo* sp. enjoyed good reporting, and a **Blue-headed Vireo** report came from LR 6/1 (KC). With seven sites reporting birds, **Horned Lark** had a stronger than normal presence, but no count exceeded 3 birds. A survey of the underside of CPS's four bridges yielded 156 **Cliff Swallow** nests 6/8 (CB). Active nest percentage is unknown, but there is no question the colony remained active. With up to nine "cliffs" at LR 6/2-7/19 (JH, BR), it seems plausible that a colony was present on bridge understructures at that site as well.

A pair of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** at HH 6/30 (DA, CB, CE) brought some intrigue as to whether or not a rare *York* nesting attempt was made. A single was also found at L. Williams 7/22 (MP). Also rare this period, two reports of single **Brown Creepers** came from LR 7/6 (CM) and Shasta Drive 7/28 (MW); the two sites are about 1.5 miles apart. **Veeries** were reported from five sites (m.ob.), and counts of 3 birds came from LAR 6/3 (RM) and GPSP 6/7 (EB).

Grasshopper Sparrows were found at six locales, and HTP produced the high count of 25 birds 7/1 (DA). A good summer find was a **Vesper Sparrow** at HTP 6/22-7/4 (BR, EW). HTP was the sole site producing **Savannah Sparrow** sightings (m.ob.) with up to a 5 count. Single **Swamp Sparrows** were found at LR 6/28 (RS) and 7/16 (RK) at SGL 242.

Yellow-breasted Chats were well reported with 11 sites producing birds. Spring Valley CP produced a nice 4 count 6/28 (BR). A quartet of **Bobolinks** were along Dairy Rd 6/13 (DA), and HTP produced up to 12 birds 7/9-14 (m.ob.). **Eastern Meadowlark** reports (m.ob.) came from five sites with HTP producing up to 26.

Warbler reporting as far as species and frequency has been similar for the summers of 2020 to 2022. A **Prothonotary Warbler** pair were found at Brunner Island 6/1-19 (DA, KJ, BR, AS), and a single was found along Gut Rd all period (m.ob.). A rare summer find for the county was a photographed immature **Mourning Warbler** at L. Williams 7/21-22 (DA, CE, BR). **Kentucky Warblers** were found at four sites with HH producing up to a 4 count 6/24-7/24 (m.ob.). HH also contributed a pair of **Hooded Warblers** 6/1-7/29 (m.ob.), which was the only report. Singles of **Chestnut-sided Warblers** just made the report with observations at LR and Memorial Hospital grounds 6/1 (KC, JS). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was found along McCormick Rd 6/23 (JC).

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks lingered at three sites 6/1-7 (EB, JC, JS). A remarkable 12 sites held **Blue Grosbeaks** with nice counts of 3 birds at HH 6/10 (DA) and 4 birds at the adjacent Wizard Ranch area 7/31 (DA). **Dickcissel** singles were found at HTP 6/30 (BR) and LAR 7/19-31 (m.ob.).

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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 – THE NESTING SEASON



One adult and 23 juvenile **Common Mergansers** at Green Lane Reservoir, *Montgomery* 18 June. (*August Mirabella*)



A juvenile **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron**, perhaps from the Harrisburg nesters, at Prince Gallitzin SP, *Cambria* 3-6 (here 6) July; first county record. (*Michael David*)



Female **Downy Woodpecker** delivering what appears to be a spider to unseen young at Murrysville, *Westmoreland* 4 June. (*Tom Kuehl*)



This young **American Kestrel** is not quite ready for fledging at Swissdale, *Clinton* 1 July. (*Wayne Laubscher*)



A male **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** looking with confidence on the nearly completed nest at Haverford, *Delaware* 4 June; both parents worked on construction and feeding of the young. (*Sheryl Johnson*)



Gray Catbird newly fledged at Media, *Delaware* 15 June. (*John Drake*)

